

**FOSSETTS FARM
OVERHEAD LINE DIVERSION SCHEME
ROCHFORD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND EXCAVATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

MAY 2008

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FOSSETTS FARM
OVERHEAD LINE DIVERSION
ROCHFORD
ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND EXCAVATION

Client: Alfred McAlpine Infrastructure Services

NGR: TQ 8955 8915 (north) to TQ 8855 8830 (south)

Site Code: SGFF08

Oasis No.: essexcou1- 39673

Dates of Fieldwork: 7th January to 26th February 2008

SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring and excavation was carried out along the route of the Fossetts Farm overhead line diversion, to the north of Southend-on-Sea, in the vicinity of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Prittlewell Camp. The scheme involved the construction of a new underground electricity cable trench from the electricity sub-station in Shopland Road, across farmland, to the roundabout in Sutton Road, just west of Smither's Farm.

Hitherto unknown sites of Middle Iron Age, early medieval, late medieval and post-medieval date were identified along the 1.6km route. However, no archaeological features of Roman or Saxon date were identified. Three pits and a ditch of Middle Iron Age date were recorded in the northern part of the route and residual undetermined prehistoric pottery was recovered from the south. Also in the north, was a small cluster of early medieval pits and post-holes, two late medieval deposits perhaps infilling a pond or hollow and two post-medieval boundary ditches that formerly separated the northernmost field from Shopland Road.

Further significant deposits of late medieval date were recorded in the south of the route close to Sutton Road. Possible structural remains in the form of rubble limestone footings for a timber building lay alongside pebble and shell surfaces. Worked stone, presumably re-used from a high status building elsewhere, was also present. In the early post-medieval period the same area may have been enclosed within a rectangular enclosure. Finds from the enclosure ditches and a near-by pit were of a range and quantity to imply domestic occupation in the near vicinity.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring and excavation undertaken along the route of the Fossetts Farm overhead line diversion during January and February 2008. The scheme involved the construction of a new underground electricity cable trench from the electricity sub-station in Shopland Road to the roundabout in Sutton Road (just west of Smither's Farm). The fieldwork was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Alfred McAlpine Infrastructure Services, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2008) and approved by Ken Crowe of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Pat Connell of ECC Historic Environment Management Team, who monitored the project.

The site archive will be deposited in Southend Museum. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>).

2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

2.1 Topography and Geology

The c.1.6km route of the new electricity cable trench was located to the north of the town of Southend-on-Sea and east of Southend Airport, though in fact lay within Rochford District. It started at a sub-station on Shopland Road at its north end (TQ 8955 8915), crossed agricultural land on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment, finishing near the roundabout on Sutton Road at its south end, just west of Smither's Farm (TQ 8855 8830).

The easement route passed through flat, open, farmland, comprised mainly of arable fields with some woodland/scrub and rough grass in the central area. A number of open field ditches were encountered. The underlying geology comprised of Quaternary river terrace deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel overlying London Clay.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

This background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held and maintained at County Hall, Chelmsford

Although no specific sites were currently known to lie within the fields that the overhead line diversion route passed through, it was perceived to lie within an area of significant archaeological potential. A number of excavations have been undertaken and findspots recorded in the general proximity, particularly to the west. The vicinity has also been the

subject of various desk-based assessments in recent years, which have served to collate and evaluate the evidence produced by previous works (e.g. Heppell 2003; Heppell 2004).

To the west, various investigations associated with the development of Southend Airport have found remains that include Neolithic burials and Iron Age pottery (EHER 9605-6), ditches and pits of probable Bronze Age date (EHER 18227-8; Wardill 1998), and late medieval ditches possibly associated with a near-by settlement (Germany 2005). Adjacent works at Warners Bridge also identified probable Bronze Age remains (EHER 16956; Germany and Foreman 1997). A range of Roman to post-medieval remains lay beneath the housing to the east of the airport and Southend Road (EHER 9685), while undated cropmarks are located closer to the site, on the west side of Sutton Road, north of New Hall (HER 14869) and also north of Shopland Road (HER 14868).

Immediately west of the south end of the route, extensive Iron Age, Roman and Saxon remains have previously been found ahead of construction of the Temple Farm Industrial Estate (EHER 13751-5, 9733-5). Some 700m to the south-east, lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Prittlewell Camp, the remains of a univalliate hillfort (SAM 29408; HER 9547-8) of probable later prehistoric (Bronze Age/Iron Age) date. To the east of Prittlewell Camp, an early Iron Age settlement site was excavated, ahead of golf course construction, at Fox Hall (Ecclestone 1995).

In addition to the 14th century Church of All Saints (HER 35096), the various farmsteads in the near-vicinity, at Sutton Hall, Shoplands Hall and Butlers Farm (HER 35095, 35085 and 35088 respectively) all feature grade II listed buildings of 14th-18th century date. Butlers Hall, although itself 18th century, sits within a medieval homestead moat (HER 9564). Shopland Hall includes the ruins of the medieval church of St Mary Magdelane (HER 9796).

Many more sites are known in the wider vicinity and it appears that the valley of the Prittlewell Brook, within which this development area lies, was relatively intensively utilised and settled throughout time. Perhaps most significant of these is Prittlewell Priory and the adjacent Roman and early Saxon cemetery, with its recently-excavated 'princely' burial, approximately 1.2 km to the south of the overhead line diversion scheme.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to preserve by record any archaeological remains that might be destroyed by groundworks associated with the undergrounding of the electricity line.

Specific research aims were to:

- Identify further remains that relate to prehistoric occupation/exploitation of the landscape
- Determine the eastward extent of the Roman and Saxon remains previously identified at the Temple Farm Industrial Estate.
- Identify medieval period remains that may relate to the surrounding farmsteads.

3.2 Research objectives

The fieldwork was undertaken with reference to the regional research objectives as set out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

4.0 METHOD

The original intention, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ECC FAU 2008), was to monitor the easement strip and record and excavate any archaeological remains encountered. In practice this was not possible, as only c.0.3m of ploughsoil/topsoil was removed during this strip and the underlying natural deposit was not exposed over the vast majority of the route. Archaeological monitoring then switched from the easement strip to daily monitoring of the contractor's excavation of the cable trench itself. This was fully observed apart from a short stretch in the north of the area, due to a communication breakdown after a delay, and another in the south where the trench passed at depth beneath two open ditches (Fig. 1).

In only two small areas was it possible to identify, excavate and record features in advance of the cutting of the cable trench. In the north of the easement route (Fig. 2) a cluster of features were exposed where the machining had gone slightly deeper and in the south (Fig. 4) it was possible to discern the position of ditch 5 by the concentration of shell within the remaining topsoil above.

The easement was generally between 11m and 13m in width, apart from in the grass scrub field in the central area where it was limited to the width of the mechanical excavator (c.4m). The cable trench was generally positioned in the west or centre of the easement, apart from the extreme south of the route, where it was positioned in the east. The cable trench was generally between 1.5m and 2m in width and about 1.8m to 2m deep (from top of topsoil), though increased considerably in depth (3.5m+) where it passed beneath open ditches. In many parts of the route the width of the trench at the top increased by an additional 0.5m to 1m with the inclusion of a c.0.5m wide by c.0.5m deep safety step on one or both of the sides.

All work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The results of the monitored groundworks are presented below in chronological order in sections 5.1 to 5.6. Archaeological features within each section are described in the order of north (Fig. 2), central (Fig. 3) and south (Fig. 4). Individual context numbers are cited in brackets and further context information is included in Appendix 1.

Apart from two small areas of archaeological remains identified and excavated in the easement strip all other remains were observed and recorded in the section of the cable trench. In general c.0.3m of topsoil was removed by the initial easement machining leaving another 0.1m to 0.2m of topsoil/subsoil (contexts 1, 39, 66) sealing the archaeological horizon and overlying mixed natural deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

5.1 Prehistoric

In the northern part of the cable trench a group of four Middle Iron Age features (43, 46, 48 and 51) were recorded (Fig. 2). The most northerly of these features was a north-west/south-east aligned ditch (46), 1.84m wide by 0.5m deep, containing two grey clay silt fills (44 and 45) (Fig. 6, Section 2). The upper fill (44) contained occasional flecks of charcoal and baked clay and produced seven sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. Pit 43 was located some 5m south of ditch 46 and was only visible in the eastern side of the trench (Fig. 6, Section 1). Its single fill (42) contained six sherds of pottery and one fragment of baked clay. Probable pit 48 was located a further 13m to the south. It was a large flat-bottomed

feature, 4.8m wide by 0.52m deep, most visible in the western side of the trench (Fig. 6, Section 3), and was filled with mid grey clay silt (47) containing three sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. The fourth of the dated Middle Iron Age features, pit 51, was only visible in the eastern side of the trench. It contained two clay silt fills (49 and 50) and produced one sherd of dated pottery.

Thirteen sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the southern part of the cable trench. However, no prehistoric features were identified and the recovered pottery was found as a residual element within a post-medieval ditch (5) and from the adjacent topsoil (1). This pottery, unlike that from the northern area, was not closely datable within the prehistoric period.

5.2 Early medieval

A small concentration of early medieval features (20, 25, 31 etc.) were hand-excavated in the north of the easement (Fig. 2) where the overlying topsoil/subsoil remnant (39) had been completely removed. The recovered pottery suggests that these remains date from the 11th to 13th century.

In the east of this excavated area were two inter-cutting pits (20 and 23) (Fig. 6, Section 5). The earlier pit (23) was sub-circular in plan, 1.7m long by 1.65m wide and 0.35m deep; and contained two sandy silt fills (21 and 22). A total of twelve sherds of pottery were recovered from these fills along with fragments of baked clay and a variety of shell fragments (cockle, oyster, Venus clam and whelk). The south side of pit 23 appeared to be cut by a later, smaller, pit (20). This also contained two fills (18 and 19) and produced a further sherd of pottery, fragments of baked clay and shell.

A second group of inter-cutting post-holes or pits (25, 27, 28 and 29) were located just over 1m to the west (Fig. 2). The best-defined of these (25) was sub-circular in plan, 0.95m in diameter by 0.5m deep, and contained a dark grey clay silt fill (24). Adjacent were three other inter-cutting post-holes (27, 28 and 29) that were only really defined where they cut into the underlying natural (Fig. 6, Section 4). All shared an identical dark grey clay silt fill (26) very similar to 24. Finds from this group included a single sherd of pottery, baked clay, burnt flints and fragments/valves of cockle, oyster and Venus clam.

To the north-east was an oval post-hole (31), 0.62m long by 0.48m wide and 0.26m deep (Fig. 6, Section 6). One animal bone and fragments of oyster and cockle shell were recovered from its fill (30). No pottery was recovered but its proximity to the other features

and the presence of shell suggests it is also of early medieval date. To the south-west was an undated pit (38) (Fig. 2), 2.2m wide by 1m deep, that was only visible in the eastern side of the cable trench. No finds were recovered at all from this pit and it is tentatively ascribed an early medieval Age date purely on its proximity to the other features in the group.

5.3 Late medieval

In the northern part of the cable trench (Fig. 2) two overlying layers (52 and 53) of late medieval date were recorded. These layers were well-defined to the north, but became indistinct to the south. The lower deposit (53) was 0.25m thick and approximately 10.5m wide. It comprised grey clay with occasional fragments of chalk and shell. Above it was a deposit of mid greyish brown clay silt (52), up to 0.3m thick and approximately 13m wide. A fragment of cattle skull was recovered from layer 52 along with five sherds of 14th-16th century pottery which were recovered from the interface with the underlying layer. The two layers appeared to infill/overlay a wide hollow some 0.55m deep at its centre. No other features of late medieval date were recorded in the northern half of the cable trench.

Toward the south end of the diversion route, immediately south of Temple Gate Cottages (Fig. 4) a series of late medieval layers overlaying and infilling a shallow depression were revealed in the cable trench. These remains were visible in both sides of the trench, and in plan (Fig. 5), in the top of the safety step. The depression (75) was c.5.2m wide by 0.48m deep on the northern side of the trench narrowing to c.3.5m wide by 0.3m deep on the southern side of the trench. It had a concave profile with gradually sloping sides. In the base of the depression on the southern side of the trench (Fig. 6, Section 7) was a thin band of mid grey clay silt (69). This was overlain by two thicker deposits of light brown clay silt (68) and brownish grey clay silt (67). Above these was a possible surface comprised of common small-medium pebbles and fragments of shell in a brownish grey clay silt matrix (65). The shells of cockles, oysters and mussels were all present, along with 20 sherds of 14th century pottery. To the east of this surface was a thin band of grey, shell-flecked, silt (71). Overlying surface 65 and silt 71 was a 0.22m thick deposit of mixed grey and brown silty clay (64) that also contained occasional fragments of shell and flecks of baked clay. In the east of the section, layer 64 appeared to be overlain by a mid brownish grey clay silt layer (73), into which were embedded three seemingly unworked pieces of limestone (74). Overlying the stones was a layer of brown clay (72), 0.16m thick. The west end of layer 64 was overlain by a thinner band of greyish brown clay silt (63). Layers 63 and 72 were sealed by a second surface (60), 0.08m thick, comprised of compacted small pebbles and orange sandy gravel interspersed with oyster shells and rare fragments of tile (Fig. 5). This surface was c.5.7m wide and appeared to be bounded to the west by several further large pieces of

unworked limestone (61) that perhaps formed the remnants of a north/south alignment. The stones (61) and surface (60) were sealed by a layer of mid greyish brown clay silt (59) that produced 14th-15th century pottery, further fragments of oyster and mussel shell, and a single animal bone. Overlying the entire sequence was a layer of dark grey clay silt topsoil (66).

Fewer deposits were evident in section on the northern side of the trench. No distinct surfaces were visible nor were any pieces of limestone present. Here, the grey silty band (69), in the base of the depression, was directly overlain by brownish grey clay (67), and in turn sealed by the mixed clay deposit 64. In the top of 64 was an irregular patch of greyer silt (70) that contained oyster shells and sherds of 14th-15th century pottery and which may have been at a similar level in the sequence to that of surface 60 in the opposing section.

A number of unstratified finds (57), including sixteen sherds of pottery and two large pieces of worked architectural limestone, were recovered from the machine spoil from this immediate area. The pottery, like that from the underlying layers, all broadly dated to the 14th century and it is clear the material derives from the same sequence of deposits.

Around the trench corner, on the western side, a layer (58) contained 14th century pottery and directly sealed a rough, unworked piece of sandstone (Fig. 4). The stone measured 0.28m long by 0.08m deep and overlay a layer of root-disturbed, mid brownish grey clay silt, c.0.3m thick, above natural. Further south, adjacent to Sutton Road, two sherds of late medieval (probable 14th century) pottery and a fragment of roof tile (16) were recovered from the topsoil. However, no associated feature could be discerned in the adjacent pipe trench section.

5.4 Post-medieval

At the northern end of the cable trench two parallel, east/west aligned, former field boundary ditches (33 and 34) were recorded in section close to Shopland Road (Fig. 2). Both were filled with damp grey clay silt (32) that extended over and beyond the confines of the ditches. One piece of decaying timber was noted in the base of ditch 34 implying that the fill was of comparatively recent (?20th century) date. The fill was overlain by a 0.2m+ levelling deposit of chalk-flecked grey clay.

In the central section of the cable trench route (Fig. 3) a large feature (78), possibly a pit, c.4m long by 0.6m deep, was noted in the western side of the trench. The fill contained

pieces of post-medieval pegtile and was very similar to the topsoil suggesting that it was probably of modern origin.

Further south in the central section were two parallel field boundary ditches (12 and 54), both aligned north-west/south-east, and located about 11m apart. Ditch 12 was 2m wide and approximately 1m deep. The base of the ditch was filled with mid to light grey clay (76) that contained one large flint and two pieces of decayed wood or root. The upper fills (10 and 11) of the ditch were quite compact and gravelly and contained fragments of post-medieval brick and tile. It is likely that this material was deliberately used to infill the top of the ditch. This ditch aligns with an interrupted line of trees, presumably the remnant of an earlier field boundary, depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1876. Parallel ditch 54 was c.1.8m wide by 0.35m deep and filled with brownish grey silty clay (55) that appeared to have accumulated naturally. No finds were recovered from it.

In the middle of the central section occasional finds were noted in the top of the brown clay subsoil on either side of a modern open ditch (Fig. 3). Fragments of post-medieval roof-tile were observed, but not retrieved, to the north of the ditch, whilst further fragments of roof-tile and sherds of 16th-19th century pottery (56) were recovered from the south.

Three features (ditches 5, 7 and pit 15) containing fills of early post-medieval date (late 15th-16th century) were identified in the southern part of the trench, south of Temple Gate Cottages (Fig. 4). Ditch 5 was c.3.5m wide by 0.63m deep and aligned east/west. Its northern side was poorly defined and obscured to the west. It contained three fills (2, 3 and 4) (Fig. 6, Section 8) that produced a large quantity and wide range of finds, including animal bone, oyster and cockle shell, a piece of lava quern stone and a copper alloy pin and fastener. Pottery recovered from the lower fill (4) was exclusively 13th-14th century, though perhaps residual, whilst that from the upper fill (2) was late 15th-16th century in date.

Feature 7 was 7.3m wide by 1.4m deep and was visible in both sides of the trench. It was most probably a north/south aligned boundary ditch, although could possibly have been a very large pit. Two sherds of 14th-16th century pottery were recovered along with animal bone and fragments of brick and tile of probable post-medieval date. Oyster shell fragments were also noted in the dark grey silty clay fill (6).

Pit 15 was only visible in the eastern side of the pipe trench. Its position coincided with a vague sub-circular patch of oyster shell fragments noted within the topsoil. It was 3.2m wide by 0.9m deep and contained two grey ashy clay silt fills (13 and 14). Pottery recovered

dated to the late 15th-16th century, although there were two sherds of possible 17th century pottery and a residual 13th-14th century element.

It is possible that these remains of early post-medieval date were associated with the late medieval deposits recorded in close proximity – this is discussed later.

5.5 Undated / natural

Two undated ditches (36 and 41) were recorded in the northern part of the cable trench (Fig. 2). Ditch 36 was aligned north-west/south-east, was 2.6m wide and 0.8m deep, and had a well-defined V-shaped profile. Ditch 41 was roughly east/west aligned, it had a flat-bottom with a U-shaped profile and was narrower (1.35m) and shallower (0.4m). One fragment of baked clay was recovered from the fill (40). These features could perhaps be associated with the dated Middle Iron Age or early medieval remains located near-by.

Two parallel linear features, 3.5m and 4.2m wide respectively, were noted towards the south of the central area (Fig. 3). Both had a gently-sloping, saucer-shaped, profile, were 0.4m deep and filled with light grey silty clay. Occasional fragments of post-medieval roof tile were noted in the overlying brown clay subsoil but the features themselves were finds-free and most probably of natural origin.

A small, poorly-defined, ditch (9) was recorded near to the southern end of the trench (Fig. 4). No datable finds were recovered, although flecks of oyster shell were noted in the fill (8) in both sides of the pipe trench.

6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by Joyce Compton

6.1 Introduction

Finds were recovered from a total of thirty-one contexts, which represent find-spots and the fills of features along the length of the cable trench. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The major assemblage component is pottery, of both prehistoric and medieval/post-medieval date, amounting to a total 186 sherds, weighing 2434g, from twenty-four contexts. Each assemblage was recorded by the relevant specialist and forms the subject of separate reports below. The remaining finds types are described by category following the pottery reports.

6.2 Prehistoric pottery by Nick Lavender

There is a total of thirty sherds (140g) of prehistoric pottery. The material has been recorded using the system devised for prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988); full details are held in the archive.

The southern section of the cable trench produced only thirteen sherds of flint-tempered pottery (from ditch 5 and topsoil 1). There is a single, plain flat-topped rim but no other featured sherds. This material is not closely datable within the prehistoric period and clearly residual in post-medieval ditch 5.

To the north, in the area near Shopland Road, seventeen sherds were recovered, none of them diagnostic. However, the range of fabrics indicates a Middle Iron Age date for this material. Sand-tempered and glauconite-tempered sherds were recovered from ditch 41 and pits 43, 48 and 51. Glauconite-tempered pottery is believed to have been imported from Kent (Peacock and Williams 1978) and is consistently found on sites in Essex, particularly in the south of the county. One sand-tempered sherd from the fill of pit 48 has vertical rows of overlapping impressed dots below the shoulder. Apart from this, the assemblage is undecorated.

6.3 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A small quantity of pottery, 157 sherds, weighing 2292g, was excavated from nineteen contexts. The earliest pottery occurred in a cluster of features in the northern area (pits 20, 23 and post-hole 25). Here, finds comprise shell-tempered ware, shell-and-sand-tempered ware and early medieval sandy fabrics with sparse shell, all of which span the 10th to 13th centuries. The only diagnostic sherd is an everted cooking pot rim which could be as early as 11th century.

Southwards, later pottery occurs. Much of this comprises Mill Green-type fine and coarse wares, named after the original production site at Mill Green, near Ingatestone. This pottery is more likely to have been made at the related production centre at Rayleigh High Road (Walker 1990), located only about 10km west of Fossetts Farm. The Rayleigh High Road material is virtually indistinguishable from that of Mill Green Ware, but some of the production appears to be later, dating to the 14th to 15th centuries. The lower fill of ditch 5 (fill 4), ditch 7, layers 52, 58-9, surface 65 and finds contexts 16, 57 and 70 all contained Rayleigh High Road wares. Fragments of jugs occur in the fine ware fabric, some are slipped and glazed in the medieval fashion but others are plain and more likely to be late medieval. Finds in the coarse ware fabric comprise cooking pots with H1 rims. These are normally dated to the

13th century, but their hard, totally oxidised fabric suggests a 14th century or later date. Part of a small bowl and a handled-bowl or dripping dish also occur in the coarse ware fabric.

The upper fill of ditch 5 (fill 2) and pit 15 contained fragments from cisterns, dishes/bowls and jugs in Tudor red earthenware, and sherds of Raeren stoneware drinking vessels, which together are datable to the late 15th to mid 16th centuries. However, pit 15 also contained the base of a black-glazed ware tyg or mug which cannot date before the end of the 16th century and is much more likely to belong to the 17th century. Post-medieval pottery in the form of glazed post-medieval red earthenware is also present in finds layer 56. Modern pottery was retrieved from the topsoil.

The pottery suggests a concentration of early medieval activity in the northern section of the cable trench, and occupation in the southern sections during the 14th to 16th centuries, with much less evidence for later post-medieval occupation. There is not enough pottery to comment on status or function.

6.4 Brick and tile

Twelve contexts produced quantities of brick and tile fragments, amounting to 133 pieces, weighing 6879g. Almost all of the assemblage was recovered from contexts in the southern section of the cable trench. Three contexts from the centre section also produced small amounts. No brick and tile was recorded from the northern section. The assemblage is fragmentary and thus few brick measurements could be taken. Those which could be measured are suggestive of a 17th to early 18th century date (Ryan 1996, 95). Two contexts in the southern section contained fragments with vitrified surfaces. Roof tile fragments came from eleven contexts; few have any distinguishing features. A piece from the subsoil in the centre section has an olive green glaze. A fragment of plain floor tile was recovered from the fill of ditch 12, also in the centre section. This is probably a 17th or 18th-century type.

6.5 Baked clay

Small amounts of baked clay, 21 pieces, weighing 140g, were recovered from six contexts, mostly of early medieval date. The fragments are too small and undiagnostic for further comment.

6.6 Metalwork

A copper-alloy pin came from the top fill of ditch 5 in the southern section of the cable trench and a copper-alloy wire-loop fastener came from the primary fill (4) of the same ditch. Both are common finds in late medieval and early post-medieval contexts (Margeson 1993, figs 5 and 10). Iron items and nails were found in four contexts. Most are not intrinsically closely datable, but the chain links from the top fill (13) of pit 15 in the southern section appear to be modern. A bolt with a large rectangular head was found in lower fill 14 of the same pit.

6.7 Stone and flint

Two large pieces of architectural stone were recovered from 57, which represents machining spoil from the southern corner of the cable trench. These are carefully worked pieces in a type of limestone. The first is a cylindrical shaft, broken at both ends, and the second is part of a keystone with half-round moulding along the lower front edge. Both pieces probably derive from a building of some importance, perhaps a nearby church or large house, which has undergone renovation or demolition. There are several older houses and moated sites in the vicinity, any of which could be candidates.

Fragments of non local stone were also collected from two further contexts, one of which (from the top fill of ditch 5) is a small piece of lava quern of probable medieval or early post-medieval date. Burnt flints were found in the fill (26) of the three intercutting post-holes in the northern section of the cable trench.

6.8 Animal bone

Ten contexts produced animal bone, amounting to 82 pieces, weighing 1126g. The bone was scanned for condition and completeness, and the taxa present were identified where possible using Schmid (1972). The assemblage is fragmentary and most of the fragments are in poor surface condition, precluding close identifications of the elements present. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig were all identified, however, along with dog (top fill of ditch 5) and bird (layer 70). Most of the animal bone comes from late medieval or early post-medieval contexts, but the assemblage is too small for meaningful comment.

6.9 Shell

A relatively large number of shells was recovered, amounting to 502 examples, weighing 4074g. The largest proportion is oyster, with approximately 300 individual valves recorded, but cockle, mussel and a single whelk are also present. Fragments from Venus clams were noted in three contexts, all from features of early medieval date. More than 90% by weight of the shell came from late medieval and early post-medieval contexts, mainly in the southern

section of the cable trench. It may be significant that all of the mussel shell was recovered from contexts in the southern section, although only four contained mussel. Oyster is present in sixteen contexts and cockle in nine.

6.10 Comments on the assemblage

A range of finds was recovered and very few appear to be of recent date. Three foci of activity were identified; Middle Iron Age to the south of the northern section, early medieval in the northern section and late medieval/early post-medieval in the southern section. Small amounts of post-medieval finds were also collected from the centre section of the cable trench. Each focus forms a cohesive group, with the early post-medieval group (ditches 5 and 7, pit 15) providing the widest range and quantity of finds. Although the pottery from this group is dated 14th to 16th century, the associated finds suggest a date towards the end of the range and perhaps into the 17th century. It should be noted that, within this focus, a number of layers in the southern corner of the cable trench produced pottery consistently dated 14th to 15th century. No later finds were recorded from these layers and it would appear that a separate phase of late medieval activity is represented at this location.

Further work is not required on any of the material. All of the finds should be retained, except for the brick and tile. Some discard of the smaller pieces has already taken place during recording. Further discard of the brick and tile could take place at the archiving stage.

7.0 DISCUSSION

Multi-period activity from the prehistoric period through to the later post-medieval/modern period has been identified along the route of the cable trench. However, no remains of Roman or Saxon date were observed.

7.1 Prehistoric

A number of residual sherds of Prehistoric pottery were recovered from the southern part of the cable trench. These could not be more closely dated but indicate the likelihood of other prehistoric remains in the vicinity. As the southern end of the cable trench was only c.700m from the prehistoric hillfort at Prittlewell Camp, and Iron Age remains have been excavated in the Temple Farm industrial estate to the immediate west of Sutton Road, this is perhaps unsurprising. Toward the northern end of the route a ditch and pits of Middle Iron Age date were identified that may be associated with settlement activity of this date.

7.2 Medieval

The earliest medieval remains encountered date from the 11th -13th century and were found in the north of the trench route close to Shopland Road. The small group of pits and post-holes contained the remains of a variety of shell-fish which were presumably consumed near-by. Whether this was food waste associated with a roadside occupation site or food discarded at a place of agricultural labour is uncertain from the small size of the area investigated.

7.3 Late medieval

Remains from the later medieval period, the 14th to late 15th centuries, were found in both the northern and southern parts of the cable trench. In the north, the two layers (52 and 53) appear to be located away from any known settlement and are probably the remains of an agricultural related feature such as a clay-lined working hollow or dew pond.

Further 14th century remains were found in the southern part of the trench, south of Temple Gate Cottages, where two pebble and shell surfaces were recorded overlying a depression. Fragments of stone footings, perhaps representing two phases of building were present alongside. These surfaces and associated structural remains were only observed on the southern side of the cable trench, suggesting that their northern extent lay at this point. Another stone observed in the trench section further west serves to hint at the possible extension of the building in this direction. Further pieces of worked architectural stone recovered from machine spoil are likely to have come from the foundations of the structure too, presumably re-used and perhaps originating from one of the two medieval churches (All Saints and St. Mary Magdelane) located within 1.5km of this site, or else from another high status building in the vicinity. These remains clearly indicate the presence of some form of late medieval settlement site, although it is not possible to determine whether the structural elements represent a dwelling or some other auxiliary building.

7.4 Post-medieval

It is at present unclear whether or not the medieval occupation site discussed above was briefly abandoned and then re-occupied in the late 15th century, as there appears to be an absence of early/mid 15th century pottery. However, the postulated settlement enclosure formed by ditches 5 and 7 contained a small quantity medieval pottery in its primary fill and it is entirely possible that these features originated as a boundary around and contemporary with the medieval settlement remains, defining a homestead plot positioned alongside what is now Sutton Road. The medieval building could ostensibly have continued to occupy its interior, with rubbish disposal being either minimal or else being deposited elsewhere. Post-

medieval pit 15 was actually located outside of this postulated enclosure but this may simply have been a case of rubbish disposal near-by in a convenient hole. Although no 15th-16th century structural elements were observed, the large variety and quantity of cultural debris such as pottery, quern stone, small items of copper-alloy, animal bone and shell, all strongly suggest the continuance of domestic occupation in and/or around the enclosure until abandonment probably before the 17th century.

Elsewhere along the cable trench a number of later post-medieval features were identified. Of note were the two parallel ditches (33 and 34) in the far north of the trench which are clearly former boundary ditches that separated the field from Shopland Road. In the central area of the cable trench ditch 12 was probably a former field boundary that had been backfilled by c.1876. Parallel ditch 54 may have been an earlier version of this boundary, or more likely, the other side of a trackway running between fields.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological monitoring has preserved by record a number of archaeological remains disturbed by groundworks associated with the new underground electricity cable trench. Hitherto unknown sites of Middle Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval date have all been identified along the route of the trench. However, the majority of these remains could only be identified and recorded in section as it was not possible to gauge their true extent in plan due to the minimal depth of the easement topsoil strip.

Evidence of Middle Iron Age exploitation of the landscape was identified in the north of the trench with further undetermined prehistoric activity in the south. The presence of Prittlewell Camp to the south, and other excavation evidence from the west (Temple Farm Industrial Estate) and east (Fox Hall), suggests that by the Iron Age the area was extensively settled and cultivated. Surprisingly, given the number of known remains in the area, no archaeological features of Roman or Saxon date were identified. This indicates that those identified at Temple Farm are unlikely to extend east of Sutton Road and are perhaps more focused towards and along the Prittle Brook to the west.

By the early medieval period the area is again more extensively settled and farmed. The near-by churches of All Saints and St. Mary Magdelane both date to the early medieval period as does Butlers Farm to the north-west, whilst other houses in the area, such as the 14th century Sutton Hall, may have earlier origins. It is possible that both the early and later

medieval activity identified in the northern part of the trench is connected with farming activities associated with one or other of these farmsteads and manors.

The 14th century remains in the southern part of the trench could also be associated with one of these near-by houses, perhaps as the site of an outlying farmstead or peasant cottage and outbuildings. However, given that this site either continues in use into the later 15th-16th century, or is re-occupied at this time, might indicate its independence from other farms. The lack of later evidence suggests that this site had gone out of use by the end of the 16th century. It is probable that further stratified and relatively complex remains of this occupation site survive in the area immediately south of Temple Gate Cottages and east of Sutton Road and that any groundworks associated with future development at this location that penetrated below the topsoil would adversely impact upon any below-ground archaeological remains present.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres.

Context	Location	Type	Description	Period
1	South	Layer	Topsoil remnant	Modern
2	South	Fill of 5	Mid grey clay silt, 0.17m thick	Post-med
3	South	Fill of 5	Mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.25m thick	Post-med
4	South	Fill of 5	Mid greyish brown clay silt , 0.38m thick	Post-med
5	South	Ditch	E/W aligned, 4m+ x 3.5m+ x 0.63m deep	Post-med
6	South	Fill of 7	Dark grey clay silt	Post-med
7	South	Ditch	N/S aligned, 1m+ x 7.3m x 1.4m deep	Post-med
8	South	Fill of 9	Light grey brown clay silt	-
9	South	Ditch	E/W aligned, 1m+ x 0.7m x 0.5m deep	-
10	Centre	Fill of 12	Grey gravelly silt, 0.2m+ thick	Post-med
11	Centre	Fill of 12	Grey gravel, 0.2m+ thick	Post-med
12	Centre	Ditch	Linear, NW/SE aligned, 2m wide x c.1m deep	Post-med
13	South	Fill of 15	Mid-dark grey ashy clay silt, 0.4m thick	Post-med
14	South	Fill of 15	Mid grey ashy clay silt, 0.5m thick	Post-med
15	South	Pit	1m+ x 3.2m x 0.9m deep (in eastern section only)	Post-med
16	South	Finds	Topsoil finds (no discernable underlying feature)	Post-med
17	North	Finds	Finds from initial trowel-over of features	Early medieval
18	North	Fill of 20	Dark brownish grey sandy silt, 0.1m thick	Early medieval
19	North	Fill of 20	Pale greyish brown sandy silt , 0.12m thick	Early medieval
20	North	Pit	1.3m x 1.1m x 0.22m	Early medieval
21	North	Fill of 23	Dark grey sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Early medieval
22	North	Fill of 23	Pale greyish brown, 0.24m thick	Early medieval
23	North	Pit	1.7m x 1.65m x 0.35m	Early medieval
24	North	Fill of 25	Dark grey clay silt	Early medieval
25	North	Post-hole	0.95m x 0.95m x 0.5m deep	Early medieval
26	North	Fill of 27, 28 & 29	Dark grey clay silt (fills three adjacent post-holes)	Early medieval
27	North	Post-hole	0.9m x 0.9m x 0.46m deep	Early medieval
28	North	Post-hole	0.7m x 0.7m x 0.3m deep	Early medieval
29	North	Post-hole	0.5m x 0.36m x 0.4m deep	Early medieval
30	North	Fill of 31	Mid grey clay silt	Early medieval
31	North	Post-hole	0.62m x 0.48m x 0.26m deep	Early medieval
32	North	Fill of 33 & 34	Mid-dark grey clay silt	Post-med
33	North	Ditch	E/W aligned, 1.5m+ x 2.5m x 0.9m deep	Post-med
34	North	Ditch	E/W aligned, 1.5m+ x 1.4m x 0.8m deep	Post-med
35	North	Fill of 36	Brownish grey clay silt	-
36	North	Ditch	NW/SE aligned, 1.5m+ x 2.6m x 0.8m	-
37	North	Fill of 38	Grey to brownish grey clay silt	Early medieval?
38	North	Pit	2.2m wide x 1m deep (in east section)	Early medieval?
39	North	Layer	Topsoil/subsoil remnant below plough soil, 0.2m deep max.	-
40	North	Fill of 41	Mid grey silty clay	-
41	North	Ditch	E/W aligned, 1.5m+ x 1.35m x 0.4m deep	-
42	North	Fill of 43	Mid grey clay silt	Middle Iron Age

Context	Location	Type	Description	Period
43	North	Pit	1.85m wide x 0.2m deep	Middle Iron Age
44	North	Fill of 46	Mid grey clay silt, 0.3m thick	Middle Iron Age
45	North	Fill of 46	Lighter grey clay silt, 0.2m thick	Middle Iron Age
46	North	Ditch	Aligned NW/SE, 1.5m+ x 1.84m x 0.5m deep	Middle Iron Age
47	North	Fill of 48	Mid grey clay silt	Middle Iron Age
48	North	Pit	1.5m+ x 4.8m x 0.52m deep (mostly in west section)	Middle Iron Age
49	North	Fill of 51	Brownish grey clay silt, 0.38m thick	Middle Iron Age
50	North	Fill of 51	Mid grey clay silt, 0.14m thick	Middle Iron Age
51	North	Pit	1m+ x 2.4m x 0.52m (in west section)	Middle Iron Age
52	North	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay silt, c.13m wide x 0.3m thick	Late medieval
53	North	Layer	Grey clay, c.10.5m wide x 0.25m deep	Late medieval
54	Centre	Ditch	NW/SE aligned, 1.6m+ x 1.8m x 0.35m deep	Post-med
55	Centre	Fill of 54	Brownish grey silty clay	Post-med
56	Centre	Finds	From subsoil at N end of grass field	Post-med
57	South	Finds	U/S finds from machining corner of cable trench	Late medieval
58	South	Layer	Dark grey clay silt, 0.05m thick (overlies a stone)	Late medieval
59	South	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.18m thick	Late medieval
60	South	Surface	Small pebbles, sandy gravel, common oyster, rare tile forming a compact surface, 0.08m thick	Late medieval
61	South	Structure?	Unworked Limestone(?) pieces at edge of surface 60. Possible base for beam?	Late medieval
62	South	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.1m thick	Late medieval
63	South	Layer	Greyish brown clay silt, 0.08m thick	Late medieval
64	South	Layer	Mixed grey and brown silty clay, 0.22m thick	Late medieval
65	South	Layer	Possible surface	Late medieval
66	South	Layer	Topsoil remnant, 0.2m thick	-
67	South	Layer	Brownish grey clay silt, 0.12m thick	Late medieval
68	South	Layer	Light brown clay silt, 0.18m thick	Late medieval
69	South	Layer	Mid grey clay silt band, 0.04m	Late medieval
70	South	Layer	Finds from grey shelly patch (north of trench)	Late medieval
71	South	Layer	Grey silty band, 0.04m thick	Late medieval
72	South	Layer	Brown clay above stones, 0.16m	Late medieval
73	South	Layer	Mid brownish grey clay silt, 0.2m	Late medieval
74	South	Layer	Stone pieces (Limestone?) (below 72 in section)	Late medieval
75	South	Depression	3.5m wide x 0.4m deep	Late medieval
76	Centre	Fill of 12	Mid-light grey clay, 0.6m thick	Post-med
77	Centre	Fill of 78	Dark grey clay silt (topsoil?)	Modern
78	Centre	Pit?	c.4m wide x 0.6m deep	Modern

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Topsoil	7	90	Pottery; rim, handle and body sherds	Post med/ modern Prehistoric
		3	38	Pottery; body sherds	
2	5	1	-	Copper alloy pin	Post med.
		1	12	Iron; flat piece	-
		18	276	Animal bone; metatarsus, distal end, and connecting phalanges, cattle; skull fragments, large mammal; femur, distal end and mandible fragment with two molars, sheep/goat; humerus, distal end, dog; fragments	-
		139	1455	Shell; oyster, 104 valves and fragments, some back-to-back; cockle, nine valves and fragments	-
		5	1190	Stone samples, two of which may be utilised, a third is a piece of lava quern, depth 25mm	-
		20	800	Brick fragments, one with contiguous vitrified surfaces, depth 53mm (17/435g Discarded)	Post med.
		25 40	1020 650	Roof tile fragments (21/620g Discarded) Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Post med. Post med.
3	5	1	12	Iron staple	Post med.
		9	60	Animal bone; fragments, skull, rib and scapula, large mammal	-
		51	438	Shell; oyster, thirty-four valves and fragments; cockle, two valves and fragment	-
		1	120	Brick fragment	Post med.
		3	294	Roof tile fragments (2/156g Discarded)	Post med.
		6	12	Pottery; rim and body sherds and crumbs	Prehistoric
4	5	1	-	Copper alloy loop/fastener	Late medieval
		45	450	Animal bone; semi-complete skull with horn cores, maxilla fragments, mandible with molars and ulna hinge, sheep/goat; mandible fragments with molars, pig; long bone shaft and vertebra fragment, large mammal; fragments	-
		180	1545	Shell; oyster, 136 valves and fragments, some back-to-back	-
		1	72	Roof tile fragment, with peg hole	Post med.
		6 3	72 12	Pottery; base and body sherds Pottery; body sherds	Medieval Prehistoric
6	7	4	168	Animal bone; humerus, distal end, large mammal; fragments; all poor condition	-
		1	8	Shell; oyster, one valve	-
		5	470	Brick fragments, depth 55mm (4/134g Discarded)	Post med.
		3	74	Roof tile fragments (2/10g Discarded)	Post med.
		2	12	Pottery; body sherds	Late medieval
8	9	4	12	Shell; oyster, one valve and fragments	-
10	12	38	1025	Brick fragments (36/740g Discarded)	Post med.
		1	30	Floor tile, depth 20mm	Post med.
		12	310	Roof tile fragments (11/240g Discarded)	Post med.
11	12	3	950	Brick fragments, abraded	Post med.
13	15	3	62	Iron nails and chain-links	Modern
		1	26	Animal bone; ?mandible fragment, large mammal	-
		6	106	Shell; oyster, five valves; mussel, one valve	-
		3	442	Brick fragments, one with vitrified surface, depth 55mm (2/208g Discarded)	Post med.
		6	610	Roof tile fragments (3/176g Discarded)	Post med.

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		12	246	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Med/post med.
14	15	1 2 3 1 6	68 22 48 6 206	Iron bolt with large rectangular head Shell; oyster, one valve; mussel, one valve Brick fragments (2/16g Discarded) Roof tile fragment (Discarded) Pottery; handle and body sherds	- - Post med. Post med. Late medieval
16	Finds	1 2	100 50	Roof tile fragment, poorly-mixed clay Pottery; joining rim and body sherds	Post med. Medieval
17	Finds	3	22	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
18	20	1 5 6 1	10 42 16 8	Animal bone; long bone fragment, poor condition Shell; oyster, one valve and fragment; cockle, one valve and fragment; Venus clam fragment Baked clay Pottery; body sherd	- - - Medieval
21	23	12 5	58 52	Shell; oyster, three valves; cockle, six valves; whelk; Venus clam, one valve and fragment Pottery; body sherds	- Medieval
22	23	2 7	6 52	Shell; oyster fragment; cockle, one valve Pottery; rim and body sherds	- Medieval
24	25	10 5 1	54 40 12	Shell; oyster, three valves and fragments; cockle, two valves; Venus clam fragment Baked clay Pottery; body sherd	- - Medieval
26		10 2 7	62 20 28	Shell; oyster, three valves and fragments; cockle fragment Burnt flints Baked clay	- - -
30	31	1 2	10 8	Animal bone; long bone fragment, poor condition Shell; oyster fragment; cockle, one valve	- -
40	41	1	12	Baked clay	-
42	43	1 6	40 38	Baked clay Pottery; body sherds	- Prehistoric
44	46	7	26	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
47	48	3	10	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
49	51	1	4	Pottery; body sherd	Prehistoric
52	Layer	1 1 5	114 24 12	Animal bone; cattle skull fragment with horn core Shell; oyster, one valve Pottery; body sherds, ?all same vessel	- - Medieval
56	Finds	4 2	194 22	Roof tile fragments, one with olive green glaze, one with peg hole Pottery; rim and body sherds	Post med. Post med.
57	Finds	2 2 16	10240 206 282	Architectural stone fragments; cylindrical shaft, broken at both ends, ht c.270mm, dia. 120mm; ?keystone, broken and damaged, moulding along lower edge, approx. 170 x 130 x 190mm Roof tile fragments, one with mortar attached Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Post med. Post med. Medieval
58	Layer	9	48	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Medieval

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
59	Layer	1	10	Animal bone; sheep/goat metapodial, unfused	-
		8	74	Shell; oyster, four valves and fragments; mussel fragments	-
		1	4	Baked clay	-
		9	122	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Medieval
61	Finds	1	44	Stone sample	-
65	Surface	69	160	Shell; oyster, three valves; cockle, twenty-three valves and fragments; mussel, two valves and fragments	-
		20	262	Pottery; rim, handle and body sherds, mostly one vessel	Medieval
70	Finds	1	2	Animal bone; bird ulna	-
		1	108	Roof tile fragment	Med/post med.
		4	74	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval

APPENDIX 3: MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Topsoil	4	60	Tudor Red Earthenware, includes small rod handle and externally glazed sherd ?from shoulder of jug	later 15th to 16th C
		1	10	Collared rim from flowerpot	19th to 20th C
		2	22	Ironstone: plate rim with green band edging and sherd with grey transfer print	mid 19th to 20th C
2	5	1	134	Raeren stoneware, frilled base from drinking jug	late 15th to mid 16th C
		1	9	Sandy Orange Ware, unglazed late medieval type	14th to 16th C
		38	506	Tudor Red Earthenware including upright rim with internal bevel from cistern, slip-painted, and abraded; hollowed everted rim with pouring lip from dish or bowl; collared jug rim; unglazed slip-painted sherds; glazed sherds including neck and shoulder from a jug	later 15th to 16th C
4	5	6	72	Mill Green-type Ware, sherd from jug showing stripe-and-dot slip-painting under a partial plain lead glaze and joining sherds from ?jug base, patches of glaze on underside	mid 13th to 14th C
6	7	2	12	Mill Green-type Ware, thick-walled joining sherds, unglazed	14th to 16th C
13	15	3	33	?Rayleigh-type Coarse Ware, base and body sherds with partial internal glaze, externally fire-blackened	mid 13th to 14th C
		2	74	Mill Green-type Ware, joining sherds from ?jug, unglazed, raised cordon, internal matt green deposit, not limescale, could be decomposed glaze, fire-blackened externally	14th to 16th C
		4	56	Tudor Red Earthenware including everted bevelled rim from bowl or dish, accidental patches of glaze on rim	later 15th to 16th C
		1	7	Raeren stoneware	later 15th to mid 16th C
		2	75	Black-Glazed Ware, thickened base from tyg or mug, rilled sides	?17th C
14	15	6	206	Tudor Red Earthenware, misc sherds including lower handle attachment from jug, slip-painted sherd and fragment from large jug or cistern	later 15th to 16th C
16	Finds	2	50	?Rayleigh Coarse Ware, joining sherds from H1 cooking pot rim and shoulder, hard fabric with reduced, banded surfaces, late medieval, similar at Rayleigh High Road, cf. Walker 1990, fig. 3. 58, 60	?14th C
17	Finds	3	22	Shell-Tempered Ware, misc. sherds	10th to 13th C
18	20	1	8	Early Medieval Ware, very sparse shell in fabric	10th to 13th C
21	23	4	41	Shell-tempered Ware, misc. sherds	10th to 13th C
		1	12	Sand-with-Sparse-Shell-Tempered ware sagging base	10th to 13th C
22	23	3	29	Shell-and-Sand-Tempered Ware everted cooking pot rim and body sherds	11th C or later
		4	23	Early Medieval Ware, some sherds with shell dusting	10th to 13th C
24	25	1	12	Shell-Tempered Ware, from shoulder of ?cooking pot	10th to 13th C
52	Layer	5	12	Mill Green-type Ware, sherd family, all very abraded, no glaze, one shows traces of slip	14th to 16th C
56	Finds	2	22	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware: internally glazed sherds comprising lid-seated jar rim and very abraded body sherd	later 16th C onwards

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
57	Finds	8	160	Mill Green-type Ware, comprising slip-coated and green-glazed sherd; jug base, thumbed at intervals; fragment from shoulder of jug showing slip-painted stripe-and-dot decoration as found at Rayleigh (cf. Walker 1990, fig.3.49-51) but also found at the Mill Green production site, also sherd from neck ?of same jug showing horizontal grooves, both showing partial greenish glaze; internally glazed sherd, externally fire-blackened, full lustrous glaze not the usual splash glaze, a coarse ware form in a fine ware fabric; remains of small jug with internally bevelled rim and rod handle, unglazed and undecorated, slightly sandy fabric	mid 13th to 14th centuries
		8	120	?Rayleigh Coarse Ware including two H1 cooking pot rims, one borderline E5 and sagging base and shoulder probably from a cooking pot or jar, hard uniform orange fabric, late medieval	14th C
58	Layer	9	48	?Rayleigh Coarse Ware including flat-topped everted rim from small thin-walled ?bowl with rounded sides, fire-blackened externally, also sagging base sherd	14th C
59	Layer	4	71	Mill Green-type Ware, jug rim with external triangular bead, as found at Rayleigh, abraded, plus body sherds probably from jugs, all unglazed	14th to 15th C
		5	51	?Rayleigh Coarse Ware, misc. sherds including internally glazed examples and sagging base, fire-blackened externally	14th C
65	Surface	20	262	?Rayleigh Coarse Ware including small fragment of H1 cooking pot rim, cross-fits with context 57; handled bowl/dripping dish or similar, flanged rim, broad grooved strap handle attaching at rim and turning downwards, too wide to be from a cauldron, also internally glazed sherds from sagging base, may be from same vessel, all fire-blackened externally	14th C
70	Finds	3	67	Mill Green-type Ware joining sherds from jug, externally abraded, unglazed and undecorated	14th to 15th C
		1	6	?Rayleigh Coarse Ware, lower part of vessel, sparse greenish glaze, externally fire-blackened	14th C
		157	831		

APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: Fossetts Farm, Overhead Line Diversion
SITE CODE: SGFF08

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 ECC HEM Brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU WSI

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 78)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 18 A4 plan/section sheets
- 3.6 Levels Register
- 3.7 Route location plan
- 3.8 Photographic Register
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record (1 Set of digital images on disk)
- 3.10 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

One large plan, one large section drawing

Finds

The finds occupy two boxes.

APPENDIX 5: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Fossetts Farm, Overhead Line Diversion, Rochford, Essex	
Parishes: Sutton	District: Rochford
NGR: TQ 8955 8915 (north) to TQ 8855 8830 (south)	Site Code: SGFF08
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring and excavation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 7th January to 26th February 2008	Size of Area Investigated: c.2500 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend	Funding source: Alfred McAlpine
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: -
Final Report: EAH round-up	Oasis No.: essexcou1- 39673
Periods Represented: Middle Iron Age, early medieval, late medieval, post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological monitoring and excavation took place along the route of the Fossetts Farm overhead line diversion during January and February 2008. The scheme involved the construction of a new underground electricity cable trench across farmland from the roundabout in Sutton Road, just west of Smither's Farm, in a north-easterly direction to the electricity sub-station in Shopland Road.</p> <p>Hitherto unknown sites of Middle Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval date were identified along the 1.6km route. However, no archaeological features of Roman or Saxon date were encountered and it seems that the Temple Farm site does not extend this far east.</p> <p>Three pits and a ditch of Middle Iron Age date were recorded in the northern part of the route and residual undetermined prehistoric pottery was recovered from the south. Also in the north, was a small cluster of early medieval pits and post-holes, two late medieval deposits perhaps infilling a pond or hollow and two post-medieval boundary ditches that formerly separated the field from Shopland Road.</p> <p>Further significant deposits of late medieval date were recorded in the south of the route close to Sutton Road. Possible structural remains in the form of rubble limestone footings for a timber building lay alongside pebble and shell surfaces. Worked stone, presumably re-used from a high status building elsewhere, was also present. Ditches, in-filled with predominantly later 15th century material, may have formed part of an enclosure around the building and its yard site and suggest that it survived into the 16th century. The finds from the enclosure ditches and a near-by pit were of a range and quantity to imply domestic occupation.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: -	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: May 2008

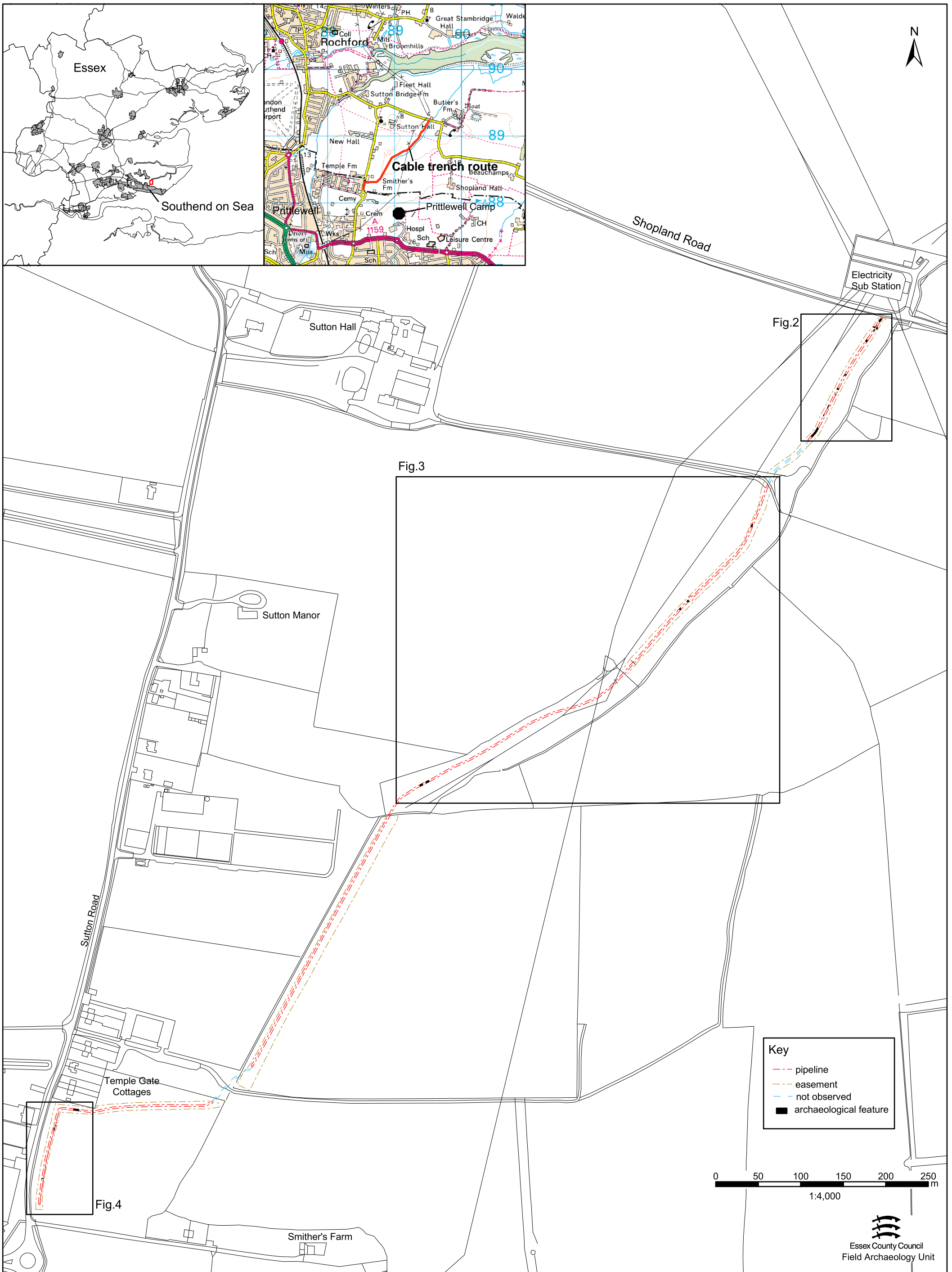
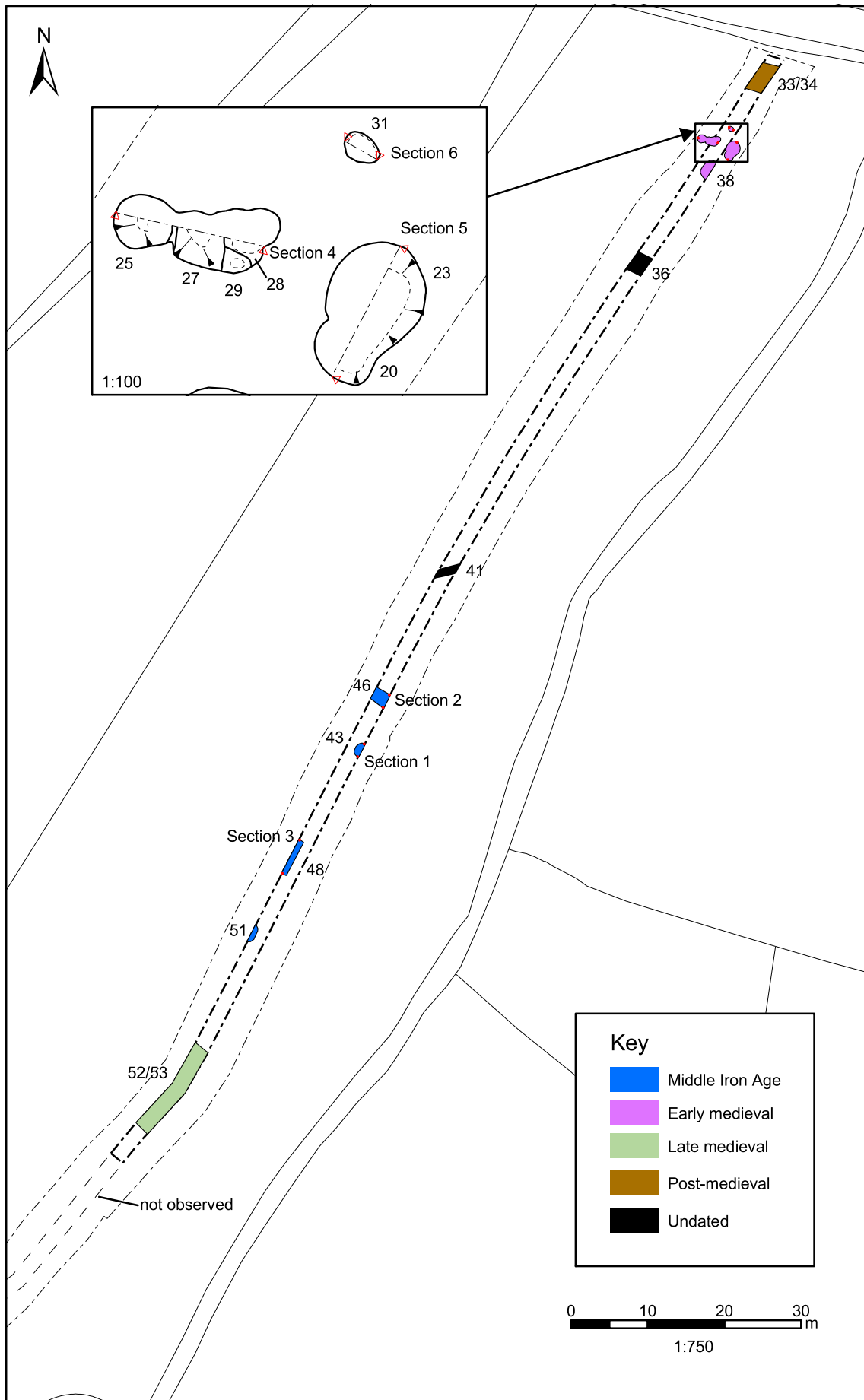


Fig.1. Site location



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Fig.2. North section features

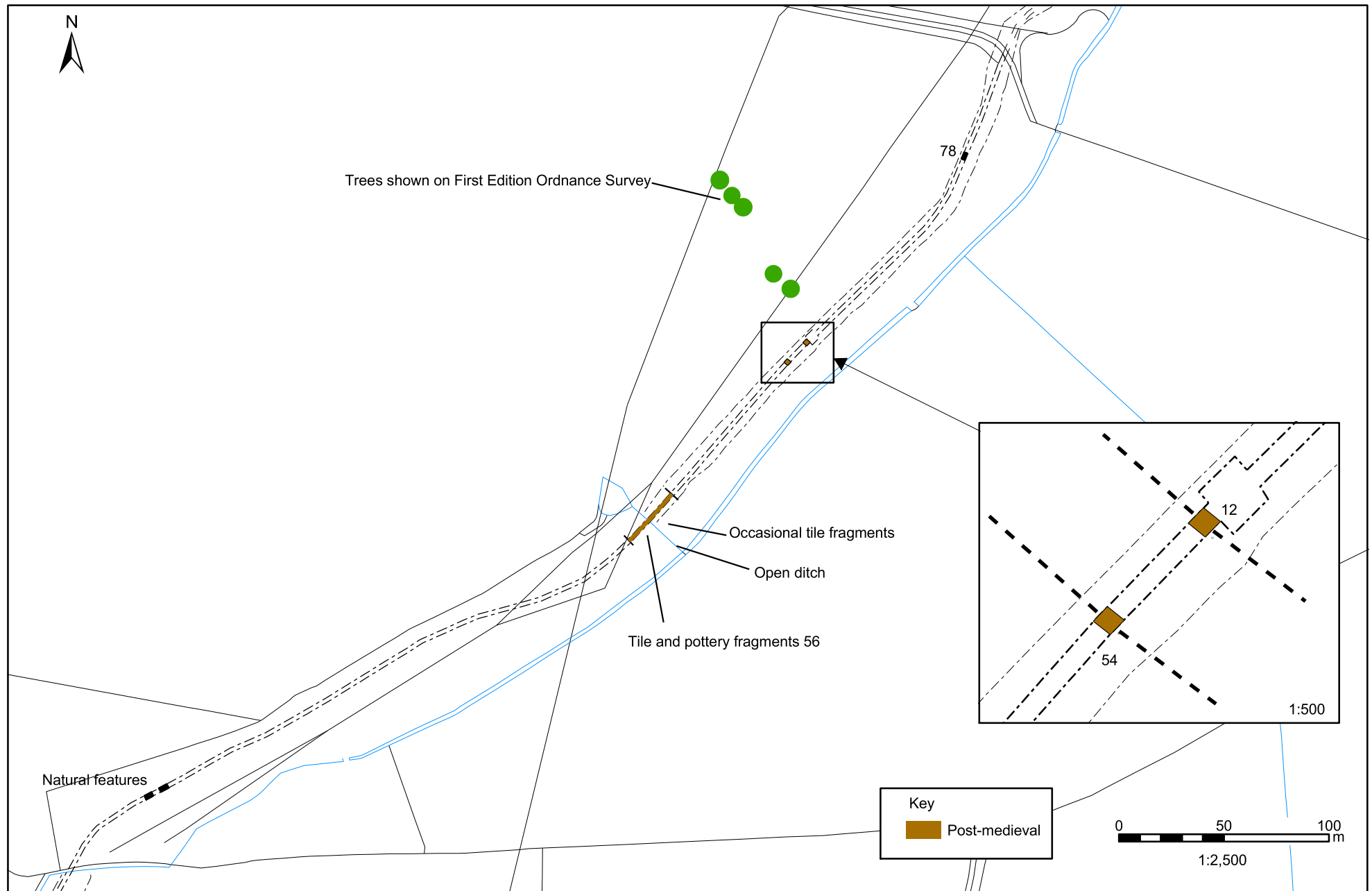
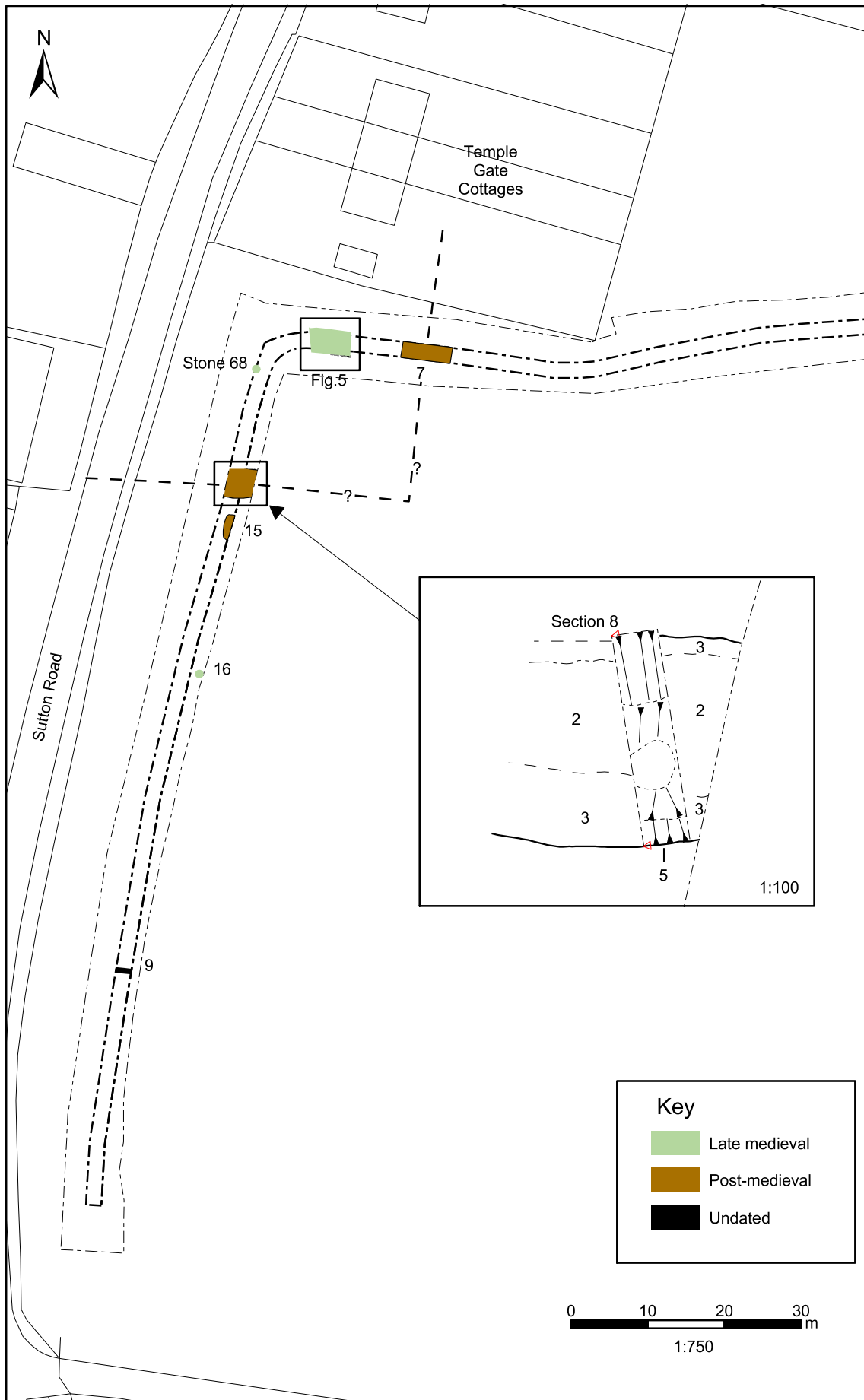


Fig.3. Central section features

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Fig.4. South section features

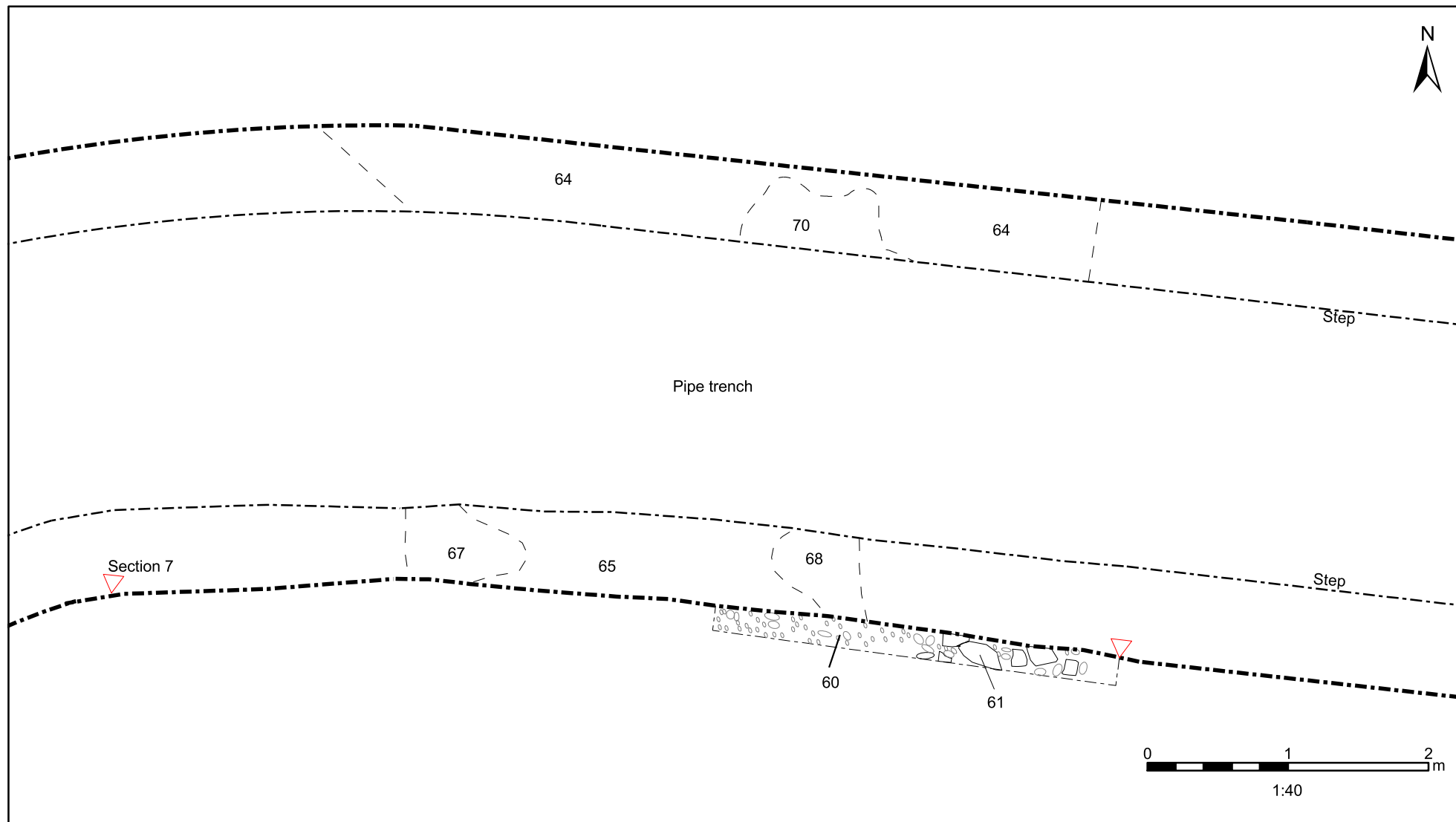


Fig.5. Late medieval deposits toward south end of route

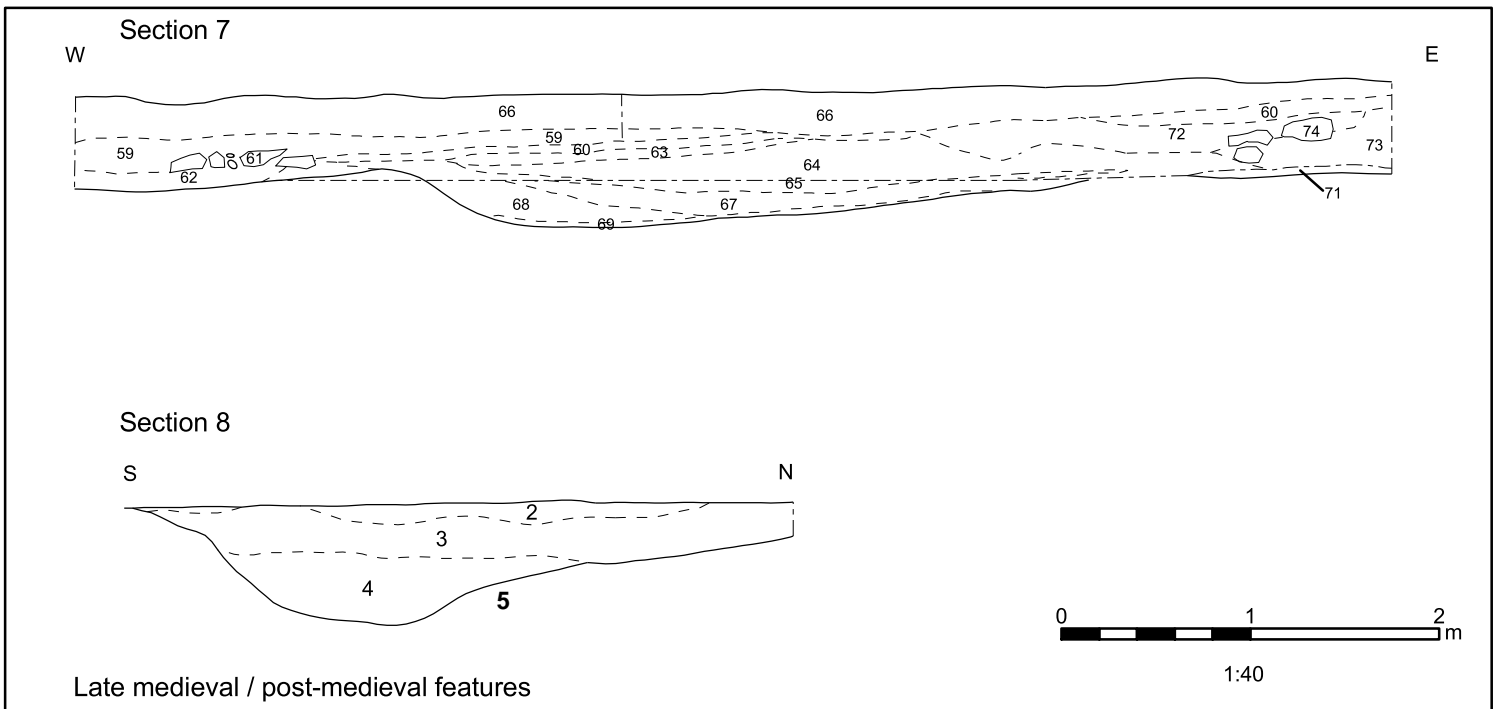
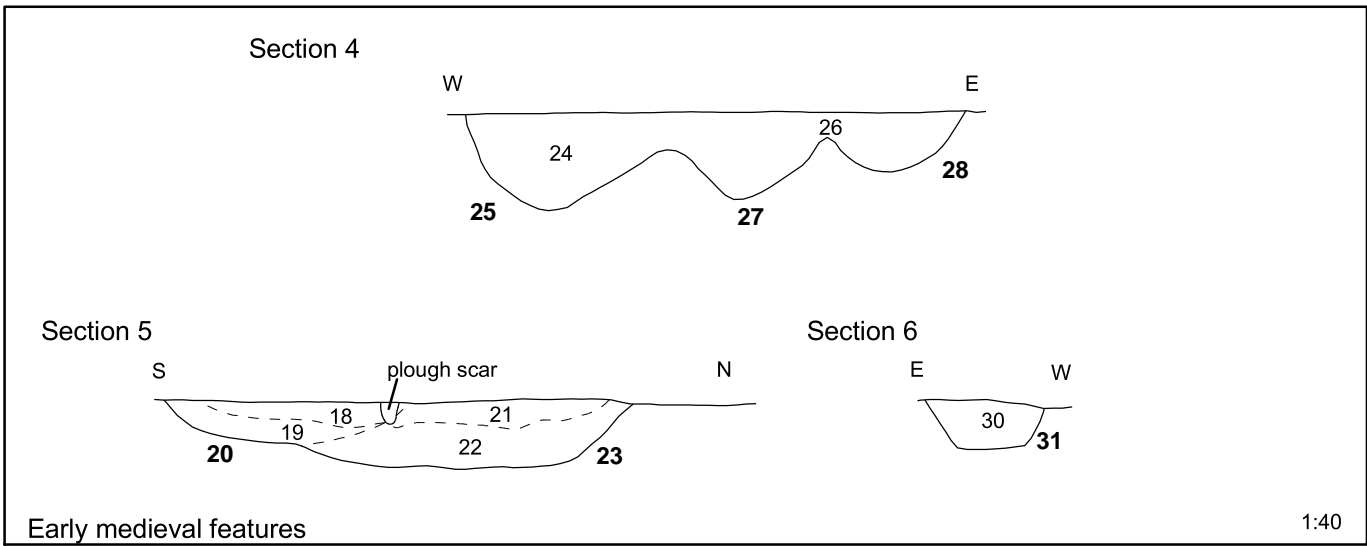
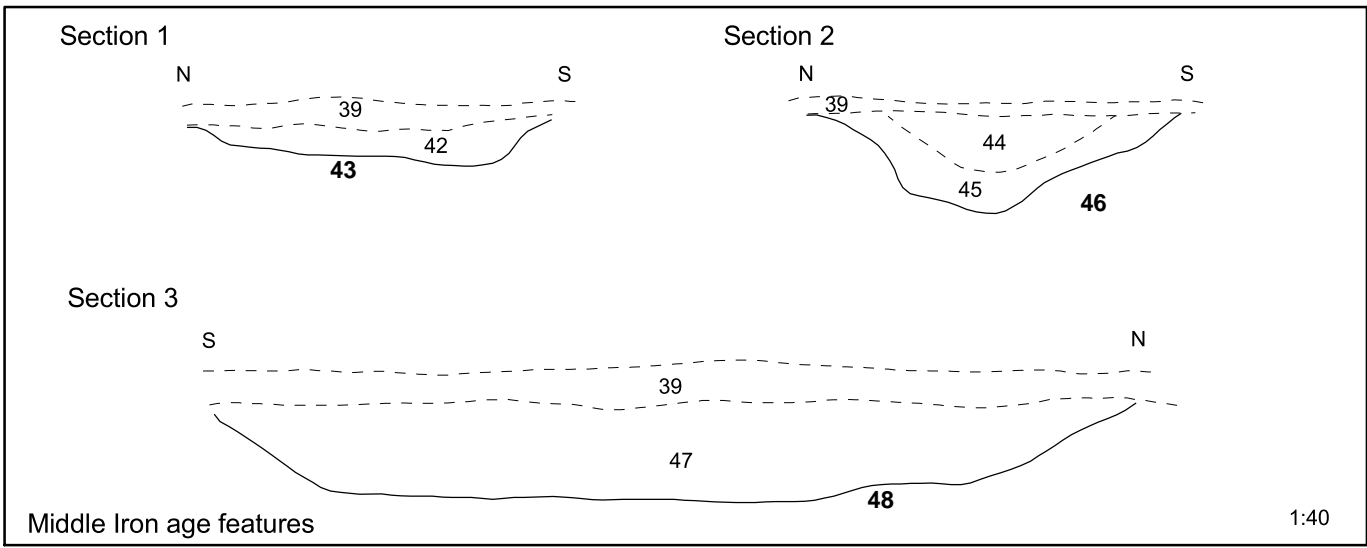


Fig.6. Sections 1 - 8



Plate 1 Ditch 46 looking east (1m scale)



Plate 2 Post-holes 25, 27, 28 and 29 looking north (1m scale)



Plate 3 Stone pieces 61 looking west (1m scale)



Plate 4 Architectural stone from 57 (0.25m scale)