

MONUMENT 24858
SOUTH OF GILDEN WAY, HARLOW
ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

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GILDEN WAY, HARLOW
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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MONUMENT 24858, SOUTH OF GILDEN WAY, HARLOW, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Client: English Heritage

NGR: TL 4765811157

Site Code: HAGW 07

ECC FAU Project Number: 1857

Date of Fieldwork: 10/12/07 to 13/12/07

SUMMARY

Scheduled Ancient Monument 24858, the site of a putative cursus of Neolithic date, immediately south of Gilden Way, Harlow, was subject to a programme of field survey and trial trenching in order to evaluate the impact of unauthorised re-contouring groundworks upon it. This archaeological work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit at the request of English Heritage. It consisted of a site walk-over inspection, collection of spot height data and the excavation of trenches across the plotted position of the cropmark and the area to its immediate west. The principal objectives of the work were to establish the presence of the cursus monument and to assess the extent of any damage which may have been caused to it.

The archaeological fieldwork identified the presence of prehistoric and Early Saxon remains, but no trace of the putative cursus. It also established that there had been relatively little deep and extensive truncation of archaeological remains across the majority of the scheduled area, and that the groundworks had largely comprised the removal and the stockpiling of topsoil. However, general compaction, disturbance and rutting caused by the movement of heavy plant were observed on the exposed surface that is likely to have had an adverse impact upon below-ground remains present. It is concluded that the cursus had never been present and that the linear 'cropmark' features evident on aerial photographs, from which it is was identified, are more likely to have been modern-day tracks, footpaths or other wear marks on the field surface.

The identified archaeological remains consist of two adjacent prehistoric ditches, an Early Saxon sunken-featured building and pit, and a number of undated further ditches. The prehistoric features are not closely datable, but may represent the boundary remains of small enclosures and/or settlement. Roman finds, including late Roman coins, were residual in the Saxon features, but still serve to suggest that activity of this period was taking place within the wider vicinity. The Early Saxon remains are probably part of a larger, probably scattered, settlement and are dated to the late 5th century.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by survey and trial-trenching of Scheduled Ancient Monument 24858 – a putative Neolithic ceremonial enclosure or ‘cursus’ - at Gilden Way, Harlow, Essex. This was carried out on behalf of English Heritage by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU). All work was undertaken in accordance with an archaeological brief (English Heritage 2007) and a written scheme of investigation (ECC FAU 2007) approved by English Heritage.

English Heritage received a planning application (HW/PL/07/00328), via Harlow District Planning Department, from New Hall Projects for the proposed re-contouring of the 6.8ha site and creation of playing fields in October 2007. However, these works proceeded soon after, without further consultation with English Heritage or Scheduled Monument Consent being sought. Site inspections by English Heritage in early November 2007 established that significant and unauthorised earthmoving had been undertaken within the scheduled area and works were subsequently stopped, pending further investigation.

The inspection established that the majority of the overburden had been removed from the location of the scheduled monument, and that overlying the site were earth bunds and a thin coating of loose, disturbed, un-stripped topsoil that had been heavily tracked by earth-moving machinery. Wheel marks of dump trucks, some of which were deeply rutted, criss-crossed the site. Although no archaeological remains were apparent on the exposed surface of the site, a lump of displaced feature-fill containing Roman and Saxon period artefacts was observed.

English Heritage subsequently commissioned the ECC FAU to carry out an assessment of the possible damage caused to the Scheduled Ancient Monument by these unauthorised construction works.

The principal objectives were to:

- Locate and determine the extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving below-ground remains of the Neolithic cursus monument, and of other features associated with it
- Record and evaluate other archaeological remains present within the scheduled area, in particular early Saxon remains from which the displaced material might derive

- Assess the nature, extent and severity of any adverse impact caused to the scheduled ancient monument by the unauthorised groundworks

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

Scheduled Ancient Monument 24858 lies in an arable field on the north-eastern outskirts of Harlow. It is situated in the field's north-eastern quarter and is bounded by Gilden Way to the north, London Road to the west, Kennel Lane to the south, and a former nursery, woodlands and pasture to the east. The River Stort lies c. 1km to the north-west.

2.2 Geology and topography

The surface geology of most of the study area, and of Harlow in general, is brownish yellow Boulder Clay with infrequent chalk, flint and gravel. Localised areas of clay and gravel, and of sand and gravel, lie immediately west of the scheduled monument. The topsoil/overburden, where observed, had an average thickness of 0.32m.

Prior to the re-contouring of the site, the formerly arable field sloped markedly down to the east, southeast and northeast, defining a roughly east-west ridge of elevated ground on which the cursus could be construed to occupy. Until recently, the field was subdivided into two with a north-south boundary that ran immediately to the west of the plotted position of the cursus monument.

2.3 Archaeology

The aerial photographic evidence for the putative cursus monument cropmark suggests that it is 12m wide and c. 180m long (Plate 1). The Essex Historic Environment Record describes the monument as: "Soilmarks of two parallel linear features which run diagonally across a field and abut onto its boundaries; one end appears to exhibit a slight incurving of the ditch before it meets the field boundary; ?possible cursus cut at both ends by field boundaries" (EHER 7268). The rectified plot of this cropmark is shown on figures 1 to 3.

Another cropmark, of a probable ring-ditch, is present c.100m to the west of the supposed cursus (Plate 2, Figs 1 to 3). The ring-ditch is situated on a large pocket of sand and gravel and shows up clearly on the aerial photograph. It lies approximately on the cursus' alignment and it would perhaps be reasonable to construe from this that the two were related.

Harlow Mound, an upstanding earthwork of a possible Roman barrow (EHER 21), is present c.70m north of the opposite end of the cursus (Fig. 1, 'Tumulus'). The monument is not securely dated, although Roman coins and pottery have been found in its vicinity (EHER 111). It is also known as 'The Moot Mound', which suggests that it may have been later used as a meeting place.

In the wider vicinity, remains of a Middle Iron Age enclosure and post-medieval cultivation trenches have been found in the grounds of Mark Hall School (Robertson 2004), some 600m to the west. Recent evaluation at the New Hall development site, to the south, has revealed prehistoric and later remains, including those of two Roman buildings (Archaeological Solutions 2004).

As previously mentioned, a deposit of displaced (machined-out) apparent feature-fill was observed during the preliminary English Heritage site inspection. Fragments of Roman tile and early Saxon pottery were retrieved from it, indicating that the scheduled area contains below-ground remains of early Saxon date.

3.0 METHOD

As stipulated by the English Heritage brief, fieldwork methodology was designed to assess the extent of any damage caused to the scheduled monument and investigation was consequently confined to the immediate area of the putative cursus. No attempt was made to evaluate either the impact of construction groundworks or the presence of archaeological remains across the remainder of the scheme area. It was not possible to investigate the cropmark ring-ditch that lies to the west of the cursus cropmark, nor some parts of the plotted cursus location, as these lay beneath large stockpiles of topsoil some 2.0m high (Fig.1).

The plotted position of the cursus cropmark was located on the ground using GPS, as were the locations of the topsoil stockpiles and overall limits of groundworks. A total-station theodolite was then used to position trenches in relation to the scheduled monument. The trenching consisted of ten 'trenches' (Figs 1 and 2, A to J) although, due to topsoil already having been removed, these might more properly be regarded as re-stripped or cleaned areas of investigation. All ten trenches were stripped under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator equipped with a broad toothless bucket. Trenches E, F, I and J were positioned to investigate the putative cursus, and

trenches A and G two dark features, the latter in the vicinity of the Saxon finds' spot, which could be partly seen on the uncleaned surface. Trench D examined the site of a surface find of a small sherd of prehistoric pottery that was observed during initial surveying. Trenches B and D and H were additional areas of cleaning employed to trace the further extents of archaeological remains encountered in trenches C and G. Some of the trenches (A, E, G and J) were enlarged, in order to obtain a clearer understanding of the nature and context of the archaeological remains they were found to contain. The majority of the archaeological features exposed within the various trenches were left unexcavated since the main purpose of the trenching was to establish the presence of the cursus monument and assess the level of damage caused by the unauthorised groundworks. The features in trench G were partially excavated, and were the exception to this.

The total-station theodolite was also used to collect spot-height data from across the investigated area in order to establish truncation caused by the unauthorised groundworks. Spot height values of the extant ground surface, related to an Ordnance Datum bench mark located on a building at The Kennels, were collected from across the vicinity of the scheduled area and westwards as far as the remains evident in Trench A. Spot height levels were also recorded at the top and bottom of the machined trenches. A drawing showing both pre-construction contours and the proposed re-contouring scheme was obtained from the developer's architect (ref: 1166.07B) and used as a baseline against which the extent of groundworks undertaken to date could subsequently be assessed.

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 1999), and the Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all identified archaeological deposits and features (ECC FAU 2006). Each context was individually numbered and recorded on individual pro-forma sheets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Monochrome and colour photographs were taken of significant features and of work in progress. A metal-detector was used to further investigate the features in trenches A and G.

4.0 TRIAL TRENCHING RESULTS

The presence of significant archaeological remains was established in trenches A to F and in G to I. No remains were identified in trenches F and J. Where present, archaeological features cut the natural deposits and lay beneath a layer of disturbance and remaining topsoil/overburden, which required removal to achieve adequate feature clarity. These remains are briefly described below, with trench location co-ordinate data presented in Appendix 1 (table 1) and additional context information in Appendix 2.

4.1 Cursus remains

Although trenches were positioned with sufficient overlap to allow for reasonable inaccuracies of cropmark rectification plotting, no recognisable trace of the parallel, WNW-ESE aligned, ditches delimiting the putative cursus was identified in any of the trenches designed to investigate it (trenches E to J). Furthermore, no features such as pits or post-holes of either specifically Neolithic or general prehistoric date were found in the immediate vicinity that could be construed to have been associated with such a monument.

4.2 Other archaeological remains

Prehistoric

Two broad ditches in trench C (4 and 6) are likely to be the earliest datable features encountered. On the surfaces of both of them were pieces of worked and burnt flint and many small sherds of broadly-dated prehistoric pottery. The further eastward continuation of ditch 4 was probably exposed in trench D, in the form of ditch 14; it being of similar proportion and alignment. A westward continuation of this ditch, perhaps a northward return, is surmised to be represented by cut feature 2 at the end of trench B. However, there were no diagnostic finds lying on the surfaces of either features 2 or 14. The further extents of ditch 6 were not established.

Saxon

The other datable features are Early Saxon and probably date to the late 5th century. They comprised a pit in trench A (feature 10) and a sunken-featured building in trench G (features 30, 33 and 35). Narrow ditch 16, in trench D, was possibly of similar date, as it had a small sherd of Early Saxon pottery lying on its surface.

Circular pit 10 was nearly 3m wide and contained two or more fills. A flint flake and twelve sherds of Early Saxon pottery were collected from its surface (13). The pit's latest deposit (12) contained frequent flecks and pieces of charcoal and was perhaps

a dump from a fire. The pit also contained two late Roman coins and a probable late 5th-century copper-alloy stud, retrieved from its lower fill 11.

The investigation was unable to expose the entirety of the sunken-featured building (30) in extended trench G, since part of it extended beneath a large stockpile of topsoil. The visible remains of the structure comprised two post-holes (33 and 35) and a large sub-rectangular pit (30) (Fig.4). The pit was 3m wide and at least 1.9m long, and had moderately sloping sides and a broadly flat base, c. 0.2m deep. In the upper of its two fills (32) were sherds of early Saxon pottery, fragments of baked clay, and a lump of slag. Residual Roman finds were also present, in the form of one sherd of pottery, a small amount of tile and two Late Roman copper-alloy coins. Both fills contained frequent flecks and small pieces of baked clay and charcoal, though no artefacts were retrieved from the lower fill 31.

The post-holes were located to the immediate west of feature 30 and appear to be aligned on its central NE-SW aligned axis. Post-hole 33 was found beneath a wheel rut and had been severely truncated (Fig.4). Flecks and small pieces of burnt clay and charcoal were retrieved from its fill; together with two small sherds of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery, which are likely to have been residual. Forty sherds of Early Saxon pottery were collected from slight post-hole 35, possibly all from the same crushed vessel.

Undated

The undated features include ditch 19 and gully 21 in trench E, ditch 23 in trench H and ditch 25 in trench I. The gullies are probably modern mole drains, as was feature 27 in otherwise empty trench J. However, a fragment of Roman tegula was found embedded in the fill of 27 and may indicate it to be a bona fide feature. Ditches 23 and 25 appear to align with one another and are probably parts of the same, possibly curving, feature. It is possible that ditch 19 was not a ditch at all, but part of a glacial ice-wedge polygon, since its fill was very clean and uniform and no artefacts were evident in its surface.

5.0 SURVEY RESULTS

The location of the spot heights used for comparison of the present general ground level with those of the original field surface are shown on Figure 3. These were selected from a wider body of collected levels data to provide a representative

transect across the plotted position of the cursus monument and westward up to the large topsoil stockpile covering the ring-ditch cropmark.

The observed topsoil/overburden varied in thickness across the site, and was probably between 0.12m and 0.56m thick. Visual inspection, machine trenching/cleaning and analysis of the collected spot height data in relation to drawing 1166.07B collectively indicate that the groundworks undertaken so far largely comprise the removal of topsoil/overburden more-or-less onto the surface of the underlying subsoil. However, most of the scheduled area and the site as a whole are still buried beneath muddy re-deposited spoil and/or a surviving *in situ* layer of topsoil/overburden between 0.02m and 0.26m thick (Appendix 1, Table 1), with a mean average of 0.11m.

The area of natural sand and gravel at the far western end of the study area (between the cropmark ring-ditch and trench A) has been exposed, its overlying topsoil/overburden evidently having been completely removed by a tracked excavator equipped with a large toothed bucket.

The scheduled area and the wider site has been extensively and systematically tracked over by heavy plant, and perhaps graded, to produce a relatively even surface. Wheeled plant has also been active across the site, creating both localised compaction and rutting up to 0.16m deep in the present surface.

Further comparison incorporating trial trench levels data has been carried out in order to consider truncation impact both of the groundworks undertaken to date and of the proposed completion of the re-contouring scheme upon the recorded archaeological remains (Appendix 1, Table 2). If an original average topsoil cover of 0.30m is assumed, the ring ditch cropmark and upper portions of any remains in the vicinities of trenches A and B are likely to have been significantly truncated by the groundworks. Elsewhere, across the plotted position of the cursus, the topsoil may well have been thicker (perhaps as much as 0.4m) and truncation below the base of the topsoil and of archaeological remains appears to have been consistent and relatively minor (Fig 3, cross-section).

Comparison of the excavated depth of trenches undertaken to reveal archaeological deposits (Appendix 1, table 1) with the depth of further groundworks to be undertaken to complete the re-contouring scheme as per drawing 1166.07B (Appendix 1, table 2) suggests that any further work has the potential to further adversely impact upon any

archaeological remains present only in the vicinity of trench B. Further ground reduction at this location appears to be pronounced, but elsewhere it seems that construction levels have been achieved and in fact require covering with topsoil to reach completed re-contouring levels. Even in the vicinity of trench C, where modest further reduction is required, the impact of this would appear to be negated by the 0.19m-thickness of disturbance layer / topsoil remnant present at this location.

6.0 FINDS

A range of artefacts was recovered from eleven contexts, most of which represent surface finds retrieved from fills of exposed features. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in appendix 3.

The largest component is pottery, amounting to 134 sherds weighing 696g, three-quarters of which is Early Saxon. Sue Tyler, a recognised Saxon artefact specialist, has scanned the assemblage and provided a late 5th century provisional date. Forty-one sherds (156g) of prehistoric pottery were examined by Nick Lavender, although nothing could be precisely dated. The prehistoric pottery comprises small and abraded sherds, in contrast to the Saxon sherds, some of which are fairly large. A single Roman coarse ware sherd was also found.

Five copper alloy items were recovered, four of which are late Roman coins, although surface details are obscured with corrosion products and soil. One coin has been pierced in antiquity. The fifth object is an incomplete Early Saxon disc-headed stud, with an estimated diameter of 50mm. Sue Tyler has indicated that a date of late 5th to late 6th century for the piece would be appropriate, since it is not certainly a shield-board stud. The likelihood is, however, that the stud is contemporary with the pottery.

Other finds are few. There was a scatter of worked flint flakes in various features, and several pieces of later prehistoric flint-working waste were collected from the stripped surface. There are thirteen Roman tile fragments, eight of which came from the sunken-featured building (30). Baked clay fragments and a piece of slag were also recovered from this feature.

Comments on the Assemblage

There is a surprisingly large amount of Saxon pottery for such a small investigation, and this assemblage is in good condition. It may be worth noting that no finds of medieval, or later, date were recorded. The metalwork has suffered from burial in adverse soil conditions, but has been packed in a stable environment to prevent further deterioration.

Further work on the finds is not required at this stage. All of the finds have been retained. The finds occupy less than one box.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Archaeological remains

The trial-trenching evaluation found no trace remains that coincide with the location and form of the putative cursus monument cropmark. Nor were other remains of Neolithic date identified that could have been associated with such a site. It is unlikely that the cropmark has been plotted so inaccurately that the trenching has missed the actual location of its below-ground remains, nor has re-contouring groundworks been severe enough to completely remove all vestiges of its distinctive elongated ditched enclosure. It is concluded that this monument never existed. It is suggested that the linear 'cropmarks' are misinterpreted wear patterns on the field surface, such as parallel tracks or footpaths – particularly as the cropmark fits so precisely into the modern field system and differs in colour to other, more reliable, cropmarks photographed in the vicinity.

Instead of a Neolithic ritual monument, trial-trenching has established the presence of prehistoric ditches, and an Early Saxon pit and building. It is likely that the ditches represent the remains of either occupation enclosures or field systems, or both. It is probable that these extend over much of the scheme area and likely date to the Bronze or early Iron Age, as similar remains of these periods have been found in the wider vicinity.

The trenching has identified no datable in situ Roman features, although the residual Roman finds from the Early Saxon features imply that the remains of activity of this period are present within the wider vicinity, perhaps even within the scheme area. The Harlow Mound and its associated finds, and the three Roman occupation sites found in the adjacent New Hall development area, add weight to this likelihood.

The presence of either an extensive or else scattered late 5th-century settlement is indicated by the Early Saxon remains in trenches A and G, some 150m apart. The sunken-featured building and the artefact assemblage collected from its infill are typical, and particularly significant given the fact that few Early Saxon sites have been found in the wider area surrounding Harlow. Indeed, the area has often been written-off as having been devoid of (at least Germanic) habitation during the Early Saxon period (Tyler 1996, 108). No Early Saxon remains were found during the construction of the Braintree to Stansted section of the A120, and only a small number of Early Saxon pits were discovered during extensive groundworks at Stansted Airport (Havis and Brooks 2004, 346-50; Timby et al. 2007, 152-56). This discovery is therefore important to the understanding of west and north-west Essex in the 5th to 6th centuries.

7.2 Impacts

While much of the data on original and proposed ground surface levels at specific points across the scheduled monument and adjacent areas is estimated and extrapolated from contour information featured on scheme drawings, a number of points regarding the impact of the groundworks scheme can be deduced with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

It is apparent that, while much of the area of the plotted cursus cropmark has been stripped only to the approximate base of the original topsoil, it is likely that the upper portions of below-ground archaeological remains present have at least been disturbed by heavy plant movement over them. It may be argued that some degree of general truncation and localised deeper intrusion has also occurred as a result of machine excavation, as evidenced by the displaced 'lump' of stratified feature-fill identified during initial site inspection that is likely to derive from the Saxon sunken-featured building found in trench G or an associated feature.

To the west of the scheduled area, it is more apparent that ground reduction has indeed significantly intruded upon and truncated archaeological remains. The dark fills of the Saxon pit in trench A were evident on the machined surface prior to trenching/cleaning and clean, undisturbed, natural sand and gravel exposed across this vicinity. It is extrapolated that any below-ground remains related to the ring-ditch cropmark site are likely to have been at least partially truncated prior to re-burial under the spoil heap.

It is concluded that, considering the proposed completed scheme levels, the majority of the intrusive groundworks has already taken place and the truncating impact of any further works should be minimal. However, further plant movement, particularly in adverse weather/ground conditions, will have a continued detrimental effect on any below-ground archaeological remains.

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The fieldwork was carried out by Mark Germany, Andrew Lewsey and Dave Smith. The finds were processed by Phil McMichael and were identified and spot-dated by Joyce Compton, Nick Lavender and Sue Tyler. The figures were drawn by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson.

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Appendix 1: Trench Data

Trench	Co-ordinates		Depth
A	W 547503.9, 211152.5	E 547519.8, 211149.1	0.02m
B	W 547516.5, 211155.7	E 547534.1, 211155.7	0.12m
C	N 547550.9, 211169.6	S 547547.5, 211148.2	0.19m
D	NE 547573.9, 211161.4	SW 547559.4, 211137.1	0.26m
E	N 547603.3, 211177.6	S 547598.3, 211148.5	0.09m
F	N 547625.6, 211170.7	S 547617.9, 211133.2	0.08m
G	NW 547658.2, 211157.3	SE 547673.6, 211129.2	0.12m
H	NW 547673.9, 211160.3	SE 547686.9, 211145.5	0.12m
I	N 547689.5, 211161.1	S 547698.4, 211125.5	0.06m
J	N 547727.5, 211140.9	S 547724.4, 211107.8	0.08m

Table 1: Trench location and excavated depth

Trench	Ground surface level of:				Soil depth removal:	
	Original	Existing ¹	Existing ²	Proposed	To date	Further
A	65.75	65.44	65.46	64.50	-0.29	+0.04
B	65.25	64.85	64.97	64.40	-0.28	-0.57
C	64.50	64.17	64.36	64.25	-0.14	-0.11
D	64.25	63.81	64.07	64.10	-0.18	+0.03
E	63.25	62.69	62.78	63.25	-0.47	+0.47
F	62.75	62.58	62.66	63.00	-0.09	+0.34
G	62.25	61.92	62.14	62.50	-0.11	+0.36
H	62.25	61.96	62.08	62.25	-0.17	+0.17
I	62.00	61.69	61.75	62.25	-0.25	+0.50
J	61.75	61.63	61.71	62.00	-0.04	+0.29
Ring-ditch	65.50	n/a	65.10	65.80	-0.39	+0.70

Table 2: Ground surface levels (metres above OD), trenches A to J (Ring-ditch estimated)

Original = height of ground surface prior to unauthorised stripping

Existing¹ = base of trench (i.e. top of recognised archaeological horizon / undisturbed natural deposit)

Existing² = height of existing ground surface

Proposed = height of ground surface of completed re-contouring scheme

To date = depth of deposits removed by re-contouring groundworks to date

Further = depth of further deposits requiring removal to complete proposed re-contouring scheme

Appendix 2: Context Data

Dimensions = length x width x depth (where established). No features were excavated other than 30, 33 and 35

No.	Tr.	Category	Description	Date
1	G	Artefacts	Unstratified finds from Saxon features 30, 33 and 35	Early Saxon
2	B	Cut feature	(1.8m+ x 1.2m) Filled by 3. Unex.	Undated
3	B	Deposit	Yellowish brown firm silt clay with infrequent gravel and flecks of charcoal. Fill of cut feature 2	Undated
4	C	Ditch	(1.8m+ x 4.5m+) Filled by 5. Unex.	Prehistoric
5	C	Deposit	Yellowish brown friable clay silt with infrequent gravel and occasional flecks of charcoal. Fill of 4	Prehistoric
6	C	Ditch	(1.8m+ x 5m). Filled by 7. Unex.	Prehistoric
7	C	Deposit	Yellowish brown friable clay silt with occasional gravel and flecks of charcoal. Fill of 6	Prehistoric
8	C	Artefacts	Surface finds, fill 5, ditch 4	Prehistoric
9	C	Artefacts	Surface finds, fill 7, ditch 6	Prehistoric
10	A	Pit	(2.9m x 2.8m). Filled by 11 and 12. Unex.	Early Saxon
11	A	Deposit	Dark yellowish brown firm silt clay with occasional gravel and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Below 12. Fill of 10	Early Saxon
12	A	Deposit	Very dark grey/black firm silt clay with infrequent gravel and frequent flecks and pieces of charcoal. Top fill of 10. Above 11	Early Saxon
13	A	Artefacts	Surface finds, fills 11 and 12, pit 10	Early Saxon
14	D	Ditch	(1.8m+ x 4.45m). Filled by 15. Unex.	Undated
15	D	Deposit	Yellowish brown friable clay silt with occasional gravel and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Fill of 14	Undated
16	D	Ditch	(1.8m+ x 1.25m). Filled by 17. Unex.	Undated
17	D	Deposit	Yellowish brown firm clay silt with infrequent gravel and flecks of charcoal. Fill of 16	Undated
18	D	Artefacts	Surface find, fill 17, ditch 16	Early Saxon
19	E	Ditch	(12m+ x 1.0m). Filled by 20. Unex.	Undated
20	E	Deposit	Orange brown firm silt clay with infrequent gravel. Fill of 19. Below 21	Undated
21	E	Gully / Mole drain	(20m+ x 0.52). Filled by 22. Above 20. Unex.	Undated
22	E	Deposit	Brownish yellow firm silt clay with infrequent gravel and flecks of chalk. Fill of 21	Undated
23	H	Ditch	(1.8m+ x 0.75m). Filled by 24. Unex.	Undated
24	H	Deposit	Brownish grey firm silt clay with infrequent gravel and flecks of charcoal. Fill of 23	Undated
25	I	Ditch	(1.8m+ x 1m). Filled by 26. Unex.	Undated
26	I	Deposit	Brownish grey firm silt clay with infrequent gravel and flecks of charcoal. Fill of 25	Undated
27	J	Gully / Mole drain	(6.7m+ x 0.4m). Filled by 28. Unex.	?Roman+
28	J	Deposit	Brownish yellow firm silt clay with infrequent gravel. Fill of 27	?Roman+
29	J	Artefacts	Surface find, fill 28, gully/mole drain 27	?Roman+

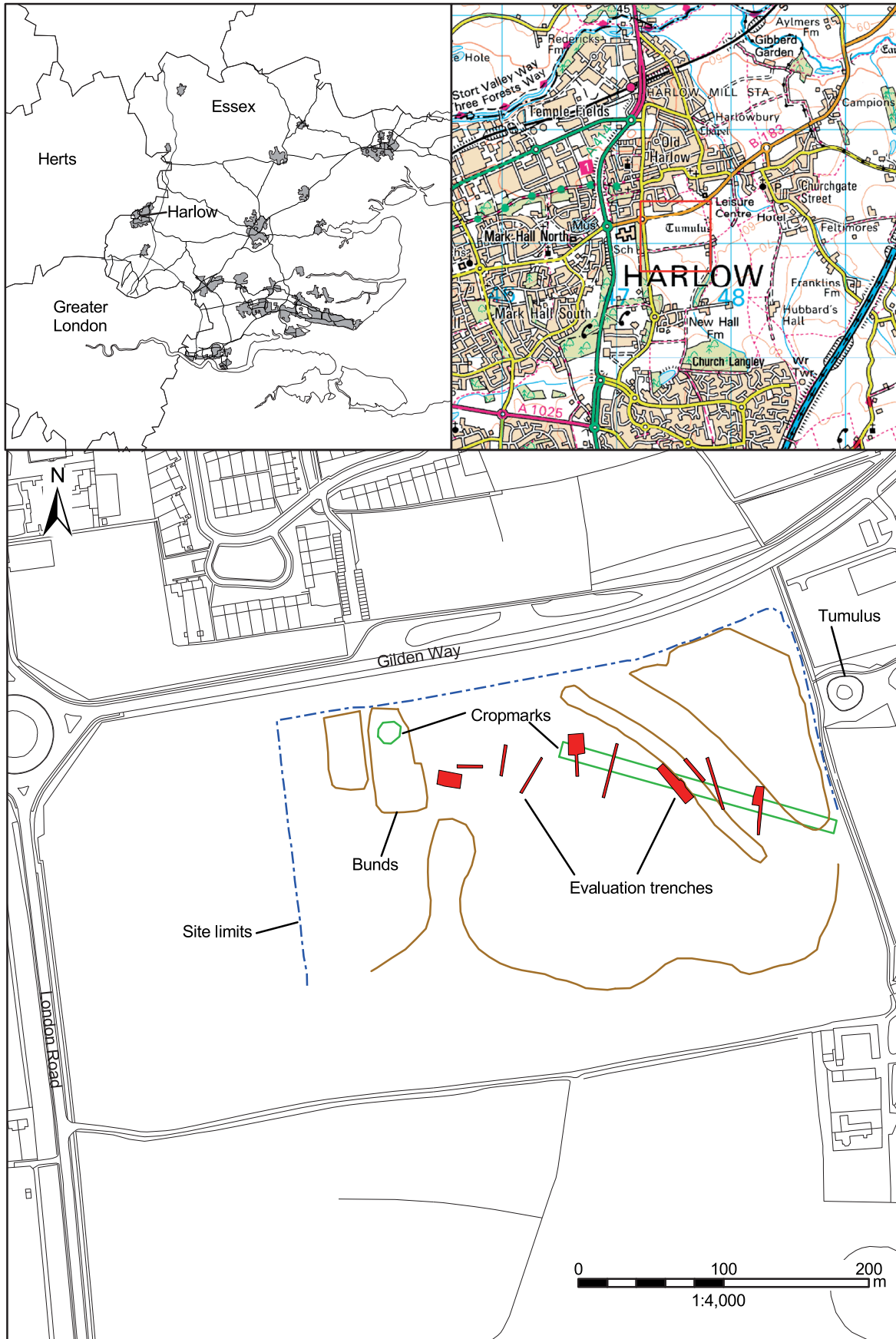
No.	Tr.	Category	Description	Date
30	G	Sunken-featured building	(1.9m+ x 3.6m x 0.23m). Moderately sloping sides, slightly undulating base. Filled by 30 and 31. Part-excavated.	Early Saxon
31	G	Deposit	Greyish brown plastic silt clay with occasional gravel and frequent flecks of charcoal. Primary fill of 30	Early Saxon
32	G	Deposit	Greyish brown plastic silt clay with occasional gravel and flecks of charcoal. Top fill of 30	Early Saxon
33	G	Post-hole	(0.8m x 0.75m x 0.07m). Oval plan, steep sides, broad concave base. Truncated by wheel rut. Filled by 34. Part-excavated.	Early Saxon
34	G	Deposit	Dark greyish brown plastic silt clay with infrequent gravel and occasional flecks of charcoal. Fill of 33	Early Saxon
35	G	Post-hole	(0.42m x 0.3m x 0.09m). Oval post-hole with bowl-shaped profile. Truncated by wheel rut. Filled by 36. Part-excavated.	Early Saxon
36	G	Deposit	Yellowish brown plastic silt clay with infrequent gravel and flecks of charcoal. Fill of 35	Early Saxon

Appendix 3: Finds Data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
Finds	u/s	4	88	Flint working waste	Later Prehist.
1	u/s	1 4 5	2 835 68	Flint flake Brick corner and tile fragments Pottery; rim and body sherds	- Roman Saxon
8	Finds	1 1 14	2 6 78	Flint flake Burnt flint Pottery; body sherds	- - Prehistoric
9	Finds	3 25	22 74	Flint flakes Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
11	10	1 2	6 2	SF5, copper alloy stud SF3 SF4, copper alloy coins, one pierced	Saxon Late Roman
13	Finds	1 12	18 110	Flint flake Pottery; rim and body sherds	- Saxon
18	Finds	1	4	Pottery; body sherd	Saxon
29	Finds	1	290	Tegula flange fragment	Roman
32	30	2 18 1 8 34 1	- 76 224 402 170 2	SF1 SF2, copper alloy coins Baked clay Slag Tile fragments, inc tegula flange fragments Pottery; rim and body sherds Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware	Late Roman - - Roman Saxon Roman
34	33	2	4	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
36	35	40	186	Pottery; base and body sherds, probably all from same vessel	Saxon

Appendix 4: Essex Historic Environment Record Summary

Site name/Address: South of Gilden Way, Harlow, Essex	
Parish:	District: Harlow
NGR: TL 547658 211157	Site Code: HAGW 07
Type of Work: Trial-trenching evaluation	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, ECC FAU
Date of Work: 10/12/07 to 13/12/07	Size of Area Investigated: Trenching: 10 trenches, totalling 830m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Harlow	Client: English Heritage
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes?	Related EHR Nos.: 7268
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (Summary)	
Periods represented: Prehistoric Roman Saxon	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>Scheduled Monument 24858, the site putative Neolithic cursus identified from aerial photographs, was subject to field survey and trial trenching in order to evaluate the impact of the unauthorised re-contouring groundworks to create playing fields. It consisted of a site walk-over inspection, collection of spot height data and the excavation of trenches across the plotted position of the cropmark and the area to its immediate west. The principal objectives of the work were to establish the presence of the cursus monument and to assess the extent of any damage which may have been caused to it.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological fieldwork identified the presence of prehistoric and Early Saxon remains, but no trace of the putative cursus. It also established that there had been relatively little deep and extensive truncation of archaeological remains across the majority of the scheduled area, beyond removal of topsoil. It was concluded that the cursus had never been present and that the linear 'cropmark' features, are more likely to have been modern-day tracks, footpaths or other wear marks on the field surface.</i></p> <p><u>Prehistoric</u> <i>Two Prehistoric ditches, not closely datable, may represent the boundary remains of small enclosures and/or settlement.</i></p> <p><u>Roman</u> <i>Roman finds, including late Roman coins and tile, were residual in the Saxon features, but still serve to suggest that activity of this period was taking place within the wider vicinity.</i></p> <p><u>Early Saxon</u> <i>Early Saxon remains comprise a pit and a sunken featured building with apparently associated post-holes. Along with the residual Roman material, pottery and a copper alloy stud were recovered from their fills. The pit and SFB were c.150m apart and perhaps represent parts of a larger, probably scattered, settlement, dated to the late 5th century.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:-	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: January 2008



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Fig.1. Site location and block plan

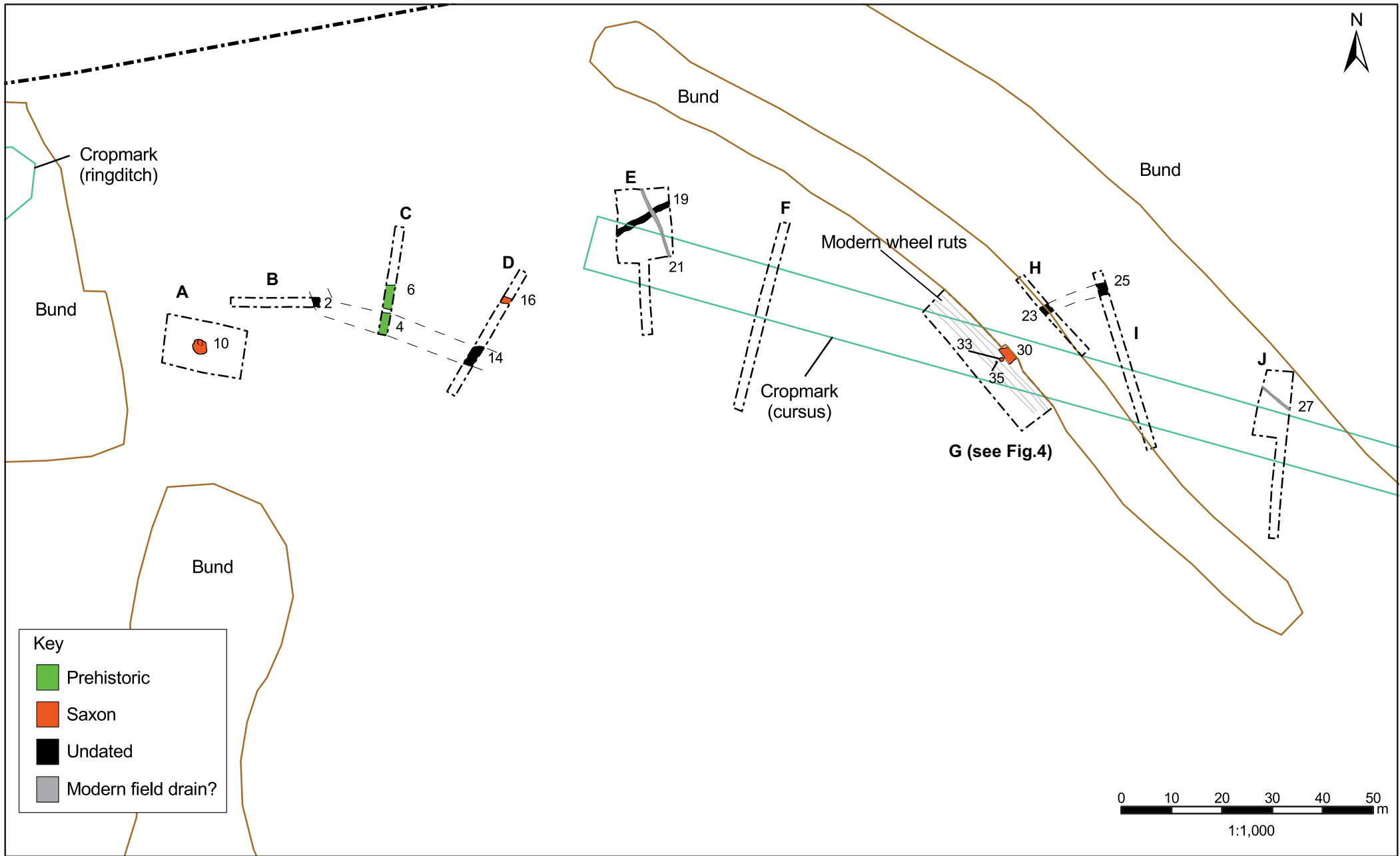
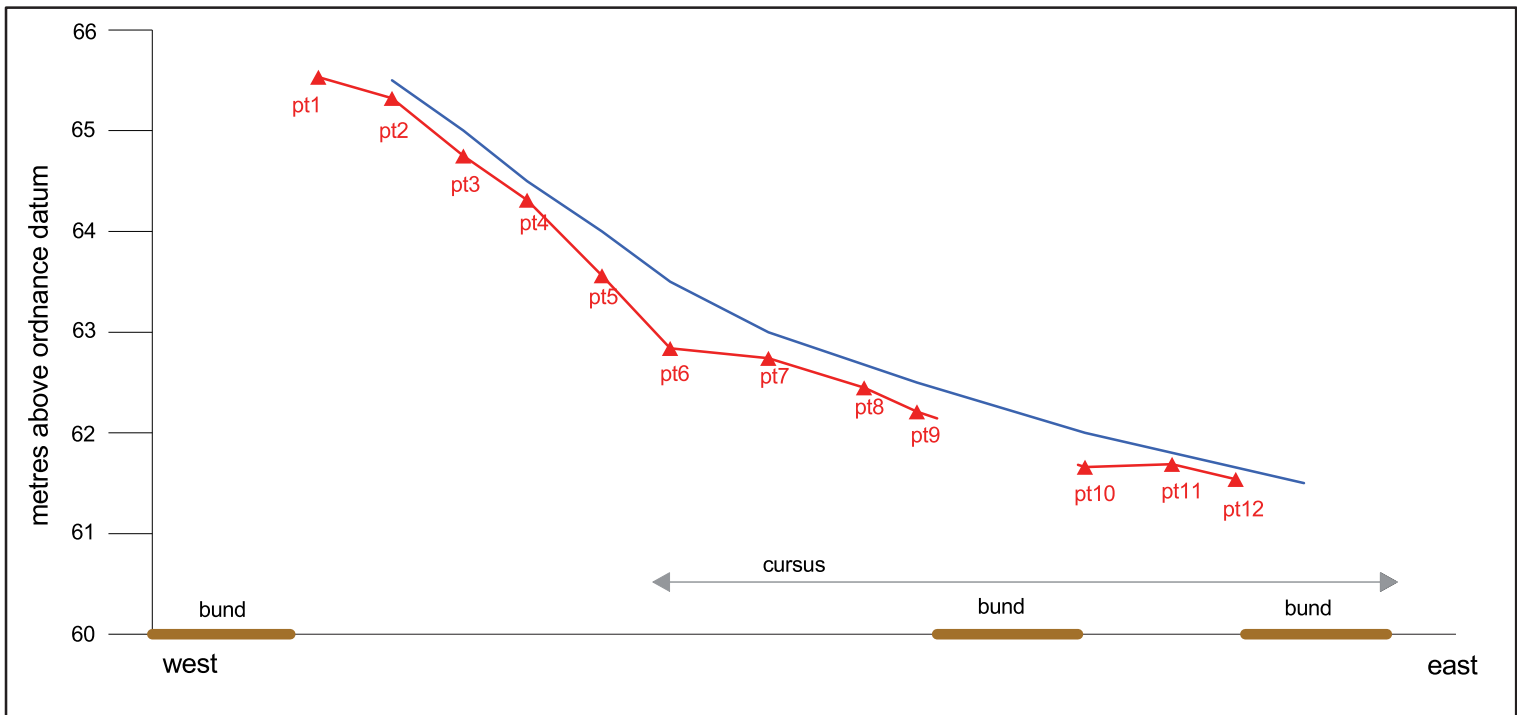
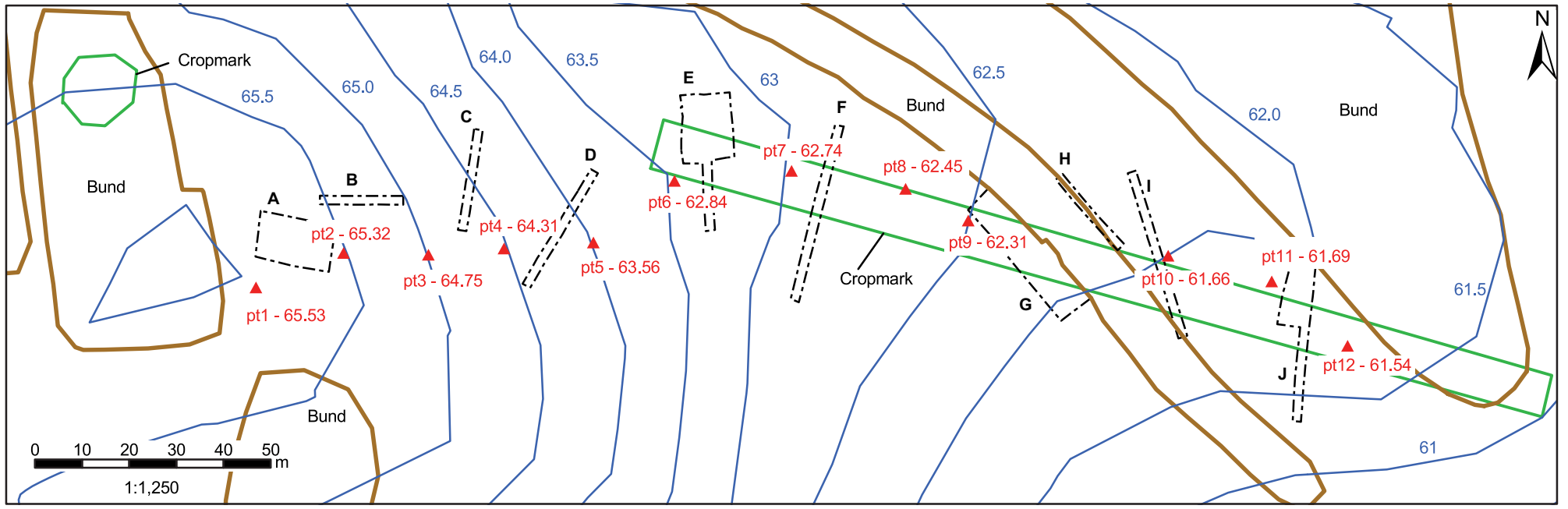


Fig.2. Trench plan



Key to plan and section

- Original surface level (m)
- Current surface level (m)

Fig.3. Plan and cross-section of ordnance datum levels

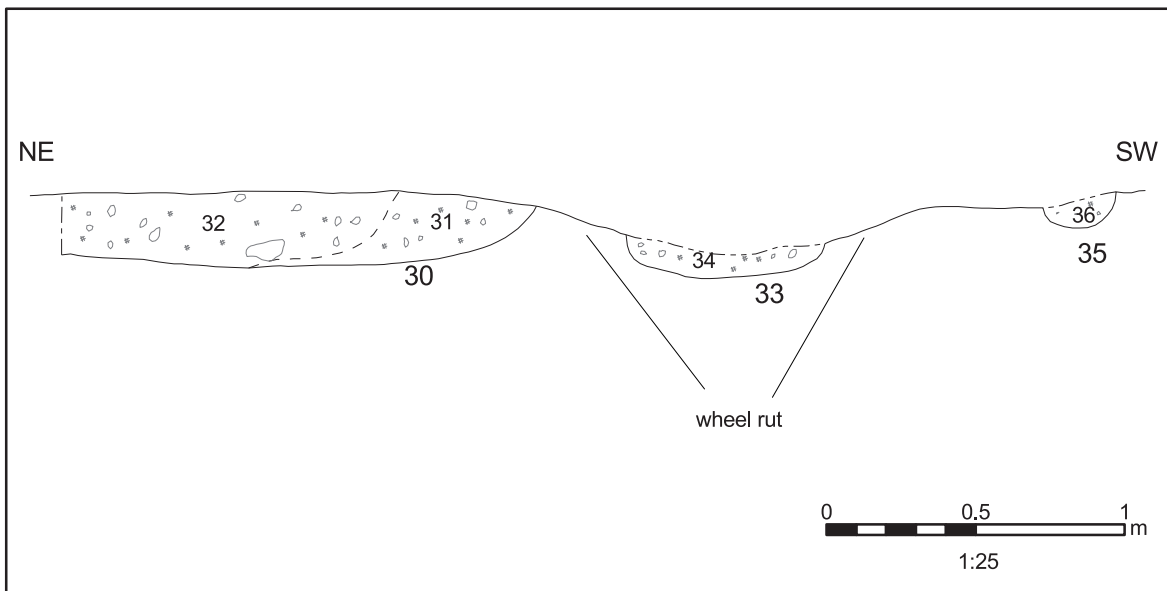
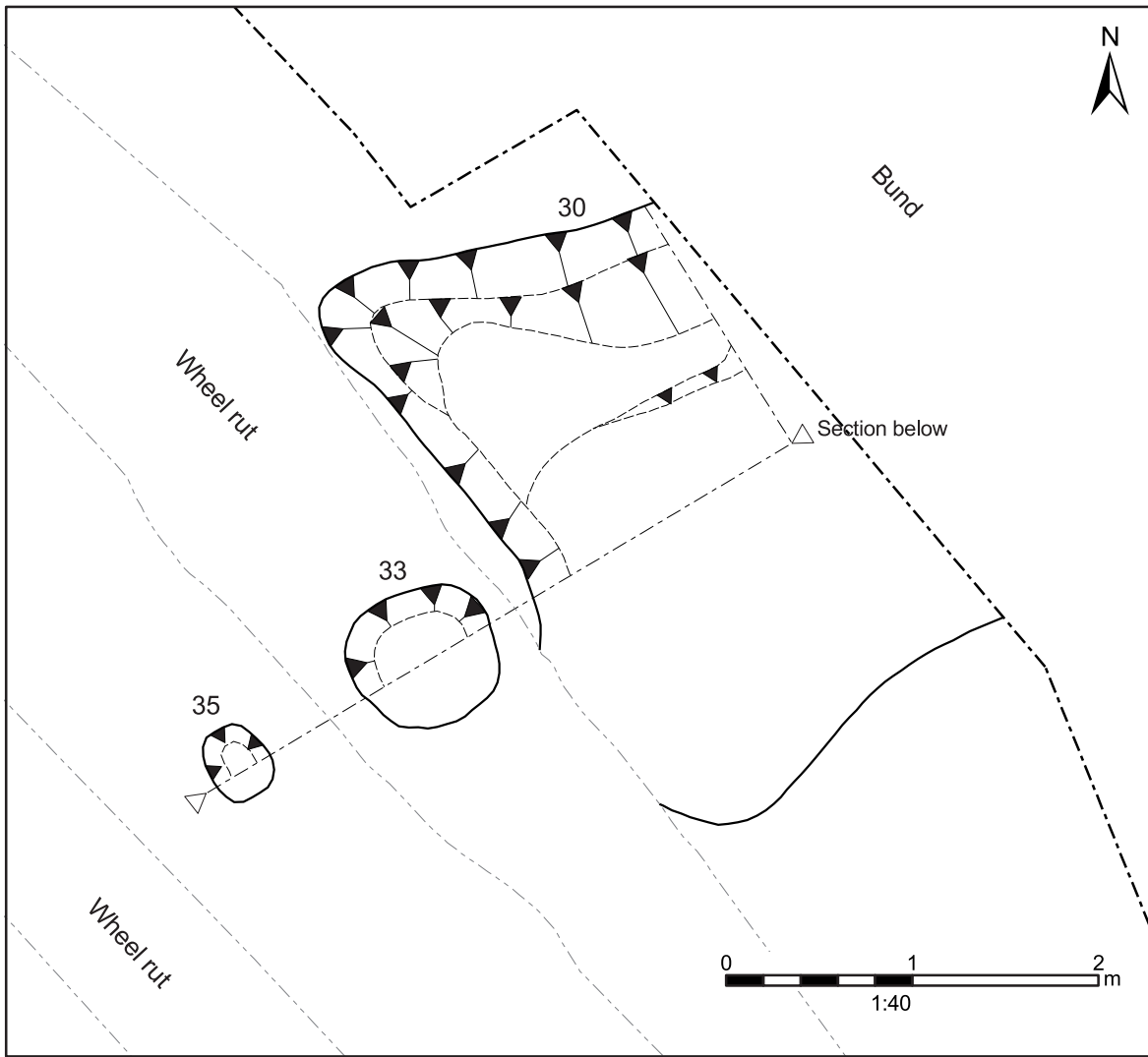


Fig.4. Plan and section of Saxon features in Trench G



Plate 1. Cursus cropmark



Plate 2. Ring-ditch cropmark



Plate 3. Sunken-featured building 30, trench G, looking west



Plate 4. Sunken-featured building 30, trench G, looking east