

**LAND AT CREETING ROAD
(CEDARS PARK PHASE 10C)
STOWMARKET
SUFFOLK**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

JULY 2010

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**LAND AT CREETING ROAD
(CEDARS PARK PHASE 10C)
STOWMARKET
SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Client: Bellway Homes Ltd

NGR: TM 066 585

Planning ref: 2906/09

Site Code: SUP 023

Oasis No.: essexcou1-79110

Date of Fieldwork: 2nd-15th March 2010

SUMMARY

An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out at Creeting Road (Cedars Park Phase 10c), Stowmarket, Suffolk before the determination of a planning application for a housing development. Twenty-one trenches were excavated, representing a 5% sample of the 3.1ha development area.

No remains of prehistoric, Roman or Saxon date were identified, although Late Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) flint flakes and a few sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery were recovered as residual finds in later features.

Medieval quarry pits dated to the later 13th-14th centuries were concentrated in the north-west of the site (Fig. 1, trenches 1 and 3), with residual medieval pottery hinting at earlier activity dating from the 12th century. A set of parallel gullies across the north of the site are probably of medieval date and are interpreted as agricultural land-drains. A second set of parallel drainage gullies in the south of the site are undated, but were probably broadly contemporary with those to the north. Post-medieval remains were restricted to the south of the site, comprising a large pond and a field boundary ditch recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1884-6.

Few archaeological remains were present across the development area and the only area of potential significance was the concentration of medieval quarry pits in its north-west corner.

These were almost certainly related to an area of medieval pits and ditches recorded at the south end of the earlier Phase 4b development immediately to the north-west of the site, on the opposite side of Mill Street (Schofield and Woolhouse 2007). It is likely that further medieval remains exist in the area between the two sites, to the immediate west of trenches 1 and 3. This area lies outside the proposed housing development but may be affected by a proposal to realign the junction of Creeping Road and Mill Street.

The medieval remains both on the site and to its immediate north-west are of only moderate significance and are peripheral to a medieval farmstead dated to the 12th-14th centuries 0.5km to the north-west, excavated before the earlier Phase 4a development (Hallybone and McConnell 2005).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Creeting Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk in advance of a proposed housing development (Phase 10C of the Cedars Park development; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd.

Extensive archaeological remains have been recorded during previous phases of the Cedars Park development, including an area immediately to the north-west of the present site. For this reason the archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to determination of the planning application (ref: 2906/09), following advice given by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in line with Planning Policy Guidance 16 on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The evaluation was undertaken according to the brief and specification issued by the SCCAS (2009) and the written scheme of investigation prepared by the ECC FAU (2010).

The north-western corner of the present site lies outside the area of the proposed housing development, but will be affected by proposed road works and landscaping for a realignment of the junction of Mill Street and Creeting Lane (Fig. 1). This area is not covered by the present evaluation.

Copies of this report will be supplied to Bellway Homes Ltd (including a copy to forward to the local planning authority), SCCAS and the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. 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>). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited with Suffolk County Council.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology (Figs 1 and 2)

The site (TM 066 585) lies at the edge of the Cedars Park suburb on the eastern outskirts of Stowmarket, 1.5km to the east of its historic core. The site covers 3.1 hectares and is bounded by Creeting Road to the south-west, Mill Street to the north-west, the west-bound slip road to the A14 to the north-east and the A1120 to the south-east (Fig. 1). The site is currently arable land becoming overgrown with grass and weeds, with surface spreads of

fragmented building rubble towards its southern end. It is situated on glacial clay towards the top of the north-eastern slope of the Gipping valley and is bisected by a small tributary stream. The land surface undulates gently, with high points of 47m OD at the northern and southern extremes of the site, and a low of 41m OD on the banks of the stream that crosses its centre (Fig. 2). A walkover of the site before fieldwork began identified two shallow depressions, in the north-west and south of the site respectively (Fig. 2).

2.2 Archaeology and History (Figs 1 and 3)

This archaeological and historical background is an overview based on site investigation reports held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.

The Gipping valley is rich in archaeological remains of all periods, from the prehistoric to 20th-century industrial. Stowmarket is of Saxon origin and had a market by the time of the Domesday survey of AD 1086. Historically the proposed development site would have been in a rural area at the edge of the market town.

Extensive archaeological investigations have taken place during successive phases of the Cedars Park development to the west and north-west of the proposed development site.

There is sparse evidence of prehistoric remains from the across the Cedars Park area generally, but no clear evidence of a settlement focus.

A large Iron Age and Roman farmstead and its field system has been recorded by trenching, fieldwalking, geophysical survey and excavation 0.5km to the west of the site during Cedars Park phases 2 and 3 (MacDonald 1999; Keir and MacDonald 2001; Nicholson 2004). A Middle/Late Iron Age settlement enclosure with roundhouses and four-post structures was succeeded by an early Roman settlement within a similar enclosure (mid 1st-2nd centuries), containing rectangular timber buildings, wells, ovens and cobbled yard areas. In the later Roman period (2nd-4th centuries) the farmstead was developed through the construction of a large stone-founded house with a bath-house, a well and timber outbuildings.

Medieval features were recorded during an excavation carried out 0.5km to the north-west of the site in Cedars Park phase 4a, including a 12th-14th century ditched enclosure with possible structures and a series of parallel ditches, most likely representing a farmstead (Hallybone and McConnell 2005). Medieval features encountered in Phase 5b located along Creeting Road 0.8km to the west of the site included a regular grid of boundary ditches,

cobble pathways, a post-built structure with a cobbled floor, a barn-like structure composed of parallel beam slots, and clay extraction pits (Woolhouse 2006).

Late Saxon/medieval remains were identified during trial trenching evaluation of phase 4b, immediately to the north-west of the site, on the opposite side of Mill Street (Schofield and Woolhouse 2007). This evidence consisted of two ditches, two gullies, one pit and a post-hole, dated to c. 900-1300. These features were concentrated in the south of the phase 4b evaluation area (trenches 8 and 15), close to Creeting Road and Mill Street, suggesting an area of roadside activity. A series of parallel gullies, equally spaced and aligned south-west to north-east were assigned a broad [prehistoric date on the basis of worked flint and a few sherds of prehistoric pottery, but the majority are likely to be of later date. Several ditches and gullies of post-medieval and modern date were encountered more widely across the evaluation area.

Early Ordnance Survey maps show the present site divided into three fields, one to the north and two to the south of the stream that crosses the centre of the site (Fig. 3). A track ran along the field boundary at the southern edge of the stream valley.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to identify any archaeological features or deposits that would be impacted upon by the proposed housing development, to enable a mitigation strategy for any remains to be implemented before development takes place.

More specifically, the evaluation aimed to establish the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of preservation of surviving archaeological remains within the development area, through recording archaeological features and deposits, and recovery and sampling of artefacts and environmental remains.

3.2 Objectives

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

1. Establish the date and character of any past activity on site, especially any further evidence for prehistoric or late Saxon or medieval settlement.
2. Assess the relationship of any archaeological evidence on site in relation to the evidence identified during previous archaeological work in the immediate area, especially at Cedars Park phase 4b on the opposite side of Mill Street.
3. Provide sufficient information about the archaeological potential of the proposed development site so that a mitigation strategy can be developed for any archaeological remains of significance, involving either preservation *in situ*, or excavation and recording of the remains before construction, and reporting and publication of the results.

4.0 METHOD

Twenty one evaluation trenches, representing a 5% sample of the development area, were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. The majority of the trenches were 40m long by 1.8m wide. The exceptions were trench 20 which was 45m long and trench 21 which was 35m long, the latter having been shortened to allow suitable clearance from an overhead power cable. Eleven of the trenches were aligned east-west and ten were aligned north-south. The trenches were cleaned and potential features were hand-excavated.

After consultation with the monitoring officer several of the larger features were investigated through excavation with the aid of a machine. The pits at the east end of trench 3 were excavated to natural clay with the aid of a 0.6m wide bucket and the pond-like feature in trench 17 was excavated to its base using both the 1.8m and the 0.6m wide bucket. In addition, a small amount of fill was removed to better define the linear feature at the east end of trench 12, whilst an area of subsoil at the western end of this trench and another at the eastern end of trench 8, missed due to poor light conditions, were re-machined to a more convincing level.

Standard ECC FAU excavation, recording and artefact collection methodologies were employed throughout (ECC FAU 2006). ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological

Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 1997; 2001) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 1-8)

The investigated archaeological features formed two clusters, one in the north of the site (trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) and one in the south (trenches 12, 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20). No archaeological features were present in trenches 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 21. Trench location details are given in Appendix 1, and detailed context information is presented in Appendix 2. In addition, a number of natural features were recorded and there was recent agricultural disturbance from the cutting of both mole and field drains.

The majority of the trenches were between 0.30m and 0.50m deep and generally consisted of dark brownish grey clay silt topsoil directly overlying natural clay. Small amounts of mid-greyish brown clay-silt subsoil were noted beneath the topsoil in trenches 1 and 14. The deepest trenches (trenches 7-11) were located in the lowest part of the site on either side of the stream. These ranged in depth from 0.66m to 1.10m and generally consisted of 0.30-0.40m of topsoil overlying greater thicknesses of greyish brown subsoil. In addition, trench 3 in the north west of the site was also beyond average depth at 0.95m due to the presence of localised subsoil (81) overlying the pit complex in the west of the trench .

There was some variation in the underlying natural strata. In all of the trenches north of the stream (trenches 1-8) this comprised light yellowish buff/brown silty clay with chalk flecks interspersed with patches of brown clay. This chalk-flecked material was also present in trenches 17, 19, 20 and 21 at the south of the site and to a lesser extent in trenches 12, 14, 15, 16 and 18 as part of a more mixed geology with brown, orangey brown and yellowish brown silty clays. The natural strata in trenches 9, 10 and 11 comprised yellow clay, orangey brown clay and brown clay with gravel. Trench 13 consisted of brown clay with extensive patches of chalky gravel to the north.

5.1 The northern area (trenches 1–5) (Figs 4, 5 and 8)

The archaeological features in the northern area divided into two categories: either large pits of medieval date or gullies aligned north-east to south-west. The pits were only found in trenches 1 and 3 whereas the gullies were spread throughout trenches 1 to 5.

5.1.1 Medieval pits

The pits were mainly located in a cluster in trench 3 and the south of trench 1. Four pits in trench 3 were probably all quarries. Pit 55, the easternmost of the group, was over 4.5m long by 1.17m deep with a flattish bottom and a steep eastern side (Fig. 8, Section 3). It was initially excavated by hand and later enlarged by machine to find its true extent. Six silty clay fills (56–61) were hand-excavated. These produced 12 sherds of medieval pottery and a residual sherd of Roman pottery.

To the west of pit 55 were three inter-connecting pits (76, 78 and 82) (Fig. 8, Section 4). Pit 76 was the shallowest of the three and was located at the east end of the group. It was 2.1m long by 0.45m deep with a gently sloping eastern edge and a slightly deeper area to the north. Finds recovered from the fill (77) included two sherds of medieval pottery and a residual sherd of Roman pottery. The relationship between pit 76 and adjacent pit 78 was obscured by a modern field drain. Pit 78 was 3.2m long by 0.72m deep with a moderately sloping western side that appeared to truncate the upper fill of pit 82. Pit 78 was filled with mixed brown clay silt (86) that became silty in the eastern corner. Pit 82 continued beyond the western end of the trench and was the deepest of the three at 1.3m, with a 0.5m deep step up to a shallower shelf at its eastern end. It had two brownish grey fills (79 and 80), the lower of which (79) contained two sherds of medieval pottery.

The eastern half of a roughly oval pit (33) was located in the south end of trench 1. This was over 6.2m long by 0.74m deep and contained three brown silty-clay fills (34, 35 and 36) (Fig. 8, Section 2). This pit contained 29 sherds of medieval pottery, mostly dating to the later 13th to early 14th century, and one sherd of residual Roman pottery.

A large feature at the north end of trench 1 continued beyond the limits of the trench, but was at least 3m long and over 0.85m deep (Fig. 8, Section 1). It could possibly have been part of a large ditch aligned north-east to south-west but is more likely to have been part of a large pit, given its similarity to the pits recorded in trench 3 and the south of trench 1. It was not possible to excavate this feature fully because of rising groundwater. In the south-eastern half of the excavated segment were three chalk-flecked clay fills (2, 3 and 4), the uppermost of which (4) contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. In the north-western

part of the segment was a possible re-cut (5) containing a further five fills (6–10) that all dipped downwards towards the north-west. Although no other dating evidence was recovered, a flint flake, presumably residual, was found in fill 8.

All of these pits, especially the group in trench 3, were large and generally contained homogenous silty clay fills with few inclusions or artefacts, suggesting that they were dug to quarry the natural clay. All of them except pit 78 contained medieval pottery, albeit mainly in small quantities and somewhat fragmented, and in the absence of any later material they are presumed to be of medieval date. Pit 33 contained the largest amount of pottery, and can be closely dated to the late 13th-early 14th century.

5.1.2 Gullies

A series of roughly parallel gullies aligned north-east to south-west was recorded in trenches 1 to 6. They ranged in width from 0.49m to 0.84m and in depth from 0.07m to 0.27m. Most had a concave profile, either with moderately sloping sides (gullies 15, 19, 23, 27, 31, 53), generally in the shallower examples (Fig. 8, Section 5), or steeper sides (gullies 11, 51, 62, 64, 66 and 70) generally in the deeper examples (Fig. 8, Section 6). Gully 29 had steep sides and a flat bottom (Fig. 8, Section 7) while gullies 44 and 46 had moderately sloping (50°) sides and a flat bottom (Fig. 8, Section 8). Gully 68 had an irregular profile comprising of one steep side and one gently sloping (Fig. 8 Section 9).

Most of the fills were of silty clay apart from that of gully 27 which had a more sandy texture. Fills varied in colour from yellowish brown through to greyish brown with most tending towards orange brown in colour. Only a handful of finds were recovered from the gullies, comprising three sherds of medieval pottery, three sherds of Roman pottery, two sherds of prehistoric pottery, four prehistoric flint flakes, one fragment of baked clay and one fragment of oyster shell. It is presumed that the prehistoric and Roman material is residual and that the gullies date to the medieval period. They were too shallow and closely spaced to have been enclosure boundaries and had too steep-sided profiles to have been furrows. The gullies were most likely agricultural land-drains.

5.1.3 Natural features

A poorly defined and irregular linear feature (84) was investigated in trench 6 (Fig. 4). It was filled with slightly greyish brown clay silt with some re-deposited yellow clay and appeared to be disturbed to the north. No finds were recovered and it is likely that this feature was of natural origin. A number of irregular brown clay patches were noted at the western end of the trench that probably resulted from tree-root disturbance. A large tree was situated close

to the west end of the trench and the adjacent boundary is depicted as tree-lined on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 3).

Two pits (13 and 17) in trench 1 (Fig. 4) also appeared to be of natural origin as did a possible gully (un-numbered) in trench 4. This latter feature comprised of an irregular patch of shallow natural disturbance that was further confused by the presence of a modern mole drain.

5.2 The southern area (trenches 12, 14, 17 - 20) (Figs 3, 6, 7 and 8)

The archaeological features in the southern half of the site comprised a field boundary ditch (trenches 12 and 14), a pond and adjacent pit (trench 17) and four north-west/south-east aligned gullies (trenches 18–20). In addition, modern disturbance was noted at the end of trench 13.

5.2.1 Post-medieval field boundary ditch

A ditch (37) recorded in trench 14 was aligned north-east to south-west, 2.3m wide and over 1.03m deep, and contained three fills (38, 39 and 40) (Fig. 8, Section 10). In the base of the ditch, and continuing below the water table, was a deposit of dark brown organic silty clay (38). Above this was a 0.5m-thick deposit of yellowy brown clay that appeared to have been deliberately used to infill the upper part of the ditch. In the top of the ditch was mid-brown silty clay (40). Ditch 37 aligned precisely with a 3m-wide length of ditch (88) at the east end of trench 12. This was filled with mid grey clay silt mixed with brown silty clay (87) and also contained dark grey organic lenses and traces of decomposed roots. The ground to the west of this ditch was root-disturbed for about 1.1m with the decayed remains of two small tree stumps visible.

Although no dating evidence was recovered for this ditch it corresponded with the position of a field boundary depicted on late 19th and 20th century editions of the Ordnance Survey (Fig. 3). The presence of decaying root and stump material would also suggest that the boundary had only been removed in comparatively modern times.

5.2.2 Post-medieval pond and pit

Trench 17 roughly bisected a slight oval depression visible upon the surface (Fig. 2). In the centre of the trench was a large feature (21), 20.5m long by over 6m wide and at least 0.95m deep (Fig. 7). It had a gently sloping western edge (Fig. 8, Section 11) and a flattish bottom where further investigated to the north, and most likely represents the remains of a former pond. It was filled with distinctive reddish brown silty clay (22) that contained twenty-two iron

nails (mainly recovered by metal detector) and a variety of other finds including a fragment of post-medieval brick and an abraded sherd of 17th to 19th century pottery. To the west of the pond was a small, undated, oval-shaped pit (41) filled with dark brown silty clay (42).

5.2.3 Gullies

Four parallel gullies aligned north-west to south-east were recorded in the southern part of the site. All had flattish bases and tended to have a slightly steeper southern side and a more moderate northern side (Fig. 8, Section 12). Widths varied from 0.66m to 0.77m and depths from 0.19m to 0.24m. The gullies were filled with either mid-brown or orange brown silty clay. The only recovered finds were two crumbs of prehistoric pottery from the fill (75) of gully 74 and which are probably residual.

These gullies are similar in character to those in the north of the site (see 5.1.2), and again most likely represent agricultural land-drains.

5.2.4 Modern disturbance

The very southern end of trench 13 (Fig. 6) was disturbed with pieces of modern brick and concrete.

6.0 FINDS by Joyce Compton

Small groups of finds were recovered from nineteen contexts, across seven of the excavated trenches. The finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendices 3 and 4. The largest component is pottery, mostly of medieval date, though, collectively, the assemblage weighs less than 300g. The finds are described briefly by category below.

6.1 Pottery

A total of sixty sherds of pottery, weighing 296g, was recorded in fifteen contexts. The prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods are all represented, although more than 90% by weight is medieval. Overall, the assemblage is in poor condition and mainly comprises small body sherds; the average sherd weight is 4.9g.

Just four sherds (5g) of prehistoric pottery were identified. The sherds came from drainage gullies 68 (trench 4) and 74 (trench 18) and have been examined briefly by N.J. Lavender. Fabric details by context are held in the archive. Roman pottery was found as single sherds

(total weight 22g) in six features (trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4). The assemblage mainly comprises body sherds in coarse fabrics which are not closely datable within the Roman period. The sole rim sherd from ditch 27 (trench 2) is too small for further comment. Almost all of the prehistoric and Roman pottery is residual.

6.1.1 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A total of forty-nine sherds weighing 266g was excavated from twelve contexts (Appendix 4). The majority of sherds are small and abraded. All the medieval pottery comes from the northern end of the site, with most found in trenches 1 and 3.

The largest group of pottery is from pit 33 (trench 1), where examples of medieval coarse ware are the most frequent find and include several cooking-pot rims. The earliest is an everted externally-bevelled rim (from middle fill 35) perhaps dating to the 11th to 12th centuries. A sherd of early medieval ware from fill 34 may also be of this date. The upper and lower fills (34 and 36) produced upright, squared, cooking-pot rims with hollowed necks in a sandy buff fabric. These are paralleled by form and fabric with cooking-pots from a site at Debenham about 15km to the north-east of Stowmarket (Owles 1970, fig.26.2; Fabric C.), where they have the suggested date of late 13th/early 14th century (Owles 1970, 165). Comparable cooking-pot rims occur at Bungay Castle and were current at the time licence to crenellate was granted in 1294 (Braun 1936, 334-6). Also from top fill 34 are three fine ware sherds; they are very abraded but one is almost certainly Mill Green ware and shows the remains of white slip-painted stripes and an olive-green glaze. It dates to the later 13th to mid 14th centuries and is therefore current with the cooking-pot rims.

Pit 55 (trench 3) produced upright, squared, cooking-pot rims very similar to those from pit 33, although there were no fine wares from this feature. The top fill (61) also produced an earlier sherd, an early medieval ware sagging base, showing sparse shell inclusions as well as coarse sand-tempering. An attachment scar on the underside suggests this may be a tripod base and it is perhaps datable to the 12th century. Other features produced only one or two sherds of unfeatured medieval coarse ware spanning the 12th to 14th centuries.

There are two examples, one each from gully 27 (trench 5) and gully 62 (trench 4), of internally-glazed flat bases in Hedingham fine ware which are most likely from dishes. Their different-coloured glazes suggest that they are not from the same vessel. The internal glaze indicates a 14th century date. The latest pottery comprises a single sherd of post-medieval red earthenware from pond 21 (trench 17) at the southern end of the site. It is thick-walled and glazed on both sides and may be from large jar datable to the 17th to 19th centuries.

In conclusion, the majority of the pottery dates to the later 13th to 14th centuries, although there is some evidence of earlier, 12th century, activity and slight evidence of 14th-century activity that has shifted slightly to the east. However, as most sherds are small and abraded and sometimes occur with Roman pottery, this indicates that there is a high probability of residuality. It is interesting to note that the fine wares are supplied from Essex to the south, with Mill Green Ware made in central Essex and Hedingham Ware made in north Essex, close to the Suffolk border.

6.2 Metalwork

A quantity of iron nails, some clenched, along with a 22mm-square rove, came from the fill of pond 21 (trench 17). The associated datable finds are post-medieval. Two further post-medieval finds were uncovered by metal-detector; these comprise a small gilded button with a looped shank and an unidentifiable spoon-shaped piece of iron.

6.3 Baked clay and brick

Six contexts produced baked clay fragments, amounting to eleven pieces, weighing 80g. All except one are in a buff, chalky fabric and are small and featureless. The largest piece in fill 34 of pit 33 (trench 1) is in a hard red fabric with flint inclusions. A small piece of post-medieval brick, with mortar attached to one surface, was recorded in the fill of pond 21.

6.4 Flints by Hazel Martingell

A collection of eight worked flints was studied; all are patinated, some more deeply than others. In addition, a fragment of burnt flint was found in the fill of post-medieval pond 21. Most of the assemblage is residual in medieval features. The worked flint catalogue is included in Appendix 3.

There are two blades, one with concave retouch across the proximal end that removes the bulbar end, and one with an area of micro retouch along the right edge. The largest flake (from fill 61) was removed from a blade core.

All eight artefacts are related to the production of blades. It is possible that some of the other, missing, blades were retouched to form microliths. The technology of the knapped flints suggests a Late Mesolithic date.

6.5 Animal bone and shell

Two contexts produced animal bone, amounting to five pieces, weighing 30g. All are in poor condition and the horse molar from post-medieval pond 21 is stained brown, possibly resulting from contact with the iron found in the same context. The fragments from pit 55 (trench 3) are too small for identification or comment and there is no associated dating evidence.

Shell, comprising three small fragments of oyster, was recorded in two contexts, one of which is the fill of post-medieval pond 21.

6.6 Comments on the assemblage

Small groups of finds were recorded. The major component is medieval pottery, though amounts are very small. It should be noted that very little recent material was recovered either. It would appear that the development area lies on the periphery of any settlement in the vicinity. Of interest is the small collection of worked flints of probable Mesolithic date.

No further work is required on any of the finds. The shell has already been discarded following recording. The recent material and the animal bone could also be discarded. The remainder of the finds should be retained.

7.0 DISCUSSION (Figs 1-3)

Archaeological features were present in the north and south of the development area. Dating material was sparse and there were few finds overall. The prehistoric and Roman material is clearly residual and even that recovered from many of the medieval features represents poor dating evidence given that in total only 48 medieval sherds were recovered and most of these were small and abraded.

7.1 Prehistoric

A small number of worked flints were recovered that may date to the Late Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age). Several were found in association with Roman or medieval pottery and all are likely to be residual. Four small sherds of undetermined prehistoric pottery were recovered. Two of the sherds were recovered along with later pottery from the north of the site and were clearly residual. The other two sherds, described as crumbs in the finds report, were recovered from gully 74 in the south of the site. Although no other dateable finds were recovered, the highly fragmented condition of the sherds suggests that they are residual.

7.2 Roman

A small amount (6 sherds) of Roman pottery was recovered from the north of the site. Three sherds were recovered from areas of medieval pitting and the remaining three from the postulated medieval drainage gullies. All of the Roman pottery is probably residual and almost certainly derived from the large Roman farmstead 0.5km to the west of the site, excavated in phases 2 and 3 of the Cedars Park development (Keir and Mc Donald 2001; Nicholson 2004).

7.3 Medieval

Medieval features are concentrated in the north-western corner of the site (trenches 1 and 3) and comprise a cluster of large quarry pits and a regular arrangement of drainage gullies aligned north-east to south-west. The majority of the features appear to date to the later 13th or 14th centuries, although the pottery hints at activity from as early as the 12th century. Most of the medieval pottery (45 out of 48 sherds) was recovered from the large quarry pits. With the exception of possible pit 1, all of the pitting was located within the outline of a slight hollow that extended towards Creeting Road (Fig. 2). Clay pits of medieval and post-medieval date have been found elsewhere within the Cedars Park Estate, to the north-west and west of the current development. The medieval quarry pits in the north-west of the site are almost certainly related to a small concentration of medieval pits and ditches recorded at the south end of the earlier Phase 4b development on the opposite side of Mill Street (Fig. 1; Schofield and Woolhouse 2007). It is likely that medieval remains are also present in the area between the two sites, around the junction between Creeting Lane and Mill Street.

The gullies were all broadly parallel and regularly spaced, with similar profiles and fills, and obviously form a single group. They are presumed to be of medieval date on the presence of three sherds of pottery, and although a few sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery were also recovered these are considered to be residual. Given the small quantities of finds involved it is of course possible that all of the pottery is residual and the gullies date to the post-medieval period, although on balance a medieval date is preferred. The gullies had profiles that were in many cases too steep-sided for them to have been furrows, and it is suggested that they were deliberately dug to provide drainage of the heavy clay soil for agriculture.

Gullies of a similar size and on the same north-east to south-west alignment were recorded in the previous evaluation to the north-west, on the opposite side of Mill Street (Schofield and Woolhouse 2007). Again little dating evidence was recovered and the gullies were allocated a broad prehistoric date on the basis of the presence of worked flint and a few sherds of

prehistoric pottery. However, this dating is unreliable as one of these gullies contained a sherd of Roman pottery and a glass bead, while the prehistoric pottery came from a gully in a different trench that was actually on a completely different alignment.

The four gullies in the south of the present site are essentially undated, as the only dating evidence is two crumbs of prehistoric pottery that are highly likely to be residual. Although these gullies are aligned differently to those in the north of the site, they are also presumed to have provided agricultural drainage, broadly contemporary with those to the north. If so, this would suggest that medieval agricultural strip-fields were laid out on the higher ground at the northern and southern ends of the site, although not in the stream valley across its centre.

Overall, the medieval evidence from the site and its immediate surrounds suggests that the area is peripheral to settlement nearby, most likely the medieval farmstead recorded 500m to the north-west of the site in the earlier Phase 4a development (Hallybone and McConnell 2005).

7.4 Post-medieval

Unusually there were very few finds of post-medieval date with the only stratified finds of this period coming from pond 22 in trench 17. This feature is not shown on early editions of the Ordnance Survey and so is likely to have been backfilled before the last decades of the 19th century, if not earlier. The pond was located within field 429 as shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 3). The position of ditch 37/88 corresponded almost exactly with the northern boundary of this field as depicted on the map. The boundary is accompanied by a line of trees which would account for the root activity noted in ditch 88. The disturbance adjacent to this ditch may be attributed to a hedge-line or shrubbery growing along the boundary. Rubble present at the south end of trench 13 appears to be a remnant of the trackway depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3), or part of a more recent deposit used to firm up a former gateway into the field (Figs 3 and 6).

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

No remains of prehistoric or Roman date were identified, although a small background scatter of residual late Mesolithic worked flint and prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered mainly from the northern half of the site. There were no remains of Saxon date. Almost all of the features recorded were medieval, with only a few post-medieval features.

All features and deposits had suffered plough-disturbance, with survival biased in favour of deep features such as pits and boundary ditches.

Medieval quarry pits dating to the later 13th-14th centuries were concentrated in the north-west corner of the development area. This mirrored a concentration of more broadly-dated medieval features recorded in Phase 4b of the Cedars Park development to the immediate north-west, on the opposite side of Mill Street (Schofield and Woolhouse 2007). This suggests that medieval remains exist in between the two sites, in the area of the proposed realignment of the junction of Creeting Road and Mill Street. Across the main part of the development area the archaeological evidence consisted of two areas of agricultural land drains of probable medieval date, located on the higher ground at the northern and southern ends of the site, and a post-medieval field boundary and pond.

Before the evaluation took place it was thought that there may have been a localised area of medieval settlement either side of Mill Street, but the evaluation results show that no such settlement existed. Instead, the evidence suggests that medieval activity was limited to the digging of clay pits alongside Mill Street. Across the rest of the site the provision of drainage, most likely in the medieval period, is consistent with improving the heavy clay soil for more intensive agriculture. The site evidence most likely represents quarrying and agriculture related to the medieval farmstead recorded 500m to the north-west of the site in the earlier Phase 4a development (Hallybone and McConnell 2005). Both the farmstead and activity on site appear to have peaked in the later 13th-14th centuries, although pottery at both sites suggests earlier activity from the 12th century. The small quantity of earlier pottery broadly dated to the 10th-12th centuries is residual, and there is no basis for suggesting a Late Saxon or Norman phase of activity.

Little is known of the post-medieval development of the site, although the almost complete absence of post-medieval artefacts (apart from in the fill of the pond) may be significant. Post-medieval artefacts would be expected to have been deposited as a result of manure scatters if the site had continued to be cultivated, and it is possible that the land may have reverted to pasture and returned to agriculture only quite recently.

The medieval evidence from the north-west of the development area and the earlier Phase 4b development immediately to the north-west is of only moderate significance as it is clearly peripheral to settlement elsewhere. The remainder of the development area is of low significance due to the low density of features, especially over the southern half of the site. Although the postulated medieval land drains are interesting for the agricultural exploitation

of the site area, they have been truncated by recent ploughing and contain very few datable artefacts. Overall, there is low potential for adding to the existing information about the site. There is, however, some potential for the survival of medieval remains outside the present development area to its north-west, in the area of the proposed realignment of the junction of Creeting Road and Mill Street.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Essex CC FAU would like to thank Bellway Homes for commissioning the archaeological work, especially Ben Ambrose for his help and assistance. The evaluation was undertaken by Trevor Ennis, John Hewitt, Andrew Lewsey, Laura Sapsford and Pippa Sparrow of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. Finds were analysed by Joyce Compton, Hazel Martingell and Helen Walker. The report was prepared by Trevor Ennis with illustrations by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Patrick Allen and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Judith Plouviez of SCCAS.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

Trench	Measurements	Co-ordinates (end, centre)
1	40m x 1.8m x 0.5m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606508.39, 258665.99 S - 606508.39, 258625.99
2	40m x 1.8m x 0.36m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606560.87, 258652.93 W - 606520.87, 258652.93
3	40m x 1.8m x 0.95m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606536.67, 258610.95 W - 606496.67, 258610.95
4	40m x 1.8m x 0.33m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606544.42, 258641.78 S - 606544.42, 258601.78
5	40m x 1.8m x 0.30m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606595.30, 258623.87 W - 606555.30, 258623.87
6	40m x 1.8m x 0.38m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606554.29, 258582.56 W - 606514.29, 258582.56
7	40m x 1.8m x 1.1m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606561.62, 258596.44 S - 606561.62, 258556.44
8	40m x 1.8m x 0.66m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606608.66, 258594.67 W - 606568.66, 258594.67
9	40m x 1.8m x 0.90m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606662.26, 258565.81 W - 606622.26, 258565.81
10	40m x 1.8m x 1m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606626.36, 258537.46 W - 606586.36, 258537.46
11	40m x 1.8m x 0.80m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606635.47, 258555.67 S - 606635.47, 258515.67
12	40m x 1.8m x 0.40m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606684.10, 258540.92 W - 606644.10, 258540.92
13	40m x 1.8m x 0.33m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606611.12, 258527.76 S - 606611.12, 258487.76
14	40m x 1.8m x 0.40m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606667.88, 258500.46 W - 606627.88, 258500.46
15	40m x 1.8m x 0.33m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606679.74, 258529.29 S - 606679.74, 258489.29
16	40m x 1.8m x 0.30m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606632.46, 258486.27 S - 606632.46, 258446.27
17	40m x 1.8m x 0.66m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606687.81, 258470.08 W - 606647.81, 258470.08
18	40m x 1.8m x 0.30m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606699.69, 258490.17 S - 606699.69, 258450.17
19	40m x 1.8m x 0.38m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606653.35, 258449.13 S - 606653.35, 258409.13
20	45m x 1.8m x 0.30m deep, orientated E/W	E - 606713.65, 258437.94 W - 606668.65, 258437.94
21	35m x 1.8m x 0.35m deep, orientated N/S	N - 606675.94, 258429.56 S - 606675.94, 258394.56

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Period
1	1	Pit/ditch	3m+ x 2.3m+ x 0.85m+ deep	Medieval
2	1	Fill of 1	Mottled red and grey clay, 0.07m+ thick	Medieval
3	1	Fill of 1	Mottled red and greyish orange clay, 0.18m thick	Medieval
4	1	Fill of 1	Light yellowy orange clay, 0.63m thick	Medieval
5	1	Pit/ditch	Re-cut of 1	Medieval
6	1	Fill of 5	Light yellowy orange clay, 0.28m thick	Medieval
7	1	Fill of 5	Mixed grey, orange and white chalky clay, 0.11m thick	Medieval
8	1	Fill of 5	Mid grey brown silty clay, 0.16m thick	Medieval
9	1	Fill of 5	Orange brown clay, 0.10m thick	Medieval
10	1	Fill of 5	Mid brown silty clay, 0.07m thick	Medieval
11	1	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2.2m+ x 0.65m x 0.23m deep	Medieval+
12	1	Fill of 11	Mid reddish brown silty clay	Medieval+
13	1	Pit	Irregular elongated, 0.6m+ x 0.28m x 0.10m deep	Natural
14	1	Fill of 13	Mid orangey brown silty clay	Natural
15	1	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2.2m+ x 0.53m x 0.07m deep	Medieval+
16	1	Fill of 15	Mid orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
17	1	Pit	Irregular oval, 0.68m x 0.34m x 0.19m deep	Natural
18	1	Fill of 17	Mid orangey yellow brown silty clay	Natural
19	1	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 1.4m+ x 0.49m x 0.07m deep	Medieval+
20	1	Fill of 19	Mid orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
21	17	Pond?	Oval?, c. 20m x 6m+ x 0.95m+ deep	Post-medieval
22	17	Fill of 21	Reddish brown silty clay	Post-medieval
23	5	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 3.2m+ x 0.60m x 0.15m deep	Medieval+
24	5	Fill of 23	Mid orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
25	5	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 3.2m+ x 0.50m x 0.11m deep	Medieval+
26	5	Fill of 25	Mid orangey grey brown silty clay	Medieval+
27	2	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 3.2m+ x 0.80m x 0.14m deep	Medieval+
28	2	Fill of 27	Mid orangey brown silty sand	Medieval+
29	2	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 3m+ x 0.80m x 0.25m deep	Medieval+
30	2	Fill of 29	Light brownish orange silty clay	Medieval+
31	2	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 3.2m+ x 0.56m x 0.14m deep	Medieval+
32	2	Fill of 31	Mid orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
33	1	Pit	Oval, 6.2m+ x 1.40m x 0.74m+ deep	Medieval
34	1	Fill of 33	Dark brown silty clay, 0.34m thick	Medieval
35	1	Fill of 33	Mid brown silty clay, 0.24m thick	Medieval
36	1	Fill of 33	Light yellowish brown silty clay, 0.22m thick	Medieval
37	14	Ditch	NE/SW aligned, 2.2m+ x 2.3m x 1.03m+ deep	Post-medieval
38	14	Fill of 37	Dark brown organic silty clay, 0.63m thick	Post-medieval
39	14	Fill of 37	Yellowy brown clay, 0.50m thick	Post-medieval
40	14	Fill of 37	Mid brown silty clay, 0.27m thick	Post-medieval
41	17	Pit	Oval, 1.04m x 0.37m x 0.24m deep	Undated
42	17	Fill of 41	Dark brown silt clay	Undated
43	5	Fill of 44	Mid greyish brown silty clay	Medieval+
44	5	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2.8m+ x 0.77m x 0.27m deep	Medieval+

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Period
45	1	Fill of 46	Mid greyish brown silty clay	Medieval+
46	1	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2.2m+ x 0.84m x 0.25m deep	Medieval+
47	19	Gully	NW/SE aligned, 2.6m+ x 0.77m x 0.22m deep	Medieval+
48	19	Fill of 47	Mid brown silty clay	Medieval+
49	19	Gully	NW/SE aligned, 2m+ x 0.66m x 0.19m deep	Medieval+
50	19	Fill of 49	Mid brown silty clay	Medieval+
51	3	Gully	NW/SE aligned, 3.5m+ x 0.7m x 0.15m deep	Medieval+
52	3	Fill of 51	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	Medieval+
53	3	Gully	NW/SE aligned, 2.5m+ x 0.58m x 0.09m deep	Medieval+
54	3	Fill of 53	Light yellowish brown silty clay	Medieval+
55	3	Pit	4.5m+ x 1.8m+ x 1.17m deep	Medieval
56	3	Fill of 55	Mid brown silty clay, 0.30m thick	Medieval
57	3	Fill of 55	Dark orangey brown silty clay, 0.10m+ thick	Medieval
58	3	Fill of 55	Light yellowish brown silty chalky clay, 0.25m thick	Medieval
59	3	Fill of 55	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, 0.28m thick	Medieval
60	3	Fill of 55	Light yellow chalky clay, 0.16m thick	Medieval
61	3	Fill of 55	Mid orangey brown silty clay, 0.27m thick	Medieval
62	4	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2m+ x 0.58m x 0.17m deep	Medieval+
63	4	Fill of 62	Light greyish orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
64	4	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2m+ x 0.57m x 0.18m deep	Medieval+
65	4	Fill of 64	Light greyish orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
66	4	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2m+ x 0.61m x 0.16m deep	Medieval+
67	4	Fill of 66	Mid greyish orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
68	4	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2m+ x 0.69m x 0.18m deep	Medieval+
69	4	Fill of 68	Mid greyish orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
70	4	Gully	NE/SW aligned, 2m+ x 0.58m x 0.18m deep	Medieval+
71	4	Fill of 70	Mid greyish orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
72	20	Gully	NW/SE aligned, 2.5m+ x 0.68m x 0.20m deep	Medieval+
73	20	Fill of 72	Orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
74	18	Gully	NW/SE aligned, 2.5m+ x 0.70m x 0.24m deep	Medieval+
75	18	Fill of 74	Mid orangey brown silty clay	Medieval+
76	3	Pit	2.1m x 0.70m+ x 0.45m	Medieval
77	3	Fill of 76	Mid greyish brown clay silt	Medieval
78	3	Pit	c. 3.2m x 0.70m+ x 0.72m deep	Medieval
79	3	Fill of 82	Mid-light brownish grey clay silt, 0.94m thick	Medieval
80	3	Fill of 82	Mid brownish grey clay silt, 0.40m thick	Medieval
81	3	Subsoil	Mid-dark greyish brown clay silt, 0.50m thick	Medieval+
82	3	Pit	5m+ x 0.70m+ x 1.3m deep	Medieval
83	6	Fill of 84	Light greyish brown clay silt	Natural
84	6	Linear	Irregular, c. 1.2m x 0.75m x 0.25m deep	Natural
85	-	Finds	Unstratified metal-detected finds	
86	3	Fill of 78	Mixed mid brown and light yellow brown silty clay	Medieval
87	12	Fill of 88	Mixed mid grey clay silt and brown silty clay	Post-medieval
88	12	Ditch	NE/SW aligned, 2m+ x 3m x 0.45m+ deep	Post-medieval

APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
4	1	1	2	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
8	5	1	1	Retouched flint flake, small	L Mesolithic.
		1	2	Baked clay	-
22	21	22	158	Iron nails, some clenched, and a 22mm-square rove	-
		1	24	Animal bone; horse molar, poor condition, stained brown	-
		2	8	Shell; oyster, fragments (Discarded)	-
		1	2	Baked clay	-
		1	10	Burnt flint	-
		1	8	Brick fragment, mortar attached	Post med.
		1	12	Pottery; body sherd	Post med.
24	23	1	12	Baked clay	-
		1	2	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
28	27	1	2	Shell; oyster fragment (Discarded)	-
		1	3	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
		1	1	Pottery; rim sherd, black-surfaced ware	Roman
34	33	1	1	Flint blade fragment	Late Meso.
		4	48	Baked clay	-
		26	120	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Medieval
		1	4	Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware	Roman
35	33	2	12	Baked clay	
		2	12	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Medieval
36	33	1	20	Pottery; rim sherd	Medieval
45	46	1	4	Flint blade with concave retouch across proximal end that removes the bulbar end	Late Meso.
		1	8	Pottery; body sherd, black-surfaced ware	Roman
54	53	3	6	Retouched flint blade, area of micro retouch along right edge	Late Meso.
				Two flint flakes, possibly from core preparation	
56	55	4	8	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
59	55	4	6	Animal bone; fragments, poor condition	-
61	55	1	4	Flint flake, a removal from a blade core	Late Meso.
		8	78	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Medieval
		1	6	Pottery; body sherd, fine grey ware	Roman
63	62	1	4	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
69	68	1	2	Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware	Roman
		2	4	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
75	74	2	1	Pottery; crumbs	Prehistoric
77	76	1	1	Flint blade (butt part)	Late Meso.
		2	4	Baked clay	-
		2	4	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
		1	1	Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware, micaceous	Roman
79	82	2	4	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
85	MD finds	1	2	Copper alloy button, dia 12mm, gilded	Post med.
		1	20	Iron object; spoon-shaped, head dia 30mm	?Modern

APPENDIX 4: MEDIEVAL POTTERY DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
4	1	1	2	Medieval coarse ware body sherd, small abraded sherd, grey with brownish external surface	12th to 14th C
22	21	1	12	Post-medieval red earthenware body sherd, thick-walled, glazed on both surfaces, abraded	17th to 19th C
24	23	1	2	Hedingham fine ware flat base sherd showing pale greenish internal glaze, abraded especially on underside,	14th C
28	27	1	3	Medieval coarse ware, a very abraded buff coloured sherd	12th to 14th C
34	33	1	8	Early medieval ware, body sherd	10th to 13th C
		21	88	Medieval coarse ware, an assortment of sherds, many buff-coloured as well as grey, some from same vessels, includes a couple of sagging base sherds and an upright squared rim as found on cooking-pots from Bungay Castle and Debenham, Suffolk	?late 13th/early 14th C
		3	21	Abraded fine ware sherds, one is almost certainly Mill Green ware and shows the remains of white slip-painted stripes and an olive-green glaze	Later 13th to mid 14th C
35	33	2	12	Medieval coarse ware comprising an everted, externally bevelled cooking-pot rim and a body sherd, abraded sherds, rim shows zone of fire-blackening around outer edge	11th to 12th centuries
36	33	1	20	Medieval coarse ware, upright squared rim cooking-pot with internal hollowing, orange external surface, buff internal surface and thick grey core, abraded, paralled at Debenham (Owles 1970, fig.26.2)	?late 13th/early 14th C
56	55	4	8	Medieval coarse ware, dark grey body sherds all from same vessel, laminated and abraded	12th to 14th C
61	55	1	26	Early medieval ware sagging base sherd, some shell inclusions, attachment scar on underside suggests it might be a tripod base	?12th C
		7	52	Medieval coarse ware including two upright squared rims similar to those from contexts 34 and 36 and one sagging base sherd	?late 13th/early 14th C
63	62	1	4	Hedingham fine ware internally glazed base sherd, similar to that from context 24 but with greener glaze	14th C
77	76	2	4	Medieval coarse ware, unfeatured body sherds	12th to 14th C
79	82	2	4	Medieval coarse ware, unfeatured body sherds	12th to 14th C
		49	266		

APPENDIX 5: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Site Name: Land at Creting Road, Stowmarket (Cedars Park Phase 10c)

Site Code: SUP 023

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation

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 88)
- 3.3 7 Trench Record sheets
- 3.4 Plan Register
- 3.5 Section Register
- 3.6 2 x A4 plan/Section sheets
- 3.7 Levels Register
- 3.8 Trench location plan
- 3.9 Photographic Registers
- 3.10 Site Photographic Record (1 set of Black & White prints, 1 Set of digital images on disk)
- 3.11 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

8 large plan/section sheets

Finds

The retained finds occupy less than one box.

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Project details

Project name	Land at Creeting Road (Cedars Park Phase 10C) Stowmarket: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Twenty-one 40m x 1.8m trenches were excavated to evaluate a 5% sample of the development area. Medieval clay pits dated to the later 13th-14th century were recorded in the north-west of the site, with residual pottery suggesting earlier activity dating from the 12th century. Two groups of drainage gullies were recorded at the northern and southern ends of the site, divided by a stream valley. These are tentaively dated to the medieval period and are interpreted as land drains dug to improve the heavy clay soil for agriculture. The medieval clay quarrying and agriculture is related to similar activity recorded in Cedars Park phase 4b immediately to the north-west, and to a medieval farmstead dated to the 12th-14th centuries, excavated in Cedars Park phase 4a 500m to the north-west. of the site
Project dates	Start: 02-03-2010 End: 15-03-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	SUP 023 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2031 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	CLAY PIT Medieval
Monument type	LAND IMPROVEMENT DRAIN Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK STOWMARKET Land at Creeting Road (Cedars Park Phase 10C), Stowmarket, Suffolk
Postcode	IP14
Study area	3.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 066 585 52.1854801061 1.022596717610 52 11 07 N 001 01 21 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 40.00m Max: 47.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project design originator	Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Project director/manager	Patrick Allen
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bellway Homes

Project archives

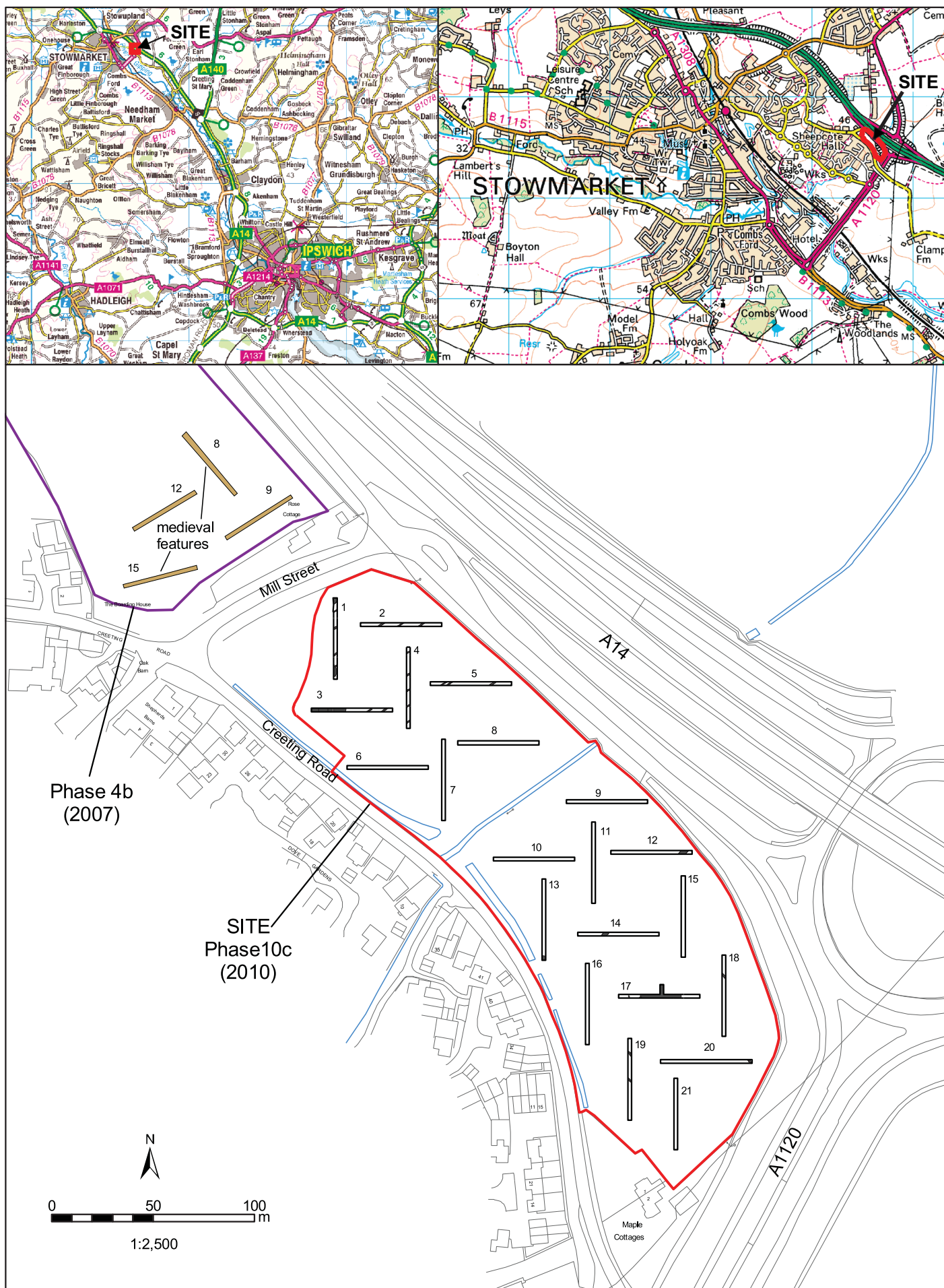
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk CC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Creeting Road (Cedars Park Phase 10C), STwomarket, Suffolk. Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor (s)	Ennis, J.
Other bibliographic details	ECC FAU report 2031
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit
Place of issue or publication	ECC FAU, Braintree
Description	A4 bound report with tilte and colour photograph of the site on the front cover
Entered by	Patrick Allen (patrick.allen@essex.gov.uk)
Entered on	14 July 2010

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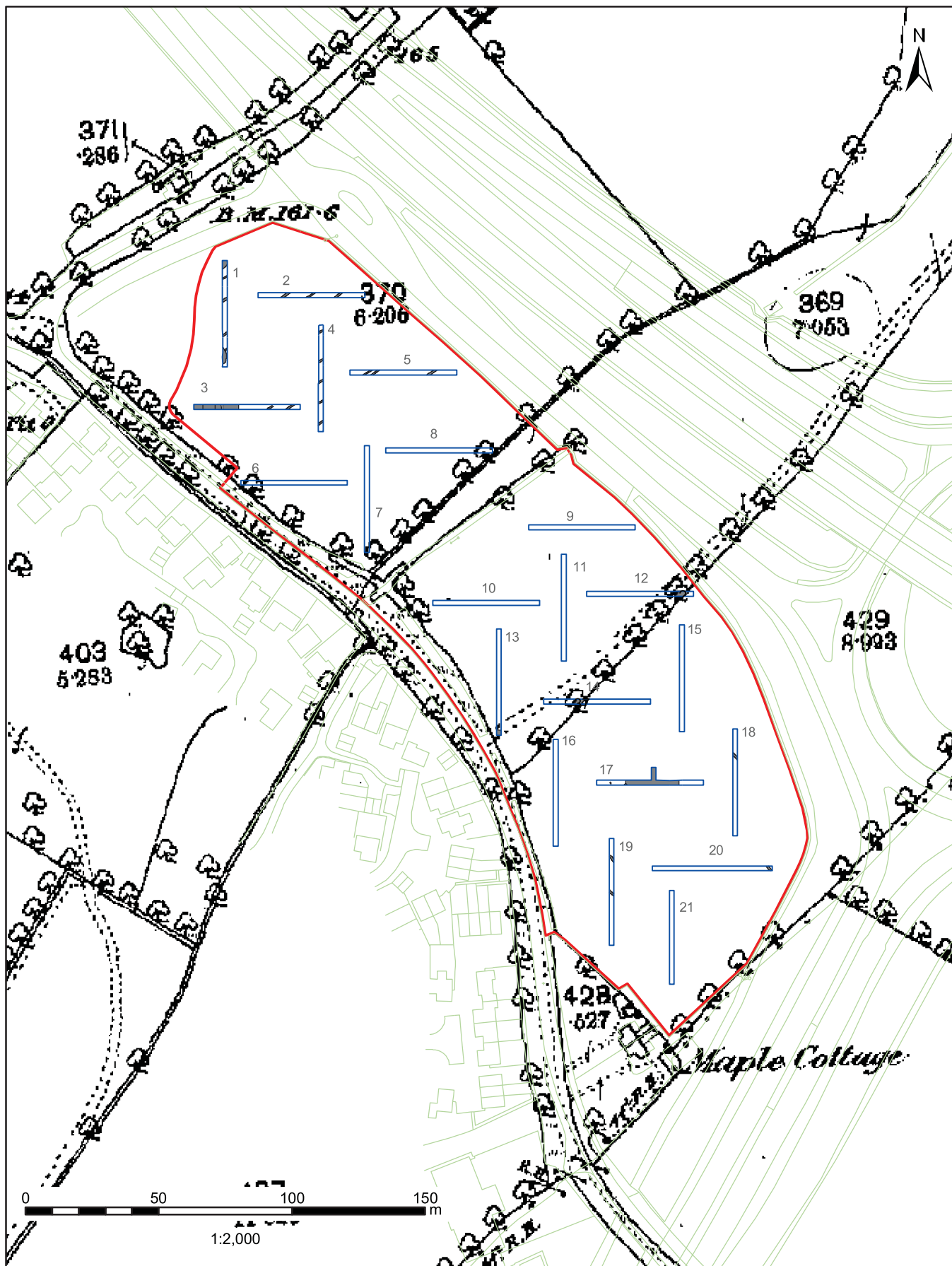
Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches



Contour survey courtesy of Richard Jackson PLC

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Fig.2. Topographic survey



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Fig.3. Evaluation trenches with 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1884-86)

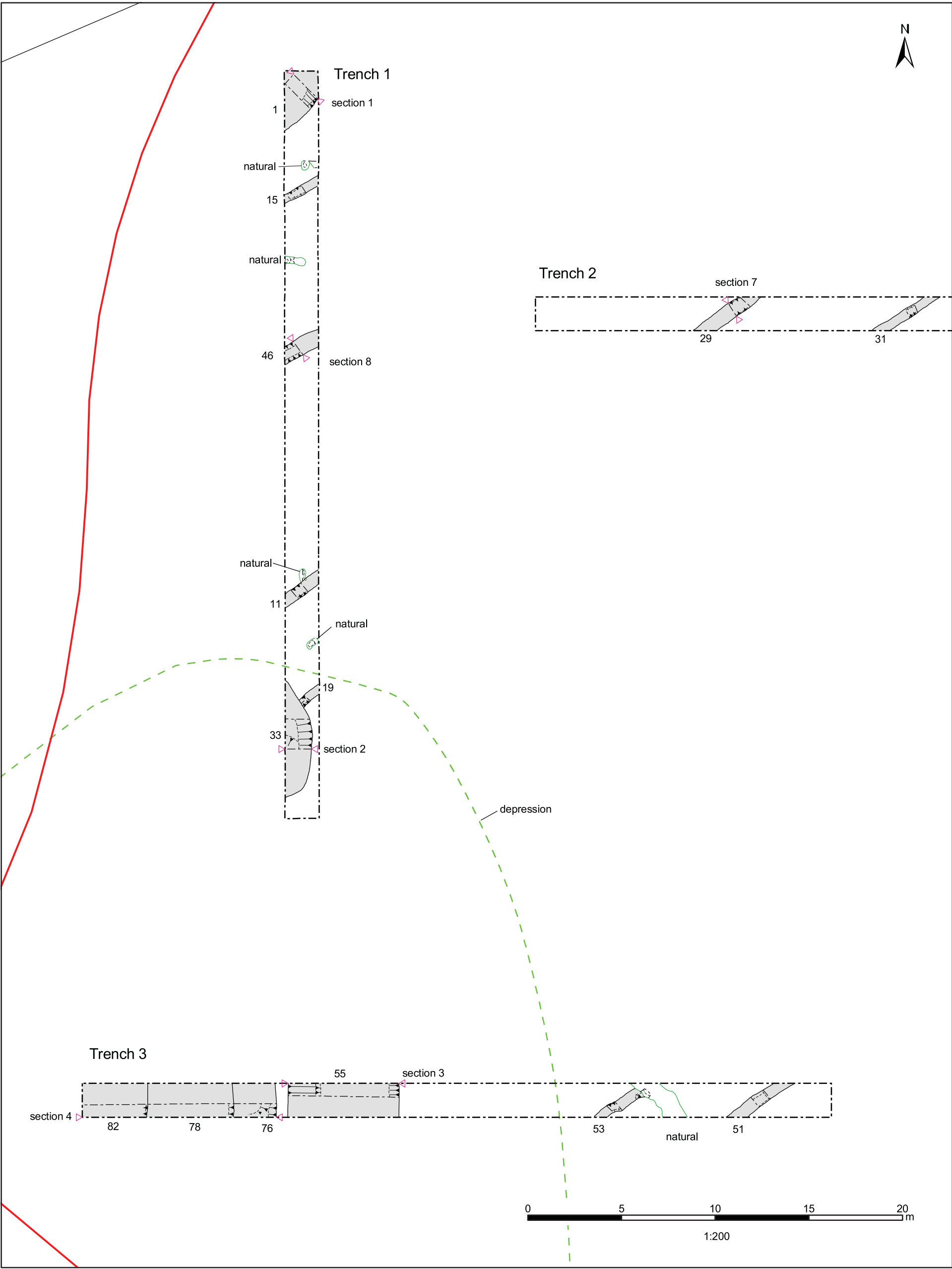


Fig.5. Detail of trenches 1 and 3

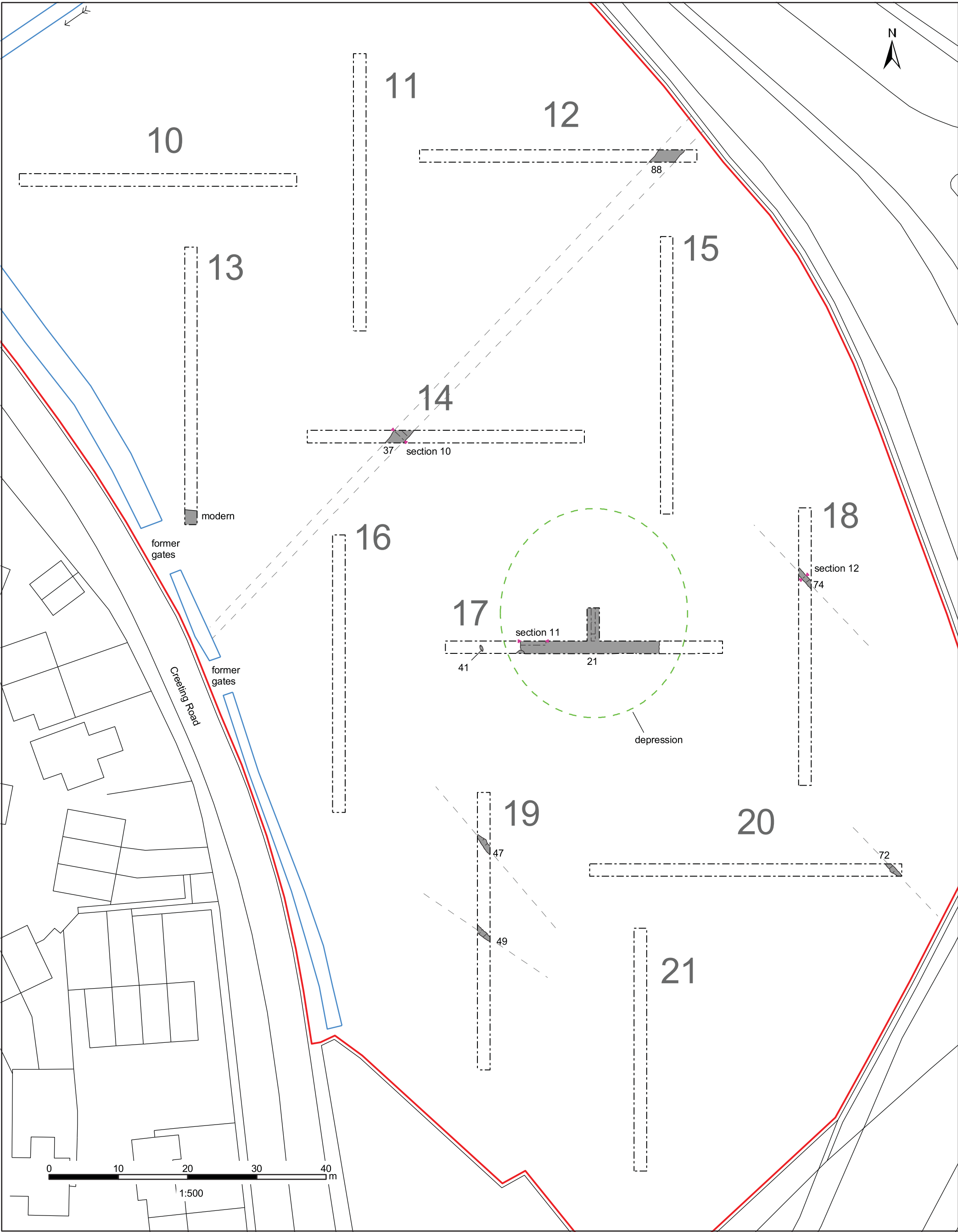


Fig.6. All features - south of site

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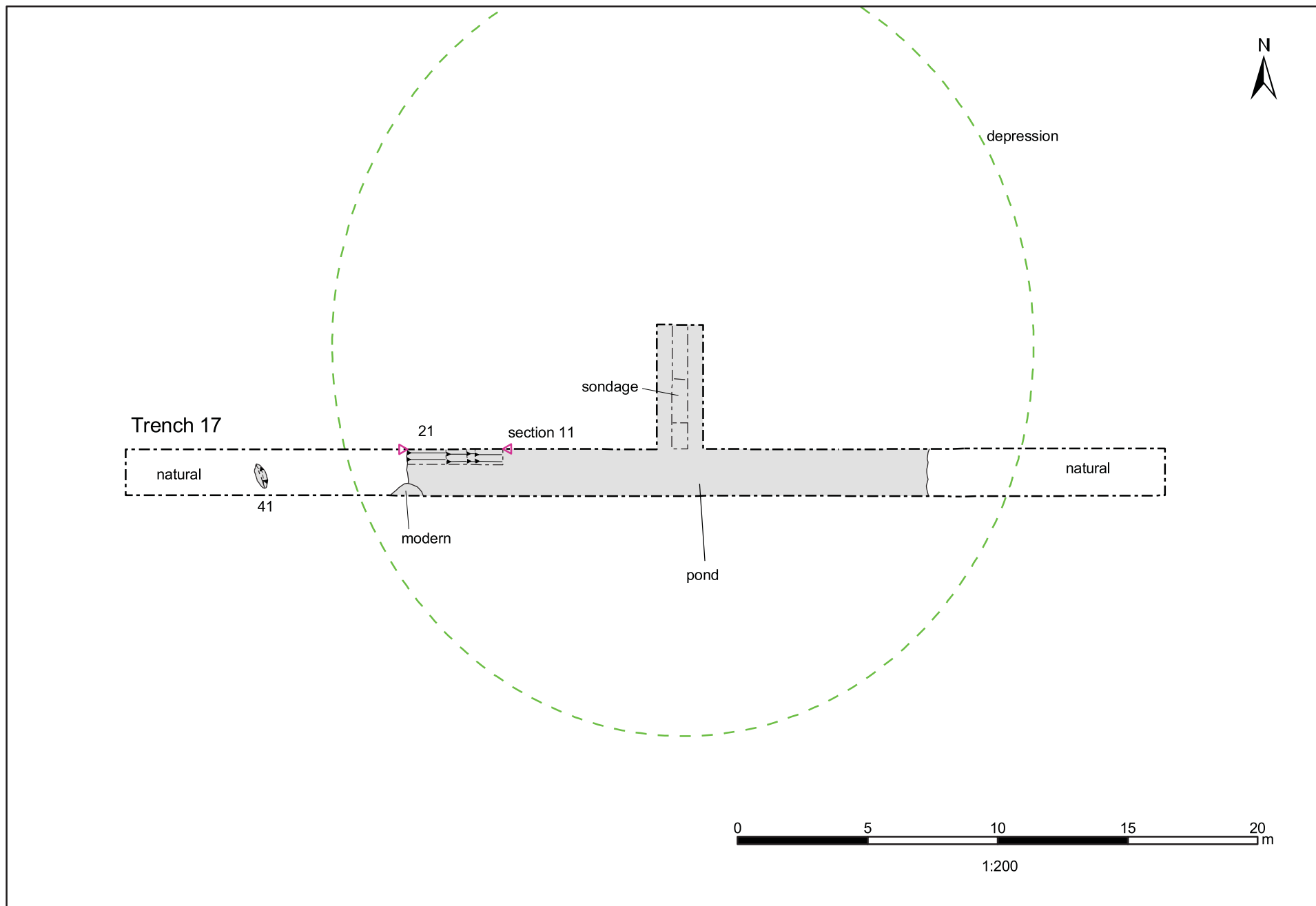


Fig.7. Detail of trench 17

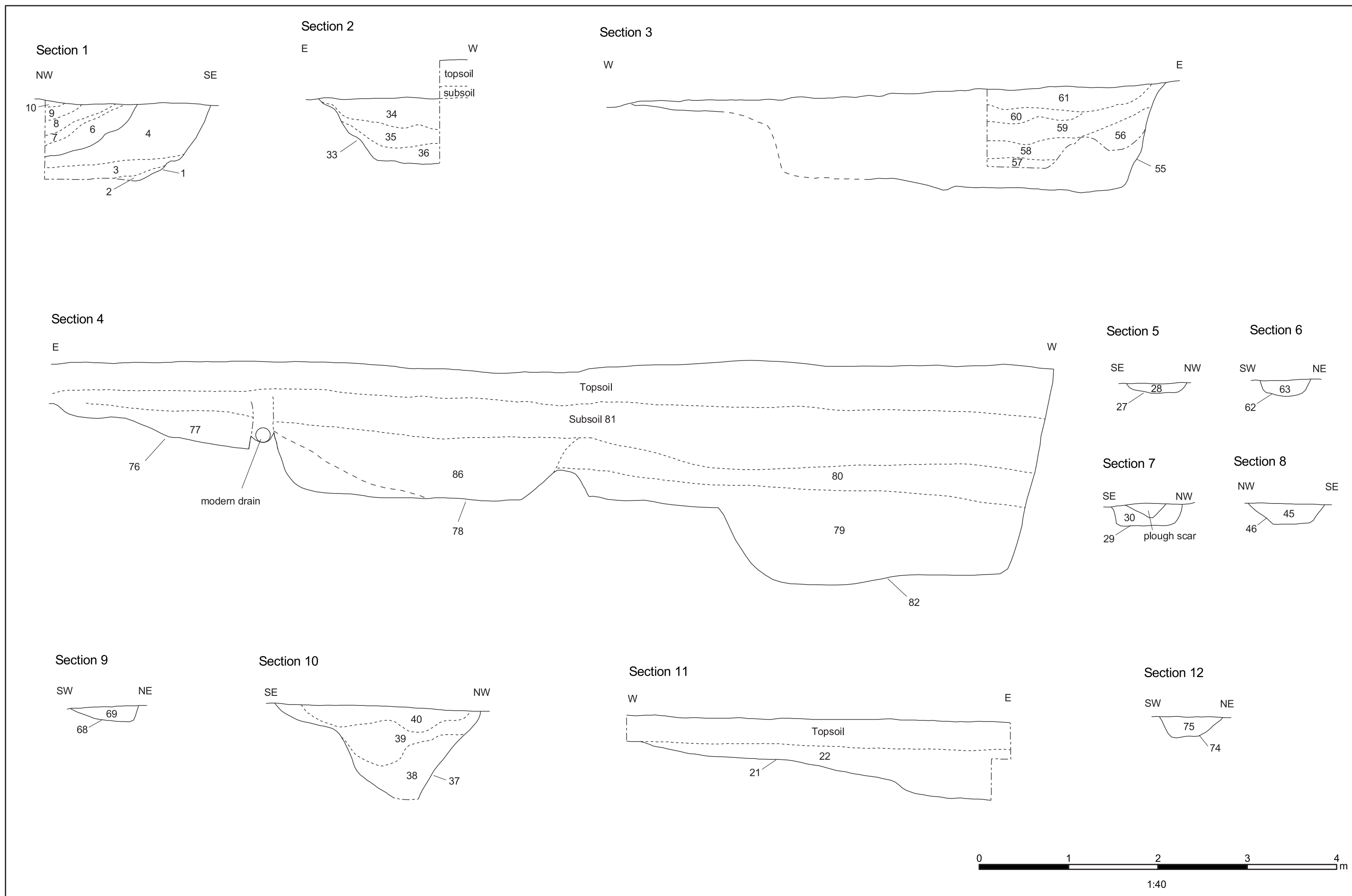


Fig.8. Sections 1 - 9



Plate 1. Medieval pit 33 (trench 1), looking S (1m scale)



Plate 2. Medieval pit 82 (trench 3), excavated by machine and hand, looking SW (2m scale)



Plate 3. Medieval drainage gully 62 (trench 4), looking SW (0.5m scale)



Plate 4. Post-medieval field boundary ditch 37 (trench 14), looking SW (1.5m scale)