

**LAND SOUTH OF SPRINGFIELDS
GREAT DUNMOW
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT
February 2011

**LAND AT SPRINGFIELDS
GREAT DUNMOW
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**LAND AT SPRINGFIELDS
GREAT DUNMOW
ESSEX:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

SUMMARY

Client: Croudace Homes
FAU Project No.: 2294
OASIS Ref.: 91778
Planning Application No.: UTT/0900/04/OP
Site Code: GD30
Dates of Fieldwork: 24th – 28th January 2011

An archaeological trial-trench evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition prior to the construction of 25 residential dwellings. Seven trenches were excavated across the markedly sloping site, with the main objective to locate any evidence related to the Roman land-use, particularly that related to land division.

The remains of an east-west aligned ditch, running just below a natural break of slope in the local topography, was found close to the northern edge of the site. Backfilled during the early 2nd century AD, this ditch is interpreted as probably marking the southern limit of the Roman settlement. A later re-cut, backfilled by the end of the 2nd century, contained a human cremation burial within its upper fill. No evidence of Roman activity was found to the south of the ditch.

A small quantity of residual Middle Iron Age pottery found within the fill of the earlier Roman ditch hints at activity of this date in this vicinity and that it was not confined to the north-west, where previously identified at Buildings Farm.

No Saxon or medieval period remains were encountered. A high degree of Victorian and modern disturbance was recorded across the rest of the site. This included gravel extraction, deposition possibly associated with the construction of the railway embankment/cutting close to the southern boundary, tracks and small cut features associated with the use of the land for pig farming within living memory, and a large roughly circular feature which might have been a well that is depicted on historic maps.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching on land at Springfields, Great Dunmow (TL 6270 2152), conducted by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) prior to the construction of 25 residential dwellings. The fieldwork was undertaken in response to a condition (UTT/0900/04/OP) placed upon the development by Uttlesford District Council following advice from Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM), given in line with Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (DoE 1990), now replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by ECC HEM (2007) and a written scheme of investigation provided by ECC FAU (2011), and was monitored by ECC HEM on behalf of the local planning authority.

Bound and digital copies of this report will be supplied to Croudace Homes (including a copy for the Local Planning Authority), ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). A digital copy of the report will be uploaded on the online access to the index of archaeological investigations (www.oasis.ac.uk). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Geology and Topography (Figure 1)

The site is located on the southern edge of the historic core of Great Dunmow town, immediately south of the modern housing development of Springfields (TL 62702152). The 0.58ha site is bounded to the north and west by a footpath, with residential properties beyond. Residential properties also bound the east side. The B1256 Dunmow by-pass and its tree-covered cutting/embankment (formerly that of the Bishops Stortford to Braintree railway line) define the southern edge of site.

The northern edge of the site marks a significant break of slope in the local topography and the whole of the site slopes significantly down from north-east to south-west, with a drop of almost 7m. Latterly, a small dilapidated brick building occupied the north-west corner of the site but has recently been cleared. The remains of a modern timber-frame and corrugated iron structure still occupy the approximate middle of the site - possibly associated with a former well known to have been located here or with modern pig farming and/or allotment activities.

Historic mapping depicts the site area as being parts of two larger fields, their north-south shared boundary bisecting it. A well is located on this boundary and a cottage located within its own plot/enclosure occupying the north-east corner of the site. An east-west trackway is shown crossing the northern part of the site.

2.2 History and Archaeology

No archaeological investigation has previously been undertaken on the site itself. The perceived extents of the Roman settlement are postulated to lie immediately north of the site. Past discoveries relating to the Roman settlement are accounted in detail elsewhere (Wickenden 1988, Medlycott 1999, Robertson 2007). Remains of prehistoric and Saxon date are also known from this settlement area.

It is postulated that the Roman period settlement was concentrated along either side of Stane Street, the road between Colchester and Braughing. From the available evidence, Stane Street is suggested to run east-west some 200m to the north of the Springfields site. Occupation plots and field systems no doubt extended away from the road. Parts of this enclosure system have been identified at the Chequers Lane and Redbond Lodge sites (Wickenden 1988; Robertson 2007), amongst which various cemeteries (Chequers Lane, St Mary's School) and a shrine site (also Chequers Lane) have been identified. The more recent discoveries of such remains comprise the 2nd century burials at St Mary's School (O'Brien 2007) and inhumation graves alongside a reported north-south road at the former Auction Rooms site also in Chequers Lane (Colchester Archaeological Trust). Further remains, of a more occupational nature, were also found along the southern periphery of the grounds of St Mary's Primary School (Ennis 2009), which is closer to the perceived route of Stane Street. There is anecdotal evidence of Roman period remains being disturbed by and observed during the 1960/70s construction of Springfields and a large, probably mid Roman, rubbish pit has more recently been recorded at 52 Springfields which is c.80m north of the current site.

Further Roman and Saxon discoveries have been made to the east and north-east of the site. Artefacts have been found during construction along New Street and in the vicinity of Haslers Lane. A 1st century cremation cemetery found at the former ECC Highways Haslers Lane Depot is c.170m distant and occupies a similar position on the same break of slope as the current Springfields site (Hickling 2003). It has been conjectured that this topographic feature marks the southern limit of Roman settlement activity. Further remains found at New Street Fields (EHER 13879), just east of the current site, might be part of this.

The closest and most pertinent previous archaeological work to the current site has been carried out on land to the rear of 60-67 Springfields (EHER 19663) - i.e. on the more level ground immediately to its north. Trial trenching found Roman pottery within a soil layer, but was otherwise apparently disturbed by 19th century (agricultural or extraction?) activity (Hounsell 2001). A ditch of 18th century date was also recorded.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of surviving archaeological features and deposits. The specific objectives were to:

- identify any surviving evidence relating to the Roman land-use, in particular whether or not the top of the slope marks the limit of settlement-related activity
- identify any prehistoric or Saxon activity

4.0 METHOD

The site was initially investigated by six trial trenches totalling 246 sq m, 4% of the total development area (Fig. 1). An extra, small T-shaped trench (trench 7) totalling 18 sq m and a north-south extension to trench 6 were excavated at the request of the ECC HEM officer, in order to further investigate the archaeological features encountered within trench 6. The topsoil and subsoil were stripped using a tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. All identifiable archaeological deposits were investigated by sample excavation and recorded.

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (IfA 1999) and the Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU uses its own single-context recording system.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The evaluation trenches revealed the presence of a large Roman ditch, which was later re-cut. The upper fill of the re-cut ditch contained a cremation and fragments of an urn. Evidence of gravel extraction followed by large-scale modern refuse dumping was established to be present in the

south-eastern area of the site and features and deposits associated with post-medieval and modern pig-farming were present in the middle.

The natural geology comprised silty clay with bands of gravel and sand and was encountered within all trenches. Silty clay subsoil, 0.5m thick on average, was present in all but three of the trenches. Trench 4, located in the south-east of the site, contained only modern backfill and trenches 6 and 7, close to the northern boundary and upslope, had a gravelly silty-sand subsoil between 0.6m and 0.7m thick. The topsoil was present to an average thickness of 0.3m in all trenches.

Trench locations and descriptions can be found in Appendix 1. All feature descriptions are presented in Appendix 2 and finds data is detailed in Appendix 3. Trench and feature illustrations, together with selected photographic plates, can be found at the back of the report.

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

Trench 1 was located parallel to the western site boundary. Two root channels were present along the western trench edge, but no archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2, Plate 2)

Trench 2 was located to the east of trench 1. No significant archaeological features or deposits were present. A late Victorian/modern gravel track (deposit 1) was aligned east to west and ran parallel to a 20th century water pipe in the southern end of the trench. Several areas of root disturbance and modern shallow pitting were present in the northern end.

5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2 Plate 3)

Trench 3 was located in the centre of the site and again contained no archaeological features or deposits. A thin post-medieval/modern waterlain deposit (2) close to the centre of the trench contained a ceramic peg tile (not retained) and was cut by several modern land drains, which ran north-east to south-west, downslope towards a large drainage ditch alongside the road. A late Victorian/modern gravel track was present in the south-eastern end of the trench aligned north-east to south-west.

5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2, Plate 4)

Trench 4 was located in the south-east corner of the site and contained late 20th century backfill deposits above a large late Victorian/modern pit, which extended beyond the trench sides and was possibly associated with the construction of the railway line or else gravel extraction.

5.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 2; Plate 5)

Trench 5 was located close to the eastern site boundary and contained a large, circular late Victorian/modern pit. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

5.6 Trenches 6 and 7 (Figs. 2-3; Plates 6-7)

Trenches 6 and 7 were located in the north-eastern corner of the site. A Roman ditch (3=12=18) was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and ran through both trenches at an average depth of 71.06m AOD. The base of the ditch extended to an average of 70.25m AOD. Excavation revealed that this was a re-cut of an earlier and deeper ditch (6=21), the northern edge of which was not revealed within either trench. The base of ditch 6=21 was reached at 69.76m AOD.

Two segments were excavated through part of the earliest ditch (feature 6=21). Section 1, through ditch segment 6, revealed five fills (7-11; Fig. 4 Plate 8). One sherd of probable early to mid 2nd century pottery was recovered from the basal fill (7). Section 2, through ditch segment 21, revealed four fills (22-25; Fig. 4; Plate 9). Deposits 23 and 25 contained a total of 32 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, all probably from the same vessel. The fills of ditch 6=21 contained no other finds. The presence of the later sherd within the basal fill suggests it is unlikely to have been intrusive. The Middle Iron Age pottery, in two separate fills, is therefore more likely to be residual. It is important to note that the Roman pottery sherd was found during excavations in trench 6, and the Middle Iron Age pottery was found in trench 7. Perhaps a Middle Iron Age feature was disturbed during the backfilling of this part of the ditch.

The lowest two ditch fills were waterlogged. An environmental sample was taken, however its high sand content suggests that it has a very low potential to contain environmental remains. As such the sample has not subsequently been analysed. The nature of the lowest fill of ditch segment 6 (deposit 7) differed considerably to the lowest fill of ditch segment 21 (deposit 22). However, the second fills within the ditch (deposits 8 and 23) were the same. This indicates a slightly differing pattern of backfill across the ditch.

Ditch 6=21 was re-cut by ditch 3=12=18, a considerably shallower feature, and positioned slightly further to the south, indicating a faintly shifted boundary (Fig. 4). The shift might indicate the presence of a growing hedge or slipped bank to the north of the ditch, possibly in a similar location as the current hedgeline. However, this was not qualified by excavation. The pottery recovered from its two uniform fills (4=13=19 and 5=14=20) dates to the mid to late 2nd century. A nearly complete mortarium (17) was found in lower fill 19 (Plates 10 -11, further detail is presented in section 6.0). A residual prehistoric flint blade was recovered from the lower fill of ditch 12.

A cremation burial (15, deposit 16) dated to the mid to late 2nd century had been deposited within, and not cut into, the upper fill of ditch segment 18 (Fig. 3). Part of the smashed urn was retrieved. The cremation had been truncated during machine excavation to a maximum of 0.08m, but historic disturbance was also apparent as the vessel sherds did not display any fresh breaks.

Ditch 3=12=18 was cut at its southern end in trench 7 by a Victorian/modern feature, the line of which can be projected to meet with the pit in the northern end of trench 5. A marble and an iron staple were also found close to the top of the upper fill of the ditch, thereby attesting to modern disturbance perhaps through root disturbance and bioturbation.

The fills of both Roman period ditches in trench 7 were considerably more gravelly than those in trench 6, reflecting the sandy gravel natural deposit within this localised area of the site.

6.0 FINDS by Alan Jacobs

Introduction

A total of 663 artefactual fragments were recovered from site, these weighed a total of 3214 grams. The assemblage consisted primarily of Roman pottery which included nine definable forms. In addition Middle Iron Age pottery, Roman brick and tile, and a quantity of cremated human bone were recovered. Finds were retrieved from 12 contexts. All of the material has been sorted into context and recorded by count and weight. Modern materials have been discarded. The finds are described and tabulated in Appendix 3.

Roman pottery

All fabrics are defined by the Essex County Council Type Series (Going 1987) unless otherwise stated.

The assemblage primarily consisted of small amounts of coarse ware fabrics with a 1st to 2nd century date range (table 2). A total of seven sherds of Samian Ware were present, including the rim of a Dragendorff 18/31R (context 20) dated AD 90-110. Central Gaulish was represented by the base of a Dragendorff 33 (context 20) dated AD 150-200 and a body sherd of a Campanulate Cup or Dragendorff 27 (context 13) dated AD 110-160. Two connecting sherds of Gaulish Amphorae were also recovered (context 20).

Most of the coarse ware sherds were dateable only to the Roman period in general. The most complete form was that of a mortaria/bowl (context 17; Plate 11). A stamp and counter stamp to either side of the spout, "NVIVNCL", indicate a tight date range between AD 150 and 160, as

mortaria stamps fall out of use around AD 160 (Hartley 1984). Additionally, an example of a small jar containing the cremation burial (GROGRF context 16) was present. The rim was abraded but would fit with forms G4/5 in the form series, in a mid to late 2nd century context. A mid 2nd century date is suggested by the presence of Black surface Ware cooking pot forms (G17 & G22.2) in contexts 13 and 16 and one sherd of Black Burnished Ware (BB2) from context 14. Earlier more fragmentary and abraded material of 1st to early 2nd century date, including various buff wares and storage vessel fabric (44), was recovered from ditches 3, 6, 18 and 21.

The broad date ranges of the Roman pottery fabrics recovered indicate ongoing activity in this area during the later 1st to 2nd century. The later re-cut ditch (3=12=18) appears to have been filled in the middle of the 2nd century, there being no coarse ware forms characteristic of the mid to late 2nd century and only a single sherd of BB2 (context 14). In addition there are no forms present whose production date started after AD 160. The un-abraded stamped mortaria bowl at the base of the sequence indicates that this feature was filled after AD 150, while the presence of the cremation burial associated with a 1st to 2nd century form in the upper ditch fill indicates that the feature does not post date the 2nd century.

Iron Age Pottery

The Iron Age pottery was analysed and quantified (Appendix 3) using methodology based on the excavations at Little Waltham (Drury 1978). Two contexts contained sherds of a very fragmentary Middle Iron Age vessel (contexts 23 and 25). The sandy fabric with occasional flint inclusions (fabric F) was soft and abraded with a black interior matrix and red brown surfaces. The only form recovered was a coarse slack shouldered jar with an upright and square cut rim, which dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age at Little Waltham (Drury 1978, form type 7). This material is most likely re-deposited and is therefore typical of the small quantity of Middle Iron Age material recovered from Great Dunmow (Wickenden 1988).

Human Bone

Around 500 fragments of a cremated human bone were recovered from a bulk sample collected from burial 15; these were well burnt and very fragmented, with only a few pieces of long bone and no teeth or definable skull fragments present. The cremation was only partially recovered due to modern machine and historic disturbance. As such only 256g of human bone were collected. This represents a small but typical amount of material recovered from cremation burials. Many of the undisturbed cremation burials at Haslers Lane (Hickling 2003) exceeded a kilogram of human bone.

The human bone was recovered in association with a pot form (G4/5) that would date the cremation burial to the 2nd century. The burial (context 16) in association with the mortaria form (context 17), post dates AD 150 and as such is later than the cremation burials at Haslers Lane (Compton 2003) and is evidently contemporary with the burials at Chequers Lane (Wickenden 1988).

Other finds

Seven abraded fragments of Roman brick and tile were recovered, one of which was roughly shaped into a triangle (context 5), which is typical of Roman construction practice. A single fragment of abraded box flue tile was found in context 20 as well as several indefinable fragments of spall. Three fragments of fire cracked stone plus intrusive, modern iron, brick and a glass marble complete the finds assemblage.

In conclusion the small amount of material recovered from this evaluation limits interpretation. The overall assemblage does fit in with previous work at Great Dunmow (Wickenden 1988; Hickling 2003), where there is a residual Middle Iron Age and a lack of pre Flavian Roman activity. The pottery assemblage might indicate that this area of the settlement fell out of use by the end of the second century.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The presence of residual Middle Iron Age pottery within two fills of the earliest Roman ditch is of limited significance and conforms to the pattern of residual Iron Age finds recovered at Chequers Lane (Wickenden 1988) and at land to the rear of 42b High St (CAT 2001).

The Roman ditches revealed in trenches 6 and 7 were exposed for a distance of 38m of their roughly east-west course. The original ditch, surviving to a depth of 1.3m and established to be in excess of 1.5m wide, was a significant feature of the Roman landscape. Though the presence of a bank was not established, one could reasonably be presumed to have existed along its northern edge. The layer found within the trenches at 60-67 Springfields, to the north, containing 2nd century, abraded undiagnostic Roman and post-medieval finds (Hounsell 2001; Fig. 5) could tentatively have been the remains of a levelled Roman bank, though 19th century gravel extraction at the site might equally have resulted in the disturbance of Roman features and a build up of excavated surplus spoil.

This ditch, and its replacement, is likely to have marked the southern extent of the Roman town - perhaps from the later 1st century through to the mid/late 2nd century (Fig. 5). Located along the 71m contour, a point at which there is a natural break of slope and a pronounced slope down to the south-west to a tributary stream of the River Chelmer, this would have been a suitable position to mark the edge of the town's lands. The ditches clearly extended both east and westwards, presumably following the topography.

The re-cutting of the ditch signals the maintenance and/or re-establishment of the town boundary, and was backfilled by the late 2nd century. The placement of the cremation in the upper fill of the later ditch might suggest that its infilling was deliberate, and that the boundary was either no longer required or was replaced by a less archaeologically visible land division. The absence of Roman period features, or indeed the lack of residual or unstratified artefacts, downslope of the ditched boundary, would seem to confirm that settlement activity never spread beyond its confines.

The majority of the site to the south of the ditch had been disturbed by Victorian and modern gravel extraction, the construction of the former railway at the southern boundary and by the modern use of the site for pig farming.

8.0 ASSESSMENT

The features and deposits revealed during the evaluation, and the artefacts retrieved from them, have subtly but significantly added to our understanding of the nature and extent of the Roman settlement at Dunmow, at least up to the mid/late 2nd century. The ditch, with its re-cut, suggests the existence of a defined southern limit to the 'small town', beyond which settlement activity is unlikely to have extended. This boundary, though primarily dictated by topographic factors, was clearly a recognised and perpetuated landscape division. Indeed, the apparent placing of a cremation burial in the re-cut ditch as it either gradually filled or was eventually deliberately in-filled may serve to emphasise the liminal significance of what was regarded as the definitive settlement boundary.

While formally regarded as the settlement boundary by the occupants of Roman Dunmow, the land enclosed within would not necessarily have been occupied as such, or even heavily utilised. Indeed, Roman understanding of what constituted a 'town' is likely to have been markedly different from our own. It is postulated that the land in between this ditch and the conjectured occupation plots along Stane Street would have largely comprised backlands containing fields and paddocks and other enclosures in which a variety of agricultural (arable and pastoral?), manufacturing,

extraction and perhaps rubbish disposal activities were undertaken. Another significant use would of course have been funerary and religious, as attested by the various cemetery and shrine sites located elsewhere within the perceived settlement area. As such the confirmation of this boundary location has been a significant outcome of the site evaluation.

The Victorian and modern remains are not of particular significance, though they illustrate the nature of recent activity on what was until relatively recently the periphery of the town. The absence of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains is presumably a reflection of the re-establishment of the post-roman settlement further north - perhaps even initially actively avoiding the former Roman settlement - and its expansion this far south only by the 19th century and the coming of the railway.

Further parts of the Roman period remains almost certainly survive un-investigated along the northern edge of the site. However, these are relatively deeply buried and this peripheral location is unlikely to suffer significant disturbance as a consequence of the development of the site. However, there is some possibility that groundworks for the insertion of services connected to those in New Street Fields might truncate these remains if they penetrate to a depth greater than 0.6m below the current ground level.

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The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Phillippa Sparrow, John Hewitt, Paul Springett and Andrew Lewsey. The finds were processed, analysed and reported upon by Alan Jacobs. The figures were drawn by Andrew Lewsey.

The site was monitored by Richard Havis of ECC HEM on behalf of the LPA.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH CO-ORDINATES

The coordinates for each trench refer to the opposite ends of the central axis.

Trench No.	NGR Co-ordinates		Alignment	Dimensions (m)		
				Length	Width	Depth
1	N S	TL 62642 21548 TL 62635 21522	North - South	26.5	1.6	0.82
2	NE SW	TL 62670 21552 TL 62657 21529	North - South	26	1.6	0.5 – 1.0
3	NW SE	TL 62684 21529 TL 62703 21513	Northwest – southeast	25	1.6	1.1
4	W E	TL 62693 21506 TL 62717 21501	ENE – WSW	25	1.6	1.45
5	N S	TL 62723 21535 TL 62715 21509	Northeast – southwest	27	1.6	1.0
6	W E	TL 62697 21547 TL 62721 21545	East - West	24	1.6	0.94
7	N S	TL 62733 21544 TL 62731 21537	North - South (T-shaped)	8 - 4	1.6	0.96

APPENDIX 2: FIELDWORK DATA

All dimensions are given in metres.

Context	Type	Trench	Dimensions	Description	Same as	Date
1	Layer	2	1.6m+ x 2.5m x 0.3m	Gravel track – modern. Aligned NW-SE.	-	Modern
2	Layer	3	1.6m+ x 1.4m x 0.25m	Dark brown gravel containing rotting roots.	-	Late Victorian/modern
3	Ditch	6	38m+ x 1.25m+ x 0.7m	Aligned ENE to WSW. Moderately sloping side and flat base. Only partially excavated due to proximity of trench edge.	12 & 18	Mid – late 2nd century
4	Fill	6	38m+ x 1.25m+ x 0.31m	Lower fill of 3. Dark grey sandy gravel. Firm.	13 & 19	Mid – late 2nd century
5	Fill	6	38m+ x 1.25m+ x 0.4m	Upper fill of 3. Mid grey silty sand with occasional gravel. Moderately firm.	14 & 20	Mid – late 2nd century
6	Ditch	6	38m+ x 1.5m+ x 1.3m	Re-cut by 3. Aligned ENE – WSW. Steep sides and flat base.	21	Early to mid 2nd century
7	Fill	6	38m+ x 1.12m+ x 0.1m	Lower fill of 6. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Damp and plastic.	-	Early to mid 2nd century
8	Fill	6	38m+ x 1.32m+ x 0.22m	Second fill of 6. Mid red brown silty sandy gravel. Firm.	23	Early to mid 2nd century
9	Fill	6	38m+ x 1.38m+ x 0.28m	Third fill of 6. Light grey silty sand with occasional gravel. Firm.		Early to mid 2nd century
10	Fill	6	38m+ x 1.08m+ x 0.36m	Fourth fill of 6. Yellow orange sandy gravel. Loose.		Early to mid 2nd century
11	Fill	6	38m+ x 1.49m+ x 0.28m	Fifth fill of 6. Light yellow grey sand with gravel. Loose.		Early to mid 2nd century
12	Ditch	6	38m+ x 3.16m x 0.72m	Re-cut of ditch. Irregular sides. Possible posthole at base, though could just be rooting.	3 and 18	Mid – late 2nd century
13	Fill	6	38m+ x 3.16m x 0.3m	Lower fill of 12. Grey sandy gravel. Firm.	4 and 19	Mid – late 2nd century
14	Fill	6	38m+ x 3.16m x 0.48m	Upper fill of 12. Grey silty sand with rare charcoal. Firm.	5 and 20	Mid – late 2nd century

15	Cremation burial	7	0.35m x 0.35m x 0.12m	Cut of cremation burial. Cut into upper fill 20 of ditch 18. Roughly circular. 0.08m over-cut by machine.	-	Mid – late 2nd century
16	Fill	7	0.35m x 0.35m x 0.12m	Fill of cremation. Dark greyish brown silty clay-gravel with small-medium sized stones, burnt human bone and part of the urn. Loose.	-	Mid – late 2nd century
17	Finds	7	-	Partially complete mortarium found in fill 19 of ditch 18.	-	AD 150 - 160
18	Ditch	7	38m+ x 1.7m+ x 0.84m	Re-cut of Roman ditch. Moderately sloping sides and rounded base.	3 and 12	Mid – late 2nd century
19	Fill	7	38m+ x 1.7m+ x 0.43m	Lower fill of 18. Mid grey sandy gravel and occasional charcoal. Firm.	4 and 13	Mid – late 2nd century
20	Fill	7	38m+ x 1.7m+ x 0.46m	Upper fill of 18. Mid grey silty sand with frequent gravel. Firm.	5 and 14	Mid – late 2nd century
21	Ditch	7	38m+ x 1.22m+ x 0.96m	Cut of ditch. Cut by 18. Steep side, concave base.	6	Early to mid 2nd century
22	Fill	7	38m+ x 0.87m+ x 0.16m	Lower fill of ditch 21. Light grey gravelly sand with occasional charcoal. Loose.		Early to mid 2nd century
23	Fill	7	38m+ x 1.22m+ x 0.32m	Second fill of ditch 21. Dark reddish brown silty sand, firm.	8	Early to mid 2nd century
24	Fill	7	38m+ x 1.01m+ x 0.21m	Third fill of ditch 21. Orange sandy gravel. Loose.		Early to mid 2nd century
25	Fill	7	38m+ x 0.9m+ x 0.32m	Fourth fill of ditch 21 Light grey gravelly sand with occasional charcoal. Loose.		Early to mid 2nd century

APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

Finds quantification

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
4	Ditch fill	2	44	Pottery	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
5	Ditch fill	7	142	Pottery	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
		1	224	Brick fragment	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
7	Ditch fill	1	22	Pottery	Roman (Early to mid 2 nd century)
13	Ditch fill	10	172	Pottery	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
		1	2	Flint blade	Prehistoric?
14	Ditch fill	4	54	Pottery	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
		2	24	Fire Brick	Modern (Intrusive)
16	Cremation	30	296	Pottery	Roman (Late 2 nd century)
		500 (est)	256	Human Bone	Roman (Late 2 nd century)
17	Ditch fill	14	440	Pottery	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
19	Ditch fill	18	100	Pottery	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
20	Ditch fill	30	584	Pottery	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
		6	456	Tile/Brick	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
		3	90	Burnt flint	Roman (150 to 200 AD)
		1	6	Glass Marble	Modern (intrusive)
23	Ditch fill	8	84	Pottery	Middle Iron Age
25	Ditch fill	24	106	Pottery	Middle Iron Age
U/S	SF 1	1	112	Iron Staple	Modern (Intrusive)
Total		663	3214		

Roman pottery

Description	Fabric Name	Fabric number	Count	Weight	Date Range
Mica Dusted Ware	MIC	12	1	6	1 st to 2 nd century
Verulamium Region White Ware Mortaria	VRWM	26	14	440	150 to 220 AD
Colchester Buff Ware	COLB	27	1	8	1 st to 2 nd century
Verulamium Buff Ware	VRB	29	3	12	1 st to 4 th century
Unsources Buff Wares	BUF	31	5	8	1 st to 4 th century
Black Surface Ware	BSW	34/45	19	250	1 st to 4 th century
Fine Grey Ware	GRF	39	4	38	1 st to 4 th century
Black Burnished Ware Category 2	BB2	41	1	2	150 to 350 AD
Storage jar fabric	STOR	44	17	474	1 st to 4 th century
Sandy Grey Ware	GRS	47	10	40	1 st to 4 th century
Grog Tempered Red Fabric	GROGRF	53	31	312	1 st to 2 nd century
Gaulish Amphorae	AGAUL	56	2	254	1 st to 4 th century
Central Gaulish Samian Ware	CGSW	60	2	12	110 to 200 AD
South Gaulish Samian Ware	SGSW	60	5	12	50 to 110 AD
	Total		115	1868	

Middle Iron Age pottery

Description	Fabric number	Count	Weight	Date Range
Sandy Ware	F	32	188	Middle Iron Age
Total		32	188	

APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX

WHMR10 LAND AT SPRINGFIELDS, GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief for evaluation
- 1.2 WSI for evaluation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Evaluation report
- 2.2 Finds report
- 2.3 CD Rom (containing digital images and pdf versions of the report, finds reports, WSI and brief)

3. Site Archive

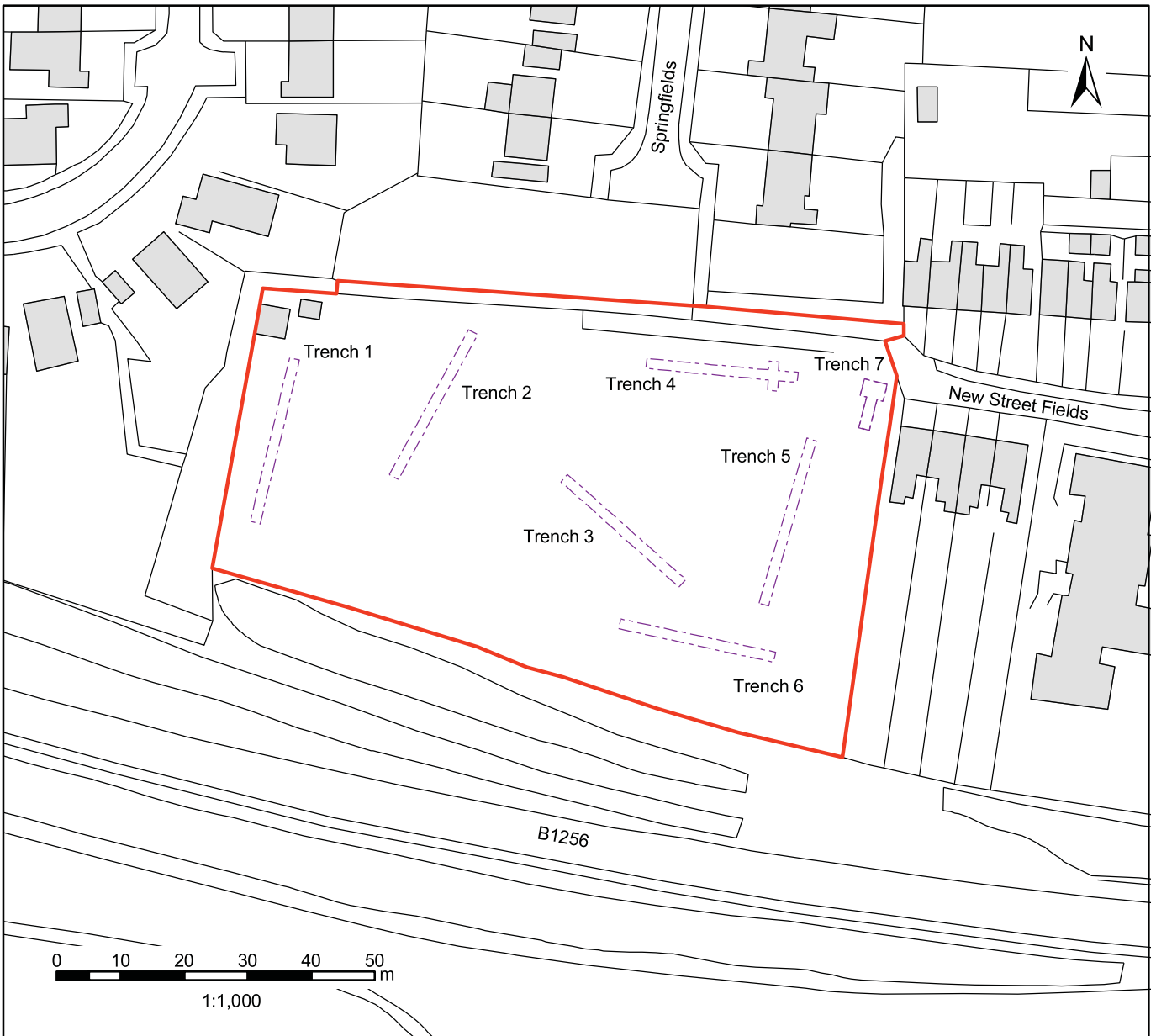
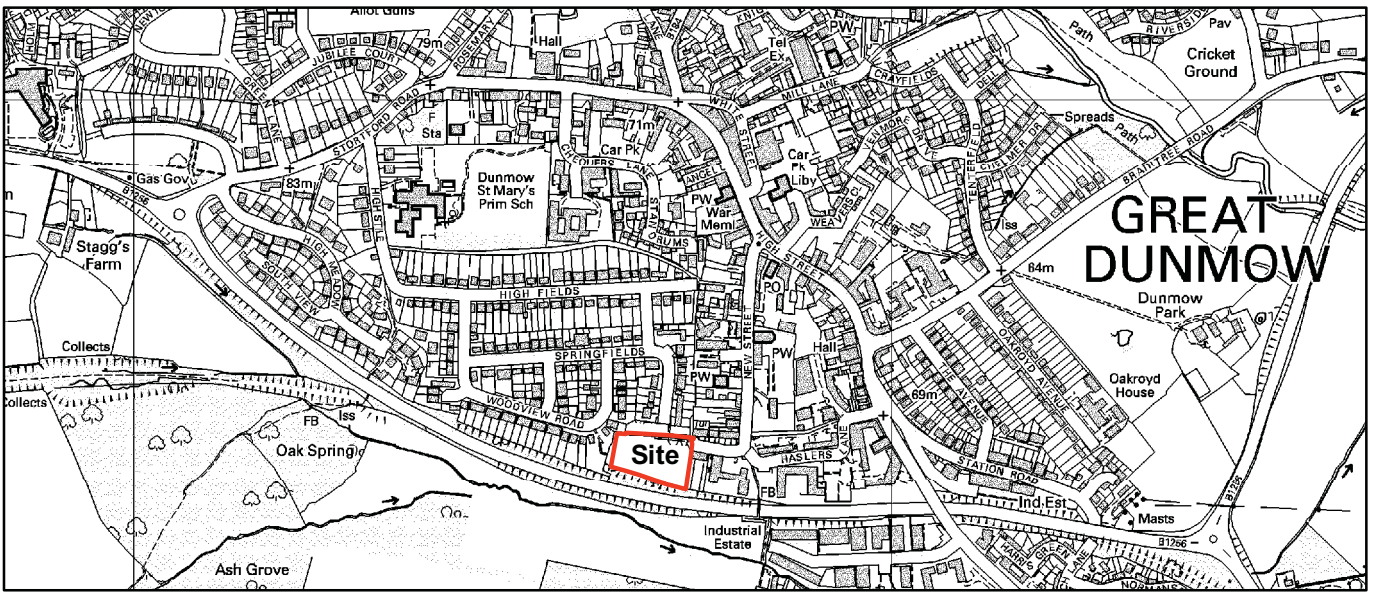
- 3.1 Trench record sheets
- 3.2 Context record register
- 3.3 Original context records 3 - 25
- 3.4 Plans register
- 3.5 Sections register
- 3.6 Levels register
- 3.7 Photographic register
- 3.8 Photograph contact sheet & prints
- 3.9 Miscellaneous maps and plans
- 3.10 RSK Group PLC *Springfields, Great Dunmow, Essex: Archaeological Desk-Based Appraisal*
- 3.11 Leap Environmental *Phase I Desk Study, Site Reconnaissance & Phase II Site Investigation Report*

Not in Files:

- Site drawings (4 permatrace sheets)
- 1 box of finds

APPENDIX 5: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

Site Name/Address: Land at Springfields, Great Dunmow, Essex	
Parish: Great Dunmow	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 6270 2152	Site Code: GD30
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Team: Phillippa Sparrow, ECC FAU
Dates of Work: 24th – 28th January 2011	Size of Area Investigated: 270 sq m of 0.58ha site
Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding Source: Developer
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HER Nos. 13879, 19663
Final Report: Summary in EAH	OASIS Ref: 91778
Periods Represented: Middle Iron Age, Roman, late Victorian and modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>A trial-trench evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition prior to the construction of 25 residential houses. Seven trenches were excavated across the steeply sloping site, with the main objective to locate any evidence related to the Roman land-use, particularly that related to land division.</p> <p><u>Prehistoric</u> A small quantity of presumably residual Middle Iron Age pottery was found within the fill of a Roman ditch and indicates activity of this date in the near vicinity.</p> <p><u>Roman</u> The remains of an east-west aligned ditch, running just below a natural break of slope in the local topography, was found close to the northern edge of the site. Backfilled during the early 2nd century AD, this ditch is interpreted as probably marking the southern limit of the Roman settlement. A later re-cut, backfilled by the end of the 2nd century, contained a human cremation burial within its upper fill. No evidence of Roman activity was found to the south of the ditch - the slope down to the stream below presumably not being suitable for agriculture.</p> <p><u>Post-medieval & Modern</u> A high degree of Victorian and modern disturbance was encountered in the trenches across the rest of the site. This comprised gravel extraction, deposition possibly associated with the construction of the railway embankment/cutting just beyond the southern boundary, tracks and small cut features associated with the use of the land for pig farming and allotments within living memory.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: P. Sparrow	Date of Summary: February 2011



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches

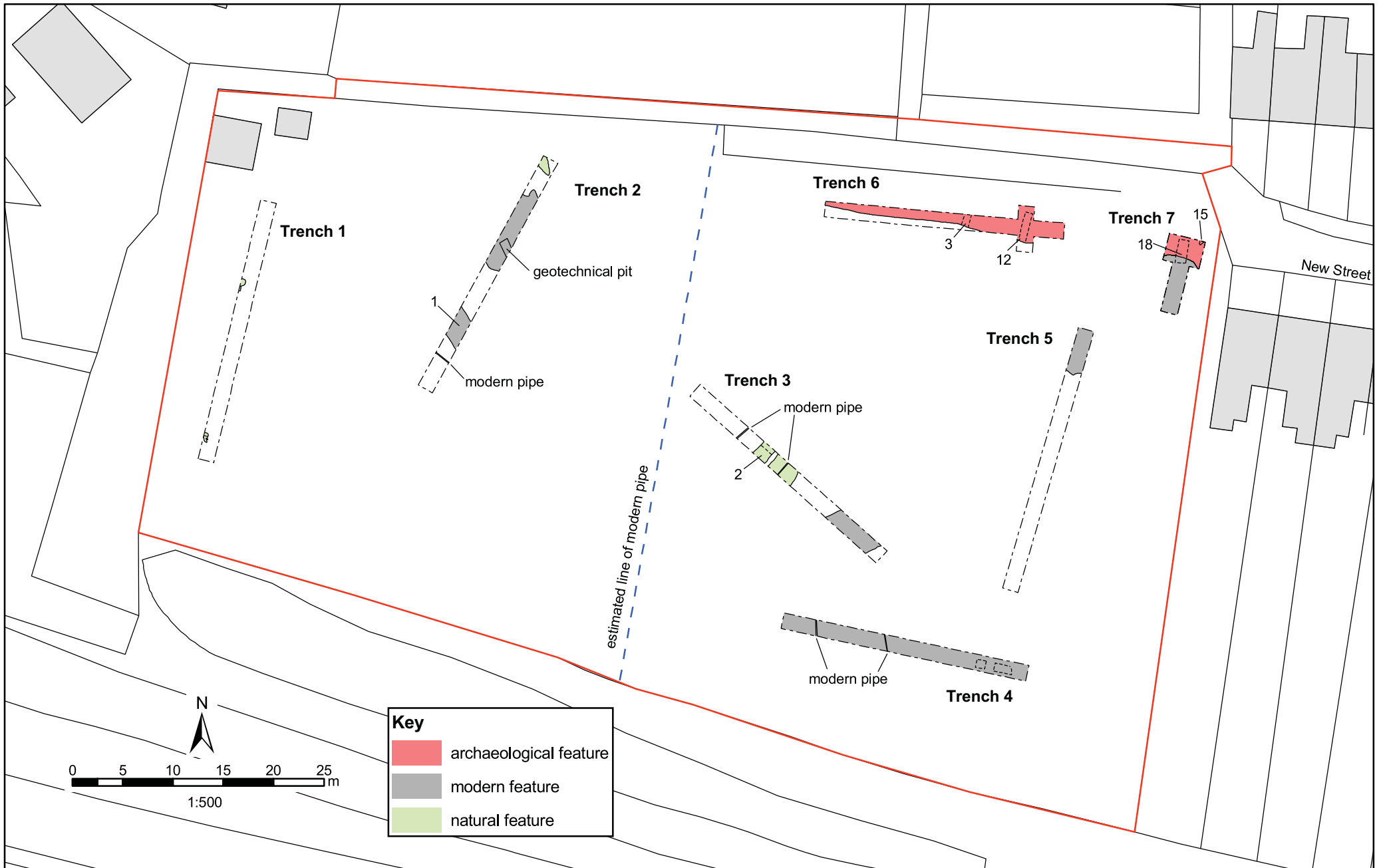


Fig.2. All features

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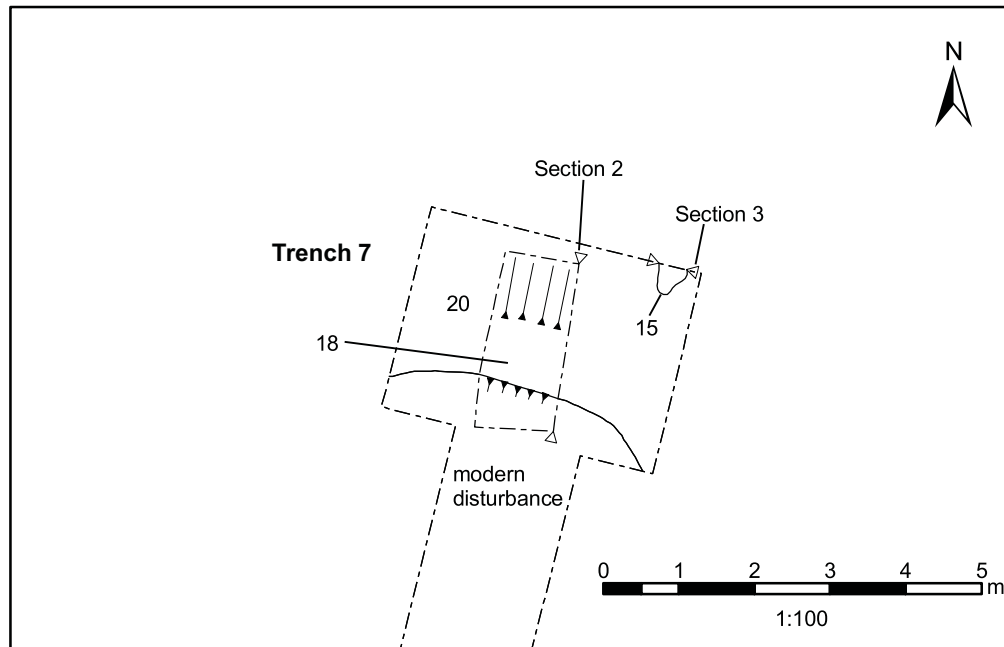
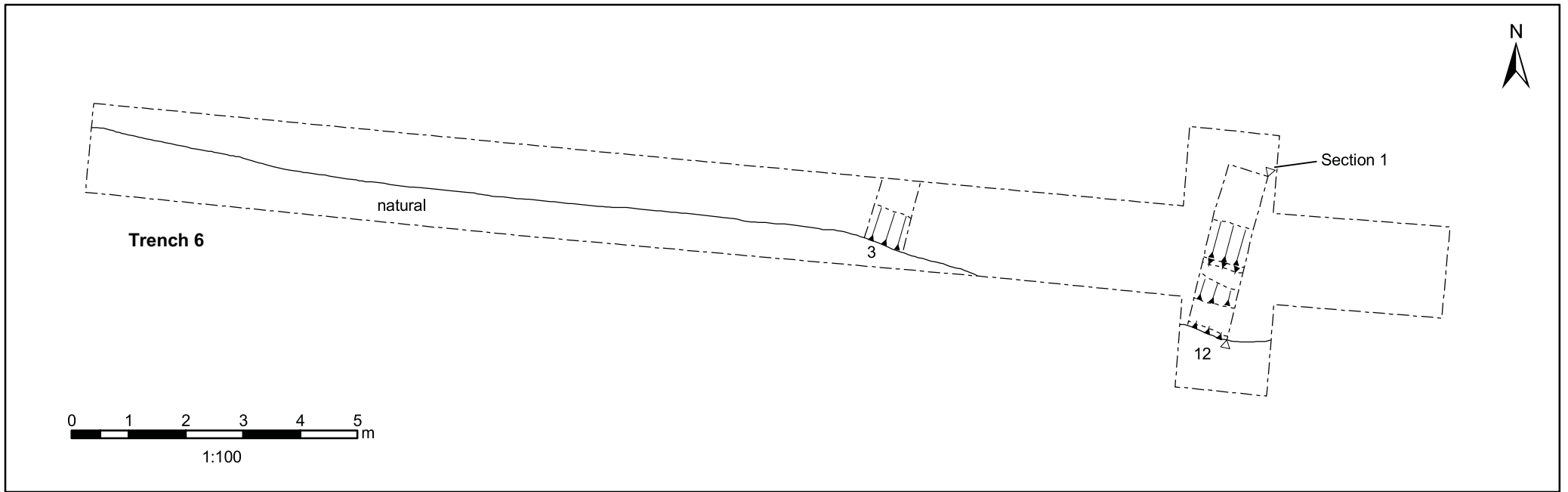
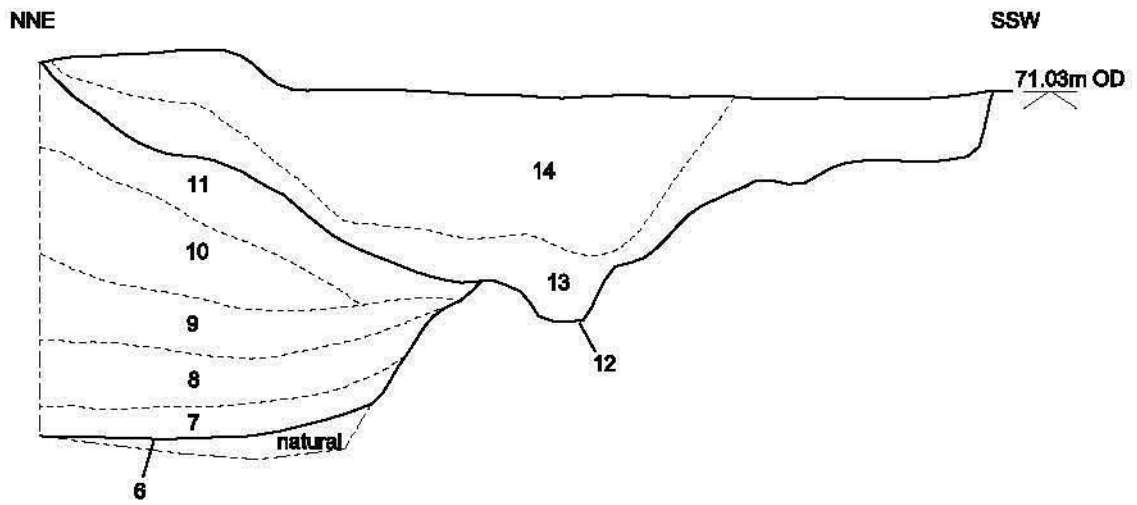
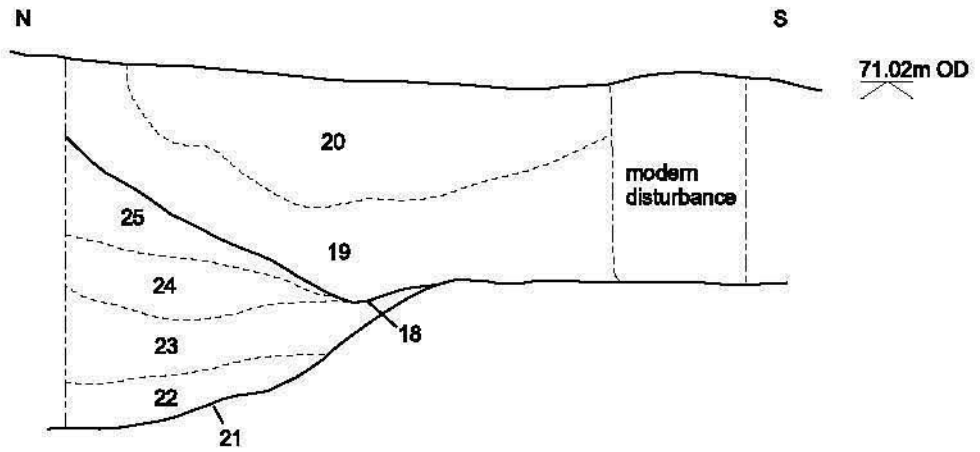


Fig.3 Trenches 6 & 7

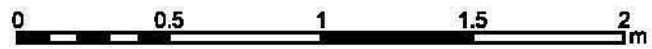
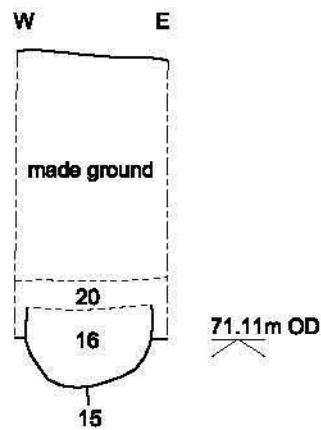
Section 1



Section 2

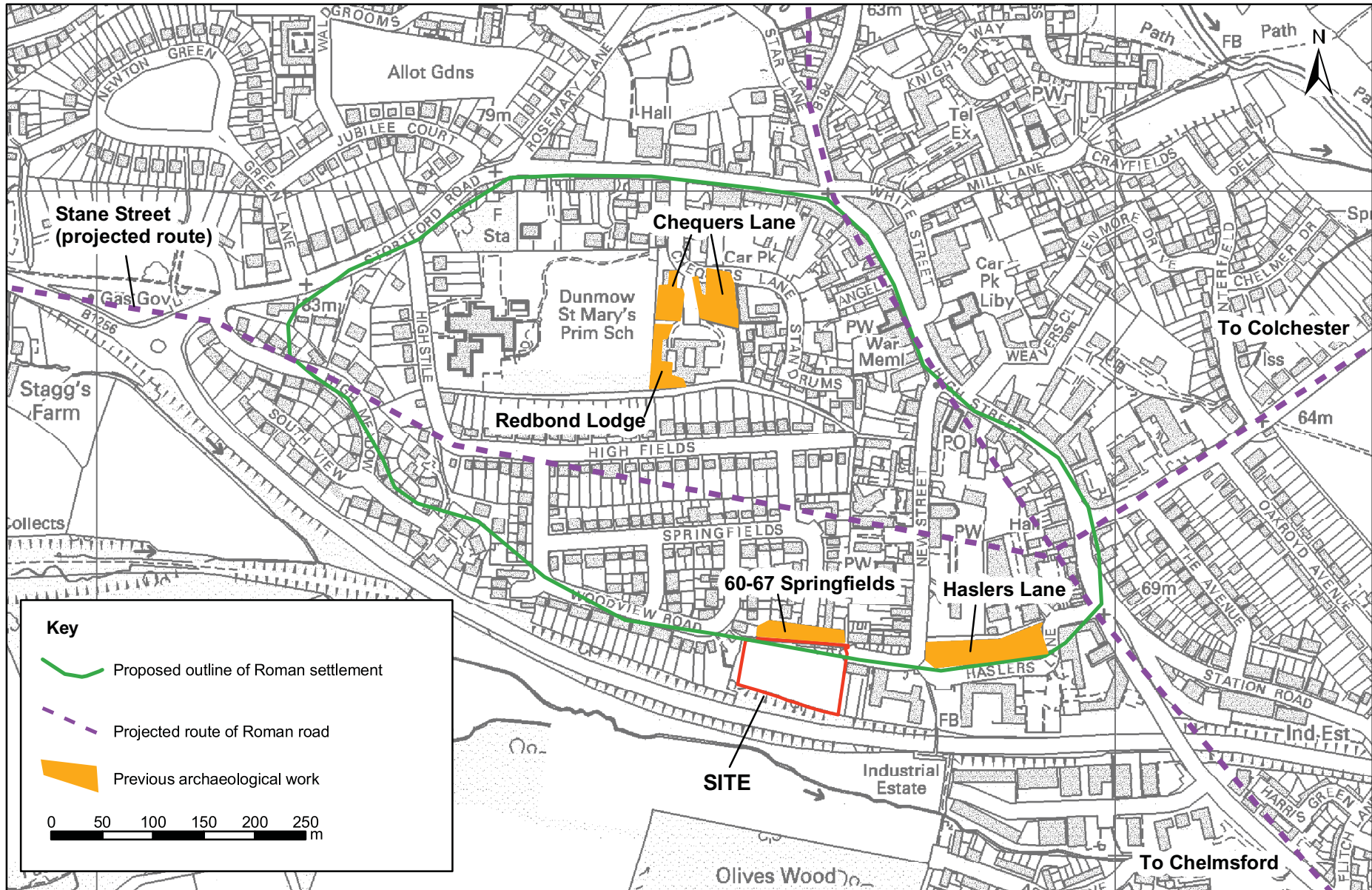


Section 3



1:25

Fig.4. Sections 1 - 3



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Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

Fig.5. Postulated Roman Dunmow with selected known Roman archaeological sites



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south. 2m scale



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south-south-east. 2m scale



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking south-east. 2m scale



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking west. 2m scale



Plate 5. Trench 5 looking south-west. 2m scale



Plate 6. Trench 6 looking west. 2m scale



Plate 7. Trench 7, looking north. 2m scale



Plate 8. Ditch 6 and re-cut 12 looking east. 2m scale



Plate 9. Ditches 21 and re-cut 18 looking east. 2m scale



Plate 10. Mortarium 17, *in situ*, looking west. 0.1m scale



Plate 11. Mortarium 17