

HERITAGE NETWORK



ST MARGARETS
Beacon Hill, Purfleet
Essex

HN934

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

ST MARGARETS Beacon Hill, Purfleet, Essex

Project Ref: HN934
LPA ref: 08/00623/FUL
Site Code: THBH11

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Oakwold Homes Ltd

by

James Snee, BSC (HONS) AIFA

Report no. 682

September 2011

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The cover photograph shows the site looking north.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by James Snee and Robin Densem, and geo-archaeological advice was provided by Dr Peter Allen. The report text and illustrations were prepared by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Rick Wilton, Oakwold Homes Ltd; Ray Bromage, Huggins Bromage Ferguson architects; and Richard Havis, Historic Environment Management Team, Essex County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	St Margarets, Beacon Hill, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1RB.		
County:	Essex	District:	Thurrock
Village/town:	Purfleet	Parish:	Purfleet
Planning reference:	08/00623/FUL	NGR:	TQ 5580 7809
Client name and address:	Oakwold Homes Ltd, Cornwall Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, Essex, SS13 2JZ		
Nature of work:	Housing	Current land use:	Residential
Site Status:	N/A	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (PPS5)
Position in planning process:	After full determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	2146m ²	Size of area investigated:	220m ²
HN reference:	HN934	Site Code:	THBH11
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Field evaluation	Archive recipient:	Thurrock Museum
Start of work:	23/08/2011	Finish of work:	26/08/2011
Related HER nos:	N/A	Periods represented:	Medieval
OASIS UID:	heritage1-105503	Significant finds:	Pottery
Monument types:	Ditch		
Physical archive:	Pottery		
Previous summaries/reports:	HN Report No: 675; St Margarets, Beacon Hill, Purfleet, Essex, Archaeological Summary.		

Synopsis:

In response to a condition on the planning permission for development on land at St Margarets, Beacon Hill, Purfleet, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.

The evaluation of the site has revealed a single archaeological feature of potential medieval date, which is likely to represent a field boundary or other land division. The low number of finds, and the condition of the pottery recovered, suggests that the ditch is located some distance from settlement or domestic habitation.

The Purfleet area is known to have potential for Palaeolithic remains to survive amid extensive river terrace gravels deposited on the north side of the chalk ridge known as the Purfleet Anticline. After consultation with a

specialist palaeo-archaeologist, Peter Allen, it was established that the site lies on the southern side of this ridge, away from the gravel deposits.

On the basis of the data gained in the course of this evaluation, the risk that the development might encounter further archaeological remains of medieval date is High, but the significance of those remains is likely to be Low. The risk of encountering remains of any other period is Low.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Oakwold Homes Ltd, as part of the archaeological investigation of a proposed development site located at St Margarets, Beacon Hill, Essex.

1.2 The investigation is a requirement of the planning consent for the development granted by Thurrock Council (ref: 08/00623/FUL), under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5) on Archaeology and Planning (DoCLG 2010). The extent of the work has been defined in a brief for *Archaeological Trial Trenching, and Test Pitting with Potential Further Excavation or Recording at St Margarets, Beacon Hill, Purfleet* issued by the Historic Environment Management Team (HEMT) of Essex County Council, acting as advisers to Thurrock Council (ref: RH 26/04/2011). A full specification for the investigation, and a method statement for the evaluation stage of the project, is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated July 2011.

1.3 The proposed development lies within the grounds of a property called St Margarets, centred on NGR TQ 5580 7809 (Figure 1). To the north of the site is an old quarry and industrial area (Botany Pit), to the east and west are residential properties and to the south is the junction of three roads: Linnet Way to the south, Beacon Hill to the west and Oakhill Road to the east.

1.4 Sand and gravel extraction from Botany Pit, immediately north of the present site, revealed significant Palaeolithic finds in addition to Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery. This suggested that the present site may also be located in an area of archaeological sensitivity.

1.5 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance, quality and condition of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medycott and Brown 2008), should they be discovered.

1.6 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site lies on the brow of a hill overlooking the River Thames. The highest point of the site is on the northern boundary at approximately 16mOD. The ground slopes to the south to a height of approximately 10.5mOD along the southern boundary. The land was previously used occupied by a single bungalow with front and rear garden.

2.2 Locally, the soils are unsurveyed, but have been identified nearby as belonging to the Hucklesbrook association (571f) of river terrace drift (SSEW 1983)

2.3 The underlying geology consists of Seaford chalk formation and Newhaven chalk formation undifferentiated chalk (BGS).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.4 The archaeology of Purfleet is dominated by substantial finds of Palaeolithic material in the form of handaxes, flint implements and debitage flakes. In addition, small quantities of prehistoric and Romano-British pottery have been recovered within 500m of the site.

2.5 In 1961, sand and gravel extraction at Botany Pit revealed substantial quantities of Palaeolithic flints. Botany Pit is located immediately north of the present development site. The sand and gravel deposits were found to be abutting a chalk cliff, on which St Margarets stands. A number of identifiable tools were recovered and a considerable quantity of debitage. It was proposed that a Proto-Levalloisian flint industry existed at the base of the cliff, utilising the flint nodules that were present in the chalk and eroding out of the cliff face. At some later stage the site was inundated and buried by alluvial sediments (HER 5008). Subsequent surveys have shown that despite the quarrying and industrial activity on the site, it still retains considerable potential for Palaeolithic remains (HER 45426).

2.6 To the east of the present area of investigation, quarrying at Esso Pit (HER 45424 and HER 45421) revealed tools and debitage from the Acheulian, Clactonian and possibly the Levalloisian flint industries of the Palaeolithic period.

2.7 In 1969 topsoil stripping on Beacon Hill resulted in the collection of a number of prehistoric finds including 300 flints (HER 5007), Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery (HER 5004 and HER 5003). Romano-British pottery was also recovered (HER 5005).

2.8 Further Romano-British pottery has been recorded at Botany Pit (HER 5010). A possible Romano-British quarry pit was located on London Road (HER 45478).

2.9 Medieval activity in Purfleet is not well documented, nor is post-medieval activity until the early modern period when industrial expansion dominated the landscape.

2.10 A study of Ordnance Survey maps from 1897 onwards shows the land use of the present site over the last century. Prior to 1939 the site is open fields, however the 1939 map shows a building close to the street frontage (approximately in the location of the bungalow) and a small square structure to the north of the site. On the 1953 – 1964 map the square

structure is labelled as an “Old Pump House”, but it is not represented on the map for the 1966 – 1967 or subsequent editions.

METHODOLOGY

2.11 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.12 The trenches were located as far as possible in accordance with the trench location plan agreed with the HEMT, using fibreglass tape measures from known positions. However the topology of the site, the previously unsuspected presence of a large pump house shaft and two tree preservation orders, required that some trenches had to be moved slightly. The trenches were opened using a wheeled excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless bucket and machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, in this case the top of the natural chalk. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.13 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.14 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:20 and 1:10 as appropriate.

RESULTS

2.15 Seven archaeological trial trenches, approximately 1.6m wide and between 7m and 21m long, were excavated across site to achieve as complete coverage as possible of the footprints of the proposed new buildings and access roads, and these represent a total coverage of 220m².

Stratigraphy

2.16 The stratigraphy of the site consisted of chalk bedrock, overlain by between 0.20m and 0.40m of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand subsoil and up to 0.20m of black (10YR 2/1) silty sand topsoil. In the southern portion of the site there was a modern terrace that had been excavated for the construction of the bungalow that formerly occupied the site. Here the chalk was overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of soils and demolition debris.

Trench 1:

2.17 Trench 1 was located at the southern end of the site (Figure 2), within the footprint of the former bungalow. It was orientated east-west and measured 7m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.25m (Plate 3).

2.18 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in this trench.

Trench 1 data:

Length (m):	7	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.25	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)	Top	10.87	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)	Top	10.96		
	Base	10.68		Base	10.72		
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		

			Length	Width	Depth
-	Deposit	Mixed brown silty sand, chalk rubble and demolition debris.	7.0	1.8	0.25
-	Deposit	10YR 8/1 White chalk.	7.0	1.8	> 0.10

Trench 2:

2.19 Trench 2 was located towards the southern end of the site (Figure 2), within the footprint of the former bungalow. It was orientated northeast-southwest and measured 15.3m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.15m (Plate 4).

2.20 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in this trench.

Trench 2 data:

Length (m):	15.3	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.15	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	10.95	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	10.98
			Base	10.80			Base	10.86
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Deposit	Mixed brown silty sand, chalk rubble and demolition debris.	15.3	1.8	0.15			
-	Deposit	10YR 8/1 White chalk.	15.3	1.8	> 0.10			

Trench 3:

2.21 Trench 3 was located towards the southern end of the site (Figure 2), to the northeast of Trench 2. It was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 13.3m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m (Plate 5).

2.22 A number of features were revealed in Trench 3. At the northwest end of the trench was a north-south aligned linear ditch [301] with a V-shaped profile and a rounded base. This contained a yellowish brown clay/silt sand fill (311) with frequent chalk and flint fragments. Overlying (311) was a less stony clay/silt and sand (303) which had been truncated by a ditch re-cut [312], which contained stony clay/silt fill (302).

2.23 Two modern sub-rectangular features [304] and [307] were revealed in Trench 2. In addition a shallow sub-circular cut [309] with a yellowish brown clay/silt sand fill (310). This feature was interpreted as a shallow tree throw.

Trench 3 data:

Length (m):	13.3	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.35	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	12.93	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	12.14
			Base	12.55			Base	11.78
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Deposit	10YR 2/1 Black silty sand with frequent roots.	13.3	1.8	0.15			
-	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with occasional chalk flecks.	13.3	1.8	0.20			
301	Cut	Linear, with steep sides and a slightly rounded base, aligned N-S.	> 2.05	2.50	1.10			
302	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay/silt with sand and frequent chalk fragments, flint fragments and flint nodules.	>2.05	1.5	0.65			
303	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay/silt with sand and moderate to frequent chalk fragments.	> 2.05	1.1	0.60			

Length (m):	13.3	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.35	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	12.93	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	12.14
			Base	12.55			Base	11.78
304	Cut	Sub-rectangular with straight sides, aligned N-S.			> 1.30	1.10	-	
305	Deposit	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown clay/silt with sand and moderate brick fragments.			> 1.30	1.10	-	
306	Structure	Brick pier; red machine made frogged brick (London Brick Co?) set on edge in cement mortar, aligned N-S.			> 1.20	0.90	-	
307	Cut	Sub-rectangular with straight sides, aligned E-W.			1.0	0.7	-	
308	Deposit	10YR 4/1 Dark grey clay/silt with sand and frequent modern brick fragments.			1.0	0.7	-	
309	Cut	Sub-circular with steep sides and a flattish base.			1.0	0.54	0.04	
310	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay/silt sand with occasional chalk flecks.			1.0	0.54	0.04	
311	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay/silt with sand and frequent chalk fragments, flint fragments and flint nodules.			> 2.05	0.45	1.1	
312	Cut	Linear, with steep sides and flat base.			>2.05	1.50	0.64	
-	Deposit	10YR 8/1 White chalk.			13.3	1.8	> 1.10	

Trench 4:

2.24 Trench 4 was located in the centre of site (Figure 2), to the northwest of Trench 3. It was orientated northeast-southwest and measured 14m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m (Plate 9).

2.25 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in this trench.

Trench 4 data:

Length (m):	14	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.35	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	13.72	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	13.49
			Base	13.34			Base	13.15
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Deposit	10YR 2/1 Black silty sand with frequent roots.	14	1.8	0.15			
-	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with occasional chalk flecks.	14	1.8	0.20			
-	Deposit	10YR 8/1 White chalk.	14	1.8	> 0.10			

Trench 5:

2.26 Trench 5 was located in the centre of site (Figure 2), to the east of Trench 4. It was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 21m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m (Plate 8).

2.27 At the northwest end of trench was a north-south aligned linear ditch [503] with sloping sides and a rounded base. The lower fill was yellowish brown silty sand (504) with frequent chalk fragments. Overlying (504) was a less stony silty sand fill (501), which was

truncated by a recut [505]. Filling the recut was a yellowish brown silty sand (502) with frequent chalk fragments. A single piece of medieval pottery was recovered the lower fill (504).

Trench 5 data:

Length (m):	21	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.40	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	13.76	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	12.48
		Base	13.35			Base	12.12
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Deposit	10YR 2/1 Black silty sand with frequent roots.	21	1.8	0.20		
-	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with occasional chalk flecks.	21	1.8	0.20		
501	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with occasional large chalk fragments.	> 2.50	0.85	0.50		
502	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments.	> 2.50	1.25	0.50		
503	Cut	Linear with sloping sides and a flattish base.	> 2.50	2.10	0.80		
504	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments.	> 2.50	> 0.85	0.30		
505	Cut	Linear with steep sides and flattish base.	> 2.50	1.05	0.48		
-	Deposit	10YR 8/1 White chalk.	21	1.8	> 0.80		

Trench 6:

2.28 Trench 6 was located in the northwest corner of the site (Figure 2), to the north of Trench 4. It was orientated northeast-southwest and measured 16m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.60m (Plate 11).

2.29 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in this trench.

Trench 6 data:

Length (m):	16	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.60	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.32	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.20
		Base	14.73			Base	14.57
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Deposit	10YR 2/1 Black silty sand with frequent roots and clinker.	16.0	1.8	0.20		
-	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments.	16.0	1.8	0.40		
-	Deposit	10YR 8/1 White chalk.	16.0	1.8	> 0.40		

Trench 7:

2.30 Trench 7 was located in the northeast corner of the site (Figure 2), to the north of Trench 5. It was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 20m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m (Plate 12).

2.31 The terminus of a north-south aligned linear ditch [701] was revealed towards the northwest end of the trench. The terminus contained a single fill (702), comprising yellowish brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments.

Trench 7 data:

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	15.78	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	14.59
			Base	15.31			Base	14.17
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Deposit	10YR 2/1 Black silty sand with frequent roots.	20.0	1.8	0.15			
-	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments.	20.0	1.8	0.30			
701	Cut	Sub-rectangular cut with steep sloping sides and a slightly rounded base.	2.2	1.6	0.80			
702	Deposit	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments.	2.2	1.6	0.80			
-	Deposit	10YR 8/1 White chalk.	20.0	1.8	> 0.10			

ARTEFACTS

Concordance

	Pottery		Flint		Comments
504	1	5	1	25	Flint (plough-struck)

Pottery

2.32 A single sherd of pottery, weighing 5g, was recovered from context (504), the fill of ditch [503]. The sherd is undiagnostic, though may form part of a base. It is in a St Neots type shell-tempered ware, dated to between the 9th and 11th centuries AD, with a grey core and an oxidised layer on either side of the core below the surfaces, which are brown.

2.33 Its presence indicates possible early medieval activity in the general vicinity of the present site.

Recommendations

2.34 Given the small size and undiagnostic nature of the material, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Flint

2.35 A single piece of possibly plough-struck flint, weighing 25g, was collected from context (504).

Recommendations

2.36 No further data of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from this item and it is recommended that it be discarded.

Discussion

3.1 The proposed development lies within the grounds of a residential property. To the north of the site is an old quarry and industrial area (Botany Pit), where significant Palaeolithic finds have been revealed in addition to Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery. This suggested that the present site might also be located in an area of archaeological sensitivity.

3.2 Seven trial trenches were excavated, between 7m and 21m long and 1.8m wide, giving a total coverage of 220m². The stratigraphy of the site consisted of chalk bedrock, overlain by between 0.20m and 0.40m of yellowish brown silty sand subsoil and up to 0.20m of black silty sand topsoil. In the southern portion of the site was a modern terrace that had been excavated for the construction of the bungalow that formerly occupied the site. Here the chalk was overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of soils and demolition debris.

3.3 Trenches 1, 2, 4 & 6 did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits.

3.4 Trenches 3, 5 and 7 revealed an approximately north-south aligned V-shaped ditch [301], [503] & [701]. In Trenches 3 and 5, this ditch contained three fills. The base fill (311) & (504) was yellowish brown clayey silty sand with frequent chalk fragments and occasional flint pebbles. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from this lower fill. Overlying (311) & (504) were fills (303) & (501), both consisting of a yellowish brown clayey silty sand with very few chalk inclusions. These fills were cut by [312] and [505] respectively, along the west side of the ditch, which represents a later recut of the ditch and was filled by (302) & (502), a yellowish brown clayey silty sand with frequent chalk inclusions. In Trench 7, at the north end of the site, was the sub-rectangular terminus of the ditch [701] that contained a single yellowish brown clayey silty sand fill (702) with few inclusions. This deposit was very similar to (303) & (501) and is probably a continuation of it.

3.5 The Purfleet area is known to have potential for Palaeolithic remains to survive amid extensive river terrace gravels deposited on the north side of the chalk ridge known as the Purfleet Anticline. After consultation with a specialist palaeo-archaeologist, Peter Allen, it was established that the site lies on the southern side of this ridge, away from the gravel deposits.

Conclusions

3.6 The evaluation of the site has revealed a single archaeological feature of potential medieval date, which is likely to represent a field boundary or other land division. The low number of finds, and the condition of the pottery recovered, suggests that the ditch is located some distance from settlement or domestic habitation.

3.7 On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might encounter further archaeological remains of medieval date is High, but the significance of those remains is likely to be Low. The risk of encountering remains of any other period is Low.

3.8 The position of the recorded ditch in relation to the proposed house footprints and access road suggests that the development will impact on the upper part of this feature, but there is the possibility that much of it will be preserved in situ.

Confidence Rating

3.9 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis the overall confidence rating for the work should be considered to be High.

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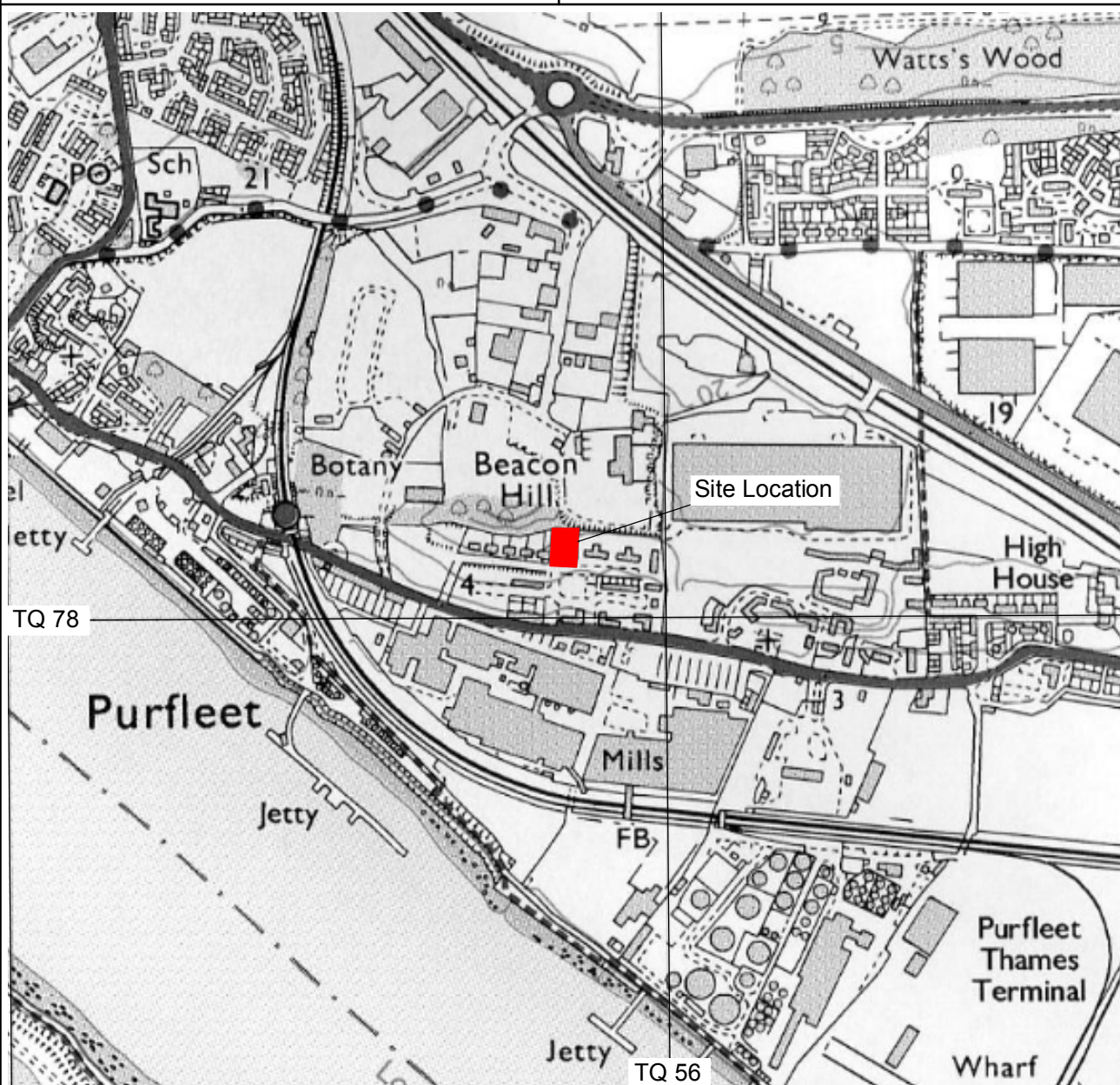
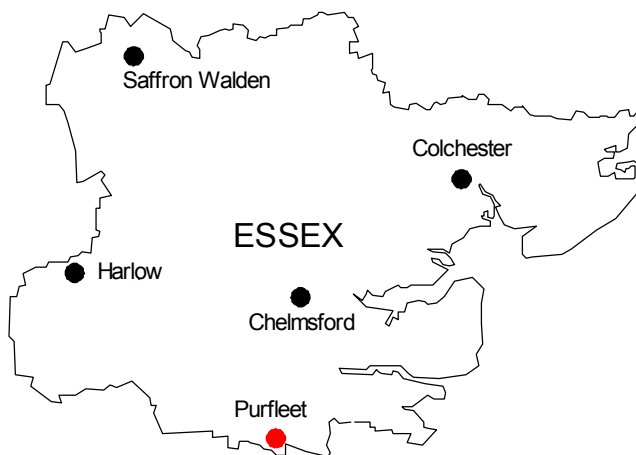
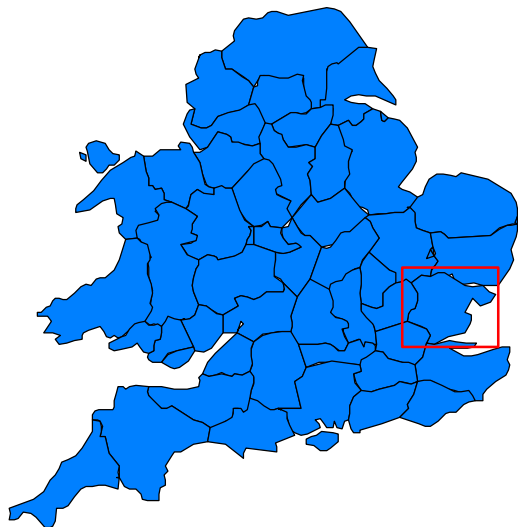
4. Illustrations

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THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

St. Margarets, Beacon Hill,
Purfleet, Essex

HN934

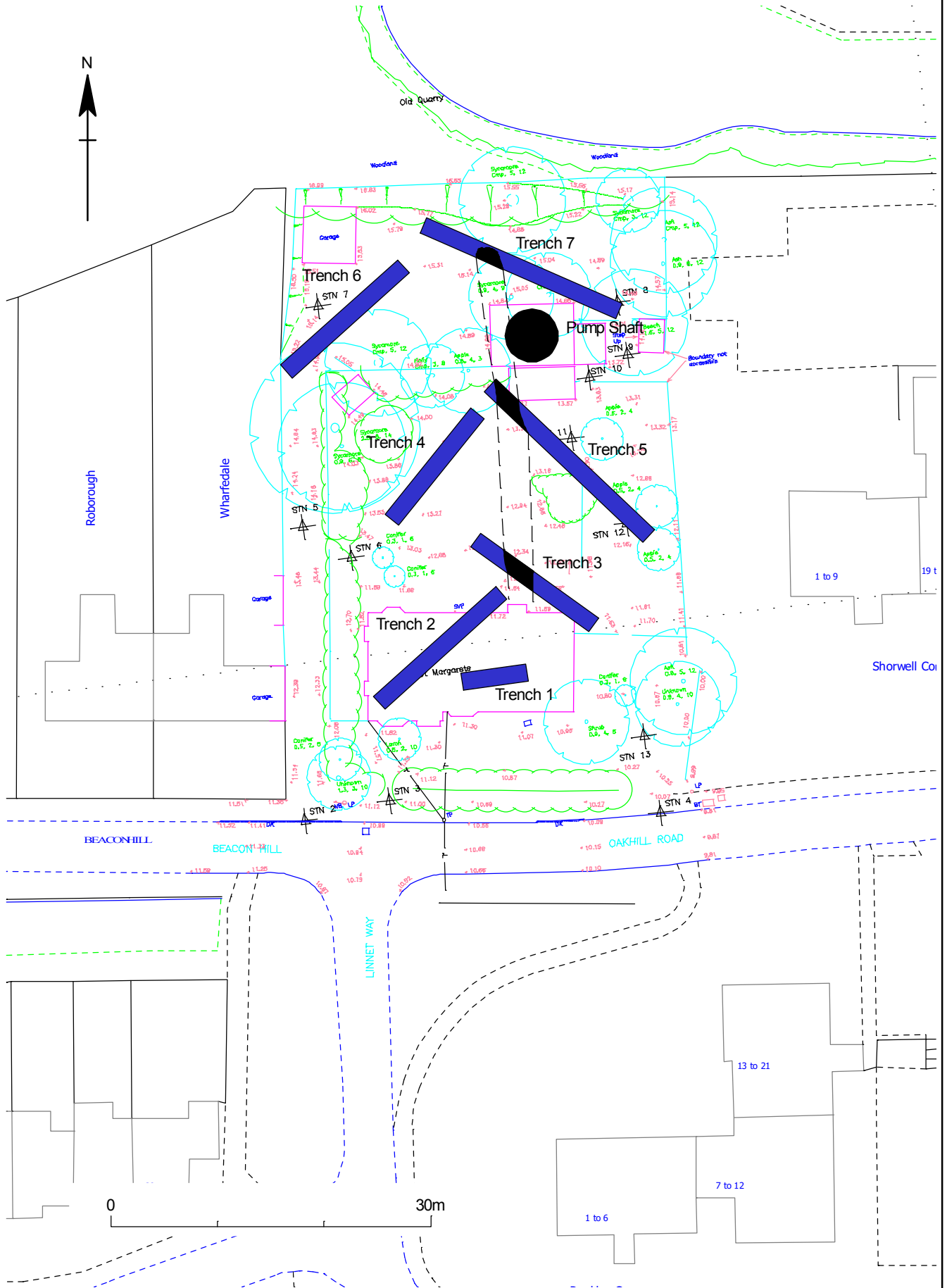


Site Location

Scale 1:1000

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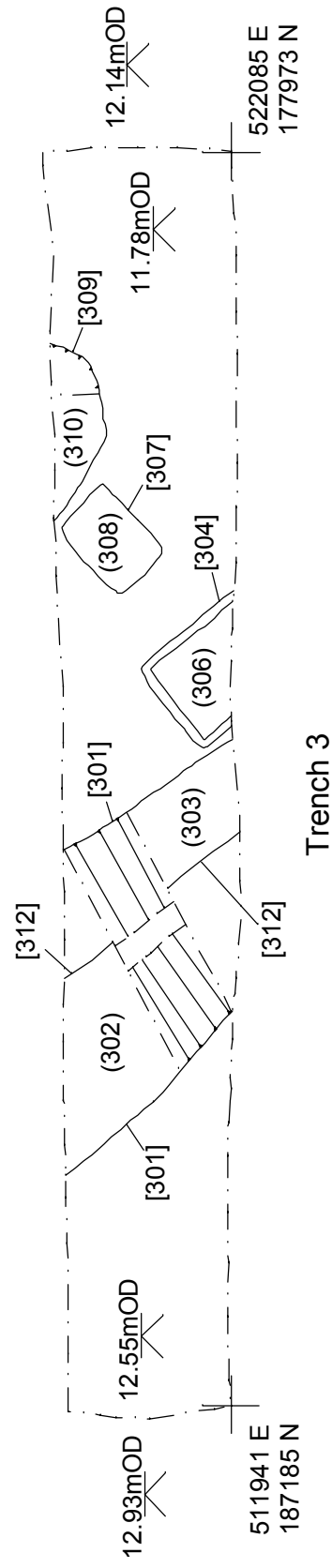
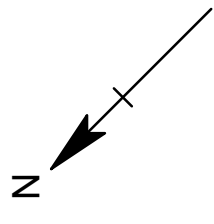
Figure 1



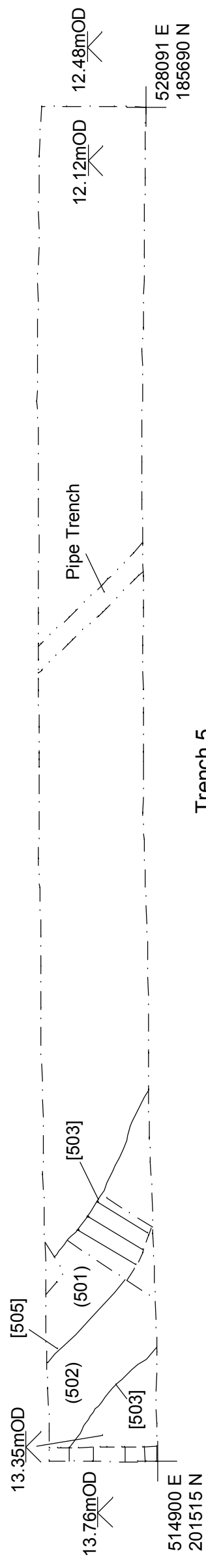
Trench location
(Plan courtesy of Huggins Bromage Ferguson Architects)

Scale 1:500

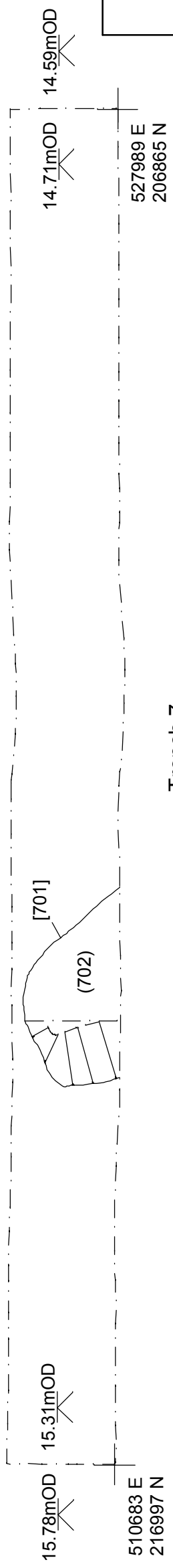
Figure 2



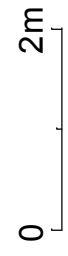
Trench 3



Trench 5



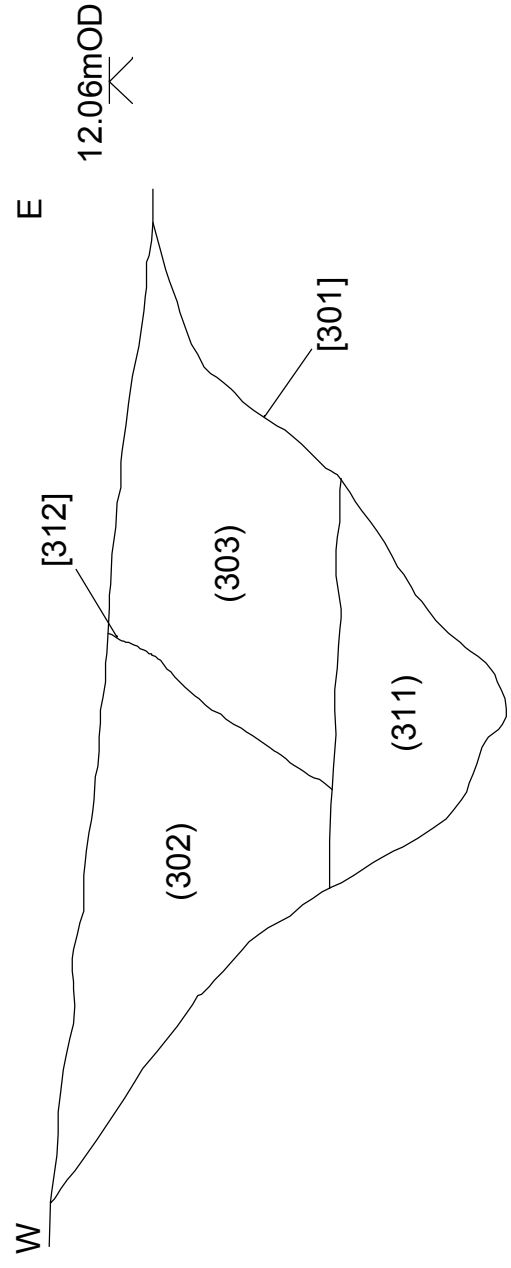
Trench 7



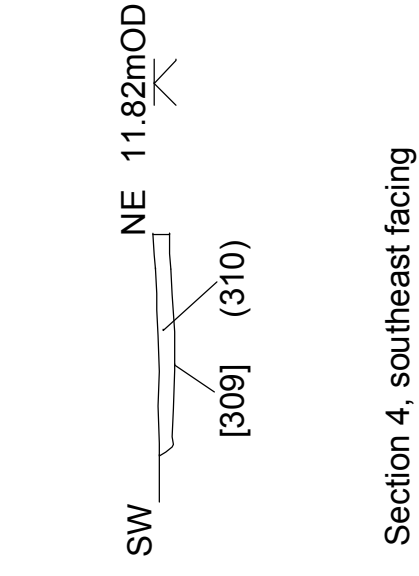
St Margarets, Purfleet, Essex.

HN934 Scale 1:75 Figure 3

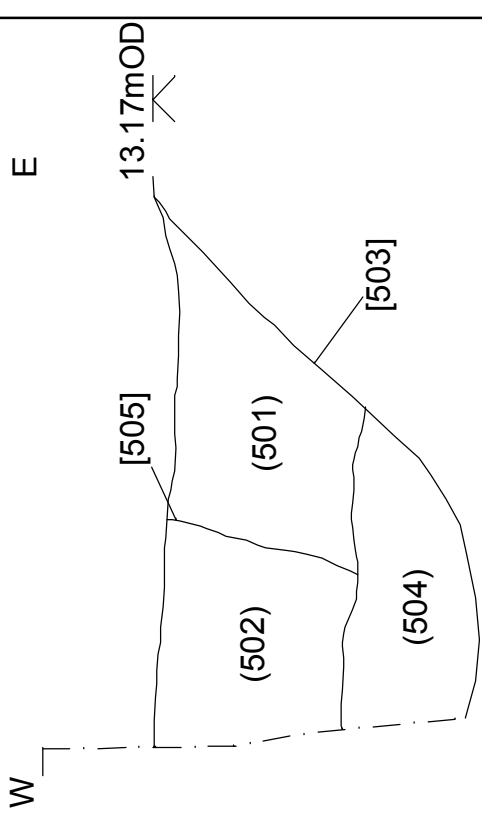
Plans of Trenches 3, 5 & 7.



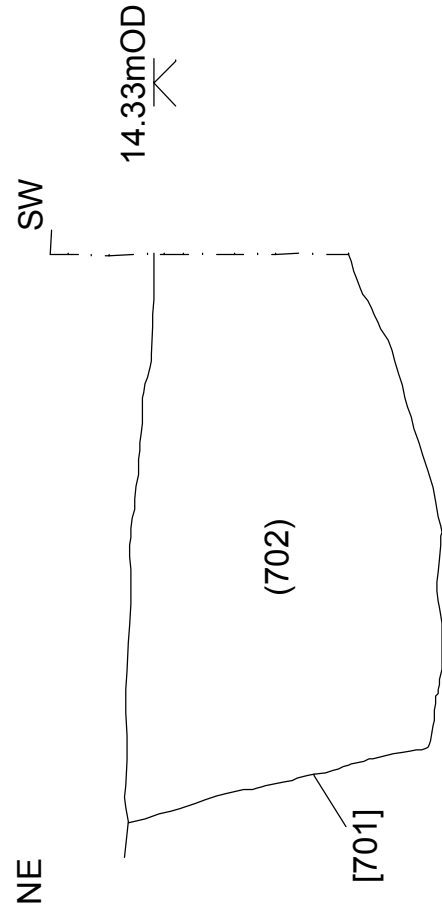
Section 3, south facing



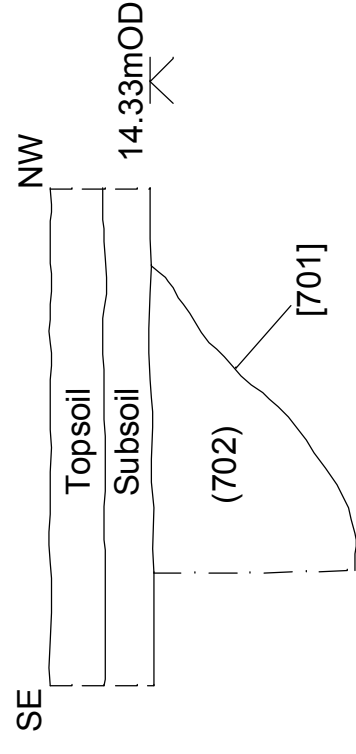
Section 4, southeast facing



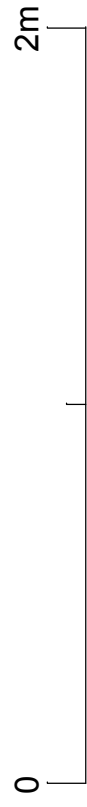
Section 5, south facing



Section 7, northwest facing



Section 8, northeast facing



St Margarets, Purfleet, Essex.

HN934 Scale 1:20 Figure 4

Sections 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking north.



Plate 2: General view of the site, looking southeast.



Plate 3: Trench 1, looking east.



Plate 4: Trench 2, looking southwest.



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking northwest.



Plate 6: Trench 5, looking northwest.



Plate 7: Ditch [301], looking north.



Plate 8: Feature [309], looking northwest.



Plate 9: Trench 4, looking southwest.



Plate 10: Ditch [503], looking north.



Plate 11: Trench 6, looking northeast.



Plate 12: Trench 7, looking southeast.



Plate 13: Ditch terminus [701], looking southeast.



Plate 14: Pump shaft, looking south.

Appendix

Oasis Data Entry Form

OASIS ID: heritage1-105503	
Project details	
Project name	Purfleet, St. Margaret's, Beacon Hill
Short description of the project	In response to a condition on the planning permission for development on land at St Margarets, Beacon Hill, Purfleet, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site. The evaluation of the site has revealed a single archaeological feature of potential medieval date, which is likely to represent a field boundary or other land division. The low number of finds, and the condition of the pottery recovered, suggests that the ditch is located some distance from settlement or domestic habitation. The Purfleet area is know to have potential for Palaeolithic remains to survive amid extensive river terrace gravels deposited on the north side of the chalk ridge known as the Purfleet Anticline. After consultation with a specialist palaeo-archaeologist, Peter Allen, it was established that the site lies on the southern side of this ridge, away from the gravel deposits. On the basis of the data gained in the course of this evaluation, the risk that the development might encounter further archaeological remains of medieval date is High, but the significance of those remains is likely to be Low. The risk of encountering remains of any other period is Low.
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2011 End: 26-08-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	THBH11 - Sitecode HN934 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX THURROCK PURFLEET St. Margaret's, Beacon Hill
Postcode	RM19 1RB
Study area	220 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5580 7809 51.4797636639 0.243897235784 51 28 47 N 000 14 38 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.68m Max: 15.31m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee

Type of sponsor	Development Corporation
Name of sponsor	Oakwold Homes Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive recipient	Thurrock Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Thurrock Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	St Margarets, Beacon Hill, Purfleet, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report No: 682
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 16 pages, 4 figures, 14 plates