

**CORNER OF LAMBS LANE NORTH AND NEW ROAD,  
RAINHAM**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



December 2012



CORNER OF LAMBS LANE NORTH AND NEW ROAD, RAINHAM

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: LLN12

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 53420 82330

PLANNING REF: PO745.12

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## ***Abstract***

*An archaeological evaluation, consisting of eight c.29m-long trenches, was undertaken on land at the corner of Lambs Lane North and New Road, Rainham, London Borough of Havering, before the construction of 9 two-storey residential blocks. It was believed that the evaluation could uncover remains of prehistoric, Roman, or medieval date, as other investigations in the area had uncovered such remains.*

*However, the evaluation broadly uncovered the same quite straightforward sequence of deposits – loose dark-brown garden topsoil (1) over more compacted grey-brown silty subsoil (2) over natural silty-gravelly-clay (3). The natural deposits were generally observed between 0.3 and 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface – c.7.15mOD – 7.5mOD.*

*Modern intrusions were observed in a few places across the site – such as the large pit in trench 5, and the modern gravel / dark soil features in trench 3. In general, however, the site was largely undisturbed.*

*Sections of at least two archaeological features were observed and recorded during this evaluation. Both of these appeared to be linear ditch features – context [4] (fills (5), (6), and (7)) in the western part of the site; and context [8] (fill (9) in the eastern part of the site. These are believed to be field / plot boundaries of some description – probably medieval in date, based on the pottery obtained from them.*

*In general, therefore, this evaluation uncovered very few archaeological features, with no sign of prehistoric or Roman activity, although two probable medieval field boundaries were recorded.*

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*Fig.1: Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map with permission of the HMSO. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd, London SE1 1RQ; licence no. AL 100031317.*

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** This report presents a summary of archaeological trenching carried out on land at the corner of Lambs Lane North and New Road, Rainham, in the London Borough of Havering (approximately centred at NGR TQ 53420 82330). It is bounded by New Road to the south-west, and Lambs Lane North to the south-east, with the 'Imperial Trading Estate' positioned directly to the north-east of the site, and other residential properties to the north-west (figs.1+2). The proposed development involves the construction of 9 two-storey residential blocks (containing a total of 28 units), accompanied by the construction of a new access road and associated car-parking and landscaping (Planning Ref: PO745.12) (see fig.10).

Compass Archaeology undertook the fieldwork between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

- 1.2** Previous archaeological investigations in the area have uncovered significant evidence for prehistoric activity – ranging from the Palaeolithic through to the Iron Age, but with particular evidence for Bronze and Iron Age activity. Investigations have also uncovered Romano-British remains, and medieval features. Cartographic evidence suggests that this site remained undeveloped during the post-medieval period.

The site also lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as designated by Havering Council.

- 1.3** Further to the condition of planning consent, English Heritage advised that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken on the site. It was advised that this should consist of a 5% sample of the site area – this took the form of eight trenches (each *c.*20m long by 2m wide), spread evenly around the area of the proposed development.

A subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the trenching, including the location of the trial trenches within the redevelopment footprint, was produced (Compass Archaeology, November 2012).

## **2. Acknowledgements**

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by John Glover of Lakehouse UK.

## **3. Background**

### **3.1 Location and topography**

The site is located at the corner of Lambs Lane North and New Road (centred at NGR TQ 53420 82330), and is currently an open space, although covered, in parts, by heavy foliage. The ground-level of the site is relatively consistent, at approximately 7.5mOD at the eastern end of the site, rising to *c.*8mOD at the western end.

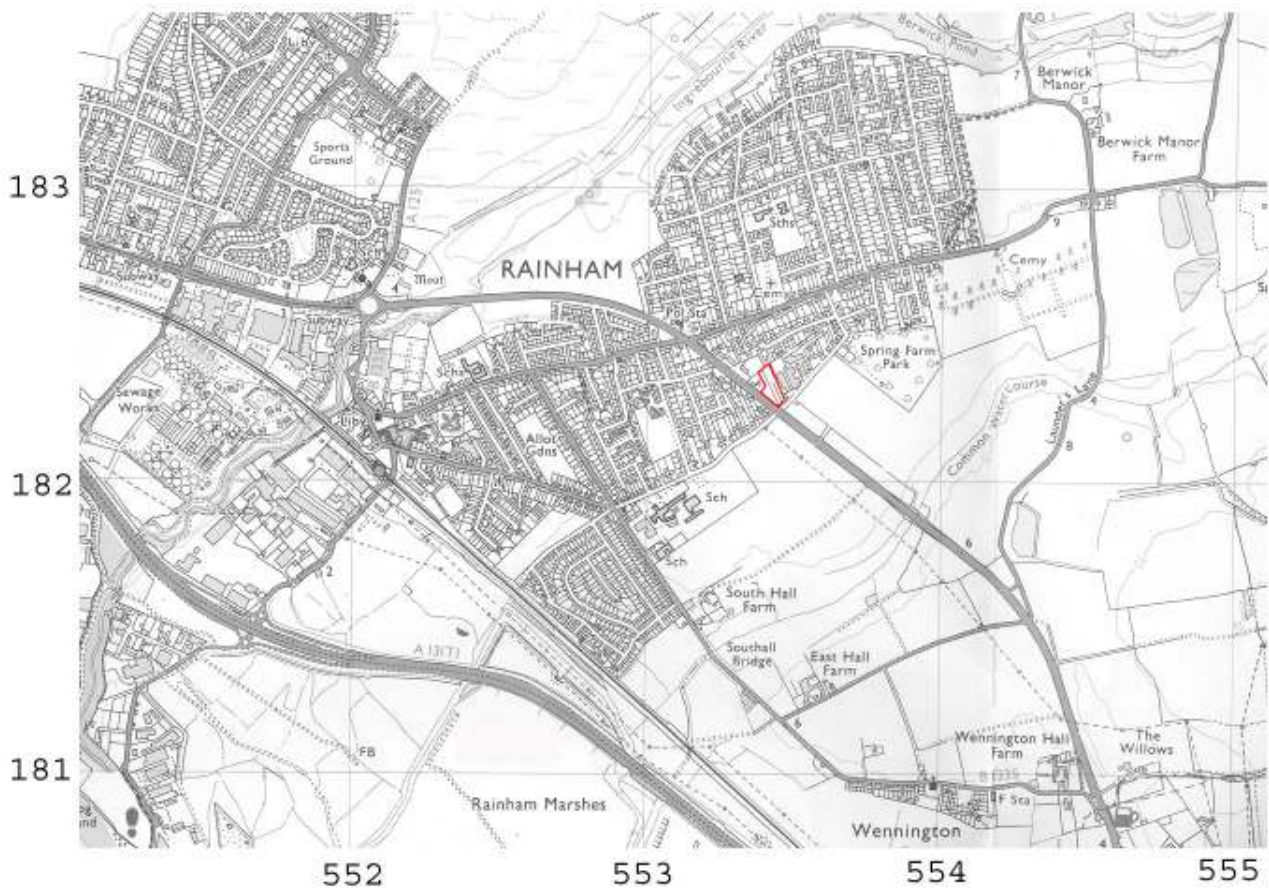


Fig. 1: OS Map, with site marked

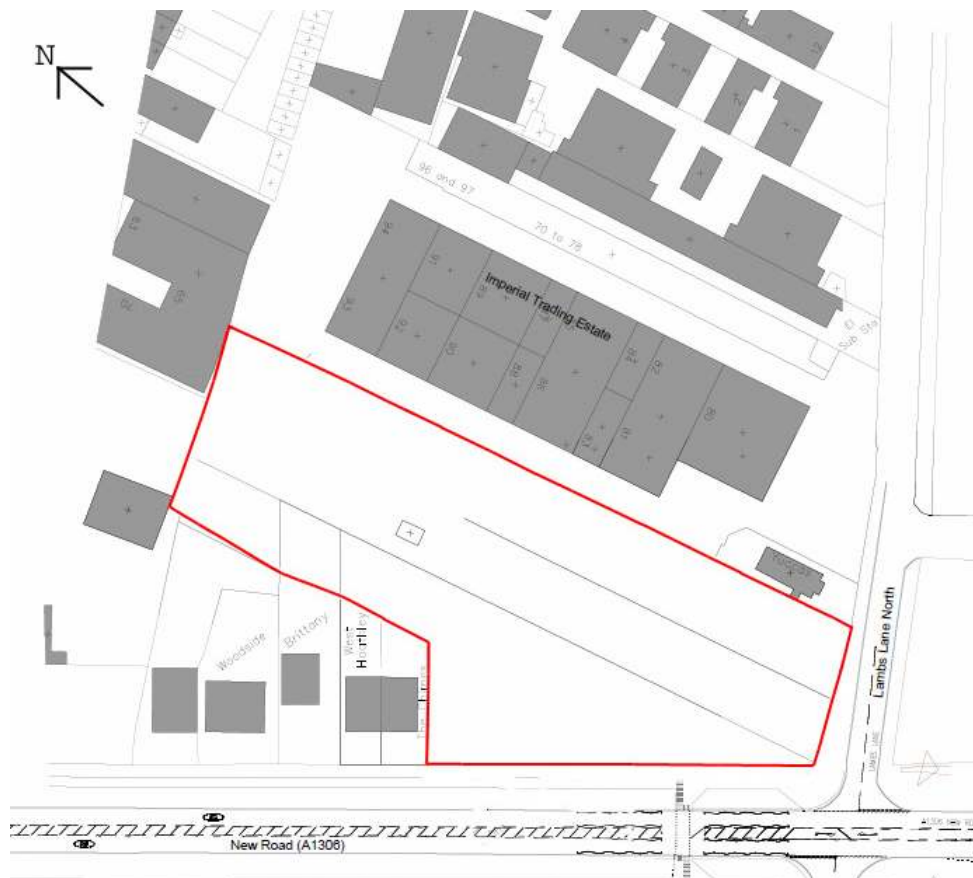


Fig. 2: Site outline plan



The geological survey (fig.3) indicates that the site lies on Taplow Gravel Deposits.

Geotechnical investigations (eight trial pits, five boreholes, and dynamic cone penetration in six places) were carried out on the site by ‘Soiltechnics’ in 2012. This revealed topsoil deposits (a dark brown organic sand) to depths of between 0.2m and 0.6m beneath the modern ground-surface (generally to depths of 0.3m), overlying Taplow Gravel Formation deposits (medium yellow brown sands and gravels) observed to beyond the limit of excavations (3.6m beneath ground-surface). London Clay deposits were seen at around 4.2m beneath the ground-surface in one dynamic cone penetration location.

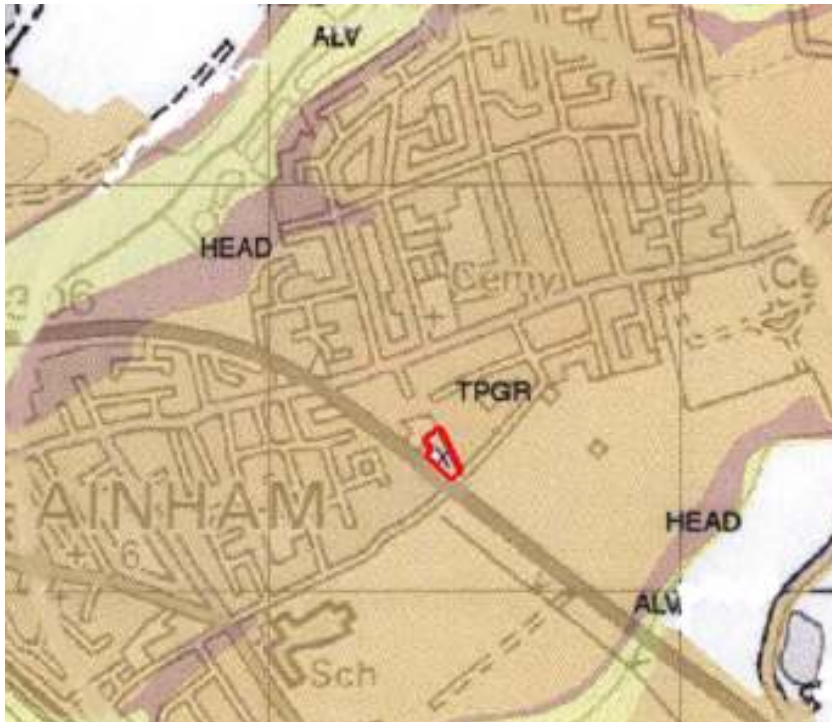


Fig. 3: Geology Map, with site marked. It lies on Taplow Gravel Deposits

## 3.2 Archaeology and history

### 3.2.1 Prehistoric

Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site have uncovered significant prehistoric remains indicating activity, and possible settlement, in this area.

Excavations by Archaeological Solutions in 2008 at Spring Farm (directly to the east of this site) uncovered Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age features (a pit, posthole, and two cremations).

Another evaluation further to the east at Moor Hall Farm, undertaken in 2009 by Archaeological Solutions, uncovered a small cluster of prehistoric features (pits, postholes, ditches, and gullies), believed to be either funerary or domestic features. Most of these were undated, although five contained prehistoric pottery. This furthers the evidence gained during 1979 rescue excavations on the site, which uncovered Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic remains, plus a possible Bronze Age cemetery.

Work carried out by AOC Archaeology between 1995 and 2004 at South Hall Farm (to the south of the site) uncovered prehistoric features including Neolithic pit alignments, numerous Bronze Age features (burnt flint mounds, a boundary ditch, a ring ditch, a house and gully, a possible droveway, etc), and Iron Age features (when the site is believed to have been divided into a formal field system with linear features, pits, and postholes).

The evidence from the above excavations suggests that this area of Terrace Gravels was utilised in prehistory. In particular, it would appear that the area was used in the Bronze and Iron Age, presumably for agriculture, but with the possibility of associated settlement (and funerary activity).

### **3.2.2 Roman**

Recent archaeological excavations indicate the existence of Roman activity in this area. The 1979 rescue excavations at Moor Hall Farm uncovered evidence for a possible Romano-British farm or settlement, and the work at South Hall Farm uncovered Romano-British ditches. This suggests that there was a continuity of activity and settlement from prehistory into the Roman period.

### **3.2.3 Saxon – Medieval**

The archaeological excavations in the area have also uncovered evidence for Saxon – medieval activity. For example, the recent work at Spring Farm uncovered evidence for a medieval enclosure, plus several other ditches. The evaluation at Moor Hall Farm also uncovered medieval ditches, gullies, and habitation layers, indicating medieval agriculture plus possible small-scale habitation. Furthermore, the work at South Hall Farm uncovered medieval linear features. The Domesday Book lists Moor Hall Farm as lying in the area of the medieval manor known as Launder's Manor, and the medieval settlement at Rainham clustered around the church (to the west of the site). It therefore seems likely that this area was used for agriculture and associated settlement during the medieval period.

### **3.2.4 Post-Medieval**

Cartographic evidence indicates that the site has not been developed in the post-medieval period, even when the surrounding areas were developed. Chapman and Andre's 1777 Map (fig.4) depicts the site in an area of open fields. The line of Lambs Lane North is visible to the north and south of the site, but does not appear to have been complete at this date. The 1805 OS Map (fig.5), depicts Lambs Lane North, with the site still falling within an 'open' area. The 1872-5 OS Map (fig.6) is broadly the same, however the individual fields are depicted on this map, with the site lying towards the northern boundary of a field. The site is depicted in the same way until the 1938 OS Map (fig.7), where New Road is depicted along the south-western boundary of the site, although the site itself remains undeveloped. By the time of the 1961 OS Map (fig.8), the site appears to have been divided into linear plots. The 1967 OS Map (fig.9) shows the area surrounding the site developed (as it is today), but with the site remaining as an area of 'open' land.

The site has, therefore, remained as an area of open land throughout the post-medieval period (and to the present-day), despite the development of the areas surrounding it.

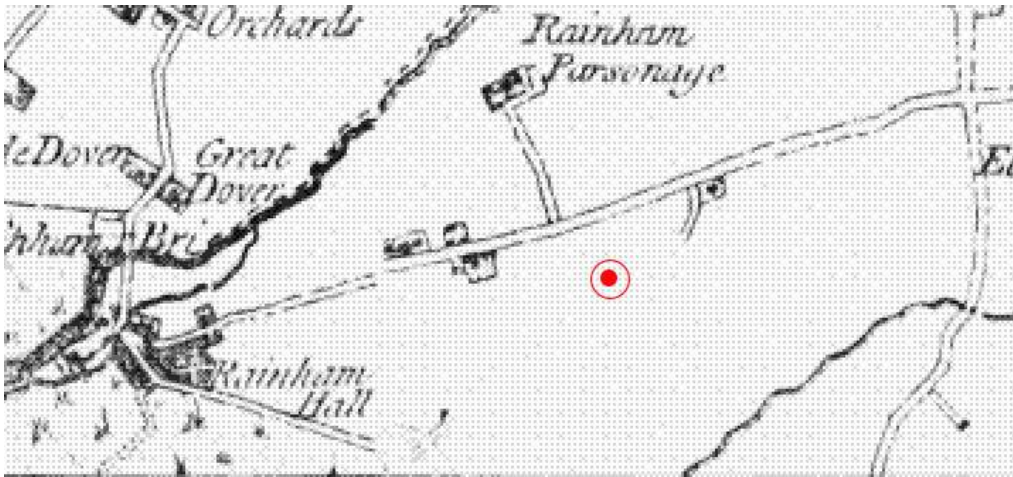


Fig. 4: 1777 Chapman and Andre Map, with site marked



Fig.5: 1805 OS Map, with site marked



Fig.6: 1872-5 OS Map, with site marked

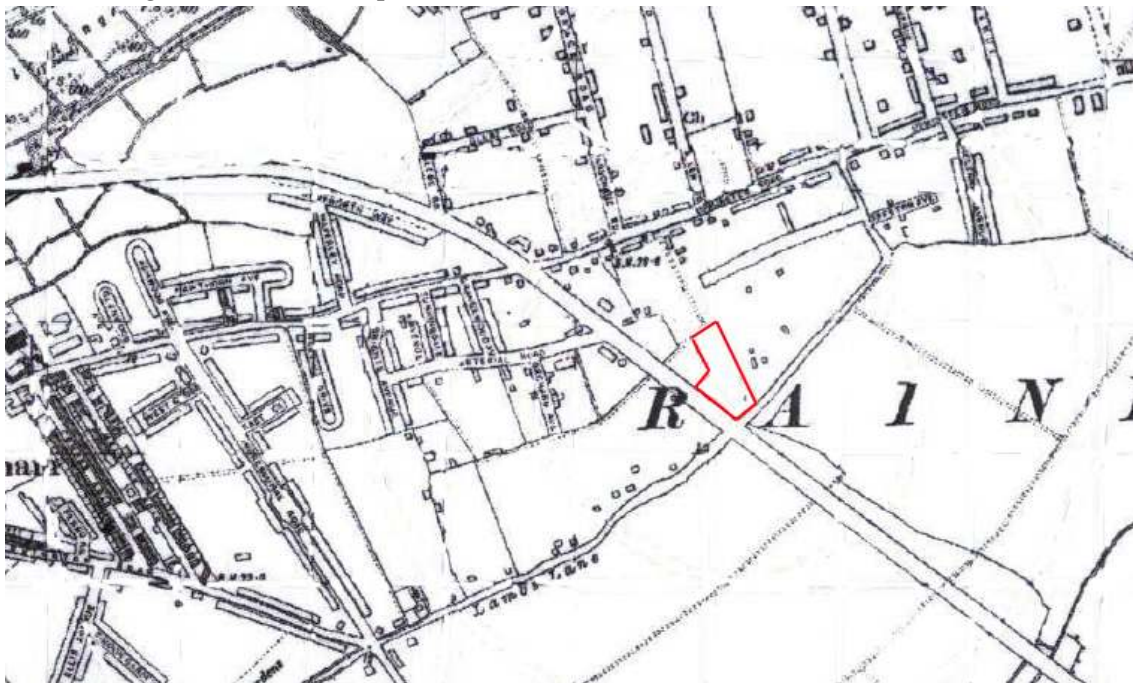


Fig.7: 1938 OS Map, with site marked

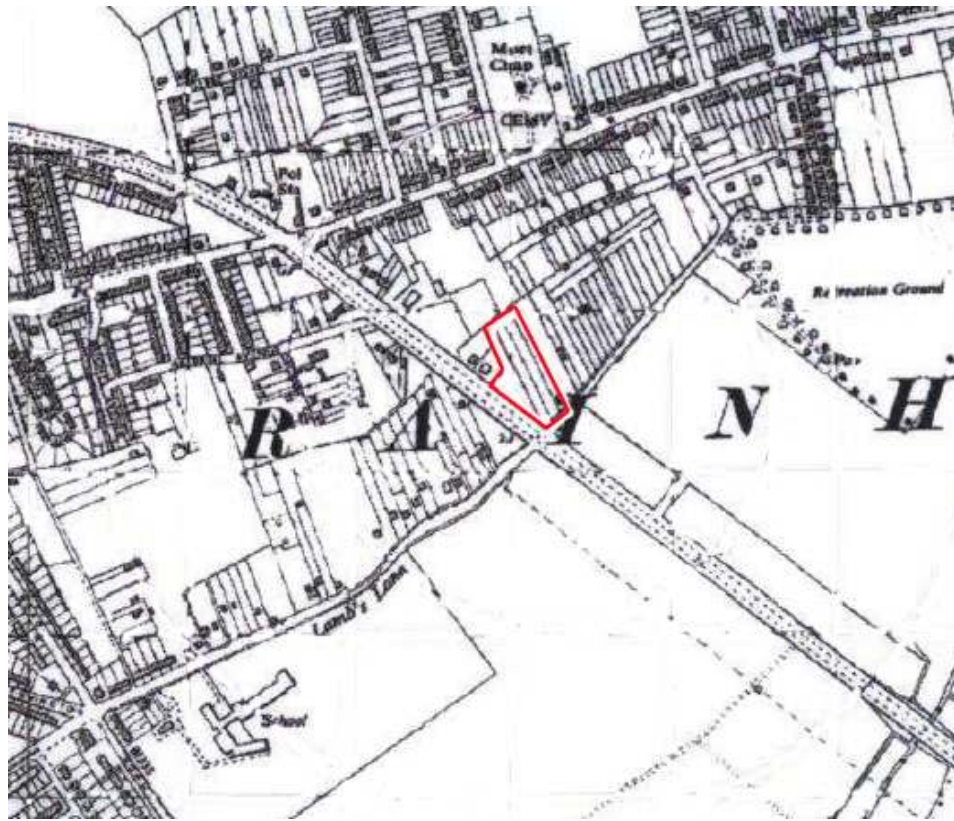


Fig.8: 1961 OS Map, with site marked

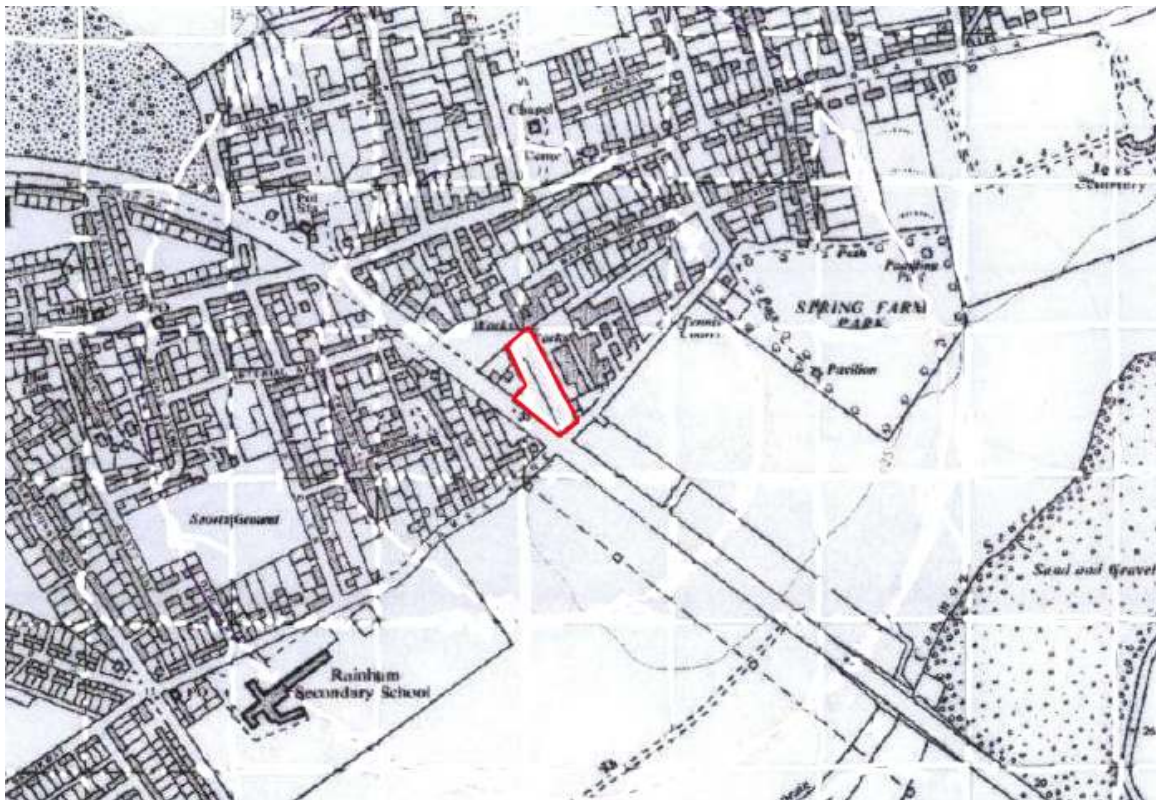


Fig.9: 1967 OS Map, with site marked

#### 4. Aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation

##### 4.1 The proposed development

The proposed development involves the construction of 9 two-storey residential blocks (containing 28 residential units). This will be accompanied by the construction of a new access road and associated car-parking and landscaping (see fig.10).



Fig.10: Proposed development plan

Archaeological trial trenching on the site was recommended by English Heritage as part of the Local Authority planning process, in response to a condition of the planning consent.

##### 4.2 Archaeological research questions

The site presented an opportunity to address several research questions, as defined in the preliminary Written Scheme of Investigation (*Compass Archaeology, November 2012*):

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity in the site-area? What period does this date from, and what form does this take (cremations, pits, linear ditches, postholes, etc)? What does this suggest about prehistoric activity in this area – was it broadly agricultural; was there any form of settlement, etc?

- Is there any evidence for Roman activity in the area? What form does this take (pits, ditches, postholes, etc), and what does this suggest about the Roman activity in this area (settlement, either individual farmsteads or more intensive occupation; agriculture, etc)?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon and / or medieval activity in the site-area? What form does this take (habitation layers, linear ditches, etc) and what does this suggest about the type and intensity of Saxon / medieval activity in this area?
- At what levels do any archaeological or geological deposits survive across the area?
- Can the watching brief works inform on the research questions of the Museum of London and English Heritage's '*A Research Framework for London Archaeology*' publication 2002?

## 5. Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with the English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards for Archaeological Work*, July 2009) and those of the Institute for Archaeologists. Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Institute. The Written Scheme was produced prior to the start of fieldwork.

Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team had valid CSCS Cards (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, and steel-toe-capped boots as required.

- 5.2 The work comprised of eight trenches located in the area of the proposed development, as indicated on fig.11. These trenches were all approximately 20m in length (varying slightly due to obstructions, etc), and 2m in width. This covered an area of approximately 320m<sup>2</sup>, within an area of c.6300m<sup>2</sup> (just over 5% of the footprint).

Initial clearance of the trial trenches was undertaken by a mechanical excavator (JCB using a ditching bucket and working under archaeological supervision). Modern topsoil and undifferentiated subsoil was removed to reveal the natural deposits, c.0.3 – 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface. This was then cleaned, recorded, and photographed by the archaeologists, and any features appropriately investigated.

- 5.3 The deposits and features exposed in the trenches were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan (scale of 1:20) and section (scale 1:10). The recording system used followed the MoL Site Manual for on-site work. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used were directly compatible with those developed by the Museum. The fieldwork record was supplemented by photography as appropriate. Levels were derived from the existing site survey (related to the OS GPS Active Network and transformed using the OSGM01 and OSTN01 Model) (Laser Surveys Drawing No. 596-P(002)).

The trench position was located to features on the site survey (trees, drain covers, the site boundary, etc), by taped measurement, with the resultant plan in turn related as a 'best fit' to the Ordnance Survey grid as derived from the 1:1250 map.

The records from the work have been allocated the site code: LLN12 by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. An ordered and indexed site archive will be compiled in line with the MoL *Guidelines* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archive.



## **6. The archaeological evaluation**

### **6.1 Summary of the findings**

Eight trial trenches were dug from the present ground-surface (*c.*7.6 – 7.8mOD). Excavation was to the top of the natural deposits, removing modern deposits and undifferentiated soil horizons.

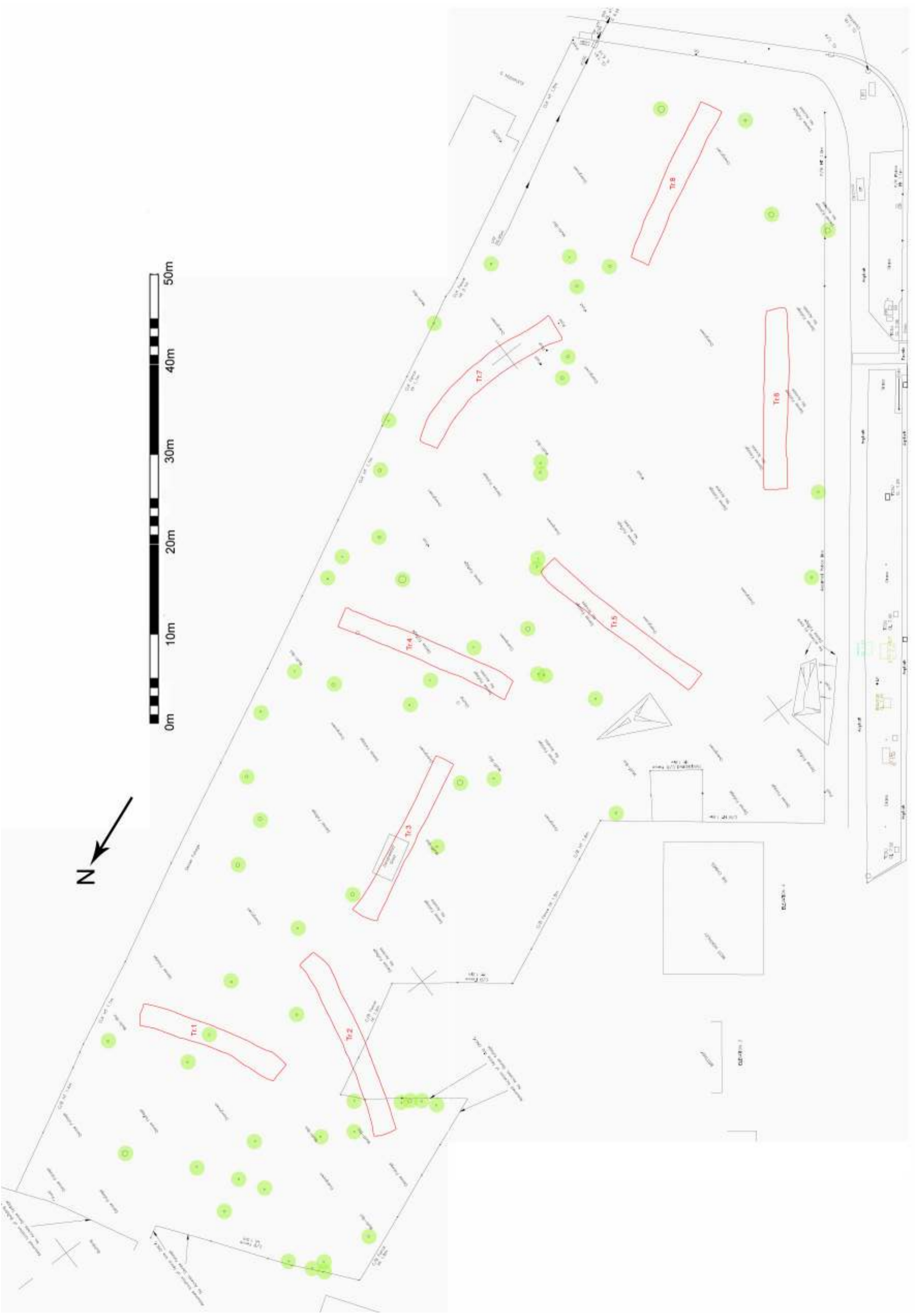
The sequence of deposits was broadly the same in all trenches, with many trenches revealing no features of archaeological significance. The loose dark-brown topsoil (*c.*0.12 – 0.3m thick) overlay a more compacted grey-brown sandy-silt subsoil (*c.*0.15 – 0.23m thick), over the natural deposits (generally a yellow-brown silty-sandy-gravelly-clay deposit). The natural deposits were observed at depths of between 0.3 and 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface (7.15 – 7.5mOD).

A probable linear ditch feature (contexts [4], (5), (6), and (7)) was observed in trenches 2, 3, and 4 – this was between 0.15m and 0.25m in depth; *c.*1.2 – 1.7m in width; and observed running in a general northwest - southeast direction. Its fill was a grey-brown silty deposit, and contained pebbles and one sherd of medieval pottery. It is believed that this was a medieval field boundary of some sort.

Another probable plot boundary was observed in trench 8. This was *c.*0.25m in depth; 3.2m in width; and observed running on a broadly east – west direction for 2.5m. Its fill was a grey-brown silty deposit, with pebbles, and one sherd of (residual) medieval pottery. It is also believed that this is a medieval field boundary.

The following sections discuss each trench individually, and include photographs, plans, and sections.

Fig.11: Plan showing trench locations



## 6.2 List of recorded contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Deposit Loose dark-brown silty deposit, with lots of root disturbance. Observed across the whole site, for a general thickness of 0.12 – 0.3m.	Topsoil.
2	Deposit More compacted grey-brown sandy-silt deposit, disturbed occasionally by root activity, etc. Observed across the whole site, for a general thickness of 0.15 – 0.23m.	Subsoil.
3	Deposit Compact orange-brown silty-sandy-gravelly-clay deposit. Observed across the whole site, at a general depth of between 0.3 and 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface (7.15mOD – 7.5mOD).	Natural deposits – uppermost part of Taplow Gravel Formation.
4	Cut Linear cut, observed in trenches 2, 3, and 4. Observed running broadly east – west across the site, with a width of between 1.2m and 1.7m. Base observed at between 6.97mOD and 7.15mOD (depth of between 0.15 – 0.25m).	Cut for linear feature – probable medieval field boundary.
5	Fill of [4], in trench 2. Grey-brown silty deposit, with pebbles in (and one pottery sherd).	Fill of linear feature [4].
6	Fill of [4], in trench 3. Grey-brown silty deposit.	Fill of linear feature [4].
7	Fill of [4], in trench 4. Mid-grey-brown clayey-silt deposit with iron pan flecks in.	Fill of linear feature [4].
8	Cut Linear cut, observed in trench 8. Observed running broadly northwest – southeast across the trench, with a width of 3.2m. Base observed at 6.65mOD (depth of 0.25m).	Cut for linear feature – probable medieval field boundary.
9	Fill of [8], in trench 8. Grey-brown silty deposit, with pebbles in (and one pottery sherd).	Fill of linear feature [8].

### 6.3 Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned approximately northeast-southwest, in the far northwestern part of the site. It measured approximately 17m in length, by 2.5m in width, and was excavated to a general depth of 0.5m (*c.* 7.35mOD).

The loose dark-brown topsoil (context 1) was observed for *c.*0.17m in depth, overlying a grey-brown sandy-silt subsoil (context 2), observed for *c.*0.18m in depth. This overlay an orange-brown silty-clay natural deposit, with occasional pieces of gravel in. This was observed *c.*0.35m beneath the modern ground-surface (at *c.* 7.5mOD).

No archaeological finds or features were observed in this trench.



Fig.12: Photo of trench 1, looking northeast

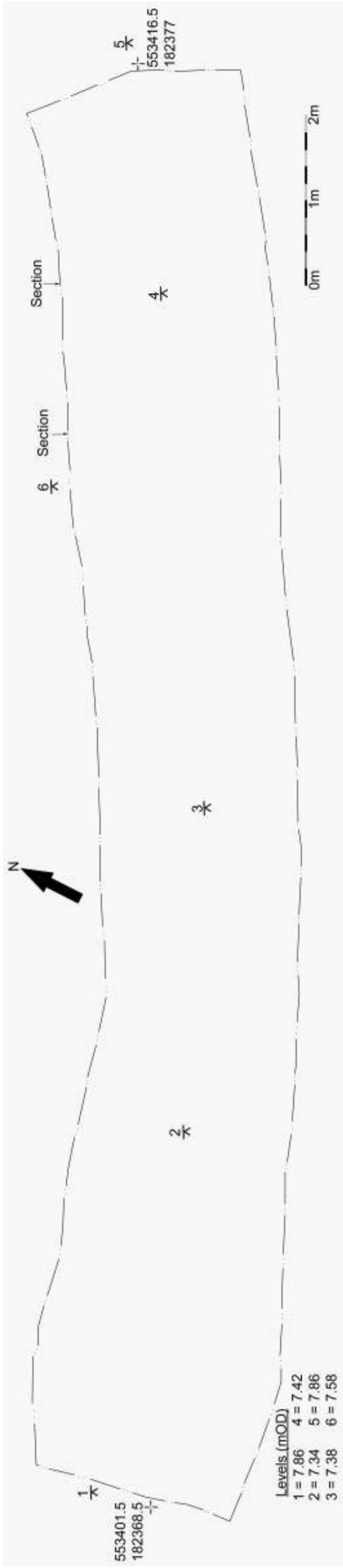


Fig.13: Plan of trench 1



Fig.14: Photo of section in trench 1

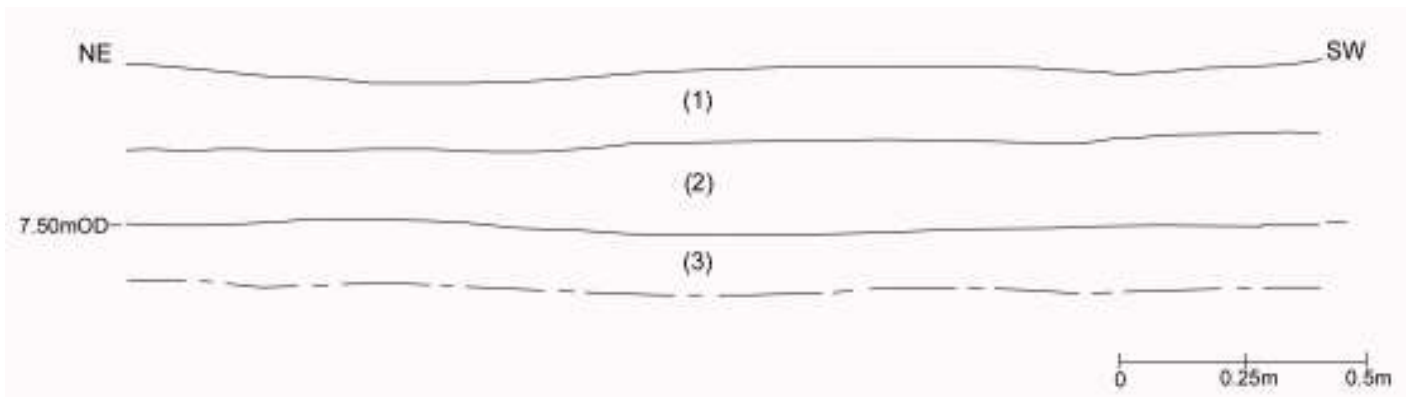


Fig.15: Section in trench 1

## 6.4 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned approximately southeast – northwest, just to the south of trench 1. It was approximately 21.5m in length, by *c.*2.3m in width, and was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.5m (*c.*7.3mOD).

The dark-brown topsoil (context 1) was observed for *c.*0.2m in depth, overlying the sandy-silt subsoil (context 2), for 0.15m in depth. This overlay the sterile natural deposit (context 3) – light yellow-orange clayey-silt deposit, with gravel in. This was observed *c.*0.35m beneath the modern ground-surface (*c.*7.45mOD).

A linear feature (context 4) was observed towards the eastern end of this trench, running approximately north-south across the trench. This measured *c.*1.7m in width (north-south), and was observed running for an east-west length of approximately 3m (and continuing into both sections). Its base was recorded at 7.05mOD, giving it a depth of approximately 0.25m. Its fill (context 5) was a grey-brown silty deposit, with pebbles in. One piece of pottery was recovered from this fill – this was dated to the mid-12<sup>th</sup> to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. It seems most likely that this feature is the same as that observed in trenches 3 and 4 (see discussion below), and that it formed a medieval field boundary of some form.



Fig.16: Photo of trench 2, looking approximately west. Linear feature [4] is visible under the scale

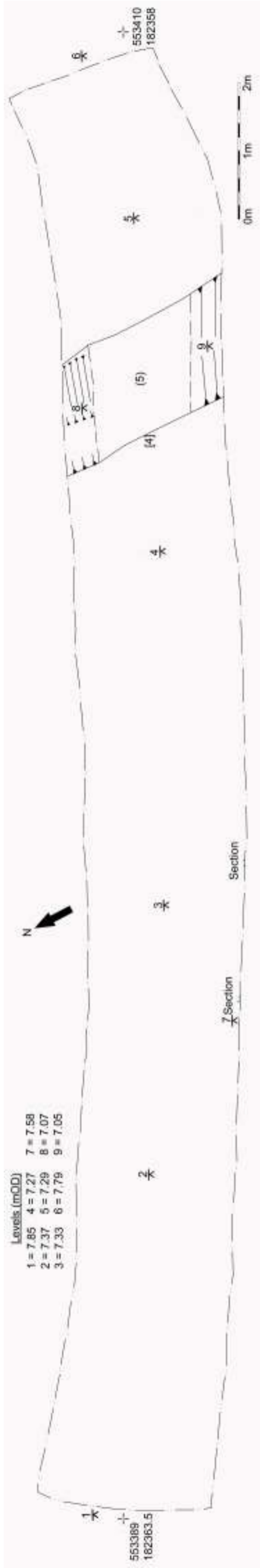


Fig.17: Plan of trench 2





Fig.18: Photo of section in trench 2

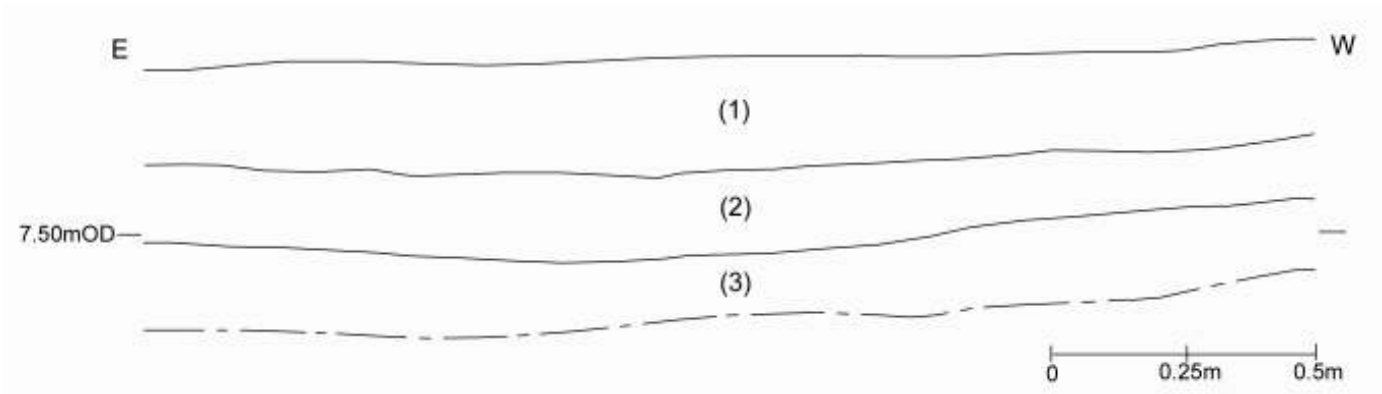


Fig.19: Section in trench 2



Fig.20: Photo of excavated linear feature [4], in the northern section of trench 2

## 6.5 Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned approximately northwest - southeast, to the south of trench 2. It measured 19.5m in length, by approximately 2.2m in width. It was excavated to a general depth of *c.*0.5m (*c.*7.3mOD).

The same sequence of topsoil (context 1 - 0.14m thick) overlying subsoil (context 2 – 0.16m thick) was observed. The natural deposits (context 3) were observed at *c.*7.5mOD (*c.*0.3m beneath the modern ground-surface). This was a sterile light yellow silty-clay deposit.

An area of modern disturbance was observed towards the northern end of the trench (cut into the natural). This took the form of a roughly square area of gravel (*c.*1m X 1m), with a drainpipe in the centre of it. This cut an area of darker soil, just to the west, measuring approximately 0.64m north-south, by 0.6m east-west (continuing into the western section). These were both clearly modern intrusions, and of no archaeological interest.

The linear cut feature [4] was also observed in the northern part of this trench, running approximately north (from the northern section) – southeast (disappearing into the eastern section). This was observed for a length of *c.*4.4m, with a maximum width of *c.*1.3m. Its base was recorded at 7.15mOD, giving it a depth of *c.*0.15m. The difference in depths between here and trench 2 suggests that the feature does not have an absolutely flat base. Its fill (context (6)) was similar to context (5) – a grey-brown silty deposit. The position and alignment of this feature makes it a continuation of that seen in trench 2, and it was probably a field boundary or something similar.



Fig.21: Photo of trench 3, looking southeast. Linear feature [4] is visible to the left of the scale, and the area of modern disturbance just above the scale

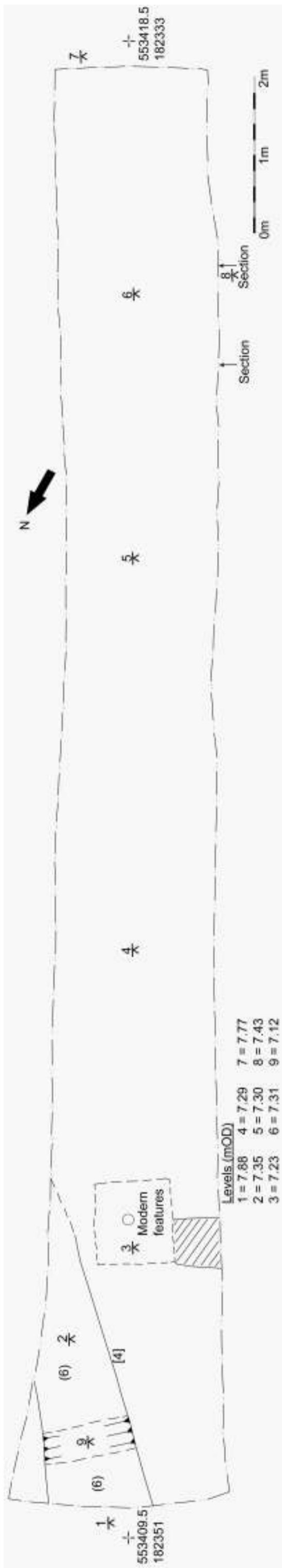


Fig.22: Plan of trench 3



Fig.23: Photo of section in trench 3

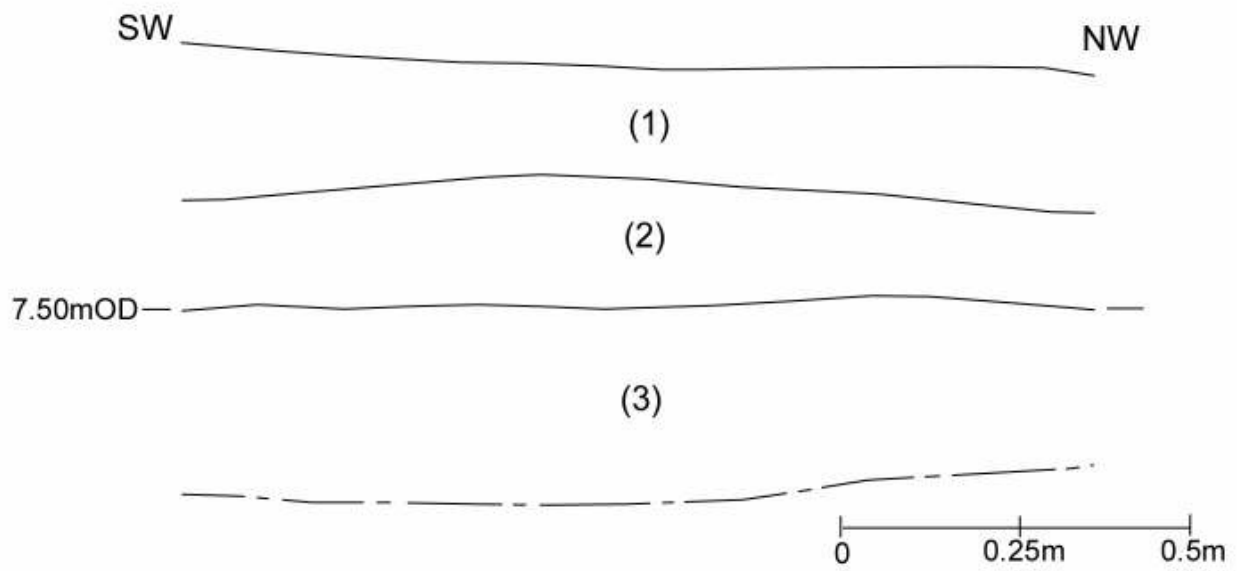


Fig.24: Section in trench 3



Fig.25: Photo of excavated linear feature [4], in the northern part of trench 3

## 6.6 Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned northeast - southwest, and positioned to the south of trench 3. It measured *c.*19.7m in length, by 2.2m in width. It was excavated to depths of 0.6m (*c.* 7.15mOD).

The topsoil in this trench (context 1) was *c.*0.3m thick, overlying *c.*0.2m of subsoil (context 2). The natural deposit (context 3) was observed *c.*0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface (at *c.*7.25mOD), and was a yellow-orange gravelly silty-clay deposit.

The only feature of archaeological interest was the linear cut [4], observed towards the southwestern part of the trench. This was observed running broadly northwest - southeast, across the whole width of the trench (*c.*2.25m), and continuing into both sections. It measured approximately 1.2m in width, and its base was recorded at 6.97mOD (depth of 0.2m). Its fill (context (6)) was a mid-grey-brown clayey-silt deposit, with iron pan flecks in. This is clearly a continuation of the feature seen in trenches 2 and 3 – thought to be a linear field boundary.



Fig.26: Photo of trench 4, looking northeast

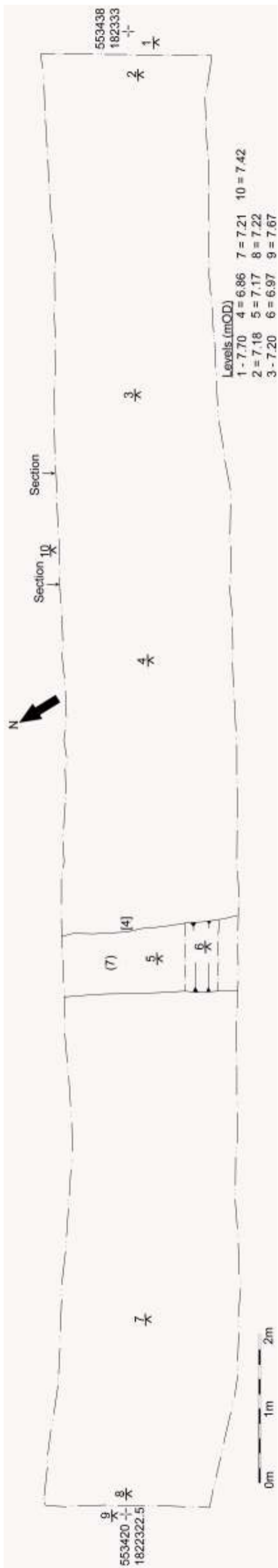


Fig.27: Plan of trench 4





Fig.28: Photo of section in trench 4

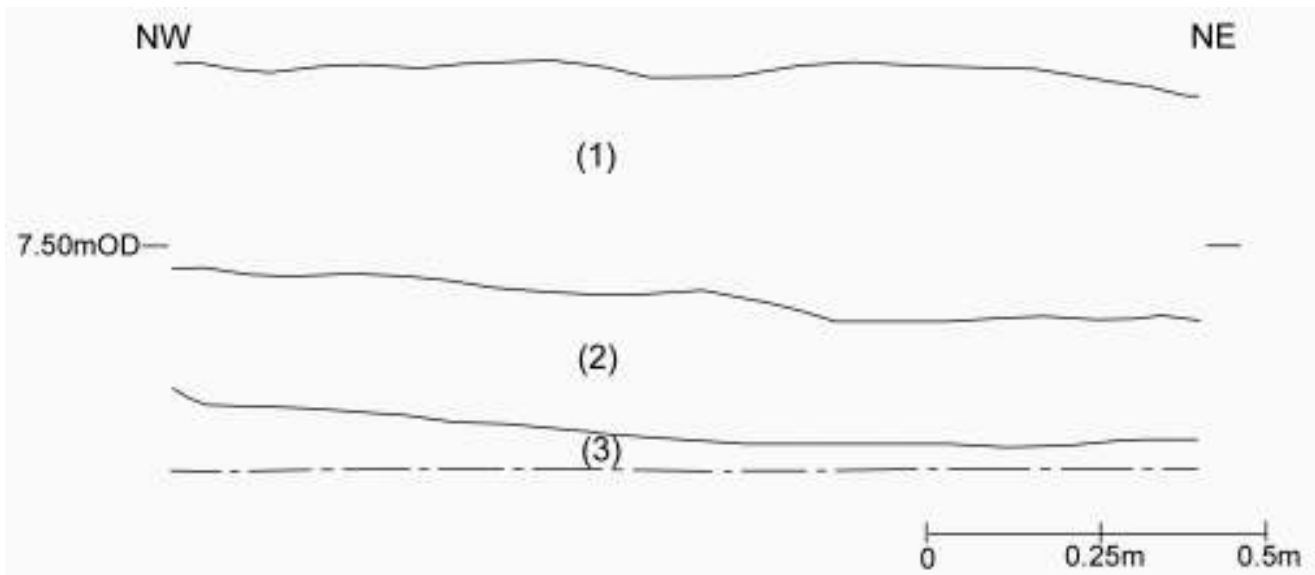


Fig.29: Section in trench 4

## 6.7 Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned broadly east – west (to the south of trench 4), and measured 20.4m in length. It was *c.*2.1m in width, and was excavated to a general depth of 0.6m (*c.*7.1mOD), with one area excavated to a deeper depth of *c.*6.4mOD (*c.*1.3m beneath the modern ground-surface).

The general sequence – topsoil (context 1) overlying subsoil (context 2) overlying natural (context 3) was observed here. The natural deposit here was an orange silty-clayey-gravel deposit, observed *c.*0.4m beneath the modern ground-surface (*c.*7.3mOD).

No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed in this trench. Instead, a large amount of modern disturbance was observed at the western end of the trench. This took the form of a cut (*c.*2m in width (east-west), stretching the whole 2.1m across the north-south extent of the trench, and *c.*1.3m in depth). This was filled with a mixture of redeposited natural silty-gravel deposits, and darker topsoil which included pieces of plastic sheeting and chipboard. Another (broadly circular) modern pit was observed just to the west of this – observed for *c.*2.1m east-west and *c.*0.9m north-south, but continuing into the northern and western sections. This contained a mixture of soils, with pieces of plastic sheeting and building rubble. These are both clearly modern features, and of no archaeological merit.



Fig.30: Photo of trench 5, looking west

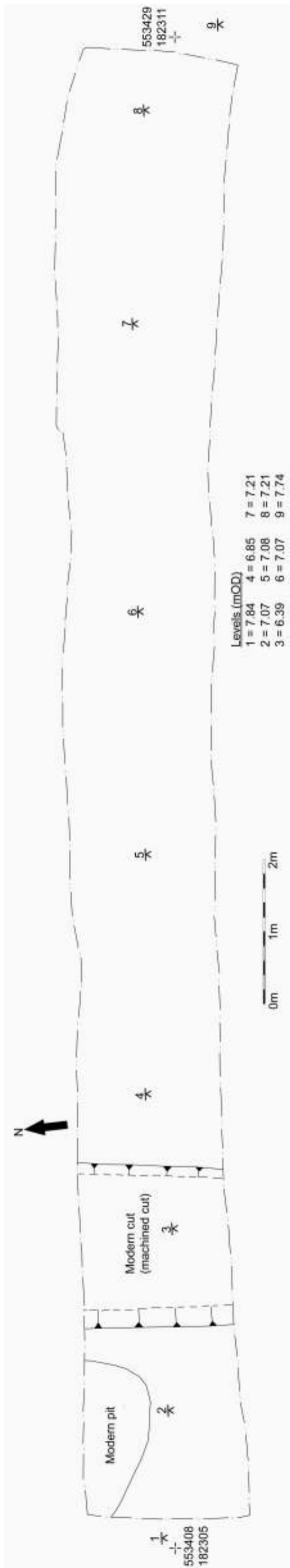


Fig.31 : Plan of trench 5

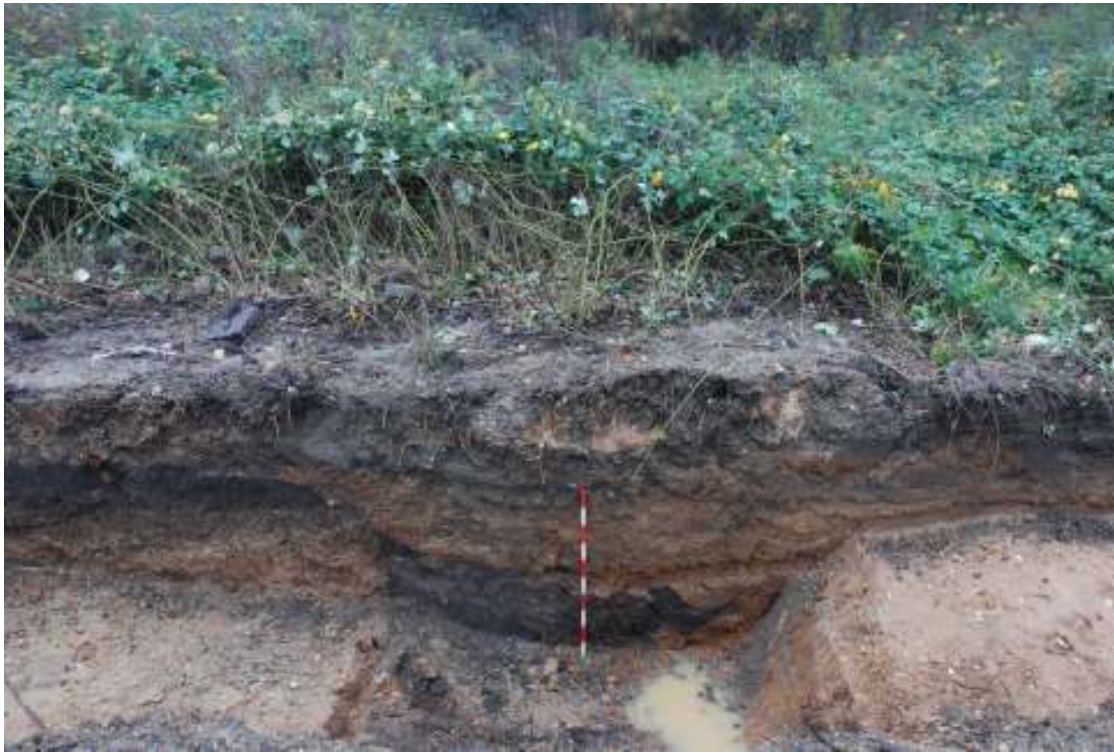


Fig.32: Photo of southern section of trench 5, showing the modern pit

## 6.8 Trench 6

Trench 6, positioned in the far southwestern part of the site and aligned northwest - southeast, was 19.75m in length and 2.5m in width. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.5m (7.1mOD).

The loose dark-brown topsoil (context 1) was observed for a thickness of *c.*0.12m, overlying the more compact grey-brown subsoil (context 2), for a thickness of *c.*0.23m. The natural deposit (an orange-brown silty clay-gravel deposit – context 3) was observed 0.35m beneath the modern ground-surface, at *c.*7.25mOD.

No archaeologically significant finds or features were observed. One modern pit was observed at the far southern end of the trench – this measured *c.*1.5m north-south (continuing into the southern section), by 0.8m east-west. Its fill was a mixture of dirty gravel, redeposited gravel, and patches of bright yellow sandy-gravel.



Fig.33: Photo of trench 6, looking southeast

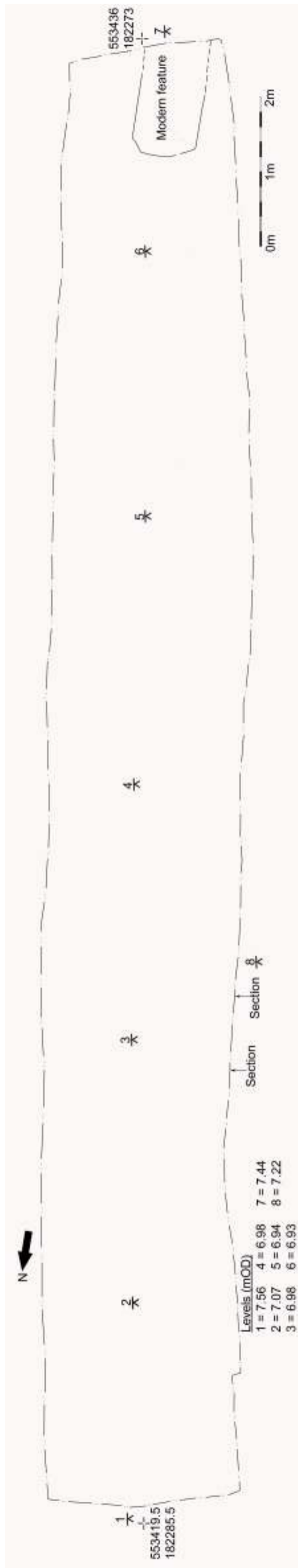


Fig.34: Plan of trench 6



Fig.35: Photo of section in trench 6

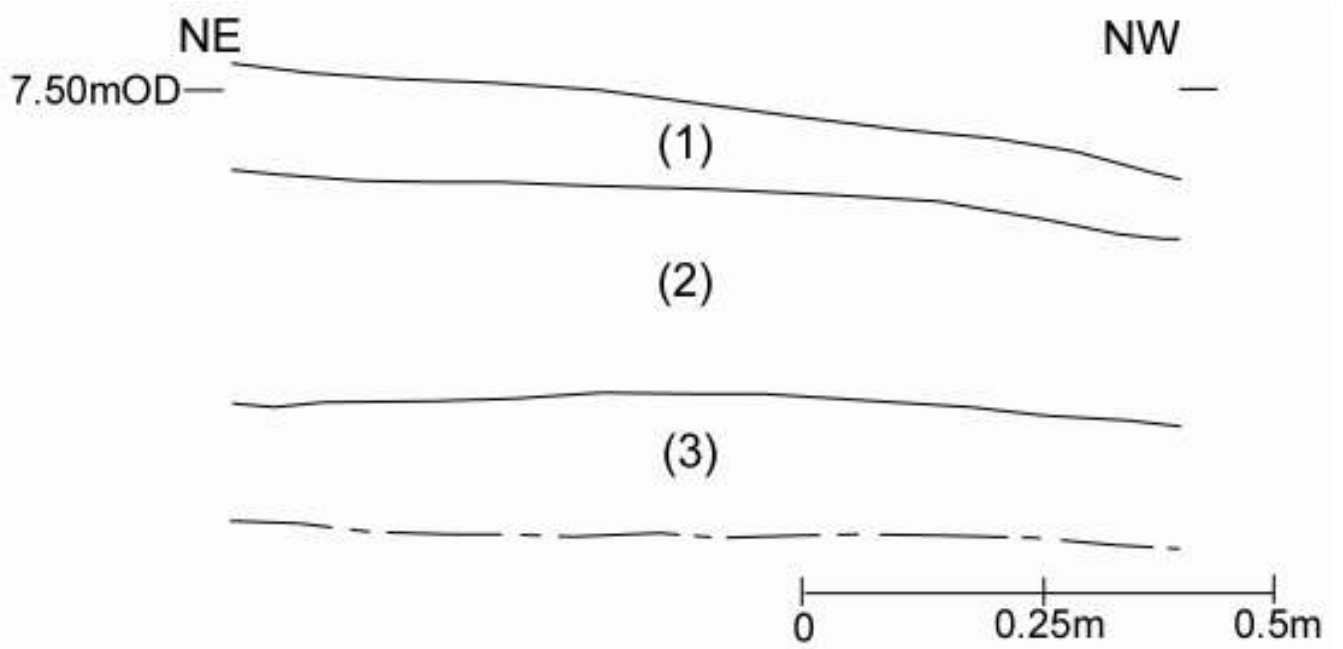


Fig.36: Section in trench 6

## 6.9 Trench 7

Trench 7, positioned in the northeastern part of the site and aligned approximately north - south, was 19.4m in length. It was *c.*2.5m in width, and excavated to 0.5m in depth (*c.*7.1mOD).

The loose topsoil (context 1) was *c.*0.14m thick, and overlay the grey-brown silty-subsoil (*c.*0.16m thick). This overlay the natural deposit – a yellow silty-clayey-gravel deposit (at *c.*0.3m beneath the modern ground-surface; 7.3mOD).

No archaeological finds or features were observed in this trench. Two modern features were observed in the trench – one pit approximately in the centre of the trench (*c.*0.8m X 0.6m) with a mixed fill consisting of redeposited natural and dark grey silty soil with lumps of mortar in; and one linear cut feature protruding out of the western section (0.6m in width and 1.7m in length) and filled with dark silty soil and modern material.



Fig.37: Photo of trench 7, looking south



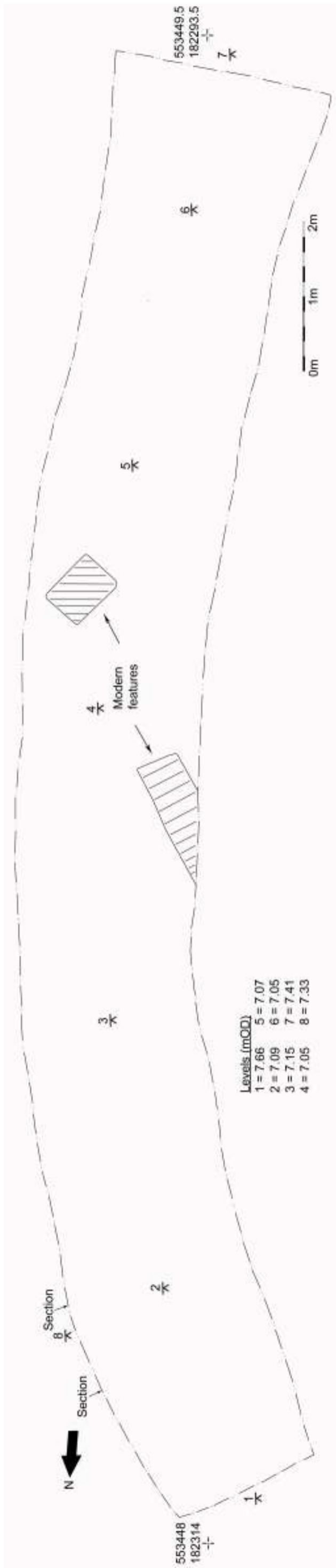


Fig.38: Plan of trench 7



Fig.39: Photo of section in trench 7

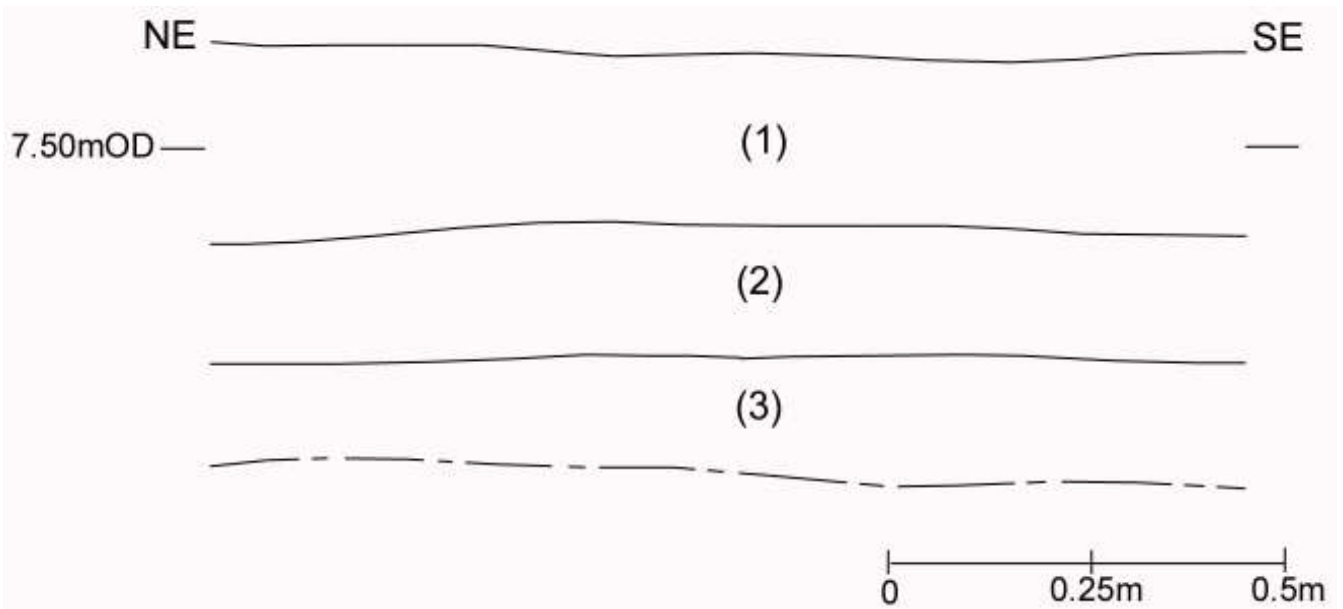


Fig.40: Section in trench 7

## 6.10 Trench 8

Trench 8 was positioned in the far southern part of the site and was aligned approximately northwest to southeast. It measured 18.4m in length, by 2.4m in width, and was excavated to about 0.7m in depth (*c.*6.9mOD).

The topsoil (context 1) overlay the grey-brown subsoil (context 2) over the natural yellow clayey-gravels (context 3). The natural was observed at *c.*0.45m beneath the modern ground-surface (*c.*7.15mOD).

One linear feature (context [8]) was observed running east - west across the southern end of the trench. It was *c.*3.2m in width (north-south), and was observed across the whole east-west width of the trench (2.5m, and continuing into both sections). Its base was recorded at 6.65mOD (depth of *c.*0.25m). Its fill (context 9) was a grey-brown silty deposit, with the occasional pebble in. One piece of pottery was recovered from this fill, and dated to the mid-12<sup>th</sup> to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. It seems most likely that this also formed a medieval field boundary of some sort, similar to that observed in trenches 2 – 4, but running on a different alignment.



Fig.41: Photo of trench 8, looking northwest. The linear feature [8] is visible under the scale

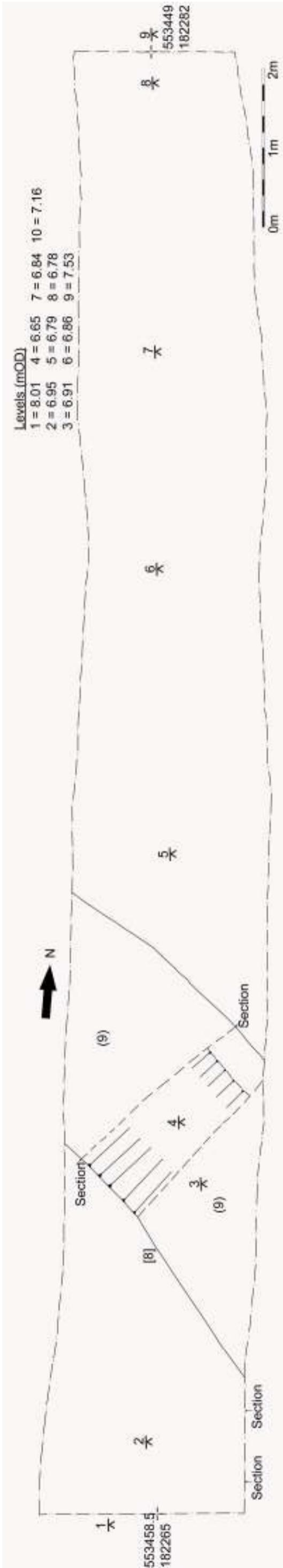


Fig.42: Plan of trench 8



Fig.43: Photo of section in trench 8

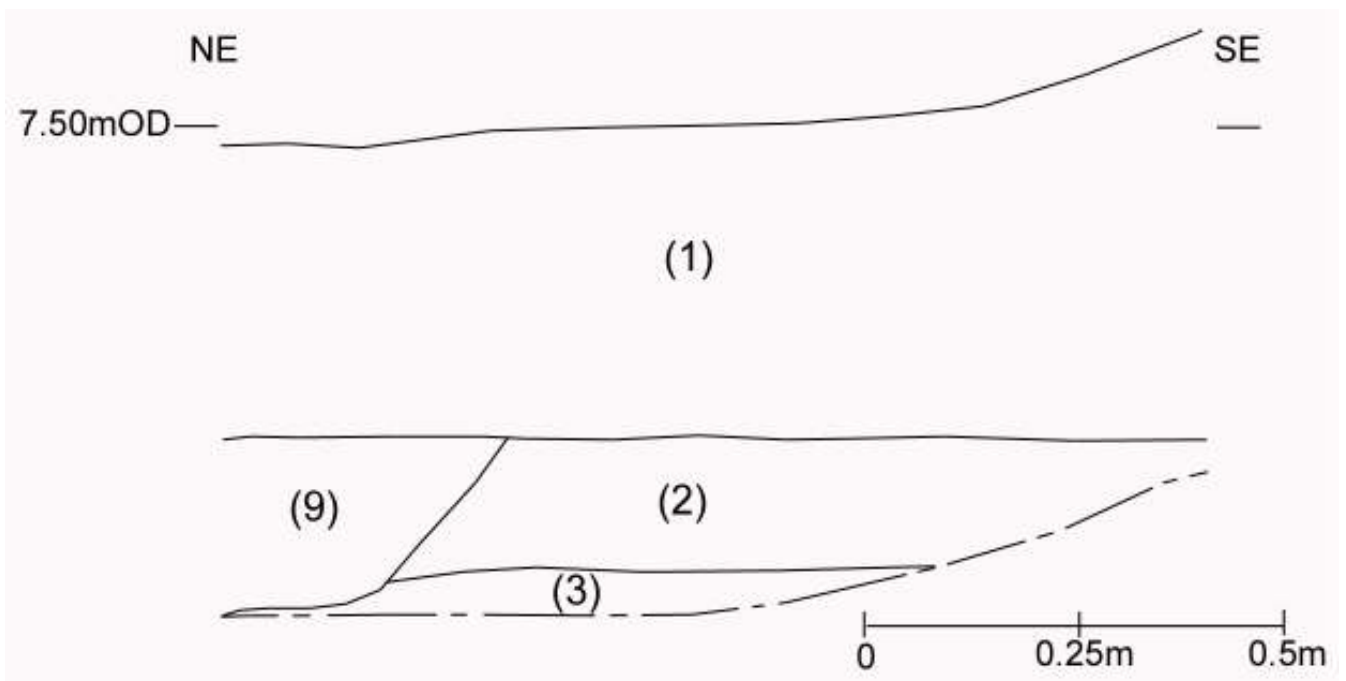


Fig.44: Section in trench 8



Fig.45: Photo of excavated linear feature [8], looking northwest.

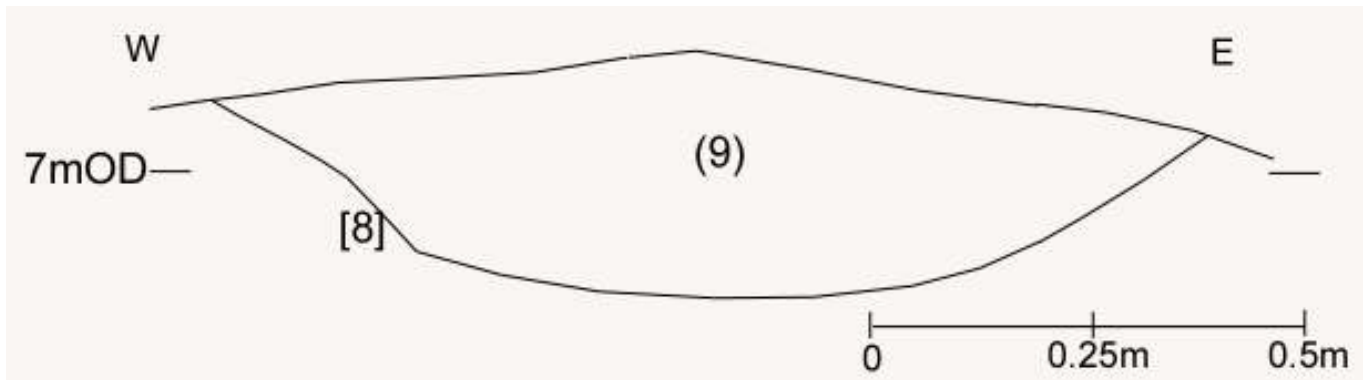


Fig.46: Section through linear feature [8]

## 7. Assessment of the results of the evaluation

The archaeological evaluation has provided an opportunity to address the site-specific objectives that were defined within the preliminary *Written Scheme* (4.2 above). The responses to these are outlined below:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity in the site-area? What period does this date from, and what form does this take (cremations, pits, linear ditches, postholes, etc)? What does this suggest about prehistoric activity in this area – was it broadly agricultural; was there any form of settlement, etc?

*No evidence for prehistoric activity was observed on this site.*

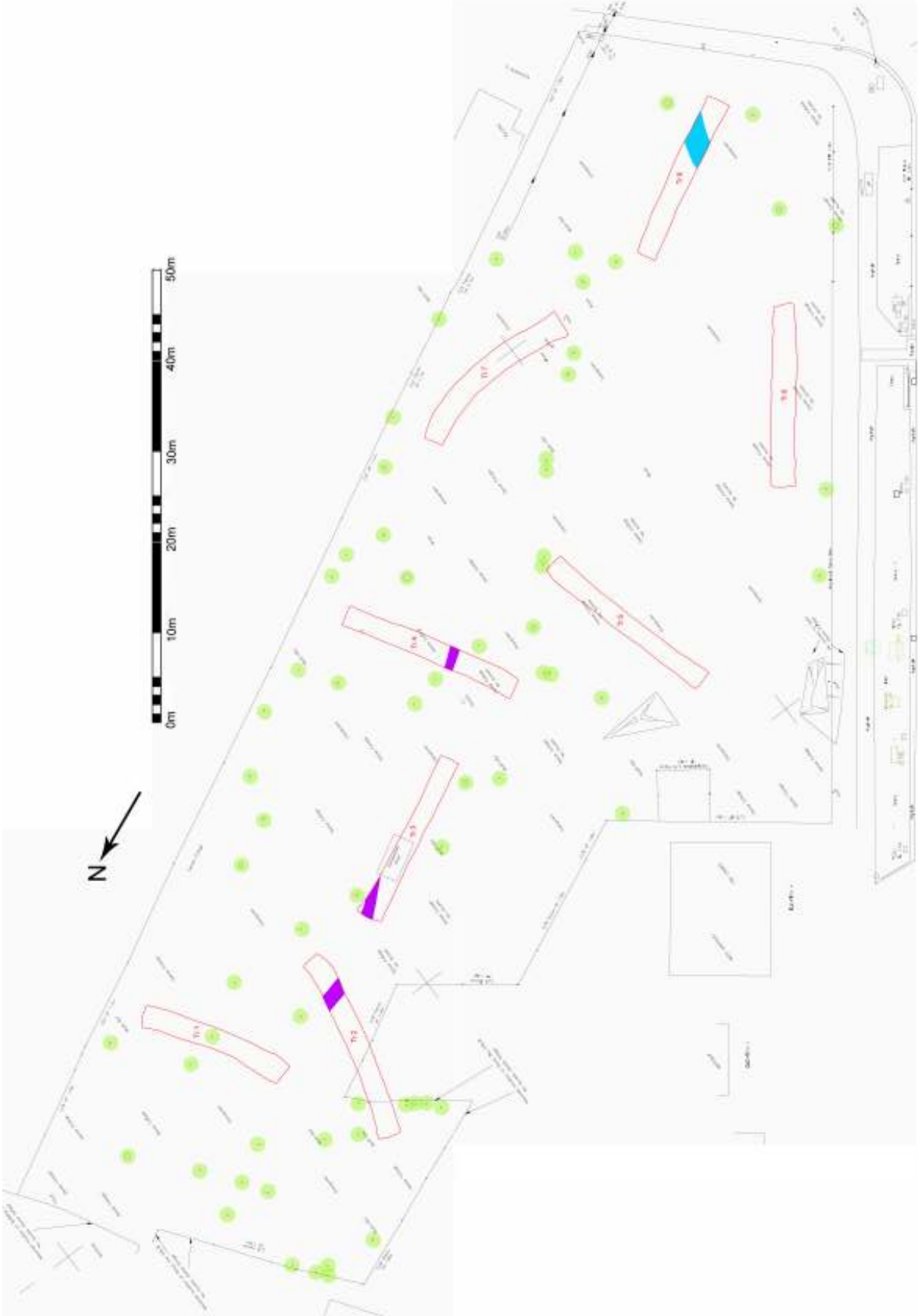
- Is there any evidence for Roman activity in the area? What form does this take (pits, ditches, postholes, etc), and what does this suggest about the Roman activity in this area (settlement, either individual farmsteads or more intensive occupation; agriculture, etc)?

*No evidence for Roman activity was observed on this site.*

- Is there any evidence for Saxon and / or medieval activity in the site-area? What form does this take (habitation layers, linear ditches, etc) and what does this suggest about the type and intensity of Saxon / medieval activity in this area?

*No evidence for Saxon activity was observed on this site. There was, however, some evidence for medieval activity, in the form of two apparently linear ditches (one running northwest - southeast across the site – purple on fig.47; and one running east-west across the site – blue on fig.47). A sherd of 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from each of these, suggesting that they are medieval in date. It seems most likely that they formed field boundaries for agriculture, in a similar way to other medieval features found in this area.*

Fig.47:  
Plan  
depicting  
medieval  
features





- At what levels do any archaeological or geological deposits survive across the area?

*The topsoil and subsoil across the majority of this site was between 0.3m and 0.5m in thickness. This overlay the natural deposits, which were observed at between 7.15mOD and 7.5mOD.*

## **8. Conclusions**

This archaeological evaluation broadly uncovered the same sequence of deposits – loose dark-brown garden topsoil (1) over more compacted grey-brown silty subsoil (2) over natural silty-gravelly-clay (3). The natural deposits were generally observed between 0.3 and 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface – *c.* 7.15mOD – 7.5mOD.

Modern intrusions were observed in a few places across the site – such as the large pit in trench 5, and the modern gravel / dark soil features in trench 3. In general, however, the site was largely undisturbed.

Elements of what appear to be two archaeological features were observed and recorded during this evaluation. Both of these were apparently linear ditch features – context [4] (fills (5), (6), and (7)) in the northwestern part of the site; and context [8] (fill (9)) in the southeastern part of the site. These are believed to be field boundaries of some description – probably medieval in date, based on the two recovered pot sherds.

In general, therefore, this evaluation uncovered very few archaeological features, with no sign of prehistoric or Roman activity, although two probable medieval field boundaries were recorded.

## 9. Bibliography

### General Sources

Greater London Historic Environment Record

London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) database

### Bibliography

AOC Archaeology, *South Hall Farm, Rainham: Phases 7 and 8 Watching Brief Report*, 2004

Archaeological Solutions Ltd, *Spring Farm, Rainham: Combined Archaeological Excavation Research Archive Report*, 2008

Archaeological Solutions Ltd, *Proposed Golf Course: Moor Hall Farm, Rainham: An Archaeological Evaluation Phases 1 and 2*, 2010

Communities and Local Government, *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, 2010

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London Borough of Havering, *Planning Applications Online*

London Borough of Havering, *Local Development Framework: Heritage Supplementary Planning Document*, 2011

Soiltechnics, *Proposed development off New Road, Rainham: Ground Investigation Report*, 2012

### Map Sources

British Geological Survey, 1998, 1:50 000

Chapman and Andre, *Map of Essex*, 1777

Ordnance Survey Maps. Various dates and scales

## Appendix I. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: [compassa1-138460](#)

### Project details

Project name	Lambs Lane North and New Road, Rainham
Short description of the project	An evaluation was undertaken on land at the corner of Lambs Lane North and New Road, Rainham, before the construction of 28 residential units (Planning Ref: PO745.12). It uncovered broadly the same sequence of deposits across the site - loose dark-brown garden topsoil, over more compacted grey-brown silty subsoil, over natural silty-gravelly-clay (observed between 0.3 and 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface; 7.15-7.5mOD). Modern intrusions were observed in a few places across the site, however the site was largely undisturbed. Two linear ditch features were observed, which are believed to be field / plot boundaries of some description - probably medieval in date. In general, therefore, this evaluation produced negative results, with no sign of prehistoric or Roman activity, although two probable medieval field boundaries were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 22-11-2012 End: 28-11-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING RAINHAM Lambs Lane North and New Road, Rainham
Study area	6300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 53420 82330 51 0 51 31 06 N 000 12 41 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.15m Max: 7.50m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology

Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Emma Jeffery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lakehouse UK

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Corner of Lambs Lane North and New Road, Rainham - An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jeffery, E
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RQ
Description	Short report detailing the results of the evaluation. Includes discussion of each trench, plans, sections, photographs, finds analysis, etc. Also includes discussion of historic / archaeological / geological background, plus conclusions.

Entered by	Emma Jeffery (emma@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	3 December 2012

## Appendix II. London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address:	Corner of Lambs Lane North and New Road, Rainham
Project type:	Evaluation
Dates of Fieldwork:	November 2012
Site Code:	LLN12
Supervisor:	Emma Jeffery
NGR:	TQ 53420 82330
Funding Body:	Developer

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of eight *c.*20m-long trenches, was undertaken on land at the corner of Lambs Lane North and New Road, Rainham, London Borough of Havering, before the construction of 9 two-storey residential blocks.

The evaluation broadly uncovered the same sequence of deposits – loose dark-brown garden topsoil over more compacted grey-brown silty subsoil over natural silty-gravelly-clay. The natural deposits were generally observed between 0.3 and 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface – *c.*7.15mOD – 7.5mOD. Modern intrusions were observed in a few places across the site.

Two archaeological features were observed and recorded during this evaluation. Both appeared to be parts of linear ditch features. They are believed to be field / plot boundaries of some description – probably medieval in date, based on two sherds of pottery recovered.

### **Appendix III. Pottery Report, Paul Blinkhorn**

The pottery assemblage comprised 2 sherds with a total weight of 12g. They are both fragments of glazed Hedingham Ware jugs, fabric 22 in the Essex type-series (Cotter 2000, 75). Such pottery is a common find in the region, and has a chronology of c mid 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century (ibid. 84).

The sherds occurred in two different contexts, the first, from context [5], weighs 2g, and is somewhat abraded, and thus could be residual. The second, from context [9], weighs 10g, and is much fresher, and appears reliably stratified.

### **Bibliography**

Cotter, J, 2000 *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85* Colchester Archaeological Report 7