

**Archaeological Evaluation
Land Opposite 18-30A Aldeburgh Road
Leiston, Suffolk**

NGR: TM 44742 61817

**ASE Project No: 8048
Site Code: LCS 175**

ASE Report No: 201477



March 2014

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OASIS No: 168428
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land opposite 18-30A Aldeburgh Road, Leiston, Suffolk, in advance of proposed residential development.

Thirty-two evaluation trenches were excavated across the 5ha development area, a number of which were targeted on potential archaeological features identified by a preceding geophysical survey of the site.

The trenching has identified the presence of a relatively modest level of prehistoric remains across the northern half of the site, some of which coincide with geophysical survey anomalies. In general the remains are not closely dated but appear to be largely of Late Bronze Age origin and consist of scattered pits and ditches/gullies that might be remnants of a contemporary field system. A small concentration of features was noted in the north-east corner of the site that could conceivably be part of a wider distribution of occupation features.

The recovery of apparently residual struck flints of Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint date implies that flint working had taken place in this area in an earlier prehistoric period, the discarded remains from this activity presumably left lying about on the surface of the ground until subsequently finding their way into the fills of later Bronze Age features.

Although a few Roman finds have been found in and around Leiston no remains of this date were identified, nor any of medieval or later date other than disturbances of a modern nature.

The recorded remains are of local to regional significance and attest to the use and exploitation of this landscape at differing periods within the prehistoric period. Further below-ground remains, principally of later Bronze Age date are likely to be present at least across the northern half of the site and are likely to be impacted by development.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Hopkins Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land opposite 16-30A Aldeburgh Road, Leiston, Suffolk (Figure 1).

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located on farmland at the southern edge of Leiston and is situated to the south of Red House Lane and immediately east of the B1122 Aldeburgh Road (NGR: TM 44742 61817). It is bounded to the west by Aldeburgh Road, to the east by agricultural farmland and to the south and north by light industrial and residential development.

1.2.2 The site consists of two arable fields separated by a partial hedge and tree-lined boundary with an opening to the north. It is crossed by two sets of overhead power cables. The site sits at an altitude of between 18.6m and 15m OD and in general slopes gradually from north to south. Prior to the fieldwork several piles of rubble and localised ground disturbance were noted close to the southern edge of the site. This area subsequently became flooded due to excessive rainfall. Several other large puddles were present across the site particularly in the north and west of the area.

1.2.3 The superficial geology of the site was formed in the Quaternary Period and consists of clay and silt of the Lowestoft Formation. This overlies bedrock sand of the Crag Group formed in Quaternary and Neogene Periods (British Geological Survey © NERC 2014).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (C12/2139) was submitted to Suffolk Coastal District Council in October 2012 for the residential development of the site to provide 119, dwellings with associated car parking, open space, landscaping and new access arrangements. The site is located in an area of some archaeological potential and, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS/CT) advised that a programme of archaeological investigation was required to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the development area. The recommendation was in accordance with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

1.3.2 The programme of investigation commenced with a geophysical survey (PCG 2013) to be followed by a trench based-based evaluation. The requirements of the evaluation were set out in a brief of works (SCCAS/CT 2013). The results of the investigation would be used to inform decisions as to the need for and extent of any further archaeological work that may be required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on any remains that are present where a design solution cannot be implemented to ensure their preservation *in-situ*.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the scope of the archaeological evaluation was subsequently prepared by ASE (2013) and approved by the SCCAS/CT. All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with this document and the IfA Code of Conduct (2010), the Standard and Guidance for field evaluation (IfA 2008) and the ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). ASE is a registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

1.3.3 Further detailed archaeological work might be required if the evaluation revealed significant archaeological remains. This work would be covered under a separate WSI.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The initial aim of the archaeological work was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains. This information will be used by the SCCAS/CT to inform the necessity for any further work. More specifically, the trial trenching was required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Establish the suitability of the area for development.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

1.4.2 Appropriate research objectives for any further work, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011), are set out in discussion section 7.0.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between the 20th January and the 3rd February 2014 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI. The work was carried out by Trevor Ennis with assistance from Samara King, Alec Wade and Ellen Heppell.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological & Historical background

2.1.1 The following background makes use of information provided by the SCCAS/CT brief, the Suffolk HER (accessed online via EH Heritage Gateway) and historic Ordnance Survey mapping.

2.1.1 No known archaeological remains are recorded within the proposed

development area; however, the cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure of possible prehistoric or Roman date lie to the east of the site (LCS 019). A Romano/British coin was found in a garden in Southfield Drive to the west of the site (LCS Misc) and 1st-2nd century Roman pottery was found during development at 104 High Street to the north of the site (LCS 149). Red House, to the immediate north of the site, is a Grade II listed building dating from the early 18th century with later additions.

- 2.1.2 Historic maps for the vicinity of the site indicate that the basic property and field boundary layout has not significantly changed since the 1880s. Of note is the presence of a large depression situated in the corner of land between Red House and the north/south field boundary. The depression contains mature trees and would appear to be the remains of a former quarry pit of late 19th century or earlier date.

2.2 Geophysical Survey

- 2.2.1 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd in May 2013. The survey recorded elements of magnetic variation that could conceivably represent potential archaeological remains (Figure 2; Appendix 1). These principally comprised a number of possible ditches and broad zones of weak variation that might signify backfilled quarries. A number of magnetically weak discrete anomalies were identified that could reflect the position of pits, although, for the most part, such responses probably indicate natural features (PCG 2013).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation methodology

- 3.1.1 The methodology comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of a 3.5% sample of the 5ha site area. A further 1.5% sample was held as a contingency should significant archaeological finds or features have been uncovered. Thirty-two trenches were excavated, arranged systematically to cover all parts of the proposed development area and to investigate a range of potential features revealed by the geophysical survey. A few alterations were made in the field to the trench layout proposed in the WSI, with the approval of SCCAS/CT, in order to avoid two sets of overhead power cables.
- 3.1.2 The majority of the evaluation trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide. Trenches 7, 9, and 17 were 15m long, Trench 17 was 25m long (fore-shortened), Trench 15 was 28m long (moved) and Trench 18 was 37m long (re-aligned and extended). The only exceptions to width were Trenches 1 and 26 which were excavated to double width (c.4m) to better investigate potential geophysical anomalies. The trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.2 All trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil was banded around the edges of the trenches to provide a physical and visible barrier. In general, drier topsoil and any subsoil were stock piled separately, and additional piles were made where the upper topsoil was particularly water laden. Excavation

was generally undertaken to the surface of the natural drift geology or to the first archaeological horizon. Backfilling and compaction were undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, and subsequent to the agreement of the SCCAS/CT monitoring officer.

- 3.1.3 Standard ASE methodologies were employed during the fieldwork. All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system. With the exception of modern disturbances, up to 50% of all discrete features, and 20% of non-structural linear features was excavated. Due regard was paid to the stratigraphic relationships between features and deposits during excavation and recording. Finds were identified, by context number, to a specific deposit or in the case of topsoil and subsoil finds to a specific area of the site. Soil samples were collected from suitable excavated contexts; bulk soil samples (of 40 litres where possible or 50% of the context if smaller) were taken to target the recovery of plant remains (including wood charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. All finds and environmental samples were properly processed according to ASE and IFA guidelines.

3.2 Site Archive

- 3.2.1 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork the site event number (LCS 175) was obtained from the SCCAS/CT and was used as the unique site identifier for all records. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Store in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	109
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	3
Photographs	69 digital
Bulk finds	1 box
Environmental	5 x residues and flots

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Archaeological remains were identified in trenches 7-10, 14-16, 19-20, 25 and 27 (Figure 2) and are detailed below. The remains consisted of a small number of prehistoric and undated features which were widely scattered across the development area. Several other potential features were established to be of natural or modern origin upon investigation. Trenches 1-6, 11-13, 17-18, 21-24, 26 and 28-32 contained no archaeological remains of significance. Basic details on these blank trenches are given in 4.12.
- 4.1.2 The removed topsoil consisted of mid to dark brownish grey sandy clayey silt that varied in depth from 0.27m to 0.40m across the site. The uppermost c.0.1m of topsoil was often extremely sodden and water laden and for many trenches had to be removed and piled separately. In some places, particularly in the east of the site, the topsoil directly overlay natural

deposits and in others, mainly in the west, a small depth of brown sandy clay silt subsoil was encountered that overlay, more yellowy, sandy clay natural deposits beneath. The top of the subsoil and/or the top of the underlying natural was often disturbed by shallow north/south aligned wheel ruts and plough marks that were in general removed by machine to improve visibility.

- 4.1.3 The exposed natural deposits in the base of the trenches varied between clay, silt and sand, and in colour from orange, brown and yellow although, across the site. Overall, there was a prevalence of yellow brown to orange brown sandy clay. Noted only in the north-west corner of the site (trenches 1, 2 and 5) were areas of orange clay silt interspersed with distinct patches of chalk-flecked yellow clay.
- 4.1.4 Feature legibility was generally good with most of the pit and ditch features in trenches 7 to 9 and 14, 15 and 19 relatively well-defined and cut into the natural deposits. The remaining linear features in trenches 10, 16, 20 and 27 all seemingly cut natural deposits but, due to similarities in colour, had slightly ambiguous relationships with overlying subsoil and/or adjacent silty deposits. The modest number of features did not appear to have been too unduly truncated by recent agricultural activity.
- 4.1.5 The weather throughout the period of the evaluation was extremely changeable with regular rain showers resulting in sodden topsoil and localised puddles. Intense rain following a freak weather storm during the weekend of 25-26th January 2014 culminated in several of the trenches in the south of the site becoming completely flooded (Figure 15). The wet conditions slowed the machining process and hampered recording and some attempts at hand-cleaning. Several trenches deemed feature-free when initially machined could not be re-assessed due to heavy rain and subsequent flooding; however, based on the general level feature visibility elsewhere on site the initial assessment that they were devoid of features is thought to be accurate.

4.2 Trench 7 (Figure 3)

- 4.2.1 Trench 7 was aligned north/south, measured 15m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.33 (N) and 18.29 (S). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil and subsoil, which overlay mid brownish orange sandy clay natural.
- 4.2.2 A single circular pit [7/003] was excavated in the northern part of the trench. The pit was 0.62m deep with steep sides and a rounded base and contained five fills (Figure 7, Section 1; Figure 8). The upper fills [7/004-7] consisted mainly of mid to dark brownish grey sandy silty clay and the primary fill [7/008] consisted of mid brownish orange silty sand. A few small fragments of burnt bone were noted in upper fills [7/004] and [7/005]. Ten sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the pit along with fragments of fired clay and 22 pieces of struck flint. Four of the fills [7/004-6 and 7/008] were sampled (sample numbers <1> to <4>) for environmental purposes.

- 4.2.3 The position of pit [7/003] correlated closely with that of a potential pit identified by the geophysical survey. However, no distinct feature was noted correlating with the position of the zone of magnetic variation (possible quarry?) in the south of the trench.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	15m	1.8m	0.29m
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	15m	1.8m	0.11m
7/003	Cut	Pit	0.76m	0.73m	0.62m
7/004	Deposit	5th fill of 7/003	0.35m+	0.62m	0.15m
7/005	Deposit	4th fill of 7/003	0.35m+	0.66m	0.23m
7/006	Deposit	3rd fill of 7/003	0.35m+	0.60m	0.21m
7/007	Deposit	2nd fill of 7/003	0.35m+	0.51m	0.05m
7/008	Deposit	1st fill of 7/003	0.35m+	0.48m	0.13m
7/009	Layer	Natural	15m	1.8m	-

Table 2: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trench 8 (Figure 3)

- 4.3.1 Trench 8 was aligned east/west, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.43m below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.36 (E) and 18.33 (W). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil and subsoil, which overlay natural deposits of brownish orange sandy clay and occasional patches of pure pale brown clay.

- 4.3.2 One WNW/ESE aligned gully [8/003] crossed the western half of the trench. The gully was 0.53m wide and 0.26m deep and had a U-shaped profile (Figure 7, Section 2). It was well-defined and filled with mid greyish brown sandy silty clay [8/004]. One sherd of prehistoric pottery and two struck flints were recovered. Several irregular features investigated in the eastern half of the trench appeared to be of natural origin.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.31m
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	30m	1.8m	0.12m
8/003	Cut	Gully	7.4m+	0.53m	0.26m
8/004	Deposit	Fill of 8/003	7.4m+	0.53m	0.26m
8/005	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	-

Table 3: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.4 Trench 9 (Figure 3)

- 4.4.1 Trench 9 was aligned north/south, measured 15m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.38m below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.33 (N) and 18.20 (S). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil and a small amount of subsoil, which overlay natural deposits of yellow brown clay and gravelly brown clay.

- 4.4.2 One sub-circular pit [9/003] was located in the centre of the trench. The pit was 0.9m in length, 0.13m in depth, with a flat base, and was filled with dark

brown sandy clay silt [9/004]. This fill was darker than those of other archaeological features elsewhere on site and gave the impression of being more recent, although no finds were recovered to confirm this. The position of this pit correlated with a potential pit identified in the geophysical survey. A second potential feature investigated 1.2m to the south appeared to be of natural origin.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.36m
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	30m	1.8m	0.06m
9/003	Cut	Pit	0.9m	0.82m	0.13m
9/004	Deposit	Fill of 9/003	0.9m	0.82m	0.13m
9/005	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	-

Table 4: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trench 10 (Figure 4)

4.5.1 Trench 10 was aligned north/south, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.44m below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.24 (N) and 17.83 (S). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil and subsoil, which overlay natural deposits of yellow brown sandy silt, patches of yellow clay and orange sandy silt in the north of the trench.

4.5.2 One east/west aligned gully [10/003] was investigated in the centre of the trench. The gully was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep, and had c.45° sides and a flat bottom (Figure 9). It was filled with mid brown sandy silt [10/004] that was indistinguishable from the overlying subsoil. No finds were recovered.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.30m
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	30m	1.8m	0.20m
10/003	Cut	Gully	1.8m+	0.60m	0.20m
10/004	Deposit	Fill of 10/003	1.8m+	0.60m	0.20m
10/005	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	-

Table 5: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 14 (Figure 4)

4.6.1 Trench 14 was aligned east/west, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.32m below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.38 (E) and 18.47 (W). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil directly above natural deposits of orange brown sandy clay.

4.6.2 One roughly north/south aligned ditch [14/003] was revealed in the western half of the trench. The ditch was 2.22m wide, 0.98m deep and had steep irregular sides and a concave base (Figure 7, Section 3). It was filled with medium grey brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular stones and rare flecks of charcoal [14/004]. No finds were recovered. The

position of this ditch correlated with that of a potential linear feature identified in the geophysical survey.

- 4.6.3 A shallow irregular patch of charcoal and burnt stones at the very base of the topsoil at the west end of the trench appeared to be of modern origin.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.32m
14/002	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	-
14/003	Cut	Ditch	1.8m+	2.22m	0.98m
14/004	Deposit	Fill of 14/003	1.8m+	2.22m	0.98m

Table 6: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trench 15 (Figure 4)

- 4.7.1 Trench 15 was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 28m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.08 (NW) and 17.92 (SE). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil directly above natural deposits of orange brown sandy clay. In the northern half of the trench were three sub-circular pits [15/003, 15/005, 15/007] and a gully [15/009].
- 4.7.2 Pit [15/003] was 0.62m long by 0.24m deep with 50-55° sides and a flat bottom (Figure 7, Section 4). It was filled with reddish brown sandy silt [15/004] and contained one piece of struck flint.
- 4.7.3 Pit [15/005] was 0.84m long and 0.57m+ wide and continued beyond the western trench edge. It had a c.35° side and a flattish base (Figure 7, Section 5) and was filled with medium grey brown sandy silt [15/006]. One sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered.
- 4.7.4 Oval pit [15/007] was 0.72m long, 0.54m wide and 0.33m deep. It had a near vertical western side and a c.45° eastern side and was filled with medium grey brown sandy silt [15/008]. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.4m
15/002	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	-
15/003	Cut	Pit	0.62m	0.53m	0.24m
15/004	Deposit	Fill of 15/003	0.62m	0.53m	0.24m
15/005	Cut	Pit	0.84m	0.57m	0.15m
15/006	Deposit	Fill of 15/005	0.84m	0.57m	0.15m
15/007	Cut	Pit	0.72m	0.54m	0.33m
15/008	Deposit	Fill of 15/007	0.72m	0.54m	0.33m
15/009	Cut	Gully	1.8m+	0.64m	0.17m
15/010	Deposit	Fill of 15/010	1.8m+	0.64m	0.17m

Table 7: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.5 Gully [15/009] was aligned roughly east/west. It was 0.64m wide by 0.17m

deep, with a V-shaped profile (Figure 10), and was filled with medium grey brown sandy silt [15/010]. No finds were recovered.

4.8 Trench 16 (Figure 5)

4.8.1 Trench 16 was aligned east/west, measured 15m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.34m below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.03 (E) and 18.01 (W). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil directly above natural deposits of firm orange brown sandy clay.

4.8.2 In the centre of the trench was a poorly-defined, north/south aligned ditch [16/003]. This was 1.6m wide and 0.18m deep and had irregular sides and a sloping base (Figure 7, Section 6; Figure 11). It was filled with mid brown sandy clay silt. Four sherds of prehistoric pottery and one struck flint were recovered. The position of this ditch correlated with that of a potential linear feature identified in the geophysical survey and roughly aligned with ditch [20/003] to the south in Trench 20.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	15m	1.8m	0.34m
16/002	Layer	Natural	15m	1.8m	-
16/003	Cut	Linear	1.8m+	1.6m	0.18m
16/004	Deposit	Fill of 16/003	1.8m+	1.6m	0.18m

Table 8: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trench 19 (Figure 5)

4.9.1 Trench 19 was aligned north/south, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.39m below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.03 (N) and 17.55 (S). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil directly above natural deposits of firm orange brown sandy clay.

4.9.2 The trench contained one sub-circular pit and a natural feature. The pit [19/003] was 0.74m long by 0.16m deep. The slope of its sides was variable, 60° to north and 30° to south, and it had a flattish base (Figure 7, Section 7; Figure 12). The pit was filled with medium greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stones and rare flecks of charcoal. Twenty three sherds of prehistoric pottery and five struck flints were recovered from this feature. This pit was 100% excavated as the second half was removed as an environmental sample (sample number <5>).

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.39m
19/002	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	
19/003	Cut	Pit	0.74m	0.66m	0.16m
19/004	Deposit	Fill of 19/003	0.74m	0.66m	0.16m

Table 9: Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

4.9.3 A potential pit identified by the geophysical survey at the north end of the trench was not positively identified although some slight variation in the

natural deposits in the base of the trench at this point was noted.

4.10 Trench 20 (Figure 5)

4.10.1 Trench 20 was aligned east/west, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.35 below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 17.51 (E) and 17.62 (W). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil and a small amount of subsoil, which overlay natural deposits of firm orange brown sandy clay.

4.10.2 In the western half of the trench was a north/south aligned ditch [20/003]. This was 1.46m wide and 0.42m deep, with 30-40° sides and a concave base (Figure 7, Section 8) and appeared to be a southwards continuation of ditch 16/003 in Trench 16. To the west the ditch cut natural clay and to the east it merged with a patch of brown sandy silt. It was filled with mottled mid brown sandy clay silt [20/004] from which one piece of struck flint was recovered. The position of this ditch correlated with a potential linear feature identified by the geophysical survey.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
20/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.30m
20/002	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	-
20/003	Cut	Ditch	1.8m+	1.46m	0.42m
20/004	Deposit	Fill of 20/003	1.8m+	1.46m	0.42m

Table 10: Trench 20 list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trench 25 (Figure 6)

4.10.1 Trench 25 was aligned east/west, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.32 below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 16.23 (E) and 16.38 (W). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil above natural deposits of firm orange brown sandy clay.

4.10.2 A north/south aligned gully [25/003] was investigated in the western half of the trench. The gully was 0.58m wide and 0.24m deep with 40-60° sides and a concave base (Figure 13). No finds were recovered from its medium grey brown sandy silt fill [25/004]. This gully roughly aligned with the north/south ditch excavated in trenches 16 and 20 but was of a more defined and narrower profile and may not necessarily be a southern continuation of this feature.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.32m
25/002	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	-
25/003	Cut	Gully	1.8m+	0.58m	0.24m+
25/004	Deposit	Fill of 25/003	1.8m+	0.58m	0.24m+

Table 11: Trench 25 list of recorded contexts

4.11 Trench 27 (Figure 6)

4.11.1 Trench 27 was aligned east/west, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and

was excavated to a depth of 0.30 below the existing field surface. The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 16.68 (E) and 16.38(W). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil above natural deposits of firm orange brown sandy clay.

- 4.11.2 In the western half of the trench was a shallow north/south aligned ditch [27/003]. The ditch was 1.43m wide and 0.16m deep and had a flat but undulating base and 30-50° sides (Figure 7, Section 9). It was filled with medium reddish brown sandy silt [27/004] from which three sherds of possible prehistoric pottery were recovered.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Depth m
27/001	Layer	Topsoil	30m	1.8m	0.30m
27/002	Layer	Natural	30m	1.8m	-
27/003	Cut	Shallow ditch	1.8m+	1.43m	0.16m
27/004	Deposit	Fill of 27/003	1.8m+	1.43m	0.16m

Table 12: Trench 27 list of recorded contexts

4.12 Blank trenches (Figure 2)

- 4.12.1 No archaeologically significant remains were identified within trenches 1-6, 11-13, 17-18, 21-24, 26, 28-32. Table 13 summarises the deposit sequence recorded in each trench.

- 4.12.2 Many of the blank trenches had been positioned to investigate elements of magnetic variation identified during the geophysical survey. Potential linear features in trenches 1 and 4 correlated with variations in the geological deposits and natural features and a broad zone of magnetically weak variation (possible quarry) in trenches 2 and 5 correlated with an extensive area of brown sandy silt. No distinct feature was noticed correlating with the magnetic variation at the junction of trenches 6 and 7 despite fairly thorough hand-investigation of these trenches nor were any distinct changes were noted in the base of trenches 13, 21 and 23. A potential pit identified by the geophysics in Trench 21 correlated with the position of a natural feature. Few of the other potential pits could be identified on the ground and most are presumed to be linked to magnetic anomalies of natural origin.

- 4.12.3 Several potential features not identified by the geophysical survey were investigated in trenches 4 (Figure 14) and 6. All were very irregular and often had undercutting sides. No finds were recovered and the features most probably resulted from root and animal activity.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (max)
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.38m
	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08m
	1/003	Layer	Natural	-
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32m
	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08m
	2/003	Layer	Natural	-
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36m
	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08m
	3/003	Layer	Natural	-
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m
	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10m
	4/003	Layer	Natural	-
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m
	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10m
	5/003	Layer	Natural	-
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.37m
	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	-
	6/003	Layer	Natural	-
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m
	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.06m
	11/003	Layer	Natural	-
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m
	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.05m
	12/003	Layer	Natural	-
13	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.34m
	13/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.06m
	13/003	Layer	Natural	-
17	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32m
	17/003	Layer	Natural	-
18	18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.34m
	18/003	Layer	Natural	-
21	21/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29m
	21/003	Layer	Natural	-
22	22/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m
	22/003	Layer	Natural	-
23	23/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36m
	23/003	Layer	Natural	-
24	24/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35m
	24/003	Layer	Natural	-
26	26/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m
	26/003	Layer	Natural	-
28	28/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.34m
	28/003	Layer	Natural	-
29	29/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m
	29/003	Layer	Natural	-
30	30/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27m
	30/003	Layer	Natural	-
31	31/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.40m
	31/003	Layer	Natural	-
32	32/001	Layer	Topsoil	00.36m
	32/003	Layer	Natural	-

Table 13: List of contexts in blank trenches

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 Only a small assemblage group of finds was recovered during the evaluation work (Table 14). All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. Finds were quantified by count and weight and subsequently bagged by material and context. Packaging and storage policies follow IFA guidelines (2008). None of the finds require further conservation. In addition to the hand-collected finds, a small amount of burnt bone was recovered from the environmental residues (see Table 16 below).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	F Clay	Wt (g)
7/004	1	6			5	33
7/005	3	18	16	86	12	123
7/006	6	55	6	110		
8/004	1	7	2	2		
15/004			1	6		
15/006	1	2				
16/004	4	25	1	6		
19/004	23	46	5	21		
20/004			1	7		
27/004	3	19				
<i>Total</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>238</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>156</i>

Table 14: Overview of the finds

5.2 Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery totalling 42 sherds, weighing 178g, was hand-collected from eight stratified deposits in Trenches 7, 8, 15, 16, 19 and 27. The pottery has been briefly examined using a x20 binocular microscope but it has not, at this stage, been recorded according to a detailed fabric type-series. It is recommended that this material is retained for integration into any future pottery assemblage recovered in the event of further archaeological work at the site.

5.2.2 Most of the sherds belong to a continuum of fairly ill-sorted, medium coarse flint-tempered wares, with most flint inclusions measuring 0.5-3mm. Within this range there are some finer fabrics but these also contain relatively large flint inclusions of up to 2mm. Most of the fabrics contain sparse – probably naturally-occurring – quartz sand up to 0.3mm. These fabrics are fairly typical of the later Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age (c.1150-600BC). However most stratified contexts contained fewer than five sherds and there are no diagnostic rims or other feature sherds so they cannot be assigned to the post Deverel-Rimbury tradition with much certainty as it is difficult to rule out absolutely other prehistoric periods where flint-tempered wares might occur. The pottery also generally consists of relatively small, moderately abraded pieces, suggesting that it is likely to have been reworked to some extent prior to deposition.

Fabric grouping	Sherds	Weight (g)
Medium coarse flint-tempered wares	35	178
Highly fragmented sherds lacking flint-tempering	7	10
<i>Total</i>	42	188

Table 15. Quantification of prehistoric pottery according to broad fabric type

5.2.3 Most of the pieces in the largest context group (23 sherds from [19/004]) were generally similar in character to the rest of the assemblage but seven extremely abraded and fragmented sherds from two different vessels had broadly similar background matrixes which apparently lacked flint-tempering. These fabrics are less typical of the later Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age and could be of Iron Age date. However, the sherds appear rather poorly-formed and have distinctive orange oxidised surfaces and some evidence of burnt out organic matter. It is considered possible that they are briquetage vessels rather than pottery, in which case their fabric type is not diagnostic of date.

5.3 Flintwork by Karine le Hégarat

5.3.1 The evaluation produced a total of 140 pieces of flint considered to be humanly struck, weighing 337g. This total comprises 77 chips (less than 10mm²) which represent 55% of the total assemblage of struck flint. The artefacts were recovered through hand collection and from residues of environmental samples. Although the flint assemblage contains no diagnostic pieces, technologically the flintwork forms a relatively coherent assemblage reflecting activities during the Mesolithic / Early Neolithic period. However, the flint assemblage comprises also a small possible Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age component.

5.3.2 The pieces of struck flint were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005 and Inizan *et al.* 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts (evidence of burning or breakage, degree of cortication and degree of edge damage) were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. A breakdown of the assemblage is shown by context in Table 16.

5.3.3 The raw material chosen for the production of the lithics is characterised by a light brown to dark grey mostly fine grained flint. Cortex was uncommon, but where present it consisted of either an off-white abraded cortex or a very thin dark grey to almost black cortex. Inclusions were uncommon, and the material appears to be of excellent flaking quality. It could derive from local secondary deposits or from flint gravel deposits. Overall the flintwork is in good condition. Twenty-six pieces were recorded as broken.

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	Pit 7/003			Ditch 8/003	Ditch 16/003	Ditch 20/003	Pit 15/003	Pit 19/003	Total
	fill 7/006	fill 7/005	fill 7/004	fill 8/004	fill 16/004	fill 20/004	fill 15/004	fill 19/004	
Flakes	5	10	1	1	1		1	8	27
Blades, Blade-like flakes, Bladelets	3	16	5	1		1		3	29
Chips	13	7	41					16	77
Irregular waste		1							1
Cores, Core fragments		1							1
Retouched forms	3							2	5
Total	24	35	47	2	1	1	1	29	140

Table 16: Flintwork Assemblage

5.3.4 While Trenches 8, 15, 16 and 20 produced just five artefacts (context [8/005] two pieces and contexts [15/004], [16/004] and [20/004] a single piece each), the majority of the flintwork derives from Trenches 7 and 19. Pit [7/003] produced 106 pieces (including 61 chips), and pit [19/003] produced 29 pieces (including 16 chips).

5.3.5 Overall, the assemblage is dominated by knapping débitage including 27 flakes, 29 blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes, one piece of irregular waste and 77 chips. Unmodified pieces of flint débitage are usually difficult to date. However, the presence of bladelets and blades with parallel lateral edges and parallel ridges on the dorsal surface suggests a Mesolithic or early Neolithic blade-orientated industry. This group represents 50.9% of the entire débitage component (excluding the chips). Examples mainly recorded in [7/005] and [19/004] were relatively narrow indicating possibly a late Mesolithic - early Neolithic date. A core collected in [7/005] provides further evidence for the production of blades/bladelets. The exhausted core was nicely worked, and a blade from the same context could be refitted to the artefact. A few artefacts with plain platforms are likely to be later.

5.3.6 Five retouched pieces were recovered. Three were found in pit fill context [7/006] and two in pit fill context [19/004]. Context [7/006] contained two miscellaneous retouched flakes and a possible unfinished core tool, and context [19/004] produced two serrated blades. The proximal end of the first serrated blade was absent, but the artefact displays serration along the left side. The second serrated piece was made on a thinner blade. The implement displays a small area of serration on the right lateral side towards the distal end.

5.3.7 The evaluation produced a moderate quantity of flint artefacts. The material is generally in a very fresh condition indicating that it had undergone

minimum post-depositional disturbance. A large proportion of the assemblage indicates Mesolithic / early Neolithic activity. A knapping refit between a core and a blade suggests that knapping activity was undertaken in the near vicinity of where they were recovered from. The presence of serrated blades is interesting because these tools are related to plant working activities, and more especially the working of silica-rich plants (Juel Jensen 1994). The material should be retained to allow integration with any assemblage recovered in the event that further work takes place. In the event that further work is undertaken sieving might be recommended as this would help recover microliths and small microdebitage such as microburin.

5.4 Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A small assemblage comprising 17 fired clay fragments (wt 156g) was recovered from two different contexts. The clay is all abraded, suggesting some degree of reworking. Pit [7/003] (fill [7/004]) contained five pieces in a sandy, semi-reduced fabric with moderate medium quartz, common coarse quartz and rare very coarse quartz. Common voids (organic temper) are present too. Three of these retain one flat surface; the remainder are amorphous.

5.4.2 The same pit (fill 7/005) contained a further eleven fragments in the same fabric, one of which has a flat surface. Fragments from this and the previous context all represent (structural) daub. In addition, [7/005] contained a single piece with rounded surface in a very sand, red fabric with abundant medium to coarse quartz and rare very coarse white quartz to 12mm. No diagnostic features survive to establish whether this derives from daub or from an object.

5.5 Cremated Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.5.1 Small fragments of cremated bone, weighing 21g, were recovered from samples <1>, <2> and <3> which were taken from the various fills of pit [7/003]. The majority of fragments cannot confidently be identified as human or animal though a single fragment from sample <2> has been identified as probable caprine.

5.6 Overview

5.6.1 When considered together, finds groups, apart from the flint assemblage, are small, fairly undiagnostic both of date and form, and often abraded, suggesting reworking. The assemblage as it stands is not considered to be of potential for further work. However, should any further archaeological work be undertaken on the site, it is recommended to consider the current assemblage alongside new material.

5.6.2 The finds evidence from pits 7/003 and 19/003 is slightly ambiguous. The flint assemblage, which is fresh and unabraded, is technologically diagnostic of the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic periods, whereas the pottery, which is much more fragmentary and abraded with a lack of diagnostic feature sherds, appears most typical of the Late Bronze Age although flint-tempered wares occur in other periods including the Early Neolithic. However, the presence of fired clay in pit [7/003] provides fairly convincing evidence that this feature is of later prehistoric date as the use of fired clay in wattle-and-daub structures or objects – such as weights or slabs – is

fairly unknown before the Middle Bronze Age. It is assumed therefore that the flint is residual and that the features are of probable Late Bronze Age date.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by Karine le Hégarat and Dawn E. Mooney

6.1 Introduction & Methodology

6.1.1 During evaluation work at the site, a total of 5 bulk soil samples were taken in order to recover environmental remains such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. These samples were taken from the fills of prehistoric pits [7/003] and [19/003]. The samples ranged in volume from 10 litres to 40 litres.

6.1.2 The bulk soil samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank. The flots and residues were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 16). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of their contents recorded (Table 17). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made using modern comparative material and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.1.3 Charred wood remains recovered from the residue of the samples were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004), and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 16.

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Sampling produced very small flots ranging in size from <2mm to 3mm. They contained small concentrations of rootlets and modern weed seeds including elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), nettle-leaved goosefoot (*C. murale*), orache (*Atriplex* sp.) and nightshade (*Solanum* sp.). The presence of fine roots and modern seeds could indicate some post-depositional disturbances and potential modern contamination of the deposits. Both pits [7/003] and [19/003] contained moderate quantities of charred macroplant remains. The assemblage was dominated by charred hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments. These were principally recovered from the residues. The shell fragments were more numerous and better preserved in samples <2> and <3> from two successive fills within pit

[7/003] and in sample <05> from pit [19/003]. It is also interesting to note that no shells were present in the primary fill (7/008). In addition, two charred grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.), a grain of wheat, two poorly preserved grains (Cerealia) and a possible pulse (cf. *Vicia / Pisum*) were recovered in samples <02 and 03> from pit [7/003]. Based on its morphology, the well-preserved grain of wheat is likely to be a glume wheat (either emmer or spelt).

- 6.2.2 The residues and flots of the samples contained only small quantities of wood charcoal. The preservation of these remains was generally poor to moderate. Most fragments were somewhat abraded, and showed evidence of sediment concretion and infiltration linked to fluctuations in groundwater level. Further to this, some fragments were observed to be distorted during charring, to the point that taxonomic identifications could not be assigned. All three of the samples from which charcoal was analysed for taxonomic composition were dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp.). Other taxa were only present in very small quantities. Hazel/alder (*Corylus/Alnus*) fragments were noted in samples <2> and <3>. Additionally, cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.) was noted in sample <3>, and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) was recorded in sample <5>.
- 6.2.3 In addition to charcoal and plant macrofossil remains, samples <1>, <2> and <3> also contained small quantities of burnt bone fragments. Inorganic and artefactual remains including burnt and worked flint, pottery and magnetised material were also recorded in the residues.

6.3 Discussion

- 6.3.1 The bulk soil samples taken during the evaluation work have confirmed the presence of plant remains preserved through charring. In addition, sampling has also produced a small amount of burnt bones, pottery and magnetised material as well as a moderate quantity of flint artefacts.

6.3.2 Charcoal

As the environmental samples were taken from the fills of pits rather than contexts representing *in situ* burning the charcoal assemblages are likely to comprise amalgams of material from multiple burning events of different purposes. Therefore, the results of this investigation can only be used to give an overview of firewood acquisition strategies at the site, rather than the selection of wood as fuel for different burning purposes. The wood charcoal assemblage was dominated by oak, and the prevalence of this taxon may indicate that it was specifically selected for use as fuel. Oak is known to make a very efficient firewood, and has been chosen for this purpose as well as for construction and joinery throughout history (Taylor 1981). The source of this firewood is likely to be mixed deciduous woodland present in the close environs of the site (Asouti & Austin 2005). Beech, like oak, is also a large woodland tree valued for both fuel and timber. Wood of this taxon could have been sourced from occasional trees growing within the mixed deciduous woodlands common in East Anglia (Forestry Commission 1994), or from separate beech-dominated woodlands. Hazel and cherry/blackthorn, also present in the samples, are likely to have been sourced from underwood in mixed broadleaf woodland, however these taxa could also represent the exploitation of woodland margin or hedgerow

environments for fuel wood procurement. Unfortunately, preservation of the charcoal was not sufficient to satisfactorily distinguish between hazel and alder charcoal. The presence of the latter is likely to indicate the acquisition of firewood from damp woodland or wetland margin areas (Taylor 1981).

6.3.3 *Macroplant remains*

Nutshell fragments dominate the assemblage of charred macroplant remains. Although the wood charcoal assemblage contained hazel / alder, it remains unclear whether the nuts were simply attached to fuel wood or whether they represent plants gathered for consumption. During the prehistoric period, wild plants represented a valuable part of the daily food (Moffett *et al.* 1989 and Robinson 2000). Even when cereals became the major dietary staple, this was still supplemented by the collection of wild food (Stevens and Fuller, 2012). Very few charred crop remains were recovered, but sampling produced two grains of barley and a grain of wheat likely to be glume wheat, a species grown during the prehistoric period.

6.3.4 The charred hazel nutshell fragment and charred grains may be contemporary with the use of the pits. The nuts may have become charred *in situ*. They could also have been deliberately thrown as burnt debris into the features. The hazel nutshell fragments and some of the grains are well enough preserved to be submitted for radiocarbon dating.

6.3.5 *Conclusion*

Sampling has shown good potential of recovering plant material, and it is recommended that further sampling should be undertaken as part of any further work at the site. It is recommended that samples measuring 40L should be extracted.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	7/00 4	P	20	20	**	<2g	**	<2g		**	<2g	*	4g	**	2g	Magnetised material ***/2g - FCF */34g - Flint ***/160g - Pot */6g
2	7/00 5	P	30	30	**	4g	**	<2g	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (18), <i>Corylus/Alnus</i> (1), indet. (1)	**	4g	**	6g	**	<2g	FCF **/28g - Flint **/118g - Magnetised material ***/2g - Pot */14g
3	7/00 6	P	40	40	**	<2g	**	<2g	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (13), <i>Prunus</i> sp. (2), <i>Corylus/Alnus</i> (1), indet. (4)	**	4g	*	<2g	**	<2g	Flint **/12g - Pot */<2g - Magnetised material ***/2g
4	7/00 8	P	10	10												Industrial debris */4g - Magnetised material **/<2g
5	19/0 04	P	20	20	**	2g	**	<2g	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (18), <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (2)	**	2g					FCF **/30g - Flint **/18g - Pot */8g - Magnetised material ***/<2g

Table 16: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical	Identifications	Preservation	
1	7/00 4	2	2	2	2 0	3 0	* <i>Solanum</i> sp., <i>Chenopod</i> <i>ium</i> sp.			***							
2	7/00 5	4	3	3	5	3 0	* <i>Sambucus</i> <i>nigra</i> , <i>Solanum</i> sp., <i>Chenopod</i> <i>ium</i> sp.			*** *	*	Cereali a (2 frag.), cf. <i>Vicia</i> / <i>Pisum</i> sp.	+				
3	7/00 6	2	2	2	1 5	1 5	** <i>Solanum</i> sp., <i>Chenopod</i> <i>ium</i> sp.		*	***	*	<i>Horde</i> <i>um</i> sp. (2), <i>Triticu</i> <i>m</i> sp. (1)	++ to ++ +	*	<i>Coryl</i> <i>us</i> <i>avella</i> <i>na</i> nutsh ell frag. (1)	+ +	
4	7/00 8	< 2	< 2	< 2	5 0	5 0				**							
5	19/0 04	< 2	2	2	8 0	1 0	* <i>Atriplex</i> sp., <i>Chenopod</i> <i>ium</i> <i>murale</i> , <i>Solanum</i> sp.			**							

Table 17: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Discussion

7.1.1 Archaeological remains were present in 11 of the 32 evaluation trenches. Although not closely dated these remains appear to be entirely of prehistoric date and consist of small pits, ditches and gullies. Other than an apparent concentration of remains in Trench 15 in the northeast corner of the site the remaining archaeological features are spread across the north-central part of the development area (Fig.2). The features are cut into natural deposits and are generally sealed beneath 0.30-0.40m of topsoil. Small amounts of subsoil are present in places but there appear to be no major masking colluvial or alluvial deposits. There is no apparent complexity to the features and none were observed to inter-cut.

- 7.1.2 Finds from the site are relatively sparse and dating is based mainly on evidence from two finds-rich pits. The dating of these features is slightly ambiguous because the flint is technologically diagnostic of the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic periods but the pottery appears typical of the Late Bronze Age. However the presence of fired clay in pit [7/003], not found in earlier prehistoric contexts, supports the Late Bronze Age date and implies that the flint is residual. As the flint is fresh and unabraded it is unlikely to have travelled far and was presumably worked and discarded in the near vicinity ultimately finding its way into the backfill of later features.
- 7.1.3 The results of the preceding geophysical survey identified a moderate amount of possible archaeological remains throughout the development area but also predicted that many of the detected anomalies were probably of natural origin (PCG 2013; Appendix 1). The evaluation trenching has broadly confirmed this, with a mixture of archaeological and natural features being encountered. The targeted trenching of these geophysical anomalies has demonstrated that some of the potential linear features identified by the survey are archaeological whilst others are clearly of natural origin. Several broad zones of magnetically weak variations described as possible quarries were also specifically targeted. Of these, only an extensive area of natural-looking brown sandy silt (in trenches 2 and 5) was identified on the ground. Two potential pits targeted by the trenching were confirmed as genuine and another correlated with the position of a natural feature. However, most of the potential pit anomalies were not subsequently identified as corresponding archaeological features (Fig.2) and are presumed to have been caused by variations and disturbances of natural origin. Conversely, several linear features and small pits have been identified in the evaluation trenching that had not previously been detected by geophysical survey. It therefore remains likely that further prehistoric pits and minor ditches/gullies, the fills of which are not conducive to geophysical prospection, are present elsewhere in the un-trenched parts of the site – perhaps particularly across the northern half the site.
- 7.1.4 The ditches and gullies may be remnants of a Late Bronze Age field system, though it is difficult to discern any meaningful layout from the combined geophysical and trenching results. Few of the trenched ditch anomalies can be traced for any significant distance and the substantial and curving natures of the geophysical survey ditch anomalies in the vicinity of trenches 14 and 17 were difficult to investigate further due to the presence of overhead electricity cable in this vicinity. The scattered pits are perhaps likely to be associated with agricultural related activities, although it is possible that the small concentration of features in the northeast corner of the site might be an indicator of settlement in the vicinity and be only part of a more extensive complex of prehistoric features. Hazel nutshell fragments and grains of wheat and barley recovered from the environmental samples suggest that food sources from both foraging and farming were being utilised.
- 7.1.5 Few Roman finds have been found in the Leiston area no remains of this date were identified by the evaluation trenching nor any of medieval or later date. The lack of any obvious post-medieval field boundaries concur with earlier Ordnance Survey mapping which indicated that the field layout had

changed little since Victorian times.

7.1.6 One major research theme identified by the authors of *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), and still valid under the later revised framework (Medlycott 2011), was that pertaining to the 'development of a fully agricultural economy during the Neolithic and Bronze Age', in particular how 'highly mobile communities of the Neolithic transformed themselves into the more sedentary groups of the later Bronze Age' (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 44). Given that the evaluation has revealed late Bronze Age features and a strong residual Late Mesolithic/Neolithic element the site has potential to address these issues.

7.1.7 Should further work be requested, an initial objective, beyond the basic investigation and recording of any remains present across a wider excavation area, might be to confirm that the limited dating evidence recovered during the evaluation is correct and that the flintwork is indeed residual. Further objectives might then be to look to see if there are any in-situ features or deposits of Neolithic date and to determine the nature of the Late Bronze Age activity, the location of any settlement focus and how this relates to the contemporary field system. Environmental sampling has already provided useful results and shown that there is potential for recovering plant material. Sampling would be key to any further excavation work both for the recovery of finds (primarily lithics) and palaeo-environmental remains.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The evaluation has established the presence of a low to modest density of archaeological remains across the northern half of the development area, which seemingly confirms the results of the earlier geophysical survey. However, it is clear that not all the prehistoric features encountered in the trenches were conducive to detection by geophysical survey and activity on the site may be more extensive than suggested by the survey results.

7.2.2 A relatively small number of Late Bronze Age pits have been identified along with a number of ditches and gullies that may form the remnants of a contemporary field system. While few of these probable boundary ditches were traced across multiple trenches, some are relatively substantial (e.g. ditch [003] in trench 14) and may constitute relatively major divisions of the prehistoric landscape. Further fieldwork would usefully clarify their form and layout and the nature of the apparent subdivision and enclosure of the Late Bronze Age landscape. One small concentration of features is apparent in the northeast corner of the site and may, of course, be part of a more extensive complex of prehistoric features – perhaps even constituting the remains of unenclosed settlement activity.

7.2.3 The mixture of dispersed and localised concentrations of discrete features such as pits and post-holes demonstrated at its site is perhaps typical of the nature of Late Bronze Age occupation of the East Anglian landscape. Identified examples of field systems of this date are understood to be relatively rare in Suffolk (Medlycott 2011, 20) and, as such, this site has potential significance in furthering research in this area.

- 7.2.4 The recovery of a significant quantity of apparently residual Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint implies that the landscape had been exploited and occupied in this earlier period. Whether the flint working was undertaken by nomadic hunter gathers or more settled early farmers is unclear. It is presumed that the discarded remains from this activity were left on the ground surface until subsequently becoming incorporated into the fills of later Bronze Age features.
- 7.2.5 The recorded remains are of local significance and attest to the use and exploitation of this landscape during at least two different time periods within the prehistoric era. The aims of the project have been met in that the date and nature of the surviving archaeological remains is now known and information on survival and environmental potential has been provided in order for SCCAS/CT to determine the necessity for any further work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to Hopkins Homes Ltd for commissioning the work and Jess Tipper and Matthew Brudenell of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, for their guidance and monitoring. Pre-construct Geophysics Ltd carried out the geophysical survey. The fieldwork was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Ellen Heppell with assistance from Samara King and Alec Wade, all of Archaeology South-East. The project was managed in the field by Adrian Scruby and in post-excavation by Mark Atkinson. Ellisa Menzel processed the finds and the report figures were prepared by Andrew Lewsey.

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Appendix 1: Geophysical Survey Report

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

**LAND OFF ALDEBURGH ROAD
LEISTON, SUFFOLK**

SITE CENTRED AT NGR TM 44742 61817

**REPORT PREPARED FOR
ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST: ESSEX
ON BEHALF OF HOPKINS HOMES**

**BY DAVID BUNN
JULY 2013**

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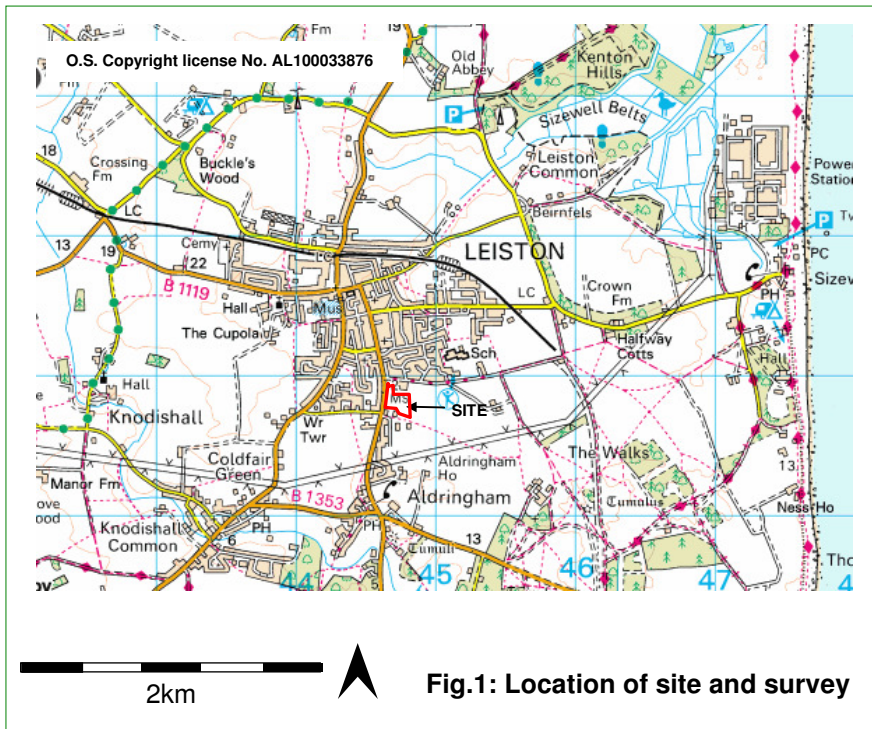
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47, Manor Road, Saxilby, Lincoln, LN1 2HX
Tel/Fax: 01522 704900
e-mail: pcgeophysics@tiscali.co.uk
www.geofizz.net

Non technical summary

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken on land off Aldeburgh Road, Leiston, Suffolk (centred at TG 5034 1377). The site is proposed for residential development.

The survey has recorded elements of magnetic variation that could conceivably represent potential archaeological remains. These principally comprise a number of possible ditches and broad zones of weak variation that might signify backfilled quarries. It is also possible that magnetically weak discrete anomalies could reflect pits, although (for the most part) such responses probably indicate natural features.

Strongly magnetic buried services were recorded along/adjacent to the north western and southern boundaries, with suggestions of magnetically weaker examples extending across the northeastern and southwestern parts of the site.



1.0 Introduction

Acting for their clients Hopkins Homes, Archaeology South-East: Essex commissioned Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd (PCG) to undertake a fluxgate gradiometer survey on land off Aldeburgh Road, Leiston, Suffolk (centred at TM 44742 61817). The site is proposed for residential development (planning application C12/2139).

The fieldwork and reporting were undertaken accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Archaeology South-East: Essex, in accordance with a brief issued by Jess Tipper, County Archaeologist, Suffolk Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT 2013) for a programme of geophysical survey in advance of residential development.

This report incorporates information that has been selectively extracted from the WSI.

2.0 Location and description (Figs. 1 – 2)

The site encompasses c.5ha within two arable fields (Areas1 & 2) situated at the southern edge of Leiston, immediately to the south of Red House Lane and east of the B1122 Aldeburgh Road. It is bounded to the east by agricultural farmland and to the south and north by light industrial and residential developments.

3.0 Geology and topography

The solid geology within the site comprises sand and gravel of the Crag Group¹. This is overlain by drift deposits of clay and silt of the Lowestoft Formation.

The response of archaeological remains within sands and gravel and glacial deposits is variable.

The site slopes gently downwards from c.19m AOD (above Ordnance Datum) at its northern end to c.16 m AOD at its southern end.

4.0 Archaeological Context

No known archaeological sites are recorded within the proposed development area; however, the cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure of possible prehistoric or Roman date lie to the east of the site (Suffolk HER No. LCS 019).

5.0 Objectives

The objectives of the geophysical survey were to establish, by using non intrusive techniques;

- The nature, extent and location of any archaeological features, should any lie within the proposed development,
- The presence/absence of any modern features, such as services, that may impact on the survey results and any archaeological features in close proximity.

6.0 Methodology

The survey methodology is based upon English Heritage guidelines: '*Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (English Heritage, 2008).

Fluxgate Gradiometry is a non-intrusive scientific prospecting tool that is used to determine the presence/absence of some classes of sub-surface archaeological features (e.g. pits, ditches, kilns, and occasionally stone walls).

The use of gradiometry should help to establish the presence/absence of buried magnetic anomalies, which may reflect sub-surface archaeological features, and may therefore form a basis for a subsequent scheme of archaeological trenching.

The use of magnetic surveys to locate sub-surface ceramic materials and areas of burning, as well as magnetically weaker features, is well established, particularly on large green field sites. The detection of anomalies requires the use of highly sensitive instruments; in this instance the Bartington 601 Dual Fluxgate Gradiometer. This is accurately calibrated to the mean magnetic value of each survey area. Two sensors, mounted vertically and separated by 1m, measure slight, localised distortions of the earth's magnetic field, which are recorded by a data logger.

The survey was undertaken on 28th May 2013 using Bartington Grad-601 Dual Fluxgate Gradiometers. The zigzag traverse method of survey was used, with readings taken at 0.25m intervals along 1.0m wide traverses.

The survey grid was established by Global Positioning Satellite using a Topcon GRS-1, with an accuracy of +/- 0.1m and subsequently geo-referenced on an Auto drawing of the site.

The data sets were processed using *ArcheoSurveyor 1.3.2.8*.

The raw data sets are presented on Fig 4 (clipped to +/-5nT to enhance resolution).

The 'Despike' function was applied to reduce the effect of extreme readings induced by metal objects, and 'Destripe' to eliminate striping introduced by zigzag traversing. The data sets were clipped to +/- 10nT on the trace plots (Fig. 5) and +/-2nT on greyscale images (Fig. 2).

6.2 Character, interpretation and presentation of magnetic anomalies

Potential archaeological remains are highlighted as red on the interpretive image (Fig. 3); services as blue line and cultivation as orange lines .

Anomalies considered to reflect modern ferrous-rich features and objects are highlighted in blue on the interpretive image. These are characterised magnetically as dipolar 'iron spikes', often displaying strong positive and/or negative responses. Examples include those deposited along existing or former boundaries (e.g. wire fencing), services and scatters of horseshoes, ploughshares etc across open areas. Ferro-enhanced (fired) materials such brick and tile (sometimes introduced during manuring or land drain construction) usually induce a similar, though predominately weaker response. Concentrations of such anomalies will often indicate rubble spreads, such as would be used to backfill ponds or redundant ditches, or indicate the blurred footprints of demolished structures.

On a cautionary note, fired clay associated with early activity (e.g. kilns, furnaces, tile spreads) has the same magnetic characteristics as modern brick/tile rubble. Therefore, the interpretation of such variation must consider the context in which it occurs.

7.0 Results and discussion (Figs. 2 - 5)

The survey recorded:

- 1) Linear anomalies that exhibit some potential as buried ditches (Fig. 3: red lines). These include a possible small rectilinear enclosed area (1), although the strong magnetic response of a service (blue line) has compromised the effectiveness of the survey to clearly identify magnetically weaker features in this vicinity. It is also possible that some responses may reflect natural features, for example weak responses in the north east corner of Area 2.
- 2) Discrete and magnetically weak anomalies. It is likely that most relate to natural features, such as tree throws, although a number have been flagged as potential pits (red dots).

- 3) Relatively large zones of predominately weak variation in the survey areas (2 - 5: hatched red). These might signify former quarries. No such features are depicted on historic Ordnance Survey maps, thus implying an earlier origin.
- 4) Probable traces of modern cultivation (examples: dotted orange lines).
- 5) Some form of buried services at that are parallel with the southern and northern boundaries of Areas 1 and 2, respectively (dashed blue lines).
- 6) The strong response of a buried service along the southern edge of the survey in Area 2 (dashed blue line).
- 7) A scatter of discrete and magnetically stronger anomalies that probably signify miscellaneous ferrous-rich objects contained with the plough soil (such as plough shares, horseshoes and brick fragments).

8.0 Conclusions

The survey has recorded elements of magnetic variation that could conceivably represent potential archaeological remains. These principally comprise a number of possible ditches and broad zones of weak variation that might signify backfilled quarries. It is also possible that magnetically weak discrete anomalies could reflect pits, although (for the most part) such responses probably indicate natural features.

Strongly magnetic buried services were recorded along/adjacent to the north western and southern boundaries, with suggestions of magnetically weaker examples extending across the northeastern and southwestern parts of the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Geophysics would like to thank Archaeology South-East: Essex for this commission.

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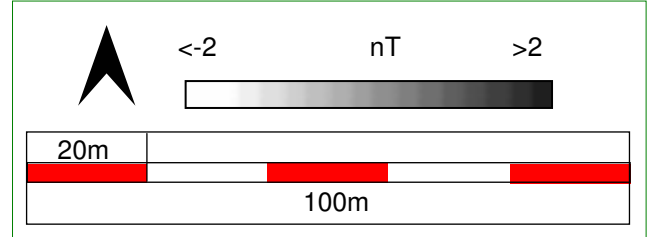
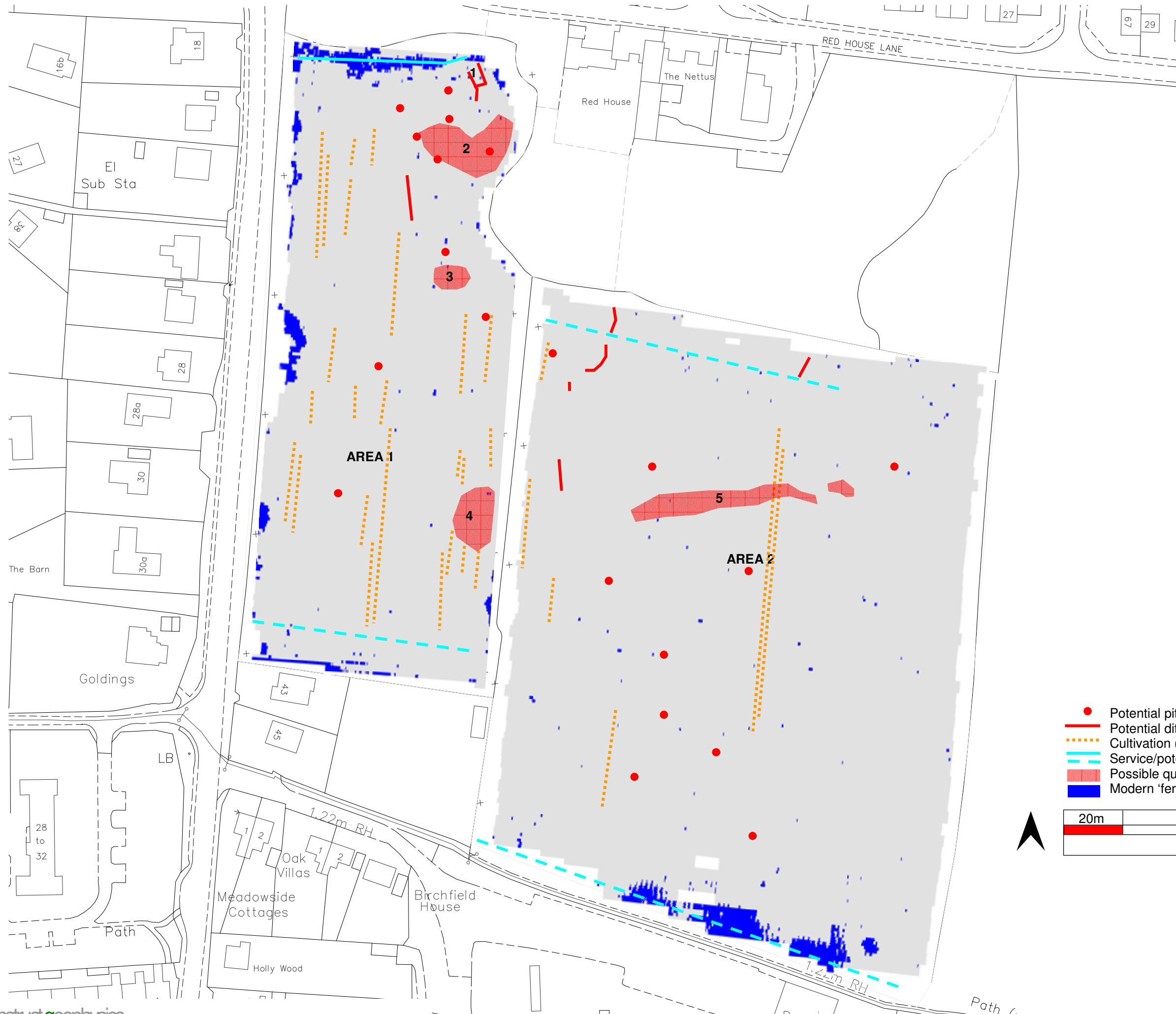


Figure 2: Greyscale images
Processed data



- Potential pit
- Potential ditch
- ⋯ Cultivation (example)
- - - Service/potential service
- Possible quarry
- Modern 'ferrous'

20m		100m		

Figure 3: Interpretation

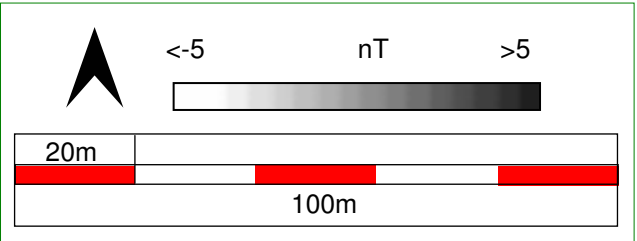


Figure 4: Greyscale images
Unprocessed data



Figure 5: Trace plots

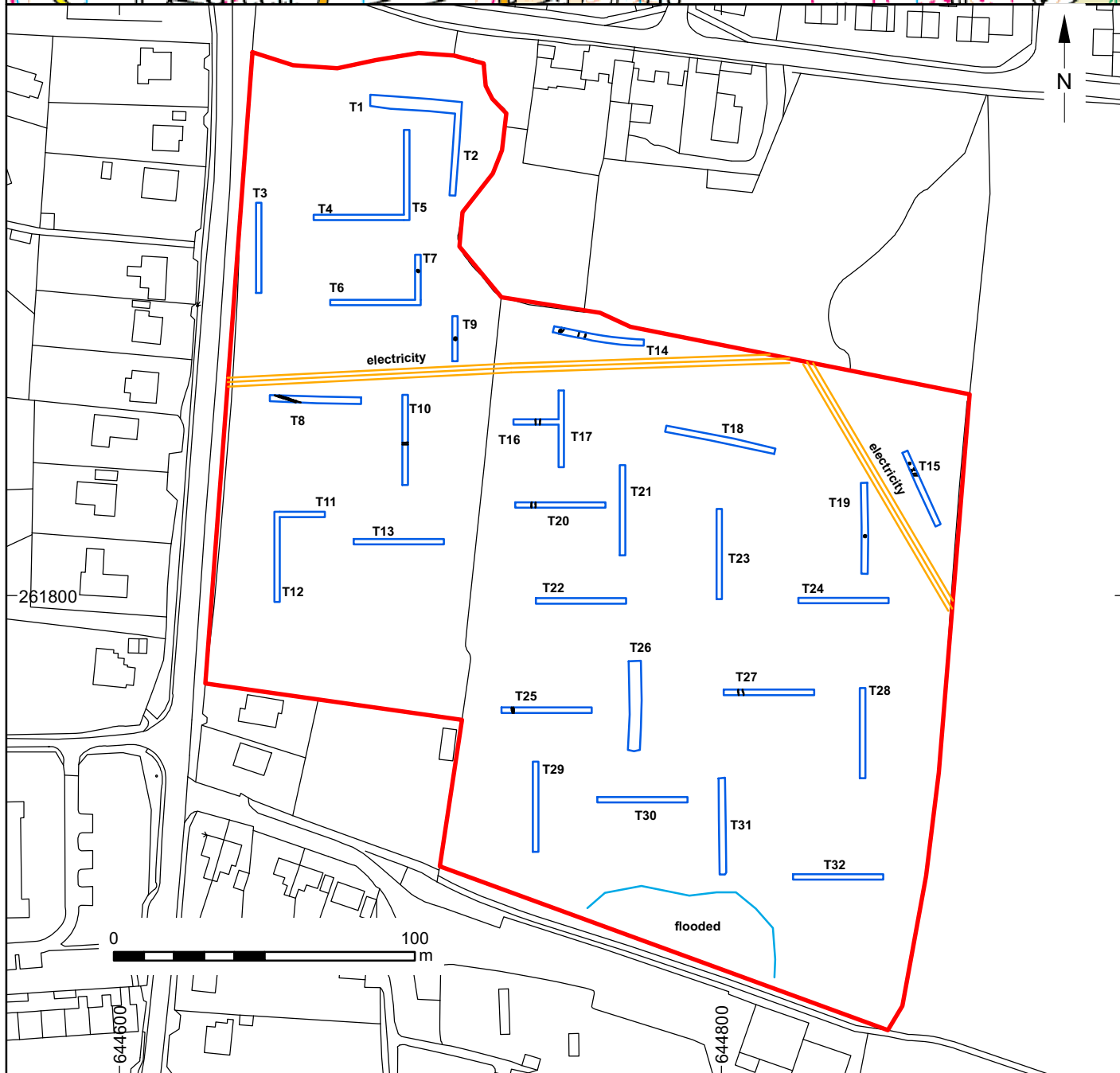
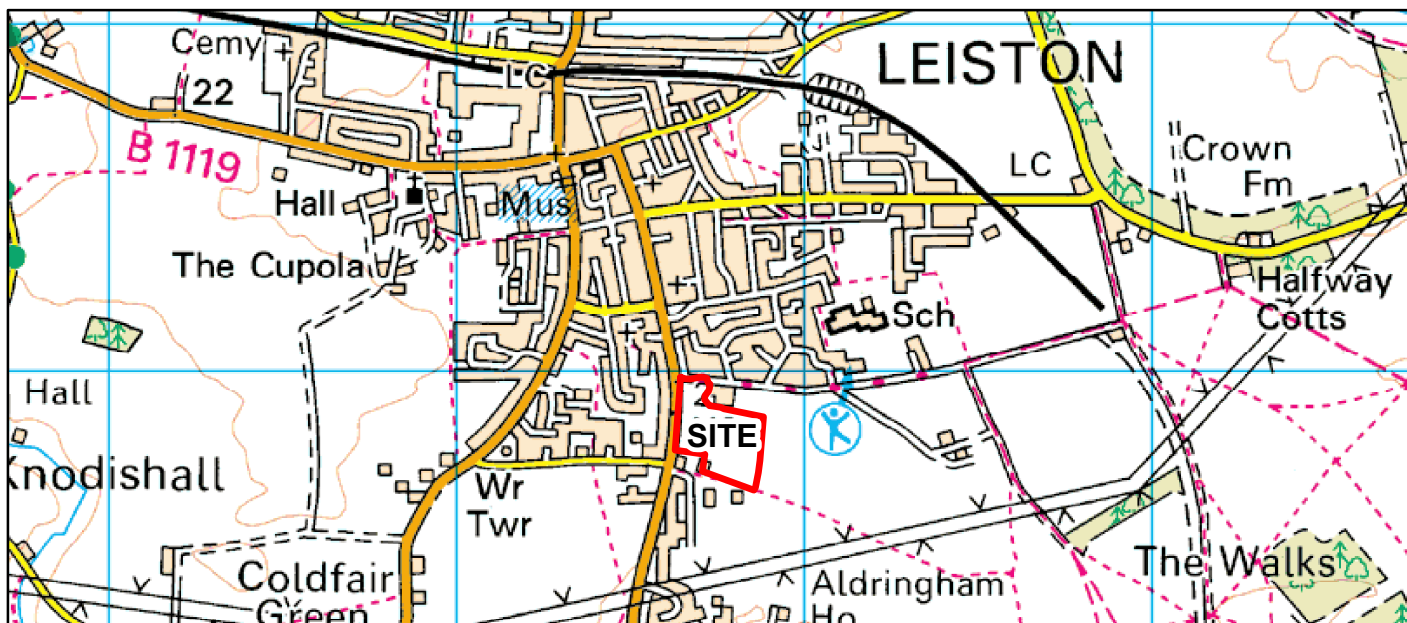
Appendix 2: HER SUMMARY FORM

Site Code	LCS 175					
Identification Name and Address	Land opposite 18-30A Aldeburgh Road, Leiston, Suffolk					
County, District &/or Borough	Suffolk Coastal District					
OS Grid Ref.	TM 44742 61817					
Geology	Clay and silt of the Lowestoft Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	8048					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 20/01/14-03/02/14	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Hopkins Homes Ltd					
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby					
Project Supervisor	Trevor Ennis					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM			
<p><i>Thirty-two evaluation trenches were excavated across the 5ha development area, a number of which were targeted on potential archaeological features identified by a preceding geophysical survey of the site.</i></p> <p><i>A modest level of prehistoric remains was identified to be present across the northern half of the site, some of which coincide with geophysical survey anomalies. In general the remains are not closely dated but appear to be largely of Late Bronze Age origin and consist of scattered pits and ditches/gullies that might be remnants of a contemporary field system. A small concentration of features was noted in the north-east corner of the site that could conceivably be part of a wider distribution of occupation features.</i></p> <p><i>The recovery of apparently residual struck flints of Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint date implies that flint working had taken place in this area in an earlier prehistoric period, the discarded remains from this activity presumably left lying about on the surface of the ground until subsequently finding their way into the fills of later Bronze Age features.</i></p>						

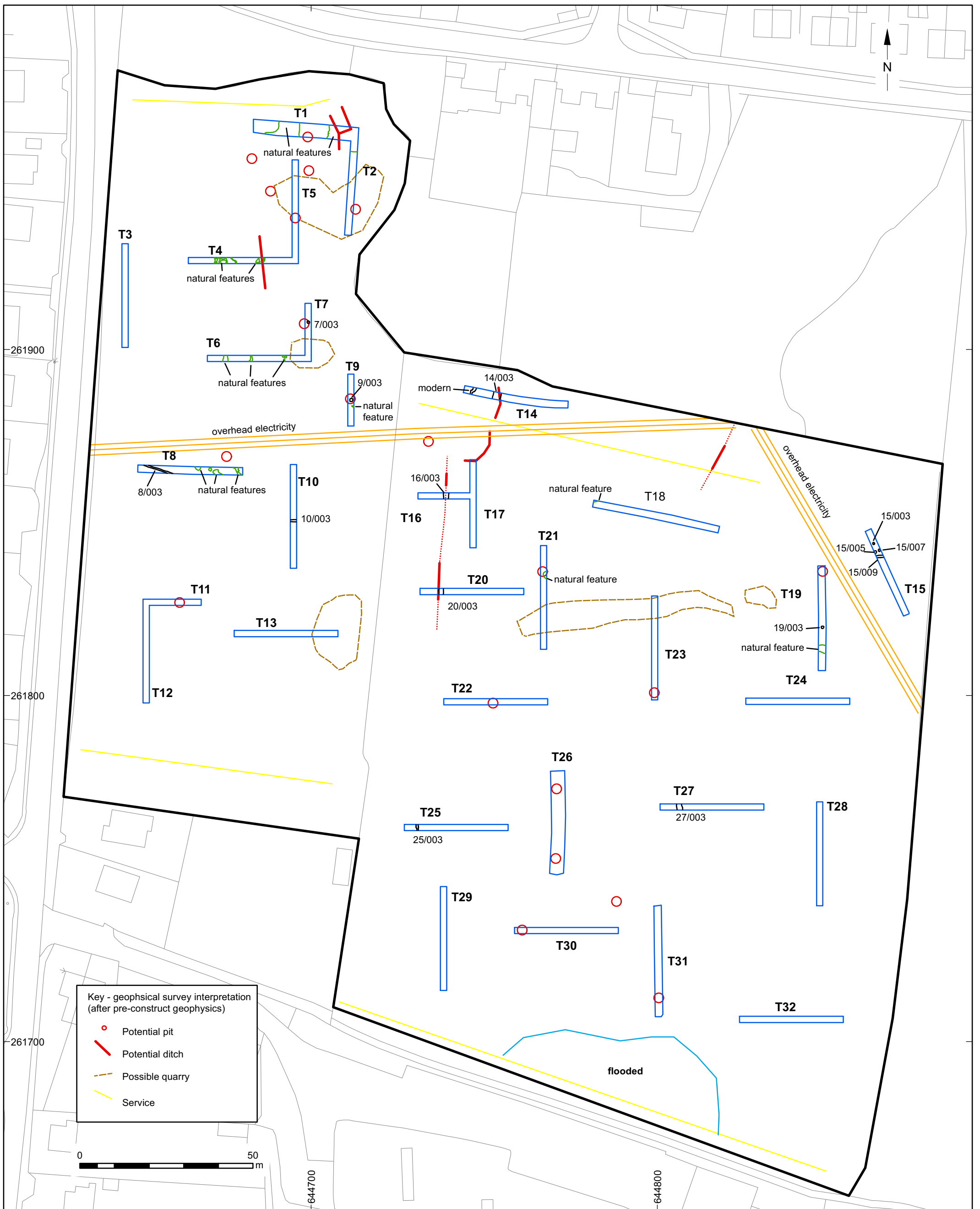
Appendix 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-168428	
Project details	
Project name	Land opposite 18-30A Aldeburgh Road, Leiston
Short description of the project	Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposed residential development. Thirty-two evaluation trenches were excavated across the 5ha development area. The trenching has revealed the presence of a low level of prehistoric remains widely scattered across the development area. The remains are poorly dated but appear to date to the Late Bronze Age and consist of a few widely-spaced pits that attest to localised activity and ditches/gullies that might be remnants of a contemporary field system. The recovery of apparently residual struck flints of Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint date implies the exploitation and occupation of this landscape in an earlier prehistoric period. The evaluation revealed that many potential features identified by an earlier geophysical survey were the result of natural geological disturbances.
Project dates	Start: 15-01-2014 End: 30-01-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	LCS 175 – Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Late Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Late Bronze Age
Monument type	GULLY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENTS Late Mesolithic
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL LEISTON Land opposite 18-30A Aldeburg Road
Study area	5.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 44742 61817 52.1995483987 1.58192871079 52 11 58 N 001 34 54 E Point

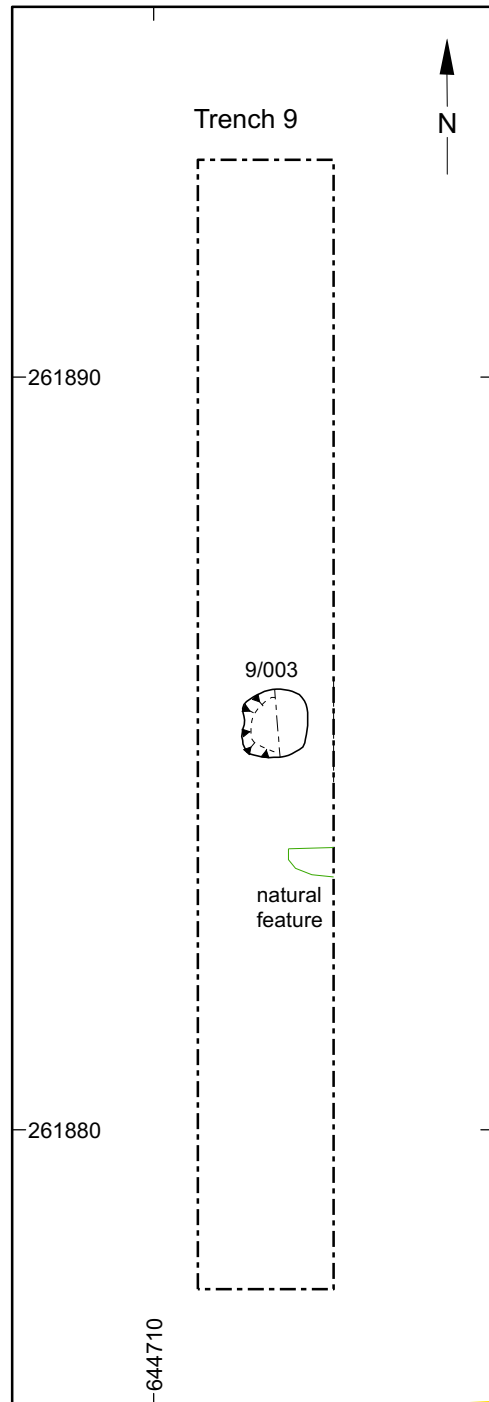
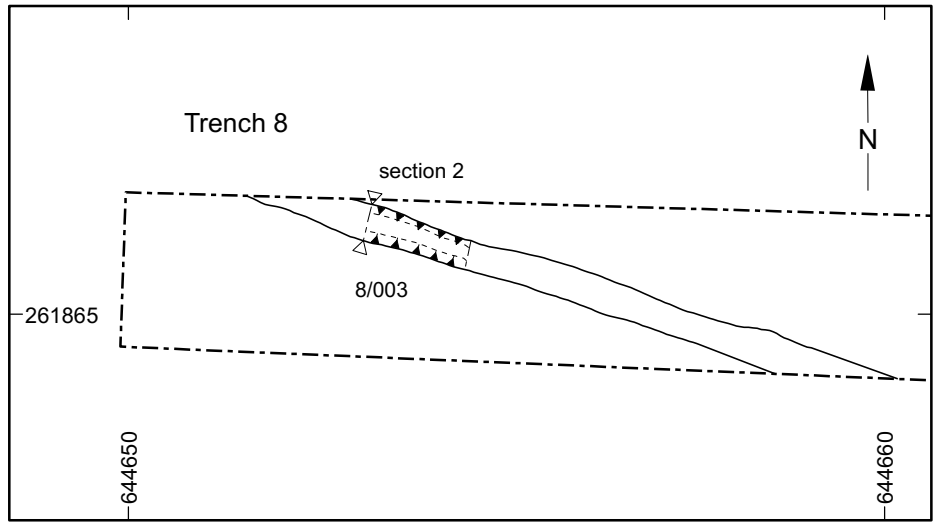
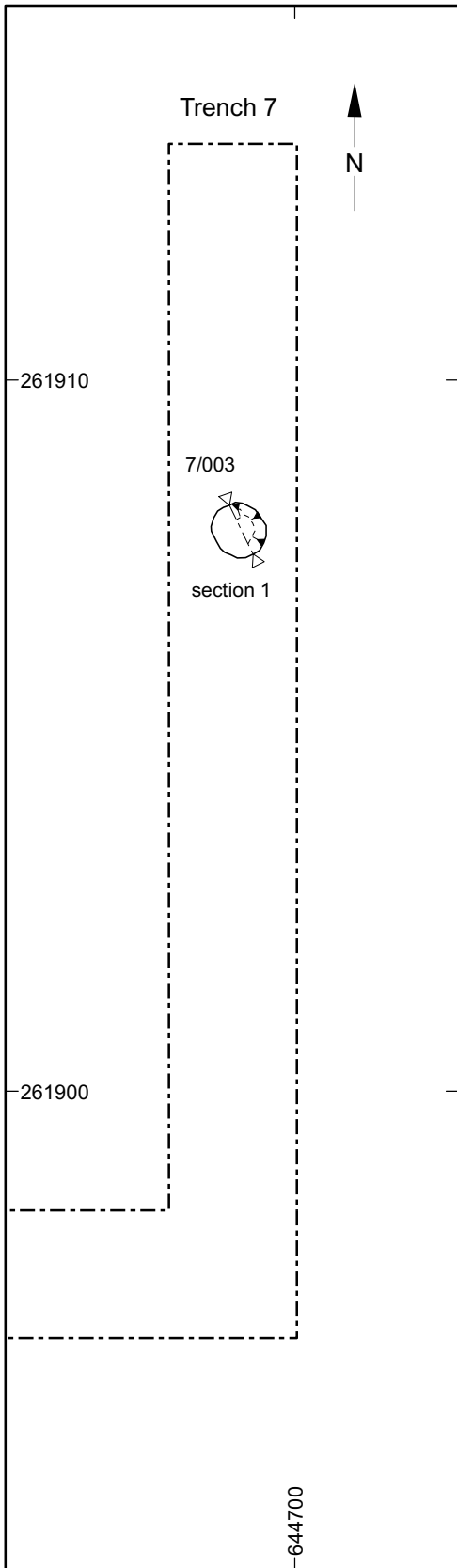
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Physical Archive ID	LCS 175
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Digital Archive ID	LCS 175
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Paper Archive ID	LCS 175
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land opposite 18-30A Aldeburgh Road, Leiston, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ennis, T.
Other bibliographic details	ASE report number 201477
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Braintree
Description	Blue spine, approx. 25 pages
Entered by	Trevor Ennis (t.ennis@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	6 March 2014



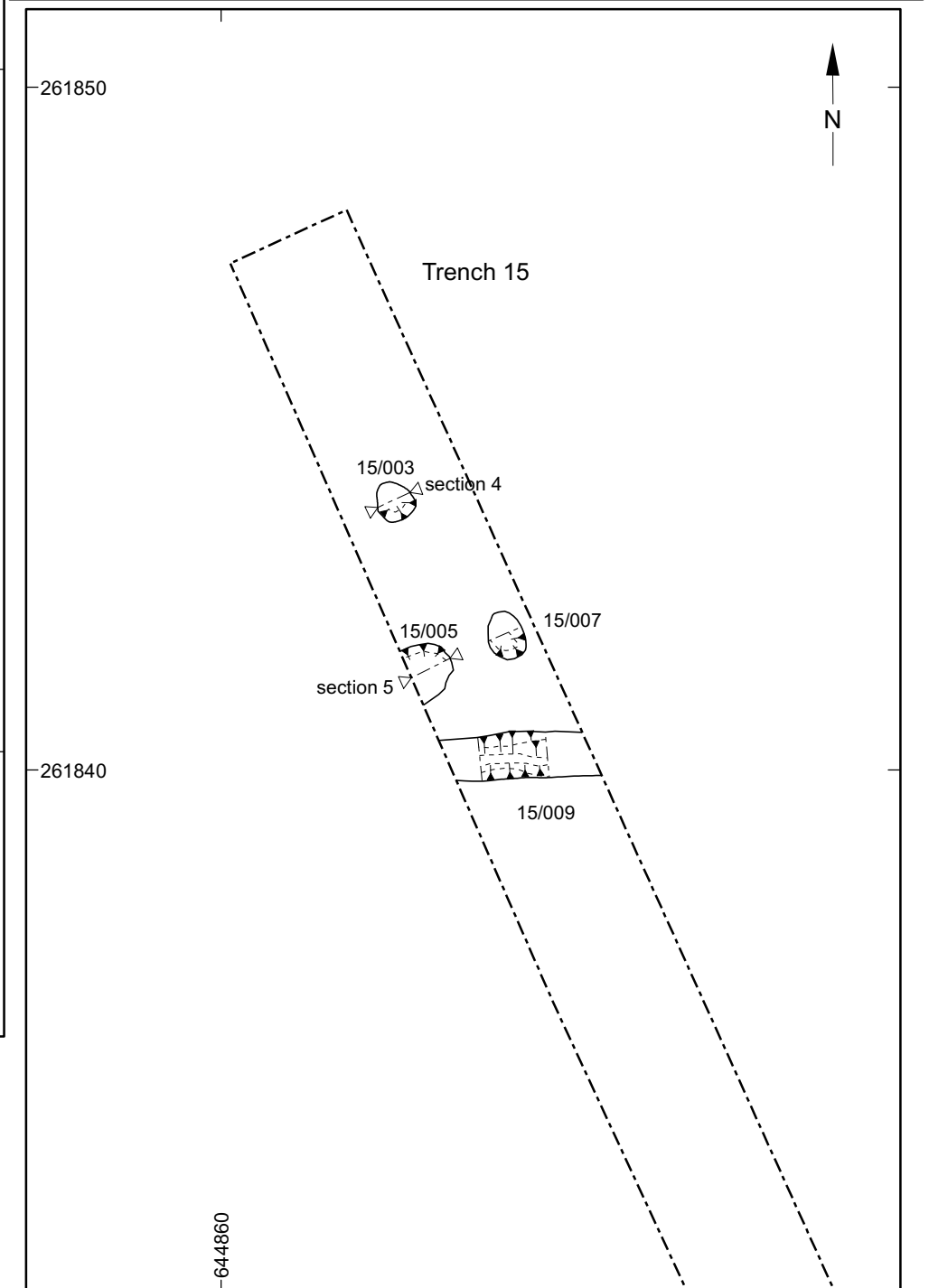
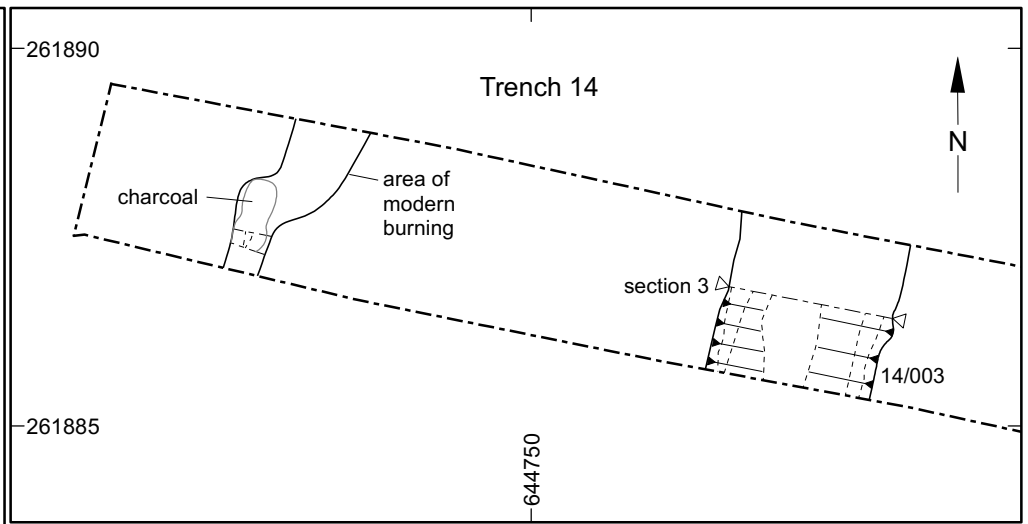
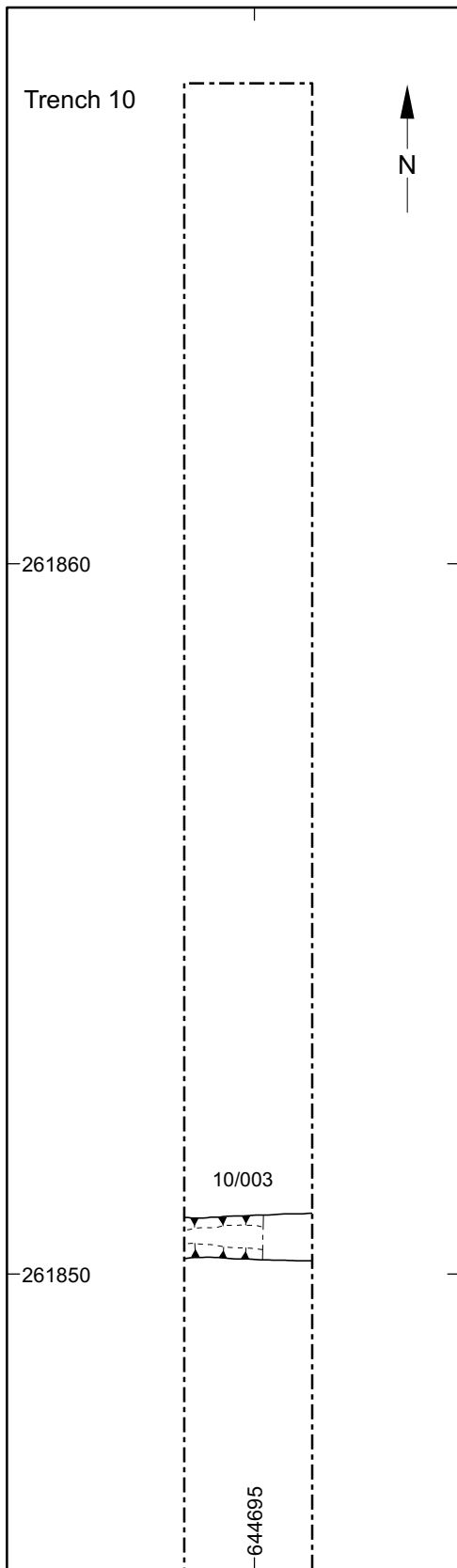
© Archaeology South-East		Aldeburgh Road, Leiston	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8048	Jan 2014	Trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2014077	Drawn by: APL		



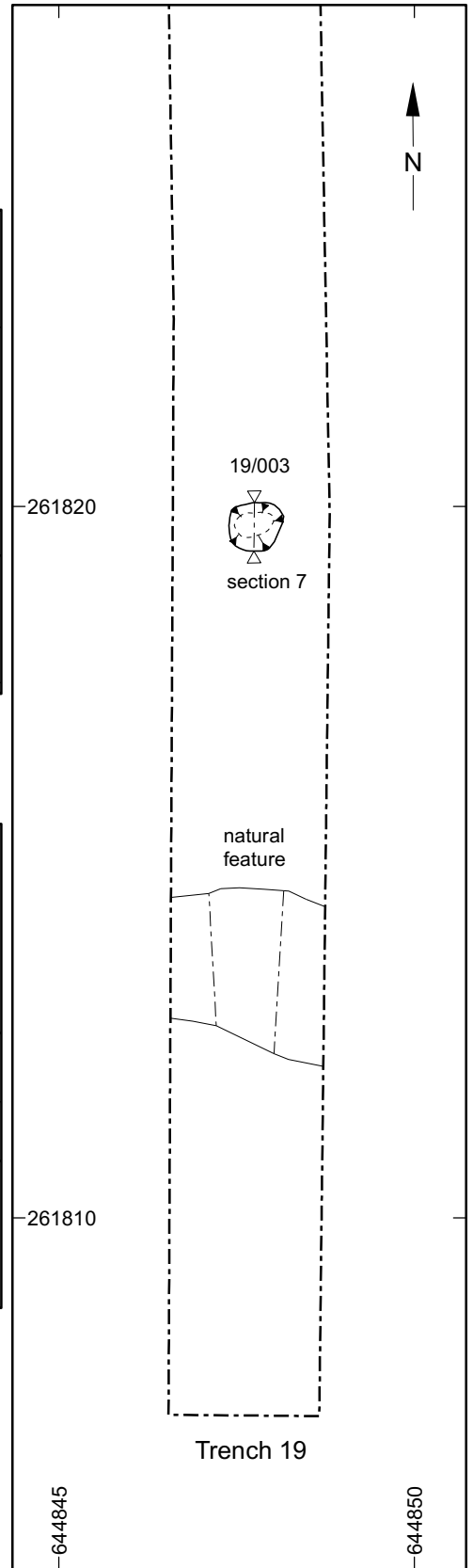
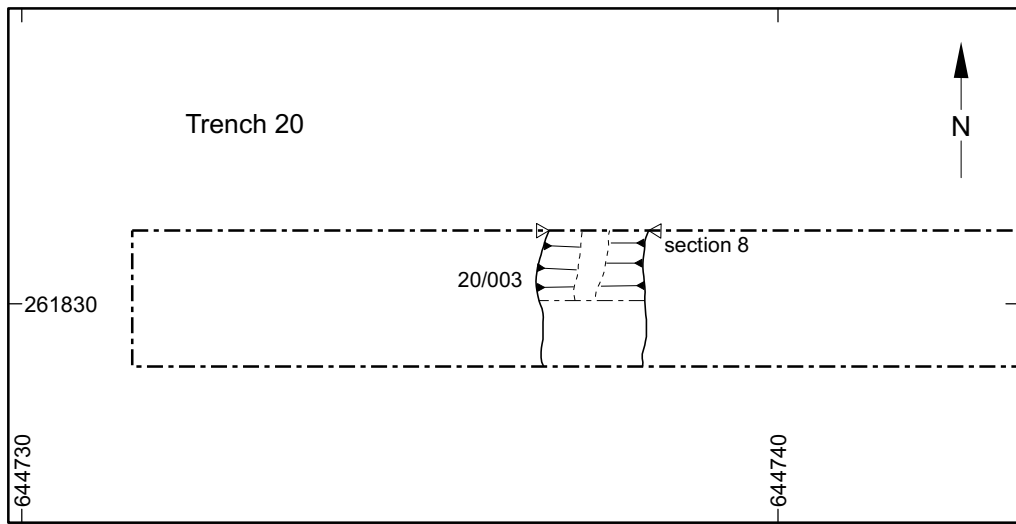
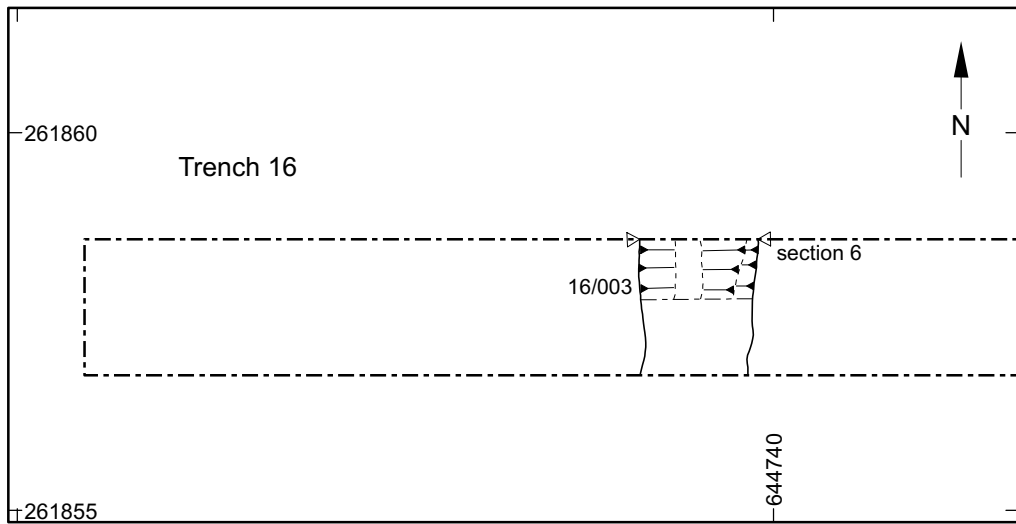
© Archaeology South-East		Aldeburgh Road, Leiston	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8048	Jan 2014	Trench plan with geophysical survey interpretation	
Report Ref: 2014077	Drawn by: APL		



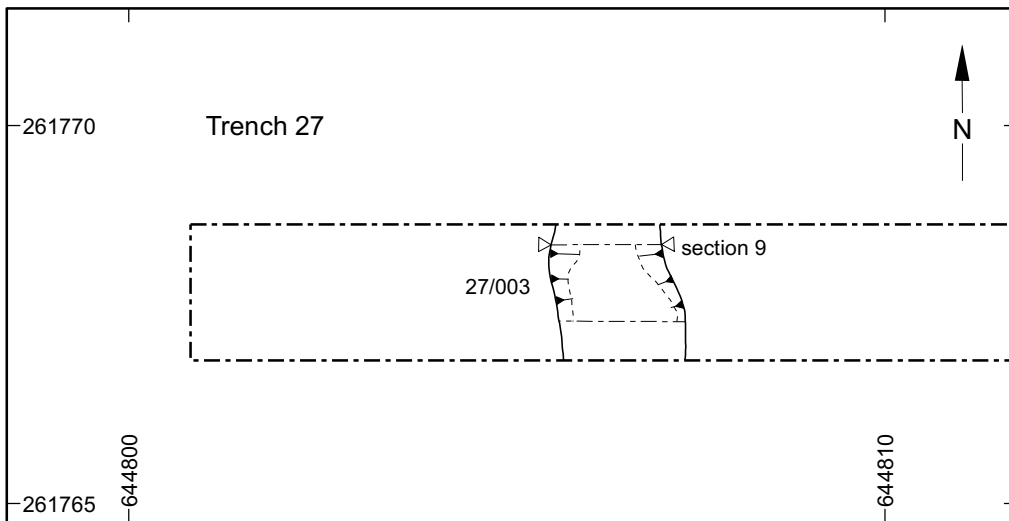
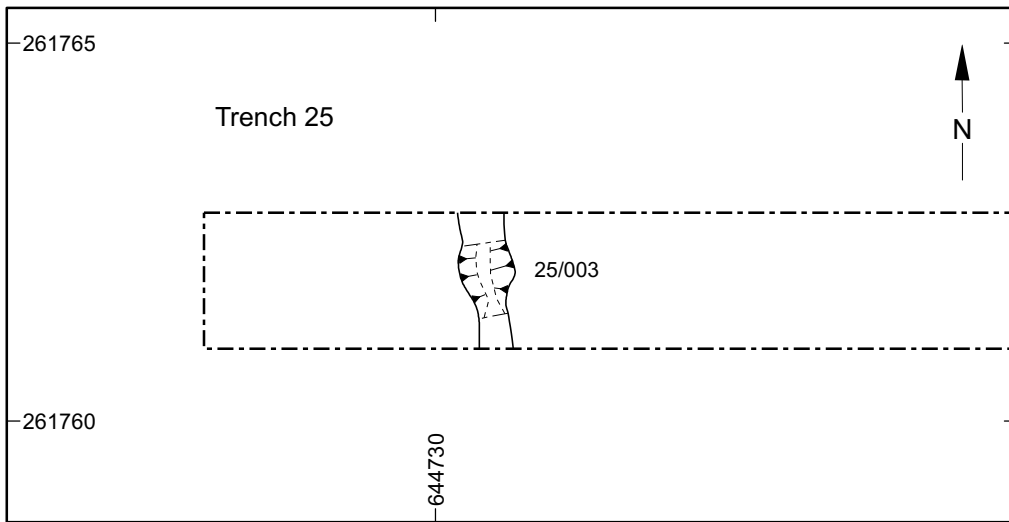
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Project Ref: 8048	Jan 2014	Trenches 7, 8 & 9		
Report Ref: 2014077	Drawn by: APL			



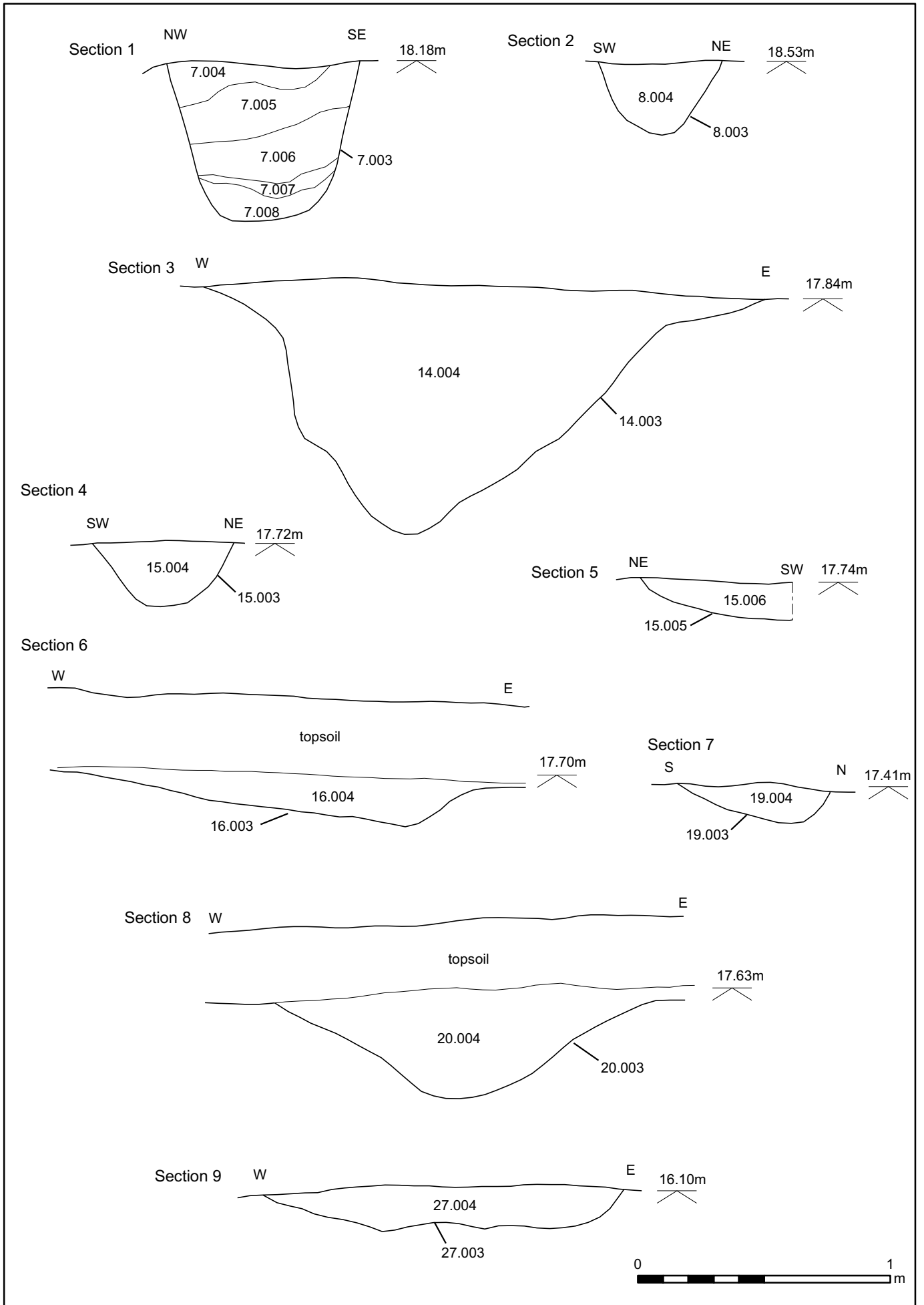
© Archaeology South-East		Aldeburgh Road, Leiston	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 8048	Jan 2014	Trenches 10, 14 & 15	
Report Ref: 2014077	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 8048	Jan 2014	Sections 1 - 9		
Report Ref: 2014077	Drawn by: APL			



Figure 8: Pit 7/003, looking south-west (1m scale)



Figure 9: Gully 10/003, looking west (0.5m scale)



Figure 10: Gully 15/009, looking west (0.5m scale)



Figure 11. Ditch 16/003, looking north (1m scale)



Figure 12. Pit 19/003, looking west (0.5m scale)



Figure 13: Gully 25/003, looking north (0.5m scale)



Figure 14. Natural features in Trench 4, looking west (1m scale)



Figure 15. Trench 30 flooded, looking west

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