Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation:

Channels Phase 2

Belsteads Farm Lane

Little Waltham

Essex

ASE Project No: 8251
Site Code: LWBF13

ASE Report No: 2014318

October 2014

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Little Waltham
Chelmsford
Essex

Centred at NGR: TL 72390 10710

Planning Ref: 10/00031/FUL

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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) was commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development on part of the former Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex.

A total of eighteen archaeological trial trenches were excavated, nine of which revealed features and produced a small finds assemblage. The features uncovered included a Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch, as well as an undated sub-circular fire pit and two small, undated pits and a single feature of probable natural origin. Feature definition was generally good, although truncation and landscaping was apparent in a few trenches, particularly Trench 24.

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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 Bellway Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of Phase 2 of residential development on part of the former Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex (NGR TL 72390, 10710: Figure 1)

1.1.2 Phase 1 of the development (evaluated in 2013) was broadly located within the landfill area and pond buffer zone to the west of the present area and also included the route of a new access road (evaluated in 2014) to the north (Figure 1).

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The development area is located some 5km north of Chelmsford town centre and lies east of Essex Regiment Way (A130) and south of Belsteads Farm Lane. The site has been landscaped and was formerly part of Channels golf course, much of which was constructed on land that had been reinstated following mineral extraction. The site in general sloped gently from east to west (*c.*52-49 AOD), though in the south there was a large open quarry hollow in excess of 10m deep. The ground surface consisted of undulating grassland interrupted by occasional ponds, bunkers, copses and trees. The overall Phase 2 development site covers an area of 4.4ha.

1.2.2 The surface geology of the site comprises Quaternary Period Diamicton (mixed clay, sand and gravel) above London Clay (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer – accessed 05/09/2014).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (10/00031/FUL) to change the use of the land to residential development was submitted to Chelmsford Borough Council in January 2010. As the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, a full archaeological condition was recommended by Essex County Council (ECC) Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, in order to ensure that appropriate archaeological recording was undertaken. This recommendation was based upon guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

1.3.2 The condition states that:

"No development, or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

1.3.3 This archaeological condition has subsequently been applied to all applications for the site as its development has been advanced in phases.

1.3.4 The programme of archaeological work for Phase 2 was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Archaeology South-East (2014b) and approved by ECC Place Services.

1.3.5 The results of the current archaeological evaluation will inform decisions regarding the need for and extent of any further archaeological works that may be required in order to mitigate the impact of the development upon the archaeological record. In the event that archaeological mitigation is necessary these recommendations will define the scope of the required archaeological work.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of Phase 2 of the development area undertaken between the 8th and 12th September 2014 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI. The fieldwork was carried out by Trevor Ennis with assistance from Alec Down. The fieldwork was project managed by Adrian Scruby and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 This background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held and maintained at County Hall, Chelmsford and the ECC Historic Environment Officers design brief for the site (ECC Place Services 2013) with due acknowledgement.

2.2 The Historic Environment Characterisation assessment for Chelmsford Borough identifies much of the application area as having suffered a high rate of disturbance from mineral extraction and modification of the landscape, which may have destroyed any archaeological deposits. However, the recovery of artefacts of multi-period date from the surrounding area suggests that in those areas where no quarrying has taken place there is potential for surviving archaeological deposits.

2.3 Undated

2.3.1 Cropmarks of potential archaeological origin have been identified in the area (EHER 6132). Archaeological trial trenching to the west and north of the present area (Figure 1) prior to Phase 1 of the development identified a heavily truncated, undated gully.

2.4 Prehistoric and Roman

2.4.1 Small quantities of Late Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman artefacts have been recovered from the surrounding area (EHER 1445-48, 6072-73). A large number of metal detected finds of Late Iron Age and Roman date have also been found in the vicinity of Pratts Farm Roundabout to the north-west (EHER 46785) implying the presence of a near-by settlement of some status. To the south of the development site, evaluation in advance of housing development revealed prehistoric and Iron Age/Roman activity also indicative of nearby settlement.

2.5 Medieval and Post-medieval

2.5.1 Both periods are evidenced by the recovery of small quantities of artefacts in the vicinity of the site (EHER 1445-48, 6072-73). Further evidence of medieval occupation is the moated site at Belsteads Hall (EHER 6038/9). The post-medieval period is further represented by a ditch uncovered during trenching to the north, in advance of the construction of the Park and Ride site (EHER 47192).

2.6 Historic mapping

2.6.1 Historic OS mapping shows the vicinity of the site to be agricultural land up to the middle of the 20th century. Quarrying of the site and local area began in the early 1950's with areas to the north and west of the site subsequently used for landfill. Channels Golf Club was opened in the 1970s and the site was landscaped at this time to form part of the golf course.

2.7 Research Objectives

2.7.1 The research aims were made with regard to the revised regional research framework (Medlycott 2011, pp 28-32) and in view of the discovery of large quantities of metal-detected finds of Late Iron and Roman date recovered in the wider vicinity of the proposed development.

- *Investigate any evidence for settlement activity of Late Iron Age or Roman date within the site and to interpret any such evidence in light of discoveries from the surrounding area.*

  Evidence of settlement activity spanning the Late Iron Age/ Roman transition at Channels would have the potential to contribute to a number of research framework objectives relating to this important transitional period and place in context the large corpus of previously noted metal-detected metalwork, some of which appears to be of moderate to high status.

2.7.2 In the event that significant discoveries were made the report would seek to review the current research objectives for the project and identify any other appropriate avenues of research for any future 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).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features within the development area and to establish their extent, date, character, condition and significance.

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 The proposed evaluation trenches as set out in the WSI (ASE 2014b) consisted of seventeen 40m long by 1.8m wide trenches totalling 680 sq m. Not all of the 4.4ha Phase 2 area was to be investigated because of restrictions imposed by the presence of several ecological buffer zones.

3.2.2 At the commencement of fieldwork additional restrictions to trench location became apparent. Machining close to the northern perimeter of the site was not possible because of a stripped and compacted vehicle route way and trench lengths and position were also affected by the presence of two large spoil tips in the east of the site. In the south of the area, Trench 22 was found to lie almost entirely within a former deep quarry pit and the southern half of Trench 19 was situated on a steep slope beneath the canopy of an oak tree. A few trenches were also re-aligned to avoid several large *in-situ* tree stumps.

3.2.3 As a result of the restrictions many of the trench lengths and positions had to be adjusted in the field and subsequently varied from those set out in the WSI. Revised trench lengths varied from 6m (Trench 8) to 47m (Trench 9) and in total covered 580 sq m. The revised trench plan (Figure 1) was ratified by the ECC Place Services monitoring officer who also requested the excavation of two additional trenches (Trench 25 and Trench 26) in order to further trace the route of the ditch revealed in Trench 12.

3.2.4 All trenches were opened under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavation stopped at the top of the archaeological horizon or on reaching the top of the undisturbed natural geological deposit. The spoil heaps were scanned for any artefacts.

3.2.5 All trenches and archaeological features were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using GNSS technology.

3.2.6 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout. All work was undertaken in accordance with the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation, and Code of Conduct (IfA 2013a & 2013b), and the ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). ASE is an IfA Registered Archaeological Organisation.

3.2.7 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances.

3.2.8 All trenches were inspected for archaeological remains. Potential features were excavated using hand tools. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record was also created.

3.2.9 All finds were recovered. Environmental soil samples were taken were deemed appropriate.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Chelmsford Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	88
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	27 (digital)
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	-
Bulk soil samples	1
Environmental flots/residue	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 **Introduction** (Figure 1)

4.1.1 Sixteen out of the seventeen evaluation trenches (Trenches 8 – 24) set out in the WSI were excavated though many had to be moved or adjusted due to the presence of numerous restrictions. Trench 22 could not be excavated and Trenches 25 and 26 were additional trenches opened at the request of the ECC Place Services monitoring officer. A selection of trench photographs are shown in Figure 6.

4.1.2 In the following trench descriptions, all features were cut into the natural deposits.

4.2 **Trench 12** (Figure 2)

4.2.1 Trench 12 was 37m long, aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, and was staggered (during machining) to avoid a large tree stump. The natural brownish-orange silty clay with gravel [12/003] was located at 51.06m OD at the northern end and 51.08m OD at the southern end of the trench.

4.2.2 One ditch [12/004], aligned approximately east-west was excavated in the northern half of the trench. The ditch measured 1.00m wide and a maximum of 0.38m deep and was filled with mid to dark brownish grey silty clay [12/005] containing a quantity of transitional Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery.

4.2.3 The trench was sealed by 0.10-0.14m of subsoil [12/002], which in turn was overlain by 0.20-0.24m of topsoil [12/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	37m	1.8m	0.24m
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	37m	1.8m	0.14m
12/003	Layer	Natural	37m	1.8m	-
12/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8m+	1.0m	0.38m
12/005	Fill	Fill of 12/004	1.8m+	1.0m	0.38m

Table 2: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.3 **Trench 13** (Figure 3)

4.3.1 Trench 13 was 40m long and aligned east to west. The natural brownish-orange silty clay with gravel [13/003] was located at 52.14m OD at the eastern end of the trench and 51.18m OD at the western end.

4.3.2 One possible, irregular feature [13/004] was excavated at the eastern end of the trench. The feature measured 2.00m by 1.70m+ and 0.24m deep and continued beyond the edge of the trench to the south. It was poorly defined and contained a mid-greyish brown silty clay fill [13/005]. No finds were recovered and it is likely that this feature is of natural origin.

4.3.3 The trench was sealed by 0.14-0.20m of subsoil [13/002], which in turn was overlain by 0.24-0.26m of topsoil [13/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	40m	1.8m	0.26m
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	40m	1.8m	0.20m
13/003	Layer	Natural	40m	1.8m	-
13/004	Cut	Depression	1.7m+	2m	0.24m
13/005	Fill	Fill of 13/004	1.7m+	2m	0.24m

Table 3: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

4.4 **Trench 14** (Figure 3)

4.4.1 Trench 14 was 40m long and was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. The natural deposits of brownish orange silty clay with gravel [14/004], which were heavily rooted, were recorded at 52.08m OD at the northern end of the trench and 52.01m OD at the southern end.

4.4.2 At the north end of Trench 14 was a sub-circular fire-pit [14/005], 0.95m by 0.87m and 0.12m deep. The pit had four fills [14/006, 14/007, 14/008 and 14/009]. The primary fill [14/006] consisted of brownish orange silty clay the upper part of which was partially scorched and had turned orange/red in colour in places. The second fill consisted of pale yellowish brown silty clay [14/007]. This was overlain by an intermittent seam of dark brownish grey/black silty clay containing abundant charcoal [14/008]. The top of the pit was infilled with mid brownish grey silty clay [14/009]. No finds were recovered.

4.4.3 The trench was sealed by 0.15-0.25m of subsoil which in the north of the trench could be sub-divided into two contexts [14/002 and 14/003]. This was beneath 0.15-0.20m of topsoil [14/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	40m	1.8m	0.20m
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	40m	1.8m	0.20m
14/003	Layer	Subsoil	*c.*10m	1.8m	0.10m
14/004	Layer	Natural	40m	1.8m	-
14/005	Cut	Pit	0.95m	0.87m	0.12m
14/006	Fill	Fill of 14/005	0.80m	0.87m	0.06m
14/007	Fill	Fill of 14/005	0.30m	0.3m+-	0.02m
14/008	Fill	Fill of 14/005	0.95m	0.3m+-	0.03m
14/009	Fill	Fill of 14/005	0.80m	0.3m+-	0.05m

Table 4: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.5 **Trench 17** (Figure 2)

4.5.1 Trench 17 was 40m long and was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. The natural mid brownish orange clay silt with frequent flint inclusions [17/002] was recorded at 50.09m OD at the western end of the trench and 50.85m OD at the eastern end.

4.5.2 Roughly in the centre of the trench was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch [17/003] that appeared to be a continuation of ditch [12/004] from Trench 12. The ditch was 1.35m wide and 0.50m deep and contained two fills [17/006, 17/007]. The primary fill comprised orange brown silty clay [17/007] that may represent natural silting. This was overlain by [17/006], a mixed deposit of brownish grey silty clay.

4.5.3 The ditch appears to have been re-cut ([17/008]). This re-cut was filled with dark brownish grey silty clay [17/005] that contained frequent charcoal flecks and fragments of orange fired clay. A 40L bulk soil sample <01>was taken from this deposit. Above this was orange brown silty clay [17/004]. All four ditch fills contained transitional Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery.

4.5.4 The trench was sealed with a 0.08-0.15m thick deposit of subsoil [17/002]. Topsoil had been removed from the area prior to the excavation of the trench.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
17/002	Layer	Subsoil	40m	1.8m	0.15m
17/003	Cut	Ditch	1.0m+	1.35m	0.50m
17/004	Fill	Fill of 17/003	1.0m+	0.50m	0.09m
17/005	Fill	Fill of 17/003	1.0m+	0.95m	0.33m
17/006	Fill	Fill of 17/003	1.0m+	0.42m	0.16m
17/007	Fill	Fill of 17/003	1.0m+	0.90m	0.10m
17/008	Cut	Ditch re-cut	1.0m+	0.60m	0.42m

Table 5: Trench 17 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 21 (Figure 3)

4.6.1 Trench 21 was 34m long and was aligned north to south. The natural orange-brown clay with gravel patches [21/003] was recorded at 50.01m OD at the northern end of the trench and 49.99m OD at the southern end.

4.6.2 One small pit [21/005] was excavated in the north of the trench. The pit was irregular in plan, poorly-defined and continued beyond the west edge of the trench. It measured over 0.55m by 0.55m wide and 0.10m deep and was filled with grey to greyish brown clay silt that included flecks of charcoal and a few flecks of heat-reddened clay [21/004]. No finds were recovered and there was no evidence of *in situ* burning.

4.6.3 The trench was sealed by 0.10-0.15m of subsoil [21/002] beneath 0.05-0.10m of topsoil [21/001]. However, part of the topsoil (*c.*0.20m) had been removed prior to the excavation of the trench.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	34m	1.8m	0.10m
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	34m	1.8m	0.15m
21/003	Layer	Natural	34m	1.8m	-
21/004	Fill	Fill of 21/005	0.55m	0.55m	0.10m
21/005	Cut	Pit	0.55m	0.55m	0.10m

Table 6: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts

4.7 **Trench 23** (Figure 4)

4.7.1 Trench 23 was 43m long and was aligned north-west to south-east. The natural brownish orange silt clay with gravel inclusions [23/003] was recorded at 49.91m OD at the north-western end of the trench and 50.62m OD at the south-eastern end.

4.7.2 One small sub-rectangular pit [23/004] was excavated in the north western half of the trench. The pit measured 1.00m by 0.68m and 0.11m deep and was filled with mottled greyish brown silty clay [23/005]. No finds were recovered.

4.7.3 The trench was sealed by 0.14-0.20m of subsoil [23/002], beneath 0.15-0.25m of topsoil [23/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
23/001	Layer	Topsoil	43m	1.8m	0.25m
23/002	Layer	Subsoil	43m	1.8m	0.20m
23/003	Layer	Natural	43m	1.8m	-
23/004	Cut	Pit	1m	0.68m	0.11m
23/005	Fill	Fill of 23/004	1m	0.68m	0.11m

Table 7: Trench 23 list of recorded contexts

4.8 **Trench 24** (Figure 5)

4.8.1 Trench 24 was aligned north-south and was excavated to a length of 30m, having been shortened due to the presence of a large earth stockpile. The natural mid to dark brownish orange clay silt [24/010] was recorded at 51.96m OD at the northern end of the trench and 51.45m OD at the southern end.

4.8.2 Extending for some 3.50m at the southern end of the trench was a layer of slightly mixed pale yellowish brown and greyish brown silty clay [24/009] 0.10m thick. It overlay the natural deposits and contained two abraded fragments of probable residual pottery of possible 1st century AD date.

4.8.3 Also at the northern end of the trench was a modern, ballast ([24/007]) filled pipe trench [24/008].

4.8.4 Overburden at the northern end, which consisted entirely of modern material deposited during landscaping of the former golf course, was recorded as re-deposited clay subsoil deposits [24/005 and 24/006] up to 0.20m thick, beneath 0.15m of topsoil [24/002 and 24/003]. The southern end of the trench was sealed by 0.18m of original, undisturbed subsoil [24/004] which contained two fragments of medieval/post-medieval roof tile, beneath 0.15m of topsoil [24/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
24/001	Layer	Topsoil (South)	18m	1.8m	0.15m
24/002	Layer	Topsoil (centre)	8m	1.8m	0.15m
24/003	Layer	Topsoil (North)	4m	1.8m	0.15m
24/004	Layer	Subsoil	18m	1.8m	0.18m
24/005	Layer	Subsoil	24m	1.8m	0.20m
24/006	Layer	Subsoil	6m	1.8m	0.20m
24/007	Layer	Ballast	1.8m+	3.5m	-
24/008	Cut	Pipe trench	1.8m+	3.5m	-
24/009	Layer	Deposit	3.5m	1.8m	0.10m
24/010	Layer	Natural	15m+	1.8m	-

Table 8: Trench 24 list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trench 25 (Figure 2)

4.9.1 Trench 25 was 9.5m long and was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. The natural orange brown clay and gravel [25/003] was recorded at 50.71m OD at the northern end of the trench and 50.82m OD at the southern end.

4.9.2 In the centre of the trench was an east to west aligned ditch [25/006], a continuation of ditch [12/004] from Trench 12 (Figure 2). The ditch measured 1.15m wide, 0.36m deep and contained two fills ([25/004] and [25/005]). The primary fill [25/005] was a compact and mixed deposit of dark grey and orange clay and flints. The dark grey-brown upper fill [25/004] contained transitional Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery.

4.9.3 The trench was sealed by 0.08m of subsoil [25/002] and 0.09m of topsoil [25/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	9.5m	1.8m	0.09m
25/002	Layer	Subsoil	9.5m	1.8m	0.08m
25/003	Layer	Natural	9.5m	1.8m	-
25/004	Fill	Fill of 25/006	1m+	1.15m	0.30m
25/005	Fill	Fill of 25/006	1m+	0.70m	0.06m
25/006	Cut	Ditch	1m+	1.15m	0.36m

Table 9: Trench 25 list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trench 26 (Figure 2)

4.10.1 Trench 26 was 7m long and was aligned roughly north to south. The natural brownish orange clay silt with frequent flint inclusions [26/003] was recorded at 51.17m OD at the northern end of the trench and 51.23m OD at the southern end.

4.10.2 Exposed in the centre of the trench was an east to west aligned ditch [26/004] that was an eastwards continuation of ditch [12/004] from Trench 12. The ditch was filled with heavily root-disturbed mid to dark greyish brown silty clay [26/005]. As the ditch appeared poorly preserved and had already been

excavated in three other trenches it was recorded in plan only.

4.10.3 The trench was sealed by 0.17-0.23m of subsoil [26/002] and 0.22-0.24m of topsoil [26/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	7m	1.8m	0.24m
26/002	Layer	Subsoil	7m	1.8m	0.23m
26/003	Layer	Natural	7m	1.8m	-
26/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8m+	1.15m	-
26/005	Fill	Fill of 26/004	1.8m+	1.15m	-

Table 10: Trench 26 list of recorded contexts

4.11 Trenches 8 to 11, 15, 16, 18 to 20 (Figure 1)

4.11.1 No archaeological remains were present in Trenches 8 to11, 15, 16, 18 to 20. Stratigraphic details for these trenches can be found in Appendix 1. Trenches 11, 16, 18 and 20 were all 40m in length with the remaining trenches varying in length from 6m (Trench 8) through to 47m (Trench 9).

4.11.2 The exposed natural deposits [8/003, 9/003, 10/004, 11/003, 15/003, 16/004, 18/003, 19/003, and 20/002] consisted mainly of brown to orange brown clay and silt interspersed with patches of gravel. Two compacted deposits ([19/004] and [19/005]) at the southern end of Trench 19 may represent re-deposited landfill material.

4.11.3 Above the natural was a layer of light mid grey-brown clay silt subsoil [8/003, 9/002, 10/003, 11/002, 15/002, 16/003, 18/002, 19/002, and 20/001] that ranged in thickness from 0.15m to 0.35m. This was beneath dark greyish brown clay silt that ranged in thickness from 0.08m to 0.30m ([8/002, 9/001, 10/002, 11/001, 15/001, 16/002, 18/001 and 19/001]). In Trenches 8, 10 and 16, re-deposited clay [8/001, 10/001 and 16/001], between 0.10m and 0.50m thick partially overlay the topsoil.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of bulk finds was recovered during the evaluation and is quantified by context and type in Table 11. Finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were quantified by count and weight and subsequently bagged by material and contexts. Packaging and storage policies follow IfA (2013) guidelines.

5.1.2 Possible Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flintwork was recovered from trench 24. Domestic LIA/Roman pottery dominates the assemblage; other finds were largely undiagnostic and are recommended for discard.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	F Clay	Wt (g)
12/005	193	2294					1	6			9	52
14/006									2	24		
17/004	14	106										
17/005	321	1940			8	6					4	12
17/006	21	160										
17/007	20	114										
24/004			2	26			2	16				
24/009	2	4					1	38				
25/004	89	830			6	1					7	50
Total	657	5404	2	26	14	10	4	60	2	24	20	114

Table 11 Overview of the finds assemblage

5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 In total, six pieces of struck flint weighing 60g were hand-collected and retrieved from environmental sample <01>. The small assemblage consists mainly of un-retouched débitage. It contains two flakes, two blade-like flakes and two blades. One of the blade-like flakes ([24/009]) exhibits incipient traces of light bluish white surface colouration. It has subsequently been retouched on the right edge. None of the pieces could be closely dated on technological grounds, but a broad Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age attribution isn't impossible for the retouched blade-like flake.

5.3 The Late Iron Age/Early Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 The evaluation produced a relatively large assemblage of pottery, totalling 657 sherds, weighing 5404g (4.36 EVE; 289 ENV) from just seven stratified contexts in Trenches 12, 17, 24 and 25. The hand-collected pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified on pro-forma record sheets by sherd count, weight, Estimated Vessel Number (ENV) and Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE); data was subsequently entered into an Excel spreadsheet. In order to ensure compatibility with other pottery data collected in the region, codes from the Essex regional Late Iron Age/Roman fabric and form type-series have been used (Biddulph et al in prep, incorporating form codes from Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Going 1987). In

addition to the material quantified in detail in this report, 66 sherds, weighing 192g recovered from environmental sample <1>, from fill [17/005], were briefly scanned but not included in the full quantification because they were small and undiagnostic.

5.3.2 About 90% of ENV is made up by 'Romanising' black surfaced wares (Table 12). The majority of these are sparsely grog-tempered (BSW2) although many have sandy matrixes (BSW1). There are relatively few examples of fabrics with more common grog-temper (GROG). Where these occur, they are usually from thick walled storage jar forms (GROGC; STOR). Very few fully Roman fabrics were encountered. Some had more even surface firing colour and were recorded as grey wares (GRS) or oxidised sandy wares (RED) but in practice these were on a continuum with the sandy black surfaced wares. The only regionally-traded Roman fabrics are eight small sherds from a single vessel in Colchester buff ware (COLB). Four bodysherds of imported North Gaulish white ware (NGWFS) were also recorded.

Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	EVE	ENV
BSW1	142	1332	1.24	78
BSW2	423	2902	1.99	184
COLB	8	9		1
GROG	12	145	0.16	3
GROGC	27	281		7
GRS	26	280	0.87	4
NGWFS	4	21		3
RED	9	38		3
STOR	6	396	0.1	6
Total	657	5404	4.36	289

Table 12: Quantification of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery fabrics

5.3.3 A narrow range of forms is represented with jars comprising 88% of both EVE and ENV (Table 13). These fall into three main categories: bead to everted rim jars like Cam 256, G1 and G3, often featuring horizontal rilling/combing on the body; necked cordoned jars such as G14, G17, G19 and G20 and storage jars like G44. Two examples of butt-beakers (H7) and one ambiguous butt-beaker/jar (G14/H7) was identified, as well as two partial rims from lids (K).

Form	EVE	EVE %	ENV	ENV %
G		0%	1	3%
G1	0.25	6%	2	6%
G3	1.02	23%	6	19%
G14	0.11	3%	1	3%
G17 2.1	0.62	14%	1	3%
G19	0	0%	2	6%
G19 4.1	0.18	4%	1	3%
G20	0.66	15%	10	31%
G44	0.1	2%	1	3%

GCAM256	0.68	16%	1	3%
G14/H7	0.22	5%	2	6%
H7	0.37	8%	2	6%
K	0.15	3%	2	6%
Total	4.36	100%	32	100%

Table 13: Quantification of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery forms

5.3.4 Overall the assemblage is very typical of mid 1st century ceramics from the region. Although there are relatively few examples of well-fired Roman grey or oxidised wares, the assemblage may be wholly post-conquest in date; however, the very low levels of these wares suggest that the pottery was deposited by c.AD60.

5.3.5 The assemblage is probably indicative of domestic activity in the immediate vicinity. It includes one very large group of over 300 sherds from context [17/005] and two other moderate to large groups from [12/005] and [25/004]. Although the average sherd weight is not particularly large, this may be distorted by a few vessels being extremely fragmented. Overall the pottery is generally in good condition and there are a number of partially-complete profiles, perhaps suggesting quite direct dumping of domestic waste material.

5.4 **The Ceramic Building Material** by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 Two small fragments of roofing tile (total weight 26g) made in a sandy fabric with moderate to common coarse rounded quartz were recovered from context [24/004]. The fragments are c. 14mm thick with coarse moulding sand. A date range of 1400-1800AD is probable. It is recommended that the assemblage is discarded.

5.5 **The Fired Clay** by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 Twenty fragments of fired clay weighing 114g in total were recovered. Material from context [17/005] is abraded and amorphous in form. Abraded fragments in a sandy fabric with sparse coarse rounded quartz and black iron rich inclusions were recovered from contexts [12/005] and [25/004], the majority of which exhibit one flat surface. A single fragment from [25/004] exhibits a possible wattle impression of 12mm diameter. The fragments are otherwise undiagnostic and are not inherently dateable.

5.6 **The Animal Bone** by Hayley Forsyth

5.6.1 A small assemblage of faunal remains containing 14 fragments and weighing 10g was retrieved from two contexts [17/005] and [25/004]. The fragments are in a poor condition with signs of surface erosion and no complete elements present. Context [17/005] contained 8 fragments of a single unerupted adult cattle molar tooth. Context [25/004] contained 6 small fragments of tooth enamel from an unidentified animal. No evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology has been noted. Due to the size and condition of the assemblage it holds no potential for further analysis.

6.0 The Environmental Samples by Dawn Elise Mooney

6.1 Introduction and Methodology

6.1.1 During evaluation work at the site, a single bulk soil sample was taken in order to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca, as well as to assist finds recovery. The sample was taken from the main fill [17/005] of a Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch in Trench 17, and measured 40 litres in volume. This report summarises the contents of this sample, and compares the results to other contemporary local assemblages in order to contribute to discussions of environment, diet and economy at the site.

6.1.2 The sample was processed by flotation. The flot and residue were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively, and air dried. The dried residue was passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 14). Artefacts recovered from the sample were distributed to specialists, and are reported on in the relevant sections of this volume. The dry flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and its contents recorded (Table 15). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al*. 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004), and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.1.3 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of the sample 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). 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. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 14, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Although the sample produced a relatively large flot, it was mostly composed of uncharred modern rootlets, with modern goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) seeds and fly or insect pupae also noted. A small assemblage of charred cereal caryopses was noted, with examples found in both the flot and residue. This was dominated by wheat (*Triticum* sp.), including examples of spelt/emmer (*T. spelta/dicoccum*), however small numbers of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains and indeterminate cereal caryopses were also noted. No cereal chaff was recorded in the samples, and the only wild taxon noted was a single scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*) seed. All the seeds and grain noted were poorly preserved and suffered from sediment concretion, and the cereal caryopses were pitted and abraded.

6.2.2 The residue of the sample produced a moderate to large assemblage of charred wood remains. These were friable and poorly preserved, showing abrasion and substantial evidence of sediment infiltration and concretion linked to fluctuations in groundwater level. Most charcoal fragments examined were identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.), however hazel/alder (*Corylus/Alnus*), willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.) and probable lime (cf. *Tilia* sp.) were also recorded. Both slow- and quick-grown roundwood of oak and hazel/alder were commonly noted. The residue also contained a small quantity of burnt bone of indeterminate origin (Hayley Forsyth, pers. comm.), and a small amount of magnetised material, in addition to fragments of flint and pottery which are discussed separately (Le Hégarat, this volume; Doherty, this volume).

6.3 Discussion

6.3.1 The dominance of modern plant matter in the flot suggests that some degree of bioturbation has occurred within the sampled context, and that some material contained therein may be intrusive. However, the majority of the charred plant remains recovered are likely to derive from the dumping of domestic waste in the ditch, or from its disuse and silting-up. The fragments of burnt bone noted in the flot and residue are also likely to derive from domestic hearths. The lack of cereal chaff also indicates that the assemblage derives from the preparation and consumption of processed grain, rather than the processing of cereals. The only wild taxon to be noted, scentless mayweed, is a weed of waste ground and cultivated land, but this single example is insufficient to contribute to discussions of the local environment. The cereal assemblage, dominated by wheat of the spelt/emmer type, is typical of the Romano-British period, and is comparable with assemblages from nearby contemporary sites such as Ivy Chimneys, Witham (Murphy 1999), the A120 route sites (Carruthers 2007), and Stansted (Carruthers 2008).

6.3.2 As the sample originates from a ditch fill rather than from a context representing *in situ* burning, the charcoal assemblage is likely to represent an amalgam of material from multiple burning events, and therefore cannot be used to discuss the selection of wood as fuel for particular activities. The range of taxa identified suggest that fuel wood was procured from a variety of environments including mixed deciduous woodland, woodland margins and hedgerows, and are comparable with assemblages from contemporary sites at Stansted (Gale 2008) and along the route of the A120 between Stansted and Braintree (Challinor 2007). The presence of willow/poplar charcoal may indicate the exploitation of damp woodland or wetland margin areas, however neither wood is known to burn well (Taylor 1981), and the small quantity present suggest that this is not representative of systematic burning of these taxa. Oak was by far the most common taxon present, which is likely to indicate the preferential selection of oak wood for fuel. The frequent recording of roundwood may indicate the management of woodlands by coppicing, which was widespread by the medieval Period but was also likely to have been practiced in prehistory (Rackham 1990, Hooke 2010). However, the present of both slow- and quick-grown roundwood may also indicate simply that smaller branches of unmanaged trees were

selected for fuel, while larger boughs were utilised as timber.

6.3.3 Although the preservation was somewhat poor, the single sample taken during evaluation work at the site did produce a reasonable quantity of identifiable charred plant remains.

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

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Idenitifications	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	17/005	D	40	40	****	100	**	6	*Quercus* sp. (39), *Corylus/Alnus* (3), *Salix/Populus* (1), cf. *Tilia* sp. (1), *Prunus* sp. (1), indet. (4)	* *Triticum* sp. (6), *Hordeum* sp. (1), Cerealia (2)	<2	*	2	*	<2	Flint */30g - Pot **/190g - Magnetised material ***/10g

Table 2 Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

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	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Burnt bone
1	17/005	20	315	315	95	1	* *Chenopodium* sp.	*	**	***	**	*Hordeum* sp. (3), *Triticum* sp. (2), *Triticum spelta/ dicoccum* (5), Cerealia (2)	+	*	*Tripleurospermum inodorum* (1), indet. (1)	+	*

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence of the site comprised a mixed natural geology of orange-brown clay or silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions. This is generally overlain by subsoil (up to 0.30m thick) and topsoil (up to 0.30m thick). Modern disturbance and landscaping associated with the construction of the golf-course is evident in some trenches with additional re-deposited clay layers recorded either above or below the topsoil. The levels across the whole site indicate an downwards slope to the west with natural recorded at its lowest (48.21m OD) in Trench 8 in the north-western corner of the site and at its highest (52.26m OD) in Trench 15, at the eastern end.

7.1.2 Of the eighteen trenches opened across the site archaeological features were recorded in nine, although one of these was of probable natural origin (Trench 13). The archaeological features comprised isolated pits, including a fire-pit, a thin layer and one ditch, which was identified in four trenches. The features were distributed across the central and eastern part of the site (Figure 1),

7.1.3 A very small assemblage of residual flintwork was recovered and although this is not unusual it does suggest prehistoric activity in the vicinity. Unfortunately, most of the flintwork is undiagnostic, but one retouched blade-like flake recovered from layer [24/009] might fit within a broad Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age date range. This context also produced two pottery sherds of probable 1st century AD date.

7.1.4 Ditch [12/004, 17/003, 25/006, 26/004], which was visible for some 50m in length produced a relatively large assemblage of transitional Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery that is indicative of domestic activity in the near vicinity and implies a near-by settlement. Domestic activity is also indicated by the presence of charred plant remains and burnt bone fragments recovered from ditch fill [17/005], whether the result of deliberate dumping of the material or natural silting.

7.1.5 Dating evidence was not recovered from the pits recorded in Trenches 21 or 23 or the fire pit in Trench 14. The three pits were widely scattered and may not necessarily be contemporary with the ditch.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 No previous building works have been carried out on the site and the landscaping works associated with the golf course seem to have had minimal impact over much of the site, with an undisturbed subsoil layer evident in most trenches. Trench 24, however, was particularly disturbed, with the truncation or removal of the undisturbed subsoil and re-deposited clay subsoil layers in its place.

7.3 Consideration of research aims

- *Investigate any evidence for settlement activity of Late Iron Age or Roman date within the site and to interpret any such evidence in light of discoveries from the surrounding area.*

  The only closely dateable feature was a Late Iron Age/Roman ditch located at the northern end of the site. The pottery assemblage recovered from it is indicative of domestic activity in close proximity to the site, which is compatible with results from other fieldwork in the area. A large number of metal detected finds of this date were found to the north at Pratts Farm Roundabout and remains Late Iron Age/Roman date have been identified during housing development to the south. It is likely therefore likely that the area was fairly extensively occupied in the 1st century AD, although the exact location of settlement has yet to be determined.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 Archaeological features were revealed within eight of the eighteen trenches opened. Although the few features uncovered were scattered and mostly undated, a single ditch continuing for over 50m through four trenches did provide further evidence for a nearby 1st century AD settlement.

7.4.2 The evaluation has successfully met the aims of the fieldwork in determining the presence/absence of archaeological remains. Overall, remains were scarce and broadly reflect the negative results from the previous Phase 1 trenching. Although remains of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date were present there were too few to address the particular regional research topics relating to the transitional period between the Late Iron Age and the beginnings of Roman Britain.

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Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches - list of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Description	Deposit thickness m	Height m AOD
8/001	Layer	Redeposited clay	0.40-0.50	49.20-49.56
8/002	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	
8/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.28-0.30	
8/004	Layer	Natural	-	48.21-48.51
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.08-0.20	48.71-49.16
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.20	
9/003	Layer	Natural	-	48.46-48.87
10/001	Layer	Redeposited clay(top N)	0.30	49.84
10/002	Layer	Topsoil	0.20	
10/003	Layer	Subsoil (top S)	0.20-0.30	49.16
10/004	Layer	Natural	-	48.92-49.03
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.25	49.83-50.54
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20	
11/003	Layer	Natural	-	49.38-50.09
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.16	52.34-52.60
15/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.20	
15/003	Layer	Natural	-	52.03-52.26
16/001	Layer	Redeposited clay (top W)	0.10-0.12	49.13
16/002	Layer	Topsoil (top E)	0.10-0.20	49.16
16/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.20-0.30	
16/004	Layer	Natural	-	48.63-48.78
18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.24	51.52-51.95
18/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.17	
18/003	Layer	Natural	-	51.15-51.56
19/001	Layer	Topsoil (top N)	0.10	48.89
19/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.22-0.35	
19/003	Layer	Natural	-	48.44
19/004	Layer	Subsoil (top S)	0.25	48.71
19/005	Layer	Chalky deposit (S)	-	48.46
20/001	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.20	49.33-49.65
20/002	Layer	Natural	-	49.15-49.45

Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

Site name/Address: Channels Phase 2, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Chelmsford	
Parish: Little Waltham	***District:*** Chelmsford
NGR: TL 72390 10710	***Site Code:*** LWBF13
Type of Work: Evaluation	***Site Director/Group:*** Trevor Ennis, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 8th – 12th September2014	***Size of Area Investigated:*** *c.*580 sq m (18 trenches)
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford Museum	***Funding source:*** Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	***Related EHER Nos:***
Final Report: EAH annual roundup	***OASIS Ref:*** 192048
Periods Represented: Late Iron Age/Early Roman	

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

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 Bellway Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development on part of the former Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex.

A total of eighteen archaeological trial trenches were excavated, nine of which revealed features and produced a small finds assemblage. The features uncovered included a Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch, as well as an undated sub-circular fire pit and two small, undated pits and a single feature of probable natural origin. Feature definition was generally good, although truncation and landscaping was apparent in a few trenches, particularly Trench 24.

Previous Summaries/Reports:

Archaeology South-East 2013 *Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching – Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex: Stage 1 – trenches 5 to 7.* ASE report no. 2013177

Archaeology South-East 2014 *Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching – Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex: Stage 2 – trenches 1 - 4.* ASE report no. 2014233

Author of Summary: T. Ennis	***Date of Summary:*** October 2014

Appendix 3: OASIS Record

OASIS ID: archaeol6-192048

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation: Channels Phase 2, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex
Short description of the project	Archaeological trenching
Project dates	Start: 08-09-2014 End: 12-09-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	LWBF13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

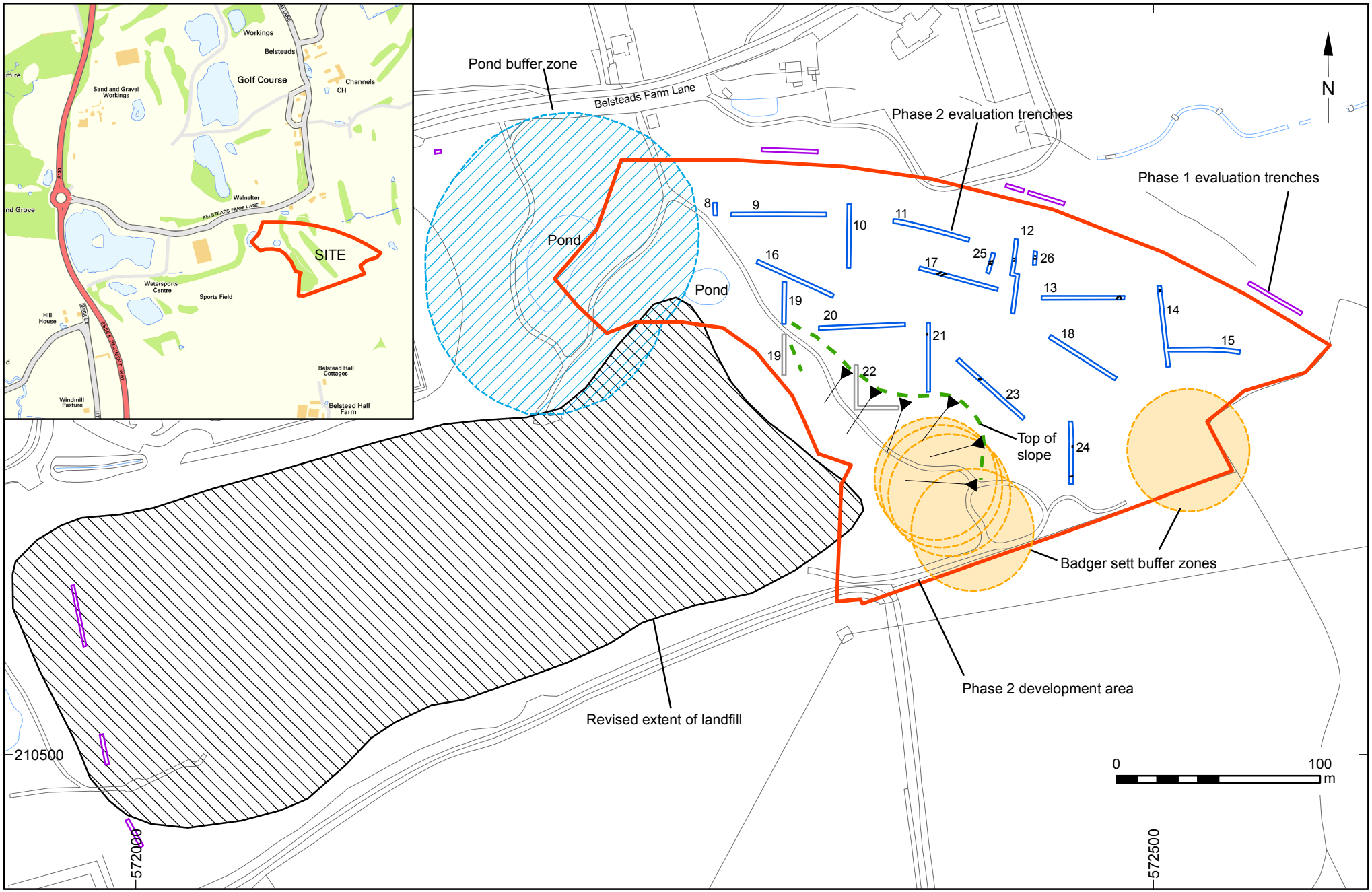
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD LITTLE WALTHAM Channels Phase 2, Belsteads Farm Lane
Site coordinates	TL 72390 10710 51.7679864149 0.498657583734 51 46 04 N 000 29 55 E Point

Project creators

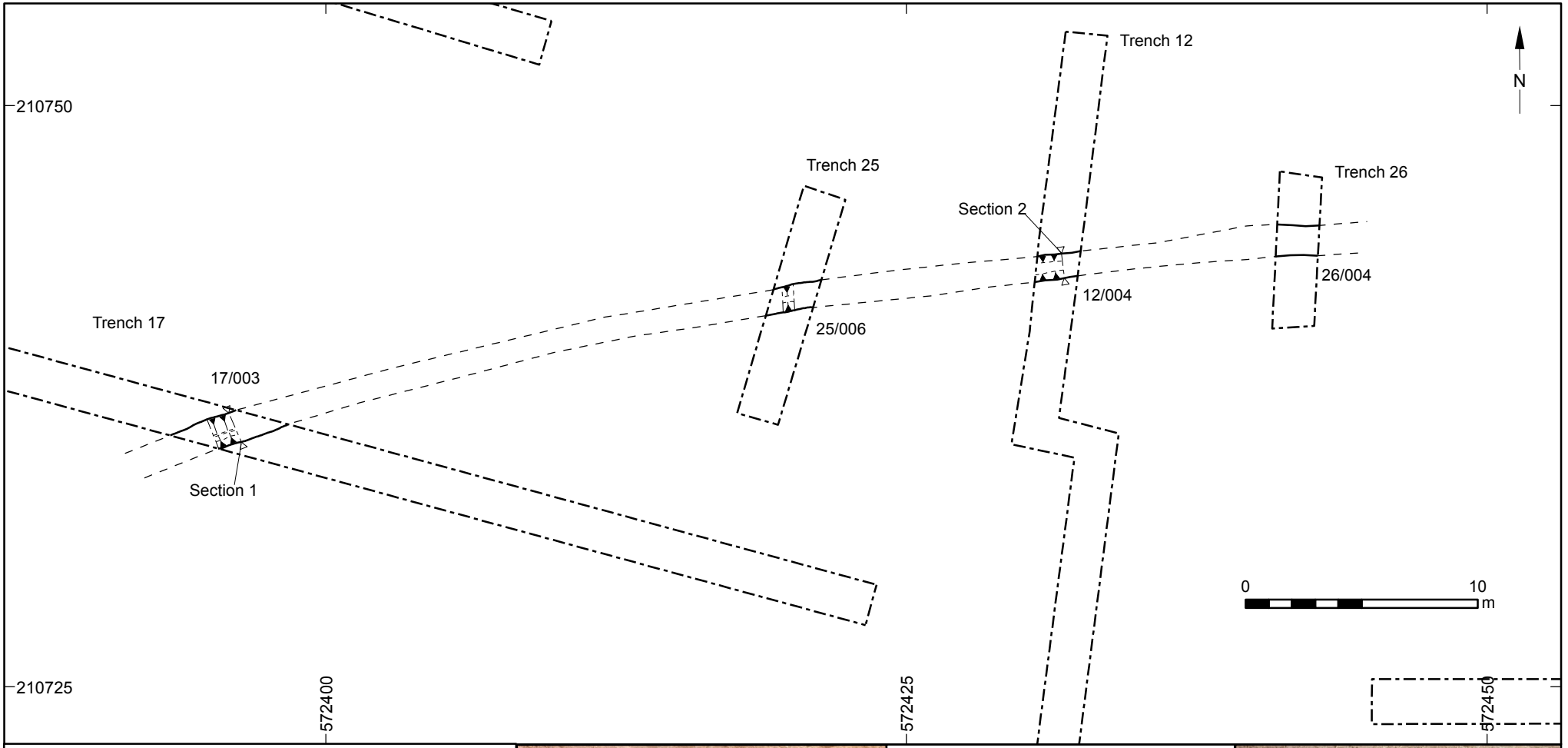
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding	Developer

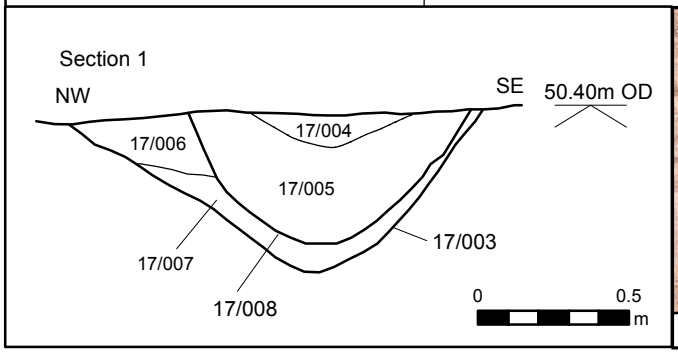
body

Entered by	Trevor Ennis (t.ennis@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	8 October 2014

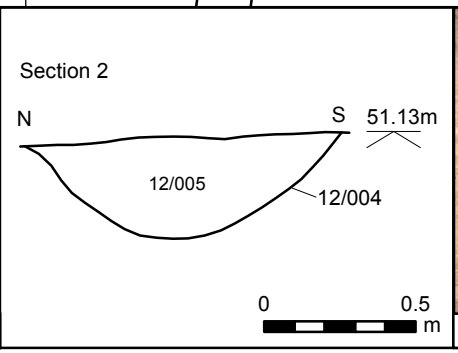


© **Archaeology South-East**		Channels, Phase 2, Little Waltham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8251	Aug 2014	Location of archaeological evaluation trenches	
Report Ref: 2014318	Drawn by: APL		



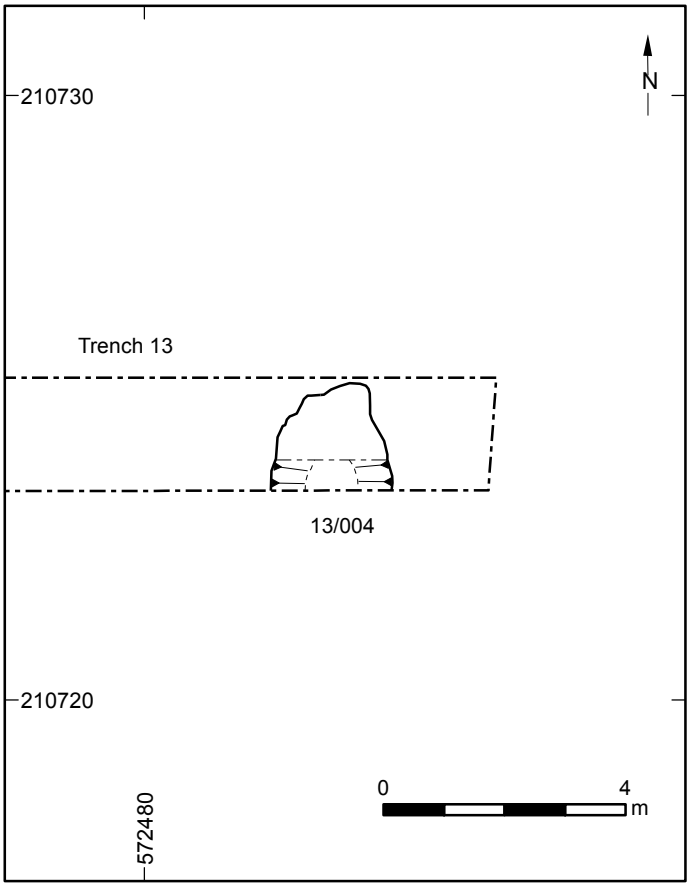


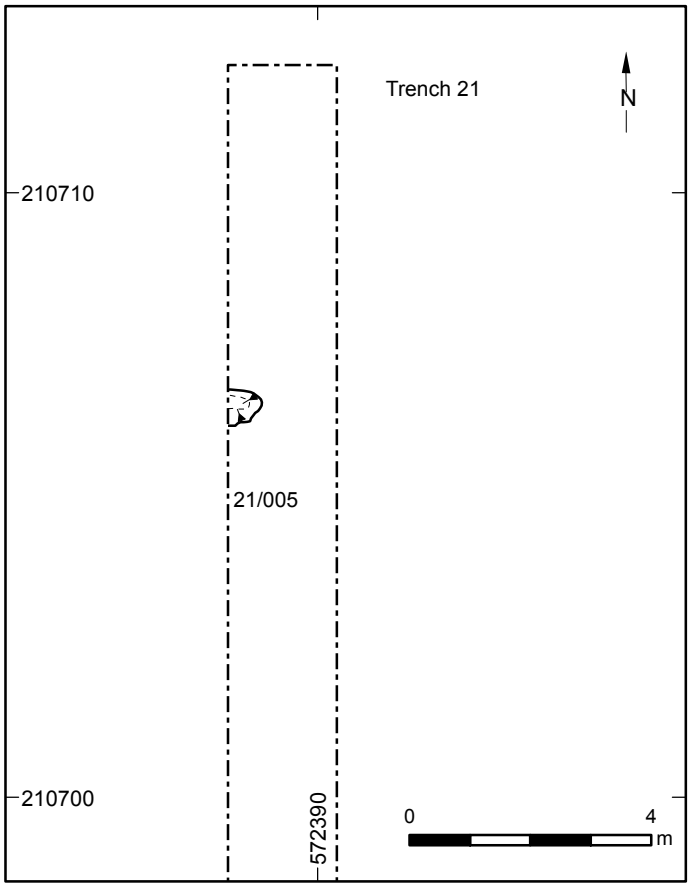
Section 1, south-west facing

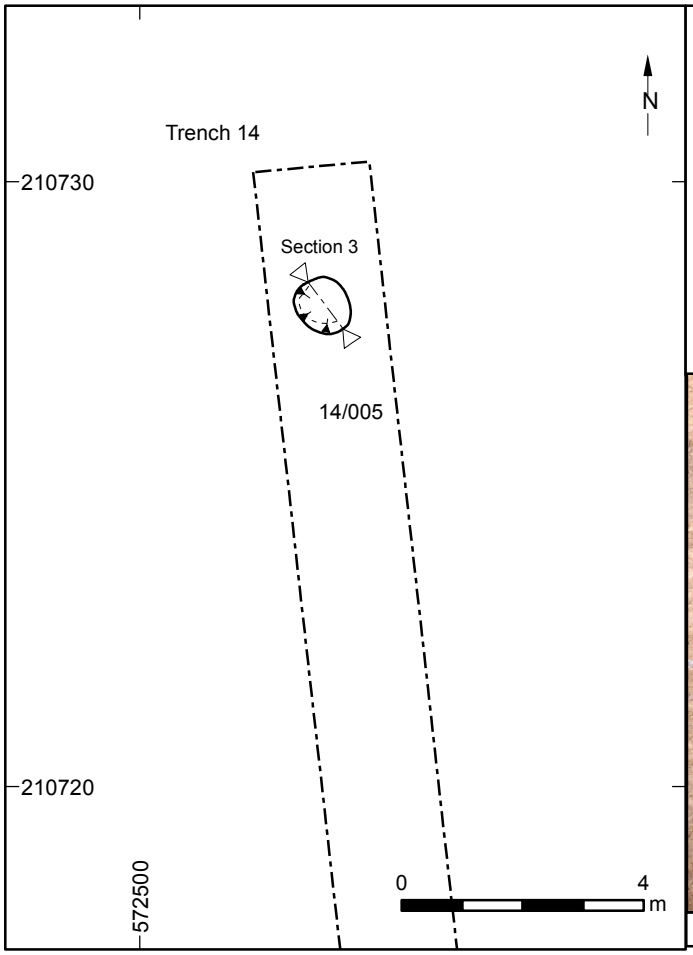


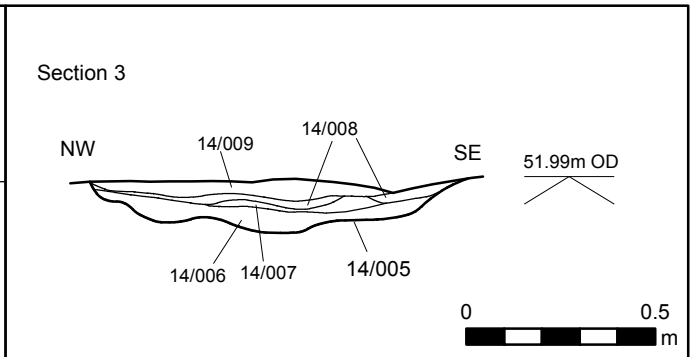
Section 2, west facing

© **Archaeology South-East**		Channels, Phase 2, Little Waltham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8251	Aug 2014	Trenches 12, 17, 25 and 26	
Report Ref: 2014318	Drawn by: APL		



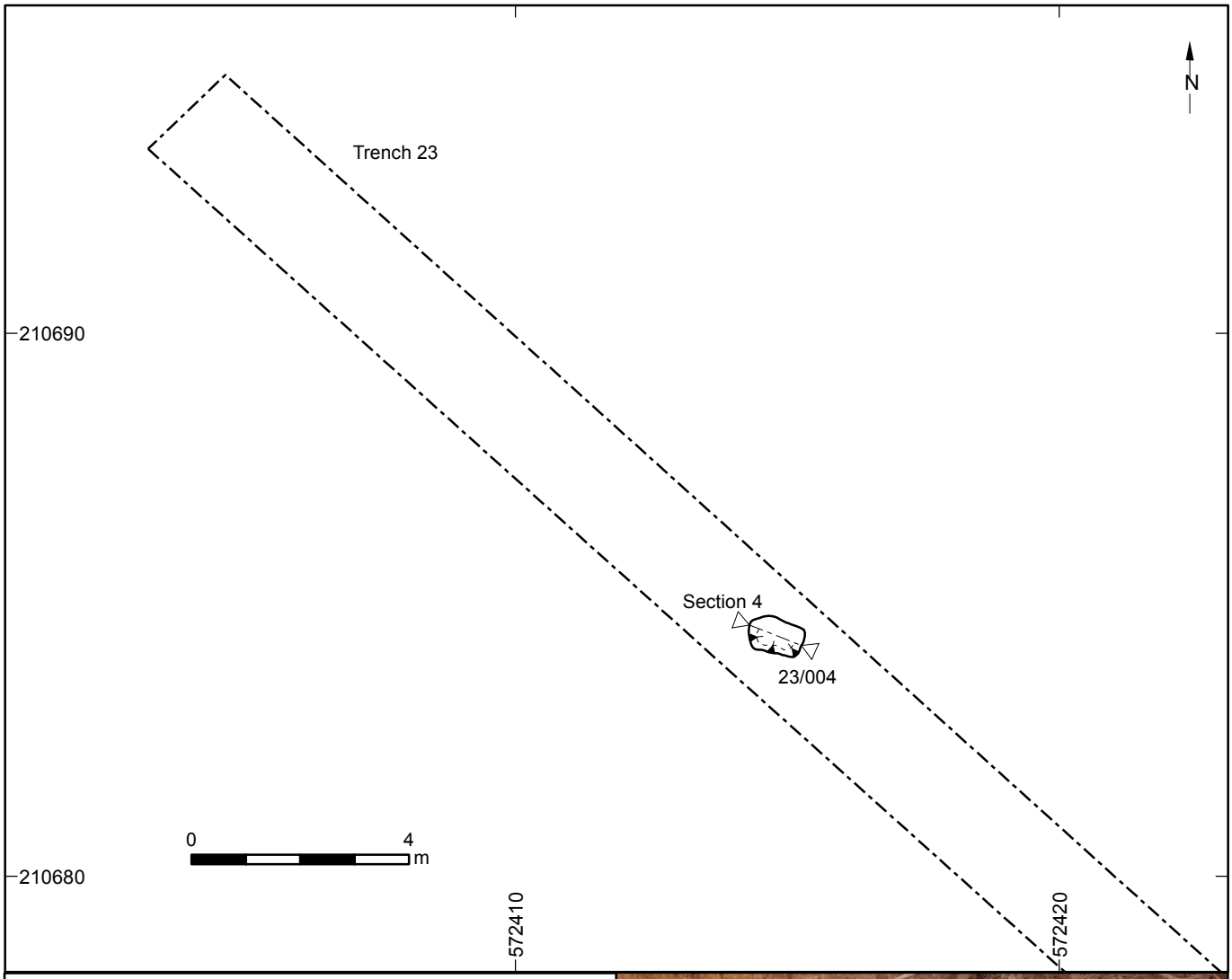


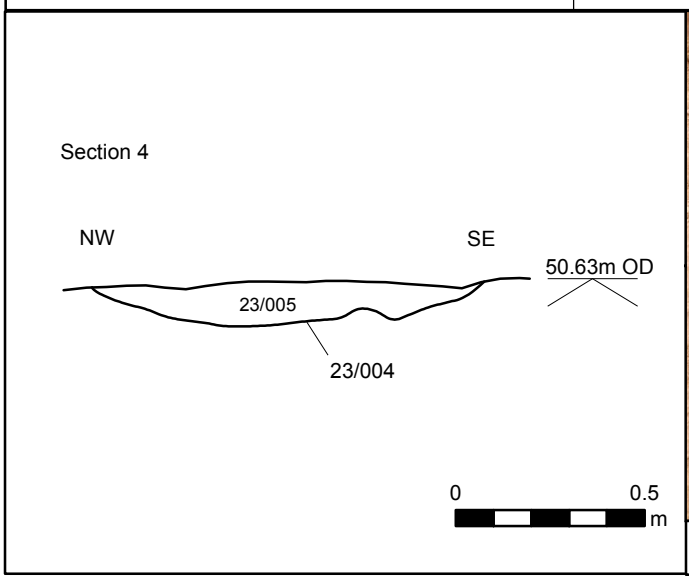




Section 3, south-west facing

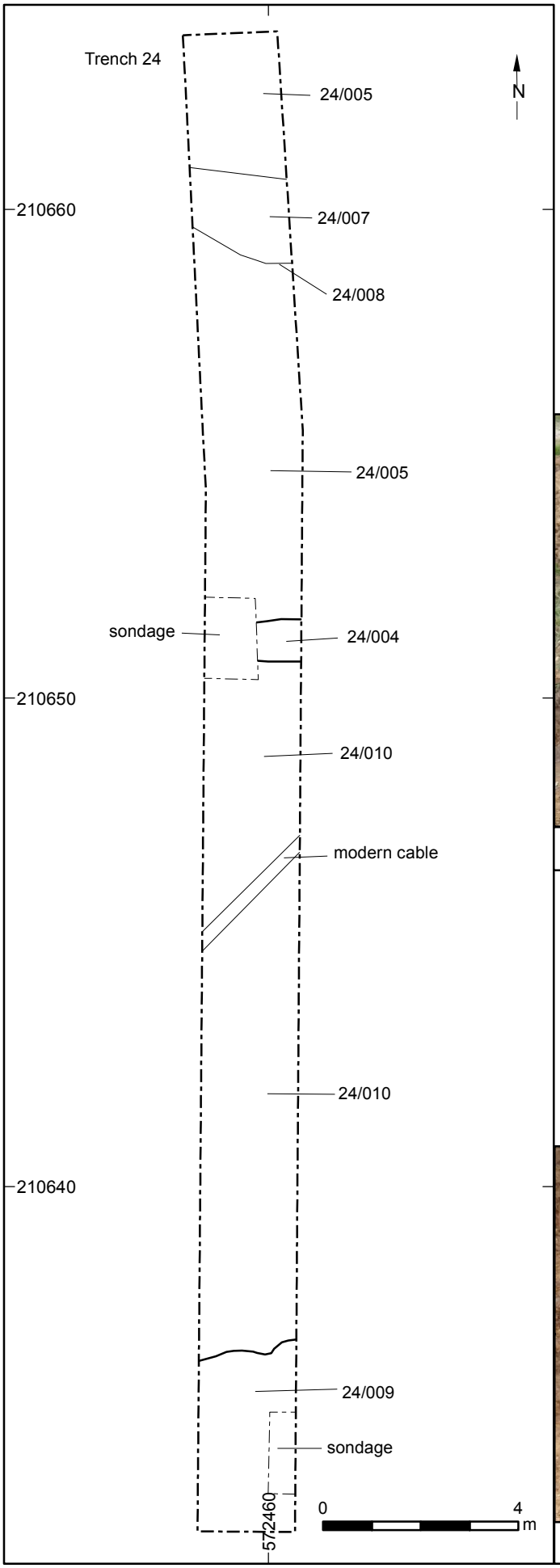
© **Archaeology South-East**		Channels, Phase 2, Little Waltham	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 8251	Aug 2014	Trenches 13, 14, and 21	
Report Ref: 2014318	Drawn by: APL		





Section 4, south-west facing

© **Archaeology South-East**		Channels, Phase 2, Little Waltham	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 8251	Aug 2014	Trench 23	
Report Ref: 2014318	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 24, buried topsoil 24/004

Trench 24, layer 24/009

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Project Ref: 8251	Aug 2014	Trench 24	
Report Ref: 2014318	Drawn by: APL		

6.1 Trench 8, looking north (1m scale)

6.2 Trench 13, looking east (1m scale)

6.3 Trench 14, looking north (1m scale)

6.4 Trench 16, looking west (1m scale)

© **Archaeology South-East**		Channels, Phase 2, Little Waltham	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 8251	Aug 2014	Photographs of trenches 8, 13, 14 and 16	
Report Ref: 2014318			

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