

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Smith's Farm, Chelmsford Road
Great Dunmow, Essex**

NGR: TL 63520 20900

Planning Ref: UTT/13/1684/OP

**ASE Project No: 5812
Site Code: GDSF14**

**ASE Report No: 2014406
OASIS id: 197650**



By Mark Germany

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**With contributions by
Anna Doherty and Helen Walker**

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**Archaeology South-East
The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex
CM7 3QD**

**Tel: 01376 331470
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological evaluation on land at Smith's Farm, Chelmsford Road (a Roman road), Great Dunmow, Essex. Twenty-six trenches were excavated. Archaeological remains were recorded in five of the trenches.

A small quantity of residual Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered. Although this may suggest settlement in the area at this time no other evidence of this was found in the evaluation. No Roman evidence was recorded.

Two phases of medieval activity were recorded proximate to Chelmsford Road. The earlier of these, recorded in trenches 17, 27 and 28, consisted of post-holes, ditches and gullies are interpreted as mid-12th to earlier 13th century agricultural enclosures or field boundaries and are perhaps indicative of proximate roadside settlement. Later medieval activity was limited to a single 14th to 16th century pit recorded in trench 1.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching of 20.8ha of mostly green-field land at Smith's Farm, Chelmsford Road, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR: TL 63520 20900; Figure 1). CgMs Consulting commissioned the work. ASE is the contracting division of the Institute of Archaeology (IoA) Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), University College London (UCL). The archaeological work was recommended and monitored by Essex Place Services.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site consists of two arable fields and an area of hard-standing. It is irregular in its layout and is sited 1km south-west of Great Dunmow town centre. Fields and houses bound it to the north and west, the A120 to the south, and Chelmsford Road to the east. The south-eastern quarter of the site partly encloses Great Dunmow Police Station and Hoblong's Industrial Estate. Hoblong's Brook crosses the southern part of the site and joins the River Chelmer to the immediate east. The area of hard-standing sits between this brook and the A120.

1.2.2 The surface geology at the site comprises subsoil and topsoil above glacial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel, above London Clay. The subsoil measures 0 - 0.32m thick (average 0.18m) and is composed of either pale brownish grey or brownish orange friable to firm silt clay, depending on area. The topsoil is a more consistent dark brownish grey friable silt clay. It varies from 0.13 - 0.40m and has an average thickness of 0.26m.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (Ref.: UTT/13/1684/OP) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council for: *Redevelopment to provide a mixed use scheme comprising 370 new residential units to include seventy extra care units (Class C3), 1.4ha of land for a new retail food store (Class A1), 2.1ha of employment land (Class B1, B2 and/or B8), 1.7ha of land for a new primary school and pre-school facility (Class D1), together with associated highway works, open space and landscaping, car parking and related infrastructure works. To be delivered on a phased basis: Phase 1 comprises detailed planning permission for 115 residential units (C3) with no matters reserved and Phase 2 (and any subsequent phases agreed) with all matters reserved except access.*

1.3.2 An archaeological Desk Based Assessment was prepared in support of the application (CgMs 2013) and having considered that document ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work be attached to any grant of planning consent. The condition (No. 11) that was subsequently attached to the planning consent states:

i. No development or preliminary groundworks shall commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority. A mitigation strategy detailing the excavation/preservation strategy shall be submitted to the local planning authority following the completion of this work.

ii. No development or preliminary groundworks can commence on those areas containing archaeological deposits until the satisfactory completion of fieldwork, as detailed in the mitigation strategy, and which has been signed off by the local planning authority through its historic environment advisors.

iii. The applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post-excavation assessment (to be submitted within six months of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Planning Authority). This will result in the completion of post-excavation analysis, preparation of a full site archive and report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publication report.

REASON: In the interests of archaeological protection in accordance with Policy ENV4 of the Uttlesford Local Plan (adopted 2005) and the NPPF

- 1.3.3 The trial trenching, required under part i. of the condition, was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE, 2014a) that had been approved by ECC Place Services.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at Smith's Farm, Chelmsford Road, Great Dunmow, carried out between 27th October and 3rd November 2014. It describes and interprets the results of the evaluation, and assesses the potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the site. The likely impact of the proposed development of the site is also considered.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Much of the following information is derived from the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The evidence for earlier prehistoric activity within the site area and its immediate surroundings largely comprises a Mesolithic tranchet axe, which was discovered north of Olives Wood or Shingle Hall, and an assemblage of forty-four pieces of worked flint of Mesolithic or Neolithic date, from beneath the course of the adjacent section of the nearby A120.

2.2.2 An Early Bronze Age to Early Iron Age ditch within the locality of Smiths Farm implies activity within that area during that period. It lay east of the evaluation site and contained pieces of pottery, worked and burnt flint.

2.3 Late Iron Age and Roman

2.3.1 The site lies south and west of two major Roman roads, the courses of which are largely represented by their modern-day equivalents, the B1256 / Stane Street and the B184 / Chelmsford Road. Stane Street is postulated to follow the course of a Late Iron Age predecessor.

2.3.2 Remains of a Roman small town lie beneath the central area of Great Dunmow, mostly within the surrounding area of Redbond Lodge (Wickenden 1988 and 1996; Robertson 2005). The small town sat immediately west of the crossroads formed by Stane Street and the B184, and was probably in use during the late 1st century to the early 5th century AD. Roman remains at nearby Buildings Farm, the Newton Works and Brookfield Farm suggest a surrounding landscape of intermittent small farms and surrounding enclosures (Lavender 1997; Germany *et al* in prep.).

2.4 Saxon and Medieval

2.4.1 Great Dunmow probably originated during the late Saxon period, long after the Roman town had gone out of use, and to have expanded during the medieval period, following the granting of a market charter in 1227. Archaeological evidence for its Saxon phase is slight and includes a Middle Saxon bowl from 36 New Street, and a gully and pot sherds at Redbond Lodge.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

2.5.1 Historic maps record the site to have composed many small, largely straight-sided fields, lying perpendicular to Chelmsford Road from at least 1842 onwards (Figure 3). Hoblong's Industrial Estate, near the south-east corner of the site, was founded in 1953.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 The two aims of the archaeological investigation were firstly, to determine as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, and secondly, to enable the Historic Environment Management team of Essex County Council to make an informed decision as to whether any further work was required in order to satisfy the archaeological condition.
- 2.6.2 The site had the potential to provide information about the use and development of the adjacent section of Chelmsford Road, which was formerly part of a Roman route running between Roman settlements at Chelmsford, Great Dunmow and Great Chesterford. It is noted in the research framework for the eastern counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) that 'more research on the Roman road network is needed, particularly in the later Roman period and beyond. Why did the course of some strategic Roman roads survive, and not others?'
- 2.6.3 In the event of significant discoveries being made the resulting report was to seek and identify appropriate research objectives 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 & Glazebrook, 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott, 2011).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Method

3.1.1 Twenty-six 1.8m-wide, mostly 30m long, trenches were stripped of their topsoil and subsoil (where present) by using a tracked excavator equipped with a broad toothless ditching bucket. The stripping of the trenches was carried out under archaeological supervision. The trenches were evenly spread, but were occasionally shifted slightly from their proposed locations (ASE 2014) in order to avoid gas mains and overhead electricity cables (Figure 2). Trenches 12 and 13 in the south-west part of the site were omitted altogether from the trenching because they were unable to be physically accessed by the mechanical excavator. Two trenches (27 and 28) were added at the request of ECC Place Services. Both measured 10m long and further investigated a concentration of archaeological remains, which had been discovered by Trench 17, alongside Chelmsford Road.

3.1.2 The underlying surface of the glacial head deposit was inspected for archaeological cut-features and finds after each trench had been stripped of overburden. All identified archaeological features were investigated by hand excavation, apart from those in supplementary Trench 28, which were left undisturbed at the request of ECC Place Services. The archaeological work did not reveal any of the post-medieval / modern field ditches recorded on the 1842 tithe map (Figure 3), apart from a former field ditch in Trench 16, which was excavated by machine and cleaned up by hand afterwards. All features and trenches were photographed, and recorded on *pro-forma* sheets. A GNSS Global Navigation Satellite System was used to plan and locate the trenches and features.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the Braintree office of ASE, but will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum in due course. The nature and contents of the archive are described in Table 1.

Number of Contexts	136
No. of files / paper record	1 lever arch file
Plan and sections sheets	2
Photographs	51

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Main findings and distribution

4.1.1 Archaeological features were discovered in ten of the twenty-six trenches (1, 3, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 27 and 28). No archaeological remains were present in trenches 2, 4, 5 to 7, 10, 11, 14, 17 and 20 to 26 (Appendix 1). All of the features cut the natural clay and were sealed beneath the subsoil and topsoil, apart from those within trenches 1, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 27, which lay directly between the topsoil and natural, with no intervening subsoil.

4.1.2 Trenches 17, 19, 27 and 28, in the east part of the site, alongside and near to Chelmsford Road, exposed possible and probable pre-modern features. Trenches 1, 3, 8, 9, 16 and 18 revealed features as well, although most of these consisted of post-medieval / modern field ditches, recorded on 19th and 20th century maps.

4.2 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.25-0.34
2	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	Not excavated
3	Cut	Tyre track	1.00	0.65	0.20
4	Fill	Fill of 3			0.02
5	Fill	Fill of 3			0.17
6	Cut	Pit	2.40		
7	Fill	Fill of 6			0.22
8	Fill	Fill of 6			0.10
9	Cut	Tyre track	3.30	0.50	0.11
10	Fill	Fill of 9			0.11
11	Cut	Tyre track			
12	Fill	Fill of 11			Not excavated

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 1, at the far north end of the site, revealed, a large pit [1/6] and three linear features: [1/3], [1/9] and [1/11] (Figure 4).

4.2.2 Pit [1/6] extended into the east end of the trench and was rounded in plan and profile. It contained deposits (1/7) and (1/8) and measured 0.22m deep. Finds from it comprised a small sherd of late 14th to 16th century pottery, and a several pieces of medieval / post-medieval ceramic roof tile.

4.2.2 The three linear features [1/3], [1/9] and [1/11] extended across the far eastern end of the trench were probably tyre tracks, resulting from recent ground works. The fills of each were indistinguishable from the topsoil. None contained artefacts.

4.2 Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	Not excavated
2	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.03-0.05
3	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.17-0.26
4	Cut	Ditch	1.80	2.50	
5	Fill	Fill of 4			Not excavated

Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 The sole feature in trench 3 lay towards its north end and was an east-west running post-medieval / modern field ditch [3/4], measuring 2.5m wide. It was recorded, but not excavated.

4.3 Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	Not excavated
2	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.08
3	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.27-0.34
4	Cut	Ditch	1.80	5.50	
5	Fill	Fill of 4			Not excavated

Table 4: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 8 exposed part of a post-medieval / modern field ditch. Ditch [8/4] ran east-west and was roughly 5.5m wide. It crossed the central part of the trench and was not investigated.

4.4 Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	Not excavated
2	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	Not recorded
3	Fill	Fill of 4			Not excavated
4	Cut	Ditch	1.80	10.00	

Table 5: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 The north half of trench 9 revealed part of a post-medieval / modern field ditch [9/4], which was noted, but not recorded.

4.5 Trench 15

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.35
2	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.15m
3	Layer	Natural	30.00		Not excavated
4	Cut	Ditch	1.80	2.00	
5	Fill	Fill of 4			Not excavated

Table 6: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Post-medieval / modern field ditch [15/004] crossed the north half of trench 15. It ran east-west and measured 2m wide. It was recoded, but not archaeologically investigated.

4.6 Trench 16

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.18
2		Not used			
3	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	Not excavated
4	Cut	Ditch	1.80	3.40	
5	Fill	Fill of 4	1.80	1.70	0.50
6	Fill	Fill of 4	1.80	1.50	0.32
7	Fill	Fill of 4	1.80	1.90	0.38
8	Fill	Fill of 4	1.80	3.45	0.57
9	Cut	Same as 4			

Table 7: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Post-medieval / modern field ditch [16/4] measured 1.2m deep and crossed the central section of trench 16 (Figure 5). Deposit (16/8), the latest of its four fills, held a small amount of post-medieval / modern brick and tile, but no other finds. No finds were present within the three fills beneath it. There was no clear evidence for recuts.

4.7 Trench 17

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Made ground		1.80	0.21-0.23
2	Layer	Topsoil		1.80	0.19-0.23
3	Layer	Subsoil		1.80	0.25-0.30
4	Cut	Ditch	0.90	0.90	
5	Fill	Fill of 4			0.45
6	Cut	Pit	0.99	0.59	
7	Fill	Fill of 6			0.12
8	Cut	Ditch	1.20	0.95	
9	Fill	Fill of 8			0.10
10	Cut	Gully	0.90	0.35	
11	Fill	Fill of 10			0.10
12	Cut	Pit	1.40	0.85	
13	Fill	Fill of 12			0.70
14	Cut	Ditch	0.75	0.60	
15	Fill	Fill of 14			0.12
16	Cut	Post-hole	0.30	0.30	
17	Fill	Fill of 16			0.30
18	Fill	Fill of 16			0.30
19	Cut	Ditch	1.00	0.70	
20	Fill	Fill of 19			0.14
21	Cut	Post-hole	0.38	0.33	
22	Fill	Fill of 21			0.35
23	Cut	Post-hole	0.19	0.19	
24	Fill	Fill of 23			0.16
25	Cut	Post-hole	0.18	0.12	
26	Fill	Fill of 25			0.12
27	Fill	Fill of 25			0.34
28	Cut	Post-hole	0.20	0.13	
29	Fill	Fill of 28			0.26
30	Cut	Post-hole	0.23	0.18	
31	Fill	Fill of 30			0.20
32	Cut	Post-hole	0.25	0.20	
33	Fill	Fill of 32			0.10

Table 8: Trench 17 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.1 Trench 17 uncovered three linear features, two pits and seven post-holes. All of them and the finds were discovered in the north-western two thirds of the trench (Figure 6).
- 4.7.2 The linear features ran approximately perpendicular to each other and the nearby section of Chelmsford Road to the east. They comprised gully [17/10] and ditches [17/4] and [17/8], the latter of which was further investigated as [17/12] and [17/19]. All were shallow with gradual-sided profiles, the deepest being [17/4] at 0.45m. Single fills lay in each, but contained very little dating evidence. Gully [17/10] and ditch [17/4] included small numbers of Middle to Late Bronze Age pot sherds and pieces of mid-12th to earlier 13th century AD pottery. Overlying subsoil layer (17/3) contained pot sherds dating to those two periods as well, although once again in very low numbers. There

was no artefactual dating evidence in ditch [17/8] and its associated segments [17/12] and [17/19].

- 4.7.3 Pit [17/12] sat at the far northern end of the trench and cut ditch section [17/14]. It had steep, near-vertical sides and a flat base. Its contents comprised single fill (17/13) and seven sherds of mid-12th to earlier 13th century pottery. There were no finds in pit [17/6] to the south. It had a dish-shaped profile, measuring 0.12m deep.
- 4.7.4 Post-holes [17/16], [17/21], [17/23], [17/025], [17/28], [17/30] and [17/32] at the north-western end of the trench formed a small cluster, with some of them intercutting, although the stratigraphic relationships between them were unable to be established. Single fills sat in all of them apart from [17/16] and [17/25] which contained post-pipes. Many of the fills included infrequent flecks and small pieces of charcoal, although none contained finds.

4.8 Trench 18

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.20-0.50
2	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	Not excavated
3	Cut	Ditch	2.00	4.00	
4	Fill	Fill of 3			Not excavated

Table 9: Trench 18 list of recorded contexts

- 4.8.1 Only one feature was present in trench 18: post-medieval / modern field ditch [18/3], running north-west south-east. It measured 4m wide and was left uninvestigated.

4.9 Trench 19

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.20-0.30
2	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.40
3	Cut	Ditch	2.00	1.45	
4	Fill	Fill of 3			0.39
5	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	

Table 10: Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

- 4.9.1 Ditch [19/3] crossed the middle of trench 19 and ran north-west south-west. Its profile comprised moderate sloping sides and a broad, slightly concave base. A single fill sat inside it, but was unable to be dated because it contained no finds.

4.10 Trench 27

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Topsoil	10.00	1.80	0.19-0.25
2	Layer	Natural	10.00	1.80	
3	Cut	Post-hole	0.30	0.25	
4	Fill	Fill of 3			0.10
5	Cut	Post-hole	0.60	0.34	
6	Fill	Fill of 5			0.11
7	Cut	Post-hole	0.33	0.26	
8	Fill	Fill of 7			0.17

Table 11: Trench 27 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 A line of three post-holes [27/3], [27/5] and [27/7], sat roughly 2m apart, comprised most of the archaeological contents of trench 27 (Figure 6). Single fills sat in each and contained no artefacts.

4.11 Trench 28

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Made ground	10.00	1.80	0.12-0.19
2	Layer	Topsoil	10.00	1.80	0.24-0.27
3	Layer	Natural	10.00	1.80	
4	Cut	Gully	4.00	0.90	
5	Fill	Fill of 4			Not excavated
6	Cut	Ditch	1.80	1.55	
7	Fill	Fill of 6			Not excavated
8	Cut	Cut-feature	1.25	0.25	
9	Fill	Fill of 8			Not excavated

Table 12: Trench 28 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 Trench 28 revealed three features, none of which were archaeologically excavated at the request of ECC Place services (Figure 6). Gully [28/4] and ditch [28/6] formed a T-junction, and cut-feature [28/8] extended beyond the south-east edge of the trench. Both linear features ran roughly perpendicular with those of the adjacent two trenches, suggesting that they had been inter-related, and were therefore broadly contemporary. Gully [28/4] and gully [17/10] in trench 17 headed towards each other and were probably a single boundary. The form, function and date of cut-feature [28/8] are not known.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered. These were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight, and bagged by material and context. Finds are packaged and stored according to IFA guidelines (2008). No further conservation is required.
- 5.1.2 Artefacts were discovered in trenches 1, 16 and 17 and largely composed small amounts of later prehistoric and medieval pottery. Also discovered were small amounts of undiagnostic medieval / post-medieval and modern ceramic brick and roof tile.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	F. Clay	Wt (g)
1/005			3	28		
1/008	1	4	8	126		
16/008			1	134		
17/003	1	10				
17/005	3	10				
17/011	2	28				
17/013	7	28			3	12
Total	14	80	12	288	3	12

Table 13: Finds quantification

5.2 Prehistoric Pottery, by Anna Doherty

- 5.2.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery totalling six sherds, weighing 48g was recovered from contexts in Trench 14. Sherds from subsoil layer (17/3), and fill (17/11) in gully segment [17/10] are relatively thick-walled and associated with similar fabrics containing moderate ill-sorted flint of 1-3mm in size. The matrix also contains some rare/sparse argillaceous inclusions which may be naturally occurring or may represent added grog-temper. Although no diagnostic features are present, these sherds are fairly typical of the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury (DR) tradition (c.1500-1150BC) or the early part of the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition (c.1150-950BC).
- 5.2.2 A very different flint-tempered fabric was noted in context in fill (17/5) in ditch [17/4], which contains common well-sorted flint of c.0.5-1mm and features well-burnished exterior surfaces. Fine flint-tempered ware of this type can form a very uncommon element of DR assemblages and are sometimes associated with Globular Urn forms; however relatively thin-walled finewares of this type are much more typical from the Late Bronze Age onwards.

5.3 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery, by Helen Walker

- 5.3.1 A total of eight sherds weighing 32g was excavated from two contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16).
- 5.3.2 The earliest pottery came from context (17/13), the fill of pit [17/12], and comprises sherds of early medieval ware including fragments from the base of a vessel, and a single sherd of Hedingham coarseware. The combination of these wares suggests a mid-12th to earlier 13th century date. As trench 17 lies close to the course of the Roman road the pottery hints at medieval settlement fronting on to the Roman road.
- 5.3.3 A single sherd of sandy orange ware was excavated from context (1/008) the upper fill of pit [1/6]. It is unglazed and shows reduced surfaces indicating a late medieval date of later 14th to 16th centuries.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 Twelve fragments of brick and tile weighing 188g were recovered from three separate contexts. Roof tile in a sandy fabric with common coarse to very coarse angular quartz and sparse coarse calcareous inclusions was recovered from [1/005] and [1/008]. One fragment from [1/008] exhibits traces of glaze on the upper surface. Roof tile in a similar fabric, lacking the calcareous inclusions was recovered from this context; a vitrified tile fragment was also present. The roof tile is likely to be of late medieval to early post medieval date, c.1300-1650AD.
- 5.4.2 Context [16/008] contained an abraded brick fragment in a sandy fabric with moderate coarse quartz, sparse calcareous inclusions and sparse iron rich inclusions. No complete dimensions are measurable and a date range of 17-19th century is probable.
- 5.4.3 The remaining fragments are undiagnostic of form or date.

5.5 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 Three fragments of fired clay were recovered from [17/013] weighing 12g. The fabric is sandy with pale cream marls. All fragments are abraded and undiagnostic of form or function.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 Trenches 1, 17, 19, 27 and 28 contain features and finds pre-dating or probably pre-dating the post-medieval / modern period. The earliest remains are residual sherds of Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery, all of which derive from later contexts in trench 17. The other remains relate to two separate phases of medieval activity. The first of these occurred during the mid-12th to earlier 13th century and is represented by linear features [17/4], [17/8], [17/10], [28/4] and [28/6] and possible fence line [27/3, 27/5 and 27/7], while the second is likely to have taken place during the later 14th to 16th centuries and is indicated by a single pit [1/6].
- 6.1.2 All of the archaeological features cut glacial head deposits, lie beneath c.0.25 to 0.50m of subsoil and topsoil and have been damaged by ploughing to the depth of the surface of the underlying natural. A c.0.20m thick layer of mixed topsoil and natural overlay the topsoil of trench 17 and the north-eastern two thirds of trench 28. It relates to recent earth shifting and groundworks but appears to have left the underlying archaeological features undamaged.
- 6.1.3 All of the pre- post-medieval and modern features are sited near to the eastern side of the site. This is unlikely to be incidental and probably relates to the proximity of the River Chelmer and the Roman road, both of which are likely to have facilitated communication and trade and the transport of natural resources.
- 6.1.4 The residual sherds of Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery may derive from an as yet undetected settlement site in the area. Clear examples of Middle to Late Bronze Age settlement sites in the area are rare and are locally best represented by the MTCP site at nearby Stansted Airport (Cooke *et al* 2008). The adoption of sedentism in north-western Essex is thought to have started during the Middle Bronze Age period.
- 6.1.5 Another indication of later prehistoric activity at the site is perhaps ditch [19/3] in trench 19. Although undated, it is suggested that this feature was in use during the later prehistoric period since its north-west - south-east alignment differs from both that of the Roman road and of the pre-modern/post-medieval features. The nearest recovered prehistoric remains are the Middle to Late Bronze Age sherds from trench 17 which is c.100m to the north-east of trench 19.
- 6.1.6 The medieval features recorded in trenches 17, 27 and 28 perhaps represent two or more mid-12th - earlier 13th century field boundaries or enclosures consisting of fence lines and ditches alongside Chelmsford Road to which they correspond in orientation. The recovered medieval pot sherds are small, abraded and scarce and but may represent evidence of nearby settlement. If so, then the field boundaries or enclosures are likely to have had an agricultural function. The pottery dating evidence implies that they went out of use at roughly the same time as Dunmow received its market charter in 1227, although it is not known if these two events are directly connected.
- 6.1.7 Pit [1/6] in trench 1 is the only other medieval feature beyond those in trenches 17 and 28. The dating evidence is slight, but sufficient to indicate

that it was in use during the later 14th to 16th century or later. Its function remains unknown, although its presence attests to later medieval activity.

- 6.1.8 No Roman remains were found, however, the posited Middle to Late Bronze Age settlement is likely to have been tied in to a network of trackways and it is conjectured that the Roman road perhaps upgraded one of those; a route which followed the higher ground overlooking the valley floor to the east.
- 6.1.9 Based on the results of the trial-trenching, it is thought that the area immediately surrounding trenches 17, 27 and 28 contains features and finds with the potential to provide information about the chronology and process of sedentism and agricultural land enclosure. From current evidence, this appears to have begun within North-West Essex during the Middle Bronze Age although, as in other parts of Britain, this is likely to have started during the Early Bronze Age. Trenches 17, 27 and 28 contained remains of medieval roadside enclosures or field boundaries and these have the potential to add to local knowledge about how, when and why medieval settlements appeared, grew, shifted and disappeared, and of how they related to one other.

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Essex Historic Environment Summary

Site name/Address: Smiths Farm, Chelmsford Road, Great Dunmow	
Parish: Great Dunmow	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 63520 20900	Site Code: GDSF14
Type of Work: Evaluation by trial trenching	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 27/4/10 to 3/11/14	Size of Area Investigated: 26 trenches (c.1400m ²)
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Client: CgMs Consulting
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes	Related HER Nos:
Final Report: EAH roundup	OASIS Ref: 197650
Periods represented: Prehistoric and medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological evaluation on land at Smith's Farm, Chelmsford Road (a Roman road), Great Dunmow, Essex. Twenty-six trenches were excavated. Archaeological remains were recorded in five of the trenches.</i></p> <p><i>A small quantity of residual Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered. Although this may suggest settlement in the area at this time no other evidence of this was found in the evaluation. No Roman evidence was recorded.</i></p> <p><i>Two phases of medieval activity were recorded proximate to Chelmsford Road. The earlier of these, recorded in trenches 17, 27 and 28, consisted of post-holes, ditches and gullies are interpreted as mid-12th to earlier 13th century agricultural enclosures or field boundaries and are perhaps indicative of proximate roadside settlement. Later medieval activity was limited to a single 14th to 16th century pit recorded in trench 1.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: December 2014

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: 197650

Project details

Project name	Smiths Farm, Great Dunmow
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in advance of residential and commercial development on the outskirts of Great Dunmow revealed archaeological remains alongside and near to Chelmsford Road, formerly a Roman road running between Chelmsford and Great Chesterford. The remains included residual sherds of Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery, and medieval ditches, representing roadside enclosures.
Project dates	Start: 17-04-2014 End: 03-11-2014
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	GDSF14 – Site code
Any associated project reference codes	5812 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	ENCLOSURES Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample 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

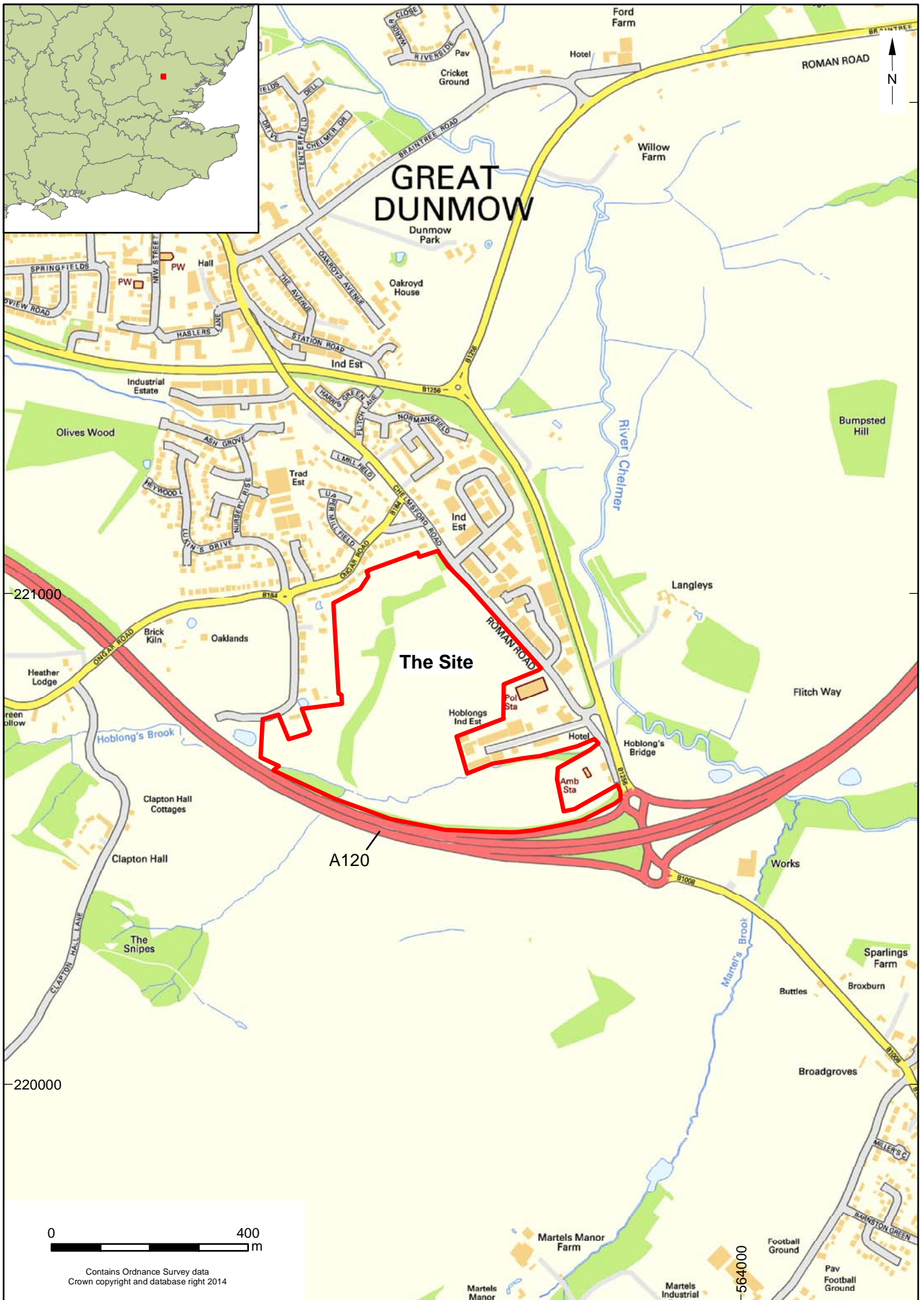
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT DUNMOW Smiths Farm

Author(s)/Editor(s) Germany, M.
Date 2014
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication Archaeology South-East

Entered by Mark Germany (mgermany@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 10 December 2014

Appendix 1: list of contexts in archaeologically negative trenches

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
2	1	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.31
2	2	Layer	Natural	
4	1	Layer	Natural	
4	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.04-0.40
4	3	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.39
5	1	Layer	Topsoil	0.13-0.17
5	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.17
5	3	Layer	Natural	
6	1	Layer	Natural	
6	2	Layer	Subsoil	Not recorded
6	3	Layer	Topsoil	Not recorded
7	1	Layer	Natural	
7	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.00-0.015
7	3	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.28
10	1	Layer	Topsoil	0.12-0.14
10	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.04-0.10
10	3	Layer	Natural	
14	1	Layer	Natural	
14	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.11-0.13
14	3	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.24
20	1	Layer	Natural	
20	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.07-0.24
20	3	Layer	Topsoil	0.18-0.30
21	1	Layer	Natural	
21	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.04-0.33
21	3	Layer	Topsoil	0.24-0.28
22	1	Layer	Natural	
22	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.07-0.35
22	3	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.26
23	1	Layer	Topsoil	0.40-0.40
23	2	Layer	Natural	
24	1	Layer	Topsoil	0.40-0.40
24	2	Layer	Natural	
25	1	Layer	Topsoil	0.30-0.30
25	2	Layer	Natural	
26	1	Layer	Topsoil	0.30-0.40
26	2	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.30
26	3	Layer	Natural	

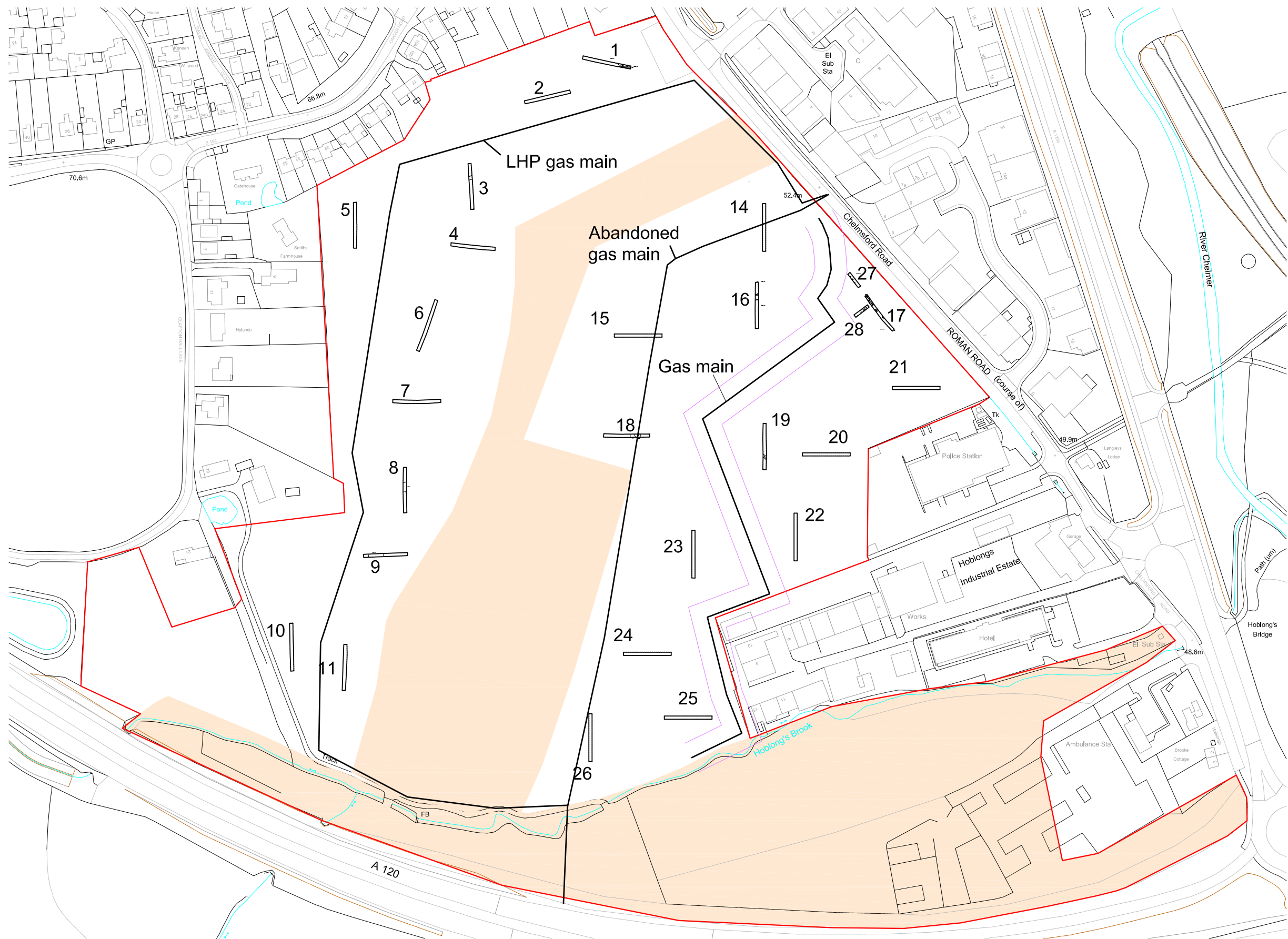
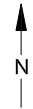


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© Archaeology South-East		Smiths Farm, Great Dunmow	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5812	Nov 2014	Site location	
Report No: 2014406	Drawn by: APL		

+ 562949, 221104

+ 563795, 221104



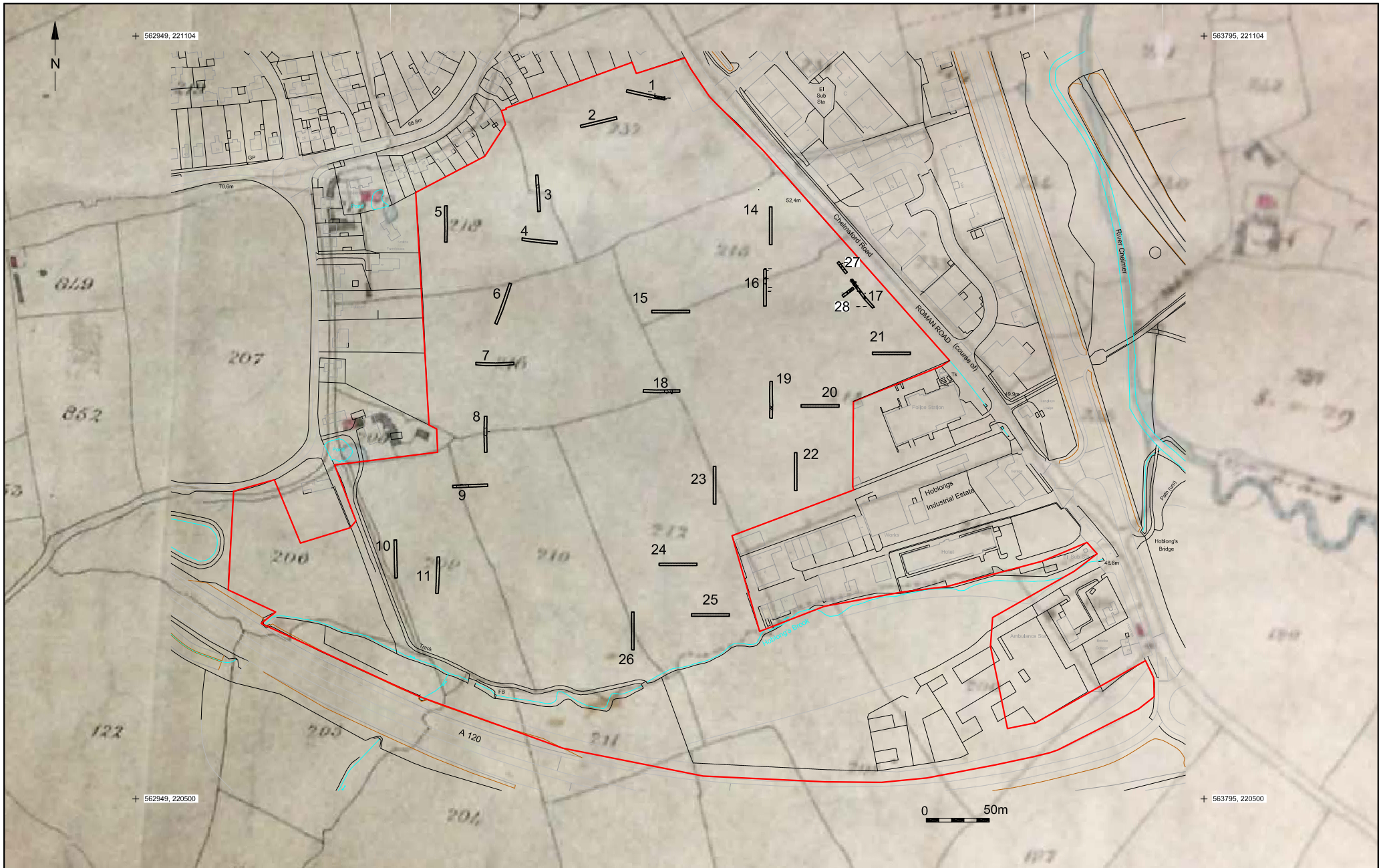
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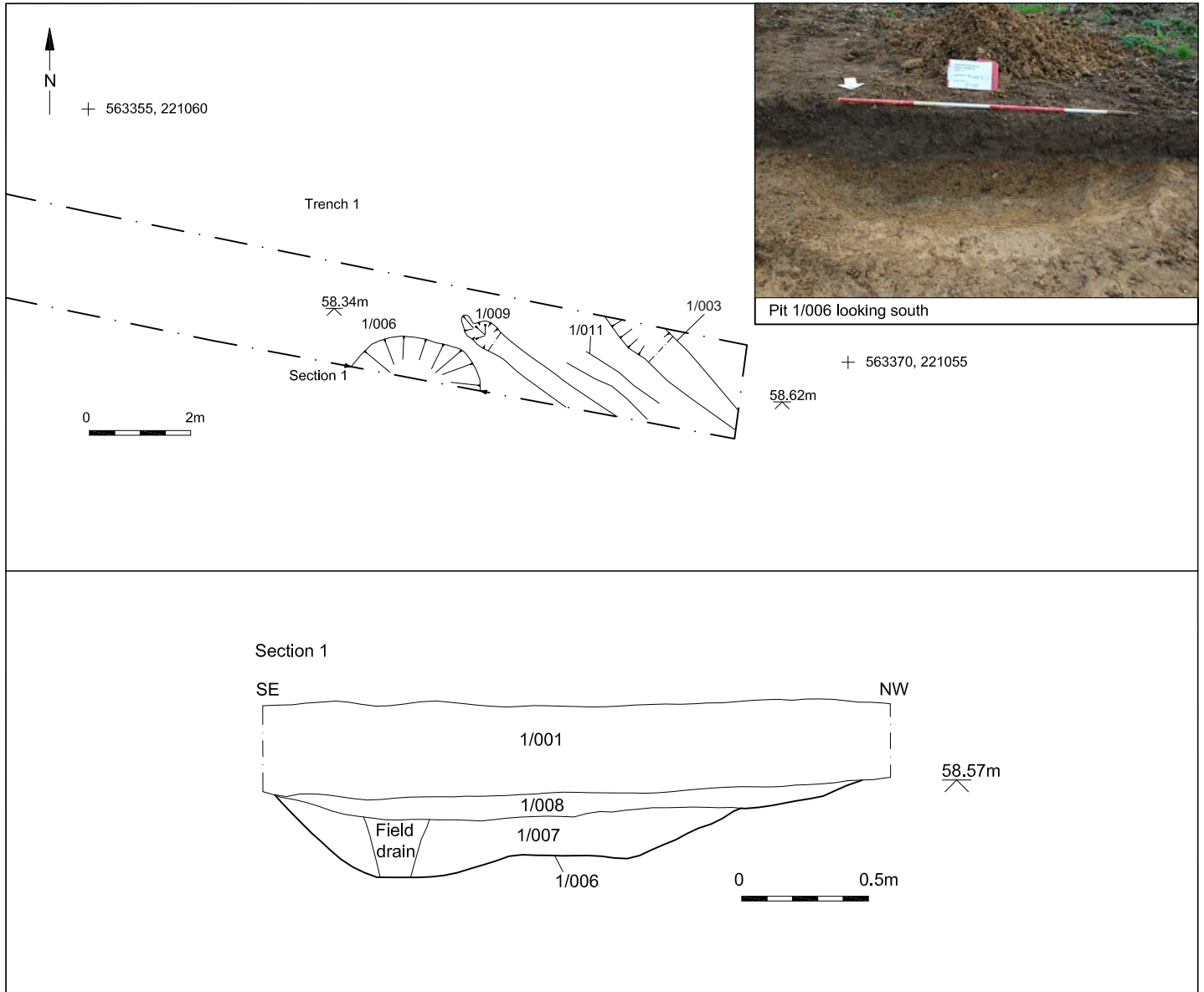
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 Exclusion areas

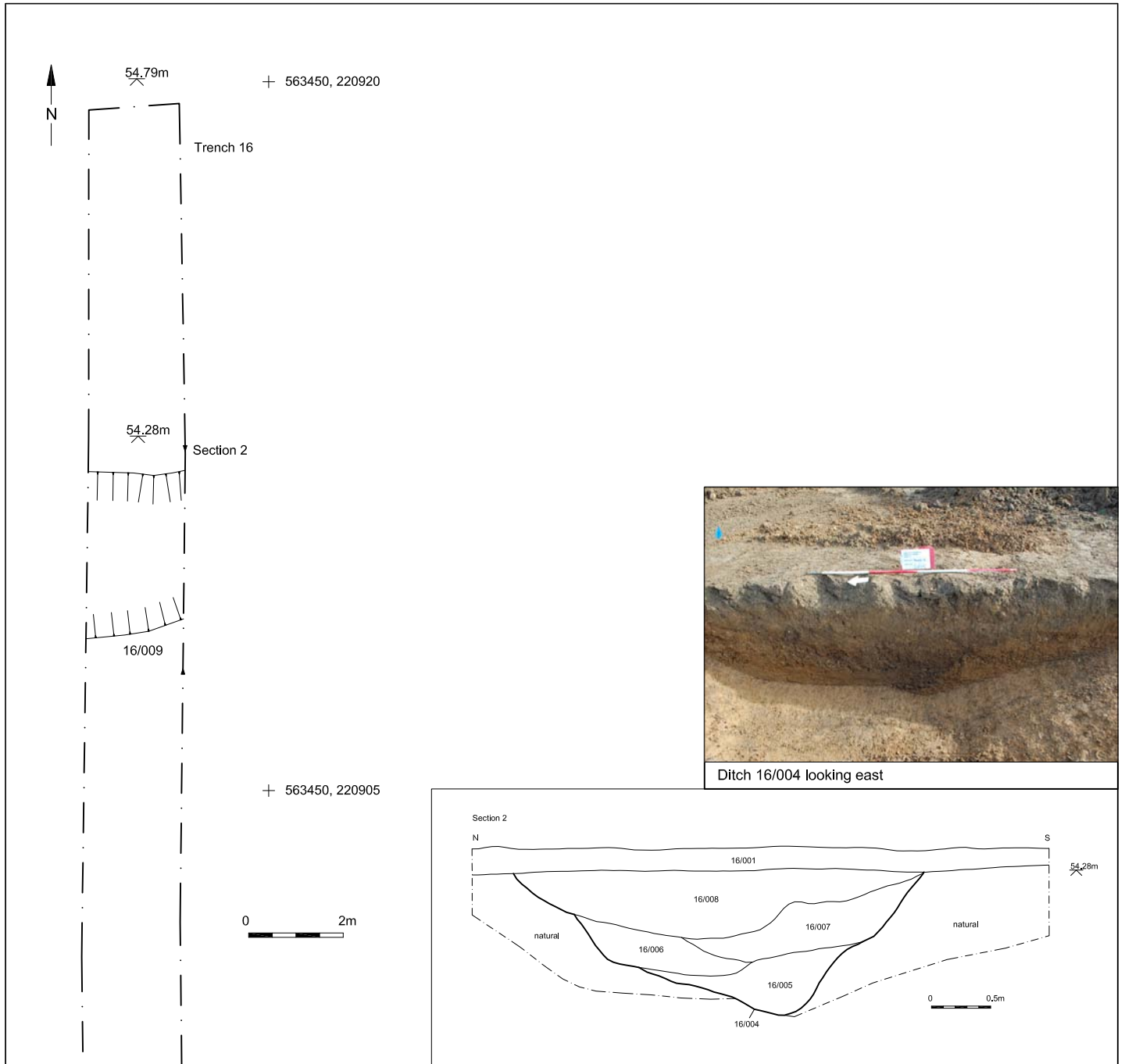


© Archaeology South-East		Smiths Farm, Great Dunnow	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5812	Nov 2014	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2014406	Drawn by: APL		

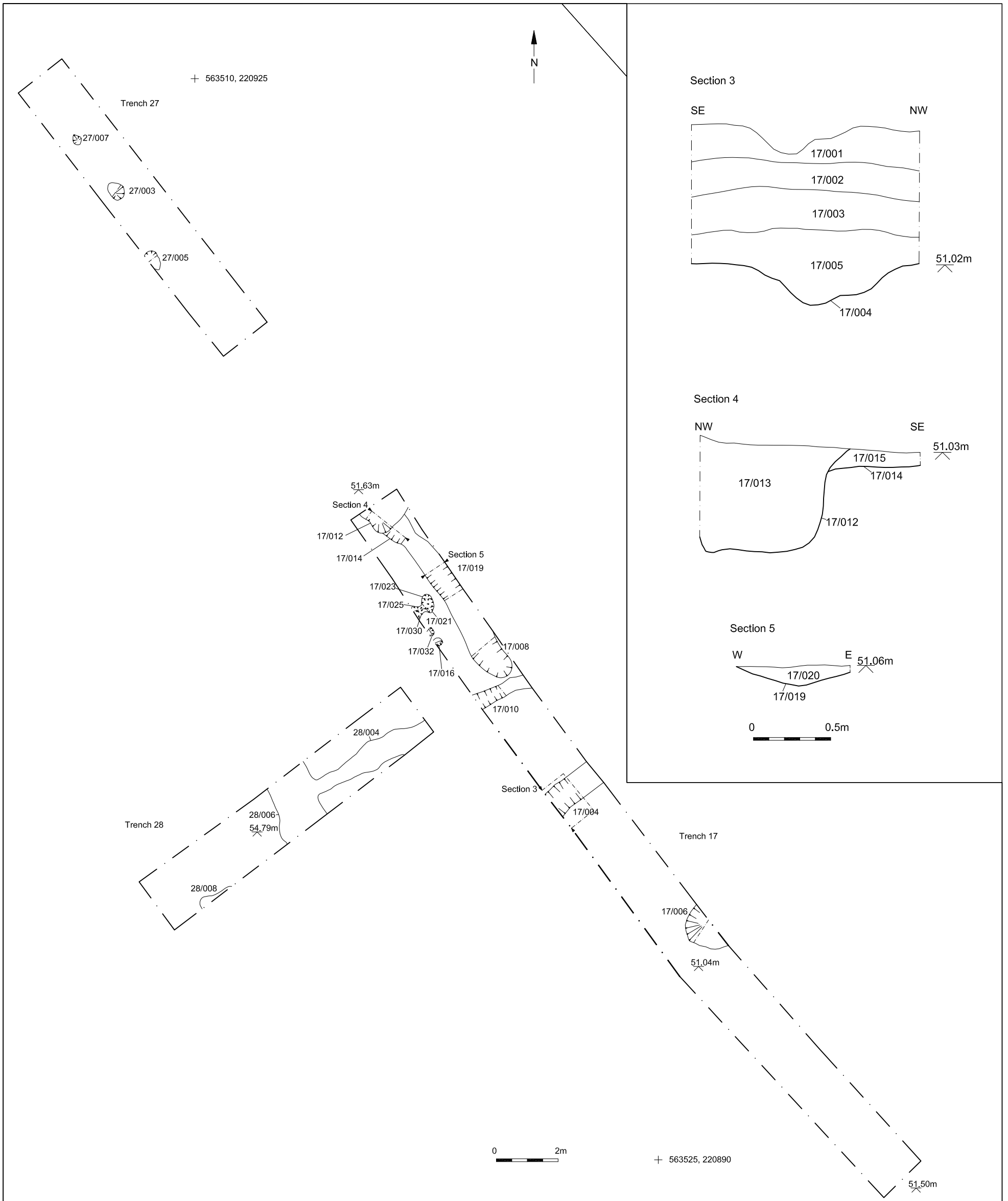




© Archaeology South-East		Smiths Farm, Great Dunmow	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5812	Nov 2014	Trench 1 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014406	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Smiths Farm, Great Dunmow	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5812	Nov 2014	Trench 16 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014406	Drawn by: APL		



Ditch 17/004 looking west

Ditch 17/012 and pit 17/014 looking north

Ditch 17/019 looking north

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex CM7 3QD
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

