

Archaeological Evaluation

**Land South of
Stansted Road, Elsenham
Essex**

NGR: TL 52920 25930

**ASE Project No: 8354
Site Code: ESR15**

**ASE Report No: 2015092
OASIS id: archaeol6-207361**



April 2015

Archaeological Evaluation
Land South of Stansted Road
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Essex

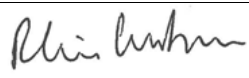

NGR: TL 52920 25930

Planning Ref: UTT/13/1790/OP

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land south of Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex. The site is currently farmland divided into three fields, all of which were ploughed at the time of the evaluation fieldwork.

A total of forty 30m-long trenches were excavated by machine down to the natural deposits at between 0.2 and 0.5m below ground level. Archaeological features were recorded in four of the trenches. Trench 16 contained an undated shallow pit, a post-medieval field boundary ditch was excavated in Trench 25, an undated linear feature was found in Trench 30 and Trench 36 yielded two possibly prehistoric pits.

It is concluded that the limited nature of the archaeological remains recorded within the evaluation trenches indicates a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains from any period across the wider site area.

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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 CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land south of Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex (figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The bedrock geology of the site comprises London Clay with superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation (glacial till/ boulder clay) on the north of the site, glacial sand and gravel on the central third of the site (from north-west to south-east) and Woolwich and Reading Beds and Head Gravel on the south-eastern third of the site (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer – accessed 24/03/2015).

1.2.2 The study site lies on the north slopes of the Stansted Brook valley and falls from c. 97m OD in the north adjacent to Stansted Road down to c. 75m OD in the south close to Stansted Brook. Old Mill Farm and associated buildings are excluded from the development area.

1.2.3 The site is divided into three fields, referenced in this report as the western, central and eastern fields. They are divided by fairly deep ditches and were ploughed and harrowed at the time of the archaeological works. There are no significant watercourses or bodies of water within the site, although a slight dip in the western field to the south of Old Mill Farm and another between the eastern and central fields may indicate the courses of previous streams.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (UTT/13/1790/OP) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in July 2013 for *Land South Of Stansted Road Elsenham Bishops Stortford Hertfordshire*, comprising *Outline application for a development of up to 165 homes, open space and allotments. All matters reserved except for access*. As the site lies in an area highlighted by the Essex Historic Environment Record and a Desk-based Assessment for the scheme (CgMs 2013) showed potential for archaeological deposits to be present, ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a full archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent.

1.3.2 The archaeological condition (No. 9) that was recommended, and subsequently attached to planning consent, was based upon guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states that:

9(A) No development or preliminary groundworks can 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.

(B) 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.

(C) 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).

- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015) was produced and its approval by ECC Place Services obtained prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of forty archaeological evaluation trenches excavated on the site between 16-20 March 2015 (figure 2). It followed the methodology laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

2.1.1 This section utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), held at County Hall, Chelmsford, and a comprehensive Desk-based Assessment for the site (CgMs 2013).

2.1.2 Although no known sites of archaeological interest have been identified within the development area, the ECC Historic Environment Characterisation Study has identified the development area and surrounding landscape has having the potential to contain as yet unknown archaeological remains from later prehistory through to the post-medieval period. The Desk-Based Assessment (ibid) concluded that the site had a good potential for the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods, particularly on the upslope part of the site, and a low archaeological potential for all other periods of human activity.

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were set out in the WSI (ASE 2015) as follows:

“The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation will be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

The results of the fieldwork have the potential to contribute towards an improved understanding of settlement and landuse in the Elsenham area from prehistory to the present day, with particular emphasis on the Iron Age and Roman period.

In the event that significant discoveries are made the resulting report will seek to 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 and Glazebrook 2000) and Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011)”.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The methodology described in the WSI (ASE 2015) was followed without exception. The trenches were laid out as indicated in the WSI (see figure 2). A total of 12 trenches were located in the western field, 11 in the central field and 17 in the eastern field. Due to the presence of overhead electricity cables in the northern third of all three fields there was a small gap in the coverage achieved by the location of the trenches.
- 3.1.2 The trenches, numbered Trench 1 – Trench 40, were all 30m long and 1.80m wide. The trenches were accurately located and levelled using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.3 All trenches were excavated using a 14-tonne tracked 360^o excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil, plough soil in all cases, was stripped under archaeological supervision down to the top of archaeological or geological deposits, whichever was encountered first, and cleaned using hand tools where appropriate. A thin subsoil was recorded in five trenches (Trenches 24 - 28), all in the north end of the eastern field.
- 3.1.4 The trenches were recorded using standard ASE trench sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets. Archaeological features were half-sectioned where possible, and the sections were drawn onto permatrace sheets. They were planned and levelled using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.5 Finds were collected from all excavated deposits, where present, and securely bagged and labelled with the appropriate site code and context number on site.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 ASE informed Saffron Walden Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	94
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	191
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Out of the 40 trenches recorded, only four (Trenches 16, 25, 30 and 36) contained features with archaeological potential. These are detailed in this section. The remainder of the trenches are summarised in Section 4.6 and the results are tabulated in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench 16

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth/ Thickness m	Height m AOD
16/001	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown organic plough soil, frequent flint pebbles	>30	>1.8	0.23 – 0.39	87.93 - 86.85
16/002	Natural	Mid orange/brown silty clay becoming pale yellow at NE end	>30	>1.8	n/a	86.58- 87.52
16/003	Fill	Firm mid grey silty clay with freq. fine-med pebbles, occ. sandy patches, v occ. Small frags of cbm	2.20	>0.70	0.12	87.49
16/004	Cut	Sub-rectangular shallow cut with rounded corners and flat base	2.20	>0.70	0.12	87.49

Table 2: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

Summary of results (figure 3)

4.2.1 A single shallow pit [16/004] was excavated against the north-west edge of Trench 16 towards the south-west end, extending beyond the limit of the excavation. It was truncated from above by the plough soil horizon [16/001] and only penetrated into the natural deposits [16/002] to a depth of 0.12m. No finds were retrieved from the fill [16/003] but the presence of flecks and small fragments of CBM indicated that it was not a natural feature.

4.3 Trench 25

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth/ Thickness m	Height m AOD
25/001	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown organic plough soil, frequent flint pebbles	>30	>1.8	0.23 – 0.28	94.83-94.64
25/002	Subsoil	Light brown sandy clay, mod pebbles and angular flint	>30	>1.8	0.09 – 0.23	94.63
25/003	Fill	Dark orange/brown sandy clay, mod pebbles, chalk	>1.8	2.72	>0.70	94.18
25/004	Cut	Linear cut, straight and steep sides, not bottomed	>1.8	2.72	>0.70	94.18
25/002	Natural	Pale yellow sandy clay with freq chalk	>30	>1.8	n/a	94.31-94.30

Table 3: Trench 25 list of recorded contexts

Summary of results (figure 4)

- 4.3.1 A large linear cut [25/004] ran NW-SE across the south-west end of Trench 25 beneath the subsoil horizon [25/002]. A 1m-wide slot was dug across it to determine its nature. It cut deeply into the natural deposits [25/005] and was at least 0.7m deep; the base was not excavated for safety reasons. Finds from the single fill [25/003] comprised clay pipe stems, CBM fragments, shell and a single sherd of pottery dating to the 17th/18th centuries.

4.4 Trench 30

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth/ Thickness m	Height m AOD
30/001	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown organic plough soil, frequent flint pebbles	>30	>1.8	0.21 – 0.23	92.46-92.17
30/002	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay with orange/brown gravel in patches	>30	>1.8	n/a	92.12-91.68
30/003	Fill	Firm mid orange/brown sandy clay with occ. fine-med angular flints and large flint nodules (up to 150mm)	>1.8	2.74	0.28	91.89
30/004	Cut	Sub-rectangular shallow cut with rounded corners and flat base	>1.8	2.74	0.28	91.89

Table 4: Trench 30 list of recorded contexts

Summary of results (figure 5)

- 4.4.1 A large linear cut [30/004] crossed the south-western end of Trench 30. It ran NW-SE and a 0.5m slot was excavated across it against the south-east edge of the trench. The cut was shallow sided with a gradual slope and filled with a very firm sandy clay [30/003], truncated by the plough soil horizon above. No

finds were recovered from it and the edges were irregular and indistinct. It is possible that it was a natural gully.

4.5 Trench 36

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth/ Thickness m	Height m AOD
36/001	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown organic plough soil, frequent flint pebbles	>30	>1.8	0.26 – 0.32	88.54-87.14
36/002	Natural	Hard mid yellow/orange sandy silty clay with orange/brown gravel in patches	>30	>1.8	n/a	87.89-86.85
36/003	Fill	Firm dark grey/brown sandy clay, occ pebbles and subangular flints, occ charcoal flecks	0.60	0.56	0.14	87.89
36/004	Cut	Oval, steep-sided cut	0.60	0.56	0.14	87.89
36/005	Fill	Firm light grey/brown sandy clay with occ subangular flints	0.80	0.75	0.14	87.88
36/006	Cut	Oval steep-sided cut, (less steep to SE)	0.80	0.75	0.14	87.88

Table 5: Trench 36 list of recorded contexts

Summary of results (figure 6)

4.5.1 Two small oval pits were discovered at the NE end of trench 36 less than 1m apart. Both were excavated in half-section and recorded before further excavation to attempt to retrieve finds. The smaller pit, [36/004], was vertically sided with a fairly flat base and filled with a dark material [36/003] containing flecks of charcoal and a small quantity of flint debitage, of possible pre- mid Bronze Age date. It was truncated from above by the plough soil horizon.

4.5.2 A slightly larger pit [36/006] was recorded against the NW side of the trench. It was very similar in appearance to [36/004] with vertical sides and a relatively flat base. Although no finds were retrieved from this feature it is likely that it was contemporary with [36/004] due to its similarity and proximity.

4.6 Negative trenches: 1-15, 17-24, 26-29, 31-35 and 37-40

4.6.1 The remainder of the trenches were archaeologically sterile. The topsoil in all cases was the same plough soil recorded across the site, varying in thickness between 0.16m in Trench 9 to 0.48m in Trench 14, with the thinner areas tending to be at the bottom of the slopes. Trenches 24 – 28, all located at the north end of the eastern field, contained a thin subsoil beneath the topsoil.

4.6.2 Modern drains were noted in several of the trenches towards the upslope areas of each field, but densest in the central field. A slot was excavated

across two of these, in Trench 20 where a ceramic field drain was observed and in Trench 22 which contained four parallel drains. These were plainly modern, dug by machine and were not recorded as archaeological contexts.

- 4.6.3 Trench 12 contained a large area of unusually coloured clay [12/002] covering over 10.5m of its NE end. It was observed on the surface to be beneath areas of natural silts and sandy gravels [12/003] (figure 7, first photo). The clay was apparently alluvial in origin and was a mixture of dark red, blue, green and grey hues producing a marbled effect when scraped off with the machine bucket. A slot was machined out to 1.5m deep, which did not reach the base of the clay (figure 7, second photo). Potentially it represented a silted up palaeochannel, but the origin of the variety of colours remains unknown.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. An overview quantification is presented in Table 1.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
25/003	1	4	17	540	5	10			2	2
36/003							5	46		
<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>

Table 1. Overview of the finds assemblage

5.2 Worked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

The evaluation work produced five pieces of struck flint weighing 46g. No modified artefacts were recovered, and the small assemblage from context [36/003] consists entirely of pieces of flint débitage (four flake fragments and a complete flake). The pieces are relatively fresh and un-abraded implying that they have undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance. Nonetheless four of the flakes are recorded as broken and one is slightly burnt. They are manufactured from light to dark grey fine grained flint. The cortex, present only on one piece, is very thin and off-white. Although no retouched pieces were evident, a flake displays signs of having been utilised. The small assemblage provides evidence for prehistoric presence, and based on technological grounds it is likely to pre-date the mid Bronze Age.

5.3 Post-Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

A single post-medieval sherd was recovered from the site. This consists of a slightly abraded bodysherd of fine sand tempered glazed red earthenware of 17th to 18th century date (context [25/003]).

5.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Trista Clifford

A small assemblage of 17 fragments weighing 535g was recovered from [25/003] only. It consists largely of abraded roof tile fragments in five different fabrics (Table 2). Three conjoining pieces from a pantile were noted in fabric T5. A small fragment in T1 exhibits a partial circular peg hole, diameter 13mm. A small brick crumb in MoL3032 fabric was also recovered. Overall the assemblage is probably of 17-18th century date; although pantiles can date to the mid-19th century, the rest of the assemblage appears earlier than this.

Fabric	Description
T1	Common fine quartz, sparse coarse iron oxides
T2	Abundant fine quartz, common fine black speckle sparse fine calcareous inclusions, sparse coarse red clay pellets
T3	Fine well sorted fabric. Sparse fine-medium quartz, sparse coarse rounded quartz, sparse calcareous voids
T4	Underfired. Common fine quartz, moderate coarse rounded quartz
T5	Clean fabric with very sparse coarse black iron oxides, very sparse medium quartz and very sparse calcareous voids.

Table 2. Roof tile fabric descriptions

5.5 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

Two conjoining clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments were recovered from [25/003]. The fragments are unabraded and date to between c. 1750 and 1910.

5.6 Shell by Trista Clifford

Four mature *Cepaea sp.* shells, commonly known as banded snail were recovered from [25/003]. This species inhabits a range of habitats. The shell is unlikely to be archaeologically significant and is recommended for discard.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 The highest parts of the site were at the northern ends of the western field at Trench 2 (95.47m OD) and the eastern field at Trench 27 (95.45m OD). Natural deposits were c. 0.40m below these levels. The lowest topography was at Trench 12 (78.70m OD) at the south end of the western field where natural deposits were 0.35m below this level.
- 6.1.2 A total of five archaeological features were recorded on the site across the forty trenches. In the eastern field there were two small pits in Trench 36, a post-medieval ditch in Trench 25 and a shallow linear feature in Trench 30. The central field produced a large shallow pit in Trench 16. Apart from the post-medieval ditch the dating of these features was not fully established although pit [36/004] is very probably prehistoric and adjacent pit [36/006] is likely to be of similar date.
- 6.1.3 The evaluation was effective in showing that the density of archaeological features on this site is very low.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 In the few instances where features were recorded, the evaluation demonstrated that the only truncation has been caused by agricultural practices, mainly ploughing but also the digging of land drains.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 6.3.1 There are few conclusions to be drawn from the two potentially prehistoric pits in Trench 36 or the undated features in Trenches 16 and 30. The lack of substantive finds assemblages in them precludes their meaningful interpretation. It appears that the entire study area has been all but unoccupied throughout its history aside from agricultural use. Certainly none of the multi-period activity seen on nearby sites at Stansted Airport and the M11 corridor (CgMs 2013) extended to the site.
- 6.3.2 The ditch in Trench 25 was post-medieval in date and was a field boundary which is shown on the Stansted Mountfitchet tithe map of 1843 (CgMs 2013, figure 4). As such, this feature is of low interest and significance.

6.4 Consideration of research aims

- 6.4.1 The research aims as set out in the WSI (ASE 2015 and section 2.2 of this report) were addressed only insofar as there was a general absence of archaeological evidence across the majority of the site. Neither the Iron Age nor Roman periods, those with the expected highest potential, were overtly represented.

6.5 Conclusions

- 6.5.1 Given the paucity of archaeological data recorded during the evaluation, the impact that the proposed development is likely to have on archaeological remains is considered to be very low. However, should such remains be present outside the limits of excavated trenches, they would be close to the ground surface and therefore vulnerable to disturbance from intrusive construction works.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Maria Medlycott of Essex County Council Place Services for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Robin Wroe-Brown with Kate Clover providing additional supervisory cover. The author would like to thank Kim Hosking who worked on the excavation; Lukasz Miciak for the surveying (and a day working on site); Andy Lewsey who produced the figures for this report. Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldwork and Mark Atkinson managed the post-excavation process.

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HER Summary Form

Site name/Address: Land south of Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex, CM22 6LL	
Parish: Elsenham	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 52920 25930	Site Code: ESR15
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Robin Wroe-Brown, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 16 th to 23 rd March 2015	Size of Area Investigated: 6.17ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Landowner/developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: unknown	Related HER Nos: N/A
Final Report: EAH roundup	OASIS No: archaeol6-207361
Periods Represented: Prehistoric, Post-medieval	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land south of Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex, CM22 6LL. The site is currently farmland divided into three fields, all of which were ploughed.</p> <p>A total of forty 30m-long trenches were excavated by machine down to the natural deposits at between 0.2 and 0.5m below ground level. Archaeological features were recorded in four of the trenches. Trench 16 contained an undated shallow pit, a post-medieval field boundary ditch was excavated in Trench 25, an undated linear feature was found in Trench 30 and Trench 36 yielded two possibly prehistoric pits.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: R Wroe-Brown	Date of Summary: April 2015

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-207361	
Project details	
Project name	Land south of Stansted Road, Elsenham
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land south of Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex, CM22 6LL. The site is currently farmland divided into three fields, all of which were ploughed. A total of forty 30m-long trenches were excavated by machine down to the natural deposits at between 0.2 and 0.5m below ground level. Archaeological features were recorded in four of the trenches. Trench 16 contained an undated shallow pit, a post-medieval field boundary ditch was excavated in Trench 25, an undated linear feature was found in Trench 30 and Trench 36 yielded two possibly prehistoric pits. The report concludes that the limited nature of the archaeology recorded across the whole area indicates a low potential for the presence of features from any period.
Project dates	Start: 16-03-2015 End: 23-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	ESR15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric BOUNDARY DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD ELSENHAM Land south of Stansted Road, Elsenham
Postcode	CM22 6LL
Study area	6.17 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 52920 25930 51.9104165995 0.223427318693 51 54 37 N 000 13 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 78.69m Max: 95.18m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Robin Wroe-Brown
Sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Saffron walden Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
Project bibliog	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Entered by	Robin Wroe-Brown (r.wroe-brown@ucl.ac.uk)
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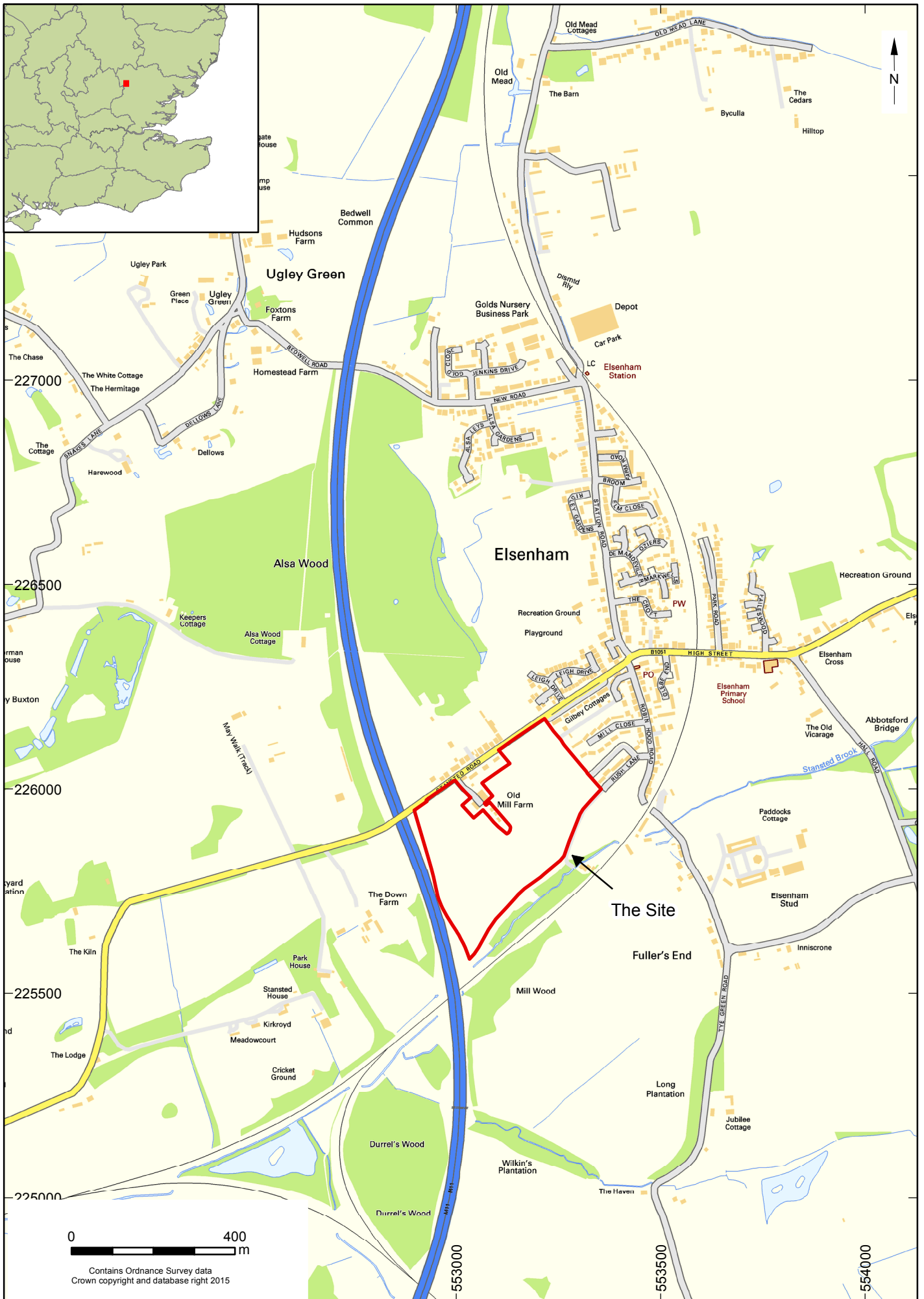
Appendix 1: Tabulated summary of negative trenches

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Depth/ Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.27-0.40	96.00
	1/002	Natural	Light yellow/brown sandy clay, freq chalk and dark orange sandy clay to NW	n/a	95.60
2	2/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.30-0.44	95.47
	2/002	Natural	Light yellow/brown sandy clay, freq chalk and dark orange sandy clay	n/a	95.07
3	3/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.36-0.40	94.31
	3/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	94.00
4	4/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.37-0.45	91.67
	4/002	Natural	Varying light yellow/brown and darker orange sandy clay	n/a	91.25
5	5/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.26-0.45	90.98
	5/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay with gravel patches	n/a	90.59
6	6/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.21-0.39	91.17
	6/002	Natural	Light yellow/brown sandy clay with freq chalk, darker orange to SE	n/a	90.90
7	7/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.42-0.44	88.78
	7/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	88.36
8	8/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.30-0.40	87.99
	8/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	87.60
9	9/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.16-0.35	86.20
	9/002	Natural	Mid orange/brown sandy silty clay, paler at SE end	n/a	85.96
10	10/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.30-0.45	83.63
	10/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	83.30
11	11/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.20-0.25	82.24
	11/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay, patches of gravel	n/a	82.03
12	12/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.34-0.37	79.74
	12/002	Natural	Alluvial clay, multi-coloured (red/green/blue/grey) and very firm. NE end of trench	>1.5	78.69
	12/003	Natural	Pale yellow/brown sandy silty clay, freq gravel and flint nodules	n/a	79.40
13	13/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.35-0.40	84.82
	13/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	84.45
14	14/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.30-0.48	85.19
	14/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	85.88
15	15/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.41-0.45	88.76
	15/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay, sub-angular flints increasing towards SE	n/a	88.35
17	17/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.33-0.35	87.57
	17/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	87.22
18	18/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.25-0.40	91.07
	18/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	90.81

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Depth/ Thickness m	Height m AOD
19	19/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.19-0.36	90.67
	19/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	90.35
20	20/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.28-0.35	91.76
	20/002	Natural	Mid-ilight orange/yellow sandy claywith large flint nodules, gravel patches	n/a	91.45
21	21/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.23-0.30	92.35
	21/002	Natural	Mid orange brown sandy silty clay, freq fine –large pebbles	n/a	92.05
22	22/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.25m	94.25
	22/002	Natural	Pale yellow very chalky silty clay	n/a	94.00
23	23/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.23-0.32	94.13
	23/002	Natural	Pale yellow very chalky silty clay, brown patches	n/a	94.90
24	24/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.17-0.25	94.85
	24/002	Subsoil	Light brown slightly sandy clay, mod pebbles and sub-angular flint	0.04-0.09	94.60
	24/003	Natural	Pale yellow chalky silty clay with mod pebbles	n/a	94.52
26	26/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.25-0.32	95.44
	26/002	Subsoil	Light brown slightly sandy clay, mod pebbles and sub-angular flint	0.10-0.23	95.08
	26/003	Natural	Light yellow/orange to darker orange sandy silty clay with mod pebbles	n/a	94.93
27	27/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.22-0.31	95.45
	27/002	Subsoil	Light brown slightly sandy clay, mod pebbles and sub-angular flint	0.13-0.16	95.18
	27/003	Natural	Pale yellow chalky sandy silty clay	n/a	95.02
28	28/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.20-0.29	93.15
	28/002	Subsoil	Light brown slightly sandy clay, mod pebbles and sub-angular flint	0.10-0.37	93.95
	28/003	Natural	Orange sandy clay to yellow chalky sandy silty clay in NE	n/a	93.72
29	29/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.29-0.30	90.47
	29/002	Natural	Darker orange brown silty sand with sub-angular flints	n/a	90.17
31	31/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.24-0.33	91.15
	31/002	Natural	Dark to mid orange/brown sandy clay	n/a	90.88
32	32/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.28-0.30	90.94
	32/002	Natural	Mid orange slightly sandy clay, moderate pebbles	n/a	90.64
33	33/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.20-0.32	92.06
	33/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay to NW, light orange clay sand to SE	n/a	92.78

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Depth/ Thickness m	Height m AOD
34	34/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.12-0.26	90.62
	34/002	Natural	Mid orange/brown clay sand, patches of manganese staining	n/a	90.36
35	35/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.17-0.40	89.87
	35/002	Natural	Light orange/brown clay sand, patches of gravel	n/a	89.47
37	37/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.25-0.40	87.21
	37/002	Natural	Mid orange/brown sandy silt, freq gravel, patches of clay	n/a	86.85
38	38/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.38-0.46	87.97
	38/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay, mod gravel, manganese staining	n/a	87.60
39	39/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.23-0.30	89.59
	39/002	Natural	Dark orange/brown sandy clay, occ pebbles	n/a	89.29
40	40/001	Topsoil	Plough soil	0.21-0.40	84.81
	40/002	Natural	Pale orange/tan silty clay, freq sandy patches, grey clay patches	n/a	84.41

Table 6: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

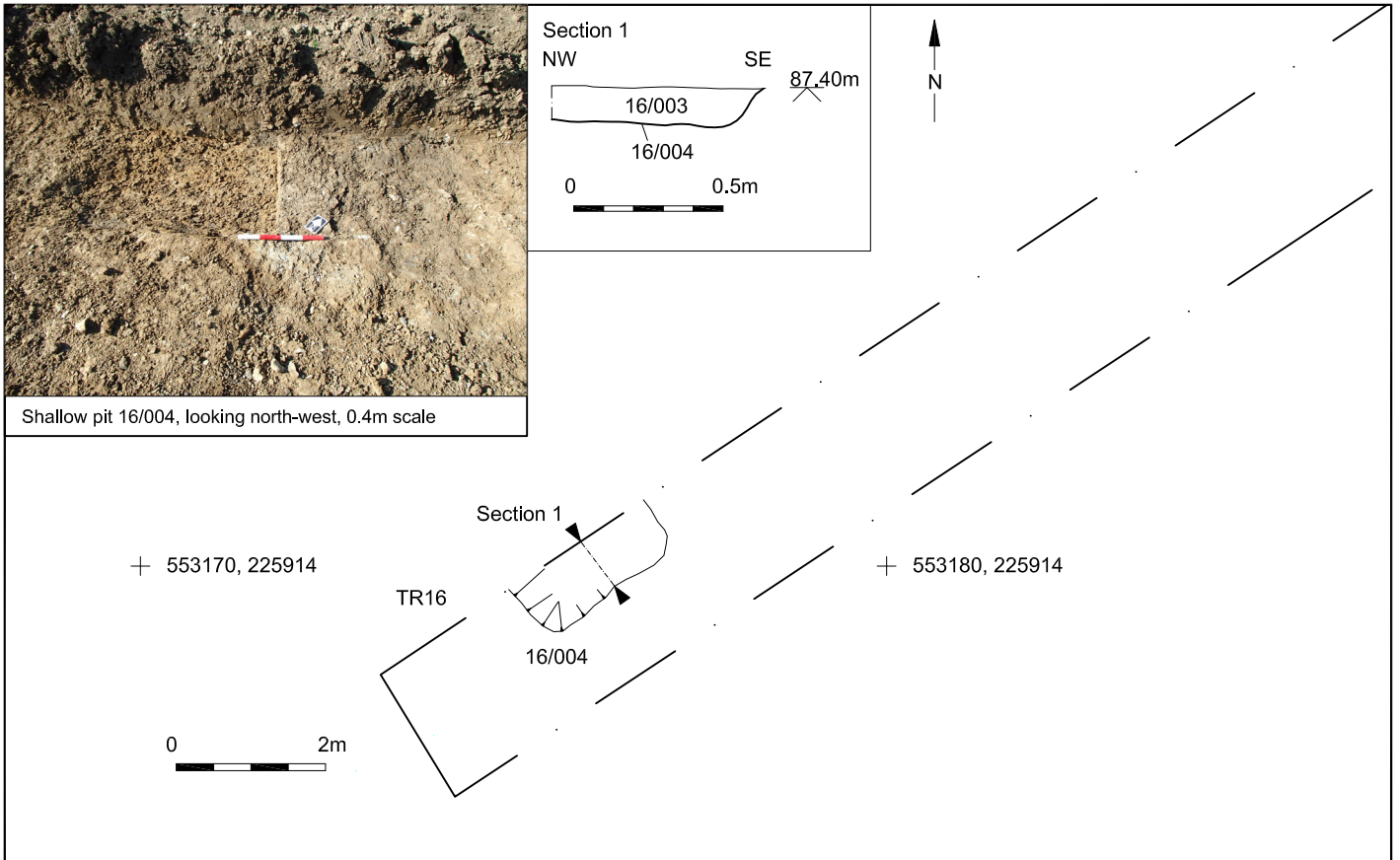


© Archaeology South-East		Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8354	Mar 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015092	Drawn by: LM		

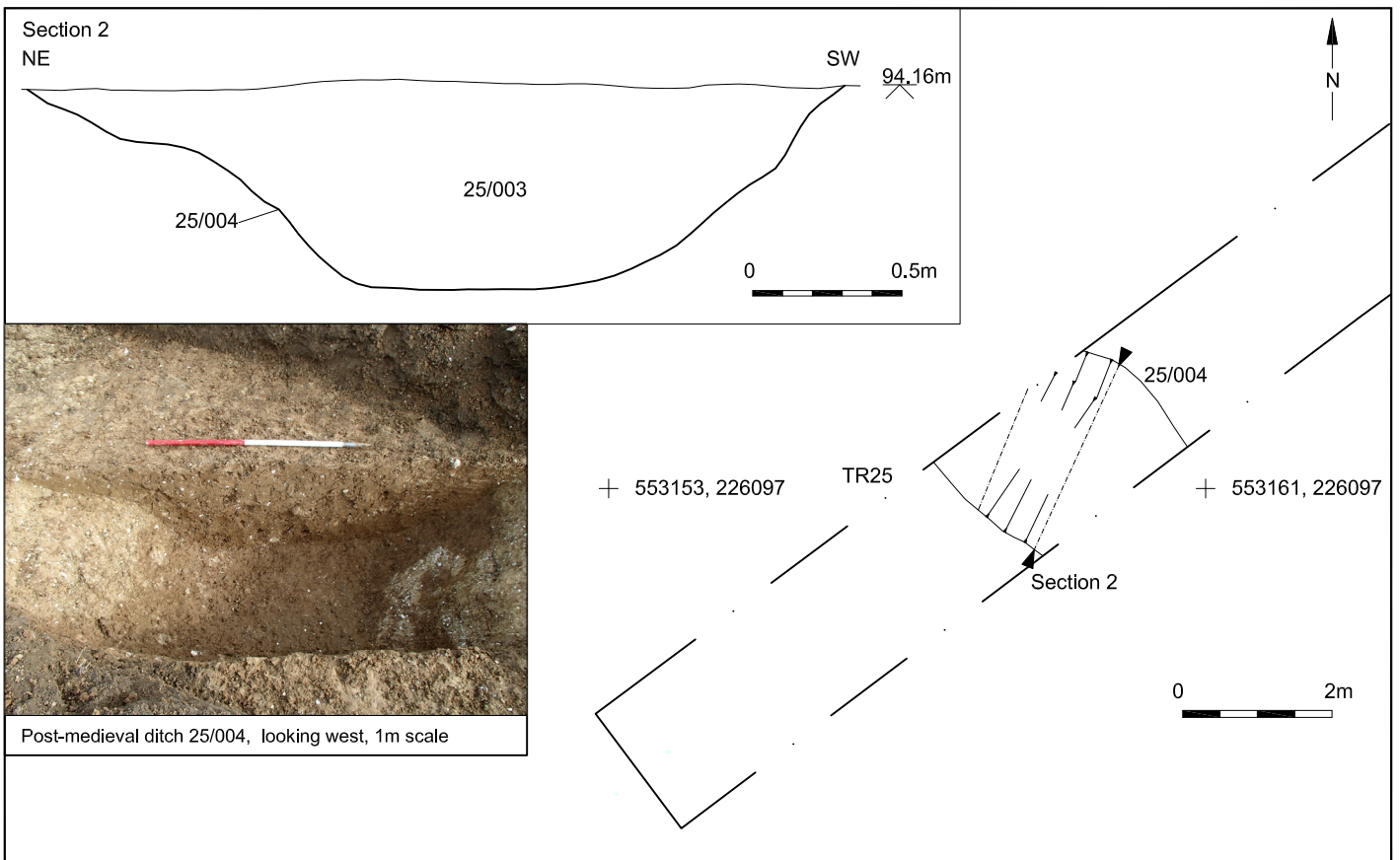


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© Archaeology South-East		Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex	Fig.2
Project Ref: 8354	Mar 2015	Trench location	
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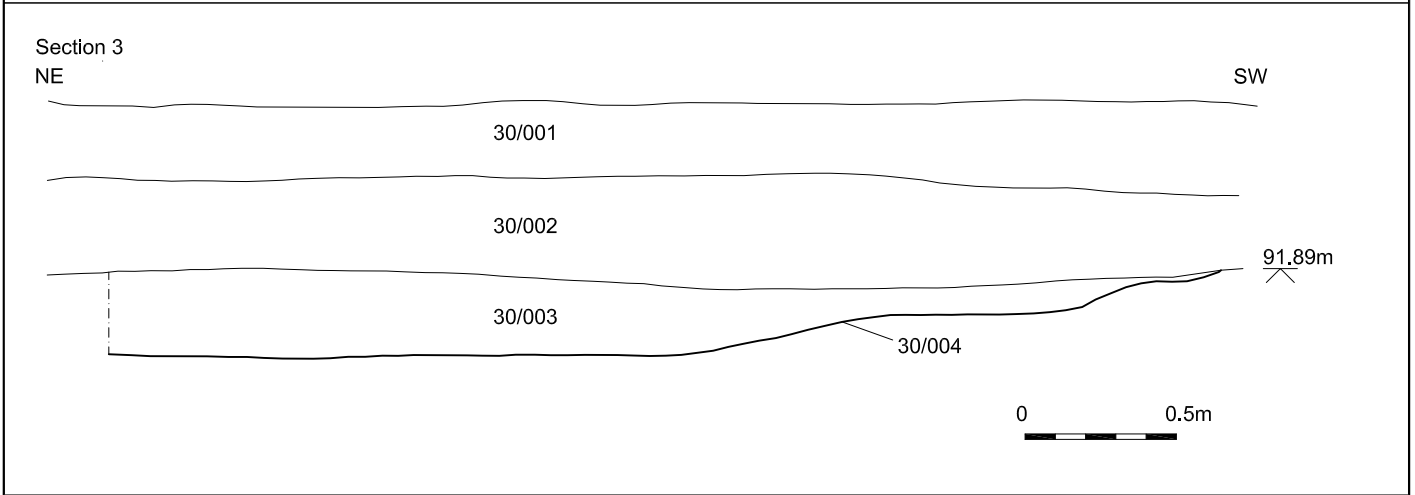
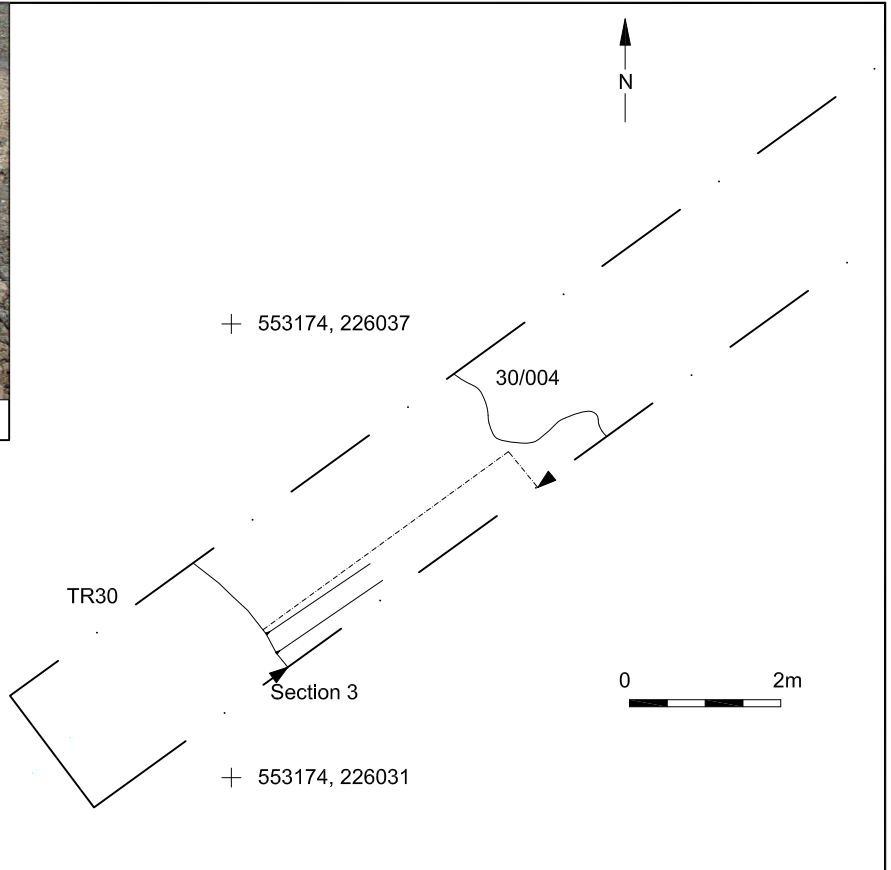
© Archaeology South-East		Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex	Fig.3
Project Ref: 8354	Mar 2015	Trench 16	
Report No: 2015092	Drawn by: APL		



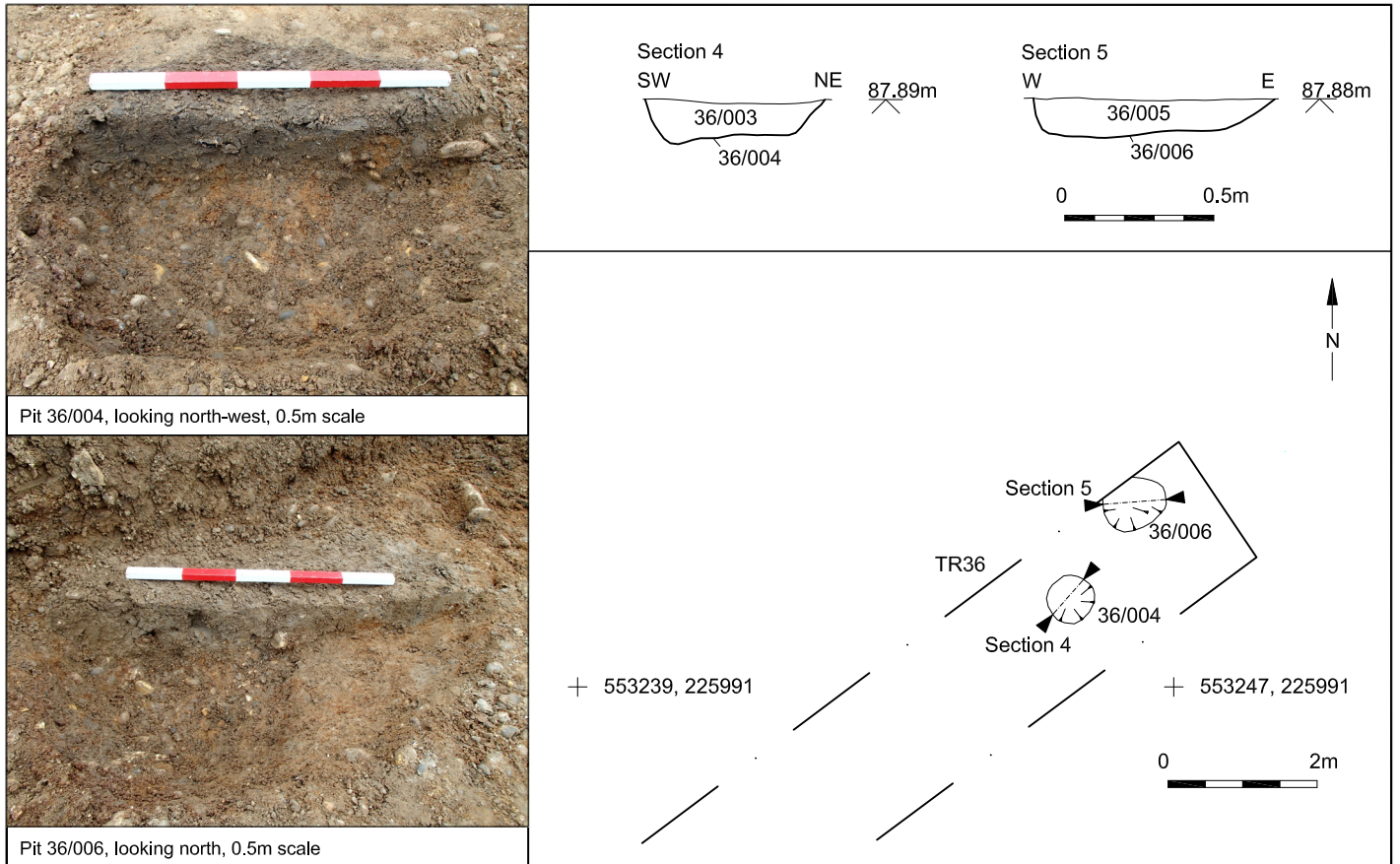
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Project Ref: 8354	Mar 2015	Trench 25	
Report No: 2015092	Drawn by: APL		



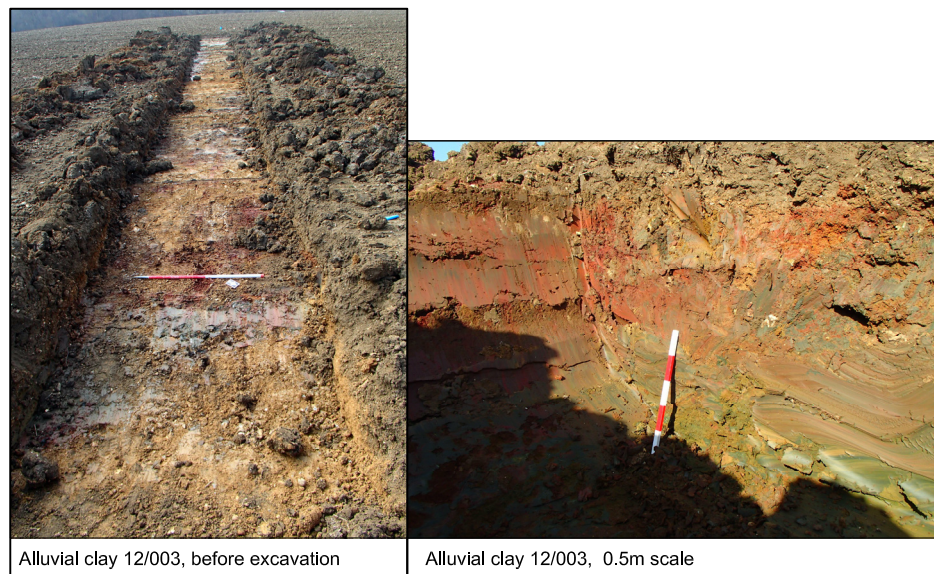
Linear feature 30/004, looking south



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Project Ref: 8354	Mar 2015	Trench 30	
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