

**Land West of Hill Hall
Little Sampford Road
Hawkspur Green
Little Bardfield
Essex**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**ASE Project No: 8377
Site Code: LBHG15**

ASE Report No: 2015175



May 2015

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NGR: TL 65243 32172

Planning Ref: UTT/15/0676/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 CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on Land West of Hill Hall, Little Sampford Road, Hawkspur Green, Little Bardfield Essex. The evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed solar farm development. Eighteen evaluation trenches were excavated, covering an area of 1440m² and targeted on the results of a preceding geophysical survey.

The site was located on a gentle north-eastern facing slope, with ground level falling from 100m OD to 92m OD. The natural stratum was glacial boulder clay of the Lowestoft Formation. Current land use was as an arable field.

Archaeological remains were found in twelve of the evaluation trenches.

A curving ditch/gully with an out-turned terminus produced moderate amounts of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery and fragments of fired clay. It is interpreted provisionally as either the partially surviving eaves-drip gully for a roundhouse or a simple enclosure ditch.

Occupation of the site in the medieval period was represented by a group of three closely spaced features: a ditch, a pit and a possible foundation trench for a timber stave building or structure, all dated by pottery to c. 1200.

Several ditches of probable post-medieval origin can be related to field boundaries shown on 19th-century maps.

Given the positive results of the evaluation it is clear that the proposed development has the potential to adversely affect heritage assets on this site. It is likely therefore that a mitigation strategy for the preservation of the resource (which might include further archaeological fieldwork) will be required by the local planning authority.

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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 by trial trenching on Land West of Hill Hall, Hawkspur Green, Little Bardfield, Essex (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out in advance of the proposed development of the site as a solar farm.
- 1.1.3 The site is located at National Grid Reference TL 65243 32172 and encompasses an area of approximately 11.7 hectares.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS, 2015) as London Clay, overlaid by Quaternary deposits of glacial till of the Lowestoft Formation (Diamicton).
- 1.2.2 The site is located on a gentle, north-eastern facing slope. Ground level falls from approximately 100m OD in the south-western part of the evaluation area to 92m OD on the eastern edge of the site.
- 1.2.3 It is entirely within a single arable field, bounded by woodland to the north and other fields to the west, south and east.

1.3 Planning Background

The evaluation was carried out in relation to a planning application (UTT/15/0676/FUL) for a solar farm and was requested by ECC Place Services, who provide archaeological advice to the local planning authority, Uttlesford District Council. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE, 2015a) that had been approved by Richard Havis of ECC Place Services.

1.4 Scope of the Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on Land West of Hill Hall, Hawkspur Green, Little Bardfield, Essex, carried out between 27th and 30th April 2015.
- 1.4.2 The report 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 considered.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 There are no records of archaeological remains having been found within the site boundary and the only archaeological work to have been carried out on the site prior to the trial trenching was a geophysical survey (WAA, 2015).

2.1.2 The archaeological background, drawn largely from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) has been summarised previously (ASE, 2015a; WAA, 2014) as follows:

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A Neolithic axe head was found approximately 700m north of the site boundary (EHER ref: MEX4954)

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Roman artefacts have been recorded at New Sampford Hall, approximately 700m north of the site. They include two oil flasks, a bracelet and pottery (EHER refs: MEX4961, MEX4988 & MEX5552). An undated square enclosure located 840m south of the site (EHER ref: MEX5652) might be of Roman date.

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 There is a medieval moated site 680m north of the site (EHER ref: MEX5559). Cropmarks interpreted as possible medieval field boundaries are recorded at three locations within 1km of the site (EHER refs: MEX1039246, MEX1040926 & MEX1039237). Isolated finds include a silver ring (EHER ref: MEX1036923) found 540m north of the site and a jug (EHER ref: MEX4962) found 700m north of the site.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

2.5.1 Map evidence indicates that during the earlier 19th century the site was divided into several smaller fields and that most of these had been amalgamated by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1881. Only one of the smaller fields, recorded on the tithe map of 1838 as 'Horse Pasture', survived into the 20th century; the boundaries of this field were removed between 1960 and 1981.

2.6 Principal results of the geophysical survey

2.6.1 Positive linear anomalies indicated the positions of post-medieval field boundaries shown on the 1838 tithe map; the boundaries of the small enclosure known in the 1830s as Horse Pasture were particularly prominent as a rectangular arrangement of double lines; these were interpreted originally as possible evidence for a realignment of the post-medieval field boundaries (WAA 2015, 13). An alternative interpretation presented in the WSI was that they might indicate the presence of a trackway (ASE 2015a, 3).

- 2.6.2 One of the linear anomalies on the east side of the Horse Pasture enclosure seemed to have a hook-shaped curve at its southern end; this was interpreted as a possible out-turned field entrance (WAA 2015, 13).
- 2.6.3 Two short linear anomalies in the north-western part of the Horse Pasture enclosure were interpreted as probable archaeological remains of unknown date. Areas of magnetic disturbance in the north-western and north-eastern corners of the same enclosure appeared to provide evidence for former activity.
- 2.6.4 A series of parallel, weak linear positive anomalies in the south-eastern part of the site were interpreted as possible evidence for medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.
- 2.6.5 Extensive, curvilinear anomalies aligned approximately north-west to south-east were thought to be geological or topographic features.

2.7 Aims and objectives of the project

- 2.7.1 The general aims of the project, as described in the WSI (ASE, 2015a), were as follows:

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.

- 2.7.2 More specific aims of the project were as follows:

- to investigate possible archaeological features noted during the geophysical survey to determine their character, date, and extent
- to focus on the areas that may represent possible 'trackways' to gain an understanding of their character, date, function and construction
- to investigate areas of magnetic anomalies in the immediate vicinity of these possible 'trackways'
- to investigate the possibility of 'roadside' activity/occupation
- to determine the date range, construction, lifespan and usage of known former field boundaries

- 2.7.3 The WSI also established the objectives of the project, as follows:

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 & 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 archaeological evaluation took place between 27th and 30th April 2015 and was conducted broadly in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE, 2015a) and Method Statement (ASE, 2015b).
- 3.1.2 Eighteen evaluation trenches (numbered 1–18) were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket. Trenches 1–14 were positioned broadly in accordance with the WSI and were mostly 50m long, with Trench 11 being 45.6m long and Trench 14 being 93m long. Two trenches (11 & 14) had to be shortened because of their proximity to farm tracks. Trenches 15–18 were additional trenches excavated at the request of Richard Havis of ECC Place Services in order to further investigate archaeological features in Trenches 4 and 7 (Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 The eighteen evaluation trenches had a combined area of 1440m², representing approximately 1% of the total area of the 11.7ha site.
- 3.1.4 Generally the trenches were machine-excavated to approximately 0.30m below ground level, which was the average thickness of the topsoil. In some locations machine-excavation continued to slightly greater depths in order to assess the geological strata. Mechanical excavation continued to the surface of archaeological deposits or to the top of the geological stratum, which generally occurred at the same level.
- 3.1.5 Archaeological features, soil horizons and the natural strata were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers for each trench. They were planned using a GPS and drawn in section (at 1:10) on 290mm x 320mm sheets of gridded drawing film. The drawn sections were located by GPS. Written records (trench and context descriptions) were made on *pro forma* trench recording sheets.
- 3.1.6 A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images.

3.2 Fieldwork Archive

- 3.2.1 The fieldwork archive is currently held at the Braintree offices of ASE and will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum in due course. The nature and contents of the archive are described in Table 1.

Description	Number	Type
Trench recording sheets	18	A4 paper
Context sheets	34	A4 paper
Environmental sample register	1	A4 paper
Environmental sample sheets	2	A4 paper
Section drawing sheets	5	290mm x 320mm permatrace
Digital images	65	High resolution JPG images

Table 1: Quantification of the fieldwork archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded in twelve of the eighteen evaluation trenches, as described below (4.3 to 4.20). Otherwise, the evaluation revealed a straightforward sequence of topsoil over natural strata (4.2).

4.2 General soil descriptions

4.2.1 Glacial boulder clay (Diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation) was recorded across the site. It was stiff, light yellowish or greyish brown clay/silt with moderate small fragments of chalk and occasional to moderate small to large fragments of flint. In some locations (notably at the eastern ends of Trenches 9 and 12) the boulder clay was overlaid by orangey brown clay with gravel, probably filling glacial outwash channels.

4.2.2 The overlying topsoil was mid greyish brown clayey loam, varying between 0.25m–0.35m thick. It had a clear interface with the underlying natural stratum, and plough marks in the surface of the glacial deposits indicated that modern agriculture had generally removed any evidence that might have existed for natural soil profiles or former land surfaces. The upper part of the topsoil was friable, having recently been harrowed in preparation for seed drilling.

4.3 Trench 1

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x up to 0.35m deep

Ground level: 99.47m OD (W), 99.19m OD (E)

Figure: 2

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
1/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.30m	Trench-wide

Table 2: Summary of deposits in Trench 1

4.3.1 There were no archaeological deposits or features in Trench 1.

4.4 Trench 2

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x up to 1.30m deep

Ground level: 98.88m OD (SW), 98.61m OD (NE)

Figure: 3

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
2/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.30m	Trench-wide
2/003	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 2/005	0.40m–0.60m	NE end of trench
2/004	Fill	Middle fill of ditch 2/005	0.40m–1.00m	NE end of trench
2/005	Cut	Post-medieval ditch	0.40m–1.20m	NE end of trench
2/006	Fill	Lower fill of ditch 2/005	0.40m–1.20m	NE end of trench

Table 3: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 2

4.4.1 Ditch [2/005] was oriented approximately north-west to south-east (Figure 3; Section 1 & photograph). It was 1.90m wide x 0.80m deep, with moderately steep sides and a narrow, rounded base. It contained a sequence of three fills, as follows:

Primary fill [2/006], lying against the sides and base of the ditch, was firm, mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional chalk fragments and pebbles but no finds. This fill represents gradual accumulation during the period of use of the ditch.

Middle fill [2/004] was firm, light to mid brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional pebbles and chalk fragments and producing one small fragment of brick (13g). This deposit was probably part of the deliberate backfilling of the ditch.

Upper fill [2/003] was firm, light yellowish brown mottled light grey clay/silt with moderate chalk fragments and occasional pebbles. This material was similar to the natural boulder clay and represented the final backfilling of the ditch.

4.4.2 Ditch 2/005 formed part of the western boundary of the enclosure described on the tithe map of 1838 as Horse Pasture. Note that the ditch was the only archaeological feature observed in Trench 2 but it did not correspond exactly with either of the two linear anomalies recorded at this location by the geophysical survey (Figure 2).

4.5 Trench 3

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x up to 0.35m deep

Ground level: 98.71m OD (SE), 98.36m OD (NW)

Figure: 2

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
3/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.25m–0.30m	Trench-wide
3/003	Fill	Fill of ditch 3/004	0.30m	SE half of trench
3/004	Cut	Post-medieval ditch	0.30m	SE half of trench

Table 4: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 3

4.5.1 Ditch [3/004] was oriented approximately south-west to north-east and was 2.30m wide. Fill [3/003] was firm, mid brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional small fragments of brick (not retained). The ditch was not excavated, having been investigated to the east in Trench 5.

4.5.2 Ditch [3/004] corresponded to a large, dipolar magnetic anomaly (indicative of a concentration of ferrous debris) recorded at this location by the geophysical survey (Figure 2), and probably represented the north-western corner of the Horse Pasture enclosure. An apparent linear positive anomaly to the south-east was not seen in Trench 3.

4.6 Trench 4

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x 0.35m deep

Ground level: 98.30m OD (SE), 98.15m OD (NW)

Figures: 4 & 5

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
4/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.25m–0.30m	Trench-wide
4/003	Fill	Fill of ditch 4/004	0.25m	NW end of trench
4/004	Cut	Post-medieval ditch	0.25m	NW end of trench
4/005	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 4/006	0.30m–0.45m	Centre of trench
4/006	Cut	Medieval ditch	0.30m–0.68m	Centre of trench
4/007	Fill	Upper fill of pit 4/009	0.30m–0.45m	Centre of trench
4/008	Fill	Lower fill of pit 4/009	0.30m–0.58m	Centre of trench
4/009	Cut	Medieval pit	0.30m–0.58m	Centre of trench
4/010	Fill	Fill of ditch 4/011	0.35m–0.75m	SE end of trench
4/011	Cut	Probable medieval ditch	0.35m–0.75m	SE end of trench
4/012	Fill	Lower fill of ditch 4/006	0.45m–0.68m	Centre of trench

Table 5: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 4

- 4.6.1 Post-medieval ditch [4/004] was oriented approximately south-west to north-east and was 2.40m wide. Fill [4/003] was firm, mid brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional small fragments of post-medieval brick (not retained), chalk and charcoal. The ditch was not excavated, having been investigated to the east in Trench 5.
- 4.6.2 Ditch [4/004] corresponded to a linear positive anomaly recorded at this location by the geophysical survey (Figure 2), and represented part of the northern boundary of the Horse Pasture enclosure. An apparent linear positive anomaly to the south-east, on the same orientation, was not seen in Trench 4.
- 4.6.3 Medieval ditch [4/006] was oriented north north-east to south south-west. It measured at least 4m long x 0.75m wide x 0.38m deep with steep sides and a wide, flat base (Figure 5; Section 2 & photograph). Lower fill [4/012] was compact, mid orangey brown clayey silt containing occasional small fragments of fired clay and charcoal. Upper fill [4/005] was compact, mid greyish brown clayey silt containing moderate small fragments of pottery (dated c. 1200) and occasional charcoal.
- 4.6.4 Ditch [4/006] probably corresponded to a short, linear positive anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey at this approximate location (Figure 2). Its extent to the south-west is unknown but it clearly did not continue as far as Trench 16, to the north-east.
- 4.6.5 Medieval pit [4/009] was oval or sub-circular, measuring 1.10m north–south x at least 0.60m east–west x 0.28m deep, with very steep sides and a flat base (Figure 5; Section 3 & photograph). Its lower fill [4/008] was light grey silty clay containing moderate small fragments of pottery (dated c. 1200) and a small amount of fired clay. Upper fill [4/007] was mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small fragments of pottery of similar date. The function of the pit is unknown.

4.6.6 Ditch/trench [4/011] was oriented approximately east–west and measured 0.68m wide x up to 0.40m deep, with very steep sides and an irregular base; where excavated it also had a narrow, steep-sided and V-shaped groove cut into its base (Figure 5; Section 4 & photograph). The extent of the feature was investigated by means of two additional trenches, 17 and 18, demonstrating that it was at least 18m long and curved to the south at its east end. The purpose of the cut is unclear although the presence of a pronounced groove in its base suggests a possible structural function, such as a foundation trench for timber stave walling.

4.6.7 Where excavated, ditch/trench [4/011] contained a single fill [4/010] of compact, mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal and three small fragments (13g) of medieval pottery (c. 1200) similar to that from ditch [4/006].

4.7 Trench 5

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x 0.30m deep

Ground level: 97.58m OD (SE), 97.40m OD (NW)

Figure: 6

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
5/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.25m	Trench-wide
5/003	Fill	Fill of ditch 5/004	0.30m–1.30m	Centre of trench
5/004	Cut	Post-medieval ditch	0.30m–1.30m	Centre of trench

Table 6: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 5

4.7.1 Ditch [5/004] was oriented approximately north-east to south-west (Figure 6; Section 5 & photograph). It was 2.45m wide x 1.00m deep, with moderately steep sides and a broad, concave base. It contained a single fill [5/003] of compact, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments and flecks of brick or tile (not retained).

4.7.2 Ditch [5/004] corresponded with a linear positive anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Figure 2) and representing the northern boundary of the Horse Pasture enclosure. An apparent linear positive anomaly to the south-east was not seen in Trench 5.

4.8 Trench 6

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x up to 0.48m deep

Ground level: 98.30m OD (SE), 98.15m OD (NW)

Figure: 2

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
6/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.30m–0.36m	Trench-wide
6/003	Fill	Fill of ditch 6/004	0.30m	Centre of trench
6/004	Cut	Post-medieval ditch	0.30m	Centre of trench

Table 7: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 6

4.8.1 Ditch [6/004] was 1.30m wide, curving from south-east to north-west. Its fill [6/003] was compact, mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional small to large fragments of brick and metal objects such as part of a plough share (none retained). The ditch was not excavated, since it was investigated to the south in Trench 7.

4.8.2 The ditch corresponded to a large, dipolar magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Figure 2), and represented the north-east corner of the Horse Pasture enclosure. An apparent linear positive anomaly to the south-west was not seen in Trench 6.

4.9 Trench 7

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x 0.35m deep

Ground level: 97.11m OD (SW), 96.52m OD (NE)

Figure: 7

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
7/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.35m	Trench-wide
7/003	Fill	Fill of ditch 7/004	0.35m–0.90m	Centre of trench
7/004	Cut	Post-medieval ditch	0.35m–0.90m	Centre of trench
7/005	Fill	Fill of ditch segment 7/006	0.35m–0.50m	Centre of trench
7/006	Cut	Part of ditch 7/011	0.35m–0.50m	Centre of trench
7/007	Fill	Fill of ditch segment 7/008	0.30m–0.55m	Centre of trench
7/008	Cut	Part of ditch 7/011	0.30m–0.55m	Centre of trench
7/009	Fill	Fill of ditch segment 7/010	0.35m–0.50m	Centre of trench
7/010	Cut	Part of ditch 7/011	0.35m–0.50m	Centre of trench
7/011	Cut	Prehistoric ditch	0.30m–0.55m	Centre of trench

Table 8: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 7

4.9.1 Post-medieval ditch [7/004] was oriented north north-west to south south-east and was 2.15m wide x at least 0.55m deep (not bottomed) with moderately steep sides. It contained a single (excavated) fill [7/003] of compact, light brownish grey silty clay that contained some modern wire (not retained).

4.9.2 Ditch [7/004] related to a discontinuous linear positive anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey at this approximate location (Figure 2) and was part of the eastern boundary of the Horse Pasture enclosure. An apparent linear anomaly on the same orientation to the south-west was not seen in Trench 7.

4.9.3 Curvilinear ditch/gully [7/011] was at least 11.5m long x up to 0.65m wide x 0.25m deep, with moderately steep sides breaking gradually into a concave base (Figure 7; Sections 7 & 8, and photographs). It was excavated at three locations (segments [7/006], [7/008] & [7/010]) and contained a fairly consistent fill of firm, mid brownish grey clayey silt ([7/005], [7/007] & [7/009]) that produced moderate amounts of abraded flint-tempered pottery, fired clay and charcoal; the pottery is dated broadly to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. Fill [7/009] also contained a cattle tooth, while environmental sampling of the same deposit produced other small, unidentifiable fragments of bone, some of which was burnt (Sample 1). There were no charred plant macrofossils in the sample to provide evidence for crop production or the local environment.

4.9.4 The function of ditch/gully [7/011] is uncertain. One possibility that was considered on site was that it was part of the eaves-drip gully of a roundhouse, with the sharply out-turned terminus at its east end marking the position of a projecting porch. Additional Trench 15 was machine-excavated in order to test this hypothesis, but the continued arc of the ditch/gully was not traced.

4.9.5 Ditch/gully [7/011] corresponded with a curvilinear positive anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey at this location (Figure 2) and previously interpreted as the hook-shaped terminus of a linear feature (2.6.2). This now seems unlikely since the linear anomaly was almost certainly part of post-medieval ditch, recorded as [7/004].

4.10 Trench 8

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x 0.39m deep

Ground level: 94.59m OD (NW), 94.07m OD (SE)

Figure: 8

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
8/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.35m	Trench-wide
8/003	Fill	Fill of ditch/gully 8/004	0.28m–0.48m	NW end of trench
8/004	Cut	Ditch/gully	0.28m–0.48m	NW end of trench
8/005	Fill	Fill of ditch 8/006	0.35m–0.85m	NW end of trench
8/006	Cut	Ditch	0.35m–0.85m	NW end of trench

Table 9: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 8

4.10.1 Ditch/gully [8/004] was oriented north north-east to south south-west and measured 0.85m wide x 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and a broad, flat base (Figure 8; Section 9 and photograph). It contained a single fill [8/003] of firm, mid greyish brown silty clay producing a small fragment (30g) from a Late Iron Age / Early Roman storage jar and an undiagnostic worked flint. The extent and function of the ditch are unknown, and it was not obviously detected by the geophysical survey.

4.10.2 Ditch [8/006] was oriented north-east to south-west and measured 2.60m wide x 0.50m deep with gently sloping and irregular sides and a narrow, concave base (Figure 8; Section 10). It contained a single fill [8/005] of compact, light yellowish brown silty clay that produced a small fragment of iron plate, of unknown date and function.

4.10.3 Ditch [8/006] corresponded with a linear positive anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey at this location (Figure 2) and was probably a medieval or later field boundary. A series of parallel, weakly positive linear anomalies detected to the south of this ditch and interpreted as possible traces of ridge and furrow cultivation (2.6.4) were not seen in Trench 8; however, it was noted that the natural boulder clay in this area of the site contained irregular pockets or veins of sandy clay that might have been detected by the geophysical survey.

4.11 Trench 9

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x 0.30m deep

Ground level: 96.60m OD (SW), 95.79m OD (NE)

Figure: 9

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
9/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.30m	Trench-wide
9/003	Fill	Fill of ditch 9/004	0.28m–0.78m	SW end of trench
9/004	Cut	Post-medieval ditch	0.28m–0.78m	SW end of trench

Table 10: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 9

4.11.1 Ditch [9/004] was oriented approximately north north-west to south south-east and measured 0.80m wide x 0.50m deep with a V-shaped profile (Figure 9; Section 11 and photograph). It contained a single fill [9/003] of compact, light yellowish brown silty clay that produced one small fragment (8g) of post-medieval ceramic roof tile.

4.11.2 Ditch [9/004] was presumably part of a field boundary shown on the tithe map of 1838, which was also recorded in Trench 12. It did not obviously correspond with either of two linear positive anomalies plotted by the geophysical survey in this area of the site (Figure 2), although neither of these was observed in Trench 9.

4.11.3 An area of orangey brown clay with gravel (not numbered) at the north-east end of the trench related to a sinuous geophysical anomaly interpreted as a natural feature (Figure 2).

4.12 Trench 10

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x 0.40m deep

Ground level: 93.87m OD (SW), 91.99m OD (NE)

Figure: 2

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
10/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.32m–0.40m	Trench-wide

Table 11: Summary of deposits in Trench 10

4.12.1 There were no archaeological features in Trench 10. Three linear anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey were not observed.

4.13 Trench 11

Dimensions: 45.60m x 1.80m x 0.30m deep

Ground level: 94.43m OD (W), 93.13m OD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
11/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.25m	Trench-wide

Table 12: Summary of deposits in Trench 11

4.13.1 There were no archaeological features in Trench 11. An area of compacted ground at the east end of the trench (close to the farm track) probably related to a large, dipolar magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey at that location.

4.14 Trench 12

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x 0.25m deep

Ground level: 96.48m OD (SW), 95.83m OD (NE)

Figure: 10

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
12/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.25m	Trench-wide
12/003	Fill	Fill of ditch 12/004	0.20m–0.78m	NE half of trench
12/004	Cut	Post-medieval ditch	0.20m–0.78m	NE half of trench

Table 13: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 12

4.14.1 Ditch [12/004] was oriented west north-west to east south-east and measured 0.90m wide x 0.58m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Figure 10; Section 12 and photograph). Its single fill [12/003] was compact, light yellowish brown clayey silt containing flecks of fired clay but no other finds.

4.14.2 The ditch was probably part of a post-medieval field boundary, recorded to the south-east as [9/004]. In Trench 12 it did not obviously correspond to any of the positive linear anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey in this area of the site.

4.14.3 A band of orangey brown clay with gravel (not numbered) at the north-east end of the trench related to a sinuous geophysical anomaly interpreted as a natural feature (Figure 2).

4.15 Trench 13

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.80m x 0.25m deep

Ground level: 97.38m OD (W), 97.03m OD (E)

Figure: 11

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
13/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.25m	Trench-wide
13/003	Fill	Fill of pit 12/004	0.25m	W half of trench
13/004	Cut	Small pit	0.25m	W half of trench

Table 14: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 13

4.15.1 Pit [13/004] was sub circular, measuring 0.59 wide x 0.10m deep with steep sides and a slightly concave base (Figure 11; Section 13 and photograph). Its single fill [13/003] was firm, dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks and small fragments of charcoal and some flecks of fired clay but no finds. Environmental sampling of the fill (Sample 2) produced only uncharred weed seeds that are assumed to have been recent contaminants.

4.15.2 The pit was not detected by the geophysical survey. Its date and function are unknown but its interpretation as a possible cremation burial can be ruled out in the absence of calcined bone.

4.16 Trench 14

Dimensions: 43.00m x 1.80m x 0.35m deep

Ground level: 98.82m OD (SW), 94.95m OD (NE)

Figure: 2

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
14/002	Layer	Natural boulder clay	0.30m	Trench-wide

Table 15: Summary of deposits in Trench 14

4.16.1 There were no archaeological features in Trench 14. A discontinuous curvilinear anomaly, of probable natural origin, recorded by the geophysical survey at the south-west end of the trench was not observed.

4.17 Trench 15

Dimensions: 18.00m x 1.80m x 0.38m deep

Ground level: ~96.6m OD (SE)

Figure: 7

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
15/002	Layer	Natural boulder clay	0.35m	Trench-wide

Table 16: Summary of deposits in Trench 15

4.17.1 Trench 15 was an additional trench excavated perpendicular to Trench 7 in order to test the hypothesis that [7/011] was part of a roundhouse eave-drip gully. The continued arc of [7/011] was not seen in Trench 15 and no other features were identified.

4.18 Trench 16

Dimensions: 9.20m x 1.80m x 0.30m deep

Ground level: ~98.2m OD (SW)

Figure: 4

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
16/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.30m	Trench-wide

Table 17: Summary of deposits in Trench 16

4.18.1 Trench 16 was an additional trench excavated perpendicular to Trench 4 in order to investigate the continuation of ditch [4/006]. The ditch was not seen in Trench 16 and no other features were identified.

4.19 Trench 17

Dimensions: 8.50m x 1.80m x 0.35m deep

Ground level: ~98.25m (W)

Figure: 4

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
17/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.30m	Trench-wide

Table 18: Summary of deposits in Trench 17

4.19.1 Trench 17 was an additional trench excavated perpendicular to Trench 4 in order to investigate the eastern continuation of ditch [4/011]. The ditch was seen to extent for approximately 5m before turning to the south. The ditch was not excavated in Trench 17. No other features were recognised.

4.20 Trench 18

Dimensions: 11.50m x 1.80m x 0.35m deep

Ground level: 98.25m OD (E)

Figure: 4

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
18/002	Deposit	Natural boulder clay	0.30m	Trench-wide

Table 19: Summary of deposits in Trench 18

4.20.1 Trench 18 was an additional trench excavated perpendicular to Trench 4 in order to investigate the western continuation of ditch [4/011]. The ditch was seen to extent for at least 11m to the west. The ditch was not excavated in Trench 18. No other features were recognised.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A medium-sized assemblage of finds was recovered. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight (Table 20) and bagged by material and context. A detailed quantification by context is shown in Appendix 2. Finds were all packed and stored according to cIFA guidelines (Table 21; 2014). No further conservation is required.

Type	Number	Wt g
Pottery	71	433
Ceramic Building Material	2	22
Bone	1	20
Worked flint	1	22
Iron	1	4
Fired clay	77	408
Fossil shell	7	134

Table 20: Finds quantification, by type

Finds	Quantity
Bulk finds boxes (450mm x 240mm x 220mm)	0.5

Table 21: Quantification of the finds archive

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The evaluation produced one piece of irregular waste weighing 24g. The artefact, recovered from ditch fill [8/003], exhibits very light edge modification, but it is otherwise chronologically undiagnostic.

5.3 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of forty-two sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery weighing 209g was recovered during the evaluation. The prehistoric wares have been broadly classified according to their major inclusion type in Table 22 but have not been assigned to a formal type-series at present. It is recommended that the assemblage should be retained and integrated into any future assessment/analysis programme in the event of further archaeological work at the site.

Fabric group	Sherds	Weight (g)
Flint-tempered	40	179
Shell-tempered	1	<1
Late Iron Age/Roman storage jar fabric	1	30
Total	42	209

Table 22: Quantification of prehistoric & Roman pottery by broad ware type

5.3.2 Contexts in Trench 7 ([7/005], [7/007] & [7/009]) produced similar small assemblages of flint-tempered wares probably dating broadly to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. All of these fabrics share very fine sandy iron-

rich matrixes with quartz of c. 0.1mm in size. The stratified groups tend to contain a mixture of coarser wares (typically containing moderate flint of 2–3mm with a rarer examples ranging from 0.5–5mm) and finer wares (with most flint inclusions of <1mm). The only diagnostic pieces, from [7/005] and [7/007] respectively, are a partial plain rim which is rounded in section and a well-formed rounded shoulder sherd, in a finer flint-tempered ware. Several bodysherds from a single vessel in [7/007] appear to have a slag-like/industrial residue adhering to the interior surface although the vessel itself does not appear to have been exposed to high temperatures so it is unclear whether the residue occurred through use in industrial processes or as a result of post-depositional conditions.

- 5.3.3 Context [4/007] produced a tiny fragment (<1g) containing sparse containing fairly fine shell inclusions in a silty matrix. It is difficult to say anything conclusive about the dating of such a small sherd although shelly wares of this type are broadly typical of the Iron Age to early Roman period. The fragment was found in association with another, post-Roman, sherd.
- 5.3.4 Finally, context [8/003] contained a single bodysherd in typical Late Iron Age / Roman storage jar fabric (*cf* Going 1987, fabric 44). This example is fairly high-fired, sandy and grey in colour, suggesting that a post-conquest date is most likely.

5.4 The Medieval Pottery by Helen Walker

- 5.4.1 A small amount of pottery, twenty-seven sherds weighing 233g, was excavated from five contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1–16). All but one sherd was excavated from features in Trench 4.
- 5.4.2 Finds from the lower fill [4/008] of pit [4/009] include fragments of early medieval ware showing wavy-line combing, probably from storage jars. Two vessels are represented. Also from this fill are body sherds showing incised horizontal lines or grooves. These have been classified as medieval coarseware but are borderline with early medieval ware. The upper fill of this pit ([4/007] contained two further sherds of medieval coarseware, which are again borderline with early medieval ware.
- 5.4.3 Context [4/005], the fill of ditch [4/006] again produced sherds of early medieval ware and medieval coarseware including sherds from a cooking-pot in the latter fabric showing a B4-type rim datable to c. 1200 and rilling on the shoulder. An abraded body sherd in this context has been identified as an example of Hedingham coarseware.
- 5.4.4 Context [4/010], the fill of ditch/trench [4/011] produced sherds of early medieval ware similar to those in context [4/005]. All the pottery from these features could be contemporary with the cooking-pot and date to c. 1200.
- 5.4.5 A single sherd was found in topsoil [5/001] (Trench 5). It was a rilled sherd of Hedingham coarseware, probably from the neck of a jug and datable to the 13th century, perhaps the mid-13th century, and is therefore a little later than the pottery from Trench 4.

5.4.6 The presence of Hedingham coarseware is to be expected as there were production sites nearby.

5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 Two fragments of ceramic building material weighing a total of 21g were recovered. Ditch fill [2/004] contained an abraded brick fragment in a moderately sandy fabric (13g); a roofing tile flake in a similar fabric with sparse red iron rich inclusions came from ditch fill [9/003]. The assemblage is undiagnostic of date beyond a broad post-medieval range, and is recommended for discard.

5.6 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

5.6.1 A small assemblage of 182 fragments weighing 608g was hand collected from six contexts and retrieved from two environmental samples. The assemblage is characterised by small abraded fragments in sparsely sandy fabric, some with sparse organic temper. Small fragments in a chalk tempered fabric were recovered from ditch fill [4/005], pit fill [4/008] and ditch fill [4/012]. A small number of pieces exhibit one flat surface and ditch fill [7/007] produced well fired and vitrified fragments; however none are diagnostic of form, function or date.

5.7 The Metalwork by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 A single iron plate fragment weighing 5g and measuring 31mm x 18mm x 4mm was recovered from ditch fill [8/005]. The object is in poor condition and undiagnostic of form or function; as such it is recommended for discard.

5.8 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.8.1 The evaluation produced a single cattle tooth from ditch fill [7/009] and three small, unidentifiable fragments from Environmental Sample <1>. The assemblage is in a poor state of preservation and has no potential for further analysis.

5.9 The Fossil Shell by Elke Raemen

5.9.1 Seven fragments of fossil oyster shell were recovered from ditch fill [4/012]. Fossil oyster valves are fairly common but may in some cases be curated.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Angela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk soil samples were taken to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The samples were taken from a ditch/gully and from a pit. The following report summarises the contents of these samples and discusses the information they can provide regarding the environment and fuel use at the site.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The samples were processed by flotation in their entirety; the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 3). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this report where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereo zoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 4). 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). The larger flots were not assessed in their entirety, but samples of roughly 100ml were taken and their volume recorded alongside the volume and weight of the whole flots.

6.3 Summary of results

6.3.1 All the flots contained a large amount of uncharred vegetation, such as rootlets and uncharred seeds of black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.). The presence of uncharred plant material suggests low level disturbance and it is likely that the non-carbonised seeds recorded are more recent contaminants that infiltrated the soil through root activity.

6.3.2 No charred plant macrofossils were recorded, and although both samples contained a certain amount of >4mm charcoal fragments, a significant quantity of fragments was only recorded from Sample <2>. These fragments could be suitable for identification and C14 dating, if desired. Other environmental material recovered in the residues included small mammal and burnt bone, whilst recorded finds comprised fire-cracked flint, burnt clay and magnetised material.

6.4 Discussion of the environmental evidence

6.4.1 Despite the lack of crop and wild plant remains, the environmental samples from this site confirm the suitability of local deposits to the preservation of charred plant material, such as charcoal, as well as other kinds of environmental remains.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The fieldwork identified archaeological features in twelve of the eighteen evaluation trenches. These included remains of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 The archaeological features were seen only at the level at which they cut the natural stratum, but were well preserved below that level.

7.2.2 Plough marks in the surface of the natural stratum indicated clearly that modern cultivation has removed any evidence that might have existed for former land surfaces or natural soil profiles. The same processes will have partially truncated the archaeological features.

7.2.3 Other potential impacts were minimal, consisting mainly of a small number of post-medieval or modern land drains that might cause localised truncation of archaeological features.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age

7.3.1 A shallow and curving ditch or gully [7/011] is dated by flint-tempered pottery to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. Although the function of this feature has not been determined it might have been part of the eaves-drip gully for a roundhouse, with the out-turned terminus at its eastern end indicating the position of a south-east facing entrance porch. Alternatively, it was a simple enclosure ditch.

7.3.2 Although the continuation of this feature was not found in Trench 15 it is possible that it was shallower in that location and had been obliterated by ploughing.

7.3.3 The arc of ditch/gully [7/011], if continued, would describe a circle with a diameter of approximately 15–16m. If this were an eaves-drip gully, a building with an outer wall diameter of approximately 12–13m could be postulated. A roundhouse of that size would have been large for this period, when diameters of 9m–10m were more typical (Cunliffe 2005, 269–71).

7.3.4 A south-eastern orientation for the porch of the postulated building would have been in accordance with most other roundhouse entrances; this was in order to maximise the natural light that could penetrate the building and to provide shelter from prevailing northerly or westerly winds (Harding 2009, 39).

7.3.5 A moderate amount of pottery and a small amount of animal bone from ditch/gully [7/011] provide evidence for nearby occupation and supports the idea that this was a domestic site. Moderate amounts of undiagnostic fired

clay and charcoal from the ditch fills might demonstrate that the postulated building was destroyed by fire.

Late Iron Age / Early Roman

- 7.3.6 A single fragment of a Late Iron Age / Roman storage jar from the fill of ditch [8/004] provides the only evidence for activity on the site around the time of the Roman conquest.

Medieval

- 7.3.7 Use of the site in the medieval period is demonstrated by three features in Trench 4: ditch [4/006], pit [4/009] and possible structural cut [4/011]. These have all been dated by pottery to c. 1200 and were presumably broadly contemporary.
- 7.3.8 Of particular interest is feature [4/011], which had a narrow groove running along its base that *might* have housed timber stave walling. If so, this is likely to have been the foundation trench for the north wall of a building, or perhaps a fence.
- 7.3.9 Although ditch [4/006] seems to have been recorded by the geophysical survey, pit [4/009] and ditch/trench [4/011] were not obviously detected. Two linear positive anomalies to the west and south of Trench 4 might indicate the positions of other medieval features.
- 7.3.10 A single sherd of Hedingham ware from topsoil [5/001] suggests that activity might have continued into the mid-13th century but no evidence was found that the site continued to be occupied in the later medieval period.

Post-medieval

- 7.3.11 The boundary ditches of a post-medieval enclosure described on the 1838 tithe map as 'Horse Pasture' were recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Cartographic evidence indicates that these substantial ditches survived until at least 1960, and this was demonstrated on site by the presence in some of the ditch fills of obviously modern material such as wire and parts of farm machinery.
- 7.3.12 Although it is possible that the Horse Pasture enclosure had medieval origins (particularly since the enclosed area contained the features dated c. 1200, found in Trench 4) no evidence for this was found in the three locations where the ditch was excavated.
- 7.3.13 The boundaries of the Horse Pasture enclosure were detected by the geophysical survey as two roughly parallel linear anomalies, and this was taken to represent either two phases of boundary ditch or the existence of a possible ditched trackway (2.6.1). In fact, the evaluation revealed only a single boundary ditch and no evidence for a track.
- 7.3.14 Other post-medieval ditches were recorded in Trenches 8, 9 and 12, and these probably related to features shown on the 1838 tithe map but not on subsequent Ordnance Survey maps from 1881 onwards.

Undated

7.3.15 Small pit [13/004] with a charcoal-rich fill was undated. However, it provides evidence for activity in the central northern part of the site in an area where relatively little trial trenching was carried out.

7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

7.4.1 Archaeological remains of prehistoric and medieval date have been found at an average depth of 0.30m below ground level. Although the details of the proposed development of the site as a solar farm are not available, it is clear that any construction work (such as excavation, topsoil stripping and the movement of plant and vehicles) is likely to have an adverse effect on heritage assets on this site.

7.5 Consideration of project aims and potential research objectives

7.5.1 From the above (7.3) it can be seen that the fieldwork has to a large extent fulfilled the general aims of the evaluation (see 2.7.1), to determine the 'character, location, extent, date, quality and significance' of archaeological remains on this site.

7.5.2 The specific aims of the evaluation (2.7.2) related mainly to the investigation of probable archaeological features revealed by the geophysical survey. For this reason most of the evaluation trenches were targeted on positive linear anomalies thought to indicate the positions of field boundaries or possible trackways. This has produced some surprising results that highlight the difficulties of interpreting geophysical data.

7.5.3 In particular, the predicted arrangement of double ditches defining the Horse Pasture enclosure was not confirmed by the fieldwork, which indicated only a single boundary ditch of probable post-medieval date. Similarly the double ditch predicted by the geophysics in Trenches 9 and 12 was not found, although there was a single, post-medieval ditch running through those trenches. Other linear features suggested by the geophysical survey, such as the negative magnetic anomaly (suggestive of a bank) in Trench 10, were not found.

7.5.4 A short, curving anomaly in the area of Trench 7 has been confirmed by excavation to be a prehistoric ditch/gully and another short, linear feature in the area of Trench 4 was found to be a medieval ditch. However, other medieval features in Trench 4 were not obviously detected by the geophysical survey.

7.5.5 Some specific research objectives that might be addressed by any further fieldwork on this site include the following:

- What is the full extent and likely function of the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age ditch/gully [7/011]? Was it a part of a roundhouse, or a simple enclosure ditch?
- Are there other prehistoric features in the area of Trench 7?

- What was the nature and scale of medieval occupation on the site?
- What is the full extent and function of feature [4/011]? Was it part of a building?

7.5.5 Research objectives that have been proposed for the Eastern region and that might be addressed by the prehistoric evidence from this site relate mainly to *Settlement Chronologies and Dynamics* in the Iron Age (Brown & Glazebrook, 2000). In particular, the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition is highlighted as an area requiring further research in the Regional Research Framework (Bryant 2000, 17).

7.5.6 The evidence for medieval settlement might contribute to the research topic 'Rural Settlement', as follows:

The origins and development of the different rural settlement types need further research, also the dynamics of medieval settlement. Much of the region has primarily a dispersed pattern, not nucleated, and more small hamlets are being discovered all the time. More data will add to our understanding of the way places appear, grow, shift and disappear.

(Medlycott 2011, 70).

7.6 Conclusions

7.6.1 Given the positive results of the evaluation and the likelihood that additional archaeological remains are present on the site, it is likely that a mitigation strategy for the preservation of the resource (which might include further archaeological fieldwork and reporting) will be required by the local planning authority.

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site survey and Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report.

Appendix 1: Digital image catalogue

Number	Trench	Facing	Scale	Contexts	Description
8377_001	8	NE	0.5m	8/004	Ditch/gully 8/004
8377_002	8	NE	1m	8/006	Ditch 8/006
8377_003	10	NE	1m		General view of trench
8377_004	8	SE	1m		General view of trench
8377_005	7	W	0.5m	7/006	Terminus 7/006 of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_006	7	NW	0.5m	7/008	Segment 7/008 of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_007	7	NE	0.5m	7/011	General view of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_008	4	NE	0.5m	4/006	Ditch/gully 4/006 in section
8377_009	4	NE	0.5m	4/006	General view of ditch/gully 4/006
8377_010	13	W	0.2m	13/004	Pit 13/004, half-sectioned
8377_011	13	W	0.2m	13/004	Pit 13/004, half-sectioned (closer view)
8377_012	4	NE	1m	4/009	Pit 4/009 (horizontal scale)
8377_013	4	NE	0.5m	4/009	Pit 4/009 (vertical scale)
8377_014	4	SW	0.5m	4/011	Ditch/trench 4/011 (under-excavated)
8377_015	7	S	0.5m	7/010	Segment 7/010 of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_016	4	SW	0.5m	4/011	Ditch/trench 4/011 (partially excavated)
8377_017	4	NE	0.5m	4/011	Ditch/trench 4/011 (partially excavated)
8377_018	4	SW	0.5m	4/011	Ditch/trench 4/011 (fully excavated)
8377_019	12	NW	1m	12/004	Ditch 12/004
8377_020	5	SW	1m	5/004	Ditch 5/004 in section
8377_021		SW			General view of site from end of TR 15
8377_022		NW			General view of site from end of TR 15
8377_023		NE			General view of site from end of TR 15
8377_024		SE			General view of site from end of TR 15
8377_025		S			General view of site from end of TR 15
8377_026	8	NE	0.5m	8/004	Ditch/gully 8/004
8377_027	8	NE	1m	8/006	Ditch 8/006
8377_028	10	NE	1m		General view of trench
8377_029	8	SE	1m		General view of trench
8377_030	11	W	1m		General view of trench
8377_031	13	W	1m		General view of trench
8377_032	13	NE		13/004	Pit unexcavated
8377_033	5	NW	1m		General view of trench
8377_034	4	N	1m	4/004	Ditch 4/004 unexcavated
8377_035	3	NW	1m		General view of trench
8377_036	1	W	1m		General view of trench
8377_037	7	SE	1m	7/004	Ditch, partially excavated
8377_038	7	W	0.3m	7/006	Terminus 7/006 of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_039	7	SW	0.5m	7/006	Terminus 7/006 of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_040	7	SE	1m	7/004	Ditch 7/004 excavated fully
8377_041	7	NW	0.5m	7/008	Segment 7/008 of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_042	7	NE	0.5m	7/011	General view of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_043	7	NE	0.5m	7/011	General view of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_044	4	NE	0.5m	4/006	Ditch/gully 4/006 in section
8377_045	4	NE	0.5m	4/006	General view of ditch/gully 4/006
8377_046	4	E			Working shot, pit 4/009
8377_047	14	NE	1m		General view of trench
8377_048	2	SE	1m	2/005	Ditch 2/005 in section
8377_049	2	SE	1m	2/005	Ditch 2/005 in section
8377_050	13	W	0.2m	13/004	Pit 13/004, half-sectioned
8377_051	13	W	0.2m	13/004	Pit 13/004, half-sectioned (wider view)
8377_052	6	W	1m	6/004	Ditch 6/004 unexcavated
8377_053	6	SW	1m		General view of trench
8377_054	9	NW	1m	9/004	Ditch 9/004
8377_055	9	NE	1m	9/004	Ditch 9/004
8377_056	4	NE	1m	4/009	Pit 4/009 (horizontal scale)
8377_057	4	NE	0.5m	4/009	Pit 4/009 (vertical scale)

8377_058	4	SW	0.5m	4/011	Ditch/trench 4/011 (under excavated)
8377_059	7	S	0.5m	7/010	Segment 7/010 of ditch/gully 7/011
8377_060	4	SW	0.5m	4/011	Ditch/trench 4/011 (partially excavated)
8377_061	4	NE	0.5m	4/011	Ditch/trench 4/011 (partially excavated)
8377_062	4	SW	0.5m	4/011	Ditch/trench 4/011 (fully excavated)
8377_063	12	NW	1m	12/004	Ditch 12/004
8377_064	5	SW	1m	5/004	Ditch 5/004 in section
8377_065	15	SE	1m		General view of trench

Appendix 2: Finds quantification, by context

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Fired Clay	Wt (g)	Fossil Shell	Wt (g)
2/004			1	14										
4/005	13	112									2	<2		
4/007	2	12												
4/008	9	70									5	16		
4/010	3	13												
4/012											1	<2	7	134
5/001	1	12												
7/005	23	108									4	14		
7/007	12	34									64	366		
7/009	7	42			1	20					1	12		
8/003	1	30					1	22						
8/005									1	4				
9/003			1	8										
Total	71	433	2	22	1	20	1	22	1	4	77	408	7	134

Appendix 3: Environmental sample residue quantification

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

Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	7/009	7/010	Ditch/gully	40	40	**	<2	*	<2	*	<2	**	6	*	<2	*	<2	FCF */2; F.Clay ***/202; Magnetised Material ***/12
2	13/003	13/004	Pit	20	20	**	2	***	4									F.Clay */4; Magnetised Material **/2

Appendix 4: Environmental sample flot quantification

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

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	7/009	3.5	45	45	70	10	* <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>			**
2	13/003	7.5	50	50	50	10	* <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	**	***	****

HER Summary

Site name/Address: Land West Of Hill Hall, Little Sampford Road, Hawkspur Green	
Parish: Little Bardfield, Essex	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 65243 32172	Site Code: LBHG15
Type of Work: Trial trench evaluation	Site Director/Group: K Heard, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 27th–30th April 2015	Site Area: 11.7ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Unknown	Related HER Nos: n/a
Final Report: ASE report 2015175 & EAH summary	OASIS No: archaeol6- 211022
Periods Represented: LBA/EIA, MEDIEVAL, POST-MEDIEVAL	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>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 by trial trenching on Land West of Hill Hall, Little Sampford Road, Hawkspur Green, Little Bardfield Essex. The evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed solar farm development. Eighteen evaluation trenches were excavated, covering an area of 1440m² and targeted on the results of a preceding geophysical survey.</p> <p>The site was located on a gentle north-eastern facing slope, with ground level falling from 100m OD to 92m OD. The natural stratum was glacial boulder clay of the Lowestoft Formation. Current land use was as an arable field.</p> <p>Archaeological remains were found in twelve of the evaluation trenches.</p> <p>A curving ditch/gully with an out-turned terminus produced moderate amounts of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery and fragments of fired clay. It is interpreted provisionally as either the eaves-drip gully for a roundhouse or a simple enclosure ditch.</p> <p>Occupation of the site in the medieval period was represented by a group of three closely spaced features: a ditch, a pit and a possible foundation trench for a timber stave building or structure, all dated by pottery to c. 1200.</p> <p>Several ditches of probable post-medieval origin can be related to field boundaries shown on 19th-century maps.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: n/a	
Author of Summary: Kieron Heard	Date of Summary: May 2015

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-211022****Project details**

Project name	LBHG15, Land West of Hill Hall, Hawkspur Green, Little Bardfield, Essex
Short description of the project	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 by trial trenching on Land West of Hill Hall, Little Sampford Road, Hawkspur Green, Little Bardfield Essex. The evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed solar farm development. Eighteen evaluation trenches were excavated, covering an area of 1440m ² and representing approximately 1% of the total area of the 11.7ha site. The site was located on a gentle north-eastern facing slope, with ground level falling from 100m OD to 92m OD. The natural stratum was glacial boulder clay of the Lowestoft Formation. Current land use was as an arable field. Archaeological remains were found in twelve of the evaluation trenches. A curving ditch/gully with an out-turned terminus produced moderate amounts of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery and fragments of fired clay. It is interpreted provisionally as either the eaves-drip gully for a roundhouse or a simple enclosure ditch. Occupation of the site in the medieval period was represented by a group of three closely spaced features: a ditch, a pit and a possible foundation trench for a timber stave building or structure, all dated by pottery to c. 1200. Several ditches of probable post-medieval origin can be related to field boundaries shown on 19th-century maps.
Project dates	Start: 27-04-2015 End: 30-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LBHG15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/15/0676/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCH Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Solar Farm

Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD LITTLE BARDFIELD Land West of Hill Hall, Little Sampford Road, Hawkspur Green, Little Bardfield
Postcode	CM7 4SH
Study area	11.70 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 65243 32172 51.9629638045 0.405436291809 51 57 46 N 000 24 19 E Point

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	Kieron Heard
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

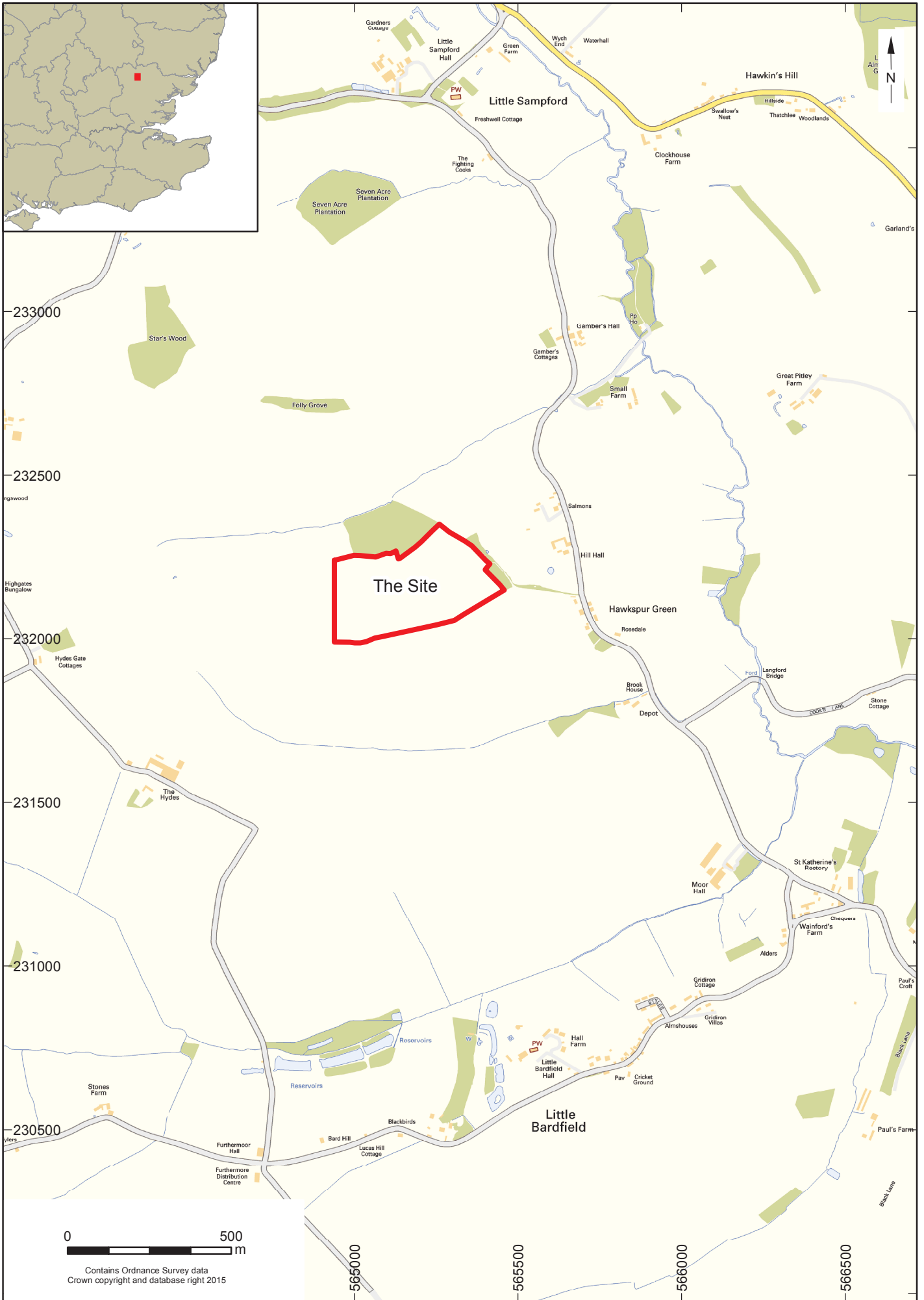
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Physical Archive ID	LBHG15
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	LBHG15
Digital Contents	"Animal"

	Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	LBHG15
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

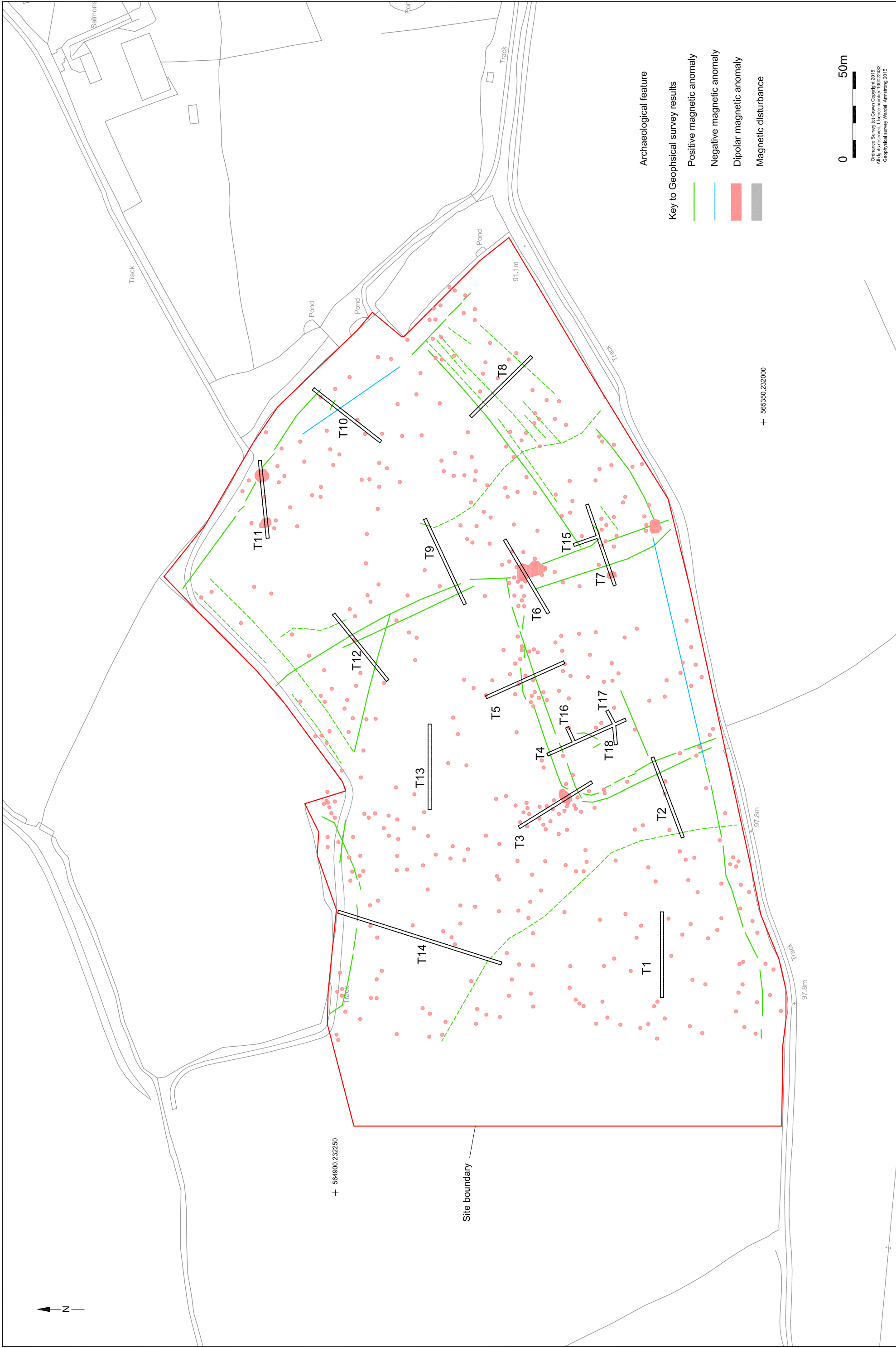
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land West of Hill Hall, Little Sampford Road, Hawkspur Green, Little Bardfield, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Heard, K)
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2015175
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Braintree
Description	A4, 35 pages
Entered by	Kieron Heard (k.heard@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	1 June 2015



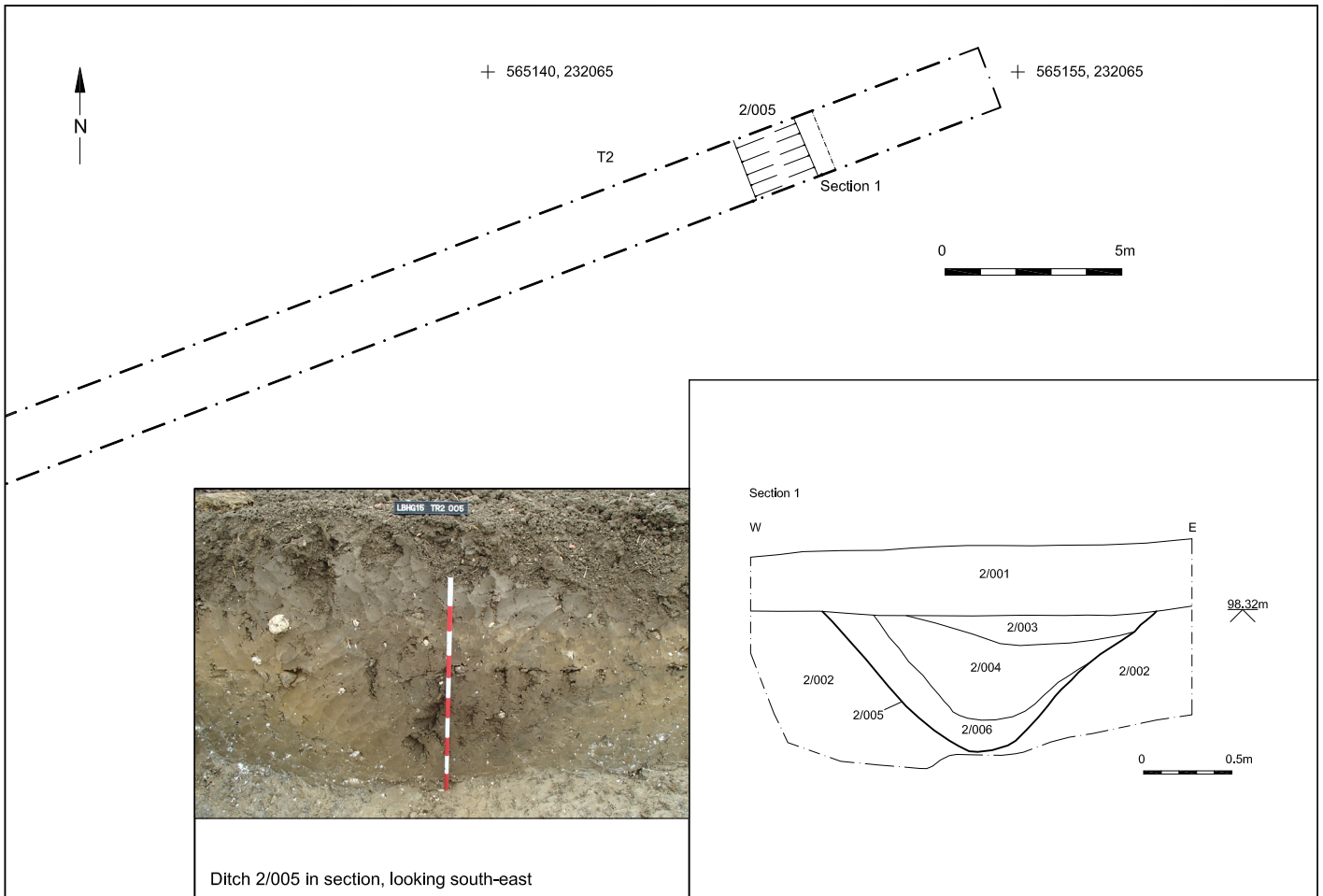
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Project Ref: 8377	Apr 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		



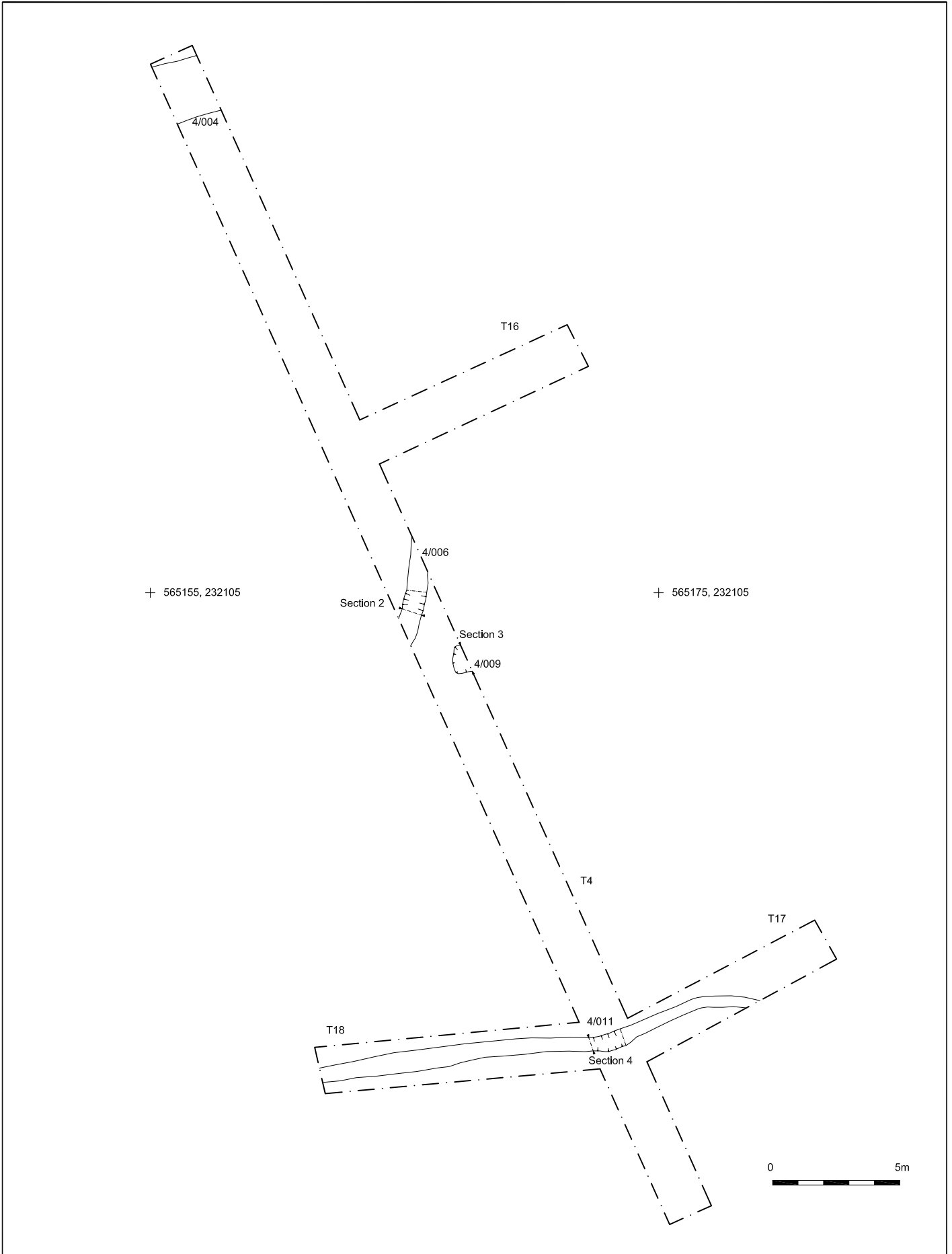
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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Evaluation trench location and geophysical survey results	
Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		

Fig. 2

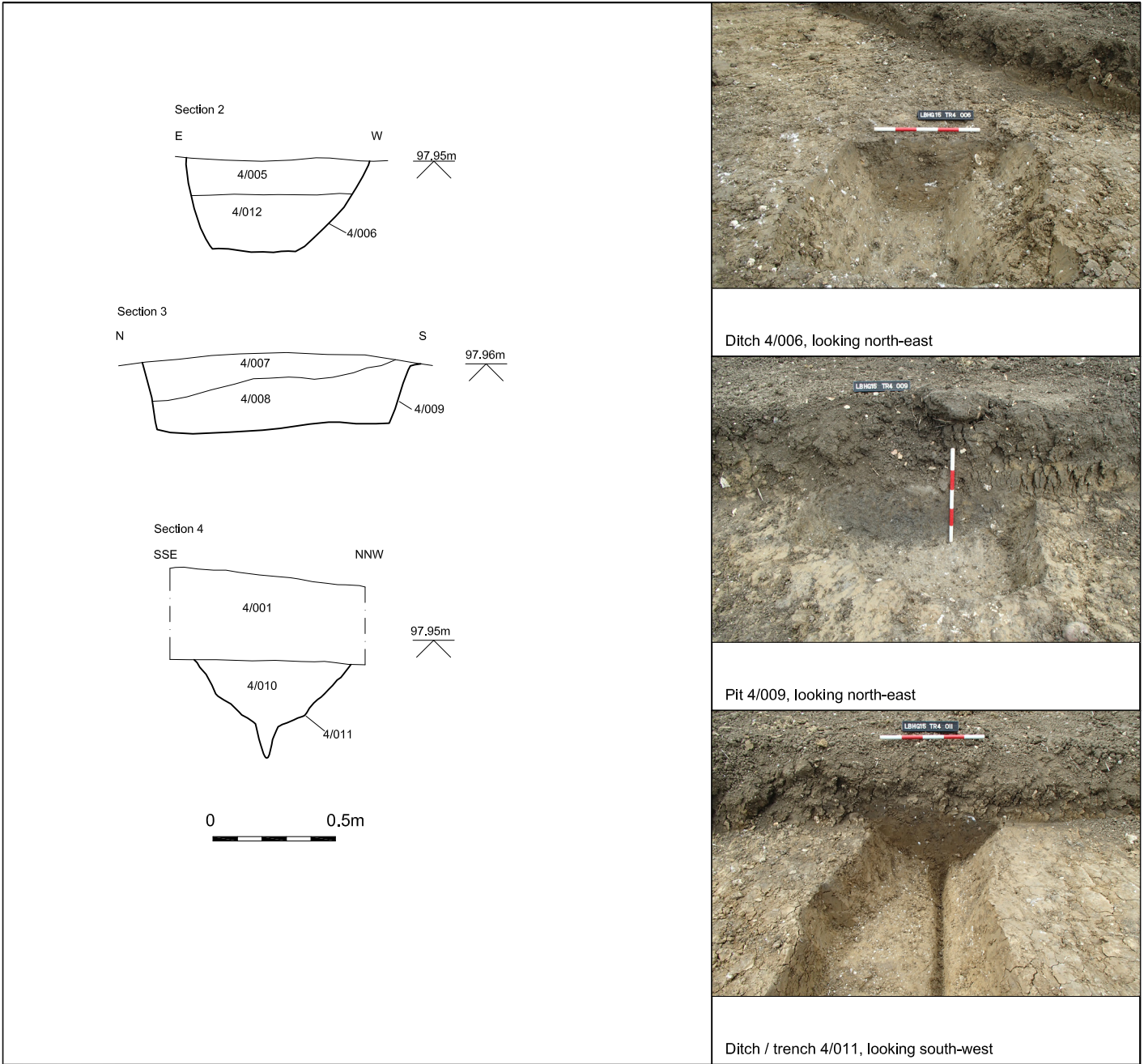


Ditch 2/005 in section, looking south-east

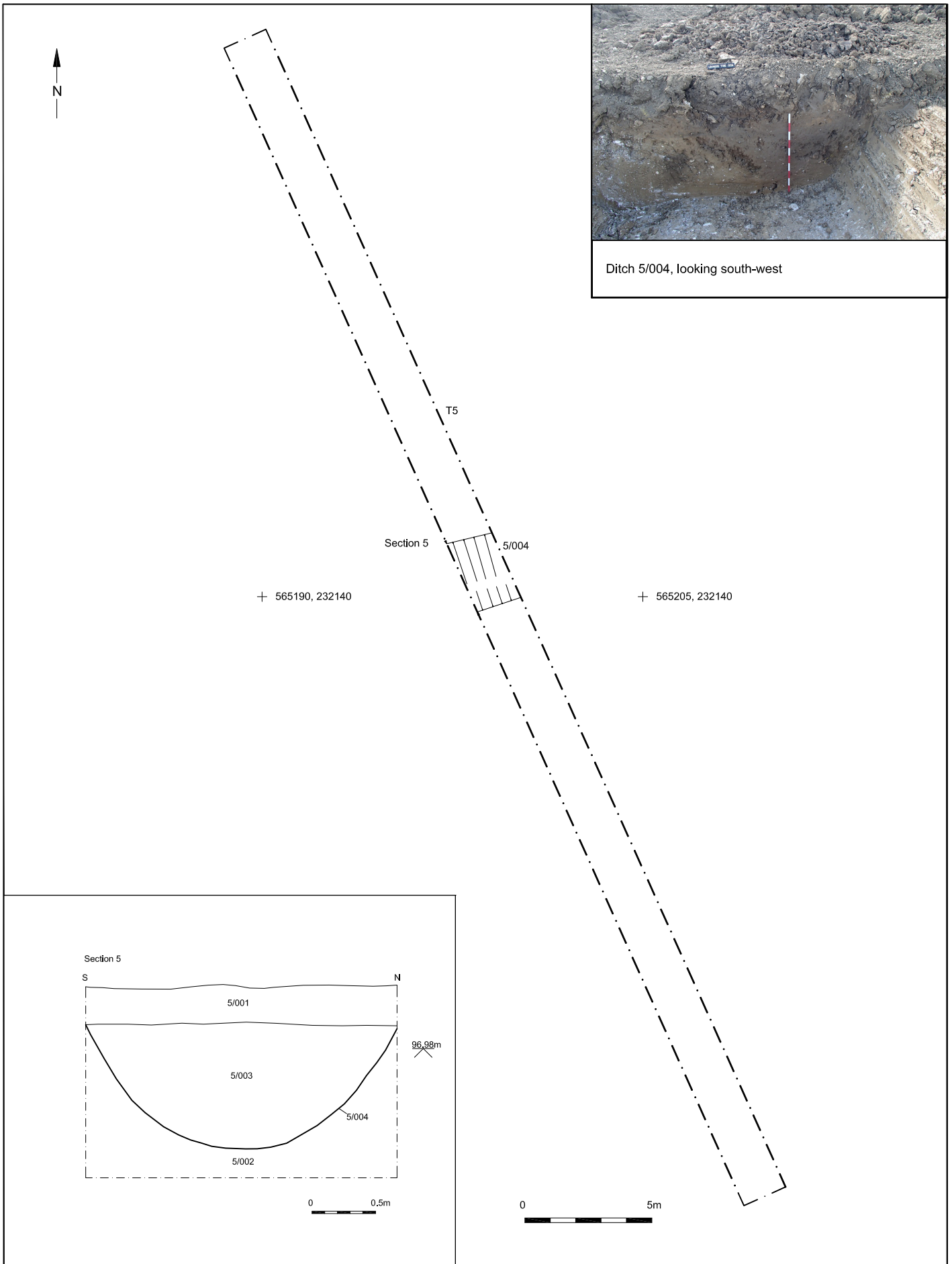
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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Trench 2	
Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		



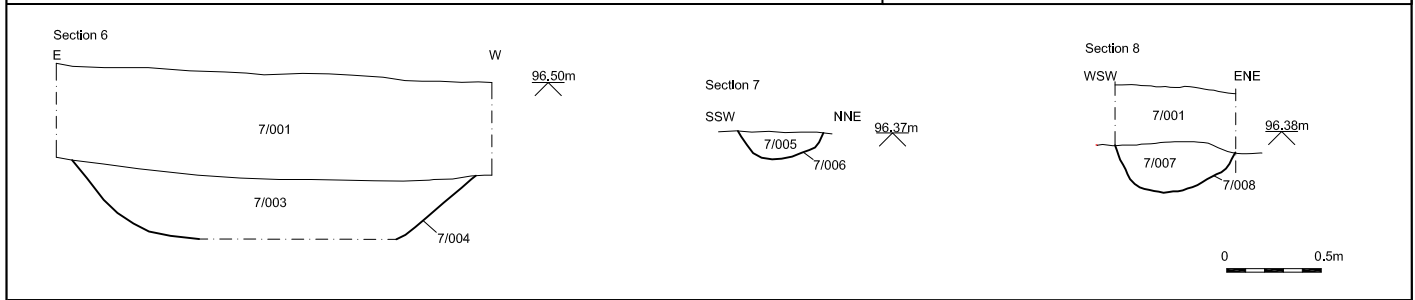
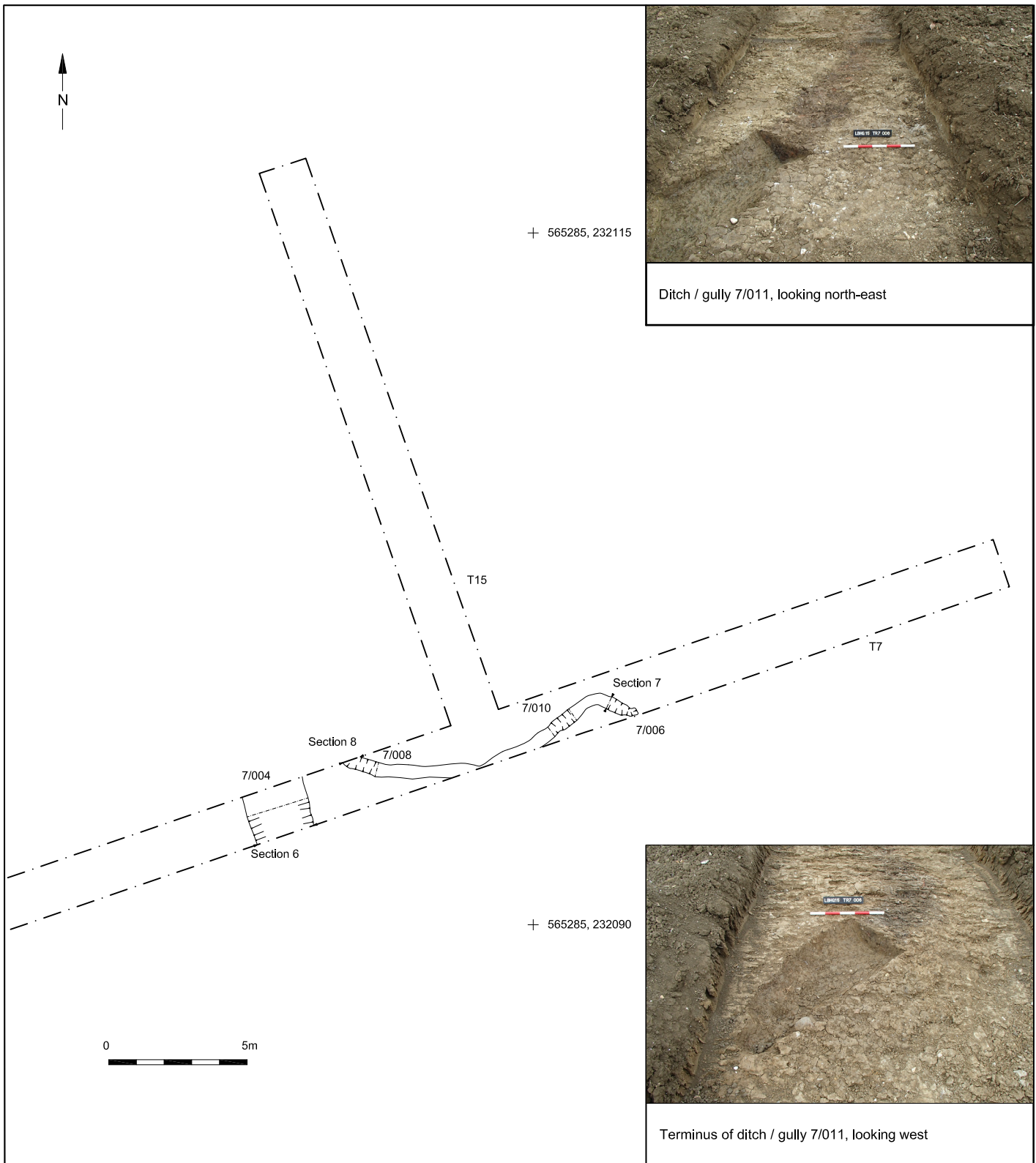
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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Trench 4	
Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		



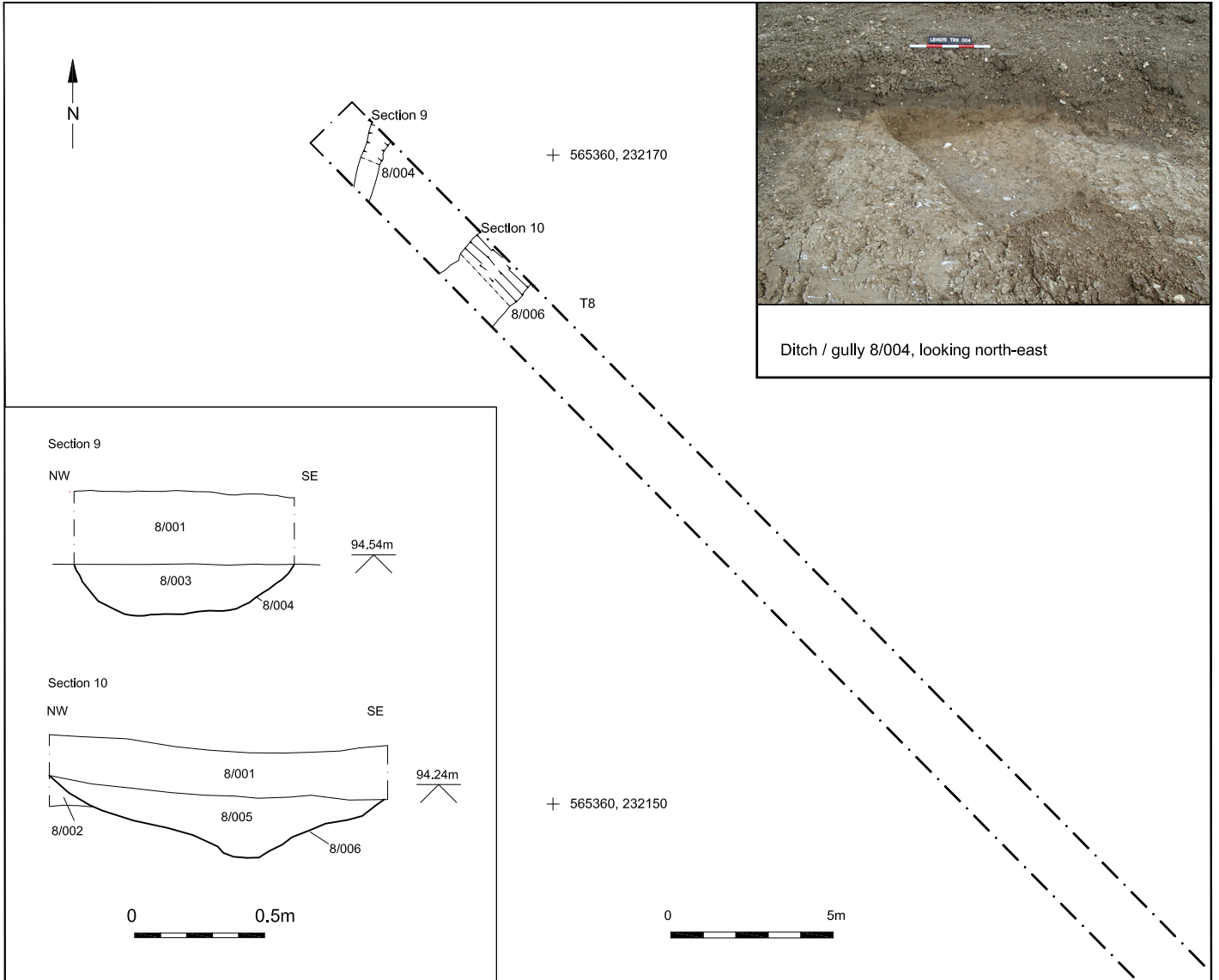
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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Trench 4 sections	
Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		



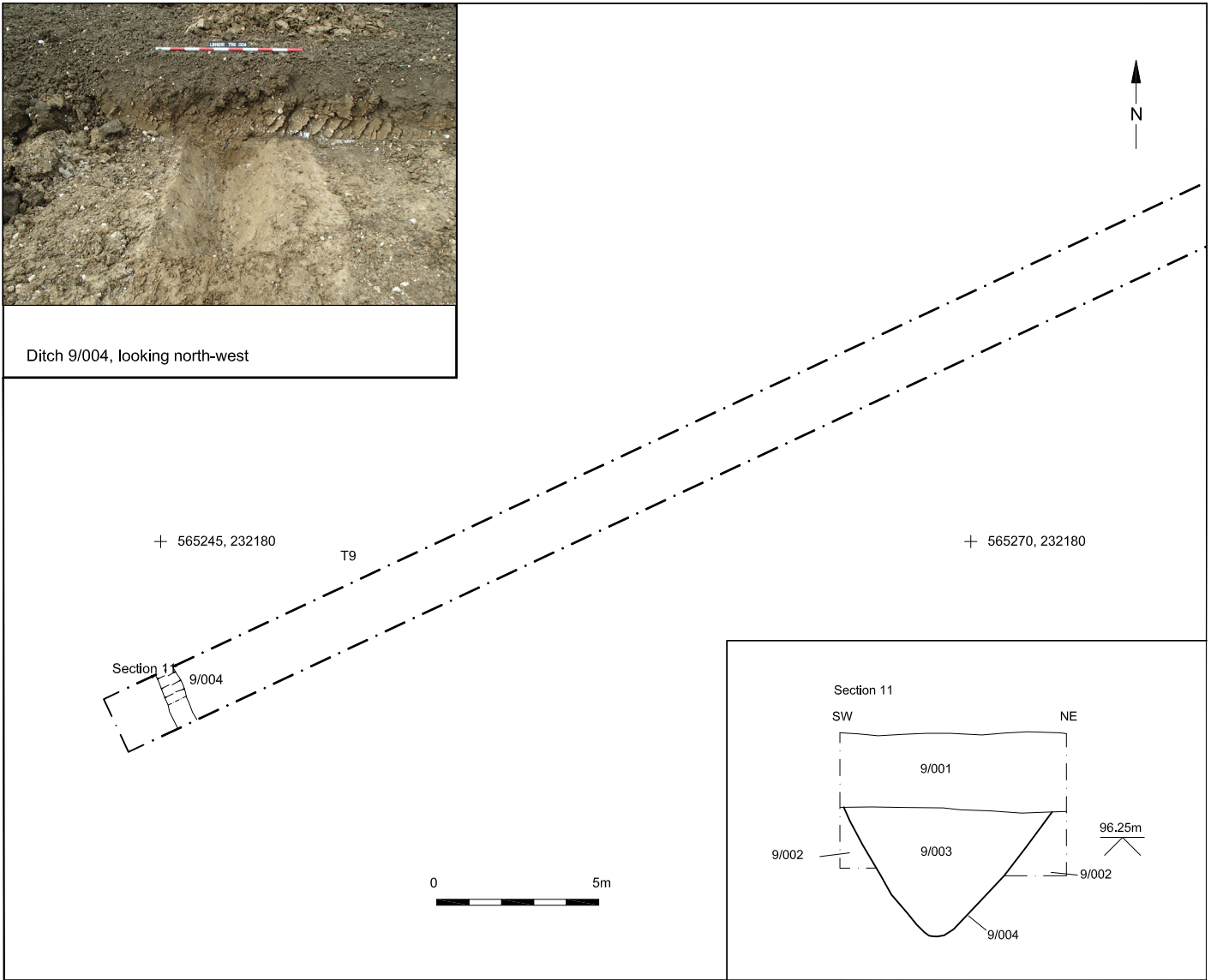
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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Trench 5	
Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		



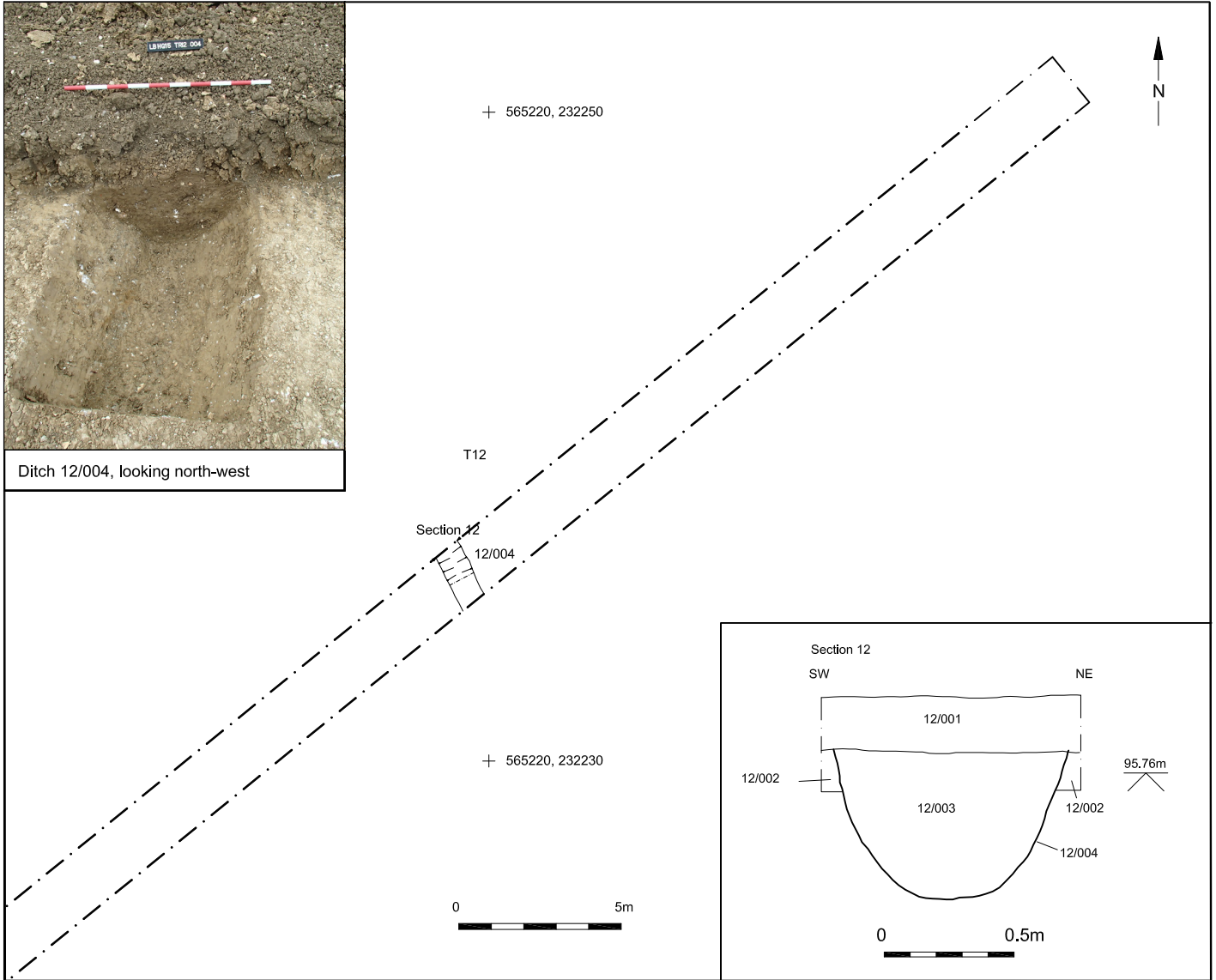
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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Trench 7		
Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL			



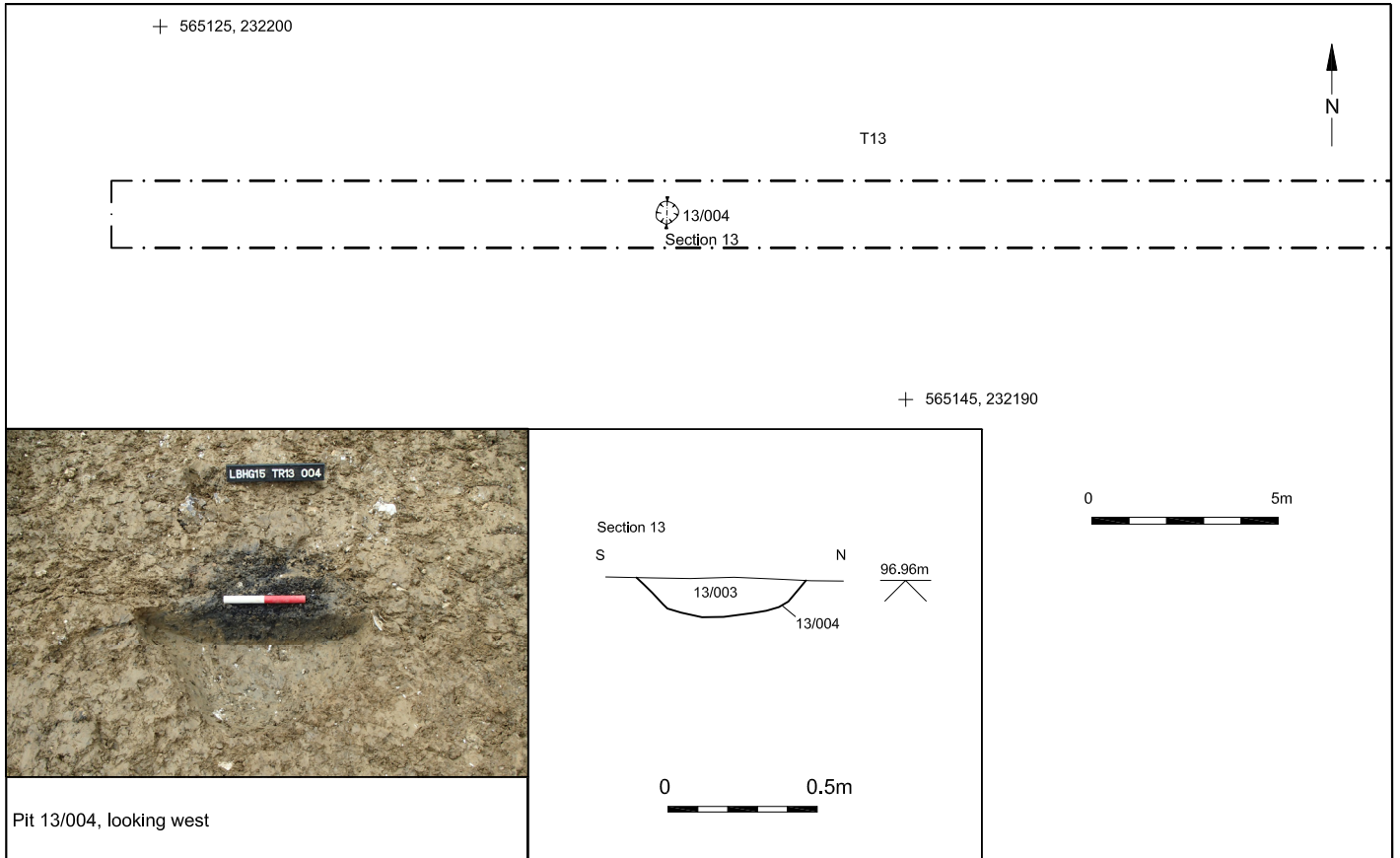
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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Trench 8	
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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Trench 9	
Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		



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Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 8377	May 2015	Trench 13	
Report Ref: 2015175	Drawn by: APL		

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