

**Land West of The Chalet  
Dunmow Road  
Takeley  
Essex**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**ASE Project No: 8359  
Site Code: TAWC15**

**ASE Report No: 2015203**



**June 2015**

# Archaeological Evaluation

Land West of the Chalet  
Dunmow Road, Takeley  
Essex

NGR: TL 555565 221325

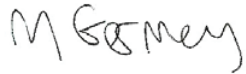

Planning Ref: UTT/14/2387/FUL

ASE Project No: 8359  
Site Code: TAWC15

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OASIS ID: archaeol6 213395

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### **Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development, working on behalf of Taylor Wimpey East London, to undertake the evaluation by trial-trenching of a 0.4ha green-field site on Land West of The Chalet, Dunmow Road, Takeley, in advance of residential development.*

*The development area is situated immediately north of a former Roman Road (Dunmow Road/ Stane Street) and in 2014 excavation opposite the site, immediately south of the road, revealed an extensive series of 1st century AD Romano-British enclosures overlain by a medieval field system and post-medieval field boundary ditches.*

*Four trenches were excavated across the development area, with only one of them containing archaeological features. A Late Iron Age/ Early Roman ditch extended along most of the length of trench 3, running broadly east-west and parallel with Stane Street. It may have been a road-side ditch although its irregularity, slightly curving form and distance from the road, at circa 10m, may suggest that it was originally part of a small enclosure. Small quantities of unstratified medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil and topsoil in trenches 3 and 4, probably deriving from agricultural manuring.*

*Given that the evaluation has identified only one feature of local significance within the site area it is suggested that the development will have a low impact on the archaeological record. This impact has subsequently been mitigated through the investigation and recording of the ditch, including three trench extensions and additional sections that were excavated across the feature, and it is not considered likely that any further archaeological work will be required in connection with the current development proposals.*

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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, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development, working on behalf of Taylor Wimpey East London, to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a 0.4ha green-field site on land west of The Chalet, Dunmow Road, Takeley, in advance of residential development.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography (Fig. 1)**

1.2.1 The 0.46ha development site comprises a small field located on the western edge of the village of Takeley. Its borders are defined by Dunmow Road (The B1256) to the south, a small paddock to the west, a large arable field to the north and residential property to the east.

1.2.2 The site is situated on chalky till superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, over sedimentary silt/clay/sand bedrock of the London Clay Formation. Subsoil present across the site consisted of a mid greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small stones and pieces of chalk; the topsoil consisted of dark brownish grey firm clay silt with infrequent small stones and frequent chalk flecks. The two deposits were c.0.35m and c.0.28m thick respectively.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Uttlesford District Council have granted planning consent for the development of the site, involving the construction of 10 residential dwellings plus associated access, parking and landscaping (Ref.: UTT/14/2387/FUL).

1.3.2 The following conditions (6-9) were applied to a S.106 agreement agreed as part of the grant of planning consent for the development:

*'6: No development or preliminary groundwork's 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.*

*REASON: The Historic Environment Record and the desk top assessment submitted with the application show that there is high potential for surviving archaeological deposits of multi-period date. Excavations both at Stansted Airport to the north and along the Roman Road (former A120) have shown extensive occupation from the late Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. The site also lies at the junction between the Roman Road and the access to the church. Archaeological evaluation and now excavation on the southern side of the Roman Road has identified an extensive Late Iron Age and Roman settlement (EHER 48342) being excavated at present. This is likely to extend to the opposite side of the road and thus into the development area. To comply with policy ENV4 of the Uttlesford local plan*

*adopted (2005)*

*7: A mitigation strategy detailing the excavation/preservation strategy shall be submitted to the local planning authority following completion of the above trial trenching work.*

*REASON: [as above]*

*8: No development or preliminary groundwork's 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.*

*REASON: [as above]*

*9: The applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post-excavation assessment (to be submitted within six months of the completion of the 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 a report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publication report.*

*REASON [as above].'*

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on Land West of The Chalet, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex, carried out between 18th and 20th May 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 Much of the following information derives from a Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2014) undertaken for the site and the results of a large excavation which was carried out in advance of residential development immediately to the south of the site and Dunmow Road in 2014 (hereafter referred to as 'Brewers End' - ASE 2015).
- 2.1.2 Dunmow Road / B1256 was formerly a major Roman road (Stane Street) running between Colchester and St Albans. The period by which the road was established remains uncertain as it is posited to overlie a Late Iron Age predecessor.
- 2.1.3 The earliest remains revealed at the Brewers End site comprised small numbers of residual pieces of Mesolithic and Neolithic/ Bronze Age flints, and Middle Iron Age pottery, implying that human activity was taking place within the locality during those periods (ASE 2015).
- 2.1.4 The main findings of the Brewers End excavation composed three phases of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman enclosures, many of which lay close to the road, overlain by medieval and post-medieval field systems. The Roman remains suggested nearby domestic occupation, although no definitive in situ building remains were found to confirm this. The excavation revealed no part of Stane Street, although it did uncover a large enclosure seemingly lying immediately alongside it, indicating that Stane Street was probably already in situ by AD 43 to 80. The enclosures belonging to the earliest, Late Iron Age/ Early Roman, phases (c. AD10 to 50) were small and informal, while those of later Roman date were large and rectilinear. Medieval and post-medieval remains included strip fields and two large late 18th/ early 19th century enclosure ditches.
- 2.1.5 The results of the Brewers End archaeological investigation complement other excavations that have taken place in Stansted and Takeley area (Timby *et al* 2007; Cooke *et al* 2008; Germany *et al* in prep A and B). They further imply that dispersed farmsteads and their associated enclosures dotted much of north-west Essex during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, and that the occupation of that area from the medieval period onwards largely comprised non-nucleated settlement, set amongst a wider landscape of fields, closes, small greens and river-side pasture.

### **2.2 Project Aim and Objectives**

- 2.2.1 The general aim of the evaluation was to establish if archaeological remains were present, to ascertain their function, date and character and to link the site's main findings to existing resource assessments and research agenda (RPS 2015; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011).
- 2.2.2 Questions sought to be answered comprised:

- When was Stane Street founded and what was its form?
- Has the site been used for road-side occupation?
- Do the Iron Age / Early Roman and medieval remains of the Brewers End site continue north of the road?



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Fig. 2)**

3.1.1 The site was investigated by four trenches (T1 to T4), each measuring 1.8m wide by 30m long. Each trench was stripped of topsoil and subsoil using a mechanical excavator, equipped with a broad toothless ditching bucket, working under archaeological supervision. Three short extensions were added to trench T3 at the request of the ECC Place Services monitoring officer in order to more fully investigate archaeological features within the trench. The combined area of the trenches was 216m<sup>2</sup>, c.5% of the development area.

3.1.2 Following mechanical excavation, any archaeological features were investigated by hand. Deposit and feature profiles were drawn at 1:10. Details of individual trenches, archaeological deposits and features were recorded on pro-forma sheets. Photographs were taken of each trench and any archaeological deposits/ features. No bulk samples for environmental remains were taken.

#### **3.2 Archive**

3.2.1 The site archive, if permitted, will be stored at Saffron Walden Museum.

Number of Contexts	20
No. of files/paper record	14
Plan and sections sheets	3
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	22
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 4

4.1.1 Trenches T1, T2 and T4 contained no archaeological remains other than seven small sherds of 13th/ 14th century or later pottery, all from subsoil layer [4/002] in trench T4 (see appendix 1 for further information).

### 4.2 Trench 3 (Figs. 3 and 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.26	
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.32	
3/003	Cut	Ditch	0.7	>1.15		97.63
3/004	Deposit	Single fill	0.7	>1.15	>0.28	
3/005	Deposit	Natural				
3/006	Cut	Ditch	1	0.79		97.69
3/007	Deposit	Single fill	1	0.79	0.35	
3/008	Cut	Ditch	1	>0.63	0.30	97.76
3/009	Deposit	Single fill	1	>0.63	0.30	
3/010	Cut	Ditch	1	1.2		97.76
3/011	Deposit	Single fill	1	1.2	0.43	

Table 2: Trench 3. Recorded contexts. Dimensions in metres

- 4.1.1 Trench T3 exposed part of a ditch ([3/003]) running roughly east-west, although its east section curved slightly towards Stane Street. It had irregular sides and varied in width along the length of its course. Three sections were excavated across the ditch and found to have an equally variable profile, with moderate to steep sloping sides and a slightly uneven base [3/003, 3/006 and 3/009]. Single fills in each of the segments comprised greyish brown firm silt clay with infrequent small stones and flecks of chalk.
- 4.1.2 Finds from the ditch comprised a small number of 1st century AD pottery baked clay and the bone of a large mammal.
- 4.1.3 Ditch recut [3/010] lay immediately north of ditch segment [3/008]. It had steep-sloping sides and a broadly concave uneven base. The fill was largely indistinguishable from that of preceding cut [3/008].
- 4.1.4 A small number of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman and medieval pot sherds were recovered from subsoil layer [3/002].

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 All of the artefacts come from trenches T3 and T4. The finds were washed and dried, quantified by count and weight, and bagged by material and context (Table 3). Packing and storing followed CiFA guidelines (2014) (Table 2). None of the artefacts require conserving.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	F Clay	Wt (g)
3002	5	16					1	114
3005					1	6		
3007	13	46					8	68
3009 & 3011	3	8	1	14				
4002	7	23						
<i>Total</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>182</i>

Table 3: Quantification of the hand-collected bulk finds, excluding medieval pottery

Finds	Quantity
Bulk finds boxes (450mm x 240mm x 220mm)	0.10

Table 4: Finds archive quantification

### 5.2 Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery

- 5.2.1 A small assemblage of Late Iron Age / early Roman pottery (seventeen sherds, weighing 57g) was recovered from contexts in Trench 3 [3/002, 3/007 and 3/009 / 3/011]. All of the pot dates lies close to the Roman conquest and although there are no feature sherds, the range of fabrics is very similar to that of the very large, homogenous Late Iron Age / Early Roman pottery assemblage, dated AD10 to AD80 which was discovered during the Brewers End excavation to the near south (ASE in prep). Most of the sherds are in sparsely grog-tempered, black surfaced fabrics comparable to Going's (1987, fabric 45) 'Romanising wares'. A single sherd of imported Late Iron Age / early Roman North Gaulish white ware was noted in context [3/002]. More conclusively post-conquest material was noted in the form of a sherd of Hadham grey ware and another in an unsourced oxidised ware from [3/002] and [3/007] respectively.

### 5.3 Medieval Pottery

- 5.3.1 A small amount of pottery, ten sherds weighing 33g, was excavated from two contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16). Subsoil [3/002]

produced sherds of early medieval ware - transitional, a coarse red-brown fabric with darker surfaces, which as the name suggests, is half way between early medieval ware and medieval coarseware and dates to the 12th to early 13th centuries. It was first identified from excavations in the area of Stansted Airport, just to the west of Takeley (Walker 2004, 408). Context [4/002] produced later pottery comprising abraded sherds of medieval Harlow ware showing the remains of slip-painting but no glaze and most likely dating to the 13th to 14th centuries, although due to the absence of glaze, a late medieval date cannot be precluded. Also from this context are two abraded sherds of medieval coarseware, which are either contemporary or earlier. As all the pottery from [4/002] is abraded it may well be residual. These finds suggest some activity in the area during the 12th to 14th centuries.

Con-text	Feature	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Pottery – ware and featured sherds	Date
3/002	Subsoil	3	11	Early medieval ware - transitional: body sherds, two joining, a coarse red-brown fabric with darker surfaces, first identified from excavations at Stansted airport (old fabric 13t; Walker 2004, 408)	12th to early 13th C
4/002	Subsoil	5	12	Medieval Harlow ware: abraded body sherds all from same vessel showing remains of slip-painting but no glaze	13th to 14th C or later
		2	10	Medieval coarseware: abraded body sherds, one borderline early medieval ware	12th to 14th C
		<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>		

Table 5: Medieval pottery quantification

## 5.4 Fired Clay

- 5.4.1 Nine abraded fragments of fired clay weighing 182g were recovered from contexts [3/002] and [3/007]. All are manufactured in a fine reduced fabric with coarse chalk temper. Fragments from [3/007] exhibit smoothed flat surfaces. Although clearly utilised, their form is non-indicative of function. The fragment from [3/002] has a 'squashed' appearance, although again this is not diagnostic of a particular function.

## 5.5 Animal Bone

- 5.5.1 A single fragment of animal bone was found during the evaluation. A fragment of unfused, large-mammal vertebrae was recovered from context [3/009 / 3/011]. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone. The bone is of little significance and no further work is required.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Discussion and Conclusions**

- 6.1.1 The archaeological investigation located a 1st century AD ditch in Trench 3, running close to and roughly parallel with Stane Street. No archaeological remains, other than a small amount of unstratified medieval pottery, were found in trenches 1, 2 and 4, and the results of the evaluation are considered to reliably reflect the general presence/ absence and extent of the archaeological remains present within the site.
- 6.1.2 The pot sherds from ditch [3/003] are not numerous although suffice to indicate that it was probably in use during the 1st century AD, making it fully or partly contemporary with the Late Iron Age / Early Roman component of the Brewers End site to the south. If both sites were part of one farmstead then it spanned both sides of the road, although this assumes that the road was in situ when the settlement began.
- 6.1.3 Ditch [3/003] is broadly dated to AD10-80, although it can be suggested to have been in use shortly before and after the Roman conquest (AD43) as the semi-irregular form of it matches the morphology of the c. AD10 to c. 50 enclosures ditches of Brewers End Phase 2.1. The slightly irregular and curving form of the ditch and distance from the present-day road, at circa 10m, possibly exclude it from having been a road-side ditch and drain, although any enclosure formed by it that respected the road would have been of relatively narrow width.
- 6.1.4 Use of land on the western edge of Takeley for farming is indicated by the medieval strip fields and the two phases of medieval to post-medieval enclosures which were discovered within the eastern half of the adjacent Brewers End site to the south.

### **6.2 Consideration of research aims**

- 6.2.1 The results of the evaluation have partly addressed two of the identified research aims, in that they suggest that the Late Iron Age/ Early Roman activity at the Brewers End site extended north of the road, but perhaps only slightly, and that this activity was probably related to farming rather than on-site settlement. The evaluation has been unable to date the foundation of Stane Street, although its results reinforce the impression that it was in already in place by the mid 1st century AD.

### **6.3 Conclusions**

- 6.3.1 Given that the evaluation has identified only one feature of local significance, Roman ditch [3/003], within the site area, it is suggested that the development will have a low impact on the archaeological record. This impact has subsequently been mitigated through the investigation and recording of the ditch, including three trench extensions and additional sections that were excavated across the feature, and it is not considered likely that any further archaeological work will be required in connection with the current development proposals.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## HER Summary Form

<b>Site name / Address:</b> Land west of The Chalet, Dunmow Road, Takeley	
<b>Parish:</b> Takeley	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 55500 21200	<b>Site Code:</b> TAWC15
<b>Type of Work:</b> Trial-trenching	<b>Site Director / Group:</b> Mark Germany, Archaeology South-East
<b>Date of Work:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 2.46ha
<b>Location of Finds / Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden Museum	<b>Client:</b> Taylor Wimpey East London
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos:</b>
<b>Final Report:</b> Summary in Essex Archaeology and History	<b>OASIS Ref:</b> archaeol6-213395
<b>Periods represented:</b> Late Iron Age and Roman	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development, working on behalf of Taylor Wimpey East London, to undertake the evaluation by trial-trenching of a 0.4ha green-field site on Land West of The Chalet, Dunmow Road, Takeley, in advance of residential development.</i></p> <p><i>The development area is situated immediately north of a former Roman Road (Dunmow Road/ Stane Street) and in 2014 excavation opposite the site, immediately south of the road, revealed an extensive series of 1st century AD Romano-British enclosures overlain by a medieval field system and post-medieval field boundary ditches.</i></p> <p><i>Four trenches were excavated across the development area, with only one of them containing archaeological features. A Late Iron Age/ Early Roman ditch extended along most of the length of trench 3, running broadly east-west and parallel with Stane Street. It may have been a road-side ditch although its irregularity, slightly curving form and distance from the road, at circa 10m, may suggest that it was originally part of a small enclosure. Small quantities of unstratified medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil and topsoil in trenches 3 and 4, probably deriving from agricultural manuring.</i></p> <p><i>Given that the evaluation has identified only one feature of local significance within the site area it is suggested that the development will have a low impact on the archaeological record. This impact has subsequently been mitigated through the investigation and recording of the ditch, including three trench extensions and additional sections that were excavated across the feature, and it is not considered likely that any further archaeological work will be required in connection with the current development proposals.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries / Reports:</b> CgMs 2014 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Land at Dunmow Road and Church Lane, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6LQ. Unpublished Client report	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> Mark Germany	<b>Date of Summary:</b> June 2015



## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID:** archaeol6-213395

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### Project details

Project name	Land west of the Chalet, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in advance of residential development revealed a 1st century AD irregular ditch, running roughly parallel with nearby Stane Street. Other findings comprised small quantities of Late Iron Age / Early Roman and medieval pottery.
Project dates	Start: 18-05-2015 End: 20-05-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	TAWC15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	8359 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD TAKELEY Land west of The Chalet
Study area	0.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 555565 221325 51.8755643686 0.260016413533 51 52 32 N 000 15 36 E Point

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	RPS Consulting
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Mark Germany
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Taylor Wimpey

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Other bibliographic details	8359
Date	2015

Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East
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<hr/>	
Entered by	Mark Germany (mgermany@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	9 June 2015

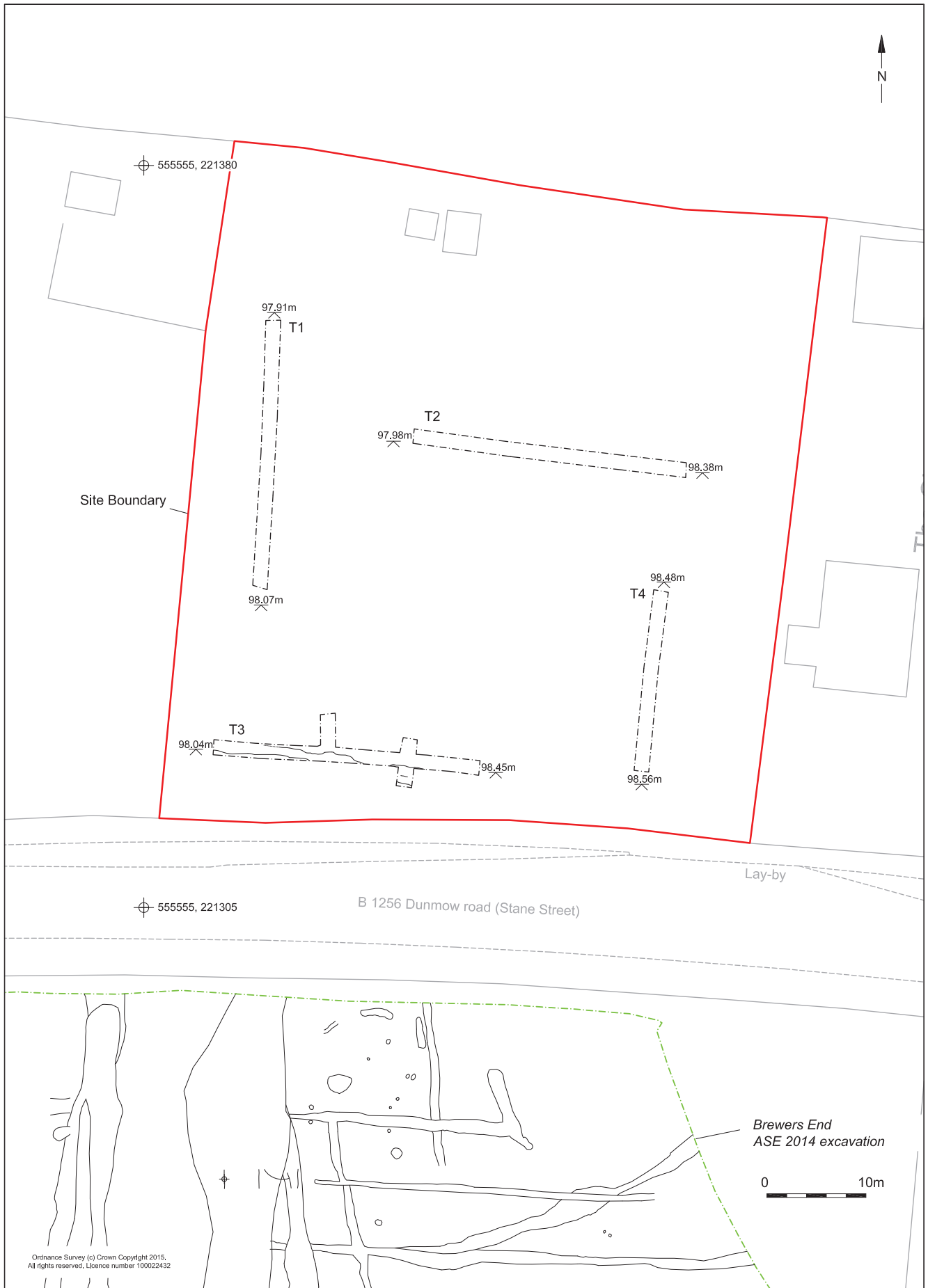
### Appendix 1

<b>Trench Number</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>	<b>Height m AOD</b>
1	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.17-0.19	97.91 – 98.07
1	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.30-0.36	
1	003	Layer	Natural		
2	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18-0.25	97.98 – 98.38
2	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.33-0.40	
2	003	Layer	Natural		
4	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.16-0.21	98.48 – 19.56
4	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.33-0.36	
4	003	Layer	Natural		

Archaeologically Negative Trenches. List of Recorded Contexts



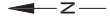
© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Dunmow Road, Takeley	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8359	June 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015203	Drawn by: APL		



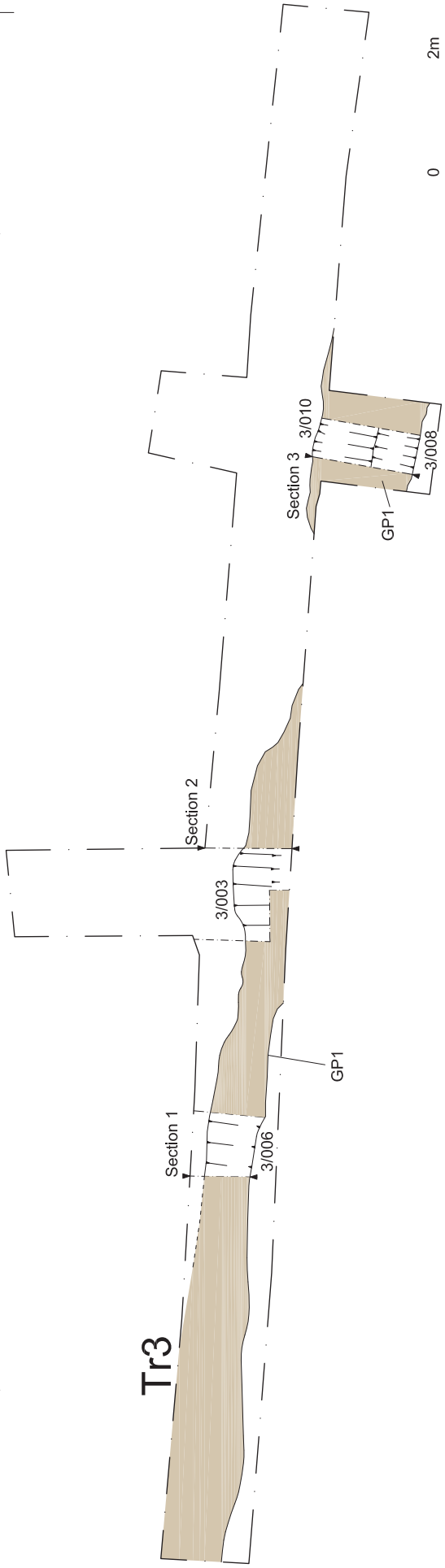
© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Dunmow Road, Takeley	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8359	June 2015	Trench location plan	
Report No: 2015203	Drawn by: APL		

⊕ 555565, 221325

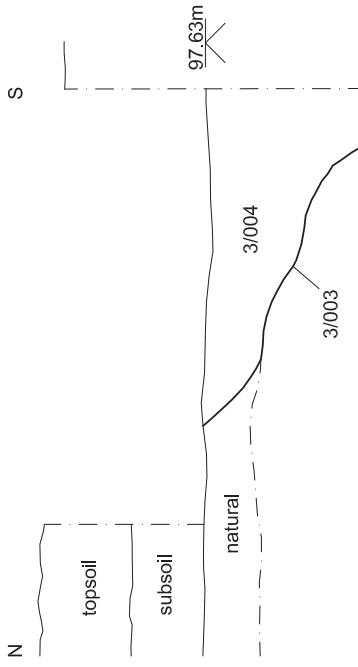
⊕ 555585, 221325



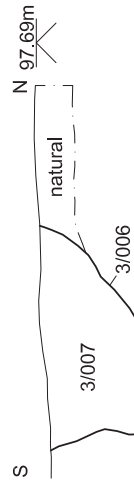
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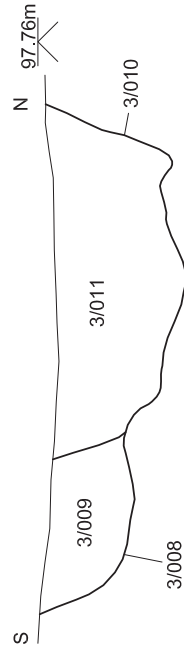
## Section 2



## Section 1



## Section 3



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Land north of Dunmow Road, Takeley

Trench 3

Fig. 3





Feature 3/003 looking east, 1m scale



Feature 3/006 looking west, 1m scale



Features 3/008 & 3/010 looking west, 1m scale



Trench 3 looking east, 1m scale

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Project Ref: 8359	June 2015	Selected photographs	
Report No: 2015203	Drawn by: APL		



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