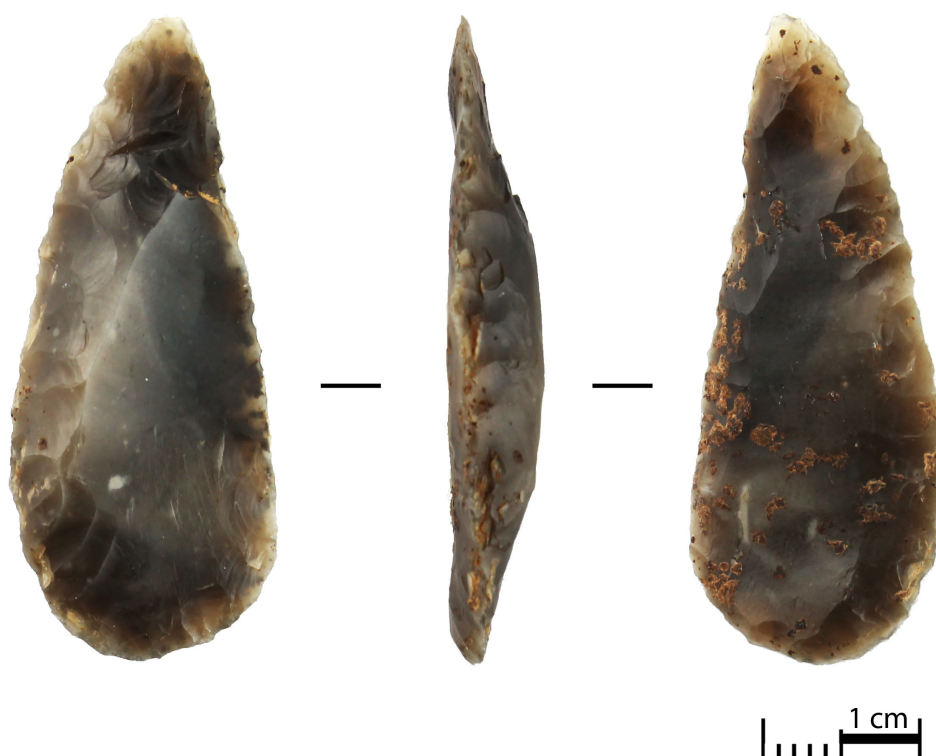


FINAL REPORT

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND EXCAVATION
LAND AT INGRAM'S PIECE,
ARDLEIGH, ESSEX**

**ASE Project No: 8381 & 8331
Site Code: ARIP 15**

ASE Report No: 2015213



June 2015

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LAND AT INGRAM'S PIECE,
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NGR: TM 0519 2957



Planning Ref: 14/00972/OUT

**ASE Project No: 8381 & 8331
Site Code: ARIP 15**

**ASE Report No: 2015213
OASIS ID: archaeol6-214188**

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Abstract

This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out by Archaeology South-East at land at Ingram's Piece, Ardleigh, Essex, which took place in two stages between April 2015 and May 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, in advance of residential development.

The excavations have revealed prehistoric evidence in the form of a ditch running across the site, possibly part of a field system. Further prehistoric features included isolated pits spread throughout the site area, and a number of post holes, possibly forming a structure. These are all indicative of small scale land use. A single pit containing a small assemblage of Early Neolithic pottery and a leaf shaped arrowhead, alongside a small and possibly intrusive sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery may represent limited Neolithic activity on the site.

Later periods were represented by a small number of pottery sherds of Roman and Medieval date. These are likely intrusive but provide possible evidence of sparse activity during this time.

There were a number of undated features on the site in the form of pits and post holes. It is likely that these also date to the Prehistoric period, though no dating material was recovered.

This report represents a final account of the excavations and no further analysis work is suggested. It is proposed that a short note providing an account of the findings be submitted to the Essex Archaeology and History journal in due course.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 The development site (NGR TM 0519 2957) is situated in the north-west of the village of Ardleigh, on the north side of Colchester Road (Figure 1). The site is bounded to its south and west by residential housing and to its north by an agricultural machinery yard. The land was in use as uncultivated grassland until the current development.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015), the site is located on Thames Group clay and silts, overlain by superficial deposits of cover sand.

1.2.2 The site lies on a relatively flat parcel of land, sloping slightly from 37m AOD in the south-west to 35m AOD in the north-east.

1.3 Scope of Report

1.3.1 A planning application (14/00972/OUT) for the construction of up to sixteen residential units including affordable homes was submitted to Tendring District Council. As the site lies within the historic village of Ardleigh and within an area of possible archaeological potential, ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Tendring District Council, recommended that an archaeological condition be attached to any planning consent. This recommendation is based upon the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). The archaeological conditions attached to the decision notice therefore state that:

15 No development or preliminary ground works 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 Local Planning Authority. Following the completion of this initial phase of archaeological work, a summary report will be prepared and a mitigation strategy detailing the approach to further archaeological excavation and/or preservation in situ through re-design of the development, shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - The site is potentially of archaeological and historical significance.

16 No development or preliminary groundwork can commence on those areas of the development site containing archaeological deposits, until the satisfactory completion of archaeological fieldwork, as detailed in the mitigation strategy, which has been signed off by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - The site is potentially of archaeological and historical significance.

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

Reason - The site is potentially of archaeological and historical significance.

1.3.2 In accordance with this, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological work on the site.

1.3.3 The archaeological work was conducted in two stages under the site code ARIP 15. An initial archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in April 2015, supervised by Angus Forshaw. The evaluation identified surviving archaeological remains in an area of the site which would be damaged by the proposed development. ECC Place Services therefore advised that excavation of the remains under threat would be required. A new Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015b) was produced for the archaeological excavation of the specified area.

1.3.4 The full archaeological excavation fieldwork was carried out by ASE in May 2015 concentrating on the area of greatest archaeological survival. This area, covering approximately 1015m² and was supervised by the author. The entire project was managed by Andrew Leonard and staffed by ASE archaeologists.

1.3.5 As the excavation followed the evaluation without the production of a formal evaluation report, this report draws together data from both stages of fieldwork.

1.4 Circumstances and Dates of Work

1.4.1 The fieldwork stages were as follows:

- Evaluation: 13/04/2015 – 17/04/2015. Six 30m long trenches were excavated and recorded, representing a 4% sample of the area.
- Excavation: 11/05/2015 – 22/05/2015. A single open area of approximately 1015m² was fully excavated and recorded.

1.5 Archaeological Methodology

1.5.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with current professional standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2015a-d; CIfA 2015) and with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015a) approved prior to the commencement of fieldwork by ECC Place Services in their capacity as advisor to Tendring District Council on

archaeological matters. In light of the evaluation results, ECC Place Services requested further work to be carried out in order to fully satisfy the archaeological condition attached to the planning consent. The subsequent excavation fieldwork methodology was set out in a further Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015b) and comprised the targeted excavation of a 1015m² area surrounding the archaeological remains revealed in the evaluation.

- 1.5.2 The evaluation trenches and subsequent excavation area were stripped of topsoil and other overburden, under archaeological supervision, using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Excavation proceeded in thin spits until archaeological features or deposits were reached or until the underlying natural was exposed.
- 1.5.3 The machine stripped surfaces were cleaned as necessary and a pre-excavation plan prepared using Global Positioning System (GPS) planning technology.
- 1.5.4 The pre-excavation plan was made available in Autocad and PDF format and printed at a suitable scale (1:20 or 1:50) for onsite use. The plan was updated by regular visits to site by Archaeology South-East surveyors who plotted excavated features and recorded levels in close consultation with the supervisor. Where necessary features were hand-planned at a scale of 1:20 with survey points tied into the overall digital plan.
- 1.5.5 All areas were CAT scanned to detect any live services prior to excavation, and all machining was carried out under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist.
- 1.5.6 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the ClfA *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014b), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014c), *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ASE 2014d) and the *Standards for Field Archaeological in the East of England* (Guerney 2003).
- 1.5.7 After cleaning and planning the excavation areas the following sampling strategy was employed:
 - Linear features (ditches and gullies) had all relationships defined, investigated and recorded. All terminals were excavated. Sufficient of the feature lengths were excavated to determine the character of the feature over its entire course.
 - With the exception of modern disturbances, a minimum of 50% of all other contained features were excavated. Further investigation was a matter of on-site judgement, but sought to establish as a minimum their extent, date and function.
 - For layers a decision was made on-site as to the extent that they were excavated. The factors governing the judgement included the possibility that

they masked earlier remains, the need to understand function and depositional processes, and the necessity to recover significant artefacts to date the deposit and to meet the project aims.

- 1.5.8 All excavated deposits and features were recorded using the standard context record sheet used by ASE. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and any plans at 1:20. Datum levels were taken where appropriate.
- 1.5.9 A full digital photographic record of all features was also maintained. The photographic record also includes working shots to represent the general nature of the fieldwork.
- 1.5.10 All finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained in line with ASE artefacts collection policy. The excavation area and spoil heaps were regularly assessed visually for artefact recovery.
- 1.5.11 An environmental sampling strategy was employed, following current English Heritage (2011) guidelines. A standard bulk soil sample size of 40 litres (or 100% of context) was taken from well-stratified, dateable deposits to recover environmental remains.
- 1.5.12 All stratigraphic, finds and environmental archives from the evaluation and excavation are recorded and labelled with the site code ARIP 15.
- 1.5.13 Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector.

1.6 Organisation of the Report

- 1.6.1 This final report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN 3): Archaeological Excavation* (English Heritage 2008).
- 1.6.2 The report seeks to place the results from the site within the local archaeological and historical setting; to quantify and summarise the results; to specify their significance and potential, including any capacity to address the original research aims, taking into account any new research criteria.
- 1.6.3 The results from the evaluation have been integrated and assessed alongside the results from the excavation.

1.7 Site Archive

- 1.7.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

| Evaluation | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Number of Contexts | 39 |
| Plan and sections sheets | 2 |
| Photographs | 69 |
| Bulk finds | 54g |
| Excavation | |
| Number of Contexts | 92 |
| Plan and sections sheets | 7 |
| Photographs | 100 |
| Bulk finds | 266g |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following background includes pertinent evidence from a search of entries within a 500m radius of the current site on the Essex Historic Environment Record.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The site lies within an area containing multiple Prehistoric features. An extensive complex of Early Bronze Age features was revealed in the 1950's by a local farmer, Felix Erith. This included a number of cremation vessels including decorated pottery. Later features were also identified in the form of an enclosed Middle Iron Age roundhouse as well as Late Iron Age burials (Brown 1999).

2.2.2 Subsequent to the findings by Felix Erith a program of aerial photography took place in conjunction with the Colchester Archaeological Group (CAG). This revealed an extensive system of linear cropmarks to the south and west of the site. The photography also revealed extensive pitting and a number of ring ditches (Brown 1999). Some of the features identified lie c.200m to the south of the site, and include probable field boundaries and trackways.

2.2.3 Further Bronze Age activity was excavated c.400m south-east of the site in 1979 in the form of an Early Bronze Age barrow containing a single cremation burial (EHER 3337). Further cropmarks have been recorded surrounding the barrow (EHER 2464).

2.2.4 Isolated finds of prehistoric date have been found to the east of the site in the form of two Palaeolithic handaxes (EHER 2567). An additional Palaeolithic handaxe (EHER 2543) was found close by.

2.2.5 Approximately 400m to the west of the site, a series of cropmarks of unknown date have been found (EHER 2367). With additional undated cropmarks discovered to the north of Ardleigh (EHER 17478).

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The work conducted by Felix Erith and the CAG found evidence of Roman agricultural activity to the east of Ardleigh, as well as pottery kilns of a similar date.

2.3.2 Material of 1st century Roman date had been used to backfill the ditch surrounding a barrow to the east of the site (EHER 3337). Six inhumation burials of 4th century date were also excavated around the barrow.

2.3.3 Ardleigh lies on the along the route of the old A12 which followed the Roman road running from Colchester to Ipswich.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 Limited Anglo-Saxon activity has been noted within Ardleigh and its immediate surroundings, with findings limited to three inhumation burials, along with pottery and an unstratified brooch. All of these finds were recovered from outside the HER search radius.
- 2.4.2 The village of Ardleigh is recorded in the Domesday Book, and is noted as having 38 households.
- 2.4.3 To the east of the site lies the Church of St Mary, which is of 14th and 15th century date (EHER 2430, 34567). Ardleigh hall, a 15th century building, lies close by.

2.5 Post Medieval

- 2.5.1 Ardleigh expanded during the post medieval period, but remained a nucleated village. The village contains a number of listed buildings and monuments immediately to the east and south of the site, within the historic centre of the village.
- 2.5.2 These listed buildings include a number of timber framed buildings located to the south of Colchester Road. These date from the 15th to the 18th century, and were used as residential house, with Cypress Cottage (EHER 34573) also a smithy until 1960.
- 2.5.3 Further timber framed buildings are located to the west of The Street, to the east of the site, and opposite the church.

3.0 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation and excavation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to record, interpret and disseminate information on any archaeological remains exposed.

3.1.2 The archaeological work also aimed to take account of regional research assessments and objectives, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

3.2 Specific

3.2.1 The more specific aims of the excavation phase of the project were:

OR1 To determine whether any features are likely to be part of, or associated with, the cropmarks found in the area surrounding Ardleigh.

OR2 To further determine the date and purpose of the ditches and pits recorded during the evaluation in order to fully understand their form, date, function and significance.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 As part of stratigraphic analysis, individual contexts, referred to thus [***], have been sub-grouped and/or grouped together and features are generally referred to by their sub-group (SG**) or group label (GP**). In this way, linear features, such as ditches which may have numerous individual slots and context numbers, are discussed as single entities, and other cut features such as ring-gullies, pits and postholes are grouped together by structure, common date and/or type. Environmental samples are listed within triangular brackets <*>, and registered finds thus: RF<*>. References to sections within this report are referred to thus (3.7).
- 4.1.2 The results are described and discussed within the following period structure:
- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Period 1: | Prehistoric |
| Period 2: | Late Iron Age/early Roman (100BC – AD100) |
- 4.1.3 The recorded archaeological remains are discussed under these date-phased headings, determined primarily through assessment of the dateable artefacts, predominantly the pottery, and secondarily through the creation of relative chronologies where stratigraphic relationships exist. More detailed description of the contexts can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.4 The features found during the archaeological work were distributed across the site area with concentrations in the north-west and south-west. The majority of features contained single fairly homogenous fills. There was no truncation, other than by modern activity, with the entire area overlain by topsoil and subsoil.
- 4.1.5 The earliest evidence of activity on site dates to the early Neolithic period,. Both pottery and flintwork of this date were recovered.
- 4.1.6 The majority of the features on site date to the Prehistoric period, of a probable Early to Middle Iron Age date, though the nature of the pottery sherds means that they could be from an earlier period. A shallow ditch ran north north-west south south-east across the middle of the site area. With a number of small scattered pits and post holes also of this date, predominantly in the north-west area of the site.
- 4.1.7 There is limited evidence of later activity with a small amount of late Iron Age/early Roman and medieval pottery within excavated features. This indicates low-level activity at this time and is probable intrusive.
- 4.1.8 The site was apparently not utilised after this period with no remains encountered dating from later periods.
- 4.1.9 A number of undated features were found across the site area, predominately pits and natural activity.

4.2 Natural Geology and Topography

- 4.2.1 The excavation revealed the presence of a fairly uniform cover of topsoil measuring between c.0.20-0.40m and subsoil measuring c.0.07-0.40m. The subsoil thickness was greater towards the east of the site, where additional deposits were found.
- 4.2.2 The site lies at approximately 37m AOD in the south-west of the site and slopes gentle to the north-east where it lies at 35m AOD.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological deposits were visible in the topsoil or subsoil during the closely monitored machining.

4.3 Trial trench evaluation

- 4.3.1 The evaluation comprised of the excavation of six trial trenches measuring c.30m x 1.8m (see Figure 2). Archaeological remains were encountered within three of the excavated trenches. The results from the trenches which lay within the subsequent excavation area have been fully integrated into the results from the subsequent excavation.
- 4.3.2 Trench 1 was located c.30m to the west of the excavation area and was aligned north south. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of dark grey brown silty sand topsoil overlying mid orange brown silty sand subsoil. The subsoil was only visible in the southern half of the trench, with the northern half containing topsoil directly overlying natural deposits. Modern disturbance was encountered c.10m from the northern end of the trench in the form of a recent geotechnical test pits, which went to the depth of the natural. There were no archaeological remains within the trench.
- 4.3.3 Trench 2 was aligned approximately east west and was located immediately to the north-east of the excavation area. The trench was moved slightly due to concrete building remains on the route, with the eastern end moved c.6m south of its original position. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.86m, and consisted of dark grey brown silty sand topsoil of a fairly uniform thickness of c.0.30m overlying light grey brown silty sand subsoil.
- 4.3.4 Trench 3 was aligned north south and lies almost completely within the excavation area. The results are placed into context with the other features excavated during the excavation phase of work.
- 4.3.5 Trench 4 was located approximately in the centre of the site area and was aligned east west. The western 10m of the trench lay within the excavation area, and is where the only archaeological remains were encountered. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.38m at its western end, and 0.85m at its eastern end. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted on a dark brown sandy silt topsoil measuring between 0.20-0.25m thick and containing modern CBM and glass. This overlay an orange brown sandy silt subsoil, which measured up to 0.35m thick. At the base of the trench orange brown sandy gravel was found. At the eastern end of the trench there was an additional layer overlying the natural. This consisted of very clean and homogenous grey orange brown clay sand and was interpreted as a natural deposit.

- 4.3.6 Trench 5 was located c.25m to the east of the excavation area and ran north south along the eastern edge of the site. The southern end of the trench was very shallow and measured 0.20m, consisting of topsoil directly overlying orange sandy gravel. Towards the middle and northern end of the trench orange brown silty sand subsoil was encountered, which measured up to 0.25m thick. Directly below this was clean and homogenous orange brown clay sand overlying the natural gravels. This deposit measured up to 0.45m thick and was interpreted as a natural deposit.
- 4.3.7 Trench 6 was located to the south of the site area, with the western 17.5m lying within the excavation area. All of the archaeological features encountered were found within the western part of the trench and are placed into context with other features excavated during the excavation phase of work. The eastern part of the trench contained a geotechnical test pits which had been dug to the level of the natural. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of dark brown sandy silt topsoil overlying orange brown sandy silty subsoil. Natural orange sandy gravel was found at the base of the trench at a depth of 0.50m at the west end and 0.40m at the east end.

4.4 Period 1: Prehistoric

- 4.4.1 The main evidence for period activity on the site was in the form of a north north-west south south-east boundary ditch (GP1; Figures 3 and 4). The ditch ran from the northern edge of the site and terminated approximately 2m from the southern edge and is considered likely to be part of a field system. The ditch became narrower and shallower to the south, from a maximum width of around 1.30m at the northern, to around 0.40m wide at its southern end. All of the excavated slots contained a mid grey brown silty sand fill, with the northernmost slot [024] also containing a basal fill of light brown silty sand containing common gravel inclusions. Dating material was found within three of the excavated segments ([080], [3/005], [075]) of the ditch and consisted of a few flint tempered body sherds within each, which are broadly in keeping with material of an Early/Middle Iron Age date, though the lack of diagnostic material means it could be of Early Neolithic or Bronze Age date.
- 4.4.2 A spread of material [072] was found on the western side of, and appeared to be cut by, ditch (GP1). This shallow spread measured 0.12m deep and was filled with a dark brown sandy gravel fill with common gravel inclusions. Multiple sherds of pottery of probable Early/Mid Iron Age were found within the fill, suggesting that it is roughly contemporary with other features in the area.
- 4.4.3 Two pits ([3/009], [091]) had a direct relationship with the ditch, though the similarity of the fills between the features made it difficult to accurately determine stratigraphic relationships. Pit [3/009] measured 0.66m wide and 0.13m deep and was thought to be cut by the ditch. It contained a single mid grey brown silty sand fill, containing three abraded pottery sherds. It is likely to be contemporary to the ditch, representing small scale activity. Pit [091] is of a similar depth to the ditch and contained a similar mid grey brown silty sand fill. Material evidence from the fill includes a diagnostic flint arrowhead of Neolithic date along with flint tempered, possibly Early Neolithic, pottery

sherds. This pit may therefore predate the ditch, representing earlier, possibly Neolithic, use of the area. A single sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery weighing less than 1g was found within the pit, although the small size of the sherd, combined with a greater number of prehistoric finds within the context suggests that this may be intrusive.

- 4.4.4 A number of pits were located immediately to the west of the ditch, in a rough north south alignment, including [010], [012], [014], [059] and [006]. These varied slightly in width and depth measuring between 0.39m and 0.70m in width, and contained single fills of grey brown silty sand. Two of the pits ([014], [012]) contained material of probable Early/Mid Iron Age date. No finds were found within the other features, though the similarity in shape and fills to the other pits suggests that they may be contemporary. It is difficult to fully understand the function of the pits due to limited dating and fairly homogenous nature of the fills. It is likely that they represent small scale activity to the west of the boundary, possibly associated with agriculture.
- 4.4.5 Five postholes, including [050], [048], [063], [004] and [008] (GP2) were found in the same area as the pits, with one ([006]) cutting into the centre of pit [004] and which may represent a post pipe within this feature. These all contained a dark brown silty sand fill and measured between 0.26m – 0.32m in depth. While they contained no dating evidence, the similarities suggest that they are likely to be contemporary with one another. It is possible that these form the corner of a structure, possibly continuing to posthole [008] on the western edge of the excavation.
- 4.4.6 Further pits, including [089] and [4/006] were found to the east of the ditch. These are both oval in shape and contain mid grey brown silty sand fills. Dating evidence indicates a broadly prehistoric date, though they are probably contemporary to the ditch and other pits in the area. They likely represent isolated periods of activity.
- 4.4.7 A single dateable discrete feature was found within the southern part of the area [6/004]. It measured 0.90m wide and 0.25m deep and contained two fills, a basal fill of orange brown silt and, and an upper grey brown silty sand fill. The pit is likely contemporary with other features on site with the upper fill containing material of probable Early/Mid Iron Age date.
- 4.4.8 A shallow gully ([3/011]) measuring 0.08m deep was found in Trench 3. It was aligned north-west south-east and contained a single mid grey brown silty sand fill. No relationship was visible with the ditch (GP1), or outside the extent of the evaluation trench. It is likely that this represents a short shallow gully or drainage channel which has been truncated by the prehistoric ditch (GP1).

4.5 Period 2: Late Iron Age/early Roman (100BC – AD100)

- 4.5.1 Two sherds of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery were found within contexts [072] and [092]. These sherds were found alongside larger groups of earlier pottery, and both weighed less than one gram each. This implies that they are intrusive, but suggests a low level background use of the area at this time.

4.6 Undated

- 4.6.1 Due to the limited dating material found on site it was not possible to accurately assign all the recorded features to a specific period.
- 4.6.2 The discrete features in the south of the site were all undated and have no relationships with dateable features. These included a group of probable pits ([029], [031], [033], [035], [041], [051], [043]) and post holes ([018], [020]) in the south west corner of the site which were arranged in a roughly semi-circular arrangement. While the overall shape in plan could suggest possible structural evidence, the irregularity of these features suggests that they are not necessarily contemporary or utilised for the same function. Two of the features ([041], [051]) were both slightly irregular in shape and section and contained a mottled light grey brown fill with common inclusions of gravel. It is likely that these are a result of natural rooting. The other pits and post holes in the area all contain light-mid grey brown fills, though there is no indication of function. While a relationship is visible between pits [031] and [033], indicating [33] as a later feature, the lack of datable material from either feature makes them difficult to phase.
- 4.6.3 Further undated oval and circular features are found across the site area. Some of these features are likely to be natural. Pit [066], for instance, may represent a naturally silted depression, while two circular pits in the north east of the site ([038], [040]) appear to be result of animal borrowing, both having irregular, and undercutting bases. Additional circular and oval features were dispersed across the site area. These were all fairly shallow and were interpreted as pits and post holes. These included [064] in the south of the site, which measured 0.42m wide and 0.24m deep and containing a fairly uniform mid grey brown silty sand fill and features [028], [026] and [082] in the north, which measured between 0.38m - 0.75m in width and 0.12m - 0.18m in depth. These features all appeared to be isolated with no structural remains or occupational deposits were recovered.
- 4.6.4 Within Trench 6 a shallow feature ([6/009]) was discovered which appeared in plan to represent a linear. The feature contained a single fill containing very common gravel inclusions and measured 1.14m wide and 0.23m deep. The feature was not visible on either side of Trench 6 and is likely a result of natural activity, with the fill being formed by the weathering and silting of the surrounding natural.
- 4.6.5 A circular pit [084] containing a single fairly homogenous mid grey brown silty sand fill was found in the centre of the site, immediately to the east of GP1. The pit measured 1.33m wide and 0.33m deep. The pit had no clear function, and likely represents a period of isolated use.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavation on Land at Ingram's Piece Ardleigh. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 2). Finds were all packed and stored according to ClfA guidelines (2014d). None require further conservation.

| Context | Pottery | Wt (g) | Flint | Wt (g) |
|--------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| 3/004 | 3 | 24 | | |
| 3/008 | 3 | 8 | | |
| 4/005 | 4 | 8 | 1 | <2 |
| 6/006 | 2 | 14 | | |
| 2 | 7 | 12 | | |
| 13 | 8 | 22 | | |
| 15 | 2 | 4 | | |
| 68 | 1 | 6 | | |
| 72 | 25 | 86 | | |
| 74 | 8 | 96 | | |
| 81 | 1 | 2 | | |
| 90 | 1 | 6 | | |
| 92 | 7 | 22 | 2 | 10 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>72</i> | <i>310</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>10</i> |

Table 2: Quantification of the finds

5.2 Worked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The archaeological work produced just three pieces of struck flint weighing 10g and a flint hammerstone weighing 264g. Pit [4/006] contained a small flake fragment, and pit [091] contained a leaf-shaped arrowhead and a flake. They are all in a fair condition, suggesting that they have experienced negligible post-depositional disturbance. The small flake from pit [4/006] and the arrowhead were manufactured from a mid-grey flint. No cortex was evident on these pieces. The flake from pit [091] displays an olive green cortex with an underlying orange band. This is a characteristic of Bullhead flint, which could have been obtained from the base of the Thanet formation in the Bradwell area of north-east Essex (Aldiss 2014, 13). The flake displays fine dorsal flake scars. The narrow platform exhibits edge preparation for the controlled removal of flakes. The leaf arrowhead weights 4g; it measures 41.5mm in length, 16mm in width, and it is 5.6mm thick. Although it is asymmetrical, it has been bifacially worked. The ventral face displays continuous, fine, low-angled, edge or invasive retouch. The dorsal face exhibits only partial retouch. These consist of fine, semi-abrupt retouch along the right edge and fine low-angled retouch at the distal end.

5.2.2 The ogival leaf-shaped arrowhead is of Green's (1984) class 3C and clearly indicates a Neolithic date. The exact function of leaf arrowheads remains unclear. It is possibly multifold encompassing warfare and hunting weapons as well as emblems of gender, or age status (Saville 2002, 96). Based on technological grounds, the flake recovered from the same context [092] could be contemporary with the arrowhead. Ditch [075] produced a flint hammerstone weighing 262g (RF <02>). It is manufactured on a large natural round pebble and displays signs of extensive battering. This could imply that the artefact was not used for tool manufacturing but for food processing, as a pestle.

5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of 75 sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery, weighing 340g, was recovered during the evaluation. The prehistoric wares have been broadly classified according to their major inclusion type (Table 3) but have not been assigned to a formal type-series at present.

| Fabric group | Sherds | Weight (g) |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Flint-tempered (?Early Neolithic) | 13 | 40 |
| Flint-tempered (?E-MIA) | 41 | 225 |
| Flint-tempered with glauconite | 11 | 45 |
| Quartz-rich | 7 | 22 |
| ?Grog-tempered | 1 | 6 |
| Romanising ware (BSW) | 1 | 1 |
| Roman grey ware (GRS) | 1 | 1 |
| | 75 | 340 |

Table 3: Quantification of prehistoric and Roman pottery by broad ware type

5.3.2 In most cases, it is difficult to assign definitive spot-dates to individual prehistoric contexts because the majority of the assemblage is made up by flint-tempered bodysherds. This tempering agent is prevalent in prehistoric assemblages from the Early Neolithic and from the later Middle Bronze Age onwards. Whilst there are some characteristic chronological differences in attributes like frequency, size and sorting of flint inclusions, fabric is usually a slightly uncertain indicator of date, especially when only one or two bodysherds are stratified together.

5.3.3 Having said this, it seems likely some of the pottery belongs to the Early Neolithic period (c. 3650-3300BC). A number of sherds found in contexts [002], [081] and [092] have very dense, fairly inclusionless matrixes and sparse, very ill-sorted flint ranging from 0.5-4mm in size. In [002], a subsoil deposit, these were associated with probable later prehistoric material. In fill 0[81], a tiny rim sherd in a possible Early Neolithic fabric type could be from an Early Neolithic Mildenhall bowl, although it is too partial to be attributed to a particular form class with certainty and was not associated with any other datable material; given its appearance in a ditch context, it also seems fairly likely to be residual. The most likely stratified Early Neolithic group comes

from fill [092] of pit [091], which contained six bodysherds from a single vessel in an ill-sorted flint-tempered fabric, which were stratified with diagnostic Neolithic flintwork, including an arrowhead. However, this feature also contained a possibly intrusive sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (see below).

- 5.3.4 The remainder of the prehistoric assemblage is associated with fabric types which are fairly characteristic of the Early to Middle Iron Age, the largest groups coming from deposit [072] and fill [074] of ditch [075] (24 and 14 sherds respectively). The former contained a diagnostic Early Iron Age form (the shoulder/neck of a fine ware tri-partite bowl) although it also produced a tiny, possibly intrusive Roman sherd (see below).
- 5.3.5 In general, the probable Iron Age pottery from the site is predominantly sparsely flint-tempered but the inclusions tend to be fine (usually <2mm) and usually quite well-sorted, appearing in fairly sandy background matrixes with moderate or common quartz sand. A number of flint-tempered sherds also contain glauconite inclusions, indicating a non-local origin, probably either in North Kent or Cambridgeshire. Several contexts contain sandy wares which lack any added flint and one (fill [3/004] of ditch 3/005) produced a sherd containing some argillaceous inclusions, possibly representing added grog-temper, although, on balance this context probably pre-dates the widespread adoption of grog-tempering after c.50BC.
- 5.3.6 Two sherds of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery were recorded, a sparsely grog-tempered 'Romanising ware' and a low-fired grey ware, found in pit fill [092] and deposit [072] respectively. Both weigh less than one gram and both were associated with larger groups of prehistoric pottery, possibly implying that they are intrusive.

5.4 Medieval and later Pottery by Helen Walker

- 5.4.1 A single sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (wt 8g) was excavated from context [072]. It is a very abraded, thick-walled sherd showing the remains of a weathered internal glaze and most likely dates between the 17th and 19th centuries. It may be the result of muck-spreading from farmyard midden heaps, rather than the result of habitation.

| Context | Feature | Sherd Nos | Wt (g) | Pottery – ware and featured sherds | Date |
|---------|---------|-----------|--------|---|--|
| 72 | | 1 | 8 | Post-medieval red earthenware: very abraded thick-walled sherd showing the remains of an internal glaze, which is a decomposed powdery-yellow in places | 17 th to 19 th century |

Table 4: Quantification of the medieval pottery

5.5 The Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 A pierced spherical fired clay object, possibly a loom weight (RF<1>), was recovered from context [002]. The object measures 120mm in diameter and is pierced at an angle through the centre with a perforation measuring 13.5mm in diameter. The object is incomplete, approximately 50% remains. The object is reduced and made in a fairly fine fabric with moderate, very coarse calcined flint to 5mm and sparse rounded pebbles to 10mm. The form is atypical; it is more suggestive of the Late Bronze Age cylindrical form or even the Saxon bun shaped weights; a prehistoric date is probable.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence/Introduction

6.1.1 The investigation of this site has provided evidence of archaeological activity broadly spanning the prehistoric period. While there is a small amount of later material on the site, this is suggestive of limited later activity in the vicinity. While many of the features have been tentatively dated to the Early/Mid Iron Age, the pottery remains recovered were undiagnostic, with fabrics meaning an earlier date is also possible. Therefore a broad prehistoric period has been proposed.

6.2 Period 1: Prehistoric

6.2.1 The prehistoric period is widely represented within and around Ardleigh, with the crop mark complex to the south-east of the site indicating large scale settlement of the area during the prehistoric period, fitting into the pattern of prehistoric settlement along the river valleys of north-east Essex (Couchman and Savory 1983).

6.2.2 The earliest activity on the site appears to be Neolithic in date, consisting of a small and isolated pit [091] which produced a small assemblage of probable Early Neolithic pottery and a leaf shaped arrowhead. Such features are a common feature of the period (e.g. Anderson-Whymark and Thomas 2012). Indeed, Norfolk is known for some exceptionally large Neolithic pit cluster sites such as Kilverstone (Garrow et al 2005; Garrow et al 2006). The precise significance of Neolithic pits and pit deposits remains contentious, although a link with settlement is widely accepted. The overall impression is one in which the detritus of occupation, strewn about the surface of (probably impermanent) settlements was periodically gathered up and dumped into pits, either at the beginning or end of periods of occupation (Evans & Knight 1997, 23; Pollard 1999, 89; 2001, 323), or even during the course of a single period of occupation (Garrow et al 2005, 152).

6.2.3 The GP1 ditch recorded is suggestive of a field system, with very limited domestic material found on the site. The lack of material from pits and post holes suggests that they had limited periods of use, and were probably agricultural in origin.

6.2.4 The post holes in the north-west corner of site possibly form the corner of a structure. It is possible that it formed a temporary structure, as there is little occupation evidence from the area, suggesting it had a different role. While there was no datable evidence from the postholes, their position in an area of prehistoric activity suggests that they also date from this period.

6.3 Period 2: Late Iron Age/early Roman (100BC – AD100)

6.3.1 The residual pottery is of little significance. Later Prehistoric and Roman activity can be seen within the cropmark complex to the south of the the site, as well as a Roman road. The proximity of Ardleigh to the Iron Age tribal centre and later Roman settlement in Colchester means that nearby activity is likely to have occurred with material evidence finding its way into earlier

features by bioturbation and other disturbances.

6.4 Undated

- 6.4.1 A number of features of unknown date were discovered within the southern half of the excavation area. While containing no datable material there similarities with other features on site suggest that they may also be prehistoric, possibly representing activity associated with broadly contemporary agricultural land use at the time.

6.5 Consideration of research aims

- 6.5.1 The investigation has achieved its original research aim of recording, excavating and analysing the archaeological remains present within the targeted area of the development site. Fulfilment of the specific research objectives is discussed below.

- 6.5.2 *OR1: To determine whether any features are likely to be part of, or associated with, the cropmarks found in the area surrounding Ardleigh.*

The excavations have made a limited contribution to the understanding of the cropmarks situated in the surrounding landscape. The archaeological features recovered suggest that settlement of the area continued into Ardleigh, with earlier evidence perhaps hidden by the village of Ardleigh itself. While the features encountered may be part of the wider landscape, a general lack of dating evidence inevitably hinders any assessment of their use, development and wider organisation.

- 6.5.3 *OR2: To further determine the date and purpose of the ditches and pits recorded during the evaluation in order to fully understand their form, date, function and significance.*

The excavation results have led to an increased understanding of the remains recovered during the evaluation. Further archaeological investigation has indicated a wider prehistoric presence on the site, with a concentration within the north-west corner of the excavation area. The general lack of material recovered from the features suggests that they are likely to represent agricultural activity. While there is some evidence of structures, it is likely that these represent associated agricultural buildings as oppose to settlement, supporting the use of the area for low impact agriculture.

7.0 PUBLICATION PROJECT

- 7.1 The prehistoric results of this investigation are considered to be of sufficient local significance to merit inclusion of a short note, highlighting the prehistoric features as an interesting local discovery with accompanying plan in the journal *Essex Archaeology and History*. The text will draw specialist information from the above reports.

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Appendix 1: Context Register

| Context No. | Context type | Parent context | Description | Group (GP) | Period |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---|------------|-------------|
| Evaluation | | | | | |
| 1/001 | - | - | Topsoil – 0.40m thick | - | Modern |
| 1/002 | - | - | Subsoil – 0.11m thick | - | Modern |
| 1/003 | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 2/001 | - | - | Topsoil – 0.30m thick | - | Modern |
| 2/002 | - | - | Subsoil – 0.40m thick | - | Modern |
| 2/003 | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 3/001 | - | - | Topsoil – 0.35m thick | - | Modern |
| 3/002 | - | - | Subsoil – 0.02m thick | - | Modern |
| 3/003 | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 3/004 | Fill | 3/005 | Single fill, dark orange brown silty sand | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 3/005 | Ditch | 3/005 | Shallow N-S linear – 0.20m deep | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 3/006 | Fill | 3/007 | Single fill, mid orange brown silty sand | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 3/007 | Ditch | 3/007 | Shallow N-S linear – 0.20m deep | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 3/008 | Fill | 3/009 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 3/009 | Pit | 3/009 | Shallow pit – 0.13m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 3/010 | Fill | 3/011 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 3/011 | Gully | 3/011 | Shallow NW-SE linear – 0.08m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 4/001 | - | - | Topsoil – 0.25m thick | - | Modern |
| 4/002 | - | - | Subsoil – 0.35m thick | - | Modern |
| 4/003 | - | - | Natural deposit – 0.30m thick | - | - |
| 4/004 | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 4/005 | Fill | 4/006 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 4/006 | Pit | 4/006 | Shallow pit – 0.40m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 5/001 | - | - | Topsoil – 0.25m thick | - | Modern |
| 5/002 | - | - | Subsoil – 0.22m thick | - | Modern |
| 5/003 | - | - | Natural deposit – 0.4m thick | - | - |
| 5/004 | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 6/001 | - | - | Topsoil – 0.32m thick | - | Modern |
| 6/002 | - | - | Subsoil – 0.22m thick | - | Modern |
| 6/003 | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 6/004 | Pit | 6/004 | Shallow pit – 0.25m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 6/005 | Fill | 6/004 | Primary fill, orange/red brown silty sand – 0.11m thick | - | Prehistoric |
| 6/006 | Fill | 6/004 | Mid grey brown silty sand – 0.14m thick | - | Prehistoric |
| 6/007 | Post hole | 6/007 | Probable post hole – 0.17m deep | - | Undated |
| 6/008 | Fill | 6/007 | Single fill, dark grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------|---|---|-------------|
| 6/009 | Pit | 6/009 | Possible ditch/pit – 0.23m deep | - | Undated |
| 6/010 | Fill | 6/009 | Single fill, yellow/red brown sand | - | Undated |
| 6/011 | Pit | 6/011 | Pit – 0.35m deep | - | Undated |
| 6/012 | Fill | 6/011 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| Excavation | | | | | |
| 1 | - | - | Topsoil | - | Modern |
| 2 | - | - | Subsoil | - | Modern |
| 3 | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 4 | Pit | 4 | Oval pit – 0.70m wide, 0.39m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 5 | Fill | 4 | Single fill, light grey brown silt sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 6 | Posthole | 6 | Circular posthole – 0.28m wide, 0.32m deep | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 7 | Fill | 6 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 8 | Pit | 8 | Sub oval pit -0.45m wide, 0.28m deep | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 9 | Fill | 8 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 10 | Pit | 10 | Oval pit – 0.39m wide, 0.27m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 11 | Fill | 10 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 12 | Pit | 12 | Oval pit – 0.56m wide, 0.30m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 13 | Fill | 12 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 14 | Pit | 14 | Oval pit – 0.55m wide, 0.11m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 15 | Fill | 14 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 16 | TH | 16 | Irregular tree bole – 1.48m wide, 0.35m deep | - | Undated |
| 17 | Fill | 16 | Single fill, mottled mid grey/orange brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 18 | Pit | 18 | Circular pit– 0.44m wide, 0.12m deep. | - | Undated |
| 19 | Fill | 18 | Single fill, mid grey brown sandy silt | - | Undated |
| 20 | Pit | 20 | Oval pit – 0.57m wide, 0.13m deep | - | Undated |
| 21 | Fill | 20 | Single fill, dark grey brown sandy silt | - | Undated |
| 22 | Fill | 24 | Upper fill, light/mid brown silty sand – 0.25m thick | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 23 | Fill | 24 | Basal fill, light grey brown silty sand, common gravel. | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 24 | Ditch | 24 | N-S linear – 1.30m wide, 0.30m deep | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 25 | Fill | 26 | Single fill, light brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 26 | Posthole | 26 | Oval posthole – 0.35m wide, 0.18m deep | - | Undated |
| 27 | Fill | 28 | Single fill, light brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 28 | Pit | 28 | Circular pit – 0.75m wide, 0.20m deep | - | Undated |
| 29 | Pit | 29 | Oval pit – 0.85m wide, 0.24m deep | - | Undated |
| 30 | Fill | 29 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 31 | Pit | 31 | Oval pit – 1.11m wide, 0.18m deep | - | Undated |
| 32 | Fill | 31 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 33 | Pit | 33 | Oval pit – 0.60m wide, 0.19m deep | - | Undated |
| 34 | Fill | 33 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 35 | Pit | 35 | Sub oval pit – 0.94m wide (max exc.), | - | Undated |

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|---|---|-------------|
| | | | 0.34m deep | | |
| 36 | Fill | 35 | Single fill, mid orange brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 37 | Fill | 38 | Single fill, light/mid grey brown sandy silt | - | Undated |
| 38 | Pit / burrow | 38 | Circular pit/burrow – 0.48m wide, 0.22m deep | - | Undated |
| 39 | Fill | 40 | Single fill, Light/mid grey brown sandy silt | - | Undated |
| 40 | Burrow | 40 | Oval burrow – 0.44m wide, 0.20m deep | - | Undated |
| 41 | TH | 41 | Probable tree bowl – 1.69m wide, 0.19m deep | - | Undated |
| 42 | Fill | 41 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 43 | Pit / natural | 43 | Oblong pit – 0.45m wide, 0.24m deep, 1.22m long (max exc. dimensions) | - | Undated |
| 44 | Fill | 43 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 45 | Fill | 46 | Single fill, dark brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 46 | Pit | 46 | Oval pit – 0.58m wide, 0.33m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 47 | Fill | 48 | Single fill, dark brown sandy gravel | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 48 | Posthole | 48 | Oval posthole – 0.31m wide, 0.30m deep | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 49 | Fill | 50 | Single fill, dark brown sandy gravel | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 50 | Posthole | 50 | Circular posthole – 0.26m wide, 0.31m deep | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 51 | Pit / TH | 51 | Probable tree bowl – 1.70m wide, 0.22m deep | - | Undated |
| 52 | Fill | 51 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 53 | Pit | 53 | Oval pit – 0.60m wide, 0.20m deep | - | Undated |
| 54 | Fill | 53 | Primary fill, mid orange brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 55 | Fill | 53 | Secondary fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 56 | Pit | 56 | Oval pit – 0.65m wide, 0.16m deep | - | Undated |
| 57 | Fill | 56 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 58 | Fill | 59 | Single fill, dark brown sand | - | Undated |
| 59 | TH | 59 | Irregular tree bowl – 0.90m wide, 0.32m deep | - | Undated |
| 60 | Fill | 61 | Single fill, dark brown sandy gravel | - | Prehistoric |
| 61 | Posthole | 61 | Oval posthole, 0.21m wide, 0.26m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 62 | Fill | 63 | Single fill of posthole, dark brown sandy gravel | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 63 | Posthole | 63 | Oval posthole – 0.20m wide, 0.26m deep | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 64 | Posthole | 64 | Circular posthole – 0.42m wide, 0.24m deep | - | Undated |
| 65 | Fill | 64 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 66 | Pit / natural | 66 | Probable natural feature – 1.89m wide, 0.30m deep | - | Undated |
| 67 | Fill | 66 | Single fill, light grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 68 | Fill | 69 | Single fill, dark brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 69 | Pit | 69 | Oval pit – 0.31m wide, 0.15m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 70 | Fill | 71 | Single fill, dark brown sandy gravel | - | Undated |
| 71 | Pit | 71 | Circular pit – 0.33m wide, 0.19m deep | - | Undated |
| 72 | Spread | - | Shallow spread of material – 0.12m deep | - | Prehistoric |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----|---|---|-------------|
| 73 | Fill | 86 | Single fill, dark brown sandy gravel | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 74 | Fill | 75 | Single fill, dark brown silty sand | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 75 | Ditch | 75 | N-S linear – 1.10m wide, 0.40m deep | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 76 | - | - | VOID | - | - |
| 77 | - | - | VOID | - | - |
| 78 | TH | 78 | Probably tree bowl – 1.08m wide, 0.23m deep | - | Undated |
| 79 | Fill | 78 | Single fill, mid brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 80 | Ditch | 80 | N-S linear – 0.86m wide, 0.12m deep | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 81 | Fill | 80 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 82 | Posthole | 82 | Circular posthole – 0.38m wide, 0.12m deep | - | Undated |
| 83 | Fill | 82 | Single fill, dark grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 84 | Pit | 84 | Circular pit – 1.33m wide, 0.33m deep | - | Undated |
| 85 | Fill | 84 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Undated |
| 86 | Ditch | 86 | N-S linear- 0.62m wide, 0.20m deep | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 87 | Fill | 88 | Single fill, dark brown silty sand | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 88 | Ditch | 88 | Ditch terminus – 0.40m wide, 0.10m deep | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 89 | Pit | 89 | Oval pit – 1.02m wide, 0.25m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 90 | Fill | 89 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |
| 91 | Pit | 91 | Oval pit – 0.97m wide, 0.18m deep | - | Prehistoric |
| 92 | Fill | 91 | Single fill, mid grey brown silty sand | - | Prehistoric |

Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

| | |
|---|---|
| Site name/Address: Land at Ingram's Piece, Ardleigh | |
| Parish: Ardleigh | District: Tendring |
| NGR: TM 0519 2957 | Site Code: ARIP 15 |
| Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation | Site Director/Group: A. Forshaw, Archaeology South-East |
| Date of Work: Evaluation: 13/10/14 – 17/10/14 Excavation: 1/12/14 – 22/12/14 | Size of Area Investigated: 1015m ² |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service | Funding source: Landowner/developer |
| Further Seasons Anticipated?: no | Related HER Nos: |
| Final Report: EAH article | OASIS No: 214188 |
| Periods Represented: Prehistoric, Late Iron Age/early Roman | |
| SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: | |
| <p>This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out by Archaeology South-East at land at Ingram's Piece, Ardleigh, Essex, which took place in two stages between April 2015 and May 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, in advance of residential development.</p> <p>The excavations have revealed prehistoric evidence in the form of a ditch running across the site, possibly part of a field system. Further prehistoric features included isolated pits spread throughout the site area, and a number of post holes, possibly forming a structure. These are all indicative of small scale land use. A single pit containing a small assemblage of Early Neolithic pottery and a leaf shaped arrowhead, alongside a small and possibly intrusive sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery may represent limited Neolithic activity on the site.</p> <p>Later periods were represented by a small number of pottery sherds of Roman and Medieval date. These are likely intrusive but provide possible evidence of sparse activity during this time.</p> <p>There were a number of undated features on the site in the form of pits and post holes. It is likely that these also date to the Prehistoric period, though no dating material was recovered.</p> | |
| Previous Summaries/Reports: None | |
| Author of Summary: A. Forshaw | Date of Summary: June 2015 |

Appendix 3: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-214188

Project details

Project name Land at Ingram's Piece, Ardleigh

Short description of the project This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out by Archaeology South-East at land at Ingram's Piece, Ardleigh, Essex, which took place in two stages between April 2015 and May 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, in advance of residential development.

The excavations have revealed prehistoric evidence in the form of a ditch running across the site, possibly part of a field system. Further prehistoric features included isolated pits spread throughout the site area, and a number of post holes, possibly forming a structure. These are all indicative of small scale land use. A single pit containing a small assemblage of Early Neolithic pottery and a leaf shaped arrowhead, alongside a small and possibly intrusive sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery may represent limited Neolithic activity on the site.

Later periods were represented by a small number of pottery sherds of Roman and Medieval date. These are likely intrusive but provide possible evidence of sparse activity during this time.

There were a number of undated features on the site in the form of pits and post holes. It is likely that these also date to the Prehistoric period, though no dating material was recovered.

Project dates Start: 13-04-2015 End: 22-05-2015

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ARIP 15 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 8331 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 8381 - Contracting Unit No.

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Current Land use | Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland |
| Monument type | DITCH Late Prehistoric |
| Monument type | PIT Late Prehistoric |
| Monument type | POST HOLE Late Prehistoric |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Late Prehistoric |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Medieval |
| Investigation type | "Open-area excavation" |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | ESSEX TENDRING ARDLEIGH Land at Ingram's Piece, Ardleigh |
| Postcode | CO7 7PZ |
| Study area | 1015.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TM 507 2959 51.926563 0.98286 51 55 35 N 000 58 58 E Point |
| Lat/Long Datum | WGS 84 Datum |
| Project creators | |
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South East |
| Project brief originator | CgMs Consulting |
| Project design originator | ASE/CgMs |
| Project director/manager | Andy Leonard |
| Project supervisor | Angus Forshaw |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |
| Project archives | |
| Physical Archive recipient | Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service |
| Digital Media | "Images raster / digital photography" |

available

Paper Archive recipient Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography
1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title FINAL REPORT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

Author(s)/Editor(s) Forshaw, A.

Date 2015

Issuer or publisher ASE

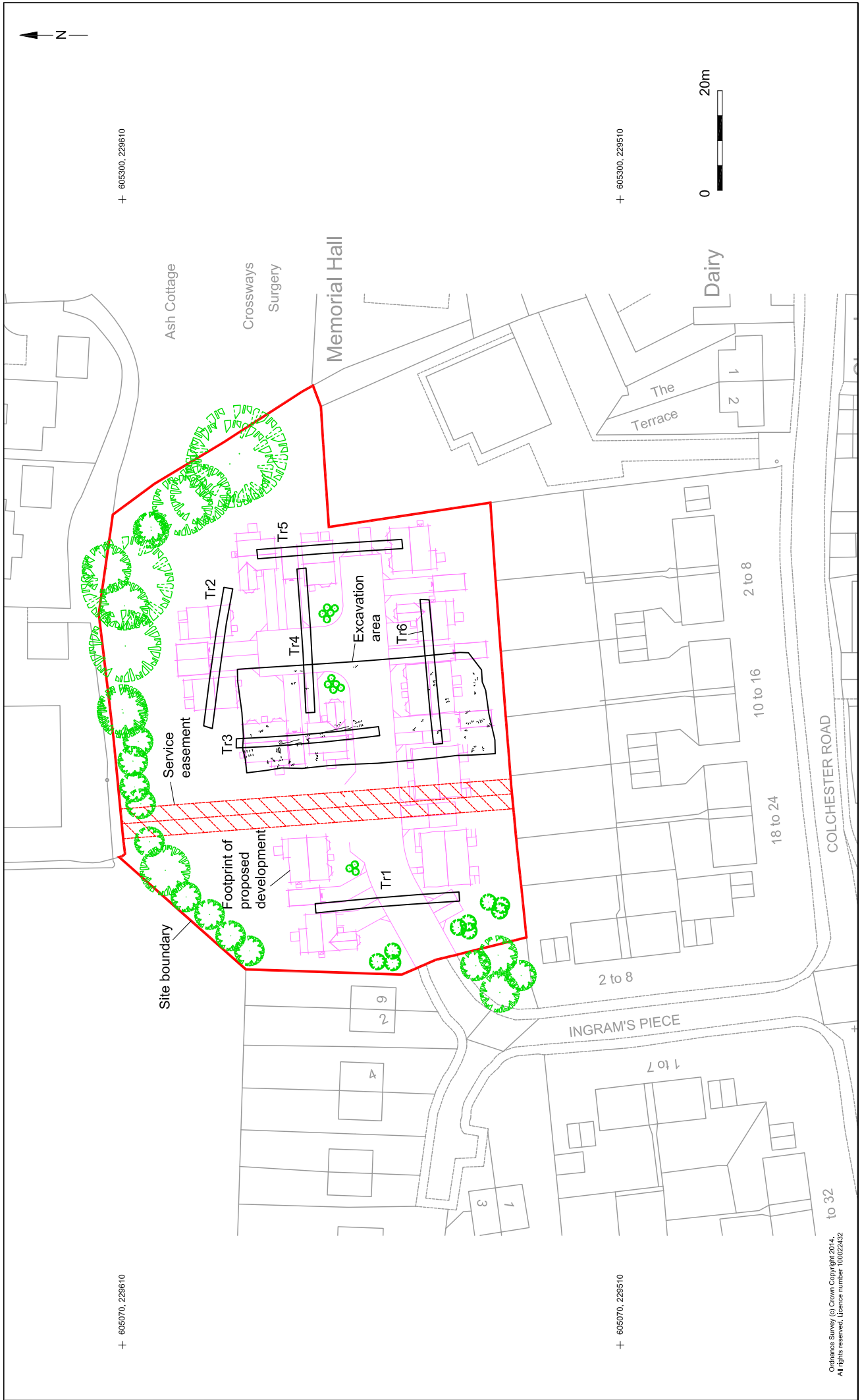
Place of issue or publication Braintree, Essex

Entered by Angus Forshaw (a.forshaw@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 15 June 2015



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Ingram's Piece, Ardleigh | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 8381 | June 2015 | Site location | |
| Report No: 2015213 | Drawn by: APL | | |



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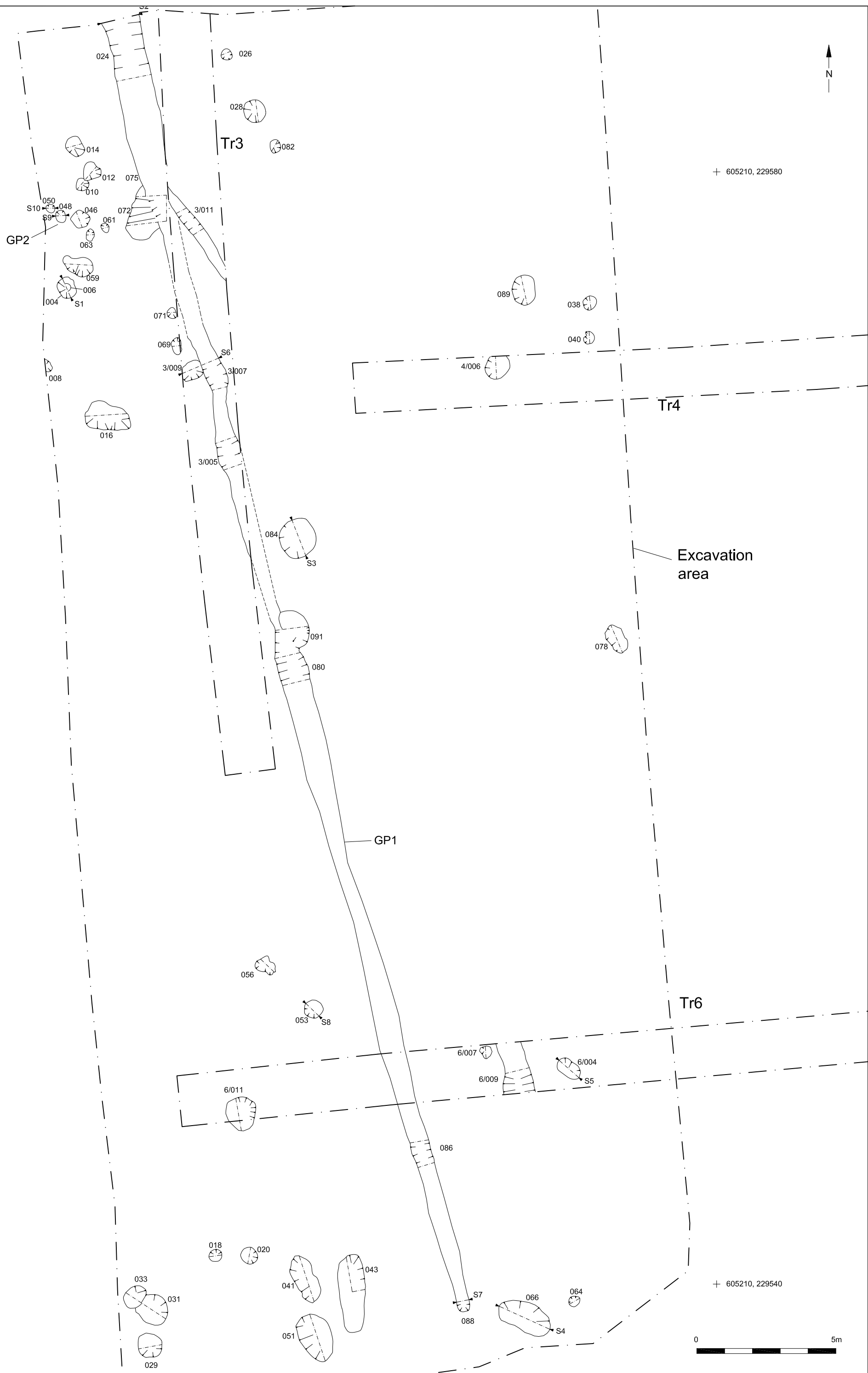
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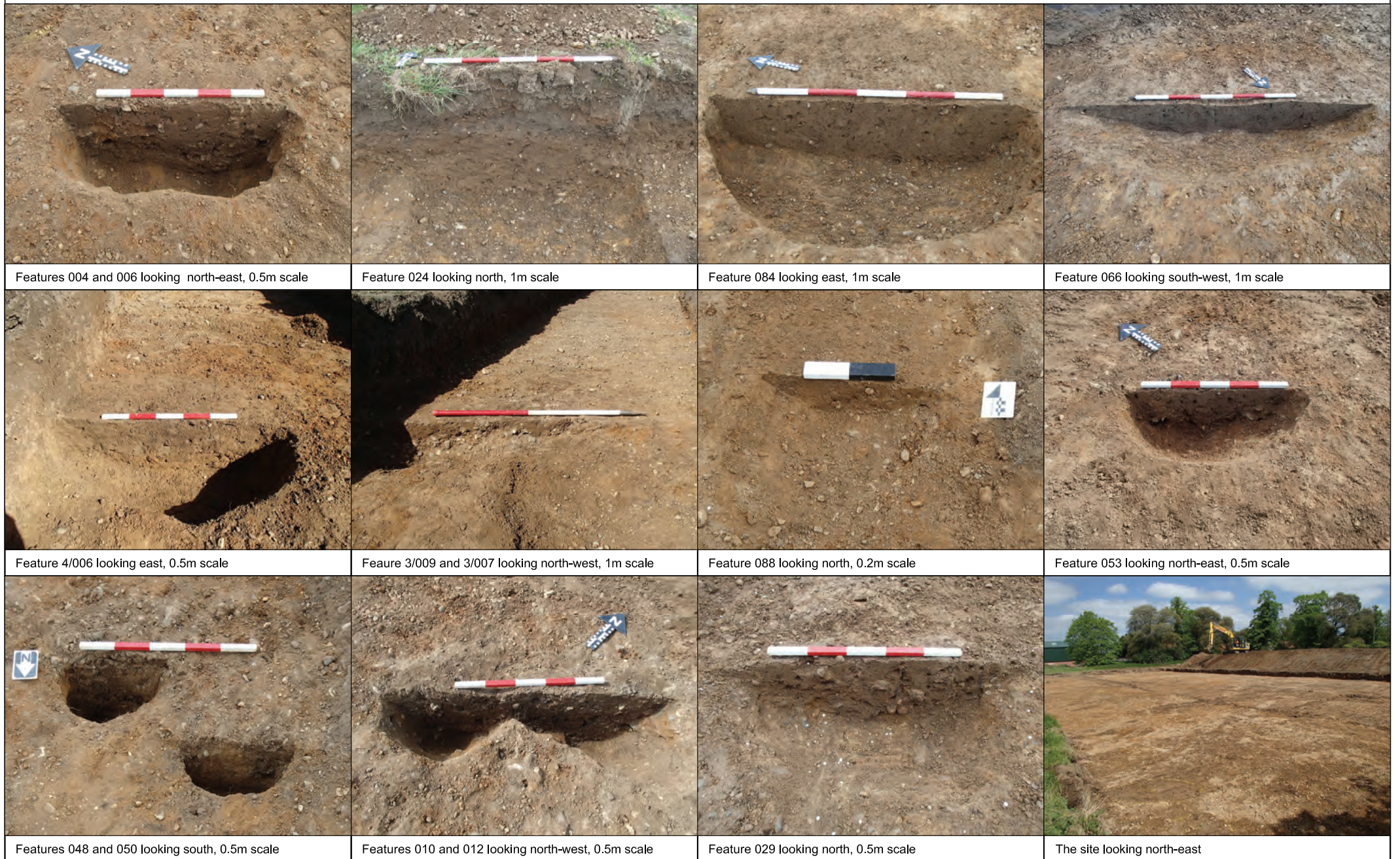
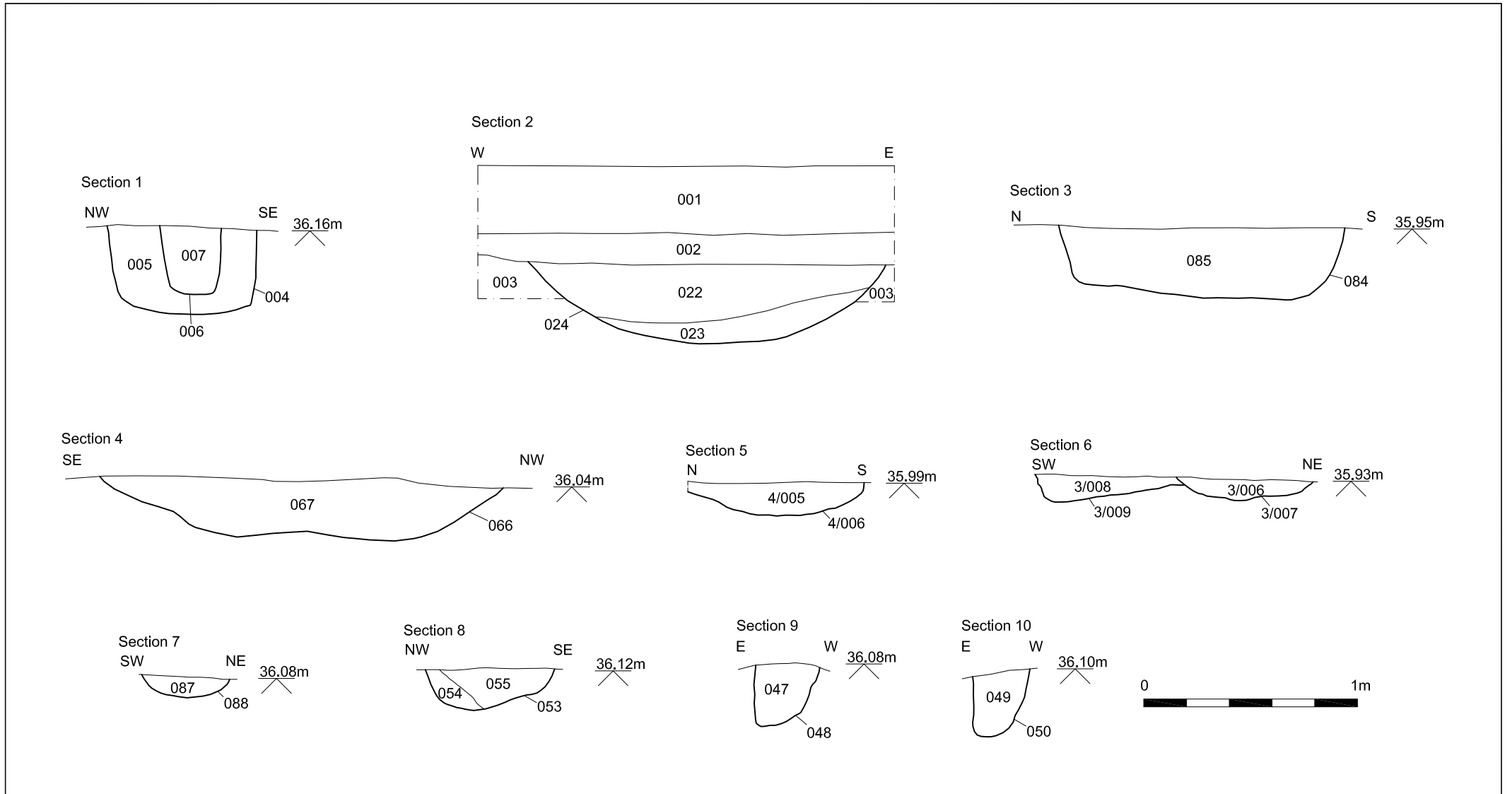
Project Ref: 8381
Report Ref: 2015213
June 2015
Drawn by: APL

Ingram's Piece, Ardleigh

Location of evaluation trenches and excavation area

Fig. 2





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