

**Stane Park (phases 1a and 1b)  
Stanway, Essex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**ASE Project No: 8398  
Site Code: EVT 4234**

**ASE Report No: 2015223**



**June 2015**

**STANE PARK (PHASES 1A AND 1B)  
STANWAY, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**NGR: TL 94569 24709**



**ASE Project No: 8398  
Site Code: EVT 4234**

**ASE Report No: 2015223  
OASIS ID: 215756  
Museum Accession No. COLEM : 2015.59**

**By Adam Dyson**

**With contributions by Anna Doherty, Helen Walker, Trista Clifford, Hayley  
Forsyth & Angela Vitolo**

**Illustrations by Lukasz Miciak**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Adam Dyson	Archaeologist	
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Adrian Scruby	Project Manager	
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2015		
<b>Revision:</b>	V2 - following external review		

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

**Tel: 01376 331470  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**[www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse)**

## **Abstract**

*In May 2015, Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Stane Park (Phase 1a & 1b), London Road, Stanway, Colchester, in advance of the commercial development of the site.*

*Twenty-two trenches were excavated in a grid pattern across the site with the exception of one trench specifically positioned to target the plotted location of a cropmark ring ditch potentially indicating the position of a plough-levelled prehistoric burial mound.*

*The evaluation identified a low density of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. Excepting an undated pit in Trench 15, these were concentrated in two parts of the site. Prehistoric remains survive in the central part of the development area, comprising the seemingly incomplete remains of a ring ditch and a pit, while medieval remains are present at the southern end of the development area and are indicative of activity alongside London Road.*

*The earliest recorded remains comprised a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit at the north-west end of Trench 10. A curvilinear ditch revealed in adjacent Trench 9 is taken to represent the ring ditch predicted from cropmark evidence. The two features together suggest an area of possible funerary activity during the late prehistoric period.*

*The only other remains predating the modern period were represented by a scatter of medieval features seen in trenches 20, 21 and 22, at the south end of the site. These comprised a large possible quarry pit, a smaller pit, a ditch and a posthole, and collectively indicative of some form of activity alongside London Road during the medieval period. The fairly broad date range provided by the pottery from these features spans the 12th – 14th century in Trench 20 and the 14th to 16th century in Trench 22 and while they may be settlement related, possibly associated with a plot fronting on to London Road, the features may also include roadside quarry pits in which domestic rubbish has been dumped.*

*Dependent upon the nature and depth of any works proposed it is judged that development in these areas would potentially impact on the underlying heritage resource.*

## CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Method**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Finds Analysis**
- 6.0 Environmental Analysis**
- 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

### **Acknowledgements**

### **Bibliography**

**Appendix 1: Results for archaeologically negative trenches**

**Appendix 2: Residue quantification**

**Appendix 3: Flot quantification**

**Appendix 4: HER summary sheet**

**Appendix 5: OASIS form**

## **FIGURES**

Front Cover Image: Working shot of the evaluation in progress

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench plan

Figure 3: Trench 9 plan, section and photographs

Figure 4: Trench 10 plan, section and photographs

Figure 5: Trench 15 plan, section and photographs

Figure 6: Trench 20 plan, sections and photographs

Figure 7: Trench 21 plan, section and photographs

Figure 8: Trench 22 plan, section and photographs

## **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

Table 2: Trench 9 recorded contexts

Table 3: Trench 10 recorded contexts

Table 4: Trench 15 recorded contexts

Table 5: Trench 20 recorded contexts

Table 6: Trench 21 recorded contexts

Table 7: Trench 22 recorded contexts

Table 8: Quantification of bulk finds

Table 9: Animal bone NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) count

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 In May 2015, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Stane Park (Phase 1a & 1b), London Road, Stanway, Colchester, in advance of the commercial development of the site. The work was commissioned by Mott MacDonald on behalf The Churchmanor Estates Ltd and undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Mott MacDonald (2015) and approved by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor.

1.1.2 Detailed information regarding the site location, geology, planning history and archaeological background can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation and a series of Archaeological Desk-based Assessments prepared for the site (Mott MacDonald 2014, 2015a, 2015b).

### **1.2 Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 The site is located at Stanway, on the western fringes of Colchester, on the north side of the B1408 London Road, just to the south-west of Junction 26 of the A12. At the time of the evaluation the site consisted of rough grassland and areas of hardstanding bounded to the west by a mature hedgerow with agricultural land beyond, further agricultural land to the north, a link road to the east and London Road to the south.

1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology comprises the London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) overlain by superficial deposits of Cover Sand (clay, silty, sandy). Recent ground investigations identified 'made ground' at a number locations within the Phase 1A and Phase 1B sites, believed to be associated with the previous use of part of the site as a construction compound (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer – accessed 25/06/2015, Mott MacDonald 2014 & 2015).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The archaeological work is being undertaken in support of a planning application for the development of the site, in line with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and the policy DP14: Historic Environment Assets of the Colchester Borough Council Development Policies Development Plan Document (adopted 2010).

1.3.2 As the site lies in an area of archaeological potential the Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Archaeological Advisor, in their capacity as advisor to the local planning authority, recommended that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken prior to planning determination and that the results be submitted prior to determination of the application. The requirements for the work were set out in a Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation issued by the CBC Archaeological Advisor (2015) and a responding Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Mott MacDonald (2015b)

- 1.3.3 The results of this evaluation will be used to inform decisions regarding the need for and extent of any further archaeological work required in order to mitigate the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological record. In the event that archaeological mitigation is necessary, these recommendations will define the scope of the required archaeological work.

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

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation on land north of London Road, Stanway, Colchester, prior to the proposed development. It also assesses the archaeological potential of the site. The fieldwork was directed by Adam Dyson (Archaeologist) between the 26th May 2015 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and was managed by Adrian Scruby.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This section makes use of two Desk-based Assessments prepared for the site by Mott MacDonald (2014, 2015a).
- 2.2 Few known sites of archaeological interest are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the development area. However, of particular relevance to the current investigation is the discovery of a flint flake and flint scraper found during a recent archaeological evaluation at Tollgate North, just 30m to the north-east of the proposed development area.
- 2.3 A cropmark of a potential Bronze Age ring ditch has been identified within the Phase 1B area. This feature was visible on aerial photographs taken in 1974.
- 2.4 A map regression exercise undertaken as part of the Desk-based Assessment indicates that the proposed development area remained as agricultural and through the late post-medieval period and the 20th century. Recent ground investigation trial pits and a borehole indicate that some parts of the site have been stripped of topsoil and subsoil in the past, possibly relating to the use of the southern part of the site as a construction compound.

### **2.5 Previous work in the development area**

- 2.5.1 No previous work has been undertaken in the development area.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD**

#### **3.1 Project Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1 The main aim of the archaeological evaluation as set out in the CBC Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (2015) and the responding WSI were to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and characterise (nature, date, complexity and extent) any deposits that may be affected by the proposed scheme.

3.1.2 The specific objectives were to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- In addition to objectives identified by the CBC Brief, the evaluation will determine the presence or absence of the potential ring ditch in Area 1B and identify and characterise the remains.

3.1.3 Any significant discoveries were to be assessed in terms of their potential to contribute to regional research objectives as identified in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

3.1.4 While further work at the site may have the potential to contribute towards a number of regional research framework objectives, including those relating to Prehistoric funerary rites and practice and Medieval settlement patterns, due to the low density of revealed remains the results of the project have little potential to contribute to research framework objectives at this stage.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Method**

3.2.1 Twenty-two trenches measuring approximately 30m in length and 1.8m in width were excavated in regularly spaced locations across the site (Figure 2), with the exception of Trench 9, which was specifically positioned to target the plotted location of a cropmark ring ditch, potentially indicating the position of a plough-levelled prehistoric burial mound. The trenches were positioned in order to adequately evaluate the full extent of the site.

3.2.2 Initial mechanical excavation was carried out under close supervision using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation



was undertaken to varying depths depending on the deposits encountered (Section 4 and Appendix 1). Mechanical excavation removed the topsoil and the underlying subsoil to reveal the surface of an underlying geological deposit of silty clay which, after cleaning by hand, was inspected for archaeological features and finds.

- 3.2.3 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct, by-laws and guidelines (CIfA 2014a, 2014b) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 3.2.4 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and excavated. Obviously modern features and disturbances underwent minimal recording only.
- 3.2.5 The following excavation strategy was adopted for all potential archaeological features: 50% of all contained features and at least a 1m segment of all non-structural linear features was excavated using hand tools. Modern features were excavated as necessary and mechanically when appropriate, in order to confirm their date, their significance and their extent.
- 3.2.6 The trenches were accurately located using Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System (RTK-GPS) planning technology, which also enabled the recording of datum levels. An all-features trench plan was also produced using this method with accompanying hand drawn sections drawn at 1:10 scale. A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was created. This record also includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork.
- 3.2.7 All finds that were retrieved were identified by context number to a specific deposit, and have been properly processed according to ASE and CIfA guidelines (ASE 2011 and CIfA 2014c).
- 3.2.8 Environmental samples were taken from well stratified deposits that were deemed to have potential for preservation/survival of ecofactual material. Bulk soil samples (minimum 40L or 100% of context) were taken for wet sieving and flotation, and for finds recovery.

### **3.3 Archive**

- 3.3.1 Subject to the landowner's permission, Archaeology South-East will arrange with Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service for the deposition of the archive and artefact collection, currently held at the offices of ASE. The project archive will be deposited under the Accession Number COLEM : 2015.59.

3.3.2 The contents of the archive are tabulated below:

Number of contexts	78
No. of files/paper record	1 (inc. registers, 22 trench record sheets and context sheets and sample sheets where required)
Drawing sheets	3
Photographs	60 (colour digital)
Bulk finds	1 box (450mm x 240mm x 220mm)
Ecofactual remains	3 flots (24.5g)

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Summary**

- 4.1.1 Twenty-two trenches were excavated measuring approximately 30m in length and 1.8m in width. Mechanical excavation of the trenches reached depths that varied from approximately 0.5m to 1m. The existing ground surface consisted of pasture across the majority of the site, with an area of hard-standing present towards the south-east corner, in the approximate area of trenches 17, 18, 20 and 21 (Figure 2). Across the northern end of the site mechanical excavation removed an overburden comprising modern topsoil and an underlying subsoil. The majority of the southern trenches revealed relatively shallow modern layers of made-ground or compacted hard-core overlying the earlier subsoil.
- 4.1.2 The depth of the sediments varied across the site. The topsoil was measured between 0.2m and 0.43m thick and the subsoil between 0.16 and 0.3m thick. The topsoil is likely to represent a relatively recent plough soil. The subsoil was not securely dated by finds but is likely to represent slowly accumulating agricultural deposits/ intermixing of the top of the underlying natural geology and the overlying topsoil due to agricultural activities. In some areas the recorded subsoil was a convincing layer of accumulated silt, whereas in other areas it was more gravelly and represented an in-situ natural gravel partially reworked and disturbed. In Trenches 20 and 22, two medieval pits were tentatively recorded as being cut through the subsoil indicating that in at least two areas formation of this layer pre-dates 12th-14th century activity. Prehistoric features encountered elsewhere on the site were not identifiable until the subsoil was removed.
- 4.1.3 The modern layers revealed towards the south of the site represent 20th century activity and reached a maximum depth of approximately 0.74m in Trench 20. The majority of these deposits are likely to relate to the recent commercial developments in the area; the south-east corner of the site appears to have been used as a construction compound during works. Trenches 18, 20 and 21 contained seemingly redundant utility services that were probably associated with the compound.
- 4.1.4 The underlying geological deposit was revealed beneath the subsoil and generally comprised a light brownish orange, compact sand and gravel.
- 4.1.5 Archaeological features were encountered in trenches 9, 10, 15, 20, 21 and 22. The results from these six trenches will be presented below, with the results from the remaining trenches presented in Appendix 1. The archaeological remains comprise two linear features and five pits. Trench 9 revealed a prehistoric curvilinear ditch which appears to represent the western side of the ring ditch indicated by a cropmark. The adjacent Trench 10 also revealed prehistoric remains, comprising a small shallow pit containing decorated Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery. Trenches 20, 21 and 22 at the southern end of the site revealed medieval remains comprising a large deep pit in Trench 20, a shallow ditch in Trench 21 and an irregularly shaped pit, rich with finds, at the far south end of Trench 22. In addition, two shallow and undated pits were revealed in trenches 15 and 20.

4.1.6 Specialist analysis of the finds is presented in section 5. Environmental samples from three feature deposits were also recovered, the specialist analysis of which is presented in section 6.

#### 4.2 Trench 9 (Figure 3)

Heights at NE end of trench = 40.05m AOD (top) 39.55m AOD (base)  
Heights at SW end of trench = 39.94m AOD (top) 39.44m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Layer thickness / feature dimensions
[9/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid brown grey, moderately compact sandy silt	0.29 – 0.36m thick
[9/002]	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellow brown, compact sandy silt	0.2 – 0.25m thick
[9/003]	-	Natural – light brown orange, compact sand and gravel	-
[9/004]	Fill	Single fill of ditch segment [9/005]	1m seg. x 1.08 x 0.25
[9/005]	Cut	Segment through ditch	1m seg. x 1.08 x 0.25
[9/006]	Fill	Single fill of ditch segment [9/005]	1.1m seg. x 1.25 x 0.28
[9/007]	Cut	Segment through ditch (cut into natural)	1.1m seg. x 1.25 x 0.28

Table 2: Trench 9 recorded contexts

##### Summary of results

4.2.1 Trench 9 was located in the approximate centre of the site and was oriented south-west to north-east. It was targeted to investigate the circular cropmark suggestive of a Bronze Age ring ditch. It contained a 6.5 metre length of prehistoric curvilinear ditch at its south-west end but no features at the north-east end, including any evidence for the continuation of the ditch. The broad curve of the ditch was exposed further in a southerly extension to the trench.

4.2.2 The ditch was investigated by two hand excavated segments [9/005] and [9/007]; both of which revealed a shallow sided cut with a flatish base. Its single fill was a light yellow grey, compact sandy silt with occasional medium angular stones. It appears to have been formed through natural silting and is therefore likely to represent sediment deposited during the ditch's use. Segment [9/007], fill [9/006], contained three tiny ceramic fragments likely to be from a prehistoric pottery vessel, possibly of Middle to Late Iron Age date, although the evidence from these fragments is inconclusive (5.2). The ditch appears to represent the western side of the targeted ring ditch; however there was no evidence for the eastern side.

### 4.3 Trench 10 (Figure 4)

Heights at NW end of trench = 40.05m AOD (top) 39.04m AOD (base)  
Heights at SE end of trench = 39.88m AOD (top) 39.30m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Layer thickness / feature dimensions (m)
[10/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid brown, loose sandy silt	0.28 – 0.35m thick
[10/002]	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellow brown, compact gravelly silt	0.25 – 0.28m thick
[10/003]	-	Natural – light grey and orange, compact sand and gravel	-
[10/004]	Fill	Single fill of pit [10/005]	1.12 x 0.52+ x 0.25
[10/005]	Cut	Pit	1.12 x 0.52+ x 0.25

Table 3: Trench 10 recorded contexts

#### Summary of results

4.3.1 Trench 10 was located to the immediate west of Trench 9 and was oriented north-west to south-east. It revealed a single Late Neolithic/Early Iron Age pit.

4.3.2 Pit [10/005] was located at the north-west end of the trench, circular in plan, but only partially exposed. It was shallow but with moderately steep sides and had a flat base. Its single fill was a dark orange brown, compact sandy silt with occasional small stones towards the base. [10/004] contained several substantial fragments of prehistoric pottery, some decorated, either from a single vessel or from two vessels of very similar fabric and surface finish. The fabric and decoration are fairly certainly of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age type, although it is unclear whether they belong to the wholly Late Neolithic Grooved Ware tradition (c.2900-2100BC) or to the chronologically overlapping Beaker style (c.2500-1700BC); the sherds are all heavily abraded (5.2). They were scattered throughout the pit at varying depths, suggesting the vessel(s) were substantially fragmented prior to deposition.

### 4.4 Trench 15 (Figure 5)

Heights at NE end of trench = 40.04m AOD (top) 39.53m AOD (base)  
Heights at SW end of trench = 39.95m AOD (top) 39.29m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Layer thickness / feature dimensions (m)
[15/001]	Layer	Modern hard-standing – compact layer of mixed building rubble (present for c. 3m at west end of trench only)	0.29 – 0.32m thick
[15/002]	Layer	Subsoil – mid brown grey, loose sandy silt	0.25
[15/003]	-	Natural – light brown orange, compact sand and gravel	-
[15/004]	Fill	Single fill of pit [15/005]	0.7 x 0.5 x 0.12
[15/005]	Cut	Pit	0.7 x 0.5 x 0.12

Table 4: Trench 15 recorded contexts

Summary of results

- 4.4.1 Trench 15 was located on the south side of the site and was oriented south-west to north-east. It revealed a single undated pit.
- 4.4.2 Pit [15/005] was circular in plan. It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its single fill was a mid-light brown grey, compact sandy silt. It did not contain any finds and therefore cannot be reliably dated and its function is unknown.

**4.5 Trench 20 (Figure 6)**

Heights at NW end of trench = 40.03m AOD (top) 39.33m AOD (base)  
Heights at SE end of trench = 39.98m AOD (top) 39.25m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Layer thickness / feature dimensions (m)
[20/001]	Layer	Modern hard-standing – compact layer of mixed building rubble	0.22 – 0.36m thick
[20/002]	Layer	Modern made-ground – dark grey, very compact sandy silt with frequent charcoal and CBM flecks and frequent pea gravel	0.26 – 0.38m thick
[20/003]	Layer	Subsoil/occupation layer – moderately loose mid brown silty sand with occasional pea gravel and charcoal flecks	0.16 – 0.26m thick
[20/004]	-	Natural – Light brown orange, compact sand and gravel	-
[20/005]	Fill	Single fill of pit [20/006]	2.05+ x 1.7 x 0.9+m
[20/006]	Cut	Pit (seemingly cut through subsoil)	2.05+ x 1.7 x 0.9+m
[20/007]	Fill	Single fill of pit [20/008]	0.6 x 0.54 x 0.19m
[20/008]	Cut	Pit (relationship to subsoil uncertain)	0.6 x 0.54 x 0.19m

Table 5: Trench 20 recorded contexts

Summary of results

- 4.5.1 Trench 20 was located in the south-east corner of the site and was oriented north-west to south-east. It revealed a large deep medieval pit and a small shallow undated pit or post-hole.
- 4.5.2 Pit [20/006] was located at the centre of the trench; it appears circular in plan but was only partially exposed. It had steep sides but the base was not revealed due to restrictions regarding excavation depth. The single fill was a mid brown-grey, loose sandy silt with frequent small rounded stones. It contained medieval pottery (5.3), medieval roof tile (5.4), an iron pintle or L-shaped bracket (5.6), and a cattle metacarpal (5.8). The recovered artefacts represent items of domestic waste, suggesting the feature was used as a refuse pit, although the depth and steepness of the cut may suggest the pit originally had a different function. A 12th-14th century date range is suggested by the finds from the backfill, while the feature appeared to have been cut through subsoil layer [20/003], indicating subsoil in this area was formed prior to the medieval period.
- 4.5.3 Pit or possible post-hole [20/008] was located towards the south-east end of

the trench. It was oval in plan, had steep sides and a flat base. It was not clearly identified until after the removal of the subsoil, however given that nearby feature [22/006] was recoded as post-dating the subsoil, the same relationship is possible for [2/008]. Its single fill was a mid yellow-brown, compact sandy silt with frequent medium and large rounded stones. It did not contain any finds so cannot be reliably dated. Its possible function as a post-hole is suggested by its steep sides and flat base, however as no other associated post-holes were revealed, this function cannot be confirmed.

#### 4.6 Trench 21 (Figure 7)

Heights at NE end of trench = 40.07m AOD (top) 39.37m AOD (base)  
 Heights at SW end of trench = 40.09m AOD (top) 39.46m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Layer thickness / feature dimensions (m)
[21/001]	Layer	Modern hard-standing – light brown grey mix of concrete and CBM rubble	0.26 – 0.3m thick
[21/002]	Layer	Modern made-ground – dark brown grey, very compact clay silt with frequent CBM flecks	0.12 – 0.16m thick
[21/003]	Layer	Subsoil – mid orange brown, moderately compact clay silt with occasional gravel	0.18 – 0.28m thick
[21/004]	-	Natural – light brown orange, compact silty sand and gravel	-
[21/005]	Fill	Single fill of ditch segment [21/006]	1.8+ x 1.4 x 0.24
[21/006]	Cut	Ditch segment	1.8+ x 1.4 x 0.24

Table 6: Trench 21 recorded contexts

#### Summary of results

4.6.1 Trench 21 was located towards the south-east corner of the site and was oriented north-east to south-west. It revealed a single ditch likely to be medieval in date.

4.6.2 Ditch [21/007] was located at roughly the centre of the trench, linear in plan and oriented roughly north to south. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its single fill was a mid orange-brown, moderately compact clay silt, with frequent small angular and rounded stones. The fill appears to have been formed through natural silting and is therefore likely to represent sediment deposited during the ditch's use. It contained medieval pottery datable to around the later 12th to 14th centuries (5.3) and small fragment of residual Roman tile (5.4). It was not revealed in any other trenches however its orientation, broadly aligned with the extant field system suggests it may represent an historic field boundary.

#### 4.7 Trench 22 (Figure 8)

Heights at NW end of trench = 39.86m AOD (top) 39.18m AOD (base)  
Heights at SE end of trench = 40.21m AOD (top) 39.29m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Layer thickness / feature dimensions (m)
[22/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid brown grey brown, moderately loose sandy silt (current ground surface at south-east end of trench)	0.1 – 0.3m thick
[22/002]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid grey brown, moderately compact sandy silt (current ground surface at north-west end of trench – overlain by [22/001] at trench centre)	c.0.3m thick
[22/003]	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellow brown, compact clay silt	0.3-0.38m thick
[22/004]	Layer	Modern made ground – light grey and orange, compact gravel and mixed building rubble (present at south-east end only)	0.28-0.32m thick
[22/005]	Fill	Upper fill of pit [22/007]	1.65+ x 1.42+ x 0.28m
[22/006]	Fill	Lower fill of pit [22/007]	2.1+ x 1.8+ x 0.46m
[22/007]	Cut	Pit	2.1+ x 1.8+ x 0.66m
[22/008]	-	Natural – light yellow brown, compact sandy silt and gravel	-

Table 7: Trench 22 recorded contexts

##### Summary of results

- 4.7.1 Trench 22 was located in the south-west corner of the site and oriented north-west to south-east. It revealed layers of modern made ground creating an area of higher ground at the south-east end of the trench, and a single medieval pit.
- 4.7.2 For approximately 15m from the south-east end of the trench, the original topsoil, [22/002] appears to have been removed and replaced with a compact layer of made ground, [22/004]. New topsoil, [22/001] has then formed above this made ground. Subsoil is present immediately above the natural geological deposit along the entire trench.
- 4.7.3 Pit [22/007] was located at the far south-east end of the trench. Its overall shape cannot be determined as it was only partially exposed; however it had irregular sides and an irregular/flattish base. The lower fill, [22/006], was present only in the southern-most corner of the trench and was a dark blackish grey, compact clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks. It contained various finds including pottery (5.3), fired clay (5.5), Iron fragments (5.6), shell (5.7) and animal bone (5.8). The pottery suggests the material was deposited between the 14th-16th centuries. The upper fill was a mid grey-brown, compact clay silt and contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the 13th-15th centuries (5.3).
- 4.7.4 A bulk environmental sample taken from the charcoal-rich lower fill [22/006] contained over 250 caryopses of barley and wheat, as well as legumes including broad beans. Wild plant remains included smaller legumes, dead-nettle and grasses including oat. The absence of awns and floret bases



meant that it was not possible to tell if the oat grains were of the cultivated species.

- 4.7.5 The pit was recorded as cutting the subsoil, again suggesting the subsoil in this area predates an approximate 14<sup>th</sup> century date. Despite only a small area of the pit being revealed, the finds and roadside location would suggest it represents either a domestic refuse pit or a roadside quarry pit subsequently backfilled with domestic waste.

## 5.0 FINDS ANALYSIS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. Table 8 shows an overview of the assemblage. All were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. Finds were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c). None require further conservation.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	F.Clay	Wt (g)
11/001									1	4				
9/006	3	2												
10/004	29	146							1	<2				
22/006	34	582	3	106	24	302	19	130			6	132	1	2
21/005	1	15	3	124										
22/005	1	24	8	148	8	56								
20/005	1	10	10	986	1	44					1	60	1	761
Total	69	782	24	1364	33	402	19	130	2	4	7	192	2	763

Table 8 Quantification of bulk finds

### 5.2 Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 Context [10/004], the single fill of pit [10/005], produced twenty-nine sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 146g. All are bodysherds, either from a single vessel or from two vessels of very similar fabric and surface finish. The fabric and decoration are fairly certainly of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age type, although it is unclear whether they belong to the wholly Late Neolithic Grooved Ware tradition (c.2900-2100BC) or to the chronologically overlapping Beaker style (c.2500-1700BC). The fabric comprises a very silty background matrix with sparse larger quartz grains up to 0.5mm and sparse to moderate grog, mostly of 1-2mm with some examples up to 3mm. The sherds are of medium wall-thickness (c.8mm) and most have linear decoration which appears to be largely horizontal in orientation; there is also one area of similar diagonally-aligned marks. The decoration is probably impressed rather than incised but, because the sherds are all heavily abraded, it is difficult to determine whether this represents comb-stabbing or all-over-cord decoration. Five sherds, which may or may not be from a separate vessel, have what appear to be bird-bone impressions alongside the linear impressed decoration; however, again, the levels of abrasion mean that it is difficult to identify the impressions conclusively. Bird bone is actually fairly atypical of both Beaker and Grooved Ware and is more readily associated with Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware; however this ceramic tradition is never associated with grog-tempered vessels so a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date still seems likely.

5.2.2 In addition, three tiny ceramic fragments, probably from one object, were noted in context [9/006], the single fill of ditch segment [9/007]. In total, these weigh 2 grams and no original surfaces are present. This makes it difficult to determine conclusively whether they are part of a pottery vessel. However the very fine, evenly unoxidised matrix, containing common quartz of silt-sized to 0.1mm, would be more in keeping with a pottery fabric than with other types of ceramic. If it does represent pottery, it would probably be more likely of Middle to Late Iron Age date because pottery from earlier periods tends to contain coarse tempering agents. However, it should be stressed that the dating evidence provided by these fragments is inconclusive.

### **5.3 Medieval and Later Pottery by Helen Walker**

5.3.1 A total of thirty-seven sherds weighing 634g was excavated from four contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16). Detailed description of the assemblage is given in Appendix 2. Pottery was recovered from trenches 20, 21 and 22. That from trenches 20 and 21 comprises single sherds of medieval coarseware, a sagging base from pit [20/006], fill [20/005] and a body sherd from ditch [21/006], [fill 21/006]. These are not closely datable and span the later 12th to 14th centuries.

5.3.2 Rather more pottery was recovered from Trench 22, but all from a single feature, pit [22/007], with most of the pottery coming from fill [22/006]. Medieval coarseware is again present and includes a large fragment of sagging base; the shape of its profile suggesting it may come from a bowl rather than a cooking-pot. The vessel is semi-wheel-thrown suggesting a mid-13th to 14th century date. However, the remaining pottery is late medieval, spanning the 14th to 16th centuries. Two sherds of German stoneware are present, the first is a small, plain, off-white sherd of Siegburg stoneware and the second consists of a frilled jug base showing a matt purplish glaze, this is almost certainly Langerwehe stoneware, although the possibility that it is of the later Raeren stoneware cannot be precluded. Both sherds probably date to between the second half of the 14th to the 15th century.

5.3.3 The remaining pottery comprises sandy orange ware and most of this can be identified as Colchester-type ware, a type of sandy orange ware made in and around Colchester from the 13th to 16th centuries. There are a number of diagnostic sherds in this ware. These include a flat, thick-walled, unglazed base of narrow diameter, showing pronounced throwing lines, which may be from a bottle and dates to the later 14th to early 15th century (Cotter 2000, 154). A carinated body sherd shows an external slip-coating under a mottled-green glaze and incised dashed lines around the carination. Although a hollow ware, the shape of this sherd suggests it is not from a jug, which in itself indicates a late medieval date of perhaps 14th to early 15th century. Also showing slip decoration are joining sherds from the base and sides of a dish or bowl, showing either slip-painting or a patchy slip-coating on the inside surface, covered by a plain lead glaze. Similar vessels have been found at Colchester and are dated to the 14th and early 15th centuries (Cotter 2000, 146, fig.95). The external surfaces of this vessel exhibit patches of fire-blackening showing that it has been used for cooking/heating in spite of the fact that it is decorated; this is found to be the case on slip-decorated

bowls from Colchester (Cotter 2000, 146).

- 5.3.4 There are a couple of examples of Colchester-type ware which may be later, one is a small unglazed sherd showing a reduced external surface and a slip-painted stripe, which is datable to the 15th to mid-16th century and there are some large thick-walled sherds that may be from cisterns and have a similar date. All the remaining undiagnostic sandy orange ware/Colchester-type ware either spans the entire period of production of sandy orange ware - the 13th to 16th centuries - or can be assigned a general late medieval date.
- 5.3.5 A second fill in this feature, [22/005], produced a single sherd of sandy orange ware; it could be an example of Colchester -type ware although the fabric is rather too fine. The sherd is from a large vessel, perhaps a large jug and shows a thin partial plain lead glaze. It is medieval or late medieval in date, spanning the 13th to 15th centuries.
- 5.3.6 Nearly all the pottery in pit [22/007] could have been current during the later 14th to earlier 15th centuries, with early to mid-15th century being the most likely date as this is when importation of Langerwehe stoneware reached its peak. Only the medieval coarseware vessel is earlier, but could still have been current at the end of the 14th century. The pottery represents a mixture of uses, for example the slipped bowl is a kitchen ware and the German stoneware fragments are from small jugs or other drinking vessels. Langerwehe and Siegburg stonewares are much less common than the later, ubiquitous, Raeren and Frechen stonewares and may reflect Stanway's proximity to the port of Colchester and access to overseas trade. Otherwise the pottery supply is very local to the site.
- 5.3.7 This evaluation has revealed limited evidence for medieval activity in trenches 20 and 21 and good evidence for late medieval occupation in Trench 22. Further excavation may reveal more about its nature, extent and date range.

#### **5.4 Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford**

- 5.4.1 Twenty-four ceramic building material (CBM) fragments were recovered from four contexts, weighing a total of 1364g. The assemblage was briefly assessed for form and fabric using a x10 magnification hand lens. None has been discarded at this stage. The assemblage consists predominantly of roofing tile in fairly coarse fabrics tempered with medium to coarse grey quartz. Most of the tile is undiagnostic of form however pit fills [20/005] (pit [22/006], and [22/006] (pit [22/007], each contained a fragment with a partial peg hole; fill [20/005] also contained a sooted fragment of flanged roof tile. This is an early type in use during the 12th to 13th centuries, with a similar form to a Roman tegulae and used in the same manner with curved tiles capping the flanges. A small fragment of combed Roman tile was also recovered, residual in context [21/005], the single fill of ditch [21/006]. The assemblage as a whole is of medieval date; none of the roof tile post-dates the 16th century. The assemblage is recommended for retention pending further excavation.

**5.5 Fired Clay** by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 A single fragment from a domed circular object weighing 761g was recovered from pit [20/006], fill [20/005]. The original diameter of the object would have been fairly substantial, approximately 200mm and it measures 65mm thick. The fabric is fine with few inclusions and very well fired, possibly indicating repeated firing. The exact nature of the object is unclear due to its incompleteness. Small undiagnostic pieces of fired clay were also recovered from pit [22/007], fill [22/006], these were both hand collected and collected from bulk soil sample <2> (total 4/5g).

**5.6 Bulk Ironwork** by Trista Clifford

5.6.1 Eight iron objects were recovered from two separate contexts. The ironwork is in poor condition with thick corrosion product and adherent soil. The most diagnostic is a probable pintle or L shaped bracket from pit [20/006], fill [20/005], measuring 70mm. Pit [22/007], fill [22/006], contained a square sectioned rod fragment and two probable nails and undiagnostic plate fragments together with a horse shoe nail of medieval date.

**5.7 Shell** by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 A total of twenty-five *Ostrea edulis* (edible oyster) umbones and fragments weighing 152g were hand collected and recovered from environmental sample <2>, lower fill [22/006] in pit [22/007]. The assemblage represents a minimum number of 13 individuals. Five umbones show evidence of polychaete worm infestation; two are misshapen and they are all small in size. In addition to *Ostrea edulis*, sample <2> also contained very small fragments of *Mytilus edulis* (common or blue mussel) shell.

**5.8 Animal bone** by Hayley Forsyth

5.8.1 A small assemblage containing 140 fragments of mammal, fish and bird bone weighing 452g was recovered from three contexts; [20/005] (pit [20/006]), [22/005] (pit [22/007]) and [22/006] (pit [22/007]) during the evaluation. The bone fragments were hand-collected and retrieved from bulk-samples and are in good condition with minimal signs of surface erosion. The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with the zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Wherever possible the fragments have been identified to species and skeletal element represented. Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size and identified as large, medium or small mammal. Tooth eruption and wear has been estimated using Grant (1982), no metrical data (von den Driesch 1976) was observable within the assemblage. The state of fusion has been noted and each fragment has then been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology.

5.8.2 From the total, eighty-seven fragments have been identified to taxa (Table 9) and include cattle, sheep/goat, dog, chicken, herring, ling, smelt, whiting, flatfish possibly plaice and small fish, possibly smelt. Large, medium and small mammal bones as well as unidentifiable bird and fish bones were

represented in high quantities due to the level of fragmentation within the assemblage.

Taxa	NISP
Cattle	7
Sheep/goat	1
Dog	1
Large mammal	16
Medium mammal	13
Small mammal	4
Chicken	5
Unidentified bird	14
Herring	2
Ling	1
Smelt	1
Whiting	1
Flat fish (possibly Plaice)	1
Small fish (possibly Smelt)	2
Unidentified fish	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>

Table 9: Animal bone NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) count

- 5.8.3 Both meat and non-meat bearing bones are represented within the assemblage for fish, mammals and birds.
- 5.8.4 A total of twenty-six fragments of fish bone were retrieved from the 50g of bulk-sampled bone collected from fill [22/006] <2> (pit 22/007)). The majority of the fish remains consisted of fragmented spines. Identification of the species present was conducted using near complete vertebrae.
- 5.8.5 The fish bone consists of common species expected from the area dominating the whole assemblage. The assemblage includes vertebra from herring, ling, smelt and whiting from context [22/006] <2> (pit [22/007]), as well as a fragmented 1st vertebra from a flatfish, possibly plaice also from context [22/006]. There are no main cranial elements within the assemblage although two pre-maxilla fragments have been recovered from a small fish, possibly smelt, also from bulk sample <2> (context [22/006]).
- 5.8.6 Bird bones are present within the assemblage in slightly smaller quantities than those of the fish. A small amount of indeterminate bird bones were recovered from bulk sample <2> (fill [22/006] in pit [22/007]) and include fragments of long bones, phalanges, vertebrae and a cranium. Four fragments from tarsometatarsii were also retrieved from context [22/006] <2> and were identified as male chicken due to the presence of 'cock-spurs'. A single fragment of chicken femur was also recovered from this context.
- 5.8.7 Mammals are represented by fragments of cattle mandible and adult dentition from context [22/006] (pit [22/007]), as well as a metacarpal fragment from

context [20/005] (pit [20/006]). A single sheep/goat mandibular incisor was recovered from bulk sample [22/006] <2> and a single adult dog ulna was retrieved from context [22/006]. Large, medium and small mammals are represented by fragments of long bones, ribs, and skull fragments from pit [22/007] in contexts [22/005], [22/006] and bulk sample <2> ([22/006]). The taxon present suggests that the bone assemblage derives from domestic waste and refuse.

5.8.8 Age-at-death data using bone fusion rates was limited; although from the bones present only adults are present within the assemblage. A small amount of burnt bone weighing 7g was recovered from context [22/006] <2> (pit [22/007]) and consisted of charred and calcined unidentifiable fragments, as well as a charred fish spine and bird vertebrae. One ageable cattle mandible was present (fill [22/006] in pit [22/007]) which produced an estimated tooth-wear stage of 40. No metrical data was recorded and no pathology, butchery or gnawing was observable.

5.8.9 Due to the size of the assemblage, it holds no potential for further analysis.

---

**6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS** by Angela Vitolo

- 6.1 During evaluation work at the site, three 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. Sampled features included a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit, a seemingly Iron Age ditch and a medieval pit.
- 6.2 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 8, 4 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 volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom 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).
- 6.3 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of sample <2> were also assessed. Each fragment was fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 3, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).
- 6.4 Samples <1> and <3>, both from prehistoric features, were dominated by uncharred vegetation, such as rootlets and seeds of goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.). They were not very rich in charred plant remains. Sample <1> ([10/004] from pit [10/005]) contained a few badly preserved caryopses of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and seeds of ivy leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*); whilst sample <3> ([9/006] from ditch segment [9/007]) contained a single hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell, recovered from the heavy residue.
- 6.5 The medieval sample, <2> ([22/006] from pit [22/007]), was much richer, containing over 250 caryopses of barley and wheat (*Triticum* sp.), as well as legumes, including broad beans (*Vicia faba*). Wild plant remains included smaller legumes (Fabaceae family), dead-nettle family (Lamiaceae) and grasses (Poaceae), including oat (*Avena* sp.). The absence of awns and floret bases meant that it was not possible to tell if these oat grains were of the cultivated species (*Avena sativa*). This sample, although dominated by cereal grains and rich in charcoal, also contained a certain amount of rootlets and uncharred seeds of bramble (*Rubus* sp.), which suggest low level



disturbance and the possibility for infiltration of more recent contaminants into the deposit through root action. Large charcoal fragments, present in high amount in the heavy residue of this sample, were also assessed. Identified taxa included: oak (*Quercus* sp.), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.) and gorse/broom (Leguminosae). These taxa suggest that a variety of vegetation, from woodland to hedgerows and shrubs, existed at the site or in the vicinity and was exploited for fuel procurement.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

7.1.1 The areas of modern hard-standing in the southern part of the site, extending back from the London Road frontage, reflect the most recent use of the site as a construction site compound area, with agricultural land/ rough grassland retain beyond that, to the north.

7.1.2 An underlying subsoil was present in all of the trenches. However, as it varied in consistency and composition, the subsoil recorded in the various trenches may date from more than one period. Two medieval pits, [20/006] and [22/007], were recorded as cutting the subsoil, suggesting that formation of the subsoil in trenches 20 and 22 predates the medieval period. All other remains were recorded as being sealed by the subsoil and were only seen at the level of natural geology.

### **7.2 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

7.2.1 The earliest recorded remains comprise the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit [10/005] at the north-west end of Trench 10. The pit is the only feature securely dated to this period but it does exist within an area of prehistoric activity, as shown by the less securely dated curvilinear ditch [9/005]/[9/007] revealed in adjacent Trench 9. Although its eastern side was not revealed, the curve detected in this ditch suggests that it represents the ring ditch predicted from cropmark evidence. Although the tiny pottery fragments recovered from the ditch suggest an Iron Age date, the dating evidence is inconclusive and it is possible that the ditch is also Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date, with the Iron Age pottery indicating latter activity focussed on or around the earlier monument. The two features together could be taken to suggest an area of possible funerary activity during the late prehistoric period.

7.2.2 The only other period of land use which predates modern activity is represented by the remains revealed in trenches 20, 21 and 22 at the south end of the site. These comprise a large possible quarry pit, a smaller pitch, a ditch and a posthole and collectively indicative of some form of activity alongside London Road during the medieval period. The fairly broad date range provided by the pottery from these features, spans the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century in Trench 20 and the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century and they may be settlement related, possibly associated with a plot fronting on to London Road. Alternatively they may include roadside quarry pits in which domestic rubbish had been dumped.

### **7.3 Conclusions**

7.3.1 The evaluation has achieved its primary aim of determining the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the development area, revealing a low density scatter of archaeological remains of local significance which, with the exception of the undated pit in Trench 15, are concentrated in two parts of the site. Prehistoric remains survive in the central part, in the area of trenches 9 and 10, comprising the seemingly incomplete remains of a

ring ditch and a pit, while medieval remains are present at the southern end of the site, in trenches 20, 21 and 22, and are indicative of activity alongside London Road.

- 7.3.2 Dependent upon the nature and depth of any works proposed it is judged that development in these areas would potentially impact on the underlying heritage resource.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Mott MacDonald (Maurice Hopper, Josephine Janik and Alec Newson) and the land owner, The Churchmanor Estates Company plc (John Harvey) for commissioning the work and Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor, for guidance and monitoring the project on behalf of the local planning authority. The evaluation was directed by Adam Dyson, assisted during the fieldwork by Samara King and Marek Kamysz. Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldwork and Jim Stevenson project managed the post-excavation process.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ASE. 2011, *Post Excavation Manual I: Finds and environmental collection, deposition and processing guidelines. Version 2*
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper. 8
- Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker, R.M. and Jans, J.E.A. 2006. *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*. Groningen Archaeological Series 4. Netherlands: Barkhuis.
- CBC. 2015. *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Stane Park, Colchester*. Colchester Borough Council
- CIfA. 2014a, *Code of Conduct (revised)*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CIfA. 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (revised)*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CIfA. 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Cotter, J. 2000. The post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85, Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 7
- Cunningham, C. M. 1985. 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, C. M. and Drury, P. J., *Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford*, Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 5, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 54, 1-16
- DCLG. 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*. HMSO
- Gale, R. & Cutler, D. 2000. *Plants in Archaeology*. Otley/London: Westbury/Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- Gurney, D. 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14
- Hather, J. G. 2000. *The Identification of the Northern European Woods: A Guide for archaeologists and conservators*. London: Archetype Publications Ltd.
- Jacomet, S. 2006. Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. *Archaeobotany laboratory, IPAS, Basel University*, Unpublished manuscript.
- Medlycott, M. (ed). 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24
- Mott MacDonald. 2015a. *Stane Park, Stanway, Colchester: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Phase 1B*. Mott Macdonald unpublished report

Mott MacDonald. 2015b. *Stane Park Phase 1A and 1B: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*. Mott Macdonald unpublished report

NIAB 2004. *Seed Identification Handbook: Agriculture, Horticulture and Weeds*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. NIAB, Cambridge.

Schoch, W., Heller, I., Schweingruber, F. H., & Kienast, F. 2004. *Wood anatomy of central European Species*. Online version: [www.woodanatomy.ch](http://www.woodanatomy.ch)

Schweingruber, F.H. 1990. *Microscopic Wood Anatomy*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Birmensdorf: Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: University Press.

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches**

Trench	Heights (m AOD)	Context	Type	Description	Thickness (m)
1	<b>NW end:</b> 40.13 (top) 39.49 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 40.15 (top) 39.46 (base)	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3 – 0.4
		1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.18 – 0.3
		1/003	-	Natural	-
2	<b>NW end:</b> 40.14 (top) 39.49 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 40.12 (top) 39.65 (base)	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3 – 0.43
		2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16 – 0.24
		2/003	-	Natural	-
3	<b>NE end:</b> 40.21 (top) 39.48 (base) <b>SW end:</b> 40.17 (top) 39.59 (base)	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.2 – 0.35
		3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2 – 0.31
		3/003	-	Natural	-
4	<b>NW end:</b> 40.13 (top) 39.54 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 40.16 (top) 39.56 (base)	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.32
		4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2 – 0.3
		4/003	-	Natural	-
5	<b>NE end:</b> 40.20 (top) 39.56 (base) <b>SW end:</b> 40.13 (top) 39.55 (base)	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32 – 0.37
		5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2 – 0.33
		5/003	-	Natural	-

Trench	Heights (m AOD)	Context	Type	Description	Thickness (m)
6	<b>NW end:</b> 40.19 (top) 39.58 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 40.27 (top) 39.66 (base)	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26 – 0.33
		6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2 – 0.23
		6/003	-	Natural	-
7	<b>NW end:</b> 40.20 (top) 39.60 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 40.13 (top) 39.48 (base)	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28 – 0.3
		7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.28 – 0.3
		7/003	-	Natural	-
8	<b>NE end:</b> 40.29 (top) 39.65 (base) <b>SW end:</b> 40.22 (top) 39.57 (base)	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32 – 0.4
		8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.32 – 0.35
		8/003	-	Natural	-
11	<b>NW end:</b> 40.23 (top) 39.66 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 40.13 (top) 39.59 (base)	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3 – 0.32
		11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2 – 0.24
		11/003	-	Natural	-
12	<b>NE end:</b> 40.34 (top) 39.59 (base) <b>SW end:</b> 40.02 (top) 39.47 (base)	12/001	Layer	Modern hard-standing (present at SW end only)	0.16
		12/002	Layer	Topsoil	0.22 – 0.37
		12/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.17 – 0.24
		12/004	-	Natural	-

Trench	Heights (m AOD)	Context	Type	Description	Thickness (m)
13	<b>NW end:</b> 39.99 (top) 39.50 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 39.98 (top) 39.41 (base)	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3 – 0.35
		13/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.25 – 0.3
		13/003	-	Natural	-
14	<b>NW end:</b> 40.05 (top) 39.58 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 40.12 (top) 39.44 (base)	14/001	Layer	Modern hard-standing	0.15 – 0.17
		14/002	Layer	Topsoil	0.1 – 0.16
		14/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.24 – 0.38
		14/004	-	Natural	-
16	<b>NW end:</b> 39.91 (top) 39.36 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 39.95 (top) 39.33 (base)	16/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3
		16/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.22 – 0.3
		16/003	-	Natural	-
17	<b>NE end:</b> 40.11 (top) 39.55 (base) <b>SW end:</b> 40.05 (top) 39.50 (base)	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.17 – 0.3
		17/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2 – 0.3
		17/003	-	Natural	-
18	<b>NW end:</b> 39.94 (top) 39.33 (base) <b>SE end:</b> 40.10 (top) 39.40 (base)	18/001	Layer	Modern made ground with hard-standing at SE end	0.3 – 0.42
		18/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16 – 0.24
		18/003	-	Natural	-



Trench	Heights (m AOD)	Context	Type	Description	Thickness (m)
19	<b>NE end:</b> 39.94 (top) 39.27 (base) <b>SW end:</b> 39.96 (top) 39.39 (base)	19/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23 – 0.28
		19/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.32 – 0.36
		19/003	-	Natural	-
		19/004	Layer	Modern hard-standing (present for c.4m at NE end only)	0.28

**Appendix 2: Medieval and later pottery quantification**

Context	Feature	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Pottery – ware and featured sherds	Date
20/005	20/006	1	11	Medieval coarseware: sagging base sherd	Later 12th to 14th C
21/005	21/006	1	16	Medieval coarseware: body sherd	Later 12th to 14th C
22/005	22/007	1	25	Sandy orange ware: could be an example of Colchester-type ware, although fabric is not typical: body sherd from large vessel, perhaps a large jug, showing two incised horizontal grooves and a thin, partial plain lead glaze, also with splashes of glaze, medieval or late medieval	13th to 15th C
22/006	22/007	1	44	Langerwehe stoneware; frilled base ?from jug, showing patch of purplish matt glaze	c.1360 to mid-15th C
		1	3	Siegburg stoneware: body sherd from soil sample <2>	Mid- 14th to 15th C
		5	134	Medieval coarseware: sagging base and body sherds ?from same vessel, perhaps a bowl rather than a cooking-pot ; pale grey-buff fabric with orange core, knife-trimmed, some body sherds are rilled, semi-wheel-thrown, abraded, pitting on underside	13th to 14th C
		2	15	Medieval coarseware: body sherds with pale grey-buff fabric from soil-sample <2>, at least one sherd is from the same vessel as above	13th to 14th C
		1	39	Colchester-type ware: thick-walled flat base of fairly narrow diameter, unglazed, may be from a bottle, internal throwing lines	Later 14th to early 15th C
		1	16	Colchester-type ware: thick-walled body sherd showing carination, external slip-coating under a mottled-green glaze, incised oblique dashes around carination	?14th to 15th C
		7	67	Colchester-type ware: joining sherds from base and sides of a dish or a bowl, showing a patchy internal white slip-coating, or slip-painting under a plain lead glaze, abraded, some external fire-blackening	14th to early 15th C
		3	165	Colchester-type ware: thick-walled slightly sagging base sherds from large vessels, perhaps bowls or cisterns, one sherd shows an internal glaze	15th to mid-16th C
		3	73	Colchester-type ware: sagging base sherds from smaller vessel(s) showing patchy internal glaze, on one sherd the glaze has decomposed to a powdery yellow and may show traces of slip, sherds are fire-blackened externally, suggesting they may come from a jar form	14th to 15th C

	1	4	Colchester ware: unglazed body sherd showing reduced external surface and slip-painted stripe	15th to mid-16th C
	1	7	Sandy orange ware: unfeatured, unglazed abraded sherd	13th to 16th C
	3	8	Sandy orange ware: small thin-walled unglazed sherds, possibly sandy Mill Green ware, late medieval	14th to 16th C
	5	7	Sandy orange ware: misc. sherds from soil-sample <2>, two showing external plain lead glaze	13th to 16th C
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>634</b>		

**Appendix 3: Residue quantification** (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams. Charcoal ID key: rw = round wood, indet. = indeterminate/unidentifiable

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal ID	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	10/004	40	40	**	<2	**	<2																		Slag? */4 - Magnetised Material ***/4	
2	22/006	40	40	***	16	***	2	<i>Quercus</i> sp(4), <i>Ulmus</i> sp. (2), <i>Prunus</i> sp.(1), Leguminosae (1+1RW), Indet. Distorted (1)	**	<2		**	38	*	2	*	<2	*	<2	**	<2	**	28	*	<2	FCF */4 - Pot */22 - F.Clay */2 - CBM */4 - Fe */10 - Magnetised Material ***/4
3	9/006	40	40	*	<2	*	<2		*	2															Flint */18 - Magnetised Material ***/2	

**Appendix 4: Flot quantification** (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Date	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds identified	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation
1	10/004	Pit	?late Neo/EBA	5	50	50	60	10	**	*	**	***	*	<i>Hordeum</i> sp.,	+	*	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	++			
2	22/006	Pit	?med	17	70	70	20	20	*	*	***	***	****	<i>Hordeum</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Vicia faba</i>	+ / ++ / +++	**	<i>Avena</i> sp., Poaceae, Lamiaceae, large Fabaceae	++			
3	9/006	Ditch	?late Neo/EBA	3	35	35	70	10	**			**						*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (1)	++	

**Appendix 5: HER summary form**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> <i>Stane Park (phases 1a and 1b), Stanway, Essex</i>	
<b>Parish:</b> <i>Stanway</i>	<b>District:</b> <i>Colchester</i>
<b>NGR:</b> <i>TL 94569 24709</i>	<b>Site Code:</b> <i>EVT 4234</i>
<b>Type of Work:</b> <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> <i>Adam Dyson, Archaeology South-East</i>
<b>Date of Work:</b> <i>26th May - 3rd June 2015</i>	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> <i>2.37ha</i>
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> <i>Colchester &amp; Ipswich Museums Service</i>	<b>Funding source:</b> <i>Landowner/developer</i>
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> <i>Yes</i>	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> <i>EH17</i>
<b>Final Report:</b> <i>EAH roundup</i>	<b>OASIS No:</b> <i>215756</i>
<b>Periods Represented:</b> <i>Prehistoric, Medieval</i>	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p><i>In May 2015, Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Stane Park (Phase 1a &amp; 1b), London Road, Stanway, Colchester, in advance of the commercial development of the site.</i></p> <p><i>Twenty-two trenches were excavated in a grid pattern across the site with the exception of one trench specifically positioned to target the plotted location of a cropmark ring ditch potentially indicating the position of a plough-levelled prehistoric burial mound.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation identified a low density of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. Excepting an undated pit in Trench 15, these were concentrated in two parts of the site. Prehistoric remains survive in the central part of the development area, comprising the seemingly incomplete remains of a ring ditch and a pit, while medieval remains are present at the southern end of the development area and are indicative of activity alongside London Road.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest recorded remains comprised a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit at the north-west end of Trench 10. A curvilinear ditch revealed in adjacent Trench 9 is taken to represent the ring ditch predicted from cropmark evidence. The two features together suggest an area of possible funerary activity during the late prehistoric period.</i></p> <p><i>The only other remains predating the modern period were represented by a scatter of medieval features seen in trenches 20, 21 and 22, at the south end of the site. These comprised a large possible quarry pit, a smaller pit, a ditch and a posthole, and collectively indicative of some form of activity alongside London Road during the medieval period. The fairly broad date range provided by the pottery from these features spans the 12th – 14th century in Trench 20 and the 14th to 16th century in Trench 22 and while they may be settlement related, possibly associated with a plot fronting on to London Road, the features may also include roadside quarry pits in which domestic rubbish has been dumped.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> <i>None</i>	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> <i>A. Dyson</i>	<b>Date of Summary:</b> <i>June 2015</i>

## Appendix 6: OASIS form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-215756**

### Project details

Project name	Stane Park (Phase 1a and 1b), Stanway, Colchester
Short description of the project	<p>The evaluation identified a low density of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. Excepting an undated pit in Trench 15, these were concentrated in two parts of the site. Prehistoric remains survive in the central part of the development area, comprising the seemingly incomplete remains of a ring ditch and a pit, while medieval remains are present at the southern end of the development area and are indicative of activity alongside London Road. The earliest recorded remains comprised a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit at the north-west end of Trench 10. A curvilinear ditch revealed in adjacent Trench 9 is taken to represent the ring ditch predicted from cropmark evidence. The two features together suggest an area of possible funerary activity during the late prehistoric period. The only other remains predating the modern period were represented by a scatter of medieval features seen in trenches 20, 21 and 22, at the south end of the site. These comprised a large possible quarry pit, a smaller pit, a ditch and a posthole, and collectively indicative of some form of activity alongside London Road during the medieval period. The fairly broad date range provided by the pottery from these features spans the 12th - 14th century in Trench 20 and the 14th to 16th century in Trench 22 and while they may be settlement related, possibly associated with a plot fronting on to London Road, the features may also include roadside quarry pits in which domestic rubbish has been dumped.</p>
Project dates	Start: 26-05-2015 End: 03-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	EVT 4234 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	EVT 4234 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

---

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER STANWAY Stane Park (Phase 1a and 1b), London Road, Stanway
Postcode	CO3 8PB
Study area	2.37 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 94569 24709 51.8864145642 0.827595913341 51 53 11 N 000 49 39 E Point

---

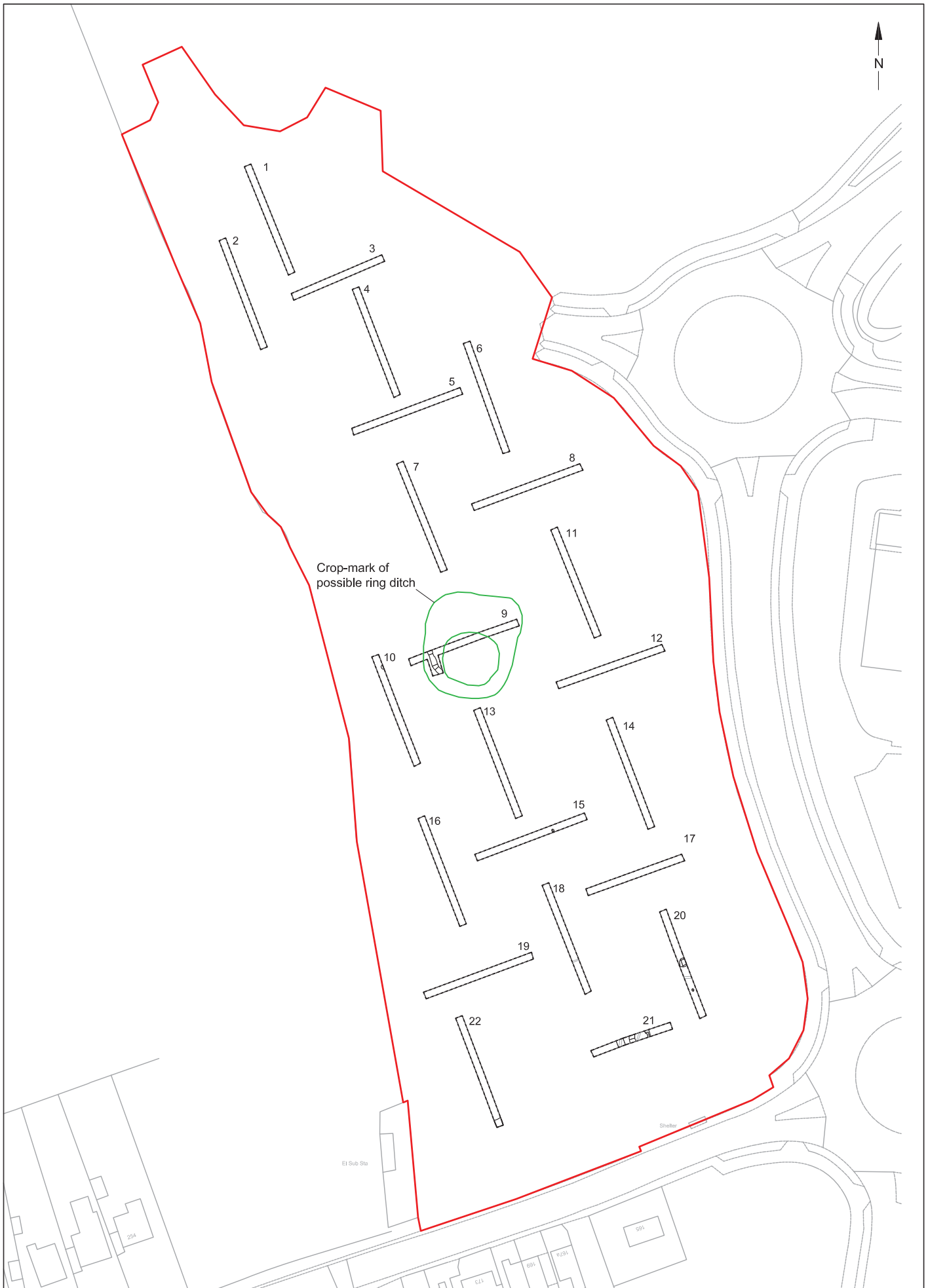
Entered by	Adrian Scruby (a.scruby@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	25 June 2015



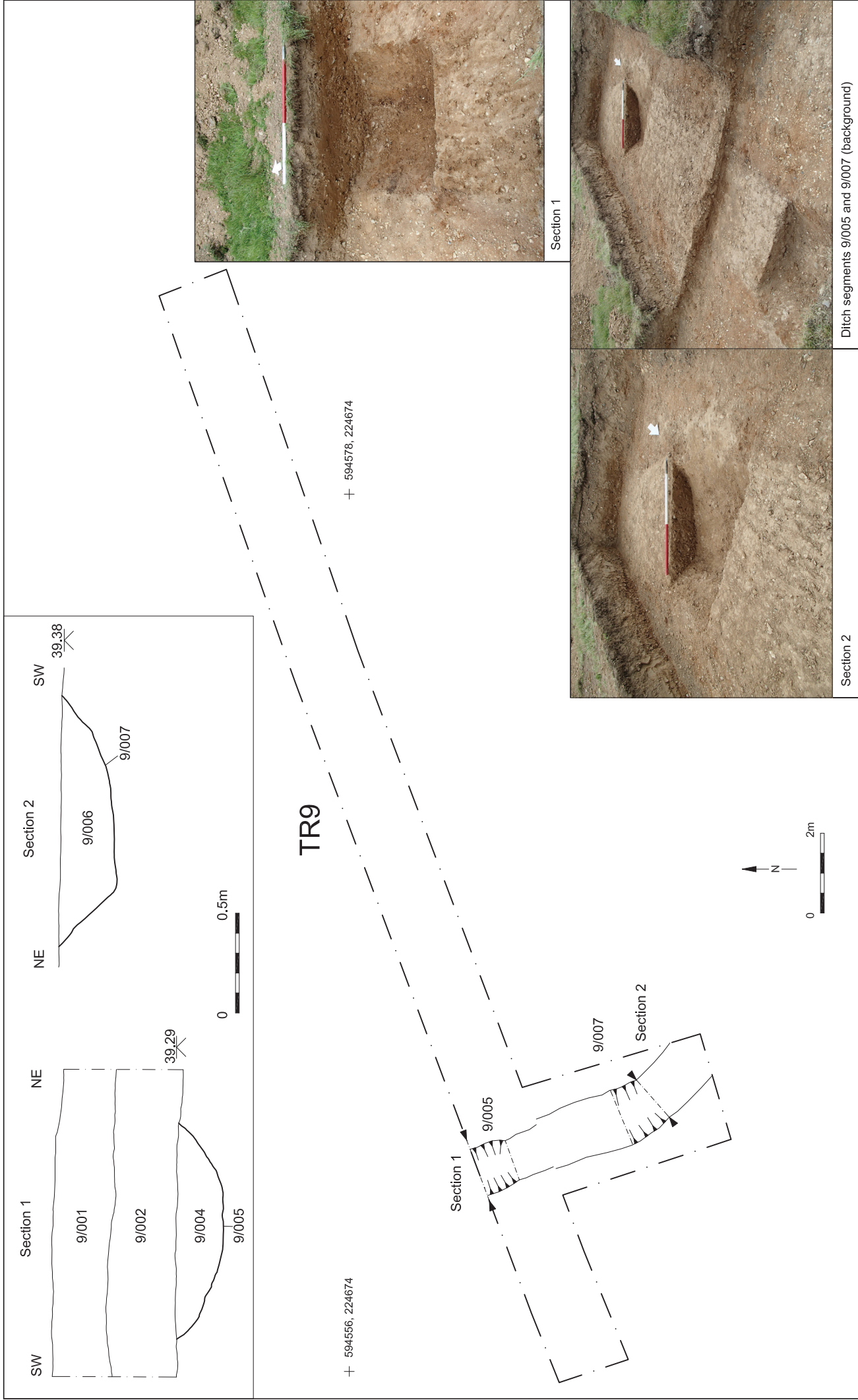


Contains Ordnance Survey data  
Crown copyright and database right 2015

© Archaeology South-East		Stane Park, Phase 1A & 1B, Stanway	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8398	June 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015223	Drawn by: LM		



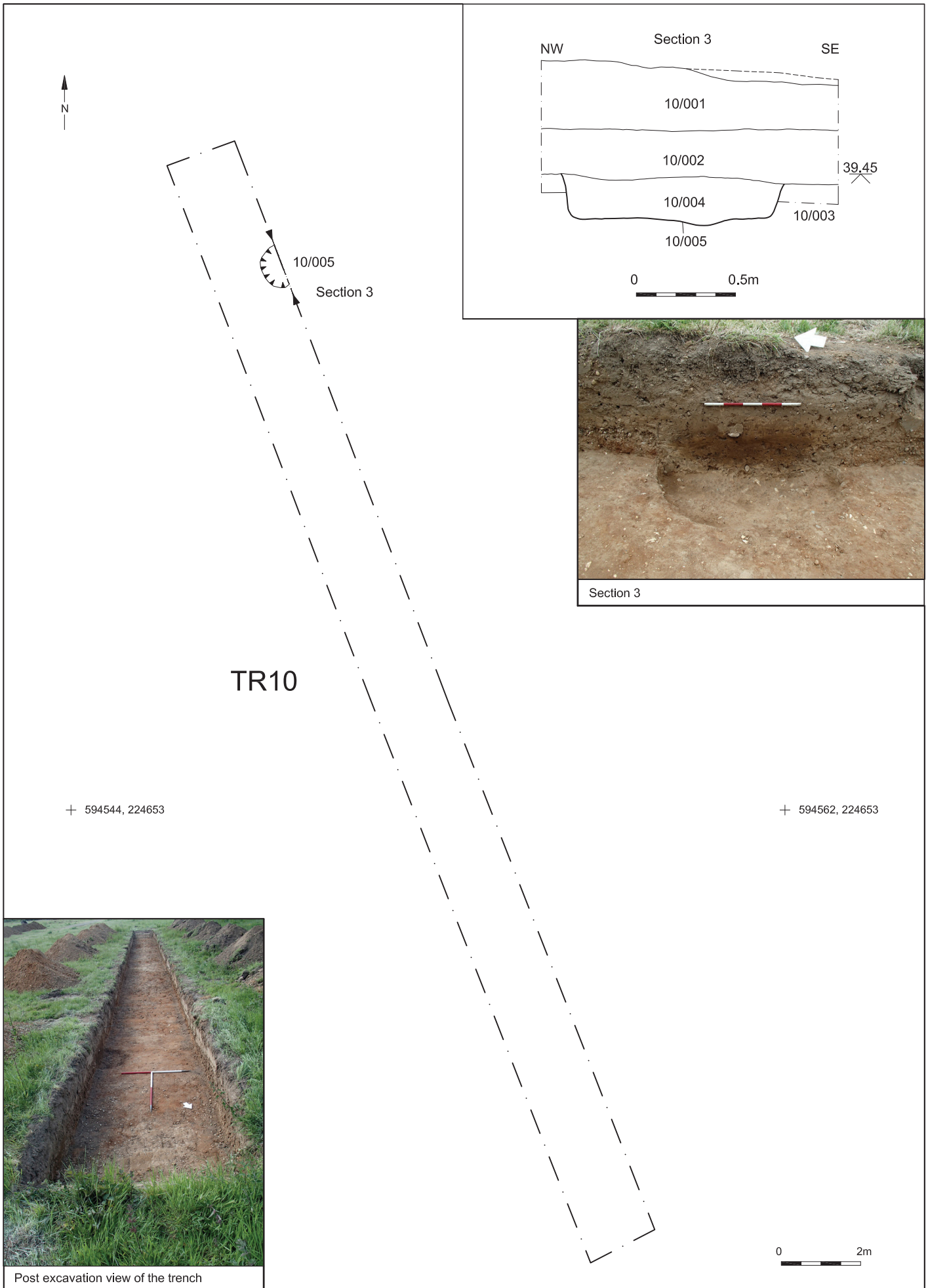
© Archaeology South-East		Stane Park phase 1A & 1B, Stanway	Fig.2
Project Ref: 8398	June 2015	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2015223	Drawn by: LM		



© **Archaeology South-East**  
 Project Ref: 8398 June 2015  
 Report Ref: 2015223 Drawn by: LM

Stane Park, phase 1A & 1B, Stanway  
 Trench 9 plan, sections and photographs

Fig.3



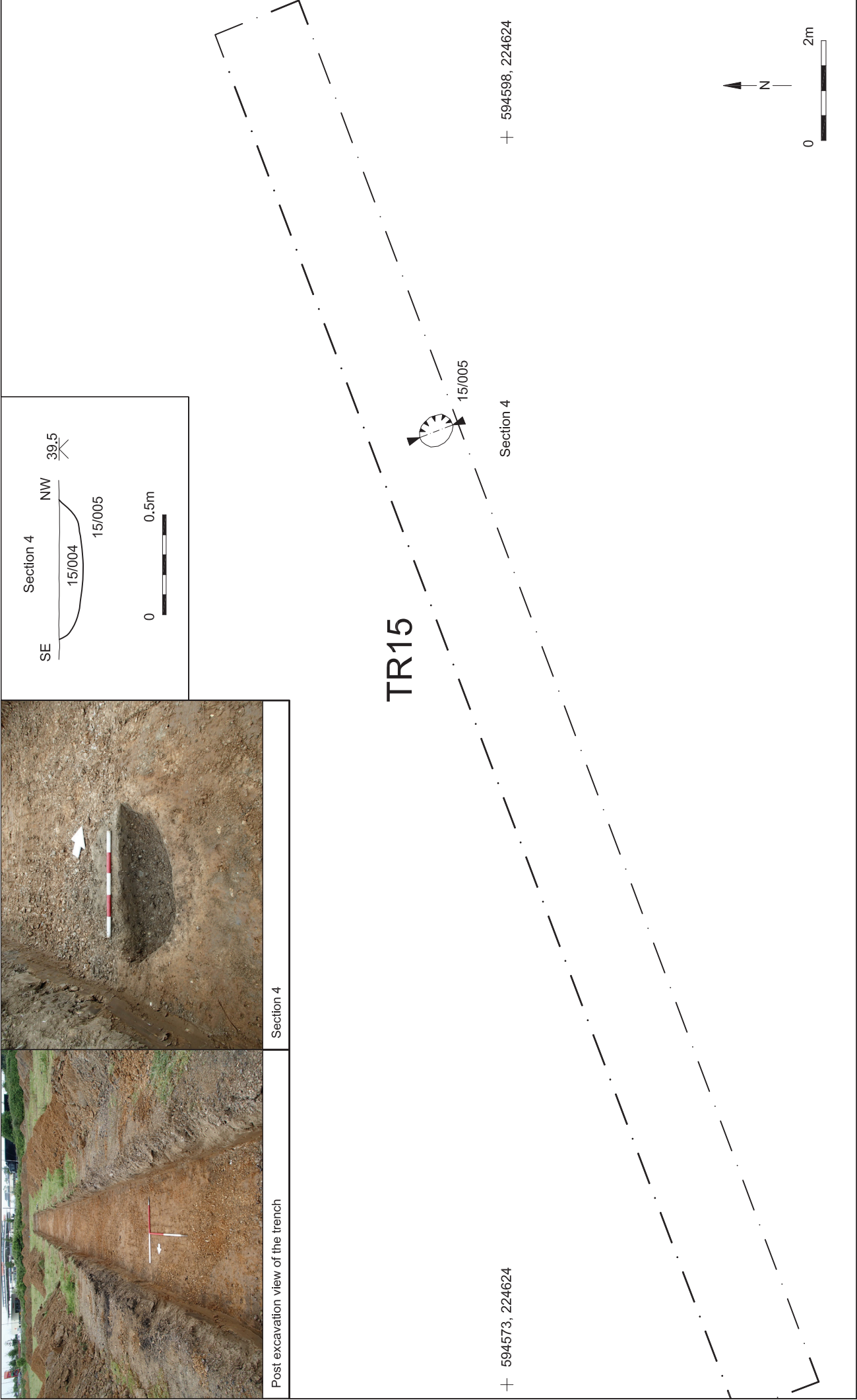
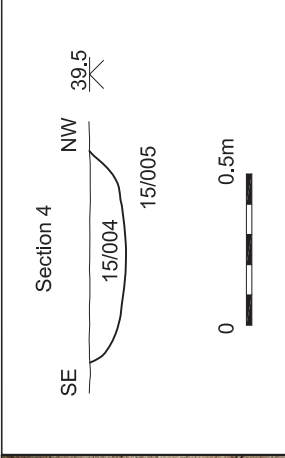
© Archaeology South-East		Stane Park, Phase 1A & 1B, Stanway	Fig.4
Project Ref: 8398	June 2015	Trench 10 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015223	Drawn by: LM		



Post excavation view of the trench



Section 4





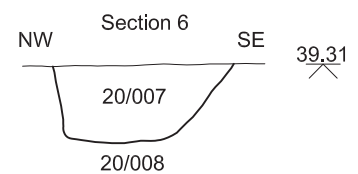
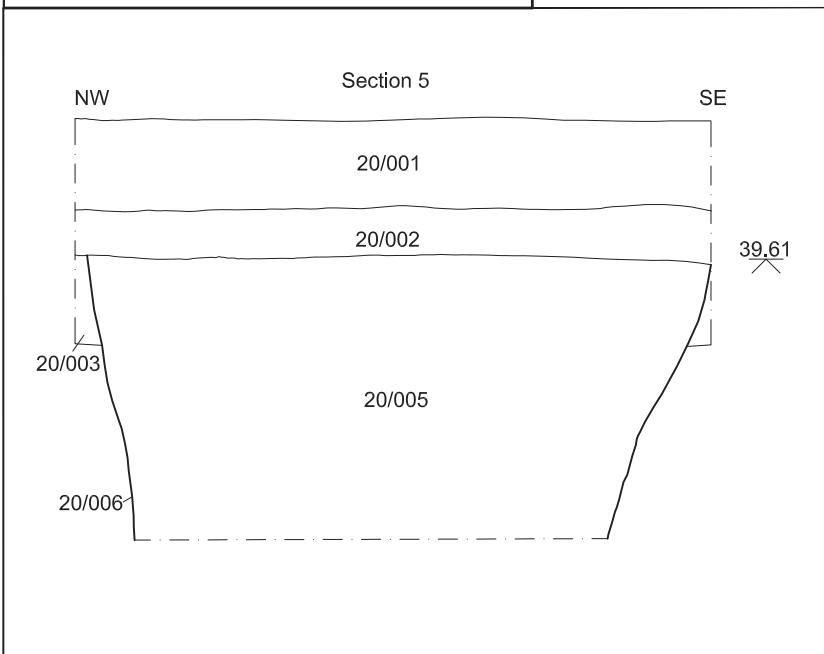
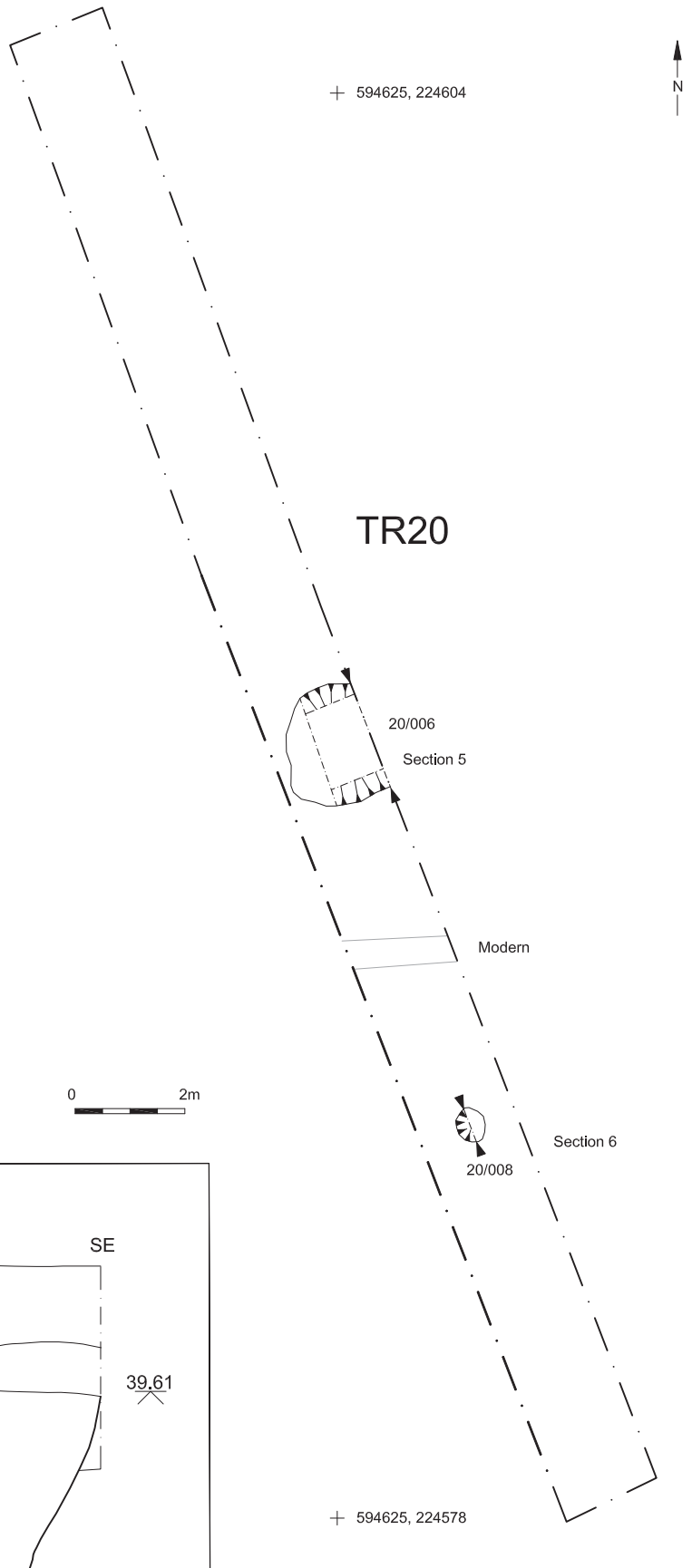
Post-ex view of the trench



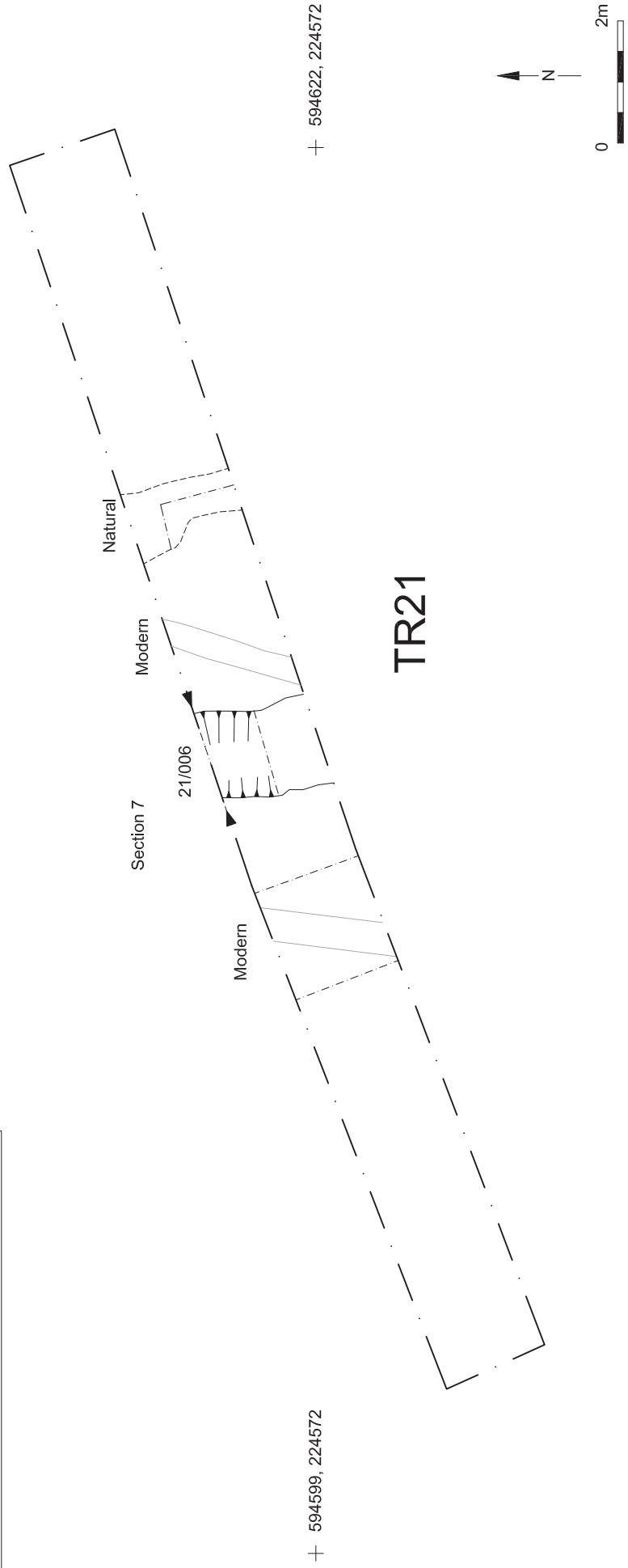
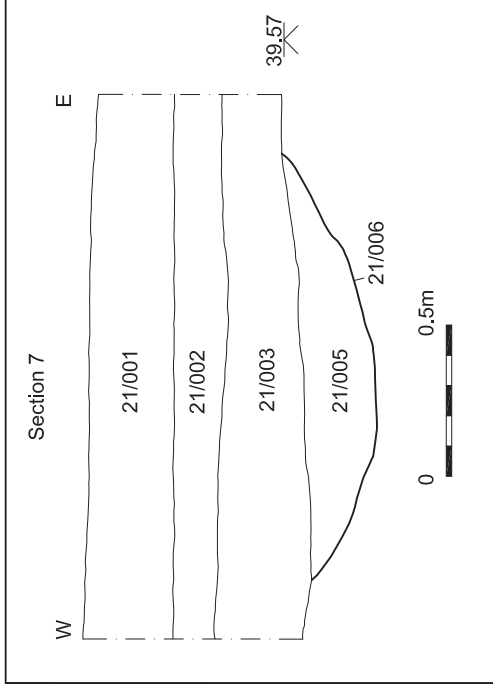
Section 6



Section 5



© Archaeology South-East		Stane Park, Phase 1A & 1B, Stanway	Fig.6
Project Ref: 8398	June 2015	Trench 20 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015223	Drawn by: LM		



© <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Stane Park, phase 1A & 1B, Stanway		Fig.7
Project Ref: 8398	June 2015	Trench 21 plan, section and photographs		
Report Ref: 2015223	Drawn by: LM			



Section 8, looking south-east

Section 8



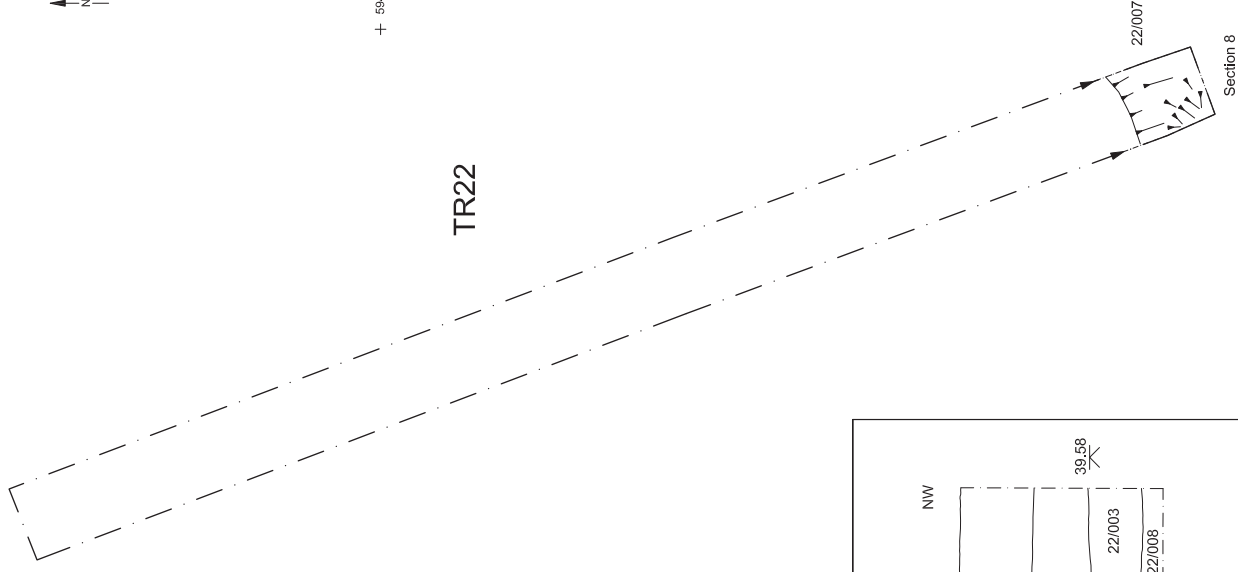
Post-ex view of the trench

+ 594546, 224570

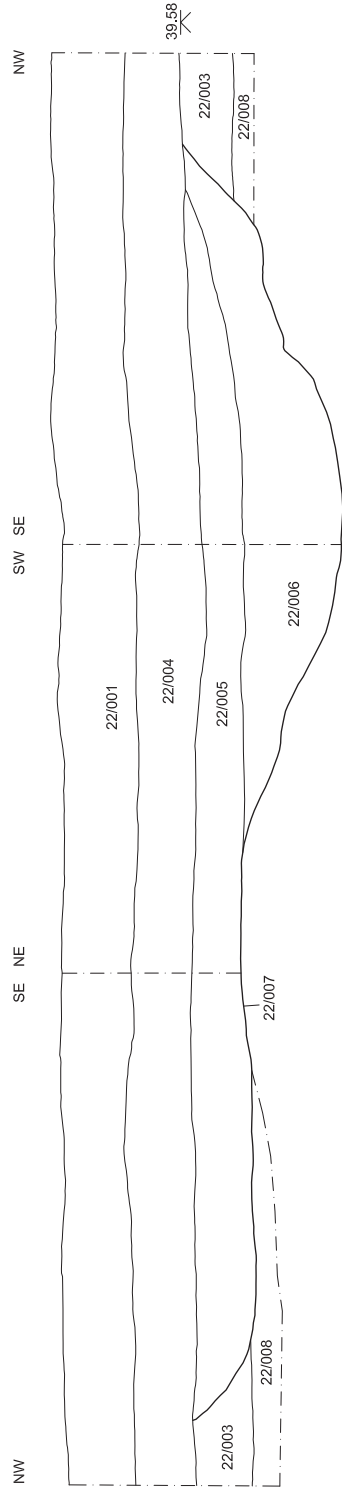
+ 594560, 224570

Site boundary

TR22



Section 8





**Sussex Office**

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

**Essex Office**

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

**London Office**

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

