Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation

Land South of Feering

London Road

Kelvedon, Essex

ASE Project No: 7761
Site Code: FELR15

ASE Report No: 2015393

November 2015

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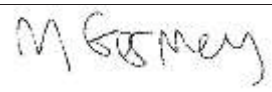
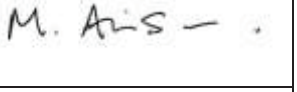
Prepared by:	Mark Germany	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Mark Atkinson	Project Manager	
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and geoarchaeological test-pitting, recommended by Essex County Council Place Services and carried out by Archaeology South-East on behalf of Amec Environment and Infrastructure UK Ltd. The work was monitored by Essex County Council Place Services and was undertaken as part of a pre-planning application for residential development within a 5.5ha green field site between Kelvedon and Feering. The north-west edge of the site bordered London Road, the former route of the major Roman road interlinking London and Colchester. The archaeological and geoarchaeological works were carried out between 14th and 25th September 2015.

The trial-trenching revealed a small quantity of mostly scattered pits, gullies and ditches, all but the most recent of which are undated. The datable features comprised a quarry pit and post-medieval/modern field ditches, all recorded on late 19th/20th century Ordnance Survey maps. Nearly all of the features cut natural and lay beneath subsoil and topsoil. The two exceptions to this cut subsoil and are therefore more recent. The course of the adjacent Roman road must have been influential during the past since all of the site's linear features lay perpendicular to it, probably implying that they were constructed during the Roman period and later. However, the evaluation revealed no identifiably Roman remains.

Three of the trenches (24 to 26) revealed a slight cluster of undated features near Threshelfords Business Park, perhaps representing a focal point of past human activity. The nature and date of that activity remain unknown, although two small sherds of possible Early to Middle Iron Age pottery were retrieved from the machined surface of one of the features. Other collected artefacts include small quantities of prehistoric flint flakes and fragments of baked clay. The post-medieval features relate to the agricultural exploitation of this location, though one boundary ditch appears to have been filled with domestic waste that included 19th/20th century pottery.

The geoarchaeological test pitting has revealed no readily identifiable, archaeological remains or deposits conducive to the preservation of palaeoenvironmental evidence, but nonetheless has made a small contribution towards understanding of the complex Pleistocene geology between Witham and Marks Tey. If present on site, any pre-Quaternary deposits are buried at significant depth. As such, any future development is unlikely to have an adverse impact on the site's underlying Pleistocene record, unless intruding to a depth of more than 3m below existing ground levels.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background (Fig. 1)

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and geoarchaeological pitting preceded a pre-planning application for construction of *c.*150 houses within a green-field site on the border between Feering and Kelvedon in Essex. The archaeological work was recommended by Essex County Council Place Services (ECC PS) and was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE) on behalf of Amec Environment and Infrastructure UK Ltd (Amec).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The geology of the site composes River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel above London Clay (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

1.2.2 The 5.5ha site occupies a semi-rural, generally low-lying area, (*c.*30m OD), *c.*500m west of the course of the River Blackwater and its surrounding floodplain. Tiptree lies 4km to the south-east and occupies an outcrop of high ground *c.*70m high. Domsey Brook adjoins the River Blackwater to the south-west.

1.2.3 Commercial and residential properties fully or partly border the site's north-east, north-west, south-east and south-east boundaries. The south-western edge of the site composes a strip of overgrown grassland, *c.*38m wide, crossed lengthwise by overhead electricity cables.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological work was recommended by ECC PS and was undertaken pre-application (ECC Place Services 2015).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents and assesses the results of an archaeological evaluation of a 5.5ha green-field site between Kelvedon and Feering, consisting of twenty-six trial trenches and six geoarchaeological test pits. The archaeological work was recommended by ECC PS, commissioned by Amec, and undertaken by ASE, between the 14th and 25th September 2015.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Historical and Archaeological Background

2.1.1 The following archaeological and historical background information partly derives from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

2.1.2 The earliest evidence for human activity within the vicinities of Kelvedon and Feering comprise Palaeolithic flint flakes (EHER 8131 and 8283).

2.1.3 Later prehistoric activity is perhaps indicated by cropmarks of two ring-ditches, near Langley Green, to the north of Feering, possibly representing barrows or roundhouses (EHER 8804).

2.1.4 In 1982, a rare example of a Late Iron Age warrior burial was discovered near Inworth to the south-east of Kelvedon. Numerous artefacts accompanied the individual concerned, including an iron sword made from five separate rods of metal, a bronze scabbard decorated with a strip of applied tin, an iron shield boss and an iron spear blade. Both the sword and the spear had been deliberately bent before burial, probably as part of a ritual (Sealey 2007).

2.1.5 The site partly borders the south side of London Road, which was formerly part of the major Roman route running between London and Colchester.

2.1.6 Kelvedon sits immediately south-west of Feering and was formerly a Roman small town. It initially consisted of a civilian settlement and a short-lived fort, but later included a built-up area, a temple and a possible mansio. The town declined during the late Roman period, although occupation took place within its grounds during the Early Saxon period (Rodwell 1988; Medlycott undated).

2.1.7 Other Roman remains from within the locality of Kelvedon and Feering include a Roman town cemetery in Kelvedon and a Roman stone coffin from near Easterford Mill (EHER 8237 and 8176).

2.1.8 The site of a Roman and Saxon cemetery lies east of Kelvedon and is a scheduled monument (SM 24866; EHER 8238). Recorded cropmarks lie nearby and are perhaps related to the Saxon cemetery (8242).

2.1.9 Sherds of medieval pottery have been found at Feering Hill (EHER 8236).

2.1.10 Local anecdote has it that the west corner of the site is named 'Gore Pit', because it was used as plague pit during the 17th century.

2.1.11 A large semi-circular depression with a radius of *c*.30m occupies the site's western corner and is probably a former gravel pit.

2.1.12 Houses and gardens along Inworth Road and London Road border the site's south-western edge and much of its north-western edge respectively. Early Ordnance maps indicate them to have occupied green-field sites and

to have been constructed from the 1920s to 1950s onwards (http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/roam/historic). A smithy occupied the south-east corner of the junction formed by London Road, Inworth Road and Mill Lane during the 1880s.

2.1.13 No previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the site or its vicinity, apart from an archaeological watching brief at Cobham Oak Cottage, on Inworth Road to the immediate west. The archaeological work monitored ground works for a rear extension to a grade II listed building, dating back to the 13th century and was able to establish that the original medieval aisled hall did not extend into the area of the rear extension on the north-eastern corner of the building as it stands today (John Newman Archaeological Services 2015).

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence of archaeological and geoarchaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Newly discovered remains were to be put into context, by using existing information from previous fieldwork from within the wider vicinity.

2.2.2 The specific research objectives of the archaeological trenching were:

- To evaluate the impact of past land-use.
- To evaluate the presence of Pleistocene sediments and, if present, to determine the presence within that sequence of Pleistocene faunal remains and/or Palaeolithic archaeological remains.
- To determine if there are remains associated with the Roman road, such as roadside ditches, occupation or burials.
- To establish if the site contains Saxon remains.

2.2.3 If significant discoveries were made then the resulting report would seek to develop further research objectives for possible future work, with reference to those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*, and *Research and Archaeology Revisted: a Revised Framework for the East of England* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Fig. 2)

3.1.1 Twenty-six trenches (labelled 1 to 26) were deployed across the site, all but one of which measured 50m long and 2.4m wide. Trench 2 was cut short at a length of 36.3m to avoid blocking the site entranceway. The combined footprint of the trenches was 3212m^2, roughly 5% of the site area of 5.5ha.

3.1.2 A Leica GNSS GPS was used to take spot heights, to position each trench, and to record plans of each archaeological feature.

3.1.3 A large, tracked, mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision and equipped with a 2.4m-wide toothless ditching bucket, stripped each trench of its overlying topsoil and subsoil. This revealed the uppermost surface of the underlying glacial deposits (hereafter referred to as 'natural') and enabled it to be hand cleaned and visually inspected for the presence of undisturbed archaeological remains. The trenches found no layered stratigraphy other than subsoil and modern-disturbed topsoil.

3.1.4 All archaeological features were hand excavated, other than those which were clearly modern (*i.e.* contained 20th century artefacts). All artefacts present were collected and retained for identification and study.

3.1.5 Details of each trench and its contents were recorded on pro-forma sheets. Colour digital photographs were taken of each trench, each feature and of work in progress. Feature profiles were measured and drawn at a scale of 1:10 on small sheets of permatrace. Details and numbers of photographs and drawings were recorded on pro-forma registers.

3.1.6 No bulk samples were taken for the retrieval of environmental remains because no, closely-datable pre-modern features with potentially for plant macrofossil survival were identified.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 ASE currently holds the site archive at its office in Witham. The site archive will be deposited at Braintree Museum in due course, subject to agreement with the legal landowner and Braintree Museum.

3.2.2 The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	123
No. of files/paper records	73
Plan and sections sheets	3
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	57
Permatrace sheets	3
Trench Record Forms	26

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Archaeological cut features were found and investigated in Trenches 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26. All of them had been truncated by ploughing and lay sealed beneath topsoil, or topsoil and subsoil. The topsoil generally composed brownish grey friable sandy silt; the subsoil largely comprised brownish orange friable silt clay. Both deposits contained infrequent small gravel stones. The underlying natural consisted of pale brownish orange silt clay, often accompanied by large swathes of brownish orange silt sand and grit, accompanied by occasional to frequent small gravel stones.

4.1.2 The archaeological features lay thinly scattered and nearly all comprised pits and linear features. Eight features were exposed by Trenches 24 to 26 near Threshelfords Business Park and can be referred to as a light concentration. Nearly all of the features revealed by the trenches referenced London Road by lying more or less perpendicular to it, although only two of the features, both in Trench 1, lay close to its course.

4.1.3 The trenches containing no archaeological remains are listed in Appendix 1.The topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits of those trenches was no different to those containing archaeological remains.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.25-0.30	35.67-36.29
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.4+	0.08-0.30	
1/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.38-0.54	
1/004	Cut	Ditch	2.4+	1.2	0.29	35.55
1/005	Fill	Single fill of 1/004	2.4+	1.2	0.29	35.55
1/006	Cut	Pit	1.4	1.1	0.36	35.50
1/007	Fill	Single fill of 1/006	1.4	1.1	0.36	35.50

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The central stretch of Trench 1 exposed a pit or a ditch terminal [1/006], and a ditch [1/004], running perpendicular to London Road, *c.*10m to the north-west. The profile of the ditch consisted of gradual-sloping sides and a slightly concave base, measuring 0.29m deep. By contrast, the plan-view and profile of the pit were slightly more irregular, with one side being steeper than the other. Ditch [1/004] pointed towards gully [4/005] in Trench 4, making it possible that they had both been part of one boundary, running at approximately ninety degrees to London Road.

4.2.2 Single deposits of brownish grey friable sandy silt lay within both features and contained infrequent small gravel stones, accompanied by flecks of charcoal, albeit very infrequently. A flint flake and a small sherd of undated pottery sat on the surface of pit fill [1/005], although neither feature contained further artefacts.

4.3 **Trench 4** (Fig. 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.28-0.32	34.51-35.14
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.4+	0.13-0.33	
4/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.41-0.65	
4/004	Fill	Single fill of 4/005	1.80+	0.8	0.19	35.20
4/005	Cut	Gully	1.80+	0.8	0.19	35.20

Table 3: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 The archaeological contents of Trench 4 comprised an elongated pit or ditch terminal [4/005], possibly of recent antiquity since it cut subsoil. The feature had gradual to moderate sloping sides above an off-centre, slightly concave base, measuring 0.19m deep. The feature's sole deposit [4/004] comprised brownish grey / orange sandy silty clay with infrequent small gravel stones. It contained no artefacts.

4.4 **Trench 7** (Fig. 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.40+	0.23-0.27	35.58-35.62
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.40+	0.06-0.14	
7/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.40+	0.29-0.41	
7/004	Cut	Ditch	2.4+	2.46	Not excavated	
7/005	Fill	Earlier fill of 7/004	2.4+	2.46	Not excavated	
7/006	Fill	Latest fill of 7/004	2.4+		Not excavated	

Table 4: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 A post-medieval/modern field ditch ran south-east north-west across the central part of Trench 7 and was recorded, but not investigated [7/004]. It contained at least two deposits and measured 2.46m wide. Its latest fill [7/006] formed a central band of dark brownish grey friable silt sand, rich with soot and ash from fires. Projecting from its surface were numerous post-medieval/modern artefacts, including scrap iron, shards of bottle and window glass, and large fragments of 19th to 20th century household crockery. Also present were infrequent fragments of slates, bricks, tiles and large lumps of tarmac. Sherds of pottery were extracted from the surface of the feature's latest fill to serve as representative dating evidence.

4.5 Trench 9 (Fig. 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.40+	0.27-0.36	35.20-35.43
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.40+	0.10-0.25	
9/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.40+	0.37-0.52	
9/004	Cut	Gully	3.0+	0.90	0.23	
9/005	Fill	Single fill of 9/004	3.0+	0.90	0.23	
9/006	Cut	Ditch	3.0+	2.25	Not excavated	
9/007	Fill	Earlier fill of 9/006	3.0+	2.25	Not excavated	
9/008	Fill	Latest fill of 9/006	3.0+		Not excavated	

Table 5: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Post-medieval/modern field ditch [7/004] was further encountered in trench 9 to the south-east, where it was recorded as [9/006]. Gully [9/004] lay to its north and ran alongside it, separated by a *c.*1.8m gap. Ditch [9/006] was recorded, but not excavated.

4.5.2 The gully [9/004] had moderate-sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its single fill [9/005] consisted of brownish orange / grey friable silt sand with infrequent small gravel stones and flecks of charcoal. It contained no artefacts.

4.5.3 The form and content of ditch [9/006] repeated that of its continuation in Trench 7 to the north-west. Its fill sequence was more or less identical, and included a similar assemblage of post-medieval/modern finds, albeit in slightly less quantity. None of these finds were retained for analysis.

4.6 Trench 10 (Fig. 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.26-0.30	34.61-35.07
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.4+	0.07-0.14	
10/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.34-0.41	
10/004	Cut	Ditch	2.4+	2.0	Not excavated	
10/005	Fill	Fill of 10/004	2.4+	2.0	Not excavated	

Table 6: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Ditch [10/004], the sole archaeological feature in Trench 10, cut across the trench's south-west end and was probably part of the same ditch as [7/004 and 9/006] in Trenches 7 and 9 to the north-west. It measured 2.0m wide and contained a latest deposit of greyish brown / brownish grey friable silt sand with infrequent small to mid-sized gravel stones [10/005]. No surface finds were evident and this feature was not archaeologically excavated.

4.7 **Trench 11** (Figs. 2 and 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.20-0.45	33.51-35.09
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.4+	0.07-0.22	
11/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.27-0.65	
11/004	Cut	Gravel pit	6.6+	2.4+	Not excavated	
11/005	Fill	Latest fill of 11/004	6.6+	2.4+	Not excavated	

Table 7: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 The ground surface height at the north-west end of Trench 11 was 1.58m lower than that of its south-east end, because it extended into a large hollow, which may have been an infilled gravel pit. The surface of the underlying natural increased in depth in a similar fashion, from 0.27m to more than 0.65m below present day ground level.

4.7.2 A large cut-feature [11/004], more than 6m long, lay at the north-west end of the trench and, although not investigated, was probably an infilled lower part of the same hollow. A single or latest fill of greyish brown friable sandy silt clay [11/005] with infrequent small gravel stones sat within it. A single small fragment of ceramic building material, probably dating to the medieval period or later, was retrieved from this fill.

4.8 **Trench 21** (Fig. 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.21-0.47	32.54-32.93
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.4+	0.05-0.34	
21/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.26-0.81	
21/004	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.26-0.81	
21/005	Cut	Ditch	2.4+	3.0	Not excavated	
21/006	Fill	Latest fill of 21/005	2.4+	3.0	Not excavated	

Table 8: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Ditch [21/005] was recorded, but not investigated. It traversed the south-east end of Trench 21 and was probably part of the same ditch as post-medieval/modern field ditch [22/008] in Trench 22 to the north-east. Its contents composed a single or latest deposit of greyish brown/brownish grey friable silt [21/006], with no visible surface finds.

4.9 **Trench 22** (Fig. 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
22/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.30-0.33	32.77-33.71
22/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.4+	0.16-0.27	
22/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.30-0.49	
22/004	Fill	Latest fill of 22/006	1.9+	1.4	0.25	
22/005	Fill	Primary fill of 22/006	1.9+	1.4	0.23	
22/006	Cut	Pit	1.9+	1.4	0.48	
22/007	Fill	Single fill of 22/008	14.0+	1.4	0.48	32.81
22/008	Cut	Ditch	14.0+	1.80	0.60	32.81
22/009	Fill	Single fill of 22/010	3.0	0.60+	0.30	32.81
22/010	Cut	Pit	3.0	0.60+	0.30	32.81

Table 9: Trench 22 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 The north-east half of Trench 22 exposed parts of two pits [22/006 and 22/010] and a post-medieval/modern field ditch [22/008]. The two pits were cut by the ditch and were the earlier, although neither contained artefacts.

4.9.2 Presumed elongated pit [22/006] had a concave, steep-sided profile, measuring 0.48m deep. It cut natural and its northwest and southeast ends both lay beyond the trench limits. It contained deposits of brownish grey sandy silt clay [22/004 and 22/006], with those of the primary fill [22/005] containing pockets of pale whitish grey and orange sandy gravel, suggesting that it originated from more than one source, part of which probably came from the surrounding natural, either due to erosion or deliberate backfilling. The brownish grey colour of latest fill [22/004], by contrast, matched that of the surrounding topsoil.

4.9.3 Pit [22/010] cut natural and had steep sides, leading down to a 0.3m deep undulating base. It contained single fill [22/009], comprising slightly sandy orange brownish grey silt with infrequent small gravel stones.

4.9.4 Northeast-southwest aligned ditch [22/008] cut subsoil [22/002] and measured 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep. Its profile was slightly irregular, but nonetheless appeared to suggest that one of its sides (the south-east), was steeper than the other when first constructed. As with pit [22/006], its fill consisted of dark brownish grey slightly sandy silt clay, perhaps implying that it derived from the topsoil. Artefacts from its fill included a small sherd of post-medieval/modern pottery and a large fragment of ceramic building material.

4.10 Trench 24 (Fig. 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.30-0.33	32.46-32.68
24/002	Layer	Subsoil	50+	2.4+	0.00-0.30	
24/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.60-0.33	
24/004	Fill	Single fill of 23/005	1.20	1.10	0.24	32.36
24/005	Cut	Pit	1.20	1.10	0.24	32.36

Table 10: Trench 24 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Shallow sub-square pit [24/005], measuring 0.24m deep, was exposed at the south east end of Trench 24. Its moderate to steep-sloping sides led down to a slightly uneven concave base. The pit contained single fill [24/004], consisting of brownish grey plastic silt clay with infrequent small gravel stones. Only one artefact was present; a small fragment of ceramic building material.

4.11 Trench 25 (Fig. 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.30-0.34	32.68-33.5
25/002	Layer	Subsoil	30+	2.4+	0.00-0.28	
25/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.28-0.31	
25/004	Fill	Single fill of 25/005	1.5	0.95	0.27	31.73
25/005	Cut	Pit	1.5	0.95	0.27	31.73
25/006	Fill	Latest fill of 25/008	2.2	1.2	0.14	31.72
25/007	Fill	Primary fill of 25/008	2.2	1.3	0.40	31.72
25/008	Cut	Pit	2.2	1.3	0.40	31.72

Table 11: Trench 25 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 Two pits [25/005 and 25/008] were discovered in the south-east half of Trench 25. These were slightly irregular in plan, perhaps implying that they had been subject to erosion. Pit [25/008], the larger of the two, was broad, concave and uneven, measuring 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep. Brownish grey plastic silt clay [25/007] formed the bulk of its deposit sequence, but was overlain by a slighter, less extensive deposit of brownish grey silt clay, more akin to topsoil [25/006].

4.11.2 Pit [25/005], to its north-west, was a shallow feature with moderate-sloping sides and a slightly uneven, off-centre, concave base. A small flint flake was retrieved from its single fill [25/004].

4.12 Trench 26 (Fig. 9)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	50+	2.4+	0.23-0.33	31.57-32.12
26/002	Layer	Subsoil	25+	2.4+	0.00-0.27	
26/003	Layer	Natural	50+	2.4+	0.33-0.43	
26/004	Fill	Single fill of 26/005	0.8+	1.4	0.49	31.92
26/005	Cut	Pit	0.8+	1.4	0.49	31.92
26/006	Fill	Single fill of 26/007	1.5+	1.0	0.03	32.01
26/007	Cut	Gully	1.5+	1.0	0.03	32.01
26/008	Fill	Single fill 26/009	2.4+	1.05	0.24	32.10
26/009	Cut	Gully	2.4+	1.05	0.24	32.10
26/010	Fill	Single fill of 26/011	1.8	0.86	0.14	31.76
26/011	Cut	Pit	1.8	0.86	0.14	31.76
26/012	Fill	Single fill of 26/013	2.4+	0.76	0.06	31.76
26/013	Cut	Gully	2.4+	0.76	0.06	31.76

Table 12: Trench 26 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 Five features were identified and investigated within the mid to north part of Trench 26: gullies [26/013 and 26/009], undetermined features [26/005 and 26/007] and pit [26/011]. All five contained single fills, two of which yielded artefacts consisting of two small sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery from the fill of [26/009], and a flint flake and two small lumps of baked clay from the fill of [26/013]. At least four of the features were similarly aligned northwest-southeast, suggesting that they may have been associated with one another.

4.12.2 All five features had slightly irregular gradual to moderate sloping sides, leading down to concave bases, the depths of which varied from 0.06m for gully [26/013] to 0.49m for feature [26/005]. The most recent of the features was possibly [26/007], since it cut subsoil.

4.13 Trenches 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23

4.13.1 Fifteen of the twenty-six trenches revealed a deposit sequence of topsoil above subsoil above natural, but no archaeological features or artefacts. The minimum and maximum thicknesses of the topsoil and subsoil of these negative trenches varied within and between trenches, from 0.19-0.47m, and 0.07-0.36m respectively. Further details are presented in Appendix 1.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 13). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Fe	wt (g)	F.Clay	wt (g)
1/005	1	6			1	10				
7/006	12	532								
9/008	7	302								
11/005			3	54			2	10		
21/005			4	54						
22/007	2	6	2	172	1	8	2	18		
24/004			1	26						
25/007					2	4				
26/008	2	10								
26/012					1	2			2	16
Total	24	856	10	306	5	24	4	28	2	16

Table 13: Quantification of bulk finds

5.2 **Flintwork** by Karine le Hégarat

5.2.1 A total of five pieces of struck flint weighing 21g were recovered. They came from trenches 1, 22, 25 and 26. The small assemblage comprises four flakes and a broken core tool. The broken core tool from ditch fill context [1/005] was manufactured from a dark grey to almost black flint. It displays a small area with creamy re-cortication on one surface and incipient traces of bluish discolouration on the other surface. The artefact measures 32+mm in length, 27+mm in width, and it is 9+mm thick. It has been bifacially worked. The terminal zone is oval, and the profile of the worked edges is slightly sinuous. The piece exhibits irregular retouch including low and scaled retouch. It is in a fair condition, and it may have broken during manufacture. The piece may represent a broken knife or point.

5.2.2 The four flakes, from the fills of ditch [22/008], pit [25/008] and gully [26/013], are not particularly diagnostic, but based on technological grounds some are likely to predate the Middle Bronze Age. Some may well be residual in these contexts.

5.2.3 The archaeological work has provided limited evidence for prehistoric activity within the site area. The small flint assemblage should be retained in order to be considered alongside any material recovered from future excavations.

5.3 **Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 Two non-conjoining bodysherds, probably from the same vessel, were found in fill [26/008] of gully [26/009]. The sherds are externally burnished and the fabric contains common coarse quartz of up to 0.8mm and sparse to moderate, moderately-sorted flint, mostly of c.0.5-2mm with a few examples up to 3mm. The fabric is probably most consistent with an Early or Middle Iron Age date, though no diagnostic features are present.

5.4 **Post-Medieval / Modern Pottery** by Helen Walker

5.4.1 A total of twenty-eight sherds weighing 840g was excavated from three contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16) and is quantified in Appendix 2. The pottery from ditch fills [7/006] and [9/008] is modern, dating from the mid-19th to 20th century. The assemblage comprises both kitchen and storage wares, including marmalade jars, and decorated china for use at the table. The tablewares include a bowl with sponged decoration and a dish or plate fragment showing a black transfer-print, both precluding a date before the mid-19th century. Pit fill [22/009] produced a single sherd of pottery, which might be slightly earlier, a sherd in a thin-walled white earthenware fabric which might be pearlware and could be early 19th century, although a later date is equally possible. None of the pottery is of high quality, although good quality china would have been curated and therefore much less likely to have been broken and discarded; hence this assemblage is not necessarily indicative of a low status site. No further work is required on this assemblage.

5.5 **Ceramic Building Material** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1A total of nine ceramic building material fragments (CBM) weighing 295g were retrieved from four contexts: quarry pit fill [11/005], ditch fills [21/005], and [22/007], and pit [24/004]. One brick fragment from [22/007] was vitrified and sooted, but the remaining five tile pieces and three brick fragments all appear to be made from the same slightly powdery and micaceous fabric, with common-to-abundant unsorted medium-to-coarse quartz. Due to the fragmentary and abraded nature of the collected CBM, no datable characteristics exist, although the fabric is not dissimilar to sandy medieval fabrics.

5.5.2 Almost all the assemblage has been retained in order to be considered alongside any material recovered from future excavations.

5.6 **Fired Clay** by Trista Clifford

5.6.1 Two fragments of fired clay were recovered from gully fill [26/012]. The conjoining fragments are amorphous in nature and formed from sandy clay matrix with very coarse quartz inclusions. They are undiagnostic of function or date.

5.7 **Bulk Ironwork** by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 Two contexts, quarry fill [11/005] and ditch fill [22/007], produced a total of four iron objects weighing 28g. The assemblage is in poor condition with all objects surfaces obscured by adherent soil and corrosion products. Three nails were recovered as well as a small plate fragment. Nail stems, where visible, have a square section. The assemblage is not diagnostic of date, but nor inconsistent with the likely post-medieval date of the features from which they derive.

6.0 GEOARCHAEOLOGY, by Ed Blinkhorn

6.1 Background

6.1.1 Bedrock geology at the site and the surrounding area is mapped by the British Geological Survey as London Clay (BGS 2015). Superficial deposits are mapped as sand and gravels of River Terrace 3 of the River Blackwater. The Terrace 3 deposits are known to incorporate lacustrine deposits.

6.1.2 The site is situated in a wider area of complex superficial geological deposits, including patches of diamicton till of the Lowestoft formation *c.*250m to the north and west, head deposits 150m to the south, and a close association of the Blackwater river terraces. At a broader scale, the site sits within and towards the mouth of a tunnel valley within which pre-glacial lakes formed, such as that at Marks Tey (Turner 1970) *c.*6km to the northeast, thought to be subsequently infilled during the 'Hoxnian' interglacial (Marine Isotope Stage 11).

6.1.3 Bates (2014) identifies three groups of key sedimentological units in the Blackwater valley, comprising Anglian (MIS 12) and pre-Anglian sediments, interglacial lacustrine sediments, and fluvial sediments of the Blackwater system (river terrace gravels). The relationship of the interglacial lacustrine sediments to the river terrace gravels is contentious (Bates 2014); Bristow (1985, 68) suggests the lacustrine deposits overlie Terrace 3, while Turner (in Rose and Turner 1973) suggests that Terrace 3 deposits overlie the lake deposits. However, Bates (2014) argues that it is the association between Terrace 3 and lacustrine sediments that is pertinent in highlighting potential of areas mapped as Terrace 3.

6.1.4 The ECC brief (ECC Place Services 2015) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015) note that: "To the south-east of the site, boreholes have uncovered the presence of Pleistocene sediments deposited by a lake beneath the superficial river gravel deposits. At Marks Tey these deposits have been uncovered through quarrying and have yielded significant palaeoenvironmental, Pleistocene faunal, and Palaeolithic archaeological remains. The interglacial sediments were deposited within a large lake which is thought to have covered an area from Witham to Marks Tey".

6.1.5 The specific boreholes referred to have not been confidently identified by the author on the BGS website. However, further boreholes in the area, accessible on the British Geological Survey website (2015), have clearly identified lacustrine deposits. Borehole TL81NE8 at Threshelfords Farm, Kelvedon identified lacustrine deposits at a depth of 2.3m BGL, overlain by Terrace 3 deposits of the River Blackwater. Lacustrine deposits are possibly indicated by soft clays in boreholes along the line of the A12 road to the east of the site, although this is a speculative interpretation.

6.1.6 Few Palaeolithic artefacts are recorded by Wymer (1999) in the area, although he considers nine find-spots of palaeoliths occurring in the gravel terraces above the palaeo-lake 'more than coincidental' (Wymer 1999, 162). These finds are presumed here to be the group marked on Map 47 (Wymer 1999) as situated on river gravels within the limit of interglacial lakes between

Witham and Kelvedon. Lake and river margins are likely to have provided attractive ecotonal environments to early hominins. Superficial geological deposits may therefore contain evidence of the people that inhabited these landscapes, and of the life that textured those landscapes.

6.1.7 This component of the evaluation was designed to address the following research aims:

- Evaluate the presence of Pleistocene sediments and, if present, to determine the presence within this sequence of Pleistocene faunal remains and/or Palaeolithic archaeological remains.
- Assess the nature of the site stratigraphy in terms of potential for possible Pleistocene deposits with potential for Palaeolithic archaeological remains and/or Pleistocene faunal or palaeoenvironmental remains.
- Assess the potential for Palaeolithic archaeological or Pleistocene faunal or environmental remains that may be disturbed by groundworks associated with development

6.2 Method

6.2.1 Six geoarchaeological test-pits were excavated across the site in the ends of trenches agreed with the ECC Place Services' Historic Environment officer (GTP1-6, Fig. 2). None of the test-pits were located in areas of any trench with Holocene date features. Test-pits were excavated using a 21 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.4m wide flat blade ditching bucket. The test-pits were arranged to evaluate the entire site and in locations favourable to the production of transect deposit models.

6.2.2 Spits of no more than 100mm were excavated and the spoil from each bucket was inspected closely for the presence of Palaeolithic artefacts or ecofacts. Test-pits were excavated to approximately 2.5 m below the base of the trench (usually to c.3.0 m below ground level), although in one instance (GTP5) the test-pit was excavated to 3.4 m below ground level due to the identification of change in lithology. Each test-pit was inspected and recorded by hand to a depth of 1.2m below ground level. At depths below 1.2 m below ground level, sediment descriptions and recording was undertaken using samples from the excavator bucket and with a hand tape from ground level. Following recording, each test-pit was immediately backfilled.

6.2.3 Data collected during fieldwork was manipulated in Rockworks processing software to facilitate the creation of stratigraphic transects across site (Figs 10 and 12).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 The detailed test-pit logs are presented in Appendix 3. Figure 2 shows test-pit locations and the gentle slope from north to south. Figure 10 illustrates the lithological sequence in each of the six test-pits and Figure 11 shows

photographic records of the test-pits. The lithologies have been interpreted and a stratigraphic transect from north to south is presented in Figure 12.

6.3.2 The test-pits all followed a similar lithological sequence, comprising shallow topsoil and subsoil overlying weathered clay (where present), which in turn capped river terrace gravels. Underlying the river terrace gravels were laminated fine-grained sediments, mostly sands but with increasing silt component to the south, in GTPs 5 and 6.

6.3.3 River Terrace Gravels are presumed to conform to the BGS-mapped Terrace 3, and coarse components were observed at a maximum thickness of 2.5m in GTP4, and a minimum of 0.25m in GTP5. The weathered structureless clay deposits overlying the river terrace gravels can be cautiously considered a later component of the gravels, albeit as a different part of the ancient River Blackwater's broader sedimentary regime. Weathered contacts or disturbed deposits were noted at the upper horizons of the river terrace gravels, especially apparent in GTP4.

6.3.4 The laminated fine-grained deposits underlying the river terrace gravels comprised coarse-medium sands to the north fining to silty fine sands to the south. In GTP4 at the west of the site, laminated deposits were not observed.

6.3.5 Despite careful monitoring, no artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from any of the six test-pits.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 As pre-Quaternary deposits were not encountered in any of the test-pits, and without undertaking clast size analysis on the coarse sediments, understanding the position of the observations within or relating these to the local stratigraphic sequence is difficult. As stated above, however, the river terrace gravels are presumed to conform to the BGS mapped Terrace 3.

6.4.2 No archaeological remains or deposits with potential to preserve palaeoenvironmental evidence were observed. However, the results contribute to the understanding of the complex Pleistocene geology between Witham and Marks Tey.

6.4.3 The laminated sediments are clearly deposited in a very low energy system though the dominant sand lithology of these makes for an equivocal interpretation. It is not inconceivable that these represent the terminal stages of lacustrine infilling, and the mineral staining within observed deposits conforms with that observed in lacustrine deposits identified in a borehole 500m to the southwest at Thresholds Farm. However, finer grain sizes might be expected in preserved lake sediments and with the absence of organic matter, little potential is ascribed to these. Finer sediments or better preserved organic deposits may survive at depth. These sediments may equally represent channel fill within the tunnel valley.

6.4.4 The gravelly sand with rounded chalky inclusions at the base of GTP5, underlying the laminated sequence, may derive from an Anglian influence,

although only 0.2m was observed. This might represent diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation, although the extent to which it might have been reworked is impossible to determine at present.

6.4.5 The depth of sandy gravels in GTP4 might relate to two separate broad deposition events; the upper portion (Units 3-5, 0.55-2.20 m) representing Terrace 3, the lower portion (Unit 6, 2.20-3.00 m) representing possible channel-fill deposits identified in the Thresholds Farm borehole. If this is the case then the laminated sequence is not presented.

6.4.6 Bates (2014) has confirmed the presence of lacustrine deposits overlain by Terrace 3 gravels at Coleman's Farm, Rivenhall and suggests that the same terrace may mask pockets of lake sediments elsewhere on that site. By extension, the same principle could be applied to the area around Feering, especially considering proximity to the Thresholds Farm borehole.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The results of the archaeological trial trenching suggest the site to contain only a low density and complexity of archaeological remains, with many of the recorded features either being undated or of post-medieval to modern origin.

7.1.2 Nearly all of the features directly cut natural and were overlain by modern-disturbed topsoil and subsoil, having been truncated by agricultural activity to a depth of *c.*0.6m. The two exceptions to this comprise cut-features [4/005] and [26/007], in Trenches 4 and 26. Both cut subsoil and are therefore most recent, perhaps modern.

7.1.3 The majority of the archaeological features are thinly dispersed across the site, although a possible focus or concentration of past activity can be tentatively suggested to be represented by the relatively numerous archaeological features present within Trenches 25 and 26 and the south end of Trench 24, near Threshelfords Business Park. None of these features are dated however, although two sherds of possible Early to Middle Iron Age pottery were retrieved from the machined surface of gully [26/009].

7.1.4 The represented feature types are few, in that they nearly all comprise small pits, gullies or ditches; quarry pit [11/004] in Trench 11 being the sole exception to this. The trenches have revealed no clear examples of structural remains such as post-holes or building foundations, and if the site has been occupied by buildings or fence-lines during the past then their in-situ remains have either not been exposed or survived. The recovered artefact assemblage is similarly restricted. Prehistoric flints and pottery are scarce and much, if not all, occurs residually in later deposits. Later material includes fragments of ceramic building material, although they are low in number, making it more likely that they are related to use of off-site farmyard midden heaps for manuring, than former existence of on-site standing structures.

7.2 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.2.1 The oldest dated remains found by the trenching comprise a small quantity of thinly-scattered worked flint flakes, probably indicating that people were intermittently using this location for brief periods of encampment and exploitation of its natural resources during the Later Prehistoric period. Indications of undertakings of prehistoric activity within the wider area surrounding the site include cropmarks of two ring-ditches near Langley Green to the north (EHER 8804).

7.2.2 Activity during the Early to Middle Iron Age is suggested by the presence of the two sherds of pottery on the surface of gully [26/009]. However, the sherds are small and not securely dated and it is unclear whether they were in situ or were residual in this feature.

7.2.3 The archaeological work has identified no Roman remains, even though the site of the evaluation lies immediately alongside what used to be a major

Roman road running between London and Colchester. It can perhaps be concluded that the site lay within farmland or unmanaged countryside during that period, with the nearest Roman occupation perhaps being the small town at Kelvedon, *c.*1.5km to the south-west (Medlycott undated; EHER 8237, 8176 and 8238; SM 24866).

7.2.4 No Medieval remains were encountered. The course of the adjacent Roman road is likely to have been influential into the post-medieval period, since all of the site's linear features run approximately perpendicular to it, probably implying that they represent multiple phases of land enclosure, laid out in relation to it.

7.2.5 The only closely datable features comprise quarry pit [11/004] in Trench 11, and ditches [7/004, 9/006, 10/004 and 22/008] in Trenches 7, 9, 10 and 22 respectively. Early editions of the Ordnance survey confirm [7/004], [9/006] and [10/004] to be part of a single NW-SE aligned ditch and to have to be in use during the late 19th/20th century. The contents of [7/004] and [9/006] suggest the dumping of household waste from nearby domestic properties, perhaps as part of the deliberate infilling of this boundary ditch. NE-SW ditch [22/008], in Trench 22, contained a sherd of 19th century pottery and was contemporary with ditch [7/004, 9/006, 10/004].

7.2.6 The various undated pits, ditches and gullies are similarly orientated, but display no clear association or affinities with either the dated prehistoric or post-medieval/modern features.

7.3 Geoarchaeological Conclusions

7.3.1 Due to the inconclusive nature of the results, owing ultimately to the failure to identify secure Anglian-date or pre-Quaternary deposits in the geoarchaeological test-pits, it is difficult to understand which deposits are represented.

7.3.2 As development at the site is at an early stage in the planning process, and development impacts are not yet known, no firm recommendations can be made at this stage. However, as neither archaeological remains nor deposits with potential for palaeoenvironmental preservation were identified, discrete impacts to a depth of 3.0m are unlikely to adversely impact the Pleistocene record of the site.

7.3.3 Nevertheless, if further stages of ground investigations were to be undertaken, geoarchaeological monitoring of these would usefully clarify the results of this evaluation, and further investigate the possibility that either true lacustrine deposits are present or Palaeolithic archaeology is present in the River Terrace 3 of the Blackwater around the site.

7.4 Consideration of Research Aims

7.4.1 The evidence for past land-use prior to the post-medieval period is slight. Although very small quantities of Late Prehistoric worked flint and Early to

Middle Iron Age pottery are present, very few dated features have been identified. It is therefore difficult to discern the impact of early land-use on this site. It is postulated that the imposition of the adjacent Roman road had a more marked impact, in that all subsequent land division appears to have been laid out in relation to it. This influence endured into the post-medieval and modern periods. In the absence of obvious settlement remains, it is assumed that the encountered remains relate to the past agricultural use of this location in the landscape, much of these of post-medieval to early modern date.

7.4.2 No features such as roadside ditches, occupation remains or burials were found in association with the adjacent Roman road. Although much of the site is divorced from the road frontage, its northeast part extends up to the roadside, where only a small, undated, perpendicular ditch and a probable pit were found. The general absence of Roman artefacts across this site suggests that there was no tangible activity alongside the road in this period.

7.4.3 No Saxon period remains were identified to be present within the site. The evaluation therefore makes no contribution to the understanding of land use in this period.

7.4.4 The geoarchaeological test-pitting did not reveal the presence of secure Anglian or pre-Quaternary deposits within their investigated depth. If identifiable Pleistocene and Palaeolithic remains are present within the site area then they lie at greater depth (*i.e.* more than *c.*2 to 3m). This research aim has not therefore been fully addressed.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 The site appears to contain sparse archaeological remains, with most of the remains which do survive probably relating to use of it for grazing or farming during the Roman period and/or later. There are no in situ building remains, and the total number of finds is very small, thereby perhaps excluding it from having been used for long-term domestic activity during the past. The contents of Trenches 25 and 26 and the south end of 24 form the sole concentration of archaeological features, but are all undated, although one of them is associated with surface finds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery.

7.4.2 The reason as to why the site has seen so little residential and domestic activity is not known, and contrasts strongly with nearby Kelvedon. Perhaps, the site has been regarded as marginal for much of its history, a heathland subject to drought because of its light, sandy soil.

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HER Summary

Site name/Address: Land south of Feering, London Road, Kelvedon	
Parish: Feering	**District:** Braintree
NGR: TL 587345 219525	**Site Code:** FELR15
Type of Work: Evaluation by archaeological trenching & geoarchaeological test pitting	**Site Director/Group:** Mark Germany
Date of Work: 14/9/15 to 25/9/15	**Size of Area Investigated:** 5.5ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: ASE / Braintree Museum	**Funding source:** Amec Environment and Infrastructure UK Ltd
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Unknown	**Related HER Numbers:**
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History roundup	**OASIS No:** 227942
Periods Represented: Late Prehistoric. Early to Middle Iron Age? Post-medieval/modern	

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and geoarchaeological test-pitting was undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for site development. The north-west edge of the site bordered London Road, formerly part of a major Roman road between London and Colchester.

The trial-trenching revealed a small quantity of mostly scattered pits, gullies and ditches, all but the most recent of which are undated. The datable features comprised a quarry pit and post-medieval/modern field ditches, all recorded on late 19th/20th century Ordnance Survey maps. Nearly all of the features cut natural and lay beneath subsoil and topsoil. The two exceptions to this cut subsoil and are therefore more recent. The course of the adjacent Roman road must have been influential during the past since all of the site's linear features lay perpendicular to it, probably implying that they were constructed during the Roman period and later. However, the evaluation revealed no identifiably Roman remains.

Three of the trenches (24 to 26) revealed a slight cluster of undated features near Threshelfords Business Park, perhaps representing a focal point of past human activity. The nature and date of that activity remain unknown, although two small sherds of possible Early to Middle Iron Age pottery were retrieved from the machined surface of one of the features. Other collected artefacts include small quantities of prehistoric flint flakes and fragments of baked clay. The post-medieval features relate to the agricultural exploitation of this location, though one boundary ditch appears to have been filled with domestic waste that included 19th/20th century pottery.

The geoarchaeological test pitting has revealed no readily identifiable, archaeological remains or deposits conducive to the preservation of palaeoenvironmental evidence, but nonetheless has made a small contribution towards understanding of the complex Pleistocene geology between Witham and Marks Tey. If present on site, any pre-Quaternary deposits are buried at significant depth. As such, any future development is unlikely to have an adverse impact on the site's underlying Pleistocene record, unless intruding to a depth of more than 3m below existing ground levels.

Previous Summaries/Reports: None

Author of Summary: Mark Germany	**Date of Summary:** November 2015

OASIS ID: 227942	
Project details	
Project name	Land south of Feering, Kelvedon, Essex
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and geoarchaeological test pitting preceded possible residential development within a greenfield site between Feering and Kelvedon, Essex. The results of the trenching comprised sparse undatable pits, gullies and ditches, most of which probably dated to the Roman period or later as they lay aligned with the nearby Roman road. The geoarchaeological test pitting proved inconclusive due to a failure to identify Anglian-date or pre-Quaternary deposits.
Project dates	Start: 14-09-2015 End: 25-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FELR15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	7761 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE FEERING Land south of Feering, London Road, Kelvedon
Study area	5.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 587330 219705 51.8732111141 0.30605206093 51 52 23 N 000 18 21 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project	Andy Leonard

director/manager	
Project supervisor	Mark Germany
Sponsor/funding body	AMEC
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation. Land South of Feering, Kelvedon, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Germany, M.
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Place of issue or publication	27 Eastways, Witham, Essex. CM8 3YQ
Description	A4. 34 pages of text and tables. 11 pages or plans, photographs and sections
Entered by	Mark Germany (m.germany@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	27 October 2015

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth / thickness m	Height m AOD
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.30	35.23-35.47
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.28	
2	2/002	Layer	Natural	0.38-0.54	
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.31-0.36	34.91-34.51
3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.26	
3	3/003	Layer	Natural	0.46-0.62	
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.34	34.87-35.7
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.23	
5	5/003	Layer	Natural	0.45-0.57	
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.31	33.99-34.17
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.20	
6	6/003	Layer	Natural	0.39-0.51	
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.32	35.26-35.38
8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.09-0.11	
8	8/003	Layer	Natural	0.37-0.43	
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.32	34.62-35.35
12	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.05-0.10	
12	12/003	Layer	Natural	0.33-0.40	
13	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.32	34.91-35.06
13	13/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.20	
13	13/003	Layer	Natural	0.39-0.50	
14	14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.28	34.48-34.91
14	14/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.07-0.22	
14	14/003	Layer	Natural	0.32-0.50	
15	15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.35	23.24-34.94
15	15/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.07-0.13	
15	15/003	Layer	Natural	0.35-0.48	
16	16/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.40	33.4-34.22
16	16/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.18	
16	16/003	Layer	Natural	0.43-0.50	
17	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	Not recorded	33.51-34.19
17	17/002	Layer	Subsoil	Not recorded	
17	17/003	Layer	Natural	Not recorded	
18	18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19-0.33	33.18-33.28
18	18/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.36	
18	18/003	Layer	Natural	0.50-0.66	
19	19/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.31-0.39	33.12-33.88
19	19/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.21-0.28	
19	19/003	Layer	Natural	0.52-0.67	
20	20/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32-0.47	33.65-34.12
20	20/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16-0.17	
20	20/003	Layer	Natural	0.49-0.63	
23	23/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.30	32.55-32.96
23	23/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.20	
23	23/003	Layer	Natural	0.40-0.54	

Appendix 2: Post-medieval pottery

Con-text	Feature	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)	Pottery – ware and featured sherds	Date
7/006		8	411	Modern stoneware: remains of three lead-glazed cylindrical storage jars, one plain with a horizontal groove below the rim, a marmalade jar with vertical ribbing and the complete profile of a necked jar with a beaded rim, 105mm in height, 80mm in diameter and showing two incised grooves around the shoulder	19th to 20th C
		6	125	Modern white earthenware: comprising the footring base from a plain white hemispherical bowl; the lower halves of two fluted ?cups and a flanged bowl rim showing purple sponged decoration around the rim flange	Mid-19th to 20th C
9/008		2	75	Modern red earthenware: thick-walled internally glazed sherds, flecks beneath the glaze indicate vessel is mad of coal measures clay and therefore not local, being made either in the Midlands or North	19th to early 20th C
		2	50	Fine red earthenware: joining sherds from a cylindrical vessel with a recessed base showing a bichrome glaze – brown on the interior and dark green on the exterior	19th to 20th C
		1	122	Yellow ware: fragment of large flared bowl with flanged rim	Late 18th to 20th C
		7	53	Modern white earthenware: plain flat base sherd and several sherds from a plate or dish showing a transfer-printed foliage design in black	Mid-19th to 20th C
		1	3	Modern porcelain: body sherd showing moulded design picked out in green, brown and pink paint – not high quality	19th to 20th C
22/007		1	1	Pearlware or thin-walled modern white earthenware showing ?painted design in lilac	Early 19th to 20th C
		28	840		

Appendix 3:

Geoarchaeological test pit GTP1

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Dark brownish-grey fine sandy, clayey silt. Sub-angular and subrounded flints.	0-0.25	Modern topsoil
Sharp			
2	Dark orangey-brown sandy clay. 10% <100mm flints clasts and tertiary pebbles.	0.25-0.45	Subsoil
Diffuse			
3	Stiff dry greenish-grey/pinkish-grey clay. Rooted with infrequent black mineralised flecks. @0.85 Frequent brownish-red very clayey sand lenses with 20% <5mm subangular – rounded flint clasts. Very occasional <100mm nodular flint.	0.45-1.05	River Terrace Gravels?
Diffuse			
4	Slightly loose medium-fine brownish red sand admixed with [3]	1.05-1.20	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
5	Brownish-red stiff slightly clayey medium-coarse sand. Horizontally bedded. @1.60 admixture with [6]? Yellowish-brown and yellowish-red mottles. Also very occasional <100mm flint clasts.	1.20-1.80	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
6	Laminated yellowish-grey and reddish-brown medium-coarse soft sand; some black mineralisation at laminar interfaces. Orangey-grey towards base. Localised patches of <50mm subrounded flint clasts.	1.80-3.00+	Lacustrine? Channel fill?

Geoarchaeological test pit GTP2

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Dark brownish-grey fine sandy, clayey silt. Subangular and subrounded flints.	0-0.30	Modern topsoil
Sharp			
2	Dark orangey-brown very sandy clay.	0.30-0.50	Subsoil
Diffuse			
3	Orangey-brown clayey-sand with 15% rounded-subangular<50mm flints clasts and tertiary pebbles.	0.50-0.70	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
4	Very stiff light yellowish-grey gravelly-silt. 45% gravel comprising (sub)rounded <50mm flints. Admixed with or truncating very stiff brownish-red medium sand with localised concentrations of flints and greenish-grey very stiff clay pockets.	0.70-1.05	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
5	Very stiff brownish-red medium sand with localised concentrations of flints and greenish-grey very stiff clay pockets.	1.05-1.65	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
6	Brownish-red medium-coarse clay sand with 10% subangular-subrounded flints.	1.65-2.05	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
7	Laminated yellowish-grey and reddish-brown medium-coarse soft sand. No coarse component.	2.05-3.00+	Lacustrine? Channel fill?

Geoarchaeological test pit GTP3

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Dark grey very sandy silt. 5% <50mm subangular and subrounded flints.	0-0.30	Modern topsoil
Sharp			
2	Dark orangey-brown slightly silty very clayey sand. 5% <50mm subangular and subrounded flints.	0.30-0.55	Subsoil
Sharp			
3	Light yellowish-grey very gravelly sand. Coarse component comprises <50mm rounded-subangular flints and tertiary pebbles.	0.55-0.95	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
4	Stiff brownish-red slightly clayey medium-coarse sand, localised orange mottles. 5% flints, shatter under excavator bucket.	0.95-1.20	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
5	Laminated brownish-yellow, brownish-red and very light grey medium soft sand. Localised patches of <50mm subrounded flint clasts towards base.	1.20-2.00	Lacustrine? Channel fill?
Sharp			
6	Gravel band <100mm flints in sand matrix (as [5])	2.00-2.05	Lacustrine? Channel fill?
Sharp			
7	As [5] but more finely laminated with occasional black mineralised streaks.	2.05-3.00	Lacustrine? Channel fill?
Sharp			
8	Compacted shattered flints in sand matrix (as [7]).	3.00-3.05	Lacustrine? Channel fill?
Sharp			
9	As [7] but largely reddish-brown in colour, and slightly clayeyer composition.	3.05-3.10+	Lacustrine? Channel fill?

Geoarchaeological test pit GTP4

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Dark brownish-grey fine sandy, clayey silt. Subangular and subrounded flints.	0-0.35	Modern topsoil
Sharp			
2	Dark orangey-brown sandy clay. 2% <100mm flints clasts and tertiary pebbles.	0.35-0.55	Subsoil
Sharp/Undulating			
3	Light grey or brownish-grey silt to south, admixed with brownish-red slightly clayey sand to north. 10% <50mm rounded-subangular flints.	0.55-0.90	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
4	Brownish-red slightly clayey sandy gravel with light orange mottles. 50% <50mm rounded-angular flints; 10% 100-200mm nodular flints.	0.90-1.50	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
5	Brownish-red soft medium sand. 20% <50mm angular-rounded flints and tertiary pebbles. @ 2.20 Black mineralisation at interface	1.50-2.20	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
6	Compact red/dark grey/brown medium-coarse sandy gravel. Coarse component (~66%) comprises <50mm rounded-subangular flints and tertiary pebbles, increasing size at depth to <100mm. Stiffens at base.	2.20-3.00+	River Terrace Gravels? Channel Fill?

Geoarchaeological test pit GTP5

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Dark brownish-grey fine sandy, clayey silt. Sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	0-0.35	Modern topsoil
Sharp			
2	Dark orangey-brown sandy clay. 10% <100mm flints clasts and tertiary pebbles.	0.35-0.60	Subsoil
Sharp			
3	Stiff grey or light greenish-brown dry clay with orange and black mineralisation. @0.85 brownish/orangey-red medium gravelly sand band.	0.60-0.90	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
4	Stiff dry light yellowish-brown clay. Very occasional black mineralisation flecks. Very rare <100mm nodular flint.	0.90-1.50	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
5	Brownish-red stiff slightly clayey medium-coarse sand. Horizontally bedded. @1.60 admixture with [6]? Yellowish-brown and yellowish-red mottles. Also very occasional <100mm flint clasts.	1.50-1.75	River Terrace Gravels?
Diffuse			
6	Laminated yellowish-grey and reddish-brown silty fine sand; 1% <10mm sub-rounded flints. Very occasional black mineralisation.	1.75-3.20	Lacustrine? Channel fill?
Sharp			
7	Light brownish-grey coarse gravelly sand. 25% coarse component comprising <10mm rounded-subrounded chalk/flint pea grit. Purple mineralisation flecks.	3.20-3.40+	Reworked Till?

Geoarchaeological test pit GTP6

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Dark brownish-grey fine sandy, clayey silt. Subangular and subrounded flints.	0-0.30	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Dark orangey-brown sandy clay. 10% <100mm flints clasts and tertiary pebbles.	0.30-0.50	Subsoil
Diffuse			
3	Structureless dry slightly fine sandy-clay. Rooted. No coarse component.	0.50-1.45	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
4	Laminated yellowish-grey very fine silty sand with frequent orange bands, especially at top. No coarse component.	1.45-3.00+	Lacustrine? Channel fill?

© Archaeology South-East		Land south of Feering, Kelvedon, Essex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		

Little London

Exchange Court

LONDON ROAD

ROMAN ROAD course of

587250,219850

587500,219850

587250,219450

587500,219450

N

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GTP1
GTP2
GTP3
GTP4
GTP5
GTP6

Depression

Site boundary

Grassland

Gore Pit

Depot

Police Houses

Pol Sta

Franklin Gate

Threshelfords Business Park

Oval House

SubElSta

The Wheelwrights

Ashbourne

Cops View

Birches

Pisces

Holmfield House

High Beams

Pippins

Thimbles

Nevella

Culfra

Lorien

Hunters

Cloudan

The Bungalow

Yemead

Rydal

Chale

Coralie

The Quillet

Bidlake

Chandlers

Sans Souci

Kelvene

Barchris

Follyfaunts

Carousel

Threshelfords Cott

Connemara

Woodheys

35.7m

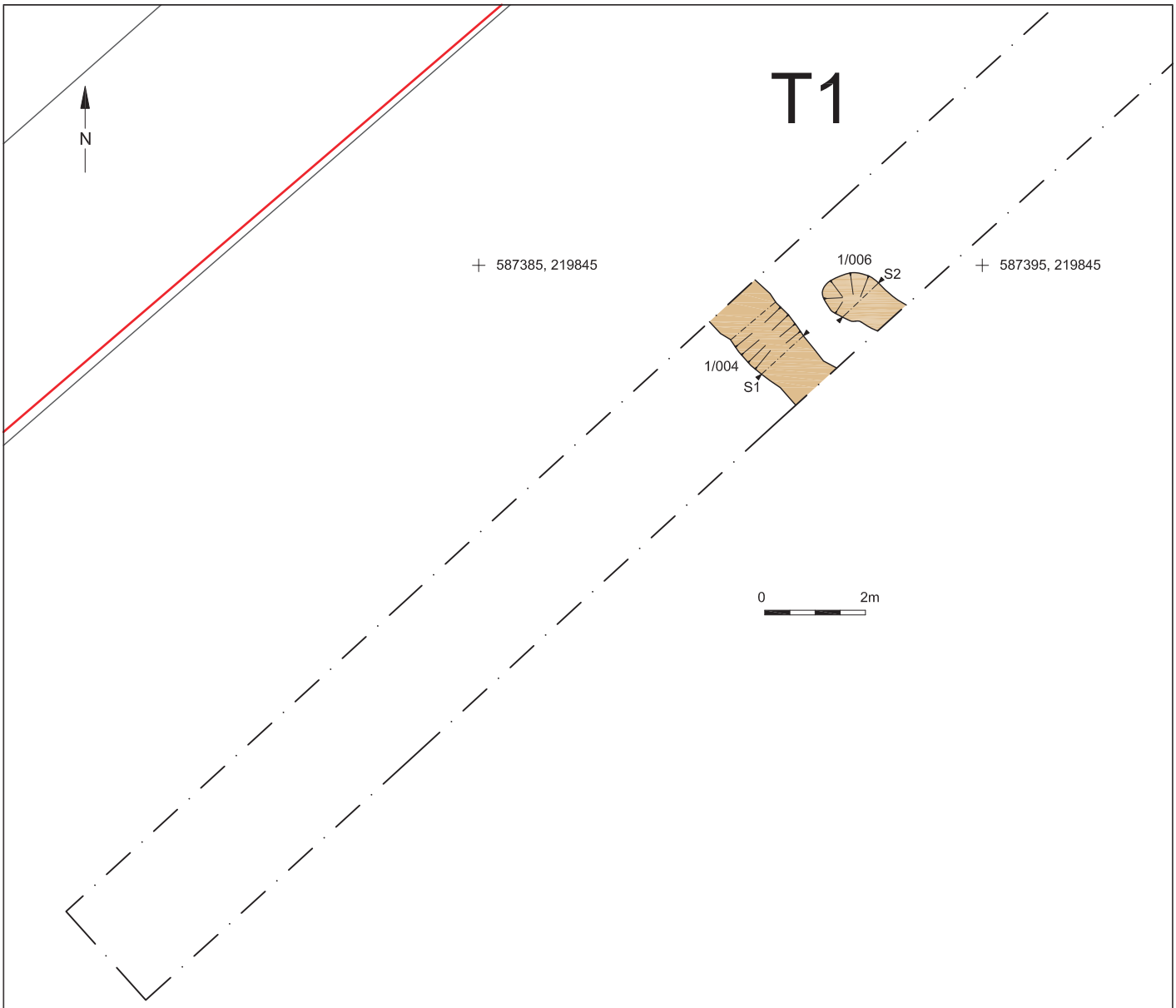
33.51m

35.09m

31.7m

0 20m

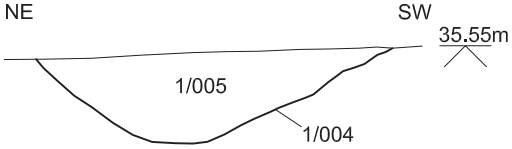
© Archaeology South-East		Land south of Feering, Kelvedon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Locations of evaluation trenches and geoarchaeological test pits	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		



Feature 1/004 looking south-east

Feature 1/006 looking south-east

Section 1



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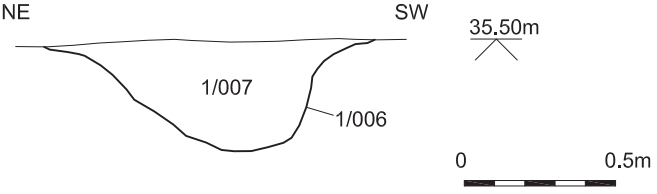
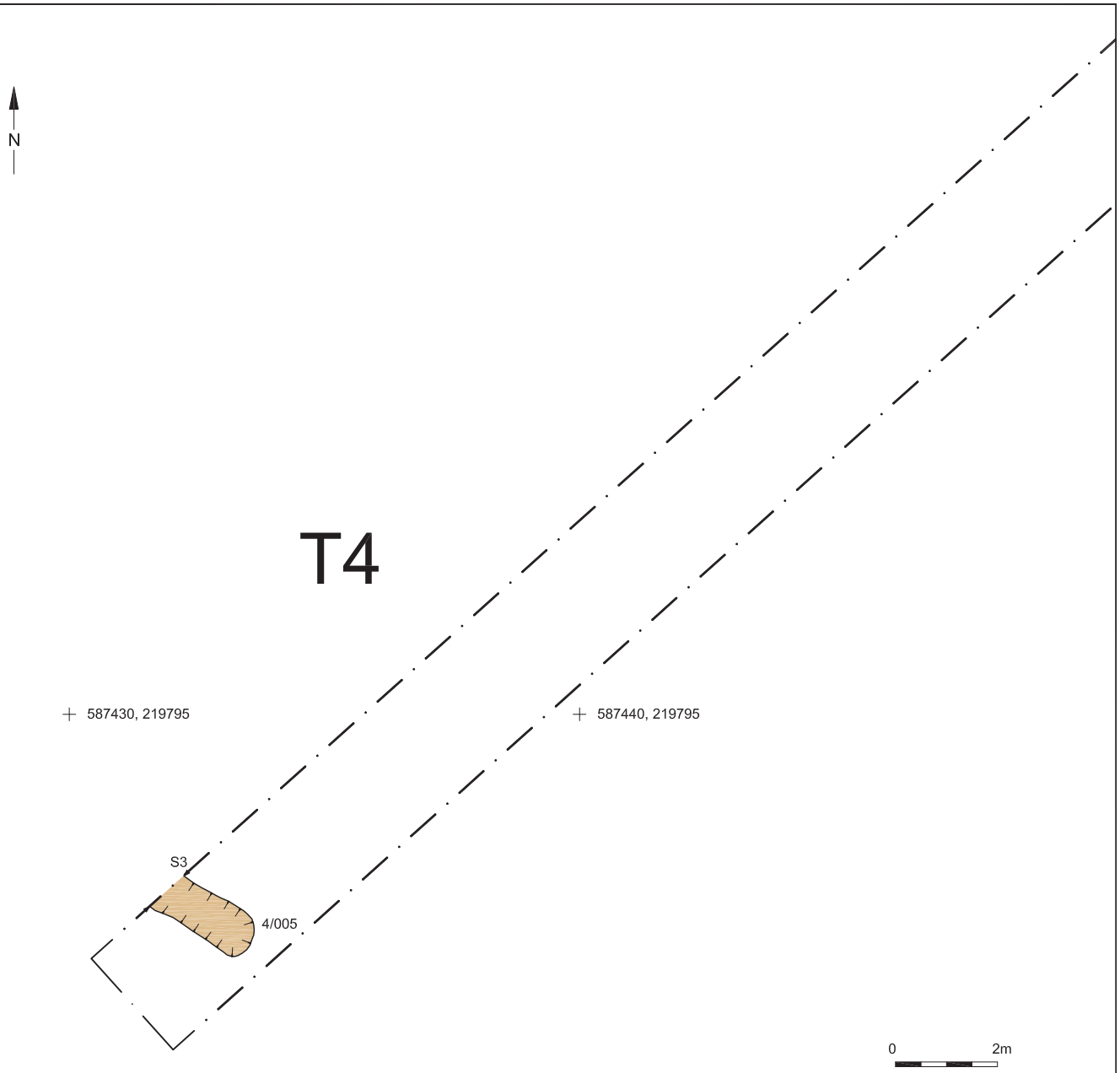
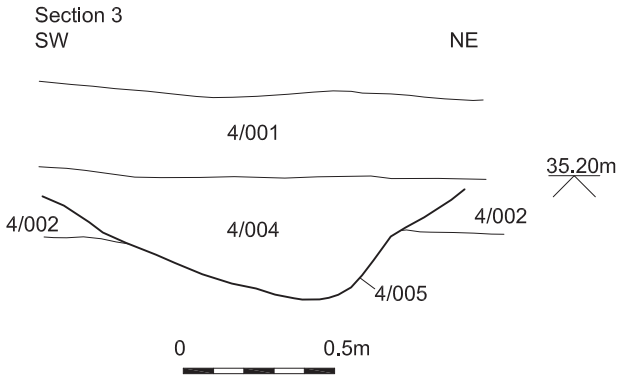


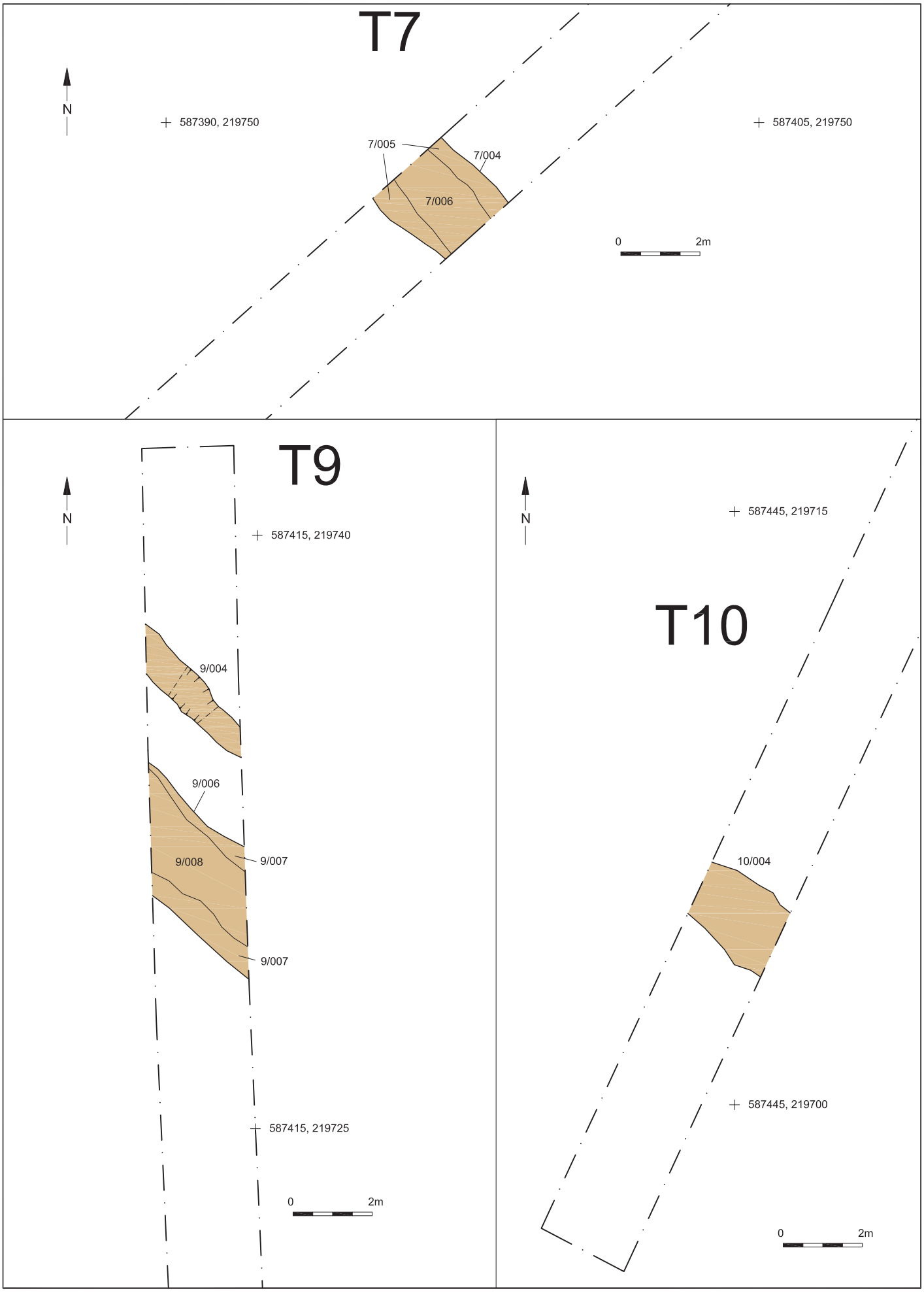
© Archaeology South-East		Land south of Feering, Kelvedon	Fig.3
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Trench 1 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		





Feature 4/005 looking north-west

© Archaeology South-East		Land south of Feering, Kelvedon	Fig.4
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Trench 4 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		



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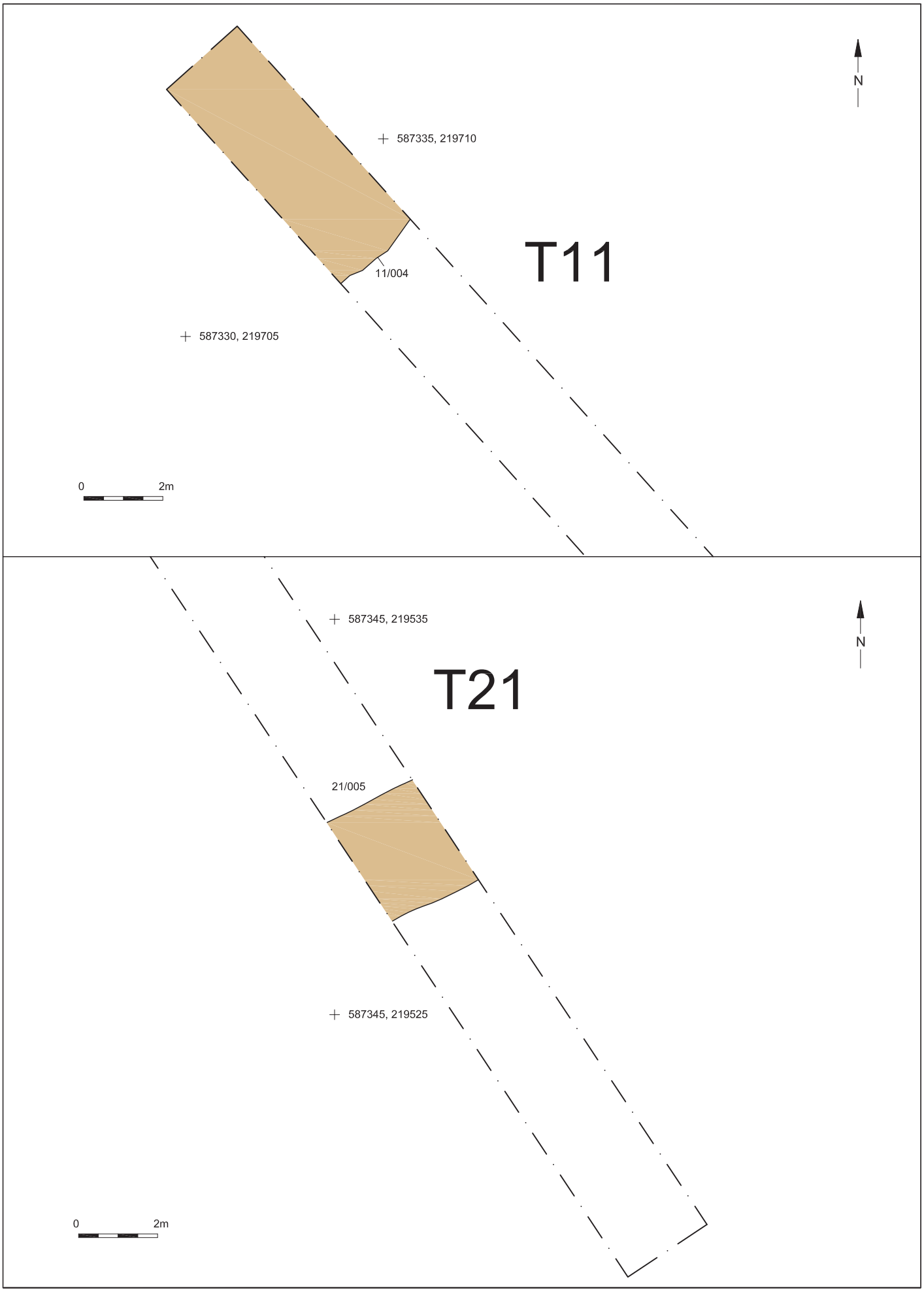
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Plans of Trenches 7, 9 and 10	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Plans of Trenches 11 and 21	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		

Feature 4/005 looking north-west

T22

N

587380, 219560

587395, 219560

22/010

22/008

S4

22/006

0 2m

Section 4
SE NW

32.81m

22/009

22/007

22/002

22/010

22/008

0 0.5m

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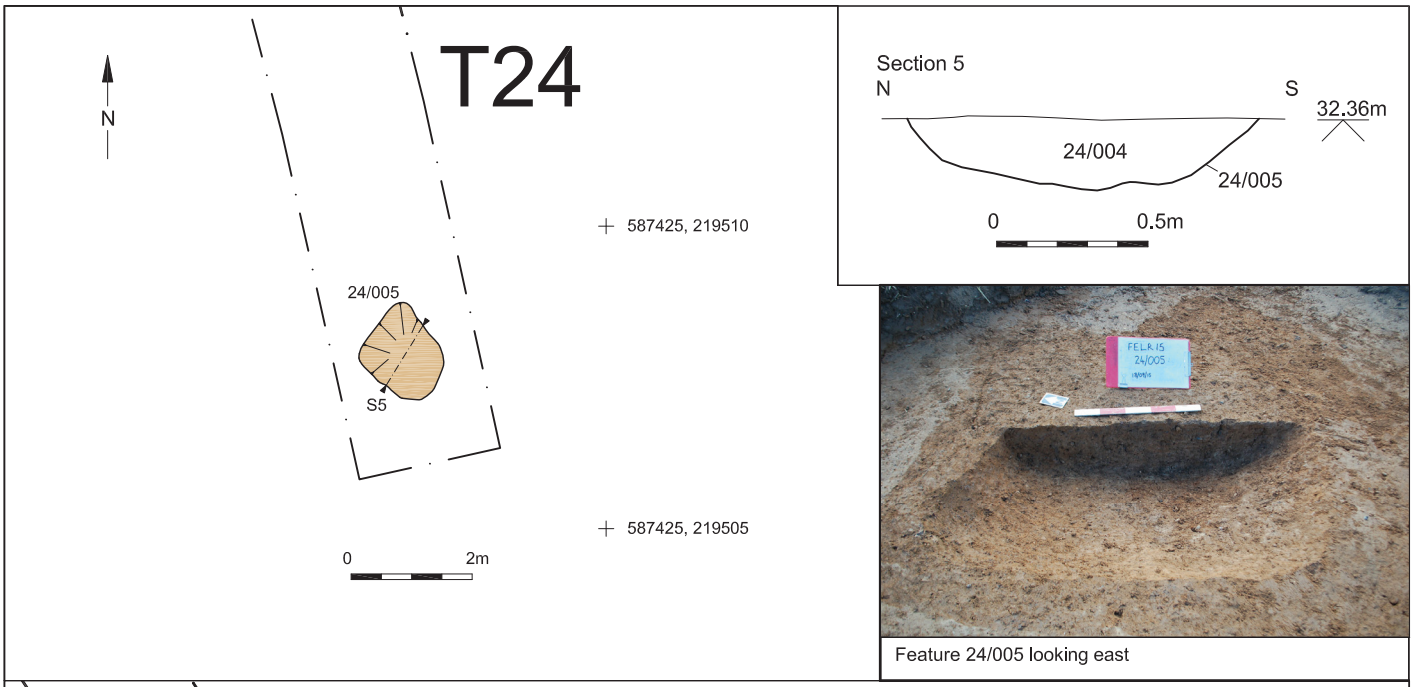
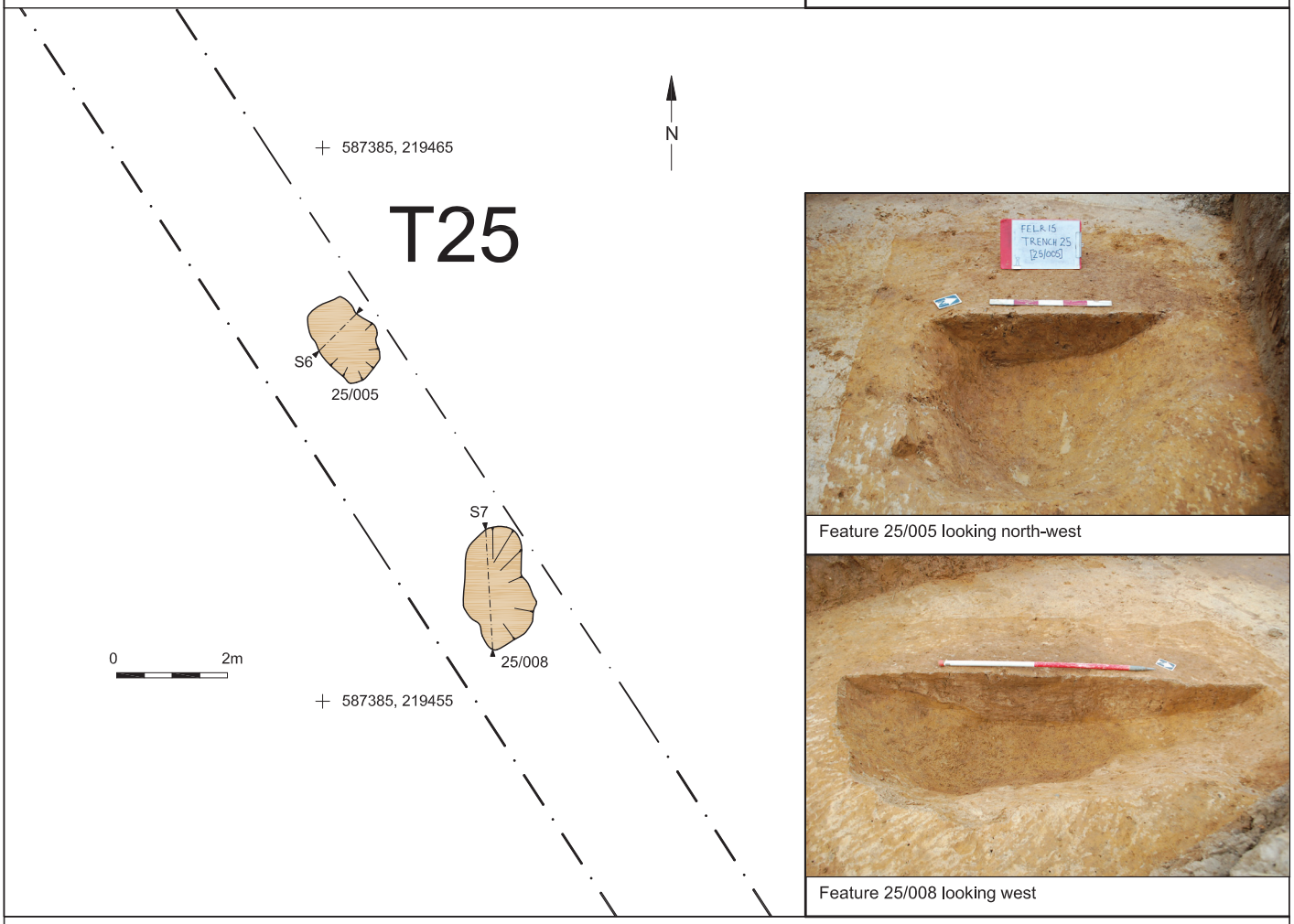
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Trench 22 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		

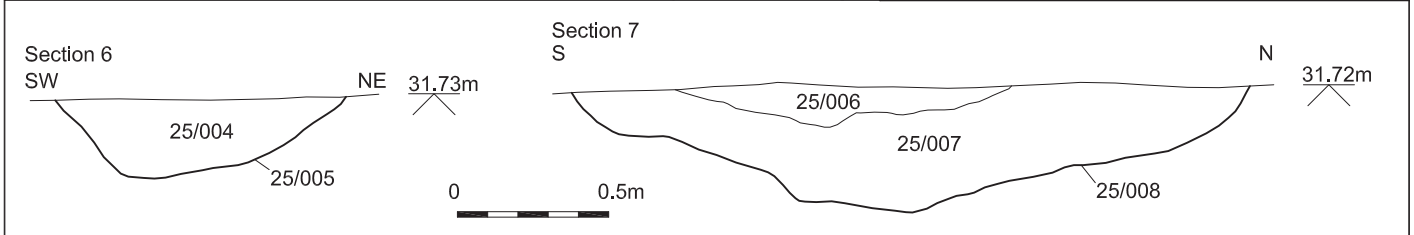


Feature 24/005 looking east



Feature 25/005 looking north-west

Feature 25/008 looking west



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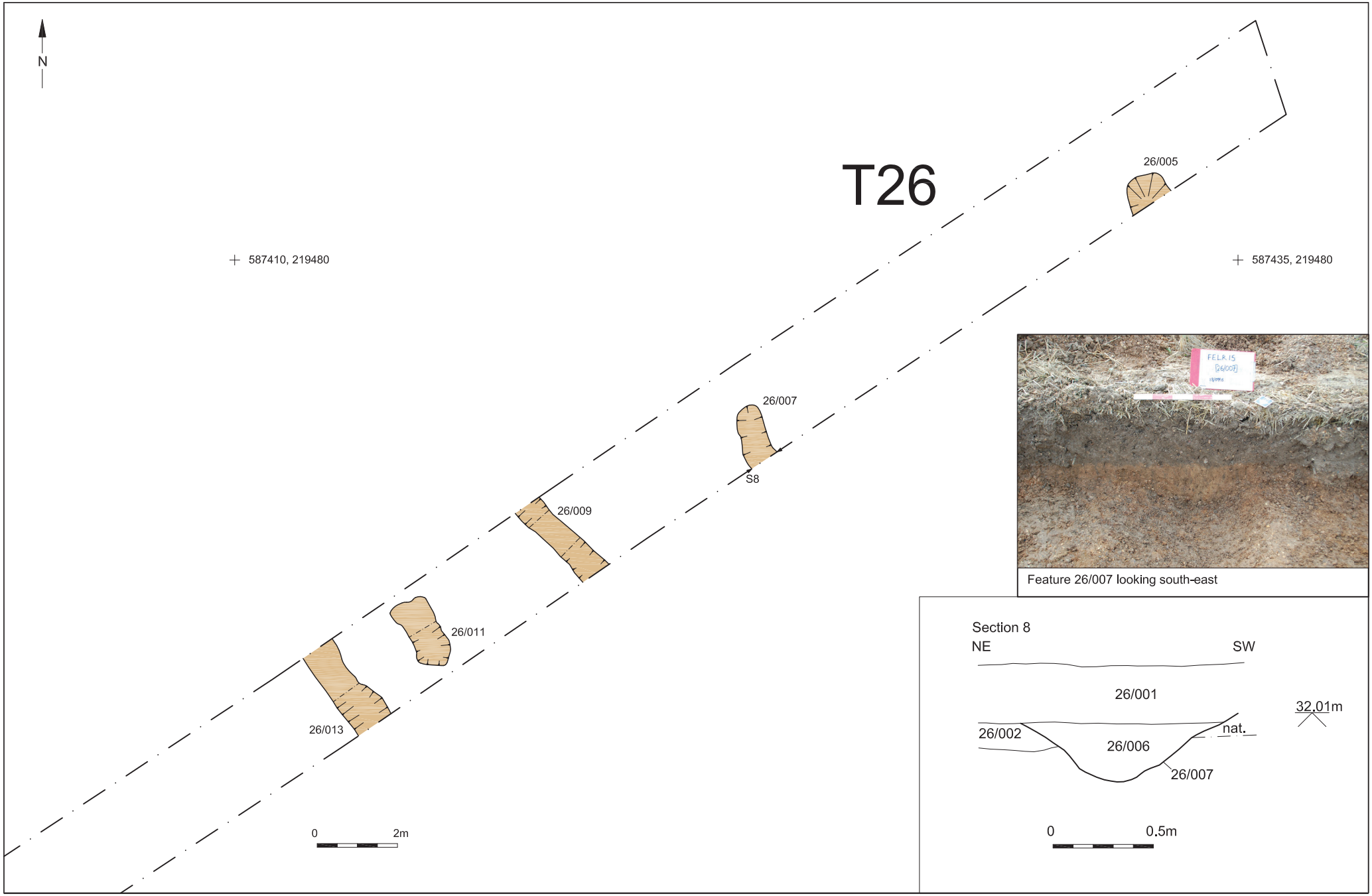
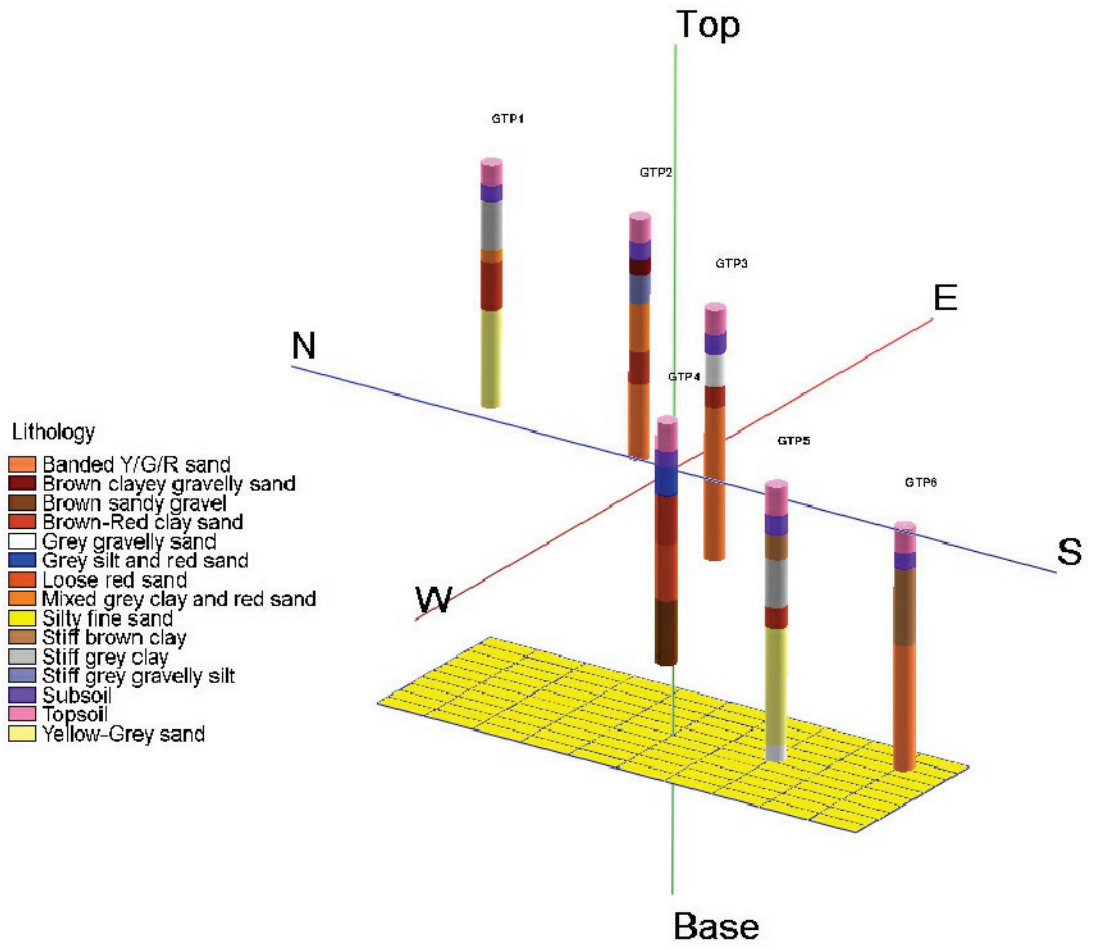
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Trenches 24 and 25 plans, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land south of Feering, Kelvedon	Fig.9
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Trench 26 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land south of Feering, Kelvedon	Fig.10
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Geoarchaeological test pit lithologies	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: EB		

Geoarchaeological test pit 1

Geoarchaeological test pit 2

Geoarchaeological test pit 3

Geoarchaeological test pit 4

Geoarchaeological test pit 5

Geoarchaeological test pit 6

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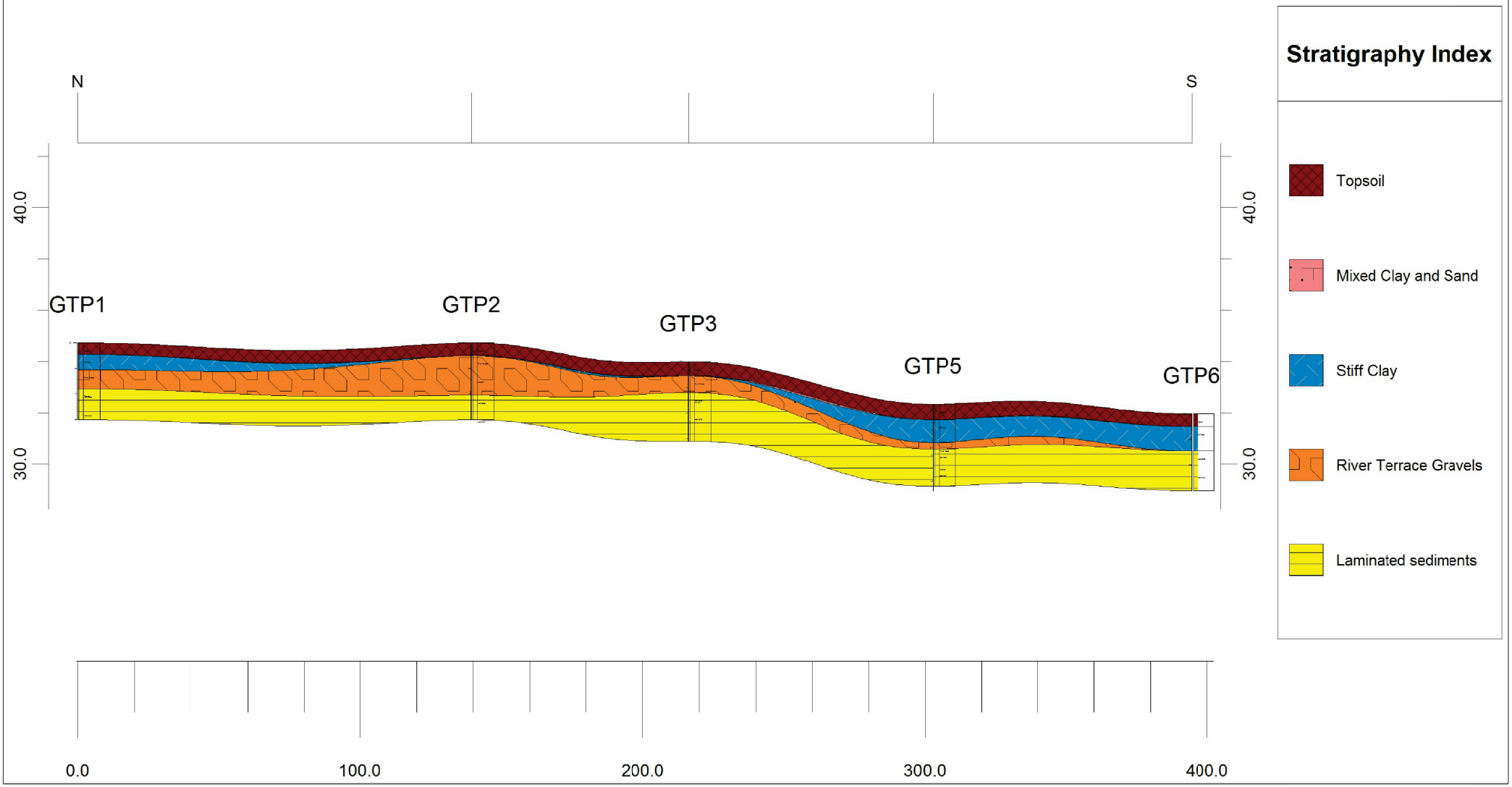
Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Geoarchaeological test pit photographs	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: EB		

North-South Transect



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Project Ref: 7761	Oct 2015	Geoarchaeological north-south transect	
Report Ref: 2015393	Drawn by: EB		

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