

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Phase 2 London Road North Enterprise Zone LDO  
Harlow, Essex**

**NGR: TL 47120 10580**

**ASE Project No: 8342**

**ASE Report No: 2015477  
OASIS id: archaeol6-235260**



**January 2016**

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## Abstract

Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Essex County Council to undertake a second phase of archaeological evaluation at the London Road North Enterprise Zone site, Harlow. The evaluation was carried out in November 2015 and consisted of 34 trial trenches within two areas to the north and south of the initial Phase 1 investigations.

A total of 93 cut features and three areas of metalling were recorded across all but three of the trenches. These archaeological remains seemingly span the later prehistoric to medieval periods, with the main periods of activity being in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period.

The earliest datable feature in the northern area was a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit in Trench 71. A stakehole in this trench may be contemporary. In addition to these features, a quantity of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age pottery was also found residually in a Roman ditch in Trench 73, suggesting that the ditch had disturbed an earlier feature. In the southern evaluation area there were three further probable prehistoric features – a curvilinear gully/ring ditch in Trench 101 and two pits in Trench 86. These collectively indicate a low intensity of late prehistoric activity at this location in the landscape.

The extensive complex of parallel 'bedding trenches' found in Phase 1 was shown to extend into both areas of the Phase 2 evaluation. The small quantity of dating evidence retrieved appears to support the previously postulated Late Iron Age/ Early Roman date for them. However, the precise chronology of these probable agricultural or horticultural features is still unclear.

Other recorded features included ditches and pits which, where dated, appear to be mainly Late Iron Age to early Roman in date. Where excavated, these were found to contain pottery, shell and animal bone indicative of occupation activity. The nature and significance of these remains is not readily apparent.

Metalling found in Trenches 73, 90 and 96 was seen to be the continuation of the north-south trackway exposed in Phase 1. Roman ceramic building material found mixed in with the gravel corresponds with the Phase 1 results and supports the Roman or later date postulated for it. In the northern area the trackway was demonstrated to seal two Roman ditches. One of these was a continuation of a north-south enclosure ditch found in Phase 1. The other was a substantial ditch which had not been previously identified.

No evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity was recorded and medieval activity was sparse. Only a gully in Trench 80, could be definitely dated to the medieval period. A ditch and a gully in Trench 99 also contained small quantities of medieval/post-medieval material along with earlier finds. These remains outlie the moated farmstead at Cold Hall.

The evaluation has established that significant below-ground archaeological remains are present that survive substantially undamaged by later truncation and land use, at a depth of c.0.34-0.60m below the present ground surface. As such, any development of these Phase 2 areas will likely impact upon the heritage resource of this vicinity of Harlow.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Essex County Council to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation. This consisted of 34 trial trenches covering two separate areas, north and south of a preceding Phase 1 archaeological investigation carried out in 2014.

1.1.2 The site is located in the Mark Hall area of Harlow, to the south of the historic town core and on the eastern edge of the new town. The two areas total 3.98ha and are centred on National Grid Reference TL47120 10580 (Figure 1). More accurately, the northern area is centred on NGR TL 4710 10694 and the southern area is centred on NGR TL 47129 10379. Both are situated between the A414 and London Road and accessed from London Road.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer; Accessed 10/9/2015), the superficial geology of the site is the glacial till (or 'boulder clay') of the Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton. The underlying solid geology comprises London Clay, giving way to the northeast to the Thanet Sand Formation and the clay, slit and sand of the Lambeth Group (undifferentiated).

1.2.2 Both north and south areas were broadly flat pieces of land, covered in rough grass and formerly used as sports fields. The northern area bordered Mark Hall School Playing Field. Ground levels in this northern area ranged from 72.5m to 75m AOD. The southern area bordered an industrial premises and heights ranged from 73.5m to 78m AOD.

1.2.3 The site's previous use as playing fields and sports fields was in evidence. In the northern area disturbance was noted in Trench 74 consistent with ground stripping/levelling and reinstatement for formation of the school playing field. In the southern area the footprint of the old clubhouse could be seen on the ground, and in Trenches 82 and 91 to the south there was the remains of geo-textile and wood chippings for the old playground. To the north there was hard standing that had previously been used for clubhouse parking. The remains of an old tennis court was apparent in the south-eastern corner. A rifle range on the western edge of the southern area was still in use and was being accessed via this field at the time of the evaluation. Drainage features were noted in both northern and southern areas.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The current investigation areas (hereafter 'the site') are part of the Harlow Enterprise Zone; one of 24 Enterprise Zones across the country that have been set up by the Government in areas that have the most potential for business growth and job creation.

- 1.3.2 ECC Place Services, in their capacity as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, recommended that the proposed development had the capacity to damage or destroy archaeological remains. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). ECC Place Services requested that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken to determine the presence or absence and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits/features within the development area.
- 1.3.3 The scope of these works was discussed and agreed with the ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor, Maria Medlycott. This was formalised in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015a) produced by ASE and approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.3.4 This report details the results of this initial investigation and will be used to determine the need for and extent of any further archaeological work that may be required.

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

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at the site, carried out between the 2nd and 12th of November 2015.
- 1.4.2 The report describes and interprets the results of the evaluation, and assesses the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains on the site. The likely impact of the proposed development of the site upon the heritage resource is considered.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Located on the east side of Harlow, significant archaeological remains have previously been found in the surrounding vicinity, most notably a Middle Iron Age enclosure and field boundary in the grounds of Mark Hall School (Robertson 2004a and 2004b) and a Bronze Age round barrow, Roman farmstead and Early Saxon buildings at the ongoing New Hall residential development site (ASE 2015b). A more detailed account of the wider archaeological context of this site has been previously presented for the Phase 1 investigations (2014b). Consequently, only the site-specific background is given below.

### 2.2 Previous Archaeological Work on the Site

2.2.1 A desk based assessment was prepared for the site in January 2013 (ECC Place Services 2013). Phase 1 archaeological work was carried out within the footprint of the proposed access road in 2014 (see Figures 1 and 2). A programme of trial trenching (Trenches 1-64; ASE 2014a), followed by open area excavation (ASE 2014b) was undertaken.

2.2.2 The Phase I excavations covered a 1.45 ha area. They exposed and recorded a multi-period sequence of archaeological remains, seemingly spanning the later prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Although their relative sequencing is understood, their precise chronology is as yet unclear. The earliest remains consisted of a scatter of Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pits and postholes, and possibly early/middle Iron Age field system boundaries which indicate a late prehistoric presence at this location in the landscape.

2.2.3 The first tangible phase of land-use is currently dated to the Late Iron Age / Early Roman transition period, when two extensive complexes of very regular parallel ditches/gullies were imposed on the landscape. Similar features have been discovered elsewhere in Essex and the surrounding counties and varying interpretations and dates have been assigned to them. They are tentatively interpreted here as 'bedding trenches' for large-scale horticulture but may have had a more general agricultural function. Four undated cremation burials and a cattle burial may also date to this phase of land-use.

2.2.4 This location continued to be under agricultural management through the Roman period, as demonstrated by the laying out of a rectilinear field system in the area in between, and with reference to, the two horticultural complexes. This field system respected the 'bedding trenches' and perpetuated some of them as boundaries. Within one of the smaller Roman enclosures of this field system were the fragmentary remains of a building foundation constructed of broken Roman brick and roof tile. This may be of Roman date, or else be a later building making use of available Roman building material.

2.2.5 A SSW-NNE aligned trackway was seemingly inserted into this pre-existing horticultural and agricultural landscape, perhaps replacing a former lesser routeway. The gravelled track surface incorporated Roman brick and tile, presumably deriving from a robbed building located in the wider vicinity. The date of this trackway is particularly uncertain.

2.2.6 No positive evidence for Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity was found. However, several excavated pits did not contain any datable finds. Some of these cut into Late Iron Age and Roman ditches, and could therefore be post-Roman.

2.2.7 There appears to have been a hiatus in occupation and use of the area until the later medieval / post-medieval period. Land-use at this time appears to have been agricultural, lying just outside the farmstead of Cold Hall. A small part of the homestead ditch/moat was encountered at the south-west corner of the excavation. This, and a substantial field boundary ditch in the middle of the site, corresponds with early 17th century cartographic evidence.

### **2.3 Aims and objectives of the project**

2.3.1 The aims of the project, as described in the WSI (ASE 2015a), were to:  
*'determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation will be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.'*

2.3.2 Specific research objectives for the trenching were to:

- Identify any evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval settlement or activity
- Gain information on past land use which both sets these evaluation sites within the wider landscape and also refines the information and interpretations developed from previous archaeological interventions in the immediate area.

2.3.3 In the event of any significant discoveries the report was to explore their significance and potential with reference to research themes and questions 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).

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation took place between 2nd and 12th of November 2015 and was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015a). A 5% sample of the site was intended to be excavated, equating to thirty-six evaluation trenches (numbered 66–101 to follow on from the Phase 1 evaluation). However, Trenches 76 and 77 could not be excavated as they were located partially within a wooded area and partially within hard standing. Trench 75 was cut short for the same reason.
- 3.1.2 The 34 remaining trenches were excavated using a tracked 14 ton 360° mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. All trenches were 30m long and 2.15m wide.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were machine-excavated to depths of between 0.38m and 0.7m, removing all overburden deposits present. Mechanical excavation continued to the surface of archaeological deposits or else to the top of the undisturbed natural deposit.
- 3.1.4 Following the machine strip, an excavation strategy was agreed with ECC Place Services that only a selected sample of features would be investigated. Features that were clearly continuations of ditch systems recorded and characterised by the Phase 1 investigations were usually not targeted. Instead, hand-excavation focussed on other types of features that could answer the specific research objectives and further elucidate the dating and interpretation of the Phase 1 excavation remains.
- 3.1.5 Archaeological features, soil horizons and the natural strata were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers for each trench. They were drawn in section (at scales of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate). The trenches and their component features were planned and located by GPS. Written records (trench and context descriptions) were made on *pro forma* trench recording sheets or on the section drawings.
- 3.1.6 A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images.
- 3.1.7 Finds from features were collected and bagged according to context number.
- 3.1.8 Bulk environmental samples were taken from three contexts. Samples were numbered Sample <1>, etc.
- 3.1.9 Metal detecting of the spoil heaps of Trenches 78 and 87 was carried out.

#### 3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The fieldwork archive is currently held at the offices of ASE in Witham and Portslade and will be deposited with Harlow Museum in due course. The nature and contents of the archive are described in Tables 1 and 2.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Context sheets	111
Section sheets	6
Plan sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	144
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	34

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Bulk finds	21kg
Registered finds (number of)	8
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	3
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	3

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 In general, feature legibility was reasonably good although a number of cut features contained fills which were similar to the natural clay, making them difficult to detect. The combination of rain and high water table meant that the northern evaluation area was very waterlogged and some of the trenches became partially or fully submerged once machined.
- 4.1.2 Feature incidence was reasonably dense across the site although there was a fairly low occurrence of intercutting relationships. The evaluation of the northern area identified 26 cut features as well as metalling of a trackway. In the southern area 67 cut features were exposed as well as metalling of the same trackway. Thirty-seven features were sampled by excavation as part of the excavation strategy agreed with the ECC HE Advisor. Those that can be dated on finds evidence appear to range mainly from the Late Iron Age to Roman periods, with a small number of features seemingly being of Late Bronze Age and Early or Middle Iron Age date.
- 4.1.3 As mentioned in section 3.1.1, Trenches 76 and 77 could not be excavated due to local constraints. These are therefore not further described.
- 4.1.4 Trenches 69, 93 and 97 revealed no archaeological features, only a straightforward sequence of layers of topsoil, subsoil and natural. Details of these trenches are tabulated in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.5 In all trenches the natural boulder clay was observed to be a light yellowish brown silty clay with chalk and flint inclusions. This was overlaid by between 0.16m and 0.32m of subsoil of light brownish yellow silty clay. Topsoil of between 0.2m and 0.4m thickness in turn overlaid subsoil. This was a mid brown clayey silt with varying quantities of stone inclusions. All archaeological features were cut into the natural geology and were sealed by subsoil and topsoil, unless otherwise stated.
- 4.1.6 Trenches containing recorded archaeological remains are described below. Trenches 66-74 are located in the northern area and are described in sections 4.2-4.9. Trenches 75 and above are located in the southern area and are described in sections 4.10-4.21. Pertinent trench plans are presented at the back of the report.



**4.2 Trench 66** (Figs 2 and 3)

*Depth: 0.45m-0.6m*

*Ground level AOD: N – 74.51m, S -75.04m*

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
66/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.20-0.27		
66/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.20-0.25		
66/003		Layer	Natural			
66/004	66/005	Fill	Single. Compact medium orangey-brown silty clay. v.occ; small flints. Animal bone	L: 2.00, W: 0.90, D: 0.50		Undated
66/005	66/005	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned	L: 2.00, W: 0.90, D: 0.50	73.77	Undated
66/006	66/006	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned	L: 1.00, W: 0.73, D: 0.30	74.34	Undated
66/007	66/006	Fill	Fill, single medium mid brown silty clay. occ; CBM flecks, chalk flecks and pebbles	L: 1.00, W: 0.73, D: 0.30		Undated
66/008	66/008	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned	L: 1.00, W: 0.42, D: 0.15	74.29	Undated
66/009	66/008	Fill	Single. Medium mid brown silty clay. occ; chalk flecks	L: 1.00, W: 0.42, D: 0.15		Undated
66/010	66/010	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned - unexcavated	L:2m, W:0.35	74.3	Undated

Table 3: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 66

4.2.1 Trench 66 was located at the western edge of the northern area, near to the A414. Four linear features were present, three of which were excavated. No datable finds were retrieved.

4.2.2 Three parallel east-west aligned gullies [66/005], [66/006] and [66/010], of varying widths, crossed the trench. A fourth gully [66/008] was also recorded which looked similar to the other three but was perpendicular to them. This terminated halfway between two of the east-west gullies. All gullies except [66/010] were excavated but no dating evidence was retrieved. They may possibly be part of a system of ‘bedding trenches’; however this is far from clear.

4.2.3 One irregular orangey coloured linear feature was present near the north end of the trench which appeared to be a natural feature.

### 4.3 Trench 67 (Figs 2 and 4)

Depth: 0.46m -0.7m

Ground level AOD: NW-74.66m, SE – 74.95m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
67/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.25-0.35		
67/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.15-0.32		
67/003		Layer	Natural			
67/004	67/004	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned	L: 1.00, W: 0.61, D: 0.20	74.07	Undated
67/005	67/004	Fill	Single. Mid brown silty clay occ; chalk flecks and stones	L: 1.00, W: 0.61, D: 0.20		Undated
67/006	67/006	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned. Unexcavated	L: 1.66, W:0.56	74.33	Undated
67/007	67/007	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned Unexcavated	L:2.7, W: 0.58	74.39	Undated

Table 4: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 67

4.3.1 This trench was located east of Trench 66 in the northern evaluation area. Three gullies were present, one of which was excavated. These looked similar to the 'bedding trenches' found in the Phase 1 excavation.

4.3.2 Westernmost gully [67/004] was north-south aligned. It was excavated but did not contain any finds. In the centre of the trench was another gully [67/006] which was parallel and appeared to terminate in the trench. This was cut by a modern drain.

4.3.3 At the south-east end of the trench was a third gully, [67/007], which was roughly east-west aligned and a possible continuation of gully [66/006] in Trench 66. If so, this would follow the same alignment as the east-west bedding trench complex recorded in the west of the Phase 1 excavation.

### 4.4 Trench 68 (Figs 2 and 5)

Depth: 0.44m -0.57m

Ground level AOD: E - 75.24m, W -75.41m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
68/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.27-0.32		
68/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.12-0.27		
68/003		Layer	Natural			
68/004	68/005	Fill	Single. Firm mid brownish grey silty clay. rare; small sub-rounded/ sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	L: 1.00, W: 0.81, D: 0.40		Undated
68/005	68/005	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned	L: 1.00+, W: 0.81, D: 0.40	74.87	Undated

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
68/006	68/007	Fill	Single. Firm mid brownish-grey silty clay.	L: 1.00, W: 0.80, D: 0.31		?Early Roman
68/007	68/007	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned. Unexcavated	L: 1.00, W: 0.80, D: 0.31	74.6	?Early Roman
68/008	68/008	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned. Unexcavated	L: 2, W: 0.58	74.86	Undated
68/009	68/009	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned. Unexcavated	L: 2, W: 1.07	74.96	Undated
68/010	68/010	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned. Unexcavated	L: 2, W: 0.75	74.9	Undated
68/011	68/011	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned. Unexcavated	L: 2, W: 1.02	74.72	Undated

Table 5: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 68

4.4.1 Trench 68 was located near to the A414. The eastern end became submerged the day after the trench was opened. The trench contained six north-south aligned gullies - [68/005], [68/007], [68/008], [68/009], [68/010] and [68/011]. All of these gullies appeared very similar to 'bedding trenches' found in the Phase 1 excavations. However, they were of slightly varying widths and were fairly irregularly spaced at 4.4m-5.0m apart, edge from edge. It is noted that these gullies were not identified in the Phase 1 evaluation trenches to the south (Fig. 2, Trenches 4, 5 and 19). It may be that this system terminates somewhere between the two evaluation areas. Two of the gullies may be continuations of gullies in Trench 67 to the north - [67/004] and [67/006]. These may feasibly also be continuations of the north-south system of gullies recorded to the north, at the Mark Hall School Excavation (Figure 1).

4.4.2 Two of the gullies were excavated – [68/005] and [68/007]. The latter contained sherds of early Roman pottery, as well as some prehistoric sherds and struck flint which are probably residual. It also contained a piece of roof slate, which if it dates the feature must mean that all the early pottery is residual as well. Alternatively, this could be an intrusive later find.

#### 4.5 Trench 70 (Figs 2 and 6)

Depth: 0.38m -0.49m

Ground Level AOD: E- 74.43m, W – 74.98m

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
70/001	Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.25-0.25		
70/002	Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.13-0.24		
70/003	Layer	Natural			
70/004	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned. Unexcavated	L: 2.18, W: 0.5	74.64	Undated

Table 6: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 70

4.5.1 Trench 70 was located near the centre of the northern evaluation area. One feature was observed in the centre of the trench. There may have been further features, however these were rapidly submerged under water.

4.5.2 The one feature that was observed was gully [70/004], aligned SW-NE. It was partly submerged and was not excavated. It had the appearance of a 'bedding trench'; however, it does not seem to be on the same alignment as any of the others and may instead be a similar feature to a number of curving, slightly irregular, gullies in the north-west corner of the Phase 1 excavation area which have been dated as probably Early to Middle Iron Age (Fig. 2).

**4.6 Trench 71 (Figs 2 and 7)**

Depth: 0.41m – 0.46m

Ground Level AOD: NW -74.68m, SE – 74.77m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions	Levels m AOD	Date
71/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.21-0.23		
71/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.24-0.25		
71/003		Layer	Natural			
71/004	71/004	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned	L: 1.00, W: 0.55, D: 0.21	74.08	Undated
71/005	71/004	Fill	Fill, single medium mid brown silty clay	L: 1.00, W: 0.55, D: 0.21		Undated
71/006	71/006	Cut	Pit	L: 0.61, W: 1.34, D: 0.30	74.08	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
71/007	71/006	Fill	Fill, upper	L: 0.61, W: 1.34, D: 0.30		Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
71/008	71/008	Cut	Gully?	L: 0.61, W: 0.64, D: 0.21	74.27	Undated
71/009	71/008	Fill	Fill, single	L: 0.61, W: 0.64, D: 0.21		Undated
71/010	71/006	Fill	Fill, lower	D: max 0.3		Undated
71/011	71/012	Fill	Charcoally fill	L: 0.2, W: 0.16,		Undated
71/012	71/012	Cut	Stakehole	L: 0.2, W: 0.16, D: not recorded	74.33	Undated

Table 7: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 71

4.6.1 This trench was located in the centre of the northern evaluation area. It contained four features – a stakehole, a gully, the terminus of a second gully, and a pit. Only the pit could be dated - to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

4.6.2 The trench was watery, making excavation of the features somewhat labour intensive. Both ends of the trench eventually filled up completely with water.

- 4.6.3 Pit [71/006] was located near the centre of the trench. Upon excavation it was found to be associated with elongated feature [71/008], which may be the terminus of a gully. The upper fill of the pit contained a fairly large group of pottery sherds which are thought to date from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. The terminus of possible gully [71/008] did not contain any finds. The relationship between the two could not be ascertained.
- 4.6.4 Stakehole [71/012], with a charcoally fill and burnt flint on its surface, was observed near the centre of the trench. This was excavated and its fill was sampled as bulk soil sample <1>. Unfortunately there was no time to photograph it or to draw its section before it became submerged under water.
- 4.6.5 At the southern end of the trench was gully [71/004], which ran on an east-west alignment. It was excavated but did not contain any finds. This had the general appearance of a 'bedding trench'. Although its westward continuation was not identified in Trench 69 it may have been parallel (and associated) with similar gullies in Trench 72. Alternatively, these east-west gullies in Trench 71 and 72 may be part of the rectilinear system of fields revealed in the Phase 1 excavations. These post-dated the 'bedding trenches' and were dated as probably Early Roman.

#### 4.7 Trench 72 (Figs 2 and 8)

Depth: 0.41m -0.5m

Ground Level AOD: 73.91m – 74.66m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
72/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.20-0.25		
72/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.16-0.24		
72/003		Layer	Natural			
72/004	72/004	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned	L: 2.15, W: 0.72, D: 0.30	73.83	Undated
72/005	72/004	Fill	Fill, single	L: 2.15, W: 0.72, D: 0.30		Undated
72/006	72/006	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned	L: 2.52, W: 0.68	74.0	Undated

Table 8: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 72

- 4.7.1 This trench was located near the centre of the northern evaluation area. Two east-west aligned gullies were revealed, 7m apart. There may have been further features in the northern part of the trench, however this filled up with water before it could be surveyed.
- 4.7.2 Both gullies [72/004] and [72/006] had the general appearance of 'bedding trenches'. However, their continuations were not identified in Trench 71 to the west; though gully [71/004] was on the same alignment. Gully [72/004] was excavated and contained one sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. As mentioned in 4.6.5 above, these east-west gullies may not be 'bedding trenches' but could instead be part of the Roman rectilinear field system with internal subdivisions recorded to the south in the Phase 1 excavations.

4.7.3 Gully [72/004] was excavated. Its fill contained one sherd of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, which could be residual.

**4.8 Trench 73** (Figs 2 and 9)

Depth: 0.4m - 0.76m

Ground Level AOD: E -73.75, W - 74.24m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
73/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.33-0.40		
73/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.17-0.32		
73/003		Layer	Natural			
73/004	73/006	Fill	Fill, upper	W: 1.10, D: 0.62		Roman
73/005	73/006	Fill	Fill, lower	L: 0.98, W: 1.58, D: 0.38		Roman
73/006	73/006	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned	L: not known, W: at least 1.58, D: 0.98	72.63	Roman
73/007		Layer	Layer of gravel and CBM – probably trackway	L: not known, W: at least 14.20, D: 0.10	73.87	?Roman
73/008	73/010	Fill	Fill, upper	L: 2.00, W: 6.50, D: 0.55		
73/009	73/010	Fill	Fill, lower	L: 2.00, W: 6.50, D: 0.20		
73/010	73/010	Cut	Ditch?	L: not known, W:6.50, D: 0.60	73.2	Undated
73/011	73/018	Fill	Fill	W: 0.86, D: 0.31		?Roman
73/012	73/016	Fill	4th fill	L: 0.46, W: 2.68, D: 0.37		Roman
73/013	73/016	Fill	3rd fill	L: 0.82, W: 3.30, D: 0.38		Roman
73/014	73/016	Fill	2nd fill	L: 0.90, W: 3.80, D: 0.50		Roman
73/015	73/016	Fill	Fill, lowest excavated	L: 0.90, W: 0.64, D: 0.20		Roman
73/016	73/016	Cut	Ditch? N-S aligned	L: not known, W: at least 3.58, D: more than 0.90	-	Roman
73/017		Layer	Bedding layer for trackway [73/007]	L: not known, W:at least 13m, D:0.16		?Roman
73/018	73/018	Cut				

Table 9: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 73

- 4.8.1 This trench contained the highest density and complexity of archaeological features of this Phase 2 evaluation – at least three north-south aligned ditches and the continuation of the gravel trackway identified in Phase 1. Prehistoric pottery, found residually in one of the features, suggests the presence of earlier activity too. The trench was waterlogged making digging conditions difficult. The extreme west and east ends of the trench eventually filled up with water, submerging the features here.
- 4.8.2 Trackway surface layer [73/007] consisted of a 0.1-0.2m thickness of light brownish yellow clay mixed with gravel. At the western end of the trench there was much Roman CBM and what appeared to be mortar mixed in with the gravel. The layer was overlain by topsoil and appeared to be sealing a layer of subsoil-type material [73/017], which may have been a bedding layer for the gravel. The trackway gravel was partially removed by machine and recorded in section. It was a clear continuation of the trackway found to the south in the Phase 1 excavation (Fig. 2). The gravel and its bedding layer [73/017] were found to overlie two cut features [73/006] and [73/016].
- 4.8.3 Feature [73/006] was a relatively narrow but 1m-deep ditch, c.1.6m wide, with stepped sides. Its upper fill [73/004] was a reddish-brown sandy clay that contained gravel and Roman roof tile. This distinctive ditch was a clear continuation of Phase 1 boundary ditch GP51. Its gravel content may have derived from the overlying trackway surfacing, in which case the ditch may have still been open at the time that the trackway was laid. The lower fill [73/005] contained Roman CBM, Roman pottery and animal bone as well as some presumably intrusive pieces of post-medieval CBM. In the Phase 1 excavation area to the south, ditch GP51 forms the western boundary of the 'trackway' GP936, whereas here its surfacing was seen to extend over the ditch.
- 4.8.4 Nearly 2m to the west of ditch [73/006] was cut feature [73/016]. Removal of the gravel layer exposed its western edge, which was reasonably straight and clear. Its eastern edge was not determined as the remainder of the overlying gravel layer was left *in situ* here. A 3.6m-wide slot was dug through the western part of the feature. It was not bottomed at 0.9m depth. It is postulated to be a wide north-south aligned ditch, but further excavation would be required to clarify this. This probable ditch contained four fills [73/012-73/015]. Upper fill [73/012] was a charcoally deposit that was only recognised in the north-facing section. All fills contained pottery, of varying Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and Roman date, and/or CBM. Fill [73/014] contained pieces of fired clay that looked like they derived from the fabric of a kiln or oven.
- 4.8.5 The upper fill of ditch [73/016] was cut by small pit [73/018], which contained Roman and unidentified CBM in its fill. This too was overlain by trackway bedding layer [73/017] and gravel surface [73/007].
- 4.8.6 At the eastern end of the trench, beyond the extent of the gravel trackway, was shallow and wide ditch [73/010], which was partially excavated. Its upper fill was very similar to the overlying subsoil and contained a mixture of Roman and post-medieval CBM and three sherds of Roman pottery as well as one piece of briquetage. Its lower fill [73/009] was very gravelly and did not contain any finds apart from some very small fragments of CBM. It is possible

that this deposit was in fact a continuation of trackway surface [73/007]; this apparent 'ditch' instead simply a build-up of subsoil [73/008] on the eastern camber of the trackway.

#### 4.9 Trench 74 (Figs 2 and 10)

Depth: 0.64m -0.72m

Ground Level AOD: E- 72.58, W - 72.93m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
74/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.31-0.31		
74/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.39-0.39		
74/003		Layer	Natural			
74/004	74/004	Cut	Gully, NE-SW aligned	L: 3.00, W: 1.66, D: 0.15	72.21	Roman or later?
74/005	74/004	Fill	Fill, single	L: 3.00, W: 1.66, D: 0.15		Roman or later
74/006	74/006	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned	L: 2.00, W: 0.58, D: 0.21	72.03	Undated
74/007	74/006	Fill	Fill, single	L: 2.00, W: 0.58, D: 0.21		Undated
74/008	74/008	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned, unexc	L:2.0, W: 0.6		Undated

Table 10: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 74

4.9.1 Trench 74 was located at the eastern end of the northern evaluation area. It contained three linear features, two of which were excavated, and was relatively dry. Two of the features had the appearance of 'bedding trenches'.

4.9.2 The top of natural was encountered at a greater depth than in other trenches due to the presence of a very thick layer of subsoil [74/002]. The natural, once reached, was seen to be very compact and marked with patches of grey modern-looking material and an apparent machine track imprint. It appeared as if topsoil, subsoil and some of the natural had been stripped in the fairly recent past and the natural ground had had plant driven over it. The ground had then been 'made-up' with extra subsoil and topsoil. This activity is most likely associated with groundworks for the creation of the former school playing field.

4.9.3 At the western end of the trench was an irregular linear feature [74/004] aligned north-east to south-west. Only 0.15m deep, its single fill [74/005] contain undated CBM and iron fragments probably indicative of Roman or later date. Its irregular edge may have been caused by modern disturbance.

4.9.4 Two parallel north-south aligned gullies [74/006] and [74/008] were similar to the Phase 1 'bedding trenches', and were distanced c.5m apart. Gully [74/006] was excavated and found to contain small post-medieval tile fragments and small sherds of earliest/Early Iron Age pottery. The conflicting dating evidence makes assigning a period to this gully problematic; it may be



Late Iron Age/Roman like the ‘bedding trenches’, with the pottery being residual and the CBM being intrusive. Further such remains in the east of the trench could which have been obscured by modern disturbance. The two recorded gullies are parallel to the trackway [73/013] and may be continuations of ‘bedding trenches’ excavated in the east of the Phase 1 excavation area (Fig. 2).

#### 4.10 Trench 75 (Figs 2 and 11)

Depth: 0.46m-0.5m

Ground Level AOD: NW -77.32m, SE – 77.3m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions	Levels m AOD	Date
75/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.30-0.34		
75/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.16-0.16		
75/003		Layer	Natural			
75/004	75/005	Fill	Fill, single	L: 2.00, W: 0.65, D: 0.25		Undated
75/005	75/005	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned	L: 2.00, W: 0.65, D: 0.25	76.62	Undated

Table 11: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 75

4.10.1 Trench 75 was located in the northern part of the southern Phase 2 evaluation area. It was only 9m long. Only a single gully was visible in it.

4.10.2 East-west aligned gully [75/005] ran across the middle of this short trench. No finds were recovered from its single fill, and it is therefore undated. It had the look of a ‘bedding trench’, though the content of surrounding trenches do not necessarily substantiate this.

#### 4.11 Trench 78 (Figs 2 and 11)

Depth: 0.4m -0.52m

Ground Level AOD: E- 78.01m, W – 78.32m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions	Levels m AOD	Date
78/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.17-0.25		
78/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.23-0.30		
78/003		Layer	Natural			
78/004	78/005	Fill	Fill, single	L: 0.73, W: 0.65, D: 0.12		Undated
78/005	78/005	Cut	Pit	L: 0.73, W: 0.65, D: 0.12	77.56	Undated
78/006	78/007	Fill	Fill, single	L: 1.00, W: 0.90, D: 0.21		Undated
78/007	78/007	Cut	Gully	L: 1.00, W: 0.90, D: 0.21	77.66	Undated

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions	Levels m AOD	Date
78/008	78/009	Fill	Fill, unexcavated	L: 1.79, W: 1.53		Undated
78/009	78/009	Cut	Pit, unexcavated	L: 1.79, W: 1.53	77.74	Undated

Table 12: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 78

4.11.1 Trench 78 was located at the western edge of the southern evaluation area. It contained three features – a gully and two pits.

4.11.2 Probable gully or ditch [78/007] was partially exposed in the western end of the trench, seemingly running on an NE-SW alignment. Its full width was not established. Its single fill contained two tiny pieces of prehistoric pottery, undated CBM, animal bone and an iron nail.

4.11.3 Further along the trench was irregularly-shaped pit [78/009]. It was not excavated but had a fragment of possible pottery on the surface of its fill. This sherd was unidentifiable and has not provided any dating for this feature.

4.11.4 Small pit [78/005] was located to the east of [78/009]. It was excavated, but did not provide any finds.

4.11.5 Six metal objects were retrieved by metal detector from the spoilheap. These comprised four lead objects RF<1>, <4>, <6> and <8> of unknown function and a piece of lead sheet RF<3>. Also a copper alloy object - < RF<2>, was found, possibly the head of a key, perhaps of Roman date.

#### 4.12 Trench 79 (Figs 2 and 12)

Depth: 0.45m

Ground Level AOD: N – 78.08, S – 77.7m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions	Levels m AOD	Date
79/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.28-0.33		
79/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.12-0.15		
79/003		Layer	Natural			
79/004	79/004	Cut	Gully terminus, NW-SE aligned	L: 1.50, W: 0.60, D: 0.25	77.24	Undated
79/005	79/004	Fill	Fill, single	L: 1.50, W: 0.60, D: 0.25		Undated
79/006	79/006	Cut	Gully, NW-SE aligned	L: 2.50, W: 0.40, D: 0.08	77.37	LIA/Early Roman
79/007	79/006	Fill	Fill, single	L: 2.50, W: 0.40, D: 0.08		LIA/Early Roman

Table 13: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 79

4.12.1 This trench was located to the east of Trench 78. It contained two linear features.

4.12.2 In the south of the trench, NW-SE aligned gully [79/006] was very narrow and shallow. Its single fill contained two sherds of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, seemingly dating the feature.

4.12.3 Gully terminus [79/004] ran parallel to [79/006], c.2.3m to its south. Its single fill contained fired clay and animal bone only. However, its shared alignment with Late Iron Age/ Early Roman gully terminus [79/006] suggests that they are contemporary. There is no evidence for a continuation of the gullies in the surrounding trenches, gully [79/006] is a continuation of gully/ditch [89/008].

**4.13 Trench 80** (Figs 2 and 13)

Depth: 0.53m – 0.6m

Ground Level AOD: E -77.18m, W – 77.64m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
80/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.20-0.25		
80/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.17-0.27		
80/003		Layer	Natural			
80/004	80/004	Cut	Pit	L: 0.53, W: 0.49, D: 0.13	76.75	Undated
80/005	80/004	Fill	Fill, single	L: 0.53, W: 0.49, D: 0.13		Undated
80/006	80/006	Cut	Pit	L: 0.58, W: 0.38, D: 0.23	76.72	Undated
80/007	80/006	Fill	Fill, single	L: 0.58, W: 0.38, D: 0.23		Undated
80/008	80/008	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned	L: 1.00, W: 0.62, D: 0.23	76.77	Medieval
80/009	80/008	Fill	Fill, single	L: 1.00, W: 0.62, D: 0.23		Medieval
80/010	80/010	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned	L: 1.00, W: 0.43, D: 0.13	76.9	Undated
80/011	80/010	Fill	Fill, single	L: 1.00, W: 0.43, D: 0.13		Undated
80/012	80/012	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned unexcavated	L: 2.40, W: 1.50	77.09	Early to Middle Iron Age
80/013	80/012	Fill	Fill, unexcavated	L: 2.40, W: 1.50, D: T		Early to Middle Iron Age?
80/014	80/014	Cut	Undefined feature, unexcavated	L: 3.00	77.03	Undated
80/015	80/014	Fill	Fill unexcavated	L: 3.00		Undated
80/016	80/016	Cut	Ditch, NE-SW	L: 2.76, W: 2.00	76.78	LIA/Early

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
			aligned unexcavated			Roman
80/017	80/016	Fill	Fill unexcavated	L: 2.76, W:2.00		LIA/Early Roman
80/018	80/018	Cut	Ditch, NE-SW aligned, unexcavated	L:2.76, W: 2.50	76.78	LIA/Early Roman
80/019	80/018	Fill	Fill, unexcavated	L 2.76, W: 2.5		LIA/Early Roman

Table 14: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 80

4.13.1 Trench 80 contained eight features – two small pits, three ditches and three gullies - four of which were excavated. None of these appear to continue as far as surrounding trenches.

4.13.2 Small rounded pits/post-holes [80/004] and [80/006], located adjacent to one another toward the eastern end of the trench, were excavated but did not produce any finds; they are therefore undated.

4.13.3 Possibly curving gullies [80/008] and [80/010] both terminated within the trench, their rounded terminals adjacent to one another, perhaps suggesting their association. Both containing single fills, nine sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved from gully [80/008]. Gully [80/010] yielded no artefacts.

4.13.4 At the western end of the trench were two features that were not excavated - NW-SE aligned ditch [80/012] and undefined feature [80/014]. One piece of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery was found on the surface of the fill of [80/012]. Irregular-shaped feature [80/014] extended beyond the trench limit and is undated.

4.13.5 At the eastern end of the trench were two intercutting linear features that were not excavated – [80/016] and [80/018]. Their relationship was not determined. Both had a sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery on the surface.

#### 4.14 Trench 81 (Figs 2 and 14)

Depth: 0.4m -0.5m

Ground Level AOD: N – 76.8m, S -76.55m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
81/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.29-0.30		
81/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.10-0.20		
81/003		Layer	Natural			
81/004	81/006	Fill	Fill, upper	L: 2.00, W: 0.55, D: 0.21		Undated
81/005	81/006	Fill	Fill, lower	L: 2.00, W: 0.55, D: 0.10		Undated

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Levels m AOD	Date
81/006	81/006	Cut	Gully, NE-SW aligned	L: 2.00, W: 0.55, D: 0.32	75.85	Undated

Table 15: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 81

4.14.1 Trench 81 was located centrally within the southern evaluation area. Only one feature was identified to be present.

4.14.2 Gully [81/006] was NE-SW aligned and contained a charcoally upper fill [81/004] that did not contain any finds. The south-west continuation of this gully was not discerned in surrounding trenches.

#### 4.15 Trench 82 (Figs 2 and 15)

Depth: 0.34m – 0.45m

Ground Level AOD: E – 75.7m, W – 76.36m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
82/001		Layer	Turf and wood chippings	0.20-0.35		Modern
82/002		Layer	Geo-textile			Modern
82/003		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.30-0.30		
82/004		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.14-0.15		
82/005		Layer	Natural			
82/006	82/006	Cut	Pit unexcavated	Diameter: 1.19	75.38	Undated
82/007	82/006	Fill	Fill, unexcav'd. Surface finds			Undated
82/008	82/008	Cut	Pit(s), unexcavated	Diameter: 2.3	75.36	Undated

Table 16: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 82

4.15.1 This trench was located centrally within the southern evaluation area. It contained two or possibly three pits with dark fills at its east end, none of which were excavated and all remain undated.

4.15.2 Small, roughly oval pit [82/006] contained fragments of fired clay on its fill surface. Larger, irregularly-shaped pit [82/008] may have been two intercutting pits.

4.15.3 Wood chippings and a geotextile membrane were present on the surface in the western half of the trench, where a clubhouse playground was formerly located. Truncation and disturbance appeared otherwise minimal and the absence of remains in the west of the trench was actual.

#### 4.16 Trench 83 (Figs 2 and 16)

Depth: 0.43m -0.5m

Ground Level AOD: N- 75.21m, S – 74.91m

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
83/001	Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.30-0.30		
83/002	Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.13-0.20		
83/003	Layer	Natural			
83/004	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned unexcavated	L:2, W: 0.55	74.44	Undated
83/005	Cut	Ditch, E-W aligned unexcavated	L;2, W:1.62	74.56	Undated

Table 17: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 83

4.16.1 This trench was located towards the north-eastern side of the southern evaluation area. It contained two parallel linear features – one gully and one wider linear feature, both with mid dark brown fills. Neither feature was excavated and both are undated.

4.16.2 Gully [83/004] ran on an east-west alignment across the south end of the trench. Parallel ditch [83/005] ran immediately alongside. Ditch [85/004], to the east, might constitute its continuation.

#### 4.17 Trench 84 (Figs 2 and 17)

Depth: 0.43m- 0.8m

Ground Level AOD: NE – 74.28m, SW – 0.55m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
84/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.33-0.45		
84/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.1-0.35		
84/003		Layer	Natural			
84/004	84/004	Cut	Ditch or spread, unexcavated	L:2.0, W:7.05	74.14	Post-Roman
84/005	84/004	Fill	Fill. Unexcav'd			Post-Roman
84/006	84/006	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned, unexc	L:2.19, W: 0.69	74.06	Undated
84/007	84/007	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned, unexcavated	L:2.19, W: 0.7	74.0	Undated
84/008	84/008	Cut	Ditch, roughly N-S aligned, unexcavated	L: 2.0, W: 2	73.87	Undated
84/009	84/009	Cut	Charcoally pit or posthole	Diameter: 0.5	74.2	Post-Roman

Table 18: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 84

- 4.17.1 Trench 84 was located in the north-eastern corner of the southern evaluation area and contained five or six features, none of which were excavated and all are undated or of uncertain date.
- 4.17.2 In the centre of the trench were two north-south aligned gullies [84/006] and [84/007], both with pale-coloured fills, which may be further examples of 'bedding trenches'. Spaced c.5m apart, these were not identified in Trench 85 to the south.
- 4.17.3 Near the north-eastern end of the trench was wider linear feature [84/008], with a pale fill, which followed roughly the same north-south alignment as the other features. This was not seen to continue south.
- 4.17.4 At the south-western end of the trench was a large spread of pinkish-brown coloured silt. Its edges were fairly straight and it may therefore be the remains of a ditch, [84/004], perhaps running on a NW-SE alignment. However, its continuation was not obvious in adjacent Trench 85, unless it turned a corner and so could have continued as ditch [85/006] which was of a similar width. One fragment of lava quern of post-Roman or uncertain date was retrieved from the surface of fill [84/005].
- 4.17.5 Cut into the top of the fill of [84/004] was a small round pit or posthole [84/009] containing a charcoal-rich fill. On the west side of [84/004] was a circular protrusion containing the same pinkish silty material – either a spread of material or an intercutting pit.

**4.18 Trench 85** (Figs 2 and 18)

Depth: 0.45m -0.6m

Ground Level AOD: E – 74.07m, W – 74.72m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
85/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.35-0.38		
85/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.09-0.25		
85/003		Layer	Natural			
85/004	85/004	Cut	Ditch or spread, NE-SW aligned, unexcavated	L:6.31, W:1.83	73.51	Iron Age or later
85/005	85/004	Fill	Fill, unexcavated			Iron Age or later
85/006	85/006	Cut	Ditch or spread, NE-SW aligned, unexcavated	L:2.75, W: 5.97	73.96	Undated

Table 19: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 85

- 4.18.1 Trench 85 was located at the eastern end of the southern evaluation area. It contained what appeared to be two slightly irregular linear features, separated by a small patch of natural clay and converging at their south. Both these features had medium dark fills, but were not excavated.

4.18.2 Probable ditch [85/004] appeared to be aligned NE-SW and had a piece of slag on the surface of its fill. To the south-east was a sherd of a Late Iron Age/early Roman storage jar which probably also derived from fill [85/005]. It is postulated to have perhaps continued northwards as [86/009].

4.18.3 Likely ditch [85/006] was nearly 6m wide and probably ran on a NNE-SSW alignment, hence its intersection with [85/004]. Although its southward continuation was not identified in Trench 92, it may have cornered to the north and continued as ditch [84/004].

**4.19 Trench 86** (Figs 2 and 19)

Depth: 0.4m – 0.8m

Ground Level AOD: N – 74.02m, S – 73.65m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
86/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.18-0.35		
86/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.20-0.50		
86/003		Layer	Natural			
86/004	86/005	Fill	Fill, single	L: 2.00, W: 2.58, D: 0.70		Bronze Age?
86/005	86/005	Cut	Pit	L: 2.00, W: 2.58, D: 0.70	72.6	Bronze Age?
86/006	86/007	Fill	Fill, single	L: 1.20, W: 0.74, D: 0.44		Early Iron Age?
86/007	86/007	Cut	Pit	L: 1.20, W: 0.74, D: 0.44	73.0	Early Iron Age?
86/008	86/009	Fill	Fill unexcavated	L: 2.16,W: 1.10		Undated
86/009	86/009	Cut	Gully, roughly E-W aligned unexcavated	L: 2.16,W: 1.10	73.32	Undated
86/010	86/011	Fill	Fill unexcavated	L: 2.16, W: 0.80		Undated
86/011	86/011	Cut	Gully, roughly E-W aligned unexcavated	L: 2.16, W: 0.80	73.22	Undated

Table 20: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 86

4.19.1 Trench 86 was located at the eastern end of the southern evaluation area. It contained four features – two ditches and two pits. The two pits were excavated, because they had pale fills which were unlike the majority of the other features on the site and thought to be prehistoric.

4.19.2 Large oval pit [86/005] was located at the south end of the trench and its edges extended beyond both excavation limits. It was half-sectioned and found to contain single fill [86/004] from which flint flakes and a fragmented flint blade core were retrieved. These artefacts likely pre-date the Middle Bronze Age.



4.19.3 Towards the north end of the trench was a smaller pit [86/007] only half of which was exposed. Probably oval-shaped and 0.44m deep, it contained single fill [86/006] from which a single sherd of pottery was retrieved. This dates to the Early Iron Age. A fossilised bivalve shell was also collected.

4.19.4 At the northern end of the trench were parallel linear features [86/008] and [86/011], neither of which was excavated. The narrower of the two, [86/011] had the appearance of a 'bedding trench' gully however it appeared to be an isolated feature within the trench and its alignment was at odds with gullies [84/006] and [84/007]. Wider ditch [86/009] ran alongside, c.1.5m to its south, and may in fact be a eastward continuation of [85/004].

**4.20 Trench 87** (Figs 2 and 20)

Depth: 0.38m – 0.6m

Ground Level AOD: SE -77.85m, NW – 78.08m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
87/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.28-0.30		
87/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.10-0.23		
87/003		Layer	Natural			
87/004	87/004	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned, unexc	L:2.15, W:0.57	77.33	Undated
87/005	87/005	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned, unexc	L:2.15, W:0.56	77.3	Undated
87/006	87/006	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned, unexc	L:2.15, W: 0.53	77.6	Undated

Table 21: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 87

4.20.1 Trench 87 was situated at the western edge of the southern evaluation area. Three parallel gullies were identified, but not excavated.

4.20.2 Parallel gullies [87/004], [87/005], [87/006], all of similar width, crossed the trench on a roughly east-west alignment. Equally spaced at c.7m intervals, all three are thought to be 'bedding trenches'. The most northerly, [87/006], continued as [88/004] to the east. Southern gully [87/004] probably continued east as [95/006].

4.20.3 Two post-medieval buckles RF <5> and <7> were found by metal detecting the spoilheap.

**4.21 Trench 88** (Figs 2 and 21)

Depth: 0.4m -0.56m

Ground Level AOD: E – 77.31m, W – 77.82m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
88/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.30-0.30		
88/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.10-0.17		
88/003		Layer	Natural			

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
88/004	88/004	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned, unexc	L: 14.14, W:0.4	77.02	Undated
88/005	88/005	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned, unexc	L: 2.13, W:0.4	77.0	Undated
88/006	88/006	Cut	Ditch, NW-SW aligned, unexc	L: 2.13, W:1.4	77.02	Undated

Table 22: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 88

4.21.1 Trench 88 was located to the east of Trench 87. It contained three linear features, none of which were excavated.

4.21.2 Roughly east-west aligned gully [88/004] ran along much of the trench and clearly continued westwards into Trench 87. Although it aligns with a ditch in Trench 89 to the west, [89/006] was substantially wider, and so their association is uncertain.

4.21.3 Running at right angles to this gully was similarly proportioned gully [88/005]. However, their intersection lay just outside the trench limit and so their relationship is un-established. Gully [88/005] can perhaps be speculated to continue southward into Trench 94 as similar gully [94/007]. These two gullies may be parts of the 'bedding trench' complex, although their NNE-SSW is at odds with its prevailing alignments seen in in Phase 1.

4.21.3 At the eastern end of the trench was NE-SW aligned ditch [88/006] which presumably converged with [88/005] south of the trench. Its continuation was not identified in either Trench 80 or 94.

#### 4.22 Trench 89 (Figs 2 and 22)

Depth: 0.5m -0.6m

Ground Level AOD: N -77.2m – S- 76.99m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
89/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.24-0.30		
89/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.20-0.22		
89/003		Layer	Natural			
89/004	89/004	Cut	Gully, unexcavated	L:4.72? W:0.72	76.56	LIA/Early Roman
89/005	89/004	Fill	Fill, unexcavated	L:4.72? W:0.72		LIA/Early Roman
89/006	89/006	Cut	Ditch, E-W aligned, unexcavated	L: 2.0, W: 2.28	76.51	LIA/Early Roman
89/007	89/006	Fill	Fill, unexcavated	L: 2.0, W: 2.28		LIA/Early Roman
89/008	89/008	Cut	Ditch, NW-SE aligned, unexcavated	L:2.0, W:1.06	76.66	Undated
89/009	89/009	Cut	?Gully, E-W aligned, unexcavated	L:?, W:0.46	76.56	Undated

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
89/010	89/010	Cut	?Gully, intercutting [89/009] Unexcavated	L:?, W: 0.5	76.56	Undated

Table 23: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 89

- 4.22.1 Trench 89 contained five linear or curvilinear features, although those at the southern end of the trench were intercutting and not clearly defined. None were excavated. All the features had dark grey fills.
- 4.22.2 NW-SE aligned ditch [89/008] crossed the north end of the trench. There was one piece of CBM on the surface, suggesting a Roman or later date. No south-eastward continuation is identified in Trench 90. No obvious north-west continuation is evident either, [79/006] being distinctly different in terms of width and fill types.
- 4.22.3 Relatively substantial presumed ditch [89/006] ran across the southern part of the trench on a roughly east-west alignment. It aligned closely with ditch [88/004], but at 2.28m wide it is unclear if it constitutes a continuation of the same feature. Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was collected from the surface of unexcavated [89/006].
- 4.22.4 Narrow, probably gently curving, gullies [89/004] and [89/010] were possibly associated and so parts of a single interrupted curvilinear feature. [89/004] was a short length of gully, less than 8m long. While its rounded northern terminal was recorded, its southern end was either truncated by ditch [89/006] or was not discerned within its fill. Similarly, the intercutting relationship between gully [89/010] and east-west gully [89/009] was not determined. However, Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of fill [89/005] of gully [89/004].
- 4.22.5 Further narrow gully [89/009] ran east-west across the south end of the trench. Its relationship with curving gully [89/010] was not established.

#### 4.23 Trench 90 (Figs 2 and 23)

Depth: 0.35m - 0.55m

Ground Level AOD: E – 76.43m, W – 77.01m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
90/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.32-0.35		
90/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.15-0.23		
90/003		Layer	Natural			
90/004		Layer	Gravel Trackway, unexcavated	L: 4.00, W: 2.15	76.46	?Roman
90/005		Layer	Pinkish sandy silt – part of Trackway?	L: 7.00, W: 2.15	76.11	?Roman
90/006		Cut	Ditch, N-S	L: 2.0, W: 2.17	78.47	Undated,

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
			aligned, unexcavated			?Roman or prehistoric
90/007	90/006	Fill	Fill, surface finds	L: 2.0, W: 2.17		Undated, ?Roman or prehistoric
90/008		Cut	Pit, unexc.	Diam: 1.83	76.38	Undated
90/009	90/008	Fill	Fill, unexc.			

Table 24: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 90

4.23.1 Trench 90 was located towards the centre of the southern evaluation area. The southward continuation of the GP936 trackway, located during the Phase 1 excavation, was exposed in this trench (and in Trench 96 to the south). To the west of the trackway deposits were a pit and a ditch. None were excavated.

4.23.2 The trackway consisted of an approximately 4m-wide area of gravel metalling [90/004], encountered directly below topsoil. The stones were both rounded and angular, ranging in size from pea grit to 0.1m. The gravel was set within a matrix of pale yellowy brown sandy silt and mixed in with it were fragments of Roman CBM. The thickness of the gravel layer was not established as the trackway was left unexcavated, having had numerous slots excavated through during the Phase 1 excavation. The gravel deposit was cut by a modern land drain filled with pale brown clay and chalk.

4.23.3 Either side of the trackway, and partly merging with the gravel surfacing deposit, was a layer of sandy silt [90/005] with a distinctive pinkish colour. This same layer was encountered in the Phase 1 excavation. It is interpreted as deposit of run-off material from the trackway.

4.23.4 To the west of the trackway was ditch [90/006]. Seemingly running on a broadly NNE-SSW alignment, this feature appears to be unrelated to the trackway and was sealed by subsoil, unlike the trackway. Although not excavated, a sherd of possibly Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and a small chip of Roman or later date CBM were collected from the surface of its dark brown silt fill [90/007].

4.23.5 Circular or oval pit [90/008] was located between the ditch and trackway.

#### 4.24 Trench 91 (Figs 2 and 24)

Depth: 0.46m-0.49m

Ground Level AOD: N - 75.76m, S – 75.55m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
91/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.30-0.32		
91/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.15-0.17		
91/003		Layer	Natural			
91/004		Layer	Wood chippings/ geo-textile	D: 0.17		Modern

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
91/005	91/006	Cut	Linear. NNW-SSE aligned, unexc.	L: 18.09, W:1.08	75.17	Undated
91/006	91/006	Fill	Fill, unexcavated			Undated

Table 25: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 91

4.24.1 Trench 91 was located in the centre of the southern evaluation area. A single ditch was exposed within it.

4.24.2 Ditch [91/005] ran on a NNW to SSE alignment down much of the trench length. It was not excavated and its continuation was not identified in the trenches to the north and south (Trenches 82 and 98). As planned, it looks likely that the ditch turned eastwards at its southern exposed limit

4.24.3 Wood chippings and geotextile membrane were present on the surface at the northern end of the trench, where a playground for the sports clubhouse was formerly located.

#### 4.25 Trench 92 (Figs 2 and 25)

Depth: 0.5m -0.55m

Ground Level AOD: E – 74.59m, W – 75.16m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
92/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.18-0.29		
92/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.17-0.21		
92/003		Layer	Natural			
92/004	92/004	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned	L: 1.00 slot, W: 3.18, D: 1.18	73.21	LIA/early Roman ?
92/005	92/004	Fill	Fill, upper. Pottery	L: 1.00, W: 3.18, D: 0.16		LIA/early Roman ?
92/006	92/004	Fill	Fill, middle, chalky. Pottery	L: 1.00, W: 2.96, D: 0.42		LIA/early Roman ?
92/007	92/004	Fill	Fill, lower. Pottery	L: 1.00, W: 1.68, D: 0.52		LIA/early Roman ?
92/008	92/008	Cut	Pit/ditch, Unexc.	L:1.0+ , W: 1.38	74.29	Undated
92/009	92/008	Fill	Fill, unexc.	Diameter: 1.38		Undated
92/010	92/010	Cut	Pit, unexc.	Diameter: 0.64	74.31	Undated
92/011	92/010	Fill	Fill, unexc.	Diameter: 0.64		Undated
92/012	92/012	Cut	Pit, Unexc.	Diameter: 1.0	74.25	Undated
92/013	92/013	Fill	Fill, Unexc.	Diameter: 1.0		Undated

Table 26: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 92

4.25.1 Trench 92 contained one large ditch and three pits. Only the ditch was excavated.

4.25.2 Ditch [92/004] was c.3m wide and was not bottomed at 1.18m depth. A sequence of three fills was recorded, all of which contained pottery and animal bone. The pottery was of mixed date ranging from Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age/early Roman and Early Roman. It would seem therefore likely that the feature is Late Iron Age/Early Roman, with the earlier pottery being residual. Ditch [92/004] did not continue into Trench 99 to the south and its northern continuation was not tested by the trenching array.

4.25.3 To the east of ditch [92/004] were two small rounded pits [92/010] and [92/012], and a larger irregular feature [92/008] that was only partly exposed within the trench. This may have either been a pit or the end of a ditch. None of these was excavated and therefore all are undated.

**4.26 Trench 94** (Figs 2 and 26)

Depth: 0.35m -0.55m

Ground Level AOD: E-77.27m, W – 77.7

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
94/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.20-0.35		
94/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.15-0.20		
94/003		Layer	Natural			
94/004	94/005	Fill	Fill, single	L: 2.00, W: 1.20, D: 0.60		LIA/Early Roman
94/005	94/005	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned	L: 2.00, W: 1.20, D: 0.60	76.22	LIA/Early Roman
94/006	94/007	Fill	Fill, unexc.			Undated
94/007	94/007	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned	L: 2.1, W: 0.59	76.72	Undated

Table 27: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 94

4.26.1 Trench 94 was located in the south-western corner of the southern evaluation area. Two features were present at its east end and both were excavated.

4.26.2 North-south aligned gully [94/007] was of similar proportions and appearance to ‘bedding trench’ gullies recorded elsewhere on this site. Its single fill did not produce any dating evidence. Its northward continuation was possibly recorded as gully [88/005].

4.26.3 Ditch [94/005], at the eastern end of the trench, seemingly north-south aligned, had a single fill containing a large amount of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, mainly fragments of locally made jars but also including a sherd of amphora, probably of Dressel 1 type which dates from the late 2nd or 1st century BC. A nail, burnt and unburnt animal bone and residual prehistoric worked flints were also present. Near the ditch base was the partial remains of a horse skull, which was left *in situ*. Compared to other features on the site this ditch contained a large and diverse artefact assemblage. While more probably constituting the disposal of domestic debris, ritual or structured deposition is not ruled out.

#### 4.27 Trench 95 (Figs 2 and 27)

Depth: 0.46m – 0.62m

Ground Level AOD: N – 77.27m, S – 77.12m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
95/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.28-0.31		
95/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.15-0.19		
95/003		Layer	Natural			
95/004	95/004	Cut	Gully, E-W aligned, unexc.	L: 2.0, W: 0.49	76.8	Undated
95/005	95/005	Cut	Gully, NW-SE aligned, unexc.	L:2.0, W:0.4	76.79	Undated
95/006	95/006	Cut	Gully, NW-SE aligned, Unexc.	L:2.23, W: 0.6	76.78	Undated

Table 28: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 95

4.27.1 Trench 95 was located near the south-western part of the southern evaluation area. Three gullies were visible, none of which were excavated.

4.27.2 Similarly proportioned and aligned gullies [95/005] and [95/006] were located in the northern half of the trench. Spaced c.6m apart, they are likely components of a roughly east-west aligned 'bedding trench' complex located in this vicinity. Gully [95/006] is probably the continuation of gully [87/004] further west. If so they could form a group of four parallel 'bedding trenches' with [87/005] and [87/006] which, interestingly, are at right angles to the trackway encountered in Trenches 90 and 96.

4.27.3 Gully [95/004], although of a similar width, was on an east-west alignment and located only a metre or so south of [95/005]. As such, it appears unlikely to be associated with the other gullies in this trench.

#### 4.28 Trench 96 (Figs 2 and 28)

Depth: 0.35m- 0.6m

Ground Level AOD: E – 76.47m, W – 76.96m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
96/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.27-0.38		
96/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.13-0.22		
96/003		Layer	Natural			
96/004		Layer	Gravel. Trackway	L: 2.15, W: 6.00	76.3	? Roman
96/005	96/004	Layer	Pinkish sandy silt. Trackway	L: 3.00+, W: 2.15	76.06	?Roman
96/006	96/006	Cut	Ditch, NW-SE aligned, unexc	L: 2.28, W: 1.63	76.4	Undated
96/007	96/007	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned, unexc	L: 2.0, W: 1.34	76.36	Undated
96/008	96/008	Cut	Gully, N-S aligned, unexc	L: 2.0, W: 0.6	76.31	Undated

Table 29: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 96

- 4.28.1 This trench exposed the southern continuation of the GP936 gravel trackway located during the Phase 1 excavation stage and in Trench 90. To the west of the trackway were three linear features. None of the features were excavated.
- 4.28.2 The trackway consisted of an approximately 6m-wide deposit of gravel metalling [96/004], again encountered directly below topsoil. The stones were both rounded and angular, ranging in size from pea grit to 0.2m. The gravel was set within a matrix of pale yellowy brown sandy silt and mixed in with it were fragments of Roman CBM. The thickness of the gravel layer was not established as the trackway was left unexcavated here.
- 4.28.3 To the east of the trackway, and partly merging with its gravel surfacing was a layer of sandy silt [96/005], with a distinctive pinkish colour. This same layer was encountered in the Phase 1 excavation and in Trench 90. It is interpreted as a run-off deposit of material from the trackway.
- 4.28.4 Immediately to the west of the trackway remains were roughly north-south aligned gully/ditches [96/008] and [96/007]. These ran parallel with the trackway and so may have been associated, or at least broadly contemporary, with it. These features were sealed by subsoil.
- 4.28.5 Further west was ditch [96/006] on a different, seemingly NNW-SSE, alignment. No northward continuation was obvious, though it is speculated that this ditch might narrow and join with [89/010] to form a relatively extensive curvilinear feature – perhaps even an enclosure ditch.

**4.29 Trench 98** (Figs 2 and 29)

Depth: 0.46m -0.59m

Ground Level AOD: E - 74.89m, W - 75.67m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
98/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.28-0.43		
98/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.10-0.23		
98/003		Layer	Natural			
98/004	98/004	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned, unexc	L: 2.0, W: 3.59	75.03	Undated
98/005	98/005	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned, unexc	L: 2.0, W: 1.84	74.69	Undated

Table 30: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 98

- 4.29.1 Two ditches were visible in this trench – [98/004] and [98/005] - both broadly aligned north to south and both with similar medium grey brown fills. Neither was excavated and there were no surface finds to provide any date. No obvious continuation of either was recorded in Trenches 82 or 91 to the north.



**4.30 Trench 99** (Figs 2 and 30)

Depth: 0.53m -0.6m

Ground Level AOD: N - 74.74m, S - 74.16m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
99/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.18-0.20		
99/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.35-0.42		
99/003		Layer	Natural			
99/004	99/005	Fill	Fill, single	L: 1.28, W: 0.70, D: 0.05		Roman or later
99/005	99/005	Cut	Gully terminus	L:1.28, W:0.7, D:0.05	73.96	Roman or later
99/006	99/007	Fill	Single fill	L:1.0,W:0.2, D:0.06		Roman or later
99/007	99/007	Cut	Gully	L:1.0,W:0.2, D:0.06	73.93	Roman or later
99/008	99/009	Fill	Single fill	L:1.0, W:0.6, D: 0.29		Roman or later
99/009	99/009	Cut	Ditch terminus	L:1.0, W:0.6, D: 0.29	73.79	Roman or later
99/010	99/011	Fill	Single fill	L:1.0, W: 1.3, D: 0.28		Roman or later
99/011	99/011	Cut	Ditch	L: 1m in slot, W: 1.3, D: 0.28	74.1	Roman or later
99/012	99/013	Fill	Single fill	L: 0.5, W: 0.55, D: 0.15		Roman or later
99/013	99/013	Cut	Small pit	L: 0.5, W: 0.55, D: 0.15	73.94	Roman or later
99/014	99/015	Fill	Single fill	L:8.0, W: 1.7, D: 0.22		Roman or later
99/015	99/015	Cut	Ditch terminus	L:8.0, W: 1.7, D: 0.22	74.08	Roman or later
99/016	99/017	Fill	Single fill	L: 0.3, W:0.35, D:0.3		Roman or later
99/017	99/017	Cut	Posthole	L: 0.3, W:0.35, D:0.3	73.96	Roman or later

Table 31: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 99

4.30.1 Trench 99 was located towards the south-east of the southern evaluation area. It contained a probable ditch, gully, pit and posthole, all of which were excavated.

4.30.2 The north-south aligned ditch was recorded for a distance of c.8m down the east side of the trench, its eastern edge lying on or just beyond the trench edge. Rounded terminal [99/015] marked its northern extent and excavated segment [99/011] across the middle showed its relatively shallow depth and gently sloping sides. A seemingly squared end, [95/009], was identified at its south end. This might in fact have denoted a right-angled turn to the east by the ditch. A single uniform fill [99/008, /010 and /014] was recorded in each excavated segment. Collectively, these contained animal bone, iron nails,

oyster shell, Roman and undated CBM, fired clay, one sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery and one sherd of post-medieval pottery.

4.30.3 Narrow north-south aligned gully [99/005 and 007] was located south of the ditch. Its south end was marked by bulbous terminal [99/005]. Traced for a distance of c.4.5m, the gully intersected with the squared end/corner of the ditch at its surviving northern extent. No clear relationship between the two was determined and it is conjectured that they were contemporary with each other. The gully had a single fill which contained Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, together with a single sherd of medieval pottery dated to the 11th-13th century.

4.30.4 The fill of the northern ditch terminus [99/015] was cut by small rounded pit [99/013] and posthole [99/017]. The pit had a charcoal-rich fill [99/012] and contained Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, a fragment of Roman roof tile and animal bone. Posthole fill [99/016] contained undated CBM, nail fragments, animal bone and oyster shell.

4.30.5 The features in Trench 99 were somewhat unusual in that their fills were darker than most others elsewhere. The dating evidence from the gully and the ditch is confusing. The medieval pottery in the gully or the post-medieval pottery in the ditch may provide a *terminus post quem* for all the features in this trench. Also unusual is that the gully and the ditch appeared to be cut through a darkish [99/002] layer, thought to be subsoil, rather than directly into natural clay. A slot was cut through this layer, at the northern end of the trench to test to establish if this was indeed subsoil or was actually the fill of a large feature (potentially the fill of a continuation of ditch [92/004]). This slot confirmed that the darkish layer was subsoil as it was found to be only a few cm thick and to simply overlie natural clay. This might suggest a relatively late date for the features.

**4.31 Trench 100** (Figs 2 and 31)

Depth: 0.47m - 0.58m

Ground Level AOD: E - 73.56m, W - 74.22m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
100/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.35-0.44		
100/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.12-0.14		
100/003		Layer	Natural			
100/004	100/004	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned, unexc	L:2.0, W:1.43	73.55	Undated
100/005	100/005	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned, unexc	L:2.0, W:1	73.55	Undated
100/006	100/006	Cut	Gully, NW-SE aligned, unexc	L:2.3, W:0.73	73.45	Undated
100/007	100/007	Cut	Pit, unexc	Diameter: 1.0	73.17	Undated

Table 32: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 100

4.31.1 Trench 100 was located in the south-eastern part of the southern evaluation area. Three linear features and one pit were exposed; none were excavated.

4.31.2 Ditches [100/004] and [100/005] were located toward the western end of the trench. These were broadly parallel, running on a north-south alignment, and had similar dark fills. Only c.1m apart, their northward continuation was not identified in Trench 85.

4.31.3 To the east was narrower gully [100/006] running on a NNW-SSE alignment.

4.31.4 At the south end, probable pit [100/007] extended beyond the corner of the trench. No surface finds were retrieved from any of these features, and so all are undated.

**4.32 Trench 101** (Figs 2 and 32)

Depth: 0.45m - 0.52m

Ground Level AOD: N - 73.89m, S – 73.53m

Context	Parent	Type	Description	Dimensions m	Level m AOD	Date
101/001		Layer	Topsoil	D: 0.33-0.35		
101/002		Layer	Subsoil	D: 0.10-0.19		
101/003		Layer	Natural			
101/004	101/004	Cut	Ring-ditch	W:0.53, D:0.15	73.16	Early Iron Age?
101/005	101/004	Fill	Fill			Early Iron Age?
101/006	101/006	Cut	Ring-ditch	W: 0.58, D: 0.08	73.16	Early Iron Age?
101/007	101/006	Fill	Fill			Early Iron Age?

Table 33: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 101

4.32.1 Trench 101 was located in the south-eastern corner of the southern evaluation area, directly west of former tennis courts. A single feature was observed.

4.32.2 Part of a ring-ditch was exposed within the trench, the remainder extending east beyond the trench limit. Where investigated in slots [101/004] and [101/006], this circular gully was 0.53-0.58m wide and 0.08-0.15m deep. Extrapolated to be c.5m in diameter, little more than a third of its circumference, and very little of its interior space, lay within the trench. The function of this feature remains uncertain. However, two tiny sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from its pale silty fill.

## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A moderately-sized assemblage of finds was recovered. 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 (Appendix 2). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

### 5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 This second phase of evaluation produced 14 pieces of struck flint weighing 182g and one fragment (20g) of unworked burnt flint. The artefacts were recovered from four numbered contexts: [68/006], [73/014], [86/004] and [94/004]. The material was quantified by piece count and weight and was catalogued directly into an Excel spreadsheet (Table 34).

Category	Flakes	Blade	Irregular waste	Core	Retouched forms	Total
No	10	1	1	1	1	14

Table 34: Flintwork summary quantification

5.2.2 The assemblage of struck flints comprises ten flakes, one blade, a piece of irregular waste, a core and a modified piece. Flakes predominate. Overall they display plain or cortical platforms, and are not chronologically diagnostic. But the flakes from context [86/004] appear to be more carefully worked, displaying thin flake/blade-like flake scars on dorsal face as well as limited platform preparation. A fragmented blade core was also recovered from this context. Based on technological grounds, the material from [86/004] is likely to pre date the Middle Bronze Age. Context [94/004] produced a blade that is likely to be Mesolithic or Neolithic. A single modified tool was found. The notched piece from [73/014] is chronologically undiagnostic.

### 5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small to moderate-sized assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered during the evaluation. Although the prehistoric pottery totals over a hundred sherds, it lacks diagnostic feature sherds. However, the range of fabrics represented may suggest a fairly broad span of later prehistoric activity, within the late 2nd to 1st millennium BC. A similarly-sized component of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery is also present.

5.3.2 The pottery was examined using a x 20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight, Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) and Estimated Vessel Number (ENV). A site-specific fabric type-series had already been established for a prehistoric pottery assemblage from an adjacent area of the site (ASE 2014b). This is reproduced below with some additional fabric codes for new fabrics identified in the current assemblage. Late Iron Age/Roman pottery was recorded according to the Essex regional type-series (see Doherty 2015, Appendixes 1 & 2 for details). This uses a series of mnemonic codes for fabrics and incorporates elements of the existing published form

series from Camulodunum and Chelmsford (Hawkes and Hull 1947; Going 1987).

### 5.3.3 Site-specific prehistoric fabric definitions:

FLIN1: Moderate to common well-sorted flint; most examples are 0.5-1mm with rare examples up to 2mm

FLIN2: Common, moderately-sorted flint; most examples are 0.5-2mm with rare examples up to 3mm

FLIN3: Common ill-sorted flint of 0.5-3mm with rare examples up to 4mm

FLIN4: A fine ware fabric with moderate to common very well-sorted flint of 0.5-1mm

FLQU1: Common quartz of silt-sized to 0.1mm with sparse larger grains up to 0.5mm; sparse ill-sorted flint 0.5-3mm

FLQU2: Common quartz of silt-sized to 0.1mm with sparse larger grains up to 0.5mm; sparse well-sorted flint, most of 0.5-1mm with rare examples up to 2mm

FLQU3: A very silty matrix with common quartz just visible at x20 magnification and rare ill-sorted flint of 1-3mm

QUAR1: Dense silty matrix with rare large quartz grains up to 0.5mm, can contain rare/sparse linear voids from burnt out organics

QUAR2: Common quartz of 0.2-0.3mm with rare large quartz grains up to 0.5mm

#### *Prehistoric pottery*

5.3.4 The prehistoric pottery, quantified by fabric type in Table 35, consists almost entirely of featureless bodysherds meaning that most prehistoric contexts can only be broadly dated. The range of fabrics types found in the current evaluation is similar to that noted in an adjacent area of the site (ASE 2014b) which was dated as c. earliest/Early Iron Age (800-400BC). However, one of the largest groups from the current evaluation (55 sherds, weighing 574g from context [71/007]) has a relatively large component of fairly coarse flint-tempered fabrics (FLIN2/FLIN3) and only one or two sherds in sandier flint-tempered wares (FLQU1; FLQU2). Although this group could be contemporary with the earliest elements of the previous assemblage, it is also possible that it is of slightly earlier date (Late Bronze Age, 1150-800). Individual sherds in coarser non sandy flint-tempered wares of broad LBA/EIA date were also noted in contexts [72/005] and [90/007] (although, in the latter, CBM was also present suggesting that the pottery may be residual).

Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
FLIN1	30	399	8
FLIN2	7	34	5
FLIN3	32	261	9
FLIN4	2	35	2
FLQU1	7	42	6
FLQU2	12	39	11
FLQU3	14	32	6
QUAR1	26	44	17
QUAR2	2	9	2
Total	132	895	66

Table 35: Quantification of prehistoric pottery fabrics

5.3.5 The only other moderate-sized prehistoric pottery group (27 sherds, weighing 177g from context [73/014]) also contains mainly non-sandy flint-tempered wares (FLIN1, FLIN2, FLIN3 and FLIN4) but includes 10 sherds in non-flint-tempered sandy wares. This may suggest that this deposit contains material of mixed date, since the former group is probably more typical of the Late Bronze Age (1150-800BC) or, at latest, the earliest Iron Age (800-600BC), whereas the latter group is more typical of the Middle Iron Age (400BC+). Meanwhile sandy flint-tempered wares, which would be expected in some quantity in Early Iron Age groups, are absent.

5.3.6 Fabrics of this type (FLQU1, FLQU2, FLQU3) were however noted in small quantities in contexts [73/012], [86/006] and [101/007], and were present as residual elements in several other Late Iron Age/early Roman or later contexts. One of these residual groups, from context [92/006], includes the only prehistoric feature sherds in the assemblage. One, a partial rim from a jar with a flaring profile and another from a simple open dish-like form, are both fairly typical of the earliest/Early Iron Age. Meanwhile possible Middle Iron Age sandy wares were recorded in small quantities in context [73/013].

#### *Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (1st century AD)*

5.3.7 The Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, quantified by fabric type in Table 36, largely comes from one substantial stratified group, [94/004] (84 sherds, weighing 1144g). This is almost entirely composed of black-surfaced wares, including sandy (BSW1) and sparsely grog-tempered (BSW2) variants, with a single early shell-tempered ware (ESH) sherd. Diagnostic pieces from this group include substantial rimsherds from a hand-made variant of a rilled G21 jar with stab marks on the shoulder and a Cam 259/G1 bead rim jar, as well as several partial rims or shoulder cordons probably from jar forms similar to Cam 221/G20. Nothing in this group is definitely of post-conquest date, although the presence of non-grog-tempered black surfaced wares may suggest a very early Roman date of deposition. This group also contains a bodysherd of probable Dressel 1 amphora. Originating from central/southern Italy, this fabric type is associated with the continental wine trade in the late 2nd and 1st century BC and tends to be found on higher status sites. However, there is no evidence for activity of this date elsewhere in the

assemblage, suggesting the sherd may have been reused/brought in from elsewhere perhaps as building or levelling material

- 5.3.8 Elsewhere, rather smaller groups of similar pottery were sometimes associated with one or two sherds in more conclusively Roman fabric types like early Hadham wares (HAR) and unsourced oxidised sandy wares (RED), or with Roman CBM. In one case, context [92/006], sandy black-surfaced wares were associated with a small rimsherd in south Gaulish samian ware (SGSW) from a Dragendorff 36 dish, demonstrating that Roman activity must have extended at least into the early Flavian period.

Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
BSW1	22	245	19
BSW2	82	999	55
ESH	7	30	5
HAR	2	68	2
RED	1	3	1
SGSW	1	2	1
AITAL	1	226	1
Total	116	1573	84

Table 36: Quantification of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery fabrics

#### 5.4 Post-Roman Pottery by Helen Walker

- 5.4.1 A total of thirteen sherds, weighing 117g was excavated from four contexts, although this total includes an unidentifiable fragment in context 78/008, which may not even be pottery. The most interesting find comprises several sherds of shell-tempered ware from context 80/009, including part of a cooking-pot with a simple everted rim. Its uneven surfaces suggest it has been coil-built without the use of a turntable (also known as a slow wheel), which together with its simple rim suggests an early date of perhaps the 11th century for this vessel, although shell-tempered ware continued to be made into the 13th century. The cooking-pot shows evidence of fire-blackening/sooting both inside and out. Another (undiagnostic) sherd of shell-tempered ware was excavated from context 99/004.
- 5.4.2 The remaining, and latest, pottery comprises a single sherd of English stoneware from context 99/010. It has a mottled brown salt glaze indicating a date of late 17th to 18th centuries and is not sufficient to constitute evidence of activity during the post-medieval period.
- 5.4.3 The assemblage is of significance because it shows evidence of early medieval activity here.

Context	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)	Pottery – ware and featured sherds	Date
78/008	1	17	Unidentifiable, accreted surfaces	Undated
80/009	10	90	Early medieval shell-tempered ware: including sherds from a cooking-pot with a simple everted rim, shows evidence of fire-blackening/sooting both inside and out, uneven surfaces suggest vessel has been coil-built without the use of a turntable (or slow wheel)	11th C
99/004	1	8	Early medieval shell-tempered ware: body sherd	11th to early 13th C
99/010	1	2	English salt-glazed stoneware	Late 17th to 18th C
<i>Totals</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>117</i>		

Table 37: Quantification of post-Roman pottery

## 5.5 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 A total of 151 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 10,901g (10.9kg) were collected from thirteen different evaluation contexts. It is a varied assemblage composed of some definitively Roman material, some fairly thick tile – possibly Roman brick – and some much thinner tile that is most likely post-medieval. Due to the varied nature of the CBM, data showing the most likely date range per context has been assembled in Table 38.

Context	Forms found	Suggested period
73/004	Imbrex and misc tile fragments, some very abraded.	?Roman
73/005	Some very thin tile; also imbrex, tegula and possible Roman brick.	Roman with intrusive post-med material?
73/008	Imbrex and thick tile / possible Roman brick pieces. Also thin tile pieces.	Roman with intrusive post-med material?
73/011	Roman brick? Undiagnostic tile fragments.	?Roman
73/012	Undiagnostic material	Undated
74/005	Undiagnostic material	Undated
74/007	Thin roof tile.	Post-med
78/006	Undiagnostic material	Undated
90/007	Undiagnostic material	Undated
99/008	Roman tegula fragment?	?Roman
99/012	Roman tegula fragment?	?Roman
99/014	Undiagnostic material	Undated

Table 38: Suggested dating per context based on CBM forms

5.5.2 Considering the fairly large size of the assemblage, the fabrics were surprisingly homogenous. Only five tile fabrics were identified, three of which are most likely from the same clay source, and even T1 only displayed minor differentiations from T2-T2B. Furthermore, fabric type T2B was only represented by one example. A list of fabric descriptions is supplied in Table 39.



Fabric code	Description
T1	Quartz-rich fabric with common medium and coarse unsorted quartz; moderate-to-common hard white inclusions and scatter up to 1mm.
T2	Quartz-rich and slightly micaceous fabric with moderate-to-common medium unsorted quartz and sparse dark red Fe-rich material up to 1mm. Also sparse very coarse hard white inclusions up to 8mm.
T2A	Similar to T2 but with much less, sparse quartz. Often no visible quartz.
T2B	T2 with abundant 'sugary' quartz.

Table 39: CBM fabric descriptions

5.5.3 The bulk of the CBM – approximately 81% – was made up of miscellaneous tile forms; this figure does not include the very recognisable tegula and imbrex pieces. Included in this 'tile' category are thirty-eight pieces of fairly thick tile, from contexts [73/005] and [73/008], that range in thickness from 30-37mm. These could be Roman 'bricks', which are essentially very thick tiles. One fragment from [73/011] was even thicker at 44mm, and is definitively some form of brick although without certain features commonly seen on Roman bricks (e.g. signature marks, impressed or raised margins) none of these thick tile pieces can be ascribed as Roman brick with any certainty, although the presence of other Roman tile forms does support this interpretation.

5.5.4 Also in the 'tile' category are several much thinner fragments ranging in thickness from 10-13mm, found in contexts [73/005], [73/008], and [74/007]. These were made in the same fabrics as the much thicker fragments and pieces of Roman tile, but their dimensions are much more indicative of a post-medieval date. They are possibly intrusive pieces, or relate to later features on site, but would seem to indicate that the same clay sources were used throughout the period of land use.

5.5.5 The Roman tile, which accounts for approximately 14% of the CBM collected, is made up of four tegula and seven imbrex pieces. It is possible that a thinner fragment of curved tile, retrieved from [73/004], could be post-medieval ridge tile rather than Roman imbrex which tend to be a little thicker, but as Roman material often varies in dimension all the curved tile from this site has been defined as imbrex. The tegulae sample was made up of one vitrified flange fragment from [73/005], one piece with a chipped off flange from the same context, and two fragments in the same fabric assumed to be chips from this large tegula piece.

## 5.6 Fired Clay by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.6.1 A total of 278 pieces of fired clay weighing 1420g was collected from eight evaluation contexts. This includes the 46 pieces (120g) of clay recovered from environmental samples <1>, <2> and <3>, although the environmental processing procedure has rendered this material too abraded for any original forms to be determined.

5.6.2 Three fabrics were identified amongst the fired clay assemblage and are listed in Table 40. Fabrics were initially isolated using a x20 microscope, and then macroscopically after the differentiating factors had been identified. F1

and F3 were the most commonly seen fabric types, whilst F2 and B1 were collectively only represented by three examples. Like the clay retrieved from the environmental samples, much of the non-sample fired clay was also undiagnostic, although a number of pieces from context [92/007] did have curving flat surfaces and in one instance a sharply angular surface indicating some sort of human utilisation.

Fabric code	Description
F1	Chalk-rich with moderate pebble fragments up to 6mm.
F2	Oxide speckles matrix with sparse white inclusions up to 1mm.
F3	Well-baked fabric with no apparent inclusions.
B1	Briquetage fabric; pinkish with lilac tones; 'salt-colours'.

Table 40: Fabric descriptions for fired clay

- 5.6.3 Two fragments of daub were found, one from [94/004] which had a wattle impression of diameter 13mm that appeared to be formed from a cluster of thinner switches (<5mm) rather than one single rod; and another piece from [99/012] that had two single rod wattle impressions of respectively 10mm and 18mm.
- 5.6.4 Context [73/014] yielded the greatest quantity of fired clay, a total of 207 fragments. These were for the most part very fragmentary and abraded, but the majority had the interesting feature of being composed of two layers, one of which was very reduced to black, the obverse oxidised and often very weathered. The 'inner' blackened surface appeared to be made from the fairly 'clean' fabric F3, whilst the outer surface was clearly chalky fabric F1. This feature of one side being much reduced and the other oxidised is associated with structures such as ovens and kilns, and it is possible that the fired clay from [73/014] is discarded lining from one of these structures, which were often subject to rebuilding during their period of utilisation.
- 5.6.5 Also of interest is the single small fragment of briquetage found in context [73/008]. Briquetage includes all clay material associated with the process of salt-processing, which often causes the clay to vitrify and take on a distinct pink-lilac colour ('salt colours'). The fragment from HALRN15 was identified as briquetage for this reason, and it also had a layer of white-coloured residue that is most likely also from salt processing. It is generally accepted that the majority of salt processing took place at the coast so as to be close to the raw materials, but briquetage has frequently been found in smaller quantities further inland across the Essex region (e.g. Witham).

## 5.7 Bulk Metalwork and Miscellaneous Finds by Susan Chandler

- 5.7.1 A small assemblage of six iron objects was recovered from the excavations, weighing a total of 31g. Most of these objects are complete or partial nails; incomplete nails being found in contexts [78/006] and [99/014]. Two nails recovered from context [99/010] are short with T-shaped heads, possibly horse shoe nails. All of these nails represent common types that are fairly hard to accurately date; a broad date range can be given as medieval to post-medieval. The final nail from context [74/005] has a round head and stem, suggesting a more modern date.

- 5.7.2 As well as the nails, an iron object weighing 15g was found in [73/008]. It is 45mm long, 18mm wide and 5mm thick, heavily corroded and incomplete, has a roughly oval shape with breaks at either end. It is of uncertain use.
- 5.7.3 The only ceramically uncontaminated Roman deposit to produce stone was [68/006], however, the presence of a 10g fragment of Welsh roofing slate in this deposit suggests it too has intrusive material. The other piece consists of a silt clay iron concretion of natural formation (2g). Contexts [73/005] and [73/012] both have a mixed Roman/post-Roman date according to the ceramics. These two deposits produced another fossil oyster and another burnt piece of Bunter-type sandstone cobble respectively.
- 5.7.4 Other deposits were either of post-Roman or uncertain date. The only pieces of note consist of two pieces (6g) of 19th-century Welsh slate in [74/005] and an undated German lava quern fragment with no surviving features from [84/005].

## **5.8 Slag** by Luke Barber

- 5.8.1 Three contexts produced slag during the evaluation. Context [73/008] produced a 2g piece of vitrified fuel ash slag, context [85/005] contained a 286g piece of dense undiagnostic iron slag and the environmental residue from early Roman context [99/012] contained tiny chips of black aerated fuel ash slag, possibly the waste from coal burning.

## **5.9 Geological Material** by Luke Barber

- 5.9.1 This phase of archaeological evaluation work recovered 20 pieces of stone, weighing 2550g, from 11 individually numbered contexts.
- 5.9.2 The earliest dated stone consists of three parts from a single fragmented cobble in a friable medium-grained sandstone, either a geologically transported piece of Bunter sandstone from the Midlands, or a more local reworked Tertiary piece (context [86/004]). The cobble shows clear signs of having been heated. Context [73/014], dated to the later prehistoric period, contained a further 86g fragment from another similar cobble as well as a 12g piece of a chert pebble and a 1088g piece of iron-flecked non calcareous fine/medium grained sandstone. None show signs of human modification. Early Iron Age context [86/006] produced a Tertiary fossil oyster and Mid Iron Age context [73/013] a further unmodified cobble fragment of bunter-type sandstone.

## **5.10 Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

- 5.10.1 This phase of archaeological evaluation produced a relatively small animal bone assemblage containing 399 specimens. The bones were hand-collected and retrieved from whole earth samples primarily from contexts of mixed date (Pre-historic /Late-Iron Age-Early Roman).
- 5.10.2 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 the 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 categorised as large, medium or small mammal. The separation of sheep/goat cranial fragments was made with reference to Hillson (1996). Mandibles were recorded according to the system outlined by Grant (1982). The assemblage does not contain any measurable bones.

5.10.3 The bulk of the assemblage is in a poor condition (Table 41) and of the 399 fragments recovered only 131 were identified to taxa.

	Good	Moderate	Poor
Total Number Of Fragments	6	115	278
NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens)	6	109	16

Table 41: The preservation of the animal bone assemblage

5.10.4 A limited range of taxa have been identified including domestic and wild animals. Cattle dominate the assemblage followed by pig and sheep/goat respectively. Wild taxa include red/fallow deer, anuran (frog/toad) and rodent.

Taxa	NISP
Cattle	21
Sheep/Goat	10
Pig	13
Horse	6
Red/Fallow Deer	2
Large Mammal	38
Medium Mammal	32
Rodent	5
Anuran	3

Table 42: NISP counts by taxa for the whole assemblage

5.10.5 Bones were scattered across the site and derived from 15 contexts in total, though the bulk of the assemblage was recovered from context [94/004] which produced 229 fragments. A large proportion of these derived from whole earth sample <3> and are small and fragmentary. Only 52 specimens from context [94/004] could be identified to taxa with the majority having been assigned to the 'Large Mammal' and 'Medium Mammal' categories.

5.10.6 The assemblage includes both meat-bearing and non-meat bearing bones. A single horse phalange which displayed a small cut mark was the only specimen to provide evidence of butchery. Canid gnawing was noted on four specimens including a red/fallow deer radius and acetabulum.

## 5.11 Shell by Susan Chandler

5.11.1 *Ostrea Edulis* (or common oyster) shell was recovered from five contexts on site: [80/009], [94/004], [99/080], [99/010] and [99/014]. A minima of 5 individuals are identifiable, however most of the shells are fragmentary. There is nothing particular to note from the assemblage.

## 5.12 Registered Finds by Susan Chandler

5.12.1 Eight Registered Finds were recovered using a metal detector from the topsoil of Trench 78 [78/001]. The assemblage is summarised in Table 43.

RF No	Context	Object	Material	Period	Wt(g)
1	78/001	UNK	LEAD	UNK	2
2	78/001	?KEY	COPP	?ROM	12
3	78/001	UNK	LEAD	UNK	20
4	78/001	UNK	LEAD	UNK	2
5	87/001	BUCK?	COPP	PMED	4
6	78/001	UNK	LEAD	UNK	2
7	87/001	BUCK?	COPP	PMED	12
8	78/001	UNK	LEAD	UNK	2

Table 43: The Registered Finds assemblage

### *Buckles*

5.12.2 Two copper alloy buckles were recovered unstratified from trench 87. They are both early 17th-18th century in date. RF< 5> is incomplete, with moulded floral decoration. The other, RF< 7>, is a complete composite copper alloy buckle frame and iron pin bar. It has a simple rectangular undecorated frame, with rounded corners measuring 42mm long, 35mm wide and 3mm thick.

### *Objects of uncertain function*

5.12.3 Five lead objects were found by metal detector in the topsoil of trench 78 [78/001]. RF<1>, <4>, <6> and <8> are all very similar in form, being small ovoid or roughly ovoid flat objects each c.15mm long, 10mm wide and 3mm thick. RF<4> is slightly thicker, at 5mm. Two, RF < 6> and <8>, have lines of punched decoration. Their function is not clear. They each weigh 2.5 or 2.6 grams; possibly they are small weights.

5.12.4 A larger piece of lead sheet was also recovered, RF<3>. It weighs 19g and is 39mm long, 31mm wide and 4mm thick. It is incomplete, with one end broken off in the past. A 5mm diameter hole near the original end suggests that this may be part of a repair. It is not possible to date these items beyond a broadly Roman to post-medieval date range.

5.12.5 Lastly, RF<2> is a small block of copper alloy 20mm long, 9mm wide and 12mm thick, weighing 11.8 grams. It has four cuts, one in its centre, running from side to side, the other two run diagonally from the corners to the first cut. These cuts are at least half the thickness of the item and continue as incised lines down the sides of the block to its base. One end of the block is broken, showing the end of a square stem which would have extended beyond the block. It is possible this is the head of a key, perhaps of Roman date.

## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Angela Vitolo

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During archaeological investigation 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. The samples were taken from the fills of a stake hole, a pit and a ditch. The following report summarises their contents and discusses the contribution that the environmental remains can give in regards to the local vegetation environment, fuel use and selection and the agricultural economy or other plant use.

### 6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The samples were processed by flotation in their entirety. The flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 44). 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 (Table 45). A 100ml sub-sample was taken from the flot of sample <2> and its contents recorded alongside those from the other samples. Macro plant remains have been identified through comparison with reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; NIAB 2004) and modern comparative material. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of sample <2> were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and 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 Table 1, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### 6.3 Results

*Samples <1> [71/011], <2> [99/012], <3> [94/004]*

6.3.2 The flots of all three samples contained a large amount of uncharred vegetative material, such as twigs, rootlets and seeds, which are indicative of low level disturbance and are likely to have infiltrated the deposits through root action.

- 6.3.3 Sample <1>, from stakehole [71/012], produced a root dominated flot with no charred plant macrofossils and little charcoal. The flot from sample <2>, from Roman pit [99/013], contained a large amount of charcoal and coal. One single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was picked out of the residue. Sample <3> was taken from ditch [94/005], which contained mixed Iron Age, Roman and modern material. Charred plant macrofossils from this sample included caryopses of hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.). No chaff fragments were seen, hindering further identification of the cereals. Charred seeds of wild plants were also recorded and included nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), knotgrasses/docks (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.) and large grasses (Poaceae). Charred stem fragments and culm nodes of indeterminate grasses were also seen. However, the low amount of charred plant remains and the mixed nature of this context hinder the potential to provide information on diet and agrarian economy.
- 6.3.4 Charcoal was present in all three samples, but generally in low quantity. Preservation was good, except for sample <3>, where charcoal fragments displayed evidence of sediment encrustation, probably caused by cycles of wetting and drying due to fluctuations in ground water level. Only sample <2> contained enough charcoal to warrant identification. Woody taxa included oak (*Quercus* sp.), cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.) and willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus* sp.). Some fragments of round wood were recorded, especially from the cherry/blackthorn group.
- 6.3.5 Environmental remains from the residues included mammal bone, some of which was burnt, some fish bone, land snail shells and marine molluscs.

## 6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 Overall, the environmental samples did not contain sufficient amounts of material to allow a discussion on diet, agrarian economy and fuel selection and use at the site.
- 6.4.2 Charred cereal remains were only recovered from sample <3>, which was taken from a context containing material of mixed date. Charcoal identification has shown that in the Roman period a variety of vegetation environments, including woodland, hedgerows and possibly damp soils or marshes, were present in the vicinity of the site and exploited for fuel.
- 6.4.3 Despite the paucity of remains in these samples, there is potential in the nearby deposits for the preservation of charred plant macrofossils and charcoal. Therefore, any future fieldwork activity at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting primary deposits.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	* Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	** Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal ID	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	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)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	71/012	Stake hole	<5	<5	*	<2	**	<2										*	<2					F.Clay */12 - Flint */10 - Magnetised Material */2
2	99/012	Pit	40	40	**	2	***	<2	<i>Prunus</i> sp.5 (4rw), <i>Quercus</i> sp. 2 (1rw) cf <i>Quercus</i> sp.1 (distorted), <i>Salix/Populus</i> spp. 2	*	<2	**	32	*	6	*	<2	*	<2					FCF */142 - Flint */26 - Pot */26 - Slag */<2 - F.Clay **/70 - Magnetised Material **/46
3	94/004	Ditch	40	40	**	2	**	<2		*	<2	**	20	**	10	**	10	**	<2	**	<2	*	2	FCF */8 - Pot */14 - F.Clay **/40 - Magnetised material **/4

Table 44: Residue quantification

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



Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Industrial debris hammerscale	
1	71/012	0.5	15	15	70	10	* <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.			*											
2	99/012	110	700	100	20	10		**	***	****							*	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	+	****	
3	94/004	7.5	100	100	50	10		**	***	****	**	<i>Hordeum</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> sp.	+	*	<i>Lapsana communis</i> , <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., Poaceae	+ / ++	*	Poaceae stem fragment with culm node	++		

Table 45: Flot quantification

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

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 In all trenches the natural boulder clay was overlaid by between 0.16m and 0.32m of subsoil of light brownish yellow silty clay. Topsoil of between 0.2m and 0.4m thickness overlaid subsoil. Almost all archaeological features were cut into the natural geology and were sealed by subsoil and topsoil. The only exceptions to this were the metalling of the trackway in Trenches 73, 90 and 96, which appeared to be sealed by topsoil only, and features in Trench 99 which were cut through a lower subsoil and sealed by both subsoil and topsoil.

7.1.2 Below-ground archaeological remains are demonstrated to be present, in varying density and complexity, across almost all parts of the Phase 2 site investigated. These seemingly span the later prehistoric to medieval periods, with the main period of activity represented apparently being the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods. These are of a very similar nature, density/complexity and apparent date to those recorded in the Phase 1 excavation and concur with the relative phasing of the landscape proposed by the PXA (ASE 2014b):

- Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age - scatter of pits, postholes, maybe field ditches and circular enclosures
- Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition - imposition of 'bedding trench' complexes/fields
- Early Roman - rectilinear enclosures inserted
- ?Roman - trackway inserted into existing layout
- Late medieval/ post medieval – agricultural usage, fields on the periphery of Cold Hall
- Modern usage

### 7.2 Period discussion

#### *Prehistoric (pre- late Iron Age)*

7.2.1 Residual prehistoric struck flint found in later features is presumably indicative of a low intensity of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity on the site. In the northern area worked flint was found residually in gully [68/007] and in probable ditch [73/016]. In the southern area, a flint blade that is likely to be Mesolithic or Neolithic was retrieved from the fill of ditch [94/005]. Additionally, prehistoric pottery was found residually in later features such as gully [72/004], probable ditch [73/016] and gully [74/006].

7.2.2 The earliest dated feature in the northern evaluation area is the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit in Trench 71, with an adjacent stakehole which may be contemporary. A fair quantity of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age pottery is present, albeit residually in Roman ditch [73/016], in Trench 73, suggesting that the ditch disturbed an earlier feature in this vicinity.

7.2.3 It is possible that some gullies may pre-date the 'bedding trenches' and are of Early to Middle Iron Age in date, especially those that do not conform to the alignments of the 'bedding trenches' or the Roman rectilinear field system.

Sinuuous ditches and gullies of Early to Middle Iron Age date were found in the Phase 1 excavation and further afield, a MIA circular enclosure and ditch at Mark Hall School to the north. Gullies in northern area Trenches 66, 67 and 70, could be candidates. In the southern area it is speculated that curving gullies in Trench 89 and a ditch in Trench 96 form part of another circular enclosure. Ditch [80/12] in Trench 80 had a piece of Early-Middle Iron Age pottery on its surface and could perhaps date to this period.

- 7.2.4 In the southern evaluation area there are three more definitely prehistoric features; two pits in Trench 86 and a small ring-ditch in Trench 101. All had very leached pale fills. The pits contain finds suggestive of Bronze Age or Early Iron Age dates. The possible ring-ditch in Trench 101 is perhaps too small to be the remains of a Bronze Age barrow, but could be a funerary monument of Iron Age, or even early Saxon, date. Only partially exposed and virtually none of its interior explored, its function is as yet unknown.

#### *Late Iron Age and Roman*

- 7.2.6 Groups of regularly-spaced parallel gullies, of the type previously speculated to be agricultural or horticultural 'bedding trenches' in the Phase 1 excavation, were encountered in both north and south evaluation areas. As demonstrated in the Phase 1 excavation area, these form large complexes of 12 or more gullies. Two such complexes were found during Phase 1 and further complexes have been identified within Phase 2, but mainly on different alignments to those found in 2014. It is suspected that, due to the similarity of their pale silt clay fills, and legibility problems created by wet weather and flooding of trenches, the presence of some of these gullies was not identified in the field (as was clearly the case in the Phase 1 evaluation). It is therefore likely that the extents of these 'bedding trench' groups are in fact greater than immediately evident from the Phase 2 recorded remains. Furthermore, difficulties in discerning true and accurate alignments of these linear features within the narrow confines of the trenches makes the extrapolation of their association between trenches tentative and potentially erroneous (again, as was demonstrated by the Phase 1 evaluation when compared with its subsequent area excavation). The following bedding trench 'complexes' are cautiously identified, in order of greatest probability/reliability:

- NNW-SSE alignment in Trench 68. Six gullies. Presumably extends south and ends somewhere between Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas. Roughly perpendicular with the complex recorded across west of Phase 1 excavation.
- NNE-SSW alignment in Trench 74, east of the trackway. Two gullies parallel with trackway [73/013]. Probably extends south into the Phase 1 excavation.
- WNW-ESE alignment in Trenches 87-88 and 95. Four gullies, apparently perpendicular to the trackway and running up to its west edge
- ENE-WSW alignment in Trenches 66 and 67. One gully only, in north-west corner of evaluation.
- Other less convincing candidates in Trench 84 and in Trenches 71 and 72.

- 7.2.7 Only a selection of these gullies was excavated and, as was the case during Phase 1, the quantity of retrieved artefacts from their investigated fills is notably low. It would appear that very little cultural material of any kind made

its way into these features, which must say something about their nature/function. What little dating evidence has been collected comprises: three early Roman sherds, one prehistoric sherd, 5 prehistoric struck flints and one fragment of roof slate from [68/007]; one prehistoric sherd from [72/004] and some small sherds of Early Iron Age pottery and small ?post-medieval tile fragments from [74/006]. All material is very fragmentary and includes a consistent residual prehistoric component as well as very occasional incidence of presumed intrusive medieval or post-medieval tile and slate. This being a continuing pattern also noted in the Phase 1 excavations, the possibility that the Late Iron Age and Roman finds are also residual must be borne in mind.

- 7.2.8 The east-west gullies in Trenches 71 and 72 may not be 'bedding trenches' but could instead be part of a slightly later added/inserted field system identified in the Phase 1 excavation to the south. This field system was seen to consist of two enclosures located west of the trackway and demarcated by a series of east-west ditches (GP 46-50 and GP 59) and two NNE-SSW ditches (GP51 and GP52). This Roman rectilinear field system appeared to be continuing to the north and south, and ditches [71/004], [72/004] and [72/006] could be part of it, with NNE-SSW ditch [73/006] forming its eastern boundary.
- 7.2.9 In the northern area the trackway [73/013] sealed two Roman ditches, [73/006] and [73/016], both containing Roman CBM and pottery. The former was a continuation of a north-south enclosure ditch (GP51) found in Phase 1 and already mentioned above. The location of ditch [73/016] underneath the trackway means that it must predate it, but its function remains unclear. It lies to the west of and seemingly parallel to ditch [73/006] and was not previously identified in the Phase 1 excavations.
- 7.2.10 Across the site are various other pits and ditches that can be broadly dated to the Late Iron Age or Roman period (by their finds or by their association with other dated features). None of them definitely link with each other and no tangible patterns have emerged across the trenches so their layout and function is unclear; the trench plan of the eastern half of the south evaluation area is particularly illegible.
- 7.2.11 The gravel surfaces and associated distinctive pinkish silts encountered in Trenches 73, 90 and 96 are clearly comparable with such deposits recorded in the Phase 1 excavation area and are the continuation of the same trackway metalled trackway. Now traced for a distance of c.330m across the site, it is clearly a major landscape feature. As in the Phase 1 excavation, Roman ceramic building material is incorporated into the gravel surfacing deposit and appears to support the Roman date previously postulated for it. It is noted that both underlying ditches [73/006] and [73/016] contained small quantities of apparently post-medieval tile as well as Roman period finds. The fact that the track is not sealed by subsoil, but is instead directly overlain by topsoil, may be a further hint to its relatively late date. However, given that the trackway appears to be inserted into and aligned upon the pre-existing wider Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosed landscape, it is perhaps most rational to continue to tentatively regard it as a Roman period imposition, rather than a later one following relict boundaries still surviving in the medieval or later landscape.

7.2.11 It is notable that no dating evidence for this land use continuing into the middle or late Roman periods has been recovered. It appears that the enclosed landscape is developed and abandoned in the Early Roman period. However, as noted above, there remains a question regarding the chronology of the imposition and use of the metalled trackway, which could conceivably be later.

#### *Medieval*

7.2.12 No evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity has been encountered. Medieval remains are sparse. Only a single curving gully in Trench 80 can be definitely dated to this period, though a similar adjacent gully is probably contemporary with it. Another gully in Trench 74, and a ditch and gully in Trench 99, contained small quantities of medieval material along with earlier finds, giving an inconclusive indication of date. The apparent sparsity of medieval features suggests that the phase 2 evaluation areas lay outside any areas of occupation, more specifically the moated farmstead of Cold Hall which was located just to the west, presumably being within its surrounding fields.

#### *Post-medieval*

7.2.13 The lack of definitely dated post-medieval features indicates that the site carried on in agricultural usage, probably still within lands belonging to Cold Hall. The northward continuation of the large post-medieval field boundary ditch GP936, recorded in the Phase 1 evaluation and excavation, was not picked up in Trench 71, a fact that is as yet unexplained. Historic maps from 1616 and 1819 show that this ditch did not extend into the southern evaluation area.

#### *Undated*

7.2.14 Various features recorded by the Phase 2 evaluation cannot be dated, either because they were not investigated or did not produce any diagnostic artefacts or else display no obvious association to the dated and better understood Phase 1 and Phase 2 remains. This includes fragments of ditches, gullies, occasional pits, spread across the trenched areas of the site.

7.2.15 It is likely that the majority of these undated remains will also be of late prehistoric, Iron Age or Roman date.

### **7.3 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

7.3.1 The site appears to have had an agrarian use for a substantial period of time until becoming sports pitches/playing fields. Historic ploughing has clearly caused some truncation to archaeological remains but it does not appear to have been overly significant or detrimental to those present. Field drains, while in evidence, have caused minimal damage.

7.3.2 Modern site use as playing fields has also caused some disturbance as it involved levelling the ground and perhaps the removal of trees. Aside from narrow land drains, significant disturbance appears to have been localised with the major impacts deriving from the construction of the club house and

facilities and possibly the tennis courts. The creation of surfaced play areas appear to have been of shallow construction and the survival of subsoil of much of the site suggests levelling for the creation of pitches was minimal.

#### **7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains**

7.4.1 Development of this site will have a potentially adverse effect on the below-ground archaeological remains established to be present within the Phase 2 evaluation areas. These remains were generally encountered at c.0.34-0.6m below current ground level. Particularly at the north, the trackway was encountered at a depth of only 0.2m.

7.4.2 Many of the investigated remains are of relatively shallow depth and will be particularly susceptible to any development groundworks, or indirect impacts such as plant movement, that disturb or intrude below the surface of the natural.

#### **7.5 Consideration of project aims and potential research objectives**

- *Identify any evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval settlement or activity.*
- *Gain information on past land use which both sets these evaluation sites within the wider landscape and also refine the information and interpretations developed from previous archaeological interventions in the immediate area*

7.5.1 The evaluation has revealed evidence for prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity. Scattered pits revealed a presence here in the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age and the Middle Iron Age, although whether these represent settlement or some other type of activity is not possible to say without further investigation. Nothing was found that is similar to the post-built buildings and pits of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age that were present at the southern end of the Newhall site, on the opposite side of London Road (ASE 2015b). However, the remains may be of a similar nature to those of Middle Iron Age activity found at Marks Hall to the north (Robertson 2004a and 2004b).

7.5.2 While the relative chronology of the post-prehistoric landscape has been established, and appears to be consistent across the Phase 1 and Phase 2 investigation areas, the nature and function of the relatively complex system of posited Late Iron Age/early Roman horticultural features is not fully understood and further selective excavation would likely clarify their dating, layout and phased development or modification. The precise chronology of the 'bedding trenches' has not been elucidated any further by the evaluation as little informative dating evidence was retrieved and no definite inter-relationships with other features investigated.

Similar parallel gully arrangements have been encountered elsewhere in northwest Essex; for instance close by at Mark Hall School (Robertson 2004a and 2004b) as previously described, but also at Priors Green (Robertson 2004c) and elsewhere in Takeley (Barker 2003; Germany 2015), at Stansted Airport (Cooke *et al* 2008, 186 and 201-2) and further east on the route of the A120 Trunk Road (Timby *et al* 2007, 161 and 175) where they are variously dated as Late Saxon to Medieval to early 19th century. Further investigation here would allow greater comparison with these other sites.

- 7.5.3 Clearly a significant phenomenon of this site, it is perhaps useful to briefly review current understanding of these parallel gully complexes at the London Road North Enterprise Zone site. They appear to be a feature of the Boulder Clay landscape found in this part of the county and may therefore be associated with its improvement and management. The gullies are grouped together into square to rectangular complexes, of many varying alignments, that may have been contained within larger landscape entities such as fields. Whether the fields had defined extents or not is as yet unclear, possible boundary ditches having only been found in a few instances in the Phase 1 excavation area and no complete unit of parallel gullies having yet been exposed in its entirety. While the gullies were probably rapidly infilled, presumably purposefully so, the land entities they are contained within (whether defined or not) may well have had some longevity. The artefacts contained within their fills may therefore not provide a true reflection of the lifespan of the land use episodes they represent. Lastly, cumulatively, these gully complexes are extensive across the landscape, but seemingly sit alongside other types of agricultural land use and settlement.
- 7.5.4 The evaluation has demonstrated that the putative Roman trackway does continue to the north and south of the Phase 1 excavation area. As the latest component of the stratigraphic sequence where encountered, a post-Roman date cannot yet be ruled out for it, therefore clarification of its date should be a priority for further work. How the track ties in with other Roman routeways in Harlow could form a research objective for future phases of work and particularly with reference to recent work done on Roman roads in the area by John Peterson (Peterson 2014). If in fact medieval or post-medieval in date, it could have continued north to the medieval core of Old Harlow and its market. However, this feature does not appear on the 1616 map of Latton or the 1819 Mark Hall estate map.
- 7.5.5 Other Late Iron Age and Early Roman features were exposed during the evaluation, mainly comprising ditches, pits and gullies of as yet unclear function. Some of the ditches may turn out to be rectilinear enclosure ditches similar to those found in Phase 1 or those found at the recent Newhall excavations on the other side of London Road (ASE 2015b). Suggestions of occupation appear to be more frequent in the southern evaluation area, however at this stage it is not possible to fully characterise the activity here. The longevity of the Roman occupation and field systems has yet to be established. At present none of the pottery is diagnostically Middle or Late Roman in date which may suggest that the activity on the site was short-lived.
- 7.5.6 The evaluation has not encountered any evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity and only one feature of definite Medieval date has been identified, although some of the unexcavated pits or ditches may perhaps turn out to be medieval. As the site is located within what was most probably agricultural land outside the moated site of Cold Hall, the site has a low potential to address medieval research questions (unless the gully complexes can be demonstrated to be late Saxon or medieval?). Post-medieval research potential is similarly negligible.

## **7.5 Conclusions**

- 7.5.1 This Phase 2 evaluation within the Phase 2 London Road North Enterprise Zone site has established that significant below-ground archaeological remains are present that survive substantially undamaged by later truncation and disturbance. These span the prehistoric to medieval periods and are distributed across the whole of the site, generally displaying a modest density and complexity.
- 7.5.2 A low incidence of Prehistoric (pre- Late Iron Age) remains, located in the central part of the northern area and in the eastern part of the southern area and indicating land-use and occupation from the Late Bronze Age onwards, has been demonstrated. This accords with the results of the Phase 1 evaluation and area excavation.
- 7.5.3 The recorded Late Iron Age/Early Roman remains are consistent with those of the Phase 1 investigation and display a similar sequence of creation and development of an extensive and managed enclosed agricultural landscape. The enigmatic 'bedding trench complex' component of this landscape extends into the Phase 2 evaluation areas and demonstrates its further diversity. The putative Roman trackway is also present. The chronology and understanding of function/economy of these Late Iron Age/Early Roman remains would benefit from further investigation.
- 7.5.4 There is no evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity, despite such remains being found on the adjacent Newhall development, to the east and north-east. Medieval remains are sparse and inconclusively dated and post-medieval activity appears to be absent.
- 7.5.5 The Phase 2 evaluation areas contain significant below-ground archaeological remains that are likely to be adversely impacted by development of this site. Mitigation of development impacts, in the form of open area excavation of some or all of the site areas is likely to be required.



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Essex Historic Environment Record - <http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/>

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Essex County Council for commissioning the project. Teresa O'Connor of Essex County Council Place Services monitored the project. Jacksons, the site ground contractors provided access and assistance, particularly Andy Wargent the site manager.

Niall Oakey managed the fieldwork and Jim Stevenson managed the post-excavation process. Mark Atkinson edited the report and provided useful information and comments. Kate Clover supervised the fieldwork and was assisted by Robert Cullum, Samara King and Thomas Simms. Lukasz Miciak was responsible for the site survey and Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report.

**Appendix 1: Summary of archaeologically negative trenches**

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
69	69/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.35
	69/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.26
	69/003	Layer	Natural	0.42-0.61
93	93/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30-0.35
	93/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.20
	93/003	Layer	Natural	0.40-0.54
97	97/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30-0.40
	97/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.25
	97/003	Layer	Natural	0.48-0.65

## Appendix 2: Finds Quantifications

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)	Flint	Weight (g)	FCF	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Fe	Weight (g)	F. Clay	Weight (g)	Surface	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Fossil	Weight (g)
66/004					2	22																		
68/006	4	14							5	36			1	10										
71/007	55	574																						
72/005	1	6																						
73/004			23	846																				
73/005	30	1194	36	4918	9	6											2	14					1	80
73/008	1	2	64	3374			1	4							1	16	1	26			1	<2		
73/011			2	522																				
73/012	12	24	1	30							1	20	2	266										
73/013	16	20											4	558										
73/014	27	177	1	4	13	82			2	38			3	1188			244	954						
74/005			1	4									2	6	1	2								
74/007	2	6	8	56																				
78/006	2	<2	1	<2	8	4									1	2								
78/008	1	16																						
79/005					7	158											2	28						
79/007	2	14																						
80/009	9	92			7	16	4	18															1	10
80/013	1	6																						

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)	Flint	Weight (g)	FCF	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Fe	Weight (g)	F.Clay	Weight (g)	Surface	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Fossil	Weight (g)
80/017	1	4																						
80/019	1	14																						
82/007	2	2																						
84/005																			1	238				
Trench 85 U/S												1	144											
85/005																			1	288				
86/004									6	76			3	110										
86/006	1	4																					1	98
89/005	1	14																						
89/007	1	12																						
90/007	1	4	1	<2																				
92/005	9	34			12	104											2	6						
92/006	9	32			11	18											1	22						
92/007	4	30			29	314											6	84						
94/004	83	1368	1	32	76	778			3	38							13	180						
99/004	3	10			2	2																		
99/006	3	8																						
99/008	2	14			29	404	1	2									3	82						
99/010	3	12			17	320	4	20							2	6								
99/012	1	6	1	376	6	40											1	36						
99/014			1	4	3	30	2	8							1	6								
101/005									1	6														

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)	Flint	Weight (g)	FCF	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Fe	Weight (g)	F. Clay	Weight (g)	Surface	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Fossil	Weight (g)
101/007	2	12																						
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>3487</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>10388</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2268</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2282</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>1432</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>188</b>

**Appendix 3: EHER Summary**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Phase 2 Evaluation - London Road North Enterprise Zone LDO, Harlow, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Harlow	<b>District:</b> Harlow
<b>NGR:</b> TL 47120 10580	<b>Site Code:</b> HALRN 15
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> K. Clover, Archaeology South-East
<b>Date of Work:</b> 2nd -12th November 2015	<b>Size:</b> 5% sample of of 3.98 ha
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Harlow Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Essex County Council
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> Yes	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> 19373, 46337, 3631, 3582, 9141, 47656, 19373
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH round-up	<b>OASIS No:</b> archaeol6-235260
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age-Early Roman, later Roman?, Medieval	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p><i>A second phase of evaluation was carried out at the London Road North Enterprise Zone site in November 2015 and consisted of 34 trial trenches within two areas to the north and south of the Phase 1 investigations.</i></p> <p><i>A total of 93 cut features were recorded as well as three areas of metalling. These archaeological remains seemingly span the later prehistoric to medieval periods, with the main periods of activity being in the Late Iron Age and Roman period.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest dated feature in the northern area was a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit in Trench 71. A stakehole from this trench may be contemporary. A fair quantity of pottery from the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age was also found residually in a Roman ditch in Trench 73, suggesting that the ditch had cut an earlier feature. In the southern area there were three probable prehistoric features – a curvilinear gully/ring ditch in Trench 101 and two pits in Trench 86. These remains appear to indicate a low intensity of late prehistoric presence at this location in the landscape.</i></p> <p><i>The complexed of parallel ‘bedding trenches’ found in Phase 1 were shown to extend into both areas of the Phase 2 evaluation. Seemingly of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date, their sparse finds assemblages contained significant residual components. Elsewhere, similar remains have been accorded Late Saxon and Medieval dates. The understanding of the chronology and function of these posited agricultural/horticultural features is still unclear.</i></p> <p><i>The metallated trackway was demonstrated to extend across both Phase 2 evaluation areas, in Trenches 73, 90 and 96. Like the bedding trenches, understanding of the chronology and relationship of this track to the seemingly broadly contemporary enclosed agricultural landscape is still unclear.</i></p> <p><i>No evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity was recorded. Medieval activity was sparse. Only one feature – a gully in Trench 80 - could be definitely dated to this period. A gully in</i></p>	



*Trench 74 and a ditch and a gully in Trench 99 all contained some medieval material along with earlier finds.*

**Previous Summaries/Reports:**

Phase 1 ASE evaluation report 2014086 and ASE excavation report 2014247

**Author of Summary:**

K. Clover

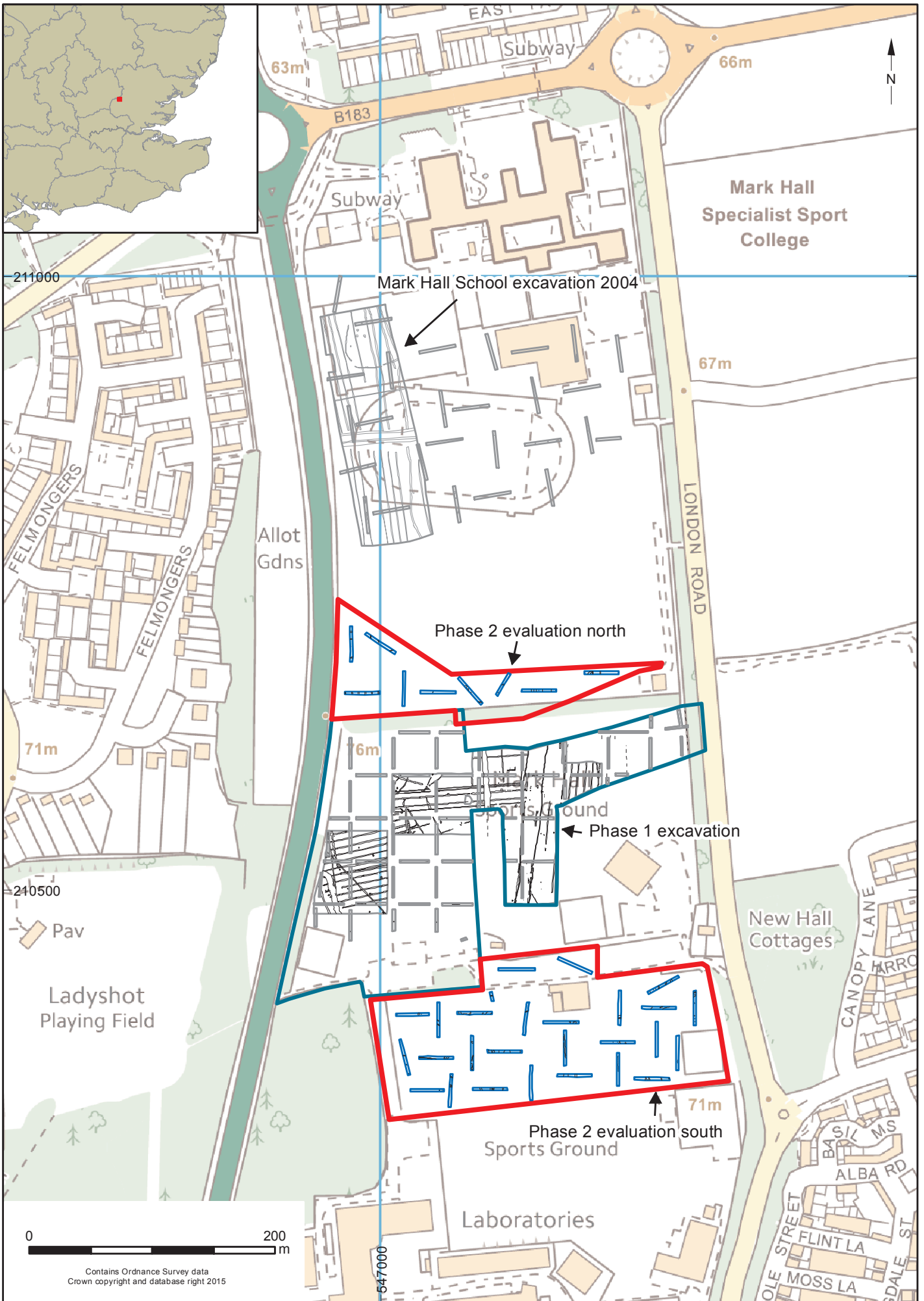
**Date of Summary:**

December 2015

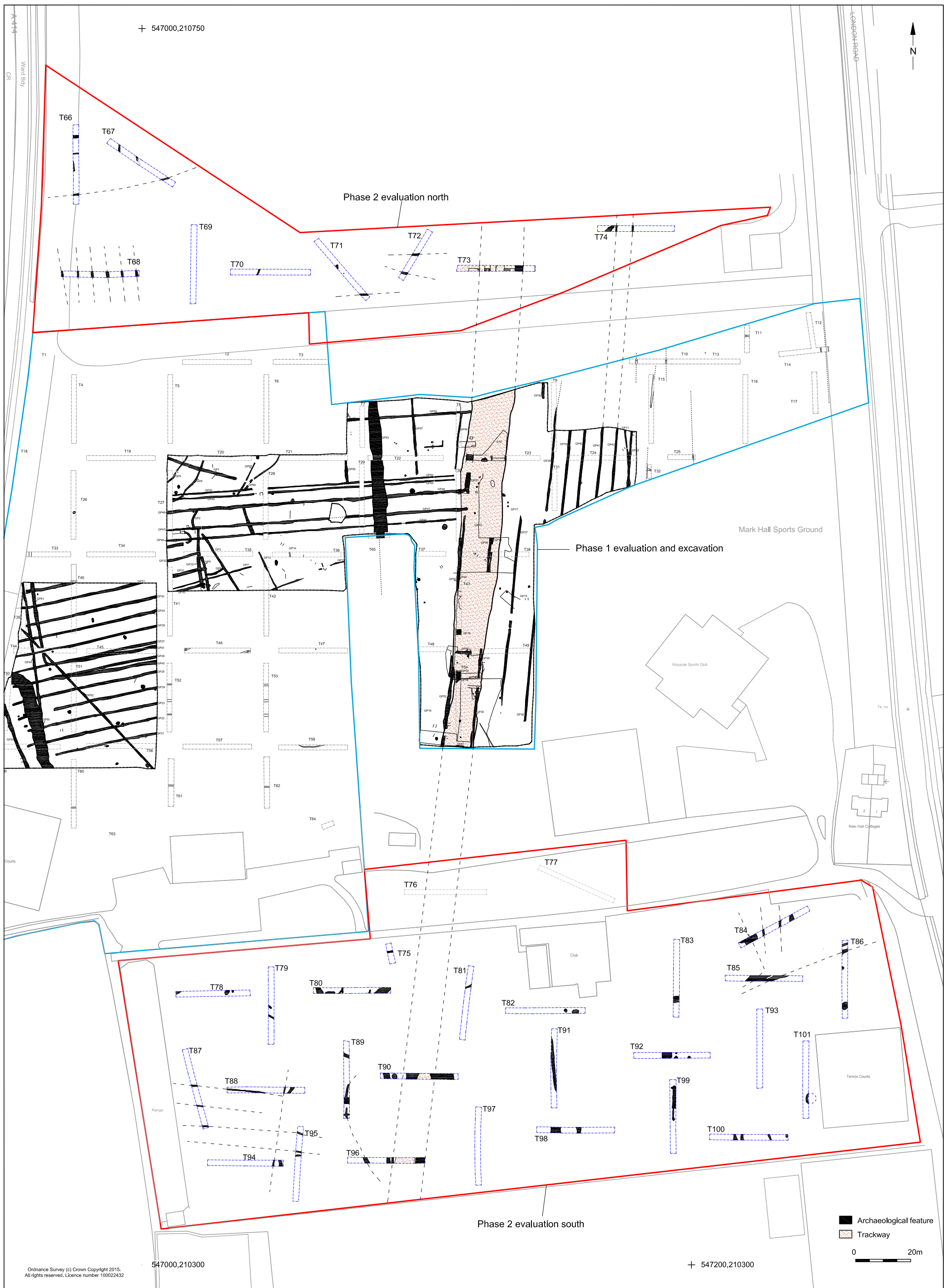
**Appendix 4: OASIS Form**

<b>OASIS ID: archaeol6-235260</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	London Road North Enterprise Zone LDO – Phase 2 evaluation
Short description of the project	A total of 93 cut features were exposed as well as three areas of metallurgy. These archaeological remains seemingly span the later prehistoric to medieval periods, with the main periods of activity being in the Late Iron Age and Roman period.
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2015 End: 12-11-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Associated project reference codes	HALRN15 - Sitecode 8342 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	PITS Bronze Age PIT Middle Iron Age PITS Late Iron Age PITS Roman DITCHES Late Iron Age DITCHES Roman TRACKWAY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age POTTERY Middle Iron Age POTTERY Late Iron Age POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX HARLOW HARLOW Phase 2 London Road North Enterprise Zone LDO Harlow, Essex
Postcode	CM17 9LX
Study area	3.98 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4712 1058 51.774052588167 0.132630573151 51 46 26 N 000 07 57 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 72m Max: 75.5m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Niall Oakey
Project supervisor	Kate Clover
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local Government
Name of sponsor/funding body	Essex County Council

<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Physical Archive ID	HALRN15
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Digital Archive ID	HALRN15
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Paper Archive ID	HALRN15
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Entered by	Kate Clover (k.clover@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	18 December 2015



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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015447	Drawn by: APL		



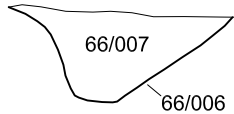
Section 1

N S

66/001

66/002 74.78m

66/002



66/007

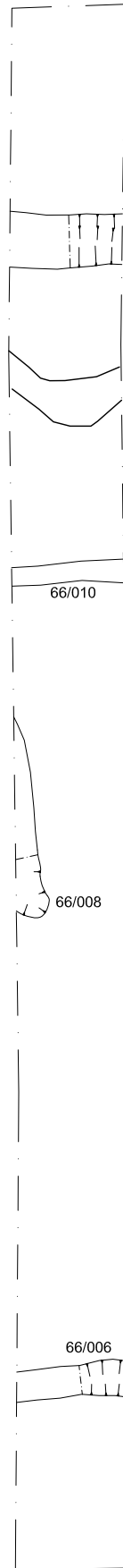
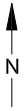
66/006

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# T66

+ 546980, 210715



66/005

natural feature

66/010

66/008

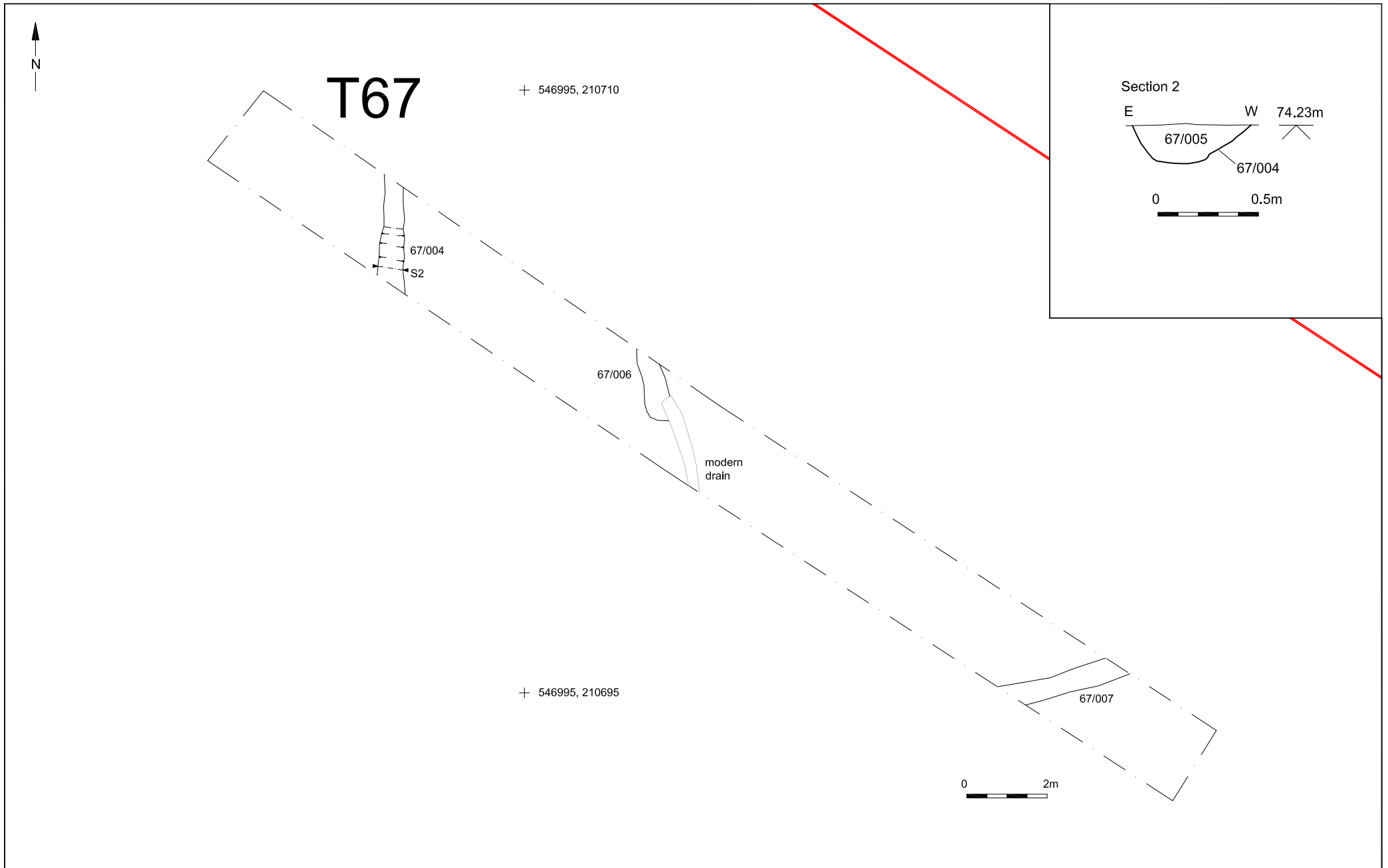
66/006

S1

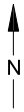
+ 546980, 210690

0 2m





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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 67 plan and section	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

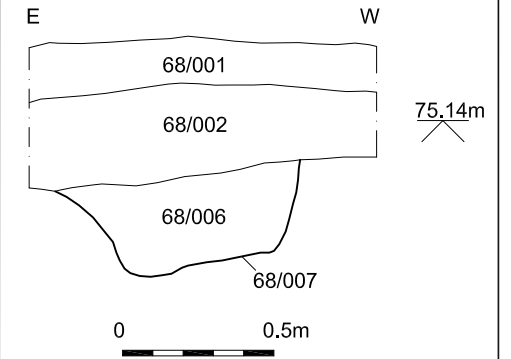


Gully 68/007, view south

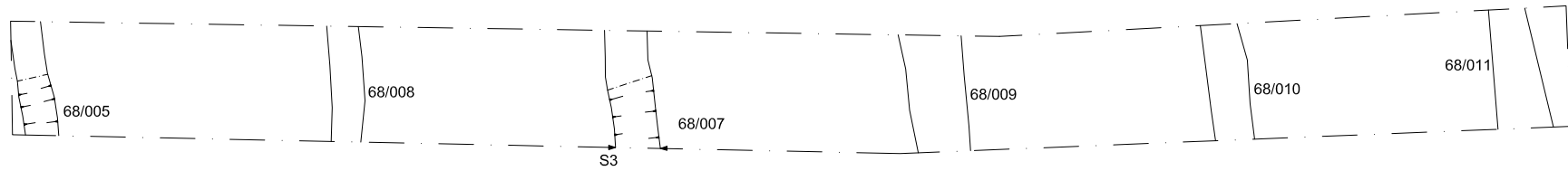


Trench 68, view east

Section 3



# T68



+ 546975, 210655

+ 546995, 210655

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Project Ref: 8342

Dec 2015

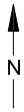
Report No:2015447

Drawn by: APL

Trench 68 plan, section and photographs

Fig. 5





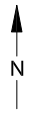
Trench 70, view east

+ 547040, 210665  
**T70**



+ 547040, 210655

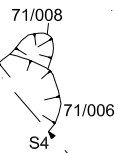
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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 70 plan and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



# T71

+ 547070, 210670

+ 547070, 210655

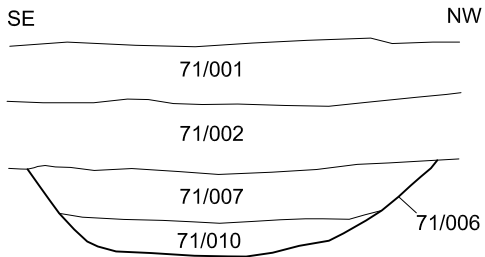


71/012

71/004



## Section 4



Gully 71/004, view west

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Project Ref: 8342

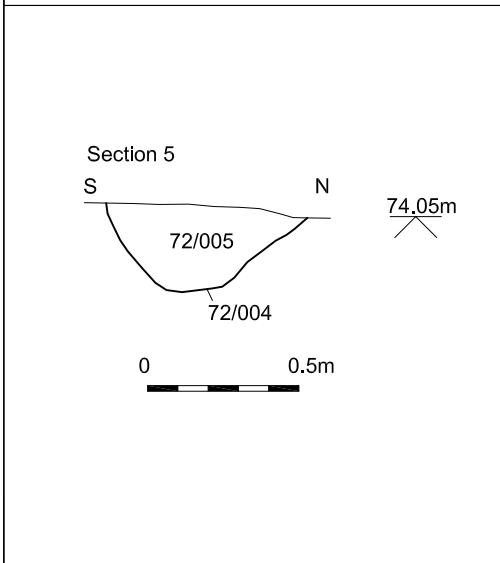
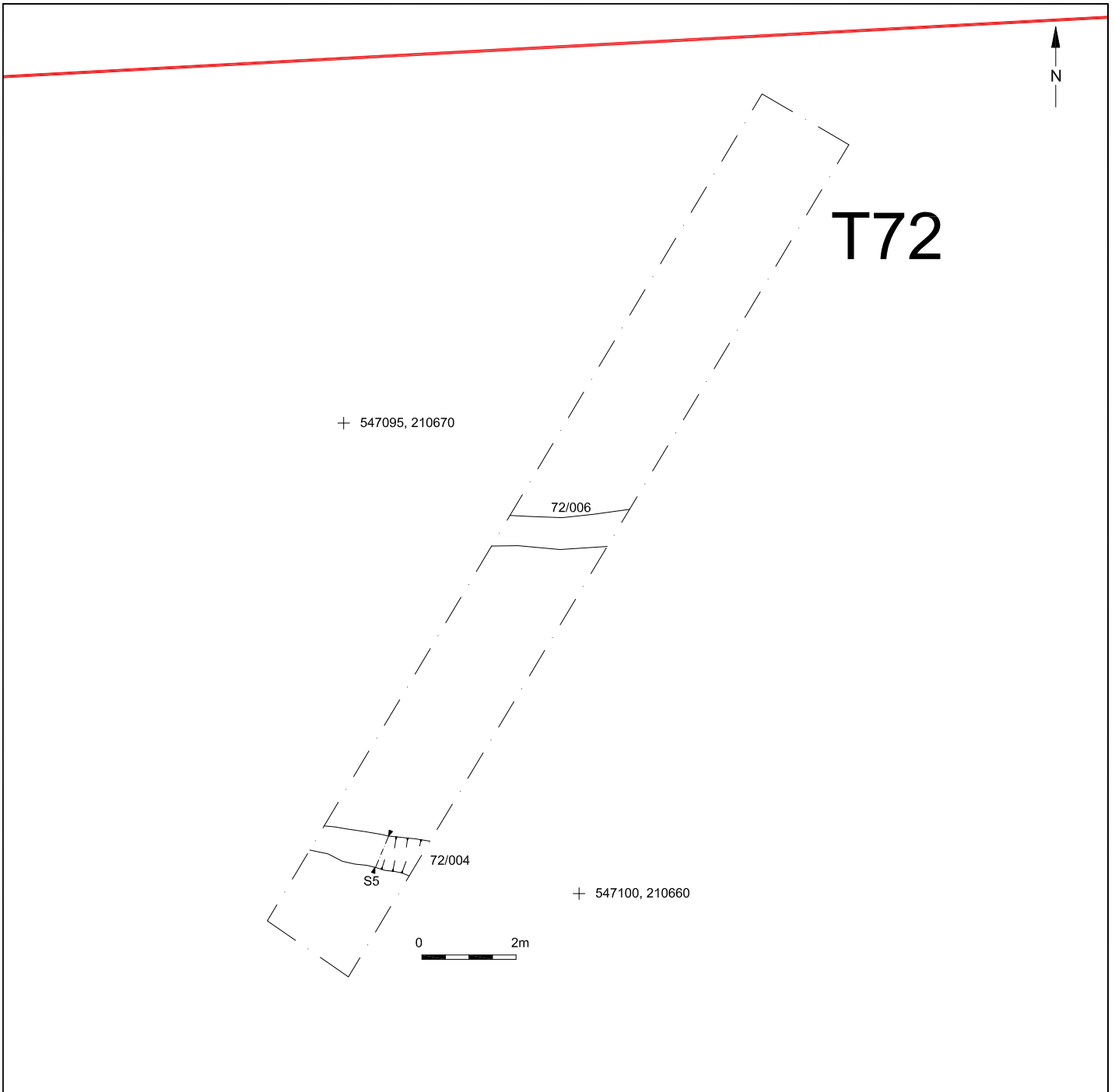
Dec 2015

Report No:2015447

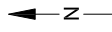
Drawn by: APL

Trench 71 plan and photograph

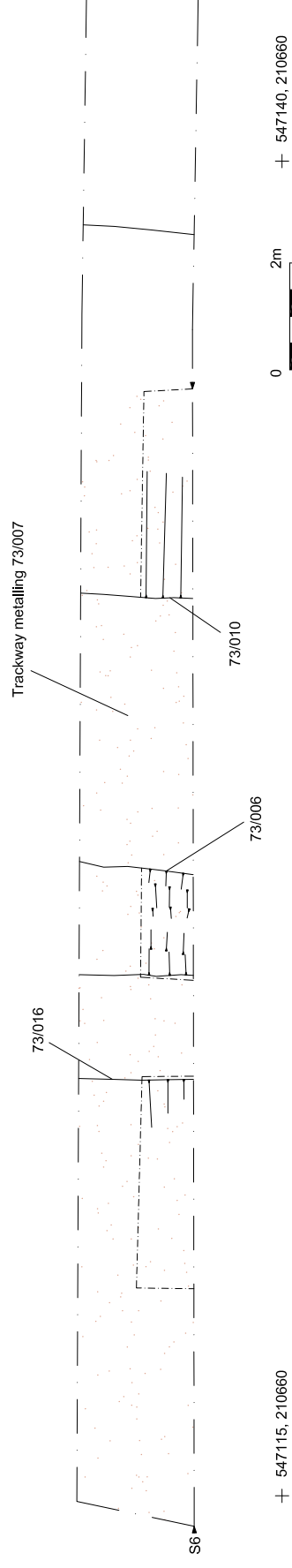
Fig. 7



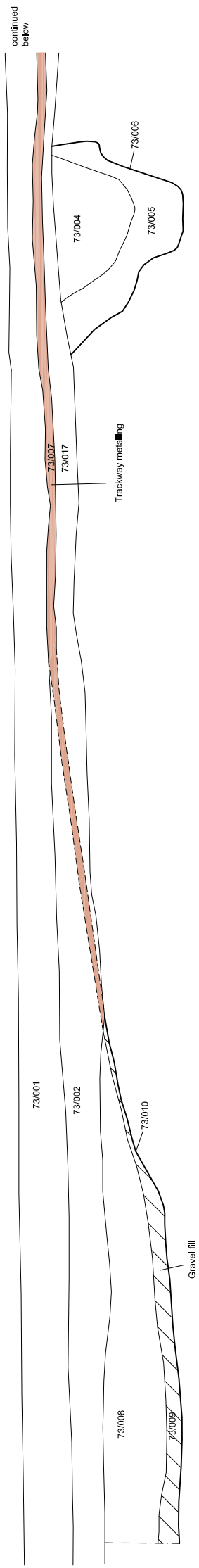
© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 72 plan, section and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



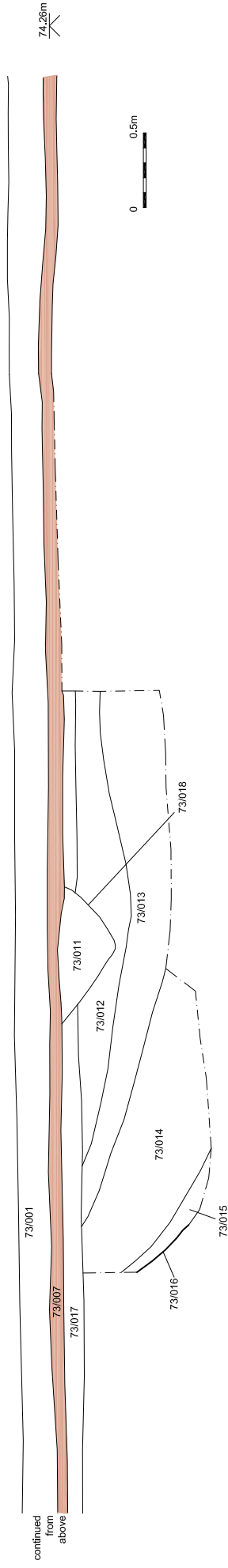
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Section 6



continued from above



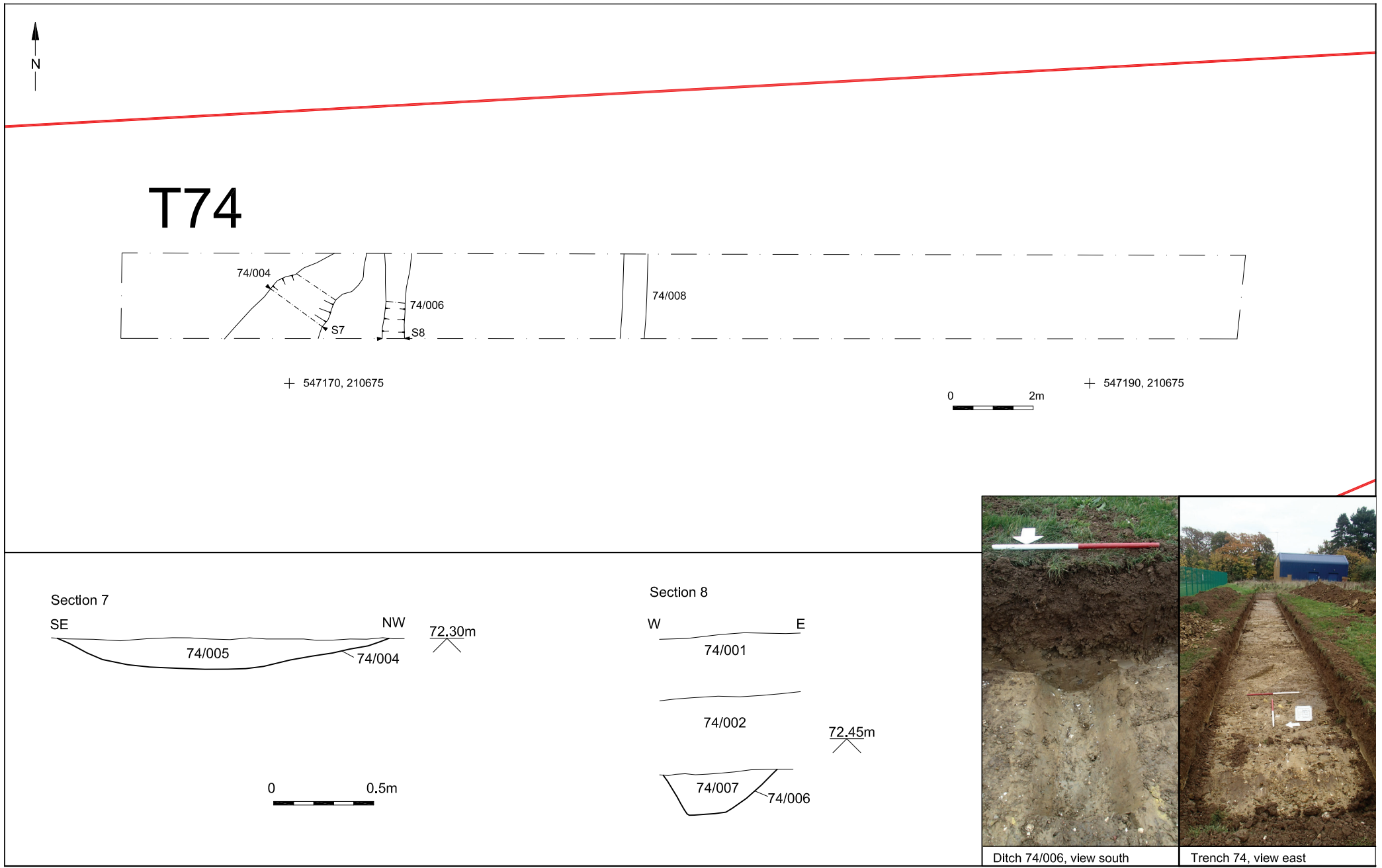
Ditch 73/006, view south



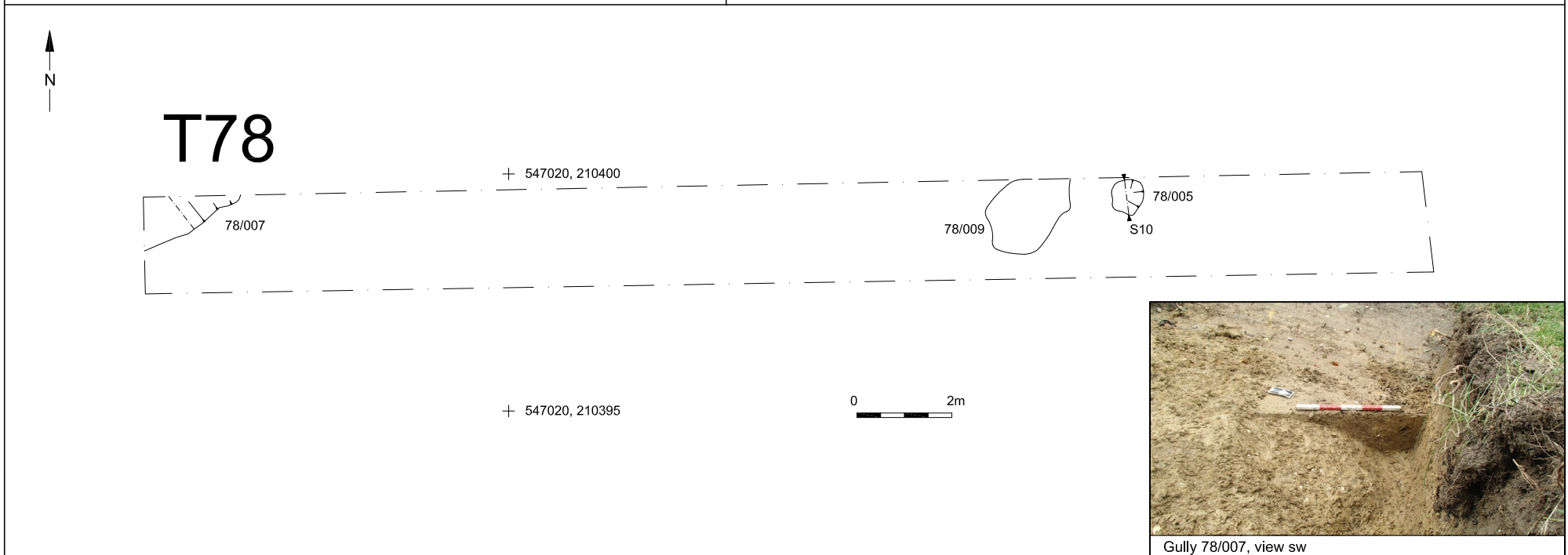
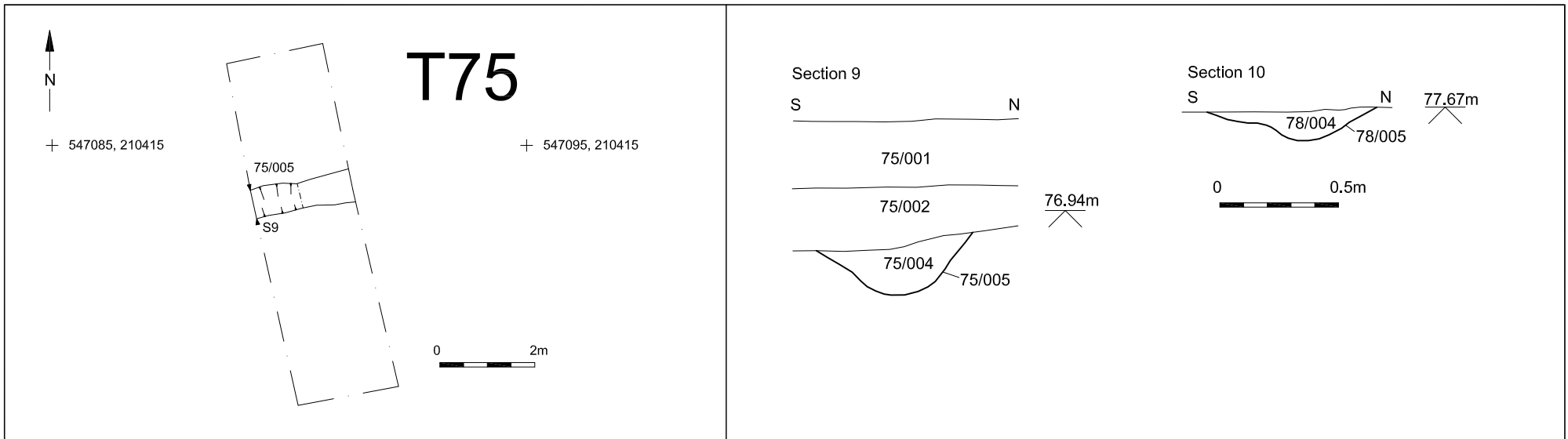
Ditch 73/016, view south



Trench 73, view east

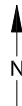


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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 74 plan, sections and photographs	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

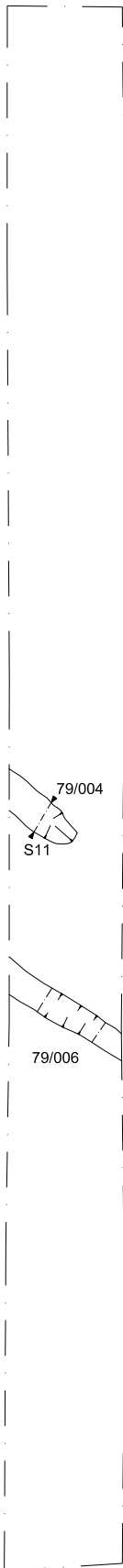


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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 75 and 78 plans, sections and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

# T79

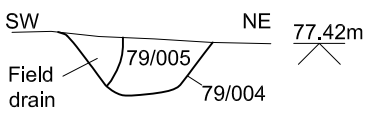


+ 547050, 210405



+ 547050, 210385

## Section 11

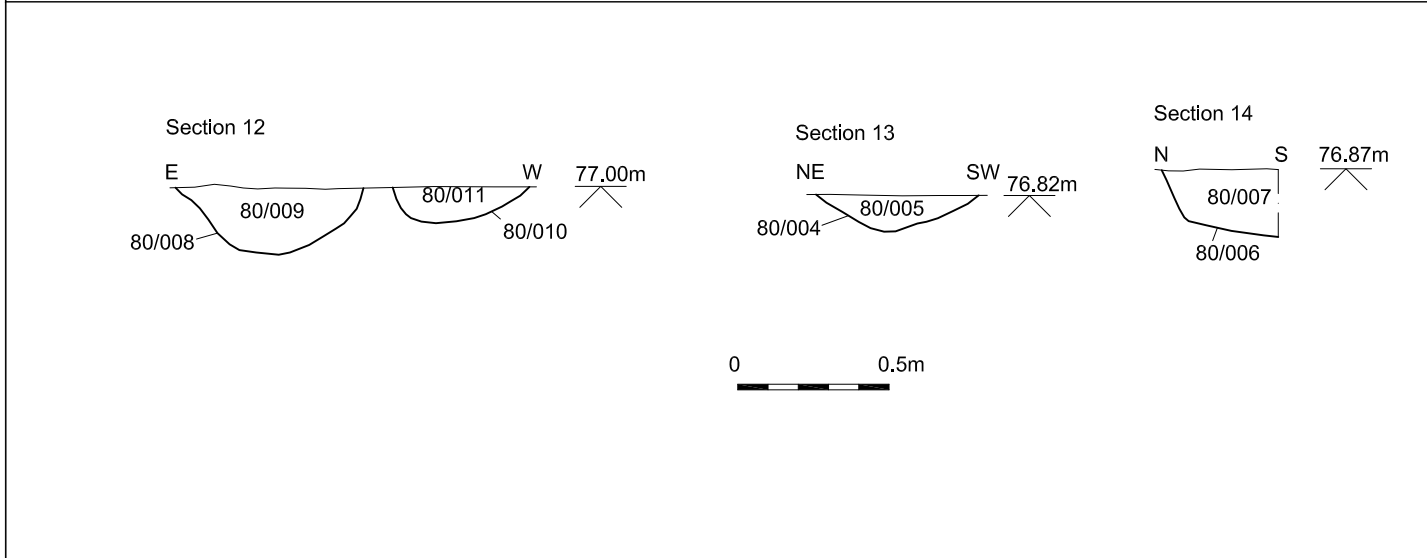
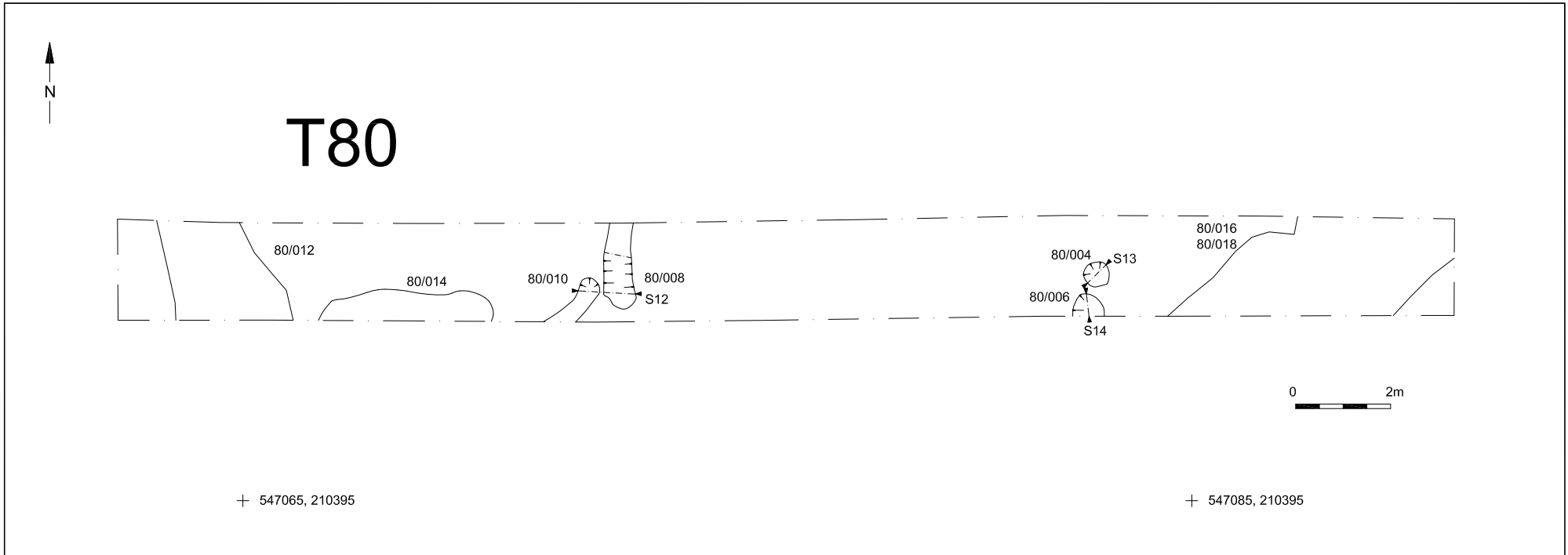


0 0.5m

0 2m

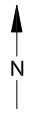
© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 12
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 79 plan and section	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		





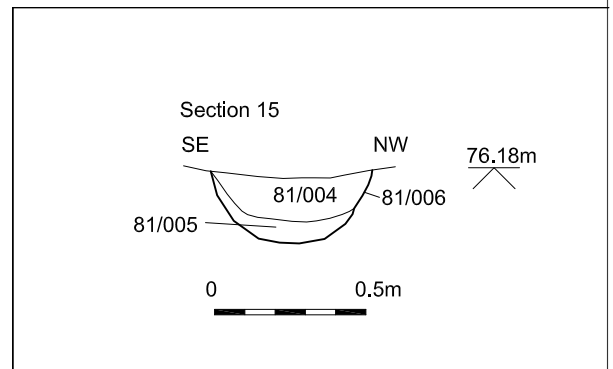
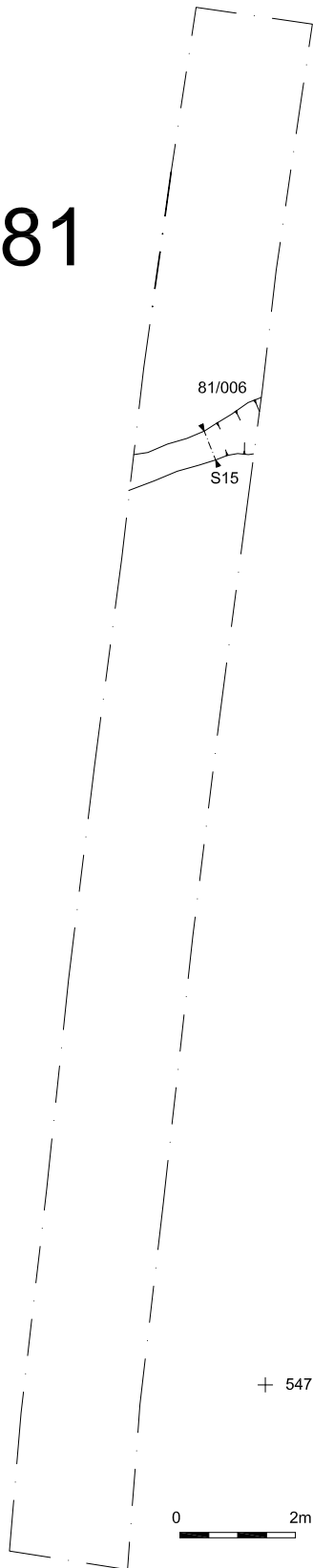
<b>© Archaeology South-East</b>		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 13
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 80 plan, sections and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		





# T81

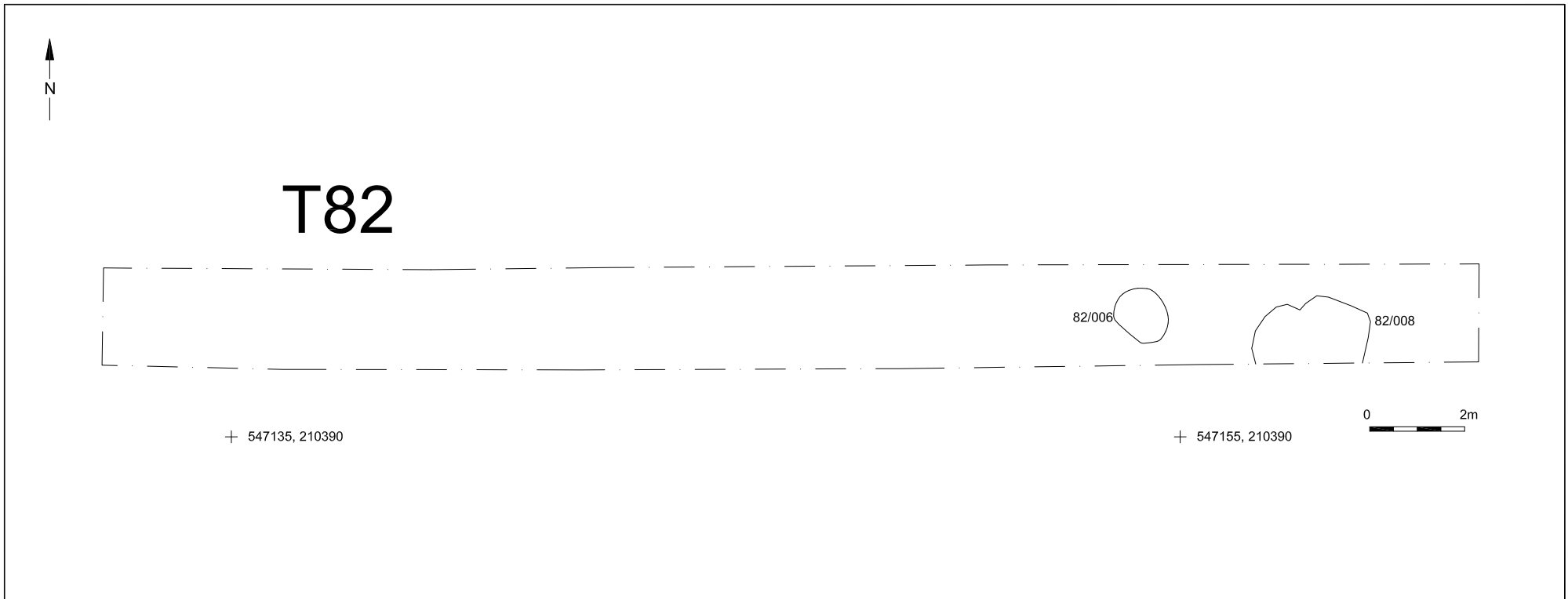
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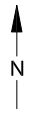
Linear feature 81/006

Trench 81, view south

© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 14
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 81 plan, section and photographs	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

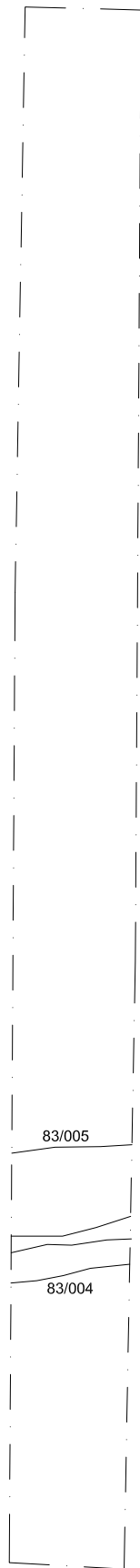


© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 82 plan	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



# T83

+ 547200, 210415

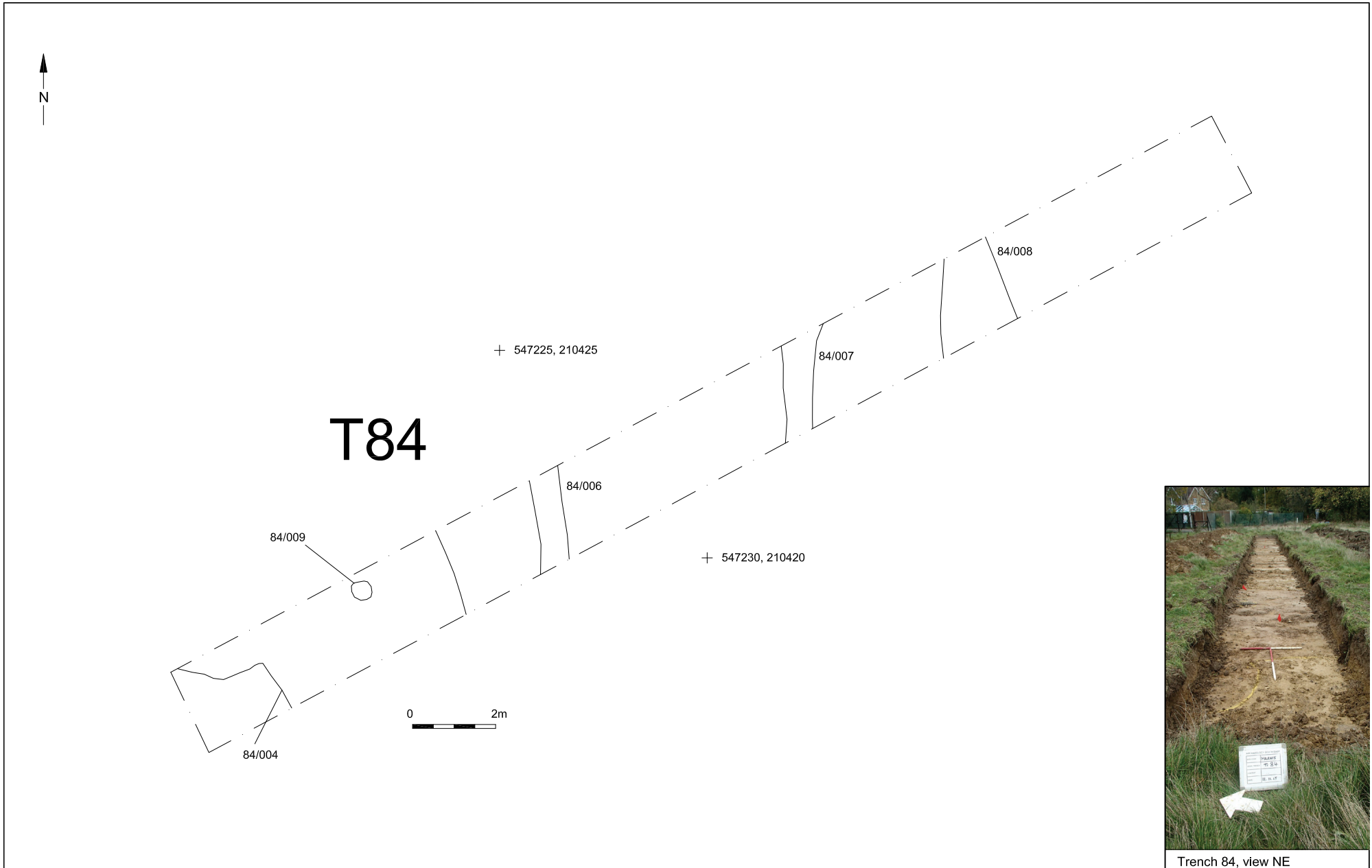


+ 547200, 210395



Trench 83, view north

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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 83 plan and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

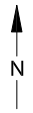


Trench 84, view NE

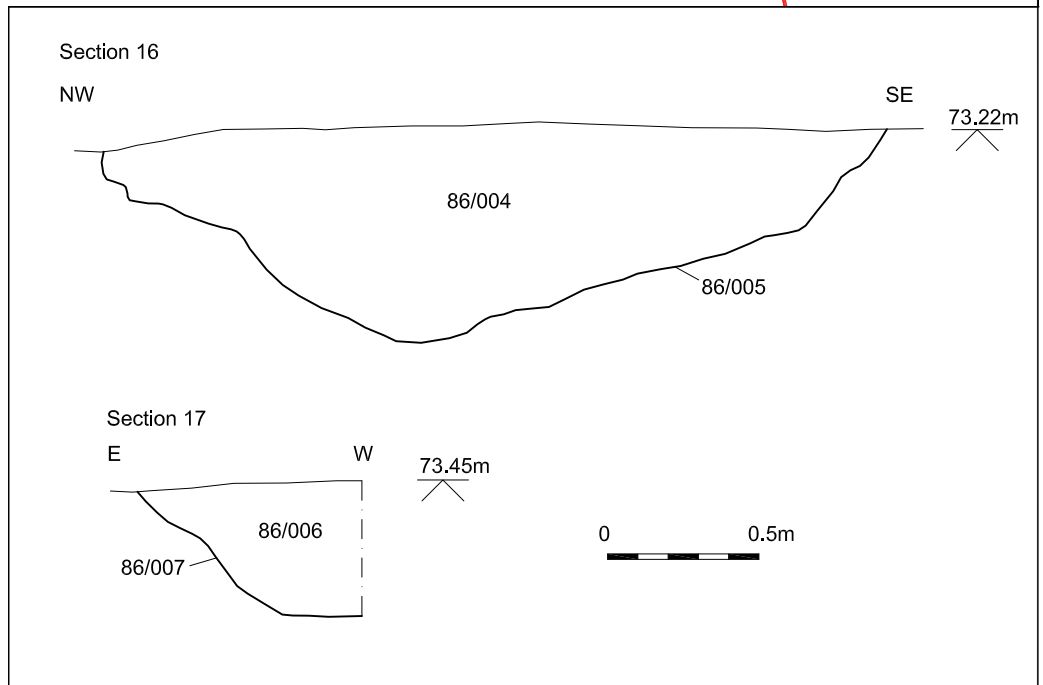
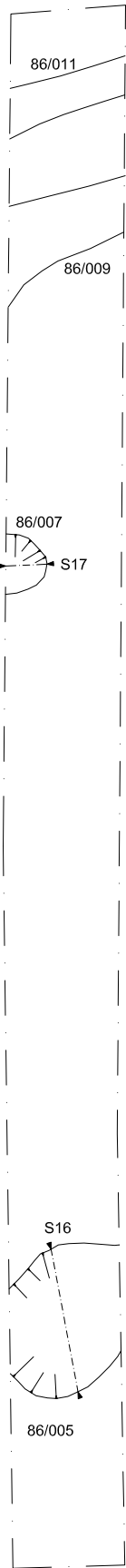
© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 17
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 84 plan and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



# T86



+ 547260, 210415

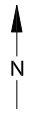


+ 547260, 210390



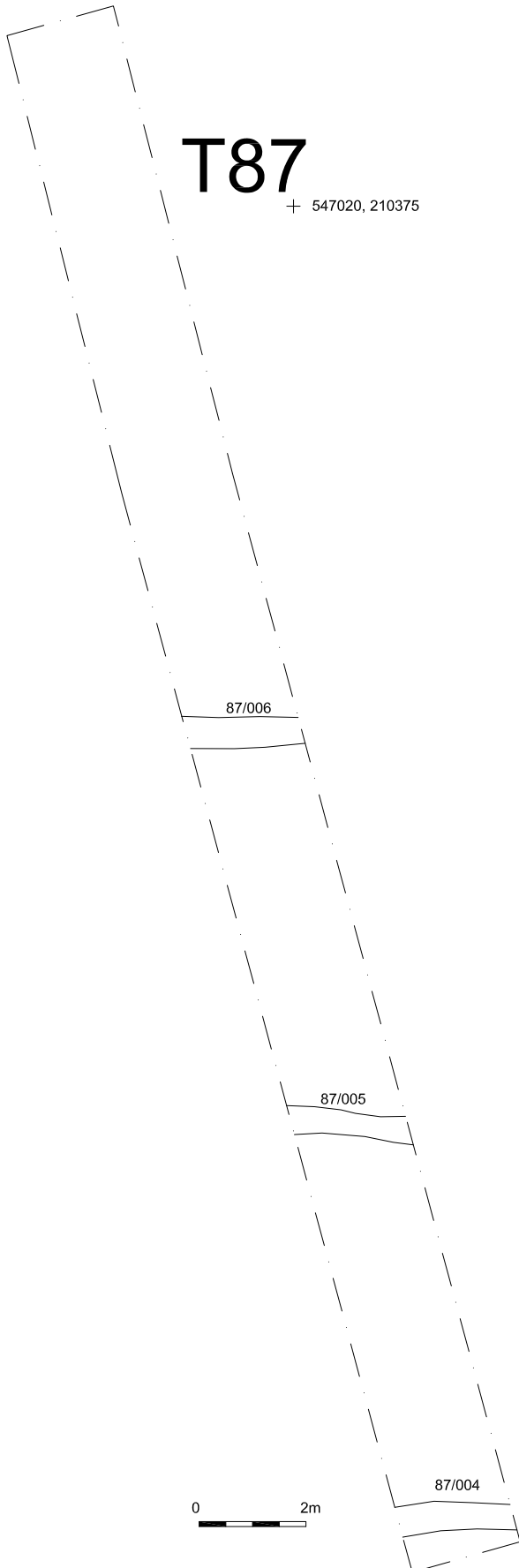
Trench 83, view north

© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 19
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 86 plan, sections and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



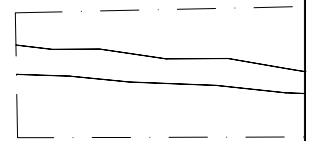
# T87

+ 547020, 210375



+ 547025, 210350

# T88

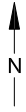


+ 54

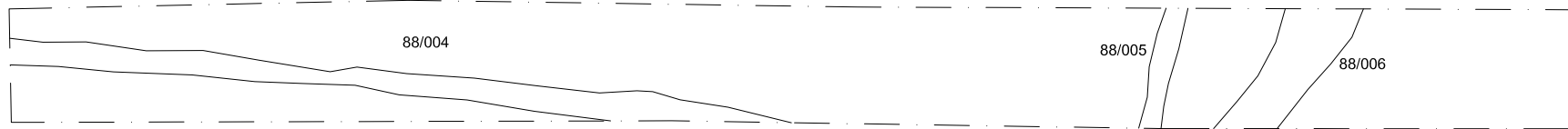


Trench 87, view north

© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 20
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 87 plan and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



# T88



+ 547035, 210360

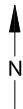
+ 547055, 210360



Trench 88, view east

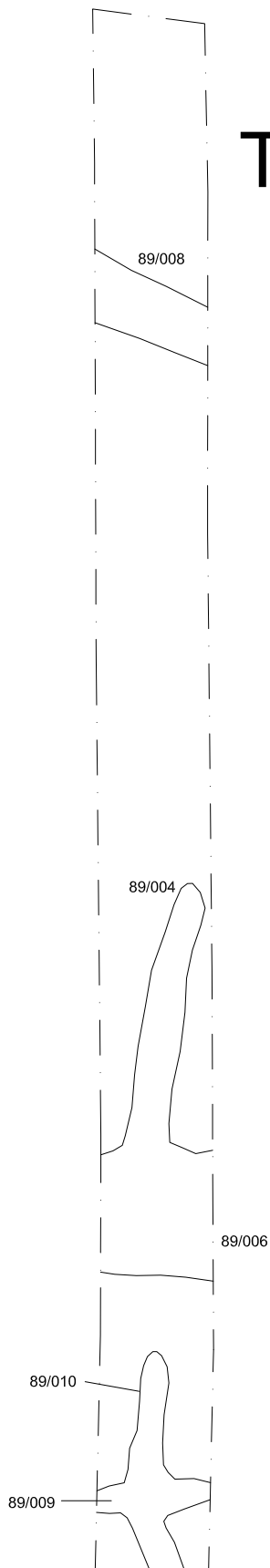
© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 21
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 88 plan and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		





+ 547080, 210380

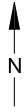
# T89



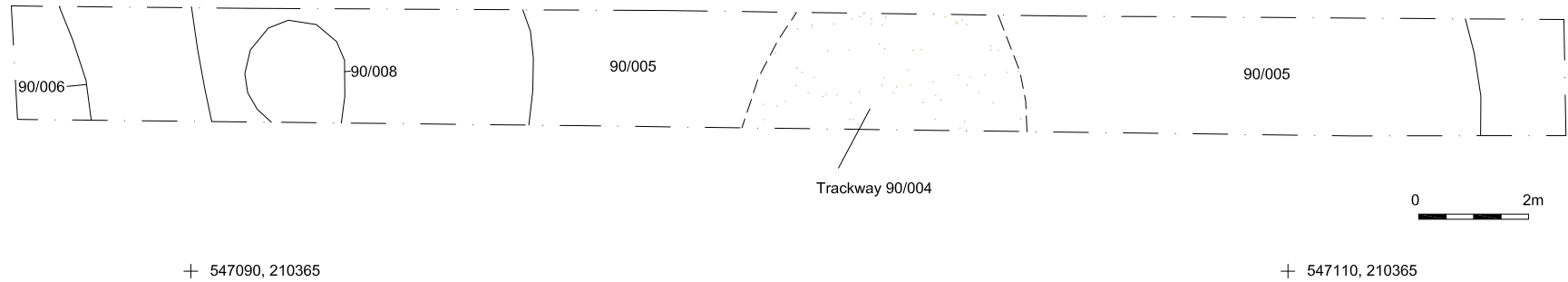
0 2m

+ 547080, 210355

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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 89 plan	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

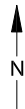


# T90



Trackway 90/004, view NW

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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 90 plan and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

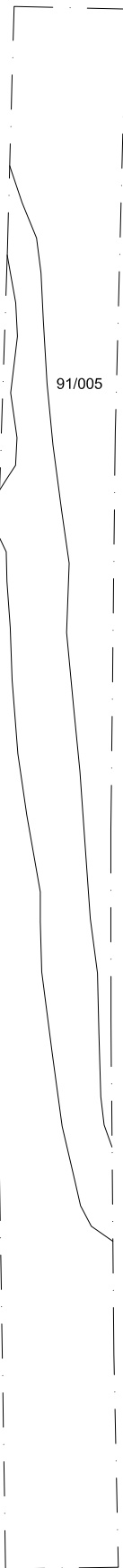


+ 547155, 210385

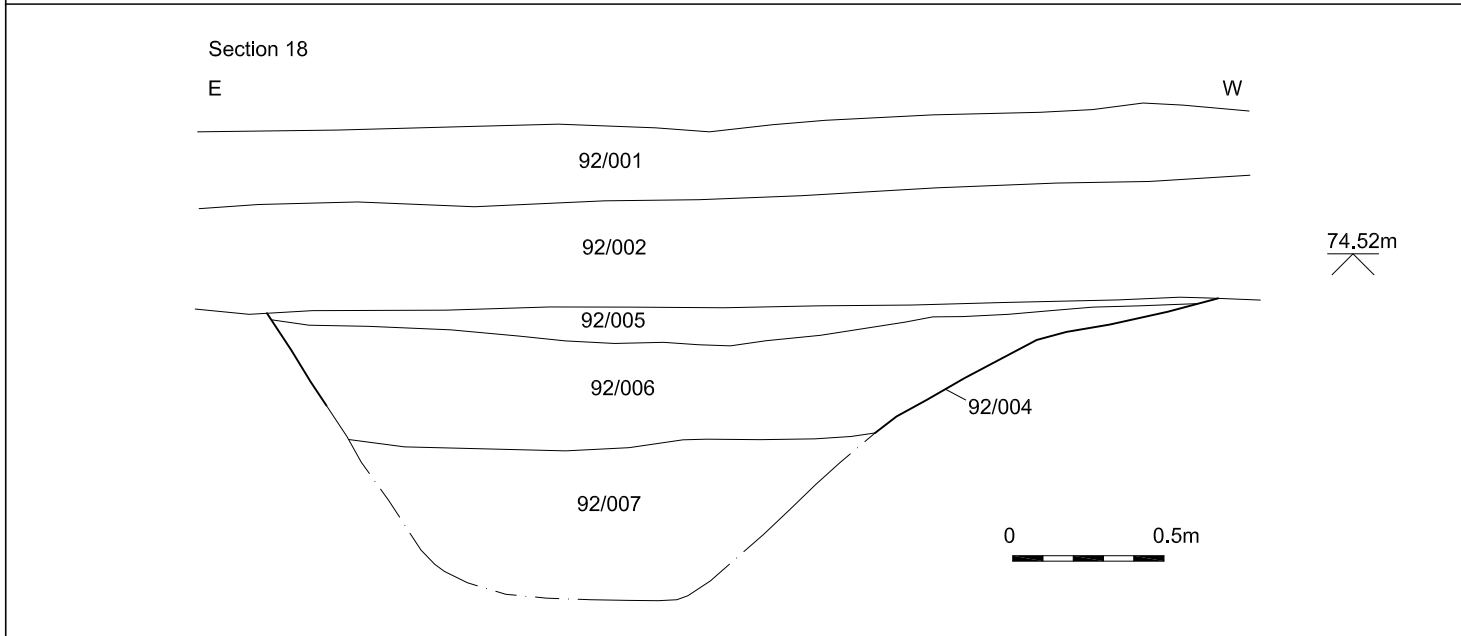
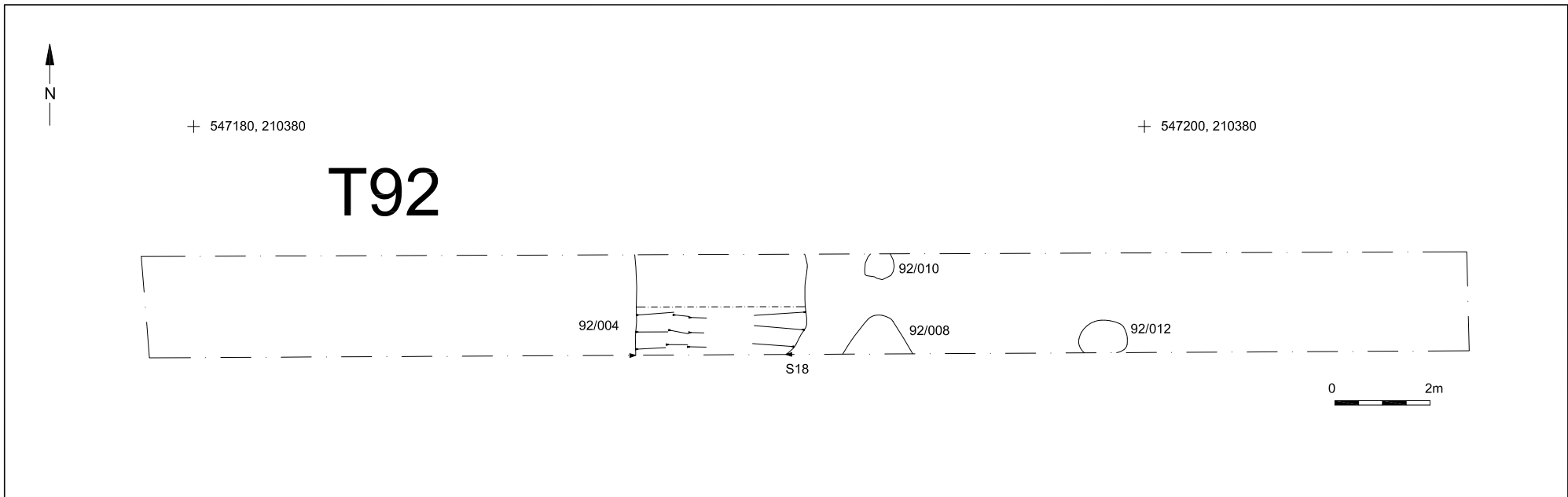
# T91

91/005

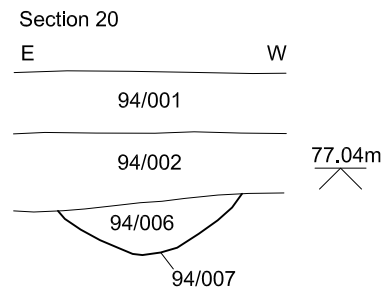
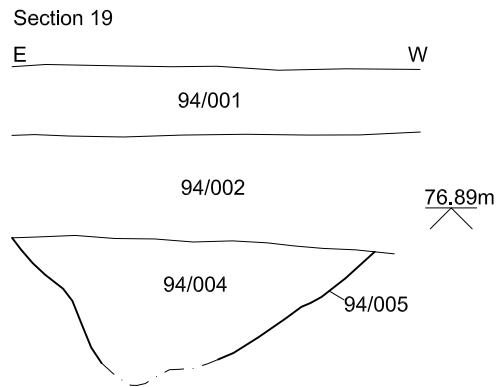
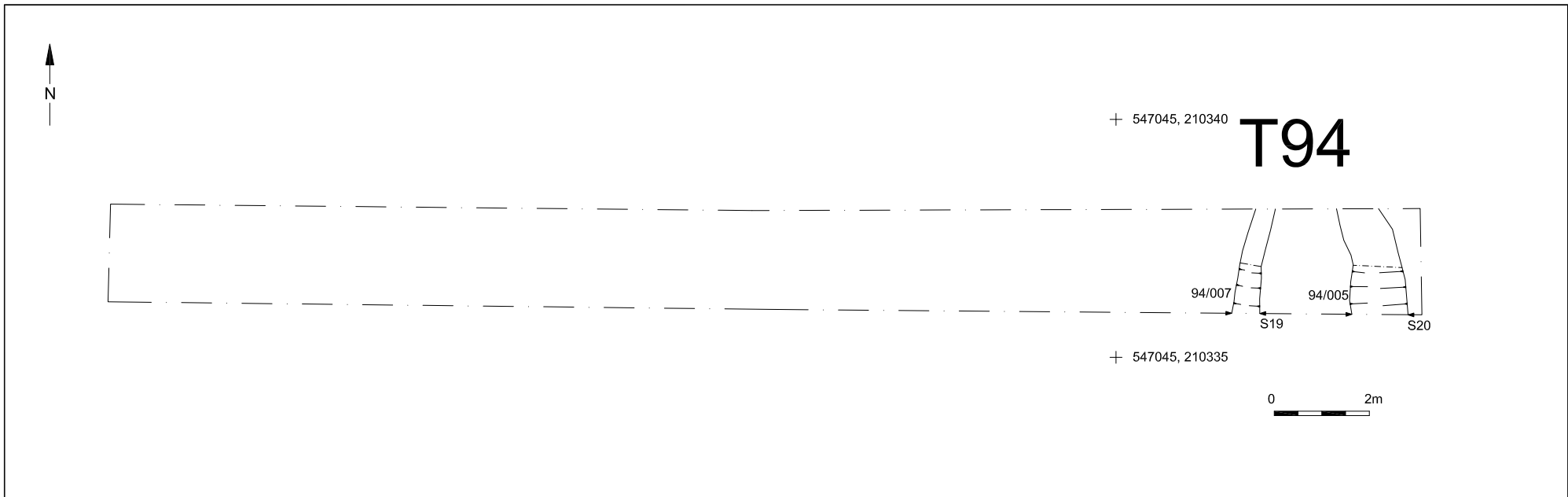
+ 547155, 210360



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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 91 plan	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

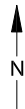


© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 25
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 92 plan, section and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



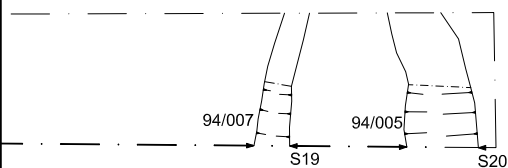
Ditch 94/005, view south

© Archaeology South-East		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	Fig. 26
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 94 plan, sections and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



+ 547045, 210340

# T94



+ 547045, 210335



+ 547060, 210350

95/006

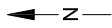
# T95

95/005

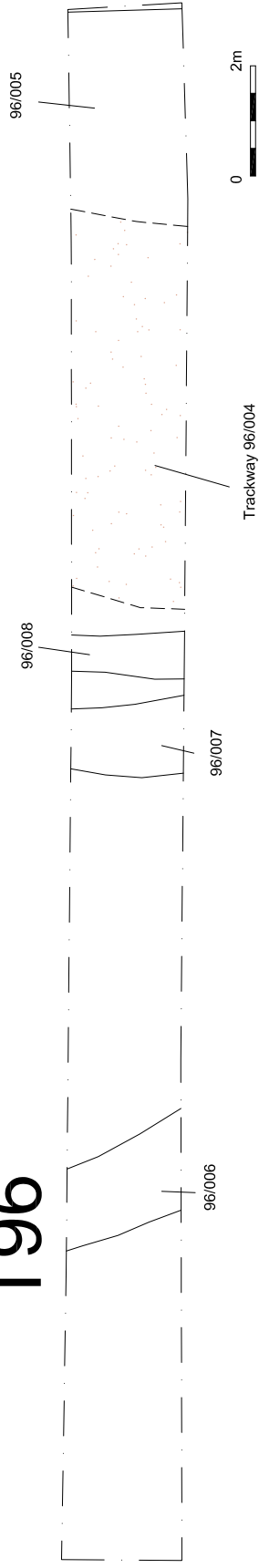
95/004

+ 547060, 210325





# T96



+ 547075, 210335

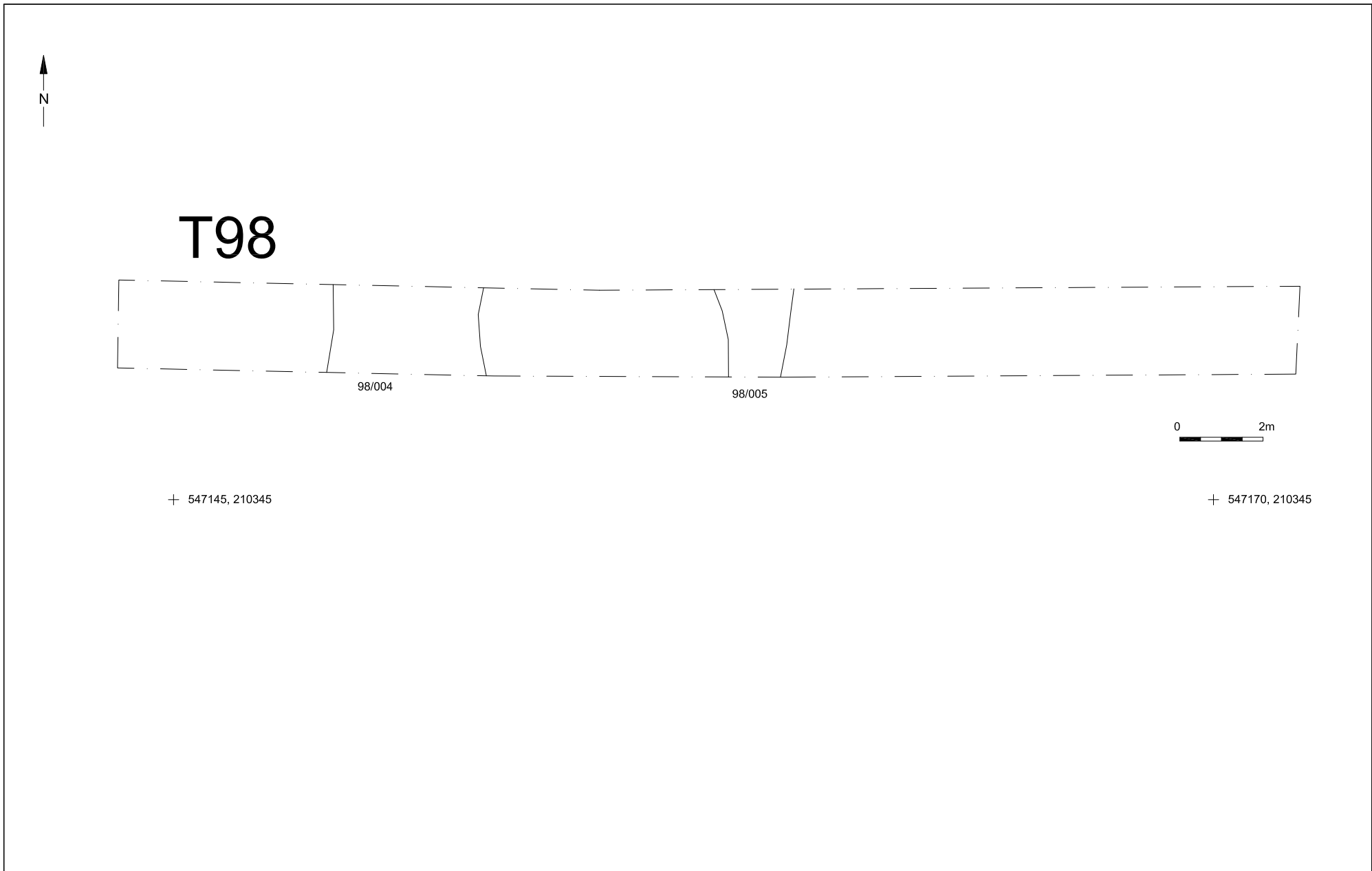
+ 547100, 210335



Trackway 96/004, view north

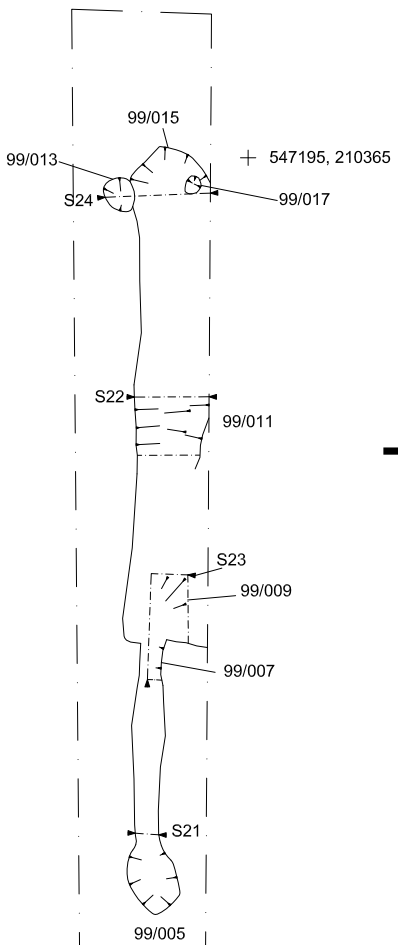
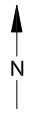
<b>© Archaeology South-East</b>		Second phase of the London Road North Enterprise Zone, Harlow	
Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 96 plan and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

Fig. 28



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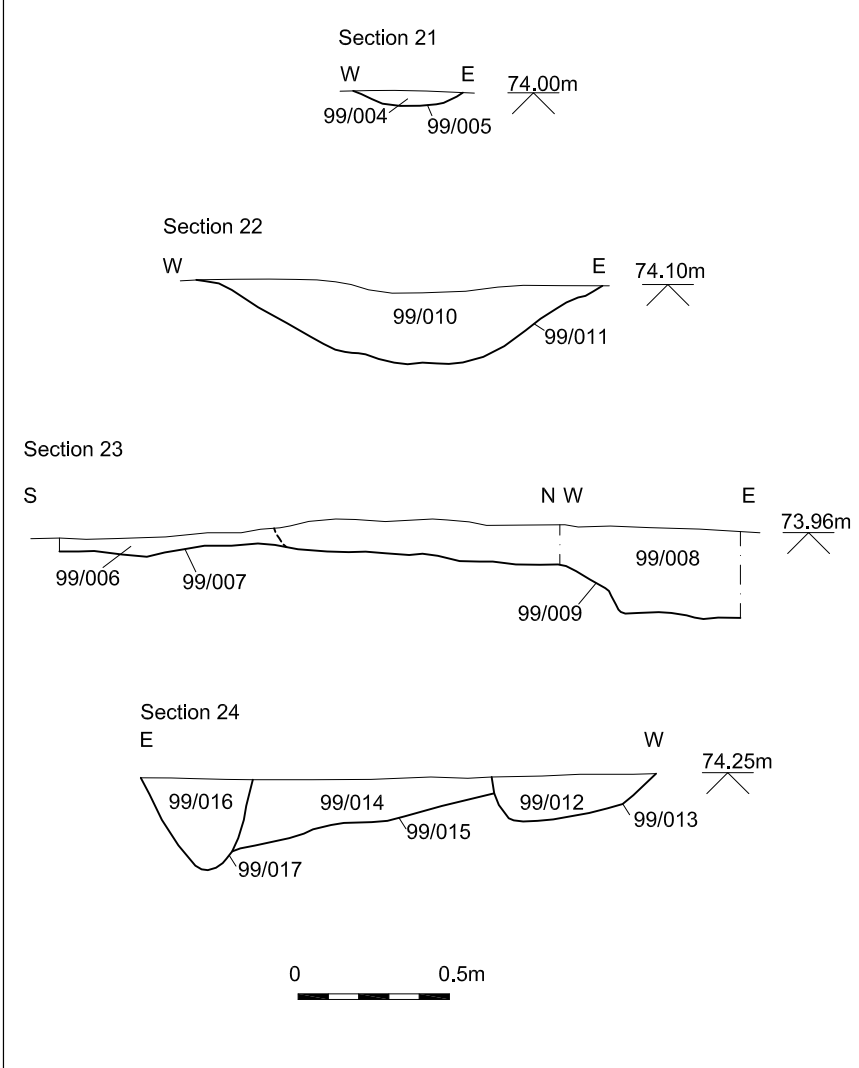
# T99



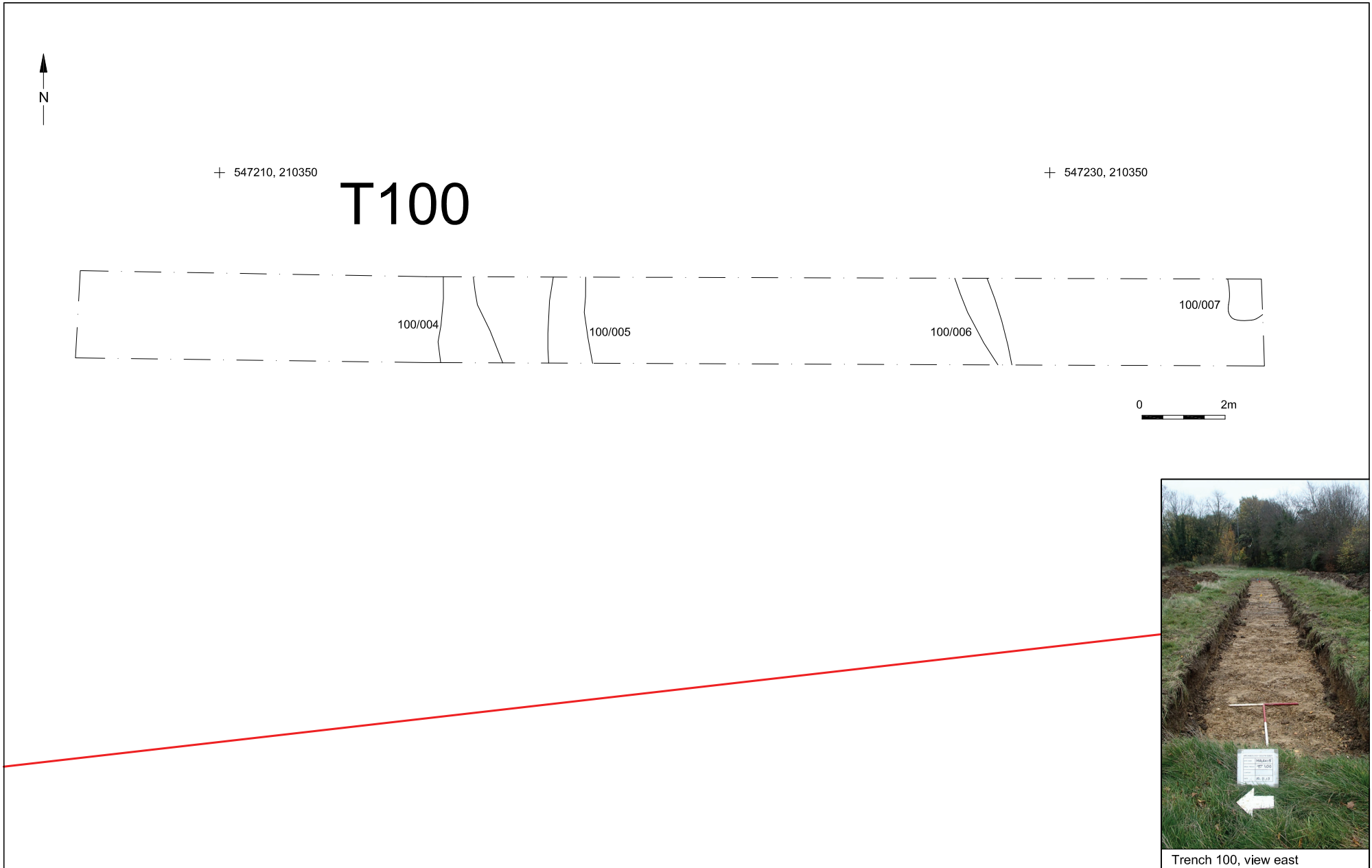
+ 547195, 210350



Trench 99, view south

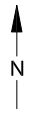


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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 99 plan, sections and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



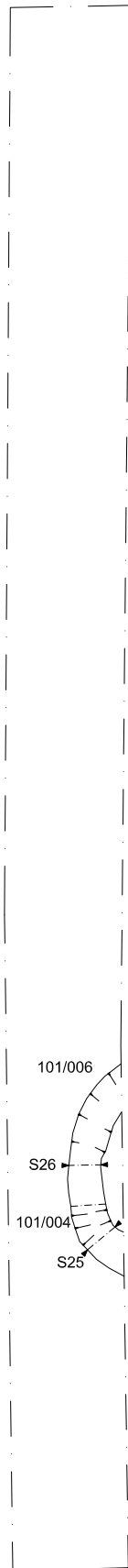
Trench 100, view east

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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 100 plan and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		



# T101

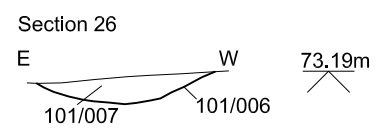
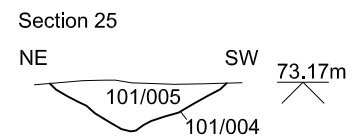
+ 547245, 210380



+ 547245, 210355



Curvilinear ditch 101/004 & 101/006, view east



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Project Ref: 8342	Dec 2015	Trench 101 plan, sections and photograph	
Report No:2015447	Drawn by: APL		

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