

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

WYVERN FARM, STANWAY
COLCHESTER
ESSEX

ASE Project No: 8491
Site Code: COLEM 2015.52
Event No: EVT 4252

ASE Report No: 2016181



May 2016

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Abstract

This report presents the results of archaeological excavations carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, in November/December 2015. The fieldwork was undertaken by Archaeology South-East in advance of residential development, on behalf of CgMS Consulting. The site had been previously evaluated during June/July 2015.

Five excavation areas totalling 2700sq m were opened. Four of the areas were located in the north of the site, to investigate the vicinities of former field boundaries identified during the evaluation, and one in the south-west to investigate closer to London Road which lies on the line of a former Roman road.

No remains of prehistoric date were identified, although the recovery of a few pieces of residual struck flint does attest to at least a low level prehistoric presence in the landscape perhaps dating to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. There were several undated pits and post-holes and it is possible that some of these might also have been of prehistoric date. The earliest dated remains were two pits with charcoal-flecked fills containing pottery of earlier Iron Age date. A larger third pit containing charcoal and baked clay may also have been contemporary. No remains of Late Iron Age, Roman or Saxon date were present nor was there any further sign of medieval activity in addition to the solitary road frontage pit identified during the evaluation.

Three field boundary ditches, previously investigated as part of the evaluation, were further recorded and excavated. All are depicted on historic mapping dating from 1787 to the mid-20th century. Finds recovered from them broadly mirror the map dates and included pottery dating from the late 18th/early 19th century and a glass bottle dating from the 1920s or later. A few sherds of residual medieval pottery had been recovered from the ditches during the evaluation but no further finds or deposits of medieval date were identified and there was no archaeological evidence to suggest that the ditches were of medieval origin.

The area investigated in the south-west of the site contained only modern remains consisting of a fence-line and a number of dog burials. Map evidence would suggest that these date to the 1950s or later.

The results of the combined archaeological investigations have demonstrated that the land at Wyvern Farm was not extensively utilised, other than for agricultural purposes, in the past and it is considered that the intended development will have a low to negligible impact on the heritage resource of this location.

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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 CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological excavation on land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway, Colchester, Essex. This followed a trial trench evaluation of the site carried out in 2015.
- 1.1.2 Wyvern Farm is located within the village of Stanway, between London Road (B1408) and the A12, and just west of Essex Yeomanry Way (A1124) (Figure 1), c.4.5k west of Colchester town centre. The site (NGR TL 9432 2447) covers an area of approximately 14.5 hectares and consists of over 20 redundant farm buildings (under demolition at the time of the excavation) in the south-west of the site, with arable farmland to the north and east.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology of the site comprises superficial wind-blown deposits of silt and sand overlying London Clay (British Geological Survey © NERC 2016).
- 1.2.2 The site is relatively flat at between 38.6m and 41m AOD. The land slightly slopes to the west as the land drops into the small valley of the Roman River, situated 1km to the west.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been sought from Colchester Borough Council (CBC) for the construction of up to 358 houses and apartments, with associated roads, parking, drainage and landscaping (Planning ref. 145494). The Council has been advised that consent should be conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken in advance of the development work. The proposed wording of this condition is thus:

“Prior to commencement of the development an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching shall be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be agreed in writing by the local planning authority. This shall take the form of a 4% evaluation of the development area with 1% held in reserve should further investigation be needed. The results of this evaluation shall be set out in a report to be submitted to the local planning authority in order to inform whether there is any further need for archaeological mitigation. Until the local planning authority has confirmed the position no commencement, including any site clearance involving disturbance of the ground, shall occur. In the event that further investigation works are found to be necessary, the methodology and scope for these further works shall be agreed in writing by the local planning authority and the works executed fully in accordance with the agreed details prior to the commencement of development. A report setting out the findings of the investigative works shall thereafter be deposited with the Council’s Historic Environment Record within twelve months of completion”

REASON: The site is known to be close to the ancient road between Verulamium and Camulodunum (St Albans and Colchester) as well as the ancient Iron Age – Romano-British site at Gosbecks and therefore the Council wishes to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to identify and record heritage assets.

- 1.3.2 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in June/July 2015 in accordance with a Brief (CBC 2015) provided by Colchester Borough Council's archaeological advisor. Following the results of that work, Colchester Borough Council, requested that further archaeological trenching took place in order to mitigate the impact of the development. It was initially proposed that three areas (totalling 2700sq m.) would be excavated around Trenches 47, 58 and 89. However, by the time of the excavation building works (for the show homes) had already commenced in the area of Trench 89 and the area around Trench 58 was heavily rutted due to being on the access route to a large topsoil stockpile and was part sub-divided by an active newt fence. Trench 60, a possible replacement area, was also un-accessible due to a large subsoil stockpile.
- 1.3.3 After consultation with CgMs it was consequently decided to open areas around Trenches 32, 47, 53 and 54 and an additional trench was to be excavated in the south-west of the site as near to the street frontage as possible. The new excavation areas also totalled 2700sq m.
- 1.3.4 The methodology for this area archaeological excavation was set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Excavation* produced by ASE (2015c) and approved by the CBC archaeology advisor prior to the commencement of works. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological excavation carried out by Trevor Ennis (Senior Archaeologist) between the 2nd November and 14th December 2015. The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard.
- 1.4.2 Recipients of this report comprise CgMS Consulting and Colchester Borough Council. Copies of the report will be submitted to fulfil the archaeological planning condition.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out for the site in 2013 (CgMs 2013) and much of the following is taken from that document. EHER numbers refer to the Essex Historic Environment Record, held at County Hall, Chelmsford.
- 2.2 Prehistoric**
- 2.2.1 Chance finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint implements have been recorded from Oldhouse Farm c.750m to the south-east of the site (EHER 11619 and

EHER 11767). Neolithic implements have also been discovered near the same farm c.1km to the south of the site (EHER 11602).

2.2.2 Aerial photographic cropmark interpretation has revealed the presence of a ring-ditch of c.25m diameter located less than 50m to the east of the site. The cropmark might represent the ploughed-out remains of a Bronze Age burial mound (EHER 11939). Such a feature is unlikely to be in isolation and there may be additional prehistoric remains within the immediate landscape. The nearest known Bronze Age cemetery is at Chitts Hill (Crummy 1977) over 1km to the north-east of the Site.

2.3 **Iron Age to Roman**

2.3.1 The excavation of cropmarks 750m to the south of the site at Church Lane revealed evidence of a Middle Iron Age trackway and residual flint finds. The trackway was found to comprise parallel ditches with internal metaling. Cropmark analysis provided by the Essex HER appears to show the trackway aligned south-west to north-east and passing some 300m to the east of the site (EHER 45996 and EHER 11937; Partridge 1993).

2.3.2 During the Late Iron Age a system of defensive dykes (EHER 11642) were laid out to the west of what is now Colchester, the closest being Grymes Dyke located 1.5km to the east of the site (not illustrated). This extensive system enclosed the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum*. Excavations have shown the dyke system not only continued in use after the Roman conquest but was added to and modified.

2.3.3 The site at Wyvern Farm lies outside this system of dykes, however its location need not preclude occupation in the Late Iron Age to Roman period; cropmarks and excavation have demonstrated that Late Iron Age and Roman settlement occurred outside the defended *oppidum* as well as within it. One example of such a settlement is the cropmark site excavated at Abbotstone Field, Stanway (EHER 11919). This site, located 1.7km south-south-west of Wyvern Farm (not illustrated), spans the period from the Middle Iron Age, through to the Late Iron Age, and into the Roman period. Over time, small irregular enclosures were gradually replaced by a larger and more formal complex of square 'Romanised' enclosures. Despite this growth, the site remained a low status rural settlement, involved in small-scale domestic/self-sufficient activities (CAT 2005).

2.3.4 The southern boundary of the site is formed by London Road which is on the route of Stane Street Roman road (also known as Stone Way) (EHER 11705). Stane Street was the major Roman trunk road from Colchester to Braughing via Braintree. The Roman road is thought to follow an earlier route way which was straightened and metalled in the Roman period (EHER 1226). The close proximity of the Roman road to the site provides opportunity for features associated with the road to be present. The presence of the road would have influenced the layout of the wider landscape and roadside activity such as temporary camps, burials and features associated with the construction of the road could conceivably be present, along with field systems respecting the road's alignment.

2.3.5 The Church of St Albrights 500m to the west of the site contains Roman brick in its dressing and contains quoins of Roman brick in the wall of the west nave

(EHER 11833).

2.3.6 Despite the presence of the Roman road and the re-used Roman material within the church fabric, the immediate area has not produced much evidence for Roman occupation. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity have produced little in the way of Roman finds (see Section 2.7).

2.4 **Anglo-Saxon and medieval**

2.4.1 The place name 'Stanway' comes from (*æt*) *Stanwægum* which appears from c.1000AD and means 'at the Stone Ways', referring to its location by the Roman road also known as 'Stane Street' (Reaney 1969, 398).

2.4.2 Documentary sources indicate that in the 10th century Stanway was part of a large estate held by the ealdormen of Essex. In c.AD1002 Aelfflaed, widow of Ealdorman Byrhtnoth, directed that Stanway and nineteen other estates should pass to King Ethelred after her death (Cooper 2001, 263-266). St. Albright's church is dedicated to St. Ethelbert of East Anglia (died AD794) and the original chapel is believed to date to the Saxon period (HER 11834).

2.4.3 Actual archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity within the site area, especially from the early Anglo-Saxon period, is as undetectable as that from the Roman period.

2.4.4 Medieval settlement was scattered and does not appear to have been nucleated around St Albright's Church. Medieval moated sites are not uncommon, the closest being Moat Farm (EHER 11703) which is over a kilometre to the west of the Site. The farm still has a medieval earthwork which originally surrounded an earlier house.

2.4.5 An archaeological evaluation carried out at the adjacent site to east recorded a low level of medieval activity alongside London Road (ASE 2015a). The activity could have related to occupation within a roadside plot or to quarrying (see Section 2.7).

2.4.6 The site appears to have been situated well away from the identified local centres of activity in both the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, and the majority of the site probably consisted of agricultural land at this time.

2.5 **Post-medieval**

2.5.1 The Chapman and Andre Map of Essex (1777) shows the site situated within open land to the west of Beacon Farm. More detail is provided by the later mapping of the Manor of Stanway (1787) and the Map of Stanway (1808), both of which show the site as farmland situated around and to the north of what later becomes Wiseman's Farm.

2.5.2 The 1839 Stanway Tithe Map shows no change within the site but the apportionment does provide the additional information that the fields were used for arable purposes at this time.

2.5.3 The Ordnance Survey of 1876 shows Wiseman's to the south of the site and a Gravel Pit just to the west, inside of the site boundary. The remainder of the site is shown as open land at this time occupying parts of seven different fields. No

change is shown to the area of the site on mapping from 1896 to 1921.

- 2.5.4 Post-war development in the wider area saw residential development expand east from Stanway along the main road to Colchester. By 1958 residential development was located both to the east and west of Wiseman's, along the London Road frontage. A modern farm building was constructed in the south-west of the site along with a number of outbuildings to the north of the main dwelling. The majority of the site remained undeveloped at this time.
- 2.5.5 The expansion of what now is called Wyvern Farm is evident from mapping of 1963-66. The original buildings in the south-west of the site appear to have been replaced by what appear to be farm buildings on a north-south axis. To the north and east around eighteen outbuildings now make up the farm complex. The remainder of the site has been homogenised into two main fields both of which are shown as open land at this time.
- 2.5.6 Mapping from the present day shows a number of outbuildings and a swimming pool have been added in the south-west of the site. The wider site area remains undeveloped.

2.6 **Cropmark information**

- 2.6.1 Information provided by the Essex HER shows that the site contains, and is adjacent to, a number of crop marks. Cropmarks identified within the north of the site appear to be representative of field boundaries, as shown on mapping from 1787 up the 1950s or 60s, with possible traces of an earlier or alternative field system on a separate alignment (EHER 11923).
- 2.6.2 As previously discussed, a circular cropmark 25m in diameter is situated 50m from the eastern boundary of the site (EHER11939). The cropmark is believed to be Bronze Age in origin (see below) and may represent a ploughed out funerary mound/ barrow.

2.7 **Archaeological interventions**

- 2.7.1 A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in close proximity to the study site. In May 2015 ASE carried out an evaluation in the field immediately to the east of the site (Stane Park Phase 1a and 1b). A seemingly incomplete ring-ditch of probable Bronze Age date (cropmark EHER 11939) was located, as well as a prehistoric pit. The presence of both features suggests an area of possible funerary activity during the late prehistoric period. Medieval remains consisted of a scatter of features at the south end of the site. These comprised a large possible quarry pit, a smaller pit, a ditch and a posthole, and collectively are indicative of some form of activity alongside London Road during the medieval period. The fairly broad date range provided by the pottery from these features spans the 12th – 14th century and the 14th to 16th century. While they may be settlement related, possibly associated with a plot fronting on to London Road, the features may also include roadside quarry pits in which domestic rubbish has been dumped (ASE 2015a).
- 2.7.2 An archaeological evaluation at Tollgate North (CAT 1996), 75m to the east of the site comprised twenty two trenches which recorded no significant features but did encounter finds of residual prehistoric flints and a sherd of Roman pottery (HER 45995). A later archaeological evaluation undertaken at the near-

by Medical Centre at Tollgate West proved similarly uninformative with five evaluation trenches only revealing a single shallow pit of unknown date (HER 25997).

- 2.7.3 A fifty-eight trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Wyvern Farm by ASE in June and July of 2015 (ASE 2015b). Forty-five of the trenches contained no archaeological remains. The remaining thirteen trenches yielded a limited number of archaeological features mainly parts of six post-medieval field boundary ditches, some being removed and backfilled as late as the 20th century. Medieval pottery in two of the field boundary ditches was speculated to indicate an earlier origin, however. One medieval pit was found near the London Road frontage. Undated features included two gullies, a charcoal-rich pit, and a stake-hole. Three modern pits and modern surfaces were encountered in the area of the derelict farm buildings.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were as follows:

- To determine and preserve by record, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To enable Colchester Borough's archaeologist to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work.

3.1.2 Site specific research questions were:

- The East of England falls within two landscape regions — the Central Midlands province and the Eastern province of Roberts and Wrathmell (2000), or alternatively the 'planned' and 'ancient' countryside of Rackham (1986) — and there has been some progress in our understanding of the development of these landscapes. There is a vast level of complexity in the field systems of Eastern England, with common fields of varying degrees of formality prevailing in the north and west of the region, and ancient 'block holdings' (or land in severalty) dominating in the south. Can the excavation enhance our understanding of the division between these landscape types in this area?
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation project provides an interpretation of field types within the region, focussing on the 1st edition OS map (1870s and 80s) and the modern day. Allied to this, the Historic Field Systems of East Anglia project has explored the evolution, forms and management of historical field systems, basing the analysis on twelve detailed case studies across the region (Martin and Satchell 2008). Can the post-medieval material observed in the evaluation be further explored in the excavation phase and facilitate these research agendas?

3.1.3 In the case of the discovery of archaeological remains with potential to contribute to regional research objectives, the results of the fieldwork were to be reviewed in relation to research questions and topics 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).

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

3.2.1 Excavation Areas 1 to 4 were opened in their final agreed positions (Figure 2). A small square extension was added to the north side of Area 3 in order to reveal the full extent of a large pit. Area 5 was opened several weeks after the other areas, once demolition had occurred in the area of the former swimming pool in the south-west of the site.

3.2.2 Machining of the areas was conducted, under close archaeological supervision, using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Modern plough soil/topsoil and subsoil were removed in stages down to the top of the natural geology or the top of any archaeological remains encountered. The excavated plough soil and subsoil was moved by dumper and/or a second 360° excavator and was stock-piled, in separate piles, away from the edge of the excavation areas.

3.2.3 All archaeological features were hand-excavated; either 50% of discrete features or 1m segments of larger features were excavated. Modern features were only excavated sufficient as to confirm their date and relationships.

3.2.4 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection, and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct, by-laws and guidelines (CIfA 2014a, 2014b) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

3.2.5 Records of all investigated remains were created using single context record forms. All features were digitally photographed and planned using GPS. Section drawings were created by hand, generally at a scale of 1:10.

3.2.6 Where present, finds were retrieved from all excavated deposits and identified by context number to a specific deposit. These were processed according CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c). Where appropriate, finds were marked with the site code and context number.

3.2.7 Environmental Sampling Strategy

Palaeo-environmental remains were sampled and processed in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Samples are generally collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silted features, sealed hearths, and sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits. In the event, few deposits with such potential were apparent on site.

- 3.2.8 The sampling aimed to recover spatial and temporal information concerning the occupation of the site. This is best achieved by sampling a range of feature types (pits, ditches, post-holes, cess pits) from across the site, the fills of which can be compared and contrasted.
- 3.2.9 A standard bulk sample size of 40 litres (or 100% of small features) was taken from dated/datable sealed contexts to recover environmental remains such as fish, small mammals, molluscs and botanicals.
- 3.2.10 Bulk samples were processed using tank flotation unless considered detrimental to the samples or recovery rate (such as for waterlogged samples). Waterlogged samples were wet sieved through nested sieves and stored in wet, cool conditions or dried if considered an appropriate form of conservation for the remains.

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 Subject to the landowner's permission, Archaeology South-East will arrange with Colchester Museum for the deposition of the archive, currently held at the offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Item	Quantity
Context register sheets	2
Context sheets	56
Trench sheets	1 (Area 5)
Drawing register sheets	1
Section/Plan sheets	4
Photos (Digital)	70
Environmental register sheets	1
Environmental sample sheets	2

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 A total of five excavation areas were opened. Areas 1, 2 and 4 were all square in plan with Areas 1 and 2 measuring 30m by 30m and Area 4 measuring 20m by 20m. Area 3 covered a roughly triangular area measuring 21m (N/S) by 36m (NE/SW). Area 5 was a single trench 25m long by 1.6m wide. The removed overburden consisted of ploughsoil/topsoil and underlying lying subsoil and ranged in depth from 0.50-0.68m. Final excavation area locations are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 Archaeological remains were not numerous but were present in all five areas. Remains consisted of ditches, pits and post-holes ranging in date from the early Iron Age through to the post-medieval and modern periods. Several of the investigated features were undated. Most features were cut into natural deposits or else subsoil. Feature legibility was average to good.
- 4.1.3 The five archaeological areas are described below in sections 4.2-4.6. Further context information is presented in Appendix 1.

4.2 Area 1 (Figure 3)

- 4.2.1 Area 1 was approximately 30m square and on average machine-excavated to a depth of c.0.66m deep. The removed overburden consisted of 0.36m of plough soil above 0.30m of subsoil. Natural deposits in the base of the trench consisted of reddish clay with patches of yellow clay and gravel.
- 4.2.2 Archaeological features consisted of three NNW/SSE aligned linear features [1012], [1014] and [1039] and a solitary pit [1018]. The two largest features, ditches [1012] and [1014], both clearly cut through the subsoil.
- 4.2.3 Ditch [1012] was traced across the north-east corner of Area 1 for over 16m. It was 1.52m wide by 0.3m deep and contained two fills [1011] and [1010]. The lower fill, [1010], consisted of compact mid orangey grey-brown clay and the upper, [1011], of looser, darker clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks. One small piece of tile and two residual pieces of struck flint were recovered from lower fill [1010]. This ditch was clearly the northward continuation of evaluation phase ditch [53/005 and 60/005].
- 4.2.4 Ditch [1014] crossed the western side of the area and was in excess of 30m in length. It was 1.4m wide and 0.32m deep with fairly gradual sides and a flat base. It had a single dark greyish brown clay fill [1013] and contained a variety of finds including ten sherds of late 18th/early 19th century pottery, post-medieval tile and a complete 20th century bottle.
- 4.2.5 Ditch [1014] had been previously investigated during the evaluation (Trench 54, [54/005]) with recovered finds including a 19th/20th century iron hoop and two residual sherds of medieval pottery. The positions of ditches [1012] and [1014] correlated exactly with that of field boundaries shown on maps dating from 1787 to 1921 (CgMS 2013, figs 3 and 5-10).
- 4.2.6 Aligned parallel with ditch [1014], and located about half a metre to its east was a shallow flat-bottomed gully [1039], over 11m long and 0.10m deep. The gully was filled with mid brownish grey sandy silt. It was investigated in two places but did not contain any dating evidence. However, given its position it may be contemporary with the adjacent ditch.
- 4.2.7 In the eastern part of the area was a small sub-circular pit [1018], 0.5m wide and 0.06m deep, with gradually sloping sides. It was filled with light orangey grey clay silt [1017] and contained one piece of weathered pig bone.

4.3 Area 2 (Figure 4)

- 4.3.1 Area 2 was approximately 30m square and on average about 0.66m deep. The removed overburden consisted of 0.38m of plough soil above 0.28m of subsoil. Natural deposits in the base of the trench consisted of red and yellow clay with patches of gravel. Three pits were identified (Figure 4).
- 4.3.2 Pit [1007] was oval in plan and measured 1.10m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained a lower fill of light greyish brown clay silt [1006] and an upper fill of charcoal-flecked dark brown clay silt [1005]. Finds consisted of a small sherd of

possible early Iron Age pottery and one piece of struck flint. There was no evidence of any in-situ burning around the pit and a soil sample, <1>, taken from fill [1005] produced little in the way of environmental evidence (6.3).

- 4.3.3 Pit [1004] was irregular in plan and just over 2.5m in length by 0.82m wide. It was filled with 0.10m deep sterile-looking mid brownish grey silty clay [1003]. No finds were recovered and it is possible that this feature was of natural origin.
- 4.3.4 Pit [1016] was a small oval feature situated in the south-east of the area. It was 0.62m long and 0.18m deep with a concave profile. It was filled with fairly gravelly dark brownish grey clay silt. No dating evidence was recovered.

4.4 Area 3 (Figure 5)

- 4.4.1 Area 3 was roughly triangular in shape and covered an area of 460sq m. A small square extension to the north of the area was machined to fully expose pit [1023]. Area 3 was machine-excavated to a depth of c.0.60m deep, with the removed overburden consisting of similar thicknesses of plough soil and subsoil. Underlying were traces of a lower layer of yellow brown silty clay subsoil, up to 0.10m thick, above natural deposits of patchy clay and gravel.
- 4.4.2 Archaeological features consisted of nine contained pit/post-hole features and a NNW/SSE aligned ditch [1027]. The ditch was not excavated as it was a continuation of ditch [1012] from Area 1 and had been previously investigated during the evaluation as [53/005] (Trench 53) and [60/005] (Trench 60). However, one piece of unfrogged 18th century brick was recovered from the surface of its fill, [1026], to supplement finds of residual medieval pottery and post-medieval brick fragments recovered from the evaluation.
- 4.4.3 The largest of the contained features, irregular oval pit [1023], was 2.56m long and 0.34m deep and contained four fills [1019-1022]. At the south-east end of the pit was a deposit of pale whitish grey sandy silt [1022] which was partly overlain by a thin, 0.03m thick, seam of charcoal [1021]. Above, and also confined to the southern end of the pit, was a deposit of stiff light grey clay mixed with light orange red baked clay [1020] up to 0.15m thick. The top of the pit was filled with a more extensive deposit of compact mid to dark brownish red sandy silt [1019] containing frequent fragments of baked clay and flecks of charcoal.
- 4.4.4 Finds from pit [1023] consisted solely of numerous undiagnostic fragments of fired clay. A soil sample, <2>, taken from fill [1019] contained fragments of charred hazel nut shells but little else. No diagnostic dating evidence was recovered.
- 4.4.5 Immediately south of [1023] was a small, vaguely oval pit [1025], 0.15m deep with 60° sides and a flat base. It was filled with mixed light to mid brown and grey sandy silt with large flecks of charcoal [1024]. Recovered finds consisted of four sherds of pottery of probable earlier Iron Age date.
- 4.4.6 The remaining seven features were undated. All had fairly similar mottled mid greyish brown clay silt fills with small flint inclusions and flecks of iron pan. The two smallest, oval post-holes [1029] and [1037], were both around 0.3m in

length, and fairly shallow at 0.09m and 0.13m deep. The remaining features were larger oval to sub-circular pits ranging in length from 0.7m to 1.45m and depth from 0.09m to 0.25m. Most were convincing as archaeological features, apart from pit [1031] which may have been of natural origin. A sinuous irregular feature of definite natural origin was present to its west.

4.5 Area 4 (Figure 6)

- 4.5.1 Area 4 was approximately 20m square and on average about 0.68m deep. The removed overburden consisted of 0.38m of plough soil above 0.30m of subsoil. Natural deposits in the base of the trench consisted of gravel with patches of light grey and yellow brown silty clay.
- 4.5.2 One NNW/SSE aligned ditch, [1009], was traced for over 23m across Area 4. The ditch was just over 1m wide by 0.3m deep, with c.50° sides and a flat base, and was filled with mid grey sandy silt [1008]. Retrieved finds consisted of a single rim sherd from an early 19th century plate.
- 4.5.3 The ditch had been previously investigated during the evaluation (Trench 32, [32/005]) with recovered finds consisting of post-medieval brick and tile. The position of this ditch correlated exactly with that of a field boundary showing on maps dating from 1787 to 1921 (CgMS 2013, figs 3 and 5-10).

4.6 Area 5 (Figure 7)

- 4.6.1 Area 5 was located in the south-west of the development area, to the west of a former swimming pool, and consisted of a single trench 25m long by 1.6m wide. The removed overburden was up to 0.5m deep and comprised of 0.4m of topsoil over 0.10m of subsoil. Natural deposits exposed in the base of the trench consisted of reddish brown silty sand and gravel.
- 4.6.2 Running almost the length of the trench was a NNW/SSE aligned fence-line consisting of six equally spaced post-holes [1045], [1047], [1049], [1051], [1053] and [1055]. The post-holes were sub-circular or oval shape and varied in length from 0.4m to 0.6m and depth from 0.12m to 0.3m. All had mid to light greyish brown clay silt or silty clay fills with small flint inclusions. Retrieved finds consisted of two pieces of modern flower pot from post-hole [1045].
- 4.6.3 Also within the trench were the remains of at least four modern pet burials (not contexted), two fully exposed in the centre of the trench and two only partly exposed along the eastern edge of the trench. The two more central burials both appeared to contain the articulated skeletons of small dogs. Several pieces of slate were noted in the burial backfills. All of the burials were located close to the fence-line with one apparently truncated by post-hole [1049]. Decaying timber structures possibly used as dog kennels, were noted in overgrown shrubbery to the south of the trench.
- 4.6.4 Exposed in the north-east corner of the trench were a ceramic field drain and a modern drainage pipe.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological mitigation work. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 2). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Flint	Weight (g)	Fe	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
1005							2	2				
1006	1	6					1	18				
1013	10	48	4	294					1	2	2	88
1010			1	8			2	15				
1024	4	18										
1017					1	8						
1008	1	10										
1019			15	960			1	2				
1026			1	1050								
1044	2	10										
total	18	92	21	2312	1	8	6	37	1	2	2	88

Table 2: Finds quantification

5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A total of six pieces of flint weighing 37g were recovered through hand collection and from environmental samples. The flint came from four numbered contexts. The assemblage comprises two flakes, a blade-like flake, a blade, a bladelet and a modified blade-like flake. The flintwork was very fresh implying that it hasn't been subject to successive re-depositions and isn't far from its original location of deposition. No diagnostic pieces were found, and the assemblage is small and residual. Nonetheless, some of the material derives from a blade technology and suggests a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

5.3 Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery, totalling five sherds, weighing 24g, was recovered from two mitigation contexts. Context [1006] contained a single bodysherd with a fine sandy matrix and very rare ill-sorted inclusions of flint, up to 2mm in size. Context [1024] produced four conjoining bodysherds, in a fabric with a coarser sandy matrix and moderate, moderately-sorted flint of 0.5-3mm. Sandy flint-tempered wares of this kind are probably most characteristic of the earlier part of the Iron Age (c.800-300BC), though, in the absence of any diagnostic feature sherds, a slightly earlier date cannot be ruled out.

5.4 Post-medieval pottery by Helen Walker

5.4.1 A total of thirteen sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 68g was excavated from three contexts (Table 3).

Context	Feature	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)	Pottery – ware and featured sherds	Date
1008	1009	1	10	Pearlware (borderline modern white earthenware): plate rim showing moulded edges and a blue painted decoration in a repeating lozenge design	earlier 19th century
1013	1014	4	10	Creamware: fragments from plates, the whiteness of the glaze, rather than a buttery coloured glaze indicates a later date	Late 18th to c.1830
		6	38	Pearlware: includes scalloped plate rim with blue-shell edging and sherd from a hollow ware with moulded decoration	c.1800
1044	1045	2	10	Modern flowerpot: sherds from pot with simple upright rim, abraded	19th to 20th C
		13	68		

Table 3: Post-medieval pottery quantification

5.4.2 The majority of the pottery finds came from ditch [1014] (fill [1013]) and comprise sherds of creamware and pearlware. Most appear to be from plates, although there is one sherd of pearlware with moulded decoration from a hollow ware. The creamware sherds have a white rather than cream-coloured glaze suggesting a date of late 18th to c.1830. The finds of pearlware include a plate rim with moulded edging highlighted in blue which is datable to c.1800, and all the pottery from ditch [1014] could be of this date. A further rim sherd from a pearlware plate was recovered from ditch [1009] (fill [1008]), this time showing blue-painted decoration in the form of a repeating lozenge pattern around the rim flange. It may be contemporary with the pottery from ditch [1014], or perhaps a little later, dating up to c.1830. Fragments of modern flowerpot from post-hole [1045] (fill [1044]) are datable to the 19th to 20th centuries.

5.4.3 The finds indicate some evidence of activity during the late 18th to earlier 19th centuries, but are not of sufficient interest to merit further work.

5.5 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 Only six pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1352g were recovered from three contexts: [1010], [1013], and [1026]. All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel database. Fabric descriptions were developed with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size of inclusions as fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (up to 0.25 and 0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric samples and items of interest have been retained.

5.5.2 The only piece of brick was collected from context [1026]. This was a well-made and unfrosted brick with sharp arrises in post-1666 Museum of London (MoL) fabric 3034 (see Table 4) that most likely dates to the mid-18th century. Context [1013] produced two broken pieces of floor tile and two of roof tile. One of these roof tile fragments was too reduced to assess fabric; both were moulded with coarse sand but worn smooth. A broad post-medieval date can be applied to these and the floor tile pieces, neither of which offered any distinguishing features.

5.5.3 The single fragment of tile spall from [1010] was too small to check fabric and entirely lacking any diagnostic features. The small size and fragmentary nature of this CBM assemblage as a whole render it of little archaeological significance and the CBM is recommended for discard.

Fabric	Description
T1	Hard and micaceous orange fabric with abundant fine and medium quartz or broken shell. Moderate mixed quartz and sparse calcareous deposits, both up to 0.5mm
FT1	Orange fabric with common fine and medium quartz and/or shell and sparse oxide speckle.
FT2	Blotchy orange and pale orange fabric with moderate mixed quartz up to 0.5mm and iron oxide rich 'smears' up to 5mm.
MoL 3034	Dark red, reddish purple fabric with burnt black ash, flint inclusions (up to 6mm) with varying amounts of quartz (up to 0.8mm). Common yellowish white silty bands in clay matrix.

Table 4: CBM fabric descriptions

5.6 Fired clay by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.6.1 Fifteen pieces of fired clay weighing a total of 960g were recovered from context [1019]. Eight of these fragments were hand-collected and the remaining seven retrieved during the environmental sampling process (sample <2>). All the fired clay has been recorded on standard recording forms and quantified by fabric, form and weight and quantity. Fabric descriptions were defined using the following conventions: frequency of inclusions (sparse, moderate, common, abundant); the size of inclusions, fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (0.25-0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). The information on the recording sheets has been entered into an Excel database and all fired clay has been retained as per standard procedure, although it is recommended for discard.

Fabric	Description
F1	Fine brown-orange clay with moderate medium and coarse quartz and clusters of very coarse pebbles up to 18mm.
F2	Very sandy fabric with abundant medium and coarse quartz and sparse pebbles and flint chips up to 7mm.

Table 5: Fired clay fabric descriptions

5.6.2 Two fabrics were identified (Table 5), with F1 being significantly more prevalent and accounting for fourteen of the fifteen clay pieces. Some of the fired clay was fairly substantial, with one F1 fragment appearing not dissimilar to the edge of an oven brick. One larger fragment of clay was faintly reduced and another slightly oxidised. Most of the clay was heavily abraded to the extent of being

totally non-diagnostic.

5.7 Glass by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Context [1013] produced the only glass from the site. The material consists of a 4g fragment from a green wine/beer bottle and a complete (84g) colourless bottle with oval-sectioned body. The latter measures 105mm tall (with cap), has a 13mm diameter rim and a base measuring 46 by 22mm. The front has a recess to take a paper label and the bakelite screw cap is still present. The exact function of this bottle is uncertain – it could just as easily have held scent as general household commodities. However, a date between c.1920 and 1970 is almost certain.

5.8 Slag by Luke Barber

5.8.1 Magnetic residues were recovered from environmental samples from contexts [1005] and [1019] (6g and 3g respectively). On close inspection all of the material consists of rounded granules of ferruginous siltstone and some ferruginous sandstone to 3mm across. The material has had its magnetic properties enhanced by heating but no actual slag is present and the source of the heating could be any number of activities, including crop burning and domestic hearths

5.9 Bulk Metalwork by Susan Chandler

5.9.1 A single small fragment of iron was recovered from context [1013]. It weighs just 2g and is in poor condition, incomplete and corroded. Due to this it is not readily identifiable, though it is most likely to be part of a nail stem.

5.10 Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.10.1 A single fragment of animal bone was recovered by hand-collection from a single context, [1017]. The specimen is in a poor state of preservation showing clear signs of surface weathering and has been identified as the shaft fragment from a pig tibia. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Mariangela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During excavation work at the site, environmental samples were taken from the fills of two pits to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and molluscs as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report assesses the contents of the samples and the potential of the environmental remains to provide information regarding the local vegetation environment, fuel use and selection and the agricultural economy or other plant use.

6.2 Methodology

- 6.2.1 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 residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 6). 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 (or a 100ml sub-sample) were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 7). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006; NIAB 2004), and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).
- 6.2.2 Charcoal fragments were fractured by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000; Leney and Casteel 1975). 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

6.3.1 Samples <1> [1005] and <2> [1019]

The flots of both samples contained a large quantity of uncharred vegetative material, such as rootlets and seeds of nightshades (*Solanum* sp.) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.). This material is indicative of low level disturbance and is likely to have infiltrated the deposits through root action. No charred crop seeds were recovered. A small amount of charred hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments were recovered from pit fill [1019].

- 6.3.2 Both features yielded charcoal fragments, most of which displayed evidence of sediment encrustation and percolation, which are likely due to fluctuations in the ground water level, causing repeated cycles of wetting and drying. Pit fill [1019] contained enough charcoal to warrant identification work. The only identified taxon was oak (*Quercus* sp.); however some of the fragments were only tentatively identified because of distortion, sediment encrustation and slight vitrification. The latter occurs when the wood anatomy fuses becoming glassy.
- 6.3.3 No other environmental remains were recovered from the residues and finds were limited to a small amount of magnetic material, fired clay, fire cracked flint and flint.

6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 The recovered fragments of hazelnut shells could either be remains of food or

could have become accidentally charred with other plant material from the nearby shrubby vegetation. The absence of crop seeds does not allow for a discussion on agrarian economy and diet at the site.

- 6.4.2 Charcoal was retrieved in moderate amounts and the only identified taxon was oak. Although the assemblage is rather small, the presence of oak could be due to a variety of reasons. It is possible that this tree was widely available in the deciduous woodland near the site. It could also be that its wood was specifically sought after because it is an excellent source of fuel and it can also be used for timber and joinery (Taylor 1981). Most of the fragments were in a poor state of preservation, due to the sediment encrustations and distortions, and some were not securely identifiable.
- 6.4.3 As these samples yielded a very small amount of charred plant remains and poorly preserved charcoal they are of low significance and hold little or no potential for further analysis.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The natural geological deposit was encountered at a range of heights between 38.70m AOD in the north-west (Area 3), 39.6m AOD in the north-east (Area 2) and 39.87m AOD in the south (Area 5). Overall the site appeared to be relatively flat with only just over 1m difference between its highest and lowest points. Area 3 may have been situated within a localised low spot as the heights recorded for Area 1 to its north were slightly (0.10-0.20m) higher.
- 7.1.2 The overburden in the four northern areas, located on arable farmland, consisted of 0.30-0.38m of plough soil over 0.28-0.30m of subsoil. In the southern area, located in the former farmhouse garden, overburden consisted of 0.40m of topsoil over only 0.10m of subsoil. In general the subsoil overlay natural deposits of silty clay and gravel; however, in Area 3 traces of a second lower layer of subsoil above the natural deposits was also noted.
- 7.1.3 The density and distribution of archaeological remains was relatively low considering the size of the areas investigated and was limited to a few linear features, pits and post-holes.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 Deposit survival was reasonably good with the potentially earlier Iron Age and undated features sealed beneath subsoil. Most of the post-medieval/modern linear features were observed to cut the subsoil as did the modern features in Area 5. These features, situated directly below the plough soil/topsoil, had suffered some degree of truncation and disturbance from agricultural and horticultural activities. In addition, parts of the site had been disturbed by rutting associated with modern building works.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.3.1 Prehistoric

The recovery of six pieces of struck flint, possibly all residual in later features, attests to a prehistoric presence in the landscape perhaps dating to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. The condition of the flintwork suggests that it had not travelled far from its original point of deposition. A small quantity of struck flint was also recovered as a residual element in some of the evaluation trench features and finds of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic date have been found in the wider area.

7.3.2 Bronze Age

Although a ring-ditch of possible Bronze Age date and a pit of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date were investigated during the trial trenching at Stane Park, to the immediate east of the development area, no remains of this date were identified in the Wyvern Farm evaluation or in this subsequent excavation phase.

7.3.3 Early Iron Age

Two pits broadly dating to the earlier part of the Iron Age date were identified, both contained charcoal-flecked fills, one, [1007], was located in Area 2 and the other, [1025], in Area 3. Both were poorly dated, and in the absence of diagnostic feature sherds, could conceivably be of a slightly earlier date. Undated pit [1023], situated close to [1025], also contained charcoal and baked clay and may also be contemporary.

7.3.4 Later Iron Age and Roman

Given the wealth of Late Iron Age and Roman remains in Colchester and its immediate surroundings the absence of remains of this date at Wyvern Farm seems surprising. However, this absence does appear to be genuine as the evaluation trenching at the adjacent Stane Park and the two sites at near-by Tollgate did not contain evidence of Late Iron Age or Roman activity either.

7.3.5 Saxon and Medieval

Although both Stanway and its Church of St. Albrights may have origins in the Saxon period no remains of this date were identified. One medieval pit was found close to London Road during the evaluation and a few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, seemingly residual, from later ditches in the north of the site. However, no further evidence was recovered from the excavation areas and the residual pottery does not appear to have originated from settlement near to these ditches.

7.3.6 Post-medieval/modern

Field boundary ditches aligned NNW/SSE were present in Areas 1, 3 and 4. All had previously been investigated as part of the evaluation and are depicted on historic mapping dating from 1787 to the mid- 20th century (Figure 8). The ditch in Area 4 was part of an L-shaped boundary (c.140m x 80m) enclosing a rectangular area of land in the north-east of the development area. Map regression indicates that the ditch was in existence from at least 1787 to 1921 but had gone out of use by the 1950s.

7.3.7 The ditches in Areas 1 and 3 formed the west and east sides of a long, narrow,

linear enclosure approximately 270m long by 42m wide at its south end and 16m wide at its north end. The enclosure was in existence from at least 1787 to 1921 but had ceased as a distinct entity by the 1950s. The enclosure was located at the northern end of a former track (Figure 8) and may have been a small green or area of pasture. The ditch forming the eastern side of this enclosure continued in use as a boundary slightly longer than its western counterpart being still present in 1958 but had been infilled by 1963. Interestingly recovered finds from the excavated ditches did broadly mirror the map dates and included pottery dating from the late 18th/early 19th century and a glass bottle dating from the 1920s or later. The two rectangular enclosures identified in the excavation areas were part of a wider field system recorded elsewhere within the development area by the evaluation trenching.

7.3.8 *Modern*

Modern deposits were mainly confined to Area 5 and consisted of a fence-line and a series of dog burials. It is possible that the fence line was part of linear enclosure perhaps associated with the decaying timber (kennel?) structure. These remains are likely to date to the second half of the 20th century given that this area was an open field up to the post-war period. The first farm buildings on the Wyvern Farm site were constructed by 1958 with more expansion occurring in the 1960s.

7.3.9 *Undated/Natural*

A small number of undated features were investigated within Areas 1, 2 and 3. The pit and the gully in Area 1 were both located within the linear post-medieval/modern enclosure and may be contemporary features. Of the two undated features in area 2, one was very likely to be of natural origin. Two further natural features were identified in Area 3. The remaining six features are believed to be of archaeological origin, possibly of prehistoric date, although all had similar bland greyish brown fills and so could conceivably also be of natural origin.

7.4 **Consideration of research aims**

7.4.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation have been achieved in that the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains have been established and have been preserved by record. The evaluation established that there was a low level of archaeological remains across the development area and this has largely been confirmed by the excavation. The excavation has revealed the presence of limited remains of possible earlier Iron Age date that were not identified in the evaluation.

7.4.2 Two site specific research questions (OR1 & OR2) were set out in the WSI and are discussed below:

OR1 The East of England falls within two landscape regions — the Central Midlands province and the Eastern province of Roberts and Wrathmell (2000), or alternatively the 'planned' and 'ancient' countryside of Rackham (1986) — and there has been some progress in our understanding of the development of these landscapes. There is a vast level of complexity in the field systems of Eastern England, with common fields of varying degrees of formality prevailing

in the north and west of the region, and ancient 'block holdings' (or land in severalty) dominating in the south. Can the excavation enhance our understanding of the division between these landscape types in this area?

The excavation results do not particularly enhance our understanding of the division of landscape types in the area as landscape boundaries within the development area are already known, being evident on historic mapping from 1787 up to the mid-20th century (CgMS 2013). The excavation has, however, confirmed the presence of these former boundaries on the ground whilst the recovered finds, of late 18th to 20th century date, have also broadly confirmed this known timeframe. Although a few sherds of residual medieval pottery were recovered from boundary ditches during the evaluation, often in conjunction with more recent finds, there is no definite archaeological evidence to suggest that the ditches were of medieval origin and the medieval pottery along with other ceramic material of post-medieval or more recent date may have been brought into the field by manuring and thence found its way into the ditch backfill.

OR2 The Historic Landscape Characterisation project provides an interpretation of field types within the region, focussing on the 1st edition OS map (1870s and 80s) and the modern day. Allied to this, the Historic Field Systems of East Anglia project has explored the evolution, forms and management of historical field systems, basing the analysis on twelve detailed case studies across the region (Martin and Satchell 2008). Can the post-medieval material observed in the evaluation be further explored in the excavation phase and facilitate these research agendas.

As discussed above, further archaeological exploration of the post-medieval ditches has not particularly further facilitated these research topics other than to confirm the position of the boundaries on the ground and to confirm their post-medieval to modern date. The Historic Landscape Characterisation project has interpreted the modern day development area as one where there has been post 1950s boundary loss following the introduction of modern farming techniques. Historically, the area is defined as one where there are irregular enclosures of possible pre-18th century date. These vary in size and shape, both arable and pasture, and probably result from piecemeal enclosure.

- 7.4.3 In view of the limited archaeological remains encountered, the results of the excavations have no significant potential to contribute to regional research objectives as identified in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

7.5 Conclusions

- 7.5.1 Five areas totalling 2700sq m were investigated. The excavation has helped to confirm that the low incidence and limited range of archaeological remains as evidenced in the earlier evaluation is a true reflection of the potential for archaeological remains across the wider site. The excavation has also revealed the presence of a few scattered remains of early Iron Age date that were not encountered during the evaluation.

- 7.5.2 The opportunity was also taken to investigate land closer to the line of the Roman road (under London Road) in the south-west of the site (Area 5). However, no evidence of Roman activity was identified and this area appeared to have remained undisturbed until modern times.
- 7.5.3 The other main result of the excavation was the exposure of three of the post-medieval/modern field boundary ditches identified in the evaluation. Their further investigation provided additional dating evidence spanning the late 18th century to the c.mid 20th century and was broadly in keeping with the historic map evidence which shows these boundaries to be in existence from at least 1787 until sometime after 1921. No new evidence was found to suggest that these ditches were earlier than 18th century in origin and the few sherds of medieval pottery recovered from these ditches during the evaluation are likely to be residual, perhaps having found their way into the field as a result of manuring.
- 7.5.4 Given that the combined archaeological investigations have demonstrated the limited potential for the presence of further dated archaeological remains earlier than the late post-medieval period, it is considered that the proposed housing development will have a low to negligible impact on the heritage resource of this location.

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Appendix 1: Context List

Area	Context	Context type	Parent context	Description	Period
All	1000	Layer	1000	Topsoil	
All	1001	Layer	1001	Subsoil	
All	1002	Layer	1002	Natural	
2	1003	Fill	1004	Mid brownish grey silty clay	Natural?
2	1004	Pit	1004	Irregular, 2.52m x 0.82m x 0.10m	Natural?
2	1005	Fill	1007	Dark brown to black clay silt	Early Iron Age
2	1006	Fill	1007	Light greyish brown clay silt	Early Iron Age
2	1007	Pit	1007	Oval, 1.10m x 0.77m x 0.20m	Early Iron Age
4	1008	Fill	1009	Mid grey sandy silt	Post-med/mod
4	1009	Ditch	1009	NNW/SSE aligned, 23m+ x 1.04m x 0.30m, 45-50° sides, flat base	Post-med/mod
1	1010	Fill	1012	Mid orangey grey-brown clay	Post-med/mod
1	1011	Fill	1012	Dark orangey brown clay silt	Post-med/mod
1	1012	Ditch	1012	NNW/SSE aligned, 16.9m+ x 1.52m x 0.30m, 30-35° sides, flat base	Post-med/mod
1	1013	Fill	1014	Dark greyish brown clay	Post-med/mod
1	1014	Ditch	1014	NNW/SSE aligned, 30m+ x 1.40m x 0.32m, 30-40° sides, flat base	Post-med/mod
2	1015	Fill	1016	Dark brownish grey clay silt	undated
2	1016	Pit	1016	Oval, 0.62m x 0.56m x 0.18m , 30-50° sides, concave base	undated
1	1017	Fill	1018	Light orangey grey clay silt	undated
1	1018	Pit	1018	Sub-circular, 0.50m x 0.42m x 0.06m, 20-30° sides, flat base	undated
3	1019	Fill	1023	Mid to dark brownish red sandy silt	undated
3	1020	Fill	1023	Light grey to light orange red burnt clay	undated
3	1021	Fill	1023	Black charcoal	undated
3	1022	Fill	1023	Pale whitish grey sandy silt	undated

3	1023	Pit	1023	Irregular, elongated, 2.56m x 1.61m x 0.34m, 20-40° sides, undulating base	undated
3	1024	Fill	1025	Light to mid brown and grey sandy silt	Early Iron Age
3	1025	Pit	1025	Oval, 0.57m x 0.50m x 0.15m, 60° sides, flat base	Early Iron Age
3	1026	Fill	1027	Mid brownish grey clay silt	undated
3	1027	Ditch	1027	NNW/SSE aligned, 17m+ x 1.6m, not excavated	undated
3	1028	Fill	1029	Mid brownish grey clay silt	undated
3	1029	Post-hole	1029	Oval, 0.32m x 0.30m x 0.13m, 70-80° sides, flat base	undated
3	1030	Fill	1031	Mottled dark grey brown and lighter grey clay silt, some iron pan	Natural?
3	1031	Pit	1031	Oval, 0.90m x 0.50m x 0.10m, 20-30° sides, flat to concave base	Natural?
3	1032	Fill	1033	Mottled mid greyish brown and light brown silt	undated
3	1033	Pit	1033	Sub-circular, 0.70m x 0.60m x 0.09m, 20-25° sides, flat to concave base	undated
3	1034	Fill	1035	Mottled mid greyish brown and light brown silt	undated
3	1035	Pit	1035	Sub-circular, 0.70m x 0.66m x 0.10m, 20° sides, flat base	undated
3	1036	Fill	1037	Mid greyish brown clay silt	undated
3	1037	Post-hole	1037	Oval, 0.30m x 0.24m x 0.09m, 50° sides, concave base	undated
1	1038	Fill	1039	Mid brownish grey sandy silt	Post-med/mod
1	1039	Gully	1039	NNW/SSE aligned, 11m+ x 0.50m x 0.10m, 40° sides, flat base	Post-med/mod
3	1040	Fill	1041	Mottled mid greyish brown and lighter grey brown clay silt	undated
3	1041	Pit	1041	Oval, 1.45m x 1.02m x 0.25m, 30-40° sides, flat base	undated
3	1042	Fill	1043	Mottled mid greyish brown & lighter grey brown clay silt	undated
3	1043	Pit	1043	Oval, 1.05m x 0.64m x 0.18m, 40-50° sides, concave base	undated
5	1044	Fill	1045	Dark greyish brown silty clay	modern
5	1045	Post-hole	1045	Sub-circular, 0.60m diam. x 0.30m, 60° sides, concave base	modern
5	1046	Fill	1047	Mixed mid brownish grey clay silt with charcoal flecks	modern
5	1047	Post-hole	1047	Sub-circular, 0.55m diam. x 0.24m, 70° sides, flat base	modern
5	1048	Fill	1049	Mid grey to greyish brown clay silt	modern

5	1049	Post-hole	1049	Oval, 0.60m x 0.46m x 0.22m, 70-75° sides, flat base	modern
5	1050	Fill	1051	Mid brown grey silty clay	modern
5	1051	Post-hole	1051	Sub-circular, 0.40m diam. x 0.14m, steep sides, concave base	modern
5	1052	Fill	1053	Light brownish grey silty clay	modern
5	1053	Post-hole	1053	Oval, 0.50m x 0.40m x 0.12m, steep sides, flat base	modern
5	1054	Fill	1055	Mid brownish grey clay silt	modern
5	1055	Post-hole	1055	Oval, 0.50m x 0.35m, poorly defined, not excavated	modern

Appendix 2: Environmental Tables

Table 6: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams.

Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1005	1007	Pit	30	30	**	2	**	<2				FCF */10 - Flint */12 - Magnetised Material ***/8
2	1019	1023	Pit	40	40	***	24	****	4	<i>Quercus</i> sp. 8 (3 vitrified, 1 split, 1 fast grown), cf <i>Quercus</i> sp. 4 (distorted), Indet 1(distorted). Very sediment encrusted	* <i>Corylus avellana</i>	<2	FCF */8 - Flint */2 - F.Clay **/644 - Magnetised Material ***/4

Table 7: Flot 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
1	1005	4	50	50	60	20			*	***
2	1019	31	170	100	40	10	* <i>Solanum</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	**	***	****

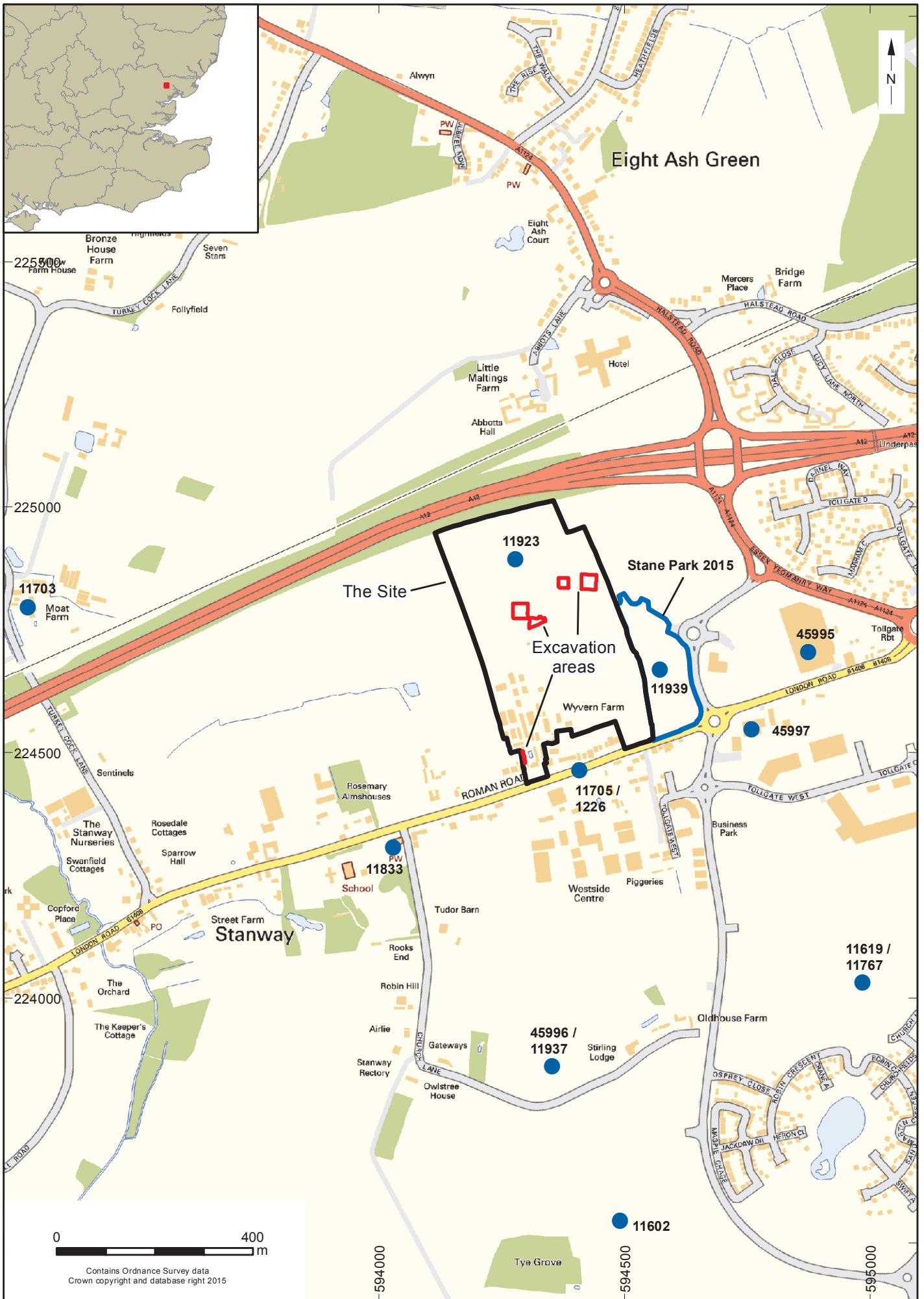
Appendix 3: HER Summary Form

Site name/Address: Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Stanway	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9432 2447	Site Code: COLEM 2015.52
Type of Work: Archaeological Excavation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 2nd November to 14th December 2015	Size of Area Investigated: 2700sq m of 14.5ha site
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos: -
Final Report: EAH roundup	OASIS No: 251457
Periods Represented: Early Iron Age, Post-medieval, Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Archaeological excavation was carried out on land at Wyvern Farm in advance of residential development. Much of the site had previously been evaluated in 2015. Five excavation areas totalling 2700sq m. were investigated, including a new area (not previously trenched) in the south-west of the site.</p> <p>No features of prehistoric date were identified, although the recovery of a few pieces of residual struck flint attests to a prehistoric presence in the landscape perhaps dating to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. There were several undated pits and post-holes and it is possible that some of these might have been of prehistoric date. The earliest dated remains were two pits with charcoal-flecked fills containing pottery of earlier Iron Age date. A larger third pit containing charcoal and baked clay may also be contemporary. No remains of late Iron Age, Roman or Saxon date were present nor was there any further sign of medieval activity in addition to the solitary road frontage pit identified during the evaluation.</p> <p>Three field boundary ditches, previously investigated as part of the evaluation were further excavated. All are depicted on historic mapping dating from 1787 to the mid- 20th century. Finds recovered from the excavated ditches did broadly mirror the map dates and included pottery dating from the late 18th/early 19th century and a glass bottle dating from the 1920s or later. A few sherds of residual medieval pottery had been recovered from the ditches during the evaluation. However, no further finds or deposits of medieval date were identified and there was no archaeological evidence to suggest that the ditches were of medieval origin.</p> <p>The area investigated in the south-west of the site contained only modern remains consisting of a fence-line and a number of dog burials. Map evidence would suggest that these date to the 1950s or later.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: ASE 2015, <i>Archaeological Evaluation Report, Land at Wyvern Farm, London Road, Stanway, Essex.</i> ASE Rep. No. 2015247	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: May 2016

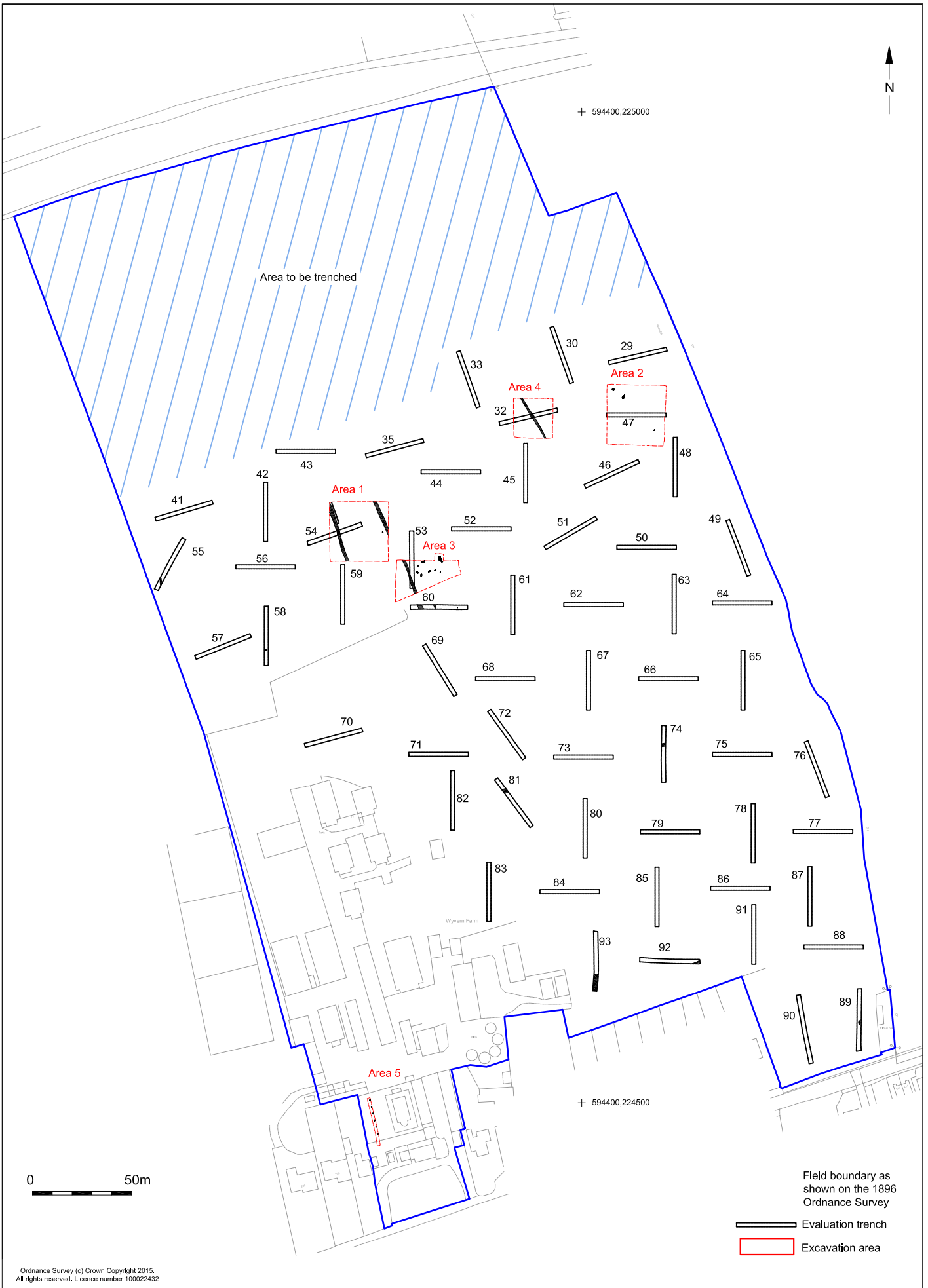
Appendix 4: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: 251457	
Project details	
Project name	Archaeological Excavation: Wyvern Farm, Stanway, Colchester
Short description of the project	<p>Five excavation areas totalling 2700 sq. m. were investigated. The site had previously been evaluated in 2015.</p> <p>The recovery of a few pieces of residual struck flint attests to a prehistoric presence in the landscape. The earliest dated remains were two pits with charcoal-flecked fills containing pottery of earlier Iron Age date. A larger third pit containing charcoal and baked clay may also be contemporary.</p> <p>Three field boundary ditches, previously investigated as part of the evaluation were further excavated. All are depicted on historic mapping dating from 1787 to the mid- 20th century. Finds recovered from the ditches broadly mirrored the map dates A few sherds of residual medieval pottery had been recovered from the ditches during the evaluation. However, no further finds or deposits of medieval date were identified and there was no archaeological evidence to suggest that the ditches were of medieval origin.</p> <p>Modern remains consisted of a fence-line and several dog burials present that on map evidence are likely to post-date the 1950s.</p>
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2015 End: 14-12-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project ref. codes	COLEM 2015.52 – Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval PITS Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age POTTERY Post Medieval CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER STANWAY Wyvern Farm, London Road
Study area	2700 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9432 2447 51.884355365597 0.823847421454 51 53 03 N 000 49 25 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38.75m Max: 39.89m

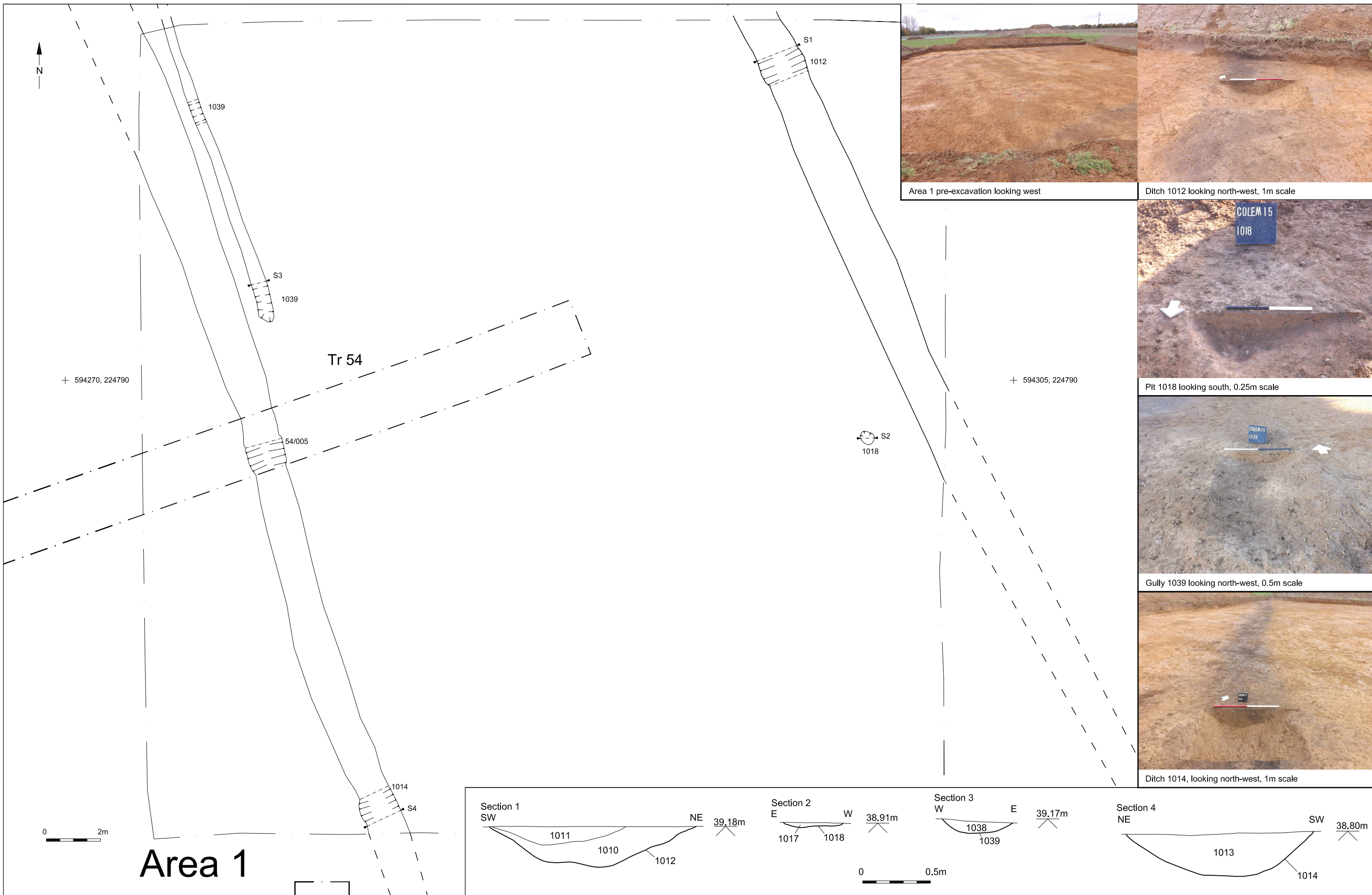
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Colchester Borough Council
Proj. design originator	ASE
Project manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of funding body	Client
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	COLEM 2015.52
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2015.52
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2015.52
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey"
Project biblio	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Excavation: Wyvern Farm, Stanway, Colchester, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ennis, T.
Other biblio details	Report number 2016181
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue	Witham
Description	A4m, blue spine, c.40 pages
Entered by	Trevor Ennis (T.Ennis@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	13 May 2016

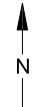


© Archaeology South-East		Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8491	May 2016	Site location and selected EHER references	
Report No: 2016181	Drawn by: APL		

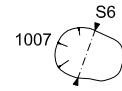


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8491	May 2016	Location of excavation areas and previous evaluation trenches	
Report Ref: 2016181	Drawn by: APL		

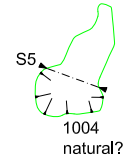




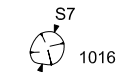
Area 2



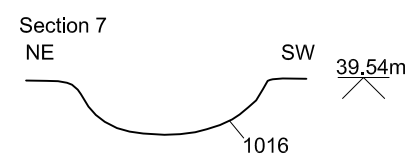
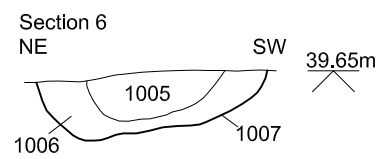
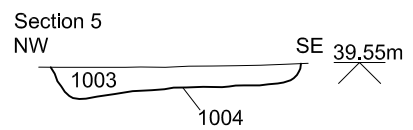
+ 594430, 224860



Tr 47



+ 594430, 224835



0 0.5m

0 2m



Area 2 pre-excitation looking north



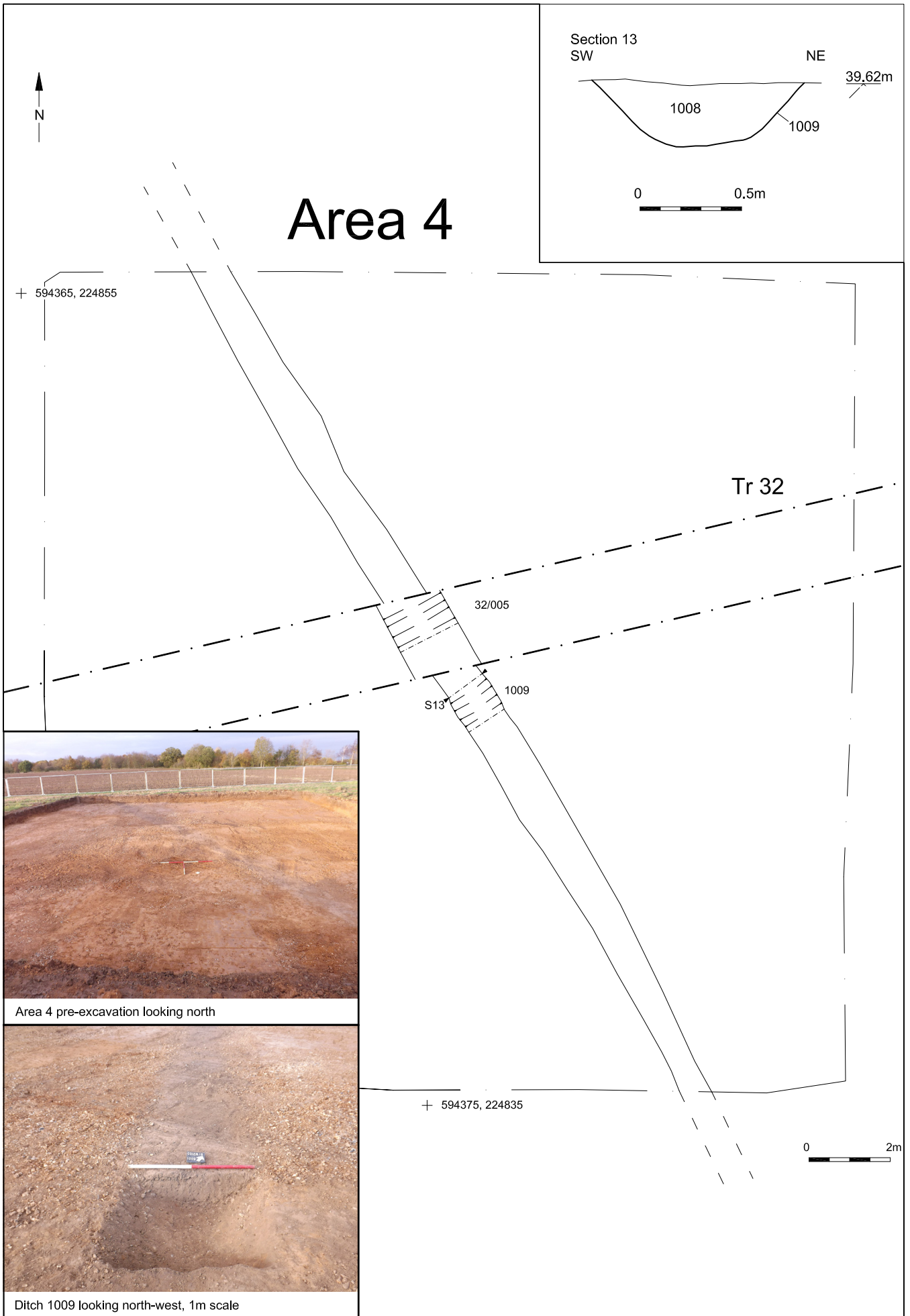
Pit 1004 looking north, 1m scale



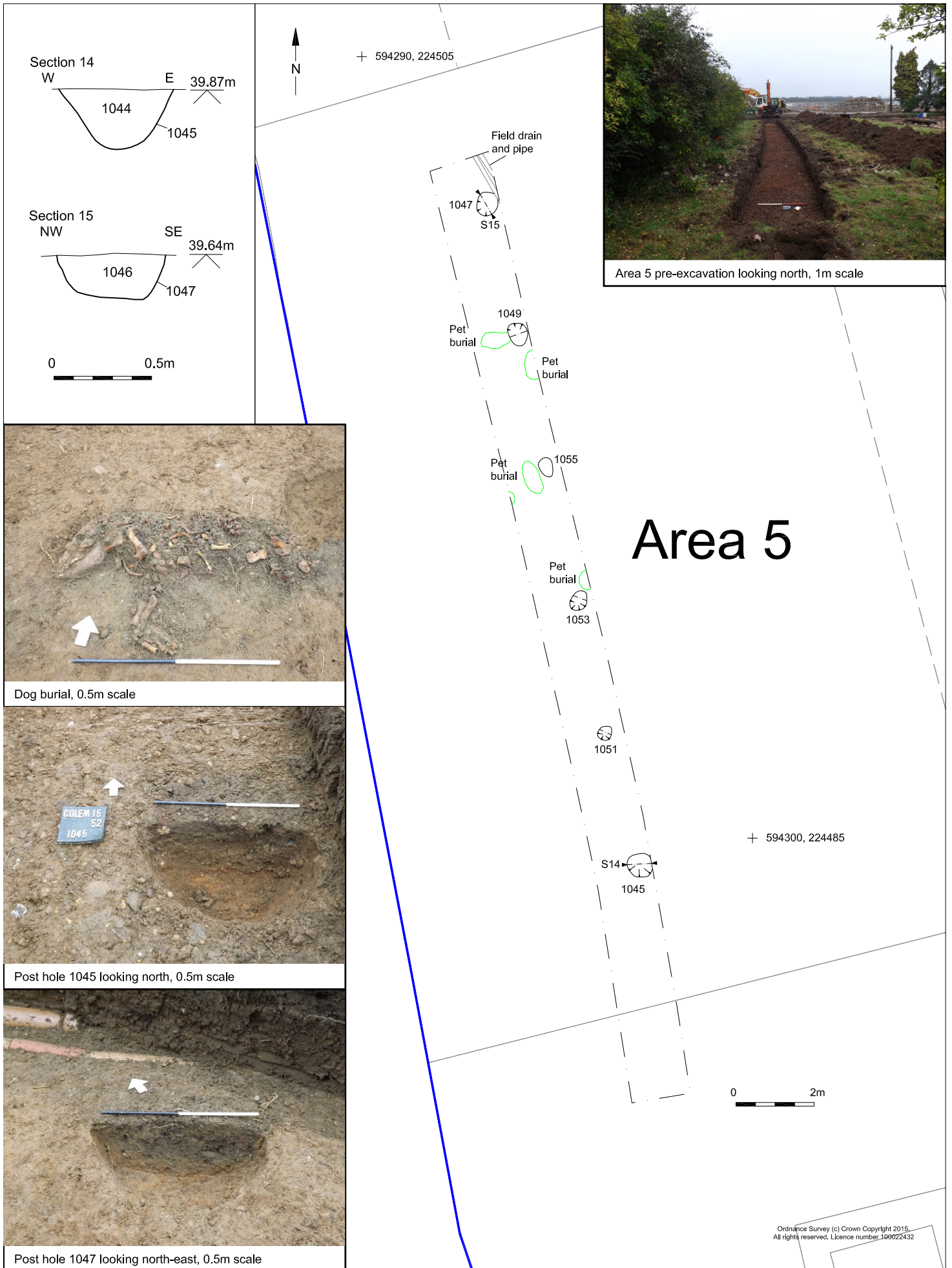
Pit 1007 looking south-east, 0.5m scale



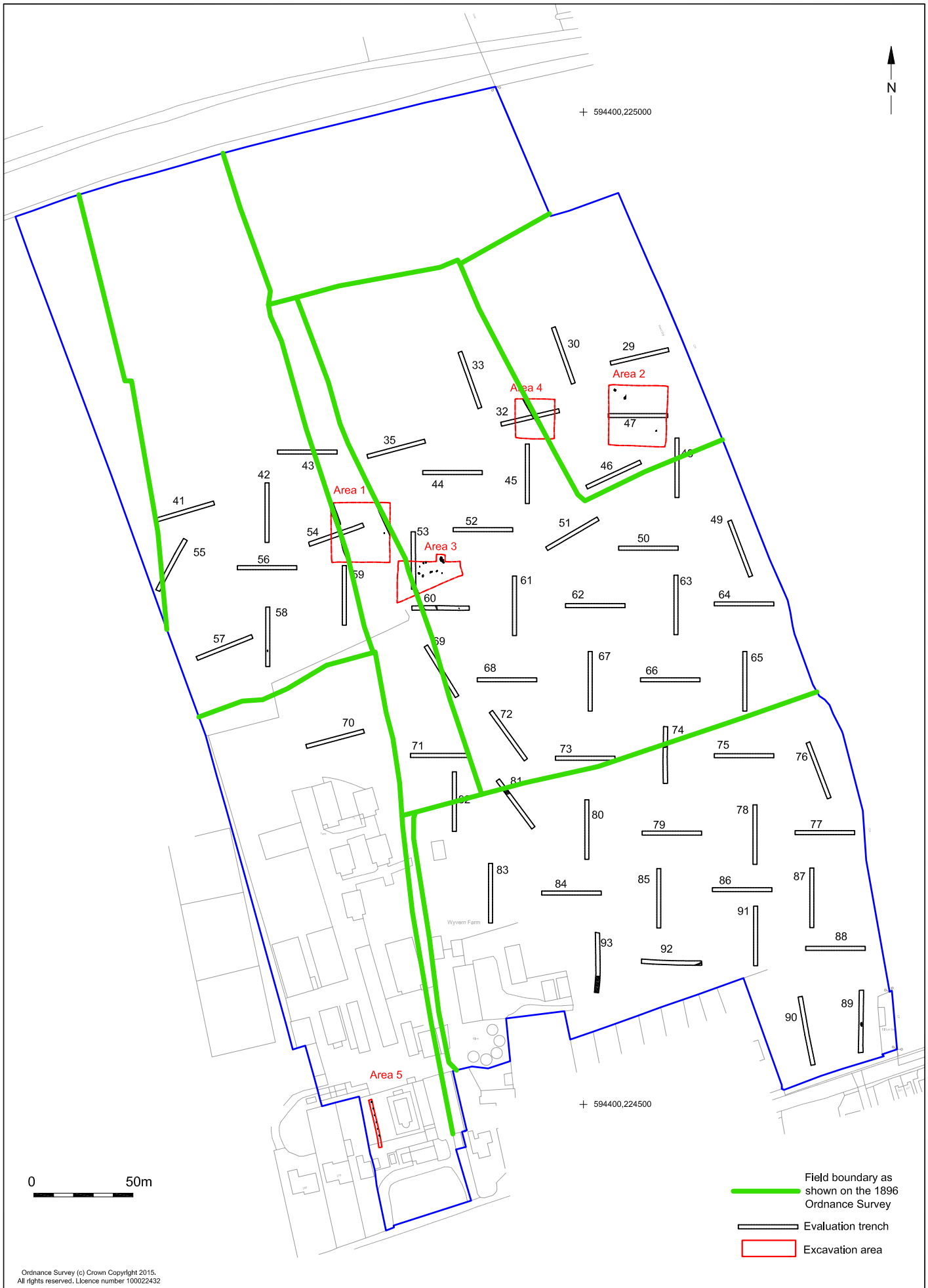
Pit 1016 looking south, 1m scale



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Project Ref: 8491	May 2016	Area 4		
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Project Ref: 8491	May 2016	Area 5	
Report Ref: 2016181	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 8491	May 2016	Location of field boundaries shown on the 1896 Ordnance Survey	
Report Ref: 2016181	Drawn by: APL		

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