

**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
50 Beeleigh Road, Maldon  
Essex**

**NGR: TL 84688 07271**

**ASE Project No: 160273  
Site Code: MD54**

**ASE Report No: 2016214**



**June 2016**



**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
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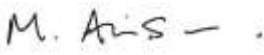
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***Abstract***

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 50 Beeleigh Road, Maldon, Essex, prior to its residential development. At the time of fieldwork the site was unused pasture, scrub and light woodland.

The potential for archaeological remains was considered moderate as the site lies immediately to the north of the perceived location of the Saxon burh at Maldon. Historic mapping shows that the site was undeveloped and has remained a greenfield site bordering the gardens of housing on Beeleigh Road.

Two trenches were excavated by machine down to the natural deposits. Archaeological features were found in both trenches; a late medieval ditch in Trench 1 and a post-medieval pit in Trench 2. Although no remains were found that relate directly to the occupation of the Saxon burh, the ditch may reflect an ancient boundary aligned with a route emerging north from it and presumably denotes a later medieval field boundary outside the town.

The report concludes that the limited nature of the archaeological remains encountered indicates a low potential for archaeological survival across the site. Since the trenches were targeted on areas likely to be disturbed by the planned development works, it is unlikely that the development will greatly impact further on surviving archaeological remains at 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 the landowner, Mr John Wilson, to conduct an archaeological evaluation of land at 50 Beeleigh Road, Maldon, Essex (figure 1), ahead of its residential development.

1.1.2 The site is centred at NGR 584688 207271 and occupies an area of approximately 0.45 hectares. It is bordered by properties on Beeleigh Road to the west, south and south-east, and fields and properties on Cromwell Lane to the north and north-east. It comprises an area of disused animal pasture, and light woodland, with a number of disused animal shelters and a dilapidated static caravan in the north corner. Some clearance of shrubs and trees had occurred prior to the archaeological works commencing. Access to the site is via a concrete drive from Beeleigh Road, which also serves the adjacent properties.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey geology of Britain viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 18/05/2016) states that the solid geology of the site is clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation, but there is no information on superficial deposits.

1.2.2 The site lies on the valley side overlooking the River Chelmer. It slopes down fairly steeply away from Beeleigh Road in the south-west at c. 25m AOD towards the north-east at c.15m AOD. The slope is not even and undulates, particularly in the centre of the site.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission (Ref. No: FUL/MAL/12/00403) was granted on appeal by Maldon District Council (MDC) for the construction of a new dwelling house with detached garage.

1.3.2 ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to MDC, recommended archaeological investigation of the site prior to construction. This was duly accepted as a condition attached to planning consent. Condition 5 relates to archaeology and states:

*'No development shall take place within the application site until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and been approved in writing by the local planning authority.'*

1.3.3 ECC Place Services subsequently issued a Brief for Archaeological Trial trenching (ECC Place Services 2016) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2016a) produced by ASE and approved by ECC Place Services prior to

the commencement of works. Together with the WSI and, completion of trenching, this report satisfies Condition 5.

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

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the excavation of two archaeological evaluation trenches on the site on 12th and 13th May 2016. It followed the methodology laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2016a) and the Risk Assessment Method Statement (ASE 2016b).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford and includes information presented in the ECC Place Services Brief (2016, Section 4). The history and archaeology of the town is admirably summarised by Medlycott (1999). The locations of the most pertinent sites are shown on Figure 1.

#### *Prehistoric*

2.1.2 The earliest archaeological remains which have been recorded within the site and its general vicinity are of prehistoric date. At St Peter's Court the evaluation identified a pit and gully, which contained a number of abraded sherds of Early Iron Age pottery (EHER 14724; Fig 4). Similarly an Early Iron Age post-hole, along with Early Iron Age pottery from other features, was identified during the excavations at the adjacent site to the rear of 20 Spital Road (EHER 14727; Fig 4). At Beacon Green (Fig 4) an archaeological watching brief and limited excavation produced evidence that was indicative of Early Iron Age settlement; shallow hollows containing Early Iron Age pottery, post-holes and the line of a timber palisade (EHER 8028; Bedwin 1992). In addition to this, at the site of the former youth hostel, prehistoric features of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date, including post-holes and shallow depressions were uncovered (EHER 7768). Early Iron Age ditches have also been identified to the rear of 20-22 London Road (EHER 47134; Robertson 2007). The results from these archaeological investigations suggest that the hilltop at Maldon was the site of a settlement, which was initially open and then subsequently enclosed by a palisade (Bedwin 1992, 18).

2.1.3 It has been suggested that the Saxon *burh* (fortified town/defended site), described in the Anglo Saxon Chronicles, may have its origins in an Iron Age hill-fort. An AD912 entry in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle notes that "...King Edward went with some of his supporters to Maldon in Essex and camped there for the time the borough [*burh*] was worked on..." would suggest the possibility that the Saxon fortifications may have re-used existing defensive enclosure perhaps an Iron Age hillfort. To date the archaeological evidence has not proven this hypothesis (Bedwin 1992, 18-22). A substantial ditch was traced during the excavations at St Peters Court, although dating evidence was limited single sherd of 12th century pottery in the lower ditch fills (EHER 14725). The excavation of a trench through an earthwork, thought to be the *burh*, at 20 Spital Road produced Iron Age pottery (Brown 1986). The postulated north side of the *burh* ditch (Fig. 1) runs along Beeleigh Road, to the immediate south of the site.

#### *Roman*

2.1.4 In the Late Iron Age it would appear that the hilltop settlement was abandoned, with the focus of settlement shifting into the valley in the Heybridge/Crescent Road area where activity continued through the Roman



period (Atkinson and Preston 2015; Wickenden 1986). Within the town itself the archaeological evidence for Roman activity would appear scarce. Recorded remains comprise a shallow well, possibly wicker-lined, at 5a Beeleigh Road (EHER 7749), a pit or well at 33 Beeleigh Road (EHER 16861) and a pit at Tenterfield Road (EHER 16762). Roman pottery was found during the 20 Spital Road excavations (Brown 1986).

### *Saxon*

- 2.1.5 Occupation in the Heybridge/Crescent Road vicinity continued into the Early Saxon period (Atkinson and Preston 2015; Drury and Wickenden 1982). More recent archaeological investigations at Croxley Works suggest that another focus of occupation was established in the vicinity of the Hythe in the Middle Saxon period. Archaeological features include pits and postholes, and artefacts included baked clay with wicker/wattle impressions (daub) and loomweights, indicative of buildings and craft activities respectively (Ennis 2009).
- 2.1.6 In the later Saxon period the archaeological evidence at the Croxley Works site is suggestive of less intense activity during the late Saxon period (Ennis 2009). This may relate to a shift in settlement focus in the 9th-10th centuries, back towards the hilltop. In AD916 King Edward the Elder ordered a *burh* (fortified town/defended site) to be built at Maldon, a part of his campaign to regain the control of eastern England from the Danes (e.g. ECC HEB 2008, 44; EHER 7718) and subsequently withstood a siege in AD917 (Medlycott 1999, 19). There is very limited evidence for the earthwork defences in the modern landscape, but in the 18th century antiquarians Nathaniel Salmon (1740) and Joseph Strutt (1775) both describe a large earthwork enclosure to the west end of the High Street. The latter illustrates a sub-rectangular enclosure on the hilltop, bisected by what is now London Road (e.g. Brown 1986). The likely line of the *burh* earthworks, as illustrated on Fig. 1, was first published by the Maldon Archaeology Group in 1986 using archaeological, topographical and cartographic information; for example minor dips and banks in gardens (Brown 1986). Archaeological investigations at St Peter's Court (Ingram 1993) and Spital Road (Brown 1986) both identified substantial ditches; however, neither excavation recovered any Saxon artefacts.
- 2.1.7 The site lies outside the postulated *burh* enclosure and also outside the known extents of Late Saxon settlement, which spread from the eastern entrance of the enclosure down what is now the High Street to the Hythe. Archaeological remains dating to the Late Saxon period are generally found to either side of the High Street, for example at the Lloyds Bank site (EHER 7722, 7725) and the former Bus Station (Ennis forthcoming). To the west of the *burh*, Saxon pottery was recovered during investigations at Beacon Green (EHER 16860).

### *Medieval*

- 2.1.8 Medieval Maldon was one of the most important towns in Essex; it was, with Colchester, a borough, had a Royal Mint (established in the 10th century and continuing through to the 12th) and had three churches. The extents of the

medieval town were broadly the same as those of the late Saxon period, that is the High Street and the Hythe. The main known components of the town included the built-up area, a marketplace (EHER 18789), the churches, the town midden (EHER 18790), the Carmelite Friary (EHER 7728) and St Giles's Hospital (EHER 7713). Outside the town area, at St Peter's Court a substantial ditch, 5m wide and a minimum of 1.6m deep and running for at least 15m, was excavated. It was provisionally dated to the medieval period on the basis of a single sherd of mid-late 12th century (EHER 14725). A second, smaller, curving ditch was also identified and contained 14th-15th century pottery (EHER 14725). The adjacent excavations at 20 Spital Road also recovered some medieval pottery (Brown 1986). Possible building, ditch and pit remains of medieval date were found at 20-22 London Road (Robertson 2007). The Beeleigh Road area is thought to have been open fields during this period.

#### *Post-Medieval and Modern*

- 2.1.9 The post-medieval extents of Maldon remained much the same as those of the medieval period through the 16th-17th centuries, and expanded through the 18th century. The 1777 Chapman and Andre county map shows that the site lay outside the built up areas of the town (e.g. Medlycott 1999, 55). Tithe mapping for All Saints and St Peter's parishes, dating to the mid 19th century, also show the site as fields (ERO D/CT 228B and ERO D/P 201/27/2).
- 2.1.10 The north side of Beeleigh Road is shown as fields on the 1938 Ordnance Survey mapping. By 1959 the current 46-52 Beeleigh Road had been constructed, set within large gardens which border the site.

## **2.2 Research Aims and Objectives**

- 2.2.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were set out in the WSI (ASE 2016a) and are as follows:

*The aim of the archaeological evaluation is 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. In particular, attention will be focused on evidence for pre-Saxon activity and any remains associated with activity in the burh and the town.*

*In the event that significant discoveries are made the resulting report will seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out 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 work comprised the excavation of two 1.8m-wide trenches (figure 2). Originally they were planned to be 20m long but Trench 1 was reduced to 18m due to the presence of trees at the west end and Trench 2 was reduced to 18.80m in order not to compromise access to the site. The trenches were set out to target areas of potential below-ground disturbance from the proposed building and driveway. Trench 1 was extended to the north in a 3m x 1.5m slot, on the advice of ECC Place Services, to further define a partially exposed ditch.
- 3.1.2 Both trenches were excavated using an 8-tonne rubber-tracked 360 excavator with a toothless bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were stripped under archaeological supervision down to the top of archaeological or geological deposits, whichever was encountered first, and cleaned using hand tools where appropriate.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were recorded using standard ASE trench sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets. Discrete archaeological features were half-sectioned and linears sampled appropriately. Features were planned and levelled from baselines surveyed in using Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS). Sections were hand-drawn on drawing film sheets.
- 3.1.4 A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made. The trenches were photographed from each end (trench shots) and all excavated contexts were photographed (context shots). In addition, a number of representative photographs of the general work on site were taken (working shots). The photographic register includes the shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.
- 3.1.4 Finds, where present, were retrieved from all investigated features/deposits and were securely bagged and labelled with the appropriate site code and context number on site.

#### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 Guidelines contained in UKIC's Guidelines for the Presentation of excavation Archives for Long Term Storage and the MGC's Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections will be followed for the preparation of the archive for museum deposition. Finds from the archaeological fieldwork will be kept with the archival material.
- 3.2.2 Subject to agreement with the legal landowner ASE will arrange with Colchester Museum for the deposition of the archive and artefact collection. Any items requiring treatment will be conserved. The landowner will be asked to donate the finds to the local museum.
- 3.2.3 The contents of the site archive are quantified in Table 1.

Number of Contexts	13
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	27
Bulk finds	4 bags
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Topsoil	Turf and loose dark grey organic sandy silt	18	1.80	0.38 – 0.42	17.97 (W) 17.46 (E)
1/002	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay and pebbles	18	1.80	0.10 – 0.31	17.59 (W) 17.04 (E)
1/003	Natural	Mid orange/brown mixed hard gravels and clay	18	1.80	n/a	17.49 (W) 16.35 (E)
1/004	Fill	Dark grey silty clay	0.75	0.70	0.33	17.22
1/005	Cut	Modern pit, cuts [1/007]	0.75	0.70	0.33	17.22
1/006	Fill	Mid grey/brown sandy silty clay, freq pebbles	>3.00	1.40	0.37	17.18
1/007	Cut	Linear SW-NE cut, ditch	>3.00	1.40	0.37	17.18

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located towards the centre of the site (figure 2), within the footprint of the proposed new house. It ran across the slope, orientated WNW to ESE. It measured 18m long, reduced from its planned 20m length at the west end due to the presence of trees, and 1.80m wide. It was extended northwards in a 3m x 1.5m slot, at the request of the ECC archaeological advisor, in order to clarify the nature of feature [1/007].

4.1.2 Topsoil [1/001] and subsoil [1/002] were stripped down to natural deposits [1/003] by machine to an average depth of 0.63m, although the surface of natural clay [1/003] undulated considerably and was deeper at the east end of the trench. A land drain, consisting of a ceramic arch placed onto a slate base, extended along the entire length of the trench towards its north side.

4.1.3 Two features were recorded towards the east end of the trench (figure 3). Ditch [1/007] ran across the trench from north to south, therefore across the contours of the slope. It was a shallow, irregular U-shape in profile, measuring 1.40m wide and 0.37m deep and its base was deeper to the west. With the trench extension a 3m length was recorded. The south (upslope) end was shallower and appeared to be narrowing at the south limit of the excavation, possibly to a terminal just beyond. It was filled with [1/006], a mid grey/brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent fine to medium pebbles. Pottery was recovered from this context dating it to the late 13th-14th centuries (see 5.3.1).

4.1.4 Ditch [1/007] was in a general alignment with the west side of the entranceway to the site (figure 2). This may be significant as it also aligns with an unmade road on the south side of Beeleigh Road, called West Chase. The ditch may therefore be the northward extension of an ancient boundary (see 6.1.2).

4.1.5 A pit [1/005] was cut into the west side of the ditch fill [1/006]. It was oval in plan and measured 0.75m E-W by 0.70m N-S and 0.33m deep with a U-

shaped profile. It was filled with [1/004], a dark grey silty clay, and was cut through subsoil [1/002]. Tile from the feature dates it to after the 17th century (see 5.5.1) and the presence of coal, while not diagnostic, may suggest a later date still. It was interpreted as a modern (19th-20th century) feature.

#### 4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Overburden	Crushed tarmac, gravel, brick and stone hardcore, soil, SW half of trench	9	1.80	0.60, fading out to N	21.74 (SW) 20.56 (NE)
2/002	Topsoil	Turf and mid-dark grey/brown silt topsoil, NE half of trench	12	1.80	0.20, fading out to S	20.91 (SW) 19.39 (NE)
2/003	Subsoil	Mixed sandy silty gravel, occ cbm frags	12	1.80	0.40, fading out to N	19.30 (SW) 18.99 (NE)
2/004	Natural	Light yellow/brown clay, gravel areas to NE	18.80	1.80	n/a	20.96 (SW) 18.79 (NE)
2/005	Fill	Mid brown sandy gravelly silt, mod cbm frags and flecks	2.50	>1.60	0.27	20.25
2/006	Cut	Circular pit, half beyond limit of trench	2.50	>1.60	0.27	20.25

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located to the north-east of the access route into the site from Beeleigh Road, within the footprint of the proposed new driveway. It ran across the contours from SW to NE, falling in height from 21.74m AOD to 19.39m AOD respectively. The length of the trench was reduced by 1.2m to 18.8m at the SW end, in order to retain vehicular access to the site, and it was 1.80m wide.

4.2.2 The top material in the south-west half of the trench was a mixed hardcore overburden and rubble [2/001] which gave way to turf and topsoil [2/002] over subsoil [2/003] to the NE. These layers were stripped by machine down to the natural clay and gravel surface [2/004]. The trench was crossed at an angle by a ceramic land drain in the SW. To the NE of the centre was a plastic land drain surrounded by fine gravel cut into the natural clay surface and further to the NE an iron drainpipe was uncovered and left undisturbed (figure 4 photo).

4.2.3 A single, probably circular, pit [2/006] was found on the NW side of the trench measuring 2.50m across. Only part of the pit, 1.60m wide, was exposed in the trench and this was half-sectioned. The sides were shallow, sloping gradually to a rounded base at 0.27m deep. It was filled with [2/005], a mid brown mixture of sandy silty clay and c. 30% gravel with moderate fragments of cbm. A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from the fill, giving a date of late 17th or 18th century (5.6.1), a date consistent with the tile fragments (5.5.1). The function of the pit remains unclear.

## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered by the evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014d). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Coal	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
1/004	2	4	4	68	1	<2						
1/006	6	36			7	14	1	6	1	2		
2/005	1	4	7	198							1	2
<i>Total</i>	9	44	11	266	8	14	1	6	1	2	1	2

Table 4: Finds quantification

### 5.2 Iron Age and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 Two very small fragments of Roman pottery were noted in context [1/004]. One of these, weighing 1g, is in a coarse sandy fabric containing rare fine flint inclusions of less than 1mm. Fabrics of this type are encountered throughout most of the Iron Age in eastern England, though usually not after the late 1st century BC. The other sherd, weighing 3g, is a typical Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered ware. It is possible that the two sherds are broadly contemporary if they belong to the transitional Middle/Late Iron Age period (c. early/middle 1st century BC). However, given that they were directly associated probable post-medieval ceramic building material, they are probably both residual.

### 5.3 Medieval Pottery by Helen Walker

5.3.1 Medieval pottery was found only in context [1/006], the fill of ditch [1/007], and comprised a total six sherds weighing 37g, most of which are small and abraded. The earliest pottery comprises a small sherd of medieval coarseware, which shows one oxidised surface and is borderline early medieval ware indicating a 12th to 13th century date. There are also slip-painted and glazed sherds, most likely from jugs, in sandy orange ware and Mill Green ware. The sandy orange ware sherd is wheel-thrown indicating a date of not before the mid to late 13th century and both the Mill Green ware and the sandy orange ware sherds are datable to the mid/late 13th to 14th centuries. The only other diagnostic sherd appears to be from the edge of a lid in Mill Green ware, although this is an unusual form in Mill Green ware. It is unglazed and the upper surface is reduced. It is perhaps of 14th century date. No further work is required on this pottery.

**5.4 Post-Medieval Pottery** by Anna Doherty

- 5.4.1 A small sherd of pottery in a post-medieval red sandy fabric was noted in context [2/005]. The sherd is not closely datable but is probably broadly in keeping with the mid post-medieval date suggested by the CBM and clay tobacco pipe in the same deposit (see 5.5 and 5.6).

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

- 5.5.1 A small quantity, comprising of eleven fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 262g, was hand-collected from two evaluation contexts: [1/004] and [2/005]. With the exception of a single, much abraded brick crumb, the CBM was all fragments of peg tile in the same fabric, T1, a dense orange fabric with occasional scatters of fine-medium 'gritty' quartz; sparse coarse and very coarse quartz in clusters. Three fragments of tile and the brick spall came from [1/004]; the remaining seven fragments from [2/005]. The peg-tile cannot be dated with any certainty, but a mid-post-medieval c.17th-18th century date is likely.

**5.6 Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Linzi Harvey

- 5.6.1 A single fragment of abraded clay tobacco pipe was recovered from context [2/005]. This was 39mm in length with a 3.2mm bore diameter. A late 17th or 18th century date is suggested.

**5.7 Geological Material** by Linzi Harvey

- 5.7.1 A small fragment of natural coal was recovered from [1/006], weighing 1g only. Due to its small size, this fragment is undiagnostic.

**5.8 Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

- 5.8.1 Just eight fragments of animal bones and teeth were hand-collected from two contexts [1/004] and [1/006]. The fragments are small and poorly preserved with the only identifiable specimens being the tooth fragments which derive from sheep/goat molars. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bones.

**5.9 Shell** by Linzi Harvey

- 5.9.1 A single abraded fragment of oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*) was recovered from [1/006]. Oyster shells are typically considered to be by-products of consumption when found on archaeological sites in association with other material.



## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 6.1.1 Natural superficial geology consisting of clay with gravel was encountered across the site at between 20.96-16.35m AOD. The topsoil and subsoil in both trenches demonstrate that a general agricultural background is probable for the site. Clearly, the southern part of the site around Trench 2 was consolidated by the deposition of hardcore for vehicular access in modern times. Archaeological features were recorded in both trenches; a medieval ditch in Trench 1 and a post-medieval pit in Trench 2.
- 6.1.2 Ditch [1/007] in Trench 1 was orientated SW-NE, effectively running downhill at 90° to the contours. If the orientation is extrapolated it matches fairly well with the alignment of the access route into the site (figure 2) and an unmade road to the south of Beeleigh Road known as West Chase which connects with London Road to the south. It is possible, although admittedly speculative, that this represents an ancient alignment created during the Saxon period when the burh was established. London Road was the main axial route through the burh (see 2.1.3 above) and West Chase may follow the line of an orthogonal axial route leading northwards to the edge of the burh along Beeleigh Road. The ditch infill is late 13th to 14th century, c.400 years later, but may show continuity with an earlier boundary or route emerging from the burh.
- 6.1.3 The 17th-18th-century pit [2/006] in Trench 2 did not present an obvious function and it cannot be associated with any other activity of the post-medieval period in the vicinity.

### **6.2 Deposit survival and impacts**

- 6.2.1 The two trenches have revealed that no material earlier than the late medieval period is present within the evaluation trenches and that feature density is low. These survive c.0.6m below the present ground surface. Parts of the site have been truncated and disturbed by drains and insertion of hardstanding.
- 6.2.2 The impact of the proposed development on archaeological survival is therefore likely to be low.

### **6.3 Consideration of research aims**

- 6.3.1 Insofar as the aims of the project were to establish the presence, date and quality of any surviving remains, the evaluation has successfully shown that survival across the excavated areas is limited to a late medieval ditch and a post-medieval pit. The stated aim of seeking evidence for pre-Saxon activity and any remains associated with activity in the burh and the town (ASE 2016a, section 4.1) has not been achieved due to lack of evidence from these periods.

## **6.4 Conclusions**

- 6.4.1 None of the recorded remains relate to the prehistoric occupation of the hilltop or to the Saxon burh and its surrounding contemporary land use. The ditch recorded in Trench 1 is likely to be a late medieval field boundary outside the town. The pit may denote post-medieval disposal activity.
- 6.4.2 It is considered that the construction of the proposed house and garage on this site will have a low impact upon the below-ground heritage resource of this vicinity of Maldon.

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank the landowner, John Wilson, for commissioning and funding the archaeological work. Thanks are also due to the ECC Historic Environment Advisor, Maria Medlycott, for providing the brief and for monitoring the archaeological work.

The fieldwork was supervised by the author, assisted on site by Marek Kamysz, both of ASE. The Project Manager was Niall Oakey and the post-excavation work was managed by Mark Atkinson. The illustrations for the report were produced by Andrew Lewsey. The author would like to thank Gemma Ayton, Isa Benedetti-Whitton, Anna Doherty, Linzi Harvey and Helen Walker for their specialist contributions.

**APPENDIX 1: HER Summary Form**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> 50, Beeleigh Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 5QJ	
<b>Parish:</b> Maldon	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL 84688 07271	<b>Site Code:</b> MD54
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Robin Wroe-Brown, Archaeology South-East
<b>Date of Work:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 0.45 ha
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Braintree	<b>Funding source:</b> Landowner
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> ?	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> N/A
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH roundup?	<b>OASIS No:</b> archaeol6-252132
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Medieval, Post-medieval	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b> Archaeology South-East (ASE) undertook an archaeological evaluation prior to the site's residential development. The potential for archaeological remains was considered moderate as the site lies immediately to the north of the Saxon burh of Maldon. Historic mapping shows that the site was undeveloped and remains a greenfield site bordering the gardens of housing on Beeleigh Road.</p> <p>Two trenches were excavated within the proposed footprints of the house and garage. Archaeological features were found in both trenches; a late medieval ditch in Trench 1 and a post-medieval pit in Trench 2.</p> <p>The ditch in Trench 1 may reflect an ancient boundary aligned with the route emerging north from the Saxon burh.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> Robin Wroe-Brown	<b>Date of Summary:</b> May 2016

**APPENDIX 2: OASIS Form**

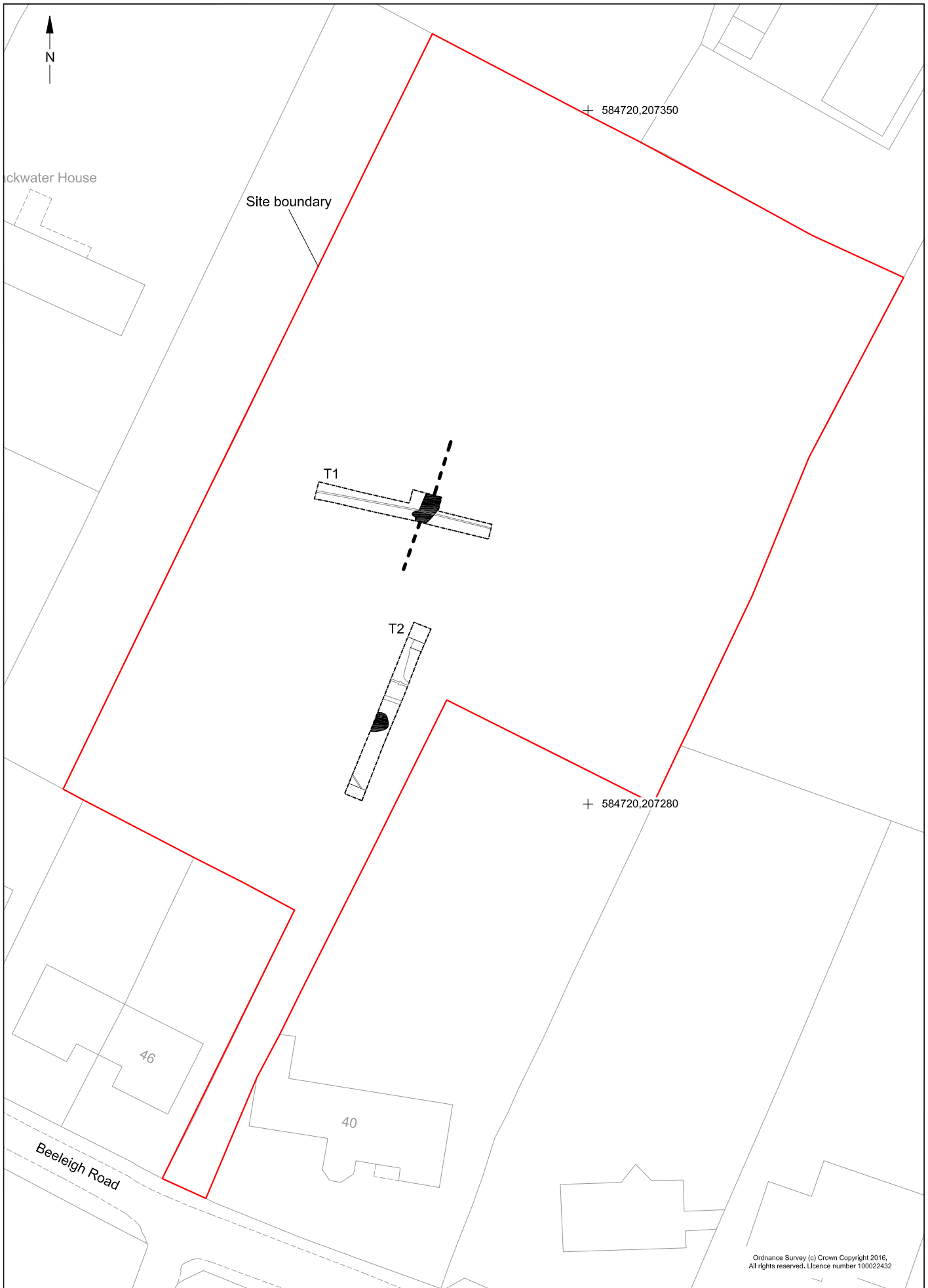
<b>OASIS ID: archaeol6-252132</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	50, Beeleigh Road, Maldon, Essex
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to residential development. The potential for archaeological remains was considered moderate as the site lies immediately to the north of the Saxon burh of Maldon. Historic mapping shows that the site was undeveloped and remains a greenfield site bordering the gardens of housing on Beeleigh Road. Archaeological features were found in both trenches excavated; a late medieval ditch in Trench 1 and a post-medieval pit in Trench 2. The ditch in Trench 1 may reflect an ancient boundary aligned with the route emerging north from the Saxon burh.
Project dates	Start: 12-05-2016 End: 13-05-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Associated project reference codes	MD54 - Sitecode 160273 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Medieval PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	JUG Medieval CLAY PIPE (SMOKING) Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON MALDON 50, Beeleigh Road
Postcode	CM9 5QJ
Study area	0.45 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 84688 07271 51.733159877739 0.6748783238 51 43 59 N 000 40 29 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 16.35m Max: 20.96m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of	Archaeology South-East

Organisation	
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Niall Oakey
Project supervisor	Robin Wroe-Brown
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	John Wilson
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
<b>Project bibliog</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at 50, Beeleigh Road, Maldon, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wroe-Brown, R.
Other biblio details	ASE report no. 2016214
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4 report
Entered by	Robin Wroe-Brown (r.wroe-brown@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	19 May 2016

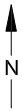




© Archaeology South-East		50 Beeleigh Road, Maldon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160273	May 2016	Site location	
Report No: 2016214	Drawn by: APL		

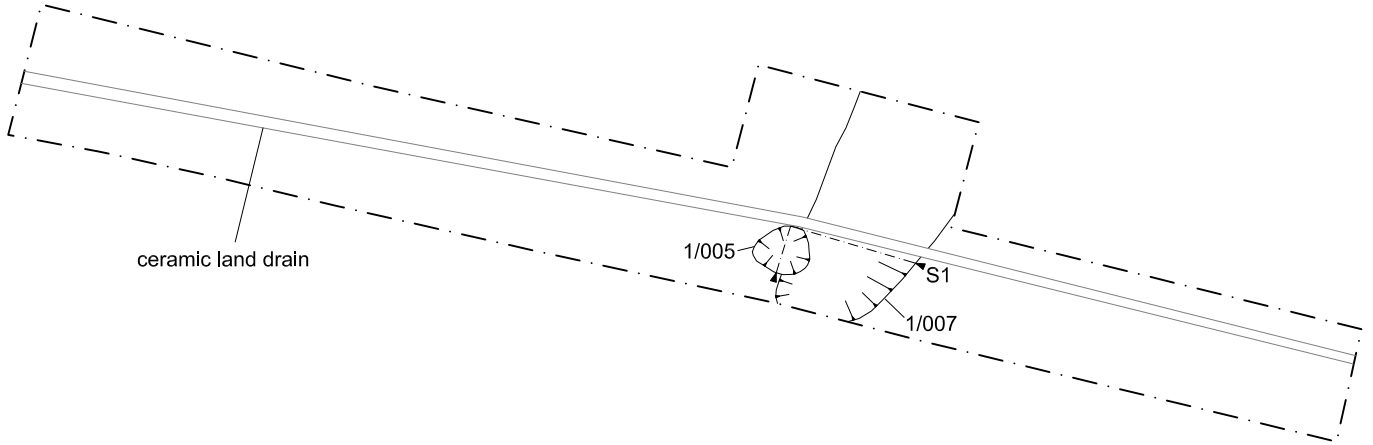


© Archaeology South-East		50 Beeleigh Road, Maldon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160273	May 2016	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2016214	Drawn by: APL		



+ 584700, 207315

# T1



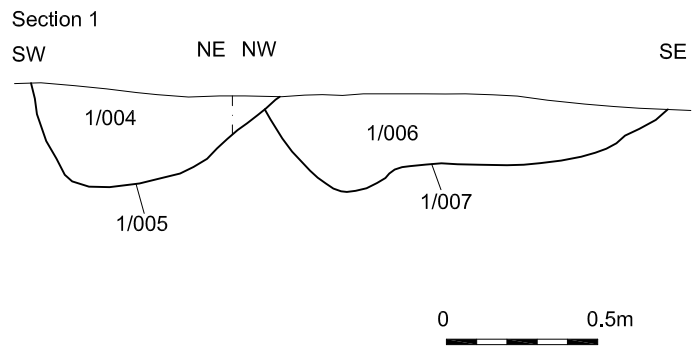
+ 584700, 207305



Section of [1/007] looking NNE, 1m scale

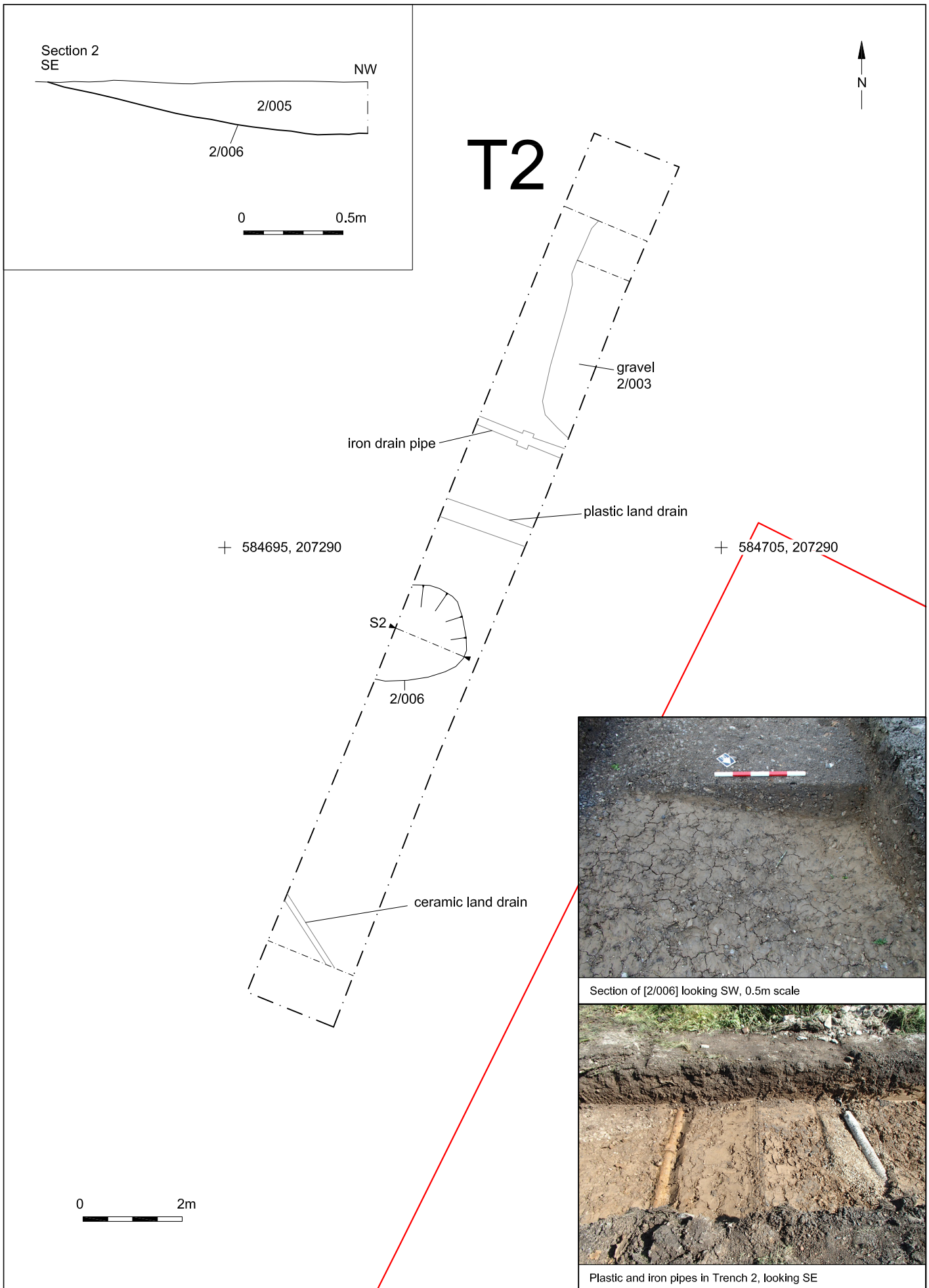


Extension to Trench 1 looking NNE, 1m scale



© Archaeology South-East		50 Beeleigh Road, Maldon		Fig. 3
Project Ref: 160273	May 2016	Trench 1, plan, section 1 and photographs		
Report Ref: 2016214	Drawn by: APL			





© Archaeology South-East		50 Beeleigh Road, Maldon	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 160273	May 2016	Trench 2, plan, section 2 and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016214	Drawn by: APL		

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