

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**LAND NORTH OF ONGAR ROAD
GREAT DUNMOW
ESSEX**

NGR: TL 62765 21040

**ASE Project No: 160210
ASE Report No: 2016294**



July 2016

Archaeological Evaluation

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Great Dunmow
Essex**

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Planning Ref: APP/C1570/A/12/2182870

**ASE Project No: 160210
Site Code: GDOR16**

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Mark Germany

**With contributions by
Isa Benedetti-Whitton, Trista Clifford
and Anna Doherty
Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey**

Prepared by:	Mark Germany	Archaeologist
Reviewed and approved by:	Mark Atkinson	Project Manager
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**Archaeology South-East
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ**

**Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse**

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by Archaeology South-East on land north of Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, between the 4th and 12th July 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Redrow Homes and was undertaken in advance of residential development within a 3.65ha green-field site south of Great Dunmow. Historic maps indicate the site to have been formerly part of a deer park.

The trenching revealed few archaeological features and these mainly comprised the remains of two post-medieval ditches and a post-medieval or modern fence-line represented by a line of three post-holes. A very low quantity of Roman ceramic building material and earlier Iron Age and Saxon pottery sherds were also present, but were residual in later deposits and features. The results of the evaluation suggest that the site has never been intensively occupied and has perhaps always consisted of woodland and/or farmland.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in advance of residential development was carried out by Archaeology South-East on land north of Ongar Road, Dunmow, Essex, in July 2013. The work was recommended by Essex County Council Place Services and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Redrow Homes (Eastern) Limited.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site of the archaeological evaluation consists of 3.65ha of rough pasture and scrub woodland, c.1km south of Dunmow town centre (Fig. 1). Farmland borders it to the north-west, houses to the north-east, Ongar Road (B184) to the south-east, and the A120 bypass to the south-west.

1.2.2 The site has a gradual south-east facing slope and lies uphill of the valleys the Hoblong Brook and the River Chelmer. It consists of rough grassland and it contains occasional shrubs and small to large trees.

1.2.3 The archaeological trial-trenching succeeded earlier groundwork, during which the site was stripped of its turf and grubbed of some of its trees, the latter resulting in a small number of large and shallow holes.

1.2.4 The superficial geology of the site consists of Lowestoft Formation Diamicton; an extensive sheet of chalky till with outwash sands, gravels, silts and clays (www.bgs.ac.uk). The overlying topsoil consists of brownish grey friable silt clay with infrequent stones and is c.0.35m thick.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The planning consent for the residential development (APP/C1570/A/12/2182870) included the following archaeological condition:

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

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching, carried out on land to the north of Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, by Archaeology South-East on behalf of CgMs Consulting in July 2016.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012) has previously presented the detail of the archaeological and historical background of this site. Together with additional information from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and other secondary sources, only the most pertinent information relevant to the site is included here.

2.1.2 A large number of archaeological excavations (e.g. Havis and Brooks 2004; Ennis 2006; Timby *et al.* 2007; Cooke *et al.* 2008) have taken place within north-west Essex and the environs surrounding Dunmow since the mid-1980s and their results begin to enable reconstruction of how that landscape may have developed over the last c.3000 years.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The existing corpus of archaeological evidence for north-west Essex suggests that, prior to the Middle Bronze Age, it was occupied by peripatetic herdsmen and farmers, and that it was only after that period that it began to be used for sedentism and enclosure by ditches. The majority of the area's settlements from the Middle Bronze Age to the beginning of the end of the Late Iron Age period consisted of farmsteads and these were often accompanied by neighbouring areas of enclosures and trackways.

2.2.1 Prehistoric remains have been discovered within the vicinity of the site and these include assemblages of residual Mesolithic to Early Neolithic struck flints and Middle Bronze Age pot sherds at Smiths Farm, and a short stretch of ditch containing fire-cracked flints and sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery at the Dunmow Police Station site, c.700m to the east (ASE 2014; ASE 2015; ECC FAU 2005). Other remains have also been discovered, including a Mesolithic tranchet axe from north of Shingle Hall, c.200m to the south-west (EHER 13933) and a small cluster of Late Bronze Age gullies and discrete features, west of Ongar Road on the route of the A120 bypass (Timby *et al.* 2007, 35).

2.2.2. The struck flints of these sites possibly represent places of transient occupation, whereas the Middle Bronze Age pottery sherds at Smiths Farm are more likely to have been part of a Middle Bronze Age farmstead, although no accompanying features of that date have been found to confirm it.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Roman farms and villa estates subsequently mostly supplanted the farmsteads of the previous period, although it is probable that many of them developed from Late Iron Age foundations (Going 1988; Wickenden 1988). Other Roman introductions included a road network and the Roman small town of Dunmow. Three of the roads formed a nexus at Dunmow and their original courses are still largely in use. They comprise Stane Street (B1256) which runs between Colchester and Braughing, the A130/B184 which follows the Chelmer Valley and runs between Chelmsford and Great Chesterford,

and the B184 which interconnects Dunmow with London. The course of the north end of the Roman forerunner of the B184 (Ongar Road) as it approached Dunmow is not certain, but is postulated to have turned east and passed south of the evaluation site (Wickenden 1988, fig. 64).

- 2.3.2 The Roman town existed during the 1st to late 4th/early 5th century AD and probably developed in a ribbon along Stane Street, west of its junction with the Chelmsford to Great Chesterford Road. It seems probable that its residential and economic development benefitted from roadside trade, yet despite that its overall form probably remained more rustic than urban (Germany *et al.* forthcoming). The limit of the settlement's southern extent is uncertain, but is postulated to be represented by the break of slope to the near south of Springfields Road and Haslers Lane, where a Roman cremation cemetery and a probable boundary ditch have been discovered and archaeologically investigated (Atkinson in prep; ECC FAU 2011).
- 2.3.3 Pieces of Roman pottery, bones, tiles, coins and oyster shells and other finds including coins and iron objects were discovered south of the town in 1862 (EHER 1279). An area alongside that site was archaeologically investigated in 1973, but revealed no archaeological finds or features.

2.4 Saxon

- 2.4.1 The archaeological evidence for Saxon period land use in north-west Essex continues to remain slight and thereby perhaps implies that its extent was only lightly occupied during that period (Cooke *et al.* 2008, 281-2). It includes sherds of Early and Middle Saxon pottery from New Street in Dunmow and these probably imply that settlement was taking place within its area during those periods (Wickenden 1988, 32-50; EHER 13866-7 and 1882-4).

2.5 Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 2.5.1 The existing town of Great Dunmow probably originated during the Late Saxon period. It developed immediately north of the site of the Roman town and it initially comprised two separate settlements one of which consisted of a hamlet focused on the church at Church End, and the other of a larger settlement focussed on the High Street and market-place. It was granted the first of its two market charters in 1227 and from there on the High Street / market place became its sole focal point (Medlycott 1998).
- 2.5.2 The evaluation site incorporates part of the estate of the manor of Shingle Hall / Olives' to the south-west (CgMs Consulting 2012) (Fig. 1). It was formerly part of a large deer park and the Ordnance Survey map of 1875 suggests it to have been lightly wooded.
- 2.5.3 No medieval remains were found during the archaeological investigation of the adjacent stretch of the A120 (Timby *et al.* 2007).
- 2.5.4 Most of the recorded archaeological remains investigated at Smiths Farm, to the east of the Ongar Road site, were medieval in date and related to mid 12th to mid 13th century roadside enclosures, followed by mid 13th to 14th century quarrying. The functions of the enclosures were not readily apparent,

but have been conjectured to represent small pens for animals, backyards of roadside cottages, or small areas for horticulture (ASE 2015).

2.5.5 The evaluation site lay outside the extent of the town until the mid 20th century, and up until then was situated within open countryside. Historic maps indicate its have remained un-subdivided from at least 1840 to 2006 at the latest, after which it spent a brief spell as four adjoining enclosures (CgMs Consulting 2012, figs 4, 5 and 10).

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The evaluation's aim and objectives were stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs Consulting 2015).

2.6.2 The project aims comprised:

- To determine as far as reasonably possible the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving threatened archaeological remains.
- To study an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains were potentially threatened.
- To find and clarify the nature and extent of existing modern disturbance and from such assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and features.

2.6.3 The project objectives comprised:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of archaeological deposits.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- Where physical preservation was likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect effect of the proposed development were also be considered.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The trench plan of the evaluation originally comprised twenty-six 30m long trenches. The trenches were arranged in a semi-regular pattern and they avoided three areas excluded by tree preservation orders (Fig. 2).

Trench	Dimensions (m)
1	1.8 x 31
2	1.8 x 29.7
3	1.8 x 25.4
4	1.8 x 23
5	1.8 x 30
6	1.8 x 30 (Not excavated)
7	1.8 x 28.8
8	1.8 x 28.9
9	1.8 x 14
10	1.8 x 23
11	1.8 x 28
12	1.8 x 28.8
13	1.8 x 36.6
14	1.8 x 30
15	1.8 x 29.5
16	1.8 x 32
17	1.8 x 30
18	1.8 x 29
19	1.8 x 28
20	1.8 x 30
21	1.8 x 30
22	1.8 x 30
23	1.8 x 17.8
24	1.8 x 30
25	1.8 x 29
26	1.8 x 30

Table 1: Trench Dimensions

3.1.2 The site was evaluated by twenty-five 1.8m wide, 17.5m to 36.6m long trenches, labelled 1 to 5 and 7 to 26 (Fig. 2). By agreement with the ECC Place Services monitoring officer, the intended trench plan was altered in the field after the development area was found to contain various constraints in the form of shrubs, trees, thick vegetation, large spoil-heaps of turf, and occasional tree-holes. Eleven trenches were stripped in their intended locations (1, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 and 26), three trenches were reduced in length (9, 22 and 23), nine trenches were slightly shifted (2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 17 and 18) and one trench (6) was not excavated because its location was covered by dense vegetation. Trench 25 was enlarged on one side in order to investigate a near surface spread of gravel that proved to be modern (Table 1).

3.1.3 The removal of each trench's topsoil and subsoil was archaeologically supervised and was carried out by a tracked excavator equipped with a broad toothless bucket.

- 3.1.4 All archaeological deposits and features were hand-excavated, apart from deposit [5/02] in Trench 5, which was investigated by use of a mechanical excavator.
- 3.1.5 Details of each trench and its contents were recorded on pro-forma sheets. Colour digital photographs were taken of each trench, each feature and of work in progress. Feature profiles were measured and drawn at a scale of 1:10 on small sheets of drawing film. Details and numbers of photographs and drawings were recorded on pro-forma registers.
- 3.1.5 All artefacts present within investigated features and deposits were collected and retained for identification and study.
- 3.1.7 No deposits were bulk sampled for environmental remains because no closely-datable pre-modern features with potential for microfossil survival were present.
- 3.1.8 A Leica GNSS GPS was used to take spot heights, to position each trench, and to record plans of each archaeological feature.

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE currently holds the site archive at its office in Witham. The site archive will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum in due course, subject to agreement with the museum and the legal landowner (Table 2).

Item	Quantity
Context sheets	20
Plan and sections sheets	2
Drawing Register	1
Photo Register	1
Digital photos	85
Drawing film sheets	2
Trench Record forms	25
Method Statement	1
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Desk-Based Assessment	1

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Seven of the trenches revealed the presence of below-ground archaeological and possible archaeological remains. These comprised a man-made or natural feature in Trench 5, a buried layer in Trench 16, post-holes in Trenches 9 and 26, and individual ditches in Trenches 10, 21, 24 and 26. Most of the archaeological remains were situated within the south-west half of the site.

4.1.2 All of the archaeological remains cut natural and were sealed beneath topsoil, the thickness of which ranged from 0-0.56m. This broad variance was clearly not natural and was probably due to the site having been previously roughly stripped of its turf, and to much of its ground surface having been made uneven with dumps and spreads of loose turf and topsoil.

4.1.3 The visibility of the archaeological features was moderate to good. The geology of the natural varied but mainly comprised brownish-orange firm silt clay, alongside pockets of coarse sandy gravel and areas of slightly dark brownish-grey friable silt clay with infrequent small stones. No subsoil was found, with the possible exception of Trench 13 where a 0-0.14m thick layer of brownish grey plastic silt clay with infrequent small stones appeared to be present.

4.1.4 If the disturbance caused by the previous groundworks is excluded, then the only other signs of potential disturbance to the underlying archaeological remains were infrequent tree roots and ceramic mole drains.

4.1.3 The seven trenches containing archaeological remains are described in sections 4.2-4.8. An overview of the negative trenches is presented in section 4.9 and further deposit detail given in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.33-0.51	67.46 - 67.76
5/002	Deposit	?Natural	11.75	1.8	0.43	67.11 - 67.46
5/003	Deposit	Natural	30	1.8	Not exc.	67.11 - 67.46
5/004	?Cut	?Cut-feature	30	1.8	0.45	

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 A large man-made or natural feature [5/004] extended across the central section of Trench 5. It measured 11.75m wide and c.0.45m deep and it contained pale brownish grey friable silt clay with infrequent small pieces of dark grey / black iron concretion [5/002], but no finds. This feature did not extend north as far as Trench 3.

4.3 Trench 9 (Fig. 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	14	1.8	0.27-0.43	74.49-74.92
5/002	Deposit	Natural	14	1.8	Not exc.	74.22-74.65
5/003	Deposit	Fill	0.18	0.18	0.13	
5/004	Cut	Post-hole	0.18	0.18	0.13	

4.3.1 A small square post-hole was discovered towards the south end of Trench 9 [9/004]. It measured 0.18m square and it had near vertical sides and a flat base. A very degraded copper-alloy coin was recovered from its single fill [5/003] and was probably minted during the Roman or post-medieval period.

4.4 Trench 10 (Fig.4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	23	1.8	0.27-0.43	73.12-74.12
10/002	Deposit	Natural	23	1.8	Not exc.	72.26-73.83
10/003	Deposit	Fill	1.8	3.5	0.75	
10/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8	3.5	0.75	

4.4.1 A large, north-south aligned, ditch [10/004] extended across the east end of Trench 10, in the west part of the site. It measured 3.5m wide and at least 0.75m deep. Its sole exposed fill comprised dark grey clay silt with lenses of pale clay and gravel and had probably been recently deposited since it contained a large amount of rotting vegetation. The southward continuation of this apparently linear feature was not identified in Trenches 20 or 24.

4.5 Trench 16 (Fig. 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	32	1.8	0.26-0.36	71.74-72.68
16/002	Deposit	Natural	32	1.8	Not exc.	71.45-72.53
16/003	Deposit	Layer	2.1	1	0.05	
16/004	Deposit	Layer	2.1	1	0.25	
16/005	Deposit	Natural	2.1	1	Not exc.	

4.5.1 Trench 16 exposed two buried layers, both of which were probably related to landscaping during the medieval period or later. Layer [16/004], the earlier of the two, comprised a 0.25m-thick layer of orange brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal [16/004]. Its full extent was not established and it overlay natural deposit [16/005]. Subsequent deposit [16/003] covered part of it and was 0.05m thick. It comprised greyish brown silty gravel and was 0.05m thick. Layer [16/003] contained a fragment of Roman imbrex, and layer [16/004] included three small sherds of earlier Iron Age pottery and five pieces of medieval to post-medieval roof tile.

4.6 Trench 21 (Fig. 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
21/001	Deposit	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.18-0.24	72.61-72.71
21/002	Deposit	Natural	30	1.8	Not exc.	72.46-72.51
21/003	Deposit	Fill	1	0.85	0.18	
21/004	Cut	Ditch	1	0.85	0.18	

4.6.1 East-west aligned ditch [21/004] G1 extended across the south end of Trench 21 in the south-central part of the site. Only 0.18m deep, it had shallow sloping sides and a flat base and its single fill [21/003] comprised dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate flecks of charcoal and occasional gravel stones. It contained a single small piece of undatable ceramic building material.

4.7 Trench 24 (Fig. 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
24/001	Deposit	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.18-0.4	73.85-74.09
24/002	Deposit	Natural	30	1.8	Not exc.	73.66-73.68
24/003	Deposit	Fill	1.8	0.95	0.2	
24/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.95	0.2	

4.7.1 The central part of Trench 24 in the south-west corner of the evaluation area revealed an east-west running ditch [24/004], which was probably part of the same ditch as ditch [21/004] in Trench 21 (G1). It had a broad, shallow 0.2m-deep profile and its single fill consisted of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt, with flecks of charcoal and fired clay. The finds retrieved from the feature comprised two small fragments of probable Early to Middle Saxon pottery, and a piece of Roman tile.

4.8 Trench 26 (Fig. 8 and front cover)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
26/001	Deposit	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.24-0.35	71.85-71.88
26/002	Deposit	Natural	30	1.8	Not exc.	71.49-71.53
26/003	Deposit	Fill	1.8	1.89	0.25	
26/004	Deposit	Fill	1.8	0.66	0.22	
26/005	Cut	Ditch	1.8	1.89	0.47	
26/006	Deposit	Fill	0.3	0.16	0.26	
26/007	Cut	Post-hole	0.3	0.16	0.26	
26/008	Deposit	Fill	0.35	0.32	0.15	
26/009	Cut	Post-hole	0.35	0.32	0.15	
26/010	Deposit	Fill	0.56	0.44	0.40	
26/011	Cut	Post-hole	0.56	0.44	0.40	

4.8.1 Trench 26, near the south edge of the site, revealed a ditch [26/005] and a line of three post-holes [26/007, 26/009 and 26/011]. The post-holes

suggested a fence and one of them [26/007] cut the latest fill of the ditch, thereby demonstrating their stratigraphic relationship.

4.8.2 Ditch [26/005] ran east-west and was possibly part of the same boundary as ditches [21/004 and 24/004] to the west (G1). It was 0.47m deep and had moderate, slightly convex, sloping sides and a V-shaped base. Its fill sequence composed grey [24/004] and greyish brown [26/003] primary and latest fills respectively and, although both contained occasional flecks and fragments of charcoal, neither contained artefacts.

4.8.3 The post-holes [26/007, 26/009 and 26/011] were oval and sub-rectangular in plan and their profiles comprised steep to vertical sides above flat and slightly concave bases. They were spaced roughly 2m apart and their projected course ran perpendicular with the adjacent stretch of Ongar Road and to the south, suggesting that they formed a fence line (G2). Their single fills each comprised dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and fired clay. None of the post-holes contained artefacts.

4.9 Trenches 1-4, 7, 8, 11-15, 17-20, 22, 23 and 25

4.9.1 Eighteen trenches, most of which were situated within the site's north-east half, revealed no archaeological remains (Trenches 1-4, 7, 8, 11-15, 17-20, 22, 23 and 25). The deposit sequence of all but one of them comprised topsoil directly on natural. Trench 13, the exception to this, had an intervening layer of subsoil. Appendix 1 presents further details of the deposit sequence of each trench.

5.0 FINDS REPORTS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. Bulk finds were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 3). A single registered find was also recorded, detailed in section 5.4. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)
16/003			1	107
16/004	3	14	5	117
21/003			1	3
24/003	2	2	1	22
<i>Total</i>	5	16	8	249

Table 3: Quantification of bulk finds

5.2 Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A very small assemblage of pottery was recovered from two evaluation contexts. Context [16/004] contained three sherds, from two vessels, with relatively coarse/ill-sorted flint inclusions, in fairly sparse frequencies, set within a hard-fired sandy matrix. Included is a partial rim but it is too fragmented to give a good impression of the overall form. In general, fabrics of this type are typical of the earlier Iron Age (c.800-300BC).

5.2.2 Two tiny conjoining sherds from context [24/003] are also hand-made wares, which are clearly not directly contemporary with the Roman ceramic building material with which they were found. They have a fine silty background matrix with sparse linear voids from burnt out organic material and a single large inclusion of opaque quartz. An Iron Age date cannot be ruled out, though organic-rich fabrics are probably more typical of the Early/Middle Saxon period.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Eight pieces of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing a total of 249g, were hand-collected from four evaluation contexts: [16/003], [16/004], [21/003] and [24/003]. All of the CBM was formed from the same red brickearth-type clay, with moderate quantities of unsorted quartz.

5.3.2 The five flat tile pieces from [16/004] were 14mm in thickness and one had a partial round peg hole; these fragments are believed to be medieval or early post-medieval in date. The tile fragment collected from [16/003] was slightly thicker at ~16mm, and had a clear curve along one edge that is typical of Roman imbrex roof tiles. The piece of combed box flue tile recovered from [24/003] was also Roman, and the CBM fragment from [21/003] too fragmented to determine original form or date. There were trace amounts of mortar still present in the combed striations.

5.4 Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 A single copper alloy coin was recovered from context [9/003]. The coin is extremely corroded and both faces are illegible, the original surfaces now missing. It has a diameter of 28.5mm. It could be Roman or post-medieval in date.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 Only a small number of archaeological deposits and features have been revealed by the archaeological evaluation and these comprise an undatable man-made or natural feature [5/004], a small Roman or later post-hole [9/004], two medieval or post-medieval buried layers [16/004 and 16/005], two ditches [10/004] and (G1), and a line of three post-holes representing a medieval or later fence line (G2). All of the features lie immediately beneath topsoil and all of them have been truncated by cultivation.
- 7.1.2 Only one of the features [5/004] is sited in the site's north-east half [5/004]. Its full extent has not been exposed and its fill contains infrequent flecks of dark grey / black iron concretion, the presence of which possibly implies that the feature is natural.
- 7.1.3 The tree-grubbing which preceded the evaluation has caused a small amount of very localised disturbance penetrating into the top of the natural deposit. Otherwise, evidence for historic site disturbance caused by land drainage, and truncation other than by ploughing has not been encountered and it consequently seems probable that the low incidence of archaeological remains across the site is genuine.

7.2 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 7.2.1 The archaeological remains can be separated into four broad periods (Earlier Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, and medieval to modern) by using a combination of artefact spot-dates, stratigraphic and spatial relationships, and historic maps.

Earlier Iron Age

- 7.2.2 The three small sherds of earlier Iron Age pottery from buried layer [16/004] are residual within a medieval/post-medieval context, but nonetheless probably imply that land use activity was taking place within the site and/or its vicinity during that period. A number of Iron Age settlements sites were encountered during the course of the archaeological excavation of the Braintree to M11 section of the A120, although none of these lie within the outskirts of Dunmow (Timby *et al* 2007). It could be the case that the evaluation site and its vicinity were only lightly occupied during that period, although a more probable reason is that the area's more significant and better surviving Iron Age remains have yet to be discovered. Use of the vicinity of the site for occupation during the preceding Late Bronze Age is probably implied by the Late Bronze Age discrete features, gullies and cremation burial which were discovered west of Ongar Road, during the archaeological investigation of the A120, although the information they provide is slight because they are small in number.

Roman

7.2.3 The fragment of imbrex from layer [16/003] and the small piece of box-flue tile from medieval/post-medieval ditch [24/003] suggest land use during the Roman period. Both items are construction-related and since they are unaccompanied by datable Roman features they probably originate from a nearby off-site settlement, the Roman small town of Dunmow, c.450m to the north-east being the most obvious candidate. Farms are known to have existed to the immediate west and near north-west of Dunmow during the Roman period (Germany *et al.* forthcoming; Lavender 1997) and it could be the case that the hinterland of the opposite side of the town was no different to this.

Saxon

7.2.4 The two residual sherds of probable Early/Middle Saxon pottery from medieval/post-medieval ditch [24/004] either relate to on-site occupation or, perhaps, to dispersal of farm or town midden heaps via muck spreading.

Medieval to Modern

7.2.5 The medieval to modern remains comprise buried layers [16/004 and 16/005], ditch [10/004] and fence-line G2. Ditch G1 is also possibly medieval or later and although no datable finds were retrieved from it to confirm or refute this, it can nonetheless be suggested to have been part of one side of short-lived roadside enclosure. Fence-line G2 clearly post-dates it and is perhaps additional evidence for the site having been occasionally sub-divided by fences and/or ditches during the more recent past. Layers [16/002] and [16/005] are artefactually dated to the medieval period or later and probably relate to deliberate infilling of a natural dip in the landscape, the full extent of which has not been established.

7.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

7.3.1 The recorded archaeological features generally survive beneath a variable thickness of 0-0.56m of topsoil. Due to their relatively shallow burial, it is likely that, where present, remains within this site will be impacted by construction activities associated with the proposed residential development. However, the scattered, low-density occurrence of remains of various periods is judged to be of low local significance and to have negligible potential to contribute to the understanding of the past use of the landscape surrounding Dunmow town.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation probably imply that the site has never been intensively occupied and since the Early Iron Age, at least, has probably comprised farmland and/or woodland. If any occupation has taken place within its area then it has probably been short-lived and/or of low intensity.

7.4.2 It is possible that some or all of the Roman, Saxon, medieval and later

artefacts originate from town and farmyard midden heaps and were dispersed across the site during manuring, since they are few in number and all of them are small and abraded. If this is the case then many, if not all, are residual items in later features.

- 7.4.3 The presence of two, albeit very small, sherds of Early to Middle Saxon pottery is of some local significance. It could be the case that the remains of Roman Dunmow were a focal point for activity during the Saxon period, since further sherds have been also been found at Buildings Farm to the west of the town and at New Street in Dunmow (Lavender 1997, 81; Wickenden 1988, 32-50; EHER 13866-7 and 1882-4).
- 7.4.4 Historic maps suggest the site to have been formerly part of the deer park of Shingle Hall / Olives to the west, a medieval manor dating back to the time of the Domesday Book (CgMs Consulting 2012) and if that was so then for much of the last 900 years it may have consisted of woodland and scrub. The date of the park's disemparkment is not known, although it seems likely that the recorded ditches post-date this and were in use during the post-medieval period or later.
- 7.4.5 The site has been demonstrated to contain a low-density scatter of archaeological remains of low local significance and negligible potential for further study. It is judged that the development of this site will have a minimal adverse impact upon the heritage resource of this location of Great Dunmow.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE thanks CgMs Consulting for commissioning the evaluation work, and Essex County Council Place Services for its monitoring and guidance. The project was managed by Niall Oakey and the archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Germany and Mike Bazley. The site surveying was carried out by Kate Clover and the post-excavation work was managed by Mark Atkinson. Figures 1 to 7 were produced by Andrew Lewsey.

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HER Summary

Site name / Address: Ongar Road, Great Dunmow	
Parish: Dunmow	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 562750 221010	Site Code: GDOR16
Type of Work: Archaeological evaluation	Site Director / Group: Mark Germany, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 4/7/16 to 12/7/16	Size of Area Investigated: 3.65ha
Location of Finds / Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Client: CgMs Consulting
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos:
Final Report: EAH roundup?	OASIS Ref: 258062
Periods represented: Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out within former medieval park land at Ongar Road, Great Dunmow in early July 2016, in advance of residential development.</p> <p>The trenching revealed the presence of few archaeological features, which included two post-medieval ditches and a post-medieval or modern fence-line represented by a line of three post-holes. Very low quantities of Roman ceramic building material and earlier Iron Age and Saxon pot sherds were also present, but were residual in later deposits and features. The results of the evaluation suggest that the site has never been intensively occupied and has probably always consisted of woodland and/or farmland.</p> <p>The ditches are presumed to relate to agricultural land use after disemparkment.</p>	
Previous Summaries / Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: July 2016

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Ceramic	Early Iron Age	3 sherds
Pottery	Ceramic	?Early to Middle Saxon	2 sherds
CBM	Ceramic	Roman and Medieval/early post-medieval	8 fragments
Coin	Copper alloy	Roman or medieval	1

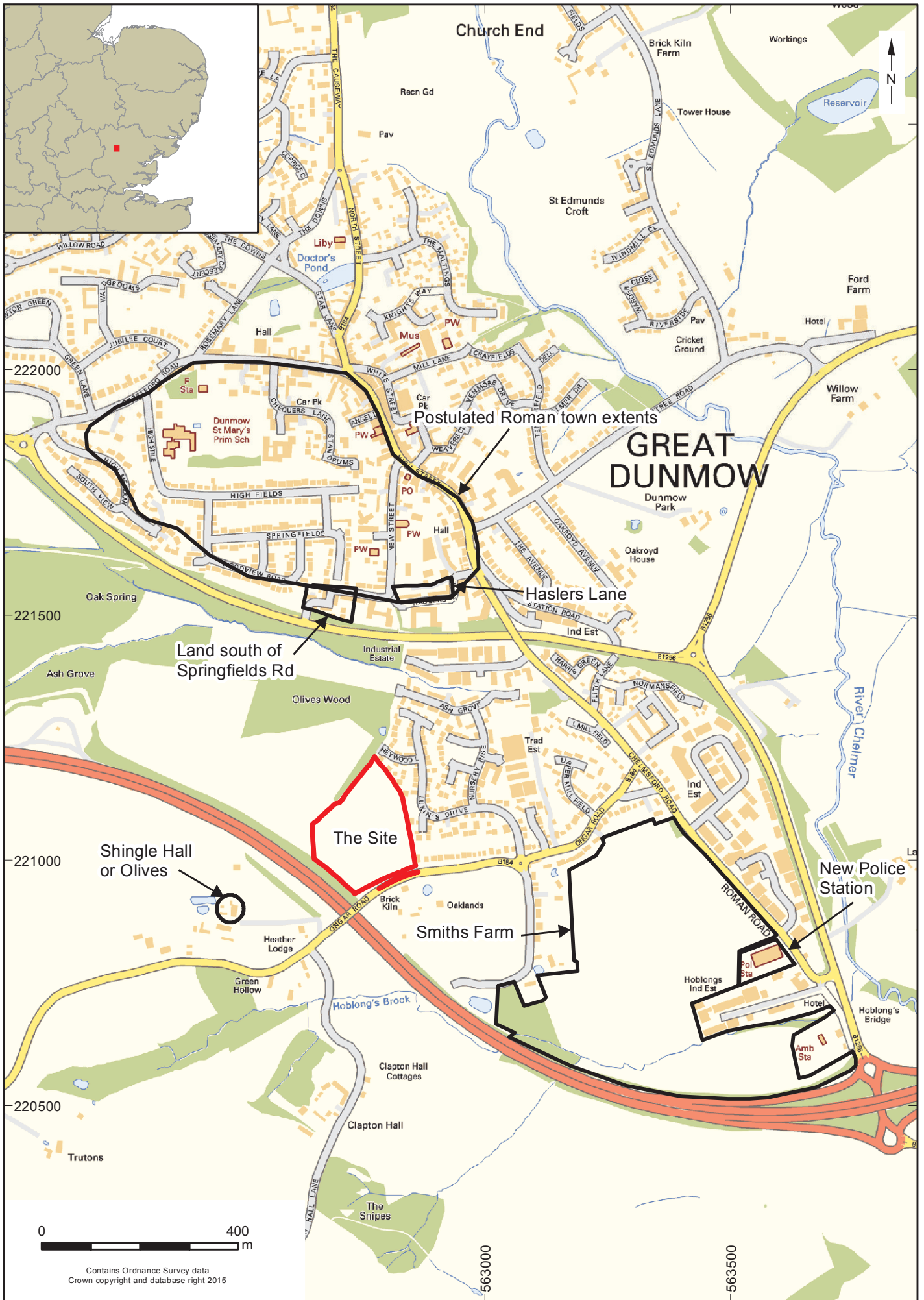
OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-258062	
Project details	
Project name	North of Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of twenty-five trenches was carried out in advance of residential development at Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex. The trenching revealed a low incidence of archaeological remains, including several medieval or later ditches and small number of residual artefacts, including earlier Iron Age and Saxon pot sherds, and fragments of Roman and medieval / post-medieval ceramic building material. The results of the trenching suggest that the site has mainly comprised parkland and has never been intensively occupied.
Project dates	Start: 04-07-2016 End: 12-07-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	GDOR16 - Sitecode 160210 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 7 - Scrub
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age POTTERY Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT DUNMOW Land North of Ongar Road
Postcode	CM6 1XQ
Study area	3.65 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 62765 21040 51.863685563927 0.364136696648 51 51 49 N 000 21 50 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 67.35m Max: 74.09m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting

Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Niall Oakey
Project supervisor	Mark Germany
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Redrow Homes
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: Land North of Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Germany, M.
Other biblio details	160210
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4. 23 pages of text and tables. 8 illustrations
Entered by	Mark Atkinson (mark.atkinson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	20 July 2016

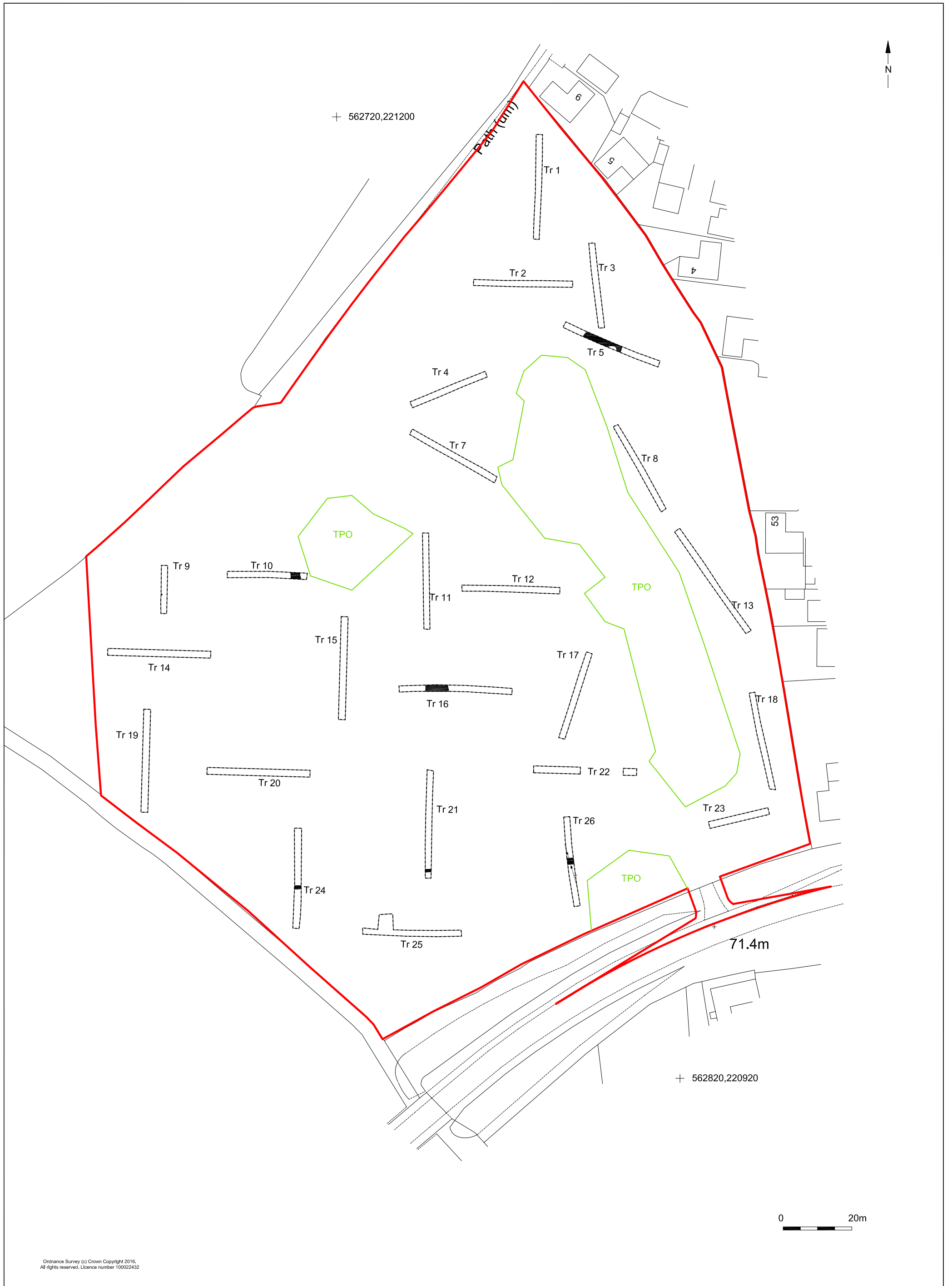
Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.2-0.28	67.63-67.88
	1/002	Layer	Natural		67.31-67.64
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.31-0.34	67.35-69.12
	2/002	Layer	Natural		67.36-68.72
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.44-0.55	67.16-67.37
	3/002	Layer	Natural		66.64-66.8
	3/003	Layer	Natural		66.64-66.8
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.21-0.3	67.76-70.41
	4/002	Layer	Natural		67.36-70.02
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.33-0.51	67.46-67.76
	5/002	Layer	Natural		67.11-67.35
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.43	69.91-70.31
	7/002	Layer	Natural		69.88-70.03
	7/003	Layer	Natural		69.88-70.03
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.47	68.16-69.44
	8/002	Layer	Natural		67.98-68.88
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12-0.36	71.81-72.73
	11/002	Layer	Natural		71.62-72.24
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.41	71.79-72.24
	12/002	Layer	Natural		70.93-71.44
	12/003	Layer	Natural		70.93-71.44
13	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3-0.4	69.09-69.58
	13/002	Layer	Subsoil	0-0.14	Not rec.
	13/003	Layer	Natural		69.64-70.17
	13/003	Layer	Natural		69.64-70.17
14	14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.2-0.26	74.89-75.7
	14/002	Layer	Natural		Not rec.
15	15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.11-0.17	73.59-74.37
	15/002	Layer	Natural		Not rec.
	15/003	Layer	Natural		Not rec.
17	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.56	71.18-71.53
	17/002	Layer	Natural		70.61-71.34
18	18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.31-0.47	70.65-71.06
	18/002	Layer	Natural		70.25-70.72
19	19/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.32	75.63-75.68
	19/002	Layer	Natural		Not rec.
20	20/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.4	74.4-74.86
	20/002	Layer	Natural		Not rec.
22	22/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.21-0.25	71.54-72.0
	22/002	Layer	Natural		71.25-71.79
23	23/003	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.4	71.28-72.01
	23/004	Layer	Natural		Not rec.
25	25/001	Layer	Topsoil	Not recorded	73.85-74.09
	25/002	Layer	Natural		73.66-73.68



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Project Ref: 160210	July 2016	Site location	
Report No: 2016294	Drawn by: APL		

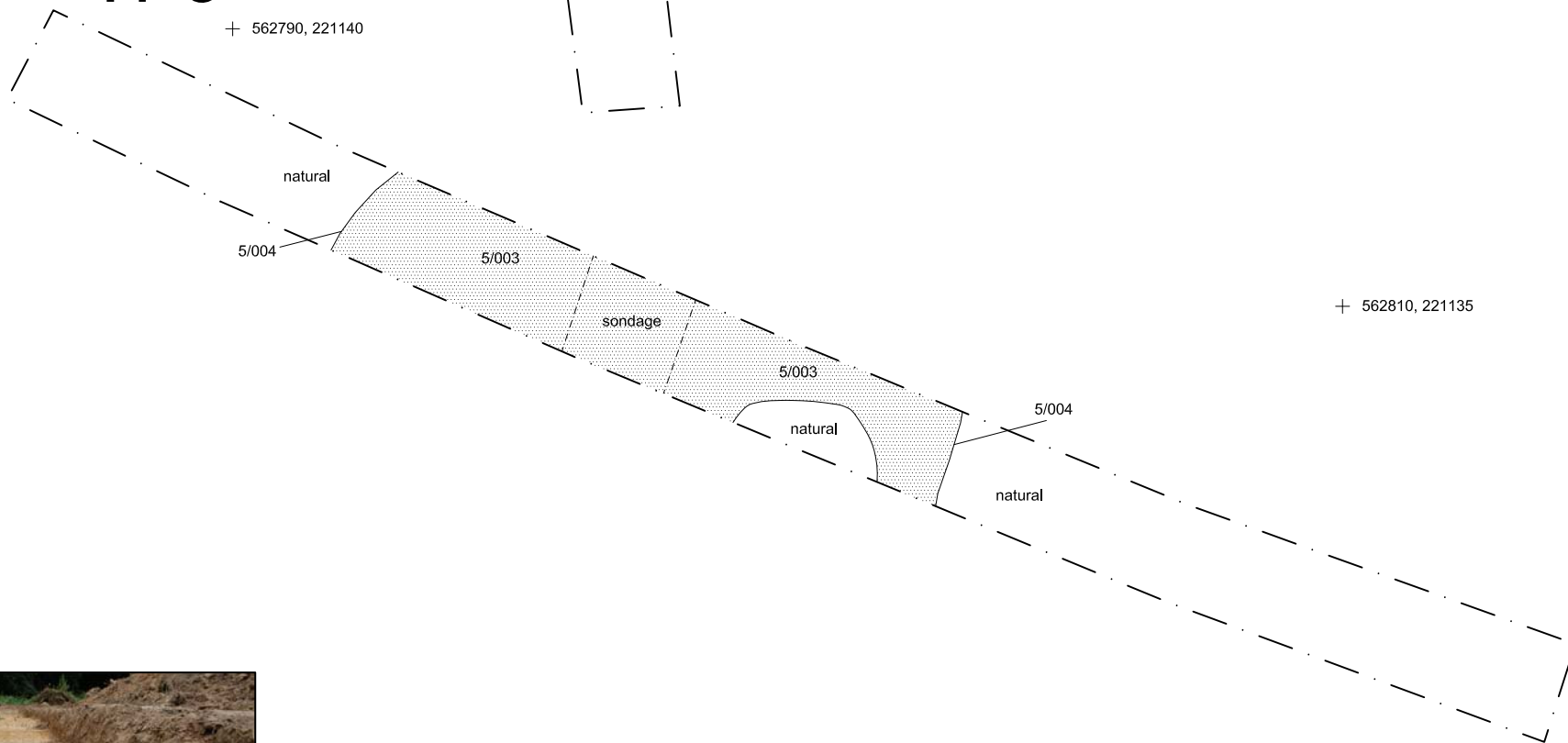


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© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Ongar Road, Great Dunmow	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160210	July 2016	Location of evaluation trenches	
Report Ref: 2016294	Drawn by: APL		

Tr 5

+ 562790, 221140



Sondage through layer 5/003 looking east, 1m scale

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Land north of Ongar Road, Great Dunmow

Project Ref: 160210

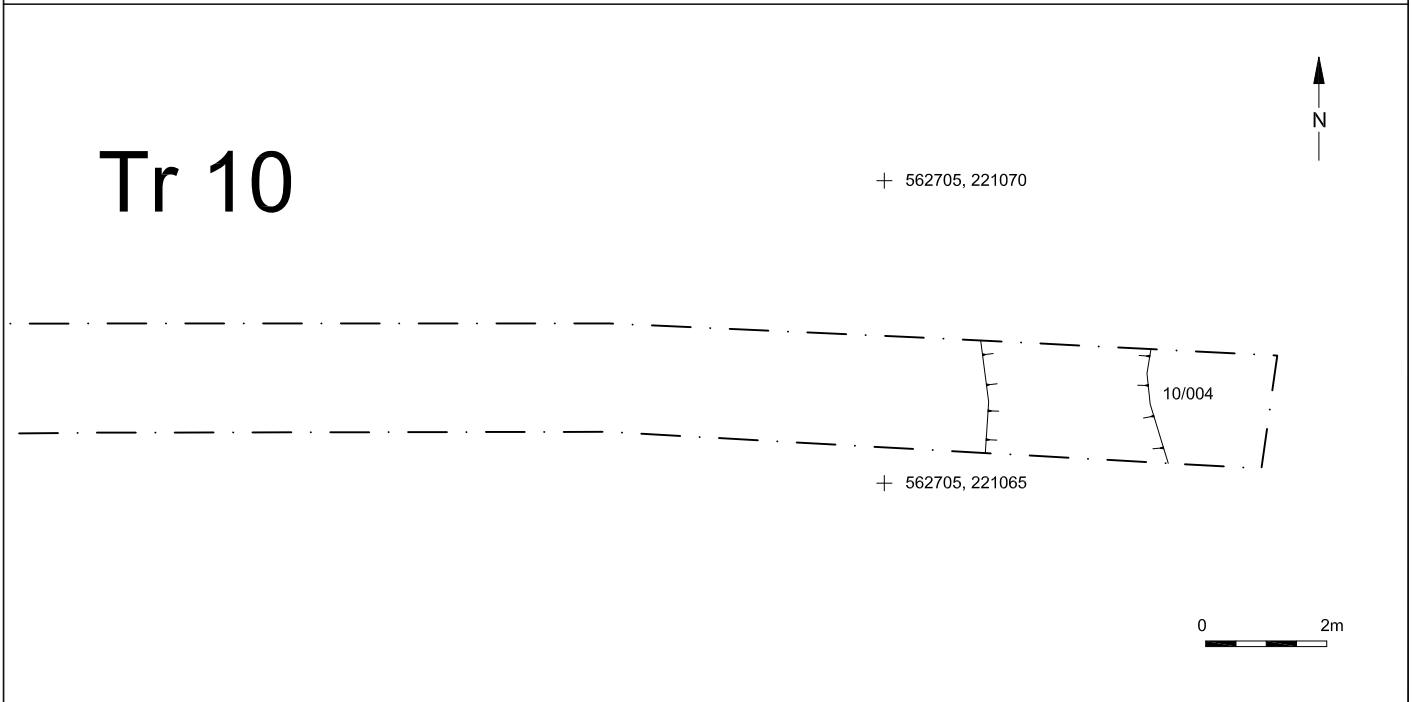
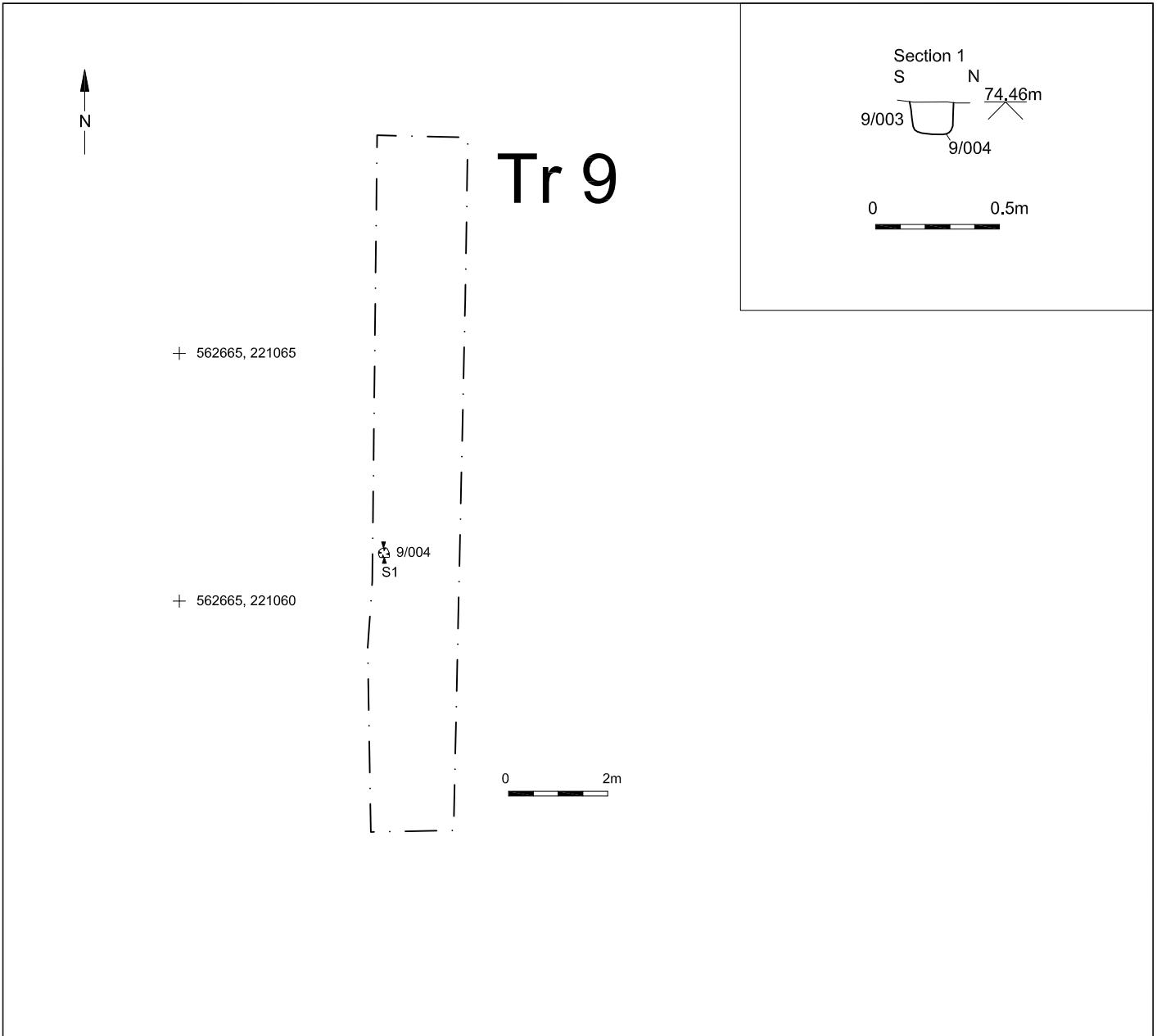
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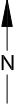
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Trench 5

Fig. 3

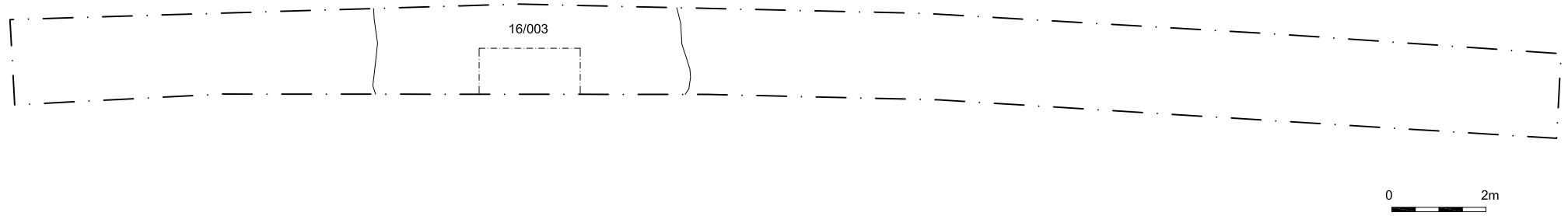


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Project Ref: 160210	July 2016	Trenches 9 and 10	
Report Ref: 2016294	Drawn by: APL		



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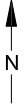
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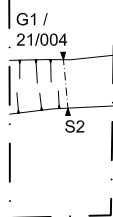
Sondage through layer 16/003 looking south, 1m scale

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Project Ref: 160210	July 2016	Trench 16	
Report Ref: 2016294	Drawn by: APL		

+ 562750, 221010



Tr 21

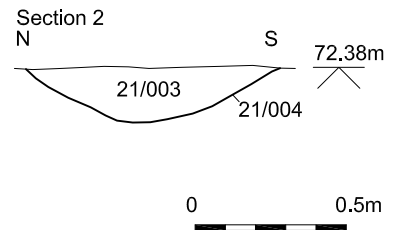


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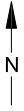
0 2m



Ditch 21/004 looking east, 1m scale



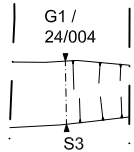
© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Ongar Road, Great Dunmow	Fig.6
Project Ref: 160210	July 2016	Trench 21	
Report Ref: 2016294	Drawn by: APL		



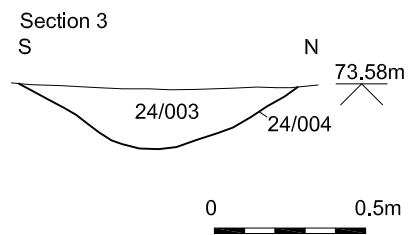
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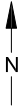
+ 562705, 220990

+ 562705, 220970



Ditch 24/004 looking west, 1m scale

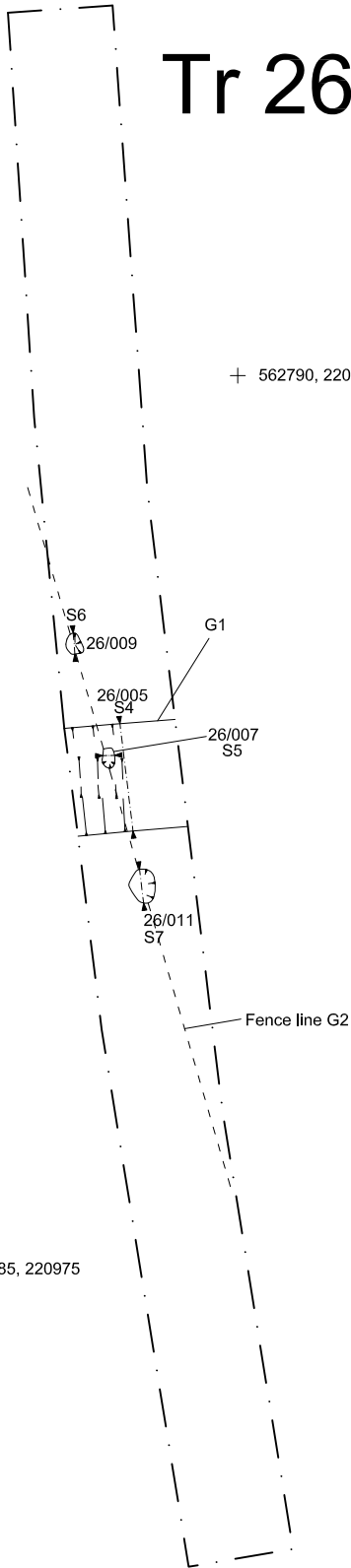




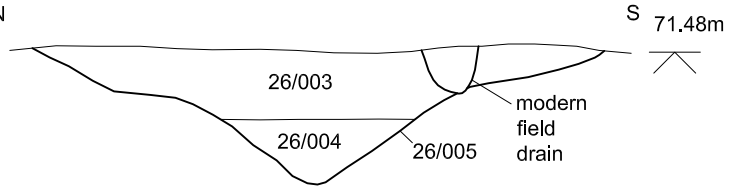
Tr 26

+ 562790, 220990

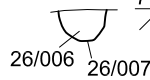
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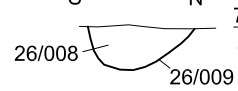
Section 4
N



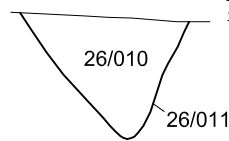
Section 5
W E 71.33m



Section 6
S N 71.47m



Section 7
S N 71.45m



Ditch 26/005 looking west, 1m scale



Ditch 26/007 looking north, 1m scale



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Sussex Office

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

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

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

