

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**  
**LAND TO THE WEST OF STOWMARKET ROAD**  
**GREAT BLAKENHAM**  
**SUFFOLK**

**ASE Project No: 160598**  
**Site/Parish Code: BLG037**  
**Event No: ESF24366**

**ASE Report No: 2016334**



**September 2016**

# Archaeological Evaluation

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Great Blakenham, Suffolk

NGR: TM 11555 51018

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OASIS id: 258587

By Trevor Ennis

With contributions by  
Gemma Ayton, Luke Barber, Isa Benedetti-Whitton, Susan Chandler  
Trista Clifford, Anna Doherty, Karine Le Hégarat, Mariangela Vitolo  
and Helen Walker  
Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Trevor Ennis	Senior Archaeologist
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Mark Atkinson	Project Manager
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	September 2016	
<b>Revision:</b>		

Archaeology South-East  
27 Eastways  
Witham  
Essex  
CM8 3YQ

Tel: 01376 331470  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse)

## **Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land to the west of Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk, in August 2016. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and undertaken in accordance with a Suffolk County Council Archaeology Section brief in advance of residential development.*

*The surrounding vicinity contains many archaeological sites, findspots and recorded surface scatters, particularly of prehistoric and Roman date. Stowmarket Road, bordering the east of the site is presumed to perpetuate the course of the Colchester to Caistor Roman road. A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken earlier in 2016.*

*A total of 49 evaluation trenches were excavated across the 4.6ha development area, some targeted on anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey. Eighteen of the trenches were established to contain below-ground archaeological remains.*

*No features of demonstrably prehistoric date were identified, though the recovery of a small quantity of humanly struck flint attests to a human presence in the landscape. One pit in the north of the site might be Iron Age, though its dating is based on a single abraded sherd of pottery (which could equally be Anglo-Saxon). Similarly, no features of Roman date were found.*

*The majority of recorded features were of Late Saxon/Early Medieval date (11th-12th century AD) and formed a clear concentration in the east of the site alongside Stowmarket Road. Comprising ditches, pits and possible structural remains, these may constitute occupation, such as a farmstead, alongside the former Roman road. These Late Saxon/Early medieval features were overlain by 0.6-0.8m of subsoil, presumably a hillwash accumulation at the foot of the slope.*

*Recorded post-medieval remains were confined to three field boundary ditches, two of which are shown on 19th and earlier 20th century OS mapping. The third ditch was previously unknown and, although roughly parallel with the mapped ditches, is suspected to have predated them.*

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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 to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk. The evaluation was undertaken to assess the nature and potential of the site for archaeological remains in advance of proposed residential development.
- 1.1.2 The development area (hereafter 'the site') is located on the northern edge of the village of Great Blakenham, in Mid Suffolk District, c.4 miles/6.5 km northwest of Ipswich (NGR: TM 11555 51018; Fig. 1).
- 1.1.3 The 4.6ha site is irregular in outline and generally bounded to the north and west by open fields and woodland, to the east by Stowmarket Road with some residential properties alongside it, and to the south by residential housing along Chequers Rise.

### **1.2 Topography and Geology**

- 1.2.1 The site occupies a pronounced west to east slope, also falling from south to north, from its boundary with Chequers Rise to the allotment gardens at the north. A mean spot height of 21m AOD was recorded in the central region.
- 1.2.2 The site currently comprises two fields under arable cultivation. A bisecting belt of young trees runs diagonally across its approximate middle.
- 1.2.3 The solid geology of the area comprises Newhaven Chalk Formation sedimentary bedrock. Superficial deposits are not recorded (BGS 2016).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 A planning applications has been made (No. 2022/16) to Mid Suffolk District Council for the construction of 130 dwellings over 4.6 ha.
- 1.4 The Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) has advised the Local Planning Authority (LPA) that the location of the proposed development could affect important archaeological deposits and has recommended that an archaeological field evaluation is required. This is in order for the LPA to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of any below-ground heritage assets at this location and allow mitigation strategies to be developed. A Brief for Archaeological Evaluation was issued by SCCAS/CT in July 2016, detailing the requirements of these works.
- 1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation was consequently prepared by ASE (2016), and approved by SCCAS/CT prior to commencement of fieldwork.

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

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation of the land proposed for development. The fieldwork was carried out by Trevor Ennis (Senior Archaeologist) between the 1st and 12th August 2016, and was managed by Niall Oakey.
- 1.4.2 Copies of this report will be supplied to CgMS who will distribute the report to the appropriate bodies.
- 1.4.3 The results of this evaluation will be used to inform decisions regarding the need for and extent of any further archaeological work required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on any heritage assets that are present where a design solution cannot be implemented to ensure their preservation in-situ.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 General**

- 2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was written in 2015 (Feldkamp 2015) and a geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd 2016) subsequently carried out on the site. The following background summarises these more-detailed documents and cites references from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). The most pertinent sites and find spots are located on Figure 1.
- 2.1.2 Multi-period finds have been located within the general vicinity of the site, the situation of which within the Gipping Valley is considered topographically favourable location for occupation of all periods.
- 2.1.3 Prehistoric flint artefacts of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic date have been recovered from quarry sites to the east of the River Gipping (BRH001, BRH003 and BRH012).
- 2.1.4 Cropmarks of a circular ring ditch of probable Bronze Age date are recorded in a field c.600m to the north-west of the site along with field boundaries and an enclosure of unknown date (BAY034). To the west, a Late Bronze Age field system has been identified at Hill Farm, Baylham (BAY056).
- 2.1.5 Iron Age artefacts including two Trinovantian coins were recovered in a field to the west of the site (BLG004). Iron Age pottery was recovered from a quarry pit to the east (BRH005) and further Iron Age sherds were present in apparent hillwash deposits at Tollgate Farm c.250m south-east of the site (BLG 013).
- 2.1.3 Stowmarket Road, which defines the east edge of the site, is presumed to perpetuate the presumed line of the Colchester to Caistor Roman road (MSF2276, 27238). A number of sites and artefact scatters in its near vicinity, including one (MSF22523) adjacent to the site, suggest Roman occupation alongside it.
- 2.1.4 The field to the west of the site (BLG004) also contained a significant Roman finds scatter and the presence of a Roman temple site has been speculated. A Roman field system was identified in fields further west at Hill Farm (BAY056). Other Roman artefact scatters have been found in the area, for example, at BLG007 and BLG008 to the south.
- 2.1.5 No Saxon remains have been identified in the area although Saxon metalwork has been recovered from several sites, for example BLG004, BLG007, BLG008 and BLG011. Two medieval ditches were excavated at Tollgate Farm (BLG 013) and quarry pits of Roman and/or medieval date were investigated at Kingfisher Drive (BLG035), both to the south of the present site. Medieval coins were recovered from a housing development east of Stowmarket Road (BLG006) and further artefacts were found at sites BLG007 and BLG008.
- 2.1.6 St Mary's church, located to the southeast on the opposite side of Stowmarket Road, is of 11th/12th century date (BLG 005). Great Wood to the west of the



site is recorded as ancient woodland (BLG 012). Post-medieval ditches and field systems have been identified at Kingfisher Drive (BLG035) and Hill Farm (BAY056). A bridge over the River Gipping is depicted on a map of 1783 (BLG014).

- 2.1.10 Historic mapping indicates that the site has largely comprised open agricultural land since at least the early 17th century. The Blakenham Tithe Map of 1840 shows the site as comprising three fields, bounded to the west by Great Wood and to the east by Stowmarket Road. The 1889 OS map additionally depicts an 'Old Chalk Pit' alongside Great Wood in the southernmost field. The OS mapping from 1926 onwards shows the site as a single field, with remains of the chalk pit still evident into the 1970s.
- 2.1.11 The row of houses on the road frontage in the northeast corner of the site, known as 'Broomfields', is built prior to 1945. Allotments along the north edge of the site are subsequently created.

## **2.2 Previous works on site**

- 3.3 A recent geophysical survey of the site identified limited evidence of potential archaeological remains (Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd 2016). This comprised of a small number of discrete and linear anomalies that might, conceivably signify pits and ditches. Possible linear cultivation features (?ridge and furrow) were also identified. An anomaly likely associated with the edge of the Old Chalk Quarry was detected in the southwest corner of the site. No indication of the posited temple site in the neighbouring field was detected in the northwest.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Project Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological works was to obtain sufficient information as to the archaeological significance and potential of the site to allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for development of the site. Specified aims were:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the previously unevaluated section of the site
- To determine the extent, condition, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered
- To determine the extent of any previous truncations of the archaeological deposits
- To “ground truth” the results of the geophysical survey
- To enable the Senior Archaeological Officer at SCCAS/CT to make an informed decision regarding any possible requirements for further work
- To make the results of the investigation publicly accessible through submission of a report to the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record and of the project archive to the local museum

3.1.2 Specific research aims, taking into account *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: Part 1* (Glazebrook 1997) and *Part 2* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and the *Revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011), were to:

- Determine the presence/absence and significance of any evidence of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon activity within this location
- Determine the presence/absence and significance of any later activity on the site

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.2.1 Forty-nine 30m long by 2m wide evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, some of which were positioned to investigate identified geophysical anomalies. Most were located at or very close to the positions shown in Figure 2 of the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2016). However, a few were moved by c.5-10 metres in order to leave a safety zone either side of overhead and underground utilities. In the north of the site, Trenches 8, 11 and 12 were moved to avoid an overhead power line and in the south, Trenches 24 and 25 were re-positioned to avoid an underground gas pipe and Trenches 38, 46 and 47 were moved due to the presence of neighbouring overhead power cables.

- 3.2.2 Most of the trenches were excavated to the correct (30m) length. The exceptions being Trench 42 which was reduced in length to c.27m due to the presence of overhead electricity cables both in the field to its west and at the site boundary to its east and Trench 37 which was reduced in length to c.25m due to the overhead cable close to its west end.
- 3.2.3 Machining of the trenches was undertaken, under close archaeological supervision, using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket in stages to reveal the stratigraphy. Topsoil and subsoil were removed down to the top of the natural geology or the top of any archaeological remains encountered.
- 3.2.4 All archaeological features were hand-excavated; normally 50% of discrete features and 1m segments of larger features were excavated. Modern features were only excavated sufficient as to confirm their date and relationships. Additional machining was undertaken to remove deep subsoil deposits in Trenches 1, 2 and 3.
- 3.2.5 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 Suffolk County Council's *Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2012)* and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003)*.
- 3.2.6 All trenches were recorded regardless of the presence/absence of archaeological features. This included a record of soil stratigraphy at each end, and in the middle, and a post-excavation photograph as a minimum. Written records were maintained on pro forma trench sheets.
- 3.2.7 All features were accurately located and planned using GPS. A full photographic record comprising digital was made.
- 3.2.8 Where present, finds were retrieved from all excavated deposits and identified by context number to a specific deposit. These have been retained and processed according CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c). Where appropriate, finds were marked with the site code and context number.
- 3.2.9 Bulk soil samples were collected for the purposes of environmental study and/or retrieval of small artefacts. Minimum 40 litre samples were taken from potentially dated deposits judged to have potential to contain plant macrofossil remains.

### **3.3 Archive**

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Context sheets	102
Section/Plan sheets	13
Digital photos	90
Drawing register	2
Trench Record forms	49
Environmental sample register	1
Sample sheets	5
Finds	1 box
Environmental sample residues	5 samples

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Summary**

- 4.1.1 A total of 49 trenches were excavated. Most were 30m in length by 2m in width, the two exceptions being Trench 42 and Trench 37 which were both reduced in length due to the proximity of overhead power cables. Trench locations are shown on Figure 2. Some trenches, particularly those in the north and east of the site, were purposefully positioned to investigate the plotted positions of selected identified geophysical survey anomalies.
- 4.1.2 Mechanical excavation of the trenches reached depths that varied from 0.30m to 1.35m, although most were within a depth range of between 0.4m to 0.8m. The ground generally sloped from west to east and in many trenches the overburden was deepest at the downslope end of the trench. The removed overburden consisted of 0.30-0.50m of topsoil over subsoil that varied in depth from 0.05m to 0.95m. Appreciable thicknesses of subsoil were recorded in the north-west corner (particularly Trenches 1 to 4) and along the eastern edge of the site (Trenches 40 and 48).
- 4.1.3 Natural deposits varied in colour from yellow through pale brown to reddish brown and buff to light grey and consisted of a mixture of sand, silt, clay and gravel with many deposits having a high sand content. White bedrock chalk interspersed with reddish brown clay intrusions, probably of glacial origin, was common in the southern two thirds of the site. Many of these natural intrusions were of a linear form and were usually aligned down the prevailing slope.
- 4.1.4 Encountered archaeological remains were relatively sparse and, other than post-medieval field boundary ditches and a few undated sporadic features in the north-west of the site and a further field boundary ditch in the south, were mostly concentrated at the eastern edge of the site close to Stowmarket Road. This concentration, in Trenches 41, 42 and 44, consists of linear features, pits and post-holes mostly probably dating to the early medieval period on the basis of the limited pottery evidence recovered.
- 4.1.5 All trenches containing archaeological remains are described below in sections 4.2-4.20. Blank trenches where additional work was requested by the monitoring officer are also included.
- 4.1.6 Trenches that did not contain archaeological remains are briefly summarised in section 4.21. Further details of their recorded deposit sequences are presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.7 All trenches were metal-detected. 145 metal objects were retrieved from machine-stripped deposits, the majority miscellaneous ironwork and showing no correspondence with underlying archaeological remains. The results of this are further described in section 4.22.

## 4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Heights at E end of trench = 22.07 AOD (top)

Heights at W end of trench = 23.46 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark greyish brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.30
1/002	Layer	Subsoil – light brown sandy silt and gravel	30 x 2 x 0.20
1/003	Layer	Natural – mid yellowish brown sandy gravel	11+ x 2
1/004	Layer	Subsoil – dark brown silty sand	30 x 2 x 0.42
1/005	Fill	In 1/006 – dark brown sandy silt	2+ x 1.18 x 0.35
1/006	Cut	Ditch – NE/SW aligned, 40° sides, concave base	2+ x 1.18 x 0.35
1/007	Fill	In 1/010 (upper) – mid brownish grey silty clay	2+ x 1.5 x 0.50
1/008	Fill	In 1/010 (lower) – darkish brown silty sand	2+ x 1.1 x 0.16
1/009	Fill	In 1/010 (upper) – mid to dark brown silty sand	2+ x 0.90 x 0.50
1/010	Cut	Ditch – NE/SW aligned, irregular sides, flat base	2+ x 2 x 0.50

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 1 was orientated east/west and was located in the northwest corner of the site (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.3m of topsoil [1/001] over 0.2m of subsoil [1/002]. This sealed two linear features ([1/006] and [1/010]) which cut through a second layer of subsoil [1/004] up to 0.42m thick. Subsoil [1/004] was initially left in-situ but was later part-removed by machine at the request of the monitoring officer. One sherd of undetermined prehistoric pottery was recovered from this deposit. Exposed beneath the subsoil were natural deposits of yellowish brown sandy gravel [1/003]. No archaeological features were observed at this depth.

4.2.2 At the west end of the trench was a poorly defined ditch [1/006], aligned northeast/southwest and 1.18 wide by 0.35m deep. It contained a single fill [1/005] that was broadly similar to the surrounding subsoil but was slightly less gravelly and contained a few small pieces of animal bone.

4.2.3 Located closer to the centre of the trench was a second northeast/southwest aligned ditch [1/010] which was also poorly defined. The ditch was 2m wide by 0.5m deep and contained three fills ([1/007], [1/008] and [1/009]). Irregularity in the sides and a slightly odd arrangement of fills suggests that this ditch may have been subject to fairly heavy root disturbance. Finds from the ditch included animal bone and one sherd of possible Iron Age pottery that is likely to be residual. Ditch [1/010] continued to the northeast through Trenches 3 and 5.

### 4.3 Trench 2 (not illustrated)

Heights at NE end of trench = 21.97 AOD (top)

Heights at SW end of trench = 23.52 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
2/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.36
2/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown sandy silt, rare gravel	30 x 2 x 0.30
2/003	Layer	Natural – light yellow sandy gravel	8+ x 2
2/004	Layer	Subsoil – dark brown sandy gravelly silt	30 x 2 x 0.72

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 2 was orientated northeast/southwest and was located in the north-west corner of the site (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of up to 0.36m of topsoil [2/001] above up to an additional 1m of subsoil (layers [2/002] and [2/004]). Machining of the trench began at the southwest end. As natural deposits were initially proving elusive a sondage was dug by machine which revealed natural sandy gravel [2/003] at a depth of c.1.3m. As this was below the safe machining depth excavation was limited to the removal of topsoil and the upper subsoil, a depth of c.0.6m, for the remaining length of the trench. Subsequently, the northeast end of the trench was further investigated by machine and found to be just within safety limits at a depth of around 1.1m. An 8m long stretch of natural gravel [2/003] was then exposed in the base of the trench, but no archaeological features were identified.

### 4.4 Trench 3 (Figures 4 and 12)

Heights at NW end of trench = 21.12 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 21.36 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil – darkish brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.4
3/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.22
3/003	Layer	Natural – dark brown sandy clay, occ. brown clay	20+ x 2
3/004	Layer	Subsoil – dark brown sandy silt & gravel	30 x 2 x 0.32
3/005	Fill	In 3/007 (upper) – mid brownish grey silty clay	2+ x 1.42 x 0.23
3/006	Fill	In 3/007 (lower) – darkish brown silty sand	2+ x 1.33 x 0.26
3/007	Cut	Ditch – NE/SW aligned, 25° sides, flattish base	2+ x 1.75 x 0.31

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 3 was roughly orientated northwest/southeast and was located in the north of the site (Figure 2). The removed overburden consisted of up to 0.4m of topsoil [3/001] above two layers of subsoil ([3/002] and [3/004]). Natural brown sandy gravel [3/003] was exposed for just over 20m in the southern two thirds of the trench. Initially, only an 8m extent of natural was exposed beneath lower subsoil [3/004]. This was subsequently extended by machine to 20m at the request of the monitoring officer (Figure 12). No archaeological features were observed cutting the natural deposits.

4.4.2 One northeast/southwest aligned ditch [3/007] was present at the north end of the trench and appeared to be the northeastern continuation of ditch [1/010] from Trench 1. The ditch was sealed by upper subsoil [3/002] but cut into

lower subsoil [3/004]. It was 1.75m wide by just over 0.3m deep and contained two fills [3/005] and [3/006]. The only find from the ditch was a residual struck flint. However, metal-detecting revealed the presence of a copper alloy bar <RF3> of possible medieval date in adjacent subsoil [3/004]. If this is taken for a reliable date for the lower subsoil it might suggest that the ditch, which is later, is perhaps post-medieval in date.

#### 4.5 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

Heights at E end of trench = 21.15 AOD (top)

Heights at W end of trench = 22.37 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
4/001	Layer	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.44
4/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown sandy gravelly silt	30 x 2 x 0.2
4/003	Layer	Natural – dark brown sandy gravel, occ. yellowish grey chalky clay	30 x 2
4/004	Layer	Subsoil – dark brown sandy silt	14 x 2 x 0.55
4/005	Fill	In 4/007 (upper) – brown silty sand	2+ x 0.55 x 0.15
4/006	Fill	In 4/007 (lower) – dark brownish grey sandy silt	2+ x 1.54 x 0.56
4/007	Cut	Ditch – NE/SW aligned, c.40° sides, concave base	2+ x 1.54 x 0.58

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 4 was orientated roughly east/west (Figure 2). The removed overburden in the eastern two thirds of the trench was up to 0.5m deep and consisted of topsoil [4/001] and subsoil [4/002] overlying natural deposits of sandy gravel and chalky clay [4/003]. At the western end of the trench the overburden was in excess of 1m deep due to the presence of a second (lower) layer of subsoil [4/004] up to 0.55m deep.

4.5.2 One northeast/southwest aligned ditch, [4/007], was present at the east end of the trench. The ditch was 1.54m wide by 0.58m deep. The majority of the ditch was filled with dark brownish grey sandy silt [4/006] with a shallow, narrower sandy fill [4/005] in its very top. Finds from the main fill consisted of one small piece of post-medieval roof tile and a fire-cracked flint. The ditch could be traced northeastwards through neighbouring Trenches 8, 7, etc., and is depicted on 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping.

#### 4.6 Trench 5 (Figure 6)

Heights at NE end of trench = 18.83 AOD (top)

Heights at SW end of trench = 20.27 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
5/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.36
5/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown silty sand	30 x 2 x 0.30
5/003	Layer	Natural – light yellowish brown sandy gravel	30 x 2
5/004	Fill	In 5/006 (upper) - dark grey silty clay	5+ x 1.3 x 0.34
5/005	Fill	In 5/006 (lower) – dark brown silty sand	5+ x 0.61 x 0.28
5/006	Cut	Ditch – NE/SW aligned, 30-40° sides, concave base	5+ x 1.55 x 0.35

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts



4.6.1 Trench 5 was orientated northeast/southwest (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.36m of topsoil [5/001] above up to 0.30m of subsoil [5/002]. Natural deposits consisted of light yellowish brown sandy gravel [5/003].

4.6.2 The south-western end of the trench was crossed by northeast/southwest aligned ditch [5/006] continuing north-eastwards from Trenches 1 and 3. The ditch was over 1.5m wide by 0.35m deep and contained two fills [5/004] and [5/005]. The ditch cut into natural deposits and was sealed by subsoil [5/002]. No dating evidence was recovered.

#### 4.7 Trench 6 (Figure 6)

Heights at NW end of trench = 19.88 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 18.79 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
6/001	Layer	Topsoil – darkish grey sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.40
6/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid brownish grey silty sand	30 x 2 x 0.30
6/003	Layer	Natural – mid yellowish brown sandy gravel	30 x 2
6/004	Fill	In 6/005 – mid greyish brown sandy gravel	0.73 x 0.62 x 0.22
6/005	Cut	Pit – sub-circular, 50-60° sides, irregular base	0.73 x 0.62 x 0.22
6/006	Fill	In 6/007 – dark grey sand	0.18 x 0.18 x 0.09
6/007	Cut	Post-hole – circular, 0.85° sides, flat base	0.18 x 0.18 x 0.09

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 6 was orientated northwest/southeast (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of up to 0.40m of topsoil [6/001] above up to 0.30m of subsoil [6/002]. Natural yellowish brown sandy gravel [6/003] was exposed in the base of the trench.

4.7.2 At the northwest end of the trench was a pit [6/005] and a small adjacent post-hole [6/007]. The pit was 0.73m long by 0.22m deep. It was filled with mid greyish brown sandy gravel [6/004] containing fairly frequent charcoal flecks and a burnt flint. Because of the relatively high charcoal content a soil sample (<2>) was taken. Within the sample was a small sherd of medieval pottery; no charred grains were recovered but oak charcoal was identified. Post-hole [6/007] was shallow at only 0.09m deep. No finds were recovered from this feature.

#### 4.8 Trench 7 (not illustrated)

Heights at NW end of trench = 19.75 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 20.42 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
7/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.40
7/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown silty sand, chalk inclusions	30 x 2 x 0.20
7/003	Layer	Natural – light yellow brown sand, occ. brown sandy gravel	30 x 2
7/004	Fill	In 7/005 – mid grey sandy silt	2+ x 1.84
7/005	Cut	Ditch – not excavated	2+ x 1.84

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Trench 7 was orientated northwest/southeast (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.40m of topsoil [7/001] above up to 0.20m of subsoil [7/002]. Natural deposits consisted of mixed light brown sandy gravel, yellowish brown chalky clay and patches of brown clay [8/003].

4.8.2 In the northern half, the trench was crossed by the northeast/southwest aligned post-medieval boundary ditch [7/005] continuing from Trench 4. The ditch was not excavated within this trench.

#### 4.9 Trench 8 (Figure 12)

Heights at NW end of trench = 20.43 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 21.30 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
8/001	Layer	Topsoil – mid brownish grey silty sand	30 x 2 x 0.32
8/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid greyish brown	30 x 2 x 0.18
8/003	Layer	Natural – light brown sandy gravel, yellowish brown chalky clay and brown clay	30 x 2
8/004	Fill	In 8/005 – mid grey sandy silt	2+ x 1.55
8/005	Cut	Ditch – not excavated	2+ x 1.55

Table 9: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 Trench 8 was orientated northwest/southeast (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.32m of topsoil [8/001] above up to 0.18m of subsoil [8/002]. Natural deposits consisted of mixed light brown sandy gravel, yellowish brown chalky clay and patches of brown clay [8/003].

4.9.2 The northern half of the trench was crossed by the post-medieval boundary ditch [8/005] continuing from Trench 7. Metal-detecting of the trench base did not reveal any metal finds within the ditch fill; however, one iron nail was recovered from a modern intrusion (into the natural) further down the trench.

#### 4.10 Trench 13 (Figure 7)

Heights at NW end of trench = 18.49 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 19.19 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
13/001	Layer	Topsoil – mid brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.12
13/002	Layer	Subsoil – reddish brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.30
13/003	Layer	Natural – orange brown silty sand	30 x 2
13/004	Fill	In 15/005 – mid grey silty sand	2+ x 2.07 x 0.73
13/005	Cut	Ditch – NE/SW aligned, 30-50° sides, concave base	2+ x 2.07 x 0.73

Table 10: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Trench 13 was orientated northwest/southeast (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.12m of topsoil [13/001] above up to 0.3m of subsoil [13/002]. Natural orange brown silty sand [13/003] was exposed in the base of the trench.

4.10.2 At the north end of the trench was a well-defined ditch [13/005] aligned northeast/southwest. The ditch was just over 2m wide by 0.73m deep. Its sandy silt fill [13/004] contained animal bone and a residual sherd of Roman

pottery. In addition, an iron nail and the copper-alloy end of a shotgun cartridge were recovered from metal-detecting of the remaining unexcavated ditch fill in the base of the trench.

#### 4.11 Trench 14 (Figure 7)

Heights at NW end of trench = 18.15 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 18.13 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
14/001	Layer	Topsoil – mid brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.21
14/002	Layer	Subsoil – reddish brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.53
14/003	Layer	Natural – yellowish brown silty sand	30 x 2
14/004	Fill	In 14/005 – mid greyish brown sandy silt	1.42 x 1.42 x 0.31
14/005	Cut	Pit – circular, 30-50° sides, flat base	1.42 x 1.42 x 0.31

Table 11: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 Trench 14 was orientated northwest/southeast (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.21m of topsoil [14/001] above up to 0.53m of subsoil [14/002]. Natural yellowish brown silty sand [14/003] was exposed in the base of the trench.

4.11.2 In the south of the trench was a circular pit [14/005] with a diameter of 1.42m and a depth of 0.31m. The pit was filled with charcoal-flecked mid greyish brown sandy silt. Several pieces of fire-cracked were recovered. A soil sample (<1>) was taken but proved largely unproductive save for a small and very abraded fragment of pottery of possible Iron Age or Saxon date.

#### 4.12 Trench 15 (Figure 8)

Heights at NE end of trench = 16.92 AOD (top)

Heights at SW end of trench = 17.77 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
15/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark greyish brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.26
15/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.28
15/003	Layer	Natural – orange brown silty sand	30 x 2
15/004	Fill	In 15/005 – grey sandy silt	2+ x 0.81 x 0.43
15/005	Cut	Gully – NE/SW aligned, 50-60° sides, flat base	2+ x 0.81 x 0.43
15/006	Fill	In 15/008 (upper) – grey sandy silt	2+ x 0.75 x 0.12
15/007	Fill	In 15/008 (lower) – reddish brown gravelly sand	2+ x 0.75 x 0.22
15/008	Cut	Gully - NE/SW aligned, 40-70° sides, flat base	2+ x 0.75 x 0.31
15/009	Fill	In 15/010 – reddish brown sandy silt	0.96 x 0.66 x 0.37
15/010	Cut	Pit - elongated, 50-60° sides, flat base	0.96 x 0.66 x 0.37

Table 12: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 Trench 15 was orientated northeast/southwest and was located in the northeast corner of the site (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.26m of topsoil [15/001] above 0.28m of subsoil [15/002]. Natural orange brown silty sand [15/003] was exposed in the base of the trench.

4.12.2 Three features, gullies [15/005] and [15/008] and pit [15/010], were identified in the northern half of this trench; all were undated. The gullies were situated 0.4m apart and both were northeast/southwest aligned. Gully [15/005] was

0.43m deep and had a single fill which contained two pieces of possible struck flint. Gully [215/008] was shallower (0.31m deep) and had two fills, the lower of which [15/008] had a semi-natural appearance. No finds were recovered from either fill.

4.12.3 To the south, was an elongated pit [15/010], 0.96m long by 0.66m wide and 0.37m deep. No finds were recovered from its reddish brown sandy silt [15/009].

#### 4.13 Trench 16 (not illustrated)

Heights at NW end of trench = 17.70 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 17.84 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
16/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.20
16/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.42
16/003	Layer	Natural – orange brown silt and sand	30 x 2
16/004	Fill	In 16/005 – grey sandy silt	2+ x 1.7
16/005	Cut	Ditch – not excavated	2+ x 1.7

Table 13: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Trench 16 was orientated northwest/southeast (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.2m of topsoil [16/001] over a maximum of 0.42m of subsoil [16/003]. Natural orange brown silt and sand [16/003] was exposed in the base of the trench.

4.13.2 The north end of the trench was crossed by the continuing northeast/southwest aligned ditch from Trench 13. The ditch [16/005] was 1.7m wide and filled with grey sandy silt [16/004].

#### 4.14 Trench 33 (not illustrated)

Heights at NW end of trench = 21.34 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 22.49 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
33/001	Layer	Topsoil – darkish greyish brown clay silt	30 x 2 x 0.35
33/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown clay silt	30 x 2 x 0.25
33/003	Layer	Natural – pale buff sandy silt, occ. chalk and gravel patches	30 x 2
33/004	Fill	In 33/005 – dark grey sandy silt	2+ x 1.5
33/005	Cut	Ditch – not excavated	2+ x 1.5

Table 14: Trench 33 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 Trench 33 was orientated northwest/southeast (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.35m of topsoil [33/001] over 0.25m of subsoil [33/002]. Underlying natural deposits consisted of pale sandy silt with occasional patches of chalk and gravel [33/003].

4.14.2 Subsoil in the southern half of the trench was cut by a northeast/southwest aligned post-medieval boundary ditch [33/005]. The ditch was 1.5m wide and

filled with dark grey sandy silt [33/004] and continued through neighbouring trenches.

#### 4.15 Trench 34 (not illustrated)

Heights at N end of trench = 23.58 AOD (top)

Heights at S end of trench = 25.42 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
34/001	Layer	Topsoil – darkish greyish brown sandy silt	30 x 2 x 0.30
34/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown sandy clay silt	30 x 2 x 0.20
34/003	Layer	Natural – mixed sandy silt, chalk and brown clay patches	30 x 2
34/004	Fill	In 33/005 – dark grey sandy silt	2+ x 1.8
34/005	Cut	Ditch – not excavated	2+ x 1.8

Table 15: Trench 34 list of recorded contexts

4.15.1 Trench 34 was orientated north/south (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.3m of topsoil [34/001] over 0.20m of subsoil [34/002]. Underlying natural deposits were fairly mixed consisting of sandy silt, chalk and brown clay patches and some possibly disturbed clay and gravelly areas [34/003]. This trench was located close to the position of a former quarry and it is possible that topsoil in the south of the trench had been previously stripped.

4.15.2 The north end of the trench was crossed by the continuing post-medieval boundary ditch from Trench 33. The observed ditch [34/005] was 1.8m wide and filled with dark grey clay silt [34/004].

#### 4.16 Trench 39 (Figure 9)

Heights at N end of trench = 17.28 AOD (top)

Heights at S end of trench = 18.56 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
39/001	Layer	Topsoil – darkish grey silty clay	30 x 2.1 x 0.26
39/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid brown sandy silt	30 x 2.1 x 0.43
39/003	Layer	Natural – mixed chalk patches and reddish brown sand	30 x 2.1
39/004	Fill	In 39/005 – greyish brown sandy silt	2.1+ x 1.96 x 0.83
39/005	Cut	Ditch – aligned NE/SW, c.60° sides, flat base	2.1+ x 1.96 x 0.83

Table 16: Trench 39 list of recorded contexts

4.16.1 Trench 39 was orientated roughly north/south (Figure 2). The overburden consisted of 0.26m of topsoil [39/001] above up to 0.43m of subsoil [39/002] which removed directly onto natural deposits of chalk and sand [39/003].

4.16.2 The subsoil was cut by a northeast/southwest aligned ditch, [39/005], 1.96m wide by 0.83m deep. The ditch had a single fill [39/004] and contained bird bone (Woodcock), burnt flint, post-medieval ceramic building material and a large piece of slate. The ditch could be traced passing through Trench 40 to the east and Trenches 33 and 34 to the west and is depicted on historic mapping dating from 1839 to 1905.

#### 4.17 Trench 40 (not illustrated)

Heights at NW end of trench = 16.75 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 16.55 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
40/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark greyish brown clay silt	30 x 2 x 0.35
40/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid brown silty clay	30 x 2 x 0.85+
40/003	Layer	Natural – yellow sandy level	30 x 2
40/004	Fill	In 40/005 –dark grey clay silt	2+ x 2
40/005	Cut	Ditch – not excavated	2+ x 2

Table 17: Trench 40 list of recorded contexts

4.17.1 Trench 40 was orientated northwest/southeast, parallel with, and just to the west of, Stowmarket Road (Figure 2). The removed overburden consisted of up to 0.35m of topsoil [40/001] which overlay a significant depth (0.85m+) of subsoil [40/002]. On excavation the overburden in the south of the trench was found to be over 1.2m deep and excavation was ceased on health and safety grounds. Prior to back-filling the subsoil at the north-end of the trench was investigated by means of a 3m long machine-cut sondage at the request of the monitoring officer. This revealed natural deposits of yellow sandy gravel [4/003] at a borderline depth of between 1.18m and 1.2m. No archaeological features were present at this depth.

4.17.2 Subsoil in the south of the trench was cut by southwest/northeast aligned ditch [40/005]. This ditch was approximately 2m wide and was a continuation of post-medieval ditch [39/005] excavated in Trench 39.

#### 4.18 Trench 41 (Figures 10 and 11)

Heights at W end of trench = 18.25 AOD (top)

Heights at E end of trench = 16.57 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
41/001	Layer	Topsoil – brownish grey sandy silt	31 x 2.1 x 0.46
41/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown sandy silt, chalk & gravel inclusions	31 x 2.1 x 0.22
41/003	Layer	Natural – mixed light grey chalk, brown silt & brownish grey gravel	31 x 2.1
41/004	Fill	In 41/006 (upper) – mid grey gravelly sandy silt	2.1+ x 0.88 x 0.38
41/005	Fill	In 41/006 (lower) – darkish brown silty sand	2.1+ x 0.15 x 0.33
41/006	Cut	Ditch – NW/SE aligned, 40-70° sides, concave base	2.1+ x 1.03 x 0.41
41/007	Fill	In 41/009 (upper) – darkish brown silty sand	2.1+ x 1.68 x 0.44
41/008	Fill	In 41/009 (lower) - mid yellowish brown silty sand	2.1+ x 0.55 x 0.06
41/009	Cut	Ditch – NW/SE aligned, 30-40° sides, concave base	2.1+ x 1.68 x 0.47
41/010	Fill	In 41/010 – brown sandy silt (not excavated)	5+ x 2.1
41/011	Cut	Possible ditch (not excavated) cut by vague linear	5+ x 2.1

Table 18: Trench 41 list of recorded contexts

4.18.1 Trench 41 was orientated east/west (Figure 2). The removed overburden consisted of up to 0.46m of topsoil [41/001] above 0.22m of subsoil [41/002]. Natural deposits of brown silt, chalk and gravel were exposed in the base of the trench [41/003]. Crossing the centre and west of the trench were two, northwest/southeast aligned, in-filled ditches ([41/006 and [41/009]). At the

west end of the trench a possible third linear feature [41/011] was represented by a 5m-long patch of brown sandy silt [41/010]. This feature was not excavated due to time limitations (monitoring officer informed) but may be a southwards continuation of ditch [42/021] and/or the underlying pitting from Trench 42. Parallel lines of gravel in the top of the brown sandy silt might hint at the presence of an additional unexcavated feature in this area.

4.18.2 Ditch [41/006] was just over 1m wide by 0.41m deep and contained two fills, a thin primary deposit of silty sand [41/005] and a thicker main fill of grey sandy silt [41/004]. Finds consisted of a few pieces of possible struck flint and an undiagnostic fragment of overfired brick, the latter suggesting that the ditch was likely to be of Roman or later date.

4.18.3 To the west, ditch [41/009] was wider (at 1.68m) and slightly deeper. It also contained two fills, a thin primary deposit of yellowish brown sand [41/008] in the base of the ditch and a siltier and darker brown main upper fill [41/007]. The only recovered finds were a few pieces of possible struck flint. None of the features had been identified by the geophysical survey.

#### 4.19 Trench 42 (Figures 10 and 11)

Heights at WSW end of trench = 18.05 AOD (top)

Heights at ENE end of trench = 16.60 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
42/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey sandy silt	26 x 2.1 x 0.48
42/002	Layer	Subsoil – light brown sandy silt	26 x 2.1 x 0.40
42/003	Layer	Natural – mixed light yellowish grey chalky clay, brown sand and gravel	26 x 2.1
42/004	Fill	In 42/005 – brown sandy silt	2+ x 1.77 x 0.30
42/005	Cut	Ditch – NNW/SSE aligned, c.50° sides, uneven base	2+ x 1.77 x 0.30
42/006	Layer	Mid grey sandy gravelly silt	c.7 x 2.1 x 0.2
42/007	Fill	In 42/008 – mid darkish brown sandy silt	2+ x 2 0 x 0.8
42/008	Cut	Ditch – NNW/SSE aligned, 50-60° sides, concave base	2+ x 2 0 x 0.8
42/009	Fill	In 42/011 (upper) – light grey sandy silt	0.4+ x 0.7 x 0.17
42/010	Fill	In 42/011 (lower) – mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.4+ x 0.53 x 0.23
42/011	Cut	Gully – ENE/WSW aligned, c.60° sides, concave base	0.4+ x 0.7 x 0.4
42/012	Fill	In 42/013 – light brownish grey sandy silt	0.3+ x 0.7 x 0.14
42/013	Cut	Gully - ENE/WSW aligned, 40-50° side, flat base	0.3+ x 0.7 x 0.14
42/014	Fill	In 42/015 - darkish brown sandy silt, flint inclusions	0.5 x 0.3+ x 0.24
42/015	Cut	Pit - part-exposed, c.80° sides, flat base	0.5 x 0.3+ x 0.24
42/016	Fill	In 42/017 – light brown sandy silt	2.1+ x 0.3 x 0.28
42/017	Cut	Gully – NW/SE aligned, 60-70° sides, concave base	2.1+ x 0.3 x 0.28
42/018	Fill	In 42/019 – light brown sandy silt	2.1+ x 0.34 x 0.3
42/019	Cut	Gully – NW/SE aligned, 70° sides, concave base	2.1+ x 0.34 x 0.3
42/020	Fill	In 42/021 – dark grey silty sand , chalk inclusions	2.1+ x 3.7 x 0.4
42/021	Cut	Ditch - NW/SE aligned, c.20° sides, flat base	2.1+ x 3.7 x 0.4
42/022	Fill	In 42/023 – darkish brown silty sand	1.5+ x 0.4+ x 0.72
42/023	Cut	Pit – part-exposed, c.50° side, sloping base	1.5+ x 0.4+ x 0.72
42/024	Fill	In 42/025 – pale brown sandy silt	0.31 x 0.31 x 0.16

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
42/025	Cut	Post-hole – sub-circular, 80-85° sides, flat base	0.31 x 0.31 x 0.16
42/026	Fill	In 42/027 – brown sandy silt	0.4 x 0.32 x 0.15
42/027	Cut	Post-hole – oval, 80-85° sides, flat base	0.4 x 0.32 x 0.15
42/028	Fill	In 42/028 – pale brown sandy silt	0.38 x 0.38 x 0.13
42/029	Cut	Post-hole – sub-circular, 80-85° sides, flat base	0.38 x 0.38 x 0.13
42/030	Fill	In 42/031 - pale brown sandy silt	0.3 x 0.28 x 0.11
42/031	Cut	Post-hole – sub-circular, 80-90° sides, flat base	0.3 x 0.28 x 0.11
42/032	Fill	In 42/033 – dark brown sandy silt	1.36 x 0.7+ x 0.35
42/033	Cut	Pit – semi-circular, 25-50° sides, irregular base	1.36 x 0.7+ x 0.35

Table 19: Trench 42 list of recorded contexts

- 4.19.1 Trench 42 was orientated ENE/WSW and was shortened to 26.6m in length due to the proximity of overhead electricity cables both to the west and east (at the site boundary) of the trench (Figure 2). The removed overburden was deepest at the east end of the trench and consisted of up to 0.48m of topsoil [42/001] above 0.40m of subsoil [42/002]. Exposed natural deposits [42/003] varied from light yellowish grey chalky clay to brown sand and gravel.
- 4.19.2 Possibly the earliest feature in Trench 42 (on stratigraphic grounds) was a small, slightly irregular, ENE/WSW aligned gully investigated in segments [42/011] and [42/013]. The gully appeared to be deeper in the west (0.4m) where it was truncated by ditch [42/008] and shallower (0.14m) in the east where it was truncated by feature [42/021]. The gully had a loose sandy fill and contained a small number of struck flints. No firm dating evidence was recovered.
- 4.19.3 Ditch [42/008] was aligned NNW/SSE and had a concave profile, was 0.8m deep and contained a single brown silty fill [42/007]. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered, along with possible struck flint and an animal bone. The ditch aligned with ditch [41/009] in Trench 41 and may be a northwards continuation of this feature.
- 4.19.4 Feature [42/021] was a wide fairly shallow cut continuing beyond the eastern end of the trench. It was in excess of 3.7m wide but only 0.4m deep and had an irregular but gently sloping western side. It was either a ditch or large pit and may have continued southwards into Trench 41 as unexcavated feature [41/011]. A variety of finds were recovered from its fill [42/020], including early medieval pottery, animal bone, daub and oyster shell. A soil sample (<3>) taken from this deposit contained charred cereal grains.
- 4.19.5 Underlying feature [42/021], and possibly truncated by it, were two partly exposed pits [42/015] and [42/023]. The larger pit, [42/023], was over 1.5m long by 0.72m deep and was filled with dark brown silty sand fill [42/022] containing further shreds of early medieval pottery, small fragments of quern stone and a hand forged nail. Charred cereal grains and a pea-size legume were recovered from a soil sample (<4>). Smaller pit [42/015] was undated but did contain numerous medium flint nodules. It was not clear whether these were evidence of post-packing or a dump of material perhaps associated with quarrying.



- 4.19.6 In the west of the trench was NNW/SSE aligned ditch [42/005]. This was 1.77m wide by 0.3m deep and contained a single fill [42/004]. Finds consisted of one sherd of early medieval ware pottery and a few pieces of animal bone and struck flint.
- 4.19.7 To the east of ditch [42/005] was a cluster of four small sub-circular post-holes and a pit. The post-holes (42/025), [42/027], [42/029] and [42/031]) ranged length from 0.3m to 0.4m and depth from 0.11m to 0.16m. All were filled with brown sandy silt. Finds consisted of one small fragment of brick/tile and a few pieces of fire-cracked flint. The pit, [42/033], only partly exposed in the trench, measured 1.36m long by 0.35m deep. Twelve pieces of fire-cracked flint were recovered from its dark charcoal-flecked fill [42/032]. Charred cereal grains were noted in a soil sample (<5>) taken from this deposit.
- 4.19.8 Ditch [42/008] and adjacent features at the east end of the trench were sealed by a layer of mid grey sandy silt [42/006]. This was 0.2m deep, located below the subsoil, and extended for about 7m. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from this deposit along with two large fragments of German lava quern stone (RF<2>).
- 4.19.9 At the top of the sequence, in the east of the trench, were two northwest/southeast aligned gullies [42/017] and [42/019], both about 0.3m wide by 0.3m deep and spaced a similar distance apart. No dating evidence was recovered from their identical fills but both are likely to be of post-medieval or later date as they appeared to truncate layer [42/006].

#### 4.20 Trench 44 (Figures 10 and 11)

Heights at NW end of trench = 16.47 AOD (top)

Heights at SE end of trench = 16.72 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
44/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark brown sandy silt	30 x 2.1 x 0.31
44/002	Layer	Subsoil – brown sandy silt	30 x 2.1 x 0.56
44/003	Layer	Natural – orange/brown sand	30 x 2.1
44/004	Fill	In 44/005 – reddish brown sandy silt	3.6 x 0.48 x 0.22
44/005	Cut	Gully – NW/SE aligned, 75° sides, flat base	3.6 x 0.48 x 0.22
44/006	Fill	In 44/007 – brown sandy silt	1.9+ x 0.73 x 0.11
44/007	Fill	Gully – ENE/WSW aligned, 30-40° sides, flat base	1.9+ x 0.73 x 0.11
44/008	Fill	In 44/009 – greyish brown sandy silt	2.2+ x 0.46 x 0.19
44/009	Cut	Gully - ENE/WSW aligned, 80° sides, flat base	2.2+ x 0.46 x 0.19
44/010	Fill	In 44/011 –reddish brown sandy silt	0.2+ x 0.24 x 0.29
44/011	Cut	Post-hole – sub-circular, 70-80° sides, rounded base	0.2+ x 0.24 x 0.29
44/012	Fill	In 44/013 –grey sandy silt	2.1+ x 0.5 x 0.18
44/013	Cut	Gully - ENE/WSW aligned, 60-80° sides, flat base	2.1+ x 0.5 x 0.18
44/014	Fill	In 44/015 –grey sandy silt	1.5+ x 0.4 x 0.16
44/015	Cut	Gully - ENE/WSW aligned, 50-80° sides, flat base	1.5+ x 0.4 x 0.16
44/016	Fill	In 44/017 – grey sandy silt	0.87+ x 1.4 x 0.13
44/017	Cut	Pit – Sub-rectangular, c.50° side, flat base	0.87+ x 1.4 x 0.13
44/018	Fill	In 44/019 –grey sandy silt	0.24 x 0.24 x 0.2
44/019	Cut	Post-hole, circular, 80° sides, flat base	0.24 x 0.24 x 0.2
44/020	Fill	In 44/021 – grey sandy silt	0.8 x 0.34 x 0.32
44/021	Cut	Pit – elongated, tapering 70° sides, pointed base	0.8 x 0.34 x 0.32

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
44/022	Fill	In 44/023 – grey sandy silt	2.1 x 1.4 x 0.21
44/023	Cut	Ditch – ENE/WSW aligned, 20-50° sides, flat base	2.1 x 1.4 x 0.21

Table 20: Trench 44 list of recorded contexts

4.20.1 Trench 44 was orientated northwest/southeast and was located close to Stowmarket Road (Figure 2). The removed overburden was quite deep, consisting of up to 0.31m of topsoil [44/001] overlying 0.56m of subsoil [44/002]. Natural deposits exposed in the base of the trench consisted of orange brown sand [44/003].

4.20.2 Located at the south end of the trench were three shallow gullies or slots, one [44/005] aligned northwest/southeast and two, [44/007] and [44/009], aligned ENE/WSW. Slot [44/007] was stratigraphically an earlier feature as it was cut by gully [44/005]. All three were flat bottomed and ranged in depth from 0.11m to 0.22m. No firm dating evidence was recovered with finds consisting of a few pieces of animal bone, daub, fire-cracked-flint and shell. Slot [44/009] cut the top of an earlier undated post-hole [44/011].

4.20.3 To the north were two more ENE/WSW aligned gullies, [44013] and [44015], a second post-hole [44/019] and a pit [44/017]. The two parallel gullies were broadly similar in width and depth, both were flat bottomed. Gully [44/015] had an uncertain relationship with post-hole [44/019] and pit [44/017] to the east. All had similar grey fills and could be contemporary. No finds were recovered from this group of features.

4.20.4 Towards the middle of the trench were an ENE/WSW aligned ditch [44/023] and a near-by elongated pit [44/021]. The ditch was 1.4m wide by 0.21m deep and contained a sherd of early medieval ware pottery, cattle bone and shell. No finds were recovered from pit [44/021].

#### 4.21 Blank Trenches 9-12, 17-32, 35-38, 43 and 45-49

4.21.1 No archaeological remains were identified in Trenches 9-12, 17-32, 35-38, 43 and 45-49. The overburden in these trenches ranged in depth from 0.32m (Trench 9) to 1.32m+ (Trench 48) and in most trenches consisted of greyish brown topsoil over varying amounts of brown subsoil. Trench 9 was the only trench to contain no subsoil. In general the depth of topsoil was fairly consistent at around 0.3-0.4m with the subsoil increasing in depth down the slope from west to east. Maximum depths of topsoil and subsoil are presented in Appendix 1.

4.21.2 Exposed natural varied considerably between patches of clay, silt, sand and gravel. In general chalky deposits with brown clay intrusions was common in the south and west of the site with yellow sand, pale silt and gravel beneath deeper deposits in the north and east. Linear clay intrusions in chalk in Trenches 9 and 10 (Figure 12) appeared to account for geophysical anomalies in this area. Trench 48 could not be fully excavated for safety reasons. Natural deposits were exposed at a depth of 1.1m in the south of this trench but gradually deepened to north. Machine excavation was halted after 11m when a depth of 1.35m+ had been reached (Figure 12).

## **4.22 Metal-detecting**

4.22.1 The topsoil of all 49 evaluation trenches was detected for the presence of metalwork prior to machine excavation during the first week of the project. 145 metal objects were recovered from 39 of the trenches. Most of the objects were made of iron and consisted largely of nails, although a horseshoe, an iron wall anchor and miscellaneous fragments of agricultural machinery were also recovered. An additional five objects (three of iron and two of copper-alloy) were recovered from later detecting of feature fills and subsoil in the base of the trenches.

4.22.2 There was no correlation between the recovered topsoil finds and any underlying archaeological remains. Slightly more metal objects were retrieved from the south of the area their presence perhaps a result of more intense agriculture or near-by historic quarrying activity. The recovered metal objects are reported on below (sections 5.9 and 5.12).

## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of bulk finds was recovered during the evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 21). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). Five registered finds were also recorded, as detailed in section 5.12.

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
1/001	1	12							2	440										
1/004	2	12	1	6																
1/005													3	32						
1/008													4	20						
1/009	1	12	1	2									5	8						
3/004											1	10								
3/006	1	6																		
4/001									1	18										
4/006					1	22									1	4				
5/001									1	12										
6/001									2	6										
6/004	1	14	1	1																
7/001									6	136										
8/001									3	10										
8/003									1	4										
9/001									2	22										
10/001									1	110										
11/001									3	30										
12/001									1	4										
13/004			1	8					1	9			1	2						
14/004															7	526				
15/005	2	8																		
16/001									7	54										
18/001									2	16										
19/001									6	554										
20/001									8	68										
21/001									2	8										
22/001									4	50										
23/001									3	160										
25/001									9	864										

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
26/001									4	34										
28/001									3	12										
29/001									1	6										
30/001									2	84										
31/001									6	178										
32/001									5	34										
33/001									4	88										
35/001									12	418										
37/001									6	78										
38/001									3	28										
39/001									3	10										
39/004					4	1072	1	380				4	4	1	12	1	8			
40/001									3	50										
41/001									4	12										
41/002			1	4																
41/004	3	12			1	14														
41/007	4	112					1	2											2	12
41/008	3	8																		
42/001									3	12										
42/004	2	12	1	28								4	24							
42/006			1	6																
42/007	3	106	1	6								1	10				1	6	5	22
42/012	6	128																		
42/020			13	73					1	18		8	38				2	6	8	18
42/022	2	26	16	88			2	2				1	4							135338
42/026					1	2									1	4				
42/030															5	40				
42/032	1	10													12	210				
43/001									3	82										
44/001									5	82										
44/004												2	4						2	52
44/006															1	8	4	36		
44/022			1	6								4	12						2	50
45/001									3	20										
46/001									5	82										
47/001									4	26										
49/001									3	114										
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>4043</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>492</b>

Table 21: Finds quantification

## 5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The evaluation produced a total of 24 pieces of struck flint weighing 182g (Table 22). A small amount of burnt unworked flint fragments (9388g) were also recovered. The burnt and unworked burnt flints were recovered through hand-collection and from bulk soil samples. The flintwork was thinly spread. The burnt material came from ten numbered contexts with the largest concentration (9156g) coming from context [42/032] (sample <05>). The pieces of struck flint came from 14 numbered contexts in seven trenches. Although no contexts produced more than three pieces, Trenches 41 and 42 produced over half of the worked flints recovered from the site (14 pieces).

Category	Flake	Bladelet, blade-like flake	Fragmentary core	Modified pieces	Total
No.	18	2	1	3	24

Table 22: Flintwork quantification

5.2.2 No diagnostic pieces are present. The assemblage of struck flint is dominated by débitage products of which flakes are the best represented (18 pieces). They have been struck using a mixed hammer mode, but the use of a hard percussor seems to dominate. The majority are difficult to date precisely but examples from contexts [41/004], [41/008] and [42/004] could pre-date the Middle Bronze Age. A bladelet fragment from context [42/032] displays parallel edges and parallel ridges on the dorsal surface. It is the result of a blade orientated industry, and indicates a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

5.2.3 A single core was recovered (context [42/020]). The piece was used to remove flakes, but it was too fragmented to examine the reduction methodology. Three modified pieces were recovered; a burnt core tool fragment, a retouched flake and a notched piece. They are only minimally retouched.

5.2.4 The burnt flint fragments from [42/032] were mainly small, measuring up to 55mm. Several fragments were highly calcined to a light or mid grey colour. But the majority display only a reddish tinge suggesting that they were only slightly burnt.

5.2.5 The evaluation produced a small amount of struck flints and burnt unworked flints. They indicate prehistoric presence, but unfortunately no conclusive date can be securely given based on technological / morphological grounds. The exception is the medial part of a recorticated bladelet from [42/032] that possibly belong to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. The condition of the flint varies, and the large majority of pieces are likely to be residual in later contexts.

## 5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 Five sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery were hand-collected from five different evaluation contexts. Two of these, from contexts [1/004] and [1/009] are prehistoric flint-tempered wares. That from [1/004] has a fairly sandy

matrix with very sparse but nevertheless quite ill-sorted flint, mostly of 1-3mm in size with very occasional examples of up to 5mm. It is difficult to assign it to any particular prehistoric period with confidence. The sherd from [1/009] features common, well-sorted flint of 0.5-1.5mm in a silty background matrix and is more typically later prehistoric, most likely belonging to the Early or Middle Iron Age.

- 5.3.2 Roman pottery was found in three contexts. A wheel-thrown black-surfaced sandy ware sherd of likely 1st century AD date was recorded in [42/007]. A partial rim in a local micaceous grey ware was noted in context [13/004]. The orientation of this rim is slightly uncertain; it may represent a 2nd-3rd century black-burnished style flat-rim bowl or a less datable necked jar form. Finally a sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware was found in context [41/002]. This fabric was first produced in the mid-2nd century but is generally found in 3rd and 4th century contexts in Suffolk.
- 5.3.3 In addition to the material described above, a very small fragment of pottery was recovered the residue of the environmental sample taken from context [14/004]. The sherd, which is so abraded that it lacks any original surfaces, appears to be low-fired/hand-made and contains common, very coarse rounded milky quartz of up to 2mm in size. Fabrics of this type are known in both Iron Age and Early/Middle Saxon assemblages from Eastern England.

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

- 5.4.1 A total of thirty-three sherds, weighing 202g, was excavated from six contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16, expanded by Drury et al. 1993 and Cotter 2000). All but one feature contained Late Saxon pottery and/or early medieval pottery. The Late Saxon pottery comprises sherds of St Neots ware and Thetford-type ware. Thetford-type ware, in spite the name, was actually made at several production centres in East Anglia and the smooth surfaces, sometimes reduced to a dark grey, found on the examples present here suggest this is Ipswich Thetford ware, made at Ipswich, further along the River Gipping. Thetford-type ware spans the period AD850-1150, with St Neots type ware starting a little latter, but both wares were perhaps most frequent during the 11th century.
- 5.4.2 Early medieval fabrics comprise shell-and-sand-tempered ware and the coarse, sand-tempered, early medieval ware. Some sherds of the latter show sparse superficial inclusions of shell and are classified as sand-with-shell-tempered ware. All these early medieval wares date from around the 11th century and are therefore contemporary with the Late Saxon pottery, but continue into the earlier 13th. Present in ditch [42/021] are the remains of two early medieval vessels, an externally bevelled rim perhaps from a cooking pot and part of a bowl with a simple upright rim, both types are typologically early and could be contemporary with the Late Saxon sherds also present in this feature, although a later date cannot be precluded. Pit [42/023] contained a similar mixture of Late Saxon and early medieval pottery, but a rim sherd in early medieval ware shows thumbing around the top of the rim, which is

characteristic of the 12th century. An early medieval ware bowl rim in ditch [42/005] also shows a thumbled rim again indicating a 12th century date.

- 5.4.3 The only later pottery is a sherd of post-medieval red earthenware from layer [42/006], it has an all over glaze and shows a slip-trailed pattern on external surface possibly in the form of a wheatsheaf, but the trailing is too fine to be Metropolitan slipware and this sherd may be of more local origin. A 17th to earlier 18th century is suggested.
- 5.4.4 The assemblage shows evidence of activity here during the 11th to 12th centuries, but is too small to shed light on function or status of the site.

## 5.5 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.5.1 A small assemblage comprising of seven pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1022g was hand-collected from three evaluation contexts: [4/006], [39/004] and [41/004]. Ditch fill [39/004] produced the largest quantity of material, including a large piece of brick with a width of ~115mm and thickness of ~60mm, made from a hard-fired red clay (B1). This brick most likely dates from the mid-18th-19th century, although traces of cement on the surfaces suggests mid-late 19th century re-use. Two fragments of roof tile were also recovered from [39/004] along with a burnt fragment of undiagnostic clay.
- 5.5.2 The clay had a laminated quality and was vitrified solid with lumps of slag-like burnt material within it. It appeared of 20th century date or later. The roof tiles from [39/004] were each in a different fabric, T1 and T2 (see Table 23). Another fragment of T2 roof tile was found in [4/006]. Both had fairly fine moulding sand and the [4/006] example had a partial square-shaped peg hole, which is generally considered to be a post-medieval characteristic. The similarities between B1 and T2 also suggest these to be coeval CBM, possibly produced by the same brick yard.
- 5.5.3 Another non-diagnostic and heavily burnt piece of material was collected from upper ditch fill [41/004]. It was vitrified solid and reduced to a dark brown, and cannot be dated or identified any further.

Fabric	Description
B1	Hard-fired red sandy fabric with moderate mixed quartz.
T1	Silty/finely gritty fabric with moderate medium and coarse quartz and black oxides.
T2	Hard-fired red fabric with moderate coarse and very coarse quartz.

Table 23: Ceramic building material fabrics

## 5.6 Fired Clay by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.6.1 Eight pieces of fired clay weighing 55g were recovered from three evaluation contexts: [42/020], [44/004] and [44/006]. A further three pieces of clay weighing 8g were retrieved from bulk soil sample <3> ([42/010]) and six pieces weighing 12g from sample <4> ([42/022]). All the clay pieces were formed from the same pinkish clay with mixed quartz and chalk pieces up to



3mm. Two of the clay pieces from gully fill [44/006] co-joined to form larger pieces with a flat surface that had patinated to a cream colour. Both pieces from [44/004] had similarly patinated and flat surfaces, and also each had a linear impression of approximately 8mm across. Together, these characteristics would suggest fragments of daub or structural clay; although certain types of loom weights share these features the surface of loom weights tend to appear smoother and better moulded. The two clay pieces from ditch fill [42/020] were not diagnostic in any way, and although some of the environmental fragments had some slightly patinated areas these too showed no evidence for original use.

## 5.7 Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.7.1 The evaluation recovered seven pieces of stone, weighing 1008g, from one of four individually numbered contexts. Just two types of stone are represented. German lava, undoubtedly from quern stones, was recovered from contexts [42/022] (2/1g with a further 1/1g from the residue) and [42/006] - RF <2> (2/624g). Although the latter pieces are much larger and derive from stones 37mm and 52mm thick they do not have any features of note. The remaining stone consists of fragments of Welsh roofing slate from [39/004] (1/380g) and [41/007] (1/2g). A 19th- to early 20th- century date is likely for these.

## 5.8 Slag by Luke Barber

5.8.1 Although no hand-collected slag was recovered during the evaluation five environmental residues produced magnetic material in the fractions below 4mm. The majority of this consists of well-rounded (and indeed sometimes polished) granules of ferruginous siltstone. Some of these are so rounded as to easily be confused with spherical hammerscale. This material was recovered from contexts [6/004], [14/004], [42/020], [42/022] and [42/032] but, with the exception of 2g from [6/004], always 1g or less was present. The majority of the samples did produce hammerscale but in negligible quantities. This material is summarised in Table 24.

Context	Sample	Weight	Comments
6/004	<2>	<1g	Flakes 10-25; spheres 10-25
42/020	<3>	<1g	Flakes <10; spheres 10-25
42/032	<5>	<1g	Flakes <10; spheres 10-25

Table 24: Summary of slag

5.8.2 The tiny quantities of hammerscale present show iron smithing to have been occurring in the general area, but not in the immediate vicinity of the excavated features. As the quantities are so low and there is an absence of larger pieces, it is possible all consists of intrusive material.

## 5.9 Bulk Metalwork by Susan Chandler

5.9.1 A total of 159 iron objects were recovered during the works on site, weighing a total of 4231g; virtually all being metal-detected from topsoil. Of these, 108 are nails (weighing 824g). The nails are largely of two types; hand forged with

square heads and stems and mechanically made, with round heads and stems. The mechanically made nails are fairly modern in date (this method of production was introduced in the 1800s) while the hand forged nails are more likely to range from the medieval to post-medieval periods. Almost all of the nails were recovered from topsoil contexts, e.g. [1/001], [28/001], with one exception - a hand-forged nail recovered from bulk soil sample <4> from fill [42/022] in pit [42/023].

5.9.2 The remaining 51 iron objects are largely undiagnostic due to their poor condition or incomplete nature. The assemblage consists of a number of plate fragments and probable agricultural machine fragments (such as parts of bolts or sections of angle iron). These fragments have little potential for further work and are all most likely to be post-medieval in date.

5.9.3 Three non-iron metal finds were recovered; aluminium can remains from context [6/001], a shotgun shell end from [13/004] (in ditch [13/005]) and a short length of wire with green plastic coating from context [15/001]. All of these are modern in date.

## 5.10 Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.10.1 The archaeological evaluation produced 37 hand-collected fragments from 11 contexts. No particular concentration of bones was recovered. The assemblage is dominated by medium-mammal and large-mammal sized ribs and long-bones. Further identifiable bones include a cattle phalanx from context [44/022], a pig ulna from context [1/008] and a sheep/goat mandible from context [42/020]. Evidence of wild bird was recovered from context [39/004] which contains a complete femur and the proximal end of a tibio-tarsus from a Woodcock. No evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology was noted.

5.10.2 A further 14g of bones were retrieved from bulk soil samples <2>, <3> and <4>. The bone is small and fragmentary though a number of teeth have been identified, including a cattle incisor from sample <2>, sheep/goat molars from sample <3> and a cat incisor from sample <4>. Anuran bones and herring vertebrae were also retrieved from samples <3> and <4>.

## 5.11 Shell by Trista Clifford

5.11.1 Marine and land mollusc weighing a total of 757g was recovered from seven separate contexts, by hand and from bulk soil samples <2>, <3> and <4>.

5.11.2 The largest assemblage, from context [42/022], is dominated by the edible species *Buccinum undatum* (Common whelk; 218 individuals), together with small numbers of non-edible species which were probably collected in error: *Nassarius reticulatus* (Netted dog whelk 24 individuals), *Gibbula cineraria* (Grey top shell, 1 individual).

5.11.3 Mature edible oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valves were present in small numbers in contexts [6/004], [42/020], [42/022], and [44/004].

5.11.4 Land snail species *Cornu aspersum* (Garden Snail) and *Cepaea nemoralis* (Brown lipped banded snail) were recovered from contexts [41/007] and [42/007]. Neither species is edible.

## 5.12 Registered Finds by Susan Chandler

5.12.1 Registered finds were washed, air dried or cleaned by a conservator as appropriate to the material requirements. Objects have been packed appropriately in line with ClfA (2014c) guidelines. No conservation was required. Each registered finds was assigned a registered finds numbers (RF<0>) and recorded on pro forma sheets. The objects discussed here are detailed in Table 25, below. However, fragments of a possible quern stone RF 2> are discussed in the report on geological material (5.7).

RF No	Context	Object	Material	Period
1	42/001	Horseshoe	Iron	Med. / Post Med
2	42/006	Quern	Stone (lava)	Med. /Post Med
3	3/004	Bar fragment	Copper alloy	Medieval
4	45/001	Unknown	Lead	? Medieval
5	3/001	Wall Anchor	Iron	Med. /Post Med

Table 25: Registered finds

5.12.2 RF<1> is a heavily corroded horseshoe from topsoil in Trench 42, 129mm wide and 107mm long. The shoe is rounded in shape and considerably worn, particularly at the toe, from use. It does not have any features such as toe clips or caulking at the heels, suggesting an early date, though this is not conclusive. It is not possible to see the form of the nail holes due to corrosion; x-radiographic analysis would show this and aid dating.

5.12.3 Bar fragment RF<3>, from layer [42/006], is the only registered find made from copper alloy. It is slightly curving in form and round in section, 42mm long and 6mm in diameter, broken at both ends. It is likely to be a section of caldron or similar vessel handle.

5.12.4 RF<4> is a small section of lead waste retrieved from topsoil in Trench 45, in no particular form. It is 19mm long and 23mm wide and is most likely waste from lead working.

5.12.5 RF<5> is a medieval wall anchor metal-detected from topsoil in Trench 3, comparable to example H233 in Goodall (2011, 189) which dates to the 16th century. It has a flattened, ovoid head with a tapering shank ending in a rounded point.

## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Mariangela Vitolo

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Five bulk soil samples were taken from the fills of pits and a ditch to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and molluscs as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report summarises the contents of the samples and discusses the information provided by the charred plant remains and charcoal on diet, agrarian economy, vegetation environment and fuel selection and use.

### 6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively before being air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 2a). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 2b). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains were made with reference to modern comparative material and published reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residues were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000; Schoch *et al.* 2004; Schweingruber 1990). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 2a.

### 6.3 Results

*Samples <1> [14/004], <2> [6/004], <3> [42/020], <4> [42/022] and <5> [42/032]*

6.3.1 All the flots contained uncharred vegetative matter, such as twigs, rootlets and seeds of goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) and elders (*Sambucus* sp.). This material indicates low level disturbance across the site and is likely to have infiltrated the deposits through root action.

6.3.2 Charred plant remains were retrieved from three features: undiagnostic cut [42/021] and pits [42/023] and [42/033], all of medieval or possible medieval date.. They included caryopses of hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oats (*Avena* sp.) wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum* sp.), wheat/rye (*Triticum/Secale* sp.)

and possible rye (cf *Secale cereale*). The oats could originate either from a cultivated crop or from a wild plant, possibly a weed. It is not possible to identify them to a wild or cultivated species on the basis of the caryopses alone. A large pea size legume (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp.) and an indeterminate grass (Poaceae) caryopsis were also recorded.

- 6.3.3 Charcoal was recovered from all the sampled deposits. However, identification work was carried only on the fragments from pit [6/005], because the other features did not yield enough material to provide meaningful information on fuel selection and use. The only identified taxon was oak (*Quercus* sp.), whilst four knot wood fragments were not identifiable. The oak fragments presented radial cracks, which could indicate the presence of moisture in the wood at the time of charring.
- 6.3.4 The heavy residues contained mammal and fish bone, as well as marine molluscs. Finds included pot, flint, magnetic material, iron, fired clay and fire cracked flint.

## **6.4 Discussion**

- 6.4.1 The bulk soil samples from this site have yielded an interesting array of charred plant remains, including a variety of cereals and possibly cultivated legumes. In no sample were they present in large numbers, indicating that they originated from small scale, perhaps domestic, accidents. Given the low variety of seeds of wild plants however, not much information can be gained regarding the local vegetation environment and soil conditions.
- 6.4.2 The presence of oak charcoal suggests that deciduous woodland was present near the site and exploited for fuel procurement. Whilst it is possible that the site inhabitants could rely on a secure source of oak, fuel selection could also have been at play here. Oak is known to make an excellent fuel wood and can also be used for timber and joinery (Taylor 1981) and it is possible that this tree was sought after because of its characteristics. However, the small size of the assemblage urges caution and more sampling would be needed.
- 6.4.3 These samples show that there is high potential for nearby deposits to also preserve plant macrofossils and charcoal and any future work at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting primary deposits.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 7.1.1 The site overburden generally consisted of 0.30-0.50m thickness of topsoil overlying subsoil that varied in depth from 0.05m to 0.95m. In most trenches only one layer of subsoil was present; however, a second lower subsoil deposit was also present in the northwest of the site, localised around Trenches 1-4. As the topsoil was a broadly consistent depth across the site the overall depth of the overburden related to the variable thickness of subsoil. Two areas of deep subsoil were noted, one centred on Trenches 1-4 and the other at the eastern edge of the site in a line between Trenches 40, 44 and 48 and including the east ends of Trenches 42 and 45.
- 7.1.2 Underlying natural geological deposits were variable, consisting of a mixture of sand, silt, clay and gravel. Many deposits had a high sand content. Chalk interspersed with reddish brown clay intrusions was common in the southern two thirds of the site. The intrusions were often of linear form and aligned east/west with the prevailing slope.
- 7.1.3 The geological deposits were encountered at a range of heights between 23.11m AOD (Trench 2) and 16.49m AOD (Trench 15) in the north of the site and between 25.95m AOD (Trench 29) and 15.46m AOD (Trench 40) in the south. The very lowest height (14.65m AOD) on the natural geology was recorded in Trench 48. These levels reflect the pronounced natural downwards slope from west to east across the site and a more gradual loss in height from south to north.
- 7.1.3 Both the density and distribution of archaeological remains was relatively low and limited to a range of features comprising ditches, gullies/slots, pits and post-holes. Most were cut into natural deposits and sealed by subsoil. The exceptions were the two late post-medieval boundary ditches, in Trenches 4, 8, 7, 13, and 16 and Trenches 34, 33, 39 and 40 respectively, which both cut into the subsoil, and the potentially earlier post-medieval boundary ditch in Trenches 1, 3 and 5 which was sealed by the shallower upper subsoil but cut into the deeper localised lower subsoil.

### **7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 7.2.1 Deposit survival was reasonable to good with most features cut into natural deposits and protected by a good depth of overburden. The ditches in Trenches 1, 3 and 5 were less defined than others due to similarities between their fills and the surrounding subsoil which they cut into. Few finds were present to aid feature identification/interpretation or dating.
- 7.2.2 Modern agricultural activity, primarily ploughing to a depth of c.0.4m, had truncated the tops of some of the post-medieval features and marked the bases of a few of the shallower trenches but otherwise there appeared to be little disturbance from other agricultural practices such as land drainage. One modern feature (containing a rag) was present in Trench 25 (not illustrated)

and one or two odd clayey patches in trenches in the south-west of the site might also have resulted from modern disturbance.

### **7.3 Geophysical survey**

- 7.3.1 The evaluation has been able to 'ground truth' the results and interpretations of the previous geophysical survey of the site (Pre-construct Geophysics 2016) and has corroborated that the largely negative results of that survey are a fairly accurate reflection of the archaeological content of the site.
- 7.3.2 The survey had identified a cluster of discrete anomalies (Figure 2, in red) that had potential to be of archaeological interest but on excavation (Trenches 9 and 10) proved to have been derived from natural clay intrusions into bedrock chalk. Also identified by the survey were slight indications of a recently removed field boundary (Figure 2, in yellow) and linear traces of possible northeast/southwest cultivation (Figure 2, in orange). The field boundary was successfully identified in the evaluation, though slightly south of its interpreted position, but there was no obvious evidence of linear cultivation features. It is possible that these relate to subtle variations within the topsoil/subsoil not apparent within the base of the trench, or, particularly in the west, might relate to changes within the natural deposits.
- 7.3.3 Some of the features excavated were not identified by the geophysical survey at all. Surprisingly, the post-medieval to modern boundary ditch in the south of the site (Trenches 33, 34 etc.) was not identified, even though it was located directly below the topsoil. The possible post-medieval boundary ditch in the north of the site (Trenches 1, 3 and 5) was also not identified but was sealed by the upper subsoil which may have masked it. In the west of the site, none of the features present in Trenches 41, 42 and 44 were identified by the geophysics, presumably due to these all being sealed by a considerable depth of overburden.

### **7.4 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

#### *Prehistoric*

- 7.4.1 The recovery of a small quantity of humanly struck flint, possibly all residual in later features, attests to at least a low level of prehistoric presence in the landscape from the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period onwards. Most of the flint is not easy datable but some could pre-date the Middle Bronze Age. Struck flint was recovered from the north and west of the site with an apparent concentration in the west though perhaps skewed by the larger number of excavated features in this area.
- 7.4.2 Two sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from Trench 1. One sherd of undetermined date was recovered from the subsoil and one sherd of possible early or middle Iron Age date was recovered from an upper fill of ditch [1/010]. Both sherds are likely to be residual but do provide further evidence of a continuing prehistoric presence in the landscape. A further heavily abraded fragment of possible Iron Age (or early Saxon) pottery was recovered from an environmental sample taken from pit [14/005] in Trench 14. It is possible that the date of the pottery might reflect the date of the pit, but the extreme

abrasion accorded to the fragment suggests it is also more likely to be a residual find.

*Roman*

- 7.4.3 Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from across the site. The pottery ranged in date from the 1st to 3rd/4th centuries. Two of the sherds were residual, one in a post-medieval ditch in Trench 13 and another in the subsoil in Trench 41. A third Roman sherd, of 1st century date, found in ditch 42/008 in Trench 42 may be a genuine reflection of the age of this feature. The ditch continued into Trench 41 as 41/009 where it contained an undiagnostic fragment of burnt brick which could also be of Roman date. The ditch was on a parallel alignment with the Roman Road presumed to be perpetuated by the present day Stowmarket Road to the east. Roman activity on the site appeared to be minimal, despite Roman finds having previously been found in the vicinity; particularly within the large field to the northwest

*Medieval*

- 7.4.4 No remains of Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon date have been found by the evaluation, with the possible exception of the single abraded sherd of Iron Age or Saxon pottery in an otherwise undated pit in Trench 14.
- 7.4.5 Most of the dated archaeological features were Late Saxon/Early medieval (i.e. 11th-12th century). These are clearly concentrated in Trenches 41, 42 and 44 and comprise ditch and pit remains that may constitute activity, possibly occupation, alongside the old Roman road. The shallow, flat-bottomed, gully/slot-like features in Trench 44 could possibly be remains of a timber structure continuing beyond trench. It is likely that some or all of the undated features in these trenches are also of a similar date.
- 7.4.6 A pit in Trench 6 may possibly also have been medieval and represent outlying activity. However, its single diagnostic pottery sherd could equally have been residual.

*Post-medieval and modern*

- 7.4.7 The two demonstrably post-medieval field boundary ditches, extending across Trenches 4/8/7/13/16 and 34/33/39/40 are both depicted on 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping. These are clearly relatively late features relating to the agricultural management of the landscape. Features at the west end of Trench 42 were sealed by a layer containing post-medieval pottery. This layer was truncated by two gullies which are also likely to be of post-medieval or more modern date.

*Undated*

- 7.4.8 The undated ditch recorded in Trenches 1, 3 and 5 was probably post-medieval but, given its non-appearance on historic OS mapping and stratigraphic position under a subsoil deposit, is likely to be earlier – perhaps pre-19th century.



## **7.5 Consideration of project aims**

7.5.1 The evaluation has been successful in determining the presence/absence, location, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the site, demonstrating a low incidence of pre-medieval remains, a concentration of Late Saxon/Early Medieval remains in its east and the low importance of post-medieval field boundary remains that are well-documented. The truncation and disturbance of the site appears to be low and largely the product of post-medieval cultivation, with the exception of the probably early 19th century chalk quarry in its southwest corner. Additionally, the evaluation results corroborate those of the preceding geophysical survey.

## **7.6 Conclusions**

7.6.1 The evaluation has established the presence of below-ground archaeological remains within the site.

7.6.2 The identified prehistoric to Roman period remains are of low density and significance and have little potential to inform the understanding of the earlier development and use of the landscape in this vicinity.

7.6.3 The Late Saxon/Early Medieval period remains form a distinct concentration in the east of the site, alongside Stowmarket Road. Their relationship with the former Roman road is unclear as is the nature of the land use that they constitute. However, they may be part of a roadside occupation site, such as a farmstead. As such, these remains are of local to regional significance. Being buried, below c.0.6-0.8m of overburden deposits, these remains will be vulnerable to the impacts of development.

7.6.4 The recorded Post-medieval remains all relate to defunct boundaries within the extant enclosed agricultural landscape. Most have been previously documented by historic mapping. These are therefore well understood and of low significance.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CgMS for commissioning the evaluation work and in particular Manca Petric for her assistance throughout the project. Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Section is thanked for her guidance and monitoring undertaken on behalf of the LPA. The evaluation was undertaken by Trevor Ennis with assistance from Mark Dalton and Marek Kamysz. Site survey was carried out by Samara King and report figures were prepared by Andrew Lewsey. The fieldwork was project managed by Niall Oakey and the post-excavation process was managed by Mark Atkinson.

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### APPENDIX 1: Recorded trenches with no archaeological remains

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max. Depth/ Thickness m
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32
	9/002	Layer	Natural	-
10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10
	10/003	Layer	Natural	-
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14
	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.26
	11/003	Layer	Natural	-
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.15
	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.28
	12/003	Layer	Natural	-
17	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18
	17/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.45
	17/003	Layer	Natural	-
18	18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36
	18/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20
	18/003	Layer	Natural	-
19	19/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35
	19/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11
	19/003	Layer	Natural	-
20	20/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.34
	20/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.38
	20/003	Layer	Natural	-
21	21/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.34
	21/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.34
	21/003	Layer	Natural	-
22	22/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
	22/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20
	22/003	Layer	Natural	-
23	23/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36
	23/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.30
	23/003	Layer	Natural	-
24	24/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36
	24/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.32
	24/003	Layer	Natural	-
25	25/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35
	25/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20
	25/003	Layer	Natural	-
26	26/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36
	26/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14
	26/003	Layer	Natural	-
27	27/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36
	27/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10
	27/003	Layer	Natural	-
28	28/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
	28/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.40
	28/003	Layer	Natural	-
29	29/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35
	29/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08
	29/003	Layer	Natural	-
30	30/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35

	30/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.13
	30/003	Layer	Natural	-
31	31/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
	31/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.40
	31/003	Layer	Natural	-
32	32/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.40
	32/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08
	32/003	Layer	Natural	-
35	35/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
	35/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.30
	35/003	Layer	Natural	-
36	36/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35
	36/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.30
	36/003	Layer	Natural	-
37	37/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.15
	37/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.42
	37/003	Layer	Natural	-
38	38/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
	38/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20
	38/003	Layer	Natural	-
43	43/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35
	43/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.30
	43/003	Layer	Natural	-
45	45/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35
	45/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.50
	45/003	Layer	Natural	-
46	46/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36
	46/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.26
	46/003	Layer	Natural	-
47	47/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.37
	47/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.35
	47/003	Layer	Natural	-
48	48/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.40
	48/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.95
	48/003	Layer	Natural	-
49	49/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.37
	49/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.40
	49/003	Layer	Natural	-

## APPENDIX 2: ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	14/004	Pit	40	**	<2	**	<2																Pot */2 - Flint */4 - FCF */8 - Magnetised Material ***/4
2	6/004	Pit	40	**	4	**	2	Quercus sp. 6 (radial cracks), indet/knotwood 4			*	2			*	<2	*	<2			*	<2	Pot */<2 - FCF **/156 - Magnetised Material ***/6
3	42/020	ditch	40	**	<2	**	<2		*	<2	**	10	*	<2		*	<2	*	<2	*	<2		Flint */50 - FCF **/22 - Pot */8 - F.Clay */6 - Magnetised Material ***/4
4	42/022	Pit	40	**	2	**	<2				**	2							**	<2	***	272	Pot */14 - FCF **/46 - F.Clay */12 - G.Lava */<2 - Fe */2 - Magnetised Material ***/2
5	42/032	Pit	40	**	<2	**	<2																Flint */ 2 - FCF ****/9156 - Magnetised Material ***/4

2a: Residue quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams.

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation
1	14/004	3	10	10	70	10	* <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Sambucus</i> sp.	*	**	***						
2	6/004	21	80	80	40	20	* <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Sambucus</i> sp.	**	***	****						
3	42/020	34	90	90	50	20		**	***	***	**	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled), <i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> sp./ <i>Secale cereale</i>	+ / ++	*	<i>Avena</i> sp.	++
4	42/022	17	45	45	30	40				****	**	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled), <i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> sp., cf <i>Secale</i> <i>cereale</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i> sp.	+ / ++ / +++	*	Poaceae	+
5	42/032	26	10 0	100	60	20		**	***	****	*	<i>Hordeum</i> sp., <i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> sp.	+	*	<i>Avena</i> sp.	++

2b: Flot quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

**Appendix 3: SHER Summary Form**

Site Code	BLG037					
Identification Name and Address	Land west of Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham					
County, District &/or Borough	Suffolk, Mid Suffolk District					
OS Grid Ref.	TM 11555 51018					
Geology	Newhaven Chalk Formation sedimentary bedrock. Superficial deposits not recorded					
ASE Project Number	160598					
Type of Fieldwork	<b>Evaluation</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<b>Green Field</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	<b>1st-12th August 2016</b>					
Sponsor/Client	CgMS					
Project Manager	Niall Oakey					
Project Supervisor	Trevor Ennis					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	<b>RB</b>
	AS	<b>MED</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>Undated</b>		
<p>A total of 49 evaluation trenches were excavated across the 4.6ha development area, some targeted on anomalies identified in the preceding geophysical survey.</p> <p>18 trenches contained archaeological remains. No features of demonstrably prehistoric date were identified, though the recovery of a small quantity of residual struck flint was retrieved. One pit in the north of the site might be Iron Age. The majority of recorded features were of Late Saxon/Early Medieval date (11th-12th century AD) and formed a clear concentration in the east of the site alongside Stowmarket Road. Comprising ditches, pits and possible structural remains, these may constitute occupation, such as a farmstead, alongside the former Roman road.</p> <p>Post-medieval ditch remains related to the mapped historic enclosed landscape.</p>						
<p>Associated reports:</p> <p>Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd. 2016, <i>Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Land to the west of Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk</i></p>						



## Appendix 4: OASIS Form

<b>OASIS ID: archaeol6-258587</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Land west of Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham
Short description of the project	49 evaluation trenches were excavated across the 4.6ha development area, some targeted on anomalies identified by a preceding geophysical survey. 18 trenches contained archaeological remains. No features of demonstrably prehistoric date were identified, though the recovery of a small quantity of residual struck flint was retrieved. One pit in the north of the site might be Iron Age. The majority of recorded features were of Late Saxon/Early Medieval date (11th-12th century AD) and formed a clear concentration in the east of the site alongside Stowmarket Road. Comprising ditches, pits and possible structural remains, these may constitute occupation, such as a farmstead, alongside the former Roman road. Post-medieval ditch remains related to the mapped historic enclosed landscape.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2016 End: 12-08-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Assoc. project reference codes	160598 - Contracting Unit No. BLG037 - Sitecode 258587 – Event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Medieval PIT Medieval GULLY Medieval PIT Iron Age DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK GREAT BLAKENHAM Land on the west side of Stowmarket Road
Postcode	IP6 0NA
Study area	4.6 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 11555 51018 52.116416357575 1.090317232059 52 06 59 N 001 05 25 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.46m Max: 25.95m

<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Niall Oakey
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics", "Animal Bones"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
<b>Project bibliography</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation. Land to the West of Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ennis, T.
Other bibliographic details	ASE rep 2016334
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4, approx. 40 pages, inc figures and appendices.
Entered by	Mark Atkinson (mark.atkinson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	13 September 2016

## Appendix 5: Written Scheme of Investigation

**Land on the West Side of Stowmarket Road,  
Great Blakenham,  
Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
For Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching**

**NGR: TM 115 510**

**Mid Suffolk District Council**

**Planning Application Number: 2022/16**

**ASE Project no. 160598**

**July 2016**



**Archaeology South-East  
27 Eastways  
Witham  
Essex  
CM8 3YQ  
Tel: 0136 331470  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)**

**Written Scheme of Investigation**  
**For Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching**  
**At**  
**West Side of Stowmarket Road,**  
**Great Blakenham,**  
**Suffolk**

**NGR: TM 115 510**

**ASE Project no: 160598**

**July 2016**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Giles Dawkes	Senior Archaeologist	
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Darryl Palmer BA MCifA	Senior Project Manager	
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2016		
<b>Revision:</b>			

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, have been commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a phase of archaeological evaluation at Evaluation at Land on the West Side of Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 11548 51038 (TM 115 510).
- 1.2 The site is irregular in outline and generally bounded to the north and west by open fields, to the east by Stowmarket Road, to the south by a residential houses. It is to the north of the village of Great Blakenham, and falls within Mid Suffolk District Council jurisdiction.
- 1.3 A planning applications has been made (No. 2022/16) to Mid Suffolk District Council for the construction of 130 dwellings over 4.6 ha.
- 1.4 As the Local Planning Authority (LPA) had been advised that the location of the proposed development could affect important archaeological deposits, an archaeological field evaluation is required. This is in order for the LPA to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of any below-ground heritage assets at this location and allow mitigation strategies to be developed. A *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* was issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team's (SCCAS/CT) in July 2016, detailing the requirements of these works.
- 1.5 This is the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the archaeological evaluation, prepared by ASE, and will be submitted to SCCAS/CT for approval prior to commencement of the work. All work will be carried out in accordance with this document and with the SCCAS/CT *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation* and *Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation* (2012, Version 1.3), as well as with the appropriate *Standards and Guidance* documents of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015). Further work may be required if significant archaeological remains are found during the evaluation. In the event that further archaeological mitigation work is required (to be determined by SCCAS in their capacity as advisors to the LPA) a separate WSI will be prepared detailing the proposed work and submitted for approval.

## 2.0 Geology and Topography

2.1 The solid geology of the area comprises Newhaven Chalk Formation - sedimentary bedrock. Superficial deposits are not recorded. The site occupies a pronounced west to east slope, also falling from south to north, from its boundary with Chequers Rise to the allotment gardens at the north. A mean spot height of 21m AOD was recorded in the central region. (BGS 2016).

## 3.0 Archaeological Background

3.1 A desk-based assessment of the site was written in 2015 (Feldkamp 2015) and subsequently geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd 2016) were carried out on the site. The brief summary below is based on these documents and the *Brief* that uses references from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER).

3.2 A significant Roman and Saxon finds scatter was located to the east (BLG 004), along with a prehistoric and Roman field system (BAY056). Recent archaeological investigations to the south have detected a substantial Late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure associated with the remains of a number of structures (BLG 035). Multi-period finds have also been located within the vicinity of the site, whose situation within the Gipping Valley is topographically favourable location for occupation of all periods.

3.3 The geophysical survey of the site identified limited evidence of potential archaeological remains. This comprised of a small number of discrete and linear anomalies that might, conceivably signify pits and ditches (Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd 2016). Possible ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified.

## 4.0 Research Aims and Objectives

4.1 The general aims of this phase of archaeological investigation are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the previously unevaluated section of the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the extent of any previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To “ground truth” the results of the geophysical survey

- To enable the Senior Archaeological Officer at SCCAS/CT to make an informed decision regarding any possible requirements for further work.
  - To make the results of the investigation publicly accessible through submission of a report to the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record and of the project archive to the local museum.
- 4.2 Specific research aims, taking into account the *Research and Archaeology Framework for the Eastern Counties (Parts 1 and 2)* and the *Revised Framework for the East of England*, are to:
- Determine the presence/absence and significance of any evidence of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon activity within this location
  - Determine the presence/absence and significance of any later activity on the site

## **5.0 Methodology**

- 5.1 Forty-nine trenches 30m long by 1.8m wide will be opened in the locations shown (Figure 1) comprising a 5% sample of the site. The trenches will be laid out by an ASE surveyor, using a Global Positioning System (GPS).
- 5.2 ASE will consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain a unique event number for the evaluation. This will be clearly marked on all documentation for the work.
- 5.3 Although service information was not available when this document was drafted, the geophysical survey did identify a service aligned south-east to north-west crossing the middle of the site. Trenches have been located to avoid this service. If previously unidentified services are found during the trenching it may require trenches to be moved or foreshortened. This will only be carried out with the approval of the CGMS and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.4 Removal of topsoil (and subsoil if present and devoid of archaeological features) will be undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket at least 1.8m wide, under the direct supervision of an ASE archaeologist. Deposits will be removed in spits no greater than 250mm in thickness and all deposits will be examined for finds. Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately and replaced in sequence.
- 5.5 Machine excavation will be carried down on to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of natural deposits, whichever is uppermost.



Care will be taken not to machine off seemingly homogenous layers that may include the upper parts of archaeological features. The resultant surfaces will be cleaned as necessary to expose any archaeological remains.

- 5.6 A metal detector will be used to scan trench locations prior to machine excavation then throughout the programme of topsoil/subsoil removal and again during any subsequent hand excavation. Trench bases will also be scanned with metal detector. A log of its use will be kept.
- 5.7 Any features identified will be hand-excavated and planned using GPS by an ASE Surveyor. The Surveyor will plot excavated features and record levels in close consultation with the site Supervisor and/or the excavators. Where it is deemed necessary (for example in the event of detailed structural features or burials), features will be hand planned at a scale of 1:20 and then digitised.
- 5.8 All hand excavation will be carried out in line with SCCAS Trenches Evaluation Requirements (SCCAS: *Requirements for Trenched Evaluation, 2011*). All features will be excavated sufficiently to understand their character, but demonstrably modern disturbances will only be excavated as necessary in order to properly define and evaluate any features that they may cut. Slots across linear features will be at least 1m in width, if achievable and discrete features will be half-sectioned wherever possible. Hand excavation of features will be carefully undertaken and will follow the stratigraphy of any encountered archaeological layers, features and/or deposits. In certain circumstances hand excavation by pick and/or mattock and shovel may be undertaken but will only be utilised in respect of homogenous low-grade deposits. Such techniques will not be used in situations where careful hand excavation is required such as burials.
- 5.9 Should any human burials or remains be encountered, CgMs, SCCAS/CT and the Coroner's Office will be immediately informed and excavation will cease until the relevant Ministry of Justice licence has been obtained. Should approval be granted for excavation of the human remains, it will be carried out in accordance with ClfA Professional Practice Paper 7: *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (Brickley and McKinley 2004) and ClfA Technical Paper 13: *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains* (McKinley & Roberts 1993).
- 5.10 The provisions of the *Treasure Act* of 1996, amended 2003, will be observed. Should finds of precious metals such as gold and silver and other finds as defined under the Act be made, they will be reported to the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer who will in turn inform the local Coroner. Should the removal of such objects be unable to be made during the same working day, suitable and appropriate security arrangement will be made to deposit them with the local Coroner's Office.

- 5.11 The site work will be directed by a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) with experience of prehistoric landscapes.
- 5.12 CgMs shall be informed at the earliest opportunity of any archaeological features or deposits worthy of preservation. CgMs will liaise directly with SCCAS/CT to arrange visits to review fieldwork. No trenches will be backfilled without prior authorisation.

## **6.0 Recording Methodology**

- 6.1 All work will be carried out in line with Suffolk County Council's *Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2012, Version 1.3) and in line with relevant CIfA guidance documents (CIfA 2014).
- 6.2 All exposed features will be recorded according to current professional standards using the standard context record sheets and masonry sheets used by ASE employing a single context recording system.
- 6.3 All structural and other relationships will be recorded and a structural matrix created.
- 6.4 A full photographic record will be made of all significant archaeological features comprising colour digital images. In addition working shots and elements of interest (individual features and group shots) will be taken. All photographs will include a board that will detail: the site code, date, context number, section number, a scale and a north arrow. All photographs will be fully indexed and cross-referenced on ASE context sheets and photographic registers. The photographic register will include: film number, shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.
- 6.5 Detailed elevation and/or section drawings will be hand-drawn at 1:10 on plastic draughting film (permatrace).
- 6.6 If deposits suitable for environmental sampling are encountered (such as dated excavated contexts of buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits), bulk soil samples (40 litres or 100% of smaller features) will be taken for environmental analysis. Bulk samples will be processed using tank flotation unless considered detrimental to the samples or recovery rate (such as for waterlogged samples). Bulk samples will target recovery of plant remains (charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. Waterlogged samples will be wet sieved through nested sieves and stored in wet, cool conditions or dried if considered an appropriate form of conservation for the remains. Specialist samples may also be taken from dry or waterlogged contexts. Such samples will target recovery of pollen (using monolith

tins), molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects. Larger samples (80-100 litres) will be extracted wholesale from deposits rich in marine molluscs and large mammal bones. As a general rule waterlogged wood specimens will be recorded in detail in their original location. If removed they will be cleaned, photographed and a thin section sample will be taken for identification. Specimens will either be stored in wet cool conditions or dried if considered appropriate for the material. In all instances deposits with clear intrusive material shall be avoided.

- 6.7 The exact level and detail of recording will meet the standards defined above, but will remain flexible and will be reviewed regularly on site with CgMs and SCCAS/CT.

## 7.0 Post-Excavation Methodology and Reporting

- 7.1 All finds will be cleaned, labelled, sorted and analysed in accordance with the practices and standards outlined in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No.2: Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). Most ceramic and other building material and burnt flint will be identified, counted, weighed and discarded. Samples will be retained as appropriate. Finds will be bagged in polythene bags according to type and context.
- 7.2 Suitable arrangements will be made for the conservation of artefacts where appropriate in consultation and with the agreement of the Archaeological Service. All finds in an unstable condition will be stabilised using passive conservation techniques where appropriate before being deposited with the Archaeological Service.
- 7.3 The majority of finds will be identified by in-house specialists within Archaeology South-East (see Appendix 1). Any external specialists utilised work regularly with ASE and are regional specialists in their field. All material will be examined with particular attention to datable artefacts, such as lithics, pottery, building material, coins and other metalwork.
- 7.4 Upon completion of the fieldwork, the site archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991). The site archive will contain all the data collected during the excavation including records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent.
- 7.5 An evaluation report including plans, digital photographs and drawings will be prepared within four weeks of completion of the site work, subject to the production of any necessary specialist reports. Specialist reports must be included in the report and this may delay report issue. It will include a record of all materials recovered and all written, drawn

and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. **The report will include the results of an updated SHER search (the SHER Invoice Search Reference will be quoted in the report).**

- 7.6 The report will be in line with guidelines set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).
- 7.7 An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> following the completion of the Assessment report and included as an appendix.
- 7.8 A draft copy of the report will be sent to both CgMs and SCCAS/CT, for their comments and approval. Once the report has been accepted further copies and one electronic copy in PDF format will be sent to the local planning authorities, the SHER and the client as appropriate.
- 7.9 A copy of the report will be supplied to the SHER on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time not exceeding six months.
- 7.10 Agreement shall be reached with CgMs and SCCAS/CT regarding the format and destination of any subsequent publication(s) arising from the investigations. Proposals for publication, if appropriate, will be detailed in the post-excavation assessment report and timescales and costs for a publication programme will be agreed at that stage. As a minimum, provision will be made for a summary of the evaluation results in the annual PSIAH round-up.
- 7.11 Upon completion of the final report for publication, the archive will be prepared for deposition in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994) and the SCCAS Archive Guidelines (SCCAS 2014).
- 7.12 Finds from the fieldwork will be kept with the archival material and permission will be sought from the landowner to deposit the finds and paper archive with the SCCAS.

## 8.0 Health and Safety

- 8.1 A Risk Assessment will be produced and agreed with CgMs prior to the commencement of the work. All relevant main contractor health and safety regulations will be adhered to.

## **9.0 Staffing and Equipment**

- 9.1 The lead Archaeologist assigned to the project will be responsible for fieldwork, post-excavation reporting and archiving in liaison with the relevant specialists and under the overall direction of the fieldwork project manager (Niall Oakey) and the post-excavation project manager (Mark Atkinson). The fieldwork is expected to be completed within four working weeks and is likely to commence in the last week of August (subject to harvesting). On-site assistance will be provided by a Surveyor and Archaeological Assistants.
- 9.2 SCCAS/CT will be informed of the identity of the lead Archaeologist before the commencement of fieldwork and also will be notified should any subsequent change of personnel occur. CVs of all key staff are available on request.
- 9.3 Specialists who may be consulted are listed in Appendix 1.
- 9.4 Other specialists may be consulted if necessary. These will be made known to the monitoring officer for approval prior to consultation. Similarly, any changes in the specialist list will be made known to the monitoring officer for approval prior to consultation.

## **10.0 Insurance**

- 10.1 Archaeology South-East is insured against claims for: public and products liability to the value of £50,000,000 any one event for all claims in the aggregate during any one period of insurance; employers' liability to the value of £50,000,000 any one event inclusive of costs; professional indemnity to the value of £15,000,000 any one claim / aggregate any one period of insurance.

## **11.0 Monitoring**

- 11.1 Provision will be made at all stages of the project for CgMs and SCCAS/CT to monitor progress and standards. Provision will be made by CgMs (in liaison with ASE) for SCCAS/CT to make site monitoring visits at agreed and specified times.

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- CIfA 2014c *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*
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- SCCAS. 2014 *Archive Guidelines*
- SCCAS/CT. 2016 *Brief for an archaeological evaluation at Land on the West Side of Stowmarket road, Great Blakenham*

**APPENDIX 1**

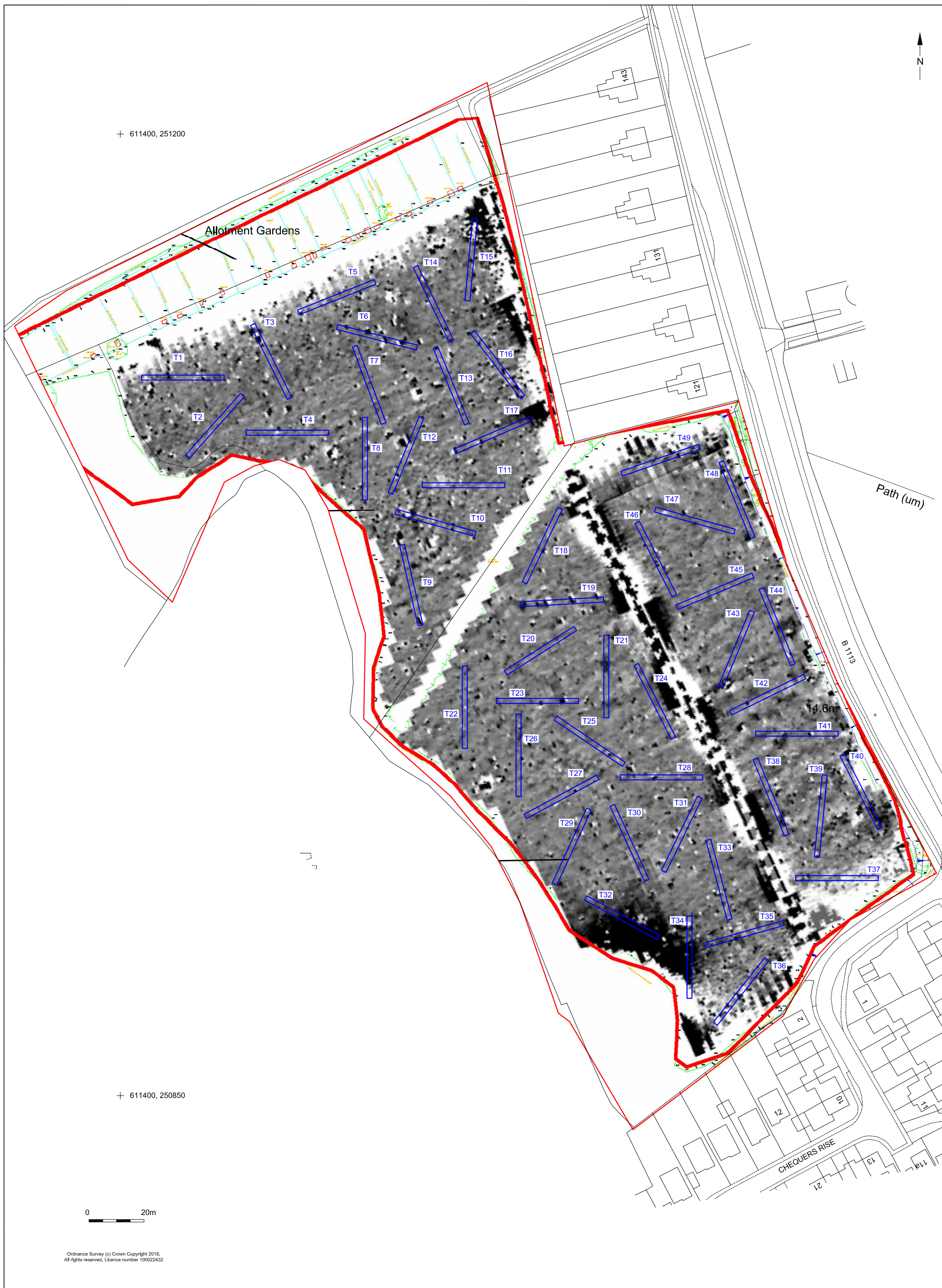
Specialists to be used as necessary:

Prehistoric and Roman pottery	Louise Rayner & Anna Doherty (ASE)
Prehistoric	Nick Lavender (external: Essex region)
Post-Roman pottery	Luke Barber (external: Sussex, Kent and London)
Post-Roman pottery (Essex)	Helen Walker (external: Essex)
CBM	Sue Pringle & Luke Barber (external)
Fired Clay	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Clay Tobacco Pipe	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Glass	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Slag	Luke Barber, Lynne Keyes (external); Trista Clifford (ASE)
Metalwork	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Worked Flint	Karine Le Hégarat (ASE); Hugo Anderson-Whymark (external)
Geological material and worked stone	Luke Barber (external)
Human bone incl cremated bone	Lucy Sibun (ASE)
Animal bone incl fish	Gemma Ayton (ASE)
Marine shell	Elke Raemen (ASE); David Dunkin (external)
Registered Finds	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Coins	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Treasure administration	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Conservation and x-ray	Fishbourne Roman Villa or UCL Institute of Archaeology
Geoarchaeology	Dr Matt Pope & Liz Chambers (ASE)
Geoarchaeology (incl wetland environments)	Kristina Krawiec (ASE)
Macro-plant remains	Dr Lucy Allott & Karine Le Hégarat (ASE)
Charcoal & Waterlogged wood	Dr Lucy Allott & Dawn Elise Moony (ASE)



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Project Ref: 160598	July 2016	Site location		
Report No: WSI	Drawn by: APL			





© Archaeology South-East		Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160598	July 2016	Proposed trench locations with greyscale geophysical survey interpretation	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: APL		

**Sussex Office**

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

**Essex Office**

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

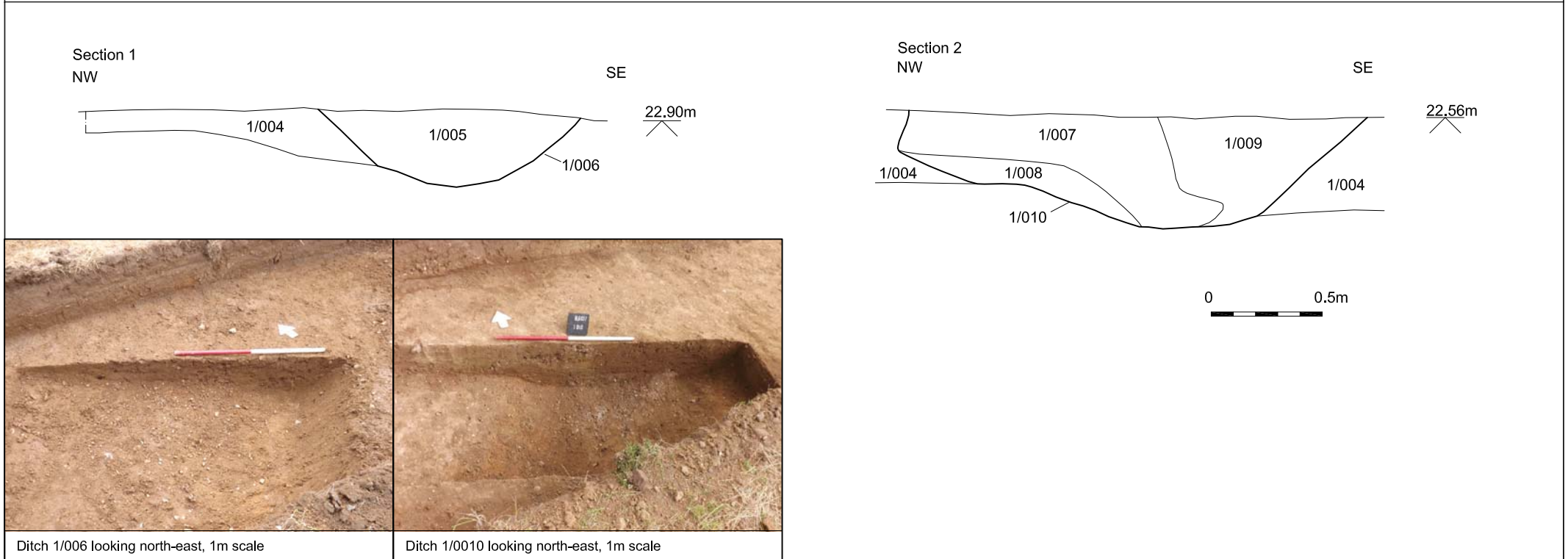
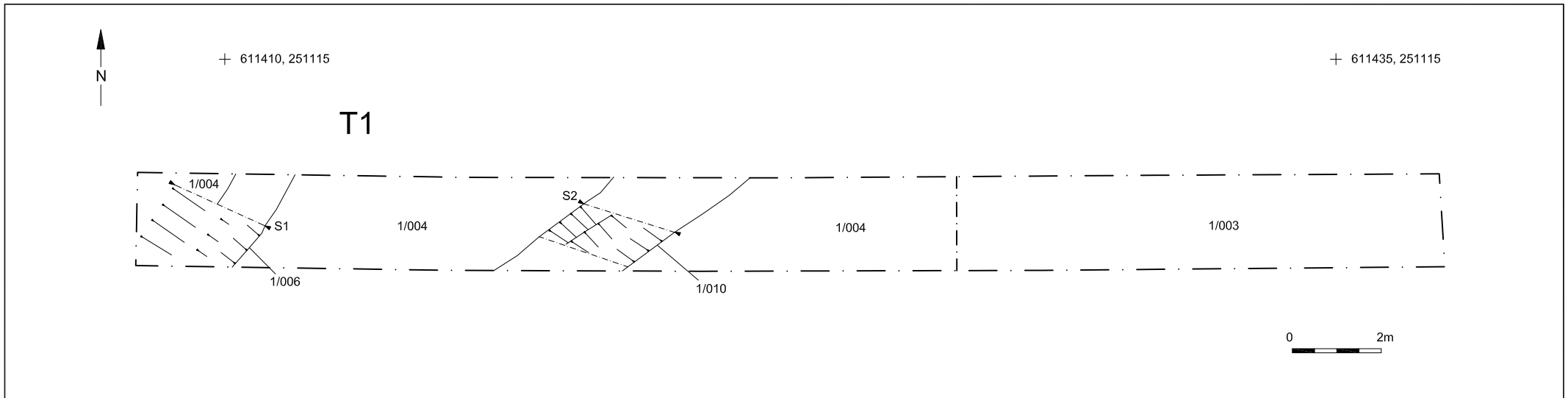




© Archaeology South-East		Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160598	Sept 2016	Site location		
Report No: 2016334	Drawn by: APL			



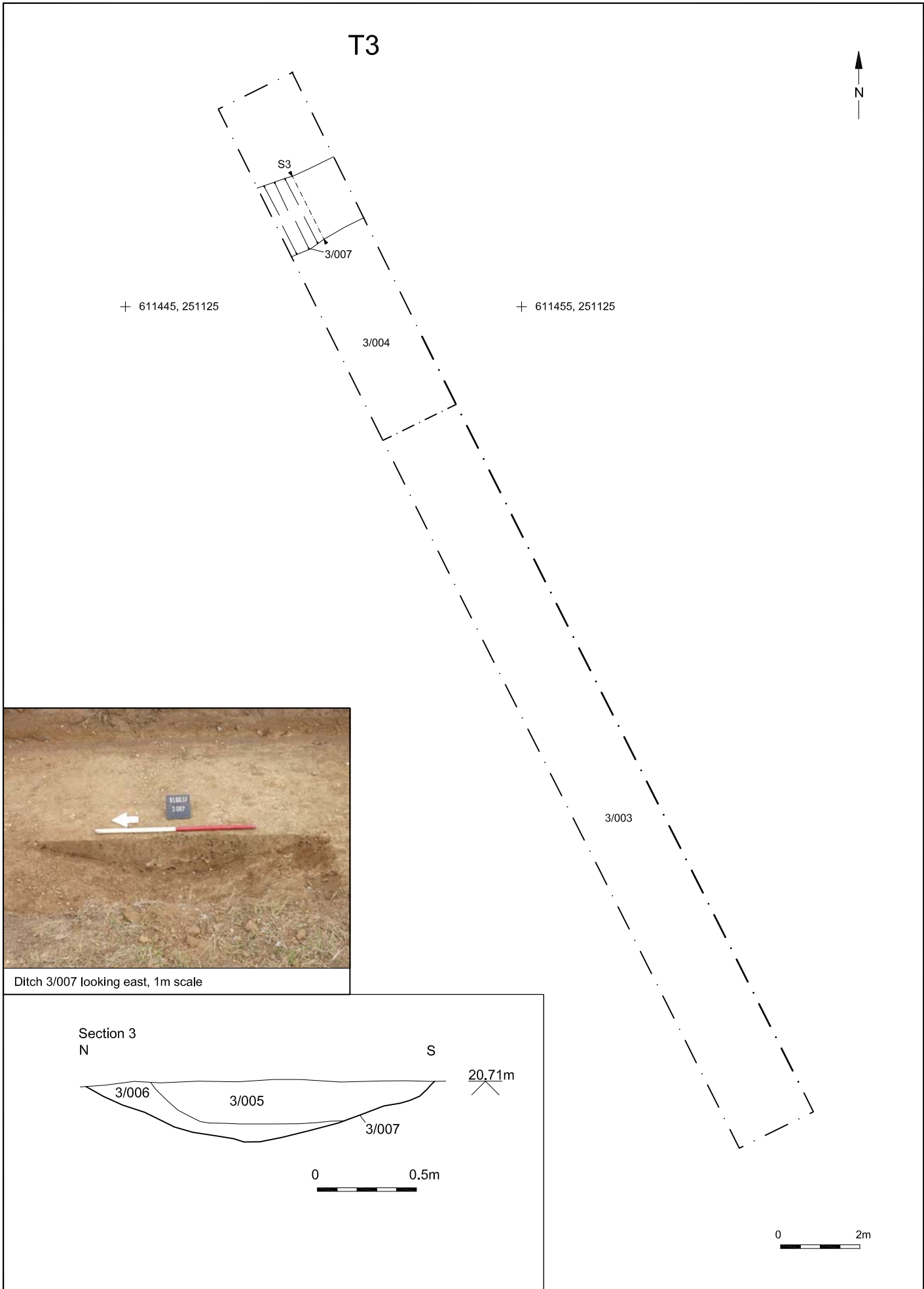
© Archaeology South-East		Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160598	Aug 2016	Trench locations with interpretation of geophysical survey	
Report Ref: 2016334	Drawn by: APL		



Ditch 1/006 looking north-east, 1m scale

Ditch 1/010 looking north-east, 1m scale

© Archaeology South-East		Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham	Fig.3
Project Ref: 160598	August 2016	Trench 3 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016334	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 160598	August 2016	Trench 3 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016334	Drawn by: APL		

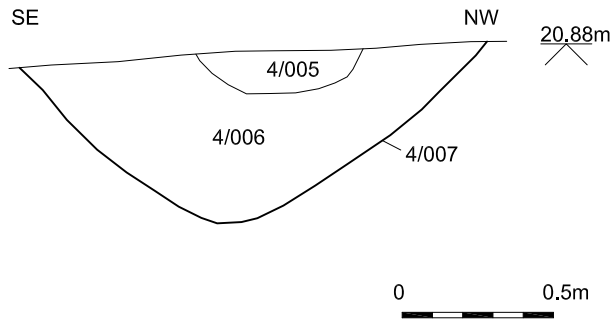
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Section 4  
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Ditch 4/007 looking south-west, 1m scale

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Project Ref: 160598

August 2016

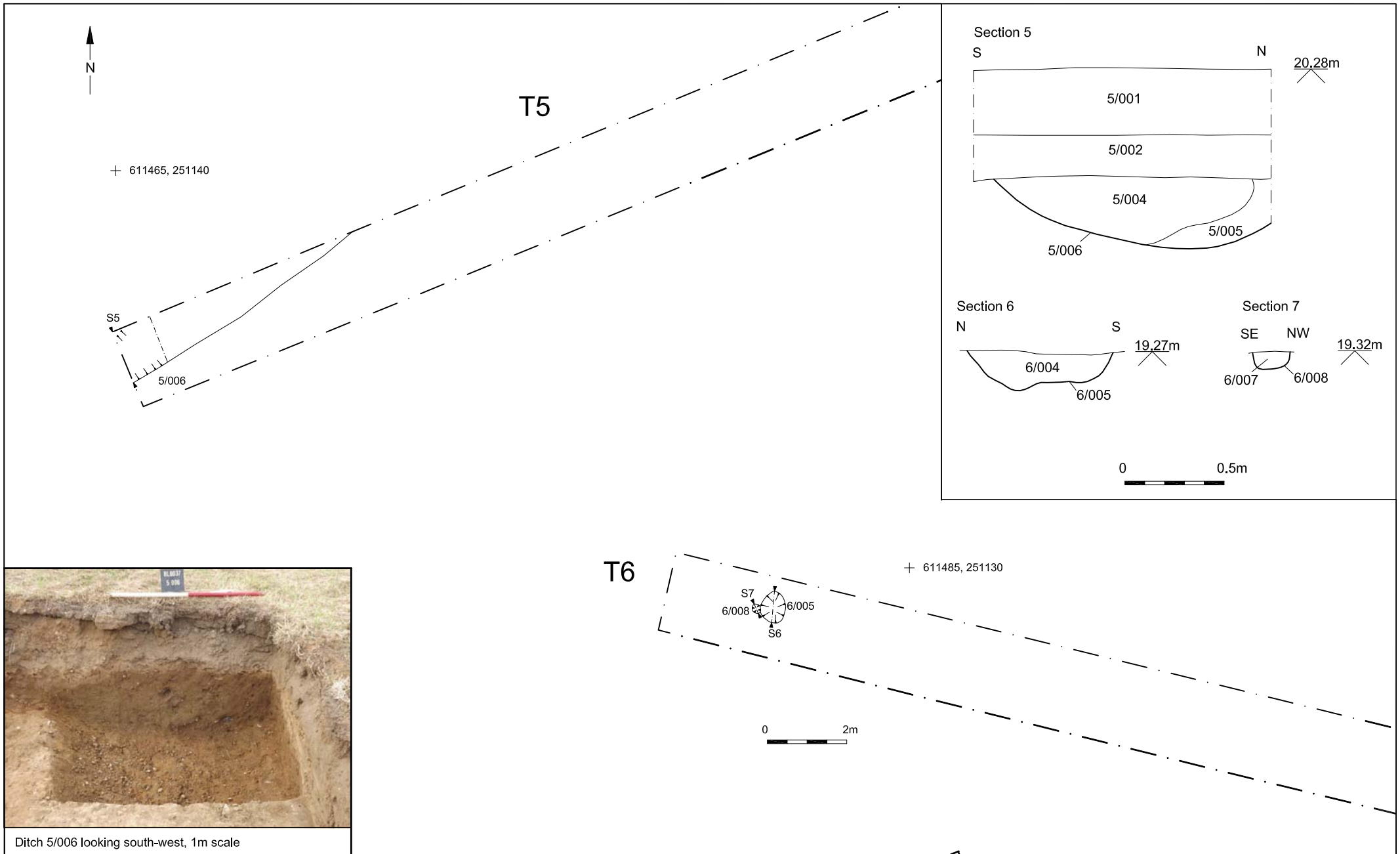
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Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham

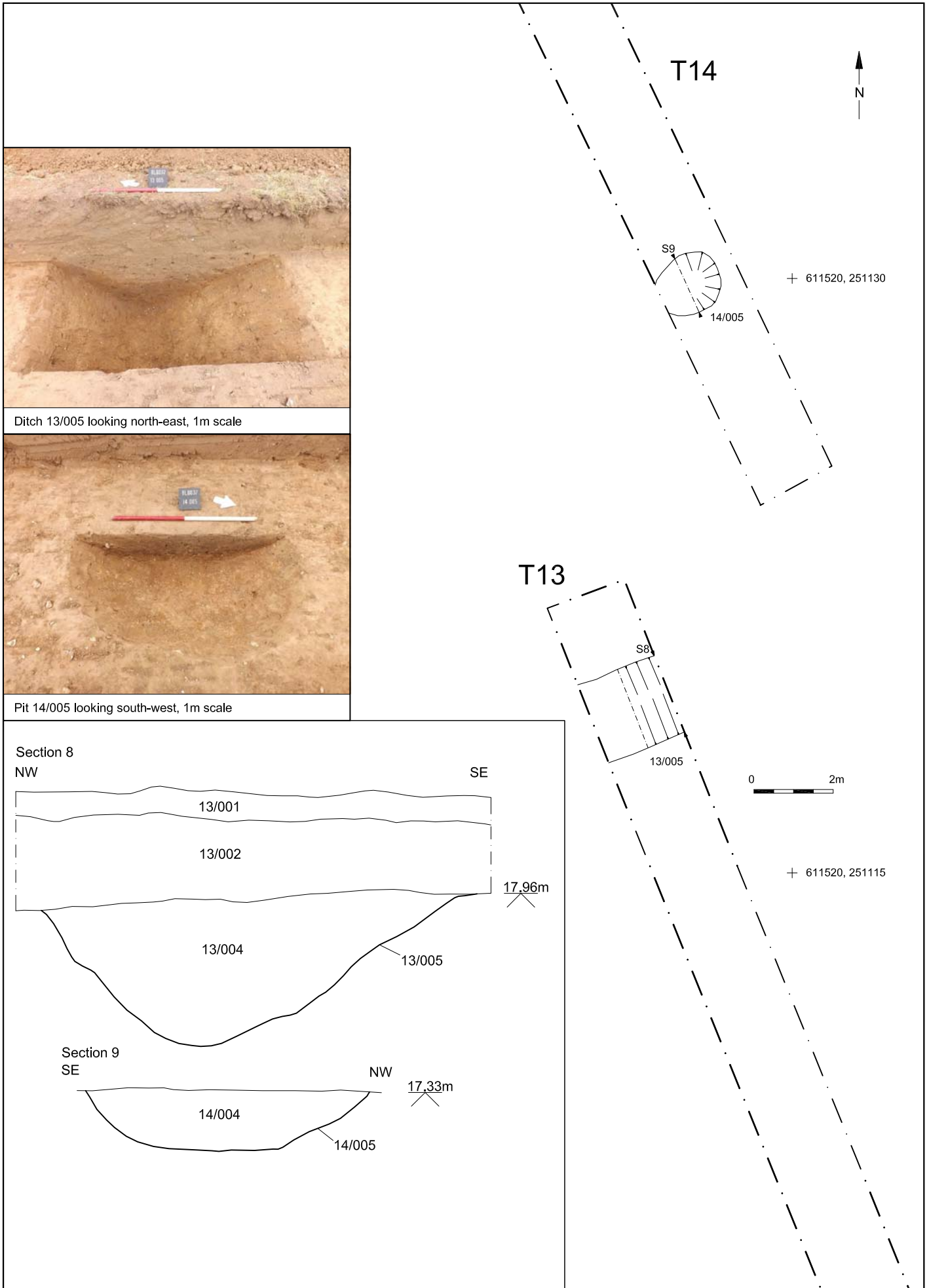
Trench 4 plan, section and photograph

Fig.5

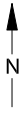


© <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham	Fig.6
Project Ref: 160598	August 2016	Trenches 5 & 6 plan, sections and photograph	
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Project Ref: 160598	August 2016	Trenches 13 & 14 plan, sections and photographs	
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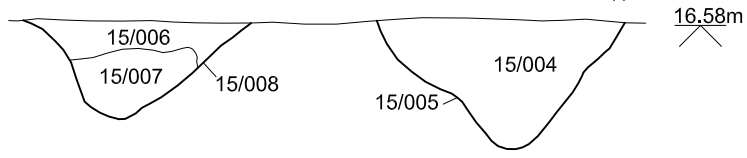


Ditches 15/005 and 15/008 looking south-west, 1m scale

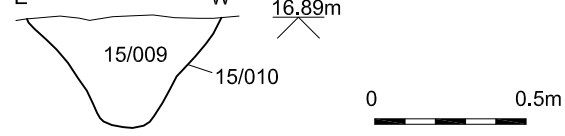


Pit 15/010 looking south, 1m scale

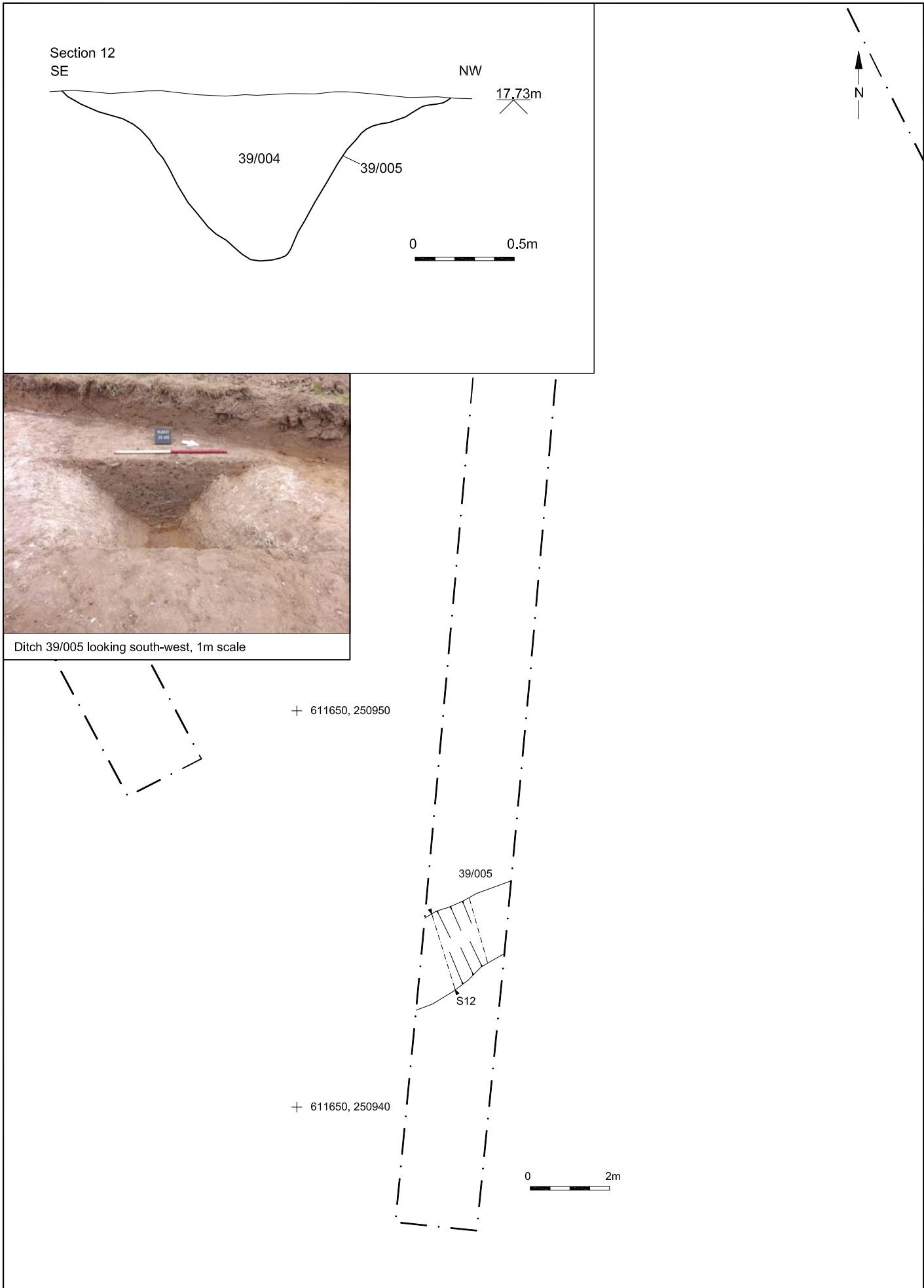
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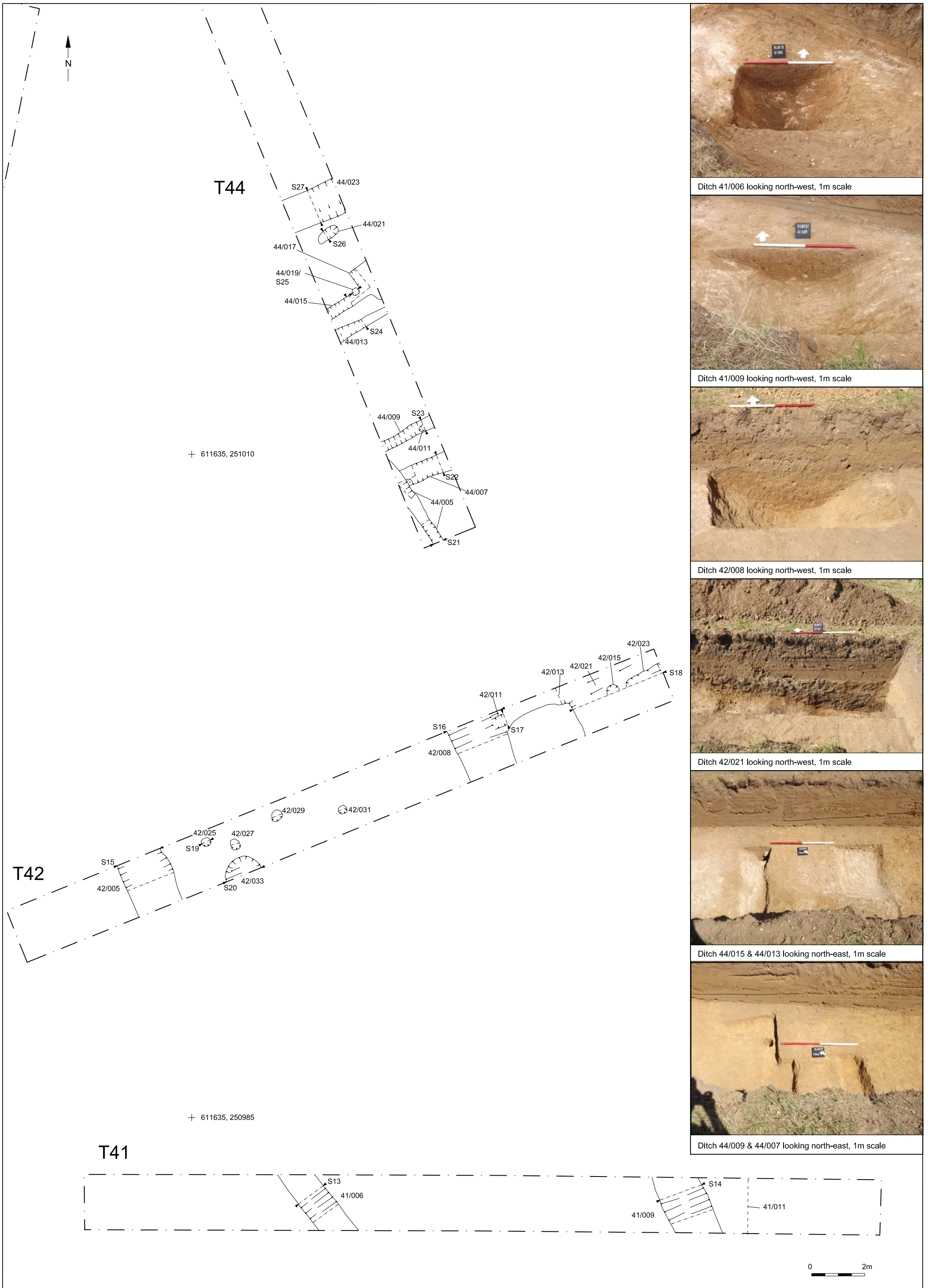
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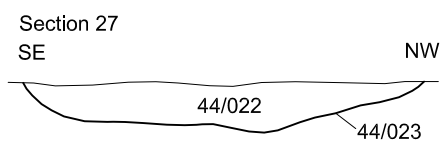
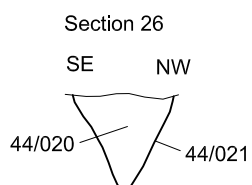
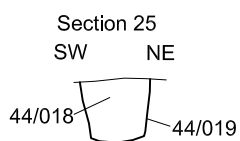
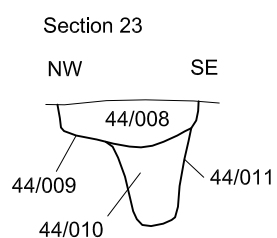
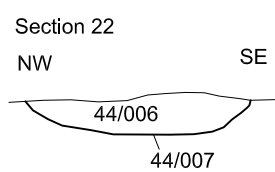
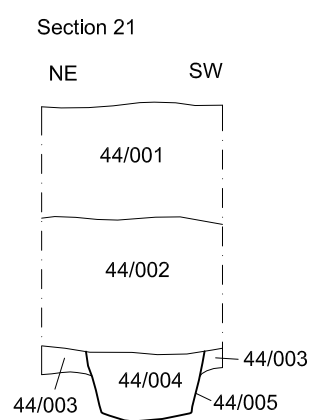
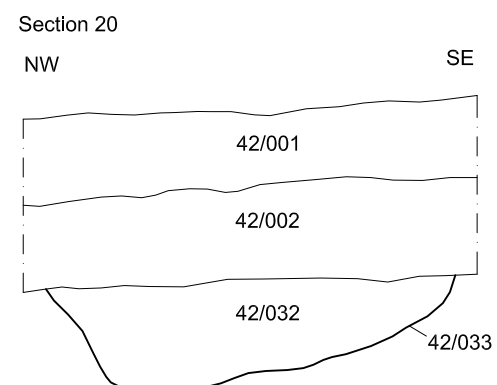
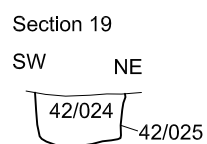
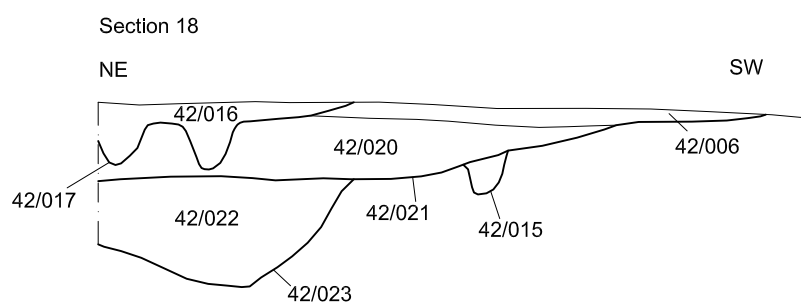
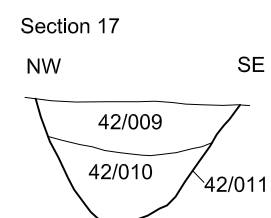
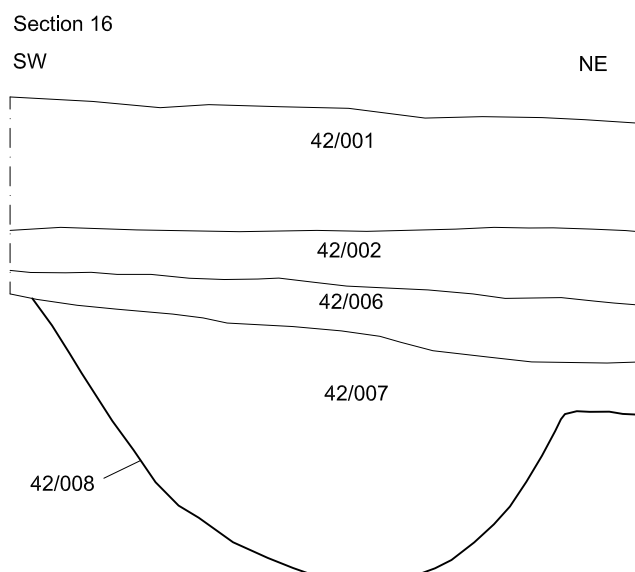
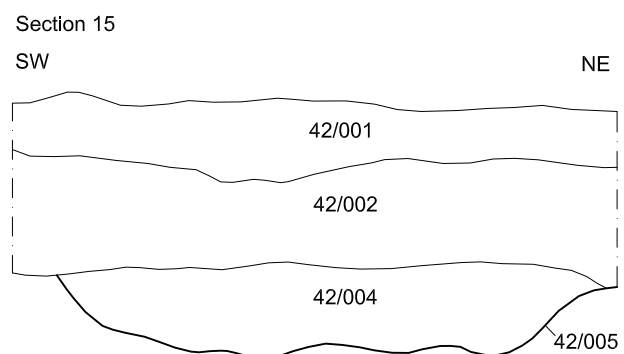
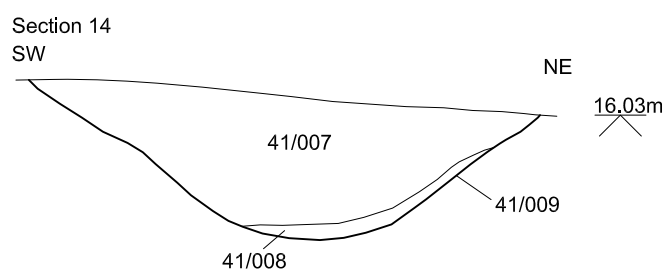
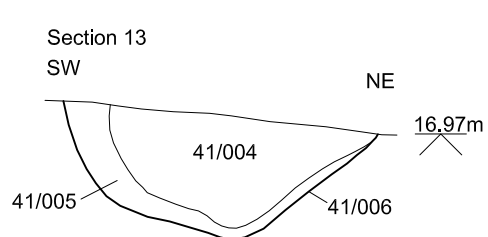


© Archaeology South-East		Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham	Fig.8
Project Ref: 160598	August 2016	Trench 15 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016334	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham	Fig.9
Project Ref: 160598	August 2016	Trenches 39 plan, section and photograph	
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Project Ref: 160598	August 2016	Sections from trenches 41, 42 and 44	
Report Ref: 2016334	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 3 looking north, 1m scale



Trench 8 looking north, 1m scale



Trench 8 looking south-east, 1m scale



Trench 27 looking north-east, 1m scale

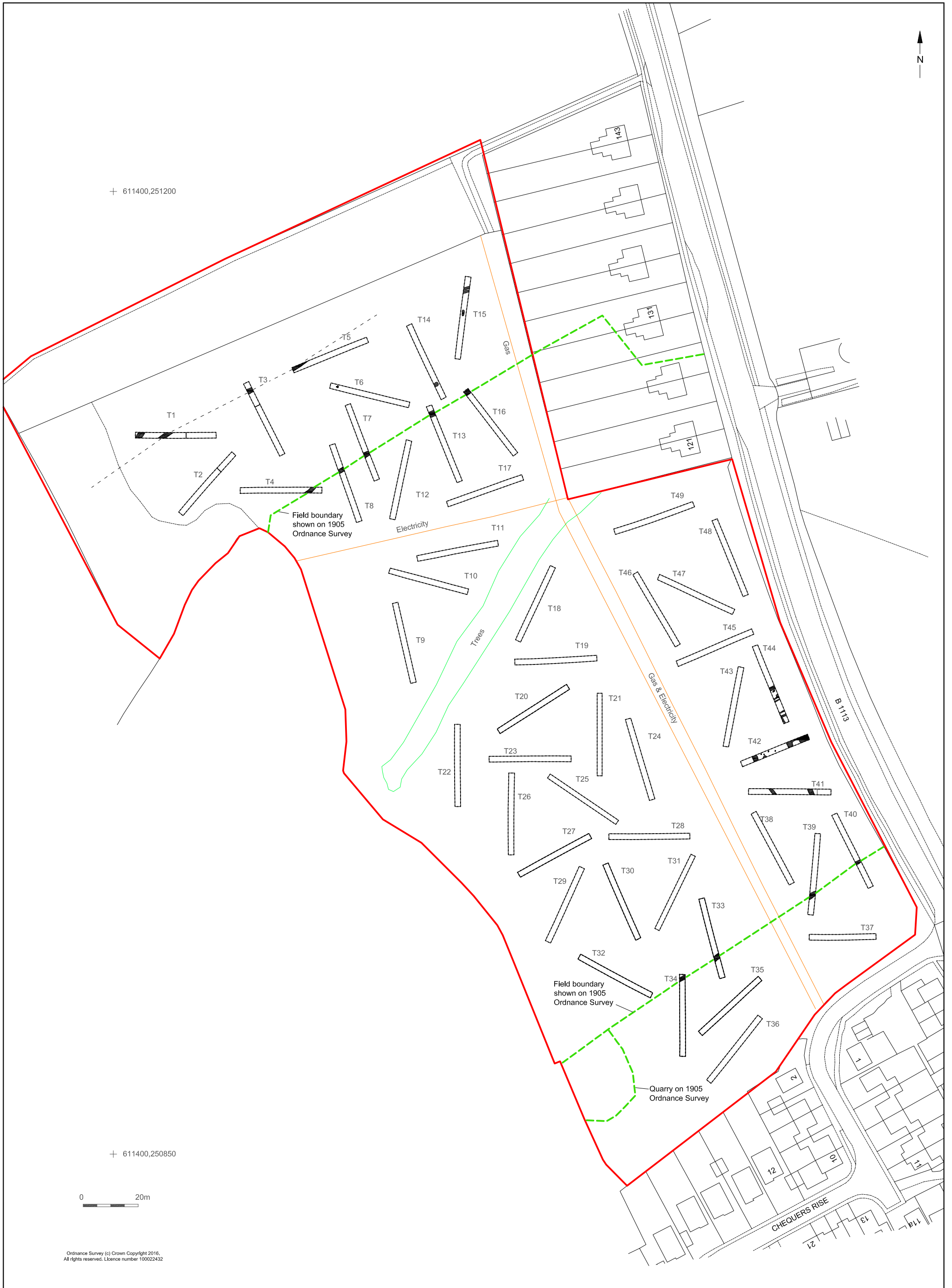


Trench 36 looking north-east, 1m scale



Trench 48 looking north, 1m scale

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Project Ref: 160598	August 2016	Selected trench photographs	
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Project Ref: 160598	Aug 2016	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2016334	Drawn by: APL		

**Sussex Office**

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

**Essex Office**

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

