Archaeology South-East

ASE

LAND AT HEATH AND SUNNYMEAD FARMS
ALRESFORD
ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING

ASE Project Number: 160124
Site Code: ALSH16

ASE Report Number: 2016408

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Archaeological Evaluation
Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by Archaeology South-East at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex. The trial-trenching was carried out pre-application, in advance of possible mineral extraction. It was commissioned by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Tarmac Trading Ltd and it was undertaken from 19/9/16 to 29/10/16. The archaeological work was monitored by Essex County Council Place Services.

A preceding geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies of potential archaeological interest within the site area. The trial trench evaluation was therefore targeted upon a selection of these anomalies in order to validate the geophysics results.

A total of 40 trenches were excavated across the 65ha site extent, of which twelve were identified to contain archaeological remains. These revealed a low-to-moderate incidence, and low complexity, of archaeological features and finds. The features cut natural and lay sealed beneath 0.3-0.5m of topsoil. Most of them were discovered in the site's north-west quadrant, close to the Sixpenny Brook, making it possible that this watercourse had been a draw for human activity during the past. A number of these excavated remains can be demonstrated to correlate with plotted geophysical anomalies.

The earliest feature is a prehistoric pit in the site's north-west corner. It is either Early Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age in date and perhaps indicates occupation activity in this vicinity.

Four adjacent trenches in the central-west part of the site revealed Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditches, with over 100 sherds of pottery being retrieved from one. The sherds probably relate to domestic occupation, the focal point of which has yet to be identified. The ditches are perhaps remnants of Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosures alongside the east side of the Sixpenny Brook.

A single medieval pit is present toward the northern edge of the site and could perhaps suggest roadside occupation in this vicinity.

Remains of the post-medieval enclosure system, dating at least from the early 18th century, are widespread across the site. This field system is recorded extensively by historic mapping from 1730 onwards. However, both cropmarks and the evaluation results suggest a greater complexity of development and use than the maps indicate.

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1.1 Site Background

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1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The village of Alresford is located *c.*4km north of the mouth of the River Colne and *c.*5km south-east of Colchester town centre in the district of Tendring. Adjacent settlements are Wivenhoe to the west and Elmstead Market to the north.

1.2.2 The site is located c.500m northwest of Alresford (TM 05843 22402). Its extent is roughly defined by the B1027 to the east and north, Heath Farm and Cockaynes Lane to the south, and the Sixpenny Brook to the west (Fig. 1). Sunnymead Farm occupies the site's south-west corner.

1.2.3 The site comprises a block of eight adjoining arable fields with a combined area of 65ha and its terrain undulates from *c.*27-30m OD. To the near west of the site is the Sixpenny Brook. The brook is a tributary of Alresford Creek to the south and its source lies west of Elmstead Market to the north.

1.2.7 The site is probably former heathland because of its light sandy soil, which during the past would have been nutrient-poor and quick to drain. Local place names further imply this and include 'Elmstead Heath', 'Heath Farm', 'Heath Lodge' and 'Furzedown'.

1.2.8 Heathland occupies infertile, acidic free draining ground. Its flora of low growing shrubs, woody vegetation and bracken are suitable for grazing of livestock and collecting of animal bedding.

1.2.3 The geology of the site comprises pre-diversionary River Thames deposits of sand and gravel above a bedrock of Thames Group silty clay (www.bgs.ac.uk).

1.2.4 The overlying topsoil consists of brown sandy silt, 0.3-0.5m thick. Subsoil is intermittently present as well; but only in Trench 36 where it comprises of a very thin layer (0.03-0.10m) of light brown sandy silt.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological work was requested by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd on behalf of their client Tarmac and was undertaken pre-application.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents and assesses the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching, which was undertaken by Archaeology South-East on behalf of Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Tarmac Trading Ltd. The archaeological work was carried out from 19/9/16 to 29/10/16.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The main source of the following information is a desk-based assessment, which was produced for Lafarge Aggregates by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd in 2011 (Phoenix Consulting 2011). There are no scheduled monuments, historic parks, gardens or battlefields within 1km of the site. The most pertinent archaeological sites and findspots mentioned in the following text are located on Figure1.

2.1.2 The site and its surrounding area contain a large number of cropmarks (Phoenix Consulting 2011, Fig. 5), most of which represent field ditches recorded on post-medieval and later maps (Fig. 15).

2.1.3 Archaeological investigations were carried out around Villa Farm Quarry / Cockaynes Farm (EHER 45981, 17671; ECC FAU 1993, 1994, 1995, 1999 and 2000; Orr 2004) and Marsh Farm (EHER 2654) to the immediate south of the site during the 1990s. They revealed no remains apart from a residual sherd of medieval pottery.

2.1.4 A characterisation of the historic landscape of Tendring by Essex County Council suggests it to have mainly comprised a landscape of heathland and irregular enclosures (ECC HEB 2008). Settlements were generally dispersed and non-nucleated and often located alongside edges of heaths.

2.1.5 According to the Brasier map of 1730, and the tithe map of 1844, the site has consisted of fields defined by hedges and/or ditches since at least the early part of the 18th century. The fields were initially numerous, small and largely straight-sided, but due to post-medieval and modern field amendment and boundary removal are now fewer and larger (Phoenix Consulting 2011, figs 2 and 3).

2.2 Palaeolithic

2.2.1 Two flint flakes and an Acheulian hand axe have been discovered at Keeler's Farm and Broadlanes Lane, *c.*1km to the north-west (EHER 2595, 7252).

2.3 Neolithic

2.3.1 Neolithic flint axes have been found as single items within the vicinity of the site, but none have been found within the site boundary (EHER 2341, 2343, 2353-4).

2.4 Bronze Age

2.4.1 The local evidence for the Bronze Age period is larger and more varied. A cremation urn and two ring-ditches have been found south of the site (EHER 2669); cropmarks of twelve ring-ditches to the near east of the evaluation area possibly represent a Middle Bronze Age Ardleigh Group cemetery (EHER 2614). Further ring-ditches denoting barrows were excavated at Fen Farm to the north of the site (EHER 45983; Ennis 2008). A pit, thought to be Bronze Age, has been found west of Cockaynes Wood to the near south (EHER 45981).

2.5 Iron Age

2.5.1 A skeleton and an Iron Age loomweight were discovered during mineral extraction near Keelers Lane to the west of the site in 1934 (EHER 2421). More recently, an Iron Age settlement has been recorded at Fen Farm, south-west of Elmstead Market (EHER 45983; Ennis 2008).

2.6 Roman

2.6.1 Evidence for Roman activity within the vicinity of the site is slight and comes in the form of two finds' spots of Roman pottery, and a coin of Claudius, which was discovered 'somewhere within the area of Elmstead Market'. The Roman pot sherds were found near Marsh Farm and Keeler's Farm, to the south-west and north-west respectively (EHER 2654, 2531).

2.7 Medieval

2.7.1 The settlement pattern of the Tendring Peninsula during the medieval period consisted of dispersed settlements, hamlets and farms, with focal points provided by churches. The cultivated land probably mainly consisted of large, unenclosed common fields, although these may have been less tightly regulated than those of the English Midlands (Christie and Stamper 2012). The only archaeological evidence for medieval period landuse currently consists of the aforementioned medieval pot sherd from Marsh Farm.

2.8 Post-medieval

2.8.1 Wivenhoe, Alresford and Elmstead Market and their surrounding farming estates expanded during the 19th century, following laying of railway lines into London, thereby incentivising and facilitating local production and trade.

2.8.2 The earliest detailed map of the site is the 1730 Brasier map which shows it to comprise numerous small fields and two areas of woodland. The 2011 desk-based assessment notes that a number of the field boundaries match cropmarks identified in the HER. Central to the map is '*Pond Field*', suggesting a pond once existed here.

2.8.3 The 1844 Tithe Map shows field enlargement in progress, with a number of boundaries removed since 1730. Field names suggest parts of it are wooded and the presence of a brick-kiln is inferred with one plot close to Heath Farm called *brick kiln field*.

2.8.4 By the time of the 2nd edition OS map (1898), the layout of the landscape is similar to that of the modern day. Further removal of field boundaries has taken place, creating larger fields, and all woodland has gone.

2.9 Previous archaeological works on site

2.9.1 A geophysical survey preceded the trenching and was carried out by the Bartlett-Clark Consultancy on behalf of Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd in September 2015 (Bartlett 2015). The survey detected anomalies that were interpreted as former post-medieval/modern field ditches, previously recorded by historic maps, and various sub-surface features and disturbances which were judged to be natural or of recent origin (Fig. 14).

2.10 Project Aims and Objectives

2.10.1 The general aim of the trial trenching was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The specification for the archaeological work was produced by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Tarmac Trading Ltd (Phoenix Consulting 2016).

3.1.2 The evaluation consisted of forty-two trenches, each measuring 50m long and 2m wide (Fig. 2). The trenches were evenly distributed and most of them targeted geophysical anomalies (Fig. 14).

3.1.3 Some parts of the central part of the site were unavailable for trenching because they were crossed by overhead electricity cables. In addition, the evaluation was unable to strip trenches 7 and 8 in a small field at the far north end of the site because they lay behind a gate which was too narrow for machine access.

3.1.5 The excavation of trenches was undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The mechanical removal of overburden deposits was undertaken down to the top of the archaeological horizon or else the top of the undisturbed natural. Hand cleaning was carried out, sufficient to define any remains exposed.

3.1.5 Standard ASE trench and context sheets were used to record the trenches and features. Discrete archaeological features were half-sectioned and slots were excavated across linear features, with their resulting sections hand-drawn on drawing film sheets. All exposed remains were planned and spot-heighted by using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).

3.1.6 A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made. All trenches were photographed from each end (trench shots) and all excavated contexts were photographed (context shots). In addition, a number of representative photographs of the general work on site were taken (working shots). The photographic register includes the shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.

3.1.7 Finds, where present, were retrieved from all investigated features/deposits. These were securely bagged and labelled with the appropriate site code and context number on site, and retained for specialist identification and study.

3.1.8 Taking of bulk samples for wet sieving and possible retrieval of small animal bones and carbonised plant macrofossils was recorded on pro-forma sheets and restricted to datable, sealed contexts judged to have potential for the survival of environmental remains. 40 litre samples, or if smaller the entire contents of a feature were collected.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive and artefacts will be deposited at Colchester and Ipswich Museum, subject to agreement with the legal land owner. The contents of the

archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Item	Quantity
Trench records	40
Context records	115
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	4
Digital photos	102
Permatrace sheets	4

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 General

4.1.1 The recorded overburden deposits generally comprised a 0.40-0.50m thickness of dark brown sandy silt. A thin, localised spread of light brown subsoil was only encountered at a single location; in Trench 36, in the southwest corner of the site. These deposits overlaid a natural deposit of orange-brown silty clay with gravel inclusions. Where archaeological features were encountered, they were overlain by topsoil and cut directly into the natural deposit.

4.1.2 Of the forty trenches excavated, twelve contained archaeological remains; the remaining twenty-eight being blank (and a further two trenches being unexcavated). The recorded remains mostly comprised a low density and low complexity of ditches and occasional pits, some of which correspond to the plotted positions of cropmark and/or geophysical survey anomalies.

4.1.3 Trenches containing archaeological remains are described individually in sections 4.2–4.13, below. The negative trenches are summarised collectively in 4.14 with further detail presented in Appendix 1.

4.2 **Trench 2** (Fig. 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.4-0.5	28.5-29.11
2/002	Fill	Single	1	1	0.34	
2/003	Cut	Ditch	1	1	0.34	
2/004	Fill	Single	2.37	1	0.39	
2/005	Cut	Cut-feature	2.37	1	0.39	
2/006	Layer	Natural	2	2	Not exc.	28.08-28.71

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 2 at the far north end of the site revealed a ditch [2/003] and part of a large feature which was either a pit or a tree hole [2/005].

4.2.2 Ditch [2/003] ran north-south. It was 1m wide and 0.39m deep and it had gradual to moderate sloping sides and a flat base. Its single fill consisted of dark grey silt clay with occasional gravel [2/002] and contained no finds.

4.2.3 The pit or tree-hole [2/005] had a steep north side and an off-centre concave base which sloped gradually upwards towards the south. It was 0.39m deep and its single fill consisted of greyish brown silt clay [2/004]. Its artefactual content consisted of two sherds of 13th century pottery, one of which was a large piece of handle from a medieval coarseware jug. Bulk sampling and wet sieving of its fill revealed no charred macrofossils <2>.

4.2.4 Trench 2 was positioned to investigate a number of NNE/SSW aligned linear geophysical anomalies interpreted as possible cultivation features (Fig. 14). No corresponding archaeological remains were found. If indeed real, these

may have been created by disturbances/features wholly within the topsoil.

4.3 Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.4-0.5	28.16-28.84
4/002	Fill	Single	1.12	1	0.37	
4/003	Cut	Ditch	1.12	1	0.37	
4/004	Fill	Single	0.97	1	0.28	
4/005	Cut	Ditch	0.97	1	0.28	
4/006	Fill	Single	1.04	0.7	0.36	
4/007	Cut	Pit	1.04	0.7	0.36	
4/008	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	27.85-28.39

Table 3: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Three features were revealed in Trench 4, near the site's north-west corner. These comprised a prehistoric pit [4/007] and two ditches [4/003 and 4/005].

4.3.2 Pit [4/007] was exposed toward the west end of the trench. It had steep to moderate sloping sides and an off-centre concave base. It measured 1m long, 0.97m wide and 0.28m deep and its sole fill consisted of pale brown silt sand [4/006]. The fill contained flecks of charcoal and thirteen sherds of prehistoric pottery of probable Early Neolithic or else Late Bronze/Early Iron Age date. Soil sample <1> was collected from this deposit, but its carbonised plant macrofossil content was established to consist of bed straw only.

4.3.3 Ditches [4/003 and 4/005] ran north-south, parallel to each other, and were therefore perhaps two sides of a ditched enclosure, measuring *c.*15m wide. Their profiles were not dissimilar and they both contained single fills consisting of dark grey silt sand [4/002 and 4/004]. Neither feature contained artefacts and so are consequently both undated.

4.3.4 Trench 4 was positioned to investigate a roughly north/south running possible drain anomaly and a curving geophysical anomaly interpreted as being of possible geological/natural origin (Fig. 14). Despite being plotted c.25m apart, it is possible that these correspond with ditches [4/003] and [4/005]. It is notable that the trench was positioned between two archaeological, pit-like, anomalies. Pit [4/007] may constitute a further such feature that was not detected by the geophysical survey.

4.4 Trench 5 (Fig. 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.4-0.5	29.54-29.69
5/002	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	29.22-29.31
5/003	Fill	Latest	1.25	1	0.22	
5/004	Fill	Primary	0.85	1	0.18	
5/005	Cut	Ditch	1.25	1	0.5	

Table 4: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 5 was located in the north-west part of the site and its southern part crossed by a NW/SE running ditch [5/005]. The ditch measured 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep.

4.4.2 The ditch's fill sequence consisted of two deposits, both of brownish grey silt sand, with the upper fill [5/003] being slightly darker than the fill beneath it [5/004]. Flecks of charcoal were present in both fills, but no artefacts.

4.4.3 Trench 5 was positioned to investigate a single NNE/SSW aligned linear anomaly interpreted as a cultivation mark/feature (Fig. 14). Its plotted position in the trench could be construed to coincide with that of the ditch [5/005], however, their recorded alignments are markedly conflicting.

4.5 Trench 11 (Fig. 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.4	30.33-30.44
11/002	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	30.03-30.04
11/003	Fill	Single	2.2	1	0.6	
11/004	Cut	Ditch	2.2	1	0.6	

Table 5: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 The east end of Trench 11, in the central-north part of the site, revealed a post-medieval/medieval field ditch [11/004], previously recorded by the tithe map of 1844 and perhaps the Brasier map of 1730 (Phoenix Consulting 2011, figs 2 and 3). The ditch was *c*.2.2m wide and 0.6m deep. Its single fill [11/003] contained a large sherd of 19th/20th century pottery and an undiagnostic fragment of ceramic building material.

4.5.2 Trench 11 was not positioned to investigate any geophysical anomalies, none being plotted in this vicinity of the site. Ditch [11/004], however, correlates with the plotted position of a cropmark boundary that relates to the field boundary recorded on historic mapping, as noted above.

4.6 Trench 16 (Fig. 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.3-0.4	30.14-30.27
16/002	Fill	Single	1.6	1	0.49	29.77-29.93
16/003	Cut	Ditch	1.6	1	0.49	
16/004	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	

Table 6: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Trench 16 was located in the central-east part of the site. A field ditch [16/003], recorded by post-medieval and modern maps, cut across its east end and ran north-south. It had moderate sloping sides and a concave

profile, measuring 1.6m wide and 0.49m deep. A sherd of 19th/20th century pottery was present within the single fill [16/002] of the feature, but no other finds.

4.6.2 Trench 16 was positioned to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted to be a former boundary or trackway (Fig. 14). Its plotted location coincided with the excavated remains of ditch [16/003].

4.7 Trench 24 (Fig. 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.3-0.5	29.56-29.79
24/002	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	29.26-29.44
24/003	Fill	Single	2.4	1	0.6	
24/004	Cut	Ditch	2.4	1	0.6	

Table 7: Trench 24 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 The east end of Trench 24 was crossed by a post-medieval/modern field ditch [24/004], which the Brasier map indicates was already in situ by 1730 (Phoenix Consulting 2011, fig. 2). The ditch was 2.4m wide and 0.6m deep. It ran north-south and it had slightly irregular gradual and moderate sloping sides and an off-centre base. Its fill of dark brown silt sand [24/003] contained no artefacts, although a large fragment of Roman tegula was discovered in section in the topsoil, [24/002], overlying it.

4.7.2 Trench 24 was positioned just beyond the plotted south end of a linear anomaly (Fig. 14) in order to establish its presence and continuation. Within the trench, the plotted anomaly corresponds with excavated ditch [24/004] but assuming that the remains are those of the boundary shown on historic mapping, it appears they have differing alignments; i.e. the anomaly does not reflect the course of the mapped boundary ditch.

4.8 Trench 28 (Fig. 9)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
28/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.3-0.4	28.08-28.82
28/002	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	27.82-28.51
28/003	Fill	Single	1.77	1	0.38	
28/004	Cut	Ditch	1.77	1	0.38	

Table 8: Trench 28 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 The only feature encountered in Trench 28, in the central-west part of the site, was NNE/SSW aligned ditch [28/004]. It crossed the east arm of the trench and measured 1.77m wide and 0.38m deep. The profile of the ditch possibly represents not one ditch but two, although their shared fill [28/003] presented no clear sign of a recut. It is likely that the southern continuation of this ditch was recorded in Trench 29 as [29/003].

4.8.2 The fill of the ditch [28/003] consisted of light brownish grey firm silty sand. More than 100 sherds of Roman pottery, dated AD50 to AD70/80 was retrieved from it. The large size of some of the sherds makes it probable that a Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement had once been present within the near vicinity. Bulk sampling of fill [28/00] exposed carbonised remains of poorly preserved wheat and well-preserved fat hen and bedstraw, making it likely that arable farming was also taking place within the vicinity.

4.8.3 Trench 28 was positioned to investigate a relatively busy area of geophysical anomalies comprising a number of irregular linears interpreted to be of probable geological/natural origin and the intersection of possibly archaeological, ditch-like, anomalies on regular and perpendicular alignments (Fig. 14). None of the geological anomalies were identified in the trench, but ditch [28/003] coincides with the position of the NNE/SSW aligned anomaly of possible archaeological origin.

4.9 Trench 29 (Fig. 10)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.3-0.4	28.42-29.06
29/002	Fill	Single	1.5	1	0.1	
29/003	Cut	Cut-feature	1.5	1	0.1	
29/004	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	28.20-28.78

Table 9: Trench 29 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 The middle section of Trench 29, to the south of Trench 28, exposed ditch [29/003] running roughly north-south, but no other features. The ditch had gradual sloping sides and a broad flat base. It measured 0.1m deep and contained an orange brown stony silt fill [29/002 from which a single sherd of Early Roman pottery was recovered. It is probable that this is a further part of ditch [28/003] to the north.

4.9.2 Trench 29 was positioned to investigate both suspected geological anomalies and the vicinity of a WNW/ESE aligned linear and several discrete anomalies all of possible archaeological origin (Fig. 14). No corresponding archaeological remains were identified. Conversely, the remains of excavated ditch [29/003] were not detected as a geophysical anomaly.

4.10 Trench 30 (Fig. 11)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
30/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.4	28.98-29.22
30/002	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	28.64-28.90
30/003	Fill	Single	1.3	1	0.21	
30/004	Cut	Ditch	1.3	1	0.21	
30/005	Fill	Single	0.5	1	0.2	
30/006	Cut	Gully	0.5	1	0.2	

Table 10: Trench 30 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Two linear features ran parallel across the west half of Trench 30.

4.10.2 Gully [30/006] was 0.21m deep. It had a concave profile and its single fill of light greyish brown silt sand [30/005] yielded no finds.

4.10.3 Ditch [30/004], to its east, was broad, flat-bottomed and equally shallow. It was filled by alight greyish brown sandy silt [30/003] from which one sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered.

4.10.4 A further eighteen sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery were collected from the surface of the natural and may have originated from gully [30/006] and/or ditch [30/004].

4.10.5 Trench 30 was positioned to investigate a number of geophysical anomalies of probable geological origin and a NNE/SSW aligned linear anomaly of possible archaeological origin (Fig. 14). While none of the geological anomalies were identified as features in the trench, the regular linear correlates with excavated ditch [30/004]. Lesser ditch/gully [30/006] was not detected by the geophysical survey.

4.11 Trench 31 (Fig. 12)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
31/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.3-0.4	29.34-29.35
31/002	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	28.97-29.04
31/003	Fill	Single	0.63	1	0.1	
31/004	Cut	Gully	0.63	1	0.1	

Table 11: Trench 31 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 A gully terminal or elongated pit [31/004] with a 0.10m deep concave profile extended into the south end of Trench 31, east of Trenches 29 and 30. Its single fill [31/003] contained no finds.

4.11.2 Trench 31 was positioned to investigate linear geophysical anomalies that, although interpreted to be of geological origin, formed a rectilinear arrangement (Fig. 14). Neither linear was identified as a feature within the trench. Conversely, excavated gully [31/004] was not detected by the geophysical survey.

4.12 Trench 36 (Fig. 13)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
36/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.37-0.44	28.14-28.78
36/002	Layer	Subsoil	50	2	0.3-0.10	
36/003	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	27.71-28.49
36/004	Fill	Latest	2.4	1	0.6	
36/005	Cut	Ditch	2.4	1	0.75	
36/006	Fill	Primary	1.2	1	0.47	

Table 12: Trench 36 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 The only feature in Trench 36, in the south-west corner of the site, was a large north/south aligned ditch [36/005] measuring 2.4m wide and 0.75m deep. It had a symmetrical profile of moderate sloping sides and a concave base, and its fill sequence consisted of light grey [36/006] and overlain by dark brownish grey silt sand [36/004], neither of which contained artefacts.

4.12.2 Trench 36 was positioned to investigate two parallel north/south aligned linear geophysical anomalies interpreted to be of likely geological origin (Fig. 14). While one was not identified as a feature of any sort, the other probably correlates with excavated ditch [36/005].

4.13 Trench 39 (not illustrated)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
39/001	Layer	Topsoil	50	2	0.25-0.50	29.09-29.17
39/002	Fill	Single	4	2	Not exc.	
39/003	Cut	Pit	4	2	Not exc.	
39/004	Layer	Natural	50	2	Not exc.	28.7-28.8

Table 13: Trench 39 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 The east end of Trench 39 revealed part of modern rubbish pit measuring at least 2m wide and 4m long. It contained 20th century artefacts, including pieces of glass and plastic. The feature was noted, but not recorded or excavated. It coincided with the plotted position of a geological anomaly interpreted to represent an area of probably modern ground disturbance (Fig.14).

4.14 Archaeologically negative trenches

4.14.1 Trenches 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12-15, 17-23, 25-27, 32-35, 37, 38 and 40-42 revealed a simple deposition sequence of topsoil over natural, but no archaeological features or finds. The thickness of the topsoil in these trenches varied between 0.3m to 0.5m, but collectively presented no evidence for topsoil being thicker in some parts of the site than others. Further details of the deposit sequences noted in these trenches are presented in Appendix 1.

4.14.2 A number of these, Trenches 1, 3, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21, 23, 32 and 38 were positioned to investigate geological anomalies interpreted to be of probable geological/natural origin. While no indications of them were noted as either distinct features (e.g. gullies or channels) or as variations in the natural deposit, their absence in the trenches would appear to confirm their non-archaeological nature. It must also be noted that the cropmark of a mapped historic field boundary was also not identified in Trench 13.

4.14.3 Trench 14 was positioned to investigate a geophysical anomaly on the

northeast edge of the site interpreted to be an area of modern disturbance. The lack of identifiable features or disturbances suggests that this was probably confined to the overburden deposit here.

4.14.4 Trenches 27, 34, 40 and 41 were positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies that were interpreted to be of possible archaeological origin. The absence of corresponding archaeological remains at the evaluated locations suggests that their identification was erroneous. However, the regularity and perpendicular arrangement of the Trench 27 linear anomaly in relation to archaeological anomalies demonstrated to be indicative of the below ground presence of ditches in nearby Trenches 28 and 30 provides a note of caution.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 14). All of the finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery		CBM		Fire Cracked Flint	
	Ct	Wt (g)	Ct	W (g)	Ct	W (g)
2/001			2	102		
2/004	2	84				
4/006	13	40				
11/003	1	120	1	26		
14/001					1	50
16/002	1	12				
24/002			1	114		
28/003	108	854				
29/002	1	2				
30/002	18	122				
30/003	1	10				
Total	*145*	*1244*	*4*	*242*	*1*	*5*

Table 14: Finds quantification

5.2 Fire-Cracked Flint

5.2.1 A single fragment of burnt unworked flint, weighing 49g, was recovered from the topsoil [14/001] of Trench 14. The piece is well calcined to a white colour.

5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small to moderate-sized assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery from the site amounts to 141 sherds, weighing 1.03 kg, found in five different contexts.

5.3.2 The pottery has been examined using a x20 binocular microscope for spot-dating and characterisation purposes but not fully quantified according to a fabric and form type-series. It is recommended that the evaluation pottery should be retained for full integration into any assessment/analysis programme in the event of further archaeological work at the site.

5.3.3 The earliest material comes from fill [4/006] of pit [4/007] in the north-west part of the site. Thirteen sherds from two different flint-tempered vessels were recovered. The first is a partial rim from a vessel of fairly large diameter and neutral profile with a slightly irregular T-shaped rim profile, associated with a fabric containing moderate flint, mostly of 0.5-2mm and a few examples of up

to 4mm, set within a dense slightly silty matrix. The second is represented by bodysherds only, in a fabric containing moderate fine flint of 0.5-1mm set in a very silty matrix. The dating of this material is slightly ambiguous; the fairly irregular profile and relatively ill-sorted flint-tempered fabric from the coarser vessel could be consistent with either an Early Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date; however, the fabric of the second vessel seems more typical of the latter period.

5.3.4 The remainder of the assemblage dates to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period. A group of over 100 sherds was recovered from fill [28/003] of ditch [28/004] in the central east part of the site. The very large quantity of pottery probably suggests that this feature lies near to areas of settlement activity. The sherds appeared to come from a relatively small number of individual vessels, including one fragmented but partially-complete jar. Sherds from one coarsely grog-tempered vessel were noted but the majority of the pottery is associated with sparsely grog-tempered black-surfaced wares which are typical of mid/later 1st century AD assemblages (but which could be of either Late Iron Age or early Roman date). However, a few of the black-surfaced wares had well-fired grey sandy cores which suggest that this group was deposited after the Roman Conquest. Diagnostic sherds from at least five different necked, cordoned jars (Going 1987 types G18-G20) were found in this group, suggesting a date range of *c.*AD50-70/80.

5.3.5 Other small groups containing Late Iron Age/early Roman sherds in similar fabric types – though not necessarily containing any post-Conquest fabrics – were noted in fill [29/002] of ditch [29/003] , on the surface of natural geology [30/002] and in fill [30/003] of ditch [30/004].

5.4 Medieval and Later Pottery by Helen Walker

5.4.1 Very little medieval or post-medieval pottery was found at this site; a total of four sherds weighing 214g, excavated from three contexts. Medieval pottery was found in only one feature, pit [2/005], comprising a body sherd of early medieval ware and the lower handle attachment from a medieval coarseware jug. The handle is a plain strap handle showing the remains of a peg attachment whereby the handle is secured by making a hole in the side of the jug through which the handle is inserted. A 13th century date is most likely for this feature. The remaining pottery comprises single sherds of modern pottery, dating from the 19th to 20th centuries, from ditches [11/004] and [16/003]. There is very little evidence of medieval activity at this site and the assemblage requires no further work.

5.5 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 Only four pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 242g were hand-collected from three contexts: [2/002], [11/003], and [24/002]. Both the piece of R1 Roman tegula from [24/002] and two co-joining fragments of T1 post-medieval roof tile from [02/002] were well-preserved; the piece of B1 brick from [11/003] was essentially a large spall fragment with no remaining surfaces. Fabric descriptions are provided in Table 15.

Fabric	Description
R1	Dense and slightly micaceous red fabric with sparse quartz and calcareous material.
T1	Mainly sterile and slightly micaceous orange fabric.
B1	Orange fabric with moderate-common amounts of unsorted quartz.

Table 15: CBM fabric descriptions

5.6 **Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Two environmental residues produced negligible quantities (<1g) of magnetic material (contexts [2/004] and [4/006]). A close inspection of these showed them to consist entirely of small granules of ferruginous stone whose magnetism had been enhanced through heating. No actual slag was present.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Stacey Adams

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Bulk samples were taken from a prehistoric pit [4/006], a medieval pit [2/004] and a Roman ditch [28/003] during the evaluation, for the recovery of environmental material, including charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca, as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report summarises the charred plant material recovered from the samples and its potential to inform on the diet and agrarian economy of the site, as well as the local environment.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The bulk samples, all 40 litres in volume, were processed by mechanical flotation, in their entirety, with a 500µm mesh for the residues and a 250µm for the retention of the flot. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 17). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 18). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains were made with reference to modern comparative material and published reference atlases (Cappers *et al*. 2006; Jacomet 2006) where necessary. Nomenclature for wild species follows Stace (1997) and Zohary and Hopf (2004) for cereals.

6.3 Results

Samples <1> [4/006], <2> [2/004] and <3> [28/003]

6.3.1 The flots consisted of over 80% modern plant material including roots, recent cereal grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and broomcorn millet (*Panicum miliaceum*) and wild plants including goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae), elder (*Sambucus*), common knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and seeds of the nightshade family (Solanaceae). Modern insects, including worm capsules and fly pupae, were occasional within the flots.

6.3.2 Charred plant macros were absent from the tree throw pit [2/004]. Poorly preserved wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and indeterminate cereal grains were present in the Roman ditch [28/003] along with well-preserved arable weeds of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and bedstraw (*Galium aparine*). Bedstraw was the only charred plant macrofossil identified from the prehistoric pit [4/006]. Both weeds can inform on cereal sowing times and the presence of fat hen is indicative of nitrophilus soil cultivation (Carruthers 1995, 6).

6.3.3 Wood charcoal fragments were not abundant within the flots or heavy residues and have therefore not been evaluated at this stage. Fire-cracked flint and pottery fragments were recovered from the heavy residues along with a small amount of magnetic material.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The charred plant remains from this evaluation most likely represent 'background noise' from local cereal cultivation. The weeds indicate the presence of both spring- and autumn-sown crops as well as the exploitation of nutrient-rich soils. The recovery of cereal grains and arable weeds has the potential to inform on the diet and arable economy of the site, but only if recovered in larger numbers.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The evaluation has revealed the presence of archaeological features in twelve of the excavated trenches. The features cut natural and are located beneath 0.3-0.5m of topsoil. The topsoil varies in depth between trenches and there are no large parts of the site where the topsoil is consistently deeper or shallower than others.

7.1.2 The recorded archaeological remains comprise ditches, gullies, pits and mainly small assemblages of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern artefacts. The remains are thinly spread and mainly located in the west part of the site.

7.1.3 The bias of the recorded features towards the west half of site is possibly related to the Sixpenny Brook, which flows southwards to the near west. Close proximity to a reliable source of water during the past would have been a valuable asset because water is heavy and difficult to transport over long distances.

7.1.4 The majority of the evaluation trenches were positioned in order to investigate selected plotted geophysical survey anomalies, some of which had been interpreted as indicating the presence of below-ground remains of possible archaeological significance. The correllation between geophysical anomalies and excavated features is demonstrated to be variable, with instances of ditches and pits not being detected as anomalies and, conversely, anomalies not being identified as below-ground remains. This said, examples of direct correspondence between plotted anomalies and archaeological features were identified in Trenches 16, 28, 30 and 36. More ambiguous concidences, where archaeological remains and their overlying anomalies, were evidently on significantly differing alignments, were noted in Trenches 5 and 24.

7.1.5 Overall, the anomalies interpreted to be of likely geological origin were generally not found to be manifest as identifiable below-ground features and so are indeed likely to be natural. The anomalies interpreted to be of archaeological origin were mostly demonstrated to be so (Trenches 28-30), though those of Trenches 40 and 41 were not apparent as any kind of below ground feature.

7.1.6 In adition to the geophysical survey anomalies, some of the plotted cropmark anomalies were also investigated by the trenching (Fig. 15). While a corresponding ditch was encountered in Trench 11, that targetted by Trench 13 was in fact blank. Despite this, the close correlation between the cropmarks and boundaries shown on the historic maps from 1730 onwards demonstrates that the vast majority relate to the post-medieval argicultural landscape.

7.1.7 The excavated remains are further discussed, by broad chronological phase, below.

7.2 Prehistoric

7.2.1 The date of pit [4/007] in the north-west part of the site is either Early Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. If it is the earlier, then it possibly represents a site of encampment, as used by peripatetic early herdsmen and farmers, moving between different resource areas; one such area perhaps being the Sixpenny Brook to the west. If the feature is later, by contrast, then the pit is perhaps part of a farmstead, the focal point of which has yet to be found or identified.

7.2.2 Britain underwent profound change during the mid-2nd millennium BC. An open landscape with few human-made boundaries was replaced by an agricultural countryside with numerous boundaries and formalised land ownership (Field 2008; Mulville 2008). Sedentism became the norm and the landscape of Britain became increasing occupied by permanent farms and farmsteads.

7.2.3 It is likely that this vicinity in the landscape has been exploited for its natural resources since at least 4000 BC. Excavations elsewhere within Tendring (Lavender and Germany 2004; Germany 2007; Clarke and Lavender 2008) have shown prehistoric settlement and agriculture to be widespread, possibly because its light sandy soils were probably comparatively easy to plough with simple ploughs. This said, clear examples of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlements continue to remain rare within Essex, although they nonetheless include two sites at Springfield; one settlement being represented by post-holes and a small rectangular structure (Manning and Moore 2004), and the other by roundhouses within a large-ditched circular enclosure (Brown and Medlycott 2013). Remains of a rectangular post-built Late Bronze Age building, and therefore another settlement site, have been found and investigated at Bulls Lodge Quarry, Boreham (ECC FAU 2008).

7.3 Late Iron Age/Early Roman

7.3.1 The various NNE/SSW aligned ditches recorded across Trenches 28 to 31, together with the adjacent WSW/ESE geophysical anomalies interpreted to be archaeological in nature, probably represent parts of a rectilinear field system, perhaps belonging to a Late Iron Age/Early Roman farm, along the east side of the Sixpenny Brook. The enclosure system's eastward, northward and southward extents remain unidentified, but it may be possible to suggest parallels, such as the enclosure system alongside the river Roding at Frogs Hall, Takeley (Ennis 2006).

7.3.2 Few discrete features such as pits and postholes have been encountered in this western part of the site to indicate that these enclosures were occupied. It is perhaps likely that they were agricultural fields. However, the majority of the recovered Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery comes from ditch [28/004] and may imply that this lay close to a domestic occupation site.

7.4 Medieval

7.4.1 The only datable medieval remains revealed by the trenching comprises 13th century pit [2/005] in the far north. This pit is perhaps related to domestic

rubbish disposal from nearby settlement, presumably located somewhere alongside the B1027 to the north outside the site.

7.5 Post-medieval

7.5.1 Post-medieval ditches [11/004], [16/003] and [24/004] are recorded on 18th century and later maps and probably relate to land enclosure for increasing agricultural exploitation and management. As noted in section 2.8, by the early 18th century, the site comprised a patchwork of small fields defined by ditches and hedgerows. It is evident that the excavated ditch remains constitute parts of those field boundaries that were subsequently removed through the 19th century as larger fields were created. Some elements of the geophysical survey plot, but also much of the cropmark plot, clearly relate to this post-medieval enclosure system and demonstrate its development and detail.

7.5 **Undated** (probably early post-medieval)

7.5.1 Ditches [2/003, 4/003, 4/005 and 36/005] are undated, but are perhaps nonetheless post-medieval or modern, since their north-south and east-west alignments match that of the mapped post-medieval/modern field ditches. None of these undated ditches are recorded on maps and it could be the case that that they either predate the Brasier map of 1730, were of short duration, or relate to minor subdivisions or land drainage within individual fields. For example, some sort of sub-enclosure is evident from the cropmark plot in the vicinity of Trench 4 (Fig. 15). In the middle of the site, a small square cropmark enclosure (in the southwest corner of reconfigured fields 506 and 541 on the 1844 Tithe map) containing a possible well shows that other relatively early post-medieval boundaries also exist elsewhere across the site.

7.6 Potential impact on archaeological remains

7.6.1 Due to the relatively shallow thickness of overburden deposits, any significant development groundworks and associated movement of heavy plant will have an adverse impact upon the archaeological remains present within this site.

7.7 Conclusions

7.7.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation demonstrate the presence of a relatively low density and low complexity of archaeological remains within the site.

7.7.2 Overall, the results of the trenching evaluation broadly concur with those of the cropmark survey and geophysical survey, though it is noted the latter has not been particularly successful at detecting smaller discrete archaeological anomalies such as pits.

7.7.3 Prehistoric and Late Iron Age/Early Roman remains are present in the northwest and central-west parts of the site, the latter probably constituting a field system alongside the Sixpenny Brook.

7.7.4 A single medieval pit is present toward the northern edge of the site and could perhaps suggest roadside occupation in this vicinity.

7.7.5 Remains of the post-medieval enclosure system, dating at least from the early 18th century, are widespread across the site. This field system is recorded extensively by historic mapping from 1730 onwards. However, both cropmarks and the evaluation results suggest a greater complexity of development and use than the maps indicate.

7.7.6 It is judged that any development of this site will have the potential to adversely impact upon the archaeological remains present within this site.

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HER Summary

Site name/Address: Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford	
Parish: Alresford	***District:*** Tendring
NGR: TM 05843 22402	***Site Code:*** ALSH16
Type of Work: Evaluation by trial-trenching	***Site Director/Group:***
Date of Work: 19/9/16 to 3/10/16	***Size of Area Investigated:*** 65 hectares
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	***Funding source:*** Consultant, for developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Not known	***Related HER No's:***
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (roundup summary)	***OASIS No:*** 266240
Periods Represented: Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval	

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out in advance of possible mineral extraction at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, revealed a low density of archaeological features, relating to four different periods.

40 trenches were excavated, the majority targeted upon selected anomalies identified by a preceding geophysical survey. 12 trenches were found to contain archaeological remains, mostly in the west of the site, alongside the Sixpenny Brook.

The earliest feature was a prehistoric pit in the site's north-west corner. It is either Early Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and it is suggested to represent a Neolithic place of encampment or a later prehistoric farmstead.

Four adjacent trenches in the central-west part of the site revealed Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditches and finds, with one of these ditches containing over 100 sherds. The sherds probably relate to domestic occupation, the focal point of which has yet to be found or identified. The ditches are perhaps remnants of Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosures alongside the east side of the Sixpenny Brook.

A pit in the site's north-west corner was the investigation's sole datable medieval feature.

Post-medieval ditches relate to the enclosure system initially comprising numerous small fields that is recorded by historic mapping from 1730 onwards. Further detail of some of its early subdivisions and internal land drainage were found and cropmark evidence demonstrates further detail of its layout.

Previous Summaries/Reports:

Phoenix Consulting. 2011, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farm, Alresford, Essex (Site A20)*

Bartlett, A.D.H. 2015, *Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex. Archaeological Geophysical Survey 2015*

Author of Summary: Mark Germany	***Date of Summary:*** November 2016

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-266240	
Project details	
Project name	Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford
Short description of the project	40 trenches were excavated, the majority targeted upon selected anomalies identified by a preceding geophysical survey. 12 trenches were found to contain a low density of archaeological remains, mostly in the west of the site, alongside the Sixpenny Brook. The earliest feature was a prehistoric pit in the site's north-west corner. It is either Early Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and it is suggested to represent a Neolithic place of encampment or a later prehistoric farmstead. Four adjacent trenches in the central-west part of the site revealed Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditches and finds, with one of these ditches containing over 100 sherds. The sherds probably relate to domestic occupation, the focal point of which has yet to be found or identified. The ditches are perhaps remnants of Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosures alongside the east side of the Sixpenny Brook. A pit in the site's north-west corner was the investigation's sole datable medieval feature. Post-medieval ditches relate to the enclosure system initially comprising numerous small fields that is recorded by historic mapping from 1730 onwards. Further detail of some of its early subdivisions and internal land drainage were found.
Project dates	Start: 19-09-2016 End: 03-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Associated project reference codes	160124 - Contracting Unit No. ALSH16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Roman PIT Late Prehistoric PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Mineral extraction (e.g. sand, gravel, stone, coal, ore, etc.)
Prompt	General structure plan/local plan/minerals plan guidance
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING ALRESFORD Land between Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford
Postcode	CO7 8DA
Study area	65 Hectares

Site coordinates	TM 05843 22402 51.861630931036 0.989826977896 51 51 41 N 000 59 23 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 27m Max: 30m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Niall Oakey
Project supervisor	Mark Germany
Type of funding body	Developer, via consultant
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation. Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex
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Description	A4. 30 pages of text and tables. 13 illustrations
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Entered on	8 November 2016

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.5	28.82-29.47
1	1/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	28.59-29.13
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.6	28.82-28.97
3	3/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	28.44-28.73
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	30.06-30.08
6	6/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.65-29.81
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.5	28.21-28.74
9	9/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	27.97-28.44
10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.5	29.32-29.44
10	10/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.03-29.22
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3-0.4	30.03-30.09
12	12/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.69-29.91
13	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	30.36-30.44
13	13/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	30.05-30.08
14	14/001	Layer	Natural	0.4	30.43-30.47
14	14/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	30.09-30.13
15	15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	30.07-30.10
15	15/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.71-29.84
17	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.45	29.61-29.72
17	17/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.31-29.40
18	18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.5	30.13-30.16
18	18/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.77-29.86
19	19/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	29.84-30.01
19	19/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.64-29.71
20	20/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.45-0.5	30.13-30.20
20	20/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.84-29.88
21	21/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3	29.85-29.95
21	21/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.60-29.62
22	22/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3-0.5	29.35-29.58
22	22/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.08-29.36
23	23/003	Layer	Topsoil	0.35-0.4	29.84-29.93
23	23/004	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.54-29.63
25	25/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	29.86-29.87
25	25/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.39-29.55
26	26/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.5	29.66-29.71
26	26/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.44-29.50
27	27/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	26.88-27.88
27	27/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	26.52-26.89
32	32/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.5	28.40-28.91
32	32/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	28.07-28.57
33	33/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	28.76-28.99
33	33/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	28.36-28.68
34	34/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	28.51-28.95
34	34/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	28.27-28.67
35	35/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3-0.4	29.31-29.30
35	35/002	Layer	Natural	0.3-0.4	28.95-28.95

37	37/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.45-0.5	29.46-29.59
37	37/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.19-29.29
38	38/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3-0.4	29.60-29.63
38	38/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.29-29.38
40	40/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.5	29.11-29.25
40	40/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	28.76-28.99
41	41/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3	29.10-29.28
41	41/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	29.07-29.10
42	42/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4-0.45	28.75-28.77
42	42/002	Layer	Natural	Not exc.	28.38-28.49

Table 16: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

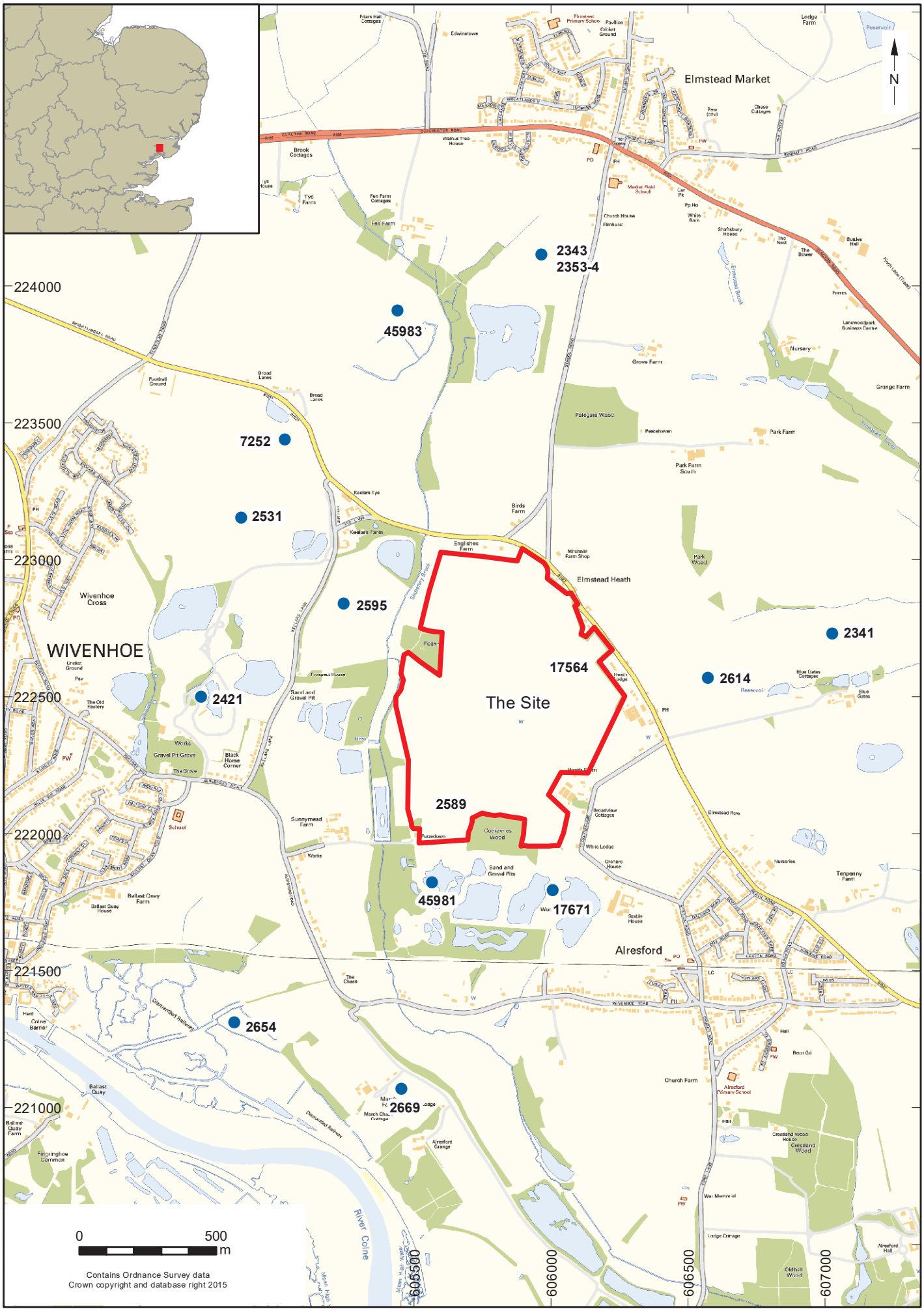
Appendix 2: Residue and flot quantifications

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume (litres)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg, pot, cbm) (presence/ weight)
1	4/006	Pit	40	*	<1	***	<1	FCF (**/ 24g) Mag Mat. <2mm (*/ <1g)
2	2/004	Tree throw pit	40	**	<1	***	2	FCF (***/ 88g) Pot (**/ 2g) Mag Mat. (*/ <1g)
3	28/003	Ditch	40			**	<1	Pot (*/ 16g)

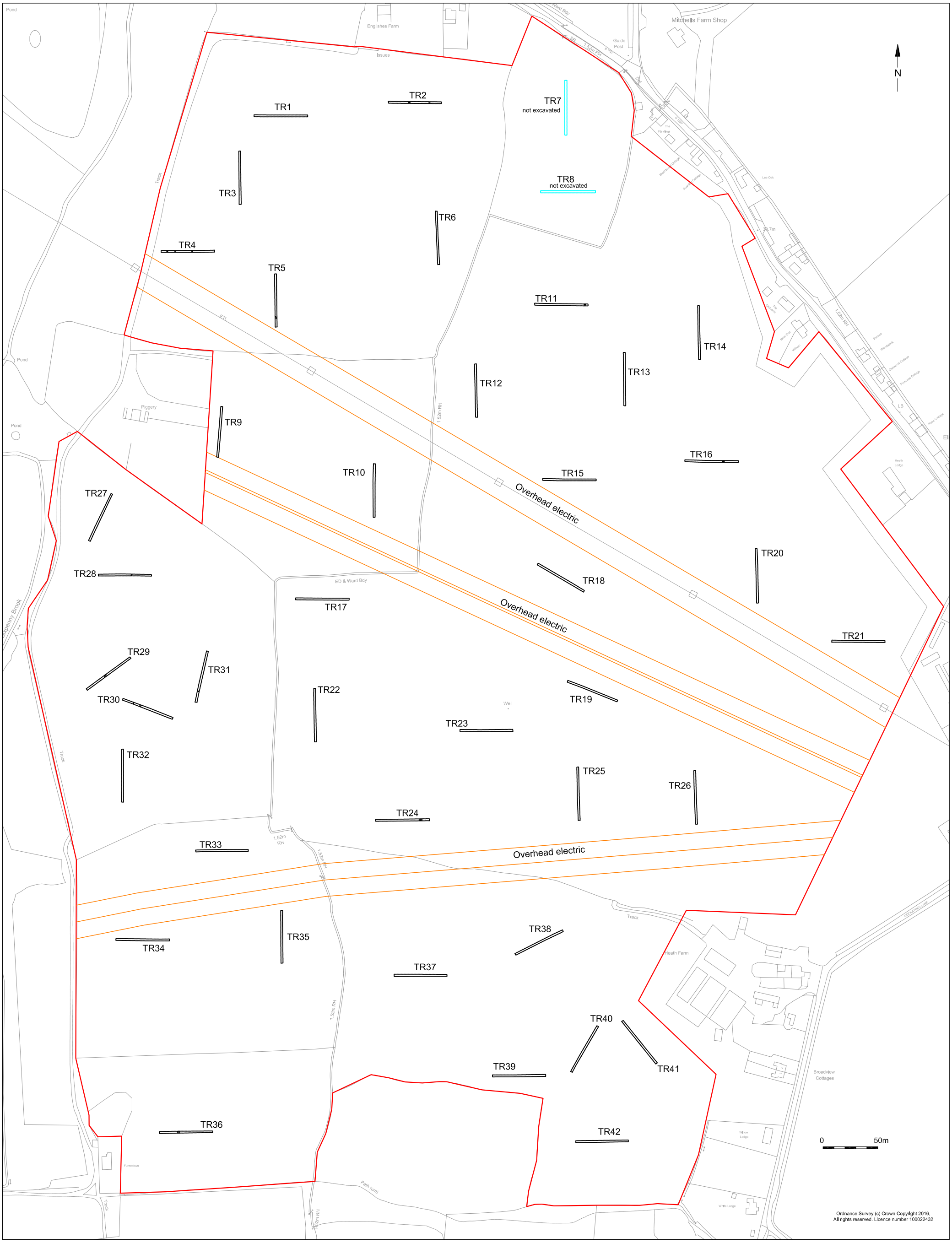
Table 17: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250 grams)

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume scanned (%)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	etc. (min)	Notes
1	4/006	19	80	100	80	Chenopodiaceae *Polygonum aviculare*	* *	* * *	* * *				*	*Galium aparine*-type	++ +	*	Fly pupae.
2	2/004	3	30	100	100	*Hordeum vulgare* *Sambucus* Chenopodiaceae *Polygonum aviculare*										**	
3	28/003	21	90	100	80	*Panicum miliaceum* *Sambucus* *Solanaceae* *Rumex* sp.	* *	* * *	* * *	*	Cereal indet. *Triticum* sp.	+	*	*Galium aparine*-type *Chenopodium album*	++ +	**	Fly pupae, worm capsules.

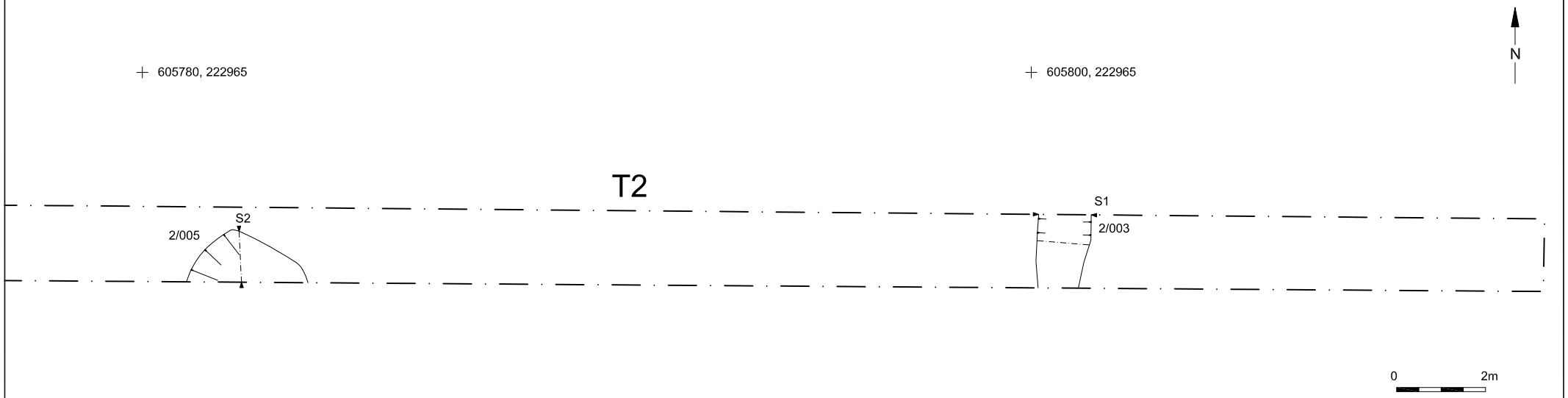
Table 18: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

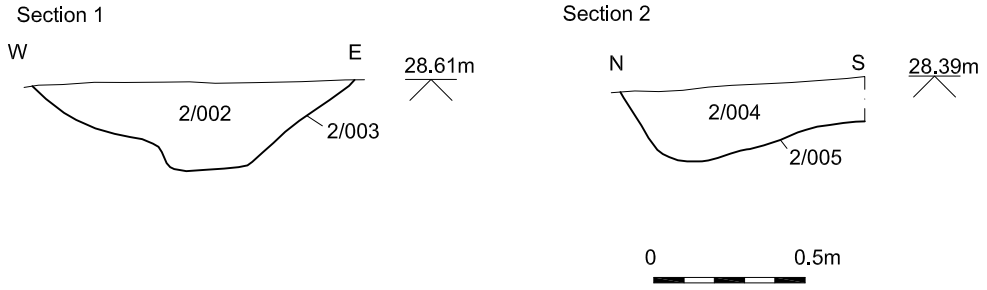


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Site location	
Report No: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		



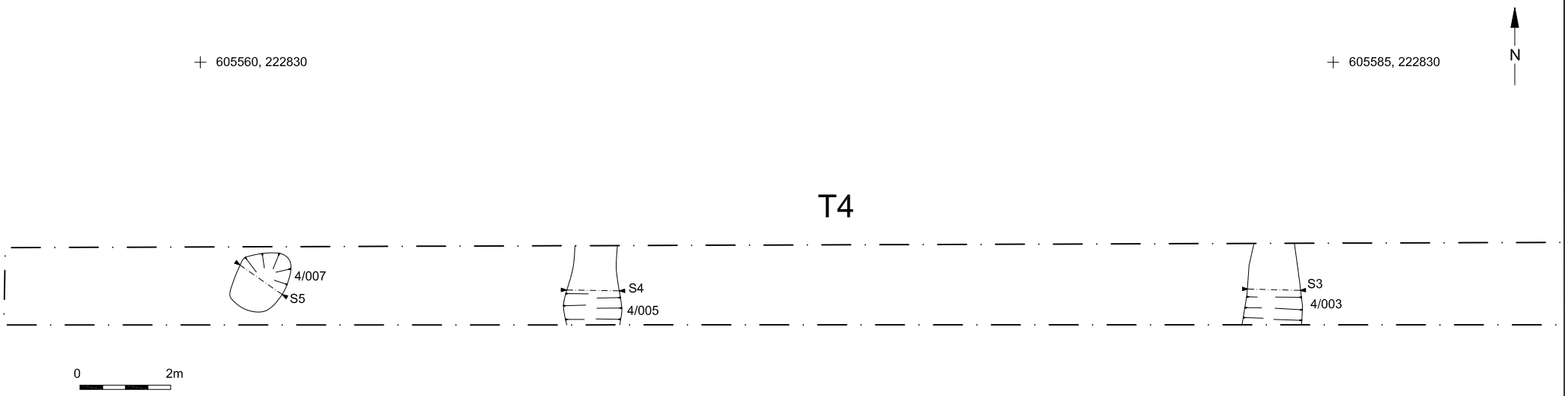
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench locations and constraints	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		

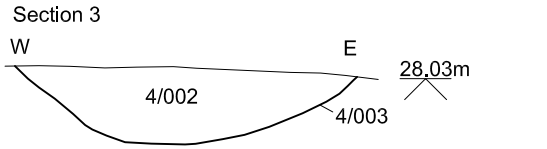


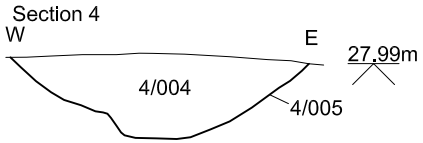


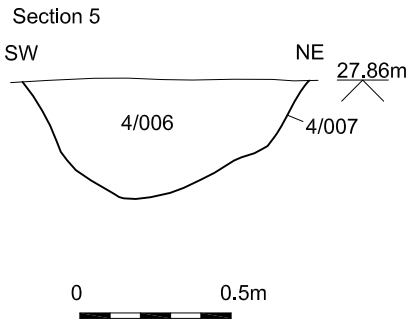
Pit 2/005 looking south-east, 1m scale

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.3
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 2 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		



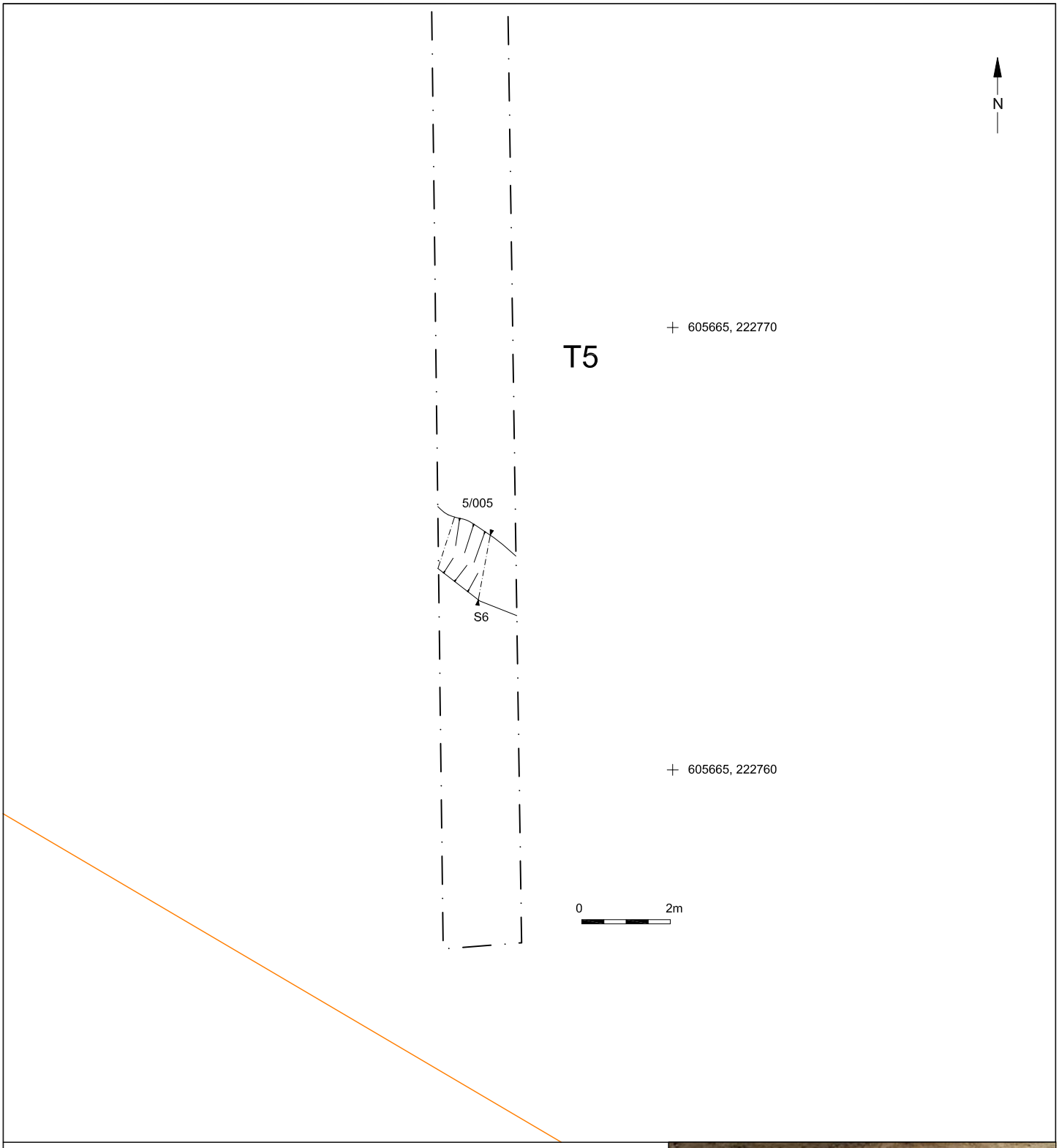


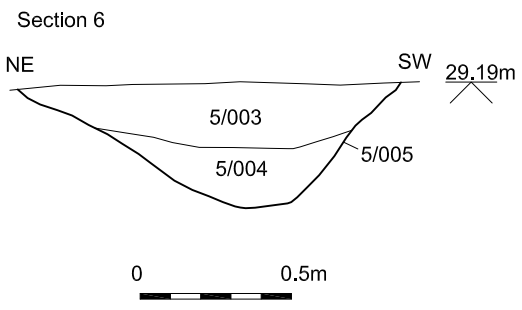




Ditch 4/003 looking south, 1m scale

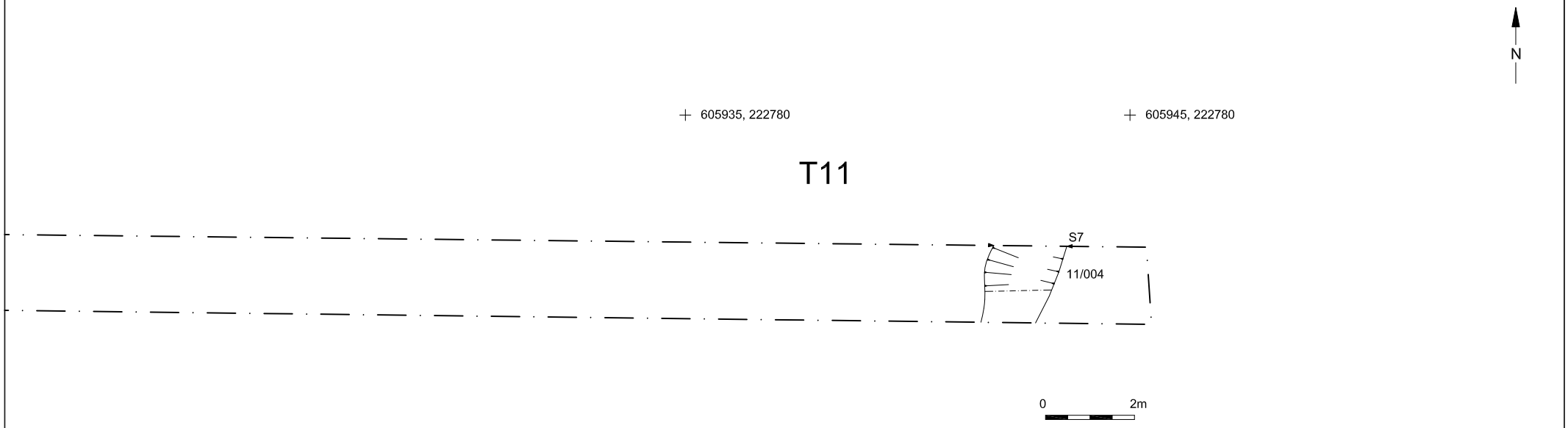
© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.4
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 4 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		

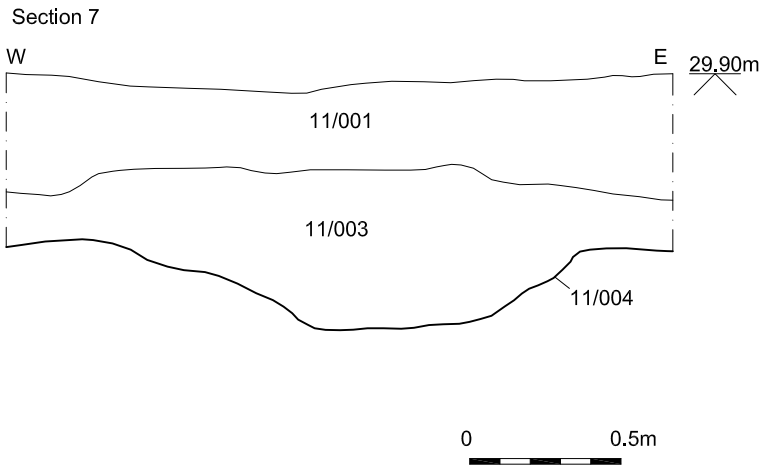




Ditch 5/005 looking east, 1m scale

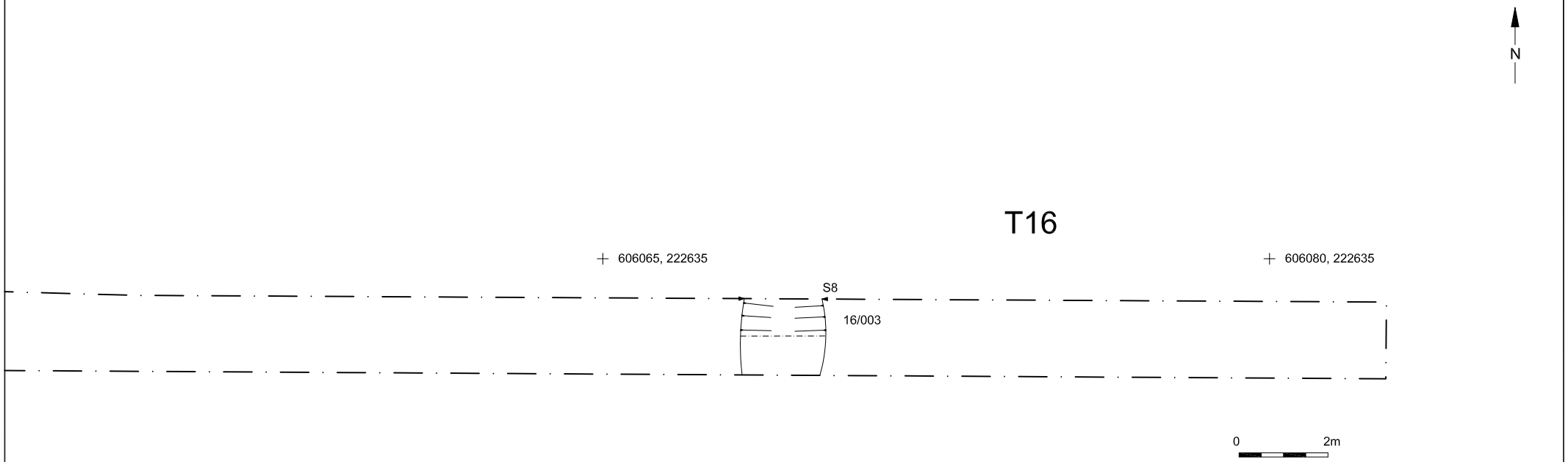
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.5
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 5 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		

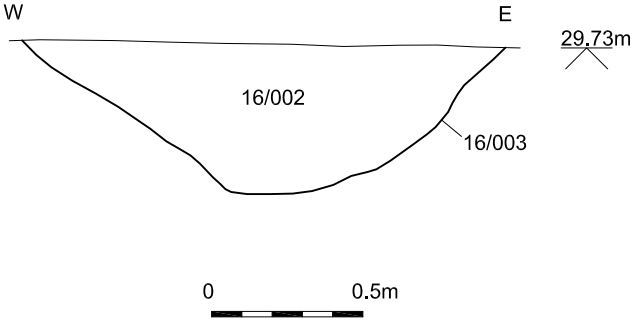




Ditch 11/004 looking north, 1m scale

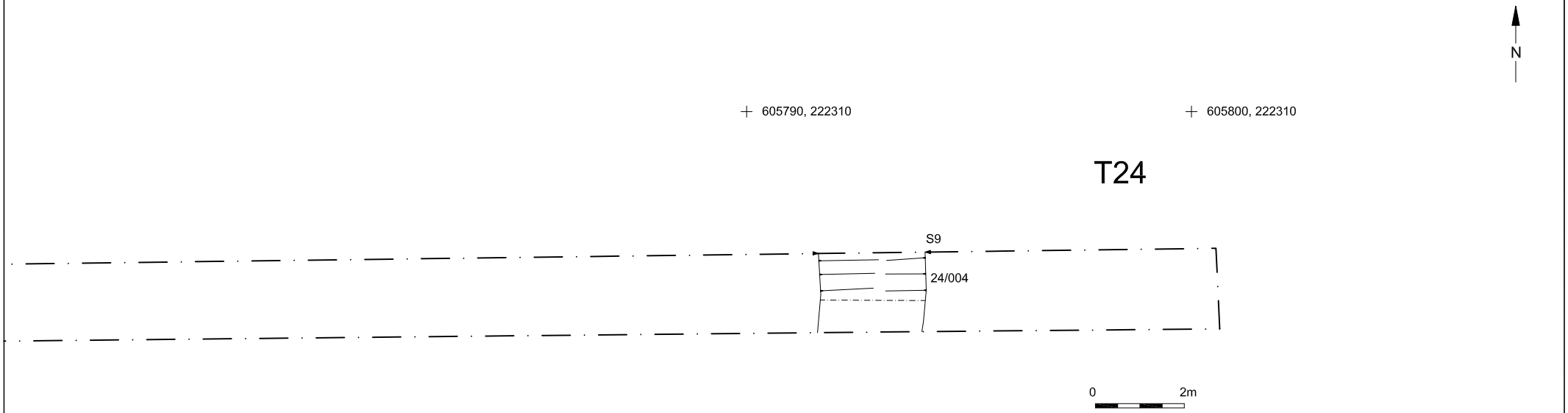
© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.6
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 11 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		

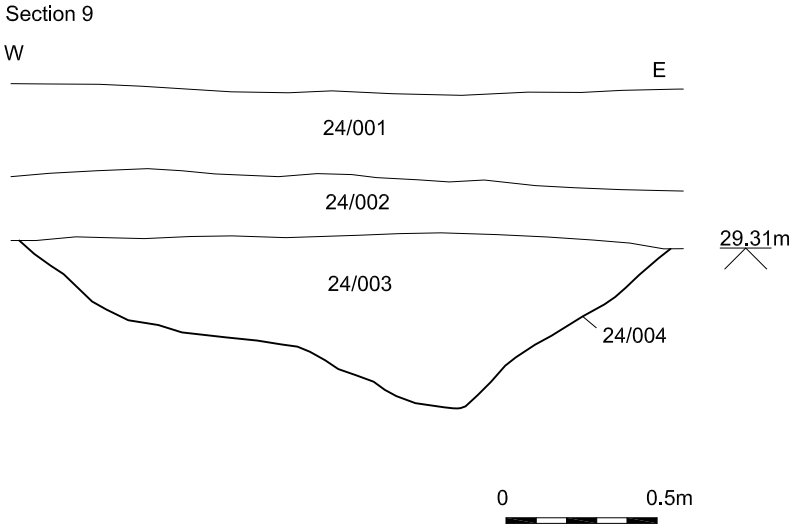




Ditch 16/003 looking north, 1m scale

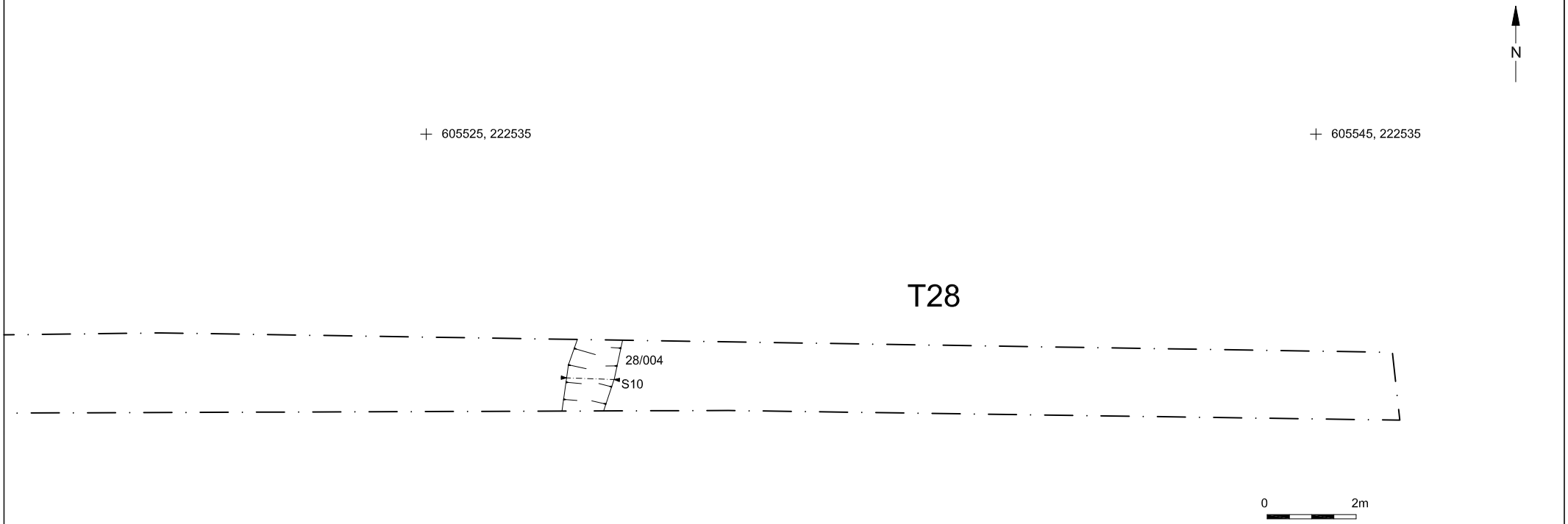
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.7
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 16 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		

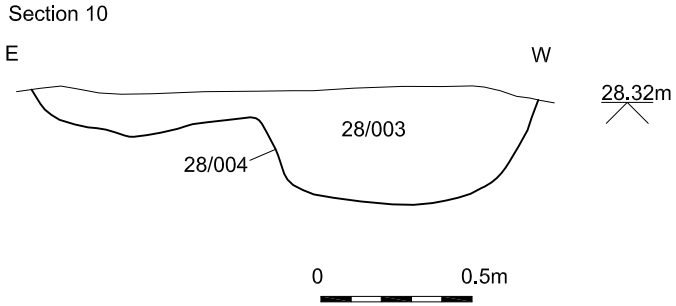




Ditch 24/004 looking north, 1m scale

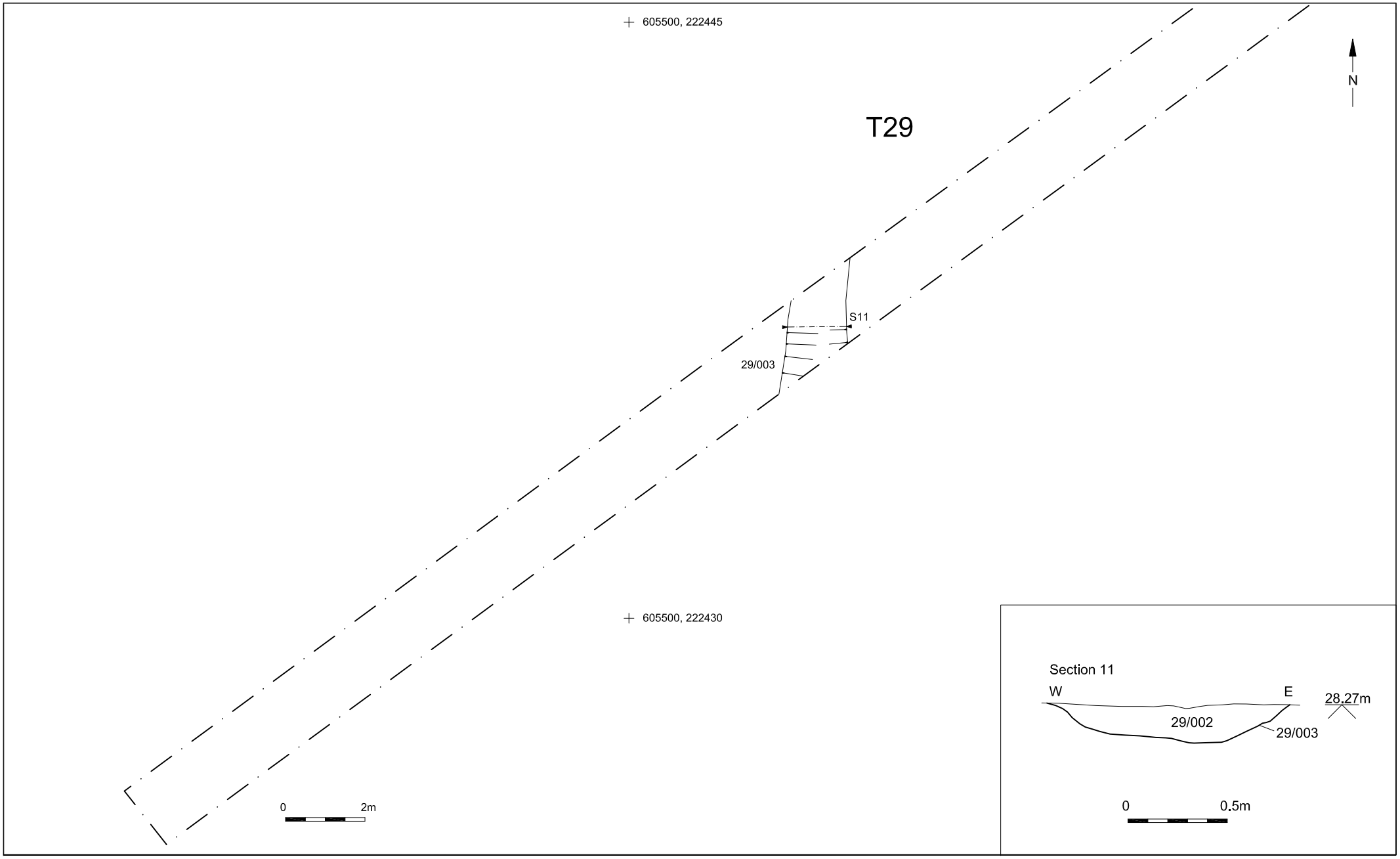
© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.8
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 24 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		



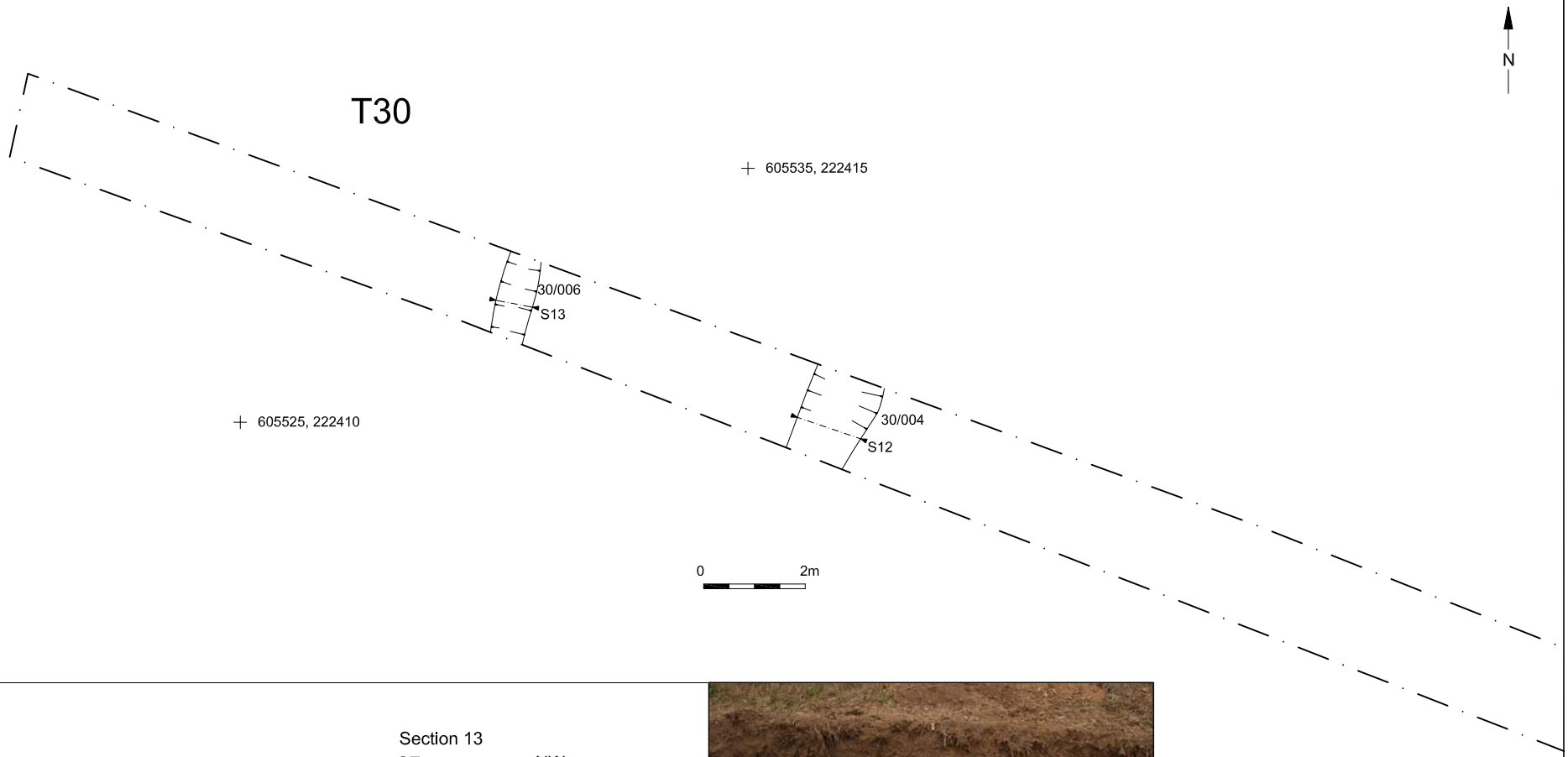


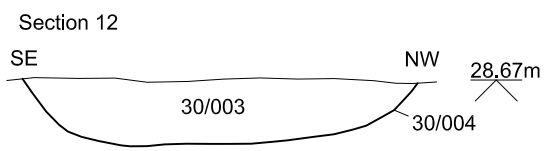
Ditch 28/004 looking south, 1m scale

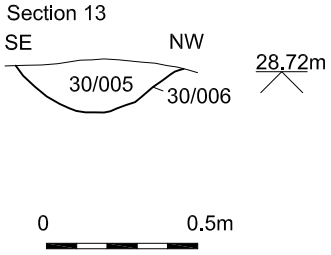
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.9
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 28 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.10
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 29 plan and section	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		

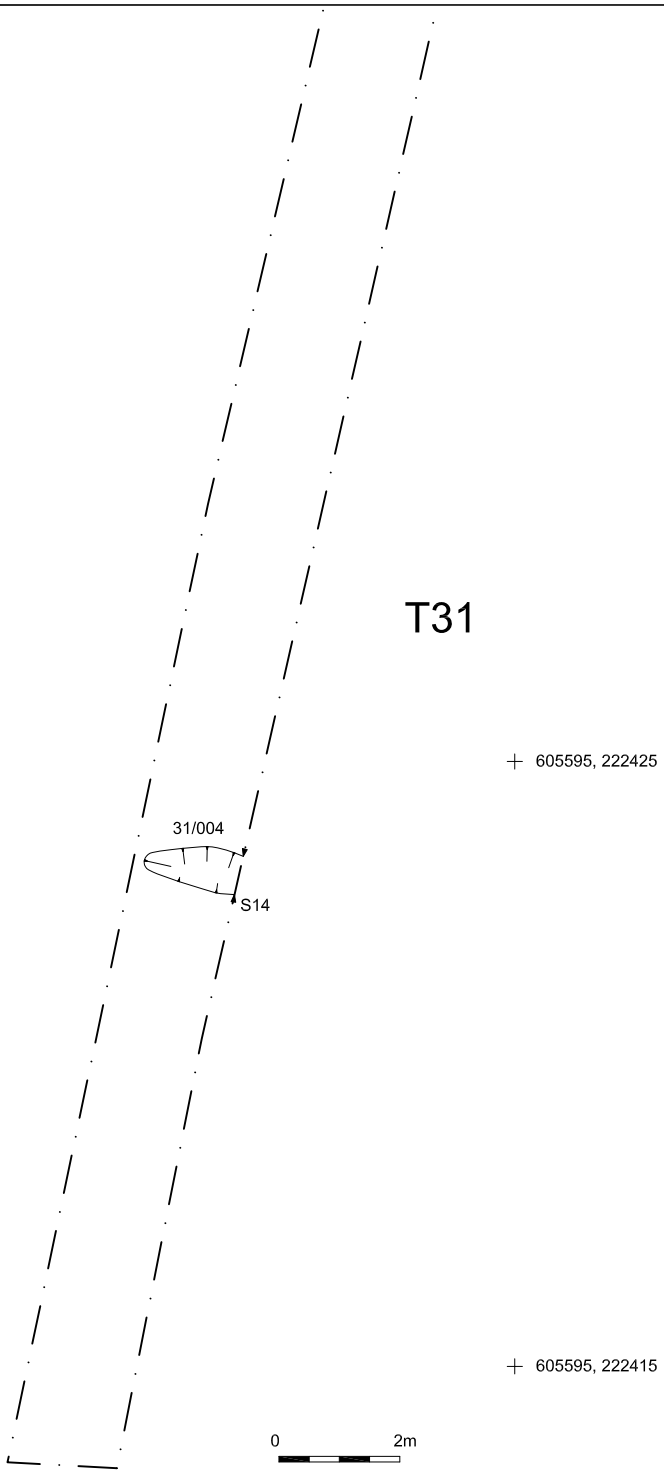


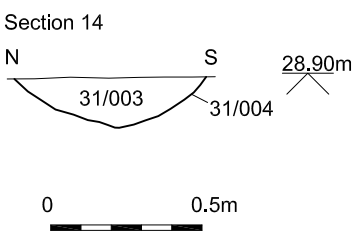




Gully 30/006 looking south-west, 1m scale

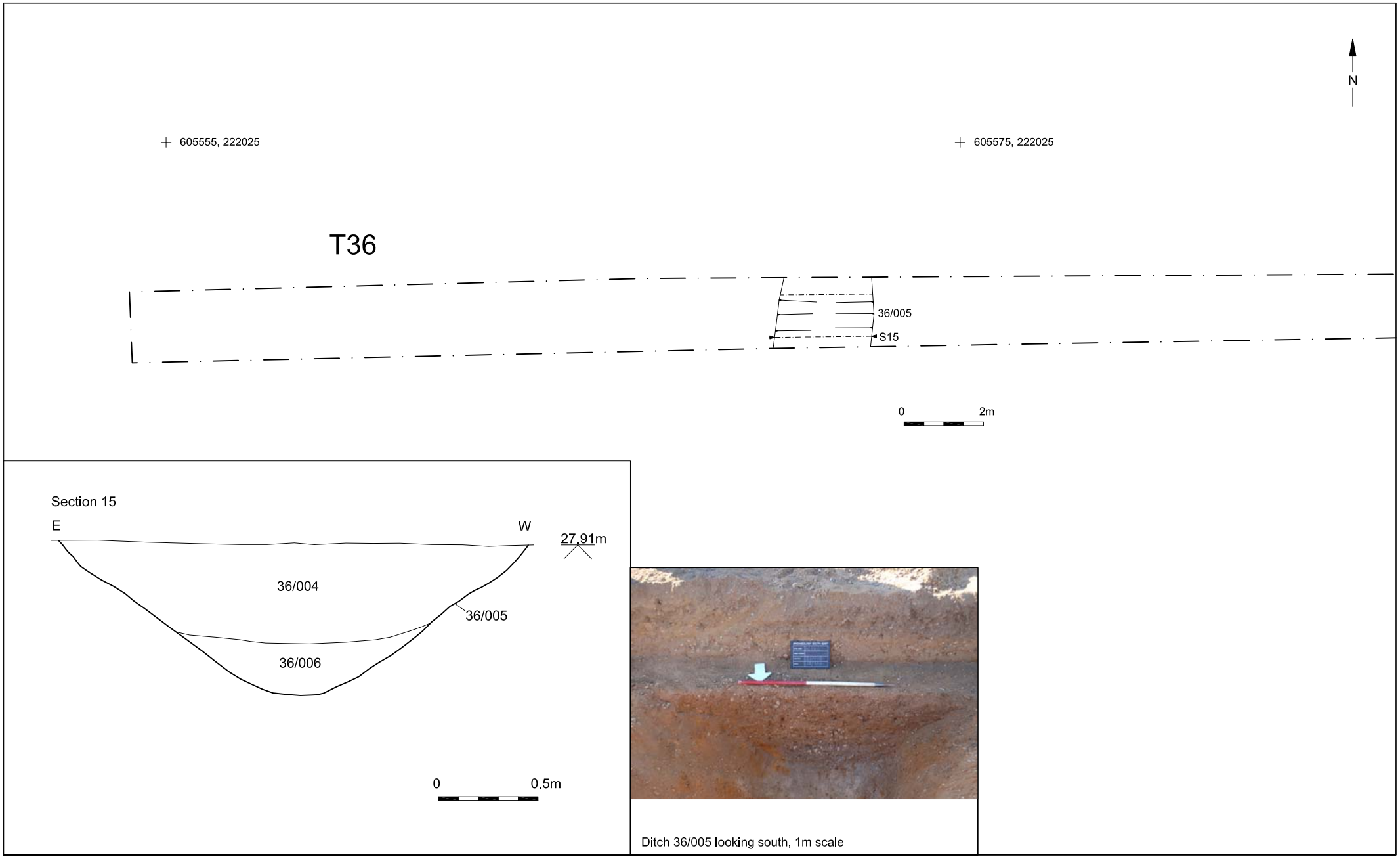
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.11
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 30 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		





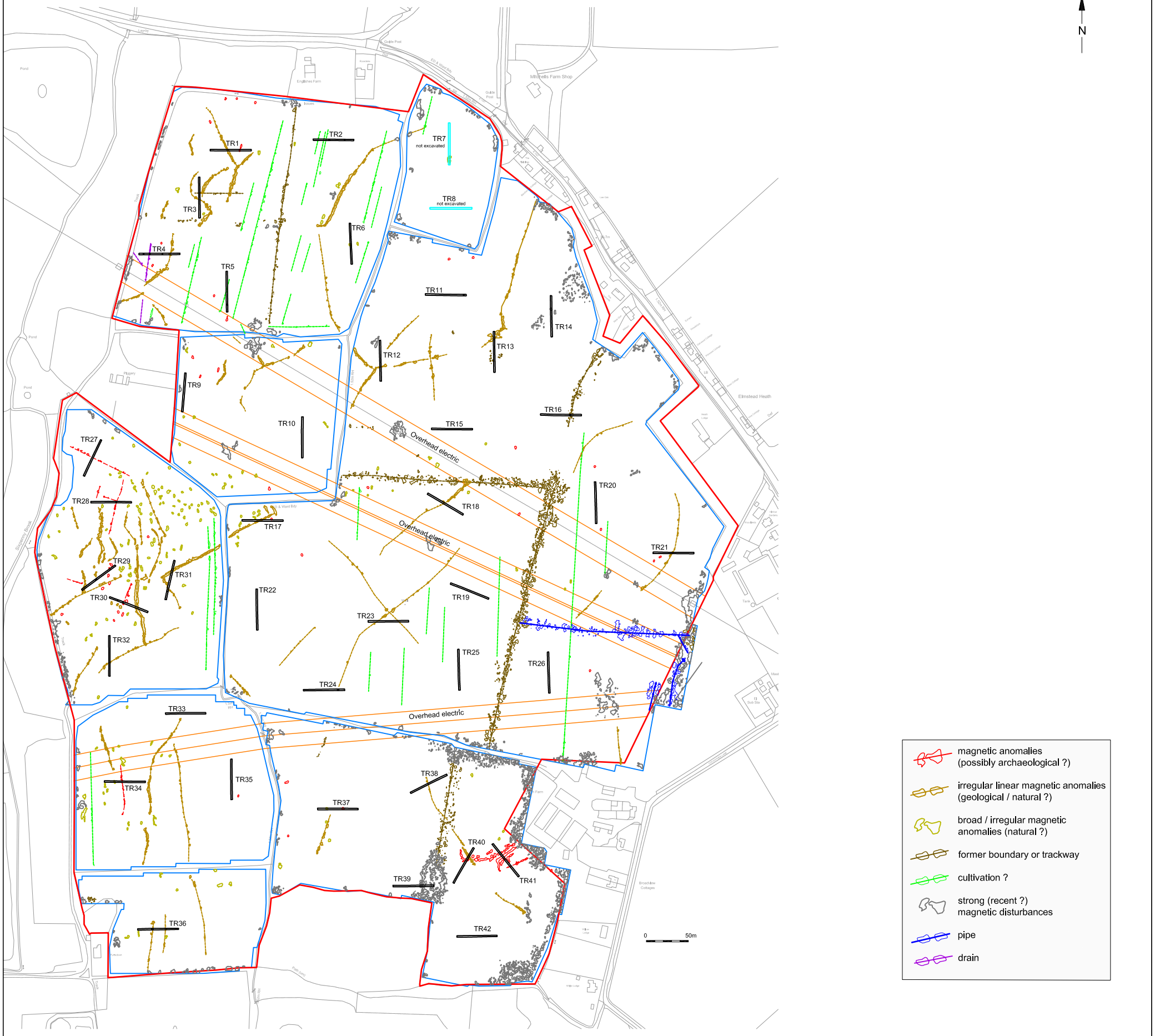
Gully 31/004 looking east, 1m scale

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.12
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 31 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		

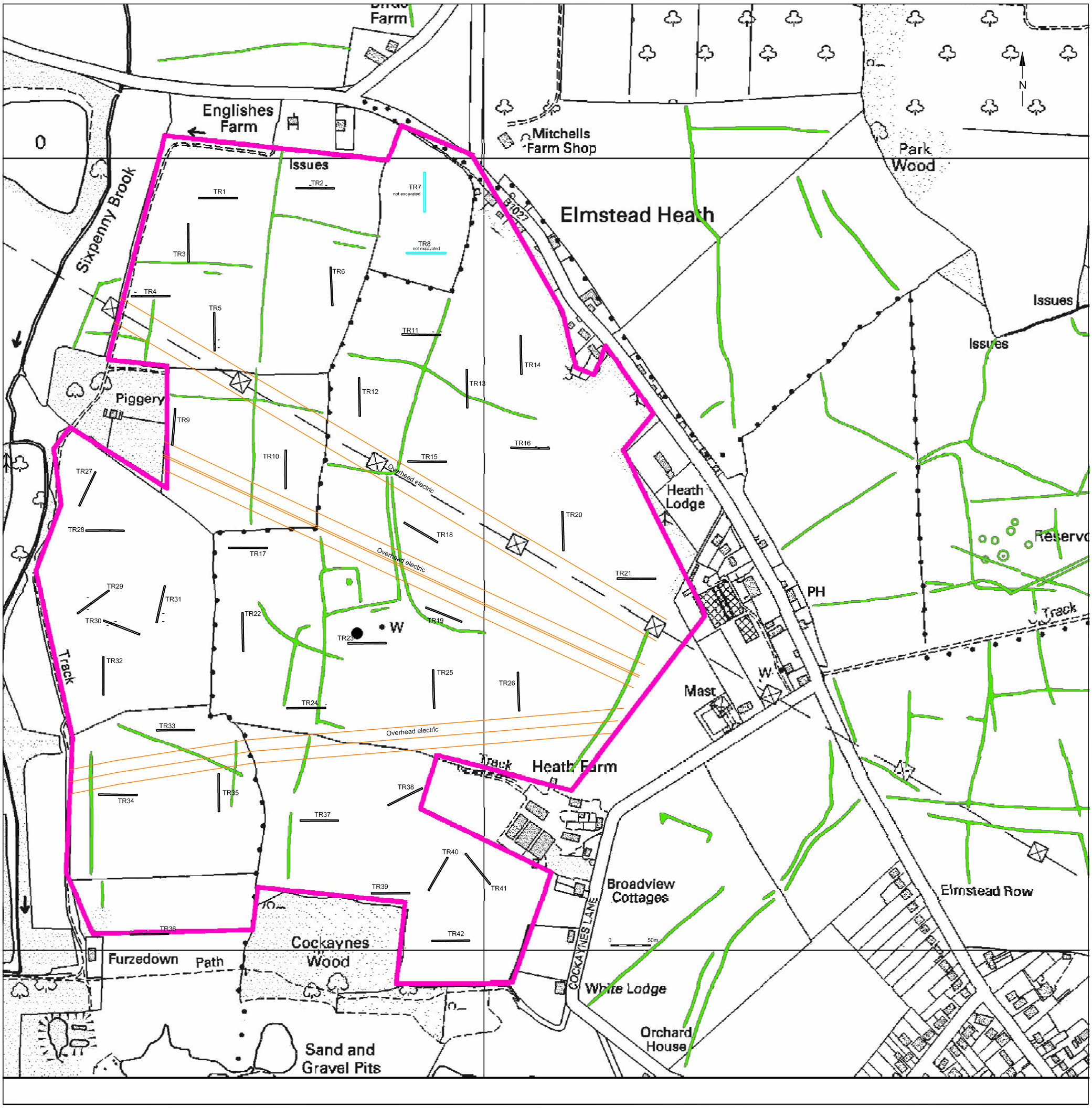


Ditch 36/005 looking south, 1m scale

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.13
Project Ref: 160124	Oct 2016	Trench 36 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig.14
Project Ref: 160124	Sept 2016	Proposed trench locations with geophysics	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Heath and Sunnymead Farms, Alresford, Essex	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 160124	Sept 2016	Trench locations and cropmarks	
Report Ref: 2016408	Drawn by: APL		

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