Archaeology South-East

ASE

# Archaeological Evaluation

## Channels Phases 3c, 3d and 5
## Land North, South & East of Belsteads Farm Lane
## Little Waltham
## Essex

**ASE Project No: 160858**
**Site Code: LWCG17**

**ASE Report No: 2017381**

**September 2017**

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# Land North, South and East of Belsteads Farm Lane
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**NGR: TL 72500 11000**
**Planning Ref: 10/01976/OUT**

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***Abstract***

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by the Hill Partnership to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development on part of the former Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex.*

*A total of 49 archaeological trial trenches were excavated across the 10.53ha of the Phase 3c, 3d and 5 development areas. Of these, 30 trenches were established to contain archaeological remains.*

*A low to moderate density of ditches, gullies and pits of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date (1st century AD) was found across the southern half of the Phase 5 area. These remains probably define agricultural and possible settlement land use, a further part of which was previously found in the Phase 3a and 3b areas.*

*A low density of ditches and pits of medieval date (c.13th century) was found in the west and south-west of the Phase 5 area. These features likely also constitute agricultural and possible settlement land use, a further part of which was previously recorded in Phase 3a.*

*Development Phases 3c and 3d contained a low density of only undated remains.*

*It is demonstrated that the southern part of the Phase 5 development area contains significant archaeological remains. These are overlain by a c.0.30-0.50m thickness of overburden deposits. It is probable that intrusive construction groundworks will adversely impact such remains where present across this part of the site.*

## CONTENTS

# 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 Hill Partnership to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of Phases 3c, 3d and 5 of residential development on part of the former Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex.

1.1.2 Phases 1 and 2 of the development have been previously evaluated in 2013 and 2014.

## 1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The development area is located some 5km north of Chelmsford town centre and lies east of Essex Regiment Way (A130) and south of Belsteads Farm Lane (NGR TL 72500 11000; Figure 1). The area to be evaluated comprises three parcels of land along Belsteads Farm Lane, designated Phase 3c, 3d and 5, which are part of a larger overall development area known as 'Channels'. Much of the development area has been heavily landscaped and was formerly part of a golf course, part of which was constructed on land that had been reinstated following mineral extraction.

1.2.2 The 10.53ha site area extends across parts of the former Channels golf course. The majority is laid to grass punctuated by sand-filled bunkers, with areas of trees and landscaping (Figure 2).

1.2.3 The surface geology of the site comprises Quaternary Period Diamicton (mixed clay, sand and gravel) above London Clay (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer – accessed 10/10/2016).

## 1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (10/01976/OUT) was submitted to Chelmsford District Council (now Chelmsford City Council) in December 2010 for Land North South and East of Belsteads Farm Lane Broomfield Chelmsford Essex, comprising:
*Outline planning permission, with all matters reserved, for erection of a minimum of 650 and a maximum of 750 dwellings. Provision of open space and a community hub providing a maximum floor area of 3,500 m2 and comprising uses in class A1 (retail) and or A2 (financial and professional services) and or A3 (restaurants and cafes) and or A4 (drinking establishments) and or A5 (hot food and takeaways) and or D1 (non-residential institutions). Provision of the northern section of the radial distributor road and junction improvement works to Essex Regiment Way*.

1.3.2 As the site lies in an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having potential for archaeological deposits to be present, ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a full archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent.

1.3.3 The archaeological condition (17) was based upon guidance contained in PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, now replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states that:

*"No development, or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.*

*Reason: To make provision for excavation and recording of sites of archaeological importance in advance of, and during, the development in accordance with Section 12 of the NPPF and Policies CP18 and DC21 of the Adopted Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document."*

1.3.4 This condition has subsequently been applied to all other applications for the site as it has been advanced in phases.

1.3.5 The programme of archaeological work for this phase of works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Archaeology South-East (2017) and approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.3.6 The results of the current archaeological evaluation will inform decisions regarding the need for and extent of any further archaeological works that may be required in order to mitigate the impact of the development upon the archaeological record. In the event that archaeological mitigation is necessary these recommendations will define the scope of the required archaeological work.

## 1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report describes and assesses the results of the archaeological evaluation of Phases 3c, 3d and 5 of the development area, undertaken between 25/07/2017 and 11/08/2017, and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI. The fieldwork was supervised by Trevor Ennis the project managed by Andy Leonard.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at County Hall, Chelmsford, and a desk-based assessment previously prepared for the site in 2010 (CAT 2010)

2.2 The Historic Environment Characterisation assessment for Chelmsford Borough identifies much of the application area as having suffered a high rate of disturbance from mineral extraction and modification of the landscape, which may have destroyed any archaeological deposits. However, the recovery of artefacts of multi-period date from the surrounding area suggests that in those areas where no quarrying has taken place there is potential for surviving archaeological deposits.

### 2.3 Undated

2.3.1 Cropmarks of potential archaeological origin have been identified in the vicinity (EHER 6132). Archaeological trial trenching to the west and north of the present area (Figure 1) prior to Phase 1 of the development identified a heavily truncated, undated gully.

### 2.4 Prehistoric and Roman

2.4.1 Small quantities of Late Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman artefacts have been recovered from the surrounding area (EHER 1445-48, 6072-73). A large number of metal detected finds of Late Iron Age and Roman date have also been found in the vicinity of Pratts Farm Roundabout to the north-west (EHER 46785) implying the presence of a near-by settlement of some status. However, trenching to the north in advance of the construction of the Park and Ride site, revealed only a few features of uncertain date and a post-medieval ditch (EHER 47192). To the south of the development site, evaluation in advance of housing development revealed prehistoric and Iron Age/Roman activity also indicative of nearby settlement.

### 2.5 Medieval and Post-medieval

2.5.1 Both medieval and post-medieval land use are evidenced by the recovery of small quantities of artefacts in the vicinity of the site (EHER 1445-48, 6072-73). Further evidence of medieval occupation is the moated site at Belsteads Hall (EHER 6038/9). The post-medieval period is further represented by a ditch uncovered during trenching to the north, in advance of the construction of the Park and Ride site (EHER 47192).

### 2.6 Historic mapping

2.6.1 Historic OS mapping shows the vicinity of the site to be agricultural land up to the middle of the 20th century. Quarrying of the site and local area began in the early 1950's with areas to the north and west of the site subsequently used for landfill. Channels Golf Club was opened in the 1970s and much of the wider development site was landscaped at this time to form part of the golf course.

### 2.7 Previous site investigation

2.7.1 Limited evaluation works were undertaken in 2013 and 2014 on the unquarried parts of the Phase 1 development area and a new access/ spine road that produced no archaeological remains other than an undated and badly truncated gully (ASE 2013;

2014a).

2.7.2 Further evaluation works were undertaken in 2014 on Phase 2, almost wholly within the unquarried part of the overall site, and showed that the area had been badly disturbed by the construction of the golf course and previously unmapped ad-hoc/ localised quarrying. However, some archaeological remains did survive, principally a Late Iron Age/ Early Roman ditch that ran through a number of trenches and produced a sizeable quantity of pottery, suggesting that some form of settlement either lies near-by or was previously present but largely destroyed by the construction of the golf course (ASE 2014b).

2.7.3 Evaluation and excavation of Phases 3a and 3b in 2016 recorded evidence of Prehistoric activity in the form of Bronze Age Pits and Iron Age ditches within the northern part of the site (OAE 2016). Within the southern part of the site was an Early Roman trackway, ditch and pits. A medieval enclosure was also revealed within the northern part of the site.

## 2.8 Aims and Objectives

*Project Aims*

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

2.8.2 Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation were to be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area in terms of their potential to contribute towards an improved understanding of settlement and landuse in the Little Waltham / Broomfield / north Chelmsford area from prehistory to the present day, with particular emphasis on the Iron Age and Roman period.

*Research Objectives*

3.2.1 The project was judged to have the potential to address a number of research themes and questions that have been identified for the region in *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011). Pertinent research themes and questions included:

- What type/ size of settlement existed on or close to the site in the Iron Age and Roman periods and how far did its influence on landuse extend?
- What does the site tell us about continuity and change in landuse and agricultural regimes in the late Iron Age/Roman transition?
- Can later Iron Age sites be distinguished from sites of Roman date? (Medlycott 2011, 31)

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 The required evaluation sample as set out in the WSI (ASE 2017) consisted of fifty-four 30m long by 1.8m wide trenches, their layout largely dictated by the golf course landscaping (Fig. 3).

3.1.2 All trenches were opened under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The removal of topsoil/subsoil and any overburden deposits present stopped at the top of the archaeological horizon or else on reaching the top of the undisturbed natural geological deposit. The spoil heaps were scanned for any artefacts.

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

3.1.4 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and sample excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances.

3.1.5 Where required, a 50% sample of all contained features was excavated and a minimum of a 1m-wide slot excavated through larger linears. Obviously post-medieval and modern features were excavated as necessary in order to establish their date and significance. Features were excavated using hand tools and planned using digital survey equipment.

3.1.6 Written records of trenches and any remains exposed within them were made using pro forma trench record sheets and, where appropriate, single context record sheets. Sections were hand-drawn. A digital photographic record was made.

3.1.8 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned using a metal detector following excavation and prior to backfilling.

3.1.9 Where present, all finds were collected from all excavated deposits and retained for specialist identification and study.

3.1.10 Bulk soil samples were collected for the purposes of the recovery of environmental material and small artefacts. Samples were taken from deposits from uncontaminated and potentially dated deposits judged to have the potential for the survival of plant macrofossils.

### 3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Chelmsford Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Contexts | 297 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 |
| Plan and sections sheets | 12 |
| Photographs (digital) | 218 |
| Bulk finds | 3 boxes |
| Registered finds | 4 |
| Bulk soil samples | 9 |
| Environmental flots/residue | 8 |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A total of 49 trenches were excavated across development areas 3c, 3d and 5 (Figure 2). Due to constraints on site, Trenches 7, 10, 11 and 12 (all in area 3d) were unable to be investigated. Alterations to the positions and/or extents of other trenches were as follows:

- Trench 1 – split into two 10m-long trenches either side of Trench 1, to fit available space
- Trench 46 –moved to avoid made-ground/ landscaping of golf course

4.1.2 Of the 49 trenches opened and investigated, 20 were devoid of definite or possible archaeological remains (Trenches 1, 2, 6, 9, 14-19, 24, 25, 27, 29, 39, 43, 46, 47, 49, and 51).

4.1.3 A relatively simple deposit sequence of topsoil/turf over subsoil (possibly simply the less disturbed/reworked base of the topsoil) was observed in virtually every trench, in turn overlying the natural deposit.
Topsoil [001] was a darkish grey sandy silt, c. 0.14-0.41m thick (averaging c.0.30m).
Subsoil [002] was generally a light greyish-brown silty clay varying in thickness between 0.03m and 0.35m (averaging c.0.15m).
The natural deposit [003] was mid orange-brown compact clay with rare flints.
These overburden deposits are not described further in the following trench descriptions unless significant localised differences were discerned.

4.1.4 Archaeological features and deposits were identified in 30 trenches. These are described trench by trench in sections 4.2-4.31, below. The recorded remains largely comprised cut features such as ditches, gullies, pits and post- or stake- holes, almost all of which were overlain by subsoil deposits and intruded directly into the underlying natural deposit.

### 4.2 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.48m deep*
*Ground level: 51.81m AOD (E), 52.10m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.26-0.31 |
| 3/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.16-0.20 |
| 3/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 3/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 2.6+ | 0.50 | 0.20 |
| 3/005 | Cut | Gully/Ditch | 2.6+ | 0.50 | 0.20 |

Table 2: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 3 was located in Phase 3c, in the far west of the evaluated site. It was positioned on a roughly east/west alignment.

4.2.2 Gully/ditch [3/005] ran on a NNE/SSW alignment across the trench. This narrow and shallow cut had a concave rounded profile and was filled by mid greyish-brown silty clay [3/004] with rare flint inclusions and charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from

it. The southward continuation of [3/005] was recorded in Trench 4.

### 4.3 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.60m deep*
*Ground level 52.03m AOD (N), 51.87m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.33-0.39 |
| 4/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.15-0.27 |
| 4/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 4/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 14.5+ | 0.50 | unex |
| 4/005 | Cut | Gully/Ditch | 14.5+ | 0.50 | unex |
| 4/006 | Fill | Fill of 007, single | 0.30 | 0.20 | 0.14 |
| 4/007 | Cut | Stakehole | 0.30 | 0.20 | 0.14 |

Table 3: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 4 was located in Phase 3c, in the far west of the evaluated site. It was positioned on a roughly north/south alignment. A ceramic field drain, cut into the natural deposit, crossed the northern part of the trench on an east/west alignment.

4.3.2 Gully/ditch [4/005] was a 0.35-0.50m wide linear cut that ran down much of the northern half of the trench, on a NNE/SSW alignment. This was clearly the southward continuation of gully/ditch [3/005] and so was not further investigated in this trench.

4.3.3 Alongside the gully/ditch was a shallow pear-shaped ?stakehole [4/007]. It contained a burnt fill from which no finds were recovered. It is suspected that this was a modern feature.

### 4.4 Trench 5 (Figure 6)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.67m deep*
*Ground level: 51.67m AOD (N), 52.06m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.28-0.36 |
| 5/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.29-0.39 |
| 5/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 5/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 6.0+ | 0.40 | 0.16 |
| 5/005 | Cut | Ditch | 6.0+ | 0.40 | 0.16 |

Table 4: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 5 was located in Phase 3c, in the far west of the evaluated site. It was positioned on a roughly north/south alignment.

4.4.2 Gully/ditch [5/005] crossed the east end of the trench on a NW/SE alignment. This narrow and shallow cut had a wide slightly V-shaped profile and contained a mid greyish-brown silty clay [5/004] that contained occasional flint pebbles and plant roots. No finds were recovered.

4.4.3 The northward continuation of gully/ditch [5/005] was not identified in the southern part of Trench 4. Nor was the southward continuation of gully/ditch [4/005] encountered at the west end of Trench 5. However, a vague linear patch of silty root material on top of the natural deposit was noted in this vicinity that might have coincided with the projected alignment of [4/005].

**4.5 Trench 8** (Figure 7)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.34m deep*
*Ground level: 52.81m AOD (N), 53.24m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.21-0.25 |
| 8/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.01-0.13 |
| 8/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 8/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.8+ | 0.6 | 0.26 |
| 8/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 0.6 | 0.26 |

Table 5: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 8 was located in Phase 3d, in the west of the evaluated site. It was positioned on a roughly north/south alignment.

4.5.2 The north end of the trench was crossed by gully/ditch [8/005], a roughly east/west aligned linear cut with concave sides and rounded base. Its fill [8/004] contained tile and yellow mortar fragments. Significantly, this feature cut the subsoil layer and it is judged that it was of modern date. A vaguely linear, and parallel, spread of root material overlying the natural deposit was noted a short distance to the south of the gully/ditch.

4.5.3 The south end of the trench was covered by a deposit of made-ground (not contexted), which was judged to be potentially contaminated and not investigated further.

**4.6 Trench 13** (Figure 8)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.34m deep*
*Ground level: 52.35m AOD (NNW), 52.39m AOD (SSE)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.22-0.26 |
| 13/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.03-0.11 |
| 13/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 13/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.90+ | 0.40 | 0.12 |
| 13/005 | Cut | Gully | 1.90+ | 0.40 | 0.12 |

Table 6: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Trench 13 was located in Phase 3d, in the west of the evaluated site. It was positioned on a NNW/SSE alignment.

4.6.2 Gully/ditch [13/005] crossed the south end of the trench on a roughly east/west alignment. This shallow linear cut had a concave profile and was filled by a mid

brownish-grey silty clay [13/004] with rare charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from it.

### 4.7 Trench 20 (Figure 9)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.56m deep*
*Ground level: 53.22m AOD (E), 53.54m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.26-0.29 |
| 20/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.08-0.20 |
| 20/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 20/004 | Fill | Fill of 006, basal | 1.8+ | 1.08 | 0.27 |
| 20/005 | Fill | Fill of 006, upper | 1.8+ | 1.08 | 0.30 |
| 20/006 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.08 | 0.57 |

Table 7: Trench 20 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 20 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on an east/west alignment. While the usual sequence of topsoil and subsoil was observed, a change in the natural deposit was noted; the colour of the mid orangish-brown clay changing to mid yellowish-orange within the eastern third of the trench. The western part of the trench was crossed by an electric cable and the edge of a rounded modern feature was noted at its southwest corner.

4.7.2 Ditch [20/006] was a linear cut that crossed the western part of the trench on a NNW/SSE alignment. It was V-shaped in profile, with steep sides and a narrow rounded base, and was filled by two fills. Lower fill [20/004] was a mid orangish-grey clay with rare charcoal. Worked flints and a single sherd of early medieval ware pottery (11th-earlier 13th century) were retrieved from it. Upper fill [20/005] was a mid to darkish brown silty clay with rare flint pebbles from which no finds were recovered. Bulk soil sample <1> was collected from [20/004] (Appendices 2 and 3).

4.7.3 The southward continuation of ditch [20/006] was possibly recorded in Trench 21, as far more substantial ditch/pit [21/009].

### 4.8 Trench 21 (Figure 10)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.72m deep, with northern extension*
*Ground level: 53.01m AOD (E), 53.32m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.16-0.34 |
| 21/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.21-0.35 |
| 21/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 21/004 | Fill | Fill of 009, upper | 2.74+ | 4.50 | 0.24 |
| 21/005 | Fill | Fill of 009, intermediate | 2.46+ | 4.50 | 0.22 |
| 21/006 | Fill | Fill of 009, intermediate | 3.86+ | 4.50 | 0.38 |
| 21/007 | Fill | Fill of 009, intermediate | 3.03+ | 4.50 | 0.18 |
| 21/008 | Fill | Fill of 009, intermediate | 2.44+ | 4.50 | 0.04+ |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21/009 | Cut | Ditch / elongated pit? | 13.0+ | 4.50 | 0.81+ |

Table 8: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Trench 21 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on an east/west alignment. Two white plastic pipes were noted to cross the trench, either side of a single large archaeological feature. The trench was extended northwards to further expose the identified feature.

4.8.2 Substantial cut feature [21/009] extended across the middle of the original trench, its east and west parallel sides being exposed, demonstrating it to be approximately 4.5m wide. The west side was steeply sloping, with the east side much more gently sloped; no base was reached within the safe limits of excavation depth. Speculated to be a quarry pit, a northern trench extension established that [21/009] in fact had an elongated or linear form, extending in excess of 13m on a NNW/SSE alignment. Although looking more like a linear feature, its observed fill sequence was perhaps uncharacteristic of a ditch.

4.8.3 As excavated, feature [21/009] contained a sequence of five fills. The lowest and only partially excavated, [21/008], was a dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks. The overlying fills [21/004 to 007] were all dark greyish-brown to blackish-brown silty clays, most of which contained varying quantities of charcoal, fired clay flecks and/or fragments and flint pebbles. The exception was fill [21/005] which was a light greyish-orange silty clay with no cultural debris, which may have represented a deliberate infill episode capping the lower deposits in this feature.

4.8.4 Pottery was retrieved from all fills of [21/009] except [21/005], but was all bagged as top fill [21/004]. In total, 171 sherds of medieval pottery was recovered. An iron nail and animal bone fragments were also recovered. Additionally, oyster shell was noted to be present in [21/007].

4.8.5 It is possible that ditch [20/006], although much slighter, was in fact the northward continuation of this feature. Its southward continuation was not present in Trench 22.

**4.9 Trench 22** (Figure 11)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.46m deep*
*Ground level: 53.02m AOD (N), 52.60m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.26-0.29 |
| 22/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.09-0.17 |
| 22/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - |
| 22/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 0.74 | 0.43+ | 0.19 |
| 22/005 | Cut | Pit | 0.74 | 0.43+ | 0.19 |

Table 9: Trench 22 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 Trench 22 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment. CAT scanning detected an electricity cable running across the northern part of the trench; stripping of topsoil and subsoil was consequently not undertaken at this location.

4.9.2 Small pit was located toward the south end of the trench, the majority of it extending beyond its western edge. As exposed, the cut appeared to be an irregular oval in plan, with gradual concave sides and a rounded base. Its single fill was a light brownish-grey silty clay [22/004] with occasional charcoal flecks and manganese fragments. No finds were collected from it.

### 4.10 Trench 23 (Figure 12)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.50m deep*
*Ground level: 52.11m AOD (N), 51.44m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.32-0.38 |
| 23/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.04-0.18 |
| 23/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 23/004 | Fill | Fill of 006, upper | 1.8+ | 1.00 | 0.33 |
| 23/005 | Fill | Fill of 006, basal | 1.8+ | 1.00 | 0.35 |
| 23/006 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.00 | 0.69 |

Table 10: Trench 23 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Trench 23 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment. A ceramic land drain was observed to run diagonally across the trench, cutting the top of the one archaeological feature present.

4.10.2 Linear ditch [23/006] crossed the north end of the trench on an east/west alignment. It had fairly steep sides and a rounded base and contained a sequence of two fills. Lower fill [23/004] was a dark greyish-brown silty clay containing frequent charcoal flecks, fired clay fragments and occasional large stones. Thirty-two sherds of pottery deriving from a single Late Iron Age/Early Roman vessel were retrieved from it. Upper fill [23/005] was a lighter grey-brown silty clay, again containing large flint stones, from which animal bone fragments were retrieved.

4.10.3 The probable eastward continuation of ditch [23/006] was identified in Trench 35.

### 4.11 Trench 26 (Figure 13)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.39m deep*
*Ground level: 54.69m AOD (NNW), 54.41m AOD (SSE)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.26-0.29 |
| 26/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.06-0.13 |
| 26/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 26/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 0.72 | 0.70 | 0.16 |
| 26/005 | Cut | Pit | 0.72 | 0.70 | 0.16 |

Table 11: Trench 26 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 Trench 26 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a NNW/SSE alignment.

4.11.2 Small rounded pit [26/005] had steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brownish-grey silty clay [26/004] that contained frequent charcoal and fired clay flecks and occasional rounded flints. Early Roman pottery was recovered from this feature. Bulk soil sample <3> collected from fill [26/004] contained oak charcoal.

### 4.12 Trench 28 (Figure 14)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.50m deep*
*Ground level: 54.45m AOD (E), 54.57m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.28-0.35 |
| 28/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.11-0.15 |
| 28/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 28/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.8+ | 1.28 | 0.39 |
| 28/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.28 | 0.39 |
| 28/006 | Fill | Fill of 007, single | 1.8+ | 0.69 | 0.10 |
| 28/007 | Cut | Gully | 1.8+ | 0.69 | 0.10 |
| 28/008 | Fill | Fill of 009, single | 1.8+ | 1.10 | 0.17 |
| 28/009 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.10 | 0.17 |

Table 12: Trench 28 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 Trench 28 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on an east/west alignment. Three linear features crossed the trenches on slightly differing alignments.

4.12.2 Linear ditch [28/005] crossed the western end of the trench on a north/south alignment. It had moderate sloping sides and a rounded base. Its single fill [28/004] was a mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, from which no finds were retrieved.

4.12.3 In the middle of the trench, gully [28/007] was aligned more NNW/ESE. It had gently sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. Its fill [28/006] was a mid-grey-brown silty clay with occasional small charcoal fragments. No finds were collected from it.

4.28.4 Shallow ditch [28/009] crossed the east end of the trench on a roughly north/south alignment. It had moderate sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained a mid-grey-brown silty clay fill [28/008] with rare charcoal flecks, but no finds.

### 4.13 Trench 30 (Figure 15)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.60m deep*
*Ground level: 53.99m AOD (E), 54.18m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.26-0.31 |
| 30/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.18-0.25 |
| 30/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 30/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.8+ | 0.52 | 0.16 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30/005 | Cut | Gully | 1.8+ | 0.52 | 0.16 |
| 30/006 | Fill | Fill of 007, single | 1.8+ | 0.96 | 0.33 |
| 30/007 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 0.96 | 0.33 |

Table 13: Trench 30 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Trench 30 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on an east/west alignment. Two linear features and a natural geological anomaly were recorded at its west end.

4.13.2 Linear gully [30/005] crossed the west end of the trench on a NNW/SSE alignment. It had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid greyish-brown silty clay [30/004] from which a single sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered.

4.13.3 Slightly more substantial ditch [30/007] ran on a similar alignment, c.8m to the east of [30/005]. It had steep sides and a rounded base and contained a mid-greyish-brown silty clay [30/006]. No finds were retrieved from it. A possible northward continuation of this ditch was recorded as [28/007] in Trench 28.

4.13.4 A curving gully (not contexted) containing pale grey-brown clay was observed in the surface of the natural deposit in between the two linear features. This was judged to be a natural gully or channel.

**4.14 Trench 31** (Figure 16)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.55m deep*
*Ground level: 54.04m AOD (N), 53.70m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.28-0.35 |
| 31/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.13-0.19 |
| 31/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 31/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.8+ | 1.08 | 0.28 |
| 31/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.08 | 0.28 |

Table 14: Trench 00 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 Trench 31 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a roughly north/south alignment.

4.14.2 Small ditch [31/005] crossed the middle of the trench on a generally ENE/WSW, though potentially curving, alignment. It had moderatelyy sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled a mid brownish-grey silty clay [31/004], with the presence of flint stones and pebbles noted at the base. Three sherds of medieval pottery (13th-14th century) and worked flint were recovered from it.

### 4.15 Trench 32 (Figure 17)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.51m deep*
*Ground level: 53.62m AOD (E), 53.77m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 31+ | 1.8+ | 0.30-0.35 |
| 32/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 31+ | 1.8+ | 0.16-0.20 |
| 32/003 | Deposit | Natural | 31+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 32/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.8+ | 1.18 | 0.29 |
| 32/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.18 | 0.29 |

Table 15: Trench 32 list of recorded contexts

4.15.1 Trench 32 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on an east/west alignment. Both a water pipe and an electric cable were observed to cross the east end of the trench.

4.15.2 Possibly curving, ditch [32/005] crossed the west end of the trench on a general north/south alignment. The cut had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brownish-grey slity clay [32/004] that was noted to have been disturbed by root activity. No finds were recovered from it.

### 4.16 Trench 33 (Figure 18)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.50m deep*
*Ground level: 53.51m AOD (N), 53.08m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.30-0.35 |
| 33/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.12-0.15 |
| 33/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 33/004 | Fill | Upper fill of 008 | 1.8+ | 1.65 | 0.26 |
| 33/005 | Fill | 3rd fill of 008 | 1.8+ | 1.3 | 0.36 |
| 33/006 | Fill | 2nd fill of 008 | 1.8+ | 1.15 | 0.26 |
| 33/007 | Fill | 1st fill of 008 | 1.8+ | 0.68 | 0.3 |
| 33/008 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 2.40 | 0.74 |
| 33/009 | Fill | Fill of 010, single | 1.8+ | 1.20 | 0.18 |
| 33/010 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.20 | 0.18 |

Table 16: Trench 33 list of recorded contexts

4.16.1 Trench 33 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment, though moved slightly north of its intended position in order to avoid electric cables.

4.16.2 Ditch [33/008] crossed the middle of the trench on a WNW/ESE alignment. The cut had a steep sloping northeast side and a more gradual southwest side, with a narrow rounded base. It was filled by a sequence of four fills. [33/007] was a deposit of mid orangish-brown silty clay slumped down the southwest side of the ditch and was probably broadly contemporary with the accumulation of [33/006] in the base – a mid

grey silty clay containing a fragment of late medieval/early post-medieval tile and worked flint. Overlying fill [33/005] was a blackish-grey silty clay with a significant charcoal content, though no finds. Top fill [33/004] was a loose mid brownish-grey silty clay.

4.16.3 Second linear ditch [33/010] was located ?south of [33/008] and crossed the trench on a differing NW/SE alignment. It had fairly gradual sloping sides and a flat base and was filled with a mottled mid grey and mid orange-brown sandy clay silt [33/009]. Sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman storage jar and fired clay fragments were retrieved from it.

### 4.17 Trench 34 (Figure 19)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.50m deep, with northern extension*
*Ground level: 52.51m AOD (E), 52.67m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.30-0.35 |
| 34/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.15-0.19 |
| 34/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 34/004 | Fill | Fill 0f 005, single | 1.8+ | 1.82 | 0.40 |
| 34/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.82 | 0.40 |
| 34/006 | Fill | Fill of 008, upper | 1.8+ | 0.86 | 0.23 |
| 34/007 | Fill | Fill of 008, basal | 1.8+ | 0.72 | 0.29 |
| 34/008 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.06 | 0.51 |
| 34/009 | Fill | Fill 010, single | 1.8+ | 1.47 | 0.16 |
| 34/010 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.47 | 0.16 |
| 34/011 | Fill | Fill of 012, upper | 5.7+ | 1.1+ | 0.37 |
| 34/012 | Cut | Ditch? | 5.7+ | 1.1+ | 0.57+ |
| 34/013 | Fill | Fill of 012, basal | 0.5+ | 0.5+ | 0.20+ |
| 34/014 | Fill | Fill of 015 | 0.8+ | 1.00 | Unex |
| 34/015 | Cut | Ditch | 0.8+ | 1.00 | Unex |
| 34/016 | Fill | Fill of 017 | 1.8+ | 1.0 | Unex |
| 34/017 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.0 | Unex |
| 34/018 | Fill | Fill of 019 | 0.3 | 0.3 | Unex |
| 34/019 | Cut | Pit / posthole? | 0.3 | 0.3 | Unex |

Table 17: Trench 34 list of recorded contexts

4.17.1 Trench 34 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on an east/west alignment. Six ditches and a discrete feature were recorded.

4.17.2 North/south aligned linear ditch [34/010] crossed the west end of the trench on a north/south alignment. This shallow cut had a wide concave profile and was filled with a grey silty clay with gravel and occasional charcoal flecks [34/009]. Six sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered from it.

4.17.3 Ditch [34/005] was a possibly curving linear cut, on a generally NNE/SSW alignment, that crossed the approximate middle of the trench. It was further exposed within a small

northern trench extension. It had moderately steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a single dark brown silty clay with gravel inclusions fill [34/004]. A horizon of brick and tile fragments of late medieval or post-medieval date was noted at a depth of c.0.15m. Both Roman and late medieval/early post-medieval pottery sherds were collected, along with animal bone, an iron knife blade (RF<1>), an iron nail fragment and a glass bottle sherd of 19th/20th century date.

4.17.4 At the east end of the trench, ditch [34/008] again ran on a north/south alignment. It had a V-shaped profile, with steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by two deposits. Lower fill [34/007] compact light orange-grey silty clay from which Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered. Upper fill [34/006] was a looser darker grey silty clay with rare charcoal inclusions. Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was also recovered from this deposit, along with slag.

4.17.5 Feature [34/012] was partially exposed in the western part of the trench, the majority of it continuing beyond the southern edge of excavation. Tentatively identified as a ditch in the field, the nature of this feature is in fact uncertain and could in fact be a substantial discrete feature such as a pit. A small portion of its north-west edge was investigated, the north side being a moderately steep concave slope and the west a stepped concave slope. It contained a sequence of two fills. Lower fill [34/013] was a compact mid grey silty clay with gravel from which no finds were recovered. Upper fill [34/011] was a less compact light greyish-brown silty clay that contained both Early Roman and medieval pottery, the former presumed to be residual. A ceramic land drain was noted to cross the excavated part of this feature, cut into its fill.

4.17.6 Two further linear features were present in the western half of the trench that were planned but not further investigated. Probable ditch [34/015] ran on a north/south alignment and intersected with feature [34/012]. Their stratigraphic relationship was not determined. Toward the middle of the trench, probable ditch [34/017] was also north/south aligned. In addition a circular cut [34/019] was identified at the west end of the trench. This probable small pit or posthole was not excavated.

### 4.18 Trench 35 (Figure 20)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.50m deep*
*Ground level: 52.27m AOD (N), 51.82m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.28-0.30 |
| 35/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.18-0.19 |
| 35/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 35/004 | Fill | Fill of 006, upper | 1.8+ | 0.94 | 0.15 |
| 35/005 | Fill | Fill of 006, basal | 1.8+ | 1.53 | 0.58 |
| 35/006 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.53 | 0.58 |
| 35/007 | Fill | Fill of 009, upper | 1.8+ | 0.65 | 0.11 |
| 35/008 | Fill | Fill of 009, basal | 1.8+ | 0.73 | 0.13 |
| 35/009 | Cut | Ditch/gully | 1.8+ | 0.8 | 0.17 |
| 35/010 | Layer | Layer | 4.56 | 1.8+ | 0.15-0.30 |
| 35/011 | Fill | Fill of 012, single | 0.70 | 0.50 | 0.36 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35/012 | Cut | Pit | 0.70 | 0.50 | 0.36 |

Table 18: Trench 35 list of recorded contexts

4.18.1 Trench 35 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment.

4.18.2 Ditch [35/006] ran across the northern part of the trench on an east/west alignment. The cut had a steep, slightly concave south side and an equally steep but straight north side, down to a flat base. The majority of the ditch was filled by lower deposit [35/005], a light greyish-brown compact silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and chalk fragments. Some 57 sherds of Early Roman pottery, animal bone, worked flint, iron nail fragments and a Roman latchlifter were recovered from it. Upper fill [35/004] occupied a likely settling hollow in the top of the feature and was a loose mid to dark grey silty clay with a significant charcoal content from which a further 60 sherds of Early Roman pottery and iron nail fragments were retrieved. Soil sample <2> was collected from the upper fill (Appendices 2 and 3). This ditch was probably an eastward continuation of ditch [23/000] in Trench 23.

4.18.3 Shallow ditch/gully [35/009] ran immediately south of [35/006] and parallel with it, but was significantly narrower. This shallow concave cut had a moderately steep south side and a gentler sloping north side. It contained two fills; lower fill [35/008] a compact light grey silty clay and [35/007] a looser mid grey silty clay with charcoal inclusions. No finds were retrieved from it.

4.18.4 Part of the southern end of the trench contained an apparent layer of mid orangish-grey clay with flint pebbles and charcoal inclusions [35/010]. Of variable thickness, this 4.56m-wide deposit directly overlay the natural deposit, possibly in a slight hollow, and was sealed by subsoil. Early Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay were retrieved from it.

4.18.5 Oval pit [35/012] was apparently overlain by layer [35/010]. It had moderate sloping sides and a rounded base. Its single fill [35/011] was a compact darkish orange-grey clay with rare charcoal inclusions. Pottery, animal bone and fired clay were recovered from it. However, the pottery comprised eight sherds of Early Roman and seven sherds of medieval, the former presumably being residual in this feature.

### 4.19 Trench 36 (Figure 21)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.55m deep*
*Ground level: 51.99m AOD (E), 52.37m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.21-0.32 |
| 36/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.17-0.24 |
| 36/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 36/004 | Fill | Fill of 008, upper | 1.8+ | c.4.00 | unex |
| 36/005 | Fill | Fill of 008, upper | 1.8+ | c.6.00 | unex |
| 36/006 | Fill | Fill of 008, upper | 1.8+ | c.1.5 | unex |
| 36/007 | Fill | Fill of 008, upper | 1.8+ | c.5.00 | unex |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36/008 | Cut | Pit, quarry? | 1.8+ | 10.00 | unex |

Table 19: Trench 36 list of recorded contexts

4.19.1 Trench 36 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a roughly east/west alignment. The majority of the trench was occupied by a single extensive cut feature.

4.19.2 Feature [36/008] was a substantial discrete cut, approximately 10m wide. Due to the large size of the feature and apparent complexity of the fills, it was agreed with the ECC Archaeological Advisor that this feature would only be minimally investigated in this evaluation phase. Four fills ([36/004 – 36/007]) were apparent on the exposed surface of the feature; various mixed grey and brown silts with flecks of charcoal and CBM. Two small sondages were excavated into the top of the feature to retrieve dating evidence. Fifty-six sherds of Roman pottery were recovered, along with five large medieval vessel sherds. It is speculated to have been an infilled quarry pit. It is perhaps notable that the modern drainage ditch to its north curves around and avoids its location – perhaps hinting at its late date.

**4.20 Trench 37** (Figure 22)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.53m deep*
*Ground level: 52.40m AOD (N), 52.59m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.34-0.35 |
| 37/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.04-0.18 |
| 37/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 37/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, upper | 1.8+ | 0.85 | 0.35 |
| 37/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 0.85 | 0.42 |
| 37/006 | Fill | Fill of 005, basal | 1.8+ | 0.70 | 0.18 |
| 37/007 | Fill | Fill of 008, single | 1.60 | 0.8 | 0.20 |
| 37/008 | Cut | Pit | 1.60 | 0.8 | 0.20 |
| 37/010 | Fill | Fill of 011, upper | 1.60 | 2.05 | 0.20 |
| 37/011 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 2.05 | 0.32 |
| 37/012 | Fill | Fill of 011, basal | 1.8+ | 0.9 | 0.17 |

Table 20: Trench 37 list of recorded contexts

4.20.1 Trench 37 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment.

4.20.2 Linear ditch [37/005] crossed the north of the trench on an east/west alignment. Its sides were steep, almost vertical, down to a flat base and it was filled by a sequence of two deposits. Lower fill [37/006] was a mottled orangey-grey silty clay with rare gravels, containing no finds. Overlying fill [37/004] was a firm purplish-grey silty clay with flint gravel from which 24 Early Roman pottery sherds were retrieved, along with a piece of slag and some fired clay.

4.20.3 Further south toward the middle of the trench, linear ditch [37/011] ran on the same east/west alignment. It had a moderately sloping north side and a gentler sloped and

stepped south side, down to a fairly flat bottom. Lower fill [37/012] was a mottled greenish brown-grey clay with occasional flint pebbles from which seven sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery were retrieved. Upper fill [37/010] was a dark bluish grey clay with frequent charcoal flecks. Further LIA/Early Roman pottery was retrieved from this fill. Soil sample <6> was collected from this upper fill (Appendices 2 and 3). Given the contrast between the two fills and their differing extents, it is possible that there was in fact a re-cut here.

4.20.4 Pit [37/008], located in the southern part of the trench, was a fairly shallow irregular sub-oval cut with moderate sloping sides and flat base. Its single fill [37/007] was a brownish-black silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks, and rare chalk and CMB fragments/flecks. Early Roman pottery and a small quantity of slag were recovered from it.

4.20.5 A third possible ditch (not contexted), this time on a NW/SE alignment, crossed the south end of the trench. This was not excavated.

### 4.21 Trench 38 (Figure 23)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.60m deep*
*Ground level: 54.77m AOD (NE), 54.55m AOD (SW)*

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.31-0.38 |
| 38/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.06-0.22 |
| 38/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 38/004 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 0.84 | 0.28 |
| 38/005 | Fill | Fill of 004, single | 1.8+ | 0.84 | 0.28 |

Table 21: Trench 38 list of recorded contexts

4.21.1 Trench 38 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a NE/SW alignment. Two parallel black plastic pipes on a north-south alignment were present in the trench, along with a single linear archaeological feature.

4.21.2 Shallow ditch/gully [38/004] crossed the southern part of the trench on a north-south alignment (the same as the plastic pipes in this trench). The cut had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill [38/005] was a light orangey-grey silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and larger flints toward the base. Two sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit.

### 4.22 Trench 40 (Figure 24)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.48m deep*
*Ground level: 54.98m AOD (N), 54.69m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.30-0.32 |
| 40/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.11-0.16 |
| 40/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 40/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0.18 |
| 40/005 | Cut | Pit | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0.18 |
| 40/006 | Fill | Fill of 007, single | 0.88 | 0.68 | 0.13 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40/007 | Cut | Pit | 0.88 | 0.68 | 0.13 |

Table 22: Trench 40 list of recorded contexts

4.22.1 Trench 40 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment. Three animal burrows were observed in the southern part of the trench.

4.22.2 Small oval pit [40/005] was located toward the north end of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a very dark brown-grey to blackish silty clay [40/004] containing charcoal and burnt bone fragments. Bulk soil sample <4> was collected from this fill (Appendices 2 and 3) from which apparent cremated human bone was retrieved. No other finds were recovered from it. This feature is tentatively identified as a cremation burial pit of unknown date.

4.22.3 Adjacent to [40/005] was probable elongated oval pit [40/007], the western part of which extended beyond the trench limit. The cut had moderately sloping sides to a narrow concave base. Its single fill [40/006] was a greyish-brown silty clay with flint pebbles and flecks of charcoal, from which no finds were recovered.

**4.23 Trench 41** (Figure 25)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.58m deep*
*Ground level: 54.28m AOD (N), 53.98m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 41/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.27-0.32 |
| 41/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.21-0.31 |
| 41/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 41/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 6.5+ | 0.70 | 0.22 |
| 41/005 | Cut | Ditch/gully | 6.5+ | 0.70 | 0.22 |
| 41/006 | Fill | Fill of 007, upper | 1.8 | 2.20 | 0.26 |
| 41/007 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8 | 2.20 | 0.60 |
| 41/008 | Fill | Fill of 007, basal | 1.8 | 2.10 | 0.60 |

Table 23: Trench 41 list of recorded contexts

4.23.1 Trench 41 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment.

4.23.2 Relatively narrow linear ditch/gully [41/005] ran diagonally down the middle part of the trench on a NNW/SSE alignment. The shallow cut had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by light orangey-brown silty clay with pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks [41/004]. No finds were recovered from it.

4.23.3 Fairly substantial ditch [41/007] crossed the south end of the trench on an east-west alignment. It had moderately sloping sides down to a slightly concave base and was filled by two deposits. Lower fill [41/008] was a firm mid orangey-brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles/gravels. Upper fill [41/006] was a light greyish-brown clay-silt with rare pebbles, but some root disturbance. No finds were recovered from either fill.

### 4.24 Trench 42 (Figure 26)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.56m deep*
*Ground level: 53.95m AOD (NNE), 53.74m AOD (SSW)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 42/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.28-0.38 |
| 42/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.15-0.23 |
| 42/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 42/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.05 | 0.84+ | 0.06 |
| 42/005 | Cut | Tree hole | 1.05 | 0.84+ | 0.06 |

Table 24: Trench 42 list of recorded contexts

4.24.1 Trench 42 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a NNE/SSW alignment.

4.24.2 Rounded feature [42/005] was located toward the middle of the trench, just over half exposed and the remainder extending beyond the western edge of excavation. The very shallow cut had concave gently sloping sides and an uneven base. It was filled with light orangey grey silty clay [42/004] that was noted to be similar to the surrounding natural deposit material, though lighter coloured. No finds were retrieved from this feature and it is speculated that this was of natural origin, perhaps a tree hole.

### 4.25 Trench 44 (Figure 27)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.71m deep*
*Ground level: 52.92m AOD (NNE), 52.65m AOD (SSW)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 44/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.22-0.48 |
| 44/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.19-0.49 |
| 44/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 44/004 | Fill | Fill of 006, upper | 2.0+ | 1.54 | 0.32 |
| 44/005 | Fill | Fill of 006, basal | 2.0+ | 0.95 | 0.23 |
| 44/006 | Cut | Ditch | 2.0+ | 1.54 | 0.43 |
| 44/007 | Fill | Fill of 008, single | 2.0+ | 1.04 | 0.15 |
| 44/008 | Cut | Ditch | 2.0+ | 1.04 | 0.15 |
| 44/009 | Fill | Fill of 010 | 1.8+ | 2.40 | unex |
| 44/010 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 2.40 | unex |
| 44/011 | Fill | Fill of 012, single | 1.8+ | 0.70 | 0.13 |
| 44/012 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 0.70 | 0.13 |
| 44/013 | Layer | Made-ground | 1.8+ | ? | 0.17-0.22 |

Table 25: Trench 44 list of recorded contexts

4.25.1 Trench 44 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a NNE/SSW alignment. As well as a number of linear cut features, an apparent made-ground deposit was encountered here.

4.25.2 Ditch [44/006] crossed the northern end of the trench on an ENE/WSE alignment. It had fairly gradual sloping sides and a concave base and contained two fills. Lower fill [44/005] was a very dark grey-black silty clay containing small flint pebbles along with charcoal, fired clay and burnt bone flecks and small fragments. A quantity of Early Roman pottery was retrieved from it. Overlying fill [44/004] was a light greyish-orange silty clay with flint pebbles and charcoal flecks - perhaps an infill deposit of redeposited natural material.

4.25.3 Adjacent ditch [44/008] ran on a NW/SE alignment. It had gradual sloping sides and a flat base. Its single fill [44/007] was a firm greyish-brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks, from which no finds were retrieved.

4.25.4 Ditches [44/006] and [44/008] intersected toward the western edge of the trench, though no stratigraphic relationship could be determined.

4.25.5 Toward the southwest end of the trench, linear ditch [44/010] ran on a WNW/ESE alignment. It was not excavated as it was judged in the field to be the eastern continuation of excavated ditches [23/006] and [35/006].

4.25.6 At the southwest end of the trench, ditch/gully [44/012] also ran on a WNW/ESE alignment. It had fairly gradual sloping sides down to a flat base. Its single fill [44/011] was a dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks, from which a single sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered.

4.25.7 Made-ground [44/013] was observed to extend across the southern end of the trench, though not extending as far as ditch [44/010]. It overlay subsoil and was covered by topsoil. It is likely to have been a golf course related deposit.

**4.26 Trench 45** (Figure 28)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.56m deep*
*Ground level: 52.87m AOD (N), 52.83m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.31-0.36 |
| 45/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.03-0.23 |
| 45/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 45/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 2.2+ | 0.60 | 0.14 |
| 45/005 | Cut | Ditch | 2.2+ | 0.60 | 0.14 |
| 45/006 | Fill | Fill of 008, upper | 2.2+ | 0.75 | 0.60 |
| 45/007 | Fill | Fill of 008, basal | 2.2+ | 0.10 | 0.44 |
| 45/008 | Cut | Ditch | 2.2+ | 0.92 | 0.44 |
| 45/009 | Void | - | - | - | - |
| 45/010 | Fill | Fill of 017, upper | 1.8+ | 0.30 | 0.4+ |
| 45/011 | Void | - | - | - | - |
| 45/012 | Fill | Fill of 013, single | 0.44 | 0.20 | 0.19 |
| 45/013 | Cut | Pit | 0.44 | 0.20 | 0.19 |
| 45/014 | Fill | Fill of 015, single | 0.46 | 0.30 | 0.12 |
| 45/015 | Cut | Pit | 0.46 | 0.30 | 0.12 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45/016 | Fill | Fill of 017, lower | 1.8+ | 0.3 | unex |
| 45/017 | Cut | Ditch? | 1.8+ | 0.3 | 0+ |

Table 26: Trench 45 list of recorded contexts

4.26.1 Trench 45 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment.

4.26.2 Ditch [45/005] crossed the trench on a NE/SW alignment. It had moderately sloping sides and a roughly flat base. It was filled with greyish-brown silty clay [45/004] with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. Ten sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery were recovered from it.

4.26.3 Linear ditch [45/008] crossed the south end of the trench on an NW/SE alignment. It had steep sides and a concave base and was filled by two deposits. Lower fill [45/007] was a firm orangey-brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel. Upper fill [45/006] was a greyish-brown clay-silt with occasional flint gravel and charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from either fill.

4.26.4 The middle portion of the trench was occupied by a substantial possible ditch [45/017]. Not excavated to its full depth, this wide and apparently linear cut contained at least two fills. The lowermost fill excavated was a light bluish-grey clay [45/016]. Overlying fill [45/010] was a dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal fragments. Seventy-nine sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered from this feature. As with the substantial feature in Trench 36, it was agreed with the ECC Archaeological Advisor to only minimally investigate this ditch during the evaluation phase of works.

**4.27 Trench 48** (Figure 29)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.59m deep*
*Ground level: 54.25m AOD (NW), 53.89m AOD (SE)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 48/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.28-0.33 |
| 48/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.16-0.28 |
| 48/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 48/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 8.0+ | 0.46 | 0.18 |
| 48/005 | Cut | Gully/Ditch | 8.0+ | 0.46 | 0.18 |

Table 27: Trench 48 list of recorded contexts

4.27.1 Trench 48 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on an NW/SE alignment. As well as a single linear archaeological feature, two ceramic field drains and a white plastic pipe crossed the trench.

4.27.2 Gully / ditch [48/005] ran across the trench on a NNW/SSE alignment. It had fairly steep sides and a slightly V-shaped base. Its fill [48/004] was a mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent flint pebbles from which no finds were retrieved.

### 4.28 **Trench 50** (Figure 30)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.45m deep*
*Ground level: 53.40m AOD (N), 53.23m AOD (S)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.27-0.33 |
| 50/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.12-0.16 |
| 50/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 50/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.8+ | 0.78 | 0.12 |
| 50/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 0.78 | 0.12 |
| 50/006 | Fill | Fill of 007, single | 1.8+ | 1.19 | 0.39 |
| 50/007 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.19 | 0.39 |

Table 28: Trench 50 list of recorded contexts

4.28.1 Trench 50 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a north/south alignment. As well as two ditches, a gravel-filled service trench crossed the north end. The middle of the trench was left unstripped due to the presence of an electricity cable.

4.28.2 Ditch [50/005] was a shallow linear cut running east/west. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its mottled mid grey silty clay fill [50/004] contained six sherds of Late Bronze Age/Earliest Iron Age pottery and a fragment of probably Roman tile.

4.28.3 Adjacent ditch [50/007] was slightly more substantial, though seemingly aligned more ENE/WSW. It had fairly steep sides and a slightly V-shaped / concave base. Its single fill [50/006] was a dark brownish grey silty clay with CBM and charcoal flecks. Late medieval/post-medieval CBM and a cast iron sheet fragment of late post-medieval date were retrieved from it.

### 4.29 **Trench 52** (Figure 31)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.43m deep*
*Ground level: 53.12m AOD (E), 53.31m AOD (W)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.26-0.31 |
| 52/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.05-0.15 |
| 52/003 | Deposit | Natural | 3+0 | 1.8+ | - |
| 52/004 | Fill | Fill of 008, top | 0.80 | 0.66+ | 0.30 |
| 52/005 | Fill | Fill of 008, 3rd | 0.80 | 0.38+ | 0.10 |
| 52/006 | Fill | Fill of 008, 2nd | 0.80 | 0.52+ | 0.16 |
| 52/007 | Fill | Fill of 008, 1st | 0.80 | 0.50+ | 0.22 |
| 52/008 | Cut | Pit | 0.80 | 0.66+ | 0.69 |
| 52/009 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 3.40 | 0.71 |
| 52/010 | Fill | Fill of 009, top | 1.8+ | 3.15 | 0.25 |
| 52/011 | Fill | Fill of 009, 4th | 1.8+ | 1.50 | 0.20 |
| 52/012 | Fill | Fill of 009, 3rd | 1.8+ | 1.75 | 0.18 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52/013 | Fill | Fill of 009, 2nd | 1.8+ | 1.75 | 0.15 |
| 52/014 | Fill | Fill of 015, single | 1.8+ | 1.00 | 0.20 |
| 52/015 | Cut | Ditch | 2.0+ | 1.00 | 0.20 |
| 52/016 | Fill | Fill of 009, 1st | 2.0+ | 1.35 | 0.15 |

Table 29: Trench 52 list of recorded contexts

4.29.1 Trench 52 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on an east/west alignment. In addition to three archaeological features, a black plastic pipe crossed the approximate middle of the trench.

4.29.2 Circular pit [52/008] was located at the east end of the trench. It was filled by a sequence of four fills. The lowest was a mottled mid brown to grey silty clay with common charcoal flecks [52/007]. Second fill [52/006] was a dark grey to brown mottled silty clay, with charcoal inclusions. Overlying fill [52/005] was a mid brown silty clay and top fill [52/004] a mottled dark grey and mid brown clay-silt. Two sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery and fired clay fragments were recovered from this top fill. Soil sample <8> from [52/004] contained abundant charred grain.

4.29.3 Adjacent ditch [52/009] was north/south aligned, with variably sloping sides down to a roughly concave base. It was filled by a sequence of five grey-brown silty clay fills [52/010-013 and 016]. Third fill [52/012] was a greyer ashy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and fired clay fragments. A quantity of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay fragments were retrieved from this fill. Soil sample <7> from [52/012] contained abundant charred grain.

4.29.4 Feature [52/015] was an irregular-shaped cut that extended beyond the trench edge. As exposed, it appeared to be a broad linear cut with a projecting end. Its sides were variably moderate to steep sloping and its base flat. It was filled by mid brownish-grey clay-silt [52/014], with occasional charcoal flecks. A single sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was retrieved from this fill. Posited in the field to be the terminal of a ditch, its actual function is uncertain.

**4.30 Trench 53** (Figure 32)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.50m deep*
*Ground level: 52.99m AOD (NW), 53.24m AOD (SE)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 53/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.24 |
| 53/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.19-0.26 |
| 53/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.8+ | - |
| 53/004 | Fill | Fill of 005, single | 1.8+ | 1.55 | 0.55 |
| 53/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8+ | 1.55 | 0.55 |
| 53/006 | Layer | Layer | 1.8+ | 1.15 | 0.19 |
| 53/007 | Fill | Fill of 009, upper | 1.8+ | 2.05 | 0.23 |
| 53/008 | Fill | Fill of 009, structure? | 1.8+ | 0.71 | 0.07+ |
| 53/009 | Cut | ?Structural gully | 1.8+ | 2.05 | 0.23 |

Table 30: Trench 53 list of recorded contexts

4.30.1 Trench 53 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a NW/SE alignment. In addition to two archaeological features being present, two black plastic pipes crossed the trench.

4.30.2 Ditch [53/005] was a NNE/SSW linear feature that crossed the approximate middle of the trench. It had fairly steep sides and a concave to slightly V-shaped base. It contained a fill of firm dark bluish-grey clay [53/004] that contained frequent charcoal fragments and flecks. A large quantity of Early Roman pottery, together with fired clay and animal bone, was retrieved from it. Bulk soil sample <5> contained cherry/blackthorn, hazel/alder, hornbeam and oak charcoal.

4.30.3 Deposit [53/006] was recorded in the field as a layer of mid brown-grey clay that contained charcoal.It in fact appears to have been a fill in a shallow cut that was truncated by ditch [53/005]. Occasional CBM fragments were observed in this deposit and two sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery retrieved.

4.30.4 Apparent shallow linear gully [53/009] ran across the trench on a NNE/SSW alignment. At its NNE exposed extent, the cut contained the degraded remains of a possible brick/tile foundation [53/008] that extended beyond the limit of excavation – perhaps a plinth footing, surviving to a single brick height. This putative robbed-out foundation trench was infilled by dark grey silty clay [53/007] containing frequent CBM flecks and charcoal. Twenty-three sherds of Early Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay were retrieved from this deposit.

### 4.31 Trench 54 (Figure 33)

*Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x max 0.63m deep*
*Ground level: 53.33m AOD (NNE), 53.12m AOD (SSW)*

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth/ Thickness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 54/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.31-0.34 |
| 54/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30+ | 1.8+ | 0.21-0.29 |
| 54/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30+ | 1.+8 | - |
| 54/004 | Fill | Fill of 004, single | 1.0+ | 0.9+ | 0.2+ |
| 54/005 | Cut | Pit | 1.0+ | 0.9+ | 0.2+ |

Table 31: Trench 54 list of recorded contexts

4.31.1 Trench 54 was located in Phase 5, to the east of Belsteads Farm Lane. It was positioned on a NNE/SSW alignment. As well as a single archaeological feature, the trench contained a gravel-filled drain or service trench of modern date.

4.31.2 Pit [54/005] was located at the northeast corner of the trench, the majority of the probably circular feature extending beyond. This pit was not bottomed but its excavated portion contained a fill of mid greyish-brown clay-silt [54/015], from which Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was retrieved.

### 4.32 Negative trenches 1, 2, 6, 9, 14-19, 24, 25, 27, 29, 39, 43, 46, 47, 49, 51, 52

4.32.1 Twenty-one of the investigated evaluation trenches were found to be devoid of archaeological remains. These are given summary/collective description below, with further detail of the deposit sequences recorded presented in Appendix 1. All contained

simple deposit sequences of varying thicknesses of topsoil over subsoil over the natural deposit.

4.32.2 Of these, Trenches 1, 6, 9, 14, 17, 25, 29, 47 were otherwise entirely featureless.

4.32.3 Trench 2 was observed to contain a shallow modern feature at its northern end, c.0.4 wide x 0.08m deep. The edge of a bunker, manifest as a cut filled with clean grey-white sand was encountered at the east end of Trench 39. Trench 52 contained a small natural feature. Trenches 18 and 19 were crossed by single ceramic land drains.

4.32.4 The remainder (Trenches 15, 16, 24, 27, 39, 43, 46 and 50) contained only modern plastic pipes or else electricity cables that were avoided during machine-stripping and subsequent excavation. These were all evidently related to the recent golf course use of the site.

## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A moderately large assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on land north, south and east of Belstead's Farm Lane, Chelmsford. All finds were washed and dried or air-dried as appropriate. Bulk finds were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 32). Four objects were assigned unique registered finds numbers and are described in section 5.14. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

| Context | Lithics | Weight (g) | Pottery | Weight (g) | CBM | Weight (g) | Stone | Weight (g) | Slag | Weight (g) | Iron | Weight (g) | Bone | Weight (g) | Fired Clay | Weight (g) | Glass | Weight (g) | Shell | Weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20/004 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21/004 | | | 169 | 2676 | | | 1 | 26 | | | 1 | 3 | 6 | 26 | 2 | 8 | | | 3 | 18 |
| 23/004 | | | 32 | 100 | | | | | | | | | 9 | 40 | | | | | | |
| 23/005 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 38 | 248 | 2 | 8 | | | | |
| 26/004 | | | 8 | 98 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30/004 | | | 1 | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31/004 | | | 3 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33/006 | 3 | 25 | | | 1 | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33/009 | | | 5 | 199 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34/004 | 7 | 42 | 11 | 76 | 52 | 1202 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 10 | | | 1 | 4 | | |
| 34/006 | | | 5 | 144 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34/007 | | | 7 | 19 | | | | | 12 | 54 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34/009 | | | 6 | 39 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34/011 | | | 8 | 65 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35/004 | | | 60 | 578 | | | | | | | 4 | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| 35/005 | 4 | 99 | 57 | 560 | | | | | | | 2 | 16 | 20 | 198 | | | | | 1 | 10 |
| 35/010 | | | 32 | 557 | | | | | | | | | 25 | 96 | 4 | 14 | | | | |
| 35/011 | | | 15 | 72 | | | | | | | | | 11 | 82 | 1 | 16 | | | | |
| 36/005 | | | 56 | 746 | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 122 | | | | |
| 36/006 | | | 5 | 583 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37/004 | | | 24 | 238 | | | | | 1 | 12 | | | | | 2 | 14 | | | | |
| 37/007 | | | 9 | 59 | | | 1 | 64 | 2 | 124 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37/010 | | | 10 | 73 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37/012 | | | 7 | 115 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 24 | | | | | | |
| 38/005 | | | 2 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44/004 | | | 17 | 149 | | | | | | | | | 1 | <2 | | | | | | |
| 44/005 | | | 18 | 150 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44/009 | | | 1 | 13 | | | 2 | 1008 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44/011 | | | 1 | 37 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45/004 | | | 10 | 52 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45/010 | | | 79 | 850 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50/004 | | | 6 | 14 | 1 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50/006 | | | | | 3 | 44 | | | | | 1 | 146 | | | 2 | 16 | | | | |

| Context | Lithics | Weight (g) | Pottery | Weight (g) | CBM | Weight (g) | Stone | Weight (g) | Slag | Weight (g) | Iron | Weight (g) | Bone | Weight (g) | Fired Clay | Weight (g) | Glass | Weight (g) | Shell | Weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52/004 | | | 2 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 24 | | | | |
| 52/012 | | | 17 | 167 | | | 1 | 166 | | | | | 12 | 104 | 3 | 14 | | | | |
| 52/014 | | | 1 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 53/004 | | | 112 | 1577 | | | | | | | | | 7 | 56 | 25 | 428 | | | | |
| 53/006 | | | 2 | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 53/007 | | | 23 | 315 | | | | | | | | | 5 | 38 | 3 | 26 | | | | |
| 54/004 | | | 12 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Total* | *17* | *177* | *834* | *10452* | *57* | *1296* | *5* | *1264* | *15* | *190* | *9* | *173* | *137* | *922* | *53* | *690* | *1* | *4* | *4* | *28* |

Table 32: Finds quantification

## 5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A total of 17 pieces of struck flint weighing 177g were recovered during the evaluation (Table 32). They came from 11 contexts in seven trenches (Trenches 20, 31, 33, 34, 35, 45 and 54). The material was quantified by piece count and weight and was catalogued directly into an Excel spreadsheet.

| Category | Flakes | Blade-like flake | Retouched form | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No | 13 | 2 | 2 | *17* |

Table 33: Flintwork quantification

5.2.2 The assemblage consists mainly of unmodified waste pieces, of which flakes are the dominant type. They exhibit irregular morphologies and, where present, platforms are unprepared. The small blade and the blade-like flake are unlikely to represent products of blade technology. Instead, both pieces are likely to represent products of knapping accident. Two modified pieces were present: an end scraper and a miscellaneous retouched piece. The scraper is in a poor condition but a broad Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age date is likely.

5.2.3 The evaluation produced a small amount of struck flints. The flintwork provides limited evidence for prehistoric presence around the site. No diagnostic tools were found but, based on technological and morphological traits, the bulk of the material suggests a later prehistoric date (Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age). The condition of the material varies, but the majority of the pieces display some edge damage implying some degree of post-depositional disturbance.

## 5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 In addition to a few sherds of probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age material, a relatively large assemblage of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered, predominantly from trenches at the southern end of the evaluated area.

5.3.2 The pottery was recorded according to the Essex regional typology (Biddulph *et al* 2015, incorporating form codes from Hawkes and Hull 1947 and Going 1987). It was quantified by sherd count, weight, estimated vessel number (ENV) and estimated

vessel equivalent (EVE) on *pro forma* records and in an Excel spreadsheet.

*Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age*

5.3.3 The earliest ceramic material from the site comprises a small number of flint-tempered bodysherds (eight sherds, weighing 76g). In fill [50/004] of ditch [50/005], six small sherds of a single vessel were stratified together without any later pottery, though they did occur with a single fragment of ceramic building material, suggesting that they may be residual. The relatively thin-walled sherds are moderately-coarse, with ill-sorted flint of 1-3mm, occasionally ranging up to 4mm, in a silty background matrix. Fabrics of this type are broadly typical of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period. Two additional sherds containing slightly finer grades of flint-tempering were found alongside Late Iron Age/early Roman material in contexts, [52/012] and [54/004]; again they are likely to represent residual late 2nd/early 1st millennium BC fabrics.

*Late Iron Age/early Roman*

5.3.4 The Late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage from the site totals 636 sherds, weighing 7.67 kg. It was retrieved from 33 numbered contexts in 14 different trenches. Although a few sherds were recovered from other areas of the site, this material was very concentrated in closely-spaced trenches located at the southern end of the site (Trenches 23, 34, 35, 36, 37, 44, 45, 52, 53 and 54). The assemblage includes one large pottery group of over 100 sherds (fill [53/004] of ditch [53/005]) and five moderate-sized groups of 30-99 sherds (upper and lower fills [35/004] and [35/005] of ditch [35/006], layer [35/010], fill [36/005] of quarry pit [36/008] and fill [45/010] of ditch [45/017]). The truncated base/lower wall of a single jar (in fabric BSW2) was also noted in fill [23/004] of ditch [23/006]. The overall quantity and concentration of pottery in this area of the site therefore seems to suggest that it lies close to areas of settlement activity.

5.3.5 The assemblage is very typical of the period around the Roman Conquest. Most individual context groups of any size contain a few sandy black-surfaced (BSW1), buff/red oxidised (BUF, RED, COLB) or grey ware (GRS) fabrics which indicate contexts sealed in the early post-Conquest period; however, Table 34 shows that the assemblage is dominated by grog-tempered wares (BSW2, GROG, GROGC, GROGRS, STOR) and other tempered fabrics (GROGSH, ESH). The only sizable context group which lacked Roman sandy fabrics is fill [45/010] of ditch [45/017], suggesting that this could be marginally earlier in date than the others, though the range of forms represented are still entirely typical of a mid 1st century AD assemblage (see below). Regionally-traded wares include individual sherds of Colchester buff ware (COLB) and North Kent Upchurch ware (NKG). A single sherd of North Gaulish white ware (NGWFS) represents the only imported material.

5.3.6 The range of forms is typical of assemblages from the middle quarters of the 1st century AD. Several examples of bead rim jars such as Cam 256, 259, G1 and G3 are present but the dominant form types are fairly simple cordoned necked jars of G16/G19-G21 type, alongside bead rim/necked storage jars (G44). There are also several examples of fairly plain butt-beaker imitations (H7), though few other table or fine ware forms. Amongst the more clearly post-Conquest material, there is a perforated cheese-press in Colchester buff ware from fill [34/006] of ditch [34/008] and a reeded rim (C16) bowl in a well-fired red-oxidised fabric from layer [35/010].

| Fabric | Description | Sherds | Weight (g) | ENV | EVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BSW1 | Black surfaced ware (sandy variant) | 55 | 400 | 38 | 0.51 |
| BSW2 | Black surfaced ware (sparsely grog-tempered variant) | 255 | 1788 | 154 | 1.1 |
| BUF | Unsourced buff oxidised ware | 8 | 28 | 4 | 0.07 |
| COLB | Colchester buff ware | 1 | 50 | 1 | 0.15 |
| ESH | Early shell-tempered ware | 12 | 124 | 2 | |
| GROG | Grog-tempered ware | 175 | 1965 | 90 | 1.18 |
| GROGC | Coarse grog-tempered ware | 45 | 2044 | 29 | 0.12 |
| GROGRS | Red-surfaced grog-tempered ware | 7 | 78 | 2 | |
| GROGSH | Grog and shell-tempered ware | 9 | 79 | 4 | 0.07 |
| GRS | Unsourced grey ware | 19 | 82 | 12 | 0.05 |
| NGWFS | North Gaulish white fine sandy fabric | 4 | 11 | 1 | |
| NKG | North Kent fine ware | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0.07 |
| RED | Unsourced red oxidised ware | 12 | 78 | 10 | 0.24 |
| STOR | Storage jar fabric | 33 | 944 | 14 | 0.12 |
| *Total* | | *636* | *7673* | *362* | *3.68* |

Table 34: Quantification of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery fabrics

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

5.4.1 A total of 192 sherds of pottery, weighing 2882g was excavated from seven 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). Some of Cunningham's rim form codes are quoted in this report. The pottery data have been entered in an Excel spreadsheet and the pottery is tabulated by ware in Table 35.

| Pottery by ware | Sherd Nos | Wt (g) |
|---|---|---|
| Shell-and-sand-tempered ware | 2 | 12 |
| Early medieval ware | 1 | 4 |
| Hedingham fineware | 5 | 50 |
| Hedingham coarseware | 61 | 1756 |
| Mill Green fineware | 2 | 6 |
| Mill Green coarseware | 22 | 145 |
| Medieval coarseware | 81 | 800 |
| Sandy orange ware | 14 | 90 |
| Tudor red earthenware | 3 | 16 |
| Unidentifiable | 1 | 3 |
| *Total* | *192* | *2882* |

Table 35: Post-Roman pottery quantification, shown in approximate chronological order

5.4.2 The only large and significant assemblage excavated is from context [21/004], the top fill of ditch/quarry pit [21/009], which produced 171 sherds weighing 2674g, accounting for 93% of the total assemblage by weight. This context produced a very typical range of medieval pottery comprising fragments from a small number of fineware/glazed ware

jugs and a large number of medieval coarseware vessels consisting almost entirely of cooking-pots with the addition of a single bowl. Hedingham fineware is the commonest fineware with diagnostic sherds consisting of a jug rim decorated with rows of cartwheel stamps around the neck, and a body sherd showing vertical applied strips. Both sherds show a mottled-green glaze and are from stamped strip jugs, this is the most common decorative style in the Hedingham ware repertoire and the longest lived, spanning the period c.1225 to 1300/1325 (Cotter 2000, 91). A single sherd of Mill Green fineware is present showing the typical white slip-coating under a mottled-green glaze and lines of combing through the slip. This sherd is unusual in that the lines of combing intersect – usually they are parallel. In addition to these finewares, there are a number of decorated sandy orange ware sherds; several sherds from a jug are decorated with applied strips over a white slip background, and although the sherds are abraded, traces of a greenish glaze can be seen. There is also a fragment of sandy orange ware jug rim, and a body sherd decorated with a white slip-coating, greenish glaze and combed decoration, no doubt in imitation of the finer Mill Green ware.

5.4.3 All the remaining pottery, apart from two sherds of early medieval shell-and-sand-tempered ware, comprises medieval coarseware. This ware was manufactured at several production sites around the county and products of the various industries cannot usually be differentiated. However, both Hedingham coarseware and Mill Green coarseware examples have been identified in the assemblage as these can be distinguished by their relatively fine and micaceous fabrics. Both wares are equally represented in terms of vessel numbers, with the remains of two cooking-pots a piece, but in terms of sherd numbers and weight of pottery Hedingham coarseware is by far the more common, the remains of one large Hedingham coarseware cooking-pot accounting for 62% of the total from this context by weight. The bowl and cooking-pot types present are itemised below:

- Bowl fragment in medieval coarseware comprising a cavetto (curved over) rim and body sherds; an almost black interior may be the result of heating during use, or from firing conditions in the kiln; two fingernail marks around the rim are probably simple decoration although the sherd is too fragmented to be sure
- Cooking-pot fragment with a B4 rim in medieval coarseware showing fire-blackening around the edge of the rim
- Two cooking-pot fragments with cavetto rims, one in medieval coarseware and the other in Mill Green coarseware
- Cooking-pot fragment with an H1 rim in Mill Green coarseware
- Large cooking-pot in Hedingham coarseware with sagging base, H1 rim and thumbed applied cordon above the shoulder; faint traces of fire-blackening around the rim edge and on the underside of the base and lower walls indicate this vessel was used as a cooking-pot rather than a storage jar

5.4.4 The cooking-pots can be assigned an approximate date by their rim type, the B4 rim is datable to c.1200, the cavetto rims are datable to the first half of the 13th century and the H1 rims are current throughout the 13th century. However the latest pottery in this assemblage is the Mill Green ware, which spans the mid-13th to mid-14th centuries, but given there is no evidence of late 13th or 14th century pottery, a mid-13th century date seems most likely for this group. The shell-and-sand-tempered ware spans the 11th to earlier 13th century and is either residual or just about contemporary with the rest of the group. The examples of Hedingham ware and sandy orange ware would

also be current in the mid-13th century.

5.4.5 The remaining features produced only small amounts of often abraded pottery, some of which appears to be intrusive in Roman contexts. Context [20/004], the lower fill of ditch [20/006] produced a thickened everted rim sherd in early medieval ware which could be as early as 11th century, although a later date, up to the earlier 13th century is possible. Context [34/011], the upper fill of ditch [34/012] and context [35/011] the fill of pit [35/012] both produced examples of medieval coarseware and Mill Green ware and could be contemporary with the large group from quarry pit [21/009]. Finds from [35/011] include a fragment from a thick-walled cylindrical vessel in medieval coarseware which might be a chimney pot or perhaps a waterpipe although its bevelled edge is not typical of either. Context [36/005], the upper fill of possible quarry pit [36/008] produced only very abraded body sherds of medieval coarseware and again may be contemporary with that from quarry pit [21/009]. However, medieval coarseware has the rather wide date range of later 12th to the end of the 14th century, so an earlier or later date is possible.

5.4.6 Context [31/004], the fill of ditch [31/005], produced a medieval coarseware E5 cooking-pot rim. This is a developed type, datable to the 14th century and therefore later than that from quarry pit [21/009]. The latest pottery comes from context [34/004], the fill of ditch [34/005], comprising a few sherds of late medieval sandy orange ware and Tudor red earthenware, providing a later 15th to 16th century date.

*Discussion*

5.4.7 The bulk of the pottery is datable to the mid-13th century, but with the addition of small amounts of pottery spanning the early medieval period to the later 15th/16th century. The nature of occupation seems entirely domestic and the presence of a possible waterpipe or chimney pot would indicate the presence of a fairly substantial building, although it has to be said that this identification is somewhat tentative. The pottery supply appears entirely local, with the Mill Green ware manufactured at Mill Green, near Ingatestone, and other sites to the south of Chelmsford, and the Hedingham ware made principally at production sites in and around the area of Sible Hedingham in north-central Essex.

## 5.5 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 A total of fifty-five pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1259g were collected from four contexts: [33/006], [34/004], [50/004], and [50/006]. The material was all incredibly fragmented which greatly limited their interpretational value, but two roof tile fabrics and one brick fabric were possible to identify and are described below in Table 36.

| Fabric | Description |
|---|---|
| T1 | Fine, orange and slightly micaceous fabric with sparse-moderate unsorted quartz. |
| T2 | Orange fabric with common coarse quartz. |
| B1 | Museum of London Archaeology fabric 3033? Fine orange fabric with scatter of quartz (up to 0.8mm), sparse pale streaking and black iron oxide (up to 1.5mm). Occasional flint fragments and small pebbles (up to 7mm). |

Table 36: Ceramic building material (CBM) fabric descriptions

5.5.2 None of the roof tile can be dated with any accuracy, although the fairly homogenous fabric types and level of firing suggests a date between the 15th and 17th centuries. The T2 tile may be even earlier as this type of very quartz-rich fabric is typical of nib tiles, which can be as early as the 12th century. However, the very poor preservation and small quantity of T2 tile found suggests this may be residual or redeposited material.

5.5.3 The brick fragments collected from [34/004] – the context from which the bulk of the material was recovered – were mostly too shattered to provide any diagnostic information. Only one fragment was large enough to enable the thickness to be measured and, at 45mm, an early post-medieval date of the later 15th-into-16th century is most likely. This date range is further supported by the fabric type, B1, which is a very typical brick fabric of the late medieval-early post-medieval period and found across much of the south-east of England.

**5.6 Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A small assemblage comprising 49 fragments of fired clay weighing 704g was recovered from 11 individually numbered contexts. An overview of fabrics encountered can be found in Table 37.

5.6.2 A total of 23 fragments are amorphous whereas 13 pieces display one flat surface. Four pieces with two parallel flat surfaces were also found, some of which have one rough and one smooth face, perhaps representing hearth lining ([53/004]). An edge or rim from the same context and in the same fabric may be from hearth lining too.

5.6.3 Wattle impressions were noted on four examples from contexts [35/005], [35/010] and [36/005], with diameters of 15 and 16mm. A further four fragments display rounded surfaces, perhaps suggesting rounded structures.

| Fabrics | Description |
|---|---|
| F1a | Orange fabric with common medium quartz, rare coarse/very coarse quartz and moderate/common voids (organics?) |
| F1b | As F1a but without voids |
| F2a | Orange fabric with moderate fine/medium quartz and moderate medium o very coarse (1.5mm) chalk |
| F2b | Pale orange, marl-rich c lay with moderate chalk to 2mm and abundant fine/medium quartz |
| F3 | Orange, red or brown fabric with sparse fine quartz |
| F4 | Unusually hard brown-red fabric with common medium and coarse quartz, sparse-moderate chalky inclusions |

Table 37: Fired clay fabric descriptions

**5.7 Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.7.1 A single wine bottle fragment (weight 5g) was recovered from [34/004]. The piece is of 19th- to early 20th-century date.

**5.8 Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.8.1 The evaluation recovered just five pieces of stone from the site. The material has been fully listed in Table 38.

| Context | Type | No | Weight | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21/004 | German lava | 1 | 24g | Rotary quern fragment: part of grinding face |
| 37/007 | Fossil sponge | 1 | 62g | Cretaceous. Irregular, worn |
| 44/009 | German lava | 2 | 1008g | Rotary quern fragments (conjoining). Upper stone, somewhat worn, with 58mm thick outer edge and c. 340mm diameter |
| 52/012 | Quartzite (light grey) | 1 | 166g | Spherical cobble. Quite friable. No sign of use-wear |

Table 38: Summary of the stone assemblage

5.8.2 The fossil sponge and quartzite are types that are quite frequently found within glacial till deposits in the general area and so could appear naturally on site. Neither show signs of human modification. The German lava is quite typical and is perhaps the most common quern stone in use in Essex in the Early Roman, Saxon and medieval periods.

5.8.3 The stone is of well-known types for the area/period and is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. With the exception of the larger quern fragment, the assemblage has been discarded.

### 5.9 Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.9.1 A small assemblage of slag was recovered from the site. The material is listed in Table 39.

| Context | Type | No/weight | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| 34/007 | Iron smithing | 12/52g | Rusty/grey, aerated but quite dense |
| 37/004 | Iron smithing | 1/12g | As above |
| 37/007 | Iron smithing | 2/124g | As above. Slight domed base suggesting possibly part of a forge bottom |

Table 39: Summary of the slag assemblage

5.9.2 All of the slag appears to derive from iron smithing activity. The material, although not particularly abundant, is quite fresh, suggesting it has not seen significant reworking/redeposition.

5.9.3 The slag assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

### 5.10 Bulk Metalwork by Elke Raemen

5.10.1 A small assemblage comprising nine fragments of ironwork (weight 173g) was recovered from five individually numbered contexts. Included are eight general purpose nail fragments representing a minimum of four nails. Although all of the nails can be identified as being of 'general purpose', as opposed to heavy duty, too little survives to establish more detailed types. None of the nails are intrinsically dateable. In addition, [50/006] contained a cast iron sheet fragment of probable late post-medieval date.

## 5.11 **Animal Bone** by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.11.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing 297 fragments, weighing approximately 922g was recovered from the excavation. The assemblage was retrieved through hand-collection and whole earth samples. The majority of the collection is in a moderate state of preservation, with some signs of surface erosion evident. The assemblage contains domestic and wild fauna. No complete bones are present.

5.11.2 The assemblage has been recorded in an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with the zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Wherever possible the fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented (Schmid 1972). Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size and categorised as large, medium or small mammal.

5.11.3 Mammalian age at death data has been collected for each specimen where observable, the state of epiphyseal bone fusion has been recorded as fused, unfused and fusing. The assemblage contains no measurable long-bones and no age-able mandibles. Specimens have been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing, non-metric traits and pathology.

*The Assemblage*

5.11.4 A limited range of taxa have been identified. The assemblage is dominated by mammal bones, with taxa identified including cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse. Of the 297 faunal bone fragments present, 212 were identified to taxa (Table 40). Both meat and non-meat bearing bones are present within the assemblage.

| **Taxa** | **NISP** |
|---|---|
| Cattle | 7 |
| Sheep/goat | 5 |
| Pig | 2 |
| Horse | 1 |
| Large mammal | 89 |
| Medium mammal | 106 |
| Small mammal | 1 |
| Fish - Gadidae | 1 |
| *Total* | *212* |

Table 40: Animal bone NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) count

5.11.5 Medieval quarry pit fill [21/004] contained a large mammal skull fragment, a cattle mandible fragment and two sheep/goat mandibular molars in wear. Late Iron Age/early Roman ditch fill [23/004] produced eight large mammal long bone fragments. The basal fill of the same feature, [23/005], contained large and medium mammal post-cranial elements, as well as a proximal cattle radius fragment and a sheep/goat scapula fragment. Ditch fill [34/004], which contained finds of mixed Post medieval, medieval and Roman date, produced a single large mammal and calcined medium mammal long bone fragment. Early Roman ditch fill [35/005] produced large and medium mammal post-cranial elements, a distal cattle tibia, a mandibular pig incisor and a sheep/goat mandibular third molar both in wear, as well as a sheep/goat radius shaft fragment.

5.11.6 Early Roman layer [35/010] contained nineteen large mammal long bone fragments, a large mammal distal radius fragment and a medium mammal radial shaft fragment as well as a cattle metacarpal shaft fragment. Pit fill [35/011], which produced pottery of mixed Roman/medieval date, contained four large mammal long bone fragments and a cattle maxillary molar in wear. Late Iron Age/early Roman ditch fill [37/012] contained a large mammal proximal radius fragment and a medium mammal mandible fragment. Early Roman ditch fill [44/004] produced a single medium mammal calcined pelvis fragment. Late Iron Age/early Roman ditch fill [52/012] contained large and medium mammal post-cranial fragments, a distal large mammal humerus fragment and a medium mammal femur shaft fragment. Early Roman ditch fill [53/004] contained large and medium mammal post-cranial fragments, a pig maxilla with dentition in wear and a charred horse mandibular molar. Early Roman gully fill [53/007] produced a medium mammal rib fragment, a cattle maxillary premolar and mandibular third molar both in wear, as well as charred and calcined medium mammal pelvis fragments.

5.11.7 Whole earth samples <2>, <5>, <6> and <7> produced 101 fragments of large, medium and small mammal bones, the majority of which were represented by post-cranial elements. Of the 101 fragments recovered from the whole earth samples, 67 fragments showed evidence of burning.

5.11.8 A single Gadidae fish vertebrae recovered from Late Iron Age/early Roman ditch fill [52/012] <7> represented wild taxa within the assemblage. Adult animals are represented within the assemblage based on the limited fusion data available. The animal bone assemblage suggests that domestic refuse disposal was undertaken in this area. No evidence of butchery, gnawing, non-metric traits or pathology were observed.

### 5.12 Cremated Human Bone by Dr Paola Ponce

5.12.1 A small amount of cremated human bone was recovered from one context, fill [40/004] of pit [40/005]. This was dated to AD50-70/80 on the basis of its association with a small group of pottery sherds.

5.12.2 The excavated fill of the deposit underwent flotation and was processed as a bulk environmental sample. Bone fragments were collected and subjected to careful recording and separated in sieve fractions of 2-4mm, 4-8mm and >8mm according to the standards proposed by McKinley (2004).

5.12.3 The total amount of burnt bone recovered from the deposit was 87.71 grams (Table 41). The bone fragments represented came from the 4-8mm and the >8mm fractions but there was not burnt bone retrieved from the 2-4mm fraction.

| Context | Weight (grams) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2-4mm | 4-8mm | >8mm | Total |
| 40/004 <4> | - | 75.34 | 12.37 | 87.71 |

Table 41: Burnt bone quantification

5.12.4 With regards to the degree of oxidation of the organic component of bone, it was noted that 100% of the assemblage was fully oxidised white which suggests a highly efficient burning process at temperatures >c. 600˚ C (Holden *et al* 1995a and b).

## 5.13 **Shell** by Elke Raemen

5.13.1 Just three fragments of oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), weighing 28g, were recovered during the evaluation. Context [21/004] contained two left valves, both abraded and appearing immature. An abraded right valve was recovered from [35/005].

## 5.14 **Registered Finds** by Elke Raemen

5.14.1 A total of four finds were assigned a unique registered finds number (Table 42). Three of these finds require X-ray (RF <1>, <2> and <4>), either to establish their function or, in the case of the knife blade, to check for maker's marks.

| Context | RF No | Object | Material | Count | Weight (g) | Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34/004 | 1 | KNIFE | IRON | 1 | 50 | |
| 32/004 | 2 | FERRULE | IRON | 1 | 32 | |
| 35/005 | 3 | LATCHLIFTER | IRON | 1 | 41 | LIA/Roman |
| 35/005 | 4 | UNKNOWN | IRON | 1 | 3 | |

Table 42: Summary of the registered finds

5.14.2 The only obviously Roman object comprises a latch lifter (RF <3>). It is rectangular-sectioned throughout and both handle and blade are broken, the former rendering it impossible to establish whether the latch lifter had a tanged or looped handle. The same context, [35/005], also contained a small, incomplete disk of unknown function (RF <4>).

5.14.3 Three conjoining fragments from a knife blade (RF <1>) with cutting edge rising up to meet the back were recovered from [34/004]. Finally, a ferrule fragment (RF <2>), possibly from a socketed tool, was recovered from [32/004]. Neither are intrinsically dateable.

## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS by Mariangela Vitolo

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Nine bulk sediment samples were taken in order to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The samples originated from the fills of ditches, pits and the contents of a vessel. Most deposits were spot-dated to the Early Roman period, whilst one was of a possible Medieval date. The following report summarises the contents of the samples and the contribution that the environmental remains can make to discussions of diet, agrarian economy and environment at the site.

### 6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The samples were processed by flotation in their entirety, except for sample <9> which was wet-sieved and therefore did not produce a flot. The flots and residues from the flotation samples were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 2). 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 3). Identification of the plant remains was made by comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al*. 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004) when needed. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2.2 Charred wood fragments were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000, Leeney and Casteel 1975). Charcoal 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). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 1.

### 6.3 Results

6.3.1 Most flots were dominated by uncharred rootlets and occasional seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) were recovered in two samples. This uncharred material indicates low level disturbance due to root activity. Charred plant remains occurred in nearly all of the sampled contexts, although generally in low quantities. Exceptions were ditch [52/009] and pit [52/008], where charred grains were abundant. Caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) were recorded alongside wild grasses (Poaceae), including oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus* sp.). Preservation of the crop remains ranged from moderate to good. No chaff was recorded during scanning, therefore identification of the cereals to species was not possible.

6.3.2 Identification work was carried out on charcoal fragments from two Roman features, namely pit [26/005] and ditch [53/005]. The charcoal from the pit was poorly preserved with distortions of the wood anatomy and sediment encrustations hindering the

identification of half of the specimens. Sediment encrustations on charcoal are caused by fluctuations in the ground water level, causing intermittent periods of wetting and drying which lead to the penetration of sediment-laden water into the deposits and the charcoal fragments. The five identified fragments from pit [26/005] belonged to oak (*Quercus* sp.) and included one round wood fragment. Preservation in ditch [53/005] was better. Most of the identified taxa form the ditch belonged to cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.), with hazel/alder/hornbeam (*Corylus/Alnus/Carpinus* sp.), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and oak. All the fragments from this feature originated from round wood.

6.3.3 Residues yielded a fair amount of bone, some of which was burnt, and finds, including pottery, worked and fire cracked flint, fired clay and magnetic material.

## 6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The bulk soil samples from Channels Phases 3c, 3d and 5 yielded a fair amount and interesting array of charred crop remains. Wheat and hulled barley occurred in a number of samples and were particularly abundant in two early Roman features. Given the presence of only large headed seeds, the crops from these two features are likely to represent a clean product of a late crop processing stage. Glume wheats were typical of Roman Britain, although the absence of chaff from these deposits hinders the identification of the wheats to species. The absence of glume bases and other chaff elements could be due to the late crop processing stage and could indicate indicate these crops had already been separated form the chaff, as well as undergoing the process of removing the small weed seeds. The cereals from the remaining features represent just a background signature.

6.4.2 Charcoal was recovered from all the contexts, although only in two of them it was present in high enough an amount to warrant identification work. The identified taxa indicate a variety of vegetation environments being present in the area and exploited for fuel procurement. These include deciduous woodland, hedgerows and scrub. The presence of round wood in both features and particularly in ditch [53/005] indicates the exploitation of twigs or small branches collected from the local vegetation to use as fuel.

6.4.3 These samples have shown that there is excellent potential for the preservation of charred plant macrofossils and charcoal at the site. If any future fieldwork is carried out at the site, sampling should still be carried out, targeting well sealed primary deposits.

# 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

## 7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence of the site generally comprised a 0.15-0.40m thickness of topsoil over subsoil up to 0.40m thickness. These overburden deposits overlay all archaeological remains, which were cut into the underlying natural deposit.

7.1.2 Thirty of the 49 excavated trenches were found to contain archaeological remains. The majority of the recorded remains comprised linear ditches, gullies and pits of various size and orientation. These remains were distributed fairly evenly across the site, with no particular concentration or focus. However, some decrease in the incidence and quantity of features may be discerned to occur within the northern parts of the site (Figs 2 and 34).

## 7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 Archaeological remains were overlain by c.0.20-0.71m of overburden deposits (though more normally 0.30-0.50m), primarily comprised of topsoil and subsoil.

7.2.2 Fairly minor disturbance of archaeological deposits was observed in the trenches, beyond their truncation by past agricultural activity and presumably by construction of the golf course. Severe truncation or build-up of the land surface as a consequence of golf course construction was not encountered in the trenches.

7.2.3 A large number of buried plastic pipes were encountered that cut into the tops of features, where they occur. These water and electricity pipes appear to have mainly related to the irrigation/sprinkler system for the golf course. Bunkers were avoided by the evaluation, so their impact was not assessed.

## 7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.3.1 The dated archaeological remains span the late prehistoric to late post-medieval periods. Their distribution is shown on Figure 34.

*Prehistoric*

7.3.2 No demonstratively prehistoric features have been identified by the evaluation. However, the undated apparent cremation burial in Trench 40, in the north-east of Phase 5, could conceivably be later prehistoric.

7.3.3 The small quantity of worked flint recovered from the site spans the Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age periods. It is likely to have been entirely residual in the contexts in which it occurred. The lack of burnt flint would seem to corroborate the absence of tangible prehistoric land use activity.

7.3.4 The incidence of pottery was very low; the only collected sherds derive from a ditch in Trench 50 and are of Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date. As these seemingly occurred together with Roman period cultural material, it is likely that this pottery was residual in this context.

7.3.5 This near-absence of prehistoric remains is broadly similar to the results of previous investigations of the golf course site. The Phase 3a evaluation and subsequent open area excavation identified only two Late Bronze Age pits (OAE 2016, 12).

*Late Iron Age / Early Roman*

7.3.6 The majority of investigated archaeological remains appear to date to the Late Iron Age / Early Roman period. These 1st century AD features comprise linear ditches, gullies and pits distributed across the Phase 5 area of the site, with a concentration apparent in the southern half of the area (i.e. including and south of Trench 33).

7.3.7 The remains of this period comprise a high proportion of ditches/gullies. However, it is difficult to discern extensive boundary alignments. Only a single correspondence across Trenches 23, 35 and 44 can be discerned with any degree of confidence. It is however likely that these ditches constitute the remains of an enclosed agricultural landscape present in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

7.3.8 It is unclear whether any of the ditches define occupation enclosures, rather than fields, and no structural remains indicating the presence of dwellings or other settlement structures have been identified. The pits of this period are sparse.

7.3.9 Broadly 'Iron Age' ditches defining part of a rectilinear field system were recorded in the Phase 3a area (OAE 2016, 12), to the south of Phases 3c and 3c and west of Phase 5. It is perhaps possible that some of the undated remains in 3c and 3d could be of this date. It is not obvious if the Phase 3a Iron Age remains extend east into Phase 5. Early Roman ditches were found in Phase 3b (OAE 2016, 13), closest to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman features found in the Phase 5 trenches. It is likely that these are part of the same extensive land use.

*Medieval*

7.3.10 Medieval period features, probably of broadly 13th century date, have been found in Trenches 20, 21, 31, 34, 36 and possibly in 35. These define a concentration in the mid-western part of Phase 5.

7.3.11 The recorded medieval remains comprise ditches and pits. As for the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, little patterning can be discerned, with only a single ditch tentatively traced between Trenches 20 and 21. The features are sparsely scatted across the west of the Phase 5 and there is no indication of structural remains. However, the incidence of large quantities of pottery in some ditches and pits suggests that they were in the proximity of a settlement.

7.3.12 Ditches defining a Medieval rectilinear enclosure system were recorded by the Phase 3a investigations (OAE 2016, 14). These lay west and north-west of the medieval remains in Phase 5 and are probably part of the same land use. In particular, the NNW/SSE ditch in Trenches 20 and 21, is likely a part of the same enclosure complex.

*Post-medieval*

7.3.13 Post-medieval features occurred, singly, in only Trenches 33, 34 and 50. Only very small quantities of diagnostic material were recovered from these ditches and it is possible that some or all were in fact of earlier date – the post-medieval material in them being intrusive.

*Undated*

7.3.14 Only undated archaeological features were recorded in Phases 3c and 3d (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 8, 13). Further undated ditches and occasional pits occurred Trenches 22, 28, 32, 40, 41, 42, 48 – that is predominantly within the northern half of the Phase 5 area. It is likely that at least some of these features were of either Late Iron Age/Early Roman or medieval date. It is possible that some may relate to the dated remains previously found in Phases 3a and 3b to their south.

## 7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

7.4.1 Where investigated by evaluation, the recorded archaeological remains on this site were overlain by a general 0.30-0.50m thickness of overburden deposits. It is probable that intrusive construction groundworks, such as general ground reduction/landscaping, foundation trenches, service runs, road construction and heavy plant movement, will have the potential to adversely impact further remains where present across the wider site.

## 7.5 Consideration of research aims and objectives

7.5.1 The general aim of determining the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and establishing their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance has generally been met by this evaluation.

7.5.2 It has been established that remains of Late Iron Age / Early Roman date exist within the site, particularly in its southern part. These are apparently of wholly 1st century AD date, probably mostly relating to the transition period. While it is unclear whether the recorded features define purely agricultural landuse, or include settlement activity, this would seem to have been relatively short-lived. As such, this site has the potential to inform as to the nature of land use in this Late Iron Age / Early Roman transition period. Whether this activity was of sufficient longevity to provide insights into themes of continuity and change in agriculture is uncertain.

7.5.3 Although not identified as a specific research aim, the further understanding of the medieval landscape is informed by the medieval remains found in Phase 5c. These add to the insights provided by previous investigations, particularly of Phase 3a.

7.5.4 The southern part of the Phase 5 development area has clear potential to further contribute to regional research themes and questions regarding the nature and development and functioning of the rural landscape in the Late-Iron Age/Early Roman and medieval periods, enlarging upon the discoveries previously made in the adjacent Phase 3a and 3b areas.

## 7.7 Conclusions

7.7.1 The evaluation has established the presence of a low to moderate density of archaeological remains of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date across the southern half of the Phase 5 development area. These appear to be indicative of agricultural and possible rural settlement land use.

7.7.2 The evaluation has also established the presence of a lesser quantity of medieval period remains within the west to southwest of the Phase 5 area. It is probable that these remains relate to agricultural, and possibly rural settlement, land use.

7.7.3 The trenches in the Phase 3c and 3d development areas contained a low incidence of only undated archaeological remains.

7.7.4 Significant archaeological remains are demonstrated to be present within the southern part of the Phase 5 area. These are overlain by c.0.30-0.50m thickness of overburden deposits. It is probable that intrusive construction groundworks, such as general ground reduction/landscaping, foundation trenches, service runs, road construction and heavy plant movement, will adversely impact further remains where present across the wider site.

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## Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches - list of recorded contexts

| Trench | Context | Type | Description | Length | Width | Thickness | Height AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.24-0.28 | 51.76-52.43 |
| | 1/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.24-0.27 | |
| | 1/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 2/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.14-0.29 | 51.82-52.10 |
| | 2/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.19-0.33 | |
| | 2/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 6/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.15-0.24 | 52.69-52.82 |
| | 6/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.03-0.05 | |
| | 6/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 9/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.27-0.41 | 53.37-53.57 |
| | 9/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.03-0.14 | |
| | 9/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 14/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.19-0.32 | 52.31-52.70 |
| | 14/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.03-0.11 | |
| | 14/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 15/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.21-0.31 | 52.97-53.11 |
| | 15/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.14-0.25 | |
| | 15/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 16/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.27-0.38 | 53.87-54.47 |
| | 16/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.05-0.23 | |
| | 16/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 17/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.28-0.30 | 53.96-54.28 |
| | 17/002 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | 0.05-0.10 | |
| | 17/003 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 18/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.25-0.33 | 53.88-54.01 |
| | 18/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.14-0.18 | |
| | 18/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 19/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.28-0.30 | 53.40-53.68 |
| | 19/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.14-0.20 | |
| | 19/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 24/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.24-0.35 | 51.63-51.72 |
| | 24/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.07-0.18 | |
| | 24/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 25/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.28-0.35 | 54.47-54.77 |
| | 25/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.08-0.15 | |
| | 25/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 27/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.25-0.35 | 54.70-54.90 |
| | 27/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.07-0.18 | |
| | 27/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 29/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.26-0.32 | 54.10-54.44 |
| | 29/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.13-0.15 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 29/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 39/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.30 | 55.16-55.19 |
| | 39/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.12-0.20 | |
| | 39/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 43/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.30-0.39 | 53.07-53.75 |
| | 43/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.08-0.35 | |
| | 43/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 46/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.32-0.43 | 55.19 |
| | 46/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.05-0.12 | |
| | 46/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 47/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.31-0.37 | 54.44-54.71 |
| | 47/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.09-0.16 | |
| | 47/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 49/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.27-0.34 | 53.72-53.85 |
| | 49/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.22-0.29 | |
| | 49/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |
| | 51/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.31-0.35 | 52.98-53.15 |
| | 51/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.09-0.15 | |
| | 51/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | - | |

## Appendix 2: Environmental Sample Residue Quantification

Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) with weights in grams and charcoal identifications. Key: Indet – indeterminate, PDSE – post-depositional sediment encrustations, RC – radial cracks, RW – round wood.

| 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) | Other (eg ind, pot, cbm) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 20/004 | Ditch | 40 | | | * | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | FCF * 5g/ Flint * 19g |
| 2 | 35/004 | Ditch | 40 | ** | 1 | ** | 1 | | | | ** | 13 | | | * | 1 | * | <1 | | | Pot * 14g |
| 3 | 26/004 | Pit | 40 | *** | 6 | ** | 1 | *Quercus* sp. 5 (RC, 1 rw), Indet./distorted 5 (1 RW). PDSE | | | | | | | | | | | | | FCF ** 229g/ Mag Mat >2mm **** 27g/ Mag Mat <2mm **** 12g |
| 4 | 40/004 | Pit | 20 | *** | 8 | | | | | | | | ** | 12 | *** | 76 | | | | | |
| 5 | 53/004 | Ditch | 40 | *** | 11 | ** | 1 | *Prunus* sp. 7 (5 RW), *Corylus/Alnus/Carpinus* sp. 1(RW), *Carpinus betulus* 1 (RW), *Quercus* sp. 1 (RW) | | | | | | | ** | 2 | ** | <1 | | | Pot ** 173g/ Fired Clay ** 33g/ Mag Mat >2mm *** 4g/ Mag Mat <2mm **** <1g |
| 6 | 37/010 | Deposit | 40 | ** | 1 | ** | <1 | | | | * | 8 | | | * | 2 | * | <1 | | | Pot * 35g/ Flint * 2g/ FCF * 45g/ Mag Mat >2mm** 2g/ Mag Mat <2mm *** 1g |
| 7 | 52/012 | Ditch | 30 | * | <1 | ** | <1 | | * | <1 | ** | 21 | * | 6 | ** | 3 | ** | <1 | * | <1 | Pot ** 29g/ Fired Clay * 5g/ FCF * 30g/ Cu * <1g/ Mag Mat >2mm ** <1g/ Mag Mat <2mm *** <1g |
| 8 | 52/004 | Pit | 40 | * | <1 | ** | <1 | | * | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | Mag Mat >2mm ** 2g |
| 9 | 23/004 | Pot | | | | * | <1 | | | | * | <1 | | | | | | | | | Pot (**/43g) |

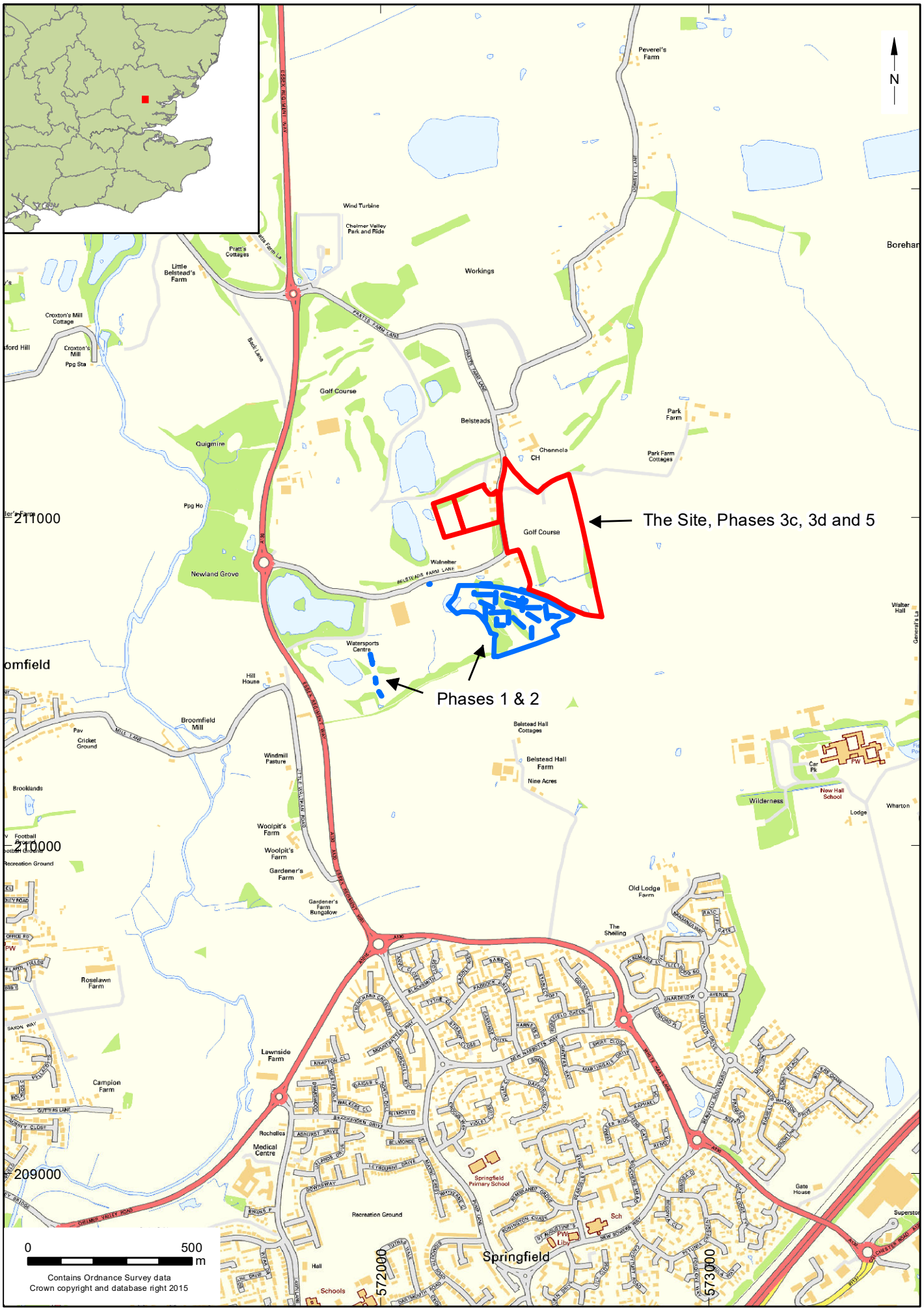
## Appendix 3: Environmental Sample Residue Quantification

Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

| Sample Number | Context | Weight g | Flot volume ml | Volume scanned | Uncharred % | Sediment % | Seeds uncharred | Charcoal >4mm | Charcoal <4mm | Charcoal <2mm | Crop seeds charred | Identifications | Preservation | Weed seeds charred | Identifications | Preservation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 20/004 | 3.8 | 40 | 40 | 60 | 10 | | * | ** | **** | * | *Triticum/Hordeum* sp. (1) | + | | | |
| 2 | 35/004 | 7.5 | 75 | 75 | 50 | 10 | | * | ** | **** | * | *Hordeum* sp., sprouted (1) | ++ | | | |
| 3 | 26/004 | 27 | 400 | 100 | 80 | 10 | | | | ** | | | | | | |
| 4 | 40/004 | 9.3 | 75 | 75 | 30 | 10 | | ** | *** | **** | | | | | | |
| 5 | 53/004 | 9.5 | 150 | 100 | 70 | 20 | * *Chenopodium* sp. | | | *** | * | Cerealia (1) | + | | | |
| 6 | 37/010 | 21 | 400 | 100 | 60 | 10 | * *Chenopodium* sp. | | | | ** | *Triticum* sp. , *Triticum/Hordeum* sp. | ++ | | | |
| 7 | 52/012 | 14 | 100 | 100 | 30 | 10 | | | ** | **** | **** | *Triticum* sp., *Hordeum* sp., hulled | ++/+++ | ** | Large Poaceae, Avena/Bromus | + |
| 8 | 52/004 | 17 | 120 | 100 | 40 | 10 | | | ** | **** | **** | *Triticum* sp., *Hordeum* sp., hulled | ++/+++ | ** | Large Poaceae, Avena/Bromus | + |

## Appendix 4: HER Summary Form

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Site name/Address: Channels Phases 3c, 3d & 5, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 3PY</td></tr>
<tr><td>Parish: Little Waltham</td><td>District: Chelmsford</td></tr>
<tr><td>NGR: TL 72500 11000</td><td>Site Code: LWCG17</td></tr>
<tr><td>Type of Work: Evaluation</td><td>Site Director/Group: Trevor Ennis, Archaeology South-East</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date of Work:<br>25/07/2017 – 11/08/2017</td><td>Size of Area Investigated: 10.53 ha (49 trenches)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:<br>Chelmsford Museum</td><td>Funding source: Developer</td></tr>
<tr><td>Further Seasons Anticipated?: No</td><td>Related EHER Nos:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Final Report: EAH annual roundup</td><td>OASIS Ref: 296576</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Periods Represented: LBA/EIA, LIA/Early Roman, Medieval, Post-medieval</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:<br><br>Archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of residential development on part of the former Channels Golf Club. A total of 49 archaeological trial trenches were excavated across the 10.53ha of the Phase 3c, 3d and 5 development areas. Of these, 30 trenches were established to contain archaeological remains.<br><br>A low to moderate density of ditches, gullies and pits of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date (1st century AD) was found across the southern half of the Phase 5 area. These remains probably define agricultural and possible settlement land use.<br><br>A low density of ditches and pits of medieval date (c.13th century) was found in the west and south-west of the Phase 5 area. These features likely also constitute agricultural and possible settlement land use.<br><br>Development Phases 3c and 3d contained a low density of only undated remains.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Previous Summaries/Reports:<br>Archaeology South-East. 2013, Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching – Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex: Stage 1 – trenches 5 to 7. ASE report no. 2013177<br>Archaeology South-East. 2014, Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching – Channels Golf Club, Belsteads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Essex: Stage 2 – trenches 1 to 4. ASE report no. 2014233<br>OAE. 2016, Phases 3a and 3b, Channels Golf Club, Belstead Lane, Little Waltham, Essex, Excavation report. Unpubl. Oxford Archaeology East rep.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Author of Summary: Mark Atkinson</td><td>Date of Summary: 22/09/2017</td></tr>
</table>




| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Site location | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig.2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Location of evaluation trenches | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

General site view

The site showing flooded trenches following overnight rain





| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig.3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trenches 16 - 54 with golf course landscaping | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |


Gully 3/005, 0.25m scale

N

T2

572210, 211000

T3

3/005

Section 1

572215, 210995

0 2m

Section 1

E W

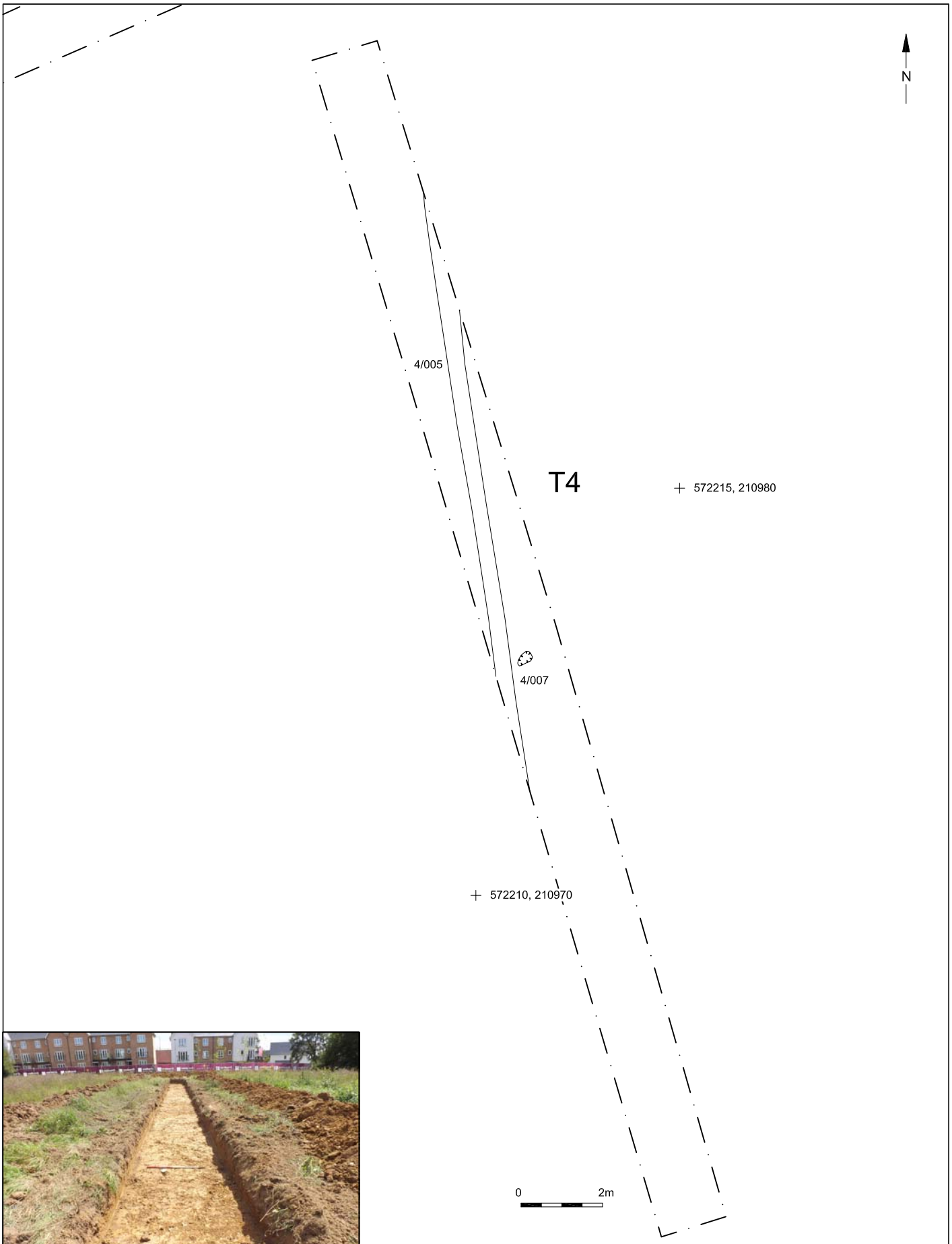
51.60m

3/004

3/005

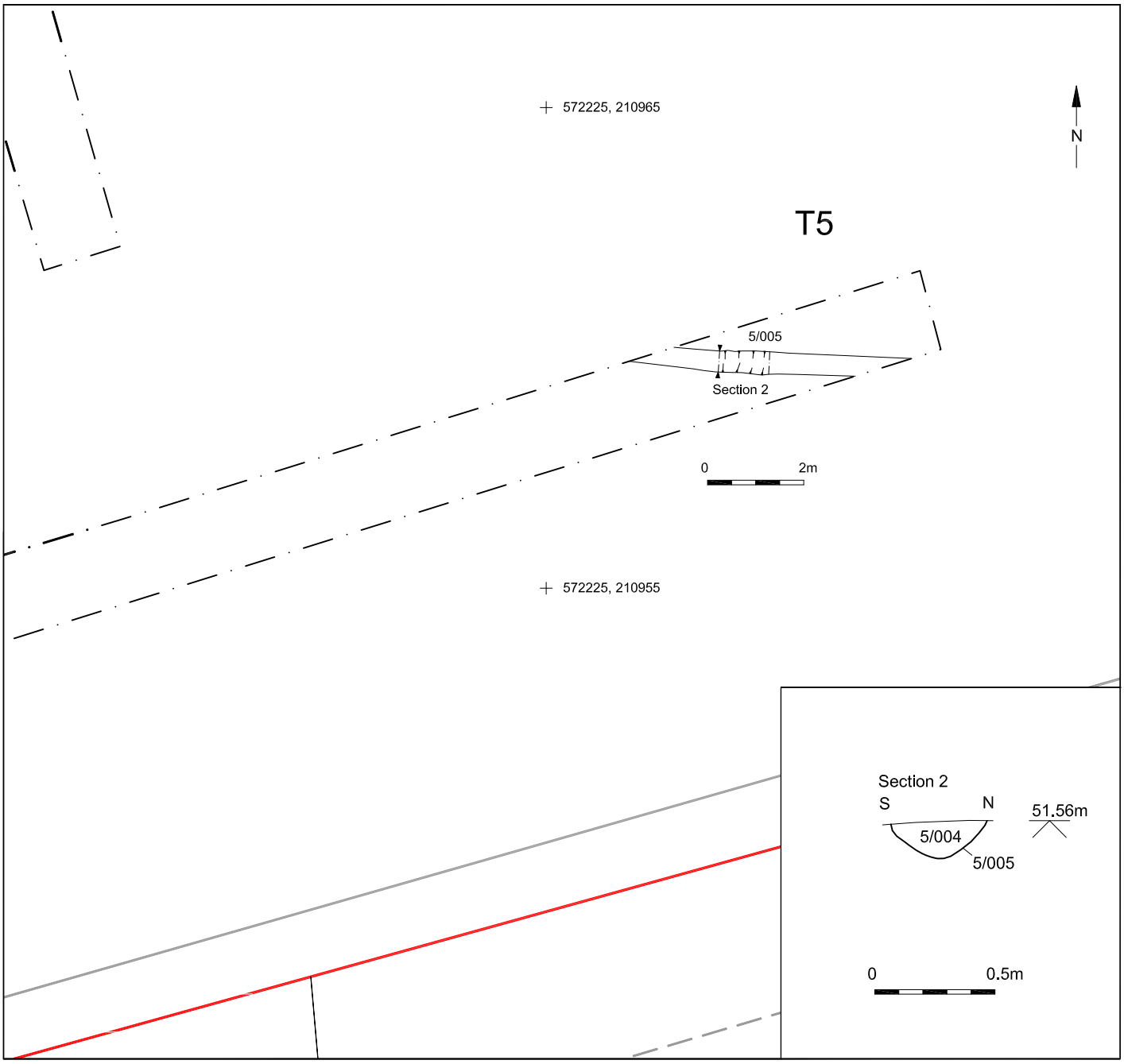
0 0.5m

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trenches 2 & 3 plan, section and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

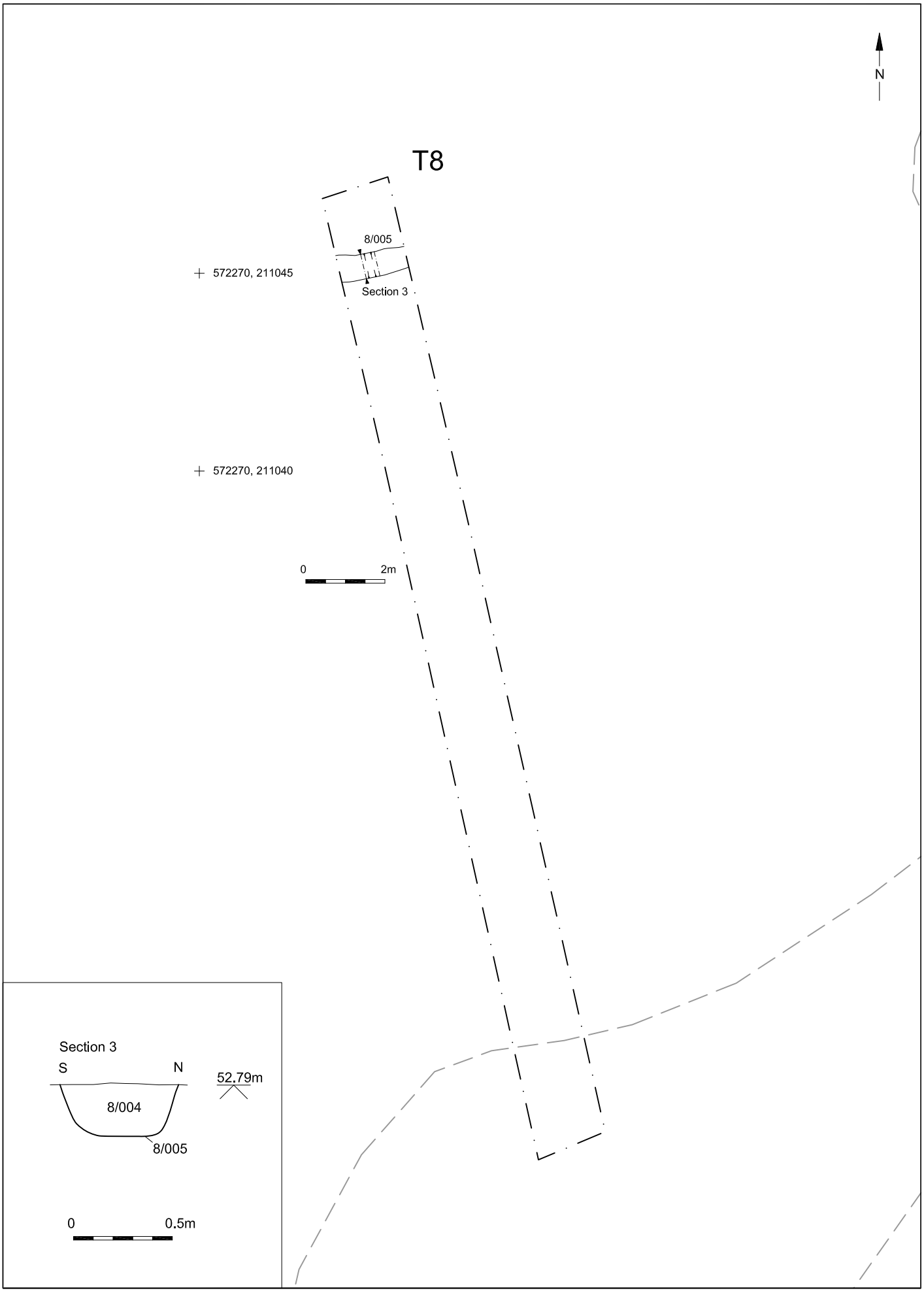



Trench 4 looking south, 1m scale

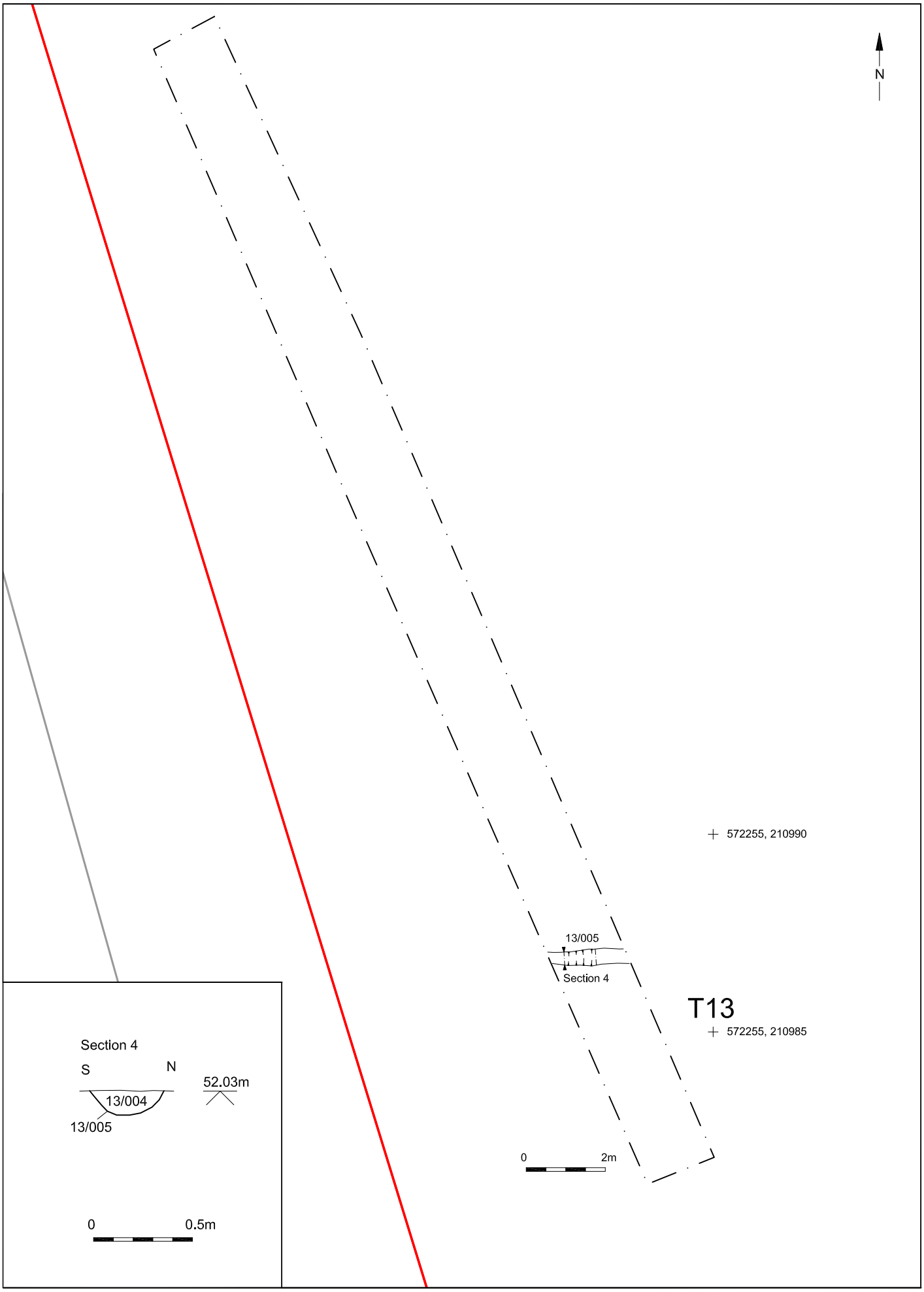
| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 5 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 4 plan and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |



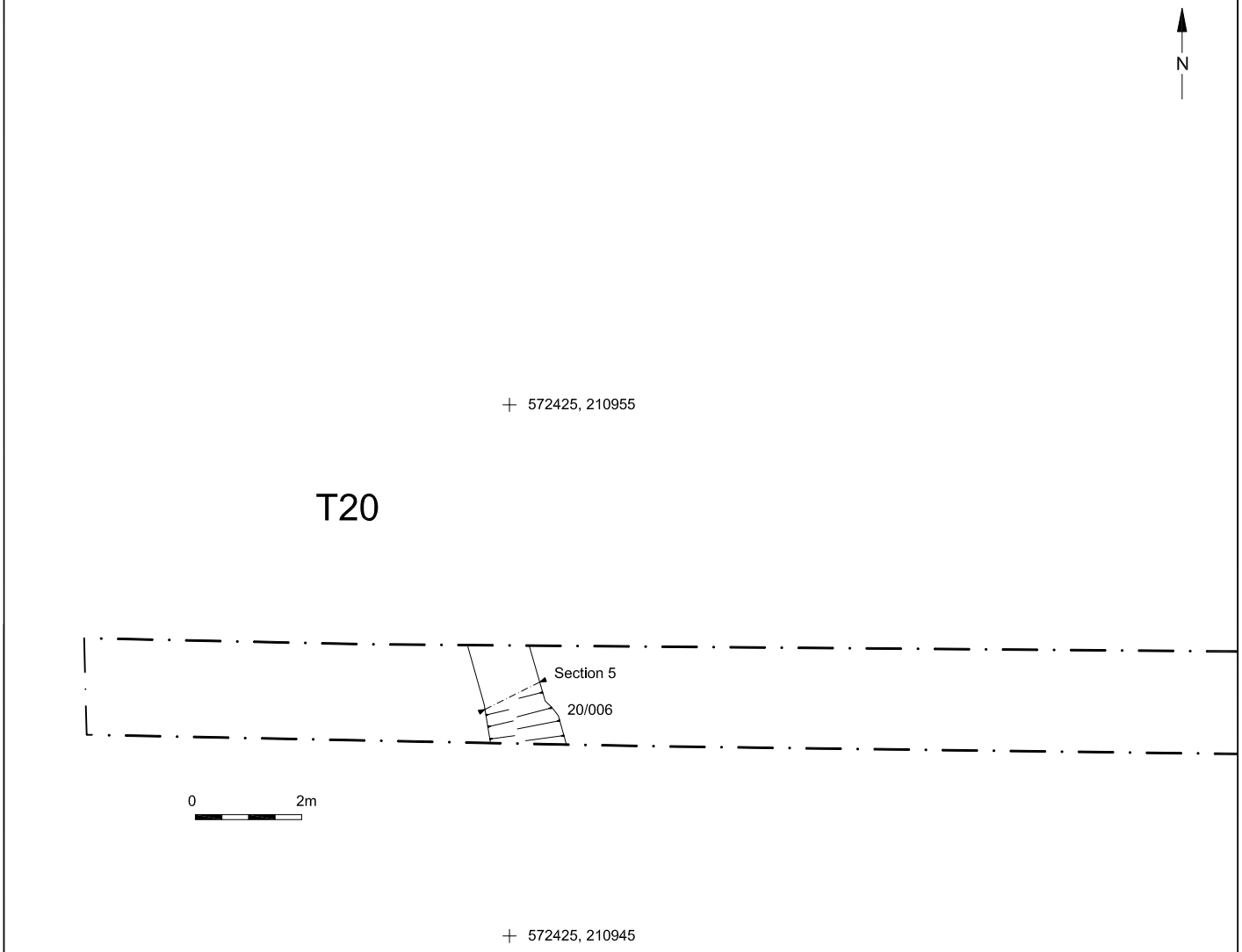

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 6 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 5 plan and section | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

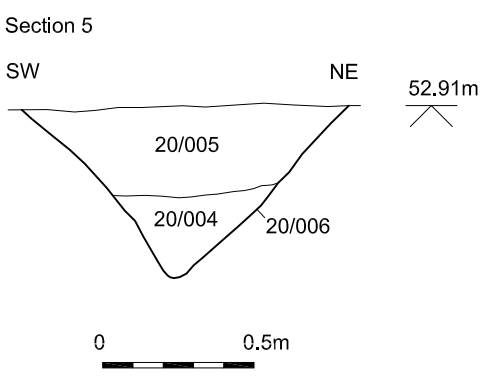



| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 7 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 8 plan and section | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 8 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 13 plan and section | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




Ditch 20/006, 1m scale

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 9 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 20 plan, section and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

Ditch 21/009, 1m scale

N

572425, 210930

572435, 210930

T21

Section 6

21/009

0 2m

Section 6

W E

21/001

21/002

21/004

21/005

21/006

21/007

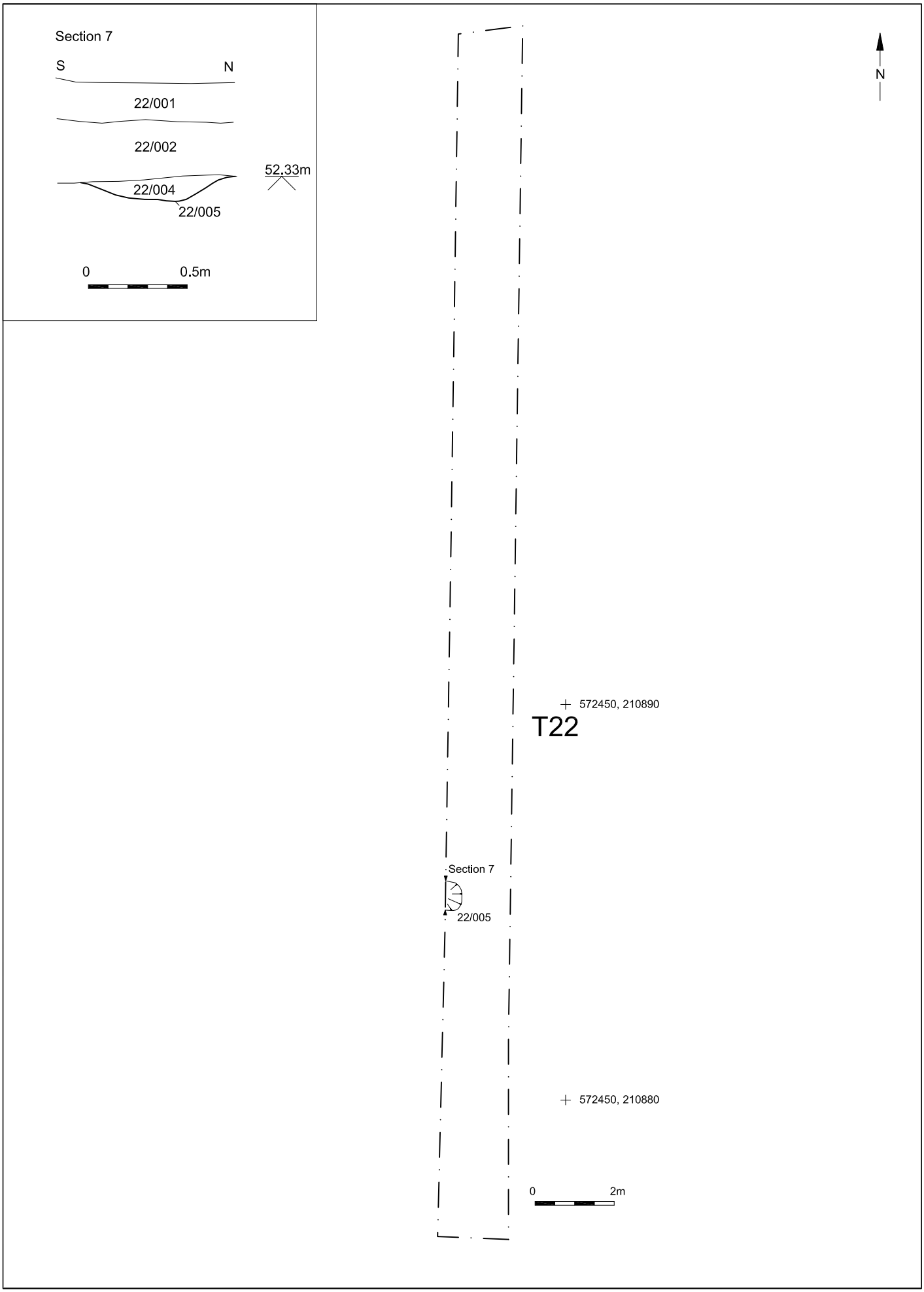
21/008

21/009

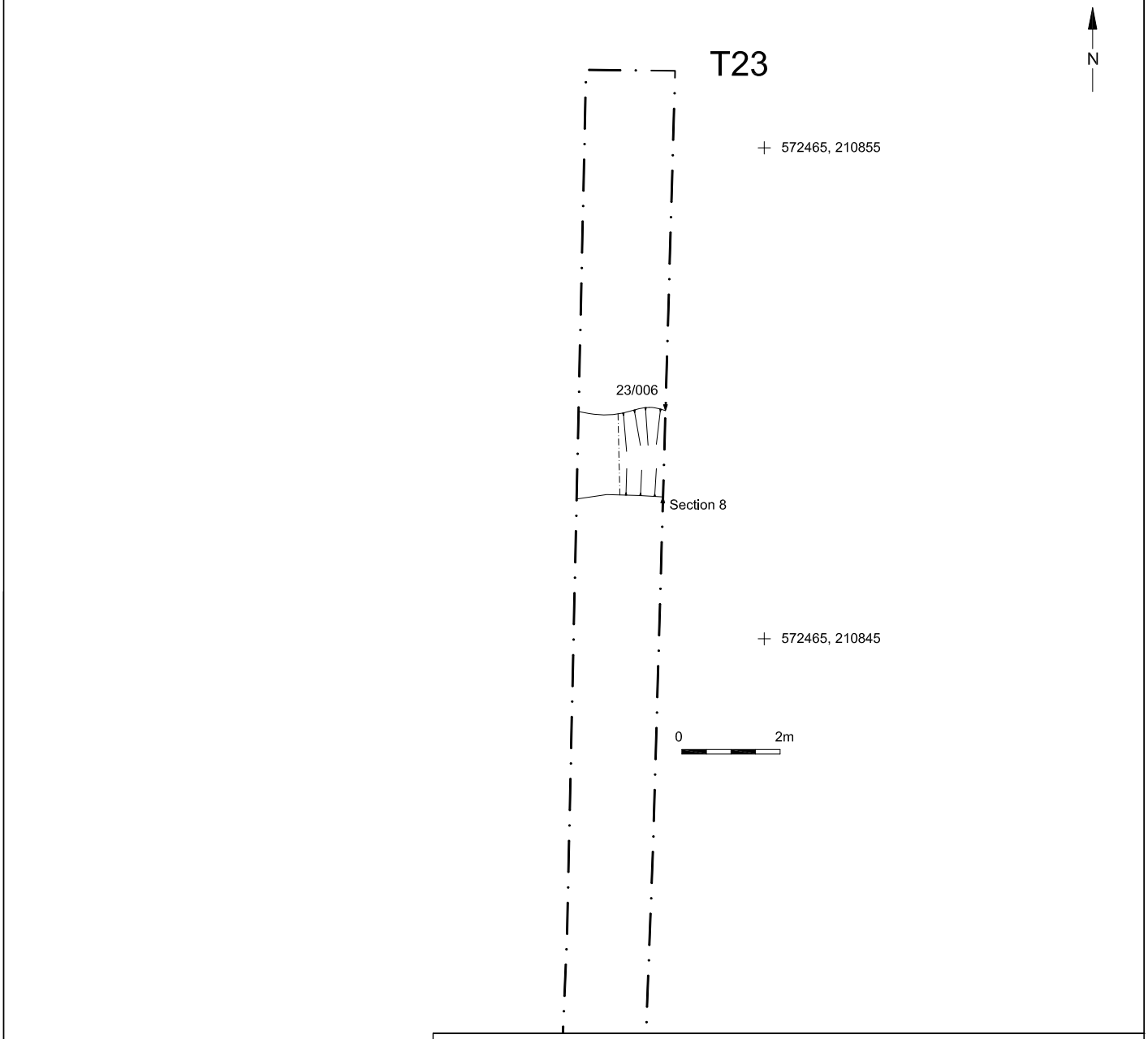
52.57m

0 0.5m

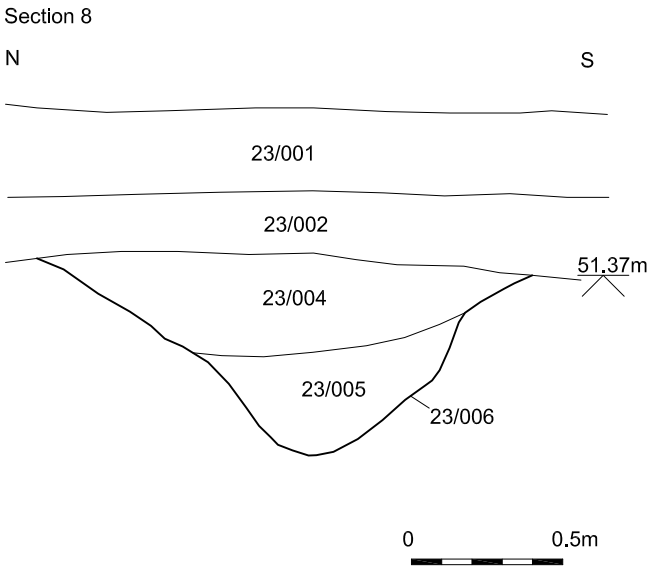
| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 10 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 21 plan, section and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |



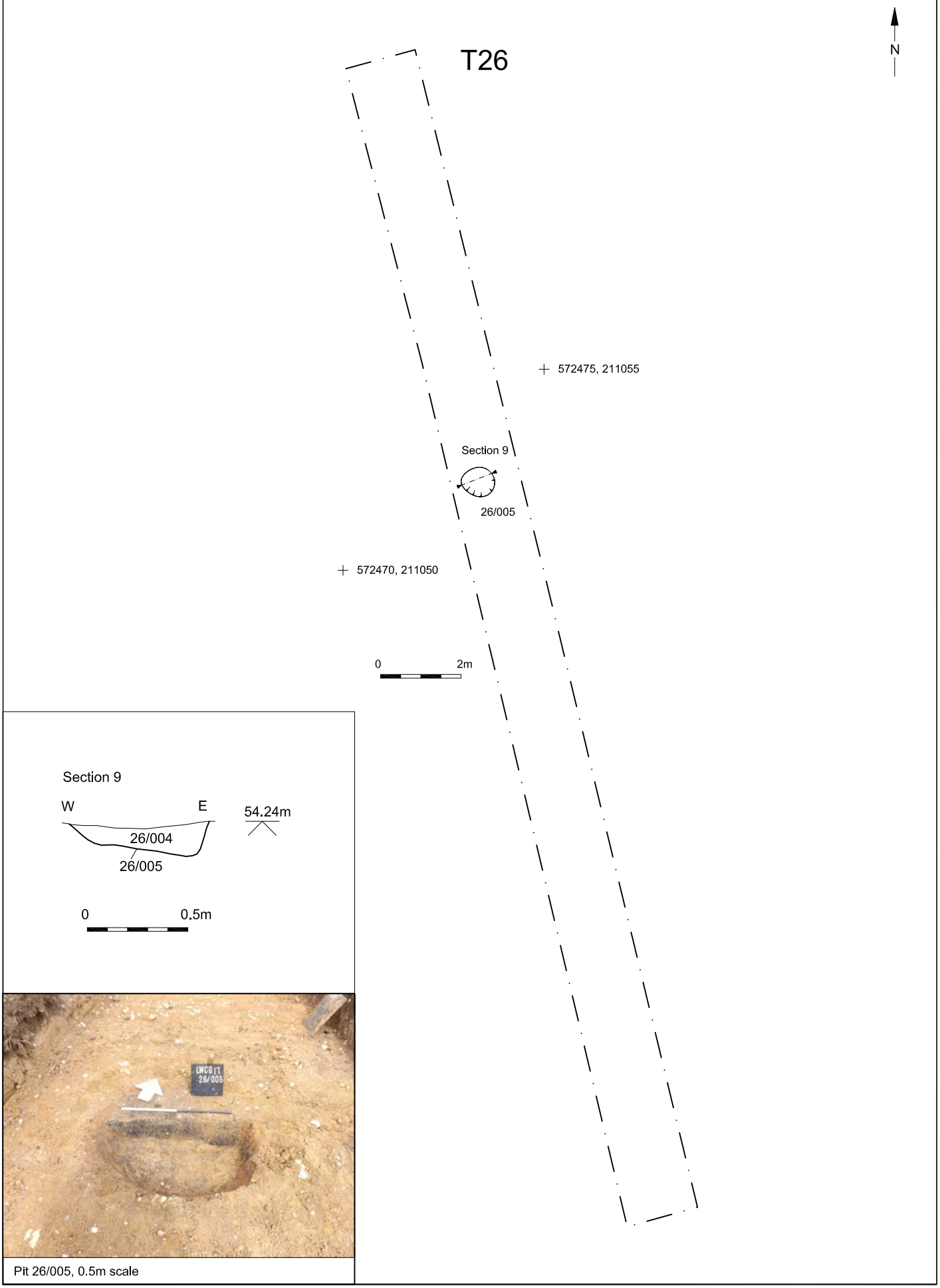

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 11 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 22 plan and section | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




Ditch 23/006, 1m scale




| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 12 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 23 plan, section and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




Pit 26/005, 0.5m scale

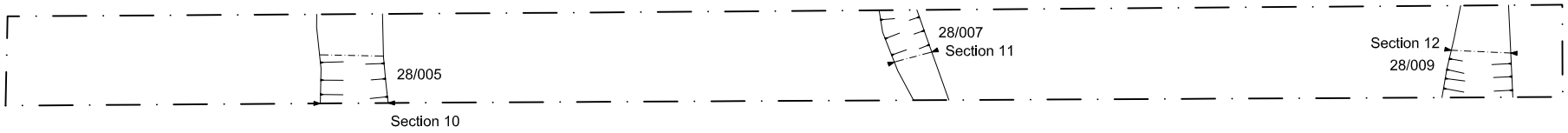
| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 13 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 26 plan, section and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

N

572480, 211030

572495, 211030

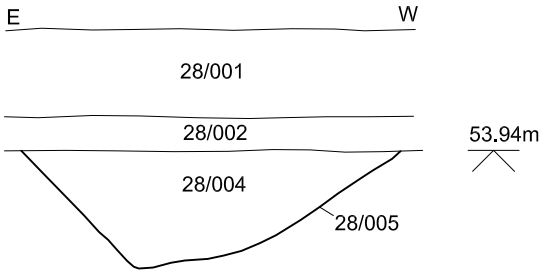
# T28



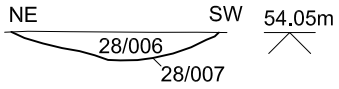

0 2m

Ditch 28/005, 1m scale

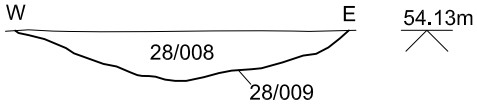
Section 10




Section 11




Section 12



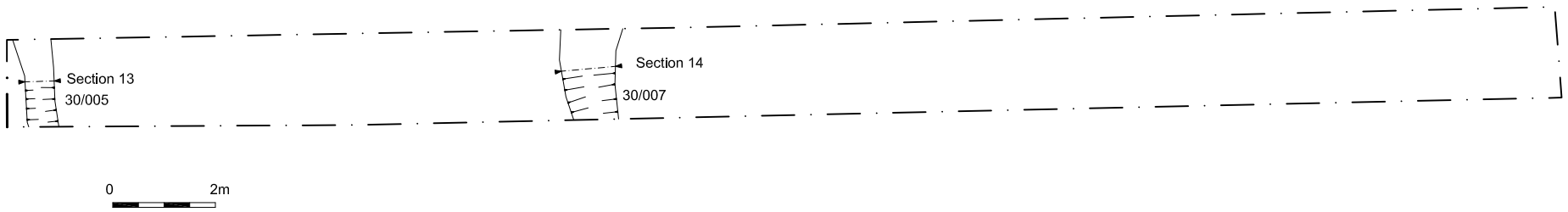

0 0.5m

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| © **Archaeology South-East** | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 14 |
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 28 plan, sections and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

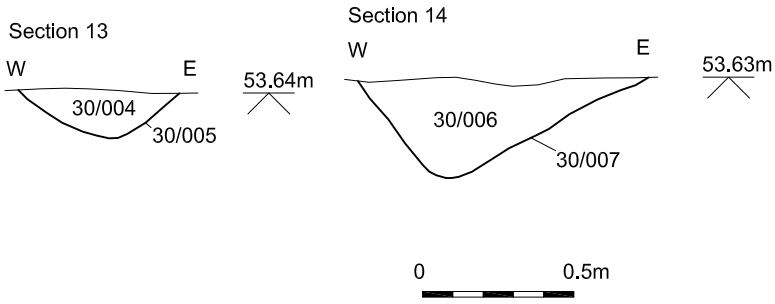
572475, 210980

572490, 210980

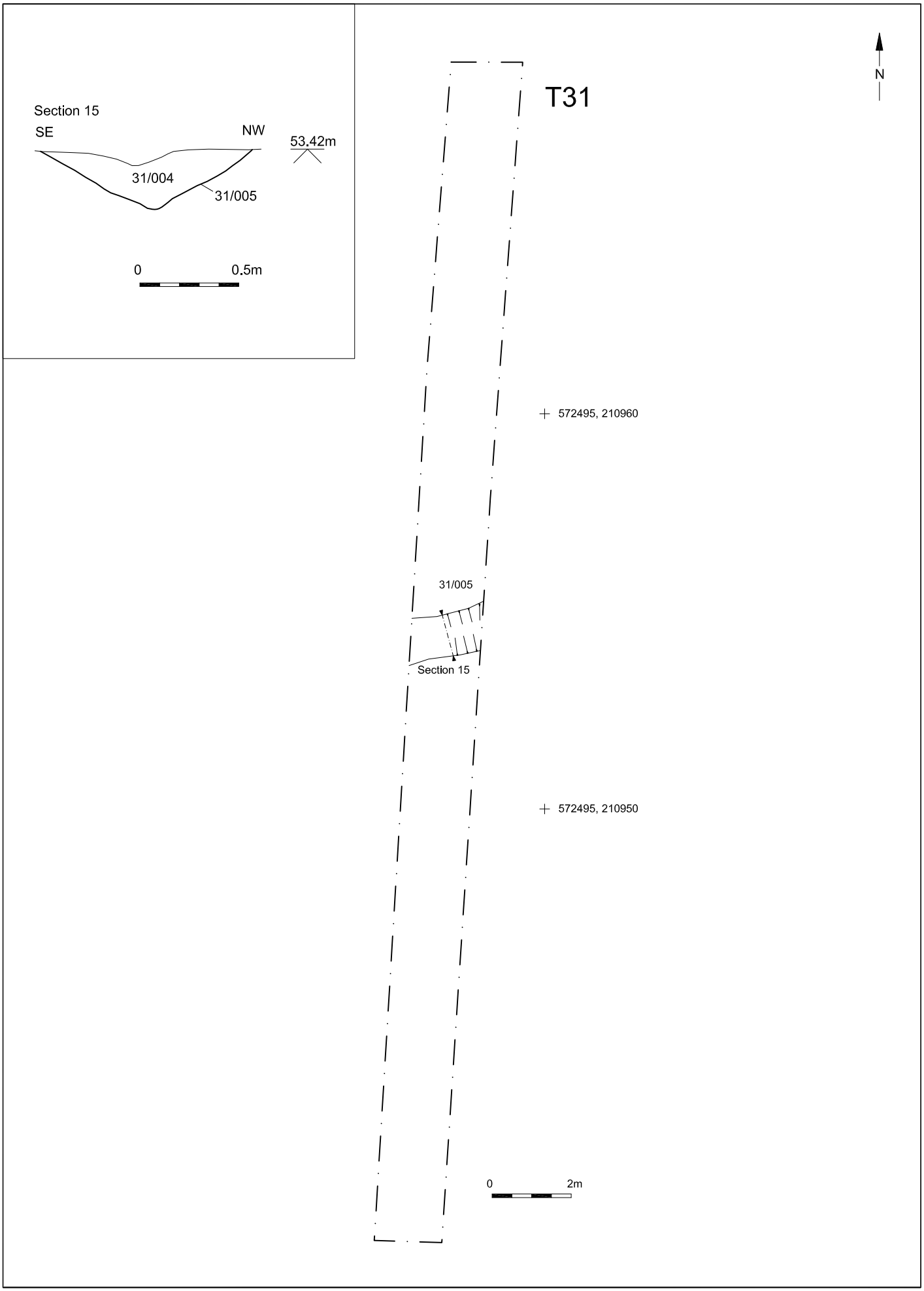
# T30



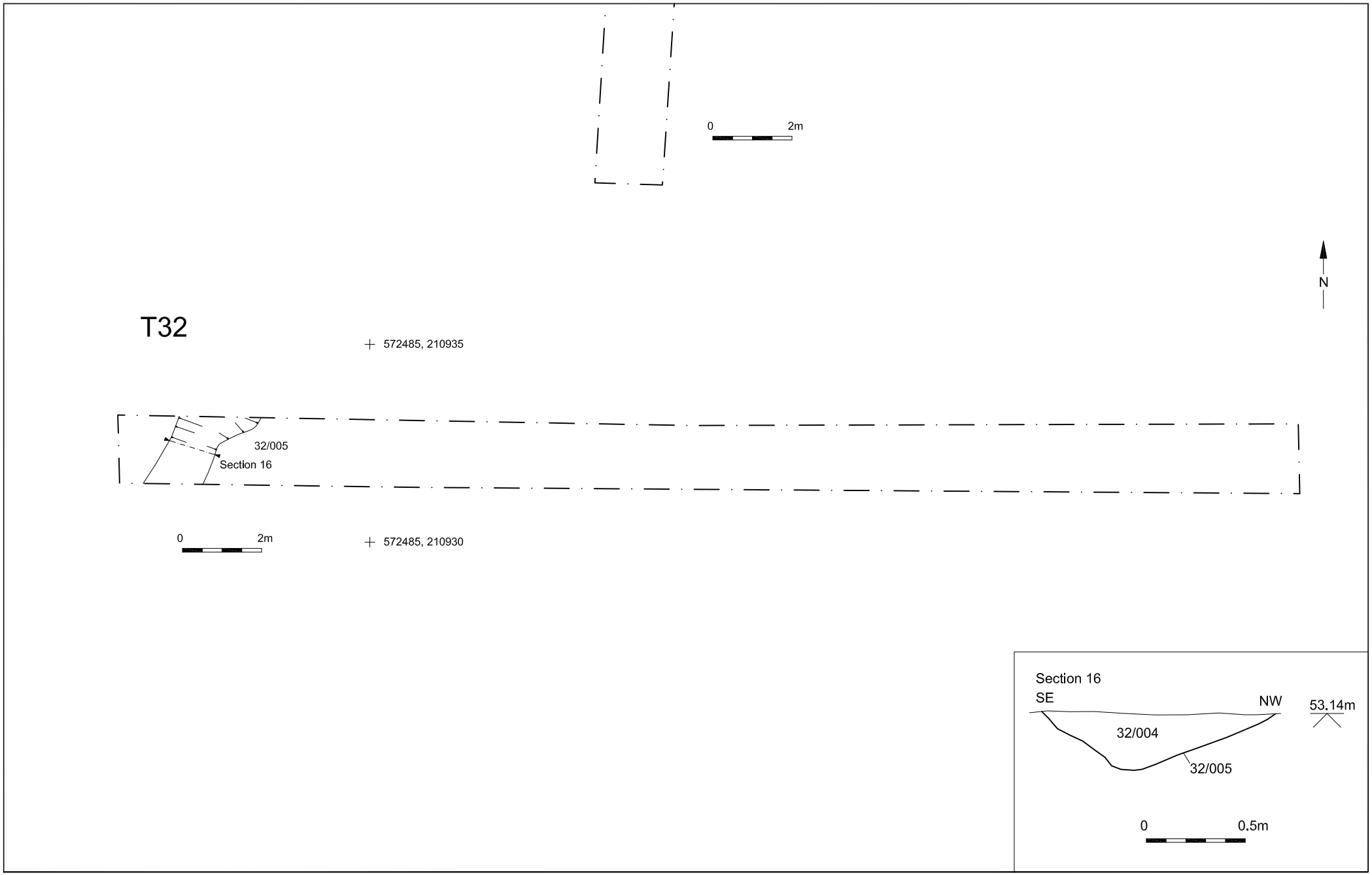

Ditch 30/007, 1m scale



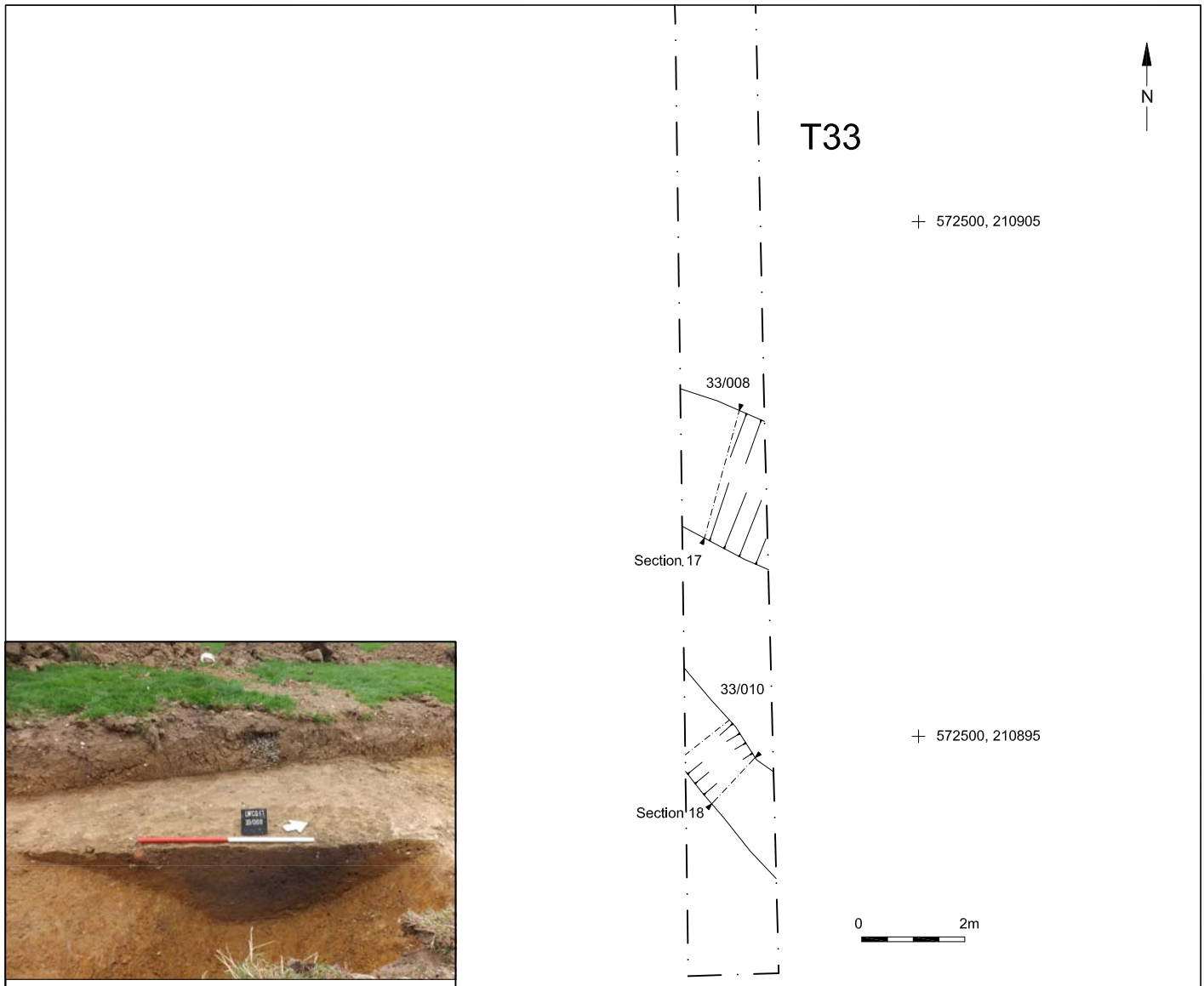

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 15 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 30 plan, sections and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 16 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 31 plan and section | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

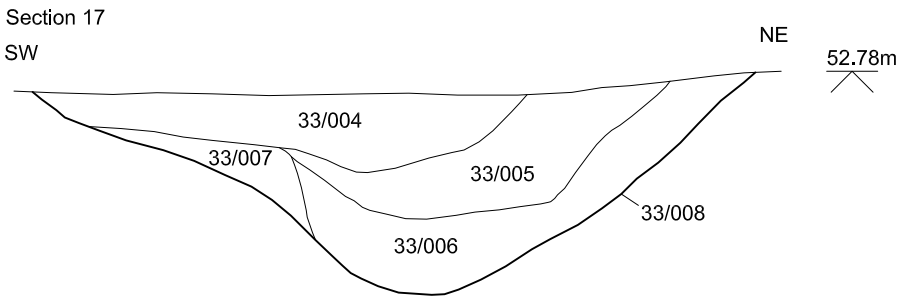


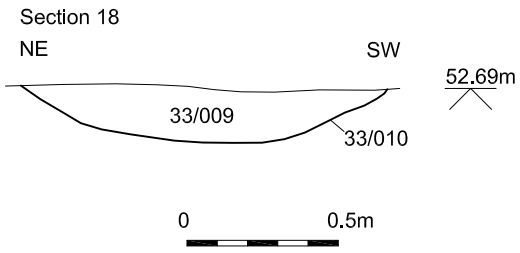

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 17 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 32 plan and section | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |






Ditch 33/008, 1m scale



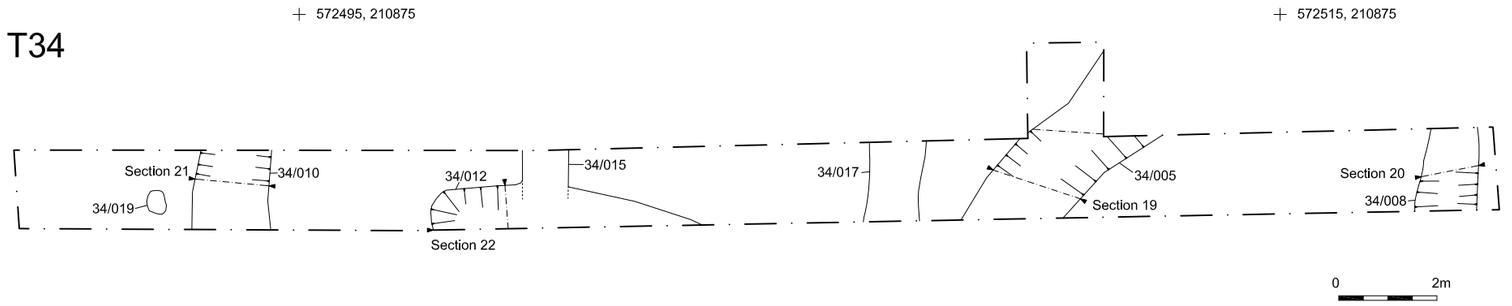



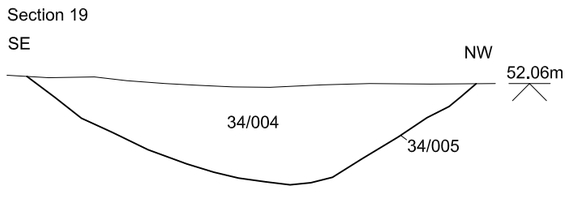


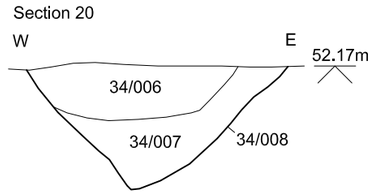


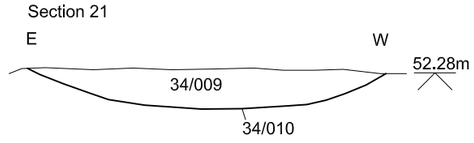
| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 18 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 33 plan, sections and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

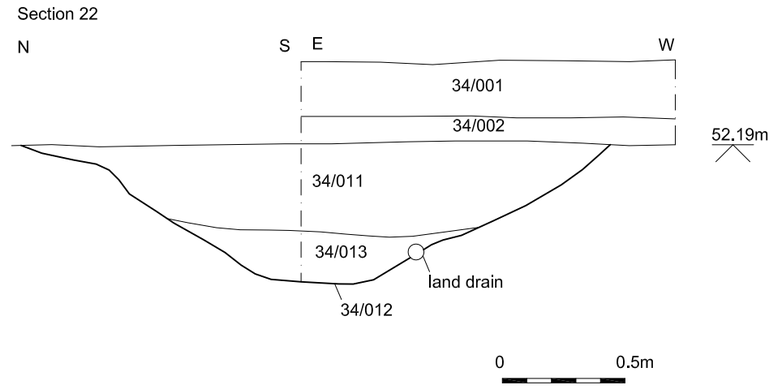
Ditch 34/008, 1m scale



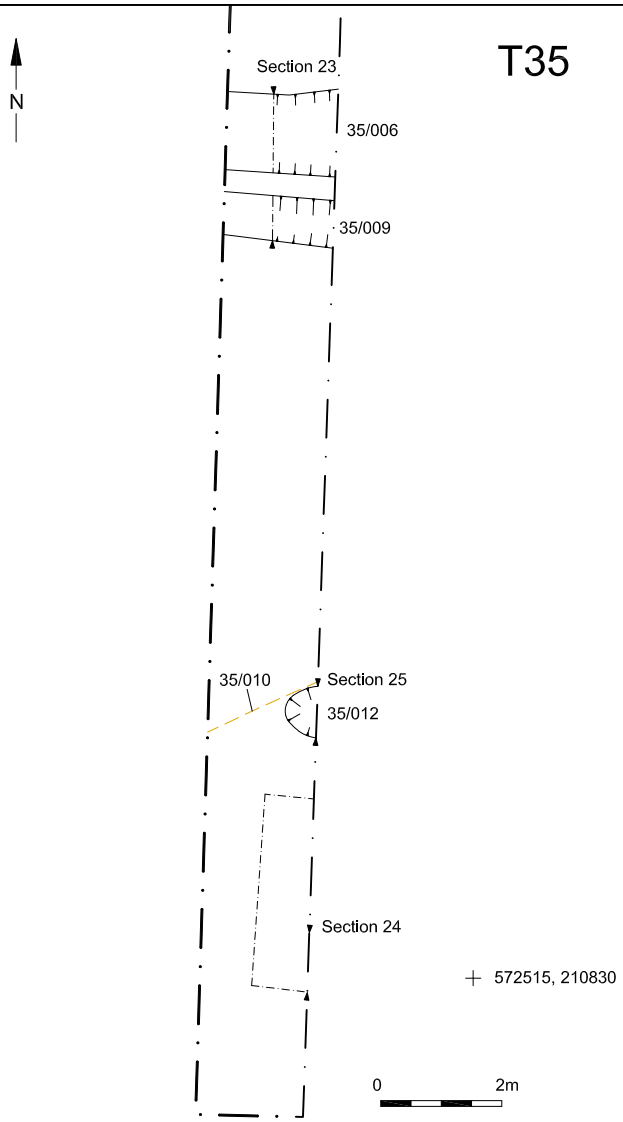



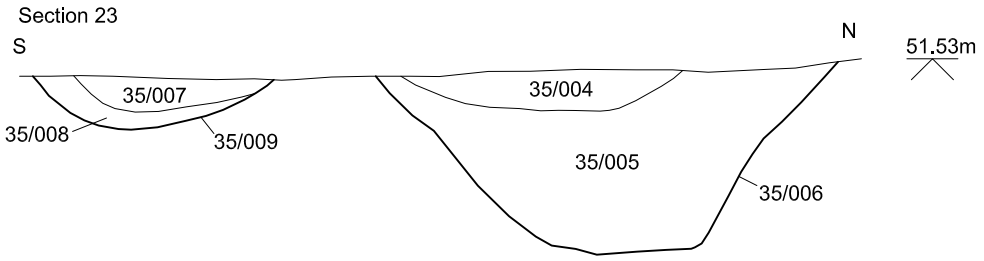

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 19 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 34 plan, sections and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

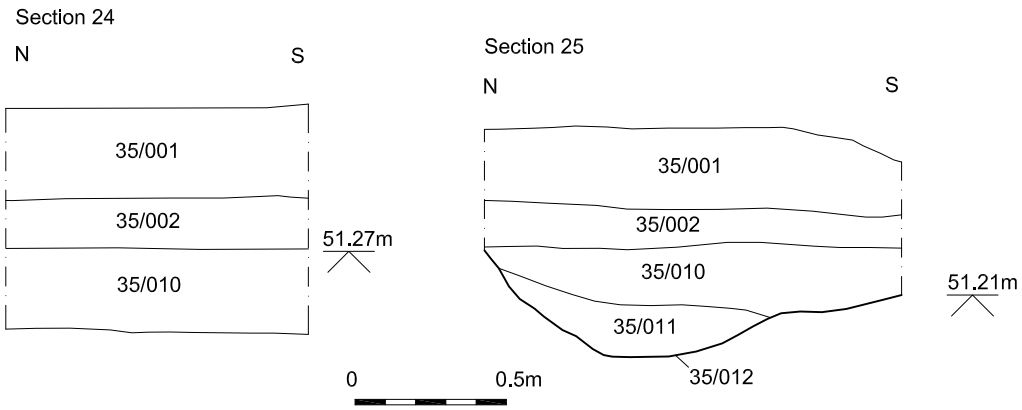
# T35



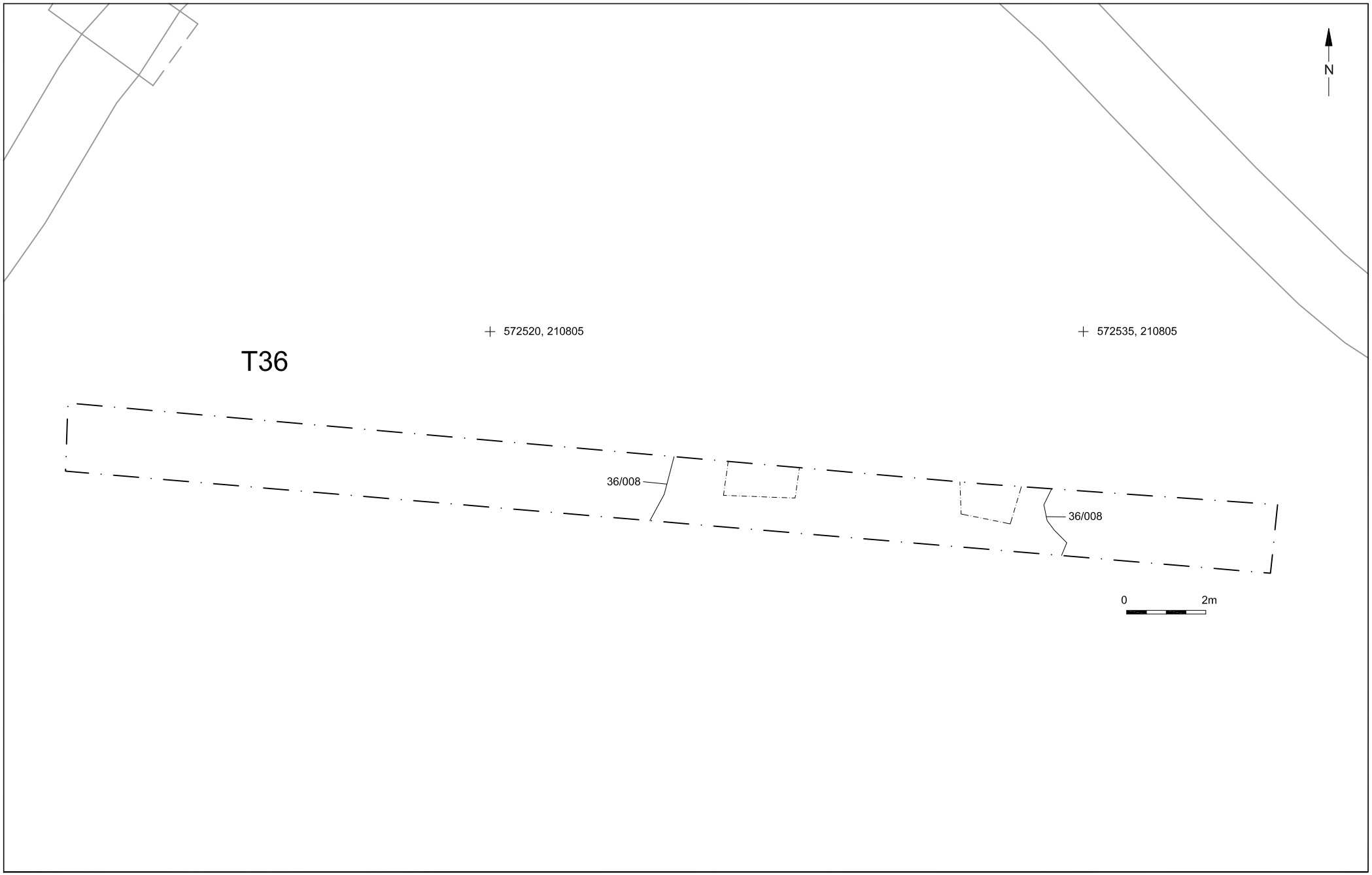

Ditches 35/009 and 35/006, 1m scale

Pit 35/012, 1m scale

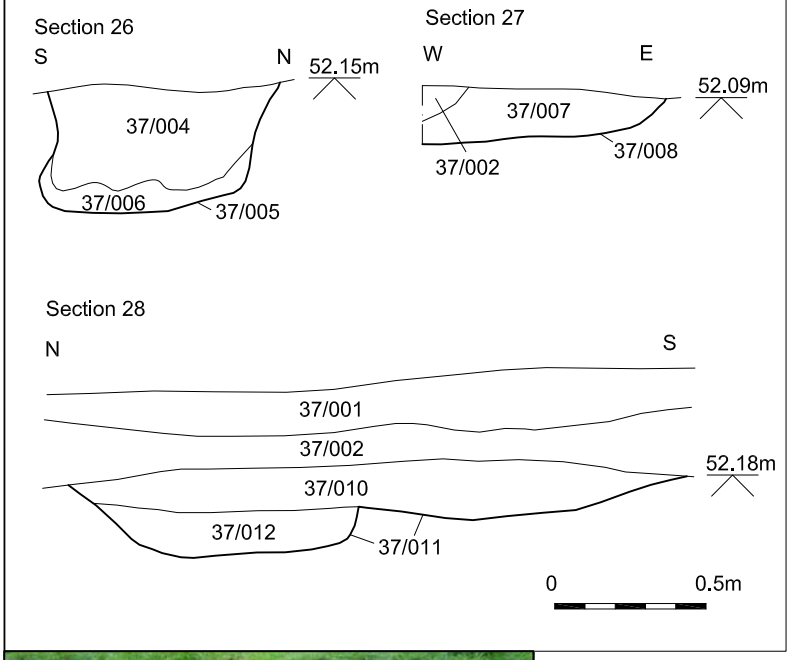



| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 20 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 35 plan, sections and photographs | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

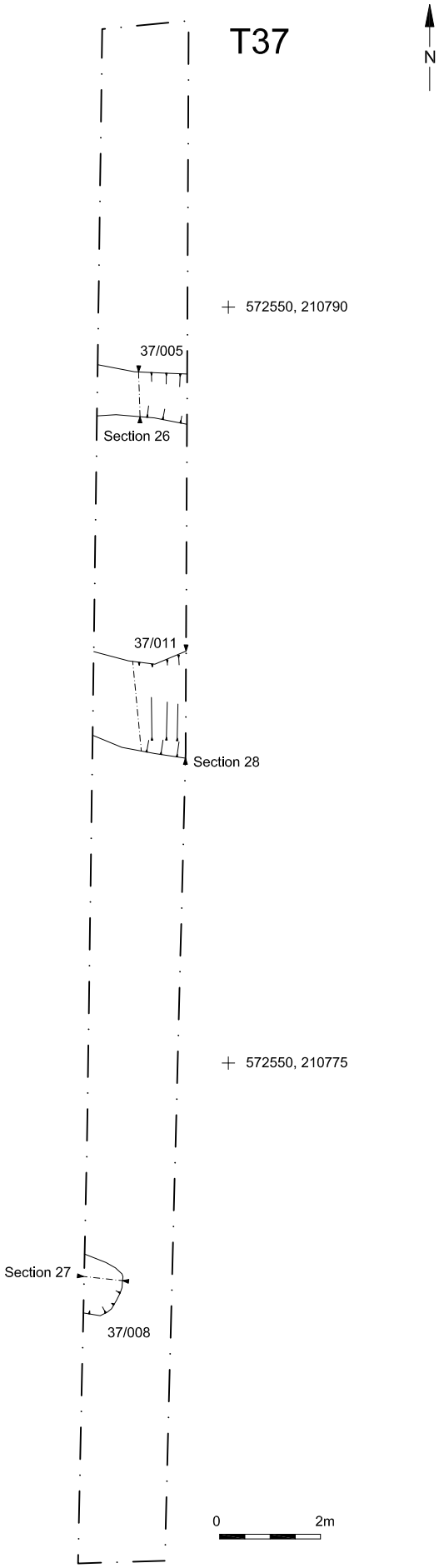



| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 21 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 36 plan | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

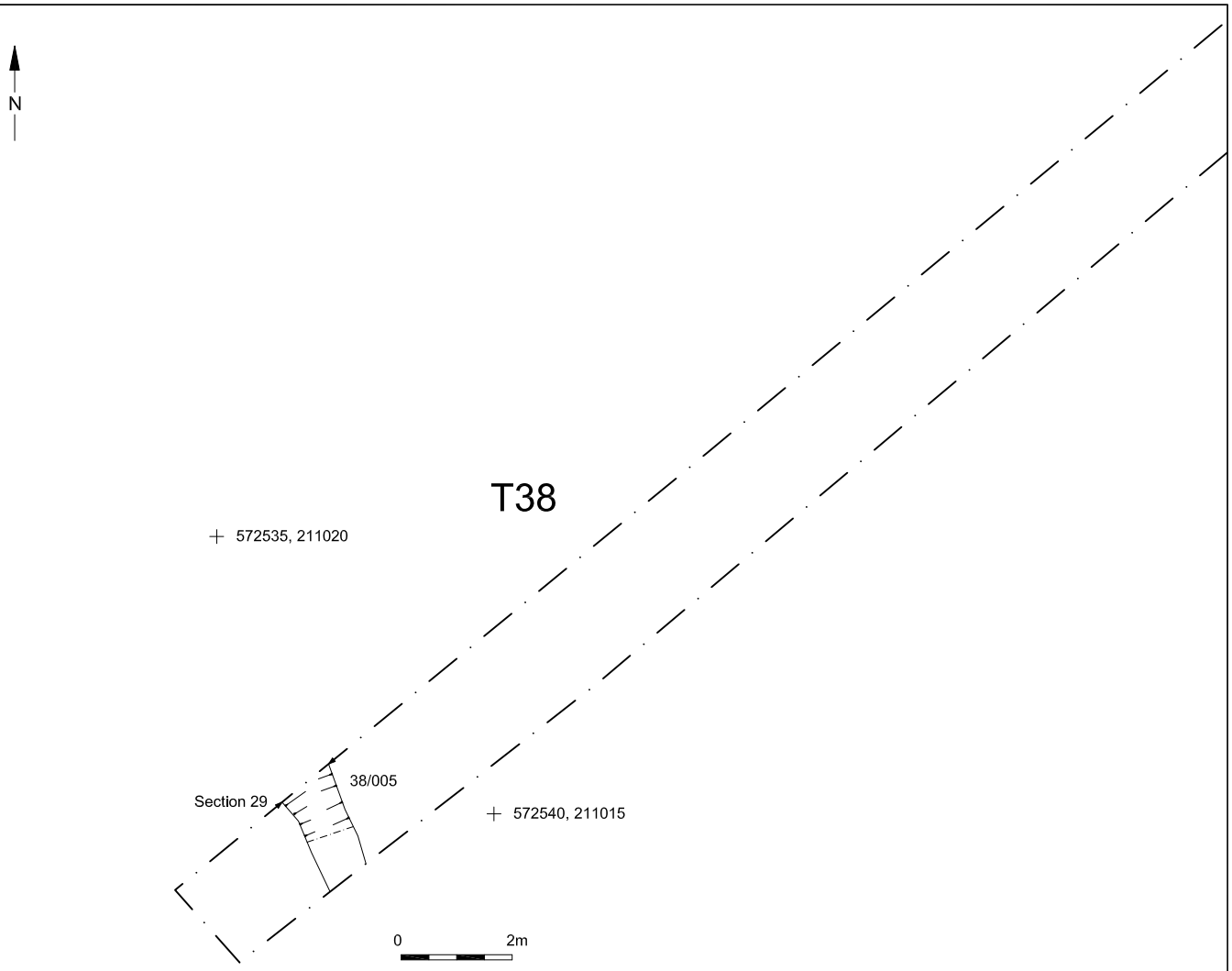



Ditch 37/005, 1m scale

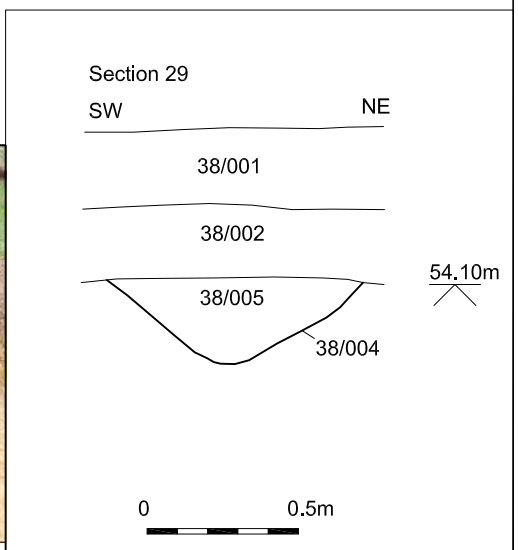
Ditch 37/011, 1m scale



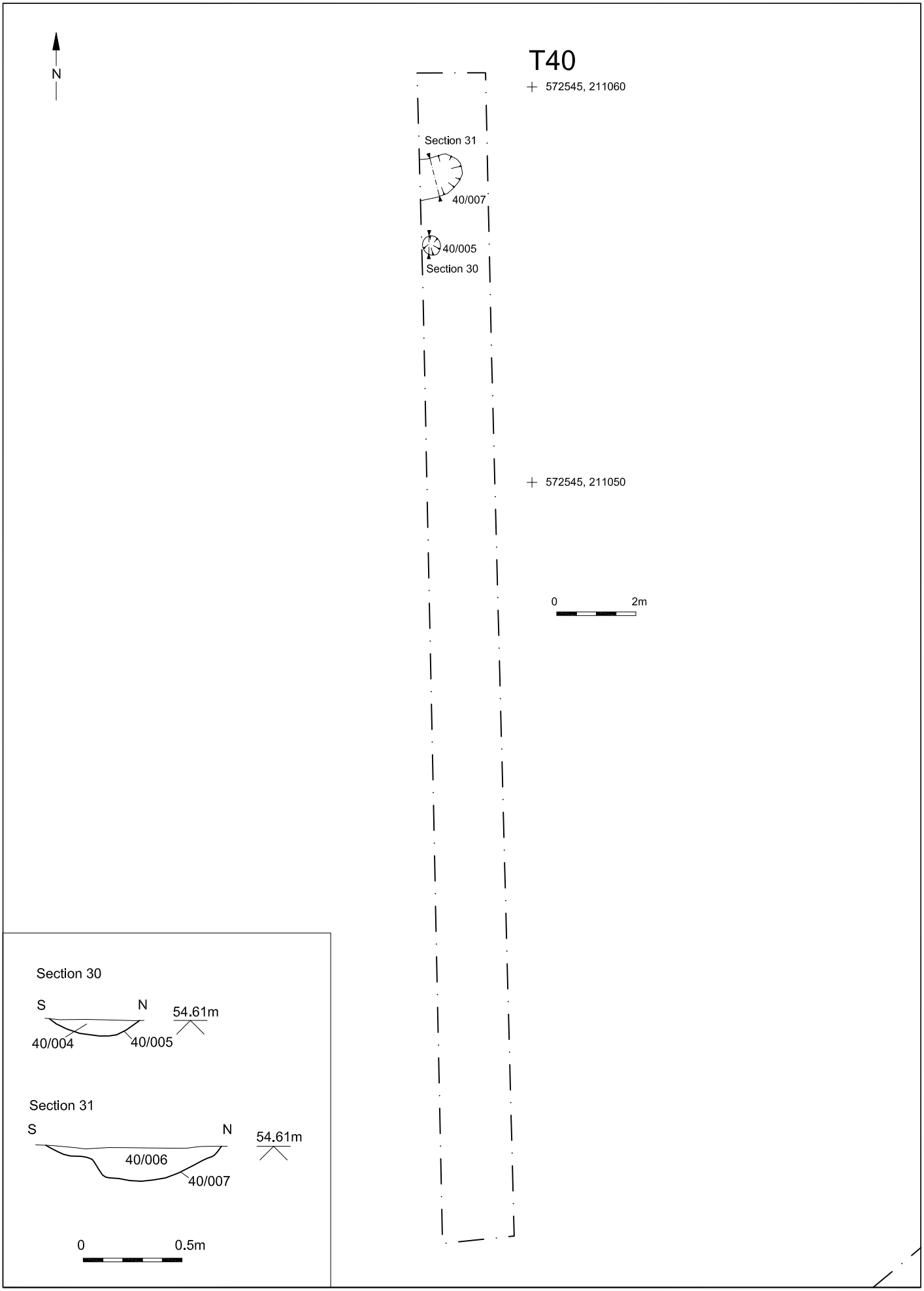

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 22 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 37 plan, sections and photographs | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




Ditch 38/005, 1m scale



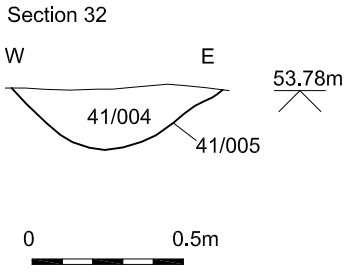

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 23 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 38 plan, section and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

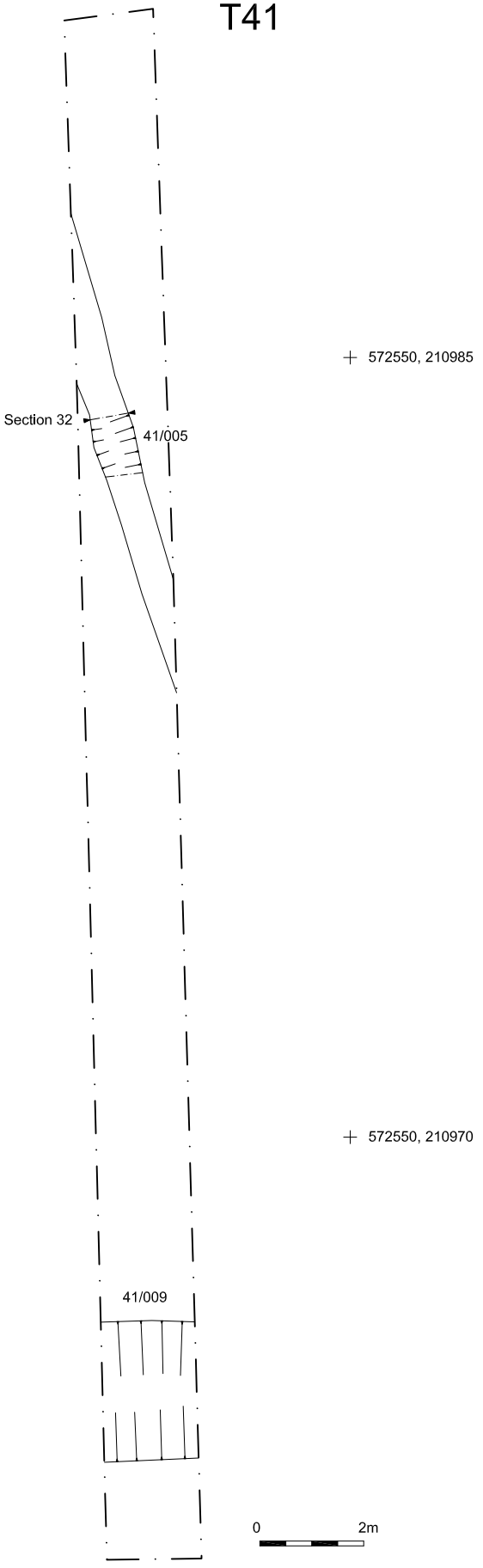



| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 24 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 40 plan and sections | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

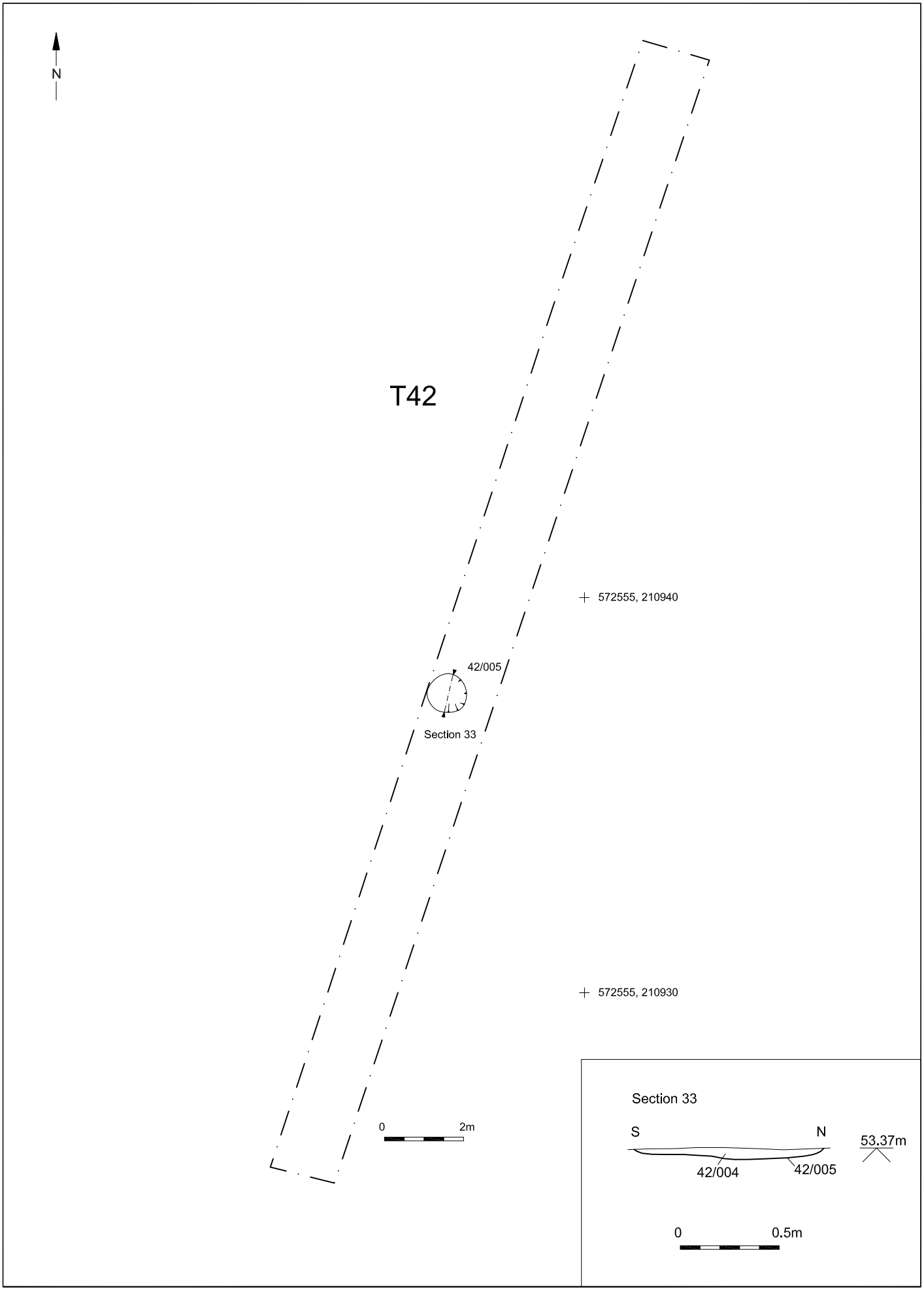
Ditch 41/005, 0.5m scale

Ditch 41/009, 1m scale

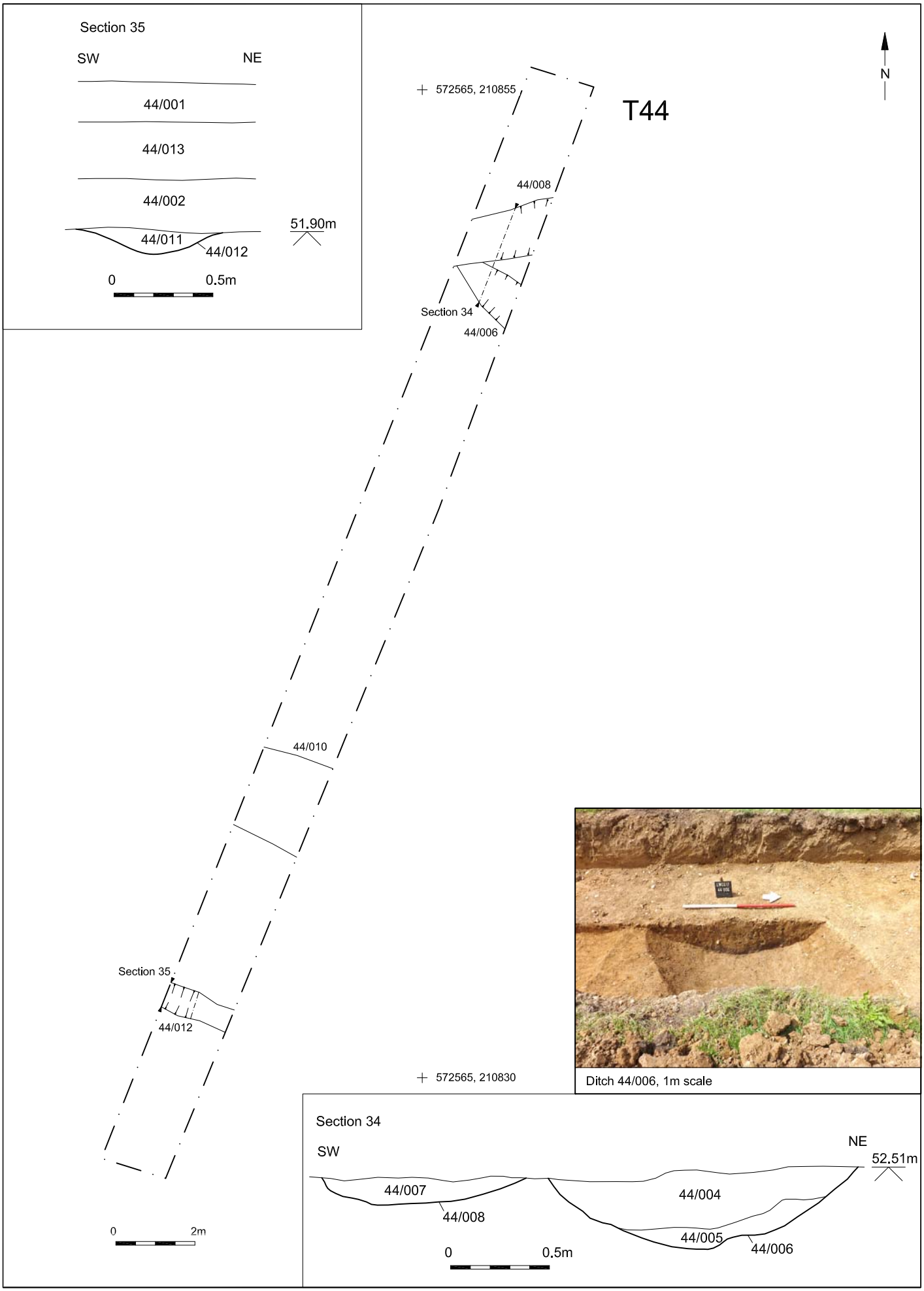



| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 25 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 41 plan, section and photographs | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

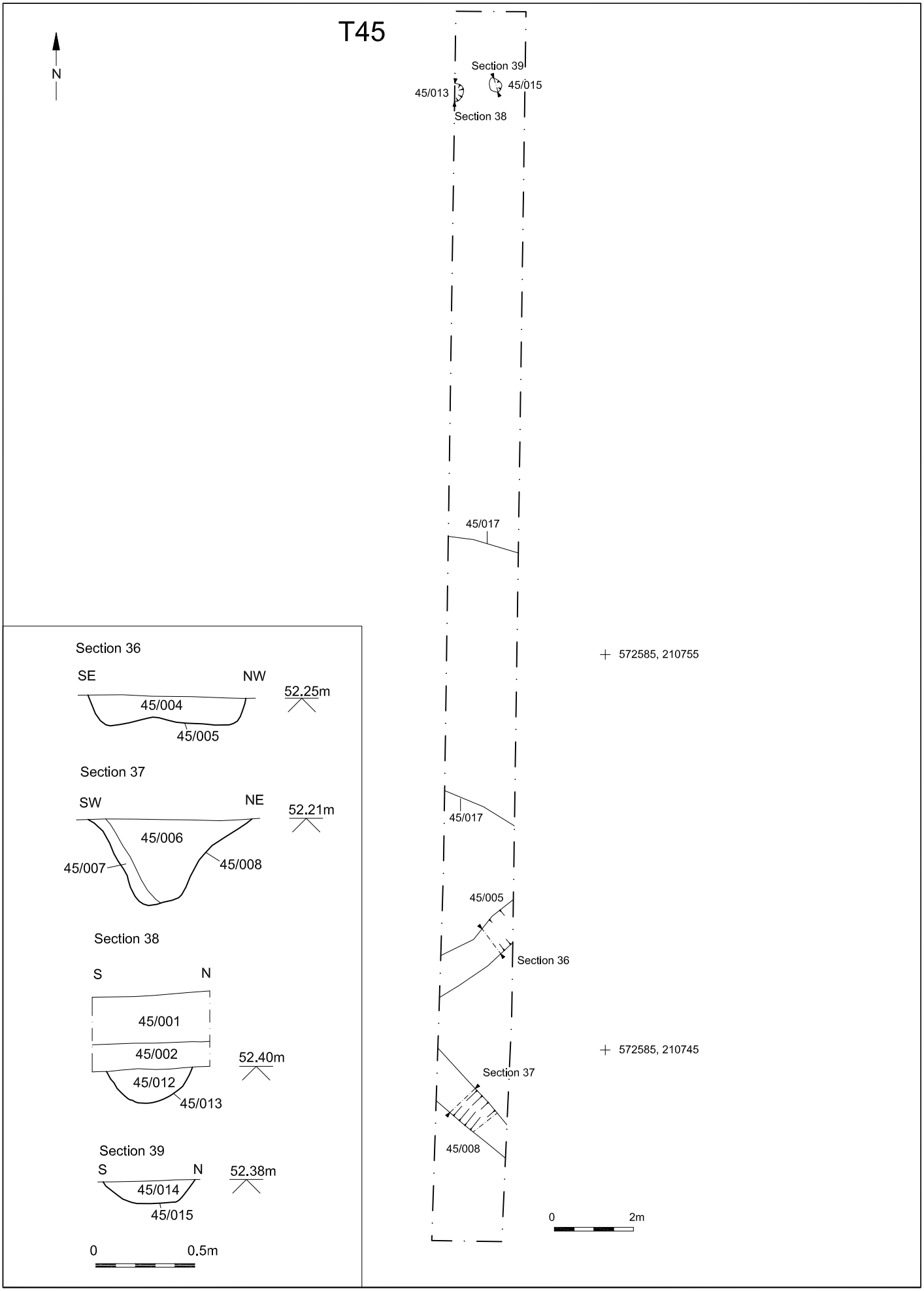



| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 26 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 42 plan and section | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

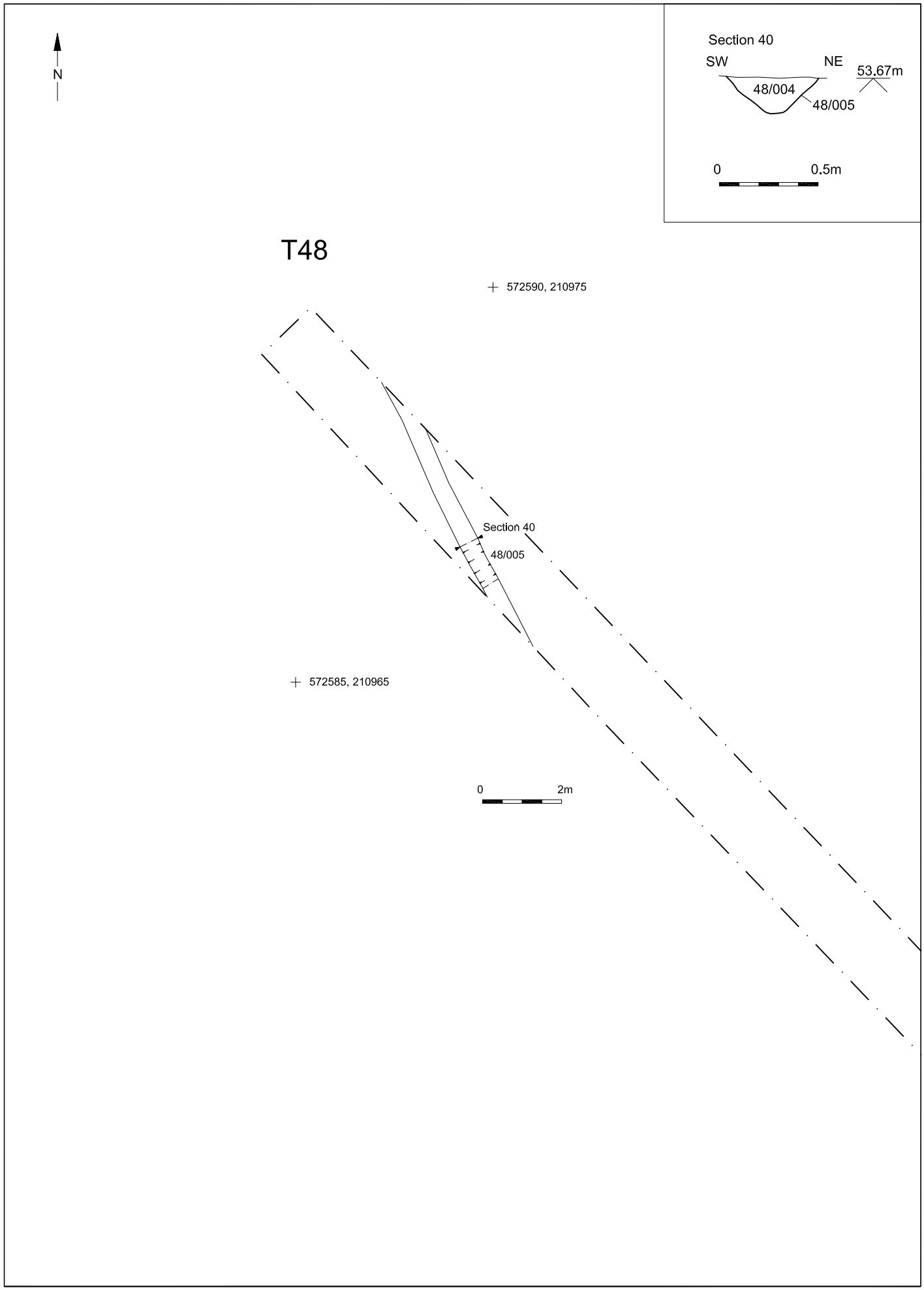



Ditch 44/006, 1m scale

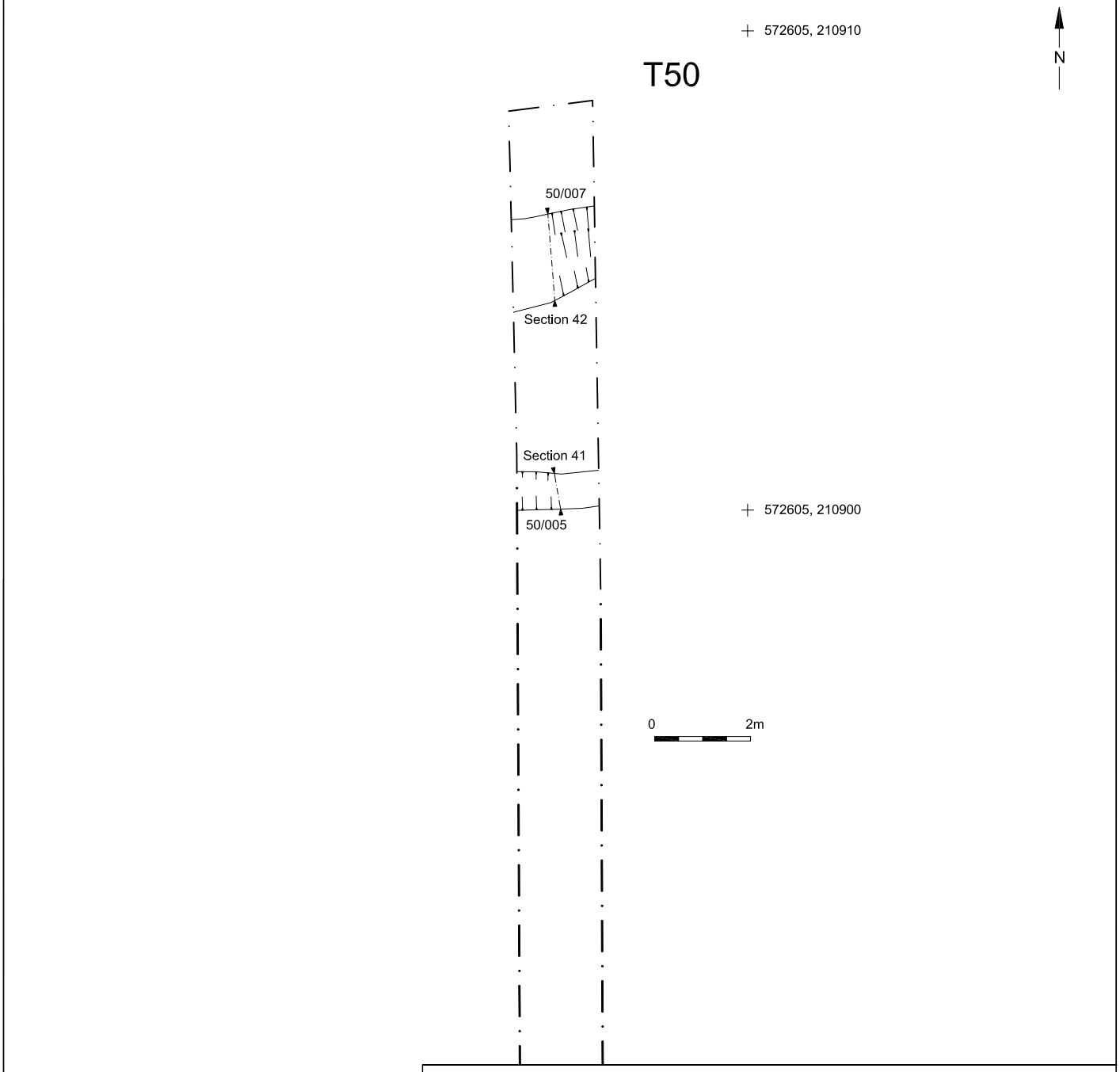
| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 27 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 44 plan, sections and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |



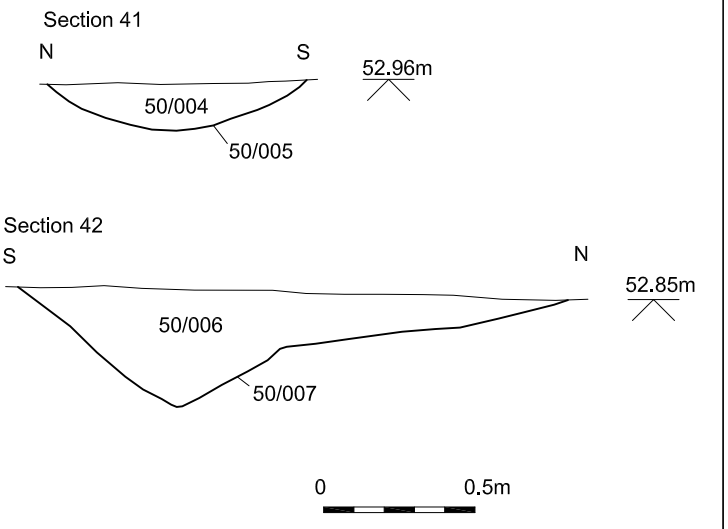

| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 28 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 45 plan and sections | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 29 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 48 plan and section | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




Ditch 50/007, 1 scale

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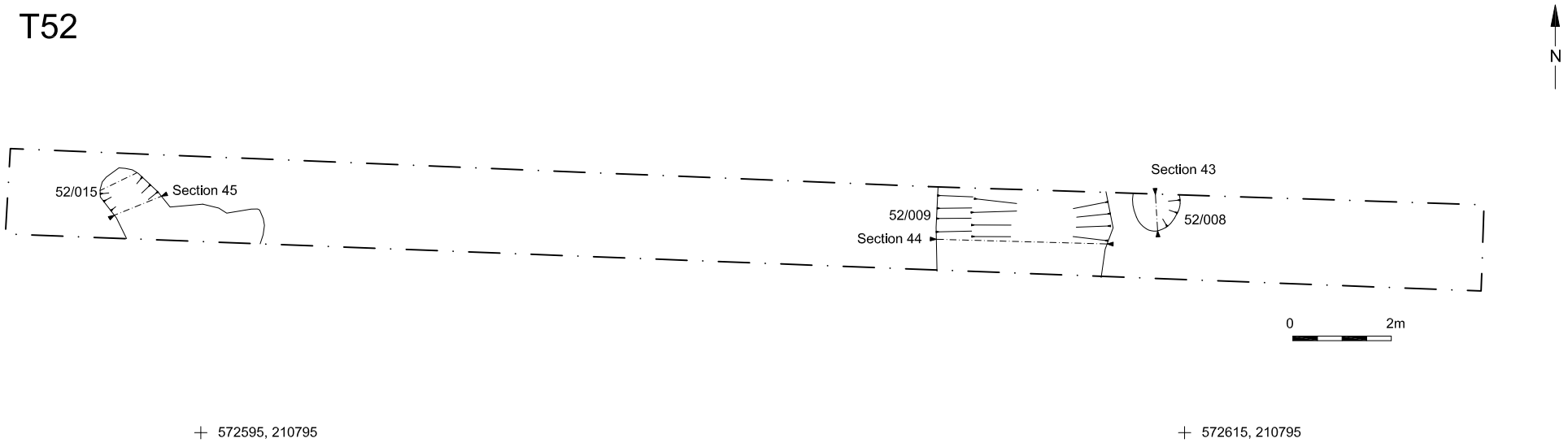
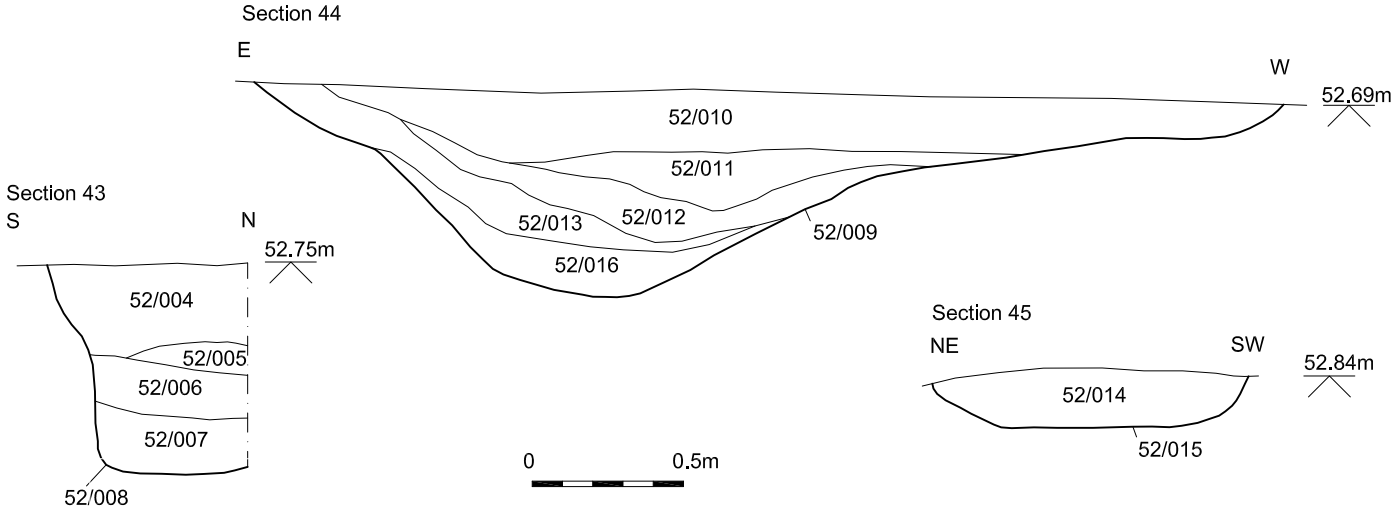
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 50 plan, sections and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

# T52

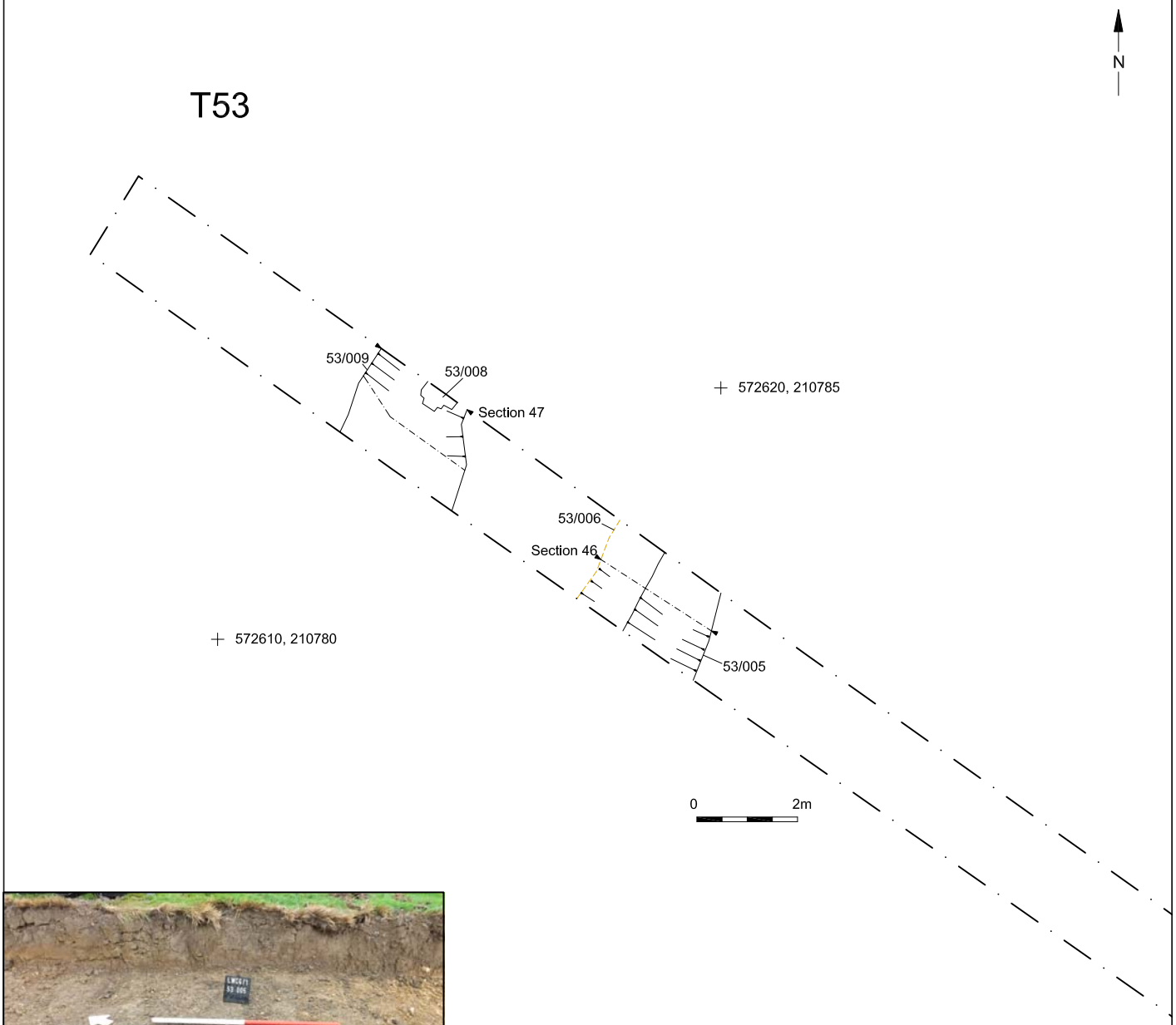




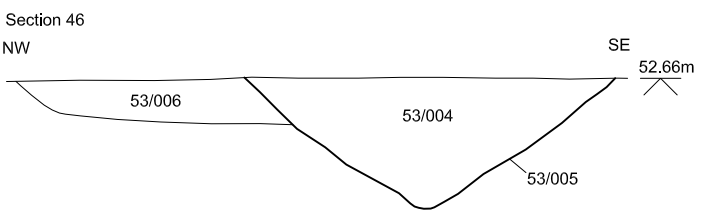
Pit 52/008, 0.5m scale

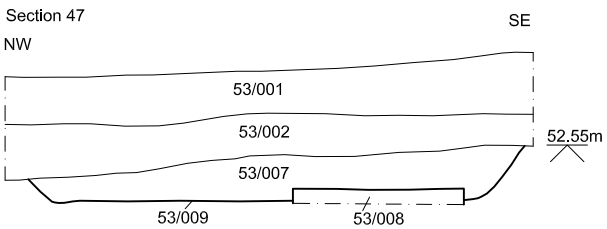



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| © **Archaeology South-East** | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 31 |
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 52 plan, sections and photograph | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |




Ditch 53/005, 1m scale





| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| © **Archaeology South-East** | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 32 |
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 53 plan, sections and photograph | |
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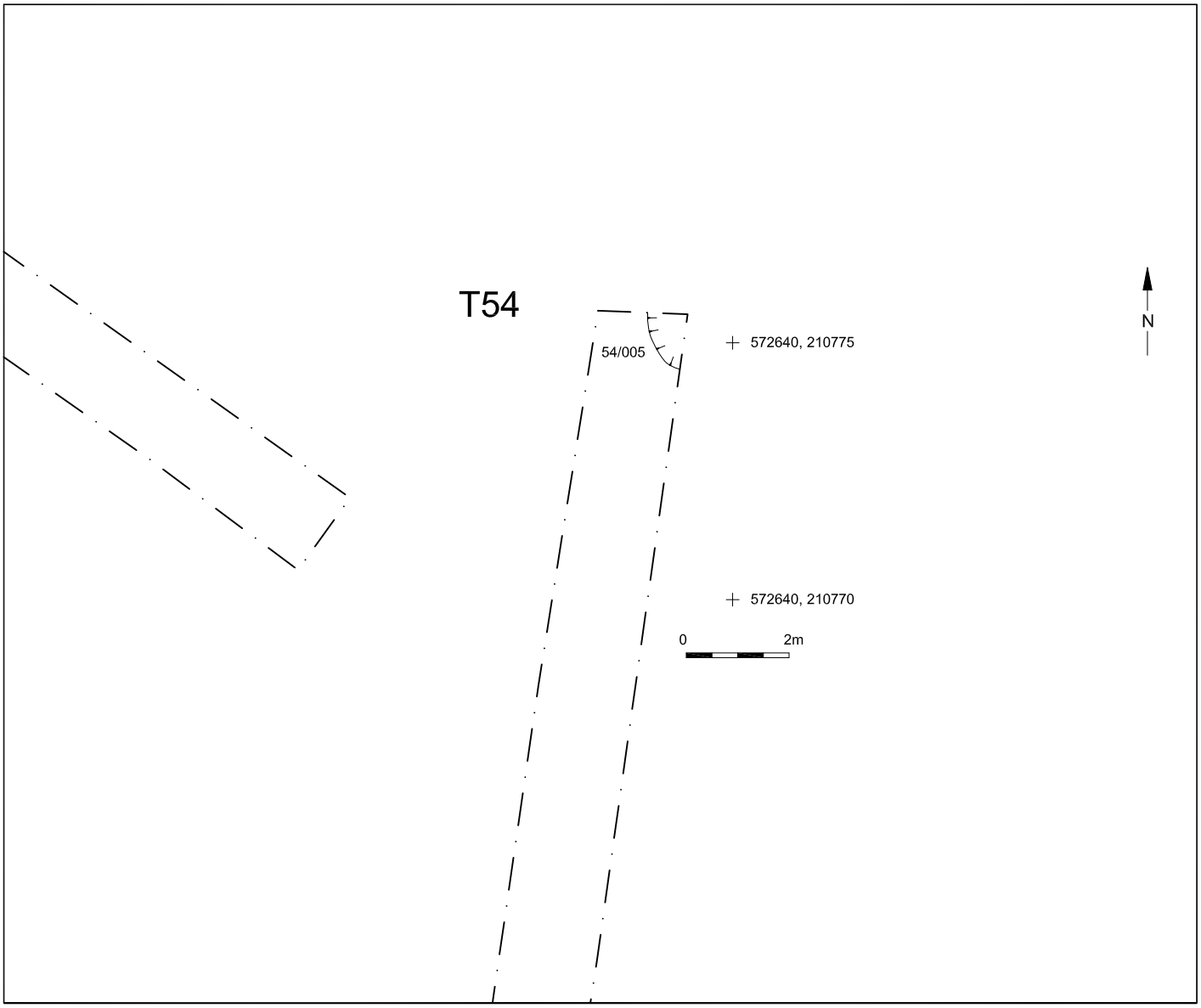


| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig. 33 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Trench 54 plan | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

N

Late Iron Age / Early Roman
Medieval
Post-medieval

Pond
16
25
39
46
17
26
27
40
28
18
38
47
29
19
41
30
48
31
20
42
49
32
21
Pond
33
43
22
50
51.9m
Track
34
23
35
44
51
24
Blue Post Cottages
36
52
37
53
54
45
Pond
0
50m



| © Archaeology South-East | | Land at Phase 3c, 3d and 5, Channels, Chelmsford | Fig.34 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 160858 | Sept 2017 | Overview of Prehistoric to Post-medieval archaeology | |
| Report No: 2017381 | Drawn by: APL | | |

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