

## **Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching**

**Thorpe Maltings, Station Road,  
Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex**

**Planning Ref: 13/01385/FUL  
ASE Project no: 170836  
Site code: TSTM17**

**ASE Report No: 2017476**



**November 2017**

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OASIS id: 301282**

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With contributions by Karine Le Hégarat  
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## **Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Thorpe Maltings, Station Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Rosegrade Ltd. in advance of residential development.*

*The 1.17ha site is occupied by later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century listed standing buildings along with other associated buildings, which are shown on historic mapping. Earlier maps indicate the site was agricultural in use, with the nearby railway line and associated works intruding into the site area. The eastern part of the site, now unoccupied, was more recently utilised as a car salvage area.*

*The evaluation revealed the presence of buried archaeological remains in three of the eight trenches investigated. The recorded remains survived below a variable thickness of c.0.38-0.85m of overburden formed of made ground deposits. All of the trenches showed evidence of modern disturbance cut into the natural and below overburden deposits.*

*A single flint flake was found representing the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. This was found within a pit, though may be residual. Other pits and gullies were recorded and were all undated. There were no other remains pre-dating the post-medieval period.*

*Post-medieval remains were found in the form of masonry. These remains likely form the western boundary of a structure visible in historic mapping, of which the eastern side is in situ, in the form of corrugated iron sheds. Brick rubble to the west of this structure, could represent the remains of this demolished structure.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Rosegrade Ltd at Land at Thorpe Maltings, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex (NGR: TM 17888 21356).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out as a planning condition for a proposed residential development.

### **1.2 Location and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The village of Thorpe-le-Soken lies approximately 6 miles north of Clacton-on-Sea and 13 miles east of Colchester. The site is 2.7 miles east of the A133.
- 1.2.2 The site is located to the south of the village and to the immediate north of the railway station. The site is bounded by agricultural land and residential properties to the north and west, the railway station to the south and the B1414 to its east.
- 1.2.3 The development site is c.1.17ha in extent and consists of partly developed land. The east site comprises generally flat land, which contains The King Edward VII Public House with associated outbuildings, parking and gardens and a disused car salvage works. The west of the site contains sloping ground from c.14m AOD in the north to c.9m AOD in the south. The remains of the historic Maltings are located on flat ground at the base of the slope, which appears to have been cut into the natural slope.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 A planning application has been granted by Tendring District Council (Ref: 13/01385/FUL), for the conversion of the existing Grade II listed Maltings building to residential use including the part demolition, rebuilding and alteration of the existing structure; conversion of the existing vacant King Edward VII public house to private residential use; demolition of a former stable block and development of 20 new dwellings and commercial units, including associated infrastructure and public open space.
- 1.3.2 Essex County Council's Place Services (ECC Place Services), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that an archaeological trial trench evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the development area and, where present, allow informed mitigation measures to be put in place. This advice is in line with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG 2014).

- 1.3.3 Accordingly, following discussions regarding the scope of work required, a brief of works was issued for the trial trench evaluation (ECC Place Services).
- 1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation was subsequently prepared (ASE 2017a) and approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

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

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on Land at Thorpe Maltings, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, and assesses the archaeological potential and significance of the site.
- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was carried out by Angus Forshaw with assistance from ASE archaeologists and carried out between 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The fieldwork was managed by Gemma Stevenson and post-excavation by Mark Atkinson and Jim Stevenson.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The archaeological background of the site has been described comprehensively in previous documents (ECC FAU 2013); ASE 2017a) and is not repeated in detail here. The following is a summary of the most pertinent information taken from those earlier reports with due acknowledgement. The locations of site and find spots are indicated on Figure 1.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 A group of prehistoric flints of Mesolithic date was recovered from the garden of Redbridge Cottage, c.320m south of the site. The group comprised a core, 6 blades, 9 micro-blade fragments, an axe flake, a leaf arrowhead rough-out and 27 indeterminate fragments.

### **2.3 Roman and Saxon**

2.3.1 An archaeological evaluation took place in advance of a proposed development at Thorpe Hall (EHER 45462), c.490m northeast of the site. The works were targeted on a cropmark complex, which identified ditches, gullies and pits indicative of occupation activity. The remains were largely dated to the mid-late Roman and early-mid Saxon periods.

### **2.4 Post-Medieval and Modern**

2.4.1 Approximately 150m south of the site was a brick works, which was operational between 1896 and 1903, producing red bricks (EHER 15468). The land had been purchased in 1896 and was provided with a siding from the railway line. Building on the site included large drying sheds and an updraught kiln, which are shown on the 1920s 6" and 25" maps. The area is now covered in woodland and scrub.

2.4.2 Within the site area are the Thorpe Maltings (EHER 15056), a Grade II Listed Building comprising a two-story brick built multi-storey linear ranges, aligned east west, which was built between 1876 and 1878 by Robert Free. A building appraisal (Garwood and Letch 2001) has provided a detailed record of these buildings and their historical development and as such, no further information is provided here. Adjacent to the Maltings themselves and within the site boundary is a small group of terraced cottages shown on historic mapping. These appear to have been demolished sometime between the 1950s and 1970s.

2.4.3 The King Edward VII Public House (EHER 15955) also lies within the site area. It was built in 1901 from red brick and has a number of ornamental details, such as ironwork veranda and numerous ball finials. It also has a number of associated outbuildings.

- 2.4.4 The small-scale Chapman and Andre map of 1777 indicates that, by this date, the road between Thorpe-le-Soken and Little Clacton (now Station Road and Harwich Road) had been established and Rice Cottage had been built. There were no features shown within the site area.
- 2.4.5 The earliest tithe maps of the area, dating to 1840 and 1842, show a rural landscape with meadows running along the Holland Brook and a regular field system on the valley sides. The site lies within a single field that was under arable cultivation and owned by J. Martin Leake.
- 2.4.6 The Colchester to Clacton railway line, started in 1847, had extended to Thorpe-le-Soken by 1866. The railway construction had a considerable impact on the landscape in the immediate vicinity of the site, as indicated on early editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping. In this area, the railway had to run along the valley side of the Holland Brook, cross the dry valley to the east and sufficient flat land had to be created for the station to be built. The First Edition OS map (1876) shows the railway line and station with hachures in the field to the north, in what was to become the site of the Maltings. The hachures delineate a cut into the valley side, presumably to provide a flat area for the station and material for the railway embankments to the west and east.

## **2.5 Cropmarks**

- 2.5.1 A number of cropmarks have been recorded c.1km west of the site. The complex includes linear features, ditched trackways, field boundaries, a ring ditch, penannular ditch and parch mark. To the east of the complex, and south of the site, a number of linear features, many of which are former field boundaries, are shown on early editions of the Ordnance Survey.
- 2.5.2 Further cropmarks of a double ditched trackway have been identified c.400m to the north of the site. Further cropmarks have been identified immediately to the east of Station Road, comprising of linear features and a double ring ditch. A further complex has been identified c.1.2km northeast of the site and immediately to the south of Thorpe Hall. This complex includes linear features as well as pits, a penannular ditch, narrow ditched trackways and a group of ring ditches.

## **2.6 Project Aims and Objectives**

- 2.6.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were:
- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
  - To identify and record the survival of post medieval and related activity on site.
  - To enable the ECC Archaeological Advisor to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work.
- 2.6.2 Site specific research questions included:
- Is there any evidence for Prehistoric remains within the site?

- Is there any evidence for Roman remains within the site?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon remains within the site?
- Is there any below ground evidence for the post-medieval cottages shown on the 1897 OS Map?

2.6.3 With reference to the East Anglian research framework (Brown & Glazebrook, 2000) and the revised framework (Medlycott, 2011):

- What forms do the farms take in the Anglo Saxon and medieval periods, what range of building types are present and how far can functions be attributed to them? (Medlycott, 2011, 58)
- The development of Anglo-Saxon landscapes needs further investigation. How far can the size and shape of fields be related to the agricultural regimes identified? To what extent are Roman field systems re-used? What is the evidence for open field systems in the region in the Anglo-Saxon period? (Medlycott, 2011, 58)
- The development and diversity of rural industry (agricultural engineering, textiles, brick making) would benefit from further study (Medlycott, 2011, p78)
- The impact of the primary communication routes on the region's development and character is of considerable interest, this includes major routes such as the Great North Road, secondary routes and railways (Medlycott, 2011, 78).

### **3.0 Methodology**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation method was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of investigation (ASE 2017a) and Method Statement (ASE 2017b).
- 3.1.2 Eight evaluation trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches all measured 1.50m in width and varied in length depending on location, with two measuring 25m, four measuring 20m, one 15m and one 10m (Figure 2)
- 3.1.3 Trenches 1 and 8 were repositioned slightly due to overgrown scrub in their original location. Trench 4 was moved to its north due to a service running east/west across the site, and Trench 7 was realigned to avoid services in the area.
- 3.1.4 The trenches were arranged across the site area. All trenches were accurately located using Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment.
- 3.1.5 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the ClfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) Code of Conduct (ClfA 2014a), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014b) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

#### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Colchester & Ipswich Museums Service in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 & 2).

Context sheets	19
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	71
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	8

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Archaeological remains were encountered in three of the evaluation trenches and are described in sections 4.3-4.5, below. Elsewhere, the evaluation generally revealed a straightforward sequence of made ground deposits overlying natural strata.

4.1.2 The results from the archaeologically negative trenches are briefly described in section 4.6 and further detail on the deposit sequences recorded in them tabulated in Appendix 1. Excavated trench positions are shown in Figure 2 and recorded features/deposits in Figures 3-5.

### 4.2 General Soil descriptions

4.2.1 The overlying deposits varied across the site; Trenches 1-3 contained shallow turf layers measuring up to 0.10m thick, and trenches 4-8 contained made ground or tarmac measuring between 0.03m-0.48m. All the trenches contained lower deposits of made ground above the natural strata. The underlying geology was consistent across the site, formed of compacted orange brown clay with occasional patches of orange brown silty clay

4.2.2 The archaeological remains were found predominantly below the made ground deposits and cut directly into natural strata. In Trench 3 the archaeological remains were found immediately below the overlying turf layer.

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 3)

*Dimensions: 15.00m x 1.50m x up to 0.42m deep*  
*Ground level: 13.88m AOD (N), 13.47m AOD (S)*

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
3/001	Layer	Turf	trench	0.06
3/002	Layer	Natural	trench	-
3/003	Masonry	Red brick surface	trench x 0.50	0.07
3/004	Masonry	Grey brick surface	trench x 0.20	0.06
3/005	Masonry	Concrete support bases	0.25 x 0.25	-
3/006	Cut	Construction cut	0.79+	0.23
3/007	Layer	Made ground	Trench	0.14
3/008	Layer	Made ground	1.30+	0.20
3/009	Layer	Made ground	trench	0.14
3/010	Masonry	Concrete base for brickwork	0.79+	0.12

Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the north of the site and was aligned north/south. It contained a shallow turf layer [3/001] overlying the entirety of the trench, with masonry remains found directly below. The excavation was stopped at the top of the masonry, with a sondage dug in the middle of the trench to the natural

[3/002], which was formed of compact yellow brown silty clay.

- 4.3.2 Directly overlying the natural was [3/009], a deposit of compact mid grey brown silty clay, with rare inclusions of rounded stone. Immediately above was a made ground deposit [3/008] formed primarily of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) fragments and rounded gravels within a silty clay matrix. Immediately above this deposit was a mid grey brown silty clay layer [3/007], which was abundant in rounded and sub rounded stones and gravels.
- 4.3.3 Although it was not clear, it is possible the uppermost made ground deposit [3/007] had been cut by the foundation for the overlying brickwork [3/010]. This foundation comprised a 0.12m thick layer of concrete within cut [3/006], but unfortunately cut [3/006] was indistinct.
- 4.3.4 Concrete foundation [3/010] was directly overlain by brickwork, which ran north to south along the length of the trench. A single course of red brick formed the eastern side, consisting of south facing bricks adjacent to a line to east facing bricks [3/003]. The bricks measured 0.23m x 0.10m and likely formed a surface. On the western side of bricks [3/003] was a single course of grey brick [3/004]. These ran along the length of [3/003] and were west facing, with a small mortar deposit between them. To the west of this course was a further line of grey bricks, positioned on their side and facing east, forming a shallow lip above the other brickwork.
- 4.3.5 Three grey concrete posts [3/005] were situated at even intervals of around 2.20m along the southern part of the trench, interspersed with the brickwork [3/003]. The concrete blocks measured 0.25m x 0.25m and appeared to form possible post bases.
- 4.3.6 The brickwork was located immediately beneath a layer of shallow turf [3/001].

#### 4.4 Trench 5 (Figure 4)

*Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.50m x up to 0.85m deep*  
*Ground level: 12.46m AOD (W), 12.22m AOD (E)*

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
5/001	Layer	Made ground	trench	0.36 – 0.48
5/002	Layer	Made ground	trench	0.05 – 0.27
5/003	Layer	Natural	trench	-
5/004	Fill	Fill of [5/005]	-	0.11
5/005	Cut	Gully	trench x 0.35	0.11
5/006	Fill	Fill of [5/007]	-	0.13
5/007	Cut	Gully	trench x 0.75	0.13

Table 4: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 5 was located in the centre of the site and was aligned approximately east/west. At the base of the trench was the natural strata [5/003], which was formed of compact orange clay, with silty clay patches. Overlying this was a made ground deposit [5/002] formed of dark grey compacted clay and

measuring up to 0.73m thick. A further thick deposit of made ground [5/001] overlay the length of the trench, consisting of dark grey silt with common inclusions of concrete, CBM, tarmac, glass and metal.

- 4.4.2 Two possible features ran across the western end of the trench. Possible gully [5/005] ran north to south across the trench and measured 0.35m wide and 0.11m in depth. It contained a single fill of light greyish brown silty clay [5/004], which had a diffuse horizon with the natural and did not produce any finds. The feature was not seen to continue in Trench 6 to its south.
- 4.4.3 A second gully [5/007] ran north to south across the western end of the trench. The feature contained a single, sterile fill of mid brownish grey silty clay [5/006], which had a diffuse horizon with the natural clay. The feature measured 0.75m in width and 0.13m in depth. A continuation of the ditch was not seen in Trench 6 to its south.
- 4.4.4 At the east end of the trench there were three areas of modern disturbance that continued into the natural. They all contained modern fragments of brick, concrete and wood, and were recorded in plan but not excavated.

#### 4.5 Trench 7 (Figure 5)

*Dimensions: 18.00m x 1.50m x up to 0.0.48m deep*  
*Ground level: 13.07m AOD (N), 12.53m AOD (S)*

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
7/001	Layer	Tarmac	trench	0.03
7/002	Layer	Concrete	trench	0.16 – 0.17
7/003	Layer	Made ground	trench	0.18 – 0.34
7/004	Layer	Natural	trench	-
7/005	Cut	Pit	1.37+ x 0.92+	0.23
7/006	Fill	Basal fill of [7/005]	-	0.10
7/007	Fill	Upper fill of [7/005]	-	0.13
7/008	Cut	Pit	1.16 x 1.01+	0.17
7/009	Fill	Single fill of [7/008]	-	0.17
7/010	Fill	Single fill of [7/011]	-	0.13
7/011	Cut	Pit	0.75+ x 0.45+	0.13

Table 5: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 7 was located in the northeast of the site and immediately adjacent to upstanding sheds. The trench was moved slightly due to the presence of services running across its original location.
- 4.5.2 Natural compact orange clay [7/004] was located at the base of the trench. This was directly overlain by a made ground deposit [7/003] comprising of dark grey/black compacted clay, with occasional gravels and CBM fragments. The deposit varied in thickness between 0.18m-0.34m. Directly above made ground [7/003] at the northern end of the trench was 0.16-0.17m of concrete [7/002]. The trench was sealed by 0.03m of tarmac [7/001]. Three possible pits were identified within the trench, cut into the natural.

- 4.5.3 Pit [7/005] was located at the northern end of the trench and continued beyond the the eastern baulk. It was sub oval in plan, with the excavated slot measuring 0.92m x 1.37m x 0.23m, with gradual sloping sides leading to a flat base. It contained two fills, a basal fill [7/006] of mid grey brown compact clay containing rare sub angular stones and a single worked flint. The upper fill [7/007] was formed of sterile mid grey brown silty clay with occasional rounded stones and common manganese.
- 4.5.4 Pit [7/008] was located to the south of pit [7/005] and was oval in plan. It had straight sides leading to a flat base and contained a single fill [7/009] of compact mid grey brown silty clay with common manganese and occasional rounded stones. There were no finds from within the fill.
- 4.5.5 A further possible pit [7/011] was found between the other features, and also continued beyond the eastern baulk of the trench. The pit had straight gradual sides and an irregular base. It contained a single fill [7/010] of light greyish yellow silty clay, with the excavated slot measuring 0.75m x 0.45m x 0.13m. There were no finds from within the fill.
- 4.5.6 Modern disturbance was evident at the southern end of the trench.

#### **4.6 Archaeologically Blank Trenches (Figure 6)**

- 4.6.1 Five of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8) contained no archaeological remains. The details of the basic deposit sequence recorded in each of these is presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.6.2 Trench 1 was located in the northwest of the site area and behind the old maltings building. The trench was realigned slightly due to dense undergrowth impeding access. The trench contained turf overlying made ground deposits of light grey hard core over compact dark brown/black clay over natural strata. A modern trench was located at the east of the trench and measured 0.73m wide and c.10m long, continuing beyond the eastern edge of the trench.
- 4.6.3 Trench 2 contained the same stratigraphic sequence as Trench 1 and contained no archaeological remains. A drain ran north/south across the east end of the trench and two modern pits were present, filled with modern brick and hard core. These were not recorded but were noted on the plan.
- 4.6.4 Trench 4 was located adjacent to the old stable building and behind the public house. The trench was moved to its north in order to avoid services running across the site. The trench was covered by a shallow made ground deposit of crushed asphalt, CBM and concrete with common glass and metal inclusions. Immediately below was a compacted layer consisted of primarily crushed red brick, with some areas of brick appearing to be loosely placed. Underlying the brick deposit was a made ground deposit formed of dark grey compacted clay, including CBM and charcoal inclusions, and a layer of possible redeposited natural, formed of mid grey orange silty clay with occasional CBM fragments.
- 4.6.5 Trench 6 had the same stratigraphic sequence as Trench 5 to its north. It

contained a large modern deposit at its western end and six small circular posts, which contained concrete. These were noted on the plan but were not recorded in detail.

- 4.6.6 Trench 8 was relocated to the north of its original location due to overgrown scrub. The trench contained made ground formed of greyish brown silty clay with common inclusions of CBM and concrete, overlying a mid brown silty clay containing occasional CBM fragments and charcoal. Natural strata was found at the base of the trench.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Thorpe Maltings. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 6). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)
3/004			1	3410
3/103			1	5760
7/006	1	6		
<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9170</i>

Table 6: Finds quantification

### 5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A single piece of worked flint weighing 6g was recovered from context [7/006]. It consists of a flake manufactured from a fine-grained dark grey (almost black) flint. The tertiary piece is fresh, suggesting that it has experienced negligible post depositional disturbance. It exhibits narrow blade scars on the dorsal surface and platform abrasion. It is likely to be Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Two bricks represent the only ceramic building material (CBM) collected from site. Both were machine made and therefore of clearly recent date. The brick collected from [3/003] was made from a compressed fabric, London fabric code 3038, which demonstrates a date of c.1900 or later. Bricks in this fabric were widely used until the 1960s-70s and the thick layer of cement with coarse pebbles would also suggest a date of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

5.3.2 The second brick, collected from [3/004] was in a very hard fabric close to vitrification. It was machine moulded, with the upper surface divided into two raised squares and a slightly frogged base. This brick dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Based on its distinctive form, this brick most likely functioned as a capping or paving brick.

5.3.3 Neither brick is considered to be of any further archaeological value and so both have been discarded

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

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

- 6.1.1 All the trenches revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence of multiple made ground deposits varying in thickness from 0.10-0.48m and consisting of tarmac and hard-core, as well as redeposited natural and mixed made ground. The total thickness of overburden varied across the site between 0.38m (Trench 7) and 0.85m (Trench 5).
- 6.1.2 Of the eight trenches excavated, three contained archaeological features. These were encountered under made ground deposits and were cut into natural deposits in two of the three trenches. The remains recorded on site were low density, low complexity and limited in type.
- 6.1.3 The recorded remains comprised of gullies and pits as well as masonry. Cultural material was limited to a single flint flake of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date within a pit in Trench 7, and post-medieval CBM sampled from the masonry remains with Trench 3.

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

- 6.2.1 The presence of made ground deposits immediately above and cut into the natural strata indicates that truncation has occurred across the site and that potential archaeological remains may have been disturbed or removed. However, the recording of features below this confirms that deeper cut features have survived on the site below this level of truncation.

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

#### *Prehistoric*

- 6.3.1 A single feature within Trench 7 produced a flint flake of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date. While it is possible that this and similar undated features around it are of this date, the material evidence is restricted to a single flint flake. The flint may be residual, particularly as this and the other undated features are surrounded by modern features and disturbance.

#### *Post-medieval and modern*

- 6.3.2 The masonry within Trench 3 is likely to represent the remains of possible animal pens or sheds located in an area that is still partly occupied by the in-situ corrugated iron sheds. Historic map evidence shows the extant shed buildings but as a wider structure, suggesting they initially continued westwards into the area of Trench 3. The crushed brick deposit within Trench 4 could relate to the demolition of this structure.

#### *Undated*

- 6.3.3 The majority of the excavated features were undated and their fills were generally quite similar to the natural strata. It is possible that these represent

low-level activity across the site, but the possibility that they represent a slight natural variation within the clay cannot be ruled out.

#### 6.4 Consideration of research aims

6.4.1 The general aims of the evaluation were achieved in that the archaeological investigation successfully established the presence/absence, type, date and distribution of archaeological remains within the development site.

6.4.2 With regards to the site specific research questions;

- *Is there any evidence for Prehistoric remains within the site?*

A single flint flake was the only evidence for prehistoric activity uncovered during the work. Although this was recovered from a pit, the limited nature of these remains means that they cannot provide further information as to the land use in this period. It is also possible that the flake may be residual, given the high levels of modern disturbance and truncation evident in the surrounding area.

- *Is there any evidence for Roman remains within the site?*
- *Is there any evidence for Saxon remains within the site?*

The evaluation did not uncover any archaeological remains from the Roman or Saxon period date.

- *Is there any below ground evidence for the post-medieval cottages shown on the 1897 OS Map?*

The evaluation did not recover any below ground evidence for the post-medieval cottages present on the 1897 OS map. Trench 1, located over their likely location contained recent made ground deposits indicating that groundwork has occurred in this area. This could be associated with due to previous demolition and stabilising works conducted on the Maltings buildings.

6.4.3 With reference to the East Anglian research framework (Brown & Glazebrook, 2000) and the revised framework (Medlycott, 2011):

- *What forms do the farms take in the Anglo Saxon and medieval periods, what range of building types are present and how far can functions be attributed to them? (Medlycott, 2011, p58)*
- *The development of Anglo-Saxon landscapes needs further investigation. How far can the size and shape of fields be related to the agricultural regimes identified? To what extent are Roman field systems re-used? What is the evidence for open field systems in the region in the Anglo-Saxon period? (Medlycott, 2011, p58)*
- *The development and diversity of rural industry (agricultural engineering, textiles, brick making) would benefit from further study (Medlycott, 2011, p78)*
- *The impact of the primary communication routes on the region's development and character is of considerable interest, this includes major routes such as the Great North Road, secondary routes and railways (Medlycott, 2011, p78).*

Unfortunately, no evidence was uncovered during the evaluation that could be used to address these research questions.

## **6.5 Conclusions**

- 6.5.1 The evaluation has revealed an absence of archaeological remains within five of the eight trenches excavated. Of the features encountered, the masonry remains within Trench 3 are of post-medieval date and likely form the western extent of the extant sheds.
- 6.5.2 With the possible exception of a pit that produced a single Mesolithic/Neolithic flint flake, the other possible features recorded were undated and may relate to the modern disturbance evident on site. The evaluation results indicate a large amount of truncation, suggesting that any archaeological remains that may have been present could have been previously disturbed, truncated or removed.

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### Appendix 1: Summary of archaeologically blank trenches

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Turf	0.10	14.35 (W end) 14.37 (E end)
1	1/002	Layer	Made ground	0.19-0.26	
1	1/003	Layer	Made ground	0.27-0.34	
1	1/004	Layer	Natural		13.93 (W end) 13.63 (E end)
2	2/001	Layer	Turf	0.08-0.10	14.41 (W end) 14.19 (E end)
2	2/002	Layer	Made ground	0.18-0.26	
2	2/003	Layer	Made ground	0.36-0.40	
2	2/004	Layer	Natural		13.67 (W end) 13.50 (E end)
4	4/001	Layer	Made ground	0.10	13.81 (N end) 13.10 (S end)
4	4/002	Layer	Made ground	0.17-0.23	
4	4/003	Layer	Made ground	0.10-0.14	
4	4/004	Layer	Redeposited natural	0.05-0.09	
4	4/005	Layer	Natural		12.74 (S end)
6	6/001	Layer	Made ground	0.23-0.27	12.21 (W end) 12.09 (E end)
6	6/002	Layer	Made ground	0.11-0.16	
6	6/003	Layer	Natural		11.61
8	8/001	Layer	Made ground	0.36-0.44	11.63 (SW end) 11.45 (NE end)
8	8/002	Layer	Made ground	0.19-0.26	
8	8/003	Layer	Natural		11.06 (SW end) 10.87 (NE end)

## Appendix 2: HER Summary

<b>Site name/Address:</b> <i>Thorpe Maltings, Station Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex</i>	
<b>Parish:</b> <i>Thorpe-le-Soken</i>	<b>District:</b> <i>Tendring</i>
<b>NGR:</b> <i>TM 17888 21356</i>	<b>Site Code:</b> <i>TSTM17</i>
<b>Type of Work:</b> <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> <i>A. Forshaw, Archaeology South-East</i>
<b>Date of Work:</b> <i>9/10/2017 – 12/10/2017</i>	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> <i>1.17ha</i>
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> <i>Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service</i>	<b>Funding source:</b> <i>Landowner/Developer</i>
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> <i>unknown</i>	<b>Related HER Nos:</b>
<b>Final Report:</b> <i>annual summary</i>	<b>OASIS No:</b>
<b>Periods Represented:</b> <i>post-medieval</i>	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p><i>The 1.17ha site is occupied by later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century listed standing buildings along with other associated buildings, which are shown on historic mapping. Earlier maps indicate the site was agricultural in use, with the nearby railway line and associated works intruding into the site area. The eastern part of the site, now unoccupied, was more recently utilised as a car salvage area.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed the presence of buried archaeological remains in three of the eight trenches investigated. The recorded remains survived below a variable thickness of c.0.38-0.85m of overburden formed of made ground deposits. All of the trenches showed evidence of modern disturbance cut into the natural and below overburden deposits.</i></p> <p><i>A single flint flake was found representing the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. This was found within a pit, though may be residual. Other pits and gullies were located in the area and were all undated. There were no other remains pre-dating the post-medieval period.</i></p> <p><i>Post-medieval remains were found in the form of masonry. These remains likely form the western boundary of a structure visible in historic mapping, of which the eastern side is in situ in the form of corrugated iron sheds. Brick rubble to the west of this structure, could represent the remains of this structure.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> <i>None</i>	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> <i>A. Forshaw</i>	<b>Date of Summary:</b> <i>November 2017</i>

### Appendix 3: OASIS Form

#### OASIS ID: archaeol6-301282

##### Project details

Project name	Thorpe Maltings, Thorpe-le-Soken
Short description of the project	The 1.17ha site is occupied by later 19th and early 20th century listed standing buildings along with other associated buildings, which are shown on historic mapping. Earlier maps indicate the site was agricultural in use, with the nearby railway line and associated works intruding into the site area. The eastern part of the site, now unoccupied, was more recently utilised as a car salvage area. The evaluation revealed the presence of buried archaeological remains in three of the eight trenches investigated. The recorded remains survived below a variable thickness of c.0.38-0.85m of overburden formed of made ground deposits. All of the trenches showed evidence of modern disturbance cut into the natural and below overburden deposits. A single flint flake was found representing the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. This was found within a pit, though may be residual. Other pits and gullies were located in the area and were all undated. There were no other remains pre-dating the post-medieval period. Post-medieval remains were found in the form of masonry. These remains likely form the western boundary of a structure visible in historic mapping, of which the eastern side is in situ in the form of corrugated iron sheds. Brick rubble to the west of this structure, could represent the remains of this structure.
Project dates	Start: 09-10-2017 End: 12-10-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	170836 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

##### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING THORPE LE SOKEN Thorpe Maltings, Thorpe-le-Soken
Postcode	CO16 0HQ
Study area	232.5 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 17888 21356 51.847642491905 1.163838985824 51 50 51 N 001 09 49 E Point

Height OD / Depth    Min: 9m Max: 14m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Gemma Stevenson
Project supervisor	Angus Forshaw
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

---

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Unpublished Text"

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**Project bibliography**

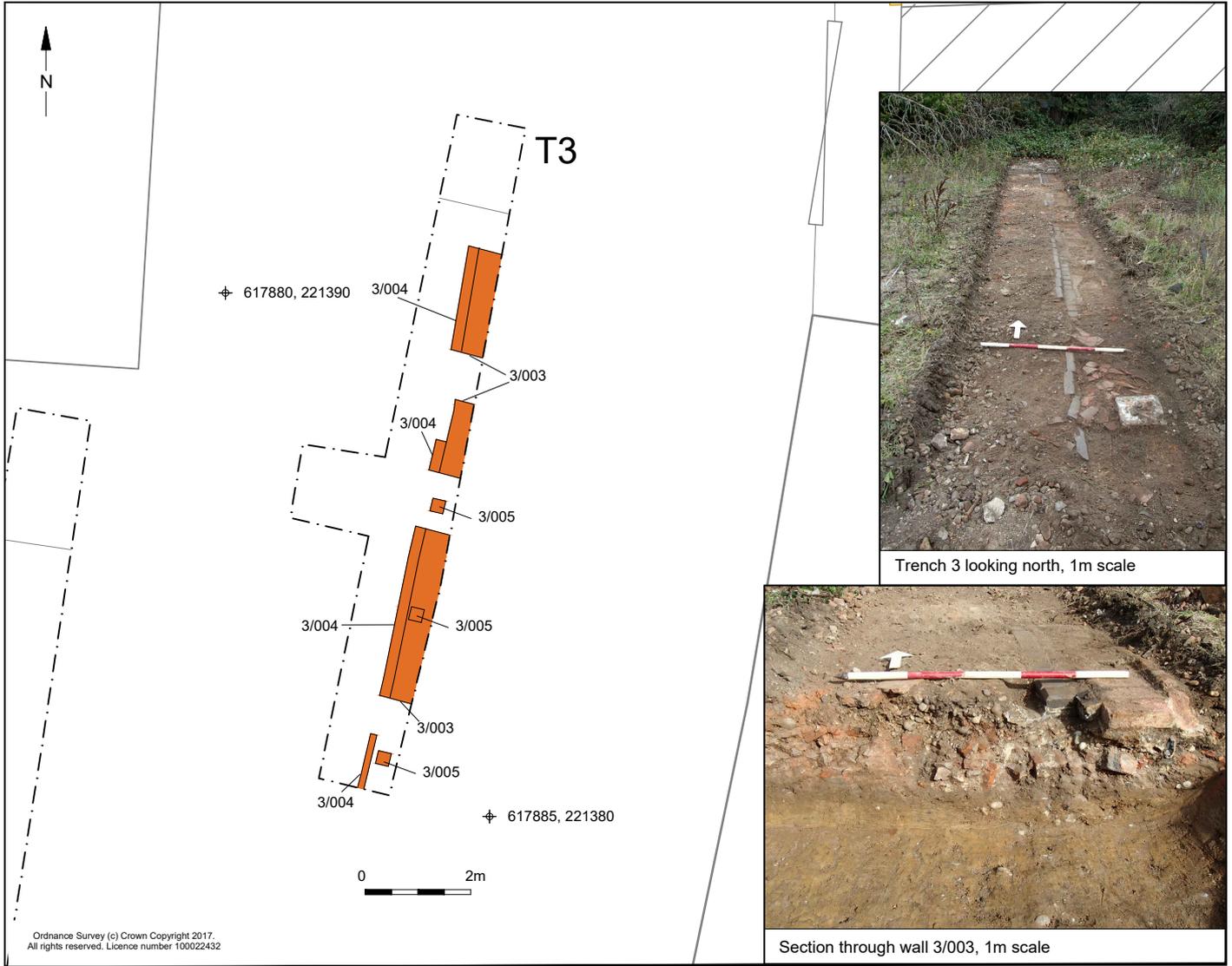
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Thorpe Maltings, Thorpe-le-Soken, Station Rd, Thiorpe-le-Soken, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Forshaw, A.
Other bibliographic details	2017476
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade



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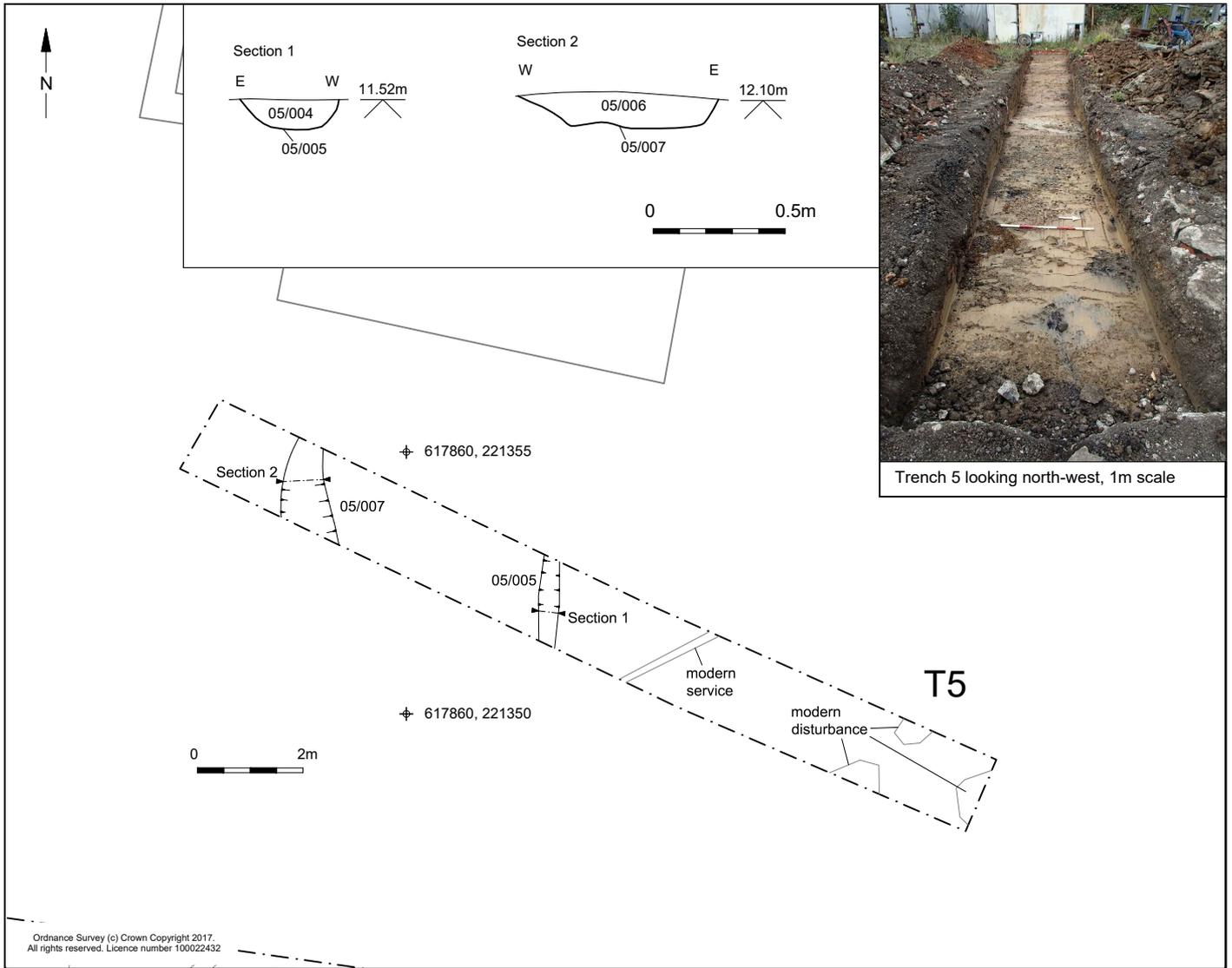
© Archaeology South-East		Thorpe Maltings, Thorpe-le-Soken	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170836	Nov 2017	Site location and selected HER references	
Report No: 2017476	Drawn by: APL		



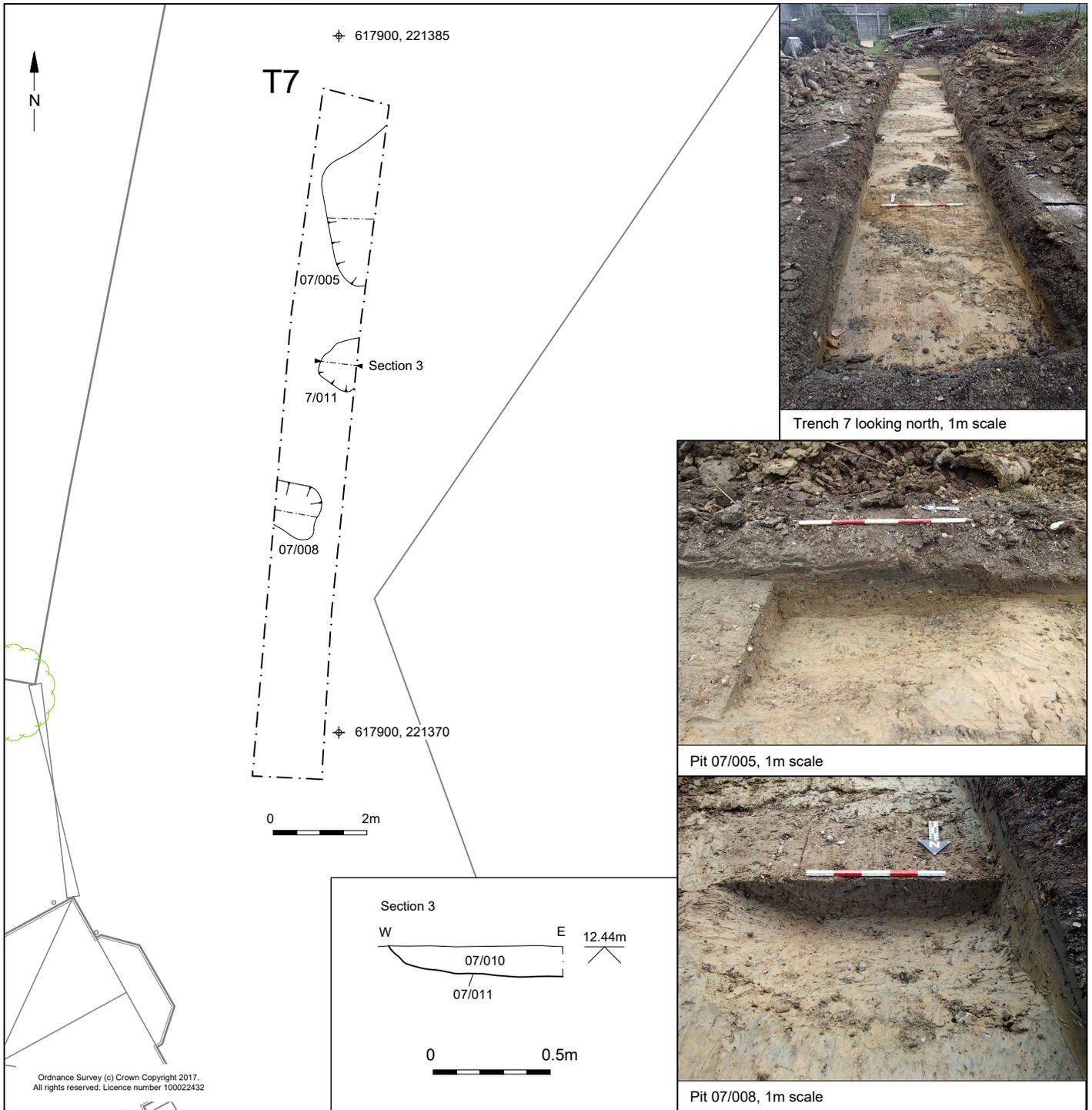


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Project Ref: 170836	Nov 2017	Trench 3 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017476	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 170836	Nov 2017	Trench 5 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017476	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 170836	Nov 2017	Trench 7 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017476	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 1 looking west, 1m scale



Representative section in Trench 2, 1m scale



Section through brick deposit in Trench 4, 1m scale



Trench 8 looking west, 1m scale

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Project Ref: 170836	Nov 2017	Selected photographs	
Report Ref: 2017476	Drawn by: APL		

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