Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation, Land East of Mill Lane, Cressing, Essex CM77 8HN

ASE Project No: 170420
Site Code: CRML17

ASE Report No: 2017491

December 2017

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NGR: TL 7807 2038
Braintree District Council

Planning Ref: 16/00397/OUT

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land east of Mill Lane, Cressing, Essex. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of residential development of the site. The fieldwork took place from the 6th–14th November 2017.

The archaeological evaluation succeeded in identifying archaeological remains belonging to the prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and medieval periods. Dated remains appeared to be largely confined to the southern part of the site and likely represent agricultural activity, perhaps with settlement activity in the Romano-British and particularly medieval periods.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, were commissioned by CgMs Consulting, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land east of Mill Lane, Cressing, Essex. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 7807 2038 and its location is shown on Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) online geological mapping (1:50,000 scale), the superficial deposits across the site comprise those of the Lowestoft Formation (boulder clay) and the underlying bedrock geology is identified as London Clay (BGS 2017).

1.2.2 The site gently slopes up from the southwest to the northeast. It is laid to pasture and bordered by arable land to the east, residential development to the north and Mill Lane to the west and south.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning consent has been granted (Ref: 16/00397/OUT). Having considered the application, Essex County Council's (ECC) Place Services recommended that the following condition be attached to planning consent:

"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".

1.3.2 CgMs subsequently commissioned ASE to undertake the fieldwork and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ASE 2017) was submitted to ECC and was approved.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken from the 6th–14th November 2017. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sarah Ritchie (Senior Archaeologist) with survey undertaken by Nathalie Gonzalez (Senior Surveyor). The fieldwork was managed in the field by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and in post-excavation by Mark Atkinson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information has been drawn from an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment associated with a site immediately to the northeast (ASE 2016). For a complete background, please refer to that document.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 There are no references to known archaeological remains of prehistoric date on the site itself and only a limited number are recognised within the wider study area. These include a Scheduled Monument comprising a circular enclosure *c*. 42m across with a possible entrance on its northeast side (List No. 1008976; EHER 6152). It is located on high ground to the southeast of the site, overlooking the valley. The monument has been interpreted as a henge (a late Neolithic ritual or ceremonial centre). Such monuments are rare and thus considered of national importance. No excavation has been undertaken and the age of the monument has not been confirmed, although such monuments are typically of Late Neolithic date (2800-2000 BC). Henges are typically located on low ground close to springs and watercourses, so the location of this example is unusual. It is possible that the monument is the remains of a different type of monument, for example, a medieval windmill.

2.2.2 To the south and west of the site, archaeological monitoring works along the Cressing to Terling pipeline examined a length of the easement across the Brain valley from Hawbush Green to Terling, via White Notley. The first sections of this route, starting in the field to the north of Stubbles Farm (List No. 1123862) and running south to the village of White Notley, identified Bronze Age pits (EHER 47156-7).

2.2.3 Found within the area of the site was a Bronze Age scraper, close to the western boundary of the site (EHER 47014).

2.2.4 To the east, archaeological remains of Late Iron Age date have been identified in the vicinity of All Saints Church. These included a large ditch, a wall slot and gully, timber slots, postholes, cremation burials and an inhumation burial in a wooden mausoleum of Late Iron Age/Roman date (EHER 6446-7). Artefacts recovered included pottery, brooches and part of a mirror (EHER 6440/6446-7).

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 There are a number of Roman sites recorded in the area. The landscape around Cressing is considered to have been ‘cleared and populated’ by the Roman period (Hunter 1993).

2.3.2 There are a number of presumed villa sites along the Brain valley on both its west and east sides. These include an example (EHER 14136) that is situated *c*. 700m northwest of the site. Here surface finds have included Hadham mortaria, greywares and other 2nd-3rd century sherds. Imbrex, teglae, flue tile and floor tile have also been recovered. Roman brick fragments, pottery and

metal objects have also been found in the vicinity (EHER 17406). It has been conjectured that these artefact spreads mark the site of a villa (EHER 14136).

2.3.3 To the west of the site, a second suggested villa has been recorded at Black Notley (EHER 14020). This site is situated on the opposite side of the valley to the Tye Green example and the two sites would have been inter-visible. It has been identified through a scatter of Roman artefacts, including pottery ceramic building materials and metalwork (EHER 14020). Further south along the western side of the valley, a villa has also been identified at White Notley. Again artefacts were common on the field surface and, in this instance, some archaeological investigations were undertaken in the 1950s and 1970s. Excavation identified an underground chamber built of tiles with three niches on the sides and surmounted by a circular building; this monument is thought to be a tomb of the 'columbarium' type (EHER 5992) (Journal of Roman Studies 1955). These villas are set within a landscape in which parts of the field system (both of which are extant in the modern landscape and survive in the record on historic maps/cropmarks) may have their origins in the Roman period.

2.3.4 To the east of the site, in the village of Cressing, archaeological investigations in the church and churchyard identified Roman remains (EHER 6447). The Late Iron Age settlement in the churchyard continued through to the Roman period. Archaeological remains included an inhumation burial in a wooden mausoleum of a Late Iron Age/Roman date, a 2nd- to 4th-century AD building, pits, postholes and a range of artefacts, including pottery, shears and spindle whorls. In addition, Roman tile and *opus signinum* have been used in the fabric of the medieval church (EHER 6441).

2.3.5 To the south of the site, the works on the Cressing to Terling pipeline identified a complex of interlinked features (EHER 47158). These comprised a shallow ditch and two gullies. The fills of the latter were charcoal rich and contained cereal grains. These features were interpreted as being a possible crop drier of Late Iron Age/Roman date.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.4.1 There are a limited number of known early medieval finds within the wider area. The existing medieval church in the village of Cressing was built upon the sites of earlier structures (EHER 6448). A rectangular building (postholes and timber slots) of late Saxon date was superseded by an apsidal building of Saxo-Norman date. The latter is thought to be a chapel (Hope 1984, 35). Outside the church, artefacts hinted at early medieval occupation at the site of the late Iron Age/Roman settlement.

2.4.2 Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, lands in Cressing were in the hands of a variety of individuals, including the King and Count Eustace. The place-name dates to at least 1136 and is thought to derive from the presence of ditches and brooks noted for the presence of watercress. Parts of Cressing became the centre of an estate belonging to the Order of the Knights Templar (the Templars), which was granted to them by Queen Matilda in 1137 (Ryan 1993, 11). Further lands were added throughout the medieval period, including lands in Witham, White Notley and Rivenhall; the preceptor of the estate was at Cressing Temple. This lies to the southeast of the study area. The Witham

church estates, which probably included parts of Cressing (as distinct from the Templar estate), were granted by King Stephen (1135-54) to the Canons of St Martins, London (Hope 1984).

2.4.3 In the 11th or early 12th century, Elphelmus de Gore granted lands in Cressing for the building of a chapel. This may be one of the phases of building underlying the extant All Saints Church (EHER 6443) at Cressing, which have been recorded during excavation (Hope 1984). The existing structure is largely 12th-century in date (Hope 1984). Rebuilding and alterations were undertaken in *c*. 1230, the 13th century and the 14th century. A ditch marked the boundary of the churchyard, but the graveyard has since extended eastwards (EHER 6449).

2.4.4 Two listed buildings of medieval origin are in close proximity to the site. Immediately west of the site is Jeffrey's Farmhouse (List No. 1168797; EHER 29985), a Grade II listed building comprising a timber-framed building with extant 14th-and 15th-century cross-wings and 16th-century axial stack in the middle range. Located to the east of the site is Hawbush Old House (List No. 1306872; EHER 29978), at the junction of Mill Lane and the Braintree/Witham Road. It largely comprises a 14th- to 16th-century timber-framed and plastered house.

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

2.5.1 A post-medieval (or perhaps medieval) artefact of unspecified type has been recovered from the adjacent site through the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

2.5.2 The other known post-medieval heritage assets within the area, like those of the medieval period, largely reflect the agricultural character of the area and primarily comprise buildings, some of which survive in the modern landscape. The closest of these is Jeffrey's Farmhouse (List No. 1168797; EHER 29985). Originally medieval in date, it received multiple extensions and alterations between the 17th and 19th centuries. Situated just to the northwest of the site is the location of a post-medieval windmill (EHER 6460), which was recorded on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. In addition, the Grade II listed 14th- to 16th-century Hawbush Old House (List No. 1306872; EHER 6435-6) was altered in the 17th century, extended in the 20th century and restored *c*. 1968. To the southeast of the site is the Grade II listed barn (List No. 1123862; EHER 29986). It is late 18th-/early 19th-century in date and lies to the east of Stubbles Farm, which is of a similar date.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were as follows:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

- To enable ECC's Historic Environment Management Team to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeology condition.

2.6.2 Site specific research aims:

- Is there any evidence of later prehistoric activity on the site?

- Is there any evidence for rural Roman activity on the site, such as farming or agriculture?

2.6.3 With reference to the East Anglian research framework (Medlycott 2011):

- *On sites during the Iron Age/Romano British transition, does the evidence suggest a seamless transition or a change in use of the land or farmstead, or continued occupation of the site but a change in building-types or agricultural practice?* (Medlycott 2011, 31)

- *How far can the size and shape of fields be related to the agricultural regimes identified?* (Medlycott 2011, 47)

- *Is there any evidence of Roman settlement activity? Specifically, to inform on settlement typology?* (Medlycott 2011, 47)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 A unique site code (CRML17) was obtained from ECC/Place Services and was used as the unique site identifier for the entire project archive.

3.1.2 The archaeological evaluation of the site comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of 35 trenches, measuring 25m x 1.8m, as located on Figure 2. The trenches were evenly distributed across the site but respected a 10m buffer zone around the overhead electricity cables that crossed the site.

3.1.3 The trenches were accurately located using offsets from known positions or a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).

3.1.4 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.

3.1.5 Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the natural geology, whichever was uppermost. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping; any archaeological deposits or negative features were planned as appropriate.

3.1.6 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.

3.1.7 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned with a metal detector as was the spoil derived from excavated features.

3.1.8 The fieldwork adhered to the preceding WSI (ASE 2017) as well as the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, and *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b). The fieldwork also complied with the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). ASE is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 Guidelines contained in the CIfA Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (2014c) will be followed for the preparation of the archive for deposition at Braintree Museum.

3.2.2 Finds from the archaeological fieldwork will be kept with the archival material

3.2.3 Subject to agreement with the legal landowner, ASE will arrange with Braintree Museum for the deposition of the archive and artefact collection. Any items requiring treatment will be conserved. The landowner will be asked to donate the finds to the local museum. The contents of the archive are tabulated below

(Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	174
Section sheets	6
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	*c*. 100
Context register	17
Drawing register	2
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	35

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)	1
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	41g
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	2 bulk samples

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The general site sequence consisted of a dark brown sandy silt topsoil and turf over a mid-brown silty clay subsoil that in turn overlay the mid-orange brown Boulder Clay natural with flint inclusions. This sequence was *c*. 0.30-0.40m deep across the site. Where present, archaeological remains were found directly below the subsoil.

4.1.2 Twenty-two trenches were devoid of archaeological remains (see section 4.15), whilst Trench 35 contained *c*. 26 pieces of medieval pottery situated within the top of a mole drain. Thirteen trenches contained archaeological features, generally comprising ditches, gullies, pits and postholes.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11-0.13	62.43- 63.22
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23-0.25	-
1/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.07- 62.9
1/004	Fill	Pit	0.52	0.46	0.50	-
1/005	Cut	Pit	0.52	0.46	0.50	62.63
1/006	Fill	Land drain	-	-	-	-
1/007	Cut	Land drain	-	-	-	62.21

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The trench was orientated on a northwest-southeast axis. Four fragments of tile, probably of medieval date, were found pressed into the natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [1/003]. This horizon was also cut by a post-medieval land drain [1/006]/[1/007] and a pit [1/005] of unknown date. The pit comprised a sub-circular feature filled by a mid-grey brown silty clay [1/004]. It produced a tiny sherd of pottery of unknown date. The pit was sealed by the mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [1/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark brown sandy silt topsoil [1/001].

4.3 Trench 13 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10-0.15	63.86- 63.88
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23-0.30	-
13/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.53- 63.6
13/004	Fill	Pit	0.97	0.70	0.08	-
13/005	Cut	Pit	0.97	0.70	0.08	63.56

Table 4: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 The trench was orientated on a northwest-southeast axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [13/003] was cut by a single sub-circular pit [13/005]. This was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay [13/004] with charcoal

and fired clay inclusions, one fragment of which comprised the corner of a larger object. It produced two sherds of Hedingham coarseware pottery of mid-12th- to mid-14th-century date, as well as a smaller residual sherd of possible Bronze Age date. The pit was sealed by the mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [13/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [13/001].

4.4 **Trench 14** (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10-0.12	64.22- 64.66
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18-0.21	-
14/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.85- 64.31
14/004	Fill	Gully, upper	1.80	0.60	0.08	-
14/005	Cut	Gully	1.80	0.60	0.15	64.27
14/006	Fill	Gully, basal	1.80	0.60	0.07	-
14/007	Fill	Pit/Posthole	0.55	0.40	0.21	-
14/008	Cut	Pit/Posthole	0.55	0.40	0.21	63.08
14/009	Fill	Gully	2.00	0.44	0.13	-
14/010	Cut	Gully	2.00	0.44	0.13	63.23

Table 5: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 The trench was orientated on a northeast-southwest axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [14/003] was cut by a number of features in the north-eastern half of the trench.

4.4.2 Shallow gully or wall trench [14/005] did not appear to extend into the surrounding evaluation trenches but may be related to feature [14/010], which could comprise a right-angled return of a small enclosure or structure. [14/005] was filled by two consecutive deposits. The earlier of these [14/006] comprised a mid-yellow brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of charcoal and fired clay or daub as well as occasional large flints. This was overlain by [14/004] a dark grey brown silty clay with charcoal and fired clay or daub inclusions. The fill deposit produced 12 sherds of 1st-century pottery AD.

4.4.3 Close to [14/005] was a posthole or pit [14/008]. Its single fill [14/007] produced four small sherds of 1st-century AD pottery.

4.4.4 Gully or wall trench [14/010] was similar to gully [14/005] and the two may be related. It was filled by [14/009], which produced eight sherds of probable 1st-century AD pottery; however, six of these with flint-tempered fabrics could be of Late Iron Age date.

4.4.5 The features were sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [14/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [14/001].

4.5 **Trench 19** (Figure 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12-0.14	64.03- 63.64
19/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.19-0.22	-
19/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.35- 63.72
19/004	Fill	Pit	2.10	0.16	0.10	-
19/005	Cut	Pit	2.10	0.16	0.10	63.51
19/006	Fill	Ditch	6.00	0.95	0.08	-
19/007	Cut	Ditch	6.00	0.95	0.08	63.61
19/008	Fill	Pit	1.70	1.00	0.07	-
19/009	Cut	Pit	1.70	1.00	0.07	63.51

Table 6: Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 The trench was orientated on a northeast-southwest axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [19/003] was cut by two similar shallow 'pits', [19/005] and [19/009], that extended beyond the limit of excavation. Their associated mid-brown silty clay fill deposits, [19/004] and [19/008] respectively, contained charcoal and fire-cracked flint (FCF) inclusions as well as five sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery.

4.5.2 Nearby in the northeast end of the trench, shallow ditch or gully [19/007] was orientated on a broadly east-west axis and had gently sloping sides breaking into an undulating base. Its light grey brown silty clay fill [19/006] had sub-angular flint inclusions and produced a single sherd of probable Bronze Age pottery.

4.5.3 The features were sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [19/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [19/001].

4.6 **Trench 21** (Figure 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28-0.36	65.52- 65.75
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.04-0.11	-
21/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	65.21- 65.46
21/004	Fill	Pit/Tree throw	1.18	0.41	0.10	-
21/005	Fill	Pit/Tree throw	1.18	0.95	0.17	-
21/006	Cut	Pit/Tree throw	1.18	0.99	0.17	65.42

Table 7: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 The trench was orientated on a northeast-southwest axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [21/003] was cut by a single pit or tree throw [21/006] at the northeast end of the trench. This was filled by two consecutive deposits. The earlier of these [21/005] comprised a very dark grey silt clay with frequent charcoal inclusions. The identifiable fragments from sample <2> proved to all be of oak and the lack of ring curvature within the fragments

suggests they derived from large stem or branch wood. It is possible the fragments derive from structural timber. The sampling also produced worked and FCF as well as magnetised material. This fill was overlain by [21/004], a light brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. The feature was sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [21/002] with moderate flint and pebble and inclusions of (probably medieval) roof tile. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [21/001].

4.7 Trench 23 (Figure 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
23/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12	66.04-66.19
23/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.26	-
23/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	65.78- 65.89
23/004	Fill	Pit, upper	1.00	0.70	0.12	-
23/005	Fill	Pit, lower	1.00	0.70	0.10	-
23/006	Cut	Pit	1.00	0.70	0.14	65.83

Table 8: Trench 23 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 The trench was orientated on a northeast-southwest axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [23/003] was cut by a single pit [23/006] and a land drain. The sub-oval pit was filled by two consecutive but unremarkable silty clay fill deposits, [23/005] and [23/004] respectively. The feature was sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [23/002] with moderate flint and pebble and inclusions of (probably medieval) roof tile. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [23/001].

4.8 Trench 26 (Figure 9)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10-0.12	63.58- 63.76
26/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.19	-
26/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.2- 63.42
26/004	Fill	Ditch	1.70	2.40	0.37	-
26/005	Cut	Ditch	1.70	2.40	0.37	63.31
26/006	Fill	Ditch	2.00	0.82	0.46	-
26/007	Cut	Ditch	2.00	0.82	0.46	63.38
26/008	Fill	Gully	2.10	0.65	0.15	-
26/009	Cut	Gully	2.10	0.65	0.15	63.69
26/010	Fill	Posthole	0.26	0.26	0.07	-
26/011	Cut	Posthole	0.26	0.26	0.07	63.21

Table 9: Trench 26 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 The trench was orientated on a broadly northwest-southeast axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [26/003] was cut by a number of features and a single land drain. Crossing the west of the trench on a broadly northeast/southwest alignment, ditch [26/007] had sharply sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by mid-brown grey silty clay [26/006], which produced finds of worked flint, six fragments of medieval pottery dating

between the 11th and earlier 13th centuries, an iron horseshoe nail, animal bone and fragments of fired clay.

4.8.2 A single posthole with a rounded base [26/011] was encountered close to ditch [26/007]. It was filled by a mid-brown grey silty clay with charcoal flecks [26/010] that produced no datable finds.

4.8.3 To the east of the posthole was ditch [26/005] with a fill of light mid-brown silty clay [26/004] and occasional charcoal, chalk and flint inclusions. The fill deposit produced finds of worked flint, six sherd of medieval pottery dating between the 11th and earlier 13th centuries, animal bone, fragments of fired clay (several with wattle impressions) and an oyster shell.

4.8.4 Further east, gully [26/009] had concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled by firm, mid-brown silty clay [26/008] with occasional charcoal, chalk and pebble inclusions. It contained two pieces of fired clay.

4.8.5 The features described above were all sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [26/002] with moderate flint and pebble and finds of medieval pottery and roof tile. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [26/001].

4.9 Trench 27 (Figure 10)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
27/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12-0.15	64.41
27/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18-0.27	-
27/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	64.12-63.93
27/004	Fill	Ditch	1.80	1.88	0.74	-
27/005	Cut	Ditch	1.80	1.88	0.74	64.14

Table 10: Trench 27 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 The trench was orientated on a northwest-southeast axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [27/003] was cut by ditch [27/005] towards the northern end of the trench. The feature had steeply sloping sides breaking into a rounded base. Its single fill comprised a mid-reddish grey silty clay [27/005] with frequent small fragments of charcoal and fired clay. It produced a single sherd of 1st-century AD grog-tempered pottery. The feature was sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [27/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [27/001].

4.10 **Trench 29** (Figure 11)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12-0.13	65.69- 65.78
29/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15-0.17	-
29/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	65.39- 65.42
29/004	Fill	Posthole	0.30	0.30	0.09	-
29/005	Cut	Posthole	0.30	0.30	0.09	65.39

Table 11: Trench 29 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 The trench was orientated on a broadly northwest-southeast axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [29/003] was cut by a single posthole towards the northern end of the trench, [29/005]. The feature had steeply sloping near vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a light brown grey silty clay [29/004] with occasional charcoal flecks and a sherd of pottery likely to be of Bronze Age date. The feature was sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [29/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [29/001].

4.11 **Trench 30** (Figure 12)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
30/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10	65.82-62.85
30/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.06-0.20	-
30/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	65.53-65.62
30/004	Fill	Pit	1.04	0.50	0.07	-
30/005	Cut	Pit	1.04	0.50	0.07	65.70

Table 12: Trench 30 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 The trench was orientated on a northeast-southwest axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [30/003] was cut by a single pit towards the eastern end of the trench, [30/005]. The feature had sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by mid-brown silty clay [30/004] with occasional charcoal flecks. The feature produced medieval pottery and roof tile, and it was sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [30/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [30/001].

4.12 **Trench 32** (Figure 13)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
32/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11-0.12	63.1- 63.23
32/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22-0.25	-
32/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.81- 62.77
32/004	Fill	Gully	1.80	0.80	0.10	-
32/005	Cut	Gully	1.80	0.80	0.10	62.91
32/006	Fill	Posthole	0.30	0.20	0.04	-
32/007	Cut	Posthole	0.30	0.20	0.04	62.89
32/008	Fill	Posthole	0.23	0.23	0.03	-

32/009	Cut	Posthole	0.23	0.23	0.03	62.90
32/010	Fill	Posthole	0.26	0.26	0.03	-
32/011	Cut	Posthole	0.26	0.26	0.03	62.90
32/012	Fill	Gully or Structural Cut	1.50	0.25	0.07	-
32/013	Cut	Gully or Structural Cut	1.50	0.25	0.07	62.88
32/014	Deposit	Dump	8.20	Tr.	0.10	62.90

Table 13: Trench 32 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 The trench was orientated on a broadly northwest-southeast axis. The natural mid-orange brown Boulder Clay [32/003] was cut by a number of archaeological features in the northern half of the trench.

4.12.2 A shallow gully [32/005], orientated broadly northeast-southwest, was filled by a mid-brown grey silt clay with pebble inclusions [32/004]. It produced no datable finds.

4.12.3 Three possible postholes [32/007], [32/009] and [32/011] and a shallow gully or possible structural cut [32/013] were found to truncate a mid-brown grey silt clay dump or trample layer [32/014]. This had inclusions of fired clay, sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal and produced a single sherd of 11th- to earlier 13th-century pottery. The postholes were filled with similar deposits of mid-grey brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions ([32/006], [32/008] and [32/010] respectively). Fills [32/006] and [32/008] produced tiny fragments of fired clay. The gully or structural cut [32/013] was filled by a mid-brown grey silt clay [32/012], which produced finds of FCF and fired clay.

4.12.4 The features described above were sealed by mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [32/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [32/001].

4.13 Trench 33 (Figure 14)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
33/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11-0.13	63.43- 63.96
33/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.19	-
33/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.15- 63.67
33/004	Fill	Ditch	1.80	1.03	0.16	-
33/005	Cut	Ditch	1.80	1.03	0.16	63.59
33/006	Fill	Pit	0.78	0.78	0.09	-
33/007	Cut	Pit	0.78	0.78	0.09	63.18

Table 14: Trench 33 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 The trench was orientated on a northeast-southwest axis. Two features were encountered cutting the natural mid-orange-brown Boulder Clay [33/003] towards either end of the trench.

4.13.2 Located in the northeast of the trench, ditch [33/005] had sharply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled by light grey brown silty clay [33/004], which

contained flint pebble and chalk inclusions and produced two sherds of medieval pottery alongside a residual sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery. Fragments of animal bone were also recovered.

4.13.3 Situated in the southwest of the trench, pit [33/007] was circular in plan and had a single fill that produced no finds.

4.13.4 The features described above were sealed by mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [33/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [33/001].

4.14 Trench 34 (Figure 15)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
34/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10-0.12	64.4- 64.14
34/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18-0.19	-
34/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.84- 64.12
34/004	Fill	Pit	0.90	0.67	0.21	-
34/005	Cut	Pit	0.90	0.67	0.21	64.09
34/006	Fill	Ditch terminus	1.20	1.00	0.21	-
34/007	Cut	Ditch terminus	1.20	1.00	0.21	64.08
34/008	Fill	Gully	Tr.	0.47	0.06	-
34/009	Cut	Gully	Tr.	0.47	0.06	64.09
34/010	Fill	Gully	Tr.	0.33	0.07	-
34/011	Cut	Gully	Tr.	0.33	0.07	64.06
34/012	Fill	Gully	Tr.	0.27	0.05	-
34/013	Cut	Gully	Tr.	0.27	0.05	64.07
34/014	Fill	Pit	0.76	0.24	0.15	-
34/015	Cut	Pit	0.76	0.24	0.15	64.11
34/016	Fill	Ditch, terminus	1.45	0.90	0.11	-
34/017	Cut	Ditch terminus	1.45	0.90	0.11	64.08
34/018	Fill	Pit/Tree throw	0.49	0.43	0.18	-
34/019	Cut	Pit/Tree throw	0.49	0.43	0.18	64.02

Table 15: Trench 34 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 The trench was orientated on a northwest-southeast axis. A number of features were encountered throughout the trench cutting the natural mid-orange-brown Boulder Clay [34/003].

4.14.2 In the northwest of the trench, [34/005] comprised either an ovoid pit or a recut of ditch [34/007]. It was filled by a dark grey-brown silty clay [34/004], which contained frequent marine mollusc shell, moderate inclusions of charcoal and animal bone, and occasional natural flint nodules. Finds recovered from this fill include an assemblage of 139 sherds of medieval pottery dating between the 11th and earlier 13th centuries, an iron horseshoe nail, a modern wire hairgrip, a copper-alloy finger ring, RF<1>, of probable 12th-to 13th-century date, pieces of fired clay and a single residual Late Iron Age/Early Roman sherd. Environmental sample <1> produced some of the artefacts mentioned above as well as charcoal, small quantities of burnt bone, hammerscale and a hulled barley grain.

4.14.3 Ditch terminus [34/007] was truncated by 'pit' [34/005]. It had gradually sloping

sides and a rounded base. It was filled by dark grey brown silty clay [34/006] that contained inclusions of charcoal and natural flint.

4.14.4 Parallel to the ditch terminus described above was shallow gully [34/009]. This was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay with flint, chalk and charcoal inclusions [34/008]. The feature produced two sherds of medieval shell-tempered ware as well as some fragments of marine mollusc. The feature was similar to parallel gullies [34/011] and [34/013] (fills [34/010] and [34/012] respectively) located further to the south, of which [34/013] also produced medieval pottery.

4.14.5 Small pit [34/015] was located immediately to the east of ditch terminus [34/007]. It extended beyond the limit of the trench and produced a few pieces of fired clay.

4.14.6 Located towards the southeast of the trench, ditch terminus [34/017] was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay [34/016] that produced two sherds of medieval pottery, some animal bone and fired clay. It was close to pit or tree throw [34/019] that had irregular sides and its fill [34/018] contained natural flint nodules, charcoal and ceramic building material (CBM) flecks.

4.14.7 The features described above were sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [34/002] with moderate flint and pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by the dark-brown sandy silt topsoil [34/001].

4.15 Trenches 2-12, 15-18, 20, 22, 24-25, 28, 31 and 35 (Figures 16 and 17)

4.15.1 Trenches 2-12, 15-18, 20, 22, 24-25, 28, 31 and 35 were devoid of significant archaeology and encountered a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural. The results are tabulated in Appendix 1. Trench 35 contained residual evidence of medieval activity comprising *c.* 26 pieces of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery situated within the top of a mole drain [35/005]. The material, which relates to the same jar, had likely been dragged into the trench from a feature outside the limit of the excavation or it represents a primary deposit disturbed by the drain.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on land east of Mill Lane, Cressing. 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. Hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 16. A small quantity of material recovered from the residue of environmental samples <1> and <2> is quantified separately in Appendix 2. A single object, assigned a unique registered finds number, is described in section 5.11. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014d).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	FCF	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
1/001					4	88										
1/004			1	2												
1/006			4	12												
3/002					3	118										
5/002					2	10										
6/002					1	48										
7/002					2	26										
8/002					1	82										
12/002					5	62										
13/004			3	8									1	18		
14/004			12	22												
14/007			4	2												
14/009			8	52												
15/002					3	92										
16/001					2	22										
16/002					3	26							1	10		
18/002					1	18										
19/004			4	24							1	10				
19/006			1	14												
19/008			1	2												
20/001					1	14										
20/002					2	42										
21/002					4	102										
23/002					1	34										
24/002					3	32										
25/002					5	36										
26/002			2	5	3	44							2	5		
26/004	1	<2	6	28					9	26			29	190	1	6
26/006	1	4	6	26			1	2	2	6			15	90		
26/008													2	18		
27/004			1	2												
28/002					2	24										
29/002					1	46										
29/003			14	102												
29/004			2	10												

30/002					2	114										
30/004			2	4	2	18										
32/006													1	<2		
32/008													1	<2		
32/012											5	70	1	4		
32/014			1	2									1	<2		
33/004			3	8					3	2						
34/004			135	1508					12	56			4	32		
34/008			2	8											5	18
34/012			1	12												
34/014													5	19		
34/016			2	8					2	24			2	26		
35/005			26	120												
Total	*2*	*4*	*241*	*1981*	*58*	*1185*	*1*	*2*	*28*	*114*	*6*	*80*	*65*	*412*	*6*	*24*

Table 16: Finds quantification

5.2 The Flintwork

5.2.1 Two flakes weighing 4g were recovered from Trench 26 and six fragments of burnt unworked flint weighing 80g were recovered from Trenches 19 and 32. While the thin flake fragment from context [26/004] could pre-date the Middle Bronze Age, the flake from context [26/006] cannot be closely dated.

5.3 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery totalling 84 sherds weighing 364g was recovered from 14 contexts across eight evaluation trenches. There was both prehistoric and early to mid-Roman material present, and most of it was in very poor condition. The prehistoric material is nearly all most likely to be of Bronze Age date; the Roman material of late Iron Age-1st-century AD date.

5.3.2 The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight, estimated vessel number (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) on pro forma records and in an Excel spreadsheet. Prehistoric fabrics were defined using site-specific fabric codes; later Iron Age and Roman fabrics and forms were recorded using the Essex regional type-series (Biddulph *et al*. 2015, incorporating form codes from Going 1987).

Fabric	**Description**	**Sherds**	**Wt (g)**	**ENV**	**EVE**
FLINT	Flint tempered ware, very coarse, ?Bronze Age	28	152	8	
FLINT2	Sandy ware with common medium flint, ?LIA	6	47	2	
BSW1	Black surfaced ware (sand tempered)	7	10	2	
GROG	Grog tempered ware	7	23	5	
GRS	Grey-surfaced sandy wares	35	131	6	0.15
UNK	Unknown/overfired fabric	1	1	1	
Total		*84*	*364*	*24*	*0.15*

Table 17: Prehistoric and Roman pottery fabric descriptions

Bronze Age

5.3.3 Sherds tempered with very coarse flint pieces (FLINT) were recovered primarily from pits [19/009] and [19/005], and ditch [19/007]. These are believed to be of Bronze Age date. Further sherds were retrieved from land drain [1/006], subsoil [29/003] and pit fill [13/004]. The generally poor and abraded condition of the flint-tempered material suggests it is redeposited material.

Late Iron Age/Early Roman

5.3.4 This group of material came predominantly from features in Trench 14 (24 sherds weighing 75g) and comprised mainly of grog-tempered and sandy grey wares that are typical of the 1st century and transitional period. Sherds in a coarse sandy reduced fabric with smaller flint chips (FLINT2) collected from [14/009] may be of Late Iron Age date, but the rest could be of any 1st-century AD date.

5.3.5 Several fragments of the same grey-surfaces G3 jar were collected from [35/005], suggesting a primary deposit, but this was the only context that produced diagnostic vessel sherds. The rest of the material, collected from [1/004], [27/004], [29/004], [33/004] and [25/005] was also in fairly poor condition.

5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Helen Walker

5.4.1 A total of 166 sherds of pottery weighing 1624g was excavated from 12 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). One of Cunningham's rim codes is quoted in this report. The pottery data have been entered onto an Excel spreadsheet and the pottery is tabulated by ware in Table 18.

Pottery by ware	**Sherd No.s**	**Wt (g)**
Shell-tempered ware	36	391
Shell-and-sand-tempered ware	82	768
Early medieval ware	44	439
Hedingham coarseware	3	25
Medieval coarseware	1	1
Total	*166*	*1624*

Table 18: The pottery by ware, sherd count and weight, shown in approximate chronological order

5.4.2 Most of the pottery came from pit fill [34/004], which produced 93% of the total assemblage by weight. Virtually all the pottery is medieval comprising finds of shell-tempered ware, shell-and-sand-tempered ware and early medieval ware. All three wares were produced from the 11th to the earlier 13th century, with shell-tempered ware possibly going out of use a little earlier than the other wares. Identifiable vessel forms comprise:

- The base and sides of a large storage jar in shell-tempered ware showing a vertical applied strip decorated with pinched thumbing, accompanied by zigzag and straight line combed decoration at either side of the strip. Such vessels were produced throughout the 12th century (Cotter 2000, fig.42).

- A fragment from a ?bowl with a slightly flanged down-turned rim in shell-tempered ware

- The remains of three cooking-pots with thickened everted rims, two in shell-and-sand-tempered ware showing external fire-blackening and one in early medieval ware. This rim type is present from the 11th century but continues into the earlier 13th century.

- A beaded cooking-pot rim in early medieval ware, a type datable to the 12th century

5.4.3 In addition to the vessels described above, there are a number of rim sherds that are too fragmented to assign a vessel type. These comprise an externally bevelled rim, a type produced from the 11th century onwards, and further examples of thickened everted and beaded rims. The most closely datable pieces in this pit fill are the storage jar and the beaded cooking-pot rim both belonging to the 12th century and all the other vessels/rims could have been current at this time. However, also present is a single sherd of medieval coarseware weighing only 1g, dating no earlier than *c*. 1200, and a thin-walled vessel in Hedingham coarseware, which has a squared rim and a hollowed neck. This is unlikely to be earlier than mid-/late 13th century. On closer inspection, this rim is rather abraded and the pottery from the rest of the group is not, suggesting that this vessel and perhaps the sliver of medieval coarseware are intrusive.

5.4.4 The remaining assemblage is similar to that from pit fill [34/004], with virtually all contexts producing small amounts of shell-tempered ware, shell-and-sand-tempered ware and early medieval ware (see Appendix 2, the Pottery Data table). The only rim sherd comprises a flat-topped rim in early medieval ware from ditch fill [26/004], another type present from the 11th century onwards. However, two contexts produced pottery that might be a little later: gully fill [24/012] produced a B2 rim in early medieval ware, a rim type datable to *c.* 1200, and pit fill [13/004] produced sherds of Hedingham coarseware most likely dating to the late 12th or 13th century.

Discussion

5.4.5 The bulk of the assemblage is datable to the 12th century with slight evidence of activity in the 13th century. The assemblage consists only of coarsewares with no finewares present, although this may be a reflection of the early date of the pottery rather than the function of the site, as medieval fineware pottery does not appear until the mid-12th century. The coarseware assemblage is typical in that it comprises mainly cooking-pots with a smaller number of other vessels, including single examples of a bowl and a storage jar. Cooking-pots were probably general-purpose vessels but signs of fire blackening around the rims and shoulders of these vessels show they were indeed heated. Large storage jars were used for the storage and transportation of foodstuffs, such

as grain, as they were more rodent-proof than wicker baskets or woven sacks (Kilmurry 1980, 27-8). The pottery supply appears entirely local, although the only pottery that can be assigned a source is Hedingham coarseware, which was manufactured at production sites in and around Sible Hedingham and Halstead about 10km to the north of Cressing.

5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 Fifty-eight pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 1185g were collected from 20 individual contexts, a large quantity of which comprised topsoil or subsoil layers. Some of the CBM was too broken to be identified as a particular form. The assemblage is predominantly of post-medieval date, although some roof tile fragments may be residual medieval material.

5.5.2 All the CBM was quantified by form, weight and fabric, and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel database. Fabric descriptions (see Table 19) were developed with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size of inclusions as fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (up to 0.25 and 0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm).

5.5.3 The bulk of the assemblage in terms of quantity was made up of roof tile fragments in three fabrics. Of these, T2 was a generic red clay with varying amounts of quartz. It was generally quite hard fired and in good condition compared to the bulk of the other material, which could suggest a more recent date.

5.5.4 T1 and T3 were both very different fabrics; T1 was very fine and not very hard fired, whereas T3 was very hard and one of the two fragments of T3 was vitrified solid. The coarseness of T3 is typical of medieval roof tiles, but T1 was very similar to Museum of London fabric 3090, which is often medieval in date. A fragment of T1 tile represents the only stratified fragment of roof tile; it was collected from [30/004].

5.5.5 None of the fragments identified as brick had any surviving original surfaces. Four brick fabric types were identified, of which one — B2 — may in fact be fragments of abraded hard-fired clay. The B1 and B4 fragments both looked to be of earlier post-medieval date and are likely to be residual. The larger pieces of B3 looked more recent in date and may be modern building debris.

5.5.6 A single fragment of black-glazed floor tile was also recovered, from [25/002]. It is unlikely to be of any date earlier than the Victorian period.

Fabric	Description
Roof tile fabrics	
T1	Moderate very small black iron oxide grains and small quartz. Occasional larger red iron oxide and clay inclusions. (Similar to MOLA 3090)
T2	Generic red sandy fabric. (MOLA 2586)
T3	Coarse fabric with mixed quartz including very coarse quartz (?medieval)
Brick fabrics	
B1	Red fabric with common calcareous speckle; moderate calcareous inclusions and very coarse clay pellets up to 3mm.
B2	Beige and pink or orange clay, poorly mixed; clay inclusions up to 5mm. Sparse quartz. (Finer version cream and pink)
B3	Fairly hard-fired sandy red fabric; moderate quantities of unsorted quartz.
B4	Fine red-orange fabric with common quartz, sparse calcium carbonate and black iron oxide.
Floor tile fabrics	
FT1	Slightly micaceous hard red-orange fabric with moderate-common quartz.

Table 19: CBM fabric descriptions

5.6 **The Fired Clay** by Trista Clifford

5.6.1 A small assemblage of fired clay weighing a total of 412g was recovered from ten separate contexts. Material weighing 151g was also retrieved from the >8mm fraction of environmental sample <1>.

5.6.2 Fabrics were assessed under x20 magnification; three distinct fabric groups are present (Table 20).

Fabric	Description
1	Common rounded coarse quartz, frequent medium/ coarse to very coarse chalk up to 10mm, sparse to moderate grassy voids.
2	Micaceous, fine sand tempered with sparse iron rich inclusions and sparse coarse rounded quartz.
3	Moderate medium quartz, moderate coarse quartz, sparse to moderate calcareous speckle.

Table 20: Fired clay fabric descriptions

5.6.3 The vast majority of the assemblage is made up of pieces in Fabric 1, recovered from eight contexts. The most common diagnostic characteristics are flat surfaces and wattle impressions. Several fragments from [26/004] exhibit these characteristics and two parallel wattle impressions on the largest fragment measure 14mm and 16mm in diameter. This material is likely to derive from structural daub.

5.6.4 Fabric 2 is only present in [16/002]. This piece exhibits one flat surface but is otherwise undiagnostic. Context [13/004] produced one fragment in Fabric 3, the corner of a larger object, but again this is not sufficient to ascribe a function.

5.7 The Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 Two iron 'fiddle key' type horseshoe nails of medieval date were recovered from [26/006] and [34/004]. The heads of both examples have been worn to a T-shape through use and these probably represent isolated casual losses. Context [34/004] also produced a modern wire hairgrip, which is likely to be intrusive (or possibly a post excavation contaminant since it was recovered from environmental sample <1>).

5.8 The Metallurgical Remains by Elena Baldi

5.8.1 Very small amounts of magnetic material were recovered from the flotation of samples <1> and <2>, collected respectively from contexts [34/004] and [21/005], from <2 and 2-4 mm sieves, totalling to ca. 2.5 grams in weight.

5.8.2 The material was recovered from the environmental residues, exclusively from magnetic collection, and analysed using a binocular microscope (x40).

5.8.3 The analysis of the material recovered from sample <1> totalled to 50+ magnetic fragments from the >2 sieve measuring 2-6 mm and 500+ fragments from the lower grade sieve. Only one fragment measuring 4x3 mm and ca. 20 specks recovered from the lower grade sieve can be identified as hammerscale (although the latter only constitute <5% of the whole sample). The remainder is identifiable as tiny specks of ferruginous stone and sandstone, which had undergone a burning process. These are not diagnostic.

5.8.4 The analysis of sample <2> records 30+ fragments collected from each sieve. All can be identified as natural occurring ferruginous stone and sandstone that had undergone a burning process and is therefore undiagnostic.

5.8.5 Hammerscale is created by the smithing process. However, the small quantity recovered is not sufficient to identify industrial activity at the site.

5.9 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

5.9.1 A small assemblage of faunal remains was hand collected during the evaluation. This was recovered from 11th- to 13th-century ditch and pit fills in Trench 26 ([26/004], [26/006]), Trench 33 ([33/004]) and Trench 34 ([34/004], [34/016]). The assemblage was in a reasonable state of preservation but fragmentary and as a result, the majority of fragments could only be identified as a large or medium sized mammal. This material included fragments of long bones, ribs, a mandible and vertebrae. A single cattle calcaneous was identified as well as two juvenile pig innominate bones. No evidence of butchery or pathology was noted.

5.9.2 Although too small to offer many observations, the assemblage is consistent with domestic occupation, representing both food and butchery waste.

5.10 **The Shell** by Trista Clifford

5.10.1 A small assemblage of marine mollusc weighing 360g in total was recovered by hand and from bulk environmental sample <1> [34/004]. Three species were identified: common oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and two species of whelk: common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) and dog whelk (*Hinia incrassata*). The latter is inedible.

5.10.2 The common oyster assemblage comprises a minimum of 22 individuals and includes both very mature and immature specimens. Grant sponge (*Cliona celata*) borings were noted on one mature valve from [26/004].

5.10.3 Context [34/004] <1> produced 17 common whelk shells. This is an edible species, however, only two were mature and five immature of a size suitable for eating. This may have implications for interpreting the reasons for their selection. Nine dog whelk shells were also recovered; these inhabit a similar coastal zone to the common whelk and they may have been mistaken for immature common whelk specimens during collection.

5.11 **The Registered Finds** by Trista Clifford

5.11.1 A copper-alloy finger ring, RF<1>, came from context [34/004]. The ring is formed from a circular sectioned wire, which tapers to a flattened point at both terminals. The terminals overlap to form the ring. The ring has an external diameter of 20.1mm and an internal diameter of 15mm. A similar example of 12th- to 13th-century date is recorded from Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig.1.1).

6.0 The Environmental Samples by Stacey Adams

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During the archaeological evaluation at Mill Lane, two samples were taken from pits [34/005] and [21/006] for the recovery of environmental remains, such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca, as well as to assist finds retrieval. The following report details the preservation of the charred plant material and discusses its potential to inform on the diet, arable economy and local environment of the site, as well as fuel selection and use. The potential for the future recovery of further archaeobotanical remains is also considered.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 The 40L flotation samples were processed, in their entirety, by flotation tank with a 250µm mesh for retention of the flot and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue, before being air-dried. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 3). 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 4). Where necessary, a 100ml subsample of the flot was scanned. Provisional identification of the charred remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild species, and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for cereals.

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residues were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 500x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000; Schoch *et al.* 2004; Schweingruber 1990). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Ten fragments were submitted for identification from pit [21/006] as it contained >3g of charcoal from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residues. Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 3 and nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

Samples <1> (34/004) [34/005] and <2> (21/005) [21/006].

6.3.1 Artefactual material extracted from both sampled features at Cressing included fired clay, FCF and magnetic material. Worked flint was extracted from pit [21/006], whilst pit [34/005] contained frequent pottery fragments, a copper-alloy ring and an iron nail. Charcoal fragments were present within both pits

[34/005] and [21/006], although only the latter contained a sufficient quantity (>3g from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue) to be submitted for identification. Pit [34/005] was rich in environmental material and consisted of occasional animal bone, small quantities of burnt bone and frequent marine mollusc shell.

6.3.2 The flots consisted mostly of uncharred material of modern roots and wood and straw fragments, as well as recent seeds of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*). Abundant fragments of marine mollusc shell and a lithic fragment were present in the flot from pit [34/005]. Both flots contained frequent charcoal fragments.

Charred Plant Macrofossils

6.3.3 Well-preserved charred plant macrofossils were present in both flots, albeit in small numbers. A single hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain was identified in pit [34/005], as well as a small legume (Fabaceae) and an oat (*Avena* sp.) caryopsis. Pit [31/005] contained a seed of the knotweed family (Polygonaceae) and a cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.) seed.

Charcoal

6.3.4 Preservation of the charcoal was moderate; although all fragments were identifiable, they were severely affected by vitrification, a process that distorts the wood charcoal giving it a glassy appearance (Prior and Alvin 1983). All of the charcoal from pit [21/006] was oak (*Quercus* sp.) and the lack of ring curvature within the fragments suggests it derived from large stem or branch wood.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The environmental samples from Cressing contributed to the artefactual assemblage with the addition of flint, pottery, an iron nail and a copper-alloy ring. The animal bone, burnt bone and marine molluscs are excellent environmental indicators and inform on the diet and economy of the site.

6.4.2 The uncharred roots and wood and straw fragments within the flots may indicate a certain level of modern contamination. The several well-preserved charred plant macrofossils indicate the potential for small-scale, domestic cereal processing at Cressing and the identification of weed seeds may provide ecological data and information regarding the arable regime.

6.4.3 The vitrified condition of the oak charcoal from Cressing is suggestive of prolonged burning and it is possible that, from the lack of ring curvature in the wood, it derives from structural timber. The charcoal from this particular sample does not provide information on the local environment as oak is not a strong ecological indicator (Rodwell 1991; Polunin and Walters 1985).

6.4.4 Overall, the archaeological material from the environmental samples adds significant information regarding the diet and economy of the site and provides addition artefactual evidence. The potential for the recovery of informative environmental material during further investigations is high and it is therefore recommended that future excavations focus on the sampling of secure primary

features. The charred plant macrofossils from the flots would not require additional analysis as the few remains were quantified during evaluation; these results could be referred to in any future work

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of Stratigraphic Sequence

7.1.1 The general stratigraphy remained consistent across the site generally comprising *c.* 0.10-0.15m of topsoil overlying *c*. 0.10-0.20m of subsoil, which sealed the natural Boulder Clay. The height of the natural and archaeological horizon varied from 62.07m OD (Trench 1) in the west of the site to 65.97m OD (Trench 18) in the east.

7.1.2 Thirteen trenches contained archaeological features, mainly comprising ditches, gullies, pits and postholes. There was a noticeable concentration of features in the southern corner (Trenches 13, 14, 19, 26, 27, 33 and 34). More dispersed and less well-dated features were found elsewhere. In the main, the activity appeared to date to the medieval period (11th-earlier 13th centuries), however, a number of 1st-century AD and probable Bronze Age features were also present.

7.1.3 The site's position at the top of a slope above the River Brain may have encouraged past activity. During the medieval period, the site's proximity to the moated site at Hawbush Farm and the modern B1018, which likely led to the manorial centre of Cressing Temple, may explain the relative density of activity of this date encountered at the site as opposed to other periods.

7.1.4 The archaeological evaluation fulfilled its purpose in establishing the general existence of archaeological remains within the site. The sample size allows some confidence in the results, which are thought to be a good indicator of the relative density of archaeological remains across the site (see section 7.1.2).

7.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts

7.2.1 The archaeological features appeared to be reasonably well preserved, although it is likely that negligible amounts of rooting and ploughing had occurred across the site. The latter was demonstrated by the presence of a subsoil and artefacts within unstratified overburden contexts (probably introduced via manuring). The archaeological horizon had also been affected by the presence of land drains.

7.2.2 An area of the site was not evaluated due to the presence of overhead power lines.

7.3 Discussion of Archaeological Remains by Period

Bronze Age?

7.3.1 A number of probable Bronze Age features were encountered within the site. A particular concentration of these (two pits and a ditch or gully) were revealed in Trench 19. A further, albeit poorly dated, feature of likely Bronze Age date was encountered in Trench 29. The features may be indicative of an emerging Bronze Age presence in the Brain Valley as indicated by archaeological work associated with the Cressing to Terling pipeline (see section 2.2.2).

Late Iron Age/Early Roman

7.3.2 Trenches 14 and 27 contained features indicative of low level occupation and agricultural activity during this period within the site. The pottery associated with this phase is more indicative of a post-Conquest 1st-century AD date than an Iron Age period of activity (Isa Benedetti-Whitton, *pers. comm*.), however, sherds in a coarse sandy reduced fabric with smaller flint chips (FLINT2) collected from [14/009] may be of Late Iron Age date. The activity is in keeping with known remains from the wider area, including those found at All Saints Church (see section 2.2.3), although the remains found within the site appear to be of a less intensive nature. The area around Cressing seems to have been reasonably well cleared and populated during the Roman period and it should be noted that the activity in Trench 14 has the potential to relate to either a small enclosure or a timber built structure of some kind. The ditch encountered within Trench 27 on the other hand appears to be a typical field boundary.

7.3.3 Pottery of this date also occurred as residual finds within medieval features indicating some disturbance of 1st-century AD remains during the Middle Ages.

Medieval (11th-earlier 13th century)

7.3.4 A concentration of medieval activity, indicative of an 11th- to earlier 13th-century date, was encountered in the south of the site in Trenches 26 and 32-34 close to Mill Lane. The remains are indicative of agricultural and potential settlement activity with possible structural remains encountered in Trenches 32 and 34. As well as the possible wall trenches/beam slots encountered in these trenches, the presence of structural daub with wattle impressions and medieval tile found across the site may be indicative of earlier medieval occupation. The presence of rubbish deposition exemplified by pit or ditch recut [34/005] should also be noted in this regard, as perhaps should the potential charred timber found within pit or tree throw [21/006] (although there was no indication that the latter feature was medieval in date.

7.3.5 The area around Cressing is well known for its medieval remains and the proximity of a moated site at Hawbush Farm to the east is indicative of the archaeological potential for remains of this period within the vicinity.

7.3.6 The pottery assemblage sheds light on the origins and development of Cressing and may be of use when comparing pottery from different site types, as it could be used in comparison with the medieval pottery assemblage from the nearby Templars' agricultural estate at Cressing Temple. The decoration on the shell-tempered ware storage jar is fairly unusual and merits illustration. The pottery assemblage recovered during this evaluation should be assessed with any additional recovered pottery should further work be required.

Undated

7.3.7 A number of undated pits, postholes, ditches and natural features were encountered across the site.

7.4 Consideration of Research Aims

7.4.1 The archaeological evaluation succeeded in its general aims of determining the presence of archaeological remains within the site. Features of probable Bronze Age, Late Iron Age/Early Roman and medieval date were encountered with a particular concentration in the south of the site in Trenches 13, 14, 19, 26, 27, 33 and 34. The remains appear to be reasonably well preserved and are indicative of agricultural activity and occupation.

7.4.2 There was evidence of prehistoric activity at the site, probably dating to the Bronze Age period, although rare finds of flintwork may be indicative of transient earlier activity. Pottery from Trench 14 appears to be indicative of a Late Iron Age date.

7.4.3 Evidence of Roman 1st-century AD agricultural activity was encountered in Trenches 14 and 27. The remains in Trench 14 have the potential to be related to a small enclosure or perhaps a timber structure. Residual finds of 1st-century AD pottery were encountered in medieval features.

7.4.4 With reference to the East Anglian research framework (Medlycott 2011):

- *On sites during the Iron Age/Romano British transition, does the evidence suggest a seamless transition or a change in use of the land or farmstead, or continued occupation of the site but a change in building-types or agricultural practice?* (Medlycott 2011, 31)

  The evaluation succeeded in establishing the presence of archaeological activity dating to the Iron Age/Romano British transition. Currently little more can be determined in relation to the specific research question, however, the site has demonstrated the potential to aid research in this area and is of at least local significance.

- *How far can the size and shape of fields be related to the agricultural regimes identified?* (Medlycott 2011, 47)

  Though probable field boundaries of Romano British and medieval date were encountered at the site, these could not be spatially analysed given the limited exposure. Boundaries did not appear to extend into surrounding trenches and little can be conjectured regarding the associated field pattern.

- *Is there any evidence of Roman settlement activity? Specifically, to inform on settlement typology?* (Medlycott 2011, 47)

  The site identified possible settlement activity and has potential to inform settlement typology should further work be required.

7.5 Updated Research Agenda

7.5.1 The site retains potential to aid research in relation to the East Anglian research framework (Medlycott 2011) identified during the preceding WSI (ASE 2017) and these research aims should be retained should further work be required. Perhaps the most significant remains at the site, however, belonged to the

medieval period and a number of updated research aims have been identified below:

- *What forms do farms take, what range of building-types are present and how far can functions be attributed to them?* (Medlycott 2011, 70)

- *How far can the size and shape of fields be related to agricultural regimes?* (Medlycott 2011, 70)

7.6 Conclusions

7.6.1 The archaeological evaluation has succeeded in identifying archaeological remains belonging to the Prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Early Roman and medieval periods. Dated remains appeared to be largely confined to the southern part of the site and likely represent agricultural activity perhaps with settlement activity in the Romano-British and particularly medieval periods.

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HER Summary

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Site name/Address: Land East of Mill Lane, Cressing, Essex,CM77 8HN</td></tr>
<tr><td>Parish: Cressing</td><td>District: Braintree</td></tr>
<tr><td>NGR: 578060 220368</td><td>Site Code: CRML17</td></tr>
<tr><td>Type of Work: Trial-trench evaluation</td><td>Site Director/Group: S. Ritchie / Archaeology South-East</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date of Work: 06-14 November 2017</td><td>Size of Area Investigated: 1.0ha</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location of Finds/Curating Museum: ASE / Braintree Museum</td><td>Funding source: Developer</td></tr>
<tr><td>Further Seasons Anticipated?: unk.</td><td>Related HER No’s:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Final Report: Grey lit</td><td>OASIS No: 302736</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Periods Represented: Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Archaeological trial-trench evaluation was carried out in advance of residential development of the site.

The evaluation identified archaeological remains belonging to the prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and medieval periods. Dated remains appeared to be largely confined to the southern part of the site and likely represent agricultural activity perhaps with settlement activity in the Romano-British and particularly medieval periods.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Previous Summaries/Reports:
ASE 2016. Land between Mill Lane and Braintree Road, Tye Green, Cressing, Essex. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Archaeology South-East, Unpub. Rep. 2016134</td></tr>
<tr><td>Author of Summary: A. Margetts</td><td>Date of Summary: 07/12/2017</td></tr>
</table>

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: 302736

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation, Land East of Mill Lane, Cressing Essex, CM77 8HN
Short description of the project	*Archaeological trial-trench evaluation was carried out in advance of residential development of the site.The evaluation identified archaeological remains belonging to the prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and medieval periods. Dated remains appeared to be largely confined to the southern part of the site and likely represent agricultural activity perhaps with settlement activity in the Romano-British and particularly medieval periods.*
Project dates	Start: 06-11-2017 End: 14-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CRML17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	FEATURES Bronze Age
Monument type	FEATURES Roman
Monument type	FEATURES Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	DAUB Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	FINGER RING Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE CRESSING Land East of Mill Lane, Cressing
Postcode	CM77 8HN

Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7807 2038 51.85306611092 0.585865623667 51 51 11 N 000 35 09 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 62.07m Max: 65.97m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Sarah Ritchie
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation, Land East of Mill Lane, Cressing Essex, CM77 8HN
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Margetts, A.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No: 2017491
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Eval Report

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.11	63.22-63.76
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.23-0.31	-
2	2/003	Layer	Natural	-	62.90-62.99
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.13-0.16	64.48-64.91
3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.19	-
3	3/003	Layer	Natural	-	64.14-64.54
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12	65.03-65.34
4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.18-0.20	-
4	4/003	Layer	Natural	-	64.76-64.98
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12-0.18	65.49-65.72
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.22	-
5	5/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.22-65.38
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12-0.14	65.67-65.89
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.19-0.22	-
6	6/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.43-65.59
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.13-0.14	63.47-64.04
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.20	-
7	7/003	Layer	Natural	-	63.2-63.73
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.11-0.13	65.41-65.75
8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.19-0.20	-
8	8/003	Layer	Natural	-	64.21-64.46
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12-0.15	65.05-65.26
9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20	-
9	9/003	Layer	Natural	-	64.71-64.98
10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.15	64.09-64.46
10	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.20	-
10	10/003	Layer	Natural	-	63.83-64.21
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.15	65-80-65.97
11	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.19	-
11	11/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.44-65.68
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.13	65.94-66.18
12	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.25	-
12	12/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.69-65.77
15	15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.08-0.13	65.46-65.58
15	15/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20	-
15	15/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.15-65.26
16	16/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.06-0.11	65.63-65.89
16	16/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20	-
16	16/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.29-65.58
17	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10	66.02-66.06
17	17/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.19-0.20	-
17	17/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.67-65.74
18	18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.13	66.18-66.24
18	18/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20-0.23	-
18	18/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.86-65.97
20	20/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.16	65.33-65.35
20	20/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.18	-
20	20/003	Layer	Natural	-	64.99-65.06
22	22/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.15	65.95-66.01
22	22/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.20	-

22	22/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.69-65.71
24	24/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12	66.14-66.26
24	24/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16-0.20	-
24	24/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.89-65.95
25	25/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.11	66.18-66.30
25	25/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.20	-
25	25/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.85-65.95
28	28/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.16	65.23-65.60
28	28/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20-0.25	-
28	28/003	Layer	Natural	-	64.94-65.25
31	31/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.13	66.18-66.21
31	31/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.18	-
31	31/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.85
35	35/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.31	65.02-65.42
35	35/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.03-0.09	-
35	35/003	Layer	Natural	-	64.83-65.14

Appendix 2: Medieval pottery data

Context	Feature	Fabric	Form	Sub-form	Diagnostic features/comments	Abrasion	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (g)	Date
13/004	pit	Hedingham coarseware			Hedingham coarseware: joining sherds from shoulder of vessel		2	6	mid-12th to mid-14th C
26/002	layer	early medieval ware			Early medieval ware?: joining body sherds, fabric not typical, could be from an earlier period		2	5	11th to earlier 13th C?
26/004	ditch	shell-tempered ware		rim: A2	Shell-tempered ware: flat-topped rim		2	7	11th C or later - up to earlier 13th C
26/004	ditch	early medieval ware			Early medieval ware: body sherds, three of which join		4	22	11th to earlier 13th C
26/006	ditch	shell-tempered ware			Shell-tempered ware: body sherds two of which join		3	8	11th to earlier 13th C
26/006	ditch	shell-and-sand-tempered ware			Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: body sherd		1	3	11th to earlier 13th C
26/006	ditch	early medieval ware			Early medieval ware: body sherds		2	16	11th to earlier 13th C
30/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware			Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: abraded body sherds with most of shell leached out		2	4	11th to earlier 13th C
32/014	dump	shell-and-sand-tempered ware			Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: body sherd, abraded	abraded	1	2	11th to earlier 13th C

33/004	ditch	shell-and-sand-tempered ware			Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: small abraded sherd	abraded	1	2	11th to earlier 13th C
33/004	ditch	early medieval ware			Early medieval ware: body sherd		1	4	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	shell-tempered ware	jar: storage	decorated	Shell-tempered ware: sherds from base and sides of storage jar showing vertical applied strip decorated with pinched thumbing and combed decoration at either side in the form of vertical lines and horizontal zigzag lines		6	121	12th C
34/004	pit	shell-tempered ware	cooking-pot	rim: beaded	Shell-tempered ware: everted beaded rim from cooking-pot		1	21	12th C
34/004	pit	shell-tempered ware	bowl	rim: E6	Shell-tempered ware: ?bowl frag showing slightly flanged down-turned rim, fire-blackened or reduced internally		1	10	12th C
34/004	pit	shell-tempered ware		flat base	Shell-tempered ware: sherds from a flat base perhaps belonging to a bowl		5	103	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	shell-tempered ware		decorated	Shell-tempered ware: body sherds showing bands of incised horizontal lines, probably from the same vessel		3	21	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	shell-tempered ware			Shell-tempered ware: misc. body sherds		14	98	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware	cooking-pot	rim: B1A	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: joining sherds from rim and upper half of a cooking-pot, thickened everted rim, shows typical fire-blackening around rim and shoulder, rim type present from 11th C		8	147	11th to earlier 13th C

34/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware	cooking-pot	rim: B1A	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: joining sherds from rim and shoulder of a cooking-pot, thickened everted rim,patches of fire-blackening on shoulder, rim type present from 11th C		6	81	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware		rim: B1A	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: thickened everted rim frag most likely from a cooking-pot		1	29	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware		rim: B1A	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: thickened everted rim frag from cooking-pot or bowl		1	15	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware		rim: A4	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: externally bevelled rim frag most likely from a cooking-pot		1	14	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware		rim: C3	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: fragments from small cooking-pot or bowl showing beaded rim with internal thickening		3	16	12th C
34/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware		rim: C1	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: beaded rim from cooking-pot or bowl		1	26	12th C
34/004	pit	shell-and-sand-tempered ware			Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: base and body sherds, some belonging to same vessels		53	419	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	early medieval ware	cooking-pot	rim: B1A	Early medieval ware: joining sherds from thickened everted cooking-pot rim		2	84	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	early medieval ware		rim: C3	Early medieval ware: beaded rim with internal thickening, abraded, thin-walled borderline medieval coarseware		1	16	12th C

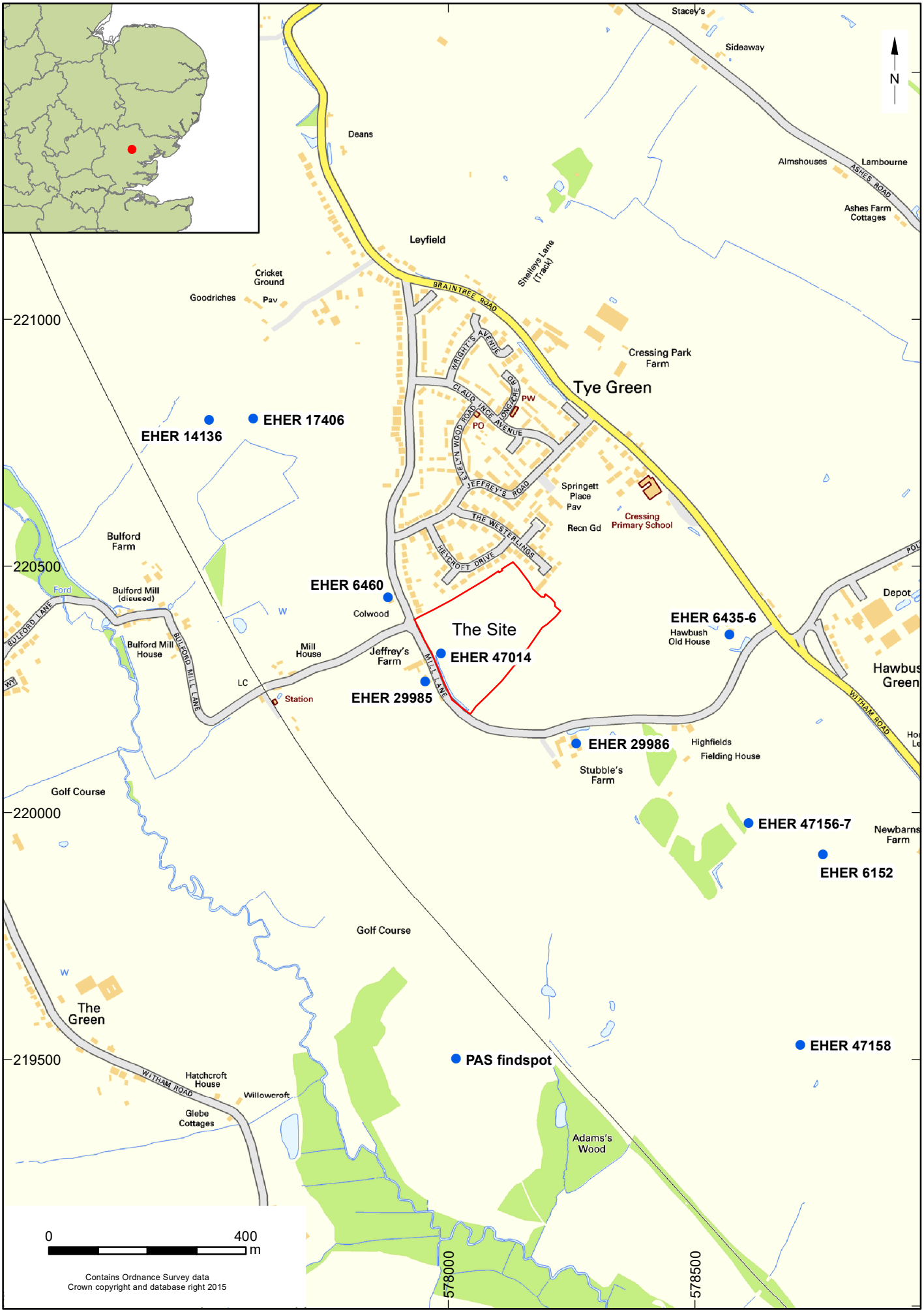
34/004	pit	early medieval ware		decorated	Early medieval ware: misc. sherds with rilled surfaces		8	131	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	early medieval ware			Early medieval ware: base and body sherds		22	145	11th to earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	Hedingham coarseware		rim: H2	Medieval coarseware: squared rim above hollowed everted neck, from thin-walled vessel, abraded, appears wheel-thrown, patches of fire-blackening around rim and neck	abraded	1	19	?earlier 13th C
34/004	pit	Medieval coarseware			Medieval coarseware: body sherd		1	1	later 12th to 14th C
34/008	gully	shell-and-sand-tempered ware			Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: body sherd		1	2	11th to earlier 13th C
34/012	gully	early medieval ware		rim: B2A	Early medieval ware: B2A rim from cooking-pot or bowl		1	11	c.1200
34/014	pit	shell-tempered ware			Shell-tempered ware: small abraded sherd		1	2	11th to earlier 13th C
34/016	ditch teminus	shell-and-sand-tempered ware			Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: joining body sherds		2	8	11th to earlier 13th C
34/016	ditch teminus	early medieval ware			Early medieval ware: body sherd		1	5	11th to earlier 13th C
							166	**1624**	

Appendix 3: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams. Preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Preservation	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	34/004	Pit [34/005]	40	**	1	**	3			**	66	*	1	*	1	*	<1	***	35	Pot (***/219g) F.Clay (***/148g) FCF (**/114g) Cu Ring (*/2g) Fe (*/3g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (**/3g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/3g)
2	21/005	Pit [21/006]	40	***	26	****	30	*Quercus* sp. (10) [V:10]	++											Flint (*/38g) F.Clay (*/1g) FCF (*/16g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (*/<1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**/<1g)

Appendix 4: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250). Preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

Sample Number	Context/ Parent Context	Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop Seeds Charred	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred	Preservation	Marine Mollusc Fragments	Lithics
1	34/004 [34/005]	18	120	100	90	*Chenopodium album* **	*	**	****	*Hordeum vulgare* (hulled) (1)	+++	*Avena* sp. (1) Fabaceae (small) (1)	+++	****	*
2	21/005 [21/006]	23	150	100	80	*Chenopodium album* *	**	***	****			*Potentilla* sp. (1) Polygonaceae (1)	+++		



© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Site location and selected HER references	
Report No: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

578000, 220530

N

HEYCROFT DRIVE

OH electric + 10m buffer

62.6m

62.6m

62.8m

GP

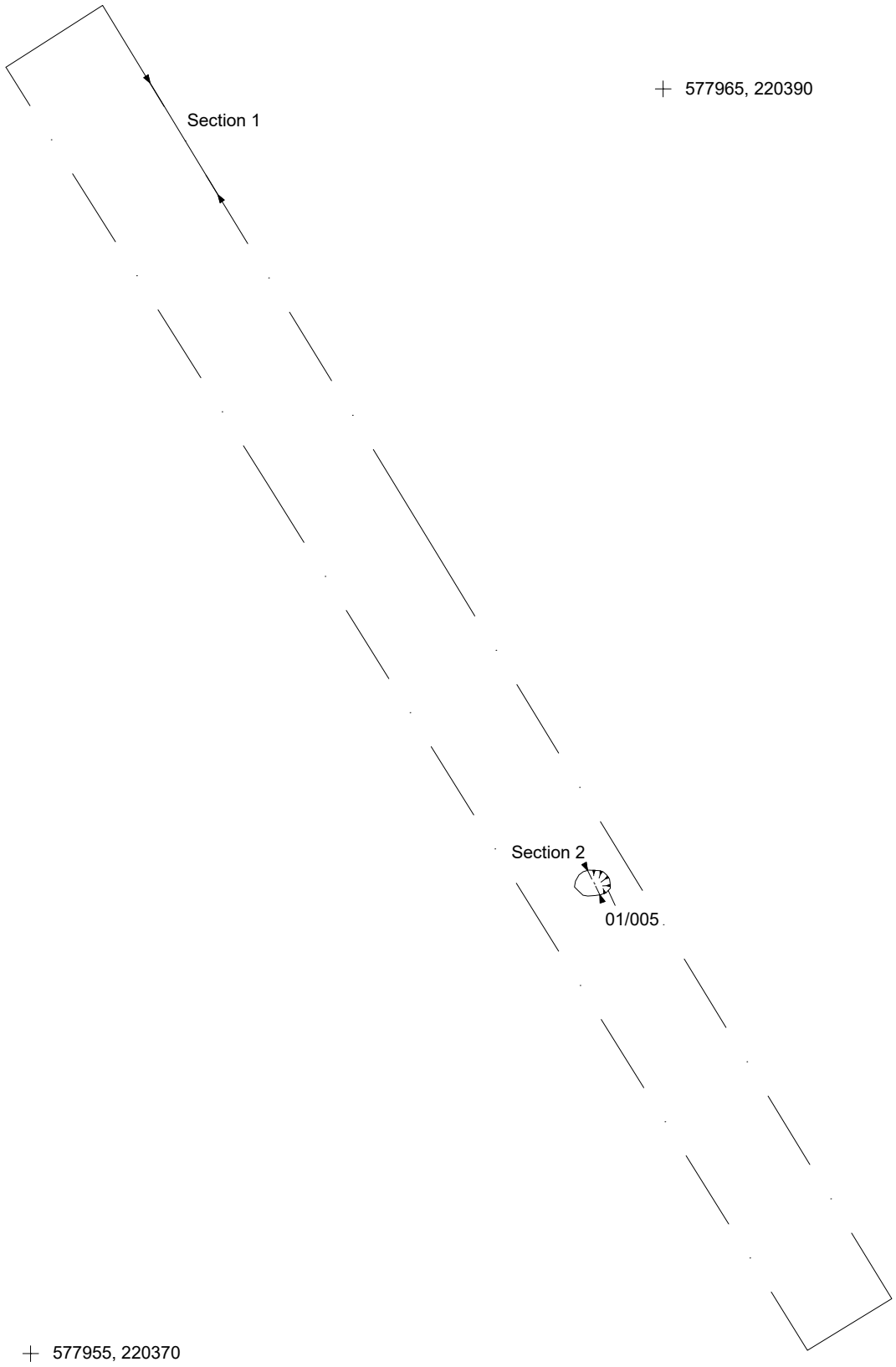
60.9m

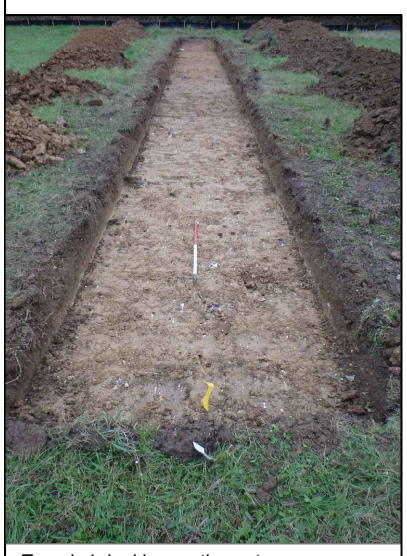
578150, 220260

Bronze Age
Late Iron Age / Early Roman
Medieval (11th-13th century)

0 20m

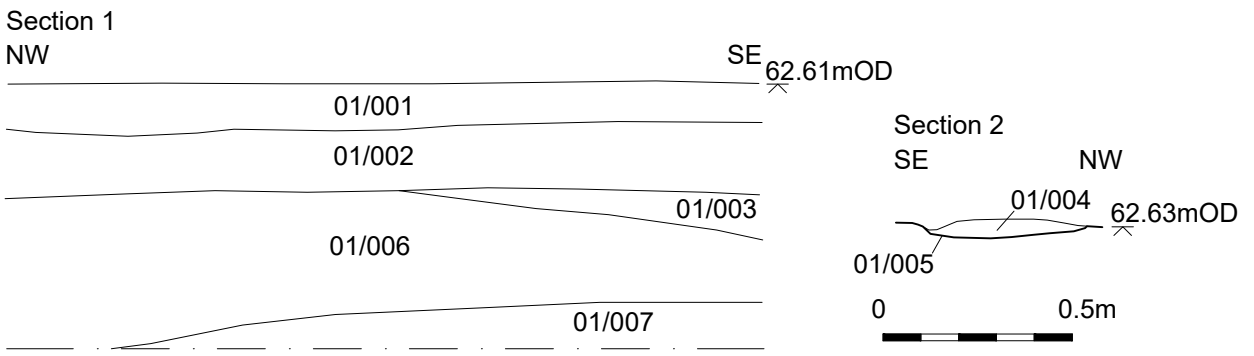
© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench plan	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		





Trench 1, looking north west

Pit 01/005, looking west



© **Archaeology South-East**		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 1 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

N

578000, 220330

577985, 220320

Section 3

13/005

Trench 13, looking north west

Pit 13/005, looking west

Section 3

SE NW

62.58mOD

13/004

13/005

0 0.5m

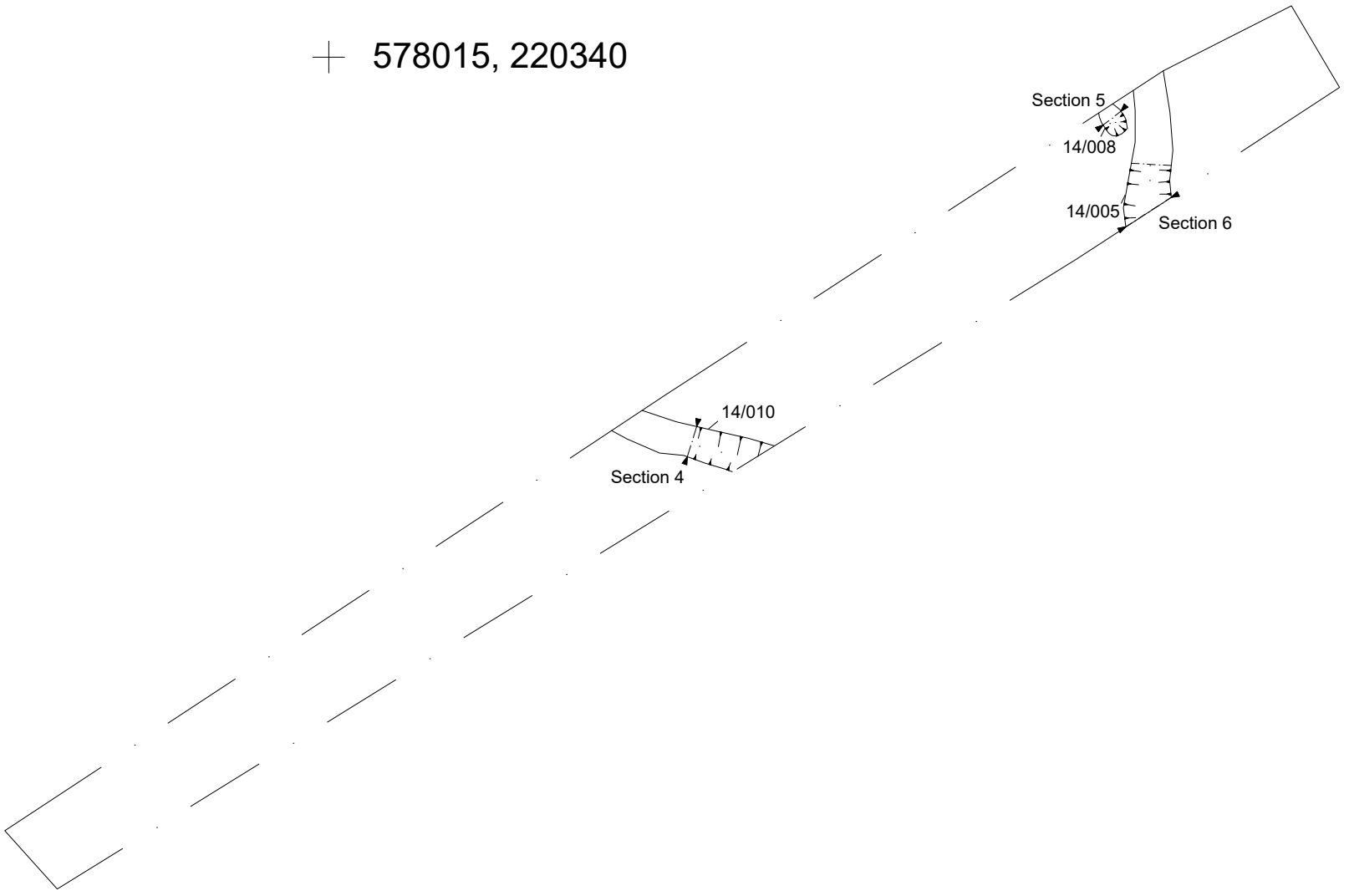
578000, 220300

0 2m

© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 13 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

N

578015, 220340

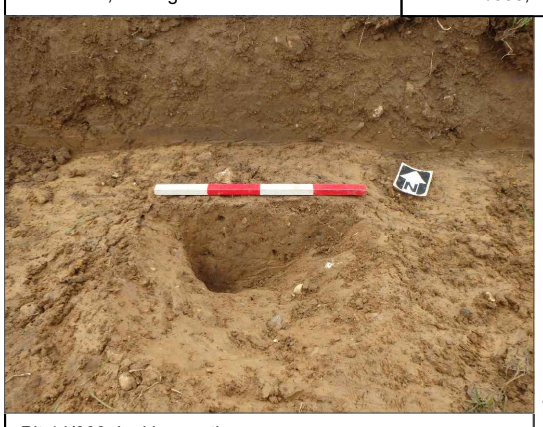


578025, 220325

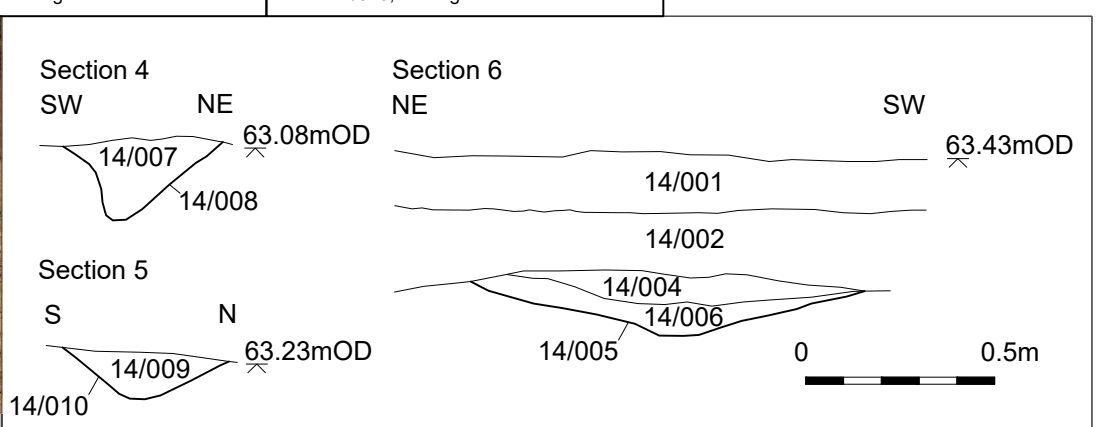
Trench 14, looking north east

Ditch 14/005, looking north

Ditch 14/010, looking west



Pit 14/008, looking north



0 2m

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Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 14 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

N

578000, 220300

0 2m

Section 9

19/007

Section 7

19/005

Section 8

19/009

578015, 220285

0 2m

Trench 19, looking north east

Ditch 19/007, looking east

Pit 19/009, looking north

Pit 19/005, looking west

Section 7

SW NE

63.68mOD

19/001

19/002

19/004

19/005

0 0.5m

Section 8

SW NE

63.52mOD

19/001

19/002

19/008

19/009

Section 9

N S

63.61mOD

19/006

19/007

5

Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG

Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing

Trench 19 : plan, section and photographs

Fig. 6

N

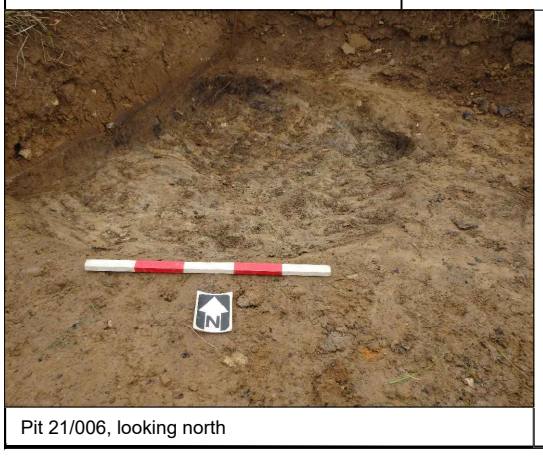
578090, 220355

Section 10

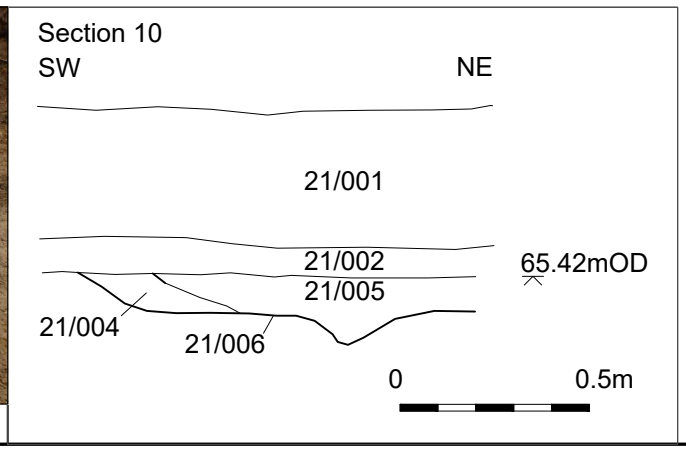
21/006

578105, 220340

Trench 21, looking north east



Pit 21/006, looking north



0 2m

© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 21 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

N

578140, 220395

23/006

Section 11

578150, 220375

Trench 23, looking south west

Pit 23/006, looking south west

Section 11

NW SE

65.83mOD

23/004

23/005

23/006

0 0.5m

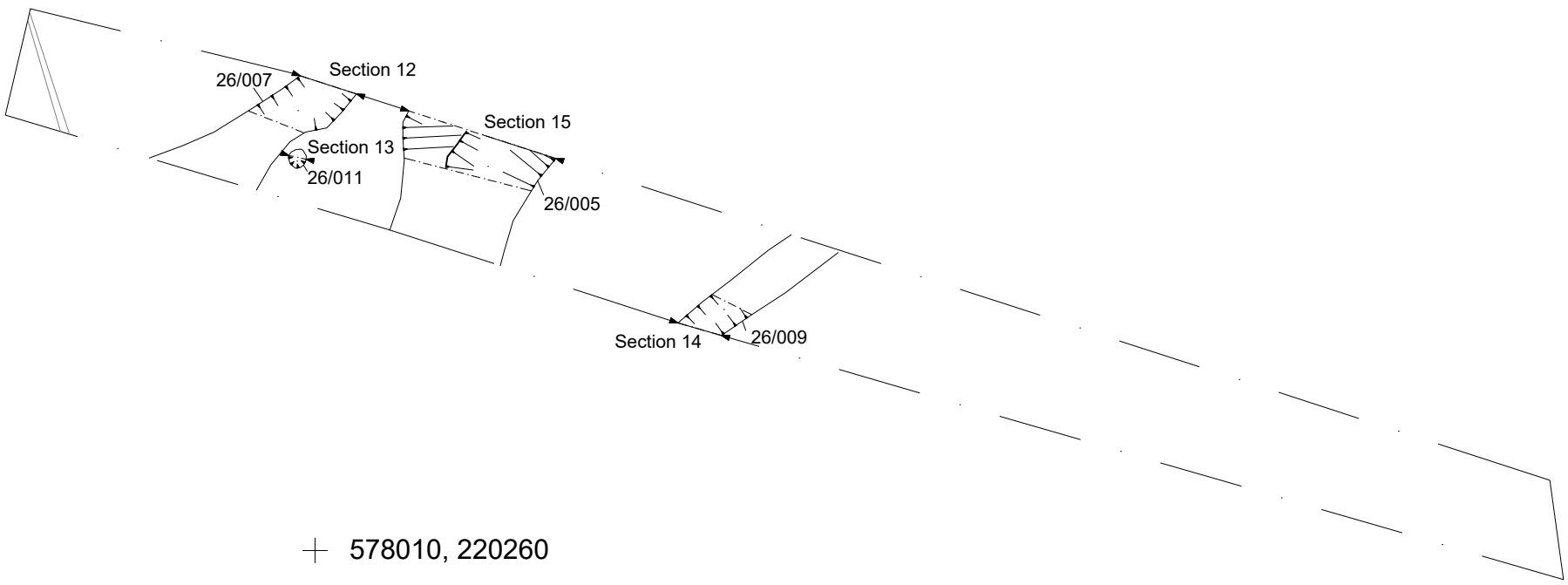
0 2m

© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 23 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

Trench 26, looking south west

N

578020, 220270



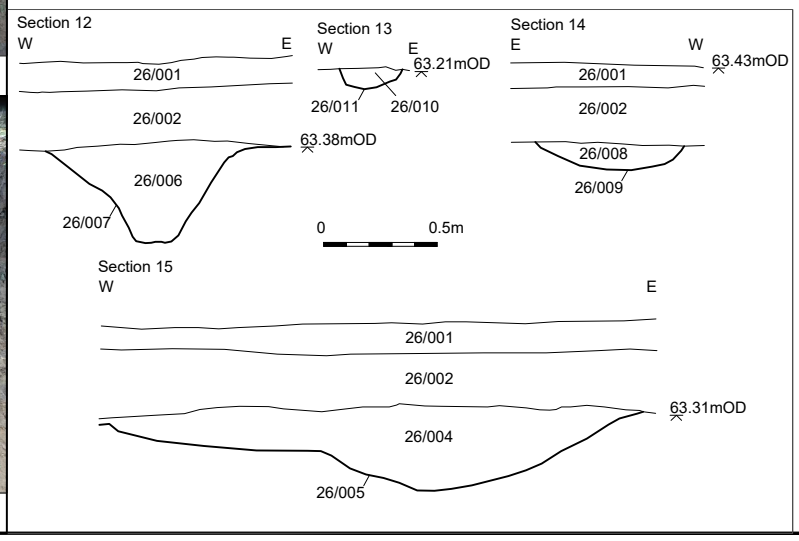
578010, 220260

Ditch 26/005, looking north

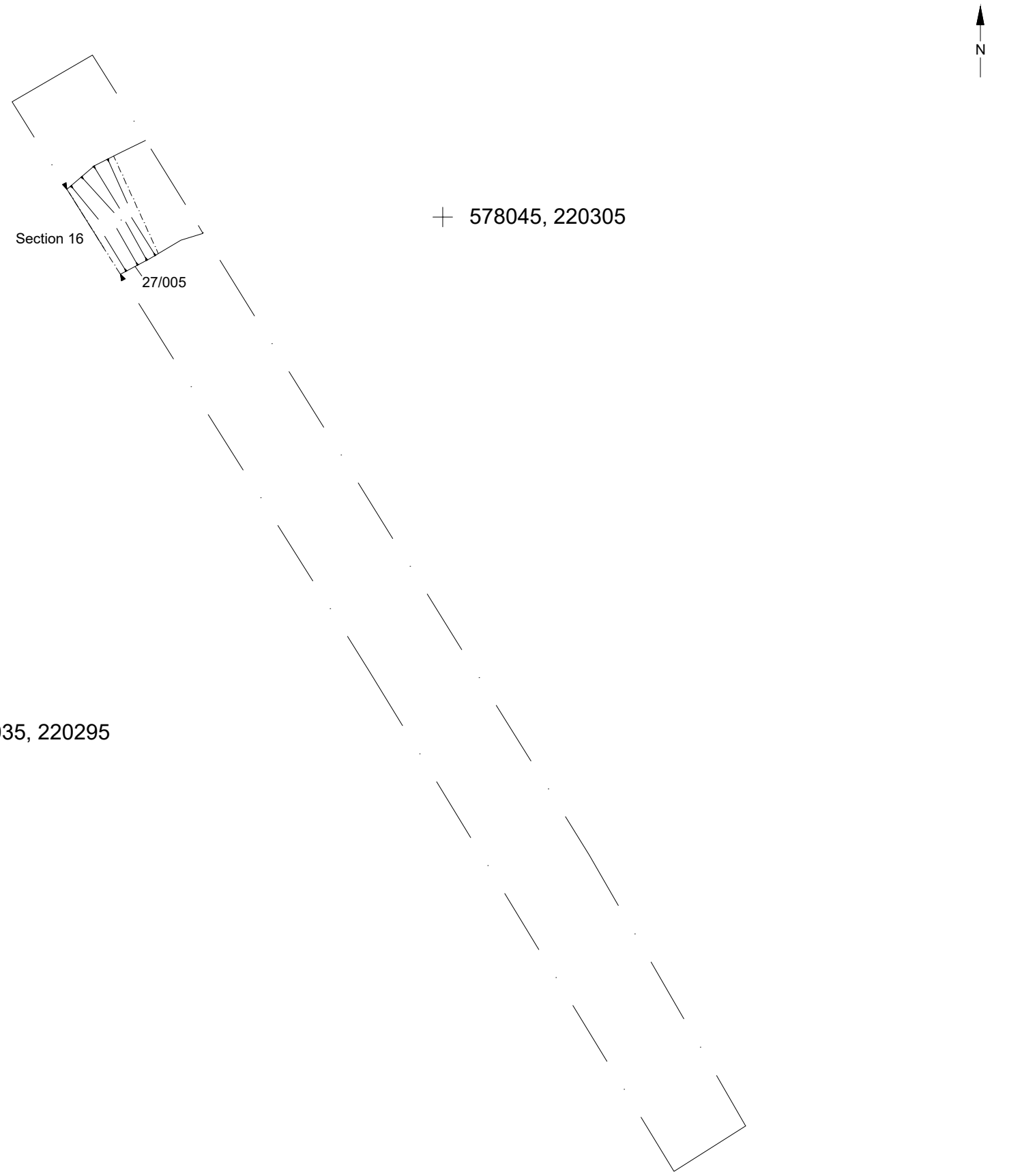
Posthole 26/011, looking north

Ditch 26/007, looking north

Ditch 26/009, looking south

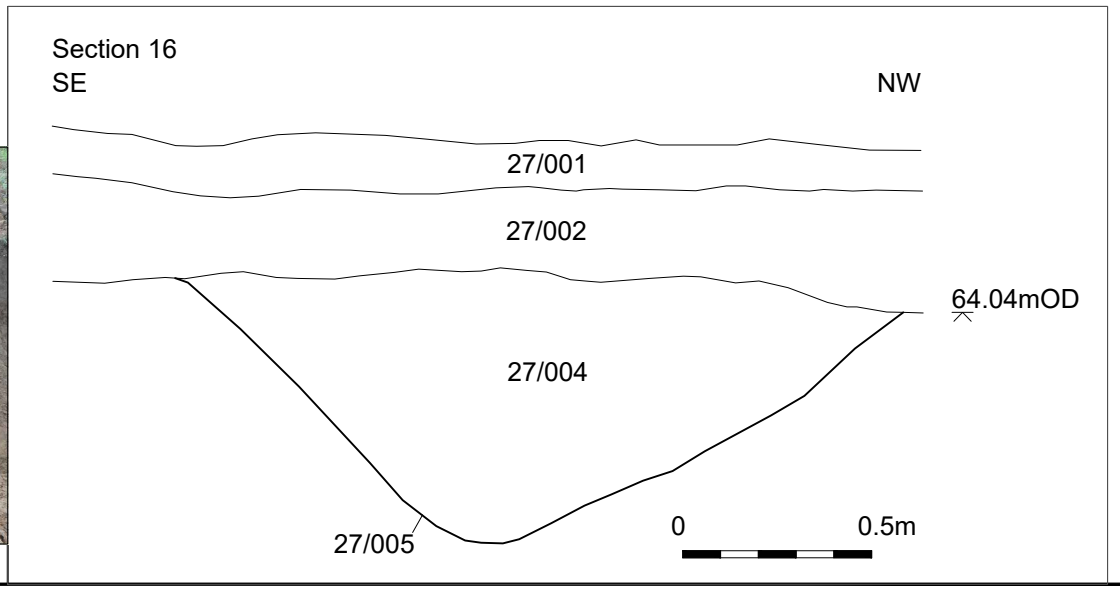


© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 26 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

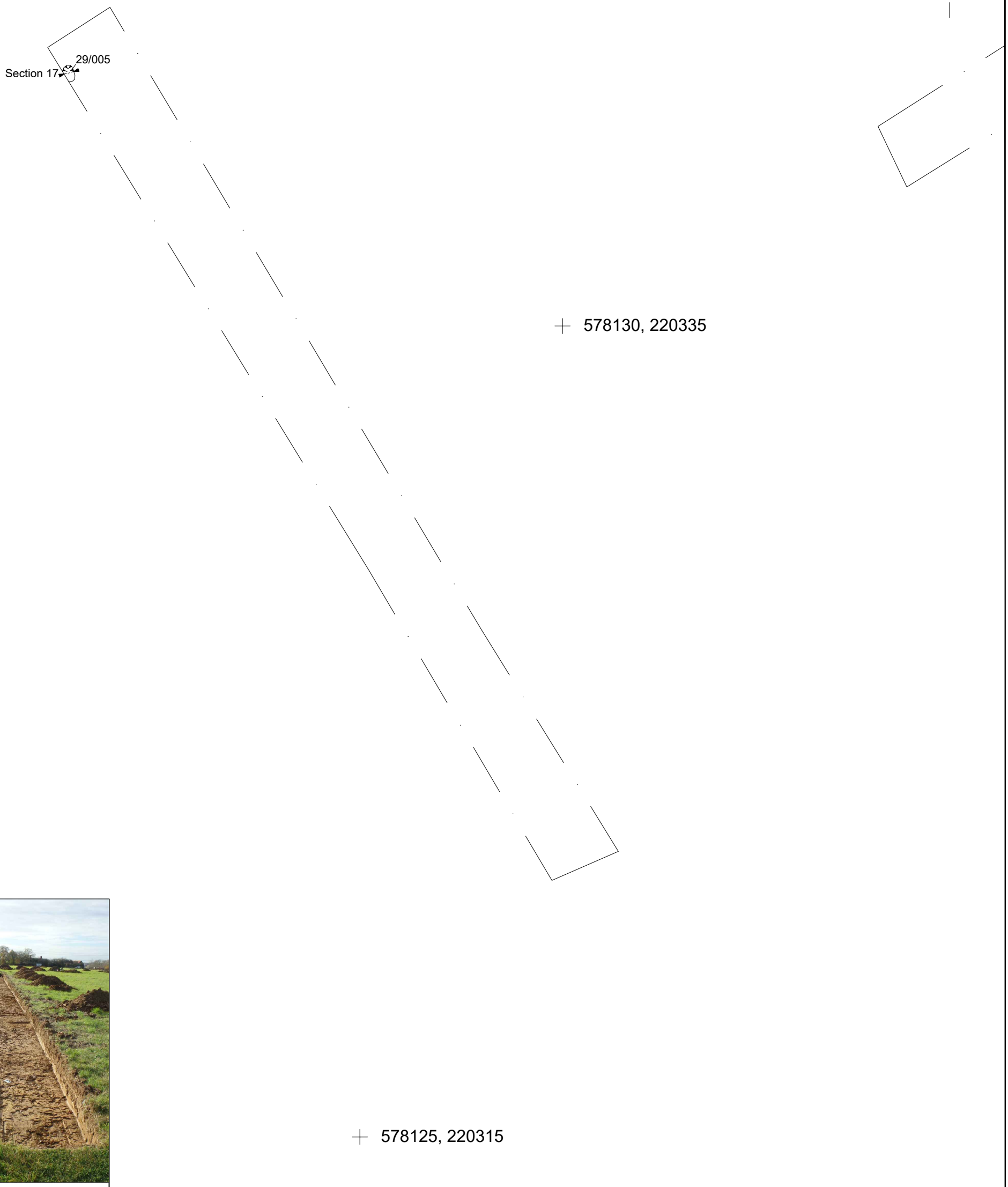


Trench 27, looking north

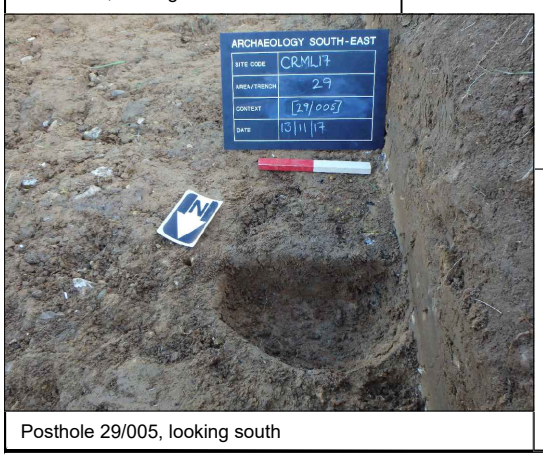
Pit 27/005, looking south west



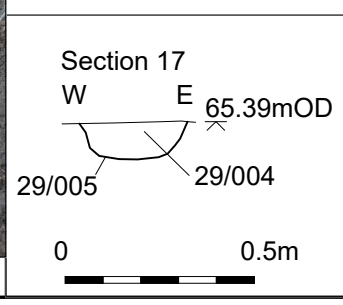
© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 10
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 27 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		



Trench 29, looking south east



Posthole 29/005, looking south



© **Archaeology South-East**		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 29 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

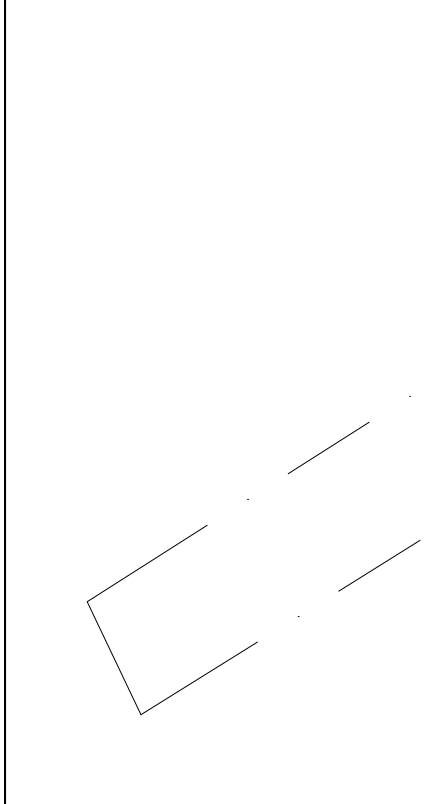
578140, 220355

N

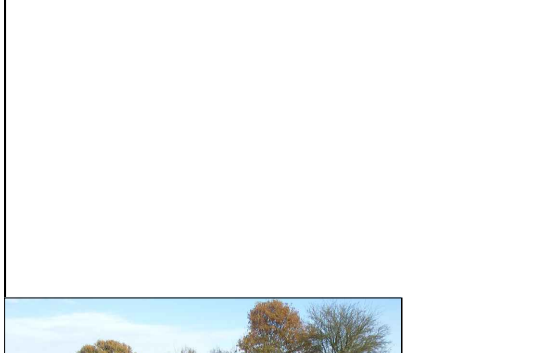
Section 18

30/005

578145, 220335



Trench 30, looking north west



Pit 30/005, looking north west

Section 18

NW SE

65.70mOD

30/004

30/005

0 0.5m

0 2m

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Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 30 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

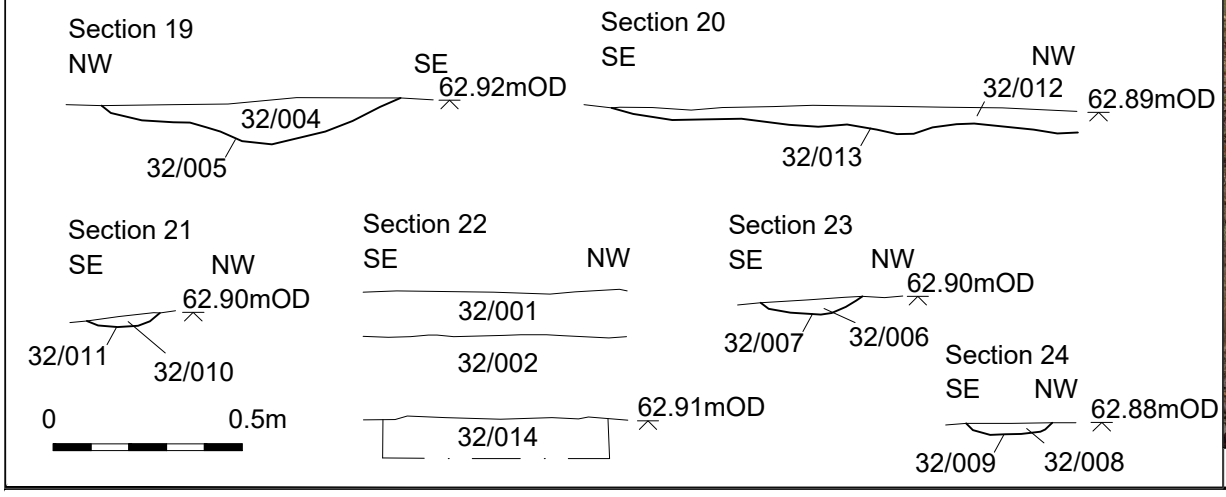
Ditch 32/005, looking north east

Pit 32/007, looking south west

Ditch 32/011, looking south west

Posthole 32/009, looking south west

Ditch 32/013, looking south east



Trench 32, looking north west

Deposit 32/004, looking south west

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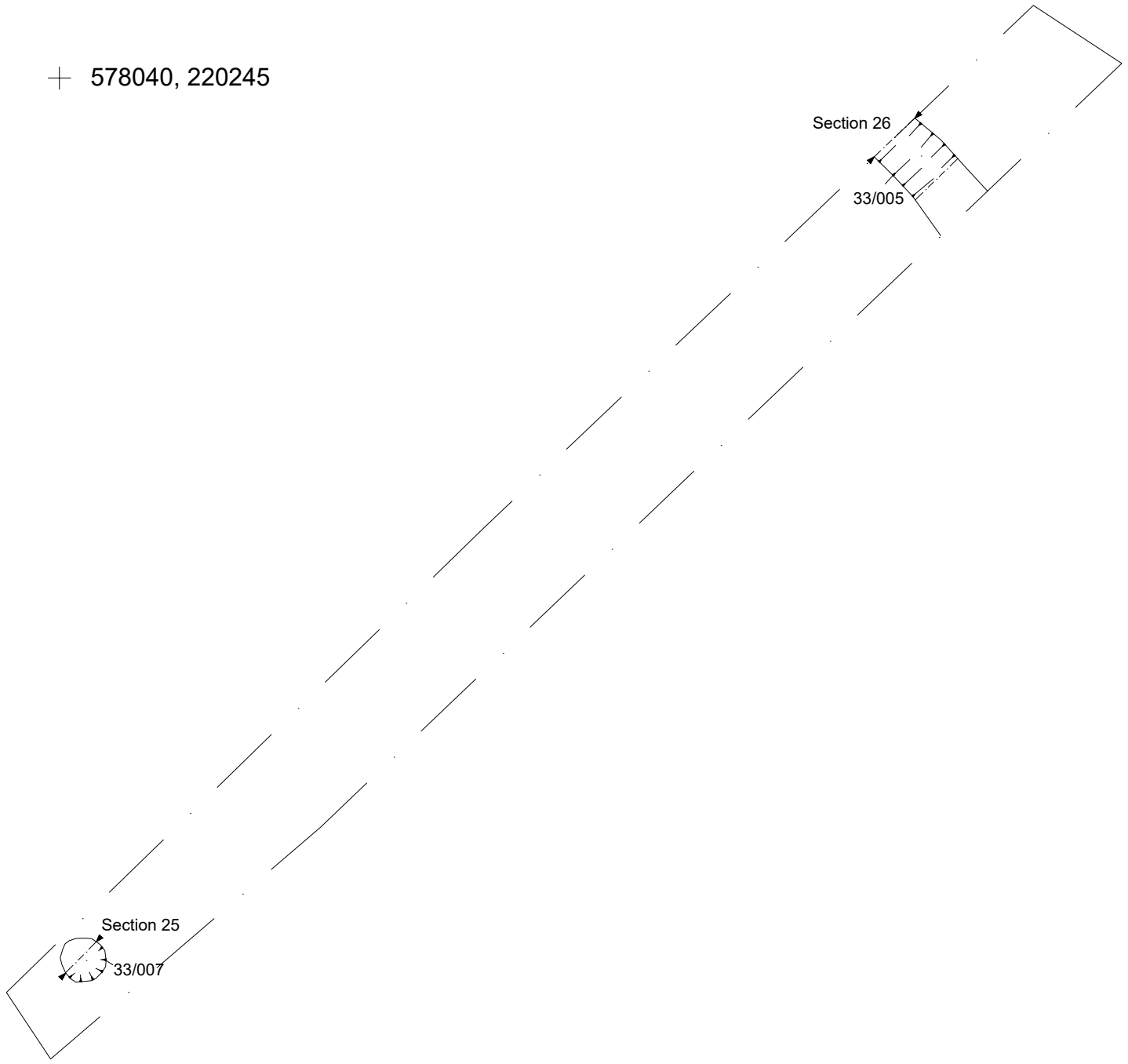
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 32 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

N

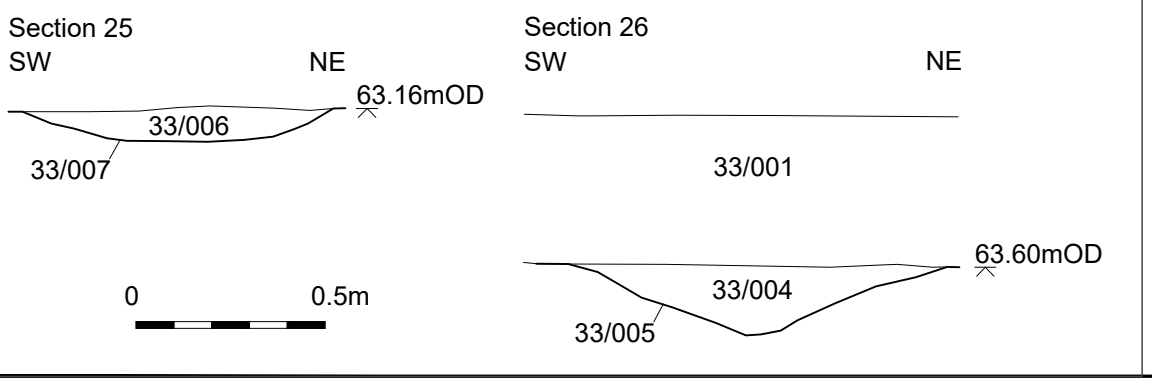
578040, 220245



578055, 220225

Trench 33, looking north east

Ditch 33/005, looking north



0 2m

© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 14
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 33 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

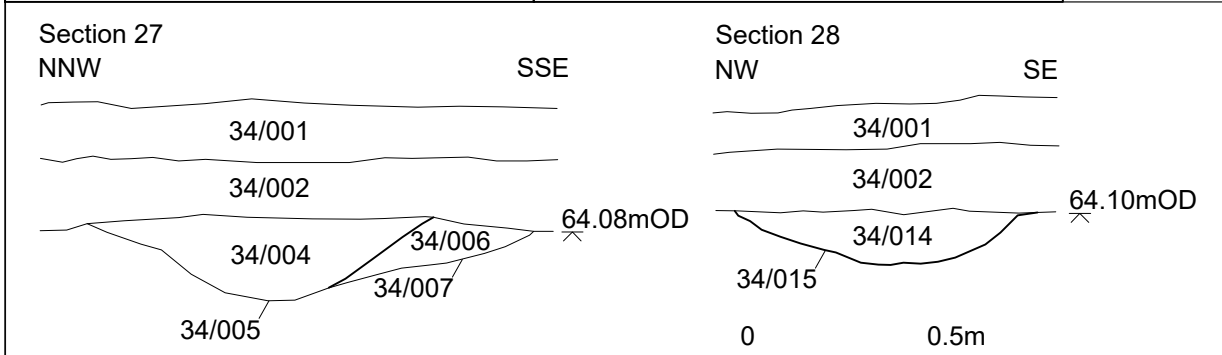
Ditch 34/007, looking south west

Ditches 34/011 and 34/013, looking north east

Pit 34/015, looking north east

Ditch 34/017, looking north

Posthole 34/019, looking south



0 2m

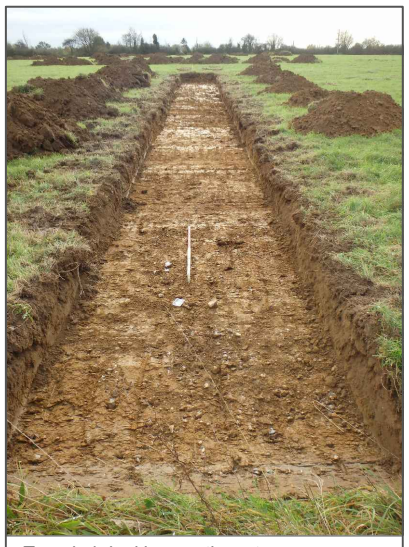
Trench 34, looking north west

Spread 34/009, looking north east

© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Trench 34 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

Trench 2, looking northeast

Trench 3, looking southeast



Trench 4, looking southwest

Trench 5, looking southeast

trench 6, looking northeast

Trench 7, looking northeast

Trench 8, looking northwest

Trench 9, looking northeast

Trench 10, looking northeast

Trench 11, looking northeast

Trench 12, looking southeast

Trench 15, looking southeast

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land east of Mill Lane, Cressing	Fig. 16
Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Photographs of archaeologically negative trenches	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

Trench 16, looking northeast

Trench 17, looking northwest

Trench 18, looking southwest

Trench 20, looking northeast

Trench 22, looking northwest

Trench 24, looking northwest

Trench 25, looking north

Trench 28, looking southeast

Trench 31, looking southeast

Trench 35, looking northeast

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Project Ref: 170420	Nov 2017	Photographs of archaeologically negative trenches	
Report Ref: 2017491	Drawn by: NG		

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