

Archaeological Evaluation

**Phase 1B Land at Lodge Farm,
Witham,
Essex**

Planning Ref: 15/00430/OUT

**ASE Project No: 171161
Site Code: WHLF 16**

ASE Report No: 2018007



January 2018

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Abstract

This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Phase 1B, Lodge Farm, Witham, Essex, from 2–10 January 2018. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Redrow Plc, prior to the construction of a new housing development.

The site is located south-west of two previous major archaeological excavations, at Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane, which recorded extensive and important remains relating to Prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Roman, Saxon and medieval land use and occupation.

Four previous phases of archaeological fieldwork were undertaken at the site from January 2016–June 2016. The initial evaluation (Phase 1A) comprised 53 trenches, the results of which were used to inform targeted excavation of three discrete open area excavations, Areas 1–3. Following consultation with Essex County Council Place Services, a further five evaluation trenches were excavated. After consideration of their results, a final stage of excavation was undertaken, in order to link Area 1 with some of the evaluation trenches and refine understanding of the site.

Together, these various phases of fieldwork uncovered the remains of Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity that may have been associated with the settlements at Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane, including cremation burials in a small barrow and a number of pits to the north of the site. Late Iron Age and Roman features included a routeway and associated ditches crossing the site from south-west to north-east. Other features of this date included a cremation burial cut into the earlier Bronze Age/Early Iron Age barrow, a quarry and three large shallow hollows. In the south of the site, late medieval agricultural activities were indicated by a field boundary, open areas of an agricultural nature and an open-ended timber structure that may have functioned as a barn or animal shelter. Post-medieval remains were restricted to isolated post-holes, gullies and pits across the site.

During this latest phase of evaluation, twenty-five trenches were excavated across the site. Archaeological features were recorded in six of these trenches, comprising linear ditches and pits. A number of archaeological features were concentrated towards the north-west of the site with isolated features encountered in the west, south-west and south-east.

A single prehistoric ditch running east/west was recorded towards the north-west of the site, and two post-medieval ditches, running NE/SW, were also recorded in the west and south-east and probably relate to the late post-medieval to modern agricultural land use of this site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of Redrow Plc, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Phase 1B of Lodge Farm, Witham, Essex, prior to the construction of a new housing development.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred at National Grid Reference TL 8072 1330 and is located on the south-west periphery of Witham town centre. The site is bounded by Hatfield Road to the south-east, fields to the south-west, the Phase 1A development area to the north-east and the Phase 4 area to the north-west (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 As shown by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2017), the site is located upon solid geology of London Clay Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation Diamiction and Head deposits of clay and silt.

1.2.3 The 3.83ha development site is located on previously cultivated land that rises from the east at around 30m AOD to the west at around 38m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application was submitted in April 2015 for the construction of 750 dwellings, a primary school, early years centre, enterprise centre and associated infrastructure (Ref.: 15/00430/OUT) and granted by Braintree District Council in May 2016.

1.3.2 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was compiled in support of the planning application (CgMs 2015). That document highlighted the potential for prehistoric and Roman remains to survive at the site.

1.3.3 In January 2016, ASE carried out a programme of archaeological trial trenching across the Phase 1A and part of the Phase 2 area (Fig. 1). In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ASE 2015), a total of 53 evaluation trenches were excavated, which identified below-ground archaeological remains (ASE 2016a).

1.3.4 On the results of the evaluation, the ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor requested a subsequent phase of targeted excavation in three areas of the site to mitigate the impact of the proposed development. These were carried out in accordance with a second WSI prepared for the archaeological excavation (ASE 2016b). The fieldwork was conducted in February and March 2016.

1.3.5 Following a site meeting during the mitigation work between the ECC Historic Environment Advisor, CgMs and ASE, a third stage of fieldwork was agreed to further define features at the northern end of the site in Area 1. This phase of work, in accordance with a third WSI (ASE 2016c), consisted of a second phase of evaluation conducted in June 2016, comprising the excavation of five

double-width evaluation trenches, all within 30m of Area 1.

- 1.3.6 The combined results of the previous fieldwork phases were considered by ECC Place Services and CgMs Ltd and a final stage of excavation to the north-west and north-east of Area 1 was proposed in order to unite and refine the excavated sequences. This included a further evaluation trench (Trench 59) to the north. The work was undertaken by ASE in June and July 2016.
- 1.3.7 In 2017, following previous investigations at Lodge Farm, a WSI relating to the archaeological evaluation of Phase 1B (ASE 2017a) was submitted to and approved by ECC Place Services in accordance with the condition of the planning application.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report describes and assesses the results of the twenty-five archaeological evaluation trenches excavated in the Phase 1B area of the Lodge Farm site between 2 January and 10 January 2018. It followed the methodology laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017a) and the Risk Assessment Method Statement (ASE 2017b).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following background information is mainly summarised from the Desk-Based Assessment, produced by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs 2015), which focused on a study area within a 1km radius of the current site, the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the previous phases of fieldwork at Phase 1A and Phase 2 at Lodge Farm (Fig. 1).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Two Palaeolithic hand axes are recorded from Blunts Hall (EHER 8189), Witham, but the precise context of these finds is now unknown. Mesolithic flints are recorded from field walking centred on TL 8163 1332 (EHER 16463) and at TL 8120 1300 (EHER 16467).

2.2.2 An unpolished Neolithic axe (EHER 8190) is recorded from Blunts Hall (TL 807 142). A sherd of Neolithic pottery and a small number of flints are recorded from Maltings Lane, Witham (EHER 18503). Prehistoric burnt and worked flint is recorded from field walking centred at TL 8144 1343 (EHER 17424).

2.2.3 A transitional Bronze palstave is recorded from Witham (EHER 8172). A late Bronze Age settlement is recorded from an archaeological investigation at Maltings Lane (EHER 18503). Five probable Bronze Age cremations associated with a curvilinear ditch are recorded from Christina Road, Witham (TL 8018 1382).

2.2.4 Extensive evidence for Iron Age settlement and activity is recorded within a 1km radius of the site. At Witham Lodge, immediately east of the site, an Iron Age enclosed farmstead was identified with an associated field system and a possibly associated inhumation burial (EHER 14039; TL 812 138). An Iron Age enclosed settlement is recorded from Ivy Chimney's with several buildings enclosed by a deep defensive ditch (EHER 14044). An Iron Age activity site is recorded at Holst Avenue, Witham (EHER 46865). An Iron Age settlement, including a roundhouse, is recorded at Maltings Lane (EHER 18503)

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Hatfield Road to the south of the site forms a Roman road, and Roman roadside settlement and field systems aligned on the road could potentially occur.

2.3.2 Roman occupation and activity spanning the 3rd to 5th centuries is recorded from Witham Lodge immediately east of the site (EHER 14040). A Roman religious complex is recorded at Ivy Chimney's in the form of enclosed structures including a Romano Celtic Temple (EHER 14043), associated with votive deposits (EHER 8195). The Iron Age settlement at Maltings Lane appears to have continued into the Roman period as an agricultural focus – probably a farmstead (EHER 18504). Evidence for a Roman settlement and occupation site is recorded from Sandford Quarry to the south west of Witham (EHER 14833). A coin of Tetricus (EHER 8188) is recorded from Blunts Hall (TL 807 142). An assemblage of Roman pottery is recorded from 'near Witham'

(EHER 8046), and a further assemblage from Blunts Hall (EHER 8186). An assemblage of Roman pottery is recorded from Sewardstone Street, Witham (EHER 9333). Archaeological monitoring of a pipeline from Hatfield Heath to Matching Tye recorded a small assemblage of Roman pottery (EHER 17549), and a further small assemblage together with some tile is recorded from Wood End Farm, Maltings Lane (EHER 17425).

2.4 Anglo-Saxon/Medieval

- 2.4.1 An early Anglo-Saxon settlement, including two sunken featured buildings, is recorded from Maltings Lane together with an associated cemetery (EHER 17423). A single sherd of late Anglo-Saxon pottery is recorded from Witham Lodge immediately east of the site (EHER 14041).

2.5 Late Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.5.1 During these periods, the site comprised agricultural land centred on Lodge Farm (originally White Gate Farm). The Chapman and André map of 1777 does not show the site in detail but does show Hatfield Road to the south. The Ordnance Survey map of 1799 shows the field boundaries within the site; these appear to be very different to the modern boundaries. The Hatfield Peverel Tithe map of 1841 shows much of the current field system established; the modern fields are divided by a number of small field boundaries. By 1897, the smaller boundaries had vanished and the modern field system is visible.

2.6 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

- 2.6.1 In 2016, four phases of archaeological fieldwork were undertaken at Lodge Farm. The initial evaluation comprised 53 trenches (Phase 1A and part of Phase 2), the results of which were used to inform targeted excavation of three discrete open area excavations, Areas 1–3. Following consultation with Essex County Council Place Services a further five evaluation trenches were excavated and then a final stage of excavation was undertaken, in order to link Area 1 with some of the evaluation trenches and refine understanding of the site.
- 2.6.2 Together, the various phases of fieldwork uncovered the remains of Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity that may have been associated with the settlements at Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane, including cremation burials in a small barrow and a number of pits to the north of the site. Late Iron Age and Roman features included a routeway and associated ditches crossing the site from south-west to north-east. Other features of this date included a cremation burial cut into the earlier Bronze Age/Early Iron Age barrow, a quarry and three large shallow hollows. In the south of the site, late medieval agricultural activities were indicated by a field boundary, open areas of an agricultural nature and an open-ended timber structure that may have functioned as a barn or animal shelter. Post-medieval remains were restricted to isolated post-holes, gullies and pits across the site.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.7.1 The evaluation aimed to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period.
- 2.7.2 The evaluation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 2.7.3 The evaluation was also undertaken in order to allow Essex County Council's Place Services to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeology condition.
- 2.7.4 Where physical preservation was likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect effect of the proposed development were also considered.
- 2.7.5 The field evaluation was undertaken within the general parameters of the regional research frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011). Specific research objectives/questions that the site was identified to have potential to address included:
- It is noted in the revised research framework for the eastern counties that further research is required into Iron Age settlement types, including their interaction with the hinterland, their location with reference to topography and geology, their resources and communication routes (Medlycott 2011, 31).
 - Is there any evidence for further prehistoric funerary activity?
 - Is there any evidence for Roman settlement activity? Specifically to inform on settlement typology (Medlycott 2011, 47)
 - Is there further evidence of medieval land management?

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The trenches were all located without deviation in accordance with the WSI, with the exception of the following:

- Trench 65 was shortened by 8.14m in order to avoid the haulage road, which crossed area Phase 1B running NW/SE, across the south-west of the Trench 65 location.
- Trench 71 was repositioned as this directly crossed the haulage road running NNW/SSE.
- Trenches 60 and 84 were repositioned due to their proximity to the haulage road running NE/SW across the northern part of Area 1B, which encroached upon the full extent of the Trench 84 location and the north-east end of the Trench 60 location.

The above trenches were relocated with the prior approval of the client (CgMs) and the Essex County Council Place Services (Fig. 2).

3.1.2 All trenches were excavated using a 20-tonne tracked 360° excavator with a toothless bucket. The trenches were stripped under archaeological supervision down to the top of the archaeological or geological deposits, whichever was encountered first, and cleaned using hand tools where appropriate.

3.1.3 Metal detecting was used to scan features and spoil for additional artefacts in all trenches where archaeological remains were observed.

3.1.4 The trenches were recorded using pro forma ASE trench sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using standard context record sheets. Discrete archaeological features were half-sectioned and slots excavated across linear features, with their sections drawn on drawing film sheets. All exposed remains were planned and levelled from the site survey using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).

3.1.5 A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made and all trenches and all excavated contexts were photographed. In addition, a number of representative photographs of the general work on site were taken.

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

3.1.7 Bulk soil samples were collected from deposits judged in the field to have potential for the recovery of environmental remains (e.g. carbonised or waterlogged plant macrofossils) and/or small artefacts and faunal remains.

3.1.8 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout and in accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a) and various standards

and guidelines (ClfA 2014b, c).

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 Guidelines contained in the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014d) will be followed for the preparation of the archive for deposition.
- 3.2.2 Finds from the archaeological fieldwork will be kept with the archival material. The legal landowner of the site will be requested to transfer title of ownership of the retained artefacts to the collecting museum.
- 3.2.3 The site archive, which is quantified in Tables 1a and 1b, is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited in due course at Braintree Museum subject to permission being obtained from the legal landowner.

Context sheets	25
Section sheets	3
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	90
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	25

Table 1a: Quantification of site paper archive

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

Table 1b: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A total of twenty-five trenches were opened, each measuring 30m long x an average of 2.3m wide, with the exception of Trench 65 which measured 21.86m long x 2.3m wide (Fig. 2). These trenches were excavated using a 20 tonne excavator with a toothless grading bucket of 2.20m width. Of these, six trenches (Trenches 60, 62, 65, 66, 69 and 83) contained archaeological features that were investigated by hand and recorded. Trench 78 was devoid of archaeological features; however, a concentration of prehistoric pottery was recovered from a natural deposit. These remains are discussed in sections 4.2–4.8.
- 4.1.2 The remaining eighteen trenches (Trenches 61, 63, 64, 67, 68, 70–77, 79–82 and 84) were devoid of any archaeological features and are summarised in section 4.9. Excavation of these trenches revealed a straightforward sequence of topsoil and, where present, subsoil, overlying the variable, undisturbed natural geological deposit. Further details of the recorded deposit sequence in these trenches are presented in Appendix 3.
- 4.1.3 The natural deposits exposed in the trenches mainly consisted of a mid-orange clay brickearth/diamicton, although patches of light greyish yellow clay brickearth were also noted. In the majority of the trenches, the natural deposit was overlain by a dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil and turf, though a poorly defined, shallow subsoil of disturbed/weathered natural deposits existed in some trenches.
- 4.1.4 Feature visibility was generally poor. The features present were generally ditches and one pit. Only simple intercutting features were observed. Unless otherwise stated, all recorded features were cut directly into the natural deposit.

4.2 Trench 60 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (AOD)
60/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.3	0.27-0.29	38.02-38.48
60/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	2.3	0.09-0.15	37.44-37.89
60/003	Deposit	Natural	30	2.3	0.12-0.13+	37.44-37.89
60/004	Cut	Pit	0.56	0.52	0.12	
60/005	Fill	Fill, single	0.56	0.52	0.12	

Table 2: Trench 60 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 60 was located in the centre of the site, to the north-east of the haulage road, and was orientated NNW/SSW. One archaeological feature was present.
- 4.2.2 Located in the centre of the trench was pit [60/004]. It was oval in plan, measuring 0.56m in length, 0.52m in width and 0.12m in depth, and it had

moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The pit continued just beyond the west trench limit. It contained a single fill [60/005] of firm, dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions and frequent charcoal flecks. No finds were hand-collected. Environmental sample <1> taken from fill [60/005] contained eight undiagnostic fragments of fired clay, charred remains of possible tubers or grass culm bases and oak wood charcoal. This combination of stems and possible culm bases with moderate quantities of charcoal may suggest that grasses were used as kindling with the fuelwood or were present at the site of burning.

4.3 Trench 62 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (AOD)
62/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.3	0.28-0.32	39.92-40.21
62/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	2.3	0.09-0.11	
62/003	Deposit	Natural	30	2.3	0.08-0.15+	39.55-39.62
62/004	Fill	Fill, upper	2.3+	1.67	0.26	
62/005	Fill	Fill, basal	2.3+	1.13	0.37	
62/006	Cut	Ditch	2.3+	1.67	0.63	
62/007	Fill	Fill, single	2.3+	0.46	0.44	
62/008	Cut	Land drain	2.3+	0.46	0.44	
62/009	Fill	Fill, single	2.3+	0.31	0.32	
62/010	Cut	Land drain	2.3+	0.31	0.32	

Table 3: Trench 62 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 62 was located in the north-west of the site, towards the north and west site boundary, and was orientated NE/SW. One archaeological feature was present mid-trench, bounded on either side by modern land drains.
- 4.3.2 Ditch [62/006] crossed the centre of the trench on a NNW/SSE alignment and continued beyond the trench limits. The exposed section measured 2.3m+ length x 1.67m width x 0.63m depth and had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave, irregular base. It contained two fills; the upper [62/004] consisted of a firm, mid-greyish brown silty clay, with occasional small sub-angular stones and mollusc shell, and the basal fill [62/005] comprised a mottled mid to dark orange brown silty clay with moderate gravel stones. Eight fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) and a clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from fill [62/004].
- 4.3.3 Modern land drains [62/008] and [62/010] ran parallel to and flanked ditch [62/006] on either side.

4.4 Trench 65 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (AOD)
65/001	Deposit	Made ground	21.86	2.42	0.54-0.57	38.89
65/002	Layer	Topsoil	21.86	2.42	0.26-0.33	38.08
65/003	Deposit	Natural	21.86	2.42	0.14-0.17+	37.51-37.96
65/004	Fill	Fill, upper	4.06+	0.68	0.26	
65/005	Fill	Fill, basal	4.06+	0.27	0.05	
65/006	Cut	Ditch	4.06+	0.68	0.31	
65/007	Fill	Fill, single	0.66	0.64	0.1	
65/008	Cut	Pit	0.66	0.64	0.1	

Table 4: Trench 65 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 65 was located to the north-west of the site, 25.7m to the north-west of Trench 60, and orientated NE/SW. Two archaeological features were encountered in the trench.
- 4.4.2 Ditch [65/006] was located towards the north-east of the trench, running WNW/ESE, with its exposed extents measuring 4.06m+ length x 0.68m width x 0.31m depth. The ditch had steeply sloping sides with a concave, U-shaped base and contained two fills. The upper fill [65/004] consisted of firm, mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular small stones and flint, from which sixty-one sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered. The residue of environmental sample <3> taken from this fill contained a single pea and fragments of indeterminate charred plant remains and a small amount of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery. The basal fill [65/005] comprised a firm, mid-brownish orange silty clay and contained four sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery.
- 4.4.3 Ditch [65/006] is interpreted to be a westward continuation of ditch [66/004] encountered in Trench 66 to the east.
- 4.4.4 Pit [65/008] was located in the north-east end of Trench 65, approximately 1.8m north-east of ditch [65/006]. This was a shallow, irregular, sub-circular cut, measuring 0.66m length x 0.64m width x 0.10m depth. It contained a single fill [65/007] of firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions, as well as four fragments of animal bone.
- 4.4.5 Two modern land drains were located to the west of ditch [65/006], one aligned approximately NW/SE and the other NNW/ESE.

4.5 Trench 66 (Figure 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (AOD)
66/001	Layer	Topsoil	29.78	2.53	0.24-0.27	37.49-37.89
66/002	Layer	Subsoil	29.78	2.53	0.09-0.11	
66/003	Deposit	Natural	29.78	2.53	0.08-0.14+	36.82-37.27
66/004	Cut	Ditch	2.53+	0.7	0.37	
66/005	Fill	Fill, single	2.53+	0.7	0.37	

Table 5: Trench 66 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 66 was located towards the north-west of the study area, 16.5m east of Trench 65 and orientated NW/SE. One ditch was recorded below the subsoil.
- 4.5.2 Ditch [66/004] was located towards the south-east end of Trench 66. Its exposed extents measured 2.53m+ length x 0.07m width x 0.37m depth and had steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its single fill, [66/005], comprised a firm, mid-brownish grey silty clay with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular stones. Recovered from this were fifteen sherds of prehistoric pottery, comprising seven sherds dated to the earlier Iron Age and eight sherds of probable 1st-century BC date.
- 4.5.3 Ditch [66/004] is considered to be an eastward continuation of ditch [65/006] recorded in Trench 65 to the west. This ditch, however, was not found to continue into other nearby trenches.

4.6 Trench 69 (Figure 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (AOD)
69/001	Layer	Topsoil	29.74	2.66	0.24-0.26	39.87-39.93
69/002	Layer	Subsoil	29.74	2.66	0.09-0.11	
69/003	Deposit	Natural	29.74	2.66	0.09-0.11+	39.08-39.62
69/004	Cut	Land drain	3.44+	0.12	0.88	
69/005	Fill	Fill, upper	10.6+	3.44+	0.26	
69/006	Fill	Fill, intermediate	10.6+	3.44+	0.19	
69/007	Fill	Fill, primary	10.6+	3.44+	0.56+	
69/008	Cut	Pit	10.6+	3.44+	1.01	
69/009	Fill	Fill, single	3.44+	0.12	0.88	

Table 6: Trench 69 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 69 was located to the south-west of the Phase 1B area and was positioned adjacent to the site boundary on a NW/SE orientation. A single

archaeological feature was revealed, as well as two modern land drains.

- 4.6.2 A possible large pit, [69/008], extended for c. 10.60m across the south-east end of the trench. Only part of its north-west extent was defined. Machine excavation to a depth of c. 1.0m revealed the moderately sloping side of the cut. This also revealed a sequence of post-medieval fills/deposits: [69/005], [69/006] and [69/007]. The upper fill, [69/005], consisted of a dark bluish grey silty clay, which contained patches of yellowish grey boulder clay and moderate sub-angular stones, and also a fragment of post-medieval tile and two shards of late 19th- to early 20th-century bottle glass. This overlay [69/006], a firm mid-bluish brown silty clay that contained twelve pieces of post-medieval CBM. The lowest exposed fill/deposit [69/007] consisted of a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay, which contained seven pieces of post-medieval CBM. Feature [69/008] was not excavated to its full depth.
- 4.6.3 A modern land drain [69/004] was observed at approximately 0.88m deep, running roughly east/west across the trench. This truncated the fills/deposits associated with [69/008]. Two further NW/SE aligned land drains were noted to cross the north-west of the trench.

4.7 Trench 78 (not illustrated)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (AOD)
78/001	Deposit	Made ground	5.19	2.95	0.36	39.16
78/002	Layer	Topsoil	24.26	2.95	0.25-0.26	38.37
78/003	Deposit	Natural	29.44	2.95	0.07-0.10+	37.96-38.39
78/004	Deposit	Natural alluvial deposit	9.61+	2.95+	0.40-0.50	

Table 7: Trench 78 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.1 Trench 78 was located towards the centre of the site, on a NE/SW alignment, 1.6m north-east of the haulage road. No archaeological features were apparent here. However, a concentration of ten sherds of pottery, of Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman date, and two fragments of CBM, one possibly Roman in date and the other medieval/post-medieval, were recovered from deposit [78/004].
- 4.7.2 Deposit [78/004] was located in the south of the trench. Its exposed extent measured 9.61m length x 2.95m width x 0.40–0.50m depth. It overlay and was very similar in composition to the natural deposit, consisting of a firm, mid-greyish brown silty clay.
- 4.7.3 A modern land drain was also observed in the southern half of the trench, cutting deposit [78/004].

4.8 Trench 83 (Figure 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (AOD)
83/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.39	2.34	0.25-0.31	38.58-39.35
83/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.39	2.34	0.09-0.12	
83/003	Deposit	Natural	30.39	2.34	0.05-0.14+	38.31-38.92
83/004	Cut	Ditch	2.34+	0.88	0.42	
83/005	Fill	Fill, single	2.34+	0.88	0.42	

Table 8: Trench 83 list of recorded contexts

- 4.8.1 Trench 83 was located to the south-east of the site, towards the site boundary, and was orientated NE/SW. One archaeological feature was recorded here.
- 4.8.2 Ditch [83/004] was located at the north-east end of the trench, measuring 2.34m+ length x 0.88m width x 0.42m depth. The ditch had steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its single fill [83/005] consisted of a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small stones and it contained eleven degraded, undiagnostic fragments of CBM. A single sherd of mid 18th- to early 19th-century Creamware pottery, two clay tobacco pipe stems (dated between c. 1680–1800 and c. 1750–1910) and a fragment of 17th- or 18th-century window glass were also recovered from this fill. In addition, a few tiny fragments of probable earlier Iron Age pottery, fragments of post-medieval slag and clinker, and a shard of mid 18th- to mid 19th-century bottle glass were recovered from the residue of environmental sample <2> taken from this fill. A small assemblage of cereals and non-cereal legume crops were also recovered from environmental sample <2>, indicating the discarded remnants of crop processing.

4.9 Archaeologically Blank Trenches (Figures 9–11).

- 4.9.1 Eighteen of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 61, 63, 64, 67, 68, 70–77, 79–82 and 84) contained no archaeological remains.
- 4.9.2 These blank trenches contained a straightforward sequence of topsoil deposits and, where present, a subsoil of disturbed or weathered natural, overlying a variable, undisturbed natural geology of mid-brown or orangey brown sandy silts and clay. Occasional gravel patches were present with areas of light greyish yellow boulder clay in the north of the site. The thickness of the topsoil in these trenches, which were distributed across the site, varied in thickness between 0.19–0.37m with the subsoil thickness varying from 0.07–0.12m. Further details are presented in Appendix 3.
- 4.9.3 Modern impacts, such as land drainage, were observed in blank Trenches 71, 73, 74 and 84, with ceramic land drains present in Trench 79.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the Phase 1B Lodge Farm evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. Hand-collected finds are quantified in Table 9 and a small amount of material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified separately in Appendix 4. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	CTP	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
62/004			1	2	8	89					1	2					1	2
65/004			61	464														
65/005			4	30														
65/007									4	2								
66/005	1	8	17	38									1	6				
69/005					1	6									2	62		
69/006					12	174	2	10										
69/007					7	410												
78/004			10	32	2	14												
83/005	1	<2	1	6	11	158			1	2	2	2	10	31	1	<2		
<i>Total</i>	2	8	94	572	41	849	2	10	5	4	3	4	11	37	3	62	1	2

Table 9: Finds quantification

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 This latest evaluation phase (Phase 1B) produced just two pieces of hand-collected worked flint, weighing 8g. They consist of two flakes that are partially re-corticated. Based on technological grounds, they are likely to be Late Prehistoric (Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age).

5.2.2 The environmental residues produced a fragmented, unmodified and undiagnostic flake (sample <03>, [65/004]) and a small amount (110g) of unworked, burnt flint (<01–04>). The small fragments were only slightly burnt.

5.3 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of predominantly later prehistoric pottery, totalling 90 hand-collected sherds, weighing 564g, was recovered during the evaluation. A small amount of additional pottery, totalling 61g, was retrieved from the residues of environmental samples <2> and <3>.

5.3.2 At present the pottery has been examined with a x20 binocular microscope for

the purposes of characterisation and spot-dating but not quantified in detail according to a fabric or form type series. It is recommended that the assemblage should be retained for possible further recording in the event of future archaeological mitigation at the site, leading to an assessment or analysis programme.

Later Bronze Age

- 5.3.3 Probably the earliest pottery comes from primary fill [65/005], of ditch [65/006]. This contained four bodysherds, three of which are in similar moderately-coarse, flint-tempered wares with inclusions of c. 0.5–3mm and with fairly quartz free matrixes. The final sherd in this group is a similar ware with slightly sparser flint and moderate grog of 1–2mm. All four sherds are moderately thick-walled. These fabrics are comparable to material identified in a previous phase of work at Lodge Farm (ASE 2016a) and probably date to the Middle/Late Bronze Age (c. late 2nd millennium BC). The sherds may be residual as a much more substantial group of pottery from the upper fill [65/004] of the same ditch is of later Iron Age date. Three small and highly abraded flint-tempered sherds of similar character were also noted alongside Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery in alluvial deposit [78/004].

Earlier Iron Age

- 5.3.4 Seven fragmentary sherds in more sparsely and finely flint-tempered fabrics with coarse sandy matrixes were recovered from fill [66/005], of ditch [66/004]. A few tiny fragments of pottery in similar fabrics (1g in total) were also recovered from environmental sample <2>, taken from fill [83/005] of ditch [83/004]. Fabrics of this type are more likely to belong to the earlier Iron Age, again, a period represented in the assemblage from previous work at Lodge Farm (ASE 2016a). These sherds may also be residual, however, since those from [66/005] occurred with Late Iron Age pottery and those from [83/005] were found alongside several post-medieval finds.

Middle/Late Iron Age-Early Roman

- 5.3.5 By far the largest group of pottery (sixty-one sherds, weighing 464g) came from upper fill [65/004], of ditch [65/006]. The sherds appear to belong to three different vessels. The majority come from a Middle Iron Age style, hand-made sinuous necked jar in a fabric with coarse quartz of 0.5–0.8mm with very rare, large pebbly inclusions of flint or milky quartz up to 8mm. These occurred alongside a base from a wheel-thrown Late Iron Age grog-tempered pedestal jar, similar to *Camulodunum* form 202 (Hawkes and Hull 1947). A few fragmentary sherds from the base and lower wall of a second, hand-made grog-tempered vessel with vertical combing on the exterior were also noted. The occurrence of Middle and Late Iron Age pottery styles in the same deposit probably implies a transitional assemblage dating to the early/mid-1st century BC.
- 5.3.6 Eight sherds in similar grog-tempered wares were found in fill [66/005], of ditch [66/004]. Although these are undiagnostic, their rather low-fired nature is probably suggestive of a 1st century BC date. By contrast, a small group of pottery from alluvial deposit [78/004] looks more typical of the mid 1st century AD as it comprises sherds in somewhat higher-fired grog-tempered fabrics,

including one from a storage jar. One tiny fragment from this group may represent an early Roman sandy ware.

5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Helen Walker

5.4.1 Two sherds of pottery, weighing 8g, were excavated from two contexts and have 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). The earlier comprises a rather abraded sherd of Mill Green fineware from the upper fill, [62/004] of ditch [62/006]. It shows a cream slip-coating under the remains of a green glaze and is almost certainly from a jug. Mill Green ware is datable to the mid-13th to mid-14th centuries and is common throughout Essex, although is perhaps more abundant in the southern half of the county. The second sherd is an example of Creamware found in fill [83/005] of ditch [83/004], recovered from environmental sample <2> residue. It is most likely from a plate and is datable to the mid-18th to earlier 19th centuries.

5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 A small assemblage of forty-one pieces of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 849g, was collected from six individually numbered contexts across four trenches (Trenches 62, 69, 78 and 83), in an area adjacent to where a similarly small assemblage of CBM was recovered during a previous evaluation (ASE 2016a). The current assemblage was very poorly preserved, and mostly comprised broken and abraded fragments of brick and tile, with some pieces too broken to identify. It was difficult to date precisely, but an early-mid post-medieval date seems likely for the production of this material, although based on its condition it could have been redeposited much later.

5.5.2 For the purpose of continuity, the fabric descriptions compiled for the prior evaluation report have been used for the current assemblage where possible (ASE 2016a). Fabric descriptions were either based on the typology developed by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), or defined with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope using 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). The only new fabric present was roof tile fabric T3, but across the assemblage, as a whole, there was generally much less variety in fabric types present. Fabric descriptions are provided below in Table 10.

5.5.3 Eighteen fragments of roof tile—mostly in variations of fabric 2586—were collected, mainly from Trench 69. One of two fragments of T3 came from this trench, from context [69/006], the other came from [78/004]. Whilst the 2586 tile can be of any post-medieval or even potentially medieval in date, the general underfired quality and coarse inclusions of T3 suggests it to be medieval.

5.5.4 Most of the brick fragments, collected from Trenches 69 and 83, were in fabric B1, and only a single fragment from [69/007] had any intact dimensions, measuring 50mm. Generally, such a thickness would suggest an earlier brick of the late 14th-15th century, but the material in this instance is too limited to suggest a firm date.

- 5.5.5 A single but undiagnostic edge piece of CBM in a R2-like fabric was found in [78/004]. It may be a fragment of Roman CBM, although it is difficult to be sure.
- 5.5.6 At present, the assemblage has been retained but can be entirely discarded as there is nothing of further archaeological value present and nearly all of the CBM gathered was in very poor condition suggesting re-deposited debris.

Fabric	Description
<i>Site specific fabric descriptions</i>	
B1	Mostly hard-fired sandy red fabric with burnt oxides and sparse calcareous material up to 1.5mm.
T3	Underfired fragment, slightly groggy fabric with sparse very coarse quartz.
R2	Burnt fabric; moderate-common coarse sub-rounded quartz.
<i>Museum of London Archaeology fabric descriptions</i>	
2586	Tile fabric; orange-red fabric with common quartz up to 0.5mm.
3046	Brick fabric; orange-red fabric with frequent quartz up to 1mm; sparse calcium carbonate

Table 10: Fabric descriptions for ceramic building material

5.6 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 A small assemblage comprising 40 fragments of fired clay was recovered from three different contexts: 60/005, 66/005 and 83/005. Both hand-collected pieces and fragments recovered from the environmental residues are included.
- 5.6.2 Three fabrics were identified (Table 11). Most fragments are in fabric F2. The fragments were amorphous in form and demonstrated no characteristics indicative of date or function.

Fabric	Description
F1	Brown/orange fabric with sparse fine quartz
F2	Brown fabric with moderate medium/coarse quartz
F3	Orange fabric with common quartz to 1mm, rare chalk to 3mm and rare flint pebbles to 5mm.

Table 11: Overview of fired clay fabrics

5.7 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A small assemblage consisting of three stem fragments (weight 4g) was recovered from two different contexts. All three are unmarked and undecorated, and none have been burnished. A fragment dating to c. 1680–1800 was recovered from [83/005]. Two further pieces date between c. 1750–1910 ([62/004] and [83/005]).

5.8 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.8.1 A total of four fragments of glass were found in two different contexts. Included are hand-collected pieces as well as a shard recovered from the environmental

residues. The earliest fragment comprises a pale green window pane shard (0.8mm thick) of 17th- or 18th-century date ([83/005]). Two fragments from a green cylindrical bottle, possibly for beer, of late 19th- or 20th-century date were found in [69/005]. Finally, context [83/005] (sample <2>) contained a small green wine bottle base fragment of mid 18th- to mid 19th-century date.

5.9 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.9.1 A very small quantity of material initially identified as slag was recovered from the site. Nearly all was recovered from one of four environmental residues. The material is listed in Table 12.

5.9.2 The collected 'slag' consists of a tiny piece of fuel ash slag—which could have been created by any high temperature process—and a slight scatter of clinker, most notably from context [83/005]. The latter is likely to be waste from coal burning during the 18th and 19th centuries. The remaining material consists of natural well-polished granules of ferruginous siltstone and ooliths, the latter presumably eroded from oolitic limestones and later stained, whose magnetic properties have been enhanced through burning. They are not diagnostic of any industrial processes. Overall, there is no evidence in the current sample of any metalworking.

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

Context	Sample	Fraction	Type	No/weight	Comments
60/005	<1>	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	1g	Ferruginous siltstone, often well polished and including ooliths
65/004	<3>	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	1g	As [60/005]
66/005	<4>	>8mm	Fuel ash slag	1g	Grey, aerated
66/005	<4>	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	1g	As [60/005]
69/006	-	-	Clinker	2/10g	Black, aerated
83/005	<2>	>8mm	Clinker	7/2g	Black, aerated
83/005	<2>	4-8mm	Clinker	58/6g	Black, aerated
83/005	<2>	2-4mm	Clinker	32/1g	Black, aerated
83/005	<2>	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	2g	As [60/005]

Table 12: The slag assemblage

5.10 The Animal Bone by Emily Johnson

5.10.1 An assemblage of five animal bones, all medium mammal long bone fragments, was analysed, weighing approximately 4g in total. The bones were hand-collected from contexts [83/005] (n=1), the fill of ditch [83/004], and [65/007] (n=4), the fill of pit [65/008]; no bones originated from bulk environmental samples. Based on the ceramic material, context [83/005] dates from the mid-18th century to approximately 1830. Context [65/007] contained no datable finds. All bones were poorly preserved, showing signs of taphonomic erosion of cortical and fracture surfaces.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A total of four samples were taken during the Phase 1B evaluation at Lodge Farm, Witham, for recovery of environmental remains, such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca, as well as to assist finds retrieval. Samples were taken from a single pit (of unknown date) and three ditches (one with mid 18th- to early 19th-pottery and two with Iron Age pottery).
- 6.1.2 Previous work at the site has revealed multiple occupation phases from the Late Bronze Age to the post-medieval era (see section 2.6). Twenty-two environmental samples were collected during the previous excavations and subsequently analysed; small quantities of charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal were present (ASE 2016a).
- 6.1.3 The following presents an overview of the contents of the samples from this current phase of evaluation, focusing on the archaeobotanical remains and the information they provide regarding diet and the arable economy, fuel use and selection, and the local vegetation.

6.2 Methods

- 6.2.1 The samples, ranging from 20–40 litres, were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank with the light (flot) and heavy (residue) fractions retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes, respectively, before being air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 4a). Artefacts recovered from the samples are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblages. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7–45x magnifications and the contents recorded in Appendix 4b. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and Zohary and Hopf (1994).
- 6.2.2 Charcoal fragments were fractured by hand along three planes to reveal transverse, radial and tangential surfaces according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000; Leney and Casteel 1975). 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). Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 4a and nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

Samples <1> [60/005] pit [60/006], <2> [83/005] ditch [83/004], <3> [65/004] ditch [65/006] and <4> [66/005] from ditch [66/004]

- 6.3.1 The flots ranged in size from 10ml to 100ml in volume. With the exception of sample <1>, which contained 50% uncharred plant remains, they all produced in excess of 90% modern uncharred remains, including cereal stem, rachis and

other chaff fragments, as well as roots and seeds (including *Chenopodium* sp. and *Sambucus nigra*). Land molluscs, including the burrowing variety, *Ceciloides*, were noted in samples <2> and <4>. Further land snail shell/s (fragments) were recovered by hand from context [62/004], the upper fill of ditch [62/006]. Charred plant macrofossils were present in small numbers in samples <1>, <2> and <3> and absent in sample <4>. Wood charcoal fragments were scarce in the flots and residues from samples <2>, <3> and <4>. By comparison, sample <1> contained a moderate quantity of wood charcoal, sufficient for identification work.

Charred Plant Macrofossils

- 6.3.2 Sample <1> [60/005] from undated pit [60/004] contained charred remains of possible tubers or grass culm bases. They are variable in size but have similar overall morphology and several retain attached culm fragments and rootlets.
- 6.3.3 Sample <2> [83/005] from post-medieval ditch [83/004] produced cereal caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), including possible free-threshing bread-type wheat (*Triticum aestivum* sl.) and indeterminate poorly preserved fragments, as well as a bean/pea (*Vicia/Pisum* sp.) fragment. Grass culm fragments were also noted. This feature contained Creamware dated to the mid-18th to earlier 19th century (see section 5.4)
- 6.3.4 Sample <3> [65/004], from probable Iron Age ditch [65/006] contained a single pea (*Pisum sativum*) and small fragments of indeterminate charred remains.

Wood Charcoal

- 6.3.5 Preservation of wood charcoal was moderate to good in sample <1> [60/005] from pit [60/004], although some degree of sediment percolation and encrusting was recorded for the assemblage as a whole. Oak (*Quercus* sp.) was the only taxon identified with two further fragments considered unidentifiable. Vitrification and radial cracks were observed in almost all of the fragments, although this was rarely detrimental to identification.

6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 The combination of stems and possible culm bases with moderate quantities of charcoal in sample <1> hints at the use of grasses with the fuelwood, in this case oak. Grasses including the culm bases, could have been used as kindling or they could also have become incorporated accidentally/incidentally if the fire was built on ground where grasses formerly grew. All of the oak fragments viewed displayed little evidence for ring curvature suggesting they are all from large branches or main stem wood. The prominence of oak compares well with previous work at the site, although Adams (2016) also recorded field maple, which has not been noted here. Pit [60/004] produced no datable finds and is therefore of unknown date. It may be possible to date the possible culm bases; however, the charcoal from mature oak wood of unknown size is not suitable for dating. Given the limited scope of the assemblage and the absence of associated artefacts or dating evidence, no further comparisons have been possible.
- 6.4.2 The small assemblages of charred plant remains, cereals, non-cereal legume

crops and associated grass stem fragments in samples <2> and <3> are most likely the discarded remnants of crop processing. There is no evidence for the primary locations of crop processing activities or features such as hearths or kilns in which they may have become charred. The presence of mid 18th- to earlier 19th-century pottery together with charred botanicals and modern uncharred plant remains suggests significant mixing may have occurred in these deposits and it is not possible to confidently draw an association between the charred plant remains and the 18th-/19th-century pottery.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The top of the natural geological deposit was encountered in all trenches at between 36m AOD (Trenches 74 and 84) and 39m AOD (Trenches 61, 62, 69, 70, 81 and 82). It consisted primarily of mid-brown or orangey brown sandy silts and clay. Occasional gravel patches were present with patches of yellowish grey boulder clay to the north of the site.
- 7.1.2 Above the natural deposits in all of the trenches was a dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil (0.19–0.38m thick). The subsoil, where present (Trenches 60–62, 66, the south-eastern end of Trench 69, Trenches 70–72, 79–80 and 83–84), was composed of disturbed or weathered natural deposits (0.07–0.15m thick), with the interface between it and the underlying natural being poorly defined.
- 7.1.3 Archaeological features were identified in six of the twenty-five evaluation trenches. These features were identified in Trenches 60 and 62, 65 and 66, 69 and 83, with a notable sparsity across the rest of the site. The features in Trenches 62 and 83 were cut through the subsoil deposit, whilst the features in Trenches 60, 65, 66 and 69 were overlain by topsoil and, where present, subsoil deposits, and cut directly into the natural deposit. Trench 78 was devoid of archaeological features, however, a concentration of prehistoric pottery was recovered from what appeared to be a natural alluvial deposit.
- 7.1.4 The range of feature types encountered included ditches and pits and generally exhibited a low density and low intercut complexity.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 Archaeological features were overlain by c. 0.19–0.38m thickness of topsoil and, where present, 0.08–0.12m subsoil, and were cut into the natural strata. It is clear that historic agricultural activity has reworked the soils and truncated the upper portions of all surviving archaeological features within the site.
- 7.2.2 Deeper intrusion was evident, with one modern land drain being recorded to cut across an infilled ditch and to intrude to a depth of 0.88m below ground level (Trench 69). Other than plough disturbance, no significant disturbance of the tops of archaeological remains within the evaluation trenches was discerned.
- 7.2.3 Modern impacts, such as land drainage, were observed during the evaluation, in Trenches 71, 73, 74 and 84, with multiple ceramic land drains present in Trenches 62, 65, 69, 78 and 79. Other than in Trench 69, these did not directly impact upon any archaeological remains within the exposed extents of the trenches.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 7.3.1 Where possible, the recorded archaeological features have been dated on the basis of their diagnostic artefact content. These are discussed below, by broad period.

Prehistoric

- 7.3.2 Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, together with residual Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery, was recovered from a single ditch, running broadly east/west, across Trenches 65 and 66. Diagnostic Late Iron Age wheel-thrown pottery collected from its fill may indicate an early to mid 1st-century BC date for the ditch. This ditch may indicate the presence of a field system, defined by ditches, across the wider vicinity and located outside the known Iron Age settlement foci at Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane
- 7.3.3 The natural alluvial deposit recorded in Trench 78 contained a transitional assemblage of Late Bronze Age pottery, together with pottery dating to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman periods, which is similar in date to pottery recovered from the Lodge Farm 2016 investigations; however, this assemblage may be residual in nature.
- 7.3.4 In contrast to the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements at Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane, and the potentially associated occupation and agricultural activities encountered during the 2016 excavation of Area 1 at Lodge Farm, the evidence for prehistoric occupation in the Phase 1B area of Lodge Farm is sparse and seemingly limited to this one ditch confined to the north-west of the site. These remains constitute limited evidence for later prehistoric occupation activity at the site and provide little insight into the nature of later prehistoric land use.
- 7.3.5 In comparison to previous investigations at Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane and also the 2016 excavation of Area 1 at Lodge Farm, no prehistoric funerary activity was encountered during the evaluation of the Phase 1B site of Lodge Farm, nor was there any evidence for Roman settlement activity.

Post-Medieval/Modern

- 7.3.6 No remains relating to and informing upon Saxon land management were encountered during the Phase 1B evaluation. There was a similar lack of Saxon material uncovered during 2016 excavations at Lodge Farm, which was in contrast with the recorded 5th- and 6th-century remains at Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane.
- 7.3.7 The paucity of evidence relating to later medieval activities in the Phase 1B area is in contrast with the results of the 2016 excavation of Area 3, north-east of the Phase 1B site, where late medieval agricultural activities were indicated by a field boundary, open areas of an agricultural nature and an open-ended timber structure that may have functioned as a barn or animal shelter (ASE 2016a).
- 7.3.8 A NW/SE running ditch crossing Trench 83, was of post-medieval date. A modern land drain, following the same alignment, was investigated in Trench 71, which may have truncated a continuation of the earlier ditch. The ditch may indicate an earlier phase of post-medieval agricultural land use on the site.
- 7.3.9 A NW/SE running ditch recorded in Trench 62 was of post-medieval date and may indicate post-medieval agricultural land use. Finds from [62/004] indicate

a mid 18th-century to early 19th-century date. The ditch was flanked on either side by parallel, modern ceramic land drains, which suggests that the post-medieval ditch was still in use, or was decommissioned, when the modern drains were installed.

- 7.3.10 A possible substantial pit [69/008] encountered in the south-west of the site contained finds dating to the 18th-20th centuries. The presence of three modern land drains truncating the feature from above, to a depth of c. 0.8 metres, may have caused significant mixing of soils. The pit may constitute the remains of a post-medieval pond to aid drainage of the surrounding vicinity.
- 7.3.11 The ditches may relate to the post-medieval agricultural land use of the site, though they do not correspond to field boundaries shown on historic OS and tithe maps from the later 19th century.

Undated

- 7.3.12 Two pits, one located in Trench 60 and the other in Trench 65, were undated, lacking diagnostic finds evidence, morphological characteristics or relationships and spatial patterning.

7.4 Conclusions

- 7.4.1 The evaluation has established the absence of archaeological remains across much of the site area, with only a small number of recorded features concentrated towards the north-west of the site and single, isolated features in the west, south-west and south-east. The density and complexity of these remains is low.
- 7.4.2 The broadly Middle to Late Iron Age ditch may indicate the presence of a field system, defined by ditches, across the wider vicinity and located outside the known Iron Age settlement foci at Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane.
- 7.4.3 The assemblage of Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery recovered from the centre of the site may indicate the presence of prehistoric activity in this area. However, the presence of modern agricultural land drains suggests that this assemblage may be residual in nature.
- 7.4.4 The small quantity of post-medieval ditches, recorded in the south-east and west of the site, most likely relate to 19th-century and later agricultural land management.

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Appendix 1: HER Summary

Site name / Address: Phase 1B Lodge Farm, Witham, Essex	
Parish: Witham	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 8072 1330	Site Code: WHLF16
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director: J. Alexander, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 2–10 January 2018	Site Area: 3.83ha
Location of Finds / Curating Museum: Braintree Museum	Funding source: Client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes	Related HER Nos: None
Final Report: EAH short note?	OASIS No: 306081
Periods Represented: Early Iron Age, Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Twenty-five trenches were excavated across the 3.83ha site. Archaeological features were recorded in six trenches, comprising two post-medieval linear ditches, a post-medieval pit, one undated pit and one prehistoric ditch. A natural deposit containing prehistoric pottery was also recorded.</p> <p>The archaeological evaluation established the absence of archaeological remains across the majority of the site, with past Prehistoric activity seemingly isolated towards the north-west of the site.</p>	
Previous Summaries / Reports:	
ASE (2016) Archaeological Investigations at Lodge Farm, Witham, Essex, Post-Excavation Assessment and updated Project Design, Unpublished Report no. 2016363	
Author of Summary: James Alexander	Date of Summary: January 2018

Appendix 2: OASIS Form**OASIS ID: 306081****Project details**

Project name	Phase 1B, Lodge Farm, Witham, Essex
Short description of the project	Twenty-five trenches were excavated across the 3.83ha site. Archaeological features were recorded in six trenches, comprising two post-medieval linear ditches, a post-medieval pit, one undated pit and one prehistoric ditch. A natural deposit containing prehistoric pottery was also recorded. The archaeological evaluation established the absence of archaeological remains across the majority of the site, with past Prehistoric activity seemingly isolated towards the north-west of the site.
Project dates	Start: 02-01-2018 End: 10-01-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	WHLF16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	171161 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE WITHAM Phase 1B Land at Lodge Farm Witham
Postcode	CM8 1EJ
Study area	3.83 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 580720 213300 51.867644731592 0.296164237941 51 52 03 N 000 17 46 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.83m Max: 40.07m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard

Project supervisor James Alexander

Type of sponsor/funding body client

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Braintree Museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass"

Digital Archive recipient Braintree Museum

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Braintree Museum

Paper Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at Phase 1B, Land at Lodge Farm, Witham, Essex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Alexander, J.

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No. 2018007

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Witham, Essex

Description A4 report of approximately 50 pages including figures and appendices

URL archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

Appendix 3: Archaeologically negative trenches list of recorded contexts

61/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.41	0.28-0.31	39.60-39.73
61/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	2.41	0.08-0.09	
61/003	Deposit	Natural	30	2.14	0.11-0.14+	39.20-39.21
63/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.3	0.32-0.34	39.33-39.92
63/002	Deposit	Natural	30	2.3	0.14-0.24+	38.77-39.31
64/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.3	0.32-0.37	39.08-39.21
64/002	Deposit	Natural	30	2.3	0.11-0.16+	38.62-38.65
68/001	Layer	Topsoil	29.39	2.46	0.19-0.28	36.89-37.49
68/002	Deposit	Natural	29.39	2.46	0.08-0.12+	36.54-37.21
70/001	Layer	Topsoil	29.61	2.83	0.21-0.27	39.34-39.80
70/002	Layer	Subsoil	29.61	2.83	0.08-0.12	
70/003	Deposit	Natural	29.61	2.83	0.09-0.12+	38.87-39.33
71/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.5	0.24-0.28	38.36-38.88
71/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	2.5	0.08-0.11	
71/003	Deposit	Natural	30	2.5	0.12-0.13+	37.83-38.38
72/001	Layer	Topsoil	29.4	2.54	0.25-0.29	37.50-37.82
72/002	Layer	Subsoil	29.4	2.54	0.07-0.11	
72/003	Deposit	Natural	29.4	2.54	0.12-0.19+	36.95-37.41
73/001	Layer	Topsoil	29.52	2.32	0.27-0.32	36.79-37.05
73/002	Deposit	Natural	29.52	2.32	0.06-0.09+	36.38-36.66
74/001	Layer	Topsoil	29.95	2.53	0.32-0.38	35.81-36.85
74/002	Deposit	Natural	29.95	2.53	0.08-0.16+	35.90-36.30
75/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.84	0.21-0.28	36.91-37.49
75/002	Deposit	Natural	30	2.84	0.09-0.12+	36.57-37.16
76/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.32	0.22-0.27	37.56-38.13
76/002	Deposit	Natural	30	2.32	0.09-0.14+	37.20-37.71
77/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.3	0.25-0.27	37.81-38.34
77/002	Deposit	Natural	30	2.3	0.11-0.15+	37.44-37.89
79/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.12	0.24-0.27	39.21-39.28
79/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	2.12	0.08-0.09	
79/003	Deposit	Natural	30	2.12	0.09-0.11+	38.76-38.77
80/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.86	0.24-0.29	39.55-39.76
80/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	2.86	0.09-0.10	
80/003	Deposit	Subsoil	30	2.86	0.08-0.11+	39.10-39.24
81/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.95	0.25-0.34	40.08-40.58
81/002	Deposit	Natural	30	2.95	0.09-0.12+	39.70-40.07
82/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.4	0.22-0.28	39.70-40.12
82/002	Deposit	Natural	30	2.4	0.06-0.15+	39.38-39.70
84/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.4	0.25-0.31	36.39-37.15
84/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	2.4	0.09-0.11	
84/003	Deposit	Natural	30	2.4	0.08-0.14+	35.83-36.67

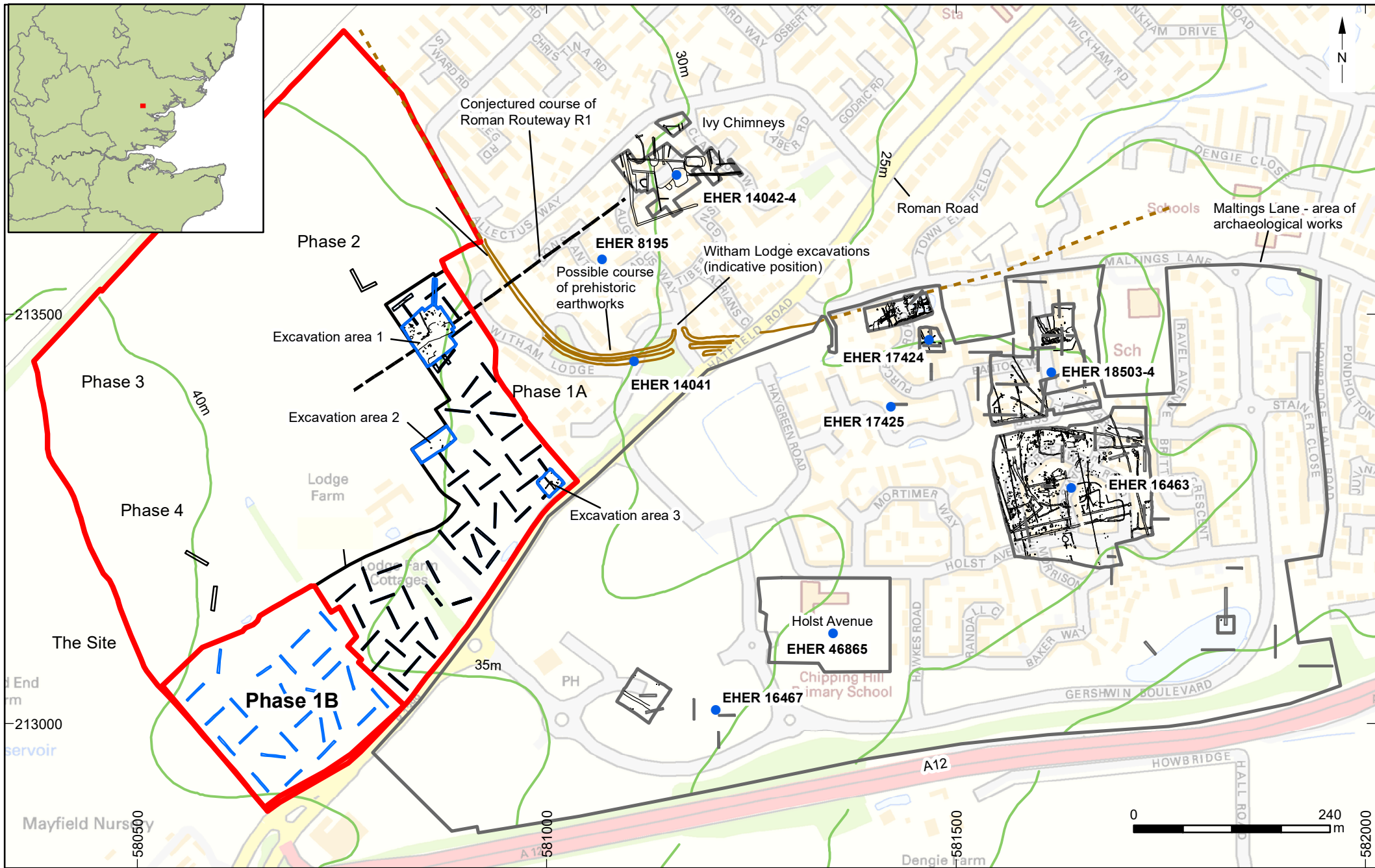
Appendix 4: Environmental data

4a: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams. Charcoal Key: PDS = post-depositional sediment, RC = radial cracks, V = vitrification.

Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	60/005	Pit 60/004	20	****	14	****	14				Fired clay >8mm */ 15g. FCF */ 18g. Mag Mat >2mm **/1g. Mag Mat <2mm ****/ 2g.
2	83/005	Ditch 83/004	40	*	<1	*	<1		*	>1	Pot >8mm */1g. Fired Clay >8mm **/29g. FCF */ 25g. Slag >8mm */<1g. Glass */<1g Slag 4-8mm **/ 7g.Slag 2-4mm **/<1g. Coal > 8mm */<1g.Coal 4-8mm ** /<1g. Coal 2-4mm **/<1g. Mag Mat >2mm **/<1g. Mag Mat <2mm ****/6g.
3	65/004	Ditch 65/006	40			**	<1				Pot >8mm **/60g. FCF **/40g. Worked Flint >8mm 3g. Mag Mat>2mm **/2g. MagMat <2mm****/<1g
4	66/005	Ditch 66/004	40			**	<1	Quercus sp. (20), indet. Poor pres (2) PDS, RC, V			Slag >8mm */<1g. FCF **/27g. Mag Mat >2mm **/<1g. Mag Mat <2mm **/1g.

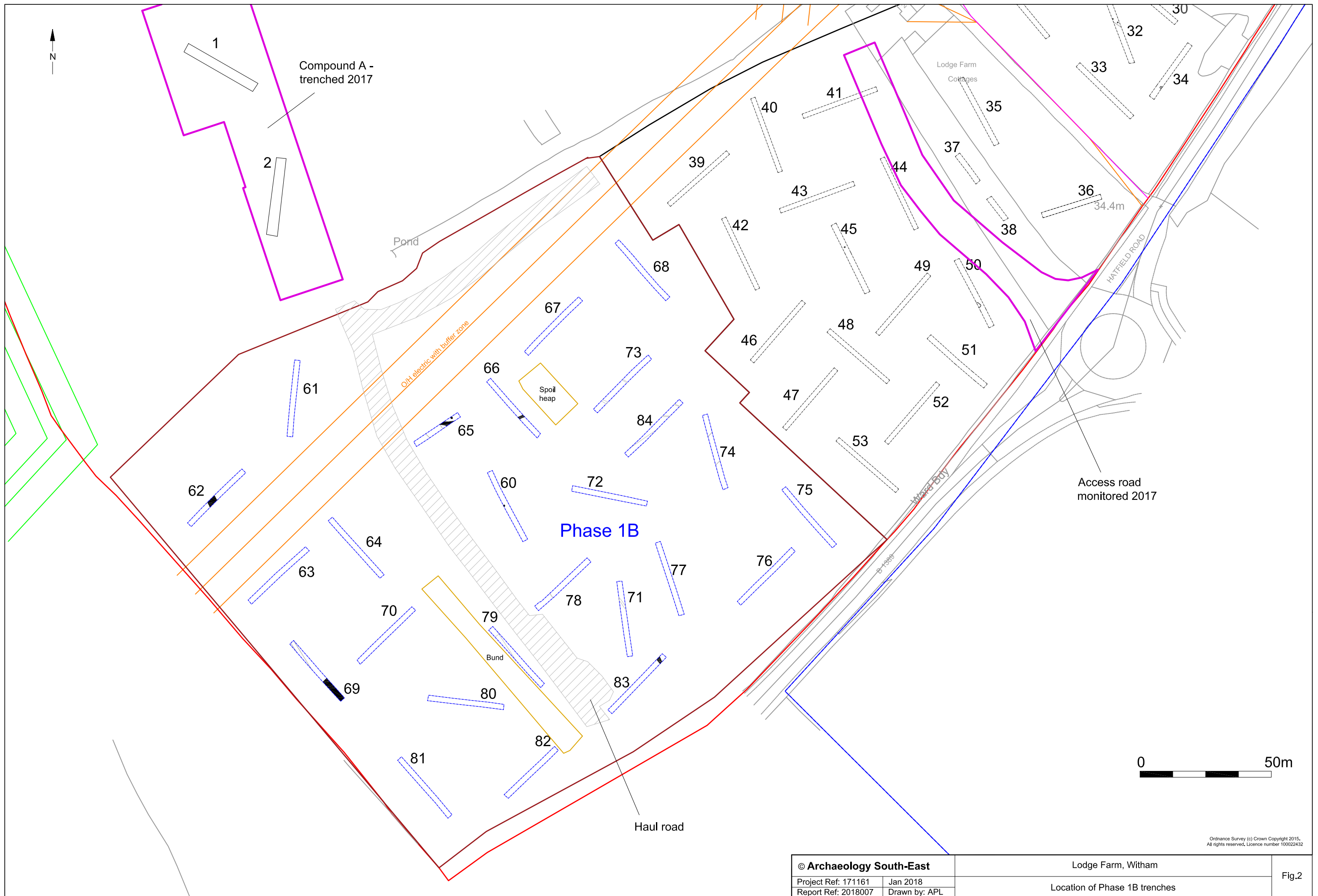
4b: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good). Key: cpr = charred plant remains

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Land Snail Shells
1	60/005	Pit Fill	21.5	100	100	50	5	*	**	****				*	cf poaceae (grass) culm bases with rootlets. Very spikey, sim to tubers	++	
2	83/005	Ditch Fill	6	40	40	95	<5			**	**	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> , <i>Triticum</i> sp., cerealia indet., <i>Vicia/Pisum</i> sp.	++	*	Poaceae stem frags	++	**
3	65/004	Ditch Fill	7.5	35	35	90	5			***	*	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	++	*	Indet cpr	+	
4	66/005	Ditch Fill	1	10	10	90	5			****							**



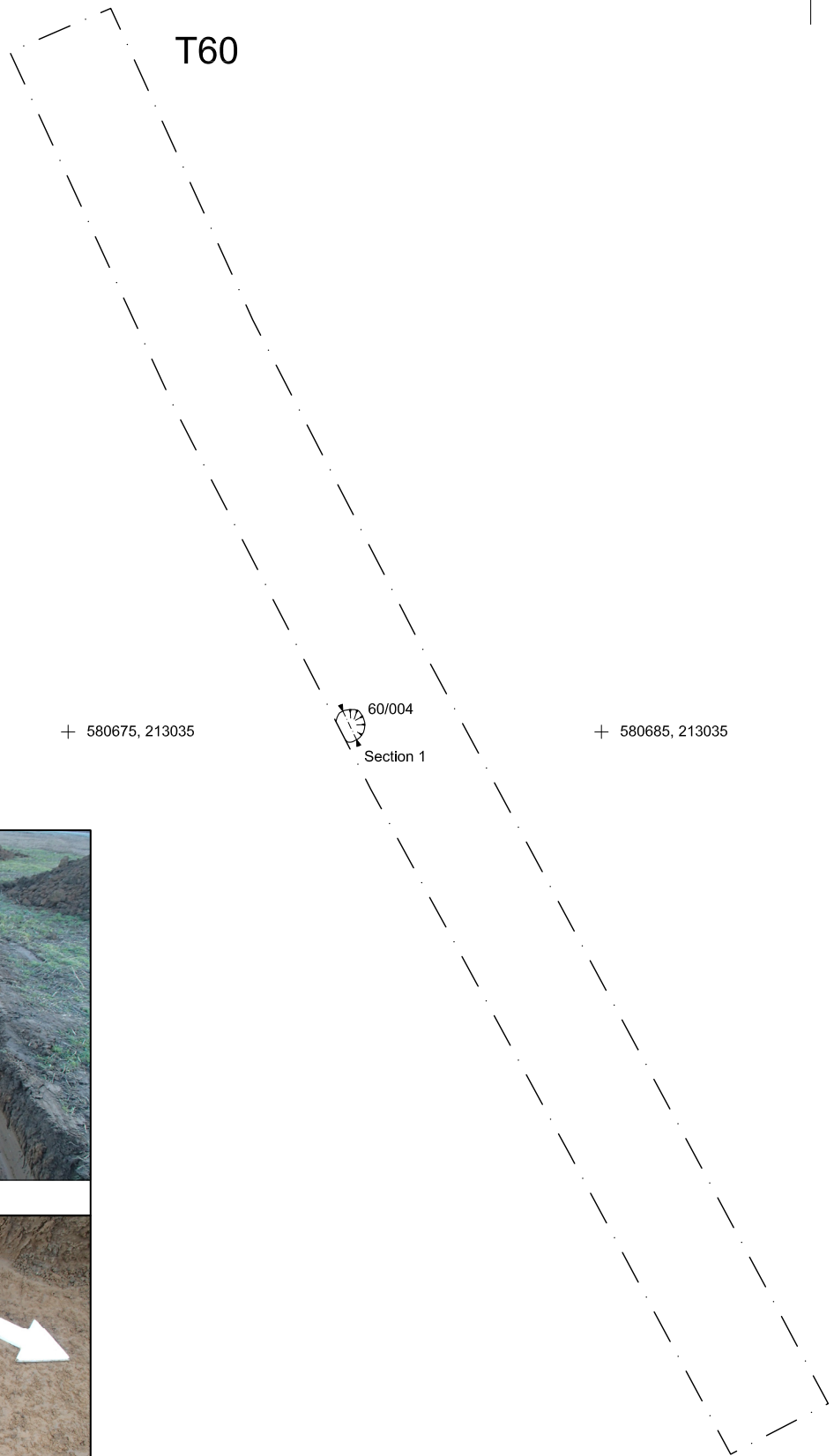
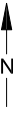
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© Archaeology South-East		Lodge Farm, Witham		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Location of Phase 1B with previous areas of archaeological work		
Report No: 2018007	Drawn by: APL			

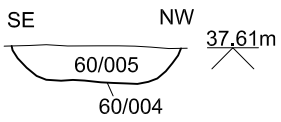


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Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Location of Phase 1B trenches	
Report Ref: 2018007	Drawn by: APL		



Section 1



0 0.5m



Trench 60



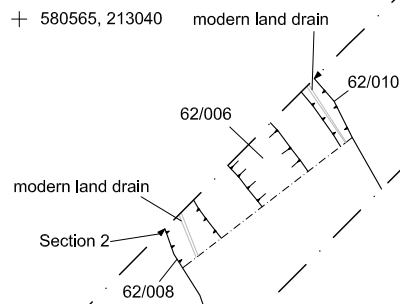
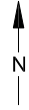
Posthole 60/004

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Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Trench 60, plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2018007	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 62

T62

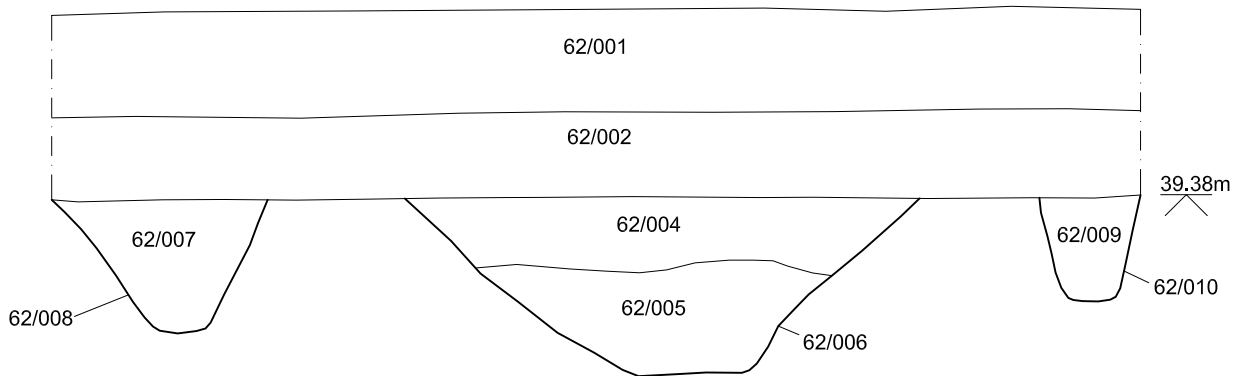


Ditches 62/006, 62/008 and 62/010

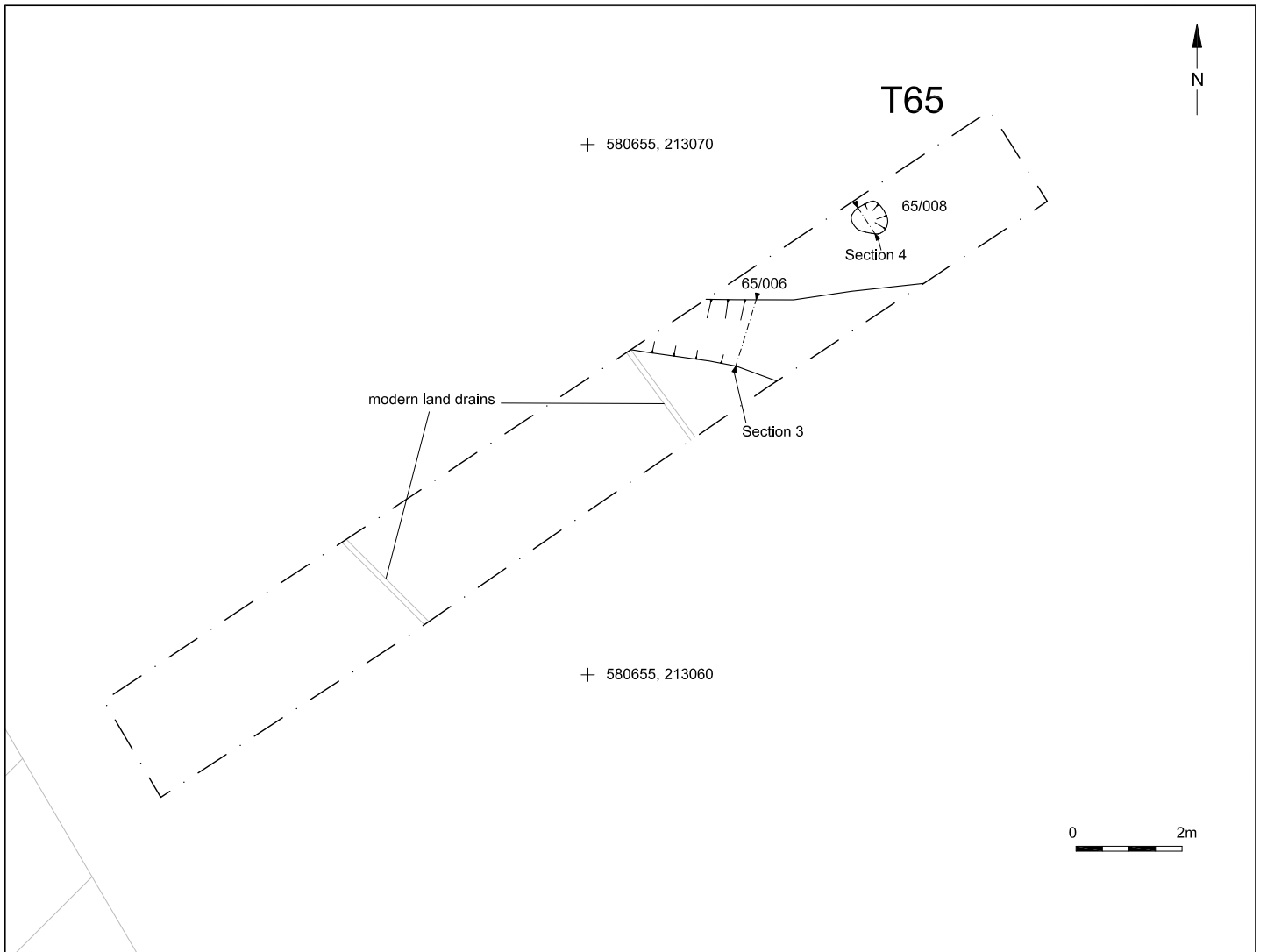
Section 2

SE

NW



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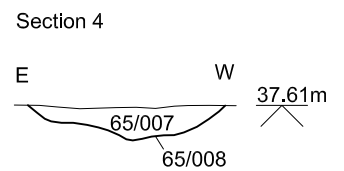
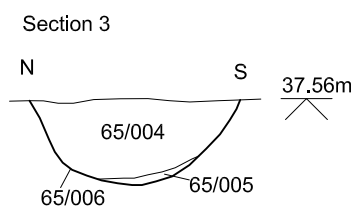
Ditch 65/006



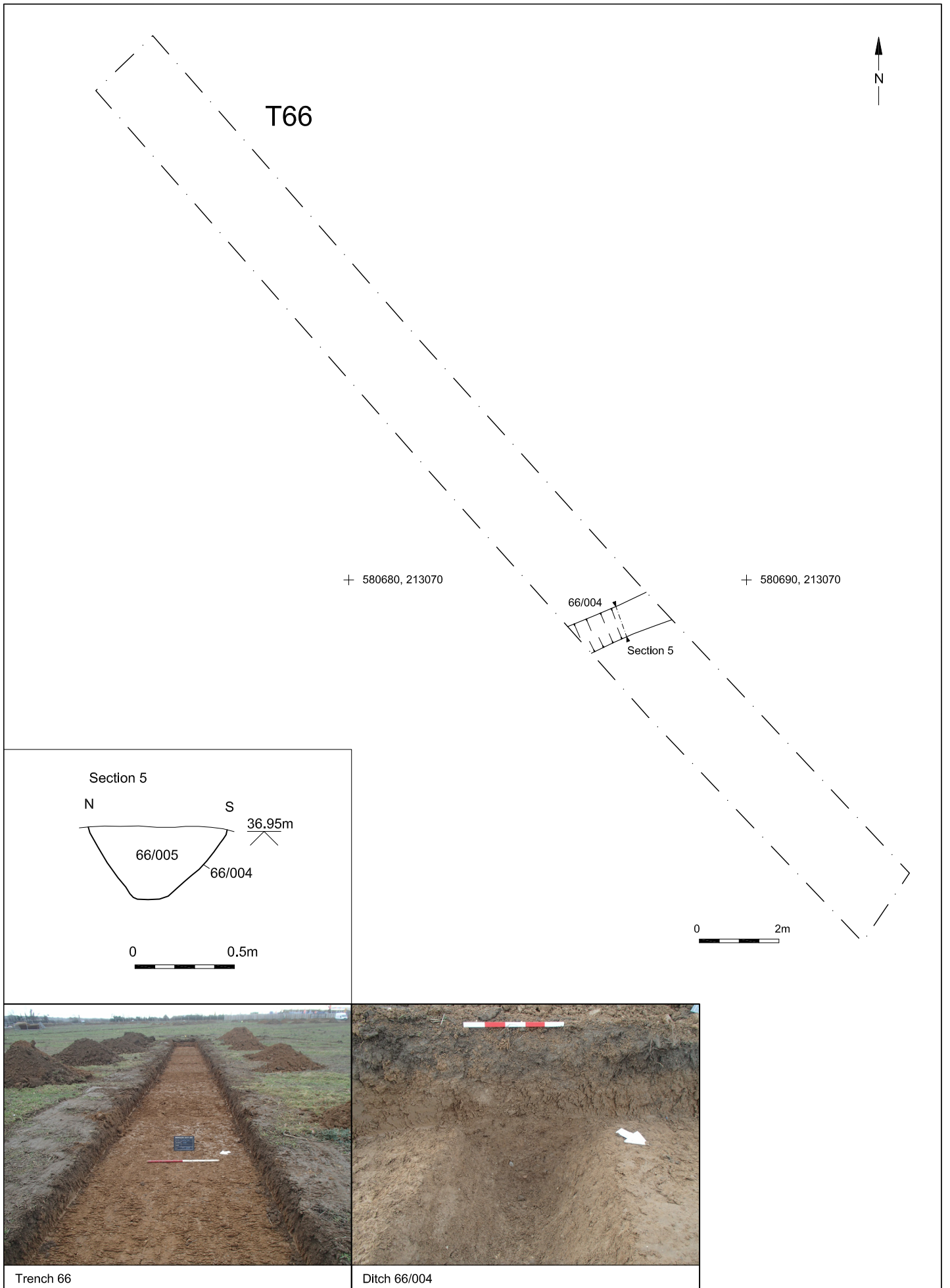
Trench 65



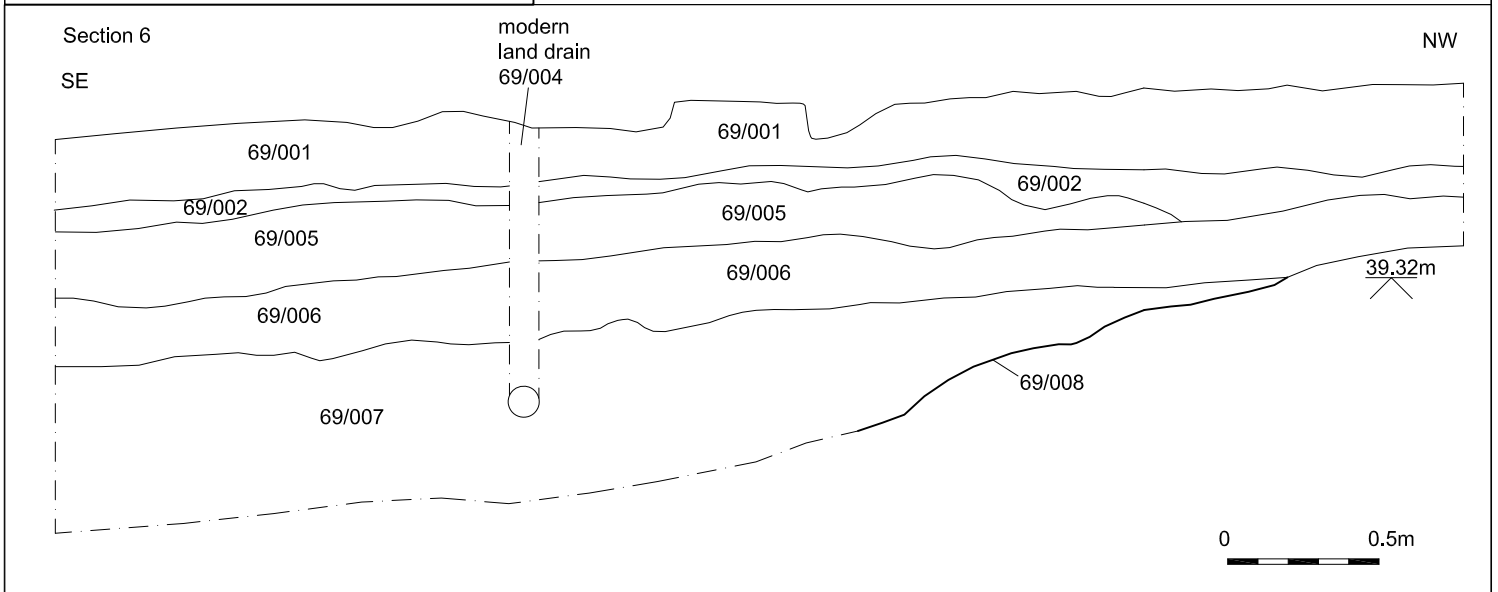
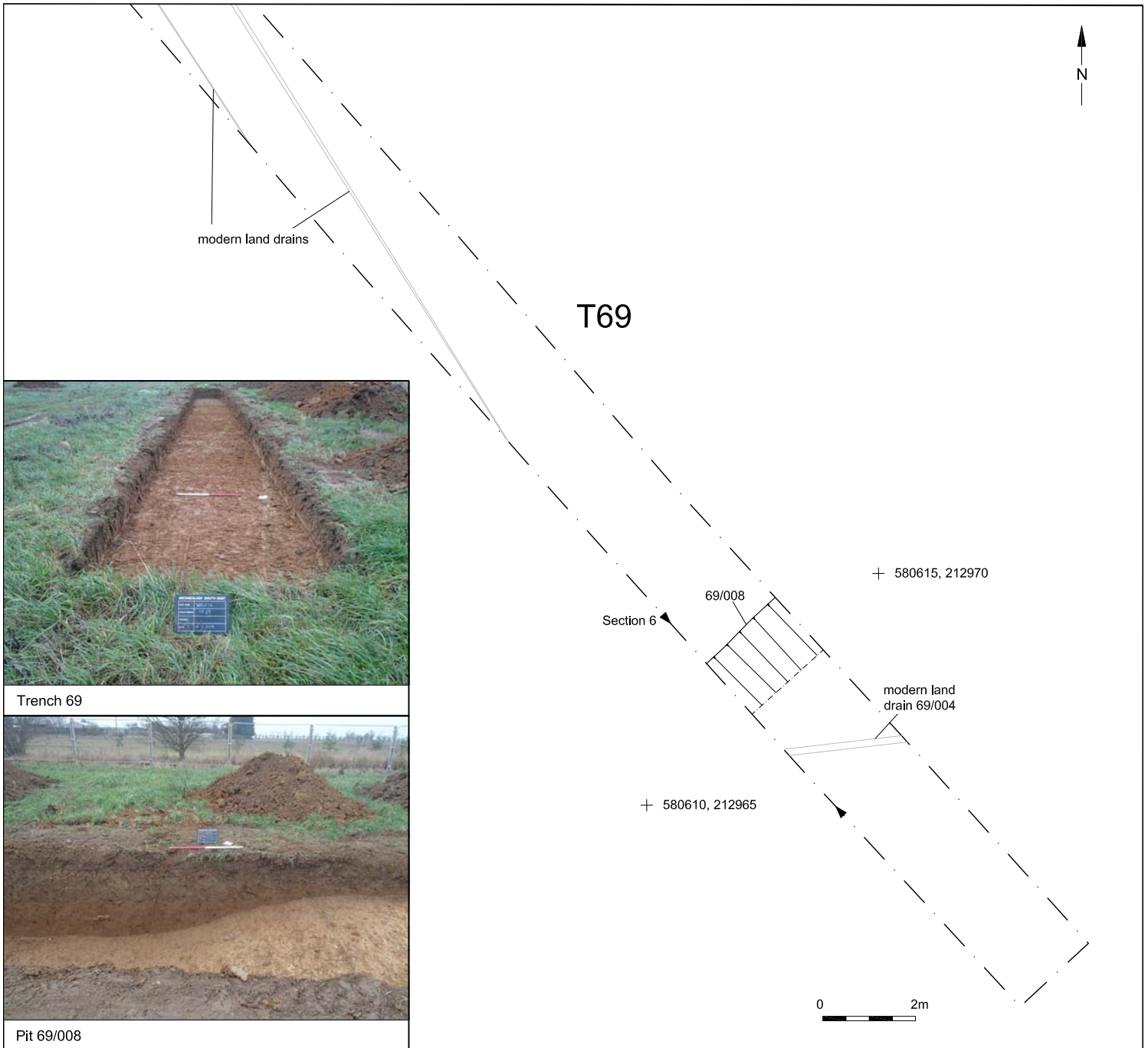
Pit 65/008



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Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Trench 65 plan, sections and photographs	
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Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Trench 66 plan, section and photographs	
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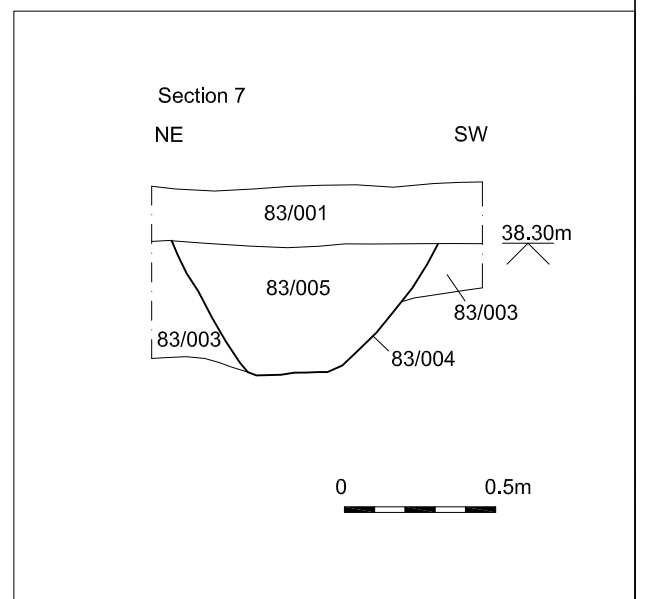
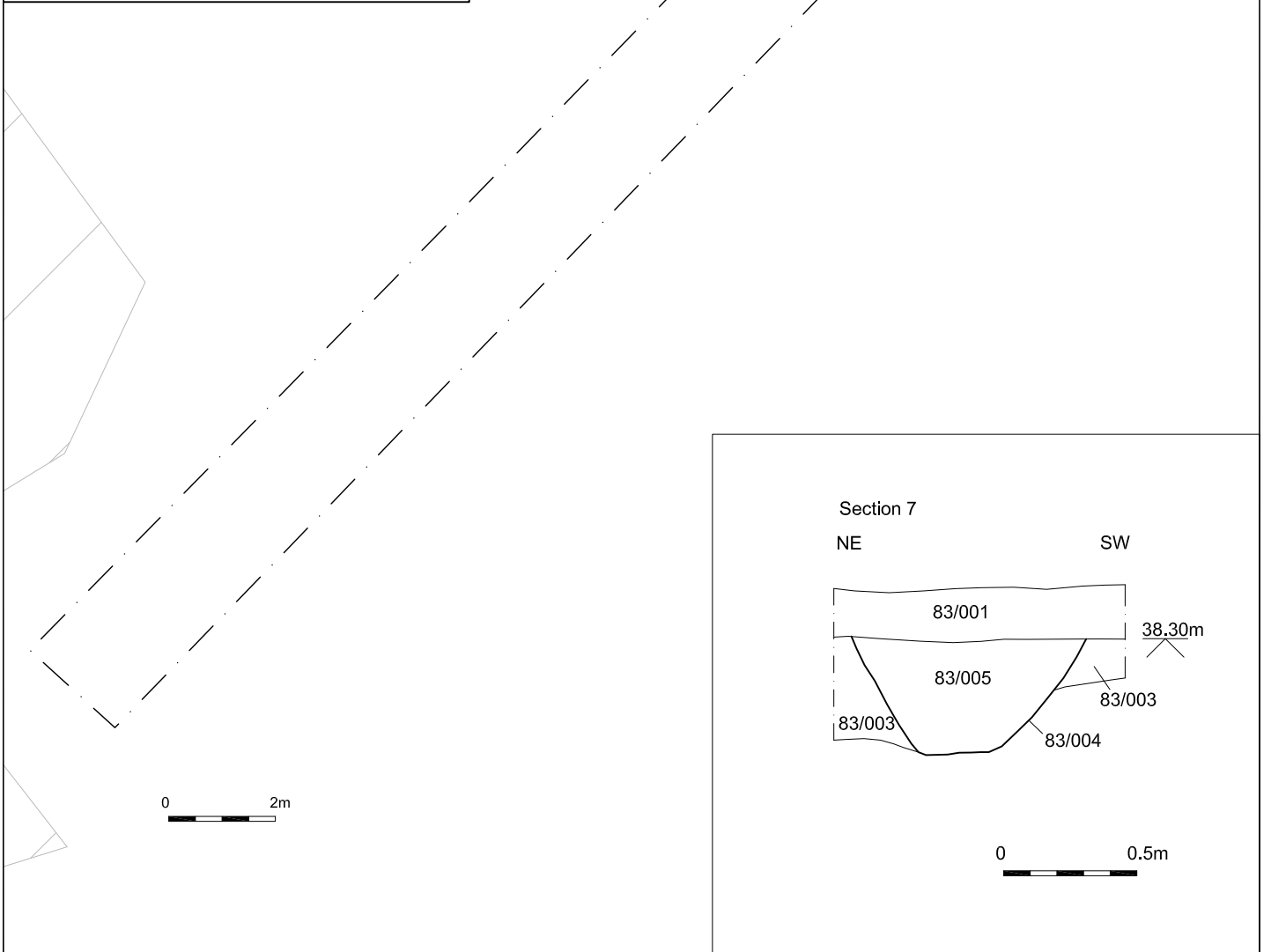
© Archaeology South-East		Lodge Farm, Witham	Fig.7
Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Trench 69 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2018007	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 83



Ditch 83/004



© Archaeology South-East		Lodge Farm, Witham	Fig.8
Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Trench 83 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2018007	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 61



Trench 63



Trench 64



Trench 67



Trench 68



Trench 70



Trench 71



Trench 72

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Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Trench photographs	
Report Ref: 2018007	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 73



Trench 74



Trench 75



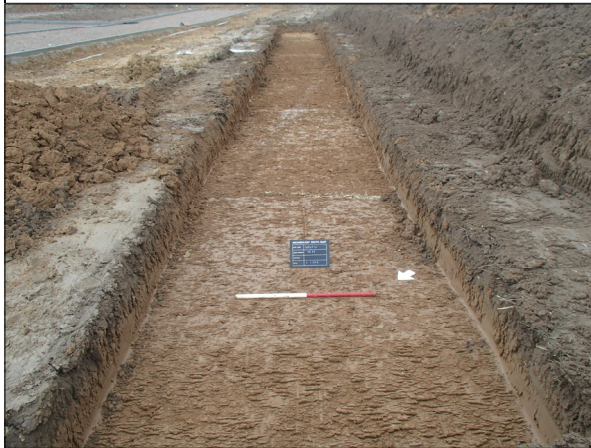
Trench 76



Trench 77



Trench 78



Trench 79



Trench 80

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Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Trench photographs	
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Trench 81



Trench 82



Trench 84

© Archaeology South-East		Lodge Farm, Witham	Fig.11
Project Ref: 171161	Jan 2018	Trench photographs	
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