

Archaeological Evaluation

**Land at Spellbrook Farm
London Road
Spellbrook
Hertfordshire**

**ASE Project No: 171156
Site Code: SFB 18**

ASE Report No: 2018010



January 2018

Archaeological Evaluation

Land at Spellbrook Farm,
London Road,
Spellbrook
Hertfordshire, CM23 4AX

NGR: TL 48621 17575

Planning Ref: 3/17/2033/FUL

ASE Project No: 171156
Site Code: SFB 18

ASE Report No: 2018010
OASIS id: 306161

By Paulo Clemente

With contributions by
Isa Benedetti-Whitton, Paul Blinkhorn, Trista Clifford and
Karine Le Hégarat

Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey

Prepared by:	Paulo Clemente	Archaeologist
Reviewed by:	Charlotte Howsam	Archaeologist (post-ex)
Approved by:	Mark Atkinson	Project Manager
Date of Issue:	February 2018	
Version:	1	

Archaeology South-East
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ

Tel: 01376 331470
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Spellbrook Farm, London Road, Spellbrook, near Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 4AX, between 10th and 11th January 2018. The fieldwork was commissioned by Dyer Mackay Developments Ltd in advance of a residential development at the site.

A total of three trenches were investigated, all but one of which were devoid of archaeological remains. A single ditch, possibly a former minor field boundary, of post-medieval/modern date was recorded in the north of the site.

The absence of remains in all other trenches suggests that the wider development site contains little or no archaeological content.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: HER Summary
- Appendix 2: OASIS Form
- Appendix 3: Archaeologically negative trenches

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
- Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Quantification of finds
- Table 5: Fabric descriptions for ceramic building material
- Table 6: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

FIGURES

Front Cover Image: Working view of Trench 3, looking west

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Trench locations
- Figure 3: Trench 1, plan section and photographs
- Figure 4: Blank trenches, photographs

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, have been commissioned by Dyer Mackay Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Spellbrook Farm, London Road, Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 4AX.

1.1.2 This archaeological work was carried out in fulfilment of a condition attached to planning consent for the residential development of the site.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The hamlet of Spellbrook lies approximately 1 mile south of Bishop's Stortford in the parish of High Wych, in East Hertfordshire District (centred NGR: TL 48621 17575; Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The site comprises part of an existing farm, consisting of open land measuring approximately 2,820sq m and one existing barn. The site is bound to the north and south by housing, to the east by London Road (A1184) and to the west by open land.

1.2.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2017), the solid geology of the site consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. These are overlain by Head Deposits, consisting of clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission (Ref: 3/17/2033/FUL) has been granted by East Hertfordshire District Council for the demolition of the existing barn and the erection of three detached houses with associated access road. Attached to the Planning Decision was Condition 3, which states:

No development shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant, or their agents, or their successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to the planning authority and approved in writing. The condition will only be considered to be discharged when the planning authority has received and approved an archaeological report of all the required archaeological works, and if appropriate, a commitment to publication has been made.

Reason:

To secure the protection of and proper provision for any archaeological remains in accordance with policies BH2 and BH3 of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review April 2007.

- 1.3.2 The HCC Historic Environment Advisor stipulated that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken on the site, involving trial trenches within the footprint of the proposed buildings and road. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ASE 2017) was subsequently produced in order to set out the scope of work, methodology and research aims for the programme of archaeological evaluation at the site. This was submitted to and approved by the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Officer.
- 1.3.3 All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2017) and the relevant standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a, b).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between 10th and 11th January 2018 by Paulo Clemente and Jasmine Vieri. Andrew Leonard managed the fieldwork and Mark Atkinson the post-excavation process. The illustrations for this report were prepared by Andrew Lewsey.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information has been summarised from various sources, including the WSI (ASE 2017) and the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER). Figure 1 shows the locations of archaeological sites and find spots mentioned in the text.

2.1.2 The site is partially situated within an Area of Archaeological Significance, identified in the Local Plan (AAS No 162). This denotes the historic core of the medieval settlement of Spellbrook.

2.1.3 In correspondence the county's archaeological officer, Alison Tinniswood has considered the site to have the following archaeological potential: 'to contain archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman, and post-medieval date, in particular'.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 From around 4,000 BC, the mobile hunter-gatherer economy of the Mesolithic gradually gave way to a more settled agriculture-based subsistence. The pace of woodland clearance to create arable and pasture-based agricultural land varied regionally and locally, depending on a wide variety of climatic, topographic, social and other factors. The trend was one of a slow but gradually increasing pace of forest clearance.

2.2.2 By the 1st millennium, i.e. 1,000 BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society.

2.2.3 The site lies c.600m west of Wallbury Camp, a substantial Iron Age hillfort covering an area of c.16 hectares (SMR 369962). In addition, cropmarks c.600m north-west of the site suggest a possible prehistoric ditched enclosure (HHER 17575).

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 It is thought that London Road (A1184), which runs immediately to the east of the site, may follow the line of the Roman road from Harlow to Bishop's Stortford.

2.3.2 Typical archaeological features associated with Roman roads can include evidence for settlement and occupation, ditches and agricultural land divisions, together with quarry pits and burials (Margary 1955).

2.3.3 A fragment of Roman tombstone dated to the 3rd century AD was found at Spellbrook (HHER 11813), and Roman building material, coins and pottery were found at Spellbrook Farm in the 1980's (HHER 6581). A cropmark of a building, possibly of Roman date, is located c.580m south of the site (HHER 15790).

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 Spellbrook is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the closest settlement mentioned is Wall[bury], c.600m to the east, which is described in the Domesday survey of 1086 as quite a small settlement consisting of six households, with twenty-four acres of meadow, woodland and 100 pigs (www.opendomesday.org). The name Spellbrook means “speech brook”, and it has been suggested that the area is an ancient meeting place (Mills 2011).
- 2.4.2 The available evidence indicates that the site lay a considerable distance away from known centres of settlement and/or activity during the Anglo-Saxon, early medieval and medieval periods, most probably in an agricultural landscape. The archaeological potential of the site for these periods can therefore be identified as low, with evidence of agricultural activity and land division most likely to be represented.
- 2.4.3 Cropmarks potentially representing medieval ridge and furrow and field boundaries have been identified c.600m west of the site (HHER 17576).

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.5.1 The site lies to the north of the post-medieval and later buildings at Spellbrook Farm (HHER 12297). The Grade II listed farmhouse (List No.1176709) dates to c.1700, and the extant farm buildings include a Grade II listed 17th-century two-story granary (List No. 1347830).
- 2.5.2 The site has changed little, with Ordnance Survey Maps from 1870–1960 showing the site sitting in undeveloped land adjacent to London Road. The existing barn appears to have been erected by 1970 and is present in the 1970s OS Map. The site then essentially remains the same to the present day.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 The 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 establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
 - To enable the County Archaeologist 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 questions included:
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric, particularly Iron Age, activity within the site?

- Is there any evidence for Roman activity within the site?
- Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity within the site?

2.6.3 With reference to regional research frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011), additional research questions included:

Iron Age

- Zonation of use/internal spaces, interaction with hinterland, location with ref to topography and geology, resources, communication routes, etc. (Medlycott 2011, 31)
- The role and function of late Iron Age settlement complexes remains an objective given the importance of these sites in the region (Medlycott 2011, 31)

Roman

- What forms do the farms take, and is the planned farmstead widespread across the region? What forms of buildings are present and how far can functions be attributed to them? Are there chronological/regional/landscape variations in settlement location, density or type? (Medlycott 2011, 47)
- How far can the size and shape of fields be related to the agricultural regimes identified, and what is the relationship between rural and urban sites? (Medlycott 2011, 47)
- As monuments, Roman roads are under-studied. What variations in structure exist? Are they different in the countryside, and on different terrain? Why did some disappear, and others continue in use? (Medlycott 2011, 48)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Unless otherwise stated, the fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017). ASE is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The ClfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014c), as well as the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), were adhered to throughout the project.
- 3.1.2 Two trenches each measuring 30m x 1.8m (Trenches 1 and 2), and one measuring 20m x 1.8m (Trench 3) were excavated, representing a 5% sample of the total development area, as shown on Figure 2. The trenches were positioned within the footprints of the proposed properties and new access road, and out of the way of the existing barn.
- 3.1.3 Trench 3 was moved c.2m northwards due to previously unforeseen site constraints, notably the position of a stall and trees. All alterations to the planned trench pattern were agreed with the Client and the Archaeological Officer prior to being carried out.

3.2 Excavation and Recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) (Leica System 1200 GPS).
- 3.2.2 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.2.3 Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of natural deposits, whichever was uppermost. The exposed subsoil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- 3.2.4 Archaeological features were planned using DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) technology. Sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10. Datum levels were taken on the feature and on the upper deposit and the surface of natural geology within each trench.
- 3.2.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned with a metal detector as was the spoil derived from excavated features.
- 3.2.6 Archaeological features, where present, were excavated with hand-tools. All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system. A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made.
- 3.2.6 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.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site code SFB18 has been issued to the archive. The archive is currently held at ASE's offices in Witham and will be deposited with the Bishop's Stortford Museum in due course, subject to the permission of the landowner.

3.3.2 The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	4
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	23
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box)	0.2 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 Of the three trial trenches investigated (Figure 2), two were devoid of any archaeological evidence. A single archaeological feature, a ditch, was encountered in Trench 1, which is discussed in section 4.1.
- 4.1.2 Archaeologically negative Trenches 2 and 3 are given summary description in section 4.2 and further details are found in Appendix 3.
- 4.1.3 All trenches contained natural deposits of mid brown/orange silty clay and gravels at levels of between 56.55–53.99m AOD. Throughout the site, the natural substrate was overlain by subsoil of mid orange/brownish-grey silty clay and gravel, varying from 0.14–0.24m in depth, slightly increasing in thickness towards the south and east. The entire site was sealed by topsoil comprising mid brownish-grey clayey silt, which varied in thickness from 0.20m to 0.30m, and which maximum depth was recorded in the southwest.

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.20-0.22	55.98-56.97
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.14-0.19	
1/003	Deposit	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	55.57-56.55
1/004	Fill	Fill, upper	1.00	1.07	0.25	56.27
1/005	Fill	Backfill	1.00	0.87	0.29	
1/006	Fill	Fill, primary	1.00	1.13	0.47	
1/007	Cut	Ditch	1.90	1.15	0.48	55.74-56.27

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north of the investigating area. It was NNE/SSW orientated and measured 30 x 18m. A single archaeological feature was recorded in the trench.
- 4.1.2 The natural deposit, [1/003], was cut by ditch [1/007] across the northern half of the trench, on an east/west alignment. The ditch measured 1.90m+ x 1.15m x 0.8m and had vertical to steep, slightly convex sides that gradually broke into a slightly concave base.
- 4.1.3 Its primary fill, [1/006], appeared root-disturbed and consisted of greyish-brown firm clayed silt with frequent gravels and occasional larger stones. No archaeological finds were recovered from this fill. The secondary fill, [1/005], was soft, grey clayey silt that contained an undiagnostic flint flake, four fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), including a flat, roof tile fragment of medieval or post-medieval date, a small, iron plate fragment of probable 20th-century date and a single piece of coal. The upper fill [1/004] was soft,

brownish-grey clayed silt that contained a fragment of possibly Roman brick and a large, rectangular iron plate considered to be from a modern agricultural machine or tool.

- 4.1.4 Despite the limited quantity of artefacts retrieved, the preservation of the cut suggests that the ditch was probably not open for a long time and was backfilled with topsoil. The upper fill was overlain by subsoil, [1/002], which was similar to this, and produced an undiagnostic flint flake and a single sherd of post-medieval Redware, perhaps 18th- or 19th-century in date. The subsoil, was in turn, overlain by topsoil [1/001].

4.2 Archaeologically Negative Trenches (Figure 4)

- 4.2.1 The remaining two evaluation trenches (Trenches 2 and 3) proved entirely devoid of archaeological deposits, features or finds.
- 4.2.2 The stratigraphy recorded in these blank trenches comprised a straightforward sequence of topsoil (0.20–0.30m thick) and subsoil (0.18–0.24m thick) deposits overlying the natural geology. Further details are presented in Appendix 3.
- 4.2.3 A single modern impact was recorded in Trench 3. A north/south service pipe crossed the east end of the trench and headed towards a manhole located in the NNE corner of the site.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Spellbrook Farm. All bulk finds were washed and dried or air-dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014b).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Coal	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)
1/002	1	6	1	50	4	144				
1/004					1	318			1	714
1/005	1	16			4	60	1	4	1	28
<i>Total</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>522</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>742</i>

Table 4: Quantification of finds

5.2. The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Trench 1 produced two fragmentary flakes in relatively poor condition, weighing 23g. The pieces, from subsoil [1/002] and ditch fill [1/005], are chronologically undiagnostic. The piece from [1/005] is evidently residual.

5.3 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

5.3.1 A single sherd of pottery, weighing 50g, was retrieved from subsoil [1/002]. It is a fragment from the base of an internally-glazed vessel in post-medieval Redware, a common utilitarian earthenware that was generally made and used between the mid-16th and 19th centuries (Brears 1969). The glaze and fabric suggest that it dates from the 18th or 19th century. The sherd is fairly large but somewhat damaged, and it seems likely to be the product of secondary deposition and quite possibly residual.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 A very small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), totalling only seven fragments and weighing 526g, was collected from three contexts in Trench 1: subsoil [1/002] and ditch fills [1/004] and [1/005]. Almost none of the material can be precisely dated.

5.4.2 All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel spreadsheet. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and catalogued using Museum of London Archaeology's (MOLA) fabric reference codes, although several of the CBM spall recovered from [1/005] were too small for fabric identification. Fabric descriptions are provided below

in Table 5.

- 5.4.3 Flat roof tile fragments were recovered from [1/002] and [1/005]. These were both in MOLA fabric 2586, a red clay with variable quantities of quartz that was used throughout both the medieval and post-medieval period. Unfortunately, there was no further CBM from these contexts that could be dated.
- 5.4.4 A fairly well preserved chunk of brick in a fabric similar to MOLA 3223 was the only piece of CBM found in [1/004]. Only the thickness was intact, and measured 42mm. This suggests it to be a fragment of Roman brick, as although early post-medieval bricks can often be very thin compared to later bricks, they also tend to be low fired and do not have the coarse moulding sand coating their edge surfaces and base like this fragment did.

Fabric	Description
2586	Orange fabric with varying quantities (moderate-common) of medium and coarse quartz.
3223	Gritty looking fabric with common fine and medium sand, sparse-moderate white inclusions, mica, black speckle and coarse/very coarse quartz.

Table 5: Fabric descriptions for ceramic building material

5.5 The Bulk Ironwork by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 Two iron objects were recovered during the evaluation, weighing a total of 742g. Upper fill [1/004] of ditch [1/006] produced a large rectangular plate with flange, which is probably part of a modern agricultural machine or implement. A small iron plate fragment, possibly part of a socket, was recovered from backfill [1/005]. This is also likely to be of 20th-century date.

5.6 The Coal by Trista Clifford

- 5.6.1 A single piece of coal, weighing 4g, was recovered from backfill [1/005].

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 The geology of the site shows a gentle slope downwards from the central north (56.55m AOD) to the southeast (53.99m AOD). The natural geology was overlain by 0.14–0.24m of subsoil and the sequence was capped by 0.20–0.30m of topsoil.
- 6.1.2 The single archaeological feature recorded during the evaluation was found below the topsoil and subsoil and cut directly into the natural deposit. This feature comprised an east/west aligned ditch located in the north of the site. It contained a small number of finds indicative of its post-medieval/modern date.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 The presence of subsoil and topsoil in all trenches indicates a lack of significant disturbance or truncation below the turf and the site appears to have remained grassland for a long period to the present day.
- 6.2.2 A single modern impact was recorded in Trench 3. A north/south service pipe crossed the east end of the trench and headed towards a manhole located in the NNE corner of the site.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 6.3.1 The single, recorded archaeological feature has been dated on the basis of its diagnostic artefact content and is discussed below.

Post-Medieval/Modern

- 6.3.2 The only archaeological feature uncovered within the evaluated area was a ditch recorded in the northern part of Trench 1.
- 6.3.3 The feature contained three fills, both the secondary (perhaps backfill) and tertiary fills of which yielded an assemblage of CBM, two iron items and a piece of coal. A single sherd of post-medieval redware, perhaps 18th- or 19th-century in date, was retrieved from the subsoil.
- 6.3.4 Lying north of the post-medieval Spellbrook Farm and its later buildings and situated in land that, based on OS mapping, was undeveloped until the 1970s, this ditch may relate to a former post-medieval field boundary that is not depicted on historic OS mapping. The feature appears to have been infilled in the late 19th or 20th centuries and may have been a minor boundary or drainage feature.

6.4 Consideration of research aims

- 6.4.1 The initial aim of the archaeological work was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains along with the ecofactual and environmental potential within the site of the proposed

development. This has been achieved, with a single archaeological feature being identified, investigated and recorded.

- 6.4.2 The evaluation encountered no archaeological remains dated to the prehistoric period or Iron Age, nor the Roman and medieval periods.
- 6.4.3 Evidence for late post-medieval/modern activity was recorded at the site in the form of an agricultural ditch that contained post-medieval CBM, modern iron plate fragments and coal.

6.5 Conclusions

- 6.5.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of the below-ground remains of a single ditch of post-medieval/modern date.
- 6.5.2 The absence of remains in all other trenches suggests that the wider site contains little or no archaeological content.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE, 2007, *Post-Excavation Manual 1: Finds and Environmental Deposition and Processing Guidelines*

ASE, 2017, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Spellbrook Farm, London Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 4AX*

BGS 2017, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, Available: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> [accessed 07.12.2017]

Brears, P.C.D, 1969, *The English Country Pottery: Its History and Techniques*

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: Research agenda and Strategy.*

ClfA 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA 2014c, *Code of Conduct* (revised), Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

The Domesday Book, Available: <http://opendomesday.org/> [accessed 07.12.2017]

Gurney, D. 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Margary, I.D. 1955, *Roman Roads in Britain Vol. 1 South of the Foss Way-Bristol Channel*, Phoenix House

Medlycott, M. 2011, (ed) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Mills, A.D. 2011, *A Dictionary of British Place Names*, Oxford University Press

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Dyer Mackay Developments Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and the HCC Historic Environment officer, Alison Tinniswood, for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was supervised by Paulo Clemente with Jasmine Vieri providing assistance. The author would like to thank Andrew Lewsey who produced the figures for this report, Andrew Leonard who project managed the excavations and Mark Atkinson who project managed the post-excavation process.

Appendix 1: HER Summary

Site name and address: Spellbrook Farm, London Road, Spellbrook, nr Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 4AX		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Spellbrook	Parish: High Wych	
Planning application reference: 3/17/2033/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Client		
Nature of application: Planning permission		
Present land use: Pasture		
Size of application area: 2,820sq m	Size of area investigated: 144sq m	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 48621 17575		
Site code (if applicable): SFB18		
Site director/Organization: Paulo Clemente, Archaeology South-East		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work	Start: 10/01/18	Finish: 11/01/18
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Bishop's Stortford Museum		
Related HER Nos: HHER 12297	Periods represented: post-medieval/modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
Summary of fieldwork results:		
<p>An archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches excavated across the 2,820sq m site was conducted at Spellbrook Farm.</p> <p>The evaluation uncovered a single ditch of post-medieval/modern date. Although not evident on historic OS mapping, the ditch may have been a possible field boundary associated with the existing boundaries, which are corroborated by cartographical evidence back to the 19th century.</p>		
Author of summary: Paulo Clemente		Date of summary: January 2018

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: 306161

Project details

Project name	Evaluation at Land at Spellbrook Farm
Short description of the project	A total of three trenches were investigated, all but one of which were devoid of archaeological remains. A single ditch, possibly a field boundary, of post-medieval/modern date was recorded.
Project dates	Start: 10-01-2018 End: 11-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SFB18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	171156 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE HIGH WYCH Spellbrook Farm, London Road, Spellbrook
Postcode	CM23 4AX
Study area	144 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 48621 17575 51.836509554412 0.157372068834 51 50 11 N 000 09 26 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 53.99m Max: 56.55m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	ASE
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project supervisor	Paulo Clemente
Type of sponsor/funding	client

body

Name of sponsor/funding body Dyer Mackay Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Bishop's Stortford Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient Bishop's Stortford Museum

Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics"

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

Paper Archive recipient Bishop's Stortford Museum

Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"

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

Project bibliography

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Evaluation. Land at Spellbrook Farm, London Road, Bishops Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 4AX

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clemente, P.

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No. 2018010

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Witham, Essex

Description A4 report of approximately 30 pages including figures and appendices

URL archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

Appendix 3: Archaeologically Negative Trenches

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height m AOD
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.22	54.72-55.84
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.18-0.21	
2	2/003	Deposit	Natural	-	-	-	54.30-55.50
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	20	1.8	0.20-0.30	54.36-55.57
3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	20	1.8	0.20-0.24	
3	3/003	Deposit	Natural	-	-	-	53.99-54.80

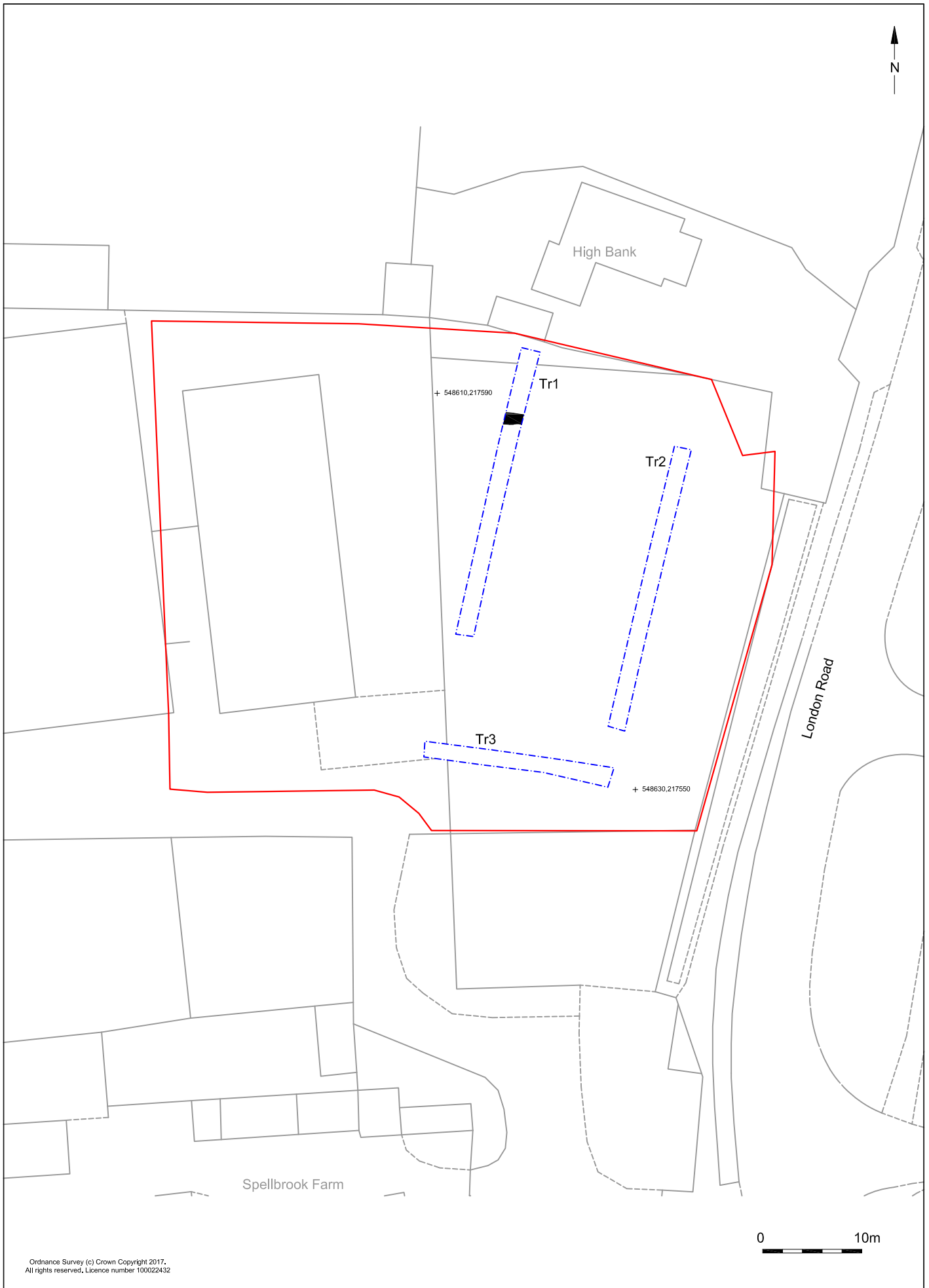
Table 6: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts



Contains Ordnance Survey data
Crown copyright and database right 2015

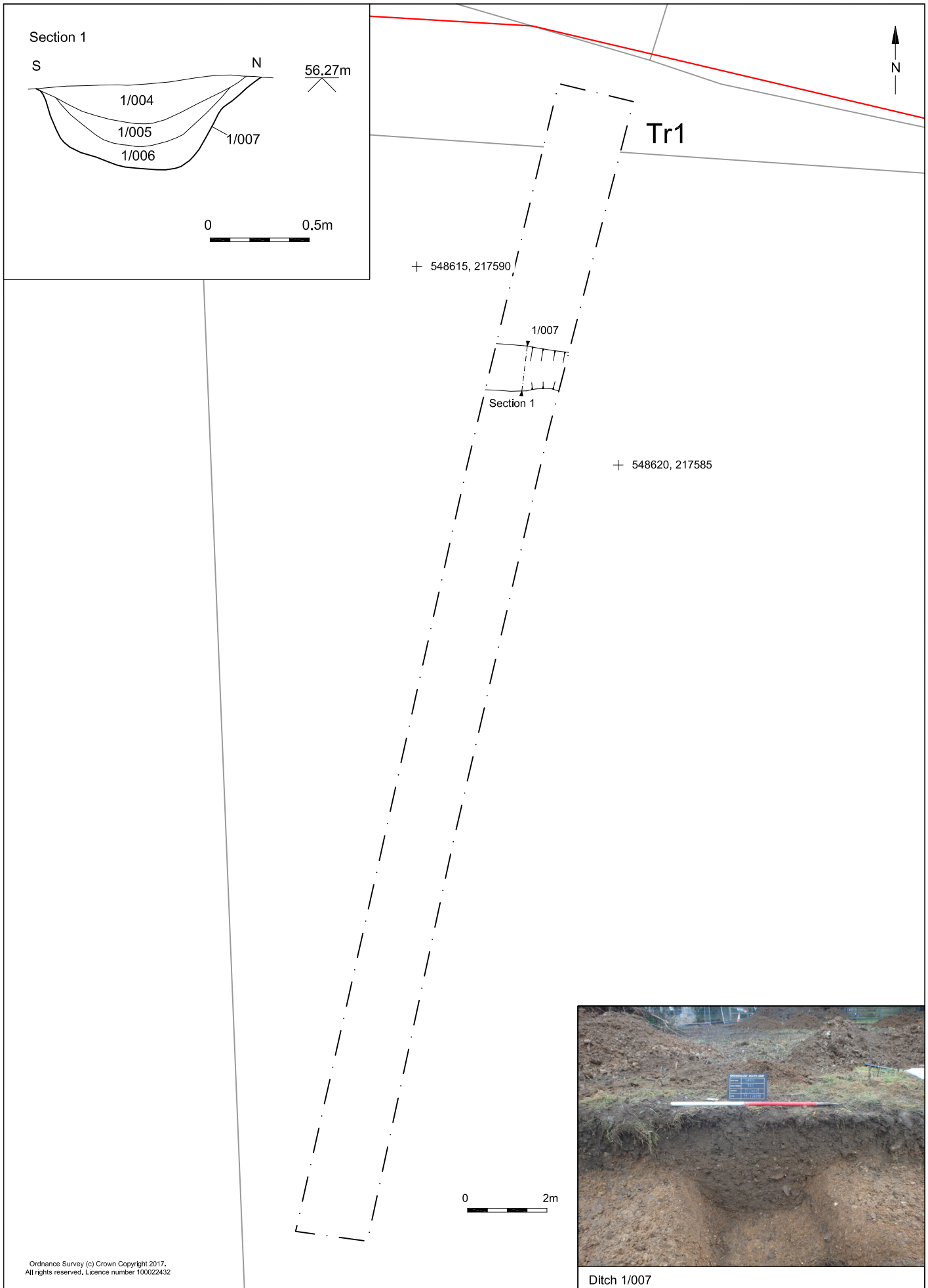
lands
riational
state

© Archaeology South-East		Spellbrook Farm, Bishop's Stortford	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 171156	Jan 2018	Site location	
Report No: 2018010	Drawn by: APL		

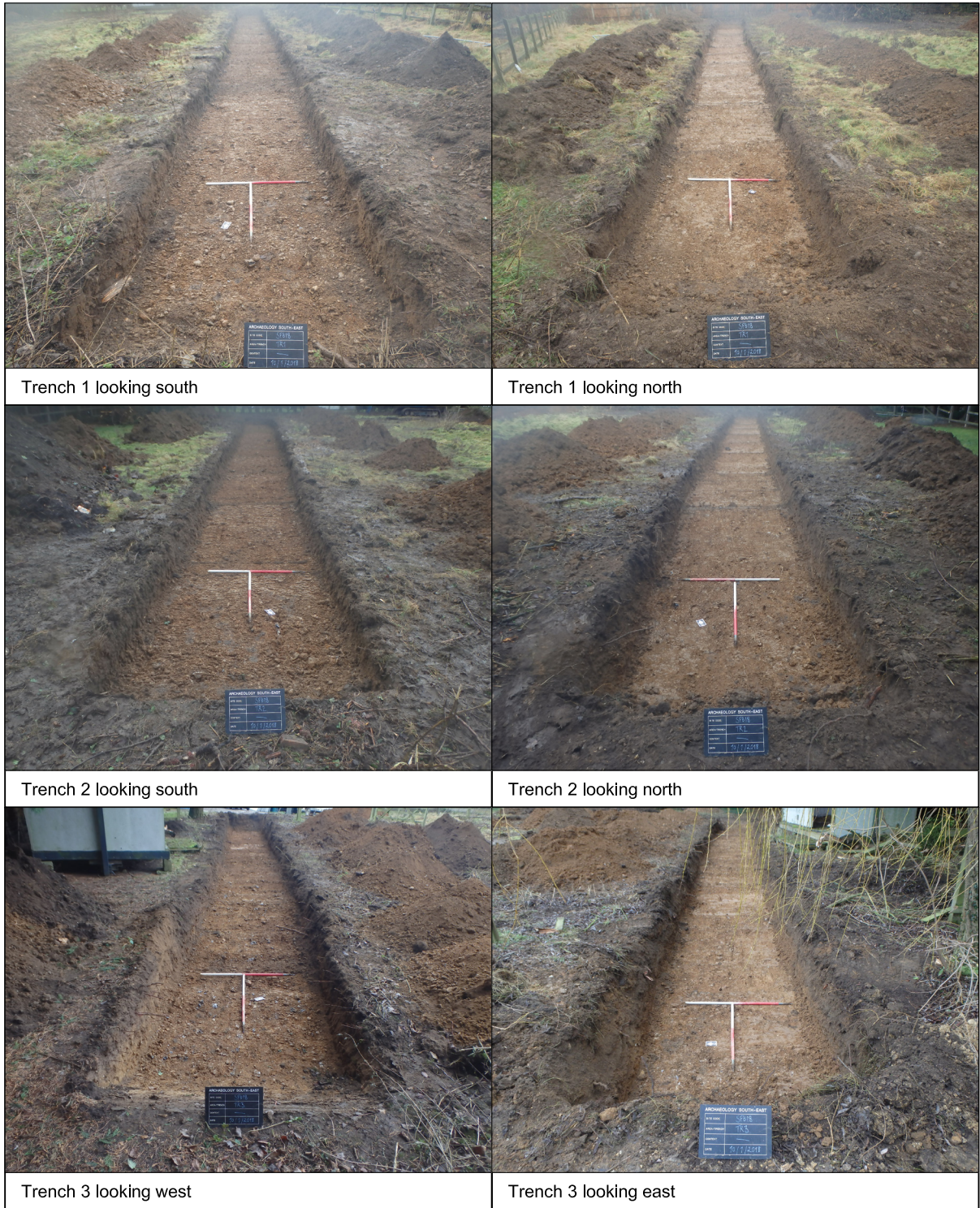


Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2017.
All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432

© Archaeology South-East		Spellbrook Farm, Bishop's Stortford	Fig.2
Project Ref: 171156	Jan 2018	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2018010	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Spellbrook Farm, Bishop's Stortford	Fig.3
Project Ref: 171156	Jan 2018	Trench 1 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2018010	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Spellbrook Farm, Bishop's Stortford	Fig.4
Project Ref: 171156	Jan 2018	Trench photographs	
Report Ref: 2018010	Drawn by: APL		

Sussex Office

Units 1& 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

