

**Land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre,
Bishops Stortford Road, Roxwell
Essex**

Archaeological Evaluation

**ASE Project No: 200072
Site Code: RXBN20**

ASE Report No: 2020119



July 2020

Archaeological Evaluation

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Bishops Stortford Road,
Roxwell, Essex
CM1 4LF**

NGR: TL 62360 10910

**Planning Ref: 17/00560/FUL
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Site Code: RXBH20**

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Bishops Stortford Road, Roxwell, Essex. The fieldwork was commissioned by Alderton Associates, on behalf of Hylands Construction Ltd, in advance of the construction of two new commercial buildings, a new access road and associated parking. The fieldwork took place on 09–10 June 2020.

The site itself sits within a known medieval moated enclosure which surrounds the existing business centre and was formally Bolding Hatch Farm. The moated site is mentioned in historical documents as early as 1297.

A total of three trial trenches were investigated, two of which contained a low density of archaeological remains, comprising two large cut features, two tree holes and a gully.

The edge of a large pit-like cut in Trench 3, in the southwest of the site, is speculated to be the west end of the infilled roadside arm of the enclosing moat. Its fills contained 19th/20th-century debris, consistent with its mid 20th-century infilling as indicated by historic mapping.

A backfilled pond was encountered in Trench 1, in the north of the site. Although probably created in the 19th century and infilled as late as the 1970s, a quantity of residual medieval pottery was recovered from it. The presence of this pottery substantiates the identification of the moated enclosure as being of medieval origin. Other recorded remains in this trench comprised tree holes and a drainage gully, demonstrating landscaping and garden activity at the site during the post-medieval period.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION**
- 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**
- 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**
- 4.0 RESULTS**
- 5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS**
- 6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: HER summary
- Appendix 2: OASIS form

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
- Table 3-5: Trench lists of recorded contexts
- Table 6: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds
- Table 7: Pottery assemblage

FIGURES

- Front Cover: View of site looking northeast towards Trench 1
- Figure 1: Site location and selected HER references
- Figure 2: Trench plan
- Figure 3: Trench 1: plan, sections and photographs
- Figure 4: Trench 2: plan, section and photographs
- Figure 5: Trench 3: plan, section and 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, were commissioned by Alderton Associates, on behalf of Hylands Construction Ltd., to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Roxwell, Essex.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken in fulfilment of a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of two new commercial buildings with associated new access road and parking.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located at Bolding Hatch, on Bishops Stortford Road (A1060), c.5 miles northwest of Chelmsford, in west Essex (NGR TL 6236 1091; Figure 1). It comprises a c.0.67ha sub-triangular parcel of land, currently occupied by several former farm buildings now in use as business premises, with associated parking and surrounding landscaping. The site is bounded to the south by Bishops Stortford Road (A1060), to the west and north by agricultural land and to the east by a residential property. An extant ditch/moat surrounds most of the property.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) online geological mapping (1:50,000 scale), the bedrock geology across the site is mapped as Essex Till, a chalky boulder clay, which is part of the London Clay Formation that consists of a mix of clay, silt and sand. That is overlaid by superficial geology of mainly sand and gravel (BGS 2020).
- 1.2.3 The site is located on relatively level land, c.500m south of the River Can. The lowest point of the site was recorded at the east end of Trench 2 at 61.56m AOD and the highest at the northeast corner of Trench 1 at 61.46m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Chelmsford City Council has granted planning permission for the construction of two new buildings with an associated new access road and parking (Ref. 17/00560/FUL). Having considered the application, Essex County Council's Place Services (ECCPS), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Chelmsford CC, recommended a condition be attached to the consent requiring a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.3.2 The archaeological strategy was developed in consultation with Alison Bennett, the ECCPS Archaeological Advisor, and ASE was subsequently commissioned to undertake the fieldwork by Alderton Associates. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by ASE (2020) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and approved by ECCPS prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken on 09–10 June 2020. It describes the archaeological remains encountered in the excavated trenches, assesses their significance and considers the archaeological potential/implication for the wider site.
- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was supervised by Samara King (Senior Archaeologist) with survey and field assistance carried out by Nathalie Gonzalez (Senior Surveyor). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and post-excavation work by Mark Atkinson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological and historical background information is drawn from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), the WSI (ASE 2020) and cartographic evidence. The site itself sits within a medieval moated site (HER917); the locations of other known sites and findspots in the vicinity are shown on Figure 1.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Five possible prehistoric enclosures identified by cropmarks are located within the vicinity of the site. Northeast of Chalk End, 730m east of the site, a sub-rectangular enclosure is visible (HER17149). Cropmarks recorded in 2011 at Pritchards (HER19197), 360m northeast, show two conjoined, large irregular enclosures, the largest appearing double-ditched. Two sub-circular cropmarks, perhaps representing stock enclosures, are located 1km north of the site (HER7328). To the southeast of the site, at Bolding Hatch farm and Ely's farm respectively, cropmarks are visible that are suggestive of a large rectangular enclosure with no visible entrance (HER47671) and a large curvilinear enclosure with an internal circular enclosure, suggestive of a roundhouse (HER47672).

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 There are no records on the HER for remains of Roman date within 1km of the site.

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 A medieval moated site at Paslowes (HER911), 560m north of the site, is thought to be originally associated with the family of Robert Passelewe (1236). It is a well-preserved, rectangular moated site with a partly-filled moat and the interior comprising rough pasture. Pottery recovered from the field to the north dates to the 13th–14th centuries.

2.4.2 A partial moat surrounds a 15th-century house at Fouchers (HER909), 660m to the northwest of the site. It is thought to date to 1450 and is referenced again in 1609. Pottery dating to the medieval period has also been found here.

2.4.3 A third moat is depicted on the 1976 Ordnance Survey map at Chalk End Farm (HER989), c.700m east of the site. There is no trace of a building within the enclosure.

2.4.4 The site itself sits within a medieval moated enclosure (HER917), which represents the primary archaeological potential of the site. The stirrup-shaped, water-filled moat surrounds the existing business centre, which was formally Bolding Hatch Farm. The moated site is mentioned as early as 1297 and it is probable that medieval period archaeological remains associated with the moat occupy its interior.

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.5.1 The 1st-edition OS map (c.1876) shows the site as comprising two larger farm buildings, forming an L-shape similar to the current layout with several smaller outbuildings, a back garden/orchard in the north part of the site with sub-rectangular pond.
- 2.5.2 Subsequent historic mapping shows that the layout of the farm changed subtly with removal and construction of small outbuildings and the removal of trees and other landscape features. A south side of the moat appears to run along the north side of the road, but is filled in between 1920 and 1950. The pond at the north end of the site is present on all historic maps from 1876 to 1970 and, according to the current land owner, was filled in in the early 2000s when the farm was converted to a business centre and associated parking and access was constructed (pers. comm. 09/06/20).

2.6 Previous Work

- 2.6.1 No previous archaeological investigations have been conducted on the site or its immediate vicinity.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.7.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation, as set out in the WSI (ASE 2020), were as follows:

- To identify any archaeological features or deposits that will be impacted by the proposed development, and to enable a mitigation strategy for any identified remains to be implemented before development takes place.
- More specifically, the evaluation aims to establish the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of preservation of surviving archaeological remains within the development area.

- 2.7.2 Site specific research aims:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity within the site?
- Is there any evidence of medieval farming activity within the site?

- 2.7.3 With reference to the East of England research framework (Medlycott 2011; Brown and Glazebrook 2000):

- The principal research requirement is for definition of the actual medieval settlement patterns across the region; the dating of each element in the settlement patterns (nucleation/dispersion, moated sites, isolated farms/halls, field systems, greens, Ends, Tyes, isolated cottages, hamlets, etc); and the relationship of the medieval pattern to any earlier pattern.
- The origins and development of the different rural settlement types need further research, also the dynamics of medieval settlement. Much of the

region has primarily a dispersed pattern, not nucleated, and more small hamlets are being discovered all the time. More data will add to our understanding of the way places appear, grow, shift and disappear.

- What forms do farms take, what range of building types are present and how far can functions be attributed to them?
- A regional study of moated sites is needed, incorporating excavated, documentary and cartographic evidence.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A site code (RXBH20) was obtained from ECCPS and was used as the unique site identifier for the entire project archive.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological evaluation of the site comprised the machine excavation of three trenches, targeted across the proposed locations of the access road, parking area and new commercial building. Trench 1 was L-shaped, measuring 37m x 1.80m in total, the long WNW/ESE segment was shifted c.1m north-northeast to avoid a large tree stump. Trench 2 measured 15m x 1.80m and was situated according to the WSI (ASE 2020). Trench 3 was shortened and angled to avoid the extant water-filled moat and associated trees. It measured 13m x 1.80m. Trench positions are shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.3 The trenches, and all archaeological features exposed within them, were located, planned and levelled from the site survey using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the natural geology, whichever was uppermost. The exposed subsoil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping; any archaeological deposits or negative features were planned as appropriate.
- 3.1.5 Discrete features were half-sectioned and slots excavated across linear features by hand. Written records of trenches and features were created on ASE pro-forma trench and context sheets. Section drawings were hand-drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, as appropriate, on A3 drawing film sheets, for subsequent digitisation.
- 3.1.6 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.
- 3.1.7 A photographic record comprising colour digital images was made. All trenches and individual contexts were photographed (trench and context shots). In addition, a number of representative photographs of the general work on site were taken (working shots).
- 3.1.8 Finds were retrieved from all excavated deposits, where present, and retained for specialist identification and recording.
- 3.1.9 Bulk soil samples were retrieved for analysis from features/deposits judged to have the potential to contain preserved environmental material such as charred or waterlogged plant remains.
- 3.1.10 The fieldwork adhered to the preceding WSI (ASE 2020) as well as the ClfA *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014a, b). The fieldwork also complied with the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). ASE is a Registered

Organisation with the ClfA.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 Guidelines contained in the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014c) will be followed for the preparation of the archive for deposition with Chelmsford Museum.
- 3.2.2 Finds from the archaeological fieldwork will be kept with the archival material
- 3.2.3 Subject to agreement with the legal landowner, ASE will arrange with Chelmsford Museum for the deposition of the project archive and artefact assemblage. Any items requiring treatment will be conserved. The landowner will be asked to donate the finds to the local museum. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	24
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	21
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 0.5 of a box)	<0.5 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 Summary

- 4.1.1 A total of three evaluation trenches were investigated across the site, targeting the proposed locations of the new access road, parking area and commercial building (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 The deposit sequence varied across the site, though all trenches contained a dark brownish grey silty clay topsoil and turf, measuring between 0.15m to 0.31m with an average of 0.22m thickness. This overlaid a subsoil layer in Trench 1 and varying layers of made-ground in Trenches 2 and 3. These in turn overlaid natural deposits of yellow boulder clay, the top of which was encountered at depths between 0.36m and 0.70m below the current ground level. Archaeological features were found below the subsoil and made-ground layers, and were cut into the natural deposits unless otherwise noted. All trenches and their contexts are described below (4.2-4.4).
- 4.1.3 Trenches 1 and 3 contained archaeological remains comprising a pond, a gully and pits. Trench 2 contained a deposit surrounding a significant rooting system from a tree that had been removed.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	37.00	1.80	0.26-0.31	62.17-62.45
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	37.00	1.80	0.08-0.10	-
1/003	Deposit	Natural	37.00	1.80	-	61.86-62.06
1/004	Cut	Tree hole	3.29	0.60+	0.15	61.71
1/005	Fill	Fill, single	3.29	0.60+	0.15	61.86
1/006	Cut	Tree hole	1.11	0.88	0.31	61.54
1/007	Fill	Fill, single	1.11	0.88	0.31	61.85
1/008	Fill	Fill, upper	9.21m+	1.10+	0.72	61.89
1/009	Cut	Modern pit	2.45	1.80	Unex	-
1/010	Cut	Gully	2.98+	0.36	0.14	61.88
1/011	Fill	Fill, single	2.98+	0.36	0.14	62.02
1/012	Fill	Fill, basal	-	1.23+	0.29	-
1/013	Cut	Pond	9.21+	1.23+	0.91	60.98

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 1, in the north of the site, was L-shaped with a 30m-long WNW/ESE segment and a 5m-long NNE/SSW segment. Five cut features were identified and recorded within it.
- 4.2.2 The southern edge of probable pit [1/004] was exposed toward the NW end of the trench, the majority of it extending beyond its northern edge. As exposed, it measured 3.29m long by 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep. It had a gently sloped, concave side and a flat to uneven base (Fig. 3, section 1). It contained a single fill [1/005] consisting of light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small stones and chalk pieces, likely the result of natural silting. Four small sherds of 11th- to 12th-century pottery were collected from it.

- 4.2.3 Oval to oblong pit [1/006] was uncovered to the southwest of [1/0004], its northward end extending beyond the trench. At 0.31m deep, the cut had concave to irregular sloping sides and an uneven base (Fig. 3, section 2). It contained a single yellowish brown fill [1/007], similar to [1/005]; however, no finds were recovered from it. It is perhaps likely that both of these pits represent tree holes.
- 4.2.4 In the middle of the trench, the southern edge of a large, irregularly-shaped pit [1/013] was uncovered. Extending beyond the northern edge of the trench, it measured in excess of 9.21m long and 1.23m wide. A 1m-wide intervention was investigated and dug to a depth of 1.20m below ground level before being halted due to health and safety constraints; the base of the feature was not reached. The south side was steeply sloping, perhaps breaking at or near to a flat base (Fig. 3, section 3 and photo). Two fills were recorded; upper fill [1/008] comprised mid yellowish grey, silty clay with rare small to medium stones and charcoal flecks, occasional small chalk pieces, and several large tree roots; lower fill [1/012] was a mid orange grey, firm silty clay with rare small stones and charcoal flecks that appeared to line the cut. Four small fragments of 13th/14th-century pottery and a piece of CBM were recovered from the upper fill and a further fragment of CBM from the lower fill. The location of this feature corresponds to the historic pond that is shown on OS mapping from 1876 to 1970.
- 4.2.5 Further east within the trench, a square-shaped pit [1/009] was observed (Fig. 3, photo). The surface of its fill contained abundant modern burnt material, glass and metal from a rubbish fire and was therefore not excavated.
- 4.2.6 At the southeast end of the trench, a narrow gully [1/010] was recorded, orientated NNW/SSE and measuring at minimum 2.98m in length before exiting the trench in either direction. Up to 0.36m wide and 0.14m deep, it had gently sloping, concave sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 3, section 4). It contained a single fill [1/011] of light yellowish brown silty clay with rare stones and small chalk pieces, suggestive of natural silting. No finds were recovered from it. The gully was not traced further NNW through the trench and due to its diffuse edges and shallow nature, may represent a natural channel rather than a purpose-built drainage feature.

4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.18-0.24	61.56-61.76
2/002	Layer	Made-ground	15.00	1.80	0.15-0.30	-
2/003	Deposit	Root layer	15.00+	1.80+	0.09-0.20	-
2/004	Deposit	Natural	15.00	1.80	-	60.98-61.10

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 2, located along the southern edge of the site, was orientated broadly east/west and measured 15m x 1.80m. A single layer was identified below the topsoil, overlying the natural deposit.
- 4.3.2 A layer of made-ground [2/002], consisting of light yellowish grey silty clay

mixed with CBM rubble and clinker, up to 0.30m thick, overlaid a dark blackish brown clayey silt deposit [2/003] that contained modern metal wire fragments (Fig. 4, section 5 and photo). These deposits extended along the northern side of the trench, with an irregular edge recorded. They were found near a visible depression on the ground surface and large frequent tree roots were encountered throughout it. Communication with the current land owner established that several large willow trees had been removed in that area and the ground levelled out for landscaping. It is likely that lower deposit [2/003] was the remnants of the tree roots and [2/0002] the levelling material.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	13.00	1.80	0.15-0.18	62.55
3/002	Layer	Made-ground	13.00	1.80	0.28-0.40	-
3/003	Layer	Made-ground	13.00	1.80	0.08-0.40	-
3/004	Deposit	Natural	13.00	1.80	-	61.39
3/005	Cut	Cut feature	6.44+	1.80+	0.78+	60.61
3/006	Fill	Fill, basal	6.44+	1.80+	0.78+	-
3/007	Fill	Fill, upper	2.06+	1.80+	0.46	61.39

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the southwest corner of the site, near the extant moat and across the proposed access road route. It was orientated WNW/ESE and measured 13m long and 1.80m wide. A single cut feature was found below made-ground deposits.
- 4.4.2 At least two layers of made-ground ([3/002] and [3/003]) underlay the topsoil. These comprised of yellowish grey and brownish grey silty clay, containing modern CBM rubble, glass and clinker, that overlaid the natural deposit. Totalling a thickness of 0.36–0.80m, these are interpreted as levelling layers, related to landscaping and creation of a rough access track from the A1060.
- 4.4.3 A large feature [3/005] extended across the eastern half of the trench and beyond. In excess of 6.44m wide/long, only its western edge was located. The feature was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.56m but was not bottomed. This revealed its straight and moderately steep west side. It contained at least two fills; an upper fill [3/007] of redeposited greyish yellow boulder clay natural mixed with 19th/20th-century CBM and metal fragments, and a lower fill [3/006] of dark blackish brown, firm silty clay, also containing CBM and metalwork. The finds retrieved from the lower fill are of 19th- to mid 20th-century date. A modern red ceramic field drain was also uncovered at the base of excavation. The location of the feature coincides with the west end of the roadside arm of the moat as shown on OS maps until 1950 (Fig. 6), after which it appears to be backfilled and levelled.

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Roxwell. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 6. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014d).

Context	Pottery		CBM		Iron		Stone	
	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt
1/005	4	19						
1/008	4	10	1	1327			1	2
1/012			1	31				
2/003					5	163		
3/006			2	3980	3	578		
<i>Total</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5338</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>741</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>

Table 6: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds (weight in g)

5.2 Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological evaluation recovered just seven sherds of pottery, weighing 28g, from two individually numbered contexts in Trench 1; all is of Medieval date. The material has been fully listed in Table 7. Medieval fabrics have been given brief descriptive names to highlight the variety present in the small assemblage as most would fall under the somewhat wide 'Medieval Coarsewares' category for such locally produced wares (Cunningham 1985, Fabric 20; Walker 1995). Overall, the pottery consists of small to medium-sized sherds with moderate signs of abrasion. As such the material would appear to have seen some reworking after initial burial, though the context groups themselves are relatively free of intrusive/residual material.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight	Comments (inc. estimated number of different vessels represented by type)
1/005	M1 – Ill-sorted fine to medium moderate flint and shell with sparse quartz and mica	EM	1	11	Cooking pot x1 (reduced, exterior sooted)
1/005	M2 – Abundant medium to coarse quartz in a silty matrix	EM/HM	1	3	?x1 (reduced)
1/005	M3 – Fine/medium quartz with sparse flint grits to 0.5mm	EM/HM	1	3	?x1 (oxidised)
1/005	M4 – Moderate/common fine quartz with occasional clay pellets	HM	1	2	?x1 (oxidised)
1/008	M5 – Fine quartz with sparse fine/medium quartz grains and moderate mica	HM	2	8	Jug x1 (oxidised, clear glaze spots externally)

1/008	M6 – Fine sandy ware with rare quartz inclusions	HM	1	1	?x1 (reduced)
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Table 7: Pottery assemblage

(EM – Early Medieval c. 1050-1200/25; HM - High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350/75; ? = undiagnostic of form).

- 5.2.2 The assemblage has a notable variety of fabrics considering its small size, but all are of local origin. The earliest sherds are in context [1/005] (M1 and M2) which are certainly of mid/late 12th-century date. It is unfortunate that no feature sherds are present in this deposit, but overall a date range of c.1150–1250 is suggested for the group.
- 5.2.3 The sherds from context [1/008] are more refined and probably of the late 12th to 13th centuries. Again, feature sherds are absent apart from the presence of glazing spots on the M5 jug. Such oxidised wares are common in Essex (Cotter 2000) and the current sherds are perhaps best grouped under Cunningham’s (1985) Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware).
- 5.2.4 Although the pottery assemblage is small, it demonstrates medieval activity on the site during the mid/late 12th to 13th centuries. All of the material has been retained for the moment so that it can be studied in more detail alongside any further pottery from the site should further mitigation works be implemented.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Rae Regensburg

- 5.3.1 Three bricks and a small fragment of roof tile, collectively weighing 5,325g, were recovered from three contexts. The material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms and then entered into a digital Excel database. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope. All of the CBM has been retained for the time being.
- 5.3.2 Two of the bricks came from context [3/006]. One is a 19th-century brick with a sandy red fabric, a neat frog and a wire cut base. The other is a London Brick Company Phorpres Fletton brick with an early 20th-century date.
- 5.3.3 The third brick was found in context [1/008]. It has a MOLA 3033 fabric (fine red fabric with sparse quantities of quartz, medium calcareous material and black oxidised material). The dimensions and form features (pitted base and rounded arrises) suggest a late 16th-century date, but the neat consistent form, and firing are more typical of later post-medieval bricks.
- 5.3.4 The fragment of roof tile was found in context [1/012], it has a broadly medieval to post-medieval date range.

5.4 Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 Context [1/008] produced a small (2g) but fresh piece of Welsh roofing slate. The fragment, which may well be intrusive, is almost certainly of mid 19th- to early 20th-century date. The stone is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.5 Bulk Metalwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A small assemblage comprising nine fragments of ironwork with a combined weight of 741g was recovered from [2/003] and [3/006].
- 5.5.2 Fragments from [3/006] include a heavy duty binding strip measuring 620mm+ with a width of 27mm and a thickness of 10.5mm. Iron rivets survive *in situ*, one of which still rivets a fragment of sheet iron to the binding strip. Three further fragments of sheet iron were also recovered, probably all from the same object, and with a thickness of 0.8mm. The strip may have reinforced e.g. a metal chest or container. The fragments are all of 19th- to mid 20th-century date.
- 5.5.3 Context [2/003] contained five wire fragments. They are circular-sectioned (diam. 1.85mm) and each fragment comprises at least four strands twisted together. They are from fencing wire, as used for chestnut paling fencing, and date to the 20th century.

5.6 Environmental Remains

- 5.6.1 No pre-modern features/deposits were encountered that were judged to have potential for the presence/survival of environmental remains. No bulk samples were therefore collected.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of Stratigraphic Sequence

- 6.1.1 The recorded deposit sequence varied across the site. While all trenches contained a 0.15–0.31m thickness of topsoil and turf (ave. 0.22m), this overlaid a subsoil layer in Trench 1 and several layers of made-ground in Trenches 2 and 3. Below either subsoil or made-ground, the top of natural deposits of yellow boulder clay were encountered at 0.36m to 0.70m below ground surface. Where present, archaeological features were identified below the subsoil or made-ground layers and were cut into the natural deposits. The height of the natural varied across the site from 60.98m AOD (east end of Trench 2) up to 62.06m AOD (southern end of Trench 1).
- 6.1.2 Two trenches contained archaeological features, comprising two large cuts, two pits and a gully. These features were found in the north and southwest parts of the site (Trenches 1 and 3).
- 6.1.3 The archaeological evaluation has fulfilled its general aim of establishing the general presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site. The sample size allows for confidence in the results, which are judged to be a good indication of the relative density and nature of archaeological remains present across the overall site.

6.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts

- 6.2.1 The archaeological features appeared to be reasonably well-preserved, although it is evident that agricultural activities such as land drain installation, ground levelling and rubbish disposal have caused some disturbance and truncation. No land surface contemporary with these remains have survived.
- 6.2.2 The archaeological remains are overlain by a variable (0.6–0.70m) thickness of overburden. Intrusive activities such as construction groundworks and disturbance that penetrate below this depth have the potential to impact on such below-ground remains where these are present within the site.

6.3 Discussion of Archaeological Remains by Period

- 6.3.1 The significance of the recorded remains is discussed below.

Medieval

- 6.3.2 Although no demonstrable medieval features or deposits have been found, the recovery of diagnostic pottery of 12th/13th-century date from the site substantiates the identification of the moat as a medieval feature and suggests that the enclosure was occupied at this time. Medieval moated enclosures are a relatively common feature of the Essex countryside, and of the wider east of England region, most being constructed in the from the mid 12th to 14th centuries (Hedges 1978).

Post-medieval

- 6.3.3 The large, pit-like feature [1/013] in Trench 1 corresponds to the pond that is shown on OS maps from 1876 to 1970. This is likely to be of earlier origin, though whether the medieval pottery recovered from its fills derives from *in situ* medieval deposits or is residual in later backfill is unclear.
- 6.3.4 Similarly, the large feature in Trench 3, likely represents the west end of the south side of the moat that is shown on historic mapping up until at least 1920, prior to being infilled (Fig. 6). It is possible that this is of medieval origin, but only post-medieval fill deposits have been encountered by the evaluation. Medieval moated enclosures are frequently found to have been cleared, enlarged/modified and eventually partially or wholly backfilled in the late post-medieval and modern period – often as part of garden landscaping.
- 6.3.5 The probable tree holes in Trench 1, rooting and levelling deposit in Trench 2, build-up in Trench 3 and other modern truncation (e.g. ceramic land drains) all probably evidence changing land use, involving landscaping and possible low-level cultivation (e.g. orchard), that has taken place across the site as the farm evolved and was latterly re-developed into a business centre.

Undated

- 6.3.6 The linear gully in Trench 1 is undated. Although possibly instead a foundation trench of a timber-framed building, it is more likely that it was an earlier land drain feature. It is notable that it heads toward the pond to its north, and may have fed into it.

6.4 Consideration of Research Aims (see 2.7)

- 6.4.1 The archaeological evaluation succeeded in its general aim of determining the presence of archaeological remains within the site. Features of possible medieval and demonstrably post-medieval date have been identified.
- 6.4.3 No remains of prehistoric land use activity have been located by the evaluation and there is consequently no potential for the site to contribute to research on this period.
- 6.4.2 The moat, which was the primary archaeological potential of the site, is still mostly extant and water-filled. The evaluation has confirmed the presence of the below-ground remains of the south side of the moat that formerly ran along the roadside. No deposits of medieval date have been identified within the moat, all recorded fills being of post-medieval date. However, the recovery of medieval pottery from Trench 1 does corroborate the moated enclosure as being of medieval origin, probably being occupied in the later 12th- to 13th-centuries.
- 6.4.3 The recorded archaeological features within the enclosure appear to predominantly relate to the late post-medieval land use within the medieval moated enclosure. As such, there is no potential for the site to provide insights into the nature of medieval farming practices and regimes here or into rural settlement forms and layouts, etc.

6.5 Conclusions

- 6.5.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of a low density of archaeological remains of suspected medieval and demonstrated post-medieval date within the site.
- 6.5.2 The recovery of medieval pottery, although probably residual in the fills of a later pond feature, indicates that the moated enclosure is indeed almost certainly of medieval origin. The western end of the infilled part of the moat along the roadside has been located.
- 6.5.3 No features (other than the moat cut in Trench 3) or deposits of medieval date have been identified within the site. Recorded archaeological remains instead appear to relate to the late post-medieval use of the former medieval enclosure.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Alderton Associates for commissioning the work on behalf of Hylands Construction Ltd and for their assistance throughout the project, and the ECC Place Services Archaeological Advisor, Alison Bennett, for her guidance and monitoring. The fieldwork was supervised Samara King and assisted by Nathalie Gonzalez who also completed the survey and the figures for this report. Andy Leonard project managed the fieldwork and Mark Atkinson managed the post-excavation process.

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Appendix 1: HER Summary

Site name/Address: Land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Bishops Stortford Road, Roxwell, Essex CM1 4LF	
Parish: Ardleigh	District: Tendring
NGR: TL 6236 1091	Site Code: RXBH20
Type of Work: Trial-trench evaluation	Site Director/Group: S. King / Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 9-10 June 2020	Size of Area Investigated: 0.67ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER No's: 917
Final Report: ADS Grey lit library	OASIS No: 397280
Periods Represented: Medieval, Post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of two new commercial buildings, a new access road and associated parking within a known medieval moated enclosure which surrounds the existing business centre (formally Bolding Hatch Farm). The moated site is mentioned in historical documents as early as 1297.</p> <p>Three trial trenches were investigated, two of which contained a low density of archaeological remains.</p> <p>The edge of a large pit-like cut in Trench 3, in the southwest of the site, is speculated to be the west end of the infilled roadside arm of the enclosing medieval moat. Its fills contained 19th-20th century debris, consistent with its mid 20th-century infilling as indicated by historic mapping.</p> <p>A backfilled pond was encountered in Trench 1, in the north of the site. Although probably created in the 19th century and infilled as late as the 1970s, a quantity of residual medieval pottery was recovered from it. The presence of this pottery substantiates the identification of the moated enclosure as being of medieval origin. Other recorded remains in this trench comprised tree holes and a drainage gully, demonstrating landscaping and garden activity at the site during the post-medieval period.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: n/a	
Author of Summary: S. King	Date of Summary: 23/06/2020

Appendix 2: OASIS record**OASIS ID: 397280****Project details**

Project name	Land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Bishops Stortford Road, Roxwell, Essex
Short description of the project	Three trench evaluation prior to the construction of two new buildings and an access road.
Project dates	Start: 09-06-2020 End: 10-06-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	200072 - Contracting Unit No.; 17/00560/FUL - Planning Application No.; 917 - Related HER No.; RXBH20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	POND Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval; Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD ROXWELL Land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Bishops Stortford Road
Postcode	CM1 4LF
Study area	0.67 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6236 1091 51.772792225484 0.353510347246 51 46 22 N 000 21 12 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 60.98m Max: 62.06m

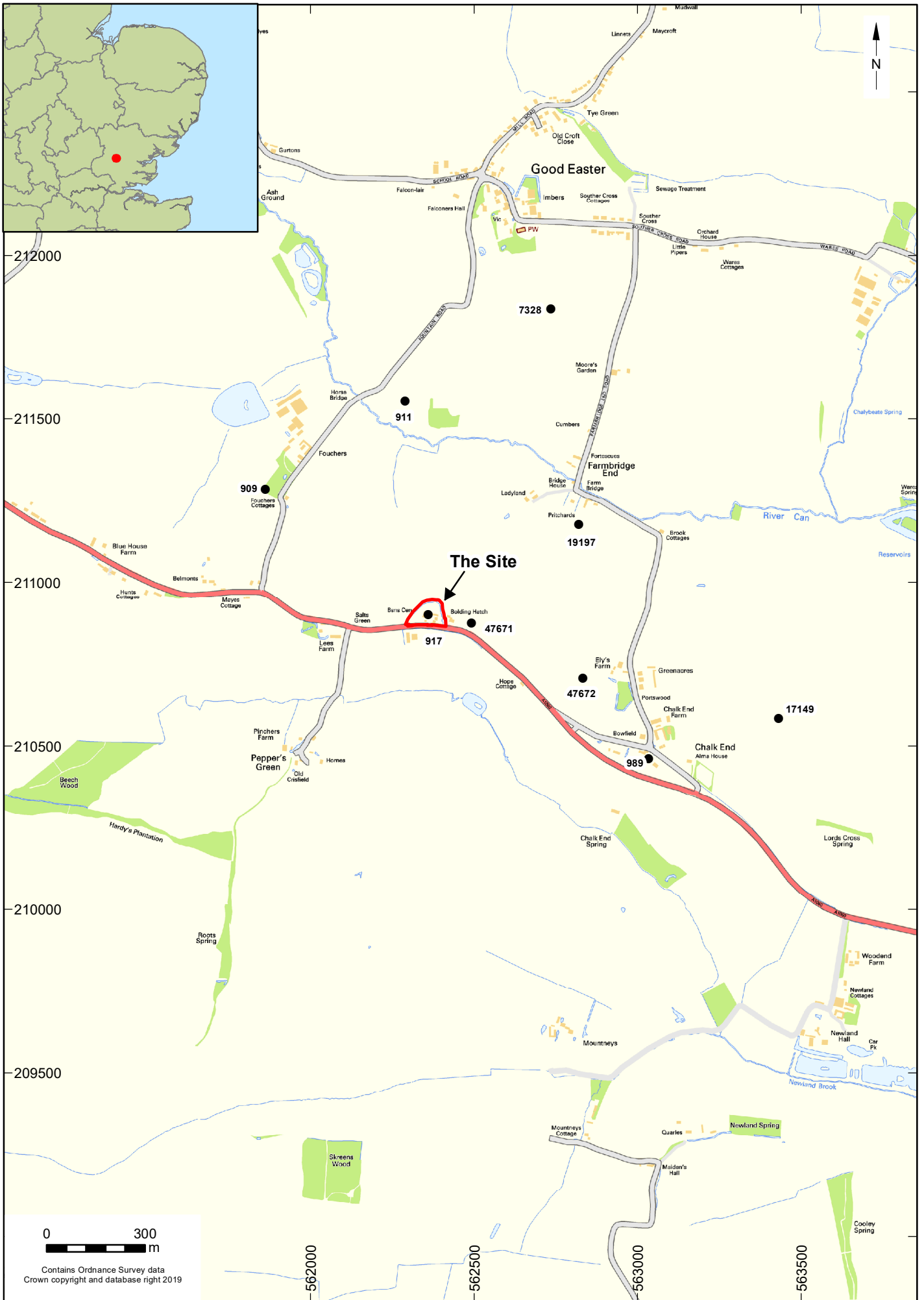
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Samara King
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architects
Name of sponsor/funding body	Alderton Associates

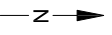
Project archives

Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"

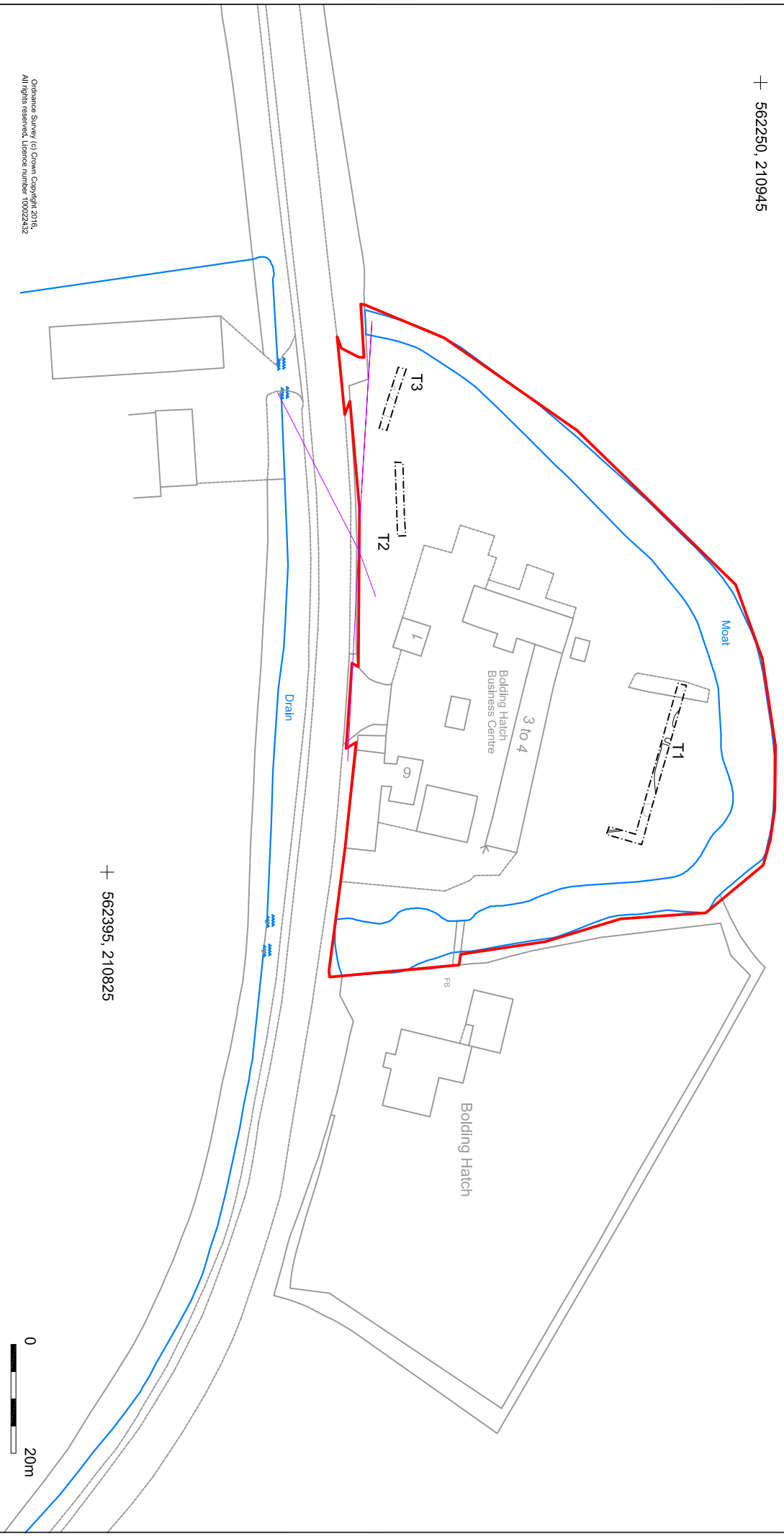
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Map", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Bishops Stortford Road, Roxwell, Essex CM1 4LF
Author(s)/Editor(s)	King, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No.: 2020119
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4 blue spine report of approximately 25 pages including figures
URL	archaeologydataservice.ac.uk



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Bishops Stortford Road, Roxwell	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 200072	June 2020	Site location and HER location	
Report No: 2020119	Drawn by: NG		

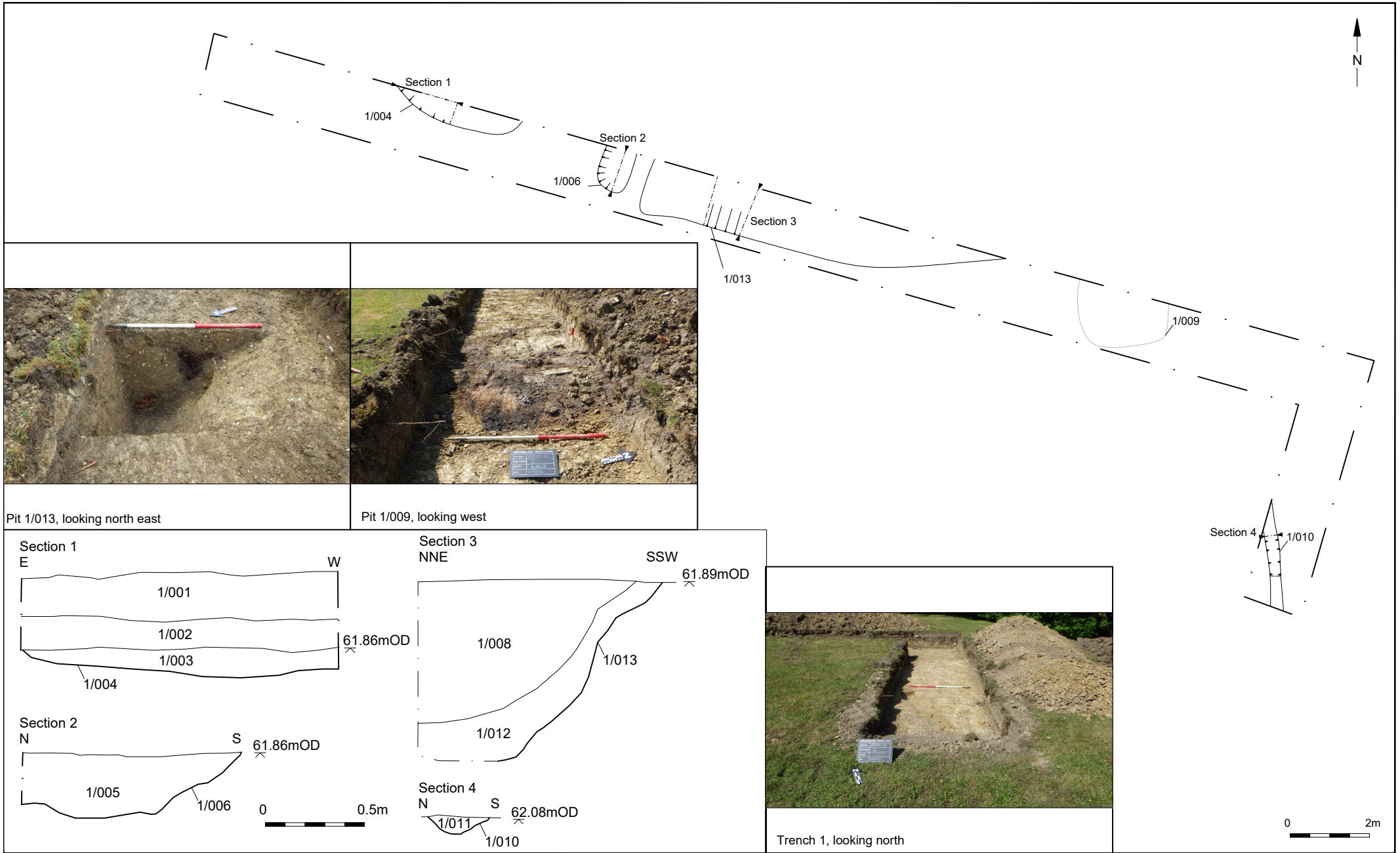


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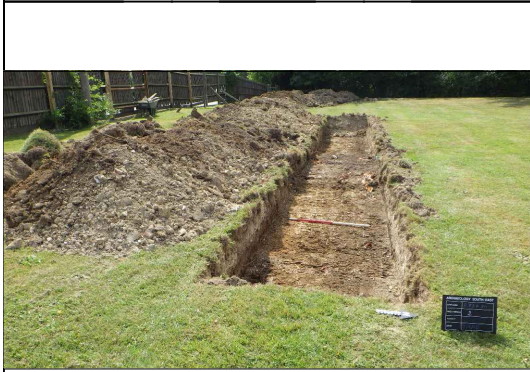


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Project Ref: 200072	06 - 2020		
Report Ref: 2020119	Drawn by: NG		



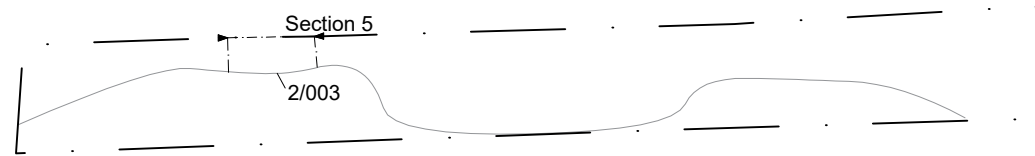
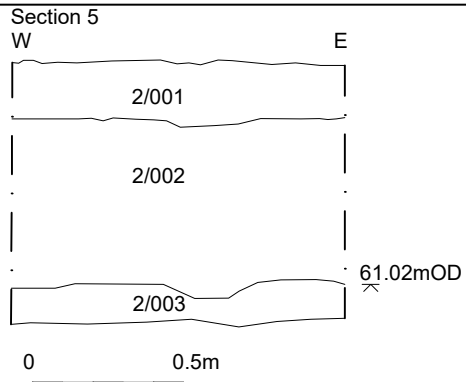
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Bolding Hatch Business Centre, Bishops Stortford Road, Roxwell	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 200072	06 - 2020	Trench 1 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020119	Drawn by: NG		



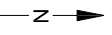
Trench 2, looking west



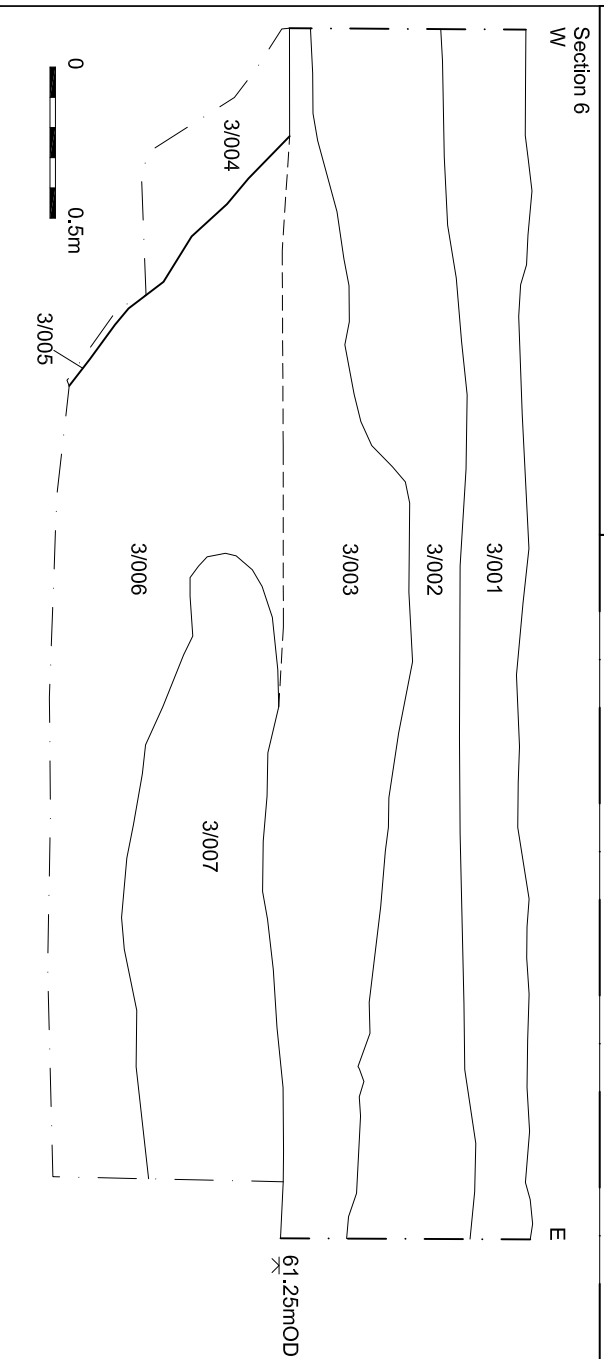
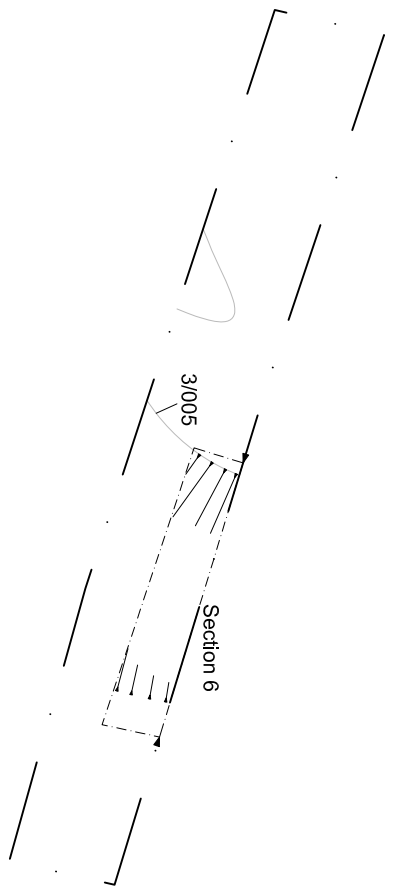
sample section, looking north



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Project Ref: 200072	06 - 2020	Trench 2 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020119	Drawn by: NG		



Trench 3, looking west north west

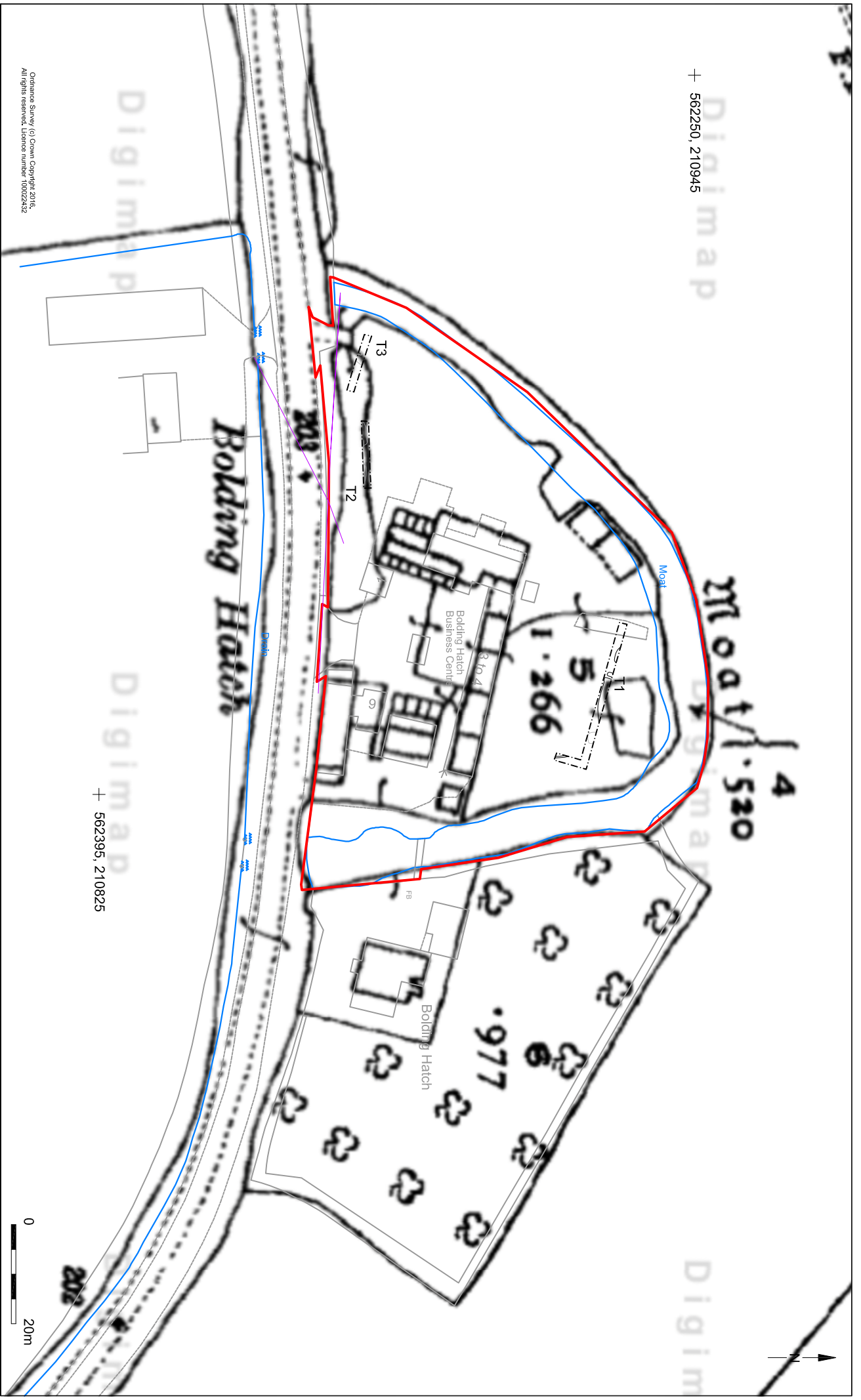


Feature 3/005, looking north north east



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Project Ref: 200072	06 - 2020		
Report Ref: 2020119	Drawn by: NG		

Trench 3 : plan, section and photographs



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Project Ref: 200072	06 - 2020		
Report Ref: 2020119	Drawn by: NG		
Trench locations with the 1920s historic map			

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