

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
LAND NORTHEAST OF LONDON ROAD,
GREAT CHESTERFORD,
ESSEX

ASE Project No: 200210
Site Code: GC21

ASE Report No: 2020182



October 2020

Archaeological Evaluation

Land Northeast of London Road,
Great Chesterford,
Essex

NGR: TL 50935 42326

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OASIS ID: 403182

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land northeast of London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex between 24 August and 07 September 2020. The fieldwork was commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd, on behalf of Hill Residential Ltd, and constitutes part of pre-planning application archaeological investigations.

The site comprises an 8.74ha field located to the south of Great Chesterford village, itself an historic medieval settlement and originally the location of a regionally-significant Roman town. A known complex of cropmarks, identified by aerial photography, is located within the north of the site. A preceding geophysical survey has identified a number of anomalies possible and probable archaeological origin across the site, those in the north probably defining below-ground remains of a rectilinear enclosure system and trackway. This corresponds closely to the cropmark evidence.

Eleven trenches were investigated within the site, selectively targeting the geophysical survey results. Seven Trenches were identified to contain archaeological features. These remains, comprising linear ditches, pits and postholes, were almost exclusively located in trenches in the north of the site. A high degree of correlation between cropmark, geophysical survey and trial-trenching results is demonstrated.

The recorded archaeological features, and the wider enclosure complex within the north of the site, possibly constitute the remains of an Early/Middle Roman farmstead, occupying the well-draining lower slope of the river valley. Its juxta-positioning in relation to, and association with, the Roman fort and later town, is of interest. It is possible that this land use has Iron Age origins.

The majority of the linear and curvilinear, ditch-like, geophysical anomalies detected across the southern part of the site are probably either more recent cultivation features largely within the topsoil or variations in the natural geology.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd, on behalf of their client, Hill Residential Ltd, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land northeast of London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex.

1.1.2 The trial-trench evaluation constitutes part of a scheme of pre-application works implemented in order to establish the archaeological potential of the site and to make informed recommendations on the development proposals. An archaeological desk-based assessment (Lanpro 2019) and a geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2020) were undertaken as a first stage of archaeological works.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located at the southern edge of the village of Great Chesterford in Essex, adjacent to the River Cam, in Uttlesford District, northwest Essex (NGR TL 50935 42326; Fig. 1). Measuring c.8.74ha, it comprises three arable and pastoral fields, bounded by London Road (B1383) to the southwest, the River Cam to the northeast, and residential properties to the northwest and southeast.

1.2.2 The site is situated on gently sloping ground, reducing in elevation from 41.81m AOD in the SSE (southeast end of Trench 9) down to 37.16m AOD towards the NNW (northwest end of Trench 1).

1.2.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2020), the bedrock geology of the site comprises the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation, overlaid by superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation – Clay and Silt with an area of River Terrace sand and gravel in the north and alluvial deposits along the eastern edge, along the River Cam.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Outline planning permission is being sought from Uttlesford District Council for residential development with associated access, infrastructure and open space. Pre-determination archaeological works have been undertaken in order to inform on the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy in line with local and national planning policy.

1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was carried out (Lanpro 2019) and a geophysical survey was subsequently completed (Magnitude Surveys 2020). This survey identified a range of magnetic anomalies, including a system of enclosures and associated trackway, adding detail to the cropmarks identified within the site.

1.3.3 Having considered the results of that work, a program of archaeological evaluation by trenching, targeted on the geophysical results, was recommended by Essex County Council's Place Services (ECCPS) in their role as archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared, which was submitted to and approved by ECCPS prior to the commencement of fieldwork (Lanpro 2020).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report describes and assesses the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on land northeast of London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex during 24 August–07 September 2020.
- 1.4.2 The results of the preceding geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2020) are also considered in relation to the evaluation results.
- 1.4.3 The fieldwork was directed by Samara King (Senior Archaeologist). The fieldwork was project managed by Andy Leonard, and post-excavation managed by Mark Atkinson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is a summary of the most pertinent archaeological and historical background information drawn from the DBA (Lanpro 2019) and the WSI (Lanpro 2020). It is based on evidence held in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), supplemented by the results of the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2020) and other readily available sources, particularly Medlycott 2011b. The locations of specific known sites and findspots in the vicinity of the site are illustrated on Figure 1.

2.1.2 Three heritage assets are recorded within the site: cropmarks of an enclosure complex and associated trackway (EHER 4866), potentially of Late Iron Age or Roman date, in the north; a coin findspot of Late Iron Age date (EHER 51902); and a World War II pillbox, destroyed post-war, along the river at the northern end of the site (EHER 10199).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Early evidence for prehistoric occupation within vicinity of the site is limited to a Mesolithic flint axe that was recorded c.250m north of the site (EHER 4971). A second axe, possibly dated to the Palaeolithic but more likely Neolithic, was recorded c.350m east (EHER 13926).

2.2.2 Activity appears to have intensified during the Neolithic, with more evidence of flintwork dated to this period. At Manor Farm, c.350m northeast of the site, flakes, an axe-form, hammerstones and scrapers were recovered (EHER 4804). Similar flintwork was found at the excavations at South Street (EHER 13901), 200m north, and during other archaeological works c.180m west of the study area (EHER 13929). However, no features were found at any of the sites to indicate a Neolithic settlement.

2.2.3 Evidence for Bronze Age occupation is limited with archaeological works at Bordeaux Farm, 350m southwest of the site, uncovering the remains of a burial cairn with a cremation urn and pyre debris (EHER 4863).

2.2.4 Cropmarks of three ring-ditches are recorded c.500m east of the site (EHER 4794) and a cropmark of a further ring-ditch c.100m to the south (EHER 4857). These may constitute prehistoric burial sites, though are currently undated.

2.2.5 It is generally accepted that Great Chesterford would have been on the border of two Iron Age tribes and its strategic location would have made it important at that time. Evidence for Iron Age occupation has been found on both sides of the River Cam, suggesting the settlement there straddled the river rather than being bound to one side (Medlycott 2011b). However, archaeological evidence recorded within the town has been quite sparse. Pits and ditches were recorded during archaeological works 500m to the northwest (EHER 4963); however, the remainder of Iron Age evidence within the vicinity of the site is limited to coins (EHER 4916, 4957, 51902).

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 Great Chesterford was an area of importance during the Roman period as it was located *en route* between London, Cambridge and Newmarket. During the 1st century AD, likely in response to the Boudiccan revolt, a Roman fort was established on the east bank of the river, at the northern extent of the current town (Scheduled Monument: 1013484). The fort was later superseded by a town in the 2nd century, which was walled by the 4th century, remains of which have been found c.500m north of the site (EHER 4915, 4941). Partial excavation has revealed the defensive ditch and internal features of the fort below later remains of the town.
- 2.3.2 Other archaeological investigations have revealed a wide range of Roman remains, which would be consistent with the importance of Great Chesterford during that time. These include a small camp and walled annexe, located c.300m north, on the site of the present-day church, where pits, gullies, walls, tiles and coins were found (EHER 18906, 13922). Mosaic tiles were uncovered c.400m northwest (EHER 13924), which suggest the presence of a high-status building associated with the town.
- 2.3.3 A significant number of burials have also been recorded within the vicinity of the site. Excavations c.300m northwest revealed a cemetery, a possible oven and the remains of pottery vessels (EHER 4948). Small grave groups have also been recorded c.50m west (EHER 4950) and c.230m north of the site (EHER 13923). It is postulated that the site lies just to the south of the southwestern cemetery of the Roman town (Medlycott 2011b).
- 2.3.4 Other Roman remains associated with the area have been found during pre-development investigations, including, but not limited to: a large late 1st-/early 2nd-century quarry 300m to the north (EHER 46542), an intensely occupied 3rd century settlement area 300m to the northeast (EHER 46618), an enclosed cemetery, part of a road and ditches 400m to the northeast (EHER 48903), and a wall trench that had been robbed of its flint and filled with later 2nd century rubbish c.200m north (EHER 13902). Numerous loose and stray finds of pottery, coins and ironwork have been found throughout the site vicinity, which is not unexpected for the level occupation evident during this period.
- 2.3.5 The cropmark complex within the north of the site (EHER 4866) was identified from aerial photographs (e.g. front cover image, Google Earth accessed 09/10/2020). It is described as ‘...a rectilinear system of small paddocks, enclosures and a trackway’ (Medlycott 2011b, 253).

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 Evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the vicinity of the site is limited; however, the remains of a large cemetery are located northwest of the Roman town, beyond the site environs. No Saxon settlement remains have been found overlying the Roman town, suggesting that it was not reoccupied during this period. More burials have been found close to the church, c.300m north, including two horse burials (EHER 4951, 4952). Other scattered Saxon remains have been found, including post-holes suggestive of an aisled barn c.450m north (EHER 4953) and loose finds of metalwork and pottery (EHER 45484, 4953, 51196).
- 2.4.2 Medieval occupation appears to be concentrated in the centre of the current town, c.350m north of the site (EHER 18489), with documents first mentioning Chesterford in 1004 (Lanpro 2019), and 47 households being recorded in Great Chesterford in

1086 in the Domesday Book.

- 2.4.3 Numerous buildings within the town centre are of medieval origin, including the Church of All Saints, c.300m north-west of the site, dating to the 13th century (EHER 13890, 13891, 25353). The church appears to form the centre, along with the marketplace (EHER 18490) and the village green (EHER 18651), around which several 15th-century buildings are located. Other medieval period remains have been found within the current town during pre-development works, including structures, ditches, wells and pits at Crown Orchard (EHER 4966), South Street (EHER 13903), River Green House (EHER 46620) and at the Country Club site (EHER 45202).
- 2.4.4 The medieval moated manor site at Bordeaux Farm is located c.350m southwest of the site (EHER 4766).

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.5.1 Throughout the post-medieval period, the site has been in constant use as agricultural land. An enclosure map dated to 1805 labels the northern part of the fields as belonging to 'Charles Shepherd', but by 1828, the layout appears to conform to the current plan of three fields, which is visible on Ordnance Survey mapping from 1881 to 1983 (Lanpro 2019).
- 2.5.2 A World War II pillbox is recorded in the HER along the central part of the northern site boundary, adjacent to the river (EHER 10199). It was destroyed post-war and no evidence of it remains on-site today.

2.6 Geophysical survey

- 2.6.1 A magnetometer survey was conducted on the site (Magnitude Surveys 2020). The survey detected a number of NE/SW and NW/SE orientated linear anomalies of probable and possible archaeological origin in the northeast of the site. These have been interpreted to define a rectilinear system of enclosures and associated trackway, corresponding to and enhancing the known cropmarks identified from aerial photography (EHER 4866). Other large pit-like anomalies were detected within the enclosures, along with possible linear anomalies to the west and southeast, which may indicate a separate or associated agricultural field system. Other non-archaeological anomalies were also detected, likely related to agricultural use of the land in the form of ploughing and land drainage. The interpretive geophysical survey plot is shown on Figure 2.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.7.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the WSI (Lanpro 2020), was to obtain sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area to allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for development of the site.
- 2.7.2 The WSI (Lanpro 2020) did not identify any specific regional research objectives/questions for the project, but did in general indicate that the archaeological excavation would be carried out with the aim of addressing the regional research frameworks for East of England (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011a), with particular focus on the prehistoric and Roman periods.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Unless otherwise stated, the fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (Lanpro 2020). ASE is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The ClfA *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014b) were adhered to throughout the project.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of eleven trenches within the site, each measuring 30m by 1.80m, that were targeted upon the results of the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Two alterations were made to the original layout: Trench 11 was shifted approximately 2m southwest to avoid an extant ditch at its northeast end; and Trench 4 was extended c.5m at its southeast end to further expose a potential archaeological feature.
- 3.1.3 All trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and were scanned for the presence of underground services using a CAT scanner prior to excavation.
- 3.1.4 Machining of the trenches was undertaken using a tracked excavator under close archaeological supervision, with overburden layers being stratigraphically removed until archaeological remains and/or underlying natural geology were encountered. Any exposed archaeological deposits or negative features were planned as appropriate.
- 3.1.5 All archaeological features were investigated, except one in Trench 1, with typically 50% of discrete features and 1m-long segments of linear features being excavated. All features were then plotted digitally by GPS.
- 3.1.6 Trenches and features were recorded on ASE *pro forma* trench and context recording sheets and sections were recorded at 1:10 or 1:20 scale on A3 drawing film sheets.
- 3.1.7 A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made. All trenches and individual contexts were photographed (trench and context views). In addition, a number of representative photographs of the general work on site were taken (site and working shots).
- 3.1.8 All finds from excavated deposits were retrieved and retained for specialist identification and study. These were securely bagged and labelled with the appropriate site code and context number on site, in accordance with the ASE collection policy and ClfA guidelines (2014c).
- 3.1.9 Bulk soil samples were collected from deposits judged appropriate for environmental study and/or for the recovery of small artefacts, in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2011).
- 3.1.10 A metal-detector was used throughout the fieldwork. Trench bases and spoil heaps, as well as the spoil derived from excavated features, were scanned.
- 3.1.11 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.

3.2 Archive

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. Finds from the fieldwork will be kept with the archival material. Subject to agreement with the legal landowner, the archive will be deposited at the Saffron Walden Museum in due course. The contents of the site archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	84
Section sheets	7
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	196
Context register	0
Drawing register	2
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	11

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 bag)	3 boxes
Registered finds (number of)	4
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	6
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 Eleven trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.80m, were excavated within the site in accordance with the WSI, targeting selected geophysical survey anomalies (Lanpro 2020; Fig. 2). Minor alterations were made to the position of Trench 11 to avoid an extant ditch and Trench 4 was extended by c.5m at its south-east end to investigate a possible feature.
- 4.1.2 All of the trenches were targeted upon the plotted positions of anomalies detected by the geophysical survey and interpreted as probable and possible archaeological remains (Magnitude Surveys 2020; Fig 2).
- 4.1.3 Of the eleven trenches excavated, seven (Trenches 1–5, 7 and 8) contained archaeological remains, mostly comprising ditches, but also including pits. All of the features were hand excavated and planned. The recorded archaeological remains are described by trench in sections 4.2–4.8.
- 4.1.4 The remaining four (Trenches 6, 9–11) were found to be devoid of archaeological remains. These trenches are summarised in section 4.9 and further details of their recorded deposit sequences are presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.5 Across most of the site, a simple deposit sequence comprising 0.20–0.40m of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlying natural deposits was recorded. A 0.10–0.31m thick layer of mid orange brown clay silt with occasional gravel was recorded below topsoil in Trench 6, which appears to be colluvium. A small patch of the same deposit was found in Trench 5. Exposed natural deposits were varied; from mid brownish orange to light orange yellow silty sand with frequent gravels in the northeast, to mid brownish orange clay silt with patches of large stones and flint cobbles across the remainder of the site. The latter geology appears to have produced the weaker geophysical anomalies evident across the southeast of the site.
- 4.1.6 Feature visibility was mixed. All features were located below the topsoil and cut into the natural deposits; however, several of the features in Trenches 1–3 had similar upper fills to the surrounding natural deposit that made it difficult to determine edges in plan.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.32-0.34	37.48-37.52
1/002	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	37.16-37.18
1/003	Fill	Fill, single	1.0+	1.35	0.23	37.17
1/004	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	1.35	0.23	36.94
1/005	Fill	Fill, single	0.70	0.60	0.13	37.19
1/006	Cut	Pit	0.70	0.60	0.13	37.06
1/007	Fill	Fill, single	1.0+	1.20	0.26	37.23
1/008	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	1.20	0.26	36.97
1/009	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	6.20	0.30	37.10

1/010	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	1.70	0.40	-
1/011	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	1.70	0.62	36.48
1/012	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	6.20	0.30	37.10
1/013	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	6.20	0.30	37.10
1/014	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.0+	2.20	0.26	-
1/015	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.0+	1.42	0.17	-
1/016	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	2.56	0.42	-
1/017	Cut	Ditch, enclosure	1.0+	3.40	0.90	36.20
1/018	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	2.80	0.58	37.11
1/019	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	0.96	0.20	-
1/020	Cut	Ditch, enclosure	1.0+	2.80	0.74	36.37
1/021	Fill	Fill – unexc	0.72+	0.30+	-	37.20
1/022	Cut	Feature – unexc	0.72+	0.30+	-	-

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the northwest corner of the site on a NW/SE alignment, targeted on three NE/SW orientated linear and several possible discrete pit-like anomalies detected by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Five linear ditches, a pit and an undefined feature were uncovered.
- 4.2.2 At the northwest end, ditch [1/004] crossed the trench on a NE/SW orientation, extending beyond in both directions. It measured 1.35m wide and 0.23m deep with gently sloping, straight sides and a flat base. Single fill [1/003] comprised mid yellowish brown, firm silty sand with frequent flint gravel, likely the result of use/disuse accumulation. Seven sherds of Early Roman (1st century) pottery and a single fragment of animal bone were recovered. Ditch [1/004] corresponds with the plotted position of the northwestern-most boundary of the enclosure system as detected by the geophysical survey.
- 4.2.3 Apparent intercut ditches [1/011] and [1/017] were uncovered 2.2m southeast of ditch [1/004], seemingly together creating a substantial boundary. These NE/SW ditches appeared contemporary in nature, with a homogenous upper fill ([1/009, 1/012, 1/013]) of mid greyish brown, soft sandy silt across their combined width, from which was recovered twenty-six sherds of mixed Early/Mid Roman pottery (AD50–250), Roman CBM, animal bone and an iron nail fragment. Below this shared fill, a 0.20m-wide ‘gap’, within which no intercutting relationship could be discerned, was recorded between the ditches.
- The southeasterly ditch [1/011] had moderately sloping sides with a step on the southeast side and a concave base, measuring 1.70m wide and 0.62m deep. Its lower, primary fill [1/010] consisted of mid brownish grey, firm sandy silt with frequent large flint nodules and gravel, from which a single Mesolithic/Neolithic flint flake was recovered.
- Northwesterly ditch [1/017] had similarly sloped sides with a slight step on its southeast edge and a concave base. However, it was considerably larger, measuring 3.40m wide and 0.90m deep. Three fills were recorded below the shared upper fill, that appeared tipped or washed in from the southeast edge. Intermediary fills [1/014] of dark greyish brown, soft sandy silt with occasional flint and [1/015] of mid orange brown, firm silty sand appeared to have accumulated naturally, from in-wash or side collapse. They contained mixed 1st/2nd-century Roman pottery (six sherds), Roman CBM and animal bone. The basal fill [1/016] comprised mid orange brown, moderately firm sandy silt and gravel with frequent large flint nodules, similar to

[1/010], and likely formed by erosion and use. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this fill, along with a fragment of tooth from a bone comb (RF<2>). Bulk soil sample <2> collected from fill [1/014] produced a modest amount of charcoal and a small quantity of charred cereal remains, together with burnt bone including fishbone.

Running parallel with the outer enclosure boundary [1/004], these apparent ditches were detected as possible archaeological anomalies by the geophysical survey. However, their plotted form is vague and it is not clear whether they define boundaries or structures inside the enclosure system, or earlier/later phases of the enclosure system itself.

- 4.2.4 Towards the centre of the trench, sub-circular pit [1/006] was located, measuring 0.70m long, 0.60m wide and 0.13m deep. It had shallow sloping sides and a slightly concave base, and contained a single fill [1/005] of mid greyish brown, soft sandy silt with moderate amount of medium to large flint inclusions. Two small fragments of Iron Age pottery were collected from it; however, it is unclear whether these date the feature or are residual. This feature, could perhaps relate to a domestic structure within the northwest sub-enclosure.
- 4.2.5 The edge of a second discrete feature [1/022] was recorded along the southwest edge of the trench. However, as the majority of the feature was located beyond the limit of excavation, it was left unexcavated to preserve its integrity. It measured at minimum 0.72m long and 0.30m+ wide, with a fill [1/021] of mid orange brown, soft clay silt from which surface finds of CBM fragments were recovered. It is not known if and how this feature may have related to [1/006] nearby.
- 4.2.6 Ditch [1/008] was uncovered c.5.2m to the southeast of pit [1/006], crossing the trench on a NE/SW orientation. It had moderately steep, straight sides and a flat base, measuring 1.20m wide and 0.26m deep. Single fill [1/007] comprised mid to dark orange brown, soft sandy silt with frequent flints and occasional cobbles. Three sherds of early 3rd-century Roman pottery, CBM, animal bone, an iron nail, lava quernstone and two pieces of prehistoric struck flint were recovered from it. This ditch appears to correspond with a smaller linear geophysical anomaly, which may represent an internal structure or drainage feature perhaps even being associated somehow with [1/011] and/or [1/017].
- 4.2.7 Ditch [1/020] was located at the southeast end of the trench, orientated NE/SW. It was 2.80m wide and 0.74m deep, with moderately steep, mostly straight sides and a concave base. Upper fill [1/018] was a dark greyish brown, soft sandy silt with frequent small to large flints, likely accumulating during use/disuse of the ditch and containing a mixed assemblage of prehistoric and broadly Roman pottery (four sherds), animal bone and prehistoric struck flint. Basal fill [1/019] was similar in colour and composition, but contained very frequent large flint cobbles, likely due to weathering/collapse of the ditch sides. No finds were recovered from it. This ditch corresponds with a linear geophysical anomaly of probable archaeological origin that appears to define a subdividing boundary within the rectilinear enclosure system.

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.20-0.30	37.66-38.37
2/002	Fill	Fill, basal	0.80+	1.08	0.35	-

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/003	Fill	Fill, intermediate	0.80+	2.78	1.06	-
2/004	Fill	Fill, upper	0.80+	1.50	0.12	37.97
2/005	Cut	Ditch, enclosure	0.80+	3.00	1.06	36.91
2/006	Fill	Fill, basal	0.80+	0.94	0.27	-
2/007	Fill	Fill, upper	0.80+	0.90	0.09	37.97
2/008	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	37.46-38.07
2/009	Fill	Fill, upper	1.80+	4.30	0.30	37.79
2/010	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.80+	3.94	0.49	-
2/011	Cut	Ditch/pit?	1.80+	5.82	0.60	37.19
2/012	Fill	Fill, basal	1.80+	1.92	0.30	

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the northwest of the site, on a NE/SW alignment, targeted on three linear parallel geophysical anomalies of probable archaeological origin (Fig. 2). Two parallel linear archaeological features were uncovered. A single prehistoric struck flint was recovered from topsoil [2/001].
- 4.3.2 Ditch [2/005] was located in the southwest half of the trench, crossing it on a NW/SE orientation and measuring 3.0m wide and 1.06m deep. It had steep, slightly convex sides and a flat base. Five fills were recorded in the ditch. The two uppermost fills, [2/004] and [2/007], comprised thin deposits of mid brownish grey, soft silty sands with frequent flint gravel, similar to the topsoil, and likely from natural silting post-use. The latter produced a single sherd of later 1st-century Roman pottery and animal bone. The most substantial, intermediate, fill [2/003] consisted of mid yellowish brown, compact sandy silt with frequent small to medium flints, accumulated during the ditch's use, from which twenty sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery were retrieved. Fills [2/002] and [2/006] were deposits of brownish yellow silty sand with frequent gravel, which lined the ditch sides. The former yielded fourteen sherds of 1st/2nd-century Roman pottery and a single prehistoric struck flint. Ditch [2/005] correlates with the targeted linear geophysical anomaly, which appears to be a relatively major plot boundary within the rectilinear enclosure system and the return of Trench 1 boundary ditch [1/004].
- 4.3.3 Possible ditch [2/011] was uncovered c.4.4m northeast of and parallel with ditch [2/005], measuring 5.82m wide and 0.60m deep. It had a varied profile with a moderately steep, straight southeast side and a gently sloped and stepped northwest side, with a flat base. Three fills were recorded: an upper fill [2/009] of dark brownish grey, soft silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles; intermediate fill [2/010] of light grey, friable to loose sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and small to large flints; and basal fill [2/012] of mid yellowish brown, soft silty sand with few inclusions. The basal fill appears to have accumulated through side slumping and erosion, while the upper two fills seem to have built up through prolonged use of the ditch, both of which contained significant amounts of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery (30 sherds retrieved), animal bone, CBM and lesser quantities of fired clay and prehistoric struck flints were retrieved. Bulk soil sample <1> collected from fill [2/010] produced a quantity of charcoal and charred cereal remains comprising barley, wheat and rye, and also burnt bone including a few fishbones. Ditch [2/011] may correspond to one or both of the parallel linear anomalies targeted at this end of the trench, and/or to a discrete pit-like anomaly in between them. Indeed, the recorded section (Fig. 4,

section 7) could be construed to comprise more than one cut feature – with fill [2/012 perhaps being the northernmost ditch anomaly and [2/009 and 2/010] the discrete anomaly. As such, it is unclear exactly which of the anomalies this apparent ditch relates to.

4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.28-0.30	37.26-37.38
3/002	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80	0.06	36.98-37.08
3/003	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	1.40	0.20	37.03
3/004	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	1.82	0.18	-
3/005	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	1.82	0.34	36.69
3/006	Fill	Fill, upper		0.57+	0.15	36.89
3/007	Fill	Fill, basal		0.73+	0.25	-
3/008	Cut	Pit	1.70	0.73+	0.40	36.49
3/009	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	2.60	0.86	36.05
3/010	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	2.60	0.24	36.91
3/011	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.0+	2.46	0.62	-
3/012	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	0.84	0.20	-
3/013	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	1.45+	0.18	36.86
3/014	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.0+	1.74	0.34	-
3/015	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.0+	1.80+	0.28	-
3/016	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.0+	0.88+	0.26	-
3/017	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	1.92+	0.38	-
3/018	Cut	Cut feature	1.0+	1.92+	0.88	35.98
3/019	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	2.20	0.33	36.98
3/020	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	2.66	0.64	-
3/021	Cut	Pit	1.0+	2.66	0.81	36.17
3/022	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	3.50	0.66	36.82
3/023	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	1.48	0.42	-
3/024	Cut	Ditch, enclosure	1.0+	3.50	0.96	35.86
3/025	Fill	Fill, single	2.78+	1.0+	0.83	36.73
3/026	Cut	Cut feature	2.78+	1.0+	0.83	35.90

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Located in the northwest of the site, on a NW/SE alignment, Trench 3 was positioned to investigate a slightly sinuous linear anomaly of probably archaeological origin and two irregular discrete anomalies detected by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Two ditches, two pits and two other cut features were uncovered. An iron nail was metal-detected from topsoil [3/001].
- 4.4.2 Seemingly curving ditch [3/005] was located at the southeast end of the trench, arcing from a N/S to NE/SW direction and measuring 1.82m wide and 0.34m deep. It had gently sloping sides, with a step on the southeast edge, and a concave base. Upper fill [3/003] comprised mid orange brown, soft clay silt with a moderate amount of small to medium stones, accumulated through natural use/disuse silting and contained a

few fragments of animal bone. Basal fill [3/004] of mid orange brown, loose sandy silt and frequent gravel and medium to large flints had no finds and likely accumulated through slumping/erosion. This apparent ditch possibly corresponded to a part of the irregular discrete anomaly targeted at this end of the trench; however, its nature is not particularly clarified.

- 4.4.3 Possible ditch [3/009] was uncovered to the northwest of ditch [3/005], crossing the trench in a NE/SW orientation and truncating cut feature [3/018]. It had moderately steep, concave sides and flat base and measured 2.60m wide and 0.86m deep. Three fills were recorded within the feature: upper fill [3/010] comprised mid orange brown, friable to soft clay silt with occasional small to large stones, likely the result of disuse slumping/silting; intermediate fill [3/011] of a mix of mid brown/yellowish orange, crumbly silty sand with frequent small to large stones and flints that seemed to be backfilled natural; and basal fill [3/012] consisting of dark orange brown, soft clay silt with occasional small to medium stones, which also appeared to have been backfilled. A small amount of Roman pottery (7 sherds) and animal bone were collected from the upper two fills.
- 4.4.4 Undefined cut feature [3/018] was truncated on its NW side by apparent ditch [3/009] and its width/length only partially excavated during the evaluation. It was at minimum 2.96m long, wider than the trench and 0.88m deep. Five fills were recorded. Top fill [3/013] was a mid orange brown, friable to soft clay silt with occasional small to medium stones, from which no finds were retrieved. Intermediate fill [3/014] and basal fill [3/017] were similar, comprising mid brownish orange, loose to crumbly silty sand with occasional small stones and flints, that appeared to be redeposited natural. Two other intermediate fills below, [3/015] and [3/016], also appeared to be intentional backfill; the former consisting of loose, light yellowish orange silty sand with pea gravel, and the latter comprising soft, dark orange brown clay silt with occasional small to large stones and flints. Two sherds of 1st/2nd-century Roman pottery and an iron knife blade fragment (RF<4>) were recovered from fill [3/014] only. The feature corresponded with the plotted position of the irregular, discrete anomaly and, given its mostly sterile backfill deposits, it may have functioned as a quarry pit.
- 4.4.5 Intercutting features pit [3/021], ditch [3/024], and undetermined cut [3/026] were all located towards the northwest end of the trench. Irregular oval-shaped pit [3/021] was the latest feature, truncating both ditch [3/024] and feature [3/026], extending beyond the NE trench edge and seen primarily in section. It had moderate to steep, concave sides and broad, curved base, measuring 2.72m long, 1.0m+ wide and 0.81m deep. It contained two fills: an upper fill [3/019] of light greyish yellow, firm clay with rare small stones that was clearly backfill and was not found elsewhere on site, and a lower fill [3/020] consisting of mid greyish brown, friable to crumbly sandy silt with occasional to frequent small stones and gravels that had likely accumulated naturally through and slumping. Lower fill [3/020] produced eleven sherds of early 2nd-century Roman pottery, Roman CBM, animal bone and prehistoric struck flint.
- 4.4.6 Ditch [3/024] was cut by pit [3/021] along its SE edge. The ditch measured 3.50m wide and 0.96m deep and crossed the trench on a NE/SW orientation. It had moderately steep, convex to stepped sides, down to a concave base, and contained two fills. Upper fill [3/022] comprised mid brownish grey, friable to loose sandy silt with very frequent medium to large flint cobbles and gravels from which forty-three sherds of 2nd-century Roman pottery, fired clay, animal bone, an iron nail and prehistoric struck flint were collected. Basal fill [3/023] was a friable to soft, mid greyish brown clay/sandy silt with moderate frequency of cobbles and gravel. It yielded a single sherd of broadly Roman pottery, fired clay and animal bone, and

seemed to have accumulated naturally through silting. Ditch [3/024] correlates with the plotted position of the targeted NE/SW linear anomaly of probable archaeological origin that is clearly part of the multi-phase rectilinear enclosure system identified in this corner of the site.

- 4.4.7 Feature [3/026] was located below both the above features and could not be discerned in plan, but was recorded in section (Fig. 5, section 11). It appeared wider than the trench and was at minimum 2.78m long and 0.83m deep. The feature had a curved base and its profile suggested that it may be a ditch running generally WNW/ESE. It contained a single fill [3/025] of crumbly, mid brownish orange silty sand with frequent small to large cobbles and gravel that appeared to be redeposited natural. It was similar to fills found in feature [3/018], which could suggest they are contemporary and earlier than the Roman enclosure. No finds were recovered.
- 4.4.8 Oval pit [3/008] was partially exposed at the northwest end of the trench, extending beyond the southwest edge of excavation. It measured at minimum 1.70m long, 0.73m wide and 0.40m deep with moderately steep, concave sides and a slightly concave base. Upper fill [3/006] consisted of dark orange brown, friable to soft clay/sandy silt with occasional small to medium stones. A few small fragments of mid 1st/2nd-century Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered from the naturally accumulated fill. Lower fill [3/007] was composed of mid brownish orange, friable to crumbling silty sand with frequent small to medium stones and pea gravel, consistent with side slumping. No finds were recovered. Pit [3/008] coincides with the edge of an irregular discrete geophysical anomaly and may indicate that it comprises a number of intercutting pit-like features.

4.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.29-0.37	38.12-38.14
4/002	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80	0.06	37.77-37.82
4/003	Fill	Fill, upper	1.0+	1.55	0.23	37.74
4/004	Fill	Fill, basal	1.0+	1.60	0.73	-
4/005	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	1.75	0.73	37.01
4/006	Fill	Fill, single	1.0+	0.95	0.45	37.85
4/007	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	0.95	0.45	37.40
4/008	Fill	Fill, single	0.80+	0.67+	0.22	37.81
4/009	Cut	Pit	0.80+	0.67+	0.22	37.59
4/010	Fill	Fill, single	1.0+	1.41	0.56	37.67
4/011	Cut	Ditch recut	1.0+	1.41	0.56	37.11
4/012	Fill	Fill, single	1.0+	0.88	0.64	37.79
4/013	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	0.88	0.64	37.15
4/016	Fill	Fill, single	1.30	1.06	0.31	37.76
4/017	Cut	Pit	1.30	1.06	0.31	37.45

Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.2 Trench 4 was located towards the north-central part of the site on a NW/SE alignment, positioned to investigate multiple linear geophysical anomalies (Fig. 2). Three ditches, one of which was recut, and two pits were uncovered. The southeast end of

the trench was extended by c.5m to further expose and investigate a possible feature, which was determined to be a natural silt patch in the gravels. A single unidentified silver-coloured metallic fragment was retrieved from topsoil [4/001].

- 4.5.1 Ditch [4/005] was located at the centre of the trench, crossing it on a NE/SW orientation. It had moderately steep, straight sides and a flat base, measuring 1.75m wide and 0.73m deep. Upper fill [4/003] comprised mid brown, soft sandy silt with occasional medium flints and gravel; it yielded seventy-six sherds of later 1st/2nd-century Roman pottery, and animal bone, possibly indicating that it was purposely backfilled. The basal fill [4/004] consisted of mid greyish brown, slightly compacted sandy silt with very frequent gravel and small to large flint cobbles, but no finds. It is likely the result of natural accumulation during the ditch's use. This feature corresponds to a relatively extensive linear geophysical anomaly that forms part of the multi-phase rectilinear enclosure system.
- 4.5.2 Ditch [4/007] was located at the northwest end of the trench, crossing it on a NE/SW orientation. It had fairly steep, straight sides and a flat base, measuring 0.95m wide and 0.45m deep. It contained a single, naturally accumulated, fill [4/006] of dark orange brown, soft sandy silt with occasional gravel and small to large flints that yielded three small later 1st-century Roman pottery sherds, CBM and prehistoric worked flint. Ditch [4/007] roughly corresponds with a linear geophysical anomaly that forms part of the multiphase rectilinear enclosure system, possibly continuing southwest as far as ditch [7/010] in Trench 7 and marking the western side of a possible trackway.
- 4.5.3 Sub-circular pit [4/009] was located immediately adjacent to, and truncated by, the southeast edge of ditch [4/007]. It had shallow, slightly concave sides and a flat base, measuring 0.80m by 0.67m and 0.23m deep. Single fill [4/008] consisted of a mix of redeposited yellow sandy gravel natural and dark orange brown sandy silt with small to large flints. No finds were recovered from it.
- 4.5.4 NE/SW ditch [4/013] and its recut, ditch [4/011], were located just 1.25m southeast of ditch [4/007]. The northwest side of [4/013] and the southeast side of [4/011] were both moderately steep and straight while the opposing side of [4/011] was steep and convex. Both had flat to slightly concave bases. Ditch [4/011] measured 1.41m wide and 0.56m deep and ditch [4/013] was in excess of 0.88m wide and 0.64m deep. Each ditch contained similar single fills ([4/010, 4/012]) of dark brown, soft sandy silt, although the frequency of gravel and flint inclusions were greater in the latter. Sixty-nine sherds of later 1st-century Roman pottery, animal bone and prehistoric struck flint were recovered from the recut fill [4/010]. Ditch [4/013 / 4/011] corresponds with the plotted position of a linear anomaly of probable archaeological origin and is a further element of the multi-phase rectilinear enclosure system present in this part of the site.
- 4.5.5 Oval Pit [4/017] was located c.1.7m southeast of ditch [4/013 / 4/011], measuring 1.30m+ long, 1.06m wide and 0.31m deep. It extended beyond the northeast limit of excavation. It had moderately steep and straight sides with rounded base. Its single fill [4/016] was a dark brown, soft sandy silt with occasional flints. Thirteen later 1st-century Roman pottery fragments, animal bone and a prehistoric struck flint were recovered from it. Bulk soil sample <3> produced a small amount of charcoal and a modest range of charred cereal remains including barley, wheat and rye.

4.6 Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.30	38.39-38.83
5/002	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	38.09-38.53
5/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80	0.05-0.36	-
5/004	Fill	Fill, single	1.0+	1.52	0.62	38.36
5/005	Cut	Ditch, enclosure	1.0+	1.52	0.62	37.74
5/006	Layer	Colluvium	10.0	1.80+	0.21	38.24

Table 7: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 5 was located in the northwest of the site, on a NE/SW alignment, targeting a linear anomaly, probably of an enclosure ditch, and other irregular-shaped vaguely linear anomalies of possible archaeological origin (Fig. 2). A ditch and a probably natural colluvium deposit were recorded.
- 4.6.2 Ditch [5/005] crossed the southwest of the trench on a NW/SE orientation. It had steep, straight sides and a flat base, measuring 1.52m wide and 0.62m deep. Single fill [5/004] comprised dark brownish grey, soft sandy silt with frequent small to large flints, from which two sherds of broadly Roman pottery sherds were retrieved. The ditch roughly corresponds to the targeted linear geophysical anomaly, which appears to be part of the multiphase enclosure system.
- 4.6.3 A large patch of mid orange brown clay silt with occasional gravel [5/006] was present in the northeast of the trench, extending for 10m as exposed. A 2m by 1m intervention was excavated, which established this deposit to be 0.21m deep. It appeared to be similar to the colluvium found in Trench 6. A small quantity of multi-period finds was collected from the layer, including three sherds of Roman pottery, CBM, a prehistoric worked flint and a post-medieval coin (RF <1>, Rose farthing token of Charles I minted 1636–44). Underlying this was a distinct natural deposit of mid orange silty sand. Layer [5/006] coincides with the plotted southwest end of a sinuous linear geophysical anomaly. It is likely a geological deposit, containing intrusive archaeological artefacts.
- 4.6.4 A further weak geophysical anomaly plotted to cross the northeast end of the trench was not discerned as either an archaeological feature/layer or geological deposit.

4.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.29-0.33	40.66-41.01
7/002	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	40.37-40.68
7/003	Layer	Colluvium	9.70+	1.80+	0.02-0.06	40.56
7/004	Fill	Fill, single	1.0+	1.30	0.09	40.46
7/005	Cut	Ditch	1.0+	1.30	0.09	40.37
7/006	Fill	Fill, single	0.65+	1.44	0.20	40.46
7/007	Cut	Ditch	0.65+	1.44	0.20	40.26
7/008	Fill	Fill, upper	0.65+	0.92	0.28	40.45

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
7/009	Fill	Fill, basal	0.65+	1.08	0.44	-
7/010	Cut	Ditch	0.65+	1.25+	0.48	39.97

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 7 was located along the southwest boundary of the site, on a NW/SE alignment, targeting three linear and one curving/irregular geophysical anomalies (Fig. 2). Two ditches, one of which was recut, and a patch of colluvium were uncovered.

4.7.2 Ditch [7/005] crossed the centre of the trench on a NE/SW alignment. It was relatively broad and shallow, measuring 1.30m wide and only 0.09m deep, with gentle, concave sides and a flat base. Single fill [7/004] consisted of mid orange brown, soft sandy silt with frequent small to large flints. No finds were recovered from it. The ditch corresponds with one of the detected linear anomalies.

4.7.3 Ditch [7/010] and its recut [7/007] crossed the northwest end of the trench, on a NE/SW orientation. Ditch [7/010] measured in excess of 1.25m wide and 0.48m deep, being truncated by [7/007] along its southeast edge. It had moderately steep, convex sides and a concave base, and contained two fills. Upper fill [7/008] was a mid orange brown, soft sandy silt with rare pebbles, while lower fill [7/009] comprised light grey, friable to compact silt with frequent small to large flints. No finds were recovered from either fill.

Recut [7/007] had gentle to moderately sloping, concave sides and a flat base, measuring 1.44m wide and 0.20m deep. Its single fill [7/006] of mid orange brown, soft sandy silt with rare pebbles was similar to [7/008] and did not contain any finds. These two ditches corresponded to the northwestern-most of the linear geophysical anomalies targeted by this trench and appear to define the NW side of a trackway extending southwest from the multiphase rectilinear enclosure system.

4.7.4 Layer [7/003] was located at the southeast end of the trench, extending beyond it. It was exposed along the trench for at least 9.7m and comprised mid orange brown clay silt with occasional gravel, up to 0.06m deep, similar to that found in Trenches 5 and 6. A single prehistoric struck flint was retrieved from it. This layer roughly coincided with the curving/irregular linear geophysical anomaly plotted to cross this end of the trench. It was perhaps a colluvium deposit or some other geological feature.

4.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 9)

4.8.1 Trench 8 was located toward the south of the site, near its southwest boundary, on a roughly north/south alignment. It was positioned to target one linear and one irregular/curving linear geophysical anomaly, the latter possibly defining a distinct sub-square enclosure (Fig. 2). A single discrete archaeological feature was recorded.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.30-0.36	40.67-41.74
8/002	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	40.41-41.34
8/003	Fill	Fill	0.40	0.37	0.10	
8/004	Cut	Posthole	0.40	0.37	0.10	

Table 9: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

- 4.8.2 Posthole or small pit [8/004] was located at the southern end of the trench. It was roughly circular at a maximum diameter of 0.40m and 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill of mid greyish orange clay silt with occasional small flint inclusions and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from it.
- 4.8.3 Neither of the plotted NW/SE linear and irregular/curving linear geophysical anomalies were found as corresponding below-ground archaeological features/deposits or geological deposits.

4.9 Archaeologically negative trenches

- 4.9.1 Four of the evaluation trenches were devoid of archaeological features (Trenches 6, 9–11). These trenches are given summary consideration below and further details of their recorded deposit sequences are presented in Appendix 1. Photographs of these blank trenches are presented in Figure 10.
- 4.9.2 These blank trenches revealed the same simple deposit sequence as observed elsewhere within the site, comprising a 0.25–0.40m thickness of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlying natural deposits of mixed and variable brownish orange sandy clay silt and flints, with patches of large flints. In Trench 6 was an intervening possible colluvial deposit of mid orange brown clay silt, 0.10–0.30m thick. Further details of the deposit sequences recorded in these trenches are presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.9.3 Trenches 6, 9, 10 and 11 were all positioned to investigate weak geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin (Fig. 2). No below-ground remains, either archaeological or geological, were found that correspond to any of these plotted anomalies. It is likely that these were caused either by variations in the natural deposits or by ephemeral agricultural features/disturbances largely contained within the topsoil.
- 4.9.4 Seven sherds of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, a fragment of CBM, an iron Nauheim derivative brooch (RF<3>, conquest period or slightly later) and three prehistoric flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil / surface of the natural deposit in Trench 6. No finds were retrieved from any of the other trenches devoid of archaeological features.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A moderate assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex. All hand-collected finds were washed and dried or air-dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by weight and bagged by material and context. The material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified in Table 17. Two finds have been assigned a unique registered find number, detailed in section 5.9. Metalwork has been x-rayed, as required and all finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The evaluation produced thirty-four pieces of worked flint weighing 726g. All the worked flints were hand collected, with the bulk soil samples producing just 58g of unworked burnt flint fragments (sample <02> [1/014]). The material was quantified by piece count and weight and catalogued directly onto an Excel spreadsheet, and is summarised in Table 10.

Context	Grand total (no)	Weight (g)	Flake	Blade	Bladelet	Blade-like flake	Irregular waste piece	Multi-directional removal core	Core fragment	Microdenticulate	Retouched flake
1/007	1	5	1								
1/010	1	13				1					
1/018	4	75	1	1		1			1		
2/001	1	16	1								
2/002	1	11	1								
2/007	1	8	1								
2/009	1	210						1			
3/020	1	134						1			
3/022	1	80	1								
4/003	2	42	1				1				
4/006	2	10	1	1							
4/010	5	33	1	2	1						1
4/016	2	7	1	1							
5/004	4	37	2			1				1	
5/006	3	5	2			1					
6/002	3	33	3								
7/003	1	7	1								
Totals	34	726	18	5	1	4	1	2	1	1	1

Table 10: Quantification of worked flint assemblage, by type

5.2.2 The recovered pieces of worked flint were thinly distributed. They were recovered from

seventeen contexts in seven trenches (Trenches 1–7), with no individual contexts producing more than four pieces. One piece came from the topsoil [2/001], seven pieces from colluvial and geological deposits [5/006], [6/002] and [7/003], and three pieces from pits (contexts [3/020] and [4/016]). The remaining twenty-three pieces were retrieved from ditch segments. It seems likely that most of the pieces represent material caught up in the fills of features rather than being deliberately deposited and is probably entirely residual in its contexts. Nonetheless, the assemblage is coherent and it indicates an earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic to Early Bronze) date.

- 5.2.3 The pieces were manufactured from a fine-grained dark grey (to almost black) or mid brown flint. Where present the outer surface was thin (1 to 3mm thick). Although no inclusions were noted, evidence of thermal fractures was recorded on two pieces. This material would have been available locally.
- 5.2.4 The condition of the flints varied. No pieces were in a fresh condition, and most of the assemblage exhibited moderate to heavy edge-damage. This suggests that the pieces have been exposed for a considerable period prior to deposition or incorporation into the archaeological features. The condition of the flints was also different within the same contexts, indicating mixing of the material. A total of fifteen pieces were recorticated. It is interesting to note that whilst most pieces were only partly recorticated, some of the blades and the bladelet exhibited a light milky blue surface discolouration which totally masks the original colour of the flint. This may be of chronological significance.
- 5.2.5 Except for a microdenticulate and a retouched flake, the assemblage consists entirely of knapping waste. This group is largely composed of flakes (eighteen pieces), but blade components were also present (five blades, one bladelet and four blade-like flakes). The presence of blades, bladelets, blade-like flakes and flakes with blade removal scars on the dorsal surface reflect a blade-orientated industry. This indicates a presence in the landscape during the Mesolithic or first part of the Neolithic period, although some of those pieces may be later.
- 5.2.6 The flakes exhibit a mixed hammer mode, but a large proportion appeared to be carefully worked. Evidence for careful reduction is characteristic of Mesolithic to Neolithic / EBA flint assemblages.
- 5.2.7 Two multi-directional removal cores were present. The core (210g) from the upper fill [2/009] of ditch [2/010] was used to remove thin flakes and is likely to be Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. The core (134g) from the basal fill [3/020] of pit [3/021] was used to remove blades, blade-like flakes and thin flakes. It is likely to pre-date the Early Bronze Age.
- 5.2.8 The microdenticulate was recovered from the single fill [5/004] of ditch [5/005]. The fragmented tool was made on a blade. It is in a poor condition, but it displays partial worn serrations on the right side. It indicates a Mesolithic or most likely Neolithic date.
- 5.2.9 Based on the presence of a diagnostic tool and based on technological and morphological traits, the flintwork suggests activity focussing on the earlier prehistoric period (Mesolithic or Early Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age). However, the assemblage is likely to be residual, contained within the fills of later archaeological features, or intrusive within natural soil horizons.

5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Louise Rayner

- 5.3.1 A small assemblage of pottery totalling 356 sherds, weighing just over 6.8kg, was recovered from thirty excavated contexts in Trenches 1–6 (Table 11). The pottery ranged in date from Mid/Late Iron Age to mid Roman. The pottery is in good condition with some large sherds presents.
- 5.3.2 The pottery was scanned for spot-dating purposes with notes made of key fabric and form types present that inform the dating. Context assemblages were quantified by weight. Fabric and forms were recorded using fabric codes developed for Elms Farm, Heybridge (Biddulph *et al* 2015)

Overview of key trenches

Trench 1:

- 5.3.3 The pottery from Trench 1 ranged in date from Late Iron Age/Early Roman to 3rd century AD. There is also a single coarsely flint-tempered body sherd of probable prehistoric date (Bronze Age?) found residual in context [1/018] (upper fill of ditch [1/020] and a small finely flint-tempered cabled rim sherd of possible Early Iron Age date, found residual in context [1/005] (single fill of pit [1/006]). Both sherds were recovered with later Iron Age/Roman pottery. The Roman pottery from this trench is predominately 1st/2nd-century in date. Samian occurs in both [1/009] (upper fill of ditch [1/011]) and [1/014] (fill of ditch [1/017]), with sherds of both east Gaulish? (AD 150-300) and Les Martres-de-Veyre type present (AD 100-135). The latest vessel is the lower base of a Nene Valley colour-coated beaker (NVC) from [1/007] (fill of ditch [1/088]), a type which at Heybridge first appeared in small quantities during the first half of the 3rd century or at the end of the 2nd (Biddulph *et al* 2015). Nene Valley colour-coated wares are known to occur at Great Chesterford, and in previous excavation assemblages have dominated the fine wares (Medlycott 2011b, 111). There is also a white-slipped red fabric flagon neck from [1/014] (fill of enclosure ditch [1/017]).

Trench 2:

- 5.3.4 From this trench, the context of note is [2/003] (fill of enclosure ditch [2/005]), which contained twenty conjoining sherds from one vessel – the lower part of a grog-tempered cordoned jar, dating c.10 BC–50/70 AD. This vessel is ‘belgic’ in style, with bulges and cordons on the girth and shoulder, classifiable as one of Thompson type B3 jars (Thompson 1982). The remainder of the pottery from this trench is of 1st/2nd-century date, with examples of sandy necked jars and white-slipped wares. Two contexts, [2/009] and [2/010] (both fills of enclosure ditch [2/011]), include pottery of Middle/Late Iron Age character, c.200–50 BC. These comprise dark, handmade sandy wares and shelly wares, including a jar with a single line of notched decoration around the shoulder.

Trench 3:

5.3.5 Trench 3 produced one of the larger groups of pottery, totalling 2124g. It is predominately early/mid 2nd-century in date, with sherds including central Gaulish and Les-Martres-de-Veyre samian ware (CGSW, MVSW) and grey Hadham ware (HAR), as well as unsourced sandy jars and grog-tempered storage jars. The largest context assemblage was retrieved from [3/022] (fill of enclosure ditch [3/024]).

Trench 4:

5.3.6 This trench also produced the greatest quantity of pottery (161 sherds), particularly from [4/003] (upper fill of enclosure ditch [4/005]) and [4/010] (recut [4/011]), predominately of 1st-century date. The types present include Gallo-Belgic style butt beakers and grog-tempered jars with scored and rilled surfaces – all traits of pre- and early post-conquest assemblages, but which continued in use through the 1st century AD. Grey Hadham ware jars are also present in [4/003], likely to be reaching Great Chesterford from the later 1st century (Martin 2011, 305).

Context	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Spot date	Key Fabric/ Form/Dec
1/003	7	42	AD 50-100	Sandy, shelly
1/005	2	12	100 BC-100 AD	1 x grog, 1 x sandy, fine flint w glauc rim cabled, bowl EIA?
1/007	3	76	AD180/200-400	NVC beaker
1/009	16	200	AD 150-250	EG? SW, OXIDF, SAND
1/012	1	4	AD 50-400	OXID
1/013	9	104	AD50-100	handmade sandy, simple rim;
1/014	6	72	AD 100-250	MVSW, RWS flagon neck, handmade plain upright bowl
1/015	1	24	AD 50-200	GROG necked jar
1/016	1	8	AD 50-200	Black surfaced, fine, thin walled
1/018	4	58	AD 50-400	Coarse flint-temp, preh; Roman bs
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>600</i>		
2/002	14	144	AD 50-200	Oxids; necked jar; RWS
2/003	20	620	50 BC-100 AD	GROG, 1 vessel joining sherds; lower part only; 20 shds; dark silty grog; large cordoned jar narrowing to base; handmade
2/007	1	36	AD 50-100	Sandy black surfaced BSW, necked jar
2/009	10	226	200 BC- AD50	Dark sandy sherds; IA?
2/010	20	526	200 BC- AD50	20 sherds; ESH, sandy; handmade. Notched dec on shoulder; glauc w comb dec; simple everted rim; upright rim
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>1552</i>		
3/006	2	14	AD50-200	Grey sandy, GRS; black sandy jar
3/008	2	6	AD 120-250	CGSW, Sand
3/010	5	26	AD 120-250	Sand/GRS; CGSW

Context	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Spot date	Key Fabric/ Form/Dec
3/011	2	20	AD 50-100	Sandy w comb dec
3/014	2	16	AD 70/100-250	Grey Hadham, HAR
3/020	11	196	AD 100-250	MVSW bead rim 4/5, grog comb SJ, grog, sandy
3/022	43	1836	AD120-250	CGSW, Sand wheel-thrown, dark surfaced jars, SJ
3/023	1	10	AD 50-400	Black, sandy shd
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>2124</i>		
4/003	76	1156	AD 70/100-250	Grey Hadham jar, HAR; RWS
4/006	3	40	AD 50-100	GROG, ESH, SCOR
4/010	69	1052	AD 50-100	Butt beaker, everted rim beaker, dark shouldered jars
4/016	13	218	AD 50-100	handmade GROG SCOR, sandy RLD jars, BSW jars
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>2466</i>		
5/004	2	14	AD 50-400	1 x sandy; 1 x OXID
5/006	3	18	AD 50-400	1 x sandy; 2 x GRS
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>32</i>		
6/002	7	42	AD 50-400	Mixed IA; sandy GRS Rom

Table 11: Prehistoric and Roman pottery spotdates, by context

Discussion

5.3.7 The evaluation has recovered an assemblage of pottery which compares well with previous material from the Roman town at Great Chesterford, particularly in relation to its early phases of occupation from Late Iron Age to Early Roman and late 1st to early 2nd century (Medlycott 2011b, 6, table 1.1). The hints of prehistoric and pre-Late Iron Age activity are limited but of note, as little has been found from Bronze Age or Early to Middle Iron Age periods from the town to date (Medlycott 2011b, 9).

5.3.8 The bulk of the assemblage of Late Iron Age to early 2nd century date appears to be primarily recovered from landscape features, such as enclosures and other ditches, suggestive of a rural settlement. The condition of the pottery does not suggest it has been transported far from point of use, or been extensively re-deposited, which may indicate occupation in the near vicinity. The pottery recovered has a domestic profile, with a mixture of finewares and coarseware, including both regionally traded and imported wares. Although limited by the assemblage size, the range of fabrics and forms present appear to fit with the patterns of pottery supply established so far for Great Chesterford (Martin 2011, 305–6). As has been noted, the Roman pottery from Great Chesterford appears to be drawing-in more material from Hertfordshire than is typical in Essex, and this pattern is reflected in this assemblage with early examples of Hadham grey wares. Interestingly the other important Hertfordshire located source, the Verulamium region industry, is less obviously represented in this assemblage, although some of the white-slipped sherds may derive from here.

5.3.9 The evaluation pottery assemblage has the potential to provide further data on the

Roman town at Great Chesterford and its environs. In the absence of further fieldwork, the assemblage from the evaluation merits full integration with the stratigraphy and other datasets and publication of the results due to the significant location of this material, which is to the south of the main Roman town, in an area that has received little archaeological investigation. If further fieldwork is undertaken, the potential and significance of this material is likely to be enhanced due to the larger assemblage size.

5.4 Ceramic Building Material by Ted Levermore

- 5.4.1 The evaluation work recovered fifty-eight fragments (9,044g) of ceramic building material (CBM) from features in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Table 12). The greatest concentration came from Trenches 1 and 2 (26 fragments, 3,190g, and 25 fragments, 5,304g, respectively). The assemblage comprises moderately abraded fragments of Roman brick and a minor component of thinner material (probably roof tile). A single intrusive fragment of post-medieval flat tile (26g) was also collected from [2/011].

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)
1/007	Ditch 1/008	2	72
1/009	Ditch 1/011	6	640
1/012		6	662
1/013	Ditch 1/017	4	464
1/014		8	1352
2/009	Ditch 2/011	11	1910
2/010		14	3394
3/020	Pit 3/021	2	356
4/006	Ditch 4/007	2	60
5/006	Ditch 5/005	2	68
6/002	Layer 6/002	1	66
<i>Total</i>		<i>58</i>	<i>9044</i>

Table 12: CBM quantification, by context

- 5.4.2 The assemblage has been assessed according to the Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication (ACBMG 2002). The material was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) formed the basis of reference material for identification and dating. The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive.

Fabrics

- 5.4.3 Fourteen fabrics were present in this assemblage (including three sub-groups). These fabrics were found across the site and appear to represent a variety of sources for this material; either geological or various approaches to paste preparation. The fabrics recorded were all typical CBM recipes, showing preferences towards fine sandy clays (quartz, mica and calcareous material) with the addition of rare coarse inclusions (flint, rounded stones, limestone or calcareous material). Notably, some fabrics had a greater volume of fine calcareous pellet material. One fabric (in ditch [2/011]) was an anomaly – a densely tempered clay containing well sorted fine shell, fired to a dull brown. It is reminiscent of fabrics, but finer, produced at the Harrold Kilns, Bedfordshire (HAR SH) (Tomber and Dore 1998).

- 5.4.4 No work has been carried out to consolidate the fabrics recorded. Full fabric descriptions can be found on the spreadsheet held with the site archive.

Assemblage

Form	Count	Weight (g)
Brick	31	7494
Tile	5	502
Undiagnostic	22	1048
<i>Total</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>9044</i>

Table 13: Summary CBM quantification by form

- 5.4.5 The recovered CBM is fragmentary (average weight 155.9g) and moderately abraded. The majority of the material derives from the upper fills of ditches in Trenches 1 and 2 (51 fragments, 8,494g); a smaller more abraded portion was recovered from pits, ditches or colluvium in Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 (7 fragments, 550g). Most of the identifiable material comprises Roman brick fragments (Table 13). These were on average 30–40mm thick and survived as moderately sized fragments (average size 100 x 100mm). These objects make up the majority of the fabrics recorded; mostly comprising fine sandy clays with rare coarse inclusions. As with the fabrics, some differences in production, that is forming and firing, evidence were seen (oxidised and rare brown/reduced fragments, different moulding sand, sharpness of form). This indicates a variety of sources for the material (either geographically or through time). However, the fact these fragments were, in the main, similar in proportion and concentrated within a small number of fills indicates a similar place of use. A much smaller number of thinner tiles were encountered (ditches [1/011] and [2/011]), probably from tegulae. Worthy of note are the refitting fragments of a partial semi-circular finger signature (2 fragments, 124g) from ditch [1/011].
- 5.4.6 Of note is the only fragment made in the anomalous shelly fabric. This object (940g) survived as an abraded corner and body fragment of Roman brick and possessed three remnant perforations in the base of the tile (D3-5mm). These did not pierce the upper face (they stop 5–10mm below surface of upper bed) as would be expected of nail holes. They are arranged uniformly apart from each other, and it is likely there were more on the rest of the object. Their function is unclear; they may have been to allow for vertical mounting or were to facilitate the application of mortar.
- 5.4.7 A portion of the Roman bricks had patches of mortar accretions, usually on the base of the object (13 fragments, 3,168g). The mortar recipes were typical of Opus Signinum (that is coarse sandy minerals, coarse calcareous pellets and coarse red grog pellets). This material was recovered from ditches [1/017] and [2/011]. Where it was most extant, the mortar layer survived up to 10mm in thickness; the shelly brick was the best example of this, but not the only one.

Conclusion

- 5.4.8 While the assemblage is limited in complete forms, the fabric present suggests that the Roman material derived from a highly invested construction. This structure was probably in the vicinity of the western end of the site and definitely within Great Chesterford more broadly. The occurrences of Op. Sig. type mortar on the base of some of these objects may indicate their use as flooring rather than used within the walls of this structure. The shelly brick is notable for its distinctive fabric and the three

perforations, it again is an indication of investment in the parent structure and perhaps a fairly distinct origin for some of the material.

- 5.4.9 This assemblage has limited archaeological significance due to the lack of complete forms and the abrasion seen. However, it does add to the body of evidence of Great Chesterford as a significant Roman centre.

5.5 Fired Clay by Stephen Patton and Ted Levermore

- 5.5.1 Nine pieces of fired clay, weighing a total of 125g, were recovered during the evaluation. The only material of note was from fill [1/022] (undefined feature [1/020]), comprising six fragments (78g) that appear to be parts of a hand-formed straight-edged plate- or bar-type object. The three largest fragments refit to form 105mm of a fairly neat rounded arris. The other three are also non-fitting fragments of rounded arris. The faces are smoothed, occasionally indented and possess occasional grass and grain impressions. The fabric is a compact silty clay with rare coarse flint 0.5-2mm and common quartz. No full dimensions are present, and the identification is tentative, but potentially the material could be part of, or from, a kiln. The additional three pieces from contexts [2/009], [3/022] and [3/023] are unabraded fragments of fired sandy clay with sub-rounded chalk inclusions < 3mm. They have areas of oxidisation and reduction suggesting internal and external parts, but they are completely undiagnostic.

5.6 Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 The evaluation recovered twelve pieces of stone from the site. The material is quantified in Table 14.

Context	Type	No	Weight	Comments
1/007	German lava	3	541g	42mm thick. Worn
2/009	Basalt	2	276g	Conjoining cobble fragments
2/011	Midlands/Yorkshire type Sast (pale grey)	3	13000g	Water-worn boulder fragments. Some burnt pink/red zones
2/011	Midlands/Yorkshire type Sast (pale orange)	1	839g	Complete cobble
2/011	Midlands/Yorkshire type Sast (pale grey with orange speckling)	1	2453g	Flattish bed but water-worn
2/011	Basalt	1	4571g	Boulder fragment
3/022	Basalt	1	196g	Cobble fragment
	<i>Totals</i>	12	21849g	

Table 14: Stone assemblage quantification

- 5.6.2 The stone assemblage is quite limited in the range of types present. The sandstones and basalts, although not from the local hard geology of the area, almost certainly arrived in the close vicinity of the site naturally as a consequence of glacial transportation. Although these types are common across the east of England in general, the current pieces are notably large. All show the typical worn exterior faces. With the exception of some heat damage none of these stones has been humanly modified, though their concentration in ditch [2/011] shows them to have been collected for use, perhaps as post-packing and/or hearth surround material.
- 5.6.3 The German lava fragments from fill [1/007] (ditch [1/008]) is certainly from a rotary quern that has been deliberately imported. This stone type was in common use for querns in the Roman, Late Saxon and medieval periods.

5.7 Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 Five iron objects and a white metal fragment were recovered from six individual contexts. General purpose iron nails were recovered from contexts [1/007], [1/012], [3/001] and [3/022]. Topsoil [4/001] produced a small fragment of white metal of uncertain function.

5.8 Animal Bone by Emily Johnson

5.8.1 An assemblage of 720 animal bones weighing c.9,982g was recovered during the evaluation. Material derived from twenty-one hand-collected and/or bulk-sampled contexts within Trenches 1–4. The preservation of the assemblage was extremely good (Table 15), even of highly fragmented specimens in the smaller fractions of bulk sampled contexts. Preliminary spot dates used to phase the assemblage indicate that all specimens derive from the Middle/Late Iron Age and Roman periods.

Context	Sample	N	HC	ENV	NISP	Preservation %	
						Moderate	Good
1/003		1	1		1	100	0
1/007		4	4		3	0	100
1/009		50	50		49	26.0	74.0
1/012		17	17		17	23.5	76.5
1/013		30	30		28	23.3	76.7
1/014	2	126	47	79	65	1.6	98.4
1/015		2	2		2	0	100
1/018		13	13		13	84.6	15.4
2/002		3	3		3	33.3	66.7
2/007		7	7		7	71.4	28.6
2/009		36	36		33	5.6	94.4
2/010	1	319	121	198	143	0	100
3/003		7	7		7	0	100
3/006		1	1		1	0	100
3/010		5	5		5	20	80
3/020		9	9		9	0	100
3/022		28	28		26	10.7	89.3
3/023		7	7		7	0	100
4/003		2	2		2	0	100
4/010		24	24		15	54.2	45.8
4/016	3	29	6	23	10	3.4	96.6
Total		720	420	300	446	8.9	91.1

Table 15: Quantification of zooarchaeological assemblage by context, showing total fragment count (N), the number of hand-collected (HC) and bulk-sampled (ENV) specimens, the number of identifiable specimens (NISP) and the proportion of bones displaying varying preservation levels

5.8.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, bones were identified to species and element (Schmid 1972; Hillson 1999) and the bone zones present noted (Serjeantson 1996). Bird bones were identified using Cohen and Serjeantson (1996). Determination of sheep and goat specimens used criteria outlined in Halstead *et al* (2002), Zeder and Lapham (2010) and Boessneck (1969); where this was not possible a combined ovicaprid class was used. Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long bone, rib, cranial and vertebral fragments, have been categorised by taxa size (large/ medium/ small) and type (mammal/ bird/ fish).

- 5.8.3 Mammalian age-at-death data was collected where possible. The state of epiphyseal bone was recorded as fused, unfused and fusing, and any determinations of age made using Silver (1969). Dental eruption and attrition was recorded on teeth within mandibles and maxilla using Grant's (1982) wear codes on cattle, ovicaprid and pig teeth, with age determinations following Halstead (1985) and Jones and Sadler (2009) for cattle, Payne (1973) for ovicaprids, and Hambleton (1998) for pigs. The potential for whole long bones of domestic mammals to be measured was identified. Specimens have been studied for sexually dimorphic characteristics, signs of non-metric traits and pathology.
- 5.8.4 Modifications to bone surfaces were recorded where observed. Butchery was recorded by type of mark and location based on bone zone. Similarly evidence of heat exposure was recorded by type and location where the whole bone was not affected. Fracture freshness analysis was undertaken on broken long bones through recording the type(s) of fracture (fresh, dry, mineralised and new) observed on each specimen. Evidence of taphonomic agents such as gnawing, weathering, erosion, abrasion and metal staining were also noted.

Results

- 5.8.5 A total of 253 bones were identifiable to taxa, a further 193 to taxa size and type, and 274 specimens were indeterminate (Table 16). The largest and most pertinent contexts in the assemblage are discussed by below, followed by a discussion of the general trends observed.

Taxa	NISP
Cattle	151
Ovicaprid	43
Sheep	2
Pig	27
Horse	5
Equid	11
Dog	2
Large deer sp.	1
Deer sp.	2
Red deer	1
Roe deer	1
Leporidae	3
Vole sp.	1
Domestic fowl	1
Anuran	2
Large mammal	129
Medium mammal	52
Small mammal	2
Microfauna	4
Large bird	1
Bird	2
Fish	3

Taxa	NISP
Indeterminate	274

Table 16: Taxa abundance in the overall assemblage by NISP

Enclosure ditch [2/011]:

- 5.8.6 Enclosure ditch [2/011] yielded the largest animal bone assemblage (n=355), represented by the upper [2/009] and intermediate [2/010] fills, both preliminarily dated to the Middle/Late Iron Age.
- 5.8.7 Cattle were by far the best represented taxa in this context (n=67), with a minimum number of individuals (MNI) of three. Elements from the dentition comprised the majority, at thirty-eight specimens, and the rest of the skeleton was sporadically represented, including cranial fragments, vertebrae, long bones, and elements of the extremities. Further cattle ribs and long bone fragments are likely represented by partially identifiable large mammal specimens.
- 5.8.8 Specimens with age-at-death data included a left and a right mandible aged at 8–18 months, and other dentitia with deciduous teeth and several unworn loose teeth were recovered. Of thirteen cattle specimens with fusion information, four were unfused. Sexual dimorphism of two pelvis acetabula showed the presence of a male and a female animal. Three specimens had measurement potential and others were qualitatively recorded as 'large' compared to other elements in this context, suggesting two different breeds of cattle were represented. This could be particularly significant as research has shown Roman improvement of Iron Age stock from other sites in Essex such as Elms Farm and Colchester (Albarella *et al* 2008).
- 5.8.10 Other domestic food animals were less well-represented. Ovicaprids (NISP=6, MNI=2) were represented by a mandible aged 4–6 years and hind limb elements, particularly the tibia. Of four fusion surfaces, three were unfused. Pigs (NISP=10; MNI = 2) were similarly represented by dentary elements and a few long bones. Of three fusion surfaces, two were unfused. One domestic fowl tarso-metatarsus was identified, with potential for measurement.
- 5.8.11 Some wild species were also identified in these ditch contexts. Deer were represented by fragments of antler. In [2/010] (<1>), leporid (rabbit or hare) phalanges were identified, which need further identification. The introduction of the rabbit by the Romans is debated, and these specimens may represent early introduction of a non-native species if they prove to be rabbit rather than hare (Witcher 2013). A vole (sp.) pelvis was also recovered, and indeterminate fragments of fish bones.
- 5.8.12 Aside from fully identifiable specimens, the contexts contained partially identifiable large and medium mammal diaphysis and rib fragments.
- 5.8.13 Butchery, including knife and cleaver butchery, was identified on twenty-four specimens. Some specimens showed evidence of heat exposure. A large mammal long bone fragment was roasted and carbonised, which may have been a result of cooking. Seven small indeterminate fragments showed evidence of high temperature burning more likely associated with disposal. Canid gnawing affected twelve specimens. One bone was copper-stained.

Ditch [1/020]:

5.8.14 Upper fill [1/018] of ditch [1/020] produced an assemblage very different in character to other contexts, with a general Roman date range. Represented were six equid specimens (some fragmented), and large mammal cranial fragments which also may have been equid. The equid specimens included a left humerus diaphysis, two left radii, one of which was complete, and a left metacarpal and associated accessory metapodia. The humerus had a cut mark and evidence of peri-mortem fracture, likely for marrow. Most specimens from this context were not as well preserved as the rest of the assemblage, suggesting different depositional histories or burial environment.

Ditch [1/017]:

5.8.15 The ditch [1/017] assemblage derived from three fills – intermediate fills [1/015] and [1/014] and upper fill [1/013], dated as Early Roman. Context [1/015] was represented solely by partially identifiable rib and diaphysis fragments, but the other fills were much better represented, containing a range of species likely deriving from refuse from different processes. The taxa representation was dominated by cattle (NISP=28; MNI=2), followed by ovicaprids including sheep (NISP=14) and pig (NISP=7). Other species identified included horse, red deer, birds, anurans and fish.

5.8.16 A mix of elements were represented. For the main food animals, cranial and mandibular elements alongside ribs and long bones were well-represented. Vertebrae were underrepresented compared to other elements. Horse was represented by a distal metapod and a maxillary tooth. Red deer was represented by an antler fragment, possibly from antler working as it had been sawn. The single fish vertebrae was tentatively identified as European eel, but further identification is necessary. Microfaunal specimens may be accidental inclusions.

5.8.17 Within these contexts were several specimens that carried age-at-death information. Fusion data showed some juvenile cattle (2 of 8 specimens unfused) and ovicaprids (1 of 2 unfused), along with fused pig (n=1) and horse (n=1) bones. Several mandibles were suited for age-at-death through eruption and attrition. A cattle mandible was aged at 8–30 months. Four ovicaprid mandibles gave ages of 1–2 years (n=2), 3–4 years and 8–10 years. A pig mandible was aged as Old Adult.

5.8.18 One ovicaprid mandible showed pathological changes to the bone likely caused by impaction of the first molar. This had caused slight malocclusion of the posterior teeth and 'wave mouth' in the attrition of the teeth.

5.8.19 In terms of surface modifications, ten specimens had evidence of butchery, including a cattle horn core that had been chopped at the base, and the sawn deer antler tine. Canid gnawing was present on twenty specimens, one of the most affected contexts at 12.7%. Weathering was identified on three bone fragments, and root etching affected one.

Ditch [1/011]:

5.8.20 The ditch [1/011] assemblage derived from by two upper fills [1/009] and [1/012], which were likely the same deposit. Both fills were dated as broadly Roman and unsurprisingly contained similar assemblages.

5.8.21 Cattle were the best-represented taxa (NISP=18; MNI=2), and specimens included two male right pelvises and one mandible aged at Adult 40 months–6 years. Ovicaprids were

represented by eleven specimens (MNI=2), including a juvenile mandible. Pigs were minimally represented by three specimens comprising a fragmented humerus and a scapula. The humerus was fused distally but unfused proximally.

5.8.22 Other taxa represented included equids, present in both contexts and represented by a distal femur (fused), distal radius (unfused) and a third phalanx. Large deer was possibly present, although the first phalanx in question needs further identification. Aside from fully identifiable specimens, the contexts contained partially identifiable large and medium mammal diaphysis and rib fragments.

5.8.23 Bone surface modifications included four specimens that were butchered and fourteen that were gnawed by canids. Six specimens showed signs of root etching and three were weathered.

Pit [4/017]:

5.8.24 Context [4/016] (including sample <3>), the fill of pit [4/017], is dated to the later 1st century AD and contained cattle, ovicaprid and pig remains. One ovicaprid mandible showed evidence of an abscess between the first and second molars with associated alveolar resorption, and grade IV calculus on the medial premolars. A few fragmented specimens showed evidence of high temperature burning (calcined and carbonised).

Enclosure ditch [3/024]:

5.8.25 The ditch [3/024] assemblage derived from basal [3/023] and upper [3/022] fills, dated to the 2nd century AD. Aside from a large mammal rib in the basal fill, all material was collected from the upper fill. Specimens included cattle and ovicaprid bones, some of which were juvenile, and two less common taxa – a dog mandible, and a roe deer metacarpal diaphysis fragment. Seven specimens were butchered and five were canid gnawed.

Discussion

5.8.26 The assessment of the animal bones from this site has highlighted some key archaeological interpretations, summarised below. The assemblage can be considered a small but useful contribution to the understanding of the faunal remains associated with Iron Age and Roman Great Chesterford, which in the past have only been selectively retained and/or reported on (Medlycott 2011b, 105).

5.8.27 The assemblage provides an excellent snapshot of waste being deposited in ditches on the site from the Middle/Late Iron Age to the Mid Roman period. Most of the larger contexts display similar assemblage profiles, suggesting that they largely constitute food waste but also perhaps horn and antler working waste.

5.8.28 The taxa abundance is similar to other assemblages in Great Chesterford (Medlycott 2011b, 106). Food waste is especially represented by the remains of cattle, and slightly less so by ovicaprids (likely mostly sheep) and pigs, and possibly domestic fowl. 'Iron Age' cattle may have been being supplemented with larger breeds, as has been suggested at other sites in Essex (Albarella *et al* 2008). Cattle are represented by both males and females. Age-at-death evidence suggests that both young (prime-meat age) and old cattle, ovicaprids and pigs are present in the assemblage.

5.8.29 Butchery evidence suggests equids may also have been eaten. Further identification work might establish the proportion of horses, donkeys and mules, which has not been

attempted in this assessment. Wild species and both large and medium deer are represented not only by antlers but by postcranial bones, so these species may have been hunted as well as their antlers gathered. Fish too made up part of the diet. Microfauna may have entered the archaeological record accidentally.

- 5.8.30 Although a few bones were whole, or at least had complete diaphyses, marrow processing seems to have been particularly common, with fresh fractures present on many diaphysis fragments of both medium and large mammals. Occasionally these fractures were associated with impact scars. Butchery may have followed set practices, as specimens showed repeated element zone representation. This was particularly prevalent with mandibles which often had the tooth row mostly intact but were missing the posterior portion, including occasionally the rear molars, the ramus and condyle. This assemblage could be the result of one butcher or butchery tradition, and this pattern may have implications for culinary preferences, the investigation of which is outside the scope of this report.
- 5.8.31 Taphonomic fractures were also present on many specimens, some likely as a result of canid gnawing, which was commonly encountered in this assemblage (on 8.3% of all specimens). Fractures may have also been caused by disturbance before deposition – perhaps as refuse was compiled before dumping in ditches. Some bones showed evidence of weathering, suggesting they were left for some time before incorporated into these contexts.
- 5.8.32 This assemblage highlights the potential of Great Chesterford sites for well-preserved animal bones carrying detailed information about husbandry practices, animal health, butchery, culinary traditions, deposition practices and site formation processes.

5.9 Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

- 5.9.1 Four objects were assigned Registered Find numbers.
- 5.9.2 RF<1>, recovered from colluvium layer [5/006], is a copper alloy Rose farthing token of Charles I (1625-49) minted between 1636-44 (North 1991 vol.2, 2287–2293).
- 5.9.3 Enclosure ditch [1/017] fill [1/014] produced a broken tooth fragment from a bone comb, RF<2>. The fragment is not readily dateable
- 5.9.4 An iron bow brooch, RF<3>, was recovered from topsoil [6/002]. The brooch is a Nauheim derivative of Conquest or slightly later date.
- 5.9.5 Fill [3/014] of undetermined feature [3/018] produced a small iron knife blade fragment, RF<4>, that is not diagnostic of date.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS by Elsa Neveu

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Three bulk samples, each measuring 40 litres, were collected during the evaluation. Sample <1> [2/010], <2> [1/014] and <3> [4/016] were collected from two ditches [2/011], [1/017] and one pit [4/017], all of which date to the Roman period. Sampling aimed to retrieve environmental remains, such as charcoal, charred plant macrofossils, fauna and mollusca. This report focusses on the evidence for crops and the local vegetation environment while the faunal remains are incorporated into the relevant finds report.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 These samples were processed by flotation using a 500 µm mesh for the heavy residues and a 250 µm mesh for retention of the flot. The residues and flot were air dried and were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves. The residue was sorted for artefacts and ecofacts; quantification in Table 17. A stereo-zoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications was used in order to sort flots and identify the remains. Its contents are described and recorded in Table 18. The identification of the charred plant macrofossils was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure. The remains were compared to a botanical modern reference collection and published atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) were also consulted. The nomenclature follows Stace (1997), for the wild taxa, and Zohary and Hopf (2000), for the domesticated plants. Quantification was based on approximate number of individuals.

6.3 Results

Samples <1> [2/010], <2> [1/014], <3> [4/016]

6.3.1 Uncharred material was abundant in these assemblages and comprised rootlets, seeds of weeds, cereal glumes and one sprouted cereal grain. The presence of this uncharred material suggests moderate levels of modern disturbance through root activity. In addition, an array of archaeological environmental remains were noted. These include charcoal, charred plant macrofossils, uncharred and burnt faunal remains as well as microfauna. The residues also produced slag, pottery, flint, ceramic building material and magnetic material which may be of natural or industrial origin. The finds and faunal remains have been incorporated into the relevant finds reports.

6.3.2 The density of charred plant macrofossils was low in all samples with slightly more frequent remains recorded in samples <1> [2/010] and <3> [4/016]. The majority were poorly preserved, with some displaying an abraded surface and many of the cereal caryopses were unidentifiable (recorded as cerealia) or could only be identified to genus, such as the wheat (*Triticum* sp.). The dominant identified crop taxon was six-row hulled barley while only a few caryopses of naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*), rye (*Secale cereale*) and oat (*Avena* sp.) were recorded. Because of their poor state of preservation it is likely that taxa such as the wheat species might be under estimated. Wild and weed species noted include common oraches/spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrata*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) all of

which are characteristic of waste ground. Less well preserved remains include seeds of *Asteraceae*, *Caryophyllaceae* and undetermined seed or fruit. In addition, three remains that could correspond to fruit parts or grape pip were discovered.

6.3.3 Charcoal fragments, including some >4mm, were moderately well represented in the residues of sample <1> [2/010] and, to a lesser extent, <2> [1/014]. No taxonomic identifications were obtained at this stage; however, the fragments appeared well preserved and, given the presence of charred plant macrofossils and burnt bone, they may represent associated fuel waste.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 These assemblages seem to correspond to domestic waste comprising charred plant remains, fuel and bone that accumulated in the ditch and pit features. Such features can remain open for extended periods allowing waste to accumulate gradually. They revealed a moderate amount of charred plant remains and provide a glimpse of the likely cultivated and consumed cereals at the site during the Roman period. They also reveal evidence for non-cereal fruits such as grape, which is a moderately common component of urban and military Roman assemblages (van der Veen 2008; van der Veen *et al.* 2008). This is of particular interest here due to the proximity to the Roman town to the North and the samples indicate there is potential for nearby deposits to preserve significant assemblages of charred remains plants and charcoal.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	2/010	Ditch	40	***	6	***	2	**	288			*	1	Mag Mat <2mm **** 6g; Mag Mat >2mm *** 4g; Slag >8mm * 10g; Pottery >8mm ** 76g; CBM >8mm * 48g
2	1/014	Ditch	40	**	2	**	1	**	100			*	1	Mag Mat <2mm **** 2g; Mag Mat >2mm *** 2g; Pottery >8mm ** 48g; FCF >8mm * 58g
3	4/016	Pit	40	*	1	**	1	**	52	**	2			Mag Mat <2mm **** 8g; Mag Mat >2mm *** 6g; Pottery >8mm ** 20g

Table 17: Soil sample residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	notes
1	2/010	37	170	100	40	10	<i>Atriplex patula/protrasta</i> (8), <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> (1), <i>Polygonaceae</i> (1)	***	****	****	***	six-row hulled barley (26), Rye (2), <i>Avena</i> sp. (13), <i>Cerealia</i> (19), Naked wheat (2)	+	*	<i>Galium aparine</i> (1), <i>Stellaria media</i> (1)	+	*	<i>Vitis</i> sp. or unidentified fruit (2)	+	Many roots
2	1/014	7.2	80	100	80	25	<i>Chenopodium album</i> (5), <i>Atriplex patula/protrasta</i> (17), <i>Veronica hederifolia</i> (1)	**	**	***	*	six-row hulled barley (4), Naked wheat (1), <i>Cerealia</i> (2)	+	*	<i>Asteraceae</i> (1)	+				Many roots
3	4/016	10	80	100	80	25	<i>Cerealia glume</i> (5), <i>Chenopodium album</i> (5), <i>Atriplex patula/protrasta</i> (8), sprouted <i>Cerealia</i> grain (1), <i>Silene</i> sp. (1), rachis of <i>Cerealia</i> (4), <i>Montia minor/fontana</i> (1)	*	**	***	***	six-row hulled barley (14), <i>Cerealia</i> (24), <i>Avena</i> sp. (3), cf. Naked wheat (1), Naked wheat (1), <i>Triticum</i> sp. (4), glume of wheat (1), Rye (1)	+	*	<i>Chenopodium album</i> (17), <i>Atriplex patula/protrasta</i> (2), <i>Caryophyllaceae</i> (1)	+	*	Unidentified seed/fruit (1)	+	Many roots

Table 18: Soil sample flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 A simple deposit sequence comprising 0.20–0.40m of topsoil overlying natural deposits was recorded across the majority of the trenches. A 0.10–0.31m thick layer of possible colluvium was recorded below topsoil in Trench 6, with a further small patch observed in Trench 5. Natural deposits were varied, comprising silty sands with frequent gravels with areas of clay silt and patches of large flint concentrations.
- 7.1.2 The evaluation revealed the presence of archaeological features in seven of the eleven excavated trenches. The recorded features were cut into natural/colluvial deposits and were overlain by topsoil. Feature clarity was noted to be variable, due to the similarity of some fills with the surrounding silty gravel natural deposits.
- 7.1.3 The recorded archaeological remains comprised linear ditches, pits and postholes. These were predominantly found within the north of the site, coinciding with the cropmark and geophysical survey anomaly complex previously recorded here. These exhibited a low to moderate level of intercut/stratigraphic complexity. A number of probably natural/geological features and deposits were also encountered.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 Deposit survival was good, with most features cut into natural deposits and sealed by 0.20–0.40m of topsoil/ploughsoil. Some degree of horizontal truncation of all features, as a consequence of agricultural activity, has occurred.
- 7.2.2 The impact of modern agricultural activity, other than ploughing, appears to be minimal. However, the geophysical survey records extensive weak linear anomalies that may constitute land drainage features missed by the trenching.

7.3 Correlation between geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation results

- 7.3.1 The correlation between detected geophysical anomalies and recorded below-ground archaeological features has been demonstrated to be variable.
- 7.3.2 There is a generally high correspondence of anomalies interpreted to be of *probable* archaeological origin with archaeological features. As such, all of the targeted linear boundaries within the northern enclosure system were found as underlying ditches. It is therefore likely that other such linear anomalies within the site are also indicative of archaeological ditches.
- 7.3.3 There is a variable correspondence of anomalies interpreted to be of *possible* archaeological origin with archaeological features. Those classified as *strong* anomalies appear more likely to correlate with below-ground archaeological remains, such as ditches and pit-like features. It is noted that these stronger possible archaeological anomalies are almost all located within the enclosure complex. Possible archaeological anomalies classified as *weak* seem to

correspond to archaeological features where they are clearly further parts of /associated with strong anomalies. Again, this seems to be confined to that part of the site containing the enclosure complex. Beyond this, where evaluated, the detected linear and curvilinear *weak* geophysical anomalies have been demonstrated not to correspond with archaeological features – either not being identified at all or being observed as a natural deposit. It is probable that these in fact relate either to shallow agricultural features largely within the ploughsoil (particularly the linear anomalies) or to natural variations in the geology (particularly the curvilinear anomalies). As such, the posited sub-square ditched enclosure in the south of the site (Trenches 8 and 9) was not found, nor the various series of parallel ditches elsewhere (e.g. Trenches 6 and 11), and the sinuous linear anomaly running through Trench 5 was demonstrated to be of geological origin.

- 6.3.6 A small number of recorded archaeological features were not identified by the geophysical survey (in Trenches 1, 4 and 8). These were discrete small-sized pits and/or postholes, presumably not detected because the nature of their fills was not conducive to magnetic detection.

6.4 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 6.4.1 Archaeological remains encountered within the evaluation trenches comprised a moderate density of ditches and a lesser density of pits/postholes, with some degree of intercut complexity apparent. Apart from a single posthole in Trench 8, all recorded features were located in the north of the site and in direct relation to the cropmark / geophysical survey enclosure complex here.

- 6.4.2 The recorded archaeological features, where possible, have been dated on the basis of their diagnostic artefactual content and are discussed below by broad period, with their perceived dating and distribution indicated on Figure 11.

Prehistoric

- 6.4.3 A quantity of struck flint, assessed to broadly be of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date, was recovered from feature fills across Trenches 1–7. All pieces appear to occur residually in later features. Its presence suggests low-level activity was occurring within the site area during the prehistoric period. Indeed, the Cam/Granta valley and its side valleys have been long identified to contain a relatively high-density scatter of worked flint, along with occupation sites.

Iron Age and Roman

- 6.4.4 It is probable that all features recorded within the evaluation trenches are of Iron Age to Roman period date. It is evident that these features correspond directly to the cropmark / geophysical survey enclosure complex and that they define a multi-phase development of this landscape.
- 6.4.5 The incidence of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, in probable pits in Trenches 1 and 2 ([1/006] and [2/011]), even if residual, suggests a pre-Roman Iron Age origin to the tangible land use evidenced in the north of the site. The prior

recovery of a Late Iron Age coin from the site (HER 51902) is noted.

- 6.4.6 Most, if not all, the recorded archaeological features appear to be of Late Iron Age to Roman date. The recovered pottery indicates activity in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition, Early Roman and Middle Roman periods. Together with the apparent intercutting evidenced by the cropmark and geophysical survey plots, this suggests that the enclosure complex is multi-phased in its development; two or three major episodes of change may be discerned, with relatively minor replacement/enhancement also being demonstrated by the re-cutting of ditched boundaries recorded in some trenches.
- 6.4.7 In addition to pottery, Roman CBM, fired clay, quernstone, metalwork and animal bone (some of the latter exhibiting butchery and possibly working) collectively indicate that the enclosure complex includes occupation activity. However, this artefact assemblage seems to be of lesser quantity and range than found in the Great Chesterford Roman town and its extramural areas further to the north. The results of the environmental sampling suggest agricultural activity, involving cereal cultivation.
- 6.4.8 On the basis of the excavated evidence, it is perhaps possible to posit that ditches [1/004], [2/005] and [4/007], all of which contain Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, define three sides of the earliest enclosure. This rectangular enclosure presumably extended to the River Cam which may have constituted its NE boundary. Aligned on the SE side of this enclosure, the cropmark/geophysical survey ditches extending away to the SW may have been a trackway associated with it.
- 6.4.9 A later phase of enclosure seems to be denoted by ditches [3/024], [4/005] and [5/005], that contain 2nd-century pottery. This may also have run up to the river and is postulated to have overlain/replaced some or all of the earlier enclosure. Cropmark/geophysical anomalies of at least one further, smaller ditched enclosure, not investigated by the evaluation, may have been associated with it.
- 6.4.10 Other linear anomalies within the plotted complex, mostly untested by evaluation, likely define further ditches constituting subdivisions, modifications and enhancements to this enclosure complex through the Roman period. Of note is the L-shaped anomaly, recorded as ditch recut ditch [1/017 / 1/011] provisionally dated as 2nd century, but seemingly neatly occupying the corner of the earlier, probably 1st-century, enclosure. This could be construed to define a rectangular shape along with 3rd-century ditch [1/008] and perhaps even to have functioned as a house enclosure within the partitioned NW end of the larger overall enclosure. In this scenario, the presence of postholes [1/006] and [1/022] (albeit respectively Iron Age and undated) in the perceived interior might be significant. No finds of diagnostic date later than the mid-3rd century have been identified in the recovered assemblage, possibly indicating that this land use ceases around this time.
- 6.4.11 In overview, these remains are interpreted as those of a possible Roman farmstead and its associated trackway. It is unestablished whether or not some of the linear geophysical anomalies located to its south may define part of an associated field system, though it might be pertinent that these are not

apparent as cropmarks on aerial photographs that show the posited farmstead complex.

Undated

- 6.4.12 A small number of the recorded features across the evaluation trenches are undated by artefacts. However, on the basis of their alignment and close association with dated features, it seems likely that most, if not all, are further parts of the Late Iron Age/Roman land use described above.

6.5 Consideration of research aims

- 6.5.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in determining the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of preservation of archaeological remains within this site.

- 6.5.2 Whilst the presence of residual prehistoric flintwork recovered from later features is suggestive of a some level of land use / presence in the landscape at this time, no features of prehistoric date were encountered. The site appears to have little meaningful potential to inform upon the nature of prehistoric land use in association with settlements and the development of field systems.

- 6.5.3 All of the dated features (and probably also the undated) are of Late Iron Age/Roman date, and are located in the north of the site. It is unlikely that significant further features extend into the south of the site. This complex possibly constitutes an Early/Middle Roman (c.AD50–250) farmstead of low/modest status, in the immediate hinterland of the Roman fort and later town, occupying the well-draining lower slope of the river valley. The precise nature of its juxta-positioning in relation to, and association with, the Roman fort, the town and, more immediately, its south-western extramural settlement (Medlycott 2011b, 70-73), all located to the north, is unknown, but presents an interesting subject for further research.

- 6.5.4 The research framework for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011a) identifies the further understanding of Roman rural settlements, in terms of their form, planning, buildings, and agricultural regimes, as being needed (Medlycott 2011a, 48). Perhaps most pertinently, the relationship between rural and urban sites is also highlighted as needing research.

6.6 Conclusions

- 6.6.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation demonstrate the presence of a moderate density and low to moderate complexity of Iron Age and Roman period archaeological remains within the site. These remains appear to be predominantly located in its north and closely correlate with the cropmark and geophysical survey plots that have been interpreted to define an enclosure complex.

- 6.6.2 The enclosure complex possibly constitutes an Early/Middle Roman (c.AD50–250) farmstead of low/modest status, occupying the well-draining lower slope of the river valley. Its juxta-positioning in relation to, and association with, the

Roman fort and later town, both to the north, is of interest. It is possible that this land use has Middle/Late Iron Age origins as hinted by a few pits containing pottery of this date.

- 6.6.3 The majority of the linear and curvilinear, ditch-like, geophysical anomalies detected across the southern part of the site are probably either more recent agricultural features largely within the topsoil or variations in the natural geology. None of these have been identified as cropmarks.

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Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height m AOD
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8		38.57- 38.89
6/002	Deposit	Colluvium	30	1.8		-
6/003	Deposit	Natural	30	1.8		38.21- 38.55
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8		41.72- 41.81
9/002	Deposit	Natural	30	1.8		41.44- 41.50
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8		39.21- 39.38
10/002	Deposit	Natural	30	1.8		38.94- 39.11
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8		37.22- 38.22
11/002	Deposit	Natural	30	1.8		36.97- 37.80

Appendix 2: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

Context	Lithics Ct	Lithics Wt	Pottery Ct	Pottery Wt	CBM Ct	CBM Wt	FClay ct	FClay Wt	Iron Ct	Iron Wt	Other metal Ct	Other metal wt	Stone Ct	Stone Wt	ABone Ct	ABone Wt
1/003			7	42											1	10
1/005			2	12												
1/007	1	5	3	76	2	72			1	16			3	541	4	78
1/009			16	200	6	640									50	1066
1/010	1	13														
1/012			1	4	6	662			1	4					17	300
1/013			9	104	4	464									30	562
1/014			6	72	8	1352									126	1330
1/015			1	24											2	10
1/016			1	8												
1/018	4	75	4	58											13	536
1/019																
1/021							6	78								
2/001	1	16														
2/002		11	14	144											3	84
2/003			20	620												
2/007	1	8	1	36											7	130
2/009	1	210	10	226	11	1910	1	8					2	276	36	728
2/010			20	526	14	3394									319	3530
2/011													6	20836		
3/001									1	6						
3/003															7	266

Context	Lithics Ct	Lithics Wt	Pottery Ct	Pottery Wt	CBM Ct	CBM Wt	FClay ct	FClay Wt	Iron Ct	Iron Wt	Other metal Ct	Other metal wt	Stone Ct	Stone Wt	ABone Ct	ABone Wt
3/006			2	14											1	8
3/008			2	6												
3/010			5	26											5	18
3/011			2	20												
3/014			2	16					1	30						
3/020	1	134	11	196	2	356									9	98
3/022	1	80	43	1836			1	28	1	14			1	196	28	438
3/023			1	10			1	11							7	28
4/001											1	2				
4/003	2	42	76	1156											2	78
4/006	2	10	3	40	2	60										
4/010	5	33	69	1052											24	134
4/016	2	7	13	218											29	106
5/004	4	37	2	14												
5/006	3	5	3	18	2	68					1	1				
6/002	3	33	7	42	1	66			1	10						
7/003	1	7														
Total	34	726	356	6816	58	9044	9	125	6	80	2	3	12	21849	720	9538

Appendix 3: HER Summary

Site name/Address: Land Northeast of London Road, Great Chesterford	
Parish: Great Chesterford	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 50935 42326	Site Code: GC21
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Samara King, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 24 Aug – 07 Sep 2020	Size of Area Investigated: 8.74ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes	Related HER No's: 4866, 51902
Final Report: ADS grey lit, EAH roundup	OASIS No: 403182
Periods Represented: Middle/Late Iron Age, Roman	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>A known cropmark complex is located within the north of the site. Preceding geophysical survey identified anomalies of possible and probable archaeological origin across the site, those in the north corresponding to the cropmark evidence and defining a rectilinear enclosure system and trackway.</p> <p>Eleven trenches were investigated within the site, selectively targeting the geophysical survey results. Seven trenches were identified to contain linear ditches, pits and postholes, almost exclusively located in the north and closely correlating with the cropmark and geophysical survey plots of the enclosure complex. These remains possibly constitute an Early/Middle Roman farmstead, occupying the well-draining lower slope of the river valley. Its juxta-positioning in relation to, and association with, the Roman fort and later town, is of interest. It is possible that this land use has Iron Age origins.</p> <p>The majority of the linear and curvilinear, ditch-like, geophysical anomalies detected across the southern part of the site were probably either more recent cultivation features largely within the topsoil or variations in the natural geology.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
<p>Lanpro Services. 2019, <i>Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex</i></p> <p>Magnitude Surveys. 2020, <i>Geophysical Survey Report of London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex</i>, unpubl. rep. MSTL169</p>	
Author of Summary: S. King	Date of Summary: 08/10/2020

Appendix 4: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-403182

Project details

Project name	London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex
Short description of the project	Eleven trenches were investigated, selectively targeting geophysical results on a known cropmark enclosure complex. Seven trenches contained linear ditches, pits and postholes, almost exclusively located in the north and closely correlating with the cropmark and geophysical survey plots. These remains possibly constitute an Early/Middle Roman farmstead, occupying the well-draining lower slope of the river valley. Notably, this was located a short distance south of the Roman fort and later town at Great Chesterford.
Project dates	Start: 24-08-2020 End: 07-09-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Assoc project reference codes	200210 - Contracting Unit No. 4866 - Related HER No. GC21 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Roman PIT Roman POSTHOLE Roman PIT Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman ANIMAL BONE Roman COIN Post Medieval BRICK Roman WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric POTTERY Iron Age
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT CHESTERFORD Land North-East of London Road
Postcode	CB10 1UB
Study area	8.74 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 50935 42326 52.058279496058 0.201804298096 52 03 29 N 000 12 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.2m Max: 41.5m

Project creators

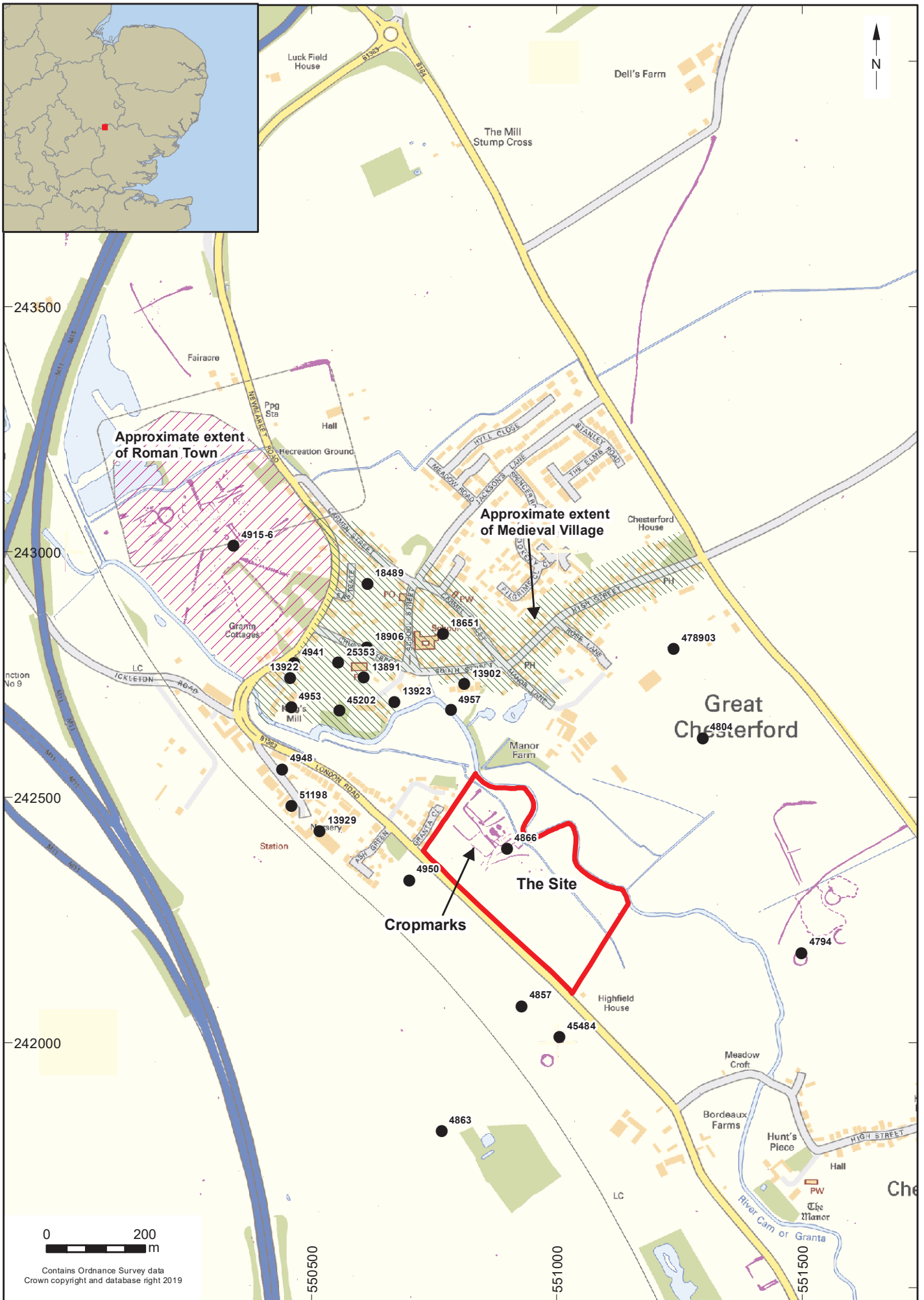
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Lanpro
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Samara King
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Saffron walden Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Stratigraphic","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

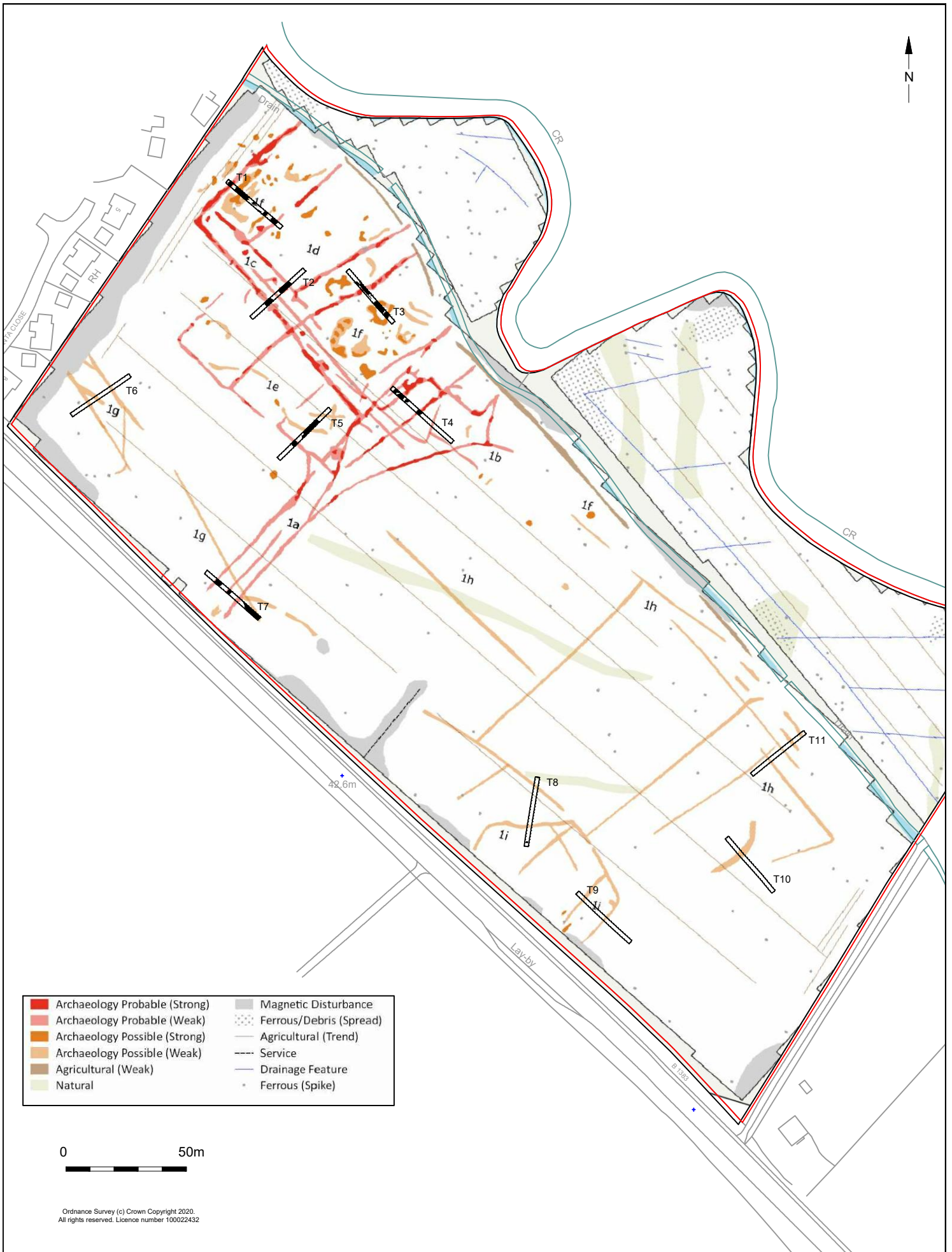
Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: Land North-East of London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	King, S.
Other biblio details	ASE Rep. 2020182
Date	2020
Issuer	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue	Witham
Description	A4 blue spine report of approximately 64 pages including figures



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© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of London Road, Great Chesterford	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Site location	
Report No: 2020182	Drawn by: APL		

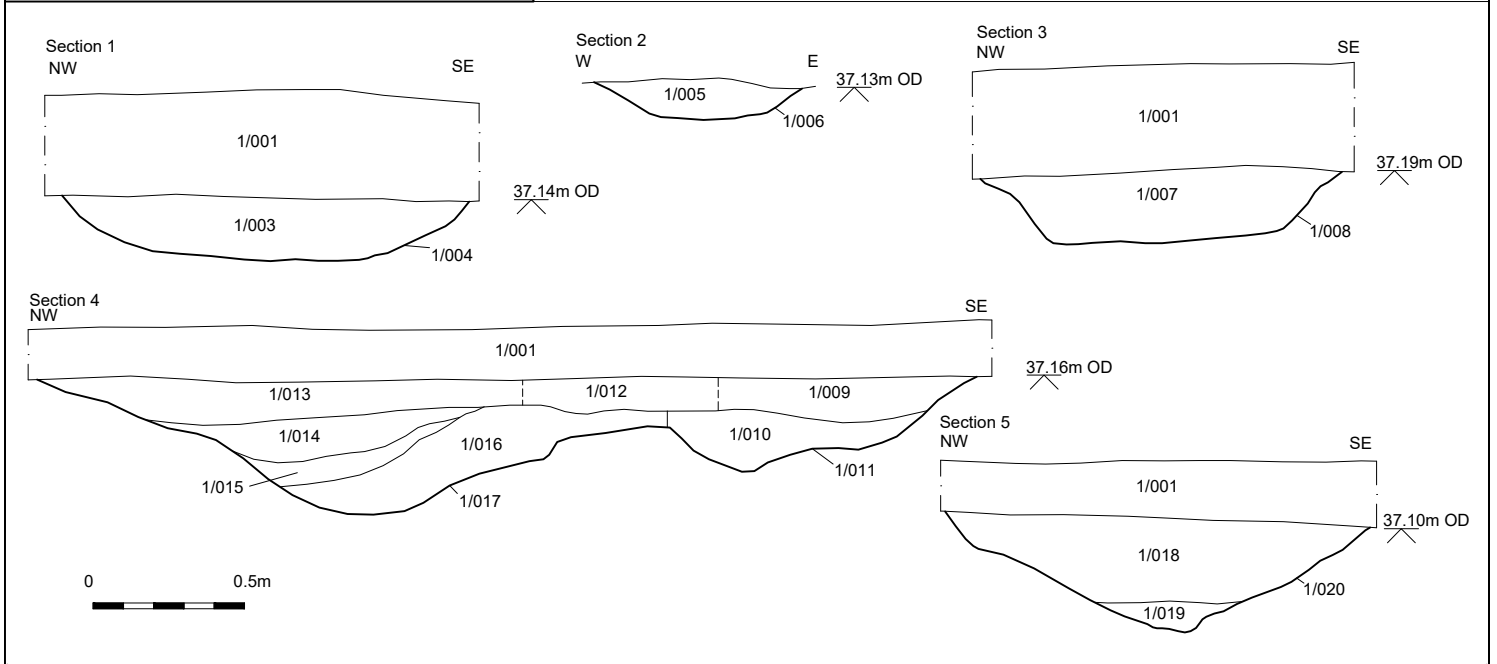
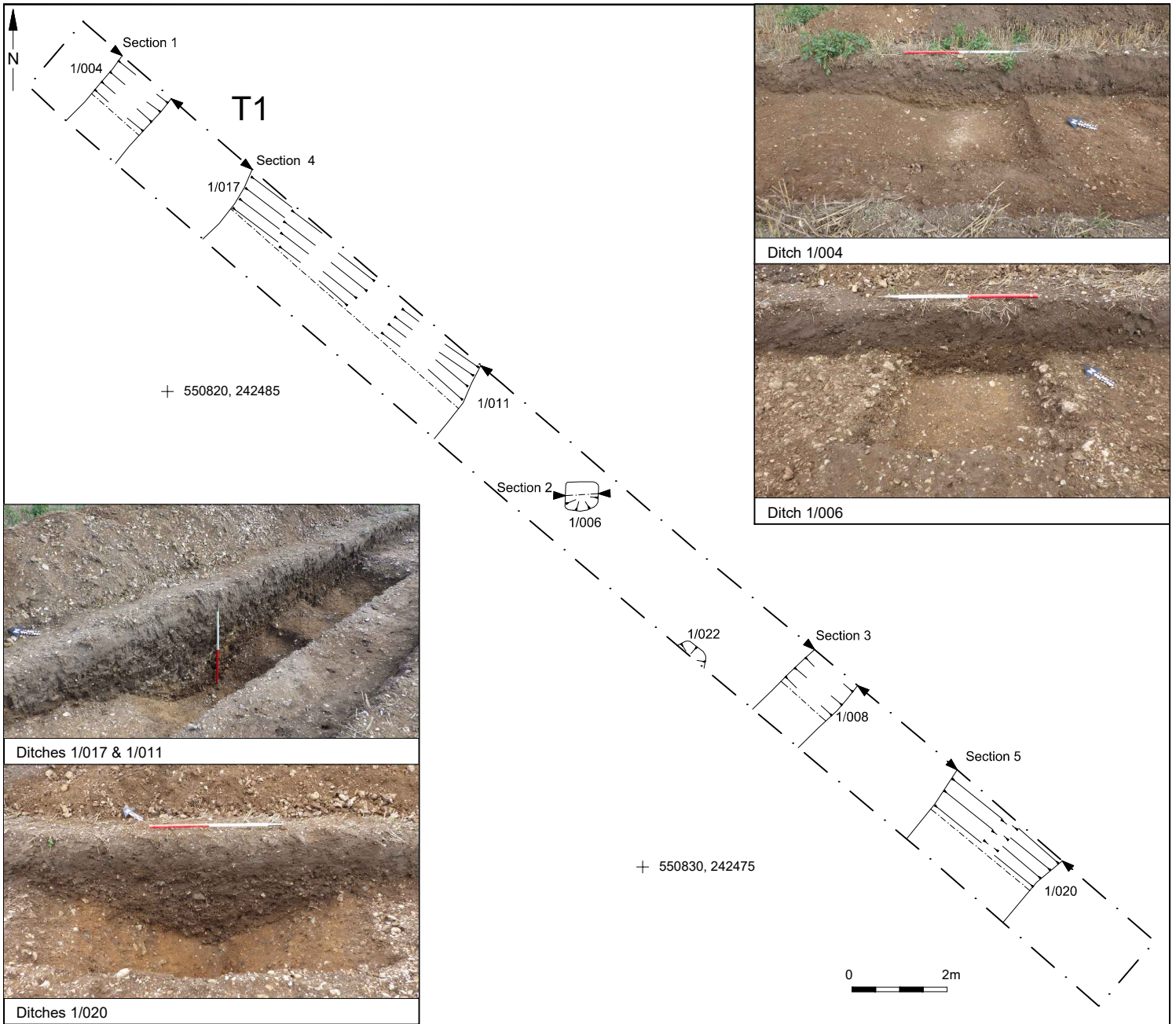


- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ Archaeology Probable (Strong) | ■ Magnetic Disturbance |
| ■ Archaeology Probable (Weak) | ■ Ferrous/Debris (Spread) |
| ■ Archaeology Possible (Strong) | — Agricultural (Trend) |
| ■ Archaeology Possible (Weak) | --- Service |
| ■ Agricultural (Weak) | — Drainage Feature |
| ■ Natural | ● Ferrous (Spike) |

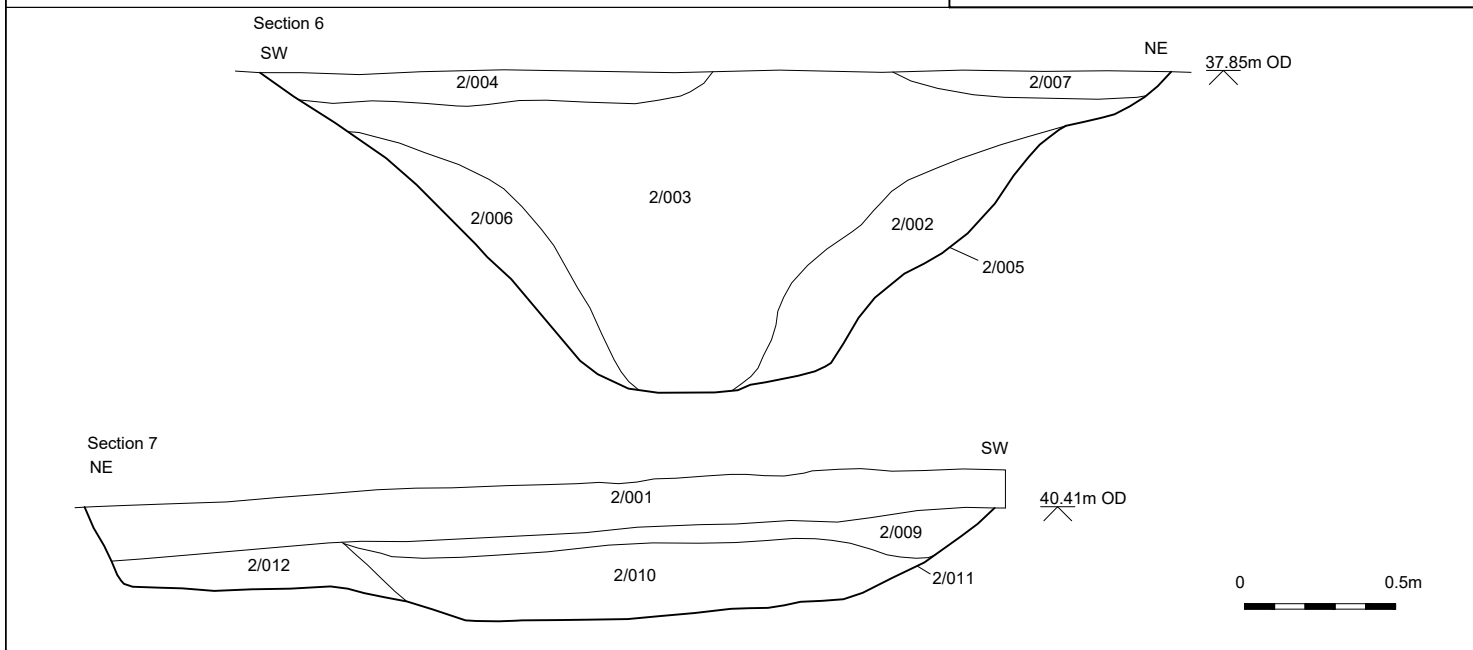
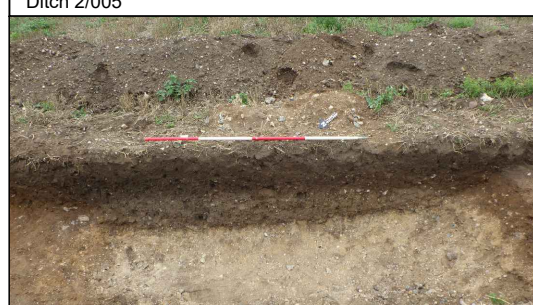
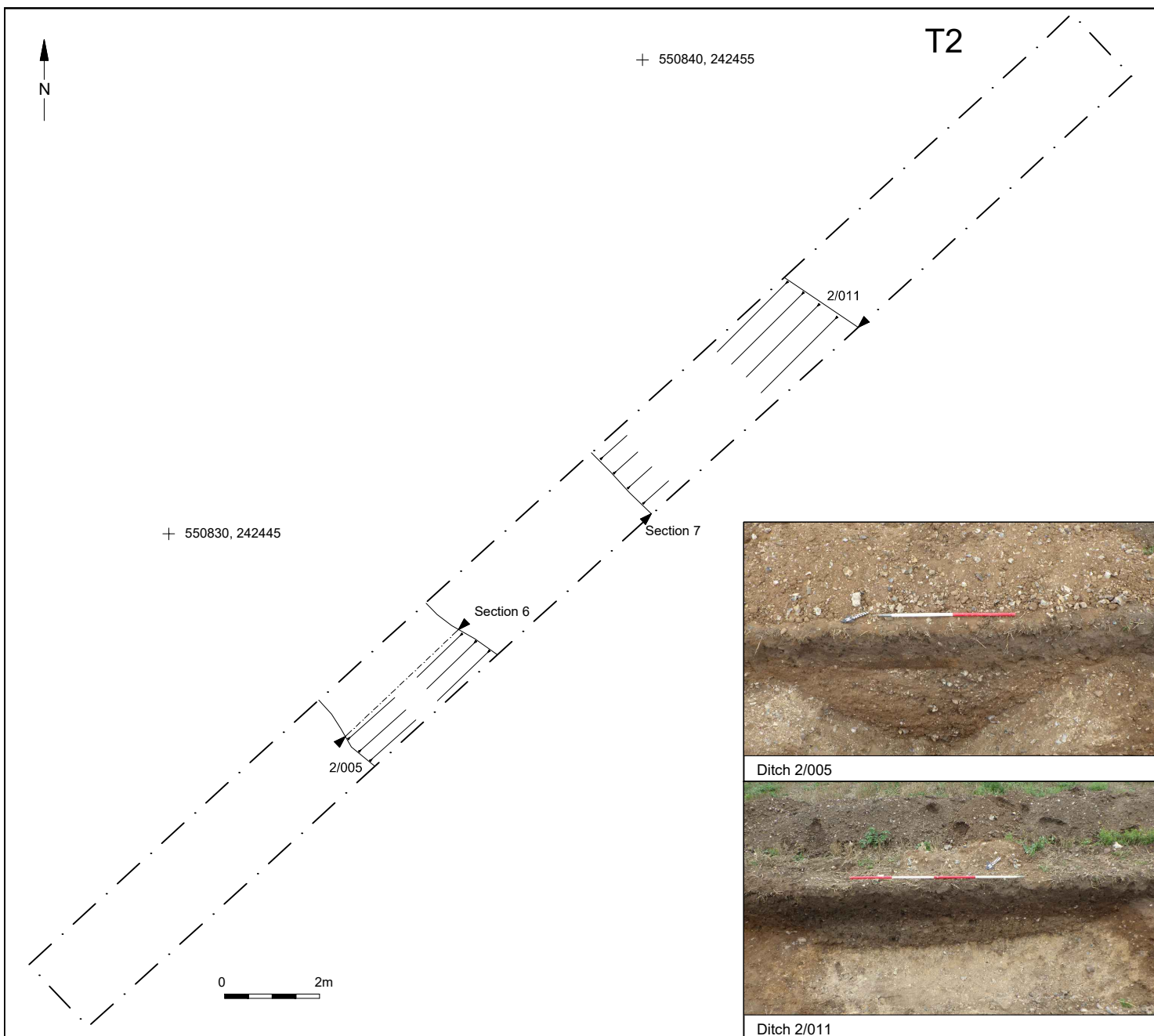
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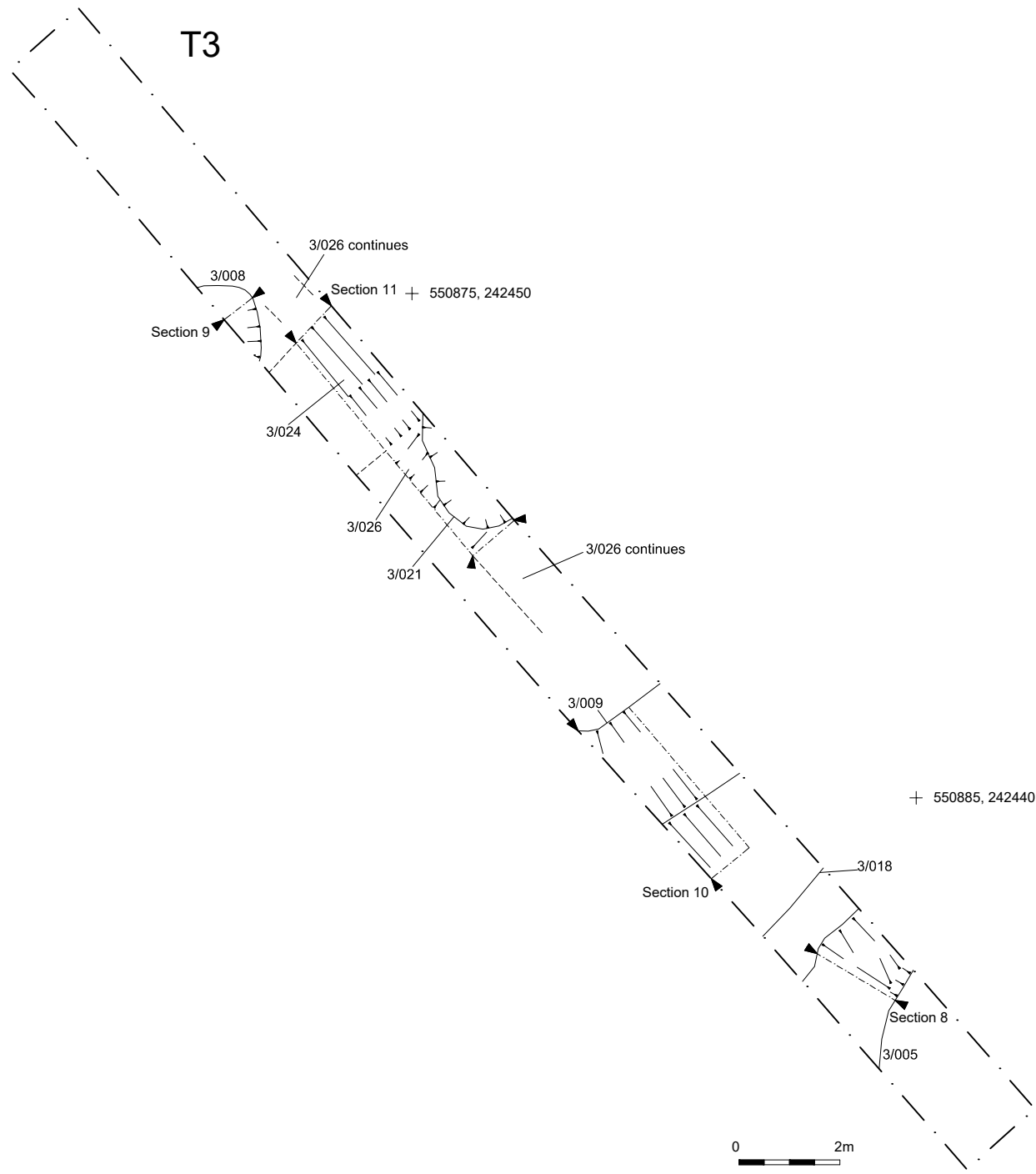
© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of London Road, Great Chesterford	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Trench locations with geophysical survey interpretation	
Report Ref: 2020182	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of London Road, Great Chesterford	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Trench 1 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020182	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of London Road, Great Chesterford	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Trench 1 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020182	Drawn by: APL		



Ditch 3/005



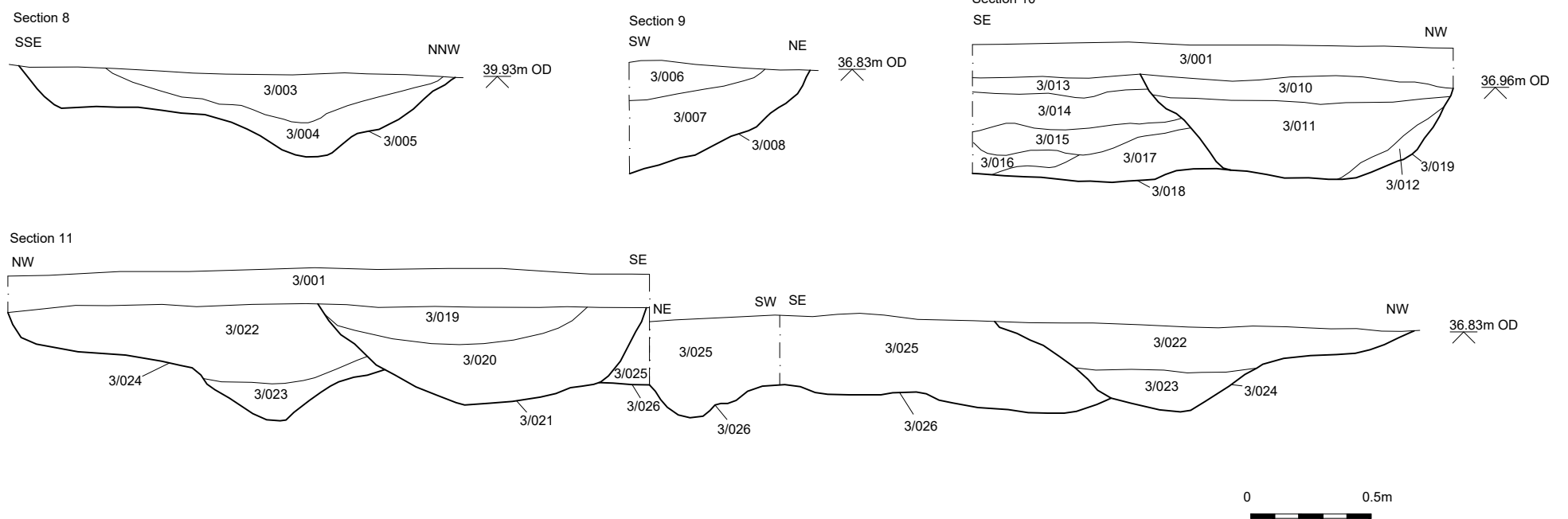
Pit 3/008

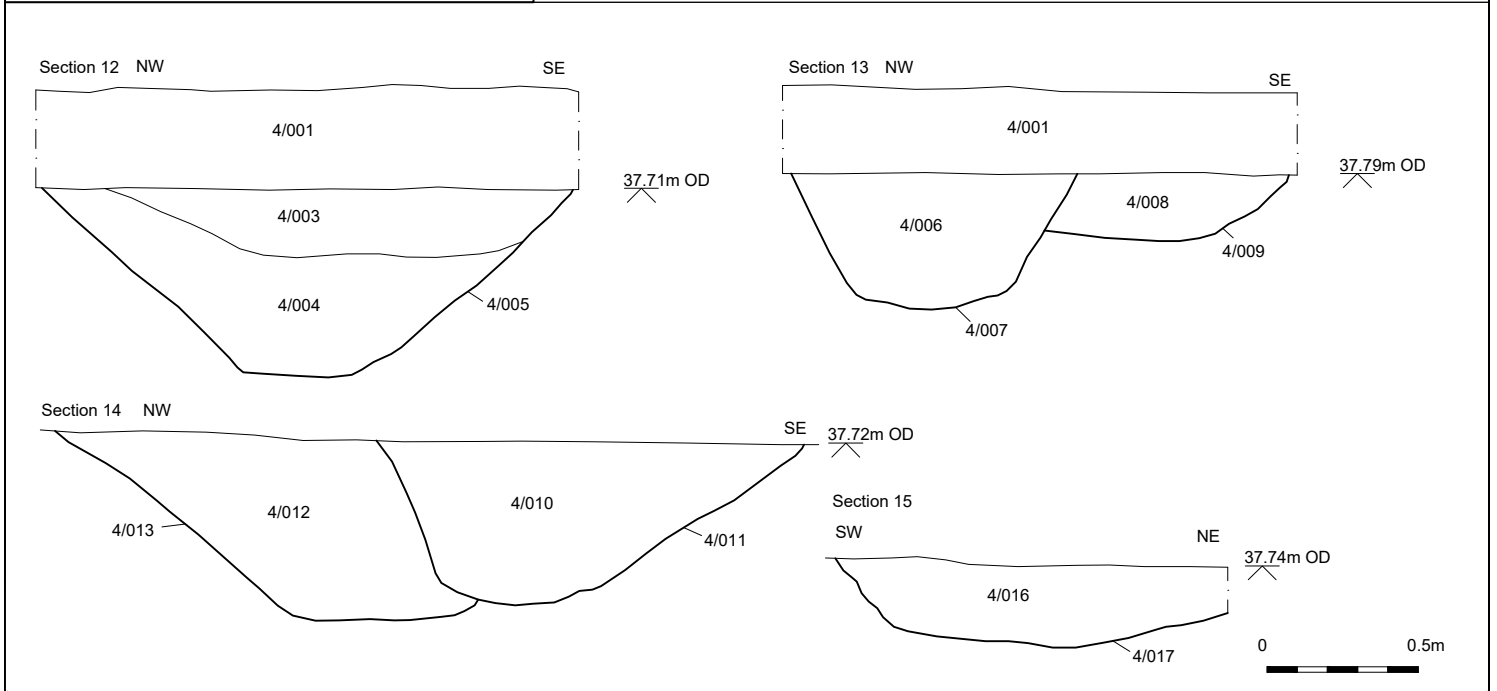
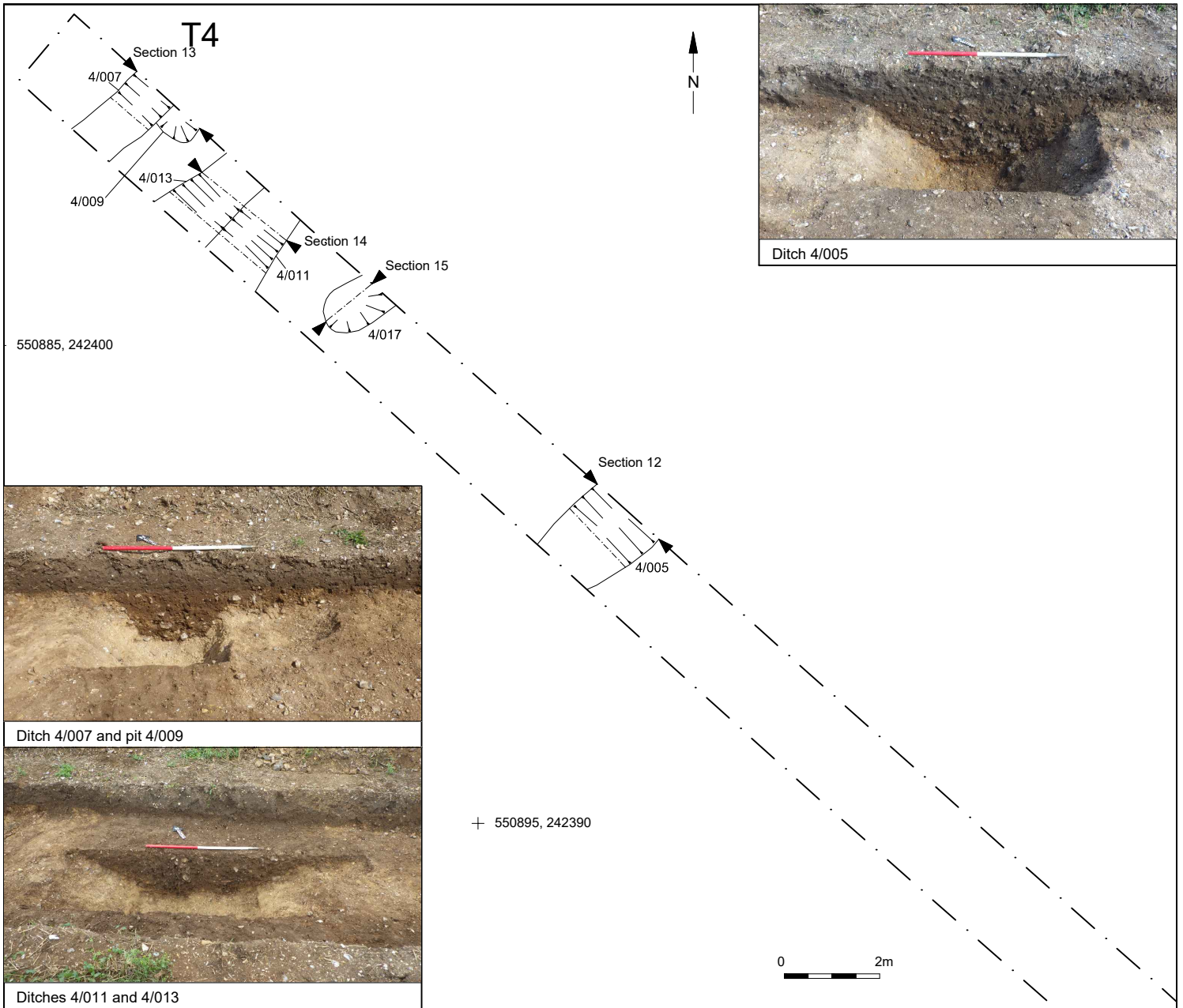


Ditches 3/009 & 3/010

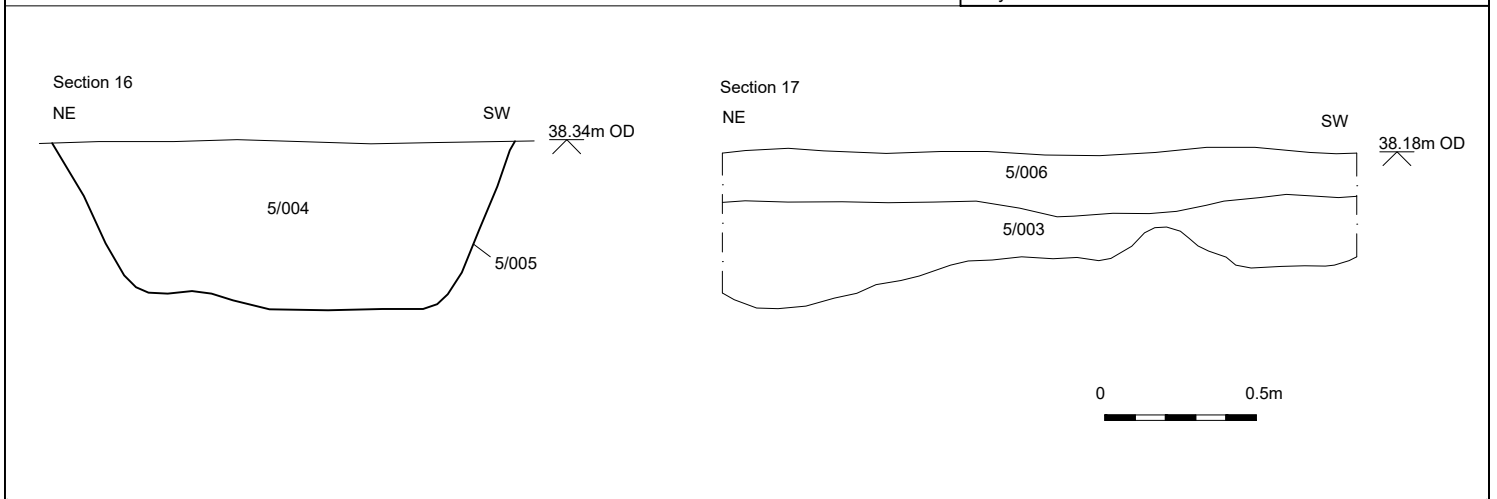
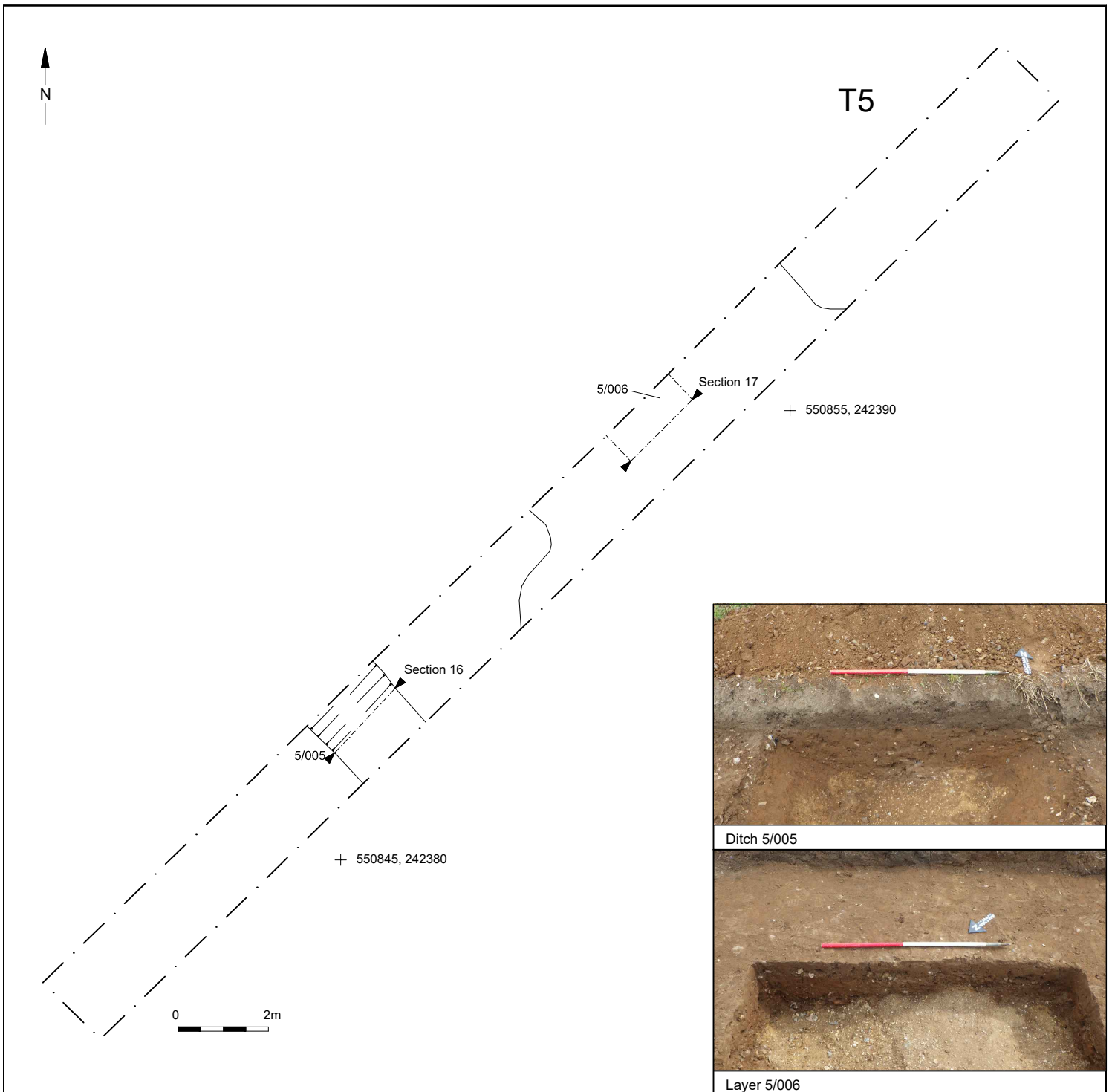


Ditch 3/024, pit 3/021 & ditch 3/026

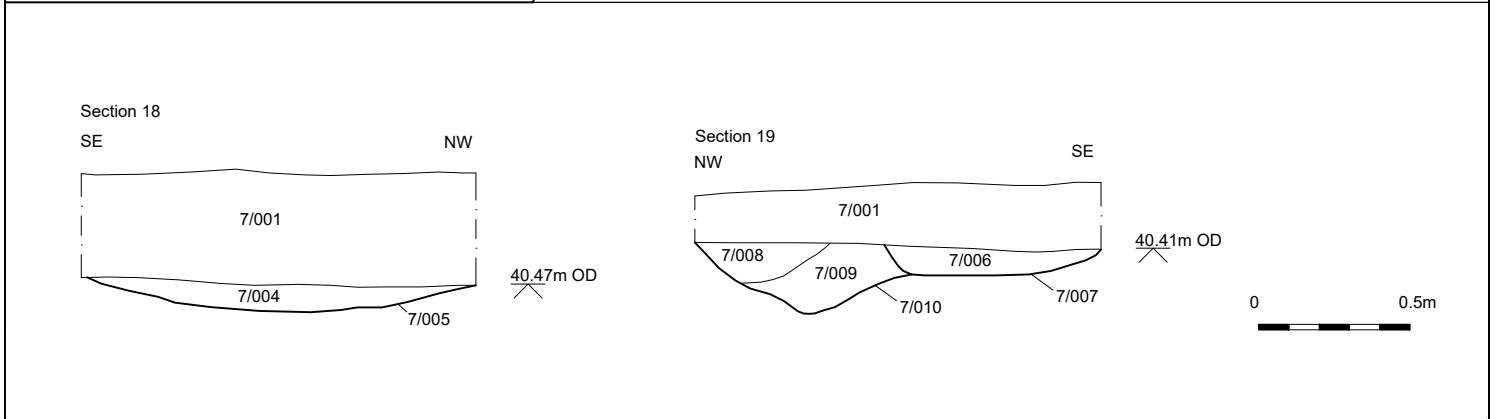
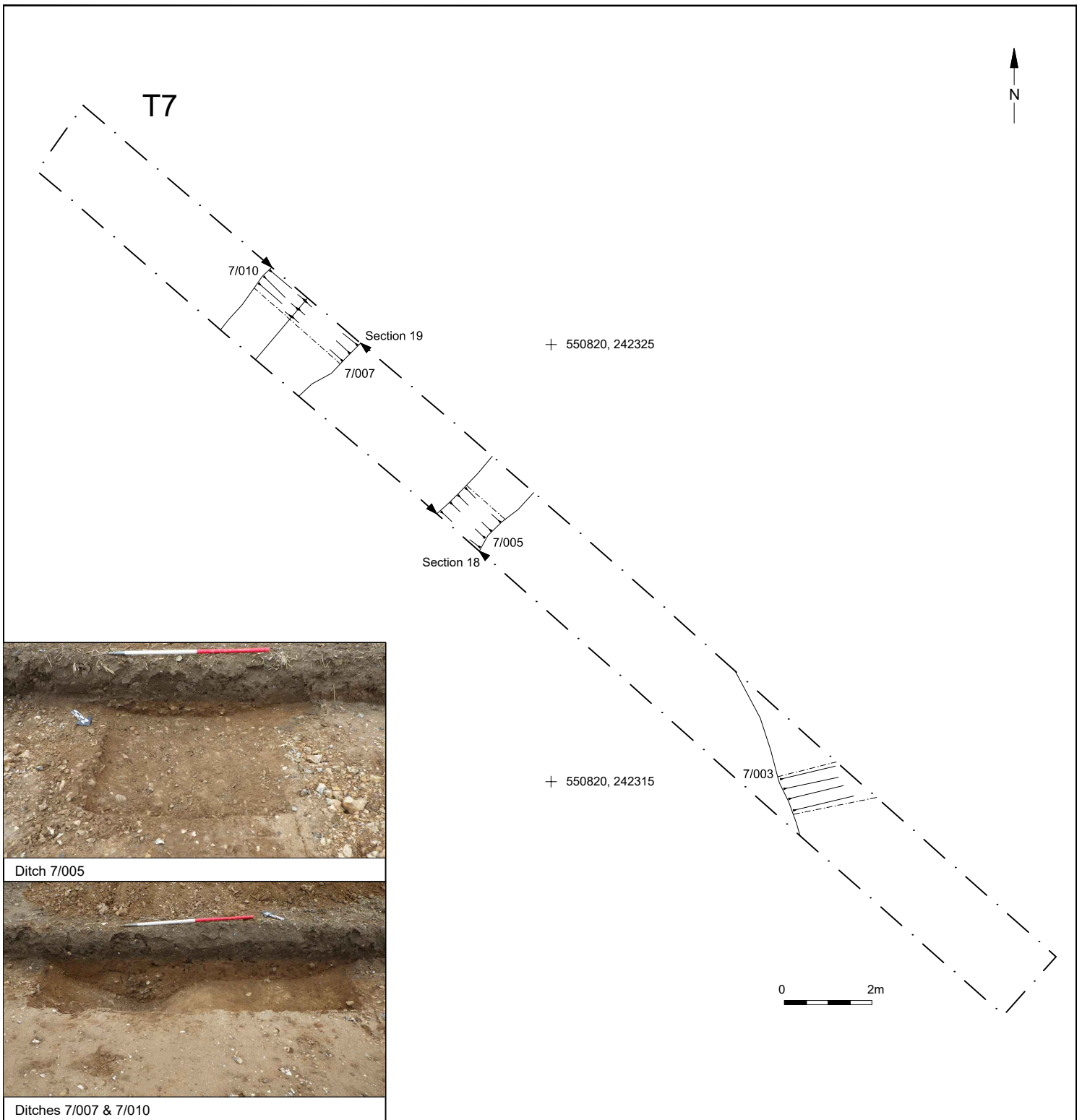




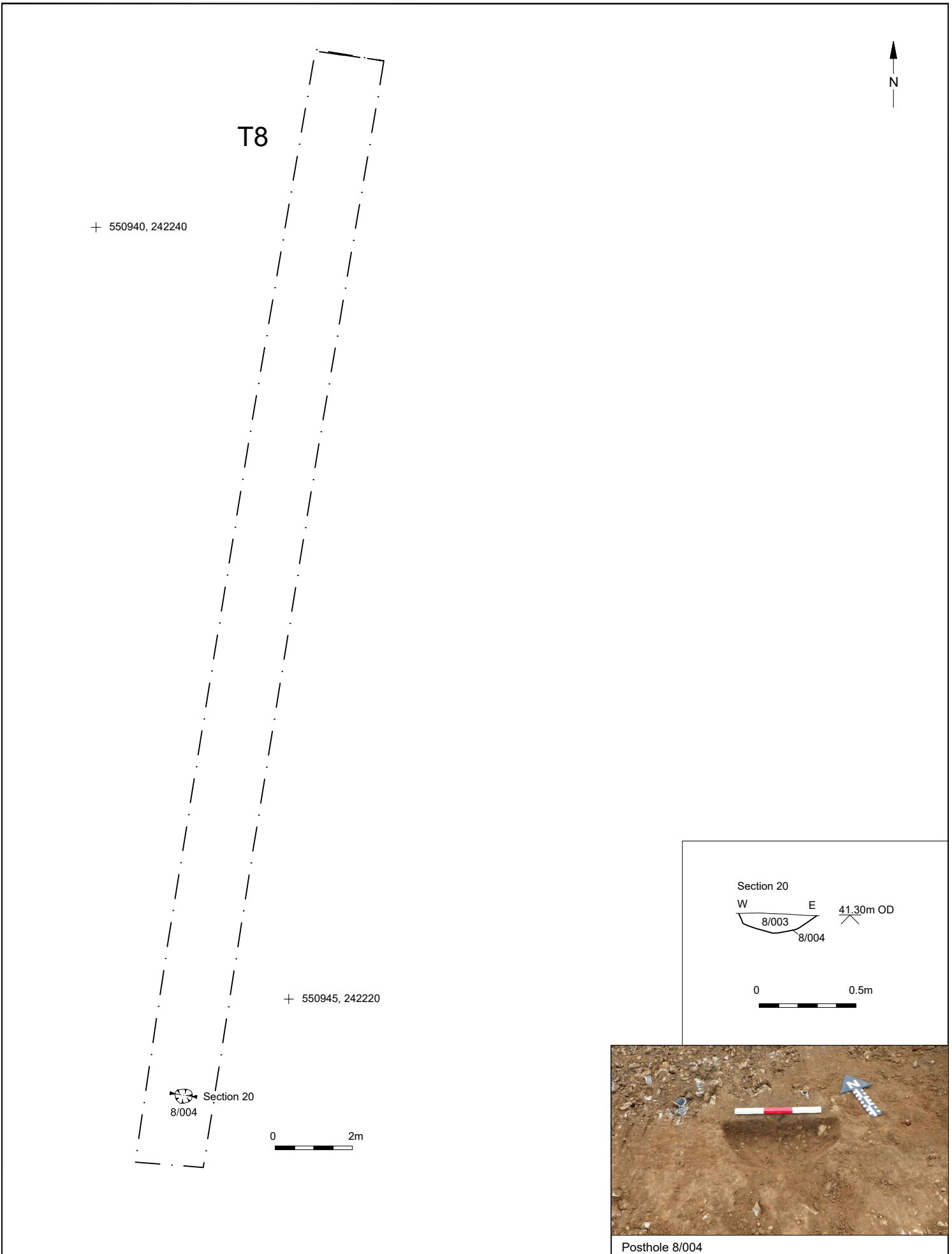
© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of London Road, Great Chesterford	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Trench 4 plan, sections and photographs	
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© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of London Road, Great Chesterford	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Trench 5 plan, sections and photographs	
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Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Trench 7 plan, sections and photographs	
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Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Trench 8 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020182	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 6



Trench 9

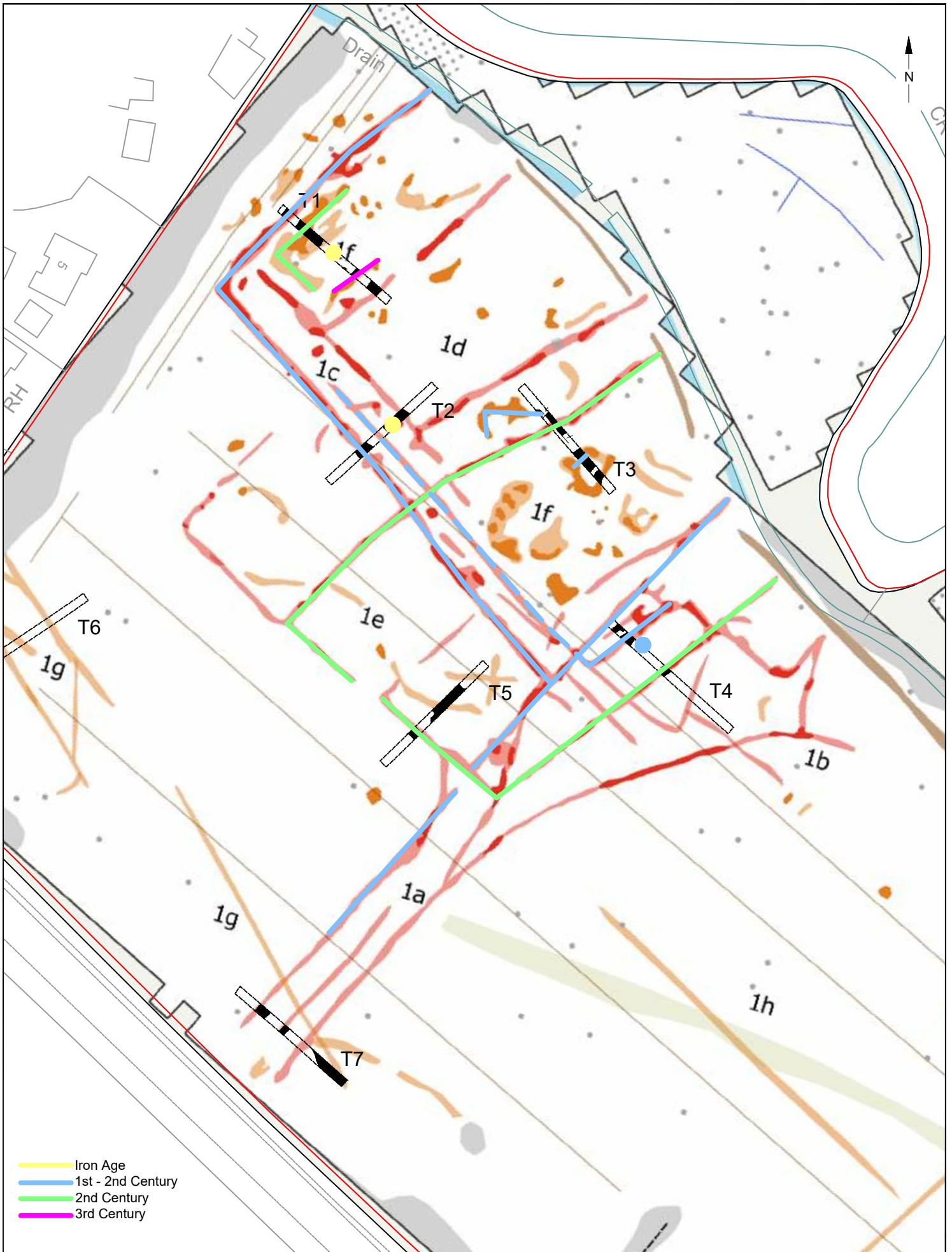


Trench 10



Trench 11

© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of London Road, Great Chesterford	Fig. 10
Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Photographs of trenches without archaeological features	
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© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of London Road, Great Chesterford	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 200210	Sept 2020	Landscape interpretation	
Report Ref: 2020182	Drawn by: APL		

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