

Archaeological Evaluation Completion

**Land North of Marsh Road,
Burnham-on-Crouch,
Essex**

**ASE Project No: 190808
Site Code: BCMR19**

ASE Report No: 2020268



January 2021

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NGR: TQ 95152 97053

Planning Ref: 19/01208/FUL

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Abstract

This report presents the results of a second phase of archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, between the 9th and 12th of November 2020. The fieldwork was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd on behalf Taylor Wimpey Homes, in advance of residential development.

Eight trenches were excavated in the north-east corner of the c.5.5 ha site. This was carried out in addition to a previous phase of trial-trenching (October 2019) and completes the evaluation of the site.

Archaeological features were sparsely distributed across the north-east of the site, being recorded in five of the trenches.

A number of postholes in Trench 38 defined the northern periphery of a larger cluster of postholes and pits identified during the first evaluation phase (in Trenches 20 and 30) and tentatively interpreted as the remains of Middle Iron Age settlement activity, potentially constituting a farmstead. A similar date is also suggested for a north/south orientated ditch in Trench 34.

A small cluster of postholes in Trench 31 is tentatively dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

A large pit containing domestic debris of early Anglo-Saxon date was identified in the far north-east corner of the site (Trench 36) and may indicate settlement activity alongside the Pannel's Brook watercourse.

Together with the results of the previous phase of evaluation, the current archaeological evaluation demonstrates the presence archaeological remains of late Prehistoric and early Saxon date in the east and north-east of the overall site.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts
- Appendix 2: Environmental sample residue quantification
- Appendix 3: Environmental sample flot quantification
- Appendix 3: HER summary
- Appendix 4: OASIS form

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
- Table 3: Trench 31 lists of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Trench 34 lists of recorded contexts
- Table 5: Trench 36 lists of recorded contexts
- Table 6: Trench 37 lists of recorded contexts
- Table 7: Trench 38 lists of recorded contexts
- Table 8: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds
- Table 9: Summary of pottery quantification
- Table 10: The pottery by context
- Table 11: Animal bone fragments, NISP count by context
- Table 12: The registered find

FIGURES

Cover Image: General view of trenches, looking west

- Figure 1: Site Location with selected HER references
- Figure 2: Location of trenches
- Figure 3: Trench 31 plan, sections and photographs
- Figure 4: Trench 34 plan, sections and photographs
- Figure 5: Trench 36 plan, section and photographs
- Figure 6: Trench 37 plan, sections and photographs
- Figure 7: Trench 38 plan, sections and photographs
- Figure 8: Trenches 32, 33, 35 and badger netting trench photographs

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Homes, to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in fulfilment of an archaeological condition attached to planning consent.
- 1.1.3 The work follows a previous phase of trial trenching across the majority of the site and completes its full evaluation. The first phase was undertaken in October 2019 with results presented shortly after (ASE 2019b). The current evaluation comprised eight trenches located within the north-east corner of the site, in an environmentally sensitive area omitted from the original work as an exclusion zone around an active badger sett. This further work was carried out under guidance by an ecologist and included archaeological monitoring of groundworks for the installation of badger netting.
- 1.1.4 The first phase of work identified the presence of a significant density of archaeological remains in the east of the site predominantly comprising pits and postholes which appear to be the remains of domestic settlement activity tentatively dated to the Middle Iron Age period. The additional eight trenches were excavated, under ecological oversight, in order to ascertain a better understanding as to the extent of these remains.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the northern outskirts of Burnham-on-Crouch (TQ 95152 97053; Fig. 1), in the south of Maldon District, in Essex. It comprises a c.5.5ha sub-rectangular field that is bounded to the west by St Mary's Church, which marks the historic (medieval) centre of Burnham, to the south by Marsh Road, and to the north by Pannel's Brook, beyond which lie the buildings of Roman's Farm. Agricultural fields lie further to the north and east. The modern town lies to the south.
- 1.2.2 The site comprises agricultural land, gently sloping from Marsh Road (south) to Pannel's Brook (north). The highest ground level recorded was 8.06m AOD at the south end of Trench 38, and the lowest was 5.88m AOD at the north end of Trench 36.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) maps the bedrock geology of the site as London Clay Formation comprising deposits of clay, silt and sand. Superficial layers of River Terrace Deposits comprising sand and gravel are located to the south. Superficial head deposits of clay and silt have also been identified towards the eastern limit of the site (© UKRI 2020). During fieldwork the natural deposit was recorded as a light to mid orange compact silty clay.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application was submitted in November 2019 for the proposed development of the site defined as:

Residential development comprising the construction of 90 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure.

- 1.3.2 The initial phase of evaluation was carried out prior to the application but under advice from the Senior Historic Environment Consultant for Essex County Council Place Services (Maria Medlycott). Subsequent to the first phase of evaluation, in a letter dated February 2020, they recommended that if the proposed development was approved a full archaeological condition should be attached to planning consent. The letter outlined the requirement for a full archaeological excavation in the area of the identified settlement remains and stated the prior need to evaluate the area of the badger sett exclusion zone. In line with advice given in the National Planning Policy Framework the condition reads:

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the specific area of the site shown on the RPS drawing entitled 'Burnham-on-Crouch - Planning Ref: FUL/MAL/19/01208 – Current archaeological sign off plan' (Drawing Ref: 25729 06.12.19) until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of the programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work.

The staged archaeological work shall begin with the additional archaeological trial-trenching as shown on RPS Drawing Ref: 25729 06.12.19. This phase of evaluation will enable the full extent of archaeological interest to be identified for subsequent full archaeological excavation. The identified archaeological excavation area/s will be completed, in accordance with an excavation methodology as set out in the written scheme of investigation, ahead of development groundworks within the specified areas. All fieldwork should be conducted by a professional recognised archaeological contractor in accordance with a brief issued by this office.

- 1.3.2 ASE was commissioned to conduct the required archaeological trial-trench evaluation. The approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared for the earlier phase of work (ASE 2019a) was adhered to.
- 1.3.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI as well as with the appropriate standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a, b). The results of the archaeological evaluation will inform decisions regarding the extent of further archaeological works required in order to mitigate the impact of the development upon the

archaeological resource. Essex County Council Place Services will make that decision in their role as advisors to the local planning authority.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation undertaken at Land North of Marsh Road between the 9th and 12th of November 2020. It describes the archaeological remains encountered, considers their significance, and assesses the potential for further remains within the wider site.
- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was directed by Adam Dyson (Archaeologist) and managed by Gemma Stevenson (Project Manager). The post-excavation work was managed by Mark Atkinson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological and historical information is drawn from the report for the first phase of work (ASE 2019b), the WSI for this project (ASE 2019a) and the Heritage Assessment (CSA 2019) based on evidence held in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), the historic towns assessment for Burnham-on-Crouch (ECC 1999), and other readily available sources. The locations of specific known sites and findspots in the vicinity of the site are shown on Figure 1.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Within the wider area, superficial river terrace gravels have been identified as having Palaeolithic potential. They comprise the Asheldham Gravels which were laid down by the River Medway when it flowed northwards through Essex. They are associated with Palaeolithic flint tools, possibly of both the Clactonian and Acheulian cultures and Pleistocene faunal remains and have been ranked as being of High and Moderate Potential for Palaeolithic remains by both the *Medway Valley Project* (MVPP_EX 15 and MVPP_EX16; Wenban-Smith 2007), and the *Managing the Essex Pleistocene* project (PPA 227 and PPA248; O'Connor 2015; Place Services 2017).

2.2.2 A sparse scatter of prehistoric flint artefacts and debitage has been recorded around Burnham-on-Crouch, predominantly on the western side of the town. Finds of palaeolithic worked flint; one core, one unretouched flake and one miscellaneous worked fragment was recovered c.500m west of the site (EHER 11310, 11350). Residual Mesolithic/Neolithic flint has recently been recovered from features identified at Land West of Southminster Road (ASE 2018a; EHER 49137). A prehistoric 'semi-leaf-shaped' flint tool was recovered c.800m to the south-west (EHER 11318, not illustrated). Worked flint, including a core fragment, has been recovered from Hill Farm (EHER 11342) c.1km to the south-west.

2.2.3 Cropmarks corresponding to features possibly prehistoric in date have been identified at a number of locations (e.g. EHER 11242, 11338, 11341). Cropmarks of at least three ring-ditches, probably representing a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (EHER 11369 East of Stokes Hall, not illustrated) have also been identified 3km north-west of the site. Evidence of Bronze Age occupation predates a Middle Iron Age settlement enclosure identified during trial trenching 1km west of the site (ASE 2018a; EHER 49137). In 2010, a Bronze Age hoard comprising 214 objects (PAS ID: ESS-8822A3) was discovered by a metal detectorist in a field over 900m to the south-east of the site. The hoard contained complete and fragmented objects and is thought to represent largely waste pieces to be recast. It included axes, spearheads and knives, along with fragments of swords and waste ingots. Some of the objects were placed within a pottery vessel. These hoards form part of a widespread phenomenon of deposits of buried Middle/Late Bronze Age metalwork across south-east Essex. A founder's hoard of six Bronze Age loopless palstave axes (EHER 11211) has also been recorded to the south-west of Burnham-on-Crouch (not illustrated).

- 2.2.4 Recent excavations outlined below (section 2.6) have added considerably to understanding of the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation of the area. Until recently, the earliest-known nucleated settlement at Burnham-in-Crouch appears to have been a late Iron Age to Romano-British farmstead (EHER 11332) located south-west of Burnham-on-Crouch.
- 2.2.5 A trenching investigation of cropmarks plotted c.850m south-east of the site, by the Maldon Archaeology and History Group in 2006, revealed a 72m-wide rectilinear Iron Age defended enclosure (EHER 16031) with entrances to the north and west. A prehistoric trackway of possible Bronze Age origin was found adjacent to the enclosure. Late Iron Age burials with associated 'Belgic' pottery vessels were found in the 1930s to the west of the railway station (EHER 11235).
- 2.2.6 Other evidence for Iron Age occupation in the vicinity is limited to finds including fragments of Iron Age pottery found in 1936 on a housing estate, c.600m SW of the church (EHER 11231) and a small bowl with an omphalos base c.650m to the south of the site (EHER 11334).

2.3 Late Iron Age and Roman

- 2.3.1 A 1st-century AD Romano-British farmstead succeeded a Late Iron Age farmstead, c.860m to the south-west of the site (EHER 11333, 15291). In the wider landscape the Dengie peninsular was an ideal location for salt extraction, given its estuaries and coastal marshland. A large 'red hill' of over 221m in diameter at Stoneyhills, situated c.1km to the north-east of the site, is evidence of this exploitation (EHER 47316). An Iron Age pre-cursor for the salt industry is also attested by briquetage associated with both pre-Belgic and Late Iron Age pottery to the south-west of Burnham (EHER 47026; not illustrated). A Late Iron Age or Roman saltern (EHER 11303; not illustrated) lies to the north.
- 2.3.2 The exploitation of this area may have been connected with the development of a possible north/south aligned Roman Road (EHER 11285), whose route may have connected the north and south coasts of the peninsular via the Stoneyhills area; that is to the east of the Southminster Road. The postulated route of this road is possibly preserved in a north/south aligned pathway and hedge lines that pass along the western boundary of the site.
- 2.3.3 Re-used Roman ceramic building material (CBM) forms part of the fabric of St. Mary's Church, located on Church Road (EHER 11225). Roman finds (EHER 11233) and coins (EHER 11233, 11302) have been recovered.

2.4 Early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) and medieval

- 2.4.1 The Domesday Book records Burnham as a small manorial village in 1086 (ECC 1999, 5 and 7), suggesting that the village had developed in the Anglo-Saxon period. The location of the Anglo-Saxon core of the town may be situated in the vicinity of the church rather than the riverside. Archaeological remains of this period are limited to the findspot of a loomweight (EHER 11232). However, it is noted that the weight is triangular which is more typical of Iron Age to Roman types, while Iron Age pottery was also associated with

the site, suggesting that a Saxon date may be erroneous.

- 2.4.2 The medieval village was probably situated around St. Mary's Church, c.80m west of the site; the current building was erected in the 14th century but may have been preceded by earlier structures (EHER 11227). A moat (EHER 11224) at Burnham Hall, next to the church, may indicate the location of a homestead or hall central to the original medieval village core. It is postulated that the area surrounding Hall Farm, may be the location of a Deserted Medieval Village (EHER 11223), although this would be beyond the postulated extent of the Church and Hall complex (ECC 1999, 22). A second deserted medieval village is thought to be located c.2km west of the site in the vicinity of the original 14th-century church of All Saints which was completely rebuilt in the late 19th century (List No 1123775) and Creeksea Hall (List No 1137655) which has a 16th-century wing. High House (Southminster) to the north of the site is also late medieval in origin (List No. 1137439).
- 2.4.3 In 1253 a market was granted to the Fitzwalter family who owned the manor of Burnham, which may have coincided with the shift of the village's nucleus away from St. Mary's Church to the riverside, where the modern-day Quay and High Street are situated. The new nucleus of Burnham-on-Crouch may have been planted to take advantage of the estuary, both for trade and as a fishery. Elements of the later medieval town's layout certainly appear planned, particularly the High Street at a tangent to the Quay, which would have allowed the maximum number of plots to have access from ship to warehouse (ECC 1999, 7). Few other medieval buildings remain extant in the modern town, and none are in proximity to the site.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.5.1 The post-medieval town, economy and industry were based on the fishing trade, especially oysters, and on ancillary services such as boat building and coopering (ECC 1999, 8). Burnham Hall, the manor of Burnham, remained situated on the northern edge of the town and was built in the 17th century on the moated site at Hall Farm (EHER 47426). The site lay in the agricultural hinterland of the town. Other surviving buildings from the 17th – 18th centuries include the red brick Cherry Garden on Maldon Road, the Thatched Cottage, Newman's Farmhouse and the Old Vicarage at Stoneyhills.
- 2.5.2 The area beyond the urban area of Burnham-on-Crouch was largely rural in character but there were some areas of industry, an important example of which was brickmaking, exploiting the available natural resources. Brickworks were situated on Green Lane (EHER 11309), c.1.2km north-east of the site, and north of the town at 'Brickfields Farm'. A water-filled clay-pit, probably 'Croxtons Pit', remains visible on Brickfield Farm.
- 2.5.3 In 1883 Burnham Railway Station was built on the Wickford to Southminster line. The railway station to the south-west, lies opposite the Mildmay Ironworks (EHER 15291), which were opened in 1899 and were the largest employer in the town after boat-building, but have now been demolished.
- 2.5.4 During the Second World War, the defence of the Dengie Peninsular against potential invasion was taken seriously and this is reflected in the survival of

defensive installations from the period across the general area. The nearest of these is a road barrier situated on Pannel's Bridge, c.250m west of the site (EHER 40973).

- 2.5.5 Historic mapping illustrates the development of the site and wider area through the post-medieval period. Chapman and Andre's 1777 map provides an accurate and detailed portrayal of the 18th-century landscape on the Dengie Peninsular, including the town of Burnham-on-Crouch and the site. The extent of the town is clearly limited to a simple arrangement of streets on the riverside, while the site is situated to the north in a rural landscape of scattered farms. The site occupies undeveloped, likely agricultural land.
- 2.5.6 The 1849 Tithe Map and Apportionment depicts a similar landscape in the vicinity of the site. The grouping of the church and Hall Farm (later Burnham Hall) are clearly depicted, with Hall Farm lying north of the church. The 1873 OS map shows the site boundaries as they survive today, the site being a single field.
- 2.5.7 The 1880 OS and later mapping show the expansion of Burnham, but at this time the site is at some distance from the town. Despite the construction of the GER Southminster railway line in 1883 and gradual northward growth thereafter, the site itself remains little changed thereafter. A smithy is shown along the southern site boundary on the 1896 map.

2.6 Previous archaeological work (Fig. 1)

Previous work on site

- 2.6.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd in March 2019 (PCG 2019). The survey identified anomalies interpreted to be largely natural or modern features, with a large spread of miscellaneous debris in the central part of the site. An isolated ditch-type anomaly of possible archaeological origin was identified in the southwest region of the site, although it was conceded this may just be the result of cultivation or a natural feature.
- 2.6.2 The following is a summary of the 2019 evaluation phase of work. Detailed results are presented in the previously-issued report (ASE 2019b).
- 2.6.3 Thirty evaluation trenches were excavated across the remainder of the site to east and the south of the current trenches. Archaeological features were recorded in five trenches in the east of the site, the remaining twenty-five trenches being devoid of remains. Two distinct clusters of postholes and pits were identified in Trench 14 and across Trenches 20 and 30. These have been interpreted as remains of Middle Iron Age domestic structures, potentially constituting a farmstead. However, only a small quantity of diagnostic pottery sherds, from four of the features, were recovered. An Iron Age ditch and another undated ditch to the south may define a contemporary settlement boundary or part of a wider field system. A post-medieval agricultural furrow and a small number of unstratified finds were also recorded. A concurrent geo-archaeological investigation recorded a sequence of silts, clays, clayey gravel and sandy gravel, but no humanly-struck flints or deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential were encountered.

Other archaeological investigations

- 2.6.4 Archaeological investigations have recently been conducted at nearby sites and have produced evidence for a Late Bronze Age boundary and associated activity including burials to the south of the site, additional Late Bronze Age occupation further to the south-west and a Middle Iron Age farmstead to the west. These results are presented in more detail below.

Land West of Southminster Road (ASE 2018a)

- 2.6.5 The investigation west of the present site comprised trial trenching across the 14.68ha site and subsequent targeted excavation of 0.926ha (EHER 49137). Residual worked flint of Mesolithic to Neolithic date was recovered providing evidence of a limited and likely transitory earlier prehistoric presence, a possible Late Bronze Age structure perhaps indicative of more permanent land use by the later prehistoric period. The main occupation phase comprised a Middle Iron Age sub-rectangular ditched enclosure (c.4,650sq m) occupied by three ring-gullies indicative of probable roundhouses of similar date, a sub-enclosure and a number of later prehistoric and undated pits and gullies. These features are indicative of a Middle Iron Age farmstead and associated agricultural land use. A further small enclosure of the same date with two large pits were identified to the east of the main enclosure. Only limited evidence was encountered at the site for the Roman period and the small quantities of fragmentary and degraded Late Iron Age/Early Roman and Roman pottery were largely considered intrusive. A single gully north of the Middle Iron Age enclosure was most likely Roman in date; however, its function could not be established. There was also evidence for medieval strip field farming and post-medieval field division.

Land at Pippins Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex (ASE 2018b)

- 2.6.6 The investigation south of the present site comprised trial trench evaluation of 5.57ha and subsequent targeted excavation of 1,771sq m. Geoarchaeological test pitting was also undertaken. A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age east/west boundary extended across the site and was supplemented by a parallel boundary to the south over a short distance. A scatter of contemporary pits was concentrated north of the boundary, amongst which were three unurned cremation burials one of which has been radiocarbon dated to 1236–1051 cal BC. An unstratified socketed bronze axe head and associated two further fragments of copper alloy, found together in a modern agricultural drain, probably constitute at least part of a dispersed hoard of Late Bronze Age metalwork. A Middle Iron Age activity area was represented by a cluster of short curving ditches/gullies and pits/postholes to the south of the earlier boundaries. Apparently intrusive finds of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery were encountered in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age boundary ditch and related pit features may constitute deliberate/structured deposits inserted into the boundary remains.

Land Between Chandlers and Creeksea Lane / Land at Maldon Rd (OA 2018)

- 2.6.7 The investigation south-west of the present site undertaken by Oxford Archaeology and Quest comprised trial trenching and geoarchaeological test pitting across a c.21ha site (Oxford Archaeology East 2018a). The later

prehistoric and historic results of the evaluation can be broadly separated into three zones. Archaeological remains revealed in the northern zone pertained to the post-medieval / modern period. The middle of the site contained archaeology from the Late Bronze Age period and consisted of linear ditch features, pits and postholes. Further features dating to the Late Bronze Age period, including ditches and pits were uncovered at the southern end of site. The ditches appear to correspond to known crop marks and geophysical anomalies in the immediate area. The presence of briquetage in some of the features is possibly indicative of nearby salt production (CgMs 2018).

- 2.6.8 Further Bronze Age features were revealed in mitigation excavation areas subsequently investigated in the southern part of the site (Oxford Archaeology 2018b) where enclosures, ring-ditches and other anomalies had been identified by the geophysical survey. Several cremation burials of probable Middle to Late Bronze Age date were recorded, including a cluster at the western edge of Area 2 that was possibly located between two ditches. Other features included pits, postholes and a large waterhole (possibly Middle Iron Age), with associated assemblages of Late Bronze Age pottery and fire-cracked flint, while several ditches appear to have been related to a contemporary field system. Also of significance is the assemblage of briquetage recovered from some of the Late Bronze Age features, and one pit in particular; interpreted as a settling tank. This evidence places the site neatly in context with the eponymous 'Red Hills' of Essex, although saltworking sites of this early date are still relatively rare in the region. A number of Roman ditches and features were also revealed that appear to have been located on the periphery of the Early Roman farmstead previously investigated to the east of the site.

Land off Southminster Road (ASE 2019c)

- 2.6.9 Seventeen evaluation trenches were excavated across a 3.84ha site on the northern periphery of Burnham. Pits and possible postholes of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age date were found at two separate locations within the site, in the west and south-east. It is unclear whether these were parts of the same land use activity and whether currently undated remains in their vicinities were associated. Ditches and pits of probable 16th-century date were encountered in the north-central part of the site. The two boundary ditches of later post-medieval date, one of which appears on 19th-century historic mapping, related to agricultural field systems. The east and north-east of the site did not appear to contain archaeological remains.

Land north-west of 2 Maldon Road (ASE 2020)

- 2.6.10 A total of 115 trenches were investigated across a 15.31ha site. Sixty-nine of the trenches were devoid of archaeological remains, with the remaining forty-six containing a low density of archaeological remains, comprising ditches, pits, a few possible postholes and two ponds. Prehistoric features, comprising a ditch and pit, both of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, were recorded in adjacent trenches in the south-east of the site. It is unclear whether these relate to settlement activity or whether any of the surrounding undated archaeological features are associated. Medieval features, comprising two ditches and a pit were found along the southern edge of the site. These may be the remains of possible rural settlement and agricultural activity alongside Maldon Road,

dating to the 12th-14th centuries. The pit coincides with the location of a dwelling shown on late 18th-century mapping to have been located in the south-east of the site, along the roadside, and suggests that this settlement had medieval origins. The majority of ditches encountered by the evaluation relate to the former late post-medieval field system that occupied the site. Two ponds, in the north and south-east, were part of this late agricultural land use. These features are recorded by historic mapping and were not infilled until the early/mid 20th century. A number of undated pits and ditches/gullies were also recorded across the site, however many of the pits are speculated to have been tree holes, particularly those in the north-east of the site, which was a wooded area in the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

2.7.1 The general objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (ASE 2019a), were to:

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

2.7.2 The site-specific aims identified were:

This phase of work in particular

- To investigate the possibility that the identified Middle Iron Age settlement remains extend into the badger sett exclusion zone area.
- To refine the area(s) of proposed mitigation

Archaeological evaluation in general

- Is there any evidence of later prehistoric activity, possibly relating to the Bronze Age boundary and Bronze occupation identified to the south and southwest, to Middle Iron Age settlement and agricultural landscape identified to the west, or to the Late Iron Age to Romano-British farmstead to the south-west?
- Is there further evidence of Bronze Age cremation burials?
- Is there any evidence of the proposed Roman Road thought to traverse the site and or other Roman activity within the site?
- Is there evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age prehistoric and / or Roman period salt working?

- Is there any evidence of the early medieval settlement which is presumed to lie in the vicinity of the Church?
- Is there any evidence of medieval agriculture?

2.7.3 With reference to the *East of England research frameworks* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011), the archaeological works were identified to have the potential to contribute to the following regional research objectives:

- What is the nature of the prehistoric remains? Do they constitute agricultural and/or settlement activity in this landscape? How do these remains relate to, other evidence for prehistoric occupation in the immediate locality? The development of the agrarian economy has been identified as requiring further research (Bryant 2000, 16), as have the topics of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition (Medlycott 2011, 29) and settlement form and function in the Early and Middle Iron Age (Bryant 2000, 17).
- How does the land use relate to its location in regard to the River Crouch, saltmarsh and the sea? Is there any evidence for salt production, trade or consumption? (cf. Bryant 2000, 17). If so, does it have Late Bronze Age origins (cf. Medlycott 2011, 21)?

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 This second phase of evaluation comprised the investigation of eight trenches in the north-east of the site and were in addition to the thirty trenches excavated across the wider site in 2019. Each measured 30m long and 1.80m wide and all were positioned in accordance with an RPS drawing entitled 'Burnham-on-Crouch - Planning Ref: FUL/MAL/19/01208 – Current archaeological sign off plan' (Drawing Ref: 25729 06.12.19).
- 3.1.2 The trench locations were plotted using Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) survey equipment. Trenches were positioned across the area in order to comprehensively investigate a suitable sample of the land. Prior to excavation the locations were scanned for the presence of underground services using a Cable Avoidance Tool. The trenches were investigated in a single phase of work over four days with backfilling and compaction undertaken immediately following inspection by ECC Place Services.
- 3.1.3 Mechanical excavation was conducted under the supervision of ASE staff with a 14-tonne tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The excavation of trenches closest to the site's active badger set was undertaken under observation by an ecologist. The trenches were stripped down to the top of geological deposits with overburden deposits placed around the edge of the trenches at a distance of 0.5m to create a visible and physical barrier. The trench bases were cleaned using hand tools where appropriate with exposed archaeological deposits or negative features were identified for further investigation.
- 3.1.4 Concurrent to the archaeological trenching the site's main contractor, under the supervision of an ecologist, was installing buried badger proof netting around the badger set (Fig. 2). For this, mechanical excavation was carried out using a c.0.50m-wide flat-bladed bucket to a depth of 1m. The work was monitored by ASE staff for the presence of archaeological features.
- 3.1.5 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b), and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 3.1.6 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed deposits recorded and sample excavated as appropriate, except obviously modern features and disturbances. Trench record sheets were completed, and all archaeological features and deposits were recorded using standard ASE context record sheets.
- 3.1.7 Archaeological features were hand cleaned and excavated, with discrete features half-sectioned and 1m-wide segments excavated across linear features. The exposed sections were recorded by means of 1:10 scale hand drawings and features/deposits planned using GNSS survey equipment or

hand planned at 1:20 scale as appropriate. All postholes were fully excavated for finds recovery following recording of the half-section.

- 3.1.8 A digital photographic record was compiled, including working shots to represent more generally the nature of the site and fieldwork.
- 3.1.9 All artefacts retrieved from investigated features and deposits were 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).
- 3.1.10 Potential palaeoenvironmental remains were sampled and processed in accordance with current Historic England guidelines. Bulk samples targeted recovery of plant remains (charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. Samples were processed using tank flotation.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines contained in the *ClfA Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014d).
- 3.2.2 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. Subject to agreement with the legal landowner it will be deposited at the Colchester Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2)

Item	Quantity
Context sheets	31
Drawing sheets	2 (sheet nos. 4 and 5)
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	48
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Photo register sheets	2
Environmental sample forms	4 (samples 4-7)
Trench record forms	8

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Item	Quantity
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	1
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	4
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 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A total of eight trenches were excavated in the north-east of the site, in order to complete the archaeological evaluation of that part previously excluded due to the ecological constraints presented by the presence of an active badger sett. The trenches each measured 30m long and 1.80m wide and were positioned in accordance with a drawing issued to ASE and approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of work (see 3.1.1); their locations are shown on Figure 2. There were no alterations to the proposed trench locations.
- 4.1.2 The natural geological deposit, which in all trenches corresponded to the archaeological horizon, comprised a light brownish orange compact silty clay. It was observed at between 7.63m AOD (Trench 38 south end) and 5.14m AOD (Trench 36 north end).
- 4.1.3 This horizon was overlain by a deposit sequence of c.0.20m of subsoil comprising mid orangey brown firm clay silt, and c.0.30m of topsoil comprising dark brownish grey firm silt. The 2019 phase of work recorded a colluvium at the base of Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 9; however this was not identified in any of the current trenches.
- 4.1.4 Minimal evidence of modern disturbance was noted, with shallow cultivation (represented by the topsoil) being the principal impact observed. The subsoil may represent earlier phases of cultivation, disturbance from the topsoil above, or at the lower points in the landscape the accumulation of soil through colluviation; or more probably a combination of all of the above. A moderately sparse distribution of narrow land drain trenches was recorded as cutting into the archaeological horizon, these did not truncate any of the identified features.
- 4.1.5 A total of eleven archaeological features were identified in a sparse distribution across five of the eight evaluation trenches (Trenches 31, 34, 36–38). Trenches 32, 33 and 35 were devoid of features, although finds of an undiagnostic prehistoric flint flake and undatable fired clay were collected from the overburden in Trench 32 and an undiagnostic prehistoric flint flake was collected from the topsoil adjacent to Trench 35. Where encountered, the cut features were observed below the subsoil and intruded into the underlying natural deposit.
- 4.1.6 The mechanical excavation for the installation of buried badger-proof netting was monitored by an ASE staff member. The curvilinear trench measured approximately 0.50m wide and 1m deep (Figs. 2 and 8). No archaeological remains were observed.
- 4.1.7 The following sections (4.2–4.6) present descriptions of those trenches that revealed archaeological features. The stratigraphic sequences recorded in the archaeologically negative trenches are presented in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench 31 (Fig. 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m AOD)
31/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.28-0.30	7.08-7.99
31/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.15-0.20	
31/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00+	1.80+		6.55-7.43
31/004	Fill	Fill, single	0.18	0.18	0.18	
31/005	Cut	Posthole	0.18	0.18	0.18	
31/006	Fill	Fill, single	0.28	0.26	0.28	
31/007	Cut	Posthole	0.28	0.26	0.28	
31/008	Fill	Fill, single	0.18	0.16	0.10	
31/009	Cut	Posthole	0.18	0.16	0.10	
31/010	Fill	Fill, single	0.10	0.10	0.10	
31/011	Cut	Posthole	0.10	0.10	0.10	

Table 3: Trench 31 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 31 exposed four probable postholes arranged in a cluster: [31/005], [31/007], [31/009] and [31/011]. All were fully excavated after half-section recording. The diameter of the circular, steep-sided features ranged between 0.10 and 0.28m, with depths of between 0.10 and 0.27m. Each contained a comparable single fill of light brown soft silty clay.

4.2.2 The only fill which yielded finds was [31/006], that of the largest posthole [31/007]. It contained a single fragment of fired clay which may derive from a Later Iron Age to Early Romano-British portable kiln bar (5.6.1). Also recovered were two calcined medium mammal rib fragments, which were collected from bulk soil sample <4> (5.8.4). The sample also yielded a low density of cultivated cereal plant remains and a small quantity of charcoal (6.3.4)

4.3 Trench 34 (Fig. 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m AOD)
34/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.30-0.36	7.12-7.77
34/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.15-0.20	
34/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00+	1.80+		6.63-7.28
34/004	Fill	Fill, single	0.58	0.58	0.18	
34/005	Cut	Pit	0.58	0.58	0.18	
34/006	Fill	Fill, single	2.20+	0.94	0.32	
34/007	Cut	Ditch	2.20+	0.94	0.32	

Table 4: Trench 34 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 34 exposed a circular pit and a ditch orientated north/south. A field drain was also observed to cross the north-east end of the trench.

4.3.2 Small pit [34/005] was 0.58m in diameter and moderately shallow at 0.18m deep. It was 50% excavated and its light brown silty clay fill [34/004] found to be devoid of finds.

4.3.3 Ditch [34/007] was 0.94m wide and 0.32m deep, with moderately steep sides and slightly rounded base. Although broadly straight in a N/S orientation, its south end suggested a possible curve to the south-west beyond the confines

of the trench. However, it was not observed in either Trench 35 to the south or in the badger netting trench to the north. Its single light brown silty clay fill [34/006] produced two small sherds of pottery, flint flakes and burnt flint. The fragmentary pottery sherds may be of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Post Deverel Rimbury (PDR) type, although an Early Neolithic date is also considered possible (5.3.1). The flint cannot be dated beyond broadly prehistoric (5.2.2).

4.4 Trench 36 (Fig. 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m AOD)
36/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.24-0.26	5.88-6.64
36/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.22-0.30	
36/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00+	1.80+		5.14-6.20
36/004	-	Unused context	-	-	-	
36/005	Fill	Fill, upper	5.64+	1.80+	0.24	
36/006	Fill	Fill, intermediate	4.54+	1.00+	0.14	
36/007	Cut	Pit	5.64+	1.80+	0.84	
36/008	Fill	Fill, basal	4.10+	1.00+	0.10	
36/009	Cut	Pit	5.64+	1.80+	0.84	
36/010	Fill	Fill, upper	5.64+	1.80+	0.24	
36/011	Fill	Fill, intermediate	4.54+	1.00+	0.16	
36/012	Fill	Fill, basal	4.10+	1.00+	0.20	

Table 5: Trench 36 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 36 exposed a large pit at its northern end that extended beyond its confines. It measured in excess of 5.64m long and 1.80m wide, with a maximum recorded depth of 0.50m. It was investigated within two segments; one to reveal its south edge ([36/007]) and the other to determine its depth ([36/009]). The cut feature had a shallow sloping south side and a slightly sloping flat base and contained three fills.
- 4.4.2 Uppermost pit fill ([36/005]/[36/010]) was a dark grey-black silt clay that yielded fifteen sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery, a fragment of annular loomweight and a glass bead (RF<1>, retrieved from sample <7>) of late Roman to early Saxon type. Also recovered were fragments of animal bone with butchery marks and burning evident, burnt flints and residual Roman pottery (one sherd of central Gaulish samian ware) and CBM. Bulk soil sample <7> collected from this deposit yielded a very low density of carbonised plant remains and a small quantity of charcoal.
- 4.4.3 The middle fill ([36/006]/[36/011]) was a mid brown orange silt sand with gravel. This contained early Anglo-Saxon pottery with cross-links to the sherds in the upper fill. Roman CBM, comprising *tegula* and flue tile, and animal bone were also recovered.
- 4.4.4 The basal fill ([36/008]/[36/012]) was a grey silty gravel that yielded Saxon pottery, again featuring cross-links to the sherds in the upper fill. Animal bone and an undiagnostic prehistoric flint flake were also recovered. In the southern segment, fill [36/008] was recorded as a localised patch of gravel, but has been interpreted as comparable to [36/012] and likely to represent the same deposition event.

4.5 Trench 37 (Fig. 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m AOD)
37/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.30-0.34	6.95-7.01
37/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.13-0.18	
37/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80		6.46-6.48
37/004	Fill	Fill, single	0.16	0.14	0.17	
37/005	Cut	Stakehole	0.16	0.14	0.17	
37/006	Fill	Fill, single	0.28	0.24	0.09	
37/007	Cut	Posthole	0.28	0.24	0.09	

Table 6: Trench 37 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 37 exposed an isolated stakehole at its west end and an isolated posthole at its east end. Two land drains also crossed the trench.
- 4.5.2 Circular stakehole [37/005] had steep tapering sides and measured 0.16m in diameter by 0.17m deep. Oval posthole [37/007] had shallow sides and a concave base and measured 0.28 by 0.24 and 0.09m deep. Both contained orangey brown to grey clayey silt single fills that were fully excavated and found to be devoid of finds.

4.6 Trench 38 (Fig. 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m AOD)
38/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.26-0.30	7.22-8.06
38/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.10-0.22	
38/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00	1.80		6.71-7.63
38/004	Fill	Fill, single	0.42	0.30	0.08	
38/005	Cut	Pit	0.42	0.30	0.08	
38/006	Fill	Fill, single	0.27	0.22	0.16	
38/007	Cut	Posthole	0.27	0.22	0.16	

Table 7: Trench 38 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 38 exposed two postholes at its south end, seemingly extending a concentration of postholes revealed in the adjacent Trenches 30 and 20 to the south. Both were fully excavated after half-section recording. A single sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery was also collected from the subsoil. Three parallel land drains crossed the trench.
- 4.6.2 Oval posthole or small possible pit [38/005] had a flat base and measured 0.42m by 0.30m and 0.08m deep. Its single mid grey brown silt fill [38/004] contained burnt flint and a large but fragmented bodysherd of Late Bronze Age Post Deverel Rimbury (PDR) pottery. Bulk soil sample <5> yielded only a very small quantity of charcoal fragments.
- 4.6.3 Roughly circular posthole [38/007] had quite steep sides and a flat base, and measured 0.27m in diameter and 0.16m deep. Its single fill [38/006] was a mid orange brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks and fragments. No finds were collected from it during hand-excavation, although a very small fragment of glass was recovered from bulk soil sample <6>. The fragment is too small to establish its form or date, but is either Roman or post-medieval; the former is

more likely, but given its small size, the fragment could easily be intrusive. The sample yielded only a very small quantity of charcoal fragments,

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during this second phase of evaluation on land North of Marsh road, Burnham-on-Crouch. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 8. A single find was assigned a unique registered find number and is detailed in section 5.9. Material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified in Appendix 2. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay or Daub	Weight (g)
31/006							2	1			1	12
32/001	1	31										
32/002											1	2
34/006	2	8	2	3					2	15		
35/001	1	2										
36/005			15	263	2	289	26	58	1	11	1	40
36/006							1	14				
36/008	1	2					1	20				
36/010							3	24				
36/011			1	24	6	378	17	512				
36/012			1	10			6	185				
38/002			1	2								
38/004			8	36					14	245		
<i>Total</i>	5	43	28	338	8	667	56	814	17	271	3	54

Table 8: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Five pieces of worked flint weighing 43g and 22 fragments of unworked burnt flint weighing 361g were recovered. Whilst the pieces of worked flint were entirely hand collected, some burnt flint fragments were retrieved from the residue from environmental sample <5>.

5.2.2 The worked flint came from the topsoil in Trenches 32 and 35 and from ditch fill context [34/006] and pit fill [36/008]. The small assemblage consists solely of flakes. The pieces are technologically poor, and it is impossible to date them beyond a broad prehistoric date.

5.2.3 The burnt flint fragments were heavily calcined and mostly small (up to 35mm). Such burnt fragments are frequently associated with prehistoric activities. The assemblage from pit fill [38/004] is small (332g); however, it was found in association with Late Bronze Age pottery, and it could relate to domestic activities.

5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of eleven pottery sherds, weighing 49g was recovered from three contexts.

5.3.2 Fill [38/004] of pit [38/005] contained eight fairly fresh conjoining thin-walled bodysherds in a flint-tempered fabric containing common, moderately sorted flint of 0.5-3mm in a dense non-sandy clay matrix. The fabric is fairly typical of Late Bronze Age Post Deverel Rimbury (PDR) assemblages. Fill [34/006] of ditch [34/007] contained some much more fragmentary sherds with a siltier matrix and sparser, more ill-sorted flint up to 4mm. These sherds may also be of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (PDR) type, although an Early Neolithic date is also considered possible.

5.3.3 A single sherd of Central Gaulish samian ware was found in fill [36/005] of pit [36/007] alongside a much larger group of Early Saxon pottery.

5.4 Post-Roman Pottery by Sue Anderson

5.4.1 Seventeen pottery sherds weighing 289g were submitted for analysis, all but one sherd deriving from a single pit. Table 9 provides a summary of the quantification. A more detailed list by context is presented in Table 10.

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Early Saxon fine sandy	ESFS	5th-7th c.	5	89		3
Early Saxon ferrous oxide	ESFE	5th-7th c.	2	61	0.10	2
Early Saxon organic-tempered	ESO1	L 6th-7th c.	2	6		2
Early Saxon sand & organic	ESO2	6th-7th c.	1	2		1
Early Saxon oolitic limestone	ESOL	5th-7th c.	7	131		4
<i>Total</i>			17	289	0.10	12

Table 9: Summary of pottery quantification

5.4.2 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. Early Saxon fabric groups have been characterised by major inclusions. Form terminology and dating for Early Saxon pottery follows Myres (1977) and Hamerow (1993). The results were input directly onto an MS Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

5.4.3 Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from two trenches. A single fragment from Trench 38 subsoil [38/002] was a small body sherd in a sand and organic-tempered fabric, thin-walled with no surface treatment; this may be of Saxon date, but a prehistoric (Iron Age?) date is also possible.

- 5.4.4 Sixteen sherds were recovered from the fills of pit [36/007] in Trench 36, the majority from upper fill [36/005], with only two sherds coming from fills [36/011] and [36/012], both of which had cross-links with sherds in the upper fill. Most fragments were undecorated pieces of body and base. Only one rim was present, probably from a shallow flaring-sided dish or lamp, although no sooting was present. One body sherd was from a carinated vessel with burnishing externally. Two sherds from the same vessel had scratched rustication externally. One very thick base fragment appeared overfired and may have been used for something other than typical domestic purposes, but there were no residues to suggest a possible function.
- 5.4.5 Of most interest in this assemblage is the presence of several sherds which appear to have contained sparse to abundant oolites. These were mostly leached out, leaving small rounded holes. The closest sources of naturally occurring oolitic limestone to the site would be the Lincolnshire Wolds, some 300km to the north around the coast, or approximately 150km inland in the Cotswolds belt. Elsewhere in the region, oolitic limestone-tempered vessels of this period are relatively common in Cambridgeshire, occurring at Godmanchester (13.4% of vessels; Anderson 2000) and Hinxton (7.3% of vessels; Anderson and Tester 2001), for example, and are also occasionally found in Norfolk, but not in Suffolk. One vessel was identified at Witham, Essex (0.1% of vessels; Anderson 2003), but there were none at Springfield Lyons (Tyler and Major 2005) and only one vessel with 'decayed limestone' at Mucking (Hamerow 1993, 291). Where quantities are small, as at Witham, this may simply be the result of the importation of vessels from elsewhere in the region. However, the oolitic wares dominate this small group from Burnham-on-Crouch, and even two of the vessels recorded as ESFS had traces of leached oolitic inclusions. It seems more likely that these represent the remains of Roman building material which was crushed for inclusion in locally-made pottery. Oolitic limestone coffins and building stones are known in Essex, and there are re-used Roman building stones of this material in walls of the nearby Saxon chapel at Bradwell-on-Sea.
- 5.4.6 The assemblage contains elements which date from the earliest to the latest part of the Early Anglo-Saxon period – the carinated vessel and rusticated sherds would be early in the date range, and the organic-tempered vessels would be late. The context presumably represents a redeposited midden and is similar in nature to an SFB fill as a result.

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Form detail	Rim	Notes
36/005	ESOL	D	1	57	1				scratch rustication ext. Thick, abundant oolites, fsm matrix, rare v coarse quartz/flint. Same as 36/011
36/005	ESOL	U	1	9	1				thin, black, common oolites, fsm. Same as 36/012?
36/005	ESFS	B	1	32	1				fs, poss sparse fine oolites? Leached
36/005	ESFE	B	1	47	1				v thick, fs matrix, soft Fe/cp, outer surface appears overfired, pockmarked
36/005	ESOL	U	1	9	1				sparse oolites, fsmcp matrix
36/005	ESFS	U	1	38	1				rare v coarse flint/cq inclusions

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Form detail	Rim	Notes
36/005	ESFS	U	3	19	1				silty micaceous with sparse fs, poss occ oolites? Leached
36/005	ESO1	U	1	4	1				odd, silty with black organic content - may be natural?
36/005	ESO1	U	1	2	1				
36/005	ESOL	U	2	22	1				sparse oolites, fsmcp matrix
36/005	ESFE	R	1	14	1	lamp/dish		flaring	thick, tapered to narrow edge; silty fabric
36/011	ESOL	D	1	24					scratch rustication ext. Same as 36/005
36/012	ESOL	U	1	10			carinated		Same as 36/005?
38/002	ESO2	U	1	2	1				thin-walled, poss earlier?

Table 10: Post-Roman pottery by context

(Type: U/D – undecorated/decorated body sherd; B – base; R – rim)

5.5 Ceramic Building Material by Ted Levermore

5.5.1 This phase of evaluation work recovered eight fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM), weighing 667g, from fills [36/005] and [36/011] of pit [36/007] only. The assemblage comprises moderately abraded fragments of Roman brick and tile. The feature itself has been dated as Early Saxon therefore the Roman material is residual or reused in this context.

5.5.2 The assemblage was 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. The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive.

Fabrics

5.5.3 Five fabrics were present in this assemblage. These were all typical Roman CBM types, showing preferences towards refined clays with some sand tempering. Variation was seen in the volume and type of inclusion material. These differences likely represent a variety of sources for this material; either geological or temporal.

Assemblage

5.5.4 The assemblage is fragmentary (average frag weight 83.375g) and moderately abraded. Three fragments (370g) were undiagnostic, but are likely to be Roman. The diagnostic pieces comprise an abraded *tegula* fragment (179g) and the refitting fragments of a flue tile (4 pieces, 118g), all from [36/011]. The *tegula* fragment possessed a terminal edge, a pinched flange form and no cutaway at the corner. It was made in a micaceous clay with some coarse sandy inclusions, fired to a dull brown-red with a dark grey-blue core. The refitting fragments form part of the body and a return of a flue tile; this tile was very neatly formed with an even body thickness (20mm), an even inner face with dense fine sanding and the outer faces were smoothed and fairly regular. There is no surviving evidence of combing. This tile was made in a light orange

micaceous clay with abundant sandy minerals.

- 5.5.5 This small assemblage has limited archaeological significance; however the presence of both a Roman roof tile and a tile usually associated with a hypocaust system suggests the presence of a notable Roman building in the locale.

5.6 Fired Clay by Ted Levermore

- 5.6.1 Three fragments of fired clay, weighing 57g, were recovered from features in Trenches 31, 32 and 36. This minor assemblage offers indications of domestic and light industrial activity in the vicinity from both the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. The quantified data and fabric descriptions are recorded on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive.
- 5.6.2 Context [31/006] produced a small fragment (12g) that possesses a single fairly regular rounded arris. The two adjoining faces are characterised by grass and grain impressions. The form, surface treatment and silty fabric suggests this fragment probably derives from a Later Iron Age to Early Romano-British portable kiln bar.
- 5.6.3 Context [32/002] produced a single amorphous fragment (5g) made in a compact micaceous clay.
- 5.6.4 The final fragment was collected from [36/005]. It is a small body fragment (40g) of an Anglo-Saxon annular loomweight. It is fairly abraded and therefore does not possess a complete profile, nor full perforation diameter. It's estimated dimensions for the profile are W35mm x T30mm and the perforation diameter is 25–40m. It appears to have had a domed upper portion and flattened base which suggests it is either a 'bun-shaped' or 'intermediate' type (after Hurst 1959).

5.7 Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A very small fragment of glass weighing <1g was recovered from bulk soil sample <6> (posthole [38/007], fill [38/006]). The fragment is blue/green but too small to establish its form or date, which is either Roman or post-medieval, although the former is more likely. Given its small size, the fragment could easily be intrusive.

5.8 Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

- 5.8.1 This phase of evaluation produced a small assemblage of 156 animal bones, weighing c.813g, retrieved through hand-collection and bulk soil sampling. Most of the assemblage is in a moderate to poor state of preservation, with taphonomic activity in the form of weathering and abrasion affecting the cortical bone surface. A small number of recent breaks were also noted. The main domesticates include cattle. Most of the assemblage is Early Saxon in date, based upon pottery spot-dates, and derives from the fills of pit [36/007]. A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered from the fill of pit [31/007].
- 5.8.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet in accordance

with the zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Wherever possible bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element, part and proportion, represented (Schmid, 1972). Specimens that could not be confidently identified to taxa, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size and categorised as ‘Large’, ‘Medium’ or ‘Small’ mammal. The total number of unidentifiable fragments from each context has been noted, although not included further. The Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) was calculated for all taxa. Recently broken bones have been re-joined and recorded as single fragments. Categories for bone preservation were noted as ‘Good’, ‘Moderate’ or ‘Poor’ depending on the degree of taphonomic damage to the bone. Age at death data has been collected for each specimen where observable. The state of epiphyseal and metaphyseal long bone fusion was recorded as ‘fused’, ‘unfused’ and ‘fusing’ (fusion line visible) categories. The mandibular tooth eruption and wear stage of cattle were recorded using Grant (1982) and converted to definitive age ranges with reference to Hambleton (1998). Tooth eruption and wear data was only recorded for mandibles with two or more teeth in-situ. Due to the fragmentary nature of the assemblage and the absence of complete long bones, no metrical data has been recorded. All specimens were studied for the presence of burning, butchery marks, gnawing and pathology. Only evidence of butchery and burning was noted within the assemblage.

Assemblage

5.8.3 A limited range of taxa have been identified (Table 11); of the 156 animal remains 153 have been identified to taxa. Of the main domesticates, cattle are present. Due to the levels of preservation and bone fragmentation the remainder of the assemblage consists of identified large and medium mammal bone fragments. Wild taxa are represented by a single microfauna long bone fragment.

Taxa	NISP	31/007	36/007					
		31/006	36/005	36/006	36/008	36/010	36/011	36/012
Cattle	6						4	2
Large Mammal	53		37		1	1	13	1
Medium Mammal	93	2	88	1		2		
Microfauna	1		1					
<i>Total</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>

Table 11: Animal bone quantification, NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) count by context

5.8.4 Posthole fill [31/006] (sample <4>), a single posthole fill, contained two calcined (white/yellow) medium mammal rib fragments. Pottery spot-dating tentatively dates this feature as Late Iron Age/Early Roman.

5.8.5 Fill [36/005] (sample <7>) produced both hand-collected and bulk sampled bones. This Early Saxon upper pit fill contained the greatest concentration of animal bones, the majority of which were weathered, abraded and suffered recent breaks. The assemblage consists of highly fragmented large (n=37) and medium (n=88) mammal post-cranial elements. Evidence of butchery was

noted on several fragments of large mammal radius, ulna and long bones suggestive of dismemberment, portioning and marrow extraction. A small quantity of large and medium long bone fragments also showed signs of burning, being calcined grey/white. The presence of calcined bone indicates that these elements had been burnt to temperatures above >600°C (McKinley 2004). Wild taxa are represented by a single microfauna long bone fragment.

- 5.8.6 Pit fill [36/006] contained a medium mammal tibia shaft fragment with evidence of weathering, abrasion and recent breaks.
- 5.8.7 Basal pit fill [36/008] contained a poorly preserved and highly fragmented large mammal long bone. Weathering and cortical bone surface abrasion was observed. Evidence of butchery was noted suggestive of marrow extraction.
- 5.8.8 Upper pit fill [36/010] contained two medium mammal long bone fragments with evidence of butchery suggestive of possible marrow extraction. A large mammal skull fragment was also present. The bones from this context were weathered and abraded.
- 5.8.9 Pit fill [36/011] contained fragments of adult cattle mandible, scapula, metacarpal and phalanx. A single mandible produced a tooth wear stage of a young adult animal (F 39). Large mammal long bone and scapula fragments were also present. The majority of these bones were weathered, abraded and suffered recent breaks.
- 5.8.10 Basal fill [36/012] contained a fragmented adult cattle radius and astragalus with evidence of weathering, abrasion and recent breaks. A large mammal cervical vertebrae fragment was also present.

Discussion

- 5.8.9 Cattle are present in small numbers. From the limited age at death data available, all of the animals present were skeletally mature and consist of meat and non-meat bearing elements. Wild taxa are present in negligible quantities, most likely due to the poor levels of preservation affecting the recovered assemblage. The animal bone assemblage consists of domestic refuse including calcined floor sweepings/kitchen waste, discarded predominantly in the fills of Early Saxon pit [36/007].

5.9 Registered Finds by Rae Regensberg

- 5.9.1 An opaque white, cylindrical segmented glass bead was recovered from upper fill [36/005] of pit segment [36/007], in soil sample <7>. The bead is 8.2mm long, 3.3mm in breadth and had an aperture measuring 1.3mm. Beads of this type have been dated from the late Roman to Early Saxon period c. 480–555 AD (Brugmann 2004, 43 fig 173). This is consistent with the other artefacts in the context, which included both Roman and Early Saxon pottery sherds.

RF No	Context	Material	Object	Wt (g)
1	36/005	GLASS	BEAD	<1

Table 12: Registered find

6.0 Environmental Remains by Elsa Neveu

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Four bulk soil samples were taken during this second phase of evaluation at the site. Samples <4> [31/006], <5> [38/004], and <6> [38/006] measured 10 litres each, while sample <7> [36/005] measured 40 litres. They were collected from pits and postholes. Sample <4> is dated as probably Late Iron Age/Early Roman, sample <5> as Prehistoric and sample <7> as Early Saxon, while sample <6> is undated. 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 residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts; quantification (Appendix 2). A stereo-zoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications was used in order to sort flots and identify the remains. Their contents are described and recorded in Appendix 3. 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 were also consulted (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006). 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

6.3.1 Uncharred material was abundant in these assemblages and comprised rootlets and weed seeds. Their presence indicates moderate levels of modern disturbance through root activity.

6.3.2 An array of archaeological environmental remains were noted to be present. These include charcoal, charred plant macrofossils and uncharred faunal remains. The residues also produced some 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. Appendices 2 and 3 provide an overview of the samples detailing materials retrieved through flotation and sorting. The following text summarises the results by period.

Prehistoric

Sample <5> [38/004]

6.3.3 This sample did not yield charred plant remains. Indeed, only uncharred material, which comprised rootlets, and a few charcoal fragments, measuring <2 mm in size, were recovered (Appendix 3). No taxonomic identifications were obtained for the charcoal fragments at this stage, which may represent fuel

waste. This assemblage is too small in order to warrant identification work, therefore this sample is of low significance. It presents no potential to further examine the local woody vegetation and the use of fuel.

Late Iron Age/Early Roman

Sample <4> [31/006]

6.3.4 The density of charred plant remains was low, and some were poorly preserved, displaying an abraded surface. The remains comprise grains of six-row hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare vulgare*), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare vulgare*), naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) and oat/brome (*Avena sp./Bromus sp.*). In addition remains of scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum maritimum ssp. inodorum*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and undetermined *Polygonum sp.* were recorded (Appendix 3).

6.3.5 This sample produced a small quantity of charcoals, which measured <4mm and mostly <2 mm in size. No taxonomic identifications were obtained at this stage; these charcoal fragments may represent fuel waste. This assemblage is too small in order to warrant identification work, therefore this sample is of low significance. It presents no potential to further examine the local woody vegetation and the use of fuel.

Early Saxon

Sample <7> [36/005]

6.3.6 The density of charred plant remains was very low, this sample only yielded one grain of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare vulgare*), one fruit of fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and three remains of unidentified charred plant remains.

6.3.7 This assemblage includes charcoal fragments, including some >4mm and mostly <4 mm in size. Nevertheless, no taxonomic identifications were obtained at this stage. This assemblage is too small in order to warrant identification work and is of low significance. Therefore it presents no potential to further examine the local woody vegetation and the use of fuel.

Undated

Sample <6> [38/006]

6.3.8 This sample did not produce charred plant remains. Indeed, it only revealed uncharred material, which comprised rootlets, and some charcoal fragments, measuring mostly <2 mm in size (Appendix 3). No taxonomic identifications were obtained at this stage; these charcoal fragments may represent fuel waste. This assemblage is too small in order to warrant identification work, therefore this sample is of low significance. It presents no potential to further examine the local woody vegetation and the use of fuel.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 These assemblages seem to correspond to domestic waste comprising charred plant remains, fuel and bone that accumulated in these features. Indeed pits can remain open for extended periods allowing waste to accumulate gradually. The lack or the rarity of charred plant remains could be

explained by the infrequency of activities related to crop husbandry and processing near these features. These assemblages provide a glimpse of the likely cultivated and consumed cereal at the site during the Late Iron Age/Early Roman the Early Saxon periods. The crops included six-row hulled barley, naked wheat and perhaps oat. These occurrences are consistent with the previous analysis carried out on environmental assemblages from sites along the A120, between Stansted Airport and Braintree (Carruthers 2007).

- 6.4.2 Samples <4> and <7> may have a local significance and should be included if any future analysis or publication work is carried out for the site. These samples also suggest there is a potential for nearby Late Iron Age/Roman and Early Saxon deposits to preserve assemblages of charcoal and charred plant remains.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The deposit sequence consistent across all eight trenches excavated in the north-east part of the site. Topsoil, and then subsoil overlaid the natural geology which corresponded to the archaeological horizon. The natural geology was exposed between 7.63m AOD (Trench 38 south end) down to 5.14m AOD (Trench 36 north end)
- 7.1.2 Topsoil measured approximately 0.30m thick and subsoil approximately 0.20m thick. It also recorded a colluvium at the base of Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 9 along the north edge of the site; however, this was not identified in this phase of work in the north-east corner of the site.
- 7.1.3 Five of the eight trenches exposed archaeological remains, with eleven features being identified in a sparse distribution across the site (in Trenches 31, 34, 36, 37 and 38). Trenches 32, 33 and 35 were devoid of features, although finds were collected from the overburden in Trench 32 and 35. Where encountered, the cut features were observed below the subsoil and intruded into the underlying natural deposit.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 In all evaluation trenches, the natural deposits were sealed by overburden deposits. The minimum depth of overburden was 0.38m (Trench 35) and the maximum 0.68m (Trench 32), but the common depth range was c.0.45–0.50m. The topsoil represents the most recent phase of agricultural truncation, with the subsoil likely to represent a combination of accumulated soil deposited through colluviation alongside successive phases of earlier agricultural truncation.
- 7.2.2 A moderately sparse distribution of land drain trenches was recorded as cutting into the archaeological horizon; these did not truncate any of the identified features, although truncation and disturbance from these is possible in areas not yet investigated.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 7.3.1 A low complexity and low density of archaeological remains was encountered across this north-east part of the site, as was the case across the wider site area. The remains supplement those of the wider trenching (ASE 2019b) and complete the evaluation of the whole site. The identified features comprised postholes, pits and one ditch. Where possible, these have been dated primarily on the basis of their diagnostic artefact content, but also by association with other dated remains. The remains are discussed by broad period below.

Prehistoric

- 7.3.2 The only remains potentially predating the Late Bronze Age are the flint flakes collected from the topsoil in Trenches 32 and 35, from the fill of ditch [34/007] and basal fill of pit segment [36/007]. It is impossible to date these

technologically-poor flakes beyond being broadly prehistoric, therefore they may be residual finds from earlier prehistoric activity.

- 7.3.3 The pottery recovered from the fill of ditch [34/007] may be Early Neolithic in date. However, the proposed Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date is probably the more likely, especially as the features in Trench 38 are also likely to be of this date.

Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age

- 7.3.4 The north/south ditch [34/007] exposed in Trench 34 is dated as possibly Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age based on the recovery of two sherds of pottery. These could instead represent residual material in a feature of unknown later date. The ditch was not present in Trench 35 to the south nor was it observed in the badger netting groundworks to the north.
- 7.3.5 Pit or possible posthole [38/005] contained pottery of Late Bronze Age date. Adjacent posthole [38/007] was comparable in shape, but deeper. It produced only a very small fragment of glass likely to be Roman in date, though possibly post-medieval. The glass fragment could easily be intrusive, therefore the feature is tentatively identified as being of similar Late Bronze Age date.
- 7.3.6 These two prehistoric features are located just to the north of a more numerous and extensive cluster of small pits/postholes recorded by the earlier phase of evaluation, in Trenches 20 and 30. Although these, together with the similar cluster of pits and postholes in Trench 14 have previously been interpreted to constitute evidence for settlement activity of likely Middle Iron Age date, it is likely that the Trench 38 features form part of the same land use activity in the eastern part of the site.

Late Iron Age/Early Roman

- 7.3.7 The cluster of four postholes in Trench 31 ([31/005], [31/007], [31/009], [31/011]) have been dated by association. The only feature which contained dating evidence was the largest of the four, [31/007], which produced a single fragment of fired clay which may possibly derive from a Later Iron Age to Early Romano-British kiln bar. This is a structural element used to raise wares above the floor of a kiln.
- 7.3.8 No Late Iron Age/Early Roman features were previously found across the rest of the site, though two Roman pottery sherds were retrieved. As such, the dating of the postholes in Trench 31 is very tentative.

Early Anglo-Saxon

- 7.3.9 The large pit ([36/007]/[36/009]) at the north end of Trench 36 was located at the site's lowest point, in the extreme north-east of the site; the top of the surviving cut was encountered at c.5.60m AOD. It is within 9m of the watercourse of Pannel's Brook and may extend significantly northwards toward it. The function of this pit is undetermined, although a pond or perhaps a waterhole for livestock is possible given its location.

7.3.10 This pit is dated by finds to the Early Anglo-Saxon period, with the pottery evidence suggesting that the fills were deposited in very close succession. The excavation of its fills, particularly the upper and intermediate fills, produced a relatively large quantity of finds of domestic character, with the fragment of loomweight and the butchered and charred animal bone being notable examples alongside the pottery. The inclusion of Roman pottery and CBM may suggest reuse of material from a nearby Roman settlement site. Given the nature of the recovered artefact assemblage, it may even be possible to speculate that the feature relates to occupation activity alongside the watercourse.

Undated

7.3.11 Undated features comprise pit [34/005] in Trench 34 and stakehole [37/005] and posthole [37/007] in Trench 37. The stakehole and posthole are sufficiently similar in character to the various clusters of postholes exposed elsewhere as to tentatively suggest a contemporary Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

7.5.1 This second phase of archaeological evaluation has succeeded in its general aim of determining the presence and nature of archaeological remains within the site. It has identified a low density but broad distribution of features across the north-east corner of the site.

7.5.2 More specifically, this evaluation has successfully investigated the possibility that the previously-identified Middle Iron Age settlement remains extend into the badger sett exclusion area. The likely northern extent of the settlement evidence identified in Trenches 30 and 20 has been demonstrated by Trench 38 and the seemingly isolated nature of the Trench 14 settlement remains demonstrated by blank Trenches 33 and 35. In addition, this phase of evaluation has also identified further, un-associated, settlement remains in Trench 36.

7.5.3 The original evaluation's site-specific aims and objectives are considered below, with the new results considered alongside the 2019 results.

7.5.4 Extensive Bronze Age occupation of the area has been recorded to the south at Pippins road (ASE 2018b) and Maldon Road to the southwest (OA 2018), including major land boundaries, unurned cremations, a probable dispersed metal hoard, and pits at the former, and enclosure and ring-ditches, and evidence of salt production at the latter. During the earlier phase of work at this Marsh Road site, no remains predating the Middle Iron Age were found, suggesting activity predating this period was predominantly focused on the lower-lying land to the south; however, this current phase of work has revealed evidence seemingly dating to the Late Bronze Age, therefore suggesting that the earlier activity may indeed stretch further from the river/estuary.

7.5.5 Salt production has been a longstanding industry on the Dengie peninsula and the wider Essex coastline from the Late Bronze Age to Roman times. The present site's location c.1.2km north of the River Crouch restricts access to salt water and made it unsuitable for salt product. No structures, or briquetage or

other material indicative of salt production have been found at Marsh Road.

- 7.5.6 The remains uncovered at this Marsh Road site appear to constitute small-scale occupation at some point from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, perhaps by one or more small farmsteads. The remains remain poorly understood; the posthole and pit clusters appear to define domestic structures and activity, though no alignments could be identified and their specific function is unclear. It is equally unclear whether the settlement foci were enclosed or not; one or both of the ditches in Trench 25 may be associated, perhaps constituting the remains of an enclosure boundary or part of a larger field system? How this relates to the more substantial Iron Age enclosure c.1km to the west at Southminster road (ASE 2018a) is unknown. It is likely that the landscape was fairly well populated by farmstead and village settlements of varying scale in the Iron Age. Finds and environmental assemblages recovered from individual features were generally small, and provide limited data. Further fieldwork might produce larger and better assemblages with greater research potential to address questions about the agrarian economy (Bryant 2000, 16).
- 7.5.7 No remains dating to between the Middle Iron Age and the post-medieval periods were encountered in the first phase of evaluation at this site. There appears to be no potential for the site to provide insights into how settlement here transitions/develops through the Iron Age and into the Roman periods and no evidence for a Roman road / routeway passing through or close to the site is apparent.
- 7.5.8 The current phase of evaluation has identified Anglo-Saxon remains at its north-east periphery. However, this is unlikely to have any relation to the location/pattern of later, medieval, settlement which does not seem to have extended this far east of the vicinity of the Church of St Mary the Virgin.
- 7.5.9 As for the rest of the site, no archaeological evidence for medieval agriculture has been encountered within its north-east part.

7.6 Conclusions

- 7.6.1 Together with the results of the previous phase of evaluation here, the current archaeological evaluation demonstrates the presence of an overall significant density, though low complexity of archaeological remains in ten of the thirty trenches investigated. These are all located in the east and north-east of the site.
- 7.6.2 The recorded archaeological remains predominantly comprise pits and postholes forming distinct clusters (in Trench 14 and across Trenches 20, 30, and 38). A few outlying linear features are possibly associated (in Trench 25). Additional significant features seemingly unrelated to these pit/posthole clusters comprise a pit and ditch in Trench 35, an isolated stakehole and isolated posthole in Trench 37, and a large pit in Trench 36.
- 7.6.3 The two posthole/pit clusters in Trench 14 and Trenches 20/30/38 appear to be the remains of Middle Iron Age domestic settlement activity (albeit the features in Trench 38 being provisionally dated as possibly Late Bronze Age),

perhaps constituting one or more farmsteads. At least some of the postholes may define parts of post-built structures such as houses and fences. Ditch remains to their south could perhaps constitute a contemporary boundary or field system.

- 7.6.4 A small cluster of postholes in Trench 31 is very tentatively suggested to be Late Iron Age/ Early Roman in date.
- 7.6.5 The extensive pit in Trench 36 is of early Anglo-Saxon date and may indicate settlement activity alongside the Pannel's Brook watercourse.
- 7.6.6 There is no evidence for land use activity in the Medieval or Post-medieval periods.

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Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m AOD)
32/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.29-0.30	7.18-7.53
32/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.20-0.36	
32/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00+	1.80+		6.44-6.97
<hr/>						
33/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.30	7.62-7.85
33/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.19-0.20	
33/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00+	1.80+		7.13-7.29
<hr/>						
35/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.28-0.30	7.79-8.05
35/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00+	1.80+	0.10-0.20	
35/003	Deposit	Natural	30.00+	1.80+		7.37-7.50

Appendix 2: Environmental sample residue quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, * = 51 – 250, **** = >250) and weights (in grams)**

Period	Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
?Late Iron Age/Early Roman period	4	31/006	31/007	Posthole	10	*	1	*	1					*	1			Mag Mat <2mm *** 1g; Mag Mat >2mm ** 1g
Prehistoric	5	38/004	38/005	Pit	10	*	1	**	1									Mag Mat <2mm *** 1g; Mag Mat >2mm ** 1g; FCF >8mm ** 68g
Undated	6	38/006	38/007	Posthole	10	**	2	***	2									Mag Mat <2mm * 1g; Mag Mat >2mm *** 1g; Glass * 1g
Early Saxon (TPQ L.6th; range 5-7thC)	7	36/005	36/007	Pit	40	**	6	***	4	**	20	*	10	**	2	**	2	Mag Mat <2mm *** 1g; ,ag Mat >2mm ** 4g; Pottery >8mm ** 44g; Glass Bead * 1g

Appendix 3: Environmental sample plot quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, * = 51–250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)**

Period	Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Context / Deposit Type	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	notes
?Late Iron Age/Early Roman period	4	31/006	31/007	Posthole	4.3	40	100	75	20	Asteraceae, Caryophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Lamiaceae, common rootlets		**	***	*	Naked wheat (1), Six-row hulled barley (1), Hulled barley (2), <i>Avena</i> sp./ <i>Bromus</i> sp. (1), Cerealia (1)	+	*	<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> ssp. <i>inodorum</i> (1), Polygonum sp. (1), <i>Chenopodium album</i> (1)	+	Low density of charred plant remains and small amount of charcoal fragments
Prehistoric	5	38/004	38/005	Pit	0.1	<2	100	100	10	common rootlets			**							No charred plant remains and very small amount of charcoals
Undated	6	38/006	38/007	Posthole	0.5	7	100	100	10	common rootlets		*	***							No charred plant remains and very small amount of charcoals
Early Saxon (TPQ L.6th; range 5-7thC)	7	36/005	36/007	Pit	2.1	20	100		10	Asteraceae, Caryophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae, common rootlets	*	**	***	*	Hulled barley (1),	+	*	<i>Chenopodium album</i> (1), Unidentified charred plant remain (3)	+	Low density of charred plant remains and small amount of charcoal fragments

Appendix 3: HER Summary

Site name/Address: Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex	
Parish: Burnham-on-Crouch	District: Maldon
NGR: TQ 95152 97053	Site Code: BCMR19
Type of Work: Trial-trench evaluation	Site Director/Group: A. Dyson, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 9th-12th November 2020	Size of Area Investigated: 5.5ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester	Funding source: Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes	Related HER No's: none
Final Report: ADS Grey lit library	OASIS No: 410586
Periods Represented: Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age?, Late Iron Age/Early Roman?, Early Saxon	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>A second phase of trial-trenching was carried out in the north-east corner, completing the evaluation of the site. Archaeological features were recorded in five of the eight trenches.</p> <p>A number of postholes in Trench 38 defined the northern periphery of a larger cluster of postholes and pits identified during the first evaluation phase (in Trenches 20 and 30) and tentatively interpreted as the remains of Middle Iron Age settlement activity, potentially constituting a farmstead. A similar date was also suggested for a north/south orientated ditch in Trench 34.</p> <p>A small cluster of postholes in Trench 31 was tentatively dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.</p> <p>A large pit containing domestic debris of early Anglo-Saxon date was identified in the far north-east corner of the site (Trench 36) and may indicate settlement activity alongside the Pannel's Brook watercourse.</p> <p>In overview, the two phases of evaluation demonstrated the presence archaeological remains of late Prehistoric and early Saxon date in the east and north-east of the overall site.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
<p>CSA Environmental. 2019, <i>Land at Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex Heritage Assessment</i>, unpubl. rep.</p> <p>ASE 2019b, <i>Archaeological and Geo-archaeological Evaluation: Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex</i>, unpubl. rep. 2019341</p>	
Author of Summary: A Dyson	Date of Summary: 05/01/2021

Appendix 4: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-410586

Project details

Project name	Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex
Short description of the project	A second phase of trial-trenching was carried out in the north-east corner, completing the evaluation of the site. Archaeological features were recorded in five of the eight trenches. A number of postholes in Trench 38 defined the northern periphery of a larger cluster of postholes and pits identified during the first evaluation phase (in Trenches 20 and 30) and tentatively interpreted as the remains of Middle Iron Age settlement activity, potentially constituting a farmstead. A similar date was also suggested for a north/south orientated ditch in Trench 34. A small cluster of postholes in Trench 31 was tentatively dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. A large pit containing domestic debris of early Anglo-Saxon date was identified in the far north-east corner of the site (Trench 36) and may indicate settlement activity alongside the Pannel's Brook watercourse.
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2020 End: 12-11-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Associated project reference codes	190808 - Contracting Unit No. BCMR19 - 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	POSTHOLE Late Bronze Age POSTHOLE Roman DITCH Late Bronze Age PIT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric POTTERY Late Bronze Age POTTERY Early Medieval CBM Roman POTTERY Roman FIRED CLAY Roman LOOMWEIGHT Early Medieval ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON BURNHAM ON CROUCH Land North of Marsh Road
Postcode	CM0 8LZ

Study area	5.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 95152 97053 51.637829484275 0.820524844971 51 38 16 N 000 49 13 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.14m Max: 7.63m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	RPS Consulting
Project director/manager	Gemma Stevenson
Project supervisor	Adam Dyson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

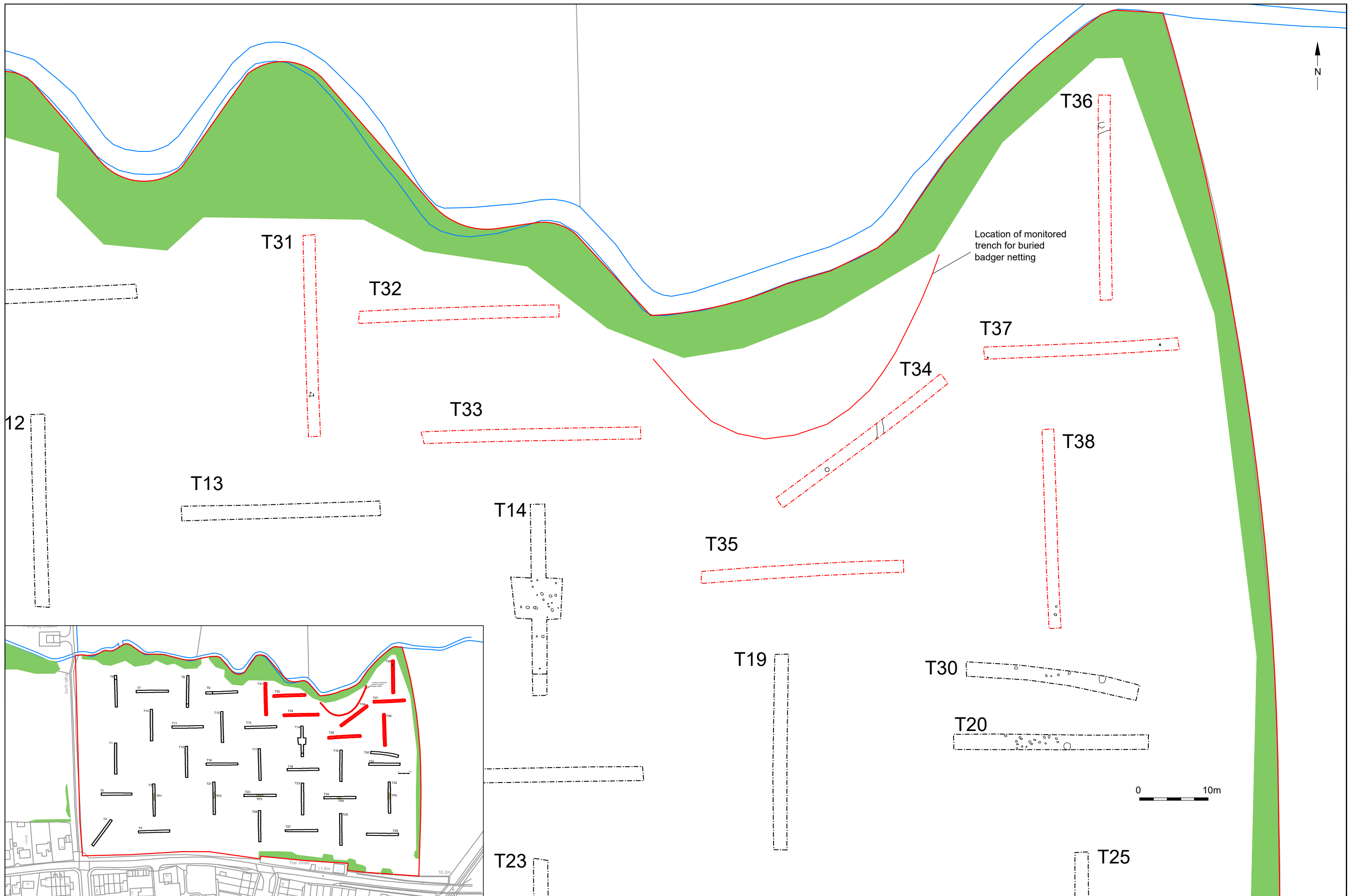
Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Dartford Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

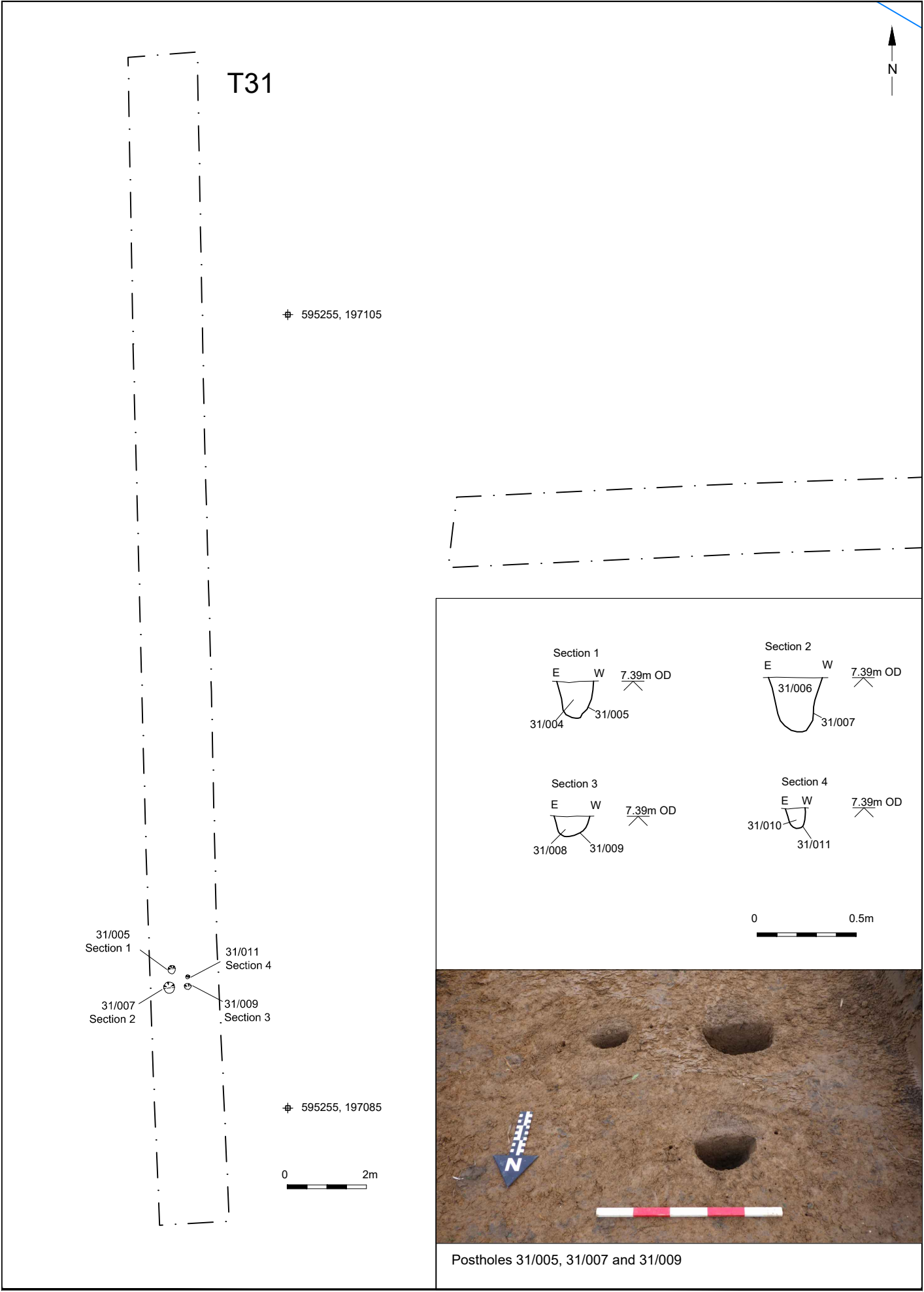
Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation completion. Land North of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dyson, A.
Other bibliographic details	ASE rep. 2020268
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4 size, PDF format. Approx 60 pages, inc text, figures, tables and appendices.



© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham on Crouch		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 190808	Dec 2020	Site location and selected HER references		
Report No: 2020268	Drawn by: APL			





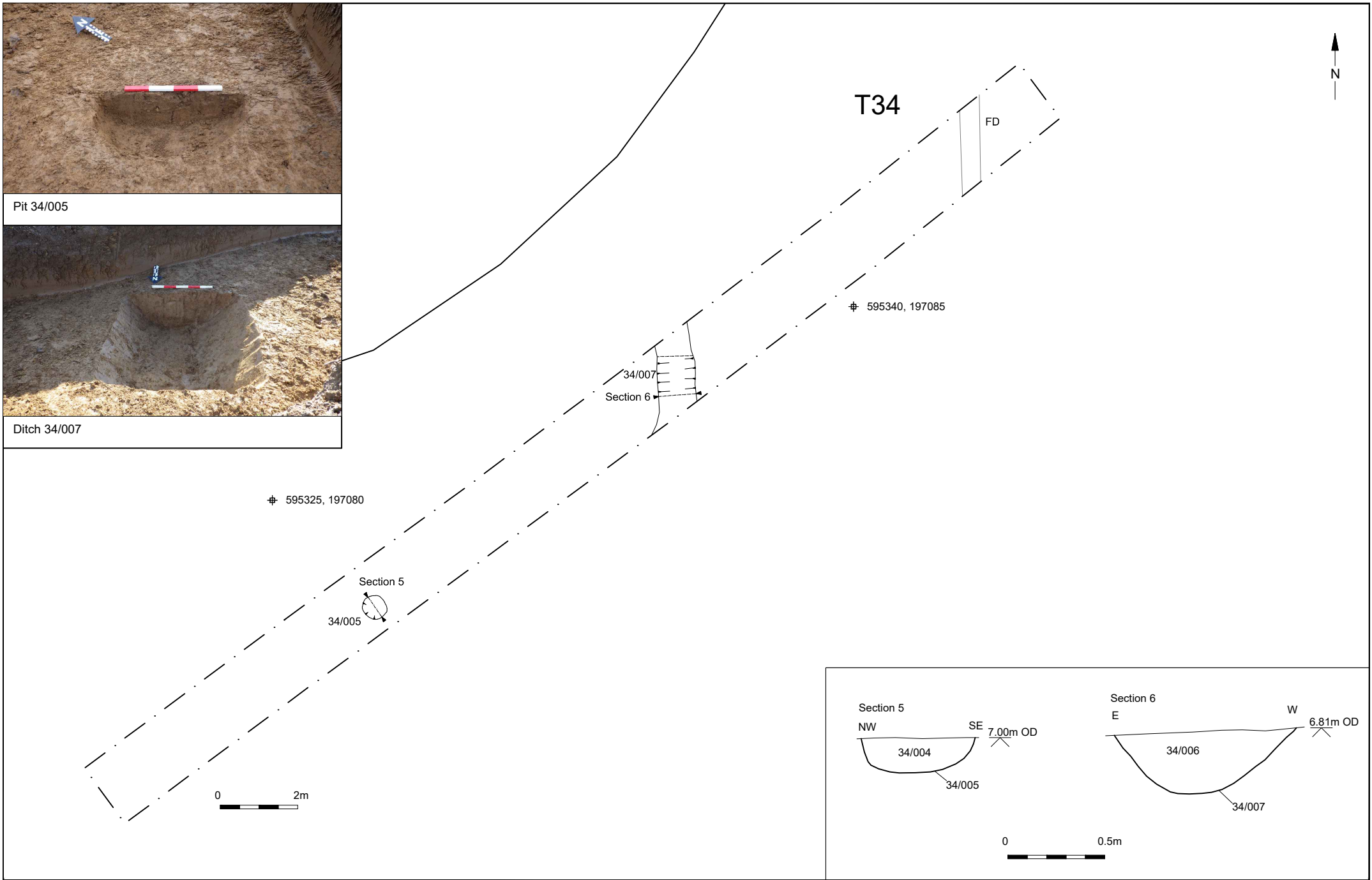
© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 190808	Dec 2020	Trench 31 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2020268	Drawn by: APL		



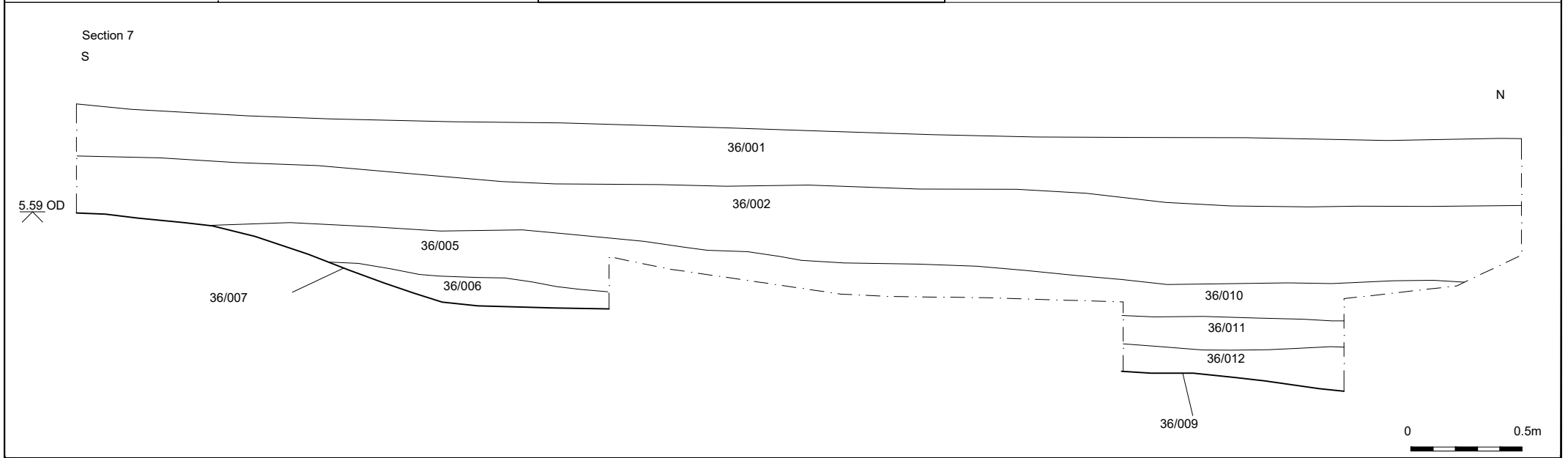
Pit 34/005



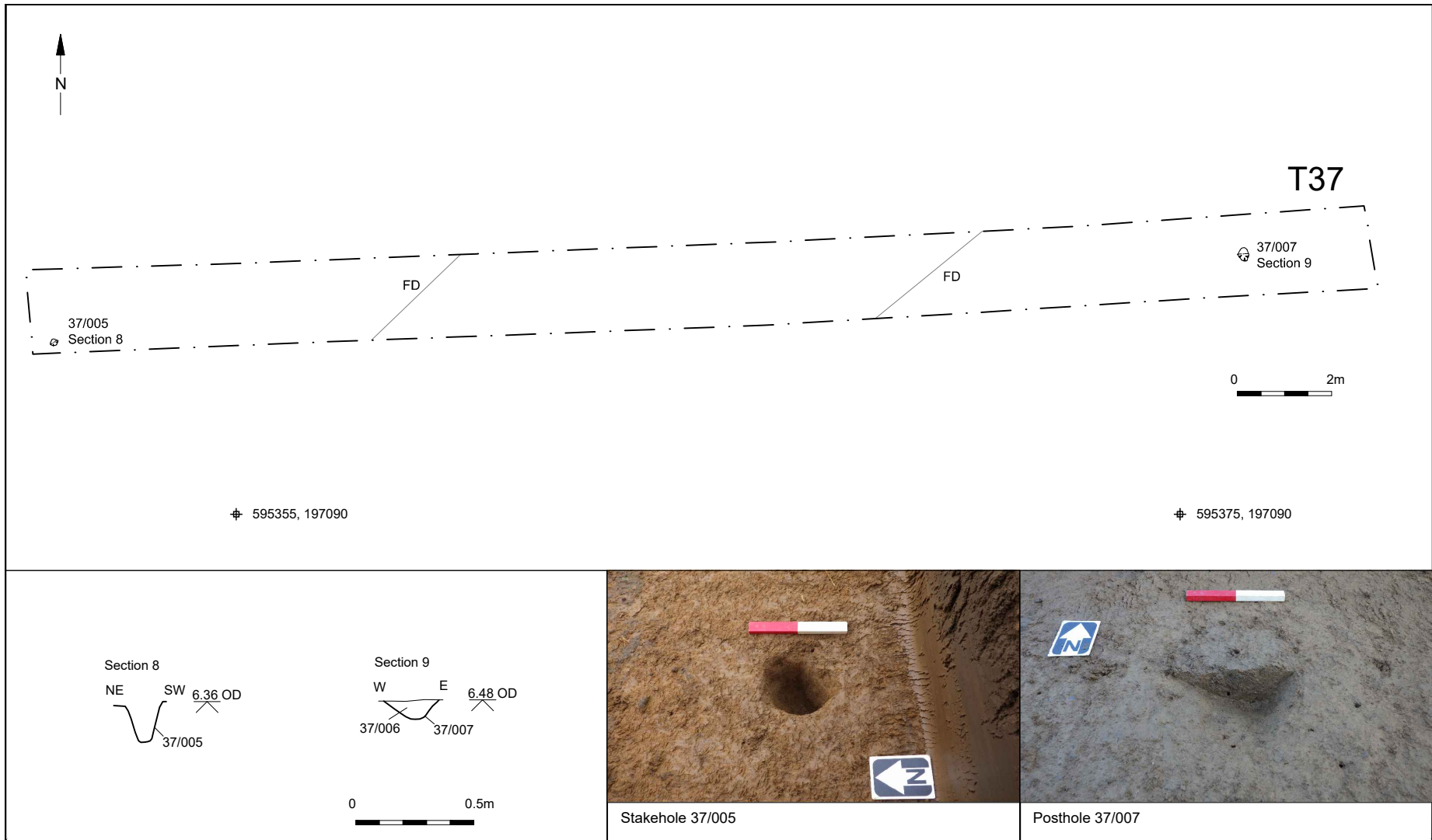
Ditch 34/007



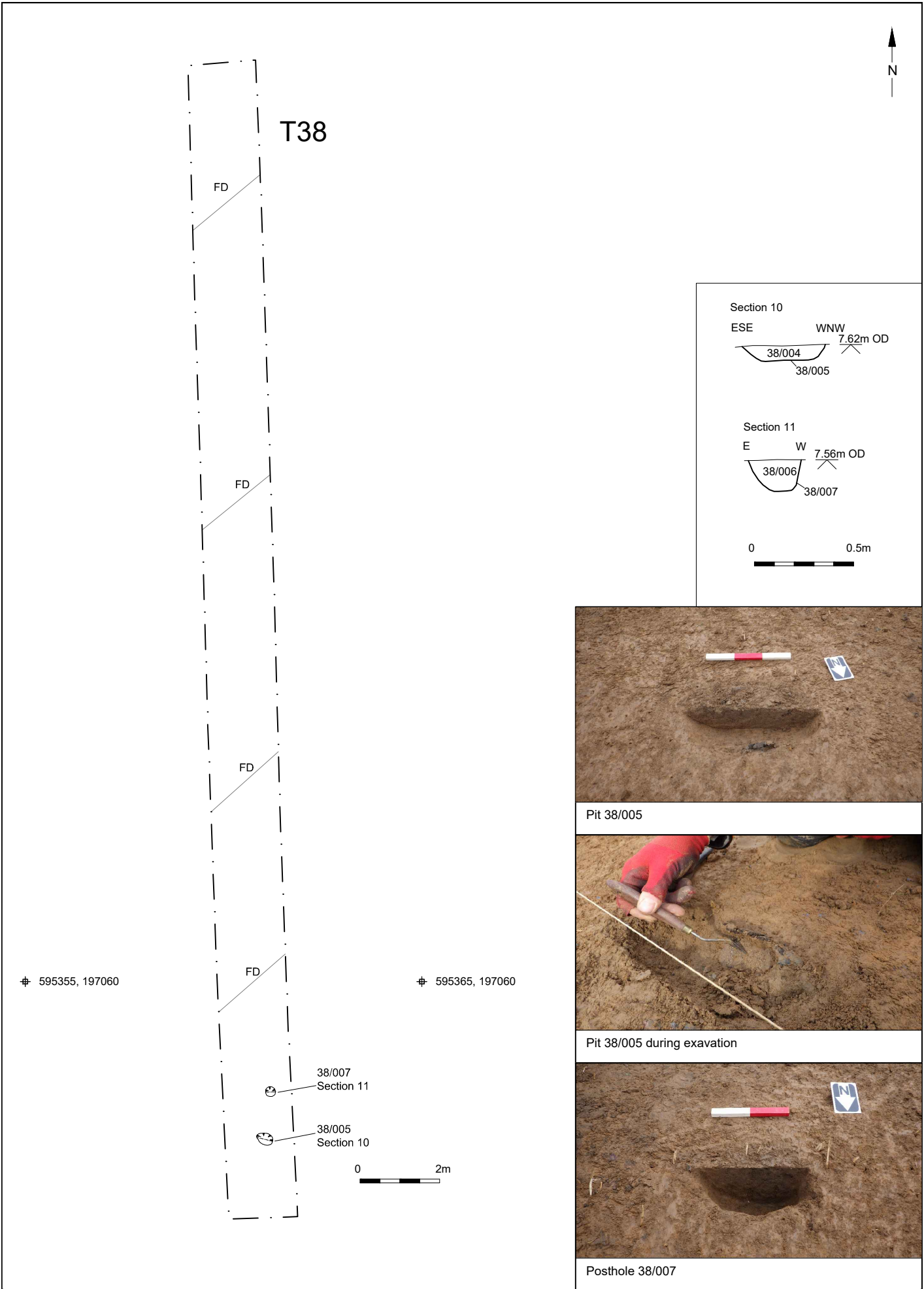
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Project Ref: 190808	Dec 2020	Trench 34 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020268	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 190808	Dec 2020	Trench 36 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020268	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 190808	Dec 2020	Trench 37 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020268	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 190808	Dec 2020	Trench 38 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2020268	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 32



Trench 33



Trench 35



Trench for badger netting, looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Marsh Road, Burnham-on-Crouch	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 190808	Dec 2020	Trenches 32, 33, 35 and badger netting trench photographs	
Report Ref: 2020268	Drawn by: APL		

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