

Ponds Farm, Aveley, Essex.
Archaeological Evaluation Report
(Stage 1)

Site Code: APF 07

Planning Application Reference: ESS/18/07/TEN

NGR TQ 457 801

ASE Project no. 3135

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Summary

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation land at Ponds Farm, Aveley, Essex (centred NGR TQ 457 801).

Twenty five 25 x 2 metre trenches were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology at a maximum height of 6.60m AOD to the north of the site (Trench 1), falling away gradually to 5.60m AOD to the east (Trench 16) and 4.16m AOD to the south (Trench 23). Limited medieval activity of 12th-14th century date was shown to survive in the easternmost corner of the site, in the form of a single pit sealed by a shallow spread, both of which containing domestic pottery.

Elsewhere on the site ephemeral north-south linear features suggest efforts at land division, albeit heavily truncated by subsequent ploughing. This land division remains poorly dated but available evidence suggests a 19th century date.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation land at Ponds Farm, Aveley, Essex (centred NGR TQ 457 801), (Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.2 An initial scoping exercise for the proposed redevelopment of the site demonstrated the potential for prehistoric settlement remains and Palaeolithic faunal remains on the site. As a consequence, Richard Havis, Essex County Council Historic Environment Officer, recommended that an archaeological field evaluation and palaeoenvironmental investigation be undertaken on the site.
- 1.3 *A Specification for Archaeological Evaluation and Palaeoenvironmental Investigation* was duly prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to these recommendations (CgMs 2007). This outlined the scope of the work to be undertaken on the site and was submitted to Essex County Council for approval. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) that outlined the scope of the trial trenching was prepared with reference to the *Specification* by Diccon Hart of Archaeology South East (ASE 2007). All work was carried out in accordance with these documents and/or the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 1.4 The site measures approximately 3.3 hectares in size and comprises a grassed field. It is bounded to the southeast by Purfleet Road, to the west by London Road and to the northeast by the A13. The western part of the site was subject to quarrying in the 1960's and subsequently used for landfill.
- 1.5 The evaluation was carried out by Deon Whittaker (Archaeologist) and Liane Peyre and Nicola Bettley (Assistant Archaeologists) between 1st and 11th October 2007.
- 1.6 Grateful acknowledgement is made to Dr Peter Allen representing ArchaeoScape whose insight and explanation of the geological processes, aided the archaeological interpretation. Any reference to geological features in this report are made with due acknowledgement.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The archaeological background to the site is set out in the *Specification* (CgMs 2007) and is summarised below with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 Palaeolithic faunal and floral remains have been uncovered at three sites within a 1km radius of the site. The skeletons of a woolly mammoth and juvenile elephant were recorded at Sandy Lane Quarry some 0.5km to the northeast of the site during extraction on the site (HER 19471). Excavations undertaken between 1992 and 1998 during the construction of the A13 dual carriageway around the Purfleet Road underpass revealed a sequence of cold stage (glacial) gravels overlain by warm stage (interglacial) silts and sands, in turn overlain by a further series of glacial gravels. Organic horizons within the warm stage sequence were found to be rich in vertebrate, molluscan and insect remains and are thought to represent a riparian site rich in vegetation and much visited by terrestrial animals (ArchaeoScape 2007).
- 2.3 The results of recent geotechnical investigations on the subject site failed to identify the organic horizons described above and suggests that the site itself lies beyond the limits of the wetland area itself, though a layer of brown clay recorded beneath the earlier cold stage gravels is not known elsewhere and may contain organic material.
- 2.4 Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of the site is generally sparse, though a working site is recorded some 1.0km to the south of the site at Tank Hill Road, Purfleet (HER 45649). Other finds of this date include a Thames Pick recovered from the Mar Dyke southeast of the study site (HER 17451).
- 2.5 Neolithic activity within 1.0km of the study site is restricted to a flint assemblage and 'dwelling' recorded to the south of Tank Lane (HER 5053 and 5054). Bronze Age activity along the margins of the Thames is generally well documented. A late Bronze Age founders hoard was recovered from land off Sandy Lane some 0.5km to the north of the study site.
- 2.6 No Iron Age sites or finds are recorded on the Essex HER within a 1.0km radius of the site and the only Roman activity recorded within this radius comprises a disused quarry pit off Sandy Lane.
- 2.7 No Saxon or early medieval activity is recorded within 1.0km of the study site and the site appears to have lain within agricultural land during the later medieval and post-medieval periods

3.0 Aims

3.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were set out in the *Specification* and are herein reproduced with due acknowledgement.

3.2 General aims:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.

3.3 Site specific aims:

- To clarify the presence or absence of any Pleistocene deposits rich in faunal and floral remains at depth within the site.
- To clarify the impact of Medieval/Post Medieval ploughing and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- To clarify the presence and character of any late prehistoric remains.
- To clarify the presence and character of any Roman agricultural activity.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The methodology comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of 25 trial trenches measuring 25.0m by 1.8m and totalling approximately 625.0m of trenching (Fig. 2). These trenches were placed to provide a representative sample of the site and amounts to some 4 percent of that part of the site not previously subject to quarrying. In addition, four deeper 8.0m by 4.0m test pits were excavated under the supervision of Dr Peter Allen of ArchaeoScape in order to further investigate the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site. The results of this work will be presented in a separate report.

4.2 Four trenches (Trenches 6, 7, 15 and 16) were laid by eye prior to attendance by a surveyor. The remaining trenches were accurately located using a DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).

4.3 Allowance was made for the excavation and recording of up to an additional 300sqm of trenching, as required by the ECC Historic Environment Officer in order to further explore areas where initial trenching has located archaeological features. A meeting was held on site once the trenches were open with CgMs Consulting Ltd and the ECC Historic Environment Officer to assess the results. The meeting defined the requirements for extra work. An extension to Trench 16 was permitted as necessary to establish the limits of a suspected medieval

spread. Consequently, a 4.0m by 4.0m extension was excavated for this purpose.

- 4.4 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless 1.8 metre ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 4.5 Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, as required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned. Features were also cleaned after prolonged exposure as weathering effects enhanced the visibility of certain deposits.
- 4.6 Topsoil and subsoil was stockpiled separately alongside each trench and was backfilled in the appropriate sequence. Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but no reinstatement was required.
- 4.7 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned with a metal detector as was the spoil derived from excavated features.
- 4.8 Archaeological structures, features and deposits exposed or excavated were planned in relation to the trench and the trench planned onto a copy of the Ordnance Survey map not smaller than 1:2,500 scale. Trench plans were maintained at a scale of 1:50 and sections at 1:10.

5. Results

- 5.1 The general stratigraphy recorded across the site may be summarised as follows:
 - **Context (01)** - Dark brown grey, topsoil, and average depth 200 mm. partially truncated prior to evaluation by undergrowth clearance. Modern inclusions of domestic debris and cbm.
 - **Context (02)** – Medium brown grey, silt subsoil, average depth 250mm. Some cbm and pot.
 - **Context (03)** – Light Orange brown, silt natural, occasional bands of clean white / yellow sand and darker orange silty sand with frequent rounded flint gravel. Occasional iron pan deposits, generally dark in colour.
 - **Context (04)** – Light yellow, sub-circular silty clay natural deposits in plan. Diapirs apparent in section.
- 5.2 The above contexts were recorded across the site and are referred to in this report with the trench number prefixed e.g. **(16/02)** – Trench 16, **Context (02)** Subsoil.

5.3 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
1/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	200mm
1/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	440mm
1/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.629m AOD at the north and 6.239m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.4 Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
2/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	170mm
2/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	420mm
2/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5.989m AOD at the west and 6.735m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.5 Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
3/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	170mm
3/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	220mm
3/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.963m AOD at the north and 6.811m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.6 Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
4/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	120mm
4/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	310mm
4/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.365m AOD at the north and 6.120m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.7 Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
5/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	210mm
5/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	360mm
5/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.467m AOD at the west and 6.803m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.8 Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
6/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	200mm
6/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	330mm
6/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 7.331m AOD at the north east and 7.103m AOD at the south west end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.9 Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
7/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	200mm
7/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	320mm
7/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 7.530m AOD at the north west and 7.608m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.10 Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
8/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	200mm
8/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	320mm
8/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.804m AOD at the west and 7.170 m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.11 Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
9/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	170mm
9/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	370mm
9/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.614m AOD at the north and 6.453m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.12 Trench 10 (figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
10/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	170mm
10/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	220mm
10/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A
10/05	Cut	Ditch	0.5m	1.1m	10mm
10/06	Fill	of [10/05]	0.5m	1.1m	10mm

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5.817m AOD at the west and 6.107m AOD at the east end of the trench.

Trench 10 contained a north-south orientated (i.e downslope) linear [10/05], which was filled with a fine medium grey, clayey silt (10/06). This fill was firmly cemented, almost indurate, without inclusions and appears to be a continuation of Contexts [12/05] and (12/06) from Trench 12 (see below). Although appearing as a very shallow terminus, this may be due to extensive horizontal truncation by ploughing. A single fragment of abraded (residual?) probable prehistoric pottery was recovered from fill (10/06).

5.13 Trench 11

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
11/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	180mm
11/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	340mm
11/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5.395m AOD at the west and approximately 5.5m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.14 Trench 12 (figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
12/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	190mm
12/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	390mm
12/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A
12/05	Cut	Ditch	450mm	6.5m	30mm
12/06	Fill	of [12/05]	450mm	6.5m	30mm

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.614m AOD at the north and 6.453m AOD at the south end of the trench.

Trench 12 contained a north south orientated (downslope) linear feature [12/05], which was filled with a fine medium grey, clayey silt (12/06). This fill was firmly cemented, almost indurate, without inclusions and appears to be a continuation of [10/05] & (10/06) from Trench 10 (see above). One pottery fragment was recovered dating from the 19th Century.

5.15 Trench 13

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
13/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	220mm
13/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	400mm
13/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5.915m AOD at the west and 6.186m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.16 Trench 14

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
14/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	250mm
14/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	420mm
14/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.697m AOD at the north and 6.326m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.17 Trench 15

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
15/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	240mm
15/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	380mm
15/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 7.206m AOD at the north east and 6.805m AOD at the south west end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

5.18 **Trench 16** (figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
16/01	Layer	Topsoil	5.8m	25m	400mm
16/02	Layer	Subsoil	5.8m	25m	590mm
16/03	Deposit	Natural	5.8m	25m	N/A
16/05	Cut	Pit	2m	2.5m	500mm
16/06	Layer	Spread	2m	5m	280mm
16/07	Fill	of [16/05]	2m	2.5m	400mm

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.422m AOD at the northwest and 5.607m AOD at the south east end of the trench.

Trench 16 contained a spread (16/06) which appears to have survived only in the eastern corner of the site at 5.80 metres AOD. The spread contained pottery dating to the late 13th–14th century. The spread was further revealed by a 4 x 4 metre contingency extension as shown in figure 3. The spread was reduced by spits until an underlying pit [16/05] was revealed. This pit was quartered (25% excavation), producing 12th – 14th century pottery.

Trench 17

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
17/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	170mm
17/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	460mm
17/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 6.240m AOD at the north east and 5.555m AOD at the south west end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 18

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
18/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	200mm
18/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	320mm
18/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5.796m AOD at the west and 5.674m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 19

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
19/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	190mm
19/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	360mm
19/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5.611m AOD at the north and 4.830m AOD at the south west end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 20 (figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
20/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	280mm
20/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	340mm
20/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A
20/05	Cut	Gully	150mm	2m	50mm
20/06	Fill	of [20/05]	150mm	2m	50mm

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5.224m AOD at the west and 5.189m AOD at the south west end of the trench.

Trench 20 contained an east west orientated linear [20/05], which was filled with a fine medium grey, clayey silt with rounded flint gravel inclusions (20/06).

Trench 21 (figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
21/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	500mm
2102	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	620mm
21/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A
21/05	Cut	Natural feature	850mm	6m	30mm
21/06	Fill	of [21/05]	850mm	6m	30mm
21/07	Cut	Natural feature	900mm	6.5m	30mm
21/08	Fill	of [21/07]	900mm	6.5m	30mm
21/09	Cut	Natural feature	900mm	1.5m	N/A
21/10	Fill	of [21/09]	900mm	1.5m	N/A
21/11	Cut	Natural feature	900mm	2.0m	300mm LoE
21/12	Fill	of [21/011]	900mm	2.0m	300mm LoE

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5.156m AOD at the north and 5.022m AOD at the south end of the trench.

A number of irregular features were recorded within this trench. These included two broadly north-south ditches [21/05] and [21/07] filled with similar deposits of orange brown silty sand (21/06), (21/08) and two irregular pits [21/09] and [21/11], also filled with similar deposits of orange brown silty sand (21/10) and (21/12). The similarity of these fills to the underlying natural geology suggests that these deposits are natural in origin. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

Trench 22

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
22/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	580mm
22/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	730mm
22/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 4.553m AOD at the west and 4.464m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 23

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
23/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	290mm
23/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	370mm
23/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 4.747m AOD at the north and 4.162m AOD at the south west end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 24

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
24/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	190mm
24/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	320mm
24/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 4.412m AOD at the west and 4.277m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 25

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
25/01	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	200mm
25/02	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	310mm
25/03	Deposit	Natural	1.8m	25m	N/A

Summary

Natural was encountered at 5308m AOD at the north and 4.526m AOD at the south end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

6.0 Finds by Lucy Allott, Luke Barber and Gemma Driver

6.1 Spot Dates:

Surface	residual mid C13th – 14 th pot
1/02	C20th (iron/CBM only)
2/02	Late C19th – 20 th
3/02	Late c19th – 20 th
4/02	Late C19th – 20 th
5/02	C18th – 19 th (CBM) but x1 abraded later C12th – 13 th pot sherd.
7/02	C19th – 20 th (CBM only)
9/02	C19th – mid 20 th
10/02	C18th – 19 th (CBM only)
10/06	1 small abraded sherd. Prehistoric
11/02	Later C19th – mid 20 th
12/06	C19th
15/02	C18th – 19 th (CBM only)
16/02	C13th
16/06	Late C13th – 14 th Unabraded.
16/07	Late C13th – late C14th unabraded. Low resid. Mid C12th – 13 th
17/02	Later C19th – 20 th
25/02	Late C19th – 20 th

6.2 The evaluation recovered a moderately sized assemblage of finds. These are quantified in Table 1 below.

6.3 Pottery

The earliest pottery from the site consists of an abraded bodysherd in a low-fired fine sand/silty fabric with sparse flint grits to 1mm (10/05). The sherd is not particularly diagnostic but is probably of prehistoric date.

6.3.1 The majority of the pottery is of the medieval period. Small assemblages, consisting of mainly unabraded sherds, were recovered from (16/07) and (16/06). The group from (16/07) is slightly mixed in that it contains two slightly abraded later 12th- to 13th- century cooking pot sherds in a sand and shell tempered ware which appear to predate the majority of the group. The remaining material consists of a number of different vessels of late 13th- to 14th- century date. The majority consist of cooking pots in well-potted oxidised fine to medium sand tempered wares with horizontal club rims and unintentional spots of clear glaze. Some of these vessels are quite hard-fired, and one has an internally glazed base suggesting a mid/late 14th- century date is likely for the group deposition. A number of jug sherds are also present in (16/07), mainly in fine sand tempered wares. These include an oval-sectioned unglazed rod handle and three bodysherd of Mill Green-type ware with external white slip under green glaze. The assemblage from (16/06) is quite similar and a deposition date around the mid/late 14th is again likely. This assemblage has similar coarsewares, but includes

an externally sooted bowl with horizontal club rim and glazing on the interior base. This context also produced a hard-fired thumbled base from a jug, unusually, also displaying sooting, and a single Mill Green-type jug bodysherd. Other medieval pottery from the site includes a bodysherd from a green glazed off-white sandy jug [surface]; a residual sand and shell tempered 12th- mid 13th- century cooking pot bodysherd (5/02) and two sherds from (16/02). The latter sherds consist of a sand with sparse shell 13th century cooking pot bodysherd and a sparse fine sand tempered storage vessel with occasional flint inclusions to 1mm, decorated with oblique impressed lines and a horizontal thumbled cordon. A 13th century date is probable.

6.3.2 The remaining pottery is all of late post-medieval date. Context (9/02) produced a sherd of blue transfer-printed 'china' and a polychrome transfer-printed side plate fragment. Context (11/02) produced a plain 'china' sherd as well as part of an English stoneware preserve jar and (12/06) produced a single sherd from a late slipware bowl. All of this post-medieval material can be placed in a mid 19th- to early 20th- century date range and probably relates to 'manuring'.

6.4 Clay tobacco pipe

6.4.1 A single plain 19th- century stem fragment was recovered from the site [unstratified].

6.5 Ceramic Building Material

6.5.1 A relatively small assemblage of ceramic building material was recovered. The tile from the site is dominated by medium to hard-fired peg tile fragments tempered with sparse fine sand which appear to be of the later post-medieval period (18th – early 20th century). A few pieces are a little coarser, being tempered with medium sand (1/02) or with white clay pellet inclusions (2/02) but they are probably of similar date. However, the peg tile from (16/07), firmly dated by the ceramics to the 14th century, is surprisingly well formed and fired and uses a fine/medium sand tempered fabric similar to the later material. Either this tile is intrusive or the late medieval tile is better-made than one would expect. Larger assemblages would be needed to confirm which possibility is correct. Only one piece of tile with a peg-hole was actually located (3/02), the piece being of probable later post-medieval date.

6.5.2 A number of brick fragments were located on the site. The vast majority of these were recovered from (17/02). This assemblage contained a number of different brick types and fabrics (as well as peg tile fragments). Both hand-made and machine-made bricks are present, including a number with pronounced frogs, internally stamped with maker's names (none complete/legible). The bricks range from medium to hard-fired and are tempered with fine sand/medium sand with a number having either slag/clinker inclusions to 4mm, white clay

streaks/pellets to 4mm or a distinctly coarse 'granular' texture. All of the bricks can be placed within a 19th- to 20th- century date span. A number have different types of mortar adhering to them showing the material is derived from the demolition of either several buildings or one with a number of different phases of construction.

6.6 Glass

6.6.1 All of the glass recovered from the site is of later 19th- or 20th- century date. The assemblage includes window glass with blue decoration (2/02), an aqua jar lid (4/02), the base of a green/brown beer bottle (9/02) and part of a smoked (grey) glass table-top (25/02).

6.7 Metal

6.7.1 Only two pieces of iron were recovered: a possible shell/bomb splinter (1/02) and a large nut and bolt (25/02). Both are probably of 20th-century date.

6.8 Struck Flint

6.8.1 The worked flint assemblage consisted of two flakes (one hard hammer and one soft hammer) and a small tranchet adze (Butler pers. comm.). The tranchet adze from context (4/02) is particularly unusual because it measures only 70 x 32 x 18mm which places it at the smallest end of the range (from 300mm – 70mm in length) noted by Butler (2005). Its location in Aveley, Essex is a considerable distance from the raw material sources in the chalk Downland environment and this may suggest the piece was carefully curated being resharpened through the removal of flakes to maintain its usefulness.

6.8.2 The flakes are made on a different raw material and the surfaces of these are fresher than the tranchet adze which is heavily patinated.

6.8.3 The tranchet adze and the two flakes are all most likely of Mesolithic date.

6.9 Charcoal

6.9.1 Three fragments of charcoal were hand collected from context (16/09). One of these has features consistent with oak (based on macroscopic identification only) and is unlikely to be suitable for dating.

6.10 Animal Bone

6.10.1 Context (5/02) produced one fragment of cattle-sized long bone. Context (16/07) produced three teeth fragments from cattle molars.

6.11 Other

6.11.1 There was only a small amount of other material. This includes a piece of coal shale [surface]; a few small lumps of amorphous sandy burnt clay (10/05) and two pieces of slag. The latter material consists of a piece of 19th- century clinker (4/02) and a large lump of undiagnostic iron slag (17/02) though smithing is quite probable.

6.12 Assessment of Potential

6.12.1 The majority of the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. However, if further assemblages of medieval pottery are recovered from the site during any Stage 2 works, those recovered during the evaluation should be studied in conjunction with the new material. Although the worked flint assemblage holds no potential for further analysis the tranchet adze should be illustrated for publication and all the flint should be retained.

Table 1. Finds Quantification

Pond Farm, Aveley	APF07	3135	Pot (g)	CBM	Bone (g)	Flint (g)	FCF (g)	Stone (g)	Fe (g)	Glass (g)	CTP (g)	B.clay (g)	Slag (g)	Char. (g)
Context	1	6				1	10	1	52		1			
Surface														
[1/02]			1	12					1	50				
[2/02]			6	80						1	4			
[3/02]			3	118										
[4/02]			5	120		1	52	1		1	28		1	10
[5/02]			9	216	1	8								
[7/02]			1	40										
[9/02]			2	46										
[10/02]			1	50						1	94			
[10/05]			1	2								2	2	
[11/02]			2	8										
[12/06]			1	8										
[15/02]			2	62										
[16/02]			2	28		1	<2							
[16/06]			10	156										
[16/07]			20	196	3	56	2	8						
[16/09]														3
[17/02]									1	264			2	1408
[25/02]			13	2648						1	264	1	264	

7. Discussion

- 7.1 The overall stratigraphy of the site suggests that hill wash has been moving eastwards across the site, leaving deposits in many of the various linears recorded (e.g. [10/05] and [21/05] and [21/07]) and at least partially filling pits [16/05] and [21/09] and [21/11].
- 7.2 Heavy ploughing has horizontally truncated many of the linear features leaving only ephemeral traces. Deeper pit features have survived in trenches (16 and 21). The ploughing appears to be post-medieval, consisting of very regular furrows with evenly spaced divots from a helical or rotary share.
- 7.2 The small tranchet adze recovered from the site is particularly notable, given its rarity in this area, though its significance is to some extent limited by its residual nature. Nevertheless, all the struck flint recovered from the site may be considered to suggest Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of the site.
- 7.3 The single small abraded sherd of possible prehistoric pottery recovered from fill (10/05) suggests the possibility of limited activity of this date in the vicinity of the site. No definite evidence of any Roman activity was forthcoming from the evaluation work.
- 7.4 The medieval material recovered from the spread (16/06) and pit [16/05] in Trench 16 indicates at least limited activity of 13th-14th century date in the eastern corner of the site, with small amounts of residual 12th-13th century pottery hinting at activity of this period as well. The presence of unabraded cooking pot sherds and jug sherds in this medieval assemblage suggests that this activity was essentially domestic in character.
- 7.5 The alignment of the linears from trenches 12, 20 and 21, and the plough furrows suggest that the linear cuts were at least visible when ploughing was in progress. Richard Havis has indicated that similar linear arrangements have been recorded in the region (pers. Comms.). It is suggested that these features relate to field division. Whilst they have filled with hillwash, the linear features use for drainage may be an incidental or an additional intended function.
- 7.6 The survival of the spread in the easternmost part of the site and the surviving pits indicates a potential for further spread / features and archaeological material to be recovered from this areas of the site.

8. Summary

- 8.1 This investigation has demonstrated the survival of features of medieval date in the easternmost corner of the site. This activity may be dated to the 12th-14th century and appears to be largely domestic in

character. Elsewhere on the site ephemeral north-south linear features suggest efforts at land division, albeit heavily truncated by subsequent ploughing. This land division remains poorly dated but available evidence suggests a 19th century date.

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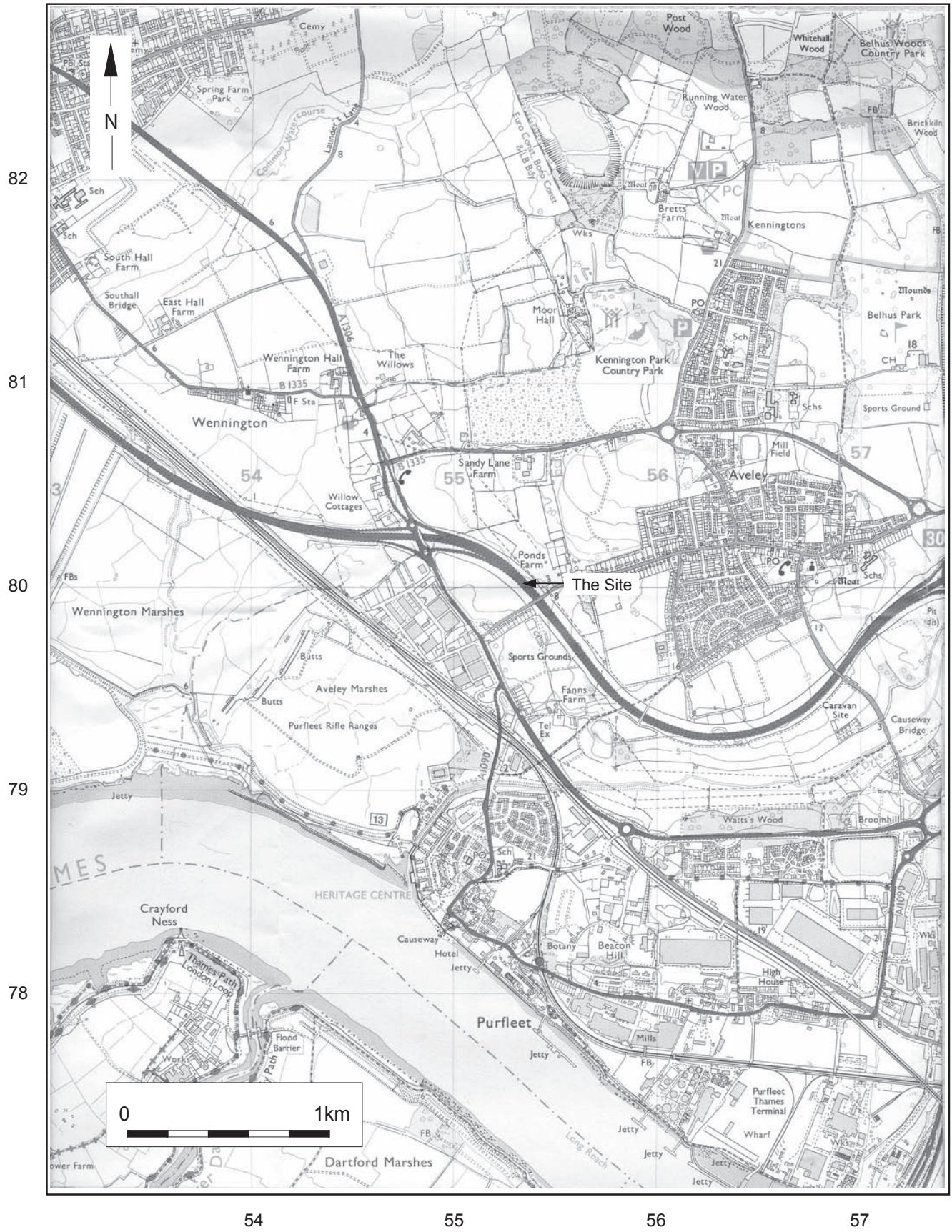
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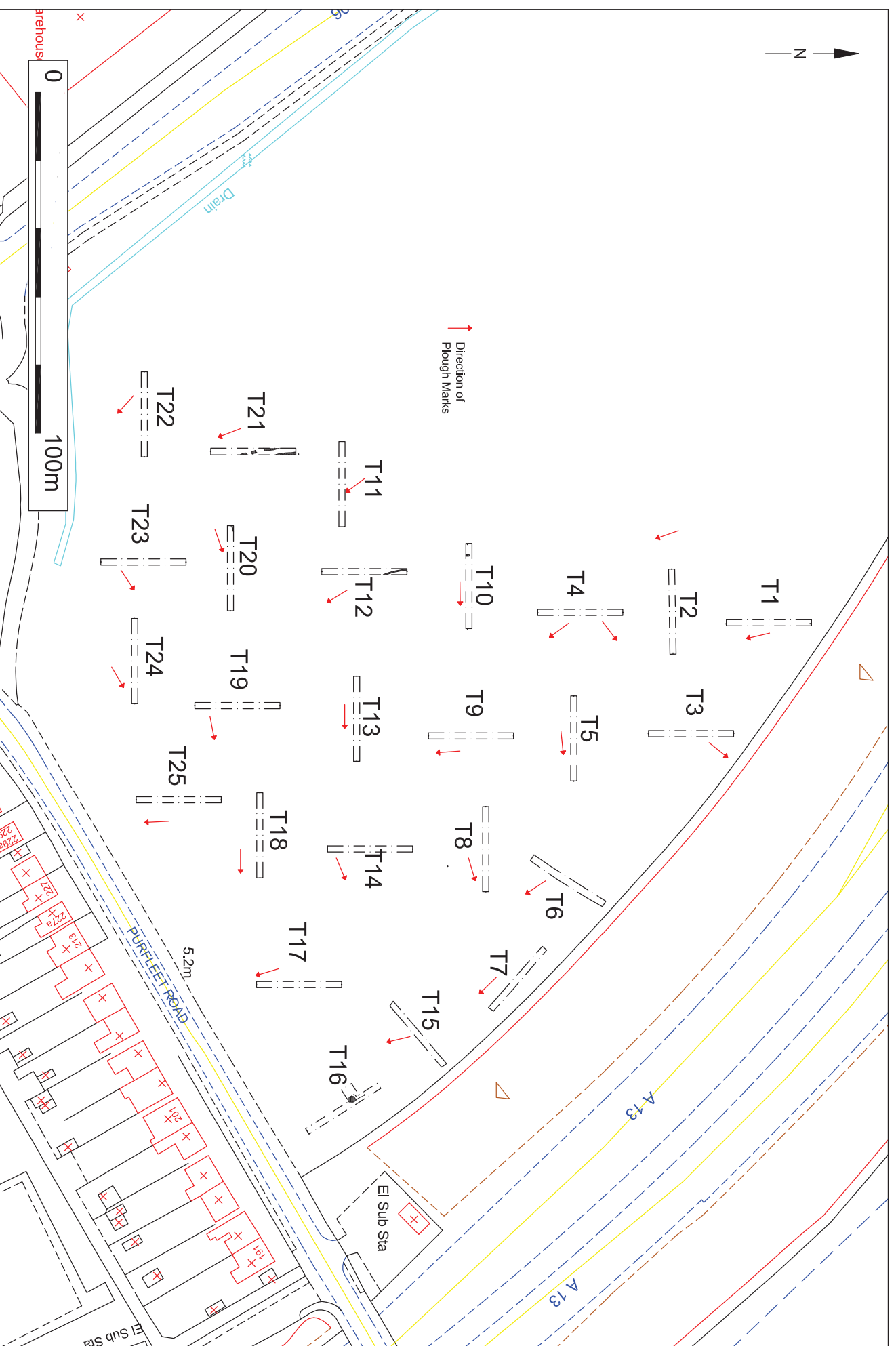
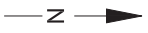
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© Archaeology South-East			Ponds Farm, Aveley	Fig. 1
Ref: 3135	Sept 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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Ref: 3135	Oct 2007	Drawn by: SM	Trench Location Plan
		Fig. 2	

