

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHING

**BEELEIGH ABBEY  
MALDON  
ESSEX**

**ASE Project No: 170366  
Site Code: MDBA17**

**ASE Report No: 2017453**



**February 2018**

# Archaeological Trenching

**Beeleigh Abbey  
Maldon  
Essex**

**NGR: TL 83934 07795**

**ASE Project No: 170366  
Site Code: MDBA17**

**ASE Report No: 2017453**

**By Trevor Ennis**

**With contributions by Lucy Allott, David Andrews, Luke Barber, Elke  
Raeman and Helen Walker  
Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Trevor Ennis	Senior Archaeologist
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Charlotte Howsam	Archaeologist (post-ex)
<b>Approved by:</b>	Mark Atkinson	Project Manager
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	February 2018	
<b>Version:</b>	2	

**Archaeology South-East  
27 Eastways  
Witham  
Essex  
CM8 3YQ**

**Tel: 01376 331470  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse)**

**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of archaeological trenching evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, in September 2017. The fieldwork was undertaken at the request of the landowner*

*Six trial trenches were excavated in the paddock west of the present abbey buildings. The trenching work was designed to complement earlier excavation work undertaken within the field by the Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group (MAHG) and was targeted on areas of the field not previously investigated. The preceding excavations had revealed a medieval hall house, a separate smithy, a detached kitchen/bakehouse and the site of a Tudor brick clamp.*

*Two medieval rubbish pits were identified in the trenching, one dating to the 13th-/14th century and the other to the 15th century. A variety of medieval finds were recovered, often as residual elements in later features. Finds included pottery, both local and imported, medieval and 'Tudor' bricks and several iron artefacts, such as a candlestick and a scabbard chape.*

*A number of quarry pits, for the extraction of clay and gravel, were identified and dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. The two largest pits were located close to the previously excavated medieval hall house. Their presence suggests that this building may have gone out of use earlier in the 16th century, rather than at the Dissolution as previously suspected. In the south of the site, trenching revealed the cause of a linear hollow to be an underlying 19th-/20th-century ditch.*

*No further building remains were encountered by the trenching and it would seem reasonable to assume that no further large-scale buildings await discovery within the field. Further archaeological remains, such as pits, ditches, surfaces, etc., are present within the field and are currently preserved in situ beneath a relatively thick overburden.*

## CONTENTS

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

### **Acknowledgements**

### **Bibliography**

### **Appendix 1: Medieval pottery data**

### **Appendix 2: Brick data**

### **Appendix 3: Environmental tables**

### **Appendix 4: Trench 4 stratigraphic matrix**

### **Appendix 5: Trench 5 stratigraphic matrix**

### **FIGURES**

Front Cover Image: Quarry pit [4/008] (not fully excavated)

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Locations of trenches and previous archaeological work

Figure 3: Trench 1 plan

Figure 4: Trench 2 plan

Figure 5: Trench 3 plan

Figure 6: Trench 4 plan

Figure 7: Trench 5 plan

Figure 8: Trench 6 plan

Figure 9: Sections 1-6

### **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

Table 8: Finds quantification

Table 9: Pottery quantification

Table 10: Tile quantification by context

Table 11: Stone type and description

Table 12: Residue quantification and weights in grams

Table 13: Flot quantification

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), was commissioned by David Andrews on behalf of the landowner Christopher Foyle to undertake archaeological trenching in the west paddock at Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, during September 2017.

1.1.2 The trenching work was designed to complement earlier excavation work undertaken within the field by the Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group (MAHG) between 2001 and 2006, and was targeted on areas of the field not previously investigated. Previous work within the meadow had revealed a medieval hall house, a separate smithy, a detached kitchen/bakehouse and the site of a Tudor brick clamp.

### **1.2 Site Location**

1.2.1 Beeleigh Abbey is located to the north-west of Maldon town, just to the south of the river Chelmer, and accessed via Abbey Approach (NGR TL 8393 0779; Fig. 1). The property centres upon a private residence that incorporates the remains of the former medieval Premonstratensian abbey and is a grade I listed building (LB 1257150).

1.2.2 The site is situated within a grass paddock located west of the present abbey buildings (Fig. 2). The southern half of the paddock is relatively flat and consists of closely mown grass sometimes in use as a car park. The northern half of the site slopes down towards the River Chelmer and consists of longer unmown grass and scrub.

### **1.3 Scope of Report**

1.3.1 This report describes and assesses the results of archaeological trenching carried out by Trevor Ennis (Senior Archaeologist) between the 25th and 29th September 2017. The fieldwork was managed by Gemma Stevenson.

1.3.2 Recipients of this report comprise Christopher Foyle, David Andrews (for MAHG) and the Essex Historic Environment Record.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Historical Background**

- 2.1.1 The original Beeleigh Abbey was a Premonstratensian (White Canon) house founded about 1180 and closed under the Act of Suppression in 1536. Much of the abbey was subsequently dismantled, but the chapter house, dormer and dormer undercroft survived and were converted into a Tudor mansion (the building now known as 'Beeleigh Abbey').
- 2.1.2 During the 18th century, the building was used as a public house but, by the late 19th century, was in a ruinous condition. It was restored in 1912. The property was acquired by the Foyle family in 1943 and has recently undergone further renovation and improvement of the house and gardens.

### **2.2 Archaeological Background**

- 2.2.1 A geophysical survey carried out by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit in the summer of 2001 detected anomalies in the meadow west of the Abbey (Wardill 2001). Four trial trenches were cut across these anomalies by MAHG, in November and December 2001. Tile plinths revealed in Trenches 2 and 3 showed that a medieval structure lay buried here (Clark 2002a). Larger scale excavation in 2002 uncovered the ground plan of a medieval hall house probably dating from the 13th or 14th century, and pulled down at the Reformation. It consisted of the usual medieval plan of parlour, hall, cross-passage and service end, with other rooms added later (Clark 2002b). Work in 2003 focused on enlarging the site to expose the whole of the hall house and on further detailed excavation within it (Brooks 2004).
- 2.2.2 In 2004, work on the hall house was completed and a new excavation area opened to the north revealed the presence of a smithy (Brooks 2006). Six trial trenches (Trenches 5–11) were also excavated to investigate a number of anomalies identified by a resistivity survey. Two of these trenches were subsequently enlarged to investigate the remains of a brick clamp (Trench 11b) and a rectangular brick-built building (Trench 7b).
- 2.2.3 Further work to expose the full extent of the Trench 7b rectangular building was undertaken in 2005 (Ennis 2009). This structure was interpreted to be a probable detached kitchen/bakehouse on the basis of its large hearth. A number of pits and deposits broadly dating to the 14th or 15th century pre-dated the building. An L-shaped cill wall constructed solely from tile represented the partial remains of an earlier structure.
- 2.2.4 A final phase of work carried out solely by MAHG in 2006 involved limited exploration beneath the eastern half of the kitchen/bakehouse in order to establish the presence of earlier remains (Punchard 2008).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Project Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within hitherto un-investigated areas of the site.
- To enable the client's archaeological consultant (David Andrews) to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work if significant remains were identified.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.2.1 The fieldwork methodology agreed with the client's consultant involved the mechanical excavation of six 20m long by 1.8m wide trenches. The trenches were anticipated to be no deeper than c.1m deep and were arranged in a pattern to investigate previously un-investigated areas of the field (Figure 2).

3.2.2 Most of the excavated trenches were located in their proposed positions. The exceptions were Trenches 2 and 4, which were both relocated to avoid overhead cables, and Trench 3, which was moved a few metres north of its original position to avoid an area of modern disturbance. All trenches were CAT scanned prior to excavation for the presence of underground power cables.

3.2.3 Four of the excavated trenches were the agreed 20m in length. Of the other two, Trench 1 was extended in length to 24m to define both sides of a wide feature and Trench 6 was reduced in length to 18m due to the presence of overhanging trees. All trenches were approximately 1.85m wide. Excavated trench depths varied from c.0.60m to over 2.3m.

3.2.4 Machining of the trenches was conducted, under close archaeological supervision, by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket in stages to reveal the stratigraphy. Modern surface deposits, topsoil and subsoil were removed down to the top of the natural geology or the top of any archaeological remains encountered. Trenches were inspected for the presence of archaeological features.

3.2.5 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*, by-laws and guidelines (CIfA 2014a; 2014b) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

3.2.6 All trenches were recorded regardless of the presence/absence of archaeological features. This included a record of soil stratigraphy at each end, and in the middle, and a post-excavation photograph as a minimum. Written records were maintained on pro forma trench sheets.

3.2.7 All trenches were digitally photographed and planned using GPS.

3.2.8 Where present, finds were retrieved from all excavated deposits and identified by context number to a specific deposit. These have been processed according to ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014c). Where appropriate, finds were marked with the site code (MDBA17) and context number, and retained for specialist identification and study.

### 3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The contents of the site paper archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Trench Record forms	6
Context sheets	51
Section/Plan sheets	8
Drawing register	1
Photo register	1
Digital photos	50
Sample register	1
Sample sheet	1

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 The locations of the excavated trenches are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 The removed overburden consisted of dark grey silty clay topsoil over more variable mid-grey to mid-brown silty clay subsoil. The overburden varied in thickness between 0.4m (Trench 4) and 0.78m (Trench 3). Natural deposits exposed in the base of the trenches varied between orange to reddish brown silty clay and deposits of yellow sand and yellowish brown gravel. In Trenches 1 and 3, topsoil and subsoil directly overlay natural sand and gravel, and in Trenches 2, 4, 5 and 6, the gravel was sealed by a layer of natural silty clay.
- 4.1.3 A variety of archaeological remains were present. Two large quarry pits, a number of smaller pits, two possible surfaces (paths?) and a ditch. Most can be dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval periods with the exception of the ditch which is of more recent (19th/20th-century) origin.
- 4.1.4 The trenches and the archaeological remains recorded in them are individually described in detail in sections 4.2 to 4.7 below.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Height at N end of trench (top) = 7.29m AOD

Height at S end of trench (top) = 8.54m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D m)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey sandy clay silt	24 x 1.85 x 0.30
1/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid greyish brown sandy silt	24 x 1.85 x 0.40
1/003	Layer	Natural –yellow sand and brown gravel	24 x 1.85
1/004	Fill	In 1/005 – mixed mid grey & brown clay silt	1.95 x 0.80+ x 0.30
1/005	Cut	Pit – not fully exposed, 30° sides, flattish base	0.80+ x 1.95 x 0.30
1/006	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay silt, moderate flints/pebbles	0.80+ x 1.80 x 0.05
1/007	Fill (upper)	In 1/009 -Mid greyish brown silty clay, pebbles & tile	5.80 x 0.80+ x 0.28
1/008	Fill (lower)	In 1/009 - mixed brownish grey clay silt, rare flints	5.50 x 0.80+ x 0.40
1/009	Cut	Pit – not fully exposed, 30-40° sides, flat base	8 x 0.80+ x 0.48
1/010	Fill	In 1/011 – dark grey brown clay silt	1.80 x 1.0
1/011	Cut	Ditch – not excavated, NW/SE aligned	1.80 x 1.0

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was orientated NNE/SSW and was located towards the north end of the field. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m with the removed overburden consisting of dark grey sandy silt topsoil [1/001] over mid-greyish brown subsoil [1/002]. Underlying the subsoil was a thin localised layer of pebbly

silt [1/006] that may have built up naturally on the interface with the underlying natural deposits of yellow sand and brown gravel [1/003].

- 4.2.2 Due to time limitations, possible features within the southern half of the trench were not excavated and recorded in plan only. Along the western side of the trench, irregular deposits of dark grey silty clay containing occasional fragments of tile may indicate the position of a number of pits. To their north was a possible NW/SE aligned ditch [1/011], with an upper fill of dark grey brown clay silt [1/010].
- 4.2.3 In the northern half of the trench, two large areas of potential fill were prioritised for excavation and were investigated by means of a machine-dug slot (Figure 9, Section 1). Excavation revealed two underlying pit features ([1/005] and [1/009]). Pit [1/005] was nearly 2m wide by 0.30m deep and filled with mixed mid-grey and brown clay silt [1/004]. The fill generally became greyer to the west and it is possible that the pit widened out beyond the confines of the excavated slot. No finds were recovered.
- 4.2.4 The southern edge of pit [1/009] was found in the north of the trench, extending beyond the trench limits. Its exposed extent measured 8m long by 0.48m deep and had 30–40° sides and a reasonably flat but stepped base. It contained two fills, a lower fill of fairly bland mixed brownish grey clay silt [1/008] and an upper fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay [1/007] containing pebbles, flecks of tile and oyster shells. The pit cut through natural sand to the south and natural gravel to the north and could possibly have been dug as a shallow quarry in the later medieval or post-medieval period.

#### 4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Height at NW end of trench (top) = 8.85m AOD

Height at SE end of trench (top) = 8.88m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
2/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey silty clay	20 x 1.85 x 0.30
2/002	Layer	Subsoil – light-mid grey silty clay	20 x 1.85 x 0.45
2/003	Layer	Natural – yellowish orange to reddish brown silty clay	20 x 1.85
2/004	Layer	Surface – broken tiles, flints, rare stone frags	1.60 x 1.10
2/005	Fill	In 2/006 – very dark grey clay silt	1.45 x 0.75
2/006	Cut	Pit? – Sub-rectangular, not excavated	1.45 x 0.75
2/007	Layer	Possible subsoil remnant – grey clay silt with tile and mortar flecks	2.70 x 1.85

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 was orientated NW/SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m. The removed overburden consisted of topsoil [2/001] over grey silty clay subsoil [2/002]. Exposed in the base of the trench was a natural deposit of silty clay [2/003] that varied in colour from yellowish orange to reddish brown and in which root and worm disturbance was commonplace.
- 4.3.2 Potential archaeological remains were concentrated in the south-east half of the

trench. Within this area was a patch of small broken tiles, small to medium-sized flints and rare fragments of decomposed stone forming a rough surface [2/004] and perhaps constituting a remnant of a path or trackway. Although not fully excavated, three sherds of possibly residual late 13th-century pottery were recovered from this surface.

4.3.3 To the west was a potential sub-rectangular pit [2/006] that extended beyond the trench edge. This feature was not excavated, however, it was recorded to have an upper fill of very dark grey clay silt [2/005].

4.3.4 At the south-east end of the trench was a layer of grey silt with tile and mortar flecks [2/007] that may have been a remnant of the overlying subsoil or possibly the edge of the backfill of the hall house and smithy excavation area (Figure 2). Due to time limitations, this layer was not excavated and recorded in plan only.

#### 4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

Height at N end of trench (top) = 8.13m AOD

Height at S end of trench (top) = 8.98m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark brownish grey silty clay	20 x 1.85 x 0.45
3/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid grey silty clay	20 x 1.85 x 0.33
3/003	Layer	Natural – light yellowish orange to yellowish brown gravel	20 x 1.85
3/004	Fill (2nd)	In 3/006 – darkish grey silty clay with mortar flecks	1.90+ x 1.85 x 0.17
3/005	Fill (1st)	In 3/006 – darkish brown gravelly silt	1.90+ x 1.85 x 0.20
3/006	Cut	Pit? - 55° N side, flattish base	1.90+ x 1.85 x 0.33
3/007	Fill (2nd)	In 3/009 – dark brown sandy silt	2.06 x 1.80 x 0.14
3/008	Fill (1st)	In 3/009 – light brown gravelly silt	1.50 x 1.80 x 0.19
3/009	Cut	Pit – Sub-circular, c.30° sides flattish base	2.06 x 1.80 x 0.33
3/010	Fill	In 3/011 – mid grey clay silt	6.20 x 0.90
3/011	Cut	Linear feature? – along E side of trench, not excavated	6.20 x 0.90

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 3 was orientated NNE/SSW and was located in the east of the site. The removed overburden consisted of dark topsoil [3/001] over mid-grey silty clay subsoil [3/002]. Deposits of natural yellowish brown gravel [3/003] were partly exposed in the base of the trench.

4.4.2 Two features were prioritised for excavation within this trench. In the south, a linear deposit of pale mortar flecks (Figure 5) was investigated in case it was part of a masonry wall. Excavation revealed that the mortar flecks were actually within the upper fill of a shallow feature and were more extensive than initially appeared in plan. The feature, [3/006], probably a substantial pit, was over 1.9m long by 0.33m deep and contained two fills ([3/004] and [3/005]). The upper fill, [3/004],

consisted of darkish grey silty clay with mortar flecks, whilst the lower fill, [3/005], consisted of browner gravelly silt. Finds from this pit fill included 13th- to 14th-century pottery, animal bone, oyster shell and tile.

4.4.3 The second excavated feature, located in the north of the trench, was a sub-circular pit [3/009]. This was just over 2m wide by 0.33m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flattish base (Figure 9, Section 2). It contained two brown silty fills ([3/007] and [3/008]) with finds also including animal bone, oyster shell and tile. Pottery recovered from upper fill [3/007] of this pit was dated to the 15th century.

4.4.4 Much of the base of the trench consisted of dark silty gravel within which further undefined features may have been present. One vague feature [3/011] was identified along the eastern side of the trench. Although it was not excavated, this feature was over 6m long by 0.9m wide and appeared linear in plan, though it could potentially be the edge of a much larger feature extending beyond the eastern limits of the trench.

#### 4.5 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

Height at W end of trench (top) = 9.65m AOD

Height at E end of trench (top) = 9.72m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
4/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey silty clay	20 x 1.85 x 0.35
4/002	Layer	Subsoil – brownish grey to orange brown silty clay	5 x 1.85 x 0.40
4/003	Layer	Natural – orange brown clay silt	20 x 1.85 x 0.40
4/004	layer	Surface – sandy silt, frequent gravel inclusions	3.90 x 1.85 x 0.35
4/005	layer	Levelling? – mid brownish grey silty clay	3.30 x 1.85 x 0.23
4/006	Fill	In 4/007 – light brown silty clay	2 x 1.85 x 0.40
4/007	Cut	Pit - 45° W side, not bottomed	2 x 1.85 x 0.40
4/008	Cut	Quarry pit – 40-45° W side, flat bottom	c.7 x 1.85 x 1.75
4/009	Fill (7th)	In 4/008 – dark grey to dark brownish grey clay silt	c.7 x 1.85 x 0.90
4/010	Fill (6th)	In 4/008 – dark grey clay silt	1.30 x 1.85 x 0.56
4/011	Fill (5th)	In 4/008 - mid brown to mid grey clay silt	4 x 1.85 x 0.30
4/012	Fill (4th)	In 4/008 – dark brown to dark grey ashy silt	2.40 x 1 x 0.25
4/013	Fill (3rd)	In 4/008 – dark grey silty clay	4.80 x 1.85 x 0.40
4/014	Fill (2nd)	In 4/008 – dark grey clay with charcoal band	2.40 x 1.85 x 0.22
4/015	Fill (1st)	In 4/008 – pale greenish grey clay	1.1 x c.1 x 0.20
4/016	Fill	In 4/017 – dark grey silty clay	1.50 x 1 x 0.08
4/017	Cut	Pit – oval pit, shallow, flat bottom, prob. truncated	1.50 x 1 x 0.08
4/018	Fill (6th)	In 4/008 – equiv. of 4/010 in opposite section	0.50 x 1.85 x 0.25
4/019	Layer	Subsoil – mixed mid greyish brown clay silt	4.50 x 1.85 x 0.45
4/020	Fill	In 4/021 – mid grey silty clay	4.20 x 1.85 x 0.35
4/021	Cut	Quarry pit? - 40° E side, flat base	4.20 x 1.85 x 0.40

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 4 was orientated WNW/ESE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.07m. The removed overburden consisted of up to 0.4m of topsoil [4/001] sealing various deposits and feature fills. Truncated silty clay subsoil [4/002] was present at the east and west ends of the trench. This overlay bright orange brown clay silt natural [4/003], which sealed gravel deposits at depth.
- 4.5.2 In the centre of the trench was a large quarry pit [4/008], c.7m across by 1.75m deep, containing seven fills ([4/009], [4/010], [4/011], [4/012], [4/013], [4/014] and [4/015]) (Figure 9, Section 4). The lowest fill, located at the foot of the western side of the pit, consisted of pale greenish grey clay [4/015]. This was overlain by a deposit of dark grey clay [4/014] that was separated from a similar, but slightly more silty and extensive deposit, [4/013], by a band of charcoal. Above this was a distinct dark ashy deposit [4/012] containing flecks of charcoal and white mortar, from which fragments of CBM and ironwork were recovered. A bulk soil sample <1> was taken from this fill for potential environmental evidence. The sample contained wood charcoal fragments from oak and hornbeam but little in the way of identifiable charred plant remains. A variety of artefacts, however, were present including slag, lead, iron and glass along with animal and fish bone.
- 4.5.3 Sealing [4/012] was a deposit of browner silt [4/011] also containing white mortar flecks along with charcoal flecks and small fragments of brick and tile. In the east of the feature, [4/011] was overlain by a localised deposit of dark grey clay silt [4/010]. The entire top of the pit was filled by dark grey to dark brownish grey clay silt [4/009] up to 0.9m deep. Inclusions included a few fragments of tile, occasional flecks of charcoal and a small quantity of flint and pebbles. Pottery recovered from the lower half of the pit (contexts [4/011], [4/012] and [4/013]) dated to the late 15th to mid-16th century, exemplified by the recovery of the complete profile of a Raeren stoneware drinking jug (AD 1475–1550) from lowest, dated context [4/013]. Brick fragments included examples of 14th- to 15th-century large red, 14th-century Flemish and 15th- to 16th-century Tudor bricks.
- 4.5.4 At the eastern end of the trench was a wide, flat-based cut [4/021], 4.20m long by 0.40m deep (Figure 9, Section 5), filled with mid-grey silty clay [4/020] containing occasional small pieces of tile. The exact purpose of the cut was unclear, though clay extraction might be suspected. Overlying the back-filled cut and slightly dipping into it was an extensive deposit of mixed mid-greyish brown clay silt subsoil [4/019] visible in both sides of the trench and at the east end. One, possibly two, small features (unrecorded) appeared to cut [4/019] in section. No finds were encountered within fill [4/020] or sealing deposit [4/019]. Both were cut by [4/008] and it was clear that the western part of feature [4/021] and the overlying subsoil had been entirely removed by this truncating pit.
- 4.5.5 In the base of [4/021] was an oval pit [4/017], measuring 1.5m long by 1m wide. The pit was only 0.08m deep and was clearly truncated and therefore earlier. Two joining fragments of yellow 14th-century Flemish brick were recovered from its dark grey clay fill [4/016].
- 4.5.6 The western end of the trench had been previously opened as part of the previous excavations. One feature (295) from these original investigations was located and plotted. Also located at this end of the trench was a possible pit [4/007] cutting

subsoil deposit [4/002] (Fig. 9, Section 3). Truncated by substantial pit [4/008], the surviving [4/007] cut was 2m long by 0.4m deep and was filled with light brown silty clay [4/006] that contained a few small fragments of broken peg tile (not retained). This pit was poorly defined and it is possible that its fill represents a change in subsoil rather than the presence of an actual cut.

- 4.5.7 Pit [4/007] and its fill were mostly sealed by a silty clay make-up or levelling layer [4/005] for overlying surface deposit [4/004]. This consisted of a layer of sandy silt and gravel (60%), and was possibly part of a north/south path or trackway c. 4m wide. The latest pottery from the trackway and underlying layer was a sherd of post-medieval red earthenware dating to the 16th century. A small collection of metalwork of medieval to early post-medieval date was also recovered, including a copper-alloy token RF<1>, a socketed iron candlestick RF<2>, an iron wedge or chisel (RF<3>) and a possible iron scabbard chape RF<4>. A small number of nails were also recovered, including an example of a horseshoe nail of early post-medieval type. These pathway deposits were truncated by substantial pit [4/008] on their east side.
- 4.5.8 The recorded sequence is presented as a stratigraphic matrix in Appendix 4.

#### 4.6 Trench 5 (Figure 7)

Height at W end of trench (top) = 10.11m AOD

Height at E end of trench (top) = 9.80 m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
5/001	Layer	Topsoil – darkish grey silty clay	20 x 1.85 x 0.25
5/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid greyish brown clay silt	9 x 1.85 x 0.50
5/003	Layer	Natural – light orange clay silt	20 x 1.85 x c.0.50
5/004	Cut	Quarry pit – 50-60° E side, flat base	7.5+ x 1.85+ x 1.70
5/005	Fill (6th)	In 5/004 – light greyish brown clay silt	0.80+ x 4.20 x 0.36
5/006	Fill (5th)	In 5/004 – mid brownish orange sand and gravel	0.80+ x 7 x 0.85
5/007	Fill (4th)	In 5/004 – light brownish grey clay silt	0.80+ x 7.3 x 0.70
5/008	Fill (3rd)	In 5/004 – mid brownish orange mixed sand, clay and silt.	0.80+ x 2.80 x 0.20
5/009	Fill (2nd)	In 5/004 – dark grey clay silt	0.80+ x 4 x 0.60
5/010	Layer	Subsoil – mid brown clay silt	11 x 1.85 x 0.45
5/011	Fill (1st)	In 5/004 – brown silty gravel	0.80+ x 1 x 0.20

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 5 was orientated roughly east/west and was located in the south of the site. The removed overburden was generally about 0.6m deep and consisted of topsoil [5/001] overlying two deposits of subsoil ([5/002] and [5/010]). Subsoil [5/010], a mid-brown clay silt, underlay topsoil in the eastern half of the trench, whilst in the west, the underlying subsoil was noticeably greyer in colour [5/002], its position broadly corresponding to that of underlying quarry pit [5/004]. Natural

light orange clay silt [5/003] was exposed in the base of the eastern half of the trench and was observed to overlay natural gravel at depth.

4.6.2 Only one feature was identified in Trench 5; this was a large quarry pit [5/004], occupying most of the western half of the trench. The pit was over 7.5m long, with only its eastern extent being exposed in the trench. Where excavated, at its east edge to its full depth, the cut was established to be 1.7m deep and had a moderately steep sloping side down to a flat base. It contained at least six fills ([5/005], [5/006], [5/007], [5/008], [5/009] and [5/011]) (Figure 9, Section 6). The earliest fill was a deposit of silty gravel [5/011] at the foot of the eastern side of the pit, probably the result of erosion of the side. However, the main primary fill of the pit was a 0.6m thick deposit of dark grey clay silt [5/009]. Above this was a thinner, mixed deposit of clay, sand and silt [5/008], which was in turn sealed by a thicker deposit of light brownish grey clay silt [5/007]. The upper part of the pit was occupied by an extensive deposit of mid-brownish orange sand and gravel [5/006], up to 0.85m deep, which was capped in the west by light greyish brown clay silt [5/005]. Finds from this quarry pit were limited, with fragments of undiagnostic roof tile and four sherds of 14th-to mid 16th-century pottery being recovered.

4.6.3 The recorded sequence is presented as a stratigraphic matrix in Appendix 4.

#### 4.7 Trench 6 (Figure 8)

Height at N end of trench (top) = 9.99m AOD

Height at S end of trench (top) = 9.95m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
6/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey silty clay	18 x 1.85 x 0.30
6/002	Layer	Subsoil – light brownish grey sandy silt	18 x 1.85 x 0.34
6/003	Layer	Natural – reddish brown silty clay	18 x 1.85 x 0.50
6/004	Layer	Natural - orange silty sand and gravel	18 x 1.85
6/005	Cut	Ditch – E/W aligned, variable 20-50° sides, flat base	1.85+ x 2.90 x 0.40
6/006	Fill (1st)	In 6/005 – Dark grey silt, occ. flints, rare charcoal flecks	1.85+ x 2.55 x 0.20
6/007	Fill (single)	In 6/008 – dark brownish grey clay silt, tile frags	1.85+ x 0.55 x 0.42
6/008	Cut	Gully – E/W aligned, 70° sides, flat base	1.85+ x 0.55 x 0.42
6/009	Fill (2nd)	In 6/005 – mixed dark grey silt with redeposited brown clay, occ. flints	1.85+ x 2.05 x 0.24

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 6 was orientated roughly N/S and was located at the far south of the site to investigate an east/west linear hollow apparent in the surface of the field, close to its southern boundary. The removed overburden consisted of topsoil [6/001] over light brownish grey sandy silt subsoil [6/002]. Underlying this was a deposit of natural reddish brown silty clay [6/003], which a sondage at the north end of the trench revealed to be 0.5m thick and to overlay sand and gravel [6/004].

- 4.7.2 The position of the hollow largely coincided with that of a reasonably wide but comparatively shallow east/west ditch [6/005]. The ditch was 2.9m wide by 0.4m deep and contained two compact fills ([6/009] and [6/006]). The upper fill, [6/009], consisted of mixed silt and re-deposited clay, whilst the lower fill, [6/006], consisted solely of darker grey silt. Pottery recovered from the lower fill consisted of sherds of modern stoneware and white earthenware dating to the 19th or 20th centuries.
- 4.7.3 The latest feature in Trench 6 was a small east/west aligned gully [6/008]. This was up to 0.55m wide by 0.42m deep and clearly cut through subsoil [6/002]. It was over 1.8m in length though looked to possibly peter-out towards the western edge of the trench. It was filled with dark brownish grey clay silt [6/007] not unlike the overlying topsoil [6/001]. No finds were recovered from this feature, but the similarity between its fill and the topsoil and that it cut through the subsoil suggest a recent date.



## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A moderate-sized assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon. All finds were washed and dried or air-dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight, and were bagged by material and context (Table 8). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
2/004			3	18	2	40	1	78										
3/004			1	4	10	378	1	1056				10	250				13	196
3/005			10	98	11	418	3	116	1	70	1	4	3	24			7	120
3/007			7	130	13	1178					1	12						
3/008					1	10							1	6			7	76
4/002			1	22	33	2070							9	90				
4/004			14	158	112	6382					4	25	9	210			4	24
4/005			7	64	19	1548					3	15	1	2				
4/010					4	2718												
4/011	1	40	9	440	25	9008												
4/012					14	6738					2	25						
4/013			5	330														
4/016					1	234												
5/006					8	478												
5/009			4	162	33	3032	1	122			1	6	4	148	1	32		
6/006			16	316	8	994	2	1366							1	112		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1742</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>35226</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2738</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>416</b>

Table 8: Finds quantification

### 5.2 Flintwork

5.2.1 A single flint flake fragment weighing 40g was recovered from context [4/011]. Two fragments of burnt unworked flint weighing 8g were retrieved from sample <1> (context [4/012]). The flake cannot be closely dated, but it indicates a prehistoric presence.

### 5.3 Medieval Pottery by Helen Walker

5.3.1 A total of 85 sherds of pottery, weighing 1777g, was excavated from twelve contexts (Appendix 1) and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1–16; expanded by Drury *et al.* 1993 and Cotter 2000). Some of Cunningham's rim codes are quoted in this report. The pottery data have been entered onto an Excel spreadsheet and the pottery is tabulated by ware in Table 9.

Pottery by ware	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)
Medieval coarseware	16	108
Mill Green fineware	3	11
Sandy orange ware	2	21
Colchester-type ware	17	250
Low Countries redware	7	245
Langerwehe stoneware	7	130
Raeren stoneware	7	347
Tudor red earthenware	7	308
Post-medieval red earthenware	2	40
Modern stoneware	3	214
Modern white earthenware	14	103
<i>Total</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>1777</i>

Table 9: Pottery quantification

#### *Medieval Pottery*

- 5.3.2 Very little medieval pottery is present with most finds of this date coming from context (3/005), the primary fill of pit [3/006]. Here finds comprise sherds of Mill Green fineware, including one showing mottled-green glaze under a white slip-coating and combed decoration, characteristic of this ware, which is datable to the mid-/late 13th to mid-14th centuries. There is also a sherd of Colchester-type ware showing Rouen-style decoration that could also be of this date, along with a body sherd of medieval coarseware. A single abraded, unglazed sherd of sandy orange ware in this fill could be either medieval or late medieval in date. In addition, there is a large unglazed sherd of post-medieval red earthenware that could actually be a piece of modern flowerpot and therefore must be intrusive.
- 5.3.3 Body sherds of medieval coarseware occur in layers (2/004) and (4/002), and there is an H1-type rim probably from a cooking-pot in this ware from layer (4/005). This rim type was current throughout the 13th century, but the vessel appears wheel-thrown indicating a date of not before the mid- to late 13th century. However, these sherds may be residual, as apart from layer (2/004), they occur with late medieval material.

#### *Late Medieval Pottery*

- 5.3.4 Almost all the pottery found is late medieval in date, spanning the later 14th to mid-16th centuries. Pottery of this date was recovered from the upper fill of pit [3/006] (fill 3/004), pit [3/009], quarry pits [4/008] and [5/004], and layers (4/002), (4/004) and (4/005). Wares present comprise Colchester-type ware, Tudor red earthenware, German stonewares and a single example of post-medieval red earthenware. In addition, there are some late examples of medieval coarseware that merge with sandy orange ware towards the end of the 14th century, the only featured sherd of which is an H3-type jar rim from quarry pit [5/004]. Colchester-type ware is the most frequent find; this is a type of sandy orange ware made in and around Colchester from the beginning of the 13th to the mid-16th centuries. Apart from the single medieval sherd showing Rouen-style decoration described above, all is late medieval. However, although there are changes in vessel form, styles of decoration and a refinement in fabric over time; most Colchester-type

ware is difficult to date closely especially at this site, where the finds are fragmentary. There are two pieces showing a white slip-coating but without a glaze; these consist of the edge of a solid pedestal base from layer (4/004) and a lower handle attachment from a rounded vessel from quarry pit [5/004]. The fact that the internal surface of this vessel is also slip-coated down the point of the lower handle attachment would suggest that this is from a jar rather than a jug. It is also evident that the vessel has been dipped in liquid slip rather than the slip smeared on by hand. Liquid slip-coating is generally a feature of Colchester-type ware vessels dating to the period c. 1375 to 1450, but it does continue into the 16th century (Cotter 2000, 172–3). Also from quarry pit [5/004] is part of a small Colchester-type ware jug with a slip-painted band below the rim and reduced surfaces; this may well be deliberate, serving as a contrast to the white slip-painting, and is characteristic of Colchester-type ware dating to the early 15th to mid-16th centuries (Cotter 2000, 108).

- 5.3.5 Tudor red earthenware is also well represented. Unlike the sandy Colchester-type ware, this has a fine, very smooth fabric and as the name suggests is datable to the later 15th to 16th centuries but was also current earlier in the 15th century, some evolving out of the medieval Mill Green industry. Few diagnostic sherds are current in this ware; there is a slip-painted unglazed sherd from layer (4/005) and the base of a large vessel, most likely a bowl, with a lustrous internal glaze indicating a 16th-century date from quarry pit [4/008]. The remains of two Low Countries redware vessels imported chiefly during the 15th to 17th centuries are present. The foot from a tripod-based cauldron or pipkin was excavated from layer (4/004) and shows traces of an internal orange glaze beneath a whitish encrustation, probably limescale. There are patches of fire-blackening around the foot. A second Low Countries redware vessel, the body of a rounded jar form, perhaps another cauldron, was found in quarry pit [4/008]; it shows a round handle attachment scar at the shoulder and a single incised horizontal line around the pot at the point of handle attachment. It has an all over glaze and shows patches of fire-blackening towards the base on the external surface indicating it has been heated.
- 5.3.6 Of some interest are two German stoneware drinking jugs showing frilled bases and rilled sides, one in Langerwehe stoneware, from pit [3/009], and the second in Raeren stoneware from quarry pit [4/008]. The Langerwehe stoneware example appears to be of Hurst's type IV datable to the 15th century (Hurst *et al.* 1986, fig. 91.276). However, a later 15th-century date can be precluded as, by this time, Langerwehe products were indistinguishable from later German stonewares, but this vessel shows the underfired fabric and matt glaze of earlier Langerwehe stoneware. The Raeren stoneware vessel is semi-complete and the whole profile is present. It is paralleled by Hurst *et al.* (1986, fig. 94.300) and is datable to 1475 to 1550. Finally, layer (4/005) produced a single sherd of post-medieval red earthenware from a thin-walled vessel showing an internal glaze. Usually, an internal glaze denotes a later date of 17th century or beyond, but in the 16th century, drinking vessels and other small table wares were glazed.
- 5.3.7 The pottery from these features and layers spans the 15th to mid-16th centuries. Looking at the features individually to see whether there are any differences in date, pit [3/009] can be dated to the earlier to mid-15th century by the presence of the Langerwehe stoneware jug, quarry pit [4/008] may be slightly later as it produced the Raeren stoneware jug datable to the late 15th to mid-16th centuries,

and layer (4/005) produced the 16th-century example of post-medieval red earthenware. The remaining features/layers did not produce anything closely datable. It is, however, possible that all the finds were deposited around the same date.

#### *Modern Pottery*

- 5.3.8 Modern pottery was excavated from ditch [6/005] comprising the base of a modern stoneware cylindrical bottle and the remains of two table wares in modern white earthenware. One is the pouring lip from a jug or similar vessel showing a blue floral transfer print. The print is not of good quality as the joins where the print was applied are clearly visible. The second is part of a cylindrical mug decorated with simple sponged cross motifs in purple. This is the most closely datable vessel, as sponged ware was produced from the 1830s until the 20th century.

#### *Discussion*

- 5.3.9 The pottery spans the 13th to mid-19th to 20th centuries, although there is most evidence of activity during the late medieval period, the 15th to the mid-16th centuries, and given that there was an abbey here, this could well represent Dissolution deposits. There is no evidence of activity here after the Dissolution until the Victorian period. The medieval and late medieval pottery is almost all locally sourced, but overseas imports are present in the form of the Low Countries redware and the German stonewares. While Raeren stoneware is common at sites inland, Langerwehe stoneware is less common and Low Countries redware is confined to coastal sites and ports or areas with immigration from the Low Countries, such as Braintree. These imports reflect Beeleigh Abbey's proximity to the port of Maldon and the fact that it had its own waterfront on the River Chelmer (Punchard 2007, 33). In spite of being imported, the Low Countries redware vessels were not particularly prized as deposits of fire-blackening indicate they were used rather than kept as ornaments. The pottery assemblage appears entirely domestic and there is nothing in the assemblage that relates to a religious or institutional function. The modern pottery appears of low quality considering this is a former high status site and perhaps reflects the known downturn in the fortunes of the property in the 19th century (Punchard 2007, 10).
- 5.3.10 The late medieval pottery is very similar to that found during earlier excavations at Beeleigh Abbey carried out by MAHG, so is not in itself of significance. However, if the pottery from this earlier excavation is ever published, this material should also be included.

#### **5.4 Glass by Elke Raemen**

- 5.4.1 A small assemblage of glass comprising twelve fragments (weight 0.4g) was recovered from environmental residue <1> ([4/015]). These fragments are very small and poorly preserved, as all were made of non-durable potash glass. They are all too degraded to establish their original colour and no edges survive. None show any surviving decoration; however, the pieces are so small that they could still have been part of decorated panes. Fragments are of probable 13th- to 14th-century date.

## **5.5 Brick by David Andrews**

5.5.1 Data on the recovered brick from Trenches 4 and 6 is presented in Appendix 2. Analysis of the bricks is consistent with the three categories identified by Ryan (2006):

1. Flemish type, made from alluvial clay and hence believed to be imports. They are crudely manufactured, often overfired and vitrified. The colour is usually cream to pinkish but can be quite variable. Size too is variable, but they are usually small, 200–205mm x 90–110mm x 40–55mm. They seem to have been imported from the end of the 13th century until about 1400. Those found in the previous Beeleigh excavations were all probably reused.
2. Large red medieval. Those identified by Ryan (2006) were 15mm x 70–75mm, with no complete examples being found, though these dimensions suggest they were more than 9ins or 230mm long. Two fragments of this type were present in the 2017 excavations. They were not as thick as those studied by Ryan (2006), measuring 55–65mm, but were of similar width, (150mm, i.e. 6ins). In the previous Beeleigh excavations, these bricks seem particularly to have been used for the construction of hearths. It is interesting that that from context [4/012] had been burnt. There do not seem to be known parallels that match these bricks, but they are probably 14th- to 15th-century in date and seem to have been produced in small quantities, perhaps for specific purposes, such as hearths.
3. Tudors. These should be more accurately considered Tudor-type, a label that can be applied to bricks made from the early 15th century through to the 17th century. Early 'Tudors' tend to be small and thin, e.g. 45–50mm, and often irregular in shape. By the second half of the 15th century, bricks might be 60mm thick and up to 65mm by the end of the century. They also become squarer with sharper arrises but can still be quite rough looking. By the beginning of the 16th century, Tudors were often quite large, in particular being more than 9ins long at about 240–250mm. Thus, at Beeleigh itself, the boundary walls are all of bricks measuring 240–250mm x 115mm x 55–60mm. Unfortunately, this is a useless dating criterion when there are no complete bricks. There were also only a handful of intact specimens from the previous excavations. In addition, the boundary walls are undated, though they must date to approximately the first half of the 16th century. The difficulty in securely dating the bricks is further complicated by Ryan's (2006) observation that all the red bricks found at Beeleigh could have been made in the clamp. Again, the clamp could not be dated, but it is known that there was a clamp at Beeleigh by 1517 when the Heybridge churchwardens bought bricks from the abbot (Pressey nd). The bricks from the 2017 excavations include some roughly made fragments that could indicate relatively early local production, and better made examples that look later. Inclusions are flint, sometimes pebbles and iron ore. They can be dated approximately to the second half of the 15th century and some of them perhaps to the early 16th.

5.5.2 Since the fill of quarry [4/008] contained Tudor bricks, as well as large red

medieval and Flemish bricks, and that there may have been a clamp there by 1517, it seems that the field next to the abbey was being used as an industrial area before the Dissolution. This is consistent with the archaeomagnetic date for the last use of the second open hearth in the hall house of 1450–1505 and implies that, by this time, the house had gone out of use or had been pulled down, which perhaps explains why the quarries are so close to the house.

## 5.6 Tile

5.6.1 Tile was recovered from thirteen contexts (Table 10). In keeping with previous work at Beeleigh Abbey, the tile has been counted and weighed but has not been subject to specialist analysis.

Context	Count	Weight (g)
2/004	2	40
3/004	10	376
3/005	11	414
3/007	14	1072
4/002	34	1854
4/004	110	5770
4/005	18	1402
4/011	14	2422
4/012	11	3552
4/016	1	234
5/006	8	468
5/009	33	2952
6/006	5	376

Table 10: Tile quantification by context

5.6.2 The majority of the tile is non-descript roofing tile. One piece of decorated floor tile, weighing 66g, was recovered from context [4/005] and has been identified by Paul Drury as a Type B4 product of the Danbury Tile Kiln.

## 5.7 Fired Clay

5.7.1 Two fragments labelled as fired clay were recovered, weighing a total of 144g. The piece from [6/006] probably in fact derives from a poorly fired tile, while [5/009] contained an unfired hard clay lump of geological rather than archaeological origin.

## 5.8 Geological Material by David Andrews and Luke Barber

5.8.1 Stone fragments were present in eight contexts (Table 11).

Trench	Context	Feature	No.	Stone Type	Description	Notes
2	2/004	Surface	1	Clunch		Small
3	3/004	2nd fill in pit	1	Coarse shelly oolite, similar	Brick shaped!	
	3/006					

				to Barnack		
3	3/005	1st fill in pit 3/006	3	Septaria, small		
3	3/007	2nd fill in pit 3/009	3	Septaria		
4	4/011	5th fill in quarry 4/008	?	Greyish, off white, ?clunch	One is part of a small column or shaft diam. 70-80mm	
4	4/012	4th fill in quarry 4/008	1	chalk	Rounded and weathered	
4	4/012	4th fill in quarry 4/008	1	light grey fine glauconitic calcareous greensand	One finished face from ashlar block	
5	5/009	2nd fill in quarry 5/004	1	?Mayern lava	Dark grey vesicular	
6	6/006	1st fill in ditch 6/005	2	Large pieces septaria		

Table 11: Stone type and description

5.8.2 Local building stone collected from the trenching included examples of Clunch ([2/004] and [4/011]), Oolite ([3/004]) and several pieces of Septaria ([3/005], [3/007] and [6/006]). In addition a small piece of imported ?Mayern lava quern stone was present in fill [5/009] of quarry [5/004].

5.8.3 Two further pieces of stone were found in the environmental sample <1> residue from fill [4/012] of quarry [4/008]. One was a rounded and weathered piece of chalk (162g) and the other a 198g fragment of light grey fine glauconitic calcareous greensand. One face is well finished suggesting the piece is from an ashlar block, probably from the Lower Greensand series.

5.8.4 The stone is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

## 5.9 Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.9.1 The archaeological work recovered 2088g of material initially classified as slag from just two different contexts. However, the 70g piece from medieval pit fill [3/005] is in fact a sand/pebble ferruginous concretion rather than slag. All of the remaining material was recovered from late medieval context [4/012]. This included seven pieces (528g) of hand collected slag, with the remainder coming from the residue of environmental sample <1>. The slag is all of the same type: a dark grey/black dense but aerated waste with notable surface and internal vitrification in areas. A few pieces are slightly magnetic in places.

5.9.2 A 50% sample of the residue produced over 200 small fragments (1412g) of the same slag type, but the 8g from the magnetic fraction did not include any hammerscale (only granules of burnt ferruginous stone and clay). Overall the material is best classified as iron-working waste but not a type that is diagnostic of process. The majority of the slag has been discarded, but, due to the slightly atypical nature of the slag, eight pieces have been retained for long-term curation.

## **5.10 Bulk Metalwork**

- 5.10.1 A small assemblage of thirteen iron nails, weighing a total of 87g, was recovered by hand and from environmental residue <1>. In addition to the iron nails, this residue also produced four lead 'puddles'.
- 5.10.2 Nails were recovered from six separate contexts. General purpose nails of medieval to early post medieval date predominate (n=8); three head forms were noted. Using Goodall's (2011, fig. 9.1) classification, Type 7, comprising an L-shaped head, was present in context [3/007]. Contexts [4/004] and [4/012] contained nails with circular or sub-circular heads (Type 1). Nails with a figure eight head (Type 5) were also present in these latter contexts.
- 5.10.3 As well as general purpose nails, three studs were also recovered. These are also typical of medieval assemblages and include circular and rectangular headed varieties from [4/004] and [4/005] respectively. Context [4/005] produced a horseshoe nail of early post-medieval type.
- 5.10.4 Environmental sample <1> from pit fill [4/012] contained a large molten lead 'puddle', as well as three smaller pieces of lead spill (total weight 282g). These could derive from a number of sources, including on-site lead repairs or from lead objects melted during a fire.

## **5.11 Animal Bone**

- 5.11.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of animal bone totalling 90 fragments, recovered from ten contexts. In Trench 3, bone was collected from two pits and in Trench 4, bone producing contexts comprised a pit and a quarry pit, as well as a levelling layer, a surface and subsoil. Faunal remains were also recovered from environmental sample <1> taken from quarry pit fill [4/012].
- 5.11.2 The assemblage varied in preservation from weathered to good, with some large fragments present. However, several contexts produced fragments only identifiable as large or medium mammal.

### *Trench 3*

- 5.11.3 Two pits from this trench produced animal bone: [3/006] (fills [3/004] and [3/005]) and [3/009] (fills [3/007] and [3/008]). Cattle, sheep/goat and pig were identified and all parts of the skeletons were represented. Large and medium mammal fragments were also identified. A single fragment of cattle humerus had been chopped through at the distal end.

### *Trench 4*

#### Quarry Pit [4/009]

- 5.11.4 The majority of the animal bone assemblage was recovered from two contexts within this feature: [4/011] and [4/012]. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig were identified, as well as domestic fowl and small mammal. However, the majority of fragments could only be identified as large or medium sized mammal. The cattle and large



mammal fragments included both meat bearing and non-meat bearing elements and both adult and juvenile animals. A single sheep/goat was represented by a long bone fragment and pig by a scapula, but ribs were also identified in the medium sized mammal assemblage. Environmental sample <1> produced a small assemblage of bone comprising burnt small and medium mammal fragments, as well as fish.

Pit [4/016]

- 5.11.5 This context produced four fragments identifiable as large mammal, as well as a single fragment from a medium sized mammal.

Levelling Layer [4/005]

- 5.11.6 This layer produced single fragments of large mammal and domestic fowl. The large mammal rib displayed knife marks.

Surface [4/004]

- 5.11.7 The majority of this small assemblage was identified only as large or medium sized mammal, with only single fragments identified as cattle, sheep/goat and pig and domestic fowl.

Subsoil [4/002]

- 5.11.8 This context produced cattle, pig and domestic fowl fragments, as well as some only identifiable as large or medium mammal. The bone fragments also appeared to have been weathered.

*Summary*

- 5.11.9 The small assemblage contained fragments from the three main domestic species, as well as small mammal, domestic fowl and fish in smaller quantities. Nothing of significance was noted, but the material, which includes small quantities of charred and burnt material, is consistent with domestic food and butchery waste. The fact that both meat and non-meat bearing elements are present suggests that animals may have been butchered on or close to the site.

## **5.12 Shell**

- 5.12.1 A small shell assemblage of 56 fragments, weighing 647g, was recovered by hand and from environmental sample <1>. The assemblage consists predominantly of common oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), which was recovered from [3/004], [3/005], [3/007], [3/008], [4/004] and [4/012].

- 5.12.2 Other species are also present in small numbers. Context [3/007] contained two common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*), and sample <1> from [4/012] produced single examples of common cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) and periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*). These are all edible species.

- 5.12.3 A single garden snail (*Cornu aspersum*) shell was also recovered from [3/007].

### **5.13 Registered Finds**

- 5.13.1 Five objects were assigned registered finds numbers. The finds are in good condition, but the ironwork has largely mineralized.
- 5.13.2 Layer [4/004] produced a copper-alloy token, RF<1>, of probable late medieval to early post-medieval date. The token requires cleaning in order to identify it more closely. A socketed iron candlestick, RF<2>, also came from this context. The form is typical of medieval candlesticks. Of similar date is an iron wedge or chisel (RF<3>) with a broken blade and slightly burred edge from this layer.
- 5.13.3 Levelling layer [4/005] produced a possible iron scabbard chape, RF<4>. The chape is in two conjoining fragments with U-sectioned arms forming a V shaped frame ending with a terminal knob. The form is similar to copper alloy examples of late medieval to early post medieval date.
- 5.13.4 Lastly, environmental residue <1> taken from quarry pit fill [4/0012] produced a tiny fragment of lead sheet with a U-shaped section (length c. 5mm). On the inner surface, the letters 'F or E I' are clearly visible in relief. This fragment most probably originates from a milled lead window came. Milling was introduced during the 15th to 16th century; during the 17th century, it became the practice of some workshops to imprint the initials of the maker and/or the date on the comes by inscribing them into the milling wheel (Strobl 2010).
- 5.13.5 It is recommended that the token is cleaned and that all the metalwork is x-rayed for the archive.

## **6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS** by Lucy Allott

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 A single sample (<1> [4/012]) was taken during trenching at Beeleigh Abbey from quarry pit feature [4/008] for the recovery of environmental remains, such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca, as well as to assist finds retrieval. The following report provides an overview of the sample, focusing on the charred plant material, and discusses its potential to inform on the diet, arable economy and local environment of the site, as well as fuel selection and use.

### **6.2 Methods**

6.2.1 The 40 litre sample was processed, in its entirety in a flotation tank and the flot and heavy residue were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes, respectively, before being air-dried. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Appendix 3, Table 12). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this report. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 3, Table 13). Provisional identification of the charred remains was based on observations of gross morphology and through comparison with modern reference material.

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residues were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000; Leney and Casteel 1975). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 500x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000; Schoch *et al.* 2004; Schweingruber 1990). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 12 (Appendix 3) and nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

### **6.3 Results**

#### *Sample <1> [4/012] quarry pit [4/008]*

6.3.1 The sample was taken from an ashy silt deposit in the middle of quarry pit [4/008] following on-site observations of bone and charcoal, as well as other artefacts. An array of artefacts were recovered including ceramic building material, slag, lead, iron, glass, fire cracked flint and stone. Environmental remains in the heavy residue include a moderately large assemblage of bone with some burnt bone and fish, marine mollusca and wood charcoal fragments. The small flot (70ml) comprised small charcoal flecks (~50%) with some uncharred botanical remains (~20%), sediment particles (~20%) and land snail mollusca.

6.3.2 Charred plant macrofossils were uncommon and on the whole they were recorded as indeterminate charred plant remains with only a few identified as

possible charred fruit fragments and cereal caryopses. A single short, rounded wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopsis was noted but it was too poorly preserved to be further identified with any confidence.

- 6.3.3 Charcoal fragments >2mm were rare in the flot as the majority had been captured in the heavy residue. The assemblage was well preserved with little indication of rounding or sediment infiltration. Of the ten fragments identified, five were deciduous oak (*Quercus* sp.), including one very small oak twig, and five were identified as hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). With the exception of one hornbeam fragment, the remaining four were from roundwood of varying sizes (with 9 to approximately 25 growth rings).

## 6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 The environmental sample contributed to both the artefact and environmental remains assemblages (fauna in particular) although, with the exception of wood charcoal, charred plant remains were uncommon and of low significance. Information regarding the diet, arable economy or the broader vegetation is therefore lacking. The wood charcoal assemblage is of interest although this is an isolated sample and, as it originates from a quarry pit feature rather than a primary fuel using context, it is likely to contain an amalgam of waste from several sources. The following discussion is therefore somewhat speculative.
- 6.4.2 Oak and hornbeam are woodland trees and hornbeam was commonly planted in hedgerows (Stace 1997). Both are also valuable as firewood and were regularly managed (using techniques such as coppicing and pollarding) for several purposes including the manufacture of charcoal (Taylor 1981) to support the demand for fuel. By the medieval period and later, fuel was also routinely collected from understorey in woodlands and bound together into faggots (Rackham 1990). At this time, management of woodland is likely to have been under the control of manorial or religious estates and much of the fuel may in fact originate directly from land controlled by Beeleigh Abbey. The method of fuelwood acquisition may have had an impact on the composition of the charcoal assemblage with perhaps a more limited array of taxa expected in an assemblage of deliberately manufactured charcoal rather than fuelwood collected from understorey vegetation. While it is entirely possible the charcoal fragments in this deposit are representative of fuel, it is also possible that they derive from wood used in construction (in fences, wattle or other objects for example) or from a combination of sources.
- 6.4.3 The potential for recovery of well-preserved environmental material during any further investigations is high and it is therefore recommended sampling targets secure primary features and/or a selection of features for comparison (especially in the absence of primary deposits). Further charcoal fragments could be identified and integrated into any further work undertaken on material from this site.

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Discussion

#### *Medieval*

- 7.1.1 Identified medieval remains included two pits within Trench 3, one dated to the 13th/14th century and the other to the 15th century. Both are contemporary with the abbey and the medieval hall house to its west. However, given that the pits are geographically closer to the abbey complex, they are perhaps more likely to be associated with activities at the main abbey rather than the hall house. The variety of finds within both pits (animal bone, oyster shell, etc.) suggests that they may have been dug for the disposal of rubbish.
- 7.1.2 Various medieval finds were found as residual elements within later features and attest to the variety of activities taking place within the abbey estate and to contacts with the Continent. The pottery assemblage is entirely domestic in nature with nothing that particularly relates to a religious or institutional function. Imports of pottery from the Low Countries and Germany reflect Beeleigh Abbey's position on a waterfront close to the port of Maldon. Other imported items included 14th-century Flemish bricks and a copper-alloy token (probably from France or Germany). More everyday metal items included an iron candlestick, an iron wedge or chisel and an iron scabbard chape.

#### *Late Medieval/Early Post-Medieval*

- 7.1.3 The most significant remains identified during the trenching were the two large quarry pits ([4/008] and [5/004]) identified in Trenches 4 and 5. The presence of such large features close to the hall house is unusual and, certainly in the case of pit [4/008], suggests that the house may have gone out of use by the time the quarrying activities took place.
- 7.1.4 Quarry pit [5/004] was located 10–15m south of the hall house and potentially might be the earlier of the two large quarry features given the small quantity of finds present and, in particular, the notable absence of 15th- to mid 16th-century German stoneware and brick. The pottery recovered was largely uninformative, generally falling within a broad 14th- to mid 16th-century date range, although one sherd was more firmly dated as 15th- to mid 16th-century. It is possible that this quarry was dug when the hall house was still in use or certainly prior to its demolition as implied by the general lack of finds.
- 7.1.5 Quarry pit [4/008] was located between the hall house and kitchen/bakehouse roughly equidistant (c. 12m) from both. The pit contained a variety of domestic and other rubbish and was firmly dated to the late 15th to mid-16th century based on pottery evidence. A variety of finds were present including brick, tile, animal bone, slag, lead and glass. Some of the 'Tudor' bricks may have been fired in the abbey's own brick clamp known to have been in operation in 1517; no further examples of brick clamps were encountered on the site. The few lead and glass finds recovered from the quarry pit might have derived from repair work to some of the abbey buildings, whilst the metallurgical remains may have originated from the nearby smithy.

- 7.1.6 The position of quarry pit [4/008] and adjacent shallower pit [4/021] suggests that the hall house, and possibly also the kitchen/bakehouse, may have gone out of use prior to their excavation. As stated in 5.5.2, it is likely that the area was put to industrial use with both clay and gravel resources being exploited. If the quarrying and the recovered 'Tudor' brick fragments can be associated with the 1517 brick production then it would imply that the buildings may have gone out of use prior to the Dissolution, though it is of course possible that brick production started before or continued after the recorded date.

*Post-Medieval/Modern*

- 7.1.7 Trench 6 was specifically targeted to investigate an east/west hollow close to the southern boundary of the field. The excavation revealed a shallow east/west aligned ditch containing pottery of 19th- or 20th-century date that corresponded to the position of the hollow and appeared to be its cause.

## **7.2 Conclusions**

- 7.2.1 The trenching has provided further insight into the nature of the archaeological remains present within the west paddock at Beeleigh Abbey. The most significant discovery was the two large quarry pits, located close to the medieval hall house, whose presence suggests that this building may have gone out of use early in the 16th century rather than at the Dissolution, in 1536, as previously suspected (Brooks 2006; Punchard 2007). This interpretation fits comfortably with the archaeomagnetic date of AD 1465-95 previously obtained for the last use of the hearth in the hall house.
- 7.2.2 Medieval pits have also been revealed that are contemporary with the medieval life of the abbey and, in the south of the site, the cause of a mystery hollow has been revealed as an underlying 19th-/20th-century ditch.
- 7.2.3 No new building remains were encountered by the trenching and it would seem reasonable to assume that no further large-scale buildings await discovery within the field as most of the areas of potential archaeological remains identified by the original geophysical survey (Wardill 2001) have now been investigated. The only exception is the far north-west corner of the field where one cluster of less-intense magnetic anomalies have yet to be investigated.
- 7.2.4 The trenching has shown that further archaeological remains such as pits, ditches, surfaces etc. are likely to be present within the field as examples of all of these could be seen extending beyond the limits of many of the excavated trenches. However, the remains are mostly sealed beneath a relatively thick amount of overburden (0.40–0.75m) that effectively protects them from minor disturbance leaving them preserved *in situ*.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Christopher Foyle for commissioning the fieldwork and David Andrews for his assistance throughout the project. The fieldwork was undertaken by Trevor Ennis with assistance from Marek Kamysz. Site survey was carried out by Nathalie Gonzalez and report figures were prepared by Andrew Lewsey. The fieldwork was project managed by Gemma Stevenson and the post-excavation process by Mark Atkinson.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8
- Brooks, H. 2004, *A report on the fourth season of excavations at Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, Essex*, MAHG
- Brooks, H. 2006, *A report on the fifth phase of excavations at Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, Essex*, MAHG
- Clark, W.J.R. 2002a, *Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, Essex. Report of the Second Phase of Excavations at Beeleigh Abbey, 2nd October - 4th November 2001*, MDBA 02/1. MAHG
- Clark, W.J.R. 2002b, *Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, Essex. Report of the Third Phase of Excavations at Beeleigh Abbey, 4th April - 31st September 2002*, MDBA 04/1. MAHG
- Cotter, J. 2000, *The post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 7
- CIfA. 2014a, *Code of Conduct (revised)*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CIfA. 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (revised)*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CIfA. 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Cunningham, C.M. 1985, 'The pottery', in Cunningham, C.M. and Drury, P.J., *Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford*, Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep.5, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep.54, 63-78
- Drury, P.J., Cunningham, C.M., Kilmurry, K and Walker, J.S.F. 1993, 'The later Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery', in Rodwell, W. J. and Rodwell, K. A., *Rivenhall: Investigations of a villa, church and village, 1950-1977*, Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 4.2. Counc Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 80, 78 – 95
- ECC. 2005, *Rochford District Environment Characterisation Project report*, Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch
- Ennis, T. 2009, *Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, Essex: MAHG Excavations 2004/2005 Kitchen/Bakehouse (Trench 7B)*. ECC FAU Report 1521
- Gale, R. and Cutler, D. 2000, *Plants in Archaeology*, Otley/London: Westbury/Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Goodall, I.H., 2011, *Ironwork in Medieval Britain: An Archaeological Study*, Society for Medieval Archaeology
- Gurney, D. 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. E. Anglian



Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14

Hather, J. G. 2000, *The Identification of the Northern European Woods: A Guide for Archaeologists and Conservators*, London: Archetype

Hurst, J.G., Neal, D.S. and Heyningen, H.J. 1986, *Pottery Produced and Traded in North-West Europe 1350–1650* (Rotterdam Papers VI)

Leney, L. and Casteel, R.W. 1975, 'Simplified procedure for examining charcoal specimens for identification', *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 2, 153–9

Medlycott, M. (ed) 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24

Pressey, W.J. nd (?1936), *The first book of the Churchwardens' accounts of Heybridge, Essex (circa 1509-1532)*, privately printed

Punchard, D. (ed) 2007, *Below Ground at Beeleigh Abbey* (Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group, Maldon)

Punchard, D. 2008, *Beeleigh Abbey Excavation Kitchen Area 2006 Report*, MAHG

Rackham, O. 1990, *Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape: the complete history of Britain's trees, woods and hedgerows*. Phoenix Press, London

Ryan, P. 2006, 'Beeleigh Abbey 2003: Brick and tile report', in H. Brooks, *Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, Essex. Report on the fifth phase of excavations June-July 2004*, unpublished report

Schoch, W., Heller, I., Schweingruber, F.H., and Kienast, F. 2004, *Wood Anatomy of Central European Species*, Available: [www.woodanatomy.ch](http://www.woodanatomy.ch)

Schweingruber, F.H. 1990, *Microscopic Wood Anatomy* (3rd edn), Birmensdorf: Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

Stace, C. 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd edn), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Strobl, S. 2010, *Lead in Stained Glass Windows Integral Part or Disposable Commodity?*, Available: [http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/leadstainedglass/lead\\_stained\\_glass.htm](http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/leadstainedglass/lead_stained_glass.htm)

Taylor, M. 1981 *Wood in Archaeology*, *Shire Archaeology*, 17

Wardill, R. 2001, *Report on geophysical survey of paddock area, Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, Essex*. ECC FAU Report 958

**Appendix 1: Medieval pottery data**

Context	Feature	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Ware and diagnostic sherds	Date
2/004	layer	2	8	Medieval coarseware: body sherds	13th to 14th C
		1	10	Sandy orange ware: v. abraded body sherd, could be roof tile	later 13th to mid-16th C
3/004	3/006	1	3	Colchester-type ware: unglazed body sherd, late med	later 14th to mid-16th C
3/005	3/006	6	36	Medieval coarseware: body sherds	13th to 14th C
		3	11	Mill Green fineware: body sherd showing mottled green glaze under a white slip-coating and combed decoration + two unfeatured body sherds	mid-13th to mid-14th C
		1	3	Colchester-type ware: body sherd showing Rouen-style decoration	13th to 14th C
		1	11	Sandy orange ware: unglazed sherd externally abraded	13th to 16th C
		1	36	Post-medieval red earthenware: body sherd, unglazed highly fired, could be modern flowerpot	16th to 20th C
3/007	3/009	7	130	Langerwehe stoneware: lower part of drinking jug with frilled base, rilled sides and typical slightly underfired fabric, probably Hurst's type IV (Hurst et al.1986, fig.91.276	15th C
		2	8	Colchester-type ware: body sherds, one externally glazed and internally fire-blackened, the second with a partial internal glaze, probably late med	14th to 15th C
		1	6	Tudor red earthenware: body sherd	15th to 16th C
4/002	layer	1	6	Medieval coarseware: body sherd	13th to 14th C
		1	22	Tudor red earthenware: thick-walled body sherd showing patch of greenish glaze	15th to 16th C
4/004	layer	3	19	Medieval coarseware: body sherds, all later types with hard fabric merging into sandy orange ware	14th C
		1	7	Tudor red earthenware: body sherd	15th to 16th C
		1	61	Low Countries redware: base frag showing single foot from tripod base, traces of internal orange glaze can be seen beneath a white deposit probably limescale; fire-blackening around foot, from a cauldron or pipkin	15th to 17th C
		1	5	Colchester-type ware: fragment from solid pedestal base, all over white slip-coating with traces of clear glaze, too fragmented to determine vessel type	late 14th to mid-16th C
		1	24	Colchester-type ware: thick-walled sherd with thin internal glaze, most likely from a bowl	15th to mid-16th C

Context	Feature	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Ware and diagnostic sherds	Date
		1	2	Colchester-type ware: slip-painted unglazed sherd	later 14th to mid-16th C
		4	21	Colchester-type ware: misc. sherds, some with thin external glaze	later 14th to mid-16th C
4/005	layer	1	11	Medieval coarseware: H1 rim from cooking-pot or small bowl, incised horizontal line below rim, hard reduced surfaces and pale core, appears wheel-thrown	mid/late 13th C
		2	16	Medieval coarseware: body sherds	13th to 14th C
		1	10	Colchester-type ware: slip-painted unglazed sherd	later 14th to mid-16th C
		1	8	Colchester-type ware: body sherd with reduced surfaces, internal white slip-coating or residue	15th to mid-16th C
		1	16	Tudor red earthenware: slip-painted sherd	15th to mid-16th C
		1	4	Post-medieval red earthenware: thin-walled internally glazed sherd	16th C or later
4/011	4/008	1	184	Tudor red earthenware: flat base with out-flaring sides, internally glazed, perhaps from a bowl, unevenly made	late 15th to 16th C
		2	73	Tudor red earthenware: body sherds, one from the shoulder of a vessel	15th to 16th C
		6	184	Low Countries redware: joining sherds from body of rounded jar form; all over glaze but ending at lower part of body on external surface, circular handle attachment scar at shoulder, single horizontal groove around shoulder, patches of fire-blackening externally on lower part of vessel	15th to 17th C
4/012	4/008	1	17	Colchester-type ware: flat base sherd with flared sides and thin internal glaze, most likely from a bowl from soil sample <1>	15th to mid-16th C
4/013	4/008	7	347	Raeren stoneware: whole profile of drinking jug with frilled base, cf. Hurst et al. 1986, fig.94.300	1475-1550
5/009	5/004	1	12	Medieval coarseware: H3 jar rim, internal white slip-coated or residue, late fabric merging into sandy orange ware	14th C
		1	45	Colchester-type ware: part of small jug showing rim with triangular bead, a rod handle sub-oval in section, reduced surfaces and slip-painted band below rim, fine fabric	15th to mid-16th C
		1	66	Colchester-type ware: lower handle attachment, strap handle, external slip-coating and partial dipped internal slip-coating extending to point of handle attachment therefore more likely to be from a jar form than a jug	late 14th to mid-16th C
		1	38	Colchester-type ware: collared rim from large vessel, perhaps a large jug, no slip or glaze	late 14th to mid-16th C

Context	Feature	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Ware and diagnostic sherds	Date
6/006	6/005	3	214	Modern stoneware: base of cylindrical bottle, salt-glazed, no markings	19th to earlier 20th C
		1	5	Modern white earthenware: pouring lip from jug or similar vessel showing blue floral transfer print, poor quality as join in print is visible	1820s onwards
		13	98	Modern white earthenware: sherds from cylindrical mug showing simple sponged cross motifs in purple	1830s to 20th C
		<b>85</b>	<b>1777</b>		

## Appendix 2: Brick data

### Trench 4

Context	Feature	No.	Description	Dimensions	Type	Date	Notes
4/004	Layer	1	Cream fabric but reddish external surface, roughly made	x 50	Flemish	C14	
4/010	6th fill of 008	1	Pale orange red, roughly made, slightly sanded	x 60			
		1	Dull red, sanded, squarish, fine flint inclusions	x 60			
		1	As above but redder & rather different fabric, some large flints,	x 60			
		1	Orange red, squarish	x 60			
4/011	5th fill of 008	1	Cream, distorted	100 x 50	Flemish	C14	
		1	Very roughly made, pale orange red, large inclusions iron ore and flint	110 x 45-50	?Flemish	?C14	??not made in a mould
		1	Strong red colour, fine sandy fabric, rare large flints	150 x 65	Large red	C14-15	
		1	Well made, pale reddish brown, small voids ?where material has burnt out	X 60	Tudor	C15-16	Probably a sanded mould
		1	As above, similar to it	X 50	Tudor	C15-16	Over fired & vitrified
		1	Dull reddish, hackly fabric, fine white sand, thin pale glaze	X 55	Tudor	?late C15	Quite squarish
		1	Orange red	Fragment		?C15-16	Low fired
		1		Fragment		?	?daub or mud brick
4/012	4th fill of 008	1	Pale orange red, soft underfired, rough base, creased sides	x 60	Tudor	?C15	
		1	Well made, square, sanded, red,		Tudor	?C16	Generally better made looking

		1	Red, sanded base, flints including pebbles	150 x 55	Large red	?C14-15	Different size to other great brick in 011. Burnt, ?used in a hearth
4/016	Fill of 017	2	Dull greyish yellow, rebated margin, very rough base	105 x 45	Flemish	C14	Joining pieces

**Trench 6**

Context	Feature	No.	Description	Dimensions	Type	Date	Notes
6/006		3	Similar, dull red, sanded mould, creased sides, flint and haematite	x 60	Tudor	?Late C15 /early C16	Similar to 2 pale bricks in context 011

Appendix 3: Environmental tables

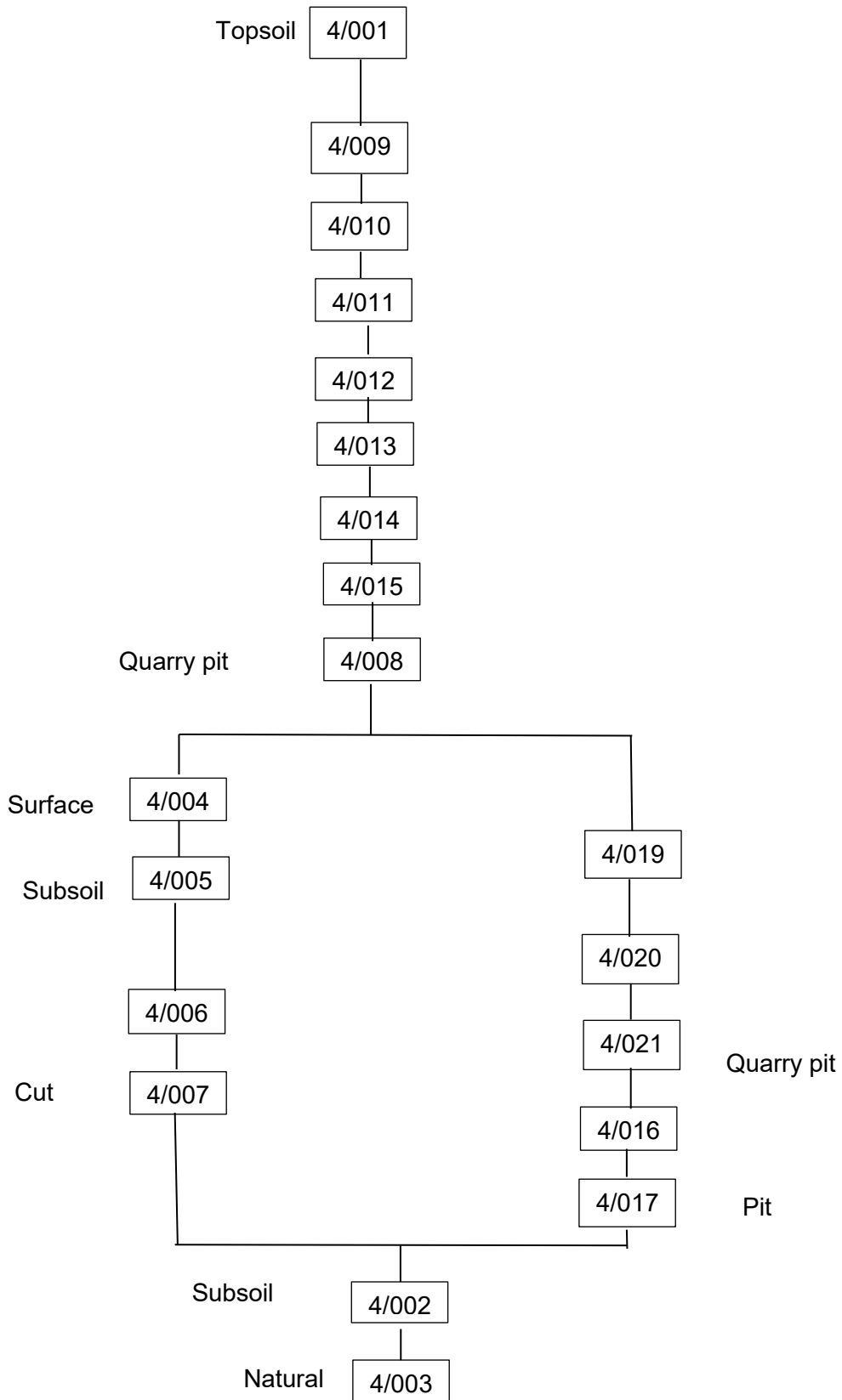
Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Feature type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	4/012	4/015	Quarry pit	40	***	38	****	30	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (5 incl 1 small twig), <i>Carpinus betulus</i> (5, including 4 rw)	**	168	**	12	**	1	*	<1	**	3	*	65	CBM *** 2088g/ Slag *** 1416g/ Stone * 388g/ Pb * 280g/ FCF * 12g/ Fe * 22g/ Glass * <1g/ Mag Mat >2mm ** 3g/ Mag Mat <2mm *** 3g

**Table 12:** Residue quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams. Preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

Sample Number	Context	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Charred botanical	Identifications	Preservation	Fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	Land Snail Shells
1	4/012	70	70	20	20		*	****	*	Indet. Cerealia (1), <i>Triticum</i> sp. (1)	+	**	Indeterminate and possible charred fruit frags	+	*	**

**Table 13:** Flot quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250). Preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

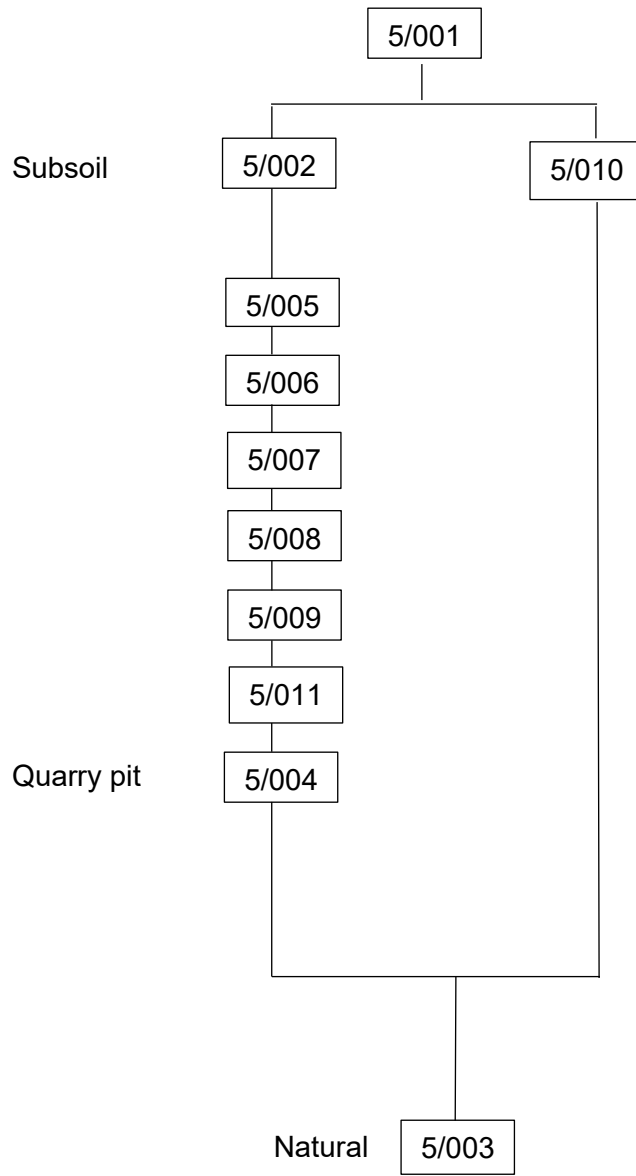
**Appendix 4: Trench 4 stratigraphic matrix**

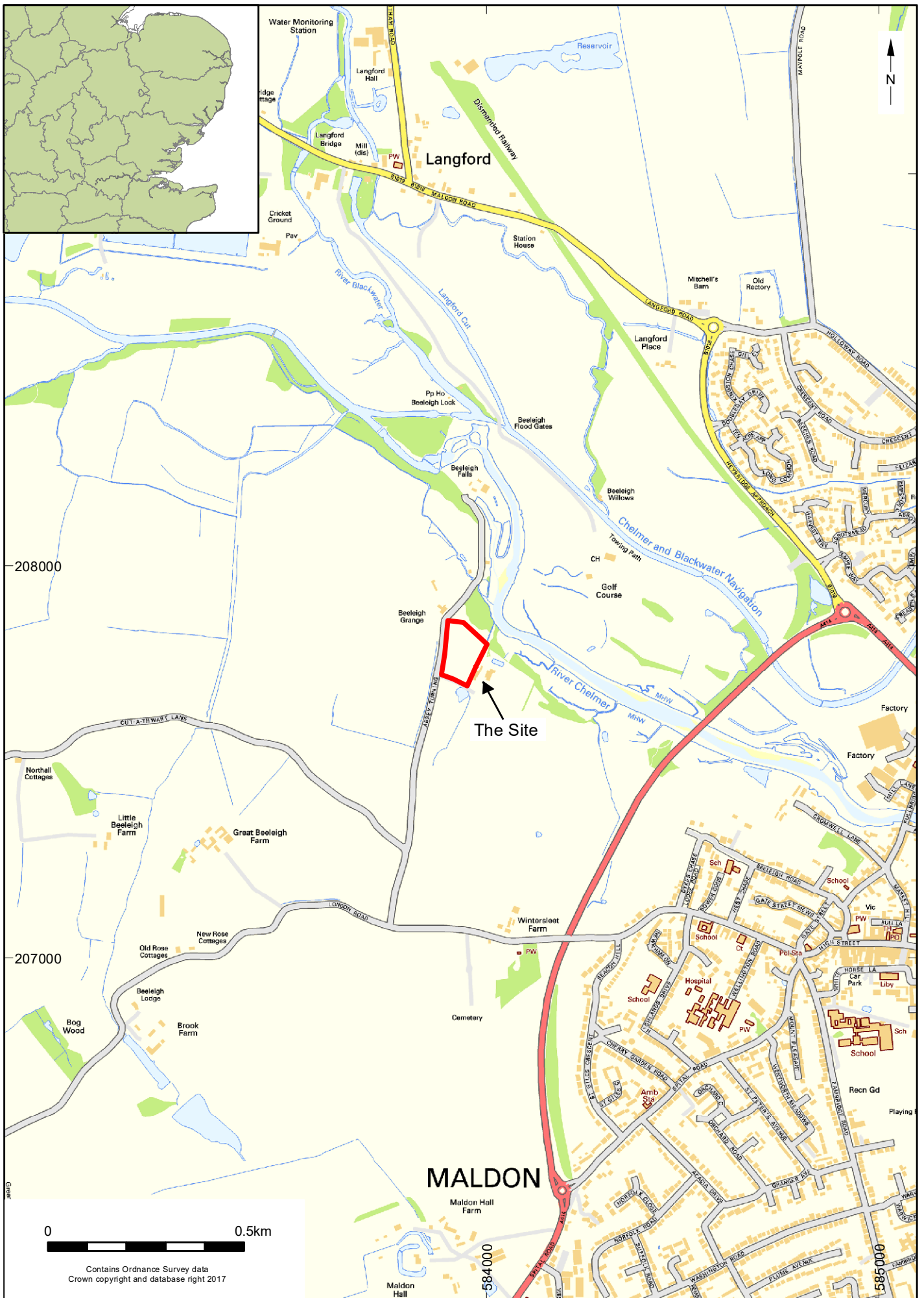




**Appendix 5: Trench 5 stratigraphic matrix**

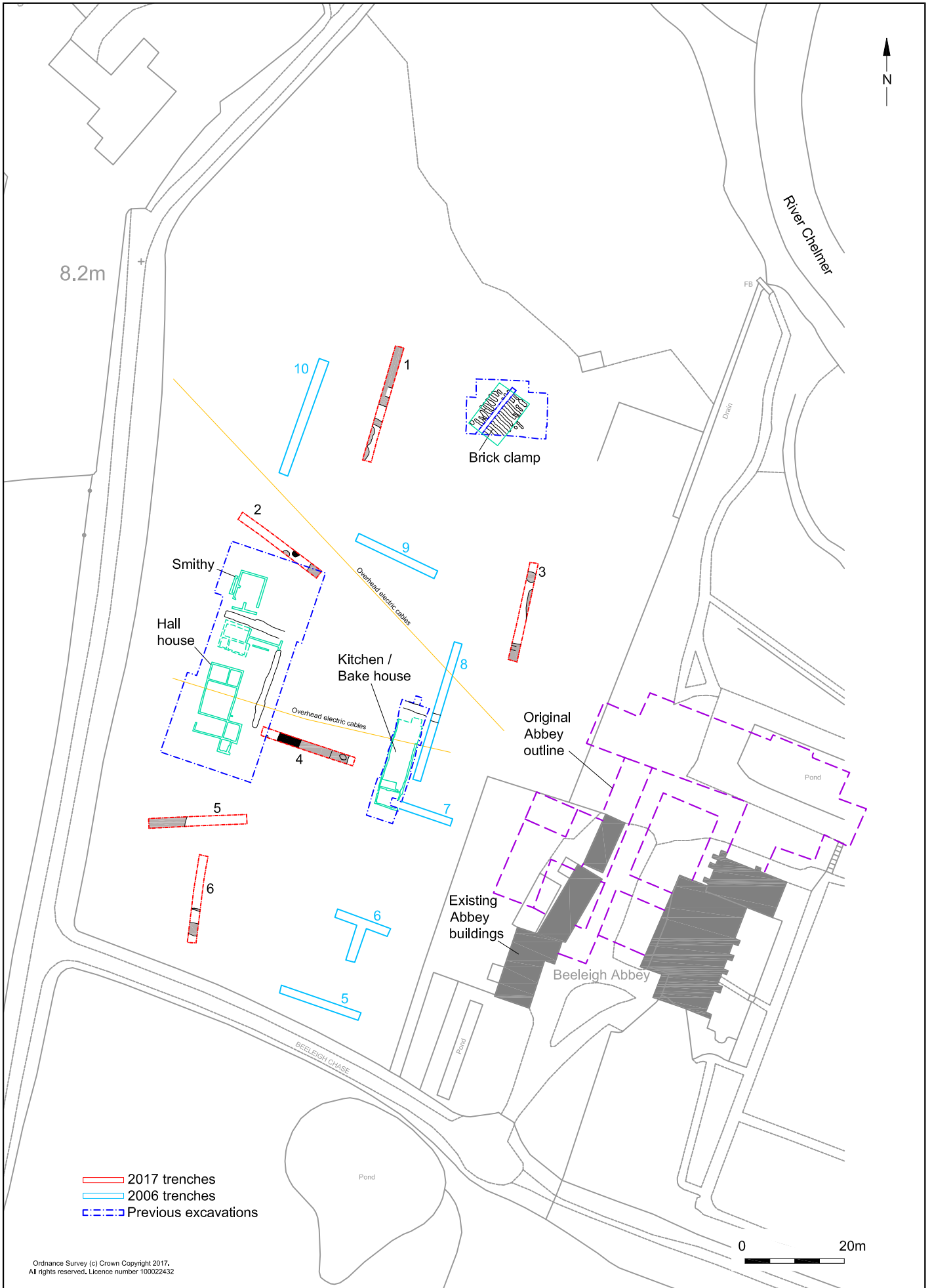
Topsoil





Contains Ordnance Survey data  
Crown copyright and database right 2017

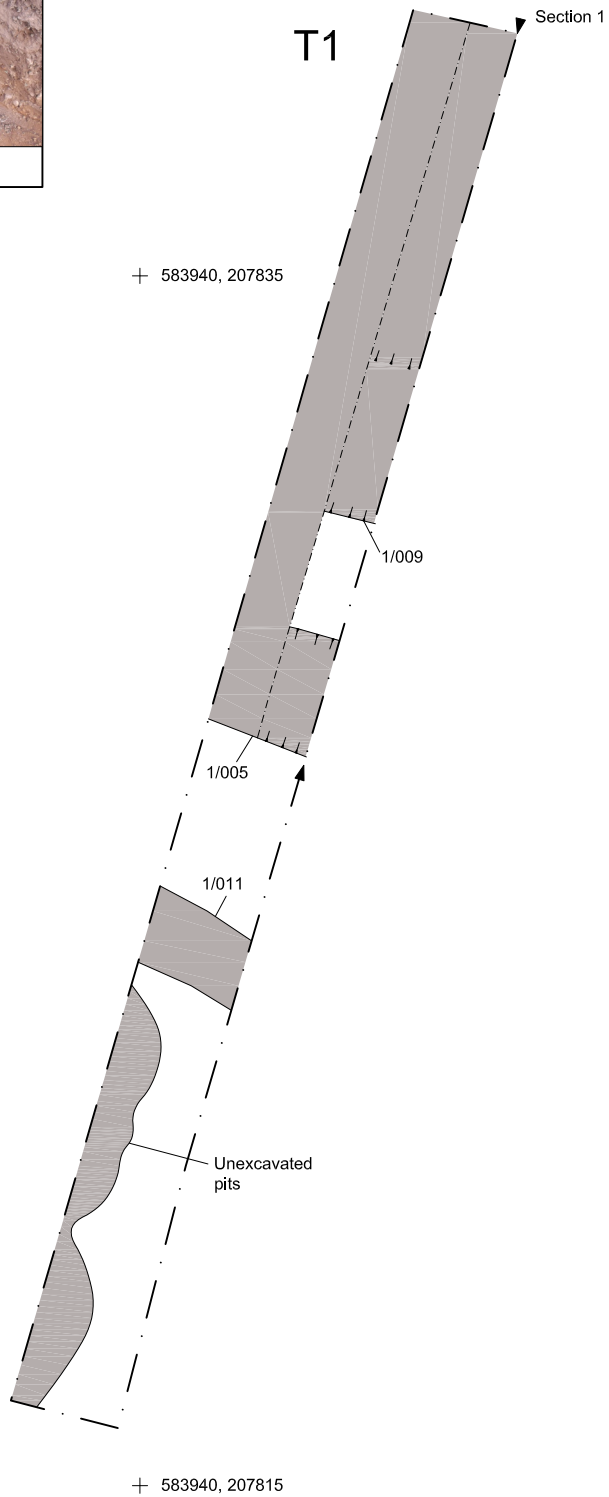
© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170366	Feb 2018	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017453	Drawn by: APL		



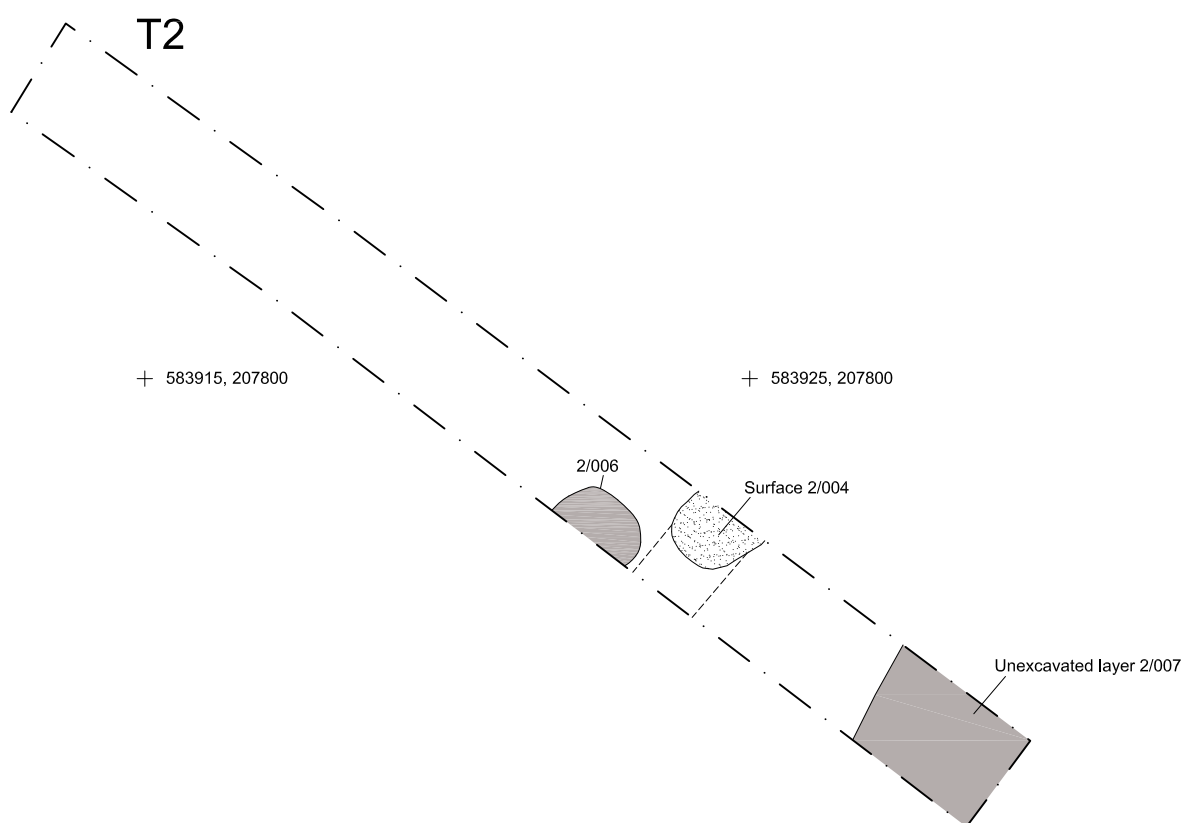
© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170366	Feb 2018	Locations of trenches and previous archaeological work	
Report Ref: 2017453	Drawn by: APL		



Section 1, north half, 1m scale



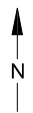
© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170366	Feb 2018	Trench 1 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017453	Drawn by: APL		



Surface 2/004, 1m scale

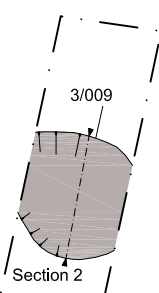


© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170366	Feb 2018	Trench 2 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017453	Drawn by: APL		

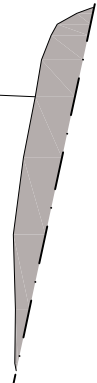


T3

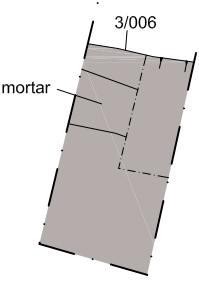
+ 583965, 207790



3/011



+ 583975, 207780



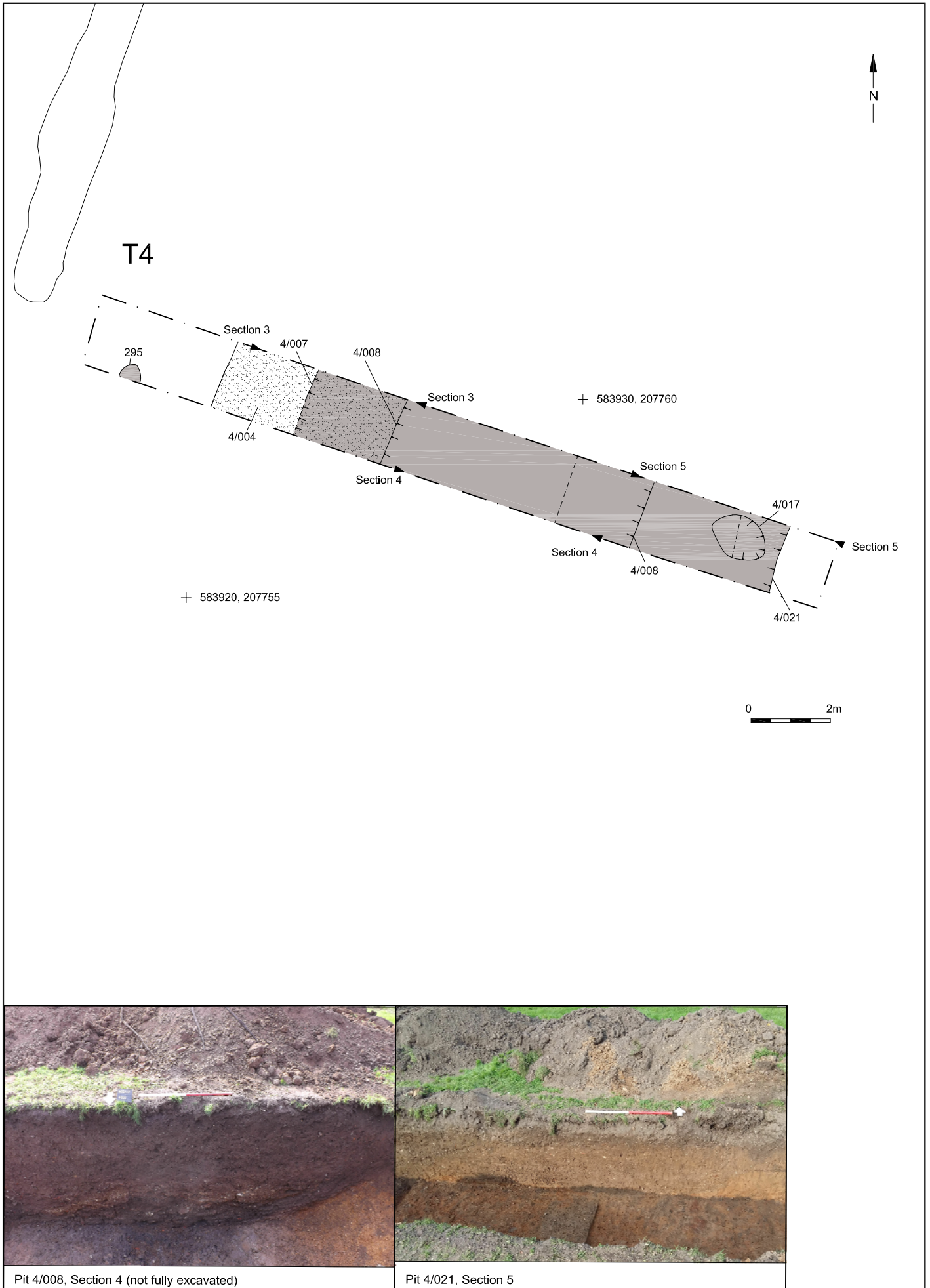
Pit 3/006, 0.5m scale



Pit 3/009, 1m scale



© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 170366	Feb 2018	Trench 3 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017453	Drawn by: APL		



Pit 4/008, Section 4 (not fully excavated)

Pit 4/021, Section 5

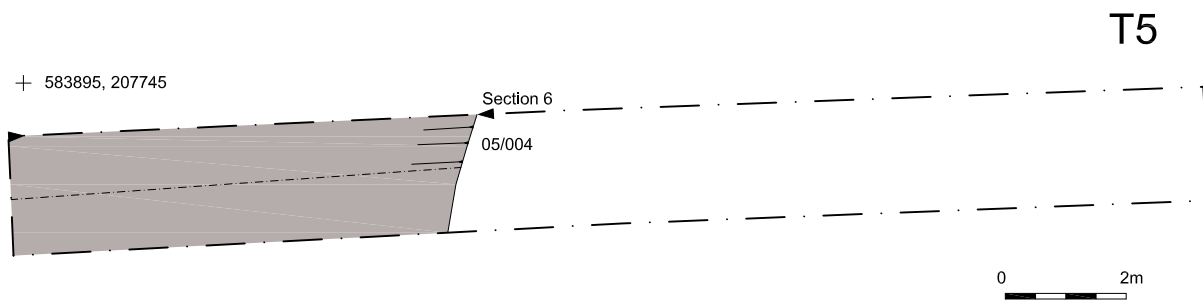
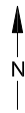
© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 170366	Feb 2018	Trench 4 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017453	Drawn by: APL		



Pit 5/004, 1m scale

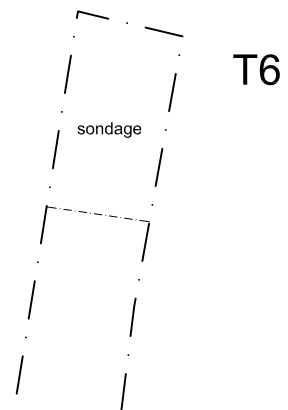


Pit 5/004, 1m scale



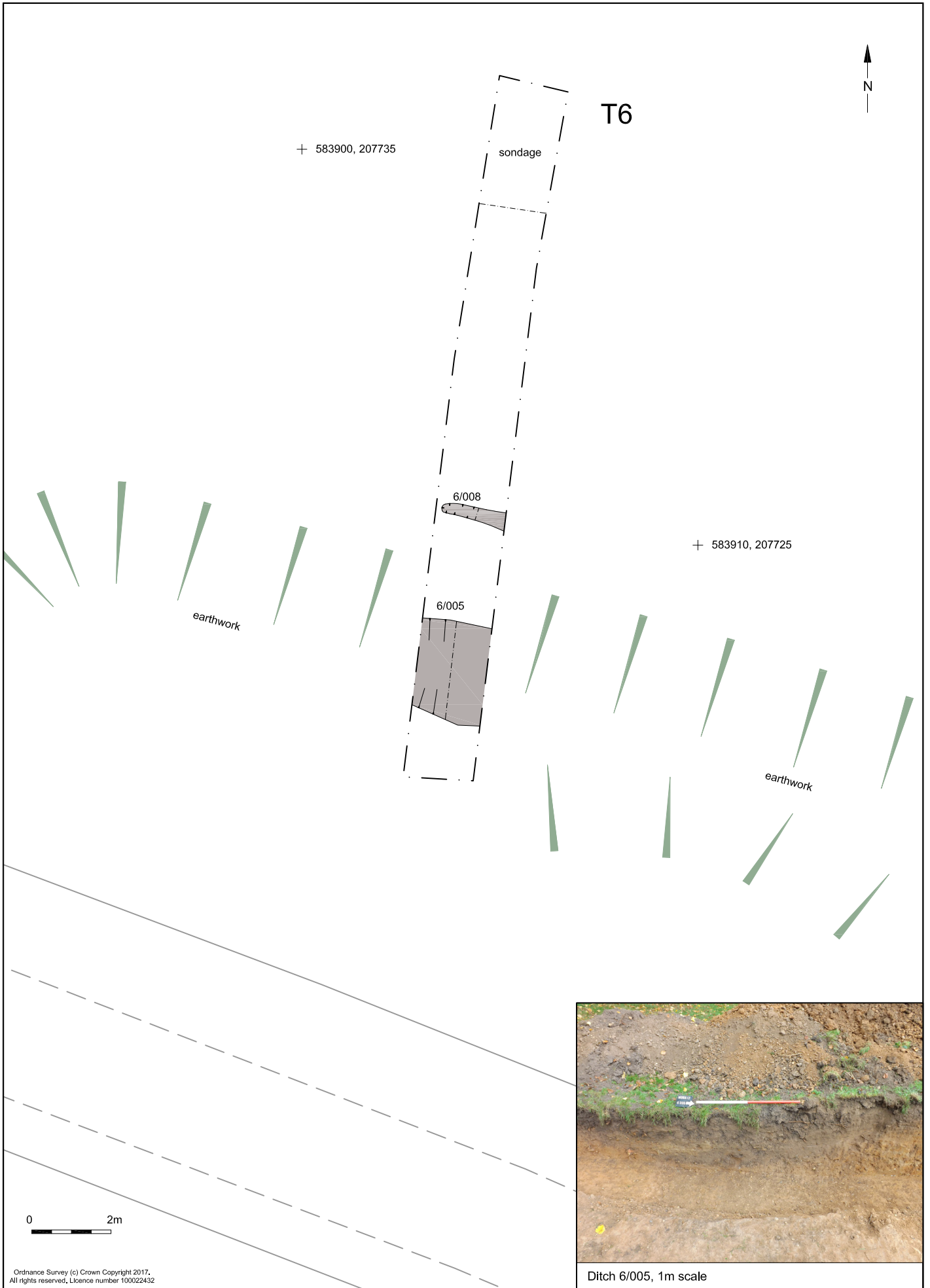
+ 583895, 207740

+ 583900, 207735



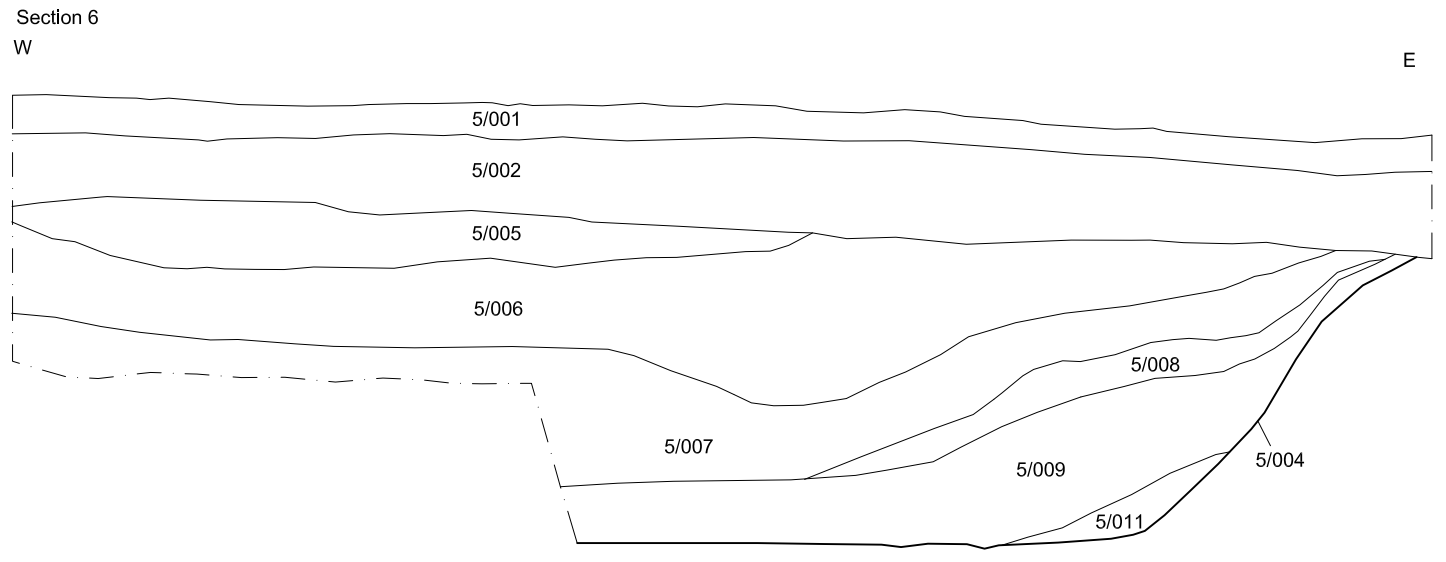
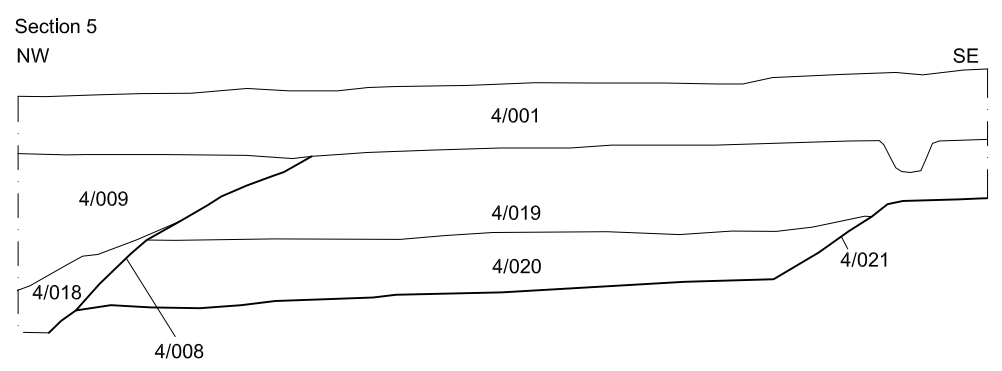
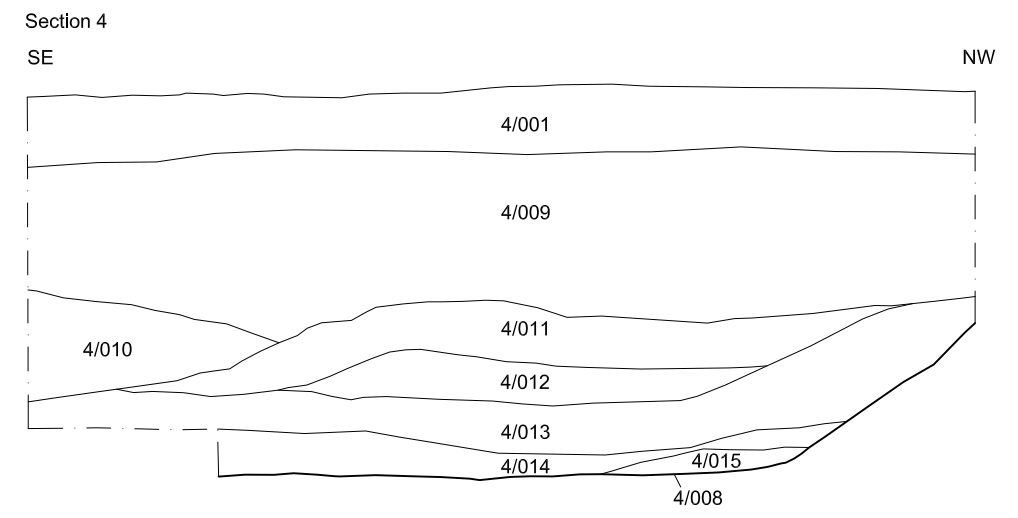
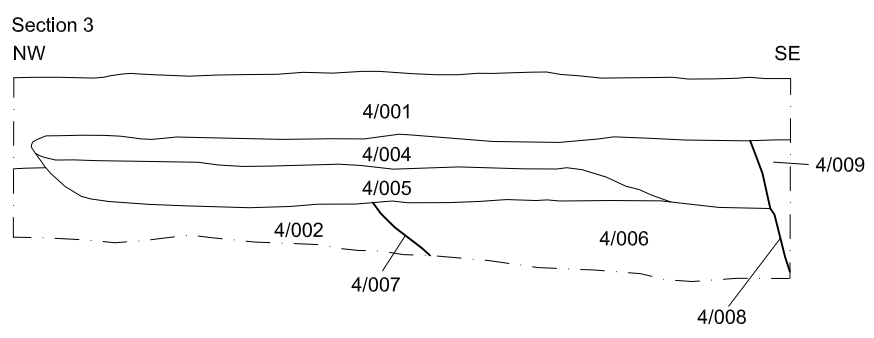
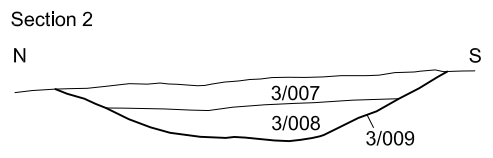
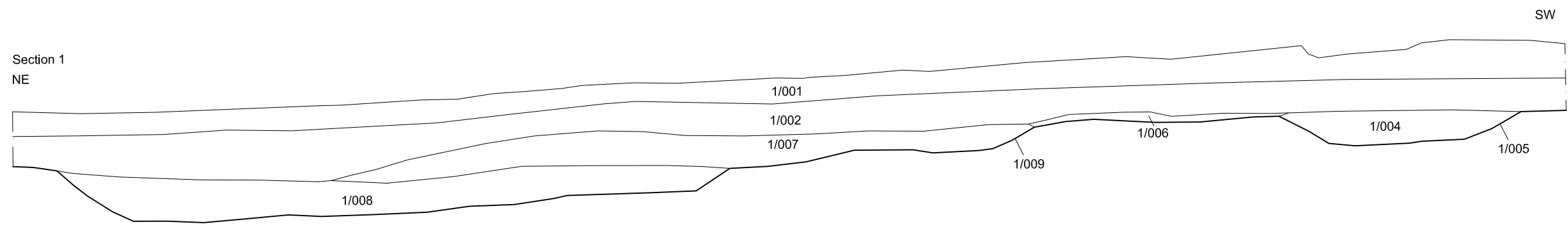
© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 170366	Feb 2018	Trench 5 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017453	Drawn by: APL		





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

© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 170366	Feb 2018	Trench 6 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017453	Drawn by: APL		



**Sussex Office**

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

**Essex Office**

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

**London Office**

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

