

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHING 2019

**BEELEIGH ABBEY
MALDON
ESSEX**

**ASE Project No: 190004
Site Code: MDBA19**

ASE Report No: 2019281



November 2019

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological trenching evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East within the grounds of Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, in July/August 2019. The fieldwork was undertaken at the request of the landowner and was undertaken with the assistance of members of the Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group.

Five trial trenches were excavated in the field to the south-west of the abbey and south of Beeleigh Chase. The trenching was designed to investigate known earthworks that are believed to be part of a farmyard complex visible on an estate map of 1805 and on later historic Ordnance Survey mapping. The trenches were in-part located to examine (ground prove) a number of potential archaeological features identified during recent geophysical survey undertaken on the site by Dr Tim Dennis. The field had not been subject to previous archaeological work.

A possible quarry pit was identified that may be associated with near-by tile production, as suggested by the large quantity of tile wasters present in the field, or with documented 16th-century brick production. Also, of possible medieval date and contemporary with the earlier life of the abbey, soil layers were recorded at the base of some of the excavated sequences. Later medieval and post-medieval remains included lengths of wall of possible 16th-century date and an 18th-century structure that included upright post positions and associated partitions and is likely to be part of some sort of animal shelter.

Some of the investigated remains are depicted on the 1805 estate map, such as the trackway and yard areas, and others such as the animal shelter are not, implying they are earlier in date. Investigation of the T-shaped building was inconclusive; its approximate location was identified, but little substantial remains defining its extents were observed. However, one partly-visible possible post-pit located within the porch area of the building, may have had a structural function.

Some of the trenches were targeted on potential features identified during various episodes of geophysical survey. In most instances archaeological excavation qualified the presence of corresponding below-ground remains. It is clear both from the archaeological evaluation and from the geophysical survey that archaeological remains extend beyond the limit of the trenches. In particular, the Lidar image seems highly informative, with numerous features located between the position of the T-shaped building and the pond. Some of these remains as demonstrated by the evaluation are likely to be contemporary with the life of the medieval abbey.

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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 field to the south-west of Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, during August 2019. The work was undertaken in conjunction with volunteers from the Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group (MAHG).
- 1.1.2 The trenching work was designed to investigate known earthworks in the field to the south-west of the abbey that are believed to be part of a farmyard complex visible on an estate map of 1805 and on later historic Ordnance Survey mapping up to the 1920s. The trenches were in part located in order to examine (ground prove) a number of potential archaeological features identified during recent geophysical work undertaken on the site by Dr Tim Dennis. No archaeological works have previously been undertaken in this field.

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 Turning (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 field to the south-west of the present abbey buildings (Fig. 2). The field is bordered to the west by Abbey Turning and to the north by Beeleigh Chase. It slopes gently down from south to north and a number of earthworks are clearly visible in its surface. The field consists of mown grass, unmown grass and scrub. A number of small trees are also present.

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 29th July and the 14th August 2019. The fieldwork was managed by Gemma Stevenson.
- 1.3.2 Recipients of this report comprise Christopher Foyle, David Andrews, Pat Sheehy (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, dorter and dorter 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 in recent decades undergone further renovation and improvement of the house and gardens.

2.2 Archaeological Background

Meadow west of abbey

- 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). Fieldwork 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. 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).
- 2.2.4 Additional trenching in the meadow in 2017 (ASE 2018) was designed to complement earlier excavation work and was targeted on areas of the field not previously investigated. Two medieval rubbish pits were identified in Trench 3, one dating to the 13th/14th century and the other to the 15th century. 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 has previously been suspected (Brooks 2006; Punchard 2007).

Work in the garden

- 2.2.5 Work undertaken in the garden to the east of the Abbey has been far less extensive. The geophysical survey carried out by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit in the summer of 2001 detected an anomaly running along the south side of the main lawn, parallel to existing paths and plant beds (Wardill 2001). This was subsequently trenched by MAHG in September 2001 and interpreted as the robbed-out remains of a brick garden wall of probable Tudor or 17th-century date (Clark 2001). It is believed to mirror roughly the position of an extant wall constructed of Tudor bricks on the north side of the garden.
- 2.2.6 More recently, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the creation of a new herb garden and glasshouse (ASE 2019). The limited investigation area revealed three pits and a possible robber trench or boundary ditch containing domestic refuse dating generally between the 13th and 14th centuries. Deposits of mortar, brick, stone and tile in the upper portions of the robber trench/boundary ditch, along with two shallow deposits containing similar material, are interpreted as demolition debris that may derive from the dissolution of the abbey in the 16th century.

The current site (Field south of Beeleigh Chase)

- 2.2.7 A farm complex is depicted in this field to the south of Beeleigh Chase on the 1805 estate map. The complex consists of a principal building to the south and two smaller buildings to the north. The main building appears to be a barn, but is relatively small and has what looks to be an unusually large porch. The buildings are situated around the periphery of a roughly sub-rectangular enclosure subdivided diagonally NW/SE. To the north of the complex is a pond and to the east a straight watercourse fed from a spring further to the south. Depicted running diagonally NE/SW across the field from the existing road (Abbey Turning) to the abbey buildings is a distinct track, which is still visible as a raised earthwork today. The track has gone out of use by the time of the 1874-1875 Ordnance Survey map, but the farm complex is still present; although the shape of the enclosure has changed and the northern buildings have been enlarged. The farm buildings continue to be shown on Ordnance Survey mapping until the 1920s. No trace of the buildings remain today other than the odd brick and lump of concrete. In addition to the raised trackway a number of other earthworks are visible within the field including some that extend beyond the area of the former farmyard.
- 2.2.8 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a range of geophysical survey work was undertaken in the area of the former farm buildings by Dr Tim Dennis. This included resistivity, magnetometry, ground penetrating radar and the study of available lidar data.

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 this hitherto un-investigated field.
- To establish the positions of, identify and archaeologically investigate some of the potential features revealed by the geophysical survey and some of the structures depicted on the 1805 estate plan and later 19th-century Ordnance Survey mapping.

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

3.2.1 The fieldwork methodology agreed with the client's consultant involved the mechanical excavation of five evaluation trenches (Trenches 11-15) of varying lengths and widths, located to investigate a number of features identified by the geophysical survey and structures depicted on the 1805 estate plan and later historic Ordnance Survey mapping (Figures 10-15).

3.2.2 Trench 11 was located in the north of the field to investigate a possible NE/SW aligned trackway visible on both the geophysical survey and on the 1805 estate plan. Trenches 12 and 13 were located to investigate a number of geophysical anomalies. Trench 14 was located to investigate possible remains of the T-shaped building visible on the 1805 plan and later 19th-century mapping. Trench 15 was located in the south of the site to investigate a large rectangular feature visible on Lidar and apparent on the ground as a slight depression.

3.2.3 Trench 11 was 11m long by 1.1m wide, Trench 12 was 19m by c.3m with a small 2m-projection to the east and Trench 13 was 15m long by c.3m wide. Trench 14 was a more complex shape of three main areas. The northern area was roughly rectangular and measured c.4.5m by 7.5m, the central arm was 8.5m by 1.1m and the southern rectangular area was approximately 8m by c.2.5m. All trenches were CAT scanned prior to excavation for the presence of underground power cables.

3.2.4 Machining of the trenches was conducted, under close archaeological supervision, using 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, a post-excavation photograph and a completed trench record sheet as a minimum.
- 3.2.7 Encountered features, deposits and structures were excavated by hand, sufficient to provide a representative sample of the remains present in each trench and of the overall stratigraphic sequence. Deposits were selectively and partially removed, cut features appropriately excavated within their exposed extents and walls left *in situ* wherever possible.
- 3.2.8 All trenches and exposed archaeological remains within them were digitally photographed and planned using GPS. Excavated sections were hand-drawn and written records made of each identified context on *pro forma* context record sheets.
- 3.2.9 Where present, finds were retrieved from all excavated deposits and identified by context number to a specific deposit. These have been processed according ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014c). Where appropriate, finds were marked with the site code (MDBA19) 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).

Item	Quantity
Trench Record forms	5
Context sheets	94
Section/Plan sheets	11
Drawing register	1
Photo register	1
Digital photos	120

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 The locations of the excavated trenches (Trenches 11-15) are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 The removed overburden consisted of dark greyish brown to dark grey sandy clay silt topsoil that directly overlay archaeological remains in Trenches 11 to 14 and overlay mid to dark greyish brown clay silt subsoil in Trench 15. A small amount of subsoil was also noted at the south end of Trench 11. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.17m (Trench 14) to 0.25m (Trench 12) and the subsoil from 0.16m (Trench 15) to 0.20m (Trench 11). Potential natural deposits were only exposed in the bases of archaeological interventions and generally consisted of light greyish brown to light yellowish brown silty clay, apart from at depth in Trench 15 where mid brown silty clay was observed.
- 4.1.3 A variety of archaeological remains were present. A large quarry pit, a number of smaller pits, a metalled trackway and yard surfaces, and the remains of potential buildings. Some of the remains are clearly associated with the farmyard depicted on the 1805 estate plan and later historic Ordnance Survey mapping whilst others such as the possible quarry pit (medieval?) and some of the structures (16th/18th century?) may pre-date them.
- 4.1.4 The trenches and the archaeological remains recorded in them are individually described in detail in sections 4.2 to 4.6 below.

4.2 Trench 11 (Figure 3)

Height at NW end of trench (top) = 11.00m AOD

Height at SE end of trench (top) = 11.04m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D m)
11/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark greyish brown sandy clay silt	11+ x 1.2 x 0.24
11/002	Layer	Light brownish grey clay silt, occ. pebbles	1.6 x 1.2 x 0.10
11/003	Layer	Mid brownish grey sandy silt, freq. gravel, very freq. peg tile	2 x 1.2 x 0.12
11/004	Layer	Surface - mid/dark greyish brown clayey silt with freq. small-med. pebbles and occ. larger flints	6 x 1.20 x 0.18
11/005	Fill	In 11/008 - mid grey gravel (flint nodules and pebbles), occ. CBM and peg tile.	4.2 x 1.2 x 0.20
11/006	Layer	Mid brownish grey sandy silt, freq. peg tile	0.94 x 1.2 x 0.06
11/007	Layer	Mid reddish brown silty clay	1.4 x 1.2 x 0.10
11/008	Cut	Construction – c.15° sides, flat base	4.2 x 1.2 x 0.20
11/009	Layer	Mid grey sandy silt, very frequent peg tile	3.8 x 1.2 x 0.16
11/010	Layer	Mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt	4.5 x 1.2 x 0.18
11/011	Layer	Subsoil (in S. of trench) - mid greyish brown clay silt	c.3 x 1.2 x 0.2

Table 2: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 11 was orientated NW/SE and was located towards the north end of the field. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m, with the removed overburden consisting of dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil [11/001] over mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt subsoil [11/011]; the latter only present in the southern end of the trench. Revealed within Trench 11 were a series of pebble- and tile-rich deposits forming a raised trackway aligned NE/SW. Underlying the trackway deposits was a layer of mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt [11/010] containing occasional flecks of CBM and charcoal, perhaps the remnant of an earlier subsoil deposit.
- 4.2.2 At the base of the trackway sequence was a layer of mid grey sandy silt containing frequent peg tile [11/009]. The layer was 3.8m wide by up to 0.16m thick and may represent an initial track surface perhaps laid over a pre-existing hollow or routeway. The surface appeared to continue northwards possibly for another 3m, first as a thinner tile-rich band [11/006] and then as a more substantial gravel and tile deposit [11/003]. Deposit [11/006] was sealed by a layer of light brownish grey clay silt [11/002] that also partly overlay the north end of deposit [11/009] and might represent a build-up of mud on this surface.
- 4.2.3 The north side of 'mud' deposit [11/002] may have been truncated by the side of a shallow construction cut [11/008] associated with a later phase of track metalling. The cut was 4.2m wide by 0.2m deep and was filled with compact mid grey gravel [11/005] consisting of flint nodules and pebbles in a silt matrix along with occasional small fragments of brick and peg tile. To the south, the cut truncated a localised deposit of mid reddish brown silty clay [11/007]. At the top of the sequence and overlying both gravel surface [11/005] and silty clay [11/007] was a further gravel surface [11/004], some 6m wide, consisting of frequent small to medium pebbles and occasional larger flints in a mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt matrix.
- 4.2.4 Dating for the trackway was relatively sparse. The earliest pottery, a few sherds spanning the later 12th to the 16th century, was recovered from localised deposit [11/007] and tile rich band [11/006], although this is perhaps more likely residual than a true reflector of date. Compact gravel [11/005] contained a good quantity of pottery, both medieval and post-medieval, with the latest dating to the early 19th-century. Finds from this also included an unusual fragment of terracotta, a larger example of which was found in Trench 12. At the top of the sequence upper track deposit [11/004] contained post-medieval and modern pottery.

4.3 Trench 12 (Figures 4 and 5)

Height at N end of trench (top) = 11.83m AOD

Height at S end of trench (top) = 11.65m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
12/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey clay silt	19.5 x 3 x 0.25
12/002	Layer	Loose gravel – common small flints/pebbles in grey sandy silt matrix	3.6 x 2.3 x 0.04
12/003	Layer	Gravel surface – dark grey silt with very freq. med. angular and sub-angular flints	9 x 3.5 x 0.09

12/004	Layer	Demolition deposit? – light greyish brown sandy silt with freq. red brick frags and chalk	2.3 x 0.67 x 0.08
12/005	Masonry	Wall – ESE/WSW aligned, Red brick (unfrogged) on tile. Light yellowish grey sandy lime mortar	2.5 x 0.26 x 0.17
12/006	Masonry	Wall – NNE/SSW aligned, Red brick (unfrogged) and tile. No obvious bonding material	3.3 x 0.23 x 0.04
12/007	Layer	Mid brownish grey sandy silt, freq. peg tile, moderate mortar frags	2.3 x 0.3 x 0.09
12/008	Fill	In 12/009 – mid brownish grey sandy silt	2.36 x 0.3 x 0.11
12/009	Cut	Construction – linear, vertical sided, flat bottomed	2.36 x 0.3 x 0.11
12/010	Layer	Light reddish grey sandy silt. Occ frags of mortar, tile. CBM and charcoal flecks	1.3 x 0.66 x 0.08
12/011	Masonry	Post pad – Half red bricks and large pieces of tile, flint and stone. Mid brownish grey silt.	1.29 x 0.66 x 0.12
12/012	Layer	Gravel surface – freq. mixed flint within a mid grey sandy silt matrix	2.5 x 1.2 x 0.08
12/013	Layer	Gravel surface – freq. mixed flint within a mid grey sandy silt matrix	2.3 x 1.02 x 0.07
12/014	Layer	Light to mid reddish grey sandy silt. Occ. tile, CBM and mortar flecks	0.95 x 0.7 x 0.15
12/015	Masonry	Foundation – linear, WNW/ESE aligned, mix of half red bricks and frags of peg tile	1.26 x 0.32 x 0.14
12/016	Masonry	Foundation – linear, WNW/ESE aligned, mix of half red bricks and frags of peg tile	1.16 x 0.34 x 0.12
12/017	Masonry	Foundation – similar to /015 and /016, some tile and CBM frags, largely truncated. Poorly defined.	1.46 x 0.36 x 0.04
12/018	Layer	Gravel surface – freq. mixed flint within a mid grey sandy silt matrix	2 x 0.52 x 0.06
12/019	Masonry	Post pad – Half bricks and large pieces of tile and stone. Not exc.	1 x 0.8
12/020	Masonry	Possible post pad – peg tile with stone and flint in a dark grey sandy silt matrix. Poorly defined. Not exc.	0.87 x 0.62
12/021	Layer	Mid reddish grey sandy silt, occ. tile and CBM frags	5 x 0.6 x 0.09
12/022	Layer	Possible natural – light greyish brown silty clay, CBM frags pressed into top	0.06+
12/023	Layer	Mid brown to greyish brown clay silt, occ. small tile frags and pot	2+ x 1+ x 0.05+
12/024	Layer	Brown clay silt. Not exc.	c.5.5 x 2
12/025	Layer	Brick rubble. Not exc.	c.5 x 1.5

Table 3: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 12 was orientated NNE/SSW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.25m, the various archaeological deposits in it being selectively investigated. The removed overburden consisted solely of topsoil [12/001] which directly overlay archaeological remains. Possible natural was only exposed in the bases of some of the deeper excavated segments and consisted of light greyish brown silty clay [12/022]. A number of CBM frags were noted pressed into its top.

- 4.3.2 Potentially, the earliest archaeological deposit excavated in Trench 12 was a layer of mid brown to greyish brown clay silt [12/023] that was partly exposed in the south of the trench. This contained a few small fragments of peg tile and four sherds of medieval (later 12th- to later 14th-century) pottery. The layer was cut by the edge of later pit [13/006] (in adjoining Trench 13) and sealed by gravel surface [12/003]. This gravel surface was exposed for over 9m in length, was 0.09m thick and consisted of frequent medium-sized angular to sub-angular flints in a matrix of dark grey silt. Recovered from the top of this surface was a large fragment of terracotta pottery in a cream fabric and an iron nail.
- 4.3.3 Surface [12/003] had a distinct edge to the north, beyond which were unexcavated deposits of brown silt [12/024] and brick rubble [12/025]; the former possibly the equivalent of deposit [12/023] in the south of the trench and the latter perhaps a remnant of truncated yard.
- 4.3.4 In the north of the trench, a series of masonry features were revealed beneath the removed topsoil and were more fully explored. At the base of the sequence in the north of the trench was a layer of reddish grey sandy silt which was numbered as contexts [12/010], [12/014] and [12/021] where separately exposed between the building remains. The silt was up to 0.15m thick and appeared to overlay natural clay. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered suggesting that it may be broadly contemporary with early deposit [12/023] in the south of the trench.
- 4.3.4 Perhaps the earliest masonry feature was ESE/WSW aligned wall foundation [12/005]. This measured 2.5m long by 0.26m wide by 0.17m thick and consisted of two courses of largely fragmented stretcher bricks set upon a lower levelling course of peg tile. Brick fragments sampled from the wall were all 55mm deep by 115 or 120mm wide and are of probable 16th-century date. The wall was bonded by a light yellowish grey sandy lime mortar and was set within a linear, vertical-sided and flat-bottomed construction cut [12/009] backfilled with mid brownish grey sandy silt [12/008]. Externally (to the south) the construction cut truncated a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt [12/007] containing frequent fragments of peg tile and mortar fragments. Internally (to the north) the construction cut was sealed by a possible demolition layer of red brick fragments, chalk lumps and light greyish brown sandy silt [12/004].
- 4.3.5 A second wall foundation [12/006] aligned NNE/SSW abutted the west end of wall [12/005] forming an L-shaped section of masonry as exposed in the trench. Foundation [12/006] was in excess of 3.3m long by 0.23m wide and over 0.06m deep. It consisted of at least two courses, a lower of header bricks and a partially surviving upper course of flat peg tile. There was no obvious bonding material. A well-made red brick taken as a sample was dated to the early or middle 18th century.
- 4.3.6 To the west of foundation [12/006], and extending beyond the western edge of the trench, was a layer of mid grey gravel (recorded as contexts [12/012], [12/013] and [12/018]) forming a compact surface extending for over 4.5m (N/S) by over 2.5m (E/W) by up to 0.08m thick. Set upon this gravel were a series of three parallel ESE/WSW aligned foundation deposits each consisting of a possible sub-circular post-pad ([12/011], [12/019] and [12/020]) and an associated (integral?) linear foundation ([12/015], [12/016] and [12/017]). The two more northerly

possible post-pads, [12/019] and [12/011], were the more substantial and consisted of half bricks, large pieces of broken tile, flint and stone (Rag, Reigate and Septaria) in a mid-brownish grey silt matrix. Post-pad [12/011] was sectioned and found to be 0.66m wide by 0.12m deep and cut or pushed down through the gravel onto the top of underlying clay layer [12/014]. The southern-most post-pad, [12/020], was less well-defined and consisted of generally smaller fragments of tile, stone and flint.

4.3.7 The three associated linear foundation deposits all extended beyond the edge of the trench to the west. The two more northerly ([12/015] and [12/016]) were the better preserved and each consisted of an irregular tight-packed assortment of fragments of red unfrogged brick, peg-tile and the very occasional yellow (Flemish) brick fragment. These deposits were up to 0.34m wide by 0.14m thick and appeared to have been set down into the gravel (Figure 9, Section 4). The southernmost example, [12/017], consisted only of a vague line of brick and tile fragments and may have been subject to truncation. Partially overlying the foundation deposits and the compact gravel was a deposit of much looser gravel [12/002] perhaps eroded from the underlying surface.

4.4 Trench 13 (Figures 4 and 5)

Height at E end of trench (top) = 11.52m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
13/001	Layer	Dark grey clay silt	14 x 3 x 0.23
13/002	Layer	Gravel surface - small to medium sub-angular flints and pebbles in grey silt matrix	10 x 3 x 0.08
13/003	Layer	Yard make-up – Frequent tile, brick, stone and ferricrete	10 x 3 x 0.15
13/004	Layer	Rubble deposit – mostly stone and brick, little tile, grey clay silt matrix	2 x 0.8 x 0.12
13/005	Fill	In 13/006, dark greyish brown silty clay, occ. small-med. flints	1.2 x 0.55 x 0.13
13/006	Cut	Sub rectangular pit, near vertical sides, flat base	1.2 x 0.55 x 0.13
13/007	Layer	Grey clay silt, occ. small gravel inclusions	1.8 x 0.8 x 0.12
13/008	Masonry	Wall - WNW/ESE aligned. Red (unfrogged) bricks in header course, light greyish white lime mortar.	1.19 x 0.26 x 0.14
13/009	Layer	Rubble deposit at E end of trench, tile, brick and stone including a few fragments of ferricrete + a few pebbles in a grey silt matrix	3.4 x 2.7
13/010	Fill	In 13/011, dark greyish brown clay silt. Freq. small to medium flints/pebbles	0.8 x 0.64 x 0.42
13/011	Cut	Oval post-hole, steep concave sides, concave base	0.8 x 0.64 x 0.42
13/012	Layer	Brownish grey clay silt, occ. chunks of brick, tile and stone	0.9 x 0.5 x 0.07
13/013	Fill	In 13/014, grey clay silt, fe nails	c.0.16 diam. x 0.11+
13/014	Cut	Sub-circular, concave profile, not fully exc.	c.0.16 diam. x 0.11+

13/015	Layer	Gravel surface – common small-med flints and pebbles in sandy mid-dark brownish grey matrix	1.4 x 0.90
13/016	Layer	Gravel surface – common small-medium flints/pebbles in greyish brown clay silt matrix	0.6 x 0.4 x 0.08
13/017	Layer	Yellowish grey clay silt, occ. small pebbles, tile frags	3 x 1.75

Table 4: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 13 was orientated WNW/ESE and was located to the immediate east of Trench 12. The removed overburden consisted of up to 0.23m of dark grey topsoil [13/001] that removed directly onto archaeological deposits. Natural deposits were not exposed.
- 4.4.2 At the western end of the trench were two cut features, one [13/006] a shallow pit and the other, a deeper post-hole [13/011]. Both were cut into an unexcavated deposit of yellowish grey clay silt [13/017] with occasional pebbles and tile frags the equivalent of layer [12/023] in Trench 12, which pit [13/006] also clipped. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan, measured 1.2m in length by 0.13m in depth and had steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with dark greyish brown silty clay [13/005] and contained a few fragments of brick and tile and one sherd of abraded mid 12th- to 13th-century pottery. Post-hole [13/011] was 0.8m wide by 0.42m deep and had steep concave sides and a concave base. It was filled with slightly sandy dark greyish brown clay silt [13/010] containing frequent small to medium flint inclusions. Post-hole [13/011] had an uncertain relationship with adjacent layer [13/012] and a few pieces of tile recovered from the post-hole fill may actually be intrusive from this layer. Layer [13/012] was possibly a westwards remnant of more substantial layer [13/003] to the east.
- 4.4.3 At the base of the excavated sequence in Trench 13 was a deposit of grey clay silt [13/007], up to 0.12m thick that contained two sherds of medieval pottery. Only exposed within an excavated segment dug along the south edge of the trench, this deposit may have been truncated by possible Tudor wall [13/008] and certainly underlay a series of later yard deposits. Wall foundation [13/008] was 1.19m long by 0.26m wide and consisted of a single line of unfrogged red bricks arranged in header fashion and bonded by light greyish white lime mortar. Traces of a lower course were visible at the west end of the wall. The bricks were 240-260mm long by 120-130mm wide and 50-55mm thick and were consistent in size with those of Tudor date (Ryan 1996, 95), although it is possible that they were re-used in this context. At the east end of the wall a vaguely circular arrangement of brick fragments (c.0.16m diameter) was suggestive of a possible post-hole [13/014]. Two iron nails recovered *in-situ* from within the post-hole may have been hammered into the former, and now decayed, timber post.
- 4.4.4 The wall was respected on its north side by a gravel surface [13/015]. This consisted of common small to medium flints and pebbles in a sandy mid to dark brownish grey silt matrix. A similar deposit [13/016] was partially visible on the south side of the wall (not illustrated). It is not clear whether this southern gravel surface respected the wall. Traces of a narrow wall construction cut were visible apparently cutting the southern gravel but it was not clear whether the wall was originally cut from a higher level.

4.4.5 Restricted to the southern part of the trench, and in-filling a hollow in [13/007], was a deposit of rubble [13/004] composed mostly of brick and stone (mainly Septaria) with a small amount of peg tile in a grey clay silt matrix. The deposit was c.2.5m long by 0.8m+ wide and up to 0.12m deep and its position roughly correlated with that of an anomaly recorded by the Ground Penetrating Radar survey. Sealing this deposit and also wall [13/008] was a more extensive (10m by 3m) layer of mixed rubble [13/003] comprised of a large quantity of stone (Ferricrete, Rag, Reigate and Septaria), a similar quantity of peg tile and a smaller amount of brick in a grey silt matrix. The rubble was in-turn sealed by a layer of gravel [13/002], 0.02 to 0.08m thick, forming an extensive yard surface.

4.4.6 Gravel [13/002] sealed all of [13/003] but did not extend into the east end of the trench where a slightly different rubble deposit [13/009] was exposed. This comprised a large amount of brick and tile fragments and a far smaller amount of stone (mostly Septaria and a few pieces of Reigate and Ferricrete) in a grey silty matrix. Its composition was almost the complete opposite to adjacent layer [13/003].

4.5 Trench 14 (Figures 6 and 7)

Height at S end of trench (top) = 13.08m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
14/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey clay silt	0.17
14/002	Layer	Mid to dark grey clay silt	1.4 x 0.7 x 0.07
14/003	Layer	Freq. tile in dark grey clay silt matrix	1.8 x 0.7 x 0.08
14/004	Layer	Loose rubble – dark grey silt with brick, tile, stone	0.75 x 0.7 x 0.15
14/005	Layer	Dark brownish grey clay silt, chalk & mortar flecks	1.4 x 0.7 x 0.07
14/006	Layer	Mid grey silt with freq. small-med lumps of chalk	0.28 x 0.7 x 0.05
14/007	Layer	Dark brownish grey clay silt, common tile frags, occ. chalk & mortar flecks	2 x 0.7 x 0.15
14/008	Layer	Dark greyish brown clay silt, common tile	2.3 x 0.7 x 0.08
14/009	Layer	Mid brown to mid greyish brown clay silty silt. Rare tile, occ. chalk flecks & small flints	2.7 x 0.7 x 0.10
14/010	Layer	Cleaning over N part of Trench 14	7 x 4
14/011	Layer	Cleaning central E/W part of Trench 14	8.5 x 1.2
14/012	Fill	In 14/013, mid dark yellowish grey clay silt. Common lumps of chalk and tile	3 x 0.34 x 0.08
14/013	Cut	Drain – linear NW/SE aligned, steep sides, flat base	3 x 0.34 x 0.08
14/014	Layer	Dark grey silt with freq. tile	2.3 x 1 x 0.15
14/015	Layer	Gravel – freq. small-medium flints & pebbles in grey silt matrix	3 x 1.22 X 0.10
14/016	Layer	Freq. tile in mid greyish brown clay silt matrix	0.5 x 1 x 0.07
14/017	Layer	Mid brownish grey clay silt with common peg tile, occ. chalk and mortar flecks	2.5 x 1.2 x 0.05
14/018	Layer	Mid to dark greyish brown clay silt, occ. mortar flecks	0.05

14/019	Layer	Freq. tile in mid greyish brown clay silt matrix	1.2 x 1 x 0.05
14/020	Layer	Mid to dark greyish brown clay silt, light grey mortar lumps and flecks.	0.10
14/021	Layer	Dark brown clay silt, occ. charcoal flecks	0.08
14/022	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay silt. Occ. chalk flecks	2.3 x 1 x 0.04
14/023	Layer	Chalky silt below 14/022. Not exc.	
14/024	Cut	Pit? (part exposed), near vertical side, flat base	0.95 x 0.22+ x 0.4
14/025	Fill	In 14/024 - dark grey clay silt, freq. tile, occ. chalk & mortar flecks	0.95 x 0.22+ x 0.4
14/026	Fill	In 14/027 – mottled mid yellowish grey and dark grey silty clay, occ. charcoal flecks	1.08 x 1 x 0.12
14/027	Cut	Sub-circular pit, variable 30-50° sides flattish base	1.08 x 1 x 0.12
14/028	Masonry	Wall – L-shape, 2 courses of brick, pale buff/light grey mortar	0.51 x 0.17 x 0.11
14/029	Masonry	Wall – linear, 2 courses of brick, pale cream mortar	0.72 x 0.15
14/030	Fill	In 14/031 – pale grey ashy silt, occ. charcoal flecks	0.8 x 0.4 x 0.16
14/031	Cut	Pit – part exposed, gradual sides, concave base	0.8 x 0.4 x 0.16
14/032	Layer	Yellowish brown silty clay, chalk-flecks, peg-tile	2.5 x 1 x 0.04
14/033	Layer	Mid greyish brown to yellowish brown clay silt. Not exc.	2.5 x 1
14/034	Layer	Flint, stone, brick and tile frags. Not. exc.	c.2 x 1
14/035	Layer	Mixed tile, silt and chalk. Not exc.	c.4 x 2.5
14/036	Layer	Yellow brown clay silt. Not exc.	c.4 x 2.5

Table 5: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 14 was broadly orientated NNE/SSW and consisted of three interconnecting areas - a northern rectangular area, a central arm and a southern rectangular area. The removed overburden was relatively shallow, with only 0.17m of dark grey topsoil [14/001] overlying archaeological remains. Finds recovered from initial cleaning in the north of the trench were numbered as [14/010] and from cleaning in the central E/W arm as [14/011]. Natural deposits were not exposed.
- 4.5.2 In the northern area a series of gravel, chalk and tile deposits were exposed that are thought to be associated with a former T-shaped building, assumed to be a barn, depicted on the 1805 Estate Map and later historic Ordnance Survey mapping at this location. The deposits were investigated by means of two 1m-wide slots (northern and western), one 2.6m long and the other 2.3m. The most significant feature was revealed in the western slot and was a vertical sided flat-based cut [14/024]. The cut clearly continued to the north and east and was over 0.95m long by over 0.22m wide and 0.4m deep. It was filled with dark grey clay silt [14/025] containing frequent peg tile and occasional chalk and mortar flecks. One sherd of mid 18th- to early 19th-century pottery was recovered. The purpose of this cut feature is unclear; its size might suggest that it is a pit, but its location within a probable barn might imply that it had some other function, perhaps originally to hold a structural feature that has been subsequently robbed-out.

- 4.5.3 Feature [14/024] cut an unexcavated chalky silt deposit [14/023] and was sealed by a thin (0.04m) spread of mid greyish brown clay silt [14/022] containing occasional charcoal flecks. Above was a more substantial deposit of dark grey silt [14/014] with frequent tile inclusions, up to 0.15m thick. This, in turn, was covered to the east by a layer of yellowish brown chalk-flecked clay [14/032], only partly excavated but visible in section.
- 4.5.4 Revealed in the base of the northern slot was a layer of mid greyish brown to yellowish brown clay silt [14/033] that contained chalk flecks and fragments of peg-tile but which remained largely unexcavated. This was overlain by two layers of tile rubble in a mid-greyish brown clay silt matrix ([14/016] and [14/019]) up to 0.07m thick. Although the two were separated by a small gap, essentially they appeared to be parts of the same deposit. At the south end of the trench, at a similar level, a further small amount of chalk-flecked clay [14/032], up to 0.08m thick, was removed. At the top of the sequence was a compact gravel surface [14/015] composed of frequent small to medium flints and pebbles in a grey silt matrix. This extended for over 3m (east/west) and was up to 0.10m thick and may have been part of a track or yard at the front of the barn.
- 4.5.5 Excavation did not take place beyond the two slots in the northern area and a number of deposits were therefore not investigated, only recorded in plan. In the NW of this area was a mixed deposit of brick, tile, stone, flint [14/034] amongst which were a few fragments of c.19th-century glass. This almost looked like a westwards continuation of tile layers [14/016] / [14/019] but had a considerably greater frequency and much larger size of rubble fragments (Figure 7). In the south of the area, deposits were more mixed and consisted largely of yellow brown silty clay [14/035] with patches of chalk and concentrations of broken peg-tile that included some vitrified waster fragments.
- 4.5.6 The central arm of the trench was investigated by means of a single, roughly E/W aligned, slot. At the base of this slot was a layer of dark brown clay silt [14/021] at least 0.08m thick. This was truncated by a partially exposed sub-circular pit [14/31], 0.8m long by 0.16m deep filled with pale grey ashy silt [14/030]. The pit was sealed by a layer of mid to dark greyish brown clay silt [14/018] that contained fragments of peg-tile and a range of glass dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. Silt located at the east end of the trench contained inclusions of light grey mortar and a fragment of Tudor brick and was accorded a separate number [14/020] but is likely to be part of the same deposit as [14/018]. This contained articulated rabbit remains. At the top of the sequence was a layer of brownish grey clay silt [14/017] containing frequent pieces of peg-tile, including kiln waste material, and a fragment of Flemish brick. Examples of both 18th- and 19th-century glass bottles were also present.
- 4.5.7 Also, located within the central arm of the trench were two small fragments of brick masonry, [14/028] and [14/029], located about 2.3m apart. Wall [14/028] was L-shaped, aligned NNE/SSW by WNW/ESE and measured 0.51m by 0.37m. It was up to 0.17m wide and consisted of two courses of brick bonded with pale buff/light grey mortar. One smooth-surfaced brick recovered from the wall dated to around the middle of the 19th century. The second fragment of masonry [14/029] consisted of a single line of stretcher bricks measuring 0.72m by 0.15m and aligned WNW/ESE. Two courses were visibly bonded with pale creamy

mortar. One whole brick was recovered that is dated to the Tudor period, though may be re-used in this context. Both walls were surrounded by tile rubble similar to [14/017] and neither appeared to continue beyond their planned extents. However, they may constitute parts of the same, relatively ephemeral, structure.

- 4.5.8 In the southern area of the trench were two distinct features; a linear feature that probably provided a drainage function [14/013] and a sub-circular pit [14/027]. Both features were cut into an underlying light to mid greyish yellow brown clay silt layer [14/035], as tile layer [14/017] did not extend into the southern area. The linear feature [14/013] was aligned NW/SE and was over 3m long by generally 0.34m wide by 0.08m deep, and had steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with mid to dark yellowish grey clay silt [14/012] containing common pieces of chalk and peg-tile. The fill appeared to widen out (to 0.9m) to the south-east which perhaps indicated the position of a soakaway (not investigated). To the north-west it appeared to extend into the central E/W arm of the trench, but not to obviously continue across it. Pit [14/027] was just over 1m long by 0.12m deep and had variable sides and a flattish base. It was filled with mottled mid yellowish grey and dark grey silty clay [14/026] and contained a few flecks of charcoal. No finds were present.
- 4.5.9 At the south end of the southern trench area was a distinct bank, formed by a series of tile-rich deposits and investigated by means of a 0.7m-wide slot. At the base of the excavated sequence was a layer of mid brown to mid greyish brown clay silt [14/009] containing a few fragments of peg-tile, a sherd of mid 18th- to mid 19th-century pottery and four glass shards from a green wine bottle of mid 19th to mid 20th-century date. The glass finds are significant as they imply that the entire bank is a relatively late, mid 19th-century or later, construct.
- 4.5.10 Above deposit [14/009] was a layer of dark greyish brown clay silt [14/008] that was slightly browner than later deposits and was up to 0.8m thick. This was sealed by a slightly more substantial layer of dark brownish grey clay silt [14/007] that was up to 0.15m thick. Both deposits contained a significant quantity of tile, both peg-tile and fused kiln wasters. In addition, a fragment of Tudor brick and part of a post-medieval hip tile were recovered from context [14/007]. Overlying these deposits was a vague WNW/ESE linear band of mid grey silt [14/006], 0.28m wide by 0.05m thick, containing frequent small to medium lumps of chalk and an adjacent layer of chalky silt [14/005]. Initially it was thought that these may be separate deposits but, in hindsight, it may be that they are one and the same.
- 4.5.11 Above [14/005] were two further clay silt deposits ([14/003] and [14/004]), both containing frequent inclusions of peg-tile, including one with brown glaze on, fused tile wasters, a floor tile fragment and several fragments of Tudor brick. At the top of the sequence was a fragmentary layer mid to dark grey clay silt [14/002], perhaps infilling a slight hollow to the south of [14/004], that contained a further piece of brown glazed tile, single sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery, a modern iron ferrule and nails.

4.6 Trench 15 (Figure 8)

Height at E end of trench (top) = 13.5m AOD
 Height at W end of trench (top) = 13.6m AOD

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
15/001	Layer	Topsoil – mid to dark brownish grey clay silt	22 x 1.2 x 0.38
15/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid to dark greyish brown clay silt	22 x 1.2 x 0.16
15/003	Fill (2nd)	In 15/005 – mixed brownish grey silty clay	2+ x 0.6+ x 0.50
15/004	Fill (1st)	In 15/005 – mottled mid grey and brown silty clay,	2+ x 0.6+ x 0.45
15/005	Cut	Quarry? – N/S aligned, flat base	17.5 x 1.2 x 0.95

Table 6: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.1 Trench 15 was orientated E/W and was located in the south of the field, to investigate a large N/S hollow apparent in the surface of the field and evident on Lidar. The removed overburden consisted of up to 0.38m of topsoil [15/001] over 0.16m of more gravelly and slightly greyer subsoil [15/002]. A single extensive archaeological feature was found below these deposits.
- 4.7.2 The underlying feature, [15/005], was approximately 17.5m wide and occupied most of the trench. Parts of its east and west edges were located, but the majority of this extensive lay outside to the north and south. It was investigated by means of a machine-cut sondage located roughly in the centre of the feature. The sondage revealed the feature to be 0.95m deep, where investigated, and to have a flattish base. It contained two fills. The lower, [15/004], comprised of mottled mid grey and brown silty clay containing occasional small/flints and pebbles. One fragment of tile was recovered from it. The upper fill, [15/003], comprised of mixed brownish grey silty clay containing one sherd of medieval pottery and a few small fragments of CBM.
- 4.7.3 Examination of the lidar image (Fig. 12) suggests that [15/005] may have been an elongated feature, up to 40m or more in length north/south.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the 2019 trenching at Beeleigh Abbey. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Appendix 1. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

5.2 Burnt Unworked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Layer [11/006] produced a fragment of unworked burnt flint weighing 32g. The flint was heavily calcined to a white colour, but is otherwise chronologically undiagnostic. It has been discarded.

5.3 Post-Roman Pottery by Helen Walker

5.3.1 A total of 101 sherds of pottery weighing 1324g was excavated from nineteen contexts 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). One of Cunningham's rim codes is quoted in this report. The pottery data have been entered onto an Excel spreadsheet. The pottery is given summary quantification by ware in Table 7 and more detailed quantification by context in Appendix 2

Pottery by ware	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)
Medieval coarseware	15	159
Hedingham fineware	1	9
Sandy orange ware	13	53
Mill Green fineware	1	28
Mill Green-type ware	4	51
Post-medieval red earthenware	22	862
Raeren stoneware	2	7
Westerwald stoneware	1	6
Staffordshire-type slipware	4	18
English tin-glazed earthenware	8	4
English salt-glazed stoneware	1	5
Creamware	9	27
Bone china	1	1
Modern porcelain	7	31
Modern white earthenware	9	16
Modern stoneware	3	47
<i>Total</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>1324</i>

Table 7: Post-Roman pottery quantification by ware, shown in approximate chronological order

- 5.3.2 Most of the features and layers produced pottery of differing dates, for this reason the pottery is discussed by ware rather than by feature. Very little medieval pottery is present, comprising only single sherds of Hedingham fineware and Mill Green fineware with the addition of examples of medieval coarseware and sandy orange ware. The sherd of Hedingham fineware, the only find from pit [13/006] (fill [13/005]), comprises a base fragment probably from a jug. It shows a thick pale grey core and creamy-orange surfaces as opposed to the more typical uniform orange-coloured fabric and exhibits splashes of pale green glaze. Both the fabric and the glaze indicate an early date for this sherd of mid-12th to earlier 13th century. The sherd of Mill Green fineware, which dates from the mid-13th to 14th centuries, was the only pottery find in quarry pit [15/005] (from upper fill [15/003]). It is from the base of a vessel, most likely a jug, and is very abraded, perhaps waterworn. A tile fragment from the same fill also appears worn. Vessel forms in medieval coarseware comprise two cooking-pots with H1-type rims which were current throughout the 13th century, found in construction cut [11/008] (fill [11/005]) and layer [11/006]. A thick-walled wheel-thrown sherd of medieval coarseware from layer [12/010] appears to be from a cylindrical vessel, perhaps a chimney pot. The fact that it is wheel-thrown indicates a date of not before the mid/late 13th century and perhaps into the 14th century.
- 5.3.3 Slip-painted and glazed sherds of sandy orange ware, from construction cut [11/008] (fill [11/005]), are probably from jugs dating to the mid-13th to 14th centuries, but the remaining finds of sandy orange ware are undiagnostic unglazed sherds. However, this does include a wheel-thrown example from layer [13/004] which appears late medieval in date, perhaps belonging to the later 14th to earlier 16th centuries. Of a similar date are sherds from a Mill Green-type ware vessel from layer [12/023], this is a later expression of the Mill Green ware industry whereby vessels became much plainer and more utilitarian during the late medieval period. A further sherd of Mill Green-type ware possibly from the same vessel was excavated from layer [13/009].
- 5.3.4 Layer [13/003] was one of the few contexts to produce pottery all of a roughly similar date, comprising three post-medieval red earthenware vessels. One is an unglazed in-turned rim showing an internal bevel and rilled sides, which appears to be copying a Low Countries red ware carinated bowl, an example of which occurs at Colchester and is datable to the 16th century (Cotter 2000, 270, fig.180.21). In addition, a copy of the same Low Countries bowl shape in Guys-type ware (a slipped red earthenware made in south London) also occurs at Colchester, in a context dated c.1525 (Cotter 2000, 188, fig.127.1), which perhaps gives a closer date to this vessel form. The second vessel from this layer is part of a large flared bowl with a wide flanged rim, which is comparable to an example published by Cotter (2000, fig.134.28-29). At Colchester these bowls are commonest during the late 16th to early 17th century (Cotter 2000, 196), but this example has a sparse glaze occurring only on the inside of the base and the lower vessel walls, which may indicate a date earlier in the 16th century. In addition, the similarity of the fabric of these two bowls suggests they are of a similar date. The third vessel is the flat base from a small rounded ?jar, its all-over greenish glaze indicating a later date than that of the two bowls of perhaps the later 16th century. Post-medieval red earthenware occurs elsewhere on site and includes both glazed and unglazed sherds, but the only other vessel form identified is part of an internally glazed tripod base from topsoil [13/001], which is probably from a pipkin dating to the later 16th to 17th centuries.

- 5.3.5 Two types of German stoneware are present; two sherds of Raeren stoneware were found in topsoil layers [12/001] and [13/001], which are probably from drinking jugs datable to the late 15th to mid 16th centuries. There is also a single sherd of Westerwald stoneware (from topsoil [12/001]), showing moulded decoration and blue and manganese-purple colouring, which indicates a date of the second half of the 17th to the beginning of the 18th century (Nöel Hume 1969, 27-8). By the late 17th century stoneware production in England had begun and there is a single example of English salt-glazed stoneware from layer [14/002]. Other post-medieval pottery includes sherds from a Staffordshire-type slipware press-moulded dish probably dating to the earlier 18th century (from cobbled surface [11/004]) and sherds from an English tin-glazed earthenware vessel showing a simple blue-painted design (from construction cut [11/008] fill [11/005]) which is also 18th century. Several features/layers produced fragments from creamware plates. Although this ware was first produced in the mid 18th century, the off-white rather than pale yellow-coloured glaze of these fragments indicates a late 18th- to early 19th-century date.
- 5.3.6 The remaining pottery is modern, dating from the 19th to 20th centuries, and comprises mainly table wares in modern white earthenware, bone china and porcelain. Finds comprising fragments from cups or small bowls and sherds showing blue transfer-printed decoration. Two of the latter (from construction cut [11/008] fill [11/005] and topsoil [13/001]) show a floral transfer print dating from the 1820s onwards. A single kitchenware is present, a modern stoneware beaded jar rim with an iron-wash and a lead glaze (also known as a Bristol glaze) as opposed to a salt-glaze, which indicates a date of 1880s onwards (Hildyard 1985, 16).

Discussion

- 5.3.7 The pottery spans the mid 12th to 19th/20th centuries, the two 16th-century post-medieval red earthenware bowls from layer [13/003], either belong to the period of The Dissolution or immediately post-date it. The sherds of Raeren stoneware could also relate to The Dissolution. There is only a little 18th-century pottery, but rather more modern pottery, the latest dating from the 1880s and into the earlier 20th century. All the pottery is locally sourced apart from the examples of German stoneware, but these are both types common at inland sites and do not reflect the fact that Beeleigh Abbey had its own waterfront and hence access to coastal and overseas trade (Punchard 2007, 33). There is nothing to denote high status; the modern pottery is not of high quality and may have belonged to staff rather than the owners. The large flared post-medieval red earthenware bowl is of a type associated with dairying and the tripod pipkin was a portable cooking vessel. These are often heavily sooted although this is not the case here, such vessels are fairly common and do not necessarily relate to a specialised activity.
- 5.3.8 The pottery is not in itself particularly significant but should be included with data from previous excavations of this site in order to understand the development, function, dating and status of Beeleigh Abbey. No further work is required on this pottery.

5.4 Building Materials by David Andrews

- 5.4.1 A large quantity of building debris was found in the excavations, present in all the trenches, though some (e.g. Trenches 13 and 14) more than others. Most of it had clearly come from the several phases of demolition which must have occurred at the abbey. Some also derived from the buildings in the field. The material selectively retrieved during fieldwork is quantified in Appendix 1. Most of this debris was discarded after initial inspection on the grounds of its great abundance; only representative samples and interesting objects were retained. These are quantified and described in Appendix 3.

Stone

- 5.4.2 The range of stone types present was typical of what would be expected from a masonry building in the east of the county: ferricrete, septaria, Caen, Reigate, Kentish Rag, and oolitic limestone. Ferricrete was found, mainly in Trench 13, but not retained. A piece of oolite is unusually coarse and has a pitted surface as if weathered in a marine environment. This resembles the coarse oolite sometimes in early Essex ecclesiastical buildings; it may be of Roman origin. Being distant from its sources, oolite is not very common in this part of the county, and probably not present or at least rare in the standing abbey buildings. These buildings are, of course, only a small part of the abbey complex and probably relatively late in the building sequence. Rag is also not very common in the abbey buildings. Some of the pieces found are very dense and crystalline, possibly from quarries different to those normally supplying Essex, such as the deposits near Folkestone. Again this raises the possibility of Roman reuse. Reigate fragments were quite common. Some preserve very fine tooling; one example, from a jamb or reveal, is inscribed with an X, a mason's mark or a face mark. Another is a small shaft from an arched opening with a fillet. One piece of septaria looks as if it has been squared, or else obtained from a quarry rather than the beach.

Terracotta

- 5.4.3 An exceptional find was two fragments of cream terracotta, in a fabric containing grog (from 11/005 and 12/003). The larger was a flat slab 60mm thick. Terracotta of any type is uncommon in Essex: cream terracotta like that at Layer Marney tower, if that is what it is, is very rare indeed. This could have been from a plaque, like that above the Tudor brick doorway into the chapel containing the Berners tomb in Finchingfield church. A date in the early 16th century could be suggested, probably before the Reformation.

Brick

- 5.4.4 Fragments of Flemish-type brick were present in small quantities. Some are very crudely made indeed. Typically these bricks are very variable and several sizes seem to be present. One piece measures 95 x 40mm, another 110 x 57mm, and another 110 x 50mm. Apart from two 18th-century bricks (220 x 110 x 60mm) from wall 12/006, all the bricks seem to be Tudors. They conform to the pattern of those in the boundary and garden walls at Beeleigh, i.e. large in size, 240-50 x 115-20 x 55-60mm. They are quite roughly made; the arrises not square, and the bases rough or grass marked. However, in Trench 14 there were a few

smaller (100 x 50mm) better-made bricks with squarer arrises and sanded bases. These could be later in date, probably 17th century, or even later still.

Peg tile

- 5.4.5 Notable were large quantities of peg tile kiln waste, often comprising layers of tile fused together, especially common in Trench 14 towards the south end of the field. None of these were sufficiently intact to say whether they were the early type of tile made on the large module of about 13 x 6 ½ inches. They tended, like these early tiles, to be relatively thick, at about 15-18mm, rather than the typical later dimension of 12-15mm. A significant proportion of the peg tiles showed evidence of being glazed, as was the case in the 2001-2005 excavations. These were either used decoratively, or some buildings may have had their entire roof made of them.

Floor tile

- 5.4.6 A few floor tile fragments were found. One very small piece might have been from a medieval decorated floor tile. It is predictable, however, that most tiles of this sort would have been salvaged for reuse elsewhere. The glazed, and slipped and glazed, fragments, measuring about 130 x 28mm, were probably from tiles divided diagonally into slipped and plain glazed segments, of which one large piece was found in 13/004. It is probable that there was extensive flooring of this sort at the abbey, with a suggested late 14th/15th century date. Some green glazed fragments were found (125 x 23mm), and these might also have been common. A plain piece 180+ x 30mm could be from a 9-inch pammet ([13/009]).



Slipped and glazed floor tile

5.5 Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A small assemblage comprising 161 fragments of glass weighing 1,780g was recovered from nine individually numbered contexts. The earliest comprise a total of fifteen pale green and pale blue window glass fragments of late medieval to early post-medieval date, recovered from [13/003]. Included are fragments with grozed edges. None are decorated.
- 5.5.2 The majority of fragments consist of wine bottle shards, totalling 127 pieces representing just seventeen bottles. Potentially the earliest were found in [14/010] which contained fragments broadly dateable between c.1650 and 1850. Context [14/017] contained pieces dating between c.1750 and 1825, whereas [14/018] included pieces of 18th-century date. The majority of wine bottle fragments, however, either date to the 19th century or to the late 19th / early 20th century.
- 5.5.3 Few other vessels are represented. Two clear cylindrical vessels undiagnostic of form were recovered from [14/018], dating to the 19th or early 20th century. A clear glass cylindrical bottle was found in [14/011] and dates to the mid 19th to early 20th century. Beer bottle fragments dating to the late 19th or early 20th century were retrieved from [14/011] and [14/017].

5.6 Metallurgical Remains/Magnetic Material by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 This 2019 phase of archaeological work recovered just four pieces of slag (272g). The whole assemblage is listed in Table 8.

Context	Type	No	Weight	Comments
11/004	Undiagnostic iron slag	2	192g	Mid brown-grey, quite dense with some solidified melting on upper faces
11/005	Undiagnostic iron slag	1	68g	As above
14/003	Cinder	1	12g	Grey, well aerated

Table 8: Slag assemblage

- 5.6.2 Although strictly speaking none of the slag is diagnostic of process, it is suspected all probably relates to iron smithing. A larger, more diagnostic, assemblage would be needed to ascertain this beyond doubt. Certainly the quantities involved are small, suggesting the iron-working was not occurring in the immediate vicinity of the trenches.
- 5.6.3 The slag assemblage is small, lacks diagnostic pieces and appears to relate to metalworking in the 'general' area. Further slag has been found during previous excavations in the field to the north. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and will be discarded.

5.7 Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 A moderate assemblage of metalwork weighing a total of 3,889g was recovered from twenty-four separate contexts. The assemblage consists primarily of iron nails, as well as a small number of other objects and is in overall good condition. The assemblage has been recorded for the archive on pro forma record sheets.

Nails and structural fittings

5.7.2 A total of 133 nails weighing 1066g were recovered. The majority are general purpose cut nails with square, circular or sub-circular heads (Goodhall type 1 or 2); a small number of nails with faceted heads (type 4) are also present, and headless nails (Goodhall type 8) in smaller numbers. Nails are cut rather than wrought in most cases, dating them no earlier than the 18th-19th century. Both masonry and timber nails are present. Modern circular sectioned wire nails were recovered from [14/002] and [14/011].

5.7.3 Context [14/001] contained part of a large staple or cramp, broken across the rectangular plate, with one tang present. The size of this object suggests it was utilised with substantial timbers or masonry. Smaller U shaped staples were recovered from [14/001] and [14/011].

Buttons

5.7.4 A flat circular two piece ?pewter button with milled edge (Di 21.4mm) was recovered from [14/011], and a flat circular white metal button (Di 17mm) from [12/001]. An 18th/19th-century date is probable for the former, while the latter is of later 19th/20th-century date.

Horse equipment

5.7.5 Context [12/001] produced a complete horseshoe with toe clip and fullered groove, dating to the 19th century or later, while one branch of a post-medieval shoe came from [13/001]. The latter is covered in mortar and may have been attached to masonry. A large D-shaped iron buckle from [14/001] probably derives from a harness.

Tools

5.7.6 A socketed, hooked implement was recovered from [13/005]. The hook does not have a cutting edge, therefore is probably not agricultural in nature; possibly it functioned as a boat hook or similar, attached to a pole. A possible wedge or chisel/set was recovered from [12/001].

Other objects

5.7.7 Context [14/010] contained a large oval iron loop, L84mm, possibly from a substantial chain or coupling. Various large plate fragments from contexts [13/003] [14/011] and [12/022] are of uncertain function. A mechanical component, possibly functioning similarly to a linchpin, was recovered from [13/013] (or 13/003 – both contexts appear on the label). A 19th-century or later

date is probable for these objects. A modern ferrule came from [14/002].

5.8 Animal Bone by Emily Johnson

5.8.1 An assemblage of 115 animal bones weighing approximately 1,985g in total was recovered by hand-collection. The preservation of the assemblage was generally good (Table 9).

Context	N	NISP	Preservation %		
			Poor	Moderate	Good
11/004	5	5	40	60	0
11/005	9	4	33.3	66.7	0
11/006	2	0	0	100	0
12/001	6	5	0	66.7	33.3
12/022	1	1	0	100	0
13/002	6	6	0	0	100
13/003	30	30	0	0	100
13/004	1	1	0	0	100
13/009	11	11	0	0	100
14/007	3	3	0	0	100
14/011	4	4	0	0	100
14/012	1	1	0	0	100
14/014	1	1	0	100	0
14/019	3	3	0	0	100
14/020	32	32	0	0	100
<i>Total</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>14.8</i>	<i>80.9</i>

Table 9: Zooarchaeological assemblage by context showing total fragment count (N), the number of identifiable specimens (NISP) and the proportion of bones displaying varying preservation levels

Method

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

5.8.3 Mammalian age-at-death data was collected where possible. The state of epiphyseal bone was recorded as fused, unfused and fusing, and any determinations of age made using Silver (1969). No dentitions were suitable for ageing through eruption and attrition. Specimens have been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing, non-metric traits and pathology. Bone breakages on long bones were recorded as fresh (peri-mortem), dry or mineralised after

Johnson (1985). The assemblage contained no measurable long bones of domestic mammals.

Results

5.8.4 A total of 64 bones were identifiable to taxa, and a further 43 to taxa size or type (Table 10). Cattle were the best represented domestic animal, with ovicaprids (including one sheep) and pigs occasionally identified. Rabbit bones were well represented, by a single context that contained the skeletal remains of at least one individual.

5.8.5 At present, material is only preliminarily dated and may represent a range of periods. In light of this, the assemblage will be discussed by taxa below. It is recommended that the data be reassessed following comprehensive phasing of the site.

Context	N	NISP	Cattle	Ovicaprid	Sheep	Pig	Rabbit	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Bird
11/004	5	5	1	1				3		
11/005	9	4		1				3		
11/006	2	0								
12/001	6	5				1		1	3	
12/022	1	1	1							
13/002	6	6	2					2	2	
13/003	30	30	18					9	3	
13/004	1	1	1							
13/009	11	11						11		
14/007	3	3	2						1	
14/011	4	4		1	1				1	1
14/012	1	1	1							
14/014	1	1	1							
14/019	3	3						3		
14/020	32	32					32			
<i>Total</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>

Table 10: Taxa abundance in the overall and phased assemblages by NISP.

5.8.6 Cattle specimens derived from a number of contexts, with the majority from yard make-up context [13/003]. Cattle elements were all postcranial save some mandibular fragments from this context. Of thirteen specimens suited to fusion analysis, one proximal tibia was unfused from context [14/004]. Pathological changes to bone were noted at the articulation of a radius and ulna in context [13/003] in the form of mild osteoperiostitis. This may be the result of a systemic

infection carried through the blood stream. A total of 6 specimens showed evidence of butchery with a cleaver. In all cases the segmentation of the carcass or splitting open the marrow cavity was the likely process represented.

- 5.8.7 Ovicaprid specimens were recovered from contexts [11/004], [11/005] and [14/011] and included a distal humerus, radius diaphysis, and metacarpal respectively. The metacarpal, likely the same specimen, was identified as sheep using Boessneck 1974. All bones were fused (n=2).
- 5.8.8 One pig specimen was recovered from context [12/001], a distal femur, which was fused.
- 5.8.9 Rabbit bones were recovered solely from context [14/020]. The specimens in this context likely represent one associated bone group of an individual juvenile rabbit, including partial vertebral column and unfused appendicular skeleton. The cranium and extremities were absent. A further pelvis fragment must have come from a second individual. There was no evidence of butchery and these specimens could be of non-anthropogenic origin.
- 5.8.10 In terms of surface modifications, several partially identified specimens also presented evidence for cleaver butchery, and one for the use of knives in filleting. Some evidence of marrow extraction can be suggested from the presence of fresh (peri-mortem) fractures on marrow-bearing bones (n=6), but the majority of broken marrow-bearing bones were fractured when dry, i.e. during deposition or post-depositional disturbance (n=32). Canid gnawing was identified on nine elements and rodent gnawing on two.

Discussion

- 5.8.11 Despite its small size the animal bones provide some indication as to what species were being consumed on the site. Certainly this included the consumption of beef, and to a lesser extent, pork and mutton. It should be noted that despite Beeleigh Abbey's proximity to waterways, there is no evidence of consumption of water-dwelling species – primarily fish, but also water birds.

5.9 Shell by Trista Clifford

- 5.9.1 A small assemblage of common oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell weighing a total of 267g was recovered from seven contexts in Trenches 13 and 14 (Appendix 1). A minimum of seventeen individuals is represented. The recovered shells show signs of parasite activity and two exhibited spat oysters attached to adult specimens.
- 5.9.2 As well as marine mollusc, the shell of a *Cepaea* species land snail was recorded from [14/007].

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Discussion

7.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation have been met in that, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of surviving archaeological remains within this hitherto un-investigated field has been determined. It was possible to establish the position of, and archaeologically investigate, some of the potential features revealed by the geophysical survey and some of the structures depicted on the 1805 estate plan.

7.1.2 A range of archaeological remains dating to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods were identified. Some of the remains such as the masonry features in Trench 12, correlated to the positions of anomalies of potential archaeological origin identified by geophysical survey (Figures 12-15) and others, such as the trackway in Trench 11, with some of the structures depicted on the 1805 estate plan and 1874/5 OS map (Figures 10 and 11).

Medieval

7.1.3 Potential medieval remains were limited to an underlying layer of silt in Trench 12, a deposit of grey clay in Trench 13 and a large possible quarry feature in Trench 15. The silt underlay more recent archaeological deposits and sealed natural clay and was partly exposed in the south [12/023] and north [12/010], [12/014] and [12/021] of the trench and may represent some relict former subsoil deposit. The grey clay [13/007] in Trench 13 may have been similar as this also underlay later archaeological deposits, though its relationship with the natural clay was not ascertained. In total eight sherds of pottery all broadly dating to the 14th century were recovered from these deposits.

7.1.4 The possible quarry feature in Trench 15 was extensive, being 17.5m wide by c.40m long according to the lidar image. Prior to excavation it was suspected of being a fish pond, but lack of dark and/or organic deposits characteristic of a waterlain origin within its fill implied that this was unlikely and a quarry function is preferred. Dating evidence was limited to one sherd of 13th- to 14th-century pottery and a few scraps of undiagnostic CBM. It is possible that, if indeed a quarry, it could be associated with the 16th-century brick making activity recorded in the field to the north or perhaps with an earlier episode of medieval tile production (see below).

7.1.5 One of the noteworthy discoveries of the fieldwork was the large quantity of peg tile kiln waste recovered from the site, particularly from Trench 14 and to a lesser extent from Trench 13 to the north. The waste was present in sufficient quantity to suggest that it had been made extremely locally and therefore the likelihood that a medieval tile kiln lies somewhere within the field seems high. If so, it may be that clay quarried from the large pit in Trench 15 was used in tile production.

7.1.6 It is possible that further remains of medieval date were present in the trenches, below later deposits that were not removed during this fieldwork.

Late medieval/Post-medieval

- 7.1.7 Two short lengths of wall (Trenches 12 and 13) contained bricks of Tudor date and therefore might date to the later 15th or 16th centuries, if the brick is not re-used. There is documented evidence of brick-making taking place at Beeleigh Abbey in 1517 and it may be that the bricks date to around this time. Wall [13/008] in Trench 13 was very short and appeared to have a timber post-position at its eastern end. It also may have been respected by a gravel surface to the north. No other associated structural elements were visible although it is possible that some may survive along the unexcavated northern edge of the trench. Wall [12/005] in Trench 12 was longer and appears to be part of a demolished building extending north and east of the trench extent. To the west it may have been incorporated into a later structure with the addition of wall foundation (12/006) that contains examples of brick of early or mid 18th-century date. Also associated with this potential 18th-century structure are the series of three post-pad and linear foundation deposits aligned perpendicular to wall [12/006]. These are best interpreted as support positions for three upright timber posts and three adjoining partitions perhaps used to house and divide livestock within a larger agricultural building. The floor of the building consists of gravel ([12012] *et al.*) that may date to an earlier phase of construction before the foundations were inserted. Significantly, none of these buildings are depicted on the 1805 estate map or on later Ordnance Survey mapping, implying that they must have gone out of use at latest by the turn of the 18th century.
- 7.1.8 Some remains clearly corresponded to features marked on the 1805 estate map, such as the NE/SW aligned trackway investigated in Trench 11. This consisted of an original construction phase [11/009] that may have been an improvement to a pre-existing trackway hollow. This surface may have crept north, perhaps constituting a yard, as thinner surface [11/006] and more substantial deposit [11/003]. Mud [11/002] may have built-up on the original trackway and was removed by cut [11/008] in which new track surface [11/005] was laid. At the top of the sequence gravel [11/004] represents a third and final phase of trackway. The date of the construction of the track is unclear, although almost certainly post-dissolution given the amount of peg-tile in the initial surfaces. It was clearly in existence in 1805 according to the estate map and may have continued in use for a few decades more given that one sherd of pottery recovered from middle surface [11/005] was not produced until the 1820s or later.
- 7.1.9 Trench 13 was located within a yard area depicted on the 1805 estate map and on 1870s Ordnance Survey mapping. Excavation revealed the yard surface which consisted of gravel deposit [13/002] overlying a thick make-up deposit of rubble [13/003]. The western boundary to the yard passed through the west end of the trench and was apparent on the ground as a blank space occupied by two cut features, a shallow pit [13/006] and a deeper post-hole [13/011]. It is highly likely that the post-hole held a timber post forming part of a fence line demarcating this boundary. Beyond the boundary, to the west, a further gravel surface [12/003] was revealed in Trench 12 that is not depicted on any mapping and could therefore conceivably pre-date 1805.
- 7.1.10 Trench 14 was located to investigate a T-shaped building depicted on the early mapping and tentatively interpreted as a rectangular barn with a large porch to the north. Unfortunately, a small tree has grown up over recent years in the

approximate centre of this building and the somewhat irregular shape of Trench 14 reflected the avoidance of this. Although excavation here was relatively limited it was hoped that the trench was extensive enough to pick up convincing structural remains for the building. However, these were somewhat elusive and recorded structural remains were limited to two very short lengths of masonry ([14/028] and [14/029]) that could conceivably form part of the western corner of the barn. Sample bricks recovered dated to the 16th and 19th centuries, though the earlier example may have been re-used. A linear drainage feature [14/013] filled with tile and chalk to the south might be contemporary but its position potentially within the building suggests that it may be of an earlier date, along with a nearby pit.

- 7.1.11 In the northern part of Trench 14 gravel layer [14/015] might be part of a surface leading to the front of the barn. However, a slot dug through this and beyond failed to identify any structural evidence associated with the edge of the building, as did a second slot to the south-west. The second slot did, however, reveal the presence of a large cut feature [14/024], enticingly only partially exposed and in theory located well-within the extent of the depicted porch. Its position seems unusual for it to be a rubbish pit and it could therefore have potentially been dug to house an internal supporting post. Potentially the latest feature in Trench 14 was a bank-like feature ([14/004] *et al.*) located at its very southern end. This consisted of a series of tile-rich deposits including a large quantity of tile wasters, fragments of Tudor brick and the occasional piece of post-medieval tile. Finds from deposit [14/009] at the base of the bank suggested that it could not have been constructed earlier than the mid-19th century. The position of the bank corresponded with the rear of the T-shaped barn as depicted on historic mapping, though on the ground no relationship between bank and barn remains was discerned.

Ground proving the geophysical surveys

- 7.1.12 The excavated trackway in Trench 11 could be seen as an upstanding earthwork and was clearly visible on the Resistivity Survey (Figure 13) and also on the Lidar image (Figure 12). The southern half of Trench 12 was located over a large right-angled feature visible on the Resistivity Survey and on the Ground Penetrating Radar plot (Figure 15). Excavation revealed this to be a gravel surface. To a lesser extent the yard surface within Trench 13 was also visible on the Resistivity Survey and the Ground Penetrating Radar image. Trench 13 was positioned to investigate a circular feature evident on the Ground Penetrating Radar image (Figure 15). This was initially suspected of being a well, but excavation revealed this to be a localised area of deeper brick rubble. Perhaps one of the most interesting results is that the masonry remains excavated at the north end of Trench 12 appear relatively clearly on the Ground Penetrating Radar image (Figure 15) and can be seen extending beyond the trench to the north and west. The excavated possible quarry pit in Trench 15 was visible on the ground as a slight earthwork and its full extent could be seen on the Lidar image. In some instances potential remains revealed by the Ground Penetrating Radar appeared to extend deeper than the excavated depth of the trench. As very few trenches were fully excavated the validity of this could not be established. It is, however, likely that further stratified archaeological deposits are present at greater depth.

7.2 Conclusions

- 7.2.1 The trenching has provided some insight into the nature of below-ground archaeological remains in the field to the southwest of the abbey buildings. A possible quarry pit was identified that may be associated with near-by tile production, as suggested by the large quantity of tile wasters present in the field, or with the documented 16th-century brick production. Also, of possible medieval date and contemporary with the life of the abbey were soil layers recorded at the base of some of the excavated sequences. Post-medieval remains included lengths of wall of possible 16th-century date, an 18th-century structure that included upright post-positions and associated partitions, and a metalled trackway that may have constituted the improvement of a pre-existing trackway hollow.
- 7.2.2 Some of the recorded remains equate with agricultural structures depicted on the 1805 estate map and/or later historic Ordnance Survey mapping. However, some such as the masonry structures in the north of Trench 12 and the gravel surface in the south were not depicted and are therefore perhaps likely to be 18th-century or earlier date. The evaluation has also been able to successfully ground prove the validity of some of the potential features revealed by the various elements of geophysical survey.
- 7.2.3 The results of the evaluation in combination with the geophysical survey have shown that remains pre-dating the 1805 estate plan survive within the field and extend beyond the limit of the former farm complex. In particular, the Lidar image shows numerous potential features between the position of the T-shaped building and the pond.

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Appendix 1: Bulk finds

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
11/001	1	21																		
11/003			2	85																
11/004	5	20	7	1017			2	196			5	51								
11/005	29	69	3	796			1	69	3	15	11	44								
11/006	2	23	1	112					2	2	2	1	1	33						
11/007	5	30																		
12/001	9	51	5	259	2	222			25	504	6	41			1	1				
12/003			1	1860					1	8										
12/005			5	5118																
12/006			3	4143																
12/010	2	26							1	7										
12/011					3	5256														
12/015			1	523																
12/022			1	648					2	649	1	27								
12/023	4	44																		
13/001	10	112	1	666					16	240										
13/002	2	106	3	1603	2	2297			2	335	5	233							1	10

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
13/003	13	695	17	8808					4	348	31	1074			15	31	12	341	7	44
13/004	2	26	11	9450	8	3416					1	138							2	11
13/005			9	518	3	3581														
13/007	2	12							1	8										
13/009			11	6766					11	137	11	108					2	1198		
13/012					3	138			1	7										
13/013									2	32										
14/001									8	471										
14/002	2	7	1	90					9	138					1	4				
14/003			15	1680			1	14	5	38									3	31
14/004			4	1603																
14/005																	3	231		
14/007			3	1649					2	12	3	59			9	34	13	3504	20	133
14/009	1	6													3	24				
14/010			4	636					18	252					5	77	5	103		
14/011	16	90							29	634	4	24			18	590	9	1789		
14/012			2	293							1	34								
14/014			10	2590					1	11	1	117								
14/015			3	66					1	8										
14/016																			1	16

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
14/017									5	17					91	861	19	1566	6	22
14/018			11	658					2	5					24	158				
14/019			3	1122	1	541					3	24								
14/020			2	1707							27	10								
14/022	1	12	3	323					1	11										
14/025			6	1079																
14/028			1	3707																
14/029			1	3067																
15/001			2	374																
15/003	6	55	3	99																
15/004			1	9																
<i>Total</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>1405</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>63124</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>15451</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>279</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>3889</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>1780</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>8732</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>267</i>

Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery

Context	Feature	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Ware and diagnostic sherds	Date
11/001	layer	1	20	Medieval coarseware: body sherd, abraded	later 12th to 14th C
11/004	layer	4	18	Staffordshire-type slipware: slip-trailed sherds probably from a press-moulded dish	early 18th C
		1	1	Modern white earthenware: small sherd showing blue transfer-printed pattern	19th to 20th C
11/005	11/008	1	21	Medieval coarseware: H1 rim from small cooking-pot, oxidised, shouldered profile	13th C
		2	14	Medieval coarseware: misc. body sherds	later 12th to 14th C
		9	18	Sandy orange ware: joining sherds, slip-painted under a plain lead glaze showing mottles of green	13th to 14th C
		1	3	Sandy orange ware: slip-painted and glazed sherd	13th to 14th C
		8	4	English tin-glazed earthenware: small sherds, all from same vessel showing simple blue-painted design	18th C
		6	8	Creamware: plain sherds, perhaps all from the same vessel	mid-18th to early 19th C
		1	2	Modern white earthenware: body sherd showing blue floral transfer print	1820s onwards
11/006	layer	1	15	Medieval coarseware: H1 rim from cooking-pot or bowl	13th C
		1	9	Sandy orange ware: unglazed body sherd	13th to 16th C
11/007	layer	3	21	Medieval coarseware: body sherds	later 12th to 14th C
		1	7	Sandy orange ware: sherd with tile-like fabric	13th to 16th C
12/001	layer	1	22	Medieval coarseware: H1 cooking-pot rim, oxidised, abraded	13th C
		1	2	Raeren stoneware: rilled, brown-glazed body sherd, almost certainly from a drinking jug	late 15th to mid-16th C
		1	6	Westerwald stoneware: sherd with band of moulded decoration and blue and manganese-purple colouring	2nd half 17th to beginning of 18th C
		1	14	Creamware: flanged plate rim, whitish rather than buttery-coloured glaze	later 18th to early 19th C
		1	1	Modern white earthenware: small sherd showing blue transfer-printed pattern	19th to 20th C
12/010	layer	2	24	Medieval coarseware: thick-walled wheel-thrown frag perhaps from a cylindrical vessel, such as a chimney pot	14th C?
12/023	layer	1	8	Medieval coarseware: abraded body sherd	later 12th to 14th C
		3	39	Mill Green-type ware: unglazed sherds from large vessel	later 14th to 16th C

Context	Feature	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Ware and diagnostic sherds	Date
13/001	layer	1	6	Post-medieval red earthenware: unglazed body sherd	16th to 19th C
		1	15	Post-medieval red earthenware: internally glazed base sherd	later 16th to 19th C
		5	87	Post-medieval red earthenware: joining sherds from flat internally glazed base showing leg from tripod base, mos likely from a pipkin	later 16th and 17th C
		1	5	Raeren stoneware: body sherd	late 15th to mid-16th C
		1	1	Creamware: rim fragment	mid-18th to early 19th C
		1	1	Modern white earthenware: body sherd showing blue floral transfer print	1820s onwards
13/002	layer	1	56	Post-medieval red earthenware: flat base with near vertical sides and internal glaze	later 16th to 19th C
13/003	layer	1	38	Post-medieval red earthenware: unglazed in-turned rim, showing internal bevel and rilled sides, may be copying a Low Countries redware carinated bowl, an example of which occurs at Colchester and is dated to the 16 th C (Cotter 2000, 270, fig.180.21).	16 th C
		1	40	Post-medieval red earthenware: flat base from small rounded jar?, all over apparent dark green glaze, edge of base is nibbled	later 16th to 19th C
		11	613	Post-medieval red earthenware: sherds from large flared bowl with wide flanged rim, angle of flange similar to sides of bowl, glazed on inside of base and lower walls only, comparable to Cotter 2000, fig.134.28-29	later 16th to earlier 17th C
13/004	layer	1	16	Sandy orange ware: unglazed body sherd, wheelthrown, late medieval type	later 14th to 16th C
		1	7	Post-medieval red earthenware: body sherd with all over glaze, reduced fabric gives dark olive-green glaze	late 16th to 19th C
13/005	13/006	1	9	Hedingham fineware: small base sherd with creamy-orange surfaces but thick pale grey core, splashes of greenish glaze, abraded, could be early	Mid-12 to 13 th C
13/007	layer	2	12	Medieval coarseware: body sherds	later 12 th to 14 th C
13/009	layer	1	12	Mill Green-type ware: body sherd	Later 14 th to 16 th C
14/002	layer	1	2	Medieval coarseware: body sherd, relatively fine fabric, could be Roman	later 12th to 14th C
		1	5	English salt-glazed stoneware: body sherd	late 17th to 19th C
14/009	layer	1	4	Creamware: flanged plate rim, whitish rather than buttery-coloured glaze	mid-18th to early 19th C
14/011	layer	3	47	Modern stoneware: fragments from beaded jar rim, iron wash on shoulder, lead glaze	1880s to earlier 20th C
		5	11	Modern white earthenware: fluted sherds from	19th to 20th

Context	Feature	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Ware and diagnostic sherds	Date
				cup or small bowl, otherwise plain	C
		1	1	Bone china: plain body sherd	late 18th to 20th C
		7	31	Modern porcelain: fragments from a ?cup, plain apart from a gold band around the top of the rim	19th to 20th C
15/003	15/005	1	28	Mill Green fineware: sherd from base of vessel showing splashes of glaze on the underside, abraded/waterworn	mid-13th to 14th C
		101	1324		

Appendix 3: Building Materials

Stone

Context	Feature	No.	Stone Type	Description / Notes
11/004	Surface	1	Reigate	Small
12/011	Post pad	1 1 1	Septaria Rag Reigate	Moulded piece from jamb, reveal or arch ?13 th /14 th century
13/002	Surface	1 1	Septaria ?Clunch	Worked, rounded moulding
13/003	Make-up	1 1 1 4 1 1 3 1	Reigate Clunch Reigate Kentish Rag Oolitic limestone Rag ?Oolitic limestone Reigate	Fine vertical tooling Jamb or reveal, fine tooling, face mark or masons mark X From curved shaft or column with a fillet, 13 th /14 th century Hard crystalline fragments. Like the type from Folkestone Ashlar, coarse, pitted surface. ?From marine environment Crystalline type Small, shapeless fragments
13/004	Rubble	4 2 1	Septaria Reigate Reigate	One squared, one from ?marine environment Small, delicately carved, from a screen? Carved but very fragmentary, eroded
		1	Kentish Rag	Large piece
13/012	Layer	3	Reigate	Small fragments
14/007	Layer	1	Clunch	Small piece
14/017	Layer	2	Caen	Fragments
14/019	Layer	1	Septaria	Flat surface suggests it was shaped

CBM

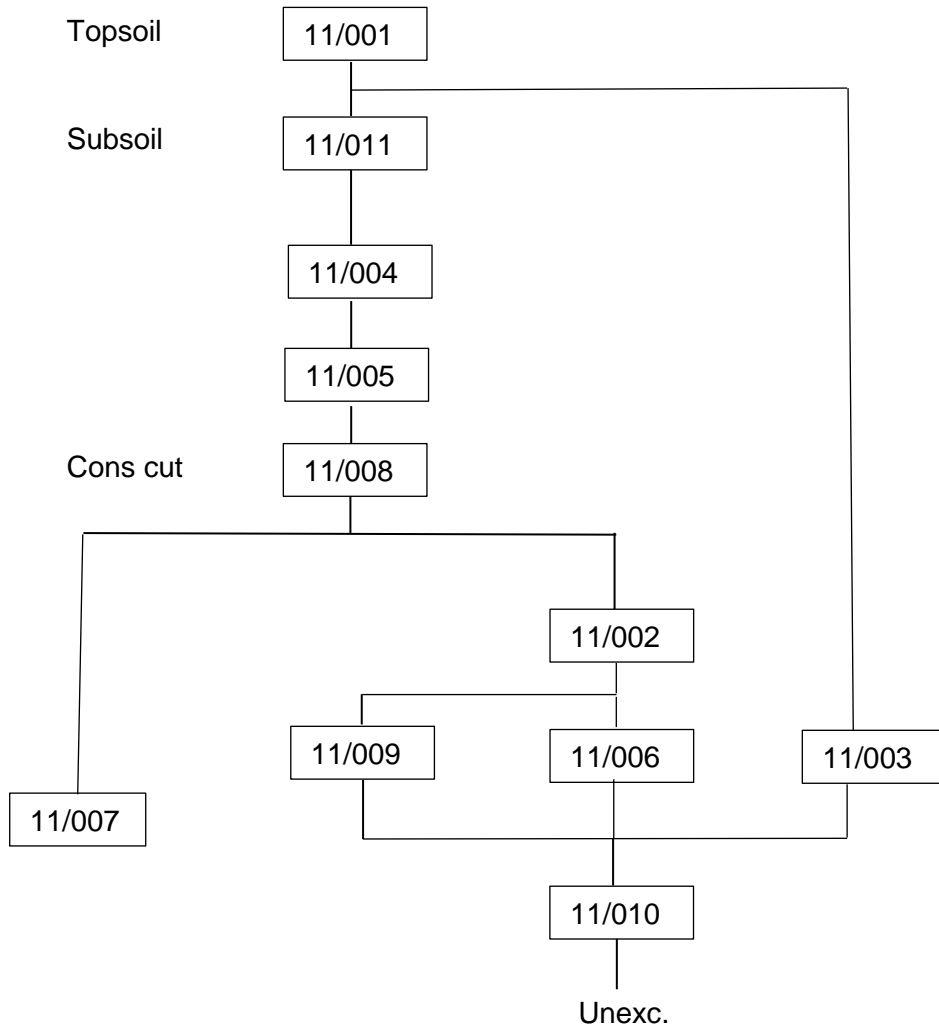
Context	Feature	No.	Description	Dimensions (mm)	Type	Notes
11/004	Surface	1 1 5	Floor tile fragment Brick fragment Brick fragments	30	?Flemish Flemish	Glaze over slip Very eroded
11/005	Fill	1 1	Peg tile Terracotta fragment			Well fired Cream with Grog, smooth surfaces, somewhat vesicular, like piece in 12/003
		1	Brick fragment	55	Tudor	
12/001	Topsoil	2 5	Brick fragments Terracotta pipe fragments	Est. 30 diam.	Probable Flemish	Orange red fabric, hole pierced in them. ?land drain
12/003	Surface	1	Large terracotta fragment	60 thick		Cream fabric, few grog inclusions,

Context	Feature	No.	Description	Dimensions (mm)	Type	Notes
						smooth surfaces. Does it resemble Layer Marney Terracotta?
12/005	Wall	4 3	Brick fragments Brick fragments	55 x 115 (2), 55 x 120 (1)	Tudor	All soft bricks Rough surfaces, mortar covered. 16 th century
12/006	Wall	1 1	brick Brick fragment	220 x 110 x 60 60 x 110		Square arrises, smooth surfaces, well made, base not sanded. Early or middle 18 th century Similar to above
12/015	Foundation	1	Brick fragment	50 x 94	Flemish	
13/001	Topsoil	1	Brick fragment	60	Tudor	Glazed/over-fired, rebated margins, rough base
13/002	Surface	1	Brick fragment	50 x 110	Tudor	Over-fired, rough base
13/003	Make-up	4 2 1 1 5 1 2	Peg-tile fragments Floor tiles Floor tile Floor tile fragment Brick fragments Brick fragment Brick fragments	125 x 25 x ?125 130 x 20 x ?130 130 x 28 50 x 110	 Tudor Flemish Flemish	Green glazed Plain with spot of brown glaze Plain, more orange? Different fabric Variable fabrics, one glazed i.e. overfired Yellowish Light weight, vesicular fabric, eroded
13/004	Rubble	1 1 1 1 5 1	Brick fragment Floor tile fragment Floor tile fragment Floor tile fragment Brick fragment Brick fragments Brick fragment	28 x at least 130 25 x 130 110-115 x 50-60 50 x 115	Flemish Tudor Tudor	Green glaze Traces of slip, sanded base, slightly undercut sides Divided diagonally, one half brown glaze, one half slip. Sanded base, sides barely undercut Traces of slip, very eroded. Probably same as above Glazed Well fired, smooth surfaces, bases sanded but rough Rough base, vegetation

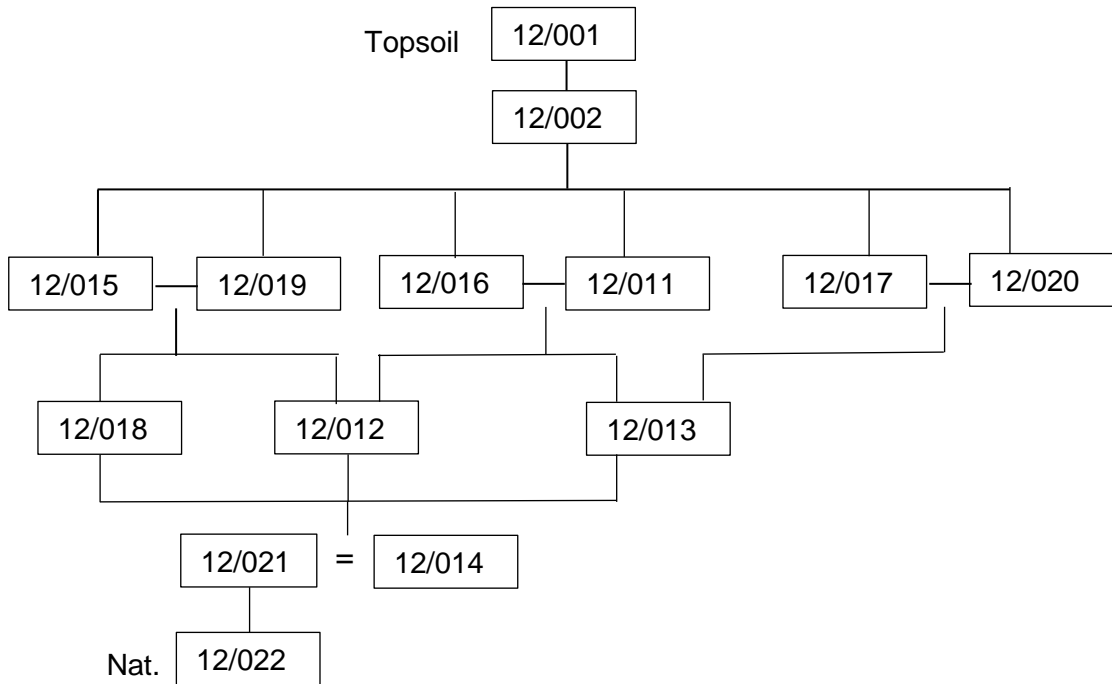
Context	Feature	No.	Description	Dimensions (mm)	Type	Notes
						impressions on surface
13/009	Make-up	1	Peg-tile			With patch of brown glaze
		1	CBM fragment			Glazed, too small to identify
		1	Floor tile fragment	23 thick		Slipped & glazed, very small
		1	floor tile	30 thick		Green glazed, early pammet, typical at Beeleigh
		1	Large terracotta fragment			Damaged
		1	Brick fragment	95 x 40	Flemish	
		1	Brick fragment	57 x 110	Flemish	
		1	Brick fragment	55 x 115	Tudor	Rough, dark red
		1	Brick fragment	110 x 60	Tudor	Rough, dark red
		3	Fused peg-tile pieces			Kiln waste
14/003	Layer	3	Peg-tile fragments	15 thick		Kiln waste
		4	Peg-tile fragments			Well fired, brown glazed
		1	Peg-tile fragment	20 thick		Kiln waste, hip tile?
		1	Peg-tile fragment			Curved, hip tile?
		1	Peg-tile fragment			Over fired, mortar on both surfaces, used in wall?
		1	Floor tile fragment			
		2	Brick fragments		Tudor	
14/004	Layer	1	Peg-tile waster			Kiln waste
		1	Brick fragment	55 thick	Tudor	Overfired
		1	Brick fragment			Underfired, crude, rough surfaces
		1	Brick fragment	50 x 102	Tudor	Good arrises, sanded base
14/007	Layer	1	Peg tile fragment	15 x 155	Post-med	Large, double camber.
		1	Peg tile waster			Curved, a hip tile
		9	Fused peg-tile pieces	12-17 thick		Kiln waste
		1	Brick fragment		Tudor	Roughly made
14/010	Cleaning	2	Peg-tiles			Overfired, kiln waste
		1	Brick fragment	50	Tudor	Overfired, sanded base
14/014	Layer	4	Peg tile wasters	12-15 thick		Well-fired, glaze probably result of over firing. Made with sanded base
		4	Peg tile fragments			
		1	Brick fragment			
		1	Brick fragment	50 x 100	Tudor	Sanded base
14/017	Layer	17	Fused peg-tile pieces	11-15 thick		Kiln waste
		1	Brick fragment		Flemish	

Context	Feature	No.	Description	Dimensions (mm)	Type	Notes
14/018	Layer	9	Peg-tile fragments	12-15 thick		All overfired, One is waste with material fused to it. Others may have been used. Three have mortar adhering
14/019	Layer	1	Floor tile	20 x 103 x 103		Worn, may have been glazed and decorated c.9 inch pammet
		1	Floor tile	30 x at least 180		
14/020	Layer	1	Brick fragment	65 x 113	Tudor	Probably standard Beeleigh brick as in boundary walls
14/025	Pit fill	3	Peg tile fragments	50		Kiln waste
		1	Brick fragment		Tudor	
		1	Brick fragment		Tudor	
		1	Brick fragment		Tudor	
14/028	Wall	1	Brick	70 x 230 x 115		Middle 19 th century, smooth surfaces
14/029	Wall	1	Brick	240 x 110 x 55	Tudor	High fired, base ?grass marked
15/001	Topsoil	1	Peg tile fragment	At least 130 wide		plain
		1	Floor tile fragment			

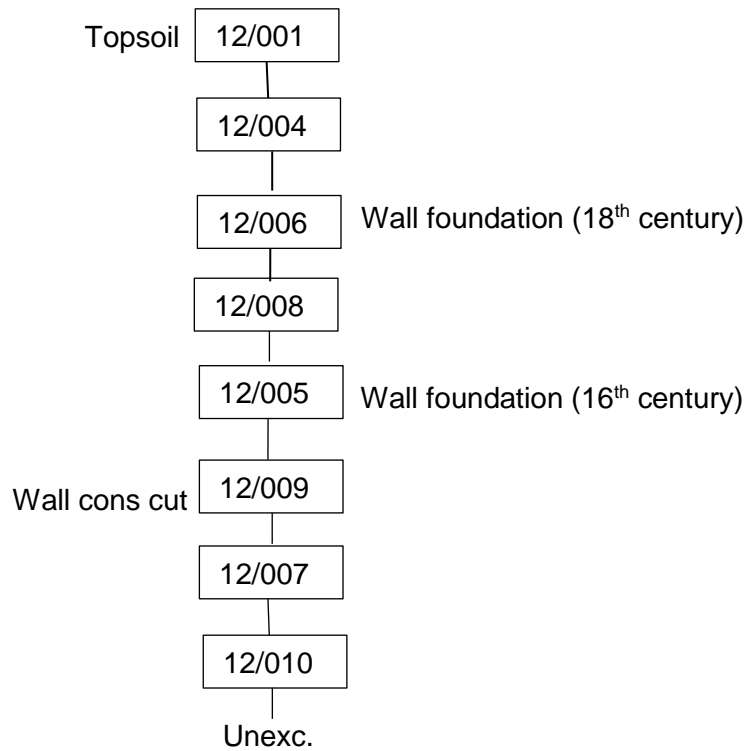
Appendix 4: Trench 11 stratigraphic matrix



Appendix 5: Trench 12 stratigraphic matrices

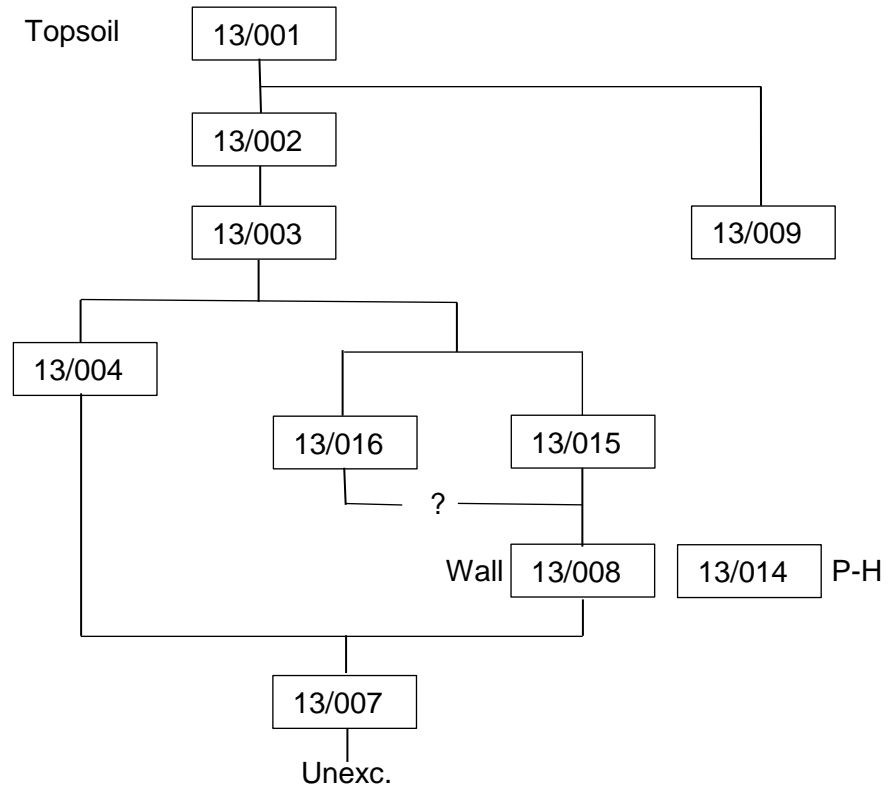


Northern masonry features

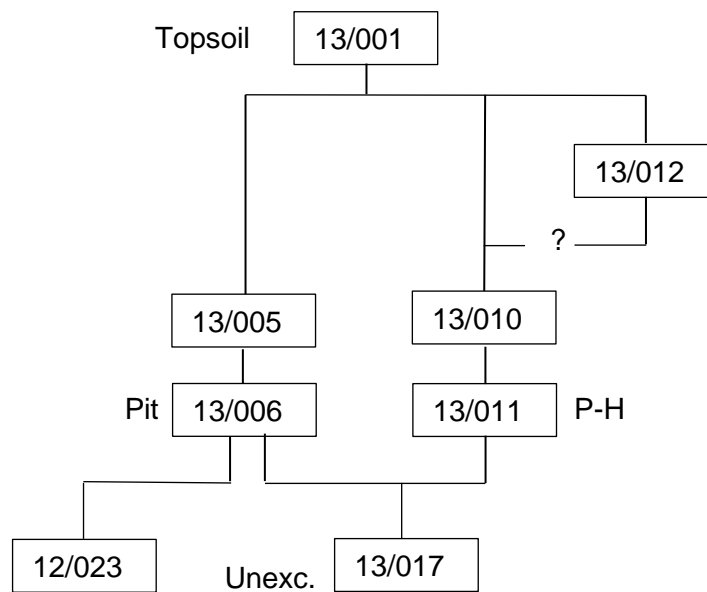


Wall foundations

Appendix 6: Trench 13 stratigraphic matrices

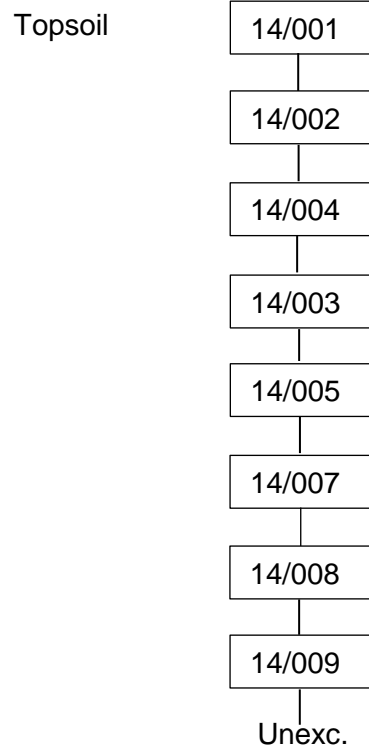


East and centre of trench

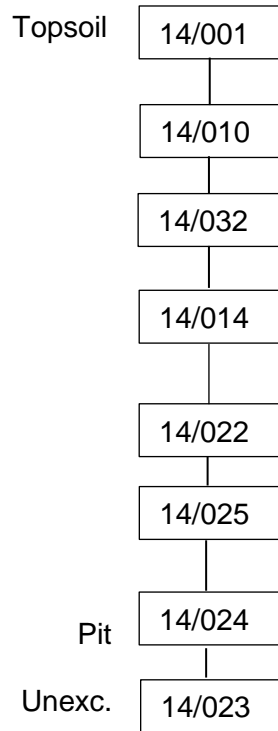


West end of trench

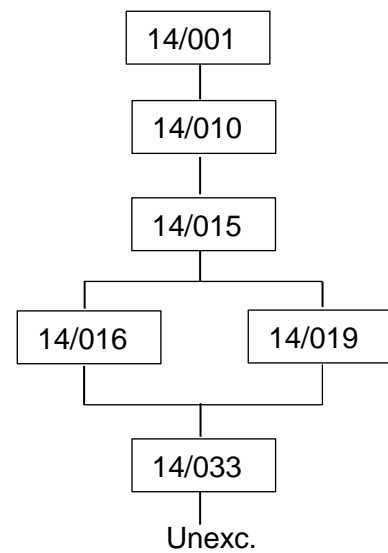
Appendix 7: Trench 14 stratigraphic matrices



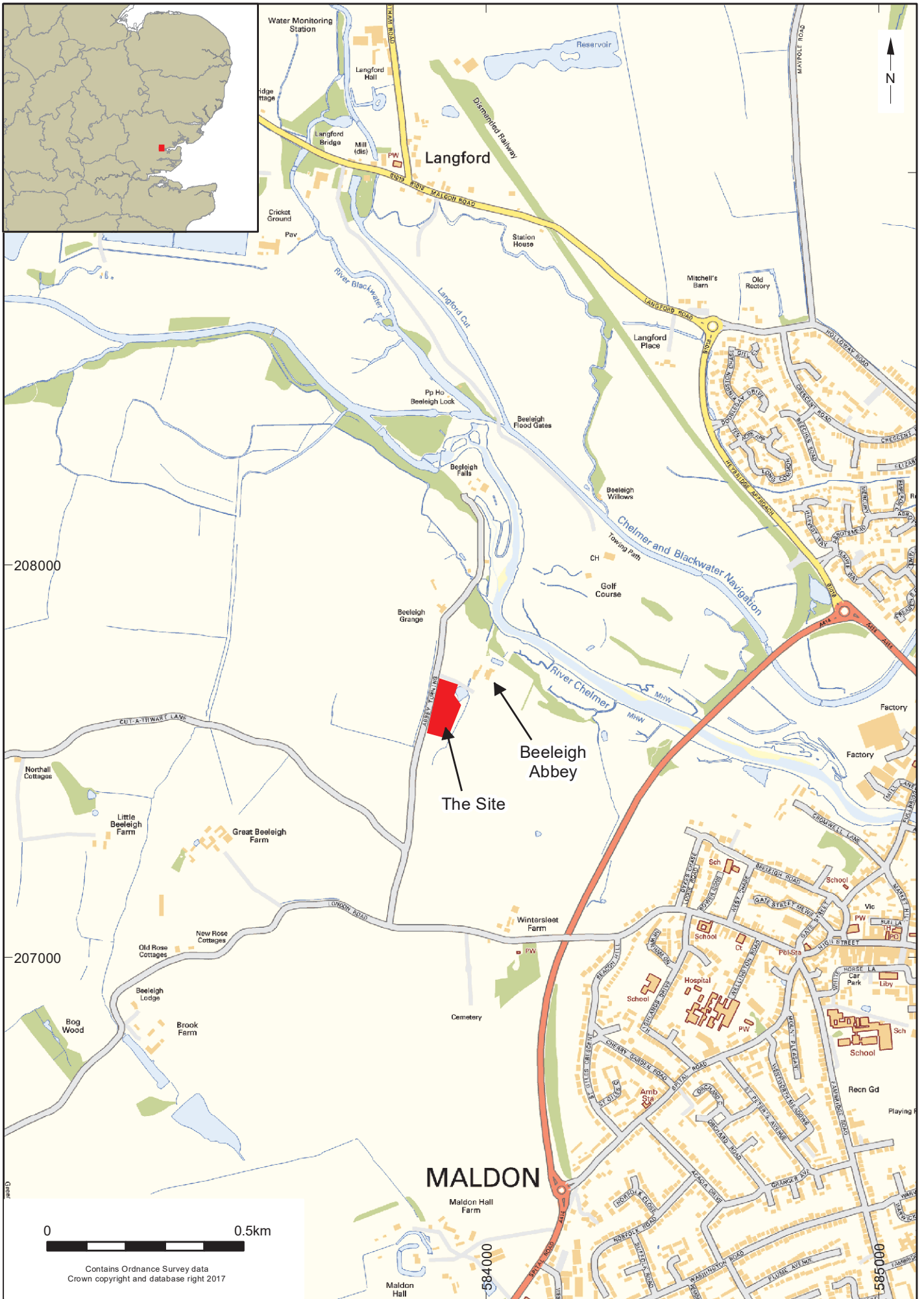
Bank deposits (southern area)



West slot (Northern area)

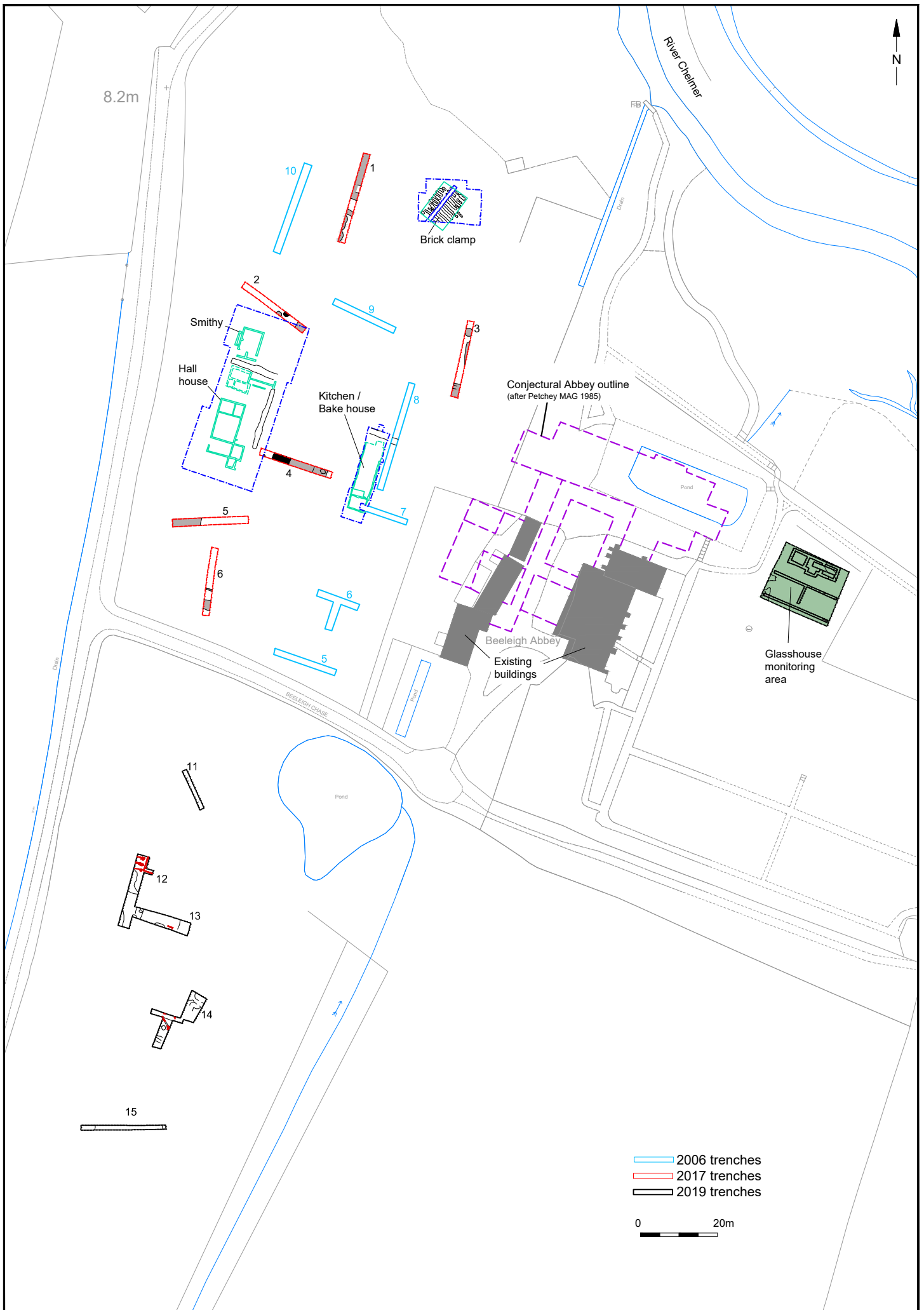


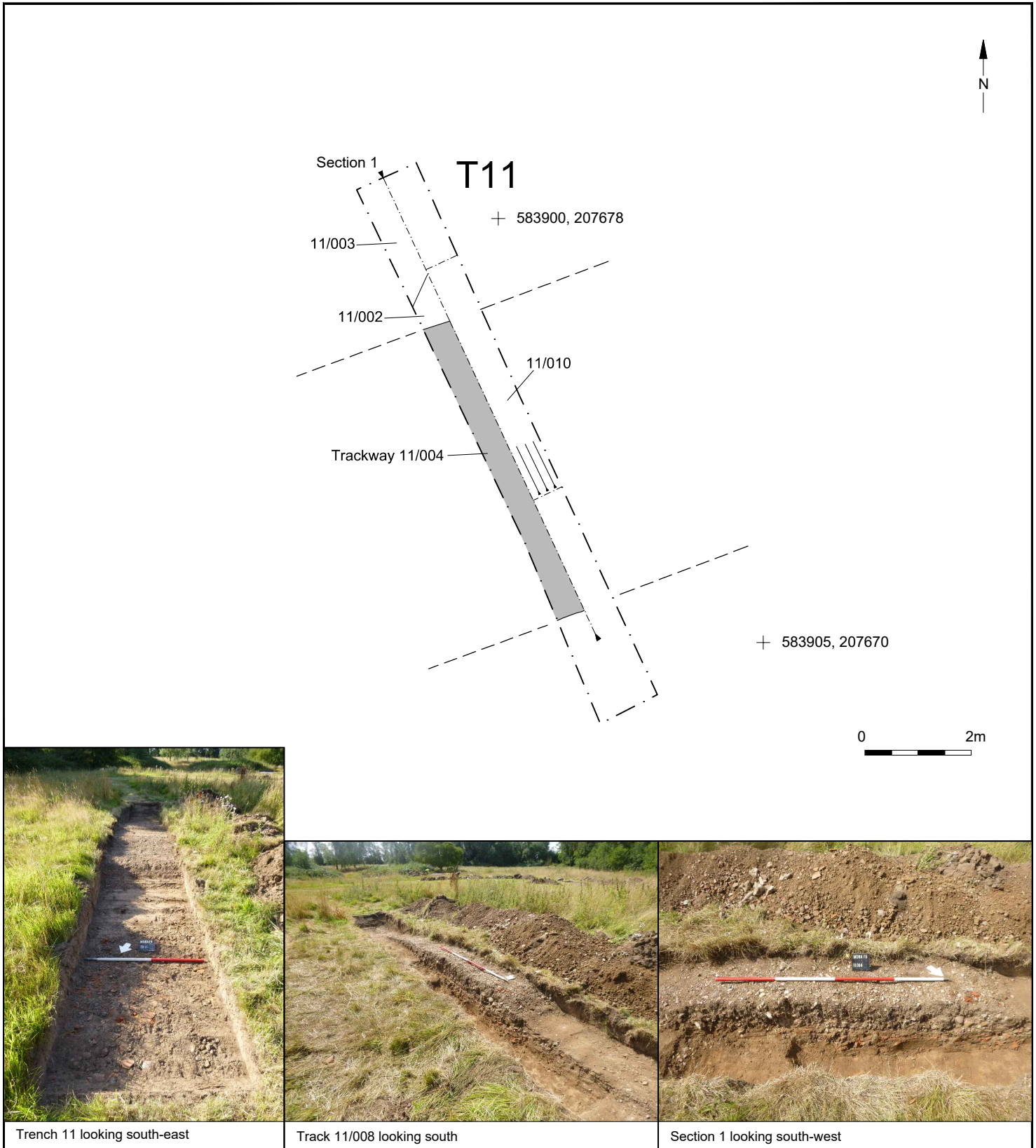
North slot
(Northern area)



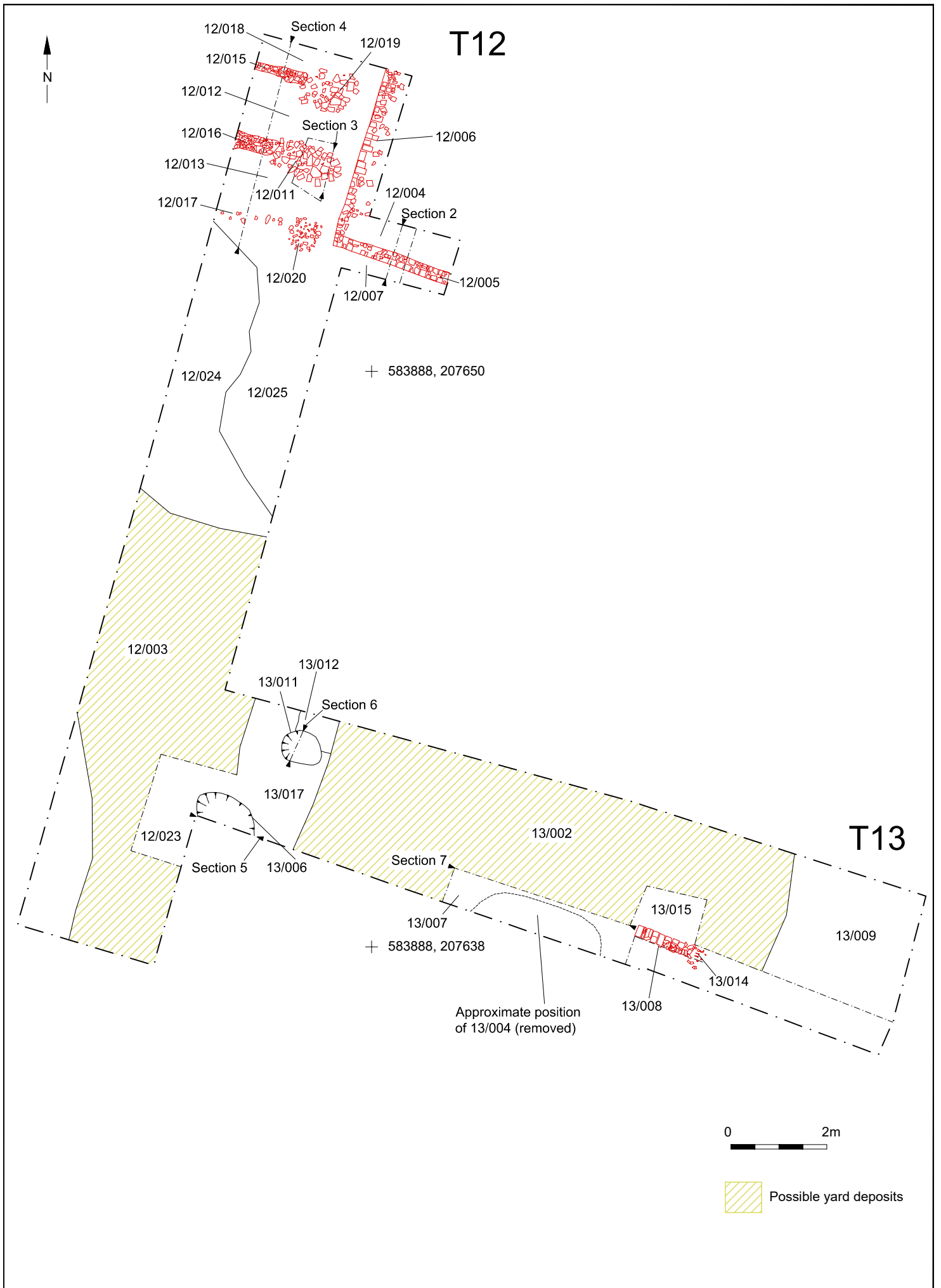
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Project Ref: 190004	Sept 2019	Site location		
Report Ref: 2019281	Drawn by: APL			





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Project Ref: 190004	Oct 2019	Trench 11 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019281	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 190004	Oct 2019	Plan of Trenches 12 and 13	
Report Ref: 2019281	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 12 looking south-west



Wall 12/005 looking north



Foundations 12/006, 12/015 & 12/016 looking east

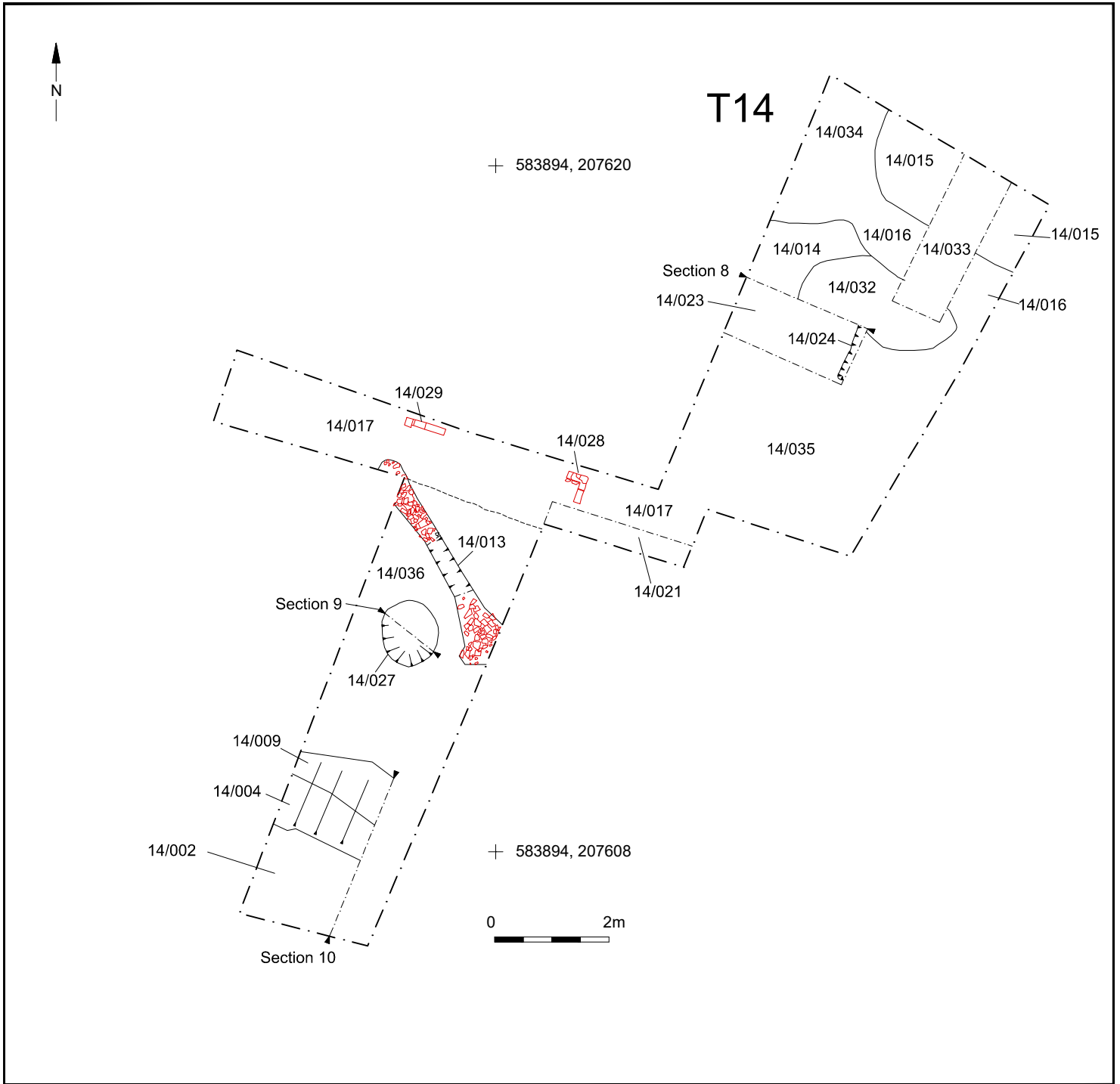


Trench 13 looking north-west

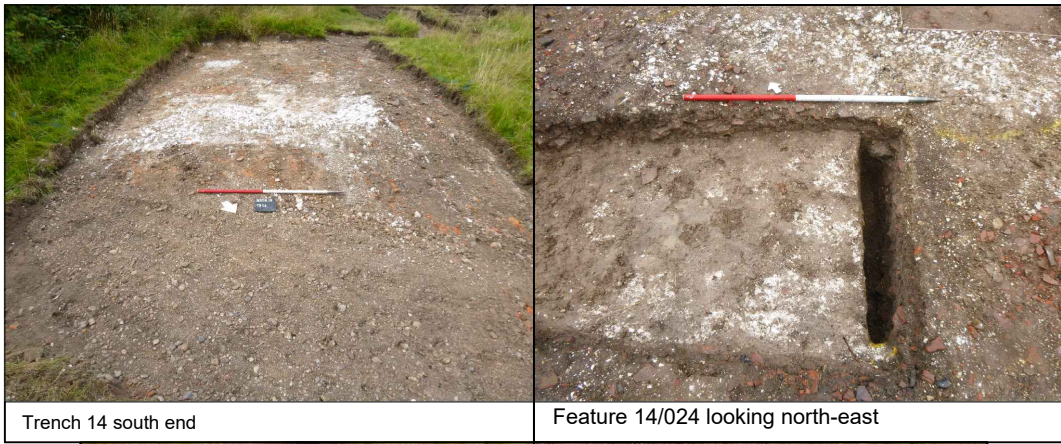


Wall 13/008 looking east

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Project Ref: 190004	Oct 2019	Trenches 12 and 13 photographs	
Report Ref: 2019281	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 190004	Oct 2019	Trench 14 plan	
Report Ref: 2019281	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 14 south end

Feature 14/024 looking north-east



Drain 14/013 looking north-west



Wall 14/028 looking north-east



Pit 14/027 looking north



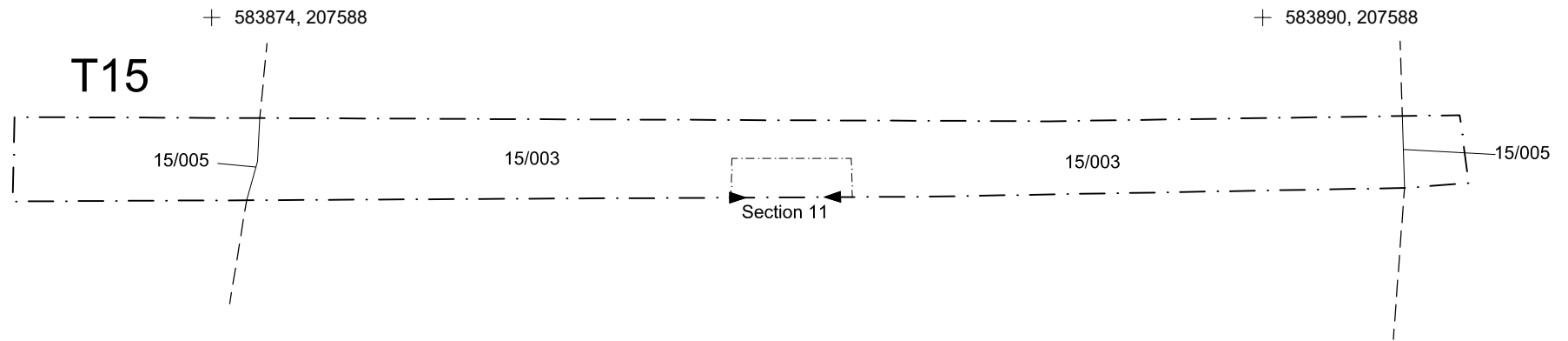
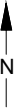
Wall 14/029 looking south-west



Layer 14/034 looking east



Section 10 looking north-west



Trench 15 looking east

Trench 15 sondage

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Project Ref: 190004

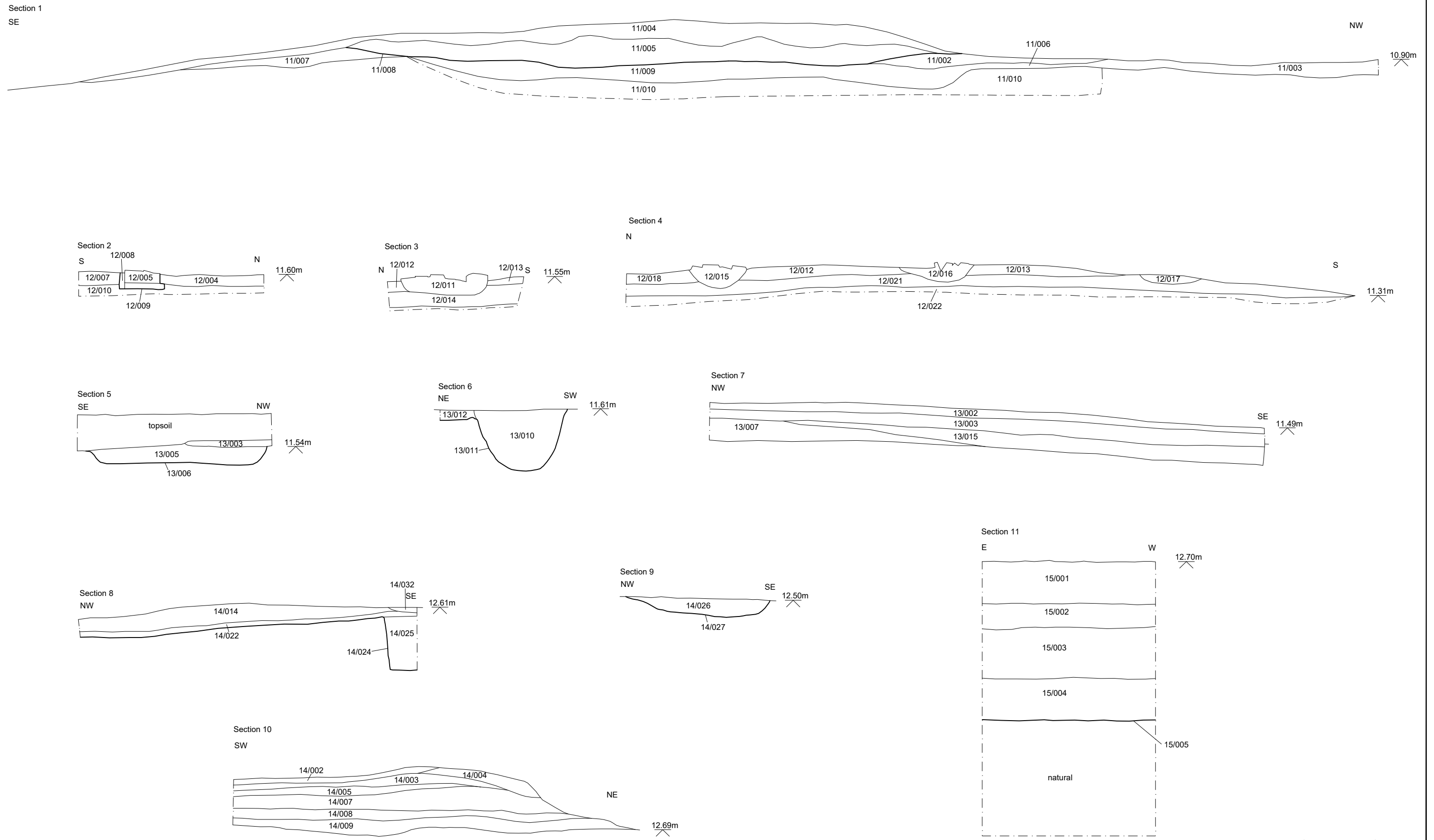
Oct 2019

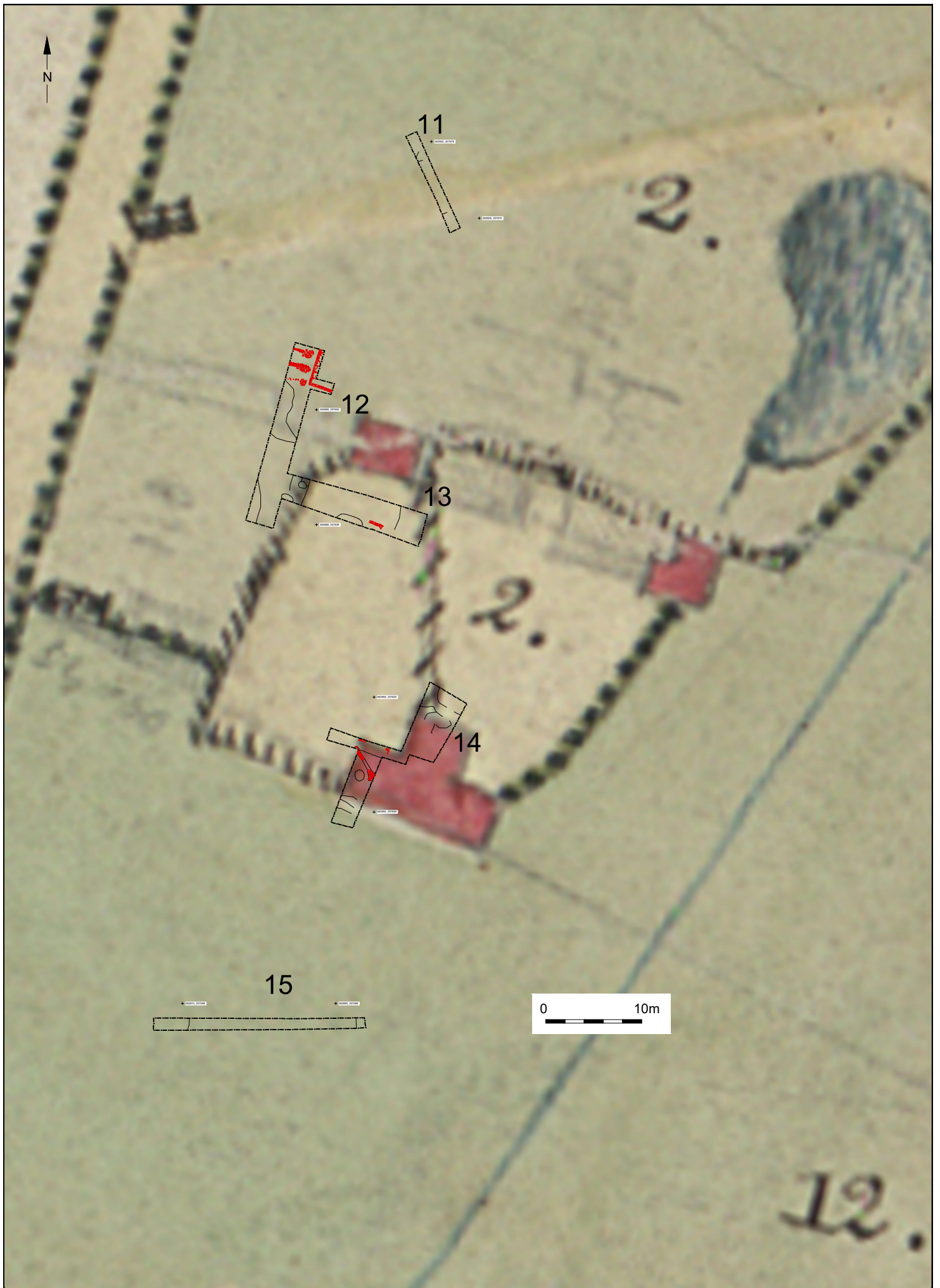
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Trench 15 plan and photographs

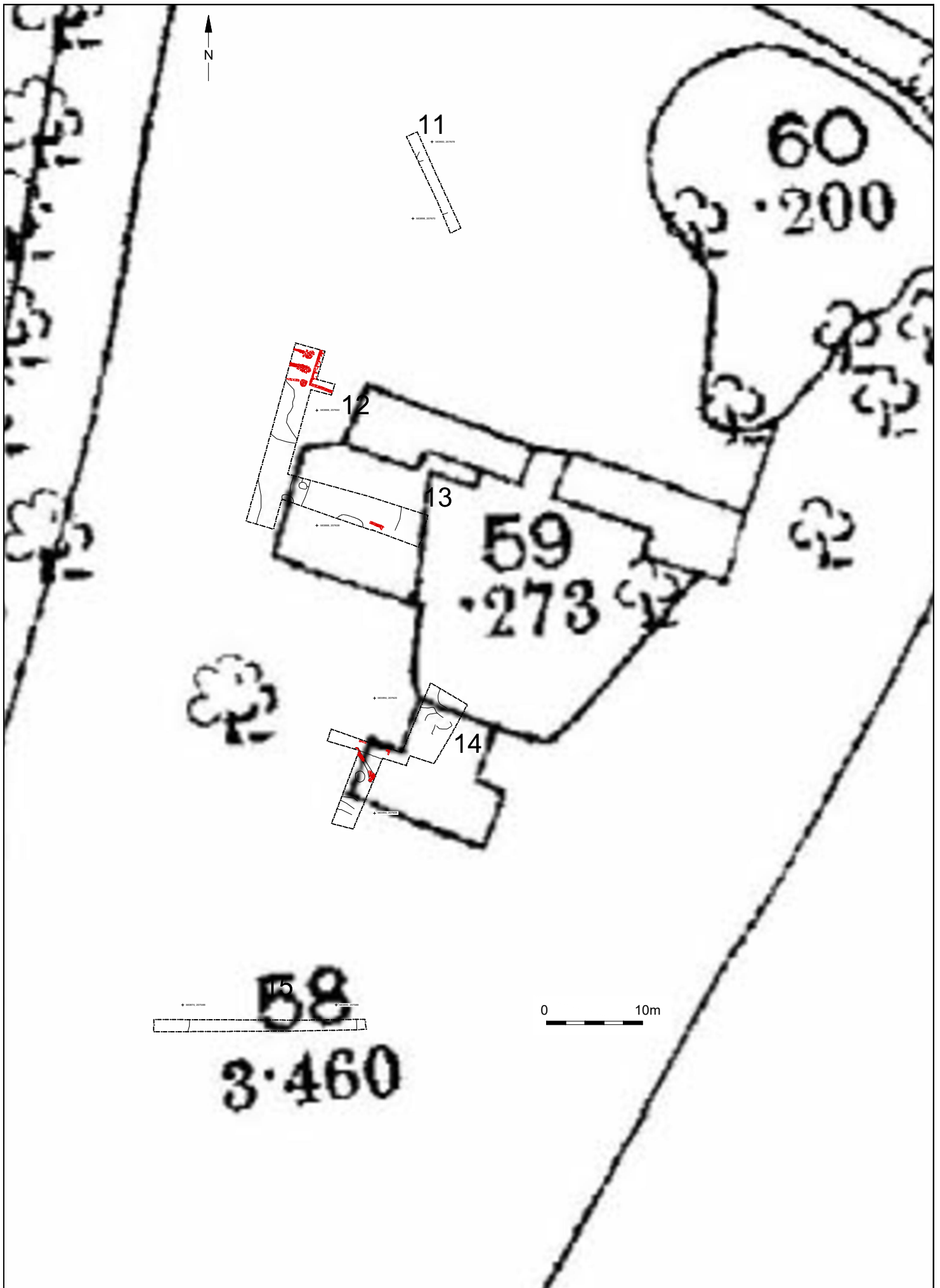
Fig. 8

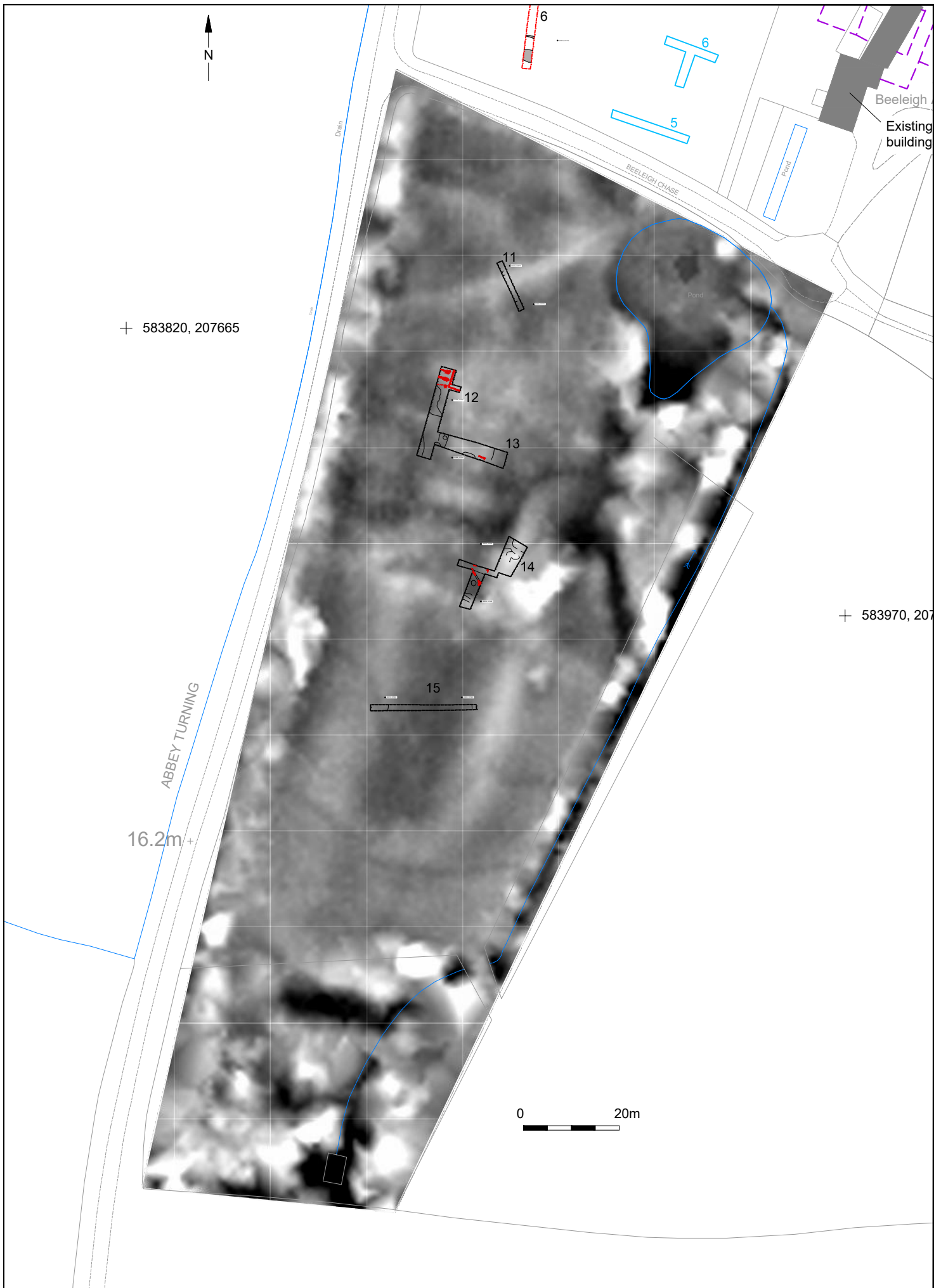


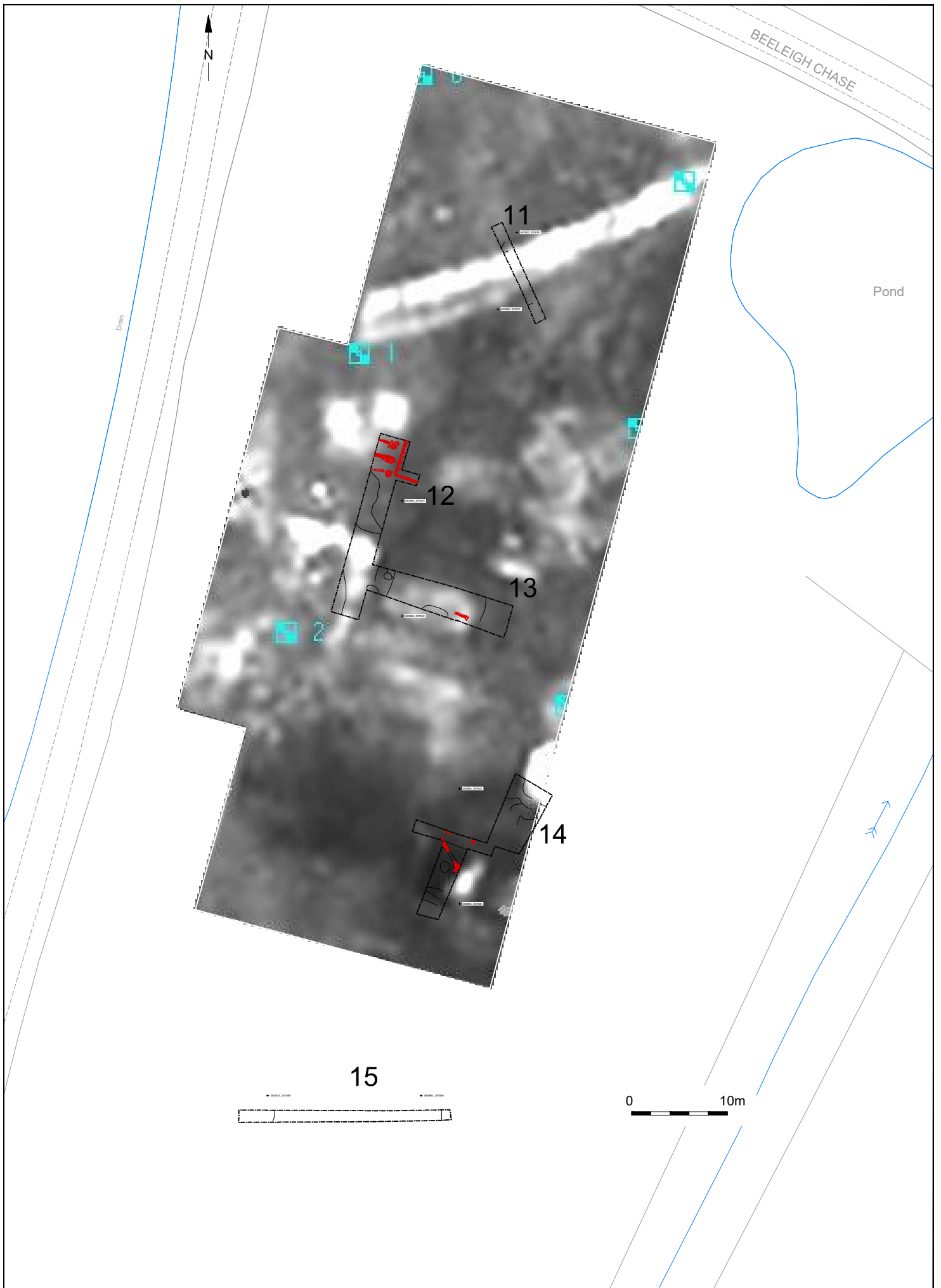


Courtesy of Essex Record Office,
ref ERO D/DMbp16

© Archaeology South-East		Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon	Fig.10
Project Ref: 190004	Oct 2019	Trench locations with the 1805 Estate Map	
Report Ref: 2019281	Drawn by: APL		

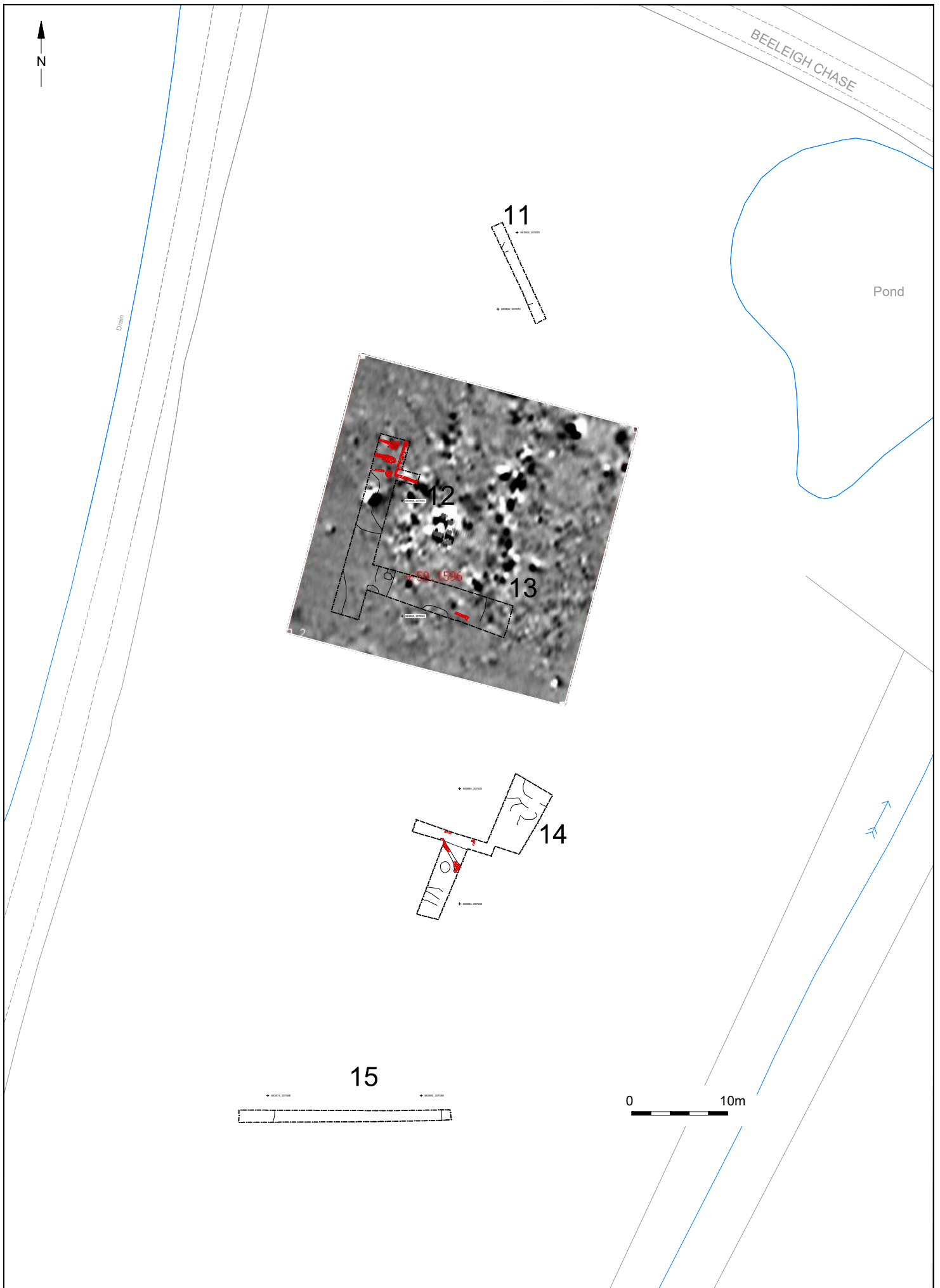






Survey courtesy of Dr Tim Dennis

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Project Ref: 190004	Oct 2019	Trench locations with Resistivity Survey	
Report Ref: 2019281	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 190004	Oct 2019	Trench locations with Magnetometer Survey	
Report Ref: 2019281	Drawn by: APL		



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