

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
LAND EAST OF BRAINTREE ROAD (B1256),
GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX

ASE Project No: 220565
Site Code: GDBR23

ASE Report No: 2023064



April 2023

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Land East of Braintree Road (B1256),
Great Dunmow, Essex**

NGR: TL 6358 2160

Planning Ref: UTT/19/1219/FUL

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land east of Braintree Road (B1256), Great Dunmow, between the 8th and 16th March 2023. The fieldwork was commissioned by RPS Consulting, on behalf of Andrew Martin Planning, as part of the planning conditions ahead of proposed development of the land.

The site is located c.1km south-east of the known Roman settlement at Great Dunmow and c.220m south-east of the crossing of the Roman road, Stane Street, over the River Chelmer. The site is also known to lie within the lands of the medieval manor of Dunmow Park and just to the rear of the GHQ defensive line created during the Second World War, formed here by the run of the Chelmer.

The site comprised an area of c.8.7ha and was investigated with the excavation of twenty-four untargeted evaluation trenches. Four trenches were found to contain archaeological remains, dating to the post-medieval period.

The earliest dated feature comprised a 19th-century gravel extraction pit, located in the south of the site, that is recorded in the Essex Historic Environment Record as being excavated in 1862 (EHER 1279). Also present were two ditches in the west of the site, likely related to late 19th- and early 20th-century agricultural activities, a made-ground layer probably associated with the construction of Braintree Road in the 1970s, and three undated ditches at the north extent of the site.

This report is written and structured to conform to the standards required of post-excavation analysis work as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2021) and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015).

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by RPS Consulting, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land east of Braintree Road (B1256), Great Dunmow, Essex.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site comprises an irregularly-shaped, c.8.7ha piece of arable land, located between the River Chelmer and Braintree Road (B1256), Great Dunmow. It is located on a hill at 55.32m AOD (Trench 15) that slopes gently down towards the east, north-east, and south-east towards the river (Trench 22 – 49.96m AOD). The Chelmer bounds the site to the north and east; it is joined by an unnamed tributary at the north-east corner of the site, which then runs SSW across it. The south of the site is bounded by the junction of Braintree Road (B1256) and Chelmsford Road (B1008), and sewage works.

1.2.2 The geology of the site consists of a bedrock of London Clay formation overlain by Head deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravels, and later alluvial deposits related to the River Chelmer (UKRI 2021).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The site was subject to a desk-based assessment (DBA) by L-P: Archaeology (2019) in support of the planning application for the construction of a number of industrial and office units, including a waste lorry depot and classic car storage and restoration business.

1.3.2 Planning permission has been granted (Ref. UTT/19/1219/FUL); in consideration of the application, Essex County Council's Place Services (ECCPS), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the district council planning authority, recommended a condition be attached to the consent requiring a programmed of archaeological work, which is as follows:

15 a) No development or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of aerial photographic rectification and archaeological trial trenching has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority prior to reserved matters applications being submitted.

b) A mitigation strategy detailing the rectification and excavation/preservation strategy shall be submitted to the local planning authority following the completion of this work.

c) No development or preliminary groundworks can commence on those areas containing archaeological deposits until the satisfactory completion of fieldwork, as detailed in the mitigation strategy, and which has been signed off by the local planning authority through its historic environment advisors.

REASON: In the interests of protecting archaeological deposits in accordance with Uttlesford Local Plan Policy ENV4 (adopted 2005) and the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by RPS Consulting (2022) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. A programme of aerial photographic rectification was completed to a methodology agreed with ECCPS, which has led to the agreement of the proposed trenching in the WSI.
- 1.3.4 Subsequently, ASE was commissioned by RPS Consulting to complete the works on behalf of their client, Andrew Martin Planning.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report describes and discusses the results of archaeological investigation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land east of Braintree Road (B1256), Great Dunmow between 8th and 16th March 2023. It also seeks to assess their significance and potential for further research and to identify the need for publication.
- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was directed by Cai Brockley with assistance from ASE archaeologists and project managed by Andy Leonard. The post-excavation process was managed by Samara King. A site monitoring meeting was held 13 March 2023 during which all trenches and excavated features were viewed by Simon Blatherwick, on behalf of RPS Consulting, and Richard Havis, from ECC Place Services.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information has been gathered from the WSI (RPS Consulting 2022), the DBA (L-P: Archaeology 2019), and from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). Selected sites and findspots mentioned in the text are illustrated on Figure 1.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 River terrace gravels were recorded in boreholes at the site. Although there are no known archaeological remains associated with these deposits, it is possible that these may yield finds of Palaeolithic date.

2.2.2 A number of prehistoric flint implements, including possible Mesolithic blades and Bronze Age tools, including barbed and tanged arrowheads, along with abraded prehistoric ceramic sherds, were found in the course of excavations at Chequers Lane in 1970-2, c.1km west of the site. The finds were residual within Saxon period features (EHER 13864, EHER 13865).

2.2.3 Iron Age pottery (both Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age) was recovered from features excavated in 1972 on the site of a former market garden between Redbond Lodge and New Street, approximately 1km west of the site. Three trenches were excavated and revealed Roman, Saxon and Iron Age material. The Iron Age material comprised a small amount of pottery from gullies, pits, hollows and the fill of a gravel pit (EHER 13880).

2.2.4 Bronze Age pottery was discovered as residual finds in ditches dating to the medieval period at Smith's Farm, south of the site (EHER 48572), but no features dating to this period were revealed on the site.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 B1256 is a known Roman road, forming part of Stane Street, running from Colchester to Braughing, Hertfordshire. The crossing of the Chelmer is 220m north of the site, though excavations in the 1970s revealed no Roman activity there.

2.3.2 The Chequers Lane area was the site of a Roman town with settlement starting here in the 1st century AD along Stane Street, and continuing into the 4th century AD.

2.3.3 More than one hundred cremations of Roman date, were uncovered at the former council depot, c.600 west of the site. It was postulated that this cemetery had been situated on the southern extent of the Roman town (EHER 45194).

2.3.4 Victorian gravel extraction at the south end of site revealed Roman pits that contained a variety of pot types, shells, animal bones and coins (EHER 1279, TL 635 214).

2.4 Medieval

- 2.4.1 During the excavations at Chequers Lane, Saxon period features were uncovered. These included evidence of early to middle Saxon habitation at the site, (EHER 13866, 13867) though the land had reverted to agricultural use during the later medieval period (EHER 13868).
- 2.4.2 Dunmow (Little and Great) is recorded in the Domesday Survey and appears to have been a very large settlement with approximately 131 households. Seven manors are identified and local interpretation is that Dunmow Park, located c.200m north-west of the site (EHER 7329), was one of the seven manors that later became the centre of the Dunmow hundred.
- 2.4.3 A charter to market was granted in 1253 and appears to have been held from 1310 by the Lord of the Manor at Dunmow Park.
- 2.4.4 The site itself was within the lands associated with Dunmow Park during the medieval period, which had been the property of Catherine of Aragon after her marriage to Henry VIII.

2.5 Modern and Post-Medieval

- 2.5.1 According to historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, the site appears to have remained pasture land into the post-medieval period. The south end of the site was a known area of late 19th — early 20th century gravel or clay extraction (EHER 1279).
- 2.5.2 Two pillboxes dating to the Second World War are extant on the eastern boundary of the site, following the course of the River Chelmer. These pillboxes originally formed part of the GHQ line. They were open at the time of the evaluation, though the northern-most of the two had been filled with agricultural refuse (EHER 10511, 10512). A further pillbox had stood at the north end of the site, but was demolished in 2002 (EHER 10510).

2.6 Previous Archaeological Work

- 2.6.1 A desk-based assessment was prepared by L-P Archaeology (2019), which considered the site to lie within an area of high potential for Roman and post-medieval/modern remains, with low potential for prehistoric and medieval remains.
- 2.6.2 Subsequently, an aerial photographic and LIDAR study was compiled that identified a number of long ditches of known or likely post-medieval date, shorter ditches of uncertain dates, and disturbances associated with the extraction of clay and/or gravel in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Deegan 2022). The results of this study in relation to the trenches and archaeological remains are illustrated on Figure 2.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation, as set out in the WSI (RPS Consulting 2022), were as follows:

- To assess the archaeological potential of the site.
- To make the results of the investigation available to the LPA and interested parties.
- To identify if evaluation results identify additional work necessary to address the planning conditions.

3.1.2 Relevant research aims include:

- To investigate whether the development site contained any artefacts or ecological evidence for prehistoric or historic human activity.
- To integrate any new information with other work from the site.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 A total of twenty-four trenches were excavated, measuring 2m wide and 30m long. They were generally placed according to the trench plan issued in the WSI (RPS Consulting 2022), though Trenches 5-8 had to be moved c.20m south-west in order to avoid the line of an abandoned gas main.

3.2.2 Significant constraints were known to be present across the site, comprising an abandoned gas main and two high powered, overhead electrical lines. An Unexploded Ordnance Expert was also present on site for the opening of all trenches due to the possibility of abandoned British ordinance related to the pillboxes and the GHQ line.

3.2.3 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b), and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

3.2.4 The trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and were scanned for the presence of underground services using a CAT scanner prior to excavation.

3.2.5 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a tracked 360 excavator with toothless ditching bucket, under direct supervision by the directing archaeologist. Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or else the surface of natural geology, whichever was uppermost.

3.2.6 Archaeological features and deposits were excavated using hand tools, unless a machine-excavated trench was the only practical method of investigation. With exception of modern disturbances, normally a minimum of 50% of all

contained features and 10% (or at least a 1m-long segment) of non-structural linear features were excavated.

- 3.2.7 Trenches and features were recorded on ASE *pro-forma* record sheets. Colour digital photographs were taken of each trench and feature, and recorded on a register. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 on A3-sized sheet of Permatrace drawing film. Excavated features and open trenches were surveyed using DGPS for accurate locating.
- 3.2.8 All artefacts present within investigated features and deposits were collected and retained for identification and study, in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2014c). No deposits were deemed suitable for environmental sampling.
- 3.2.9 Backfilling and compaction were undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, once agreed with ECC Place Services, but there was no formal reinstatement to existing condition.

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE currently holds the site archive at its office in Witham, Essex; it will be deposited with the Saffron Walden Museum in due course, subject to agreement with the museum and the legal landowner. The contents of the archive are summarised below (Tables 1 and 2).
- 3.3.2 The site archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer, and curation* (Brown 2011); *A Standard and Guide to best practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe* (Perrin et al. 2013); and the Essex Museums’ archiving guidelines (Museums Essex 2022).

Context sheets	16
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	54
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	24

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box, 0.5 of a box)	<0.5 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Twenty-four trenches in total were excavated across the site area, in general accordance with the WSI (RPS Consulting 2022). The trenches each measured 30m in length and 2.0m in width. Trenches 5-8 were moved c.20m south-west to avoid an abandoned gas main and its buffer zone.
- 4.1.2 Four of the twenty-four trenches revealed archaeological remains, comprising linear features and a quarry pit. These results are described by trench in Sections 4.2-4.5 below. The remaining trenches were negative for archaeological remains, a summary of their results can be found in Section 4.6 and Appendix 1.
- 4.1.3 The overburden deposit was generally consistent across the site, with soft, dark greyish-brown sandy-silt topsoil with occasional small, sub-angular stones, measuring in thickness between 0.28m and 0.58m, being recorded in all trenches. The underlying natural geology was a mid greyish-brown clayey-silt with occasional small, sub-angular stones, except for Trenches 1-4, where the frequency of gravel within the clayey-silt increased on the north-facing slope towards the River Chelmer.
- 4.1.4 In Trenches 19-24, there was a made-ground layer, likely related to modern gravel or clay extraction that measured between 0.06-0.24 m thick. This layer correlated to a large anomaly detected on the LIDAR survey (Fig. 2).

4.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.19-0.27	50.28-52.49
2/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.03-0.17	50.11-52.08
2/003	Fill	Fill, single	2.0+	1.68	0.15	52.09
2/004	Cut	Ditch	2.0+	1.68	0.15	51.82

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was situated in the north of the site, on the north-facing slope towards the River Chelmer. It was excavated on a NE-SW alignment and contained one ditch.
- 4.2.2 Ditch [2/004] ran across the trench from NW-SE at its south-west end and measured 1.68m wide and 0.15m deep. It had gently sloping sides and an irregular, flat base (Section 1). The feature contained no archaeological material. Single fill [2/003] was loose, mid orange-grey silty-sand with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded flint inclusions, likely the result of natural accumulation. It is possible that the feature was of natural origin given its sterile nature and irregular profile.

4.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.29-0.34	51.72-52.26
3/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.05-0.07	51.48-51.82
3/003	Fill	Fill, single	2.0+	1.20	0.23	51.83
3/004	Cut	Ditch	2.0+	1.20	0.23	51.59
3/005	Fill	Fill, single	2.0+	1.0	0.23	51.86
3/006	Cut	Ditch	2.0+	1.0	0.23	51.61

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was situated in the north of the site, on the north-facing slope towards the River Chelmer. It was excavated on a NW-SE alignment. The trench contained two parallel ditches.
- 4.3.2 Ditch [3/004] crossed the trench on a NE-SW alignment and measured 1.2m wide and 0.23m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base (Section 2). Single fill [3/003] was friable, mid-brown, gravelly-sand, consistent with natural accumulation, and did not contain any finds.
- 4.3.3 Ditch [3/006] was located 0.25m north-east and parallel to [3/004], measuring 1.00m wide and 0.23m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Section 2). It contained a similarly sterile single fill [3/005].
- 4.3.4 Ditches [3/004] and [3/006] were not recorded to extend further south-west into any other trenches.

4.4 Trench 16 (Fig. 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height m AOD
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.31-0.39	53.77-54.24
16/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.07	53.60-53.68
16/003	Fill	Fill, single	2.0+	3.60	0.87+	53.82
16/004	Cut	Ditch	2.0+	3.60	0.87+	52.95
16/005	Fill	Fill	2.0+	0.75+	Unex.	
16/006	Cut	Ditch	2.0+	0.75+	Unex.	

Table 5: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 16 was situated on the west edge of site and was excavated on a NE-SW alignment. The trench contained two ditches that correlated to surveyed LIDAR anomalies. Neither were found to extend further into any trenches during the evaluation.
- 4.4.2 Ditch [16/004] crossed the trench from NW-SE and measured 3.6m wide and more than 0.87m deep. It had a gentle step leading to steep, vertical sides (Section 3). The base of this feature could not be reached due to safety constraints. [16/004] contained 21 pieces of roof and floor tile and nine bricks, dating to the post-medieval period, two shards of 19th—20th century glass,

and plastic wrappers throughout fill [16/003], which consisted of compact, dark brownish-grey clayey-silt with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flint pebbles, consistent with backfill. Three sherds of broadly Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pottery and three worked flints dating to the Middle-Late Bronze Age, including a platform core and end scaper, were also recovered, which are most likely residual amongst the later modern finds. It is likely given the vertical edges and the post-medieval/modern finds that this feature was machine-dug and of 20th century date.

4.4.3 Ditch [16/006] was located at the south-west end of the trench, aligned NW-SE and measuring at minimum 0.75m wide, its south-west edge extending beyond the trench. Its fill [16/005] was a loose, blackish grey sandy-silty-clay with frequent clinker, coal, glass, modern brick and pottery sherds, and metalwork visible on the surface. The glass was clearly moulded and some of the pot had bright, modern colouration. Due to this modern material and with agreement from ECCPS, the ditch was not excavated. The ditch also appears to align with a former field boundary that is present on historical maps up until the 1970s.

4.5 Trench 23 (Fig. 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height m AOD
23/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.29-0.38	50.98-52.44
23/002	Layer	Made-ground	Trench	Trench	0.10-0.21	
23/003	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.04	52.04
23/004	Fill	Fill	20+	2.0+	Unex.	
23/005	Cut	Pit, quarry	20+	2.0+	Unex.	

Table 6: Trench 23 list of recorded context

4.5.1 Trench 23 was situated in the south of the site and was excavated on an east-west alignment. It revealed the presence of a large pit, most likely of 19th century date as it was roughly positioned in the same location as the Victorian gravel pit mentioned as having been excavated in the field in 1862 (EHER 1279).

4.5.2 Quarry pit [23/004] was not excavated, with agreement with ECCPS, due to its size and presence of modern brick and clinker on the surface, but it measured at minimum 20m long, extending beyond the trench to the north, south, and east. The feature was sealed beneath made-ground deposit [23/002]. Fill [23/003] was compact, dark greyish-brown silty-clay with moderate brick and clinker, and occasional metalwork, glass and pottery inclusions.

4.6 Archaeologically negative trenches

4.6.1 Trenches 1, 4-15, 17-22 and 24 were archaeologically negative. These are summarised below, with further detail of their deposit sequences presented in Appendix 1. The locations of these blank trenches are shown on Figure 2 and photographs on Figure 7.

4.6.2 The negative trenches displayed the same deposit sequence as recorded in the other trenches. A 0.28-0.58m thick soft, dark greyish-brown sandy-silt

topsoil with occasional small, sub-angular stones generally directly overlay a natural deposit of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt with occasional to frequent small, sub-angular stones.

- 4.6.3 A made-ground layer, recorded below the topsoil in Trenches 19-24, comprised dark blueish grey silty clay with occasional orange sand inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.06m to 0.24m thick and contained moderate brick rubble, occasional clinker, coal, charcoal, wood, and metalwork of modern or post-medieval date. Corresponding to a large, irregular anomaly on the LIDAR survey (Fig. 2), it is likely that this deposit is related to the construction of the Braintree Road.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on land east of Braintree Road, Great Dunmow. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 7. All finds have been packed and stored following CifA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
16/003	3	57	7	10		1222		6
<i>Total</i>	3	57	7	10		1222		6

Table 7: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Fill [16/003] of ditch [16/004] produced three pieces of worked flint weighing 57g. The small assemblage consists of a flake, a single platform core and an end scraper. The latter is manufactured on a flake with a cortical butt. It displays some direct semi-abrupt retouch along the distal end that forms a convex edge. The single platform core and the flake are crudely made; they are likely to be later prehistoric (Middle Bronze Age to Late Bronze Age / Iron Age) in date. The end scraper could be slightly earlier.

5.3 Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small group of three prehistoric body sherds, weighing 4g, all from the same vessel, were recorded in fill [16/003] of ditch [16/004]. The sherds are associated with a grog-tempered fabric with sparse to moderate grog inclusions of c.1-2mm in a silty background matrix. The relatively low-fired nature of the sherds, their moderate wall thickness and external oxidation suggests a broadly Late Neolithic to earlier Middle Bronze Age date range (c. 2900-1300 BC). However, it not clear to which ceramic tradition they belong and it is also possible, but less likely, that they represent lower fired, oxidised examples of Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered wares.

5.3.2 The prehistoric sherds appear to be residual with later post-medieval/modern material in [16/003], comprising four small sherds, weighing 6g, including transfer printed white ware, pearl ware and a coarse red ware, likely deposited in the 19th-20th century.

5.4 Ceramic Building Material by Rae Regensberg

5.4.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), consisting of 30 fragments collectively weighing 1,186g, was recovered from the fill of ditch [16/004]. The material included flat roof tile, floor tile and brick. The material was notably fragmented and abraded. The assemblage as a whole has a medieval to post-medieval date range, however, the brick suggests a post-medieval date is likely for some of the assemblage.

5.4.2 All the material was recorded by form, weight, complete dimensions (when present) and fabric and entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope, and site specific fabric codes have been applied using the following conventions: frequency of inclusions (sparse, moderate, common, abundant); the size of inclusions, fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (0.25-0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric descriptions are provided in Table 8. All of the material has been retained for the present.

Fabric	Description
T1	Micaceous orange fabric with sparse very fine quartz and sparse coarse dark red oxidised material.
T2	Orangey red fabric with common fine and medium white quartz and sparse dark red coarse to very coarse oxidised material.
T2A	Less quartz.
T3	Orange fabric with moderate medium, rounded quartz (including rose quartz) and sparse coarse dark orange iron rich/oxidised material.
FT1	Red fabric, gritty with very fine quartz, sparse medium quartz, sparse to moderate fine to coarse black oxidised material.
B1	Orange fabric with moderate to common, fine to medium, rounded quartz, sparse coarse dark orange iron rich/oxidised material, and mica.
B1A	Common to abundant quartz.
B2	Similar to FT1 but less gritty and includes some cream streaking.
B3	Orange fabric with sparse very fine quartz, mica, and occasional coarse cream pellets.
B4	Red fabric with sparse fine quartz and moderate medium and coarse black oxidised material.

Table 8: CBM fabric descriptions

5.4.3 Eighteen fragments of flat roof tile were collected, fourteen of which were in the T1 fabric. No complete, or near complete, tiles were recovered, hence thickness is the only dimension recorded. Most of the fragments were also notably abraded. The T1 fragments were between 12mm and 14mm and several had reduced cores. Two T2 and one T2A fragments were recorded, these were 11mm to 14mm thick, with the T2A being the thinnest. Lastly, the T3 tile fragment was 14mm thick and was very abraded. As flat roof tile remains largely the same from the medieval period up to the late post-medieval period (excepting some specific fabrics and features, e.g. glaze), the tile fragments under discussion have a date range covering both the medieval and post-medieval periods.

5.4.4 Three pieces of floor or hearth tile were recovered. They were all in the very gritty FT1 fabric and were 27mm thick, although this varied little across the tile fragments. No post-firing heat exposure was noted, which is commonly seen on hearth tiles but the gritty fabric is not very suitable for floor tile as it would abrade rapidly. Like the roof tile, it has a broad medieval to post-medieval date.

5.4.5 There were nine pieces of brick, all of which were abraded or spalled to the point that none had any surfaces remaining. Although these also have a

medieval to post-medieval date range, brick is far more common from the mid-17th century, which suggests that some or all of the brick is more likely to be post-medieval in date.

5.5 Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 Just two shards of glass with a combined weight of 4g were recovered from ditch [16/004] (fill [16/003]). These comprise a dark green wine bottle body shard and a green-tinged fragment from a cylindrical vessel, undiagnostic of form. Both are of 19th- or early 20th-century date.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 The evaluation has established that the stratigraphic sequence is consistent across the site. The trenches generally exhibited a sequence of dark greyish-brown sandy-silt topsoil with a thickness of 0.28-0.58m, directly overlying natural deposits of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt with occasional to frequent small, sub-angular stones. In the south, a modern made-ground layer with a thickness of 0.06-0.24m was recorded below the topsoil in Trenches 19-24. This is likely related to the construction of Braintree Road during the 1970s.
- 6.1.2 Four of the twenty-four investigated evaluation trenches (Trenches 2, 3, 16 and 23) were found to contain archaeological remains, these comprised ditches and a quarry pit. These were identified below topsoil and cut into the top of undisturbed natural deposits. There were no obvious concentrations of activity on site. The dated archaeological features were of late post-medieval date, likely related to mineral extraction and agricultural activities associated with use of the site as pasture land. Some archaeological features lacked dateable material and are undated, although they may also relate to post-medieval agricultural land use, or conversely, may be geological features. Feature density and intercut complexity were low across the site.
- 6.1.3 The remaining twenty trenches were void of archaeological remains; their deposit sequences are summarised in Appendix 1.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 Some degree of modern disturbance on site is evidenced by the presence of the made-ground layer recorded in Trenches 19-24. This is likely related to the construction of Braintree Road in the 1970s. It is possible that this activity which led to the deposition of the made-ground layer has also caused some truncation to the archaeological horizon in this area of the site.
- 6.2.2 The topsoil deposit in the trenches was on average 0.50m in depth, as such, feature survival was generally good and there appeared to be little evidence of plough scarring, burrowing or rooting at the archaeological horizon.
- 6.2.3 Recorded features in Trenches 16 and 23, as well as the made-ground layer, correlated to identified anomalies on the aerial photographic/LIDAR survey (Deegan 2022; Fig. 2).

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Earlier prehistoric

- 6.3.1 Evidence of land use prior to the post-medieval period was scarce and perhaps indicative of only a transient presence on the landscape. Three sherds of Late Neolithic to earlier Middle Bronze Age and three worked flint pieces, including an end scraper and platform core, dating to the Middle/Late Bronze Age, were found as residual material in post-medieval ditch [16/004].

Post-medieval/Modern

- 6.3.2 The only datable features on site were of post-medieval or modern date, representing mineral extraction, agricultural, and road construction activities dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. At least one ditch in Trench 16 aligns with a known former field boundary that was filled in by the 1970s, while the pit recorded in Trench 23 correlates to the probable location of a Victorian quarry pit (EHER 1279).

Undated

- 6.3.3 Three undated linear features were recorded at the north end of the site, all in close proximity to each other. These were all shallow, with gently sloping sides and similar sterile fills. The likeness of their fills to the natural alluvial deposits found across the site, coupled with their lack of archaeological material could suggest natural origins. However, they could also be related to the post-medieval agricultural land use.

6.4 Consideration of research aims

- 6.4.1 The archaeological evaluation has achieved its primary aim of identifying, quantifying, and characterising the present archaeological remains on the site (3.1). Evidence of a transient presence in the vicinity of the site from the Neolithic to Middle/Late Bronze Age periods is present in the form of residual finds found in otherwise later dated features. No evidence for subsequent land use activity was uncovered until the post-medieval period, where remains of ditches and a quarry pit are indicative of agricultural and mineral extraction activities. Additionally, a made-ground layer located in the south of the site likely relates to road construction in the modern period.

6.5 Conclusion

- 6.5.1 The evaluation has identified archaeological remains to be present in four of the 24 trenches excavated across the site. These comprise a low intercut complexity of linear ditches and a pit, primarily dating to the post-medieval period and correlating to known historic activities.

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Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.21-0.29	50.34-51.29
1/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.04-0.13	50.09-50.87
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.24-0.36	50.10-50.54
4/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.02-0.06	49.88-49.91
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.27-0.29	50.73-51.18
5/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.03-0.12	50.44-50.91
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.29-0.32	51.85-53.15
6/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.04-0.09	51.56-52.86
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.26-0.36	53.47-54.20
7/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.03-0.09	53.21-53.84
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.33-0.36	54.12-54.63
8/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.04-0.07	53.79-54.30
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.23-0.36	53.98-55.22
9/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.03-0.10	53.74-54.94
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.29-0.34	53.18-53.67
10/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.03-0.07	52.89-53.34
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.32-0.35	51.36-52.87
11/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.05-0.06	51.04-52.55
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.28-0.37	50.59-50.80
12/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.09-0.29	50.22-50.45
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.29-0.48	50.31-51.35
13/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.03	50.03-50.85
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.30-0.38	52.09-52.30
14/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.04-0.06	51.78-51.93
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.36-0.39	53.86-55.32
15/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.12-0.16	53.57-54.90
17/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.32-0.58	51.80-53.21
17/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.08	51.59-52.65
18/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.32-0.44	51.05-51.51
18/002	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.22-0.28	50.71-50.90
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.24-0.36	50.81-51.53
19/002	Deposit	Made-ground	10.0	Trench	0.19	
19/003	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.22	50.47-50.98
20/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.37-0.49	51.83-52.88
20/002	Deposit	Made-ground	Trench	Trench	0.07-0.19	
20/003	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.03	51.54-52.20
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.37-0.42	52.36-53.09
21/002	Deposit	Made-ground	Trench	Trench	0.10-0.18	
21/003	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.03	51.95-52.61

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height m AOD
22/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.31-0.59	49.96-51.37
22/002	Deposit	Made-ground	Trench	Trench	0.08-0.24	
22/003	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.02	49.49-50.62
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.29-0.33	50.55-51.20
24/002	Deposit	Made-ground	Trench	Trench	0.06-0.09	
24/003	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.01-0.05	50.26-50.73

Appendix 2: HER Summary

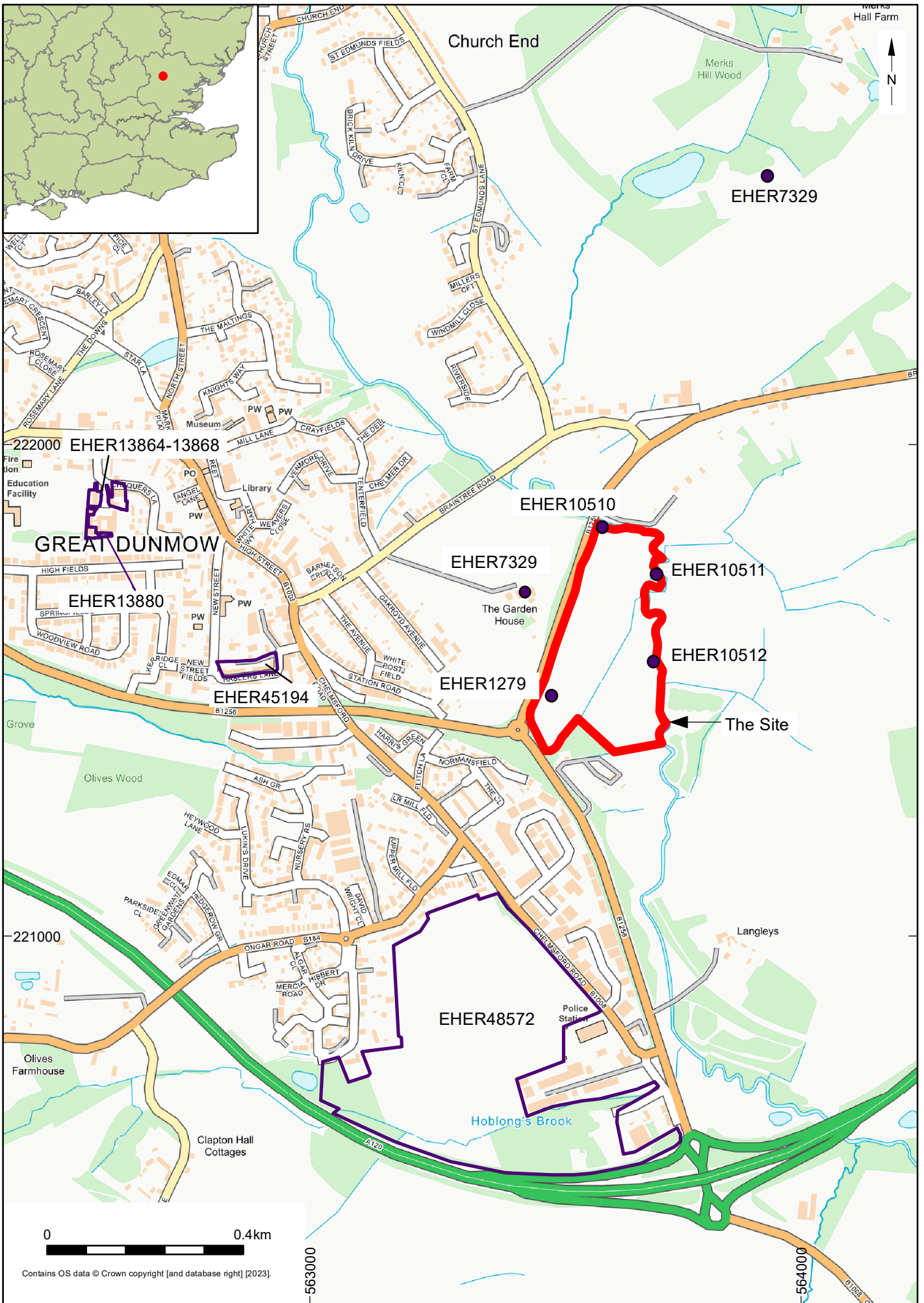
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Parish: Great Dunmow	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 6358 2160	Site Code: GDBR23
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Cai Brockley
Date of Work: 8th-16th March 2023	Size of Area Investigated: 8.7ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER No's: 1279, 10510, 10511, 10512
Final Report: ADS library	OASIS No: 514080
<p>Description:</p> <p>The site comprised an area of c.8.7ha and was investigated with the excavation of twenty-four untargeted evaluation trenches. Four trenches were found to contain archaeological remains, dating primarily to the post-medieval period.</p> <p>The earliest dated feature comprised a 19th-century gravel extraction pit, located in the south of the site, that is recorded in the Essex Historic Environment Record as being excavated in 1862 (EHER 1279). Also present were two ditches in the west of the site, likely related to late 19th- and early 20th-century agricultural activities, a made-ground layer likely associated with the construction of Braintree Road in the 1970s, and three undated ditches at the north extent of the site.</p>	
<p>Previous Summaries/Reports:</p> <p>Deegan, A. 2022, <i>Air Photo and LiDAR Mapping and Interpretation for the Land East of Braintree Road (B1256), Dunmow, Essex</i></p> <p>L-P: Archaeology. 2019, <i>Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land off B1256, Great Dunmow</i>, unpubl. L-P: Archaeology rep. LP3153E-DBA-v1.3</p>	
Author of Summary: Cai Brockley	Date of Summary: 21/03/23

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary

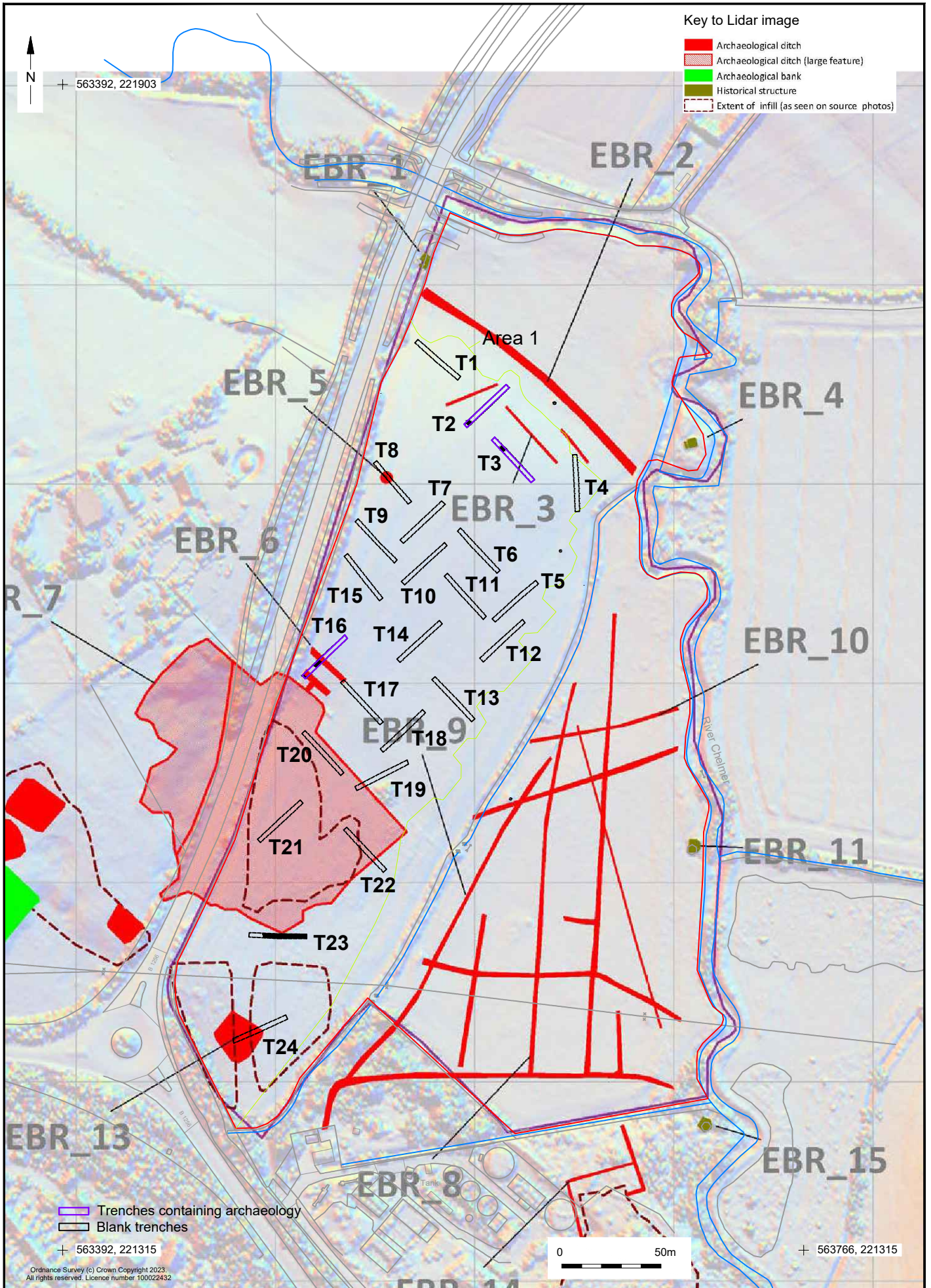
Summary for archaeol6-514080

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol6-514080
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at Land East of Braintree Road (B1256), Great Dunmow, Essex
Sitename	Land East of Braintree Road (B1256), Great Dunmow, Essex
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	220565
Planning Id	UTT/19/1219/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeology South-East
Project Dates	08-Mar-2023 - 16-Mar-2023
Location	Land East of Braintree Road (B1256), Great Dunmow, Essex NGR : TL 63580 21600 LL : 51.8689925849102, 0.374548614391144 12 Fig : 563580,221600
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Great Dunmow
Project Methodology	A total of 24 evaluation trenches measuring 30x2m were excavated across the 8.7ha site.
Project Results	Four of the 24 trenches were found to be positive for archaeological remains, which comprised a large quarry pit and two ditches that were late post-medieval in date, as well as three additional undated linear features.
Keywords	Extractive Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Brick - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Floor Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Roof Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Wine Glass - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus End Scraper - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Multiple Platform Core - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Flake - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	

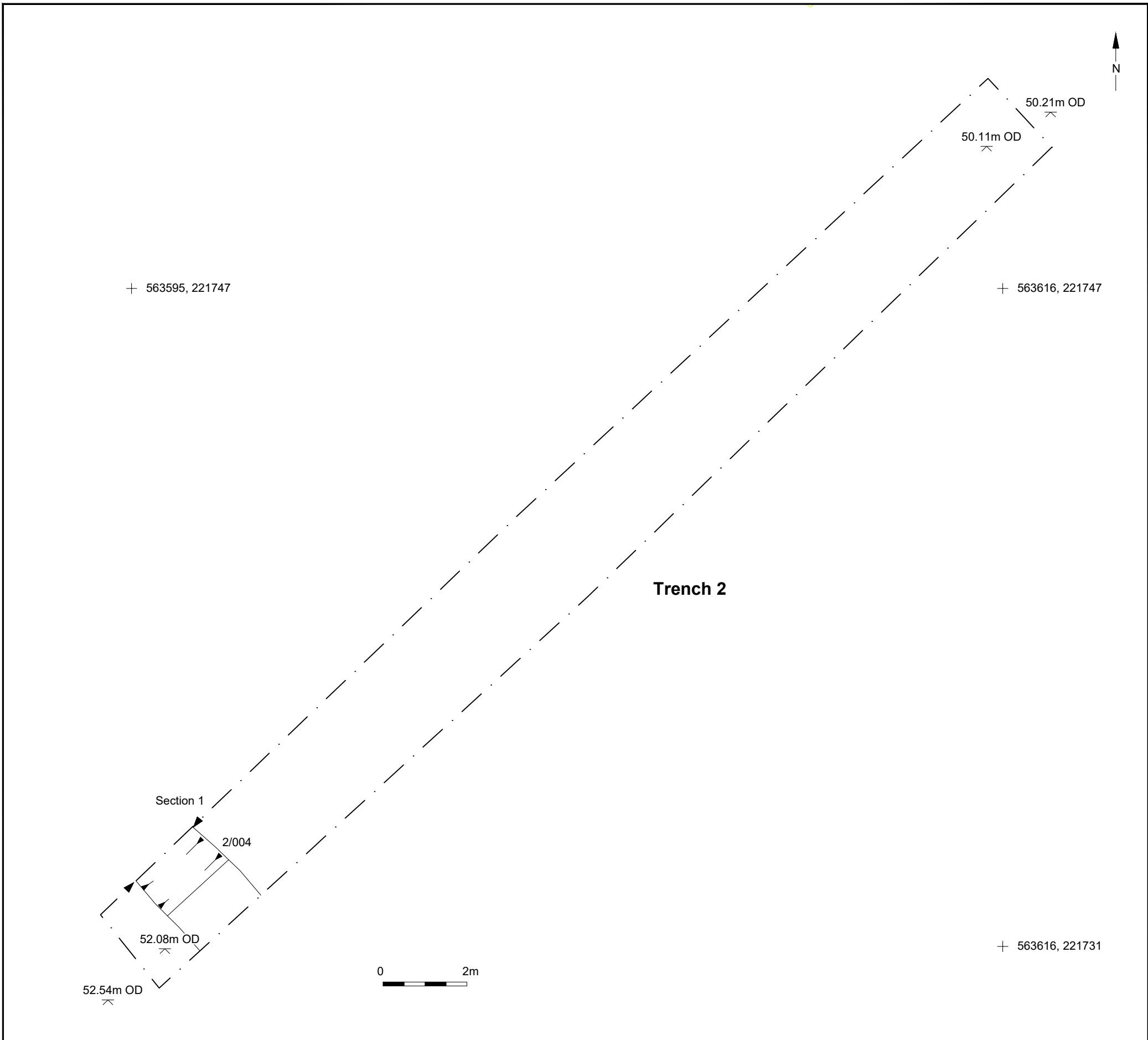
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Cai, Brockley
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum;



© Archaeology South-East		Braintree Road, Great Dunmow	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 220565	March 2023	Site Location and selected HER data	
Report Ref: 2023064	Drawn by: FEG		



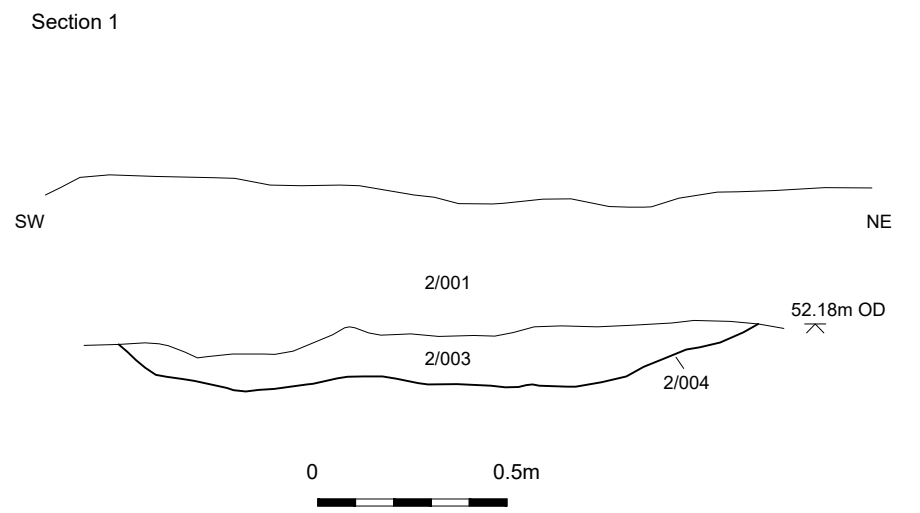
© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Braintree Rd, Great Dunmow		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 220565	March 2023	Trench location with Lidar data (from Deegan 2022)		
Report Ref: 2023064	Drawn by: FEG			

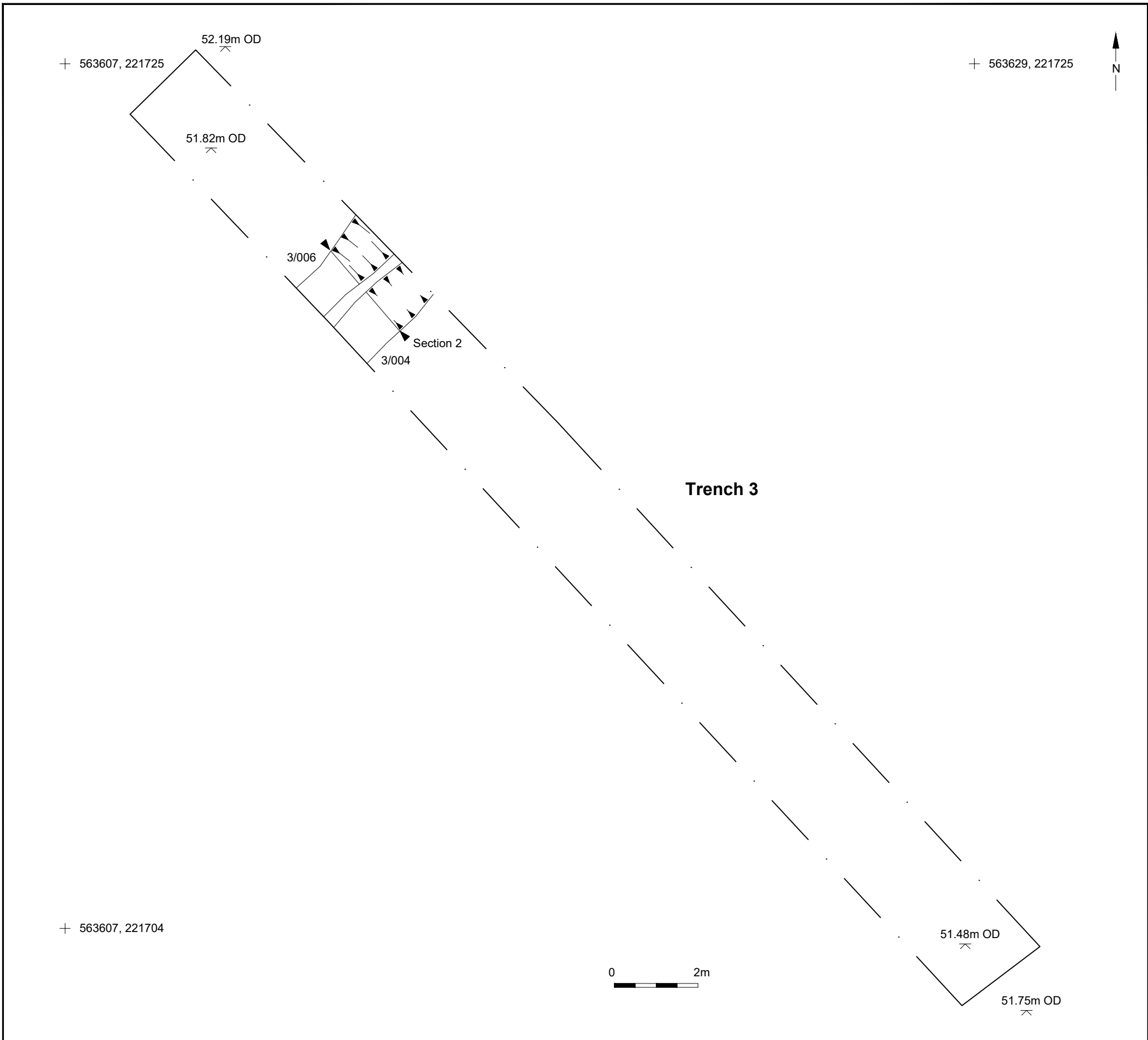


Trench 2 looking south-west



2/004 looking north-west

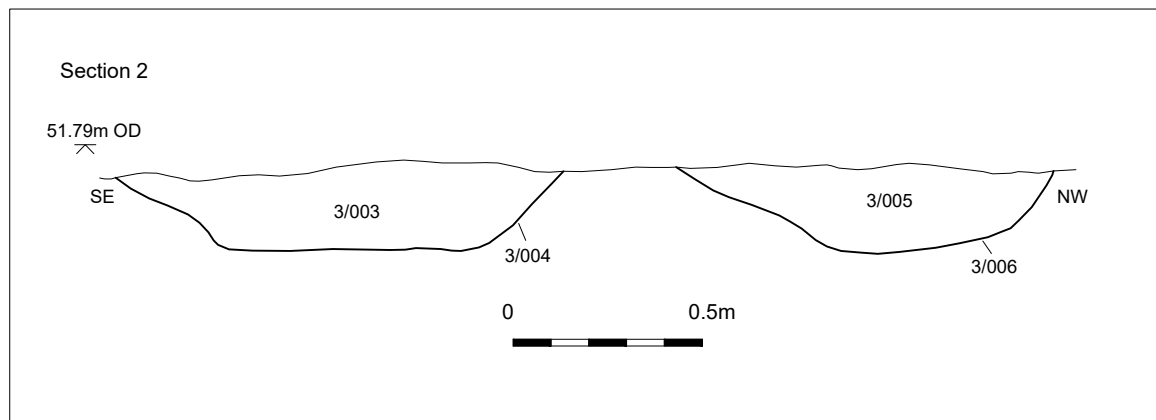


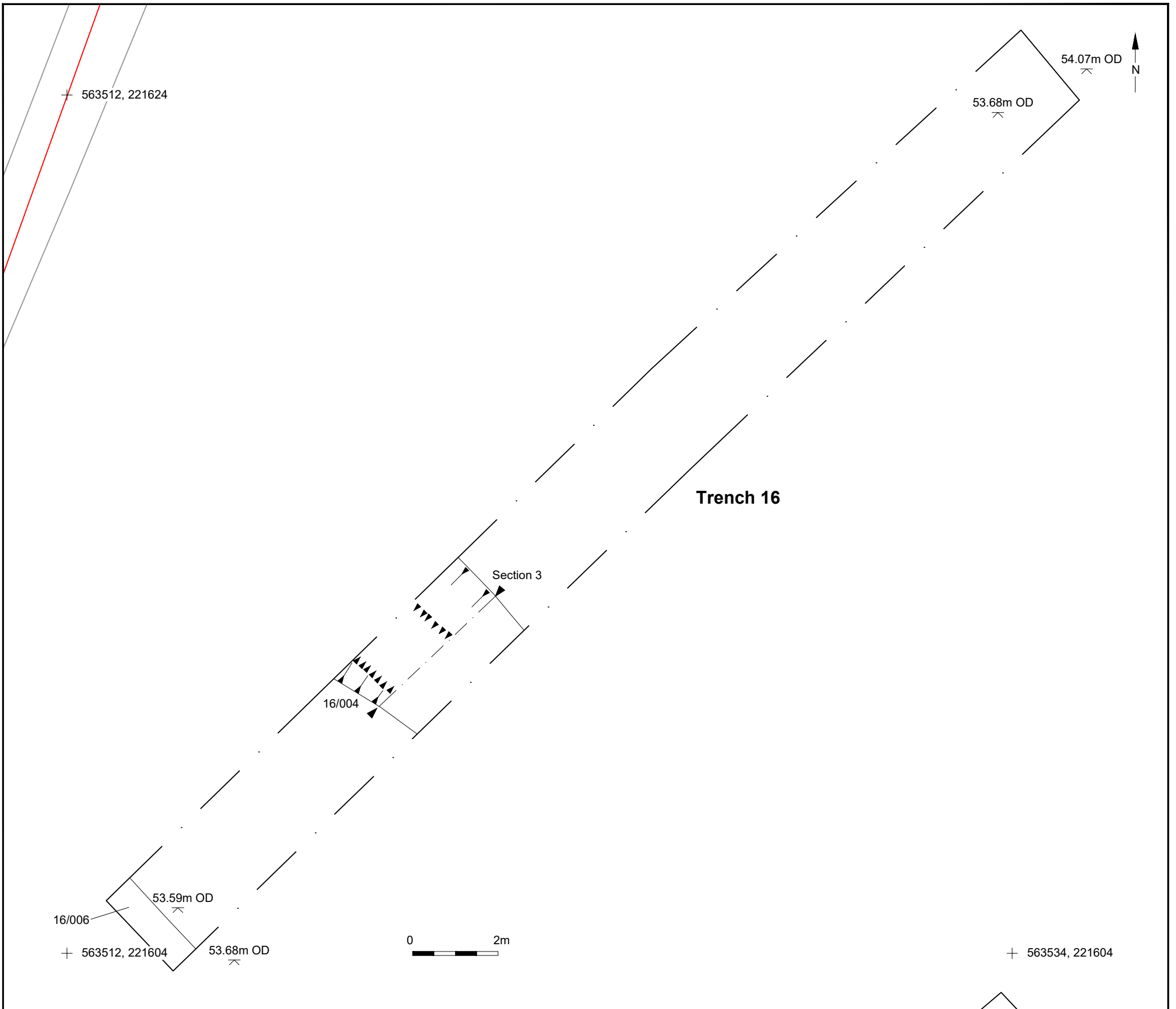


Trench 3 looking north-west



3/004 and 3/006 looking south-west

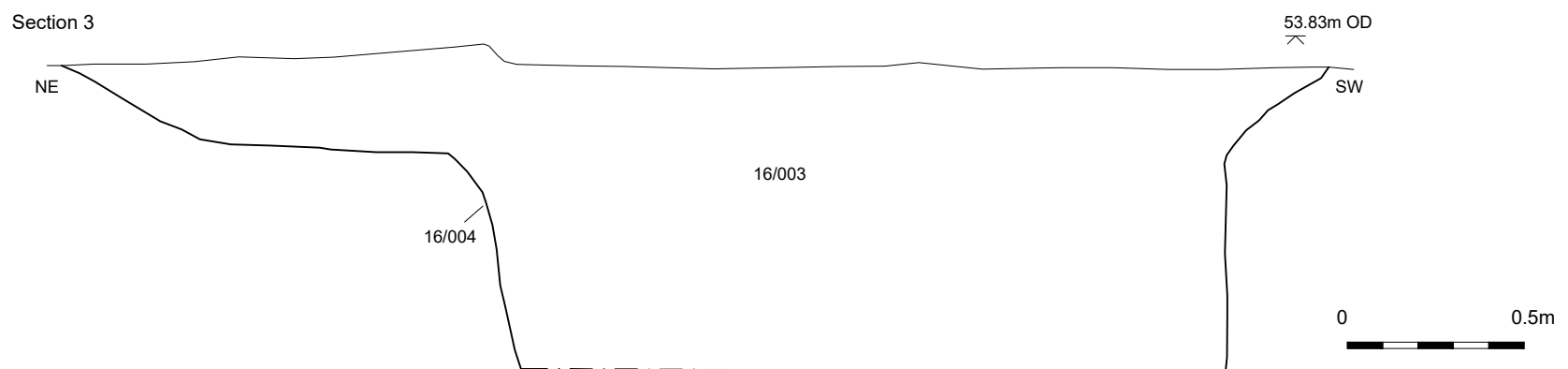




Trench 16 looking north-east



16/004 looking south-east

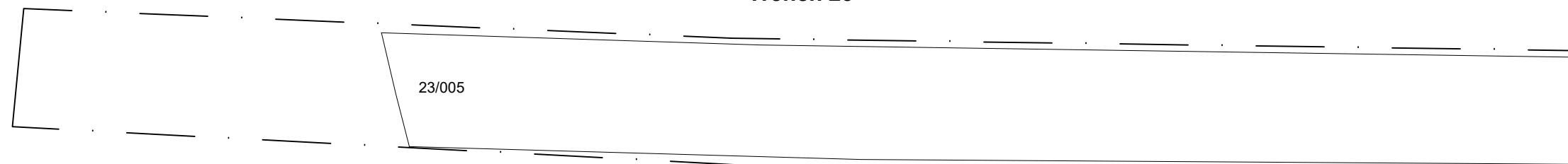




+ 563484, 221477

+ 563518, 221477

Trench 23



0 2m

+ 563484, 221469



Trench 23 looking west



Trench 1 looking south-east



Trench 4 looking north



Trench 5 looking south-west



Trench 6 looking south-east



Trench 7 looking south-west



Trench 8 looking north-west



Trench 9 looking north-west



Trench 10 looking south-west



Trench 11 looking north-west



Trench 12 looking south-west



Trench 13 looking north-west



Trench 14 looking north-east



Trench 15 looking north-west



Trench 17 looking south-west



Trench 18 looking north-east



Trench 19 looking north-east



Trench 20 looking north-west



Trench 21 looking south-west



Trench 22 looking south-east



Trench 24 looking south-west