
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED NEW CRICKET PITCH,
HATFIELD BROAD OAK VILLAGE GREEN, LAND
NORTH OF HIGH STREET & DUNMOW ROAD,
HATFIELD BROAD OAK VILLAGE, ESSEX**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Authors: Chris Leonard	
NGR: TL 5492 1673	Report No: 3921
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: HBOCP10
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 3952
Signed:	Date: September 2011

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OASIS SUMMARY

Project name	<i>Proposed New Cricket Pitch, Hatfield Broad Oak Village Green, Land North of High Street & Dunmow Road, Hatfield Broad Oak Village, Essex</i>		
<i>During August and September 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an excavation on a targeted area of the proposed cricket pitch on the land north of High Street and Dunmow Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.</i>			
<i>Extant earthworks on the site attested to the presence of a post medieval strip field system and later avenue leading to Barrington Hall to the North of the site. A trial trench evaluation by AS in December 2010 also revealed a late Anglo Saxon phase of activity on the site.</i>			
<i>This phase of excavation was targeted on an area incorporating a 10th – 12th pit excavated during the trial trenching. Three additional 10th – 12th century pits were excavated, and two prehistoric pits. Ditches of post-medieval date were excavated and correspond with known earthworks and ditch system associated with the Barrington estate. Two undated ditches were also excavated, belonging to a field system that predated that of the post-medieval period.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>Aug and Sept 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>3952</i>	Site code	<i>HBOCP10</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological excavation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Open pasture</i>		
Planned development	<i>New cricket pitch</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Prehistoric pits, 10th – 12th pits</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Prehistoric and 10th – 12th c pottery</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>Hatfield Broad Oak</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 2.4 ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 5492 1673</i>		
Height AOD	<i>c. 74 - 81m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Chris Leonard, Tim Schofield</i>		
Funded by	<i>Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council</i>		
Full title	<i>New Cricket Pitch, Hatfield Broad Oak Village Green, Essex. An Archaeological Excavation</i>		
Authors	<i>C. Leonard</i>		
Report no.	<i>3921</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2011</i>		

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

In August and September 2011, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological excavation on land north of the High Street and Dunmow Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex (NGR TL 5492 1673).

Extant earthworks on the site attested to the presence of a post-medieval strip field system and later avenue leading to Barrington Hall to the north of the site. A trial trench evaluation by AS in December 2010 also revealed a late Saxon phase of activity on the site.

This phase of excavation was targeted on an area incorporating a 10th – 12th pit excavated during the trial trenching. Three additional 10th – 12th century pits were excavated, and two prehistoric pits. Ditches of post-medieval date were excavated and correspond with the known earthworks and ditch system associated with the Barrington estate. Two undated ditches were also excavated, belonging to a field system that predated that of the post-medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August and September 2011, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological investigation comprising excavation and monitoring on land north of the High Street and Dunmow Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex (NGR TL 5492 1673; Figs. 1 - 2). The investigation was commissioned by Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council. It was undertaken to comply with a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological work, imposed on approval for a proposed new cricket pitch at Hatfield Broad Oak Village Green (Uttlesford Planning Ref. UTT/1611/09) (NGR TL 5492 1673). An earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation had been previously undertaken by AS (Higgs & Smith 2011).

1.2 The investigation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM; June 2011), and a written scheme of investigation compiled by AS (June 2011), and approved by ECC HEM. It followed the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2009). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 To the west of the site lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Hatfield Broad Oak Priory (SM 156). The site is roughly rectangular in plan and covers an area of approximately 2.4 hectares. It is currently used for open pasture, associated with the historic parkland of Barrington Hall, and the area is characterised by a number of earthworks. The aims of the excavation and monitoring were:

- To establish confirmed dates for the parkland features
- To define activity in between the earthworks identifying date/function
- To define any further medieval activity

Specific archaeological requirements were:

- Archaeological excavation within a 40 x 20m area around the early medieval feature and those features in Trench 6, and
- Archaeological monitoring of all of the topsoil stripping.

Planning context

1.4 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site of the proposed new cricket pitch is located within the village of Hatfield Broad Oak, which lies within the district of Uttlesford and the county of Essex (Fig. 1). Hatfield Broad Oak lies 2.8km to the north-east of the larger settlement of Hatfield Heath, and 4km to the east of Little Hallingbury. The M11 motorway is situated 3.9km to the west of the site. The site itself is located on Hatfield Broad Oak's village green and to the north of the High Street. Dunmow Road runs between the town of Takeley 4.5km to the north and Hatfield Broad Oak. The southern boundary of the site is formed by the High Street with Dunmow Road forming its eastern extent (Fig. 2).

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS

3.1 The site is situated within a rural location and at the northern extent of the settlement of Hatfield Broad Oak. It also lies within open pasture associated with the historic parkland of Barrington Hall and to the immediate east of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Hatfield Broad Oak Priory (SM 156). The former royal hunting forest of Hatfield Forest remains 2.3km to the north-north-west of the site. The site lies upon a slightly varied relief with land sloping downwards towards its south-eastern corner and ranges in height from 74 – 81m AOD. Hatfield Broad Oak lies on the confluence of the Pincey and Mus Brooks, the latter of which flows 300m to the south of the site. The local geology is boulder-clay with patches of glacial loam, gravel and brickearth (BGS 1978). The site also lies upon soils of the Stretham Association, which are described as deep well drained calcareous clayey soils associated with similar but slowly permeable soils (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies at Hatfield Broad Oak Village Green, on land north of the High Street and west of Dunmow Road. The area is characterised by a number of earthworks, which will be levelled as part of the proposals for the new cricket pitch. The site is currently pasture, associated with the historic parkland of Barrington Hall.

4.2 The site lies within an area of significant archaeological potential at Hatfield Broad Oak, to the immediate east of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Hatfield Broad Oak Priory (SM 156) and within the surviving Barrington Hall parkland landscape, with its surviving earthworks.

4.3 The manor of Hatfield Broad Oak was one of the largest in Essex belonging to King Harold prior to the Norman Conquest. In the medieval period the town was of considerable size with a market and Benedictine Priory. Taxation returns show that population and wealth declined from the 14th-16th centuries, worsening in the 16th and 17th centuries.

4.4 The Benedictine Priory was founded in c.1135 by Aubrey de Vere. Excavations in 1897 revealed the plan of the Priory and its church (Galpin, 1898). The priory church was added to the existing parish church, with a cloister, refectory, chapter-house and other buildings to the north. The priory grounds were contained within a ditched enclosure, with structures such as a brew-house, barns, a dovecote, hall, stables, gatehouse and fishponds, a number of which are traceable as earthworks to this day. It was dissolved in 1536 when still a substantial institution. Following this, the buildings and land were purchased by the Barringtons from Barrington Hall to the north of the town. They built a new residence from the priory buildings in the 17th century, but most of the other buildings were thought to have fallen into disrepair. The estate was enlarged by the Barringtons after they purchased Hatfield Regis Manor in 1612. They built a new hall a kilometre to the north of the old hall

(still standing in 1766) and the formal landscape park was enclosed. The new hall was not completed until 1863.

4.5 Earthworks are known across the area of the proposed cricket pitch, and depicted on the topographic survey prepared for the client (Roberts Hay Partnership Drawing). These are likely associated with Barrington Hall and its parkland, but may relate to earlier occupation.

4.6 The Historic Town Survey for Hatfield Broad Oak (Medlycott 1999) describes in detail the historic development of the settlement.

4.7 An archaeological trial trench evaluation and earthwork survey was undertaken by AS on the site in December 2010 (Smith & Higgs, 2011).

Summary of the archaeology

4.8 Archaeological features corresponding to the positions of the recorded earthworks were identified in all of the trenches targeted upon those earthworks. In Trenches 1, 5 and 9 the predominant feature, associated with the two parallel north to south aligned earthworks running through the central eastern part of the site, was identified as a substantial post-medieval driveway (F1013) with associated drainage ditches (F1015 & F1042) leading to the entrance of Barrington Hall. In Trench 9, this feature was observed to cut an undated pit (F1044).

4.9 Within Trench 8, which was positioned at the junction of a broadly east to west aligned earthwork and one aligned broadly north to south, a single feature was identified. This correlated only with the east to west aligned feature recorded during the earthwork survey. This may suggest that the north to south aligned earthwork feature had no sub-surface element, implying that material to create it was transported from elsewhere.

4.10 In most cases, the features corresponding to the recorded earthworks appeared to represent ditches, which were flanked by parallel up-cast banks. The sections recorded through the earthworks themselves (see Fig. 20), although perhaps much degraded, generally conformed to this morphology, with perhaps with the exceptions of Sections 1 and 2. Artefactual evidence was recovered from four of these features and this dates them as post-medieval (see Thompson, *this report* and Peachey, *this report*). Ditches F1019 (Trench 3) and F1003 (Trench 6) were dated as 17th to 18th century, while Ditch F1038 was slightly later (mid 18th to 19th century) and Ditch F1010, which was partially excavated in Trench 13, was dated to the late 15th to 17th century; the pottery that this date was based on, however, comprised abraded, and therefore almost certainly residual, medieval sherds and a sherd in a fabric reminiscent of Cistercian ware but probably later (see Thompson, *this report*). The dates assigned to these features are all based on very small quantities of pottery. The very slight variation in the dates of the pottery recovered from the features corresponding to the earthworks is, therefore, probably of limited importance in understanding their development. The fact that the earthworks subject to trial trenching appear to form a single coherent

system of land division, supported by the similarities in the sections recorded through the earthworks would suggest that they were all broadly contemporary.

4.11 Of the other features recorded within the trial trenches, only one contained dateable evidence. This was Pit F1032 (Trench 6) which contained pottery of 10th to late 12th century date indicating that it was more closely contemporary with the founding of the Benedictine Priory of Hatfield Broad Oak in c.1135. Of the undated features recorded, none displayed any prominent spatial relationships with features identified as corresponding to the recorded earthworks or with the early medieval Pit F1032. Such features, however, clearly may be representative of activity within the areas enclosed by these earthworks.

4.12 Evidence from the features recorded in locations corresponding to the identified earthworks suggests that these earthworks were post-Dissolution in date. This suggests that they may have been contemporary with the construction of the new Barrington residence, built in the years between 1613 and 1700. The regularity of the form of these features may be considered to be indicative of their date. It is possible to speculate that the more irregular earthworks to the west, and therefore closer to the site of the scheduled Priory, may be earlier in date.

4.13 The late 9th to late 12th century date of Pit F1032 indicates that activity broadly contemporary with the founding of the Priory, to the west, occurred in this area. The flat base of this feature may suggest that it was a posthole, but its rounded profile and its shallow depth in comparison to its width would suggest otherwise. The St Neots ware pottery recovered from this feature is uncommon in Essex. Pottery of this type was arriving in Colchester in the 11th century, a date late in the period during which it was produced. The presence of this pottery makes the feature intrinsically interesting and is possibly significant in the distribution of patterns of St Neots ware pottery and trade links in medieval Essex. However, other than its broad contemporaneity it cannot be definitively stated that this feature represents activity directly associated with the Benedictine Priory that lay c. 200m to the west.

4.14 Undated features recorded in other trenches (e.g. Trenches 3, 6 and 10) on the western side of the site could potentially be contemporary with Pit F1032. However, their proximity to features dated as post-medieval makes it equally likely, if not more so, that they were contemporary with this later activity. As no other evidence of activity of medieval date could be positively identified during the trial trench evaluation it appears that this area remained undeveloped throughout the life of the Priory, or that any such activity was minimal enough for the later post-medieval activity, that trial trenching has identified, to truncate or obscure it.

5 METHODOLOGY (EXCAVATION)

5.1 An area measuring 40m north-east/south-west by 20m wide located at the western edge of the proposed cricket pitch was subject to archaeological excavation (Figs. 2 - 3) in order to more fully investigate the medieval feature identified during the trial trench evaluation (Trench 6). The remainder of the site was subject to archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

5.2 For the remainder of the site the archaeological work was undertaken as part of the cricket pitch construction. The latter comprises an area of cut (on the western side of the site), and an area of fill (on the eastern side of the site (Fig.2). The construction was undertaken in two phases: an initial strip to the archaeological levels followed at a later date by excavation down to the required depth for the cricket pitch once the archaeological work was completed. In the area of fill all the top soil was stripped apart from that within the landscape features. The archaeological monitoring and excavation therefore extended over the fill area as well as the cut area.

5.3 Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated; thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as necessary.

6 RESULTS Figs. 3-4

Thirteen features were present. They have been phased on the basis of combined finds and stratigraphic evidence, and are tabulated below.

Phase	Date	Contexts
1	Prehistoric	Pits F2028, F2035
2	10 th -12 th century	Pits F2008, F2012, F2017
3	Post-medieval	Ditches F2020, F2023, Layer L2030
	Undated	Ditches F2003, F2005, Pits F2015, F2026, F2033

Phase 1: Prehistoric

Prehistoric activity was represented by two pits identified during monitoring to the north of the excavation area. The pits had no common morphology and were not in close proximity to each other.

Pit F2028 was oval in plan (2.88 x 2.02 x 0.43m). It had moderately steep sloping sides, and a gradual break of slope to a flattish base. It had one fill, L2029, a mid white grey compact clayey silt with frequent small chalk fragments, and occasional charcoal flecks. Five sherds of prehistoric (possibly late Bronze Age or Iron Age) pottery were present in the fill, as well as 2g of

animal bone. Pit F2028 was truncated by post-medieval Ditch F2020 (Phase 3, below).

Pit F2035 was oval in plan (2.19 x 1.40 x 0.51m). It had moderately steeply sloping sides and a gradual break of slope to a flattish base. It had two fills. The basal fill, L2036, was a dark greyish-black compact clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and fragments, frequent burnt clay fragments and occasional chalk fragments. Four sherds of prehistoric (possibly Bronze Age) pottery were present in this fill. The upper fill, L2037, was a mid brownish-grey compact clay silt with frequent chalk fragments and occasional small stones and gravel. Two sherds of prehistoric (possibly late Bronze Age or Iron Age) pottery, 12g of burnt clay, 60g of animal bone and 12g of burnt bone were present in this fill. Pit F2035 was truncated by Pit F2033 (Undated, below).

Phase 2: 10th -12th century

Late Saxon - early medieval activity (10th – 12th C) was represented by three pits in the northern portion of the excavation area. The pits had no common morphology and did not appear to form a pattern.

Pit F2008 was subcircular in plan (2.04 x 2.02 x 1.16m). It had steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It contained three fill layers. The basal layer, L2009, was a firm light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small rounded flint stones and frequent chalk. It contained animal bone (258g) and SF1, a fragment of incised worked bone, possibly from a comb. L2010 was a charcoal-rich tip fill, deposited from the eastern side of the pit. It was a firm dark blackish grey clayey silt with moderate chalk and frequent charcoal inclusions. The upper fill, L2011, was a firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small, rounded flint stones and frequent chalk inclusions. It contained one sherd of Roman pottery, likely to be residual, and two sherds of 10th - 12th century pottery. Animal bone (68g) was also present. Pit 2008 truncated the northern edge of Pit 2015 (Undated, below).

Pit F2012 was oval in plan (1.44 x 0.9 x 0.48m). It had very steep, almost vertical, sides and a sharp break of slope giving way to a flattish base. It contained two fill. The basal fill, L2013, was a friable mottled orange and grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and frequent chalk. A residual flint blade of early Neolithic type was recovered from this layer. The upper layer, L2014, was a moderately compact mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent chalk. It contained two sherds of 10th - 12th century St Neots ware pottery and animal bone (5g).

Pit F2017 was oval in plan (3.35 x 2.7 x 0.91m). It had moderately steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It contained two fills. The basal fill, L2018, was a compact mid orange brown silty clay with occasional medium sized flint stones and moderate chalk. Five sherds of St Neots ware dated to the 10th to 12th century and animal bone (1386g) were recovered from the fill. Upper fill L2019 was a compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flint stones and occasional chalk. Nine sherds of

10th to 12th century St Neots ware and one sherd of Early Medieval Sandy ware, dated to the 10th to 12th century, were recovered from this fill.

Phase 3: Post-medieval

Post-medieval activity on the site was represented by a series of earthworks delineating a system of fields, and the avenue leading to Barrington Hall.

Ditch F2023 was linear in plan, orientated E-W, and 47.9m long, of which 20.48m lay within the excavation area. In the excavated slot the ditch was 1.5m wide and 0.68m deep. It had steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The ditch contained two fill layers. Basal fill L2024 was a friable mid orange grey silty clay with frequent chalk. One sherd of 16th to 18th century red earthenware, 2g of animal bone and 8g of post-medieval peg tile were recovered from this fill. Upper fill L2025 was a compact light orange grey silty clay with moderate medium sized subrounded flint and frequent chalk flecks. 829g of post-medieval peg tile, 70g of animal bone and 3g of slag were recovered from the fill.

Ditch F2020 was linear in plan, orientated NW-SE, and more than 150m long, of which 7.79m lay within the excavation area. In the excavated slot the ditch was 1.08m wide and 0.24m deep. It had moderately steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a flattish base. The ditch contained two fills. Basal fill L2021 was a firm mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional subrounded flint stones and chalk. Fragments of 17th to 19th century peg tile were recovered from this fill. Fill L2022 was a loose mid brownish orange sandy silt with frequent gravel. It contained post-medieval pottery (29g) and peg tile (312g). Ditch F2020 defined the western edge of the avenue orientated north/south across the site. The eastern edge of the avenue was defined by upstanding earthworks.

Narrow linear features were present parallel to, and between, the two edges of the avenue. These represent the wheel ruts of vehicles using the unmetalled avenue.

Layer L2030 was sub-rectangular (31.92 x 15.32 x 0.05m). It was a dark blackish-brown compact clay-silt with frequent chalk and flint stones. Fragments of late medieval nib tile (292g) and post medieval peg tile (117g) were recovered from this layer. L2030 was in the north-eastern area of the site, stratigraphically unrelated to other features.

Undated Features

Five features; Pits F2015, F2026 and F2033, and Ditches F2003 and F2005, contained no dateable artefacts from which to determine a phase of activity. It is known that the ditches predate the 17th century field system, as they were sealed by subsoil layers L2001 and L2007, which are cut by Ditch F2023. The pits had stratigraphic relationships with other features.

Ditch F2003 was linear in plan, 22.25m long and orientated E-W. It was excavated in three slots, which are tabulated below.

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds/Observations
A	Moderately steep sides, concave base.	L2004	Compact mid orange brown silty clay.	15 th – 17 th C pottery (1g)
B	Moderately steep sides, concave base.	L2004	Compact mid orange brown silty clay.	No finds.
C	Moderately steep sides, concave base.	L2004	Compact mid orange brown silty clay.	Burnt flint.

Ditch F2005 was linear in plan, 3.79m long and orientated NE/SW. It was excavated in two slots which are tabulated below.

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds/Observations
A	Moderately steep sides, concave base.	L2006	Compact mid orange brown silty clay.	Oyster shell.
B	Shallow. Base Not reached	L2006	Compact mid orange brown silty clay.	No finds.

Ditches F2003 and F2005 intercut in excavated Slot B, however no stratigraphic relationship was discernible from the fills. It is likely that the two features are associated, as Ditch F2005 terminates at this junction in Slot B.

Pit F2015 was oval in plan (1.03 x 1.53 x 0.26m). It had steep sides and a sharp break of slope giving way to a flat base. Its fill, F2016, was a firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small, rounded flints and moderate chalk. Animal bone (35g) was recovered from the fill. Pit F2015 was truncated by Pit F2008 on its northern edge (Phase 2, above).

Pit F2026 was sub-circular in plan (1.15 x 1.10 x 0.40m). It had steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a flat base. Its single fill, F2027, was a mid brownish-yellow compact silt with occasional charcoal flecks, frequent chalk fragments and frequent flint stones. Animal bone (22g) was recovered from this fill. Pit F2026 was truncated by post medieval Ditch F2020 (Phase 3, above).

Pit F2033 was oval in plan (1.34 x 1.10 x 0.26m). It had moderately sloping sides, and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Its single fill, L2034, was a mid greyish-brown compact clayey silt with occasional small angular stones. Pit F2033 truncated prehistoric Pit F2035 (Phase 1, above).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological investigation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil (L2000) was the uppermost layer across the site, the site having been used as pasture prior to this excavation. L2000 was a dark greyish black silty clay with moderate chalk flecks and fragments, flint nodes and occasional fragments and flecks of CBM. It was fairly consistent in depth over the entire site except where encountered above one of the numerous earthworks which traversed the site. It was an average of 0.26m deep.

8.2 Below L2000 were two distinct layers of Subsoil. The uppermost, L2007, was a mid greyish-brown compact silty with occasional chalk fragments and moderate flint stones. Beneath this Subsoil L2001 was a dark reddish brown clayey silt with frequent chalk flecks and moderate flint fragments. It was an average of 0.64m deep across site, but at its deepest towards the south-eastern areas of the site where the land dropped away.

8.3 Below L2001 the chalky clay natural, L2002, was a mid brownish yellow chalky clay with patches of mid reddish brown clayey silt, very frequent chalk fragments and flecks and flint nodes.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Of the 13 features present on site, eight yielded dateable artefacts that enabled them to be assigned to a secure phase of activity. The remaining five features, although undated, had stratigraphic relationships with dateable features, allowing some inferences to be drawn.

9.2 Prehistoric pottery was recovered from two features, Pits F2028 and F2035. Both pits contained pottery of late Bronze Age or Iron Age type, but Pit F2035 also had possible middle Bronze Age pottery in its basal fill. This indicates that the pottery recovered from the upper fill is also more likely to be Bronze Age.

9.3 Further prehistoric activity was also suggested by a flint blade of early Neolithic type recovered from the basal fill of Pit F2012 (Phase 2). However, pottery recovered from the upper fill of this feature was dated to the 10th to 12th century, and the flint blade was residual.

9.4 Three features yielded 10th to 12th century pottery, and were assigned to Phase 2. Pits F2008, F2012 and F2017 all contained sherds of St Neots ware. Pit F2008 also contained a single sherd of residual Roman pottery in its upper fill. Pit F2008 truncated undated Pit F2015, indicating that the latter is a 12th century feature at the latest. This cluster of pits also includes a possible

posthole (F1032) excavated during the evaluation and containing 10th to 12th century St Neots ware. These features are broadly contemporary with the foundation and early use of the Benedictine priory founded in Hatfield in the early 12th century. However, nothing other than this contemporaneity indicates an association. The presence of further examples of St Neots ware in the pits is intrinsically significant though, as this pottery is relatively rare in Essex.

9.4 Post-medieval activity was represented by Ditches F2020 and F2023, the wheel ruts, and the deposit L2030. These features are all associated with the Barrington estate. Ditch F2020 defined the western edge of the avenue approaching the Hall, as well as functioning as a drainage ditch. Ditch F2023 was one of the earthworks characterised during the evaluation, and may also have served as a land drain, as well as a boundary within the estate. Late medieval material, in the form of 16th century pottery and fragments of nib tile recovered from Ditch F2020 and Layer L2030 respectively, is likely to be residual.

9.5 Of the undated features, all of them, with the exception of Pit F2033, can be confidently said to predate the earthworks associated with Barrington Hall. The intercutting ditches F2003 and F2005 were truncated by Ditch F2020, as was the otherwise undated Pit F2026. Pit F2015 was truncated by Pit F2008 from which prehistoric pottery was recovered.

Research Potential

9.6 The position of the site adjacent to the Benedictine Priory of Hatfield Broad Oak, and the identification of a cluster of archaeological features broadly contemporary with the founding of this, provided some further information regarding activity contemporary with the founding of the institution. Such areas of research are identified as of importance in the eastern region by Ayers (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 31). The St Neots ware recovered from these features is also important in the context of pottery studies in the Essex region.

9.7 The identification of features of post-medieval date which correspond with known earthworks and the association of these with the Barrington estate suggests that the site has a potential to inform on subjects related to the post-medieval landscape. Indeed, an increase in the corpus of information relating to parks and gardens is identified as an important research area for the eastern region (Medlycott and Brown 2008, 109).

9.8 Overall, the survey of the earthworks and the investigation of these earthworks through this excavation has helped to further characterise them. This adds to the corpus of information regarding post-medieval activity in the area and provides further detail to the understanding of the Priory site, its environs and the Barrington estate.

10 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at the Saffron Walden Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency, and confirmed with ECC HEM. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to ECC HEM at the time of deposition to the museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council for funding the project and for their assistance (in particular Messrs Keith Artus and Richard Ridler).

AS is also grateful for the input of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (ECC HEM), in particular Mr. Richard Havis.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Description	Slot	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
2000		Topsoil		Late 12 th -13 th		146		
2001	2001	Subsoil		Late 12 th – 13 th	(1) 2g	390	55	Glass 3g Fe Fragment 3g
2003	2004	Gully	A	15 th -16 th /17 th	(1) 1g			
			C					B.Flnt 14g
2005	2006	Ditch	A					Shell 6g
2007		Subsoil						Shell 9g
2008	2009	Pit		10 th -12 th	(3) 38g		258	SF1 W.Bone 2g
	2011						68	
2012	2013	Pit		10 th – 12 th	(3) 16g			S.Flnt (1) 2g
	2014						5	
2015	2016	Pit					35	
2017	2018	Pit	A	10 th -12 th	(5) 16g		2	
			B	10 th -12 th	(2) 19g		1384	
	2019		A	10 th -12 th	(8) 16g			
			B	11 th -12 th	(2) 31g			
2020	2021	Ditch	A			325		
	2022		A	16 th -18 th	(2) 14g	82		Fe Nail 5g
			B	Late 17 th -18 th	(2) 15g	312		
2023	2024	Ditch		16 th -18 th	(1) 5g		2	Coke 6g
	2025						829	70
2026	2027	Pit					22	
2028	2029	Pit		Prehistoric	(5) 6g		2	
2030	2030	Layer				243		
2035	2036	Pit		Prehistoric	(4) 280g	12	60	B.Bone 12g
	2037	Pit		Prehistoric	(2) 3g			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALISTS' REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 43 sherds weighing 0.531 kg in mixed condition, and representing several periods, although approximately half the number are Saxo-Norman to medieval in date (Table 1). The pottery has been quantified in Table 2 by feature.

Period	Sherd Count	Fabric Weight (kg)
Prehistoric	12	0.294
Roman	1	0.005
Late-Saxon to medieval	21	0.124
Post-medieval	9	0.108
Total	43	0.531

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by period

Pit F2035 contained an unusual vessel with a squared rim giving a medieval appearance, whilst the firing, thickness and fabric, including a small amount of flint tempering suggest a Bronze Age date. A groove running around the girth of the pot is exceptionally deep, while a pre-firing hole and a separate undecorated horseshoe handle, presumed from the same vessel, are in keeping with Bronze Age decoration. The vessel is probably a form of Food Vessel of early to middle Bronze Age date, but no parallels were found at the time of writing, and a late Neolithic date is also possible. The remaining prehistoric sherds mainly comprise small fragments of sand and flint tempered pottery of Bronze Age or Iron Age date with the exception of a micaceous sherd from F2028 (L2029).

The bulk of the late Saxon to medieval pottery is St Neots ware (17 sherds) including a sagging base and a jar rim. The area is within the normal range of St Neots distribution with the fabric found at Saffron Walden to the north and Hertford to the east (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 178 & 180). Pit F2008 (L2011) contained a tiny sherd (<1g) in the typical profuse platy shell fabric found of St Neots ware. An associated sherd contained a coarse mixed fabric comprising medium to very coarse quartz, occasional calcareous material and burnt organics, and black iron mineral. It could be a Saxon ware of sand 'brickearth' and haematite temper (Cottar 2000, 12), although there is a possibility it is a residual late Iron Age/early Roman sherd as a grey sandy Roman sherd with grog temper was also present in the feature. A sherd of high medieval Hedingham ware came from the subsoil (L2001), and a late medieval Colchester-type ware came from Gully F2003 (L2004A).

The post-medieval sherds all comprised red earthenwares bar two conjoining fragments of English stone ware from Ditch F2020 (L2022B).

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Table 2

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity (Post Roman fabrics)	Date	Comment
2001		Subsoil	1x1g HEDF	Late 12 th -13 th	Clear glaze and white slip lines
2003	2004A	Gully	1x1g MSOW	15 th -16 th /17 th	
2008	2011	Pit	1x1g SNEOT 1x29g SSF 1x5g ROM	10 th -12 th	SSF: Saxon Sand and Ferruginous ware? ROM; Roman grey sandy ware with some grog
2012	2014	Pit	2x14g SNEOT	10 th -12 th	SNEOT; jar rim
2017	2018A	Pit	3x14g SNEOT	10 th -12 th	
	2019A		8x16g SNEOT	10 th -12 th	
	2018 B		2x19g SNEOT	10 th -12 th	Sagging base
	2019B		1x7g SNEOT 1x22g EMS	11 th -12 th	EMS: hard fired, very abraded surfaces, possibly CBM
2020	2022		2x14g PMRE	16 th -18 th	
2020	2022 B	Ditch	2x14g ENGS 3x9g PMRE	Late 17 th -18 th	
2023	2024	Ditch	1x34g PMRE	16 th -18 th	Contains calcareous inclusions mainly on the surface
	2025		1x37g PMRE	16 th -18 th	Rod handle (3x9g recovered from feature not pot)
2028	2029	Pit	4x6g Prehistoric sand & flint 1x3g Micaceous with sparse burnt organics and black inclusions	Prehistoric – late Iron Age?	
2035?	2036	Pit?	4x280g Prehistoric sand with rare flint	Bronze Age?	Unusual vessel with squared outturned rim (giving medieval appearance). Contains pre-firing hole beneath rim and deep groove at widest point of vessel body. A separate horseshoe lug handle. Fabric prehistoric. Probably a food vessel

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity (Post Roman fabrics)	Date	Comment
2035	2037	Pit	3x5g Prehistoric sand and flint temper	Prehistoric – Iron Age?	

KEY To Post-Roman fabrics:

4? SSF: Saxon Sand and Ferruginous ware? Mid 5th-9th
 10 SNEOT: St Neots ware late 9th-late 12th
 13 EMS: Early medieval sandy ware 11th-early 13th
 21* MSO: Medieval Sandy Orange ware 15th-16th
 22* HEDF: Hedingham fine ware late 12th-early 14th
 40 PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware 16th-19th
 45 ENGS: English Stoneware late 17th-19th

The Flint

Andrew Peachey

Pit F2012 (L2013) contained a single flake of struck flint (2g), comprising a small soft-hammer struck blade (35mm in length) that was probably produced in the earlier Neolithic period. A single fragment (14g) of burnt flint was also contained in Gully F2003 (L2004 Seg.C), but has only been exposed to a relatively low temperature and may not belong to antiquity.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 63 fragments (2335g) of CBM, including fragments of late medieval nib tile, post-medieval peg tile and brick. The CBM is moderately fragmented and slightly abraded, but is only present in limited quantities. The bulk of the CBM was contained in Ditches F2020 and F2023, with sparse fragments in Layer L2030, and the remainder present as unstratified material. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with fabrics analysed at x20 magnification, and any extant dimensions or typological characteristics also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

A total of four fragments (292g) of nib tile are present in the assemblage, distinguished not only by their form but also by their fabric. The nib tile comprises 18mm thick flat tiles with a pair of nibs 30-35mm² at one end, used to 'hang' the tiles on a roof frame. The nib tile occurs in an oxidised red to red-brown fabric, with inclusions of common-abundant angular quartz (0.25-0.75mm), sparse red/black iron-rich grains (0.1-1.0mm) and occasional clay pellets (0.5-5mm). Fragments of nib tile were present in Ditch F2023 (L2025) and Layer L2030, in both instances in association with quantities of peg tile. Nib tile was generally in use between the mid 13th and late 15th/early 16th

centuries (Drury 1981, 131), after which it was superseded by peg tile. Peg tile was common from at least the early 14th century when its size was regulated by statute, but none of the examples in the assemblage appear to be this early. Therefore the nib tile appears to be residual, although they may represent a surviving remnant of an earlier roof that was re-built in peg tile in the post-medieval period.

The peg tile and brick occur in a single, locally-produced fabric that was common in the 17th to 19th centuries. The fabric is oxidised orange-red throughout, with inclusions of common, well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm), occasional red/black iron-rich grains (0.1-0.5mm) and flint (0.5-3mm). The peg tile is 12-14mm thick flat tile with a pair of circular peg holes at one end and a sanded base, while the brick is 60mm thick with a smooth base. Fragments of peg tile were contained in Ditches F2020 (L2021 and L2022), F2023 (L2024 and L2025), Layer L2030 and as un-stratified material. Fragments of brick were contained in Ditch F2020 (L2021 and L2022 Seg.B). None were present in high concentrations, but were probably associated with a structure in the vicinity.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

DP1



Post-ex shot, Pit 2008, looking north.
DP3



Post-ex shot, Pit 2017, looking south-east.
DP5



Post-ex shot, wheel ruts (F2031) and Pit F2028, centre of avenue ditches, facing north.

DP2



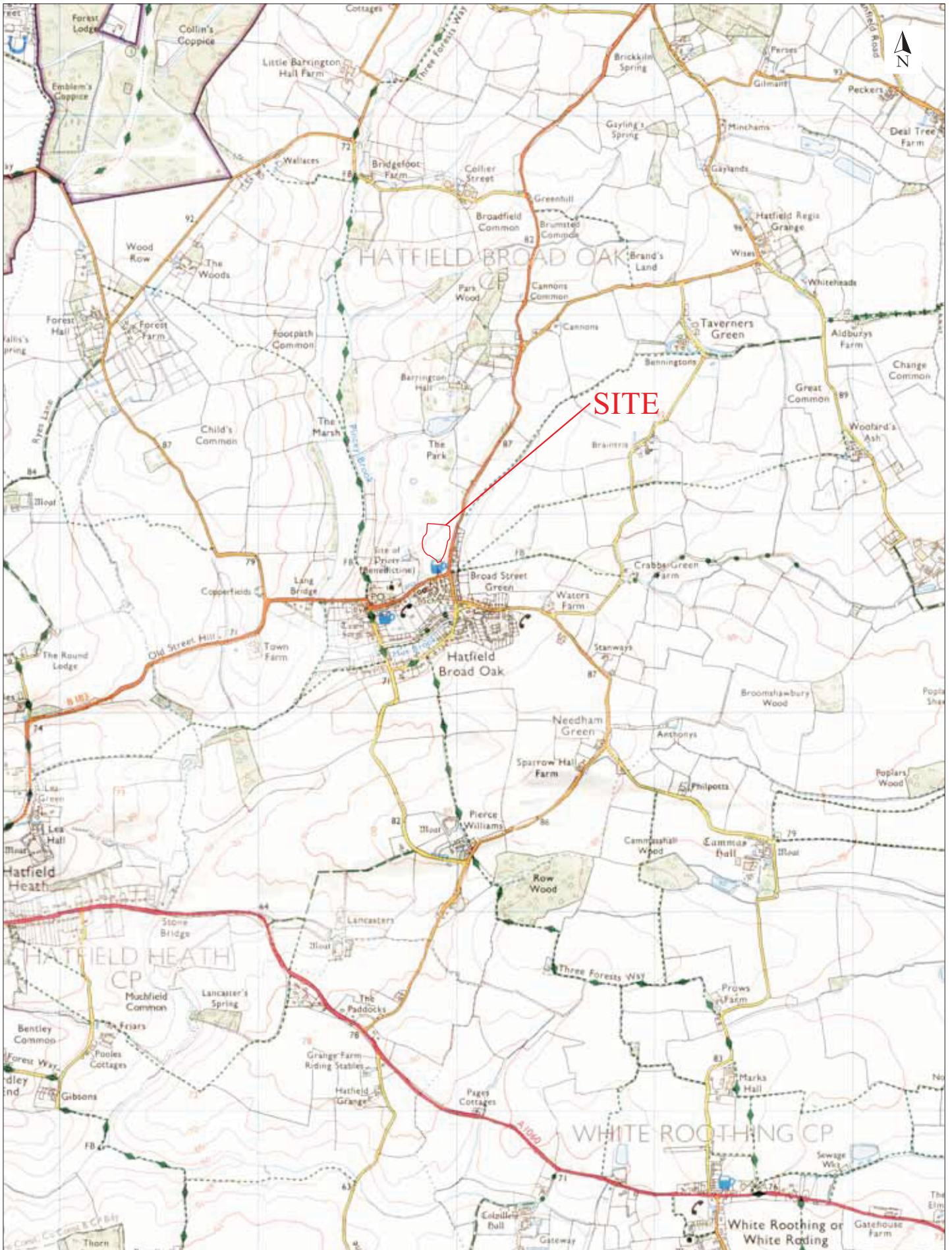
Post-ex shot, Pit F2035, looking east.
DP4



Pre-excavation shot, avenue ditches and wheel ruts, looking north.
DP6



Post-ex close-up shot, Wheel Rut F2031, facing north.



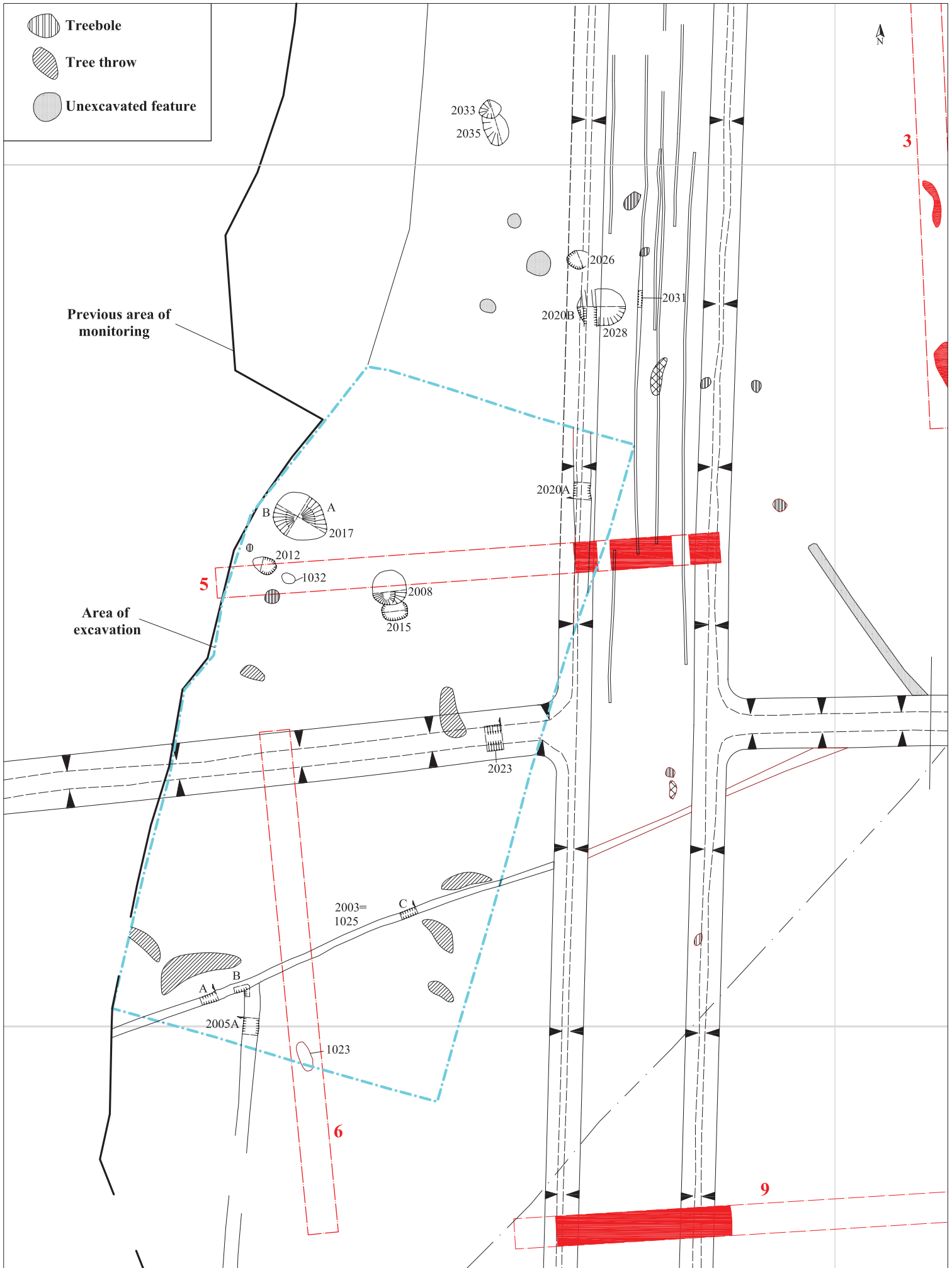
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

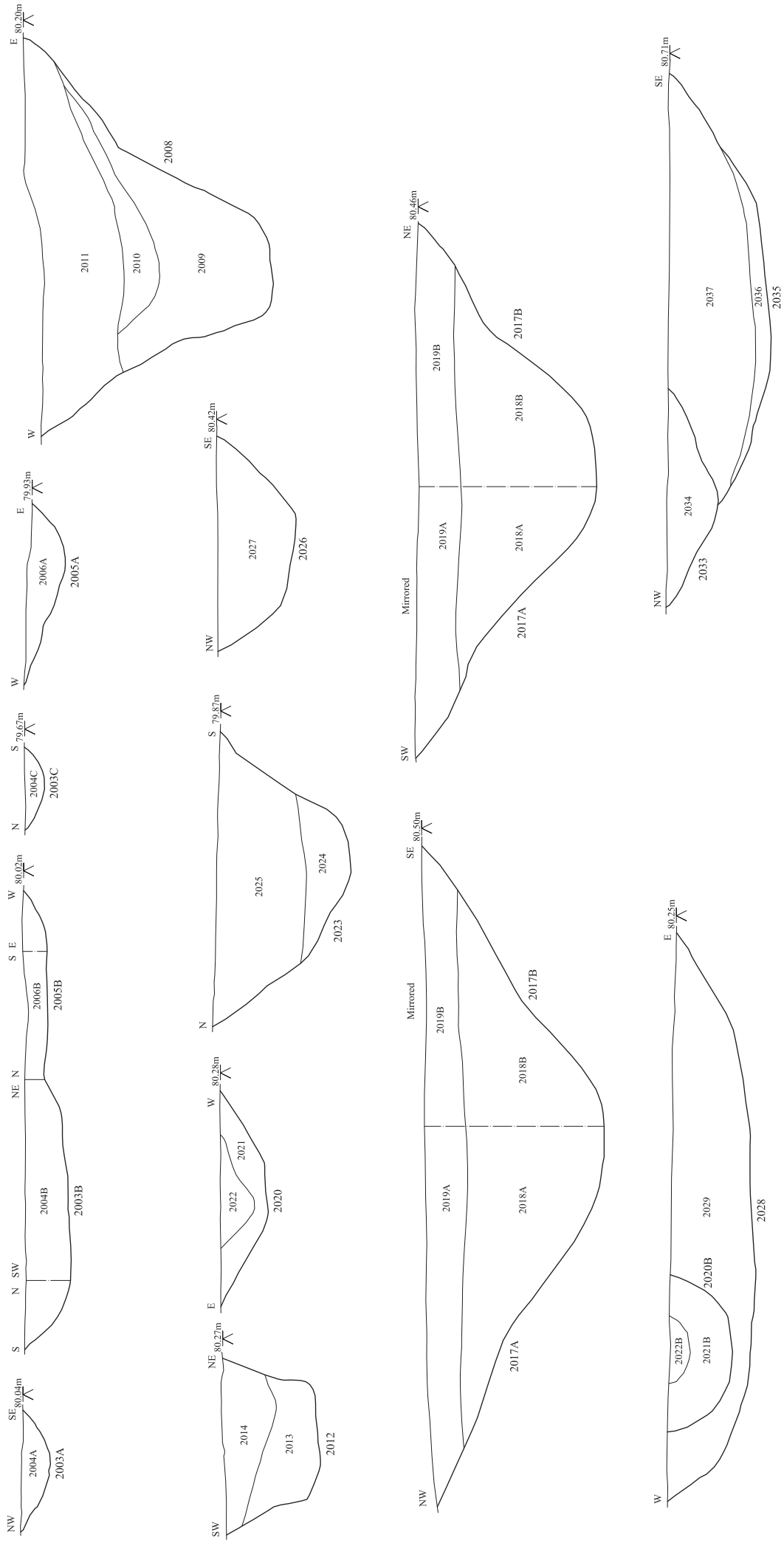


0 100m

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 All features plan
 Scale 1:200 at A3



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Fig. 4 Sections
 Scale 1:20 at A3