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**LAND AT ELSENHAM NURSERIES, STANSTED ROAD,
ELSENHAM, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork and report) Peter Thompson (Archaeological background)	
NGR: TL 52990 26205	Report No: 5153
District: Uttlesford	Site Code:
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6752
Signed:	Date: 1st July 2016

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210

P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483

e-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at Elsenham Nurseries, Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In June 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land on land at the former Elsenham Nurseries, Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex (NGR TL 52990 26205). It is proposed to construct 40 new dwellings. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Uttlesford Council Planning Ref. UTT/14/2991/OP), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed linear features, ditches, located in the southern sector of the site. The ditches were traceable from trench to trench (F1016 (Trenches 7 and 10); F1014 (Trenches 11 and 15); F1011 and F1007 (Trenches 11 and 14). Ditches F1016 and F1018 (Trenches 7 and 10) were undated. Ditches F1007, F1009 and F1011 contained 18th - 19th century pottery and modern glass. Ditch F1014 (Trench 15) contained a sherd of moderately abraded Roman pottery. The latter find is insufficient to date the feature and may represent a residual sherd.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>July 2016</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>6752</i>	Site code	
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Former nursery</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>A Roman sherd</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>Elsenham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.3.4ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 52990 26205</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 100m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Thomas Muir</i>		
Funded by	<i>Beechwood Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Former Elsenham Nurseries, Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Muir, T. & Thompson, P.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5153</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2016</i>		

LAND AT ELSENHAM NURSERIES, STANSTED ROAD, ELSENHAM, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land on land at the former Elsenham Nurseries, Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex (NGR TL 52990 26205). It is proposed to construct 40 new dwellings. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Uttlesford Council Planning Ref. UTT/14/2991/OP), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)

The location of the development site, overlooking the Stansted Brook, has an archaeological potential, and a trial trench evaluation on the land immediately to the north identified evidence for Late Iron Age, Roman and medieval activity, and undated features. Cropmarks of a possible enclosure and field boundaries have been identified south of Alsa Wood. Finds of Neolithic to medieval date have been recovered during widening of the M11 to the west, and isolated Roman and medieval metal work finds have been found in the vicinity

The evaluation revealed linear features, ditches, located in the southern sector of the site. The ditches were traceable from trench to trench (F1016 (Trenches 7 and 10); F1014 (Trenches 11 and 15); F1011 and F1007 (Trenches 11 and 14). Ditches F1016 and F1018 (Trenches 7 and 10) were undated. Ditches F1007, F1009 and F1011 contained 18th - 19th century pottery and modern glass. Ditch F1014 (Trench 15) contained a sherd of moderately abraded Roman pottery. The latter find is insufficient to date the feature and may represent a residual sherd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land on land at the former Elsenham Nurseries, Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex (NGR TL 52990 26205; Figs. 1 - 2). It is proposed to construct 40 new dwellings. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Uttlesford Council Planning Ref. UTT/14/2991/OP), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to a brief prepared by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA; *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching on a residential development at Elsenham Nurseries, Stansted Road, Elsenham*, dated 1st June 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 2nd June 2016), and approved by ECC HEA. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Elsenham is located 1.75km north-east of Stansted Mountfitchet. The development site lies on the northern side of the B1051 Stansted Road, on the south-western edge of Elsenham. The plot is a former nurseries with hardstanding, small-scale buildings and tree cover. It extends to some 3.4ha. The northern part of the site is wooded. This woodland is to remain as part of the development, as are a number of trees elsewhere on the site.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located on high ground at approximately 100m AOD, overlooking the Stansted Brook to the south. The local soils comprise deep well drained fine and coarse loamy over clayey subsoils, which can sometimes be calcareous. The superficial geology is chalky till which overlies the solid geology of London Clay.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site has an archaeological potential through its land Characterisation Study (2009), and the site's close proximity to the Stansted Brook. In particular, evidence of multi period occupation has been recorded to the north during excavations in advance of a recent housing development (EHER 48393). The central grid reference for this area is 300m to the north of the development site, but the site extends southwards and may run into the development site. Evidence for Late Iron Age, Roman and medieval activity was identified in the form of ditches, gullies and pits, and undated linear features indicative of an agricultural landscape, and a cremation burial (McNicoll-Norbury 2013). Cropmarks of a possible rectilinear enclosure and field boundaries have been identified from aerial photographs south of Alsa Wood (EHER 18899).

4.2 Another archaeological trial trenching evaluation to the south of Stansted Road, however, revealed only sparse archaeological remains including a post-medieval boundary (EHER 48657). To the west, archaeological investigations ahead of widening of the M11 identified finds within 500m of the site. The finds include Neolithic struck flint and pot boilers (EHER 4686, 4691), pottery and burnt flint of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date (EHER 16923), and Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery (EHER 4690, 4689, 4687).

4.3 Metal objects have been recovered from within 500m of the development site which fall under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and whose locations have not been closely revealed. These include

four medieval coins (EHER 52253), a coin of Elizabeth I (EHER 54004), and a box mount of possible Roman date (EHER 55413).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The brief required a 4% sample of the proposed development site to be investigated by trial trenching (with a further 1% sample held in reserve to clarify any remains that were revealed). The site extends to some 3.4ha, but the area proposed for housing development, excluding existing areas of trees which are to remain, extends to some c.2ha. Therefore 15 trenches each 5 - 40m x 1.8m were excavated, targeting the proposed development area. The location of the trenches and their lengths were modified for practical reasons.

5.2 The topsoil was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 1A South East End, North East Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 101.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark reddish brown clayish silt with moderate small angular flint stones throughout.
0.19 – 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, light greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints.
0.39m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Compact, mid reddish orange sandy clay with small chalky patches throughout.

<i>Sample section 1B North West End, South West Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 101.45m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.29 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 2A North End, East Facing</i>		
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<i>0.00 = 101.44m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above, Trench 1
0.32 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.44m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1
<i>Sample section 2B South End, West Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 101.38m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.49m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.49m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 3A North West End, North East Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 101.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.24 – 0.57m	L1003	Subsoil. Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints.
0.57m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 3B South East End, South West Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 101.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.15 – 0.32m	L1003	Subsoil. As above.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 4A North East End, South East Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 100.99m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.14 – 0.61m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 3
0.61m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 4B South West End, North West Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 101.05m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.27 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.42 – 0.84m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 3
0.84m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 5A North East End, North West Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 100.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1004	Tarmac layer. Compact, dark blueish black layer with frequent gravel patches throughout
0.09 – 0.48m	L1005	Made ground. Firm, dark blackish grey silty clay with frequent small - large angular stones.
0.48 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 5B South West End, South East Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 100.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.27 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.41m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 6A North West End, North East Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 100.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.21 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 6B South East End, South West Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 100.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.20 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.52 – 0.84m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 3
0.84m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 7A North East End, North West Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 99.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.29 – 0.60m	L1013	Made Ground. Firm, blackish grey silty clay with moderate sub-angular flints
0.60– 0.82m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1

0.82m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1
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<i>Sample section 7B South West End, South East Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 100.19m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.30 – 0.59m	L1013	Made ground. As 7A above.
0.59 – 0.88m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.88m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 7 contained Ditch F1016 which was also recorded in Trench 10. It contained no finds.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 8A North East End, South East Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 99.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.32 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.59m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 6A North West End, North East Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 98.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.28 – 0.87m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.87m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 6B South East End, South West Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 98.02m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.27 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.66m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 10 (Figs. 3-4)

<i>Sample section 10A North East End, North West Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 99.03m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.19 – 0.47m	L1013	Made Ground. As above, Trench 7
0.47– 0.90m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1

0.90m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1
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<i>Sample section 10B South West End, South East Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 99.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.15 – 0.33m	L1013	Made ground. As above, Trench 7
0.30 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.62m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 3
0.62m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 10 contained undated Ditches F1016 and F1018 and an area of modern concrete.

Ditch F1016 was linear, orientated NW / SE (1.80m + x 0.65m x 0.20m). It had moderately sloping sides and concave base. Its fill, L1017, was compact, light brownish grey, silty clay with occasional sub-angular flints. It contained no finds. The ditch was also recorded in Trench 7.

Ditch F1018 was linear, orientated NW / SE (1.80m+ x 0.55 x 0.09m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was compact, light brownish grey, silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained no finds.

At the north-eastern end of the trench, modern concrete was present below the topsoil.

Trench 11 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 11A North West End, South West Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 99.71m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.15 – 0.34m	L1013	Made Ground. As above, Trench 7
0.34– 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.52m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 11B South East End, North East Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 99.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.18 – 0.48m	L1013	Made ground. As above, Trench 7
0.48 – 0.71m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.71m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 11 contained Ditches F1009, F1011, and F1014, and two discrete areas of modern disturbances. F1014 was also recorded in Trench 15 where it contained a Roman sherd; F1009 was

also recorded in Trench 14 where it contained 18-19th century pottery; and F1011 was also recorded in Trench 14 where it contained modern glass.

Ditch F1009 was linear, orientated N / S. F1009 was also recorded in Trench 14 where it contained a Roman sherd.

Ditch F1011 was linear, orientated N / S. F1011 was also recorded in Trench 14 where it contained modern glass.

Ditch F1014 was linear, orientated NE / SW. It was also recorded in Trench 15 where it contained a Roman sherd.

Two discrete modern disturbances were present, both contained concrete and tarmac.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 12A North East End, North West Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 98.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.24 – 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.43– 0.67m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 3
0.67m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 12 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 13A North West End, North East Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 97.99m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.24 – 0.37m	L1006	Redeposited Natural. Firm, mid whitish brown chalky clay with occasional small sub-rounded flintstones.
0.37 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.66m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 13B South east End, South West Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 97.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.35 – 0.69m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.69m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 13 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 14 (Figs. 3 & 5)

<i>Sample section 14A North East End, North West Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 97.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.27 – 0.40m	L1013	Made Ground. As above, Trench 7
0.40– 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.61m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 14B South West End, South East Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 97.86m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.20 – 0.49m	L1013	Made ground. As above, Trench 7
0.49 – 0.86m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.86m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 14 contained Ditches F1007, F1009, and F1011.

F1007 contained 18th - 19th century pottery. F1009 also contained 18th - 19th century pottery and was also recorded in Trench 11. F1011 contained modern glass and was also recorded in Trench 11.

Ditch F1007 was linear, orientated NW / SE (2.10m + 0.53m x 0.12m). It has moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a compact, light brownish grey silty clay. It 18th - 19th century pottery (2; 12g).

Ditch F1009 was linear, orientated N / S (2.05m+ x 0.76m x 0.53m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay. It contained 18th - 19th century pottery (7; 172g) and glass (1; 2g). F1009 was also recorded in Trench 11

Ditch F1011 was linear, orientated N / S (1.95m+ x 0.54m x 0.09m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay. It contained modern glass (3; 96g). F1011 was also recorded in Trench 11.

Trench 15 (Figs. 3 & 5)

<i>Sample section 15A North West End, North East Facing</i> <i>0.00 = 98.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.18 – 0.55m	L1013	Made Ground. As above, Trench 7
0.55– 0.76m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1

0.76m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1
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<i>Sample section 15B South East End, North East Facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 97.98m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.18 – 0.34m	L1013	Made ground. As above, Trench 7
0.34 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.70m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 15 contained Ditch F1014 and it contained a Roman sherd.

Ditch F1014 was linear, orientated NW / SE (5.25m+ x 0.66m x 0.17m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a compact, light brownish grey, silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint stones. It contained a Roman sherd (1; 3g). F1014 was also recorded in Trench 11.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the areas of the site examined, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a firm, dark, reddish brown clayish silt layer with small angular flints (0.14 – 0.49m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, light greyish brown silty clay with small sub-rounded flints (0.10 – 0.59m thick), which was present across most of the site excepting Trench 3. It also overlay Subsoil L1003 which was a firm, light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded flint stones. L1003 occurred in patches throughout the site in Trenches 3 - 4, 6, 10 and 12 (0.17 - 0.47m thick).

8.2 The natural geology comprises of a compact, mid reddish orange sandy clay with a moderate amount of small sub-rounded patches of chalk throughout (0.32 – 0.90m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The location of the development site, overlooking the Stansted Brook, has an archaeological potential, and a trial trench evaluation on the land immediately to the north identified evidence for Late Iron Age, Roman and medieval activity, and undated features. Cropmarks of a possible enclosure and field boundaries have been identified south of

Alsa Wood. Finds of Neolithic to medieval date have been recovered during widening of the M11 to the west, and isolated Roman and medieval metal work finds have been found in the vicinity

9.2 The evaluation revealed linear features, ditches, located in the southern sector of the site. The ditches were traceable from trench to trench (F1016 (Trenches 7 and 10); F1014 (Trenches 11 and 15); F1011 and F1007 (Trenches 11 and 14). Ditches F1016 and F1018 (Trenches 7 and 10) were undated. Ditches F1007, F1009 and F1011 contained 18th - 19th century pottery and modern glass. Ditch F1014 (Trench 15) contained a sherd of moderately abraded Roman pottery. The latter find is insufficient to date the feature and may represent a residual sherd.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Beechwood Homes Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the evaluation, in particular Mr Sean Harries for assistance.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Richard Havis, Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Concordance of Finds

ELSSR16 - P6752, Land at Eisenham Nurseries, Stanstead Road, Eisenham, Essex

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1007	1008		14	Fill of Ditch	18-19th C	2	12g					
1009	1010		14	Fill of Ditch	18-19th C	7	172g			Glass	1	2g
1011	1012		14	Fill of Ditch						Glass	3	96g
1014	1015		15	Fill of Ditch	Roman	1	3g					

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation excavations recovered a total of ten sherds (187g) of pottery, including a single sherd (3g) of moderately abraded Roman pottery, with the remainder comprised of fragmented but un-abraded late post-medieval to early modern pottery (18th-19th century).

Ditch F1014 (L1015) contained a single sherd (3g) of Roman sandy grey ware, a generic coarse ware in Essex and East Anglia. The sandy grey ware comprises a body sherd with a shallow rilled exterior, possibly suggesting it formed part of a 'Braughing'-type jar, but this is a tentative conclusion and does not allow for a narrower chronology to be defined.

The bulk of the post-medieval to early modern pottery (seven sherds, 172g) was contained in Ditch F1009 (L1010), including the partial footring bases of two small bowls in tin-glazed, refined white earthen ware, associated with body sherds of glazed and un-glazed red earthen ware, which collectively are indicative of a date in the 18th-19th centuries. Further isolated small sherds of comparable un-glazed red earthen ware were also contained in Ditch F1007 (L1008).

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1 looking south-west



2
Trench 2 looking north



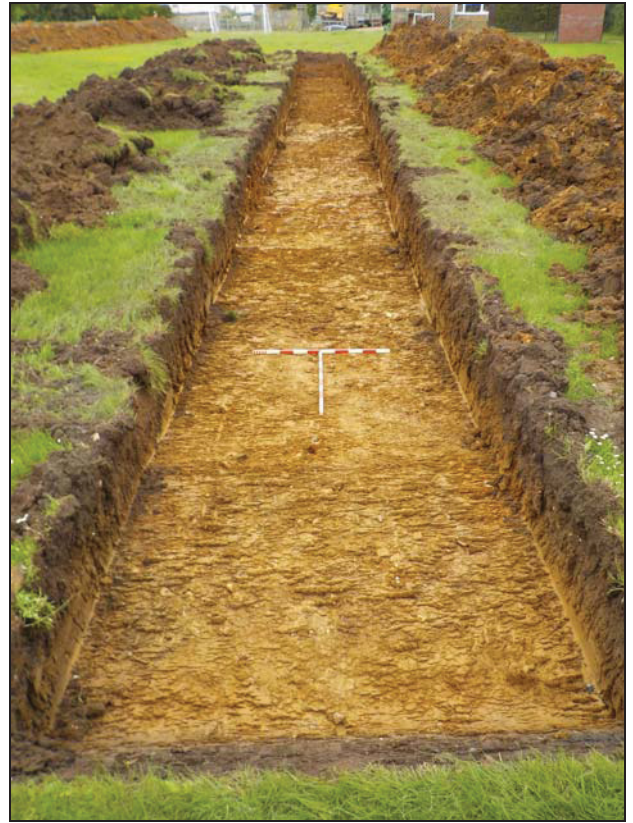
3
Trench 3 looking north-west



4
Trench 4 looking south-east



5
Trench 5 looking south-east



6
Trench 6 looking south-east



7
Trench 7 looking west



8
Trench 8 looking north-east



9
Trench 9 looking north-west



10
Trench 10 looking north-east



11
Ditch 1016 in Trench 10 looking south-east



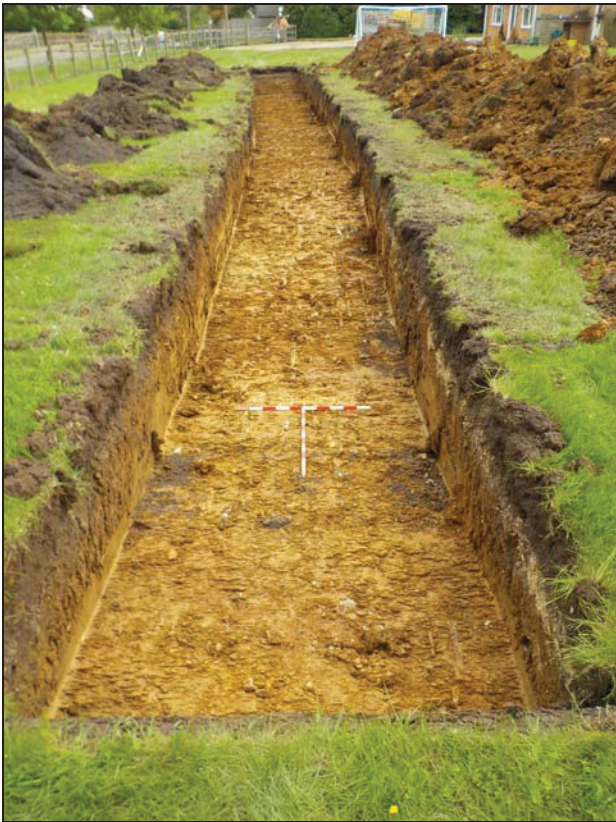
12
Ditch 1018 in Trench 10 looking south-east



13
Trench 11 looking north-west



14
Trench 12 looking west



15
Trench 13 looking south



16
Trench 14 looking south-west



17
Ditch 1007 Trench 14 looking south



18
Ditch 1009 Trench 14 looking south



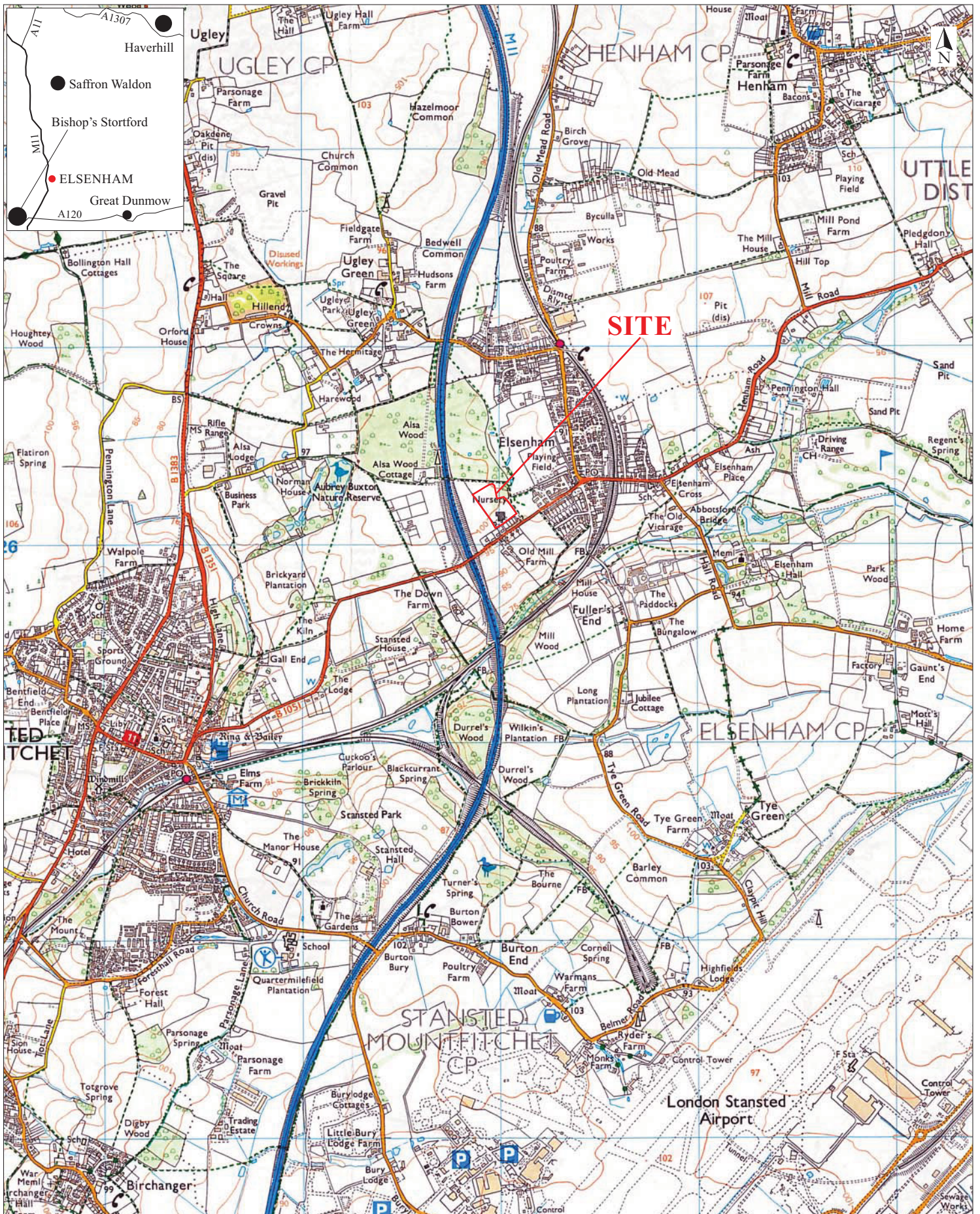
19
Ditch 1011 Trench 14 looking south



20
Trench 15 looking south-east



21
Ditch 1014 Trench 15 looking south-east



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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex (P6752)

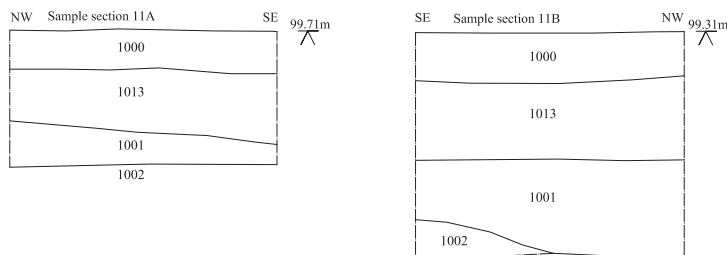
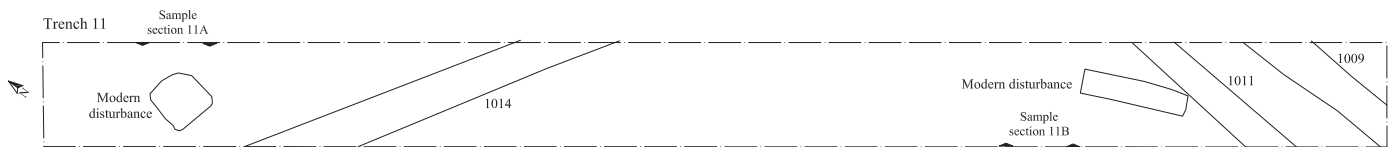
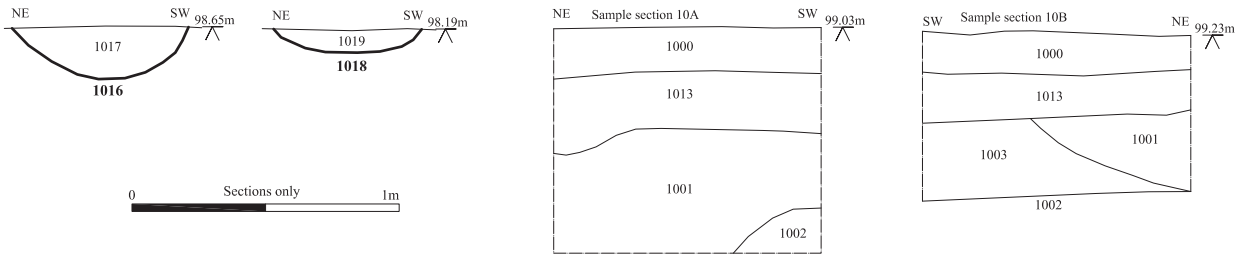
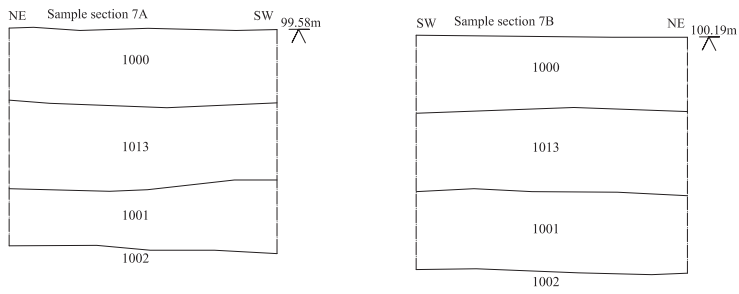
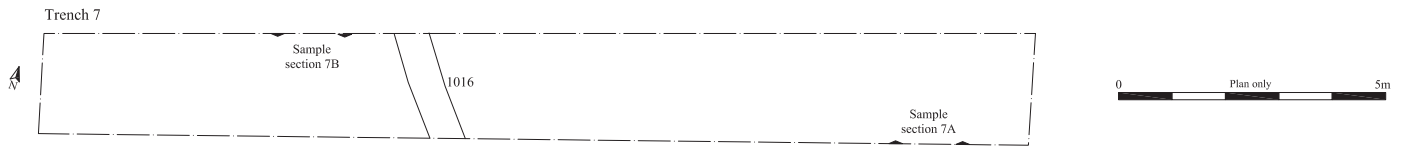


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:5000 at A4
 Stansted Road, Elsenham (P6752)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:750 at A3
Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex (P6752)

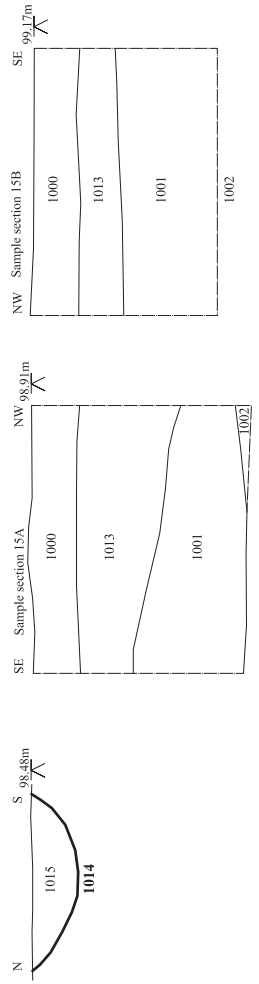
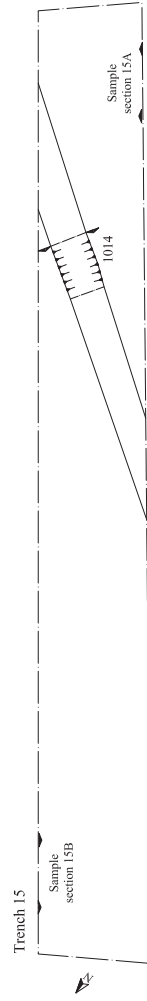
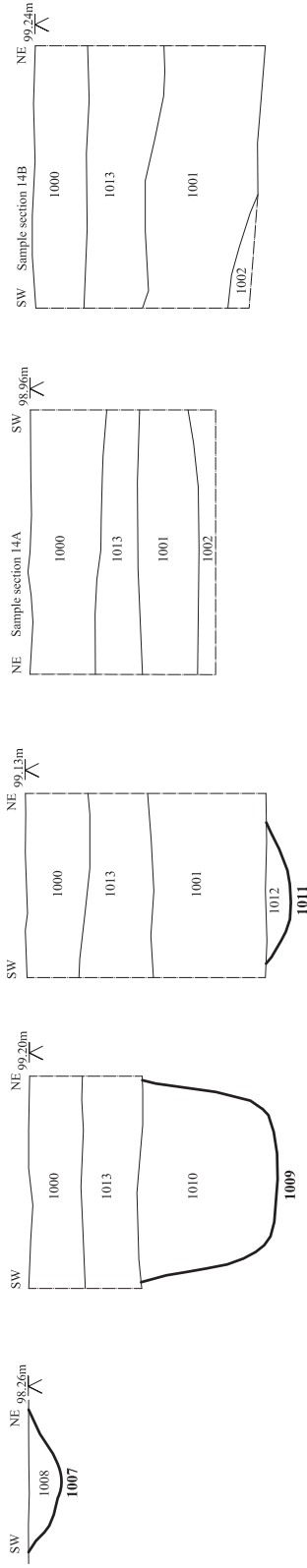
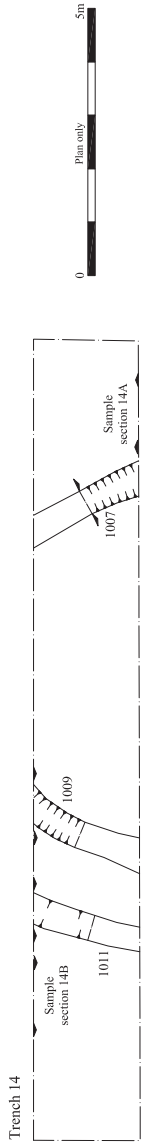


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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:20 and 1:100 at A3

Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex (P6752)



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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:20 and 1:100 at A3

Stansted Road, Elsenham, Essex (P6752)