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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**STONE HALL FARM, DOWNHILL ROAD,  
MATCHING GREEN, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 52938 12287	Report No: 5170
District: Epping Forest	Site Code: MATSH16
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6775
Signed:	Date: 15 July 2016

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	Stone Hall Farm, Downhall Road, Matching Green, Essex CM17 0RA		
<p><i>In July 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Stone Hall Farm, Downhall Road, Matching Green, Essex (NGR TL 52938 12287). It is proposed to construct nine dwellings. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition of Epping Forest District Council, as advised by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (Planning Ref. EPF/1349/16).</i></p> <p><i>The site had an archaeological potential, being the site of Stone Hall (EHER 45695) which was part of the historic Matching settlement and shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. The main barn at Stone Hall is Grade II listed and dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds. The consistent occurrence of made ground deposits directly overlying the natural in each trench indicates that ground disturbance has previously taken place throughout the site. Possibly this disturbance accounts for the lack of archaeological features. No residual finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	July 2016		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	6775	Site code	MATSH16
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Current land use	Vacant		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Epping Forest	Matching Green
HER/ SMR for area	Essex Historic Environment Record		
Post code (if known)	CM17 0RA		
Area of site	c.1.2 ha.		
NGR	TL 52938 12287		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 22m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Essex County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	Stonehall Investments Ltd		
Full title	Stone Hall Farm, Downhall Road, Matching Green, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	5170		
Date (of report)	July 2016		

# STONE HALL FARM, DOWNHILL ROAD, MATCHING GREEN, ESSEX

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### **SUMMARY**

*In July 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Stone Hall Farm, Downhill Road, Matching Green, Essex (NGR TL 52938 12287). It is proposed to construct nine dwellings. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition of Epping Forest District Council, as advised by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (Planning Ref. EPF/1349/16).*

*The site had an archaeological potential, being the site of Stone Hall (EHER 45695) which was part of the historic Matching settlement and shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. The main barn at Stone Hall is Grade II listed and dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.*

*In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds. The consistent occurrence of made ground deposits directly overlying the natural in each trench indicates that ground disturbance has taken place throughout the site. Possibly this disturbance accounts for the lack of archaeological features. No residual finds were present.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In July 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Stone Hall Farm, Downhill Road, Matching Green, Essex (NGR TL 52938 12287; Figs. 1 - 2). It is proposed to construct nine dwellings. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition of Epping Forest District Council, as advised by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (Planning Ref. EPF/1349/16).

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 at Stone Hall Farm, Donwhall Road, Matching Green, CN17 0RA*, dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 10<sup>th</sup> 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 The site lies on the western side of Downhall Road to the north of Matching Green. The plot is a former business park with a number of industrial sheds/warehouses and hardstanding. It extends to some 1.2ha (excluding two large proposed paddocks).

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 Stone Hall Farm sits on fairly flat land near the top of a river valley. To the north-west the land gently slopes towards the Pincey Brook which runs into the River Stort 4.5km to the west.

3.2 The underlying geology of the area consisted of the London Clay Formation, a clay silt and sand bedrock formed in the Palaeogene period. The overlying soil type is a lime-rich loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Earlier activity in the immediate area is shown by the presence of cropmarks of probable prehistoric enclosures identified by aerial photography in fields to the north east and south west of the site (EHER 46490 & 19402). The field opposite the site has been metal detected, yielding finds ranging from the middle Bronze Age to medieval date

4.2 Matching is first recorded in 1066 with the transfer of lands in 1086 to Edmund son of Algot (EHER 33781). The manor was added in the 13<sup>th</sup> century but the parish church of St Mary, Matching predates this and existed in c.1150. The area surrounding the site is marked by known medieval moated sites, Stock Hall a 16<sup>th</sup> century, manor house lies 1.6km to the south-east and was subject to an excavation by AS in 2000 (Crank 2000).

4.3 Stone Hall (EHER 45695) was part of the historic Matching settlement and shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. The main barn at Stone Hall is Grade II listed and dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century (EHER 33787). A historic building recording carried out on the barn in 2006 mentioned the Barrington family owned the farm, along with Barrington Hall, Hatfield Broad Oak & The Priory, Hatfield Broad Oak, until 1833 when there were no heirs apparent (Watkin 2006, 2).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The brief required a 4% sample. Seven trenches were proposed but Trench 4 could not be excavated for practical reasons (Fig.2).

5.2 The subsoil 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. 2)

<i>Sample section 1A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 22.18m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1000	Tarmac.
0.03 – 0.09m	L1011	Made ground. Loose, yellow brown sandy gravel.
0.09 – 0.56m	L1010	Made ground. Compact, dark grey silty clay
0.56m+	L1004	Natural. Pale yellowish brown, clay with moderate small – large chalk fragments.

<i>Sample section 1B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 22.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac. As above.
0.04 – 0.13m	L1001	Made ground. Friable, pale grey sand with frequent gravel.
0.13 – 0.64m	L1010	Made ground. As above.
0.64m+	L1004	Natural. As above.

<i>Sample section 1C</i>		
<i>0.00 = 21.84m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.04 – 0.18m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.18 – 0.60m	L1010	Made ground. As above.
0.60 – 0.76m	L1003	Made ground. As above. Compact, grey brown, silty clay.
0.76m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

## Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 2A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 22.05m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.04 – 0.13m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.13 – 0.95m	L1002	Made ground. Dark brown silty clay.
0.95m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 22.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.04 – 0.20m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.20 – 1.10m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
1.10 – 1.24m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
1.24m+	L1009	Made ground. Dark grey, clayey silt.

*Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.*



### Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 3A</i> <i>0.00 = 22.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.04 – 0.12m	L1006	Concrete.
0.12 – 0.32m	L1008	Made ground. Loose, CBM rubble and silty sand
0.32m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B</i> <i>0.00 = 22.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.03 – 0.09m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.09 – 0.23m	L1007	Made ground. Compact, orange gravel.
0.23 – 0.46m	L1008	Made ground. As above
0.46m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

### Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Trench 4 was not excavated for practical reasons.

### Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 5A</i> <i>0.00 = 21.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.02m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.02 – 0.08m	L1005	Made ground. Grey sand and gravel.
0.08 – 0.14m	L1001	Made ground. Compact, orange gravel.
0.14 – 0.40m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.40m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 5B</i> <i>0.00 = 22.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.03 – 0.17m	L1006	Concrete.
0.17 – 0.27m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.27m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

## Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 6A</i> <i>0.00 = 21.45m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.04 – 0.18m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.18 – 0.45m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.45m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 6B</i> <i>0.00 = 21.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.02m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.02 – 0.06m	L1005	Made ground. As above, Trench 5.
0.06 – 0.15m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.15 – 0.45m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.45m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

## Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 7A</i> <i>0.00 = 21.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.04 – 0.23m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.23 – 0.48m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.48m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 7B</i> <i>0.00 = 21.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.04 – 0.16m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.16 – 0.45m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.45 – 0.54m	L1003	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.54m+	L1004	Natural. As Above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Tarmac, concrete and made ground deposits were present in each

trench to a depth of 0.27 – 1.24m. These deposits directly overlay the natural.

8.2 The natural geology, L1004 was a pale yellowish brown, clay with moderate small – large chalk fragments

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had an archaeological potential, being the site of Stone Hall (EHER 45695) which was part of the historic Matching settlement and shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. The main barn at Stone Hall is Grade II listed and dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

9.2 Earlier activity in the immediate area is shown by the presence of cropmarks of probable prehistoric enclosures identified by aerial photography in fields to the north east and south west of the site (EHER 46490 & 19402). The field opposite the site has been metal detected, yielding finds ranging from the middle Bronze Age to medieval date

9.3 In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds. The consistent occurrence of made ground deposits directly overlying the natural in each trench indicates that ground disturbance has taken place throughout the site. Possibly this disturbance accounts for the lack of archaeological features. No residual finds were present.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Epping 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 Stonehall Investments Ltd for their assistance and for funding the evaluation, in particular Mr Phil Roberts. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Terry Smith and Mr Malcolm Horswill of Marden Ash Planning Ltd

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Maria Medlycott of Essex County Council

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Sample Section 1A in Trench 1 looking north-east



2  
Sample Section 1C in Trench 1 looking south-east



3  
Sample Section 2A in Trench 2 looking north



4  
Sample Section 3A in Trench 3 looking south-east



5  
Sample Section 3B in trench 3 looking north-west



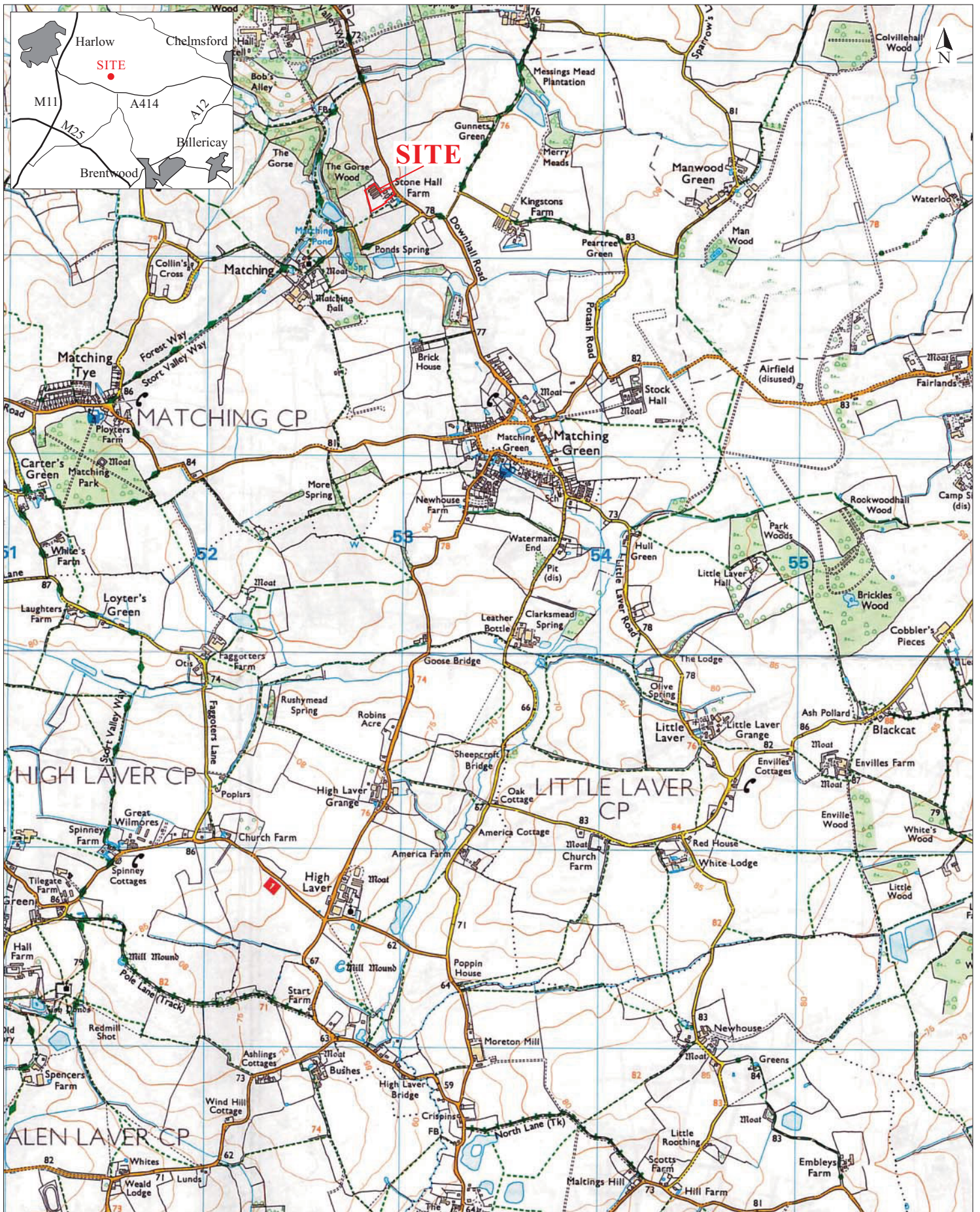
6  
View of Trench 3 looking south-west



7  
Sample Section 5A in Trench 5 looking north-east

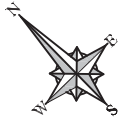


8  
View of Trench 5 looking south-east



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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Stonehall Farm, Matching Green, Essex (P6775)



Downhall Road

550

TL52840/12300

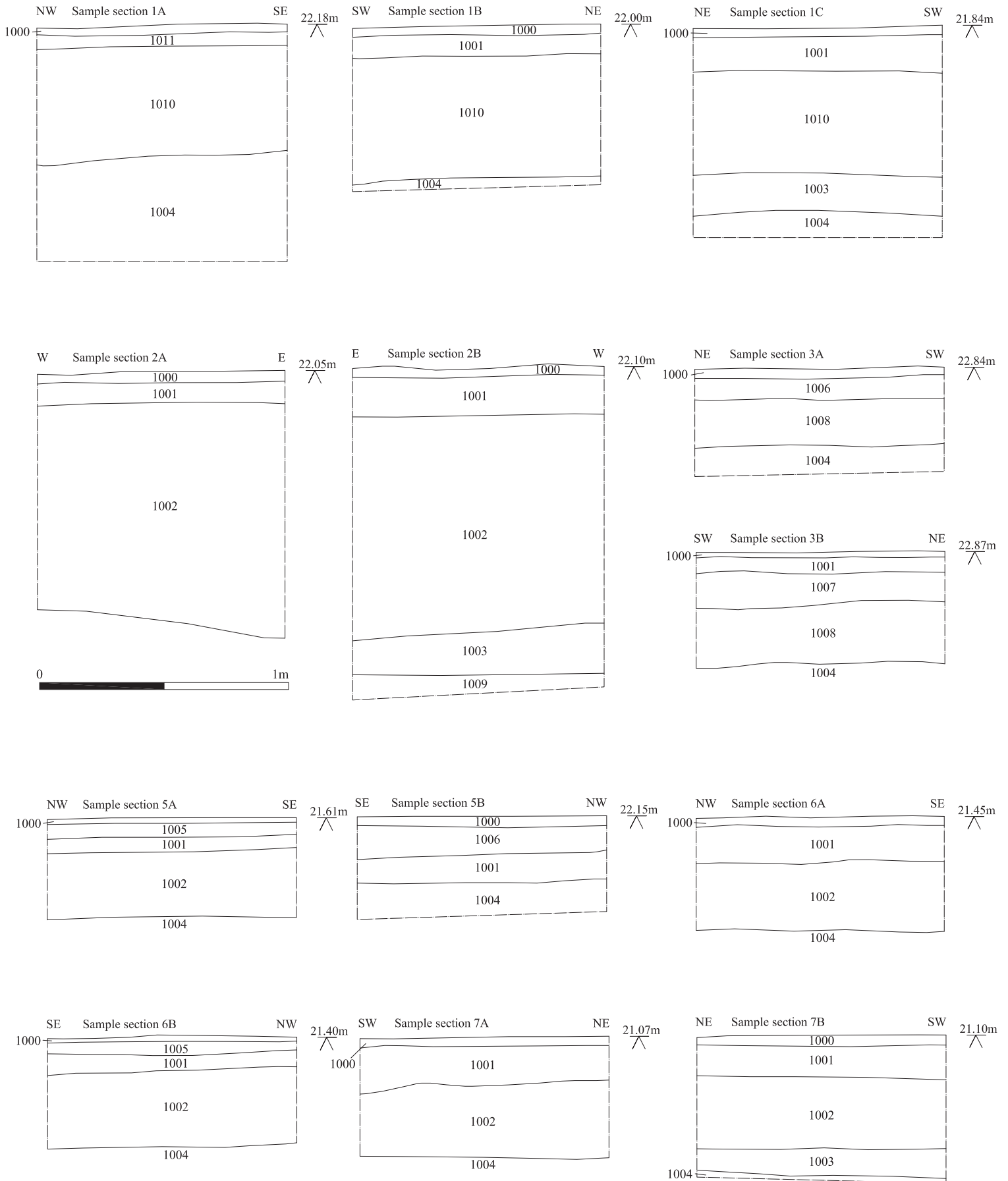
Trench 4 not cut

0 50m





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**Fig. 3 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4  
 Stonehall Farm, Matching Green, Essex (P6775)



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**Fig. 4 Sample sections**  
 Scale 1:20 at A4  
 Stonehall Farm, Matching Green, Essex (P6775)