ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND AT ASHELDHAM QUARRY, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION PHASE 2

Authors: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TL 97687 01851	Report No: 5469
District: Maldon	Site Code: AMAQ14
Approved: C Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 5494
	Date: 30 October 2017

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In September and October 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2) on land at Asheldham Quarry, Southminster Road, Asheldham, Essex (NGR TM 97741 02142). The evaluation was commissioned by G & B Finch Ltd. It was undertaken to accompany a proposed planning application to extend an existing permission for quarrying and importation of inert waste (Planning Reference: ESS/27/13/MAL & ESS/MAL/13/00590). It was carried out in compliance with the requirements of Essex County Council Minerals Department, as advised by ECC HEA.

The earliest features date to the middle – late Bronze Age. The features were commonly present in the northern sector of the site (Trenches 1 – 2, 4 – 5 and 12), but were also present in the southern half of the site (Trenches 25, 30, 40 and 43). Principally the features comprised ditches but discrete features (pits and post holes) were also present and the post hole is suggestive of structural remains. Trenches 1 and 2 contained the highest density of features (two and three respectively) and the remaining trenches contained just one feature. The pottery was consistently middle – late Bronze Age in date. Between one and six sherds were present within each feature. Some large pottery assemblages were present particularly within those features in the northern sector of the site re-inforcing the suggestion that this part of the site was the focus of the prehistoric activity. Pit F3063 Trench 2 contained 16 sherds; Ditch F3069 Trench 2: 67 sherds; Post Hole F3102 Trench 4: 9 sherds; F3106 Trench 5: 117 sherds; and Ditch F3151 Trench 30: 52 sherds. Associated finds comprise fired clay (Ditch F3069 Trench 2). Ditch F3163 (Trench 25) contained CBM and slag so the single prehistoric sherd is likely residual. Conversely Ditch F3106 (Trench 5) contained CBM but 117 sherds of pottery so the CBM is likely intrusive.

An unaccompanied cremation was recorded in Trench 7 (F3014). It is located between the clusters of prehistoric and Roman features and therefore cannot be readily associated with either cluster of features.

The Roman features were closely dated to the mid 1st – 2nd century, and a cluster of features was evident in Trenches 11 – 12, and 17 – 19), with outlying features in Trenches 2, 42 and 43. It is noticeable that the cluster of features is distinct from the Roman features excavated to the south. The majority of the features are again ditches but pits and post holes were recorded. Between one and four features were recorded within each trench. Some features contained just one to seven sherds but many of the contexts contained a large number of sherds: Post Hole F3067 contained 26 sherds; Ditch Terminal F3050 Trench 17: 17 sherds; Ditch F3118 Trench 12: 13 sherds; Ditch F3123 Trench 19: 8 sherds; Pit F3127 Trench 19: 41 sherds; Ditch F3142 Trench 19: 54 sherds; and Pit F3181 Trench 43: 19 sherds. Associated finds comprise CBM, slag, lava stone, shell and fired clay.

Medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery was recovered and it might be interpreted as finds derived from manuring and contained in field ditches but Trench 39 revealed ?Pit F3187 and it contained 44 sherds of medieval pottery. This evidence is suggestive of settlement material but that said the feature is isolated. Associated finds comprise sparse CBM and lava stone.

Project dates (fieldwork)	*October 2017*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*Y*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*TBC*
P. number	*5494*	Site code	*AMAQ14*
Type of project	*Archaeological Evaluation*		
Site status	*None*		
Current land use	*Agricultural Fields and gravel extraction*		
Planned development	*Quarry*		

Main features (+dates)	*Ditches, pits, gullies, post holes*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Mid – late Bronze Age, Roman (mid 1st – 2nd century) and medieval (11th – 13th C) assemblages*		
County/ District/ Parish	*Essex*	*Maldon*	*Asheldham*
HER for area	*Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (ECC HER)*		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	*34.65ha*		
NGR	*TL 97687/01851*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.20m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*ECC HEA*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*		
Funded by	*G & B Finch Ltd*		
Full title	*Land at Asheldham Quarry, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation. Phase 2.*		
Authors	*Thomas Muir*		
Report no.	*5469*		
Date (of report)	*October 2017*		

LAND AT ASHELDHAM QUARRY, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
PHASE 2

SUMMARY

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September and October 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2) on land at Asheldham Quarry, Southminster Road, Asheldham, Essex (NGR TM 97741 02142; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was commissioned by G & B Finch Ltd. It was undertaken to accompany a proposed planning application to extend an existing permission for quarrying and importation of inert waste (Planning Reference: ESS/27/13/MAL & ESS/MAL/13/00590). It was carried out in compliance with the requirements of Essex County Council Minerals Department, as advised by ECC HEA.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM) (dated 25/09/2013), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 24/10/2013). The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard* and *Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment (Cussans 2013) and aerial photographic assessment (Air Photo Services 2013) have been completed.

1.4 An archaeological evaluation (Phase 1) has been undertaken (Orzechowski, 2014) and also an archaeological excavation (Mustchin 2016).

1.5 The specific aim of the trial trenching was 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

1.6 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.

1.7 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 and 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 Asheldham is a hamlet of scattered farms and dwellings located approximately 14km south east of Maldon and 26km east-south-east of Chelmsford, on the Dengie Peninsular. The main focus of the settlement is based around Tillingham Road snaking roughly north to south and Dengie Road running east to west.

2.2 The site comprises roughly four fields the southernmost half of which have previously been subject to quarrying and gravel extraction. The site is partly bounded by Tillingham Road to the west and Dengie Road to the south and the main part of the site lies just to the north of Asheldham Hall and the church of St Lawrence. The site is accessed via the main entrance to the existing quarry on Tilllingham Road.

2.3 The entire site permission of quarrying, covering an area of some 35.6ha. Of this, c.16ha of the site remains to be worked.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The site is situated on a plateau c. 20m AOD approximately central to the Dengie Peninsular. This peninsular is bordered by the Blackwater Estuary to the north and the River Crouch to the south, undulates gently and slopes down to the east towards the North Sea.

3.2 The solid geology at the site is part of the London Clay formation made up of marine silty clays, clayey and sandy silts and subordinate sands. The drift geology comprises sand and river terrace gravel derived from the pre-Anglian glaciation course of the River Medway. The overlaying soils are of the Hurst (841b) type, which are coarse and fine loamy permeable soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been completed (Cussans 2013). In summary:

The assessment site is located within an area of significant archaeological activity with prehistoric and probable Roman remains likely to be present. The presence of Asheldham Camp immediately adjacent to the site and the significant cropmark complex within the centre of the site indicate substantial archaeological activity. It also seems likely that the gravels will contain Palaeolithic material not previously extensively investigated within the area. Medieval period and later exploitation of the site appears to have been limited to agriculture and small scale gravel extraction.

4.2 An aerial photographic assessment has been completed (Air Photo Services 2013). In summary:

Archaeological features occur within the Development Area and adjacent to it.

Those within it are:

In the southern part of the Development Area is a complex site covering some 240 square metres and comprising a series of abutting rectangular enclosures. This may date to the Iron Age and/or Roman periods.

An arc of ditch, or segmented ditch, that may indicate a Bronze Age burial.

Just outside the Development Area are:

Three sides of a square or rectangular enclosure that has internal divisions. The ditches are very straight and suggest a Roman date.

Ring ditches of probable Bronze Age date plus other ditches, including what may be a trackway, of unknown date.

Periglacial fissures have been found in most of the Study Area.

4.3 A trial trench evaluation (Phase 1) has been completed (Orzechowski 2014). In summary:

The majority of archaeological features were recorded in the trenches which overlay the cropmark data. A high density of remains of early Roman date were recorded in Trenches 73-78. These mostly comprised ditches but also included gullies, pits and postholes and a small number of undated features, including a structural beamslot. A large number of archaeological features were also present in Trenches 86, 87 and 88. These comprised ditches, a gully, a pit and a metalled surface all of which have been dated as early Roman. In addition, a single ditch recorded in Trench 89 has been assigned a Saxon date (based on 6 sherds of pottery). In the south-east corner of the site the topsoil had been stripped prior to the evaluation and the archaeological features in this area were less well preserved. During the execution of the evaluation finds were not prolific. Roman pottery was most common with some CBM, a little animal bone and sparse struck flint.

The Roman pottery from Asheldham occurs in a consistently well-preserved condition with a moderate level of fragmentation and a high degree of cross-joining sherds. The assemblage has a homogenous character, indicative of a post-Roman Conquest, mid 1st to early 2nd century AD date. It was predominantly recovered from open ditch features, but includes several associated diagnostic groups. As is typical of the region in this period, the fabrics in the assemblage are dominated by Southern British grog-tempered wares (SOB GT), Romanising (black-surfaced) grey wares (BSW) and South Essex shell-tempered wares (SEX SH), while sparse sherds of sandy grey ware (GRS) and amphorae are also present. The SOB GT and BSW include a range of jars/bowl-jars with off-set necks and/or rilled bodies, as well as a SOB GT storage jar, and in BSW a large butt beaker with a double roulette-decorated cordon that appears to have been deposited complete or near-complete. The SEX SH occurs in the 'classic' form types of globular bowls/jars, often with lid-seated rims. Although rare the fully Romanised GRS fabrics have a distinct presence including substantially complete jars comparable to those in BSW, and a cordoned bowl with roller-stamped decoration. A single amphorae is present in the assemblage, comprising the rim, neck and handle of a Gauloise 4 wine amphora; a type imported from Gallia Narbonensis (Rhone Valley, France) from the Flavian period (*c*.AD68) to the 3rd century AD. Overall the assemblage is consistent with the fabric and form traits of pottery groups associated with early Roman settlements of moderate status in southern Essex.

4.4.1 Following the archaeological evaluation (Phase 1) an archaeological excavation has been completed (Mustchin et al 2016). In summary:

The findings of the excavation add significantly to our current understanding of the Romano-British period on the Dengie Peninsula. The site was defined by a complex series of rectilinear, ditched enclosures – thought to include a ladder system – which appear to have extended further into the surrounding landscape, based on cropmark evidence. The layout of the enclosures closely matched cropmarks shown on aerial photographs of the site. This correlation, coupled with the date of the enclosures offers an insight into the early post-conquest settlement and organisation of the peninsula, and provides a useful tool with which to investigate the date and character of the more extensive local cropmark evidence. The encountered archaeology significantly pre-dates some other elements of the Romano-British Dengie, e.g. Othona Roman Fort, a Saxon shore fort dating to the latter part of the Roman occupation (http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=385939).

The site's economy appears to have been based on a mixed agricultural regime, although the importance of animal husbandry is difficult to quantify with any precision; although the local landscape affords excellent grazing. In contrast, the possible bulk processing of cereals for local or wider export is clearly suggested, with obvious markets including the nearby settlement at Heybridge to the north of the River Blackwater. Limited trade and exchange is also evidenced by the recovered Roman pottery assemblage, which includes a modest array of imported fine wares, while the overall pattern of pottery supply and consumption at the site is typical of other rural sites in Essex,

somewhat lagging behind the larger urban centres and potentially indicating a low level of local *Romanisation*. However, the site's position on the Dengie, sandwiched by the Rivers Blackwater and Crouch suggests good access to riverine and coastal trade networks.

5 METHODOLOGY

5. The evaluation (Phases 1 and 2) comprised 111 trenches (Fig.3a). Trenches 53 – 111 were cut first (Phase 1; Orzechowski, 2014), and they overlay the principal cropmarks. Phase 2 in 2017 comprised trenches 1 – 52. The trenches were 40m long and 1.8m wide, and were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 4)

Sample section 1A *0.00m = 22.06m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. Firm, mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone and flint.
0.30m+	L3002	Natural. Dark orange yellow sand with frequent gravel throughout.

Sample section 1B. *0.00m = 21.79m AOD*		
0.00–0.20m	L3000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20 – 0.43m	L3001	Subsoil. Friable. Dark yellow brown silty sand with moderate sub rounded and sub angular flint and stones
0.43m+	L3002	Natural. As above.

Description: Four ditches (F3005, F3007, F3010 and F3012) were present in Trench 1.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3005	L3006	Linear, orientated NW/SE Steep sides, shallow concave base (1.80+ x 1.20 x 0.42m)	Friable, mid reddish brown, gravelly silt with frequent small and medium rounded flints	Cut by Ditch F3007	Mid – LBA pottery (3; 8g)

F3007	L3008 Upper	Linear, orientated NW/SE Steep sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.20m)	Friable, light greyish brown, clayish silt with moderate small rounded flints	Cut Ditch F3005	-
-	L3009 Basal	-	Friable, light brownish grey sandy silt with moderate small rounded flints	-	-
F3010	L3011	Linear, orientated NW/SE Moderate sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 0.88 x 0.30m)	Friable, light reddish brown, sandy silt with frequent small to medium rounded flints	-	M – LBA pottery (6; 44g)
F3012	L3013	Linear, orientated E/W Moderate sides, concave/flattish base (8.0+ x 0.6 x 0.13m)	Friable, dark greyish brown, silty gravel with frequent small to medium rounded stones.	-	-

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 - 4)

Sample section 2A *0.00m = 21.81m AOD*		
0.00–0.35m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.35m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 2B. *0.00m = 21.66m AOD*		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Description: Ditches F3057 and F3069, Pits F3055 and F3063; and Post Holes F3040, F3042, F3044, F3046, F3048, F3059, F3061, F3065 and F3067 were present in Trench 2.

Two ditches were recorded:

Feature	**Context**	**Plan/profile (dimensions)**	**Fill**	**Relationships**	**Spot date**
F3057	L3058	Linear, orientated NE/SW Steep sides, flattish base (4.20+ x 0.55 x 0.25m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, clayish silt with frequent small, rounded stones	-	LBA pottery (4; 14g)
F3069	L3070 Upper	Linear, orientated E/W gentle sides, uneven base (1.80+ x 3.25 x 0.2m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, clayish silt with frequent small to medium angular flints	-	M – LBA pottery (67; 392g); fired clay (7; 71g)
-	L3071 Basal	-	Firm, light brownish grey, clayish silt with moderate small angular flints	-	-

Two pits were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3055	L3056	Sub-oval, steep sides, concave base (0.70 x 0.35 x 0.20m)	Friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt with frequent small rounded flints.	-	-
F3063	L3064	Oval, steep sides, concave base (0.85 x 0.38 x 0.18m)	Friable, dark reddish brown, clayish silt with frequent small to medium rounded flints, and frequent small charcoal flecks	-	LBA pottery (16; 60g)

Nine post holes were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3040	L3041	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.18 x 0.15 x 0.10m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
F3042	L3043	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.17 x 0.16 x 0.12m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
F3044	L3045	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.27 x 0.25 x 0.20m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with frequent small rounded flints	-	-
F3046	L3047	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.22 x 0.20 x 0.27m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with frequent small rounded flints	-	-
F3048	L3049	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.27 x 0.24 x 0.2m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
F3059	L3060	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.35 x 0.30 x 0.12m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, clayish silt	-	-
F3061	L3062	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.25 x 0.22 x 0.25m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, silty clay with moderate small rounded flints	-	-
F3065	L3066	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.25 x 0.23 x 0.05m)	Firm, dark yellowish brown, silty clay	-	-
F3067	L3068	Sub-circular, steep sides, flattish base (0.60 x 0.45 x 0.25m)	Firm, dark brownish red, silty clay with moderate small charcoal flecks	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (26; 35g)

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 & 5)

Sample section 3A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.70m AOD*		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 3B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.24m AOD*		
0.00–0.22m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.22 – 0.31m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.31m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Three undated post holes (F3084, F3086 and F3088) were present in Trench 3.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3084	L3085	Sub-circular, steep sides, flattish base (0.35 x 0.30 x 0.2m)	Firm, dark brownish yellow, silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded flints	-	-
F3086	L3087	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.35 x 0.32 x 0.15m)	Firm, dark brownish orange, silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded flints	-	-
F3088	L3089	Sub-oval, moderate sides, flattish base (0.3 x 0.22 x 0.06m)	Firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay, with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 & 5)

Sample section 4A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.17m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30 - 0.39m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.39m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 4B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.08m AOD*		
0.00–0.23m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.23 – 0.42m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.42m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Post Hole F3102 and Ditch F3104 were present in Trench 4. Post Hole F3102 contained mid – late Bronze Age pottery

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
Post Hole F3102	L3103	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.22 x 0.20 x 0.08m)	Friable, dark yellowish brown, clayish silt with	Cut Ditch F3104	Mi – LBA pottery (9; 36g)

			moderate small charcoal flecks, and moderate small sub-rounded stones		
Ditch F3104	L3105	Linear, orientated E/W Steep sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.33)	Firm, light greyish brown, sandy silt with frequent small and medium stones	Cut by Post Hole F3102	-

Trench 5 (Figs. 3 & 5)

Sample section 5A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 21.05m AOD		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 5B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 20.66m AOD		
0.00–0.29m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29 – 0.39m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.39m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Ditch F3106 was present in Trench 5.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3106	L3107	Linear, orientated NW/SE Moderate sides, uneven/concave base (1.5+ x 0.85+ x 0.28)	Firm, mid yellowish brown, clayish silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular and rounded stones, and frequent small to medium charcoal flecks.	-	M – LBA pottery (117; 1591g); CBM (31g)

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 6A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 22.02m AOD		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30 – 0.43m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.43m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 6B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 21.98m AOD		
0.00–0.29m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 6

Trench 7 (Figs. 3 & 6)

Sample section 7A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.85m AOD*		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28 – 0.36m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.36m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 7B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.47m AOD*		
0.00–0.26m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.26 – 0.38m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.38m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Cremation Pit F3014 was present in Trench 7.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3014	L3015	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.45 x 0.44 x 0.13m)	Friable, dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent small charcoal flecks.	-	-

Trench 8 (Figs. 3 & 6)

Sample section 8A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.47m AOD*		
0.00–0.34m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.34m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 8B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.31m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Post Holes F3032, F3034, F3036 and F3038 were present in Trench 8.

Four post holes were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3032	L3033	Sub-circular, moderate sides, narrow concave base (0.31 x 0.30 x 0.15m)	Firm, mid brownish orange, clayish sand	-	-
F3034	L3035	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.29 x 0.27 x 0.12m)	Firm, mid brownish orange, clayish sand	-	-
F3036	L3037	Circular, moderate sides, narrow concave base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.16m)	Firm, mid brownish orange, clayish sand	-	-
F3038	L3039	Circular, moderate sides,	Firm, mid brownish	-	-

		concave base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.18m)	orange, clayish sand		

Trench 9 (Figs. 3 & 6)

Sample section 9A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.34m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30 – 0.38m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.38m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 9B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.76m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30 – 0.34m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.34m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Pit F3072 and Post Hole F3100 were present in Trench 9. Neither contained finds. F3072 was thought on site to represent a cremation but no cremated bone or pottery was evident during the processing of the environmental samples from this feature.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3072	L3073	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.42 x 0.40 x 0.12m)	Friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt, with moderate small charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded flints	-	-
F3100	L3101	Sub-circular, shallow gentle sides, flattish base (0.42 x 0.40 x 0.02m)	Firm, dark greyish brown, clay sand	-	-

Trench 10 (Figs. 3 & 7)

Sample section 10A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 20.67m AOD*		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 10B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.45m AOD*		
0.00–0.31m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.31m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Post Hole F3090 was present in Trench 9.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3090	L3091	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.30 x 0.27 x 0.07m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trench 11 (Figs. 3 & 7)

Sample section 11A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 21.71m AOD		
0.00–0.34m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.34m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 11B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 22.06m AOD		
0.00–0.35m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.35m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: An irregular feature, F3082; Pits F3018, F3020, F3028, F3030, F3076 and F3078; and Ditches F3016, F3022, F3024, F3026, F3074 and F3080 were present in Trench 11.

An irregular undated feature, a ?ditch, was recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3082	L3083	Sub-oval, steep sides, flattish base (0.35 x 0.80 x 0.36m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and sub-angular stones	Cut by Ditch F3080	-

Six undated pits were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3018	L3019	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.90 x 0.80 x 0.35m)	Friable, mid brownish greyish, silty sand with moderate small rounded and sub-angular stones	Cut Ditch F3016	-
F3020	L3021	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.70 x 0.50 x 0.10m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt with moderate small angular stones	-	-
F3028	L3029	Sub-circular, moderate sides, uneven base (0.98 x 0.70 x 0.40m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay	Cut Pit F3030	-
F3030	L3031	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.70 x 0.50 x 0.27m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay	Cut by Pit F3028	-
F3076	L3077	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base	Firm, light greyish brown, silty sand	-	-

		(1.00+ x 0.50 x 0.30m)	with moderate small rounded stones		
F3078	L3079	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (1.00+ x 0.50 x 0.40)	Firm, mid brownish grey, silty clay with occasional small rounded stones	-	-

Ditches were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3016	L3017	Linear, orientated NW/SE moderate sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.35m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and sub-angular stones	Cut by Pit F3018	-
F3022	L3023	Linear, orientated N/S moderate sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 0.85 x 0.26m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and sub-angular stones	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (1; 10g)
F3024	L3025	Linear, orientated NW/SE Moderate sides, concave base (1.80+ x 1.90 x 0.40m)	Firm, light greyish brown, clayish silt with moderate small rounded and sub-angular stones	Cut Ditch F3026	Medieval pottery (5; 22g)
F3026	L3027	Linear, orientated NW/SE Moderate sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.90 x 0.27m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay, with occasional small rounded stones	Cut by Ditch F3024	-
F3074	L3075	Linear, orientated NW/SE Moderate sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.80 x 0.30m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-
F3080	L3081	Linear, orientated N/S Moderate sides, concave base (1.80+ x 1.10 x 0.35m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small rounded and angular stones	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (1; 9g)

Trench 12 (Figs. 3 & 8)

Sample section 12A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.67m AOD*		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 12B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.39m AOD*		
0.00–0.31m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.31m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Pits F3114 and F3116; and Ditches F3112, F3118 and F3120 were present in Trench 12. Ditch F3112 contained middle Bronze Age pottery and Ditch F3118 contained Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery.

Two pits were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3114	L3115	Sub-circular, moderate sides, flattish base (0.83+ x 0.80 x 0.20m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and angular stones	-	-
F3116	L3117	Sub-circular, moderate sides, flattish base (1.00 x 0.61 x 0.25m)	Firm, light greyish brown, clayish silt with moderate small rounded and angular stones	-	-

Ditches were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3112	L3113	Linear, orientated W/E Moderate sides, concave base (1.80+ x 1.50 x 0.35m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and angular stones	-	MBA pottery (5; 56g)
F3118	L3119	Linear, orientated W/E Moderate sides, concave base (1.80+ x 1.10 x 0.40)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and angular stones	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (13; 125g); lava stone (678g)
F3120	L3121 Upper	Linear, orientated W/E Moderate sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 1.20 x 0.40)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and angular stones	-	-
-	L3122 Basal	-	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and angular stones	-	-

Trench 13 (Figs. 3 & 8)

Sample section 13A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 21.53m AOD		
0.00–0.31m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.31m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 13B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 20.92m AOD		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Ditch F3129 was present in Trench 13

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3129	L3130	Linear, orientated NE/SW Moderate sides, concave base (3.0+ x 1.44 x 0.27)	Firm, mid greyish brown, sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trench 14 (Figs. 3 & 8)

Sample section 14A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 20.99m AOD		
0.00–0.35m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.35m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 14B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 20.62m AOD		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Ditches F3108 and F3110 was present in Trench 14

Two ditches were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3108	L3109	Linear, orientated E/W Gentle sides, concave base (2.0+ x 0.49 x 0.08m)	Firm, mid brownish orange, clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints	-	-
F3110	L3111	Linear, orientated E/W Gentle sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.90 x 0.14m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trench 15 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 15A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 20.74m AOD		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28 – 0.34m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.34m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 15B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 20.26m AOD		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 15

Trench 16 (Figs. 3 & 9)

Sample section 16A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 22.34m AOD*		
0.00–0.32m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.32m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 16B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.93m AOD*		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Ditch F3003 was present in Trench 16

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3003	L3004	Linear, orientated NE/SW Moderate sides, concave base (3.85+ x 1.28 x 0.39m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trench 17 (Figs. 3 & 9)

Sample section 17A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.96m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 17B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.75m AOD*		
0.00–0.37m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.37m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Ditch Terminus F3053 and Ditch F3050 were present in Trench 17.

Two features were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship	Spot date
Ditch F3050	L3052 Upper	Linear, orientated N/S Steep sides, narrow concave base (1.80+ x 1.98 x 0.75m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (14; 74g); CBM (2g)
-	L3051 Basal	-	Firm, mid brownish grey, silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (3; 24g); CBM (43g)
Ditch Terminus F3053	L3054	Linear, oriented NW/SE, Moderate sides, flattish base (1.35+ x 1.16 x 0.14m)	Firm, dark greyish brown, silty gravel with frequent small sub-angular flints	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (6; 24g)

Trench 18 (Figs. 3 & 9)

Sample section 18A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.71m AOD*		
0.00–0.38m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.38m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 18B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.41m AOD*		
0.00–0.42m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.42m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Pit F3092, Post Hole F3094; and Ditches F3096 and F3098 were present in Trench 18. Pit F3092 and Ditch F3098 contained Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery.

Four features were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
Pit F3092	L3093	Sub-oval, gentle sides, concave base (0.90 x 0.63 x 0.09m)	Friable, dark greyish brown, silty gravel with frequent small sub-rounded stones	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (7; 33g)
Post Hole F3094	L3095	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.35 x 0.35 x 0.20m)	Friable, dark greyish brown, silty gravel	-	-
Ditch F3096	L3097	Linear, orientated N/W Moderate sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.90 x 0.21m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, silty gravel	-	-
Ditch F3098	L3099	Linear, orientated NE/SW Gentle sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 3.50+ x 0.09)	Firm, light reddish brown, sandy clay	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (1; 22g); CBM (1g)

Trench 19 (Figs. 3 & 10)

Sample section 19A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.40m AOD*		
0.00–0.26m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.26 – 0.35m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.35m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 19B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.06m AOD*		
0.00–0.46m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.46m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Pit F3127; and Ditches F3123, F3125, F3137, F3140 and F3142 were present in Trench 19.

Six features were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
Pit F3127	L3128	Sub-oval, steep sides, concave base (0.66 x 0.60 x 0.27m)	Firm, dark yellowish brown, silty clay with frequent small sub-angular flints	Cut Ditch F3125	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (41; 883g); CBM (27g); Slag (578g)
Ditch F3123	L3124	Linear, orientated NW/SE Moderate sides, concave base (3.20+ x 0.60 x 0.16m)	Friable, mid yellowish brown, clayish silt	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (8; 51g); CBM (29g); Slag (581g)
Ditch F3125	L3126	Linear, orientated NE/SW Gentle sides, concave base (2.0+ x 0.84 x 0.12m)	Firm, light brownish grey, clayish silt with frequent small rounded flint and occasional charcoal flecks	Cut by Pit F3127	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (3; 18g); CBM (16g); Slag (612g)
Ditch F3137	L3138 Upper	Linear, orientated NE/SW Steep sides, flattish base (2.0+ x 0.90 x 0.26m)	Firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay with frequent small rounded stones (0.19m deep)	Cut by Ditch F4140	-
-	3139 Basal	-	Friable, dark brownish red, sandy silt (0.12m deep)	-	-
Ditch F3140	L3141	Linear, orientated NE/SW Steep sides, uneven/flattish base (2.0+ x 1.25 x 0.38m)	Firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones	Cut Ditch F3137 Cut by Ditch F3142	-
Ditch F3142	L3143 Upper	Linear, orientated NE/SW Steep sides, concave base (2.0+ x 2.0 x 0.66m)	Friable, mid brownish grey, sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones (0.36m deep)	Cut Ditch F3140	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (1; 21g)
-	L3144 Basal	-	Friable, mid brownish grey, sandy silt with frequent medium sub-angular flints, and occasional small charcoal flecks	-	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (53; 530g); lava stone (281g) slag (2699g)

Trench 20 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 20A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.06m AOD*		
0.00–0.36m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.36m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 20B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.75m AOD*		
0.00–0.38m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.38m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 20

Trench 21 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 21A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 20.78m AOD*		
0.00–0.31m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.31m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 21B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.26m AOD*		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 21

Trench 22 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 22A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 20.31m AOD*		
0.00–0.31m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.31m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 22B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 19.68m AOD*		
0.00–0.32m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.32 – 0.42m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.42m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 22

Trench 23 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 23A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 22.17m AOD*		
0.00–0.32m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.32m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 23B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.76m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 23

Trench 24 (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 24A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.69m AOD*		
0.00–0.23m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.23 – 0.35m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.35m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 24B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.78m AOD*		
0.00–0.32m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.32m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 24

Trench 25 (Figs. 3 & 10)

Sample section 25A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.69m AOD*		
0.00–0.29m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 25B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.32m AOD*		
0.00–0.37m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.37m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Pits F3157 and F3159; and Ditches F3161 and F3163 were present in Trench 25. Ditch F3163 contained mid – Late Bronze Age pottery and also CBM and slag. Pits F3157 and F3159 were thought on site to represent cremations but no cremated bone or pottery was evident during the processing of the environmental samples from these features.

Four features were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
Pit F3157	L3158	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.40 x 0.35 x 0.16m)	Friable, dark yellowish brown, sandy silt with moderate small rounded stones and frequent small charcoal flecks	-	-
Pit F3159	L3160	Sub-circular, steep sides, flattish base	Friable, dark blackish brown,	-	-

		(0.3 + x 0.25 x 0.05m)	sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded stones and occasional small charcoal flecks		
Ditch F3161	L3162	Linear, orientated NE/SW Steep sides, flattish base (3.0+ x 1.1 x 0.43m)	Friable, dark blackish brown, sandy silt with frequent small and medium sub-rounded stones and occasional small charcoal flecks	Cut F3163	Slag (621g)
Ditch F3163	L3164	Linear, orientated NE/SW Moderate sides, flattish base (3.0+ x 1.0 x 0.15m)	Friable, dark blackish brown, sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded stones	Cut by F3161	Mid – LBA pottery (1; 7g), CBM (6g), slag (622g)

Trench 26 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 26A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.33m AOD*		
0.00–0.29m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29 – 0.43m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.43m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 26B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.38m AOD*		
0.00–0.29m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 26

Trench 27 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 27A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.18m AOD*		
0.00–0.32m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.32 – 0.39m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.39m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 27B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.40m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30 – 0.39m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.39m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 27

Trench 28 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 28A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 20.38m AOD*		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33 – 0.52m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.52m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 28B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 19.99m AOD*		
0.00–0.29m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29 – 0.37m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.37m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 28

Trench 29 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 29A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 20.09m AOD*		
0.00–0.26m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.26 – 0.47m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.47m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 29B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 19.50m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30 – 0.48m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.48m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 29

Trench 30 (Figs. 3 & 10)

Sample section 30A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 22.22m AOD*		
0.00–0.36m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.36m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 30B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 22.28m AOD*		
0.00–0.31m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.31m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Ditches F3149 and F3151; and Gully F3153 were present in Trench 30. Ditch F3149 contained mid – late Bronze Age pottery.

Three ditches were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
Ditch F3149	L3150	Linear, orientated NE/SW Steep sides, concave base (1.80+ x 1.85 x 0.49m)	Firm, light reddish yellow, silty clay with occasional small charcoal flecks	-	Mid- LBA pottery (52; 563g)
Ditch F3151	L3152	Linear, orientated E/W Moderate sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 0.80 x 0.19m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and angular stones, and frequent charcoal flecks	-	-
Gully F3153	L3154	Linear, orientated NE/SW Steep sides, flattish base (10.50+ x 0.35 x 0.08m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small rounded and angular stones	-	-

Trench 31 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 31A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 22.00m AOD*		
0.00–0.32m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.32m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 31B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.79m AOD*		
0.00–0.32m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.32m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 31

Trench 32 (Figs. 3 & 11)

Sample section 32A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.64m AOD*		
0.00–0.29m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 32B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.73m AOD*		
0.00–0.37m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.37m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Ditch F3133 was present in Trench 32.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3133	L3134	Linear, orientated E/W Gentle sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.10m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, sandy gravel with frequent small sub-angular flints	-	-

Trench 33 (Figs. 3 & 11)

Sample section 33A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.63m AOD*		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28 – 0.33m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.33m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 33B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.18m AOD*		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28 – 0.40m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.40m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Pit F3145 and Gully F3147 were present in Trench 33. Neither contained finds.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
Pit F3145	L3146	Sub-circular, moderate uneven sides, concave base (0.61 x 0.50 x 0.17m)	Firm, mid blackish brown, sandy silt	-	-
Gully F3147	L3148	curvilinear Moderate sides, concave base (1.60+ x 0.15 x 0.08m)	Friable, mid brownish grey, silty gravel with frequent small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trench 34 (Figs. 3 & 11)

Sample section 34A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 20.84m AOD*		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 34B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.99m AOD*		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28 – 0.40m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.40m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Ditch F3131 was present in Trench 34.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3131	L3132	Linear, orientated E/W Gentle sides, concave base (1.80+ x 1.24 x 0.21m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trench 35 (Figs. 3 & 12)

Sample section 35A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 20.63m AOD*		
0.00–0.30m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.30 – 0.40m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.40m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 35B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.35m AOD*		
0.00–0.39m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.39m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Ditch F3155 was present in Trench 35.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3155	L3156	Linear, orientated N/S Gentle sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.65 x 0.20m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints	-	-

Trench 36 (Figs. 3 & 12)

Sample section 36A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 19.93m AOD*		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28 – 0.42m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.42m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 36B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.46m AOD*		
0.00–0.39m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.39m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Undated Ditch F3135 was present in Trench 36

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3135	L3136	Linear, orientated E/W Gentle sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.80 x 0.19m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trenches 37 & 38 (Fig. 3)

Trenches 37 and 38 were not excavated

Trench 39 (Figs. 3 & 12)

Sample section 39A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 21.65m AOD*		
0.00–0.28m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.28m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 39B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 21.97m AOD*		
0.00–0.35m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.35m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: An irregular feature, ?Pit F3187; and Ditches F3165, F3167 and F3169 were present in Trench 39. ?Pit F3187 and Ditch F3169 contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery.

An irregular feature, ?Pit F3187, was recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3187	L3188	Sub-oval, moderate sides, flattish base (5.30 x 1.25+ x 0.12m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (44; 111g), CBM (1g)

Ditches were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3165	L3166	Curvilinear Gentle sides, concave base (0.85+ x 0.65 x 0.08m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay	-	-
F3167	L3168	Linear, orientated N/S Gentle sides, concave base (2.0+ x 1.0 x 0.15)	Firm, light yellowish brown, silty clay	-	-
F3169	L3170	Linear, orientated N/S Moderate sides, concave base (9.0+ x 1.2+ x 0.35m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay	-	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (3; 9g); animal bone (16g, lava stone (136g)

Trench 40 (Figs. 3 & 14)

Sample section 40A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 21.42m AOD		
0.00–0.27m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.27 – 0.31m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.31m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 40B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 21.67m AOD		
0.00–0.33m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.33 – 0.48m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.48m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Ditches F3219 and F3221 were present in Trench 40. F3221 contained mid – late Bronze Age pottery.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3219	L3220	Linear, orientated E/W Steep sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.80 x 0.32m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	CBM (1g)
F3221	L3222	Linear, orientated E/W Steep sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 1.50 x 0.15)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small rounded and sub-angular stones	-	Mid – LBA pottery (1; 2g)

Trench 41 (Figs. 3 & 14)

Sample section 41A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 21.56m AOD		
0.00–0.29m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 41B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 21.16m AOD		
0.00–0.32m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.32m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Post Hole F3195; Pit F3197; Ditch F3189; and Gullies F3191 and F3193 were present in Trench 41. Ditch F3189 contained CBM

Post Hole F3195 and Pit F3197 were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot Date
Post Hole F3195	L3196	Sub-circular, steep sides, flattish base (0.50 x 0.20+ x 0.28m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular stones	Cut by F3191	-

Pit F3197	L3198	Sub-oval, moderate sides, concave base (1.15 x 0.57+ x 0.31m)	Firm, light yellowish grey, silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flints	-	-

A ditch and gullies were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot Date
Ditch F3189	L3190	Linear, orientated N/S Steep sides, flattish base (0.65+ x 1.31 x 0.36m)	Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	CBM (20g)
Gully F3191	L3192	Linear, orientated E/W Steep sides, concave base (3.85 x 0.39 x 0.19m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	Cut F3195	-
Gully F3193	L3194	Linear, orientated N/S Steep sides, concave base (0.65+ x 0.57 x 0.26m)	Firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-

Trench 42 (Figs. 3 & 14)

Sample section 42A. North end, east facing 0.00m = 20.72m AOD		
0.00–0.26m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.26 – 0.35m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.35m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 42B. South end, west facing 0.00m = 21.11m AOD		
0.00–0.35m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.35 – 0.44m	L3001	Subsoil. As above. Trench 1
0.44m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Pits F3207, F3211 and F3217; Post Holes F3209 and F3215; Ditch Terminal F3199; and Ditches F3201, F3203, F3205 and F3213 were present in Trench 42. Pit F3207 contained Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery.

Pits and post holes were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot Date
Pit F3207	L3208	Sub-oval, steep sides, concave base (0.50 x 0.55 x 0.3m)	Friable, dark reddish brown, clayish silt, with occasional small sub-angular flints and occasional	Cut F3209	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (1; 5g)

			small charcoal flecks		
Post Hole F3209	L3210	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.50+ x 0.37 x 0.33m)	Firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay with moderate small and medium sub-angular flints	Cut by F3207	-
Pit F3211	L3212	Sub-circular, gentle sides, flattish base (0.50 x 0.46 x 0.07m)	Firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay, with moderate small rounded flints	Cut F3213	-
Pit F3217	L3218	Sub-oval, moderate sides, flattish base (2.50 x 0.55+ x 0.12m)	Firm, mid yellowish brown, clayish silt, with moderate small rounded flints	-	-
Post Hole F3215	L3216	Sub-circular, steep sides, flattish base (0.45 x 0.35 x 0.17m)	Firm, mid reddish brown, clayish silt with moderate small rounded flints	-	-

Ditch Terminal F3199 and ditches were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot Date
F3199	L3200	Linear, orientated E/W Moderate sides, convex base (1.50+ x 0.90 x 0.19m)	Friable, dark yellowish brown, sandy silt, with moderate small sub-rounded flints and occasional small charcoal flecks	-	Shell (616g)
F3201	L3202	Linear, orientated E/W Steep sides, concave base (1.80+ x 1.60 x 0.45)	Friable, mid reddish brown, clayish silt, with moderate small and medium sub-rounded flints	-	Pumice (89g)
F3203	L3204	Linear, orientated E/W Steep sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 1.05 x 0.26m)	Friable, mid yellowish brown, clayish silt, with moderate small and medium sub-angular flints	Cut F3205	Shell (16g)
F3205	L3206	Linear, orientated E/W Steep sides, flattish base (1.80+ x 0.50 x 0.25m)	Friable, dark greyish brown, clayish silt, with moderate small sub-angular flints	Cut by F3203	-
F3213	L3214	Sinuous Gentle sides, concave base (4.0+ x 0.7 x 0.09m)	Firm, mid yellowish brown, clayish silt, with moderate small and medium sub-rounded flints	Cut by F3211	Pumice (514g)

Trench 43 (Figs. 3 & 14)

Sample section 43A. North end, east facing *0.00m = 20.3m AOD*		
0.00–0.34m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.34m+	L3002	Natural. As above Trench 1

Sample section 43B. South end, west facing *0.00m = 20.33m AOD*		
0.00–0.35m	L3000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.35m+	L3002	Natural. As above. Trench 1

Description: Pits F3173 and F3181; Post Holes F3175 and F3177; Gully F3171; Ditches F3179, F3183 and F3185 were present in Trench 43. The dating of the features was variable: Ditch F3173 contained mid – late Bronze Age pottery; Pit F3181 contained Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd century) pottery; and Ditch F3179 contained medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery

Pit F3173 and post holes were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
Pit F3173	L3174	Sub-oval, gentle sides, concave base (0.80 x 0.60 x 0.20m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay, with moderate small rounded and angular stones, and occasional small charcoal flecks	-	Mid – LBA pottery (1; 2g)
Pit F3181	L3182	Sub-oval, steep sides, concave base (1.50 x 0.40 x 0.45m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay, with moderate small rounded and angular stones	Cut by F3179	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C) pottery (19; 43g), fired clay (6g)
Post Hole F3175	L3176	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base (0.85 x 0.75 x 0.34m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay, with occasional small rounded and angular stones	Cut F3179	-
Post Hole F3177	L3178	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base (0.30 x 0.20+ x 0.15m)	Firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-

Gully F3172 and Ditches were recorded:

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Spot date
F3171	L3172	Linear, orientated N/S Gentle sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.40 x 0.09m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty gravel, with frequent small rounded and angular stones	-	-
F3179	L3180	Linear, orientated E/W Steep sides, concave base (1.80+ x 0.95 x 0.30m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay, with moderate small rounded and	Cut by F3175 Cut F3181	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (4; 29g)

			angular stones		
F3183	L3184	Linear, orientated E/W Moderate sides, concave base (1.20+ x 0.70 x 0.25m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay, with occasional small rounded and angular stones	Cut Ditch F3185	-
F3185	L3186	Linear, orientated N/S Gentle sides, concave base (7.0+ x 0.80 x 0.14m)	Firm, light greyish brown, silty clay, with moderate small rounded and angular stones	Cut by Ditch F3183	Animal bone (1g), fired clay (17g)

Trench 44 - 52 (Figs. 3 - 5)

Trenches 44 – 52 were not excavated

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Across the majority of the site it is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds. However, disturbance and encroaching quarry activities to the south of the site have impacted on the survival of archaeological features.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The uppermost layer across site was topsoil (L3000) consisting of a mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone and flint. It varied between 0.20m and 0.35m in depth.

8.2 Subsoil (L3001) was identified in some but not all trenches. It comprised a dark yellow brown silt sand with moderate sub rounded and sub angular flint and stones.

8.3 The natural (L3002) was dark orange yellow sand with frequent gravel throughout. It was 0.29 – 0.52m below the current ground level.

9 DISCUSSION

Middle to Late Bronze Age

9.1 The earliest encountered features date to the middle to late Bronze Age. The archaeology of the immediate area attests to a significant level of prehistoric settlement activity, no more evident than in the adjacent Asheldham Camp hillfort. Prehistoric activity at the current site is contemporary with this late Bronze Age to early Iron Age monument (EHER 12051) and – as was postulated to the south – may represent an element of extramural settlement (cf. Mustchin *et al.* 2016). The southern area contained

the remains of a possible Bronze Age barrow or structural outline (*ibid.*). The Bronze Age features from the evaluation were commonly located in the northern sector of the site (Trenches 1–2, 4–5 and 12), but were also present in the southern area (Trenches 25, 30, 40 and 43).

9.2 The Bronze Age features principally comprised ditches, although discrete features (mostly pits) were also present. A single posthole (F3102) located in Trench 4 suggests the possible presence of other structural remains in the immediate vicinity. Trenches 1 and 2 contained the highest density of features (two and three respectively) while the remaining trenches contained just one feature apiece. Associated pottery, totalling 282 sherds (2788g), was consistently middle to late Bronze Age in date, occurring in three calcined flint-tempered fabrics (see Appendix 2). Sherds numbered between one and six per feature, with significant groups occurring particularly in the northern sector of the site. The middle Bronze Age pottery includes at least two rim sherds from bucket-shaped urns, consistent with the Ardleigh Group of Deverel-Rimbury urns, while the late Bronze Age sherds include examples consistent with post-Deverel-Rimbury assemblages (*ibid*.).

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F3005	Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age
	F3010	Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age
2	F3057	Ditch	Late Bronze Age
	F3063	Pit	Late Bronze Age
	F3069	Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age
4	F3102	Posthole	Middle-Late Bronze Age
5	F3106	Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age
12	F3112	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age
25	F3163	Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age
30	F3151	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age
40	F3221	Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age
43	F3173	Pit	Middle-Late Bronze Age

9.3 Associated finds include ‘crumbs’ of fired clay from Ditch F3069 (Trench 2; see Appendix 2). A single prehistoric pot sherd from Ditch F3163 may well be residual, based on the presence of iron slag (657g) in this feature (Appendix 2). Roman CBM was present in Ditch F3106 (Trench 5); however, the occurrence of 117 sherds of prehistoric pottery in F3106 suggests that the CBM is intrusive.

9.4 An unaccompanied cremation was recorded in Trench 7 (F3014 (L3015)). It was located between clusters of prehistoric and Romano-British features and cannot, therefore, be conclusively associated with either period. However, high quality oak fuel and other remains within environmental bulk samples of L3015 – most probably representing locally gathered resources – are typical of prehistoric cremations (Appendix 2).

Romano-British

9.5 Until recently, recorded Romano-British remains within the immediate area of the site were relatively few. The Essex Historic Environment Record notes Roman pottery (EHER 12054) and cremation burials (reported) from the area of the hillfort, but local infrastructure was somewhat lacking – certainly in the early post-Conquest period (cf. Mustchin *et al.* 2016). In contrast, the

coastal marshes of the Dengie, several kilometres to the east of the current site, contain widespread evidence of Romano-British activity. This low-lying landscape was synonymous with the salt-making industry and salterns/ red hills are well documented (e.g. Gurney 1980; SAIL/ Essex County Council 2005). The coastal margins also present an important resource in terms of high-quality grazing land.

9.6 Recent excavations to the immediate south of the evaluation area encountered an early Romano-British rural landscape characterised by rectilinear enclosures, thought to be a 'ladder' system (Mustchin *et al.* 2016). Regional examples of such systems are well documented. Surrounding cropmark evidence indicates that the excavated site formed part of a larger, enclosed settlement, the main focus of which may have been to the east. Like the fully excavated features, those identified by the current evaluation are dominated by ditches, almost certainly constituting a continuation of the above enclosures. Encountered pits and postholes, albeit fewer in number, most likely relate to activity within/ associated with the enclosures.

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
2	F3067	Posthole	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
11	F3022	Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
	F3080	Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
12	F3118	Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
17	F3050	Ditch Terminus	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
	F3053	Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
18	F3092	Pit	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
	F3098	Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
19	F3123	Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
	F3125	Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
	F3127	Pit	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
	F3142	Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
42	F3207	Pit	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD
43	F3181	Pit	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD

9.7 Romano-British features occurred in distinct clusters in Trenches 11–12 and 17–19, with possible outliers in Trenches 2, 42 and 43. The clustering of features is possibly distinct from Romano-British features excavated to the south (Mustchin *et al.* 2016; see above). However, the machine stripping of the southern site, which occurred without archaeological supervision, undoubtedly resulted in the loss of evidence. Like those to the south, the Romano-British features within the current area of the quarry are consistently mid 1st to early 2nd century AD in date.

9.8 The early Roman pottery assemblage, totalling 198 sherds (1430g), is homogenous in character consisting largely of local coarse wares with little decoration or finish (see Appendix 2). The assemblage derives from modest to moderate groups and is closely comparable to the larger assemblage of early Roman pottery recovered from previous investigations at Asheldham Quarry (Peachey 2016, 27) where limited fine wares and mortaria were also present (Appendix 2). The pottery is thought to be the product of low status domestic settlement in the local area. Associated finds comprise CBM (possibly deriving from tegula tile but lacking diagnostic elements), iron-working slag, lava stone, shell and fired clay. The shell assemblage is particularly interesting for the brevity of species represented and for the

occurrence of chequered carpet shells - a type of clam (see Appendix 2). These are an extremely popular edible mollusc in modern day continental Europe and have been found at numerous continental sites of both Roman and prehistoric date (*ibid*.).

Medieval

9.9 Medieval (11th to 13th century) pottery, was recovered from Pit F3187 (44 sherds; 111g), while individual sherds occurred in Ditches F3024, F3169 and F3179A. The group from F3187 (L3188) represents at least three vessels and dates exclusively to the 12th century (see Appendix 2). Several sherds display charcoal residue and sooting on their exterior surfaces and are thought to have been cooking pots. The individual sherds from ditches might have derived from manuring of agricultural fields, while the larger group form Pit F3187 suggests local domestic activity. A suspected deserted medieval village is located to the north-east of the site, just south of Reddings farm (EHER 13430), while a further settlement of this date may exist the south of Asheldham church. Associated finds from the current site comprise sparse CBM and lava stone.

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
11	F3024	Ditch	Medieval (11th-13th C)
39	F3169	Ditch	Medieval (11th-13th C)
	F3187	?Pit	Medieval (11th-13th C)
43	F3179	Ditch	Medieval (11th-13th C)

9.10 Numerous undated features were present. The features are co-incident with the areas of archaeology (Fig.3b): Area of mid – late Bronze Age features: Trenches 1 – 9; Area of Roman features: Trenches 11 – 13, and 17 - 20; and the excavation of a Roman site to the south: Trenches 30 – 36 and 39 – 43. The features are commonly discretes (pits and post holes) as opposed to linears, and are suggestive of settlement activity.

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F3007	Ditch	-
	F3012	Ditch	-
2	F3040	Post Hole	-
	F3042	Post Hole	-
	F3044	Post Hole	-
	F3046	Post Hole	-
	F3048	Post Hole	-
	F3055	Pit	-
	F3061	Post Hole	-
	F3065	Post Hole	-
3	F3084	Pit	-
	F3086	Pit	-
	F3088	Pit	-
4	F3104	Ditch	-
7	F3014	Cremation Pit	-
8	F3032	Post Hole	-
	F3034	Post Hole	-
	F3036	Post Hole	-
	F3038	Post Hole	-

9	F3072	Pit	-
	F3100	Post Hole	-
10	F3090	Post Hole	-
11	F3016	Ditch	-
	F3018	Pit	-
	F3020	Pit	-
	F3026	Ditch	-
	F3028	Pit	-
	F3030	Pit	-
	F3074	Ditch	-
	F3076	Ditch	-
	F3078	Ditch	-
	F3082	?Ditch	-
12	F3114	Pit	-
	F3116	Pit	-
	F3120	Ditch	-
13	F3129	Ditch	-
14	F3108	Ditch	-
	F3110	Ditch	-
16	F3003	Ditch	-
18	F3094	Post Hole	-
	F3096	Ditch	-
19	F3137	Ditch	-
	F3140	Ditch	-
25	F3157	Pit	-
	F3159	Pit	-
	F3161	Ditch	-
30	F3149	Ditch	-
	F3153	Gully	-
32	F3133	Ditch	-
33	F3145	Pit	-
	F3147	Gully	-
34	F3131	Ditch	-
35	F3155	Ditch	-
36	F3135	Ditch	-
39	F3165	Ditch	-
	F3167	Ditch	-
40	F3219	Ditch	-
41	F3189	Ditch	-
	F3191	Gully	-
	F3193	Gully	-
	F3195	Post Hole	-
	F3197	Pit	-
42	F3199	Ditch Terminal	-
	F3201	Ditch	-
	F3203	Ditch	-
	F3205	Ditch	-
	F3209	Post Hole	-
	F3211	Pit	-
	F3213	Ditch	-
	F3215	Post Hole	-
	F3217	Pit	-
43	F3171	Gully	-
	F3175	Post Hole	-
	F3177	Post Hole	-
	F3183	Ditch	-
	F3185	Ditch	-

Research Potential

9.11 The current evaluation presents a valuable opportunity to further examine the archaeology of the Dengie, within the immediate environs of Asheldham Camp hillfort. Although valuable evidence of Romano-British land division was revealed by recent excavations to the immediate south (Mustchin *et al.* 2016), the machine stripping of this area without archaeological supervision undoubtedly resulted in the loss of evidence pertaining to land use and economy at this time. Similarly, the southern quarry area also contained tantalising evidence of prehistoric activity, including a possible barrow or structural outline, which evidence from the current area of investigation may help to better contextualise.

Middle to Late Bronze Age

9.12 The site lies within the immediate area of the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age monument of Asheldham Camp hillfort (EHER 12051). Evidence of possible extramural settlement associated with this monument has already been reported to the south (cf. Mustchin *et al.* 2016) and a significant level of prehistoric settlement activity is recorded locally. The current investigation has revealed additional settlement evidence, perhaps relating to local landscape enclosure (ditches were the most common feature type), and ?structural remains. Further investigation of the site therefore has good potential to address a number of regional research priorities regarding the Bronze Age.

9.13 The site's relationship with the adjacent hillfort is of great significance; the dating of monuments in order to better understand their landscape role has been highlighted as a regional research priority (Medlycott 2011, 20). This links directly to the need to better explore settlement inter-relationships and the need to understand the relationship between settlements and monuments (*ibid.*); all areas to which the current project could make a valuable contribution. The site's location no the Dengie, a landscape synonymous with salt-production (see above), also presents the opportunity to further identify local salt-making during the Bronze Age (*ibid.* 21).

9.14 The regionalisation of Bronze Age settlement patterns is another research area of potential interest in this instance, especially if the identified ditches represent field or enclosure boundaries. A dearth of 'second millennium cal. BC field systems' has been noted in some parts of the region, as has the need to better understand reasons for the inconsistent emergence of such systems (Medlycott 2011, 20). The occurrence of possible Bronze Age cremations within the current site, i.e. F3014 (L3015), Trench 7, may also present an opportunity to further explore patterns of burial practice during this period (*ibid.*).

9.15 The potential to radiocarbon date Bronze Age pottery groups from the site has an application in regional artefact studies, specifically refinement of

pottery chronologies and the need to typologically identify late Bronze Age pottery (*ibid.* 20–21).

Romano-British

9.16 Extensive cropmark/aerial photographic and excavation evidence has demonstrated the widespread, formal enclosure of agricultural land in the area surrounding the lower Blackwater Valley and Dengie. Previous excavation evidence from Asheldham Quarry has revealed an enclosed Roman landscape dating to the early post-Conquest era (Mustchin *et al.* 2016); however, much evidence of land use and economy was lost at this site. The current project therefore presents a good opportunity to better understand the nature of early Romano-British activity within the locally enclosed landscape. Period-specific research topics for the county and wider region include the need to 'ground-truth' aerial photographic evidence in order to refine the dating of Roman field systems; the need to assess the extent to which field/ enclosure size and form reflects their use; and the need to better understand the economic relationship(s) between rural and urban sites (Medlycott 2011, 47; Medlycott and Atkinson 2012, 94). The area surrounding the Dengie encompasses local market centres including the nearby Romano-British settlement at Heybridge, some 13.5km to the north-west, while the urban settlements of *Camulodunum* (Colchester) – the onetime capital of Roman Britain – and *Caesaromagus* (Chelmsford) are 24km and 26km to the north and north-west, respectively.

Medieval

9.17 Although evidence of medieval occupation is sparse within the site, the positive identification of local settlement activity (however ephemeral), could contribute the regional study of 'landscape variations in settlement location' (Medlycott 2011, 70). It is probable that the current site was agricultural land during the medieval period, peripheral to one or more possible medieval village sites recorded by the Essex HER.

10 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Colchester Museum. 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.

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Appendix 1 Concordance of Finds

AMAQ14, P5494, Asheldham Quarry, 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)
3005	3006		1	Fill of Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age	3	8					
3010	3011		1	Fill of Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age	6	44					
3022	3023		11	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	1	10					
3024	3025		11	Fill of Ditch	Medieval (11-13th C)	5	22					
3050	3051		17	Fill of Ditch Terminal	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	3	24			F.Clay	2	43
	3052				Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	14	74			F.Clay	1	2
3053	3054		17	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	6	24					
3057	3058		2	Fill of Ditch	Late Bronze Age	4	14					
3063	3064		2	Fill of Pit	Late Bronze Age	16	60					
3067	3068		2	Fill of Post Hole	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	26	35					
3069	3070		2	Fill of Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age	67	392			F.Clay	7	71
3080	3081		11	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	1	9					
3092	3093		18	Fill of Pit	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	7	33			F.Clay	1	1
3098	3099		18	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	1	22			F.Clay	2	1
3102	3103		4	Fill of Post Hole	Middle-Late Bronze Age	9	36					
3106	3107		5	Fill of Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age	117	1591	31				
3112	3113		12	Fill of Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	5	56					
3118	3119		12	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	13	125			Lava stone		678
3123	3124		19	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	8	51			Slag F.Clay	 3	581 29
3125	3126		19	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	3	18			Slag F.Clay	6 10	612 16
3127	3128		19	Fill of Pit	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	41	883			Slag F.Clay	 3	578 27
3142	3143		19	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	1	21					
	3144		19	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	53	530			Lava stone Slag		281 2699
3151	3152		30	Fill of Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	52	563					
3161	3162		25	Fill of Ditch						Slag		621
3163	3164		25	Fill of Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age	1	7			Slag F.Clay	 1	622 6
3169	3170		39	Fill of Ditch	Medieval (11-13th C)	3	9		16	Lava Stone		136
3173	3174		43	Fill of Pit	Middle-Late Bronze Age	1	2					
3179A	3180A		43	Fill of Ditch	Medieval (11-13th C)	4	29					
3181	3182A		43	Fill of Pit	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	19	43			F.Clay	1	7
3185	3186A		43	Fill of Ditch					1	F.Clay		17

3187	3188		39	Fill of Pit	Medieval (11-13th C)	44	111	1					
3189	3190A		41	Fill of Ditch				20					
3199	3200		42	Fill of Ditch Terminal						Shell		616	
3201	3202		42	Fill of Ditch						Pumice		89	
3203	3204		42	Fill of Ditch						Shell		16	
3207	3208		42	Fill of Pit	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	1	5			Shell		1436	
3213	3214		42	Fill of Ditch						Pumice		514	
3219	3220		40	Fill of Ditch				1					
3221	3222		40	Fill of Ditch	Middle-Late Bronze Age	1	2						

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery
Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 532 sherds (4356) of pottery, with the principal elements comprised of middle and late Bronze Age pottery, and early Roman pottery, with a sparse component of medieval pottery (Table 1). The middle and late Bronze Age pottery was generally recovered from ditch features in a moderately fragmented and abraded condition, with a low degree of diagnostic sherds present; although small fragments of at least two middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urns consistent with those in the Ardleigh Group could be identified, as could the edge of a clay plate characteristic of types found in late Bronze Age groups across the region. The Roman pottery was also predominantly contained in ditch features and generally in a highly fragmented condition. It was limited to sherds of local coarse wares, with small diagnostic sherds of jars and bowls confirming an early Roman (mid 1st to early 2nd century AD) date, consistent with the more common early Roman pottery recovered from previous excavations at Asheldham Quarry.

Period	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
Middle to Late Bronze Age	282	2788
Roman: mid 1st-early 2nd century AD	198	1430
Medieval	52	138
Total	*532*	*4356*

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by period

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification. Rim type, profile and decoration were also recorded in separate fields and free-text comments in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995), Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004), and Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). All fabrics are described in the text or archive with Roman fabrics cross-referenced, where possible to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998) or appropriate regional kiln/assemblage groups, and the medieval fabrics to the Essex pottery type series. To avoid repetition, the references, including alpha-numeric codes to the *Chelmsford* type series (Going 1987) and *Heybridge* assemblage (Biddulph *et al* 2015) are italicized, i.e. *Chelmsford G20*. All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

Fabric Types (quantified in Table 2)

Prehistoric

F1 Coarse flint-tempered ware. Inclusions comprise common moderately-sorted calcined flint (0.5-2mm, occasionally to 5mm). Surfaces have a slightly abrasive to hackly feel.

F2 Fine flint-tempered ware. Inclusions comprise poorly-sorted calcined flint and quartz both 0.2-0.5mm, occasionally to 2mm). Surfaces tend to be smooth.

F3 Coarse flint-tempered ware. Inclusions comprise common-abundant moderately-sorted calcined flint (0.1-5mm). Surfaces have a very abrasive and hackly feel

Clay Plate Orange-red. Inclusions comprise common-abundant burnt out, chopped organic material (grass/chaff) (0.5-5mm, typically linear; some ovoid, seed-like)

Early Roman

SOB GT Southern British ('Belgic') grog-tempered ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214; Thompson 1982). *Chelmsford Fabric 53/Heybridge Fabric GROGC*

BSW Black-surfaced/Romanizing grey wares. The coarseness and frequency of quartz and grog in this fabric varies, with some sherds close to SOB GT, and some to GRS1. Several local sources may be represented. *Chelmsford Fabric 45/Heybridge Fabric BSW*

GRS Sandy grey wares, probably from numerous local sources including Chelmsford and Heybridge. *Chelmsford Fabric 47/Heybridge Fabric GRS*

SEX SH South Essex shell-tempered ware. *Chelmsford Fabric 50/Heybridge Fabric ESH*

Medieval

12C Early medieval sandy shelly ware. Surfaces may be grey or red-brown over a mainly grey or sometimes red-brown core. Inclusions comprise common to abundant medium to coarse sub-rounded to rounded quartz, moderate voids from dissolved platy shell, with moderate silver mica visible on surfaces.

13 Early medieval sandy ware (13). Red brown surfaces over a grey core. Inclusions comprise common fine to medium sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Prehistoric			
F1	45	280	0.10
F2	2	5	-
F3	221	2465	0.05
Clay Plate	14	38	-
Early Roman			
SOB GT	32	376	0.05
BSW	93	677	0.25
GRS	28	299	0.15
SEX SH	45	78	-
Medieval			
12C	51	136	-
13	1	2	-
Total	***532***	***4356***	***0.60***

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by fabric type

The Prehistoric Pottery

The three prehistoric pottery fabrics (F1, F2 and F3) represent a varying coarseness of calcined flint temper as is common in Bronze Age assemblages from the region; however diagnostic sherds are very limited and small, potentially due to depositional processes but also affected by adverse soil conditions. The middle Bronze Age pottery appears limited to medium-coarse and coarse flint-tempered fabrics (F1 and F3), but includes at least two plain tapering rims from bucket-shape urns, associated with a raised applied cordon, handle and coil-built base that appear consistent with the Ardleigh Group of Deverel-Rimbury urns. Late Bronze Age sherds appear to include contrasting fine and medium-coarse fabrics (F2 & F1) characteristic of the composition of post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) pottery groups, as well as fragments of an organic-tempered clay plate.

The significant groups of middle Bronze Age pottery (albeit not of especially high quantity) were contained in Ditches F3106 and F3149, with a further rim sherd in Ditch F3112. The bulk of the sherds in Ditch F3106 (L3107) were from an urn of fabric F3 with a raised (applied) plain cordon and a flat base that had fractured along the lines of its coil-construction, comparable to Ardleigh Group urns (i.e. Brown 1999, 98: fig.68 & 72); while in addition the group contained a small loop handle in fabric F2, also comparable to Ardleigh Group urns (i.e. Brown 1999, 98: fig.63.66). The sherds in Ditch F3149 (L3152) were almost entirely derived from a single urn in fabric F3 with a pinched-up plain rim and upright walls, with the presence of rim, body and basal fragments indicating a significant if not near whole part of the now highly-fragmented vessel was deposited in the ditch. The rim of a similar urn in fabric F1 was contained in Ditch F3112, but decorated with a single finger-tip impressed cordon, also characteristic of the Ardleigh Group of middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury style pottery (Brown 1999, 96: fig.61.59 & 66.101) and most-likely manufactured in the second half of the 2nd millennium BC (*ibid*, 78).

The late Bronze Age pottery appears limited to features in Trench 2, in particular Ditch F3057 and Pit F3063, whose spatial proximity suggest that the fragmentary remains of a potentially middle or late Bronze Age barrel-shape jar in Ditch F3069 have an origin in the latter period. Ditch F3057 (L3058) contained body sherds of the distinctly fine and thin-walled fabric F2 that would have formed part of a fine ware bowl; a class of vessel that emerged in the late Bronze Age (continuing into the early Iron Age), associated with coarser sherds of fabric F1. Pit F3063 (L3064) contained fabric F1 sherds associated with the edge of a Clay Plate. The small section of edge is 15mm thick with a near square edge that has a slightly recessed/grooved side; characteristic of perforated clay plates identified on late Bronze Age sites with a distinctive geographical bias along the middle and lower Thames, and to the north and south of the mouth of the Thames (Champion 2014, 285), with evidence indicating a potential association with the adoption of bread making and related cooking processes (*ibid*, 291). Ditch F3069 (L3070) contained the in-turned rim of a barrel-jar or similar urn, consistent with some middle Bronze Age vessels (Ardleigh Group), but also with barrel jars that are common on

late Bronze Age sites such as North Shoebury *c*.13km to the south (Brown 1995) and Lofts Farm, Heybridge (Brown 1988). Sparse late Bronze Age pottery has been recovered from previous phases at Asheldham Quarry, and the proximity of Ditch F3057 and Pit F3063 suggest perhaps an association with limited late Bronze Age domestic activity in the near vicinity.

The early Roman Pottery

In terms of fabric groups present, the Roman pottery has a homogenous character, dominated entirely by local coarse wares with limited decoration or finish, notably SOB GT and BSW, but also including GRS and SEX SH (Table 2). This pattern probably arises from a combination of narrow chronology, peripheral geography and low status economy; and is closely comparable to the larger assemblage of early Roman pottery recovered from previous investigations at Asheldham Quarry (Peachey 2016, 27) where limited fine wares and mortaria were also present. These assemblages may be interpreted as the product of low status domestic settlement in the hinterland of the Dengie Peninsular, with a supply pattern derivative of Ceramic Phase 1 (*c*.AD60-80) at Chelmsford (Going 1987, 106), Ceramic Phases 3 and 4 (*c*.AD20-55 & 55-80) at Elms Farm, Heybridge (Biddulph *et al* 2015), and also as North Shoebury (Leary 1995, 94).

The early Roman pottery may be dominated by quantity by 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares (SOB GT), but with the exception of a long-lived storage jar with an everted rolled rim contained in Ditch F3142, these sherds are non-diagnostic. The Romanising grey wares (BSW) include an everted bead rim of a bowl or jar in Pit F3092, and an ovoid jar with a bead rim (Going 1987: type G1) in Ditch F3118 that exhibits soot on the exterior of the body, consistent with use as a cooking pot. Pit F3127 also included a significant proportion of the globular body of a BSW jar, but while no diagnostic rim or neck fragments were present it is notable for a thick layer of internal limescale, suggestive of a function akin to a kettle. The sandy grey wares (GRS) also included an ovoid jar in Ditch F3022, otherwise comparable to the example in BSW; while Ditch F3050 contained a GRS jar with a stubby lid-seated/rebated rim (Going 1987: type G5.4.1) that has a currency beginning in the mid 1st century AD, and declining sharply from the early 2nd century AD. The shell-tempered coarse ware (SEX SH) is limited to small groups of sherds in Posthole F3067 and Pit F3181, with each representing plain body sherds from a single cooking pot respectively, though rim sherds are absent. The presence of apparent cooking pots and storage jars in local coarse wares appears consistent with low-scale domestic activity comparable to that indicated by the larger early Roman assemblage from previous investigations at Asheldham Quarry (Peachey 2016, 36), however the limited quantity and distribution evident in the results of this trial-trench evaluation does not allow for further conclusions to be drawn.

Medieval Pottery

The bulk of the medieval pottery: 44 sherds (111g), was contained in Pit F3187, with additional small, isolated sherds also present in Ditches F3024, F3169 and F3179A. The group of sherds in Pit F3187 (L3188) is comprised entirely of fabric 12C sherds, derived from at least three vessels, and including two basal sherds from cooking pots with slightly rounded/sagging bases. Several sherds in this group and one in Ditch F3179A exhibit patches of charcoal residue and soot on their exterior surfaces, supporting the theory that they functioned as cooking pots. Both fabrics are consistent with coarse wares produced locally throughout the 11th to 13th centuries.

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The Loom Weights and Ceramic Building Materials
Andrew Peachey

The evaluation excavations recovered a total of 35 fragments (256g) of fired clay and CBM in a very highly fragmented condition (Table 3), probably predominantly of Roman origin, but the preservation is of such a low/poor degree that identifying any form types was impossible.

Period	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
Fired Clay	31	203
Roman CBM: ?tegula	3	33
Post-medieval peg tile	1	20
Total	*35*	*256*

Table 3

The fired clay was manufactured in silty to organic-tempered fabrics that appears to have been sun-dried or baked at a low temperature, and most likely would have formed part of loom or thatch weights, but no diagnostic features were present, and it cannot be discounted some fragments are derived from daub of hearth lining. Small fragments of fired clay were contained in Ditches F3050, F3123 and Pit F3127; with further 'crumbs' contained in Ditches F3069, F3098, F3125, F3163, Pits F3092 and F3181.

The orange, fine sandy fabric of very small CBM fragments contained in Ditch F3106, Pit F3187 and L3220 identifies them of roman origin, and while it is most likely they are derived from common tegula roof tiles, there are no diagnostic traits extant to confirm this. A single small fragment of post-medieval peg tile was contained in L3190 (Seg. A), in a highly abraded condition.

Quarry Slag

Andrew A. S. Newton

A total of pieces (g) of slag, originating from contexts, was recovered during archaeological work at Asheldham Quarry, Essex. The slag was identified on morphological grounds by visual examination.

Visual examination of metalworking residues allows them to be categorised according to morphology, colour, density, and vesicularity. It should be noted, however, that not all slags are diagnostic of a particular metalworking process or part of that process. Slags are also particularly susceptible to morphological and composition alteration by secondary corrosion products.

Reference was made to the National Slag Reference Collection (Dungworth *et al* 2009) where appropriate and to the relevant subject-specific (Bayley *et al* 2008) and regional (Medlycott 2011) research frameworks.

Context	Feature	Feature type	Quantity	Observations	Type
L3124	F3123	Ditch	2; 589g	Light brown with some grey-green slightly vitrified patches and some dark grey slightly rippled patches. Some slight internal porosity. Plano-convex in form but probably not a smithing hearth bottom. Stones (flint) adhere to both upper and lower surfaces. Charcoal to upper surface of one piece. No response to magnet. Largely undiagnostic.	?Furn
L3126	F3125	Ditch	2; 307g	V. dark brown to black. Small <1mm air pockets. No response to magnet. Some rough rippling. Possible furnace slag	?Furn
			2; 147g	Light grey. Glassy or vitrified upper surface. Rough lower surface with occasional charcoal impressions. Very slightly magnetic. Moderate internal air pockets 1-5mm diam. Possible flow-form morphology on upper surface.	Undiag but poss degraded tap slag or poss smithing slag
			1; 9g	Light grey brown. Clearly has at some time been molten. Moderate to large air pockets; some 5mm+ diam.	?Furn
			1; 168g	Mid brown with some black/dark grey areas. Granular surface incorporating occasional white stones. This is possibly some kind of concretion associated with degradation of the material	?Furn ?Ore
L3128	F3127	Pit	6; 590g	Dark grey to black. Moderate internal porosity. Mostly dense material. Some surface vitrification. Some rippling of surfaces. No response to magnet. Extensive clay lining adheres to largest fragment	Furn and FurnSt.
L3144	F3142	Ditch	43; 2591g	Mid brown with some black/dark grey areas. Granular surface incorporating occasional white stones and light orange	Furn and FurnSt

				ceramic material. Occasional charcoal impressions and large air pockets- up to 10mm diam	
			12; 172g	Light grey, very light pumice-like material. No response to magnet. Occasional small to medium stones adhere.	Uncertain
L3162	-	-	7; 616g	Dark grey to black dense material. Some pieces blocky. Some pieces show rippled, flow-form morphology. No response to magnet. Occasional ceramic and stone incorporated	?Furn
L3164	F3163	Ditch	9; 653g	Grey to dark brown material with liver-red patches. Dense but vesicular material. Some pieces give response to magnet.	Furn
			1; 4g	Dull outer surface, but broken surface reveals light grey, glossy/glassy interior. Air pockets upto 7mm diam. No response to magnet.	Uncertain

Key: Tap=tap slag. Furnace=furnace slag. Furn.St.=fired clay furnace structure. Ore=iron ore. Fe=iron. Smith=smithing slag

Table 4. Catalogue of slag submitted for assessment

Commentary

The slag assemblage appears to derive from iron working processes as is demonstrated by the occasional magnetic responses of some individual fragments. There is limited diagnostic morphology but much of the assemblage appears to be slag which has accumulated in the furnace. Much of the assemblage can be described as internal runs or prills of slag or *furnace slag* (Crew 1995, 2). It remains possible, however, that at least some of the assemblage may derive from bloom refining or primary smithing; often runs or prills of slag with smooth upper surfaces and rough lower surfaces can be representative of smithing slags and often these are indistinguishable from slags produced in the smelting furnace (Crew 1996). Notable examples that may derive from smithing were identified in Ditch F3125.

Most of the assemblage was recovered from features of early Romano-British date. The quantities present are insufficient to indicate iron working at this location and none of the assemblage was recovered from features which represent iron working furnaces or hearths. The presence of these small quantities of slag does, however, suggest that there was some kind of iron working activity in the surrounding area.

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The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E M Cussans

A very small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the trial trench evaluation. Bone derived from two contexts (Table 5), with a total of three fragments being present. Bone preservation was rated as very poor on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. Bone abrasion was extensive and fresh breaks were present. None of the fragments could be identified to specific taxa and were all assigned as belonging to large (cattle or horse sized) mammal and were all thought to be long bone shaft fragments. No signs of butchery or pathology were noted, but any present may have been obscured by the poor surface preservation of the bone. No other features of note were present.

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Large Mammal
3169	3170	39	Fill of Ditch	Medieval (11-13th C)	very poor	1
?	3185A	?	?		very poor	2
					Total	3

Table 5. Quantification of animal bone from Asheldham Quarry

The Shell

Dr Julia E M Cussans

A good sized assemblage of marine mollusc shell was recovered from trial trench excavations at Asheldham Quarry. Shells derived from three contexts and are detailed in Table 6. Preservation ranged from poor to ok on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. Shell abrasion and fresh breakages were common and shells from L3200 were described as being particularly chalky.

In total 584 shell fragments (NISP) were present with a total minimum number of individuals (MNI) of 183 specimens. A number of marine mollusc species were represented in the assemblage; this is unusual for Romano-British shell assemblages which are typically largely dominated by oysters (e.g. Cussans & Phillips 2016). Representation of the different species by minimum number

of individuals (MNI) is shown in Chart 1. For bivalves the MNI is derived from the greater number of left or right umbones and for gastropods by counting the number of apices. Species present in order of overall abundance are winkle, chequered carpet shell, oyster and cockle; mussel and whelk are present in trace amounts. All of the species present are edible and apart from mussel and whelk are likely to have been purposefully collected for consumption. Mussels and whelks do not appear to have been purposefully collected from the evidence seen here, however their remains may have been disposed of elsewhere on the site and may well have also been collected.

Of particular interest in this assemblage, as they have not been seen before by the author, are the chequered carpet shells - a type of clam. These are an extremely popular edible mollusc in modern day continental Europe and are particularly popular in France, Portugal and Spain where they are cultured and harvested (FAO 2017). So far the author has found no other examples of these shells being found at Romano-British sites, despite their current day distribution covering the south and west coasts of Britain and the east coast as far north as Essex. The only archaeological occurrence of them found so far being fragmented remains from Mesolithic middens on the Isle of Portland (Thomas & Mannino 1999). They do appear however to have been found at numerous continental sites of both Roman and prehistoric date (e.g. Fernández-Rodríguez *et al*. 2014). Modern distributions of these molluscs show them to be present in the River Blackwater estuary (NBN 2017) only a few kilometres away from the site.

Oyster shells present showed a small number of opening notches and a few cases of parasitic worm infestation. With the exception of mussel and whelk a small number of measurable specimens were present for each of the species represented.

Overall this is an interesting and potentially unique assemblage that warrants further investigation, particularly in relation to the occurrence of chequered carpet shells (*Ruditapes decussatus*) and how this relates to other sites in the Roman world.

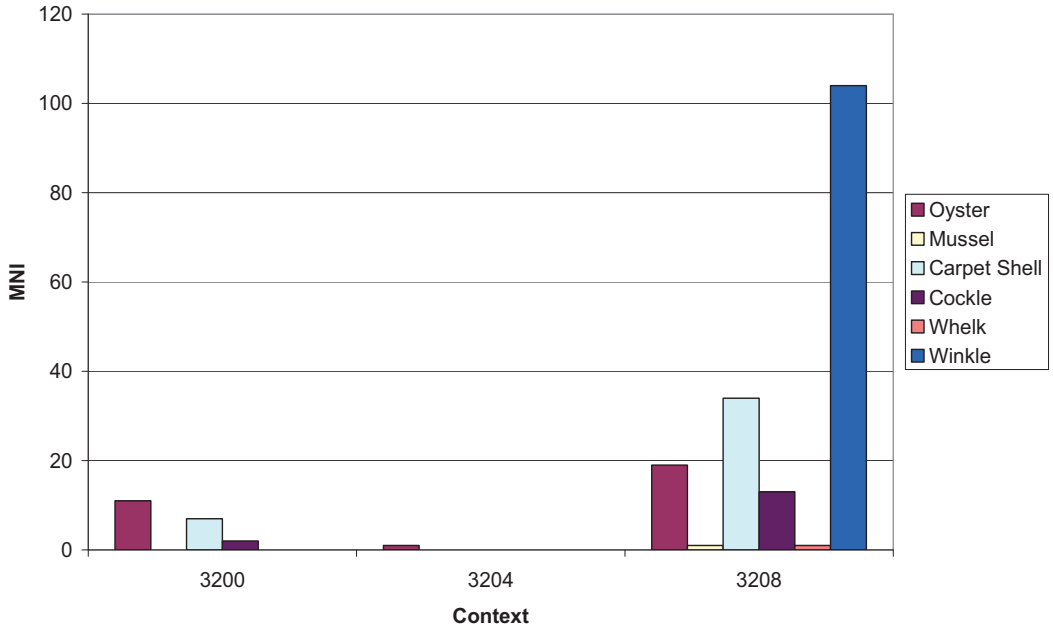

Chart 1. Minimum number of individuals (MNI) of marine mollusc species at Asheldham

	Feature	?	?	3207	
	Context	**3200**	**3204**	**3208**	**Total**
	Description	?	?	Fill of Pit	
	Spot Date			Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	
	Preservation	ok	poor	ok	
Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)	**Lower**	11		17	28
	Upper	9		19	28
	Frags	22	1	25	48
	NISP	42	1	61	104
	MNI	11	1	19	28
Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*)	**Left**				0
	Right			1	1
	Frags			3	3
	NISP	0	0	4	4
	MNI	0	0	1	1
Chequered/Grooved Carpet Shell (*Ruditapes decussatus*)	**Left**	1		34	35
	Right	7		27	34
	Frags	29		174	203
	NISP	37	0	235	272
	MNI	7	0	34	35
Cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*)	**Left**			13	13
	Right	2		12	14
	Frags	4		39	43
	NISP	6	0	64	70
	MNI	2	0	13	14
Whelk	**Apex**			1	1

(*Buccinum undatum*)	**Frags**				0
	NISP	0	0	1	1
	MNI	0	0	1	1
Winkle (*Littorina littorea*)	**Apex**			104	104
	Frags			29	29
	NISP	0	0	133	133
	MNI	0	0	104	104
Total	**NISP**	85	1	498	584
	MNI	40	1	172	183

Table 6. Quantification of marine mollusc species at Asheldham

References

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Acknowledgements

Particular thanks are due to Ken Thomas (UCL) and Carlos Fernández Rodríguez (Univ. de León) for assistance with references and information as well as to the wider 'zooarch' community for providing a wealth of information on *Ruditapes decussatus*.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The majority of the samples were from features identified as possible cremations during excavation, along with the fill of middle to late Bronze Age Ditch F3106 and Roman Pit F3127. The possible cremations are undated, although only L3015 (F3014) contained cremated bone and has the potential to represent a cremation burial.

This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. A random sub-sample of charcoal fragments from each sample were fractured to produce a transverse section for characterisation under a low-power microscope (e.g. *Quercus* sp., non-oak ring porous, diffuse porous or coniferous wood). Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

All samples >10 litres were initially 50% sub-sampled for the purpose of assessment. Any containing material of archaeobotanical significance will be fully processed and the resulting flots retained with the site archive.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 7.

Carbonised plant macrofossils were best represented in ditch fill L3107 (F3106), spot dated to the middle to late Bronze Age. Cereal remains were present in the form of grains from hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*). Most abundant were chaff remains in the form of wheat glume bases and spikelet forks. Where identifiable, both

emmer (*T. dicoccum*) and spelt (*T. spelta*) were recorded. This may either indicate that both wheat species were being cultivated at this time as separate crops or that there was some genetic variation within the late Bronze Age wheat crop. In samples from the late Bronze Age settlement at Mill House Farm, Chadwell St. Mary, the wheat assemblage was dominated by emmer but there was also a consistent presence of spelt, which was considered potential evidence for the cultivation of a dual wheat crop during this period (Summers 2017), a scenario recognised more widely in for the late Bronze Age in southern Britain, especially the Thames Valley (e.g. Campbell and Straker 2003). A small range of non-cereal taxa were also present in the form of likely arable weeds goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), medium legumes (Fabaceae), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and other wild grasses (Poaceae). The dominance of chaff remains accompanied by non-cereal weed taxa in this deposit indicates that crop processing by-products constituted a significant proportion of the carbonised material deposited in L3107 and probably indicates the nearby processing of cereal crops. This may be indicative of nearby domestic and agricultural activity.

Sample 7 of early Roman pit fill L3128 (F3127) contained only sparse remains, including an indeterminate cereal grain, along with a seed of opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) and a seed of vetch/ wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), both of which grow commonly as arable weeds. Carbonised remains from the arable production and processing were well represented in samples from the excavated Romano-British remains to the south of the present evaluation (Summers 2016) and the remains from L3128 may represent deposition of remains in areas peripheral to the main settlement area.

Samples 1 and 2 were from possible cremation fill L3015 (F3014). The samples were dominated by the remains of oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal, as well as a small range of other remains. These included seeds of blinks (*Montia fontana*) and sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), along with the swollen basal culm nodes of false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*). Oak was a common fuel wood selected for cremations, most likely due to its qualities as a high quality fuel (e.g. Thompson 1998; Summers 2017). The remains of other plants are likely to represent vegetation surrounding and underlying the pyre at the time of the cremation and false oat grass is a common inclusion in prehistoric cremations across Europe (Roehrs *et al.* 2013).

A number of other undated pits containing charcoal were also sampled (F3072, F3145, F3157 and F3159). As already noted, none of these contained cremated bone and appear unlikely to represent cremation burials. The samples were largely devoid of carbonised macrofossils but contained abundant charcoal. In most instances, only oak (*Quercus* sp.) was noted in an assessment of vessel patterns in transverse section under x10 magnification, although diffuse porous wood was also noted in L3073 (F3072)

Conclusions and statement of potential

The assessment of the bulk samples from the evaluation at Asheldham Quarry have demonstrated the preservation of carbonised cereals and associated weed flora in deposits dateable to the middle-late Bronze Age. It is possible that there were areas of domestic and arable processing activity within the area of the excavated features, although this may not be restricted to Trench 5, where F3106 is located.

Although the evidence of a single sample is not representative, it is possible that the Romano-British deposits in this area are peripheral to the main area of occupation further south.

Remains from cremation fill L3015 are quite typical of prehistoric cremations, with a high quality oak fuel and some associated remains, most likely from surrounding vegetation (e.g. *Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*).

Should further excavation be undertaken at the site, it is hoped that further sampling of the Bronze Age archaeological deposits will have the potential to add to growing datasets and understanding of subsistence, agriculture and wider economies during an important period of agricultural expansion and intensification during the middle to late Bronze Age in Essex and the Southeast.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
										Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
AMAQ14	1	3015	3014	Fill of Pit - Possible cremation	7	-	8	8	100%	-	-	-	X	*Montia fontana* (X), *Rumex acetosella* (X)	-	XXX	*Quercus* sp.	-	-	X	-	XX	-	-	Burnt bone (X), *Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum* basal internodes (XX), Root/ tuber (X)
AMAQ14	2	3015	3014	Fill of Pit - Possible cremation	7	-	2	2	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-	Root/ tuber (X)
AMAQ14	3	3073	3072	Fill of Pit - 0-10cm	9	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Quercus* sp., Diffuse porous incl. RW	-	-	XX	-	X	X	X	*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum* basal internodes (XX),
AMAQ14	4	3073	3072	Fill of Pit - 10-12cm	9	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-	*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum* basal internodes (XX),
AMAQ14	5	3091	3090	Fill of Pit	10	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-
AMAQ14	6	3107	3106	Fill of Ditch	5	M-LBA	20	10	50%	X	XX	HB (X), E/S (X), NFI (X), Spelt GB (X), Emmer GB (X), E/S GB + SF (XX)	XX	*Chenopodium* sp. (X), Medium Fabaceae (X), *Bromus* sp. (X), Large Poaceae (X), Small Poaceae (X)	-	X	-	-	-	XXX	-	X	-	X	-
AMAQ14	7	3128	3127	Fill of Pit	19	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	40	20	50%	X	-	NFI (X)	X	*Papaver somniferum* (X), *Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp. (X)	-	XX	*Quercus* sp.	-	-	XXX	-	X	-	X	-
AMAQ14	8a	3146	3145	Fill of Pit	33	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Quercus* sp.	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
AMAQ14	8b	3158	3157	Fill of Pit - 0-10cm	25	-	5	5	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Quercus* sp.	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-

AMAQ14	8c	3158	3157	Fill of Pit - 10-16cm	25	-	3.5	3.5	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Quercus* sp.	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-
AMAQ14	9a	3160A	3159	Fill of Pit	25	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	X	*Euphrasia/ Odontites* sp. (X)	-	XXX	*Quercus* sp.	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
AMAQ14	9b	3160B	3159	Fill of Pit	25	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Quercus* sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 7: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Asheldham. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); E/S = emmer/ spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Spelt = *T. spelta*; Emmer = *T. dicoccum*; NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain); GB = glume base; SF = spikelet fork.

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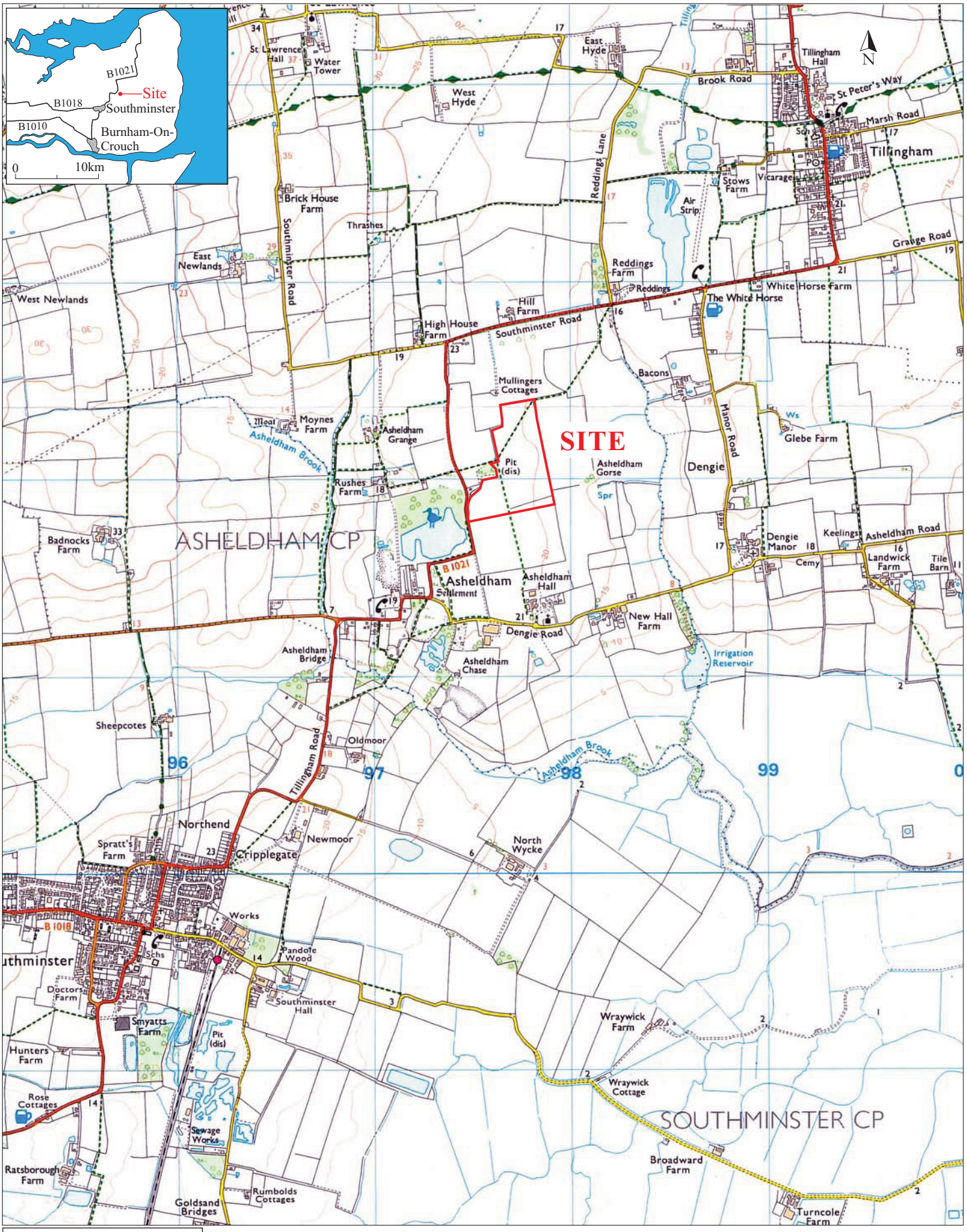

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Asheldham Quarry, Essex (P5494)

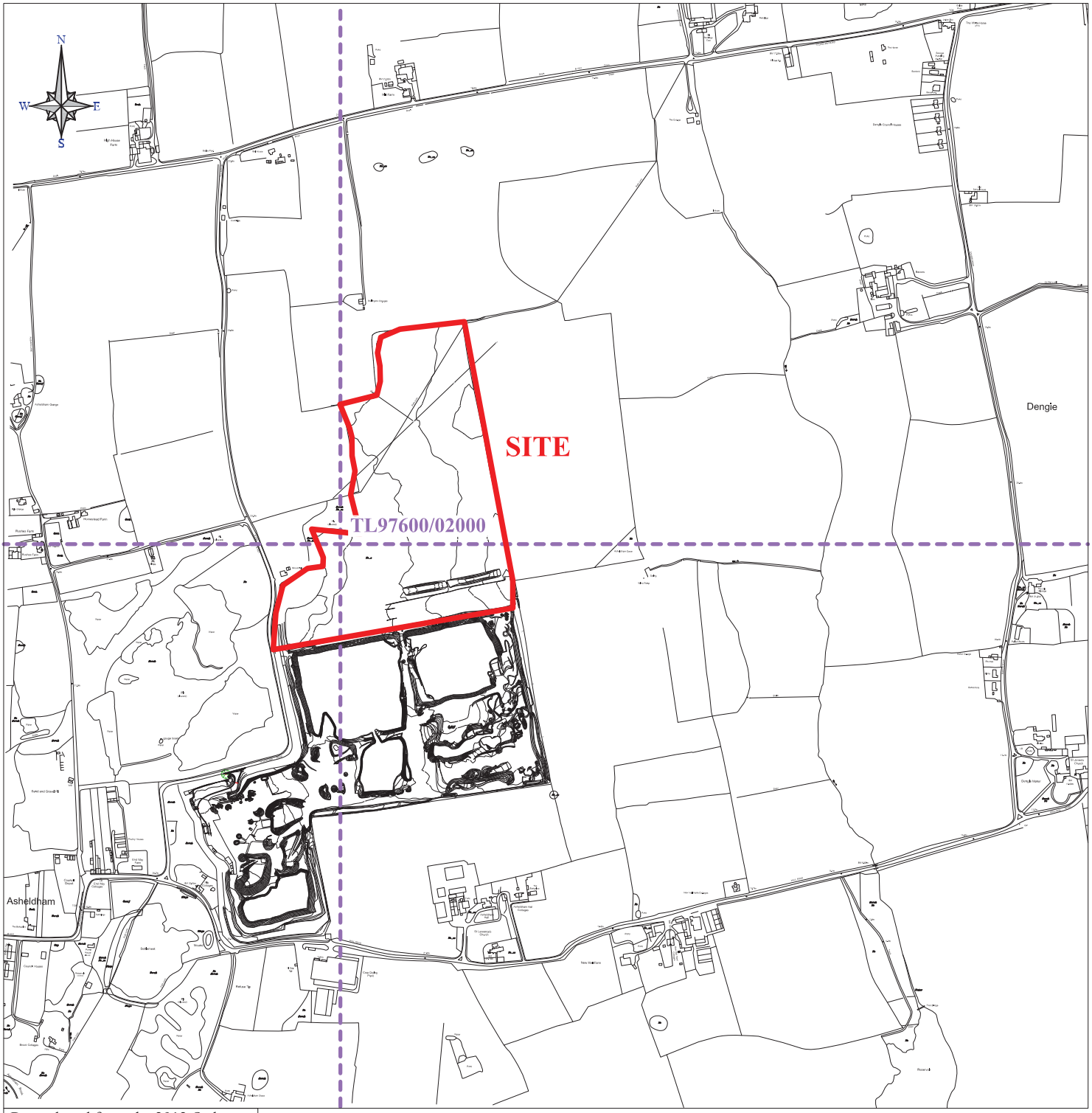

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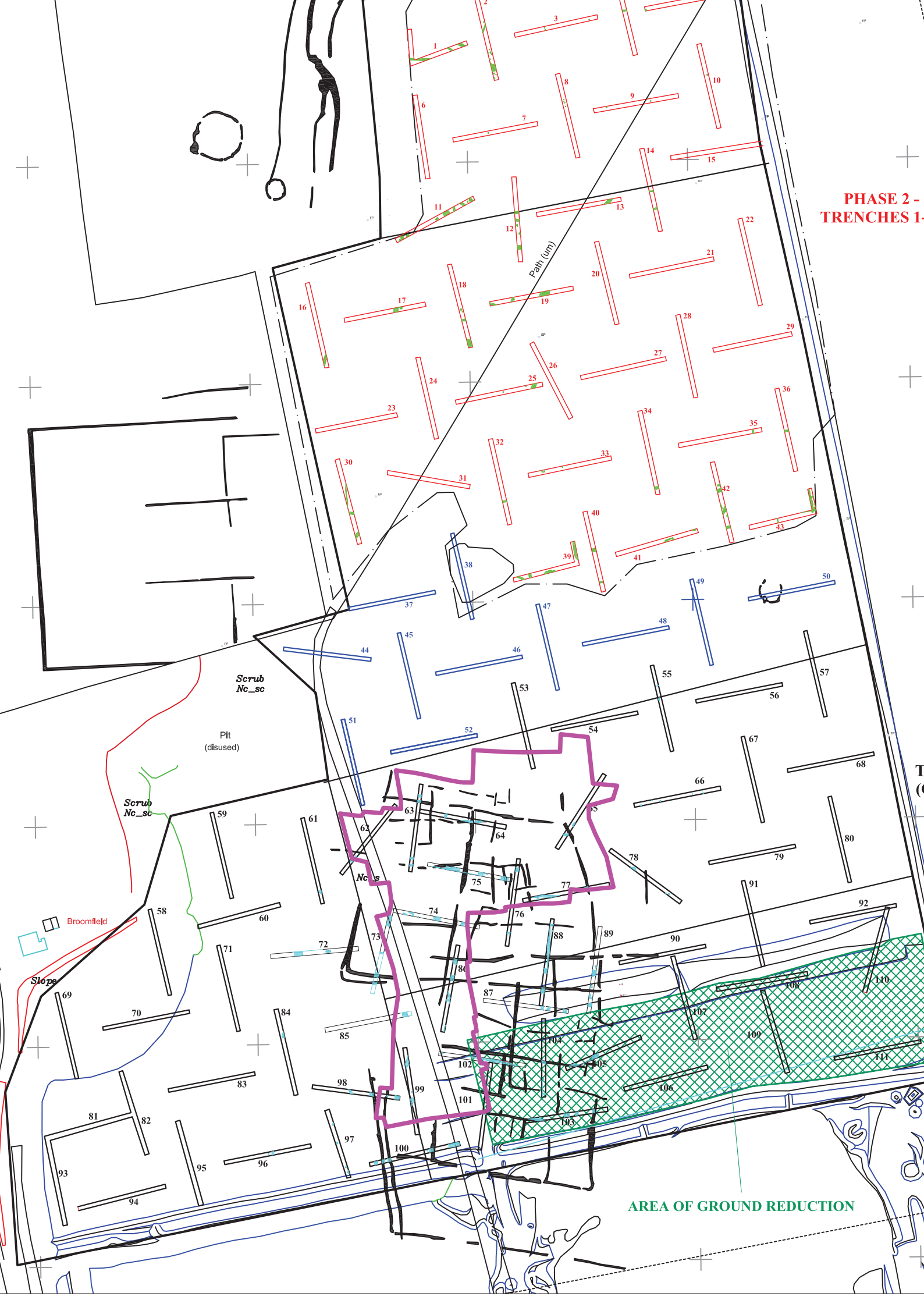
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:10,000 at A4

Asheldham Quarry, Essex (P5494)


PHASE 2 -
TRENCHES 1-
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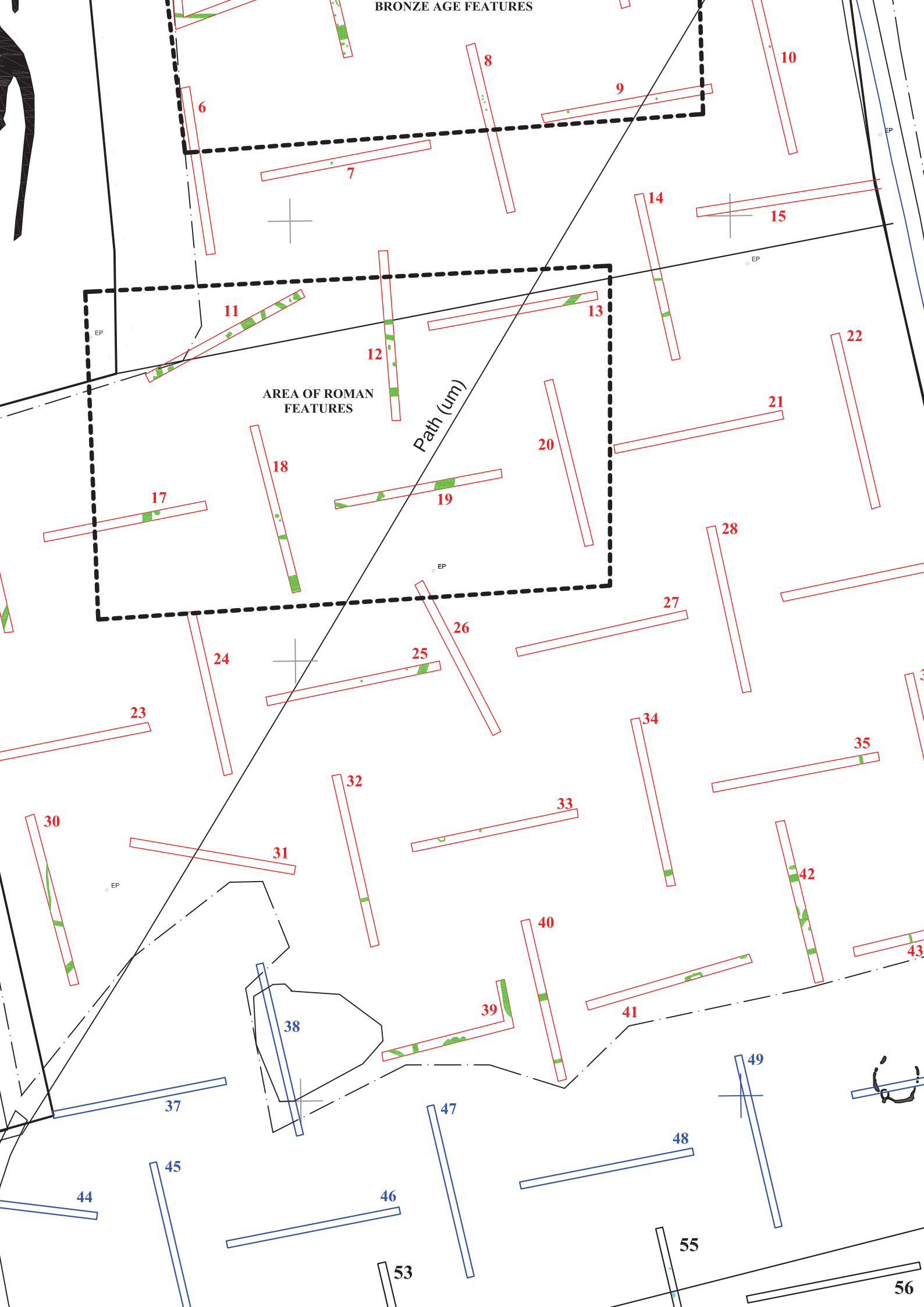
Nc_sc
Pit
(disused)
Scrub
Nc_sc
Nc_s
Broomfield
Slope
AREA OF GROUND REDUCTION


BRONZE AGE FEATURES
AREA OF ROMAN FEATURES
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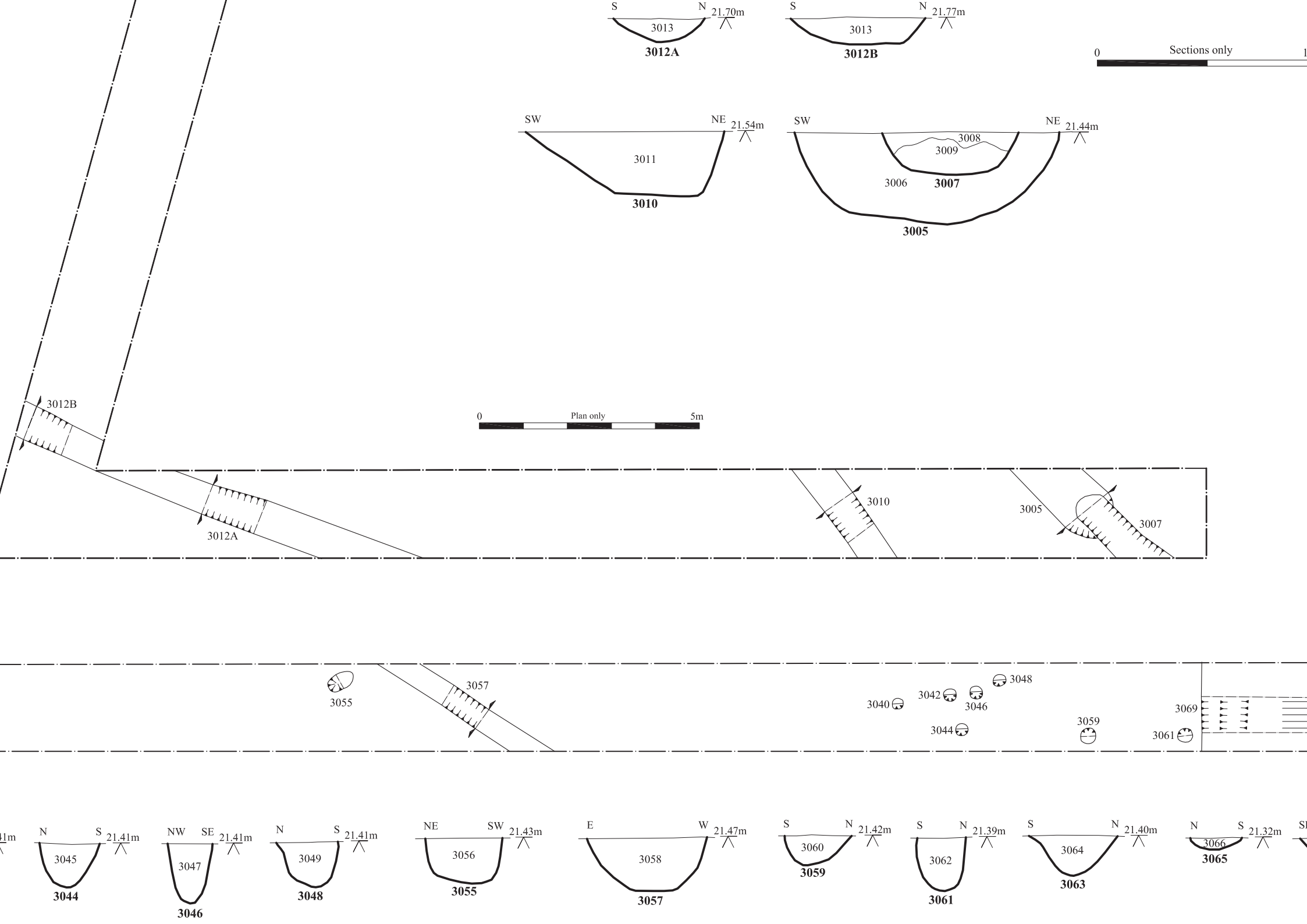
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3013
3012A
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Plan only
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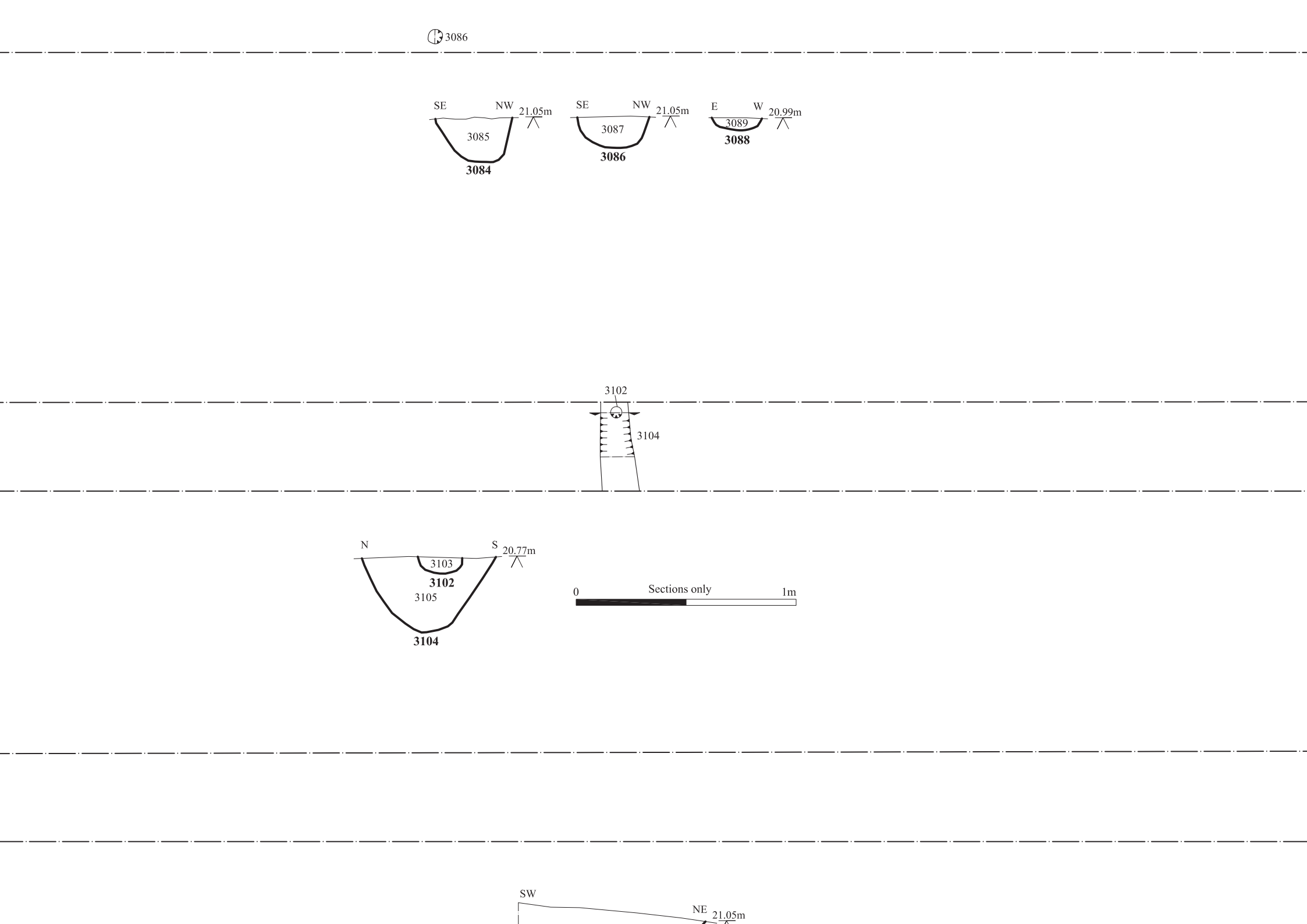
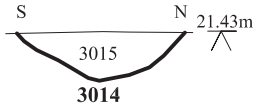
3066
3065


3086
SE
NW
21.05m
3085
3084
SE
NW
21.05m
3087
3086
E
W
20.99m
3089
3088
3102
3104
N
S
20.77m
3103
3102
3105
3104
0
Sections only
1m
SW
NE
21.05m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N
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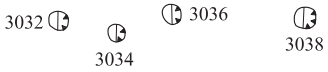
3015
3014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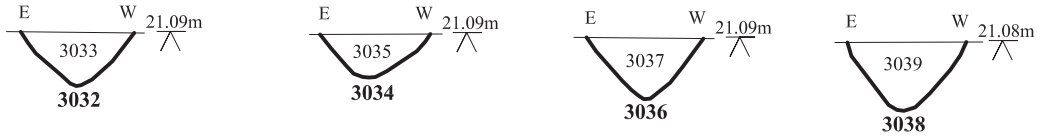
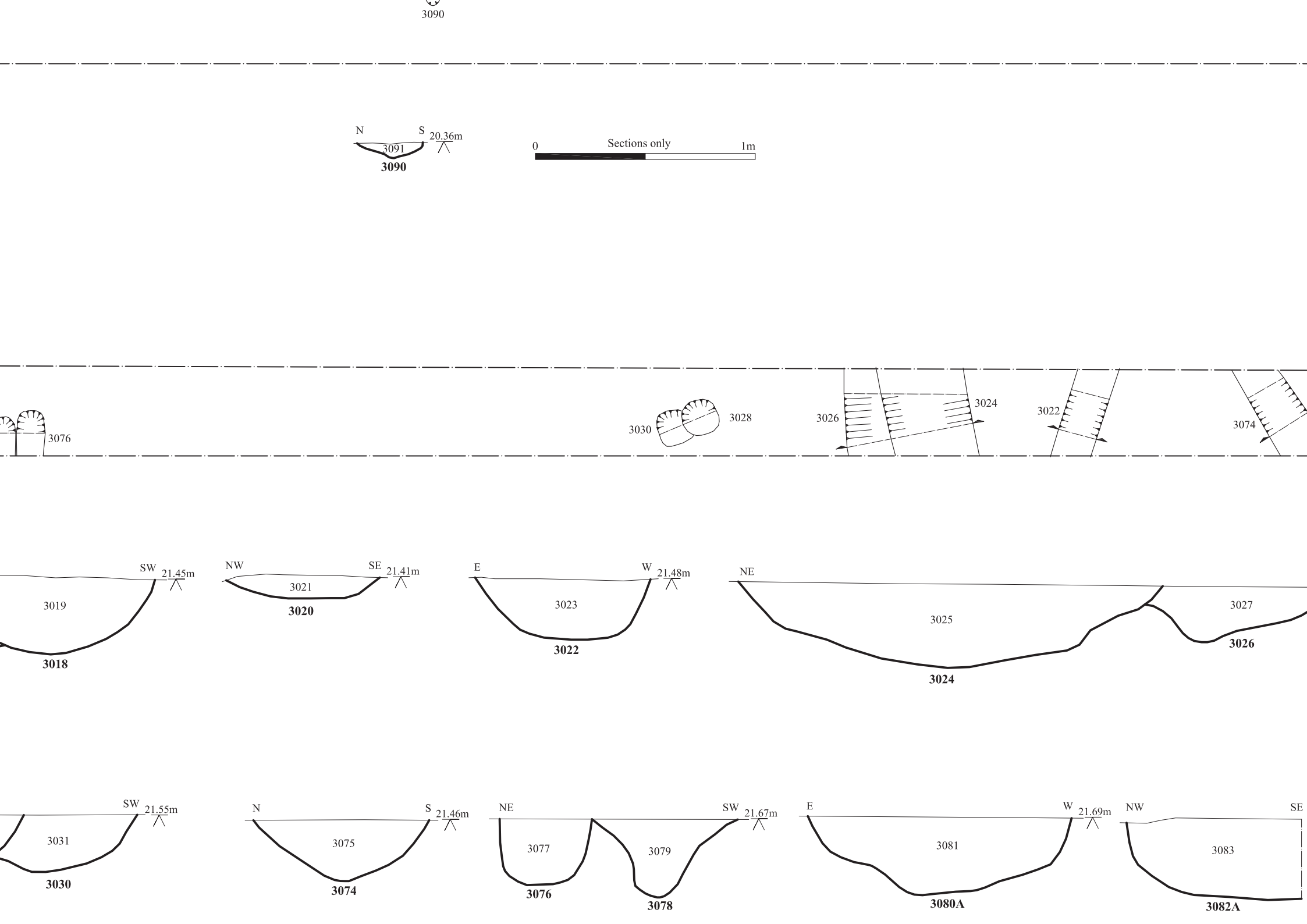
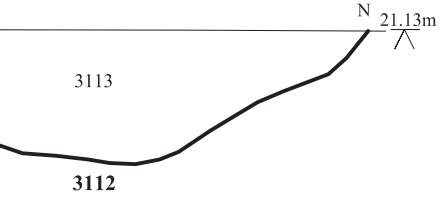

E
W
21.09m
3033
3032
E
W
21.09m
3035
3034
E
W
21.09m
3037
3036
E
W
21.08m
3039
3038

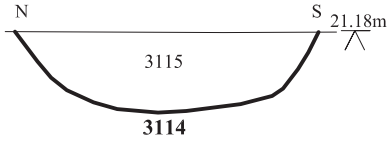

3072

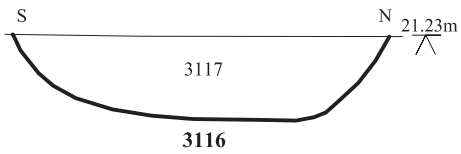

3100

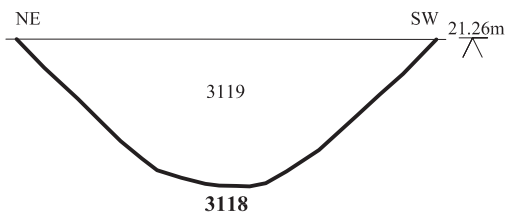

S
N
20.92m
S
N
20.71m

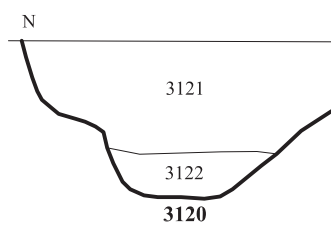

3090
N
S
20.36m
3091
3090
0
Sections only
1m
3076
3030
3028
3026
3024
3022
3074
SW
21.45m
3019
3018
NW
SE
21.41m
3021
3020
E
W
21.48m
3023
3022
NE
3025
3027
3026
3024
SW
21.55m
3031
3030
N
S
21.46m
3075
3074
NE
SW
21.67m
3077
3079
3076
3078
E
W
21.69m
3081
3080A
NW
SE
3083
3082A


N
21.13m
3113
3112


N
S
21.18m
3115
3114


S
N
21.23m
3117
3116


NE
SW
21.26m
3119
3118


N
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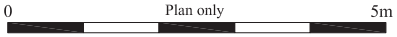
3122
3120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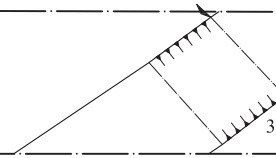
Plan only
5m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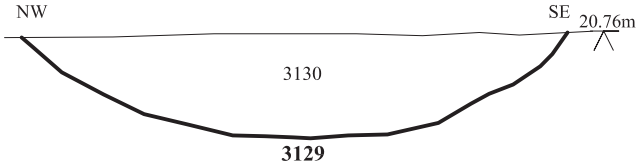
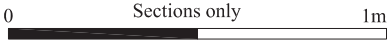
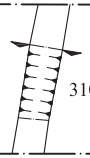

NW
SE
20.76m
3130
3129


0
Sections only
1m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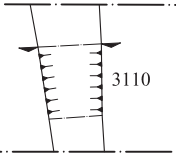
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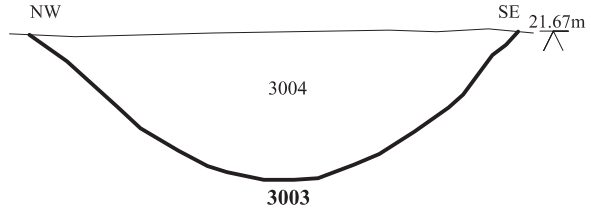
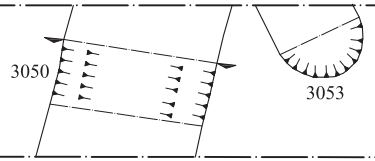

NW
SE
21.67m
3004
3003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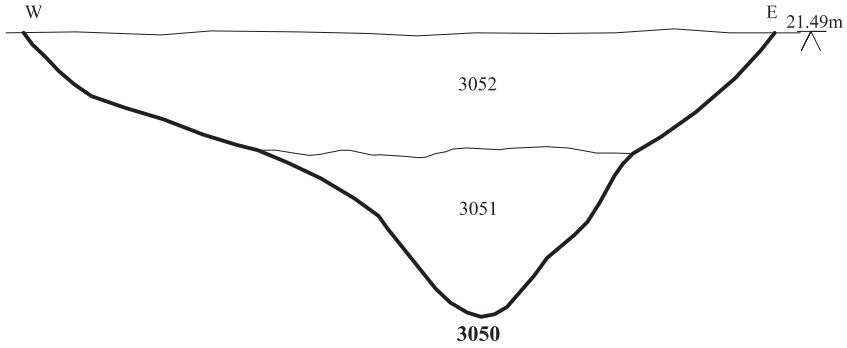
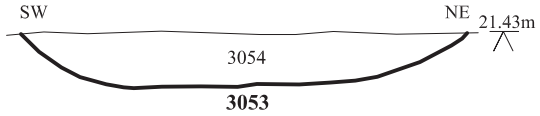
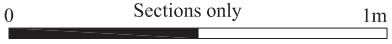
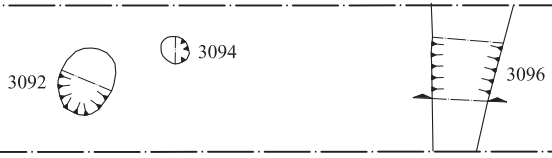

W
E
21.49m
3052
3051
3050


SW
NE
21.43m
3054
3053


0
Sections only
1m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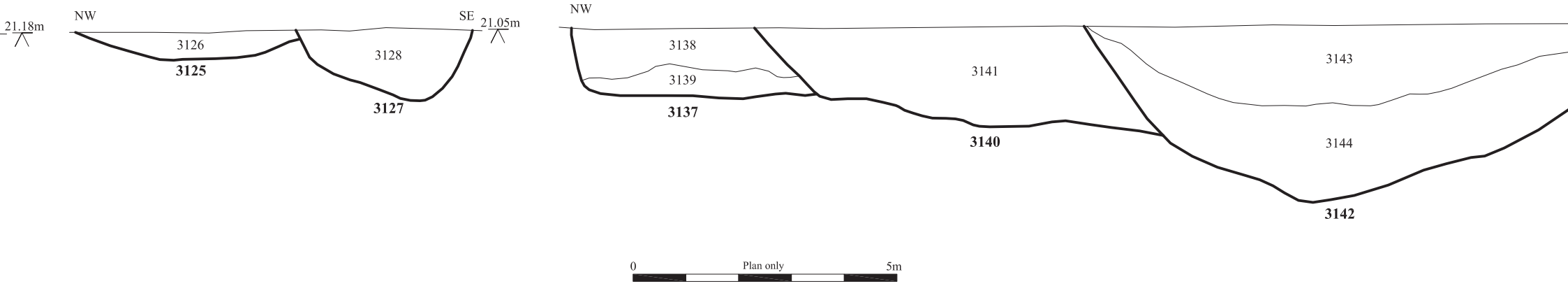
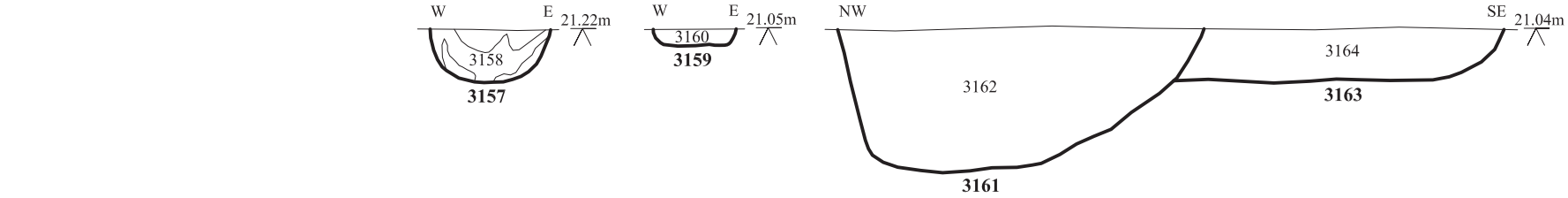
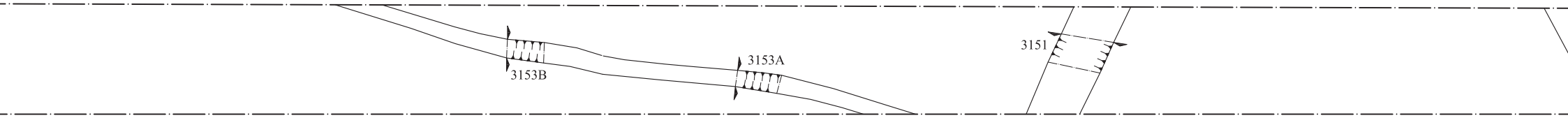
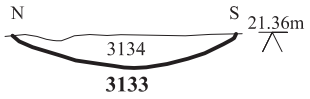
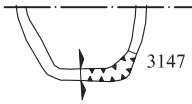






S
N 21.93m
N
S 21.83m
W
E
W
E


N
S
21.36m
3134
3133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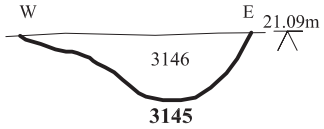
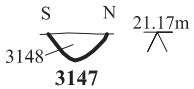
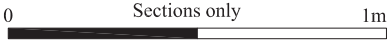
3145


W
E
21.09m
3146
3145


S
N
21.17m
3148
3147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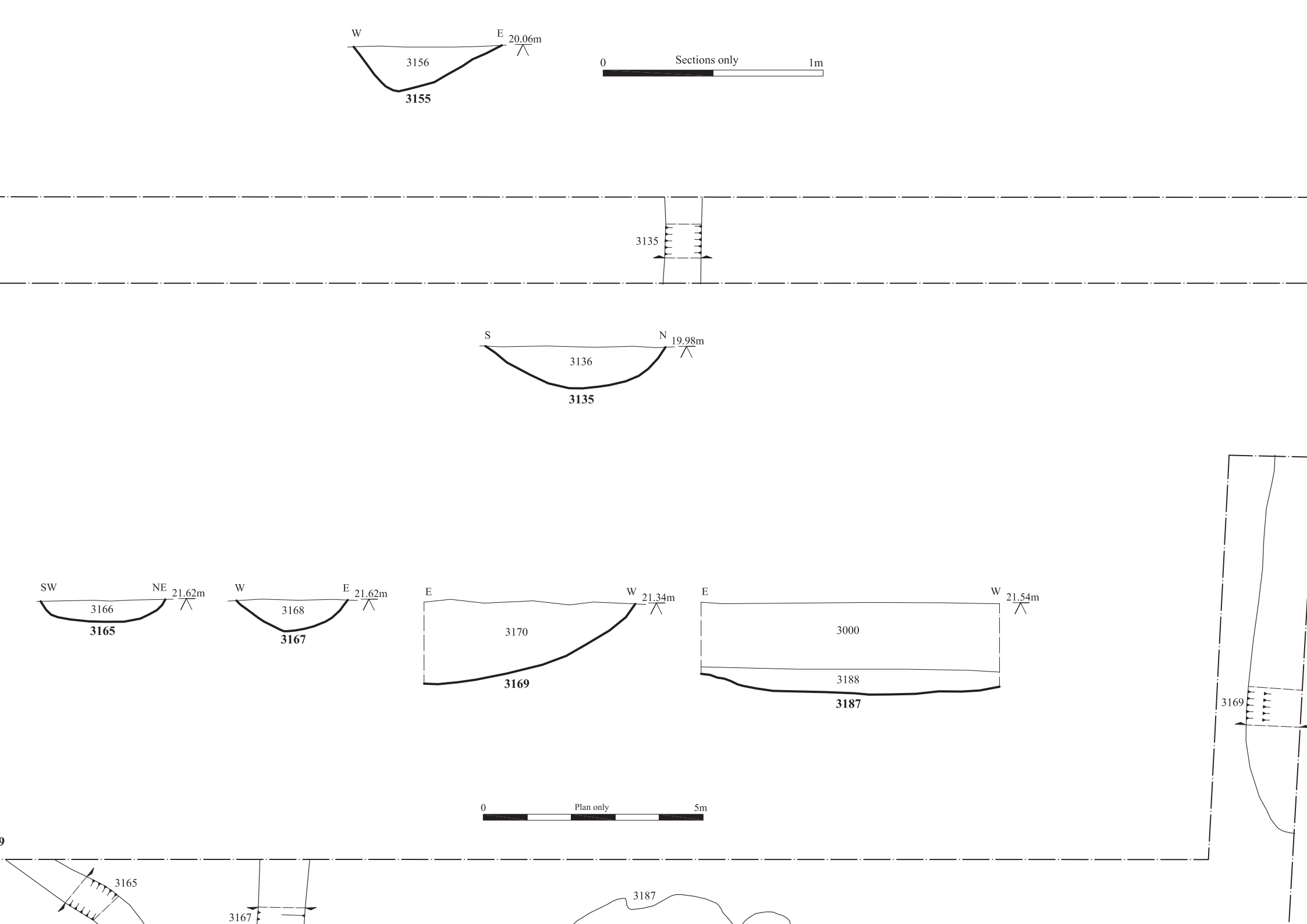
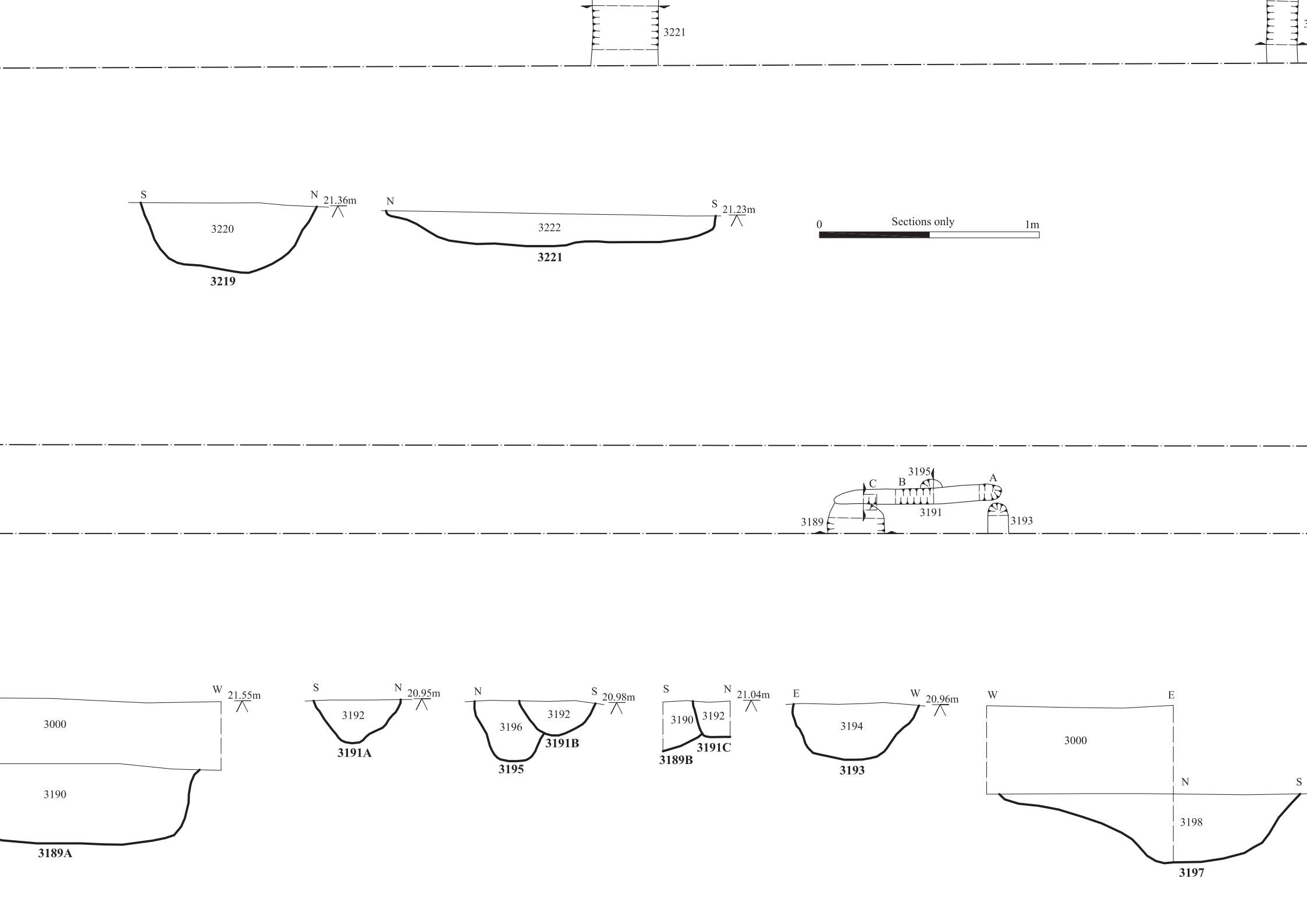
Sections only
1m


W
E
20.06m
3156
3155
0
Sections only
1m
3135
S
N
19.98m
3136
3135
SW
NE
21.62m
3166
3165
W
E
21.62m
3168
3167
E
W
21.34m
3170
3169
E
W
21.54m
3000
3188
3187
3169
0
Plan only
5m
9
3165
3167
3187


3221
S
N
21.36m
3220
3219
N
S
21.23m
3222
3221
0
Sections only
1m
3195
C
B
A
3189
3191
3193
W
21.55m
3000
3190
3189A
S
N
20.95m
3192
3191A
N
S
20.98m
3196
3192
3191B
3195
S
N
21.04m
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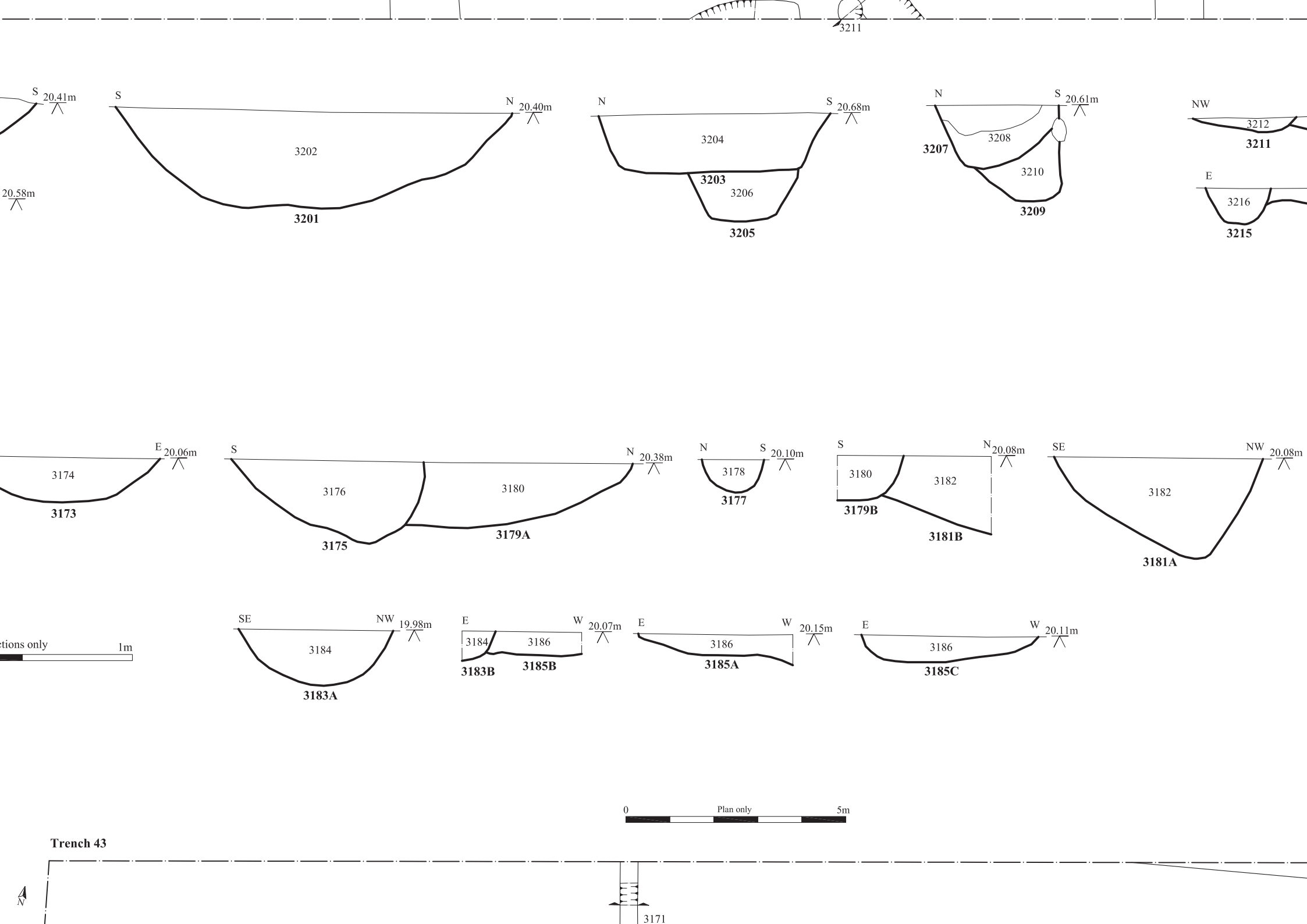
3198
3197


3211
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20.41m
20.58m
S
N
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3202
3201
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S
20.68m
3204
3203
3206
3205
N
S
20.61m
3208
3207
3210
3209
NW
3212
3211
E
3216
3215
E
20.06m
3174
3173
S
N
20.38m
3176
3180
3175
3179A
N
S
20.10m
3178
3177
S
N
20.08m
3180
3182
3179B
3181B
SE
NW
20.08m
3182
3181A
tions only
1m
SE
NW
19.98m
3184
3183A
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W
20.07m
3184
3186
3183B
3185B
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W
20.15m
3186
3185A
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W
20.11m
3186
3185C
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Plan only
5m
Trench 43
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3171