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LAND SOUTH OF BURY GROVE, WHITEDITCH LANE, NEWPORT, ESSEX CB 11 3UD

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 51722 34663	Report No: 5435
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: NP27
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7291
	Date: 19 September 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land South of Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex CB11 3UD</i>		
<p><i>In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex CB11 3UD (NGR TL 51722 34663; Figs. 1 - 2. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 20 new dwellings (Uttlesford Council Planning Ref. UTT/16/2024/FUL). The evaluation was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).</i></p> <p><i>Trial trenches 1 – 6 but not Trenches 7 and 8 contained archaeological features. The latter trenches (7 and 8) were located at the eastern end of the site. The features were most numerous towards the western end of the site: Trench 1 (8); 2 (7); 3 (1); 4 (5); 5 (1) and 6 (1). The features comprised pits and ditches, and some of the pits (F2037 and F2043 (Trench 1) and F2029 (Trench 6) may represent quarry pits or intercutting pits.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest finds were sherds of early Iron Age pottery from features in Trenches 2 (F2020), 4 (F2045), 5 (F2041) and 6 (F2029). The pottery survived as crumbs and is abraded. The best preserved is that from Pit F2029 (Trench 6) which comprises the remains of an early Iron Age bowl, potentially dating to the 8th to 6th centuries BC. Animal bone was found in association with the pottery. Ditch F2020 (Trench 2) and Pit F2029 (Trench 6) also contained CBM suggesting that the pottery is residual.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeology is directly comparable to that recorded within Area A of the adjacent excavation undertaken in 2016 (Mola, 2016; EHER 48597). Here 13 intercutting pits, a post hole and a ditch were recorded. The features contained late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery, animal bone and flint knapping debris</i></p> <p><i>Medieval (mid 13th – mid 15th century) pottery was present within Pit F2023 (Trench 1).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>September 2017</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>9291</i>	Site code	<i>NP27</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Pits, ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Early Iron Age pottery and animal bone</i>		
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>Newport</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CB11 3UD</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.85ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 51722 34663</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Pelham Structures Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land South of Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex CB11 3UD. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Edwards, N.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5435</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2017</i>		

LAND SOUTH OF BURY GROVE, WHITEDITCH LANE, NEWPORT, ESSEX CB 11 3UD

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex CB11 3UD (NGR TL 51722 34663; Figs. 1 - 2. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 20 new dwellings (Uttlesford Council Planning Ref. UTT/16/2024/FUL). The evaluation was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).

Trial trenches 1 – 6 but not Trenches 7 and 8 contained archaeological features. The latter trenches (7 and 8) were located at the eastern end of the site. The features were most numerous towards the western end of the site: Trench 1 (8); 2 (7); 3 (1); 4 (5); 5 (1) and 6 (1). The features comprised pits and ditches, and some of the pits (F2037 and F2043 (Trench 1) and F2029 (Trench 6) may represent quarry pits or intercutting pits.

The earliest finds were sherds of early Iron Age pottery from features in Trenches 2 (F2020), 4 (F2045), 5 (F2041) and 6 (F2029). The pottery survived as crumbs and is abraded. The best preserved is that from Pit F2029 (Trench 6) which comprises the remains of an early Iron Age bowl, potentially dating to the 8th to 6th centuries BC. Animal bone was found in association with the pottery. Ditch F2020 (Trench 2) and Pit F2029 (Trench 6) also contained CBM suggesting that the pottery is residual.

The archaeology is directly comparable to that recorded within Area A of the adjacent excavation undertaken in 2016 (Mola, 2016; EHER 48597). Here 13 intercutting pits, a post hole and a ditch were recorded. The features contained late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery, animal bone and flint knapping debris

Medieval (mid 13th – mid 15th century) pottery was present within Pit F2023 (Trench 1)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex CB11 3UD (NGR TL 51722 34663; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 20 new dwellings (Uttlesford Council Planning Ref. UTT/16/2024/FUL). The evaluation was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).

1.2 The evaluation represents the first phase of works required by the condition. If archaeological remains are present, ECC HEA may require further archaeological mitigation prior to the development.

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA, Richard Havis, *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation, Land South of Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport*, dated 29th July 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 31st July 2017), and approved by ECC HEA. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of

the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies on the western side of Whiteditch lane in Newport, to the south of the existing property of Bury Grove. It comprises c.0.85ha of former agricultural land. It is proposed to erect a new development of 20 new dwellings on the site, with associated works.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies at c.72-78m AOD on the western slope of the valley the River Cam, and its convergence with the tributary of Wicken Water. The two water courses pass c.500m to the east and south respectively, with the convergence c.620m to the south-east. The site slopes downwards at a relatively gentle gradient from west to east, towards the River Cam.

3.2 The solid geology is the Cretaceous New Pit Chalk Foundation (BGS 2016), overlain by a superficial (drift) geology of Lowestoft Formation Diamicton. This is overlain by calcareous soils of the Hanslope Association.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A glacial erratic, potentially a fallen standing stone, known as the Leper Stone is situated c.150m to the north-east. Archaeological investigations in the large fields immediately to the south of the site recorded two distinct areas of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age occupation comprising inter-cutting pit groups containing pottery, animal bone and struck flint. A middle Iron Age ditch was also recorded (Mola 2016; EHER 48597).

4.2 Newport is a medieval town (EHER 376-7) with a market place and royal manor of Saxon origin, though their precise location remains uncertain (HER 18803). The site is to the north-west of the core of the medieval town and the 12th century church of St. Mary (EHER 378 & 25503) and the supposed site of Newport Castle (EHER 234). A medieval guildhall survives on Belmont Hill/High Street (HER 18804), as do several timber-framed buildings of 15th-16th century origin (e.g. 25560 & 25567), while plots to the rear of these properties have revealed medieval features and pottery (HER 47611 & 14921). A medieval leper hospital with origins in the mid 12th century AD was also situated c.500m to the east (EHER 172 & 1938), and

investigations at the modern Carnation Nurseries site have recorded human burials and stone walls associated with the hospital (EHER 1939, 1936 & 7305)

4.3 The historic core of Newport, principally aligned along Belmont Hill/High Street and around the church preserves a high density of historic and listed buildings, ranging from the 16th to mid 19th centuries, with those closest to the site comprising the 18th century timber-framed houses at 4-6 Bury Water Lane c.350m to the south-east (HER 25558). Historic editions of the Ordnance Survey maps for the local area indicate the land west of White Ditch Lane, incorporating the site remained undeveloped until houses were built between 1921-51 fronting on to the road, including Mickldore, Holmwood, the bungalow and Branksome. The housing did not encroach on the site. Land to the south-east, on the opposite side of White Ditch Lane was quarried for gravel. Archaeological investigations at Bury Grove and Newport Free Grammar School did not record any archaeological features (EHER 48908 & 7307).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The ECC HEA advice required trial trenching of a c.5% sample of the proposed development site. Four trenches each 40m x 1.8m and four trenches each 20m x 1.8m were excavated (Fig.3).

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

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench description is presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 3 - 4

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 79.70m AOD		
0.00-0.26m	L2000	Topsoil: Firm, dark grey brown sandy clay
0.26 – 0.31m	L2001	Subsoil: Firm, mid yellow brown, silty clay with chalk
0.31 – 0.80m	L2044	Fill of F2043
0.80m+	L2002	Natural: Compact, pale yellow brown clay with moderate chalk

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 78.80m AOD		
0.00-0.18m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.18 – 0.37m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.37m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Trench 1 contained eight pits (F2007, F2016, F2018, F2023, F2035, F2037, F2039 and F2043). The majority of features were undated. Pit F2023 contained medieval (mid 13th – mid 15th century) pottery and Pit F2039 contained CBM. The larger pits, F2037 and F2043, may represent quarry pits or intercutting pits.

Eight pits were recorded and are tabulated below:

Cut	Fill	Profile	Fill	Spot Date
F2007	L2008	Sub-circular. Steep sides, shallow concave base 1.35 x 0.46+ x 0.40m	Firm, light yellow brown silty clay with moderate chalk lumps	-
F2016	L2017	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping sides, shallow concave base ? x 2.85 x 0.27m	Firm, light grey brown clay with chalk	- Cut by F2018
F2018	L2019	Sub-circular. Gently sloping sides, concave base 0.65+ x 0.55 x 0.09m	Firm, mid grey brown clay with frequent chalk	- Cut F2016
F2023	L2024	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping sides, flattish base ? x 2.20 x 0.31m	Firm, dark grey brown clay with frequent chalk	Medieval (mid 13 th – mid 15 th C) (3; 14g), CBM (31g), animal bone (18g)
Quarry Pit F2035	L2036	Sub-circular. Steep sides, flattish base 2.71 x 1.10+ x 0.51m	Firm, light grey brown clay with moderate chalk lumps and large flint fragments	- Cut F2037
Quarry Pit F2037	L2038	Sub-circular. Sides unseen, base unseen 6.00+ x 1.80+ x 0.40m+	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with chalk lumps	- Cut by F2035
F2039	L2040	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping sides, flattish base 0.90+ x 0.66+ x 0.33m	Firm, light grey brown clay with moderate chalk lumps	CBM (25g)
Quarry Pit F2043	L2044	Irregular in plan. Sides unseen, base unseen 8.00+ x 1.80+ x 0.50m+	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with chalk lumps	-

Trench 2 Figs. 3 & 4

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 79.10m AOD		
0.00-0.16m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.16 – 0.27m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.27m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 78.90m AOD		
0.00-0.22m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.22 – 0.46m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.46m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Trench 2 contained Pit 2027 and six ditches (F2003, F2005, F2011, F2014, F2020 and F2025). The majority of the features were undated. Ditch F2020 contained residual early Iron Age pottery and CBM.

Pit F2027 was circular (0.41 x 0.13m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2028, was a light yellow brown silty clay with moderate chalk. It contained no finds.

Six ditches were recorded and are tabulated below:

Cut	Fill	Profile	Fill	Spot Date
F2003	L2004	Linear. Moderately sloping sides, concave base. Orientated N / S 1.80+ x 1.01 x 0.24m	Compact, light grey brown clay with moderate chalk lumps	- Cut by F2005
F2005	L2006	Linear. Steep sides, concave base. Orientated NE / SW 1.80+ x 0.61 x 0.21m	Firm, dark grey brown clay	- Cut F2003
F2011	L2012 Basal	Linear. Steep – moderately sloping sides, concave base. Orientated NE / SW 1.80+ x 1.65 x 0.51m	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay	Modern drain pipe ditch Cut by F2014
-	L1013 Upper	-	Firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate small chalk lumps	-
F2014	L2015	Linear. Steep sides, concave base. Orientated E / W 1.80+ x 0.35 x 0.25m	Firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate small chalk lumps	Modern drain pipe ditch Cut F2011
F2020	L2021	Linear. Steep sides, concave base. Orientated NE / SW 1.80+ x 1.77 x 0.73m	Firm, mid yellow brown clay with frequent chalk lumps	Residual early Iron Age (5; 5g), CBM (129g), animal bone (45g), Fe. Frags (80g), struck flint (7g), shell (1g)

				Cut F2025
F2025	L2026	Linear. Gently sloping sides, concave base. Orientated NE / SW 1.80+ x 1.83 x 0.61m	Firm, mid yellow brown clay with frequent chalk lumps	- Cut by F2020

Trench 3 Fig. 3 & 4

Sample Section 3A 0.00 = 78.90m AOD		
0.00-0.17m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.17 – 0.31m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.31m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Sample Section 3B 0.00 = 78.51m AOD		
0.00-0.24m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.24 – 0.40m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.40m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Trench 3 contained undated Ditch F2009.

Ditch F2009 was linear (1.80+ x 0.55 x 0.22m), orientated E / W. It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1010, was a light yellow brown silty clay with moderate chalk. It contained no finds.

Trench 4 Figs. 3 & 4

Sample Section 4A 0.00 = 78.52m AOD		
0.00-0.15m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.15 – 0.40m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.40 – 0.84m	L2046	Fill of F2015
0.84m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Sample Section 4B 0.00 = 78.11m AOD		
0.00-0.22m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.22 – 0.30m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.30m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Trench 4 contained Ditch F2047 and Pits F2031, F2033, F2045 and F2049. Pit F2045 contained a crumb of early Iron Age pottery and Pit F2049 contained CBM.

Ditch F2047 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 1.80+ x 0.49m), orientated NW / SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1048, was a firm,

mid yellow brown silty clay. It contained no finds. F2047 was cut by Pit F2049.

Four pits were recorded and are tabulated below:

Cut	Fill	Profile	Fill	Spot Date
F2031	L2032	Sub-circular. Steep sides, flattish base ? x 1.01 x 0.17m	Firm, mid grey brown clay with occasional sub-angular flints	-
F2033	L2034	Sub-circular. Steep sides, flattish base ? x 1.04 x 0.42m	Firm, mid grey brown clay with moderate large sub-angular flints	-
F2045	L2046	Sub-circular. Steep sides, flattish base ? x 0.69 x 0.39m	Firm, mid grey brown clay	Early Iron Age pottery (1; 1g)
F2049	L2050 Basal	Elongated in plan. Sides unseen, base unseen 1.20+ x 0.61+ x 0.42m	Firm, light grey brown sandy clay with moderate small chalk lumps	CBM (47g)
-	L2051 Upper	-	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk lumps	-

Trench 5 Figs 3 & 6

Sample Section 5A 0.00 = 78.63m AOD		
0.00-0.18m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.18 – 0.32m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.32m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Sample Section 5B 0.00 = 77.42m AOD		
0.00-0.17m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.17 – 0.27m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.27m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Trench 5 revealed Ditch F2041, and it contained abraded early Iron Age pottery.

Ditch F2041 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.55 x 0.28m), orientated N / S. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1042, was a mid yellow brown silty clay. It contained early Iron Age pottery (1; 2g) and animal bone (6g).

Trench 6 Figs. 3 & 6

Sample Section 6A 0.00 = 77.92m AOD		
0.00-0.19m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.19 – 0.28m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.28m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Sample Section 6B 0.00 = 77.48m AOD		
0.00-0.16m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.16 – 0.29m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.29m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Trench 6 contained ?Quarry Pit F2029. It contained the largest number of early Iron Age pottery sherds (17; 96g), and CBM (17g).

?Quarry Pit F2029 was not fully exposed in plan (9.10+ x 1.80+ x 0.57m). It had moderately sloping sides and its base was unseen. Its fill, L2030, was a mid grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk. It contained early Iron Age pottery (17; 96g), and CBM (17g)

Trench 7 Fig. 3

Sample Section 7A 0.00 = 76.67m AOD		
0.00-0.16m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.16 – 0.25m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.25m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Sample Section 7B 0.00 = 74.91m AOD		
0.00-0.18m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.18 – 0.30m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.30m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 8 Fig. 3

Sample Section 8A 0.00 = 76.11m AOD		
0.00-0.20m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.20 – 0.31m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.31m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Sample Section 8B 0.00 = 75.93m AOD		
0.00-0.22m	L2000	Topsoil: As above
0.22 – 0.29m	L2001	Subsoil: As above
0.29m+	L2002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L2000, a firm, dark grey brown sandy clay (0.15 – 0.26m thick). Below L2000, was Subsoil L2001, a firm, mid yellow brown, silty clay with chalk (0.05 – 0.24m thick)

8.2 At the base of the sequence was the natural, L2002, a compact, pale yellow brown clay with moderate chalk (0.27 – 0.84 m below the present day ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F2007	Pit	-
	F2016	Pit	-
	F2018	Pit	-
	F2023	Pit	Medieval (mid 13 th – mid 15 th century) pottery
	F2035	Pit	-
	F2037	Quarry Pit	-
2	F2039	Pit	CBM
	F2043	Quarry Pit	-
	F2003	Ditch	-
	F2005	Ditch	-

	F2011	Ditch	-
	F2014	Ditch	-
	F2020	Ditch	Residual early Iron Age pottery and CBM.
	F2025	Ditch	-
	F2027	Pit	-
3	F2009	Ditch	-
4	F2031	Pit	-
	F2033	Pit	-
	F2045	Pit	Early Iron Age pottery
	F2047	Ditch	-
	F2049	Pit	CBM
5	F2041	Ditch	Early Iron Age pottery
6	F2029	Quarry Pit	Early Iron Age pottery sherds (17; 96g), CBM (17g).

9.2 Trenches 1 – 6 but not Trenches 7 and 8 contained archaeological features. The latter trenches (7 and 8) were located at the eastern end of the site.

9.3 The features were most numerous towards the western end of the site: Trench 1 (8); 2 (7); 3 (1); 4 (5); 5 (1) and 6 (1). The features comprised pits and ditches, and some of the pits (F2037 and F2043 (Trench 1) and F2029 (Trench 6) may represent quarry pits or intercutting pits.

9.4 The earliest finds were sherds of early Iron Age pottery from features in Trenches 2 (F2020), 4 (F2045), 5 (F2041) and 6 (F2029). The pottery survived as crumbs and is abraded. The best preserved is that from Pit F2029 (Trench 6) which comprises the remains of an early Iron Age bowl, potentially dating to the 8th to 6th centuries BC. Animal bone was found in association with the pottery. Ditch F2020 (Trench 2) and Pit F2029 (Trench 6) also contained CBM suggesting that the pottery is residual.

9.5 The archaeology is directly comparable to that recorded within Area A of the adjacent excavation undertaken in 2016 (MoLA, 2016; EHER 48597). Here 13 intercutting pits, a post hole and a ditch were recorded. The features contained late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery, animal bone and flint knapping debris. The late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery from previous investigations was dominated by plain body sherds with few diagnostic sherds. The assemblage from this site, though more limited in quantity, includes a more diagnostic vessel type, and therefore may augment the chronology of prehistoric activity, supporting a date within 8th to 6th centuries BC.

9.6 Medieval (mid 13th – mid 15th century) pottery was present within Pit F2023 (Trench 1)

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Pelham Structures Ltd for funding the evaluation and for their assistance (in particular Mr Chris Hennem and Mr Daniel Needham).

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
2020	2021		2	Fill of Ditch	Early Iron Age	5	5	129	45	Fe.Frags M.Shell	3	80
2023	2024		1	Fill of Pit	Mid 13th-Mid 15th C	3	12	31	18		1	1
2029	2030		6	Fill of Quarry Pit	Early Iron Age	17	96	17				
2039	2040		1	Fill of Pit				25				
2041	2042		5	Fill of Ditch	Early Iron Age	1	2		6			
2045	2046		4	Fill of Pit	Early Iron Age	1	1					
2049	2050		4	Fill of Ditch/Pit				47				

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Early Iron Age Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The assemblage contained a total of 24 sherds (104g) of early Iron Age pottery in a highly fragmented but only slightly abraded condition, predominantly contained in a single Quarry Pit: F2029, with crumbs of comparable pottery in further pits and ditches (Table 1). The pottery in Quarry Pit F2029 appears to be derived from a single early Iron Age bowl, potentially dating to the 8th to 6th centuries BC, though this is based on limited diagnostic evidence.

Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
Quarry Pit F2029	17	96
Other features	7	8
<i>Total</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>104</i>

Table 1: Quantification of early Iron Age pottery by sherd count and weight (in grams) in feature groups

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE (including minimum number of vessels) 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). All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

The Early Iron Age Pottery

The EIA pottery occurred in a single hand-made, bonfire-fired fabric that may be classified as a medium-coarse flint-tempered fabric, with no evidence of surface treatment. The fabric can be described as:

- F1 Flint-tempered ware. Patchy red-black firing with inclusions of moderately-sorted, common calcined flint (0.25-3mm). Slightly abrasive to lumpy surfaces (no surface treatment).

The pottery group in Quarry Pit F2029 is comprised of 17 sherds (96g) that although non-cross-joining appear to be derived from a single bowl. They include a single small fragment of a plain flared rim, characteristic of early Iron Age (c.800-600BC) bowls in the region, although the absence of any further profile or decorative details limits the potential for further meaningful comparisons of form type. The other point of note is that there are traces of soot on the exterior of the vessel, indicating it may have been used as a cooking pot over a fire or embers. The crumbs of pottery contained in Ditches F2020, F2041 and Pit F2045 are also in fabric F1 and appear of the same date, though it is unclear if they are derived from the same vessel. Previous excavation at Bury Water Lane, Newport recorded a pit cluster that contained a slightly larger assemblage of comparable pottery, similarly limited in

diagnostic components (Chapman 2016, 19; Doherty 2015), and this assemblage likely represents a continuation of the same early Iron Age activity.

Bibliography

Chapman, A. 2016 'Prehistoric Pottery' in Wolframm-Murray, Y. *Archaeological mitigation on land at Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex*. MOLA Northampton Report No. 16/197, 18-20
 Doherty, A, 2015 The prehistoric pottery in Hewitt, G, *Archaeological evaluation of land at Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex*. MOLA Northampton Report No. 15/46

The Medieval Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered three sherds 3 sherds weighing 12g of medieval pottery from Pit F1024 (L1023), which are residual as they appear with post-medieval CBM. The pottery consists of a small Heddingham fine ware jug rod handle with splash glaze, and two sherds of late medieval Colchester type ware. One of them is a jug rim sherds with clear glaze on the inner and outer surfaces, the other a body sherd.

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes (in brackets) are those used for the Essex County Council pottery type series.

Key:

HFW (20D): Heddingham Fine Ware mid 12th-mid 14th

COL-T (21): Colchester type ware 13th-mid 16th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 2023	2024	1x6g HFW 2x6g COLC	Mid 13 th -mid 15 th	HFW: small rod handle, splash of pale green glaze COL: jug rim with clear glaze

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

Cotter, J. P., 2000 Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85 *English Heritage*

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Trial-trench excavations recovered a total of 29 fragments (480g) of late post-medieval to early modern (18th-19th century) CBM (Table 3), in a highly abraded and fragmented condition that is best-regarded as rubble.

The fragments were recorded by fragment count and weight per context, with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

CBM type	Date	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg tile	18 th -19 th century	20	304
Soft red brick		9	176
<i>Total</i>		<i>12</i>	<i>10919</i>

Table 3: Quantification of CBM

The CBM was manufactured in an orange fabric typical of industries in Essex, utilizing fine quartz sand temper (<0.25mm) that also included occasional flint and red iron-rich pellets (<2mm), resulting in hard-fired products with a slightly powdery feel. The peg tile are 12mm thick with a medium sanded base, while no extant dimension or technological traits remained extant on the 'red' brick. Small fragments of peg tile were contained in Pits F2023, F2039, Quarry Pit F2029 and as un-stratified material; and small fragments of red brick in Ditches F2020 and F2049; with no indication that any of the limited material is directly related to a structure in the vicinity.

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E M Cussans

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from trial trench excavations at Bury Grove. Details of contexts and spot dates are given in Table 4. Preservation was rated as very poor to poor on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. Bones appeared heavily abraded and weathered with a great deal of surface loss and longitudinal cracking. Fresh breakages were common, and where possible fragment were repatriated. No gnawing or burning was noted on any of the bones.

A total of nine elements were identified (Table 4), the majority of which could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. The only identified taxa present was sheep/goat. This was represented by two fragments of metapodial (foot bone) (L2021) and a fragmented mandible (L2024). The mandible included the third molar, which was in wear indicating the presence of an adult animal. No signs of butchery or pathology were noted on any of the bones, although if present these may well have been obscured by the poor surface condition of the bone. Little else can be said about this very small assemblage.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Sheep/Goat	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Total
2020	2021	Fill of Ditch	Early Iron Age	Poor	2	1	2	5
2023	2024	Fill of Pit	Mid 13th-Mid 15th C	Poor	1			1
2041	2042	Fill of Ditch	Early Iron Age	Very poor		3		3
				Total	3	4	2	9

Table 4. Quantification of animal bone from Bury Grove

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During trial excavations at Bury Grove, Newport, four bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. Three of these deposits from features F2020, F2041 and F2029 are spot dated to the early Iron Age period. 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; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. 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.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 5. Aside from a small number of charcoal fragments, no identifiable carbonised remains were recovered from the samples. A small range of terrestrial molluscs were present, representing grassland (*Pupilla muscorum*) and ground litter (*Discus rotundatus* and *Trichia hispida* group) habitats.

Contaminants

Modern rootlets were abundant in all four of the bulk sample light fractions. Not only could these reflect some biological disturbance of the sampled deposits but also, the thick bundles of roots could have obscured small remains of environmental archaeological significance. Every effort was made to disaggregate the roots in order to make a detailed assessment of the material.

Conclusions

The paucity of carbonised remains from the sampled deposits indicates these features were not commonly receiving debris from domestic or agricultural activity. This may indicate that the sampled features were peripheral to the main areas of early Iron Age settlement.

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Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2nd edn), Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

Kerney, M.P. 1999, *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*, Harley Books, Colchester

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D. 1979, *A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins, London

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F2007 in Trench 1 looking south



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F2016 and F2018 in Trench 1 looking north-east



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F2023 in Trench 1 looking north-west



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F2035 in Trench 1 looking north



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View of Trench 2 looking north



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F2003 and F2005 in Trench 2 looking west



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F2011 and F1014 in Trench 2 looking north-west



9
F2020 and F2025 in Trench 2 looking north-west



10
F2027 in Trench 2 looking west



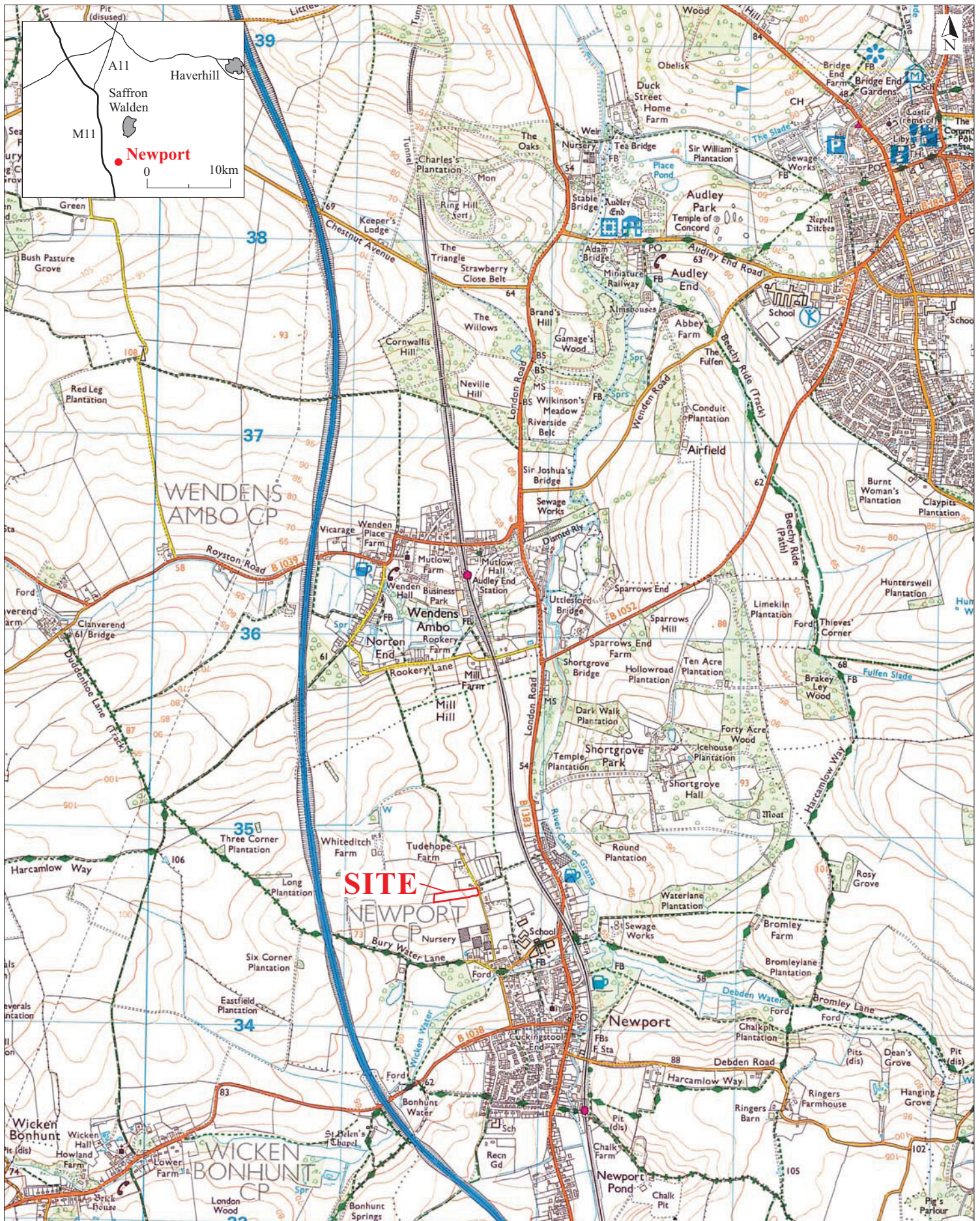
11
F2009 in Trench 3 looking west



12
F2029 in Trench 6 looking north

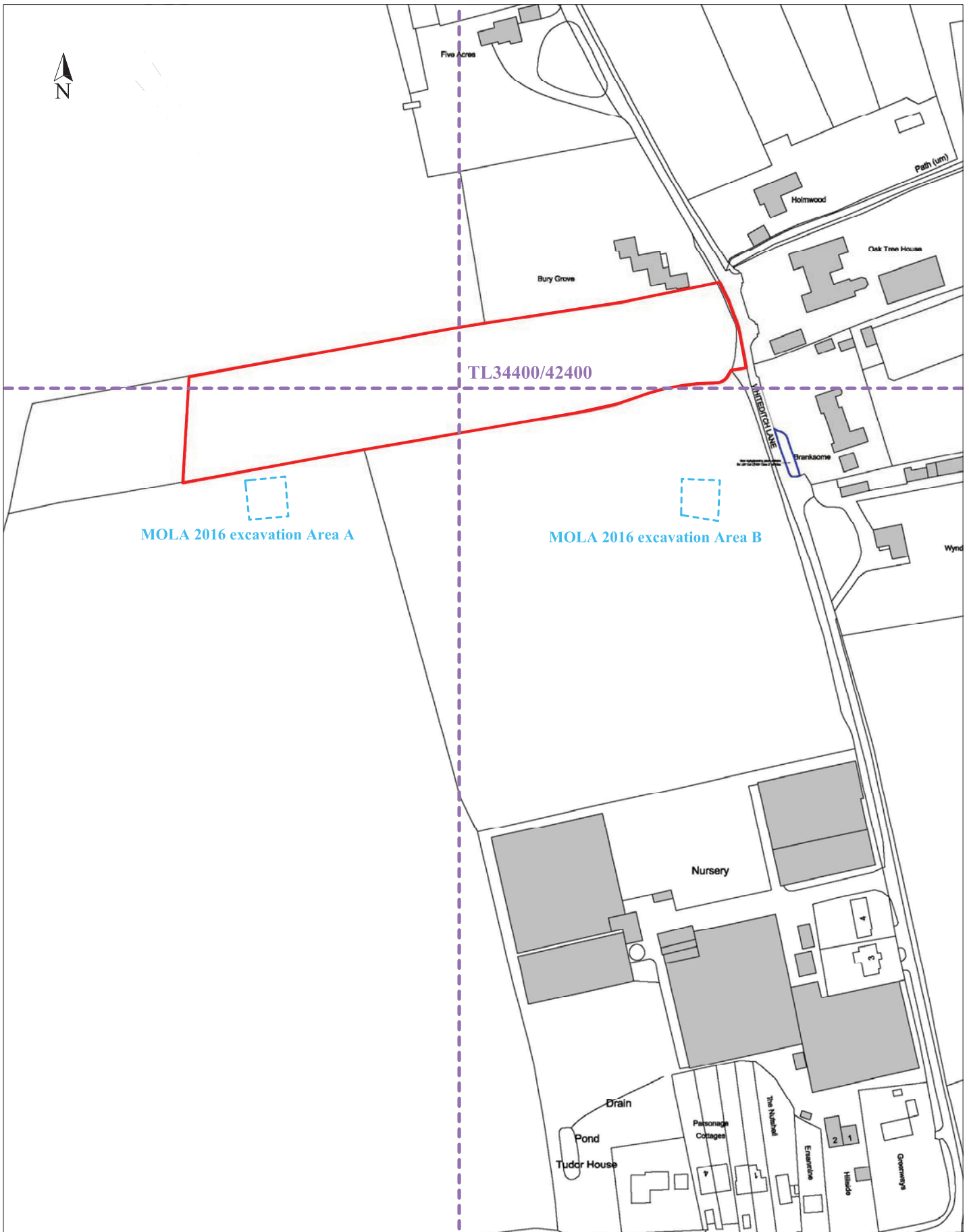


13
F2029 in Trench 6 looking west



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 White Ditch Lane, Newport, Essex (P7291)



0 75m

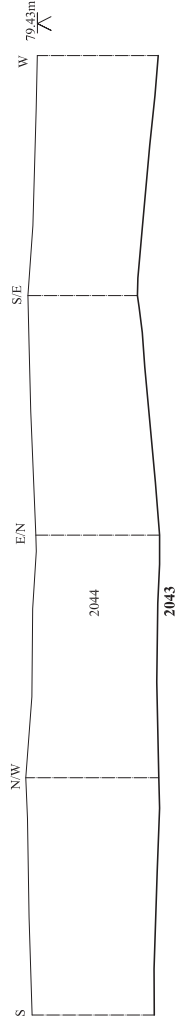
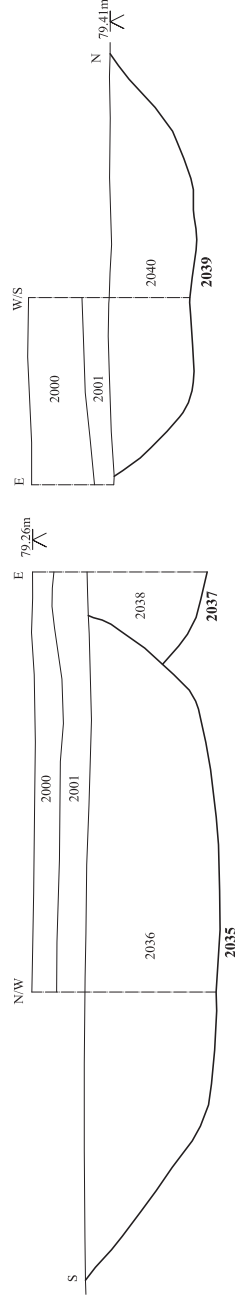
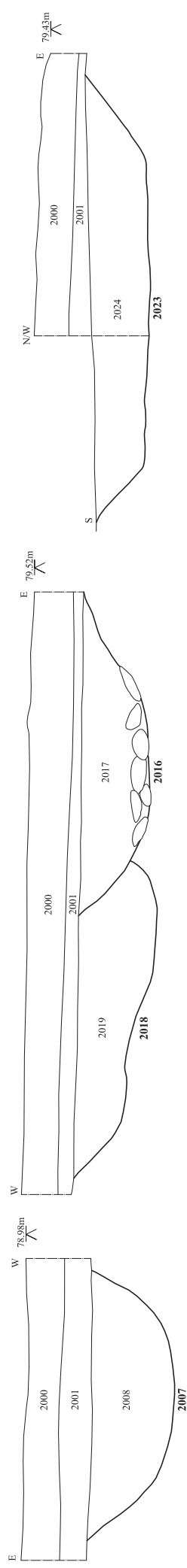
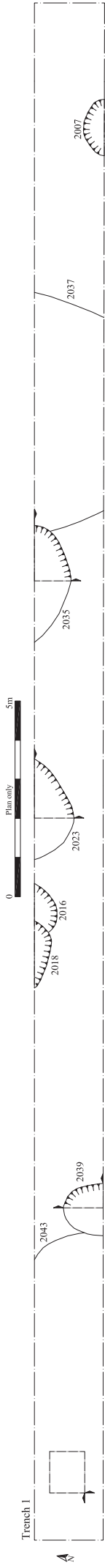
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2000 at A4
 White Ditch Lane, Newport, Essex (P7291)



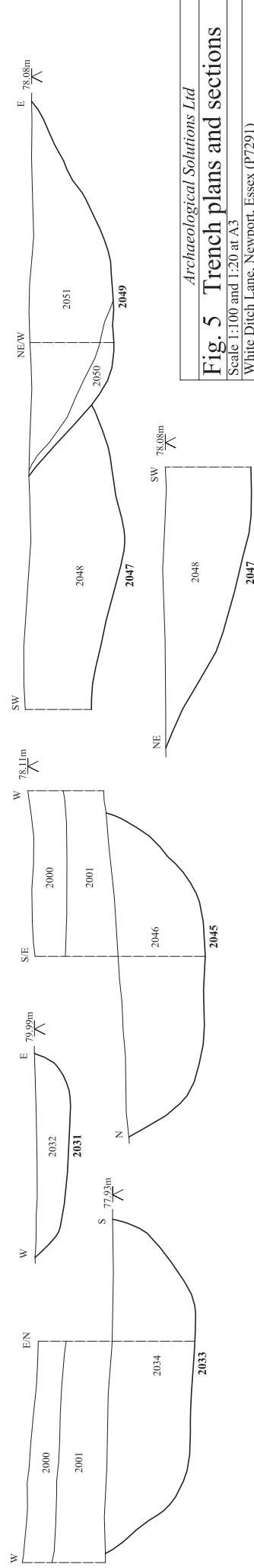
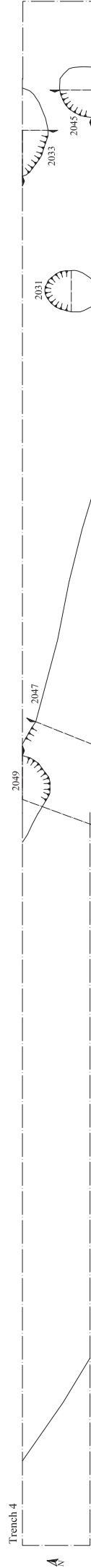
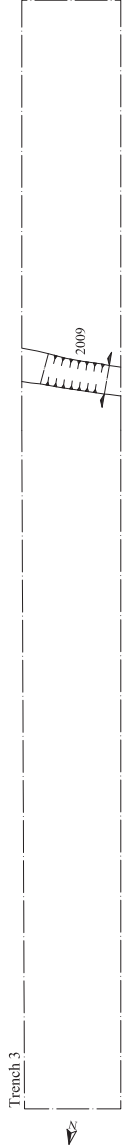
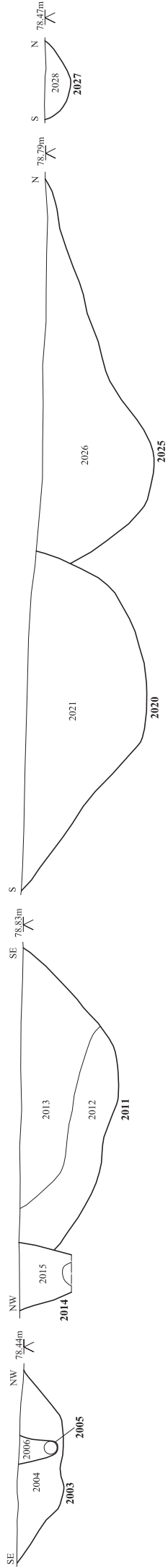
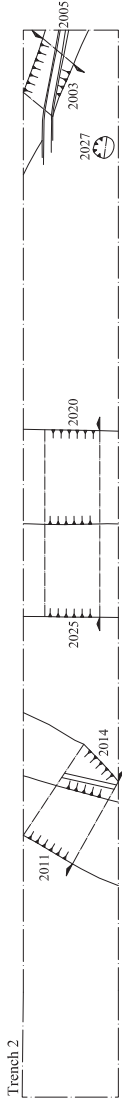
Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4

White Ditch Lane, Newport, Essex (P7291)



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Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
 White Ditch Lane, Newport, Essex (P7291)



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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
 White Ditch Lane, Newport, Essex (P7291)

