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OAKLANDS, ONGAR ROAD, GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: John Haygreen (Fieldwork and Report) Peter Thompson (Background)	
NGR: TL 62877 20892	Report No: 5781
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: GDOR 19
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7855
	Date: 18 March 2019

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CONTENTS

PROJECT SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION**
- 6 METHODOLOGY**
- 7 RESULTS**
- 8 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 9 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 10 DISCUSSION**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

- 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
- 2 SPECIALIST REPORT**

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex		
<p><i>In March 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR TL 62877 20892; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of 25 dwelling and associated infrastructure (Uttlesford Council Planning Approval Ref. UTT/17/2238/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).</i></p> <p><i>Features were present in the majority of trenches. Principally they comprised undated ditches, which may be associated with a late Iron Age to Roman ladder fields system recorded to the north, but this remains a very tentative association without any supporting artefactual evidence, and the ditches are variable in their orientation and form. A post hole, tree hollow and natural depression were also present. Trench 1 contained a series of layers which were examined by hand dug test pits, labelled 1 – 3. The layers contained 19th century pottery and residual fragmented and abraded Roman CBM. The presence of Roman CBM is not unexpected given the proximity of the nucleus of a Roman town. No evidence for the projected route of a Roman road was recorded, which if extant may follow a more direct route to the west of the site.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	March 2019		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7702	Site code	GDOR 19
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use			
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Ditches		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Uttlesford	Great Dunmow
HER/ SMR for area	Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (SHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	1.09ha.		
NGR	TL 62877 20892		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.68m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Essex County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Go Homes		
Full title	Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Haygreen, J. and Thompson, P.		
Report no.	5781		
Date (of report)	March 2019		

OAKLANDS, ONGAR ROAD, GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR TL 62877 20892; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of 25 dwelling and associated infrastructure (Uttlesford Council Planning Approval Ref. UTT/17/2238/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).

The Historic Environment Record identifies the recent excavation of the remains of a late Iron Age and Roman settlement on land immediately to the north of the Oakland site (Pers Comm Archaeology South East). On this site following trial trenching, open area excavation was undertaken on a sequence of enclosures forming a ladder field system of Late Iron Age or Roman date. Post excavation work is still underway on this site.

The development area also possibly contained the Roman road leading from Great Dunmow, south westwards towards Harlow (EHER 1234). It was expected that the Roman site will extend into this development area.

Features were present in the majority of trenches. Principally they comprised undated ditches, which may be associated with a late Iron Age to Roman ladder fields system recorded to the north, but this remains a very tentative association without any supporting artefactual evidence, and the ditches are variable in their orientation and form. A post hole, tree hollow and natural depression were also present. Trench 1 contained a series of layers which were examined by hand dug test pits, labelled 1 – 3. The layers contained 19th century pottery and residual fragmented and abraded Roman CBM. The presence of Roman CBM is not unexpected given the proximity of the nucleus of a Roman town. No evidence for the projected route of a Roman road was recorded, which if extant may follow a more direct route to the west of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR TL 62877 20892; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of 25 dwelling and associated infrastructure (Uttlesford Council Planning Approval Ref. UTT/17/2238/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA), *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex*, dated 9th November 2018), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 16th November 2018) and approved by ECC HEA. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

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

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Great Dunmow is located 10km east of Stansted Airport, with the development site to the south of the town, at the junction of the A120 and Ongar Road. It is within a large plot of approximately 1.1ha comprising two residential buildings, two ancillary buildings and an open paddock to the south.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.2 The site is located at 68m AOD on a hill top or spur with the River Chelmer flowing 700m to the east, and a small tributary stream to the north. The local soils are of the Ludford association characterised as deep well-drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel, with slight risk of water erosion. The underlying drift geology is Lowestoft Formation chalky till to the north of the site, while the southern part is made up of Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. The solid geology is London Clay Formation comprising clay, silt and sand.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 During the Roman period a small town developed on the junction between Stane Street and the Roman roads which ran northeast to south-west from Sudbury to London, and north-west to south-east from Cambridge to Chelmsford. The road heading south-west from Great Dunmow crosses the development site (EHER 1234). The Historic Environment Record identifies the recent excavation of the remains of a late Iron Age and Roman settlement on land immediately to the north of the Oakland site (*Pers. Comm. Archaeology South East*). On this site, following trial trenching and open area excavation, a sequence of enclosures forming a ladder field system of Late Iron Age or Roman date were identified. Post-excavation work is still underway on this site.

4.2 An archaeological evaluation centred on 130m north-west of the Oaklands site identified two post-medieval ditches and a post-medieval or modern fence-line represented by a line of three post-holes. A very low quantity of Roman ceramic building material and earlier Iron Age and Saxon pottery sherds were also present, but were residual in later deposits. The results of the evaluation suggest that the immediate area of this site has never been intensively occupied and may always have consisted of woodland and/or farmland (EHER 48902).

4.3 An archaeological excavation in advance of the construction of the A120 Trunk Road which reached to within 280m north-west of the Oaklands site identified prehistoric activity (EHER 45331). The features were in two dispersed clusters, the first a small assemblage of 44 pieces of worked flint, including blades was found in the east area and dated to possible Mesolithic and later Neolithic industries. Linear features, postholes and pits were also

found, some of which contained late Bronze Age pottery. In the west area were pits and a possible unurned cremation burial. An assemblage including Late Bronze Age pottery, animal bone, worked flint and fired clay was recovered from these pits. Fieldwalking along the line of the A120 also produced a concentration of Roman tile and post medieval pottery from the southern edge of the Oaklands site (EHER 14487, EHER 14488). However an archaeological evaluation failed to identify any further evidence of Roman settlement.

4.4 The medieval moated site of 'Clopon Hall' is located approximately 330m south-west of the Oaklands site with associated earthworks including fishponds (EHER 1233), and associated Grade II listed early post-medieval ancillary buildings nearby (EHER 37769, EHER 37770). An archaeological evaluation and small excavation off Clapton Hall Lane centred on 200m south-west of the site, revealed a series of undated postholes (presumably indicating a line of fencing), a late medieval/post-medieval ditch, a modern refuse pit and three undatable pits (EHER 49159). A second medieval moated manor was Olives or Shingle Hall, located approximately 360m west of the Oaklands site, and two existing ponds may be remnants of the moat (EHER 1231). The replacement 17th century former manor house that now stands there is Grade II listed (EHER 1232).

4.5 The 1881 First Edition OS map shows that there is a pond located approximately 30m north-west of the Oaklands building (Fig. 9), which still exists today. There is also an east-west aligned field boundary crossing the development site to the south of Oaklands house. However, this field boundary is located north of the site's trial trenches and so is not recorded in them. The two north-south aligned field boundaries at either end of the east-west boundary are same as the existing site boundaries today. A square structure in its own L-shaped enclosure is probably the site of the brick kiln. The 1897 OS map shows one change to the previous map in that the L-shaped enclosure is now rectangular (Fig. 10). The subsequent 1923, 1947 and 1951 OS maps all show no change to the site, with the notable exception of the addition of Oaklands by the time of the 1947 map.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The ECC HEA advice required trial trenching to cover 5% of the site area (1.09ha.). 10 trenches of 30m x 1.8m were excavated (Figs. 2 – 3). The trenches excluded the root protection areas.

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs. 3 - 4

6.1 The encountered stratigraphy was recorded in sample sections presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 4

<i>Sample section 1A</i> 0.00 = 69.80m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand
0.31 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, light orange brown sandy clay with moderate rounded and angular flint
0.56m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, mid orange brown clayey silt with moderate rounded and angular flint

<i>Sample section 1B</i> 0.00 = 69.78m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.55m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section Test Pit 1</i> 0.00 = 69.80m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.58 – 0.79m	L1024 = L1027	Layer. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with CBM (44g) and slag (4g)
0.79m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section Test Pit 2</i> 0.00 = 69.59m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29 – 0.74m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.74 – 0.90m	L1027 = L1024	Layer. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with CBM (430g) and slag (92g)
0.90 – 1.05m	L1036	Layer. Firm, dark grey brown silty clay
1.05m+	L1035	Layer. Firm, dark orange brown silty sand.

<i>Sample section Test Pit 3</i> 0.00 = 69.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39 – 0.59m	L1001	Layer. Friable, pale yellow brown clayey silt
0.59 – 0.75m	L1026	Layer. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay. It contained 19 th century pottery (4; 34g), CBM (255g), slag (12g), Fe fragment (8g), glass (2g) and clay pipe (35g)
0.75 – 0.82m	L1025	Layer. Firm, brown silty clay

0.82 – 0.92m	L1038	Layer. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay
0.92 – 1.01m	L1037	Layer. Firm, mid yellow brown silty clay
1.01m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained a series of layers which were examined by hand dug test pits, labelled 1 – 3. The layers contained 19th century pottery and residual fragmented and abraded Roman CBM.

Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 4

<i>Sample section 2A</i> 0.00 = 68.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.66m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 2B</i> 0.00 = 69.17m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.37 – 0.75m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.75m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 2 contained undated Ditches F1003 and F1032.

Ditch F1003 was linear (2.00+ x 2.16 x 0.84m), orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1004) was a firm, mid grey brown sandy clay and it contained no finds.

Ditch F1032 was linear (3.00+ x 0.53 x 0.26m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1033) was a friable, mid orange brown silty sand and it contained no finds.

Trench 3 Figs. 2 – 3 & 5

<i>Sample section 3A</i> 0.00 = 69.53m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29 – 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.54m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 3B</i> 0.00 = 68.82m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.37 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.52m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 3 contained undated Ditch F1005.

Ditch F1005 was linear (2.00+ x 0.51 x 0.33m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1006) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay and it contained no finds.

Trench 4 Figs. 2 – 3 & 5

<i>Sample section 4A</i> 0.00 = 68.56m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39 – 0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.62m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 4B</i> 0.00 = 69.56m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.41 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.66m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 4 contained undated Post Hole F1007 and a field drain.

Post Hole F1007 was circular (0.16 x 0.08m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1008) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay and it contained no finds.

Trench 5 Figs. 2 – 3 & 6

<i>Sample section 5A</i> 0.00 = 68.68m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.42 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.51m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 5B</i> 0.00 = 68.00m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.59m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 5 contained undated Ditches F1011 and F1013.

Ditch F1011 was linear (2.00+ x 1.07 x 0.41m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Its fill (L1012) was a firm, mid grey brown sandy clay and it contained pottery. F1011 was cut by Ditch F1013.

Ditch F1013 was linear (2.00+ x 1.67+ x 0.58m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1014) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay and it contained no finds. F1013 cut Ditch F1011.

Trench 6 Figs. 2 – 3 & 6

<i>Sample section 6A</i> 0.00 = 67.54m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.37 – 0.69m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.69m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 6B</i> 0.00 = 68.45m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 6 contained a field drain, F1020.

Trench 7 Figs. 2 – 3 & 7

<i>Sample section 7A</i> 0.00 = 67.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39 – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.68m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 7B</i> 0.00 = 67.20m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.38 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.60m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 7 contained undated Ditch F1028 and Tree Hollow F1030.

Ditch F1028 was linear (2.00+ x 0.61 x 0.44m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1029) was a friable, mid orange brown clayey and it contained no finds.

Tree Hollow F1030 was irregular in plan (? X 1.58 x 0.31m). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1031) was a friable, light grey brown silty clay and it contained no finds.

Trench 8 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section 8A</i> <i>0.00 = 67.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.41 – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.68m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 8B</i> <i>0.00 = 67.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 9 Figs. 2 – 3 & 7

<i>Sample section 9A</i> <i>0.00 = 67.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.36 – 0.57m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.57m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 9B</i> <i>0.00 = 67.77m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.56m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 9 contained undated Ditch F1009.

Ditch F1009 was linear (6.00+ x 0.66 x 0.31m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1010) was a friable, light grey brown silty clay and it contained no finds.

Trench 10 Figs. 2 – 3 & 8

<i>Sample section 10A</i> <i>0.00 = 67.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.37 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

<i>Sample section 10B</i> <i>0.00 = 66.57m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.37 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.59m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 10 contained undated Ditch F1018 and a natural depression, F1015.

F1015 may represent a natural depression, irregular in plan (2.00+ x 1.80+ x 0.63m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill (L1016) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay and it contained no finds. Its upper fill (L1017) was a firm, mid yellow brown sandy clay and it contained no finds.

Ditch F1018 was linear (6.00+ x 1.02 x 0.31m), orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1019) was a friable, light orange brown silty clay and it contained no finds.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand. L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a friable, light orange brown sandy clay with moderate rounded and angular flint. At the base of the sequence the natural, L1002, was a firm, mid orange brown clayey silt with moderate rounded and angular flint encountered 0.51 – 1.01m below the current ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	1025–1027 etc	Layers	19 th C
2	1003	Ditch	-
	1032	Ditch	-
3	1005	Ditch	-
4	1007	Post Hole	-
5	1011	Ditch	-
	1013	Ditch	-
6	1020	Field Drain	-
7	1028	Ditch	-
	1030	Tree Hollow	-
9	1009	Ditch	-
10	1015	Natural Depression	-
	1018	Ditch	-

9.2 Features were present in the majority of trenches. Principally they comprised undated ditches. A post hole, tree hollow and natural depression were also present. Trench 1 contained a series of layers which were examined by hand dug test pits, labelled 1 – 3. The layers contained 19th century pottery and residual fragmented and abraded Roman CBM. The layer may represent made ground in the northern part of the site, to level it with Ongar Road. The presence of fragmentary Roman CBM is not unexpected on a site approximately 500m to the south of the nucleus of a Roman town. The route of a Roman road is projected through the site (EHER1234), potentially representing a deviation to allow it to converge with the Chelmsford Road prior to a river crossing (ECC 1999, 28). The lack of any evidence for the road in this trial trench evaluation may suggest the road's direct route continued straight into the nucleus of the town, passing to the west of the site. However, the evidence for Roman roads can be ephemeral, especially on sites that have been subject to ploughing, and it remains possible that any surfaces or roadside gullies have been truncated. The remaining undated ditches do not correspond with any field boundaries on historic mapping that depicts the post-medieval agricultural landscape, potentially including relict medieval boundaries, prior to the construction of the A120. It is possible that they represent land divisions and evidence for a previous system of fields, possibly part of the landscape of late Iron Age to Roman ladder field systems recorded during excavations to the north, but the absence of any associated artefactual evidence and the variation of the orientation and form renders any conclusions highly tentative.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Saffron Walden Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Go Homes for funding the works and for assistance (in particular Mr Nigel Tedder and Mr Shaun Hammond) .

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Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

GDOR19 - P7855, Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1024		1	Fill of Test Pit 1				44		Slag		4
	1026	TP3	1	Fill of Test Pit 3	19th C	4	34	255		Slag Fe Frag Glass Clay Pipe	1 1 16	12 8 2 35
	1027	TPA	1	Fill of Test Pit 2				430		Slag		92

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 4 sherds of Creamware, including rims from a dish and a cup or small bowl, weighing a total of 34g. They came from L1026 in Test Pit 3 and are of 19th century date.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 16 fragments (729g) of Roman CBM in a very highly fragmented and abraded condition. The CBM was recovered in low quantities from Test Pits 1 (L1024), 3 (L1026) and 2 (L1027).

The CBM was manufactured in a single homogenous fabric that reflects the substantial local resources and production of CBM around the urban centre. The fabric is oxidised mid-dark orange; with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse fine mica and black iron rich/ore grains (<0.5m), and occasional chalk (<2.5mm) and flint (<10mm). It is hard-fired, typically with a powdery to slightly abrasive finish and often slightly lumpy surfaces.

The fragments present are fragmented to such an extent that only occasional examples exhibit an extant thickness of 25-20mm, and edges that suggest the former presence of a flanged edge; traits that suggest the fragments once formed part of tegulae roof tile. However, the CBM is best regarded as poorly-preserved small rubble, and is unlikely to be directly associated with a structure in the vicinity, rather dispersed material around a known Roman settlement.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation at Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, six bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. 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).

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 1. No carbonised macrofossil remains were recovered from the samples. A small amount of oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal was identified in L1008 (F1007). In test pit layers L1024, L1026 and L1027, coal and clinker (coal ash) were identified, which supports the 19th century date of these deposits.

Conclusions

The lack of carbonised plant macrofossil remains in the bulk sample light fractions from Oaklands, in conjunction with the undated and modern nature of the deposits, indicates little potential for archaeobotanical analysis at the site.

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	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		Charcoals >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	
GDOR19	1	1006	1005	Fill of Ditch	-	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	
GDOR19	2	1008	1007	Fill of Posthole	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	XX	-	-	X	-	-
GDOR19	3	1012A	1011	Fill of Ditch	-	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	X	-	
GDOR19	4	1024	-	Fill of Test Pit 1	-	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XXX	-	-	-	-	Clinker (XX), Coal (X)
GDOR19	5	1026	-	Fill of Test Pit 3	19th C	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	Clinker (XXX), Coal (XX)
GDOR19	6	1027	-	Fill of Test Pit 2	-	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	Clinker (XX), Coal (X)

Table 1: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-346102

Project details

Project name	Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex
Short description of the project	In March 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR TL 62877 20892; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of 25 dwelling and associated infrastructure (Uttlesford Council Planning Approval Ref. UTT/17/2238/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA). Features were present in the majority of trenches. Principally they comprised undated ditches, which may be associated with a late Iron Age to Roman ladder fields system recorded to the north, but this remains a very tentative association without any supporting artefactual evidence, and the ditches are variable in their orientation and form. A post hole, tree hollow and natural depression were also present. Trench 1 contained a series of layers which were examined by hand dug test pits, labelled 1 - 3. The layers contained 19th century pottery and residual fragmented and abraded Roman CBM. The presence of Roman CBM is not unexpected given the proximity of the nucleus of a Roman town. No evidence for the projected route of a Roman road was recorded, which if extant may follow a more direct route to the west of the site.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2019 End: 15-03-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7855 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	GDOR19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT DUNMOW Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex
Study area	1.09 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 62877 20892 51.862323105922 0.365692197158 51 51 44 N 000 21 56 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 68m Max: 68m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	ESCC
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Archaeological Solutions
Type of sponsor/funding body	Go Homes
Name of sponsor/funding body	Go Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Haygreen, J
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thompson, P
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Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P7855)



1
General site view looking north-west



2
Trench 1 looking north



3
Test Pit 1 in Trench 1



4
Test Pit 2 in Trench 1



5
Test Pit 3 in Trench 1



6
Trench 2 looking west



7
Ditch F1003 in Trench 2



8
Ditch F1032 in Trench 2



9
Trench 3 looking north



10
Ditch F1005 in Trench 3



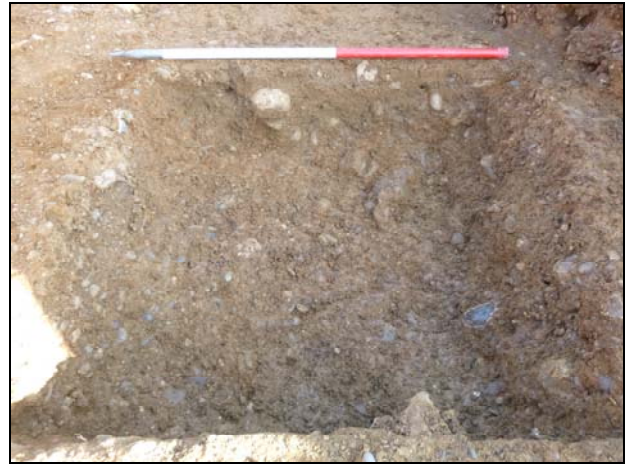
11
Trench 4 looking north



12
Post Hole F1007 in Trench 4



13
Trench 5 looking west



14
Ditch F1011A in Trench 5



15
Ditches F1011B and F1013 in Trench 5



16
Trench 6 looking north



17
Field Drain F1020 in Trench 6



18
Trench 7 looking west



19
Ditch F1028 in Trench 7



20
Tree Hollow F1030 in Trench 7



21
Trench 8 looking south



22
Trench 9 looking west



23
Ditch F1009 in Trench 9



24
Trench 10 looking west



25
Natural Depression F1015 in Trench 10

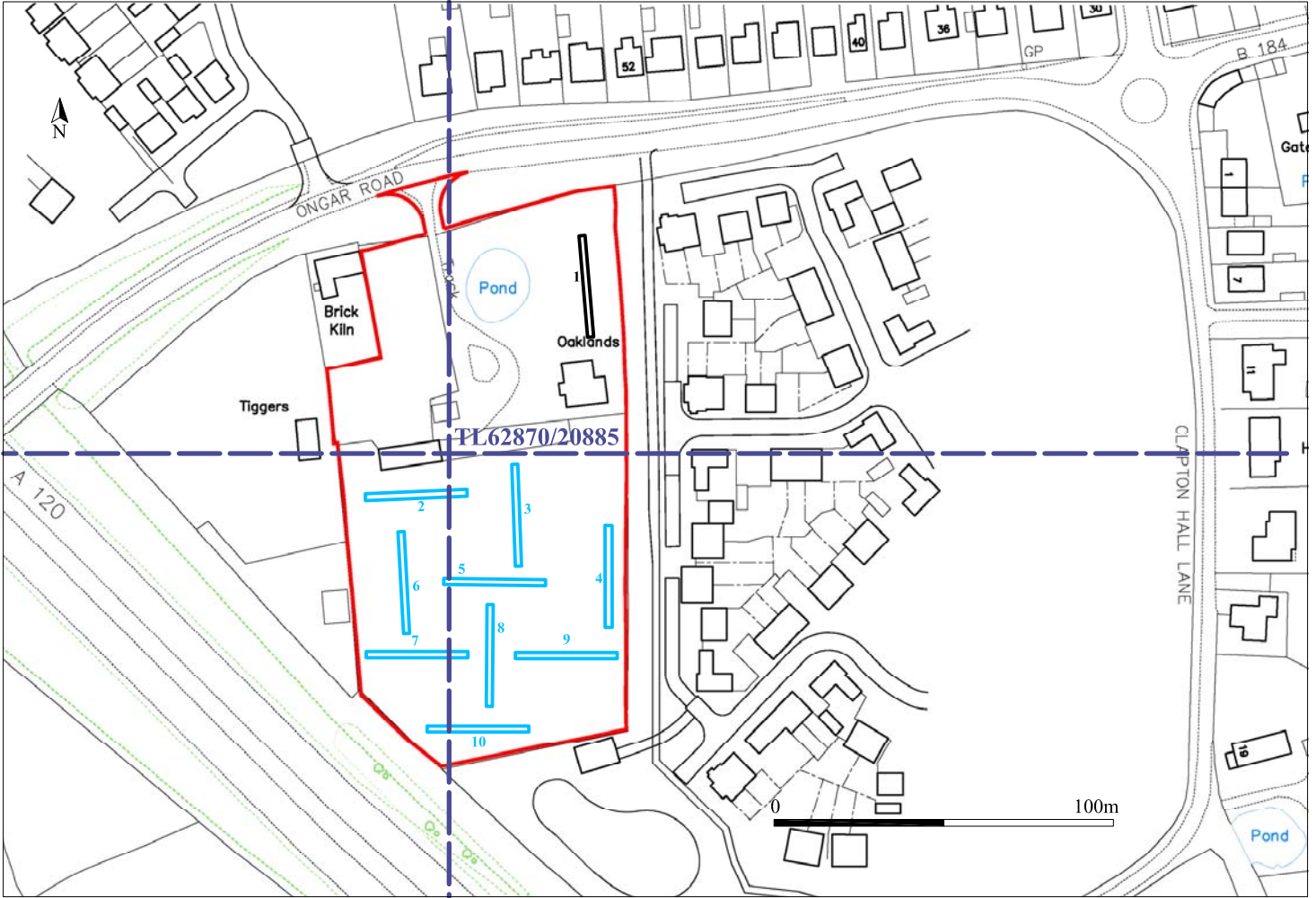


26
Ditch F1018 in Trench 10

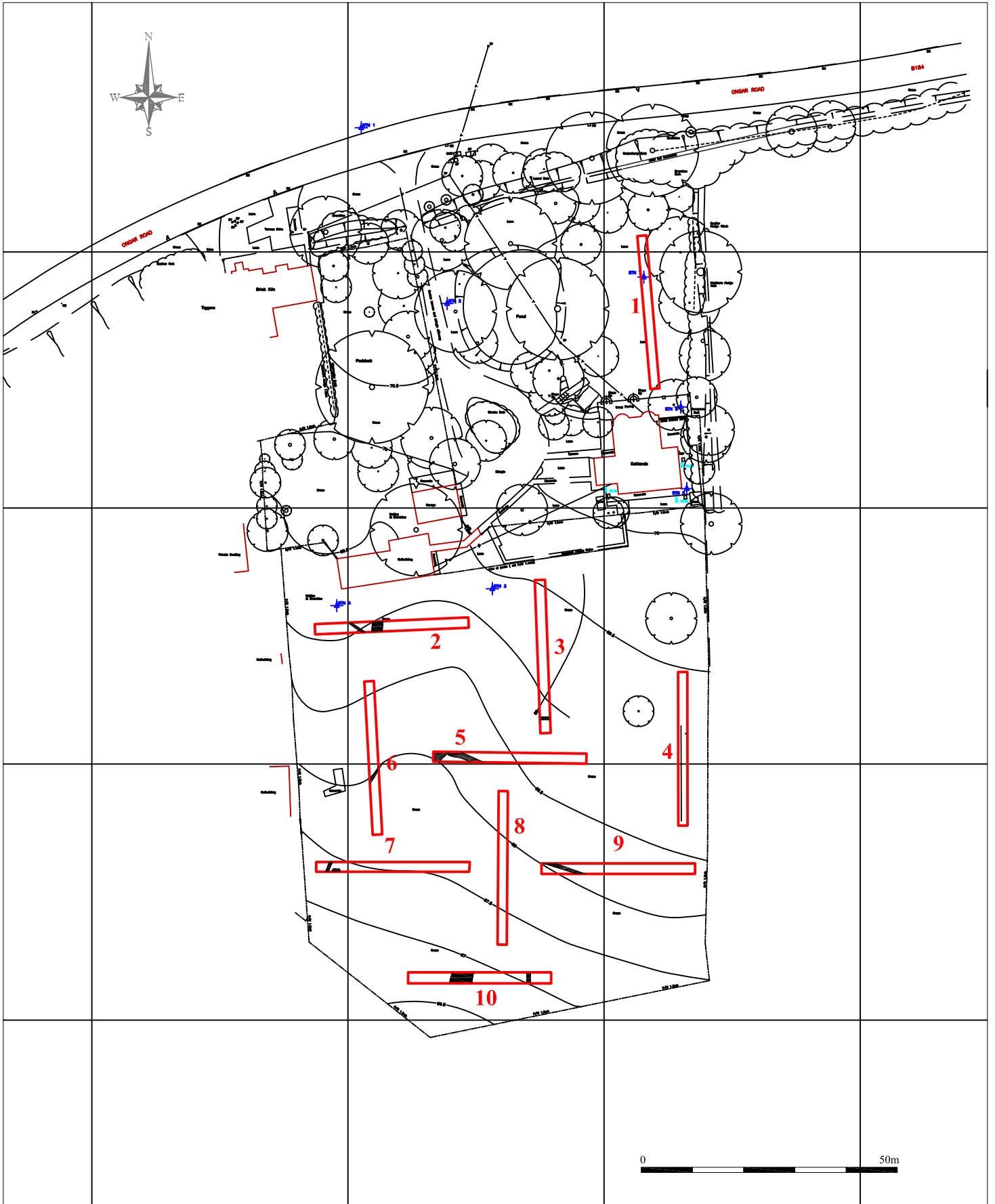


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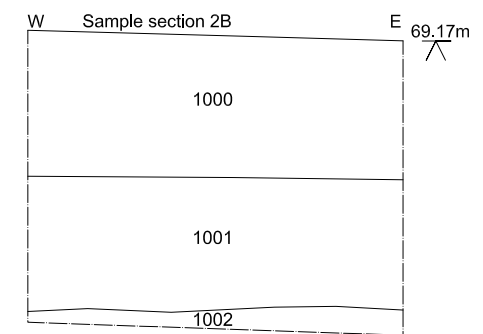
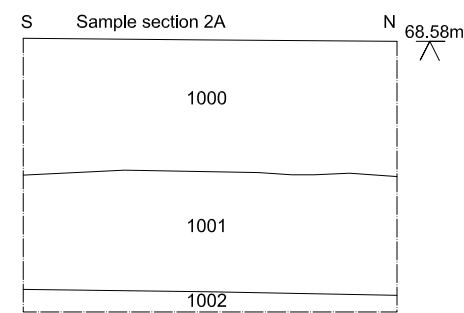
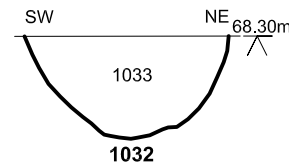
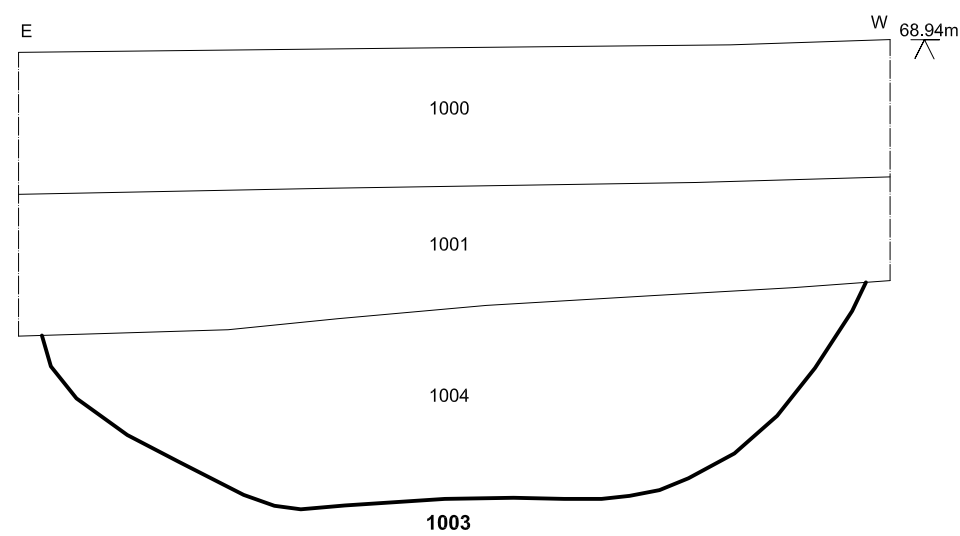
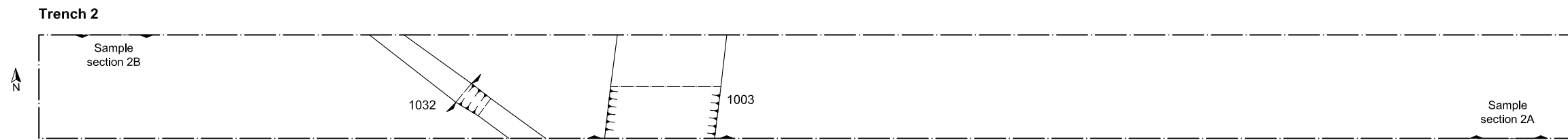
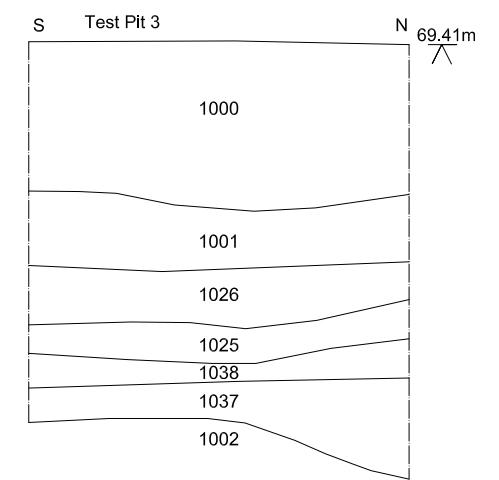
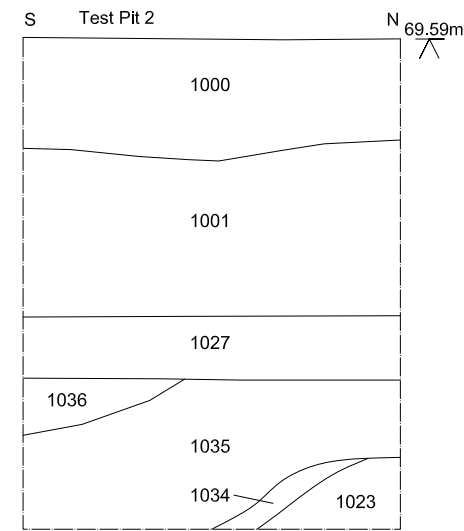
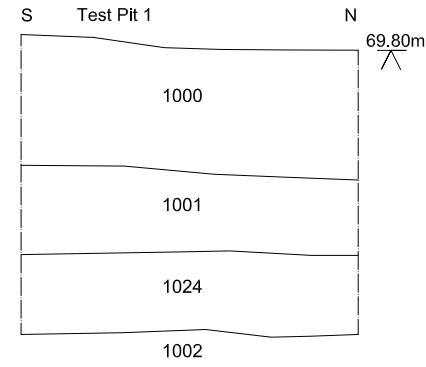
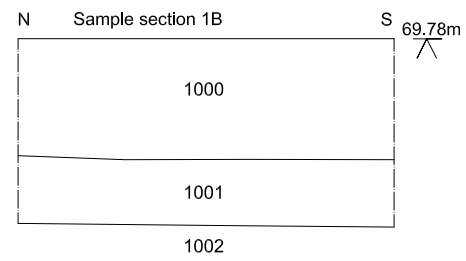
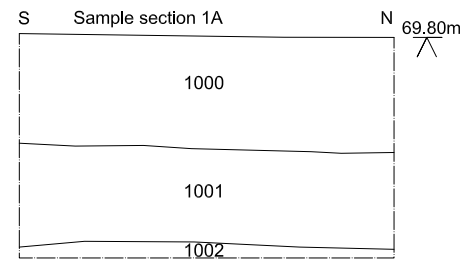
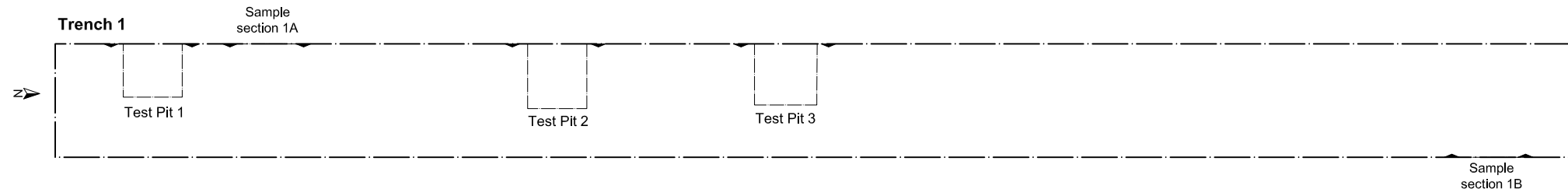
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000
Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex (P7855)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2000 at A4
Oaklands, Ongar Rd, Great Dunmow, Essex (P7855)



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
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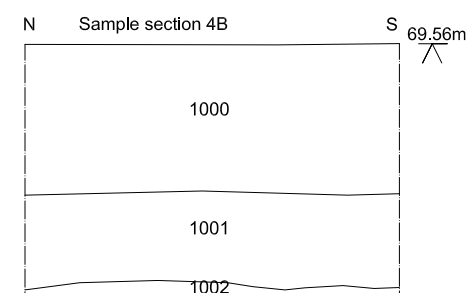
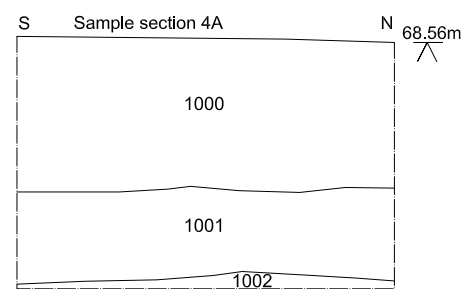
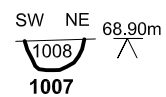
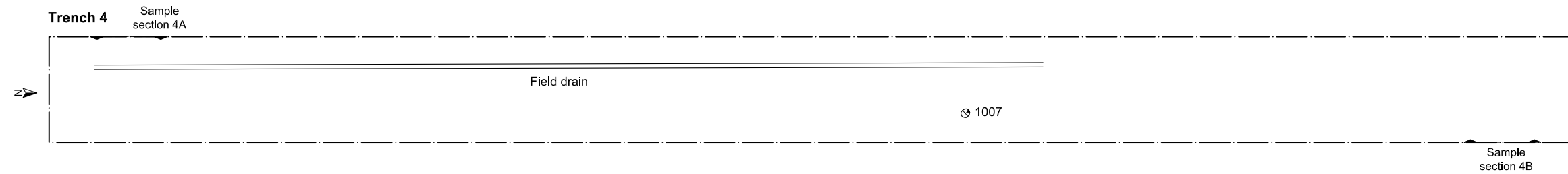
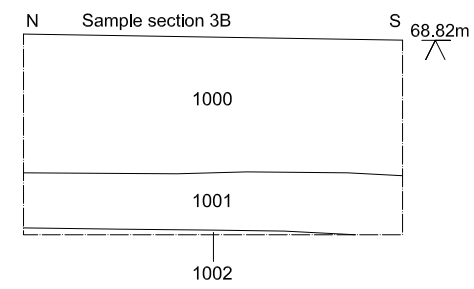
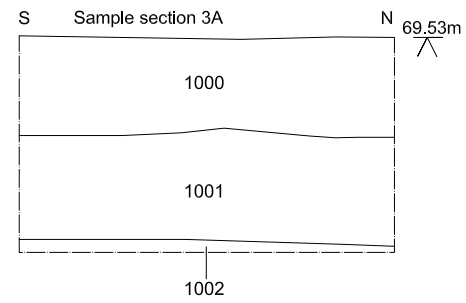
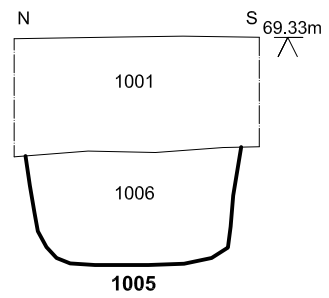
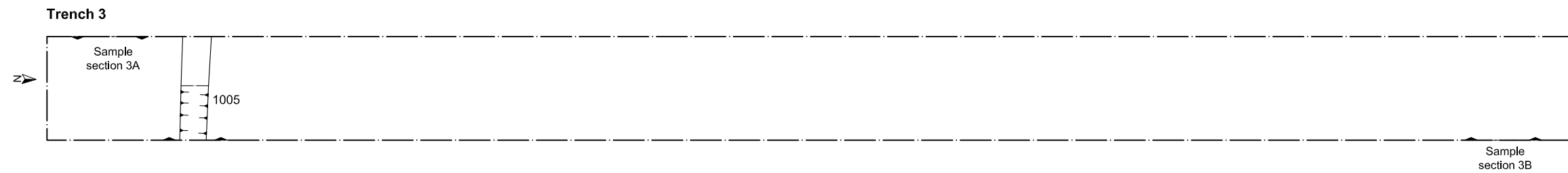


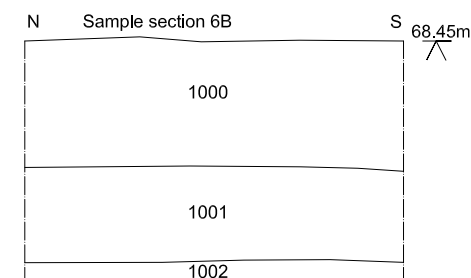
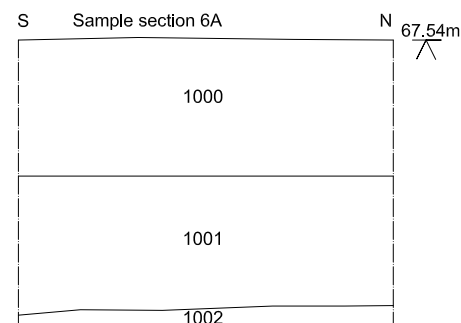
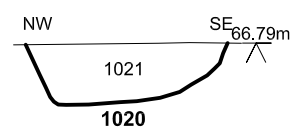
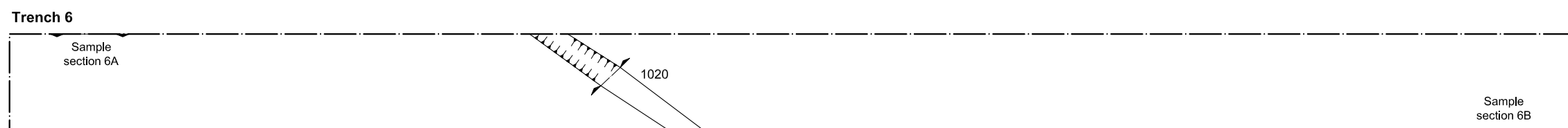
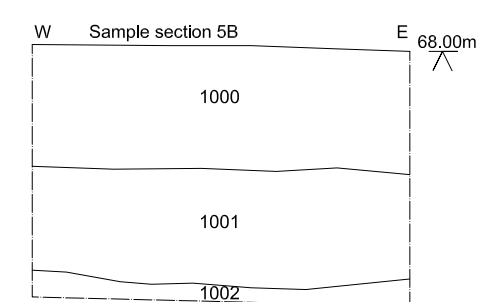
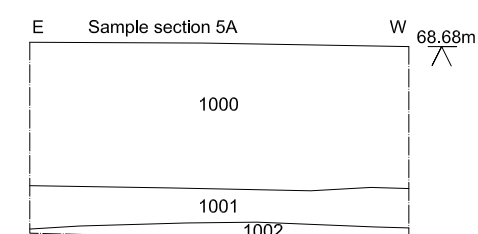
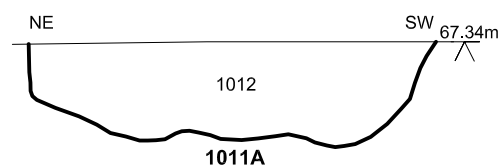
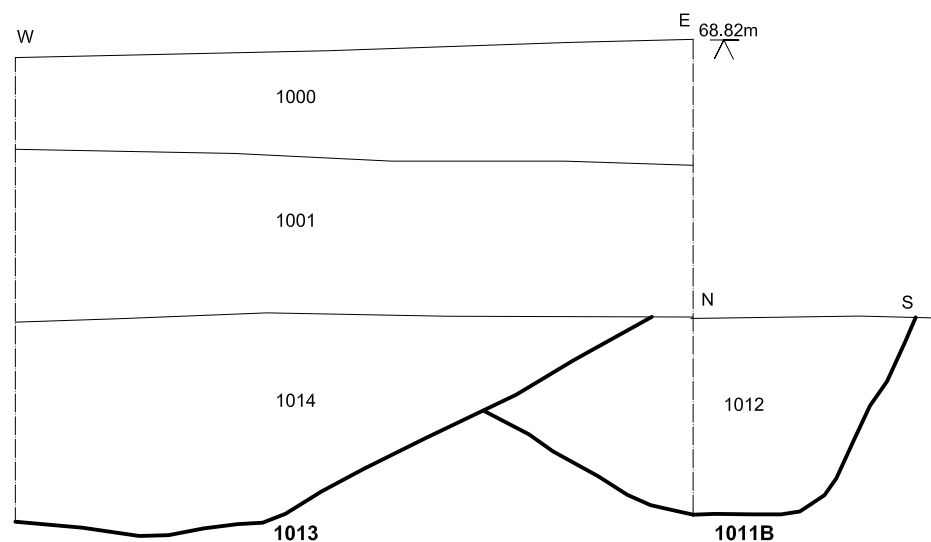
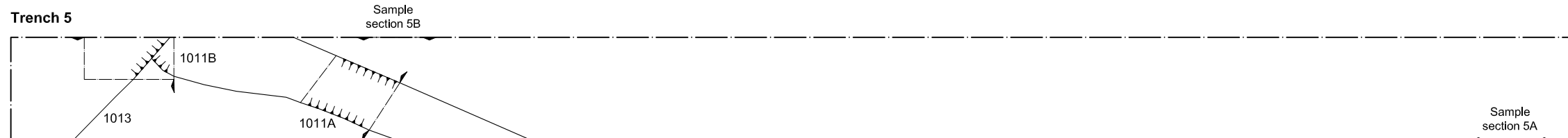
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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

Oaklands, Ongar Rd, Great Dunmow, Essex (P7855)



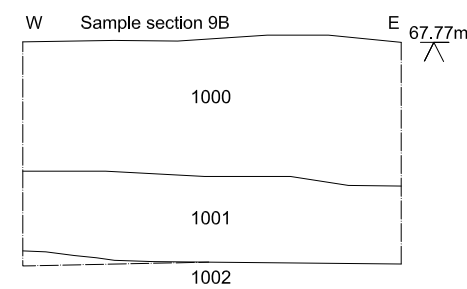
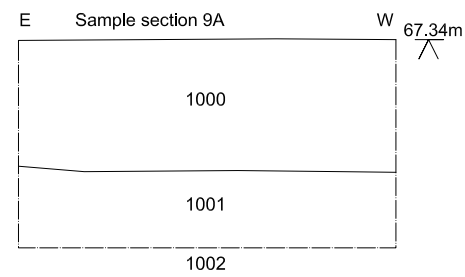
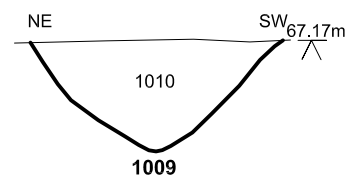
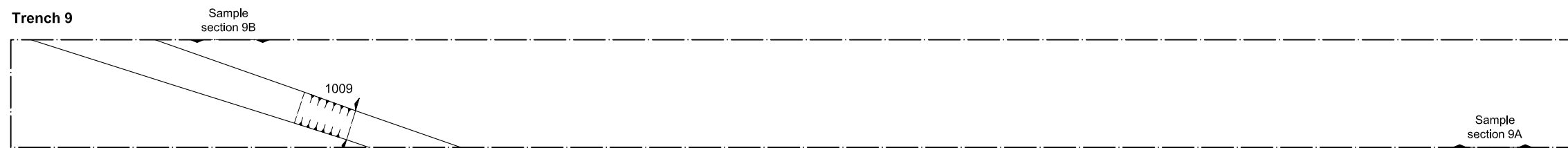
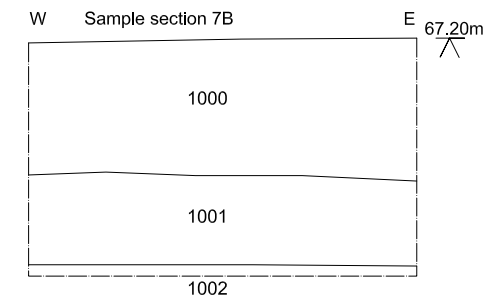
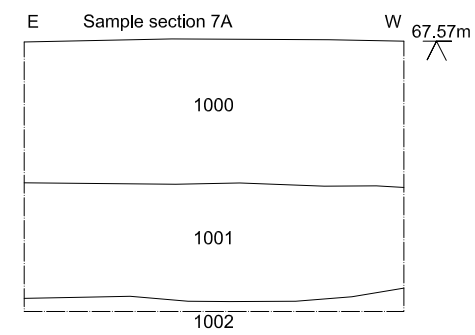
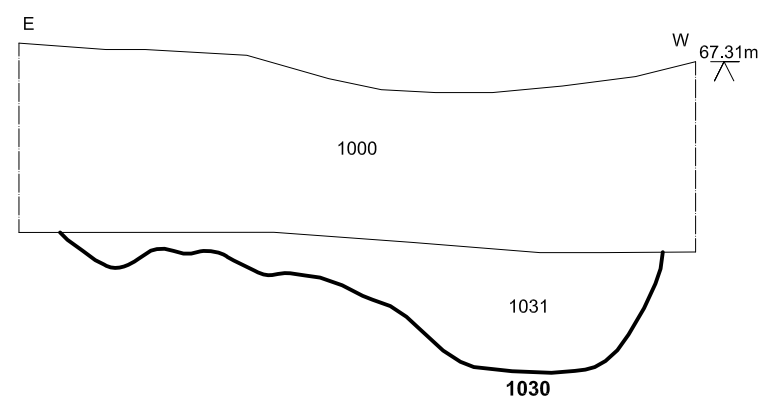
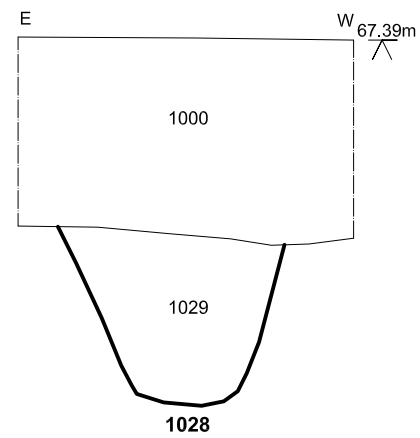
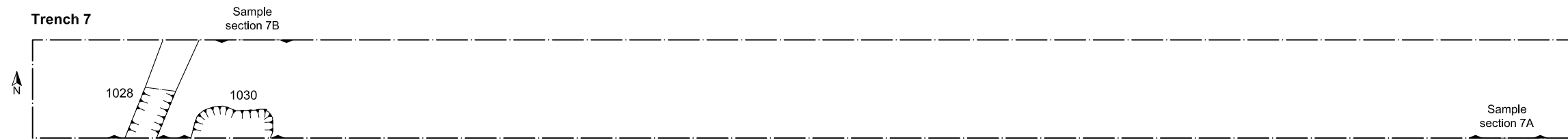


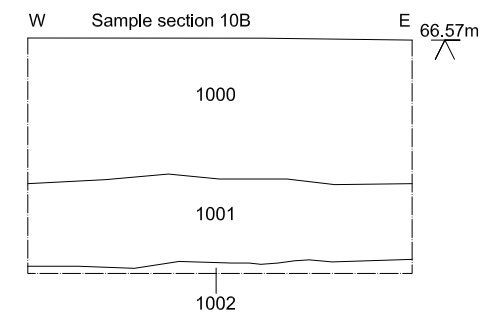
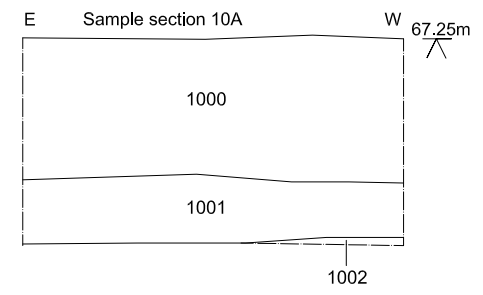
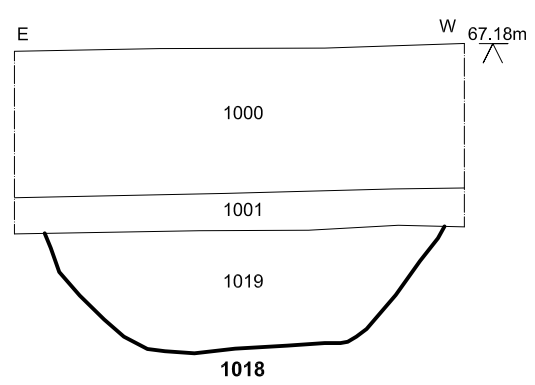
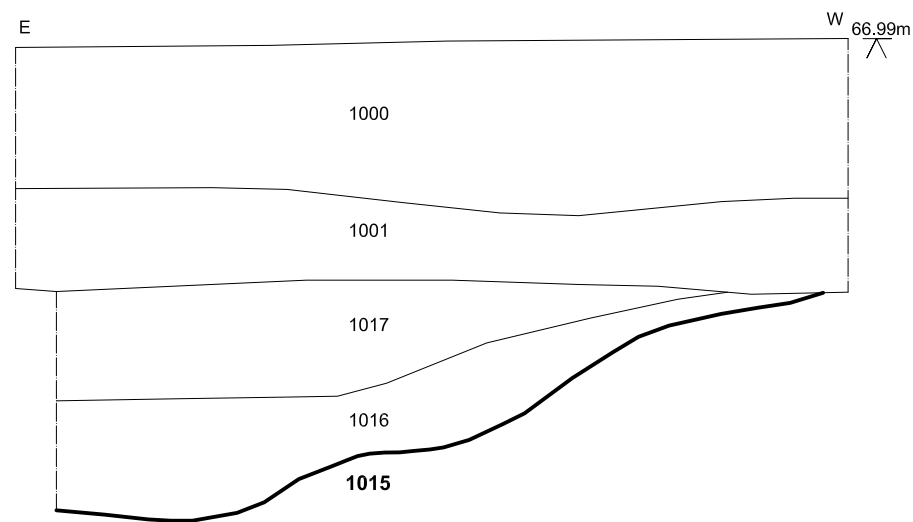
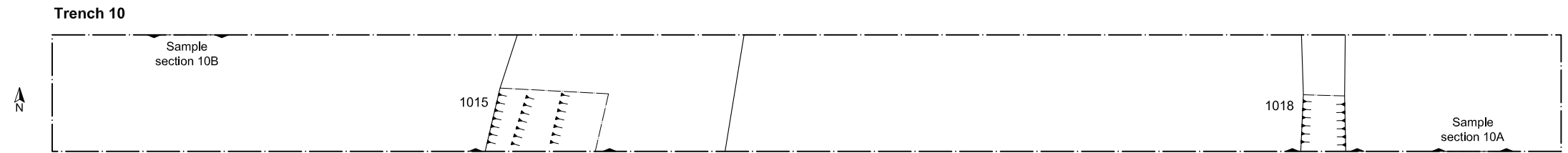
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Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

Oaklands, Ongar Rd, Great Dunmow, Essex (P7855)



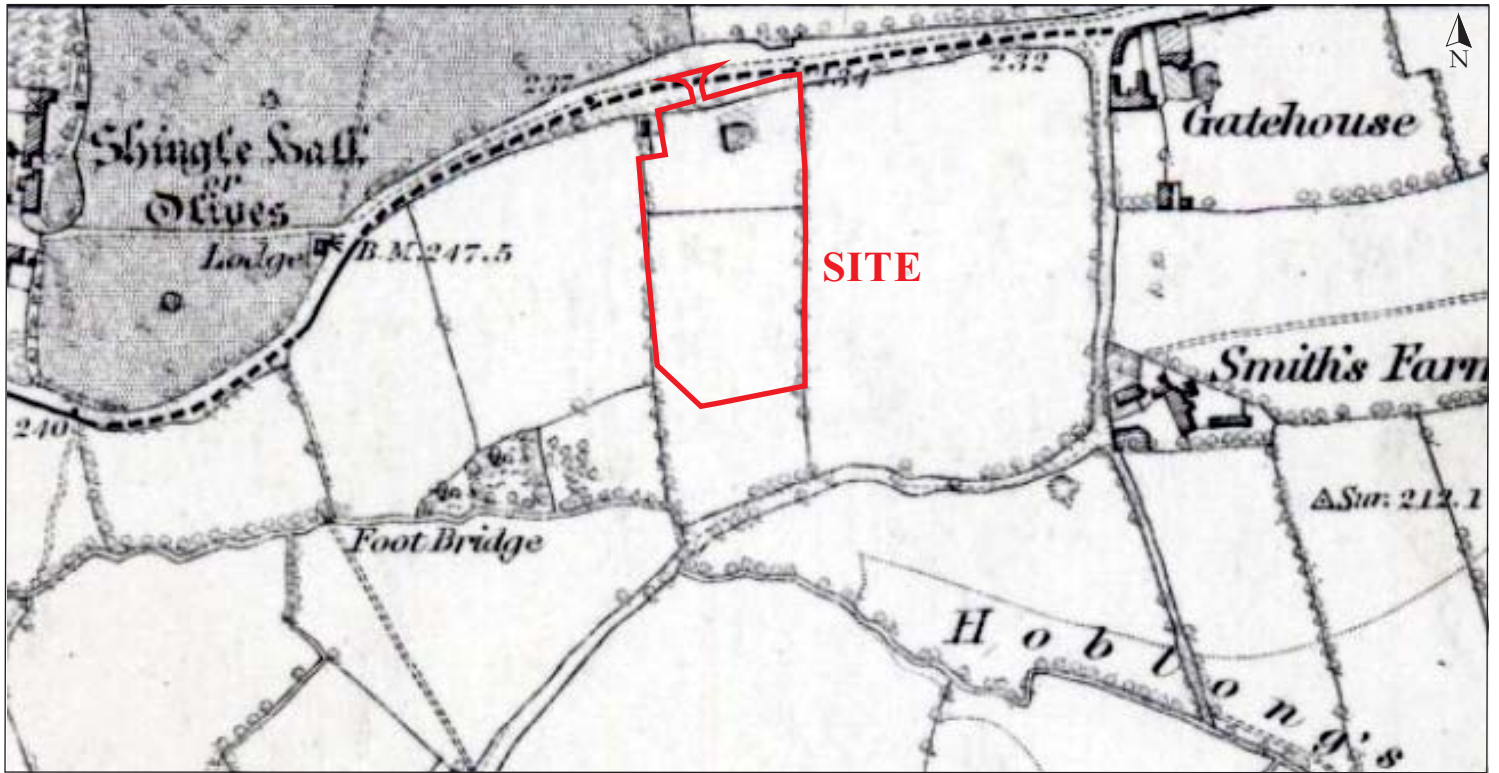


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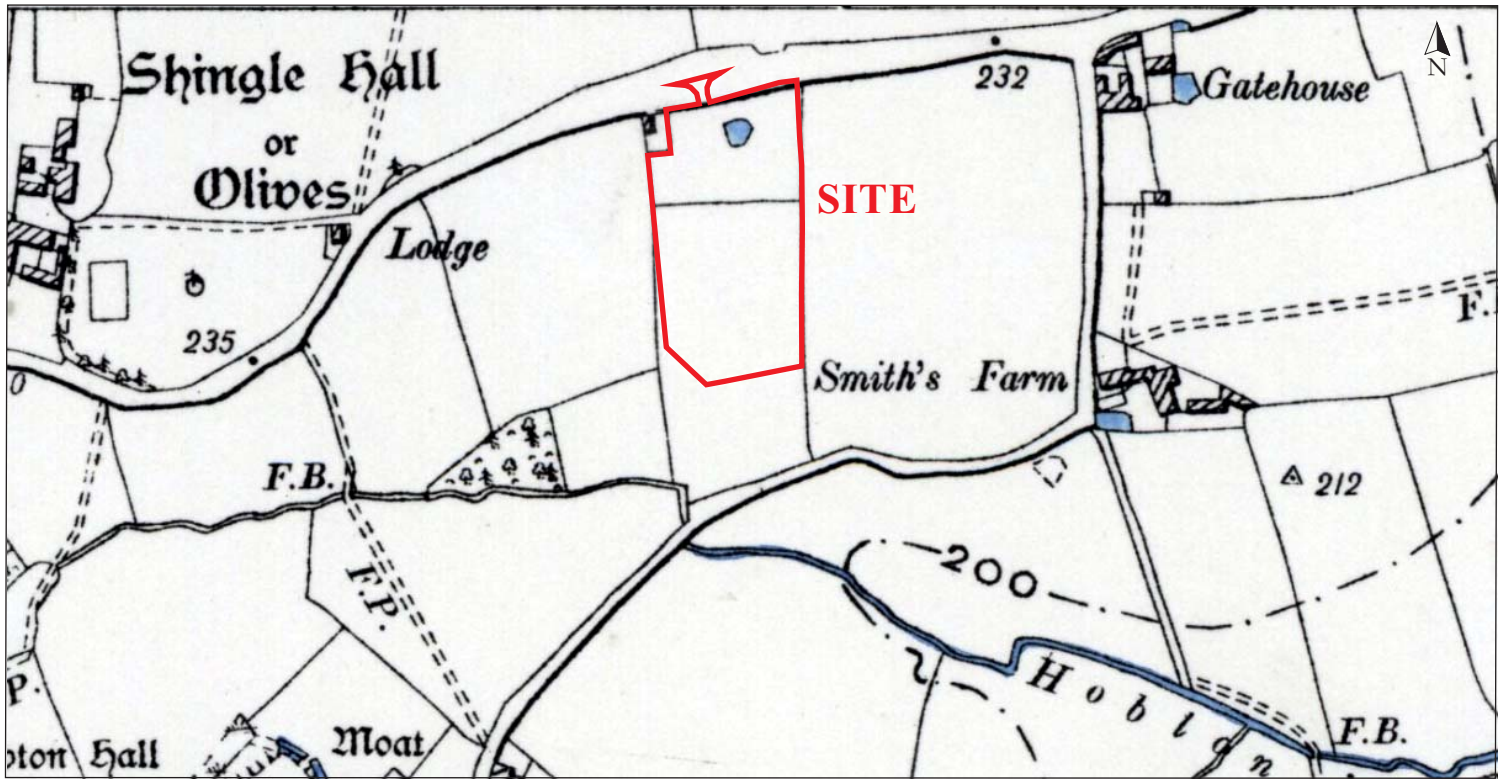
Fig. 8 Trench plan and sections

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

Oaklands, Ongar Rd, Great Dunmow, Essex (P7855)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 9 OS map, 1881
Not to scale
Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex (P7855)



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Fig. 10 OS map, 1897

Not to scale

Oaklands, Ongar Road, Great Dunmow, Essex (P7855)