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**ROSELAND AND THE POLICE HOUSE,
DUNMOW ROAD, TAKELEY, ESSEX CM22 6SH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors:	John Haygreen (Fieldwork & report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Background research)	
NGR: TL 56287 21272		Report No: 5978
District: Uttlesford		Site Code: TADR20
Approved: Claire Halpin MifA		Project No: 8195
		Date: 20 January 2020

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Roseland and The Police House, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6SH</i>		
<p><i>In January 2020 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Roseland and The Police House, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex CM22 6SH (NGR TL 56287 21272; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a residential development (Uttlesford Planning Refs. UTT/18/1106/FUL & UTT/19/2234/NMA). It was required by the LPA based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located along the northern frontage of the Dunmow Road and the course of Roman Stane Street (HER 1226 - MEX4497). Stane Street was the Roman road running east to west ultimately between Verulamium (St Albans) and Camulodunum (Colchester). The site also lies within the medieval core of Takeley and thus has the potential for medieval, road-side remains.</i></p> <p><i>The trial trenches revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	15, 16 January 2020		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	8195	Site code	TADR20
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern field drains</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>Takeley</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	<i>c. 1,600m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 56287 21272</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 101m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>John Haygreen</i>		
Funded by	<i>Land and County Development</i>		
Full title	<i>Roseland and The Police House, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6SH. An Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Haygreen, J. & Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	5978		
Date (of report)	<i>January 2020</i>		

**ROSELAND AND THE POLICE HOUSE, DUNMOW ROAD,
TAKELEY, ESSEX, CM22 6SH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In January 2020 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Roseland and The Police House, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex CM22 6SH (NGR TL 56287 21272; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a residential development (Uttlesford Planning Refs. UTT/18/1106/FUL & UTT/19/2234/NMA). It was required by the LPA based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council.

The site is located along the northern frontage of the Dunmow Road and the course of Roman Stane Street (HER 1226 - MEX4497). Stane Street was the Roman road running east to west ultimately between Verulamium (St Albans) and Camulodunum (Colchester). The site also lies within the medieval core of Takeley and thus has the potential for medieval, road-side remains.

The trial trenches revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2020 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Roseland and The Police House, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex CM22 6SH (NGR TL 56287 21272; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a residential development (Uttlesford Planning Refs. UTT/18/1106/FUL & UTT/19/2234/NMA). It was required by the LPA based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the ECC HEA, *Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation on Roseland, Dunmow Road, Takeley*, (Katie-Lee Smith, dated 9th October 2019), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 31st October 2019). It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), and also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

Planning Policy Context

1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) 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.

1.4 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 within the village of Takeley, which lies within the district of Uttlesford and the county of Essex (Fig. 1). The site lies along the northern frontage of the B1256 Dunmow Road, which is aligned east to west and follows the course of Roman Stane Street.

2.2 The site comprises an irregularly-shaped plot of land, covering a total area of c.1,600m² (Fig. 2). It currently comprises garden plots associated with Roseland and The Police House.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The village of Takeley is situated within a varied and undulating landscape. The Pincey Brook flows roughly north to southwards 1.2km to the west of the village, and the River Roding flows southwards 2.4km to the east, with smaller tributaries draining the land to the south of Takeley. The larger watercourse of the River Stort and its navigation canal also flow southwards through Bishop's Stortford and 7km to the west.

3.2 The village of Takeley is situated on a small promontory of land above all three watercourses. The site therefore lies on a variable relief at approximately 100m AOD, with the surrounding relief sloping down to the west and towards the Pincey Brook. The underlying geology is of the London Clay Formation, overlain by chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2015). Soils of the area comprise those of the Hanslope Association, which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Relatively little is known about the prehistory of the Takeley area, but given its proximity to the fertile watercourses and valleys of the Pincey Brook and River Roding, it is likely that the area was conducive to early exploitation and settlement. The evaluation and excavation at the Barkers Tanks site, which lies 750m to the west-south-west of the site, revealed ditches and gullies forming an extensive field system of possible late prehistoric date (HER 45253 - MEX1036189). The features suggest significant prehistoric and early Roman activity across the site, in the form of an agrarian economy. Sparse prehistoric and Roman features were also found during excavations for the Hatfield Park Farm proposed golf course access road, which also lies to the south-west (HER 45629 - MEX1036892).

Iron Age & Romano-British

4.2 The site is located along the northern frontage of the Dunmow Road and the course of Roman Stane Street (HER 1226 - MEX4497). Stane Street was the Roman road running east to west ultimately between *Verulamium* (St Albans) and *Camulodunum* (Colchester). There is also evidence in the Takeley area for an Iron Age phase for Stane Street and the road is regarded with some confidence as a British track straightened and metalled by Roman engineers (HER 4698 - MEX16441), thus suggestive of evidence for the continuation of settlement throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

4.3 An archaeological evaluation along the Dunmow Road and to the east of the site has revealed evidence of late Iron Age activity and Romano-British land-use (HER 19572 - MEX1034196). A mid Iron Age ditch and late medieval post-medieval ditches or trackway were also identified in trial trenching at Chadhurst on the Dunmow Road (HER 48742 - MEX1049191).

4.4 A Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) findspot of late Iron Age to Roman date is also recorded in the Takeley area (HER 55441 - MEX1047132). The Roman period is also represented by two Roman conglomerate querns and a lead pestle (HER 4735 - MEX16522) and Roman finds (HER 45267 - MEX1036008), all of which were found in the 19th century at unspecified locations.

Anglo-Saxon

4.5 Place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin for Takeley or *Tacheleia*, which derives from the meaning of either 'woodland clearing of a man called *Taecca*', or else 'where young sheep are kept' (Reaney 1969). Takeley is first recorded in Domesday Book, when the manor was held by the abbey of Saint-Valery, yet had been held by Thorkil in 1066 (Morris 1983). Despite the evidence for Saxon settlement at Takeley, no Anglo-Saxon finds or features are recorded in the vicinity of the site.

Medieval

4.6 By the medieval period, Takeley consisted of a small, dispersed settlement located along the course of the former Roman road and what is now the Dunmow Road. The site lies within the medieval core of Takeley and thus has the potential for medieval, road-side remains. A deserted medieval settlement is also judged to have stood at Old House Farm, which lies to the north, although the archaeological evaluation undertaken in 1991 in advance of the construction of the A120 trunk-road did not locate any archaeology of medieval date (HER 4597 - MEX16179). Evidence for nearby settlement activity in the 12th - 13th centuries was also recorded to the south-west during excavations for the Hatfield Park Farm proposed golf course access road (HER 45630 - MEX1036896).

4.7 The HER database attests to extensive medieval occupation within the site's vicinity, including a medieval moat surrounding Moat Cottage to the north-east on Smith's Green (HER 4576 - MEX16095) and a second moat at Cheerups Cottage (HER 19463 - MEX1034283). A medieval quillon dagger was also recovered from Takeley during antiquity (HER 4734 - MEX16521). Extant Grade II listed medieval dwellings comprise the late 15th - early 16th gabled cross wing structure of Ivy Cottage and Stane Cottage, now two dwellings (HER 37454 - MEX1012877). Attridges and Beech Cottage are both Grade II listed and 16th century timber framed houses, whilst Grade II listed Goar Lodge dates to the late 16th - early 17th centuries (HER 37471 - MEX1012898).

Post-medieval and later

4.8 Takeley remained a small, dispersed settlement, albeit focussed along the course of the Dunmow Road, throughout the post-medieval and early modern periods, and was overshadowed by the larger settlements of Bishop's Stortford and Great Dunmow to the west and east respectively. The post-medieval and early modern periods are presented by a large number of Grade II listed dwellings recorded in the vicinity of the site, including the aforementioned Moat Cottage, which is Grade II* listed and was built in the early 17th century (HER 4577 - MEX16098).

4.9 Two Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) findspots of post-medieval date are also recorded in the Takeley area (HERs 54026 - MEX1045717 & 54028 - MEX1045719). Moderate growth of the village was spurred by the arrival of the mid 19th century railway station at Takeley (HER 16790 - MEX42142). The railway station lay on the former Bishop's Stortford, Dunmow and Braintree Branch Railway line, which ran west to eastwards only 180m to the south of the site and parallel to the Dunmow Road. A small goods yard stood to the east of

the former railway station (HER 40364 - MEX1035034), whilst a modern concrete gradient post is also recorded on the branch line (HER 40377 - MEX1035033).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The ECC HEA advice required trial trenches to be excavated across the footprint of the proposed new development. One trench of 25m x 1.8m was excavated across the footprint of the proposed new houses (Fig. 2), and one of 10m x 1.8m was excavated along the proposed new access.

5.2 The trenches were mechanically excavated using a mechanical 2.5 tonne 360° excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.

5.3 The archaeological evaluation 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

Individual trench description is presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 101.31m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.29 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, and small sub-rounded chalk.
0.53m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, pale brown yellow silty clay.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 101.34m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.30 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.60m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds. Land drains traversed the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3-5)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 102.53m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.32 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.59m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 101.74m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.31 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was a 0.29m – 0.31m topsoil layer (L1000) of firm, mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. Below L1000 was a 0.24m – 0.32m thick subsoil layer (L1001) of firm, mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, and small sub-rounded chalk. The natural deposits (L1002) of firm, pale brown yellow silty clay were encountered between 0.49m and 0.59m below the current ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site is located along the northern frontage of the Dunmow Road and the course of Roman Stane Street (HER 1226 - MEX4497). Stane Street was the Roman road running east to west ultimately between Verulamium (St Albans) and Camulodunum (Colchester). The site also lies within the medieval core of Takeley and thus has the potential for medieval, road-side remains.

9.2 The trial trenches revealed no archaeological features or finds.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Seb Vallance of Land and County Development for commissioning and funding the programme of archaeological evaluation and for all his assistance. AS is also grateful to XX.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Essex Historic Environment Record, and in particular Historic Environment Advisor Ms. Katie Lee-Smith for her input and advice. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Essex Record Office (ERO), based in Chelmsford.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8195)



1
View of site entrance before excavation of trenches



2
General view of site before excavation of trenches



3
Trench 1 looking west



4
Sample Section 1A in Trench 1



5
Sample Section 1B in Trench 1



6
Trench 2 looking north



7
Sample Section 2A in Trench 2

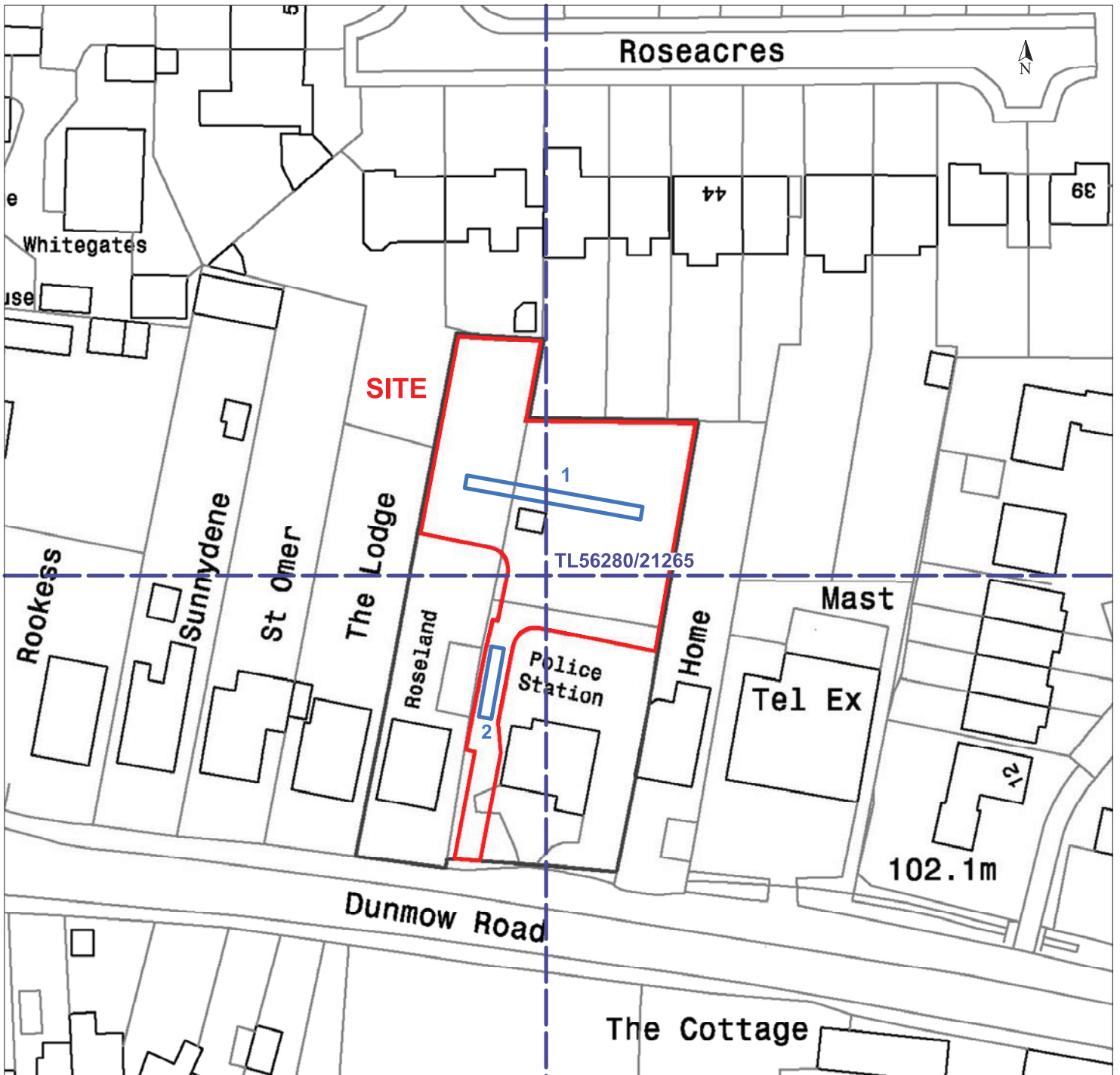


7
Sample Section 2B in Trench 2



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Roseland & Police House, Dunmow Road, Takeley (P8195)



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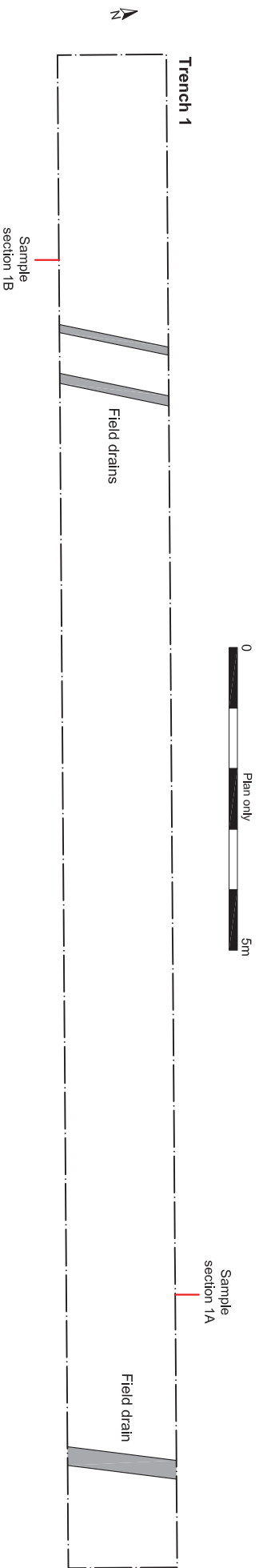
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

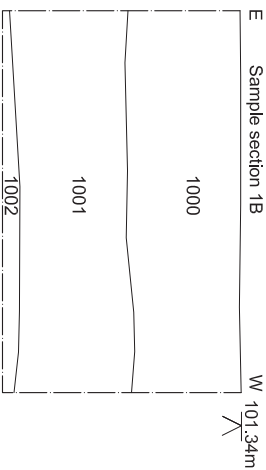
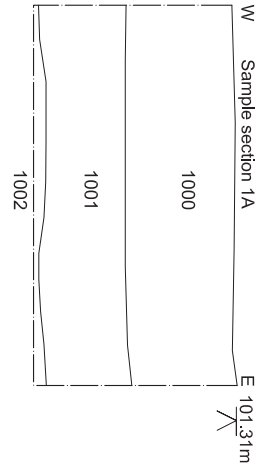
Scale 1:800 at A4
Roseland & Police House, Dunmow Road, Takeley (P8195)



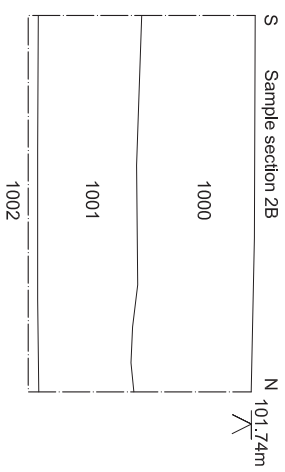
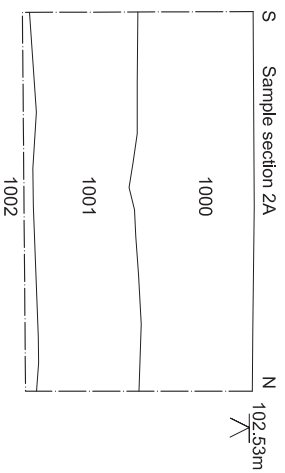
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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:400 at A4
 Roseland & Police House, Dunmow Road, Takeley (P8195)



Sections from Trench 1



Sections from Trench 2



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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4

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