ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

FINGRINGHOE BALLAST QUARRY, COLCHESTER, ESSEX PHASE 5

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION INTERIM REPORT

Authors: Tim Schofield (Fieldwork & Description)	
NGR: TM 0315 1980	Report No. 3562
Parish: Maldon	Site Code: FIBQ.04
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 1328
Signed:	Date: May 2010

Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB.
Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
Web: www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk
Registered Number: 4702122

CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester, Essex. Phase 5. Archaeological Excavation*		
Summary: *In April and May 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an excavation on behalf of Thames & Colne River Aggregates Ltd, on land outlined for further extension of the existing Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry.* *The current excavation revealed 35 archaeological features the majority of which were boundary or enclosure ditches and drainage gullies (Fig.3). Pits and tree hollows were also excavated. The principal features were one grave and two cremations.*			
Project dates (fieldwork)	*April-May 2010*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*Y*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*Y*
P. number	*1328*	Site code	*FIBQ.04*
Type of project	*Excavation*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Agriculture*		
Planned development	*Mineral extraction*		
Main features (+dates)	*Ditches, pits, 1 grave, 2 cremations*		
Significant finds +dates)	*Sparse Iron Age pottery sherds, struck flint flakes*		
Project location			
County/District/ Parish	*Essex*	*Maldon*	*Fingringhoe*
HER/ SMR for area	*Essex HER (EHER)*		
Post code (if known)	*CO5 7DB*		
Area of site	*1.4 Ha*		
NGR	*TM 0315 1980*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*22m – 26m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM)*		
Project supervisor/s PO)	*Tim Schofield*		
Funded by	*Thames & Colne River Aggregates Ltd*		
Full title	*Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester, Essex, Essex. Phase 5. Archaeological Excavation. Interim Report*		
Authors	*Schofield, TP*		
Report no.	*3562*		
Date (of report)	*May 2010*		

FINGRINGHOE BALLAST QUARRY, COLCHESTER, ESSEX
PHASE 5

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
INTERIM REPORT

SUMMARY

In April and May 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an excavation on behalf of Thames & Colne River Aggregates Ltd during groundworks associated with the extension of the current quarry development at Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester.

The previous evaluation and excavation revealed 17 cremation vessels of approximately 2nd century date, all located along the edge of a contemporary boundary ditch. Additionally, four graves were identified, though only two contained human bone. Two possible pyre deposits or un-urned cremations were located c. 20m south of these features. Other features comprised a tentatively dated 1st century BC/AD system of boundary ditches, its 2nd -4th century successor, and pits dating to both periods (Trott, K. 2006).

Previous monitoring revealed a ?Roman cremation (F3016), a pit (F3034) which contained Neolithic pottery and flint including a projectile point. Other archaeological features comprised boundary ditches, gullies, and pits/postholes. Numerous tree hollows and natural features were also investigated, some of which contained residual pottery sherds (Doyle 2005; Greene 2008).

The current excavation revealed 35 archaeological features the majority of which were boundary or enclosure ditches and drainage gullies (Fig.3). Pits and tree hollows were also excavated. The principal features were one grave and two cremations.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April and May 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an excavation on behalf of Thames & Colne River Aggregates Ltd during groundworks associated with the extension of the current quarry development at Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester (Figs 1 and 2).

1.2 The monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM) (Garwood, dated 19/11/04), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 13/12/04). The recording conformed to the Institute of Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001), and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, Gurney (2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quantity of any surviving archaeological remains and geological deposits that are threatened by the proposed development;
- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains;
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the publication of the project results, if appropriate;
- To secure the conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994) the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment (by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.5 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement 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. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies to the south of Fingringhoe village, between Jaggers Farm and Plane Hall Farm, and to the north-east of South Green Farm (Fig 2). It is set within a sub-rectangular field, formerly in arable use. It is bounded to the north and east by Furneaux Lane while the western and southern site boundaries are marked by the courses of bridleways.

3 TOPOLOGY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The local solid geology is of Eocene clay. This is overlain by the glacio-fluvial

sands and gravels. Soils in the area are of the Wix Association (SSEW 1983), described as deep permeable coarse loamy soils that have been affected by groundwater. The site itself is fairly flat, lying at an average height of 25m AOD, but the land to the south and east sloes downwards towards the marshy area between the Pyfleet Channel (*c.* 3km south of the site) and the River Colne (*c.* 2km east of the site); the North and South Greedon Creeks pass through this area, the former passing within 750m of the site.. A tributary of the Colne, the Roman River, passes *c.* 600m north of the site. The site thus occupies the highest point of a 'triangular promontory between the River Colne and North/South Greedon Creek (Fig 1).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 *Prehistoric and late Iron Age*

Stray find of stone tools attest prehistoric presence in this part of Essex from at least the Neolithic period. To the west of Plane Hall Farm, excavation by Colchester Archaeological Trust revealed an early Iron Age house (EHCR 12562), and an Iron Age harness (EHCR 17642) was recovered from the plough soil nearby. Cropmarks *c.* 300m east of the site represent linear features, a possible field system, and ring ditches; the form of these features suggests an Iron Age date (EHCR 2270). Iron Age pottery (EHCR 2422) was found in this vicinity in 1970. Excavation at Frog Hall Farm to the south-west of the central focus of these cropmarks in 1975-6 revealed a ring ditch and ovular setting of postholes (EHCR 19867); these were dated as late Bronze Age, but pottery of other periods was also recovered.

The earliest attested activity in the Sheepen area of Colchester, *c.* 7km north-west of the site, comprises coins and imported Roman Mediterranean goods of the later 1st century BC. Late Iron Age settlement and funerary activity is well attested in this part of Colchester, and by AD 43 the large *oppidum* of *Camulodunum* ('fortress of Camulos', a Celtic war-god) had developed as the tribal capital of the Trinovantes. It was defended by a combination of natural features (rivers, valleys and dense woodland) and a series of man-made dykes. The defensive dykes of *Camulodunum* formed the largest such system known in late Iron Age Britain; their plan suggests a long sequence of unstructured development. Heath Farm Dyke and Berechurch Dyke may have continued southwards to contain the site at Fingringhoe, which would have lain immediately east of the postulated Berechurch Dyke (Dunnett 1975, 21).

4.2 *Romano-British*

Following the Claudian Conquest (AD 43) a large legionary fortress was constructed within the defended area of *Camulodunum*, but to the east of the foci of late Iron Age activity. The site of this fortress was chosen for Britain's first planned colonia, constructed after the deployment of the 20th legion to Wales in AD 49 (c.f. Kemble 2001). Being located in the hinterland of this major early Roman settlement, the site lay within a well utilised landscape, with villas, other rural occupation and supply bases all attested within a 10km radius. It has been asserted (Cleere 1978, 38) that Fingringhoe served as the harbour of Colchester, at least in the early/ military phase of the settlement. Fingringhoe does indeed seem a suitable site for a harbour serving *Camulodunum*, but this has not been clearly archaeologically attested, and

no road link from the fortress/ colonia to Fingringhoe has been identified (cf. Ordnance Survey 1997).

19th and early 20th century quarrying of the gravel deposits of the Fingringhoe area has resulted in the destruction of Roman archaeological sites without full recording. One such site at Fingringhoe Wick, *c*, 1.5km east of the site, may represent the harbour of *Camulodunum*, discussed above. The archaeological evidence is thought to have attested a 1st century AD military camp (VCH III 4, 132), evidenced by parallel lines of pits which produced large quantities of Claudio-Neronian material (EHCR 2113). Other remains included a possible landing place on the River Colne. The location of this site, on the west bank of the river, is comparable to the location of other Claudian coastal bases both in southern Britain and on the opposing continental coast (VCH III, 4). At least three later buildings, all small but well furnished with evidence of hypocaust systems and tessellated floors, were present site, as well as a cemetery and timber-lined wells. Coins of Cunobelin and sherds of Gallo-Belgic pottery were also recovered from this site, but there is no definite evidence of pre-Roman settlement (HER 2108). Roman building materials have been turned up by ploughing in two fields *c.* 400m south-east of the Fingringhoe Wick site/ 1.1km east-south-east of the current site (EHCR 2309).

In Fingringhoe village, a coin of Claudius was found in 1963 (EHCR 2416), and Roman presence is further attested by the re-used septaria and Roman brick in the fabric of the 12th century church of St. Andrew (EHCR 2524). Approximately 100m to the east of the current site's northern end, a watching brief has revealed Roman rubbish pits (EHCR 4875). No archaeological features have been revealed to the south/ south-east of the site but finds evidence has attested Roman presence. This finds evidence comprises two coins, one unidentified and one of Magnus Maximus (AD 383-8) (EHCR 2081), a 5th century brooch (EHCR 17640), and Roman pottery (23 sherds) recovered from the plough soil during excavations at Frog Hall Farm (EHCR 19868). The form of the bridleway which bounds the site to the south (see Section 2.1 and Fig 1) suggests that it may follow the line of a Roman Road or route-way; this has not been confirmed by excavation. Going (in Glazebrook 1997, 37) notes that even the main Roman trunk road network in East Anglia has had little work undertaken recently, and that smaller secondary or local routes are almost wholly unexplored.

The marshland on the lower ground to the south and east of the site would have been ideal for saltings. Roman salterns, known as red hills, have been identified throughout this area of Essex, including one to the south of the Roman River, *c.* 700m north of the site (EHCR 2658), which yielded several coins, at least two of Claudian date.

4.3 *Saxon*

A coin of the Eastern Emperor Justinian I (527-565) found c. 900m north-north-east of the site attests continuing activity in the Fingringhoe area in the immediate post-Roman period.

6th – 7th century pottery recovered during excavation at Frog Hall Farm is thought to represent 10 to 15 vessels and to represent an early-middle Saxon settlement site *c.*

200m east of the site's southern end (EHCR 19869). Metal detector finds in close proximity to the southern end of the site include several 7th -8th century sceatta coins (EHCR 17585, 18622, 18659). One of these was an unusual, possibly Frisian, sceat whose presence could attest to the immigration of Germanic people or distant trading contacts. A strap end (EHCCR 17639) has also been found in this area. The metal items may be further evidence of settlement in this vicinity, but their distribution along the southern edge of the site may also be consistent with the extant bridleway having existed as a route-way by this time, and so possibly with its interpretation as being of Roman origin (see above).

A further, silver, strap end has been recovered to the east of the site's northern end (EHCR 17638), and two lead (alloy?) strap ends were found near the parish church (EHCR 17668). The latter may have been models or trial pieces for copper alloy (or silver) finished products, and so may be indicative of metalworking in the area.

4.4 Previous archaeological work

4.4.1 *Fieldwalking survey*

An archaeological fieldwalking survey of the site and an additional area (known as Tower Field) north of Furneaux Lane was carried out by HAT (now AS) in October 2000 (Murray & Crank 2000). The field walking survey revealed a light scatter of worked and burnt flint work that included tool types of the early Neolithic and early Bronze Age date. Two small fragments of pottery were recovered the first of Saxon date and the second sherd was medieval in character. A large quantity of post-medieval roof-tile, and a small quantity of post-medieval pottery was also recovered, suggestive either of disturbed sub-surface features or of deposition of post-medieval material associated with agricultural practices (i.e. manuring).

4.4.2 *Trial trench evaluation*

The trial trench evaluation of the site was carried out by AS in September 2004 (Eddisford 2004) (Fig 2). Twelve trenches were excavated and all were found to contain features (pits, ditches and postholes, many of them undated). Two Romano-British cremation vessels were identified in Trench 9, to the west of a linear feature aligned approximately north-west to south-east. The cremations were left *in-situ*.

4.4.3 *Archaeological monitoring and recording in Tower Field*

In April 2005, AS carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in Tower Field, to the north-east of the current site (Doyle 2005). The topsoil was stripped mechanically and all archaeological features exposed were investigated. Two boundary ditches were recorded along with several tree hollows and pits. Dating evidence was very sparse, but a single sherd of late Iron Age-Romano-British pottery was recovered from one of the ditches, and a large assemblage of oyster shell from one of the pits.

4.4.4 *Archaeological excavation, Phase 1*

In April and May 2006, the two cremation vessels revealed by the evaluation (Tr.9) and left *in situ* were excavated during the excavation phase, along with a further 15 vessels of c. 2nd century date, all located along the edge of a contemporary boundary ditch. Also in this part of the site, four graves were identified, though only two contained human bone. Two possible pyre deposits or un-urned cremations were located c. 20m south of these features.

Other features comprised a tentatively dated 1st century BC/AD system of boundary ditches, and its 2nd -4th century successor. Very sparse pits dating to both periods were also present. The remaining features were undated ditches and pits (Trott 2006).

4.4.5 *Archaeological monitoring, 2008*

In August 2008 a programme of monitoring revealed a Roman cremation, and a pit (F3034) which contained Neolithic pottery and struck flint including a projectile point. Other archaeological features comprised boundary ditches, gullies, and pits/post-holes. Numerous tree hollows and natural features were also investigated, some of which contained residual pottery fragments (Greene 2008).

4.4.6 Archaeological monitoring 2009

No archaeological features or finds were recorded (McCall *et al*, 2009)

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 An area totalling 1.4 hectares was mechanically excavated using a 360° excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil layers were removed to the top of the first archaeological horizon and thereafter investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* record sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. The site was surveyed using a Leica 805 Total Station. Soil heaps and archaeological features were scanned for finds and metal detected using a C.Scope CS1220R.

5.2 Pits and postholes were half-sectioned, linear features were excavated in regular segments that provided a minimum of 20% coverage. Inhumations were 100% excavated. Large pits were excavated by means of 1 x 1m test pits.

6 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

6.1 The excavation revealed 35 archaeological features the majority of which were boundary or enclosure ditches and drainage gullies (Fig.3). Pits and tree hollows were also excavated. The principal features were one grave and two cremations. The archaeological features have been phased according to finds evidence and stratigraphic relationships.

Phase	Date
1	Iron Age
2	Romano-British
	Undated features

6.2 The archaeological features were relatively shallow in depth indicating that the site was plough damaged. Much of the archaeology was truncated and often only the bases of features remained.

7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Phase 1 Iron Age

Phase 1 comprised 17 features very tentatively dated to the 1st century BC-1st century AD. These comprised eleven ditches (F5005, F2025, F5009, F2029, F5021, F5016, F5014, F5069, F5051, F5057, F5059), 3 pits (F5019, F5061 and F5079) and three tree throws (F5083, F5085 and F5087). The majority of features were located in the southern half of site (Pit F5061 is present to the north). Only small amounts highly fragmented and abraded pottery was recovered from the Phase 1 features, therefore the dating is highly tentative and the pottery may be residual.

Phase 1 Ditches (Fig. 3)

Ditches F5005 (=F2063) and F5025 were located on the western site boundary. Their alignment was similar (NNE/SSW) and they terminated within one metre of each other forming an entrance way. Ditch F2059 (excavated in 2006) also shared this alignment. Ditch F5009 was a continuation of Ditch F2061 (excavated in 2006) and terminated *c.*1m before Ditch F5007. It was perpendicular and formed an enclosure with Ditch F5005. All of the ditches had similar fills and were similar in width and depth. Their profiles varied. A few small, heavily-abraded Iron Age pottery sherds (1 sherd and 2 sherds respectively) were recovered from F5006, F5026 and F5009. Undated Ditch F5021 was an earlier terminal, re-cut by Ditch F5005. It has been assigned to Phase 1 based on its comparable alignment with Ditch F5005. No finds were present within Ditch F5016 which was cut by, and was perpendicular to Ditch F5005. Ditch F1016 was cut by Iron Age Pit F1019 and is therefore assigned to Phase 1. Located close to the western boundary was Ditch F5014. It was cut by Ditch F5007 (Ph.2) and it alignment was similar to Ditch F5051 (=F2013).

Iron Age pottery (16g) was present in Ditch F5069 that was perpendicular to Ditches F5005, F5025, and F2024 (2006 Excavation) and was located on the eastern boundary cutting Ditch F5051. To the west Ditches F5051, F5057, and F5059 formed an enclosure with an entrance way set 2.5m apart. Ditch F2005 (excavated in 2006) was an extension of this enclosure. The Phase 1 ditches were field boundaries, and their individual descriptions are tabulated. Ditch F5005 was excavated in four segments (tabulated below). One segment was also excavated as

Ditch F2063 (2006 excavation). Ditch F5025 was excavated in four segments (tabulated below). Ditch F5009 was excavated in two segments (tabulated below). Ditch F5021 was excavated in two segments (tabulated below). Ditch F5016 was excavated in three segments (tabulated below). Ditch F5069 was excavated in three segments (tabulated below). Ditch was recorded in the 2006 excavations (Ditch F2036). Ditch F5014 was linear in plan (7.26 x 0.82 x 0.26m) orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5015, was a light greyish brown, loose silty sand with occasional angular gravel. No finds were present. Ditch F5014 was cut by Ditch F5007. Ditch F5051 was excavated in five segments (tabulated below). It was also recorded in the 2006 excavation (Ditch F2013). Ditch F5057 was excavated in two segments (tabulated below). Ditch F5059 was excavated in two segments (tabuated below). F5059 was also recorded in the 2006 excavation (Ditch F2005).

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5005 = F2063	L5006 = L2064	A	Linear, aligned NE/SW (22m)	Moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.02 x 0.18m)	Mid orange grey, friable, sandy silt with moderate angular and rounded gravel	-	Ditch terminal, formed entrance way with Ditch Terminal F5025
		B		Moderately sloping sides, flat base (0.90 x 0.14m)	Mid orange grey, friable sandy silt with occasional angular and rounded gravel	-	Cut Ditch F5021
		C		Moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.00 x 0.25m)	Mid greyish brown, friable sandy silt with occasional rounded and angular gravel	-	-
		D		Steep sides, flat base (1.00 x 0.29m)	Mid greyish brown, firm sandy silt with frequent angular and rounded gravel	-	Cut Ditch F5016

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5025	L5026	A	Curvilinear, (15.05m)	Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.80 x 0.30m)	Mid greyish brown, compact silt with occasional angular gravel	-	Cut by Pit F5023
		B		Steep sides, flat base (0.58 x 0.26m)	Mid greyish brown, compact silt with occasional angular gravel	Iron Age pottery (7g)	Ditch terminal, formed entrance way with Ditch terminal F5005
		C		Steep sides, flat base (0.89 x 0.23m)	Mid greyish brown, loose silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent angular gravel	-	Cut by Pit F5023
		D		Shallow sides, flat base (0.63 x 0.09m)	Mid greyish brown, loose silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks	-	Ditch terminal

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5009 = F2061	L5010 = L2062 (Seg A)	A	Linear, aligned NW/SE (29m)	Moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.57 x 0.10m)	Light to mid greyish brown, firm silty sand with moderate angular gravel	-	Ditch terminal
	L2067 (Seg B) L2084 (Segs C-E) L2071 (Seg F)	B		Moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.54 x 0.17m)	Mid greyish brown, loose silty sand with frequent angular gravel and occasional charcoal flecks	Iron Age pottery (26g)	-

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5021	L5022	A	Linear, aligned NE/SW (2.20m)	Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.70 x 0.11m)	Light orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular gravel	-	Ditch terminal
		B		Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.90 x 0.25m)	Light orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular gravel	-	Cut by Ditch F5005 = F2061

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5016	L5017	A	Linear, aligned E/W (6m)	Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.35 x 0.25m)	Light greyish brown, firm sandy silt with occasional angular gravel	-	Cut by Ditch F5007
	L5017	B		Steep sides, concave base (0.60 x 0.29m)	Mottled light greyish brown and orange brown, friable silty sand with frequent angular gravel and manganese flecks	-	Cut by Pit F5019
	L5018				Mid orange brown, loose silty sand with frequent rounded gravel	-	
	L5017	C		Moderately steep sides, flat base (0.60 x 0.26m)	Light greyish brown, friable sandy silt with occasional sub-angular gravel	-	Cut by Ditch F5005

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5069 = F2036	L5070 = L2037	A	Linear, orientated NW/SE (length c.27m in total with the 2006 excavation)	Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.75 x 0.29m)	Mid yellow brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular and rounded gravel and charcoal flecks	Fe fragment (37g), burnt flint (31g), fired clay (26g)	-
		B		Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.20+ x 0.38m)	Ditto	Iron Age pottery (16g)	Ditch F5069 cut Ditch F5051
		C		Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.94 x 0.15m)	Ditto	-	Ditch terminal

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5051	L5052	A	Linear, aligned N/S (length 123m with 2006 excavation)	Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.48 x 0.21m)	Mid reddish brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular and rounded gravel and charcoal flecks		Ditch terminal, created an entrance with Ditch F5057
		B		Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.96 x 0.29m)	Ditto	-	-
		C		Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.10 x 0.30m)	Mid reddish brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular gravel and charcoal flecks	-	-
		D		Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.30 x 0.34m)	Ditto	-	-
		E		Moderately steep sides, flat base (1.60 x 0.23m)	Light yellowish brown, friable sandy silt with moderate angular and rounded gravel	Iron Age pottery sherd (40g)	Cut by Ditch F5069

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5051	L5052	A	Linear, aligned N/S (length 123m with 2006 excavation)	Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.48 x 0.21m)	Mid reddish brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular and rounded gravel and charcoal flecks		Ditch terminal, created an entrance with Ditch F5057
		B		Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.96 x 0.29m)	Ditto	-	-
		C		Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.10 x 0.30m)	Mid reddish brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular gravel and charcoal flecks	-	-
		D		Moderately steep sides, concave base (1.30 x 0.34m)	Ditto	-	-
		E		Moderately steep sides, flat base (1.60 x 0.23m)	Light yellowish brown, friable sandy silt with moderate angular and rounded gravel	Iron Age pottery sherd (40g)	Cut by Ditch F5069

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5057	L5058	A	Linear, aligned N/S. (4.20m)	Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.40 x 0.20m)	Mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular and rounded gravel and charcoal flecks	-	Ditch terminal, created entrance with Ditch F5051
		B		Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.46 x 0.26m)	Mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular and rounded gravel and charcoal flecks	-	Slot with Ditch F5059 = F2005

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5059 = F2005	L5060 = L2006	A	Linear, aligned E/W (length c.23m in total with 2006 excavation)	Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.44 x 0.25m)	Mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional rounded gravel and charcoal flecks	-	Slot with Ditch F5057
		B		Moderately steep sides, concave base (0.55 x 0.26m)	Mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular and rounded gravel and charcoal flecks	Struck flint (4g)	-

Phase 1 Pits Fig. 3

Two Phase 1 pits, F5019 (to the west) and F5061 (to the north), contained single sherds of Iron Age pottery (4g and 5g respectively). Pit F5079 located to the south-east contained prehistoric struck flint (15g). All of the pits were oval in plan but had different fills. The largest pit, F5019, cut Ditch F5016. Three tree throws (F5083, F5085, and F5087) containing Late Iron Age pottery were present in the south-central excavation area. They all had a distinctive irregular crescent shape.

Individual pit and tree throw descriptions are presented below.

Pit F5019 was oval in plan (3.40 x 2.52 x 0.20m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5020, was a mid greyish brown, firm silty sand with frequent angular and rounded gravel and occasional flecks of manganese. Iron Age pottery (4g) was present.

Pit F5061 was oval in plan (1.60 x 1.30 x 0.31m). It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L5062, was a light brown, compact sandy silt. Iron Age pottery (8g) was present.

Pit F5079 was oval in plan (0.98 x 0.80 x 0.20m). It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L5080, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with moderate angular gravel. Struck flint (15g) was present.

Tree Throw F5083 was an irregular crescent in plan (2.23 x 0.81 x 0.17m). It had irregular sides and base. Its fill, L5084, was a light yellow brown, friable sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and angular and rounded gravel. No finds were present.

Tree Throw F5085 was an irregular crescent in plan (3.98 x 1.06 x 0.53m). It had irregular sides and base. Its fill, L5086, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with moderate angular and rounded gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. Iron Age pottery (10g) was present.

Tree Throw F5087 was an irregular crescent in plan (1.90 x 1.50 x 0.54m). It had irregular sides and base. Its fill, L5088, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with frequent gravel. Struck flint flakes (51g) were present.

Phase 2 Romano-British Fig.3

Phase 2 features comprised two linear ditches (F5007 and F5011) and Pit F5023.

The Phase 2 ditches (F5007 and F5011) were present in the western part of the excavation. Ditch F5007 extended beyond the excavation and was aligned N/S. It contained Iron Age pottery and cut the Ditch F5014. Ditch F5011 was a continuation of Ditch F2003 (2006 excavation). Ditch F5007 was excavated in five segments (tabulated below). Ditch F5011 was excavated in two segments (tabulated below). Ditch F5011 was excavated in two segments (tabulated below).

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5007	L5008	A	Linear, aligned N/S (24.6m)	Moderately sloping sides, flat base (1.10 x 0.26m)	Mid greyish brown, friable silty sand with occasional angular gravel	Iron Age pottery (28g)	Ditch terminal
		B		Moderately sloping sides, flat base (1.11 x 0.30m)	Mid greyish brown, loose silty sand with frequent angular gravel	IA pottery (39g)	-
		C		Steep sides, flat base (1.10 x 0.40m)	Mid greyish brown, loose silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent angular gravel	-	-
		D		Moderately sloping sides, flat base (1.45 x 0.37m)	Mid greyish brown, loose silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks	-	-
		E		Moderately sloping sides, flat base, (0.42 x 0.22m)	Mid greyish brown, loose silty sand with moderate sub-angular gravel	-	Cut Ditch F5016

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5011 = F2003	L5012, basal fill	A	Linear, aligned NW/SE (87m)	Moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.40 x 0.30m)	Mid orange brown, friable silty sand with occasional angular gravel	Iron Age pottery (2g)	-
	L5013, upper fill				Light orange brown, friable silty sand		
	L5012, basal fill	B		Moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.20 x 0.25m)	Mid orange brown, friable silty sand with occasional angular gravel	-	-
	L5013. upper fill				Light orange brown, friable silty sand	Iron Age pottery (2g)	

Phase 2 pits (Fig. 3)

One large irregularly-shaped pit (F5023) present on the western boundary contained ceramic building material (*c.*6kg) and pottery (18g) of Romano-British date. Pit F5023 cut Ditch F5025 (Phase 1). Pit F5023 was excavated using six 1 x 1m test pits that are described in the table below.

Feature	Context	Test Pit	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)	Comments
F5023	L5024	A	Irregular oval, (6.30 x 7.70m)	Shallow sides, irregular base (1.00 x 0.06m)	Mid greyish brown, loose sandy silt with occasional rounded and angular gravel	-	-
		B		Shallow sides, irregular base (1.00 x 0.24m)	Ditto	CBM (846g))	-
		C		Shallow sides, irregular base (1.00 x 0.20m)	Ditto	CBM (4980g)	-
		D		Shallow sides, irregular base (1.00 x 0.06m)	Ditto	RB pottery (10g) CBM (71g)	-
		E		Shallow sides, irregular base (1.00 x 0.20m)	Ditto	-	-

		F		Shallow sides, irregular base (1.00 x 0.20m)	Ditto	RB pottery (8g) CBM (59g)	Cut Ditch F5025
		G		Shallow sides, irregular base (1.00 x 0.20m)	Ditto	-	Cut Ditch F5025

Test pits of Pit F5023

Undated features

Discrete undated features were excavated comprising two ditches (F5055 and F5063), twelve pits (F5003, F5027, F5029, F3031, F3033, F4045, F4047, F5053, F5075, F5077, F5081)

Undated Ditches

Ditch F5055 present on the eastern boundary towards in the northern contained only residual medieval pottery (g).

Ditch F5055 was excavated in two segments that are described in the table below.

Feature	Context	Segment	Plan	Profile	Fill	Finds (count; weight)
F5055	L5056	A	Linear, aligned E/W (6.72m)	Shallow sides, concave base (1.30 x 0.23m)	Mid orange brown, loose silty sand with occasional angular gravel	Medieval pottery (6g)
		B		Shallow sides, concave base (0.80 x 0.18m)	Ditto	-

Ditch F5063 was linear in plan (2.46+ x 0.90 x 0.34m) orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. The basal fill, L5064, was a light orange brown, loose silty sand and gravel. The upper fill, L5065, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt. No finds were present.

Undated Pits

Pit F5003 was oval in plan (0.81 x 0.70 x 0.09m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5004, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional rounded gravel and charcoal flecks. No finds were present.

Pit F5027 was oval in plan (1.76 x 1.49 x 0.38m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5028, was a mid grey brown, firm silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and angular gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5029 was oval in plan (2.25 x 1.05 x 0.40m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L5030, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional rounded and angular gravel and charcoal flecks. Burnt flint (2g) and struck flint (2g) were present.

Pit F5031 was oval in plan (1.10 x 0.80 x 0.16m). It had moderately steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5032, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular and rounded gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5033 was oval in plan (0.94 x 0.76 x 0.10m). It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5044, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional rounded and angular gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5045 was oval in plan (1.50 x 1.26 x 0.29m). It had moderately steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5046, was a mid greyish brown, friable sandy silt with frequent rounded and angular gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5047 was sub-rectangular in plan (1.88 x 0.68 x 0.15m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L5048, was a mid reddish grey, friable sandy silt with frequent angular and rounded gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5053 was oval in plan (1.00 x 1.00 x 0.13m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L5053, was a light orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5073 was oval in plan (0.76 x 0.74 x 0.20m). It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5074, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional angular gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5075 was oval in plan (0.78 x 0.70 x 0.18m). it had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L5076, was a mid orange brown, friable silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and angular and rounded gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5077 was oval in plan (1.30 x 1.24 x 0.44m). It had shallow sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L5078, was a mid orange brown, friable silty sand with moderate angular and rounded gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F5081 was oval in plan (1.67 x 1.08 x 0.37m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5082, was a mid yellow brown, friable sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and angular and rounded flint gravel. No finds were present.

Undated Cremations

Possible Cremation Pit F5049 was oval in plan (0.32 x 0.30 x 0.13m). It had near vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L5050, was a mid yellow black, loose silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional rounded and angular gravel. No finds were present.

Possible Cremation Pit F5071 was sub-rectangular in plan (0.22 x 0.22 x 0.14m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L5072, was a dark mottled brown and black, friable silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks. Burnt flint (6g) was present.

Undated Grave

Grave Cut F5066 was sub-rectangular in plan (1.68 x 0.72 x 0.29m) orientated NNE/SSW. It had near vertical sides and an uneven base. Backfill L5067 was mid yellow brown, loose sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and angular and

rounded gravel. Deposit L5068 comprised mid yellow red friable silty sand and is all that remains of the body. No bones or teeth had survived in the highly acidic soil. No finds were present.

9 CONFIDENCE RATING

9.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of monitoring and recording.

10 DEPOSIT MODEL

Sample Section 1 (southern section)

Sample Section 1; south end, north facing *0.00 = 23.15m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L5000	Ploughsoil. Mid brown grey, loose sandy silt with occasional flint nodules.
0.30 – 0.56m	L5001	Subsoil. Dark brown grey, friable silt with occasional angular flint nodules.
0.56m+	L5002	Natural drift geology. Mid orange brown, compact silty sub-glacial moraine.

Sample Section 2 (south-western section)

Sample Section 2; south-west end, north facing *0.00 = 23.86m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L5000	Ploughsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.35 – 0.55m	L5001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.55m+	L5002	Natural drift geology. As Sample Section 1.

Sample Section 3 (western section)

Sample Section 3; west end, east facing *0.00 = 24.06m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.43m	L5000	Ploughsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.43 – 0.64m	L5001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.64m+	L5002	Natural drift geology. Light yellow and orange, loose sand.

Sample Section 4 (north-western section)

Sample Section 4; north-west end, east facing *0.00 = 25.66m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L5000	Ploughsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.32 – 0.45m	L5001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.45m+	L5002	Natural drift geology. As Sample Section 3.

10.1 Uppermost in the stratigraphic sequence was Ploughsoil L5000. It comprised a mid brown grey, loose sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded flint nodules. It overlay a thick deposit of dark brown grey, friable silt (L5001; 0.13-0.26m thick). At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was natural drift deposit L5002 at a depth of between 0.45-0.64m below present ground surface. In the northern sector of site it comprised a light yellow and orange, loose sand, to the south it changed to a mid orange brown, compact silty sub-glacial moraine.

10.2 All of the features were cut into the natural drift geology L5002, following the abandonment and silting of these features, they were sealed by the accumulation of subsoil L5001.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed according to English Heritage (MAP2) standards. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the ECC HEM, EHER, LPA and National Monuments Record (NMR), Swindon. The archive will be lodged with Colchester Museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Thames & Colne River Aggregates Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the archaeological excavation

Archaeological Solutions is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Adrian Gascoyne of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Black E.W. 1986 'Romano-British burial customs and religious beliefs in south-east England', *Archaeological Journal*, 143, 201-39.

British Geological Survey (BGS) 1995 *Solid & drift edition, 1:50,000.* BGS

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

Cleere, H. 1978 'Roman harbours in Britain south of Hadrian's Wall' in du Plat Taylor, J. and Cleere, H. (eds) *Roman shipping and trade Britain and the Rhine provinces.* Council for British Archaeology Research Report 24.

Doyle, K. 2005, *Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester, Essex: Archaeological monitoring & recording (of Tower Field)*, AS Report 1884.

Dunnett, R. 1975. *The Trinovantes: people of Roman Britain*, Duckworth.

Eddisford, D. 2004, *Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry: An Archaeological Evaluation*, AS Report 1631.

Going, C & Plouviez, J. 2000. *Roman in East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8 Research and Archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties, research agenda and strategy.*

Glazebrook, J. (ed.) 1997 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern*

Counties. 1. Resource Assessment. East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper No. 3

Greene, R. 2008, *Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester, Essex: An archaeological Monitoring & Excavation: Interim report*, AS report 3159

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper No. 14

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 2001 *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures.* IFA, Reading

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.* IFA, Reading

Kemble, J. 2001. *Prehistoric* and *Roman Essex*. Tempus: Stroud.

McCall, W., Adams, M. & Barlow, G., 2009. *Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording.* Archaeological Solutions Report No.3422

Murray, J. & Crank, N. 2000. *Land South of Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester, Essex: an archaeological evaluation*. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Report 774

Niblett, R. 1999. *The Excavation of a Ceremonial Site at Folly Lane, Verulamium*. Britannia Monograph series No. 14.

Ordnance Survey 1997 *Historic Map and Guide: Roman Britain*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton

Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW) 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales.* SSEW, Harpenden

Stead, I. & Rigby, V. 1989. *Verulamium the King Harry Lane Site*. English Heritage Archaeological Report No. 12.

Taylor, A. 2001 *Burial practice in early England*. Tempus, Stroud.

Trott, K. 2006, *Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester, Essex: An archaeological Monitoring & Excavation: Interim report*, AS report 2112.

FIBQ05: Fingringhoe Ballast Quarry, Colchester
Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Other
5000			Topsoil				S. Flint (1) 2g
5001			Subsoil				S. Flint (1) 3g
5007	5008	A	Ditch Fill	IA	(2) 28g		
5007	5008	B	Ditch Fill	IA	(2) 39g		
5009	5010	B	Gully Fill	IA	(7) 26g		
5011	5012		Basal Ditch Fill	IA	(1) 2g		
5011	5013	B	Upper Ditch Fill	IA	(1) 2g		B. Flint (1) 27g
5019	5020		Pit Fill	IA	(1) 4g		
5023	5024	B	Pit Fill			688	
5023	5024	F	Pit Fill	RB	(1) 8g		
5023	5024	C	Pit Fill			4,980	
5023	5024	D	Pit Fill			71	
5023	5024	F	Pit Fill			59	
5023	5024	D	Pit Fill	RB	(1) 10g		
5025	5026	B	Ditch Fill	IA	(2) 7g		
5051	5052	E	Ditch Fill	IA	(3) 40g		
5055	5056	A	Ditch Fill	Med	(1) 6g		
5059	5060	B	Ditch Fill				S. Flint (1) 4g
5061	5062		Pit Fill	IA	(1) 8g		
5069	5070	A	Ditch Fill				B. Flint (1) 31g Fe Fragment (1) 37g F. Clay (1) 26g
5069	5070	B	Ditch Fill	IA	(1) 16g		
5079	5080		Pit Fill				S. Flint (1) 15g
5085	5086		Fill of Tree Throw	IA	(1) 10g		
5087	5088		Fill of Tree Throw				S. Flint (6) 51g

1

Ditches F5051, F5057 and F5059 with Grave F5066, looking north.

2

Mid-excavation shot of Grave F5066, looking south-west.

3

Pit F5023 and Ditch F5025, looking west.

4

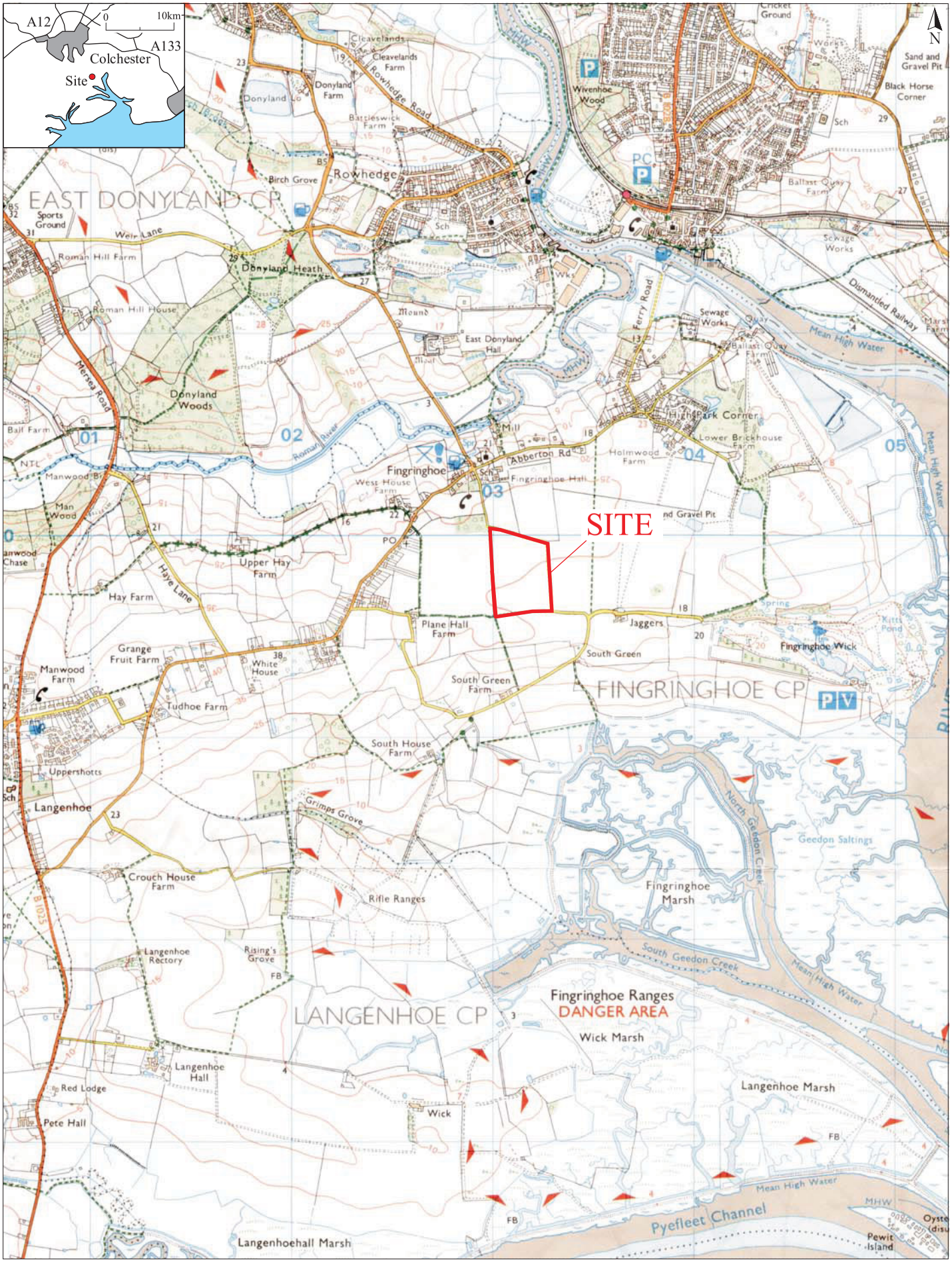
Ditches F5005, F5021 and F5016, looking south-west.

5

General site view

6

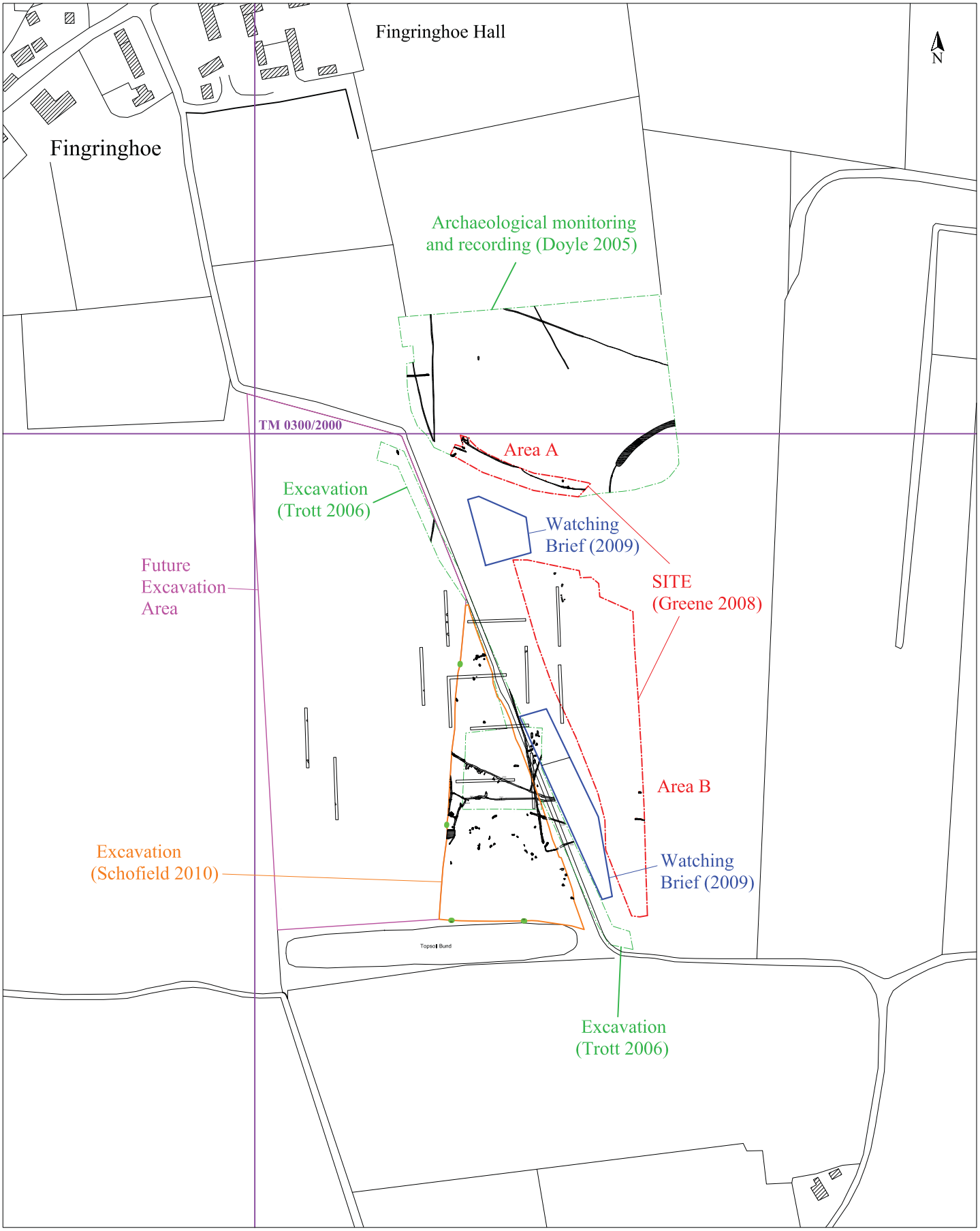
General site view, looking north.



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000

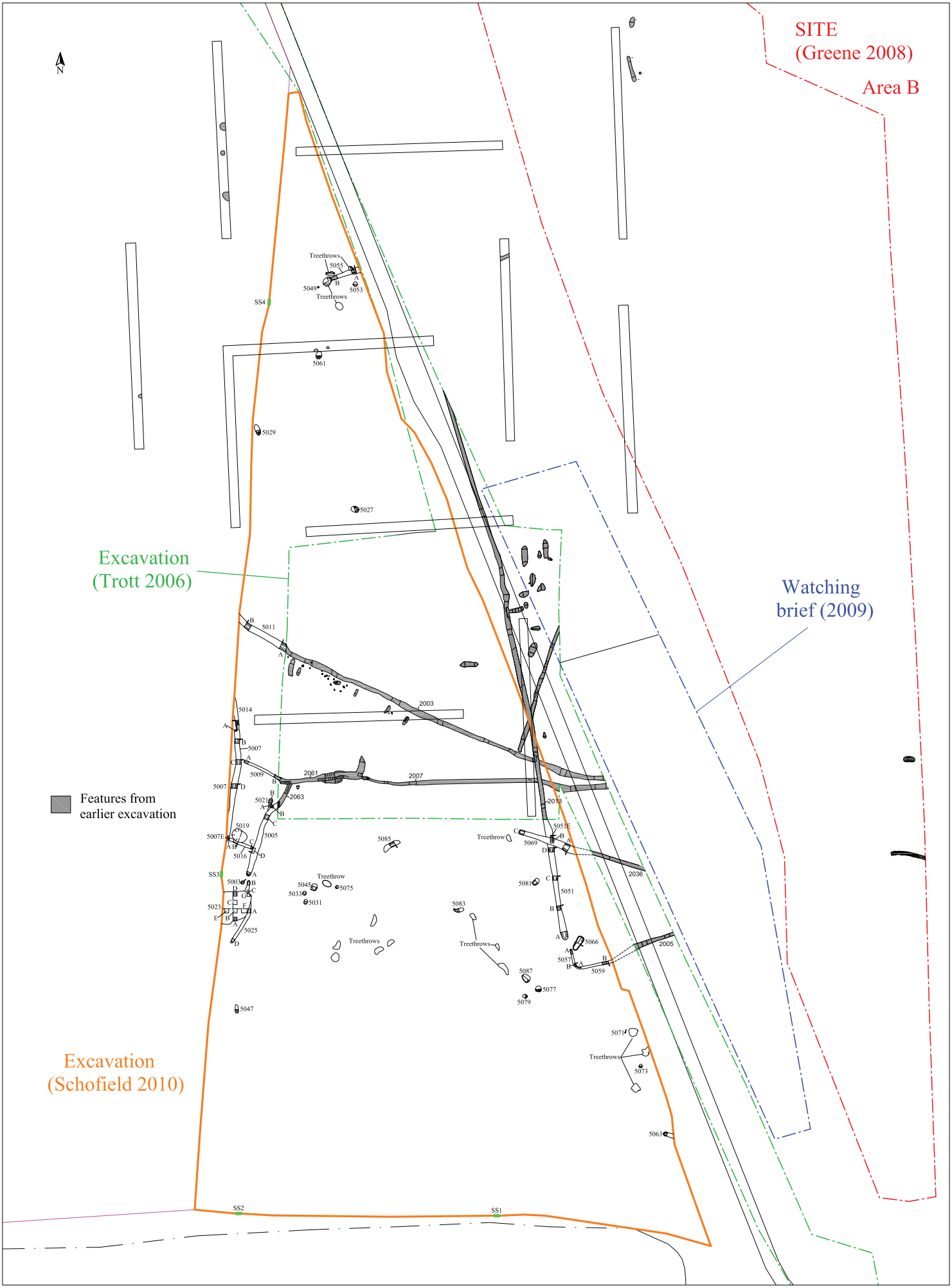


0 300m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd.

Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

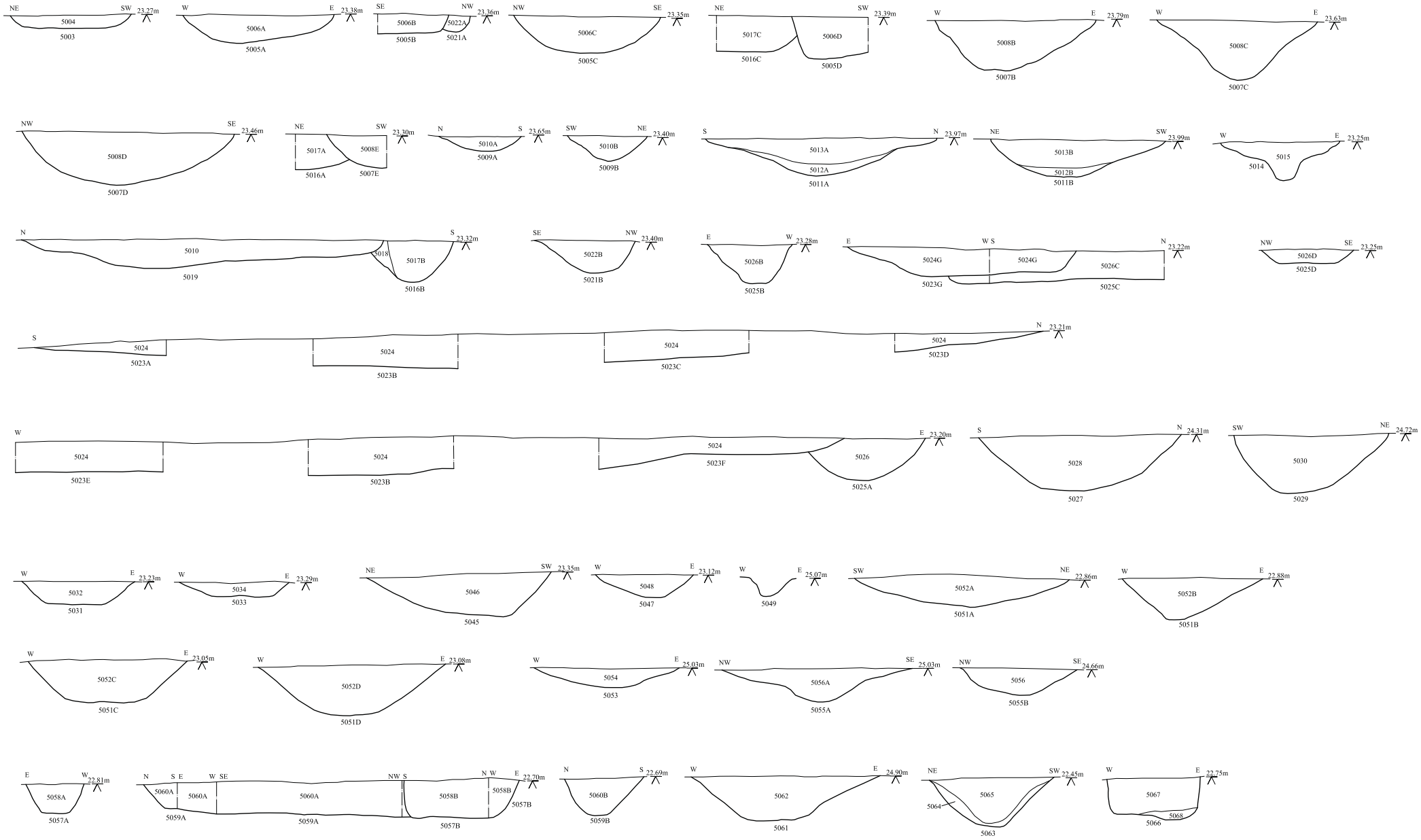
Scale 1:4000 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd.

Fig. 3 Excavation area May 2010

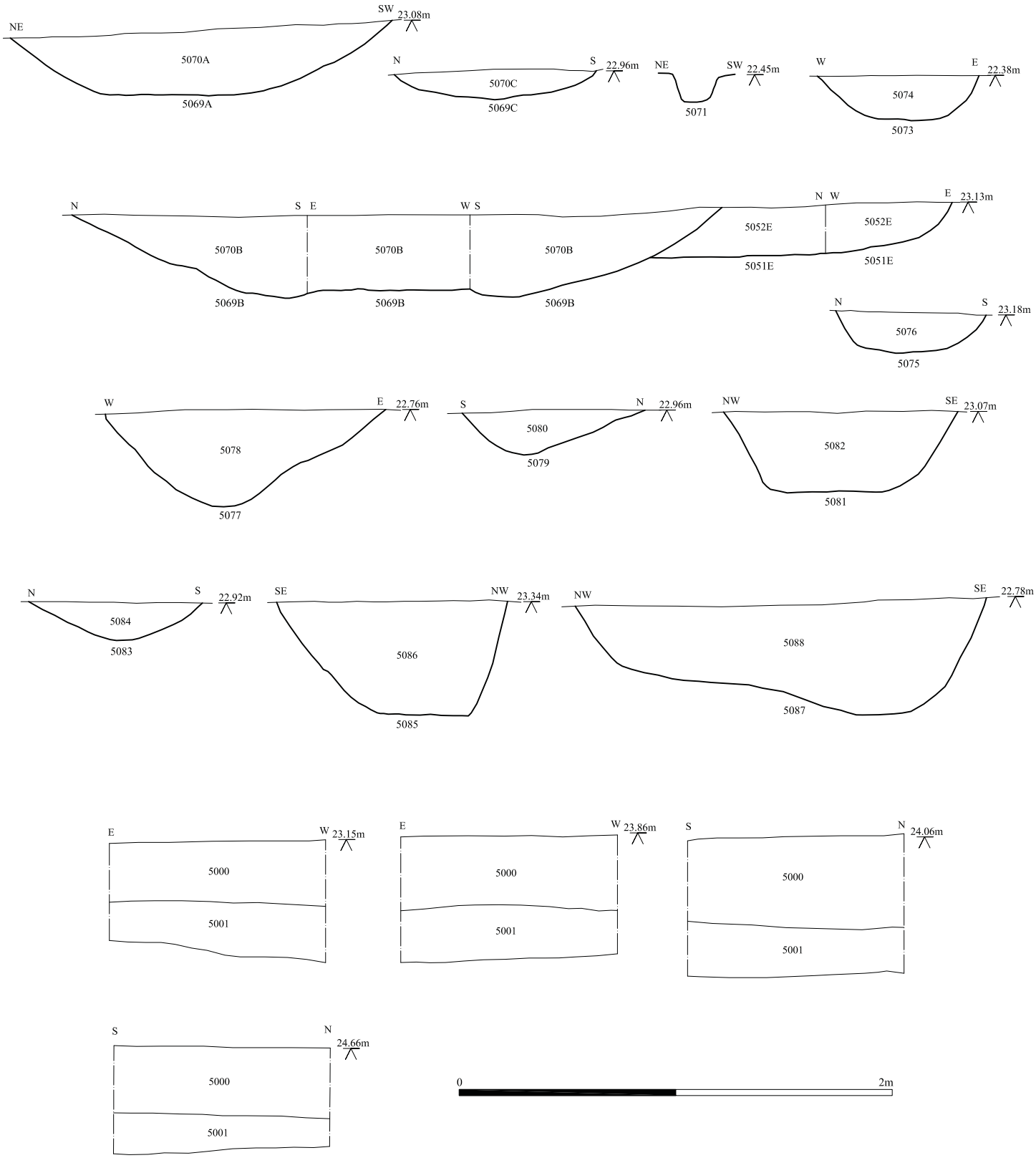
Scale 1:750 at A3



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 4 Sections

Scale 1:25 at A3



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Sections
Scale 1:25 at A3