

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**COBBS FARM, GOLDHANGER, ESSEX****AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NGR: TL 8908 0861	Report No: 3506
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Cobbs Farm, Goldhanger, Essex</i>	
<i>In February and March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on Cobbs Farm, Goldhanger, Essex (NGR TL 8090 0861). The evaluation was carried out in order to form part of an Environmental Impact Assessment in advance of planning application for an agricultural reservoir (Planning ref: ESS/24/08/MAL/S).</i>			
<i>The evaluation revealed three ring ditches (Tr. 7 (F1036), Tr.27 (F1151 & F1153) & Tr. 35 (F1127)), 38 ditches or gullies, 36 pits and postholes and an irregular depression. Finds were generally sparse and few features were dated. Bronze Age features comprise Ring Ditch F1036 (Tr.7), and Pits F1075 and F1085 (Tr.28). Pit F1032 (also in Tr.7) contained burnt flint, and the feature may be prehistoric. The remaining sherds were small in number (1) and obtained from open features (ditches), and are insufficient to date the features (Ditch F1051 (Tr.15) and Ditch F1131 (Tr.35) each contained a Bronze Age sherd. Ditch F1055 (Tr.15) and Ditch F1057 Tr.22) each contained a Roman sherd). A late Saxon / early medieval sherd, and a Roman sherd were found in the topsoil (Trs. 14 & 17 respectively).</i>			
<i>Two concentrations of features were identified. Firstly with Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 & 7, and secondly Trenches 22, 28, 32 & 33. The features principally comprised gullies, pits and post holes. Isolated, or sparsely distributed, features comprising gullies, pits and post holes were recorded in the eastern half of the site (Trs. 26 - 27, 34 - 37, 44, 47, 50 & 55). Trench 15 on the western side of the site contained three pits. Linear ditches traversed the site and were recorded in several trenches (Trs. 4 & 5; Trs. 19-22; Trs. 33-34; & Trs. 35, 38, 51 & 53).</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>09 Feb – 08 Mar 10</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		<i>3799</i>	Site code
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status		<i>-</i>	
Current land use		<i>Agricultural</i>	
Planned development		<i>Agricultural reservoir</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>3 ring ditches, ditches, gullies, pits</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>Bronze Age pottery</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Essex</i>	<i>Maldon</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER)</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>-</i>	
Area of site		<i>8.75 ha.</i>	
NGR		<i>TL 8909 0861</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>c.4m AOD</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>Maria Medlycott</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Walter McCall (PO)</i>	
Funded by		<i>SRC Ltd</i>	
Full title		<i>Cobbs Farm, Goldhanger, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Authors		<i>Walter McCall</i>	
Report no.		<i>3506</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>March 2010</i>	

COBBS FARM, GOLDHANGER, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February and March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on Cobbs Farm, Goldhanger, Essex (NGR TL 8090 0861). The evaluation was carried out in order to form part of an Environmental Impact Assessment in advance of planning application for an agricultural reservoir (Planning ref: ESS/24/08/MAL/S).

Recent excavations in the vicinity of the site have yielded Bronze to Iron Age remains (EHER 13576, 7864, 7914), and visible cropmarks suggest also Romano-British activity. In particular, excavations at Chappel Farm yielded five early to middle Iron Age roundhouses and traces of prehistoric and Romano-British field systems. At least three Bronze cremations, were discovered at Rook Hall in association with evidence for Iron Age occupation.

The evaluation revealed three ring ditches (Tr. 7 (F1036), Tr.27 (F1151 & F1153) & Tr. 35 (F1127)), 38 ditches or gullies, 36 pits and postholes and an irregular depression. Finds were generally sparse and few features were dated. Bronze Age features comprise Ring Ditch F1036 (Tr.7), and Pits F1075 and F1085 (Tr.28). Pit F1032 (also in Tr.7) contained burnt flint, and the feature may be prehistoric. The remaining sherds were small in number (1) and obtained from open features (ditches), and are insufficient to date the features (Ditch F1051 (Tr.15) and Ditch F1131 (Tr.35) each contained a Bronze Age sherd. Ditch F1055 (Tr.15) and Ditch F1057 Tr.22) each contained a Roman sherd). A late Saxon / early medieval sherd, and a Roman sherd were found in the topsoil (Trs. 14 & 17 respectively).

Two concentrations of features were identified. Firstly with Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 & 7, and secondly Trenches 22, 28, 32 & 33. The features principally comprised gullies, pits and post holes. Isolated, or sparsely distributed, features comprising gullies, pits and post holes were recorded in the eastern half of the site (Trs. 26 - 27, 34 - 37, 44, 47, 50 & 55). Trench 15 on the western side of the site contained three pits. Linear ditches traversed the site and were recorded in several trenches (Trs. 4 & 5; Trs. 19-22; Trs. 33-34; & Trs. 35, 38, 51 & 53).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Cobbs Farm, Goldhanger, Essex (NGR TL 8908 0861; Figs 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by SRC Ltd and was carried out in order to form part of an Environmental Impact Assessment in

advance of planning application for an agricultural reservoir (Planning ref: ESS/24/08/MAL/S).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (dated February 2010) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated Feb 2010). The evaluation conformed to the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objective of the archaeological trial trench evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development, in order to identify if any further work or mitigation will be required by ECC HEM.

1.4 The principal aims comprised:

- To clarify the nature and extent of the known cropmarks
- To assess the remainder of the area for other archaeological deposits
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits
- To inform any mitigation strategy including preservation *in situ* and preservation by record

Planning policy context

1.5 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.6 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.7 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the 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. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Fig. 1-2)

2.1 Goldhanger is a village located on the northern side of the river Blackwater estuary. The village lies c. 5km to the north-east of Maldon. Cobbs Farm lies c. 750m to the south-west of the village of Goldhanger. The site comprises an area to the north of Cobbs Farm, and encompasses an area of some 8.75ha of agricultural land.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c. 5m AOD on the northern side of the river Blackwater estuary. The geology of the area is comprised of London Clay, which is characterised by marine silty clays, clayey sandy silts and subordinate sands (BGS 1978). Gravel terraces have been formed by the river Blackwater. The overlying soils are of the Windsor Association which is characterised by slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils. In some areas there are fine loamy over clayey fine silty over clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 3)

4.1 The gravel terraces on the northern bank of the Blackwater estuary have a number of significant and extensive multi period cropmark sites (Fig. 3), and previous excavations prior to mineral extraction at nearby sites such as Lofts Farm, Chigborough Hall Farm, Slough House Farm and Rook Hall (EHER 13576, 7864, 7914) have demonstrated the survival of well preserved archaeological deposits.

4.2 To the north-west of the site recent excavations at Chappel Farm (EHER 46254) identified a range of features including five roundhouses dating from the early/middle Iron Age, elements of both prehistoric and Roman field systems, circular posthole structure and a prehistoric posthole alignment. Excavations at Rook Hall revealed a large number of Bronze Age features containing pottery, including at least three cremation burials, and clay-lined features including a possible pottery clamp. Iron Age occupation was also evident with a cobbled surface, a rectilinear building and a four post structure all found in association with Darmsden-Linton ware. Continued occupation in the area of Rook Hall is clear; a number of sunken featured buildings (SFBs), and evidence of middle Saxon iron working have also been recovered (EHER 7914).

4.3 Cropmarks are recorded within the site, including a number of linear and rectilinear features, presumably representing a former field and track-way system, ring ditches and pits (EHER 7924 & 7841). To the south of the site a number of cropmarks, thought to be of Romano-British date, has been recorded (EHER 7924), alongside the remains of a Roman salt working site (EHER 7925), which is evident from a patch of dark earth containing briquetage and large quantities of Roman pottery. This is one of a number of

red hills and salt panning sites in the area, the production of salt having been a major industry in the area throughout history, only recently becoming focussed at Maldon (EHER 7821, 7822, 13644, 7820). Goldhanger Iron Foundry was formerly located to the east of the site (EHER 15303). The foundry was established by W Bentall in 1808 but closed by 1815 to move to a site in Heybridge, the location shows potential for important archaeological remains of an early iron foundry. Cartographic sources (Figs 5 – 8) reveal the site to have been used as agricultural land.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Fifty-five trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 3). The trenches were located to provide a broad coverage of the development area (based on a 5% sample) and to target crop marks identified within the Essex Historic Environment Record and the Cambridge University for Aerial Photography. Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically-excavated under close archaeological supervision. Trenches 21, 24, 25 and 26 were interrupted by a deep drainage ditch which spanned the middle of the site on a NW/SE alignment. Trenches 18, 40 and 50 were divided to avoid overhead power cables.

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

5.3 The measurements and orientation of each trench are tabulated below:

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)
1	39.73	1.8m
2	40.17	1.8m
3	40.10	1.8m
4	40.10	1.8m
5	41.46	1.8m
6	38.89	1.8m
7	39.92	1.8m
8	39.63	1.8m
9	39.91	1.8m
10	39.84	1.8m
11	38.44	1.8m
12	38.75	1.8m
13	37.96	1.8m
14	38.67	1.8m
15	38.83	1.8m
16	38.45	1.8m
17	38.31	1.8m
18A	19.06	1.8m
18B	18.45	1.8m
19	38.32	1.8m
20	38.32	1.8m

21A	33.04	1.8m
21B	10.81	1.8m
22	40.11	1.8m
23	39.65	1.8m
24	34.71	1.8m
25A	28.89	1.8m
25B	11.13	1.8m
26A	24.72	1.8m
26B	13.50	1.8m
27	39.30	1.8m
28	40.15	1.8m
29	40.25	1.8m
30	40.94	1.8m
31	39.09	1.8m
32	38.14	1.8m
33	39.27	1.8m
34	40.76	1.8m
35	38.61	1.8m
36	41.07	1.8m
37	39.23	1.8m
38	39.73	1.8m
39	39.37	1.8m
40A	25.14	1.8m
40B	9.94	1.8m
41	38.56	1.8m
42	38.55	1.8m
43	38.45	1.8m
44	38.61	1.8m
45	38.88	1.8m
46	39.32	1.8m
47	38.26	1.8m
48	42.83	1.8m
49	38.45	1.8m
50A	14.79	1.8m
50B	19.67	1.8m
51	39.48	1.8m
52	38.97	1.8m
53	37.80	1.8m
54	35.15	1.8m
55	38.66	1.8m

Measurement and orientation of trenches

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 3 & 9

Sample section 1: North-west end, north-east facing 0.00 = 3.83m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate small rounded flint and gravel.
0.34m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. Semi-compact, mid brown grey silty sand and gravel.

Additional description of deposits: Only Trenches 1 – 4 revealed a silty sand and gravel natural deposit. In the other trenches the natural was a compact orange brown clayey silt.

Description: Trench 1 contained a linear gully (F1004) at the south-eastern end of the trench.

Gully F1004 (2.10+ x 0.84 x 0.23m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1005, was a loose, light brown grey silty sand with frequent small stones and gravel. No finds were present.

Trench 2 Fig.3

Sample section: South-west end, north-west facing 0.00 = 3.60m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.36m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 3 Figs. 3 & 9

Sample section 2: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A shallow gully terminus, F1006, and a second shallow gully, F1002, were recorded.

Gully F1006 (0.90+ x 0.70 x 0.05m) was curvilinear in plan, orientated NW/SE, with a squared terminus. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its

fill, L1007, was a compact, medium grey brown clayey silt with frequent small stones. No finds were present.

Gully F1002 (2.20+ x 0.32 x 0.06m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1003, was a loose, medium grey brown silty sand with frequent small stones and flint gravel. It contained no finds.

Trench 4 Figs. 3 & 9

Sample section 3: North end, north-east facing 0.00 = 3.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Trench 4 contained a deep ditch, F1020, also recorded in Trench 5 (F1026), and possibly Trench 15 (F1051). A small pit, F1018, and two small gullies, F1016 and F1008, were present. F1016 was also recorded in Trench 5. Two small pits, F1012 and F1010, were also recorded.

Ditch F1020 (2.10+ x 2.38 x 0.50m+) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides. The base extended below the water table and was not reached. The fill, L1021, was a compact, dark grey brown clayey sand and gravel. Finds comprise an iron nail (SF 1; 21g). It was cut by a modern field drain.

Pit F1018 (0.76 x 0.70 x 0.20m) was circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a coarse, medium brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel. No finds were present.

Gully F1016 (2.16+ x 0.76 x 0.26) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a medium grey brown silty sand with frequent gravel. No finds were present.

Gully F1008 (2.19 x 0.66 x 0.16m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a loose, medium grey brown silty sand with frequent small stones and gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F1012 (0.90 x 0.52 x 0.19m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a compact, light brown grey silty sand with frequent small stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1010 (0.92 x 0.58 x 0.18m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a compact, light brown grey silty sand with frequent small stones. No finds were present.

Trench 5 Figs. 3 & 9

Sample section 4: North end, east facing 0.00 = 4.06m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A curvilinear gully, F1014, was revealed at the north end of the trench, cut by a shallow pit, F1024. Inter-cutting pits, F1028 and F1030, were recorded. Ditch F1026, a continuation of F1020 (Tr. 4), was revealed, and a continuation of Gully F1016 was recorded in plan, but not excavated.

Gully F1014 (3.00+ x 0.88 x 0.09) was curvilinear in plan, generally orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a compact, medium grey brown clayey silt with frequent small stones. No finds were present. It was cut by Pit F1024.

Pit F1024 (0.64 x 0.50 x 0.06m) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1025, was a compact, medium brown grey clayey silt with frequent small stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1028 (1.46 x 1.00 x 0.21m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1029, was a compact, medium orange brown clayey silt with moderate small and medium stones. No finds were present. It cut Pit F1030.

Pit F1030 (1.42 x 0.80 x 0.08m) was irregular in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1031, was a compact, medium orange brown clayey silt with moderate small stones. No finds were present.

Ditch F1026 (2.20+ x 1.98 x 0.62) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow, concave base. Its fill, L1027, was a medium orange brown clayey silt with frequent small and medium stones. Finds comprise CBM (4g). It was a continuation of Ditch F1020 (Tr. 4) and was cut by a field drain.

Trench 6 Fig. 3

Sample section: South-west end, north-west facing 0.00 = 3.74m AOD		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.44m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. Compact, mid orange brown clayey silt with pockets of light grey clay.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 7 Figs. 3 & 10

Sample section 5: North end, north-east facing 0.00 = 4.20m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A small burnt pit, F1038, was recorded. Three pits, F1032, F1034 and F1041, were present. The principal feature was Ring Ditch F1036.

Pit F1038 (0.53 x 0.46 x 0.26m) was circular in plan with relatively steep sides and a shallow concave base. Two fills were present. The basal fill, L1040, was a compact, medium dark grey silty sand. The upper fill, L1039, was a compact, very dark grey burnt silt. No finds were present in either fill.

Ring Ditch F1036 (7.50+ x 1.00 x 0.33) was curvilinear in plan, forming an unbroken half circle within the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1037, was a compact, light brown grey clayey sand with orange mottling and moderate flint gravel. Finds comprise prehistoric pottery (1; 6g). It cut Pit F1034.

Pit F1034 (0.74 x 0.52+ x 0.26m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1035, was a loose, light brown grey clayey sand with moderate flint gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F1041 (0.70 x 0.30+ x 0.20m) was oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1042, was a compact, light brown grey silty sand with orange mottling and occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1032 (0.45 x 0.44 x 0.15m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1033, was a compact, light brown grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and small rounded flint. Finds comprise burnt flint (2; 56g).

Trench 8 Fig. 3

Sample section: North-west end, north-east facing 0.00 = 4.31m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.42m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 9 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 4.14m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 10 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 4.13m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 11 Fig. 3

Sample section: North-west end, north-east facing 0.00 = 4.39m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 12 Fig. 3

Sample section: South-west end, north-west facing 0.00 = 4.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.38m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 13 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 4.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.43m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 14 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 4.27m AOD		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.44m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 15 Figs. 3 & 10

Sample section 6: North end, east facing 0.00 = 4.32m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Intersecting pits, F1049 and F1047, were revealed at the north end of Trench 15. A small pit, F1043, was located in the middle of the trench, cut by a shallow ditch, F1045. Ditch F1051 at the south end of the trench may have been a continuation of F1020 (Tr. 4) and F1026 (Tr.5), although it followed a slightly different alignment.

F1049 (2.20+ x 0.48 x 0.23m) was either an elongated, oval pit or the terminus of a gully. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1050, was a compact, medium grey brown sandy clay/silt with occasional small flint and chalk. No finds were present. It cut Pit F1047.

Pit F1047 (1.28 x 0.90 x 0.23m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1048, was a compact, mid brown grey sandy silt. No finds were present.

Pit F1043 (0.70 x 0.43 x 0.04) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill was a compact, medium brown grey clayey silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present. It was cut by Ditch F1045.

Ditch F1045 (1.60+ x 1.16 x 0.16) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had relatively steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1046, was a compact, medium brown grey clayey silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Ditch F1051 (1.90+ x 3.00 x 0.20m+) was linear in plan, orientated E/W, with moderately sloping sides. The base extended well below the water table and was not reached. Its fill, L1052, was a compact, light orange grey clayey sand with moderate small rounded flint and gravel. Finds comprise prehistoric pottery (1; 8g). It was cut by a modern field drain.

Trench 16 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 4.02m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.41m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 17 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 4.20m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.36m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 18 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 4.27m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Trench 18 was interrupted by overhead power cables. No archaeological finds or features were present in either half of the trench.

Trench 19 Figs. 3 & 10

Sample section 7: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.90m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.41m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A ditch, F1053, spanned the middle of the trench. It corresponded with a crop mark which was recorded as ditches in Trenches 20 and 21 (F1055), and 22 (F1057).

Ditch F1053 (2.00+ x 1.20 x 0.29m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1054, was a compact, light brown grey clayey sand with occasional small rounded flint. No finds were present.

Trench 20 Figs. 3 & 10

Sample section 8: West end, north facing 0.00 = 4.04m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.42m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A ditch, F1055, spanned the middle of the trench. It corresponded with a crop mark recorded as ditches in Trenches 19 (F1053), 21 (F1055) and 22 (F1057).

Ditch F1055 (1.80+ x 1.62 x 0.18m) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1056, was a compact, medium grey brown clayey silt with moderate small stones. Finds comprise Roman pottery (1; 3g).

Trench 21 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 4.02m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.40m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Trench 21 was interrupted by a deep drainage ditch. A continuation of Ditch F1055 (Tr. 20) was recorded in Trench 21A. No other archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 22 Figs. 3 & 11

Sample section 9: West end, north facing 0.00 = 4.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A narrow gully, F1133, and ditch, F1057, were revealed at the western end of Trench 22. Ditch F1057 was a continuation of Ditch F1055 (Trs. 20 and 21) and Ditch F1053 (Tr.19). To the east of F1057 was a small posthole, F1139, and Pit F1135. The latter was cut by a narrow gully, F1137. Gully F1149 cut Pits F1145 and F1147. Two gully terminations, F1141 and F1143, were present at the eastern end of the trench.

Gully F1133 (2.10 x 0.60 x 0.12m) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1134, was a compact, light grey silty sand with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Ditch F1057 (2.10+ x 1.10 x 0.31m+) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had relatively steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1058, was a compact, dark grey brown clayey/silty sand. Finds comprise Roman pottery (1; 7g) and CBM (17g).

Posthole F1139 (0.40 x 0.32 x 0.13) was circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1140, was a friable, medium grey brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Pit F1135 (1.26 x 0.32 x 0.12m) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1136, was a friable, light red brown and dark grey brown sandy silt mix. No finds were present. It was cut by Gully F1137.

Gully F1137 (2.10 x 0.30 x 0.20m) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1138, was a friable, medium grey brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Gully F1149 (2.5+ x 0.96 x 0.25m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1150, was a compact, medium yellow grey clayey silt with occasional small rounded flint. It cut Pits F1145 and F1147.

Pit F1145 (1.52 x 0.27+ x 0.14m) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1146, was a compact, medium orange grey clayey silt with occasional small rounded flint. No finds were present.

Pit F1147 (1.10 x 0.68+ x 0.30) was oval in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1148, was a compact, light brown grey clayey silt with occasional small rounded flint. No finds were present.

Gully F1141 (1.10+ x 0.43 x 0.10) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides, a concave base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1142, was a compact, light brown grey sandy silt. No finds were present.

Gully F1143 (1.40+ x 0.80 x 0.16m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides, a flattish base and a squared terminus. Its fill, L1144, was a compact, light grey silty sand with orange mottling. No finds were present.

Trench 23 Fig. 3

Sample section: North-west end, north-east facing		
0.00 = 4.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 24 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.71m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 25 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.78m AOD		
0.00 – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.46m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Trench 25 was interrupted by a deep drainage ditch. No archaeological finds or features were present in either half.

Trench 26 Figs. 3 & 11

Sample section 10: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.86m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.40m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Trench 26 was interrupted by a deep drainage ditch. A small posthole, F1109, was revealed in the eastern half, Trench 26B.

Posthole F1109 (0.30 x 0.26 x 0.12) was circular in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1110, was friable, dark orange brown sandy silt with frequent small rounded stones. Finds comprise CBM (118g).

Trench 27 Figs. 3 & 11

Sample section 11: North-west end, north-east facing 0.00 = 4.07m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Two wide ditches, F1151 and F1153, were revealed in the centre of Trench 27, and they may represent the remains of a ring ditch. A small burnt posthole, F1155, was located between the ditches.

Ditch F1151 (2.40+ x 2.22 x 0.19m) was curvilinear in plan, generally orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1152, was a light blue grey sandy silt with moderate small stones. No finds were present.

Ditch F1153 (2.10+ x 2.15 x 0.29m) was curvilinear in plan, generally orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1154, was a compact, light blue grey sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present. It was cut by a field drain. F1151 and F1153 may represent the remains of a ring ditch, visible as a cropmark (Fig.3)

Posthole F1155 (0.37 x 0.20 x 0.20m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1156, was a loose, dark grey silty sand with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Trench 28 Figs. 3 & 11

Sample section: North end, east facing		
0.00 = 4.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Three pits, F1083, F1085 and F1075, were recorded in Trench 28.

Pit F1083 (0.62 x 0.45 x 0.13m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1084, was a friable, light orange grey sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1085 (0.82 x 0.55 x 0.21m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1086, was a compact, medium grey brown clayey silt with moderate small stones. Finds comprise prehistoric pottery (1; 137g) and CBM (46g).

Pit F1075 (0.70 x 0.60 x 0.20m) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1076, was a compact, black and medium grey sandy silt. Finds comprise prehistoric pottery (2; 14g).

Trench 29 Fig. 3

Sample section: North-west end, north-east facing		
0.00 = 4.16m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 30 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 4.09m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 31 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 32 Figs. 3 & 12

Sample section 12: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A gully terminus, F1071, was revealed at the north-eastern end of Trench 32. A large pit, F1081, cut Posthole F1077 and a gully terminus, F1079. F1073 was the terminus of a gully recorded near the middle of the trench. Gully F1087 and Pit F1089, were revealed in the south-western half of the trench.

Gully F1071 (1.80+ x 0.82 x 0.12) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides, a flattish base, and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1072, was a compact, light yellow grey silty clay. No finds were present.

Pit F1081 (1.03 x 0.58+ x 0.22+m) was circular in plan with steep sides. The base was extended below the water table and was not reached. Its fill, L1082, was a compact, dark grey black organic clayey/sand/silt. No finds were present. It cut Posthole F1077 and Gully F1079.

Posthole F1077 (0.54 x 0.41+ x 0.13m) was square in plan with rounded corners, moderately sloping sides, and a flattish base. Its fill, L1078, was a friable, light red grey sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Gully F1079 (1.76+ x 0.42 x 0.22m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides, a flattish base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1080, was a friable, light orange grey sandy silt. No finds were present.

Gully F1073 (1.16+ x 0.98 x 0.24m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1074, was a compact, light grey and black silty sand. No finds were present.

Gully F1087 (2.20+ x 0.82 x 0.17) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1088, was a compact, medium grey brown silty clay with occasional stones. It contained no finds.

Pit F1089 (0.85 x 0.66 x 0.14m) was oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1090, was a friable, medium red grey sandy silt with occasional stones. No finds were present.

Trench 33 Figs. 3 & 12

Sample section 13: West end, north facing		
0.00 = 3.97m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A shallow ditch, F1091, was revealed in Trench 33 and continued into Trench 34 (F1113). Two shallow gully terminations, F1095 and F1093, were recorded in the centre of the trench. The eastern half of the trench contained intersecting pits, F1097 and F1099, a small pit, F1101, a ditch terminus, F1103, and the edge of a large depression, F1105.

Ditch F1091 (2.20+ x 1.26 x 0.31m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow concave base. Its fill, L1092, was a compact, dark grey brown clayey silt with moderate small stones. It contained no finds.

Gully F1095 (1.50 x 0.70 x 0.06m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides, a flattish base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1096, was a friable, medium orange grey sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Gully F1093 (1.12+ x 0.50 x 0.14m) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1094, was a friable, medium orange grey sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1097 (1.46 x 0.74+ x 0.20) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a shallow, concave base. Its fill, L1098, was a friable, medium red grey sandy silt. No finds were present. It was cut by Pit F1099.

Pit F1099 (1.65 x 0.98 x 0.19m) was oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1100, was a dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1101 (0.66 x 0.20+ x 0.30m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a narrow, concave base. Its fill, L1102, was a compact, medium grey brown clayey silt with moderate small stones. It was cut by Ditch F1103.

Ditch F1103 (1.30 x 1.00 x 0.30m) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides, a flattish base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1104, was a compact, dark brown and black clayey silt with moderate small and medium stones. No finds were present.

F1105 (2.28 x 0.52+ x 0.10m) was the edge of a large depression, or possibly a pit. It was irregular in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1106, was friable, medium brown silty sand. No finds were present.

Trench 34 Figs. 3 & 12

Sample section 14: West end, north facing 0.00 = 4.01m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A small posthole, F1111, was located in the middle of Trench 34. It was cut by a shallow ditch, F1113, which may be a continuation of F1091 (Tr. 33) although F1091 was much wider and deeper. A gully terminus, F1115, was recorded in the eastern half of the trench.

Posthole F1111 (0.30+ x 0.19 x 0.09) was oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1112, was a compact, light brown grey clayey silt with occasional small rounded flint. No finds were present. It was cut by Ditch F1113.

Ditch F1113 (2.20+ x 0.30 x 0.14m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1114, was compact, medium brown grey clayey silt with occasional small rounded flint. No finds were present.

Gully F1115 (1.76+ x 0.58 x 0.12m) was linear in plan with shallow sides, a flattish base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1116, was a compact, medium orange grey clayey silt. No finds were present.

Trench 35 Figs. 3 & 12

Sample section 15: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.83m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.

0.32m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.
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Description: A broad ditch, F1131, was revealed in the northern half of Trench 35 and was recorded also in Trenches 38, 51 and 53. A narrow, interrupted, ring ditch, F1127, was located in the southern half of the trench. It was cut by a large pit, F1129.

Ditch F1131 (2.10 x 1.98 x 0.20+) was linear in plan, orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides. Its base extended below the water table and was not reached. Its fill, L1132, was a compact, medium orange and grey brown clayey silt. Finds comprise prehistoric pottery (1; 5g) and CBM (11g). It was cut by several plough scars.

Ring Ditch F1127 (4.60+ x 0.50 x 0.14m) was curvilinear in plan, forming a half circle with a small interruption on the eastern side. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1128, was a compact, light yellow grey clayey silt with occasional small rounded flint. No finds were present. It was cut by Pit F1129.

Pit F1129 (0.94+ x 0.74 x 0.29m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1130, was a compact, light grey yellow clayey silt with occasional small rounded stones. It contained no finds.

Trench 36 Figs. 3 & 13

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.73m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Two pits, F1117 and F1121, were recorded in Trench 36.

F1117 (1.10 x 0.70 x 0.16m) was oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1118, was a friable, dark orange grey sandy silt with moderate small stones. No finds were present.

F1121 (0.72 x 0.60 x 0.15m) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1122, was a friable, medium grey brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Trench 37 Figs. 3 & 13

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.73m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Pit F1119, was located at the northern end of Trench 37. Gully F1123 terminated near the middle of the trench.

Pit F1119 (1.66 x 0.41 x 0.26m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1120, was a compact, medium orange grey sandy silt with frequent small rounded stones. No finds were present.

Gully F1123 (6.75 x 1.02 x 0.28m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW, becoming much narrower at its NE end. It had steep sides, a concave base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1124, was a compact, light red grey clayey silt. No finds were present.

Trench 38 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.72m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A continuation of Ditch F1131 (Tr. 35) was recorded in the northern half of Trench 38. No other archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 39 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.88m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 40 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.87m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.40m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Trench 40 was interrupted by overhead power cables. No archaeological finds or features were present in either half.

Trench 41 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.93m AOD		
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0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.37m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 42 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 43 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 4.06m AOD		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.44m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 44 Figs. 3 & 13

Sample section 16: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.98m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.42m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Gully F1061 was revealed at the northern end of Trench 44, and cut Pit F1059. A small post hole, F1069, was also recorded.

Gully F1061 (2.20+ x 0.61 x 0.24m) was sinuous in plan, generally orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a narrow base. its fill, L1062, was a compact, medium grey brown sandy clay with occasional small stones. No finds were present. It cut Pit F1059.

Pit F1059 (0.46 x 0.35 x 0.05m) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1060, was a compact, medium grey brown sandy clay with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Posthole F1069 (0.16 x 0.16 x 0.25m) was circular in plan with vertical sides. The base was not reached. Its fill, L1070, was a compact, dark grey brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Trench 45 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.90m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 46 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.97m AOD		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.43m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 47 Figs. 3 & 13

Sample section 17: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.78m AOD		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.48m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A large ditch terminus, F1067, was revealed at the eastern end of Trench 47. A large pit, F1063, was cut by a narrow gully, F1065.

Ditch F1067 (3.00+ x 1.08+ x 0.42m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had relatively steep sides, a flattish base, and a squared terminus. Its fill, L1068, was a compact, dark grey black silty sand. No finds were present.

Pit F1063 (0.80+ x 0.67+ x 0.31) was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1064, was a compact, dark grey black silty clay with occasional small stones. No finds were present. It was cut by Gully F1065.

Gully F1065 (1.50+ x 0.42 x 0.33m) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had near vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1066, was a compact, dark grey and black silty sand with occasional gravel and small stones. No finds were present.

Trench 48 Fig. 3

Sample section: South-west end, north-west facing

0.00 = 3.86m AOD		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.44m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 49 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.92m AOD		
0.00 – 0.47m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.47m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 50 Figs. 3 & 14

Sample section 18: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.81m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.36m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: Trench 50 was interrupted by overhead power cables. A gully terminus, F1107, was revealed in the northern half, Trench 50A. It was cut by a field drain.

Gully F1107 (2.00+ x 0.41 x 0.23m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. its fill, L1108, was a compact, light red grey clayey silt. No finds were present.

Trench 51 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.85m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A continuation of Ditch F1131 (Tr. 35) was recorded in the middle of Trench 51. No other archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 52 Fig. 3

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.80m AOD		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.

0.44m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.
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Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 53 Fig.3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 3.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.43m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A continuation of Ditch F1131 (Tr.35) was recorded in the northern half of Trench 53. No other archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 54 Fig.3

Sample section: South-west end, north-west facing 0.00 = 3.78m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 55 Figs. 3 & 14

Sample section: West end, north facing 0.00 = 3.83m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: A posthole, F1125, was revealed in the middle of Trench 55.

Posthole F1125 (0.45 x 0.40 x 0.14m) was circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1126, was a compact, dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds. The height of the water table across the site in combination with heavy rainfall occasionally made the base of many features unreachable.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site features a low rise along its northern boundary and slopes gently downward in all directions, ranging in height from 3.60m to 4.41m AOD.

8.2 A simple stratigraphic sequence was observed throughout the trial trenches comprising topsoil directly overlying the natural geological deposit. The topsoil, L1000, was a semi-compact, dark grey brown silty clay with moderate small rounded flint and gravel. It was uniform across the site, ranging in thickness from 0.29 – 0.48m.

8.3 The natural geological deposit comprised a compact, mid orange brown clayey silt with pockets of light grey clay across most of the site. In the west end of the assessment area in Trenches 1-4, the solid geology varied. Here it was a semi-compact, mid brown grey silty sand and gravel. Trench 5 featured a transition between the two varieties.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Summary of the archaeology

9.1.1 Eighty-one archaeological features were present within the 55 trenches, and are tabulated:

Trench	Feature	Description	Spot Date
1	F1004	Gully	-
3	F1002	Gully	-
3	F1006	Gully	-
4	F1008	Gully	-
4	F1010	Pit	-
4	F1012	Pit	-
4	F1016	Gully = F1016 (Tr.5)	-
4	F1018	Pit	-
4	F1020	Ditch = F1026 (Tr.5), ? = F1051 (Tr. 15)	-
5	F1014	Gully	-
5	F1016	Gully = F1016 (Tr.4)	-
5	F1024	Pit	-
5	F1026	Ditch = F1020 (Tr.4), ?= F1051 (Tr.15)	-
5	F1028	Pit	-
5	F1030	Pit	-
7	F1032	Pit	?Prehistoric
7	F1034	Pit	-
7	F1036	Ring Ditch	Bronze Age
7	F1038	Pit	-

7	F1041	Pit	-
15	F1043	Pit	-
15	F1045	Ditch	-
15	F1047	Pit	-
15	F1049	Pit	-
15	F1051	Ditch ?= F1020 (Tr.4) ?= F1026 (Tr.5)	?Bronze Age
19	F1053	Ditch = F1055 (Tr.20), = F1057 (Tr.21), =F1057 (Tr.22)	-
20	F1055	Ditch = 1053 (Tr.19), = F1055 (Tr.21), = 1057 (Tr.22)	?Roman
21	F1055	Ditch = F1055 (Tr.20)	-
22	F1057	Ditch = (F1055 Trs.19, 20 & 21; = F1053 (Tr.19)	?Roman
22	F1133	Gully	-
22	F1135	Pit	-
22	F1137	Gully	-
22	F1139	Posthole	-
22	F1141	Gully	-
22	F1143	Gully	-
22	F1145	Pit	-
22	F1147	Pit	-
22	F1149	Gully	-
26B	F1109	Posthole	-
27	F1151	?Ring Ditch	-
27	F1153	?Ring Ditch	-
27	F1155	Posthole	-
28	F1075	Pit	Bronze Age
28	F1083	Pit	-
28	F1085	Pit	Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age
32	F1071	Gully	-
32	F1073	Gully	-
32	F1077	Posthole	-
32	F1079	Gully	-
32	F1081	Pit	-
32	F1087	Gully	-
32	F1089	Pit	-
33	F1091	Ditch ? = F1113 (Tr.34)	-
33	F1093	Gully	-
33	F1095	Gully	-

33	F1097	Pit	-
33	F1099	Pit	-
33	F1101	Pit	-
33	F1103	Ditch	-
33	F1105	Depression or ?Pit	-
34	F1111	Posthole	-
34	F1113	Ditch ? = F1091 (Tr.33)	-
34	F1115	Gully	-
35	F1127	Ring Ditch	-
35	F1129	Pit	-
35	F1131	Ditch (= F1131 Trs. 38, 51, 53)	?Bronze Age
36	F1117	Pit	-
36	F1121	Pit	-
37	F1119	Pit	-
37	F1123	Gully	-
38	F1131	Ditch (= F1131 Trs. 35, 51, 53)	-
44	F1059	Pit	-
44	F1061	Gully	-
44	F1069	Posthole	-
47	F1063	Pit	-
47	F1065	Gully	-
47	F1067	Ditch	-
50	F1107	Gully	-
51	F1131	Ditch (= F1131 Trs. 35, 38, 53)	-
53	F1131	Ditch (= F1131 Trs. 35, 38, 51)	-
55	F1125	Posthole	-

Summary of archaeological features

9.1.2 The features comprise three ring ditches (Tr. 7 (F1036), Tr.27 (F1151 & F1153) & Tr. 35 (F1127)), 38 ditches or gullies, 36 pits and postholes and an irregular depression.

9.1.3 Finds were generally sparse (see Finds Concordance below) and few features were dated. Bronze Age features comprise Ring Ditch F1036 (Tr.7), and Pits F1075 and F1085 (Tr.28). Pit F1032 (also in Tr.7) contained burnt flint, and the feature may be prehistoric. The remaining sherds were small in number (1) and obtained from open features (ditches), and are insufficient to date the features (Ditch F1051 (Tr.15) and Ditch F1131 (Tr.35) each contained a Bronze Age sherd. Ditch F1055 (Tr.15) and Ditch F1057 (Tr.22) each contained a Roman sherd. A late Saxon / early medieval sherd, and a Roman sherd were found in the topsoil (Trs. 14 & 17 respectively).

9.1.4 Two concentrations of features were identified. Firstly with Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7, and secondly Trenches 22, 28, 32 and 33 (Fig.3). The features principally comprised gullies, pits and post holes.

9.1.5 Isolated, or sparsely distributed, features comprising gullies, pits and post holes were recorded in the eastern half of the site (Trs. 26 - 27, 34 - 37, 44, 47, 50 & 55). Trench 15 on the western side of the site contained 3 pits).

9.1.6 Linear ditches traversed the site and were recorded in several trenches (Trs. 4 & 5; Trs. 19-22; Trs. 33-34; & Trs. 35, 38, 51 & 53).

9.1.7 Cropmarks are present within the site (Fig.3). Those running peripherally (EHER 7841) were thought to represent trackways. Others to the south (EHER7924) are thought to be Romano-British in date given their proximity to a Roman salt working site (EHER 7925), which is evident from a patch of dark earth containing briquetage and Roman pottery finds. The archaeology did not correlate directly with the cropmarks, excepting Ditch F1131 Trenches 38, 51 and 53 (Fig.3). The large linear spanning the centre of the site on a N/S alignment was a wide and deep drainage ditch filled with standing water. The long curving linear anomaly parallel to the northern boundary was recorded in Trenches 4 (F1020), 5 (F1026) and 15 (F1051) c. 35 metres to the south. The ring ditches overlying Trench 27 were thought to date to the Bronze Age, but in the event undated ditches (F1151 & F1153) and a post hole (F1155) were recorded. Ring ditches were recorded in Trenches 7 (F1036) and 35 (F1127), and F1036 contained a sherd of Bronze Age pottery.

9.1.8 The features were sealed below Topsoil L1000, and preservation may be judged average.

9.2 Geology and topography

9.2.1 The site is relatively flat with a low rise in the north. The majority of the features were located on the gentle eastern and southern slopes.

9.3 Finds and environmental evidence

9.3.1 The finds assemblage is small, and principally comprises pottery (17 sherds in total). The majority of the pottery is from Trench 28 in Pit F1075 (2 sherds) and Pit F1085 (8 sherds), and is Bronze Age. The other finds comprise CBM and burnt flint. The majority of the CBM was from Post Hole F1109 (Tr. 26A; 118g). No animal bone was recovered.

9.3.2 A total of 29 environmental samples were taken.

9.4 Research potential

9.4.1 The desk-based assessment notes that recent excavations in the vicinity of the site have yielded Bronze to Iron Age remains (EHER 13576,

7864, 7914), and visible cropmarks suggest also Romano-British activity. In particular, excavations at Chappel Farm yielded five early to middle Iron Age roundhouses and traces of prehistoric and Romano-British field systems. At least three Bronze cremations, were discovered at Rook Hall in association with evidence for Iron Age occupation.

9.4.2 Only a handful of the recorded features were dateable but it appears that the site represents small scale occupation in the Bronze Age with a limited amount of Iron Age activity also occurring. This activity relates to the well-attested prehistoric activity in the surrounding area. As such, the site has the potential to help further characterise this previously recorded activity and help to develop an improved understanding of the area during these periods. The evidence is fairly limited but it has the potential to contribute to the corpus of information that can be used to achieve the key research goals for the Bronze Age in East Anglia of a greater understanding of the development of farming and the attendant development of settlements, fields and monuments (Brown and Murphy 2000, 10). The site also has the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition, social organisation and settlement form and function in the early Iron Age, and Iron Age settlement chronology and dynamics (Bryant 2000, 16).

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited, as well as any donated finds from the site, at the Colchester Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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APPENDIX 1 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). The locations of the sites are shown in Fig. 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

EHER	NGR TL	Description
Prehistoric (before AD 43)		
7865	880 081	Cropmark complex, subject to part excavation prior to gravel extraction. Neolithic features including 'waterway' with flints in upper layers, gully of hut containing early Neolithic flint tools and possible overflow gully from hut to waterway. Scooped features containing Neolithic finds and a pit cut by a pair of opposed post holes. Finds included two flint knives, mid Neolithic pot (including one sherd with a small piece of bone adhering to the surface), heated stone and worked flint including scraper, hammerstone, burin, points etc.
7866	880 081	Cropmark complex, prehistoric features including a pit/posthole containing Bronze Age pot.
7867	880 081	Cropmark complex. 2 Iron Age linear ditches which were recut in Roman period. Late Iron Age and Romano-British pot in upper layers. Neolithic pit cut by Iron Age enclosure ditch.
7906	885 092	Cropmarks – ring ditch and linear features
7916	882 082	Cropmarks excavated prior to gravel extraction. Late Iron Age boundary ditches, enclosures and trackways. Pits for water storage. One pit contained a late Iron Age jar in its primary fill.
7917	882 082	Cropmarks excavated prior to gravel extraction. Late Iron Age boundary ditches, enclosures and trackways. Pits for water storage. One pit contained a late Iron Age jar in its primary fill.
7919	882 082	Section across causewayed boundary ditch recovered 2 sherds of flint gritted pottery, 2 flint flakes and 2 fragments of burnt bone.
46254	88222 08554	Prehistoric – Roman evidence. Unstratified Upper Palaeolithic burin, area of late Bronze Age pits, postholes and 5 roundhouses, prehistoric pits and postholes, Roman ditch and 3 post-medieval ditches.
Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)		
7821	8984 0780	Red Hill. Part excavated by Wilkingson and Murphy small area of in situ deposit remained. Briquetage including Roman types and small quantity of sand-tempered fired clay of possible late date. Briquetage forms included rods and fire sidebars.
7822	8971 0780	Red Hill. (possible duplicate record of 7821) scatter of briquetage in muddy gravel near high tide mark. Finds of 2 firebar fragments.
7868	880 081	Cropmark complex of Roman ditches. Large quantities of tile recovered suggesting substantial building nearby.
7925	8974 0770	SE of Cobbs Farm, Red Hill. Patch of dark earth with briquetage and Roman pottery observed on the surface. Ploughed out.
18781	896 077	Red Hill, probably Roman in date.
Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – AD 1150)		
7869	880 081	Cropmark complex- Saxon Features. Postholes from a probable building with a row of postholes suggesting a partition within the building. Between the postholes a pit containing 8 loomweights was recorded – possibly a ritual deposit or simply

		loomweights being used
13756	88200 08200	Salvage excavation revealed a large boat shaped building. No datable finds, but bow-sided plan with rounded ends suggests a possible Saxon (8 th - 10 th century) date. An earlier excavation revealed a post built hall with loomweights dating to 7 th – 9 th century within one posthole. Suggests a well-established/organised population in the early – mid Saxon period
Medieval (AD 1150- AD 1500)		
7840	880 077	Possible medieval saltworks. Group of 50 mounds known as Barrow or Borough Hills destroyed during building of Heybridge saltworks (1810-1815)
13644	8988 0744	Red hill exposed near mean high water mark. Pottery including medieval forms. Briquetage including a small amount of sand-tempered fired clay of medieval date. Also a cooking pot rim of medieval coarseware (Fabric 20) with applied thumbled decorative clay strip on shoulder
46258	89230 07993	Domesday Manor of Fawltly. Medieval manor of Fawltly recorded in Goldhanger at Domesday. It is unlikely to have been large and was held by Beeleigh Abbey until 1536. Chapman and Andre 1777 shows a house called Fawltly to the south of the main Goldhanger Road to the coast. By the Tithe Map the building is known as Gardiners.
Post-medieval and later (AD 1500 – present)		
7839	880 077	Site of windmill demolished 1892. Built in 1702 and destroyed in 1831 and rebuilt later that year. The mill was a companion to tide mill and 3 stone smock mills.
38291	88832 07932	Grade II Listed Late 19 th century cast Iron Boundary Post
38809	88498 07882	Grade II Listed Vaulty Manor. 17 th Century or earlier timber-framed house with rear dairy and bakehouse
38810	88524 07896	Grade II Listed barn 30m E of Vaulty Manor. 18 th century timber-framed barn.
38811	88504 07916	Grade II Listed 18 th – 19 th century stable range, to left of barn at Vaulty Manor.
38812	89398 08458	Cobbs Farmhouse. Grade II Listed 17 th century or earlier timber framed house with 18 th century facade
38813	89366 08454	18 th century timber-framed barn 35m west of Cobbs Farmhouse. Grade II Listed.
38814	88668 08826	17 th – 18 th century timber-framed cottage. Grade II Listed. Thatched Cottage, also known as Brook Cottage.
38947	88496 08960	Timber-framed Chappel Farmhouse, Grade II Listed. Front range c.1812, rear range 16 th – 17 th century.
38948	88472 08974	Granary 20m NE of above. Grade II Listed, 18 th century timber-framed granary
38949	88434 08928	Barn 40m W of Chappel Farmhouse. Grade II Listed. 18 th – 19 th century timber-framed barn.
38950	88660 08910	Gatehouse, Grade II Listed. 17 th – 18 th century timber-framed cottage, with 19 th century bakehouse and outhouse to rear.
16684	889 081	World War I Landing ground and later flight station from 1915-1919. Unusual as Gardeners Farm remained at the centre. The flight station etc now all demolished.
15184	5563 3588	19 th century boundary post marked on Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition. No longer extant.
15156	8884 0794	Late 19 th century- early 20 th century boundary post.
15168	8885 0900	19 th century or earlier oak boundary post
15303	897 085	Goldhanger Iron Foundry, early 19 th century. Lies to the immediate east of Cobbs Farm and offers potentially important archaeological remains of an early short-lived iron foundry. It was established by W. Bentall in 1808 and closed by 1815 when it moved to Heybridge to eventually become E. H. Bentall.

15220	8866 0857	Boundary post marked on 1 st Edition Ordnance Survey. No longer extant.
15221	8807 0781	Boundary post marked on 1 st Edition Ordnance Survey. No longer extant.
46262	89730 07993	Chantry Cottage – stands on the site of a farmhouse once known as Scotts and Molts former poorhouse until at least 1626, for the endowment of 10 widows.
46265	88060 07780	Decoy house and garden recorded on the tithe map to the north of decoy pond.
46269	89111 07647	Former decoy pond southwest of Gardeners farm.
Undated		
7820	8899 0770	Red Hill. 80m NW-SE, 40m NE-SW, 1.5m high. Located within pasture field bisected by dry watercourses composed of reddish earth with admixture of briquetage
7823	8985 0800	South of Cobbs Farm. Cropmarks, enclosure or possibly just glacial/riverine boundaries. Offset 'barbican' entrance with inner entrance compound. Entrance at southern side has inner narrow ditch. Cuts one causewayed ring ditch with gully on west side.
7841	896 086	North of Cobbs Farm. Cropmarks – linear features and trackway.
7864	880 081	Cropmarks – enclosures, linear features, trackways, ring ditch
7908	895 092	Cropmarks – possible enclosures
7909	883 090	Cropmarks- old field boundaries
7918	882 082	Sunken Featured Buildings recorded, but no dating evidence. Likely to be of Saxon date
7923	898 092	Cropmarks of a subrectangular enclosure which is cut by a field boundary, and does not show to the east of the field boundary.
7924	889 083	Cropmarks – linear and rectilinear features, ring ditches, pits, field and trackway system, hengiform etc.
7926	8971 0780	Site of 1 or 2 reported red hills. Not observed.
7927	8999 0788	Site of 1 or 2 reported red hills. Not observed.
7928	885 087	Cropmarks – ring ditches, enclosures, linear features, rectilinear field system, rectangular and circular structures, trackways and pits. Apparently part of a salt-panning site.
7975	889 096	East of London Farm, Cropmarks. Trackway, linear features, pits and ringditches
7976	886 095	West of London Farm, Cropmark of large ring ditch.
12189	903 097	Cropmarks linear and rectilinear features and pits, poorly defined.
16409	897 089	Cropmarks- rectilinear features
16395	900 083	Cropmarks- linear features and pits

APPENDIX 2 TITHE APPORTIONMENT 1840

Plot no.	Owner	Occupier	Plot name	Land use	Area (a.r.p)
128	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Homestead & Garden, Cobbs		1.2.34
129	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Pighole	Pasture	2.2.3
127	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Stable field	Arable	9.3.35
106	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Six Acres	Arable	7.0.7
103	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Garden field	Arable	7.2.12
102	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Long Seven Acres	Arable	8.0.16
131	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Furzy Field	Arable	8.2.22
130	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Gravel Pit Piece	Waste, Arable	0.3.19
221	Coape, Henry Esq	Wood, James	Long field	Arable	14.2.24
222	Coape, Henry Esq	Foster, Issac	Cross Path Field		10.3.21
126	Coape, Henry Esq	Woods, James	Long Three Acres	Arable	6.2.3

Key: a – acres, r – rods, p – perches

APPENDIX 3: CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

GOCF10: Cobbs Farm, Goldhanger, Essex

Concordance of finds by
feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Other
1000			14 17 49	Topsoil Topsoil Topsoil	Late Saxon / early med Roman	(1) 13g (1) 6g		S. Flint (1) 5g
1020	1021		4	Ditch Fill				S.F. 1 - Fe Nail (1) 21g
1026	1027		5	Ditch Fill			4	
1032	1033		7	Pit				B. Flint (2) 56g
1036	1037	C	7	Fill of Ring Ditch	Bronze Age	(1) 6g		
1051	1052		15	Ditch Fill	Bronze Age	(1) 8g		
1055	1056		20	Ditch Fill	Roman	(1) 3g		
1057	1058		22	Ditch Fill	Roman	(1) 7g	17	
1075	1076		28	Pit Fill	Bronze Age	(2) 14g		
1085	1086		28	Pit Fill	Late BA – Early IA	(8) 137g	46	
1109	1110		26	Pit Fill			118	
1131	1132		35	Ditch Fill	BA	(1) 6g	11	

APPENDIX 4 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered a total of 17 sherds (194g) from 7 contexts and one layer (the topsoil). The overall assemblage comprises small, abraded sherds lacking forms or decoration making them difficult to comment on other than their broad time periods (Table 1). The sherds are quantified below.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sherd number</i>	<i>Fabric weight</i>
Prehistoric	13	166
Roman	3	15
Saxon/early medieval	1	13

Table 1: The pottery by period

The Pottery by Context

The topsoil (L1000) contained a heavily abraded sherd of Roman sandy grey ware, and an abraded sagging base sherd in a quartz tempered fabric that probably belongs to an early medieval vessel (11th-12th centuries), but could be earlier Middle Saxon (9th-10th centuries). Further single, small, abraded body sherds of Roman sandy grey ware were contained in L1056 and L1058.

The remaining 13 sherds are all prehistoric containing calcined flint temper and may be broadly dated between the Bronze Age and middle Iron Age. A possible exception is the sherd from L1052 which has a slightly contrasting fabric tempered with coarse to very coarse flint and quartz that appears to be more naturally weathered than the white more finely crushed flint of the other sherds, and although most likely Bronze Age could potentially be Neolithic. A sherd from L1076 contains grog with the sparse flint temper which would suggest a date of early to middle Bronze Age, and other poorly fired flint tempered sherds from L1076, 1037C, and 1132 may also be Bronze Age. The exception is the 8 larger and less abraded sherds from F1085 (L1086) with profuse crushed white flint temper, and smoothed or polished surfaces that would suit a late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date. These sherds are likely to be in a primary deposit whereas the others could potentially be residual.

Pottery Quantification

Feature	Context	Date	Quantification	Comment
1000		Roman	1x6g	Sandy grey ware; heavily abraded
1000		Late Saxon/ Early Med.	1x13g	Quartz tempered, sagging base; heavily abraded
	1037C	Bronze Age	1x5g	Moderate coarse to very coarse flint; heavily abraded
	1052	Bronze Age	1x7g	Profuse very coarse flint and quartzite; heavily abraded
	1056	Roman	1x3g	Sandy grey ware; abraded
	1058	Roman	1x6g	Sandy grey ware; abraded
	1076	Bronze Age	1x8g 1x7g	Sparse flint and grog with a little quartz sand; heavily abraded Profuse crushed flint; heavily abraded
1085	1086	Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	8x133g	Abundant crushed white flint, smoothed/polished surfaces; moderately abraded
1131	1132	Bronze Age	1x6g	Common crushed flint and quartz sand; heavily abraded

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Trial trench excavations recovered a total of 11 highly abraded, small fragments (196g) of post-medieval CBM. All fragments were in a hard, slightly abrasive, oxidised orange fabric with inclusions of common, moderately-sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse fine mica, sparse red and black iron-rich grains (0.2-1mm). The CBM included two fragments (118g) of 12-12mm thick peg tile with a sanded base in Pit F1109 (L1110), while the remaining CBM in Ditches F1026 (L1027), F1057 (L1058), F1131 (L1132) and Pit F1085 (L1086) was limited to unidentifiable fragments in the same fabric, probably from peg tile.

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

Trial trench excavations recovered a single fragment of struck flint (5g) and two fragments of burnt flint (56g). The flint is in an unpatinated, fresh condition.

The struck flint comprises a single utilised flake (5g) contained in Topsoil L1000 (Tr.49). It is a tertiary flake of blade-like proportions with abrupt retouch along one lateral edge, probably intended to function as a thumbnail-type scraper. It is manufactured from dark grey, near black flint with a smooth brown cortex suggesting it was sourced from river or marine gravels. Although far from conclusive a date within the Bronze Age may tentatively be suggested for this flake.

Two fragments of heavily burnt flint were contained in Posthole F1032 (L1033). Neither exhibit any evidence of being worked before or after burning.

Charred plant remains

Alexandra Livarda

Introduction

In the course of the archaeological evaluation at Cobbs Farm, Goldhanger, soil samples were collected for the recovery of archaeobotanical and other organic remains to help understand the function and role of the site.

Sampling and processing methods

Twenty-nine samples were taken from a series of ditches, pits, postholes and a gully on the basis of a judgment sampling strategy. All samples were processed by staff at Archaeological Solutions. The light, floatable fraction (flot) was collected in a mesh with 0.25mm aperture, while a 1mm mesh was used to retain the heavy fraction (residue).

The flots were scanned in their entirety using a stereoscope with magnifications ranging from x7 to x45. The plant remains were recorded by category (cereal grain and wild species) and their names follow Stace (1997). The abundance of the archaeobotanical material was estimated according to the following rating system: + = <10 items; ++ = 10-50 items; +++ = 51-100 items; ++++ = >100 items. Quantification was based on the minimum number of characteristic plant parts. Charcoal fragments and other organic remains were also noted, estimating their abundance with the same rating system.

Results

The archaeobotanical assemblages across the whole site were particularly poor. Most samples had no archaeobotanical remains at all other than occasional charcoal fragments. This was the case for the Samples 9 (F1036A), 10 (F1036B), 11 (F1036C), and 19 (F1075), and possibly Samples 14 (F1051), and 26 (F1131). Their most noteworthy material was a few remains of marine molluscs in Ring Ditch F1036B, Ditch F1051, and Pit F1075. The late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit F1085 (Sample 20) had a few charcoal fragments and a rush seed (*Juncus* sp.), which was probably part of the natural surrounding environment. The four samples (4, 5, 6, and 7) with a possible prehistoric date derive from different levels of F1032. All these samples had a substantial charcoal component either in the form of larger fragments (Samples 4 and 6) or numerous flecks (mainly Samples 5 and 7). Other bio-archaeological finds were few, consisting of only a few fragments of marine molluscs in Sample 4 and a few seeds of the pink family (Caryophyllaceae) in Sample 6.

The two possibly Roman samples, namely 16 and 17 from Ditches F1055 and F1057 respectively, had no archaeobotanical material or any other bio-archaeological remains apart from a few charcoal fragments in Sample 17.

The majority of the undated samples presented a similar picture, being almost void of archaeobotanical remains. Only three of these included some cereal and wild seeds. Sample 3 from Ditch F1026 had one cereal grain that was too poorly preserved to be identified even to genus level, together with some charcoal fragments. A fruit of wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.) was identified in sample 1, which was taken from Ditch F1004, and a small assemblage of wild species, including knotgrasses (*Polygonum aviculare* agg.) and seeds of the primrose family (Primulaceae), along with numerous charcoal fragments was found in Sample 12 from Posthole F1038. A substantial amount of charcoal fragments was also recovered from Ring Ditch F1127A, which also had evidence for the presence of marine molluscs (in sample F1127C).

Conclusions and research potential

The overall archaeobotanical assemblage was extremely poor, represented by a limited number of plants from the surrounding vegetation that were deliberately or accidentally burnt and a single cereal grain, refuse from nearby activities, which, nevertheless, derived from a context without any clear dating. These results do not allow any interpretations to be made and no further work is required on this class of material.

A summary of the results by sample can be found in Table 1.

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Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Table 1: Charred Plant Remains Cobbs Farm, Goldhanger, Essex

Assessment of the flots for archaeobotanical and other organic remains. Cgr = cereal grain; Wd= wild/other; Md = modern seeds; Ch = charcoal; Sn = snails; Mm = marine mollusc; + = <10 items; ++ = 10-50 items; +++ = 51-100 items; ++++ = >100 items

Sample	Sz (l)	Feature	Context	Trench	Area	Description	Dating	Flot (ml)	Cgr	Wd	Md	Ch	Sn	Mm	Comments
1	20	1004	1005	1		Ditch Fill		30		+	+		++ +		A wild radish fruit
2	40	1020	1021	4		Ditch Fill		55			++	+	++		A few charcoal fragments
3	20	1026	1027	5		Ditch Fill		25	+		+	+	+		A cereal grain and few charcoal fragments
4	10	1032	1033	7		Posthole, 0.00-0.02m	Prehistoric?	15			+	++++	+	+	Charcoal dominated sample
5	10	1032	1033	7		Posthole, 0.02-0.05m	Prehistoric?	5				++	+		Some large charcoal fragments and many flecks
6	10	1032	1033	7		Posthole 0.05-0.1m	Prehistoric?	15		+	+	+++	+		Large charcoal fragments and many flecks, and a few seeds of the pink family
7	10	1032	1033	7		Posthole 0.1-0.15m	Prehistoric?	10			+	++	++		Some large charcoal fragments and many flecks

Table 1: (cont.)

Sample	Sz (l)	Feature	Context	Trench	Area	Description	Dating	Flot (ml)	Cgr	Wd	Md	Ch	Sn	Mm	Comments
8	10	1034	1035	7		Posthole Fill		10			+	+	++ ++		A few charcoal fragments
9	20	1036	1037	7	A	Ringditch Fill	Bronze Age	25			+		++ +		No archaeobotanical remains
10	40	1036	1037	7	B	Ringditch Fill	Bronze Age	40			+		++ +	+	No archaeobotanical remains

11	20	1036	1037	7	C	Ringditch Fill	Bronze Age	15			+		++		No archaeobotanical remains
12	10	1038	1039	7		Posthole Fill		25		++	+++ +	++	++ +		Some large charcoal fragments and many flecks, a few wild seeds incl. knotgrasses
13	10	1041	1042	7		Pit Fill		15			+		++ +		No archaeobotanical remains
14	20	1051	1052	15		Ditch Fill	?Bronze Age	20			++			+	No archaeobotanical remains
15	20	1053	1054	19		Ditch Fill		250			+				No archaeobotanical remains
16	20	1055	1056	20		Ditch Fill	?Roman	35			+				No archaeobotanical remains
17	20	1057	1058	22		Ditch Fill	?Roman	40			+	+			A few charcoal fragments

Table 1: (cont.)

Sample	Sz (l)	Feature	Context	Trench	Area	Description	Dating	Flot (ml)	Cgr	Wd	Md	Ch	Sn	Mm	Comments
18	20	1061	1062	44		Ditch Fill		60			+	+	+		A few charcoal fragments
19	10	1075	1076	28		Pit Fill	Bronze Age	10			+	+		+	A few charcoal fragments and many flecks
20	10	1085	1086	28		Pit Fill	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	10		+	+	+			A few charcoal fragments and a rush seed
21	20	1091	1092	33		Ditch Fill		25			+++		+		No archaeobotanical remains
22	20	1127	1128	35	A	Ringditch Fill		35			+	+++	+		Many charcoal fragments and flecks
23	10	1127	1128	35	B	Ringditch Fill		60			+	+	+		A few charcoal fragments
24	10	1127	1128	35	C	Ringditch Fill		5			+	+		+	A few charcoal fragments

25	20	1129	1130	30		Pit Fill		50			+				No archaeobotanical remains
26	40	1131	1132	35		Ditch Fill	?Bronze Age	45			+++	+			A few charcoal fragments
27	20	1133	1134	22		Gully Fill		50			+			+	No archaeobotanical remains

Table 1: (cont.)

Sample	Sz (l)	Feature	Context	Trench	Area	Description	Dating	Flot (ml)	Cgr	Wd	Md	Ch	Sn	Mm	Comments
28	20	1151	1152	27		Ringditch Fill		20			+		+		No archaeobotanical remains
29	10	1155	1156	27		Posthole Fill		5			++	+	+	+	A few charcoal fragments

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 5: Sample section.



2
*Trench 5: Ditch F1026 (foreground).
Looking North.*



3
*Trench 7: Ring Ditch F1036. Looking
North-East.*



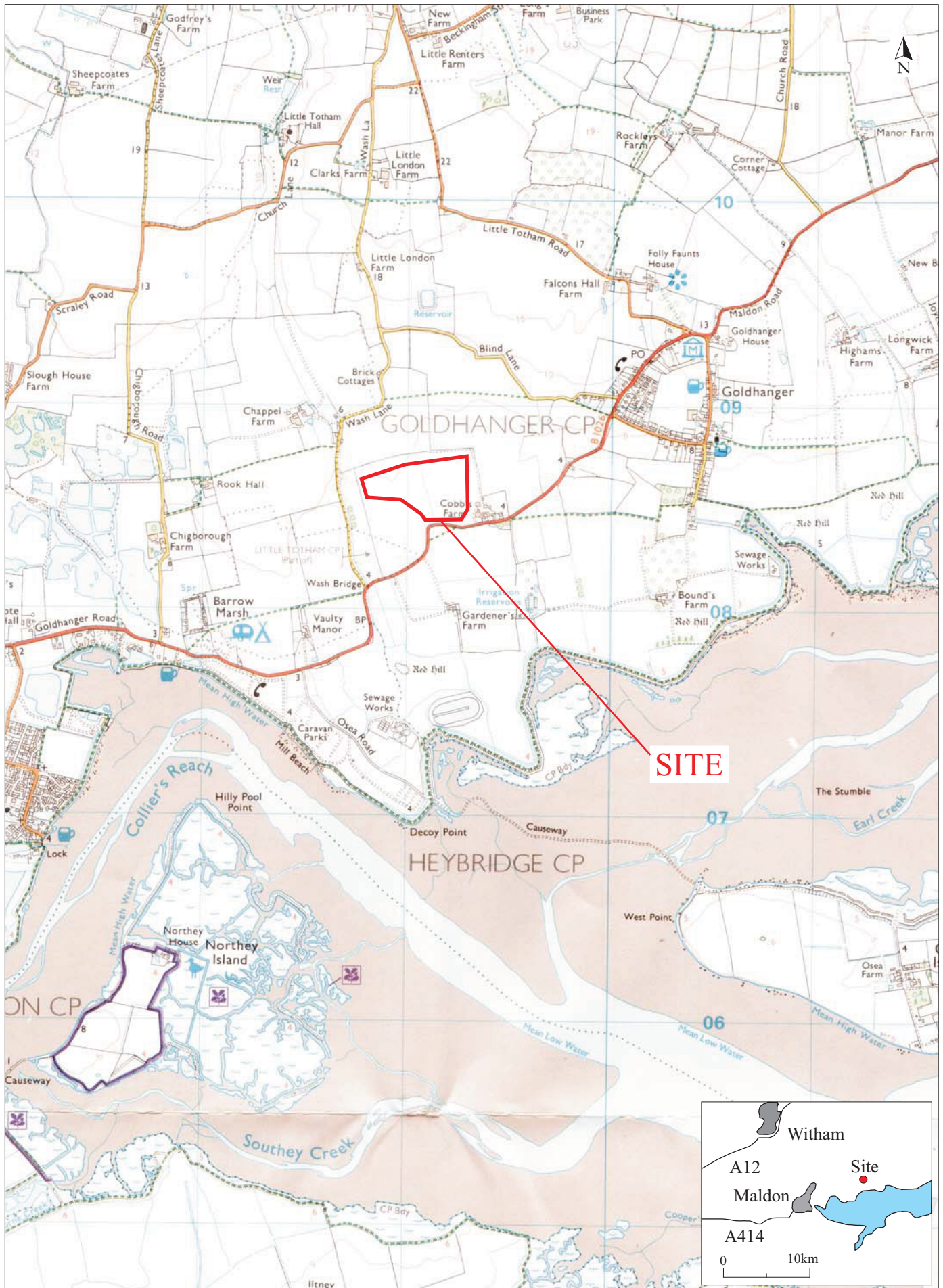
4
*Trench 7: Burnt Pit F1038 (foreground),
Ring Ditch F1036 and Cremation F1032
(background). Looking South-East.*



5
*Trench 35: Ring Ditch F1127. Looking
East.*

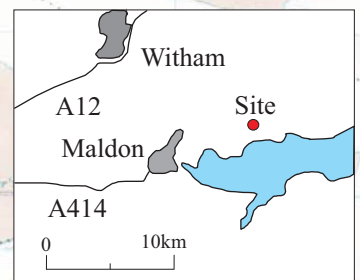


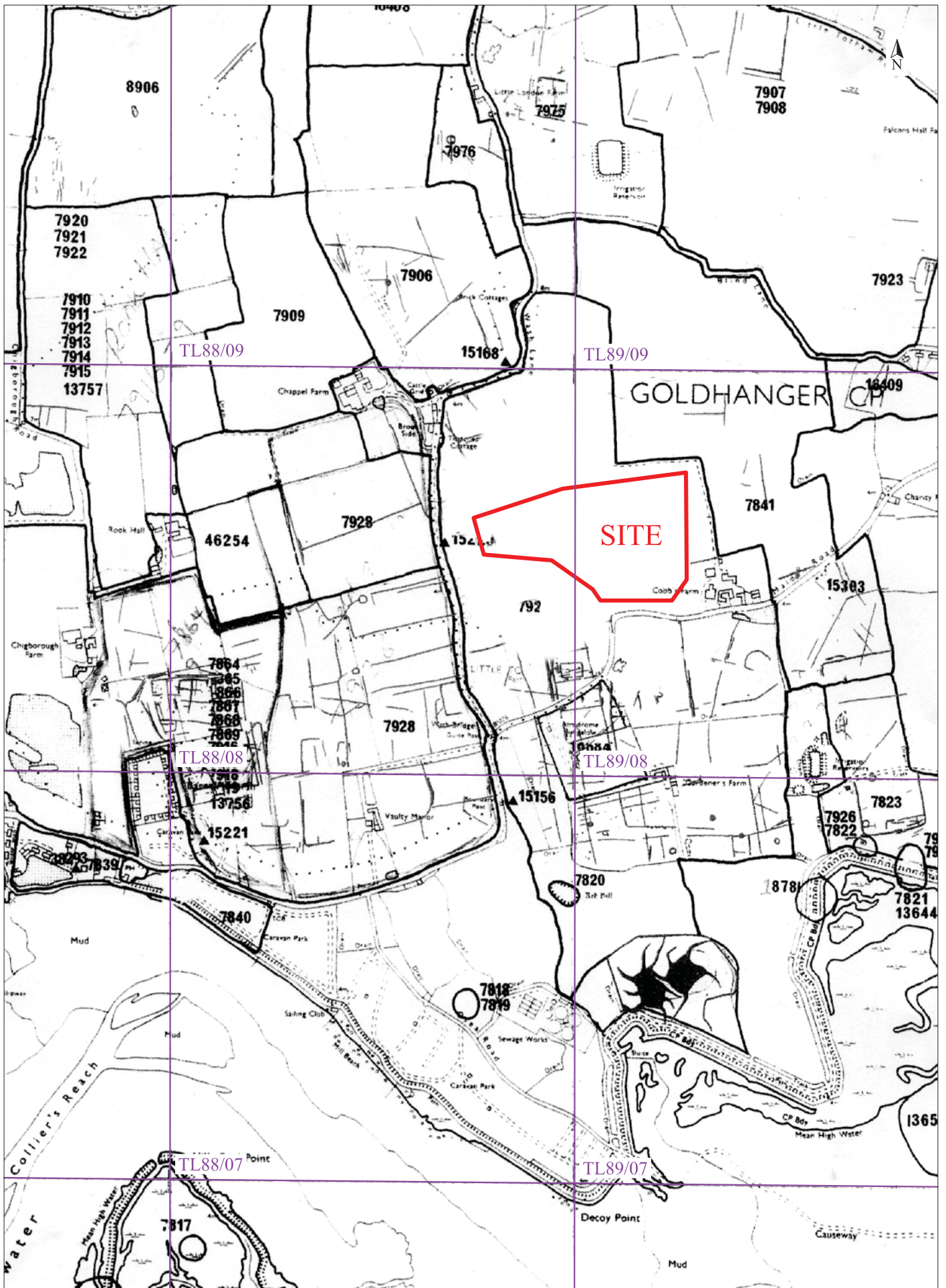
6
*Trench 27: Ditches F1151 and F1153.
Looking North.*



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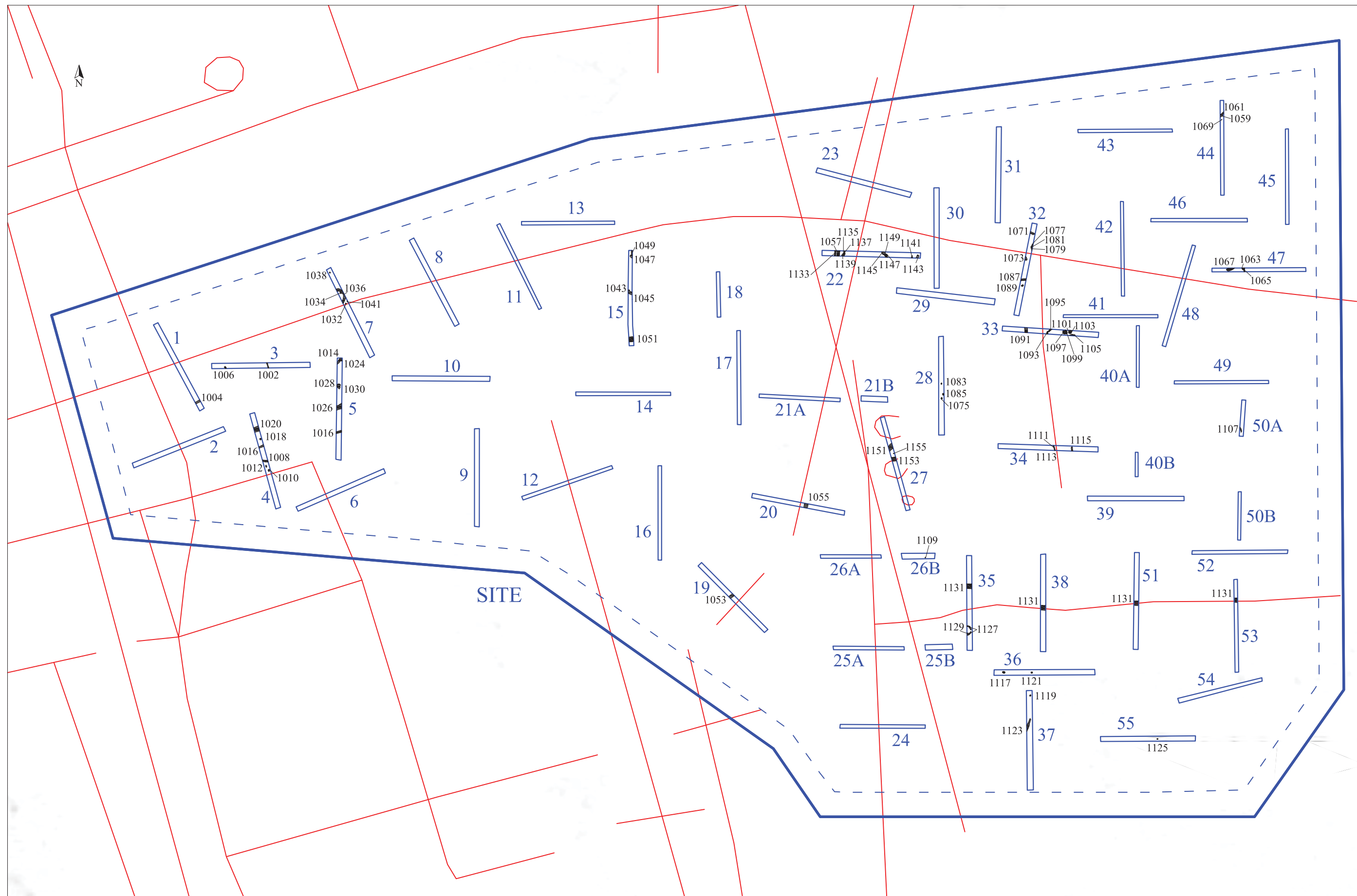
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





0 500m

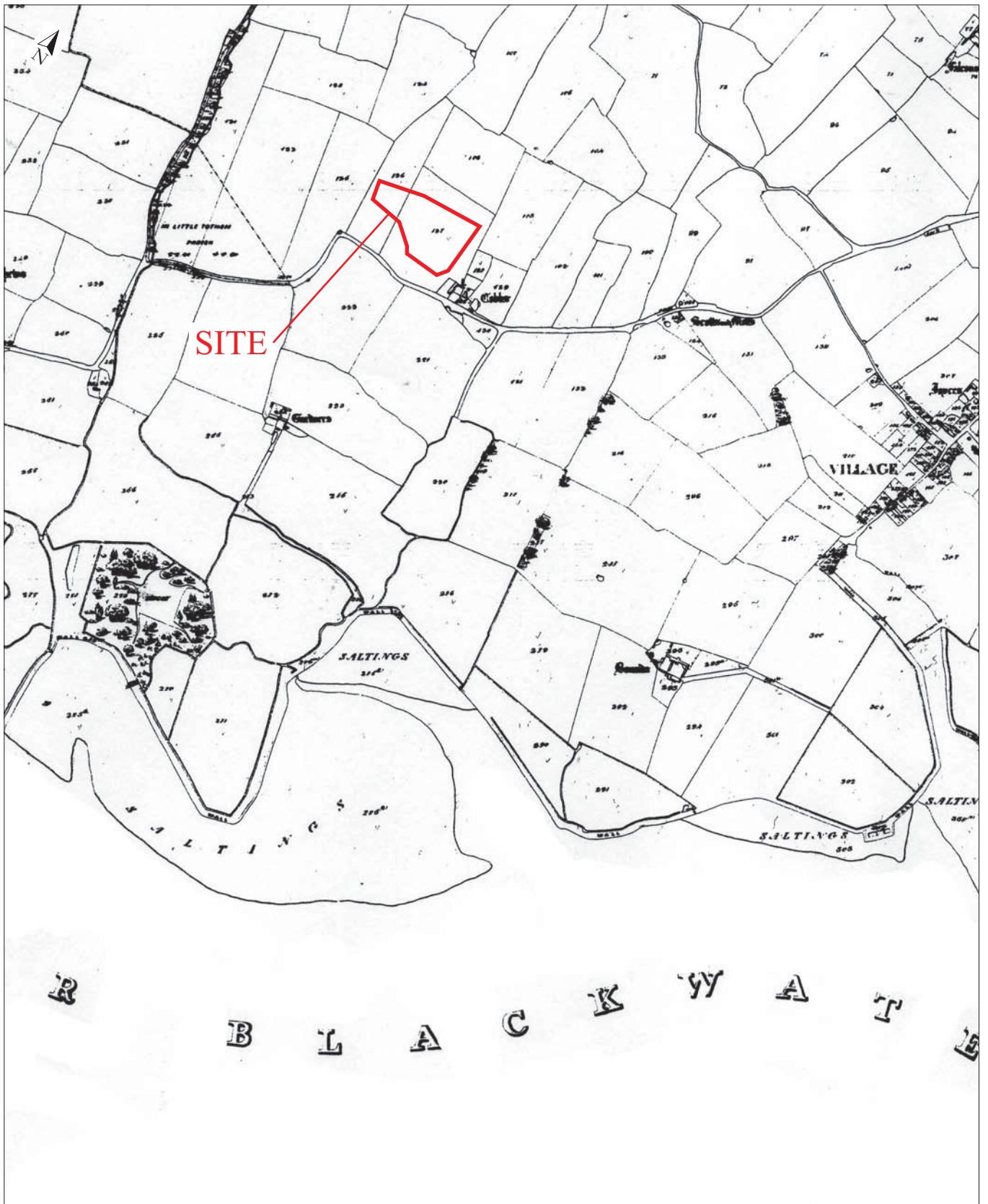
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



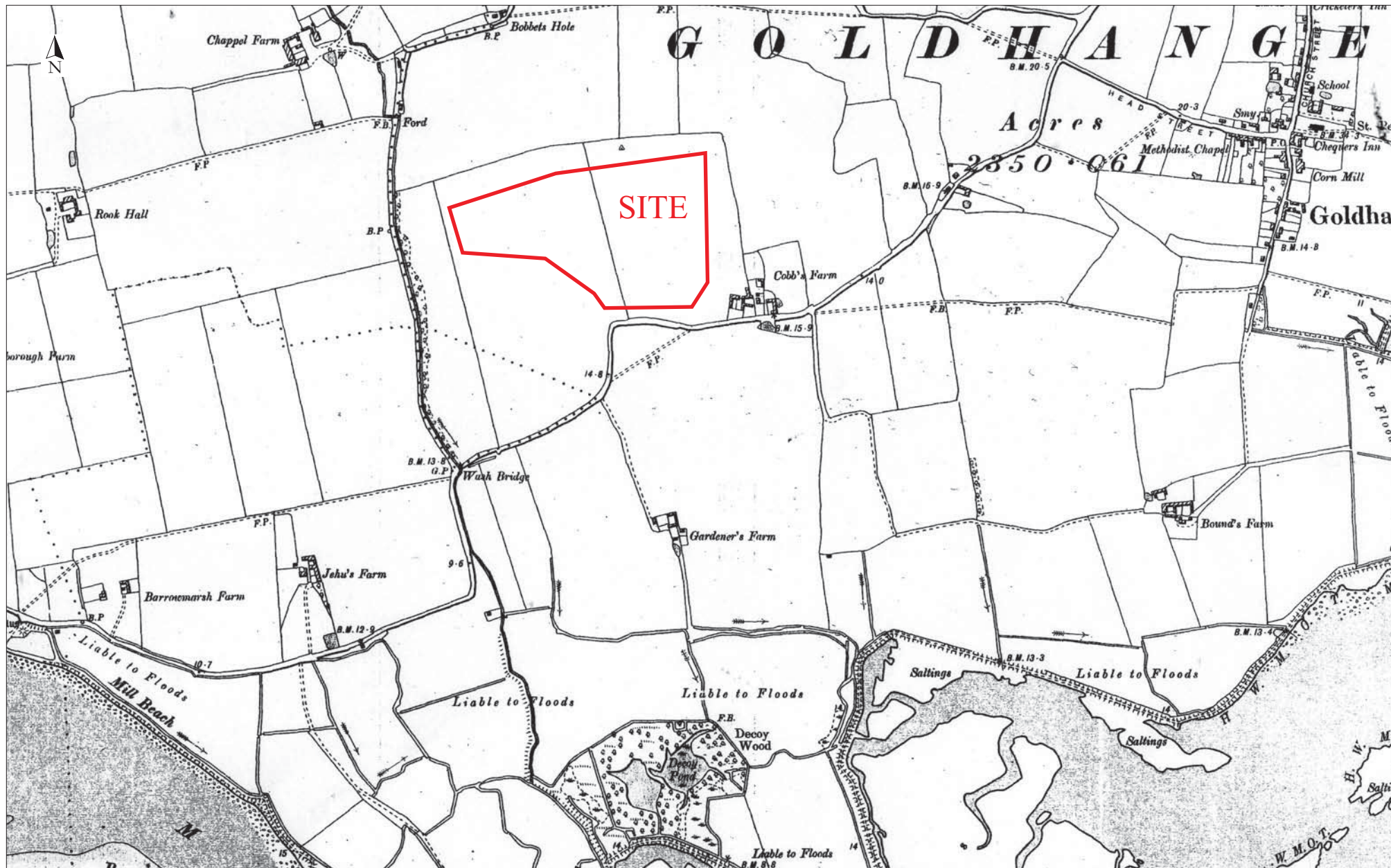
0 100m

— Cropmarks
 - - - Extent of extraction

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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:1500 at A3

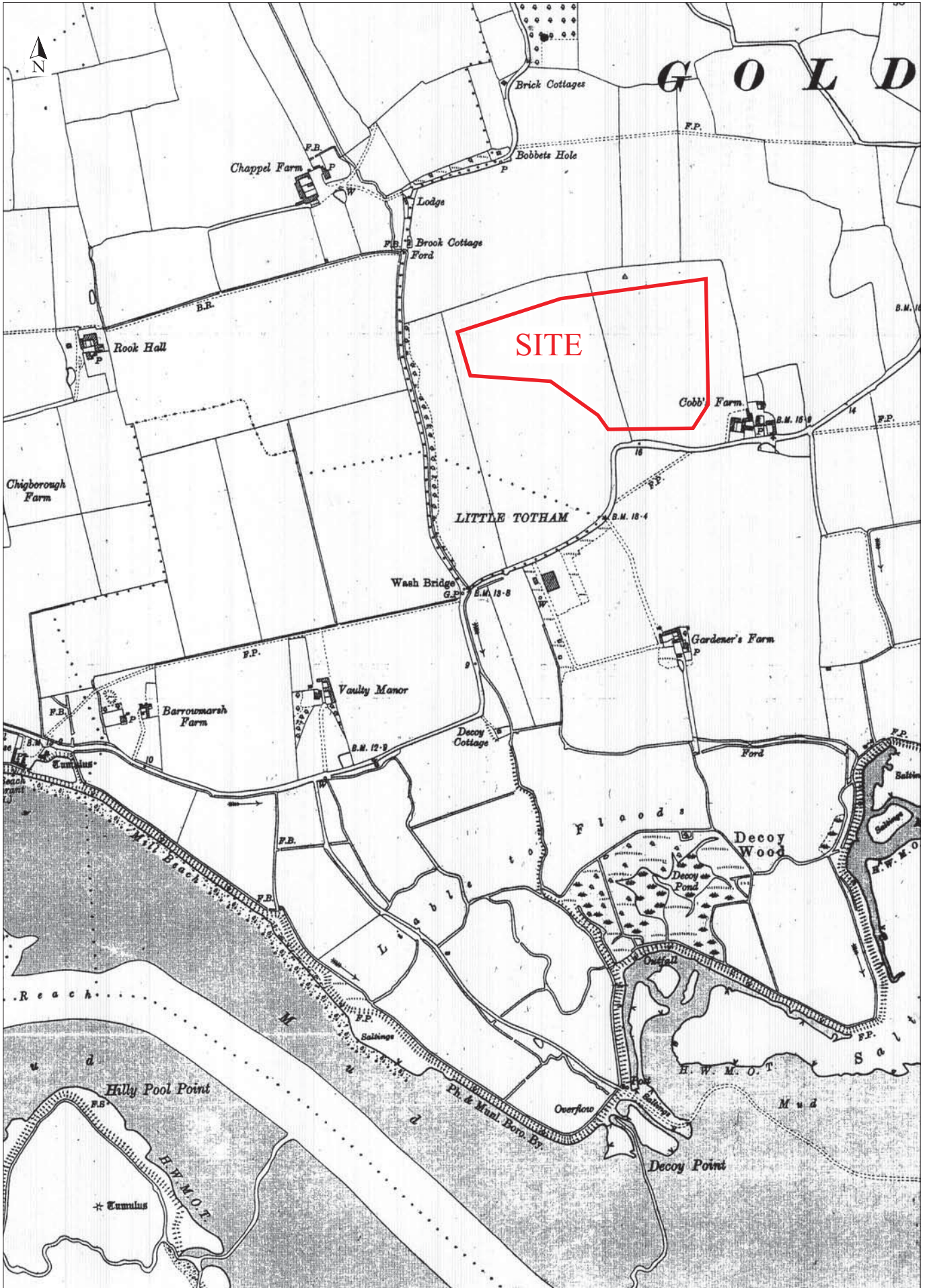


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Fig. 5 Tithe map, 1841
Scale unknown



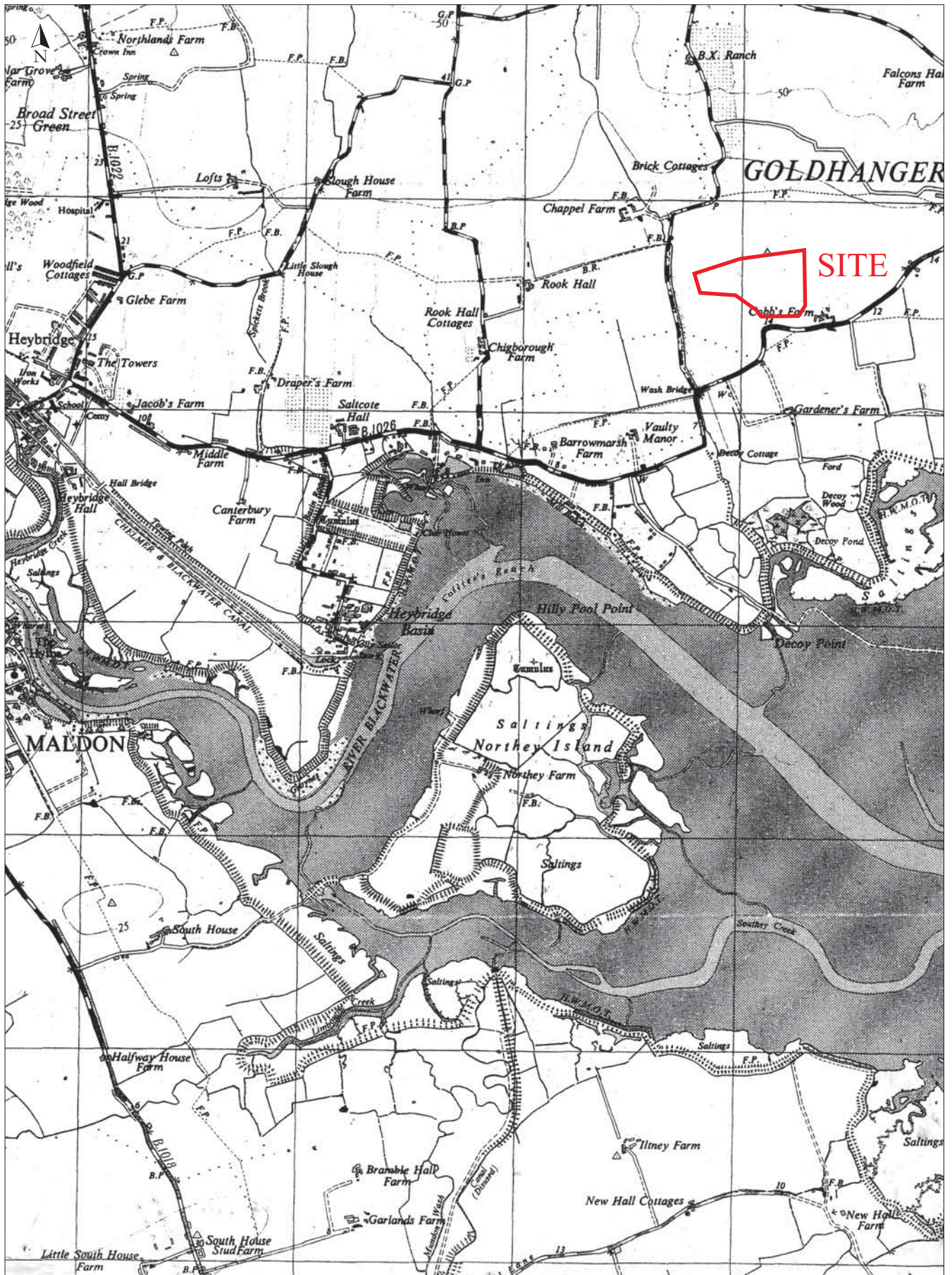
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Fig. 6 2nd edition OS map, 1897
 Scale 6 inch to 1 mile at A4



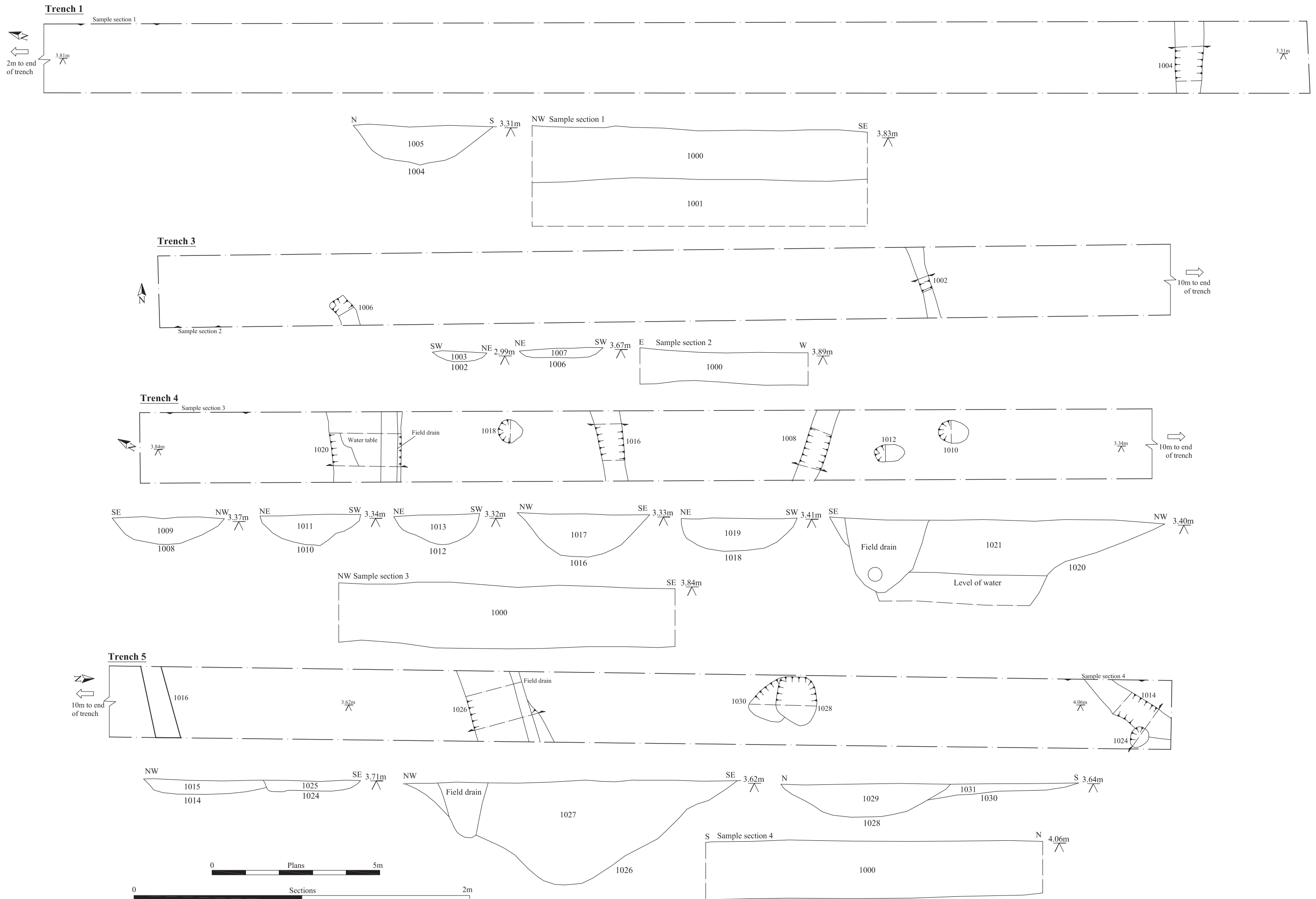
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Fig. 7 OS map, 1924
 Scale 6 inch to 1 mile at A4

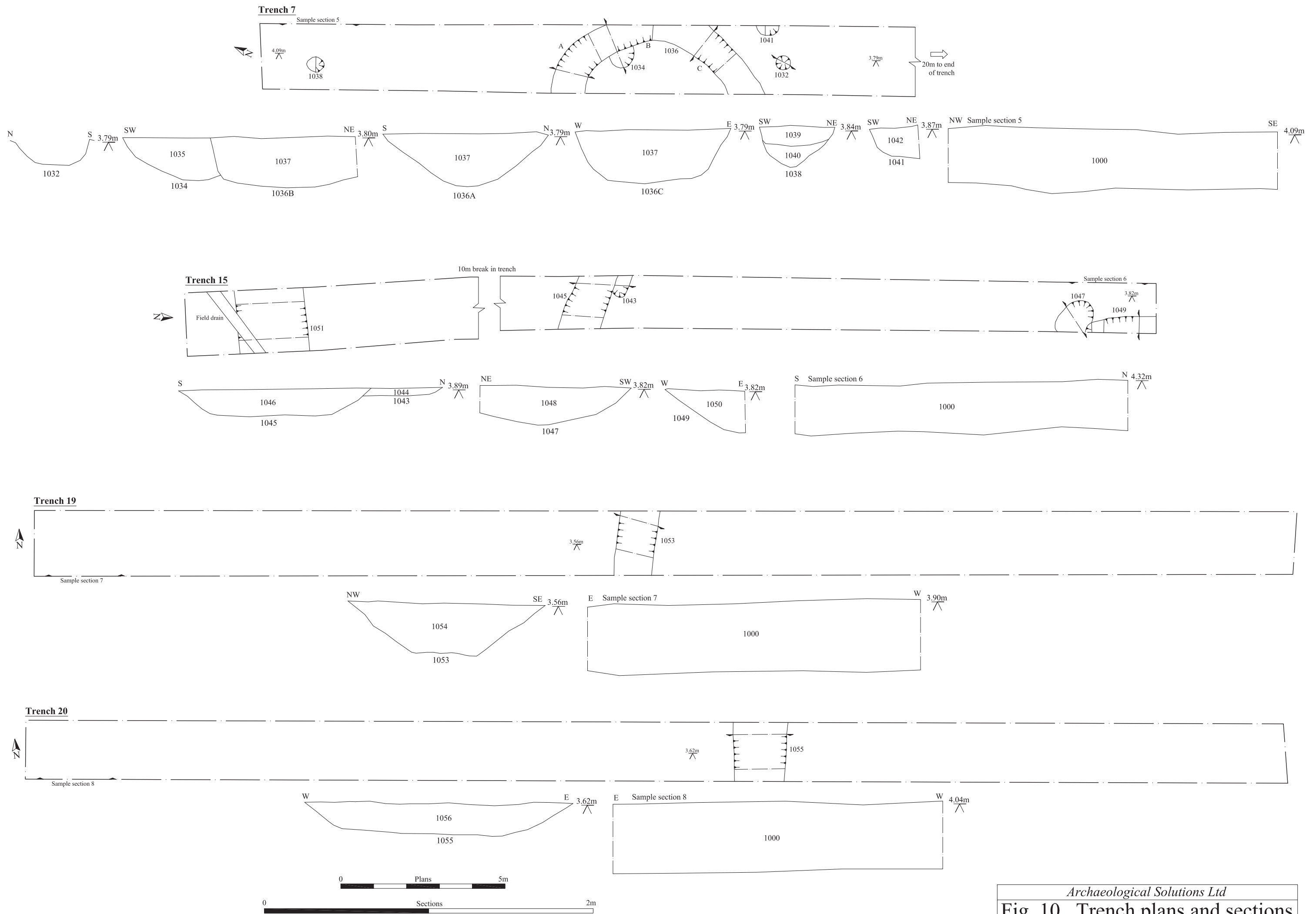


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Fig. 8 OS map, 1948
 Scale 2½ inch to 1 mile at A4

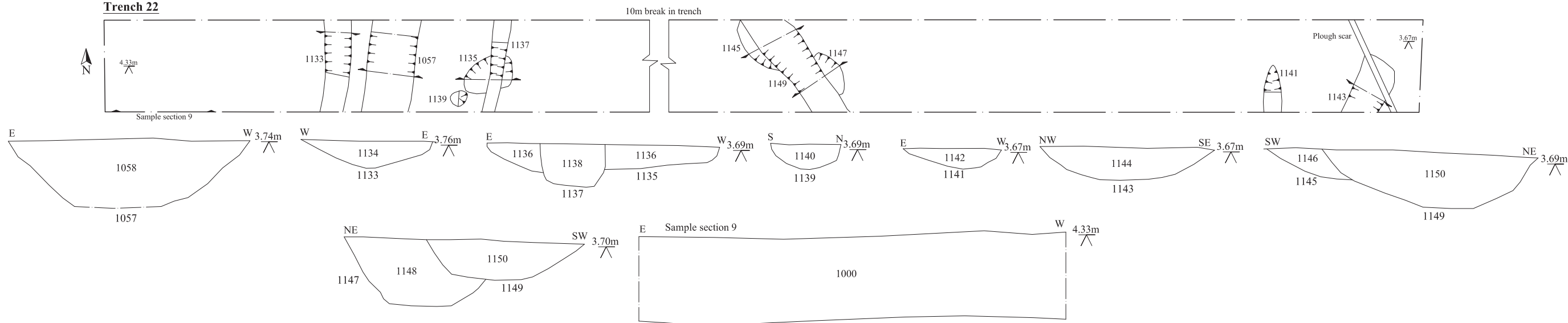


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Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 at A3

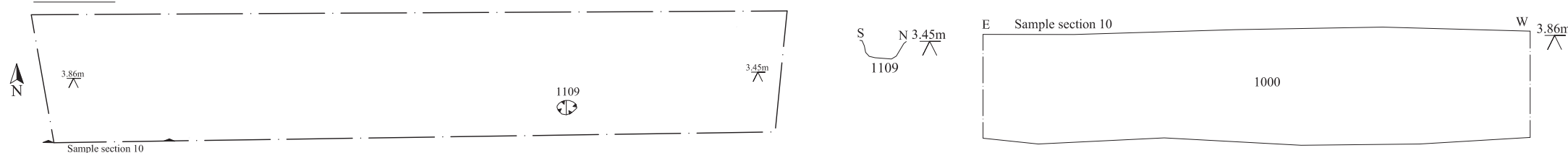


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 10 Trench plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 at A3

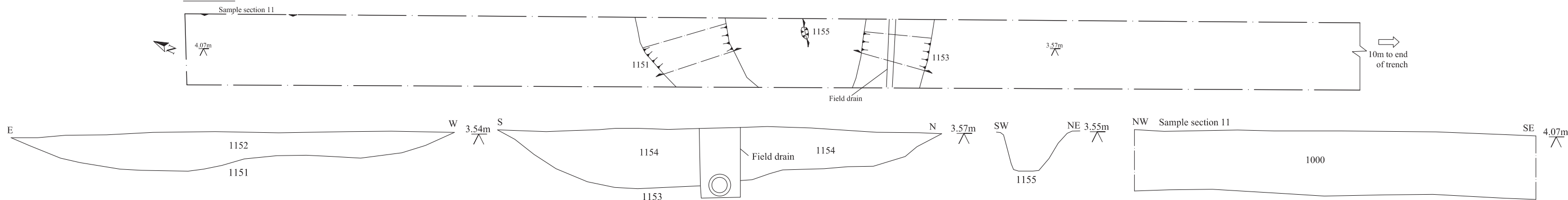
Trench 22



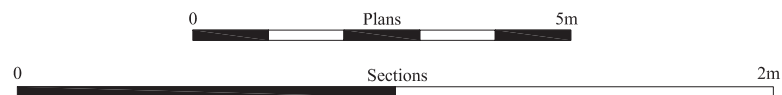
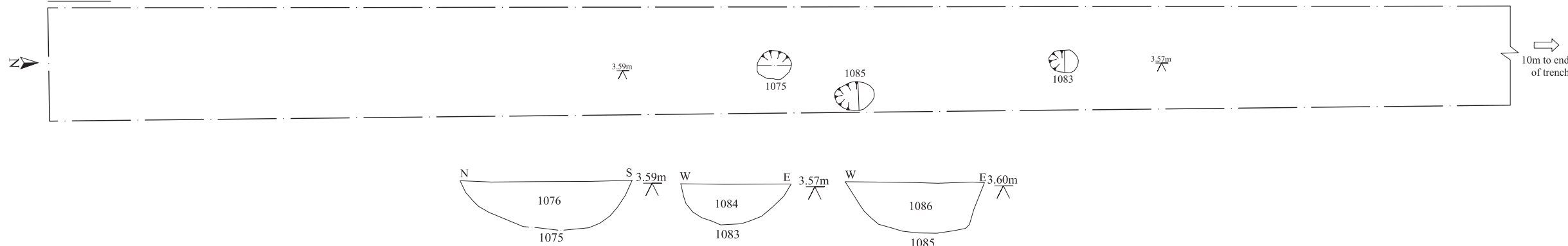
Trench 26B



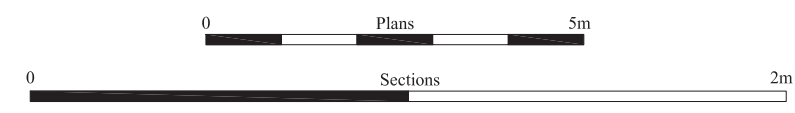
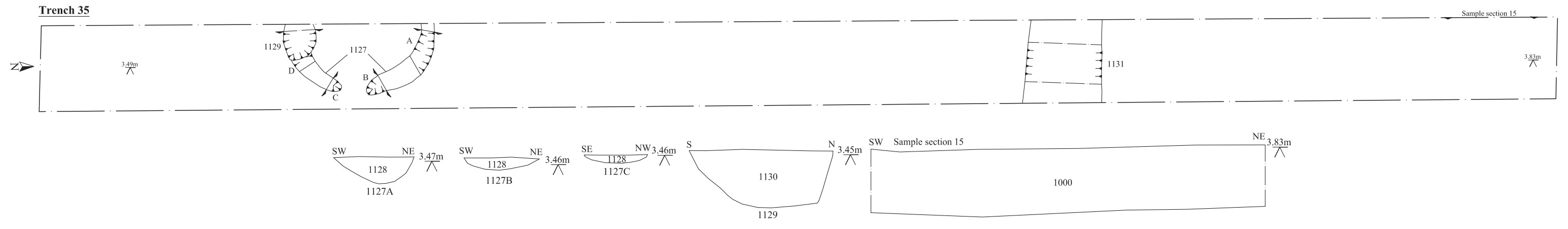
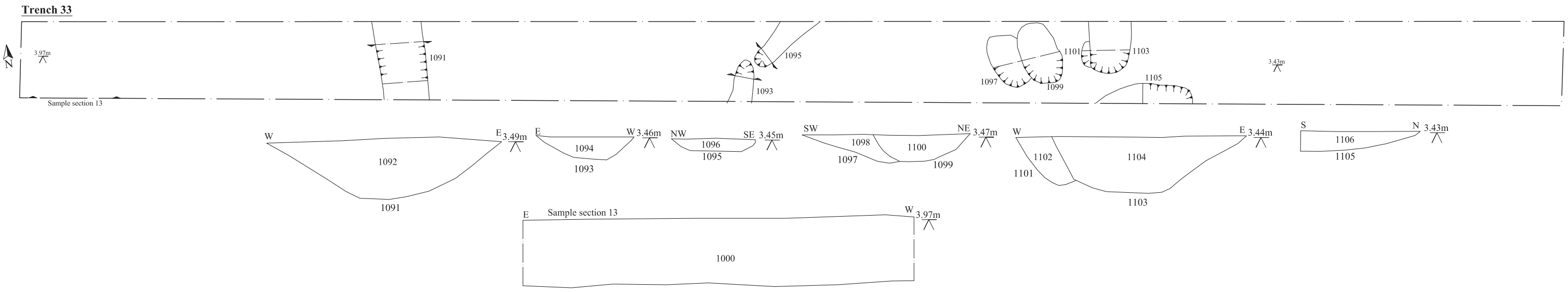
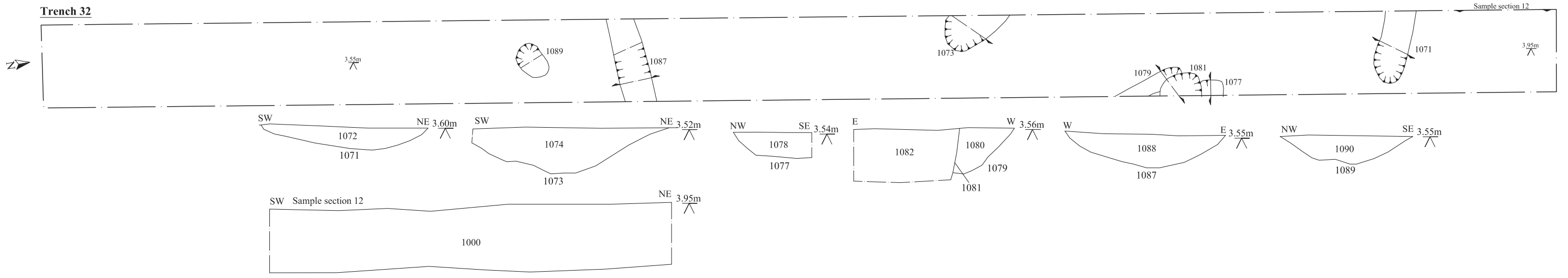
Trench 27



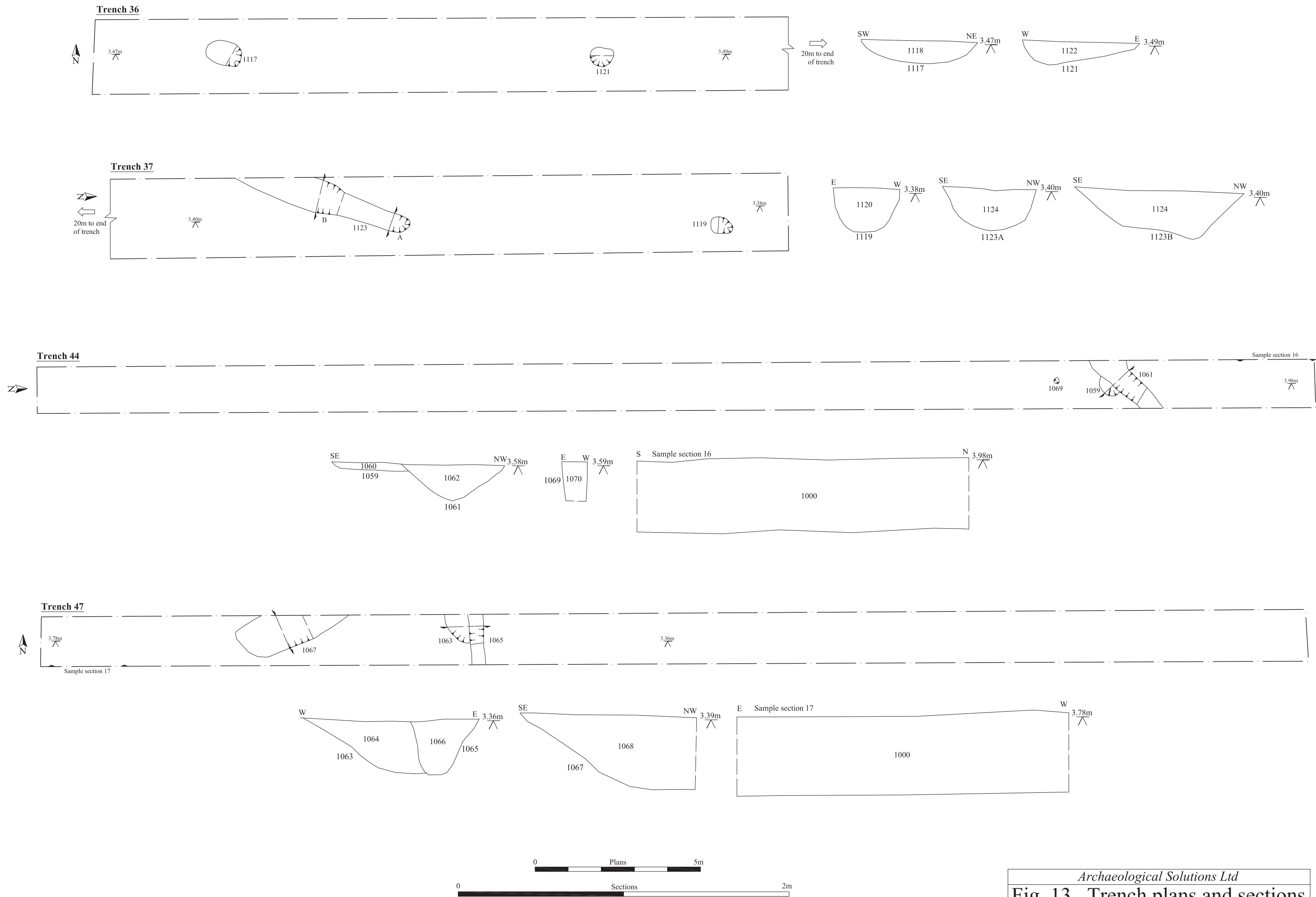
Trench 28



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Fig. 11 Trench plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 12 Trench plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 13 Trench plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 at A3