

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Land north of Tokely Road,  
Frating, Essex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Luis Esteves**

**Site Code: TRF14/97**

**(TM 0923 2353)**

# **Land North of Tokely Road, Frating, Essex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Inland Homes**

by Luis Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TRF14/97

**March 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land north of Tokely Road, Frating, Essex

**Grid reference:** TM 0923 2353

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 15th to 21st March 2017

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Luis Esteves

**Site code:** TRF 14/97

**Area of site:** c.2.6 ha

**Summary of results:** Twenty six trenches were excavated as intended in order to determine the nature of possible cropmarks on site. Just two features corresponding with the cropmarks were observed and interpreted as thermal contraction crack (frost crack).

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Colchester Museum in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.03.17 Steve Preston ✓ 24.03.17
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# Land North of Tokely Road, Frating, Essex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luis Esteves

**Report 14/97c**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land north of Tokely Road, Frating, Essex (TM 0923 2353) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Derek Byatt of Inland Homes, Decimal Place, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5FG.

Planning permission (14/01371/OUT) has been gained on appeal from Tendring District Council to develop the site for housing. The consent was subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in a form of a field evaluation, as a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site (in this case cropmarks) which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Teresa O'Connor, Historic Environment Consultant for Essex County Council, adviser to the District on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves and Maisie Foster from 15th to 21st March 2017 and the site code is TRF14/97. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Colchester Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

Frating is located east of Colchester in north-east Essex (Fig. 1). The site lies on the north-eastern side of Frating village and consists of a rectangular and flat field north of Tokely Road (Fig. 3). It was formerly arable land with an area of 2.6ha. The site is bordered to the west and south by housing, to the east by large warehouses and the north by another field. The site is mapped as Quaternary Cover Sand (BGS 2010) and it was observed in the trenches as a mix of grey/orange silty clay and sand with gravel/ironstone inclusions. The site lies at a height of approximately 29m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Dawson 2014) with a further study undertaken on the aerial photography element (Dawson and Ford 2017: Fig. 2). In summary its potential stems from its location in an area which contains a number of cropmarks recorded by aerial photography. Several of these cropmarks have been investigated and revealed to be of Neolithic and Roman date. Other (undated) cropmarks extend into the proposal site with several linear and curvilinear cropmarks probably indicating ditches and gullies of more than one date, along with discrete *maculae* which may represent pits. A modest number of other sites and finds of prehistoric and Roman date are recorded for the general area of the site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The work was to be carried out in such a manner that would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits that warrant preservation in-situ, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if cropmarks on the site are of archaeological interest.

The evaluation was to consist of the digging of 26 trenches, each 25m long and 2m wide. Trenches were to be dug by 360° type machine with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were present they were to be cleaned with appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological feature exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to an agreed sampling fraction in order to satisfy the aims outlined above.

## **Results**

Twenty-six trenches were dug as intended. The trenches ranged in length from 20.3m to 25m and in depth from 0.34m to 0.5m. All were 2m wide except Trench 1 which was 2.4m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 summarizes the excavated natural features observed in the trenches.

#### Trench 1 (Fig. 3 and 4)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.3m long, 2.4m wide, and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light orange/yellow silty clay with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned S - N and was 25m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light yellow/grey silty sand with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.37m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light yellow/grey silty sand with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light grey silty clay with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light yellow/grey silty sand with gravel natural geology. A possible tree hole (3) was observed and recorded and was filled with a mid grey/black clay with (54). No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light yellow/grey silty sand with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 10 (Fig. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light yellow/grey silty sand with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 11 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 11 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. A feature corresponding with a cropmark was observed and recorded (4) which was filled with a natural mottled grey/orange silty clay with ironstone (55) and is interpreted as a natural thermal contraction (crack).

#### Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

Trench 12 was aligned W - E and was 24m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light grey to mid brown silty clay with ironstones natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

Trench 13 was aligned S - N and was 25m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light yellow/grey silty sand with gravel and ironstones natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 14 (Fig. 3)

Trench 14 was aligned S - N and was 25m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 15 (Fig. 3; Pl. 8)

Trench 15 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.41m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. A cropmark-related feature (2) was observed and recorded (Pl. 8), and was filled with a natural mottled grey/orange silty clay with ironstone (53) (natural thermal contraction crack).

Trench 16 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 16 was aligned S - N and was 25m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

Trench 17 (Fig. 3)

Trench 17 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

Trench 18 (Fig. 3)

Trench 18 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

Trench 19 (Fig. 3)

Trench 19 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light grey to mid brown silty clay with ironstones natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

Trench 20 (Fig. 3)

Trench 20 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

Trench 21 (Fig. 3; Pl. 7)

Trench 21 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange/brown silty clay with gravel and ironstones natural geology. A feature aligned east-west, corresponding to a long linear cropmark was observed and recorded (1: Pl. 7), and was filled with a natural mottled grey/orange silty clay with ironstone (52) (natural thermal contraction crack). This is the same crack as that in Trench 15.

Trench 22 (Fig. 3; Pl. 5)

Trench 22 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light grey silty clay with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

Trench 23 (Fig. 3; Pl. 6)

Trench 23 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light yellow/grey silty sand with gravel and ironstones natural geology. No finds or features were observed.



#### Trench 24 (Fig. 3 and 4)

Trench 24 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a 0.15m of dark grey silty clay subsoil overlying a light grey silty clay with gravel and ironstones natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 25 (Fig. 3)

Trench 25 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light yellow/grey silty sand with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 26 (Fig. 3)

Trench 26 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of mid grey silt topsoil overlying a light orange/yellow silty clay with gravel natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

### **Finds**

No finds were recovered during the archaeological evaluation.

### **Conclusion**

The archaeological potential of the site as highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Dawson 2014; Dawson and Ford 2017) was based on a considerable number of possible archaeological cropmarks. However, during the field evaluation only two of these cropmarks were observed in the trenches at the natural geology level. Both were investigated and found to be natural thermal contraction cracks (frost crack). No archaeological deposits nor finds were observed in the excavated trenches.

### **References**

- BGS, 2010, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet E224/242, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dawson, T, 2014, 'Land at Tokely Road, Frating, Essex: an archaeological Desk-based Assessment', TVAS rep **14/97**, Reading
- Dawson, T and Ford, S, 2017, 'Land north of Tokely Road, Frating, Essex Aerial Photograph Assessment', TVAS rep **14/97b**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

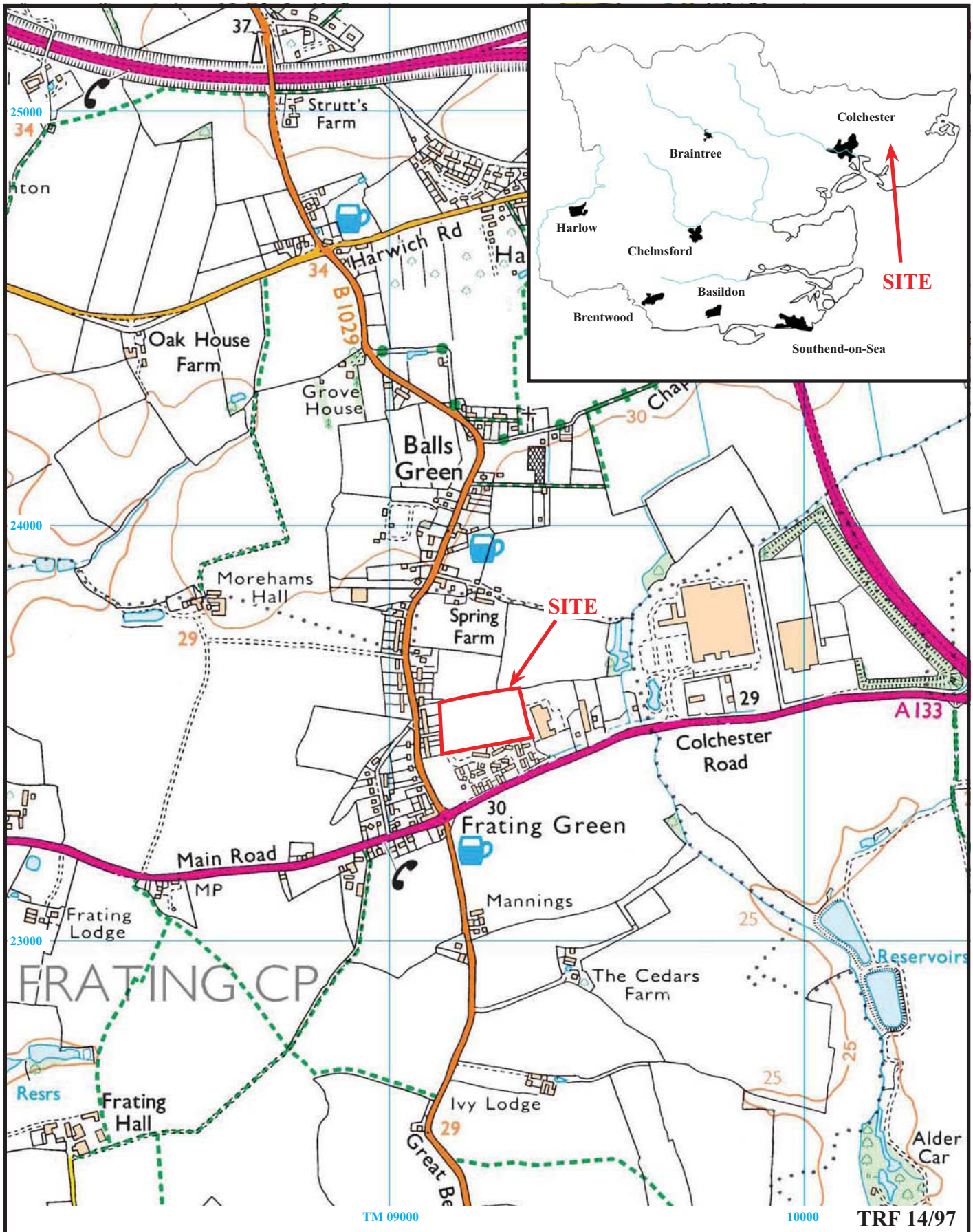
## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SW, SE and W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.3	2.4	0.45	0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35+ natural geology.
2	25	2	0.4	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3+ natural geology. [PI. 1]
3	25	2	0.38	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25+ natural geology.
4	25	2	0.34	0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2+ natural geology. [PI. 2]
5	25	2	0.47	0–0.37m topsoil; 0.37+ natural geology.
6	25	2	0.4	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25+ natural geology.
7	25	2	0.46	0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31+ natural geology. Tree hole (3)
8	25	2	0.4	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3+ natural geology.
9	25	2	0.44	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28+ natural geology.
10	25	2	0.44	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3+ natural geology.
11	25	2	0.45	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28+ natural geology. Natural feature (4) [PI. 3]
12	24	2	0.42	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28+ natural geology.
13	25	2	0.42	0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32+ natural geology.
14	25	2	0.46	0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31+ natural geology.
15	25	2	0.41	0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31+ natural geology. Natural feature (2) [PI. 8]
16	25	2	0.4	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28+ natural geology. [PI. 4]
17	25	2	0.35	0–0.21m topsoil; 0.21+ natural geology.
18	25	2	0.4	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29+ natural geology.
19	25	2	0.48	0–0.38m topsoil; 0.38+ natural geology.
20	25	2	0.42	0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32+ natural geology.
21	25	2	0.46	0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35+ natural geology. Natural feature (1) [PI. 7]
22	25	2	0.35	0–0.23m topsoil; 0.23+ natural geology. [PI. 5]
23	25	2	0.49	0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33+ natural geology. [PI. 6]
24	25	2	0.44	0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology.
25	25	2	0.5	0–0.38m topsoil; 0.38+ natural geology.
26	25	2	0.46	0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32+ natural geology.

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

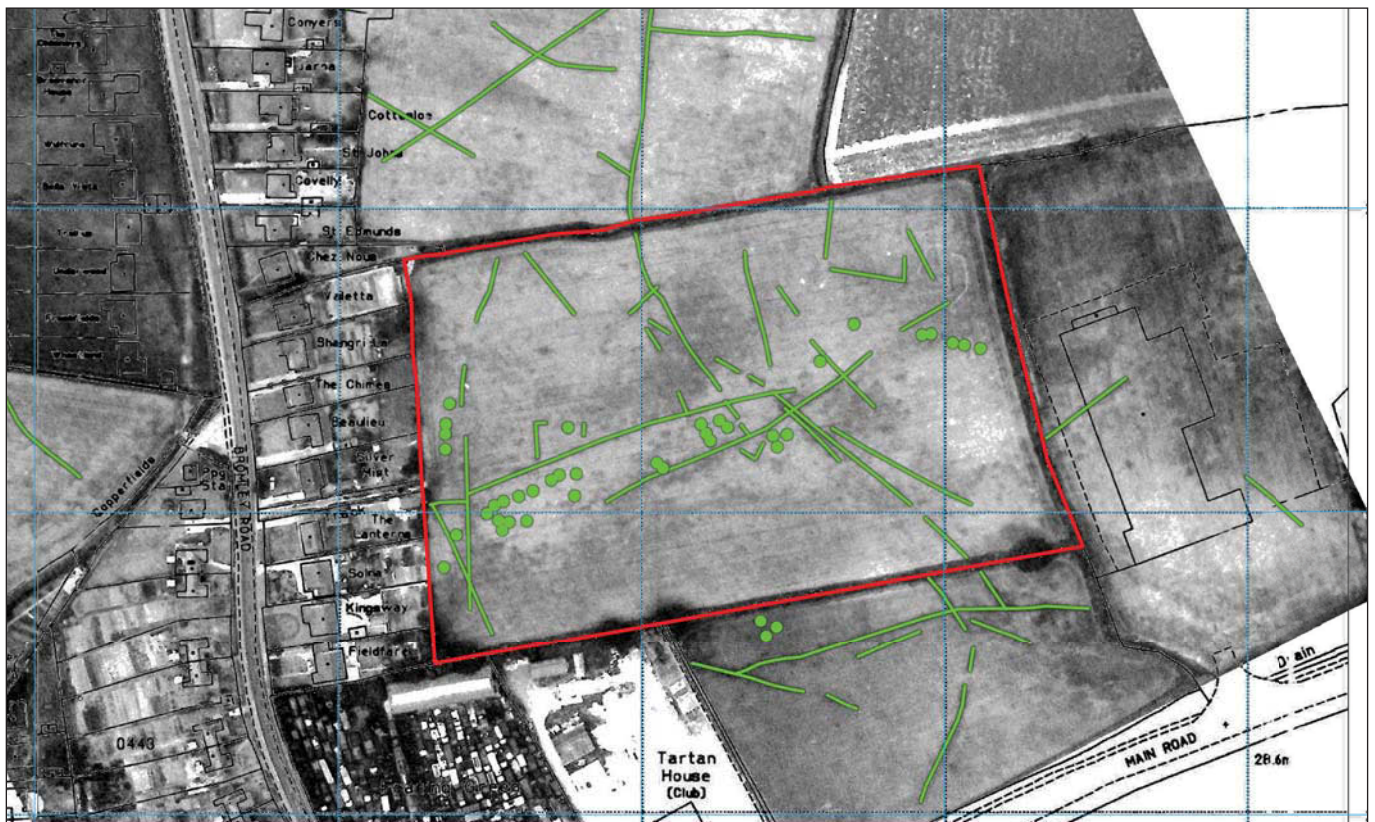
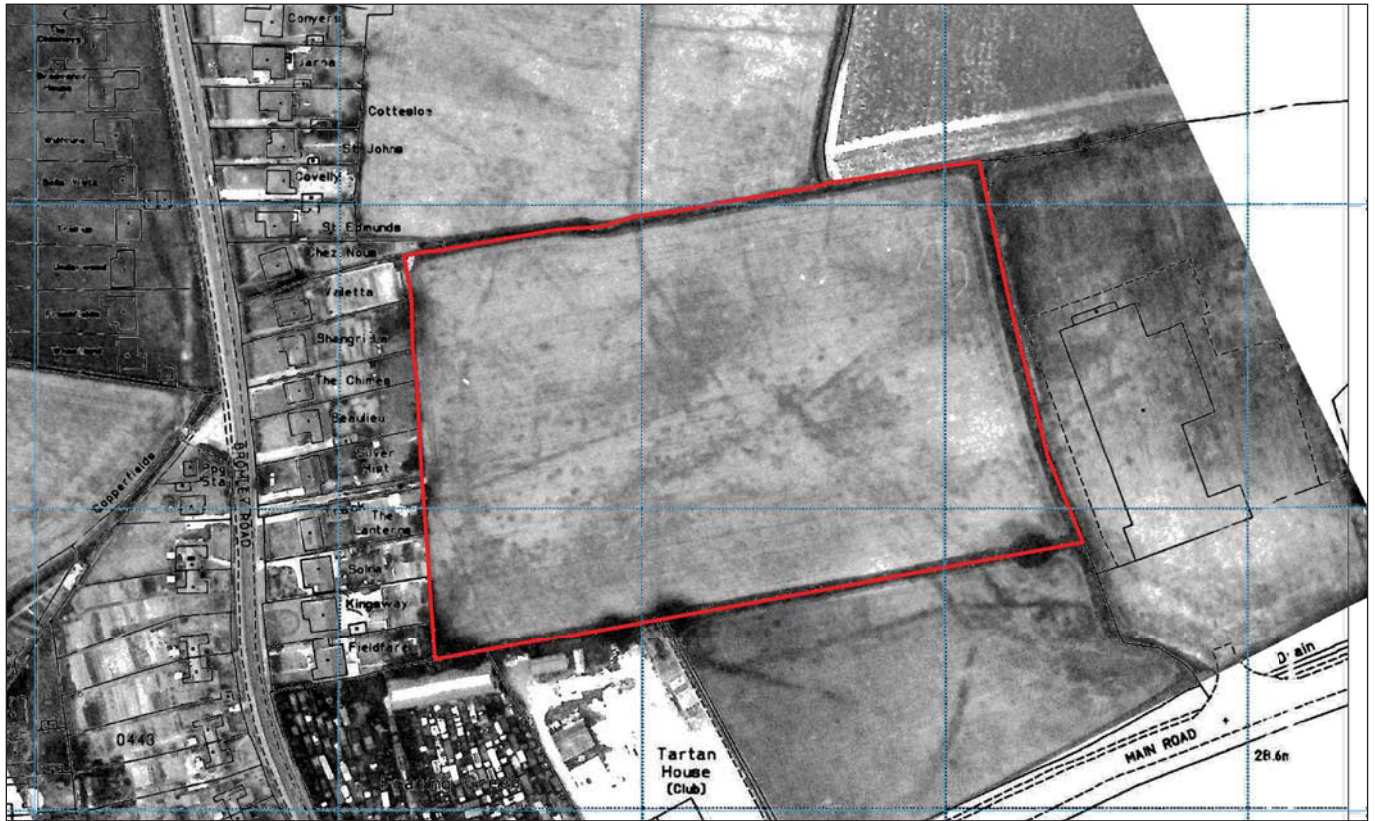
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
21	1	52	Natural (periglacial fissure) [Pl. 7]	-	-
15	2	53	Natural (periglacial fissure) [Pl. 8]	-	-
7	3	54	Tree hole	-	-
11	4	55	Natural (periglacial fissure)	-	-



**Land north of Tokely Road,  
 Frating, Essex, 2017  
 Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Frating and Essex.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital Mapping at 1:12500



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**Land north of Tokely Road, Frating, Essex, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Fig. 2. Aerial photographs

Upper: Rectified 1976 aerial photograph with 1994 OS map overlaid.

Lower: Plotted cropmarks

Scale 1:2500



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**Land North of Tokely Road,  
Frating, Essex, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches and natural features.



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**Trench 1**

27.05maOD

Topsoil

Natural Geology (silty-clay)

base of trench

**Trench 24**

27.13maOD

Topsoil

Subsoil

Natural Geology (silty-clay)

base of trench

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**Land North of Tokely Road,  
Frating, Essex, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative trench sections.





Plate 1. Trench 2, looking north-west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 11 , looking north east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 16, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 22, looking north east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 23, looking north east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

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Plates 5 - 6.

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Plate 7. Trench 21, looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 8. Trench 15, looking west , Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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An Archaeological Evaluation**

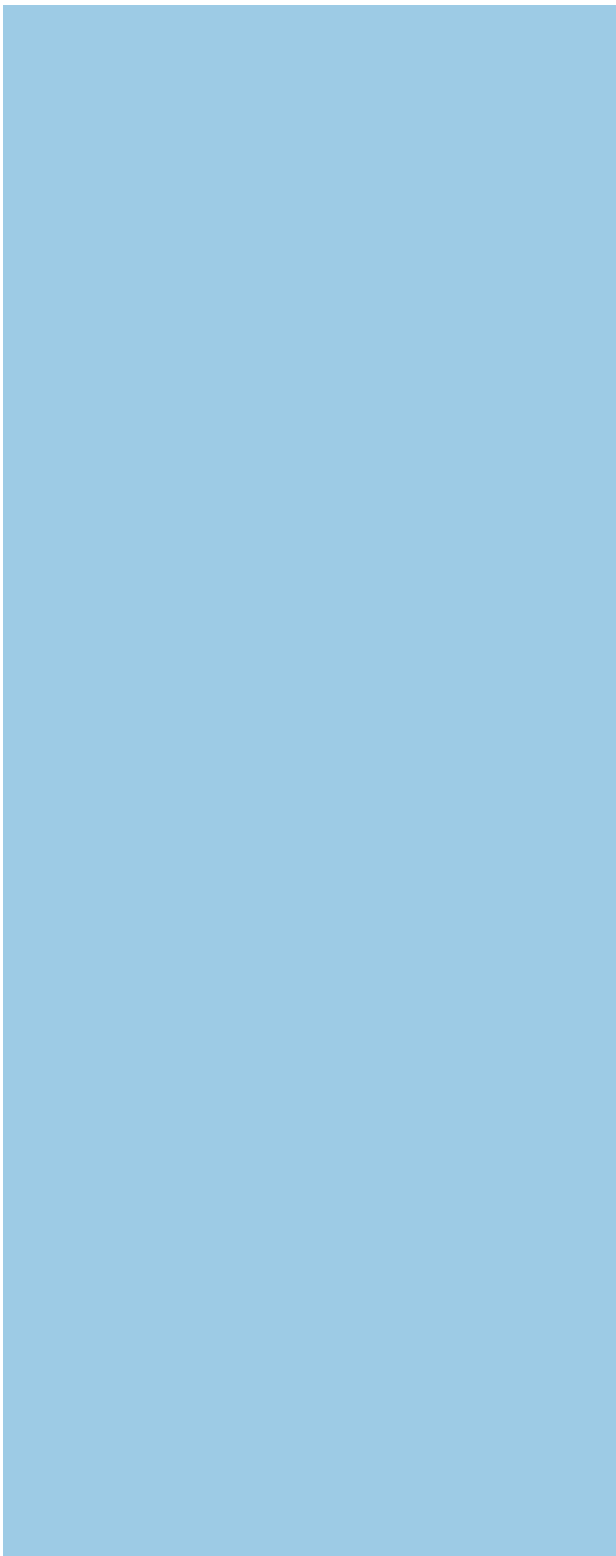
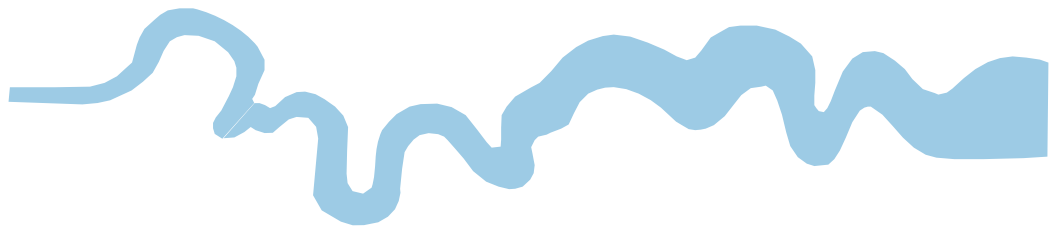
Plates 7 - 8.

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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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