

**CRANHAM CABLE TRENCH
ADJACENT TO TILLINGHAM HALL
WEST HORNDON
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Albion
archaeology



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Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Planning Background	4
1.2 Site Location	4
1.3 Archaeological Background	4
1.4 Project Objectives	4
2. METHODOLOGY	5
3. RESULTS	6
3.1 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Strata	6
3.2 Archaeological Features and Deposits	6
4. CONCLUSIONS	8
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	9
6. APPENDIX: ARTEFACT SUMMARY	10
6.1 Pottery	10
6.2 Other Ceramic Finds	11
6.3 Non-ceramic Finds	11

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: All features plan

The figures are bound at the back of the report.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by UK Power Networks and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Richard Havis, Historic Environment Management Team (HEM), Essex County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor) who also prepared this report with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

The assistance and co-operation of the principal contractor Carillion, throughout the project is gratefully acknowledged.

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Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

ECC	Essex County Council
HEM Team	Historic Environment Management Team of Essex County Council
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
OS	Ordnance Survey
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with a short stretch of the Basildon-West Horndon-Cranham power line located to the north-east of Tillingham Hall (TQ 6273 8736).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks to carry out the archaeological work in accordance with a brief (ECC 2011) and Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011) setting out the procedures and methods that would be employed during the project.

The groundworks revealed one ditch dating to the late Bronze Age, as well as four modern ditches and a layer associated with two rectangular enclosures visible as cropmarks (HER16255).

Though similarly aligned to that of the modern ditches, the late Bronze Age ditch contained markedly different fills. It only contained one small pottery sherd; however, seven similarly dated sherds from the overlying layer suggest there may be further activity of this date in the vicinity. Whether the ditch is related to a settlement or a wider field system is unclear due to the limited amount revealed during the groundworks. However, further evidence for either of these activities is of interest in the light of regional research themes relating to the development and relationships of settlements and field systems of the period (Medlycott 2011, 20).

Four additional ditches were revealed that correspond with the boundaries of the two enclosures visible as cropmarks. A subsoil layer was also present within the eastern enclosure corresponding with a visibly raised rectangular area of ground. Artefacts recovered indicate both enclosures are modern (post-1750) in date, although unlike the eastern enclosure, the western enclosure is not depicted on the 1863 OS map suggesting it had been backfilled by this time.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Bedford UK Power Networks are currently in the process of dismantling the 33kv Basildon-West Horndon-Cranham overhead power line and re-laying it underground. Following consultation on the proposed route, the Historic Environment Management (HEM) Team of Essex County Council recommended that the groundworks associated with a short stretch of the route located to the north-east of Tillingham Hall should be archaeologically monitored. The HEM Team issued a brief (ECC 2011) detailing their requirements for the archaeological work.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks to carry out the archaeological work and produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011) setting out the procedures and methods that would be employed during the project.

This document describes the results of the archaeological work.

1.2 *Site Location*

Tillingham Hall is located approximately 1km to the south-west of West Horndon (Figure 1). The area of archaeological interest comprises a field located to the north-west of Tillingham Hall, immediately to the north of Field House Farm.

The section of the cable route passing through this field is centred on OS grid reference TQ 6273 8736.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The Essex HER lists two cropmark enclosures (HER16255) located in a field to the north of Field House Farm. The easternmost enclosure abuts the boundary of Field House Farm and appears on early editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping. The western cropmark appears as three sides of an enclosure. Its date is unknown but similarly shaped features have been dated to the prehistoric period. The planned cable trench was projected to pass through both enclosures.

Field House Farm itself incorporates a listed 16th-century timber-framed house (HER 35175). Tillingham Hall (HER 1874) comprises an 18th-century timber-framed and brick house located adjacent to the remnants of a medieval moat (HER 1873).

1.4 *Project Objectives*

The principal objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor and supervise all groundworks associated with the burial of the electricity cable that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains in the field to the north of Field House Farm, and to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them. Specifically, the aim of the archaeological monitoring was to record the position of, and date, the cropmark enclosures (see Section 1.3 above) and any additional archaeological features revealed by the cable groundworks.



2. METHODOLOGY

Archaeological monitoring took place between the 4th and 10th November 2011. The ground works monitored comprised:

- The excavation of an easement trench along the planned route of the cable to contain the soil from the deeper cable trench without contamination of the agricultural topsoil. This trench was 10m wide and c. 0.38m deep.
- The excavation of the cable trench to accommodate pipes through which the electrical cables were to be fed. This trench was 0.60m wide and c. 1.45m deep.

Mechanical removal of soils was carried out using a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Exposed features and deposits of archaeological interest were cleaned and investigated by the supervising archaeologist in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*. Spoil heaps were checked on a regular basis for the recovery of artefacts.

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14</i> (2003)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2006)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2002/01)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i> (2010)
	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i> (2008)

A detailed methodology is provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011).



3. RESULTS

All significant deposits and features revealed during the groundworks are described below. The numbers in brackets within the text refer to features or deposits detailed in the figures or recorded in the project archive. A summary of the artefacts recovered is included as an Appendix.

3.1 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Strata*

The overburden largely consisted of a 0.3–0.38m thick layer of topsoil (100) that contained occasional amounts of fragmentary modern (post-1750) brick and roof tile. The only subsoil layer (101) observed was located in the vicinity of the cropmark (HER16255) of the eastern enclosure (see section 3.2.2).

The underlying geology (102) consisted of mid brown orange clay.

3.2 *Archaeological Features and Deposits*

Five ditches and a layer were observed during the groundworks (Figure 2) and are discussed chronologically below.

3.2.1 *Late Bronze Age ditch*

NNW-SSE aligned ditch [109] was observed within the cable trench in the vicinity of the eastern cropmark enclosure. It was concave in profile measuring 1.48m wide x 0.45m deep and contained two fills. The lower deposit (110) consisted of dark orange grey clay with moderate amounts of charcoal flecks and contained a small sherd of late Bronze Age pottery. The upper deposit (111) consisted of mid orange grey clay of similar character to an overlying clay layer (101; see below) that obscured the course of the ditch beyond the cable trench.

3.2.2 *Modern layer (101)*

Layer (101) appeared to be confined to the area between modern ditches [103], [105] and [112] (see below) which form the east and west arms of the easternmost of the two rectangular cropmark enclosures. The layer was 0.05–0.25m thick and comprised mid orange grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It contained moderate amounts of modern (post-1750) and post-medieval roof tile, brick, bottle glass and pottery fragments as well as seven sherds of late Bronze Age pottery and a small abraded sherd of Roman samian ware.

The ground level in the area of the eastern rectangular enclosure that also corresponds with the location of layer (101) was noticeably higher than the surrounding ground, appearing as a slightly raised rectangular earthwork. This suggests the layer has accumulated during the use of the enclosure, possibly deriving from regular episodes of manure spreading. Another possibility is that the layer is the result of either the excavation or cleaning out of nearby ponds illustrated on the 1863 OS map (of which the easternmost has been back-filled and is no longer visible).

It is possible the late Bronze Age and Roman pottery sherds were imported with the layer. However, the presence of the late Bronze Age ditch [109]



beneath the layer raises the possibility that the similarly dated pottery was introduced into the layer from other features by plough disturbance. Plough scarring was observed along the whole length of the easement strip.

3.2.3 Modern ditches corresponding with the eastern and western cropmark enclosures

Four enclosure ditches [103], [105], [107], and [112] were identified in the easement and pipe trench. The ditches correspond with the boundaries of two cropmark enclosures listed in the Essex HER (HER16255). The easternmost enclosure is illustrated on the 1863 OS map.

Ditches [103], [105] and [112] were aligned either N-S or NNW-SSE and form the east and west arms of the easternmost enclosure. The most easterly ditch [105] appeared to be a re-cut of the earlier silted up ditch [103]. The ditches were largely concave in profile, 1.55–3.20m wide, and 0.60–0.84m deep. Their fills varied from light grey clay to dark brown grey clay silt and contained moderate amounts of modern roof tile, brick, iron, bottle glass and pottery fragments. Ditch [105] also contained a penny dated 1890.

The westernmost ditch [107] was aligned NNW-SSE and correlates with the western boundary of the western cropmark enclosure. It was slightly shallower than the ditches of the eastern enclosure, being 2.25m wide x 0.20m deep, but contained a similar fill of dark brown grey clay silt that contained moderate amounts of modern roof tile and brick fragments.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The groundworks revealed one ditch dating to the late Bronze Age, as well as four modern ditches and a layer associated with two rectangular enclosures visible as cropmarks (HER16255).

Although on a similar alignment to the modern ditches, the late Bronze Age ditch [109] contained markedly different fills. It only contained one small pottery sherd; however, seven similarly dated sherds contained in the overlying layer (101) suggest there may be further activity of this date in the vicinity. Whether the ditch is related to a settlement or a wider field system is unclear due to the limited amount revealed during the groundworks. However, further evidence for either of these activities is of interest in the light of regional research themes relating to the development and relationships of settlements and field systems of the period (Medlycott 2011, 20).

Four additional ditches were revealed that correspond with the boundaries of the two enclosures visible as cropmarks. A subsoil layer (101) was also present within the eastern enclosure corresponding with a visibly raised rectangular area of ground. Artefacts recovered indicate both enclosures are modern (post-1750) in date, though unlike the eastern enclosure, the western enclosure is not depicted on the 1863 OS map suggesting it had been backfilled by this time.

The project archive will be deposited with Thurrock Museum (accession no. TM 4035). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2011, *Cranham Cable Trench Adjacent to Tillingham Hall, West Horndon Essex. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring*. Document 2011/132

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6. APPENDIX: ARTEFACT SUMMARY

A finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and ceramic building material was recovered from five features. The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range (Table 1).

Feature	Description	Context	Spot date *	Finds Summary
101	Layer	101	Modern	Pottery (83g); brick and roof tile (236g); worked flint (6g); burnt flint (30g); oyster shell (7g); roofing slate (11g)
103	Ditch	104	Undated	Fired clay (2g)
105	Ditch	106	Modern	Pottery (23g); bottle glass (8g); copper alloy coin (9g)
107	Ditch	108	Modern	Pottery (4g); brick (153g); roofing slate (6g); clinker (8g); land drain (79g)
109	Ditch	110	Prehistoric	Pottery (3g); oyster shell (2g)
109	Ditch	111	Undated	Burnt flint (5g)
112	Ditch	114	Modern	Pottery (11g); roof tile (108g)

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 1: Artefact Summary by feature

6.1 Pottery

Twenty-four pottery sherds, weighing 124g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The pottery is highly fragmented, with an average sherd weight of only 5g, although it survives in moderate to fair condition. Twelve fabric types were identified (Table 2).

Common name and date	Sherd No.	Context / Sherd No.
<i>Late Bronze Age</i>		
Flint gritted	3	(101):3
Flint and sand	5	(101):4, (110):1
<i>Roman</i>		
Samian ware	1	(101):1
<i>Late medieval/post-medieval transitional</i>		
Oxidised sandy ware	1	(108):1
Smooth oxidised sandy ware	3	(101):3
<i>Post-medieval</i>		
Glazed fine red earthenware	2	(101):2
Black-glazed earthenware	1	(101):1
Tin-glazed earthenware	1	(101):1
<i>Modern</i>		
English porcelain	1	(101):1
White salt-glazed stoneware	3	(106):3
White earthenware	2	(114):2
White-slipped earthenware	1	(114):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

A single flint-gritted sherd (3g) was recovered from ditch [109] which is characteristic of late Bronze Age assemblages in the region, and seven additional flint-gritted sherds (27g) of the same date occurred as residual finds in layer (101). Three of the sherds from the layer derive from the same vessel, although no feature sherds are present. The layer also yielded a highly abraded sherd of samian ware (3g) datable to the early Roman period.



Late medieval/post-medieval transitional ware totals four undiagnostic sandy sherds (16g), recovered from enclosure ditch [107] and layer (101).

Four post-medieval sherds (43g) deriving from layer (101) comprise tin-glazed and glazed red earthenwares. Seven 19th-century sherds of earthenware, salt-glazed stoneware and English porcelain (total weight 35g) were recovered from enclosure ditches [105], [112] and layer (101).

6.2 Other Ceramic Finds

Ten sand-tempered pieces of flat roof tile (294g) and two abraded brick fragments (203g), deriving mainly from layer (101) were recovered. Roof tiles range in thickness between 13–17mm, and all are of post-medieval or later date. The fill of ditch [107] yielded a piece of modern land drain (79g), and amorphous fired clay crumbs (2g) were recovered from ditch [103].

6.3 Non-ceramic Finds

Non-ceramic finds comprise fragments of modern roofing slate (17g), bottle glass (8g), clinker (8g), oyster shell (9g) and a worn Victorian penny, dated 1890, the latter deriving from enclosure ditch [105]. Layer (101) and ditch [107] yielded a retouched flint flake (6g) of uncertain date and three pieces of unmodified/natural burnt flint (35g).

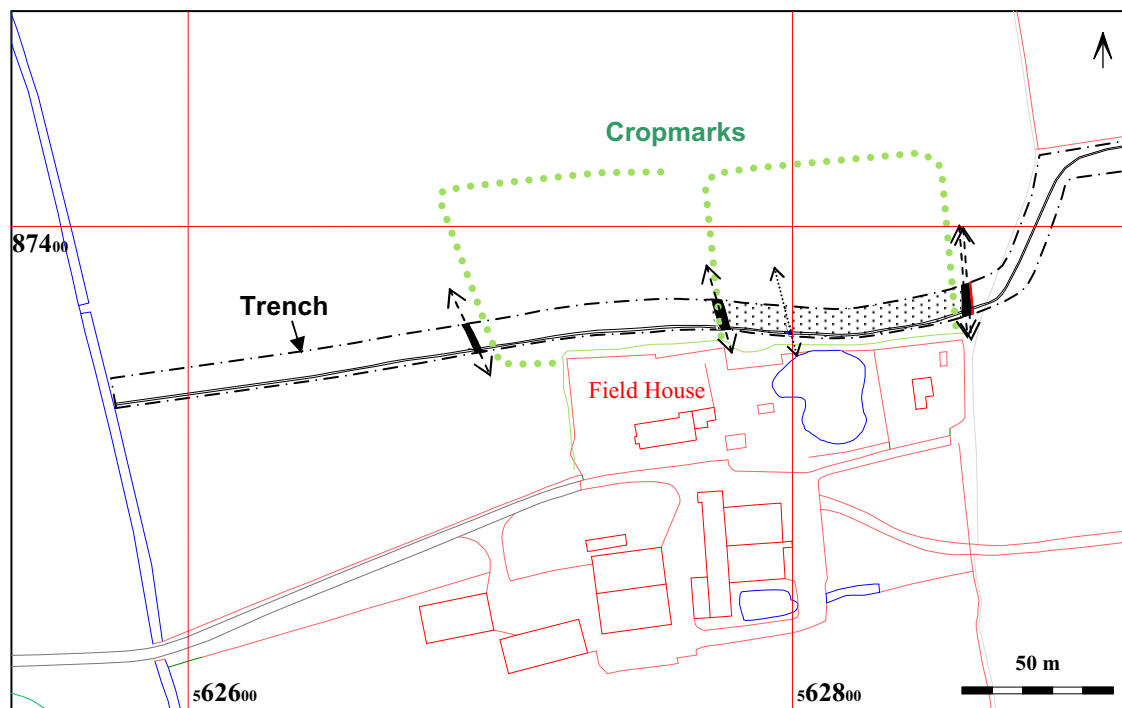
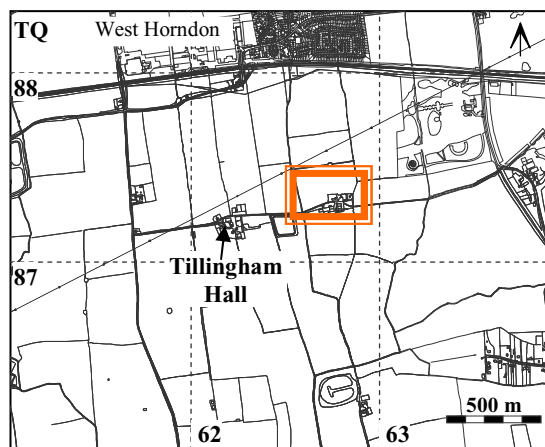


Figure 1: Site location plan

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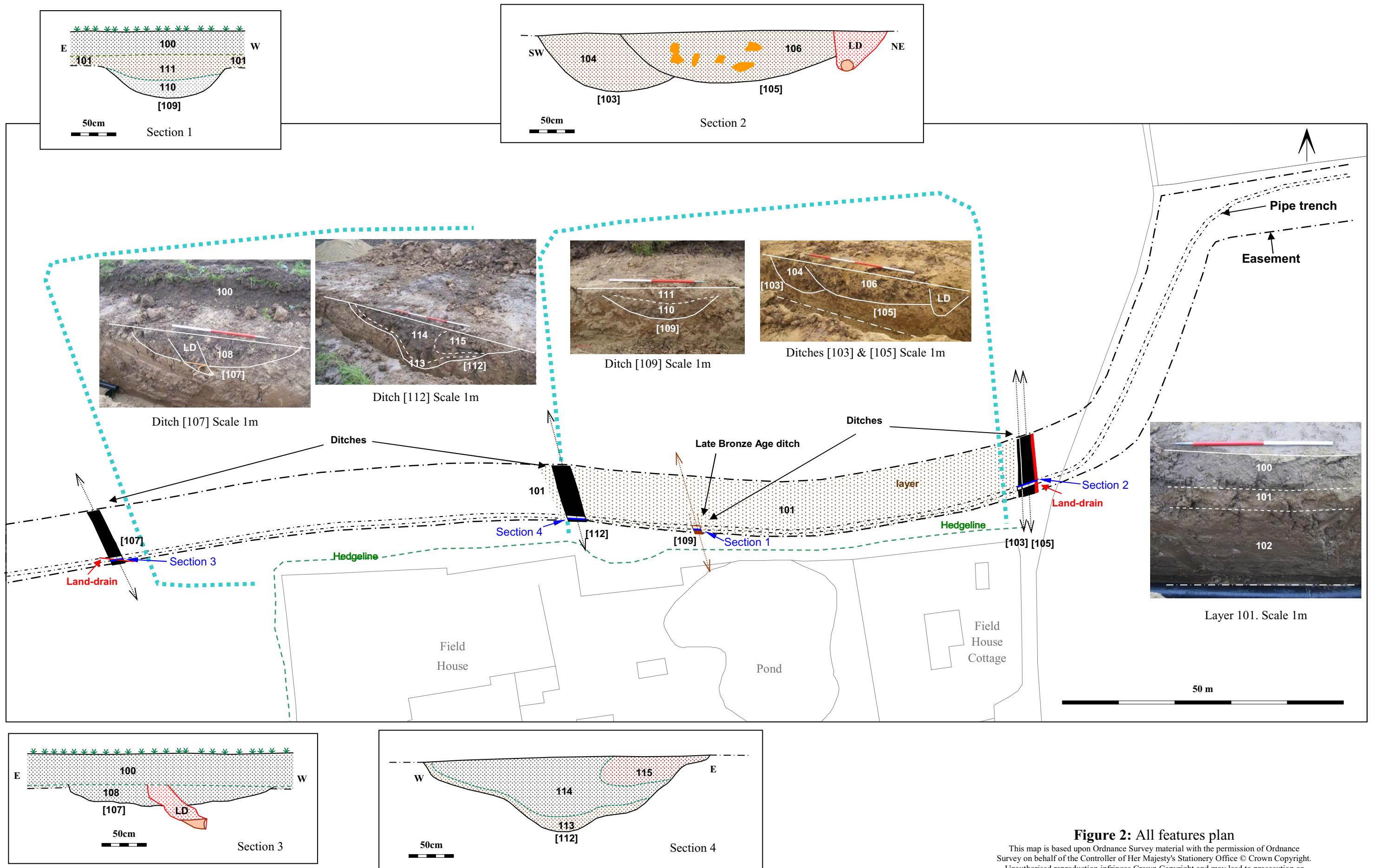


Figure 2: All features plan

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