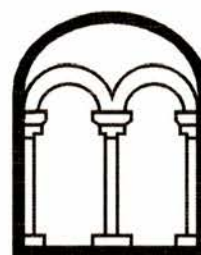


**BRENTWOOD TO GIDEA PARK  
33KV CABLING WORKS  
BRENTWOOD  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**BRENTWOOD TO GIDEA PARK  
33KV CABLING WORKS  
BRENTWOOD  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**

Project: BWCC13

Museum Accession no. CHMER 2013.074  
OASIS Ref. albionar1-149724

Document: 2013/154  
Version 1.1

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Marcin Koziminski	Wesley Keir	Drew Shotliff

21st October 2013

Produced for:  
UK Power Networks



## ***Contents***

---

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Planning Background	4
1.2 Site Location	4
1.3 Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Background	4
1.4 Project Objectives	5
<b>2. METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. RESULTS</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Strata	7
3.2 Archaeological Features	7
<b>4. CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>10</b>

### ***List of Figures***

**Figure 1:** Site location

**Figure 2:** All features

**Figure 3:** Selected images of the excavations

*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 the Historic Environment Management Team (HEM) of Essex County Council.*

*The fieldwork was undertaken by Marcin Koziminski, Wiebke Starke (Archaeological Supervisors) and Slawomir Utrata (Assistant Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Marcin Koziminski with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer).*

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

Albion Archaeology  
 St Mary's Church  
 St Mary's Street  
 Bedford, MK42 0AS  
 ☎: 0300 300 4937  
 Fax: 0300 300 8209  
 e-mail: [office@albion-arch.com](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)

## Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>16/10/2013</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>1.1</i>	<i>21/10/2013</i>	<i>Reflect comments of the HEM</i>

## Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
ECC	Essex County Council
HEM	Historic Environment Management Team Essex County Council
HER	Heritage Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with installation of a new 33KV underground power cable between Nags Head Lane and the crossing of the Ingrebourne River near Harold Park, Romford.*

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks to carry out the archaeological work and geoarchaeological investigation in accordance with a brief (ECC 2012) and Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2012) setting out the procedures and methods that would be employed during the project.*

*The groundworks cut through three partially 'silted-up' existing field boundary ditches, exposing their full profiles. Though no artefacts were recovered, these boundaries are depicted on early 19th-century pre-enclosure maps suggesting the possibility that they could be of medieval origin. Their recording is of some significance, in light of regionally identified themes relating to the development and relationships of settlements and field systems (Medlycott 2011, p. 70 and 79).*

*The only other features revealed were associated with modern activities, most likely relating to either agricultural activity or the construction of the nearby railway. However, a small number of pottery sherds recovered from the subsoil hint at activity dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and Saxon periods in the wider vicinity.*

*It was not possible to address the geoarchaeological objectives of the project during the fieldwork due to the limited nature of the groundworks. The main opportunity for observing and sampling geoarchaeological deposits was during the excavation of the launch pits south of the Ingrebourne River. However, these excavations proved not to be as deep or extensive as anticipated with only the alluvial deposits removed in its entirety in one of the pits exposing a small area of clay and gravel. The deeper deposits with the greatest geoarchaeological potential were never penetrated.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 **Planning Background**

UK Power Networks are installing a new 33KV underground power cable between Brentwood and Gidea Park, Romford.

Following consultation on the proposed route, the Historic Environment Management (HEM) Team of Essex County Council requested an archaeological and geoarchaeological desk-based assessment (SLR Consulting 2012). Based on the results and recommendations of the assessment, the HEM Team issued a brief (ECC 2012), detailing their requirements for archaeological monitoring and geoarchaeological investigation.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks to carry out the archaeological work.

This report represents the findings of the work which was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2012) approved by the HEM.

### 1.2 **Site Location**

The route for the cabling works runs from a location close to the Nags Head Inn at the junction of Brook Street and Nags Head Lane (TQ57397 92674) to Mounts Avenue, Harold Park (TQ56116 91736), spanning the boundary between Brentwood Borough and the Greater London Borough of Havering. It follows Nags Head Lane towards the south-west before running parallel to the railway embankment, under the M25 and turning towards the north-west where it goes under the Ingrebourne River to Mounts Avenue.

The section of the works subject to archaeological monitoring runs from the point where the trench turns westward from Nags Head Lane to the crossing of the Ingrebourne River (Figure 1).

### 1.3 **Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Background**

The potential of the cable route to contain archaeological and geoarchaeological remains was assessed in the desk-based and borehole survey (SLR 2012). The potential indicated below is based on the results of that assessment.

The cable route subject to archaeological monitoring runs parallel, and to the south of, the course of the Roman road between London and Colchester. The line of the road is now the modern A12 – A1023 which lies approximately 400m to the north of the proposed works. The existing field boundaries along the route of the cable appear on pre-enclosure maps (*ibid.* figures 6 and 7). In the assessment it is stated that “all of the fields bisected by the proposed route have the potential to be medieval in origin” (*ibid.* p. 25).

A borehole excavated close to the Ingrebourne River as part of the geoarchaeological assessment demonstrated possible geoarchaeological potential (SLR 2012, 26-30). The upper 0.35m comprised a garden or



agricultural soil. An alluvial deposit (0.35–2.80m) contained some organic material which included plant material. The alluvium had the potential to be obscuring archaeological features close to the river. A gravel deposit (2.80–3.70m) might have had archaeological potential as sand and gravel bars have been utilised for seasonal or temporary activity through prehistory. No distinctive buried peats or soils were found in the London Clay (below 3.80m) during the assessment.

## **1.4 Project Objectives**

### **1.4.1 Archaeological monitoring**

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered during the groundworks.

Specific objectives identified in the Brief (ECC 2012) were to investigate:

- Medieval and post-medieval boundaries (ditches and hedgebanks) identified in the desk-based assessment.
- Evidence of medieval activity.
- Evidence of activity associated with the nearby Roman road.

### **1.4.2 Geoarchaeological investigation**

The principal objectives of the geoarchaeological investigations were to:

- Establish the distribution, depth and date of geoarchaeological deposits across the working area.
- Assess and record the archaeological significance of any deposits.

Specific objectives were to:

- Determine the presence of artefacts and faunal remains in the sediments.
- Determine the presence of palaeo-environmental evidence in the sediments.
- Determine the presence of undisturbed primary context occupation surfaces.
- Establish the horizontal and vertical extent, sequence and sedimentological character of deposits across the working area.
- Interpret the depositional and post-depositional history of any artefactual or biological evidence.
- Establish correlations of any deposits found with reference to adjacent and regional sequences, and to national frameworks.
- Assess in local, regional and national terms the archaeological and geological significance of any deposits encountered, and their potential to fulfil current research objectives.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken between 7th May and 13th June 2013. The groundworks monitored comprised:

- The excavation of an easement trench along the planned route of the cable. This trench was 6–9m wide and 0.3–0.45m deep.
- The excavation of the cable trench, which was 0.6–0.7m wide and c. 1.4m deep.
- The excavation of two launch pits, one measuring c. 6m x 3m x 1.2m deep and the other 3m x 2m x 0.6m deep. Their purpose was to allow the cable to pass beneath the Ingrebourne River.

The observed section of the route passed through several fields separated by existing boundary ditches / hedgebanks. These fields have been numbered 1–6 for the purposes of this report (Figure 2).

Mechanical removal of soils was carried out using a toothless bucket under close archaeological supervision. Exposed features and deposits of archaeological interest were cleaned and investigated in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*. Spoil heaps were checked on a regular basis for the recovery of archaeological 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>Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record</i> (2007)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i> (2012)
	<i>Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i> (2008)

A detailed methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2012).

The project archive will be deposited with Chelmsford Museum (accession no. CHMER 2013.074). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (reference number albionar1-149724).





### 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.

#### 3.1 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Strata*

A 0.05–0.40m thick layer of topsoil (1), containing occasional fragments of modern (post-1750) brick and roof tile (not retained), was present throughout the majority of the route. In Field 1, however, the topsoil was replaced by a series of modern deposits:

- a deposit (2) of grey brown clay that was up to 0.2m thick;
- an external surface (3) of grey clay gravel mixed with frequent ceramic building material rubble. The surface was 0.3m thick and was probably associated with former construction works in the vicinity;
- a deposit (4), similar in composition to layer (2). It was 0.2m thick and contained plastic and modern timber fragments (not retained);
- re-deposited geological substrate in the form of yellow clay (5) that was up to 0.25m thick;
- up to 0.35m of dumped dark grey clay silt (11), which is likely to derive from the clearance of a nearby drainage ditch.

These deposits generally overlay a subsoil of mid orange brown clay silt (6), which was 0.05–0.35m thick. The exceptions to this were within the launch pits to the south of the Ingrebourne River where the subsoil was replaced by a 0.6m+ thick alluvial deposit (8) (Figure 2: Section 1, Figure 3: Image 1) and in the area of the boundary between Fields 5 and 6 where a modern deposit (16) of sandy gravel up to 0.1m thick (Figure 2b) was observed.

A small finds assemblage comprising roof tile and pottery was recovered from the subsoil (6). The earliest artefacts were two abraded pottery body sherds, found in Field 2, deriving from a single vessel (7g), in a quartz sand, sparsely micaceous and fine flint fabric that are of probable late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date.

Ten sherds (114g) in a sand, micaceous and heavily organic fabric, are provisionally datable to the Saxon period. They were found in Field 3 and derive from a single vessel with a simple everted rim. The sherds are well-made, and display slightly less abrasion than the flint tempered examples.

Post-medieval artefacts comprise four heavily abraded sand-tempered roof tile fragments (184g), and a sherd of 17th-century glazed red earthenware, the latter covered with a thick mortar-like concretion.

The underlying geology (7) consisted of mid yellow grey clay with clay gravel outcrops.

#### 3.2 *Archaeological Features*

Six ditches, four pits and a modern intrusion were observed during the groundworks (Figure 2) and are discussed below in chronological order.



### 3.2.1 Post-medieval ditches

The groundworks cut through three, partially 'silted-up', existing boundary ditches [21], [23], and [25] that are generally aligned NW-SE and which mark the divisions between Fields 1 and 2, 2 and 3, and 3 and 4. Their fully exposed profiles measured 0.9-1.3m wide and 0.6-0.8m deep (Figure 2: Section 4; Figure 3: Image 3). They were all filled with a single, homogenous deposit of dark silty clay likely to be derived from the adjacent ploughsoils. These boundaries are marked on pre-enclosure maps (SLR 2012, figures 6 and 7) dating to the early 19th century.

### 3.2.2 Modern features

A short, NE-SW aligned ditch [19] was observed cutting the subsoil at the western end of Field 6. It had a concave profile measuring 0.6m wide and 0.26m deep that was filled with a light brown silty clay (Figure 2: Section 2 and Figure 3: Image 6). It was visible for a distance of *c.* 4m before being truncated by a large modern linear feature [14]. Feature [14] was visible for a distance of *c.* 180m within Fields 5 and 6 and measured at least 4.25m wide and up to 0.6m deep. Its alignment and location suggest it is likely to be associated with the construction of the nearby railway. Its mixed fill (15) contained wood, ceramic building material and bathroom tile (none retained).

Two curving linear ditches [12] and [17] were revealed on either side of boundary [21] between Fields 5 and 6. They were both *c.* 1m wide, 0.38–0.44m deep, with steep concave profiles (Figure 2: Section 1). Both had been deliberately backfilled with mid brown grey clay silt, containing moderate amounts of ceramic building material and concrete fragments, as well as modern plastic bags. These deposits appear to have been truncated by modern feature [14] and may be associated with agricultural activities pre-dating the construction of the railway track.

Four large sub-circular pits [9] were revealed in Field 4 (Figure 2a). They were 10–20m in diameter (Figure 3: Image 2) and had shallow, concave profiles, up to 0.6m deep. They were filled with dark silty sand deposits (10) that contained moderate amounts of ceramic building material (not retained). Their original function is unknown, but it is quite possible that they were associated with works to the nearby railway.



## 4. CONCLUSIONS

---

The groundworks cut through three partially 'silted-up' existing field boundary ditches, exposing their full profiles. Though no artefacts were recovered, these boundaries are depicted on early 19th-century pre-enclosure maps suggesting the possibility that they could be of medieval origin. Their recording is of some significance, in light of regionally identified themes relating to the development and relationships of settlements and field systems (Medlycott 2011, p. 70 and 79).

The only other features revealed were associated with modern activities, most likely relating to either, agriculture or the construction of the nearby railway. However, a small number of pottery sherds recovered from the subsoil hint at activity dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and Saxon periods in the wider vicinity.

It was not possible to address the geoarchaeological objectives of the project during the fieldwork due to the limited nature of the groundworks. The main opportunity for observing and sampling geoarchaeological deposits was during the excavation of the launch pits south of the Ingrebourne River. However, these excavations proved not to be as deep or extensive as anticipated with only the alluvial deposits removed in its entirety in one of the pits exposing a small area of clay and gravel. The deeper deposits with the greatest geoarchaeological potential were never penetrated.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

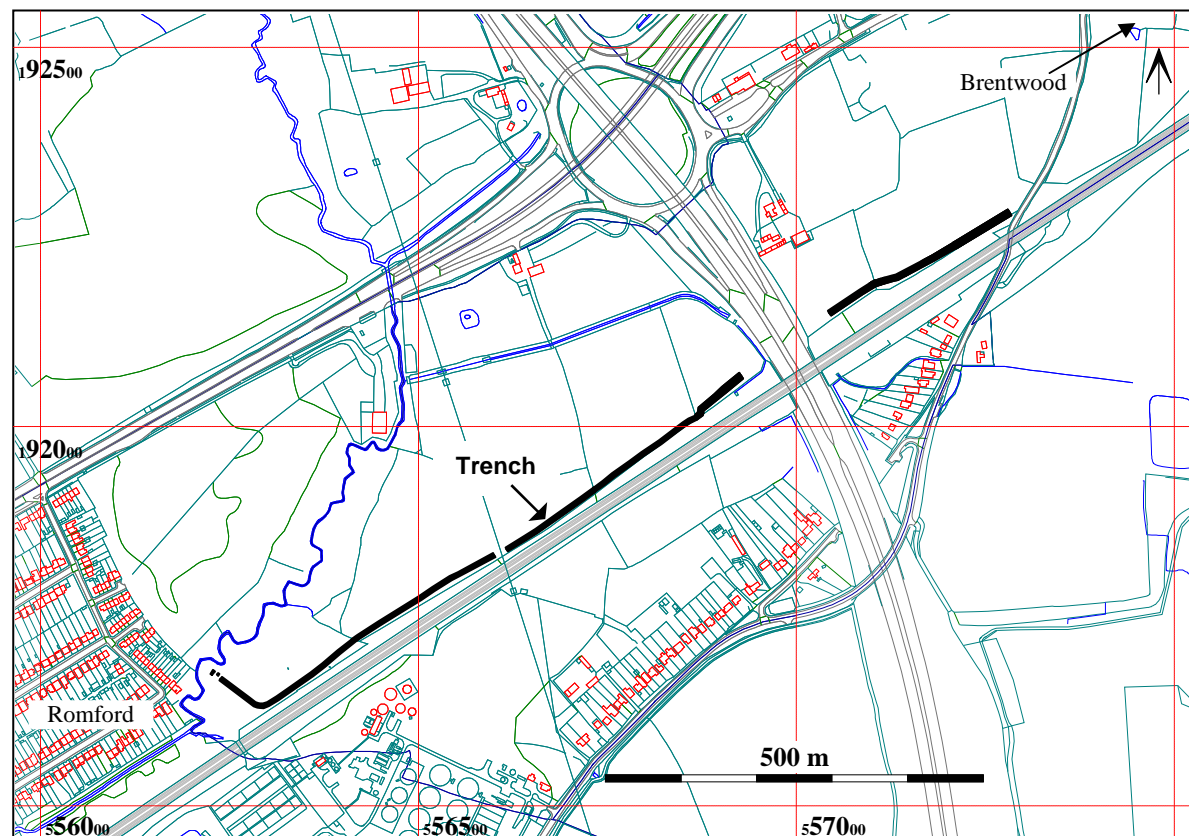
---

Albion Archaeology, 2012, *Brentwood to Gidea Park 33KV Cabling Works, Brentwood, Essex. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. Document 2012/99, v. 1.1.

ECC 2012, *Brief for Monitoring and Recording on the Brentwood to Gidea Park 33KV Cabling Works, Brentwood, Essex*. February 2012.

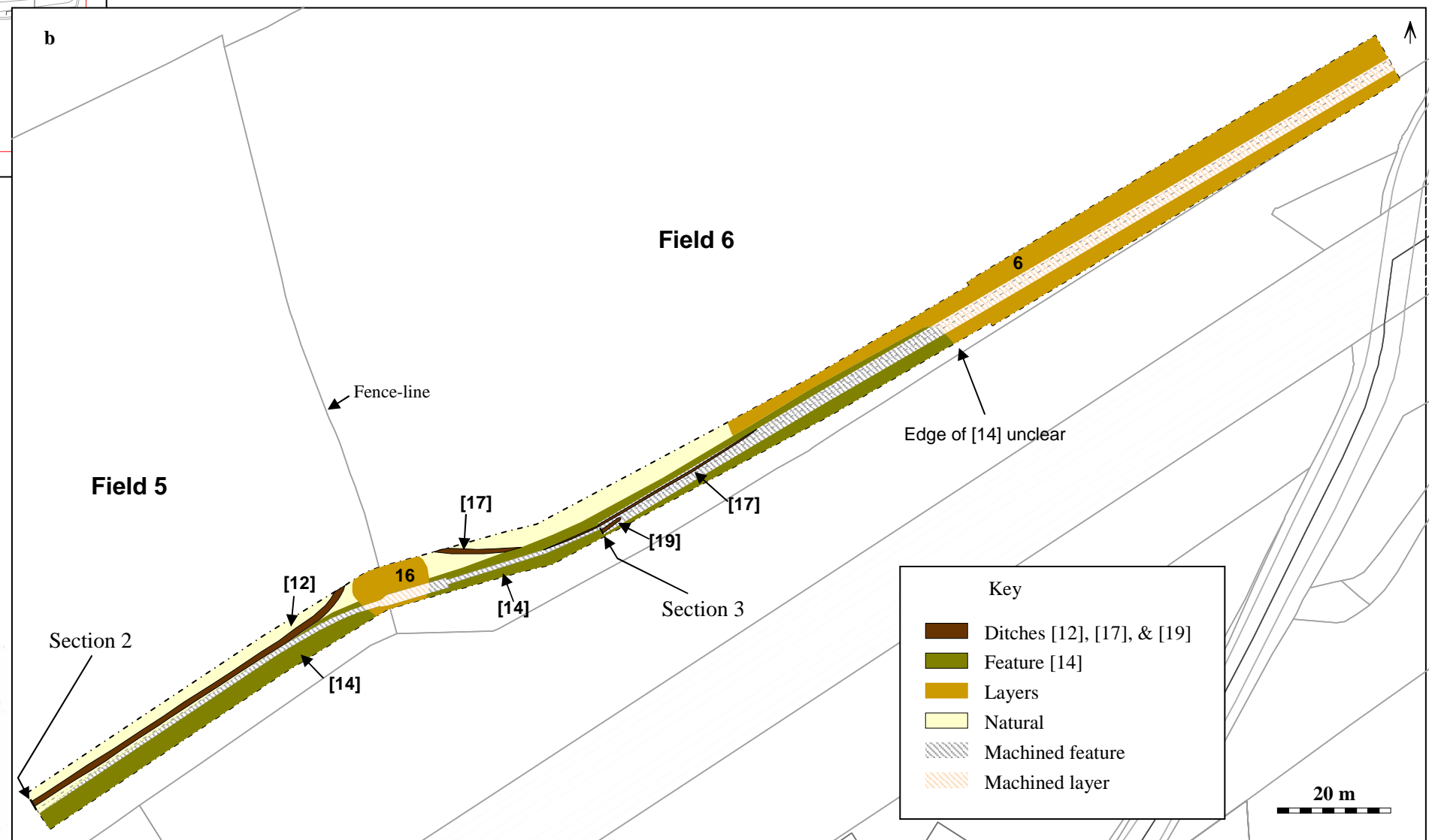
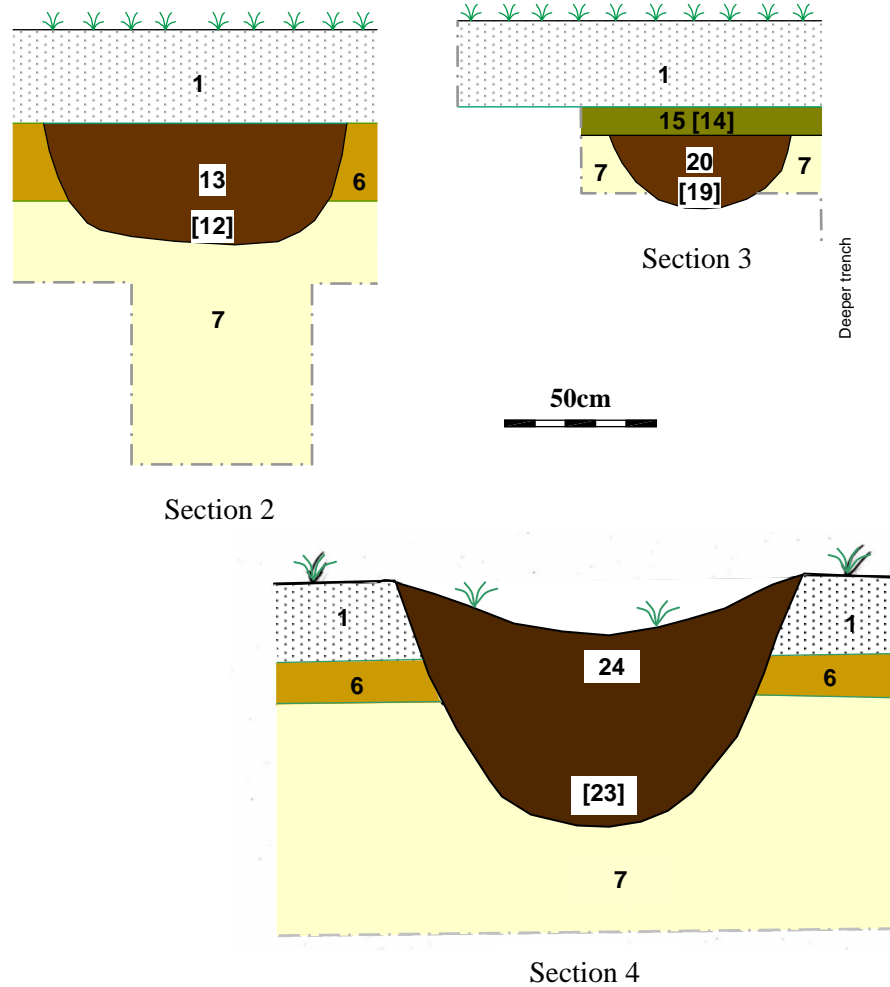
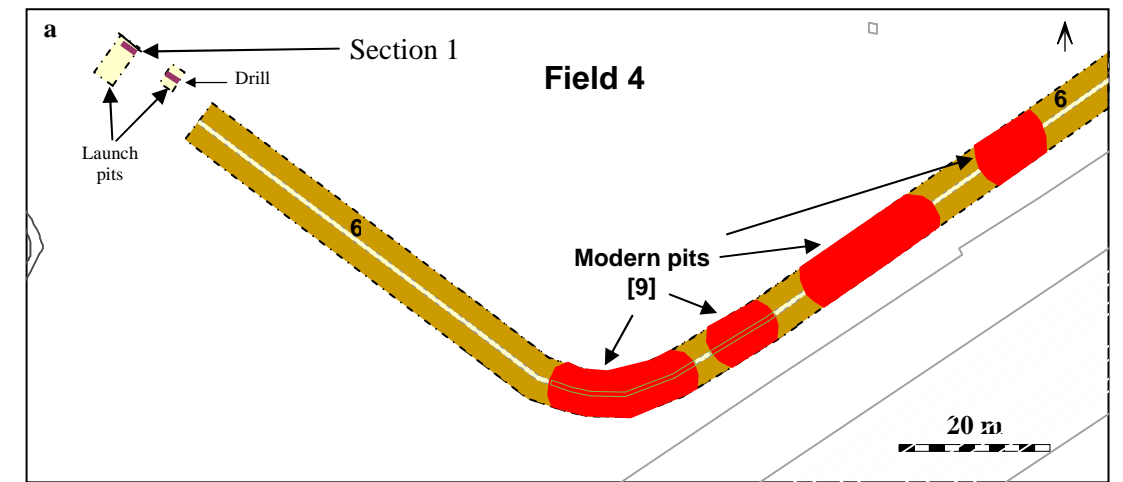
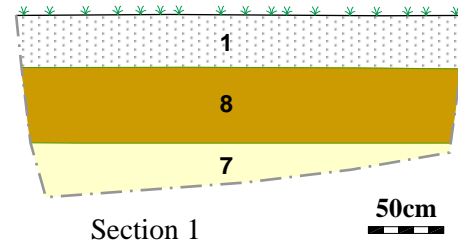
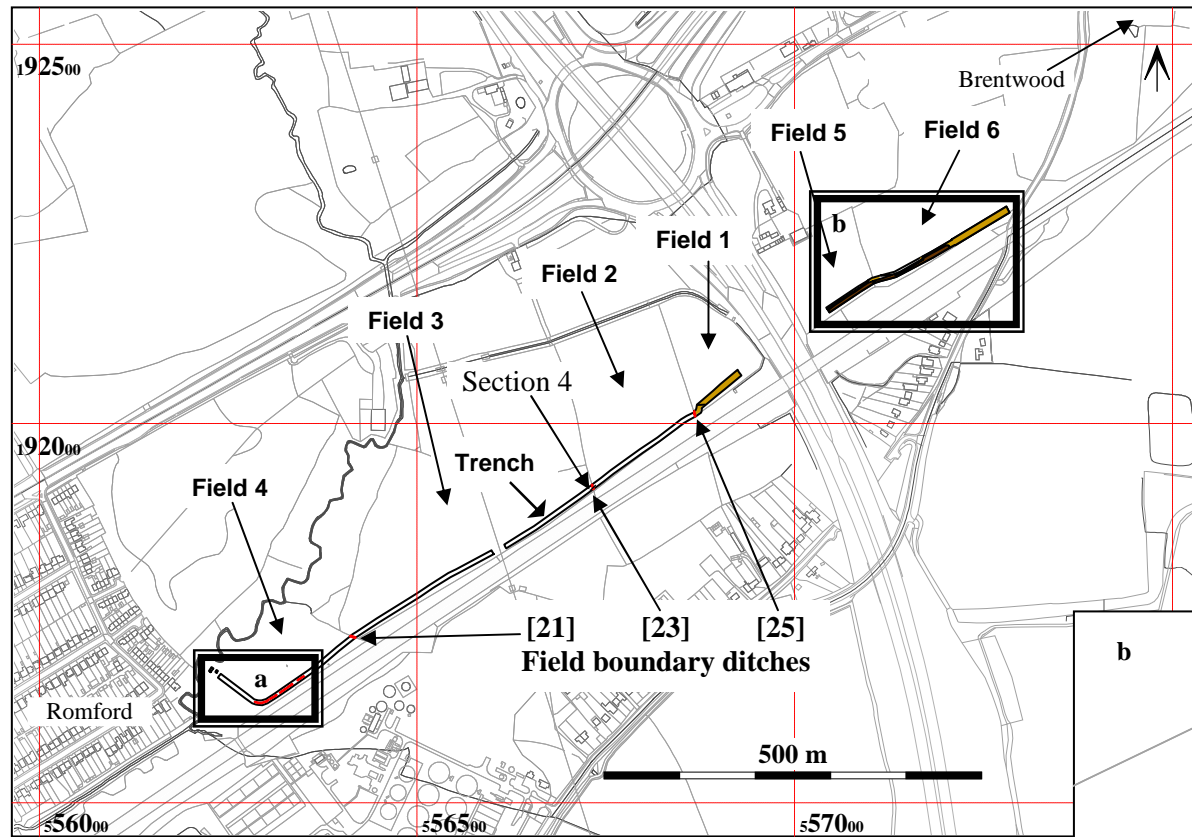
Medlycott, M. (ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers No. 24.

SLR Consulting 2012, *Brentwood to Gidea Park: Archaeological Desk-Based Study and Geoarchaeological Assessment of Two Boreholes- Brentwood to Gidea Park Underground Electricity Cables, Carillion Utility Services*



**Figure 1: Site location**

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



**Figure 2: All features**

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



**Image 1:** Launch pit by the Ingrebourne River showing alluvium (8). Looking E; 1m scale



**Image 2:** Modern pit [9]. Looking NW; 1m scale



**Image 3:** Section through existing boundary ditch [21]. Looking SE; 1m scale



**Image 4:** Modern ditch [17] and feature [14] (in foreground). Looking W; 1m scale



**Image 5:** Section of ditch [12]. Looking SW; 1m scale



**Image 6:** Section of short ditch [19]. Looking SW; 1m scale

**Figure 3:** Selected images of the excavations



**Albion**  
archaeology



Albion Archaeology  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Street  
Bedford  
MK42 0AS

**Telephone** 01234 294000  
**Email** [office@albion-arch.com](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)  
[www.albion-arch.com](http://www.albion-arch.com)

