

Land West of the A131,
London Road,
Great Notley,
Braintree, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Arup

on behalf of
Gridserve Sustainable Energy Limited

CA Project: SU0070
CA Report: SU0070_2

November 2019



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 London Road,
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Slamseys Farm, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex
Location:	Braintree, Essex
NGR:	573790 220087
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	30 th September – 3 rd October 2019
Planning Reference:	19/01092/FUL
Location of Archive:	Braintree Museum
Site Code:	BNGS19

In September and October 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Slamseys Farm, Blackley Lane, Black Notley, Essex, for Arup on behalf of Gridserve Sustainable energy LTD. For planning purposes the Site is known as Land west of A131, London Road, Great Notley. Thirteen trenches were excavated across the 2.33ha site.

Evidence of Iron Age activity in the wider vicinity of the Site is suggested by a single sherd of late prehistoric pottery from a pit in trench 3, and the presence of pottery in the Late Iron Age – Early Roman tradition from a number of other features of likely early Roman date.

Features of Roman date were encountered in the northern half of the site, specifically in trenches 3 and 5, while undated features in trench 4, 7 and 13 may be related. Pottery indicates activity in the mid to late Roman period (2nd to 4th century). Crop processing waste was also recovered from environmental samples taken from a pit in trench 3 and probable ditch terminal in trench 5. A possible quarry pit may be contemporary with the other confirmed Roman features, having also produced late Roman pottery. However, post-medieval quarrying was also identified within the development area and the Roman material in this feature may be redeposited. Undated but possible Roman features include a curving ditch/ gully seen in trench 7 and 13 respectively.

A field boundary depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875 was represented by two intercutting ditches, while a field pond also depicted on the First Edition map, survived in part as a partially infilled depression and large pond. The overall size and depth of the feature would suggest that it originated as a quarry pit, with part of the outer edge and associated backfill deposits having been encountered in trench 4.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September and October 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Arup on behalf of Gridserve Sustainable energy LTD on land at Slamseys Farm, Blackley Lane, Black Notley, Essex (centred at NGR: 573790 220087; Fig. 1). For planning purposes the development area (hereafter the Site) is known as Land west of A131, London Road, Great Notley. The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (19/01092/FUL) submitted to and subsequently approved by Braintree District Council (BDC) for *the construction of an electric forecourt, comprising of 24 core electric vehicle charging points, energy storage, a mix of ancillary dwell facilities, car parking, hard and soft landscaping and access arrangements off the A131, Great Notley.*
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out following consultation with ECC Place Services (Teresa O'Connor - Historic Environment Consultant) regarding the scope of works and a subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; CA 2019a), which has been guided in its composition by the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE): *Project Manager's Guide and the accompanying PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015), and any other relevant standards and guidance contained within Appendix A. The evaluation was monitored by ECC Place Services, including at a site monitoring visit on 3rd October 2019.

The site

- 1.3 The Site comprises a parcel of land measuring c.2.33ha in total extent, located to the north of the buildings of Slamseys Farm, which is situated on the western side of the A131, beyond the southern edge of Great Notley Garden Village, within Black Notley parish (see Fig. 1). The Site lies at c.74–77m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The bedrock geology comprises clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2019). Soils are recorded as slightly acid loamy and clayey soils and lime-rich loamy and clayey soils, with impeded drainage (Soilscape 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The archaeological background of the site and its immediate surrounding area has been presented previously as part of a Heritage Desk-based Assessment (HDBA; CA 2019b) and the following text is taken from this source.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 2.2 The Site itself has not been subject to any previous archaeological work but a number of investigations have been undertaken in the study area used for the HDBA. In 1992, fieldwalking was conducted across land near Slamseys Farm, possibly across the Site (HEA Ref. 936531). In 1993, fieldwalking and trial trench evaluation were undertaken prior to the construction of a pond at Great Notley Country Park, c.770m north-west of the Site (HER Refs. EEX31393 and EEX31394). Between 1993 and 1997, fieldwalking and trial trench evaluation were undertaken prior to the construction of Great Notley Garden Village, c.50m north-east of the Site (HEA Refs. 1311494, 1311499, 1311508, 1311518, 1311519, 1316239, 938900, 1232791 and 1316062). In 1993 and 1995, fieldwalking and trial trenching were undertaken along the proposed route of the A131 Great Leighs Bypass, c.450m south of the Site and 80m north of the Site (HER Refs. EEX52343, EEX53782, MEX20466, MEX39710, MEX39712 and MEX39716).

Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.3 Recorded evidence of later prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the study area used for the HDBA is limited to finds that were collected during field walking surveys. Land at Young's End, c.540m south of the Site, yielded fragments of burnt flint and five flint flakes during field walking undertaken in advance of the construction of the Great Leighs Bypass in 1993 (HER Ref. MEX39710); whilst land now occupied by the Great Notley Garden Village, c.210m north-east of the Site, yielded six pieces of burnt flint, one flint core, three flint flakes, one sherd of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery, and three sherds of Roman pottery during field walking undertaken in advance of the construction of the White Court Estate, c.350m north-east of the Site (HER Ref. MEX39776, 39778 and 1033297). Meanwhile, two concentrations of burnt flints, one sherd of Bronze Age pottery and seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the area now occupied by the Manor House development and Great Notley Country Park, c.750m north-west of the Site (HER Refs. MEX31392, 39759 and 39763).

- 2.4 The Roman pottery sherds likely derive from manuring of fields outlying a nearby farmstead. Archaeological investigations conducted in 2005–06 by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at the Skyline 120 Business Park, c.1.4km north of the Site, revealed the remains of a rectilinear double-ditched enclosure that had been established in the Late Iron Age and subsequently enlarged in the late-1st or early-2nd century AD. The presence of internal features such as pits and post-holes, and finds such as loom weights, briquetage and structural clay, suggested ‘a domestic settlement based on an agricultural economy’. The ceramic assemblage was dominated by locally-produced wares (see below) with no imported fine wares, demonstrating that the site was of relatively little wealth and low status. Occupation appears to have ceased in the early-2nd century AD; but ongoing use (and reorganisation) of the agricultural landscape was indicated by the remains of a field boundary ditch that had been cut across the enclosure ditches.
- 2.5 Excavations conducted between 2001 and 2003 by Oxford Wessex Archaeology along the A120 where it passes Valentine Cottage, c.200m north-west of the Skyline 120 Business Park and c.1.7km north-west of the Site, had previously recorded evidence of Early Roman pottery manufacture. In the northern part of the site was a group of pits; in the south-eastern corner of the site were three dumbbell-shaped ovens or pottery kilns, a large amorphous pit and other pits and postholes; and in the eastern part of the site was a cluster of features containing a relatively substantial assemblage of Early Roman pottery and ceramic building material. The exact nature of the relationship between this industrial site and the aforementioned enclosed settlement is not clear, despite their proximity and contemporaneity.
- 2.6 These sites lie c.1km to the south of the Roman road from Bishops Stortford to Colchester via Braintree and c.1km to the west of the Roman road from Chelmsford to Long Melford via Braintree. The approximate alignments of both roads have been confirmed through aerial photographic analysis and archaeological excavation. Sections of roadside ditches and metalled surfaces of the Chelmsford to Long Melford road were revealed through trial trench evaluation undertaken in advance of the construction of the A131 Great Leighs Bypass, specifically, c.270m east of the Site. However, the ‘complete lack of Roman [finds] material, even in areas immediately adjacent to the Roman road, suggests an absence of related settlement along its line’.

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.7 The Domesday Survey of 1086 AD records several settlements within the HDBA study area and surrounding landscape. At Great and Little Leighs, c.2.5km south of the Site, was a reasonably large settlement consisting of 32 households and land for 5 plough teams, 6 acres of meadow, woodland for 40 pigs and a mill. At Moulsham, c.1.4km south of the Site, was a fairly small settlement consisting of 11 households with land for 3 plough teams, 10 acres of meadow, woodland for 60 pigs and a mill. There is also an entry for Slamondesheia, a place-name that might derive from the Old English sla(h)-muntēs-(ge)-hag, meaning enclosure of the sloe tree hill, which eventually corrupted into Slampsey and today, Slamseys (Reaney 1935, 293; see below). It seems to have been a very small settlement, perhaps no more than a single homestead; and formed part of the landholdings of a man called Roger, whose name appears in the entries for nearby Rayne, Terling and Waltham as well as for several other places elsewhere in Essex.
- 2.8 The manor of Slamsey is mentioned in various medieval documents. Court rolls refer to a man called Thomas Drake (b.1465), a relative of Sir Francis Drake, who inherited land at Great Waltham in 1510 but settled at Slamsey sometime between 1525 and his death in 1541. He likely leased Slamsey from Richard Lord Rich, to whom the manor of Slamsey had been granted during the Dissolution, it having formerly comprised part of the endowment of Leighs Priory – an Augustinian foundation located beside the River Ter, c.3.9km south-west of the Site.
- 2.9 The medieval settlement pattern is said to have been characterised by dispersed farmsteads within a rural landscape that was fairly wooded. Further to the documentary evidence (see above), the surviving 15th century timber-framed barn at Slamseys Farm attests to ongoing occupation in the immediate locality of the Site. Other surviving 15th and 16th century timber-framed buildings within the study area utilised for the HDBA comprise Friar's Farm, c.620m south-east of the Site, The Friary, c.510m east of the Site, and Card's Farm, c.660m east of the Site (Fig. 5, 5). These farmsteads are connected by a network of historic routes (e.g. Leigh's Lane (see below), Bakers Lane, Pickpocket Lane, Notley Road, Buck Hill, and the track from The Friary to Row Green, which probably have medieval origins. Fieldwalking undertaken ahead of construction of Great Notley Garden Village and the A131 Great Leighs Bypass collected many sherds of medieval pottery, which were considered to derive from manuring of the former open fields (HER Refs. 39764, 39765, 39779, 39780 and 39712).

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.10 The earlier post-medieval landscape was likely similar in character to the medieval landscape; but there is evidence for the clearance and enclosure of woodland and commons from c.1720 onwards. In the 18th century, the farmsteads of Great Slamondsey (later known as Great Slamsey, now Slamseys Farm), Cuthedge Farm and Little Slamondsey bordered the London Road (which follows the alignment of the Roman road, see above) at regular intervals; with the fields at Great Slamsey being axially related to the London Road and Leigh's Lane (the latter surviving as a track and public footpath extending in a north-westerly direction to the south-west of the Site). On Chapman and André's Map of Essex dated 1777, Great Slamsey is shown as comprising three large buildings. The westernmost of these is the 15th century barn, with one of the other buildings – either the one with an attached enclosure or the one positioned at the end of the track from Blackley Lane – conjectured to be the farmhouse.
- 2.11 Slamsey comprised a detached portion of the manor and parish of White Notley until 1888, when it was transferred to Black Notley. The Tithe Map for White Notley dated 1841, shows a larger complex of buildings at Great Slamseys. These buildings can be identified as the 15th century barn, which has a building (probably stables) appended to its south-western corner – i.e. within the north-eastern corner of the southern area of the Site. A pond is shown on the footprint of the earlier probable dwelling (see above) and a new farmhouse has been built; the allegedly 18th century barn is not shown, suggesting that it post-dates 1841. The Site comprised part of Pit Field, which was under arable cultivation. At this time, Great Slamseys was owned by Lady Frances Stewart and occupied by William Firmin.
- 2.12 The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1875 shows Great Slamseys as a Victorian High Farm – comprising the farmhouse surrounded by a large garden with a closed farmyard and other outbuildings (including the two Grade II Listed barns) to the north-west. By this time, Great Slamseys represents a 'fully developed farmyard system fully corralled for animal husbandry'. Leigh's Lane is shown as a track extending away from the farmyard in a north-westerly direction; it connected with another, less-defined track heading west towards Milch Hill. There is no discernible change to the field system surrounding Great Slamseys, from that shown on the 1841 Tithe Map, including the large sub-rectangular field on the northern side of Leigh's Lane where the Site is located.

2.13 By 1897 the boundary between the two fields on the northern side of Leighs Lane had been removed; but with the exception of the creation of two ponds (outside of the Site) sometime between 1922 and 1952 and the installation of silos within Great Slamseys farmyard and some development near Young's End and at London Road by 1966–1978, no notable changes can be discerned at or in the vicinity of Great Slamseys before the construction of Great Notley Garden Village and the A131 Great Leighs Bypass in the 1990s and early 2000s. Google Earth satellite imagery dated 2005 shows a new field boundary extending due north from Slamseys Farm, thereby creating a sub-triangular field alongside the A131 Great Leighs Bypass. Google Earth satellite imagery dated 2006 shows grid-like cropmarks within the southern part of this field, extending into the western area of the Site. The cropmarks appear to respect the new field boundary and the landowner has advised that they relate to former paddock enclosures

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, quality and significance.
- 3.2 In accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable BDC, as advised by ECC Place Services, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage assets that are identified, consider the impact of the proposed development upon those assets, and to avoid or minimise any conflict between the conservation of those heritage assets and any aspect of the development proposal. This process is in line with policies contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).
- 3.3 Where significant archaeological remains have been identified reference has been made in Section 8 to *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011), so that the remains can, if possible, be placed in their local and regional context.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches, each measuring 30m by 2m, in the locations shown on Figure 2). Trenches 5 and 12 were moved to the west to avoid a fence and hedgerow along the northeastern edge of the site. Following on-site discussions with ECC Place Service an additional trench (13) was placed between trenches 7 and 11 in an attempt to confirm the continuation of a curving ditch identified in trench 7. In addition to this, a 6m extension to trench 3 was opened to confirm the nature of a partially exposed feature identified at the east end of the trench, and a 10m extension was excavated along the central part of trench 5 to better investigate a group of partially exposed features. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, either - were sampled and processed .All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Braintree Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.



5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 TO 13)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 Thirteen trenches were opened over the course of three days, with seven trenches containing no archaeological remains (trenches 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12). The remaining five trenches contained undated, Roman and post-medieval features, which are discussed in further detail below. The trench plan with features phased by period is presented on Figure 12, and the trench plan overlain on LiDAR data for the Site is presented on Figure 13.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 & 4)

- 5.3 Trench 3 contained three archaeological features, pit 302, ditch 304 and probable quarry pit 307.
- 5.4 Feature 302 appeared in plan to be a ditch terminus or pit, extending out of the trench to the northeast. It measured 1.5m long, 0.4m wide and 0.19m deep and contained a single fill of dark grey black silt clay that contained pottery, including ware of broad 2nd to 4th century date, ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and iron fragments including two hobnails. An environmental sample (1) contained moderate amounts of charred plant remains and charcoal judged to potentially be reflective of domestic hearth and/or crop processing waste (see section 7 below).
- 5.5 Ditch 304 ran in a northwest – southeast direction across the trench. Measuring 1.04m wide by 0.29m deep, it contained two fills, a basal deposit of green brown silt clay (305) and an upper deposit of dark grey black silt clay (306). Pottery of Late Iron Age – Early Roman, and broad Romano-British date was recovered from lower fill 305.
- 5.6 Probably quarry pit 307 was partially revealed at the east end of the trench, which was subsequently extended to better investigate it. Measuring in excess of 4m long by 2m wide, the excavated section demonstrated that it was in excess of 0.3m deep, with gently sloping sides and an irregular base, shelving off to the east. Roman pottery, including a sherd of 3rd – 4th century date, was recovered from the single silt clay fill (308).

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 5 & 6)

- 5.7 Trench 4 was situated within a large hollow/ depression in the field, subsequently shown to be associated with a field pond immediately to the north and probably representing the backfilled and open remains of a former quarry pit. The trench contained a small pit, 403, which was sub circular in plan and measured 0.6m long by 0.51m wide, and 0.06m deep. The single undated fill comprised a mid brown grey clay silt (404).
- 5.8 At the eastern half of the trench the outer edge of the quarry pit was uncovered, comprising a shallow scrape or cut (405), in excess of 12m long by greater than 2m wide, containing a mid orange brown silt clay (406) that produced a small fragment of undiagnostic CBM.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 7 & 8)

- 5.9 Trench 5 contained three features, ditches, 507 and 509 and probable ditch terminal, 503.
- 5.10 Probable ditch terminal 503, as exposed in the trench, was in excess of 2.67m long, by 4m wide and 1.22m deep, and contained three fills (504, 505 and 506). Basal fill 504, a mid orange grey silt clay, was 1.1m wide by 0.58m thick. It was overlain by 505, a mid grey orange silt clay approximately 1.1m thick with fragments of chalk and flint throughout. Upper fill 506 comprised a dark grey black silt clay 0.65m thick. All three deposits produced pottery of broad Romano-British date, while an environmental sample (5) taken from upper fill 506 produced a large charred plant assemblage likely to represent the dumping of crop processing waste, possibly from the processing of stored semi-cleaned crop spikelets. Upper ditch fill 506 was truncated by post-medieval ditch 507.
- 5.11 Ditch 507, which is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875, ran on a northwest – southeast orientation and, in the west-facing trench section (Fig. 7, section GG) could be clearly seen to cut the upper part of probable ditch terminal 503. The ditch measured over 4m long by 2.67m wide and in excess of 0.65m deep and contained a single fill of mid grey brown silt clay (508).
- 5.12 Ditch 507 was truncated along its northern edge by ditch 509, which ran on the same alignment. Measuring in excess of 4m long by 1.36m wide and 0.54m deep,

the single orange grey clay fill contained variety of finds including CBM and clay pipe.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 9 & 10)

- 5.13 Trench 7 contained two small features, a curvilinear ditch or gully also encountered in trench 13 and a small pit.
- 5.14 Ditch 702 presented itself as a curvilinear feature, running broadly northeast from the west trench baulk and extending out of the trench, Measuring 0.49m wide by 0.19m deep, it contained a single undated fill of mid brown grey silt clay.
- 5.15 Pit 704 was sub circular in plan with steep concave sides and a concave base. It was encountered 5m to the north of the ditch 702 and contained a single fill of mid brown grey silt clay (705) that produced no finds.

Trench 8 (Fig 2)

- 5.16 Trench 8 contained a single post or stake hole, approximately 0.2m in diameter by 0.07m deep, which contained a single, undated, mid grey black silt clay fill. An environmental sample from this feature produced no charred plant remains and only a small amount of charcoal.

Trench 13 (Figs 2 & 13)

- 5.17 Ditch 1302 appeared to be a continuation of ditch, 702. It is located at the top of trench 13, therefore being over 5m long, with a measured width of 0.42m and a depth of 0.17m. This ditch contained a single fill of mid brown grey, silt clay, contained no dating evidence, and was most likely backfilled through disuse.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The artefactual material is recorded from eight deposits; the fills of ditches and pits (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and from samples.

Pottery

- 6.2 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery was examined by context,

using a x10 binocular microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and where appropriate the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). A concordance has also been provided where possible with the Essex type and form series (Lyons and Tester 2014).

- 6.3 The assemblage comprises 170 sherds (1258g) of pottery. The condition of the assemblage is generally poor. Most surfaces and fractures are not heavily abraded but sherd size is small and the mean sherd weight is low for a largely Late Iron Age and Roman assemblage at 7.4g.

Late Prehistoric

- 6.4 One undiagnostic body sherd (3g) of pottery handmade in a sandy fabric with calcareous inclusions (QC) is recorded from sample 1, taken from pit 303. It is most likely dates to the late prehistoric period.

Late Iron Age/Roman

- 6.5 The majority of the group is Roman; however, there are two sherds of grog-tempered pottery which may date to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period. One sherd (6g) of shelly grog-tempered pottery (UNS SHGR) is recorded from ditch fill 305. One sherd (14g) of sandy grog-tempered pottery (UNS QGR) is recorded from pit fill 505. The bulk of the Roman pottery is made in sandy reduced fabrics (GX) (114 sherds, 761g). A round rim bowl (form 6.18), a hooked rim jar and a neckless, lid seated jar are all recorded in this fabric from pit fill 506. Ditch fill 305 produced a neckless, bead rim jar (GX). Beaded, everted, hooked and flaring rims are also noted in this fabric. One sherd of Sandy grey ware, from pit fill 506, is decorated with a burnished diagonal linear pattern. A total of 32 sherds (260g) are made in black surfaced ware (BSW). Pit fill 506 produced a round rim bowl (form 6.18) together with flaring and everted rim sherds. A beaded rim sherd (BSW) is also recorded from sample 1. Pit fill 506 also produced a necked jar with a flattened rim and an everted rim jar made in oxidised-buff fabrics (GMO). A ring neck flagon (form 1.1), a form commonly dating to the later 1st or earlier 2nd centuries, made in a miscellaneous white ware (WX) is recorded from pit fill 504. The origin of this material is not known but they are most likely of local production.

- 6.6 One plain body sherd (2g) of Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware (**LNV CC**) is recorded from sample 1 (pit fill 303). This material dates to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Two small sherds (2g) of Hadham reduced ware (**HAD RE2**) are recorded from pit fill 303. These are likely to date to between the late 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Two plain body sherds (14g) of Hadham oxidised ware (**HAD OX**) dating to between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD are recorded from pit fills 303 and 308. Pit fill 506 produced one small sherd (3g) of Central Gaulish samian. The sherd most likely dates to the 2nd century AD.

Post-medieval

- 6.7 A round rim (102g) probably from a large bowl or jar made in glazed red earthenware (GRE) is recorded from ditch fill 508. The fabric dates to between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Summary

- 6.8 The pottery evidence suggests that the majority of the activity at the site took place during the Roman period. The bulk of the assemblage appears to have been produced at a local level with only a small proportion of the assemblage recorded coming from regional or imported wares. Few vessel forms were identifiable, but where apparent present they suggest a domestic assemblage with few tablewares/specialist classes. The size of the post-medieval assemblage is small and its presence is probably the result of causal loss or discard.

Ceramic Building Material

- 6.9 Eight fragments (405g) of ceramic building material are recorded from three deposits. They are made in fine sandy (fs), medium sandy (ms) or coarse sandy fabrics some with ferrous (fe), flint (f) or clay pellet (cp) inclusions. Six fragments of roof tile are recorded from pit fills 303 and ditch 508 and 510. One large slightly curved fragment of tile, from fill 303, may be an *imbrex* (curved Roman roof tile).

Fired Clay

- 6.10 Seven fragments (74g) of fired clay are recorded from pit fills 303, 504 and 506. Three fragments made in medium sandy fabric with calcareous inclusions (msc) exhibit signs of flat surfaces. The remaining fragments are undiagnostic with no distinguishing features or impressions.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 6.11 The stem (3g) of a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe is recorded from ditch fill 510. It is not possible to provide any further meaningful analysis of this material.

Industrial Waste

- 6.12 One fragment (7g) of indeterminate metalworking waste is recorded from pit fill 303. It is not possible to provide any further meaningful analysis of this material.

Metalwork

- 6.13 Ten fragments (63g) of iron are recorded from three deposits. A heavily encrusted and corroded iron nail is recorded from ditch fill 508. The fragment is too heavily corroded to determine the shape of the head or shaft. Pit fill 303 produced two iron sheet fragments, probably from the same fractured object. They are both heavily encrusted and corroded and function is uncertain, although they may form part of a door latch or lock plate. A copper alloy belt buckle loop (6g) is recorded from ditch fill 510. It is roughly D-shaped and similar in style to buckles dated to the medieval period (Whitehead 1996, 22, no.96). Sample 1, taken from pit fill 303, produced five fragments of iron. Two are identified as hobnails. Given that Roman pottery is also recorded from this feature, it is likely that these hobnails also date to the Roman period. The three remaining fragments of iron from sample 1 and two further fragments recorded from sample 3 were too small to be identified and are of unknown function.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 Animal bone amounting to 29 fragments (354g) was recovered via hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from deposits 303, 305, 306 and 505, the fills of pit 302, ditch 304 and pit 503 (Appendix C Table 2). Artefacts dating from the Romano-British period were also recovered from these deposits. The bone was well preserved making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*). Each of the species identified were represented mainly by meat-poor skeletal elements such as the mandible or bones of the lower legs and feet.
- 7.2 A total of six fragments of cattle bone and one sheep/goat fragment were identified. These amounts are generally too low to provide any useful information other than

species identification. However, a cattle astragalus from deposit 305 did display repeated small cut marks that are indicative of carcass dismemberment, which does suggest an origin in butchery waste.

Plant Macrofossils

- 7.3 A series of three environmental samples (43 litres of soil) were processed from a range of features within trenches 3, 5 and 8 to evaluate the preservation and range of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. These samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.4 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1 in Appendix C, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals.
- 7.5 The flots varied from small to moderately large in size with varying quantities of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation. There was no evidence of hammer scale in the sample residues.

Trench 3

- 7.6 Fill 303 (sample 1) of Romano-British pit 302 contained a moderate number of charred plant remains. These included hulled wheat (emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*)) grain, glume base and spikelet fork fragments, indeterminate grain fragments, seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and a bud. The chaff elements included those of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). A moderately high number of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm, including those of mature wood, were recovered.
- 7.7 This assemblage may be reflective of domestic hearth and/or crop processing waste. Spelt wheat is the predominant wheat during this period in this part of Britain (Greig 1991) and the assemblage is compatible with the date of the feature.

Trench 5

- 7.8 A large charred plant assemblage was recovered from fill 506 (sample 3) within Romano-British pit 503. The cereal remains included barley grains, hulled wheat grain, spikelet fork and glume base fragments, indeterminate grain fragments and coleoptile fragments. A number of the chaff elements were identifiable as those of

spelt wheat and some as those of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). A few of the grains showed traces of germination. The weed seeds included seeds of ryegrass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.). A high number of charcoal fragments were retrieved, and these included mature wood fragments.

- 7.9 This assemblage is likely to represent the dumping of crop processing waste, possibly from the processing of stored semi-cleaned spikelets, within the pit. The number of grains displaying traces of germination together with the number of coleoptile fragments does not appear to be at a level to be suggestive of malting waste. The assemblage is compatible with the Roman date of this feature.

Trench 8

- 7.10 No charred plant remains and only a few charcoal fragments were noted from fill 803 (sample 2) of undated posthole 802. There is no indication from this assemblage of the likely date of this feature.

Summary

- 7.11 The charred assemblages provide an indication of settlement activities, such as crop processing, taking place on the site during the Romano-British period, particularly in the vicinity of trenches 5 and 3.

8. DISCUSSION

Late Prehistoric

- 8.1 Evidence of Iron Age activity in the wider vicinity of the site is suggested by a single sherd of late prehistoric pottery from pit 302 in trench 3, and the presence of pottery in the Late Iron Age – Early Roman tradition from a number of other features of likely early Roman date. Little evidence for late prehistoric activity has been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site to date (CA 2019b).

Roman (Fig. 12)

- 8.4 Features of Roman date were encountered in the northern half of the site, specifically in trenches 3 and 5, while undated features in trench 4, 7 and 13 may be related. Features of confirmed Roman date comprised a small pit and ditch in trench 3, and a probable ditch terminal in trench 5, with pottery suggesting activity in the mid to late Roman period (2nd to 4th century). Crop processing waste was also

recovered from environmental samples taken from pit 302 in trench 3 and probable ditch terminal 507. A possible quarry pit (307) encountered at the east end of trench 3 may be contemporary with the other confirmed Roman features, having also produced late Roman pottery. However, post-medieval quarrying was also identified within the development area and the Roman material in this feature may be redeposited. Undated but possibly Roman features include ditch/ gully 702/ 1302, seen in trench 7 and 13 respectively, and pit 704. Undated posthole 802, in trench 8, appears isolated from all other features.

Post-medieval/modern (Figs 12 & 13.)

- 8.5 Intercutting ditches 507 and 509, in trench 5, correspond with a field boundary on the same alignment depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875, with 507 seemingly representing the earliest iteration of the boundary and 509 an episode of maintenance/ reestablishment of that land division. The ditches are potentially visible on LiDAR imagery as a negative feature running through the north part of the trench, broadly on the same orientation as the boundary depicted on the First Edition map, although seemingly on a more east to west alignment (Fig. 13). A field pond is depicted on the First Edition map, surviving in part on the Site as a partially infilled depression in the field and a large pond. The overall size and depth of the feature as visible in the present would suggest that it originated as a quarry pit, with part of the outer edge and associated backfill deposits having been encountered in trench 4, as pit 405. The full extent of the pit appears visible on LiDAR imagery of the site (Fig. 13).

Discussion conclusion

- 8.6 Prior to the current investigation, recorded evidence of later prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the study area used for the HDBA was limited to finds collected during field walking surveys, including those at Young's End, c.540m south of the Site, undertaken in advance of the construction of the Great Leighs Bypass, on land now occupied by the Great Notley Garden Village, c.210m north-east of the Site, and in advance of the construction of the White Court Estate, c.350m north-east of the Site (CA 2019). In addition to this, Roman pottery was also recovered during fieldwalking at the Manor House development and Great Notley Country Park, c.750m north-west of the Site. The nearest confirmed settlement activity recorded to date on the HER comprises the remains of a rectilinear double-ditched enclosure that had been established in the Late Iron Age and subsequently enlarged

in the late-1st or early-2nd century AD, identified at the Skyline 120 Business Park, c.1.4km north of the Site,

- 8.7 The features identified by the evaluation are strongly suggestive of settlement activity, either within or in the immediate vicinity of the Site, although it is not clear if the focus of activity is within the site itself, or the investigated features are peripheral to any settlement focus and were used for the dumping of domestic waste. Pottery evidence indicates that while there is an early Roman component to this activity there is also a well-defined mid to late Roman element, with pottery of 2nd to 4th century date having been identified from a number of features. While the remains exposed are of significance in so far as they represent a previously unknown area of activity, seemingly longer-lived than the settlement at the Skyline 120 Business Park, which appears to have been abandoned in the early 2nd century, the limited number of features investigated does not allow for any detailed discussion of the results in regard to the regional research framework.
- 8.8 The boundary ditches and quarry pit encountered in trenches 4 and 5 are related to the management and exploitation of the landscape in the post-medieval period and are of limited significance.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Eilidh Barr, assisted by Matt Ferron, Tommaso Rossi and Luke Bateson. The report was written by Eilidh Barr. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Pete Banks, Emma Aitken and Andy Clarke. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Adrian Scruby.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench no	Context no	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (M)	W (M)	D (M)	Spot date
1	100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark grey brown, friable silt with occasional fragmented flint and rounded pebbles stones and turf	30	2	0.35	
1	101	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid red brown, friable silt with a few fragments of flint, rounded stones and CBM	30	2	0.15	
1	102	Layer	-	Natural	Light brown yellow, compact clay silt with patches of stone and chalk	30	2	>0.5	
2	200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, friable silt clay with rooting and small fragments of flint and stone <5%	30	2	0.32	
2	201	Layer	-	Natural	Mid yellow brown, silt clay with fragmented flint inclusions, firm, with manganese inclusions	30	2	>0.32	
3	300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, friable silt clay with rooting and small fragments of flint and stone <5%	30	2	0.29	
3	301	Layer	-	Natural	Mid orange brown clay with patches of white yellow gravel, firm, with fragmented flint inclusions throughout	30	2	>0.29	
3	302	Cut	-	Possible pit/terminus	Sub oval in plan concave sides with moderate break of slope and a concave rounded base, runs North East / South West	>0.5	0.72	0.19	
3	303	Fill	302	Fill of pit /terminus	Dark grey black, silty clay, of moderate compaction with frequent inclusions of charcoal	>0.5	0.72	0.19	
3	304	Cut	-	Ditch	Cut of ditch running North West / South East across the trench, concave sides with a moderate break of slope, with a concave, rounded base	>1	1.04	0.29	
3	305	Fill	304	Upper fill of ditch	Dark black grey, silt clay, moderate compaction, few flecks of charcoal and small angular stones	>1	1.04	0.2	
3	306	Fill	304	Lower fill of ditch	Mid grey brown, silt clay, very compact, with a few flecks of chalk and small angular stones	>1	0.8	0.45	
3	307	Cut	-	Cut of pit	Concave sides with moderate break of slope, base not reached, due to size of feature	>5	>1	0.32	
3	308	Fill	307	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown, silt clay, moderate compaction, a few small-medium sub angular stone inclusions	>5	>1	0.32	
4	400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, friable silt clay with rooting and small fragments of flint and stone <5%	30	2	0.3	
4	401	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, sand silt, friable, with frequent chalk flecks and angular stone inclusions	30	2	0.08	
4	402	Layer	-	Natural	Mid brown yellow, silt clay, compact with frequent chalk	30	2	>0.11	

					flecks with angular stones				
4	403	Cut	-	Cut of Pit	Circular in plan with concave sides and gentle break of slope, concave rounded base	0.6	0.51	0.06	
4	404	Fill	403	Fill of pit	Mid brown grey, silt clay, compact with frequent small/medium angular flint.	0.6	0.51	0.06	
4	405	Cut	-	Cut of layer	Gently sloping sides and sloping flat base, unknown shape of feature as irregular shape in trench.	>1.8	>7	0.15	
4	406	Fill	405	Fill of layer	Mid yellow brown, silt, friable, with ceramic building material, pottery and flint fragment inclusions.	>1.8	>7	0.15	
5	500	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, silt clay, friable with rooting and small fragmented stone inclusions <5%	30	2	0.3	
5	501	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid orange brown, silty clay, firm with occasional fragmented flint inclusions	30	2	0.13	
5	502	Layer	-	Natural	Mid orange brown with patches of whitish yellow clay, patches of gravel, firm, fragmented flint inclusions throughout	30	2	0.08	
5	503	Cut	-	Cut of pit	Possible elongated pit, sub oval in plan with concave and convex edges, steep and break of slope at the top	>1	2.67	1.27	
5	504	Fill	503	Slump fill of pit	Mid orange grey, silty clay, compact with fragments of natural flint and ceramic building material inclusions	>1	1.1	0.58	
5	505	Fill	503	Fill of pit	Mid grey orange, silty clay, compact, fragmented flint and sub-rounded stones <10% fragments of pottery and ceramic building material inclusions	>1	2.65	1.1	
5	506	Fill	503	Upper fill of pit	Mid blue black silty clay, compact with natural flint, pottery and ceramic building material and the occasional fleck of charcoal, inclusions.	>1	2.75	0.65	
5	507	Cut	-	Cut of ditch	Cut of linear, with steep concave sides and an unknown base (base not reached) cut truncates fill 506	>1	1.64	0.65	
5	508	Fill	507	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown, silty clay, firm with iron, pottery and ceramic building material amongst the chalk, flint inclusions	>1	1.64	0.65	
5	509	Cut	-	Cut of ditch	Ditch running North West - South East across the trench, has steep concave sides into a concave base.	>1	1.36	0.54	
5	510	Fill	509	Fill of ditch	Mid white yellow grey, silty clay, compact with flint and chalk inclusions, as well as metal and pottery finds.	>1	1.36	0.54	
6	600	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay, friable with rooting and fragmented flint inclusions	30	2	0.3	
6	601	Layer	-	Natural	Mid yellow brown, silt clay, firm, with large flint inclusions and gravel patches	30	2	0.04	
7	700	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay,	30	2	0.3	

					friable with rooting and small fragmented stone inclusions <5%				
7	701	Layer	-	Natural	Mid orange brown with patches of whitish yellow clay, patches of gravel, firm, fragmented flint inclusions throughout.	30	2	0.04	
7	702	Cut	-	Cut of ditch	Curvilinear, running North West / South East, gentle concaving sides and base.	>1.8	0.49	0.19	
7	703	Fill	702	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey, silty clay, friable with small rounded stone and fragmented flint inclusions <5%	>1.8	0.49	0.19	
7	704	Cut	-	Cut of pit	Sub circular in plan, with concave steep sides and a concave base.	0.5	0.49	0.16	
7	705	Fill	704	Fill of Pit	Mid brown grey, silt sand, friable with occasional flecks of manganese	0.5	0.49	0.16	
8	800	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark grey brown, friable silt with occasional, rooting, flint and rounded stones inclusions	30	2	0.3	
8	801	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid red brown, friable silt with rare rounded stones and ceramic building material inclusions.	30	2	0.15	
8	802	Layer	-	Natural	Light brown yellow compact silt clay with occasional stones and chalk	30	2	>0.05	
8	803	Cut	-	Cut of Posthole	Sub circular in plan with concave sides and base. Situated near middle of trench	0.3	0.19	0.06	
8	804	Fill	803	Fill of post hole	Mid grey black, silty clay, friable with charcoal, and the occasional fragmented flint inclusion	0.3	0.19	0.06	
9	900	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark grey brown, friable silt with occasional stones, ceramic building material and rooting	30	2	0.3	
9	901	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, friable silt with rare stone and ceramic building material inclusions	30	2	0.15	
9	902	Layer	-	Natural	Mid brown yellow compact silt clay with occasional stones and chalk inclusions	30	2	>0.05	
10	1000	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay, friable with rooting and small fragmented stone inclusions <5%	30	2	0.3	
10	1001	Layer	-	Natural	Mid yellow brown, silt clay, firm, with large flint inclusions and gravel patches	30	2	0.05	
11	1100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, silt clay, friable with rooting and small fragmented stone inclusions <5%	30	2	0.3	
11	1101	Layer	-	Natural	Mid yellow brown, silt clay, firm, with large flint inclusions and gravel patches	30	2	0.08	
12	1200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay, friable with rooting and small fragmented stone inclusions <5%	30	2	0.29	
12	1201	Layer	-	Natural	Mid yellow orange, silt clay with gravel throughout, firm	30	2	>0.07	
13	1300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay,	30	2	0.3	

					friable with rooting and small fragmented flint inclusions <5%				
13	1301	Layer	-	Natural	Mid brown orange with grey white, clay with patches of gravel and chalk, compact	30	2	0.05	
13	1302	Cut	-	Cut of ditch	Ditch with a slight curve, concave sides with a moderate break of slope and a concave base. Runs North East /South West and turns towards the North	>1	0.42	0.16	
13	1303	Fill	1302	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey, silt clay, moderate compaction, includes a few small singular stones.	>0.1	0.42	0.16	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Sample	Description	Fabric Code *	Count	Weight	Spot-date
303	Roman Pottery		Sandy reduced ware	GX**	7	169	C3-C4
	Roman Pottery		Hadham oxidised ware	HAD OX	1	1	
	Roman Pottery		Hadham reduced ware 2	HAD RE2	2	2	
	Roman Pottery		Sandy buff ware	GMO**	2	24	
	Roman Pottery	1	Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware	LNV CC	1	2	
	Roman Pottery	1	Sandy reduced ware	GX**	5	18	
	Roman Pottery	1	Sandy black fired ware	BSW**	2	4	
	Roman Pottery	1	Sandy oxidised ware	GMO**	3	8	
	Late Prehistoric Pottery	1	Sandy and calcareous fabric	QC	1	3	
	CBM		Imbrex x 1?	cs/cscp	2	215	
	Fired/burnt clay			cs	1	4	
	Industrial waste				1	7	
	Iron		Object		2	42	
	Iron		Hobnails x 2		5	7	
305	Roman Pottery		Sandy reduced ware	GX**	2	30	RB
	Roman Pottery		Sandy black fired ware	BSW**	1	9	
	LIA/Roman Pottery		Shelly grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	1	6	
308	Roman Pottery		Sandy reduced ware	GX**	6	62	C3-C4
	Roman Pottery		Hadham oxidised ware	HAD OX	1	13	
504	Roman Pottery		Sandy white ware	WX**	1	11	RB
	Fired/burnt clay			msc	3	62	
505	Roman Pottery		Sandy reduced ware	GX**	5	21	RB
	Roman Pottery		Sandy oxidised ware	GMO**	1	2	
	Roman Pottery		Sandy black fired ware	BSW**	2	13	
	LIA/Roman Pottery		Sandy grog-tempered fabric	UNS QGR	1	14	
506	Roman Pottery		Sandy reduced ware	GX**	85	426	C2
	Roman Pottery		Sandy black fired ware	BSW**	23	223	
	Roman Pottery		Sandy oxidised ware	GMO**	6	44	
	Roman Pottery		Sandy white ware	WX**	1	2	
	Roman Pottery		Central Gaulish Samian	SACG**	1	3	
	Roman Pottery	3	Sandy reduced ware	GX**	2	9	
	Roman Pottery	3	Sandy black fired ware	BSW**	4	11	
	Fired/burnt clay			ms/mscp	3	8	
	Iron	3	Objects		2	3	
508	Roman Pottery		Sandy reduced ware	GX**	1	12	C16-C18
	Post-medieval pottery		Glazed red earthenware	GRE	1	102	
	CBM		Tile x 1	csfe\csfef	2	87	
	Iron		Nail		1	11	
510	Roman Pottery		Sandy reduced ware	GX**	1	14	POST-MED
	CBM		Tile x 4	fs/ms/cs	4	103	
	Clay tobacco pipe		Stem x 1		1	3	
	Copper Alloy		Belt buckle		1	6	

Table 2: Fabric descriptions

Period	Fabric Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)
Late Prehistoric Pottery	Medium quartz sand and calcareous fabric	QC	1	3
LIA/Roman Pottery	Shelly-grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	1	6
	Sandy grog-tempered fabric	UNS QGR	1	14
	Black-surfaced ware	BSW**	32	260
	Grey-micaceous wares buff-oxidised	GMO**	12	78
	Sandy grey ware	GX**	114	761
	Sandy White ware	WX**	2	13
	Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware	LNV CC	1	2
	Hadham oxidised ware	HAD OX	2	14
	Hadham reduced ware 2	HAD RE2	2	2
	Central Gaulish Samian	SACG**	1	3
Post-medieval Pottery	Glazed red earthenware	GRE	1	102
Grand Total			170	1258

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

** Essex type series codes (Lyons, A. and Tester, A. 2014)

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 3 - Romano-British Pit/Ditch terminus													
302	303	1	20	20	80	35	**	**	Hulled wheat grain frags, indet. grain frags, glume base + spikelet fork frags inc. spelt	*	<i>Chenopodium</i> , bud	***/**	-
Trench 5 - Romano-British Pit													
503	506	3	20	20	100	25	***	*****	Hulled wheat grain frags, indet. grain frags, glume base + spikelet fork frags inc. spelt + emmer, coleoptile frags, some germinated grains	*	<i>Lolium/Festuca</i>	***/**	-
Trench 8 - Undated Posthole													
802	803	2	3	0	5	50	-	-	-	-	-	*/*	-

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items,

Table 2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

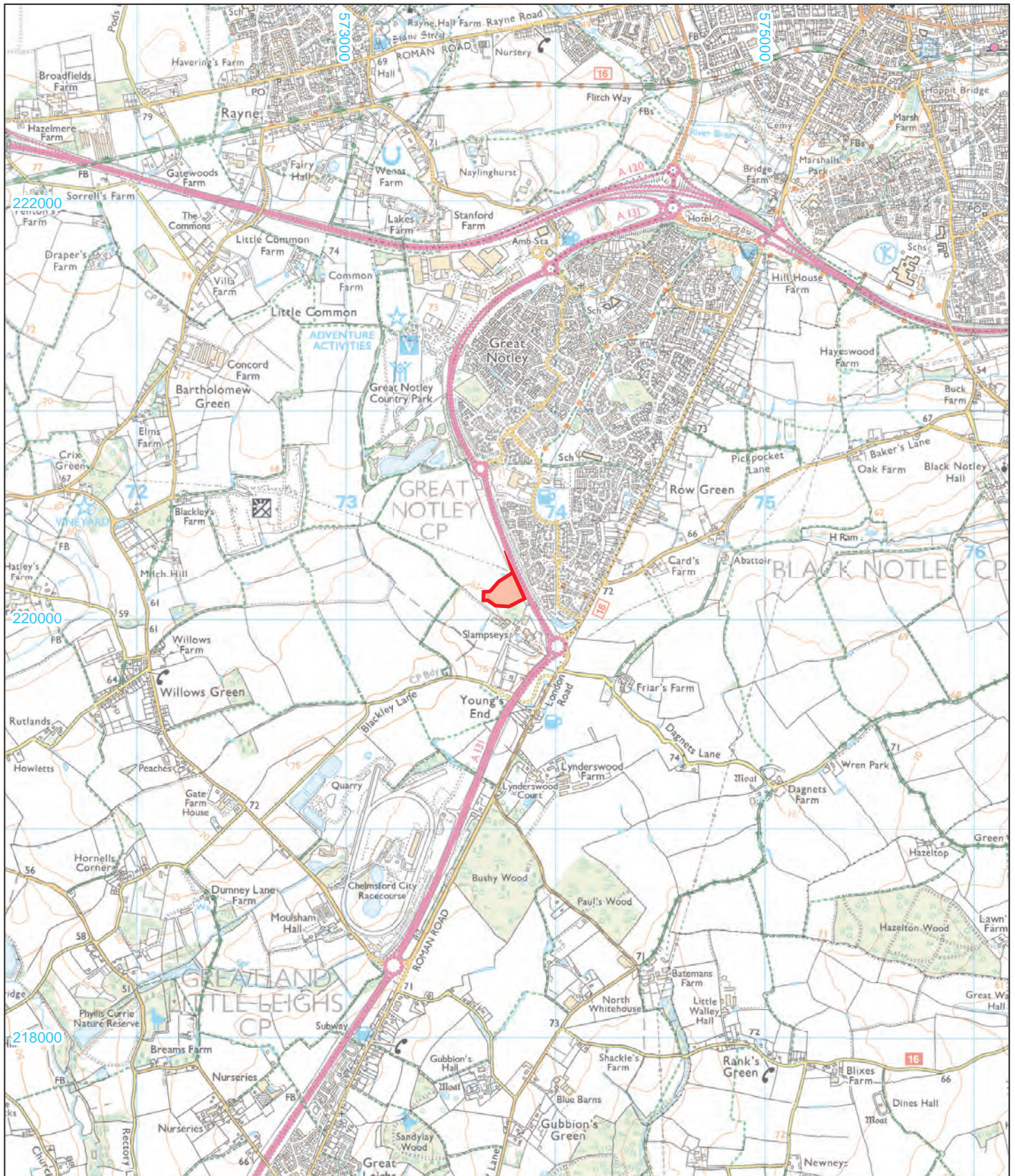
Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	LM	MM	Ind	BB SS	Total	Weight (g)
302	303	2		2	4	3	13	24	69
304	305	2	1					3	97
304	306	1						1	171
503	505	1						1	17
Total		6	1	2	4	3	13	29	
Weight		326	2	13	6	4	3	354	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; LM= cattle sized mammal; MM = sheep size mammal; Ind = indeterminate; BB SS = unidentifiable burnt bone from bulk soil samples

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land West of the A131, London Road, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex. Archaeological Evaluation
Short description	<p>In September and October 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Slamseys Farm, Blackley Lane, Black Notley, Essex, for Arup on behalf of Gridserve Sustainable energy LTD. For planning purposes the Site is known as Land west of A131, London Road, Great Notley. Thirteen trenches were excavated across the 2.33ha site.</p> <p>Evidence of Iron Age activity in the wider vicinity of the Site is suggested by a single sherd of late prehistoric pottery from a pit in trench 3, and the presence of pottery in the Late Iron Age – Early Roman tradition from a number of other features of likely early Roman date.</p> <p>Features of Roman date were encountered in the northern half of the site, specifically in trenches 3 and 5, while undated features in trench 4, 7 and 13 may be related. Pottery indicates activity in the mid to late Roman period (2nd to 4th century). Crop processing waste was also recovered from environmental samples taken from a pit in trench 3 and probable ditch terminal in trench 5. A possible quarry pit may be contemporary with the other confirmed Roman features, having also produced late Roman pottery. However, post-medieval quarrying was also identified within the development area and the Roman material in this feature may be redeposited. Undated but possible Roman features include a curving ditch/ gully seen in trench 7 and 13 respectively.</p> <p>A field boundary depicted on the First Edition Ordinance Survey map of 1875 was represented by two intercutting ditches, while a field pond also depicted on the First Edition map, survived in part as a partially infilled depression and large pond. The overall size and depth of the feature would suggest that it originated as a quarry pit, with part of the outer edge and associated backfill deposits having been encountered in trench 4.</p>
Project dates	30th September – 3rd October 2019
Project type	Field evaluation
Previous work	CA, 2019. Land to the west of the A131, Braintree, Essex. Heritage Desk-based Assessment. Cotswold Archaeology report no. MK0059_2
Future work	Yes
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Slamseys Farm, Blackley Lane, Black Notley, Essex
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.33ha
Site co-ordinates	573790 220087
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	ECC Place Services
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby
Project Supervisor	Eilidh Barr
MONUMENT TYPE	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pit, ditch, quarry pit Pottery, animal bone, CBM

PROJECT ARCHIVES		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Braintree Museum	ceramics, animal bone, CBM, Iron
Paper	Braintree Museum	Registers, context sheets, permatrace
Digital	Braintree Museum	Survey, illustration, report, inc appendices, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA, 2019b. Land to the west of the A131, Braintree, Essex. Heritage Desk-based Assessment. CA typescript report MK0059_2</p> <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land West of the A131, London Road, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report SU0070_1</p>		



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
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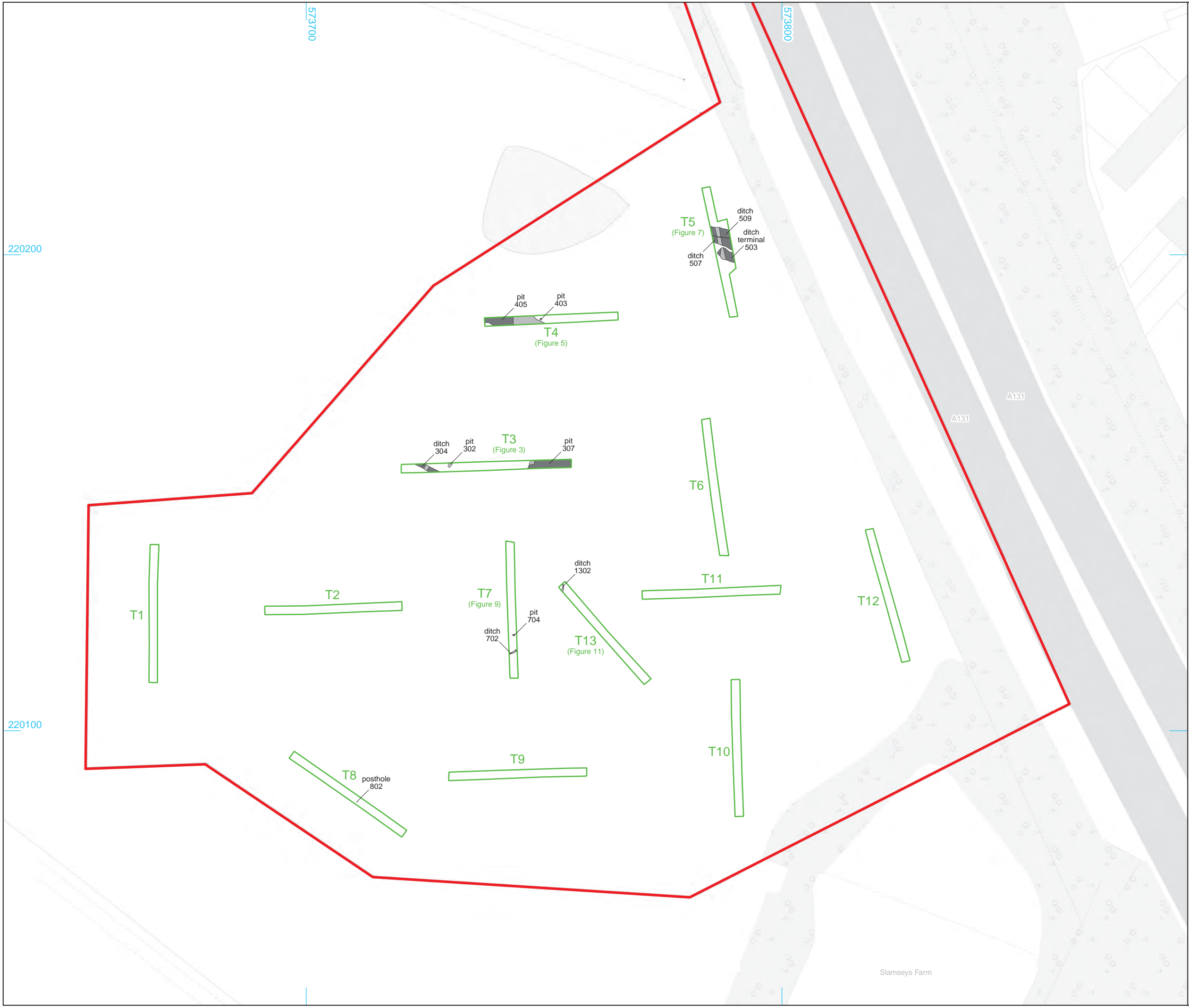
PROJECT TITLE
 Slamseys Farm, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Cut feature
(excavated / unexcavated)



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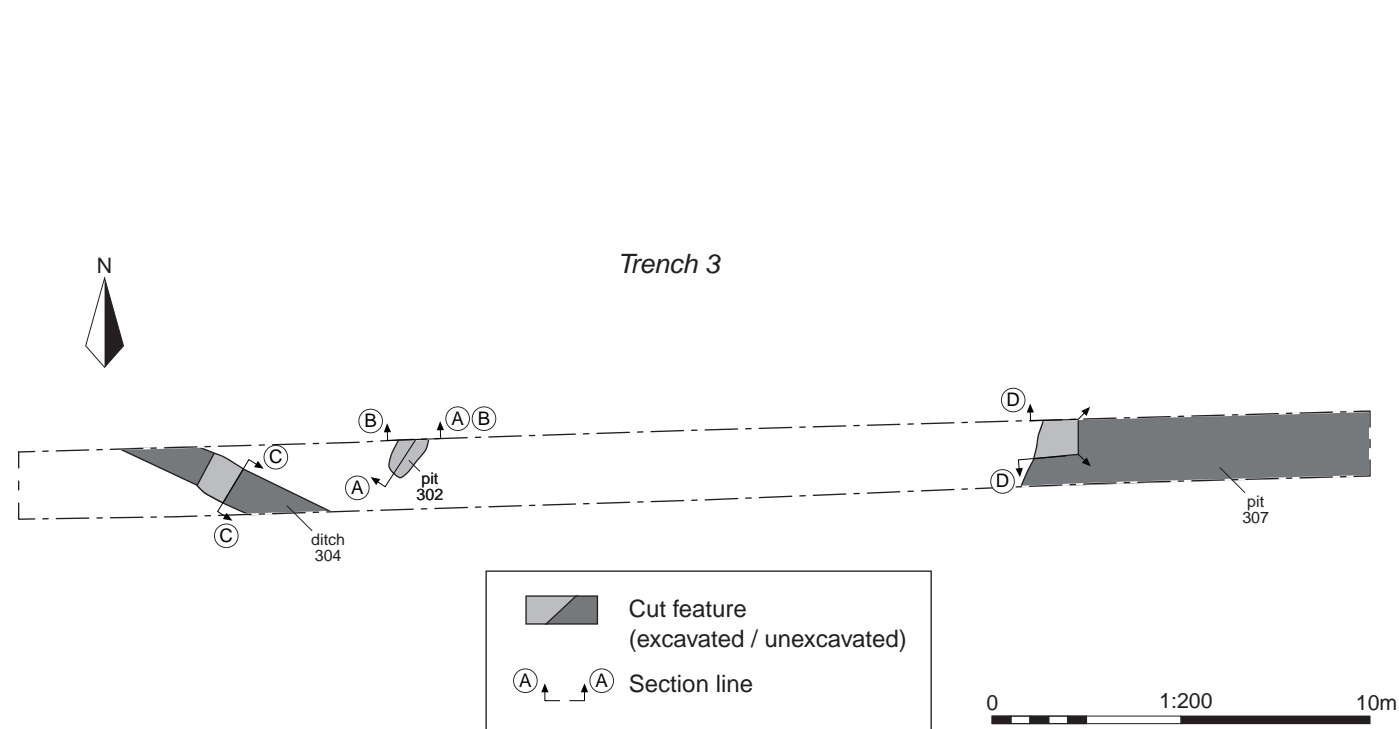
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PROJECT TITLE
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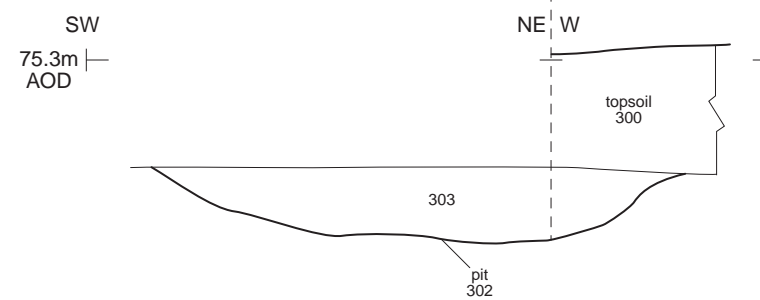
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> SU0070	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
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<small>APPROVED BY</small> EB	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:750	

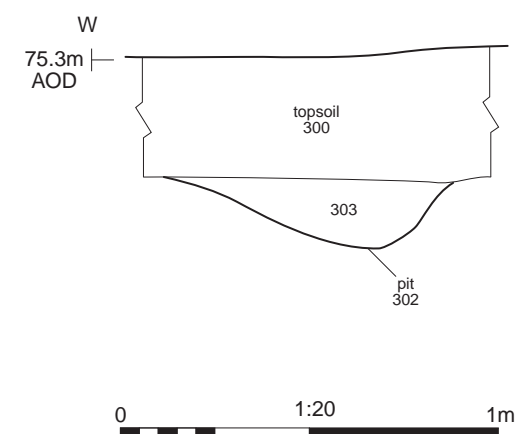
Slamseys Farm



Section AA



Section BB



Trench 3 pre-excitation, looking west (1m scales)



Pit 302, looking north (0.5m scale)

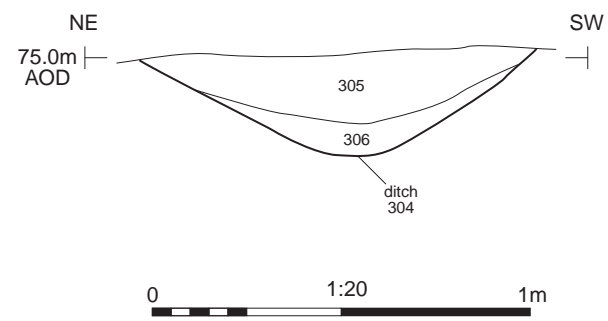
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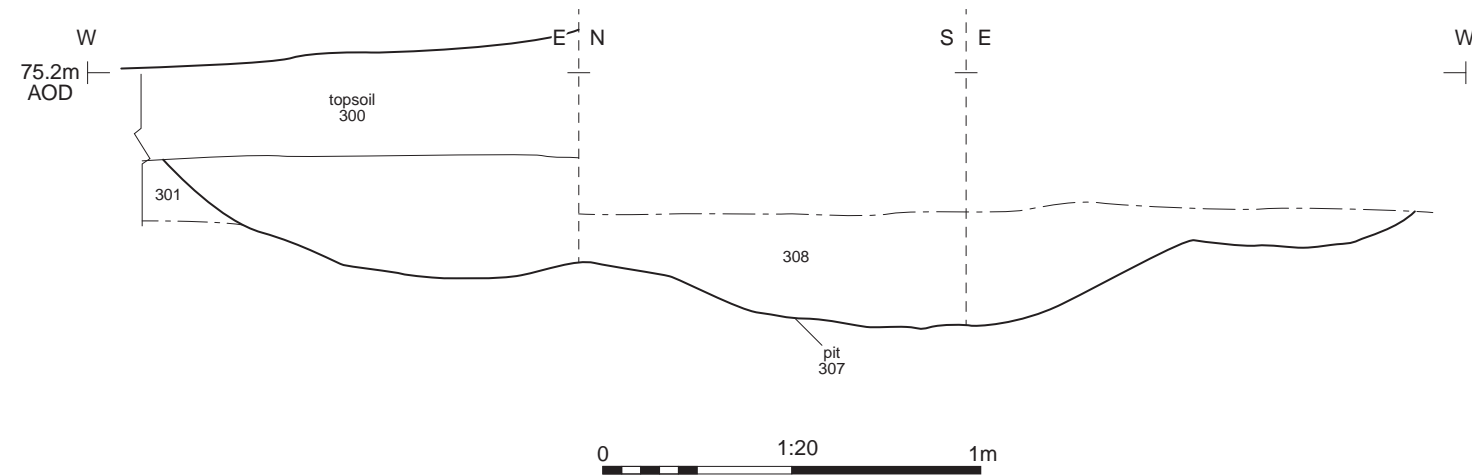
FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: plan, sections and photographs

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 10/10/2019
 APPROVED BY EB SCALE @A3 1:20 + 1:200 **3**

Section CC



Section DD



Ditch 304, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



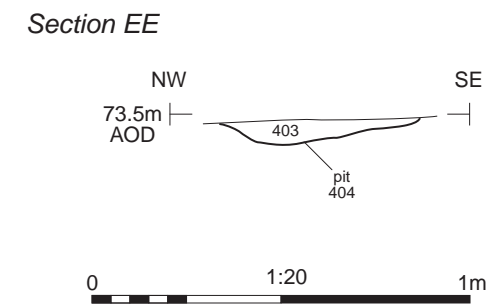
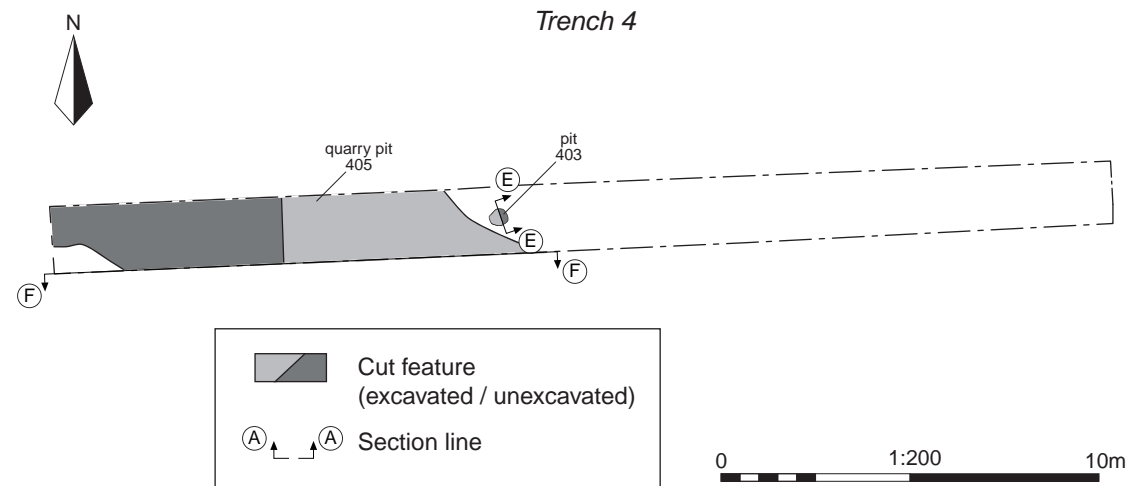
Pit 307, looking east (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: sections and photographs

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APPROVED BY	EB	SCALE	A3 1:20 + 1:200	



Trench 4 pre-excitation, looking west (1m scales)



Pit 403, looking east (0.3m scale)

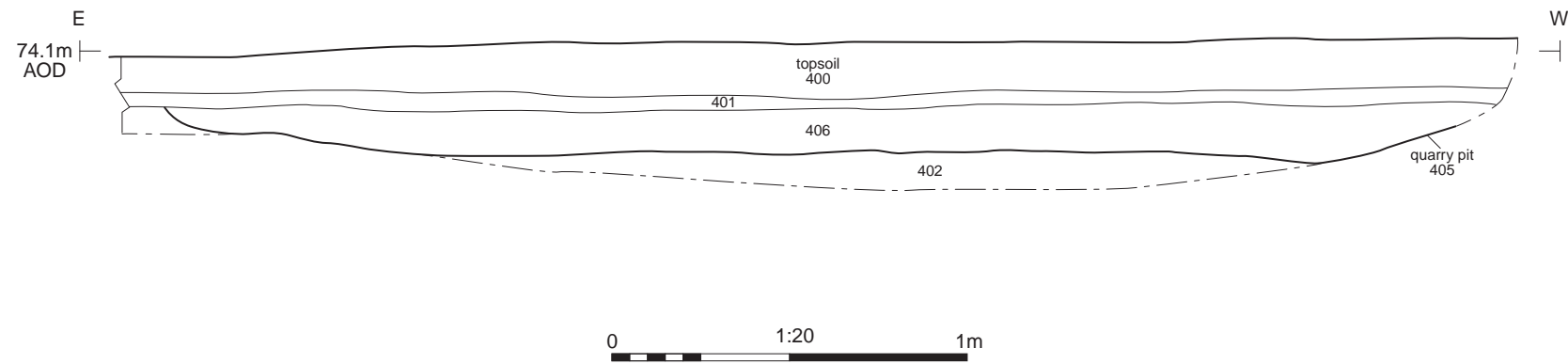
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 4: plan, section and
 photographs**

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Section FF



Quarry pit 405, looking south (2m scale)

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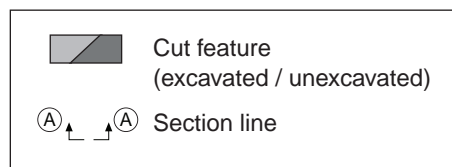
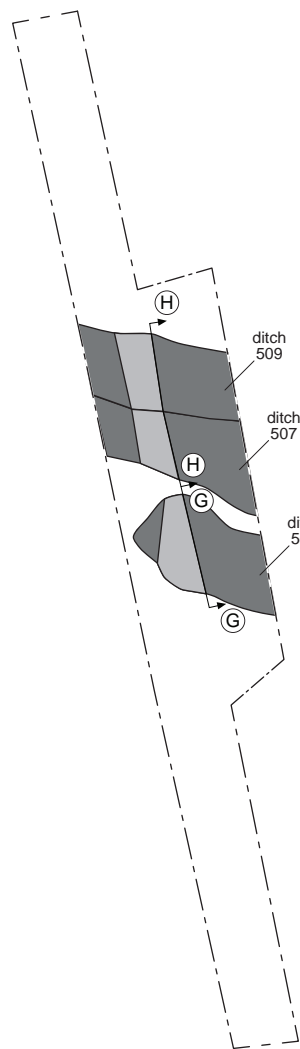
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: section and photograph

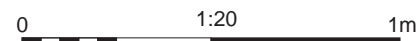
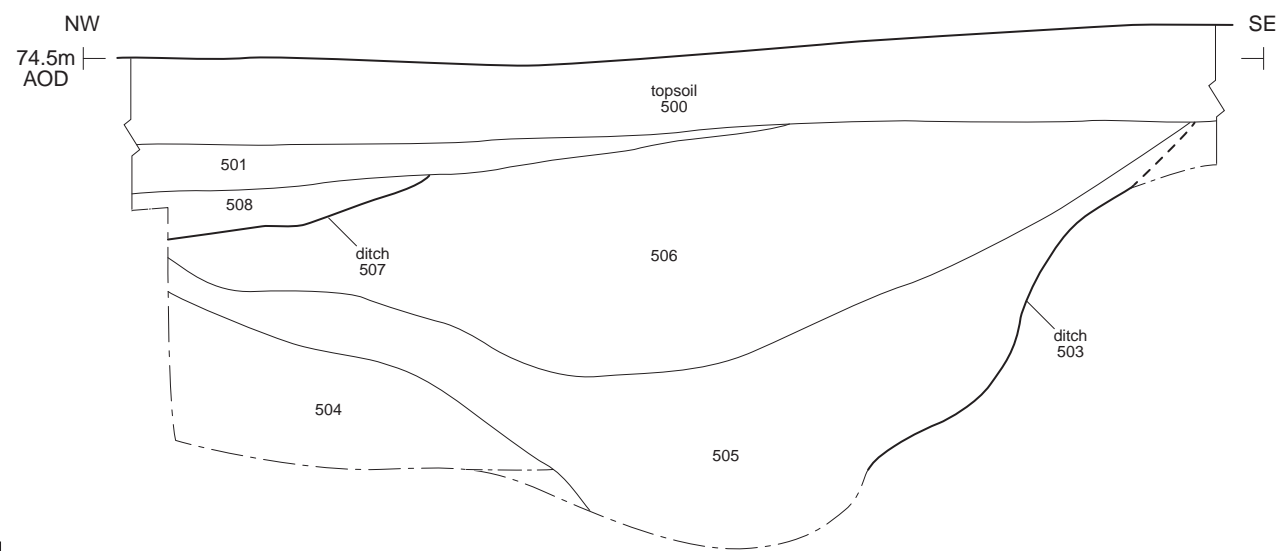
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Trench 5



Section GG



Trench 5, looking south-east (1m scales)



Ditch 503, looking north-east (2m scale)

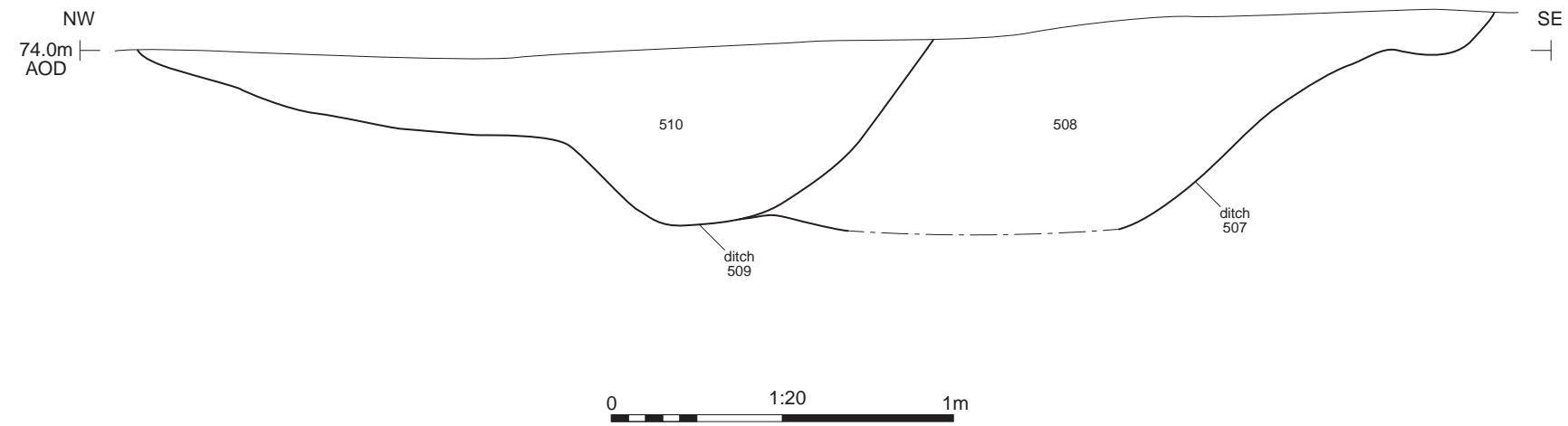

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 5: plan, section and photographs

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Section HH



Ditch 509 (left) and 507 (right), looking east (2m scale)

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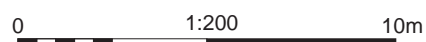
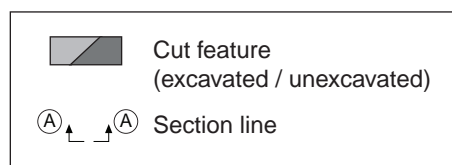
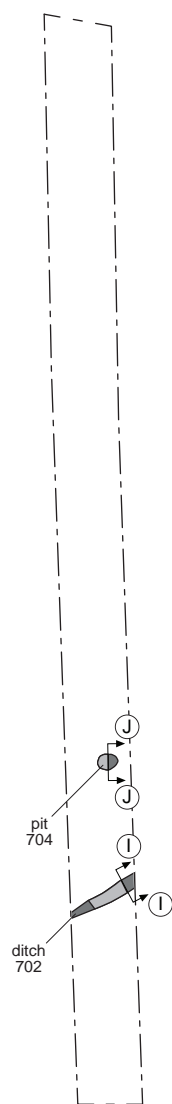
PROJECT TITLE
Slamseys Farm, Great Notley, Braintree,
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 5: section and photograph

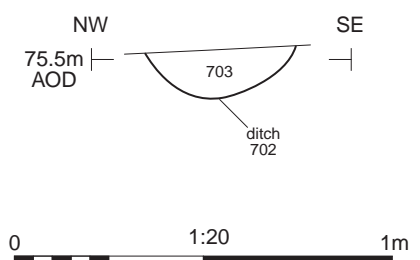
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Trench 7



Section II



Trench 7 pre-excitation, looking south (1m scales)



Ditch 702, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

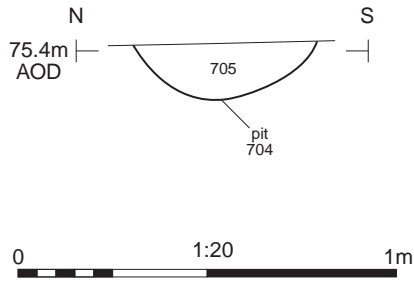

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 7: plan, section and photographs

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Section JJ



Pit 704, looking east (0.3m scale)



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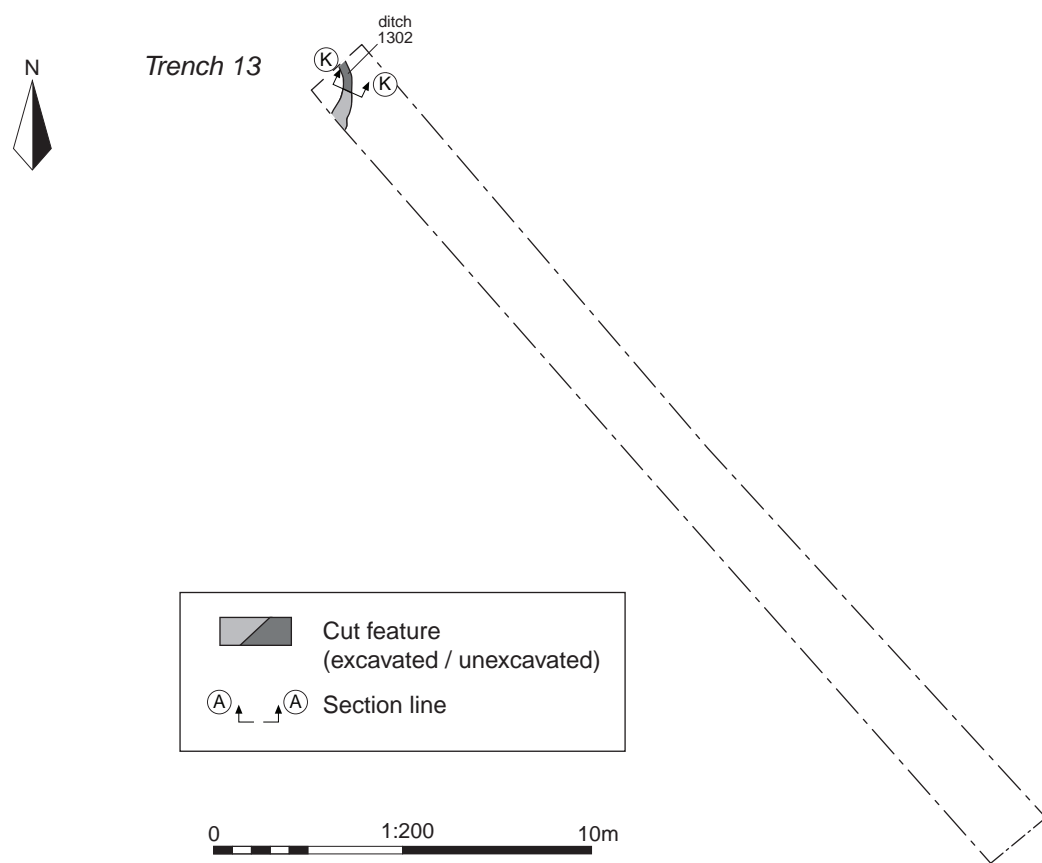
PROJECT TITLE

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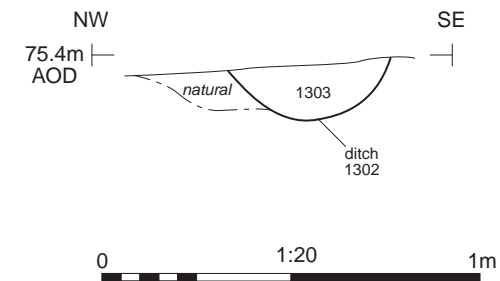
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 7: section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	EB	SCALE@A4	1:20	



Section KK



Trench 13 pre-excitation, looking north-west (1m scales)



Ditch 1302, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

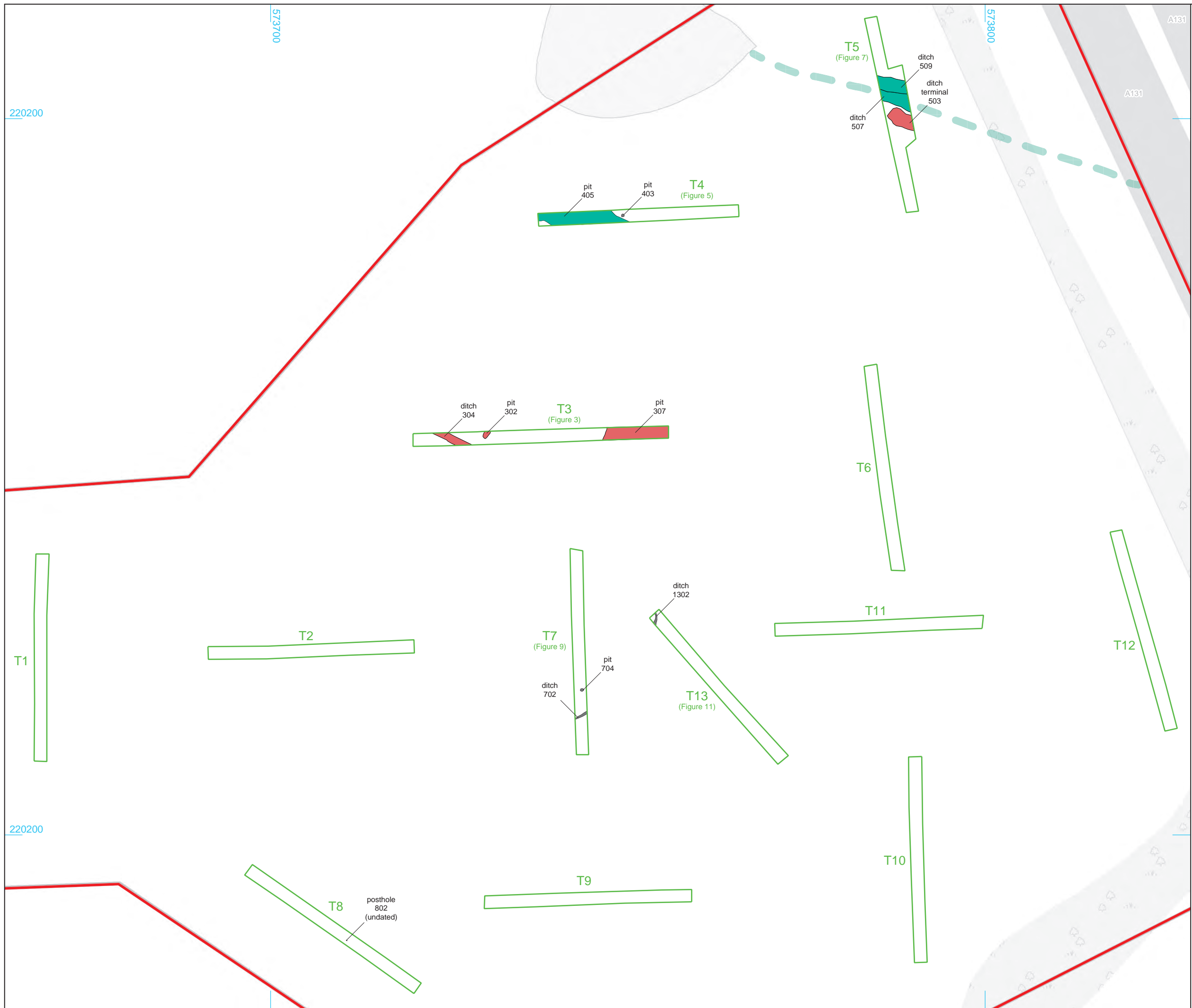
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 13: plan, section and photographs

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Roman feature
- Post-medieval
- Undated
- Field boundary (1875 Ordnance Survey)



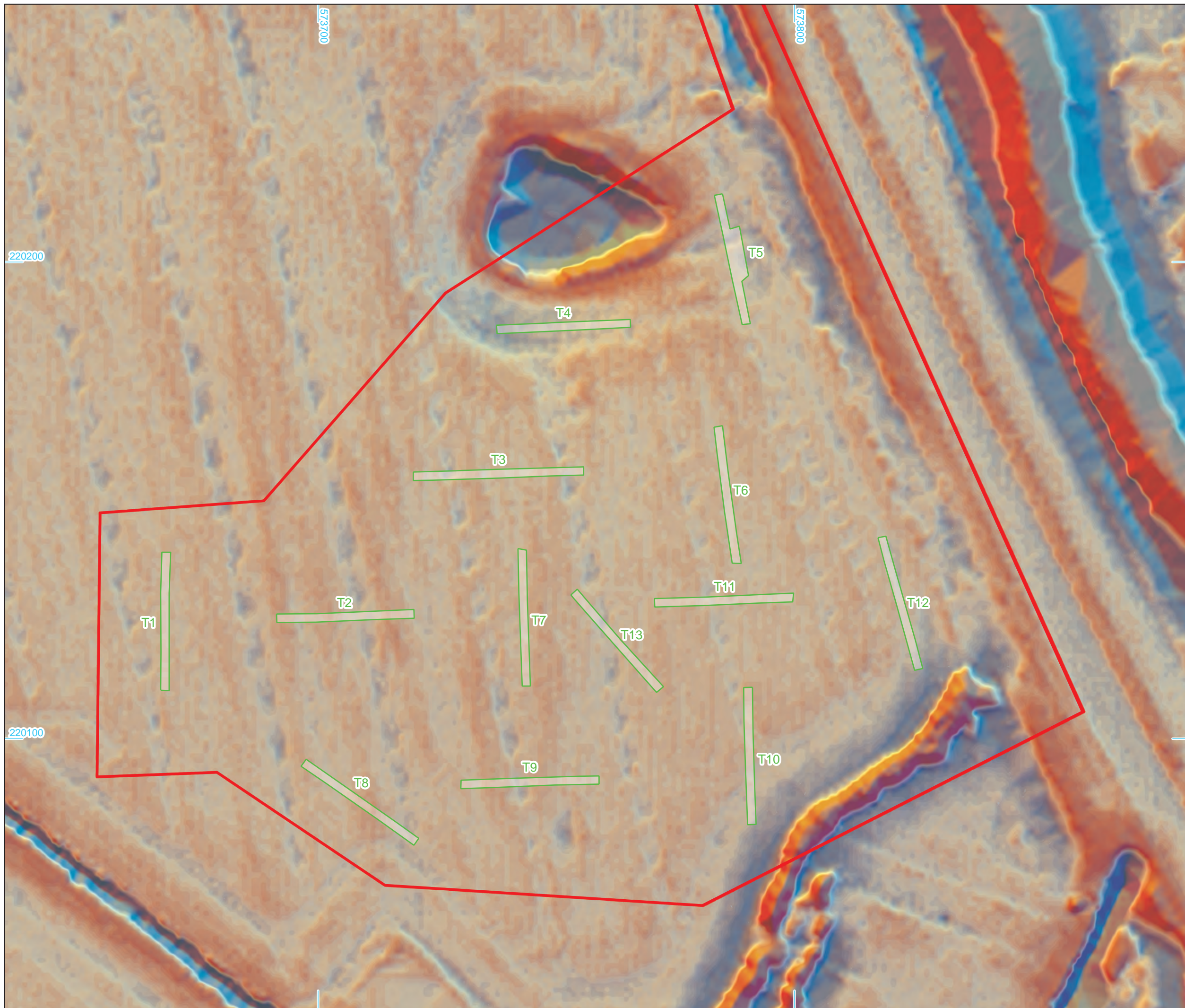
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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench plan showing phased features and historic boundary feature

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Site boundary
 Evaluation trench

Elevation (metres)
 31
 14



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan overlaying LiDAR interpretation

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