

Report on negative evaluation

Site address: Crouch Valley Fish Farm, McCalmont Drive, Rayleigh, Essex
Date of fieldwork: 19th April 2006
NGR: TQ 8010 9320 (centre)
CBC brief?: No; brief from Richard Havis, ECC HEM team officer
Plan attached?: yes (Figs 1-3)
Site code: RYCF06
CAT report no: 365

Archaeological background:

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, as shown by the Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER, held by Essex County Council. Roman pottery has been recovered in two places near the evaluation site; to the north-west (EHER no 13535) and also to the south-west, where a two-handled flagon of North African origin, dating to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD, was recorded (EHER no 13363). These finds suggest that the site of a rural Roman settlement may be located in the vicinity of the site.

Brief report:

In advance of a proposed new fishing lake at the Crouch Valley Fish Farm (Fig 1), two evaluation trenches (T1-T2) were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360-degree mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig 2). Both trenches were 32m long and 1.8m wide. The trenches were excavated through three horizons, ie a topsoil remnant (L1), subsoil (L2), and into the natural boulder clay (L3). Excavation was halted at a depth of 600mm (see section drawings, Fig 3). No archaeological material or features were observed during the course of the evaluation, nor were any finds recovered. The thin layer of topsoil and small amount of subsoil overlying natural geological material may indicate that, at some point, the area was subjected to some degree of reduction or levelling which would have removed any archaeological material on the site. The evaluation produced no archaeological evidence.

Finds:

None

References:

Havis, R, 2006 'Archaeological trenching and excavation at the Crouch Valley Fish Farm and Fishery, McCalmont Drive, Rayleigh, Essex', Essex County Council brief

Report author: Ben Holloway

Report date: April 2006

Distribution list:

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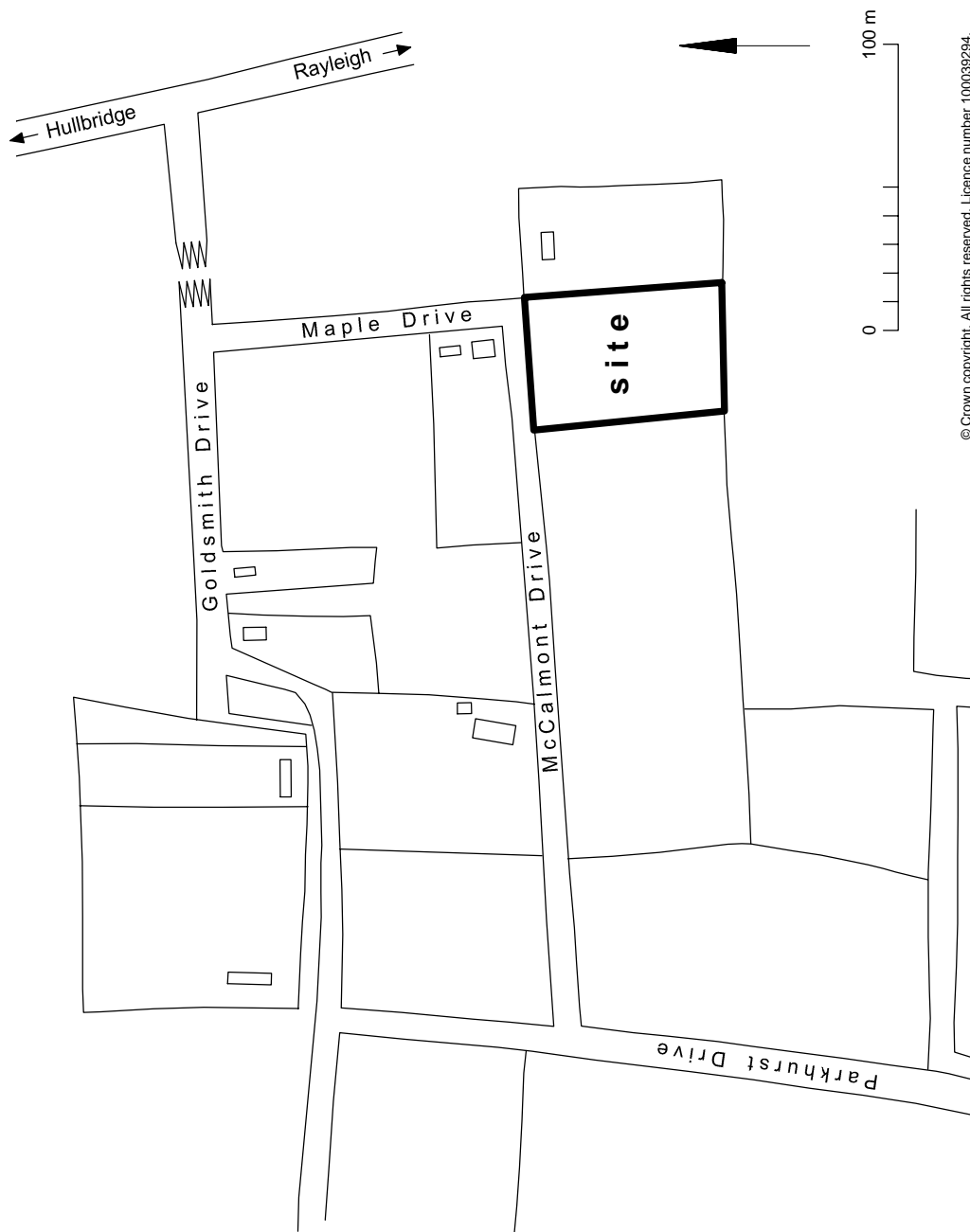
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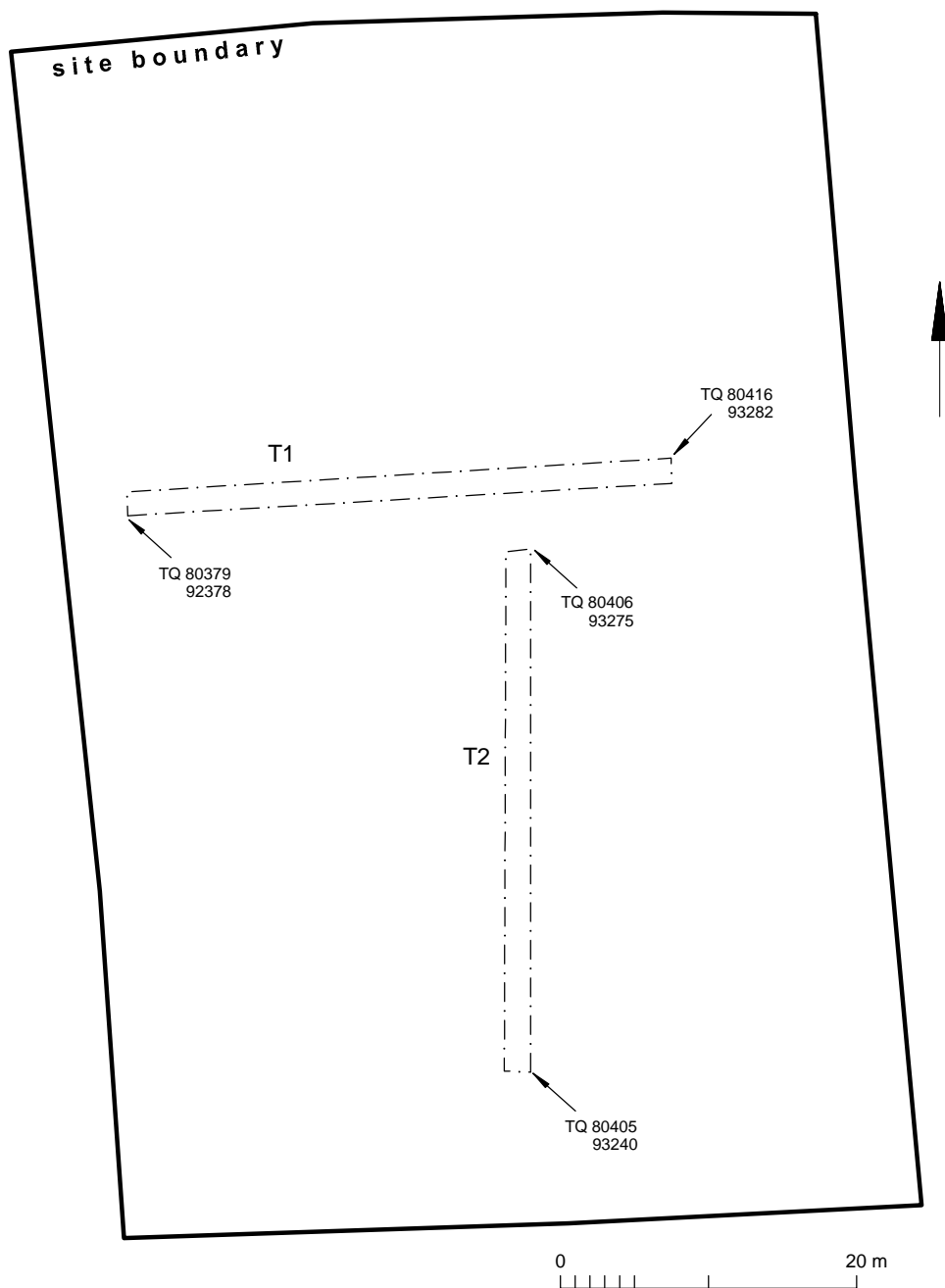
Date: 26.04.06

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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Plan of trenches.

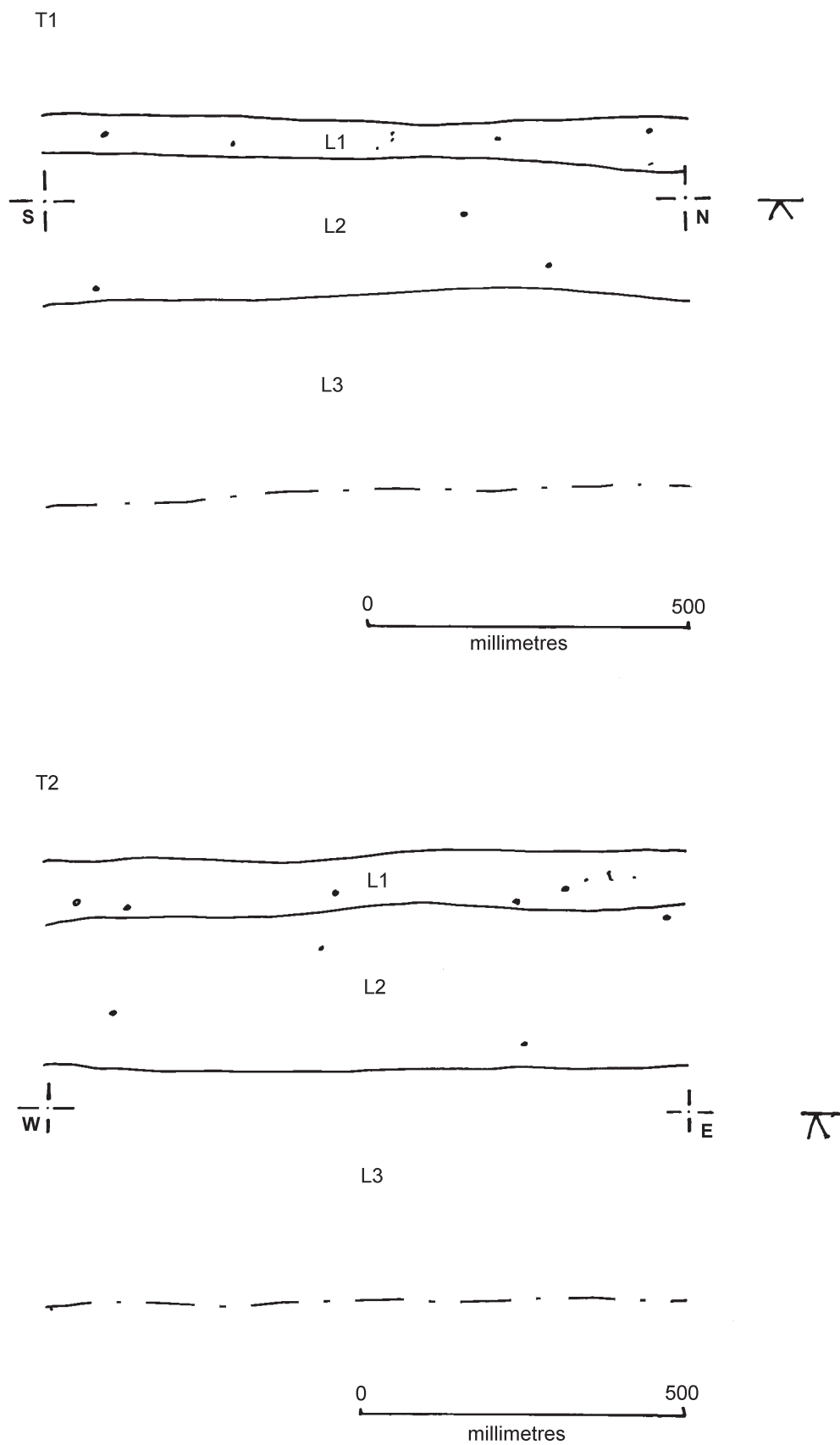


Fig 3 T1 and T2: representative sections.