Land North of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green, Colchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land North of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green, Colchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 2nd and 13th November 2020 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out a 38-trench evaluation across three fields on land north of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green, Colchester, Essex (TL 93255 26418). The site was located on the western side of the village, on a plateau overlooking the Colne Valley.

The archaeological remains uncovered fell into two periods; a very small amount of possible Late Neolithic activity was indicated by a pottery assemblage recovered from one of three post holes in the southern portion of the western field, and a network of ditches relating to medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity, some of which corresponded to boundaries recorded on the 1837 Fordham Parish Tithe map.

Of the features not recorded on the Tithe map, two parallel ditches may have belonged to a narrow trackway in the western field, and the extrapolation of several ditches also revealed in this field indicates a possible enclosure of indeterminate use.

Nearly all of the ditches uncovered by this evaluation produced medieval – post-medieval pottery and/or CBM, at levels which would probably indicate scatters from manuring. Some of the later CBM, however, may have associations with farm buildings recorded on the Tithe map.

The environmental samples also produced results consistent with agricultural activity belonging to the medieval to post-medieval periods.

Acknowledgements

OA East would like to thank RPS Group for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Hoggett who monitored the work on behalf of Colchester Borough Council.

The project was managed for OA East by Pat Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Neal Mason, who was supported by Jack Easen and Molly Vowels. Survey and digitising was carried out by Valerio Pina. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA East staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Carole Fletcher, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 OA East was commissioned by RPS Group on behalf of their clients Gladman Developments Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land north of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green, Colchester (Fig. 1). The fieldwork was carried out between the 2nd to the 13th November 2020.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 171529). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by RPS Group (RPS 2019) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the western edge of the village of Eight Ash Green, Colchester, Essex. It is bounded by Halstead Road to the south and Fiddlers Hill to the north, and lies on a plateau overlooking the Colne Valley to the north, with the River Colne flowing approximately 500m to the north. The site slopes gently downwards from south to north from approximately 44m OD down to approximately 41m OD.

1.2.2 The development area consists of three fields currently of grassland, but recently under arable cultivation.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as London Clay Formation – clay, silt and sand. This is overlain by superficial deposits of cover sand according to the British Geological Survey (BGS Viewer, accessed 20/11/20).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is comprehensively detailed in the Desk-Based Assessment (Gailey 2017), and summarised in the WSI (RPS 2019). Therefore, only several records relevant to the findings of this investigation are included here (Fig. 2).

Prehistoric (40,000 BC – AD 43)

1.3.2 No evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded within the 1km search radius of the site. Furthermore, given that the site does not lie near to a watercourse the probability of prehistoric remains was considered to be low.

1.3.3 However, Paleolithic flint artefacts have been found within the wider landscape of the Colne Valley, and the site's position upon a plateau overlooking the floodplain of the River Colne may have made it suitable for settlement or funerary activity.

Roman (AD 43 – 410)

1.3.4 No firm evidence of Roman settlement has been recorded within the 1km radius search area around the site. However, potential Roman occupation was identified from cropmarks and a subsequent geophysical survey *c*. 500m to the north (MCC7079).

1.3.5 The site occupied part of a landscape that surrounded the important town of *Camulodunum*, making evidence of Roman field systems more probable than settlement activity. The potential for a Roman trackway to pass close to the south-eastern part of the site, as identified by the Roman Rural Settlement Project, suggested that Roman roadside occupation may be present in this zone.

Post-Roman – Medieval (AD 410 – 1500)

1.3.6 No archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxon/early medieval settlement has been recorded within the study area.

1.3.7 A corn mill mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 was located at Fordham Bridge approximately 750m north-west of the study site (MCC8237).

1.3.8 The Colchester Historic Environment Record records an isolated medieval find adjacent to the site (MCC6051), identified on the Portable Antiquities Scheme as a medieval coin. This most likely represents casual loss.

Post-medieval – Modern (16th to 20th centuries)

1.3.9 Analysis of historic maps detailed in the Desk-Based Assessment noted the following changes to the landscape of the site during the post-medieval – modern periods:

- During the post-medieval period the site continued to comprise woodland and agricultural land away from the core of any settlement. A farmhouse had been constructed on the site of the later Fiddlers Farm by this date to the north-west of the site.
- By the early 19th century the woodland had been cleared from the site and it comprised seven fields of arable agricultural land.
- By the late 19th century three field boundaries had been removed leaving four agricultural fields. By the early 20th century the field boundaries in the east of the site had been removed and replaced on a new alignment.
- By the late 20th century one of these field boundaries had been removed from the site.

Undated

1.3.10 The HER records evidence of cropmarks representing a possible ring ditch and part of a rectangular enclosure on or adjacent to the site (MCC7761).

1.3.11 Cropmarks of a possible road/trackway have been identified approximately 750m south-east of the study site (MCC8642).

1.3.12 Cropmarks of linear features and pits, and a rectangular enclosure have been recorded approximately 600m east of the study site (MCC7777).

1.3.13 Cropmarks of a further possible rectangular enclosure are recorded approximately 600m north-west of the study site (MCC7762).

Previous Work

1.3.14 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was prepared by CgMs Heritage (Gailey 2017) to support the outline planning application. This report concluded that the site had a potential for archaeological evidence of local importance.

1.3.15 A subsequent geophysical survey undertaken on site in October 2017 (presented in RPS 2019) identified several natural anomalies as well as several linear and curvilinear anomalies of uncertain/potential archaeological interest (Fig. 3).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 This evaluation sought to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The methodology detailed below aimed to:

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeological and environmental remains.
- provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- provide –in the event that archaeological remains were found –sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The programme of trial trenching was designed in accordance with the guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIfA 2014a).
- *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIfA 2014b).
- *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIfA 2014c).
- *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Historic England: London (HE 2015).

2.2.2 The original project design called for 46 trenches, each measuring 30m x 2m, although eight were not excavated due to their proximity to sensitive buried services.

2.2.3 The investigation sample therefore comprised slightly less than 3% of the development area.

2.2.4 Several trenches were moved or shortened, either because of their proximity to trees or at the request of the on-site ecologist. Details of these changes are given in the Trench Descriptions below (Appendix A).

2.2.5 All trenches were opened by a 20 tonne 360° tracked excavator, under the constant supervision of a professional archaeologist, to a depth where either archaeological deposits or natural geology was reached.

2.2.6 All archaeological features were fully excavated and recorded.

2.2.7 All excavated features were drawn and photographed, and all finds retained unless identified as being modern in date.

2.2.8 The archaeological features and excavated slots were recorded using a Leica GS08 GPS with SmartNet capabilities.

2.2.9 Environmental samples were taken for flotation processing to assess the presence of any charred or mineralised plant remains.

2.2.10 Metal detecting was carried out by the site supervisor.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches containing archaeological remains. As the site was divided across three fields, the results are presented by field and then by trench number. Trench plans showing all features are presented in Figures 5a – c and Figure 6. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds reports and spot dates are reported on in Appendix B and the environmental samples are examined in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of silty/sandy clay was overlain by a light yellowish-brown subsoil, which in turn was overlain by a dark brown topsoil. Of note was an increase in natural stone and flint inclusions in the trenches in the northernmost part of the central field (13, 14, 15 and 16). This increase corresponded with the downward slope of the field to the north.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained mostly dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were generally filled by pale deposits similar in nature to the surrounding geology. This meant that several features became visible after a short period of weathering.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 17, 18, 19, 29 and 31. The archaeological features, comprising mainly ditches but also including several pits, post holes a possible beamslot and two tree throws with evidence of burning, were present in three concentrations across the site.

3.3.2 The western portion of the western field revealed the largest group of features, consisting mainly of ditches upon west-south-west to east-north-east and south-south-east to north-north-west alignments (Fig. 5a). Also revealed was a line of three post-holes in Trench 2 and a possible beamslot in Trench 3.

3.3.3 The features in the central field were mainly found in Trenches 17-20 (Fig. 5b), the majority of which were ditches upon north to south and east to west alignments, along with several small sub-circular pits. Another small sub-circular pit was revealed in Trench 13 in the northern part of the field.

3.3.4 The eastern field had the lowest concentration of features (Fig. 5c), comprising a west-north-west to east-south-east aligned ditch (with a re-cut) in Trench 31 and the remains of two tree throws with evidence of burning in Trench 29. This trench was extended slightly to the south-east to fully uncover these features and identify their nature.

3.4 Correspondence with the results of the geophysical survey

3.4.1 The geophysical survey (Fig. 3) recorded several anomalies across the site which were designated ‘uncertain origin’. In the case of the western field, three of these anomalies

corresponded with the alignments of ditches revealed in Trenches 7 and 8. This was also the case in the central field with the alignments of the ditches in Trenches 19 and 20, although the anomaly over which Trench 20 was located was recorded approximately 15m to the south of the ditch revealed there during this investigation.

3.4.2 Similarly, in the eastern field, the linear anomaly over which Trench 31 was located was recorded approximately 15m to the north of the ditches revealed in the trench.

3.4.3 None of the other anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey corresponded with archaeological features revealed by this investigation.

3.5 Western field (Fig. 5a)

Trench 2

3.5.1 This trench revealed three post holes (**200**, **202**, **204**), all situated towards the centre of the trench. These features were aligned south-east to north-west, possibly indicating an intentional alignment, although they were somewhat irregularly spaced.

3.5.2 Located furthest to the south-east, post hole **200** was circular in shape with steep sides and a concave base. It measured 0.42m in diameter, with a depth of 0.26m. It contained a single fill (201), which was composed of a moderately compacted mid-brownish grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal inclusions.

3.5.3 Post hole **202**, the central of the three, was also circular in shape with steep sides and a concave base. It measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.26m deep. It was filled by a light brownish grey, moderately compacted sandy clay (203) and had occasional charcoal inclusions.

3.5.4 To the north-west, post hole **204** (Plate 1) was circular in shape with vertical sides and a concave base. It was 0.35m in diameter and 0.25m deep. Its sole fill was a moderately compacted, dark greyish brown silty clay (205) with frequent charcoal inclusions. This fill contained 12 sherds (50g) of probable Late Neolithic pottery (Appendix B.4) and two fragments of not closely datable fired clay (6g; (Appendix B.6). This feature was 100% excavated for finds retrieval. An environmental sample (1) taken from this fill contained the largest charcoal assemblage from the site (Appendix C.1).

Trench 3

3.5.5 Trench 3 contained two ditches and a possible beamslot.

3.5.6 Ditch **300** (Fig. 7, Section 19) was located at the southern end of the trench, aligned east to west and had steep sides with a concave base. It measured 0.64m wide and 0.34m deep. Its single fill consisted of a moderately compacted, mid-yellowish grey sandy clay (301). This fill contained two sherds (16g) of early medieval pottery (Appendix B.5) and one fragment of burnt stone (271g; Appendix B.8).

3.5.7 The possible beamslot (**302** = **304**, Plate 2) extended from the western side of the trench on a north to south alignment for approximately 11.5m before terminating. If the identification of this feature is correct this could indicate the remains of a structure of some kind. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base, ranged in width between

0.28m to 0.35m and was 0.03m deep. It was filled by a soft, light yellowish grey sandy clay (303, 305).

3.5.8 Ditch **306**, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, was located in the northern half of the trench and was the continuation of ditch **400** (= **402**, **404**) in Trench 4. Extrapolation suggests it may also have been part of the same system as ditch **800** in Trench 8 and ditch **703** in Trench 7, thus forming the southern and eastern sides of a possible enclosure (Fig. 6). At this point it had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.34m deep. Its only fill (307) was a moderately compacted, mid-orangish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. Two refitting fragments (55g) of medieval tile were recovered from this fill. An environmental sample (2) taken from this fill was found to be sterile.

Trench 4

3.5.9 This trench revealed two parallel ditches (**400** and **410**), aligned east-north-east to west-south-west across the trench. As stated above (3.5.8), the southernmost ditch (**400** = **402** = **404**, Plate 3) was the continuation of ditch **306** in Trench 3. While the parallel nature of these ditches suggested a possible trackway, the relatively narrow distance between them (approximately 1.4m) makes this unlikely, especially when allowing for those portions of the ditches removed by truncation.

3.5.10 The southernmost ditch measured 1.38m wide and ranged between 0.15 to 0.22m deep. The moderately sloping sides and flat base were filled by a single light greyish brown sandy clay (401, 403, 405). Fill 401 (intervention **400**) produced two sherds (3g) of early medieval pottery.

3.5.11 Ditch **410** was the northernmost of the two parallel ditches. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base, and measured 1.15m in width and 0.15m in depth. Its fill was a soft, mid-greyish brown sandy clay (411).

3.5.12 This trench also revealed two intercutting possible post holes or pits, partially exposed against the southern limit of the trench. Post hole/pit **406**, the earlier of the two, was sub-circular in shape, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.6m in length, 0.24m in width and 0.11m in depth. It was filled by a moderately compacted, light blueish grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal inclusions (407).

3.5.13 Post hole/pit **408** was also sub-circular with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.4m long and 0.4m wide, with a depth of 0.14m. Its sole fill consisted of a friable, light blueish grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal inclusions (409).

Trench 7

3.5.14 This trench revealed two ditches located at either end. Both were aligned north-north-west to south-south-east.

3.5.15 Ditch **700** (Fig. 7, Section 21) was probably the continuation of ditch **804** in Trench 8. These two ditches appear to correspond to a boundary present on the 1837 Fordham Parish Tithe map (Fig. 4).

3.5.16 Ditch **700** was steep sided with a concave base. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.64m deep. It contained two fills, the lowest of which (701) was a 0.24m thick moderately

compacted, mid-brownish grey sandy clay with moderate iron pan inclusions. The upper fill (702) was 0.40m thick and consisted of a moderately compacted, mid-brownish grey sandy clay. An environmental sample (4) taken from this fill contained a small amount of chaff suggestive of free-threshing wheat, along with a moderate amount of charcoal and occasional molluscs. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe (3g; Appendix B.6) was also recovered from this sample.

3.5.17 Ditch **703** was probably the continuation of ditch **800** in Trench 8 (also seen in Trenches 3 and 4), forming part of the possible enclosure discussed above. It had moderately sloping sides with a concave base and measured 1.2m wide and 0.36m deep. Its sole fill was a compact, mid-greyish brown sandy clay with occasional iron pan inclusions (704). An environmental sample (5) taken from this fill contained occasional amounts of molluscs.

Trench 8

3.5.18 Trench 8 contained three ditches located near the centre of the trench, all aligned north-west to south-east.

3.5.19 Ditch **802** (Fig. 7, Section 5) was heavily truncated by ditch **800** on its eastern side. The remains of this ditch had a gently sloping eastern side and a flat base, and measured 0.64m wide and 0.28m deep. Its sole fill, 803, was a friable, light blueish grey silty clay.

3.5.20 Ditch **800** (Fig. 7, Section 5) probably formed part of the enclosure ditch also seen in Trenches 3, 4 and 7. It was the later cut of the ditch in this trench as it truncated ditch **802** on its eastern side. It had gently sloped sides with a flat base and measured 2.86m in width and 0.46m deep. The single fill was a friable, mid-greyish brown sandy clay (801) which produced two fragments (42g) of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM; Appendix B.6). An environmental sample (3) taken from this fill contained a very small amount of charcoal.

3.5.21 Ditch **804** was steep sided with a V-shaped base and was most probably the continuation of ditch **700** in Trench 7, together forming a boundary recorded on the 1837 Tithe map (Fig.4). It measured 1.22m wide and 0.74m deep. The sole fill was a friable, mid-brownish grey silty clay (805). One fragment of a hand-wrought nail (Appendix B.1), one fragment (10g) of probably 19th century AD olive green vessel glass (Appendix B.3), five fragments (651g) of post-medieval CBM, a fragment of clay tobacco pipe (5g) and a single cattle mandible were recovered from this fill (Z. Ui Choileáin, pers. comm. 24/11/2020).

3.6 Central field (Fig. 5b)

Trench 13

3.6.1 Trench 13, in the far north of the central field, contained one sub-circular pit located in the centre of the trench. Pit **1300** had steep sides and a concave base, and measured 0.56m long, 0.52m wide and 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill, 1301, which was a soft, dark greyish brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions. An environmental sample (7) taken from this fill contained a small amount of charcoal.

Trench 17

3.6.2 This trench revealed two ditches and one pit. The two ditches were located near the centre of the trench. Ditch **1700** was aligned north-east to south-west across the trench whilst ditch **1702** ran east to west and terminated where it met ditch **1700** (Plate 5). No stratigraphic relationship was visible given the relative shallowness of the features and similarity of the fills.

3.6.3 Ditch **1700** had gently sloping sides with a flat base. It was 1.02m wide and 0.16m deep, filled by a moderately compacted, light yellowish grey sandy clay with occasional iron pan inclusions (1701). An environmental sample (6) taken from this fill contained a moderate amount of charcoal and occasional molluscs.

3.6.4 Ditch terminus **1702** had moderately sloping sides and a concave base, and may have been the continuation of ditch **1800** in Trench 18. It measured 0.7m in width and 0.2m deep. Its sole fill was a moderately compacted, light yellowish grey sandy clay with occasional iron pan inclusions (1703).

3.6.5 A circular pit, **1704**, was located in the south-eastern half of the trench. With steep sides and a concave base, it measured 0.28m in diameter and was 0.1m deep, and was filled by a soft, mid-greyish brown sandy clay (1705).

Trench 18

3.6.6 Trench 18 revealed a ditch in the centre of the trench aligned east to west, and three pits located at the southern end of the trench.

3.6.7 Ditch **1800** had gently sloping sides and an uneven base. It was 0.94m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled by a soft, mottled yellowish brown, silty/sandy clay (1801).

3.6.8 Pit **1802** was only partially exposed against the western limit of the trench. It was 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep, and was filled by a soft, light greyish brown silty clay (1803).

3.6.9 Pit **1804** was sub-circular in shape with gently sloping sides and an uneven but largely flat base. It measured 1m long, 0.52m wide 0.08m deep. It was filled by a loose, mid-greyish brown gravelly sand (1805) which contained two unidentified fragments of iron objects (SF 1) and one fragment (9g) of late medieval – post-medieval tile.

3.6.10 Pit **1806** was sub-circular with gently sloped sides and a concave base. It was 0.26m long, 0.24m wide and 0.06m deep and was filled by a soft, mid-greyish brown silty clay (1807).

Trench 19

3.6.11 Trench 19 revealed a single ditch (**1900**, Fig. 7, Section 11) located in the western half of the trench, aligned north to south. Together with Ditch **2000**, this ditch appears to correspond to a boundary recorded on the 1837 Fordham Tithe map (Fig. 4) and possibly with a linear anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, and measured 1.88m wide and 0.5m deep. It was filled by a soft, light greyish brown silty clay (1901) which produced one sherd (7g) of post-medieval pottery (probably 17th century in date), four fragments (99g) of post-medieval tile and one fragment (4g) of not closely dateable fired clay.

Trench 20

3.6.12 This trench contained a solitary east to west aligned ditch (**2000**, Plate 6) located towards the northern end of the trench. As with ditch **1900** in Trench 19, this ditch appears to correspond with a boundary recorded on the 1837 Tithe map. It had steep sides and was not fully excavated given the relative instability of the sides of the trench. A field drain was also uncovered on the same alignment near to the probable base of the ditch. It measured 1.4m wide and 0.66m deep at the limit of excavation. The single fill was a soft, mid-greyish brown silty clay (2001) which contained two fragments of a probable iron blade (SF 2) and two fragments (173g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM.

3.7 Eastern field (Fig. 5c)

Trench 29

3.7.1 This trench revealed two features which were somewhat amorphous in shape, both of which contained frequent amounts of charcoal and showed signs of heat affected natural. The trench was extended to the south-east to reveal their full extents. Upon excavation they were identified as throws of probably burnt-out trees (Plate 7).

3.7.2 Tree throw **2900** was amorphous in shape with irregular sides and an uneven base. It measured 1.8m long, 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. It was filled by a soft, mottled light greyish yellow silty sand (2901), very similar to the surrounding natural. This fill contained one unworked burnt flint (8g; Appendix B.2) and two sherds (6g) of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery.

3.7.3 Tree throw **2902** was also amorphous in shape with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 2m in length, 0.8m in width and 0.03m in depth. Its fill consisted of a soft, mottled light greyish yellow silty sand (2903).

Trench 31

3.7.4 Trench 31 contained two intercutting ditches aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, close to the southern end of the trench. Ditch **3102** had steep sides with an uneven base, and was truncated by ditch **3100** on its northern side. It was 0.94m wide and 0.47m deep, and contained a moderately compacted, mid-greyish brown sandy clay fill (3103).

3.7.5 Ditch **3100** (Fig. 7, Section 10), the later cut of this line, had moderately sloping sides with a V-shaped base. It measured 1.87m wide and 0.46m deep. Its fill, 3101, was a moderately compacted, mid-greyish brown sandy clay which produced one fragment (34g) of probably medieval tile.

3.8 Finds Summary

3.8.1 Broadly speaking, the majority of the dateable finds comprised a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery in the western field (along with a single sherd recovered from the eastern field; Appendix B.4), together with moderate concentrations of medieval and post-medieval pottery (Appendix B.5) and CBM (Appendix B.6) mostly in the western and central fields.

3.8.2 Five fragments of encrusted iron objects were recovered from Trenches 8, 18 and 20. Two of these fragments (SF 2) were identified as belonging to a probable blade from a ditch in Trench 20. Another was identified as a probable hand-wrought nail from a ditch in Trench 8, while the remaining two were unidentified objects – both from a pit in Trench 18 (Appendix B.1).

3.8.3 A single, unworked burnt flint (8g) was recovered from a tree throw in Trench 29 (Appendix B.2).

3.8.4 A single curved fragment of probable modern dark olive green vessel glass (10g) was recovered from a ditch in Trench 8 (Appendix B.3).

3.8.5 The evaluation yielded 14 sherds (56g) of prehistoric pottery. Trench 2 produced 12 sherds (50g) of Late Neolithic pottery from a post hole, while Trench 29 produced just two sherds (6g) of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery from a tree throw (Appendix B.4).

3.8.6 A total of five sherds (26g) of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from ditches in Trenches 3, 4 and 19 (Appendix B.5).

3.8.7 A fragmentary assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), consisting mostly of medieval and post-medieval tile fragments and partial bricks (1.061kg), was recovered from Trenches 3, 8, 18, 19, 20 and 31, mostly from ditches. A very small amount of fired clay (6g) was also recovered from Trench 2 (Appendix B.6).

3.8.8 Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from Trenches 7 and 8 in the western field (Appendix B.7).

3.8.9 One fragment of burnt stone was recovered from a ditch in Trench 3 (Appendix B.8).

3.9 Environmental Summary

3.9.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area, from Trenches 2, 3, 7, 8, 13 and 17 (Appendix C.1). Preservation of plant remains from this site was through carbonisation (charring) and was quite poor.

3.9.2 Sample 4, fill 702 of ditch **700** (Trench 7) was the only sample from the site that contained plant remains other than charcoal. This sample contained two rachis fragments, which have morphological traits suggestive of free-threshing wheat (c.f *Triticum aestivum/turgidum).* The samples are quite variable in terms of their charcoal content. The largest quantity of charcoal, 81ml, was recovered from Sample 1, fill 205 of post hole **204** (Trench 2).

3.9.3 The relatively large quantities of charcoal and small quantities of charred free-threshing wheat chaff recovered from the samples indicates that there is some potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site.

3.9.4 A single cattle mandible was recovered from fill 805 of ditch **804** (Trench 8) (Z. Ui Choileáin, pers. comm. 24/11/2020).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are considered reliable, with the archaeological features (particularly after two – three days of weathering) and geological horizon both clearly visible within the trenches.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The objectives of the evaluation have been achieved in so far as the presence of archaeological remains, concentrated in the western and central fields, has been established.

4.2.2 The remains can be characterised into two broad groups; indications of possible small scale Late Neolithic activity in the southern part of the western field and a network of probable field-system/enclosure and trackway ditches relating to medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural activity in the western and central fields.

4.3 Interpretation (Fig. 6)

Prehistoric (c. 4000 BC to c. 350 BC)

4.3.1 The small assemblage of Late Neolithic pottery and fired clay recovered from post hole **204** (Trench 2), one of three in this trench, could be interpreted as indicating some kind of settlement activity dating to that period. However, the lack of any other similarly dated assemblages or associated features makes any further conclusions difficult at present.

4.3.2 The two sherds (6g) of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery from tree throw **2900** (Trench 29) may well have been residual elements incorporated into the fill of this feature. However, the evidence of heat affected natural and charcoal implies that this tree was subject to burning and the pottery many have been associated with this isolated activity.

Medieval – modern (c. AD 1150 to c. 1800)

4.3.3 The pottery and CBM assemblages recovered mainly from ditches in the western and central fields comprised mostly small amounts from individual features, suggesting that the early medieval finds may represent residual inclusions in later features. This means that it is difficult to ascribe a precise date for the possible field system, enclosure and trackway ditches revealed in these areas, beyond noting that several (in Trenches 7, 8, 19 and 20) were still in use by the time of the 1837 Fordham Parish Tithe map (Fig. 4), belonging to the field boundary system depicted on the map.

4.3.4 The two parallel ditches in Trench 4 (**400**, **410**) may have belonged to a somewhat narrow trackway. The fact that these ditches do not appear on the Tithe map and that one of them produced early medieval pottery may indicate an earlier phase of medieval agricultural activity. The same can probably be said for the ditches and possible beamslot in Trench 3, as well as the putative enclosure ditch aligned through Trenches 3, 4, 7 and 8 - although post-medieval CBM was recovered from ditch **800** in

Trench 8. The putative enclosure ditch was comprised of ditches aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and north-north-west to south-south-east, all with similar steep sides and generally flat bases. This similarity in profile, combined with medieval to post-medieval dating evidence in the ditch fills, does suggest an association although the extrapolation of an enclosure may be incorrect. No other finds, for example animal bone, were found in sufficient quantities to suggest a possible function for this enclosure.

4.3.5 The ditches in Trenches 19 and 20 in the central field clearly relate to boundaries recorded on the Tithe map, and the recovery of medieval to post-medieval pottery and CBM from these features further confirms this suggestion.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy clay. This trench was moved 5m to the east to avoid a water pipe connection.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised 3 post holes.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Cut	0.42	0.26	Post hole		
201	Fill		0.26	Fill		
202	Cut	0.3	0.26	Post hole		
203	Fill		0.26	Fill		
204	Cut	0.35	0.25	Post hole		
205	Fill		0.25	Fill	12x Late Neolithic pottery, 2x fired clay	Late Neolithic

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised two ditches (1x E-W, 1x NE-SW) and one possible beamslot (N-S).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Cut	0.64	0.34	Ditch		
301	Fill		0.34	Fill	2x early medieval pottery, 1x burnt stone	medieval
302	Cut	0.28	0.03	Beamslot		
303	Fill		0.03	Fill		
304	Cut	0.35	0.03	Beamslot		
305	Fill		0.03	Fill		
306	Cut	1.5	0.34	Ditch		
307	Fill		0.34	Fill	2x medieval tile	medieval

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised two ditches (NE-SW) and two possible post holes.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Cut	1.38	0.22	Ditch		
401	Fill		0.22	Fill	2x early medieval pottery	medieval
402	Cut	0.46	0.15	Ditch		
403	Fill		0.15	Fill		
404	Cut	0.3	0.17	Ditch		
405	Fill		0.17	Fill		
406	Cut	0.24	0.11	Post hole		
407	Fill		0.11	Fill		
408	Cut	0.4	0.14	Post hole		
409	Fill		0.14	Fill		
410	Cut	1.15	0.15	Ditch		
411	Fill		0.15	Fill		

Trench 5		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Trench 6		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.25m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	3
	Avg. depth (m)	0.55

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.35m) and subsoil (0.15m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised two ditches (NW-SE).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Cut	1.5	0.64	Ditch		
701	Fill		0.24	Fill		
702	Fill		0.4	Fill	1x clay tobacco pipe	

Trench 7						
703	Cut	1.2	0.36	Ditch		
704	Fill		0.36	Fill		

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.25m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised three ditches (NNW-SSE).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Cut	2.86	0.46	Ditch		
801	Fill		0.46	Fill	2x post-medieval CBM	Post-medieval
802	Cut	0.64	0.28	Ditch		
803	Fill		0.28	Fill		
804	Cut	1.22	0.74	Ditch		
805	Fill		0.74	Fill	1x fragment nail, 1x C.19th glass, 5x post-medieval CBM, 1x clay tobacco pipe, 1x cattle mandible	Modern

Trench 9		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.15m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present (Plate 4).	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Trench 10		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Trench 11		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present. Trench shortened by 2m from the south to avoid trees.	**Length (m)**	28
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Trench 12		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay with frequent stone and flint inclusions. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Trench 13						
General description			**Orientation**		N-S	
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.15m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay with frequent stone and flint inclusions. The archaeology comprised one pit.			**Length (m)**		30	
			Width (m)		2	
			Avg. depth (m)		0.45	
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1300	Cut	0.52	0.1	Pit		
1301	Fill		0.1	Fill		

Trench 14		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay with frequent stone and flint inclusions. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Trench 15		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.15m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay with frequent stone and flint inclusions. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Trench 16		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.35m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay with frequent stone and flint inclusions. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.55

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised two ditches (1x NE-SW, 1x E-W) and one pit.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Cut	1.02	0.16	Ditch		
1701	Fill		0.16	Fill		
1702	Cut	0.7	0.2	Ditch		

Trench 17						
1703	Fill		0.2	Fill		
1704	Cut	0.28	0.1	Pit		
1705	Fill			Fill		

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.15m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised one ditch (NW-SE), two pits and one post hole.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1800	Cut	0.94	0.18	Ditch		
1801	Fill		0.18	Fill		
1802	Cut	0.5	0.08	Pit		
1803	Fill		0.08	Fill		
1804	Cut	0.52	0.08	Pit		
1805	Fill		0.08	Fill	2x unidentified iron fragments, 1x late medieval to post-medieval tile	Post-medieval
1806	Cut	0.24	0.06	Post hole		
1807	Fill		0.06	Fill		

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised one ditch (N-S).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1900	Cut	1.88	0.5	Ditch		
1901	Fill		0.5	Fill	1x post-medieval pottery, 4x post-medieval tile, 1x fired clay	Post-medieval

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised one ditch (E-W).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2000	Cut	1.4	0.66	Ditch		
2001	Fill		0.66	Fill	2x fragments iron blade, 2x medieval to post-medieval CBM	Post-medieval

Trench 21		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Trench 22		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Trench 23		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Trench 24		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.4m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. Two possible features were investigated and found to be tree throws.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.7

Trench 25		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Trench 26		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Trench 27		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.35m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.55

Trench 28		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.35m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Trench 29						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised two tree throws with evidence of burning.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2900	Cut	0.71	0.4	Tree Throw		
2901	Fill		0.4	Fill	1x unworked burnt flint, 2x (6g) prehistoric pottery	Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age
2902	Cut	0.8	0.03	Tree Throw		
2903	Fill		0.03	Fill		

Trench 30		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Trench 31						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. The archaeology comprised two ditches (E-W).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3100	Cut	1.87	0.46	Ditch		
3101	Fill		0.46	Fill	1x medieval tile	medieval
3102	Cut	0.94	0.47	Ditch		
3103	Fill		0.47	Fill		

Trench 32		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Trench 33		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present (Plate 8).	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Trench 34		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.35m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Trench 35		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Trench 36		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present. Southern end moved to west by 2m at request of ecologist.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Trench 37		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Trench 38		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of sandy/silty clay. No archaeology present. Shortened by 2m from eastern end at request of ecologist.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.1.1 The evaluation produced five encrusted iron (Fe) objects or fragments of objects, which were recovered from Trenches 8, 18 and 20. The functional categories used are defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988: Category 4 household utensils and furniture, Category 11 fastening and fittings and Category 18 objects the function or identification of which is unknown or uncertain. The finds are recorded in the text.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.1.2 *Category 4 household utensils and furniture*: SF 2 was recovered from ditch **2000** (fill 2001) in Trench 20. It is an incomplete object, heavily encrusted with silty soil, with an old break at one end and more recent damage at the other, revealing a section through what appears to be a straight-backed blade, V-shaped in section and heavily corroded.

B.1.3 The surviving blade section is 94mm long, 30mm deep from spine to ?cutting edge, possibly tapering to 24mm, although the damage to the object makes this unclear. The spine is 6mm and 2mm at the surviving edge, however, the actual thickness of the cutting edge (if present) is uncertain. A second iron fragment may be part of the same knife.

B.1.4 *Category 11 fastening and fittings*: From Ditch **804** (fill 805) in Trench 8, a heavily soil encrusted, incomplete iron object 33.5mm long was recovered, with a modern break at one end that revealed a rectangular shank 7.8 x 7.4mm. The object is almost certainly a hand wrought iron nail and, although the nail cannot be closely dated, the ditch also produced 19th century vessel glass and clay tobacco pipe, suggesting the nail may be of a similar date.

B.1.5 *Category 18 objects the function or identification of which is unknown or uncertain*: Pit **1804** (1805) in Trench 18 produced two Fe objects recorded as a small find (SF 1) of which the first initially looked like the butt of a utensil handle, although this first impression is unlikely, due to the thinness of the object. The incomplete object is soil encrusted and in poor flaking condition, 54mm long, with a rounded end 29mm wide, tapering to 14mm at the more obviously broken end and approximately 2mm thick along its length.

B.1.6 The second object is heavily encrusted with soil, irregular, rusted and flaking, the object is incomplete, somewhat sub-rectangular, 50 x 35 and 2mm thick. It is curved as if part of a pipe or handle.

Discussion

B.1.7 The material is in poor condition and was recovered mainly alongside post-medieval finds including ceramic building material. The single-edged knife blade (SF 2) was recovered alongside late medieval to post-medieval ceramic building material and it is

likely to be of a similar or later date, perhaps lost during agricultural or arboricultural works. The single nail from ditch **804** is not closely datable and hand-forged nails are a long-lived form. Its usage is uncertain, although most nails were used in constructing wooden structures or objects. The Category 18 objects are not significant and do not aid the interpretation of the site.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.1.8 The metalwork assemblage is fragmentary and, should further work be undertaken, additional objects may be recovered. If further work is undertaken, the metalwork report should be incorporated into any later archive. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the metalwork with perhaps the exception of the probable knife blade SF2, may be considered for deselection prior to archival deposition.

B.2 Flint

By Carole Fletcher

B.2.1 A single, unworked burnt and fractured flint (8g) was recovered from tree throw **2900** in Trench 29 (fill 2901). This flint was recovered alongside two sherds of flint-tempered Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery (see Appendix B.4).

B.3 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.3.1 A fragment of glass was recovered from Trench 8. The glass was scanned and recorded by form, colour, count, and weight, dated where possible and recorded in the text.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.3.2 A curved fragment of dark olive green vessel glass (10g) was recovered from ditch **804** in Trench 8 (fill 805). The sub-rectangular fragment is curved, and there are a few small bubbles within the glass, with some weathering to the outer surface and a slight unevenness where it was in contact with the mould. The glass is 3-5mm thick. The shard is from a cylindrical bottle, is very probably 19th century or later and is not significant.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.3.3 If further work is undertaken, the glass report should be incorporated into any later archive. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record. In either case, the glass may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

B.4 Prehistoric Pottery

By Nick Gilmour

Introduction

B.4.1 The evaluation yielded 14 sherds (56g) of prehistoric pottery, with a low mean sherd weight (MSW) of 4g. The pottery was recovered from two contexts; fill 205 of post hole **204** (Trench 2) and fill 2901 of tree throw **2900** (Trench 29).

B.4.2 The pottery likely dates from the Late Neolithic and Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. It does not include any feature sherds and has been dated by fabrics typically associated with ceramic traditions in the region.

B.4.3 The pottery is in moderate to poor condition. Most sherds are small and abraded, as reflected by the low MSW.

Methodology

B.4.4 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2011). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd type was recorded, along with evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim, shoulder and/or other diagnostic features, the vessel was categorised by ceramic tradition (Collared Urn, Deverel-Rimbury *etc*.)

B.4.5 All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis (Table 1). Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (12 sherds); sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' (two sherds), and sherds over 8cm in diameter will be classified as 'large' (none). The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held with the site archive.

Prehistoric pottery fabrics

G1: Moderate coarse grog (mainly <3mm in size). Clay matrix includes micaceous sand.

F1: Sparce fine flint in a micaceous sandy clay matrix

Fabric	Fabric group	No. sherds	Weight (g)	% fabric (by wt.)	MNV
G1	Grog	12	50	89.3	1
F1	Flint	2	6	10.7	1
TOTAL	-	*14*	*56*	*100.0*	*2*

Table 1: Quantification of prehistoric pottery by fabric

Pottery from Trench 2

B.4.6 The pottery (12 sherds, 50g) recovered from Trench 2 all came from fill 205 of post hole **204**. All this pottery was in fabric G1 and only undecorated body sherds are present. Where the thickness of the vessel walls could be measured it is between 10mm and 11mm. As all of the sherds were recovered from the same feature, are in the same fabric, the external colour (orangey-brown) and internal colour (dark black/brown) are all the same, it is likely they are from a single vessel. This pottery is likely to be of Late Neolithic date. It is in a fabric which is very similar to much of the Grooved Ware pottery from Gilden Way, Harlow (Gilmour 2020).

B.4.7 However, the lack of feature sherds makes this date tentative. Grog tempered fabrics are quite common in Deverel-Rimbury pottery of north-east Essex, particularly among vessels of Ardleigh style (Brown 1995) and so the possibility of a Middle Bronze Age date cannot be ruled out. More generally it is unusual to find Late Neolithic pottery in a posthole.

Pottery from Trench 29

B.4.8 Just two sherds (6g) of pottery in fabric F1 was recovered from fill 2901 of tree throw **2900**. Both of these sherds are small and neither has any features to allow close dating. Both sherds are from vessels with walls 7mm thick and have been quite finely finished on the exterior surface. It is like that both sherds are from the same vessel. The fabric and external surface of these sherds is characteristic of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age ceramics in this region.

Discussion

B.4.9 The small assemblage of prehistoric pottery from this site does not contain any feature sherds to allow detailed comparison to other local sites. However, the pottery does provide evidence for prehistoric activity on the site or in the near vicinity.

B.5 Medieval & post-medieval pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.5.1 A total of five sherds (26g) were recovered from ditches in Trenches 3, 4 and 19. The assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded and represents a background scatter of medieval material across the site.

Methodology

B.5.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards. Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric

classification has been carried out for all previously described types using Essex fabric types (Cotter 2000), based on those of Cunningham (1985). All sherds have been counted, classified, and weighed on a context-by-context basis and recorded in the text of this report. The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.5.3 Trench 3, ditch **300** (fill 301), produced two undiagnostic sherds of pottery, one body sherd (10g) and one possible base sherd (6g), from two separate early medieval sandy ware (Fabric 13) vessels.

B.5.4 Ditch **400** (fill 401) in Trench 4 also produced two sherds of early medieval sandy ware (Fabric 13). These two abraded, slightly externally sooted, joining body sherds weigh 3g and are not reliable precisely dating for the feature.

B.5.5 The final sherd was recovered from ditch **1900** (fill 1901) in Trench 19, a moderately abraded sherd in a hard fired, smooth relatively fine, unglazed orange-red fabric. The sherd (7g) is from the neck-body join of what has tentatively been identified as an imported Martincamp flask, type III (Fabric 43), common in the 17th century (Cotter 2000 264).

B.5.6 The assemblage is fragmentary and represents low levels of pottery distribution. If the area was woodland during at least part of the medieval period, the pottery may relate to temporary occupation by, for example, charcoal burners or squatters. However, the paucity of pottery suggests any early medieval or medieval settlement is not close by. The sherd from the 17th century Martincamp flask may relate to the farmhouse constructed on the site of the later Fiddlers Farm (see 1.3.9).

Retention, dispersal or display

B.5.7 If further work is undertaken, the pottery should be incorporated into any later catalogue. Further work is likely to produce additional early medieval and later pottery, however, the sherds are likely to be sparsely distributed. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the sherds may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

B.6 Ceramic Building Material & Fired Clay

By Carole Fletcher

B.6.1 A fragmentary assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), consisting mostly of tile fragments and partial bricks (1.061kg), was recovered from Trenches 3, 8, 18, 19, 20 and 31, mostly from ditches. A very small amount of fired clay (6g) was also recovered from Trench 2. The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded where this was identifiable. Fabric is noted and dating is necessarily broad. Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. The results are recorded in the text. Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group *Ceramic Building Material, Minimum Standards for Recovery,*

Curation, Analysis and Publication (2002) forms the basis for recording, Ryan (1996), Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification. The CBM and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.6.2 Trench 2, post hole **204** (fill 205), produced two small, irregular and undiagnostic fragments of fired clay (6g) in a silty orange-red fabric with paler swirls and some reduced areas. The material is not closely datable.

B.6.3 Trench 3, ditch **306** (fill 307), produced two refitting fragments (55g) of thin (9-10mm thick), uneven medieval flat tile, in a silty but coarse quartz-tempered fabric, with dull red-orange surfaces and margins, and a mid-grey core. Ditch **306** is a continuation of ditch **400** (see 3.5.8), which produced sherds of early medieval sandy ware (Fabric 13).

B.6.4 Trench 8, ditch **800** (fill 801), which may also be the continuation of **306**=**400**, also produced CBM, an undiagnostic irregular fragment of dull red-orange, quartz-tempered fabric with occasional darker inclusions (41g). A partial unsanded, slightly overfired surface survives, giving it a glazed appearance in part; the fragment may be late 17th to early 18th century. Also present is a small irregular fragment of dull brick red quartz tempered CBM (1g).

B.6.5 Ditch **804** (fill 805) produced a single (2g) undiagnostic fragment of orange-red quartz-tempered fired clay that is probably an abraded and weathered fragment of brick. This context also produced four fragments from a single brick (649g). The fully oxidised dull red-brown fabric is hard fired and quartz-tempered, with the occasional pebble. The brick is handmade, unfrogged, with drag marks on the bed, while the upper is worn somewhat smooth, as if used as a floor brick rather than a wall brick. Slightly rounded arrises survive, as do part of the stretcher and the full header face. The brick's dimensions are 98mm wide, 45mm tall. Late 17th to early 18th century.

B.6.6 Trench 18, pit **1804** (1805), produced a single triangular fragment of flat tile (11mm thick, 9g) in a bright orange-red quartz-tempered fabric. The fragment is very probably late medieval to post-medieval.

B.6.7 Trench 19, ditch **1900** (fill 1901), produced four refitting fragments from a single post-medieval flat tile (99g) 11mm thick, in an orange-red fabric with a heavily sanded base. Also present is an abraded quartz-tempered irregular fragment of fired clay that may originally have been part of a brick (4g).

B.6.8 Ditch **2000** (fill 2001) in Trench 20 also appears to align with a boundary on the 1837 tithe map (see 3.14.1), however, the CBM it produced is of slightly varying dates. A single sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile (12mm thick, 58g), is hard fired with an originally sanded base, orange-red surfaces and margins, and a mid grey core. The tile is very late medieval to post-medieval. The second fragment of flat tile in a dull orange-red quartz tempered fabric (115g, 15mm thick), hard fired with a sanded base; the tile is probably post-medieval.

B.6.9 Ditch **3100** (fill 3101), in Trench 31 produced the last fragment of CBM, a sub-rectangular fragment (0.034kg) of uneven flat tile (11-13mm thick) very similar to,

although with an oxidised core not as abraded as, the tile in ditch **306**. Again, the tile may be medieval.

B.6.10 The assemblage is plain and fragmentary and, although a small amount of possibly medieval CBM has been recovered, it is all abraded and represents a background scatter of reworked material, as found on many rural sites. However, it does indicate that, if further work is undertaken, additional CBM is likely to be produced, although only at low levels.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.6.11 Should further work be undertaken, the CBM report should be incorporated into any later report. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

B.7 Clay Tobacco Pipe

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

B.7.1 During the evaluation, two fragments of white ball clay tobacco pipe were recovered from Trenches 7 and 8. Simplified recording only has been undertaken, with basic description and weight recorded in the text. Terminology used in this report is taken from Oswald's simplified general typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41), and Crummy and Hind (Crummy 1988, 47-66).

Assemblage and Discussion

B.7.2 Environmental sample 4, taken from fill 702 of ditch **700**, in Trench 7, produced a somewhat abraded length of clay tobacco pipe stem (3g), slightly curved and slightly oval, approximately 7.3 x 6.5mm and 40mm in length, with trimmed mould seams and a relatively central small diameter bore.

B.7.3 Ditch **804** (fill 805) in Trench 8 also produced a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem (5g). The stem is slightly teardrop shaped (64mm long) with a larger bore than that of the fragment from Trench 7 and with a more off-centre placement of the bore at one end, more centrally placed at the thicker, more circular end of the stem (7.4 x 6.7mm to 8mm). The stem has well-trimmed mould seams and slight external burning.

B.7.4 The fragments of clay tobacco pipe recovered represent what are, most likely, casually discarded pipes and does little, other than to indicate the consumption of tobacco on, or near, the site. Ditch **700** and ditch **804** appear to be part of the same boundary recorded on the 1837 Fordham Parish Tithe map (see 3.8.2 and 3.9.4), suggesting the pipes may be 19th century. The vessel glass recovered from ditch **804** is also very probably 19th century.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.7.5 The assemblage is fragmentary and is of little significance. Should further work be undertaken, the clay tobacco pipe stem should be incorporated into any later catalogue. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the clay tobacco pipe stem may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

B.8 Burnt stone

By Carole Fletcher

B.8.1 From Trench 3, a single irregular to sub-rectangular fragment of weathered, heat affected or burnt, unworked, slightly micaceous sandstone was recovered from ditch **300** (fill 301), which also produced early medieval pottery. The stone (271g, 95 x 65 x 25mm) is rounded at one end, with a more recent break at the other, and has split and broken along the various bedding planes within the rock. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the stone may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area north of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green, Colchester, Essex. These samples were taken in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from a variety of features encountered within Trenches 2, 3, 7, 8, 13 and 17 from deposits that are thought to range in date from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume (up to 16L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.1.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and OA East's reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

C.1.4 The finds recovered from the samples were distributed to the relevant specialists for analysis.

Quantification

C.1.5 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

C.1.6 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Results

C.1.7 Preservation of plant remains from this site was through carbonisation (charring) and was quite poor.

C.1.8 Sample 4, fill 702 of ditch **700** (Trench 7) was the only sample from the site that contained plant remains other than charcoal. This sample contained two rachis fragments, which have morphological traits suggestive of free-threshing wheat (c.f *Triticum aestivum/turgidum).*

C.1.9 The samples are quite variable in terms of their charcoal content. The largest quantity of charcoal, 81ml, was recovered from Sample 1, fill 205 of post hole **204** (Trench 2).

C.1.10 The samples are either devoid of or contain only small quantities of relatively well-preserved molluscs.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Chaff	Molluscs	Charcoal Volume (ml)	Pottery	Slag	Clay Pipe
2	1	205	**204**	Posthole	12	5	0	0	81	#	0	0
3	2	307	**306**	Ditch	16	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	4	702	**700**	Ditch	16	20	#	+	40	0	##	#
7	5	704	**703**	Ditch	16	20	0	+	0	0	0	0
8	3	801	**800**	Ditch	16	20	0	0	1	0	0	0
13	7	1301	**1300**	Pit	8	20	0	0	15	0	0	0
17	6	1701	**1700**	Ditch	16	30	0	+	45	0	0	0

Table 2: Environmental samples

Discussion

C.1.11 The relatively large quantities of charcoal and small quantities of charred free-threshing wheat chaff recovered from the samples indicates that there is some potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site.

C.1.12 Unfortunately, due to the scarcity of plant remains other than charcoal, little can be inferred regarding the plant use at this site. Free-threshing wheat is most commonly cultivated from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards (Banham and Faith 2014) but is not unknown from earlier dates in England. Free-threshing wheat has the benefit of requiring less processing than hulled wheat varieties. It is also possible that these rachis are modern intrusions from stubble burning. The samples do contain a lot of rootlets which could have caused the movement of material between contexts.

C.1.13 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-406923
Project Name	Land north of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green, Colchester

Start of Fieldwork	02/11/2020	End of Fieldwork	13/11/2020
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECC4569	Planning App. No.	171529
HER Number	ECC4569	Related Numbers	

Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework
Development Type	Urban residential
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☒	Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐	Grab-sampling	☐	Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐	Aerial Photography - new	☐	Gravity-core	☒	Sample Trenches
☒	Annotated Sketch	☐	Laser Scanning	☐	Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐	Augering	☒	Measured Survey	☒	Targeted Trenches
☐	Dendrochonological Survey	☒	Metal Detectors	☐	Test Pits
☒	Documentary Search	☐	Phosphate Survey	☐	Topographic Survey
☒	Environmental Sampling	☐	Photogrammetric Survey	☐	Vibro-core
☐	Fieldwalking	☐	Photographic Survey	☒	Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☒	Geophysical Survey	☐	Rectified Photography		

Monument	Period
Post holes	Late Prehistoric (- 4000 to 43)
Ditch	Late Prehistoric (- 4000 to 43)
Pit	Late Prehistoric (- 4000 to 43)
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)
Beamslot	Roman (43 to 410)
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Object	Period
Pottery	Late Prehistoric (- 4000 to 43)
Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Fe blade	Uncertain
Clay tobacco pipe	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Essex
District	Colchester
Parish	Eight Ash Green
HER office	Colchester Borough Council
Size of Study Area	8.1ha
National Grid Ref	TL 93255 26418

Address (including Postcode)

Halstead Road,
Eight Ash Green,
Colchester,
CO3 9TU

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Colchester Borough Council
Project Design Originator	RPS Group
Project Manager	Pat Moan (OA East)
Project Supervisor	Neal Mason (OA East)

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Colchester Museum	ECC4569
Digital Archive	ADS	XEXEAG20
Paper Archive	Colchester Museum	ECC4569

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☒
Ceramics	☒	☒	☒
Environmental	☒	☒	☒
Glass	☒	☒	☒
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☒	☒
Stratigraphic		☒	☒
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☒	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☒

Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
Survey	☒	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
		Plans	☐
		Report	☒
		Sections	☒
		Survey	☐

Further Comments

Accession number to be acquired from Colchester Museum

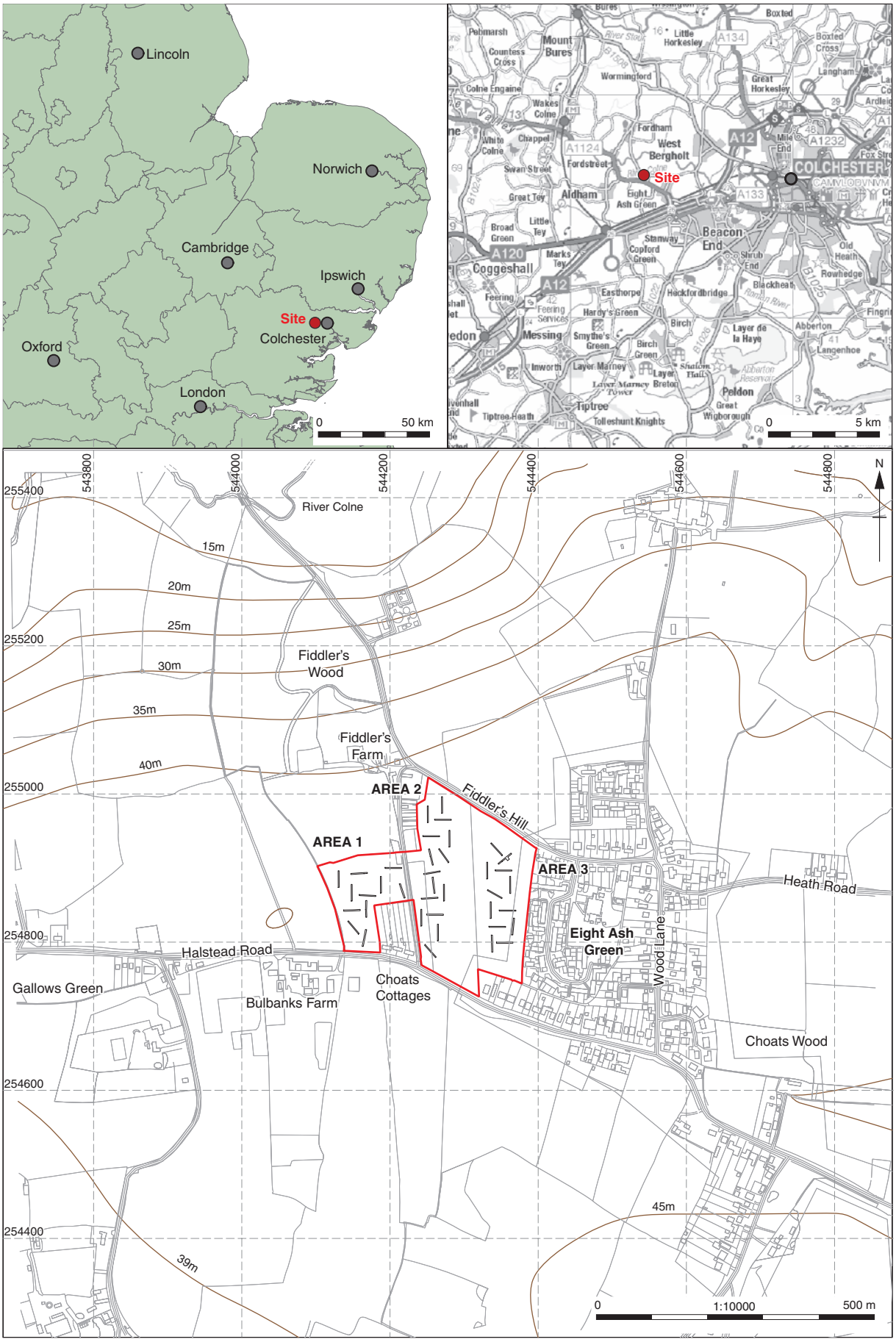

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

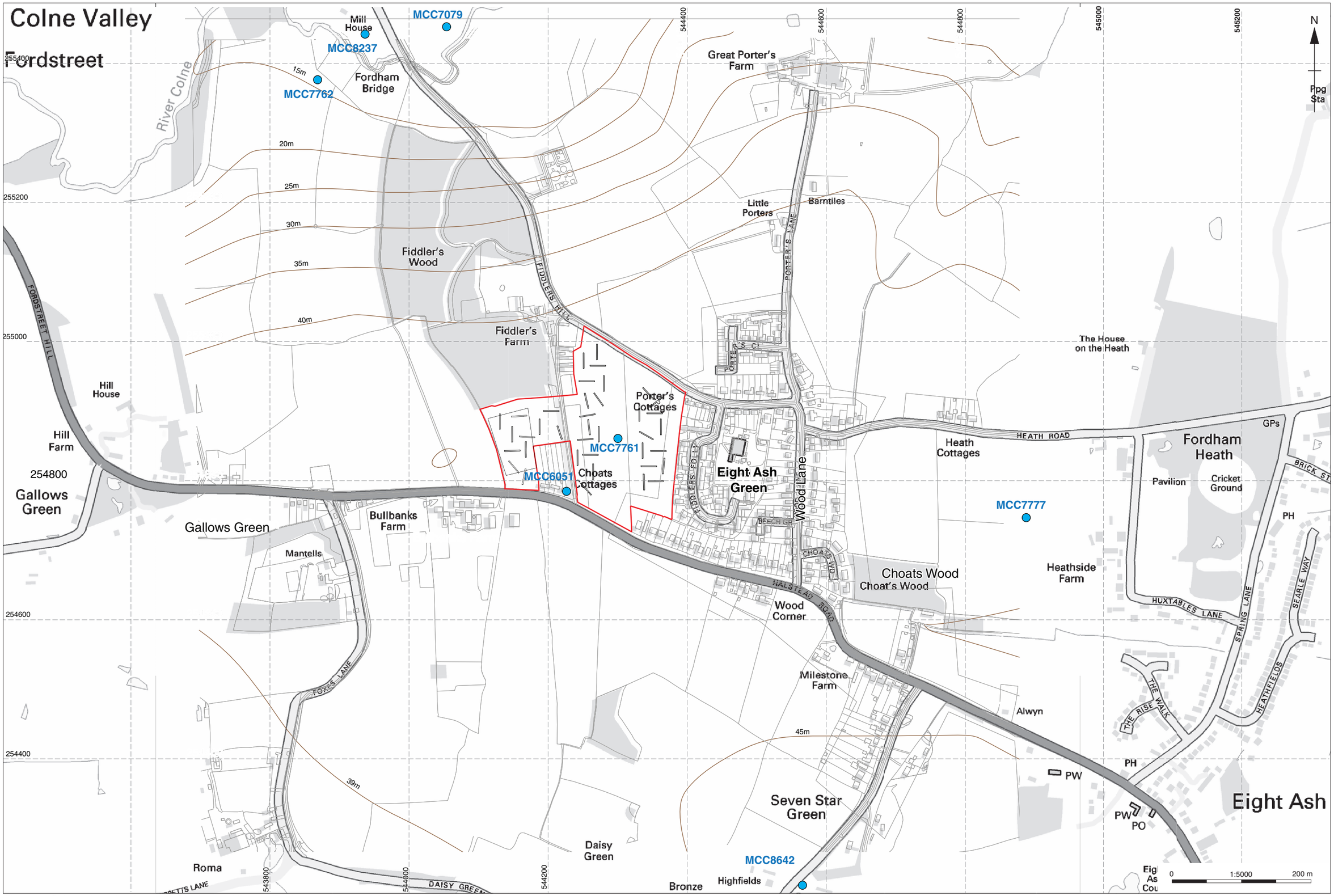

Figure 2 Selected entries from the Colchester Historic Environment Record (blue) (after Gailey 2017)

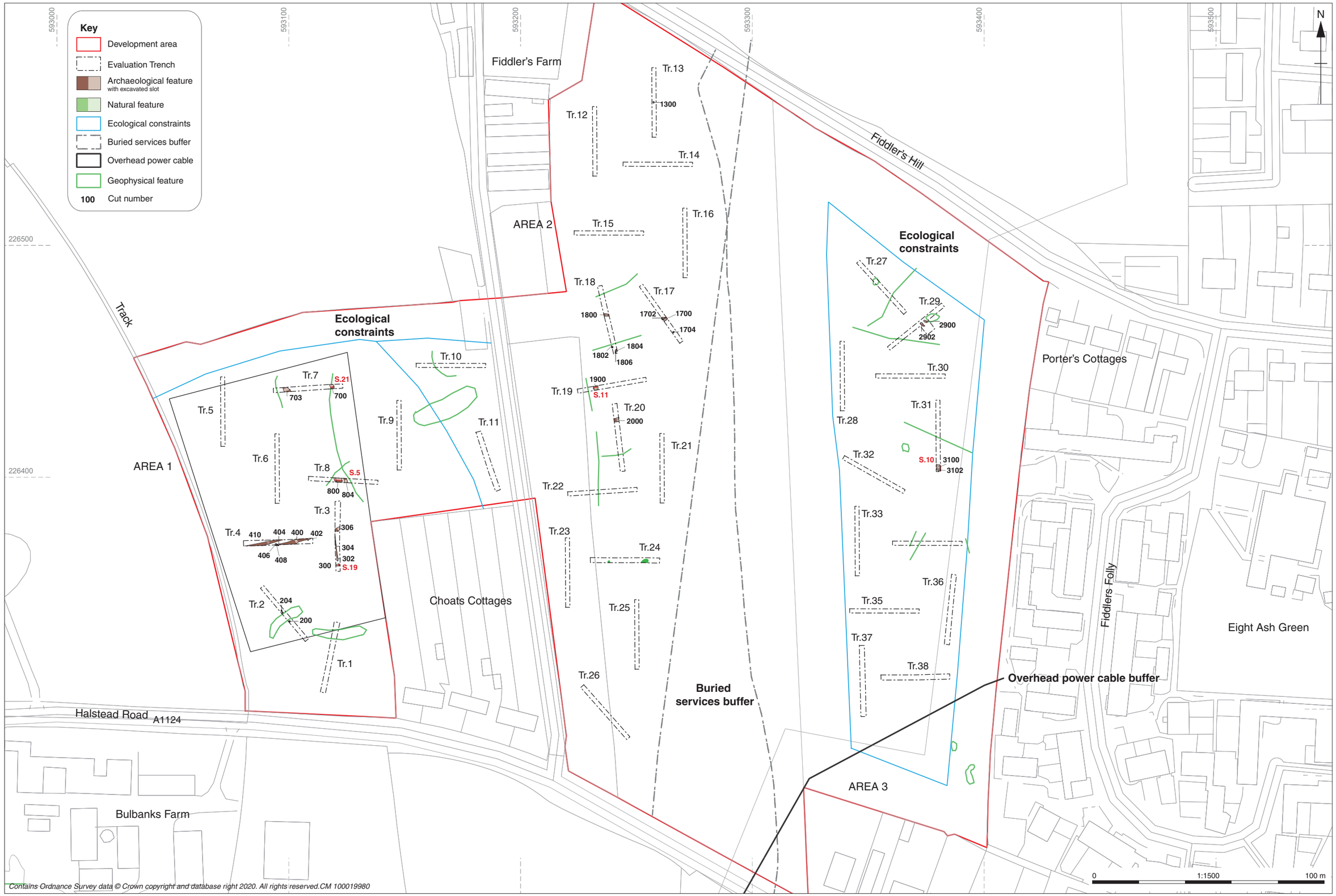

Figure 3: Interpretation of the results of the geophysical survey (after RPS 2019)

Figure 4: 1837 Fordham Parish Tithe Map (after CgMs 2017)

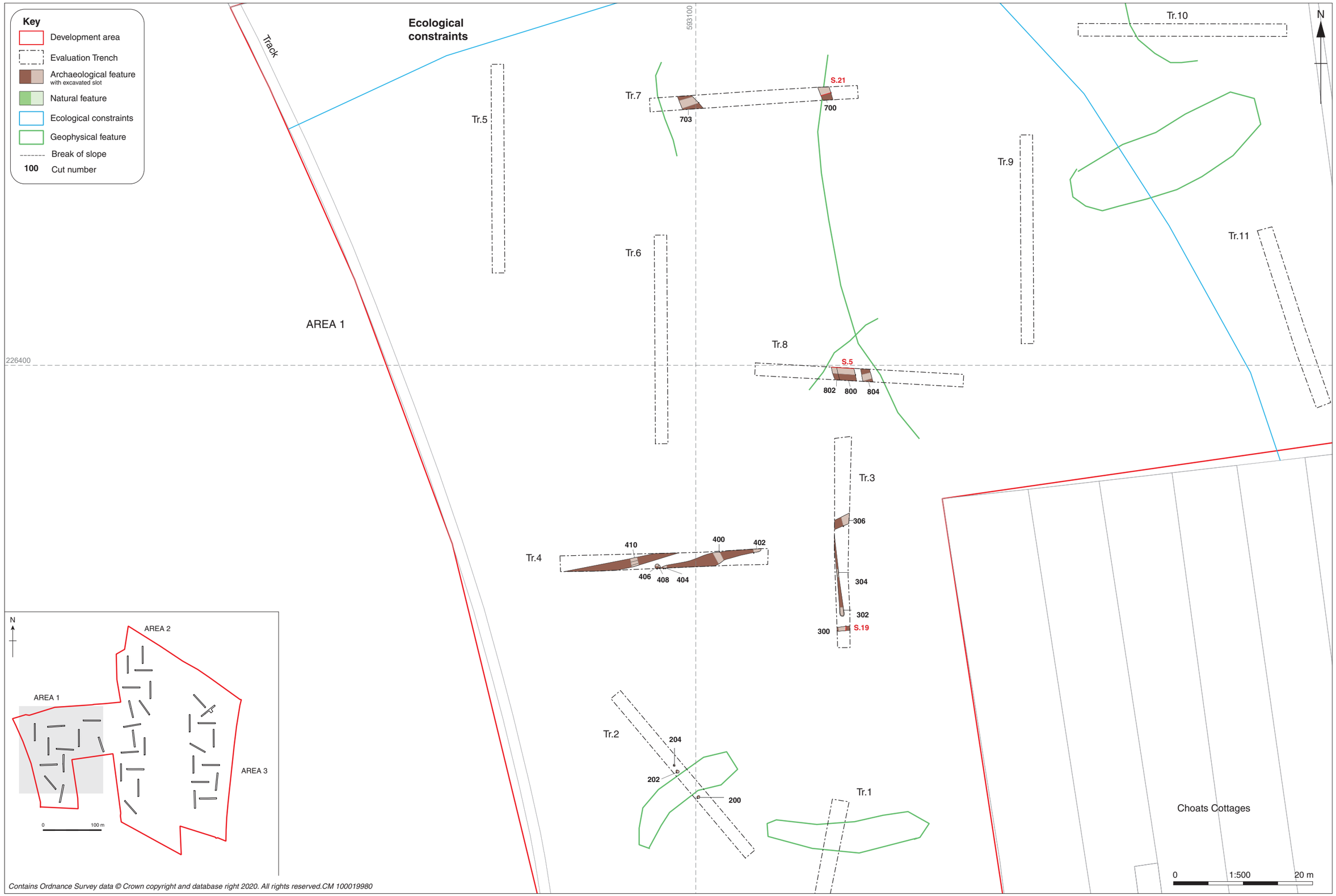

Figure 5a: Detail of western field trenches

Key
- Development area
- Evaluation Trench
- Archaeological feature with excavated slot
- Natural feature
- Ecological constraints
- Buried services buffer
- Geophysical feature

593200

593300

N

Tr.18

Tr.17

1800

1702

1700

1704

1802

1804

1806

Tr.13

1300

0 1:500 20 m

Tr.10

1900

S.11

Tr.19

Tr.20

2000

Tr.11

Tr.21

Ecological constraints

226400

Tr.22

Buried services buffer

Choats Cottages

Tr.23

Tr.24

0 1:500 20 m

AREA 2

Tr.13

AREA 1

AREA 3

0 100 m

Figure 5b Detail of central field trenches

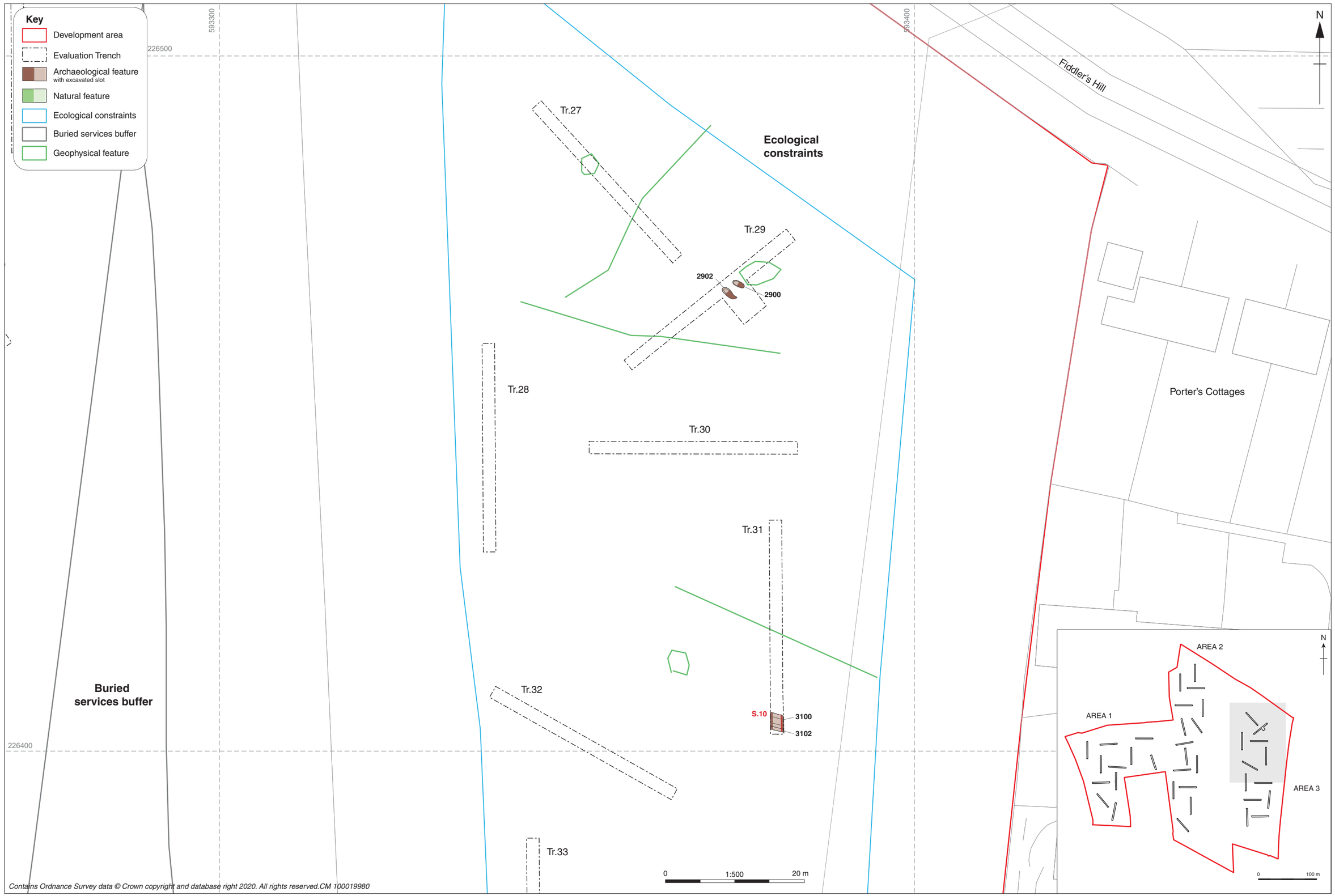

Figure 5c Detail of eastern field trenches

Figure 6 Intrepretation

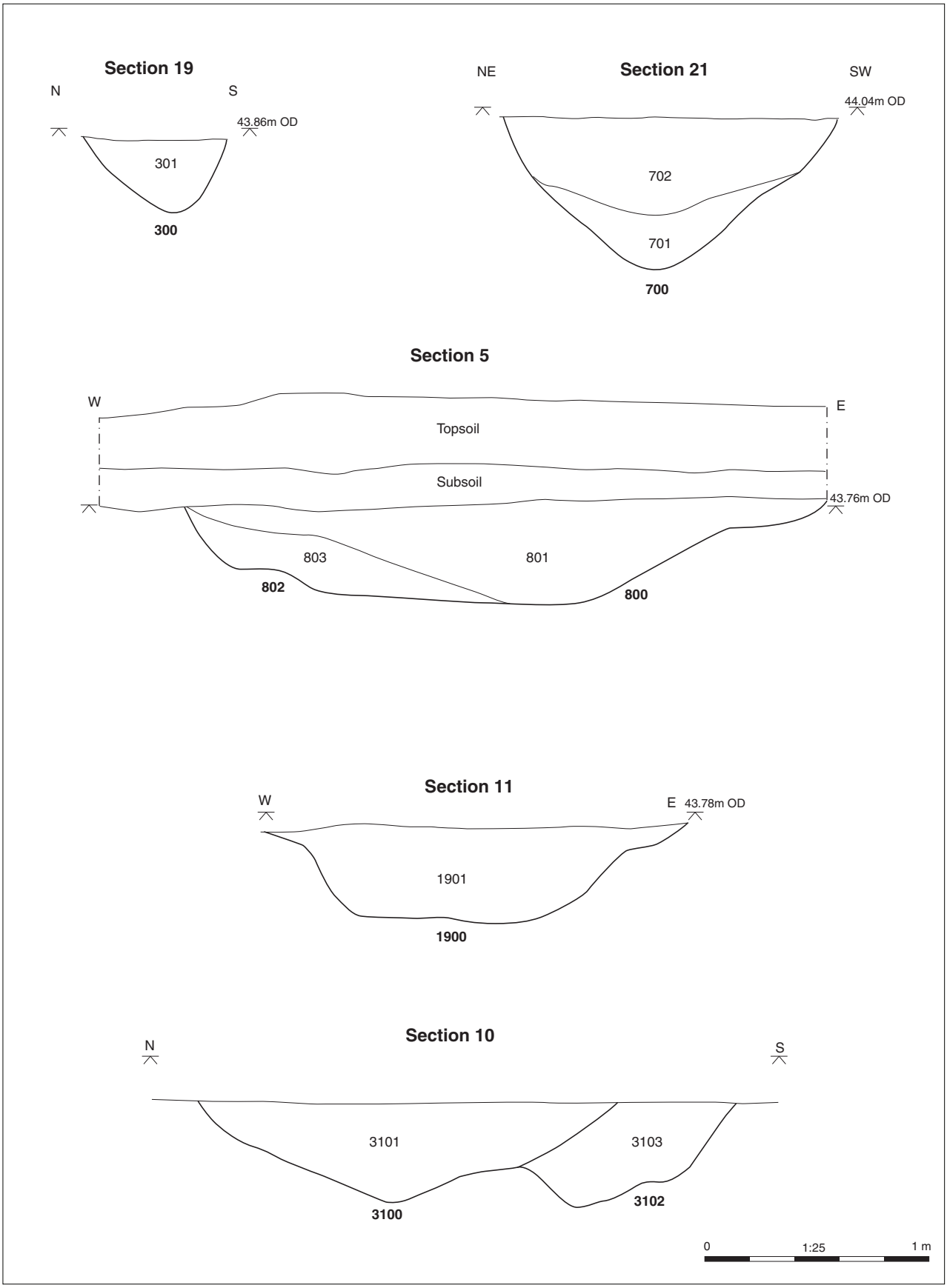

Figure 7: Selected sections

Plate 1: Trench 2 post-hole **204,** looking north

Plate 2: Trench 3 possible beam slot **302**, looking north

Plate 3: Trench 4, ditch **400**, looking north-east

Plate 4: Trench 9, no archaeological features present, looking north

Plate 5: Trench 17, ditches **1700** and **1702**, looking north

Plate 6: Trench 20, ditch **2000**, looking north

Plate 7: Trench 29, tree throws **2900** and **2902**, looking east

Plate 8: Trench 33, no archaeological features present, looking south

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