

**LAND ADJACENT TO ELMSTEAD ROAD AND BOUNDARY ROAD,  
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX  
COLCHESTER  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



**Essex County Council**

***Field Archaeology Unit***

**March 2004**

# LAND ADJACENT TO ELMSTEAD ROAD AND BOUNDARY ROAD

## UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

### COLCHESTER

### ESSEX

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**LAND ADJACENT TO ELMSTEAD ROAD AND BOUNDARY ROAD,  
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX,  
COLCHESTER, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Client: Northcroft

NGR: TM 0242 2424

Site Code: COLEM.2004.79

Date of Fieldwork: 2 February to 23 February 2004

**SUMMARY**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on land proposed as the southern extension to the University of Essex Research Park. The evaluation consisted of 26 machine-excavated trenches and two hand-dug trenches located across the two fields of the development area. Investigation within the eastern field revealed a number of Late Iron Age and Roman ditches and post-holes centred upon four trenches (21, 23, 24 and 25). These features date to the first half of the 1st century AD and were perhaps associated with agricultural activity on the west facing valley slope. Residual Bronze Age pottery and Neolithic worked flint were recovered, suggesting earlier prehistoric activity in the area. A scatter of undated features and a modern field boundary were also recorded.*

*In the western field, work in Trench 27 confirmed that one of the low-lying barrow features (also visible as a ring-ditch on aerial photographs) is man-made. However, the excavated evidence is ambiguous as to the date and function of the mound. Artefacts recovered from the mound interior and surrounding ring-ditch deposits may tentatively infer an Iron Age, Roman or later date. But this material may be the product of secondary use of an existing monument. On typological grounds, the mound, and by inference the further three known mounds and ring-ditches in close proximity, is more likely to be a Bronze Age barrow (burial mound). Despite this ambiguity, the evaluation has clarified that the surviving mounds and associated ring ditches are clearly not recent in origin – as has been hitherto suggested.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)**

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation on land proposed for development as the southern extension to the University Research Park. The work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Northcroft, in accordance with an archaeological brief prepared by Martin Winter of Colchester Borough Museums Service, who monitored the work. The site archive will be deposited at Colchester Museum.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)**

### **2.1 Topography and Geology**

The proposed southern extension of the Research Park lies within the campus of the University of Essex at Wivenhoe Park, 2.5km east of the Roman town of Colchester. The development area is bounded by Elmstead Road to the north, Boundary Road to the east and the Salary Brook to the west. This area is divided into two fields separated by a hedge and ditch. The eastern field comprises undulating grassland which slopes downwards to the water course (from 10m to less than 4m above sea level), east to west. The lower-lying western field comprises flat grassland (c. 2m above sea level) located on the floodplain of the river Colne. This field was extremely wet at the time of the fieldwork, with areas of standing water interspersed by drainage channels. The underlying geology consists of alluvial clay in the low-lying floodplain and mixed glacial deposits of sand, gravel and clay on the higher valley sides.

### **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The following archaeological background uses the Essex Heritage Conservation Record (EHCR) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

No archaeological artefacts have previously been recovered from the development area, but there are three upstanding mounds located adjacent to the railway line in the west of the area. The highest and best surviving of these mounds, until recently, had an electricity pylon erected upon it. These mounds and several near-by ring ditches identified from aerial photographs are believed to represent evidence of funerary monuments of prehistoric date (EHCR 2413).

Cropmarks of unknown date have been identified in the field to the south of the development area (EHCR 2419) and Elmstead Road to the north of the development area is believed to follow the line of a Roman road (EHCR 2534).

The archaeological and historical background of the area has been previously described in detail in a desk-based archaeological assessment produced in May 2003 by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (Heppell 2003).

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to locate, identify and assess the quality and extent of any surviving archaeological remains within the development area prior to the determination of the planning application for the site.

A particular objective was to accurately locate and establish the nature and function of the archaeological features identified as ring-ditch cropmarks and confirm their dimensions, locate any internal features, and provide dating evidence from which to infer the nature of the adjacent upstanding mounds.

### **4.0 METHOD (Figs 1 and 2)**

The majority of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-26) were opened under archaeological supervision, using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. These trenches generally measured 30m by 4m and were planned to give a 3% sample of the proposed development area. In the lower, western, field the topsoil was removed directly onto alluvial clay and mixed gravel deposits. In the higher, eastern field many of the trenches contained a layer of subsoil that was generally removed (if no archaeological features were visible), by machine, down to cleaner clay and gravel deposits below. Areas of archaeological potential were then cleaned and excavated by hand.

Trench 27 was located above a very low-mound and a possible ring-ditch identified from aerial photographs. After the machine-removal of turf, this trench was entirely excavated by hand. Trench 28 was a small, opportunistic, slot dug through the recently disturbed part of the best surviving barrow in order to assist with the interpretation of this feature. This trench was excavated, in consultation with the monitoring officer, in lieu of the reduced sample area created by the curtailment of Trenches 20 and 23.

All work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines. Standard ECC FAU excavation and recording methodologies were employed.

## **5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 1 to 7)**

Trench location data and general information is present as Appendix 1. A range of archaeological features and deposits that dated to the Late Iron Age, early Roman and post-medieval periods were identified in a number of trenches. Detailed context information, including dimensions and soil descriptions, is presented as Appendix 2.

Many of the trenches in the lower field flooded soon after they were opened. The excavation of Trench 27 was severely hampered by rising water and required constant pumping out.

No archaeological remains were identified within Trenches 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 12, 15, 20, 22 or 26. The following trenches are those which contained archaeological features and deposits.

### **5.1 Trench 2 (Fig. 1)**

A patch of dark grey silty gravel at the south end of the trench produced two large fragments of modern brick (not retained). This deposit probably represents the backfill of a pipe trench known to cross this part of the site. A large concrete inspection cover was located 1m east of the trench end. A band of greyer clay (93) crossing the trench was investigated but failed to produce any archaeological evidence and is presumed to be natural.

### **5.2 Trench 4 (Fig. 1)**

A shallow east/west orientated drainage ditch (54) filled by a grey-reddish brown clay silt (53) contained one piece of post-medieval roof tile. This ditch was not seen to continue into Trench 6 to the east.

### **5.3 Trench 10 (Fig. 3)**

A wide north-east/south-west orientated ditch (33) was excavated at the southern end of the trench. This drainage ditch contained two fills (31 and 32) and produced fragments of post-medieval roof tile and modern bottle glass. Ditch 33 cut a dark brown silty clay layer (30) and truncated the underlying brown/grey alluvial clay (35). Revealed beneath the clay (35) was a dense surface-like layer (34) of frequent small rounded pebbles and sub-angular flints interspersed with occasional larger flints. This deposit was one flint thick (40mm) and formed the interface between the soft brown/grey clay and a firm orange sandy clay below. No finds were recovered. It was not clear if this surface was man-made or formed as a result of natural sorting and so a small exploratory slot was dug some 10m to the north-west. This located only a few sporadic flints at the level of the interface and suggested that layer 34 may be a localised deposit and as such possibly of man-made origin.



#### **5.4 Trench 13 (Fig. 1)**

A large boundary ditch (84), orientated north-east/south-west and filled by a dark brownish grey clay silt (83), was excavated by machine. This contained fragments of post-medieval roof tile and fragments of modern brick and Tarmac. This ditch is aligned with ditch 3 in Trench 19 and probably forms part of the same modern field boundary. A field boundary in this position is recorded on 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps (see Heppell 2003).

#### **5.5 Trench 14**

Three sherds of unstratified medieval pottery were recovered from the top of the subsoil. No underlying features were identified.

#### **5.6 Trench 16 (Fig. 4)**

A shallow, north-east/south-west orientated ditch (90) was excavated at the west-end of the trench. No dating evidence was recovered. The east-end of the trench was clearly disturbed, with re-deposited clay underlying the topsoil. Beneath this disturbance were two, wide, parallel, modern service trenches, orientated north/south and backfilled with brown clay.

#### **5.7 Trench 17 (Fig. 4)**

A north-east/south-west orientated gully (5) and two small pits (7 and 9) were excavated in Trench 17. All three features were filled by light greyish brown clay silt. No dating evidence was recovered.

#### **5.8 Trench 18 (Fig. 4)**

Two shallow east-west orientated ditches (51 and 55) were excavated in Trench 18. Both were filled by a similar mid-orange grey sandy clay (52 and 56). No dating evidence was recovered from either.

#### **5.9 Trench 19 (Fig. 1)**

A large ditch (3), orientated north-east/south-west, was identified but not excavated in Trench 19. Fragments from a modern glass bottle, post-medieval brick and tile and a worn medieval floor tile were all recovered from the fill (2) of this feature. Ditch 3 is aligned with ditch 84 in Trench 13 and probably forms part of the same modern field boundary.

#### **5.10 Trench 21 (Fig. 5)**

Several archaeological features were excavated in Trench 21, some were truncated by the two modern, clay filled, service trenches which ran through the western half of the trench and which had been previously identified in Trench 16.

Ditch 29 was orientated north-west/south-east, measured 1.08m wide by 0.5m deep, had concave 60° sides, a rounded base and was filled by a mottled light greyish brown clay silt (28) containing Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. This ditch cut a thin (0.08m) layer of light greyish brown clay silt (36) that sealed a second ditch (38) and two small post-holes (40 and 42). Ditch 38 was orientated north-east/south-west and contained four small, abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery. No dating evidence was recovered from the two post-holes.

Gully 48 was orientated north/south and was truncated to the west by one of the modern service trenches. It was a shallow feature 0.15m deep, filled by light greyish brown clay silt that contained Late Iron Age pottery. Located between the two service trenches was an undated post-hole (50). Further post-holes were situated in the eastern half of the trench. Post-hole 58 contained a high quantity of baked clay and post-hole 60 contained 3 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. Both post-holes were well-defined and clearly cut the fill of an underlying depression. This 0.11m deep depression (75) had a flat base and was filled with a deposit of dark yellowish brown clay silt (74) that also contained sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. A smaller undated post-hole (73) had an unclear relationship with the depression. Two adjacent post-holes (77 and 79) were located about 1m east of the depression; both contained Late Iron Age pottery. Additional sherds of late Iron Age pottery were recovered from a greyish brown layer (80) in the centre of the trench.

The features in Trench 21 appear to date to the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. The small, abraded, sherds of Prehistoric pottery recovered from ditch 38 were probably residual; though do suggest earlier activity in the vicinity.

#### **5.11 Trench 23 (Fig. 5)**

A north-west/south-east orientated boundary ditch (12) containing two fills (10 and 11) was excavated. This ditch measured 1.34m wide by 0.47m deep and had a concave profile. Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered from. Ditch 12 appeared to cut a 0.3m thick layer (13) of mid greyish brown sandy silt speckled with manganese that contained a variety of finds including a Neolithic flint arrowhead and prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. A similarly speckled subsoil deposit was removed by machine from above ditch 12 and layer 13. The south end of Trench 23 was curtailed after the first of the two modern service trenches, previously identified in Trenches 16 and 21 to the north, was re-encountered.

### **5.12 Trench 24 (Fig. 5)**

A well-defined boundary ditch (67), orientated north-east/south-west, was recorded for over 20m within Trench 24. This ditch measured 1.25m wide by 0.41m deep with 45° sides and a concave profile. It was filled by a dark to mid greyish brown clay silt (68) which contained numerous sherds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery and fragments of briquetage and baked clay. The finds from ditch 67 were remarkably similar to those from ditch 12 in Trench 23 and it is likely that these two ditches formed part of the same contemporary field system. Ditch 67 truncated an undated irregular pit (69) to the south and an undated layer of mid brown clay silt (71) to the north. The fill (70) of the pit was very similar to layer 71 and they may both represent the same subsoil deposit which, in the case of irregular pit 69, had filled a natural hollow.

At the western end of the trench was an undated, north-east/south-west orientated ditch (82), 0.24m deep, with 50-65° sides and a flat base. It was noted in plan that ditches 67 and 82 both appeared to slightly change orientation close to the northern edge of the trench. A few poorly defined deposits at the east-end of the trench appeared to be of natural origin.

### **5.13 Trench 25 (Fig. 5)**

Three linear features were identified in Trench 25. At the east-end of the trench was a poorly defined, slightly curved, north-east/south-west orientated ditch (26). This ditch was 0.12m deep, had gently sloping sides and was filled by mid grey clay silt (27) that contained one sherd of Roman pottery. East of the excavated section the ditch was obscured by a broader deposit of reddish brown silty clay (43) that may represent an upper fill of the ditch or an overlying layer in its own right. Deposit 43 contained two sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and a residual Neolithic flint scraper. The centre of the trench was crossed by a narrow north-west/south-east orientated ditch (24), 0.28m deep with 45-50° sides, a concave base and which contained Late Iron Age and Roman pottery in its fill (25). The western half of the trench was crossed by a large, probably modern, north/south orientated boundary ditch (44) that contained several small fragments of coal (not retained) and a ceramic field drain.

### **5.14 Trench 27 (Figs 2 and 6)**

Trench 27 was located to bisect a possible ring-ditch identified from aerial photographs. This ring-ditch was visible in the field as a slight circular depression, approximately 25m in diameter, surrounding a very low mound, 0.1m high and approximately 15m in diameter. These were surveyed. Excavation revealed a poorly-defined ditch (14) in a position consistent with that of the ring-ditch visible on aerial photographs. The top fill of this ditch comprised dark brown clay silt (16) sitting directly below a slight dip in the topsoil. Beneath fill 16 was a deposit of mid to light grey clay silt (17) containing bands of reddish yellow clay and a lens of mid yellow clay (18).

Beneath fill 17, on the western edge of the ditch was a band of dark grey silt (19) containing 22 sherds of abraded Roman pottery, 3 worked flints and a tiny fragment of prehistoric pottery. The south-west side of the ditch appeared to use (rather than cut) the edge of the mound. The north-east side of the ditch was hard to distinguish from the surrounding reddish yellow and grey alluvial clays (20 and 21). Although fill 17 was very similar to layers 20 and 21, close examination did reveal subtle colour differences between the ditch fill and surrounding clay. Below layer 21, a third grey to reddish brown alluvial clay was identified that contained a few small fragments of wood. Excavation of the ditch and surrounding clay was curtailed at a point where the amount of water entering the trench would have made further retrieval of information extremely difficult.

The top of the mound comprised a compacted reddish brown gravel deposit (23) and appeared to form a very slight raised area, surrounded by the ditch and alluvial clays. This deposit contained iron panning and on initial investigation appeared a natural deposit. However, a slot dug through part of this gravel proved that this wasn't the case. The gravel was 0.25m thick and sat upon a layer of more mixed brown and grey silty gravel and clay (86). This deposit was 0.35m thick and contained streaks and small lenses of charcoal towards its base. A bulk soil sample taken from 86 contained a few small worked flints that proved this layer was not of natural origin. Below the charcoal lenses was a brown/grey gravelly clay (87) that sat upon a firm brown gravelly clay deposit (88) that appeared to dip downwards slightly towards the south-east at the base of the excavated section. The definition of both lower deposits (87 and 88) was poor due to the constant influx of water and it was not possible to positively establish the base of the mound.

The recovery of the abraded Roman pottery from the edge of the possible ditch/mound edge confirms both are of some antiquity. The ditch was poorly defined in section. Fill 17 was very similar to the surrounding alluvial clay and probably is an alluvial deposit infilling the very top of the ditch. Layer 86 was clearly not a natural deposit on excavation and this was confirmed by the presence of several worked flints, the latest of which has been dated to the Iron Age.

#### **5.15 Trench 28 (Figs 2 and 7)**

Trench 28 was 1.5m long by 0.7m wide and was located just south-west of the centre of the tallest upstanding mound. The aim of this trench was to investigate the mound deposits whilst causing the minimum of fresh disturbance and was essentially a re-excavation and widening-out of part of the hole resulting from the recent removal of an electricity pole. The hole itself had been loosely backfilled with dark grey brown topsoil and numerous lumps of turf and clearly continued deeper than the limit of excavation. The bulk of the widened-out trench section

comprised a greyish brown gravelly clay silt (65) containing a few lenses of light grey clay, orange gravel and grey silt, spread throughout the deposit.

A possible post-hole (91) was identified in the corner of the trench, filled by a brownish grey clay silt (66). This feature cut a series of deposits (46, 61, 63, 64 and 94) that appeared to dip downwards towards the south. These deposits were generally of a sandy nature apart from 46 which was a distinct banded deposit of light grey and dark brownish grey silty clays. At the base of the sequence was a loose deposit of bright orange brown sandy gravel (62), possibly natural, which also dipped down towards the south.

Although no finds were recovered, there can be no doubt that the deposits exposed in Trench 28 are man-made. It was not clear from the limited excavation whether these were true mound deposits or were in-fill deposits of a much wider hole associated with the erection of the electricity pole. They did appear comparatively loose on excavation though this may in part be due to an element of sand within their matrix. In section, the deposits did appear to dip down towards the south in a manner consistent with the in-filling of a large hole. If not part of the pole construction, this hole could be part of a robber trench inserted into the top of the mound or possibly, but rather less likely, the backfill of a disturbed central chamber within the mound.

## **6.0 FINDS by Joyce Compton**

### **6.1 Summary**

Finds were recovered from a total of 25 contexts, across ten of the excavated trenches. The finds were recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details by context, and trench, are presented in Appendices 3 and 4. A variety of finds types, with a wide date range spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods, was recorded. The largest component was pottery of Late Iron Age and early Roman date. The finds are described in grouped trench order, followed by specific notes on the pottery and flints.

#### **Trenches 4 to 19**

Small amounts of material were recovered from five trenches (4, 10, 13, 14 and 19) mainly comprising post-medieval and modern glass, brick and roof tile fragments. Several of these categories were discarded following recording. Medieval finds were retrieved from two trenches; three sherds of pottery were unstratified in Trench 14 and a complete floor tile came from the modern fill of ditch 3 in Trench 19. The tile is approximately 100mm square and 20mm in depth. The upper surface is chipped and worn, but the tile appears to have had an all-over cream slip

under a lead glaze thus giving the surface a yellow finish. A single small and abraded fragment of animal bone was recovered from ditch 33 in Trench 10. In general, animal bone does not seem to have survived, presumably due to the acidic nature of the soil.

### **Trenches 21 to 25**

Four trenches, 21, 23, 24 and 25, produced most of the total finds recovered, and these are completely different in character from those retrieved from Trenches 4 to 19 above. The material comprises LIA/Roman pottery, prehistoric pottery, baked clay, briquetage and flints. No modern items were recovered, except for two small roof tile fragments in Trench 25.

Nine contexts were identified in Trench 21, nearly all of which produced pottery of Late Iron Age date, amounting to almost a third of the total pottery recovered. The pottery comprises mainly body sherds in grog-tempered fabrics, but there are abraded sherds from a possible bowl footring in fill 28 of ditch 29 which are in Roman buff ware. In addition, there is a probable platter base sherd in imported micaceous *terra nigra* from layer 80. Fill 37 of ditch 38 produced four small sherds of prehistoric pottery. These are abraded and the full thickness of most sherds has not survived. Flint-tempered prehistoric pottery was found in two further contexts, fill 28 of ditch 29 and fill 47 of ditch 48, but residual in these contexts. Ditch fill 28 contained two worked flints, also residual. Baked clay fragments, some of which have flat surfaces, were found in fill 57 of post-hole 58. Insufficient survives to determine the function for these fragments. Overall, the features in Trench 21 can be dated to the Late Iron Age, perhaps as late as mid 1st century AD; all prehistoric artefacts are probably residual.

Three contexts in Trench 23 produced a variety of finds, with the majority of the material coming from the fills of ditch 12. Pottery forms the largest component, amounting to 104 sherds, weighing 986g, and representing more than 30% of the total pottery recovered. The assemblage consists mainly of grog-tempered vessels and at least five separate jars were noted, although most rims had been broken off at the neck. Colchester buff ware body sherds, plus two jar rims in sandy grey ware, indicate a mid 1st century date. Also present are body sherds in North Gaulish white ware, one of which is rouletted, probably deriving from a *Cam* 113 butt beaker. Slag was recovered from two contexts, fill 10 of ditch 12 and layer 13. The slag from fill 10 is substantial, weighing 1625g, and may represent part of a furnace lining or hearth bottom. Baked clay fragments, one with a flat surface, burnt bone fragments, and worked and burnt flints make up the remainder of the assemblage. One of the flints, from layer 13, is a residual Neolithic arrowhead, discussed further below.

A single feature, ditch 67, in Trench 24 produced finds, comprising baked clay and briquetage fragments and Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. The pottery is similar in character to that from ditch fill 10 in Trench 23, with many pottery types in common. Most of the sherds are in grog-tempered fabrics, with large sections from a single storage jar among the forms identified. Colchester buff ware, red ware and North Gaulish white ware are also present, again providing a mid 1st century date. The North Gaulish white ware consists of the rim sherd from a *Cam* 113 butt beaker. Also present is an abraded platter rim in *terra nigra*. Both vessels were commonly imported types during the 1st century AD. Of interest are the briquetage fragments, providing evidence for salt transportation and /or re-use of production debris. The fragments are very worn, but one preserves a corner from a probable large container.

Small amounts of finds were found in three of the contexts investigated in Trench 25. Fill 25 of ditch 24 contained pottery, mainly in grog-tempered fabrics of Late Iron Age date. Jar and beaker rims were identified and a two-ribbed handle was also noted. Handles in grog-tempered ware are not very common, since the ware was normally reserved for utilitarian vessels. Sherds in grey and black-surfaced wares provide a mid 1st century date. Fill 27 of ditch 26 contained a sandy body sherd. The fabric is micaceous and the parent vessel may have been an imported amphora, perhaps from southern Gaul or Spain. Layer 43 produced two grog-tempered body sherds and a residual flint scraper.

### **Trench 27**

The finds from Trench 27 are few, comprising mainly pottery and flints. Fill 19 of ditch 14 contained a small quantity of Roman pottery, three worked flints and a tiny sherd of prehistoric pottery. The Roman pottery is fragmentary and very abraded, and no forms can be identified, although the fabrics present indicate that these are probably the latest Roman sherds in the whole site assemblage. Organic material in the form of twigs and slivers of wood was recovered from a basal layer, 22.

## **6.2 Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery**

Fifteen contexts produced LIA/Roman pottery, amounting to a total of 303 sherds, weighing 2952g. The assemblage is fragmentary, comprising mainly body sherds in coarse fabrics, with an average sherd weight of less than 10g. The pottery was recorded by sherd count and weight by fabric in accordance with ECC FAU guidelines. Few vessel forms are present and these were identified using Hawkes and Hull (1947). Details by context are presented in Appendix 4. A large number of vessels is represented, although forms or vessel classes are difficult to identify with any precision. The condition of the pottery is poor, with abrasion and loss of surfaces being much in evidence. Much of the pottery from fill 10 of ditch 12, and also fill 68 of

ditch 67, appears to have been burnt. It should be noted that the overall pottery assemblages from both of these contexts are also similar in composition.

The assemblage consists mainly of grog-tempered vessels, with a number of jar and beaker rims apparent. The precise form was identified for just one of these, a *Cam* 260 jar in lumpy fabric, with rilled decoration on the shoulder. The remaining rims had been broken off at the neck, but at least seven separate jars were represented. A trumpet-type pedestal base, in many pieces, was found in ditch fill 68 in Trench 24. Imported Late Iron Age fine wares comprise North Gaulish white ware and *terra nigra*, and a sherd of the latter was highly micaceous. The *terra nigra* thus appears to have originated from different continental sources. The North Gaulish white ware consists of the rim sherd from a *Cam* 113 butt beaker, and a rouletted body sherd, probably from a second beaker, was also identified. These beakers are very common vessels at Colchester during the 1st century AD and it is perhaps not surprising that these examples have been recovered.

Roman pottery types are represented by small amounts of Colchester buff ware, red ware, sandy grey and black-surfaced wares. A possible amphora sherd is also present. Since such small amounts were recorded in comparison to grog-tempered fabrics, it seems reasonable to suggest a mid 1st century date for the finds assemblage. The pottery from Trench 27, however, is likely to be later in date, and the abraded nature of the entire assemblage may point to a date well into the Roman period, or later.

### **6.3 Prehistoric Pottery**

Fourteen sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 81g, were recovered from five contexts in total. The pottery is fragmentary with an average sherd weight of less than 6g, and is in poor condition with some sherds covered in concretions. The assemblage comprises mainly body sherds, although a single flat-topped rim sherd was recovered from fill 28 of ditch 29 in Trench 21. The pottery is flint-tempered and probably all dates to the Late Bronze Age, although most is residual in Late Iron Age and Roman features.

### **6.4 Worked Flints** by Hazel Martingell

Fourteen pieces of worked flint, and five pieces of burnt flint were retained for study (Appendix 4). Seven pieces of worked flint came from Trench 27 and a further seven from Trenches 21, 23 and 25 in the south-eastern corner of the site. The worked flints from Trench 27, comprising one blade, four flakes, a core and a chipping, are all without retouch and therefore undiagnostic and not closely datable. The blade could perhaps be classified as early Neolithic and the core as



Iron Age, but none of the pieces provides a specific date for the possible ring ditch and mound investigated in this trench.

The worked flints from the south-eastern corner of the site (Trenches 21, 23 and 25), however, suggest a strong Neolithic presence. The two scrapers (fill 25 of ditch 24 and layer 43) are early Neolithic in date and the fine, complete oblique arrowhead (layer 13) is middle to later Neolithic in date. This might suggest settlement in the area during the Neolithic period.

## **6.5 Environmental Sampling**

The single environmental sample taken from mound deposit 86 in Trench 27 was sieved/floated using a 500 micron mesh according to standard ECC FAU Environmental methodologies. The residue produced several worked flints and a small amount of charcoal. The flots also comprised very small amounts of charcoal and probable root material. No carbonised or waterlogged seeds, etc., were identified.

Small twigs and other plant debris were noted within the alluvial deposit 22, in Trench 27. There is therefore some potential for the preservation and survival of more archaeologically-significant organic remains elsewhere in the waterlogged deposits alongside Salary Brook.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation in the eastern field revealed a background scatter of residual Neolithic worked flint and prehistoric (probably Bronze Age) pottery, suggesting early occupation or exploitation upon the valley sides. However, it seems unlikely that any tangible features and *in situ* artefacts of this date are present at this location.

The concentration of Late Iron Age to early Roman boundary ditches, post-holes and deposits, centred around Trenches 21, 23, 24 and 25, seems consistent with agricultural activity; perhaps associated with near-by rural occupation. However, the majority of the finds are very abraded, suggesting that they had not been deposited in the features as soon as they were discarded and that some may well have travelled some distance from their original area of usage. Further investigation of the area around Trenches 21-25 may improve understanding of the archaeological remains in this part of the development area.

Many of the trenches in the east of the development area contained a layer of greyish brown subsoil beneath the topsoil and above the natural, which generally sealed the archaeological

features. This material probably represents a hill-wash deposit, as it appeared to be thicker in the trenches towards the base of the slope. Similar deposits were also cut by archaeological features, and contained mixed finds assemblages. This suggests that this soil movement is not a recent phenomenon and that there may be further archaeological remains on the higher ground outside of the development area, to the east of Trenches 24 and 25 from which the displaced finds derive.

A modern boundary ditch was identified in Trenches 13 and 19. Two modern service trenches crossed the development area from north to south and were identified in Trenches 16, 21 and 23. Other than this, modern disturbance of the development area appears to be minimal.

In the western field, the evaluation results indicate that the archaeological potential is largely confined to the vicinity of four mound and ring-ditch features alongside the railway line and Salary Brook. Trench 27 confirmed that one of the possible ring-ditches identified from aerial photographs and the low mound discerned within its interior are both archaeological features. Given their close proximity and similar morphology, the three other mounds and ring-ditches are almost certainly archaeological in origin too. This was confirmed in the case of the tallest, by the inspection of the hole resulting from the recent removal of an electricity pole (Trench 28). However, the date and function of the remains investigated in Trench 27 are somewhat ambiguous. The latest worked flint collected from the interior of the mound is tentatively dated as Iron Age, while Roman pottery was collected from a deposit on the mound and ring-ditch interface. Furthermore, the abraded nature of the pottery may indicate its secondary deposition, at a later date. Typologically, this mound is more typical of a Bronze Age barrow, or burial monument. Its base was not established and it seems that the surrounding alluvial layers had accumulated against it over a prolonged period – perhaps indicating a substantially earlier date than the ceramic evidence would imply. The evaluation trench did not penetrate deep enough into the mound interior to establish if the remains of a central burial was present or not. However, on balance it is likely that this is the remains of a Bronze Age barrow that was perhaps reused and its encircling ditch re-cut in accumulating alluvium in the Iron Age and/or Roman periods.

The mound in Trench 27 survives to a greater height than first thought, due to its burial by the surrounding alluvial silts. The evaluation established that it is at least 0.8m tall and may have been constructed in a far dryer valley than is the case today – perhaps due to climactic change over time. Increasing numbers of such monuments are being identified in Essex, occupying low-lying positions close to watercourses (e.g. Fen Farm, Elmstead Market; Barker 2003). It remains possible that the barrow remains are Iron Age or Roman origin, but these are very much a rarity

in Essex. Upstanding Bronze Age barrows are themselves relatively rare and these examples would ideally be preserved *in situ* in any future development. If this is not practicable, further detailed excavation work would almost certainly be required by way of mitigation.

Elsewhere in the western field a flint 'spread', on the interface between the soft alluvial clay and a compact natural clay below, was identified in Trench 10. It was not clear if this surface was man-made or formed as a result of natural sorting. Future work in this field may help to clarify this.

The small amount of finds, and their disparate nature, precludes further meaningful study of any of the material. If further excavation takes place, the finds assemblages should be amalgamated and studied in conjunction. The post-medieval and modern component has already been sampled, and further discard could take place at the archiving stage. The medieval tile, all of the pottery, baked clay, briquetage, slag and the worked flints should be retained. The burnt flints and the animal bone could be discarded. The material extracted from the environmental sample has little potential for study and can also be discarded, along with the charcoal from Trench 24 and the organic material from Trench 27. Should further environmental samples be taken from mound deposits, sufficient charcoal may be retrieved to enable a radiocarbon date to be determined.

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## APPENDIX 1

### TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Description	Co-ordinates
1	30m x 4m x 0.42m deep, orientated NE/SW Topsoil – mid-dark brownish clay silt Subsoil – mottled grey/brown peaty clay silt above grey/brown clay and light grey gravel	NW - 602082/224313 SW - 602077/224284
2	30m x 4m x 0.35m deep, orientated NE/SW Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – brown clay above blue/grey clay and light grey gravel	NW – 602135/224307 SW – 602123/224279
3	30m x 4m x 0.38m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – brown clay and grey brown peatty clay above blue/grey clay	NW – 602116/224256 SW – 602125/224228
4	30m x 4m x 0.40m deep, orientated NE/SW Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – brown clay above blue/grey clay	NW – 602152/224229 SW – 602127/224211
5	30m x 4m x 0.40m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil - brown and blue/grey clay	NW – 602147/224278 SW – 602164/224253
6	30m x 4m x 0.40m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil –brown clay above blue/grey clay	NW – 602162/224232 SW – 602173/224205
7	30m x 4m x 0.35m deep, orientated NE/SW Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – brown clay above blue/grey clay	NW – 602186/224194 SW – 602173/224168
8	30m x 4m x 0.38m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil –brown clay above blue/grey clay	NW – 602205/224157 SW – 602214/224128
9	30m x 4m x 0.40m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil –brown clay above blue/grey clay	NW – 602181/224257 SW – 602196/224231
10	30m x 4m x 0.38m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil –brown clay above blue/grey clay	NW – 602211/224218 SW – 602225/224191
11	30m x 4m x 0.3m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – brown and blue/grey clay	NW – 602237/224156 SW – 602247/224127
12	30m x 4m x 0.50m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – mid brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – Light greyish brown silty clay above light yellow brown silty clay	NW – 602236/224255 SW – 602249/224228
13	30m x 4m x 0.40m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil –greyish brown silty clay above yellow brown clay	NW – 602270/224191 SW – 602281/224164
14	30m x 4m x 0.36-0.43m deep, orientated NE/SW Topsoil – mid brownish grey silt Subsoil – greyish brown silty clay above redder brown silty clay	NW – 602269/224321 SW – 602296/224335

15	30m x 4m x 0.40m deep, orientated N/S Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey silt Subsoil – greyish brown silty clay	NW – 602310/224363 SW – 602305/224334
16	30m x 4m x 0.60-0.70m deep, orientated E/W Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – grey brown clay silt above brown gravelly clay	NE – 602376/224341 NW – 602346/224346
17	30m x 4m x 0.45-0.58m deep, orientated E/W Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – greyish brown clay silt above reddish brown gravelly clay	NE – 602312/224281 NW – 602282/224284
18	30m x 4m x 0.44-0.55m deep, orientated NE/SW Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – greyish brown silty clay above red brown clay and gravel	NW – 602349/224292 SW – 602345/224263
19	30m x 4m x 0.4-0.7m deep, orientated E/W Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – mottled grey brown silty clay above greyish brown gravel	NE – 602413/224271 NW – 602382/224273
20	30m x 4m x 0.7m deep, orientated N/S Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – greyish brown clay silt above redder brown clay silt	NW – 602295/224239 SW – 602298/224210
21	30m x 4m x 0.44-0.60m deep, orientated E/W Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – greyish brown clay silt above browner clay silt	NE – 602384/224215 NW – 602355/224214
22	30m x 4m x 0.40m deep, orientated NW/SE Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – brown gravelly clay and grey brown clay silt	NW – 602424/224238 SW – 602433/224209
23	30m x 4m x 0.60m-0.85m deep, orientated N/S Topsoil – dark brown clay silt Subsoil – mid greyish brown sandy silt above orange clay with grey silt patches	NW – 602352/224174 SW – 602355/224153
24	30m x 4m x 0.30-0.55m deep, orientated E/W Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – mid greyish brown clay silt above brown gravel and orange red clay	NE – 602444/224176 NW – 602414/224170
25	30m x 4m x 0.60m, orientated E/W Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – greyish brown clay silt above yellow brown silty clay	NE – 602470/224127 NW – 602442/224123
26	30m x 4m x 0.45-0.50m deep, orientated N/S Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt Subsoil – greyish brown clay silt above orange red clay and gravel patches	NW – 602476/224106 SW – 602482/224077
27	15m x 1.5m, orientated NE/SW Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt	NE – 602151/224206 NW – 602138/224198
28	1.5m x 0.7m, orientated N/S Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt	NW – 602136/224149 SW – 602137/224148

## APPENDIX 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Feature	Trench	Description
1	Layer	12 - 26	Topsoil – mid-dark brownish grey clay silt
2	3	19	Mottled dark grey and brown clay silt. Fill of 3
3	Ditch	19	Ditch, 7m+ long x 1.7m wide, NE/SW orientated. Filled by 2
4	5	17	Light greyish brown clay silt. Fill of 5
5	Gully	17	Gully, 5m+ x 0.4m x 0.12m deep, NE/SW orientated. Filled by 4
6	7	17	Light greyish brown clay silt. Fill of 7
7	Pit	17	Oval pit, 0.95m x 0.78m x 0.18m deep. Filled by 6
8	9	17	Light greyish brown silty clay. Fill of 9
9	Pit	17	Irregular pit, 0.95m x 0.68m x 0.21m deep. Filled by 8
10	12	23	Light greyish brown sandy silt, 0.37m thick. Fill of 12
11	12	23	Brownish orange (pale grey mottles) clay silt, 0.10m thick. Fill of 12
12	Ditch	23	Ditch, 3m+ x 1.34m x 0.47m deep, NW/SE orientated. Filled by 10, 11
13	Layer	23	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, manganese speckles, 0.3m thick
14	Ditch	27	Ditch., c.4.9m wide by 0.65m+ deep. Filled by 16, 17, 19
15	Layer	27	Topsoil – very dark brown peaty silt, 0.18m thick
16	14	27	Dark brown clay silt, 0.14m thick. Fill of 14
17	14	27	Mid to light grey clay silt, 0.6m thick. Fill of 14
18	14	27	Mid yellow clay, 0.8m wide x 0.11m thick, within 17
19	14	27	Dark grey silt, 0.3m thick. Fill of 14
20	Layer	27	Dark to mid reddish yellow clay, 0.3m thick
21	Layer	27	Light grey clay silt, 0.3m thick
22	Layer	27	Dark grey/reddish brown silty clay, fragments of wood
23	Layer	27	Mid reddish brown silty gravel, manganese speckles, 0.25m thick
24	Ditch	25	Ditch, 0.9m+ x 0.65m x 0.28m deep, orientated NW/SE. Filled by 25
25	24	25	Light to mid grey clay silt. Fill of 24
26	Ditch	25	Ditch, 4m+ x 1m x 0.12m deep, orientated NE/SW. Filled by 27, 43?
27	26	25	Mid grey clay silt. Fill of 26
28	29	21	Light greyish brown (dark brown mottles) clay silt. Fill of 29
29	Ditch	21	Ditch, 4m+ x 1.08m x 0.5m deep, orientated NW/SE. Filled by 28
30	Layer	10	Dark brown silty clay, 0.10m thick
31	33	10	Dark brown gravelly clay silt, 0.24m thick. Fill of 33
32	33	10	Dark grey and brown silty clay, 0.3m thick. Fill of 33
33	Ditch	10	Ditch, 4m+ x 2.4m x 0.42m deep, orientated NE/SW. Filled by 31, 32
34	Layer	10	Pebble and flint surface, 0.04m thick
35	Layer	10	Brown and grey clay, 0.3m thick
36	Layer	21	Light greyish brown clay silt, 0.08m thick
37	38	21	Light greyish brown (dark brown mottles) clay silt. Fill of 38
38	Ditch	21	Ditch, 1m+ x 0.85m x 0.3m deep, orientated NE/SW. Filled by 37
39	40	21	Pale greyish brown silt. Fill of 40
40	Post-hole	21	Circular post-hole, diam. 0.2m. Filled by 39
41	42	21	Light greyish brown clay silt. Fill of 42
42	Post-hole	21	Circular post-hole, 0.5m x 0.25m+ x 10m deep. Filled by 41
43	Fill/layer?	25	Mid reddish brown silty clay, 7m x 2m extent. Fill of 26
44	Ditch	25	Ditch, 4m x 3m x 0.38m+ deep, orientated N/S
45	44	25	Dark brown clay silt + a field drain. Fill of 44
46	Layer	28	Light grey to mid-dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.25m thick
47	48	21	Light greyish brown clay silt. Fill of 48
48	Gully	21	Gully, 4m+ x 0.55m+ x 0.15m deep. Filled by 47
49	50	21	Greyish brown (dark brown mottles) sandy clay silt. Fill of 50
50	Post-hole	21	Circular post-hole, 0.52m diam. X 0.2m deep. Filled by 49
51	Ditch	18	Ditch, 4.4m+ x 1.3m x 0.22m deep, orientated E/W. Filled by 52
52	51	18	Mid orange grey sandy clay. Fill of 51
53	54	4	Grey/reddish brown clay silt. Fill of 54
54	Ditch	4	Ditch, 6m+ x 1.85m x 0.16m, orientated E/W. Filled by 53
55	Ditch	18	Ditch, 4.2m+ x 0.9m x 0.1m deep, orientated E/W. Filled by 56
56	55	18	Mid orange grey sandy clay. Fill of 55
57	58	21	Mid grey brown clay silt. Fill of 58

58	Post-hole	21	Circular post-hole, 0.46m diam. X 0.26m deep. Filled by 57
59	60	21	Mid yellow brown clay silt. Fill of 60
60	Post-hole	21	Circular post-hole, 0.40m diam. X 0.19m deep. Filled by 59
61	Layer	28	Greyish brown sandy clay silt, 0.26m thick
62	Layer	28	Orange brown sandy gravel, 0.20m+ thick
63	Layer	28	Greyish brown to orange brown sandy silt, 0.08m thick
64	Layer	28	Greyish brown gravelly clay silt, 0.11m thick
65	Layer	28	Greyish brown sandy gravelly clay silt, 1m+ thick
66	91	28	Brownish grey clay silt. Fill of 91
67	Ditch	24	Ditch, 20m+ x 1.25m x 0.41m deep, orientated NE/SW. Filled by 68
68	67	24	Dark to mid grey brown clay silt. Fill of 67
69	Pit	24	Pit, 1.6m+ x 1.25m x 0.36m deep. Filled by 70
70	69	24	Mid grey brown clay silt. Fill of 69
71	Layer	24	Mid brown clay silt, 0.13m thick
72	73	21	Pale greyish brown clay silt. Fill of 73
73	Post-hole	21	Circular post-hole, 0.29m diam. X 0.09m deep. Filled by 72
74	75	21	Dark yellowish brown clay silt. Fill of 75
75	Depression	21	Irregular oval depression, 2.05m x 1.4m x 0.11m deep. Filled by 74
76	77	21	Light greyish brown clay silt. Fill of 77
77	Post-hole	21	Oval post-hole, 0.4m x 0.36m x 0.17m deep. Filled by 76
78	79	21	Mid yellowish brown clay silt. Fill of 79
79	Post-hole	21	Oval post-hole, 0.53m x 0.46m x 0.14m deep. Filled by 78
80	Layer	21	Mid grey brown clay silt. Possible same as 36
81	82	24	Yellow brown silty clay. Fill of 82
82	Ditch	24	Ditch, 7m+ x 1.22m x 0.24m deep, orientated NE/SW. Filled by 81
83	84	13	Dark brownish grey clay silt. Fill of 84
84	Ditch	13	Ditch, 4m+ x 3m x 0.88m deep, orientated NE/SW. Filled by 83
85	-	14	Unstratified finds
86	Layer	27	Brownish grey/grey gravelly silty clay, charcoal lenses, 0.35m thick
87	Layer	27	Brown grey gravelly clay, 0.10m thick
88	Layer	27	Firm brown concreted gravelly clay
89	90	16	Grey brown silty clay. Fill of 90
90	Ditch	16	Ditch, 4m+ x 1.18m x 0.08m deep, orientated NE/SW. Filled by 89
91	Post-hole?	28	Possible post-hole, 0.35m+ x 0.25m+ x 0.35m deep. Filled by 66
92	Layer	28	Greyish brown to orange brown sandy clay silt, 0.12m thick
93	Deposit	2	Grey clay band, 4m+ x 1.5m x 0.18m deep
94	Layer	28	Greyish brown sandy pebbly clay silt, 0.3m+ thick



## APPENDIX 3

### Finds Data in Trench Order

#### Finds from Trench 4

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
53	54	1	22	Roof tile fragment	Post med.

#### Finds from Trench 10

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
31	33	1	12	Animal bone fragment	-
		3	84	Roof tile fragments, two with peg holes	Post med.
32	33	2	8	Glass; body sherds, brown bottle (Discarded)	Modern

#### Finds from Trench 13

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
83	84	2	200	Tarmac fragment and associated tar-covered stone (Both discarded)	Modern
		-	20	Baked clay fragments, possibly degraded brick	-
		3	64	Brick fragments	?Modern
		3	58	Roof tile fragments	Post med.

#### Finds from Trench 14

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
85	u/s	3	28	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Medieval

#### Finds from Trench 19

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
2	3	7	342	Glass; base and body sherds, green bottle, embossed "Waddington & Sons, Makers, Mexboro" and "The Clac... Mineral Water ..y" (All Discarded)	Modern
		4	910	Brick fragments, depth 60-65mm (One retained, 334g)	Post med.
		1	232	Roof tile fragment (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	424	Floor tile, complete, but worn	Medieval

#### Finds from Trench 21

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
28	29	2	2	Worked flints; flakes	-
		2	28	Pottery; footring sherds, abraded, BUF	Roman
		11	62	Pottery; body sherds GROG and GROGC	LIA

		2	10	Pottery; rim and body sherd, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
37	38	4	26	Pottery; body sherds, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
47	48	9	76	Pottery; body sherds GROGC	LIA
		2	4	Pottery; body sherds, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
57	58	-	530	Baked clay fragments, some with flat surfaces	-
59	60	3	34	Pottery; joining body sherds GROGC	LIA
74	75	3	104	Pottery; joining body sherds GROGC	LIA
76	77	12	88	Pottery; body sherds, ?all same vessel, GROG	LIA
78	79	3	30	Pottery; body sherds ?GROG (sandy)	LIA
80	Layer	14	396	Pottery; storage jar rim, shoulder and body sherds GROGC (mostly this); body sherds GROG	LIA
		1	22	Pottery; body sherd, platter, micaceous surfaces, ?TN	LIA

#### Finds from Trench 23

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
10	12	-	2	Burnt bone fragments	-
		-	116	Baked clay, one with flat surface	-
		2	24	Worked flints; flakes	-
		3	94	Burnt flints, cracked and angular, pink and white (one is knapping waste).	-
		-	1625	Slag/furnace lining fragments, light and vesicular	-
		89	864	Pottery; storage jar rim and body sherds, Cam 260 rim sherd, very burnt base sherd GROGC, 34/610g; jar rims x 4, base and body sherds GROG, 55/254g (many sherds are burnt and/or abraded)	LIA
		3	4	Pottery; body sherds, one with rouletting, NGWF	LIA/Roman
		2	32	Pottery; body sherds COLB and RED	Roman
11	12	3	50	Pottery; shoulder sherds GROGC; jar rim sherd GRS with red surfaces	Early Roman
13	layer	1	2	Flint; oblique arrowhead	Neolithic
		2	22	Burnt flints, cracked and angular, red and white	-
		-	30	Slag fragment, lightweight and vesicular	-
		6	32	Pottery; rim and body sherds, one cordoned, GROG	LIA
		1	4	Pottery; rim sherd GRS	Roman
		5	40	Pottery; body sherds, flint-tempered	Prehistoric

### Finds from Trench 24

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
68	67	-	4	Charcoal fragment	-
		-	32	Baked clay fragments	-
		-	170	Briquettage fragments	LIA
		75	810	Pottery; storage jar rim and shoulder sherds, body sherds GROGC 31/565g; 'trumpet' pedestal base, rim and body sherds GROG, (many sherds are burnt and/or abraded)	LIA
		2	20	Pottery; Cam 113 beaker rim sherd NGWF; platter rim sherd TN, both abraded	LIA/Roman
		5	36	Pottery; body sherds COLB and RED, latter may be burnt	Roman

### Finds from Trench 25

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
25	24	1	10	Flint scraper	Neolithic
		-	28	Slag fragment, lightweight and vesicular	-
		32	148	Pottery; body sherds GROGC 16/108g, some with no surfaces; G16 jar rim and body sherds GROG; H7 beaker rim and neck sherds GROG; two-ribbed handle GROG	LIA
		2	2	Pottery; body sherds GRF and BSW	Roman
27	26	2	28	Tile fragments	Post med.
		1	24	Pottery; body sherd, ?amphora (micaceous, but very thin)	Roman
43	Layer	1	10	Flint scraper	Neolithic
		2	4	Pottery; body sherds GROG	LIA

### Finds from Trench 27

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
19	14	3	38	Worked flints; one blade, two flakes	-
		22	82	Pottery; body sherds GRF, GRS and RED, abraded	Roman
		1	1	Pottery; crumb, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
22	Layer	7	-	Organic matter, twigs and slivers, kept damp	-
86	layer	4	44	Flints from sample 1	-
		-	2	Charcoal fragments from sample 1 (Discarded)	-

## APPENDIX 4

### Pottery and Flint Data

#### LIA/Roman Pottery

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
10	12	89	864	Storage jar rim and body sherds, Cam 260 rim sherd, very burnt base sherd GROGC, 34/610g; jar rims x 4, base and body sherds GROG, 55/254g (many sherds are burnt and/or abraded)	LIA
		2	32	Body sherds COLB and RED	Roman
		3	4	Body sherds, one with rouletting, NGWF	LIA/Roman
11	12	3	50	Shoulder sherds GROGC; jar rim sherd GRS with red surfaces	Early Roman
13	layer	6	32	Rim and body sherds, one cordoned, GROG	LIA
		1	4	Rim sherd GRS	Roman
19	14	22	82	Body sherds GRF, GRS and RED, abraded	Roman
25	24	32	148	Body sherds GROGC 16/108g, some with no surfaces; G16 jar rim and body sherds GROG; H7 beaker rim and neck sherds GROG; two-ribbed handle GROG	LIA
		2	2	Body sherds GRF and BSW	Roman
27	26	1	24	Body sherd, ?amphora (micaceous, but very thin)	Roman
28	29	2	28	Footring sherds, abraded, BUF	Roman
		11	62	Body sherds GROG and GROGC	LIA
43	Layer	2	4	Body sherds GROG	LIA
47	48	9	76	Body sherds GROGC	LIA
59	60	3	34	Joining body sherds GROGC	LIA
68	67	75	810	Storage jar rim and shoulder sherds, body sherds GROGC 31/565g; 'trumpet' pedestal base, rim and body sherds GROG, (many sherds are burnt and/or abraded)	LIA
		2	20	Cam 113 beaker rim sherd NGWF; platter rim sherd TN, both abraded	LIA/Roman
		5	36	Body sherds COLB and RED, latter may be burnt	Roman
74	75	3	104	Joining body sherds GROGC	LIA
76	77	12	88	Body sherds, ?all same vessel, GROG	LIA
78	79	3	30	Body sherds ?GROG (sandy)	LIA
80	Layer	14	396	Storage jar rim, shoulder and body sherds GROGC (mostly this); body sherds GROG	LIA
		1	22	Body sherd, platter, micaceous surfaces, ?TN	LIA
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>2952</b>		

### Other Pottery

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
13	Layer	5	40	Body sherds, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
19	14	1	1	Crumb, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
28	29	2	10	Rim and body sherd, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
37	38	4	26	Body sherds, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
47	48	2	4	Body sherds, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
	Totals	<b>14</b>	<b>81</b>		
85	u/s	3	28	Rim and body sherds	Medieval

### Flints

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
10	12	2	24	1 flake, tertiary, waste 1 flake, secondary, deep bulbs, cortex platform, platform widest part	- IA or later
		3	94	Burnt flints, cracked and angular, pink and white (one is knapping waste)	-
13	layer	1	2	1 Oblique Arrowhead, hollow based, single barb	M-L Neolithic
		2	22	Burnt flints, cracked and angular, red and white	-
19	14	3	38	1 blade, tertiary, irregular, treacly brown with inclusions 2 flakes, primary	E Neolithic? -
25	24	1	10	1 Scraper on end of blade-flake, tertiary, fine platform edge preparation	E Neolithic
28	29	2	2	2 flakes, small (1 secondary, 1 tertiary, thinning)	-
43	Layer	1	10	1 Scraper on end of blade, secondary, fine	E Neolithic
86	layer	4	44	Flints from sample 1 - 1 core, flake, 'Salami' type removals 1 flake, secondary, patinated 1 flake, butt part, tertiary, thin section 1 chipping, tertiary, trimming	IA or later - - -
	Totals	<b>19</b>	<b>246</b>		

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**

One arch lever file containing:

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Copy of the Brief for the Excavation

**2. Research Archive**

- 2.1 Monitoring Report (Client Report)
- 2.2 Finds Report

**3. Site Archive**

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Original Context Records (1 to 94)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 8 A4 plan sheets,
- 3.6 1 A4 section sheet
- 3.7 Trench location plan
- 3.8 Photographic Register
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record ( 2 Sets Colour Slides and B/W prints)

**Not in File**

- 7 large plan sheets
- 3 large section sheets

**Finds**

The finds occupy less than one box.

## APPENDIX 5

### EHCR SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Land adjacent to Elmstead Road and Boundary Road, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b>	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 0242 2424	<b>Site Code:</b> COLEM.2004.79
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Date of Work:</b> 2 to 23 February 2004	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 3143m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Colchester	<b>Funding source:</b> Northcroft
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> ?	<b>Related HCR Nos.:</b> 2413
<b>Final Report:</b>	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Prehistoric/Late Iron Age/Roman	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit on land proposed as the southern extension to the University of Essex Research Park. The evaluation consisted of 26 machine-excavated trenches and two hand-dug trenches. Investigation within the eastern field revealed a number of Late Iron Age and Roman ditches and post-holes centred upon four trenches (21, 23, 24 and 25). These features date to the first half of the 1st century AD and were perhaps associated with agricultural activity on the west facing valley slope. Residual Bronze Age pottery and Neolithic worked flint were recovered, suggesting earlier prehistoric activity in the area. A scatter of undated features and a modern field boundary were also recorded.</p> <p>In the western field, work in Trench 27 confirmed that one of the low-lying barrow features (also visible as a ring-ditch on aerial photographs) is man-made. However, the excavated evidence is ambiguous as to the date and function of the mound. Artefacts recovered from the mound interior and surrounding ring-ditch deposits may tentatively infer an Iron Age, Roman or later date. But this material may be the product of secondary use of an existing monument. On typological grounds, the mound, and by inference the further three known mounds and ring-ditches in close proximity, is more likely to be a Bronze Age barrow (burial mound). Despite this ambiguity, the evaluation has clarified that the surviving mounds and associated ring ditches are clearly not recent in origin – as has been hitherto suggested.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> - University of Essex Research Park, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. ECC	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> T. Ennis	<b>Date of Summary:</b> March 2004

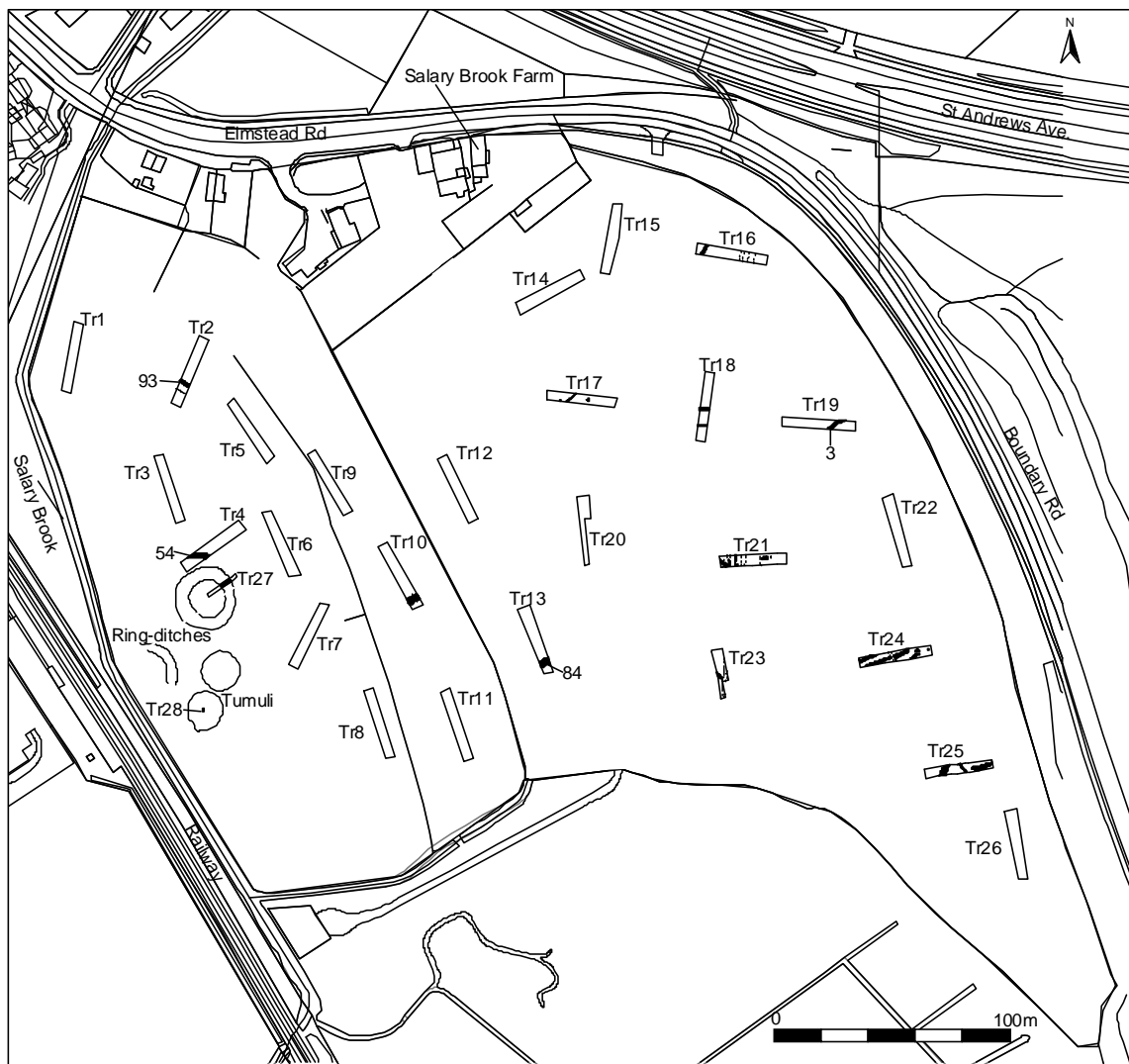
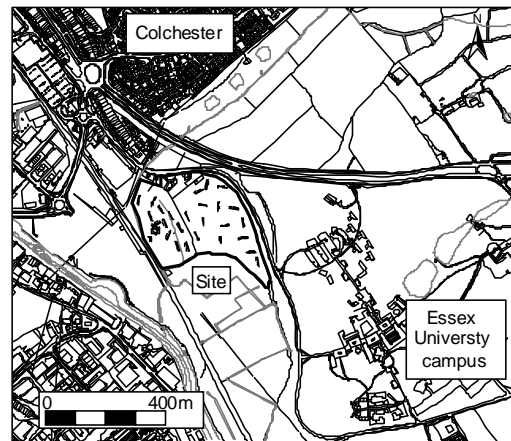
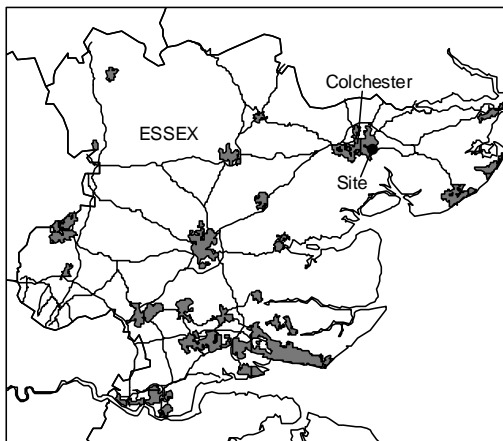


Fig.1. Location and trench plan.

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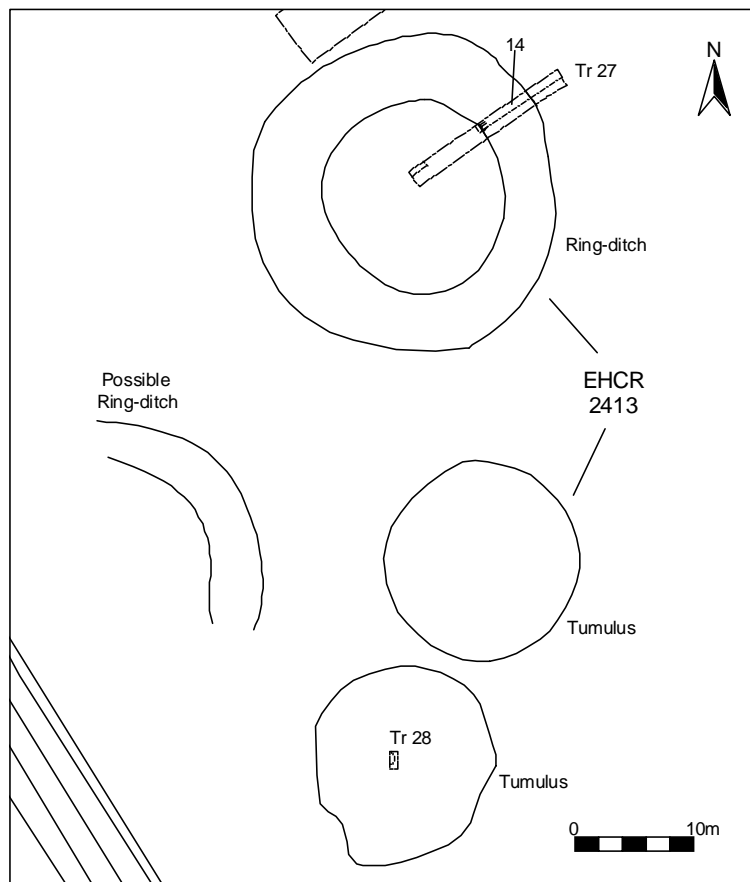


Fig.2. Ring-ditches and Tumuli.

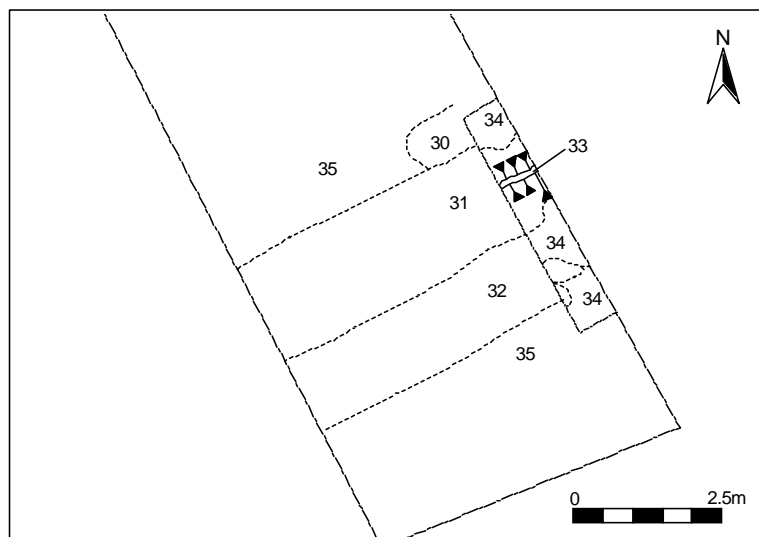


Fig.3. Trench 10.

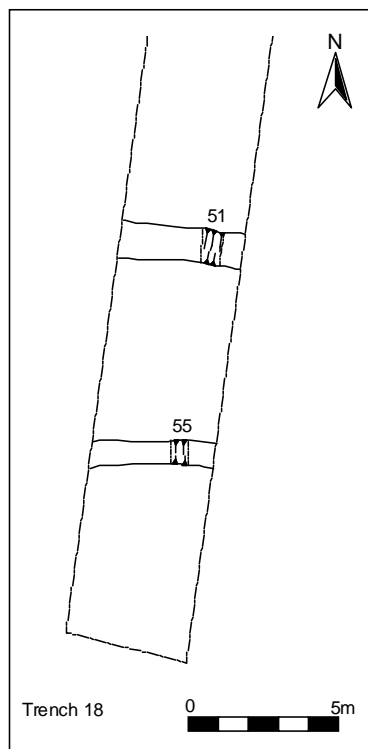
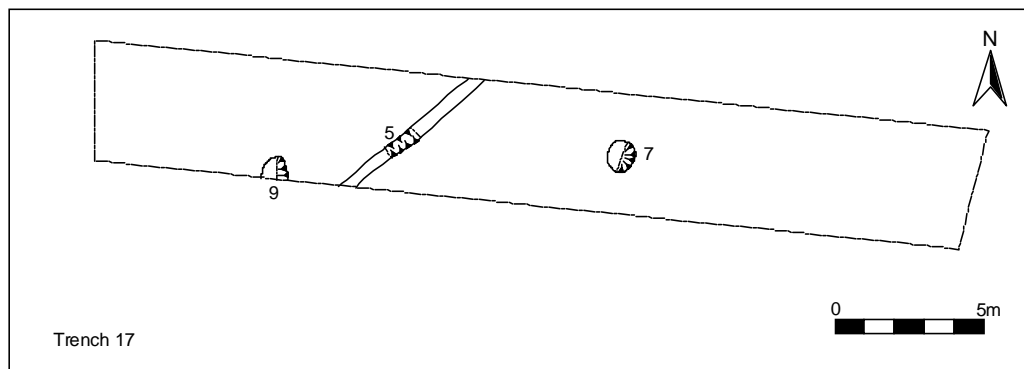
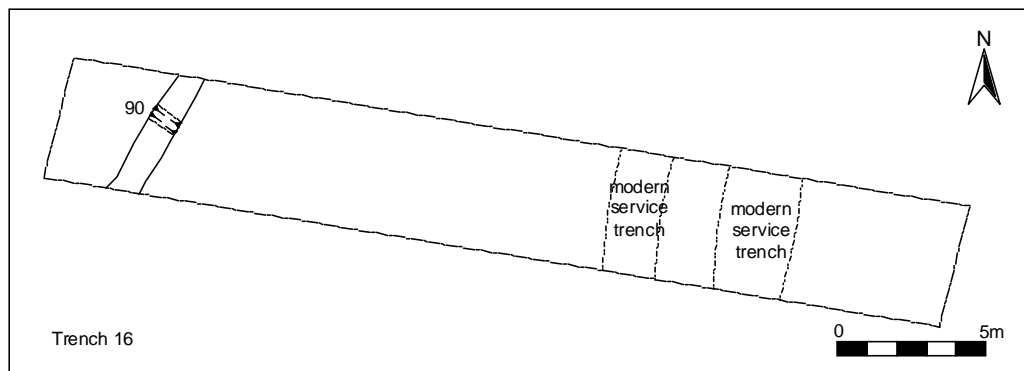


Fig.4. Trenches 16, 17, & 18.

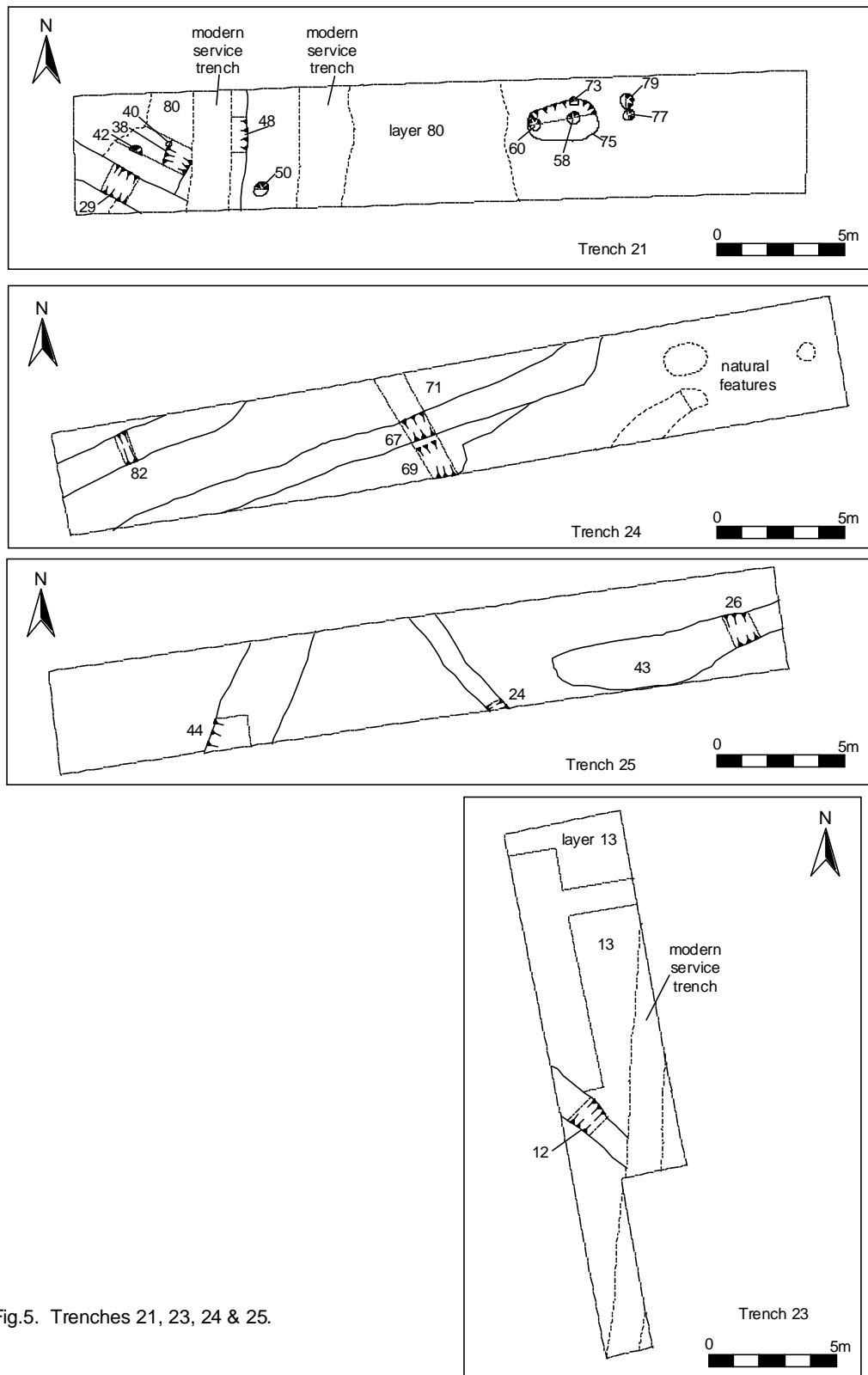


Fig.5. Trenches 21, 23, 24 & 25.

