



LODGE FARM, BOXTED ROAD, GREAT HORKESLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared on behalf of:

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Abstract

On the 17th and 18th of May 2018 Britannia Archaeology LTD (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley for Thurlow Nunn and Standen on behalf of P G Rix (Farms) LTD, in advance of the construction of a new onion grading and compost buildings.

The archaeological background for the site stated that the site is situated within an area of archaeological interest defined in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (HER), with cropmarks recorded within the site. The evaluation revealed three phases of activity on the site

The earliest phase encountered can be dated to the prehistoric period, and relates to a burnt pit located in the eastern end of trench 9 and a solution hollow located in the centre of trench 8. It is likely that these relate to some form of prehistoric rural activity.

The second phase dates from the medieval to early post-medieval period, this phase consists of a single ditch crossing the site with a north-west to south-east orientation present in trenches 3, 5 and 7 and relates to cropmarks recorded within the site.

The third phase of activity is the formation of the modern agricultural ploughsoil.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in characterising the archaeology located on the site. With the main potential for the site focused on the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, represented by features and finds located in the south-west of the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 17th and 18th of May 2018 Britannia Archaeology LTD (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley (NGRTL 9826 3138) for Thurlow Nunn and Standen on behalf of P G Rix (Farms) LTD, in advance of the construction of a new onion grading and compost buildings.

The work was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBC/AA) (J. Tipper, 23 March 2018) which required a programme of trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened area. The site took the form of 9 linear trial trenches (one 50.00m x 2.00m and eight 30.00m x 2.00m trenches).

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located on the south-eastern edge of the small village of Great Horkesley, which is situated 3 miles north of Colchester and lies within the borough of Colchester. The site is c.50.00 AOD and is currently in use as arable land.

The bedrock geology is Thames Group – Clay, Silt and Sand. This is a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period when the local environment was previously dominated by deep seas (BSG 2018).

Superficial deposits have been recorded at the site and are described as Cover Sand – Clay, Silt and Sand. These Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by wind-blown deposits (U) (BSG 2018).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

- The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;



- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred;
- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

3.1 Colchester Borough Council Core Strategy (adopted 2008, updated 2014)

- The “natural and historic environment, countryside and coastline will be conserved to protect the Borough’s diverse history, archaeology, geology, and biodiversity”.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The WSI for the project was prepared by John Newman (2018) and approved by the CBC Archaeological Advisor. The historic background in the WSI was as follows:

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological interest that has been defined in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (HER). Cropmarks, indicative of below-ground archaeological remains, are recorded within this site (HER no. MCC4815). Groundworks relating to the application would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.’ The late 19th century map extract included as the frontispiece above depicts some field boundaries around the PDS that have disappeared in the last 100 years or so and which may be some of the cropmarks as recorded on aerial photographs, (Newman, 2018).

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The CBC/AA brief states that the trial trenching and monitoring exercise is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.



6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Project objectives will cover the following:

- To recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. Also that the state of preservation of archaeological features and deposits should be determined.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- An assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits (to be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist)

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The CBC/AA Brief required a 5% sample of the threatened area. This comprised of 290.00m x 1.80m of trenching in the form of 9 trenches.

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation work was undertaken by hand (Fig.).

The archaeology was recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings and appropriate photographs were also taken.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 2 - 7)

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north to south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m. Trench 1 contained no archaeological features.

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.36m. This overlay natural geology **1001**.



8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated east to west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.41m in sample section 2. Trench 2 contained no archaeological features.

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.39m. This overlay natural geology **1001**.

8.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated north to south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m in sample section 3. Trench 3 contained a single archaeological feature ditch **1006A** which had a north-west to south-east orientation.

Ditch **1006A** was linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was excavated in a 1.00m slot with a width of 1.86m and a depth of 0.44m. It contained two fills, primary fill **1007**, a firm, mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium size sub-angular flint inclusions. Secondary fill, **1008**, was a firm, mid orange-grey brown, sandy silt with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular flint inclusions.

Ditch fill **1008** contained a single slightly abraded to abraded body sherd of unsourced medieval coarseware, dated from the mid 12th to 14th century, however it shares some traits with the products of Mile End (a short distance south-east of the site) and therefore maybe dated from the late 12th to mid/late 13th century (Fawcett 2018). A small slightly abraded fragment of roof tile was noted in ditch fill **1008**, dated from the late medieval to early post-medieval period.

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.38m. This overlay natural geology **1001**.

8.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated east to west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.47m in sample section 4. Trench 4 contained no archaeological features.

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.45m. This layer overlay natural geology **1001**.

8.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated east to west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m in sample section 5. Trench 5 contained a single archaeological feature, which was the continuation of ditch **1006**.

Ditch **1006B** was linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was excavated in a 1.00m slot with a width of 1.81m and a depth of 0.56m. It contained



two fills, primary fill **1017** was a firm, mid grey brown, sandy clay with occasional small to medium sized sub-angular flint inclusions. Secondary fill **1018** was a firm, mid orange brown, sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized sub-angular flint inclusions. No finds were present within the feature.

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.38m. This layer overlay natural geology **1001**.

8.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was orientated north to south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m in sample section 6. Trench 6 contained two archaeological features: burnt pit **1002** located in the southern end of trench 6 and gully **1004**, which was orientated north-west to south-east.

Burnt pit **1002** was circular in plan, with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. The northern edge of the feature had been heavily truncated by ploughing. The burnt pit had a length of 0.42m, a width of 0.50m and a depth of 0.04m. The burnt pit contained a single fill, **1003**, which was a friable, dark grey black-brown, sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of charcoal. No finds were present within the fill, however, a sample taken of the fill contained over 300 fragments of charcoal.

Gully **1004** was linear in plan, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. The gully was excavated in a 1.00m slot with a width of 0.42m and a depth of 0.17m. It contained a single fill, **1005**, a friable, mid grey brown, sandy silt with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular and rounded flint inclusions. No finds were present.

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.42m. This layer overlay natural geology **1001**.

8.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was orientated east to west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m in sample section 7. Trench 7 contained a single archaeological feature (unexcavated), the continuation of ditch **1006**.

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.40m. This layer overlay natural geology **1001**.

8.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was orientated north to south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m in sample section 8. The trench contained a single natural feature.



Solution hollow **1015** was irregular in plan, with shallow sloping sides onto an irregular flat base. The solution hollow was excavated in a 1.00m slot and had a width of 2.62m and a depth of 0.20m.

Containing eleven body sherds of pottery (60g). All of the sherds within this context are flint-tempered fabrics. The assemblage can be split into two broad groups, the first of these amounts to seven sherds (45g) which are predominantly reduced with occasional patchy brown/orange surfaces. The second group is made up of four sherds (15g) which are oxidised and are a lot finer than the previous group. Although the sherds from these two assemblages may be described as being quite fragmentary (an average sherd weight of 6g), none of them display anything more than slight abrasion. The combination of fabrics within this fill indicates an early Iron Age date for this assemblage.

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.34m. This layer overlay natural geology **1001**.

8.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was orientated east to west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.39m in sample section 9. Trench 9 contained three burnt pits located towards the eastern end of the trench all of these pits extended beyond the excavated area of the trench.

Burnt pit **1009** was circular in plan, with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. The burnt pit had a length of 0.42m, width of 0.32m+ and a depth of 0.09m. It contained a single fill, **1010**, a friable, dark grey black, sandy clay, with occasional small to medium sized sub-angular flint inclusions. No finds were present within the feature.

Burnt pit **1011** was circular in plan, with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. The burnt pit had a length of 0.56, width of 0.37m+ and a depth of 0.21m. It contained a single fill, **1012**, a friable, dark grey black, sandy clay. No finds were present within the feature. The sample taken from fill **1012** identified small pieces of burnt flint and two accretions of burnt sandy sediment which likely to suggest in situ burning (Law 2018)

Burnt pit **1013** was circular in plan with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. The burnt pit had a length of 0.64m, width of 0.61m+ and a depth of 0.21m. It contained a single fill, **1014**, a friable, mid yellow grey, silty sand with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular and rounded flint inclusions. The fill contained six very small sherds (11g) of flint-tempered pottery, due to their size and condition it was not possible to date with any further accuracy, therefore as a group these sherds are dated from the late Bronze Age to the early Iron Age (Fawcett 2018).

Ploughsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.37m. This layer overlay natural geology **1001**.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 2-7)

The deposit model was consistent across the site except in trench 8 where a small area of subsoil was present.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence in all trenches was ploughsoil **1000**, which was present to a maximum depth of 0.45m in sample section 4. This comprised of a dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.

In trench 8, beneath ploughsoil layer **1000** was subsoil **1019** which was present to a depth of 0.40m with a thickness of 0.07m. This comprised of a light grey-brown, firm sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions. This layer represented a former agricultural subsoil retained in the depression formed by solution hollow **1015**.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in all trenches, present from a depth of 0.34m in sample section 8, was natural geology **1001**, which consisted of a mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with silt patches and .

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background for the site stated that the site is situated within an area of archaeological interest defined in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (HER), with cropmarks (MCC4815) recorded within the site.

The evaluation revealed three phases of activity on the site, which are as follows:

The earliest phase encountered can be dated to the prehistoric period, and relates to a burnt pit located in the eastern end of trench 9 and a solution hollow located in the centre of trench 8. Burnt pit **1013** contained six very small sherds (11g) of flint tempered pottery dated from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age. Solution hollow **1015** contained eleven body sherds (60g) of flint tempered pottery displaying only slight abrasion, dated from the early Iron Age.

Analysis of the soil samples taken from these features revealed little evidence of economic activity or floral remains. The sample from burnt pit **1013** contained a small snail shell from a *Vallonia cf. excentrica*, generally an open country species suggesting the feature was formed in a grassland environment.

The second phase dates from the medieval to early post-medieval period, this phase consists of a single ditch crossing the site with a north-west to south-east orientation present in trenches 3, 5 and 7 and relates to cropmarks (MCC4815) recorded within the site. Ditch **1006** contained a single abraded/slightly abraded body sherd of pottery dated from the mid 12th to 14th century, however, it shares some traits with the products of Mile End (a short distance south-east of the site) and therefore, could be dated from the late 12th to mid/late 13th century. The ditch also contained a small and slightly abraded fragment of roof tile dated from the late medieval to early post-medieval period. Ditch



1006 cannot be considered well dated due to the limited number of fragments present within the secondary fill. The pottery displays more abrasion than the CBM and therefore must be considered residual, demonstrating that the roof tile fragment in the secondary fill provides the more reliable date range, which spans the late medieval to early post-medieval periods.

The third phase of activity is the formation of ploughsoil layer **1000** which is a result of modern agricultural activity at the site.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in characterising the archaeology located on the site. With the main potential for the site focused on the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, represented by features and finds located in the south-west of the site.

11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with the relevant museum (Colchester and Ipswich Museum), subject to agreement with the legal landowner where finds are concerned. The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Thurlow Nunn Standen and P G Rix (Farms) Ltd for commissioning and funding the project.

We would also like to thank Jess Tipper from Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor for his advice and assistance on the project.

The site was excavated by Matthew Baker, Matthew Adams and Martin Brook of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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Historic England PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

Historic England National List for England

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>

DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>

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APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	N-S	50.89	10
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	E Side, N end of trench	W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.36m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.36m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	

TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
2	E-W	50.82	8
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
2	N Side, E end of trench	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.39m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.39m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	

TRENCH 3

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
3	N-S	50.69	20
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
3	E Side, S end of trench	W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.38m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.38m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	



Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description	Layer/Fill	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1006A	Ditch (1.00m+ x 1.86m x 0.44m) Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides with a concave base. On a NW to SW orientation.	1007	Mid grey brown, firm, sandy silt, with occasional small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	-	-
		1008	Mid orange-grey brown, firm, sandy silt, with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular flint inclusions	Late medieval to early post-medieval	Pottery/9g (1) CBM/51g (1)

TRENCH 4

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
4	E-W	50.79	6
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
4	N Side, W end of trench	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.45m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.45m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	

TRENCH 5

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
5	E-W	50.56	30
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
5	N Side, W end of trench	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.38m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.38m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	



Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description	Layer/Fill	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1006B	Ditch (1.00m+ x 1.81m x 0.56m) Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides with a concave base. On a NW to SW orientation.	1017	Mid grey brown, firm, sandy clay, with occasional small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	-	-
		1018	Mid orange-grey brown, firm, sandy silt, with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular flint inclusions	-	-

TRENCH 6

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
6	N-S	50.57	17
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
6	W Side, S end of trench	E Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.42m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.42m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description	Layer/Fill	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1002	Burnt Pit (0.42m x 0.50m x 0.04m) Circular in plan, shallow sloping sides with a flat base.	1003	Dark grey black-brown, friable, sandy clay with very frequent charcoal inclusions.	-	-
1004	Gully (1.00m+ x 0.42m x 0.17m) Linear in plan, moderate sloping sides with a concave base. On a NW to SE orientation.	1005	Mid grey brown, friable, silty sand with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular flint stone inclusions.	-	-



TRENCH 7

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
7	E-W	50.64	13
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
7	N Side, W end of trench	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.40m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.40m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description	Layer/Fill	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1006C	Ditch (Unexcavated) Linear in plan. On a NW to SW orientation.	-	-	-	-

TRENCH 8

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
8	N-S	50.83	26
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
8	W Side, centre of trench	E Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.34m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.34m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description	Layer/Fill	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1015	Solution Hollow (1.00m+ x 2.62m x 0.20m) Irregular in plan, shallow sloping sides and an irregular flattish base.	1016	Dark grey brown, firm, clayey silt, with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular flint inclusions.	Early Iron Age	Pottery/60g (11)
		1019	Mid yellow brown, firm, clayey silt, with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	-	-



TRENCH 9

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
9	E-W	50.73	25
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
9	S Side, E end of trench	N Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.37m	Ploughsoil: Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	
1001	0.37m+	Natural: Mid orange-yellow, compact sandy clay with pockets of silt.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description	Layer/Fill	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1009	Burnt Pit (0.42m x 0.32m+ x 0.09m) Circular in plan, shallow sloping sides with a flat base.	1010	Dark grey black-brown, friable, sandy clay with moderate-frequent charcoal inclusions and occasion small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	-	-
1011	Burnt Pit (0.56m x 0.37m+ x 0.21m) Circular in plan, shallow sloping sides with a flat base.	1012	Dark grey black-brown, friable, sandy clay with moderate-frequent charcoal inclusions and occasion small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	-	-
1013	Burnt Pit/Pit (0.64m x 0.61m+ x 0.21m) Circular in plan, moderately sloping sides with a concave base.	1014	Mid yellow-grey brown, friable, sandy silt, moderate charcoal and small to medium sized flint stone inclusions.	Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age	Pottery/11g (6)



Appendix 2 Concordance of Finds

CONTEXT	CUT	TRENCH	TYPE	SPOT DATE	POTTERY No	Wgt/g	CBM No	Wgt/g	COMMENTS
1008	1006	3	DITCH	Late med/early post-med	1	9	1	51	See the pottery and CBM report for further commentary on the spot date
1014	1013	9	PIT	Late Bronze to Early Iron Age	6	11			Fired clay 1@5g
1016	1015	8	SOLOUTION HOLLOW	Early Iron Age	11	60			
TOTALS					18	80	1	51	Fired clay 1@5g

DRAFT



APPENDIX 3 – SPECIALIST REPORTS

The pottery, ceramic building materials and fired clay (CBM) from Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex (ECC 4211): An assessment report

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

A total of eighteen sherds of pottery (80g) and one fragment each of CBM (51g) and fired clay (5g) were recovered from three trial trenches at Lodge Farm. This report firstly sets out a methodology of work and then goes on to describe the finds from each individual trench, which is then followed by an overall conclusion and finally any recommendations that might be required for further work on the materials.

Methodology

Both the pottery and CBM groups have been recorded by sherd count and weight. The principle fabrics from each context have been rapidly scanned at x20 vision. Fabric codes have been assigned using simple letter combinations, based upon those used for instance at Suffolk and Essex County Council.

Where present, pottery form types have been allocated simple descriptions, for instance jar or cooking pot. Equally the CBM fragments have been plainly described, for example brick or roof tile.

A breakdown of the fabric codes used for both the pottery and CBM fragments can be seen in Appendix 1.

Trial trench 3

A single body sherd of pottery, whose condition may be considered as between abraded and slightly abraded, was retrieved from Ditch fill 1008. The fabric (MCW) has thin grey surfaces which cover an oxidised body. It is composed of abundant ill-sorted quartz alongside sparse red/brown grog as well as common fine silver mica, which is more prominent on the surfaces. This fabric type is dated from the mid 12th to 14th century, however it shares some traits with the products of Mile End (a short distance to the south-



east of the current site) and may therefore be dated from the late 12th to mid/late 13th century (McCarthy & Brooks 1988, 300).

One small and slightly abraded fragment of roof tile with a depth of 12mm, was noted in Ditch fill 1008 (51g). The piece is in a hard orange and medium sandy fabric (Msg) which exhibits a thin, and often intermittent grey core. The most prominent inclusion is sparse large brown iron rich grog alongside common pale grog pieces, which are generally of a more rounded nature, as well as both sparse calcite and black iron ore. The general overall look of the fabric indicates that it is dated from the late medieval to early post-medieval period.

Trial trench 8

Solution hollow fill 1016 contained eleven body sherds of pottery (60g). All of the sherds within this context are in flint-tempered fabrics (UNS FT) however, it is possible to split the assemblage into two broad groups. The first of these amounts to seven sherds (45g) which are predominantly reduced with occasional patchy brown/orange surfaces. The sherds within this assemblage are coarse, containing abundant ill-sorted flint which is accompanied by sparse to common organic striated voids. The second group is made up of four sherds (15g) which are all oxidised. These sherds are a lot finer than the previous collection and although they contain sparse to common ill-sorted finer flint, it is the quartz sand that is more prominent; occasional large quartz fragments can be clearly observed erupting onto the surfaces. Fine common black iron ore can also be seen as well as some silver mica.

Although the sherds from these two assemblages may be described as being quite fragmentary (an average sherd weight of 6g), none of them display anything more than slight abrasion. The combination of fabrics within this fill indicates an early Iron Age date for the assemblage.

Trial trench 9

Pit fill 1014 contained six very small sherds (11g) of flint-tempered pottery (UNS FT). As seen in the previous prehistoric group, the sherds display only slight abrasion despite the fact that their average sherd weight amounts to less than two grams. The fabrics within this fill are similar to the previous group in Trench 8, containing coarse ill-sorted flint



accompanied by some organic voids. A single, very small and shattered rim sherd, was noted within the group, unfortunately its size and condition means that it cannot be identified further with any accuracy. As a group the sherds within this context are dated from the late Bronze to early Iron Age.

A single small and abraded fragment of fired clay was recorded in Pit fill 1014 (5g). The piece is completely oxidised and its fabric (Ms) is composed chiefly of ill-sorted quartz sand as well as sparse calcitic like voids. No marks, impressions or areas with any kind of flat or irregular surface were observed on the fragment.

Conclusion

The two small prehistoric assemblages from Trenches 8 and 9 represent some form of prehistoric rural activity, perhaps of a settled nature, however further evidence from the site would have to be recovered in order to resolve the nature of prehistoric land use within the confines of the site. The late Bronze/early Iron Age pottery from the current investigation is however consistent for instance with the evidence from the nearby site at Broadacres (Benfield 2018, 3), despite the fact that it consisted solely of a single sherd. Further prehistoric evidence, in the form of burnt and struck flint dated to the same period, was also retrieved from Tile House Farm in Great Horkesley (Brooks 2005, 2).

The pottery and CBM from Ditch 1006A in Trench 3 cannot be considered well dated due to the limited number of fragments present within the fill. Furthermore, the pottery sherd displays far more abrasion than the CBM fragment and must therefore be considered residual. This demonstrates that the roof tile fragment within the top fill (1008) of the ditch, provides the more reliable date range, which spans the late medieval to early post-medieval periods.

Little can be said about the fired clay fragment recorded in the late Bronze/early Iron Age pit fill (1014). It perhaps represents the meagre remains of walling or an oven.

Recommendations for further work

The pottery has been fully examined and no further work on the assemblage will be required. However, if a further stage of archaeological intervention is undertaken, and



subsequent pottery assemblages of a similar nature are recovered, then reference should be made to this current collection from the site.

The single roof tile fragment has been fully recorded and described, therefore no further examination of this material will be required.

The fired clay fragment has been fully identified and reported upon, no further analysis of this material will be required.

Bibliography

- Benfield, S., 2018, 'The pottery' in Pooley, L. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Broadacres, London Road, Great Horkesley, Essex*, CAT Rep No 1258
- Brooks, H., 2005, *An Archaeological Field-walking Evaluation at Tile House Farm, Great Horkesley, Essex*, CAT Rep No 339
- McCarthy, M. R and Brooks, C. M., 1988, *Medieval pottery in Britain AD900-1600*, Leicester University Press

DRAFT



Sample Assessment

LODGE FARM GREAT HORKESLEY

On behalf of Britannia Archaeology

By Matt Law MSc ACIfA FHEA

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY



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2. Methodology
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4. Statement of Potential and Recommendations

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Table 1 – Items within samples from Lodge Farm, Great Horkesley



1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report presents an assessment of 5 samples from archaeological fieldwork at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, as well as a statement of potential and recommendations for further work.

2. Methodology

- 2.1. Samples were processed in a Siraf-style flotation tank by Sandra Gallego Prieto at L - P : Archaeology's East of England office. The residues were retained on a 1mm mesh, while the washover ('flot') was caught on a 250µm mesh sieve.
- 2.2. The resulting flots and residues were weighed whilst wet, and then air dried. The flot from sample 1, which was slow drying, was oven dried at 60°C for 4 hours.
- 2.3. Flots and residues were scanned under a low power binocular microscope.



3. Results and Discussion

- 3.1. Estimated abundance of materials in samples are presented in TABLE 1.
- 3.2. All of the flots contained modern roots, although the relative proportion of the flot made up by modern roots was lowest in sample 1. The generally high proportion of modern roots raises the possibility that smaller items within the samples will be intrusive due to the action of the roots.
- 3.3. All of the samples contained low quantities of charcoal, except for sample 1, which contained over 300 fragments. Generally, the charcoal was in small fragments, the largest being about 5cms in its largest dimension.
- 3.4. A single snail shell, from a *Vallonia cf. excentrica*, was present in the flot of sample 4. This is generally an open country species, found in grassland habitats.
- 3.5. A single pot sherd, of a uniformly oxidised fabric, was present in the residue of sample 4.
- 3.6. Individual small pieces of burnt flint were present in the residues of sample 3 and 5.
- 3.7. In the residue of sample 3, there were two accretions of burnt sandy sediment. Their presence is likely to suggest some *in situ* burning.

Context Number	1003		1010		1012		1014		1016	
Sample Number	1		2		3		4		5	
Context Description	Pit fill		Pit fill		Pit fill		Pit fill		Solution hollow fill	
Sample Volume (L)	10		10		10		10		10	
	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue
Weight after processing (g)	109	159	15	1550	10	608	18	718	18	967
% modern roots	c.10		c.90		c.90		c.90			
Notes	Frequent sub-rounded to angular stones (flint)		Frequent sub-rounded to angular stones (flint)		Frequent sub-rounded to angular stones (flint)		Frequent sub-rounded to angular stones (flint)		Frequent sub-rounded to angular stones (flint)	
Charcoal	>300	29	3		14		8	5	6	29
Shell							1			
Pot								1		
Burnt flint						1				1
Burnt sediment						1				

Table 1 – Items within samples from Lodge Farm, Great Horkesley

4. Statement of Potential and Recommendations

4.1. The samples give a limited insight into the economy of the site. There is no reliable indication of the site environment.

4.2. The charcoal assemblage is largely small and comprised of small fragments. The exception to this is sample 1. Assessment of a subsample of this material may allow some clarification of resource use at the site. It is recommended that a subsample of 100 pieces of charcoal greater than 4mm in their largest dimension be assessed by a suitably experienced archaeobotanist. This recommendation is contingent on the relative date of the feature within the site chronology being well understood, whether through direct dating by finds, or by analogy based on its stratigraphic position.

4.3. No further work is judged necessary on the remainder of the items from the samples.



APPENDIX 4 – OASIS SHEET

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OASIS ID: britanni1-316552

Project details

Project name	Lodge farm, boxsted road, great horkesley
Short description of the project	On the 17th and 18th of May 2018 Britannia Archaeology LTD (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley for Thurlow Nunn and Standen on behalf of P G Rix (Farms) LTD, in advance of the construction of a new onion grading and compost buildings. The archaeological background for the site stated that the site is situated within an area of archaeological interest defined in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (HER), with cropmarks recorded within the site. The evaluation revealed three phases of activity on the site. The earliest phase encountered can be dated to the prehistoric period, and relates to a burnt pit located in the eastern end of trench 9 and a solution hollow located in the centre of trench 8. It is likely that these relate to some form of prehistoric rural activity. The second phase dates from the medieval to early post-medieval period, this phase consists of a single ditch crossing the site with a north-west to south-east orientation present in trenches 3, 5 and 7 and relates to cropmarks recorded within the site. The third phase of activity is the formation of the modern agricultural ploughsoil. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in characterising the archaeology located on the site. With the main potential for the site focused on the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, represented by features and finds located in the south-west of the site.
Project dates	Start: 17-05-2018 End: 18-05-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P1238 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	BURNT PIT Uncertain
Monument type	BURNT PIT Uncertain
Monument type	BURNT PIT Uncertain
Monument type	BURNT PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	SOLUTION HOLLOW Early Iron Age



Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER GREAT HORKESLEY lodge farm, boxted road, great horkesley
Postcode	CO6 4AP
Study area	1.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9826 3138 51.945016438937 0.885003470948 51 56 42 N 000 53 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 50.57m Max: 50.89m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Lousia Cunningham
Project director/manager	Martin Brook
Project supervisor	Matthew Baker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Thurlow Nunn and Standen / P G Rix (Farms) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	ECC 4211
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"



Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC 4211
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Survey", "Text"
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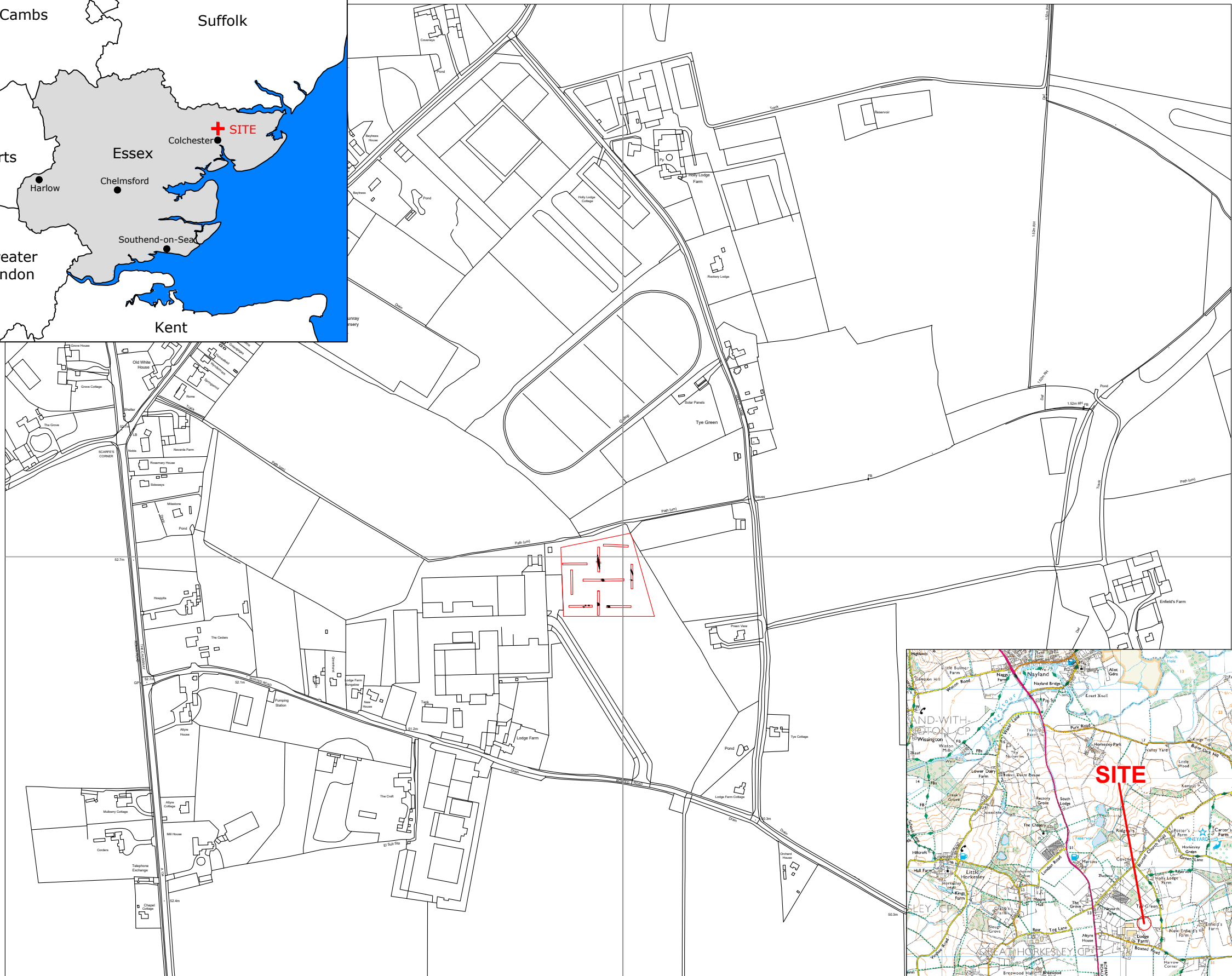
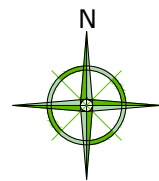
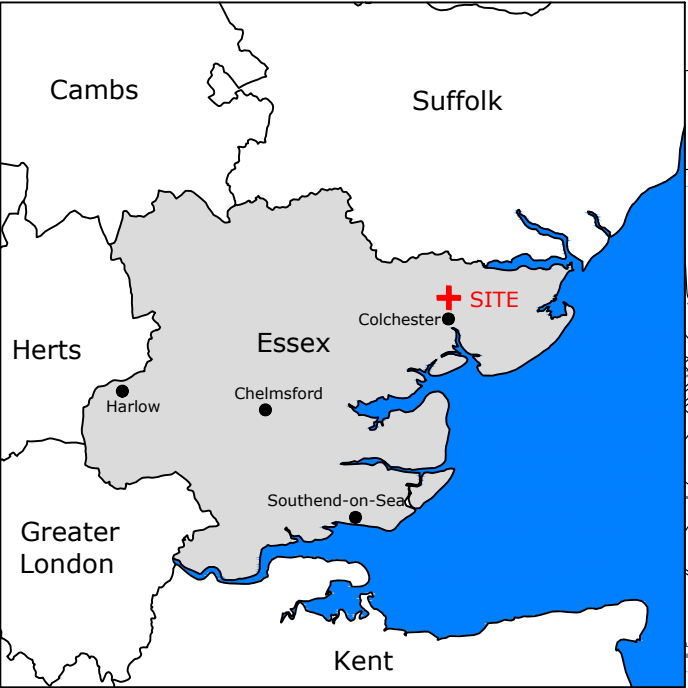
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Other bibliographic details	R1201
Date	2018
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Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A4 bound report with fold-out A3 figures
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Entered by	Martin Brook (martin@brit-arch.com)
Entered on	2 July 2018

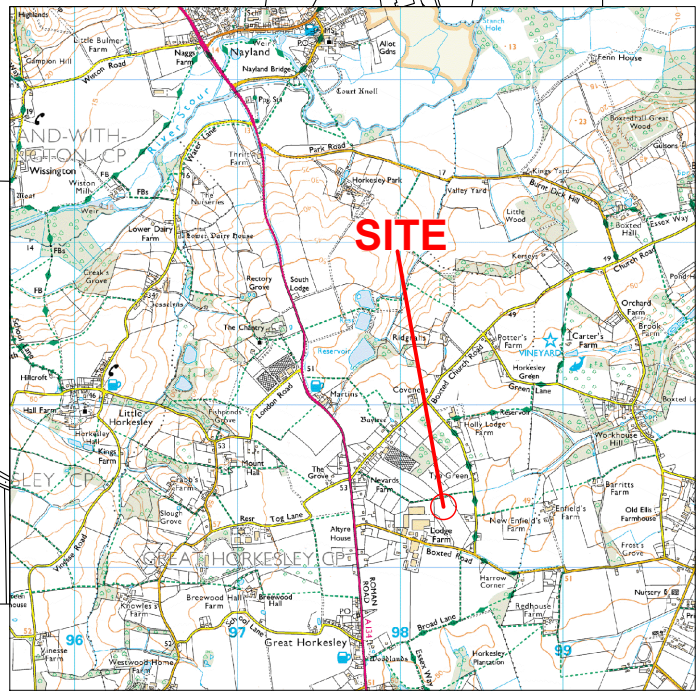
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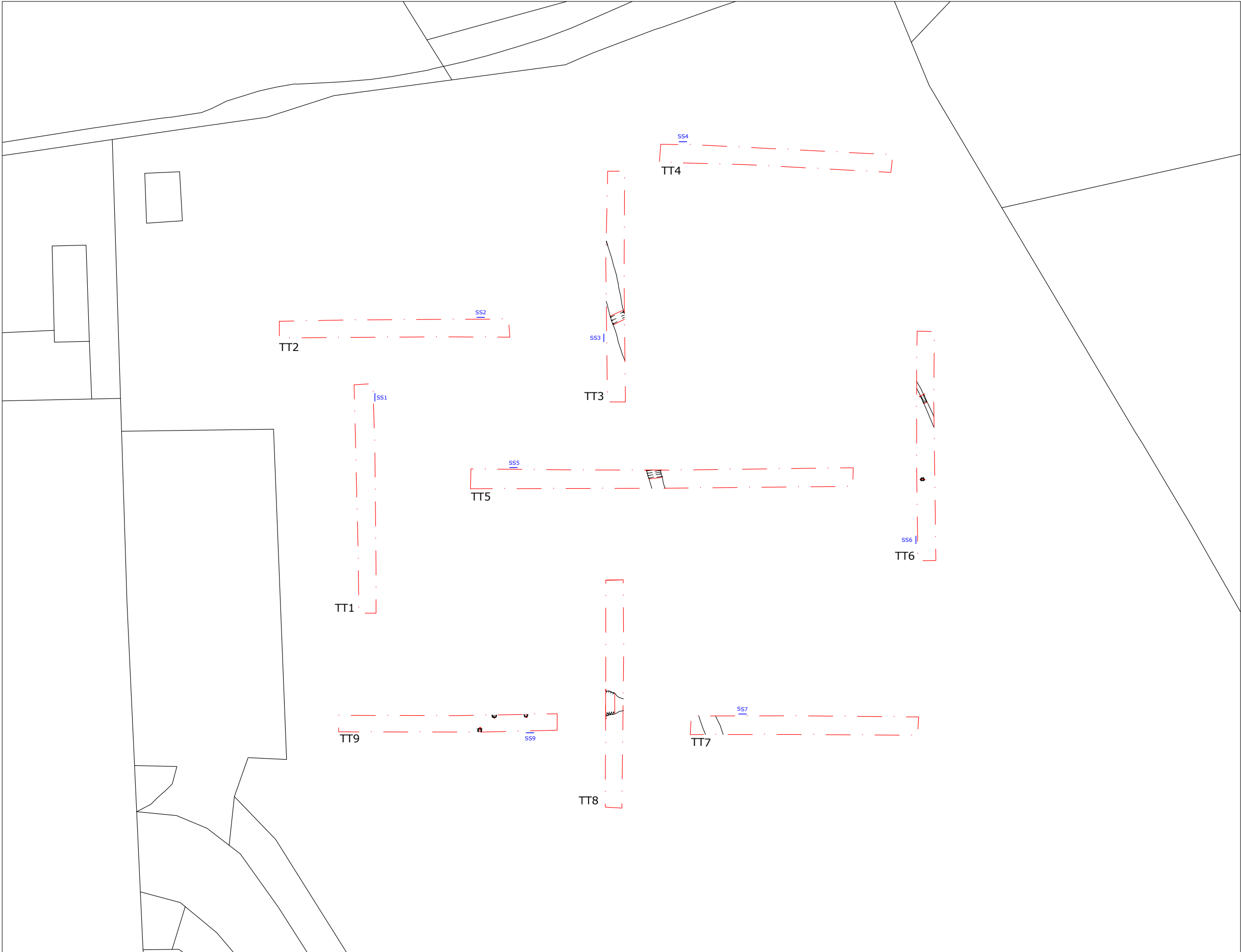






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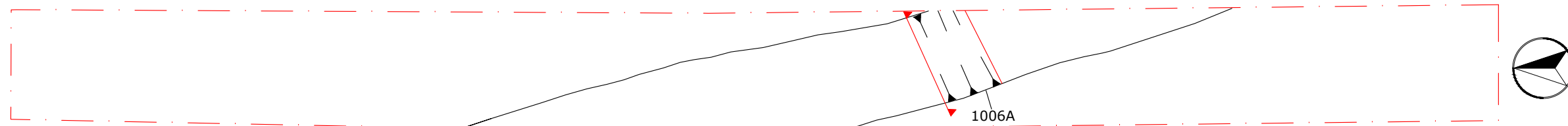
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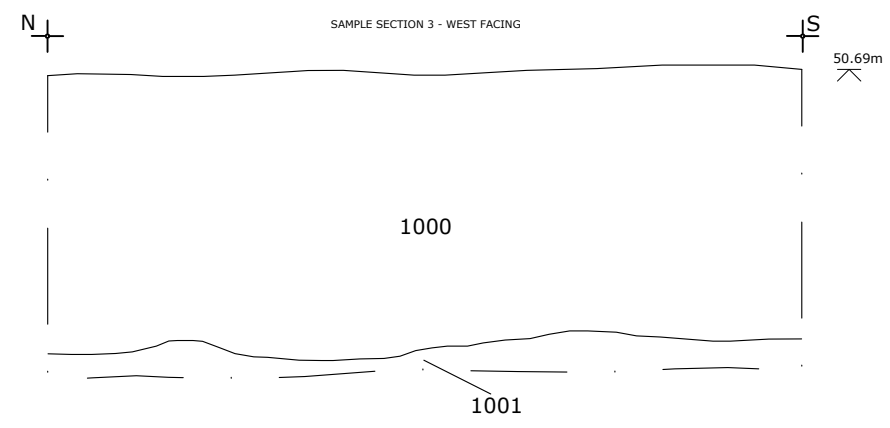
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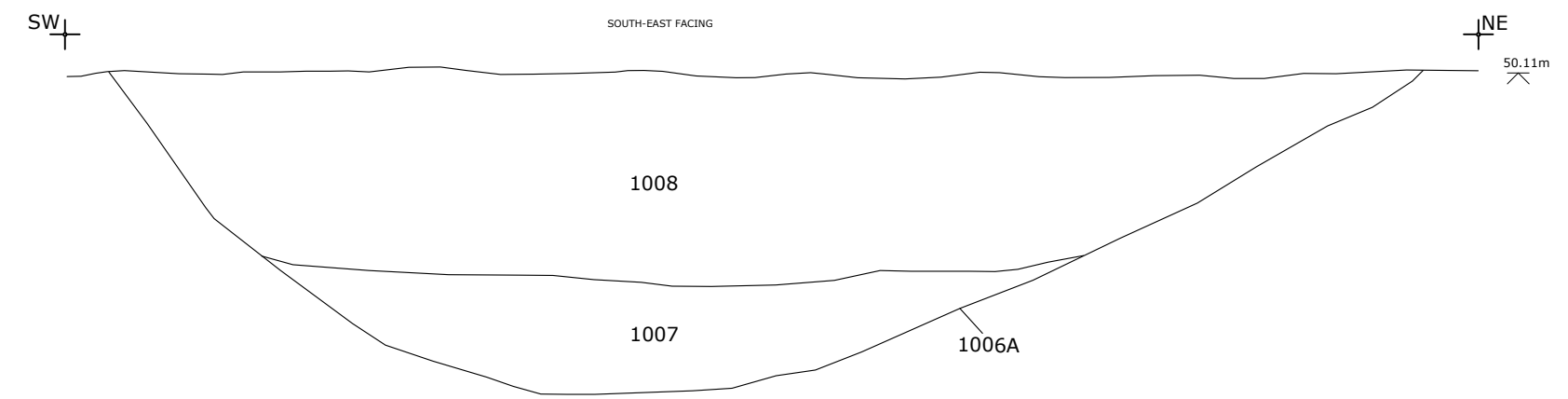
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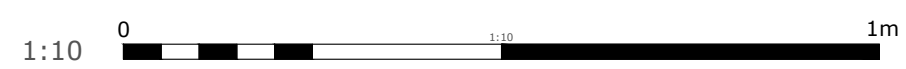
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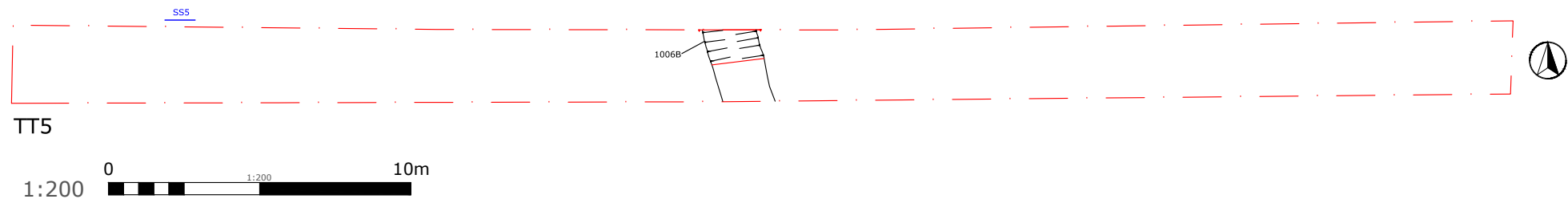
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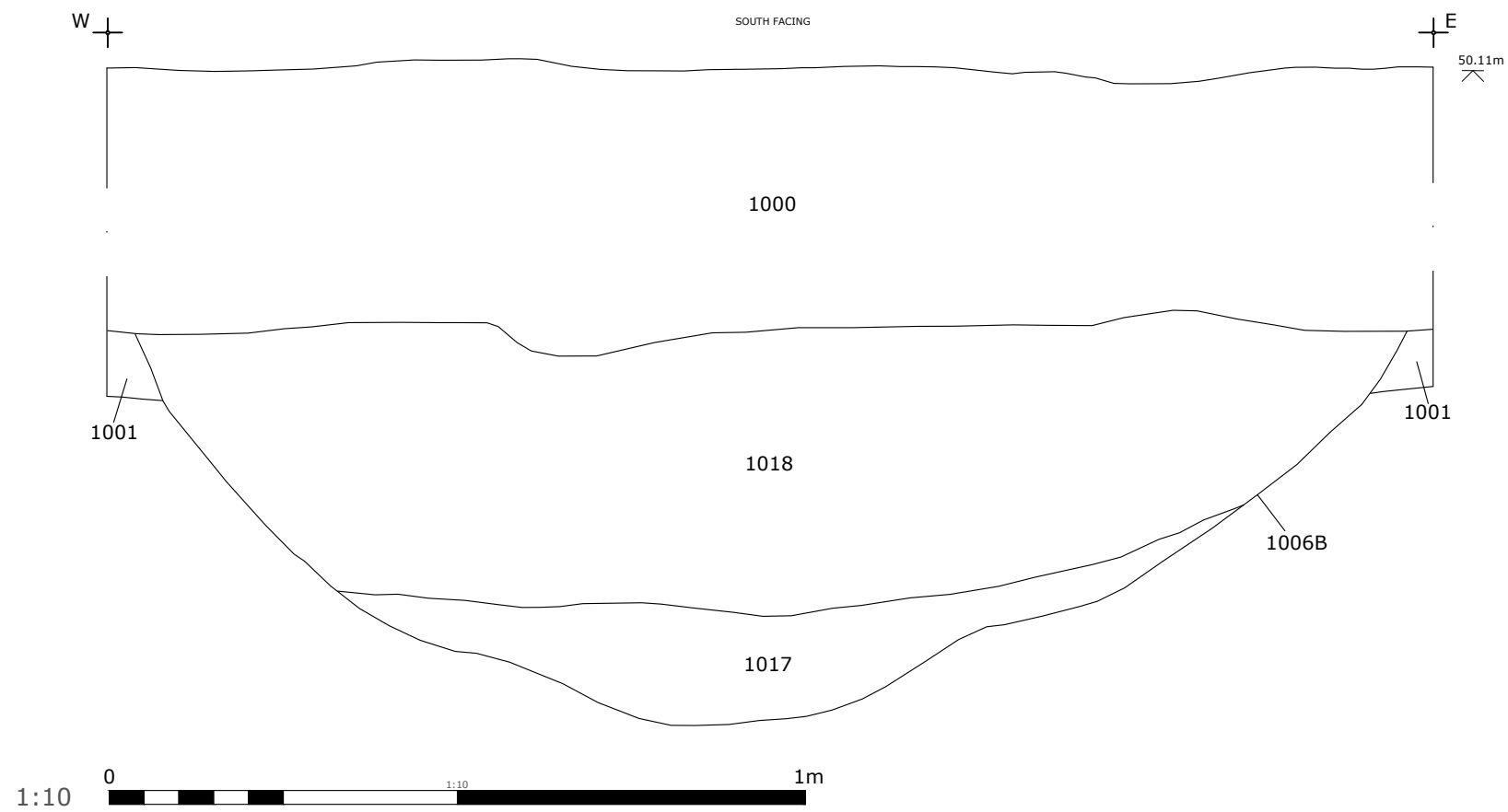
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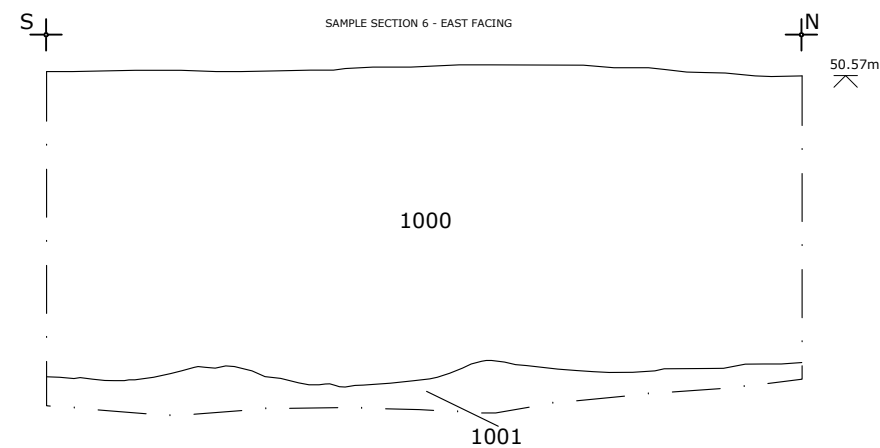
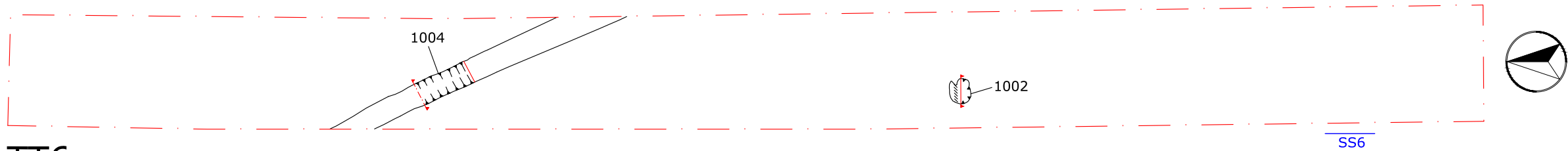


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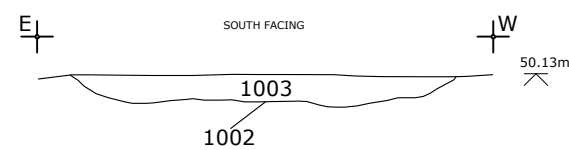


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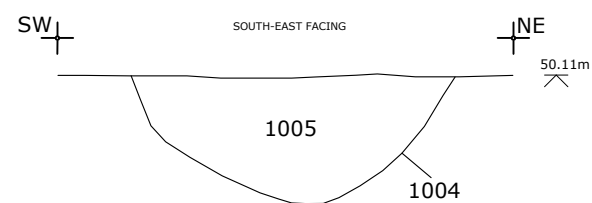
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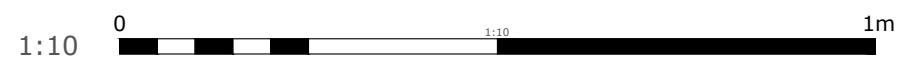
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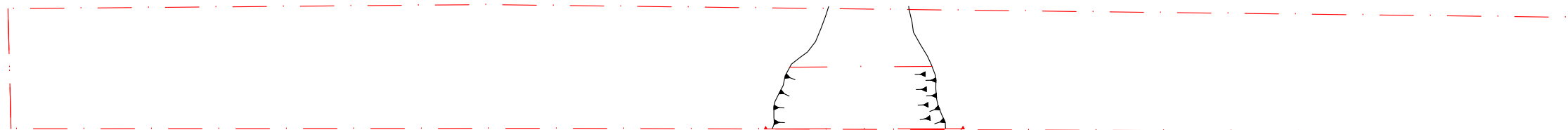
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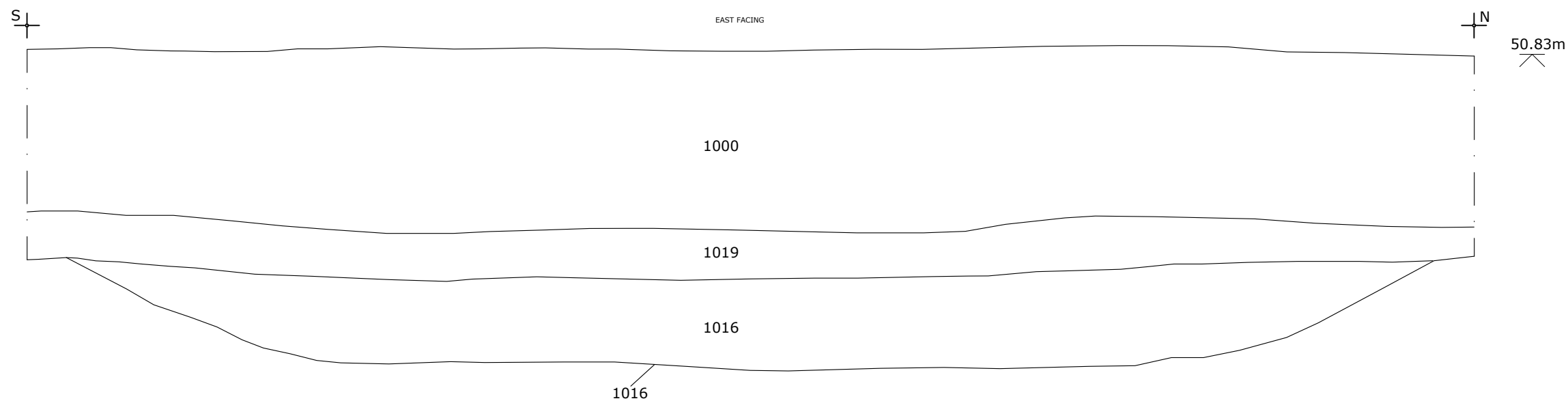


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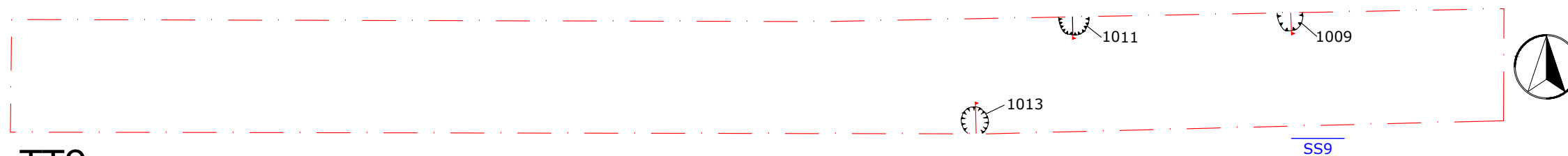


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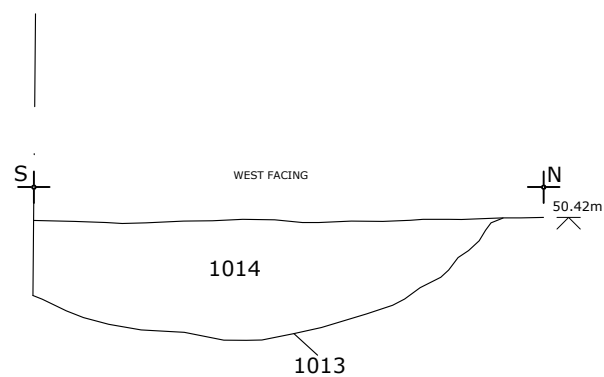
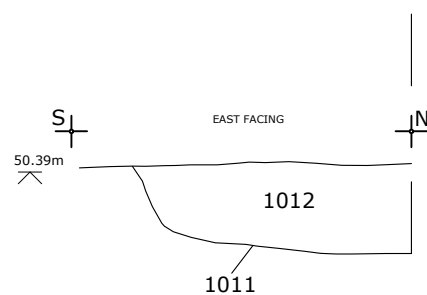
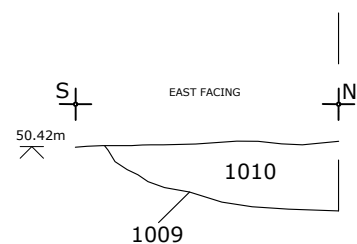
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VERSION:	1		
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APPROVED:	DPM		



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DP22 - BURNT PIT 1011



DP23 - BURNT PIT 1013

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