

**Archaeological Evaluation** 

Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Essex

ASE Project No: 190456 HER ref & Site code: ECC4431

ASE Report No: 2020038



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NGR: TL 97435 29225

ASE Project No: 190456 HER ref & Site code: ECC4431

ASE Report No: 2020038 OASIS ID: 383888

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### Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd, on behalf of Bloor Homes Eastern, to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land north of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Essex.

The pre-determination evaluation was carried out in relation to a proposed housing-led development and was the second phase of archaeological fieldwork on the site, having been preceded by a geophysical survey. Forty-two evaluation trenches were excavated across the 10.4ha site, some of which were targeted upon selected geophysical anomalies.

Archaeological features were identified in sixteen of the trenches, comprising ditches, land drains and pits distributed across the site.

The majority of the recorded features constitute field boundary/drainage ditches and land drains, all of which relate to the agricultural land use of the site in the late post-medieval to modern period (19th and 20th century). The field ditches correlate with boundaries shown on historic mapping from 1840 onwards. Many of the field drains were inserted when field ditches were removed/infilled to create larger fields, from the late 19th-century onwards; the further extents of the drainage systems have been plotted by the geophysical survey.

Four undated, but distinctive, charcoal-rich pits were encountered in the east and north-central areas of the site. These are considered to be part of a much more extensive distribution of such features across the landscape that is interpreted to constitute the remains of past charcoal-production on the former heathland that seemingly spans the Iron Age to Medieval, and possibly Post-medieval, periods.

A fifth, undistinguished, small pit was the only other undated archaeological feature encountered.

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land north of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Essex.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the pre-determination stage of a proposed planning application for a housing-led development, and was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd on behalf of Bloor Homes Eastern Ltd. It was the second phase of archaeological fieldwork on the site, having been preceded by a geophysical survey.
- 1.1.3 The site is located at National Grid Reference TL 97435 29225, on the western edge of the village of Great Horkesley, in Colchester Borough, which lies to the northwest of Colchester town, separated by the A12 road. (Figure 1).
- 1.1.4 The proposed development site is an irregular parcel of land, in agricultural use. It is bounded to the south and west by Coach Road, to the north by fields and to the east by a recent residential development on Gala Close. The site has an area of approximately 10.4 hectares.

# 1.2 Topography and Geology

- 2.1.1 The site is located on a very slight south-east facing slope, at c.53m AOD toward the north-west and c.49m AOD toward the south-east. The site comprises two arable fields separated by a central windbreak and surrounded by hedgerows.
- 2.1.2 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) as London Clay Formation, comprising Clay, Silt and Sand. The BGS indicates that the superficial geological deposits comprise Cover Sand, consisting of Clay, Silt and Sand.

### 1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission is being sought for residential development with associated open space, private amenity space, access and car parking. Following consultation between the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor and RPS, it was established that an archaeological trial-trench evaluation of the proposed site was required.
- 1.3.2 A brief of works was supplied by Jess Tipper, the Archaeological Advisor to the CBC planners (CBC 2019) and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared in response (RPS 2019). This was approved by the Archaeological Advisor prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

### 1.4 Scope of the Report

1.4.1 This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching

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undertaken on land north of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Essex. The fieldwork was carried out between 27 January and 04 February 2020

1.4.2 The report describes and interprets the results of the fieldwork and assesses the potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the site.

### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following provides a summary of historical and archaeological background information drawn from the desk-based assessment (RPS 2019), the Colchester Borough and Essex Historic Environment Records (CBHER and EHER) and other readily available sources such as excavation reports. The locations of the most pertinent sites and findspots are shown on Figure 1.

### 2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 No archaeological sites or findspots are recorded by the HER in the near vicinity of the site.
- 2.2.2 The findspot of a broadly prehistoric-dated flint handaxe is recorded c.400m to the south-west of the site (MCC7738) and two further polished flint axes of Neolithic date were found 800m to the west (MCC7601). An arrowhead and a chipped flint axe have been found in the vicinity of the former Severalls Hospital (EHER 11904 and 11907).
- 2.2.3 The earthwork of an Iron Age camp, comprising a double rampart and ditches is located c.950m to the west of the site (SM 1019959; MCC8103). Known as Pitchbury Ramparts, various archaeological investigations have been conducted here in the past (ECC3137-9).
- 2.2.4 Cropmarks located around Woodhouse Farm may be of prehistoric date, though this has not been proven by excavation (MCC7767).

### 2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 Horkesley Causeway is a raised roadway that is noted by the CBHER to comprise the original agger of the Roman road that extends north from Colchester into Suffolk (MCC7148). It is considered that the road passed through relatively unexploited badly drained heathland here (RPS 2019a, 4.21).
- 2.3.2 There are known findspots of Roman coins alongside the former Roman road (MCC7602; MCC7603).

## 2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 No Saxon or medieval sites or findspots are known within the vicinity of the site. It is considered that the heathland continued to be little exploited and avoided by settlement. The nearest manor recorded in Domesday (1086) was at West Bergholt, c.5km away and on the edge of the heathland.
- 2.4.2 A large quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery was found during a 1997 watching brief within a barn at The Old House, c.1km northeast of the site (MCC4898; ECC3465). The medieval pottery is thought to have derived from a kiln site, perhaps positioned close to the still-functioning route of the Roman road. A further probable pottery production site, the findspot of

- medieval wasters and kiln furniture, is known to the south-east, beyond the A12 (EHER 11845).
- 2.4.3 Cropmarks of a square ditched enclosure *c*.950m to the northwest of the site may constitute the remains of a medieval farmstead (MCC7768) and show that some settlement and exploitation of the heathland does occur in this period.

### 2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.5.1 The site is considered to be located in a sparsely settled Post-medieval landscape, comprising farmsteads within a mix of heath and open land, with the extent of agricultural fields increasing through time.
- 2.5.2 The 1777 Chapman and Andre map shows the site on the northern edge of the remnants of Horsley Heath. The 18th-century farmhouse of Woodhouse Farm is shown to the southwest (MCC3569) and the 17th/18th-century Old House with its associated barns is to the north (MCC3601; MCC3604).
- 2.5.3 The 1799 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows the site as being within recently enclosed fields. The 1875-6 Ordnance Survey map shows no change, though does show farmsteads dotted across the landscape and the church of All saints and St John has been built to the northeast. No change is seen on subsequent OS mapping up to 1921.
- 2.5.4 The 1938 Ordnance Survey map shows a small structure approximately half way along the southern boundary of the site, set back from Coach Road. The 1953 OS map shows no change within the site; however, the previously arable fields surrounding it are now orchard. The building has been removed by the time of the 1968 OS map.
- 2.5.5 Increased residential development in the vicinity takes place from the 1960s onwards, particularly along the length of The Causeway and along the southern side of Coach Road. There is no change to the site into the 1980s, though the 1987-9 OS map shows it all as orchard. Aerial photographs from 2000 onwards show the site as having reverted to arable, up to the present.

### 2.6 Undated

2.6.1 Numerous undated cropmarks are known in the vicinity of the site. These include locations near Ponders Farm (MCC7768), a complex 1km to the north (MCC4742), another to the south-west (MCC8634) and those of probable field boundaries to the east and south-east (EHER14318 and 14321).

# 2.7 Previous archaeological work on/near the site and the wider vicinity

Geophysical Survey

2.7.1 Geophysical survey (magnetometry) was undertaken across the site in September 2019. No anomalies of definite archaeological origin were identified, though a few linear trends of uncertain origin were mapped. A few old field boundaries were detected, plus an extensive system of land drains, evidence for modern ploughing and areas of natural/geological variation (Sumo Surveys 2019). The grey-scale and interpretive plots are included on Figures

2 and 3.

2.7.2 Fieldwalking was undertaken on a site immediately to the east of the current site, in 2005 (ECC3685). The small quantities of artefacts retrieved were considered to be a result of manuring (night soil spread across agricultural fields) during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

Wider vicinity

- 2.7.3 The wider vicinity of the site has been subject to significant archaeological investigation over the last decade or more, principally as part of the development of the Colchester Northern Gateway. This work has mostly been conducted in between Great Horkesley and the Mile End area of Colchester, either side of the A12 road. The most significant result of this cumulative work has been the identification of a very extensive scatter of small rounded pits, some with *in situ* burning, all filled with charcoal; these currently number in excess of 200 examples. The sites at which such features have been recorded include:
  - Northern Growth Area Urban Extension (NGAUE) sites (Brooks et al 2012 and forthcoming)
  - Northern Approach Road site (Crossan 2001; Baister 2014); EHER46069
  - Cuckoo Farm Park and Ride site (ECC FAU 2015)
  - Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub (Pooley 2017)
  - Severalls Hospital (House 2017)
  - South of Cambian Fairview (Brooks 2017)

These have been interpreted as the probable sites of individual charcoal clamps and seem to attest to a significant charcoal production industry taking place within the heathland here, and evidently spanning the Iron Age to medieval, and possibly post-medieval, periods.

2.7.4 Most recently, further examples of these charcoal pit remains have been found at Lodge Farm, Great Horkesley, c.2km NNE of the current site, demonstrating their extensive distribution across the heathlands north of Colchester (Hicks and Pooley 2019).

### 2.8 Aims of the project

- 2.8.1 The aims of the trial-trenching evaluation, as specified in the WSI (RPS 2019b), were 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.

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Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.8.2 No specific aims and research objectives were identified for this work.

# 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.1.1 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2019b) and Method Statement (ASE 2019).
- 3.1.2 Forty-two evaluation trenches (Figure 2) were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.1m-wide ditching bucket. The trenches were generally 30m in length.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were distributed to achieve a random sample of areas of the site, while also investigating selected geophysical anomalies. There were no significant constraints on trench location.
- 3.1.4 The trenches were mostly located according to the proposed trench plan in the WSI, with occasional minor adjustments of position to avoid (unofficial) footpaths.
- 3.1.5 Mechanical excavation of the ploughsoil was undertaken to the surface of archaeological deposits or to the top of the geological stratum, which in all trenches occurred at the same level.
- 3.1.6 Selected archaeological features were sample excavated by hand. Pits were half-sectioned (as a minimum), while ditches were investigated by means of 1m-long hand-dug segments.
- 3.1.7 Excavated archaeological features and the natural stratum were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers for each trench and are shown in this report thus: [1/001], whereby the first number is the trench reference and the second number is the context.
- 3.1.8 Most planning was done using a GPS. A few features were planned by hand and the resulting drawings were subsequently digitised and integrated with the digital plan. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 on archival standard drawing film. Written records (trench and context descriptions) were made on pro forma trench recording sheets and context sheets.
- 3.1.9 A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital (JPEG) images taken with a compact camera.
- 3.1.10 All pre-modern finds were collected, bagged by context and labelled with the site code and context number, and retained for specialist identification and study.
- 3.1.11 Three deposits were sampled for environmental analysis.
- 3.1.12 The site code ECC4431, allocated by the Archaeological Adviser to Colchester Borough Council, was included on all site records.

### 3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The fieldwork archives is currently held at the Witham office of ASE and, subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, will be deposited with the Colchester Museum in due course. The nature and contents of the archive is described in Table 1.

3.3.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines contained in the ClfA Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (ClfA 2014d).

| Description                   | Quantity | Туре                 |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Trench record sheets          | 42       | A4 paper             |
| Context sheets                | 57       | A4 paper             |
| Drawing register              | 1        | A4 paper             |
| Drawing sheets                | 4        | A3 permatrace        |
| Environmental sample register | 1        | A4 paper             |
| Environmental sample sheets   | 3        | A4 paper             |
| Digital photograph register   | 2        | A4 paper             |
| Digital images                | 65       | High-resolution JPGs |

Table 1: Quantification of the fieldwork archive

### 4.0 TRIAL-TRENCHING RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The locations of the forty-two evaluation trenches are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded in sixteen evaluation trenches, distributed randomly across the site. These results are described by trench in sections 4.3 to 4.18. The remaining twenty-six trenches were negative archaeologically; these are given summary description in section 4.19, with further detail presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.3 Archaeological features were recognised immediately below the ploughsoil, cutting the natural stratum; feature visibility was generally good.
- 4.1.4 Some trenches were positioned to investigate selected geophysical anomalies. Where appropriate, the results of the evaluation are considered in relation to those of the preceding geophysical survey. The locations of targeted anomalies are shown on Figures 2 and 3.

# 4.2 General soil descriptions

- 4.2.1 The geological stratum was reasonably uniform across the site, consisting of compact, light yellowish brown or orangey brown, fine silty sand, becoming clayey in places. Within this deposit, there were frequent patches or veins of very light grey silt, and occasional to frequent pebbles. These natural deposits were consistent with descriptions of the *Cover Sand Clay, Silt and Sand*, mapped at the site by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2020).
- 4.2.2 There was no evidence for natural soil profiles or former land surfaces, these having been removed by modern ploughing. A ploughsoil of soft/friable, mid brownish grey clayey or silty loam was recorded in every evaluation trench. The ploughsoil was generally 0.30m to 0.35m thick (typical plough depth), and extended site-wide.

### 4.3 Trench 2

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.35m deep Ground level: 51.16m OD (NE), 51.09m OD (SW)

Figure: 4

| Context | Type    | Description            | Depth BGL   | Location         |
|---------|---------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 2/001   | Layer   | Ploughsoil             | 0.00m       | Trench-wide      |
| 2/002   | Deposit | Natural stratum        | 0.30m       | Trench-wide      |
| 2/003   | Fill    | Fill of fire pit 2/004 | 0.30m-0.36m | Centre of trench |
| 2/004   | Cut     | Fire pit               | 0.30m-0.36m | Centre of trench |

Table 2: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 contained a shallow fire pit [2/004], which was cut by a relatively recent land drain trench. Four other land drains, ranging in date from the early 19th century (horseshoe drain) to the modern period were noted, but not recorded in detail.

4.3.2 Pit [2/004] was oval, measuring 0.82m x at least 0.53m x 60mm deep, with a shallow, saucer-shaped profile. A localised patch of scorched natural on the west side of the pit indicated burning *in situ*. The pit contained a single fill [2/003] of loose, crushed charcoal and dark grey clayey silt, with no finds. Bulk soil sample <3> collected from fill [2/003] contained a large quantity of exclusively oak charcoal, but no other charred plant macrofossils or ecofacts were present.

### 4.4 Trench 7

Dimensions: 30.00 x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 51.07m OD (N), 51.13m OD (S)

| Context | Туре    | Description                | Depth BGL   | Location         |
|---------|---------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 7/001   | Layer   | Ploughsoil                 | 0.00m       | Trench-wide      |
| 7/002   | Deposit | Natural stratum            | 0.35m       | Trench-wide      |
| 7/003   | Cut     | Post-medieval ditch        | 0.35m-0.85m | Centre of trench |
| 7/004   | Fill    | Upper fill of trench 7/005 | 0.35m-0.60m | Centre of trench |
| 7/005   | Cut     | Land drain trench          | 0.35m-0.85m | Centre of trench |
| 7/006   | Fill    | Upper fill of ditch 7/003  | 0.35m-0.80m | Centre of trench |
| 7/007   | Fill    | Fill of trench 7/008       | 0.80m-0.85m | Centre of trench |
| 7/008   | Cut     | Land drain trench          | 0.80m-0.85m | Centre of trench |
| 7/009   | Fill    | Lower fill of ditch 7/003  | 0.75m-0.85m | Centre of trench |
| 7/010   | Fill    | Lower fill of trench 7/005 | 0.60m-0.85m | Centre of trench |

Table 3: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 7

- 4.4.1 Trench 7 was positioned in order to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly, interpreted as a former field boundary ditch (Figure 3). The anomaly corresponded to a field boundary shown on the Horkesley tithe map of 1840 (between parcels 566 and 567; RPS 2019, fig. 5) and on subsequent Ordnance Survey maps until at least 1938 (RPS 2019, fig. 9).
- 4.4.2 Trench 7 confirmed the presence of a former field boundary ditch [7/003], which was replaced at different times by two modern (20th century) land drains inserted into narrow trenches [7/005] and [7/008]. A relatively recent land drain trench, oriented north-south, was noted but not excavated or recorded in detail in the northern half of the evaluation trench.
- 4.4.3 Ditch [7/003] was oriented NW-SE. It measured >2.90m long x 1.85m wide x >0.50m deep, with moderate to steep sides, steeper to the northeast. The ditch was not excavated to its full depth. The lowest recorded fill [7/009] was compact, mid brown clayey silt, >40mm thick, with no finds.
- 4.4.4 After a period of partial infilling (represented by fill [7/009]), a land drain was inserted into the base of the ditch. Trench [7/008] cut through fill [7/009] and was >0.12m wide x >40mm deep, with vertical sides. It was not excavated fully and the land drain was not exposed, but the nature of its fill [7/007] was consistent with those of other 20th-century land drains recorded elsewhere on the site. Fill [7/007] was loose, containing small to medium fragments of black clinker/slag.

- 4.4.5 Following the insertion of the land drain, the remainder of ditch [7/003] was backfilled with [7/006]: a compact, mid brown clayey silt, 0.46m thick, with occasional pebbles but no finds.
- 4.4.6 The ditch and earliest drain were superseded by a second, more substantial, land drain on the same NW-SE alignment. This suggests that the ditch was still at least partially visible in the landscape. Land drain trench [7/005] measured 0.55m wide x >0.50m deep, with vertical sides. The trench was not excavated fully, and the land drain was not exposed. Two distinct fills were recorded. Lower fill [7/010] was loose, small to medium flint cobbles (80%) and brown sandy soil (20%), >0.25m thick, with no finds. Upper fill [7/004] was compact, dark grey clayey silt containing moderate small to large fragments of broken land drain (cylindrical and modern octagonal), small fragments of coke and clinker and one fragment of plastic, probably from a tree protector. A mass of blue nylon string was found at the interface between fills [7/010] and [7/004].
- 4.4.7 The southeast continuation of ditch [7/003] and overlying land drain [7/005] were identified, but not excavated, in three further evaluation Trenches [8/003], [13/003] and [17/003].

### 4.5 Trench 8

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 51.14m OD (W), 50.83m OD (E)

Figure: 6

| Context | Type    | Description         | Depth BGL | Location            |
|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 8/001   | Layer   | Ploughsoil          | 0.00m     | Trench-wide         |
| 8/002   | Deposit | Natural stratum     | 0.35m     | Trench-wide         |
| 8/003   | Cut     | Post-medieval ditch | 0.35m     | East half of trench |

Table 4: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 8

- 4.5.1 Trench 8 was positioned in order to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly, interpreted as a former field boundary ditch (Figure 3). The anomaly corresponded to a field boundary shown on Ordnance Survey maps from the 1870s until at least the 1930s.
- 4.5.2 Trench 8 confirmed the presence of a former field boundary ditch, [8/003]. The only other feature was a relatively recent, north-south oriented, land drain trench, which was not excavated or recorded in detail.
- 4.5.2 Ditch [8/003] was oriented NW-SE and measured >2.50m x 1.50m wide. It was not excavated, having been investigated sufficiently in Trench 7, to the northwest. Its southeast continuation was recorded as [13/003] and [17/003].

### 4.6 Trench 9

Dimensions: 32.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 50.88m OD (N), 50.77m OD (S)

| Context | Туре  | Description | Depth BGL | Location    |
|---------|-------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 9/001   | Layer | Ploughsoil  | 0.00m     | Trench-wide |

| 9/002 | Deposit | Natural stratum   | 0.35m       | Trench-wide     |
|-------|---------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 9/003 | Cut     | Pit               | 0.35m-0.47m | S end of trench |
| 9/004 | Fill    | Fill of pit 9/003 | 0.35m-0.47m | S end of trench |

Table 5: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 9

- Trench 9 contained a small pit [9/003] and three land drains ranging in date from the earlier 19th century (horseshoe drain) to the modern period. The drains were not excavated, or recorded in detail.
- 4.6.2 Pit [9/003] was probably oval, measuring >0.50m NS x 0.60m EW x 0.12m deep, with moderately steep sides breaking gradually into a concave base. The pit extended beyond the edge of the evaluation trench, to the south. Single fill [9/004] was compact, light greyish brown sandy silt, with no finds.

### 4.7 Trench 11

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 51.13m OD (W), 51.03m OD (E)

Figure: 8

| Context | Туре    | Description             | Depth BGL   | Location         |
|---------|---------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 11/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil              | 0.00m       | Trench-wide      |
| 11/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum         | 0.35m       | Trench-wide      |
| 11/003  | Cut     | Fire pit                | 0.35m-0.42m | W half of trench |
| 11/004  | Fill    | Fill of fire pit 11/003 | 0.35m-0.42m | W half of trench |

Table 6: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 11

- Trench 11 contained a small fire pit [11/003]. Seven modern land drain trenches were noted, but not excavated, or recorded in detail. They were all oriented north-south and spaced approximately 4.50m-4.80m apart.
- Pit [11/003] was oval, measuring 0.54m x 0.44m x 70mm deep, with a shallow, 4.7.2 saucer-shaped profile. Extensive scorching of the sides and base of the pit indicated burning in situ. The pit contained a single fill [11/004]: soft, charcoalrich sandy silt, with no finds. Bulk soil sample <2> yielded a small quantity of unidentified charcoal, but no other charred plant macrofossils or ecofacts.

### 4.8 Trench 13

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 50.78 OD (W), 50.54m OD (E)

Figure: 9

| Context | Туре    | Description         | Depth BGL | Location           |
|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 13/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil          | 0.00m     | Trench-wide        |
| 13/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum     | 0.35m     | Trench-wide        |
| 13/003  | Cut     | Post-medieval ditch | 0.35m     | East end of trench |

Table 7: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 13

Trench 13 was positioned in order to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly, interpreted as a former field boundary ditch (Figure 3). The anomaly corresponded to a field boundary shown on Ordnance Survey maps from the

1870s until at least the 1930s.

- 4.8.2 Trench 13 confirmed the presence of a former field boundary ditch, [13/003]. The ditch was cut by a 20th-century land drain, oriented SW-NE. Five, north-south oriented, land drains elsewhere within the trench were of relatively recent date. None of the land drains were excavated, or recorded in detail.
- 4.5.2 Ditch [13/003] was oriented NW-SE and measured >3.30m long x 1.70m wide. It was not excavated, having been investigated sufficiently in Trench 7 ([7/003]), to the northwest. Its further course was also recorded as [8/003] and [17/003].

### 4.9 Trench 17

Dimensions: 30m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 50.44m OD (N), 50.40m OD (S)

Figure: 10

| Context | Type    | Description         | Depth BGL | Location        |
|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 17/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil          | 0.00m     | Trench-wide     |
| 17/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum     | 0.35m     | Trench-wide     |
| 17/003  | Cut     | Post-medieval ditch | 0.35m     | N end of trench |

Table 8: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 17

- 4.9.1 Trench 17 was positioned in order to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly, interpreted as a former field boundary ditch (Figure 3). The anomaly corresponded to a field boundary shown on Ordnance Survey maps from the 1870s until at least the 1930s.
- 4.9.2 Trench 17 confirmed the presence of a former field boundary ditch [17/003]. The ditch was cut by a relatively recent, north-south oriented, land drain; this was not excavated or recorded in detail.
- 4.9.3 Ditch [17/003] was oriented NW-SE and measured >2.70 long x 2.25m wide. It was not excavated, having been investigated sufficiently in Trench 7, to the northwest. In between, it was also recorded as [8/003] and [13/003].

### 4.10 Trench 19

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10 x 0.40m deep Ground level: 51.00m OD (N), 50.76m OD (S)

| Context | Type      | Description                       | Depth BGL    | Location        |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 19/001  | Layer     | Ploughsoil                        | 0.00m        | Trench-wide     |
| 19/002  | Deposit   | Natural stratum                   | 0.35m        | Trench-wide     |
| 19/003  | Cut       | Post-medieval ditch               | 0.35m-0.93m  | N end of trench |
| 19/004  | Fill      | Lower fill of ditch 19/003        | 0.85m-0.93m  | N end of trench |
| 19/005  | Structure | Land drain                        | 0.73m-0.85m  | N end of trench |
| 19/006  | Fill      | Intermediate fill of ditch 19/003 | 0.35m-0.85m  | N end of trench |
| 19/007  | Fill      | Intermediate fill of ditch 19/003 | 0.40m-0.70m  | N end of trench |
| 19/008  | Fill      | Upper fill of ditch 19/003        | 0.35m-0.50m  | N end of trench |
| 19/009  | Cut       | Land drain trench                 | 0.35m->0.60m | N end of trench |

| 19/010 Fill | Fill of trench 19/009 | 0.35m->0.60m | N end of trench |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|

Table 9: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 19

- 4.10.1 Trench 19 contained a post-medieval ditch [19/003], into which land drain [19/005] was inserted in the earlier 19th century. The ditch was also cut by a modern land drain trench [19/009]. The ditch probably corresponds to the northern part of a field boundary shown on the Horkesley tithe map of 1840, between parcels 569 and 570 (RPS 2019, fig. 5). None of these features was detected by the geophysical survey.
- 4.10.2 Ditch [19/003] was for the most part oriented north-south, apparently turning to the east at its south end. It measured at least 19m long x >1.80m wide x 0.60m deep, with moderately steep but irregular sides breaking gradually into a concave base. The ditch extended beyond the northern edges of the evaluation trench.
- 4.10.3 Primary fill [19/004], in the base of the ditch, was soft, dark greyish brown sandy silt, 70mm thick. No finds were recovered from it.
- 4.10.4 Following the small amount of natural infilling of the ditch represented by [19/004], a horseshoe drain [19/005] was constructed at the base of the open ditch. The *sole* consisted of a row of reused roof tiles (probably pantiles with the curving edges broken off) laid on top of primary fill [19/004]. These red clay tiles had average dimensions of 300mm x 120mm x 15mm thick. A row of horseshoe-shaped tiles was placed on top of the sole. The horseshoe tiles measured approximately 300mm long x 90mm high and 90mm wide. Handmade tile drains of this kind were constructed in the earlier 19th century, prior to the advent of machine-made, extruded tiles in the 1840s (Harvey 1980, 72).
- 4.10.5 After the construction of land drain [19/005], the ditch was deliberately backfilled with a sequence of three distinct deposits, as follows:
  - [19/007]: Soft, dark reddish brown sandy silt, with no finds. Up to 0.19m thick, but confined to the eastern edge of the ditch.
  - [19/006]: Soft, dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.50m thick, with no finds.
  - [19/008]: Soft, dark orangey brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick with occasional small fragments of CBM (not retained).
- 4.10.6 The eastern edge of infilled ditch [19/003] was cut by a modern, north-south oriented land drain trench [19/009], 0.18m wide x >0.25m deep, with vertical sides. The trench was not excavated fully and the land drain was not exposed. Backfill [19/010] was soft, light orangey brown sandy silt, with no finds.

### 4.11 Trench 24

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 50.58m OD (N), 50.79m OD (S)

| Context | Туре    | Description     | Depth BGL | Location    |
|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 24/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil      | 0.00m     | Trench-wide |
| 24/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum | 0.35m     | Trench-wide |

| 24/003 | Cut       | Land drain trench     | 0.35m-0.70m | N half of trench |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 24/004 | Fill      | Fill of trench 24/003 | 0.35m-0.70m | N half of trench |
| 24/005 | Structure | Land drain            | 0.55m-0.70m | N half of trench |

Table 10: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 24

- 4.11.1 Trench 24 was positioned to investigate an east-west oriented, curvilinear geophysical anomaly, of uncertain origin (Figure 3).
- 4.11.2 Trench 24 contained four ceramic land drains, all probably of 19th-century date, and mostly not recorded in detail. Two of them (in the central and southern parts of the evaluation trench) were narrow and cylindrical, and one of these might have corresponded to the geophysical anomaly running through the middle of the trench. However, this seems unlikely given that many similar land drains were not detected by the geophysical survey. The other land drains were of the earlier, horseshoe type. The drain at the north end of the trench was relatively shallow and had been mostly destroyed by ploughing. The other horseshoe drain was deeper-buried and therefore better preserved. This was recorded as [24/005], in cut [24/003].
- 4.11.3 Construction trench [24/003] was oriented SW-NE, measuring >3.0m long x 0.50m wide x 0.47m deep, with steep sides breaking gradually into a concave base.
- 4.11.4 Horseshoe drain [24/005] was constructed on the base of trench [24/003], and was similar to [19/005] in Trench 19. The *sole* consisted of a row of reused roof tiles, probably pantiles with the curving edges broken off. These red clay tiles had average dimensions of 300mm x 120mm x 15mm thick. A row of horseshoe-shaped tiles was placed on top of the sole. The horseshoe tiles measured approximately 300mm long x 90mm high and 90mm wide.
- 4.11.5 After construction of the drain, trench [24/003] was backfilled with [24/004]: soft, mottled dark grey and orangey brown sandy silt that contained two small brick fragments of late post-medieval date.

### 4.12 Trench 28

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.35m deep Ground level: 50.97m OD (W), 50.77m OD (E)

Figure: 13

| Context | Type    | Description              | Depth BGL   | Location         |
|---------|---------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 28/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil               | 0.00m       | Trench-wide      |
| 28/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum          | 0.30m       | Trench-wide      |
| 28/003  | Cut     | Pit                      | 0.30m-0.55m | Centre of trench |
| 28/004  | Fill    | Lower fill of pit 28/003 | 0.45m-0.55m | Centre of trench |
| 28/005  | Fill    | Upper fill of pit 28/003 | 0.30m-0.47m | Centre of trench |
| 28/006  | Cut     | Pit                      | 0.30m-0.45m | Centre of trench |
| 28/007  | Fill    | Upper fill of pit 28/006 | 0.30m-0.40m | Centre of trench |
| 28/008  | Fill    | Lower fill of pit 28/006 | 0.30m-0.45m | Centre of trench |

Table 11: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 28

4.12.1 Trench 28 contained two undated pits [28/003] and [28/006], both of which

were truncated by a 19th-century land drain.

- 4.12.2 Pit [28/003] was probably oval, measuring >1.00m NS x 1.55m EW x 0.25m deep, with steep sides breaking sharply into a flat base. Its southern part extended beyond the trench edge. Lower fill [28/004] was loose, crushed charcoal with some dark grey silt, 70mm thick, with no finds. There was no scorching of the underlying natural to suggest that the charcoal represented burning *in situ*. Upper fill [28/005] was compact, light to dark grey ashy silt, with patches of yellowish brown sand, 0.20m thick. It contained a small amount of charcoal and some pebbles, but no finds.
- 4.12.3 Adjacent pit [28/006] was oval, measuring 1.20m NW-SE x 0.95m SW-NE x 0.20m deep, with moderately steep sides breaking gradually into a flat base. Its northern end extended beyond the trench edge. Lower fill [28/008] was soft, very light grey ash, up to 90mm thick, with occasional pebbles but no finds. Upper fill [28/007] was loose, black, crushed charcoal, up to 0.10m thick, with no finds. Bulk soil sample <1> collected from [28/007) produced a significant quantity of large fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal, but no other charred plant macrofossils. There was no scorching of the underlying natural to suggest that these fills represented burning *in situ*, although this still seems likely to have been the case.

### 4.13 Trench 33

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 49.80m OD (W), 49.64m OD (E)

| Context | Туре      | Description           | Depth BGL    | Location         |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 33/001  | Layer     | Ploughsoil            | 0.00m        | Trench-wide      |
| 33/002  | Deposit   | Natural stratum       | 0.35m        | Trench-wide      |
| 33/003  | Fill      | Fill of trench 33/005 | 0.35m->0.65m | W half of trench |
| 33/004  | Structure | Land drain            | 0.50m        | W half of trench |
| 33/005  | Cut       | Land drain trench     | 0.35m->0.65m | W half of trench |
| 33/006  | Fill      | Fill of ditch 33/009  | 0.35m-0.65m  | W half of trench |
| 33/007  | Structure | Land drain            | 0.50m        | W half of trench |
| 33/008  | Structure | Land drain            | 0.53m        | W half of trench |
| 33/009  | Cut       | Ditch                 | 0.35m-0.65m  | W half of trench |

Table 12: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 33

- 4.13.1 Trench 33 contained a post-medieval ditch [33/009], corresponding to a field boundary shown on the Horkesley tithe map of 1840, between parcels 569 and 570 (RPS 2019, fig. 5). The ditch was replaced by a large diameter land drain [33/004], corresponding to a linear anomaly interpreted correctly as a land drain by the geophysical survey (Figure 2). Other features in this trench included a 20th-century ceramic land drain (white, ribbed) forming part of the same herringbone pattern of land drainage revealed by the geophysical survey (Figure 2). Three north-south land drain trenches were of relatively recent date. None of these were further investigated.
- 4.13.2 Ditch [33/009] was oriented north-south. It measured >2.10m long x 2.30m wide x 0.30m deep, with moderately steep sides breaking gradually into a slightly concave base.

- 4.13.3 Two horseshoe drains [33/007] and [33/008] were apparently constructed on the base of ditch [33/009]. The land drains were of similar construction to those recorded elsewhere on the site (notably [19/005] and [24/005]). The absence of any underlying ditch fill suggests that the land drains were constructed soon after the ditch was dug. However, it is perhaps possible that in this instance the ditch was under-excavated.
- 4.13.4 Following the construction of the land drains, ditch [33/009] was deliberately backfilled. Fill [33/006] was compact, light to mid greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional pebbles but no finds.
- 4.13.5 A large diameter land drain [33/004] was built on the same north-south alignment as earlier ditch [33/009], cutting through its backfill. Construction trench [33/005] was 0.65m wide x >0.30m deep, with steep but irregular sides. It was not excavated fully. Ceramic drain [33/004] was 200mm in diameter and the abutting pipe sections were 310mm long. The land drain trench was backfilled with [33/003]: alternating deposits of compact, mid brownish grey clayey silt and loose, black clinker/slag. The latter material was a common characteristic of the fills of all of the observed land drains forming part of the herringbone pattern of drainage revealed by the geophysical survey.

### 4.14 Trench 37

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.35m deep Ground level: 50.48m OD (W), 50.16 OD (E)

| Context | Type    | Description          | Depth BGL   | Location        |
|---------|---------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 37/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil           | 0.00m       | Trench-wide     |
| 37/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum      | 0.35m       | Trench-wide     |
| 37/003  | Fill    | Fill of ditch 37/004 | 0.35m-0.65m | E end of trench |
| 37/004  | Cut     | Ditch                | 0.35m-0.65m | E end of trench |

Table 13: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 37

- 4.14.1 Trench 37 was positioned to investigate a northwest-southeast oriented linear geophysical anomaly (Figure 2), interpreted as a field boundary ditch. It corresponded to a field boundary shown on historic maps from 1840 until at least 1938. The ditch defined part of the western edge of a relatively small, roadside field/enclosure, labelled parcel 568 (*Doors orchard*) on the 1840 tithe map (RPG 2019, fig.5).
- 4.14.2 Trench 37 contained ditch [37/004], at the expected location. A 20th-century land drain (clinker/slag fill) ran immediately adjacent (east) and parallel to the ditch. Two 19th-century land drains (cylindrical type) were laid in a T-shaped arrangement in the western half of the trench.
- 4.14.3 Ditch [37/004] was oriented NW-SE and measured >2.40m long x 1.20m wide x 0.30m deep, with moderate to steep sides (steeper to the west), breaking gradually into a flat base. Single fill [37/003] was compact, mid to dark grey clayey silt, containing occasional pebbles and one small fragment of undiagnostic, though possibly post-medieval, tile.

### 4.15 Trench 38

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 50.14m OD (W), 49.96m OD (E)

Figure: 16

| Context | Туре    | Description     | Depth BGL | Location        |
|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 38/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil      | 0.00m     | Trench-wide     |
| 38/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum | 0.35m     | Trench-wide     |
| 38/003  | Cut     | Ditch           | 0.35m     | E end of trench |

Table 14: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 38

- 4.15.1 Trench 38 was positioned to investigate a northwest-southeast oriented linear geophysical anomaly (Figure 2), interpreted as a field boundary ditch. It corresponded to a field boundary shown on historic maps from 1840 until at least 1938. The ditch defined part of the western edge of a relatively small, roadside field/enclosure, labelled parcel 568 (*Doors orchard*) on the 1840 tithe map (RPG 2019, fig.5).
- 4.15.2 Trench 38 confirmed the presence of the former field boundary ditch, [38/003]. The ditch was truncated on its east side by a 20th-century land drain (with clinker/slag fill). Two earlier land drains, of horseshoe and cylindrical type, were noted in the western half of the trench.
- 4.15.3 Ditch [38/003] was oriented NW-SE and measured >2.50 long x at least 1.00m wide. It was not excavated, having been investigated sufficiently in Trench 37, to the northwest.

### 4.16 Trench 39

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 50.29m OD (N), 50.01m OD (S)

| Context | Type    | Description                | Depth BGL   | Location         |
|---------|---------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 39/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil                 | 0.00m       | Trench-wide      |
| 39/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum            | 0.35m       | Trench-wide      |
| 39/003  | Cut     | Ditch                      | 0.35m-0.95m | Centre of trench |
| 39/004  | Fill    | Lower fill of ditch 39/003 | 0.50m-0.95m | Centre of trench |
| 39/005  | Fill    | Upper fill of ditch 39/003 | 0.35m-0.75m | Centre of trench |
| 39/006  | Cut     | Land drain trench          | 0.35m-0.60m | Centre of trench |
| 39/007  | Fill    | Fill of trench 38/006      | 0.35m-0.60m | Centre of trench |

Table 15: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 39

- 4.16.1 Trench 39 was positioned to investigate a southwest-northeast oriented linear geophysical anomaly (Figure 2), interpreted as a field boundary ditch. It corresponded to a field boundary shown on historic maps from 1840 until at least 1938. The ditch defined the northern edge of a relatively small, roadside field/enclosure, labelled parcel 568 (*Doors orchard*) on the 1840 tithe map (RPG 2019, fig.5).
- 4.16.2 Trench 39 contained ditch [39/003], at the expected location. A 20th-century land drain trench [39/005], on the same southwest-northeast alignment,

truncated the southern edge of the ditch.

- 4.16.3 Ditch [39/003] was oriented southwest-northeast. It measured >2.50m long x at least 1.70m wide x 0.60m deep, with moderately steep but irregular sides breaking gradually into a concave base. The ditch contained two fills. Lower fill [39/004] was soft, dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.42m thick, from which several iron objects of 19th/20th-century date were recovered (nails, bolt, loop, strap and plate frags). Upper fill [39/005] was soft, light greyish brown sandy silt, 0.40m thick, containing a fragment of pottery (1825-1900) and occasional fragments of possibly post-medieval tile. Pieces of burnt wood were also noted in this fill.
- 4.16.4 Land drain trench [39/006] was 0.55m wide x >0.25m deep, with vertical sides. The trench was not excavated fully and the land drain was not exposed. However, it clearly post-dated the ditch and was therefore of 20th-century date. Fill [39/007] was soft, light orangey brown silty clay, with no finds.

### 4.17 Trench 40

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.45m deep Ground level: 49.81m OD (W), 49.43m OD (E)

| Context | Туре      | Description                | Depth BGL   | Location        |
|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 40/001  | Layer     | Ploughsoil                 | 0.00m       | Trench-wide     |
| 40/002  | Deposit   | Natural stratum            | 0.40m       | Trench-wide     |
| 40/003  | Fill      | Upper fill of ditch 40/006 | 0.40m-0.65m | E end of trench |
| 40/004  | Structure | Land drain                 | 0.50m       | E end of trench |
| 40/005  | Fill      | Lower fill of ditch 40/006 | 0.50m-0.80m | E end of trench |
| 40/006  | Cut       | Ditch                      | 0.40m-0.80m | E end of trench |

Table 16: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 40

- 4.17.1 Trench 15 contained a north-south oriented ditch [40/006], into which land drain [40/004] had been inserted. These features were not detected by the geophysical survey. The ditch corresponded to a field boundary shown on the tithe map of 1840, separating parcels 568 and 570 (RPS 2019, fig. 5).
- 4.17.2 Ditch [40/006] was oriented north-south. It measured >2.10m long x 1.52m wide x 0.38m deep, with moderately steep sides breaking gradually into a flat base. Primary fill [40/005] was compact, mid grey clayey silt, 0.14m thick, containing occasional pebbles from which eight medium-sized fragments of land drain, of late 18th/19th-century date, were retrieved.
- 4.17.3 Following a period of natural silting, as represented by fill [40/005], land drain [40/004] was constructed against the western edge of the ditch. The land drain was of the horseshoe type that was common on this site, and was similar to other recorded examples ([19/005], [24/005], etc.). With the insertion of land drain [40/004], ditch [40/006] was deliberately backfilled. Upper fill [40/003] was compact, mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.23m thick, containing occasional pebbles. Three small land drain fragments, of late 18th/19th-century date, were retrieved from it.

4.17.4 The northward continuation of ditch [40/006] was recorded as [33/009] and probably [19/003], and southwards as [42/003].

### 4.18 Trench 42

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x 0.40m deep Ground level: 49.47m OD (W), 49.29m OD (E)

Figure: 19

| Context | Type    | Description     | Depth BGL | Location        |
|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 42/001  | Layer   | Ploughsoil      | 0.00m     | Trench-wide     |
| 42/002  | Deposit | Natural stratum | 0.35m     | Trench-wide     |
| 42/003  | Cut     | Ditch           | 0.35m     | W end of trench |

Table 17: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 42

- 4.18.1 Trench 42 contained a north-south ditch [42/003], cut by a SW-NE oriented land drain, of red, cylindrical type (later 19th century).
- 4.18.2 Ditch [42/003] was oriented north-south and measured >2.50 long x 0.85m wide. It was not excavated, having been investigated sufficiently in Trenches 33 and 42, to the north.

### 4.19 Trenches with no archaeological features

- 4.19.1 Sixteen trenches were found not to contain archaeological remains (Trenches 1, 3-6, 10, 12, 14-16, 18, 20-23, 25-27, 29-32, 34-36 and 41). These are summarised in Appendix 1 and photographic views of them presented in Figures 20 and 21.
- 4.19.2 Modern plough scars were widespread across the site, cutting the underlying natural stratum. Their presence (or absence) was noted on trench recording sheets, but they were not recorded archaeologically.
- 4.19.3 Land drains (19th/20th centuries) were a particularly common feature of this site, reflecting poor drainage; this was demonstrated by the amount of surface water that persisted after rainfall. Land drains were noted in all but six of the evaluation trenches and even in those trenches with no obvious land drains (Trenches 27, 29, 30-32 and 35), it is likely that some of these features might have gone unrecognised.
- 4.19.4 Apart from a few examples (in Trenches 7, 19, 24, 33 and 40), most of the land drains in the otherwise archaeologically blank trenches were not excavated, or recorded in detail. However, some general observations are possible:
  - The land drains ranged in date from the earlier 19th century to the late 20th century. Most of them were encountered at relatively shallow depths, usually intruding only slightly into the underlying natural stratum. Consequently, many of them were partially destroyed by ploughing or during mechanical removal of the ploughsoil. Only the relatively recent land drains, represented by a site-wide system of evenly spaced, north-south trenches, were at greater depths: an example exposed in Trench 14 was at 0.40m below the surface of the natural stratum.

- The land drains fell into four broad categories. The earliest were the hand-made horseshoe drains of earlier 19th century date, typified by the example in Trench 19 (4.10.4). Later drains were constructed of machine-made, narrow cylindrical pipes, mostly red in colour with some white clay examples in Trench 41; these were of later 19th- and possibly earlier 20th-century date.
- A system of white, ribbed land drains, laid in a typical herringbone arrangement, was partially identified by the geophysical survey, in the eastern part of the site (Figure 2). These might have been installed after the Second World War, following the clearance of earlier field boundaries demonstrated by historic mapping between 1938 and 1953 (RPS 2019, figs. 9 and 10).
- The most recent land drains, those buried at greater depth, were possibly laid when land use on the site changed from fruit orchards to arable cropping, in the late 20th- or early 21st century. Land drains of this period were constructed of very hard ceramic pipes, deep red in colour and with an octagonal cross-section, approximately 100mm wide.
- 4.19.9 A number of these archaeologically negative trenches coincided with the plotted locations of geophysical anomalies of varying nature (Figure 2). Notably, a linear anomaly in the eastern half of the site, interpreted as a former field boundary, was not found in Trenches 29 and 35; in both cases, the ditch would have been very close to the end of each trench and might not have been recognised. A curvilinear anomaly of uncertain origin was not recognised as a below-ground feature in Trenches 25 and 26, although it might have corresponded to an east-west land drain in the centre of Trench 24.
- 4.19.10 Although depicted to be a continuous boundary on the historic mapping, no continuation of the easternmost N/S ditch was identified in Trench 21. However, a later ceramic land drain was located on the right alignment. It is perhaps possible that there was a gap in the ditch at this point. The apparent cornering of the ditch in Trench 19 could instead have been a terminal.

### 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on Land North of Coach Road, Horksley Heath in Essex. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 18; material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified in Appendix 2a. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

| Context | Pottery | Weight (g) | СВМ | Weight (g) | Iron | Weight (g) |
|---------|---------|------------|-----|------------|------|------------|
| 19/005  |         |            | 3   | 3025       |      |            |
| 24/004  |         |            | 2   | 57         |      |            |
| 24/005  |         |            | 2   | 3213       |      |            |
| 37/003  |         |            | 1   | 5          |      |            |
| 39/004  |         |            |     |            | 11   | 349        |
| 39/005  | 1       | 16         | 2   | 81         |      |            |
| 40/003  |         |            | 3   | 115        |      |            |
| 40/005  |         |            | 8   | 687        |      |            |
| 41/003  |         |            | 1   | 563        |      |            |
| Total   | 1       | 16         | 22  | 7746       | 11   | 349        |

Table 18: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

# **5.2 Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a single sherd of post-Roman pottery from the site (context [39/005]). This consists of a 14g fragment from the base of an oval serving dish in blue transfer-printed whiteware. The sherd has some wear suggesting a little reworking. A date between *c*. 1825 and 1900 is likely.

# 5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Rae Regensberg

- 5.3.1 Twenty-two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 7,642g were collected from eight contexts; [19/005, 24/004, 24/005, 37/003, 39/005, 40/003, 40/005 and 41/003]. The majority of the assemblage consists of land drain fragments, all with a late post-medieval date range. The remaining CBM consists of five pieces of roof tile and one fragment of brick, all of which also has a late post-medieval date range.
- 5.3.2 Two complete horse-shoe land drains and fifteen other land drain fragments were collected from contexts [19/005, 24/005, 40/003 and 40/005]. These are all consistent in form and firing, and have the same quartz-rich orange fabric (T1). Horse-shoe land drains date from the late 18th century into the 19th century.
- 5.3.3 Four fragments of roof tile are present, three of which are small fragments with few diagnostic features, in fabrics T3, T3A and T4. These were found in

contexts [37/003] and [39/005]. Although none of the fabrics is identifiable as either specifically medieval or post-medieval, the neat regular form of the fragments indicate a post-medieval date range. The fourth piece of roof tile was found in [41/003] and has a distinctive fine cream fabric (T2), neat consistent form and three erratically-positioned round peg holes. The fragment is 130mm wide, which is narrower than most peg tile (peg tiles are usually wider than 160 mm). This fragment has a late post-medieval date, most likely 19th century.

- 5.3.4 A single small fragment of brick was recovered from land drain fill [24/004]. The fabric is similar to the red 'Tudor' type bricks common in London between 1450 and 1700; however, the neat form and sharp arrises suggest a late post-medieval date.
- 5.3.5 The CBM was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was entered into a digital Excel table. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use site specific fabric codes. These use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions (sparse, moderate, common, abundant); the size of inclusions: fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (0.25-0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric descriptions are provided in Table 19. All of the CBM has been retained should it prove useful for future works.

| Fabri | Fabric Description   |  |  |  |  |
|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| T1    | Orange micaceous fabric with common to abundant medium to coarse quartz and occasional black oxidised material |  |  |  |  |
| T2    | Fine cream fabric with sparse medium quartz.   |  |  |  |  |
| T3    | Orange micaceous fabric with sparse medium quartz.   |  |  |  |  |
| ТЗА   | More quartz and fine black speckle   |  |  |  |  |
| T4    | Fine orange micaceous fabric with occasional medium quartz.  |  |  |  |  |
| B1    | Red fabric with common very coarse black oxidised material and moderate medium quartz.                         |  |  |  |  |

Table 19: CBM fabric descriptions

# 5.4 Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 A small collection of iron objects was recovered from a single context, ditch fill [39/004], weighing a total of 349g. The assemblage is in good condition and consists mainly of structural metalwork. Six nails were recovered, including one complete general purpose nail (L45mm) with circular head and section and two heavy duty nails with circular head and section, the most complete of which measures 108mm and has a square washer attached to the tip. The remaining nails are stem fragments. In addition to the nails, a large bolt (108.3mm) with circular head and the loop from a loop headed pin were also recovered. A rectangular strap fragment measuring L91mm and W41mm may derive from a hinge or similar, while a circular plate of 57.5mm with a nail (L49.7mm) hammered through it may be part of a lock plate or other door furniture. Lastly, two fragments of poorly preserved wire were also recovered.
- 5.4.2 The assemblage includes bolts and nail forms of fairly recent date and as such is not thought to pre-date the 19th century and may be more recent.

# **5.5** Magnetic Material by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Two of the bulk soil samples produced magnetic fractions from their residues (contexts [2/003] and [11/004]). These were carefully searched under x10 magnification to establish the presence/absence of micro slags. In the event no slag was noted – the fractions being composed of burnt granules of stone and clay only.

### **6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES** by Mariangela Vitolo

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Three bulk soil samples were taken from fills of three different pits to recover environmental material as well as to assist finds recovery. All sampled contexts are undated.
  - <1> fill [28/007] in pit [28/006]
  - <2> fill [11/004] in pit [11/003]
  - <3> fill [2/003] in pit [2/004]

The following report summarises the contents of the samples and discusses the information provided by the charred plant remains and charcoal on diet, agrarian economy, vegetation environment and fuel selection and use.

- 6.1.2 The samples ranging from 10L to 40L in volume, were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively before being air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 2a). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 2b).
- 6.1.3 Charcoal fragments were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000; Schoch et al. 2004; Schweingruber 1990). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 2a.

# 6.2 Results

6.2.1 The recovered samples produced flots of variable size and composition. Upper fill of pit [28/006] produced a 5L flot dominated by large fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal. The charcoal from this feature presented a hard texture and resembled that of clinker. In addition, many fragments were vitrified. Vitrification is due to the charring conditions and although its causes are not well understood yet, it is often linked to the use of high temperatures. It is possible that this charcoal originates from some kind of industrial or metalworking processes. Charcoal from single fill [2/003] of pit [2/004] was also all oak and some fragments were vitrified. Iron deposits were noted frequently. These are due to fluctuating water levels and to the presence of natural iron in the soils. Short latewood, indicative of slow-grown oak, was noted on many fragments and could be due to environmental reasons. No charred plant macrofossils or ecofacts other than charcoal were recovered from any of the features.

### 6.3 Discussion

- 6.3.1 The bulk samples from this Great Horskley site have produced a large amount of carbonised wood. Preservation of the charcoal has been affected by factors such as vitrification (pre-depositional) and sediment encrustations (post-depositional). All in all, charcoal preserved abundantly and well enough to allow identifications. Oak was the only taxon present. The wood of this species fares very well as fuel, although it can also be successfully used as construction material. Oak might have been preferred for its burning qualities, but it might also have been plentiful and widely available in the local woodland.
- 6.3.2 The absence of plant macrofossils and other environmental indicators, such as bone, could be due to circumstances of deposition. Sampling has shown that the local soils are suited to the preservation of charred plant material and possibly other classes of ecofacts as well. Any future fieldwork on site should continue to include sampling, targeting well-sealed primary deposits and a range of feature types across the site. Such a strategy, coupled with taking samples of at least 40L whenever possible, should maximise the retrieval of environmental remains and small artefacts.

### 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Overview of the stratigraphic evidence and deposit sequence

- 7.1.1 A simple deposit sequence of ploughsoil (0.30m to 0.35m thick) directly overlying the surface of the undisturbed natural deposit was recorded in every evaluation trench. No evidence for natural soil profiles or former land surfaces was encountered, these having been removed by post-medieval/modern ploughing. The geological deposit was generally a compact, light yellowish brown or orangey brown, fine silty sand, becoming clayey in places. Frequent patches or veins of very light grey silt, and a varying frequency of pebbles were also noted within it.
- 7.1.2 Where encountered, all archaeological features were recognised immediately below the ploughsoil, cutting the top of the natural deposit. Archaeological deposits and features were recorded in sixteen evaluation trenches across the site (Trenches 2, 7-9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 24, 28, 33, 37-40, 42).
- 7.1.3 The recorded archaeological features comprise the remains of ditches, pits and land drains. A low incidence and a negligible intercut complexity of remains (other than the insertion of land drains into pre-existing ditches) was encountered within the trenches.
- 7.1.4 Correlation of the trial-trenching results with the geophysical survey results was generally good. Most of the mapped historic boundaries detected as anomalies were found as ditches and the identification of drainage systems was also accurate. A single mapped and detected boundary, plotted to run through Trenches 29 and 35, was not found as a corresponding below-ground feature. More significantly, the geophysical survey did not detect any of the scorched and/or charcoal-filled pits.

### 7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 All archaeological features and deposits have evidently been truncated by historic and modern cultivation activity, by approximately 0.30m. Scars in the top of the natural deposit attest to general plough disturbance across the field.
- 7.2.2 More localised truncation and disturbance has been created by the imposition of land drainage, which is frequent and extensive across the site; ceramic pipes, generally within narrow trenches cut the surface of the natural deposit and were observed to directly impact on archaeological remains in Trenches 2, 13, 17, 28, 39 and 42 by intersecting with them. In Trenches 7, 19, 33 and 40, ceramic land drains have been later inserted into pre-existing / defunct ditches, so disturbing them and their fill sequences. Some such impacts are late post-medieval in date, others modern and some apparently recent.

# 7.3 Discussion of the archaeological evidence, by period

7.3.1 The recorded ditches and pits have, where possible, been dated on the basis of their diagnostic artefact content, morphology and/or cartographic evidence. These remains are further discussed by broad period below. The distribution of both dated and undated archaeological features is presented in Figure 22.

### Pre- Post-medieval

7.3.2 The lack of evidence for land use activity prior to the post-medieval period is perhaps striking. No features or artefacts, even occurring residually in later features, have been found of demonstrative prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval date.

### Post-medieval/Modern

- 7.3.3 The earliest *dated* features encountered by the evaluation are the various ditches that correlate with boundaries shown on historic mapping from the 1840 Horkesley tithe map onwards. Presumably already extant before the creation of the tithe map, it is possible that some or most of these ditches originated in the 18th century. However, no diagnostic dating evidence has been recovered from the site that supports this. These ditches demarcated fields, functioning both as land boundaries and drains.
- 7.3.4 It is evident that this land has been historically poorly-draining and that efforts have been made to enhance its drainage since the mid/late 19th century. The various types of ceramic land drain present within the site demonstrate the inception and periodic enhancement and replacement of drainage systems through the later 19th and 20th centuries.
- 7.3.5 The removal of field boundaries and enlargement of fields has been accompanied by the insertion of drains into former ditches, perpetuating their drainage function. These have generally provided the 'arteries' into which parallel arrangements of obliquely positioned lesser drain runs have fed.
- 7.3.6 The layout and function of the agricultural landscape at this location is well documented by the range of historic maps that exist from the late 17th century to present and such documents as the tithe award. Equally, the geophysical survey has elucidated much of the detail of the subsequent land drainage system(s) employed, with the evaluation results demonstrating their relationship with the preceding ditches. As such this post-medieval to modern land use is relatively well understood.

### Undated

- 7.3.5 Undated remains amount to the four pits, found in Trenches 2, 11 and 28. Although lacking artefactual dating evidence in them, these archaeological features are distinctive, all being relatively small and rounded/oval (0.54–1.55m wide by 0.06-0.25m deep) and filled with burnt deposits that primarily comprise oak charcoal. In addition, two of these pits show distinct signs of scorching, indicative of *in situ* burning.
- 7.3.6 The two pits in Trenches 2 and 11, in the west of the site, were smaller and rounded cuts, with saucer-like profiles; it was these that showed signs of *in situ* burning/scorching. The two pits further northeast in Trench 28 were larger, deeper and more oval-shaped, with steeper sides and flat bases. Neither of these showed signs of *in situ* burning/scorching. As both 'pairs' of pits contained similarly charcoal-rich fills, they appear to represent the same type of activity, though it is perhaps possible that their differences might reflect their

differing date.

- 7.3.7 It is likely that these four charcoal-rich pits constitute further evidence for an activity thought to represent past charcoal production carried out within this former heathland (see 2.7.3 4). Varying quantities and densities of such pits, interpreted as the sites of individual charcoal clamps, have been found during archaeological investigations on other sites in the Mile End / Great Horkesley area, north of Colchester and the distribution of these features appears to be extensive. Where dated by their artefactual content (a rare occurrence) or else by scientific dating, these features seem to span the Iron Age to medieval, and possibly post-medieval, periods. It is therefore likely that the four pits within the current site fall into this broad date range. Furthermore, it is probable that more of these features will be present across the wider, unevaluated, parts of the site.
- 7.3.8 One further, undistinguished, small pit was found in the southern end of Trench 9 is the only other undated archaeological feature encountered by the trenching.

### 7.4 Consideration of Project Aims

- 7.4.1 The trial-trench evaluation has successfully identified the date, form and purpose and extent of archaeological remains across the site. Depth, preservation and the nature of impacts of more recent land use have been established. No masking colluvial/alluvial deposits have been found. Environmental potential appears to be limited to the incidence of carbonised deposits in features such as pits.
- 7.4.2 The majority of archaeological features present within the site have been demonstrated to comprise either field boundary/drainage ditches or land drains of late post-medieval to modern date. These attest to its agricultural land use at this time. A small quantity of undated, charcoal-rich, pits are postulated to be part of a much more extensive distribution of such features across the landscape that has been interpreted to constitute the remains of past charcoal-production across the former heathland.

### 7.5 Conclusions

- 7.5.1 The trial-trench evaluation of this site on land north of Coach Road has identified the presence of archaeological features in sixteen of the forty-two trenches investigated. The recorded features comprise ditches, land drains and pits.
- 7.5.2 The majority of archaeological features constitute field boundary/drainage ditches and land drains, all of which relate to the agricultural land use of the site in the late post-medieval to modern period (19th and 20th century). These are judged to have low local significance and negligible further archaeological potential for the further understanding of past land use here.
- 7.5.3 Four undated, charcoal-rich, pits have some greater significance and potential, evidently being part of a much more extensive distribution of such features

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across the landscape interpreted to constitute the remains of past charcoalproduction on the former heathland.

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Kieron Heard directed the fieldwork. Site surveying was carried out by Natalie Gonzalez. Gemma Stevenson project managed the fieldwork and Mark Atkinson managed the post-excavation process.

# **Appendix 1: Summary of trenches without archaeological features**

| Trench | Dimensions (m)      | Ground level (m OD) | Deposits                        | Comments  |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1      | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.14 N, 50.95 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain  |
| 3      | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.05 NW, 50.94 SE  | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x6 N-S modern land drains   |
| 4      | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.21 W, 51.10 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x3 N-S modern land drains, x1 SW-NE land drain                    |
| 5      | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.12 W, 51.09 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x6 N-S modern land drains   |
| 6      | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.34 N, 51.16 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain, x5 earlier land drains (horseshoe and   |
|        |                     |                     |                                 | cylindrical)  |
| 10     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.36 N, 51.15 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain  |
| 12     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.90 N, 50.84 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain, x1 earlier land drain (cylindrical)     |
| 14     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.15 N, 51.03 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain (octagonal pipe exposed)                 |
| 15     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.97 N, 50.97 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain  |
| 16     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.91 W, 50.78 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x6 N-S modern land drains   |
| 18     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.65 W, 50.42 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x6 N-S modern land drains, one recent pit (much brick rubble), x3 |
|        |                     |                     | -                               | earlier land drains (cylindrical)                                 |
| 20     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.19 W, 50.90 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 earlier land drain, x1 20th C land drain (clinker fill)        |
| 21     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.69 W, 50.51 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x3 20th C land drains (clinker fill), x1 earlier land drain       |
| 22     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.85 W, 50.43 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 earlier land drain   |
| 23     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 51.03 N, 50.90 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain, x2 earlier land drains                  |
| 25     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.52 NE, 50.60 SW  | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x2 N-S modern land drains, x1 20th C land drain, x1 earlier land  |
|        |                     |                     |                                 | drain   |
| 26     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.30 N, 50.42 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x2 20th C land drains (clinker fill)                              |
| 27     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.14 N, 50.06 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 |   |
| 29     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.67 N, 50.62 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 |   |
| 30     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.51 W, 50.31 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 |   |
| 31     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.77 W, 50.50 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 |   |
| 32     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.30 N, 50.10 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 |   |
| 34     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.62 N, 50.53 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 earlier land drain (cylindrical)                               |
| 35     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 50.42 W, 49.93 E    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 |   |
| 36     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 49.60 N, 49.47 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain, x1 20th C land drain (clinker fill)     |
| 41     | 30.00 x 2.10 x 0.40 | 49.62 N, 49.47 S    | Ploughsoil 001 over natural 002 | x1 N-S modern land drain, x4 earlier land drains (horseshoe and   |
|        |                     |                     |                                 | cylindrical)  |

## Appendix 2: Environmental samples data

**2a: Residue quantification** (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

| Sample Number | Context | Context / deposit<br>type | Parent | Sample Volume (L) | Charcoal >4mm | Weight (g) | Charcoal <4mm | Weight (g) | Charcoal<br>Identifications                                    | Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)                 |
|---------------|---------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|--|--|
| 1             | 28/007  | Pit fill<br>(upper)       | 28/006 | 40                | ****          | 716        | ***           | 1264       | Quercus sp. 10,<br>clinkered, short<br>latewood                |  |
| 2             | 11/004  | Fire pit fill (single)    | 11/003 | 10                | **            | 1          | ***           | 3          |  | Mag Mat >2mm *** 5g; Mag Mat <2mm *** 5g |
| 3             | 2/003   | Pit fill<br>(single)      | 2/004  | 30                | ***           | 54         | ****          | 72         | Quercus sp. 10, iron deposits frequent. Charcoal did not float | Mag Mat >2mm ** 4g; Mag Mat <2mm *** 1g  |

**2b: Flot quantification** (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

| Sample Number | Context | Weight g | Flot volume ml | Volume scanned | Uncharred % | Sediment % | Charcoal >4mm | Charcoal <4mm | Charcoal <2mm |
|---------------|---------|----------|----------------|----------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1             | 28/007  | 1400     | 5000           | 250            | 5           | 10         | ***           | ***           | ***           |
| 2             | 11/004  | 6.25     | 25             | 25             | 40          | 20         |               | **            | ***           |
| 3             | 2/003   | 18       | 65             | 65             | 20          | 30         |               | **            | ****          |

#### **Appendix 3: EHER summary**

| Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Essex       |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| District: Colchester Borough                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Site Code: ECC4431                                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| Site Director/Group: K. Heard / Archaeology South-East |  |  |  |  |  |
| Size of Area Investigated: 10.4ha                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Funding source: Developer                              |  |  |  |  |  |
| Related HER No's: n/a                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| OASIS No: 383888                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### Description

This pre-determination evaluation was the second phase of archaeological fieldwork on the site, having been preceded by a geophysical survey. Forty-two evaluation trenches were excavated across the 10.4ha site, some of which were targeted upon selected geophysical anomalies. Archaeological features were identified in sixteen of the trenches, comprising ditches, land drains and pits distributed across the site.

The majority of the recorded features constitute field boundary/drainage ditches and land drains, all of which relate to the agricultural land use of the site in the late post-medieval to modern period (19th and 20th century). The field ditches correlate with boundaries shown on historic mapping from 1840 onwards. Many of the field drains were inserted when field ditches were removed/infilled to create larger fields, from the late 19th-century onwards; the further extents of the drainage systems have been plotted by the geophysical survey.

Four undated, but distinctive, charcoal-rich pits were encountered in the east and north-central areas of the site. These are considered to be part of a much more extensive distribution of such features across the landscape that is interpreted to constitute the remains of past charcoal-production on the former heathland that seemingly spans the Iron Age to Medieval, and possibly Post-medieval, periods.

A fifth, undistinguished, small pit was the only other undated archaeological feature encountered.

Periods Represented: Post-medieval, modern, undated

#### Previous Summaries/Reports:

Sumo Survey. 2019, Geophysical Survey Report. Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex, unpubl. Sumo rep. 15068

| Author of Summary: | Date of Summary: |
|--------------------|------------------|
| M. Atkinson        | 04/03/2020       |

### **Appendix 4: OASIS form**

#### OASIS ID: archaeol6-383888

**Project details** 

Project name Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Essex

Short description of the

project

Forty-two evaluation trenches were excavated across the 10.4ha site, some of which were targeted geophysical anomalies identified by the preceding survey. Archaeological features were identified in sixteen of the trenches, comprising ditches, land drains and pits distributed across the site. The majority of the recorded features constitute field boundary/drainage ditches and land drains, all of which relate to the agricultural land use of the site in the late post-medieval to modern period (19th and 20th century). The field ditches correlate with boundaries shown on historic mapping from 1840 onwards. Four undated, but distinctive, charcoal-rich pits were encountered in the east and north-central areas of the site. These are considered to be part of a much more extensive distribution of such features across the landscape that is interpreted to constitute the remains of past charcoal-production on the former heathland that seemingly spans the Iron Age to Medieval, and possibly Post-medieval, periods.

Project dates Start: 27-01-2020 End: 04-02-2020

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Associated project reference codes

ECC4431 - Sitecode

190456 - Contracting Unit No

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type LAND DRAIN Post Medieval

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"

#### **Archaeology South-East**

Evaluation: Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Essex

ASE Report No: 2019356

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning

process

Pre-application

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER GREAT HORKESLEY Land North of Coach

Road

Postcode CO6 3JD

Study area 10.4 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 97435 29225 51.925958338041 0.871777867738 51 55 33 N 000

52 18 E Point

**Project creators** 

Project brief originator Colchester Borough Council

Project design originator RPS Consulting

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Kieron Heard

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Developer

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive recipient

Colchester Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal"

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

### Archaeology South-East

Evaluation: Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley, Essex ASE Report No: 2019356

Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal", "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal", "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous

Material","Photograph","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Evaluation. Land North of Coach Road Great

Horkesley, Essex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Heard, K.

Other bibliographic

details

ASE rep. 2020038

Date 2020

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or

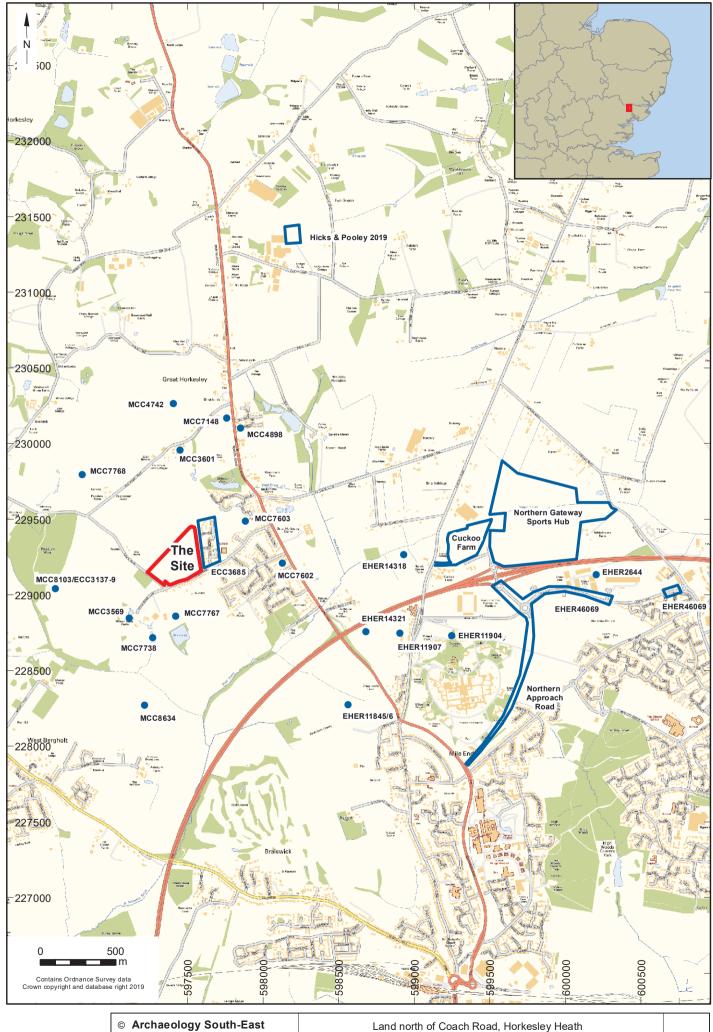
publication

Witham

Description A4 size PDF, approx. 57 pages, inc. tables, figures and appendices

Entered by Mark Atkinson (mark.atkinson@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 4 March 2020



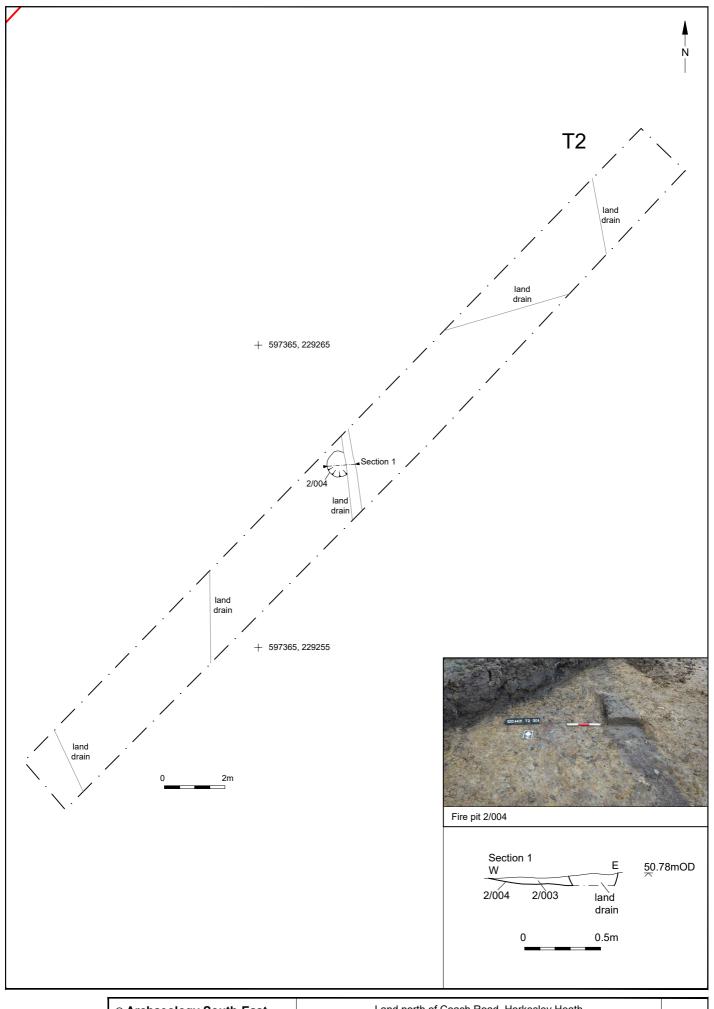
| © Archaeology South-    | East       | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 1  |
|-------------------------|------------|---|---------|
| Project Ref: 190456 Feb | 2020       | Site location                             | i ig. i |
| Report No: 2020038 Drav | vn by: APL | Site location                             |         |



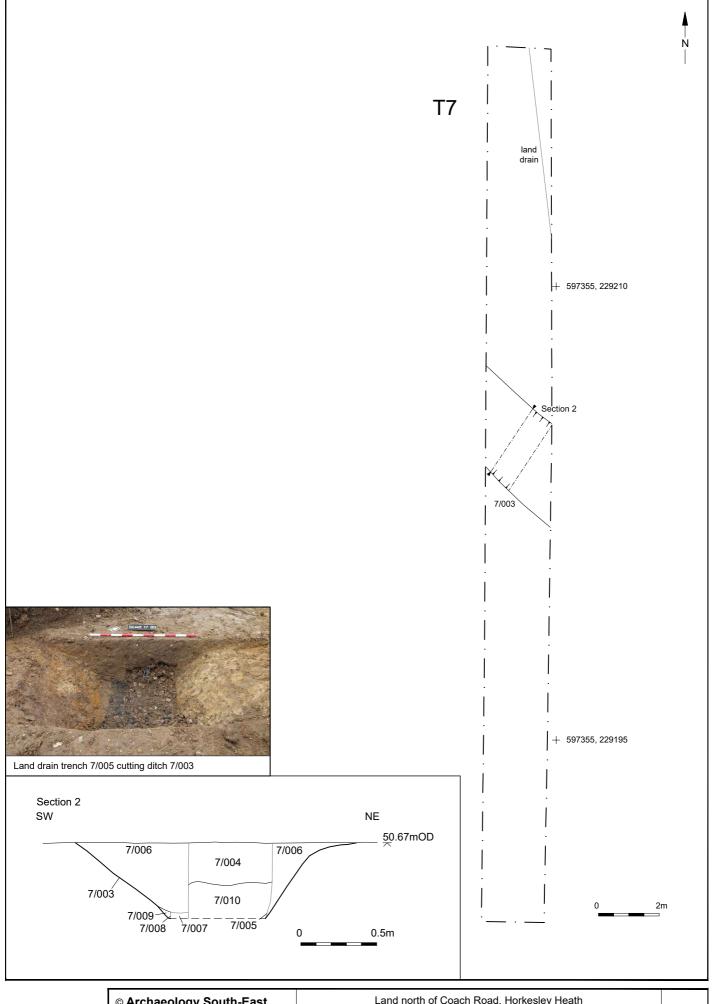
| © Archaeology South-East          | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath         | Fig. 2  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------|
| Project Ref: 190456 Feb 2020      | Trench locations with geophysical survey results  | 1 1g. Z |
| Report Ref: 2020038 Drawn by: APL | Treffor locations with geophysical survey results |         |



| © Archaeology South-East          | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath               |        |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------|--|
| Project Ref: 190456 Feb 2020      | Trench locations with geophysical survey interpretation | Fig. 3 |  |
| Report Ref: 2020038 Drawn by: APL | Trendi locations with geophysical survey interpretation |        |  |

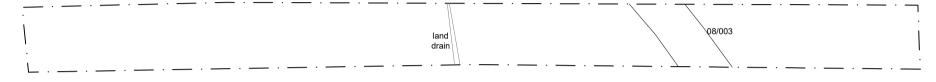


| © Archaeology South-East        | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 4  |
|---------------------------------|---|---------|
| Project Ref: 190456 Feb 2020    | Trench 2 plan, section and photograph     | 1 lg. 4 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 Drawn by: A | PL Trenon 2 plan, section and photograph  |         |



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|---------------------|---------------|---|--------|--|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 7 plan, section and photograph     | Fig. 5 |  |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Trench / plan, section and photograph     |        |  |





0 2m

+ 597360, 229180

+ 597375, 229180

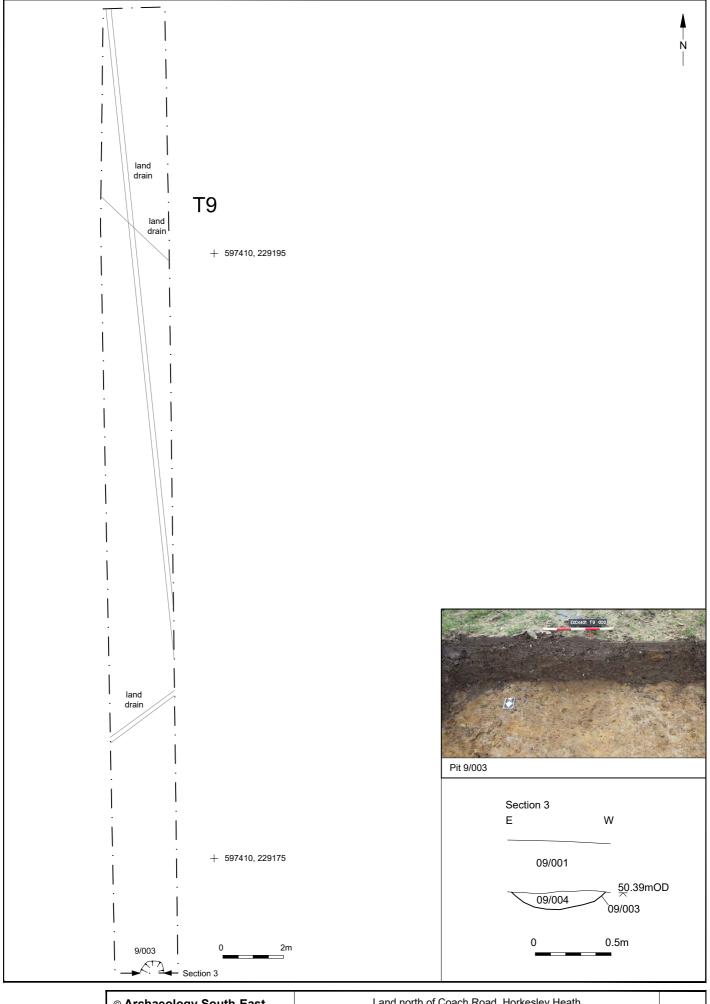


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Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020 |
Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL |

Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath

Trench 8 plan and photograph



| © Archaeology South-East Project Ref: 190456 Feb 2020 Report Ref: 2020038 Drawn by: API |               | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 7  |   |
|---|---------------|---|---------|---|
| Project Ref: 190456   | Feb 2020      | Trench 9 plan, section and photograph     | 1 lg. 1 | ı |
| Report Ref: 2020038   | Drawn by: APL | Trench 9 plan, section and photograph     |         | ı |







+ 597310, 229160 + 597330, 229160

0 2m



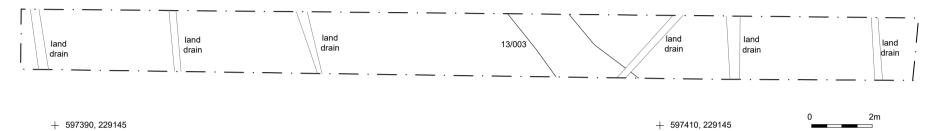
0 0.5m



Fire pit 11/003

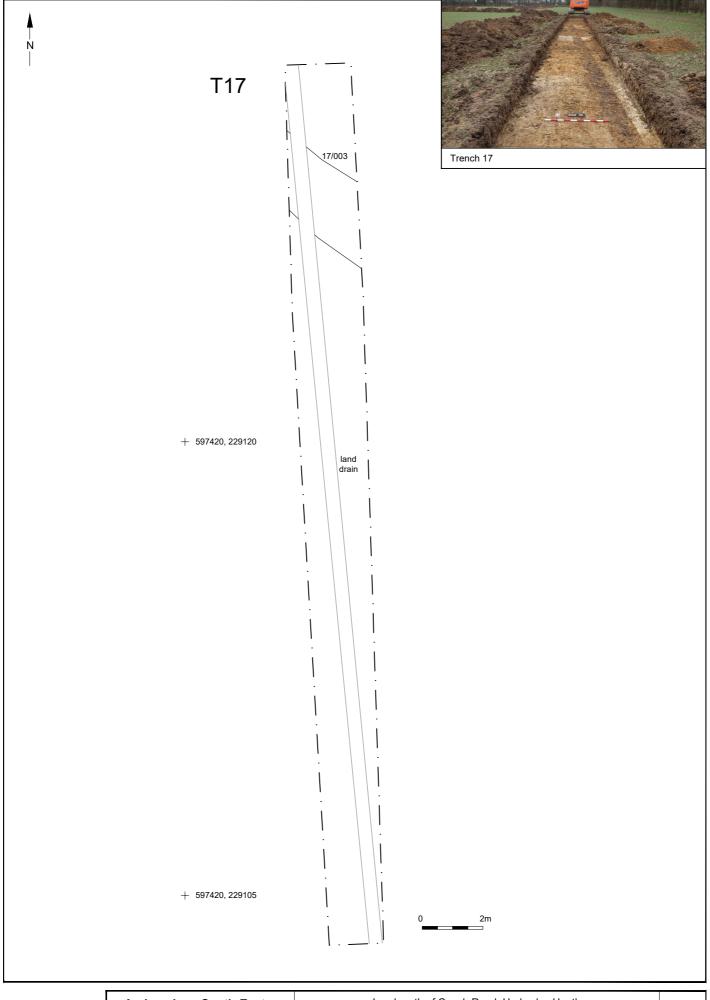
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|----|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------|--|--|
| Pr | oject Ref: 190456        | Feb 2020      | Trench 11 plan, section and photograph    | Fig. 8 |  |  |
| Re | port Ref: 2020038        | Drawn by: APL | Trenon ir pian, section and photograph    |        |  |  |



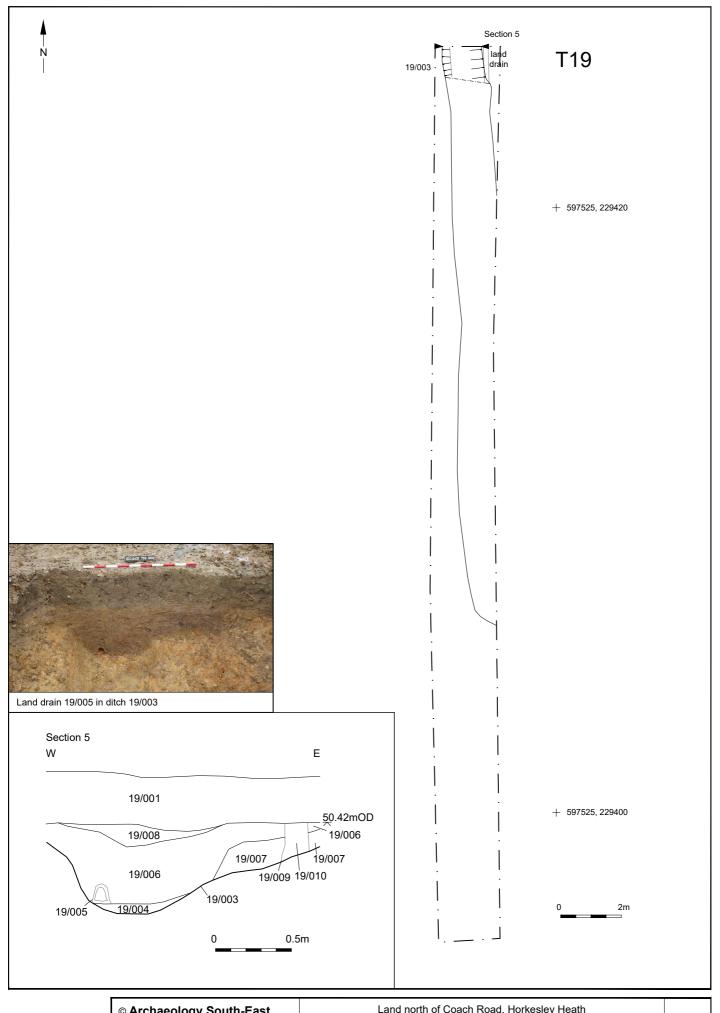




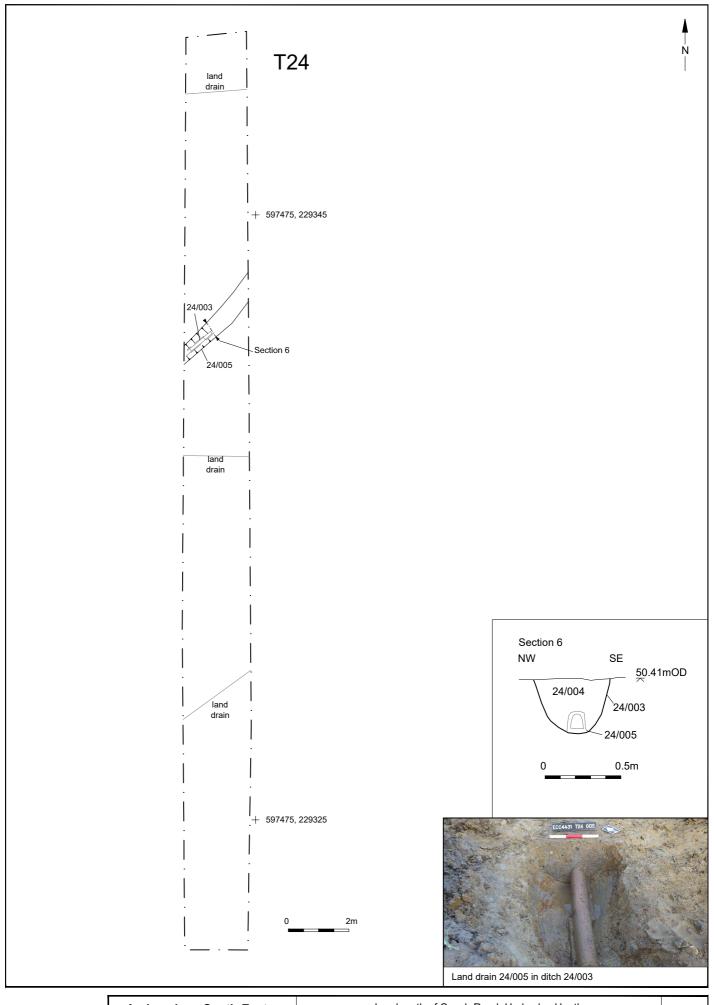
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 9  |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|---------|
| Project Ref: 190456      | Feb 2020      | Trench 13 plan and photograph             | 1 ig. 3 |
| Report Ref: 2020038      | Drawn by: APL | Trenon 13 plan and photograph             |         |



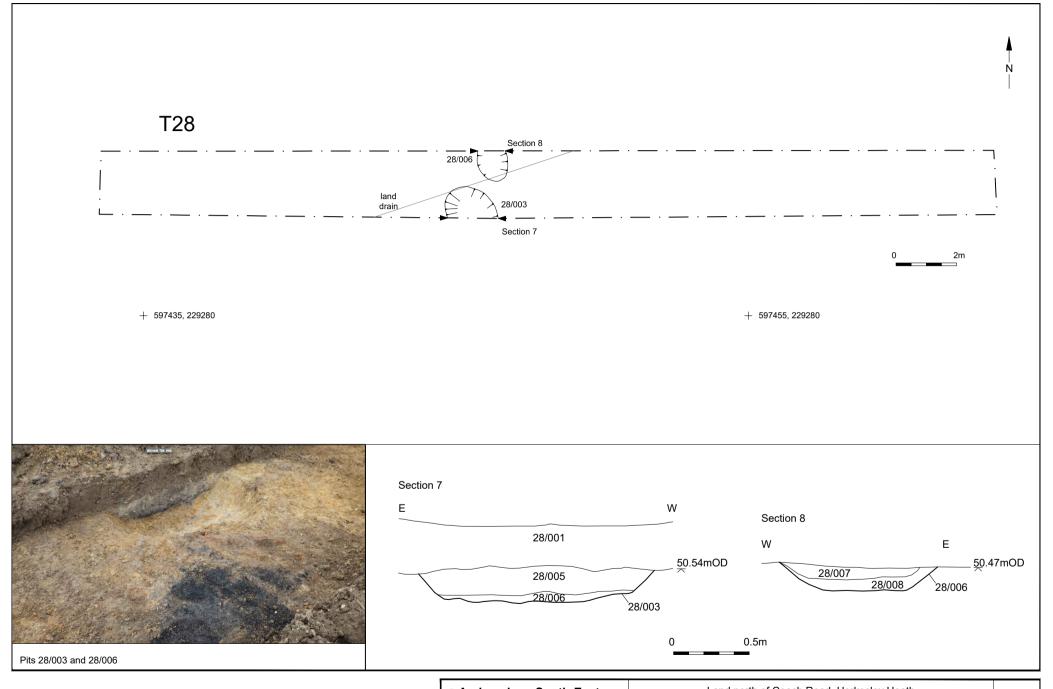
| © Archaeology S     | outh-East     | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 10  |
|---------------------|---------------|---|----------|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 17 plan and photograph             | 1 lg. 10 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Trendi 17 plan and photograph             |          |



|   | © Archaeology S     | outh-East     | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 11   |
|---|---------------------|---------------|---|-----------|
| ı | Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 19 plan, section and photograph    | 1 19. 1 1 |
| Ī | Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Trench 19 plan, Section and photograph    |           |

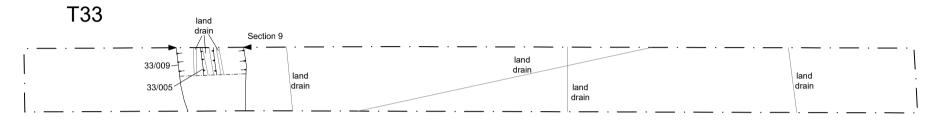


| © Archaeology S     | outh-East     | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 12  |   |
|---------------------|---------------|---|----------|---|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 24 plan, section and photograph    | 1 lg. 12 | 1 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Trener 24 plan, section and photograph    |          | l |



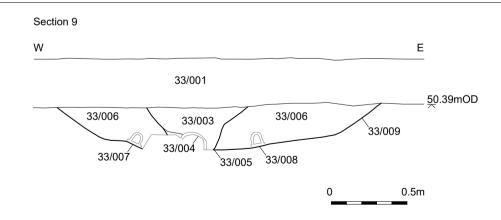
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|---------------------|---------------|---|----------|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 28 plan, sections and photograph   | 1 lg. 13 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Trenon 20 plan, sections and photograph   |          |





0 2m

+ 597540, 229245 + 597555, 229245





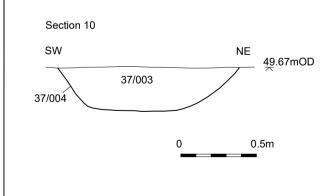
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 14  |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|----------|
| Project Ref: 190456      | Feb 2020      | Trench 33 plan, section and photograph    | 1 lg. 14 |
| Report Ref: 2020038      | Drawn by: APL | Trendi 33 plan, section and photograph    |          |







0 2





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|---------------------|---------------|---|----------|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 37 plan, section and photograph    | 1 lg. 13 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Treffer 37 plant, section and photograph  |          |



land drain

Iland drain

Iland drain

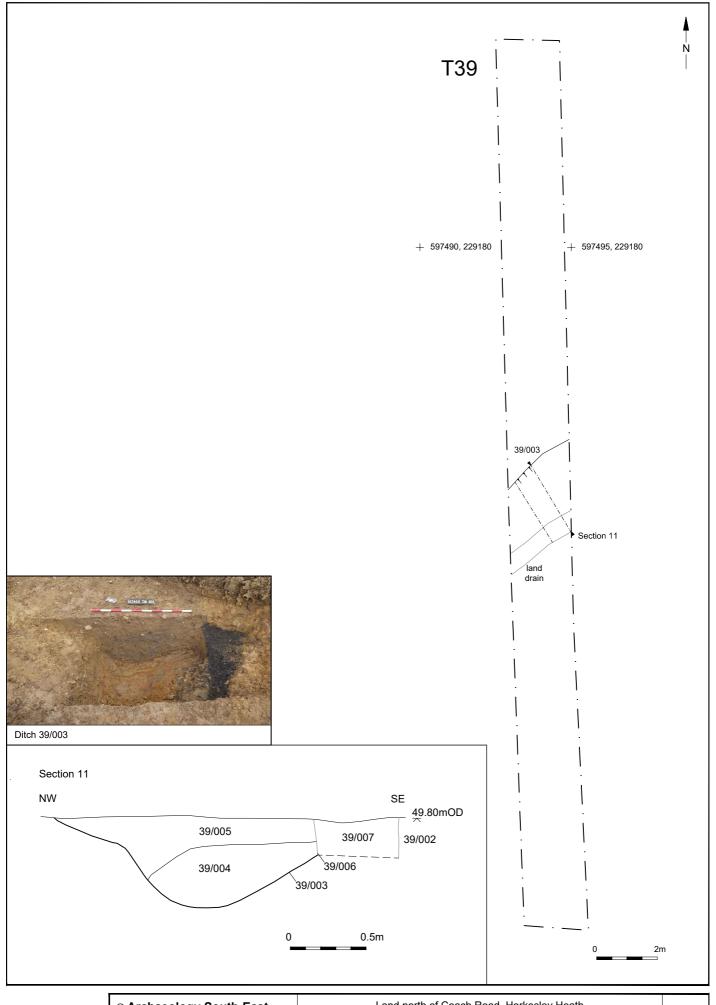
Iland drain

Iland drain

+ 597455, 229130 + 597470, 229130 0 2m



| © Archaeology S     | outh-East     | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 16  |
|---------------------|---------------|---|----------|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 38 plan and photograph             | 1 lg. 10 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | rienon 30 pian and photograph             |          |



| © Archaeology S     | outh-East     | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath | Fig. 17  |
|---------------------|---------------|---|----------|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 39 plan, section and photograph    | 1 19. 17 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Treficit 39 plant, Section and photograph |          |



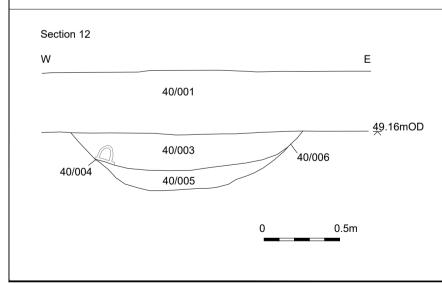


Section 12

land drain 40/006



+ 597525, 229175 + 597545, 229175





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|---------------------|---------------|---|---------|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Trench 40 plan, section and photograph    | 1 19.10 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Trenon 40 plan, section and photograph    |         |





+ 597545, 229155 + 597560, 229155

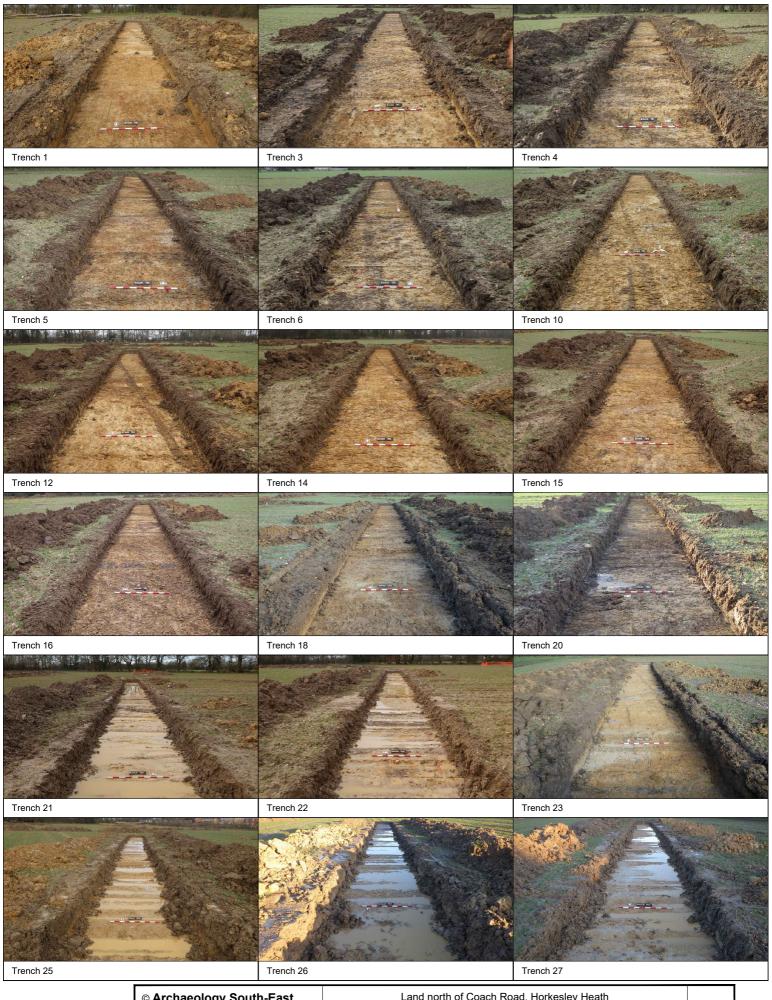


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Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020 | Trench 42 plan and photograph

Fig. 19

Fig. 19



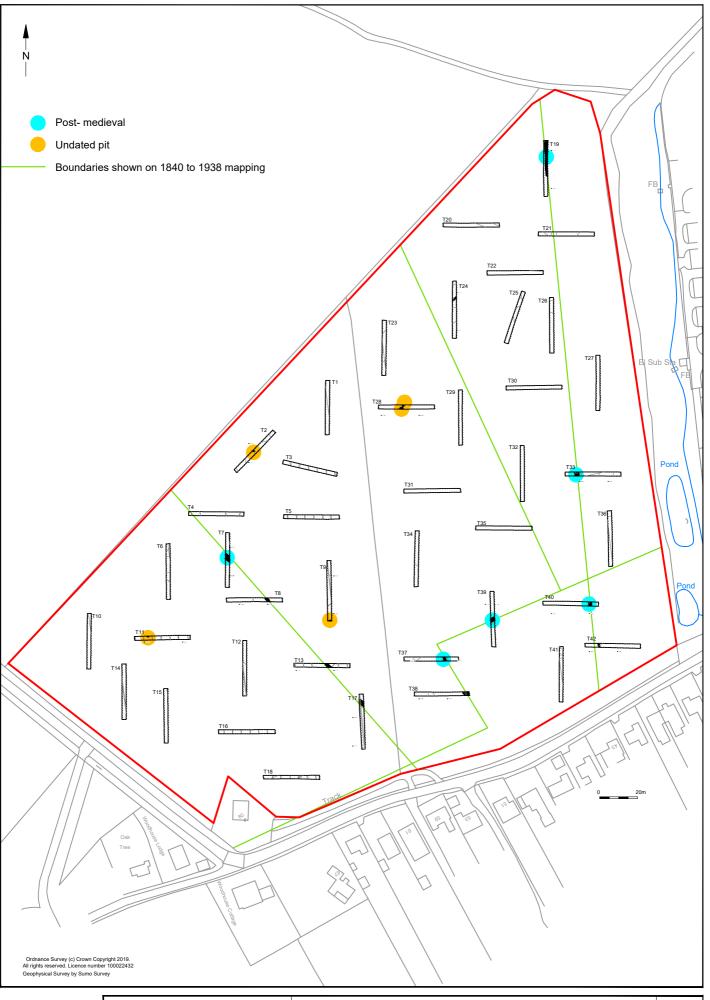
| © Archaeology S     | outh-East     | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath                 | Fig. 20  |
|---------------------|---------------|---|----------|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Photographs of trenches without archaeological features   | 1 ig. 20 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | 1 hotographs of trefferes without archaeological leatures |          |



| © Archaeology S     | outh-East     | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath               | Fig.21  |
|---------------------|---------------|---|---------|
| Project Ref: 190456 | Feb 2020      | Photographs of trenches without archaeological features | 1 19.21 |
| Report Ref: 2020038 | Drawn by: APL | Thotographs of trendies without archaeological leatures |         |

Trench 41

Trench 36



| © Archaeology South-East |               | Land north of Coach Road, Horkesley Heath     | - Fig. 22 |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|-----------|
| Project Ref: 190456      | Feb 2020      | Distribution of dated archaeological features | 1 lg. 22  |
| Report Ref: 2020038      | Drawn by: APL |   |           |

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