Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation

Land at Wyvern Farm, London Road, Stanway, Essex

ASE Project No: 180755
Site Code: COLEM:2015.52
Event number: ECC4312

ASE Report No: 2019042

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NGR: TL 94321 24474

Planning Ref: 181859

ASE Project No: 180577
Site Code: COLEM:2015.52
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by Rob Cullum

With contributions by Luke Barber, Isa Benedetti-Witton, Anna Doherty, Emily Johnson, Elke Raemen, Mariangela Vitolo and Helen Walker

Illustrations by Sara Munoz

Prepared by:	Rob Cullum	Archaeologist
Reviewed & approved by:	Mark Atkinson	Project manager
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Archaeology South-East
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ

Tel: 01376 331470
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Wyvern Farm, London Road, Stanway, Essex. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Ltd on behalf of their client.

The current site is effectively the northern part of a wider development site at Wyvern Farm. The southern c.14.5ha, between it and London Road, has previously been investigated by trial-trenching evaluation and subsequent mitigation excavation. This recorded parts of the post-medieval field system and a number of Iron Age pits as well as undated gullies, a charcoal-rich pit, and a stakehole. To the east of the site, within the adjacent Stane Park development, remains of a Late Bronze Age barrow (burial mound) were recorded.

A preceding geophysical survey of the current c.3.6ha site detected anomalies of potential archaeological origin, interpreted to be indicative of modern agricultural land use and disturbance, as well as some of uncertain origin. A number of the trenches were therefore targeted upon selected anomalies in order to validate the results of the survey.

Twenty-seven trenches were excavated across the site, of which thirteen were identified to contain archaeological features. These remains, comprising linear ditches and a single pit, were thinly distributed across the site, with no areas exhibiting concentrations of activity. A high degree of correlation between geophysical anomalies and below-ground archaeological features was demonstrated.

The single pit was of prehistoric, possibly Neolithic, date. All linear ditch features uncovered in the trenches correlated to former field boundaries recorded on historic OS maps dated to between 1870 and 1960, further parts of which were found during the previous investigations to the south. Finds recovered from these features support their identification as late Post-medieval to Modern boundaries.

A modern soil deposit up to 0.5m thick, deriving from construction of the adjacent A12 road, was found across the northern third of the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by CgMs Heritage to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Wyvern Farm, London, Stanway, Essex (NGR: TL 94321 24474; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in fulfilment of an archaeological condition in order to assess the potential for and nature of archaeological remains in advance of proposed residential development.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located on the eastern side of Colchester and immediately south of the A12 and represents the northern part of a larger development area (NGR TG 2658 1199; Figure 1). It is bound to the west and the east by agricultural fields, to the north by the A12 and the south by ongoing residential development that will eventually encompass the site.

1.2.2 The development area comprises the north-eastern corner of a large arable field, totalling an area of 3.6 hectares. The site is relatively flat, lying between 38.6m and 41m AOD, on a gentle westward slope.

1.2.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2018), the underlying geology of the site comprises superficial windblown deposits of clays, silts and sands overlying London Clay (BGS 2018).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Colchester Borough Council for the construction of up to 358 houses and apartments, with associated roads, parking; drainage and landscaping immediately to the south of the current parcel of land (Planning ref. 181859). The intended development of the current site at Wyvern Farm represents a continuation of these works, to which a condition was attached requiring that:

> *Prior to commencement of the development an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching shall be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be agreed in writing by the local planning authority. This shall take the form of a 4% evaluation of the development area with 1% held in reserve should further investigation be needed. The results of this evaluation shall be set out in a report to be submitted to the local planning authority in order to inform whether there is any further need for archaeological mitigation. Until the local planning authority has confirmed the position no commencement, including any site clearance involving disturbance of the ground, shall occur. In the event that further investigation works are found to be necessary, the methodology and scope for these further works shall be agreed in writing by the local planning authority and the works executed fully in accordance with the agreed details prior to the commencement of development. A report setting out the findings of the investigative works shall thereafter be deposited with the Council's Historic Environment Record within twelve months of completion"*

1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in 2013 (CgMs 2013) and a geophysical survey was completed in 2018 (SUMO 2018). In consideration of these investigations an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was subsequently requested by the planning authority, on the recommendation of the Colchester Borough Archaeological Advisor.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation was subsequently prepared by CgMs (2018), which was submitted to and approved by Colchester Borough Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report describes and assesses the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on land at Wyvern Farm, London Road, Stanway, Essex from 22-30 January 2019.

1.4.2 The results of the preceding geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) are also considered in relation to the evaluation results.

1.4.3 The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Cullum (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was project managed by Andy Leonard and post-excavation by Mark Atkinson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is a summary of the most pertinent archaeological and historical background information drawn from the DBA (CgMs 2013), based on evidence held in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and other readily available sources. The locations of specific known sites and findspots in the vicinity of the site are shown on Figure 1.

2.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic

2.2.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint implements have been recovered from Oldhouse Farm 750m–1km to the south-east of the site (HER 11619, HER 11767, HER 11602).

2.3 Bronze Age

2.3.1 Cropmarks have revealed the presence of a Bronze Age ring-ditch 50m to the east of the site (HER 11939), thought to be a ploughed out barrow (and subsequently confirmed as such by excavation – see 2.7.6). Such a feature is unlikely to be in isolation and there may be additional prehistoric features within the vicinity. A Bronze Age cemetery at Chitts Hill, *c*.1km to the north-east of the site, further adds to the evidence for activity in the area in the period (Crummy 1977).

2.4 Iron Age and Roman

2.4.1 The excavation of cropmarks 750m to the south of the site at Church Lane revealed evidence of a Middle Iron Age trackway comprising parallel ditches with internal metaling and residual flint finds. Cropmark analysis provided by the Essex HER shows the trackway aligned south-west to north-east and passed some distance to the east of the site (HER 45996 and 11937; Partridge 1993)

2.4.2 During the Late Iron Age a system of defensive dykes (HER 11642) were laid out to the west of what is now Colchester, the closest being Grymes Dyke, located 1.5km to the east of the site. This extensive system enclosed the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum.* Excavations have shown the dyke system not only continued in use after the Roman conquest but was added to and modified.

2.4.3 The site lies outside of this dyke system. However, cropmarks and excavations have confirmed that settlement occurred beyond it as well as within it. An example of such a settlement is provided by excavations at Abbotstone Field, Stanway (HER 11919), 1.7km south-west of the site, outside of the dyke system and spanning the Middle Iron Age to Roman periods.

2.4.4 London Road lies immediately to the south of the site and is on the route of Stane Street (also known as Stone Way) (HER 11705), the major Roman trunk road from Colchester to Braughing, via Braintree. The close proximity of the Roman road to the site provides opportunity for features associated with the road to be present.

2.4.5 The Church of St Albrights 500m to the west of the site contains Roman brick in its dressing and contains quoins of Roman brick in the wall of the west nave (HER 11833).

2.4.6 Despite the presence of the Roman road and the re-used Roman material within the church fabric, the immediate area has not produced much evidence for Roman occupation. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity have produced little in the way of Roman finds.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.6.1 Archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity within the site area, especially from the early Anglo-Saxon period, is as elusive as that from the Roman period.

2.6.2 Medieval settlement in the area was scattered. An archaeological evaluation carried out at the adjacent Wyvern Farm site to the east recorded a low level of medieval activity alongside London Road (ASE 2015a). The activity could have related to a medieval roadside plot or to quarrying. Moated sites are not uncommon in the area, the closest being Moat Farm (HER 11703) which is over 1km to the west.

2.6 Post-Medieval and Modern

2.6.1 The Chapman and Andre Map of Essex (1777) shows the site situated within open land. More detail is provided by the later mapping of the Manor of Stanway (1787) and the Map of Stanway (1808), both of which show the site as farmland situated around and to the north of what later becomes Wiseman's Farm.

2.6.3 The Ordnance Survey of 1876 shows Wiseman's Farm to the south of the site and a Gravel Pit just to the west, inside of the site boundary. The remainder of the site is shown as open land at this time occupying parts of seven different fields. No change is shown to the area of the site on mapping from 1896 to 1921 (see Figure 4).

2.6.4 Post-war development in the wider area saw residential development expand east from Stanway along the main road to Colchester. By 1958 residential development was located both to the east and west of Wiseman's, along the London Road frontage. A modern farm building was constructed in the south-west of the site along with a number of outbuildings to the north of the main dwelling. The majority of the site remained undeveloped at this time.

2.6.5 The expansion of what now is called Wyvern Farm is evident from mapping of 1963-66. The original buildings in the south-west of the site appear to have been replaced by what appear to be farm buildings on a north-south axis. To the north and east around eighteen outbuildings now make up the farm complex. The remainder of the site has been homogenised in to two main fields both of which are shown as open land at this time.

2.6.6 Mapping from the present day shows that a number of outbuildings and a swimming pool have been added in the south-west of the site. The wider site area remains undeveloped prior to current construction.

2.7 Previous archaeological investigations

Wyvern Farm

2.7.1 A magnetometer survey of the current evaluation area was carried out in 2018 by SUMO Survey (SUMO 2018). The interpretive plot is shown on Figure 3. This survey identified no anomalies of archaeological interest. Several former field boundaries (present on OS maps until as recently as the 1920's and also visible as cropmarks)

were identified, as well as some anomalies of uncertain and natural origin.

2.7.2 The *c*.14.5ha southern part of the Wyvern Farm development site was evaluated in 2015 (ASE 2015a). Of the fifty-eight trial trenches excavated, thirteen contained archaeological features. This included the remains of six post-medieval field boundary ditches that coincided with both cropmark and historic map evidence, some being infilled as late as the 20th century. The presence of Medieval pottery in two of the ditches was speculated to indicate their potentially earlier origin. A single medieval pit was found near the London Road frontage. Undated features included two gullies, a charcoal-rich pit, and a stakehole. Three modern pits and modern surfaces were encountered in the area of the derelict farm buildings.

2.7.3 Subsequent investigation of five excavation areas, totalling 2700sq m and targeting selected locations within the evaluation area, was undertaken in 2016 (ASE 2016a). In the northern four areas, small quantities of earlier Iron Age pits, similar but undated pits, and further parts of some of the post-medieval field ditches were recorded. No additional evidence for the possible medieval origin of the field system was encountered. Only remains of a modern fence line and a number of dog burials were recorded in the southern excavation area, located toward London Road / Stane Street.

2.7.4 A further stage of evaluation at Wyvern Farm, along a pipeline route extending west of the main area, was also carried out in 2016 (ASE2016b). This did not encounter any archaeological remains.

Stane Park

2.7.5 In May 2015 ASE carried out an evaluation on the field immediately to the east of the Wyvern Farm site – known as Stane Park, Phase 1a and 1b (ASE 2015b). A ring-ditch previously known/mapped as a cropmark (HER 11939) was located and identified as a Late Bronze Age feature, along with a broadly-dated prehistoric pit. Their presence was considered to suggests an area of possible funerary activity during the late prehistoric period in the north of the site. Later remains consisted of a scatter of medieval features at the south end of the site. These comprised a large possible quarry pit, a smaller pit, a ditch and a posthole, and collectively were indicative of some undefined activity alongside London Road.

2.7.6 The subsequent Stane Park Phase 1b excavation exposed the extents of the *c*.26m-wide ring-ditch (ASE 2017). This contained a central cremation burial pit and a secondary, off-centre, pit, both dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The central burial is radiocarbon dated to 2275–2035 Cal BC. An Early/Middle Bronze Age pit and a scatter of other undated, though probably prehistoric, pits were also present within and to the west of the ring-ditch.

2.7.7 A watching brief was undertaken during construction works in the south of the Stane Park site (in Phase 1a), in the vicinity of the medieval pits, ditch and posthole found during the evaluation (ASE 2018). One modern pit and one undated pit were observed in foundation trenches, but no further remains to elucidate the nature of the perceived medieval roadside activity here.

2.8 Project Aims and Objectives

2.8.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the WSI (CgMs 2018), were:

- To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date and quality.

2.8.2 Specific research aims of the project were:

- Is there any evidence for Bronze Age features, such as ring-ditches, being present within the site?
- Is there any further evidence of medieval/post-medieval land division as seen in the evaluation of the remainder of the development area?

2.8.3 In the event that significant discoveries were made, the report was to seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, with reference to those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 Unless otherwise stated, the fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CgMs 2018). ASE is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The CIfA *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b) were adhered to throughout the project.

3.1.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty-seven trenches, measuring 30m by 2.1m, and generally positioned in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2018a; Figure 2). This excludes Trenches 110, 113, 122 and 125, which were all moved *c*.10m northwards in order to avoid a fenced-off area in which groundworks had already taken place. Trench 125 was also re-orientated to a NW/SE alignment in order to enable excavation of its full length. All alterations to the planned trench layout were agreed with the client and Archaeological Officer prior to being carried out.

3.1.3 The trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and were scanned for the presence of underground services using a CAT scanner prior to excavation.

3.1.4 Machining of the trenches was undertaken using a tracked excavator under close archaeological supervision, with topsoil and subsoil deposits being removed stratigraphically until archaeological remains and/or underlying natural geology was encountered. Any exposed archaeological deposits or negative features were planned as appropriate.

3.1.5 A sample of archaeological features were hand excavated; all were planned using GPS. Where required, 50% of discrete features and 1m-long segments of linear features were excavated. As discussed with the Archaeological Officer during an on-site meeting, only a single intervention was made into late Post-medieval/modern ditches where they were present in more than one trench. Trenches and features were recorded on ASE *pro forma* sheets and sections were recorded at 1:10 scale on A3 drawing film sheets.

3.1.6 A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made. All trenches and individual contexts were photographed (trench and context views). In addition, a number of representative photographs of the general work on site were taken (working views).

3.1.7 All finds from all excavated deposits were retrieved and retained for specialist identification and study. These were securely bagged and labelled with the appropriate site code and context number on site, in accordance with the ASE collection policy and CIfA guidelines (2014c).

3.1.8 Bulk soil samples were collected from deposits deemed appropriate for environmental study and/or for the recovery of small artefacts, in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2011).

3.1.9 A metal-detector was used throughout the fieldwork. Trench bases and spoil heaps, as well as the spoil derived from excavated features, were scanned.

3.1.10 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the

work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.

3.2 Archive

3.3.1 Guidelines contained in the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014d) will be followed for the preparation of the archive for deposition.

3.3.2 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. Finds from the fieldwork will be kept with the archival material. Subject to agreement with the legal landowner, the archive will be deposited with the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Store in due course. The contents of the site archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	26
Section sheets	3
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	80
Context register	0
Drawing register	3
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	27

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 bag)	12 Bags
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	1
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	1

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 Twenty-seven trenches, measuring 30m by 2.1m, were excavated across the site, generally in accordance with the WSI (CgMs 2018). Trenches 110, 113, 122 and 125, which were all moved *c*.10m northwards in order to avoid a fenced-off area in which groundworks had already taken place. Trench 125 was also realigned to a NW/SE alignment in order to enable excavation in its entirety

4.1.2 Thirteen of these trenches were targeted upon the plotted positions of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Figure 3), although none of these anomalies were interpreted as being archaeologically significant (SUMO 2018). Of the twenty-seven trenches excavated, thirteen (Trenches 100, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 110, 112, 115, 119, 121, 122 and 124) contained archaeological remains, comprising ditches and pits. These remains are described by trench in sections 4.2-4.15.

4.1.3 The remaining fourteen trenches (Trenches 101, 104, 105, 109, 111, 113, 114, 116, 117, 118, 120, 123, 125 and 126) were found to be devoid of archaeological remains. These trenches are summarised in section 4.16 and further details of their deposit sequences are presented in Appendix 1.

4.1.4 Across most of the site, a simple deposit sequence comprising 0.23-0.43m of topsoil overlying natural deposits was recorded. In trenches situated in the northern third of the site, topsoil overlaid a 0.17-0.52m thick redeposited layer, derived from excavations associated with the construction of the adjacent A12 road. Exposed natural deposits were varied and included mid orange-brown sandy gravel, mid orange-brown sandy silt and light orange clay silt. The topsoil comprised mid brown sandy silt with some gravel and the A12 construction layer, where present, consisted of dark brown sandy silt with occasional CBM, chalk and wood inclusions. The recorded archaeological features contained either silty sand, sandy gravel or clay silt fills.

4.1.5 Feature visibility was generally good. Only simple intercutting features were observed. The features were generally found directly below the topsoil or, where present, the A12 construction layer. All archaeological features were cut into the natural deposits.

4.2 **Trench 100** (Figure 5)

Heights at ENE end of the trench = 44.20m AOD (top)
Heights at WSW end of the trench = 43.91m AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
100/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.29
100/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.01-0.07
100/003	Layer	Construction debris	20.00	2.10	0.23-0.30
100/004	Fill	Fill	2.10	0.89	N/A
100/005	Cut	Ditch	2.10	0.89	N/A

Table 3: Trench 100 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 100 was located in the north-west corner of the site on a ENE/WSW alignment. A layer derived from excavations associated with the construction of the A12 (immediately north of site) was removed, revealing mostly undisturbed natural deposits. A single ditch was uncovered but not excavated following the decision made to only excavate a single intervention across modern ditches present in more than one trench.

4.2.2 Ditch [100/005] crossed the western end of the trench on a NNW/SSE alignment. It measured 2.10m by 0.89m and its depth was not established. It is clearly a further part of the linear geophysical anomaly detected to its south and identified as a former field boundary (Figure 3). It correlates to a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps as recently as the 1930's (Figure 4). Its southward continuation was excavated in Trench 102 as [102/006] and further recorded in Trench 103.

4.3 Trench 102 (Figure 6)

Heights at ENE end of the trench = 41.91m AOD (top)
Heights at WSW end of the trench = 42.39m AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
102/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.31-0.34
102/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.03-0.12
102/003	Fill	Fill, upper	1.00	0.95	0.21
102/004	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.00	1.78	0.66
102/005	Fill	Fill, basal	1.00	1.08	0.25
102/006	Cut	Ditch	2.1.0	1.78	0.88

Table 4: Trench 102 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 102 was aligned ENE/WNW in the south-east of the site in order to investigate a plotted linear geophysical anomaly, interpreted as a former field boundary (Figure 3). A single ditch was uncovered which correlated to this anomaly.

4.3.2 Ditch [102/006] crossed the centre of the trench on a roughly north/south alignment. It measured 1.78m wide and 0.88m deep, and had steep sides with a moderately sharp break of slope to a regular, flat base. It contained three fills. Upper fill [102/003] was a loose mid grey brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions. Intermediate fill [102/004] was a loose dark grey brown silty sand with moderately frequent gravel and occasional metal, CBM and glass inclusions. Basal fill [102/006] was a compact dark orange brown sandy gravel. The recovered CBM comprised ?early post-medieval brick, but also a distinctive later 'blue brick' no earlier than 1890. The glass was a bottle neck fragment of mid 19th- to early 20th-century date.

4.3.3 Ditch [102/006] correlates with both the general plotted proximity of a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a field boundary and with a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps until as recently as 1930 (Figure 4).

4.4 **Trench 103** (Figure 7)

Heights at the ENE end of the trench = 41.50m AOD (top)
Heights at the WSW end of the trench = 41.29m AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
103/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.23-0.29
103/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.12
103/003	Fill	Fill	2.10	1.78	N/A
103/004	Cut	Ditch	2.10	1.78	N/A

Table 5: Trench 103 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 103 was located in the south-west corner of the site on a ENE/WSW alignment. A single ditch was uncovered but not excavated following the decision made to only excavate a single intervention across modern ditches present in more than one trench.

4.4.2 Ditch [103/004] crossed the western part of the trench on a roughly north/south alignment. It measured 1.78m wide and its depth was not established. It correlates to a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps as recently as the 1930's (Figure 4). Although not detected to extend this far south, it is clearly a further part of the linear geophysical anomaly that crosses this end of the site. Its northward continuation was excavated in Trench 102 as [102/006] and further recorded in Trench 100.

4.5 **Trench 106** (Figure 8)

Heights at NNW end of the trench = 43.11 AOD (top)
Heights at SSE end of the trench = 41.90 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
106/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.26-0.31
106/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.04-0.12
106/003	Fill	Fill, upper	1.00	1.98	0.32
106/004	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.00	1.57	0.44
106/005	Fill	Fill, basal	1.00	1.26	0.08
106/006	Cut	Ditch	2.10	1.98	0.79

Table 6: Trench 106 list recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 106 was aligned NNW/SSE in the south-east of the site in order to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a former field boundary (Figure 3). A single ditch was uncovered which correlated to this anomaly.

4.5.2 Ditch [106/006] crossed the south of the trench on an ENE/WSW alignment. It measured 1.98m wide and 0.79 deep, and had moderately steep sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It contained three fills. Upper fill [106/003] was a firm light yellow grey gravel sand with frequent gravel inclusions. Intermediate fill [106/004] was a soft dark grey silty sand with moderately frequent small sub-angular flint and occasional wood and charcoal fragment inclusions. Basal fill [106/005] was a firm mid brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions. Two

sherds of pottery (239g) were recovered from fill (106/004). These were a blue floral transfer-printed piece and a slipped kitchen earthenware base, dating to the 1820's and 19th/earlier 20th century, respectively. Four fragments of post-medieval CBM and a piece of Roman brick (1380g) were also collected. Ditch [106/006] correlates with both a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a field boundary and with a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps until the 1870's (Figure 4).

4.7 Trench 107 (Figure 9)

Heights at ESE end of the trench = 44.23 AOD (top)
Heights at WNW end of the trench = 44.40 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
107/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.29-0.37
107/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.06-0.13
107/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.40-0.52
107/004	Fill	Fill	2.10	1.52	N/A
107/005	Cut	Ditch	2.10	1.52	N/A

Table 7: Trench 107 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 107 was located in the north of the site on a ESE/WNW alignment in order to investigate the plotted position of a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a former field boundary (Figure 3). A thick layer derived from excavations associated with the construction of the A12 was removed, revealing mostly undisturbed natural deposits. A single ditch was uncovered but not excavated following the decision made to only excavate a single intervention across modern ditches present in more than one trench.

4.7.2 Ditch [107/005] crossed the centre of the trench on a NNW/SSE alignment. It measured 1.52m wide and its depth was not established. It correlates to a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps as recently as the 1960's (Figure 4) and with the plotted linear geophysical anomaly. Its southward continuation was identified in Trench 108, where it was excavated as [108/010], and in Trench 110.

4.8 **Trench 108** (Figure 10)

Heights at E end of the trench = 43.43 AOD (top)
Heights at W end of the trench = 43.58 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
108/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.27-0.28
108/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.07
108/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.30-0.40
108/004	Fill	Fill, upper	1.00	1.42	0.32
108/005	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.00	1.94	0.40
108/006	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.00	0.82	0.11
108/007	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.00	1.27	0.40
108/008	Fill	Fill, basal	1.00	0.97	0.07
108/009	Fill	Fill, basal	1.00	0.66	0.10
108/010	Cut	Ditch	2.10	2.44	0.91

Table 8: Trench 108 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Trench 108 was located in the north of the site on an east/west alignment in order to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a former field boundary (Figure 3). A relatively substantial soil layer derived from excavations associated with the construction of the A12 (immediately north of site) was removed revealing mostly undisturbed natural deposits. A single ditch was uncovered which correlated to this anomaly.

4.8.2 Ditch [108/010] crossed the east of the trench on a roughly north/south alignment. It measured 2.44m wide and 0.91m deep and had moderately steep concave sides with no discernible break of slope to a concave base. It contained six fills. Uppermost fill [108/004] was a firm light orange grey sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized angular flints. Intermediate fill [108/005] was a firm mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized sub angular flint, charcoal wood, CBM, pottery and metal inclusions. Intermediate fill [108/006] was a firm mid orange grey sandy silt with very occasional small charcoal inclusions. Intermediate fill [108/007] was a firm mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions. Basal fills [108/009] and [108/010] were firm mid grey brown sandy silts with occasional small charcoal inclusions. A single sherd (12g) of late 18th-century Creamware pottery, six post-medieval brick and tile fragments (608g), a horseshoe fragment (mid 18th–mid 20th century) (480g), a window glass fragment (4g) (late 19th–20th century) and a brass military button (late 19th–early 20th century) were recovered from the ditch fills.

4.8.3 Ditch [108/010] correlates with both a plotted linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a field boundary and with a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps until as recently as the 1960's (Figure 4). Its northward continuation was recorded in Trench 107. A plastic land drain was cut into the west edge of the infilled ditch, and seemingly through overlying road construction layer [108/003], and ran along it on the same alignment.

4.9 Trench 110 (no figure)

Heights at WSW end of the trench = 41.40 AOD (top)
Heights at ENE end of the trench = 41.64 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
110/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.30-0.36
110/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.04-0.08
110/003	Fill	Fill	2.10	2.20	N/A
110/004	Cut	Ditch	2.10	2.20	N/A

4.9.1 Trench 110 was located along the south-west edge of the site, on a NNE/SSW alignment. A single ditch was found at its east end but not excavated following the decision made to only excavate a single intervention across modern ditches present in more than one trench.

4.9.2 Ditch [110/004] was NNW/SSE aligned and approximately 2.2m wide. Its depth was not established. This ditch is clearly the continuation of the linear boundary geophysical anomaly plotted immediately to its north. It also correlates to a field boundary shown on historic OS mapping. The northward continuation of this ditch was recorded in Trenches 107 and 108, being excavated as [8/010] in the latter.

4.10 Trench 112 (Figure 11)

Heights at NNW end of the trench = 43.82 AOD (top)
Heights at SSE end of the trench = 42.87 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
112/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.27
112/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.08-0.12
112/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.20-0.27
112/004	Fill	Fill, upper	0.60	0.43	0.10
112/005	Fill	Fill, basal	1.43	0.87	0.17
112/006	Cut	Pit	1.43	0.87	0.17

Table 9: Trench 112 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Trench 112 was located in the centre of the site on a NNW/SSE alignment in order to investigate a NE/SW linear geophysical of uncertain origin (Figure 3), which was not found as a below-ground feature. A layer derived from excavations associated with the construction of the A12 was removed, revealing mostly undisturbed natural deposits. A single pit was uncovered in the north of the trench.

4.10.2 Pit [112/006] was oval in plan shape, measuring 1.43m by 0.87m and 0.17m deep. This discrete feature was completely excavated. It had moderately steep sloped sides with no discernible break of slope to a flat base, though the cut was very diffuse and ill-defined. This pit contained two fills. Upper fill [112/004] was a firm dark grey brown silty gravel with frequent charcoal and burnt flint inclusions from which bulk soil sample <1> was collected. Basal fill [112/005] was a firm dark grey brown silty gravel with frequent charcoal and inclusions of fired clay. Fill (112/004) contained two sherds (10g) of flint-tempered pottery in keeping with the Early Neolithic Plan Bowl tradition.

This feature had not been detected as a geophysical anomaly.

4.11 Trench 115 (Figure 12)

Heights at WNW end of the trench = 41.98 AOD (top)
Heights at ESE end of the trench = 42.31 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
115/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.23-0.29
115/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.12
115/003	Fill	Fill	30.00	1.00	N/A
115/004	Cut	Ditch	30.00	1.00	N/A

Table 10: Trench 115 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 Trench 115 was located in the centre of the site on an ESE/WSW alignment. A single ditch was uncovered but not excavated following the decision made to only excavate a single intervention across modern ditches present in more than one trench.

4.11.2 Ditch [115/004] ran the length of the trench on an ESE/WNW alignment. Only its southern extent was exposed; it measured in excess of 1m wide and its depth was not established. It correlates to a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps as recently as the 1960's (Figure 4) and is evidently part of the same feature plotted as a linear geophysical anomaly running immediately alongside the trench. Its eastwards continuation was recorded in Trench 119 and excavated in Trench 124 as [124/006].

4.12 Trench 119 (Figure 13)

Heights at NW end of the trench = 42.51 AOD (top)
Heights at SE end of the trench = 41.70 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
119/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.27-0.29
119/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.04
119/003	Fill	Fill	2.10	2.69	N/A
119/004	Cut	Ditch	2.10	2.69	N/A

Table 11: Trench 119 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 Trench 119 was located in the centre of the site on an ESE/WSW alignment in order to investigate a plotted linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a former field boundary (Figure 3). A ditch was uncovered which correlated to this anomaly but was not excavated following the decision made to only excavate a single intervention across modern ditches present in more than one trench.

4.12.2 Ditch [119/004] crossed the centre of the trench on a NE/SW alignment. It measured 2.69m wide and its depth was not established. It correlates to a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps as recently as the 1930's (Figure 4) and with the plotted position of the boundary anomaly here. Its westward continuation was found in Trench 115, while its eastward continuation was excavated in Trench 124 as [124/006].

4.13 **Trench 121** (Figure 14)

Heights at NE end of the trench = 41.25 AOD (top)
Heights at SW end of the trench = 41.16 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
121/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.29-0.31
121/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.09-0.11
121/003	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.00	1.27	0.39
121/004	Fill	Fill, basal	1.00	0.47	0.13
121/005	Cut	Ditch	2.10	1.27	0.48
121/006	Fill	Fill, upper	1.00	0.63	0.08

Table 12: Trench 121 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Trench 121 was aligned NE/SW in the south-west of the site in order to investigate a plotted linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a former field boundary (Figure 3). A single ditch was uncovered which correlated to this anomaly.

4.13.2 Ditch [121/005] crossed the centre of the trench on a NNW/SSE alignment. It measured 1.27m wide and 0.48m deep, and had moderately steep sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It contained three fills. Upper fill [121/006] was a firm light grey brown sandy silt with very frequent charcoal fragments. Intermediate fill [121/003] was a soft dark grey brown clay silt with occasional sub-angular flint and charcoal inclusions. Basal fill [121/004] was a firm light grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions. A single small sherd of white earthenware pottery with blue transfer pattern, three fragments of post-medieval brick and tile and a number of small mammal bones – possibly rabbit – were recovered from fill [121/003].

4.13.3 Ditch [121/005] correlates with both a plotted linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a field boundary and with a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps until as recently as the 1930's (Figure 4). Its southward continuation was identified in Trench 122.

4.14 **Trench 122** (Figure 15)

Heights at E end of the trench = 40.87 AOD (top)
Heights at W end of the trench = 40.99 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
122/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.27-0.29
122/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.04
122/003	Fill	Fill	2.10	0.97	N/A
122/004	Cut	Ditch	2.10	0.97	N/A

Table 13: Trench 122 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 Trench 122 was located in the south-east of the site on an ENE/WSW alignment. A single ditch was uncovered but not excavated following the decision made to only excavate a single intervention across modern ditches present in more than one trench.

4.14.2 Ditch [103/004] crossed the west of the trench on a roughly north/south alignment. It measured 0.97m wide and its depth was not established. It correlates to a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps as recently as the 1930's (Figure 4). Although the geophysical anomaly of this boundary was plotted on a differing alignment, this ditch is clearly a continuation of [121/005] in Trench 121. It also extends further southwards into the previous evaluation area, where it was found in Trench 32.

4.15 Trench 124 (Figure 16)

Heights at N end of the trench = 41.64 AOD (top)
Heights at S end of the trench = 41.05 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
124/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.36
124/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.15-0.22
124/003	Fill	Fill, upper	1.00	1.11	0.36
124/004	Fill	Fill, intermediate	1.00	0.31	0.11
124/005	Fill	Fill, basal	1.00	0.93	0.15
124/006	Cut	Ditch	2.10	1.37	0.48

Table 14: Trench 124 list of recorded contexts

4.15.1 Trench 124 was located in the south-east of the site on a NNE/SSW alignment in order to investigate a plotted linear geophysical anomaly. A single ditch was uncovered was uncovered which correlated to this anomaly.

4.15.2 Ditch [124/006] crossed the north of the trench on a WSW/ENE alignment. It measured 1.37m wide and 0.48m deep, and had steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It contained three fills. Upper fill [124/003] was a soft dark grey clay silt with occasional charcoal and stone inclusions. Intermediate fill [124/004] was a firm light yellow grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions. Basal fill [124/005] was a firm mid grey orange sandy gravel. No finds were retrieved from these ditch fills.

4.15.3 Ditch [124/006] correlates with both a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a field boundary and with a boundary ditch recorded on OS maps until as recently as the 1930's (Figure 4). Its westward continuation was recorded in Trenches 115 and 119.

4.16 Archaeologically negative trenches (Figure 17)

4.16.1 Trenches 101, 104, 105, 109, 111, 113, 114, 116, 117, 118, 120, 123, 125 and 126 were all devoid of archaeological features. These blank trenches were distributed across the site.

4.16.2 They revealed a simple deposit sequence comprising a 0.23-0.43m thickness of topsoil, in some instances overlying 0.17-0.52m of the A12 construction-related layer, over natural deposits. The presence/absence of this layer was dependent upon the proximity of trenches to the A12 and was restricted to northern third of the site. Further details of the deposit sequences noted in these trenches are presented in Appendix 1.

4.16.3 Trenches 105, 109, 112, 114 and 116 were positioned to investigate plotted geophysical survey anomalies interpreted to be of uncertain origin (Figure 3). However, below-ground remains corresponding with these were not identified.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the current phase of evaluation on land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway. 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 15; material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified in Appendix 2. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Cu Alloy	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
102/004			2	1162	3	1320					1	12
106/004	2	240	5	1380								
108/005	1	12	6	608	1	480	1	4			1	4
112/004	2	10										
121/003	1	1	3	36	1	12			7	4		
Total	*6*	*263*	*16*	*3186*	*5*	*1812*	*1*	*4*	*7*	*4*	*2*	*16*

Table 15: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 **Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 Two bodysherds of flint-tempered pottery, weighing 10g, were recovered from fill [112/004] of pit [112/006]. Both feature sparse to moderate, very ill-sorted flint of around 1-5mm, one with common silt-sized quartz and the other with a denser matrix with rare larger quartz grains up to 0.5mm. One is fairly thin-walled with a well-finished interior surface, considering the coarseness of its fabric, while the other is thicker-walled and less finely finished.

5.2.2 The fabric characteristics of these two sherds appear in keeping with the Early Neolithic Plain Bowl tradition; however, it must be acknowledged that it is difficult to date isolated flint-tempered sherds with certainty. Flint-tempered wares of this coarseness might alternatively be found in assemblages of the later Bronze Age, though ceramics of this period tend to be characterised by more frequent flint and less extremely ill-sorted inclusions than Early Neolithic pottery.

5.3 **Post-Roman Pottery** by Helen Walker

5.3.1 A very small quantity of pottery, four sherds, weighing 252g, was excavated from three contexts. The earliest is the flanged rim from a plate, dish, or bowl in creamware, from ditch [108/010], fill [108/005]. Creamware glazes become whiter over time, and the near white glaze on this example suggests a date of later 18th century to *c*.1830. Ditch [121/005], fill [121/003] produced a very small sherd of modern white earthenware showing a blue-transfer print. The sherd is too small to identify the design with certainty, but it appears to be an example of willow pattern, produced from the beginning of the 19th century to the present day. Fill [106/004] in ditch [106/006], produced another sherd of modern white earthenware, this time showing a blue floral transfer-printed design. Non-oriental designs were not produced until the 1820s, but

again, they continue to the present day. From the same context is the base of a ?steep-sided bowl in slipped kitchen earthenware. As the name suggests, this is a kitchen ware used for in dairying or for mixing and preparing ingredients and dates to the 19th to earlier 20th centuries.

5.3.2 The pottery is a mixture of table and kitchen wares and shows evidence of activity here during the late 18th to early 19th centuries.

5.4 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 Seventeen pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 3151g were hand-collected from four contexts: [102/004], [106/004], [108/005] and [121/003]. The assemblage comprised mainly of low-fired red brick and peg tile fragments, which in conjunction with one another suggests an early post-medieval date of the late 15th-16th century. However, part of a vitrified and fully reduced 'blue brick' collected from [102/004] dates to the late 19th century at the very earliest, indicating later deposition on site.

5.4.2 All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel table. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and where possible catalogued using Museum of London Archaeology's (MOLA) fabric reference codes. In those instances that the MOLA equivalent was unknown, site specific codes have been applied and 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 below in Table 16.

Fabric code	Description
Roof tile	
2271	Fine fabric, with scatter of muscovite mica, red iron oxide and calcium carbonate (up to 1mm). A small quantity of quartz (<1mm) usually present
2586	Orange fabric with varying quantities (moderate-common) of medium and coarse quartz.
Brick	
3033	Fine fabric with scatter of quartz (up to 0.8mm), sparse calcareous inclusions and black iron oxide, both up to 1.5mm. Occasional flint fragments and small pebbles up to 7mm.
3035	Generally yellow fabric with common burnt black ash and chalk inclusions (up to 4mm). Scatter of quartz (up to 0.6mm).The fabric is hard and riddled with tiny air pockets where organic matter has burned out during firing.
3046	Fine red-orange fabric with common quartz (up to 1.0mm), occasional calcium carbonate and black iron oxide (up to 1.5mm). Occasional flint fragments and small pebbles (up to 7mm).

Table 16: Fabric descriptions for ceramic building material

5.4.3 The earliest dating CBM from site is a single example of Roman brick from [106/004], made from a medium orange fabric with sparse amounts of quartz. The Roman brick was found alongside later CBM comprising one brick in MOLA fabric 3033/3046 and a fragment of roof tile in fabric 2271, both of which are early post-medieval in date, possibly as early as the late 15th century.

5.4.4 Similar groups of early post-medieval brick and roof tile – the latter mainly in MOLA fabric 2586 - were recovered from [108/005] and [121/003]. Brick in fabric 3033 was also collected from [102/004], but in this latter context was recovered alongside a significantly later piece of completely vitrified and reduced 'blue brick', an industrial brick type developed to withstand very high temperatures. This would date no earlier that *c*.1890.

5.5 Glass by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Two fragments of glass weighing 16g was recovered from two different contexts. It includes the aqua bottle neck from a bottle undiagnostic of form ([102/004], dating between the mid 19th and early 20th century. A fragment of clear window glass (2.65mm thick) of late 19th- to 20th-century date was recovered from [108/005].

5.6 Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Although no hand-collected slag was recovered during the fieldwork, tiny quantities were recovered from the magnetic fraction of a single environmental residue (context [122/004]). The majority of the material from this consisted of granules of burnt ferruginous stone and ferruginous concretions whose magnetic properties had been enhanced through burning (<1g). However, amongst this material two flakes of hammerscale (to 2mm across) were noted, demonstrating the presence of iron smithing in the general area. However, the quantities involved are negligible and certainly no iron working was occurring close by. Whether the flakes are residual, intrusive or contemporary with the context is uncertain. The material holds no potential for further work and has been discarded.

5.7 Bulk Metalwork by Elke Raemen

5.7.1 A small assemblage of six pieces of metalwork weighing 1816g was recovered from three different contexts. Included is a copper-alloy two-piece General Service button found in [108/005], dating to the late 19th or early 20th century.

5.7.2 The remainder of the assemblage comprises ironwork. Included are two horse shoe fragments ([102/004] and [108/005]), both of 18th-to mid 20th-century date. One, with toe calkin, is near complete but heavily corroded. A curved sheet fragment, possibly from an iron pipe and a cast iron sheet fragment were both found in [102/004]. Both date to the 18th to early 20th century.

5.8 Animal Bone by Emily Johnson

5.8.1 An assemblage of seven animal bones weighing approximately 4g in total was analysed from the evaluation. The material was hand-collected from ditch fill [121/003] and was poorly preserved. At least one bone was identifiable as a rabbit femur, and it is probable that all specimens represented rabbit bones although they were only identifiable as small mammal long bone fragments.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 One bulk soil sample was collected from the upper fill of prehistoric pit [112/006] to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report summarises the contents of the sample and discusses the information provided by the charred plant remains and charcoal on diet, agrarian economy, vegetation environment and fuel selection and use.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The sample measured 40L in volume and was processed in its entirety in a flotation tank and the residue and flot was retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively before being air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 17). Artefacts recovered from the sample were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this report where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 18).

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	112/004	112/006	Pit	40	**	4	**	1	FCF (**/358g); Mag mat >2mm (*/1g); Mag mat <2mm (**/1g)

Table 17: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250)

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal <2mm
1	112/004	0.7	10	10	70	10	* *Chenopodium* sp.	***

Table 18: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

6.3 Results

Sample <1> [112/004]

6.3.1 The sample produced a small flot, dominated by uncharred material, such as rootlets and seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). This material is indicative of low-level disturbance. No charred plant remains were recovered. Charcoal was preserved in small amounts and no identification work was carried out. Sediment encrustations, due to fluctuations in the ground water level, were noted on the fragments.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The bulk soil sample from this Wyvern Farm evaluation has produced no charred plant macrofossils and limited amounts of charcoal. The presence of charcoal indicates that there is potential for the preservation of charred ecofacts in the local deposits. Any future work at the site should continue to include sampling targeting well-sealed primary deposits and a range of features across the site.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 A deposit sequence of topsoil overlying either an A12 construction-derived layer or else natural deposits was encountered across the site. The topsoil was 0.23-0.43m thick. The construction layer was present across the northern third of the site and ranged in thickness between 0.17-0.52m. The underlying natural geological deposits were variable, consisting of a mixture of silt, sand, gravel and clay. The top of these deposits was encountered between 43.77m AOD and 40.16m AOD.

7.1.2 The evaluation revealed the presence of archaeological features in thirteen of the twenty-seven excavated trenches. The recorded features were cut into the natural deposit and were overlain by topsoil and, where present, by the A12 construction layer.

7.1.3 The recorded archaeological remains comprised linear ditches and a single pit. As exposed, these were all isolated features, with no intercutting relationships . Feature density across the site was low and distribution fairly even, with no area exhibiting a particular concentration.

7.2 Geophysical survey

7.2.1 Eleven trenches were positioned in order to investigate selected plotted geophysical survey anomalies interpreted as having differing degrees of archaeological significance – the majority judged either to be indicative of former field boundarys (and correlating with those recorded on OS maps up to 1960) and others of uncertain origin (SUMO 2018) (Figure 3).

7.2.2 The correlation between detected geophysical anomalies and below-ground archaeological features has been demonstrated to be reliable and close. All plotted geophysical anomalies interpreted as former field boundaries (in Trenches 101, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 119, 121, 124) are manifest as below-ground remains. This is perhaps unsurprising given these boundary features are recorded on historic maps ranging from 1870 to 1960 (Figure 4).

7.2.3 In instances where targetted geophysical anomalies have been intepreted as of uncertain origin (Trenches 105, 112, 114, 115 and 116), no corresponding below-ground features were encountered. This has corroborated the suggestion in the geophysical report that it is likely these are derived from agricultural activity and probably limited in depth to the topsoil (SUMO 2018).

7.2.4 It is probable that the geophysical survey has not identified discrete and/or shallow features, these being too small or containing fills not conducive to detection. Pit [112/006] is the only demonstrable instance of this; however, it is possible that other such undetected archaeological features are present outside the confines of the evaluation trenches.

7.3 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.3.1 Deposit survival was good, with most features cut into natural deposits and sealed by a reasonable depth of topsoil and construction debris. Some degree of horizontal truncation of all features, presumably as a consequence of agricultural activity, has occurred.

7.3.2 It is not clear what degree of disturbance has occurred as a result of the excavation and construction of the A12 road. It is at least clear that topsoil was stripped, due to the lack of any visible buried topsoil beneath the construction layer, but there is no evidence to suggest that significant reduction of natural deposits within the site has taken place. The surviving depth of excavated features both within the affected area ([108/010]) and outside of it ([102/006], [106/006], [121/005], [124/006]) is comparable. These ditches are broadly contemporary and, if considerable truncation had occurred, [108/010] would perhaps be expected to be less deep than its counterparts.

7.3.2 The impact of modern agricultural land drainage appears to be minimal, with a small number of land drains recorded, with one cutting ditch [108/010].

7.4 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.4.1 Archaeological remains encountered on site comprised a low density and low complexity of ditches and a pit. These features, where possible, have been dated on the basis of their diagnostic artefact content and correlation with features recorded on Historic OS maps, and are discussed below by period. The locations of dated features are shown on Figure 17.

Prehistoric

7.4.2 Two sherds of Neolithic pottery were recovered from ill-defined pit [112/006]. However, it was noted that pottery of this fabric types from this period can be easily confused with those from the Bronze Age. It is, however, probable that this pit is of prehistoric date. Such features are often found scattered across the landscape and this may be a similarly isolated example.

Post-Medieval/Modern

7.4.3 A number of late post-medieval/modern linear ditches are apparent within the site, having been recorded in Trenches 100, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 110, 119, 121, 124. Where recovered, artefacts in their fills are almost exclusively of post-medieval date – predominantly 19th and 20th century. With reference to historic OS mapping, it can be demonstrated that these archaeological features are the remains of former boundary/drainage ditches that defined the field enclosure system of the later Post-medieval agricultural landscape, some of which did not necessarily pass out of use until the mid 20th century (Figures 4 and 17).

7.4.4 Further parts of the Post-medieval field system were recorded during the previous investigations within the southern part of the Wyvern Farm site (Figure 17). Indeed, the continuation of the NNW/SSE ditch found in Trenches 100, 102 and 103 was present in Trench 54 and excavation Area 1 (though apparently not in Trench 43 in between). Although narrower here, its fill contained pottery, glass and ironwork of similarly 19th/20th-century date (as well as two sherds of residual medieval pottery). The NNW/SSE ditch in Trench 121 was also found in earlier evaluation Trench 32 and further investigated in excavation Area 4 and again contained late post-medieval material in its fill.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

7.5.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in determining the

presence/absence, location, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological remains within the site. The dated features recorded during the evaluation are of predominantly late Post-medieval/modern date and are indicative of the agricultural use of the landscape.

7.5.2 Pit [112/006] being of uncertain prehistoric date, there is negligible evidence for Bronze Age land use within the site. The evaluation results provide no evidence that might be regarded together with the excavated barrow at adjacent Stane Park as being part of a wider landscape of later Bronze Age funerary or ritual activity. As such, the current Wyvern farm site appears to have no potential for further research on prehistoric themes.

7.5.3 No evidence of the post-medieval enclosed landscape having earlier, Medieval, origins was encountered by the evaluation. Other than a fragment of Roman brick, all recovered artefacts from the field boundary ditches are of Post-medieval date. This would seem to confirm the conclusion that the Medieval pottery recovered from similar ditches in the earlier evaluation were residual from other features/deposits and not indicative of their date of construction. All of the Post-medieval boundary ditches are recorded on historic maps and, as such, the site does not provide any further insights into the nature and development of the later agricultural landscape.

7.6 Conclusions

7.6.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation demonstrate the presence of a low density and low complexity of archaeological remains within this northern part of the Wyvern Farm development site. These remains, comprising linear ditches and a single pit, are spread across most parts of the site, with no area demonstrating any particular concentration.

7.6.2 A single prehistoric pit was recorded. This probably reflects a very low incidence of remains of this date across the wider site. The ditches represent the remains of the former agricultural field system that occupied this landscape in the later Post-medieval and Modern periods.

7.6.3 A modern soil deposit up to 0.5m thick, deriving from construction of the adjacent A12 road, was found across the northern third of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Ltd for commissioning the work on behalf of their client and for their assistance throughout the project. Colchester Borough Council are also thanked for their guidance and monitoring. The excavation was supervised by Rob Cullum. The author would like to thank James Alexander, who undertook the fieldwork and Nathalie Gonzalez, who undertook the on-site survey. Andy Lewsey produced the figures for this report. Andy Leonard project managed the excavations and Mark Atkinson managed the post-excavation process.

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Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height AOD
101/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.26-0.35	43.2-43.47
101/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.03-0.07	42.79-42.86
101/003	Layer	Construction debris	22.4	2.10	0.17-0.30	
103/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.23-0.29	41.29-41.50
103/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.12	41.00-41.23
104/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.30	43.67-44.45
104/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.05-0.14	43.02-43.77
104/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.44-0.48	
105/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.29-0.34	42.54-43.11
105/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.11	42.05-42.78
109/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.28-0.31	42.52-42.91
109/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.05-0.10	42.12-42.61
111/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.29	44.19-44.51
111/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.11	43.76-43.91
111/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.35-0.44	
113/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.42-0.43	42.16-42.72
113/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.04-0.06	41.34-41.77
114/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.29-0.32	42.55-43.22
114/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.10	42.26-42.82
114/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.18-0.21	
115/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.27-0.36	41.98-42.31
115/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.10-0.15	41.59-42.10
116/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.33	41.70-42.09
116/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.01-0.06	41.34-41.80
117/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.31	43.37-44.09
117/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.02-0.04	42.93-43.48
117/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.33-0.37	
118/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.37-0.32	42.93-43.26
118/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.08-0.09	42.46-42.67
118/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.15-0.23	
120/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.28-0.30	42.00-42.67
120/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.05-0.10	41.7-42.26
122/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.30-0.33	40.87-40.99
122/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.06-0.10	40.54-40.62
123/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.26	43.43-43.34
123/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.05-0.09	41.81-42.33
123/003	Layer	Construction debris	30.00	2.10	0.35-0.52	
125/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.25-0.30	40.66-41.29
125/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.03-0.06	40.32-40.97
126/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	2.10	0.24-0.37	40.94-41.37
126/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.10	0.06-0.12	40.98-40.58

Appendix 2: HER Summary

Site name/Address: Land at Wyvern Farm, London Road, Stanway, Essex	
Parish: Stanway	***District:*** Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 94321 24474	***Site Code:*** COLEM:2015.52
Type of Work: Evaluation	***Site Director/Group:*** Rob Cullum, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 22-30/01/2019	***Size of Area Investigated:*** 3.6ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester Museum	***Funding source:*** Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: unknown	***Related HER No's:*** 11923, 11939
Final Report: ADS grey lit	***OASIS No:*** 341624
Periods Represented: Neolithic?, Post-medieval, Modern	

Summary:

Archaeological evaluation was carried out within the northern part of the wider Wyvern Farm development site. The southern c.14.5ha has previously been trial-trenched and parts excavated, with Iron Age pits, a post-medieval field system and other undated features being recorded. A Late Bronze Age barrow was excavated within the adjacent Stane Park development.
A preceding geophysical survey of the current evaluation site detected anomalies of potential archaeological origin, predominantly relating to late Post-medieval/modern land enclosure.
Twenty-seven trenches were excavated across the site, some targeted upon selected geophysical anomalies. Thirteen trenches contained archaeological features, comprising linear ditches and a single pit, that were thinly distributed across the site. The pit was possibly Neolithic, while the linear ditches corresponded to former field boundaries recorded on historic OS maps dated to between 1870 and 1960.

A modern soil deposit up to 0.5m thick, deriving from construction of the adjacent A12 road, was found across the northern third of the site.

Previous Summaries/Reports:
ASE 2015, *Archaeological Evaluation Report - Land at Wyvern Farm, London Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex.* Unpub Rep. 2015247

ASE 2015, *Stane Park (Phases 1a and 1b), Stanway, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation.* Unpub Rep. 2015223

ASE. 2016, *Archaeological Excavation: Wyvern Farm, Stanway, Colchester, Essex.* Unpub Rep. 2016181

ASE. 2017, *Archaeological mitigation at Stane Park (Phase 1b), London Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex. Final report*. Unpub Rep 2017448

Author of Summary: R. Cullum	***Date of Summary:*** 20/02/2019

Appendix 3: OASIS Record

OASIS ID: archaeol6-341624

Project details	
Project name	Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway, Essex
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation was carried out within the northern part of the wider Wyvern Farm development site. A preceding geophysical survey of the current evaluation site detected anomalies of potential archaeological origin, predominantly relating to late Post-medieval/modern land enclosure. Twenty-seven trenches were excavated across the site, some targeted upon selected geophysical anomalies. Thirteen trenches contained archaeological features, comprising linear ditches and a single pit, that were thinly distributed across the site. The pit was possibly Neolithic, while the ditches corresponded to former field boundaries recorded on historic OS maps dated to between 1870 and 1960.
Project dates	Start: 22-01-2019 End: 30-01-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Associated project reference codes	180755 - Contracting Unit No. COLEM:2015.52 – Site code ECC4312 – Event number
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	DITCH Modern
Monument type	PIT Neolithic
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	METAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Neolithic
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER STANWAY Land at Wyvern Farm, London Road
Postcode	CO3 8PB

Study area	3.6 Hectares
Site coordinates	0 0 94321 00 00 N 24474 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Colchester Borough Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Rob Cullum
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Wyvern Farm, London Road, Stanway, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cullum, R.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2019042
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4 report, c.30 pages, including figures and appendices

Entered by	Mark Atkinson (mark.atkinson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	20 February 2019

Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation

Land at Wyvern Farm
London Road, Stanway
Near Colchester, Essex

Written Scheme of Investigation

NGR: TL 94321 24474

ASE Project no: 180755
Prepared by Simon Stevens

October 2018

Archaeology South-East
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ

Tel: 01376 331470
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Archaeological Evaluation

Land at Wyvern Farm
London Road, Stanway
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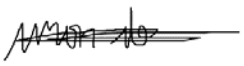
Written Scheme of Investigation

NGR: TL 94321 24474

ASE Project no: 180755

Prepared by:	Simon Stevens	Senior Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Andy Leonard	Project Manager	
Date of Issue:	16th October 2018		
Revision 1:	26th November 2018		
Revision 2:	26th November 2018		
Revision 3:	17th January 2019		

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, has been commissioned by CgMs Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Wyvern Farm, London Road, Stanway, near Colchester, Essex (NGR: TL 94321 24474; Figure 1)

1.2 The site represents the northern part of an overall development area, this element located immediately to the south of the A12. The remainder of the development area was the subject of an archaeological evaluation in 2015 (ASE 2015c), with subsequent mitigation.

1.3 Planning permission has been granted by Colchester Borough Council for the construction of up to 358 houses and apartments, with associated roads, parking; drainage and landscaping immediately to the south of the current parcel of land (Planning ref. 145494). A condition was attached to that permission requiring that:

> *Prior to commencement of the development an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching shall be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be agreed in writing by the local planning authority. This shall take the form of a 4% evaluation of the development area with 1% held in reserve should further investigation be needed. The results of this evaluation shall be set out in a report to be submitted to the local planning authority in order to inform whether there is any further need for archaeological mitigation. Until the local planning authority has confirmed the position no commencement, including any site clearance involving disturbance of the ground, shall occur. In the event that further investigation works are found to be necessary, the methodology and scope for these further works shall be agreed in writing by the local planning authority and the works executed fully in accordance with the agreed details prior to the commencement of development. A report setting out the findings of the investigative works shall thereafter be deposited with the Council's Historic Environment Record within twelve months of completion"*
>
> *REASON: The site is known to be close to the ancient road between Verulamium and Camulodunum (St Albans and Colchester) as well as the ancient Iron Age – Romano-British site at Gosbecks and therefore the Council wishes to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to identify and record heritage assets.'*

1.3 All work will be undertaken in accordance with this document, Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003) and the relevant standards and guidance of CIfA (2014). It has been submitted to Colchester Borough Council and their archaeology advisor for approval.

1.4 It should be noted that in the event that further archaeological work is required that would be subject to a new Written Scheme of Investigation.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was carried out for the site in 2013 (CgMs 2013) and much of the following is taken from that document.

2.2 Geology and Topography

2.2.1 According to the latest information available from the British Geological Survey shows the underlying geology of the site comprises superficial windblown deposits of clays, silts and sands overlying London Clay (BGS 2018).

2.2.2 The site is relatively flat at between 38.6m and 41m AOD. The land slightly slopes to the west as the land drops in to the small valley of the Roman River, situated 1km to the west.

2.3 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

2.3.1 Chance finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint implements have been recorded from Oldhouse Farm 750m to the south-east of the site(HER 11619 and 11767). Neolithic implements are recorded on the HER as also having been discovered near Oldhouse Farm 1km to the south of the site (HER 11602).

2.4 Bronze Age

2.4.1 Cropmark interpretation provided by the Essex HER has also revealed the presence of a Bronze Age ring ditch located 50m east of the site and thought to be a ploughed out barrow. At 25m diameter, the cropmark is a large example of its kind (HER 11939). Such a feature is unlikely to be in isolation and there may be additional prehistoric features within the immediate landscape. The nearest known Bronze Age cemetery is at Chitts Hill over 1km to the north-east of the Site (Crummy 1977).

2.5 Iron Age to Roman

2.5.1 The excavation of cropmarks 750m to the south of the site at Church Lane revealed evidence of a Middle Iron Age trackway and residual flint finds. The trackway was found to comprise parallel ditches with internal metaling. Cropmark analysis provided by the Essex HER appears to show the trackway aligned south-west to north-east and passing some distance to the east of the site (HER 45996 and 11937; Partridge 1993)

2.5.2 During the Late Iron Age a system of defensive dykes (HER 11642) were laid out to the west of what is now Colchester, the closest being Grymes Dyke located 1.5km to the east of the site. This extensive

system enclosed the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum.* Excavations have shown the dyke system not only continued in use after the Roman conquest but was added to and modified.

2.5.3 The site at Wyvern Farm lies outside this system of dykes, however its location need not preclude occupation in the Late Iron Age to Roman period; cropmarks and excavation have demonstrated that Late Iron Age and Roman settlement occurred outside the defended *oppidum* as well as within it. One example of such a settlement is the cropmark site excavated at Abbotstone Field, Stanway (HER 11919). This site is located 1.7km south south-west of Wyvern Farm, within Bellhouse Pit, Stanway and spans the period from the Middle Iron Age, through to the Late Iron Age, and into the Roman period. Throughout this period small irregular enclosures were gradually replaced by a larger and more formal set of square 'Romanised' enclosures. Despite this growth, the Abbotstone site was and remained a low status rural settlement, involved in small-scale domestic/self-sufficient activities (CAT 2005).

2.5.4 The southern boundary of the site is formed by London Road which is on the route of Stane Street Roman road (also known as Stone Way) (HER 11705). Stane Street was the major Roman trunk road from Colchester to Braughing via Braintree. The Roman road is thought to follow an earlier route way which was straightened and metalled in the Roman period (HER 1226). The close proximity of the Roman road to the site provides opportunity for features associated with the road to be present. The presence of the road would have influenced the layout of the wider landscape and road side activity such as temporary camps, burials and features associated with the construction of the road could conceivably be present along with field systems respecting the road's alignment.

2.5.5 The Church of St Albrights 500m to the west of the site contains Roman brick in its dressing and contains quoins of Roman brick in the wall of the west nave (HER 11833).

2.5.6 Despite the presence of the Roman road and the re-used Roman material within the church fabric, the immediate area has not produced much evidence for Roman occupation. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity have produced little in the way of Roman finds.

2.6 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.6.1 The placename 'Stanway' comes from (*æt*) *Stanwægun* which appears from c. 1000AD and means 'at the Stone Ways', referring to its location by the Roman road also known as 'Stane Street' (Reaney, 1969, 398).

2.6.2 Documentary sources tell us that in the 10th century, Stanway was part of a large estate held by the ealdormen of Essex. In approximately AD1002 Aelfflaed, widow of Ealdorman Byrhtnoth, directed that Stanway and 19 other estates should go to King Ethelred after her

death (Cooper, 2001, 263-266). St. Albrights church is dedicated to St. Ethelbert of East Anglia (died AD794) and the original chapel is believed to date to the Saxon period (HER 11834).

2.6.3 Actual archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity within the site area, especially from the early Anglo-Saxon period, is as elusive as that from the Roman period.

2.6.4 Medieval settlement was scattered and does not appear to have been nucleated around St Albrights Church. Medieval moated sites are not uncommon, the closest being Moat Farm (HER 11703) which is over a kilometre to the west of the Site. The farm still has a medieval earthwork which originally surrounded an earlier house.

2.6.5 An archaeological evaluation carried out at the adjacent site to east recorded a low level of medieval activity alongside London Road (ASE 2015b). The activity could have related to a medieval roadside plot or to quarrying.

2.6.6 The site appears to have been situated well away from the identified local centres of activity in both the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, and the majority of the site probably consisted of agricultural land at this time.

2.7 Post Medieval

2.7.1 The Chapman and Andre Map of Essex (1777) shows the site situated within open land to the west of Beacon Farm. More detail is provided by the later mapping of the Manor of Stanway (1787) and the Map of Stanway (1808) both of which show the site as farmland situated around and to the north of what later becomes Wiseman's Farm.

2.7.2 The 1839 Stanway Tithe Map shows no change at the study site but the apportionment does provide the additional information that the fields were used for arable purposes at this time.

2.7.3 The Ordnance Survey of 1876 shows Wiseman's to the south of the site and a Gravel Pit just to the west, inside of the site boundary. The remainder of the site is shown as open land at this time occupying parts of seven different fields. No change is shown to the area of the site on mapping from 1896 to 1921.

2.7.4 Post war development in the wider area saw residential development expand east from Stanway along the main road to Colchester. By 1958 residential development was located both to the east and west of Wiseman's, along the London Road frontage. A modern farm building was constructed in the south-west of the site along with a number of outbuildings to the north of the main dwelling. The majority of the site remained undeveloped at this time.

2.7.5 The expansion of what now is called Wyvern Farm is evident from mapping of 1963-66. The original buildings in the south-west of the site appear to have been replaced by what appear to be farm buildings on a north-south axis. To the north and east around eighteen outbuildings now make up the farm complex. The remainder of the site has been homogenised in to two main fields both of which are shown as open land at this time.

2.7.6 Mapping from the present day shows a number of outbuildings and a swimming pool have been added in the south-west of the site. The wider site area remains undeveloped.

2.8 Cropmark Information

2.8.1 Information provided by the Essex HER shows that the site contains, and is adjacent to, a number of crop marks. Cropmarks identified within the north of the site appear to be representative of field boundaries, as shown on mapping from 1787 up the 1950s or 60s, with possible traces of an earlier or alternative field system on a separate alignment (HER 11923).

2.8.2 As previously discussed, a circular cropmark 25m in diameter is situated 50m from the eastern boundary of the site (HER11939). The cropmark has been proved to be Bronze Age in origin (see below) and may represent a ploughed out funerary mound/ barrow.

2.9 Archaeological Interventions

2.9.1 Results from the initial phase of evaluation of the overall development site were summarised thus (ASE 2015. i):

> *'Fifty-eight trial trenches were excavated between the 22nd June and the 3rd July 2015. Forty-five of the trenches were blank archaeologically. The remaining thirteen trenches yielded a limited amount of archaeological features. Six field boundary ditches were recorded. The artefactural evidence combined with historic map evidence and cropmarks show that these are post-medieval in date, some being removed and backfilled in the 20th century. Medieval pottery in two of the field boundary ditches may indicate an earlier date of construction. In addition to the field boundary ditches one medieval pit was found near the London Road frontage. Undated features included two gullies, a charcoal-rich pit, and a stakehole. Three modern pits and modern surfaces were encountered in the area of the derelict farm buildings*.'

2.9.2 The subsequent excavation of three open areas based on these findings, did not result in the discovery of any further significant archaeological features. An evaluation of the route of a pipeline into the site did not encounter any archaeological deposits (ASE 2016)

2.9.3 A number of other archaeological investigations have been undertaken in close proximity to the site. In May 2015 ASE carried out an evaluation on the field immediately to the east of the site (Stane Park Phase 1a and 1b). A seemingly incomplete Bronze Age ring ditch mapped as a cropmark (HER 11939) was located as well as a prehistoric pit. The presence of both features suggests an area of possible funerary activity during the late prehistoric period. Medieval remains consisted of a scatter of medieval features at the south end of the site. These comprised a large possible quarry pit, a smaller pit, a ditch and a posthole, and collectively are indicative of some form of activity alongside London Road during the medieval period. The fairly broad date range provided by the pottery from these features spans the 12th – 14th century in Trench 20 and the 14th to 16th century in Trench 22 and while they may be settlement related, possibly associated with a plot fronting on to London Road, the features may also include roadside quarry pits in which domestic rubbish has been dumped (ASE 2015b).

2.9.4 An archaeological evaluation at Tollgate North (CAT 1996), 75m to the east of the site comprised twenty two trenches which recorded no significant features but did encounter finds of residual prehistoric flints and a sherd of Roman pottery (HER 45995).

2.9.5 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Medical Centre, Tollgate West in 2003 (CAT 2003). The evaluation comprised five evaluation trenches and revealed a shallow pit of unknown date.

3.0 Project Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date and quality. Should archaeological remains be found, an assessment of their significance will be made against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

3.2 Specific research aims for the trenching are:

- Is there any evidence for Bronze Age features, such as ring ditches, being present within the site?

- Is there any further evidence of medieval/post-medieval land division as seen in the evaluation of the remainder of the development area

3.3 In the event that significant discoveries are made the report will seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England. (Medlycott 2011).

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The evaluation will comprise the mechanical excavation of twenty-seven 30m x 1.8m trenches, representing a 4% sample of the site.

4.2 Any significant changes to the approved trench layout due to on-site constraints will be agreed in advance by the archaeology advisor at Colchester Borough Council. Spoil will be bunded around the edges of the trenches and these will not be fenced.

4.3 The trenches will be accurately located using offsets from known positions or a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).

4.4 All trenches will be scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. Trenches will be mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.

4.5 Machine excavation will continue to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of natural geology, whichever is uppermost. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

4.6 The opportunity to have a meeting on site shall be provided once the trenches are open with CgMs Consulting and the Borough archaeologist to assess the results.

4.7 Backfilling will be undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but there will be no reinstatement to existing condition.

4.8 Spoil heaps and trench bases will be scanned with a metal detector as will the spoil derived from excavated features. Any finds recovered by this method will be suitably bagged in accordance with sections 7 and 8 below.

4.9 An OASIS online record will be completed for the project.

5.0 Excavation and Recording Techniques

5.1 Excavation and recording will be undertaken in accordance with this WSI and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

5.2 Prior to commencing work on site an OASIS online record will be initiated with key fields completed. Upon completion of the fieldwork the remainder of the form will be updated and a copy included in the evaluation report.

5.3 An Event number will be obtained from Colchester Borough Council's archaeologist and will be used as the unique site identifier for all records and finds.

5.4 All hand excavation will be carefully undertaken and will follow the stratigraphy of any encountered archaeological layers, features and/or deposits.

5.5 In certain appropriate situations and should dry site conditions prevail, water will be used to aid the identification of exposed archaeological features and/or deposits to be hand excavated.

5.6 A sufficient sampling of archaeological features and/or deposits will be undertaken in order to determine their nature, date, condition, character and extent. This will comprise at least 10% of the length of linear features such as ditches in sections of up to 2 metres in length and at least 50% (or by half section) of the fills of other discrete archaeological features such as pits, postholes etc.

5.7 Should any human burials or remains be encountered the client and the Colchester Archaeological Advisor will be immediately informed. No human remains will be lifted during the course of the evaluation.

5.8 The Colchester Archaeological Advisor will be informed at the earliest opportunity of any archaeological features or deposits worthy of preservation.

5.9 All excavated archaeological features; layers and/or deposits will be planned, photographed and recorded utilising the assigned site code. All excavated contexts; structures, features and deposits will be drawn on plastic film at a scale of 1:20. Additional plans at a scale of 1:10 will be made of specific features where appropriate, such as human inhumations or cremation burials. Sections of all excavated archaeological contexts will generally be drawn at a scale of 1:10, and where appropriate at a larger scale of 1:20. All site drawings will be digitised.

5.10 Bulk soil samples will be collected from datable excavated contexts of buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features; sealed hearths; sealed features containing evident carbonised remains; peats; well-sealed closed features and water-logged deposits. A representative range of undated features if present will also be sampled. Soil samples will be taken in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines and be a minimum of 40-60 litres (where possible), or 100% of the context where this is smaller. A 20 to 30% sub-sample of each will be wet-sieved using 0.5mm meshes. Recovered material will be assessed in order to establish its potential for providing information relating to past environment and human activity. Additional guidance will be sought from the Historic England Regional Science Advisor as appropriate. Allowance will be made for taking column samples and C14 dating if necessary.

5.11 A metal detector will be used on the site to check all archaeological horizons, fills and spoil heaps.

5.12 A full digital photographic record (minimum 9 megapixel resolution) will be made of all archaeological features. All photographs, except working shots, will include a board that will detail: the site code, date and context number, a scale and a north arrow.

5.13 All archaeological remains will be recorded and levelled relative to Ordnance Datum by an archaeological surveyor, using DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) technology. All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using the standard context record sheets used by the UCL Field Archaeology Unit. Soil colours are recorded using visual inspection and not by reference to the Munsell Colour chart.

5.14 An ongoing site matrix will be compiled during the fieldwork stage, which will be fully phased during the subsequent post excavation stage.

6.0 Treatment of Human Remains

6.1 If human remains are found, work will cease and all necessary statutory provisions followed. The Borough archaeologist and CgMs will also be informed. No burials will be lifted at evaluation stage unless they will be demonstrably damaged by not doing so and in such cases only with a licence from the Ministry of Justice.

7.0 Treatment of Artefacts and Ecofacts other than Human Remains

7.1 Pottery, worked flint, metal and other finds of archaeological significance will be retained and treated according to standard Archaeology South-East procedures. Identification of retained finds will be undertaken by staff of, and specialists contracted by, Archaeology South-East as necessary. All pottery, bone and worked flint recovered from the excavations will be washed and marked with an appropriate code to identify the site and context. Most ceramic and other building material and burnt flint will be identified, counted, weighed and discarded. Samples will be retained as appropriate. Finds will be bagged in polythene bags according to type and context.

7.2 The following specialists will be used if necessary and where appropriate:

Prehistoric and Roman pottery (ASE)	Louise Rayner & Anna Doherty
Prehistoric and Roman pottery region)	Nick Lavender (external: Essex
Post-Roman pottery and London)	Luke Barber (external: Sussex, Kent
Post-Roman pottery (Essex)	Helen Walker (external: Essex)
CBM	Sue Pringle & Luke Barber (external)
Fired Clay	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Clay Tobacco Pipe	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Glass	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Slag	Luke Barber, Lynne Keyes (external); Trista Clifford (ASE)
Metalwork	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Worked Flint	Karine Le Hégarat (ASE); Hugo Anderson-Whymark (external)
Geological material and worked stone	Luke Barber (external)
Human bone incl cremated bone	Lucy Sibun (ASE)
Animal bone incl fish	Emily Johnson (ASE)
Marine shell (external)	Elke Raemen (ASE); David Dunkin
Registered Finds	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Coins	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Treasure administration	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Conservation and x-ray	Fishbourne Roman Villa or UCL Institute of Archaeology
Geoarchaeology (ASE)	Dr Matt Pope & Dr Ed Blinkhorn
Macro-plant remains	Dr Lucy Allott (ASE)
Charcoal & Waterlogged wood	Dr Lucy Allott (ASE)

7.3 The lithic and ceramic finds will be identified by specialists within Archaeology South-East, and preliminary identification of faunal remains may be undertaken if the nature of the deposits justifies such study. All finds in an unstable condition will be stabilised using passive conservation techniques where appropriate before being deposited with the receiving museum.

7.4 Palaeoenvironmental remains will be sampled and processed in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Bulk samples will be processed using tank flotation unless considered detrimental to the samples or recovery rate (such as for waterlogged samples). Bulk samples will target recovery of plant remains (charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. Waterlogged samples will be wet sieved through nested sieves and stored in wet, cool conditions or dried if considered an appropriate form of conservation for the remains. Specialist samples may also be taken from dry or waterlogged contexts. Such samples will target recovery of pollen (using monolith tins), molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects. Larger samples (80-100 litres) will be extracted wholesale from deposits rich in marine molluscs and large mammal bones. As a general rule waterlogged wood specimens will be recorded in detail in their original location. If removed they will be cleaned, photographed and a thin section sample will be taken for identification. Specimens will either be stored in wet cool conditions or dried if considered appropriate for the material. In all instances deposits with clear intrusive material shall be avoided.

7.5 Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, amended 2003, shall be reported to the Essex County Council Finds Liaison Officer. Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the client, landowner and the Borough archaeologist will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the Borough archaeologist of the date and circumstances of discovery, the identity of the finder, and the exact location of the find(s) (OS map reference to within 1 metre, and find spot(s) marked onto the site plan).

8.0 Post-Excavation Analysis, Reporting and Archive

8.1 Upon completion of the fieldwork a written report, including plans, digital photographs and drawings, will be completed within four weeks; this will be dependent on the prompt production of any necessary specialist reports. A draft copy will be sent initially to the client for comment and approval and then to the Borough archaeologist. Once the report has been accepted then two final hard copies and one electronic copy in PDF format will be sent on CD at a minimum resolution of 300dpi to the HER.

8.2 The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the trenching
- Location plan of the excavated area and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the trenches shall be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section drawing(s) showing depths of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Where appropriate the discussion will be completed in consultation with the Eastern Counties Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and the Historic Town Assessment.
- All specialist reports
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- A clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance.
- A comparative discussion with relevant known archaeological information held on the EHER
- A copy of the WSI as an appendix

8.3 The report, initially marked DRAFT, will be submitted to CBC for approval within six months of completion of the fieldwork. Once approved a pdf version of the document will be submitted to the UAD, as well as the EHER. If appropriate a digital vector plan will be included with the report, compatible with MapInfo GIS software.

8.4 An EHER summary sheet will be completed within four weeks. This will be completed in digital form and emailed to the EHER Team Officer. This shall include a plan showing the position of the excavation.

8.5 Upon completion of the fieldwork an OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed for the project. A print-out of the form will be included as an appendix to the final report.

8.6 The archive and any finds will be submitted to Colchester and Ipswich Museums' Store, in accordance with the Guidelines on the Preparation

and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums (2008). Permission will be sought from the landowner to deposit the full site archive, including the physical archive, with the Museum. The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

8.7 Publication of the results (including any further analysis of the finds from the evaluation stage) at least to summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in *Essex Archaeology and History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork.

9.0 Project Management

9.1 The fieldwork will be managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation analysis by Mark Atkinson.

10.0 Health and Safety

10.1 Health and Safety must take priority over archaeological requirements. It is essential that all projects be carried out in accordance with safe working practices and under a defined Health and Safety Policy. A Risk Assessment for the project will be prepared prior to the commencement of work and all relevant health and safety regulations will be adhered to.

11.0 Insurance

11.1 Archaeology South-East is insured against claims for: public liability to the value of £50,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate for products liability; professional indemnity to the value of £15,000,000 any one occurrence; employer's liability to the value of £50,000,000 each and every loss.

Archaeology South East
October 2018

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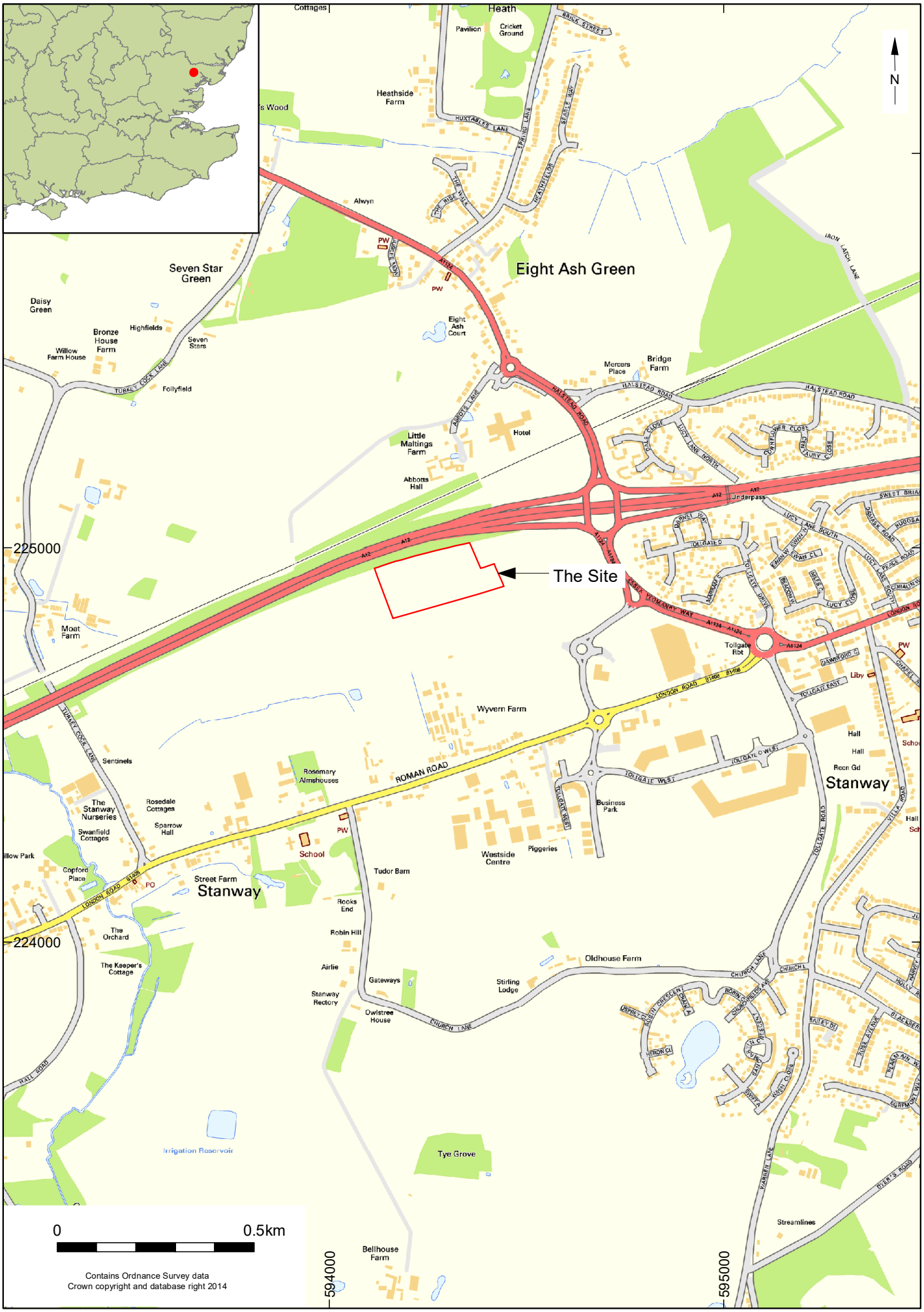
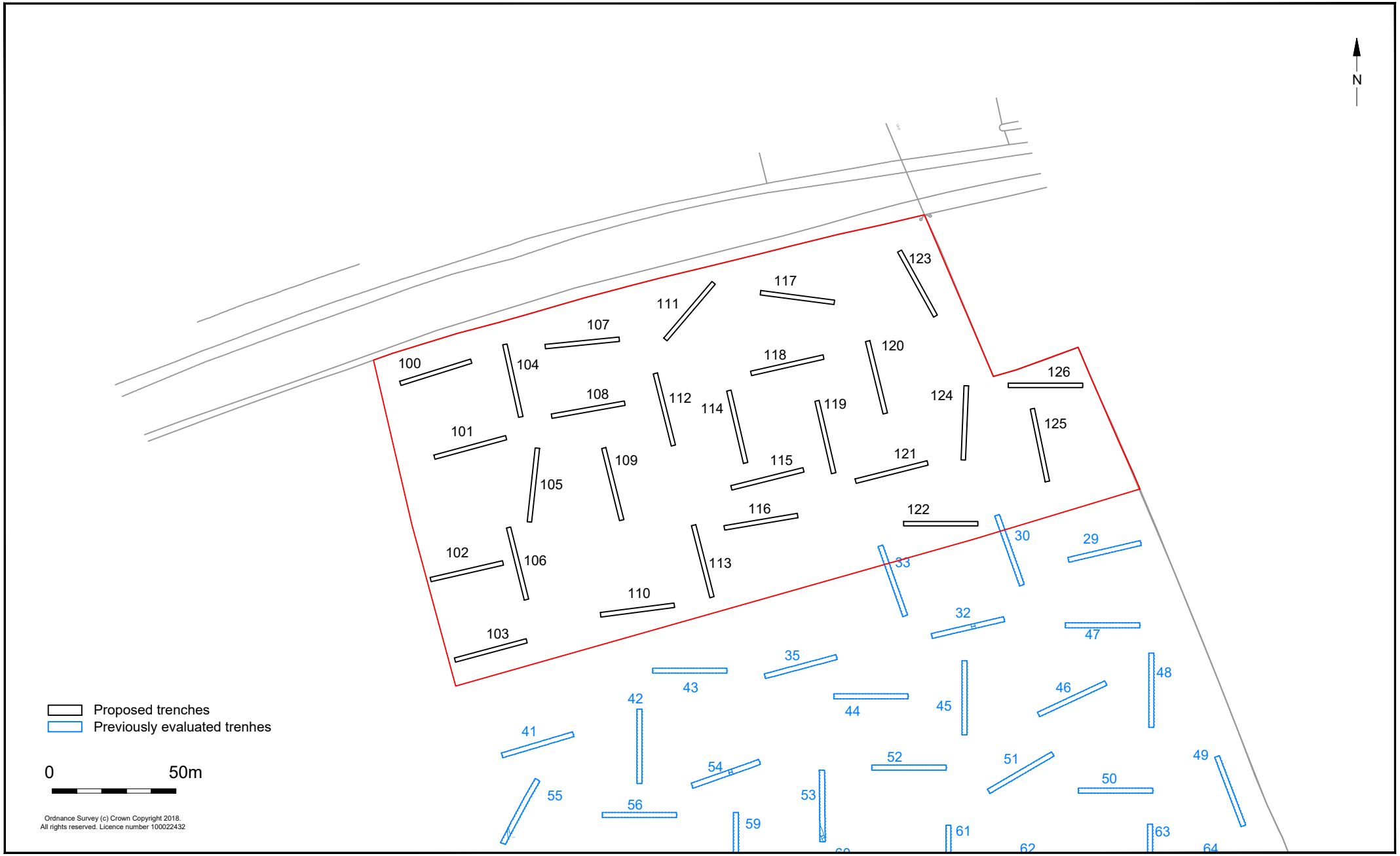
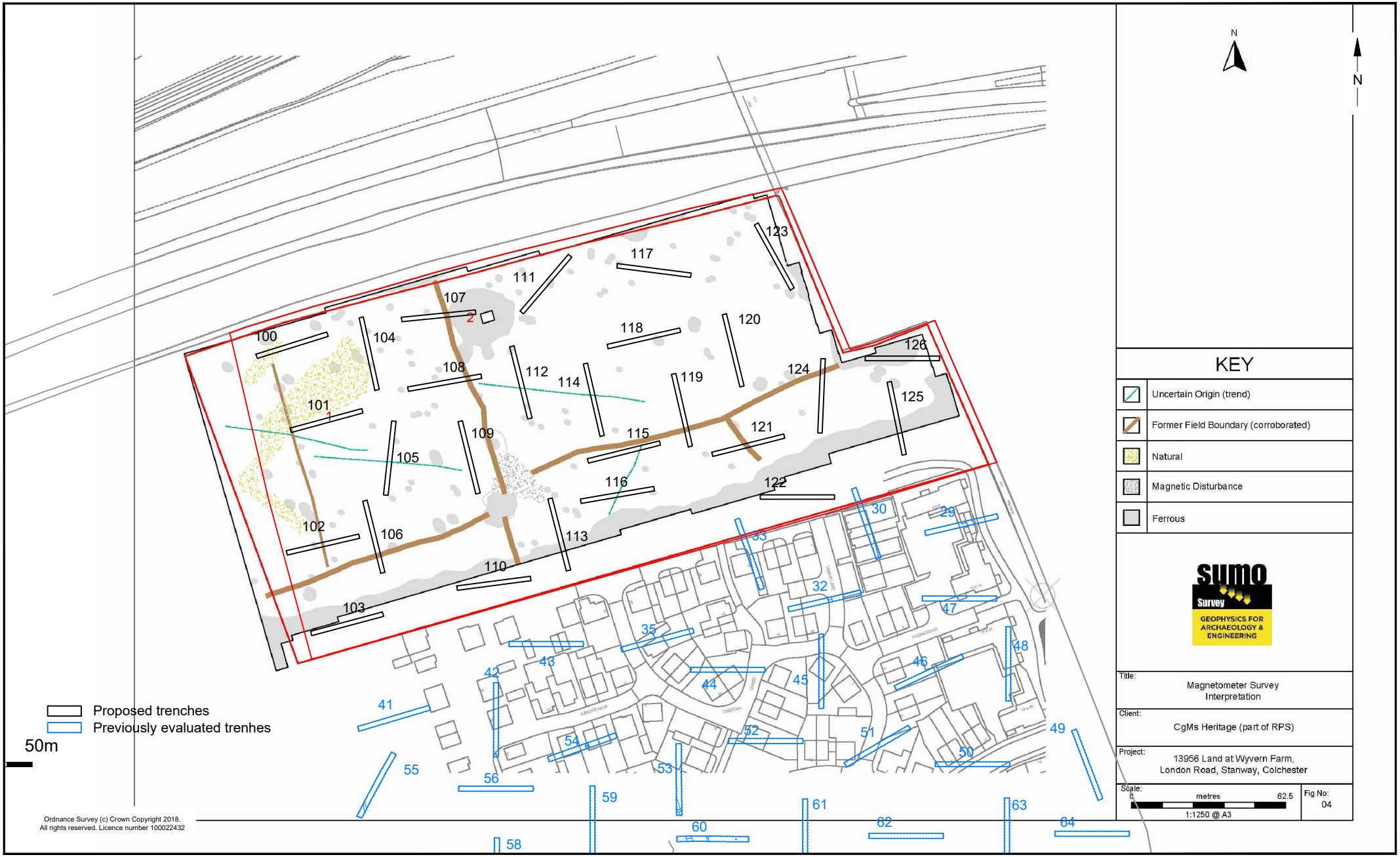


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180755	Oct 2018	Site location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 180755	Nov 2018	Proposed trench plan	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: APL		

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 180755	Nov 2018	Proposed trench plan and proposed development	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: APL		

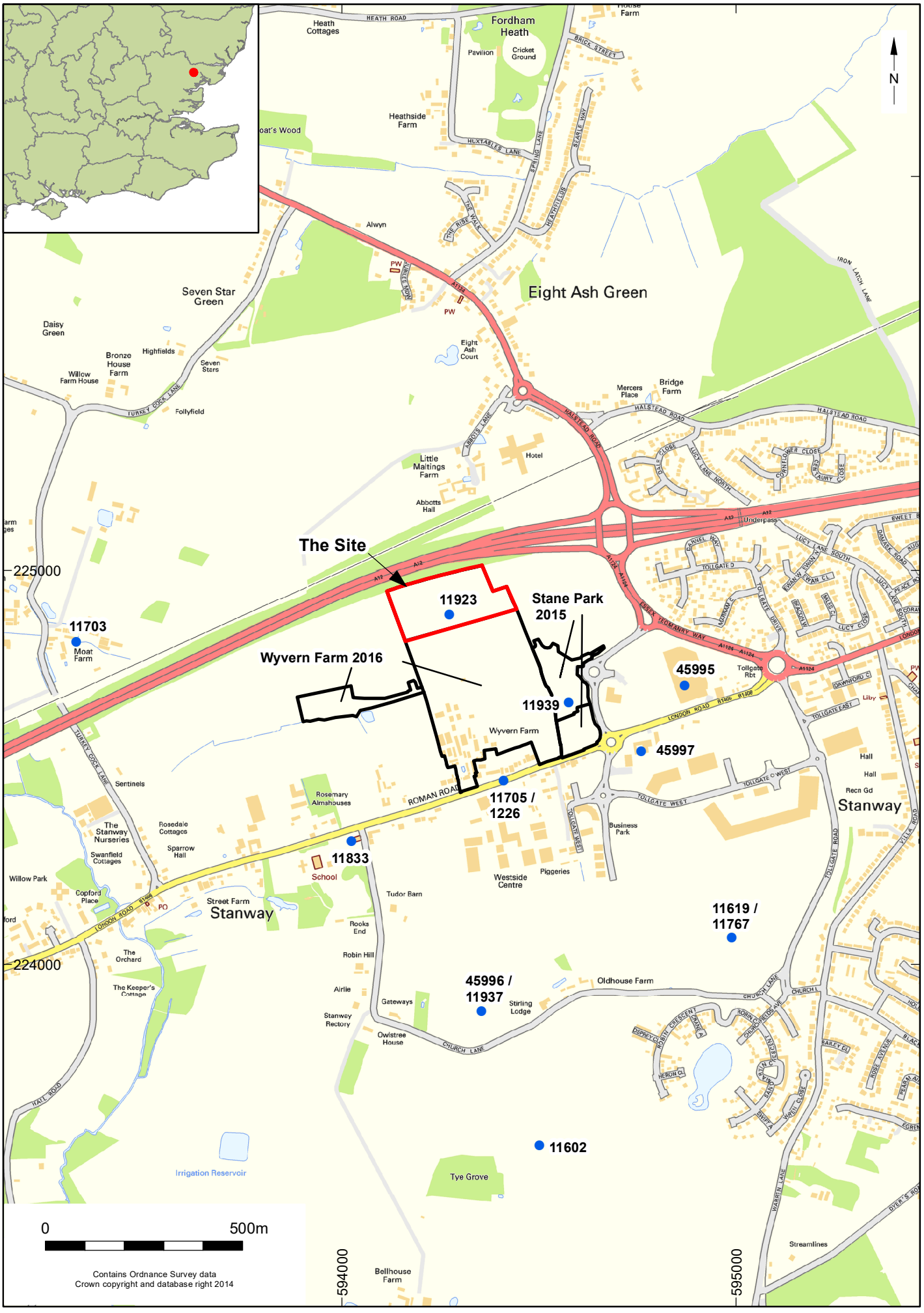


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 180755	Nov 2018	Proposed trench plan and interpretation of geophsical survey results	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: APL		

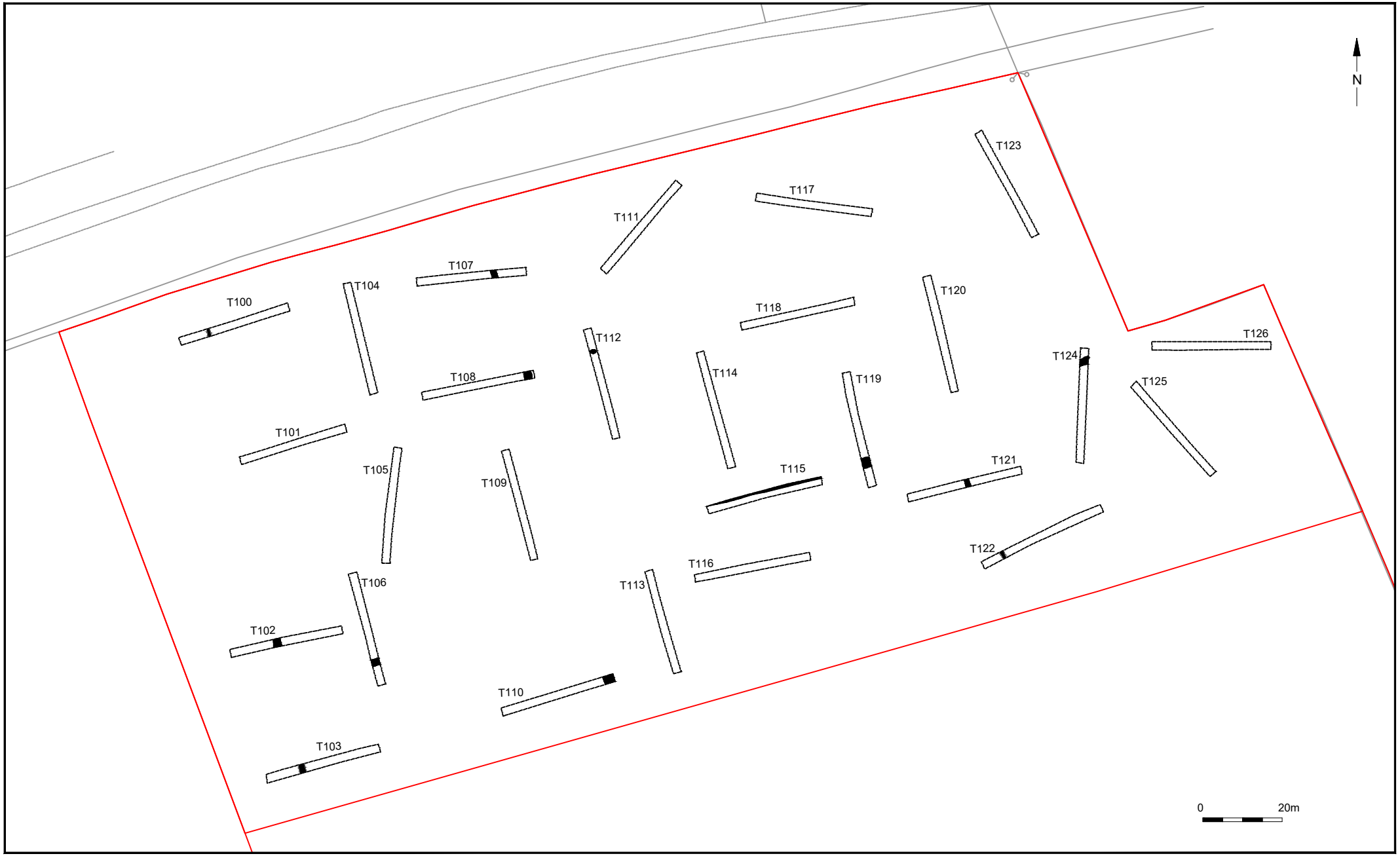
Sussex Office
Units 1& 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

Essex Office
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

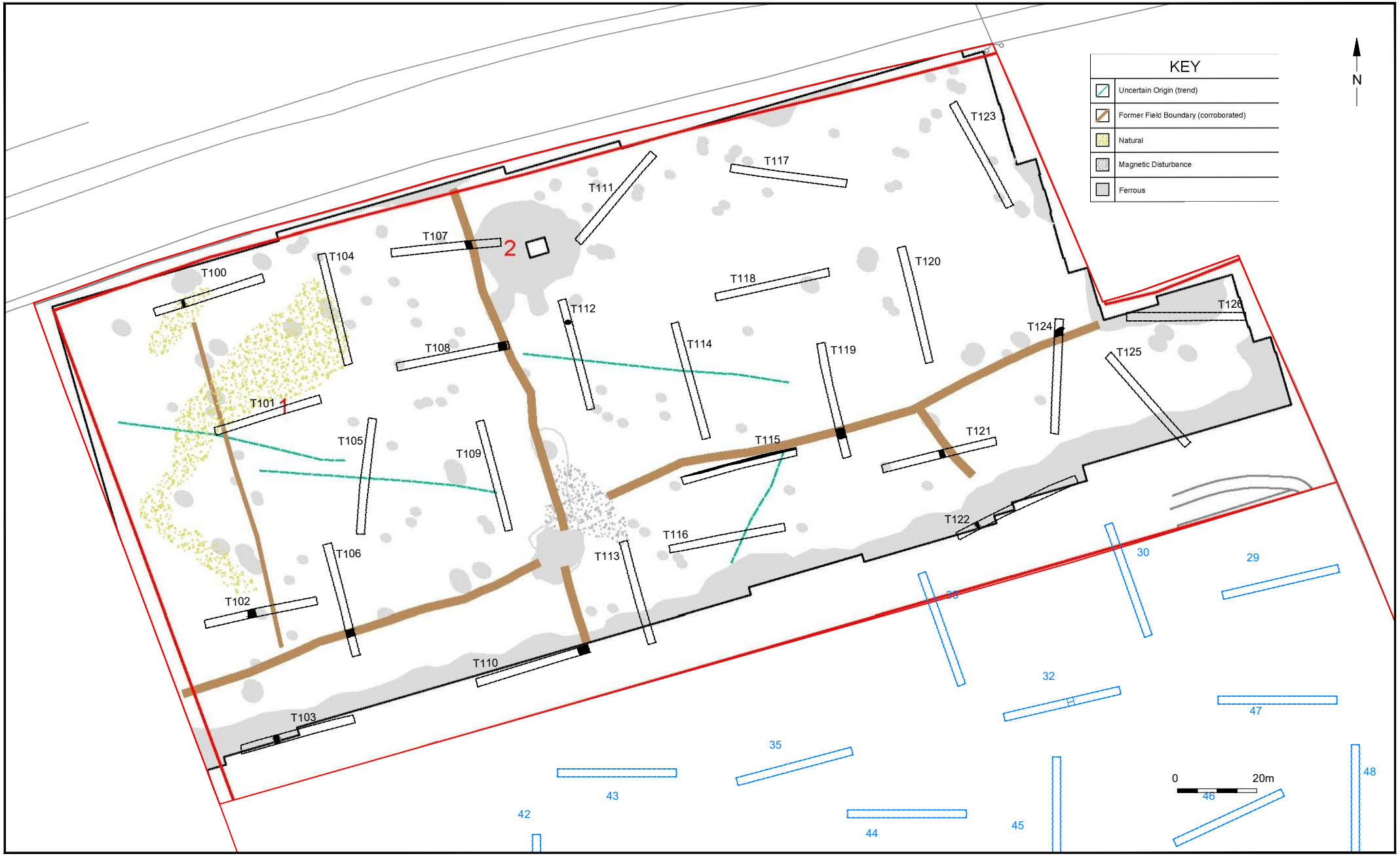
London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa



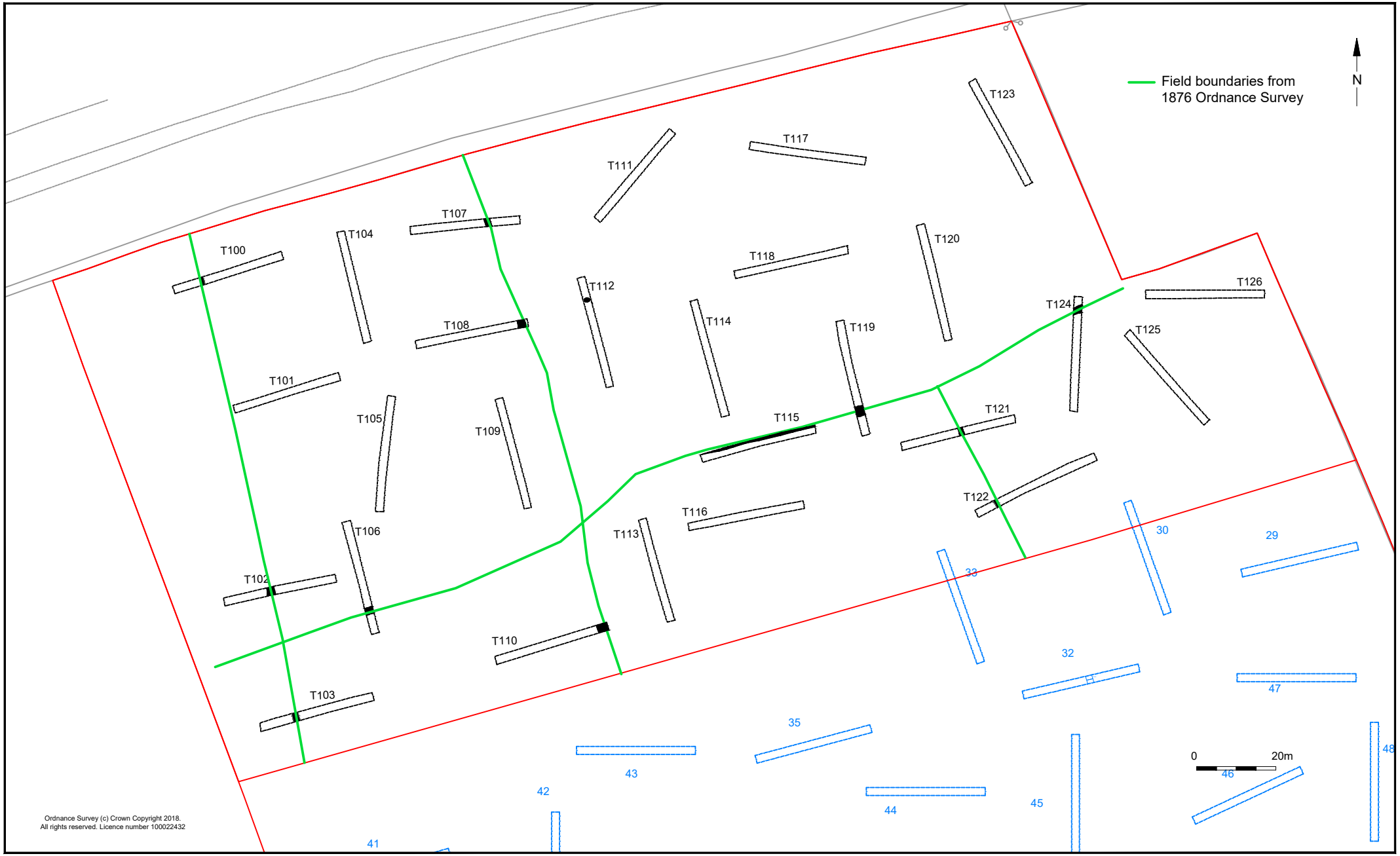
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Site location with selected HER references	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



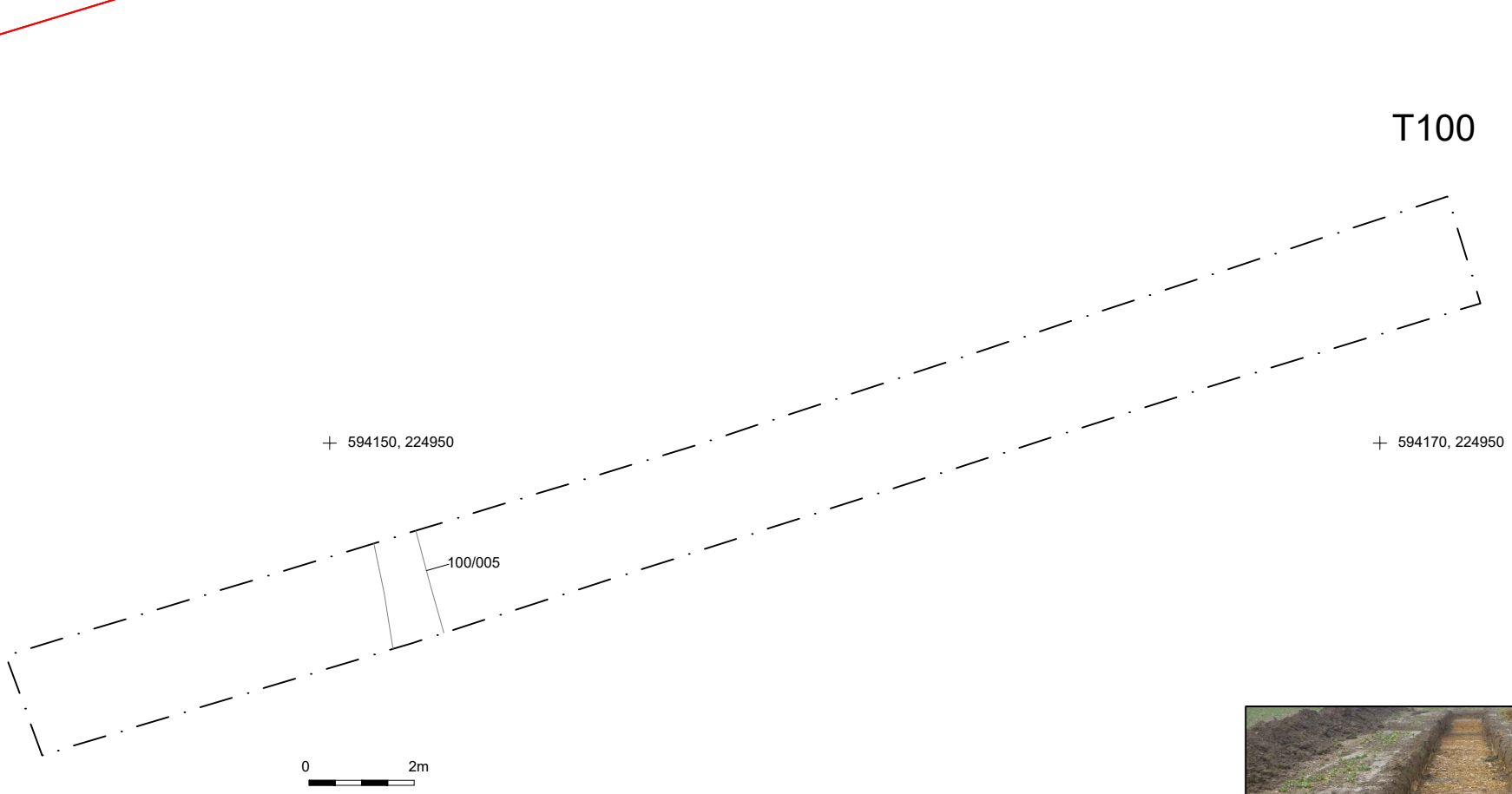
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig.3
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench locations with geophysical survey interpretation	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		

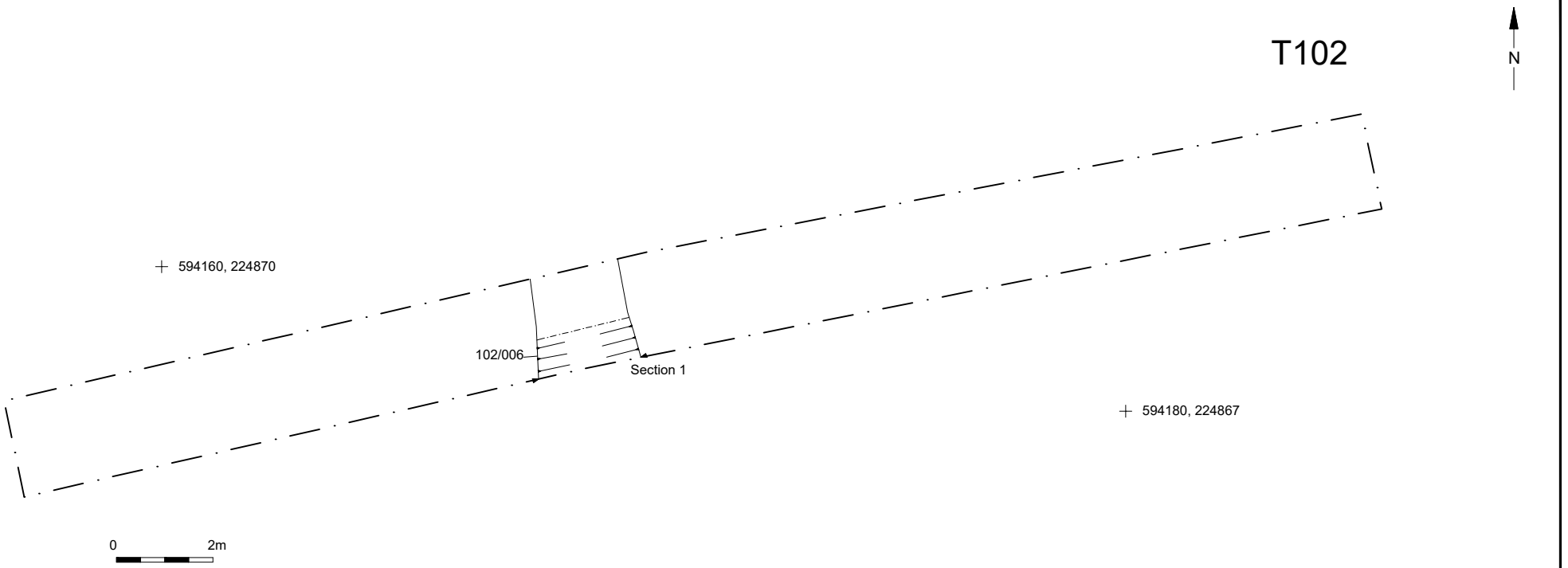


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench location with field boundaries shown on 1876 OS map	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



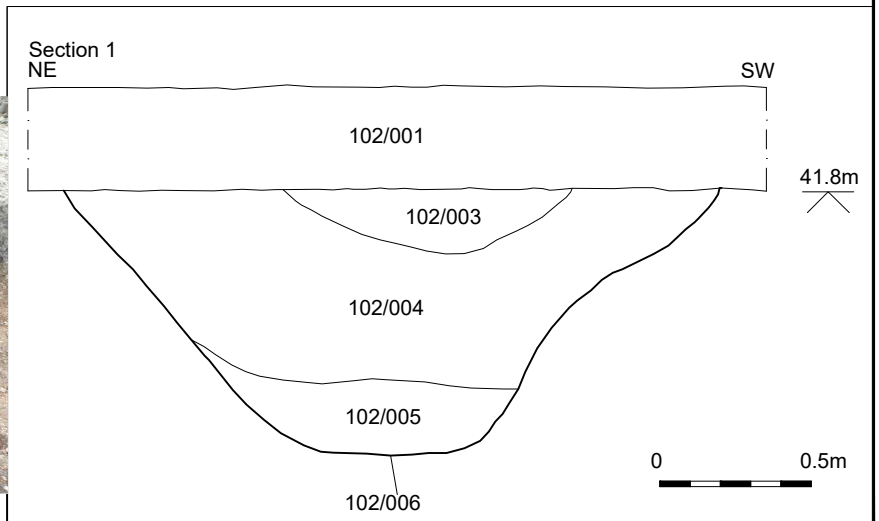
Trench 100, looking south-west

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 100 and photograph	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		

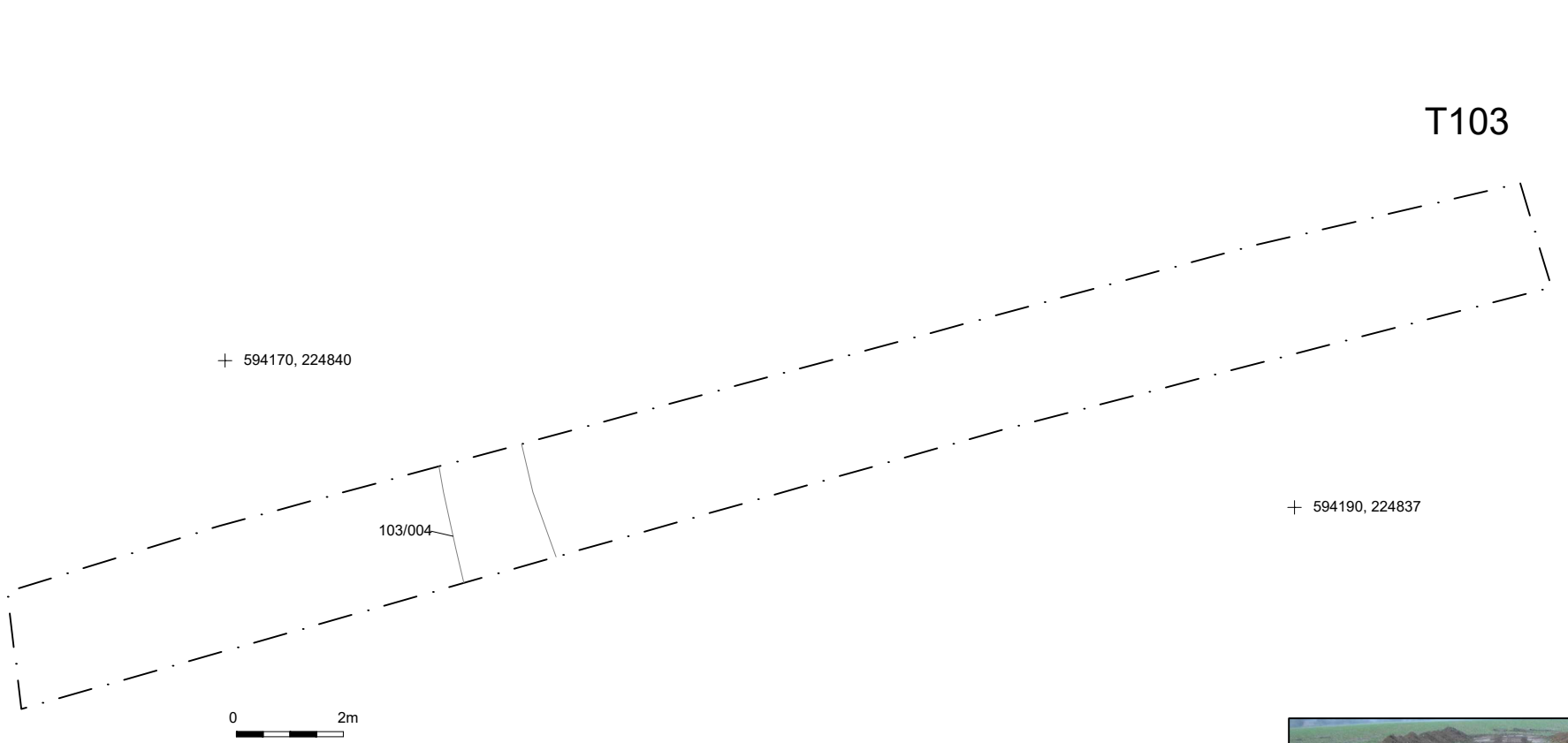


Trench 102, looking west

Ditch 102/006, looking south-east



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 102, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



Trench 103, looking south-west

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 103 and photograph	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		

T106

N

Section 2

NW SE

106/001

106/003

106/004 106/005

106/006

41.57m

0 0.5m

Ditch 106/006, looking north-east

Trench 106, looking south-east

594184, 224878

T102

106/006

Section 2

594198, 224860

0 2m

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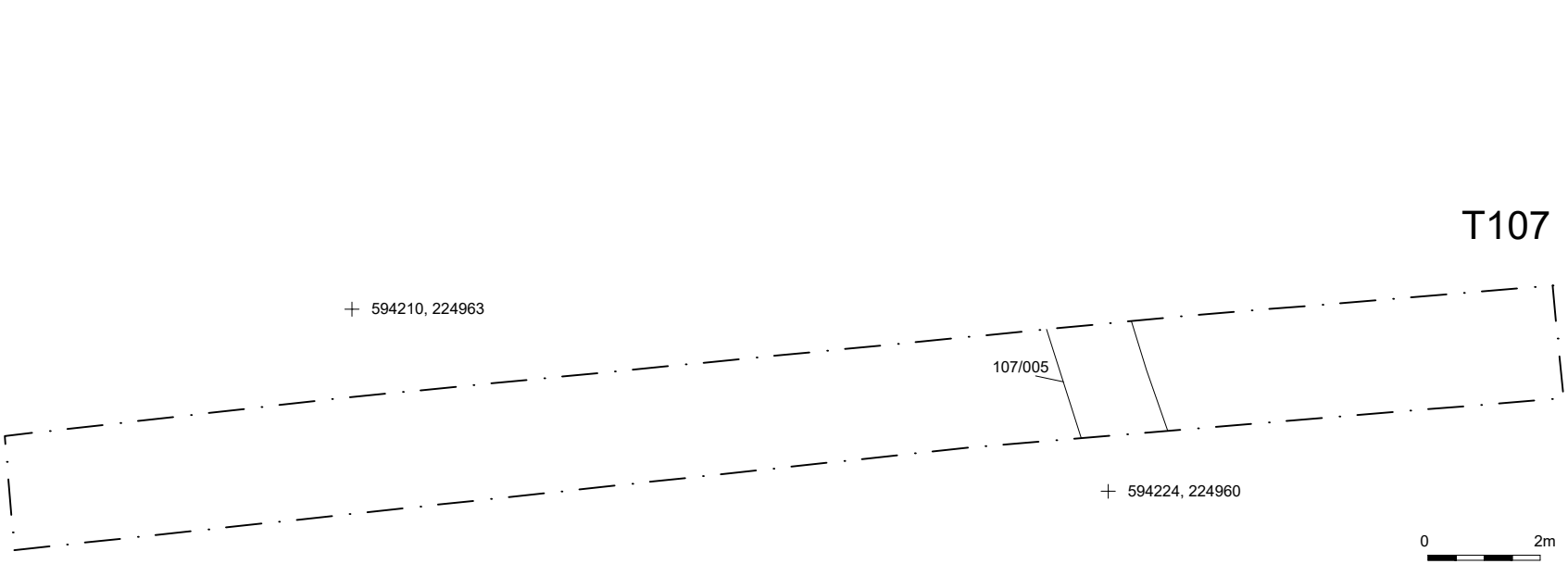
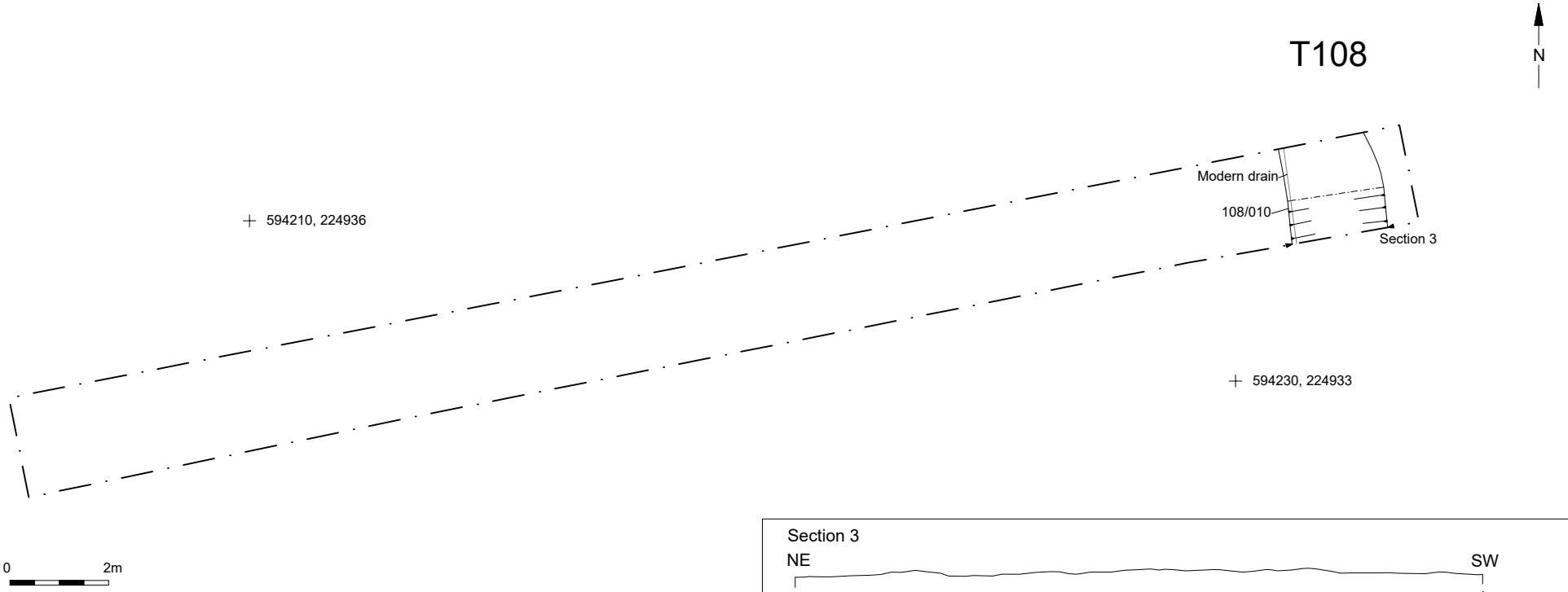
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 106 , section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



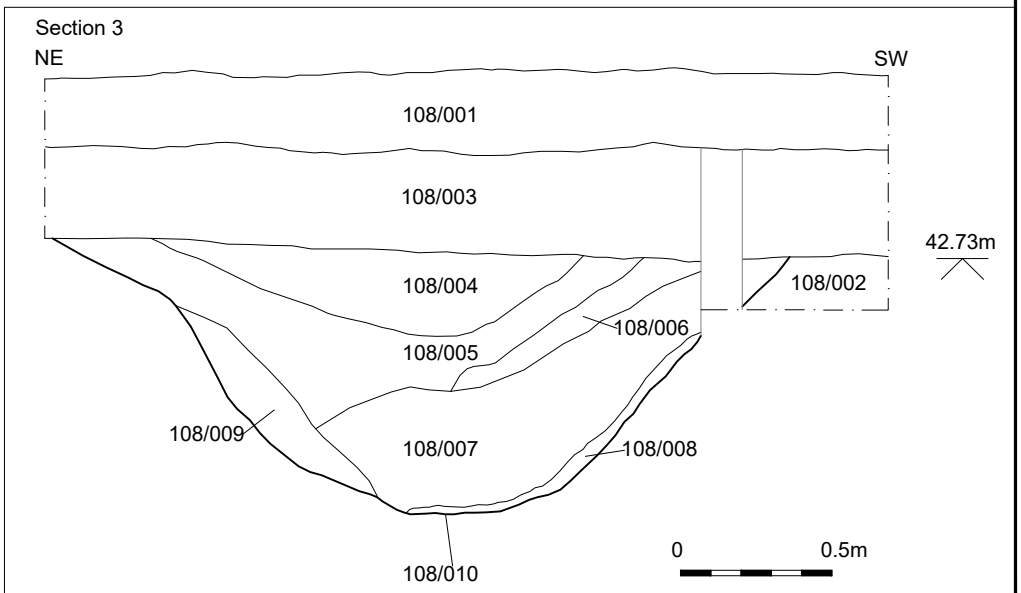
Trench 107, looking south-west

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig.9
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 107, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



Ditch 108/010, looking south-east

Trench 108, looking south-west



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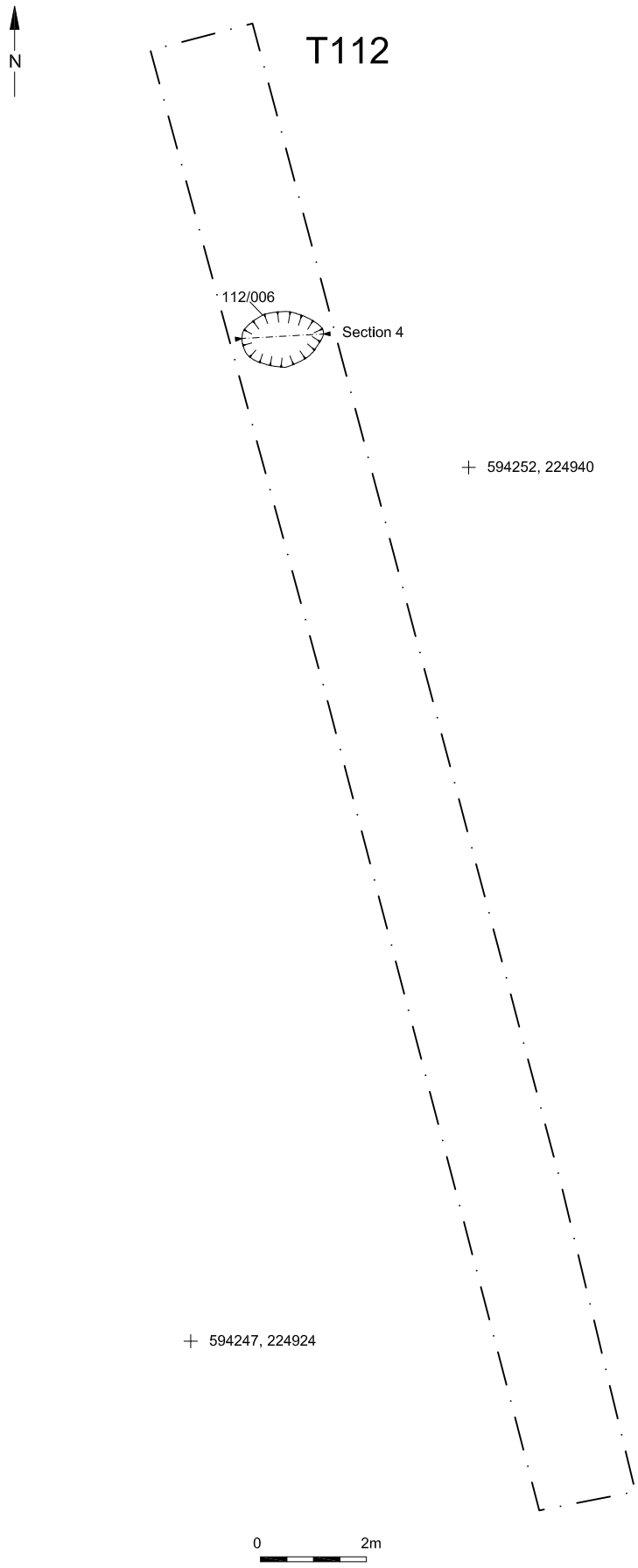
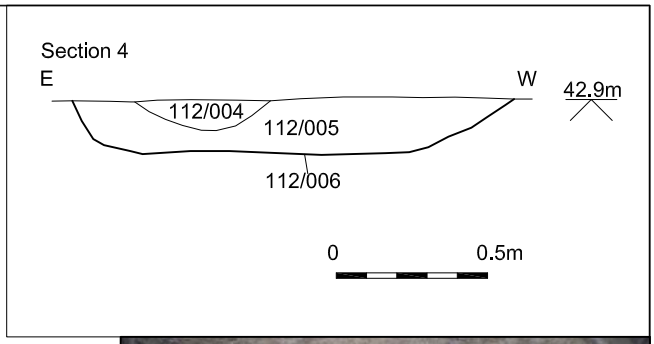
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 108, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		

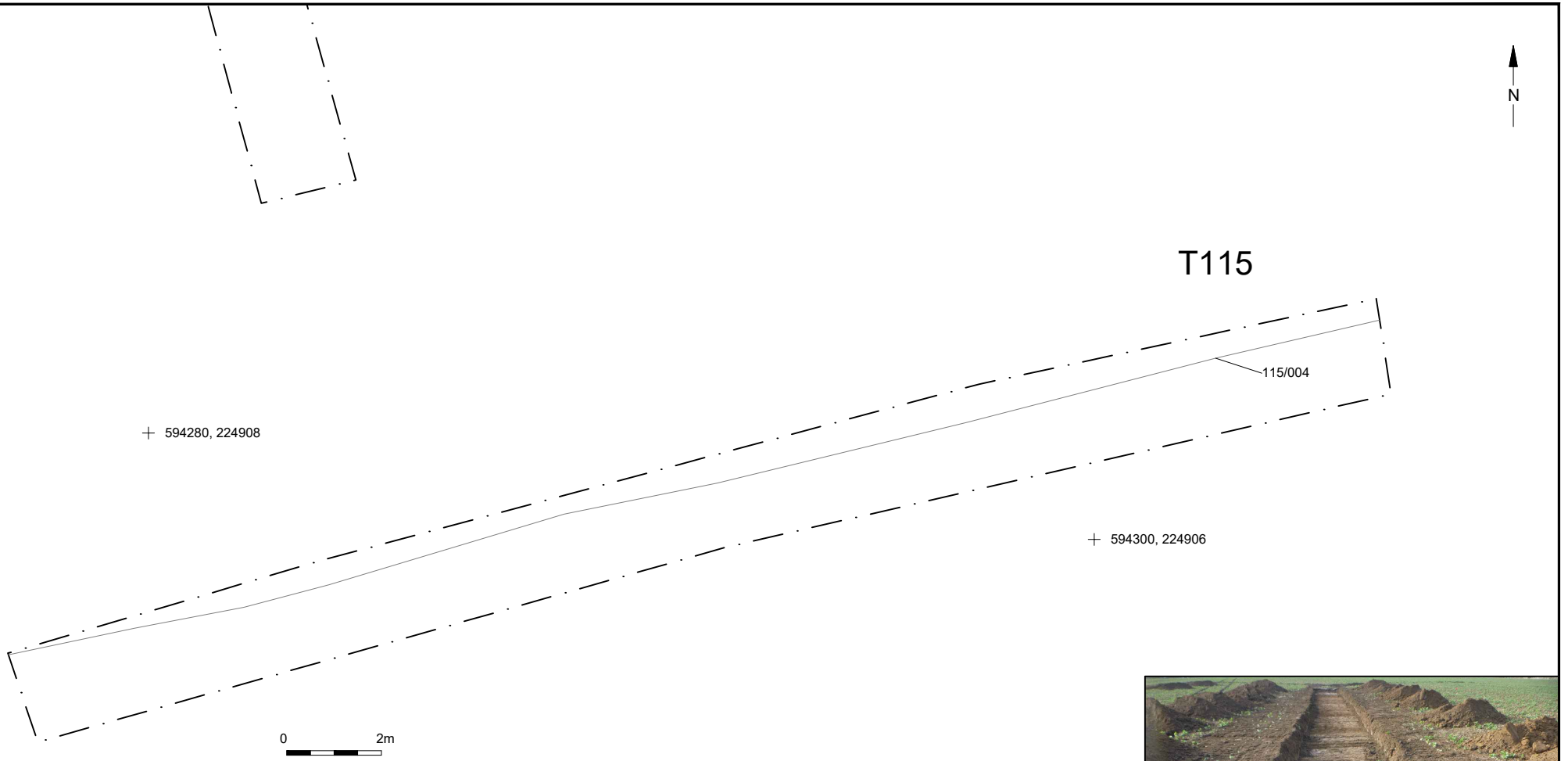




Pit 112/006, looking south

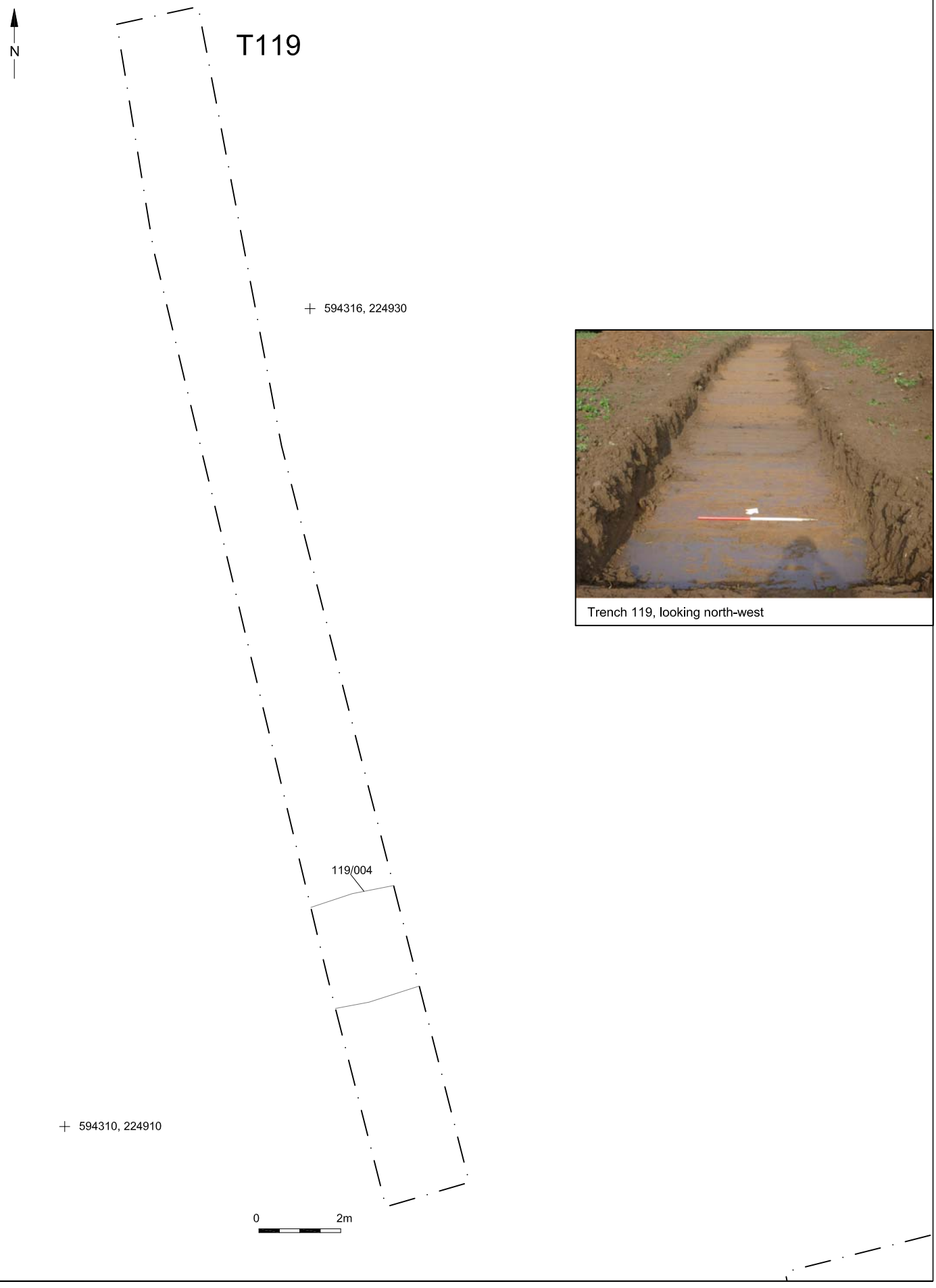
Trench 112, looking south-east

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig.11
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 112, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



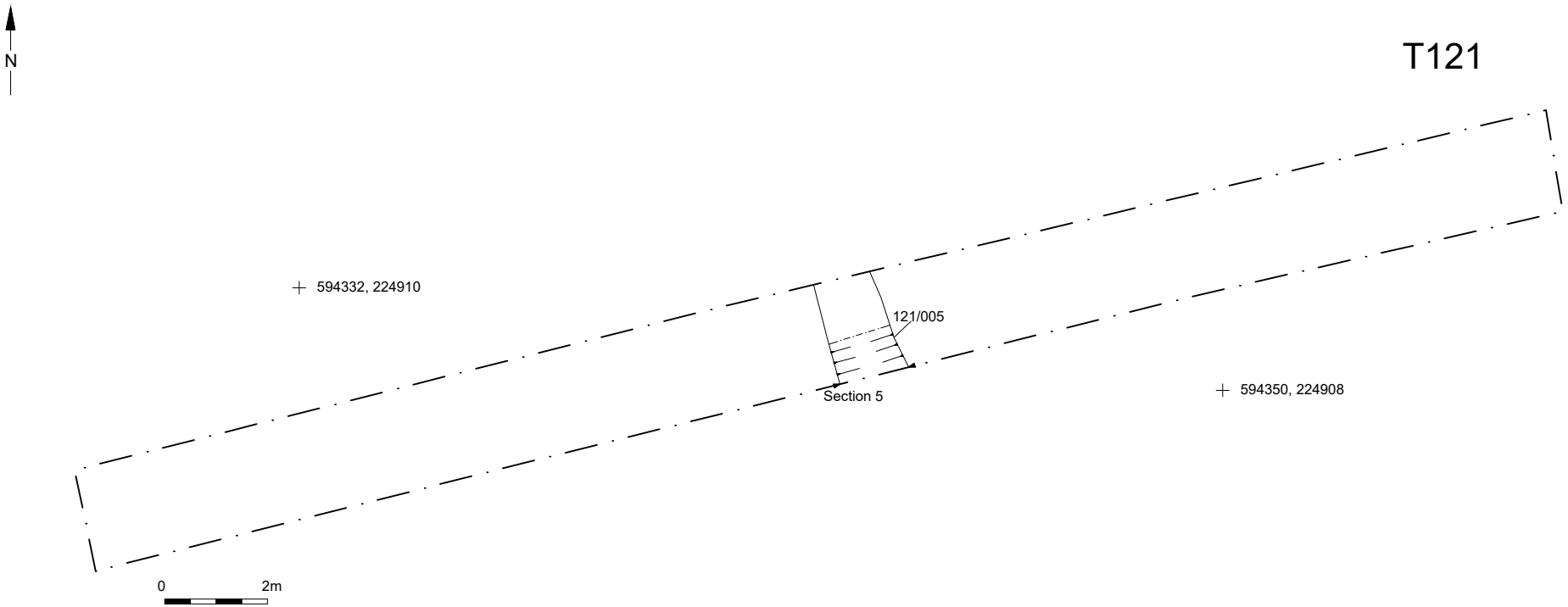
Trench 115, looking south-west

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig.12
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 115 and photograph	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



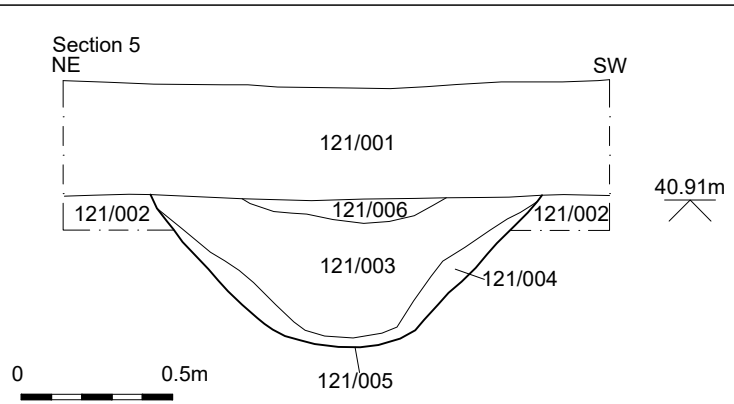
Trench 119, looking north-west

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig.13
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 119 and photograph	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		

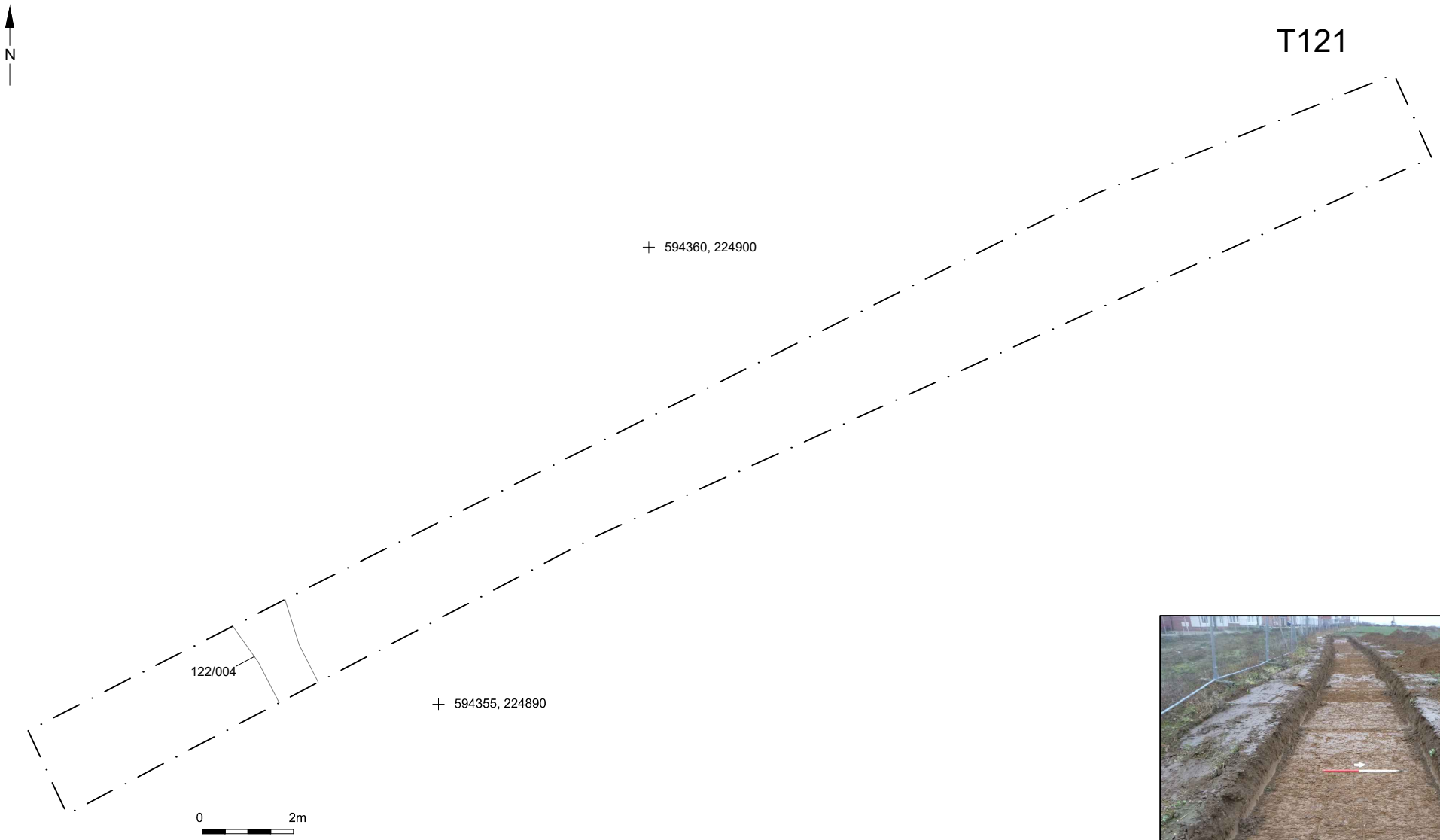


Ditch 121/005, looking south-east

Trench 121, looking south-west

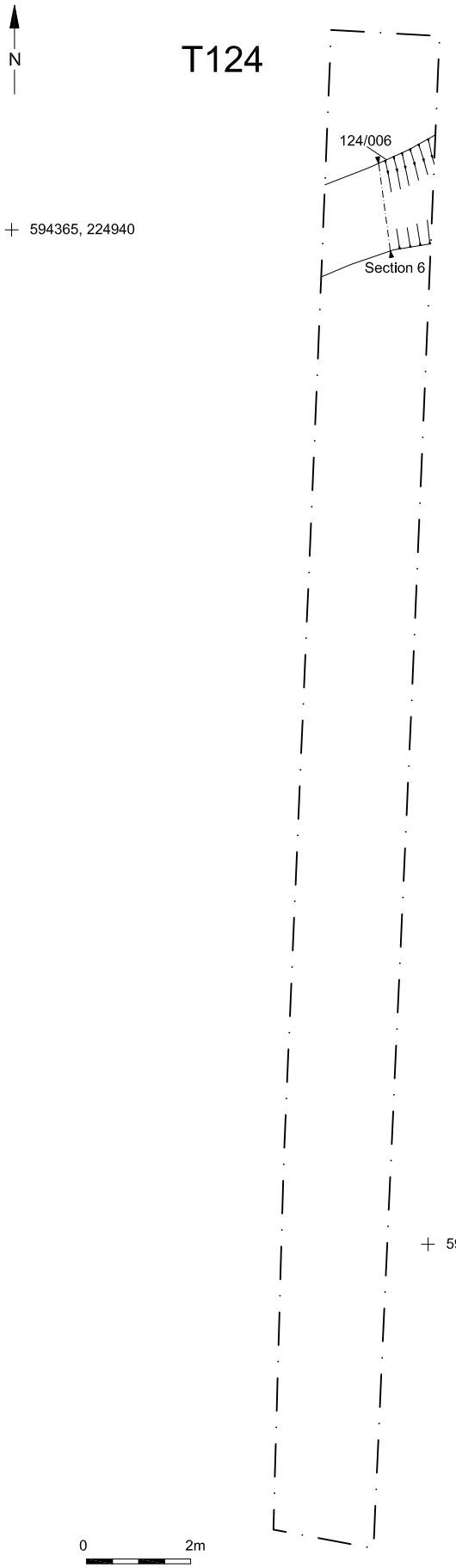


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 14
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 121, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



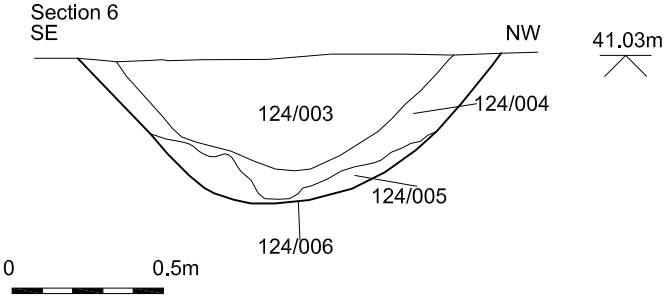
Trench 122, looking south-west

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 122 and photograph	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		

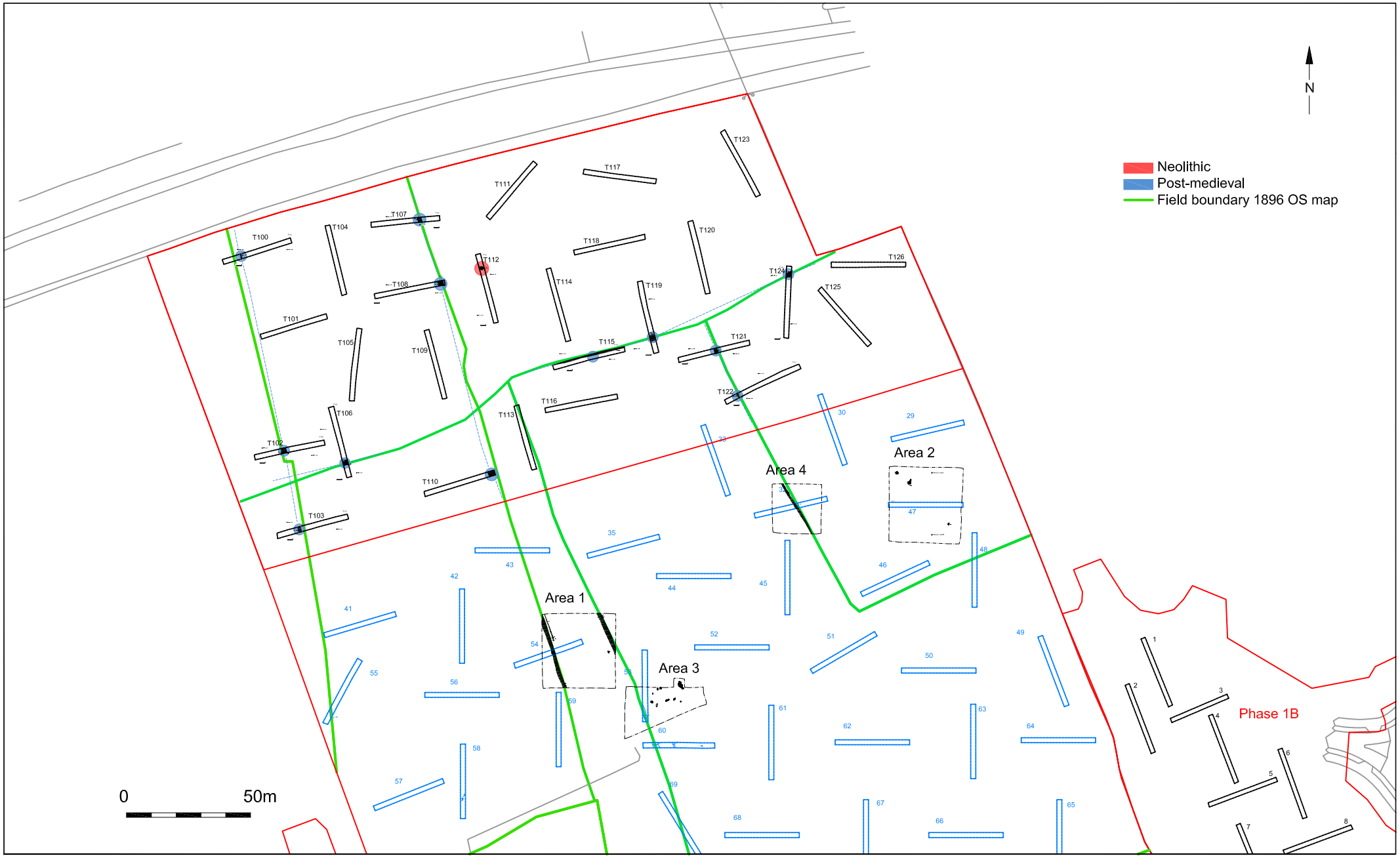


Ditch 124/006, looking south-west

Trench 124, looking south



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig.16
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trench 124, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by: SM		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Wyvern Farm, Stanway	Fig. 17
Project Ref: 180755	Feb 2019	Trenches with dated features and previous archaeological work	
Report Ref: 2019042	Drawn by:SM		

Sussex Office
Units 1& 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

Essex Office
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa