

*Wessex Archaeology*

# Hatfield Park Farm Takeley, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation and  
Excavation Assessment Report

Ref: 56340.01

*August 2004*

**HATFIELD PARK FARM  
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE ACCESS ROAD  
TAKELEY, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
AND  
EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Prepared on behalf of

**Amsgal Properties Ltd**

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SITE DESCRIPTION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Location .....	2
2.2	Geology and Topology .....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>GENERAL METHODOLOGIES.....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1	Health and Safety.....	3
4.2	Fieldwork .....	3
<b>5</b>	<b>EVALUATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1	Aims.....	4
5.2	Trenching Strategy .....	4
5.3	Results.....	4
5.4	Finds.....	5
<b>6</b>	<b>EXCAVATION.....</b>	<b>7</b>
6.1	Aims.....	7
6.2	Excavation Strategy.....	7
6.3	Results.....	7
6.4	Finds.....	8
6.5	Palaeo-environmental Evidence .....	10
<b>7</b>	<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
8.1	Finds.....	13
8.2	Palaeo-environmental Evidence .....	13
<b>9</b>	<b>PUBLICATION PROPOSALS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>THE ARCHIVE.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>14</b>

**APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

**APPENDIX 2: EXCAVATION CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

**APPENDIX 3: STRATAGRAPHIC MATRIX OF FEATURES AT NORTH  
END OF EXCAVATION AREA**

**APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD  
SUMMARY SHEET**

## Figures

- 1** Location Map of Site, Evaluation Trenches and Excavation Area
- 2** Plan of Features in Evaluation Trenches 2, 4 and 7
- 3** Sections of Features in Evaluation Trenches 2, 4, & 7
- 4** Plan of Features in Excavation Area
- 5** Selected Sections from Excavation Area

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**Summary**

From March to May 2004 Oxford Wessex Archaeology evaluated and excavated the 0.75ha site of the access road entrance and associated working areas to a proposed golf course at Hatfield Park Farm, Takeley, Essex. The Site lay to the west of the B183 road, south-west of Takeley village centred on NGR 556194, 220760.

A number of archaeological features were found concentrated towards the north end of the Site. They consisted principally of ditches and gullies all on the same orientation and all containing artefacts indicative of nearby settlement activity dating to the early medieval period. It is probable that these remains represent activities associated with the medieval predecessor of the present Bonningtons Farm which is located to the north of the Site.

The alignment of more isolated ditch features towards the centre of the Site appears to match more closely the adjacent road and may therefore represent later activities. Possible later activities in this area are further represented by a cluster of post-holes, one of which contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery.

Prehistoric and Roman artefacts were also recovered during the excavations but most were found within features containing medieval artefacts. One ditch and two pit features towards the centre of the Site were found to contain only prehistoric artefacts and may therefore date to that period.

Across the Site, the frequency of finds of prehistoric date increases to the south although the quantity of archaeological features decreases. This may point towards the location of prehistoric activity in the area.

## **Acknowledgements**

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The fieldwork was carried out by David Godden, Cornelius Barton, Gareth Chaffey, Susan Clelland and Cat McHarg. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the environmental samples by Chris Stevens. This report was compiled by David Godden and Mark Roughly prepared the illustrations. The project was managed on behalf of Oxford Wessex Archaeology by Rob Wardill.

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1.1 Oxford Wessex Archaeology (OWA) was commissioned by Amsgal Properties Ltd (the Client) to carry out an archaeological investigation of land proposed as the location for an access road entrance and associated works compound and haulage road adjacent to the B183 near Takeley, Essex (the Site). The access road works are part of a larger scheme for the construction of a 190ha golf course complex.
- 1.1.2 A brief outlining the required works was prepared by the Heritage Advice, Management and Promotion Team (HAMP) of Essex County Council Heritage Conservation Branch. Corresponding Written Schemes of Investigation were prepared (OWA 2004b & c) and approved by the HAMP Officer and all the archaeological works were carried out in accordance with these documents.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was carried out at the end of March 2004 and consisted of the excavation of seven trenches targeted on the approximate location of the access road entrance. Because of the limited time available for the completion of all archaeological works, a summary of the evaluation was submitted to the HAMP Officer in lieu of a full report. The findings were considered significant enough for the HAMP Officer to request an area excavation to be carried out covering the access road entrance, proposed works compound and plant haulage road. These works commenced in late April/early May.
- 1.1.4 This document presents a full report of the evaluation along with the results of the excavation. It also considers the further assessment of the findings and the final publication of the project.

## **2 SITE DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Location**

2.1.1 The Site lies to the south-west of Takeley village which is approximately 2km to the south-east of Stansted Airport (**Figure 1**). Takeley itself lies on the A120 which runs along the line of the Roman Road known as Stane Street.

2.1.2 The proposed access road entrance lies 130m south of the track to Bonningtons Farm and comprises a stub of road (centred on NGR 556194, 220760) that extends around 15m into arable land to the west of the B183 Takeley to Hatfield Broad Oak road.

2.1.3 The works' haulage road and compound were situated between the access road entrance and Bonningtons Farm.

### **2.2 Geology and Topology**

2.2.1 The Site lies on Boulder Clay (till). During excavation this was found to be orange brown clay containing occasional pieces of sub-angular flint gravel.

2.2.2 Overlying this was a 0.25m layer of ploughsoil.

2.2.3 The land lies at a height of approximately 102m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and sloped down very slightly towards the south-east.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1.1 Archaeological investigations associated with the construction of Stansted Airport and the new A120 revealed that the region is rich in remains dating from the Palaeolithic through to the medieval/post-medieval periods.

3.1.2 A desk-based assessment of the proposed golf course development area (OWA 2004a) found some potential for Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and medieval remains and a high potential for remains of Bronze Age to the Roman period to be present at the Site.

3.1.3 The assessment also found that the area contained a number of important landscape features associated with woodland and park management and agriculture dating to the medieval and post medieval periods.

3.1.4 Other potentially significant remains were also identified within the proposed golf course development area. These included two possible Bronze Age barrows, three possible enclosures, a double ditched feature and a linear earthwork (OWA 2004a).

3.1.5 Immediately to the north of the Site lies Bonningtons Farm. Although the present structure dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the origins of the site date back to the medieval period (OWA 2004a).

## **4 GENERAL METHODOLOGIES**

### **4.1 Health and Safety**

- 4.1.1 All works were carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.1.2 Prior to the commencement of each phase of works a risk assessment was carried out and staff were briefed about any health and safety requirements. A copy of the risk assessment was kept on site.

### **4.2 Fieldwork**

- 4.2.1 All works were conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (as amended 1994) and, 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England' (Gurney, 2003).
- 4.2.2 Topsoil was removed by a 360° tracked machine fitted with a flat edged ditching bucket. All machining was carried out under the direction of the supervising archaeologist.
- 4.2.3 All archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets. A photographic record comprising 35mm monochrome, colour and digital images was kept. A drawn record was also made of all features and comprised plans and sections at appropriate scales.
- 4.2.4 A digital survey of the Site, the archaeological features and the investigations into them was made.



## 5 EVALUATION

### 5.1 Aims

- 5.1.1 The aim of the trenching evaluation was to assess the nature and extent of any archaeological remains that might be present at the Site. This would include collecting information on the date, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains present.
- 5.1.2 The results of the trenching would be used to inform decisions regarding the further archaeological works in the trenching area and/or the evaluation of the proposed golf course development area as a whole.

### 5.2 Trenching Strategy

- 5.2.1 The evaluation area comprised a strip of land 150m long and 50m wide targeted on the approximate location of the proposed access road entrance (**Figure 1**). A total of seven 30m x 1.8m trial trenches were sited evenly across this area. This equated to a 5% (375m<sup>2</sup>) sample of the 0.75ha evaluation area.

### 5.3 Results

- 5.3.1 Archaeological features were identified in four of the evaluation trenches and material was recovered from the ploughsoil of a fifth (**Figures 2, 3 & 4**).
- 5.3.2 Three archaeological features were found in Trench 1 (**Figure 4**). These comprised a small, shallow pit (**104**) 0.55m in diameter and 0.08m deep, a small ditch (**110**) 0.25m wide and approximately 0.10m deep, and a large, steep sided pit (**106**) at least 1.9m in width and over 0.7m deep.
- 5.3.3 All the features contained pottery dating to the 12/13<sup>th</sup> century. The pit contained three fills (**107-109**) in which were found large quantities of similarly dated pottery, animal bone and oyster shell. A fragment of Romano-British glass and a worked flint artefact were also recovered from the fill.
- 5.3.4 Trench 2 contained one archaeological feature (**204**). This was a very shallow ditch 0.70m wide and around 0.05m-0.10m deep, running from east to west across the trench. The feature had one fill (**205**) that contained two small, abraded sherds of medieval (12/13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery.
- 5.3.5 Trench 4 revealed a small, slightly curving ditch (**404**) measuring 0.65m across and 0.20m deep. The feature ran roughly from east to west. The fill (**405**) contained four sherds of abraded Middle/Late Iron Age pottery and one fragment of burnt flint.
- 5.3.6 A large steep sided pit (**704**) was uncovered in Trench 7. The full extent of the pit is unknown as it continues under the southern section edge. The feature was at least 1.80m in width and 0.70m in depth. Two fills were recorded (**705 & 706**) both of which contained 12/13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The top fill (**705**) also yielded small quantities of animal bone.

## 5.4 Finds

- 5.4.1 Finds were recovered from five of the seven trenches excavated during the evaluation, and ranged in date from prehistoric to medieval. These finds have been quantified by material type within each context (see **Table 1** for details).
- 5.4.2 Prehistoric: The earliest material comprises a single prehistoric worked flint blade from pit **106** (fill **108**). A piece of burnt, unworked flint from Trench 4 (fill **405**) could also be of prehistoric date.
- 5.4.3 Eleven sherds of pottery (Trenches 1, 4 and 7) have been identified as later prehistoric. These are all small, abraded sherds in sandy or grog-tempered fabrics. Diagnostic sherds are restricted to a single rim, but these sherds can be dated on the basis of fabric to the Middle/Late Iron Age. With the exception of the four sherds from Trench 4 (fill **405**), all occurred together with later material and are clearly residual.
- 5.4.4 Romano-British: One piece of vessel glass from pit **106** (fill **108**), a folded footring base, is of Roman date.
- 5.4.5 Medieval: The majority of the finds (mainly consisting of pottery) are medieval. Medieval pottery was recovered from five trenches, with a large group (138 sherds) from Trench 1, mostly from pit **106** (and possibly representing just one or two vessels). The pottery from all trenches is of similar character. All sherds are in coarse sandy fabrics, and most (141 sherds) fall into the category of ‘early medieval ware’ (Cunningham 1985, fabric 13), a handmade ware probably manufactured at several centres across Essex.
- 5.4.6 One production centre has recently been excavated very close to Takeley at Frogs Hall Farm (OWA 2003, site 40). Several sherds from this evaluation, including a jar rim (type B1b) from pit **704** (fill **705**) and two conjoining sherds with curvilinear combed decoration from pit **106** (fill **108**), are very similar in character to the kiln material (Mepham *in prep.*).
- 5.4.7 However, the majority of sherds, particularly from Trench 1, are in a variant of fabric 13 (fabric 13f) containing flint inclusions. This variant has previously been recognised at Stansted Airport, and there is also a parallel there for an unusual squared rim form (type H4) of which 14 joining sherds were found in pit fill **108** (Walker *forthcoming*, illust. no. 79).
- 5.4.8 Early medieval ware is conventionally dated as possible early 11<sup>th</sup> to late 12<sup>th</sup> century (Drury 1993, 80), although at Stansted it appears to continue into the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The kilns at Frogs Hall are dated on the basis of the vessel forms to around the turn of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and this group from Takeley appears to be of a similar date and probably represents a relatively short timespan.

- 5.4.9 There are also a few sherds in other fabric types – 22 sherds in medieval coarse ware, all from Trench 1 (Cunningham 1985, fabric 20) and one sherd in sandy orange ware from Trench 6 (fabric 21) The presence of both types would be consistent with a date range in the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.4.10 The four pieces of ceramic building material recovered are all roof tile, probably of medieval date.
- 5.4.11 Other finds (fired clay, slag, and oyster shell) are not closely datable, but are associated with medieval pottery.

**Table 1: All Evaluation finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

CBM = ceramic building material; RB = Romano-British

Context		Animal Bone	CBM	Fired Clay	Prehist Pottery	Medieval Pottery	Other Finds
105	pit 104					2/10	
107	pit 106					9/38	1 oyster shell
108	pit 106	8/102			1/2	121/2904	1 worked flint; 1 RB glass; 7 oyster shell
109	pit 106			1/5		4/21	
111	ditch 110					2/19	
205	ditch 204					2/1	
405	ditch 404				4/11		1 burnt flint
601	ploughsoil		3/24			6/59	3 slag
701	ploughsoil		1/76			1/5	
705	pit 704	1/2		3/18	5/45	11/134	
706	pit 704			2/5	1/3	1/2	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9/104</b>	<b>4/100</b>	<b>6/28</b>	<b>11/61</b>	<b>159/3191</b>	

## **6 EXCAVATION**

### **6.1 Aims**

6.1.1 The aim of the excavation was to locate and excavate all archaeological features and deposits within the Site and determine, by analysis of their form, distribution and associated artefacts, their nature, function, date and significance.

### **6.2 Excavation Strategy**

6.2.1 The area for excavation comprised a 20m x 15m area on the site of the proposed access road entrance, a 50m x 30m area on the site of the construction works compound, and a 10m x 70m strip on the site of the haulage road (**Figure 1**).

6.2.2 The excavation area encompassed the majority of Trench 1 of the evaluation, approximately half of Trench 2 and parts of Trenches 3 and 5.

6.2.3 An overhead powerline crossed the north-east corner of the compound area. Due to safety considerations, excavations could not take place beneath or within a 14m wide safety zone located along its length.

### **6.3 Results**

6.3.1 In the following narrative, where the same archaeological features that were found in the evaluation trenches were also encountered in the excavation area, both context numbers are given i.e. **50/100** and **57/106**.

6.3.2 Medieval Features: A total of eleven ditches, two pits, one posthole and two spreads of material were found to contain artefactual evidence dating them to the late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (**Figures 4 & 5**).

6.3.3 Most of the ditches (**47, 48, 49, 50/100, 51** and **65**) were aligned north-west to south-east with the main ones (**47, 49, 51** and **65**) spaced at between ten and twelve metres apart. The ditches had a fall towards the east.

6.3.4 Two ditches (**54** and **55**) were aligned north to south and tended to be smaller than the others. They had been cut to interconnect two of the main, east to west aligned ditches (**51** and **65**). Ditch **53** was a small spur off ditch **51**. It may have extended further south than where it was cut by ditch **52** although this could not be traced on the ground.

6.3.5 Ditch **52** was relatively narrow and straight and aligned north to south and cut all other ditches apart from **50/100**.

6.3.6 Ditch **50/100** was stratigraphically the latest ditch amongst the northern grouping although whether this was the latest cutting of the ditch or its latest cleaning out could not be determined.

- 6.3.7 The two large, deep pits (**23** and **57/106**) were situated in the northern part of the Site in close proximity to each other. The larger of the two (**57/106**) was positioned at the eastern end of ditch **50/100** and may have acted as a sump.
- 6.3.8 Two overlapping fire-reddened areas (**56 & 67**) show at least two episodes of burning just to the south of ditch **51**. Presumably the fire responsible for these deposits occurred within a very shallow pit which has since been truncated or on the ground surface as the deposits were not found within a cut.
- 6.3.9 Stretching northwards from ditch **51** all the way to ditch **65** and beyond was a shallow spread of material (**68**) that contained pottery, bone, charcoal flecking and large lumps of flint, occasionally concentrated in large dumps.
- 6.3.10 Investigations into the various intersections of features **51, 53, 54, 55, 65,** and **68** indicated that they were all contemporary.
- 6.3.11 Post-Medieval Features: One shallow posthole (**15**) towards the centre of the excavation area (**Figure 4 south & 5**) contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery and is therefore dated to that period. It was located towards the centre of the excavation adjacent to medieval ditch **46** and four other undated postholes (**11, 13, 17, 19**).
- 6.3.12 Undated Features: One small ditch (**66**) at the northern end of the excavation area (**Figure 4**) contained no dating evidence however, its alignment and stratigraphic relationship with other dated features indicate it is of medieval origin.
- 6.3.13 Two small, shallow pits (**2** and **5**) were found in the south of the excavation area. Neither contained datable artefacts although both contained quantities of burnt flint.
- 6.3.14 A grouping of four undated shallow postholes (**11,13,17,19**) were found adjacent to, and cutting medieval ditch **46**. Associated with this grouping was posthole **15**, which is dated to the post-medieval period. The stratigraphic relationship of the undated postholes with ditch **46** and their association and similarity with posthole **15** suggests that the whole grouping dates to the post-medieval period.

## **6.4 Finds**

- 6.4.1 Finds recovered during the excavation are almost entirely of medieval date, with a little Romano-British and post-medieval material and to a large extent replicate material found during earlier trial trenching of the Site. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and this information is presented in **Table 2**.
- 6.4.2 Pottery: Pottery was the most commonly occurring material type from the excavation, and provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. With the exception of a single post-medieval sherd, all of the pottery is medieval.

- 6.4.3 Sherds were recovered from various features across the Site, mostly ditches, occurring in small quantities, although two slightly larger groups came from ditch **50/100** (56 sherds) and spread **68** (41 sherds). The condition of the sherds is variable but most sherds show some edge abrasion. The mean sherd weight overall is 8 grammes, and there are no reconstructable profiles, suggesting that the pottery represents the secondary refuse, perhaps redeposited from a midden.
- 6.4.4 Most of the sherds (173 out of 193) fall into the category of ‘early medieval ware’ (Cunningham 1985, fabric 13). Just under half of these (74 sherds) are in the flint-tempered variant (fabric 13f) which also dominated the assemblage from the trial trenching. Vessel forms (identified from rim sherds) in early medieval ware consist exclusively of jugs, with a range of simple and more developed rim forms. A date range similar to that suggested for the trial trenching assemblage is suggested, i.e. late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.4.5 There are also a few sherds in other fabric types – three sherds in shelly ware (fabric 12a), one in sandy/shelly ware (fabric 12c), nine sherds in medieval coarse ware (fabric 20), of which one is probably a Hedingham product (variant 20D), three sherds in sandy orange ware (fabric 21), and two sherds of Hedingham fineware, both from slip decorated and glazed jugs (fabric 22). None of these types would be inconsistent with a date range in the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.4.6 Ceramic Building Material: Of the ten pieces of ceramic building material recovered one is certainly of Romano-British type, although possibly reused subsequently (spread **68**), seven are fragments of medieval roof tile (ditches **50/100** and **52**), and two are undiagnostic.
- 6.4.7 Stone: The five pieces of stone recovered are all fragments of imported lava quern, although too small to attribute to specific form. These querns were imported from the Romano-British period to the medieval period; these fragments were associated with medieval pottery although an earlier date cannot be ruled out.
- 6.4.8 Animal Bone: The small collection of animal bone includes sheep/goat (tibia, other long bone), horse (teeth, foot) and cattle (teeth). The condition of the bone is good; there are no signs of gnawing, nor any butchery marks.
- 6.4.9 Other Finds: Other finds (small fragments of fired clay, probably of structural origin; burnt, unworked flint; iron? nail shank; right and left valves from oyster shells) are not closely datable, but were all found associated with medieval pottery.

**Table 2: All Excavation finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

CBM = ceramic building material

Context		Animal Bone	CBM	Fired Clay	Med Pottery	Post-med Pottery	Shell	Other Finds
3	pit 2							3 burnt flint
6	pit 5							3 burnt flint
16	posthole 15					1/60		
24	pit 23				4/17			
26	ditch 47				4/36			4 stone
28	ditch 48				3/21			
30	ditch 50/100	2/6	1/25		53/479		8/118	
32	ditch 49			1/3	15/136		2/33	
34	ditch 53	8/136			3/13			
36	ditch 51		1/3	1/1	7/21			1 iron
37	ditch 50/100			1/3	2/2		2/16	
41	ditch 52				3/13			
43	ditch 54				6/30			
45	ditch 51			1/2	18/102		2/22	
56	burnt area				3/37			
60	ditch 65				4/8			
64	ditch 66		1/3					
67	layer				4/13			
68	spread	14/121	1/392		41/505			1 stone
74	ditch 46				2/3			
78	ditch 50/100			1/2	1/23		1/4	
81	ditch 65				2/6			
83	ditch 54	1/3			9/45		1/15	
85	ditch 55	2/5		1/3	7/28			
87	ditch 52		6/215		2/15		2/9	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27/271</b>	<b>10/638</b>	<b>6/14</b>	<b>193/1553</b>	<b>1/60</b>	<b>18/217</b>	

## 6.5 Palaeo-environmental Evidence

6.5.1 Four bulk samples from medieval features (**2**, **50/100**, **56** & **68**) were processed to assess palaeo-environmental remains (charred plant remains, charcoals and snails) from the Site.

6.5.2 The samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. All flots were scanned under a x10-x30 stereo-binocular microscope and charred remains quantified (**Table 3**).

- 6.5.3 The flots were on average about 30 to 40ml in size and contained moderate to high numbers of roots and modern seeds, indicative of soil disturbance and hence potentially intrusive material coming into the features
- 6.5.4 Charred Plant Remains: The two samples from pit 2 and burnt area 56 contained nothing but wood charcoal. Those of spread 68 and ditch 50/100 contained numerous cereal grains indicative of some crop processing in the vicinity, but no remains of chaff or weed seeds. The grains were mainly of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* sl), although the occasional barley (*Hordeum vulgare* sl) grain was present.
- 6.5.5 Free-threshing wheat is one of the main crops growing during the medieval period. Free-threshing cereals by their very nature are often stored in a very clean state, leading to a general absence of chaff and weed seeds, although larger grain sized weed seeds are often still present. The complete absence of weeds therefore suggests that such crops had already been thoroughly cleaned probably before they came to the site and were charred. The absence of weed seeds however limits further information on crop husbandry being discerned.
- 6.5.6 Charcoal: In general the samples contained relatively little charcoal. Some charcoal was ring porous and so could be clearly identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.). The sample from spread 68 contained charcoal from branches and or twigs.
- 6.5.7 Land Snails: Very few snails were recovered from the samples. All were from land snails, mainly those of grassland *Vallonia* sp. and *Hellicella itala*. The sample from ditch 50/100 also produced a few shells of *Discus rotundatus*. The fresh nature and presence of periostracum on some of the snails, especially those from ditch 50/100, almost certainly meant that they were modern rather than archaeological.

**Table 3: Quantification of charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature type/ no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot						Residue	
				flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred	Charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm
pit 2	3	1	10	35 <sup>15</sup>	-	-	c	-	B	moll-t(C)	-
burnt area 56	56	2	10	40 <sup>30</sup>	-	-	b	-	C	moll-t(C)	-
spread 68	68	3	10	60 <sup>30</sup>	A	-	b	-	B	moll-t(C)	-
ditch 50/100	30	4	20	60 <sup>30</sup>	A	-	-	-	C	moll-t(B) smb-(C)	-

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. <sup>2</sup>Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains



## 7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 A number of archaeological features were found concentrated towards the north end of the Site. They consisted principally of ditches and gullies all on the same orientation and all containing artefacts indicative of nearby settlement activity dating to the earlier medieval period.
- 7.1.2 The orientation matches that of Bonningtons Farm to the north, which has its origins in the medieval period, but not that of the adjacent B134 road or other, presumably later, features and boundaries in the vicinity. The remains therefore probably represent cultivation activities carried out during the early years of the Bonningtons Farm settlement. Whether the parallel ditches represent individual plots of land or intensive efforts to drain the heavy clay soils of the region is unclear.
- 7.1.3 The artefactual remains from the excavated features suggest that these efforts were sustained in this area for a relatively short period from the late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Whether this represents an abandonment of the settlement and/or land at the end of this period, or a change of the pattern of cultivation is also unclear.
- 7.1.4 The alignment of the more isolated ditch features towards the centre of the Site appear to match more closely the adjacent road and may therefore represent later activities. Possible later activities in this area are further represented by a cluster of post-holes, one of which contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery.
- 7.1.5 Prehistoric and Roman artefacts were also recovered during the excavations but most were found within features containing medieval artefacts and are therefore presumed to be redeposited. The exception is ditch **404** that contained four very small sherds of pottery all dating to the Middle/Late Iron Age. It is possible that the feature is prehistoric in origin, however, its alignment appears similar to nearby medieval ditches. Pits **2** and **5** were found to contain only burnt flint and so they could also be prehistoric in date.
- 7.1.6 Across the Site, the frequency of finds of prehistoric date increases to the south although the quantity of archaeological features decreases. This may point towards the location of prehistoric activity in the area and increases the potential of ditch **404** and pits **2** and **5** being prehistoric.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS**

### **8.1 Finds**

8.1.1 The finds comprise a relatively small assemblage in a restricted range of material types, amongst which medieval pottery is the most commonly represented. This pottery has already been recorded within the existing fabric and form type series for Essex. No further analysis is recommended on the grounds of limited quantity. No other finds category occurred in sufficient quantity to warrant further analysis.

### **8.2 Palaeo-environmental Evidence**

8.2.1 The limited quantity and species diversity of recovered palaeo-environmental remains means that further analysis is unlikely to produce additional information on the environment of the Site or associated archaeological activities. No further work is recommended.

## **9 PUBLICATION PROPOSAL**

9.1.1 The findings of the project would be suitable for publication as a short note in Essex Archaeology and History. A summary of the work should also be submitted to Medieval Archaeology for inclusion in the annual round-up of fieldwork.

## **10 THE ARCHIVE**

10.1.1 The project archive, consisting of two A4 lever-arch files, a box of finds and a collection of monochrome and colour photographs is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire under the project codes 55880 (evaluation) and 56340 (excavation). It is anticipated that in due course the archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum.

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## APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

### TRENCH 1                      Dimensions: 25x1.9x0.6m deep

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Finds
101	Ploughsoil	Dark greyish brown silt containing occasional sub-angular flints.	0-0.25m	
102	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.25-0.50	
103	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.50+	
104	Pit cut	Circular with 0.55m diameter. 0.08m deep with very shallow-sloping sides and a concave base.	0.50-0.58	
105	Fill of 104	Mid orangey grey silty clay containing occasional fragments of burnt clay and charcoal.	0.50-0.58	Pot
106	Pit cut	Oval, 1.8x1.6m. At least 0.7m deep with steep-sloping sides. Base not exposed.	0.50-1.20+	
107	Fill in 106	Lying against the sides of the pit. Mid brownish orange silty clay containing occasional stones and chalk fragments.		Pot, shell
108	Fill in 106	Mid grey silty clay containing charcoal flecks, occasional fragments charcoal and burnt clay.		Pot, bone, shell, glass, worked flint
109	Fill in 106	Shallow fill of pale yellow silty clay lying at the top in the centre of the pit.		Pot, fired clay
110	Gully cut	Shallow ditch aligned NW-SE with its SE end terminating in pit 106. 0.45m wide and 0.08m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a concave base.	0.50-0.58	
111	Fill of 110	Mid orangey grey silty clay.		Pot

**TRENCH 2**                      **Dimensions: 30x1.9x0.6m deep**

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Finds
201	Ploughsoil	Dark greyish brown silt containing occasional sub-angular flints.	0-0.30m	
202	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.30-0.50	
203	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.50+	
204	Ditch cut	Aligned NW-SE. 0.7m wide and 0.05m deep with very shallow-sloping sides and a flattish base.	0.50-0.55	
205	Fill of 204	Greyish brown silty clay.		Pot

**TRENCH 3**                      **Dimensions: 30x1.9x0.6m deep**

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Finds
301	Ploughsoil	Dark greyish brown silt containing occasional sub-angular flints.	0-0.25m	
302	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.25-0.50	
303	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.50+	

**TRENCH 4**                      **Dimensions: 30x1.9x0.6m deep**

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Finds
401	Ploughsoil	Dark greyish brown silt containing occasional sub-angular flints.	0-0.30m	
402	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.30-0.50	
403	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.50+	
404	Ditch cut	Aligned NW-SE but curving towards the S. 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep with moderate-sloping sides and narrow flattish base.	0.30-0.70	
405	Fill of 404	Mid brown silty clay.		Pot, burnt flint

**TRENCH 5**                      **Dimensions: 30x1.9x0.6m deep**

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Finds
501	Ploughsoil	Dark greyish brown silt containing occasional sub-angular flints.	0-0.30m	
502	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.30-0.50	
503	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.50+	

**TRENCH 6**                      **Dimensions: 30x1.9x0.6m deep**

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Finds
601	Ploughsoil	Dark greyish brown silt containing occasional sub-angular flints.	0-0.25m	Pot, CBM, Slag
602	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.25-0.50	
603	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.50+	

**TRENCH 7**                      **Dimensions: 30x1.9x0.5m deep**

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Finds
701	Ploughsoil	Dark greyish brown silt containing occasional sub-angular flints.	0-0.20m	Pot, CBM
702	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.20-0.40	
703	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flints and chalk fragments.	0.40+	
704	Pit cut	Semi-circular (partially exposed only) with a probable complete diameter of approximately 2m. 0.7m deep with steep-sloping sides and a flattish base.	0.20-1.10	
705	Upper fill in 704	Greyish brown silty clay.		Pot, bone, fired clay
706	Lower fill in 704	Pale orangey brown silty clay.		Pot, fired clay

## APPENDIX 2: EXCAVATION CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Where the same archaeological features were encountered in the evaluation and excavation area, both context numbers are given i.e. **57/106**.

Context	Type	Description	Depth m	Finds
1	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt containing occasional flints.	0-0.25	
2	Pit cut	Oval 1.1x0.7m. 0.20m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a shallow concave base. Contained fills 3 and 4.	0.25-0.45	
3	Upper fill of 2	Mid yellowish grey clay containing frequent charcoal fragments near the base.		Burnt flint
4	Lower fill of 2	Pale greyish yellow clay containing occasional charcoal fragments.		
5	Pit cut	Only partially exposed but probably oval 1.5x1.0m. 0.30m deep with near vertical sides and a flattish base. Contained fills 6, 7, 8 and 9.	0.25-0.55	
6	Top fill in 5	Pale yellowish brown silty clay.		Burnt flint
7	Second fill in 5	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		
8	Third fill in 5	Dark greyish brown silty clay and burnt stone mix. Contained frequent charcoal fragments.		
9	Base fill in 5	Mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional chalk fragments and flints.		
10	Natural	Mid orangey brown clay containing occasional pieces of flint gravel.	0.25+	
11	Posthole cut	Sub-circular 0.35m diameter. 0.05m deep with shallow-sloping sides and a concave base. Contained fill 12.	0.25-0.30	
12	Fill of 11	Mid greyish brown silty clay.		
13	Posthole cut	Sub-circular 0.38m diameter. 0.12m deep with moderate-sloping V-shaped profile. Contained fill 14.	0.25-0.37	
14	Fill of 13	Mid greyish brown silty clay.		
15	Posthole cut	Oval 0.40x0.20m. 0.07m deep with shallow-sloping irregular V-shaped profile. Contained fill 16.	0.25-0.32	
16	Fill of 15	Mid greyish brown silty clay		Pot

17	Posthole cut	Sub-circular 0.25m diameter. 0.05m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Contained fill 18.	0.25-0.30	
18	Fill of 17	Mid greyish brown silty clay.		
19	Posthole cut	Sub-circular 0.20m diameter. 0.05m deep with a shallow-sloping V-shaped profile. Contained fill 20.	0.25-0.30	
20	Fill of 19	Mid greyish brown silty clay.		
21	Slot cut in ditch 52	Aligned N-S. 0.4m wide and 0.10m deep with a shallow-sloping concave V-shaped profile. Contained fill 22.	0.25-0.35	
22	Fill of 21	Mid greyish brown silty clay.		
23	Pit cut	Sub-circular 1.4m diameter. 0.30m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a flattish base. Filled with 24.	0.25-0.55	
24	Fill of 23	Mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional fragments of chalk and charcoal.		Pot
25	Slot cut in ditch 47	E-W aligned. 0.5m wide and 0.20m deep with moderate-sloping concave V-shaped profile. Contained fill 26.	0.25-0.45	
26	Fill of 25	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot, stone
27	Slot cut in ditch 48	E-W aligned. 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Contained fill 28.	0.25-0.50	
28	Fill of 27	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot
29	Slot cut in 50	Aligned E-W. 1.0m wide and 0.25m deep with shallow-sloping concave V-shaped profile. Contained fills 30 and 37.	0.25-0.50	
30	Upper fill in 29	Mid yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal fragments mostly near base.		Pot, bone, CBM, Shell
31	Slot cut in 49	Aligned E-W. 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Contained fill 32.	0.25-0.43	
32	Fill of 31	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of chalk.		Pot, fired clay, shell



33	Slot cut in 53 at intersection of 51 and 53	They were contemporary. 0.8m wide and 0.20m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a flattish base. Contained fill 34.	0.25-0.45	
34	Fill of 33	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot, bone
35	Slot cut in 51 at intersection of 51 and 53	They were contemporary. 0.6m wide and 0.20m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a flattish base. Contained fill 36.	0.25-0.45	
36	Fill of 35	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot, fe nail, CBM
37	Lower fill of 29	Pale yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot, fired clay, shell
38	Slot cut in 53 at intersection of 52 an 53. 52 cuts 53	Profile only partially revealed but with shallow-sloping concave sides. Contained fill 39.		
39	Fill of 38	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		
40	Slot cut in 52 at intersection of 52 an 53. 52 cuts 53	0.6m wide and 0.12m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Contained fill 41.	0.25-0.37	
41	Fill of 40	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		
42	Slot cut in 54 at junction of 51 and 54	They were contemporary. Contained fill 43.		
43	Fill of 42	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.		Pot
44	Slot cut in 51 at junction of 51 and 54	They were contemporary. Contained fill 45.		
45	Fill of 44	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.		Pot, fired clay, shell
46	Ditch cut	Aligned E-W. 11m+ long with neither end exposed. 2.5m wide and 0.20m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a flattish base. Investigated with slot 73.	0.25-0.45	

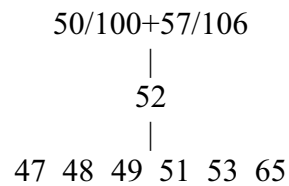
47	Ditch cut	Aligned E-W. 32m+ long with neither end exposed. 0.5m wide and 0.20m deep with moderate-sloping concave V-shaped profile. Investigated with slot 25.	0.25-0.45	
48	Ditch cut	Aligned E-W. 12m+ long with W end not exposed and E end uncertain. 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Investigated with slot 27.	0.25-0.50	
49	Ditch cut	Aligned E-W. 28m+ long with neither end exposed. 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Investigated with slot 31.	0.25-0.43	
50/110	Ditch cut	Aligned E-W. 12m+ long with W end not exposed. E end terminates in pit 57/106. 1.0m wide and 0.25m deep with shallow-sloping concave V-shaped profile. Investigated with slots 29 and 77.	0.25-0.50	
51	Ditch cut	Aligned E-W. 14m+ long with W end not exposed and E end uncertain. 0.6m wide and 0.20m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a flattish base. Investigated with slots 35 and 44.	0.25-0.45	
52	Ditch cut	Aligned N-S. 46m+ long with neither end exposed. 0.4m wide and 0.10m deep with a shallow-sloping concave V-shaped profile. Investigated with slots 21, 40, 75 and 86.	0.25-0.35	
53	Ditch cut	Aligned N-S. 4m long with N end joining 51 and S end joining 52. 0.8m wide and 0.20m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a flattish base. Investigated with slots 33 and 38.	0.25-0.45	
54	Ditch cut	Aligned N-S. 12m long with N end joining 65 and S end joins 51. 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Investigated with slots 42 and 82.	0.25-0.50	

55	Ditch cut	Aligned N-S. 12m long with N end joining 65 and S end joins 51. 0.7m wide and 0.30m deep with moderate-sloping convex sides and a concave base. Investigated with slot 84.	0.25-0.55	
56	Burnt area.	Fire-reddened clay with an irregular rounded shape approximately 2.0m diameter. Approximately 0.1m deep.	0.25-0.35	Pot
57/106	Ditch cut	Numbered 106 at Trial Trenching stage. Oval 1.8m by 1.6m. 0.7m+ deep (not fully excavated) with moderate sloping sides. Base not exposed. Forms terminal at E end of ditch 50. Contained fills 107, 108 and 109.	0.25-0.95+	
58	Slot cut in 65 at intersection of 65 and 66. 66 cuts 65	0.8m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Contained fills 59 and 60.	0.25-0.50	
59	Lower fill in 58	Pale yellowish brown silty clay.		
60	Upper fill in 58	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot
61	Slot cut in 66 at intersection of 65 and 66. 66 cuts 65	0.30m wide and 0.20m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Contained fills 62, 63 and 64.	0.25-0.45	
62	Lowest fill in 61	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		
63	Mid fill in 61	Pale yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional chalk flecks.		
64	Top fill in 61	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		CBM
65	Ditch cut	Aligned E-W. 13m+ long with W end not exposed and E end uncertain. 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Investigated with slots 58 and 79.	0.25-0.50	

66	Ditch cut	Aligned N-S. 6m+ long with S end joining 65 and N end not exposed. 0.30m wide and 0.20m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Investigated with slot 61.	0.25-0.45	
67	Layer lying on burnt area 56. 0.05m deep.	Pale yellowish grey silty clay with frequent small chalk fragments.	0.25-0.30	Pot
68	Spread	Mid yellowish brown silty clay containing common sub-rounded stones. Irregular in shape but aligned N-S. 12m long, 2.5m wide and up to 0.10m deep with S end joining 51 and N end joining 65.	0.25-0.35	Pot, CBM, bone, stone
73	Slot cut in 46	2.5m wide and 0.20m deep with shallow-sloping concave sides and a flattish base. Contained fill 74.	0.25-0.45	
74	Fill of 73	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot
75	Slot cut in 52 at intersection of 50/100 and 52	50/100 cut 52. 0.4m wide and 0.05m deep with a shallow-sloping concave V-shaped profile. Contained fill 76.	0.25-0.30	
76	Fill of 75	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		
77	Slot cut in 50/100 at intersection of 50/100 and 52	50/100 cut 52. 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a narrow flattish base. Contained fill 78.	0.25-0.40	
78	Fill of 77	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks.		Pot, shell, fired clay
79	Slot cut in 65 at intersection of 65 and 68	They were contemporary. Complete profile not revealed but had shallow-sloping concave sides and was about 0.20m deep. Filled with 81.	0.25-0.45	
80	Slot cut in 68 at intersection of 65 and 68	They were contemporary. Complete profile not revealed but had shallow-sloping concave sides and was about 0.10m deep. Filled with 81.	0.25-0.35	
81	Fill of 79 and 80	Mid yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks.		Pot
82	Slot cut in 54	0.9m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Contained fill 83.	0.25-0.50	

83	Fill of 82	Mid yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks.		Pot, bone, shell
84	Slot cut in 55	0.7m wide and 0.30m deep with moderate-sloping convex sides and a concave base. Contained fill 85.	0.25-0.55	
85	Fill of 84	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot, bone, fired clay, shell
86	Slot cut into 52	0.5m wide and 0.18m deep with a moderate-sloping V-shaped profile. Contained fill 87.	0.25-0.43	
87	Fill of 86	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		Pot, CBM, shell

**APPENDIX 3: STRATAGRAPHIC MATRIX OF FEATURES AT NORTH END OF EXCAVATION AREA**



**APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Hatfield Park Farm Proposed Golf Course Access Road, Takeley, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Hatfield Broad Oak	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL56194, 20760 (centred)	<b>Site Code:</b> TAHP04
<b>Type of Work:</b> Evaluation & Excavation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Wessex Archaeology
<b>Date of Work:</b> March – May 2004	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 0.75ha
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>Funding source:</b> Amsgal Properties Ltd
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related SMR No.s:</b>
<b>Final Report:</b> July 2004	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Prehistoric (Middle/Late Iron Age), early medieval (late 12 <sup>th</sup> /early 13 <sup>th</sup> century), post medieval.	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>  From March to May 2004 Oxford Wessex Archaeology evaluated and excavated the 0.75ha site of the access road entrance and associated working areas to a proposed golf course at Hatfield Park Farm, Takeley, Essex. The Site lay to the west of the B183 road, south-west of Takeley village centred on NGR 556194, 220760.  A number of archaeological features were found concentrated towards the north end of the Site. They consisted principally of ditches and gullies all on the same orientation and all containing artefacts indicative of nearby settlement activity dating to the early medieval period. It is probable that these remains represent activities associated with the medieval predecessor of the present Bonningtons Farm which is located to the north of the Site.  The alignment of more isolated ditch features towards the centre of the Site appears to match more closely the adjacent road and may therefore represent later activities. Possible later activities in this area are further represented by a cluster of post-holes, one of which contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery.  Prehistoric and Roman artefacts were also recovered during the excavations but most were found within features containing medieval artefacts. One ditch and two pit features towards the centre of the Site were found to contain only prehistoric artefacts and may therefore date to that period.  Across the Site, the frequency of finds of prehistoric date increases to the south although the quantity of archaeological features decreases. This may point towards the location of prehistoric activity in the area.	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> R. Wardill	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 31/7/4





Evaluation Trench
   
 Excavation Area



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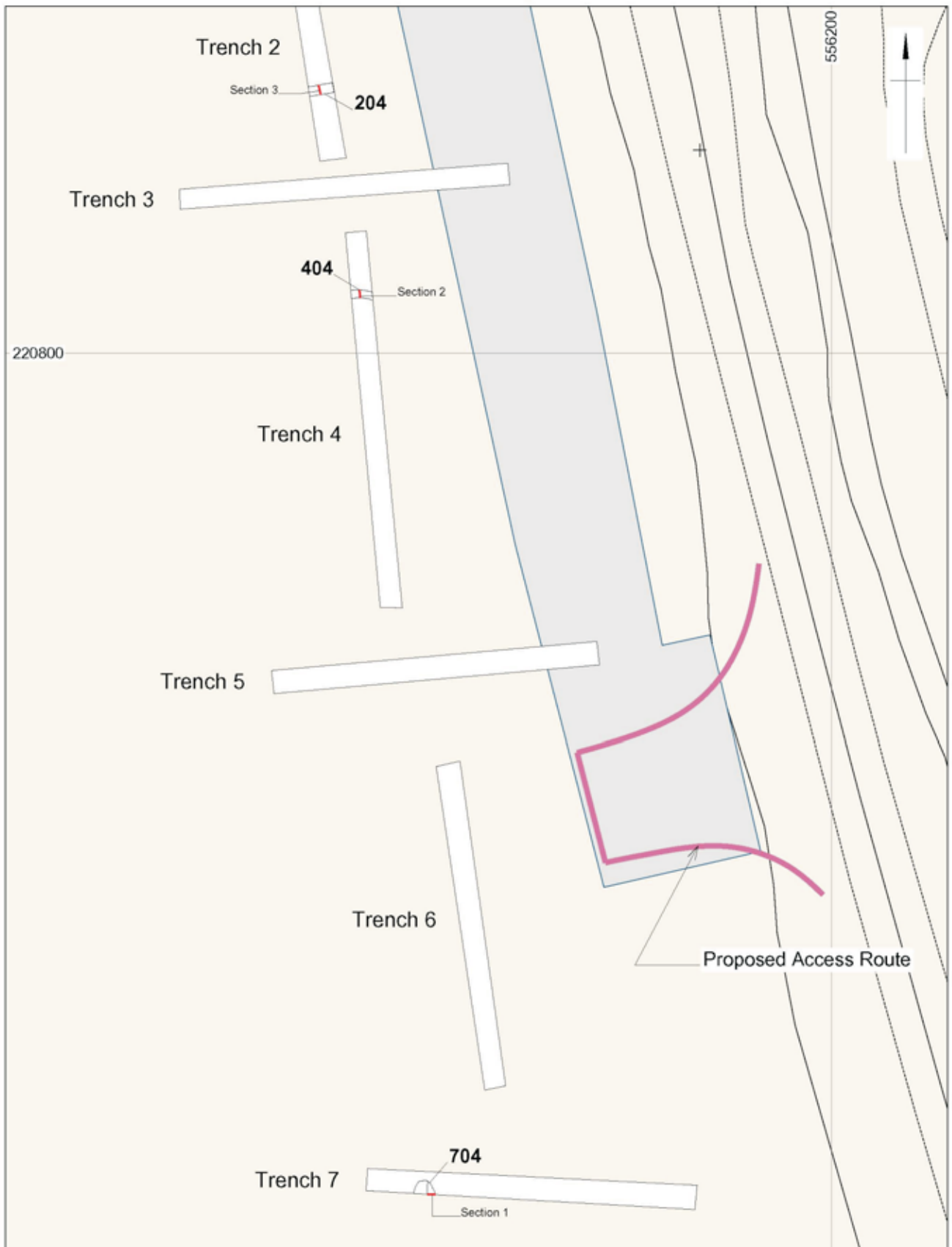
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Location map of Site, Evaluation Trenches and Excavation Area

Figure 1



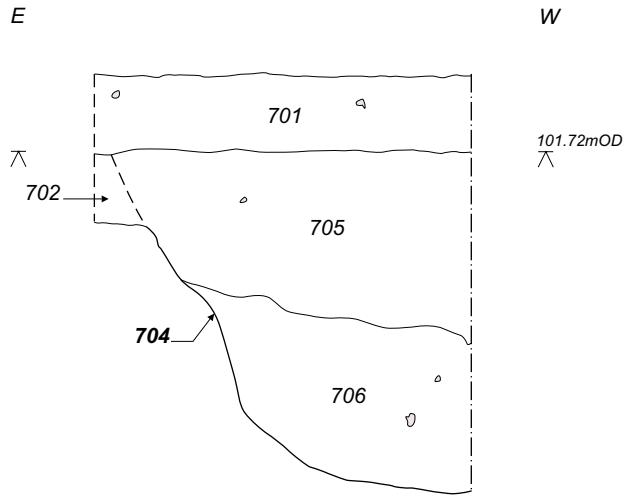


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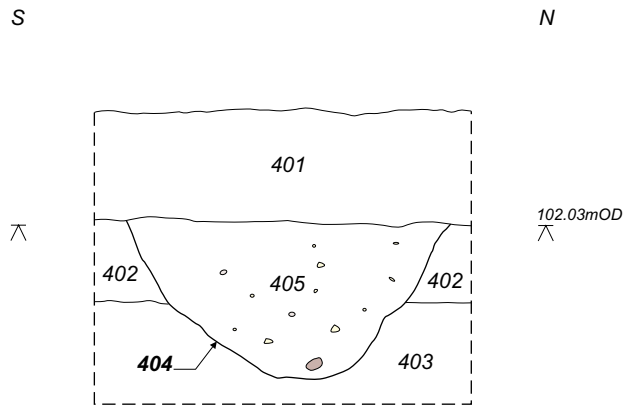
Plan of Features in Evaluation Trenches 2, 4 and 7

Figure 2

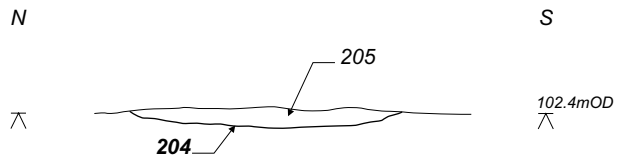
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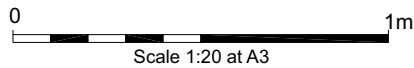
**SECTION 2**



**SECTION 3**



-  Flint
-  Burnt flint
-  Chalk



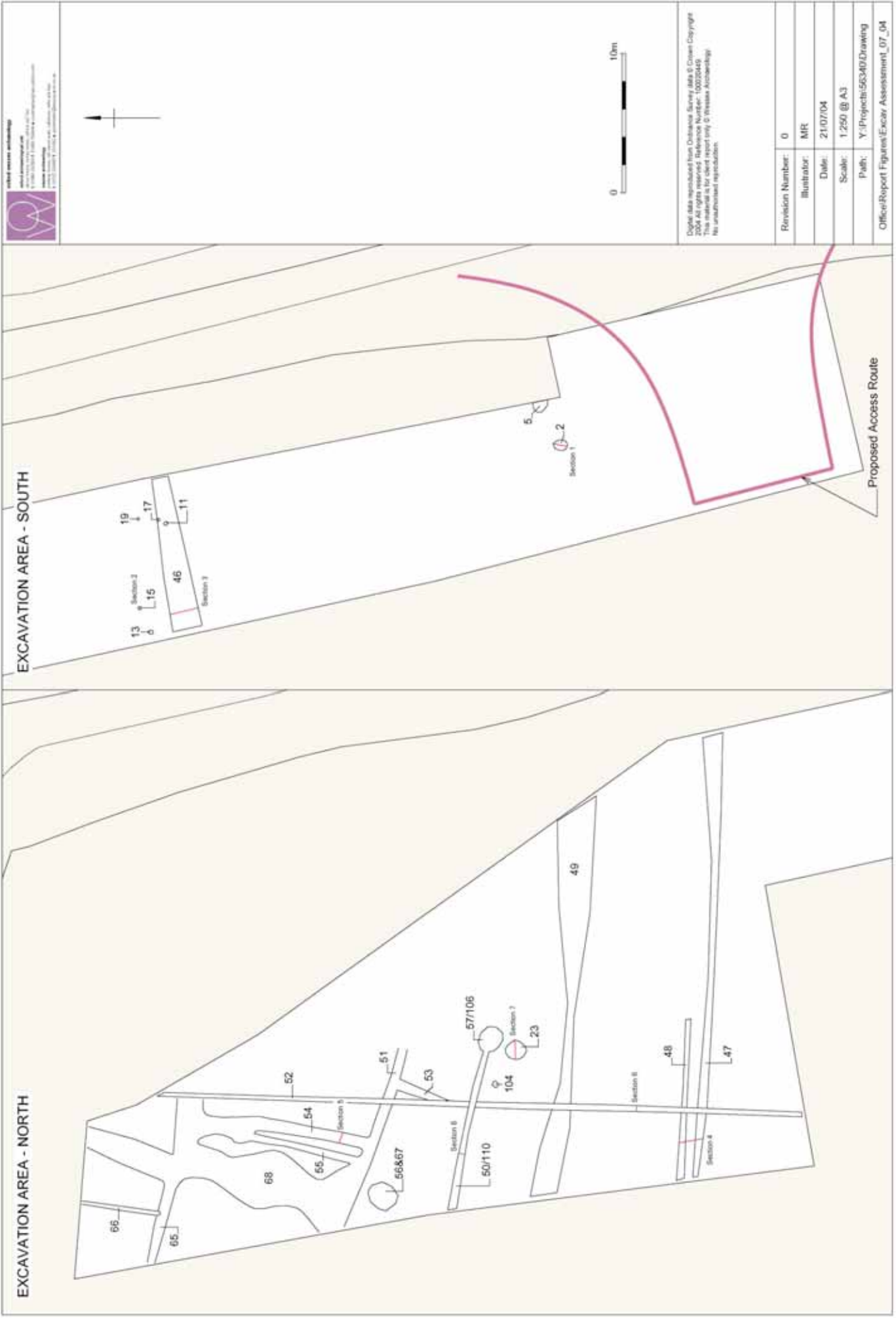
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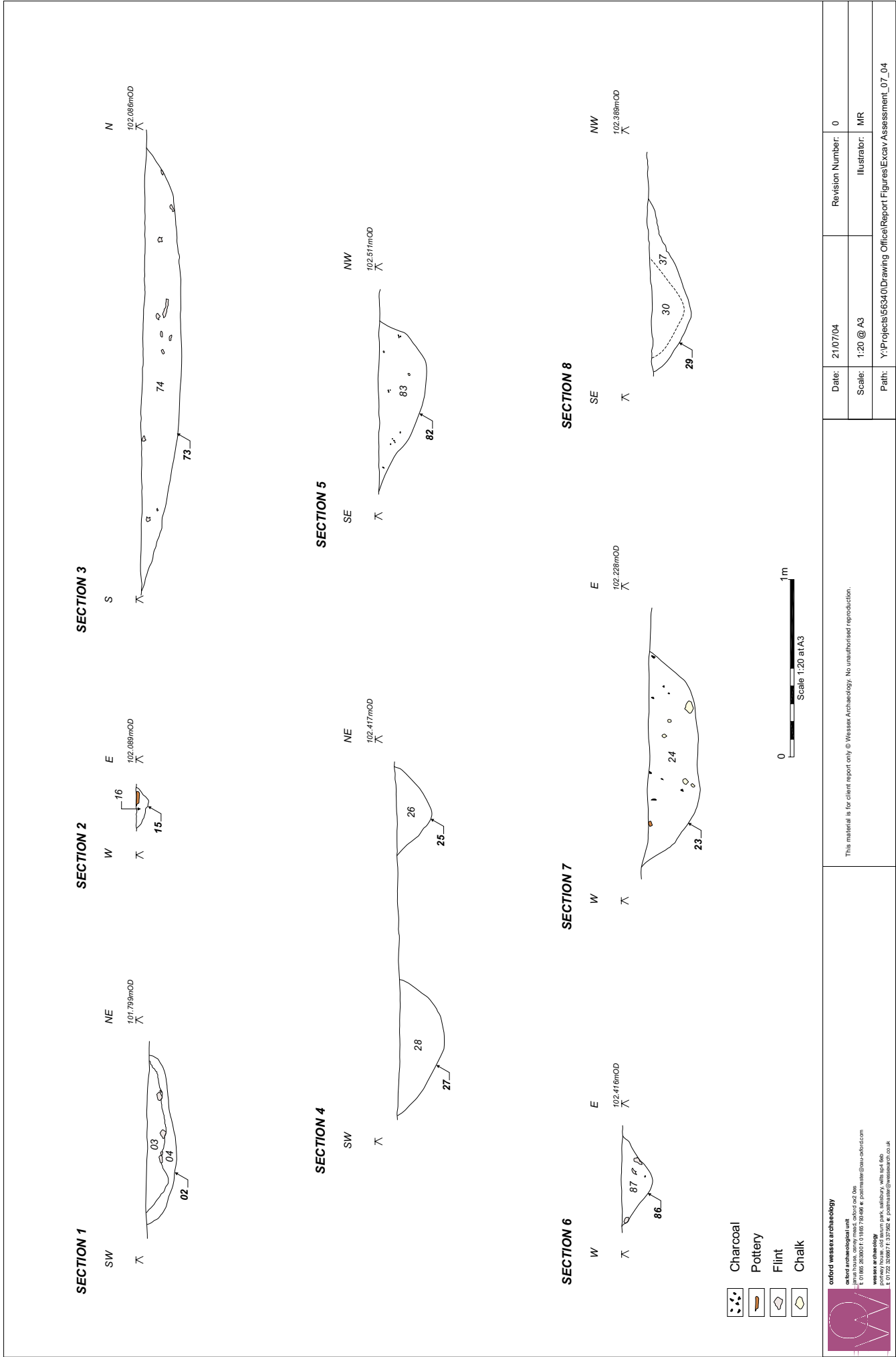
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Sections of Features in Evaluation Trenches 2, 4 & 7

Figure 3



Plan of Features in Excavation Area Figure 4



Selected Sections from Excavation Area



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