

# Iron Age Remains at Site 5 and Area A1 Phase 1, Beaulieu Chelmsford



## Post-Excavation Assessment



November 2013

**Client: Countryside Zest  
(Beaulieu Park) LLP**

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## **Iron Age Remains at Site 5 and Area A1, Phase 1, Beaulieu, Chelmsford**

*Interim Report*

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## **Summary**

*Two archaeological excavations were carried out within Phase 1 at Beaulieu, Chelmsford. (TL 7185 1031) ahead of infrastructure works. The fieldwork took place between the 16th and 27th of September 2013.*

*The excavation consisted of two separate areas totalling 1266m<sup>2</sup> and 656m<sup>2</sup> in area. These excavations were targeted on Iron Age remains recorded during previous evaluation works (OA East Report No. 1473).*

*The northern area (Site 5) revealed part of a Middle Iron Age settlement, including a roundhouse together with associated discrete features and occupation debris. The settlement lay within an enclosure.*

*To the south, in Area A1, two field boundaries were recorded, one of which dated to the Late Iron Age and the other to the medieval period.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Between the 16th and 27th September 2013 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological excavation at Beaulieu, Chelmsford: Phase 1 (TL 7185 1031) in advance of a construction of a new neighbourhood planned for North-East Chelmsford, known as Beaulieu. Chelmsford City Council has resolved to grant outline planning permission (ref: 09/01314/EIA) for a new neighbourhood at Beaulieu of up to 3,600 new homes and up to 62,300m<sup>2</sup> of mixed use development including new schools, leisure and community facilities, employment areas, new highways and associated ancillary development, including full details in respect of roundabout access from Essex Regiment Way and a priority junction from White Hart Lane.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological excavations were undertaken to mitigate construction impacts of the new four arm roundabout on Essex Regiment Way (Site 5) approved under planning application Ref 13/00074/FUL. A second excavation area (Area A1) was targeted to record archaeological remains identified by earlier trial trench evaluation within the route of a new Phase 1B access road which forms part of the outline scheme that has a resolution to grant.
- 1.1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the Beaulieu Archaeological Investigation and Mitigation Strategy (URS 2013a), the Beaulieu Phase 1A Archaeological Mitigation Design (URS 2013b) and an Archaeological Method Statement (Mortimer 2013).
- 1.1.4 This excavation is part of an ongoing archaeological project, across a phased development. The time-scale for this development is dependant on many factors and so cannot be accurately determined at the present time. The work presented in this Post-Excavation Assessment will eventually be incorporated into wider Analysis and Publication Reports.
- 1.1.5 This assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles identified in English Heritage's guidance documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, specifically *The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (2006) and *PPN3 Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

### 1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 Beaulieu (the Site) is located approximately 4km to the north-east of the centre of Chelmsford, Essex (centred on TL 7230 1014; Figure 1). The Site encompasses an area of high ground surrounded on three sides by river valleys. To the west and south is the River Chelmer, and to the east is Boreham Brook. North of the Site the ground rises towards the village of Terling. From the southern part of the Site there are views south towards the Chelmer Valley and Danbury Hill.
- 1.2.2 The superficial geology consists of boulder clay of the Lowestoft Till formation underlain by London Clays. (British Geological Survey).

### 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

#### *Neolithic*

- 1.3.1 Essex has some of the earliest surviving evidence of settlement, mainly concentrated to the north-east along the River Crouch at Lawford and Lemarsh (Hedges, 1984). Evidence for possible domestic settlement within the vicinity of Beaulieu was recorded



at Court Road, 1km to the north-west, in the form of an several pits with Neolithic pottery within their fills (SMR 6142).

### ***Bronze Age***

- 1.3.2 Settlement continued to be concentrated along the river valleys of the Chelmer and Crouch, however during the Bronze Age the landscape was enclosed by field systems for the first time, such as those found at Great Wakering (Kemble, 2001). These enclosed field systems would have continued in use through into the early Iron Age. It has been suggested that these Bronze Age field systems form the basis for the modern landscape in the Chelmer Valley (Drury & Rodwell, 1980).
- 1.3.3 Several crop-marks have been recorded by aerial photography to the south of Belstead Hall and interpreted as part of a Bronze Age settlement (SMR 16888), with further domestic dwellings excavated at Springfield Lyons, 2.5km to the south-west. Further occupation sites are attested to by the recovery of artefacts, such as at New Hall School, to the south-east and Pratt's Farm, to the north.

### ***Iron Age***

- 1.3.4 The settlement pattern during the Iron Age would have been of nucleated settlements within a larger farming landscape. Evidence of this, within the vicinity of the development area, was seen to the south of Belstead Hall (SMR 17438). This comprised a large enclosure with associated pits and smaller ditches (Drury, 1978).
- 1.3.5 The Later Iron Age witnessed an expansion of settlement onto the heavier clay soils and the continued occupation of the estuaries. These estuarine sites are seen to become more complex in nature over time, with higher population density and sustained occupation, such as has been found at Little Waltham (Drury 1980).
- 1.3.6 By the end of the Iron Age sites such as Gosbecks oppida show that portions of the population were highly structured and of high status. These sites would have relied on farming communities scattered around the environs to supply agricultural commodities. (Crummy 1997).

### ***Roman***

- 1.3.7 During the Roman period a small market town would have grown up around the Mansio, located 5km to the south-west at Moulsham Street. The area surrounding this would have formed an agricultural hinterland to supply produce to the town.
- 1.3.8 This agricultural landscape would have comprised of large farms and villa complexes, such as those at Great Holts Farm and Bulls Farm Lodge. Smaller domestic sites would also have formed part of the landscape. Evidence for these has been recorded during evaluation work at Greater Beaulieu. Evidence for pottery making, associated with domestic use was also recorded.

### ***Anglo-Saxon***

- 1.3.9 In the immediate post-Roman period, the Roman town at Chelmsford was abandoned and much of the surrounding landscape reverted to rough pasture or woodland (Hunter, 2003). No known remains of Anglo-Saxon date are recorded within the application site although this is more likely to reflect the relatively poor archaeological visibility of Anglo-Saxon settlement sites rather than a lack of activity during the period.
- 1.3.10 Two records dating to the Anglo-Saxon period are held by the EHER; both of which are documentary records for Late Saxon manors. The earliest record (c.AD1062) is for a

manor in the vicinity of New Hall. A second manor, Belestedam (Belstead Hall) is recorded in the Domesday survey of AD1086 (P.H Reaney 1935).

### ***Medieval***

- 1.3.11 The medieval town of Chelmsford was founded at the end of the 12th century, by the Bishop of London, to the north of the earlier Roman settlement at Moulsham. Throughout the medieval period the site was located within the rural hinterland of Chelmsford in a landscape populated by scattered farmsteads and manors.
- 1.3.12 To the south-east lay the manor of New Hall on the site of the current New Hall School. It is first mentioned by name (as 'Nova Aula') in documents dating to AD1301 when the site formed part of the lands owned by the Canons of Waltham Abbey and was used as the summer residence of the Abbott. It was later transferred to the Regular Canons under Henry II (Burgess & Rance, 1988).
- 1.3.13 The first deer park surrounding New Hall was created during the medieval period with the manor at its centre (Tuckwell, 2006). Under Henry VII, New Hall was granted to Thomas Boteler, Earl of Ormond, who received a licence to crenellate (fortify) it in AD1481 (E41/420) and who, in all likelihood, rebuilt or remodelled the original medieval hall in the latest architectural style. The new structure came to the attention of Henry VIII who visited New Hall in 1510 and 1515, shortly before Ormond's death. Subsequently, the property passed to Thomas' daughter and thus into the Boleyn family through her husband Sir Thomas Boleyn, from whom Henry VIII acquired the hall in 1516, changing its name to the 'Palace of Beaulieu'. Shortly after 1518 he rebuilt the Ormond's medieval hall on a quadrangular plan with gatehouse in the south range, great hall in the east and chapel in the west ranges. Mary Tudor took residency at New Hall intermittently between 1532 and her ascendancy to the crown in 1553.
- 1.3.14 Evidence for a further moated manor is recorded at Belstead. This manor was occupied throughout the medieval period. By 1325 it was called Belestede, in 1354 it was recorded as Belestede Hall and by 1504 it was known as Belested Hall. The name is thought to derive from 'the site of the bell house' (P.H Reaney 1935).
- 1.3.15 Analysis of aerial photographs and geophysical survey identified a number of features which, when investigated by trial trench evaluation, were found to comprise a possible enclosure ditch or moat. A cobbled surface (possibly representing a house platform or yard surface), pit and several further ditches were recorded within the enclosure. Pottery recovered from the features suggests an occupation date of the 12-13th century (ECC FAU 2009). These remains have been interpreted as a medieval farmstead or manor, possibly the precursor to the later manorial site at Belstead Hall c.160m to the north-east of Site 7.

### ***Post-Medieval***

- 1.3.16 The development of New Hall and its deer park dominated the landscape of the application site and the surrounding area until the park contracted in size and the fields were enclosed for agriculture in the early 18th century. As the deer park was reduced in size the former medieval manors or lodges developed into farms, creating an essentially agricultural landscape.
- 1.3.17 Since the medieval period, New Hall had been set within the largest deer park in Essex; once totalling some 1,500 acres. The EHER records that the enclosed area actually comprised four separate parks surrounding New Hall and its gardens. Within the Great or Old Park located to the north of New Hall. The remaining parks were

known as the Red Deer Park located to east of New Hall, the Dukes Park (located further east beyond the study area; EHER 47226) and the New or Little Park situated to the south and west of New Hall. The application site is located within this latter area.

### ***Previous Archaeological Investigations***

#### *Geophysical Surveys*

- 1.3.18 Geophysical magnetic susceptibility and detailed magnetometer surveys were carried out to evaluate the potential for important archaeological remains that may be buried within the Site. The magnetic susceptibility survey provided a rapid assessment of likely areas for previous settlement and industrial activity. The survey identified six areas of high potential, ten areas of medium potential and seven areas of low potential (Scott Wilson 2008). The magnetic susceptibility survey was followed by a detailed magnetometer survey of c.50% of the Beaulieu scheme. This survey provided a greater level of detail and identified individual features such as pits and ditches, field boundaries, buildings and structures, kilns or hearths and buried iron objects. The detailed magnetometer survey identified ten areas of high archaeological potential; six of medium potential and 19 of low potential (Scott Wilson 2008).

#### *Trial trench Evaluation (2008)*

- 1.3.19 A limited programme of targeted trial trench evaluation was undertaken between June and August 2008. The purpose of the trial trenching was to confirm the presence/absence and significance of archaeological remains at eight sites identified by an assessment of the combined results of the desk-based studies and non-intrusive surveys (Scott Wilson 2007).
- 1.3.20 The trial trenching confirmed the presence of archaeological remains dating from the late prehistoric to post-medieval periods. This included a Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British settlement (Site 8); an Iron Age ditch (Site 5); medieval rural settlement possibly indicative of a precursor to Belstead Hall (Site 7); a possible medieval/early post-medieval warrener's lodge associated with the former deer park (Site 10); early post-medieval moated enclosure (Site 11); Tudor fishpond and associated earthwork dam (Site 2); a brick making site comprising two scove or clamp kilns of possible Tudor date (Site 3) and evidence for associated quarrying activity (Site 4).

#### *Beaulieu Minerals trial trench evaluation*

- 1.3.21 A trial trench evaluation was undertaken in September/October 2011 to inform and support the planning application for the Beaulieu Minerals Extraction scheme. The evaluation identified a concentration of archaeological remains to the north-west of New Hall School. These remains appear to represent a rural settlement and possible metalworking activity dating from the Late Bronze Age through to the end of the Roman period. Metal detecting of the plough soil revealed several Early Roman coins and fragments of Early Roman brooches within the main area of activity.

#### *Beaulieu trial trench evaluation, May 2013*

- 1.3.22 Recent archaeological trial trench evaluation of the proposed Essex Regiment Way roundabout, White Hart Lane junction and connecting access road identified two locations at which surviving archaeological remains were significant enough to merit further mitigation in the form of preservation by record in advance of construction. These are Area A1 and Site 5.

- 1.3.23 The evaluation of Area A1 identified part of the wider Late Pre-Roman Iron Age landscape in the form of a co-axial field system within the alignment of the access road. The evidence for the field system comprised two boundary ditches, one of which terminated within Trench 5. Trench 5 also recorded the edge of a large glacial feature, possibly a solution hollow.
- 1.3.24 The evaluation of Site 5 was located within the footprint of the proposed Essex Regiment Way roundabout. Trench 1 identified evidence for Late Pre-Roman Iron Age occupation in the form of a large boundary ditch, small ditch and pit containing a cremated bone and interpreted as a possible human cremation burial. Several undated postholes and a ditch were also recorded.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like thank Iain Williamson of URS and Countryside Zest (Beaulieu Park) LLP who respectively commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and the illustrator was David Brown. Helen Stocks-Morgan directed and supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of Steve Graham, Pat Moan, Stephen Morgan and Rob Wiseman. The project was monitored by Alison Bennett and Richard Havis of Essex County Council. The machining was undertaken by Ian Gibbs and Ben Graff of Danbury Plant Hire.

## 2 PROJECT SCOPE

- 2.1.1 This assessment deals only with the excavation carried out on areas designated as Phase 1 infrastructure works, within a larger phased development. Further assessments will be produced following any future work required on other parts of the development.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The main aim of the excavation was to preserve by record the archaeological remains present within the development area and to reconstruct the history and use of the site.
- 3.1.2 The current project will be incorporated within the wider archaeological investigations at Beaulieu. The research objectives that are applicable to this specific site are detailed below.

### 3.2 Regional Research Objectives

- 3.2.1 There are a number of regional research objectives that have been identified by English Heritage (Bryant, 2000) which provide a framework for investigation and can be applied to the Iron Age evidence recovered at Beaulieu. These are:
- To develop a means date Iron Age sites through absolute dating, regional pottery sequences and datable pottery assemblages.
  - A greater understanding of the development of the agrarian economy
  - The process of economic and social change and development during the Late Iron Age and Iron Age / Roman transition.
  - Social organisation and settlement form and function in the Early and Middle Iron age.
  - Artefact production and distribution during the Iron Age
  - The Bronze Age / Iron Age transition in the region

### 3.3 Site Specific Research Objectives

- 3.3.1 A number of site specific research objectives were identified based on the results of the evaluation (URS, 2013b).
- To preserve by record the nature, extent and form of the Iron Age settlement.
  - To investigate whether the large late prehistoric/Iron Age boundary ditch encloses the periphery of a near-by settlement site or whether it simply forms part of a late prehistoric field system.
  - To investigate how the late prehistoric/Iron Age settlement relates to the pattern of rural settlement in the wider Chelmsford and Chelmer Valley area and in relation to the Sites 1 and 8.

## 4 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

### 4.1 Provisional Site Phasing

4.1.1 For consistency with all forthcoming reports, features where dating is available will be attributed to the following periods. Features have not been identified for each individual period during this phase of archaeological works, but have been included to allow comparisons in later reports. Features have been placed in phases based on stratigraphic and spatial relationships, alongside the use of artefact dating.

Neolithic (3500 – 2000 BC)	Early Neolithic (3500 – 2900 BC) Middle Neolithic (2900-2500 BC) Later Neolithic (2500 - 2000 BC)
Bronze Age (2000 – 700 BC)	Early Bronze Age (2000 - 1500 BC) Middle Bronze Age (1500 - 1000 BC) Later Bronze Age (1000 – 700 BC)
Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43)	Early Iron Age (700 – 200 BC) Middle Iron Age (200 – 50 BC) Later Iron Age (50 BC – AD 43)
Roman (AD 43 - 410)	
Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)	Early Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 650) Middle Anglo-Saxon (AD 650 – 850) Late Anglo-Saxon (AD 850 – 1066)
Medieval (AD 1066 – 1650)	Early Medieval (AD 1066 – 1200) High Medieval (AD 1200 – 1450) Transitional (AD 1450 - 1650)
Post-Medieval (AD 1650 - 1800)	
Modern (AD 1800 – present)	

**Table 1: Chronology used in this report**

### 4.2 Excavation Site 5

#### *Iron Age (800 BC – AD 43)*

4.2.1 During the Middle Iron Age a substantial ditch was dug to form an 'open' enclosure with an entrance to the east. A roundhouse and associated pits and postholes were identified within the enclosure (see Fig. 2).

#### *Enclosure*

4.2.2 The enclosure ditch (**107**) measured between 1.5m and 2.2m wide and 0.75m to 1.2m deep (see Fig. 4 for section). An enclosed area measuring 32m x 30m in size was visible with the excavation area, with the ditch continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the west. The ditch had a period of primary silting, followed by a period of secondary deposition, associated with its use. These fills contained thirty-three sherds of pottery,

dating to the Middle Iron Age. The final, tertiary fill is thought to date to the Late Iron Age, and contained a Nauheim brooch and twenty-one pottery sherds. This phase of backfilling probably dates to the end of the settlement.

- 4.2.3 The enclosure entrance is only represented by one terminal end (**185**) within the southern arm of the enclosure (see Plate 2). This terminus was later remodelled with a small curvilinear ditch (**135**) extending to the north-east. This ditch measured 7.5m in length, 0.9m wide and 0.36m deep and contained twenty-eight sherds of Late Iron Age pottery within its upper, tertiary fills.

#### **Settlement Evidence**

- 4.2.4 At the western limit of the site lay a roundhouse, which survived as an eaves drip gully (**122**) (see plate 1). The eastern end of the gully was evident within the excavation and the observed internal diameter was 10.4 metres with an entrance to the south. The ditch is truncated to the north.
- 4.2.5 A total of 78 sherds of pottery was recovered throughout the gully, with a small concentration, consisting of fourteen sherds within the terminus (**156**) and a further 13 sherds to the south-east of the gully. The majority of the pottery assemblage is dated to the Middle Iron Age with some Late Iron Age pottery being recovered from the very upper fill (see Fig. 4 for section). The gully fill contained large amounts of fired clay and daub, which probably originally formed the construction materials for the walls. In total four fired clay objects were retrieved from the gully fill, which may have been used as thatch weights.
- 4.2.6 The construction of the roundhouse is likely to have occurred during the Middle Iron Age, with the lower fills representing general use. The tertiary upper layers probably represent the disuse phase of the settlement during the Late Iron Age.
- 4.2.7 A cluster of postholes (**151, 153, 155, 169**) was evident to the east-north-east of the ditch and may indicate exterior structures. These postholes contained Middle Iron Age pottery and fired clay objects suggesting that they were associated with the roundhouse, but no specific function can be inferred.
- 4.2.8 To the east of the roundhouse was a spread of dark grey material (**156**), 0.05m in depth covering an area 4m in length and 2.6m in width, which contained six sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. This is thought to be remnant topsoil associated with the settlement use.
- 4.2.9 Immediately inside the enclosure ditch a small circular pit (**166**) was evident, measuring 0.75m in diameter and 0.13m deep (see plate 3). This contained a primary fill of charcoal rich silt and frequent burnt flints consistent with its use as a fire pit. It was subsequently backfilled with a yellowish brown soil when the pit went out of use. Although undated this feature is typical of Iron Age activity.

#### **Undated**

- 4.2.10 To the east, on the exterior of the enclosure entrance, lay a small circular pit (**164**) which contained frequent charcoal. The pit was 0.45m in diameter and measured 0.06m in depth, suggesting that it had been heavily truncated by modern plough action. This pit was interpreted as a possible cremation in the evaluation stage, however, no burnt bone was recovered during the hand excavation of this feature or within the environmental sample. It is likely that this feature is a small pit which contained charcoal and associated with the nearby settlement.

- 4.2.11 A small circular posthole (**128**) located within the enclosure had no obvious association with the other features and was undated.

### **4.3 Excavation Area A1**

#### ***Later Iron Age (50 BC – AD 43)***

- 4.3.1 A ditch (**144**) was recorded crossing the middle of the excavation area on a predominantly east to west alignment (see Fig 3 for plan). The ditch terminated to the west with a square cut edge. It measured 1m wide and 0.35m deep and had a dark grey fill containing five sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. This is likely to have been a field boundary forming part of a larger farming system associated with the settlement.

#### ***Medieval***

- 4.3.2 Immediately to the south lay a ditch (**139**), aligned east-northeast to west-southwest. It measured 1.4m wide and 0.75m deep and was filled by a single mid greyish brown fill containing two sherds of Sible Hedingham pottery (see Fig. 4 for section).



## 5 FACTUAL DATA AND ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

### 5.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

#### *The Excavation Record*

- 5.1.1 All hand written records have been collated and checked for internal consistency, and the site records have been transcribed onto an MS Access Database. Contexts will be ascribed to a phase dependant on the evidence found within them. The site plans and all relevant sections have been digitised in AutoCAD, finds will be drawn by hand. The quantification list of excavation records have been recorded in Table 2.

Type	Quantity
Context numbers	94
Plans	16
Sections	33
Black and white films	1
Digital photographs	81

**Table 2: quantification of excavation records**

### 5.2 Documentary Research

- 5.2.1 The available documentary and cartographic evidence will be consulted where appropriate, to place the site into its wider context.

### 5.3 Artefact Summaries

#### *Metalwork*

- 5.3.1 Two copper alloy objects were retrieved from the excavation. A bow and spring of a Nauheim brooch was recovered from the upper fill of the enclosure ditch (**127**) and dates to 75–25 BC. The second object was an undatable pinhead recovered from the fill of a posthole (170) located on the exterior of the roundhouse. Both objects are in a good, stable condition.

#### *Metalworking Waste*

- 5.3.2 One fragment of Iron working slag was recovered from the fill of the eaves-drip gully(126)

#### *Flint*

- 5.3.3 A total of 14 fragments of unmodified burnt flint were recovered from eight contexts. The majority of this material came from eaves-drip gully(**122**). No struck flint was recovered during the excavation.

#### *Pottery*

A total of 231 sherds of pottery were recovered during the excavation from thirty one contexts. The majority of the assemblage is attributable to the Middle Iron Age with five sherds of residual Early Iron Age pottery fabric. Seven contexts produced Late Iron Age pottery, which were from the upper, tertiary fills of the enclosure ditch and roundhouse.

### ***Fired Clay***

- 5.3.4 A total of 1.87kg, of daub, fired clay and fired clay objects were recovered from twenty three contexts. The assemblage contains the partial remains of four Iron Age loomweights, accounting for c.64% of the assemblage's total weight. The remainder of the material is moderately to heavily abraded fragments of daub and fired clay, with an average weight of c. 21g. Several fragments bear the impression of wattles or withies. It should be noted, however, that daub is a soft porous material and is not as strong as CBM; only material that has been deliberately burnt survives in the soil (Lyons 2007).

## **5.4 Environmental Summaries**

### ***Faunal Remains***

- 5.4.1 A total of 64 fragments of animal bone were recovered from eighteen contexts. Of which 25 were identifiable to species of cattle, sheep and pig. The assemblage is too small to provide a any conclusive evidence of Iron Age diet or farming practice.

### ***Environmental Remains***

- 5.4.2 A total of 20 bulk samples were taken from deposits within Iron Age features. A small assemblage of charred grain was retrieved from the roundhouse ditch but not thought to represent intentional deposition.

## 6 REPORT WRITING, ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION

### ***Storage and Curation***

- 6.1.1 Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Essex County Council in appropriate county stores under the Site Code SPBP 13 and the county HER code SPBP13. A digital archive will be deposited with OA Library/ADS. ECC requires transfer of ownership prior to deposition (see Section 11). During analysis and report preparation, OA East will hold all material and reserves the right to send material for specialist analysis.
- 6.1.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with current OA East guidelines, which are based on current national guidelines

### ***Publication***

- 6.1.3 The results from all phases of the project will form a site of regional significance, therefore publication in the East Anglian Archaeology monograph series appears appropriate. However, given the location of the site, the Oxford Archaeology monograph series is a viable alternative. Once the publication outlet is confirmed (following discussions with relevant parties), a preliminary synopsis will be prepared.

## 7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Discussion

- 7.1.1 The first phase of occupation is dated to the Middle Iron Age when an oval enclosure was dug to surround an area of settlement in Site 5. The settlement comprised a single round-house, surviving only as the remains of an eaves-drip gully. No interior sub-structures were recorded. Several small pits and postholes were identified outside the roundhouse and were likely to be associated with domestic activity contemporary with the building.
- 7.1.2 The roundhouse and enclosure went out of use in (or by) the Late Iron Age, with the final infilling of the enclosure containing Late Iron Age pottery.
- 7.1.3 In Area A1 a single east to west aligned field boundary ditch of possibly Late Iron Age date attests to a wider agricultural landscape of field systems within which would have been dispersed settlement such as that found at Site 5.
- 7.1.4 No further settlement activity was present within the excavation areas, although a second, probably medieval ditch, in Area A1 shows that the agricultural landscape continued to evolve over time.

### 7.2 Significance

- 7.2.1 This site is one of several nucleated Iron Age settlements that have been identified along the Chelmer Valley, including possible sites identified further to the west on site 8 of Beaulieu archaeological works (URS 2013a). These settlements would have existed within a larger agricultural landscape of open fields and dispersed settlement.
- 7.2.2 The settlement has no evidence of later Roman activity, however there is probable Roman settlement activity immediately to the south of the site (Site 6, URS 2013a). This site was identified by geophysical survey and includes several large thermo-remnant features interpreted as possible kilns. The morphology of the site suggested a Roman date - but the site has not been subject to intrusive investigation and currently falls outside of the development area. If proved to be Roman, this may represent a shift in focus of the settlement to the south. Further investigation may help to shed light on the evolving landscape settlement patterns in the Later Iron Age and Roman periods.
- 7.2.3 Further phases of Archaeological investigation are planned in the surrounding landscape, which will incorporate the mentioned sites, this will allow for a fuller assessment of the settlement pattern and allow for spatial analysis of settlement within the Iron Age.

## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT SUMMARY WITH PROVISIONAL PHASING

Context	Cut	Same As	Category	Feature Type	Phase
100	-		Layer	Topsoil	-
101	-		Layer	Subsoil	-
102	-		Layer	Natural	-
103	104		Fill	Ditch	-
104	-		Cut	Ditch	-
105	106		Fill	Ditch	MIA
106	-		Cut	Ditch	MIA
107	-		Cut	Ditch	MIA
108	107		Fill	Ditch	MIA
109	107		Fill	Ditch	MIA
110	107		Fill	Ditch	LIA
111	107		Fill	Ditch	LIA
112	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
113	112		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
114	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
115	114		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
116	114		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
117	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
118	117		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
119	-	107	Cut	Ditch	MIA
120	-		Cut	Pit	-
121	117		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
122	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
123	122		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
124	120		Fill	Pit	-
125	119		Fill	Ditch	MIA
126	119		Fill	Ditch	MIA
127	119		Fill	Ditch	LIA
128	-		Cut	posthole	-
129	128		Fill	posthole	-
130	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
131	130		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
132	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
133	135		Fill	Ditch	LIA

Context	Cut	Same As	Category	Feature Type	Phase
134	135		Fill	Ditch	LIA
135	-		Cut	Ditch	LIA
136	-	135	Cut	Ditch	LIA
137	136		Fill	Ditch	LIA
138	136		Fill	Ditch	LIA
139	-		Cut	Ditch	medieval
140	139		Fill	Ditch	medieval
141	-		Cut	Ditch	LIA
142	141		Fill	Ditch	LIA
143	145		Fill	Ditch	LIA
144	145		Fill	Ditch	LIA
145	-	141	Cut	Ditch	LIA
146	147		Fill	Ditch	medieval
147	-	139	Cut	Ditch	medieval
148	190		Fill	Ditch	LIA
149	190		Fill	Ditch	LIA
150	151		Fill	posthole	-
151	-		Cut	posthole	-
152	153		Fill	posthole	MIA
153	-		Cut	posthole	MIA
154	155		Fill	posthole	-
155	-		Cut	posthole	-
156	-		Layer	Spread	MIA
157	-	122	Cut	eaves-drip gully	MIA
158	157		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
159	157		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
160	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
161	160		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
162	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
163	162		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
164	-		Cut	Pit	-
165	164		Fill	Pit	-
166	-		Cut	Pit	-
167	166		Fill	Pit	-
168	166		Fill	Pit	-

Context	Cut	Same As	Category	Feature Type	Phase
169	-		Cut	Posthole	MIA
170	169		Fill	Posthole	MIA
171	-	122	Cut	eaves-drip gully	MIA
172	171		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
173	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
174	173		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
175	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
176	175		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
177	-	122	Cut	eaves-drip gully	MIA
178	177		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
179	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
180	179		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
181	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
182	181		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
183	-	122	Cut	Ring-Ditch	MIA
184	183		Fill	Ring-Ditch	MIA
185	-	107	Cut	Ditch	MIA
186	185		Fill	Ditch	MIA
187	185		Fill	Ditch	MIA
188	-	135	Cut	Ditch	LIA
189	188		Fill	Ditch	LIA
190	-		Cut	Ditch	MIA
191	190		Fill	Ditch	MIA
192	190	107	Fill	Ditch	MIA
193	-		Cut	Glacial feature	-
194	193		Fill	Glacial feature	-

## APPENDIX B. FINDS SUMMARY

Context	Cut	Material	Weight in KG	Comments	Date
105	106	Ceramic Vessel	0.002	Sand tempered	MIA
108	107	Bone	0.026	1 x horse scapula fragment	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.135	15 sherds inc. 1 sherd residual EIA	MIA
		Flint	0.017	Burnt unmodified stone	
109	107	Bone	0.004	1 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.027	Burnished base sherd	MIA
110	107	Bone	0.104	1 x cattle tibia fragment, 9 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Fired clay	0.005		
110	107	Ceramic Vessel	0.033	Inc. 1 flint tempered EIA, 4 MIA sandy sherds and 2 grog tempered LIA	LIA
		Flint	0.163	Burnt unmodified stone	
111	107	Ceramic Vessel	0.012	Combed, grog tempered	LIA
113	112	Fired clay	0.010		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.005	refired	MIA
		Flint	0.055	Burnt unmodified stone	
116	114	Fired clay	0.002		
		Fired clay	0.071	Loomweight fragment	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.035		MIA
		Flint	0.069	Burnt unmodified stone	
118	117	Bone	0.003	1 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.012	refired	MIA
		Fired clay	0.084		
121	117	Animal bone	0.002	1 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.014		MIA
123	122	Animal bone	0.012	3 x cattle molar fragment	
		Fired clay	0.054		
		Fired clay	0.201	loomweight fragments	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.051		MIA
		Flint	0.067	Burnt unmodified stone	
126	119	Fired clay	0.510	loomweight fragments	
		Animal bone	0.024	1 x pig scapula, 1x sheep tooth	
		Daub	0.055	?Ceramic Artefact	
		Fired clay	0.025		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.040	Inc. 2 flint tempered sherds	MIA
		Iron slag	0.006		
127	119	Animal bone	0.003	1 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.151	wheel made Belgic necked cordoned jar	LIA



Context	Cut	Material	Weight in KG	Comments	Date
131	130	Ceramic Vessel	0.099		MIA
133	135	Animal bone	0.020	1 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Fired clay	0.077		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.054	inc. decorated (scored) jar	LIA
138	136	Ceramic Vessel	0.074		MIA
144	145	Fired clay	0.003		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.029	Mid 1st C AD	LIA
148	190	Animal bone	0.002	2 x cattle tooth fragments	
		Fired clay	0.002		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.042	Inc. 6 x MIA sherds and 1 flint tempered EIA	LIA
149	190	Animal bone	0.037	1 x sheep tibia fragment, 3x medium mammal fragment	
		Daub	0.038	x unidentifiable fragment	
		Fired clay	0.002		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.034	grog tempered jar	LIA
		Flint	0.009	Burnt unmodified stone	
150	151	Fired clay	0.062		
152	153	Fired clay	0.051		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.015		MIA
		Flint	0.037	Burnt unmodified stone	
154	155	Fired clay	0.015		
156		Animal bone	0.007	9 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Fired clay	0.097		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.046	sand tempered, with some flint	MIA
159	157	Animal bone	0.021	3 x horse molar	
		Animal bone	0.103	17 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Fired clay	0.001		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.009	sand tempered, with some flint. Jar	MIA
		Ceramic Vessel	0.022		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.150		
163	162	Ceramic Vessel	0.012	flint and sand tempered, prob. EIA	EIA
170	169	Animal bone	0.001	2 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Fired clay	0.394	SF 11: Ceramic Artefact	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.447	Inc. an S-shaped jar and 2 abraded earlier decorated rim sherds	MIA
172	171	Ceramic Vessel	0.035		MIA
174	173	Ceramic Vessel	0.011		MIA
176	175	Ceramic Vessel	0.015		MIA
178	177	Daub	0.016		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.015	Flint and sand tempered	MIA

Context	Cut	Material	Weight in KG	Comments	Date
179	177	Daub	0.028		
		Fired clay	0.051		
		Ceramic Vessel	0.035	Sand tempered	MIA
		Flint	0.194	Burnt unmodified stone	
184	183	Ceramic Vessel	0.026	Sand tempered	MIA
186	185	Animal bone	0.001	5 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Fired clay	0.014		
192	190	Ceramic Vessel	0.024		MIA
		Animal bone	0.007	1 x unidentifiable fragment	
		Ceramic Vessel	0.006		MIA

## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

#### Introduction

- C.1.1 A total of twenty bulk samples were taken during recent excavations of two adjacent fields at Beaulieu. Eighteen bulk samples were taken during the excavation phase of Site 5 (northern field) from an enclosure ditch and a roundhouse with associated post holes. All features date to the Middle Iron Age with possible Later Iron Age material being deposited after the site went out of use. Two bulk samples were taken from ditches within area A1 (Southern field); undated ditch **139**, and a Late Iron Age ditch **141**.

#### Methodology

- C.1.2 One bucket (approximately ten litres) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997). Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

#### Quantification

- C.1.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens ##### = 100+ specimens

- C.1.4 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

#### Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Area	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Charred cereal grain	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm
20	140	139	a1	ditch	8	15		+	
21	142	141	a1	ditch	9	15			
10	108	107	5	ditch	9	1		+	
11	113	112	5	eaves-drip gully	9	10		+	

12	118	117	5	eaves-drip gully	8	30 #	++	
13	121	117	5	eaves-drip gully	8	15	+	
14	127	119	5	ditch	7	15	+	
15	124	120	5	pit	8	15	++	
16	123	122	5	eaves-drip gully	8	25	++	+
17	131	130	5	eaves-drip gully	7	10 #	+	
18	133	135	5	ditch	8	5	+	
19	138	136	5	ditch	8	10	+	
22	150	151	5	posthole	7	10	+	+
23	152	153	5	posthole	9	20 #	+	
24	161	160	5	eaves-drip gully	10	10 #	+	+
25	163	162	5	eaves-drip gully	10	15	+	+
26	165	164	5	cremation pit	6	10	++	+
27	167	166	5	fire pit	8	50 #	++++	+++
28	170	169	5	posthole	9	30 #	+	+
29	205	204	5	ditch	9	25		

**Table 3: Environmental Samples from Areas A1 and Site 5 SPBP13**

### **Area A1**

C.1.5 Sample 20 from fill 140 of ditch **139** contains sparse charcoal, abundant molluscs and fungal sclerotia (small, black spheroids formed from fungal mycelium). Sample 121 from ditch **141** was devoid of preserved remains.

### **Site 5**

C.1.6 Plant remains are preserved by carbonization. The carbonized material is largely of wood charcoal which is present in all samples other than Sample 29, fill 205 of earthwork ditch **204**. It is particularly abundant in Sample 27, fill 167 of fire pit **166**. Charred plants occur rarely; charred cereal grains are present in only six of the eighteen samples taken. Three of the samples taken from the roundhouse eaves-drip gully (Sample 12, ditch cut **117**, Sample 17, ditch cut **130** and Sample 13, ditch cut **153**) contain single charred cereal grains that were too poorly abraded for identification. postholes **152** (Sample 23) and **170** (Sample 28) both contain up to three charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains. Chaff elements and weed seeds are absent with the exception of a small fragment of charred hazelnut shell in Sample 14, fill 127 of ditch **119**.

### **Discussion**

C.1.7 The paucity of charred plant remains recovered from excavations in Site 5 can partly be explained by the type of contexts sampled. The cereal grains recovered from the ring ditch are all abraded indicating that they had most likely been wind-blown into the feature. Charred remains are commonly found in post holes associated with

roundhouses where detritus accumulates during the life-time of the structure as has been demonstrated by experiments at Butser Iron Age Farm where post holes in reconstructed roundhouses were found to contain numerous contemporary items (Reynolds 1994). Domestic refuse in the Iron Age period would usually be discarded in pits often within the settlement none of which were found in the area excavated. The ditch fills in Area A1 do not contain any domestic refuse.

## APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Maps consulted

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Websites consulted

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## APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-162450			
Project Name	Beaulieu Park			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	16-09-2013	Finish	27-09-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Yes	

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SPBP13	Planning App. No.	09/01314/EIA
HER No.	SPBP13	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
DITCH	Iron Age -800 to 43	NAUHEIM BROOCH	Iron Age -800 to 43
POSTHOLE	Iron Age -800 to 43	POTTERY	Iron Age -800 to 43
ROUNDHOUSE	Iron Age -800 to 43	FIRED CLAY	Iron Age -800 to 43

### Project Location

County	ESSEX	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	CHELMSFORD	BEAULIEU PARK, Essex Regiments Way, Chelmsford	
Parish	SPRINGFIELD		
HER	SPBP13		
Study Area	chelmsford	National Grid Reference	TL 7185 1031

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Richard Havis
Project Design Originator	Iain Williamson
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Helen Stocks-Morgan

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location ...	Location ...	Location ...
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

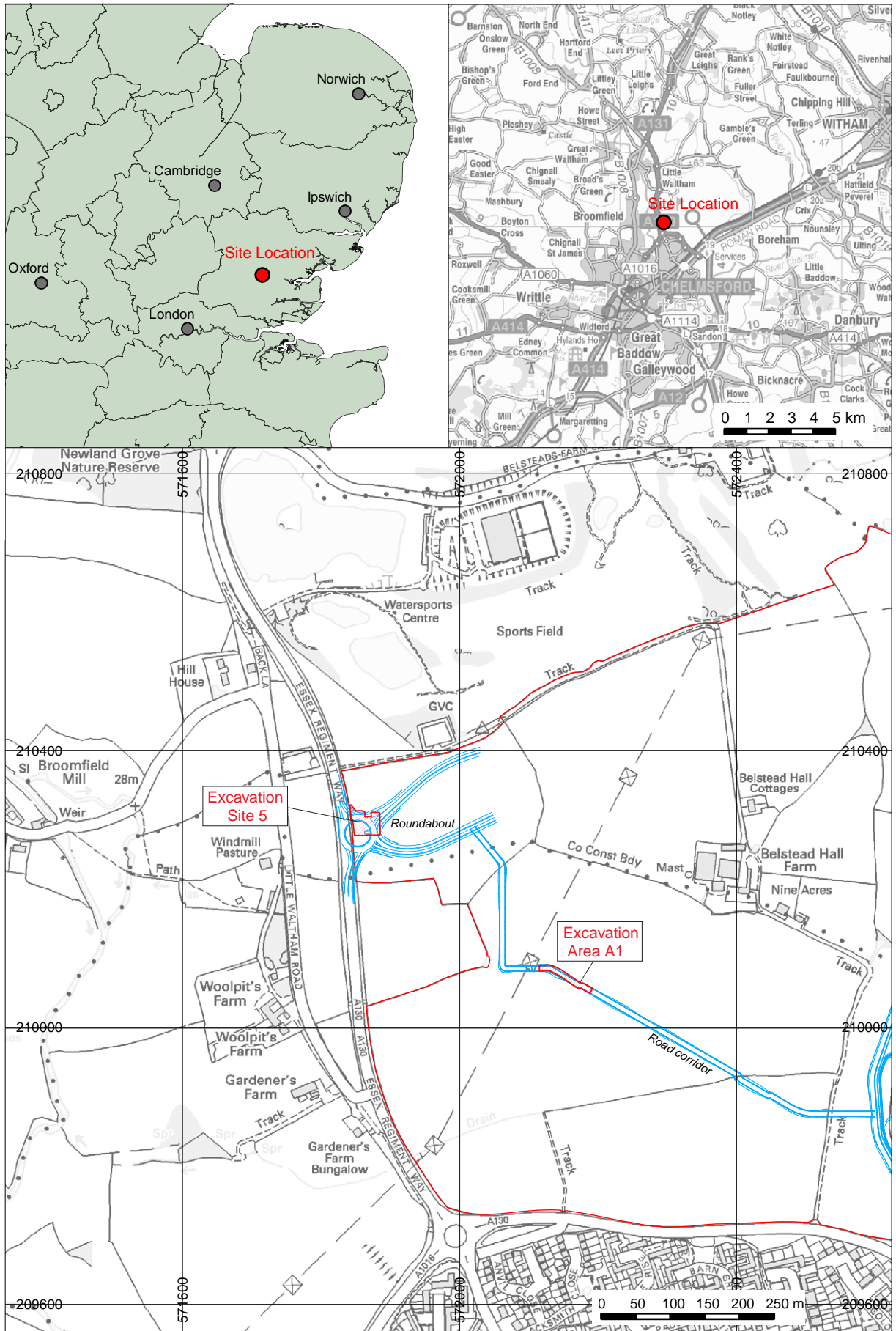
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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**





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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological excavation (red hatch) in development area (red)

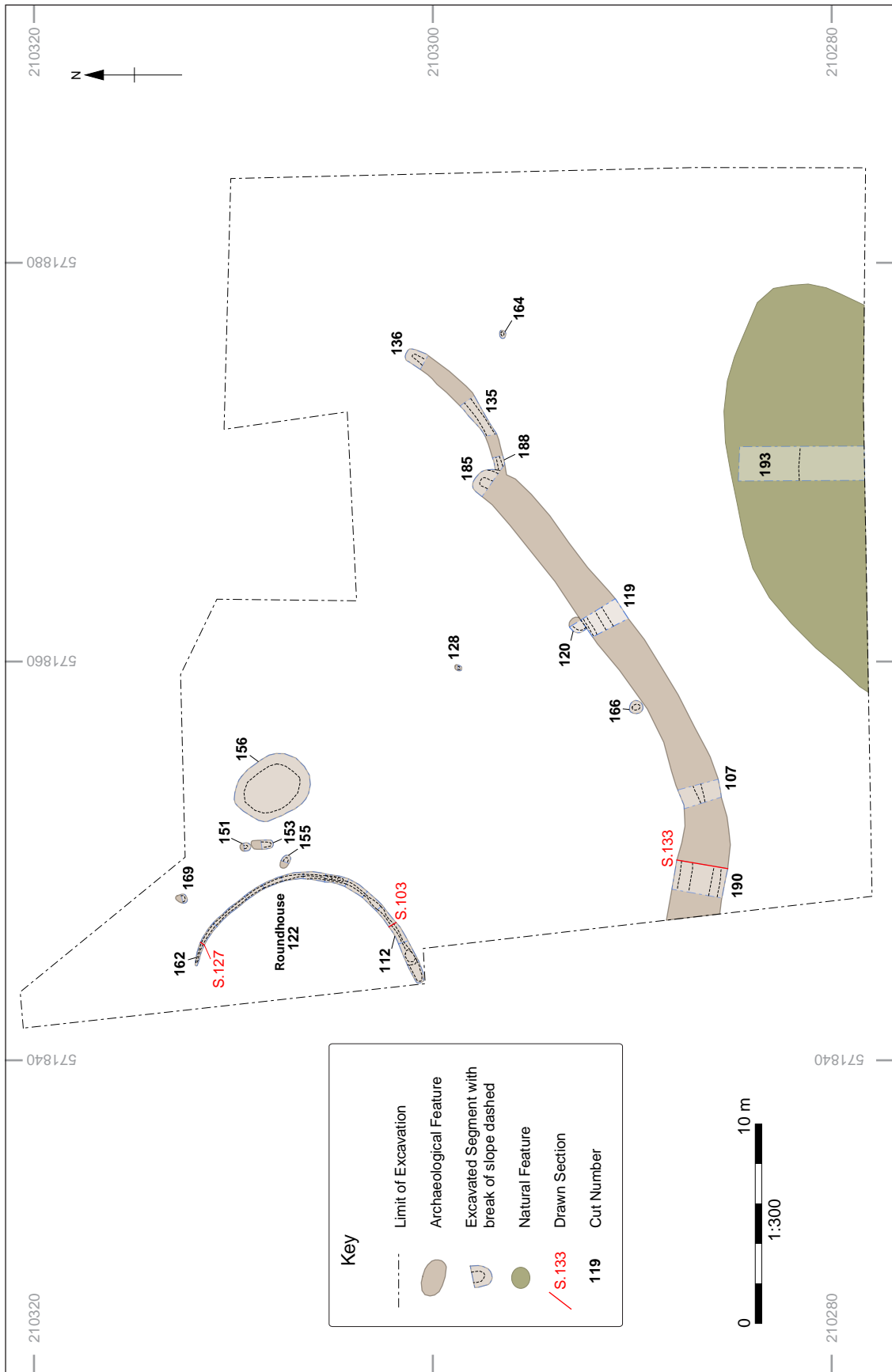


Figure 2: Plan of Excavation Site 5

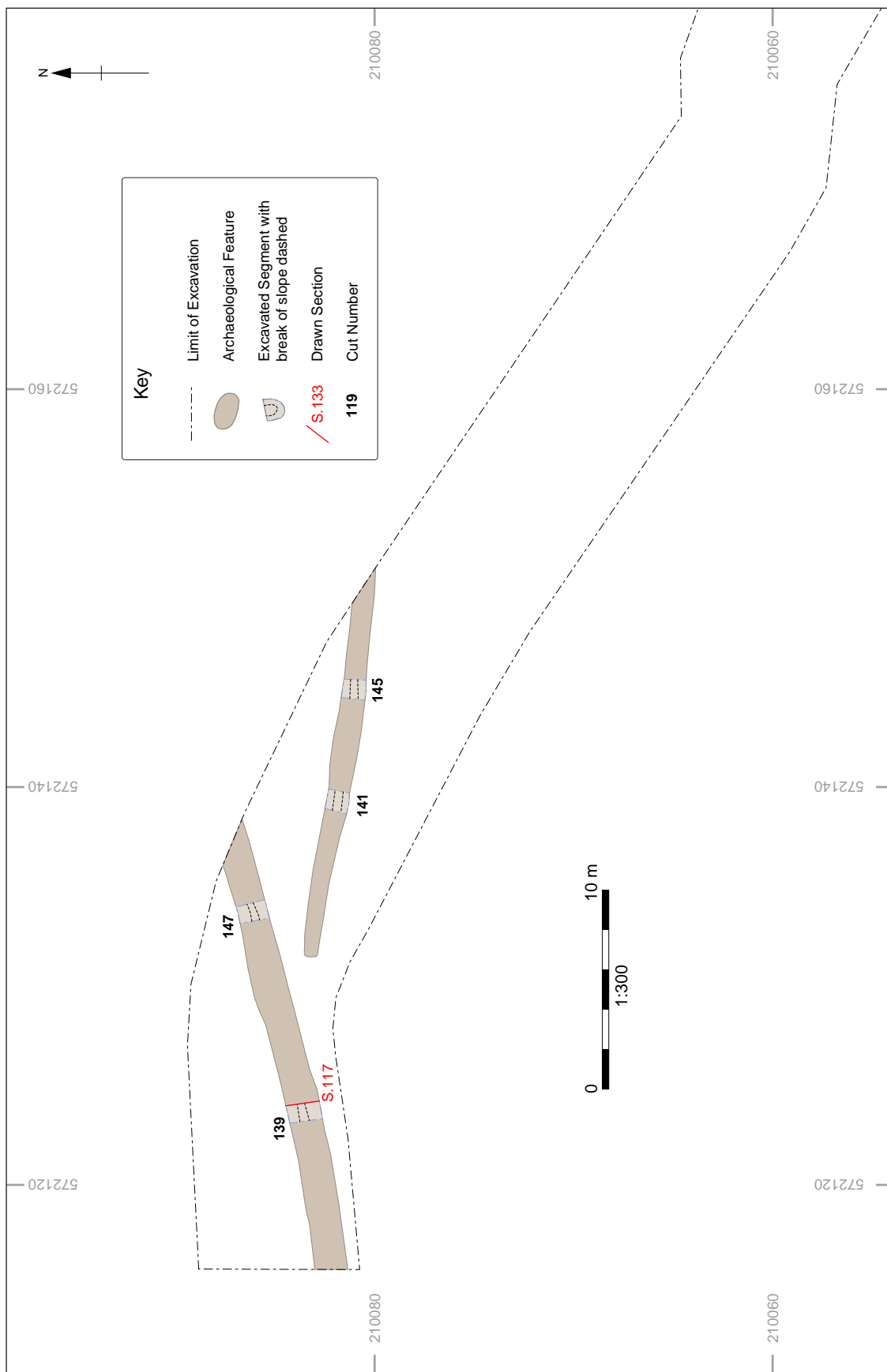


Figure 3: Plan of Excavation Area A1

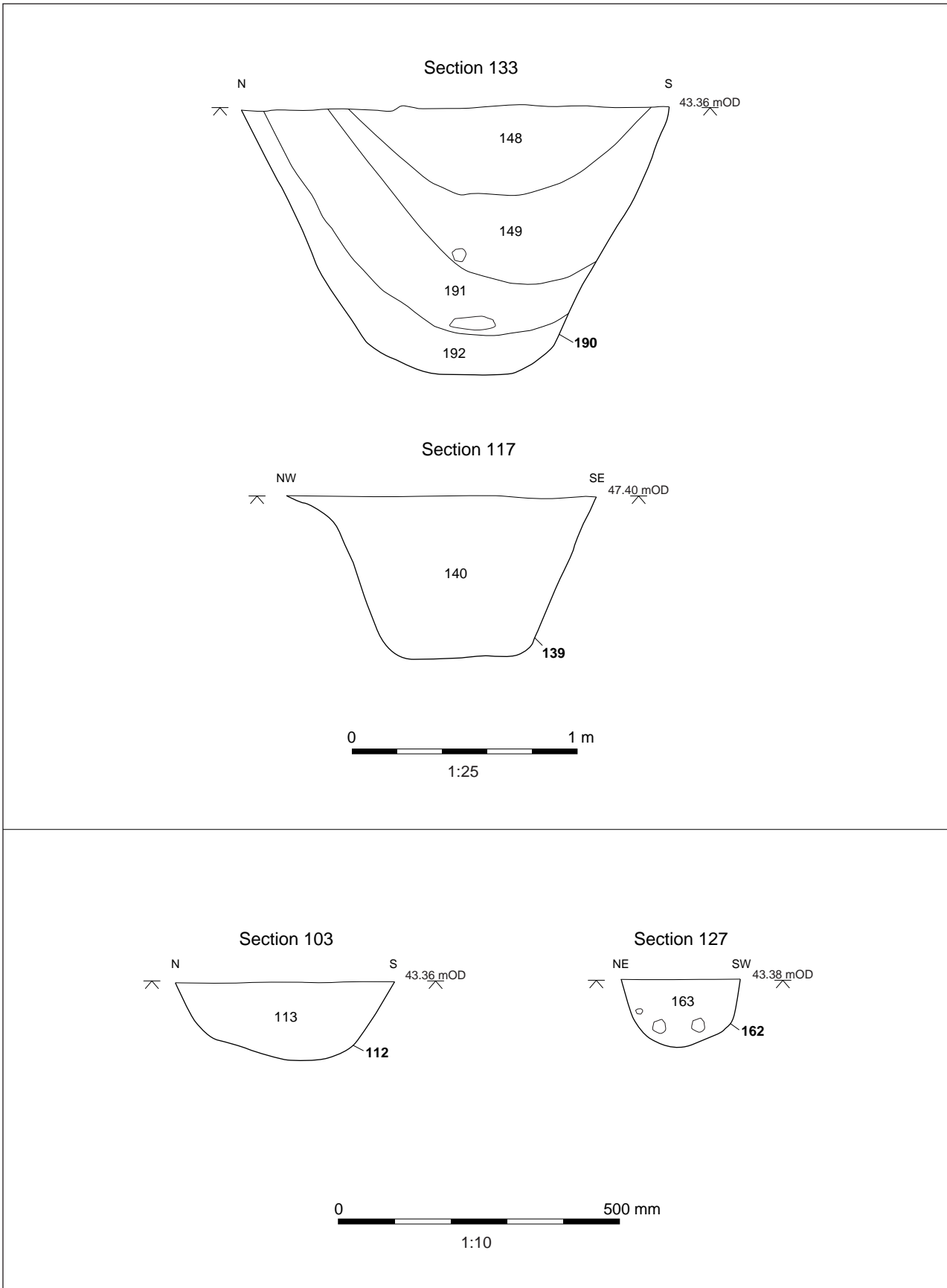


Figure 4: Drawn Sections



Plate 1: Photo of Roundhouse [122]



Plate 2: Photo of enclosure terminus [185]



Plate 3: Photo of fire pit [166]



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