

# Land off Chelmer Village Way Chelmsford Essex



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



January 2006

**Client: CgMs Consulting**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1  
OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: JN 2974  
NGR: TL 733 081 (centered)

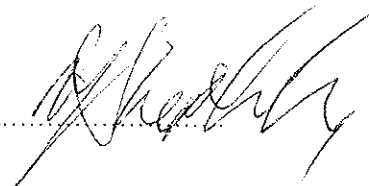
**Client Name:** CgMS Consulting  
**Client Ref No:**  
**Document Title:** Chelmer Village Way, Chelmsford, Essex  
**Document Type:** Evaluation  
**Issue Number:** Final Report (1)  
National Grid Reference: TL 733 081 - centred  
Planning Reference:  
OA Job Number: JN 2974  
Site Code: SPCVW05  
Invoice Code: SPCVEEV  
Receiving Museum: Essex County Museums Service  
Museum Accession No: TBC

Prepared by: Ros O'Maudlin  
Position: Project Officer  
Date: 20th November 2005

Checked by: Clare King  
Position: Senior Project manager  
Date: 5th January 2006

Approved by: N Shepherd  
Position: OA Head of Fieldwork  
Date: 9th January 2006

Signed.....



Document File Location X:\Chelmer village way,  
Chelmsford\002Reports\INVOICE\001CollatedReport\00  
1Current\Chelmsfordreportrev4.doc  
Graphics File Location SERvergo:/oaupubs1-RtoZ\*SPCWWEV\*Land off  
Chelmers Village Way, Chelmsford\*jm\*18.11.05  
Illustrated by Julia Moxham

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology**

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2006

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES  
t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk  
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

**Chelmer Village Way, Chelmsford, Essex***NGR TL 733 081 (centred)****ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*****CONTENTS**

Summary .....	1
1 Introduction.....	2
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	2
1.2 Geology and topography.....	2
1.3 Archaeological and historical background .....	3
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	4
2 Evaluation Aims .....	4
3 Evaluation Methodology.....	4
3.1 Scope of fieldwork.....	4
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording .....	4
3.3 Finds.....	5
3.4 Presentation of results.....	5
4 Results: General.....	5
4.1 Soils and ground conditions.....	5
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits .....	5
4.3 Description of deposits trench by trench .....	6
5 Finds.....	13
5.1 Pottery.....	13
5.2 Flint.....	14
5.3 Animal Bone .....	15
6 Discussion And Interpretation .....	15
6.1 Reliability of field investigation .....	15
6.2 Results.....	16
6.3 Conclusions.....	17
7 Assessment of Evaluation Aims .....	17
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory.....	19
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references .....	28
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details .....	28

**LIST OF FIGURES**

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Previous excavations at Springfield
- Fig. 3 Aerial photograph showing evaluation area
- Fig. 4 Trench location and archaeological features
- Fig. 5 Trench location
- Fig. 6 Trench 1, plan and sections
- Fig. 7 Trench 5, plan and sections
- Fig. 8 Trench 6, plan and sections
- Fig. 9 Trench 7, plan and sections
- Fig. 10 Trench 8, plan and sections
- Fig. 11 Trench 9, plan and sections
- Fig. 12 Trench 10, plan and sections
- Fig. 13 Trench 11, plan and section
- Fig. 14 Trench 13, plan and sections
- Fig. 15 Trench 14, plan and sections
- Fig. 16 Trench 17, plan and sections

## SUMMARY

*In October and November 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation adjacent to Chelmer Village Way, immediately north of Chelmer village, Essex (NGR: TL 733 081, centred), for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Lookers and their architects, Taylor Design. The client proposes to submit a planning application for the development of a car showroom with associated parking to Chelmsford Borough Council (CBC).*

*Springfield Lyons, a previously excavated site of some import, lies immediately to the north of the site. Excavated some years previous to this study, Springfield Lyons contained the remains of a Late Bronze Age causewayed enclosure, a Saxon cemetery and evidence of Neolithic and Roman activity.*

*The site has a low to moderate density of features of the sort that indicate an area peripheral to a settlement area. The majority of the linear features are likely to represent field systems. These are likely to have first come into use in the Roman period, then continued in use through the Saxon period before silting up during a change in the agricultural regime in the 12th to 13th centuries. Due to its nature, the curvilinear feature containing worked flint, in Trench 15, may possibly represent the edges of a settlement area possibly associated with the Bronze Age site to the north.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In October and November 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation off Chelmer Village Way, Chelmsford, Essex (NGR: TL 733 081, centred), for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Lookers and their architects, Taylor Design. The site is bounded to the south by Chelmer Village Way, to the west by Cuton Hall Lane, to the east by land bordering a ditched watercourse and the north by open fields.
- 1.1.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the study area, which lies immediately south west of the Springfield Lyons site, the Historic Environment Advisor (Mr Pat Connell) at Essex County Council stated a requirement for an archaeological evaluation exercise on the study site prior to the determination of any planning application. This trial trench evaluation forms the latter half of that evaluation, the former being a desk based assessment undertaken by CgMs Consulting (Chadwick and Dicks (2005a)).
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by CgMs Consulting (Chadwick and Dicks 2005b) in respect of the requirements stated by Essex County Council and the work was carried out by Oxford Archaeology (OA).

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site of the study area is located to the north of Chelmer Village towards the north eastern edge of Chelmsford (Fig. 1). The site comprises one pasture field bounded by a stream to the east and lies at a general level of 34-39 m OD. The development area covers approximately 1.66 hectares.
- 1.2.2 The Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) shows the site occupying an area where the solid geology comprises London Clay forming part of the London Basin. The 1:50,000 series Geological Survey (Sheet 241, British Geological Survey 1985), indicates that the study site occupies an area of Head deposits over Glacial Gravel which, in turn, lie over London clay (Chadwick and Dicks 2005b).
- 1.2.3 During the test trenching, varying deposits of undisturbed mineralised subsoil were noted. The most common, a firmly compacted mid brownish orange sandy clay, was found across the site, interspersed with patches of loose rounded gravels containing shattered flint. Due to the areas of gravel the site was predominantly well drained. In the northern part of the site however, centred around trenches 2 and 3, historic maps indicate a pond. In this area, underlying naturals consisted of firmly compacted light whitish grey clays of low permeability.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full desk-based archaeological assessment of the potential site and its environs was undertaken by CgMs Consulting (Chadwick and Dicks 2005a). The following extracts are taken from a summary (Fig. 2) of that study as presented in the WSI (Chadwick and Dicks 2005b).
- 1.3.2 *“There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or particularly near the site, however the Springfield Lyons site is located immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the study site and contained the remains of a Late Bronze Age causewayed enclosure, a Saxon cemetery and evidence of Neolithic and Roman activity.....”*
- 1.3.3 Prehistoric: *“There are no entries in the SMR evidencing the presence of any sites or artefactual material of Palaeolithic date on or in the vicinity of the site.... Similarly, the distribution of Mesolithic material, evidenced in the Essex SMR and in various publications, indicates that although Mesolithic flint artefacts have been found distributed across the general area around Chelmsford, the distribution of artefacts and the density of Mesolithic activity remains fairly sparse.... It is evident by the mid 4th millennium, extensive area on the west bank of the Chelmer had been cleared of its native woodland and within this increasingly cleared landscape, at Springfield Lyons a Neolithic causewayed enclosure was constructed. The excavations at Springfield Lyons recorded a number of Neolithic pits in an area c.70m north of the study site, but closer to the northern boundary of the study site, no features of Neolithic date were identified... The causewayed enclosure and its vicinity at Springfield Lyons appears to have continued to be a focus of ritual and other activity into the Bronze Age. Within the LBA causewayed enclosure at Springfield Lyons, features included a double ring of postholes (interpreted as the remains of supports for an internal rampart), a large central hut circle and two smaller hut circles....”*
- 1.3.4 Iron Age to Roman: *“By the Iron Age, the ritual landscape of the Neolithic and Bronze Age appears to have been replaced by an agricultural landscape, no doubt still punctuated by the low mounds of Bronze Age barrows and the silted-up ditches of the causewayed enclosure. Excavations at Springfield Lyons failed to identify any Iron Age deposits or finds.....”. It did however “ identify a shallow ditch and a group of pits with associated Roman artefacts. The quantity of pottery and tile from that site is thought to indicate settlement nearby. It is likely that Roman settlement in the area was located close to the Roman road which lies c.500m north-west of the study site.....”*
- 1.3.5 Saxon: *“Excavations at Springfield Lyons identified an early Saxon mixed cremation and inhumation cemetery within which 143 cremations and a possible 139 inhumations were recorded. In addition, evidence of several construction phases of late Saxon settlement was identified at Springfield Lyons. The structures have been*

*interpreted as a 10th - 12th century farm complex with outbuildings. The features associated with the Saxon phase of settlement appear to stop abruptly c.15m from the south-western edge of excavation. It appears likely that features extended towards and possible into the study site.....". "The presence of an early Saxon cemetery at Springfield Lyons suggests that a settlement of this date lay nearby and it is possible that Saxon settlement remains evidence the expansion of occupation from and early Saxon settlement focus.....".*

- 1.3.6 Medieval and post-medieval: *"Documentary sources and cartographic evidence suggests that the study site was in agricultural use during the Medieval and Post Medieval periods...."*

#### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to the following for their site visit and comments during the fieldwork: Paul Chadwick of CgMs and Pat Connell of Essex County Council.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To determine the location, extent, date, character, significance, quality and state of preservation of any potential archaeological features or deposits.
- 2.1.2 To investigate the impact of medieval/post medieval ploughing and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- 2.1.3 To assess the condition, potential and survival of artefactual, ecofactual and environmental remains.
- 2.1.4 To clarify the presence and character of any remains associated with the nearby Springfield Lyons site.

## 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation strategy and trench locations were devised by CgMs Consulting (Chadwick and Dicks 2005b).
- 3.1.2 The evaluation comprised 17 archaeologically directed, machine-excavated trenches located at specifically targeted places across the development area (Figs 3, 4 and 5). The trenches measured 25m by 1.8m.

### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The predetermined trenches locations were surveyed in and pegged out by Mouchels.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were opened using a 360° mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. Where present archaeological remains were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sample excavated to determine their extent and



nature. All archaeological features were planned at 1:50 and their sections drawn at scales of 1:20 or 1:10 where appropriate.

- 3.2.3 All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

### 3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

### 3.4 Presentation of results

- 3.4.1 A description of the features uncovered is presented in section 5. A description of the finds summarising the information from OA's in house specialists (Appendix's 2-4) is then given in section 6. An interpretation of individual features and discussion of the sites potential by period, is then outlined in section 7.

## 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The depth from ground surface to natural subsoil ranged across the site from 0.35m to 0.56m. The interim comprised topsoil and a semi-organic subsoil. The underlying naturally deposited subsoil comprised glacial gravels (rounded stones of diameter c.25mm) orange clay of mixed hues and occasional patches of sand. The semi-organic subsoil was a firm silty loam, with an orange hue derived from the underlying natural deposits. It masked all but the most modern drains and is probably the combined result of topsoil growth (occurring naturally as a result of bioturbation and chemical processes), intensive farming (modern deep ploughing), and the mineralisation (death) of deep topsoil. The topsoil was a highly organic mid to dark brown friable silty loam that varied in depth from 0.20m to 0.36m.
- 4.1.2 Due to the areas of gravel, the site was predominantly dry. The northern part of the site, however, centred around trenches 2 and 3, was a wet and marshy area evidenced by a marshy overgrowth of reeds and giant thistles. Historic maps show a pond at this location.

### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 Archaeological deposits were found across the entire site, in twelve of the seventeen trenches excavated. Remains comprised linear ditch features of no predominate orientation, postholes and occasional pits. Artefactual evidence supplied dating for a portion of those features and suggested a focus of activity both in the Later Prehistoric and medieval periods.

### 4.3 Description of deposits trench by trench

#### Trench 1

- 4.3.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 6) was situated in the extreme north-west of the site and orientated on a north-south axis. Topsoil (101) and subsoil (102) removal revealed an undisturbed subsoil (103), comprising firmly compacted alternating mid brownish orange/yellowish orange sandy clay. This secondary subsoil was cut by four ditches and a possible posthole or small pit.
- 4.3.2 The most southerly of the features was an east/west aligned ditch (109). It had a relatively complex sequence of fills and portrayed a potential re-cut. The original ditch cut (109) had steeply sloping sides that broke gradually to a flat base. It was c.1.28 m wide, 0.41 m deep and contained a single fill (108) comprising moderately compact light brownish grey silty clay. The re-cut (107) followed the same profile pattern but was only 0.98m wide and contained a sequence of three fills. The basal fill (106) was moderately compact mid bluish grey silt. The secondary fill (105) comprised moderately compact light bluish grey clayey silt containing occasional stones of diameter < 0.14 m. The final fill was moderately compact mid brownish grey sandy clay (104). No artefacts were retrieved from this ditch.
- 4.3.3 The next feature in a northerly direction was posthole (111). It was circular in plan and concave in profile with gently sloping sides. It was filled by firmly compacted light greyish brown silty clay (110) containing occasional charcoal flecks. One sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from the intervention excavated.
- 4.3.4 The next feature, another north/south aligned ditch (113), had a steep southern side and a moderately sloping northern side breaking gently to a concave base. It contained two fills. The basal fill (112) comprised a firmly compacted light brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and angular stones of diameter <15mm and of 0.35m depth. The section excavated produced four sherds of pottery, three of prehistoric and one of medieval origin. The final fill (120) was a friable mottled mid brownish grey silty clay and yellowish orange sandy clay containing occasional charcoal flecks of 0.17m depth. It produced one sherd of medieval pot.
- 4.3.5 The next ditch (115) was aligned north-east/south-west, had a steeply sloping south easterly side and a moderately sloping north westerly side that both broke gradually to a flat base. It was 1.1m wide, 0.42m deep and contained a single fill (114) comprising a firmly compacted mid yellowish grey silty clay containing occasional stones of diameter < 20 mm. The intervention excavated revealed 1 sherd of medieval pottery.
- 4.3.6 The final and most northerly of the features was an east-north-east/west-south-west orientated ditch (119). It had steeply sloping sides that broke gradually to a flat base, contained a single fill (118) and was re-cut (117) on its west-north-western aspect. It was 0.40m wide, 0.32m deep and filled by firmly compacted mottled mid brownish grey silty clay/yellowish orange sandy clay (118) containing occasional charcoal flecks.

The re-cut (117) had steeply sloping sides that broke gradually to a flat base, was 0.43m wide and 0.23m deep. It also had a single fill (116) comprising firmly compacted mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional angular stones of diameter *c.*30mm. Five sherds of pottery, all medieval, were retrieved from this context.

## **Trench 2**

4.3.7 Trench 2 was situated in the north-western portion of the site, just east of trench 1, in an area of marshy ground and orientated on an east-west axis. Topsoil and subsoil removal revealed a marked change in natural from trench 1. The natural underlying trench 2 was a firmly compacted light whitish grey silty sand containing occasional rounded stones of diameter < 30mm. Although the OD was not much lower than trench 1, water sprang forth from the surface of the natural, hampering efforts of investigation. A sump was machine excavated on the eastern end of the trench to assist enquiries. The sump also served to test and confirmed the validity of the natural. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

## **Trench 3**

4.3.8 Trench 3 was situated in the north-western portion of the site, just east of trench 2, also in an area of marshy ground and orientated on a north-south axis. The natural (303) was, similarly to trench 2, firmly compacted light whitish grey silty sand and its surface punctuated by springs gushing forth. The only human activity cut into the subsoil was the presence of three modern red ceramic drainage pipes (304, 305 & 307) and one modern red brick drain (306). No other archaeological features were present in this trench.

## **Trench 4**

4.3.9 Trench 4 was located along the western boundary of the site and orientated on a north south axis. Its southern end cut the bank that lay alongside that edge of the site and confirmed its modern origins, as a piece of styrofoam was retrieved from beneath the bank. Removal of topsoil (401) and subsoil (402) revealed a third variation in the subsoil. The undisturbed natural (403) beneath trench 4 consisted of 40% moderately compact mid brownish orange/yellowish orange sandy clay and 60% gravel comprising stones *c.*20mm in diameter. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

## **Trench 5**

4.3.10 Trench 5 (Fig. 7) was located in the western half of the site to the east of trench 4 and orientated on an east-west alignment. Topsoil (501) and subsoil (504) removal revealed natural comprising moderately compacted mid brownish orange/yellowish orange clay and occasional band of gravel consisting of stones of *c.*20mm in diameter. Two undisturbed cut features were present, the most easterly a ditch terminus (503) and to its west a modern red brick drain (506). The ditch projected

north/easterly from the trench and had moderately sloping sides breaking gradually to a flat base. It was 0.98 m wide, 0.25 m deep and was filled by light brownish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal. No artefacts were retrieved from this feature.

## **Trench 6**

4.3.11 Trench 6 (Fig. 8) was located in the south west corner of the site, directly to the south of trench 5. Removal of topsoil (601) and subsoil (602) revealed four features cut into an undisturbed natural consisting of moderately compacted mid brownish orange/yellowish orange sandy clay (603) with occasional bands of gravel comprising stones *c.*20mm in diameter.

4.3.12 The most southerly of the four features, isolated near the southern end of the trench, was a ditch terminus (610) that projected in an easterly direction. It was approximately V-shaped in profile but with a steeply sloping southern side and a gently sloping northern side. It was filled by loosely compacted dark blackish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal and rounded stones of diameter < 10 mm. No artefacts were retrieved from this feature.

4.3.13 The remaining three features were situated toward the northern end of the trench. The southernmost (608) was probably the result of bioturbation or the remains of a feature after undergoing the same. It had steep sides but a very irregular base and was filled by very loosely compacted light orangey brown sandy silt (609). The next feature to the north, a possible posthole or small pit (606), was oval in plan, concave in profile with an imperceptible break of slope from sides to base. It was 0.76m long, 0.68m wide and 0.10m deep and filled by moderately compact light brownish grey silty clay (607). The most northerly feature in the trench was an east-south-east/west-north-west orientated narrow ditch or gully (604) with steeply sloping sides breaking sharply to a flat base. It was 0.72m wide, 0.20m deep and filled by moderately compacted light brownish grey silty clay (605) containing occasional flecks of charcoal. No artefacts were retrieved from these features.

## **Trench 7**

4.3.14 Trench 7 (Fig. 9) was situated along the southern boundary, towards the western side of the site and orientated on an east west axis. Removal of topsoil (701) and ploughsoil (702) revealed undisturbed naturally deposited natural (703) consisting of moderately compacted mid brownish orange/yellowish orange sandy clay and occasional bands of gravel comprising rounded stones *c.*20 mm in diameter.

4.3.15 A pit and potential posthole were uncovered towards the western end of the trench. The pit (706) was oval in plan with steep to vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base. It was 2.08 m long, 1.52 m wide, 0.74 m deep and was filled by a cemented dark blackish grey sandy clay (707) containing frequent angular stones of diameter < 40 mm and flecks of charcoal. Five sherds of medieval date were retrieved from this context. The potential posthole (708) was located adjacent the southern edge of the

pit, was circular in plan with gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base. It was 0.38 m in diameter, 0.11 m deep and filled by firmly compacted mid brownish grey sandy clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal. No artefacts were retrieved from these features.

- 4.3.16 Towards the eastern end of the trench three linear features and a criss-cross pattern of potential ploughmarks were present. The westernmost of the linear features (714) was a north/south aligned modern land drain and cut through the pattern of potential ploughmarks. The criss-cross pattern was formed by a series of five linear features orientated on north-east/south-west and south-east/north-west alignments. They were U-shaped in profile, 60 mm wide, 50 mm deep and filled by moderately compact brownish grey sandy clay. The two remaining ditches intersected one another in plan, the wider being cut by the thinner. The wider and earlier ditch (710) was orientated on a north/south alignment and had moderate to steeply sloping sides that broke gently to a flat base. It was 1.46 m wide, 0.54 m deep and was filled by moderately compact mid orangey brown sandy loam (711) containing occasional sub-angular stones of diameter < 25mm. The thinner and later of the two (712) was orientated on a north-west/south-east alignment and had gently sloping sides that broke imperceptibly to a concave base. It was 0.64 m wide, 0.12 m deep and was filled by firmly compacted light brown silty clay. No artefacts were retrieved from these features.

### **Trench 8**

- 4.3.17 Trench 8 (Fig. 10) was located towards the northern edge of the site and was orientated on an east/west axis. Topsoil and ploughsoil removal revealed moderately compacted mid brownish orange/yellowish orange sandy clay and orange sand with occasional bands of gravel comprising stones of diameter < 25 mm. Investigation of the gravels revealed that some had been re-deposited and there was approximately 0.2 m of this masking the true undisturbed natural comprising the aforementioned sands and clays. Removal of that gravel revealed a posthole. The posthole (804) was circular in plan with steep to vertical sides that broke sharply to a flat base. It was 0.30m in diameter, 0.23m deep and filled by loosely compacted dark brownish grey sandy clay containing frequent rounded stones of diameter < 25 mm. No artefacts were retrieved from this feature.

### **Trench 9**

- 4.3.18 Trench 9 (Fig. 11) was situated near the centre of the site and orientated on a north/south axis. Topsoil (901) and ploughsoil (902) removal revealed moderately compacted mid brownish orange/yellowish orange sand with occasional bands of gravel comprising stones c.25 mm in diameter.
- 4.3.19 An isolated potential posthole was revealed near the centre of the trench and an alignment of 4 postholes was noted towards the southern extent. The isolated posthole (912) was circular in plan with gently sloping sides that broke gradually to a concave base. It was 0.35 m in diameter, 0.08 m deep and filled by loosely

compacted dark brownish grey silty clay (913). The line of 4 postholes were aligned on an east/west alignment across the width of the trench. The first (904) was circular in plan with steep sides that broke sharply to a flat base. It was 0.15m in diameter, 0.12m deep and was filled by moderately compacted light greyish brown silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal. The second (906), third (908) and fourth (910) were all circular in plan, interconnected and filled by the same moderately compacted light greyish brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks. They measured 0.30m, 0.12 m and 0.15 m in diameter and 0.10 m, 0.05 m and 0.06 m deep, respectively. No artefacts were retrieved from these features.

### **Trench 10**

4.3.20 Trench 10 (Fig. 12) was situated towards the centre of the site, orientated on an east-west axis. Stripping to the surface of the undisturbed natural, moderately compact mid brownish orange/yellowish orange sand and occasional gravel comprising stones *c.*25mm in diameter, revealed two ditches and a posthole.

4.3.21 The two ditches ran parallel on a north-west/south-east alignment. The easternmost ditch (1004) was almost V-shaped in profile but with a concave base. It was 0.95 m wide, 0.42 m deep and filled by a moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty clay (1005). The second and westernmost ditch (1006) had moderately to steeply sloping sides breaking gradually to a flat base. It was 0.64 m wide and 0.29 m deep and filled by moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty clay (1007) containing occasional charcoal flecks. The posthole (1009) was rectilinear in plan with vertical sides that broke sharply to a flat base. It was 0.36 m long, 0.25 m wide, 0.11 m deep, orientated on an east-west axis and filled by a loosely compacted dark brownish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal. No artefacts were retrieved from these features.

### **Trench 11**

4.3.22 Trench 11 (Fig. 13) was located against the northern boundary of the site and orientated on a north/south axis. Removal of topsoil (1101) and ploughsoil (1102) revealed one east/west orientated ditch cut into undisturbed naturally deposited subsoil (1103) consisting of moderately compacted mid brownish orange/yellowish orange sandy clay and orange sand containing occasional gravel, comprising occasional stones of diameter *c.*15 mm. The ditch (1104) had moderately sloping sides that broke gently to a concave base, was 1.22 m wide, 0.47 m deep and was filled by moderately compact dark/mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional stones of diameter *c.*15mm (1105). A horse axis vertebra was recovered from the fill (1105). No artefacts were retrieved from this feature.

### **Trench 12**

4.3.23 Trench 12 was located towards the south-eastern corner, near the current entrance to the site and was orientated on a north south axis. Topsoil (1201) and ploughsoil (1202) removal revealed no features cut into the underlying naturals. The naturally

deposited subsoil (1203) consisted of 50% moderately compacted brownish orange/yellowish orange sandy clay and 50% gravel, comprising stones *c.*25mm in diameter. A large mammal rib, probably horse or cattle and a jug rim with strap handle of later medieval date were retrieved from the topsoil (1201). No archaeological features were present in this trench.

### **Trench 13**

- 4.3.24 Trench 13 (Fig. 14) was located towards the north-east of the site between trenches 11 and 15. Topsoil (1301) and ploughsoil (1302) removal revealed two ditches cut into naturally deposited gravels (1309), comprising stones of *c.*25mm in diameter.
- 4.3.25 The most northerly of the ditches (1303) was aligned east-west, appeared V-shaped in profile but with a re-cut (1305) along its northern aspect. It was 1.51 m wide, 0.40 m deep and filled by loosely compacted dark greyish brown sandy silt. The re-cut (1305) had gently sloping sides breaking sharply to a flat base and was filled by moderately compacted mid orangey brown silty sand (1306) containing frequent stone inclusions of diameter *c.*10 mm. The second ditch (1307) was orientated on a north-north-east/south-south-west alignment with gently sloping sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base. It was 1.27 m wide, 0.35 m deep and filled by mid greyish brown sandy loam (1308) containing frequent rounded stones of diameter *c.*20 mm and occasional flecks of charcoal. No artefacts were retrieved from these features.

### **Trench 14**

- 4.3.26 Trench 14 (Fig. 15) was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and orientated on an east-west axis. Topsoil (1401) and ploughsoil (1402) removal revealed a posthole and two linear features cut into the underlying naturally deposited subsoil. The undisturbed subsoil (1403) consisted of moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay and bands of gravel, comprising stones of *c.*25mm in diameter.
- 4.3.27 The posthole (1404) was circular in plan and had steep sides that broke gradually to a flat base. It was 0.40 m in diameter, 0.08 m deep and filled by firmly compacted mid greyish brown silty clay (1405) containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
- 4.3.28 The most westerly of the two linear features (1408) was orientated on a north/south alignment and had gently sloping sides that broke sharply to a flat base. It was 2 m wide 0.29 m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (1409) was firmly compacted mid brownish grey sandy silt and the upper fill (1410) was moderately compacted mid brownish grey silty clay. A sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from the upper fill.
- 4.3.29 The second linear was also aligned north/south and had moderately sloping sides that broke gently to a concave base. There was a notable break in slope on the eastern side possible denoting a re-cut imperceptible in the fill sequence. It was 3.13 m

wide, 0.28 m deep and appeared to contain a single fill (1407) comprising firmly compacted mottled mid brownish 50% grey silty clay and 50% brownish orange sandy clay. The intervention excavated produced a piece of Roman pottery.

### **Trench 15**

4.3.30 Trench 15 was located in the extreme north-east of the site, just south of the boundary across which the Springfield Lyon's site is situated. It was orientated east/west and measured 25m long by 1.8m wide. Removal of topsoil and subsoil revealed the southern edge or east/west orientated portion of a curvilinear ditch (1504).

4.3.31 Although the trench exposed a 12 m long section of the ditch, its entire width was not revealed. An intervention confirmed its depth cut into the undisturbed subsoil at 0.2 m and exposed 0.8 m of its width. It had steep sides that broke gradually to a flat base and was filled by moderately compact mid brownish grey silty clay (1505) containing occasional stones of diameter *c.* 10 mm. Three pieces of worked flint were retrieved from the intervention. The collection comprised an irregular waste flake, a fragmentary core and a piercer.

### **Trench 16**

4.3.32 Trench 16 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and was orientated on a north south axis. Topsoil (1601) and ploughsoil (1602) removal revealed no features cut into the underlying naturals. The naturally deposited subsoil (1603) consisted of 60% firmly compacted brownish orange sandy clay and 40% gravel, comprising stones < 25mm in diameter. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

### **Trench 17**

4.3.33 Trench 17 (Fig. 17) was located in the extreme east of the site and orientated on an east/west axis. Topsoil (1701) and ploughsoil (1702) removal revealed a linear feature cut into the underlying naturally deposited subsoil. The natural (1703) consisted of 70% firmly compacted mid brownish orange sandy clay and 30% gravel, comprising stones *c.* 20mm.

4.3.34 The ditch (1704) was orientated on a west-north-west/east-south-east alignment and had gently sloping sides that broke sharply to a flat base. It was 1.5m wide, 0.32m deep and contained a single fill. The fill (1705) was moderately compact mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal. A fragment of Roman salt-working briquetage (C. Poole pers. comm.) was retrieved from the intervention.



## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery

By John Cotter (OA)

#### *Introduction and Methodology*

5.1.1 The assemblage comprises a total of 20 sherds of pottery weighing 315g. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). For the post-Roman pottery Essex fabric codes were used whenever possible.

#### *Date and Nature of the Assemblage*

5.1.2 The assemblage consists almost entirely of local medieval Essex wares (12th-13th century), all in a very fragmentary condition. There is also one sherd of Roman grey sandy ware (not closely datable but within 1st-4th century) and three small joining bodysherds from a single prehistoric, probably late Bronze age, vessel with very coarse angular quartzite tempering (residual in context 112). The medieval assemblage mostly comprises pottery types current in the 12th and 13th century including transitional early medieval sandy wares (Essex Fabric 13T), various shelly-sandy wares (Fabric 12) and grey or weakly oxidised coarse sandy wares (Fabric 20). These are all likely to have been produced fairly locally, although the shelly wares may have been produced on or near the coast. A few cooking pot rims and a jug rim in these fabrics suggest the assemblage is mainly of late 12th to early 13th century date, with one or two pieces possibly as late as c.1250. These include a single sherd of a glazed and decorated jug in Heddingham fineware (Fabric 22) from the Heddingham kilns in central north Essex. This fits with the general picture of post-Roman pottery in Chelmsford. One jug rim (context 1201) is of later, probably late 14th to early 16th-century, date and is in an oxidised sandy fabric (Fabric 21) typical of many Essex sources of this later period.

#### **Potential of the Material**

5.1.3 Given its poor condition and the small size of the assemblage the pottery appears to have little further potential for research.

Table 1. Spot dates of pottery

Ctxt	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
110	12-E13C	1	2	Essex Fabric 12B shelly-sandy ware bodysherd
112	L12-E13C	4	40	Cookpot rim, subsquared, oxidised Essex Fabric 13T or 20. 3x joining sherds (1 vess/6g) Prehistoric coarse angular quartzite-gritted fabric - prob late Bronze Age (E. Edwards pers. comm.)
114	L12-E13C	1	71	Flanged cookpot rim in early Essex Fabric 20 plus body & base sherds - oxidised & reduced. Several bodysherds Essex Fabric 12C shelly-sandy ware, oxidised
116	L12-E13C	5	34	1x Fabric 22 Hedingham ware jug sherd with green glaze and traces of white strip dec. 3x Fabric 20 greyware incl jug rim with trace of handle. 1x Fabric 12B shelly-sandy ware
120	12-E13C	1	32	Essex Fabric 12B slightly sandy shelly ware. Bodysherd from large cookpot with applied thumbed strip ext
707	L12-E13C	5	44	1x Fabric 20 fine greyware bodysherd. 4x Fabric 12C shelly-sandy ware incl sagging cookpot base from large pot
1201	L14-E16C	1	54	Jug rim, ext bevelled, with strap handle. Essex fabric 21, or early Fabric 40? Oxidised red sandy ware. Tiny glaze specks
1407	1-4C	1	6	Bodysherd Roman grey sandy ware ?jar. Not closely datable (D. Stansbie pers. comm.). Fairly fresh
1410	L12-E13C	1	32	Fabric 13T or oxidised Fabric 20. Thick jar bodysherd with v coarse quartz & flint inclusions
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>315</b>	

## 5.2 Flint

By Rebecca Devaney (OA)

5.2.1 A total of four pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation at Chelmsford (Table 2). The piece of irregular waste is small and may be a flake fragment. The core is small, weighing just 15 g. Parallel flake removals have been taken on one side and a removal on the reverse has been truncated by a later break. The scraper is made on a piece of naturally fractured flint. Abrupt retouch cuts through the heavy cortication and creates a sharp scraping edge. The piercer is made on a side trimming flake with a cortical platform. Direct retouch creates a sharp point at the distal end.

- 5.2.2 The core and scraper were made on gravel derived flint, which was probably locally sourced. The core is iron stained and exhibits slight post-depositional damage, whereas the other pieces are uncorticated and in a fresh condition.
- 5.2.3 Due to the small number of pieces and the lack of chronologically diagnostic items, reliable dating cannot be provided. However, the material is likely to be later Prehistoric in date.
- 5.2.4 No further work is required.

*Table 2. Summary of worked flint*

<b>Context</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>1505</b>	<b>Total</b>
Irregular waste		1	<b>1</b>
Unclassifiable/fragmentary core		1	<b>1</b>
Scraper on a non-flake blank	1		<b>1</b>
Piercer		1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

### 5.3 Animal Bone

By Kristopher Poole (OA)

- 6.3.1 4 animal bone fragments (73g) were recovered from this site, and refitted into 2 specimens. A large mammal (horse or cattle) rib was recovered from Context 1201, and part of a horse axis vertebra was recovered from Context 1105.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The evaluation covered an area of 1.66 ha and the test trenches constituted 4.8% of that area. The soil sequence was broadly the same across the development area and where features were identified, they were uniformly positioned below a clearly defined plough-soil horizon. The features uncovered usually represented a single period of activity truncated by later ploughing with only the portion cut into the undisturbed natural subsoil surviving.
- 6.1.2 The number and range of artefacts recovered from the evaluation suggest a lower density continuation of remains from the adjacent Springfield Lyons site. The lack of Saxon pottery suggests that that phase of activity may be confined to the Springfield Lyons, conversely the medieval pottery recovered may only reflect the period at which the ditches went out of use, and they could be Saxon in origin. It is more likely, however, that ditch system was established in the Prehistoric period and continued in use throughout the Roman and Saxon period before going out of use in the medieval period.

## 6.2 Results

- 6.2.1 Archaeological features were distributed fairly evenly across the site, with five of the trenches revealing no archaeological features (Fig. 4). The remainder of the trenches contained mostly linear and posthole features, with one possible pit also identified.
- 6.2.2 Although many of the features were undated, seven contained dateable archaeological artefacts.

### Prehistoric

- 6.2.3 The vicinity of the Bronze Age causewayed enclosure suggested a high probability of prehistoric remains within the study site. The remains of the excavated enclosure are situated only *c.*40m from the north western boundary of the site. The boundary is defined by a stream and assuming its antiquity suggests a likely focus for associated secondary activity.
- 6.2.4 Within the site, there were three trenches that contained prehistoric material. Trench 1, in the western part of the site, and trenches 10 and 15 in the eastern part.
- 6.2.5 Three sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery came from the basal fill (112) of a ditch in the north west of the site (T1) and struck flint in two other ditches (1505 and 1006), T15 and T10. The portion of the ditch revealed in T15 was curvi-linear and may constitute the edge of an enclosure. Three of the four pieces of struck flint recovered from its fill portrayed little post-depositional damage suggesting a temporal origin contemporaneous with the backfilling of the ditch.

### Roman

- 6.2.6 Two Trenches, Trench 14 and Trench 16, contained features that produced Roman material. Both trenches were in the easternmost part of the site.
- 6.2.7 A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from a linear in Trench 14 and a piece of salt-working briquetage was recovered from a ditch in Trench 17. Both artefacts recovered were from ditch fills and suggest origins of that date for those features. They could represent the remains of drainage/boundary ditches of that date.

### Saxon to Medieval

- 6.2.8 Three trenches, Trenches 1, 7 and 14, produced material of medieval date. No Saxon/Early medieval material was present.
- 6.2.9 Trench 1 contained a number of linear features and a posthole which contained pottery of 12th to early 13th Century pottery. One of these features contained Bronze Age pottery in the primary fill. Trench 7 contained a pit of the same date. Trench 14

also produced a linear feature of this date, running parallel to another linear which contained Roman material.

### **Undated Features**

6.2.10 Undated features were present in seven of the trenches, distributed across the whole site. These represented nearly 70% of the archaeological features. They took the form of linears, postholes and a probable pit.

### **Post Medieval**

6.2.11 The only post-medieval activity uncovered by the test trenches was concerned with land drainage thus confirming, as documentary sources suggested, its agricultural use throughout the period.

### **6.3 Conclusions**

- 6.3.1 The evaluation demonstrated the presence of a good distribution of archaeological features across most of the site, with the exception of the area around Trenches 2-4 and 8, where the ground had appeared to have been previously waterlogged.
- 6.3.2 The main concentration of archaeological features was in the eastern part of the site, where there were a number of dated and undated linear features. There were also a number of linear features plus a possible posthole in Trench 1, in the northwestern corner of the site.
- 6.3.3 Features with dateable material recovered were from the Prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods.
- 6.3.4 The presence of many undated features in such close proximity to Springfield Lyons suggests that it is possible that some of these may date to the Saxon period, however, no remains from this period were recovered. It is worth noting, however, that many Saxon field and ditch systems utilise older features.
- 6.3.5 The site has a low to moderate density of features of the sort that indicate an area peripheral to a settlement area. The majority of the linear features are likely to represent field systems. These are likely to have first come into use in the Roman period, then continued in use through the Saxon period before silting up during a change in the agricultural regime in the 12th to 13th centuries.
- 6.3.6 Due to its nature, the curvilinear feature containing worked flint, in Trench 15, may possibly represent the edges of a settlement area, possibly associated with the Bronze Age site to the north.

## **7 ASSESSMENT OF EVALUATION AIMS**

7.1.1 As expected archaeological remains were present. An intervention was excavated into all features and deposits and a comprehensive archive was created. Every attempt to determine the character and date of all those remains was made.

Approximately 30% of those produced artefactual evidence suggesting dates from later prehistoric to medieval in date.

- 7.1.2 A ploughzone, ranging in depth, was noted across the site. Archaeological remains were only visible once this subsoil was removed confirming the relatively recently disturbed nature of all deposits not cut into the underlying naturals.
- 7.1.3 The survival of uncalcified animal bone in the archaeological deposits confirms the potential for ecofactual and environmental remains.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick/Depth (m)</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
001						
	101	Layer		0.25		Topsoil
	102	Layer		0.15		Subsoil
	103	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Firmly compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay.
	104	Fill	0.96	0.08	2m exp. in trench	Fill of cut 108. Moderately compact mid brownish grey sandy loam.
	105	Fill	0.98	0.36	only exp. in section	Fill of cut 108. Moderately compact light bluish grey clayey silt containing occasional stones of diameter < 0.14m.
	106	Fill	0.24	0.25	only exp. in section	Fill of cut 108. Moderately compact mid bluish grey silt.
	107	Cut	0.96	0.44	2m exp. in trench	
	108	Fill	0.30	0.41	2m exp. in trench	Fill of cut 109. Moderately compact light brownish grey silty clay.
	109	Cut	1.28	0.41	2m exp. in trench	Cut of an east/west linear with steeply sloping sides breaking gradually to a flat base.
	110	Fill	0.44	0.07	0.43	Fill of cut 111. Firmly compacted light greyish brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks.
	111	Cut	0.44	0.07	0.43	Cut of a small pit or possible posthole, concave in profile with an imperceptible break in slope from sides to base.
	112	Fill	0.62	0.35	only exp. in section	Basal fill of cut 113. Firmly compacted light brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and angular stones of diameter < 15mm.
	113	Cut	0.62	0.35	2m exp. in trench	Cut of an east/west linear with a steep southern side and a moderately sloping northern side breaking gently to a concave base.

	114	Fill	1.10	0.42	2m exp. in trench	Fill of a north-west/south-east linear, cut 115. Firmly compacted mid yellowish grey silty clay containing occasional stones of diameter < 20mm.
	115	Cut	1.10	0.42	2m exp. in trench	Cut of a north-east/south-west linear with steeply sloping south easterly side and a moderately sloping north westerly side both breaking gradually to a flat base.
	116	Fill	0.43	0.23	2m exp. in trench	Fill of an east-north-east linear, cut 116. Firmly compacted mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional angular stones of diameter c. 30mm.
	117	Cut	0.43	0.23	2m exp. in trench	Re-cut of an east-north-east/west-south-west linear with steeply sloping sides breaking gradually to a flat base.
	118	Fill	0.40	0.32	2m exp. in trench	Fill of an east-north-east linear, cut 119. Firmly compacted mottled mid brownish grey silty clay and yellowish orange sandy clay.
	119	Cut	0.40	0.32	2m exp. in trench	Cut of an east-north-east/west-south-west linear with steeply sloping sides breaking gradually to a flat base. Truncated on its west-north-western side by re-cut 117.
	120	Fill	1.22	0.17	2m exp. in trench	Upper fill of re-cut 112. Friable mottled mid brownish grey silty clay and yellowish orange sandy clay containing occasional charcoal flecks.
002						
	201	Layer		0.26		Topsoil.
	202	Layer		0.14		Subsoil -
	203	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Firmly compacted light whitish grey silty sand containing occasional rounded stones of diameter < 30mm.
003						
	301	Layer		0.28		Topsoil
	302	Layer		0.16		Subsoil
	303	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Firmly compacted light whitish grey silty sand.



	304	Group				Modern red ceramic drain & associated cut
	305	Group				Modern red ceramic drain & associated cut
	306	Group				Modern brick drain and associated cut
	307	Group				Modern red ceramic drain & associated cut
004						
	401	Layer		0.32		Topsoil
	402	Layer		0.18		Subsoil
	403	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay with occasional bands of gravel, stones c.20mm in diameter.
005						
	501	Layer		0.36		Topsoil
	502	Fill	0.98	0.25	1.02m exp. in trench	Fill of cut 503. Light brownish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
	503	Cut	0.98	0.25	1.02m exp. in trench	Terminus of a north-east/south-west linear with moderately sloping sides breaking gradually to a flat base.
	504	Layer		0.20		Subsoil
	505	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay with occasional bands of gravel, stones c.20mm in diameter.
	506	Group				Modern brick drain and associated cut
006						
	601	Layer		0.20		Topsoil
	602	Layer		0.15		Subsoil
	603	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay with occasional bands of gravel, stones c.20mm in diameter.
	604	Cut	0.72	0.20	2m exp. in trench	Cut of east-south-east/west-north-west linear with steeply sloping sides breaking sharply to a flat base.

	605	Fill	0.72	0.20	2m exp. in trench	Fill of linear, cut 604. Moderately compacted light brownish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
	606	Cut	0.68	0.10	0.76	Cut of a small pit or possible posthole, concave in profile with an imperceptible break in slope from sides to base.
	607	Fill	0.68	0.10	0.76	Fill of cut 606. Moderately compacted light brownish grey silty clay.
	608	Cut	0.81	0.34	0.68	Cut of probable root disturbance with steep sides and an irregular base.
	609	Fill	0.81	0.34	0.68	Fill of irregular cut 608. Loosely compacted light orangey brown sandy silt
	610	Cut	0.84	0.30		Cut of the terminus of an east/west linear. V shaped in profile with a steeply sloping southern side and a gently sloping northern side.
	611		0.84	0.30		Fill of east/west linear cut 610. Loosely compacted dark blackish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal and rounded stones of diameter < 10mm.
007						
	701	Layer		0.28		Topsoil
	702	Layer		0.22		Subsoil
	703	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay with occasional bands of gravel, stones c.20mm in diameter.
	704	Cut	0.06	0.05		Cut of possible ard-marks. A series of cuts, U-shaped in profile, forming a criss cross pattern.
	705	Fill	0.06	0.05		Moderately compacted mid brownish grey sandy clay.
	706	Cut	1.52	0.74	2.08	Cut of pit, oval in plan, with steep-vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base.
	707	Fill	1.52	0.74	2.08	Fill of pit cut 706. Cemented dark blackish grey sandy clay containing frequent angular stone of diameter < 40mm and flecks of charcoal.

	708	Cut	0.38	0.11	0.38	Cut of possible posthole base. Circular in plan with gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base.
	709	Fill	0.38	0.11	0.38	Fill of possible posthole cut 708. Firmly compacted mid brownish grey sandy clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal
	710	Cut	1.46	0.54	2m exp. in trench	Cut of north/south linear with moderately to steeply sloping sides breaking gently to a flat base.
	711	Fill	1.46	0.54	2m exp. in trench	Fill of cut north/south linear cut 710. Moderately compacted mid orangey brown sandy loam containing occasional sub angular stones of diameter < 25mm
	712	Cut	0.64	0.12	2m exp. in trench	Cut of north-west/south-east linear with gently sloping sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base.
	713	Fill	0.64	0.12	2m exp. in trench	Fill of north-west/south-east linear cut 712. Firmly compacted light brown silty clay.
	714	Group	0.25	0.60	2m exp. in trench	North-north-west/south-south-east modern land drain and associated cut.
008						
	801	Layer		0.36		Topsoil
	802	Layer		0.24		Subsoil & re-deposited gravels
	803	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay and orange sand with occasional bands of gravel, stones c.25mm in diameter.
	804	Cut	0.30	0.23	0.30	Cut of posthole, circular in plan with steep/vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base.
	805	Fill	0.30	0.23	0.30	Fill of posthole cut 804. Loosely compacted dark brownish grey sandy clay containing frequent rounded stones of diameter < 25mm.
009						
	901	Layer		0.32		Topsoil
	902	Layer		0.20		Subsoil

	903	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay and orange sand with occasional bands of gravel, stones c.25mm in diameter.
	904	Cut	0.15	0.12	0.15	Cut of posthole, circular in plan with steep sides breaking sharply to a flat base.
	905	Fill	0.15	0.12	0.15	Fill of posthole, cut 904. Moderately compacted light greyish brown silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
	906	Cut	0.30	0.10	0.30	Cut of posthole, circular in plan with gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base.
	907	Fill	0.30	0.10	0.30	Fill of posthole, cut 906. Moderately compacted light greyish brown silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
	908	Cut	0.12	0.05	0.12	Cut of posthole, circular in plan with gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base.
	909	Fill	0.12	0.05	0.12	Fill of posthole, cut 908. Moderately compacted light greyish brown silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
	910	Cut	0.15	0.06	0.15	Cut of posthole, circular in plan with gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base.
	911	Fill	0.15	0.06	0.15	Fill of posthole, cut 910. Moderately compacted light greyish brown silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
	912	Cut	0.35	0.08	0.35	Cut of posthole, circular in plan with gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a concave base.
	913	Fill	0.35	0.08	0.35	Fill of posthole, cut 912. Loosely compacted dark brownish grey silty clay (some root disturbance).
010						
	1001	Layer		0.33		Topsoil
	1002	Layer		0.19		Subsoil
	1003	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay and orange sand containing occasional gravel, stones c.25mm in diameter.

	1004	Cut	0.95	0.42	2m exp. in trench	Cut of north-west/south-east linear, v shaped in profile with a concave base.
	1005	Fill	0.95	0.42	2m exp. in trench	Fill of north-west/south-east linear, cut 1004. Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty clay.
	1006	Cut	0.64	0.29	2m exp. in trench	Cut of north-west/south-east linear with moderately/steeply sloping sides breaking gradually to a flat base.
	1007	Fill	0.64	0.29	2m exp. in trench	Fill of north-west/south-east linear, cut 1006. Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks.
	1008	Cut	0.25	0.11	0.36	Cut of a posthole, rectangular in plan with vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base.
	1009	Fill	0.25	0.11	0.36	Fill of posthole, cut 1008. Loosely compacted dark brownish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
011						
	1101	Layer		0.23		Topsoil
	1102	Layer		0.18		Subsoil
	1103	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay and orange sand containing occasional gravel, stones c.25mm in diameter.
	1104	Cut	1.22	0.47	2m exp. in trench	Cut of east/west linear with moderately sloping sides breaking gently to a concave base.
	1105	Fill	1.22	0.47	2m exp. in trench	Fill of east/west linear, cut 1104. Moderately compact dark/mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional stones of diameter c.15mm
012						
	1201	Layer		0.24		Topsoil
	1202	Layer		0.16		Subsoil
	1203	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - 50% Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay & 50% gravel that comprises stones c.25mm in diameter.
013						

	1301	Layer		0.30		Topsoil
	1302	Layer		0.20		Subsoil
	1303	Cut	1.51	0.40	2m exp. in trench	Cut of east/west linear, appears to have been V-shaped in profile but is severely truncated along its northern side.
	1304	Fill	1.51	0.40	2m exp. in trench	Fill of east/west linear, cut 1303. Loosely compacted dark greyish brown sandy silt.
	1305	Cut	2.12	0.43	2m exp. in trench	Re-cut into east/west linear 1303, with gently sloping sides breaking sharply to a flat base.
	1306	Fill	2.12	0.43	2m exp. in trench	Fill of re-cut 1305. Moderately compacted mid orangey brown silty sand containing frequent stone inclusions of diameter c. 10mm.
	1307	Cut	1.27	0.35	2m exp. in trench	Cut of north-north-east/south-south-west linear with gently sloping sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base.
	1308		1.27	0.35	2m exp. in trench	Mid greyish brown sandy loam containing frequent rounded stones of diameter c. 20mm and occasional flecks of charcoal.
	1309					Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Gravel that comprises stones c. 25mm in diameter.
014	1401	Layer		0.35		Topsoil
	1402	Layer		0.15		Subsoil
	1403	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Moderately compacted mid brownish/yellowish orange sandy clay and bands of gravel, stones c. 25mm in diameter.
	1404	Cut	0.40	0.08	0.40	Cut of posthole, circular in plan with steep sides breaking gradually to a flat base.
	1405	Fill	0.40	0.08	0.40	Firmly compacted mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.
	1406	Cut	3.13	0.28	2m exp. in trench	Cut of north/south linear with a moderately sloping western side breaking to a concave base. The slope on the eastern side is broken perhaps evidence of an otherwise imperceptible re-cut.

	1407	Fill	3.13	0.28	2m exp. in trench	Fill of north/south linear, cut 1406. Firmly compacted mottled mid brownish grey silty clay and brownish orange sandy clay.
	1408	Cut	2.0	0.29	2m exp. in trench	Cut of north/south linear with gently sloping sides breaking sharply to a flat base.
	1409	Fill	1.18	0.13	only visible in section	Basal fill of north/south linear, cut 1408. Firmly compacted light orangey grey sandy silt.
	1410	Fill	2.0	0.17	2m exp. in trench	Upper fill of north/south linear, cut 1408. Moderately compacted mid brownish grey silty clay.
015	1501	Layer		0.37		Topsoil
	1502	Layer		0.19		Subsoil
	1503	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - Firmly compacted mid brownish orange sandy clay.
	1504	Cut	0.8 exp.	0.2	12exp. in trench	Cut of approximately east/west curve-linear with steep sides breaking gradually to a flat base.
	1505	Fill				Fill of curve-linear, cut 1504. Moderately compact mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional stones of diameter c.10mm.
016	1601	Layer		0.30		Topsoil
	1602	Layer		0.12		Subsoil
	1603	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - 60% firmly compacted mid brownish orange sandy clay and 40% gravel, comprises rounded stones of diameter < 25mm.
017	1701	Layer		0.28		Topsoil
	1702	Layer		0.32		Subsoil
	1703	Layer				Natural/undisturbed subsoil - 70% firmly compacted mid brownish orange sandy clay and 30% gravel, rounded stones of diameter c.20mm.
	1704	Cut	1.5	0.32	5.5m exp. in trench	Cut of west-north-west/east-south-east linear with gently sloping sides breaking sharply to a flat base.
	1705	Fill	1.5	0.32	5.5m exp. in trench	Fill of west-north-west/east-south-east linear, cut 1704. Moderately compact mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal.

**APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

Chadwick and Dicks a  
Chadwick and Dicks b

**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** Chelmer Village Way, Chelmsford

**Site code:** SPCVW05

**Grid reference:** TL 733 081 centred

**Type of evaluation:** Seventeen 25m machine stripped trenches

**Date and duration of project:** October - November 2005/ 1 week

**Area of site:** 1.66 ha.

**Summary of results:**

The study area comprises of approximately 1.66 hectares of land. 17 (25m by 2m) archaeological test trenches, were excavated. This trenching revealed a low to moderate density of archaeological remains spread across the study area. These remains, where it was possible to date them, were found to be predominantly from the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century, with Bronze Age and Roman features also present. They appear to represent field systems that are peripheral to a settlement area.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Essex County Museums Service in due course under the following accession number (tba)





Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Explorer1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 1998. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10000569

Figure 1: Site location

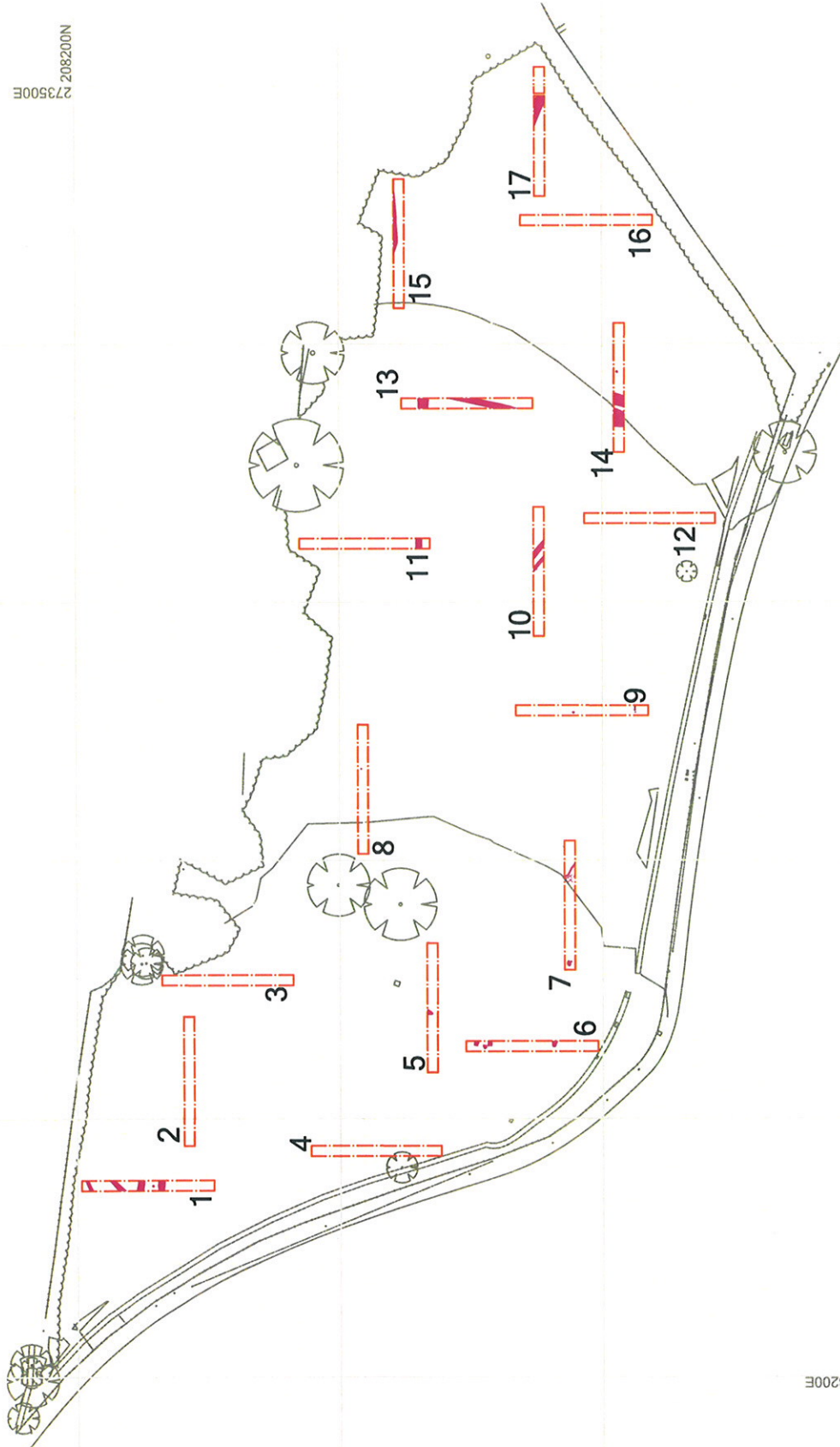


Figure 2: Previous excavations at Springfield



Figure 3: Aerial photograph showing Evaluation Area

273500E  
208200N



273200E  
208050N

<p><b>Basemap</b>   Basemap  <b>Archaeological Trenches</b>   Archaeological Trenches  <b>1 Trench Number</b>   1 Trench Number  <b>Archaeological Feature</b>   Archaeological Feature</p> <p>Survey Data supplied by : CgMs, Mouchels &amp; OA</p>	<p>Oxford Archaeology                  Janus House,                  Osney Mead,                  Oxford,                  OX2 0ES.                  Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496                  email: mail@oxfordarch.co.uk                  web: www.oxfordarch.co.uk</p> <p>                  N                    0 20 m                  Scale at A4 1:1250</p>	<p><b>SPCVW05</b>                  Chelmer Village Way,                  Chelmsford</p> <p>Drawing No: 2 DRAWING ID: TF                  Date printed 15/11/05                  Drawing title</p> <p><b>Figure 4.</b>                  Trench location                  and archaeological                  features</p>
--	--	--

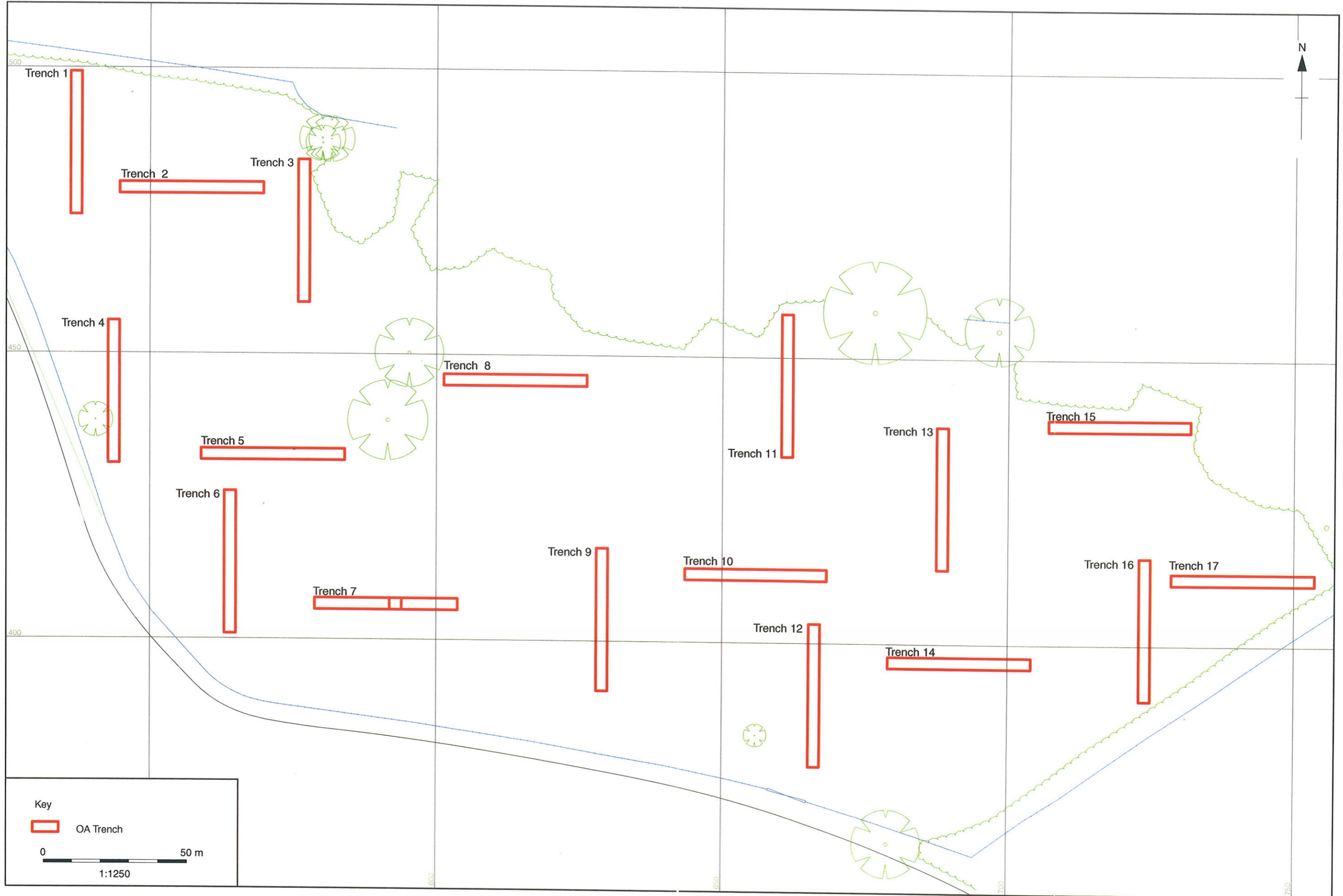


Figure 5: Trench location

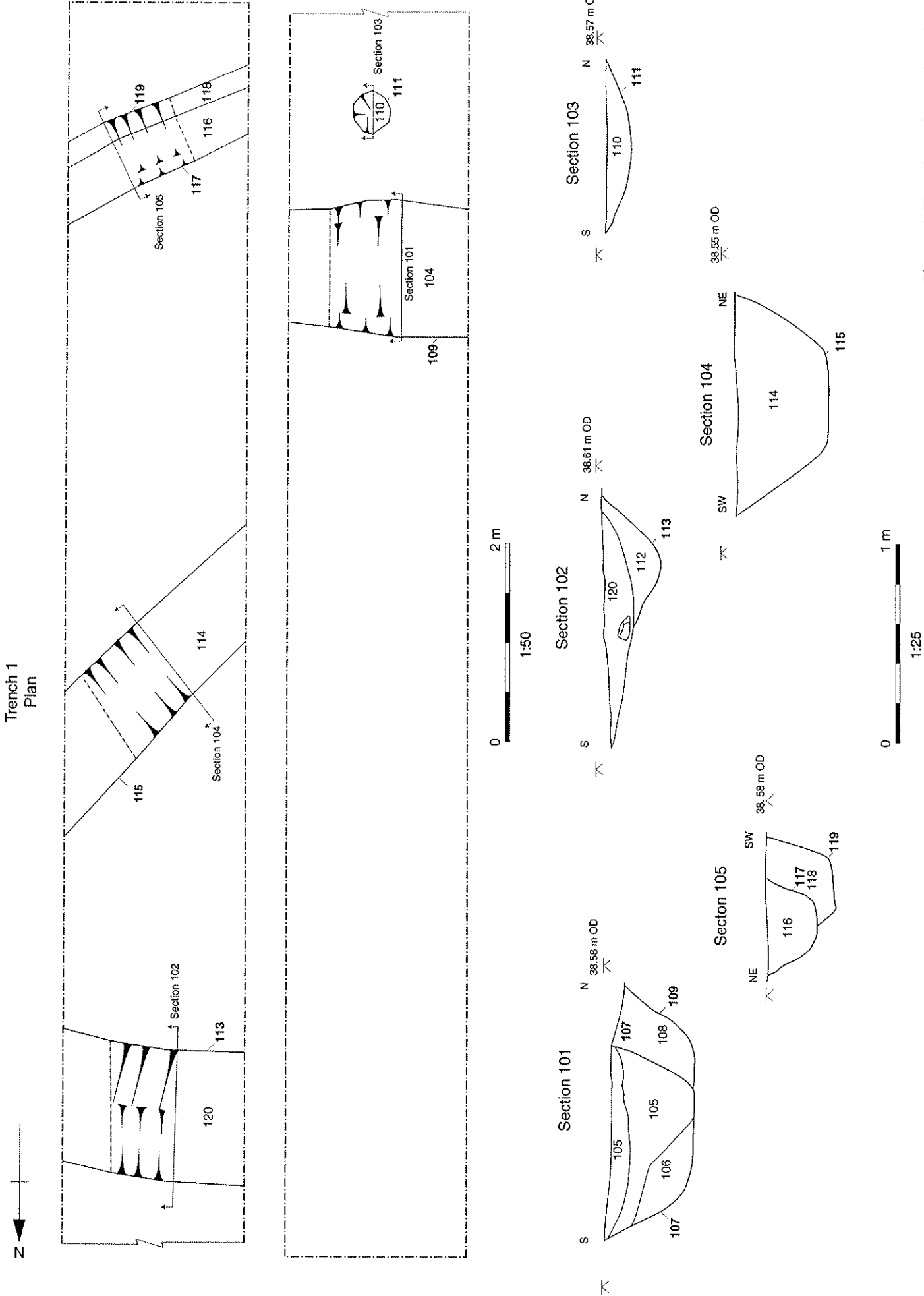
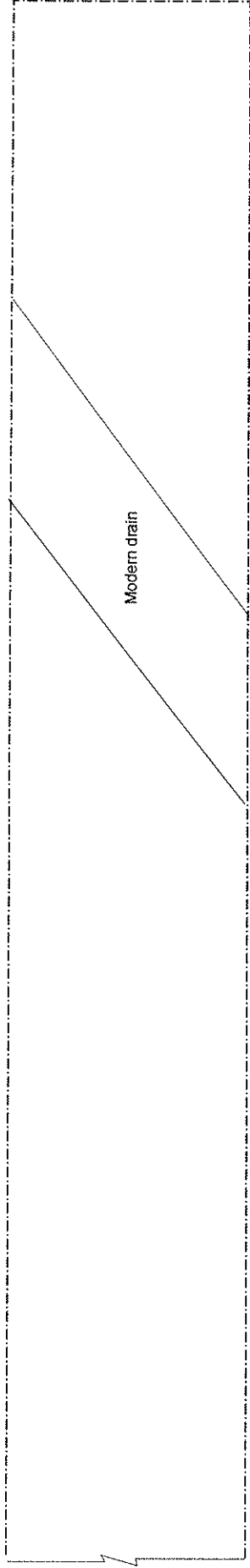
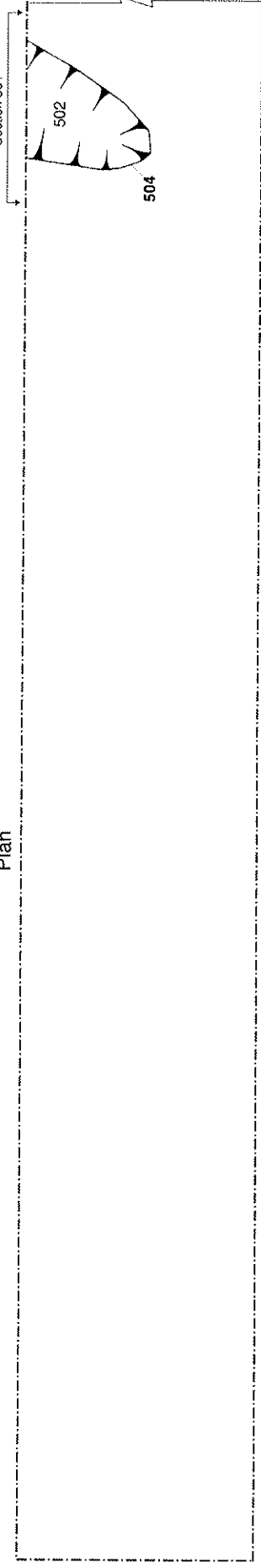


Figure 6: Trench 1, plan and sections

### Trench 5 Plan



### Section 501

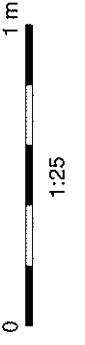
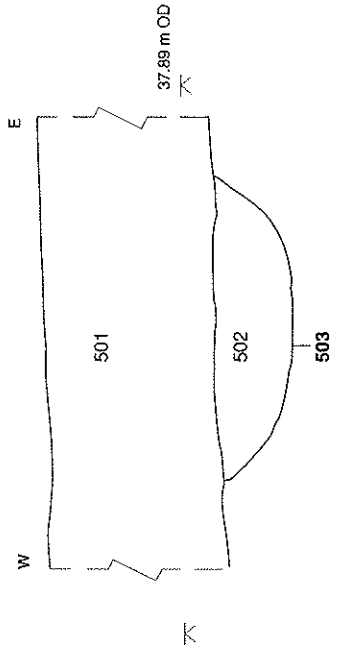


Figure 7: Trench 5, plan and section

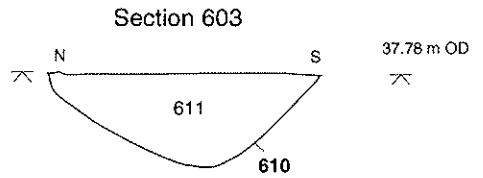
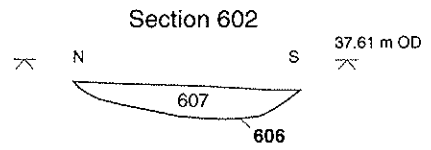
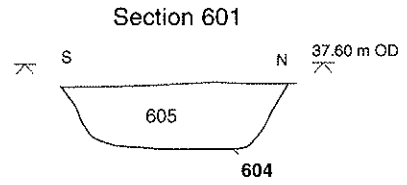
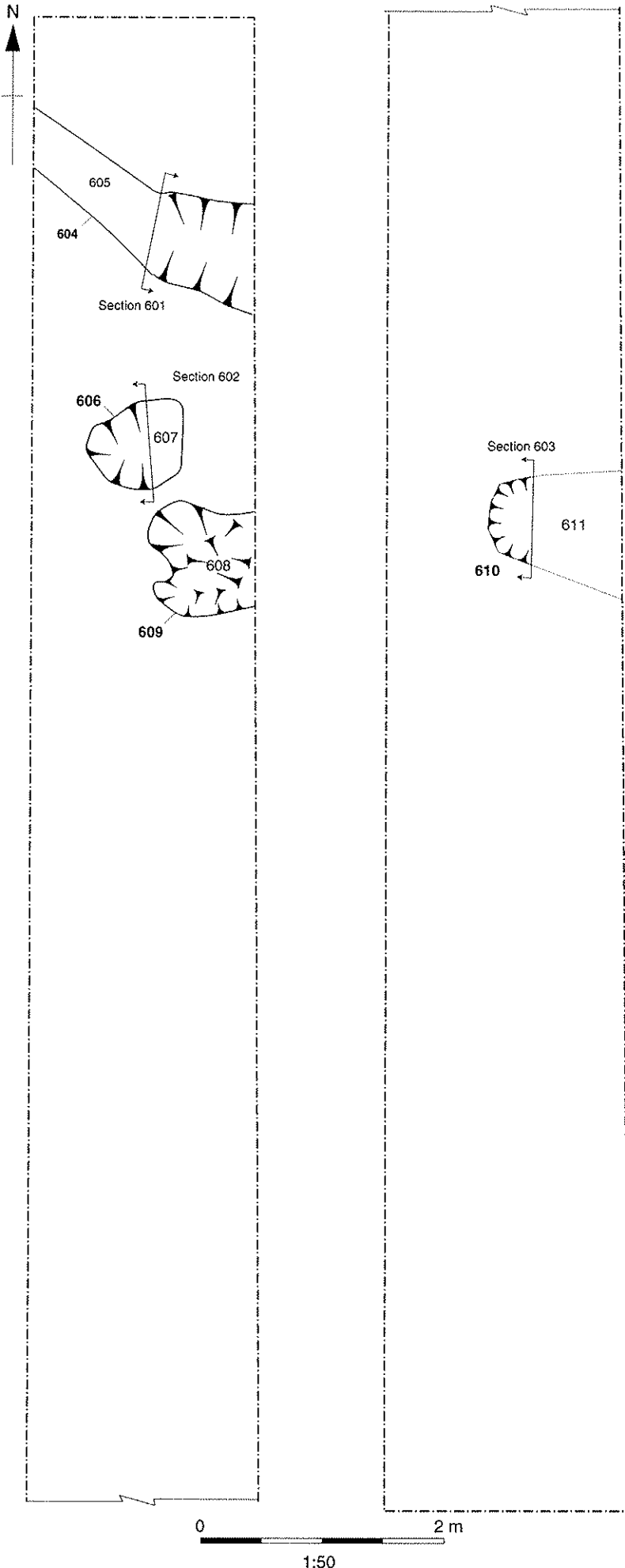


Figure 8: Trench 6, plan and sections



### Trench 7 Plan

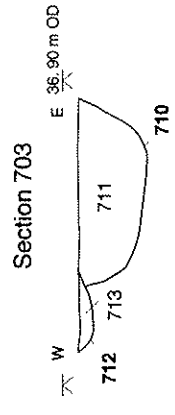
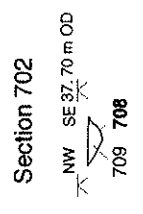
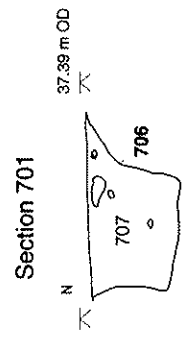
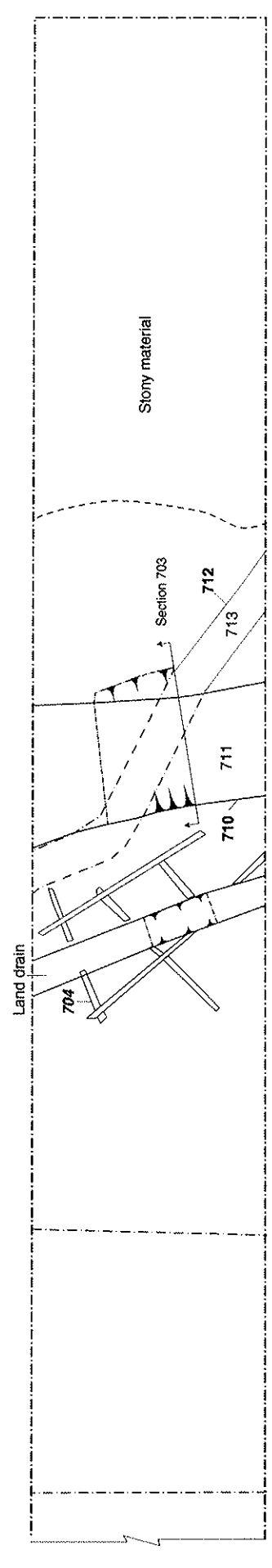
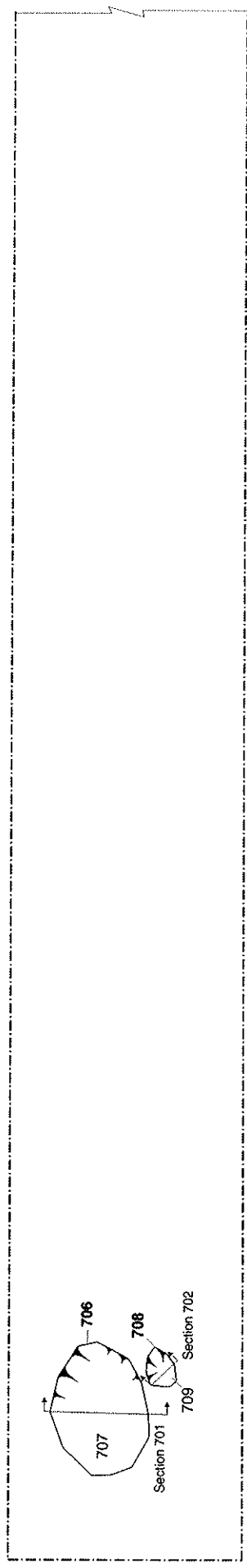


Figure 9: Trench 7, plan and sections

### Trench 8 Plan

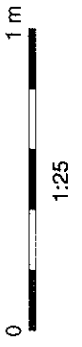
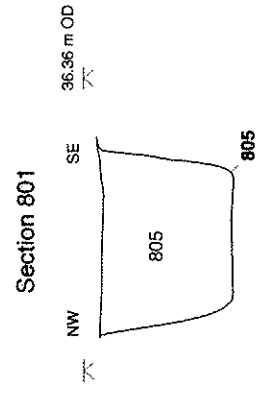
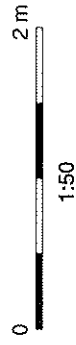
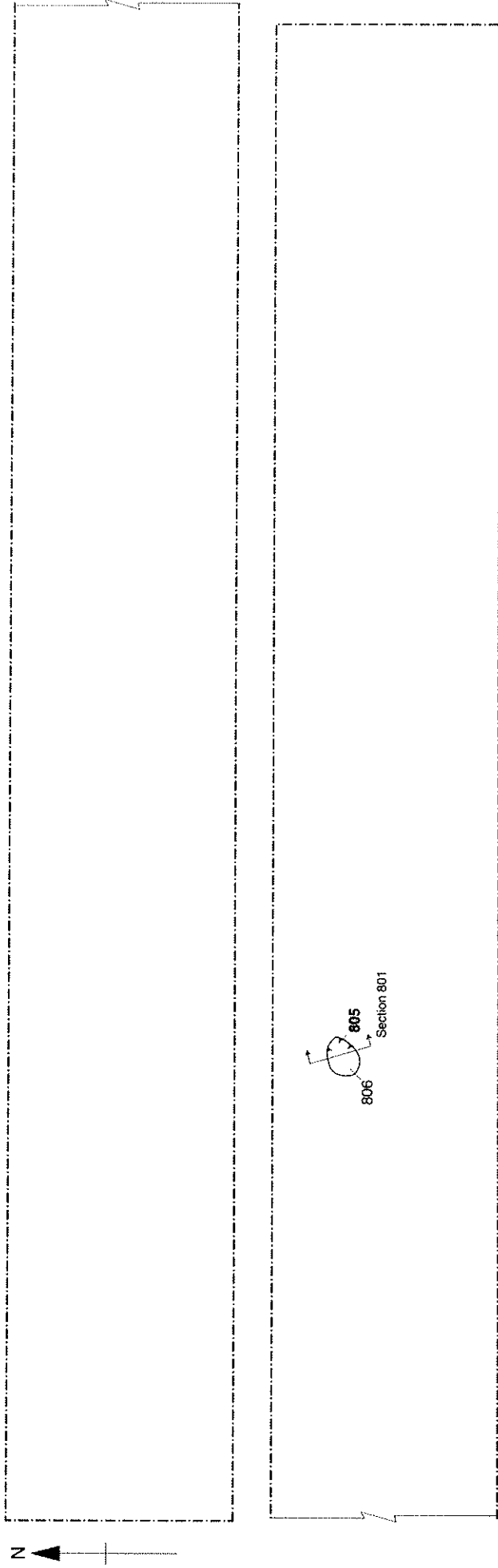
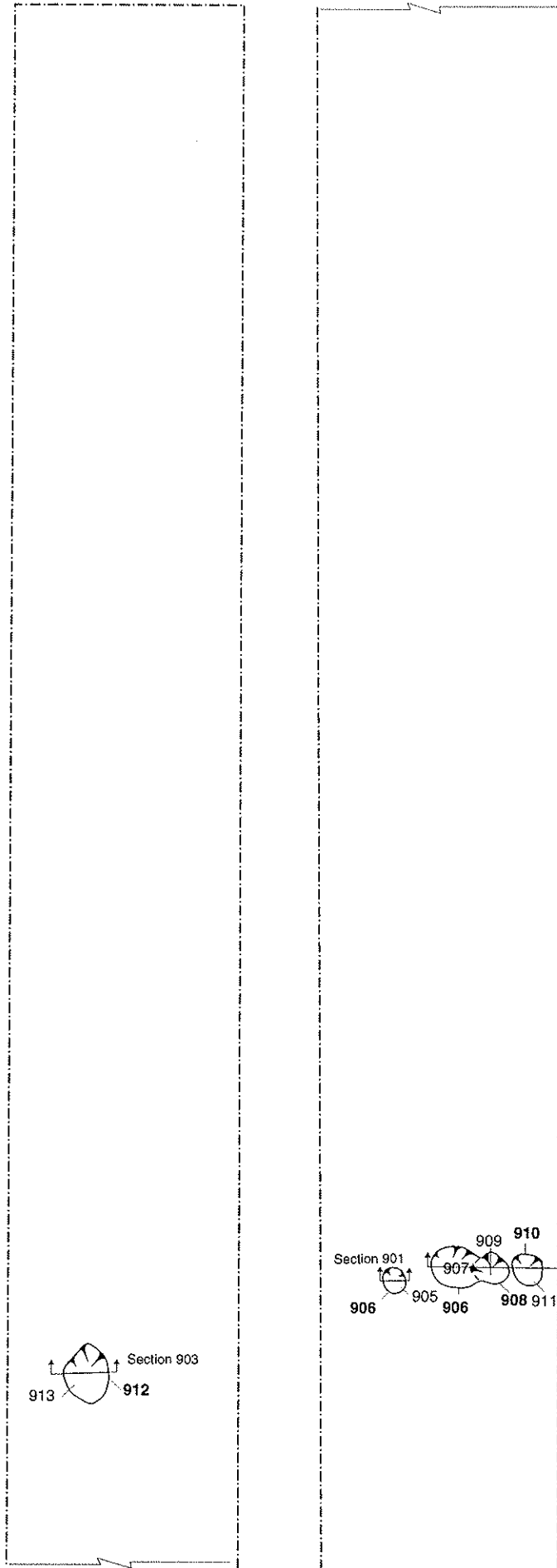


Figure 10: Trench 8, plan and section

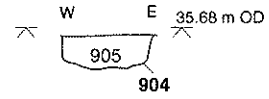


Trench 9  
Plan 900

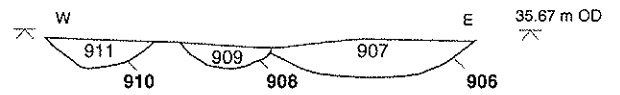


0 2 m  
1:50

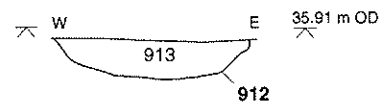
Section 901



Section 902



Section 903



0 1 m  
1:25

Figure 11: Trench 9, plan and section

Trench 10  
Plan

Servergo/oaupubs1\_RteZ\SPCW05\SPCW05\*Land off Chelmers Village Way, Takdy\*jm\*18.11.05

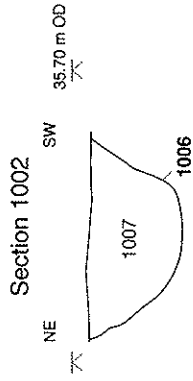
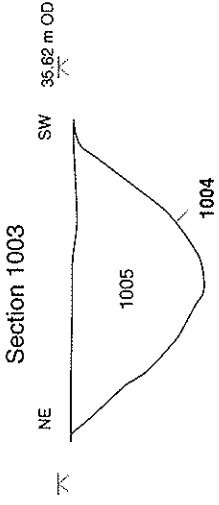
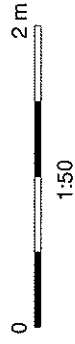
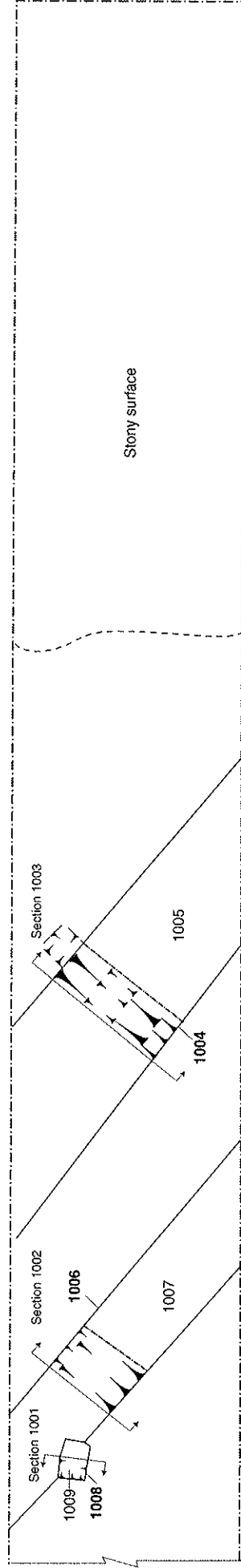
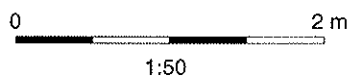
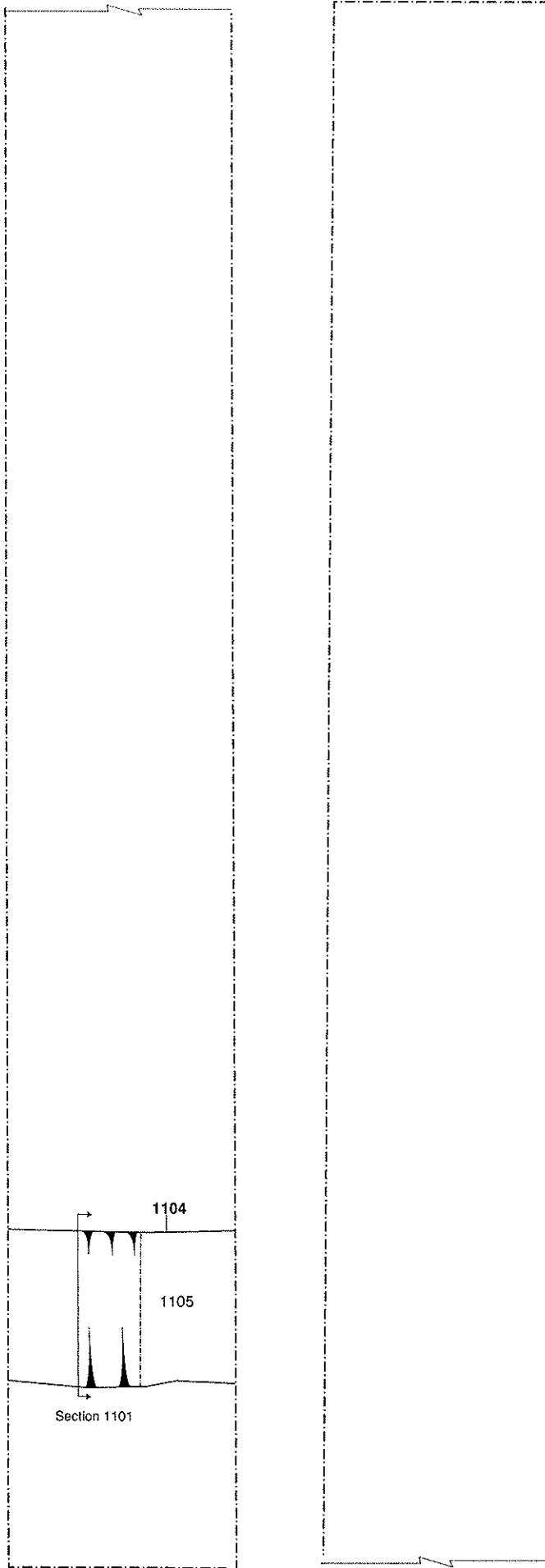


Figure 12: Trench 10, plan and sections



### Trench 11



### Section 1101

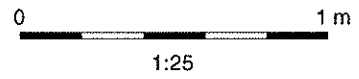
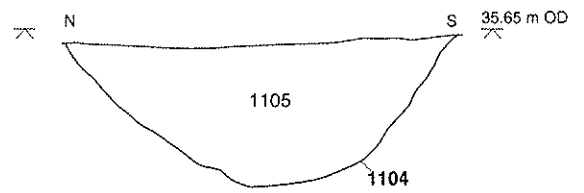
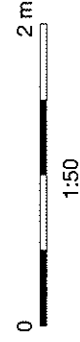
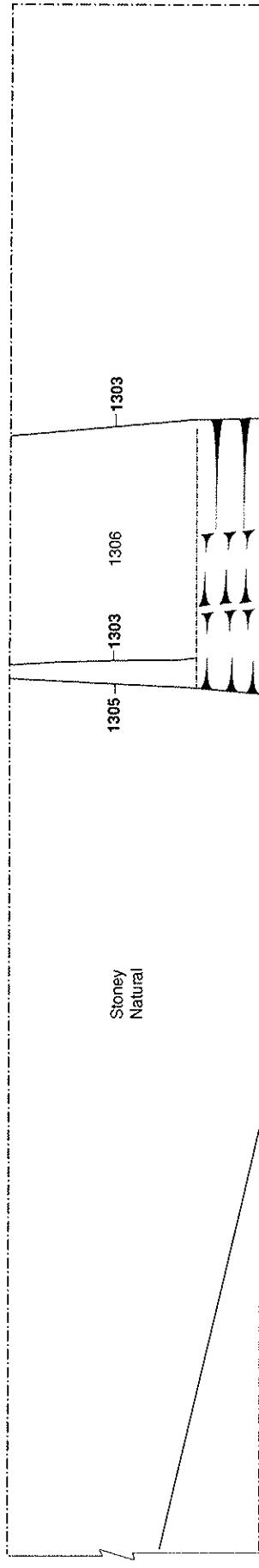
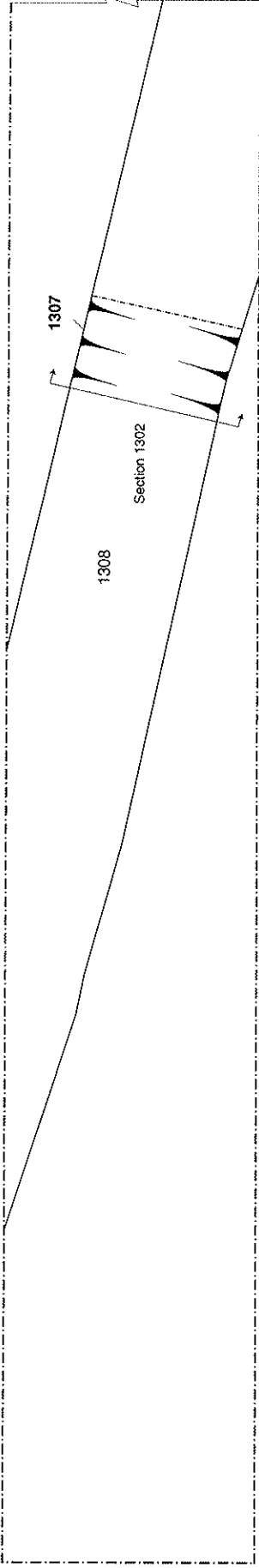


Figure 13: Trench 11, plan and section

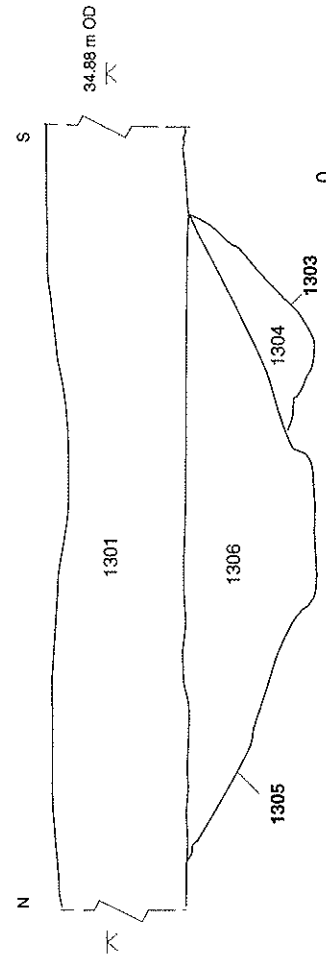


# Trench 13 Plan

Servergo/oaupubs1\_Rico2\*SPCWV05\*SPCWV05\*Land off Chelmers Village Way, Takely\*jm\*18.11.05



## Section 1301



## Section 1302

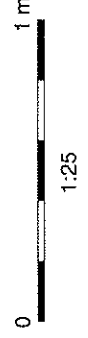
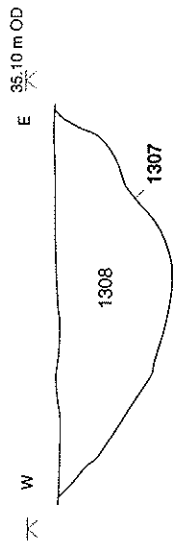


Figure 14: Trench 13, plans and sections

Trench 14  
Plan 1400

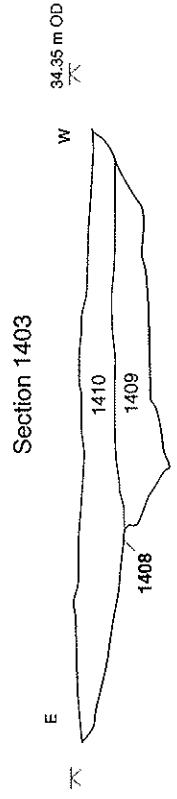
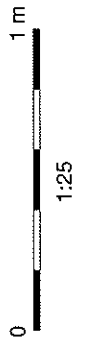
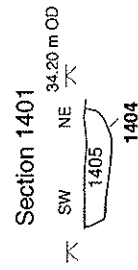
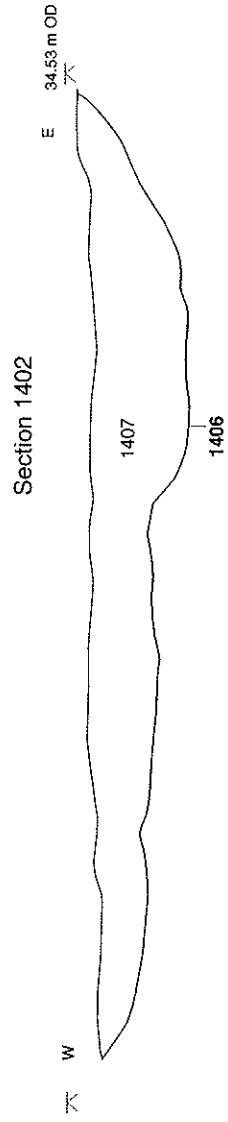
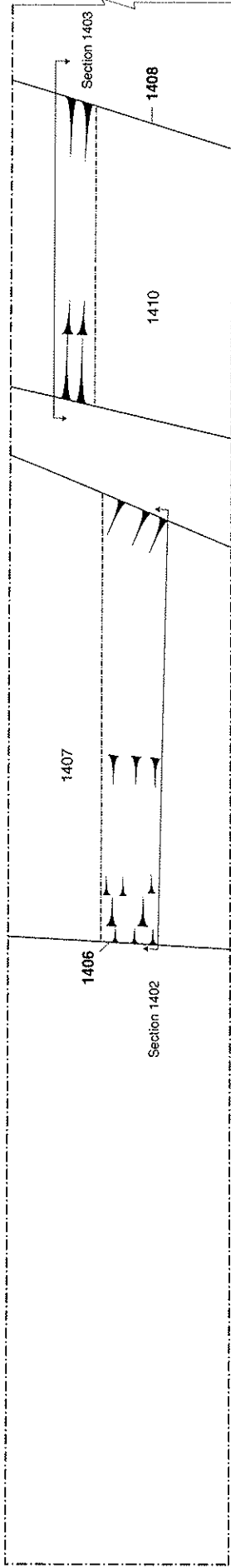
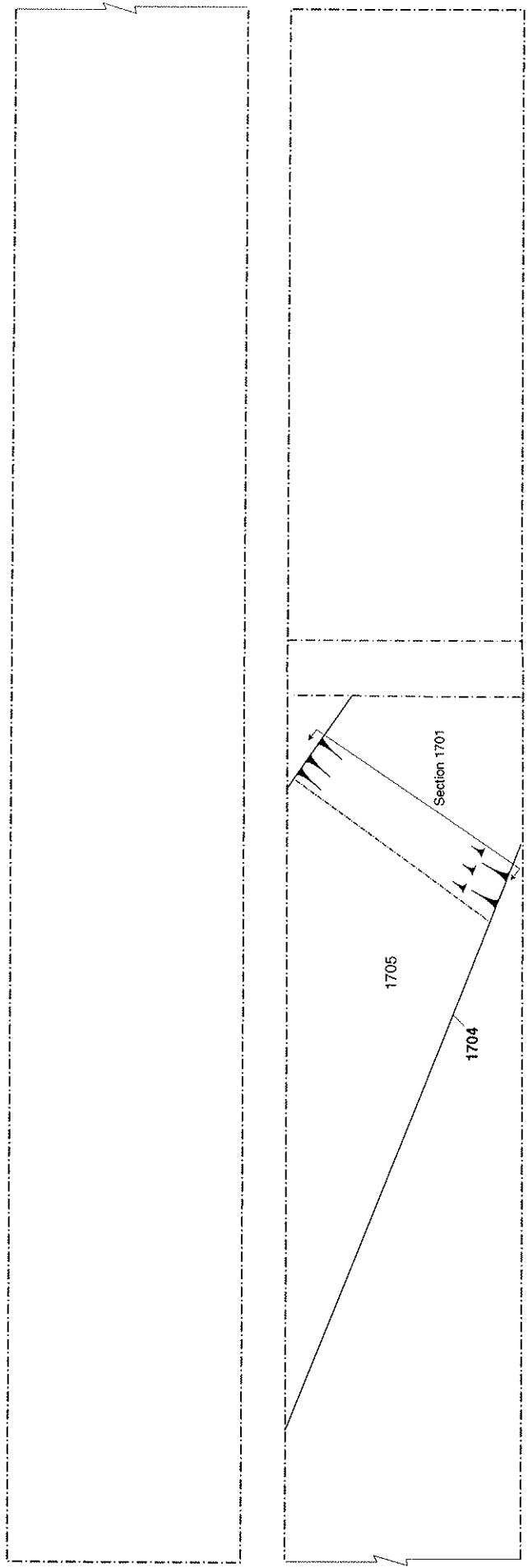


Figure 15: Trench 14, plan and sections

Trench 17  
Plan 1700



Section 1701

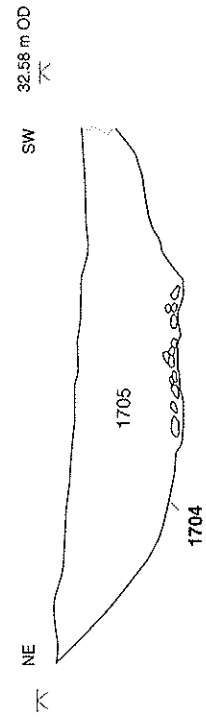


Figure 16: Trench 17, plan and section





### **Oxford Archaeology**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)

w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)



### **Oxford Archaeology North**

Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 541000

f: (0044) 01524 848606

e: [lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk)

w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627

**Registered Office:**

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES