An archaeological evaluation at Zone G west, Beaulieu, Chelmsford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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An archaeological evaluation at Zone G west, Beaulieu, Chelmsford

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Zone G, Beaulieu, Chelmsford. The fieldwork took place between the 1/9/15 and the 29/9/15. A total of thirty-three trenches were excavated across three separate fields, within the proposed development area.

A possible prehistoric posthole was recorded to the north of the site and an early post-medieval ditch and two quarry pits were encountered towards the eastern side of the development area. A further undated ditch was present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between the 1th and 29th September 2015 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at Zone G, Beaulieu, Chelmsford (TL 7268 1050) in advance of the 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 62,300m² 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 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land to the east of Essex Regiment Way and north of White Hart Lane, at Beaulieu, Chelmsford (see fig. 1 for location). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of Zone G.

1.1.3 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Archaeological Investigation and Mitigation Strategy (URS 2013) prepared for the Beaulieu scheme in consultation with Richard Havis of the Historic Environment Branch, ECC (Planning Application 09/01314/EIA), and supplemented by a Method Statement prepared by OA East.

1.1.4 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 Beaulieu (the Site) is located approximately 4km to the north-east of Chelmsford, Essex (centred on TL 7268 1050; 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. To the south of the area lay a mixture of head deposits and sand and gravels (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 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 l+ater 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, Belestedam (Belstead Hall) is recorded in the Domesday survey of AD 1086 (Reaney, 1035).

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 damn (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) (Pocock, 2009).

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 (House, 2011).

Beaulieu 1Mitigation evaluation and excavations 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 four locations of significant archaeological remains (Stocks-Morgan, 2013).

1.3.23 Site 5, located within the footprint of the proposed Essex Regiments Way roundabout, identified part of a Middle Iron Age settlement comprised a single round-house, surviving only as the remains of an eaves-drip gully. Several small pits and postholes were identified outside the roundhouse and were likely to be associated with domestic activity contemporary with the building. This settlement was surrounded by a large oval enclosure.

1.3.24 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. A second, probably medieval, ditch was encountered on a north-west to south-east alignment (Stocks-Morgan, 2013a).

1.3.25 Site 11 and Zone D1 identified evidence of two High Medieval house platforms and their surrounding enclosures. Thought to be a medieval settlement associated with Belstead Manor estate (Stocks-Morgan, 2013b).

Beaulieu Mitigation evaluation and excavations 2014

1.3.26 Four areas of significant archaeological remains were identified on land to the south of Belstead Manor (Zone A Housing) (Stocks-Morgan 2014).

1.3.27 A Middle Bronze Age boundary ditch, aligned north-east to south-west, was identified in Site 7; whilst an Early Iron Age open settlement comprising of ten pits containing a large assemblage of pottery and fired clay, and medieval animal husbandry remains were present in the excavation area. Sparse domestic activity is suggested from the five Late Iron Age pits that were revealed in areas A3 and A4 along the side of a brook to the south of Zone A. In contrast, Area A2 revealed the presence of a Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosure ditch and later medieval ditch (Stocks-Morgan 2015).

Zone B and E Trench Evaluation, 2014

1.3.28 Four areas of significant archaeological remains were identified in Zone B and E (Stocks-Morgan 2014b).

1.3.29 Two small open area excavations were undertaken tot he west of the area, which encountered Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age open settlement, comprising five four-poster structures and several pits. A further are to the north of the site encountered a small undated gully.

1.3.30 A large open area excavation was undertaken towards the south-eastern corner of the site, which identified occupation spanning a period from the Late iron Age into the Early Roman period. These settlement remains consisted of an enclosure surrounding a roundhouse and associated occupation features. In the Early Roman period this enclosure was reconfigured and a replacement roundhouse. This phase of settlement also produced an associated midden deposits and an ancillary roundhouse (Stocks-Morgan, in prep)

Beaulieu Mitigation evaluation and excavations 2015

Site 9

1.3.31 A small open area excavation was carried out ahead of the construction of ponds and swales infrastructure works. The archaeology encountered comprised a prehistoric trackway and a Late Iron Age nucleated settlement.

Zone G / Site 10

1.3.32 A 14th / 15th century pit was encountered with two associated ditches. This pit is though to be a retting pit due its characteristics and the recovery of pollen / seeds from the waterlogged deposits.

1.3.33 A later medieval ditched enclosure was recorded. Inside the enclosure was a 16th century house, represented by the remains of two brick built fireplaces, and a possible brick built staircase. Two further brick built structures were evident, which were ancillary structures, one being a cellar and the second a probable toilet block.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like thank Iain Williamson of AECOM and Countryside Zest (Beaulieu Park) LLP who respectively commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and the illustrators were Charlotte Walton. Thanks are also extended to Steve Graham and Daria Tsybaeva who supervised the evaluation and to Matt Brooks, Kat Hamilton, Richard Higham, Paddy Lambert, Ted Levermore, Adele Lord, Lindsey Kemp and Adam Tuffey who helped with the fieldwork. The project was monitored by Richard Havis and Alison Bennett of Essex County Council. The machining was undertaken by Joe Larkin of Danbury Plant Hire.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Thirty-three trenches were excavated within the proposed development area and all archaeological remains were excavated where appropriate and possible.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 15 ton machine using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Pat Moan using a Leica GPS fitted with *Smartnet* technology.

2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 A total of two bulk samples were taken, from deposits considered most appropriate for environmental sampling, while also considering feature type and period

2.2.7 The site conditions were dry and sunny.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The trenches are presented below by field and then in numerical order.

3.2 Field 18

3.2.1 Three trenches were excavated within this field (see Fig. 2 for trench locations).. The natural geology was an orange clay. A subsoil layer (4291), approximately 0.2m thick was recorded underlying a topsoil deposit (4290) that was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 393

3.2.2 In the northern part of this trench lay a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**4691**) which was 0.92m wide and 0.16m deep. This shallow sided ditch was filled with a light greyish brown silty clay (4692).

Trench 394 - 395

3.2.3 No archaeology was recorded in these trenches.

3.3 Field 50

3.3.1 Seven trenches were excavated within this field (see Fig. 2 for trench locations).. The natural geology was an orange clay. A subsoil layer (4304), approximately 0.15m thick was recorded underlying a topsoil deposit (4305) that was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trenches 229 - 232

3.3.2 No archaeology was recorded in these trenches.

Trench 233

3.3.3 Towards the western edge of this trench a quarry pit (**4452**) was encountered which had irregular edges. This possible pit was 2.60m wide, 0.48m deep and was filled with a mid yellowish brown clay (4453) which contained a sherd of early post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material fragments and an oyster shell.

Trench 234

3.3.4 In the centre of the trench was a hollow (**4450**) which had irregular edges. This feature was 2.00m wide, 0.22m deep and filled with light yellowish grown silty clay (4451).

Trench 235

3.3.5 No archaeology was recorded in this trench.

3.4 Field 51

3.4.1 Twenty-three trenches were excavated within this field (see Fig. 3 for trench locations).. The natural geology was an orange clay. A subsoil layer (4302), approximately 0.15m thick was recorded underlying a topsoil deposit (4303) that was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 370

3.4.2 A north-north-east to south-south-west aligned ditch (**4266**), which had steep sides and a concave base, was present in the western part of this trench. This ditch was 2.00m wide, 0.42m deep and was filled with mid greyish brown silty clay (4265).

Trenches 371 - 379

3.4.3 No archaeology was recorded in these trenches.

Trench 380

3.4.4 In the centre of the trench was a posthole (**4370**) which was sub-circular in plan and 0.40m in diameter. This posthole had concave sides and a concave base and measured 0.1m deep. It was filled with dark reddish brown sandy clay (4371).

Trench 381

3.4.5 Towards the northern end of this trench was a 1.40m wide, 0.64m deep, east to west aligned ditch (**4365**) (see fig 4, section 1493). This steep sided ditch was filled with a dark reddish brown sandy clay (4368) which was overlain by a mid reddish brown sandy clay (4367).

3.4.6 At its southern end this trench contained an east-north-east to west-south-west aligned ditch (**4366**) (see fig 4, section 1496). The fill of this shallow sided ditch, which was 0.70m wide and 0.15m deep, consisted of light greyish brown sandy clay (4369).

Trench 382 - 385

3.4.7 No archaeology was recorded in these trenches.

Trench 386

3.4.8 A single sub-circular, steep sided posthole (**4372**), which was 0.70m in diameter and 0.18m deep was uncovered in the northern part of this trench and this appeared to contain fills which indicated the presence of a post-pipe. This was suggested by the fact that its central fill (4376) was surrounded by a deposit (4374) which may be post-packing, as it consisted of fired clay. These fills were underlain by a dark blueish grey clayey silt (4373) and overlain by a similar fill (4375). This upper fill contained a significant quantity of charcoal, indicating that it may be the remains of a post (see plate 1 and fig 4, section 1716).

Trench 387 - 392

3.4.9 No archaeology was recorded in these trenches.

3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 The evaluation recovered one sherd of medieval pottery weighing 3g from Trench 234. Four fragments of ceramic building material weighing 0.61kg, and one oyster shell weighing 3g were also recovered from Trench 233.

3.6 Environmental Summary

3.6.1 Two samples were taken during the evaluation. The sample from posthole **4370**, in Trench 380 contained sparse charred remains and the sample from posthole **4372**, in Trench 386, was charcoal rich with one degraded glume base present.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The discussion concentrates on features that are dated and can be grouped. It is presented chronologically to help set the findings into context within their wider landscape setting.

4.2 Possible Prehistoric Remains

4.2.1 In the northern part of Zone G a posthole (**4372**) was present in Trench 386. This posthole is currently undated but the filling sequence has similarities to other postholes found in previous evaluations and excavations at Beaulieu. Therefore it is likely that this posthole is part of the pattern of dispersed settlement, dating from the Middle Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age, seen to the south at sites 7 and 8 and to the north-east in site 1. The posthole contained a high concentration of charcoal and a degraded cereal grain which suggests that it functioned as a settlement feature or lay in the vicinity of settlement.

4.2.2 In the centre of the evaluation area was a ditch (**4366**), in Trench 381 on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment. It is currently undated, however, due to its alignment being similar to the Iron Age field system seen during the previous archaeological works (Stocks-Morgan, 2013) and given its pale coloured fill, an Iron Age date for this feature should not be discounted.

4.3 Early post-medieval

4.3.1 An east to west aligned ditch (**4365**) was present in Trench 381. This is undated, but its location and alignment suggest that it is the continuation of the field boundary to the east, it is also clearly visible on aerial photographs.

4.3.2 In the eastern part of Zone G were two large hollows / quarry pits (**4450**,**4452**), in Trenches 233 and 234 respectively, one of which dates to the late medieval period. Given the pits size and irregularity in shape and profile it is likely they were dug as quarry pits for the clay natural. These pits lay to the east of a known early post-medieval enclosed settlement (excavated in site 10, Stocks-Morgan, in prep) where clay would have been utilised for flooring and general domestic use.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation suggests that prehistoric features are present within Zone G, however, care has to be taken in interpreting these features as they are not conclusively dated. The early post-medieval features present are dated more reliably with the main concentration being to the east of Zone G, but are limited to quarry pits.

4.4.2 The encountered archaeology is sporadic and sparse in nature, however, the nature of posthole **4372** does suggest that settlement features are present. Whether it is part of a dispersed settlement or an outlier to a settlement to the north is unclear at present.

4.5 Recommendations

4.5.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be agreed in consultation with the ECC HEM.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 229						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.46
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 230						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange gravel.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.41
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 231						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 232						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.39
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**

4303	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 233						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a quarry pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4452	Cut	2.60	0.48	Quarry pit	-	-
4453	Fill	2.60	0.48	Quarry pit	Pottery, CBM, shell	-
4303	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 234						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a hollow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.48
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4450	Cut	2	0.22	Hollow	-	Medieval
4451	Fill	2	0.22	Hollow	pottery	Medieval
4303	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 235						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.41
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 370						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a ditch. Consists of topsoil overlaying a natural of					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.31

orange clay.					**Width (m)**	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4265	Fill	2	0.42	Ditch	-	-
4266	Cut	2	0.42	Ditch	-	-
4303	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
Trench 371						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 372						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
Trench 373						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 374						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.53

overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Width (m)**	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 375						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.41
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 376						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 377						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid if archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4303	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 378						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6

overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Width (m)**	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 379

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.57
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 380

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a posthole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4370	Cut	0.25	0.11	posthole	-	-
4371	Fill	0.25	0.11	posthole	-	-
4303	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 381

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4365	Cut	1.4	0.6	Ditch	-	-
4366	Cut	0.7	0.15	Ditch	-	-
4367	Fill	-	0.4	Ditch [4365]	-	-

4368	Fill	-	0.64	Ditch [4365]	-	-
4369	Fill	0.7	0.15	Ditch [4366]	-	-
4303	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 382

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 383

General description	**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained a brick wall. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4720	Masonry	0.2	-	Wall	-	-
4303	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 384

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 385

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 386		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a posthole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4372	Cut	0.8	0.19	Posthole	-	-
4373	Fill	-	0.19	Posthole	-	-
4374	Fill	-	0.15	Posthole	-	-
4375	Fill	-	0.10	Posthole	-	-
4376	Fill	-	0.15	Posthole	-	-
4303	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 387		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 388		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 389		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 390

General description		
	Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 391

General description		
	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 392

General description		
	Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of sandy clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4303	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
4304	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 393

General description		
	Orientation	N-S
Tench contained a gully. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.53

natural of orange clay.	**Width (m)**	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4691	Cut	0.92	0.16	Gully	-	-
4692	Fill	0.92	0.16	Gully	-	-
4291	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
4292	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 394

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.47
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4291	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
4292	Layer	-	0.2		-	-

Trench 395

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlaying a natural of orange clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4291	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4292	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Medieval Pottery

Identified By Helen Walker

Assemblage

B.1.1 One sherd weighing 4g was recovered from the fill of a quarry pit (**4453**). This was a single body sherd of Tudor red earthenware, dating to the 15 – 16th century.

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

Identified By Rob Atkins

Assemblage

B.2.1 A small assemblage of four sherds weighing 610g were recovered from one context (4453). All are early post-medieval in date. The assemblage is detailed below in table 1.

Type	Fabric	No. fragments	Weight (g)
Brick	Orange red sandy type	1	444
roof tile	Orange sandy type	2	151
roof tile	Orange sandy type with grey core	1	15

Table 1: ceramic building material

Appendix C. Environmental Reports

C.1 Shell

4.5.2 One fragment of oyster (Ostrea edulus),weighing 3g was recovered from pit (4453).

C.2 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.2.1 Two bulk samples were taken from features in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

C.2.2 For this initial assessment, one bucket (9 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. 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. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. 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. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. 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 Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals.

Quantification

C.2.1 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as chaff have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50 specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance

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

Results

C.2.2 Sample 820, fill 4371 of posthole **4370** contains sparse charcoal and no finds. Sample 821, fill 4374 of posthole **4372** is rich in charcoal and also contains a degraded glume base of wheat (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*). This sample did not contain any finds.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Preservation	Chaff	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments
820	4371	4370	posthole	9	1	Charred	0	+	+	

821	4374	4372	posthole	9	85	Charred	#	+++	+++	Charcoal rich. Single degraded glume base

Table 2: *Environmental samples from Zone G*

Discussion

C.2.3 The charcoal recovered from ditch **4372** indicates that there is preservation of charred remains in this area and any further work should include a targeted sampling strategy. The lack of any other plant remains precludes further identification of the features.

Appendix D. Bibliography

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-236529		
Project Name	Beaulieu, Chelmsford, Essex, Zone G west		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	03-09-2015	Finish	12-10-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SPBP 15	Planning App. No.	09/01314/EIA
HER No.	sp bp 15	Related HER/OASIS No.	oxfordar3-152484,

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) Part II
Development Type	Housing Estate

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☒ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☒ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

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	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	brick	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
ditch	Uncertain		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	essex	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Chelmsford	land of White Hart Lane, CHelmsford CM2 6TD	
Parish	Springfield		
HER	SP BP 15		
Study Area	6.9 ha	National Grid Reference	TL 7268 1050

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	RIchard Havis (ECC HER)
Project Design Originator	Iain WIlliamson (URS)
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer (OA East)
Supervisor	Helen Stocks-Morgan (OA East)

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA EAst	OA East	OA East
SP BP 15	SPBP 15	SPBP 15

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☒	☒
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☐ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☒ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☒ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☐ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☒ Spreadsheets	☒ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☒ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☒ Survey

Notes:

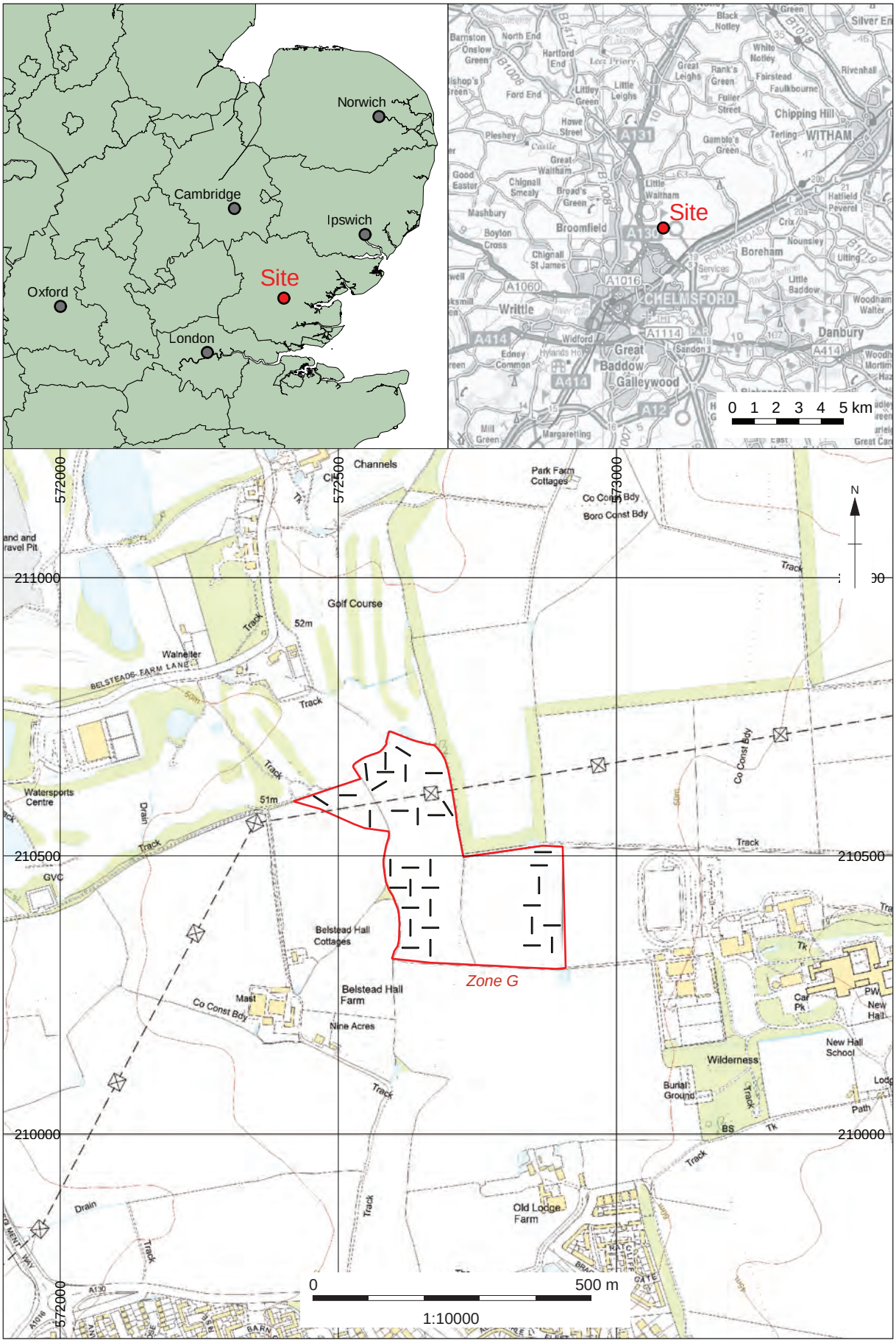

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

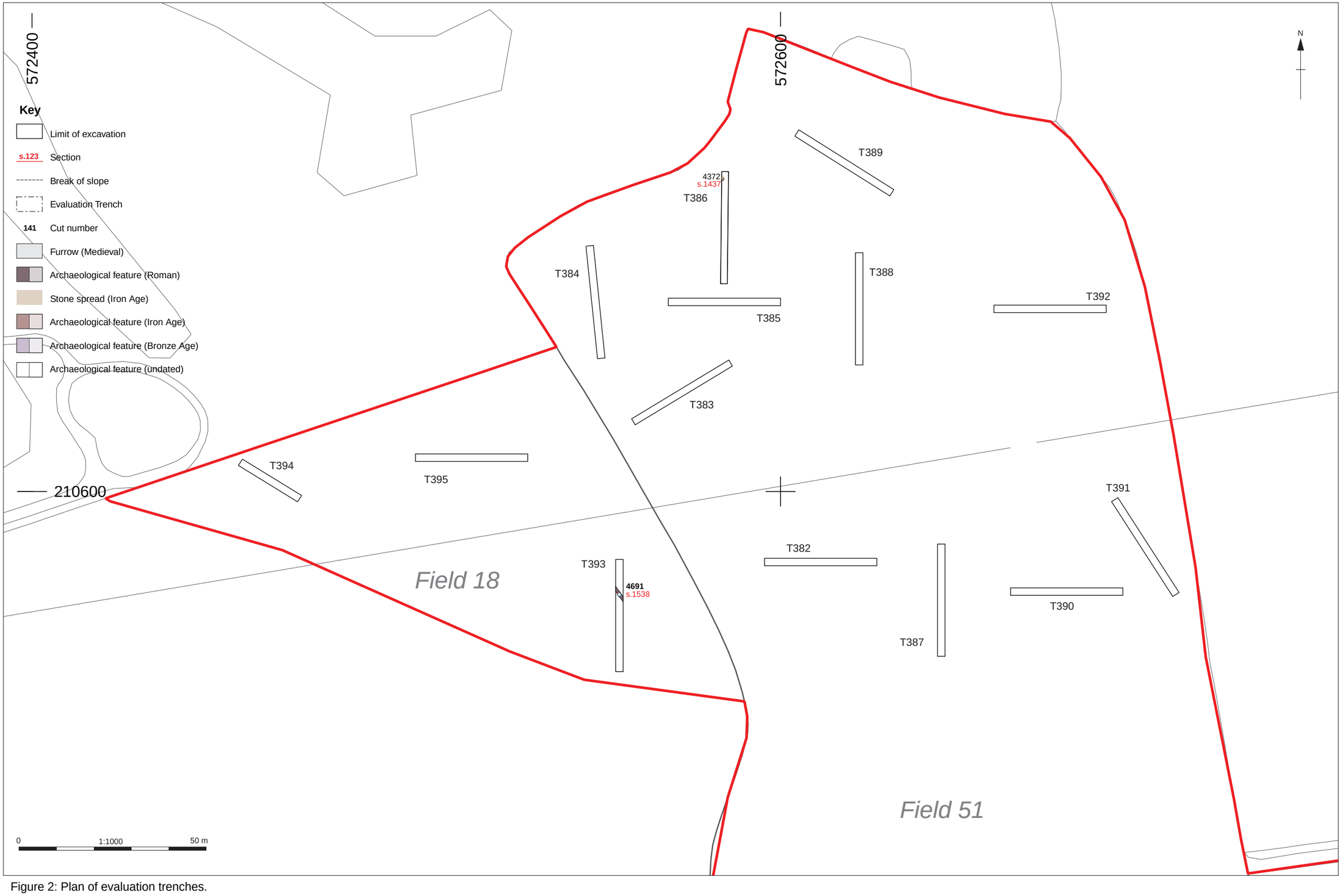

Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches.

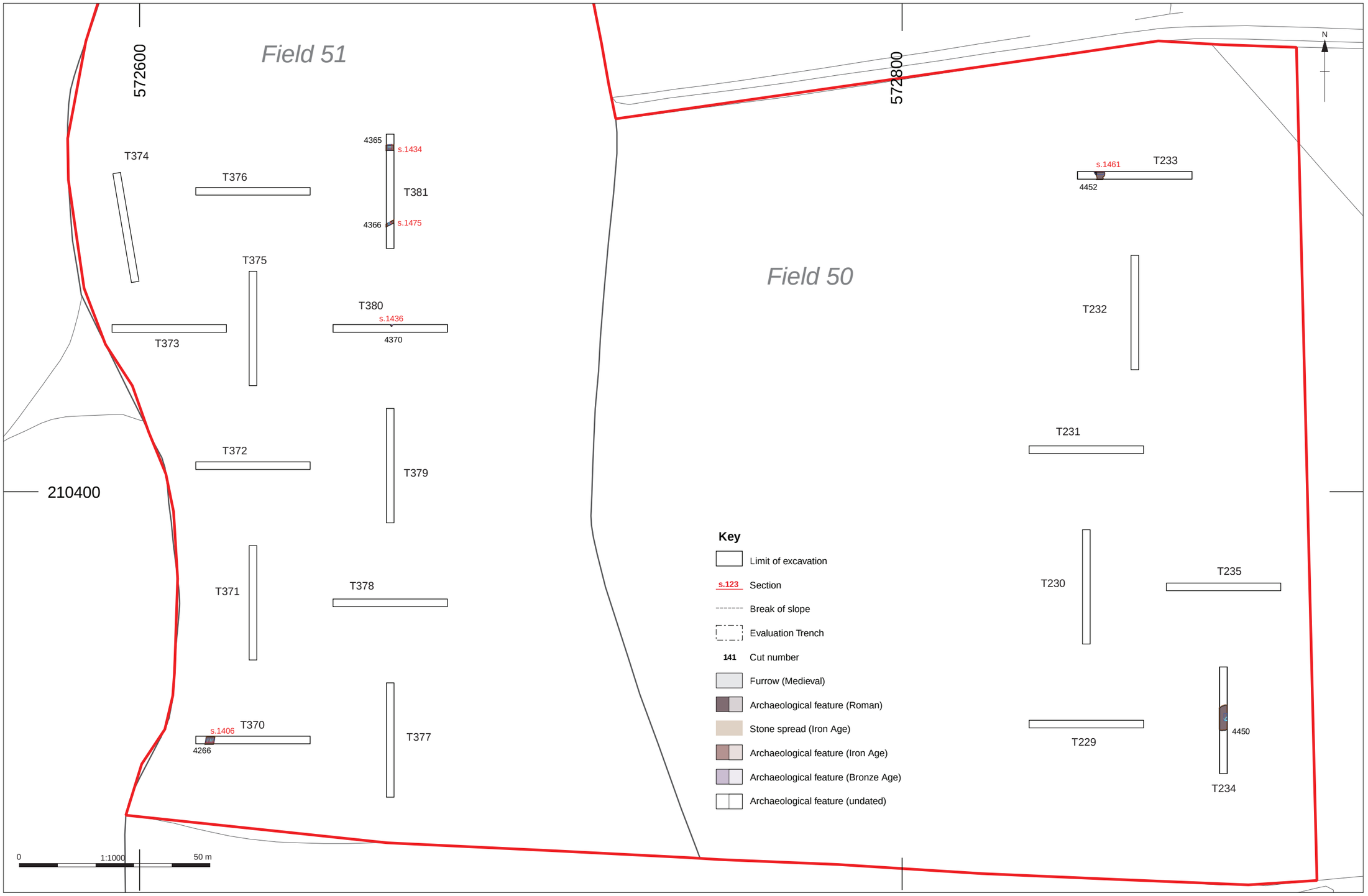

Figure 3: Plan of evaluation trenches.

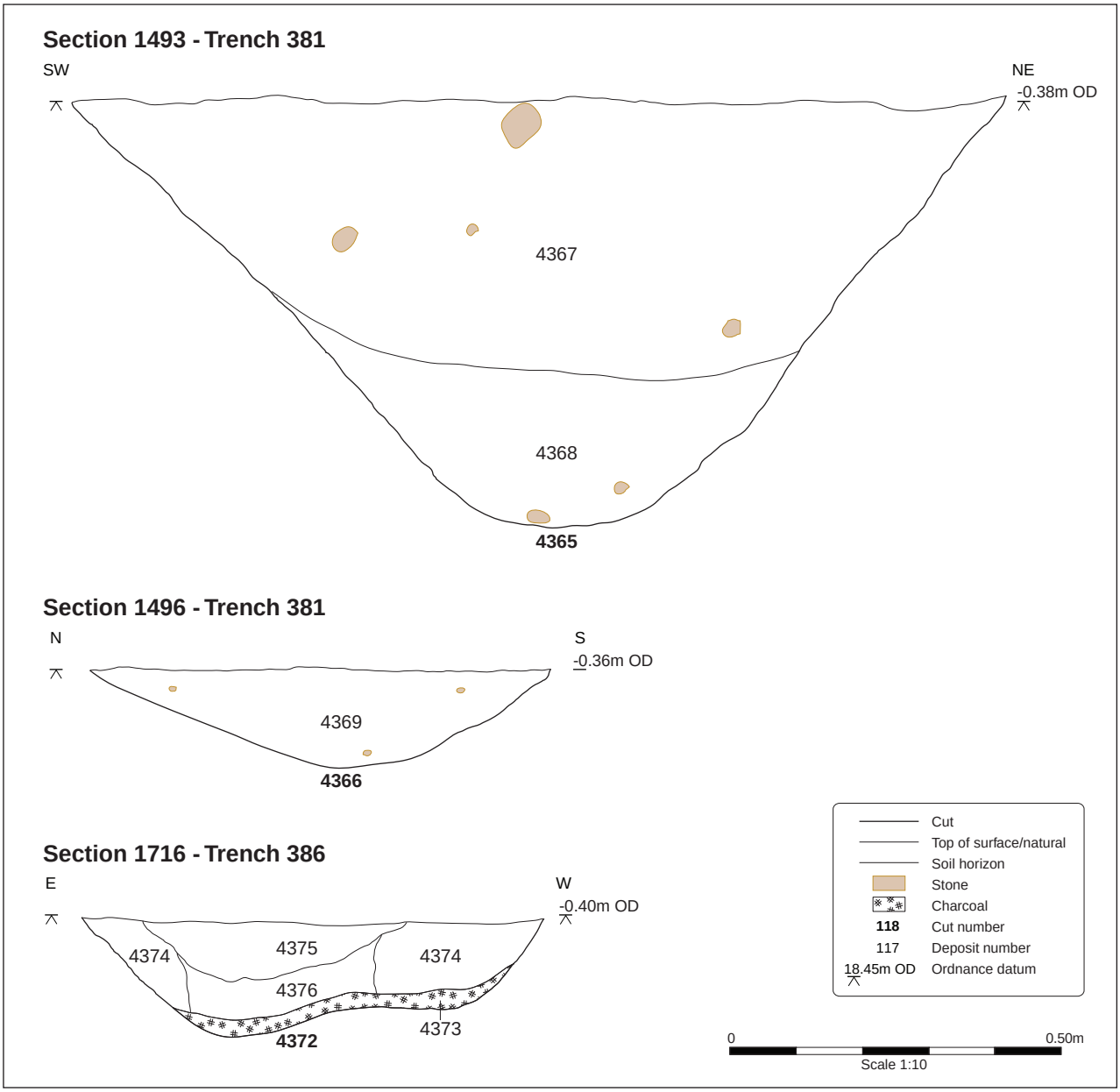

Figure 4: Selected sections

Plate 1: Posthole **4372** looking from south