



Prehistoric and Medieval activity along the route of the Wormingford to Abberton pipeline

Excavation Report



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**Prehistoric and medieval activity along the route of the Wormingford to
Abberton pipeline, Essex**

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

Between January and March 2011 five targeted open area excavations were carried out by Oxford Archaeology East in advance of the construction of a water pipeline by Essex and Suffolk Water. These were located at Staunches Farm, Wormingford; Fosset's Lane, Fordham; Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway; Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge and Birch Park at Birch.

The excavation at Staunches Farm located a field enclosure system of Bronze Age date running north-east to south-west and a medieval field system on an east to west alignment.

At Fordham several Bronze Age features including a pit and a curvilinear ditch were revealed, thought to originate from domestic occupation. A large medieval field boundary was also located running north-east to south-west across site.

The site at Turkey Cock Lane revealed a curvilinear ditch of prehistoric date, which may have formed an animal enclosure. A late medieval field system was evident within the southern part of the excavation, where several large pits of the same date were also found, that are likely to have been for extracting the natural gravel.

At Maldon Road several rectilinear field systems were recorded. The first phase of use may date to the prehistoric period, while two separate medieval phases of field system, one on a north-east to south-west alignment and one on a further north to south orientation, were identified.

The site at Birch Park revealed a prehistoric enclosure at the northern edge of the excavation. Further to the south a later medieval field system was present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Ahead of a proposed water pipeline scheme for Essex and Suffolk water, an archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) at five separate sites in Essex, between Wormingford Pumping Station (TL 91931 3238) and Abberton reservoir (TL 97341 18060) (see Fig 1). These sites were targeted on areas of archaeological significance identified following an evaluation undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in 2010. The excavation phases were carried out between January and March 2011.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Martin Winter of Colchester Borough Council (LPA Planning Application F/COL/08/0194), supplemented by a Specification prepared by Scott Wilson.
- 1.1.3 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 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Colchester Museum under site codes COLEM 2011.5 – COLEM 2011.9.
- 1.1.5 The stretch of pipeline identified for archaeological investigation in Suffolk has been produced within a separate report.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The pipeline corridor traverses an undulating countryside located on sand and gravel bedrock, of the Thames group (British Geological sheet 224). The superficial geology is highly mixed, mainly consisting of sands and gravels.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Neolithic (3500 to 2000 BC)

General

- 1.3.1 During the Neolithic period human activity was largely pastoral in nature, largely concentrated on the coast and on the lighter soils of the river estuaries. The main evidence for activity within Essex is from flint scatters. The only surviving evidence for domestic settlement was recorded at Lawford in the form of an enclosure with a central dwelling, some distance from the current sites.
- 1.3.2 There is archaeological evidence for a complex and structured society, evidenced by the remains of monumental building; examples of which include a *cursus* at Bures St Mary and several long barrows in the surrounding countryside, such as at Tollesbury, Rivenhall and Feering. These are thought to have acted as markers at the boundaries of a group's territory (Kemble, J., 2001).

Site Specific

- 1.3.3 Close to the route of the pipeline, several flint scatters and isolated find spots have been reported to the north and west of Staunches Farm, including Neolithic axeheads (HERs 9179, 9232 and 12612).
- 1.3.4 A fieldwalking survey ahead of gravel extraction to the south of Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway recovered a single flint flake (HER 17955). A further Neolithic flint adze (HER 17626) was also recovered in the vicinity.
- 1.3.5 Several reported find spots have yielded prehistoric flints within the vicinity of Birch Park, these have mainly been dated to the Neolithic (HERs 11383, 12613, 12614 and 12688).

Bronze Age (2000 to 700 BC)

General

- 1.3.6 During the Early Bronze Age settlement continued to be concentrated near to the coast and estuaries. An increase in the number of finds dated to the Middle Bronze Age retrieved from the Colne estuary, indicates an increasing population in this period (Couchman, C. 1980).
- 1.3.7 The Middle Bronze Age also witnessed an increase in funerary sites, with two distinct funerary rites being practised. One comprises enclosed sites with cremation urn burials, such as at Brightlingsea, while the second form of site encountered are unenclosed urn cemeteries, such as at Ardleigh (Kemble, 2001).
- 1.3.8 During the Bronze Age the landscape was enclosed by field systems for the first time, such as has been found at Great Wakering (Kemble, 2001). These enclosed field systems would have continued though the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Indeed it has been suggested that these would have formed the basis for the modern landscape in the Chelmer Valley (Drury & Rodwell, 1980).

Site Specific

- 1.3.9 Cropmarks were observed to the south-west of Staunches Farm, Wormingford showing a concentric ring-ditch, with a row of cremation urns (HER 9181). To the north-west of the site, at Caulin's Field, excavation of a known ring-ditch revealed possible central features and a cremation burial (HER 9190).
- 1.3.10 Within 1km of the Fosset's Lane excavation two find spots have been identified, including a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (HER 12707).

Iron Age (700BC to AD 42)

General

- 1.3.11 The 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, with higher population density and sustained occupation, such as has been found at Little Waltham (Drury 1980).
- 1.3.12 At this time several tribal groups are known from historical documents, including the Trinovantes who occupied the Colchester area (Hawkes & Crummy, 1995).
- 1.3.13 Several hillforts are present within Essex, these mainly enclose promontories, giving good visibility within the landscape. No evidence for occupation has been found, suggesting a defensive purpose, either for protection from different tribal groups or from the sea (Drury, 1980).
- 1.3.14 By the end of the Iron Age sites such as Gosbecks oppida shows 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).

Site Specific

- 1.3.15 To the south Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway, at Church Lane, cropmarks of an enclosure and trackway have been identified. Further excavations of this site revealed these to date to the Middle Iron Age, with evidence that the trackway may have been metalled (HER 45996).
- 1.3.16 In the area of Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge, Prehistoric activity was concentrated to the north-east of Luke's Farm. with several recorded sites here, including the Stanway burial complex (HER 11643) which lay 2.5km to the north-east. Excavations carried out between 1988 and 1996 revealed Late Iron Age and Romano-British cremation burials. The associated grave goods included a shield boss and lance buried with one individual. The cremations were interred within a series of enclosures, laid out in a row.
- 1.3.17 Find spots indicative of Iron Age activity have been reported to the south-west of this complex, during gravel extraction. These include several prehistoric flints and pottery sherds (HER 47170).
- 1.3.18 To the south of Fosset's Lane, Fordham an Iron spearhead (HER 11615) dating to the Iron Age was reported.
- 1.3.19 Aerial photographs taken in 2008 and 2011 to the north of the Birch Park site revealed a series of cropmarks. These have been interpreted as a ring-ditch, a trackway and several smaller field boundaries. (HER 11935)

Roman Period (AD 43 to 410)

- 1.3.20 After the Roman invasion Colchester became the first Colonia in Britain and a thriving town (Crummy 1997). The civitas capital for the Trinovantes is thought to be located at Caesaromagus, modern day Chelmsford, denoted by the presence of a mansio and other public buildings. Several other small towns emerged during this period, including Kelvedon, Heybridge and Braintree. These become part of a organised landscape with

a network of roads linking them. Two are of interest due to the vicinity to the current sites. The London to Colchester road (the route used today as the A12) and the *via Devana* which links Colchester to Chester and has been traced by earthworks in Chalkney woods (Rackham 1980, fig 15.6, 246). This route would be predicted to cross the pipeline north of Stanway and the Turkey Cock Lane site.

- 1.3.21 A Romano-British lead coffin and burial was excavated in 1984 to the west of Fosset's Lane, Fordham (HER 12596). Two further lead coffins were also detected to the south of the site (HER 11951) which contained a female burial and a teenager of unknown sex. Fieldwalking in the vicinity recorded hypocaust tiles. It has been suggested that these finds may indicate the presence of a Romano-British villa / settlement within the locale.
- 1.3.22 The presence of Romano-British activity in the immediate area has been revealed by several scatters of Romano-British pottery (HER 11903) close to Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway, and the use of Romano-British brick within the church building (HER 11833).
- 1.3.23 A north-east to south-west aligned Romano-British road at Stanway was revealed between Bellhouse Farm and Copford Hall, to the south-west of the site. It is known to link with the east-west road to the south; however its north-eastern projection is unknown, but believed to pass near to the Stanway burial complex.
- 1.3.24 There have been several find spots within the vicinity of the Birch Park site dating to the Romano-British period, suggesting a presence throughout the Romano-British period. These have included the use of Romano-British brick as quoins stones within the church. (HER 11395, 11732 and 11871)

Anglo-Saxon (AD 450 to 1066)

- 1.3.25 Throughout the Saxon period settlement continues within the same locations, for example in Kelvedon and Great Dunmow; however activity begins to be focused more on the Thames estuary, in places such as Mucking and Orsett Cock (Jones 1980).

Medieval Period (AD 1066 to 1500)

General

- 1.3.26 The medieval landscape of Essex is still recognisable today, as there has been little open-field agriculture practised. This is characterised by few but large villages, many small hamlets and irregular field boundary and roads/tracks. Wooded commons are widespread in Essex, which comprised open pasture land with pollarded trees (Rackham 1980a).
- 1.3.27 Medieval activity in the form of pottery scatters has been recorded within the vicinity of Staunches Farm (HER 9259, 9178).
- 1.3.28 To the north of Fosset's Lane, Fordham a medieval moated site is reported, where the Hall is currently situated. Further west of this site excavations were carried out ahead of a pipeline which revealed evidence for a timber building. No dating evidence was recovered, however it was cut by a 13th century layer. Further ditches were identified and although undated they are likely to have been contemporary (HER 45171).
- 1.3.29 Settlement in the area of Birch Park within the medieval period was focused on where the current village is, with a Manor and associated church to the north-west. Little

archaeological evidence has been recorded in the HER for this; however the remains of a medieval church are still visible within the Hall grounds.

Summary of Previous Archaeological Work along the Pipeline Route

This section is largely based on the results of the BUFAU evaluation and outlined in the report by Burrow and Mann (2010).

Staunches Farm, Wormingford

- 1.3.30 5 trenches were excavated which revealed a series of ditches relating to two different field systems. One field system was aligned north-east to south-west and Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the fill of one of the ditches. A further field system was aligned east to west and north to south, possibly of prehistoric date. Several discrete pits were recorded, one of which yielded prehistoric flints.

Fosset's Lane, Fordham

- 1.3.31 Two evaluation trenches were located within the immediate area of Fosset's Lane. These revealed two ditches, one of which was prehistoric, running on a north to south alignment. A further ditch was recorded running north-east to south-west, which was undated. These results suggest a continued use of the land.

Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway

- 1.3.32 Three trenches were excavated the results of which suggested an area of prehistoric activity, comprising a concentration of ditches and discrete pits.

Birch Park

- 1.3.33 Prior to the evaluation, in 1987 a fieldwalking survey was conducted by Colchester Archaeological Group during which three sites to the south and one field to the east of Birch Park were surveyed. The eastern site survey recovered the largest scatter of flints, mainly concentrated at the foot of the slope, as a result of hillwash. The three southern fields produced moderately large assemblages of flints, spread evenly across the three fields. The assemblage consisted of cores, scappers and flakes, with fifty-five per cent of the assemblage being flakes, all of which were Neolithic in date (Spencer & Dennis 1988).
- 1.3.34 During the pipeline evaluation, six trenches were situated on the easement. A series of inter-cutting ditches was observed with an earlier field system aligned north-east to south-west. This was then cut by an east to west aligned field system. The results of the evaluation suggest that the earliest evidence for occupation dates to the Neolithic, which was then formalised into a series enclosures and related field system during the Bronze Age.

Cropmarks

- 1.3.35 Several cropmarks have been mapped in the vicinity of the excavations. These are presented in Figures 11 to 15 and discussed later.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Essex and Suffolk Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. Rob Atkins, Graeme Clarke, James Fairbairn, Lucy Offord and Helen Stocks-Morgan directed the fieldwork, with the assistance of Nathan Chinchin, Lyndsey Kemp, Dennis Morgan, Stephen Morgan and Kate Orr. Survey work and illustrations were undertaken by Lucy Offord. Thanks also to Kay Silver and Amanda Hedge of Essex and Suffolk Water, Nick Finch and Louise Robinson of Scott Wilson and Conleth Greene of Farrans for their assistance.
- 1.4.2 The mitigation strategy was agreed by Martin Winter, Archaeological Officer of Colchester Borough Council and Nick Finch of Scott Wilson. The sites were monitored by Martin Winter.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The evaluation revealed a concentration of archaeological remains at five locations within the corridor. It was determined that strip, map and sample excavations should take place at these locations, in order to mitigate the impact of the pipeline works.
- 2.1.2 The main aim of these excavations was to investigate areas of possible prehistoric occupation, in order to preserve the archaeological evidence by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

Site	HER Number	Location	Total Length
Staunches Farm	COLEM 2011.5	TL 925 324	617m
Fosset's Lane	COLEM 2011.6	TL 932 278	270m
Turkey Cock Lane	COLEM 2011.7	TL 936 241	285m
Maldon Road	COLEM 2011.8	TL 944 215	167m
Birch Park	COLEM 2011.9	TL 947 206	550m

Table 1: The strip map and sample areas, showing their location and length

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The written scheme of investigation required that sample excavations were carried out in five separate locations, which had been identified during the evaluation stage. The pipeline easement was 20m wide. Where the depth of subsoil was sufficient to protect the archaeological deposits, the excavation was limited to the 4m wide pipe-cut trench. Where the depth of subsoil was insufficient, then the full 20m was stripped. This was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.2 Open area excavations were cleaned by hand as necessary in order to identify all features. All features were mapped onto a base plan by GPS. The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS.
- 2.2.3 A minimum of 50% of all discrete and 10% of linear archaeological features were excavated and 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.
- 2.2.4 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 A total of 30 environmental samples were taken from a range of archaeological features and deposits during the course of the excavation.
- 2.2.6 The fieldwork was carried out during a spell of relatively dry conditions, with occasional rain showers with the exception of the Turkey Cock Lane excavation which, during a period of wet weather, was temporarily waterlogged.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented for each site individually running from north-west to south-east along the pipeline route. Within each site the results are given in chronological order and described from north-west to south-east. Further contextual detail is provided in Appendix A.

3.2 Staunches Farm, Wormingford: COLEM 2011.5

3.2.1 The northern trench (A) (see Fig. 2) traversed level ground while the southern trench (B) was situated on a north-facing slope, with a stream separating the two. Topsoil (dark greyish brown silty clay) was stripped to a depth of 0.3m across the site. The depth of subsoil (mid brownish grey silty sand) varied throughout the excavation area, being 0.1m thick when situated on the level ground and reaching a maximum depth of 0.6m towards the bottom of the slope. The natural geology comprised yellow sand and gravels.

Bronze Age (2000 - 700 BC)

3.2.2 Ditch **173** was located towards the centre of Trench A. It was aligned north-east to south-west and was 2.6m wide and 0.4m in depth, with a wide U shaped profile. The primary fill (171) was a dark greyish brown sandy silt, which lay against the south-eastern edge of the ditch. This may suggest that a bank was situated on the south-eastern side with material eroding off into the ditch. A further deposit of topsoil-derived material then filled the ditch (172), which may represent deliberate levelling when the site was abandoned. This contained a flint scraper and two flakes attributable to the Early Bronze Age (Appendix F).

3.2.3 Two contemporary ditches (**148** and **160**) on similar alignments were located in Trench A and one further ditch (**113**) in Trench B. Ditch **160** ran north-east to south-west. It measured 3.2m wide and 1.05m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base (see Plate 1). The ditch was left to gradually infill (159, 158, 156), following which it was recut to prolong its use, and subsequently deliberately backfilled with topsoil-derived material (153, 154) containing Beaker pottery and several flint artefacts dating to the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age. The accumulation of soil on the south-eastern edge may represent bank material that has slipped down into the ditch (see Fig. 10 for section). Three metres to the south-east lay ditch **148**, which was on a similar alignment. This ditch measured 0.75m wide and 0.3m deep, with a V-shaped profile. This was filled in two distinct episodes, both of which were naturally derived soils; one of which contained a struck flint blade.

3.2.4 Ditch **113** lay in Trench B to the south of **148** on a north-east to south-west alignment. It was 3.2m wide and 0.6m deep, cut to a wide U-shaped profile and was filled with a series of brown grey silts, one of which (110) contained a Early Bronze Age flint flake.

3.2.5 Two postholes (**149** and **169**) were excavated at the southern end of Trench A, both of which were circular in shape with a U-shaped profile. Posthole **149** had a diameter of 1m and a depth of 0.25m; the diameter of posthole **169** was 0.85m and 0.5m deep. An undiagnostic flint blade was recovered from the fill of posthole **149**.

Iron Age (700 BC - AD 43)

- 3.2.6 A north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**125**) was investigated in Trench A, which was 1.7m wide and 0.65m in depth. The ditch profile was U-shaped and had been filled with a naturally derived soil, which contained one sherd of Early Iron Age pottery and a residual Early Bronze Age flint flake.

Medieval AD (1066 - 1500)

- 3.2.7 At the northern end of Trench A a north-west to south-east ditch **130** was excavated. The dimensions of which were 1.7m wide and 0.85m deep. The ditch had a U shaped profile and was infilled by two distinct deposits, both laid down by secondary deposition. At some point the ditch was refashioned to create a double-ditch boundary. The southern ditch **114** was 1.4m in width and 0.25m in depth. This was filled with mid brown sandy silt containing early medieval Sandy ware. The second recut **116** lay 0.4m to the north-west, measuring 2m and its depth was 0.3m.

Modern AD (1800 – present)

- 3.2.8 At the northern end of trench A lay boundary or field ditch **105**. The ditch ran north-east to south-west and was 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep with a concave profile. The ditch appears on the first edition of the OS map in 1880 (www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html).

Undated

- 3.2.9 Several tree throws **101**, **103**, **120**, **135**, **161** and **164** were present across site. Although undated it is likely that these features, which were amorphous in shape with irregular profiles are early, possibly prehistoric.
- 3.2.10 A hedge line **127** and **129** was observed running north-east to south-west at the northern end of the excavation. This was represented by an irregular linear cut with a single natural infilling; it measured 0.45m wide and 0.3m deep. Opposing terminals were observed suggesting a break in the hedge line.
- 3.2.11 Several postholes were observed in Trench A; all of which are undated and do not form any coherent structures. Two **140** and **144** were circular in plan with a diameter of 0.4m - 0.6m, they had concave profiles and a depth of 0.1m with a single fill. To the south lay two postholes **136** and **138**. Posthole **136** was circular in plan with an U-shaped profile. The diameter was 0.3m and depth was 0.1m; a single fill was present. Posthole **138**, located to the east, was oval in shape and measured 0.7m long, 0.45m wide and 0.2m deep. It was cut to a U-shaped profile with a single fill.
- 3.2.12 Several ditches on an east to west alignment were also investigated **119**, **151**, **165**, all of which had a U-shaped profile. These measured 1m wide by between 0.3m and 0.5m deep. A ditch **142** on a similar alignment was smaller in size, measuring 0.4m wide and 0.5m deep; this ditch terminated to the east.
- 3.2.13 To the south-east lay ditch **167**; this ran north-east to south-west for 1.1m before terminating to the north-east. The ditch profile was concave and measured 0.75m wide by 0.25m deep; a single fill was identified.

Watching brief

- 3.2.14 In addition to the above, URS conducted a watching brief on the location of the construction compound. The compound was thought to lie on the route of a Roman road but no evidence for this was uncovered.

3.3 Fosset's Lane, Fordham: COLEM 2011.6

- 3.3.1 The site comprised of a single trench running north-west to south-east on level ground. The site was covered by a dark greyish brown topsoil to a depth of 0.3m, with no subsoil; the natural was a mid orange clayey silt (see Fig. 3 for location of archaeological features).

Early Iron Age (700 - 300 BC)

- 3.3.2 An isolated pit **4** was observed at the northern end of the site (see Plate 2). This was circular in plan with a diameter of 1m. The pit was flat bottomed with a depth of 0.1m. This pit had a primary fill (3) of light brownish yellow clay; the secondary fill (2), associated with its use, was a mid grey silty clay containing a large quantity of burnt flint and Iron Age pottery.
- 3.3.3 At the northern part of the site lay a north-west to south-east aligned ditch **12**, **27**, **35** and **40**. The ditch was observed to be slightly curvilinear in nature, running for a length of 39.2m. The terminal to the north-west **40** had a width of 1.6m and was 0.2m deep, with a shallow profile, the observed terminus was truncated. The south-eastern terminal **27** was narrower, measuring 1m wide and 0.1m deep, again this is likely to be the result of truncation. The length of the ditch was infilled with a mid orangish grey silty clay, due to gradual infilling. Early Iron Age pottery and a struck flint were retrieved within ditch fill 11 and Early Iron Age pottery was collected from fill 26.
- 3.3.4 Pit **25** was observed to cut the south-eastern terminal; it was oval in plan, and measured 1.4m long, 1.1m wide and 0.2m deep. The profile was similar to the ditch but the fill was a distinctive darker grey silty clay fill, containing Early Iron Age pottery.
- 3.3.5 Four metres to the south of ditch **12**, a sub-oval shallow scoop **19** was excavated. The dimensions of the pit were 2.75m long by 1.4m wide and 0.1m deep. The primary fill was a light brownish yellow clay. The secondary filling, associated with the pit's use, was a dark grey brown silty clay with charcoal deposits, containing Early Iron Age pottery.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)

- 3.3.6 A large irregular ditch was revealed running north-east to south-west across the northern part of site. The ditch was seen to have three distinct phases showing prolonged use, probably as part of an enclosure. The first phase **6** was observed within the northernmost intervention; this was a wide U-shaped ditch and measured 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep, with a single fill. No further evidence of this phase was seen within the interventions to the south-east, though this ditch is likely to have been truncated by later re-cuts.

- 3.3.7 The second phase **8, 15, 23, 28** and **48** was represented by a V-shaped profile and measured 1.3m in width and 0.85m in depth. This re-cut had two fills, the first of which was a mid yellowish brown silty clay, followed by a mid greyish brown silty clay, both of which resulting from gradual infilling when ditch was open. Two of these interventions yielded 12 - 14th Century pottery from the upper fills (29, 41).
- 3.3.8 The final phase **10, 13, 30** and **46** was a U-shaped ditch, 2.1m wide and 0.7m deep, infilled gradually with a mid greyish brown silty clay from which two fragments from a medieval horseshoe was retrieved (for section see Fig. 10). These re-cuts changed the alignment of the ditch from north-north-east to south-south-west to a more north-east to south-west orientation, which is why in plan it appears to widen to the south-east.

3.4 Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway: COLEM 2011.7

- 3.4.1 Three separate trenches were machined, removing a dark brownish grey sandy clay topsoil, measuring 0.15m thick. A central easement was stripped, of a mid grey silty sand subsoil, to a depth of 0.28m – 0.35m. The natural geology comprised yellow sands and gravels (see Fig. 4 for location of archaeological features).

Bronze Age (2000 – 700 BC)

- 3.4.2 A discrete pit **212** was observed in the north of Trench A; this was sub circular in plan with a diameter of 1.1m. The pit had a concave base filled with naturally derived soil, containing struck flint dating to the Early Bronze Age and late Bronze Age pottery.
- 3.4.3 Twenty metres to the south an east to west ditch **232** was investigated which had a wide U-shaped profile and measured 1m in width and 0.8m in depth. This ditch was filled by two distinct secondary fills, which contained Late Bronze Age pottery. The fills sequence suggests that the ditch may have been open for sometime before this date.

Medieval (AD 1066 - 1500)

- 3.4.4 Three postholes were located in the south of Trench A, all of which had a similar oval shape and concave profile. The northernmost posthole **226** measured 0.8m long, 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep and contained a single fill containing Late Bronze Age pottery, which is likely to be residual. The central posthole **224** was 0.6m long, 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. To the south lay a third posthole **228** which measured 0.5m by 0.45m and a 0.2m deep, with a single fill containing a sherd of medieval brick or tile.
- 3.4.5 Immediately to the south-west of **228**, a sub-circular posthole **222** was excavated, with a diameter of 0.3m and depth of 0.22m. This feature had a concave profile, and contained a single fill.
- 3.4.6 The three postholes **224, 226** and **228** could either be contemporary or may be in sequence with one replacing the other. The southern posthole (**222**) is likely to be contemporary. Given the size and relative position of these postholes, they may form a fence line.
- 3.4.7 In the south-east of the excavation area (Trench A) lay a curvilinear ditch **297** and **324**, forming the western end of a horse-shoe shaped enclosure (see Fig 7 and Plate 3). The ditch had a U-shaped profile, which measured 0.8m in width and 0.4m in depth; the fill was a light yellowish brown soil, yielding early medieval pottery.

- 3.4.8 A large probably circular pit **313** was investigated to the south of ditch 297/324. It measured c6m in length and 2.6m wide. The profile was a wide U shaped with a depth of 1.05m. The pit was filled with a series of brown silty sands, one of which (309) contained a hand-forged iron nail (for section see Fig. 10).
- 3.4.9 Adjacent to this feature was a large amorphous pit **296**, which measured 4m in length and 1.1m in depth. The pit contained early medieval pottery within its brown sandy silt fills.
- 3.4.10 Part of a possible structure was present at the southern end of Trench C, consisting of two postholes. The northern posthole **301** was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.3m and a depth of 0.4m. The posthole had a concave profile. A sherd of early medieval pottery was recovered from the light brown sandy silt fill.
- 3.4.11 Immediately to the south lay a much larger posthole **303**; this had a diameter of 0.6m and was circular in plan. The base of the cut, which measured 0.50m deep, sloped slightly to the north ; the slightly irregular nature of this posthole is consistent with disturbance caused by removal of the post. These two postholes were situated within a depression measuring 4m wide and 0.2m deep.
- 3.4.12 A large pit **300** was located adjacent to, and to the north of, this depression. This was oval in plan and had a wide U-shaped profile. It measured 1.2m wide and 0.32m deep, and had a topsoil-derived fill containing medieval pottery. A similar U-shaped pit **299** was located immediately to the north, observed as 1.7m wide and 0.3m deep. This pit was shown to recut an earlier pit **298** possibly enlarging it and prolonging its use. Pit **299** is also dated to the early medieval period, as a sherd of sandy ware pottery was retrieved from its fill. This series of pits all showed evidence of topsoil infilling, possibly as a result of tipping, the purpose of which is unclear.

Modern (1800 – present)

- 3.4.13 A boundary ditch **261/265**, orientated north-north-west to south-south-east was encountered in the south of Trench A. The ditch was 1.1m wide and 0.7m deep, it had steep sides, a concave base and had a single fill. No other ditches were observed to run on this alignment and no dating evidence was found within its fill. This ditch appears on the 1876 OS map, though it may be of an earlier origin (www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html). Cut into the ditch fill was an elongated pit **263**, with a concave profile and measuring 2.2m long, 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep; a single fill was identified.
- 3.4.14 The southern most trench revealed features demonstrated to be Late medieval in date (see Fig. 7). These features were contained south of a large boundary ditch **318**, which ran north-east to south-west along the same alignment of the old Romano-British road. The boundary ditch was 6.2m wide and 1.2m deep, the sides were steep, with a flat base. The fills contained ceramic building material and a mixture of pottery, the latest being a medieval coarseware. A large number of struck flints was retrieved dating to the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age although these are likely to be residual.
- 3.4.15 Parallel to this, a further ditch **321** (Fig 7) was exposed to the south. This steep-sided, flat bottomed ditch may have formed an internal boundary, the dimensions of which were 0.75m wide and 0.5m deep; it contained a single fill.
- 3.4.16 Both ditches **318** and **321** correspond to boundaries on the 1897 OS map; however the finds retrieved, being early medieval in date, would suggest an earlier origin. (www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html).

Undated

- 3.4.17 Several amorphous features **237, 239 241, 249, 255, 257, 268, 276, 282, 285** and **287** were dispersed across site. These features were irregular in profile, suggesting they were tree throws. This level of activity would suggest tree clearance of unknown date.
- 3.4.18 At the northern end of Trench A, two parallel ditches extended on a north-east to south-west orientation, along the same alignment as the Romano-British road (now the B1408). The northernmost ditch **207**, measured 2.9m wide by 0.5m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. It contained a primary fill on its south-west side, overlain by a main secondary infilling. Immediately to the south lay ditch **211** which had a similar profile though was smaller in size, being 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep with a single fill.
- 3.4.19 A north-east to south-west aligned ditch **209** was located to the south-east of 211. This measured 1.95m in width and 0.1m in depth and had a shallow profile. Perpendicular to this was a corresponding shallow ditch **215**, narrower in width (0.5m) and only 0.1m deep. Both of these had single fills. Although no dating evidence was recovered, the alignments do not correspond to the Romano-British road which may suggest that they were laid out during the prehistoric period.
- 3.4.20 A single isolated undated pit **275** was present in Trench A which was oval in plan and measured 1.7m long by 1.4m wide and 0.20m deep. The sides were concave and the base sloped to the east; this was filled with a naturally derived, yellow brown silty sand.
- 3.4.21 Adjacent to ditch 261/275 lay a 0.25m wide posthole **234**. This was vertically sided with a flat base and measured 0.15m deep. The single fill was a dark reddish brown silty sand, no dating evidence was recovered.
- 3.4.22 Within Trench B a ring-ditch was investigated (see Fig. 6), which had an internal diameter of 9m. The ring-ditch comprised of two curvilinear ditches; with a possible entranceway to the north-west, measuring 1m wide. The northern arm **272/280** was excavated by means of two interventions. One of these was located against the edge of excavation, showing the ditch to be 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep with a U-shaped profile (for section see Fig. 10). A further intervention was placed at the entranceway terminal **272** which showed that the profile had narrowed to a width of 0.35m and had slightly steeper sides. Both of these interventions produced the same mid orangish brown silty clay fill, associated with gradual infilling.
- 3.4.23 The southern arm of the ring-ditch **235/239/243/252** was more irregular in plan, although showing a general inclination to turn eastwards from the north. The fill of this ditch was due to natural erosion of the edges, which would account for a difficulty in determining the cut. Four interventions were excavated across the feature. The opposing terminal **252** was observed to be have a rounded V-shaped profile, and measured 0.45m wide and 0.4m deep. This profile continued throughout the ditch; becoming 0.55m wide by 0.45m deep within intervention **243**, before returning to the same width and depth in intervention **235** (for section see Fig. 10). One internal posthole **278** was observed. It was oval in shape and steep-sided and measured 0.9m by 0.4m and was 0.3m deep, with a single fill.
- 3.4.24 To the south lay a small 3m long curvilinear ditch (**216/220**) with a central posthole (**218**) creating an arc facing to the north-west. The ditch was concave in profile and measured 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. The central posthole was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.8m and depth of 0.4m, this contained a sherd of .

- 3.4.25 A further curvilinear ditch **200/202/204** was excavated at the southern end of Trench B. The ditch ran for a length of 4.5m, from north to south before turning north-east to south-west, extending outside of the excavation. It measured 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep and had a concave profile. The fill of 200 contained one flint blade associated with Late Mesolithic / Early Neolithic technology, though this is may be residual. The lack of artefacts and eco-factual remains indicates it was not domestic in character.

Watching Brief

- 3.4.26 In addition to the above, URS conducted a watching brief on the topsoil strip of the pipeline at Eight Ash Green. The pipeline was thought to cross the line of a Roman road at this point but no evidence for the road was revealed.

3.5 Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge: COLEM 2011.8

- 3.5.1 Topsoil (dark greyish brown) was machined off the site to a depth of 0.3m. The central easement was stripped of subsoil (mid greyish brown silty sand) to a further depth of 0.1m. This revealed a yellow sand and gravel natural.
- 3.5.2 All archaeological features were observed cutting through the sand gravel natural, situated on the higher ground. Where the site began to slope down towards an old stream bed, colluvium was observed to a maximum excavated depth of 0.7m (see Fig. 8 for location of archaeological features).

Early Iron Age (700 - 300 BC)

- 3.5.3 Several tree throws **10, 14, 22, 45, 51, 60, 62** and **65** were distributed across site; one additional one was of note **49/56**, as it contained Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery.

Medieval AD (1066 – 1500)

- 3.5.4 A north-east to south-west ditch aligned **24** was observed towards the centre of the site. The ditch, which had a concave profile, terminated to the south-west and measured 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep and contained a single fill.
- 3.5.5 This ditch was cut by two parallel ditches on the same alignment, separated by a distance of 0.5m. The north-western ditch **26** was 1.1m wide and 0.35m deep, while the south-eastern ditch **28** measured 0.8m in width and 0.15m in depth. Both of these ditches had similar V-shaped profiles and were infilled with subsoil derived material. Early medieval pottery was recovered from both ditches which are likely to have been contemporary.

Modern AD (1800 - present)

- 3.5.6 Posthole **12** lay to the north-west of the site and was square in shape, with a width of 0.2m. The depth of the feature at 0.05m indicates that it had been truncated by modern ploughing. To the south-east of posthole 12 two further postholes **16** and **18** were observed, these were both 0.4m in diameter and 0.2m in depth, they show evidence of deliberate backfilling after the post had been taken out. A machine-cut iron nail dated no earlier than AD 1811 was recovered from fill 15. The position of these three

postholes in a line running north-west to south-east, suggests that they may have formed a fence line (for sections see Fig. 10).

Undated

- 3.5.7 A ditch **2** was located running north-east to south-west In the north-west of the site; the profile was a wide U-shape, with a width of 0.5m and depth of 0.1m. The ditch, which was gradually infilled, ran for a length of 1.4m before terminating to the south-west. A pit **4** lay 0.6m to the south-west in line with the ditch terminal and was probably part of the same enclosure or field system. The pit was oval in shape, with a similar profile to the ditch; it was 0.8m wide with a depth of 0.1m and contained a single fill.
- 3.5.8 Another short length of north-south aligned ditch was investigated to the south-east of ditch 2. The ditch terminated to the north after a length of 1.3m. This was concave in profile, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep, with a single fill. This undated feature lay on a different alignment to other field systems.
- 3.5.9 Isolated feature **20** was present 28m to the south-east of 6; it was oval in shape, with a U-shaped profile. It extended outside the excavation area and is thought to be a terminal of a north-east to south-west aligned ditch, 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. A single fill derived from subsoil was identified.
- 3.5.10 North-east to south-west aligned ditch terminal **36** lay 20m to the south-east, it was 0.9m in width and 0.2m in depth. The ditch had a U-shaped profile with a single fill. An opposing ditch terminal **34** extended north-eastwards and measured 0.85m in width and 0.25m in depth. This ditch had a similar U-shaped profile and contained a single fill.
- 3.5.11 Further parallel ditch terminal **30** was located 0.8m to the north-west. The ditch was seen to have steep sides and a rounded base measuring 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep. Pit **32** lay 0.8m north-east from the ditch terminal. This feature was circular in shape, with a diameter of 0.9m and a concave profile extending to a depth of 0.2m.
- 3.5.12 Small curvilinear ditch **42** with a concave profile was identified close to the centre of the trench. The ditch measured 0.6m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.05m in depth. At the northern end of the ditch an oval pit **40** was observed, measuring 1m by 0.9m in plan and 0.3m deep. The pit had steep sides and a concave base. Both of these features contained a single mid greyish brown silty sandy fills. A small oval pit **44** was present towards the southern end of the ditch which measured 0.9m long and 0.5m wide. It had a concave profile and was 0.25m deep. This pit showed a deliberate backfilling event of topsoil derived material.
- 3.5.13 Towards the south-eastern end of the site a curvilinear ditch was observed. Within the excavated area the ditch was semi-circular in nature; however a large part of this feature lay outside of the excavation area. This ditch **68 / 72** comprised of a steep V-shaped profile and measured 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep. The primary ditch fill was mid brown silty sand, resulting from erosion of the edges. After an initial period of disuse the ditch was recut **53 / 74** and **70** and had a similar profile and depth. It probably represents an act of cleaning to prolong the use of the enclosure (for section see Fig. 10).
- 3.5.14 Outside of the excavation area the ditch was visible arcing to the north and running into a north-east to south-west ditch **76**. This measured 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep and was infilled with a similar naturally derived soil (**77**).

- 3.5.15 Two parallel ditches **38** and **47** running north to south were revealed at the south-eastern end of the site. These ditches were set apart by 30m and both had concave profiles and measured 0.8m wide by 0.2m deep.

3.6 Birch Park: COLEM 2011.9

- 3.6.1 The site extended north to south across undulating countryside. Topsoil was stripped to a depth of 0.3m from which Neolithic pottery was recovered. No subsoil was present within Trench B; however in Trench A subsoil ranged from 0.1m thick on higher ground, rising to a thickness of 0.6m where the ground sloped down towards the stream. Colluvium was observed on the valley sides to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Archaeological features were observed to be concentrated on the higher ground, cut into the sand and gravel natural (see Fig. 9 for location of archaeological features).

Geological

- 3.6.2 Several amorphous features **20, 22, 24, 38, 42, 49** and **74** were observed within the gravel natural, excavation of which revealed them to have been geological in nature.

Prehistoric (3500 BC – AD 42)

- 3.6.3 Two adjacent ditches running north-east to south-west, following the contours of the ground, were excavated. The northern ditch **62** was 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep, with a rounded V-shape profile and a single fill. The ditch to the south **51** was of similar dimensions but with a concave profile; although undated these features are likely to have been prehistoric.

Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1800)

- 3.6.4 At the northern end of Trench B two parallel ditches **12** and **14** were recorded running east to west. Ditch **12** was 1.5m wide and 0.35m deep, with a U shaped profile; this was filled by a topsoil derived material containing post-medieval tile. Ditch **14** had a V-shaped profile, it measured 1.25m in width and had a depth of 0.45m. The change in profile would suggest that they were not contemporary; however one may have been created as a replacement for the other.

Modern (AD 1800 - present)

- 3.6.5 Several tree throws **16, 26, 32, 36, 40, 58** and **77** were observed, all irregular in shape and profile; two further tree throws **18** and **20** were of note due to the presence of charcoal and burnt flint, suggesting deliberate land clearance using fire. **77** contained two hand-forged iron nails of medieval or later date.
- 3.6.6 At the most southerly point in Trench B there was a deep depression infilled with colluvium and subsoil derived material. This feature **79** measured 4m in length and extended outside of the excavation area. It is believed to be a pond or waterhole, which was situated to contain the natural flooding that would have occurred on the lower ground. Excavation was undertaken by machine to a depth of 1.1m, no further hand excavation was attempted for Health and Safety reasons due to the collapse of the trench edges.

Undated

- 3.6.7 Within the northern part of Trench B lay two features 28 and 34. Ditch **28** was oval in plan and measured 1.5m by 1m, with a depth of 0.25m; this was filled with a mid brown silty sand. The feature extended west outside of the excavation area and may have been a ditch terminal. Pit **34**, which lay 10m to the south, was oval in shape with a concave profile. It measured 1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep.
- 3.6.8 In the south of Trench B, located on lower ground, was a group of four similar postholes; three of which **64**, **66** and **68** were clustered together on a north-west to south-east alignment with posthole **54** located 4m further to the south-east. These postholes were all oval in plan and measured 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep and contained mid greyish brown silty sand.
- 3.6.9 Within the vicinity, two further features were identified. One of these, **70**, was oval in plan and measured 0.9m by 0.45m and was 0.15m deep. Its profile was irregular and it contained a single natural fill. The second feature **72** was similar in shape and profile but smaller, measuring 0.4m by 0.2m and 0.15m in depth. These two features are likely to be a result of rooting or animal activity and not archaeological in origin.
- 3.6.10 To the north of Trench A three parallel ditches were observed running north-west to south-east on the north-facing slope under c1.2m of colluvium. Excavation of these features was not possible due to concerns over trench collapse. One of these features was excavated at the evaluation stage, when no dating evidence was retrieved.
- 3.6.11 A pit **8** was investigated at the northern end of Trench A. This was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of 0.15m. This pit, which contained a single fill, had been disturbed by later bioturbation, which may account for the animal bone recovered.
- 3.6.12 Three metres to the west lay a further pit **10**. This was oval in shape, measuring 0.8m by 0.6m; the base sloped to the east a depth of 0.4m. The sloped profile may suggest that it held a post; however the pit fill did not suggest a function.
- 3.6.13 Postholes **45** and **47** were located on the higher ground in the south of Trench A. The northern posthole **45** was circular in shape with a concave profile. The diameter was 0.6m and had a depth of 0.2m; its fill was a light brownish grey silty sand. Posthole **47** lay 4m to the south, this was oval in shape and 0.7m long, 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep. The base was pointed and infilled with a dark greyish brown topsoil derived material.

3.7 Finds Summary

COLEM 2011.5

- 3.7.1 The quantity of finds retrieved from archaeological deposits in this area was relatively low, with 12 sherds of Early Bronze / Beaker pottery recovered from ditch 160 and one sherd of Bronze Age pot from ditch **125**.
- 3.7.2 The flint assemblage comprised 29 struck flints from eleven contexts, which spanned the Late Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age.
- 3.7.3 Later activity on site was demonstrated by the recovery of 2 sherds of medieval pottery from ditch **114**.

COLEM 2011.6

- 3.7.4 Pottery recovered from the site had a total count of 44 sherds, of which five sherds are dated to the Early Bronze Age / Bronze Age. They were recovered from enclosure ditch **27** and pit **25**. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch **19**. Later medieval enclosure ditch **10** contained 37 sherds of sandy coarseware and three horseshoe fragments within its fills.
- 3.7.5 The investigation produced two undiagnostic flint artefacts, which were likely to be residual.
- 3.7.6 The medieval enclosure ditch also contained 30 fragments of animal bone, 13 of which were identifiable to species such as sheep/goat and pig.

COLEM 2011.7

- 3.7.7 Bronze Age pottery, totaling 59 sherds, was recovered from pit **226** and ditches **318** and **232**. Early medieval pottery was present within pit **289** and ditch **318**.
- 3.7.8 Nail fragments from ditch **318** and pit **313** were hand forged, therefore no accurate dating is possible.
- 3.7.9 During the excavation 24 struck flints were recovered, from six deposits contained within a pit, gully, ditch and unstratified contexts. These are dated to the Late Neolithic / Early Early Bronze Age and are likely to be residual in most cases.

COLEM 2011.8

- 3.7.10 The prehistoric activity can only be tentatively dated as only one sherd of pottery was recovered, of which the fabric is relatively undiagnostic. Early medieval activity on site is represented within ditch **26**, from which 18 sherds of sandy coarseware were recovered.

COLEM 2011.9

- 3.7.11 The pottery from this site consisted of nine sherds of Late Neolithic pottery recovered from the topsoil 4. One hand forged nail was retrieved from a tree throw **77**, though no precision in dating is possible from this fragment.
- 3.7.12 A small assemblage of four struck flints was recovered during the investigations, all of which were undiagnostic.

3.8 Environmental Summary

- 3.8.1 The sampling of deposits has shown a general scarcity of charred plant remains across the sites with only a single grain of barley from a modern ditch **105** within COLEM 2011.5. An abundance of wood charcoal was recovered from two pits within COLEM 2011.8, however these are not identified to species and the pits themselves do not show *in situ* burning.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The majority of features revealed across the sites were undated and as a result of the narrow width of the excavation areas, the full extent of features and their relationship to one another remains unclear. The following discussion will focus on features that are dated and can be grouped by function and alignment.

4.2 Staunches Farm, Wormingford: COLEM 2011.5

4.2.1 Late Mesolithic / Early Neolithic occupation of the environs is attested by the presence of several residual flints which were recovered within the fills of ditches, although no features can be directly attributable to this period.

4.2.2 Evidence of Bronze Age activity is provided by a phase of probable enclosure ditches (160 and 173) both 3.2m wide and up to 1.06m deep. These were spaced c700m apart on a north-east to south-west alignment. Five sherds of Beaker pottery were recovered from ditch **160**. Beaker pottery is relatively rare within the archaeological record outside of domestic or monumental enclosures. Given the proximity of the presumed Bures St Mary's cursus, directly to the north-east and the adjacent ring-ditch complex (see Fig. 11). These features are likely to be part of the same monumental landscape, but may possibly relate to part of a field enclosure system.

4.2.3 The footpath which is still in use today and is shown on the maps (see Fig. 11) follows the alignment of the cursus monument, suggesting that the modern day landscape has been influenced by its prehistoric precursor.

4.2.4 Early Iron Age activity can be attested to by two parallel ditches (**113, 125**) which were aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. These ditches are likely to be part of a larger field system. Evidence from the cropmarks within the vicinity however shows that ditch **125** matches a cropmark which is irregular in shape and pattern (see Fig. 11). Its location on a north facing slope would make it conducive to settlement.

4.2.5 Several features can be seen to disregard this predominant landscape layout, one of which is a field system running on an east to west alignment (**119,142,151,165**). This difference may be suggestive of a Roman or medieval date. The remnants of an east to west alignment of fields can be traced through cropmarks to the west and east of the area, along with a trackway running east to west.

4.2.6 A further ditch running north-east to south-west at the north-western end of site (**114**) can be seen as a continuation of a field boundary located along the edge of Staunches Farm. The continuation of this can be seen in the 1880 OS map, which suggests a medieval or later date for the ditch.

Significance

4.2.7 The area around Wormingford is a known prehistoric landscape with several ring-ditch complexes recorded in aerial photographs and excavations (see Fig.11). This excavation has further defined this, but has also shown that the landscape may have been agricultural as well as monumental with the discovery of a possible Early Bronze Age field system to the south of the cursus monument. The presence of Beaker pottery within the ditch fills is relatively infrequent as little domestic occupation has been conclusively shown for the Early Bronze Age in this area. It is suggestive that the domestic occupation may have been located near to the known monumental evidence.

- 4.2.8 Relatively little evidence for Later Iron Age occupation was recovered during the excavation, suggesting an abandonment of the landscape and a break in settlement.
- 4.2.9 Roman occupation has been attested to by the recovery of building materials nearby, both during fieldwalking surveys and within the construction fabric of nearby St Andrews church, although no direct evidence of Roman occupation was found during the investigation. This is surprising given the complex of rectilinear cropmarks directly north of Staunches Farm, although these cannot be directly attributed to the Roman period, they show several similarities with known Romano-British occupation sites in Essex.
- 4.2.10 Given that parts of the modern day landscape has shown to have their origins from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, surprisingly little evidence of its medieval past, although traces were found which align with similar field patterns to the east and west, but do not show the same densely enclosed landscape. This may be because of the enduring respect for the earlier monuments

4.3 Fosset's Lane, Fordham: COLEM 2011.6

- 4.3.1 The first phase of occupation dates to the Iron Age, represented by a discrete pit **4**. Given the high frequency of charcoal and burnt flint within the fill, it is likely to have been the remains of a domestic fire pit, whereby stones and flint were heated and used to boil water for cooking.
- 4.3.2 Within the excavation a small curvi-linear ditch of Iron Age date was recorded. Given its size and course, it is unlikely to have been used as a boundary marker. It is suggestive of being used as a wind break or small drainage channel. Given its proximity to the pit it is likely to have been of a similar phase of occupation.
- 4.3.3 A later Iron Age scoop **19** was also located within the proximity, although this feature is ephemeral and the function is unclear, this does show a possible continuity of occupation. The Iron Age remains encountered are domestic in nature, which may suggest a settlement was very close and the excavation was centered just on the edge of this.
- 4.3.4 The second phase of archaeological activity was of early medieval date indicated by a large north-east to south-west aligned ditch **8**. The sequence of fill events shows that this would have formed a field boundary over a long period of time, with several recuts to reaffirm this boundary. This ditch is recorded on an aerial photograph (see Figs. 12 and 16). The full extent of this boundary shows that it formed a rectilinear field running perpendicular to Fosset's Lane, though its exact use is unclear.
- 4.3.5 A study of the map evidence suggests that this boundary went out of use before a local map of 1780 was surveyed.

Significance

- 4.3.6 There is little evidence of Iron Age settlement within the environs of Fordham, with the only recorded Iron Age finds being a spearhead recovered 1km to the south-east (HER 11615). There are several cropmarks of likely prehistoric date found within the vicinity but none that can be clearly attributed to this period. Therefore the results of this excavation are significant because they have potentially highlighted a new settlement for this period.

- 4.3.7 Several cropmarks have been identified to the west of the site (see Fig. 12). These have been attributed to the Roman period due to their form and size. Therefore it is surprising that no evidence of occupation from this period was recorded during the excavation. This may suggest that the settlement was limited to the area originally documented or the cropmarks are earlier in date
- 4.3.8 There are several recorded incidents of medieval occupation associated with agricultural field systems on the aerial photographs and this site has further confirmed this pattern of rectilinear field systems.

4.4 Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway: COLEM 2011.7

- 4.4.1 The earliest evidence of activity on this site comprised several tree throws (eg. **127** and **187**) spread throughout the excavation area. Worked flint of possible prehistoric origin was recorded with the fills of several of these features, indicating a Bronze Age date for land clearance. This may have occurred in preparation of the land for farming and settlement.
- 4.4.2 The only features showing definite Bronze Age activity were a small pit **212** of unclear function, as well as an enclosure ditch **232** running east to west. This ditch aligns with a linear feature seen within a complex of cropmarks to the east, of unknown date (see Fig. 13).
- 4.4.3 Several features which, although not conclusively dated, are believed to be Iron Age in origin. At the northern part of the excavation, a circular enclosure **272** and **235** was excavated. It was slightly irregular in shape and the fills did not contain any evidence of domestic occupation, therefore it is suggestive of its use as an animal enclosure. This feature extended outside of the excavation area, so its full extent is unclear.
- 4.4.4 To the south of the enclosure was a posthole with two additional slots attached **216** which may have acted as a windbreak to give protection for a small working area. A narrow linear ditch **200** was evident to the south. Given its narrow size and U shaped profile, this is likely to have had a structural function such as a fence line. Although it is undated, given its close proximity it may be contemporary with the enclosure. Its location on a plateau would be conducive to settlement. Given the documented evidence of dense occupation nearby at some point during the Iron Age, the excavation may have been located just on the edge of this.
- 4.4.5 During the Iron Age the Gosbecks complex lay 1km to the south-east of the site. This comprised enclosures associated with the burial of high status individuals, agricultural field systems along with several early Roman buildings, thought to be the origins of Roman Camulodunum (Brooks 2009). Several dykes / roadways are known to radiate from Gosbecks. Cropmarks to the south-east of the Turkey Cock Lane site show a trackway running north-west to south-east running just to the south of the site. In addition to this there is the main Roman road of Stane Street which runs east to west directly to the south of the site.
- 4.4.6 The next phase of activity on site dates to the medieval period represented by two parallel ditches **207** and **211** on a north-east to south-west alignment. It is likely given their close proximity that one is a replacement of the existing one, showing some continuity of use of a boundary. Two further ditches **318** and **321** were located on the same alignment to the south. These contained pottery and ceramic building material, and would possibly have formed part of the same enclosure phase.

- 4.4.7 These ditches were parallel to the main road (the modern day B1408) which would have acted as the existing marker from which all later field boundaries would align to. This suggests that these two ditches were of a later, possibly medieval, date.
- 4.4.8 Several large pits **296**, **300** and **313** were present to the south of the excavation. These were spaced on either side of the medieval field boundary. These were also located on an outcrop of clays. Given their size, profile and lack of finds, it is possible that they were cut for extraction. The location of the pits near to large field boundaries (318, 321) would suggest that this area was been utilised for extraction.
- 4.4.9 Analysis of the available maps shows no evidence of any existing field boundaries that relate to the excavated field boundaries, suggesting that they had gone out of use by the Post medieval period.

Significance

- 4.4.10 There is little evidence for Bronze Age occupation within the vicinity of the site, with only two recorded finds spots of flint tools. Although evidence of prehistoric activity has been shown by the cropmarks directly east of the site, these have not been conclusively dated. Therefore this excavation has highlighted a new site of Bronze Age settlement.
- 4.4.11 It is surprising given the proximity of the site to the Gosbecks complex that no archaeological features from the excavation have been conclusively dated to the Iron Age / Roman period. However if the features highlighted above are of Iron Age date, it shows that the settlement extends over a larger landscape but became more domestic and agricultural in nature.
- 4.4.12 There is no known domestic settlement in the vicinity during the Medieval period. However a brick kiln is shown to the north of the site on a tithe map (Brooks 2009) which may explain the reason for quarrying the natural clays.

4.5 Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge: COLEM 2011.8

- 4.5.1 The first phase of occupation is not conclusively dated, but its form would suggest an Iron Age date. This activity is attested to by several ditches which were recorded on a north-east to south-west alignment **2**, **36** and **30**, these would probably have been part of a larger rectilinear field system. The ditches are on the same alignment as some recorded on aerial photographs located to the south-east of the excavation area, which suggests that it was part of a larger farming landscape (see fig. 14) during the Iron Age.
- 4.5.2 A curvi-linear ditch was also excavated **70** and **72**, which was recorded turning towards the north and terminating just inside the excavation area **76**, possibly forming a small banjo shaped enclosure. This is likely to have been used to keep livestock and may suggest that domestic settlement may have been close by. However no animal bone or large abundance of pottery was found to corroborate this. A circular feature is shown on previous aerial photographs just to the north-east of the site (see Fig. 14), which could be interpreted as a similar animal pen or possibly a round house.
- 4.5.3 Later activity on site has been shown to be medieval in date, this occupation comprising two ditches **26** and **28**, running north-east to south-west. These are on the same alignment as Maldon Road, which leads to the suggestion that the medieval field

system was laid out to respect this. Aerial photographs also show further features on this alignment.

- 4.5.4 At the south of the excavation area, two parallel ditches ran north to south, spaced 30m apart which may relate to later medieval strip cultivation.

Significance

- 4.5.5 There is little known evidence of Iron Age settlement from this area, so the excavation has highlighted a new archaeological site of interest and could help in the interpretation of existing aerial photographs to give a picture of how the landscape was settled and managed during the Iron Age.
- 4.5.6 No Roman activity was revealed during the excavation, which is not significant as little settlement is known in this locale; the nearest known Roman activity was 1km to the south comprising two find spots of building material.
- 4.5.7 Medieval activity in the vicinity is known by excavations within Colchester Zoo where domestic settlement and a cemetery were recorded. However no evidence nearer to the site has previously been documented. The results of the Maldon Rd excavation may be significant in further understanding of agricultural settlement in the area. The fact that the ditches respect the existing Maldon Road, may help to show how the modern landscape evolved from the medieval period.

4.6 Birch Park: COLEM 2011.9

- 4.6.1 Neolithic settlement has been suggested for this area, given the two flint scatters that have been found during fieldwalking events (Spencer & Dennis 1988) as well as from a ditch during the evaluation stage. One sherd of Neolithic pottery was retrieved from the topsoil during the excavation, however no features can be definitively attributed to this period. This is unsurprising as little evidence of settlement during the Neolithic period has been found in Essex.
- 4.6.2 Possible Bronze Age activity was revealed to the north of the excavation, where the remains of two ditches 51 and 62 running north-east to south-west were excavated. These were located on higher ground, where there was little subsoil and a high level of truncation, therefore further corresponding ditches may have been lost. It is likely that these formed part of a larger enclosure system, possibly of a pastoral nature given its exposed location and slightly irregular shape.
- 4.6.3 Aerial photographs from the surrounding area have revealed a small enclosure thought to date to the Bronze Age. This would suggest that the field system was part of a larger developing landscape, which was becoming increasingly enclosed (see Fig. 15).
- 4.6.4 Two distinct concentrations of small pits / postholes were evident within the excavation. The northern concentration **64, 66, 68, 70** and **72** was located on the south-facing slope. There is a slight alignment in the posts running north-west to south-east, although it is a little irregular. This may have formed an upstanding boundary such as a fence line. Further to the south, situated on a plateau, a further pit / posthole cluster **8, 10, 45** and **47** was identified. These form no distinct associations, however it may indicate that further domestic activity was located in the proximity. Both of these concentrations of postholes were undated, so it is unclear what period these date from, but given the nature of the cuts and fills these could have been of Bronze Age.

- 4.6.5 During the later medieval period several tree throws and amorphous features **16, 26, 32, 36, 40, 58** and **77** were excavated throughout the excavation area, one of which contained post-medieval tile and metalwork. The current land is part of the Great Birch Park estate, which is recorded in 1605 as comprising a Manor house, orchards, plantations and an avenue. The tree throws present on site may have been part of a phase of tree clearance in order to lay out the estate fields.
- 4.6.6 Further evidence of post-medieval activity may be provided by two ditches **12** and **14** running east to west which would have formed part of a larger field system. These two ditches ran parallel to the bridleway, just to the north of the excavation. This bridleway is of an earlier date and would have formed a marker in the landscape at this time, where field systems were set at regular intervals on the same alignment. These ditches can be seen extending further east forming a rectilinear enclosure, which may be part of an agricultural field system. To the south of the excavation, located within a trough, was a large pond **79**. This may have been created for use as a watering hole serving the livestock and would have taken advantage of the land's natural predilection to flood in wetter months.

Significance

- 4.6.7 There was known Neolithic activity within the area through previous fieldwalking surveys, and the additional finds of pottery have added to this. The Bronze Age however is unknown for this area, therefore if the supposition that the enclosure ditches and postholes are of Bronze Age date, this may add significantly to understanding when and how the landscape was settled.

4.7 The Essex Pipeline Overview

- 4.7.1 Despite traversing a rich archaeological landscape, the Abberton pipeline has had a limited contribution to the understanding of the archaeology of Essex. The restricted nature of the archaeological excavations may partly explain this. However the evidence that was recorded has provided some new insights, particularly at Wormingford into the Bronze Age and at Stanway into the Iron Age. What is surprising is the lack of Roman remains so close to the major settlement at Colchester.
- 4.7.2 The Bronze Age landscape of the Stour Valley has been well documented in places during previous archaeological work and the site at Wormingford has further shown evidence of this, with data which suggests that the east to west trackway is part of a cursus monument (Kemble 2001). Further evidence of settlement has been revealed at Stanway, showing a possible pastoral use of the site. Tentative domestic occupation of Birch Park can be attested to by the presence of several postholes. The project overall has revealed two new Bronze Age sites as well as furthering understanding the existing Bronze Age landscape of Wormingford.
- 4.7.3 During the Iron Age the area around the River Stour became more populated with more land being enclosed and farmed. Evidence for this expansion was seen at Fordham with possible domestic activity, previously unknown in the vicinity.
- 4.7.4 Settlement in the Stour valley and Colchester environs during the Roman period has been well documented and shown to be dense in population as well as a complex and heavily utilised landscape. It is surprising therefore that no evidence of Roman occupation was present during the archaeological works. One possible explanation for

this is that there were slightly better climatic conditions from the Iron Age which allowed different areas to become economically viable.

- 4.7.5 Medieval activity was found at all the sites apart from Wormingford. Given what was already known for this area from aerial photographs combined with the documented historical sites at Stanway (brick kiln) and the Great Birch Park Manor, the results have not added any significant new sites to the record but has provided some further contextual evidence..

APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY: COLEM 2011.5

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
100	fill	tree throw	101		0.25	mid reddish brown	silty sand
101	cut	tree throw			0.25		
102	fill	tree throw	103		0.15	mid reddish brown	silty sand
103	cut	tree throw			0.25		
104	fill	ditch	105		0.23	dark yellowish brown	silty sand
105	cut	ditch			0.23		
106	fill	ditch	113		0.5	Brown	Clayey Silt
107	fill	ditch	113		0.1	mid yellowish brown	clayey silt
108	fill	ditch	113		0.1	yellowish brown	Clayey Silt
109	fill	ditch	113		0.05	Brown	clayey silt
110	fill	ditch	113		0.2	yellow brown	clayey silt
111	fill	ditch	113		0.45	brown	clayey silt
112	fill	ditch	113		0.3	brown	silty clay
113	cut	ditch			0.55		
114	cut	ditch			0.26		
115	fill	ditch	114		0.26	mid brown	sandy silt
116	cut	ditch			0.38		
117	fill	ditch	116		0.38	mid reddish brown	silty sand
118	fill	ditch	119		0.3	mid brown	silty sand
119	cut	ditch			0.3		
120	cut	tree throw			0.2		
121	fill	tree throw	120		0.2	dark reddish brown	silty sandy
122	fill	ditch	125		0.5	light brown	silty sand
123	fill	ditch	125		0.1	orange brown	silty sand
124	fill	ditch	125		0.05	grey brown	silty sand
125	cut	ditch			0.65		
126	fill	deposit	127	128	0.3	dark yellowish brown	silty sand
127	cut	hedge line			0.3		
128	fill	hedge line	129		0.31	dark yellowish brown	silty sand
129	cut	hedge line		127	0.31		
130	cut	ditch			0.85		
131	fill	ditch	130		0.3	light greenish grey	sandy chalk
132	layer				0.2	light reddish yellow	medium sand
Context	Category	Feature	Cut	Same as	Depth	Colour	Texture

		Type		(m)		
133	fill	ditch	130	0.5	medium red brown	silty sand
134	fill	tree throw	135	0.7	dark greyish brown	sandy silt
135	cut	tree throw		0.7		
136	cut	posthole		0.08		
137	fill	posthole	136	0.08	dark brown	silty sand
138	cut	posthole		0.19		
139	fill	posthole	138	0.19	mid grey brown	silty sandy
140	cut	posthole		0.25		
141	fill	posthole	140	0.25	very dark brown	silty sand
142	cut	ditch		0.5		
143	fill	ditch	142	0.15	mid orangish brown	silty sand
144	cut	posthole		0.11		
145	fill	posthole	144	0.11	mid brown	silty sand
146	fill	ditch	148	0.21	dark yellowish brown	silty sand
147	fill	ditch	148	0.11	dark yellowish brown	silty sand
148	cut	ditch		0.31		
149	cut	pit		0.23		
150	fill	pit	149	0.23	mid orangish brown	silty sand
151	cut	ditch		0.5		
152	fill	ditch	151	0.5	mid yellow brown	silty sand
153	fill	ditch	160	0.3	brown	sandy silt
154	fill	ditch	160	0.3	dark grey brown	sandy silt
155	fill	ditch	160	0.4	brown	sandy silt
156	fill	ditch	160	0.4	orange brown	silty sand
157	fill	ditch	157	0.7	dark grey brown	silty sand
158	fill	ditch	157	0.6	mid greyish brown	silty sand
159	fill	ditch	160	0.1	light grey	silty sand
160	cut	ditch		1.06		
161	cut	tree throw		0.3		
162	fill	tree throw	161	0.3	mid brown	sandy silt
163	fill	tree throw	164	0.26	dark yellow brown	silty sand
164	cut	tree throw		0.26		
165	fill	ditch	166	0.55	brown	sandy silt
166	cut	ditch		0.55		
167	cut	pit		0.24		
168	fill	pit	167	0.24	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
169	cut	pit			0.52		
170	fill	pit	169		0.52	mid greyish brown	sandy silt
171	fill	ditch	173		0.25	brown	sandy silt
172	fill	ditch	173		0.2	dark grey brown	sandy silt
173	cut	ditch			0.48		
99999						unstratified	

Table 2: COLEM 2011.5 Context Inventory

APPENDIX B. CONTEXT INVENTORY: COLEM 2011.6

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
1	layer	topsoil			0.3	dark grey brown	clayey silt
2	fill	pit	4		0.11	mid grey	silty clay
3	fill	pit	4		0.03	light brown yellow	silty clay
4	cut	pit			0.13		
5	fill	ditch	6		0.28	mid brown	silty clay
6	cut	ditch			0.28		
7	fill	ditch	8		0.83	dark grey brown	silty clay
8	cut	ditch		15, 23, 28, 48	0.83		
9	fill	ditch	10		0.7	dark grey brown	silty clay
10	cut	ditch		13, 30, 46	0.7		
11	fill	ditch	12		0.27	orange brown	silt with clay
12	cut	ditch		27, 35, 40	0.27		
13	cut	ditch		10, 30, 46	0.7		
14	fill	ditch	12		0.22	mid grey brown	clay silt
15	cut	ditch		8, 23, 28, 48	0.4		
16	fill	ditch	15		0.4	mid grey brown	clay silt
17	fill	ditch	19		0.08	mid-dark grey brown	silty clay
18	fill	pit	19		0.03	light brown yellow	silty clay
19	cut	pit			0.1		
20	fill	ditch	13		0.46	mid grey	clay silt
21	fill	ditch	23		0.36	mid grey	silty clay
22	fill	ditch	23		0.6	mid yellow brown	silty clay
23	cut	ditch		8, 15, 28, 48	1		

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
24	fill	ditch	25		0.22	mid brown grey	silty clay
25	cut	pit			0.22		
26	fill	ditch	27		0.16	mid red brown	silty clay
27	cut	ditch		12, 35, 40	0.16		
28	cut	ditch		8, 15, 23, 48	0.64		
29	fill	ditch	28		0.28	mid yellowish brown	silty clay
30	cut	ditch		10, 13, 46	0.5		
31	fill	ditch	30		0.2	mid yellowish brown	silty clay
32	layer	layer	0		0.38	mid-dark grey brown	silty clay
33	fill	ditch	35		0.2	mid orange brown	silty clay
34	fill	ditch	35		0.08	light orange brown	silty clay
35	cut	ditch		12, 27, 40	0.24		
36	fill	ditch	28		0.3	mid yellowish brown	silty clay
37	fill	ditch	30		0.12	mid brown	silty clay
38	fill	ditch	30		0.5	mid greyish brown	silty clay
39	fill	ditch	40		0.2	mid orange brown	silty clay
40	cut	ditch		12, 27, 35	0.2		
41	fill	ditch	46		0.42	mid-dark grey brown	silty clay
42	fill	ditch	46		0.58	mid brown	silty clay
43	fill	ditch	46		0.4	light orange brown	silty clay
44	fill	ditch	46		0.56	mid orange grey	silty clay
45	fill	ditch	46		0.9	orange brown	silty clay
46	cut	ditch		10, 13, 30	1.2		
47	fill	ditch	48		0.4	mid yellow brown	silty clay
48	cut	ditch		8, 15, 23, 28	0.8		
49	cut	field drains					
50	fill	ditch	46		0.46	yellowish brown	clay
51	fill	ditch	46		0.46	dark grey brown	clay
52	fill	ditch	48		0.4	mid orange brown	silty clay

Table 3: COLEM 2011.6 Context Inventory

APPENDIX C. CONTEXT INVENTORY: COLEM 2011.7

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
200	cut	ditch		202,204	0.14		
201	fill	ditch	200	203,205	0.14	mid brownish orange	sandy silty clay
202	cut	ditch		200,204	0.11		
203	fill	ditch	202		0.1	mid brownish orange	sandy silty clay
204	cut	ditch		200,202	0.13		
205	fill	ditch	204		0.13	mid brownish orange	sandy silty clay
206	fill	ditch	207		0.5	reddish brown	
207	cut	ditch			0.5		
208	fill	ditch	209		0.12	reddish yellow brown	sandy silty clay
209	cut	ditch			0.12		
210	fill	ditch	211		0.25	reddish brown	silty sand
211	cut	ditch			0.23		
212	cut	pit			0.21		
213	fill	pit	212		0.21	reddish brown	clay sandy silt
214	fill	ditch	215		0.11	reddish brown	silty sand
215	cut	ditch			0.11		
216	cut	ditch		220	0.22		
217	fill	ditch	216		0.22	mid greyish orange	silty sand
218	cut	pit			0.37		
219	fill	pit	218		0.37	mid greyish orange	sandy silt
220	cut	ditch			0.21		
221	fill	ditch	220		0.21	mid greyish orange	silty sand
222	cut	posthole			0.22		
223	fill	posthole	222		0.22	mid grey	sandy silt
224	cut	posthole			0.2		
225	fill	posthole	224		0.2	mid brownish grey	silty sand
226	cut	pit			0.3		
227	fill	pit	226		0.3	mid greyish brown	fine silty sand
228	cut	posthole			0.22		
229	fill	posthole	228		0.22	mid brown	silty sandy clay
230	fill	ditch	232		0.6	mid yellowish brown	sandy clay
231	fill	ditch	232		0.2	mid yellowy clay	sandy clay
232	cut	ditch			0.8		

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
233	fill	posthole	234		0.15	dark reddish brown	silty sand
234	cut	posthole			0.15		
235	cut	ditch			0.44		
236	fill	ditch	235		0.44	brownish grey	sandy clay
237	cut	tree throw			0.3		
238	fill	tree throw	237		0.3	reddish brown	sandy clay
239	cut	tree throw			0.5		
240	fill	tree throw	239		0.5	mid brown	sandy clay
241	cut	tree throw			0.44		
242	fill	tree throw	241		0.44	mid brownish orange	sandy clay
243	cut	ring-ditch		252	0.46		
244	fill	ring-ditch	243		0.43	mid orange	sandy clay
245	fill	ring-ditch	243		0.35	mid orangish brown	sandy silt
246	fill	ring-ditch	243		0.33	mid brownish orange	sandy clay
247	fill	ring-ditch	243		0.25	mid orange brown	sandy silt
248	fill	ring-ditch	243		0.25	mid brownish orange	silty clay
249	cut	tree throw			0.26		
250	fill	tree throw	249		0.25	mid brownish orange	sandy clay
251	fill	ditch	207		0.5	mid reddish brown	silty sandy clay
252	cut	ring-ditch			0.42		
253	fill	ring-ditch	252		0.42	brownish orange	sandy silt
254	fill	ring-ditch	252		0.4	brownish orange	sandy clay
255	cut	tree throw			0.32		
256	fill	tree throw	255		0.32	brownish red	silty sand
257	cut	tree throw			0.35		
258	fill	tree throw	257		0.35	light orangish brown	clay
259	fill	tree throw	257		0.2	light grey	sandy silt
260	fill	ditch	261	264	0.68	dark grey	silty sandy clay
261	cut	ditch			0.68		
262	fill	pit	263		0.2	yellow brown	silty sand
263	cut	pit			0.2		
264	fill	ditch	261		0.3	dark grey	silty sandy clay
265	cut	ditch			0.3		
266	cut	posthole			0.28		
267	fill	posthole	266		0.28	brownish orange	sandy clay
268	cut	tree throw			0.35		

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
269	layer	layer			0.14	lgt brownish orange	sandy silt
270	layer	layer			0.12	mid brownish orange	sandy silt
271	fill	tree throw	268		0.35	mid brown	sandy clay
272	cut	ditch		280	0.3		
273	fill	ditch	272		0.3	mid orangish brown	sandy clay
274	fill	pit	275		0.2	yellowy brown	silty sand
275	cut	pit			0.2		
276	cut	tree throw					
277	fill	tree throw	276				
278	cut	posthole			0.32		
279	fill	posthole	278		0.32	medium grey brown	sandy clay
280	cut	ring-ditch			0.26		
281	fill	ditch	280		0.26	mid orange brown	silty clay
282	cut	tree throw			0.38		
283	fill	tree throw	282		0.38	dark yellowish brown	sand silt
284	fill	tree throw	282		0.19	light yellowish brown	silty clay
285	cut	tree throw			0.2		
286	fill	tree throw	285		0.2	dark yellowish brown	sandy silt
287	cut	tree throw					
288	fill	tree throw	287				gravel fill
289	fill	pit	296		0.2	pale greyish brown	sandy silt
290	fill	pit	296		0.3	orange brown	sandy silt
291	fill	pit	296		0.15	mid orangish brown	sandy silt
292	fill	pit	296		0.25	dark greyish brown	sandy silt
293	fill	pit	296		0.25	mid orangish brown	sandy silt
294	fill	pit	296		0.4	orange brown	sandy silt
295	fill	pit	296		0.2	grey brown	sandy silt
296	cut	pit			1		
297	cut	ditch		324	0.38		
298	cut	pit			0.5		
299	cut	pit			0.3		
300	cut	pit			0.32		
301	cut	posthole			0.4		
302	fill	pit	299		0.3	light brown	sandy silt
303	cut	posthole			0.55		
304	fill	pit	298		0.2	light brown	sandy silt

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
305	fill	pit	300		0.3	light brown	sandy silt
306	layer	subsoil	0		0.1	light brown	sandy silt
307	fill	ditch	324		0.35	mid light brown	sandy silt
308	fill	posthole	301		0.4	light brown	sandy silt
309	fill	pit	313		0.2	light brown	sandy silt
310	fill	pit	313		0.35	mid brown	sandy silt
311	fill	pit	313		0.5	greyish brown	sandy silt
312	fill	pit	313		0.3	pale greyish brown	sandy silt
313	cut	pit			1.05		
314	fill	posthole	303		0.15	mixed light brown	clayey silt
315	fill	posthole	303		0.4	light brown	sandy silt
316	fill	ditch	297	307	0.1	light brown	sandy silt
317	fill	pit	299		0.05	light brown	sandy silt
318	cut	ditch			1.4		
319	fill	ditch	318		1.4	mid yellow brown	silty clay
320	fill	ditch	321		0.2	pale brown	sandy silt
321	cut	ditch			0.19		
322	fill	ditch	318		0.8	mid brown	clay silt
323	fill	ditch	318		0.4	mid yellow brown	clay silt
324	cut	ditch			0.35		

Table 4: COLEM 2011.7 Context Inventory

APPENDIX D. CONTEXT INVENTORY: COLEM 2011.8

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
1	fill	ditch	2		0.1	mid brownish grey	clayey sand
2	cut	ditch			0.1		
3	fill	pit	4		0.1	dark orangish brown	silty sand
4	cut	pit			0.1		
5	fill	ditch	6		0.1	dark orangish grey	silty sand
6	cut	ditch			0.1		
7	fill	posthole	8		0.1	dark brownish grey	clayey sand
8	cut	posthole			0.1		
9	fill	tree throw	10		0.1	mid brownish grey	silty sand
10	cut	tree throw			0.1		

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
11	fill	posthole	12		0.05	dark greyish black	silty charcoal
12	cut	posthole			0.05		
13	fill	tree throw	14		0.2	mid orangish grey	silty sand
14	cut	tree throw			0.2		
15	fill	posthole	16		0.1	dark greyish brown	clayey sand
16	cut	posthole			0.1		
17	fill	posthole	18		0.1	dark greyish brown	clayey sand
18	cut	posthole			0.1		
19	fill	pit	20		0.4	mid greyish brown	silty sand
20	cut	pit/ ditch			0.4		
21	fill	tree throw	22		0.1	mid greyish brown	silty sand
22	cut	tree throw			0.1		
23	fill	ditch	24		0.3	mid orangish brown	silty sand
24	cut	ditch			0.3		
25	fill	ditch	26		0.35	dark brownish grey	clayey sand
26	cut	ditch			0.35		
27	fill	ditch	28		0.15	dark greyish brown	silty sand
28	cut	ditch			0.15		
29	fill	ditch	30		0.5	mid brownish grey	silty sand
30	cut	ditch			0.5		
31	fill	pit	32		0.2	dark brownish black	silty sand
32	cut	pit			0.2		
33	fill	ditch	34		0.25	mid greyish brown	silty sand
34	cut	ditch			0.25		
35	fill	ditch	36		0.2	mid greyish brown	silty sand
36	cut	ditch			0.2		
37	fill	ditch	38		0.2	mid greyish brown	silty sand
38	cut	ditch			0.2		
39	fill	pit	40		0.3	mid brownish grey	silty sand
40	cut	pit			0.3		
41	fill	ditch	42		0.05	mid greyish brown	silty sand
42	cut	ditch			0.05		
43	fill	pit	44		0.25	dark brownish black	silty sand
44	cut	pit			0.25		
45	cut	tree throw			0.5		
46	fill	tree throw	45		0.5	light brown	silt

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
47	cut	ditch			0.35		
48	fill	ditch	47		0.35	light brown	silty sand
49	cut	pit			0.3		
50	fill	pit	49		0.3	light brown	sandy silt
51	cut	tree throw			0.55		
52	fill	tree throw	51		0.55	mid grey brown	silty sand
53	cut	ditch		70 74	0.4		
54	fill	ditch	53		0.4	light brown	fine silt
55	fill	pit	49		0.1	orangey yellow	coarse sand
56	cut	pit			0.5		
57	fill	pit	56		0.35	mid grey brown	sandy silt
58	fill	pit	56		0.35	yellow	sand
59	fill	pit	56			light grey	silt
60	cut	tree throw			0.2		
61	fill	tree throw	60		0.2	light brown	silty sand
62	cut	tree throw			0.3		
63	fill	tree throw	62		0.3	light brownish grey	silty sand
64	fill	tree throw	62		0.05	dark grey	silty sand
65	cut	tree throw			0.16		
66	fill	tree throw	65		0.09	light grey	sandy silt
67	fill	tree throw	65		0.07	light greyish brown	sandy silt
68	cut	ditch		72	0.4		
69	fill	ditch	68		0.4	mid brown	sandy silt
70	cut	ditch		74, 53	0.34		
71	fill	ditch	70		0.36	mid greyish brown	sandy silt
72	cut	ditch			0.18		
73	fill	ditch	72		0.18	mid reddish brown	sandy silt
74	cut	ditch			0.26		
75	fill	ditch	74		0.26	mid greyish brown	sandy silt
76	cut	ditch			0.1		
77	fill	ditch	76		0.1	mid greyish brown	silty sand
78	fill	ditch	53		0.15	brownish red	coarse sand

Table 5: COLEM 2011.8 Context Inventory

APPENDIX E. CONTEXT INVENTORY: COLEM 2011.9

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
1	layer	topsoil			0.3	dark brownish grey	silty sand
2	layer	subsoil			0.8	mid brownish grey	silty sand
3	layer	natural				orange	gravel with sand
4	layer	topsoil			0.3	dark brownish grey	silty sand
5	layer	natural				orange	gravel and sand
6	cut	pit			0.27		
7	fill	pit	6		0.27	mid brown/orange	sandy silt/sand
8	cut	pit			0.15		
9	fill	pit	8		0.15	mid brown/orange	sandy silt/sandy
10	cut	pit			0.39		
11	fill	pit	10		0.39	light brown	sandy silt
12	cut	ditch			0.35		
13	fill	ditch	12		0.35	mid brown	sandy silt
14	cut	ditch			0.45		
15	fill	ditch	14		0.45	mid brown	sandy silt
16	cut	tree throw			0.26		
17	fill	tree throw	16		0.26	mid brown	sandy silt
18	cut	tree throw			0.15		
19	fill	tree throw	18		0.15	mid brown	sandy silt
20	cut	geological			0.16		
21	fill	geological	20		0.16	mid brown	sandy silt
22	cut	geological			0.45		
23	fill	geological	22		0.45	mid brown	slightly sandy silt
24	cut	geological			0.22		
25	fill	geological	24		0.22	mid brown	silt
26	cut	tree throw			0.1		
27	fill	tree throw	26		0.1	mid orange brown	sand silt
28	cut	pit			0.25		
29	fill	pit	28		0.25	mid brown	sandy silt
30	cut	ditch			0.15		

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
31	fill	ditch	30		0.15	mid brown	silty sand
32	cut	tree throw			0.15		
33	fill	tree throw	32		0.15	mid brown	sandy silt
34	cut	pit			0.28		
35	fill	pit	34		0.28	mid brown	sandy silt
36	cut	tree throw			0.28		
37	fill	tree throw	36		0.28	mid brown	sandy silt
38	cut	geological			0.15		
39	fill	geological	38		0.15	mid brown	sandy silt
40	cut	tree throw			0.2		
41	fill	tree throw	40		0.2	mid brown	sandy silt
42	cut	geological			0.2		
43	fill	geological	42		0.2	mid orange brown	silt
44	fill	pit	45		0.2	light brownish grey	silty sand
45	cut	pit			0.2		
46	fill	pit	47		0.15	dark greyish brown	silty sand
47	cut	pit			0.15		
48	fill	geological	49		0.2	dark blackish grey	silty sand
49	cut	geological			0.35		
50	fill	ditch	51		0.2	mid greyish brown	silty sand
51	cut	ditch			0.2		
54	cut	pit			0.19		
55	fill	pit	54		0.19	mid brown/yellow	sandy silt
56	cut	posthole			0.23		
57	fill	posthole	56		0.23	mid greyish brown	sandy silt
58	cut	tree throw			0.13		
59	fill	tree throw	48		0.16	mid greyish brown	sandy silt
60	fill	tree throw	49		0.35	mid orangish brown	silty sand
61	fill	ditch	62		0.3	mid greyish brown	silty sand
62	cut	ditch			0.3		
63	fill	posthole	64		0.2	mid greyish brown	silty sand
64	cut	posthole			0.2		
65	fill	posthole	66		0.2	mid greyish brown	silty sand
66	cut	posthole			0.2		
67	fill	posthole	68		0.05	dark greyish brown	silty sand
68	cut	posthole			0.05		

Context	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Same as	Depth (m)	Colour	Texture
69	fill	posthole	70		0.15	mid greyish brown	silty sand
70	cut	posthole			0.15		
71	fill	posthole	72		0.15	dark greyish brown	silty sand
72	cut	posthole			0.15		
73	fill	geological	74		0.3	mid brownish grey	silty sand
74	cut	geological			0.3		
75	layer	colluvium				mid orange	silty clay
76	layer	colluvium			0.2	mid orange	silty clay
77	cut	tree throw			0.27		
78	fill	tree throw	77		0.27	mid yellow brown	sandy silt
79	cut	pond			1.2		
80	fill	pond	79		1.2	mid orangish brown	silty clay

Table 6: COLEM 2011.9 Context Inventory

APPENDIX F. FINDS REPORTS

F.1 Metalwork – Iron

by Chris Howard-Davis

Introduction

A small amount of ironwork was recovered from the four sites. In all cases it was in poor condition and incomplete. The distribution is shown in Table 7

Site	Context	No frags	
COLEM 2011.6	31	1	Horseshoe
	32	1	Horseshoe
	42	1	Horseshoe?
COLEM 2011.7	309	2	Nail
	322	1	Nail
COLEM 2011.8	15	2	Nail
COLEM 2011.9	78	1	Nail
Total		9	

Table 7 Distribution of ironwork between COLEM sites

Methodology

Every fragment was examined and identified with the use of x-radiographs. An outline database was created, using Microsoft Access 2000 format, and the data recorded (context, small finds number, material, category, type, quantity, condition, completeness, maximum dimensions, outline identification, brief description, and broad date) which serve as the basis for the comments below.

Discussion

Fosset's Lane, Fordham, COLEM 2011.6

Finds from this site comprised three horseshoe fragments from contexts 31, 32 (SFs 1 and 2), and 42 (SF 3). The most complete of them, from 31, has a smooth outer edge to the branch, a relatively wide web, and rectangular nail-holes. It is most likely to date to the late medieval period, perhaps after the 15th century (Clark 1995), although similar shoes are seen as late as the 17th century (Hume 1969, fig. 74). The other fragments, both much smaller, seem most likely to derive from examples of similar date.

Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway, 2011.7

Small nail fragments came from contexts **309** (SFs 1 and 2), and **322** (SF 3). Only one of the fragments (SF 2) retains its flat, round head, and all three fragments have a square-sectioned shaft; all are probably hand-forged. Such simple types are extremely long-lived, and cannot be dated with any precision.

Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge, COLEM 211.8

Two small-headed nails came from context 15 (SF 1). Both have rectangular cross-sectioned shafts, suggesting that they are probably machine-made cut nails. Such nails can date no earlier than the late eighteenth century and are most likely to date to after 1811 (www.buildingconservation.com).

Birch Park, Birch, COLEM 2011.9

A single small nail, probably hand-forged, came from context 78 (SF1).

Conclusion

Taken as a whole, it can be seen that the ironwork adds little to the interpretation of the sites, except, perhaps to contribute to the dating of late activity.

F.1.1 Flint

By Antony Dickson

Staunches Farm, Wormingford, COLEM 2011.5

Introduction

A small assemblage of 29 struck lithics was recovered from excavations at Staunches Farm, Wormingford, Essex. The assemblage was recovered from 11 contexts with the majority being from the fills of boundary features associated with wider settlement patterns (Table 8). Most contexts contained between one and four lithics with only context 154 producing a relatively large assemblage of 12 pieces. Additionally, the material from contexts 153 and 155 were also recovered from deposits associated with the same feature.

Context No	No. of Lithics	Feature Type	Feature Date
110	1	ditch	prehistoric
122	1	ditch	prehistoric
147	2	ditch	prehistoric
150	1	posthole	prehistoric
152	1	ditch	Undated
153	1	ditch	prehistoric
154	12	ditch	prehistoric
155	1	ditch	prehistoric
165	4	ditch	medieval
172	1	ditch	prehistoric

Table 8. COLEM 2011.5 showing the number of lithics recovered from dated feature types.

Flint was used exclusively in the production of worked lithics, although the raw material is variable in terms of colour, texture and quality. In terms of colour the raw material varies across a range encompassing dark brown, which tends to be of good quality, to dark brownish grey material, with the latter often containing lighter grey inclusions. When present cortex is thin, worn and yellowish brown in colour. The occurrence of re-cortification is limited and varies between a thick white surface alteration (both pieces from context 147 to a thin bluish-white patina. There are two burnt flints in the assemblage: two flakes from context 154. Overall the assemblage has suffered lightly from edge damage (apart from the retouched piece from context **152** which has extensive edge damage) which suggest that most of the lithic material is not far removed from its primary depositional environment.

Results

Taken as a whole the assemblage is dominated by flake debitage and tools with only one core and a core fragment recorded (Table 9). The core is a small conical shaped piece representing a partially worked, re-corticated nodule. The piece was initially worked for the production of blades, this flaked surface then started to re-corticate,

however it was reworked again at a later date for the removal of a few flakes that cut through the thin surface alteration. The core fragment is diagnostic to an opposed platform reduction strategy. One face of the core survives, the rest of the piece having been damaged by post flaking thermal fractures, and exhibits opposed parallel blade scars struck from two platforms that show evidence for having been carefully prepared.

In addition to the core technology three chunks are also present (Table 9). These pieces represent irregular, partially flaked nodules which have been worked in an unstructured and *ad hoc* manner in several directions for the removal of flakes, often from platforms comprising thermal fracture scars. Furthermore all the pieces show evidence for thermal fractures which appear to truncate the flaked surfaces. Core maintenance pieces are limited to one core trimming flake. The latter was probably struck down the face of the core to remove an area of irregular flake scars.

The assemblage includes one complete blade, which can be better described as a blade-like flake, and 11 complete flakes (Table 9) that represent one primary, four secondary and seven tertiary pieces in a general reduction sequence. Generally the flakes are broad and squat in form with very little evidence for platform preparation prior to their removal from their respective cores. Their platforms tend to be relatively broad, although a couple are cortical, with pronounced bulbs. These technological traits suggest that most were detached during the unstructured flaking of their parent nodules as part of reduction strategies that are probably attributable to a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age technology. Along with the struck flakes are a couple of thermal fractures which represent the natural shatter of flaked pieces.

context	Blade	Chunk	Combination tool	Core	Core fragment	Core trimming	Flake	Knife forms	Misc retouched flake	Scraper	Thermal fracture	Worn edge blade	Total
110							1						1
122							1						1
147				1			1						2
150	1												1
152			1										1
153							1						1
154		3				1	6	1			1		12
155										1			1
165							2			1	1		4
172							1						1
99999					1			1	1			1	4
	1	3	1	1	1	1	13	2	1	2	2	1	29

Table 9. COLEM 2011.5 showing the type and frequency of struck lithics.

There is a high number of formal tools and utilised pieces representing 24% of the assemblage (Table 9). The combination tool comprises a large broad blade or blade like flake which has had the proximal end removed with a burin blow. This edge has then been modified with semi abrupt retouch producing a curving bevelled edge which may

have been utilised as a gouge. The left lateral edge has irregular heavy direct abrupt retouch possibly applied to produce a scraping edge, although it should be noted that some of the retouch could represent edge damage from hafting or post depositional processes. This implement could date to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The two knife forms include a miscellaneous form made on a flake and a possible laurel leaf which has a patch of edge use gloss on a lateral edge. The latter is likely to be Early Neolithic in date (Clark et al 1960, 226) while the former is likely to date to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The miscellaneous retouched flake could represent another combination tool form as the piece has a patch of abrupt retouch on the left lateral edge that is concave in plan, and probably represents a scraping edge, while the opposite lateral edge is also possibly modified with a small area of semi-invasive acute retouch. This piece is also likely to be Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date. The scrapers include a thumbnail and a double side form. The thumbnail scraper is probably Early Bronze Age in date (although similar forms are known from Late Mesolithic contexts, (Butler 2005)), while the double side scraper is likely to be Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date.

In terms of dating the core and core fragment have technological affinities with reduction strategies utilised during the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, however in contrast the flake and blade debitage is more likely to be technologically consistent with a Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The formal tools are also technologically sensitive to a broad chronological range spanning the same periods. It is therefore likely that the assemblage represents a palimpsest of activity spanning the Late Mesolithic, the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods.

Discussion

Fossett's Lane, Fordham, COLEM 2011.6

Introduction

Two struck lithics were recovered from excavations at Fossett's Lane. Two deposits contained worked flint and they included the fill of an Early Iron Age ditch (context 11) and the fill of a Early medieval ditch (context 41). This indicates that the latter was residual within their depositional environments.

Both the lithic pieces are made on flint, that varied in colour from dark brown to greyish brown. One piece represents a re-corticated thermal flake with a yellowish brown surface staining while the other was also re-corticated but the surface alteration is white in colour. In terms of provenance, the raw materials are likely to have been procured from superficial geological deposits, probably from the local area.

Results

The assemblage includes a broken narrow blade and a retouched thermal flake. The latter comprises a large flat natural flake, with thermal scars on both faces, that has been modified on one edge with semi abrupt retouch. The retouch takes the form of relatively large consecutive flake scars, probably applied to create a cutting/chopping edge.

In terms of date the assemblage is technologically and typologically uninspiring, although the style of the retouch on the natural flake, although finely executed, is quite

robust and may represent an unstructured attempt at tool production possibly associated with later prehistoric reduction strategies.

Discussion

Due to the small size of the struck lithic assemblage and residual nature, very little can be said about the character, extent and chronology of the site.

Tuckey Cock Lane, Stanway, COLEM 2011.7

Introduction

A small assemblage of 24 struck lithics was recovered from excavations at Turkey Cock Lane. The assemblage was recovered from six deposits contained within a pit, gully, ditch and unstratified contexts (Table 10). Most contexts contained between one and four lithics with only context (322), a medieval ditch, producing a relatively large assemblage of 12 pieces. Additionally, the material from context (319) was also recovered from deposits associated with the same feature.

Context No.	No. of Lithics	Feature Type	Feature Date
201	1	Gully	Undated
213	3	Pit	Late Bronze Age
277	1	Tree-throw	Undated
319	4	Ditch	modern
322	12	Ditch	modern
99999	3	Unstratified	n/a

Table 10. COLEM 2011.7 showing the number of lithics recovered from dated feature types.

Flint was used exclusively in the production of struck lithics and it varies in colour across a range encompassing dark brown, which tends to be of good quality, to various shades of grey material. Where present cortex is thin, worn and yellowish brown in colour. The occurrence of re-cortification is limited with only two pieces from context 322 showing a thin white milky surface alteration. Another piece from the same context, exhibiting a greenish brown colour, could also have undergone patination. If true the colour suggests that this piece could be of considerable age. Overall the assemblage has suffered lightly from edge damage which suggest that most of the lithic material is not far removed from its primary depositional environment.

Results

Of the two core fragments (Table 11) from context (322) one is undiagnostic to a specific reduction strategy while the other is a possible fragment (if not a complete example) from a single platform blade core. One of the core's faces is flat and has evidence for the systematic removal of blades. That these were carefully removed is evidenced by platform trimming on the platform and the parallel blade scars left on the worked face. The piece is probably damaged on the opposite face as there is a large

incipient cone responsible for at least one large flake removal and another flake removal opposite to this. Whether this was an effort to shape the core with a ridge or handle behind the main flaked surface or was a result of later damage cannot be confirmed. Interestingly two of the true blades are made on the same coloured raw material.

The only evidence for core maintenance comprises a core trimming piece from context 322. This piece represents a blade struck along the edge of the striking platform and could also have functioned as a guide piece rather like a crested blade. The piece is possibly modified with limited semi acute retouch at the proximal end, although this could be remnants of platform trimming. The left lateral edge has consistent small irregular scarring indicative of use and this is accompanied by a patchy edge use gloss on the medial section of the dorsal face, therefore it is possible the piece was utilised as a form of backed knife.

The flake and blade debitage (Table 11) includes one complete secondary blade and six complete tertiary flakes in a general reduction sequence. The blades can all be classified as broad in form (between 8 and 15mm in width) but most show evidence for the careful preparation of their platforms prior to being struck from the parent core and are parallel sided. The flakes, on the other hand, vary in size and overall form: from small regular flakes some with prepared platforms to a large squat, broad example (29.7mm x 44.4mm x 12.4mm) which has a broad platform accompanied with an incipient cone and pronounced bulb of percussion. Furthermore, the flake from context 201 could be a blank for a leaf shaped arrowhead. These technological traits suggest the representation of several different reduction strategies within the assemblage as a whole, indicating a mixed chronology for the blades and flakes.

context	Blade	Combination tool	Core fragment	Core trimming	Flake	Misc retouched blade	Misc retouched flake	Scraper	Thermal fracture	Worn edge blade	Total
201	1										1
213	1				1			1			3
277									1		1
319	1				1	1				1	4
322	3		2	1	4			1		1	12
99999		1						1	1		3
	6	1	2	1	6	1	1	3	1	2	24

Table 11. COLEM 2011.7 showing the type and number of struck lithics.

Two blades from the assemblage show evidence for utilised lateral edges and a flake and blade have simple retouch on lateral edges (Table 11). Beyond these there are three scrapers representing two side and end and one circular form (Table 11). The side

and end scraper from context 213 is well made and is a classic horseshoe form of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The combination tool (Table 11) represents a flake modified as an awl on one lateral edge and a possible scraper on the proximal end.

In terms of date the diagnostic core fragment from context 322 has technological affinities with reduction strategies utilised during the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and some of the blades could also conceivably be of the same date. The core trimming blade could also be associated with Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic reduction strategies, although the deep patination of this piece may also mean that it could be earlier. The majority of the flake debitage is more likely to be technologically consistent with a later Neolithic/Bronze Age date. The formal tools have technological affinities with similar examples from the region and are likely to be Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date. It is therefore likely that the assemblage represents a palimpsest of activity spanning the Late Mesolithic, the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods.

Discussion

Given the provisional date indicated by the technological and typological traits within the lithic assemblage in relation to the date of the features from the site area it is likely that the assemblage is residual. However given the fresh nature of the material, it is possible that the assemblage relates to occupation activity which was located not too far away from the site.

Birch Park, Birch, COLEM 2011.9

Introduction

A small and unremarkable assemblage of four struck lithics was recovered from excavations at Birch Park. Two contexts contained lithic material and they included a tree throw (context 41: one struck flint) and a natural feature (context 48: three struck lithics). Therefore it is highly likely that the lithics are residual.

In terms of raw material all the pieces are made on flint which varies in colour from dark greyish brown to grey. The raw material used has very little in the way of inclusions and appears to be of good quality. Only one piece shows remnants of cortex and this comprises a very small patch of thin, yellowish-brown material. In terms of provenance the raw material is likely to have been procured from superficial geological deposits, probably from the local area.

Results

The assemblage comprises two blades (a nearly complete example from context 41 and a piece missing the proximal end from context 48) and two small flakes (both complete and from context 48). Overall the assemblage is out of context, undiagnostic and typologically sterile.

In technological terms the two blades can be classified as true blades: parallel sided pieces with the complete example showing a carefully prepared narrow platform. The two flakes can be classified as tertiary removals in a general reduction sequence and are roughly of the same dimensions; however they differ in that one has a collapsed platform and the other has a fairly broad platform and was struck well back into the

striking platform of the parent core. Both are struck from different coloured flint nodules indicating that they are not from the same reduction sequence. Additionally the example with the collapsed platform was also struck from a thermally fractured piece as there is a pronounced conchoidal scar pattern on its dorsal face.

In terms of date the flakes and blades show technological attributes which would not be out of character with reduction strategies spanning the Late Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The lack of any diagnostic pieces and the small size of the assemblage forgoes a more specific date from being put forward. Although there is no evidence to indicate that the pieces were used the lateral edges are acute enough to provide a sharp cutting edge which could have been employed in a number of tasks.

Discussion

Due to the small size of the struck lithic assemblage and the fact that they are probably residual, very little can be said about the character, extent and chronology of the site.

F.2 Prehistoric Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed using the pottery recording system described in the Norfolk Archaeological Unit Pottery Recording Manual and in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion type: F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was also recorded: R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive will be curated by Suffolk County Council.

Assemblage

Staunches Farm, Wormingford, COLEM 2011.5

A total of eight sherds weighing 128g were collected from the fills of two ditches. The assemblage comprises a single earlier Iron Age sherd and seven sherds of later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker.

Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age

A small assemblage of seven Beaker sherds weighing 114g was recovered from ditch 160. The sherds represent a maximum of five Beakers and include the partial rim and upper body from a collared vessel with pointed in-turned rim decorated with irregular, square-toothed comb-impressed bands. Body sherds and a simple base angle are from a further four Beakers including a second square-toothed comb-impressed vessel and body sherds decorated with lunate impressions.

The Beaker assemblage contains a range of fabrics including grog with flint in a micaceous clay matrix, grog with flint in a micaceous sandy matrix flint and grog with

flint (Table 12). The fabrics are typical of Beaker from the region (Martin 1993, 52; Leivers 2009).

Fabric code	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
FG	Common small angular flint with moderate small rounded grog	3	29
GFM	Common small rounded grog with moderate small angular flint and sparse mica	3	55
QGFM	Sandy fabric with sparse small rounded grog, sparse small angular flint and sparse mica	1	30
Total		7	114

Table 12: Quantity and weight of Beaker pottery by fabric

Finds of domestic Beaker are well known from the fen edge which has produced extensive scatters and excavated assemblages (Healy 1995, 1996) and the square-toothed comb-impressed decoration and fabric of this small assemblage from Staunches Farm are very similar to examples from these collections (Bamford 1982, Gibson 1982). Funerary Beaker has been recovered from Elm Park, Ardleigh (Brooks 2001). Elsewhere in Essex however domestic assemblages are less common, the extensive excavations at Stansted for example producing only 18 sherds (Leivers 2008). Domestic Beaker has also been recovered from just over the county boundary in southern Suffolk, with excavations at Hadleigh HAD089 producing twelve sherds of non-funerary Beaker (HAD089, Percival 2011). This suggests that the small assemblage from Staunches Farm is of some significance, being an example of domestic Beaker deposition in an area where this is relatively infrequent.

Earlier Iron Age

A single sherd weighing 14g came from the fill of ditch [125]. The undecorated body sherd is made of flint-tempered fabric containing moderate, medium-sized angular flint pieces in a sandy matrix and is perhaps earlier Iron Age in date.

Fossets Lane, Fordham, COLEM 2011.6

A small assemblage of twelve sherds weighing 41g was collected from the fills of six ditches and a single pit. The pottery is mostly of earlier Iron Age date with the exception of a single sherd in sandy fabric from the fill of pit 004 which is Iron Age but is otherwise not closely datable. The remainder of the assemblage comprises body sherds in fine and moderate flint-tempered fabrics. A single decorated sherd has shallow incised bands of decoration similar to examples from Orsett (Hedges and Buckley 1978, fig.42, 110) and from 8th to 5th century contexts at Lofts Farm (Brown 1988, fig.16, 63). Brudenell notes that 'Darmsden-Linton type' bowls with horizontal grooved lines have a distinct distribution across Essex, southeast Cambridgeshire and southern Suffolk. In Essex the form is especially associated with the 'lower reaches of the county's east flowing rivers' and dates from the 6th to 4th centuries BC (M. Brudenell pers. comm.).

Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway, COLEM 2011.7

A total of 46 sherds weighing 297g was collected from the fills of two pits and two ditches. All the sherds are undecorated and most are made from flint-tempered fabrics containing varying quantities of crushed calcined flint. The flint-tempered sherds make up 98% of the total assemblage (293g), the remaining sherds (4g) being made of sandy fabrics. The assemblage includes the rim from a single 'S' profile jar with rounded rim ending and concave neck (Brown 1988, fig.14, 17) and a pierced handle. Similar handles are found at Orsett (Hedges and Buckley 1978, fig.42, 116), Hornchurch (Guttmann and Last 2000, fig.15, 9) and Loft's Farm (Brown 1988, fig.14, 15). The absence of decoration suggests a Plainware assemblage and a Later Bronze Age date for the sherds.

Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge, COLEM 201.8

- 4.7.1 A rim from a chunky upright jar with flattened rim ending in shell-tempered fabric was recovered from the topsoil. The dating of the sherd is uncertain however it may be later Iron Age. A single flint-tempered body sherd from pit 56 may be later Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age.

Birch Park, Birch, COLEM 2011.9

- 4.7.2 A small assemblage of eight grog-tempered sherds weighing 105g was recovered from topsoil. The sherds are earlier Bronze Age but are otherwise not closely datable.

F.3 Medieval Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

Excavations along the pipeline produced a small post-Roman pottery assemblage of 91 sherds, weighing 0.590kg, from four sites. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded.

Ceramic fabric codes used in the text are:

Fabric 12A	Early medieval shelly wares without sand
Fabric 13	Early medieval sandy ware (shell dusted)
Fabric 13S	Early medieval sandy ware
Fabric 13T	Early medieval sandy ware (transitional)
Fabric 20	medieval sandy greyware
Fabric 21A	Colchester-type ware
Fabric 22	Hedingham ware

Methodology

The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing,*

Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG 2001) act as a standard.

Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis.

The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

Staunches Farm, Wormingford: COLEM 2001.5.

Two abraded undiagnostic body sherds (0.004kg) of Fabric 13 were recovered from ditch **114**, context 115 and date to the early 11th-early 13th century.

The sherds have been much abraded, suggesting deposition as part of manuring practices and becoming incorporated into the ditch fill.

Fosset's Lane, Fordham: COLEM 2011.6

A small pottery assemblage of 33 abraded sherds, weighing 0.136kg, was recovered from a single feature.

A second phase of the north-west to south-east ditch, as identified by the excavator, produced the majority of the pottery from the site (15 sherds, 0.091kg). The pottery is mainly Fabric 13, including a sherd from a thumbled (piecrust) jar rim from **8** and a second rim sherd from **28**. The bulk of the Fabric 13 sherds are body sherds including a single shell dusted sherd (Fabric 13S); a small number of sherds are sooted. The pottery from **8**, **23** and **28** are all early 11th-early 13th century. Pottery recovered from **48** also included Fabric 13 sherds alongside a single small abraded sherd of Fabric 20.

The final phase of the ditch produced 16 sherds of pottery (0.043kg) including two sherds of Fabric 12A and a base sherd from a Fabric 20 vessel, with the remainder of the sherds being Fabric 13. The infilling of this phase of the ditch may date to the late 12th-late 14th century.

Layer 32 produced a small sooted body sherd from a Fabric 13 jar.

Pottery recovered suggests low levels of activity from the early 11th century to the late 14th century. The abraded nature of the pottery suggests their deposition relates to agricultural processes such as manuring rather than occupation activity.

Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway: COLEM 2011.7

The three areas excavated produced a small pottery assemblage of 37 moderately abraded to abraded sherds, weighing 0.285kg.

Ditch **318**, described by the excavator as a boundary ditch, produced two small and abraded undiagnostic sherds (0.001kg) of Fabric 13 (early 11th-early 13th century). From ditch **324** were recovered five sherds (0.071kg) of Fabric 13, including three jar base sherds and two sooted body sherds. A pit **296** produced four abraded Fabric 13

sherds (0.018kg) including three sooted base sherds from three separate vessels. The pottery from both features is early 11th-early 13th century in date.

Posthole **301** produced a single abraded sherd of Fabric 13 and a moderately abraded sherd of Fabric 20 (late 12th-late 14th century).

From pit **299**, nine sherds (0.079kg) of moderately abraded to abraded pottery were recovered. This included four sooted body sherds from Fabric 13 jars, rim sherds from two Fabric 20 jars and a small decorated mottled green glazed body sherd from a Fabric 22 jug. In addition a single small unglazed sooted body sherd from a Fabric 21A jar was identified. This is the latest sherd produced during the excavation at COLEM 2011.7 and dates to the 13th-mid 14th century.

Pit **300** produced sherds of medieval pottery, two sooted body sherds from an early medieval Fabric 13 jar, and a single sherd covered in mottled green glaze from a Fabric 22 jug dating from the mid 12th-mid 14th century.

A further 11 moderately abraded to abraded sherds (0.075kg) were recovered from the I subsoil layer 306. These were mainly Fabric 13 and included a thumbled (piecrust) jar rim sherd and several convex, obtuse base sherds. Also present are two sherds from Fabric 13T vessels dating to the 12th-early 13th century.

The low levels of pottery, the majority of which was early 11th-early 13th century, combined with the small numbers of glazed vessels and the presence of only a single sherd of Fabric 21A suggest that this assemblage represents activity from the early 11th century to the mid 14th century, with the latest phase of activity from the 13th-mid 14th century. The features appear to be on the periphery of settlement and may relate to agricultural or extraction activity, with some deposition relating to agricultural processes such as manuring and a small amount of rubbish disposal related to occupation localised at some distance from the site.

Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge: COLEM 2011.8.

A small moderately abraded to abraded pottery assemblage of 19 sherds, weighing 0.165kg was recovered from two ditches which were aligned north-east to south-west. Ditch **26** produced most of the pottery (18 sherds, 0.159kg), all Fabric 13 and its variants. The assemblage includes two thumbled (piecrust) jar rims one in Fabric 13S from which much of the shell has been leached, the other in Fabric 13. Two undiagnostic 12th-early 13th century fabric 13T body sherds were also recovered. A single rim sherd from a Fabric 13 jar was recovered from ditch **28**.

The small assemblage of pottery may have become incorporated into the ditches when they went out of use and were derived from agricultural processes such as manuring and a small amount of rubbish disposal related to occupational activity some distance from the site which became incorporated into the topsoil and subsoil.

Conclusions

The assemblage from the pipeline provides basic dating information for the sites indicating some early 11th-early 13th century activity at each site. All the sites demonstrate very low levels of domestic pottery deposition from the mid 13th century onwards. No late medieval pottery was recovered, suggesting the areas were not associated with occupational or agricultural activity after the mid-late 14th century.

Catalogue

Staunches farm, Wormingford: COLEM 2001.5.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form/Sherd	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Abrasion	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
115	Fabric 13	Body sherd	2	0.004	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century

Table 13: COLEM 2011.5 medieval Pottery dating

Fosset's Lane, Fordham: COLEM 2011.6

Context	Fabric	Basic Form/Sherd	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Abrasion	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
7	Fabric 13	Jar (rim externally thickened, rounded and thumb-pie crust)	1	0.004	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
	Fabric 13	Jar (sooted body sherd)	1	0.005	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (sooted body sherd)	1	0.004	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
21	Fabric 13	Jar (?Rim)	1	0.033	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
	Fabric 13S	Body sherd	1	0.008	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century.	
	Fabric 13	Jar (sooted body sherd)	1	0.008	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
29	Fabric 13	Jar (rim everted externally thickened and rounded)	1	0.004	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
31	Fabric 13	Jar (sooted body sherd)	1	0.002	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
32	Fabric 13	Body sherd (?two different vessels)	2	0.002	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
41	Fabric 12A	Body sherd	2	0.010	Moderate-abraded	11th-end of 12th century.	Late 12th-late 14th century.
	Fabric 13	Body sherd	1	0.001	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century.	
	Fabric 20	Base (flat obtuse)	1	0.005	Abraded	Late 12th-late 14th century.	
42	Fabric 13	Body sherd	1	0.003	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
43	Fabric 13	Jar (sooted body sherd)	1	0.008	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
44	Fabric 13	Jar (sooted body sherd)	4	0.002	Moderate-abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th

					abraded		century
	Fabric 13	Jar (sooted body sherd)	2	0.003	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
45	Fabric 13	Body sherd	3	0.009	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
47	Fabric 20	Body sherd	1	0.001	Moderate-abraded	Late 12th-late 14th century.	Late 12th-early 13th century
	Fabric 13	Body sherd (very coarse fabric)	1	0.006	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (sooted body sherd)	1	0.002	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Body sherd (?three different vessels)	5	0.016	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	

Table 14: COLEM 2011.6 medieval pottery dating

Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway: COLEM 2011.7

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Abrasion	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Rang
289	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd, convex obtuse, sooted externally, two vessels)	2	0.013	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
	Fabric 13	Jar (base sherd sooted externally, two vessels)	1	0.003	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Body sherd	1	0.002	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
302	Fabric 20	Jar (rim upright, square)	1	0.030	Moderate	Late 12th-late 13th century.	13th-mid 14th century
	Fabric 20	Jar (rim sharply everted, near square diam 20cm externally sooted)	1	0.017	Abraded	Late 12th-late 13th century.	
	Fabric 22	Jug (body sherd applied decoration and mottled green glaze)	1	0.003	Moderate-abraded	Mid 12th-mid 14th century	
	Fabric 21A	Jar (body sherd sooted externally)	1	0.004	Moderate-abraded	13th-mid 14th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd sooted externally/sooted-deposit internally)	2	0.013	moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd sooted externally)	2	0.009	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Body sherd	1	0.003	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
305	Fabric 22	Jug (body sherd mottled green glaze)	1	0.003	Moderate-abraded	Mid 12th-mid 14th century	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd sooted externally)	2	0.009	Moderate-abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
306	Fabric 13T	Body sherd	2	0.014	Moderate-abraded	12th-early 13th century.	12th-early 13th century.
	Fabric 13T	Jar (base sherd, convex obtuse)	1	0.011	moderate	12th-early 13th century.	
	Fabric 13	Jar (rim externally thickened, rounded and thumb-pie crust)	1	0.007	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (base sherd, convex obtuse, sooted externally/sooted-deposit	3	0.032	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	

		internally)					
	Fabric 13	Jar (base sherd, convex obtuse, sooted externally)	1	0.003	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd sooted externally)	1	0.006	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Body sherd	2	0.002	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
307	Fabric 13	Jar (base sherd, convex obtuse, sooted externally)	1	0.022	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd sooted externally)	1	0.012	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (base sherd, convex obtuse)	1	0.022	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (base sherd, convex obtuse)	1	0.011	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd sooted externally)	1	0.004	Moderate-abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
308	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd sooted externally)	1	0.002	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Late 12th-early 13th century.
	Fabric 20	Body sherd	1	0.003	Moderate-abraded	Late 12th-late 13th century.	
322	Fabric 13	Body sherd	2	0.001	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century
Unstratified	Fabric 20	Jar (rim sharply everted, near square diam 20cm)	1	0.024	Moderate-abraded	Late 12th-late 13th century.	

Table 15: COLEM 2011.7 medieval pottery dating

Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge: COLEM 2011.8.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form/Sherd	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Abrasion	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
25	Fabric 13S	Jar (rim externally thickened, rounded and thumbed-pie crust 22cm diameter) z Shell has been leached out from inner surface.	1	0.024	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	12th-early 13th century.
	Fabric 13	Jar (rim externally thickened, rounded and thumbed-pie crust on inner edge of the rim 22cm diameter)	1	0.023	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd slight external and internal sooting)	3	0.044	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (body sherd external sooting)	3	0.007	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Body sherd	5	0.021	Abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Jar (base sherd, convex obtuse)	1	0.012	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13	Body sherd	2	0.008	Moderate	Early 11th-early 13th century	
	Fabric 13T	Body sherd	2	0.020	Moderate-abraded	12th-early 13th century.	
27	Fabric 13	Jar (rim externally thickened and rounded)	1	0.006	Moderate-abraded	Early 11th-early 13th century	Early 11th-early 13th century

Table 16: COLEM 2011.8 medieval pottery dating

F.3.1 Animal Bone from COLEM 2011.6

By Andy Bates

Introduction

In total, 30 bone fragments, or number of individual specimens (NISP), weighing 631g were recovered from interventions excavated into a medieval enclosure ditch (cuts 8, 10, 46 and 48) and an undated layer (32). Of these, 13 specimens were identified to a species level of low order group (Table 18).

Phase	Feature/ Layer	NISP Identified to a Species Level or Low Order Group	Total NISP
1 st re-cut of medieval ditch	8	2	10
	48	1	2
2 nd re-cut of medieval ditch	10	2	2
	46	6	12
Undated layer	32	2	4
Total		13	30

Table 17: COLEM 2011.6 NISP per feature

Methodology

the material was identified using the reference collection held by the author. All parts of the skeleton were identified where possible, including long bone shafts, skull fragments, all teeth and fairly complete vertebrae. In the identification of species reference was made to Halstead and Collins (1995) and Schmid (1972). The estimation of the age of animals using epiphyseal fusion of long bones followed Silver (1969). No butchered bones, teeth from which the age of the animals could be estimated, pathologies, or congenital traits were present.

The condition and fragmentation of the bone was recorded, as represented by surface erosion, how robust the bone was, dulled or sharp edges, the percentage of the original bone present and the overall fragment size.

Discussion

The condition of the bone is generally consistent with the bone being reasonably robust, but fragmented with predominantly less than 25% of the original bone present and with over 50% of the bone surface eroded. The medieval period is the final phase of activity recorded at the site, but no obviously residual or reworked bone from earlier periods was identified.

Table 17 quantifies the NISP by species and cut or layer number. In each case the quantity of animal bone is low, with the maximum number of specimens recovered from one deposit equalling 10 NISP. The proportion of species in the summary totals of Table 18 cannot, therefore, be considered representative of the live flocks and herds. No associated or articulated bone groups were identified, and the material is likely to

represent background deposition of bone from activities in the vicinity rather than deliberate depositional acts.

Where it could be assessed from the epiphyseal fusion of long bones, most of the bone appears to be from adult animals. The exception was of a single sheep/goat radius from the 1st re-cut of enclosure ditch 46, of a lamb less than 10 months of age (Silver 1969).

Feature/ Species	1st re-cut of medieval ditch		2nd re-cut of medieval ditch		undate d layer	Total
	10	46	8	48		
Cattle	2	2	1		1	6
Pig		2				2
Sheep/ Goat		1	1		1	3
Dog		1		1		2
Cattle/Red Deer		2				2
Sheep/ Goat/Roe Deer		1				1
Medium Mammal			2			2
Large Mammal		3	6	1	2	12
Total	2	12	10	2	4	30

Table 18: COLEM 2011.6NISP by species and feature

APPENDIX G. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

G.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Staunches Farm, Wormingford, COLEM 2011.5

Introduction and Methods

Six bulk samples were taken from across the excavated area at Staunches Farm and were submitted for an initial appraisal. Features sampled include a tree-throw and four ditches that were either undated (but considered to be prehistoric) or modern.

One bucket (up to ten litres) of each 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 flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 19.

Results

The results are recorded on Table 19.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents
1	104	105	Ditch	Single charred barley grain, sparse charcoal
2	121	120	Tree throw	Charcoal
3	118	119	Ditch	No charred plant remains
4	146	148	Ditch	No charred plant remains
5	154	160	Ditch	Charred grain fragment, charcoal
6	157	160	Ditch	Sparse charcoal

Table 19. COLEM 2011.5 environmental results

Preservation is by charring and modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and a few common weed seeds are present in most of the samples.

Charred plant remains were recovered from only two samples; Sample 1, fill 104 of modern ditch **105** contains a single charred grain of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and fragments of indeterminate charred grain were noted in Sample 5, fill 157 of undated ditch **160**.

Discussion

Sampling of deposits from Staunches Road has shown a general scarcity of charred plant remains. The features sampled have been interpreted as agricultural ditches and there is no evidence of any nearby settlement or of any agricultural practices such as crop processing.

Fosset's Lane, Fordham, COLEM 2011.6

Introduction and Methods

Four bulk samples were taken from across the excavated area at Fosset's Lane, Fordham and were submitted for an initial appraisal. Features sampled include prehistoric pits and medieval ditches.

The total volume (up to 40 litres) of each sample were 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 flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 20.

Results

The results are recorded on Table 20

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents
1	2	4	Pit	Charcoal only
2	17	19	Pit	Charcoal, charred indet glume base
3	42	46	Ditch	Charcoal, charred indet grain and pea fragment
4	44	46	Ditch	Sparse charcoal

Table 20. COLEM 2011.6 environmental results

Preservation is by carbonisation and is poor. Two charred grains were recovered from Sample 3, fill 42 of medieval ditch **46** along with a fragment of a pea (*Pisum* sp.) cotyledon. A single charred indeterminate glume base of hulled wheat (*Triticum* sp.) was noted in Sample 2, fill 17 of Iron Age pit **19**. The remaining samples contain charcoal only.

Discussion

Sampling of deposits from Fosset's Lane has shown a general scarcity of charred plant remains that cannot be considered significant due to the low numbers of specimens recovered. At best the assemblage does indicate the presence of food plants in the form of wheat and pulses.

Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway, COLEM 2011.7

Introduction and Methods

Seventeen bulk samples were taken from across the excavated area at Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway and were submitted for an initial appraisal. Features sampled include ditches, a ring-ditch and post holes

One bucket (up to 10 litres) of each 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 flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification.

Results

Preservation is by carbonisation and is restricted to charcoal only. The only sample to contain a significant amount of charcoal is Sample 214, fill 292 of pit **296**.

Discussion

The samples from Turkey Cock Lane did not produce charred plant remains which suggest that there was no domestic occupation of the area excavated.

Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge, COLEM 2011.8

Introduction and Methods

Three bulk samples were taken from three undated pits from across the excavated area at Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge and were submitted for an initial appraisal.

One bucket (up to ten litres) of each sample were 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 flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on **Table 21**.

Results

The results are recorded on Table 21.

Sample No	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents
1	31	32	Pit	Abundant charcoal
2	43	44	Pit	Charcoal only
3	50	49	Pit	Abundant charcoal

Table 21. COLEM 2011.8 environmental results

Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is limited to charcoal only. Samples 1 (Pit **32**) and 3 (Pit **49**) both produced significant volumes (approximately 400ml) of charcoal.

Discussion

Wood charcoal is the only charred plant remains recovered. Neither of the pits showed evidence of in-situ burning so it is assumed that the charcoal was deliberately deposited into the features. No seeds or other plant remains were recovered that might have provided information as to the nature of the fire.

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http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html	1876 –1877	1:2500	Essex Viewed 22/06/11
http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html	1897	1:2500	Essex Viewed 22/06/11
http://www.buildingconservation/articles/nails/nails.htm			Viewed 05/02/12

APPENDIX I. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-124277		
Project Name	Wormingford to Abberton pipeline		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	01-01-2011	Finish	01-04-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	MUL ABS 10	Planning App. No.	F/COL/08/0194
HER No.	COLEM 2011.5 - 2011.9	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief
<small>pits, ditches, etc.</small>	<small>Early Medieval 11.5 to 1066</small>	<small>pottery</small>
	<small>Early Medieval 410 to 1066</small>	<small>Early Medieval 410 to 1066</small>

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

Project Location

County	ESSEX Colchester	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District		
Parish		
HER		
Study Area		National Grid Reference

Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council Nick Finch, Scott Wilson
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	
Supervisor	

Project Archives

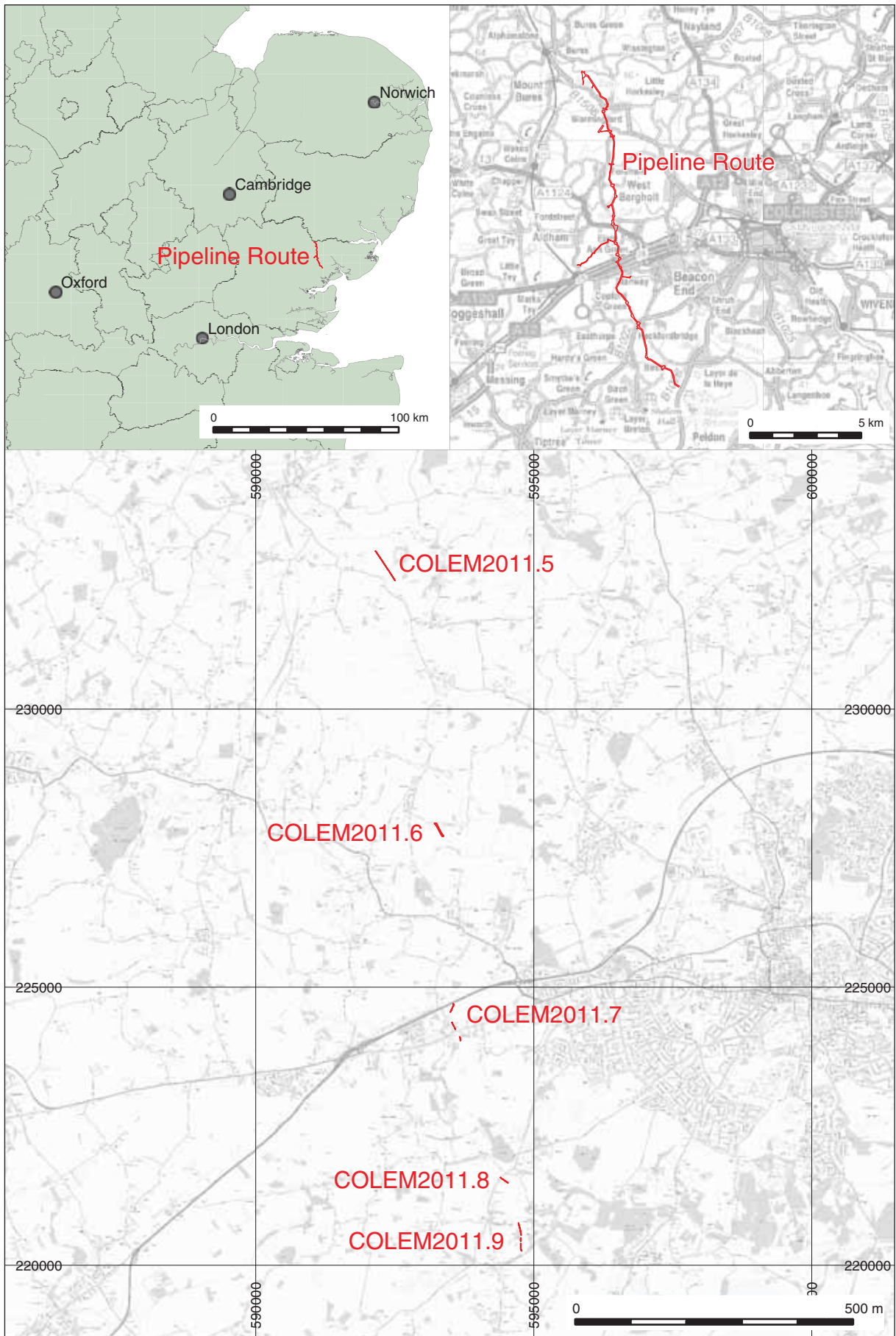
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Colchester Museum	OA EAST	Colchester Museum
COLEM2011.5 - 2011.9	COLEM2011.5 - 2011.9	COLEM2011.5 - 2011.9

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents		Digital Media	Paper Media
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
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None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Notes:

Site comprised of 5 separate areas, each had a separate HER number, all were strip map and sample excavations based on a work specification monuments:
 later Prehistoric: ring-ditch, post holes
 EARly Medieval: ditches, pits
 Medieval: ditches, post holes, pits, building?
 Post Medieval: ditches, pond
 modern: ditch



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Figure 1: Site location

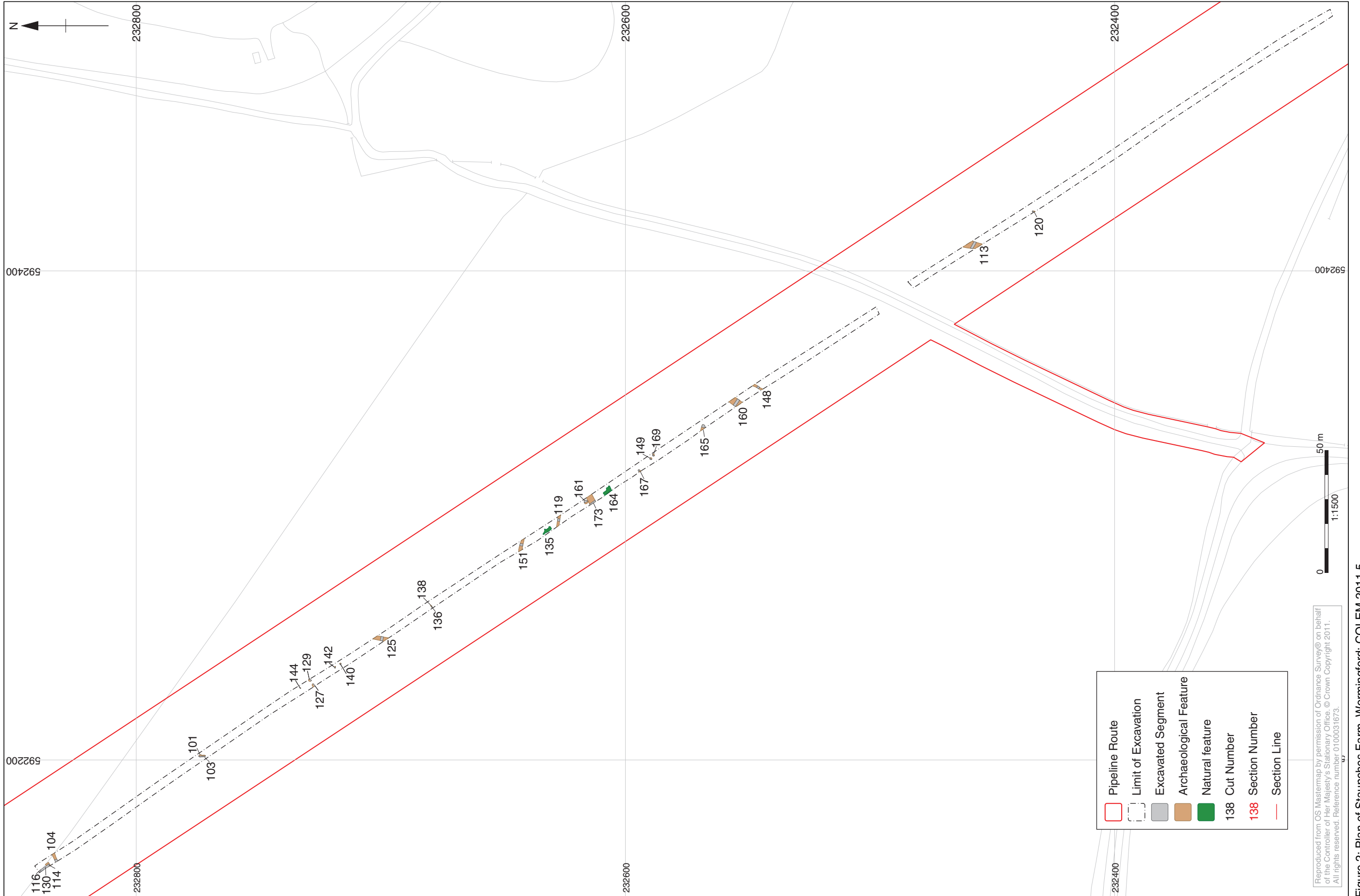


Figure 2: Plan of Staunches Farm, Wormingford: COLEM 2011.5



Figure 3: Plan of Fosset's Lane, Fordham: COLEM 2011.6



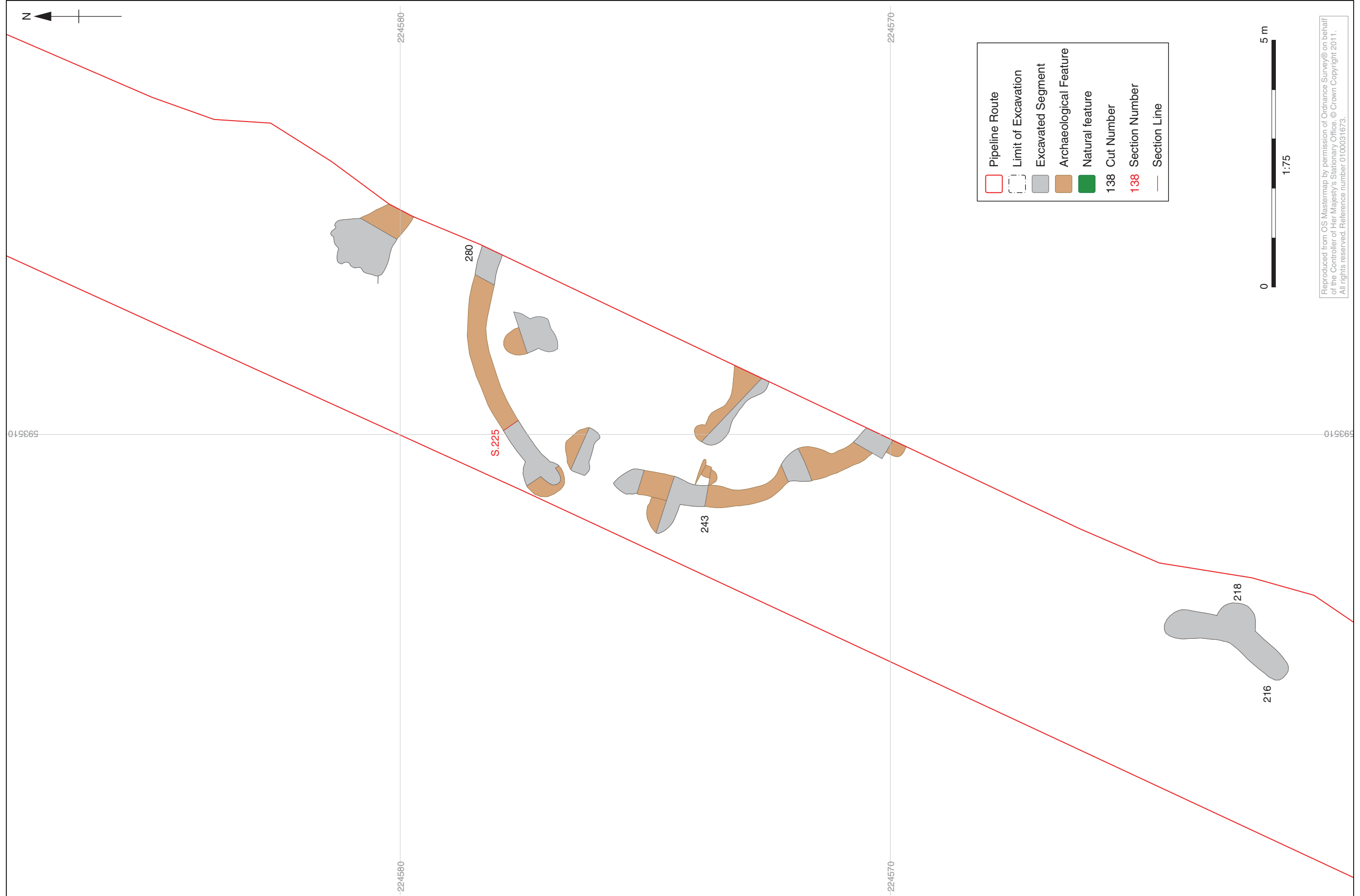
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	Excavated Segment
	Archaeological Feature
	Natural feature
	138 Cut Number
	138 Section Number
	Section Line

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Figure 4: Plan of Turkey Cock Lane, Satway: COLEM 2011.7



Figure 5: Phased plan of Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway: COLEM 2011.7



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Figure 6: Plan of ring-ditch and associated activity: Turkey Cock Lane, Satway: COLEM 2011.7

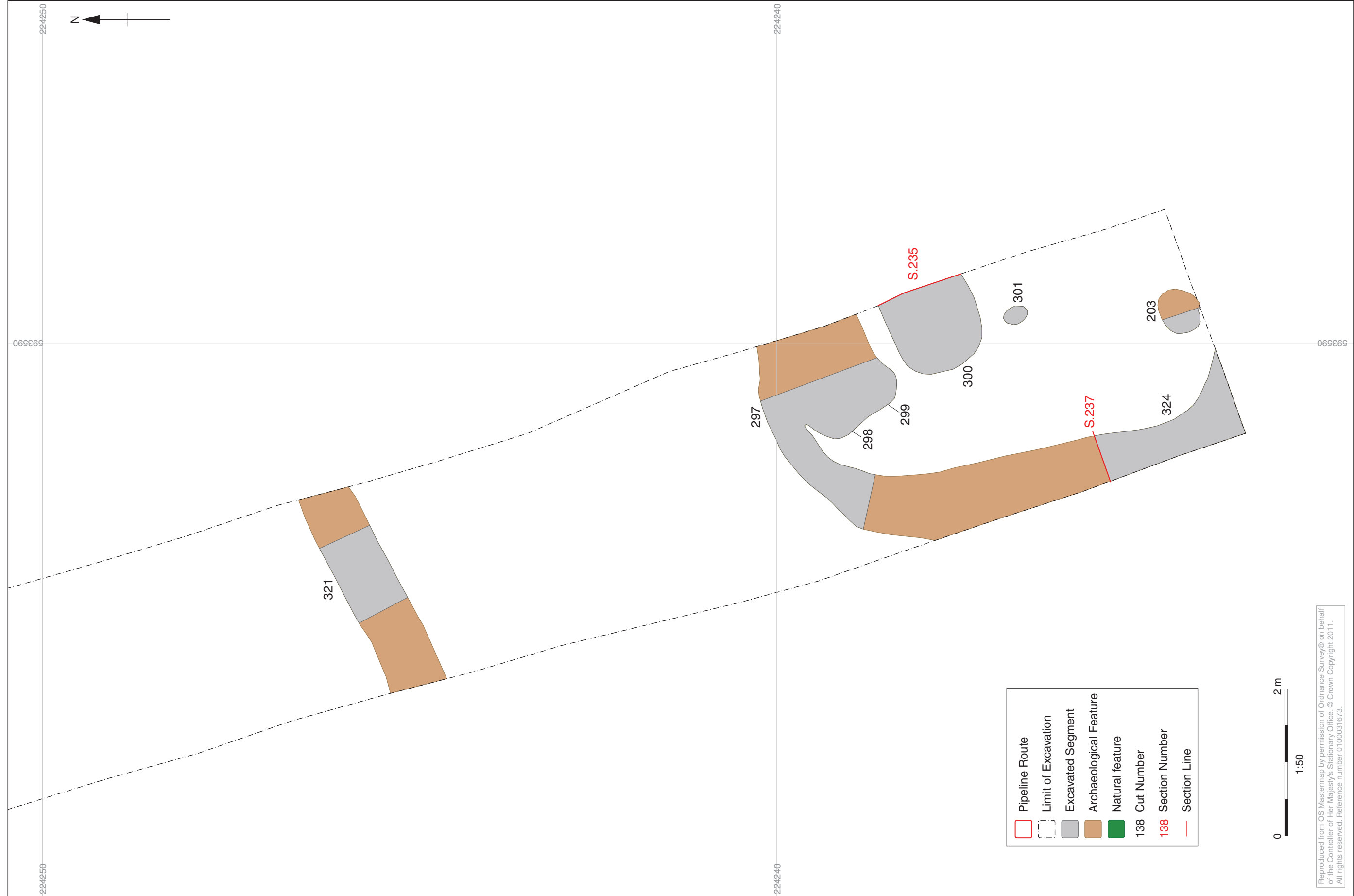


Figure 7: Plan of Medieval building and associated activity: Turkey Cock Lane, Satway: COLEM 2011.7

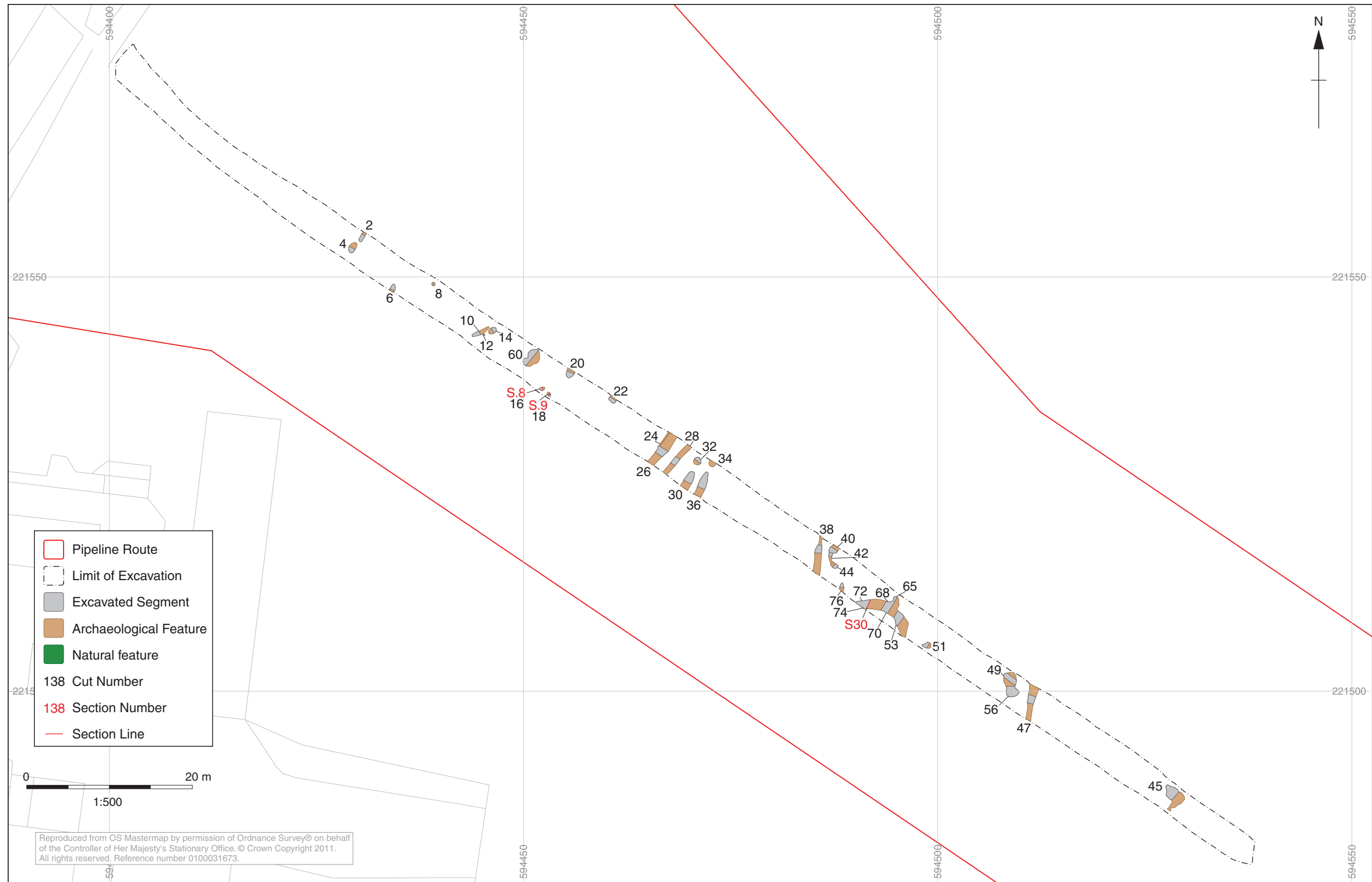
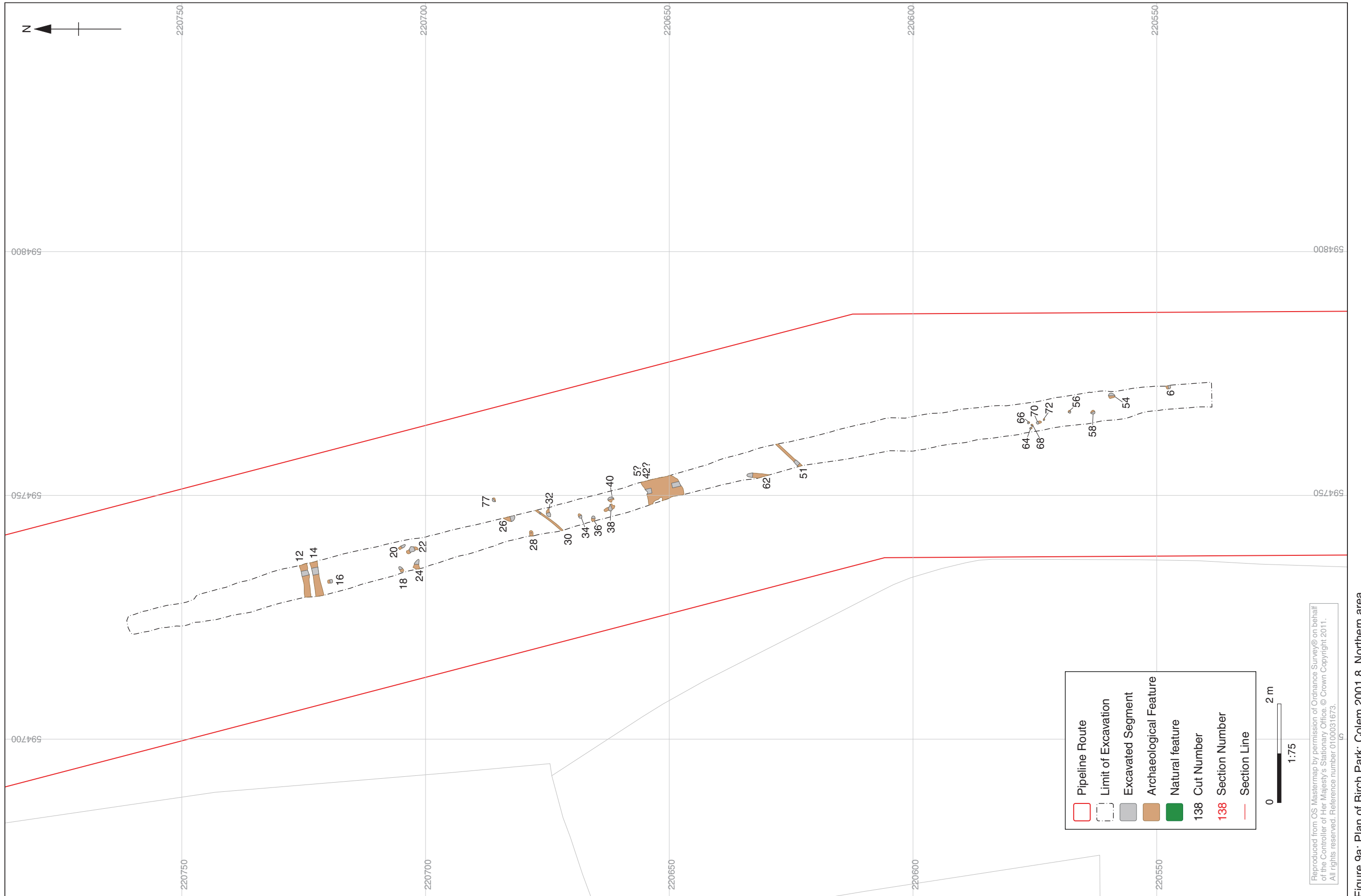


Figure 8: Plan of Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge: COLEM 2011.8



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Figure 9a: Plan of Birch Park: Colem 2001.8, Northern area

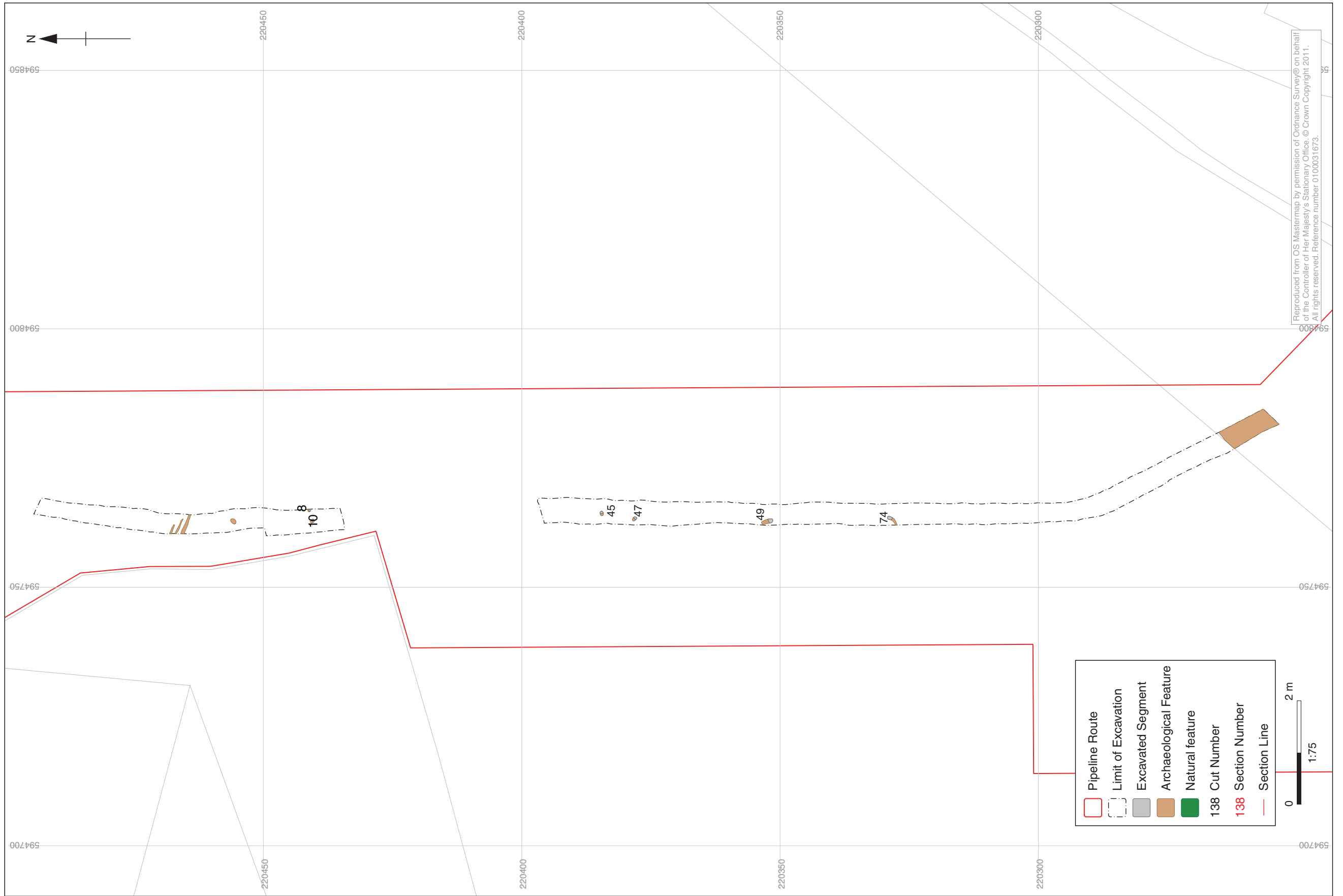


Figure 9b: Plan of Birch Park: Colem 2001.8, Northern area

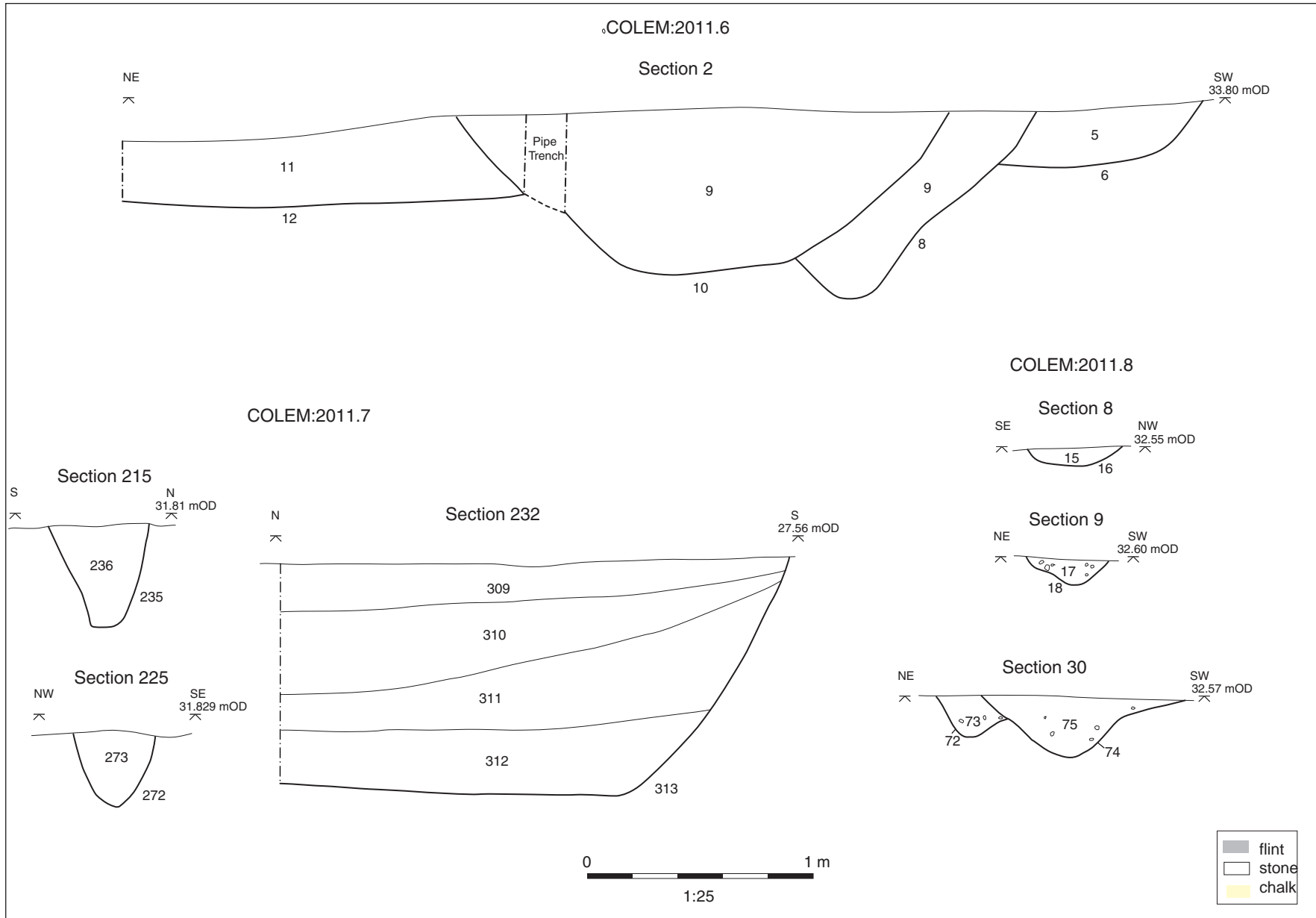


Figure 10: Sections

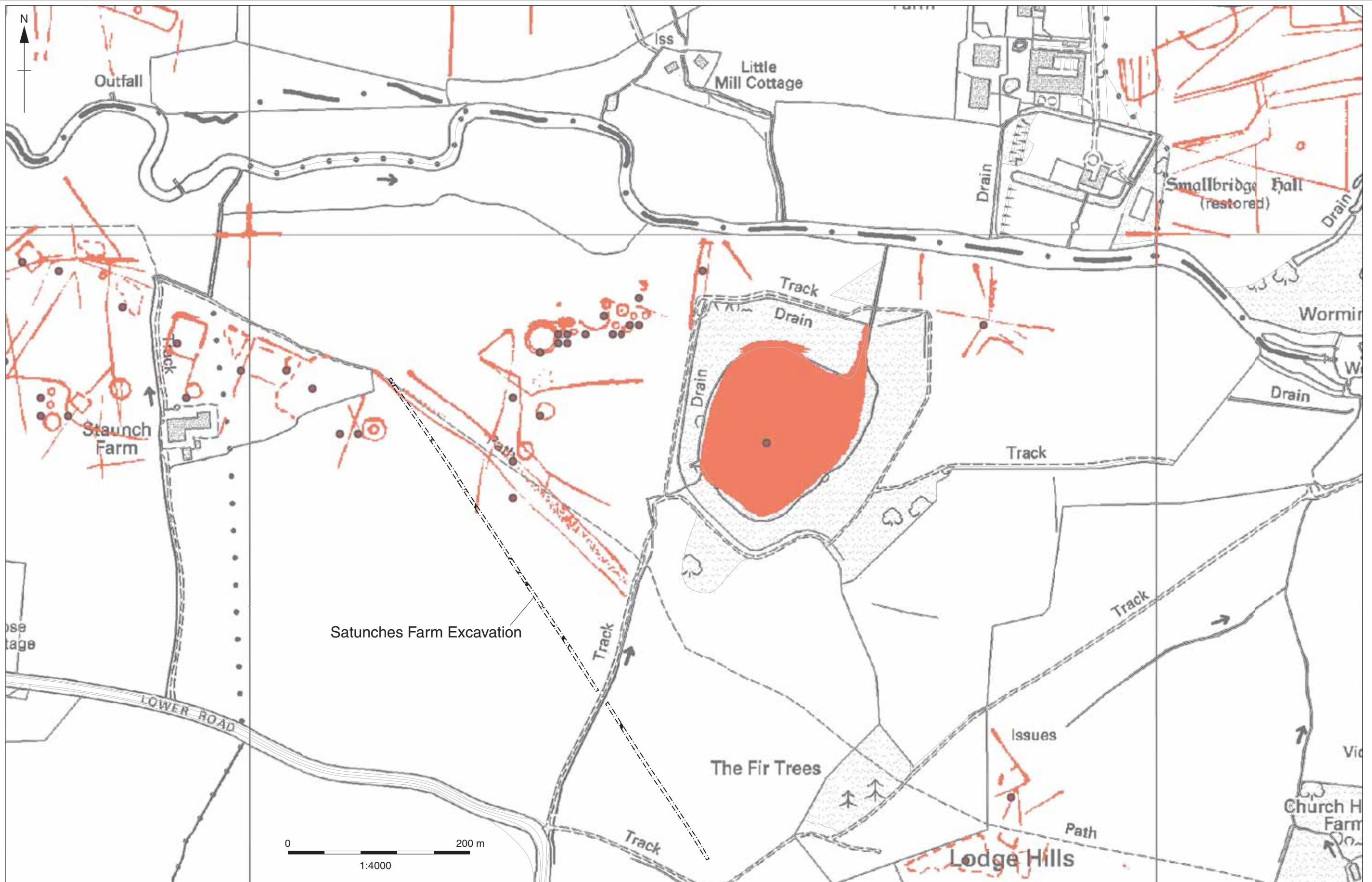


Figure 11: Cropmarks recorded in the vicinity of Staunches farm, Wormingford (based on data supplied by.....)

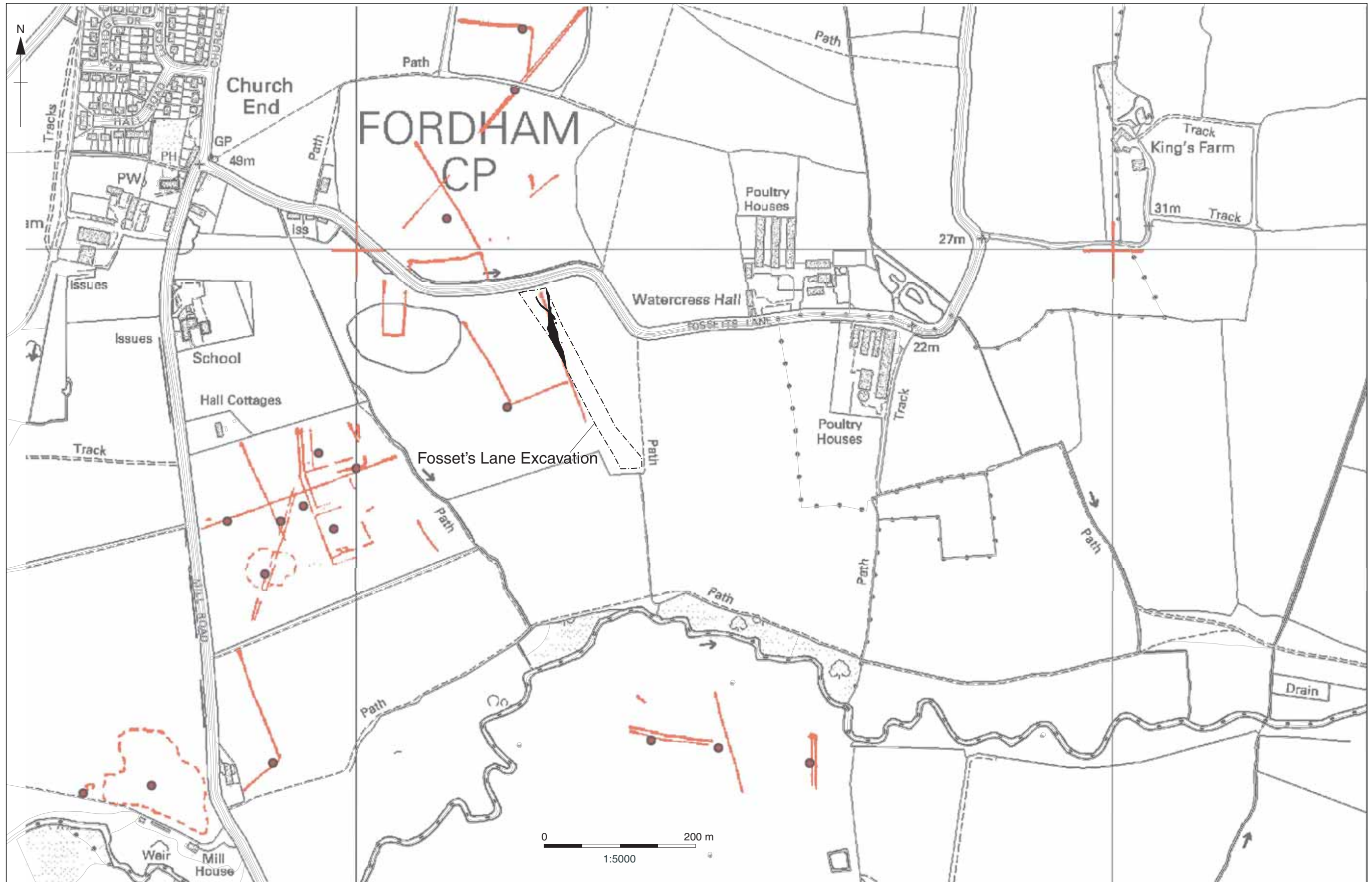


Figure 11: Cropmarks recorded in the vicinity of Fosset's Lane, Fordham (based on data supplied by.....)



Figure 11: Cropmarks recorded in the vicinity of Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway (based on data supplied by.....)

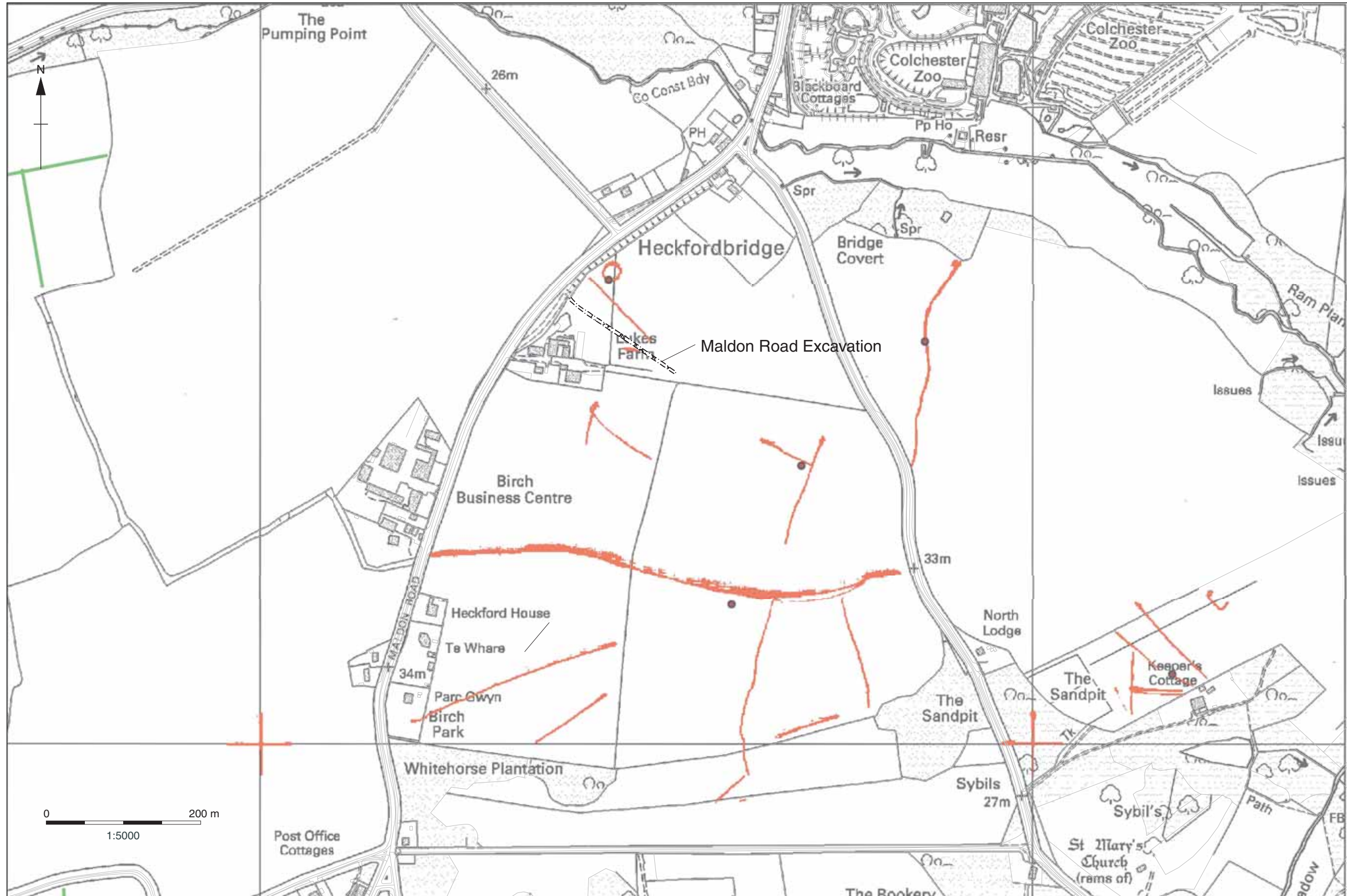


Figure 14: Cropmarks recorded in the vicinity of Maldon Road, Heckfordbridge (based on data supplied by.....)

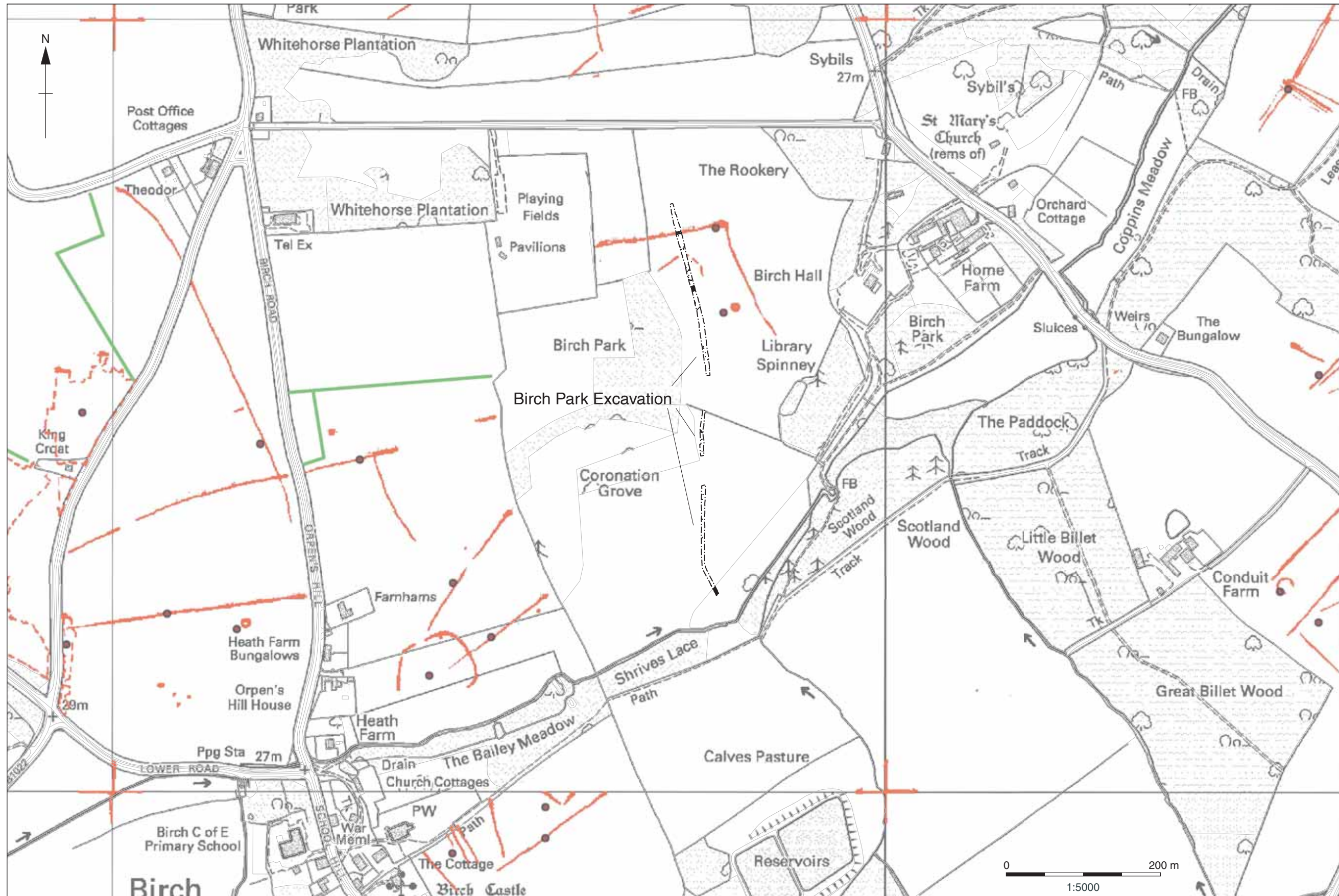


Figure 15: Cropmarks recorded in the Vicinity of Birch Park (using data provided by.....)



Plate 1: Bronze age enclosure [160], Staunches Farm, Wormingford



Plate 2: Bronze Age pit [19], Fosset's Lane, Fordham



Plate 3: Medieval building and associated features, Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway (297)



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