



# Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex

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## Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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## Summary

Between the 6th and 15th April 2020, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out a 12-trench evaluation on behalf of Enterprise Property Group Ltd at the site of Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex (TL 67680 41094, Fig. 1). The site was located on the south-east facing slope of the valley in which the village is located.

Archaeological remains were fairly dispersed, with most found in the eastern half of the site closer to Water Lane and Bumpstead Brook. Trenches in the north-eastern part of the site revealed ditches forming a probable field system aligned with the road/brook; the pottery assemblage from which is predominantly Early Roman (AD50-100). A single post-hole was also revealed, with a surviving post-pipe, suggesting the possibility of structural remains from this period. Roman remains have been recorded previously in excavations immediately to the south-east. One of the trenches (Trench 10), in this area positioned close to the Water Lane frontage, contained a number of features that were overlain by a dark deposit from which an assemblage of mixed Early-Mid Roman and medieval pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered. This deposit lay within a broadly linear depression which may represent a silted-up trackway or hollow way.

A number of ditches were also revealed across the site (Trenches 1, 9, 11 and 12), which contained finds dating from the medieval to post-medieval periods. In the south-eastern corner of the site, within a bowl-like depression visible on the surface, Trench 1 revealed evidence of probable post-medieval quarrying activity.

The evaluation produced a moderately large assemblage of Roman pottery (2091g; mostly from a single ditch), along with smaller assemblages of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and clay tobacco-pipe. A small collection of animal bone was recovered which includes some evidence of butchery and/or possible bone/horn working. Environmental samples generally produced few plant remains other than charcoal, although charred grain, chaff, legumes and weed seeds were recovered from contexts in Trenches 10 and 11 in the north-eastern part of the site.

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## Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for OA East by Pat Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Neal Mason, who was supported by Thomas Houghton. Survey and digitising were also carried out by Thomas Houghton. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between the 6th and 15th April 2020, OA East carried out a 12-trench evaluation on behalf of Enterprise Property Group Ltd at the site of Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex (TL 67680 41094, Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission for 28 residential properties (planning ref. 18/00408/FUL). A letter of Specialist Archaeological Advice was issued by Teresa O'Connor and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Moan 2020) was produced by OA East detailing the Local Authority's requirements for archaeological evaluation.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies adjacent to the historic core of Steeple Bumpstead, 200m from the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin (Grade I Listed). The site is situated at approximately 68m OD on a south-east facing slope near to a shallow valley bottom. It is bounded by Water Lane to the south-east, open arable farmland to the north-west and residential properties north-east and south-west. The Bumpstead Brook runs through the settlement, which is situated in the shallow valley, with the land rising to over 85m OD to the north-west of site.
- 1.2.2 The geology is recorded as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated), overlain with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation Diamicton (British Geological Survey online map viewer <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>, accessed 21/02/20).
- 1.2.3 The area of proposed development is currently arable farmland.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is a summary of known archaeological remains within a 1km radius of the site and is based on data from the EHER. Many of the records currently held by the EHER relate to historic buildings within the historic core and Conservation Area of Steeple Bumpstead. Few records relate to archaeological remains, with pertinent entries shown on Fig. 2.

#### *Prehistoric*

- 1.3.2 No prehistoric findspots or sites are recorded within 1km of the site. However, satellite imagery on Google Earth (dated 2018) shows cropmarks of a potential prehistoric date c.450m north-north-west of the site. A large enclosure is partially visible as a cropmark, measuring 75m by at least 50m and located near the crest of the hill and overlooking the valley. Although this feature is currently undated, its form is suggestive of an enclosure of prehistoric date.
- 1.3.3 Faint traces of a field system can also be seen as cropmarks within a similar area, which could be prehistoric or later in date.

- 1.3.4 A number of enclosures and field system were identified in aerial photographs on the east valley side, c. 750m east of the site. These features are undated but could be prehistoric in origin (MEX1040688 & MEX1040689).

### *Roman*

- 1.3.5 The site lies less than 1km to the south-east of the projected line of the Roman road running from Radwinter to Wixoe (MEX5896).
- 1.3.6 Extensive foundations for a building were recorded within the gardens of a house called Broadgate House, adjacent to the Church of St Mary. These foundations were described as Roman in the Victoria County History of Essex (MEX5867, Powell 1963). An archaeological evaluation carried out in 2012 on land adjacent to Broadgate House did not find any evidence of the continuation of these foundations (MEX1041102).
- 1.3.7 Several Roman coins have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme within the search area, dating from the 3rd to 5th centuries AD (SMR56649, 56752, 56823, 56825). The locations of these finds spots are confidential and not illustrated on Fig. 2.

### *Medieval to post-medieval*

- 1.3.8 One medieval pit containing charred cereal grain and worked horn was found during an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Broadgate House (MEX1041102).
- 1.3.9 A large number of historic buildings associated with the medieval and post-medieval development of Steeple Bumpstead are recorded in the EHER. A total of 22 buildings are recorded on the National Heritage List of England; most of Grade II Listed whilst the Church of St Mary, dated to the 11th century, is Grade I (MEX5866).
- 1.3.10 A c.16th century timber framed house called 'Tanyard' is located approximately 100m to the south-east of the site (MEX1004968). The close proximity of this building to the current course of the Bumpstead Brook, a tributary of the River Stour, suggests the location of industrial activity (such as tanning) near to this watercourse.
- 1.3.11 Freezes Farmhouse, a timber framed house dating to c.17th century, is located immediately to the north-east of the site and may be associated with some of the apparent agricultural ditches encountered during this investigation (MEX10049).

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 This evaluation sought to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The methodology detailed below aimed to:

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeological and environmental remains.
- provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- provide – in the event that archaeological remains were found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The programme of trial trenching was designed in accordance with the guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIfA 2014a).
- *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIfA 2014b).
- *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIfA 2014c).
- *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Historic England: London (HE 2015).

2.2.2 The original project design called for 12 trenches, measuring 30m long by 2m wide, to be excavated across the site to provide a 4% representative sample of the proposed development area (Fig. 3).

2.2.3 Most of the trenches were broadly aligned north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east, except in the cases of Trenches 11 and 12 which were aligned east to west to avoid buried and overhead services. Trench 12 was also shortened by approximately 10m to avoid working under an overhead power cable.

2.2.4 At the request of Teresa O'Connor (ECC Place Services), the alignment of Trench 1 was modified to allow for the investigation and recording of a bowl-like hollow in the south-western corner of the field.

- 2.2.5 All trenches were opened by a 20 tonne 360° tracked excavator, under the constant supervision of a professional archaeologist, to a depth where either archaeological deposits or natural geology was reached.
- 2.2.6 All archaeological features were fully excavated and recorded, with the following exceptions:
- Two ditches were not excavated, one in Trench 7 and one in Trench 12, as similar ditches on the same alignments were also present in these trenches.
  - Where linear features were present in more than one trench, as in the case of ditch **1107** which was present in both Trenches 10 and 11.
  - Two ditches and a possible pit in Trench 10 were not excavated, along with the continuation of ditch **1104**, because they were exposed beneath a masking deposit (1003) which was removed by machine. The removal of this deposit resulted in the trench being too deep to allow hand excavation to take place.
- 2.2.7 All excavated features were drawn and photographed, and all finds retained unless identified as being modern in date.
- 2.2.8 The archaeological features and excavated slots were recorded using a Leica GS08 GPS with SmartNet capabilities.
- 2.2.9 Environmental samples were taken for flotation processing to assess the presence of any charred or mineralised plant remains.
- 2.2.10 Metal detecting was carried out by the site supervisor. The only artefacts recovered were modern and therefore discarded.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds reports and spot dates are presented in Appendix B. The results from the environmental samples and reports on the faunal and shell remains are given in Appendix C. A location plan of all the trenches and archaeological features is presented in Fig. 3, with detailed inset plans of two trenches. Fig. 4 shows selected section drawings and Plates 1-8 comprise selected digital photographs of some of the features.

### **3.2 General soils and ground conditions**

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of Diamicton was overlain by a mid-brown clay silt subsoil (average thickness 0.2m), which in turn was overlain by a dark brown clay loam topsoil (0.3m). An exception to this sequence was in Trench 1, where two layers of colluvium or possible quarry backfill were observed.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### **3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits**

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all trenches apart from Trenches 3 and 6, which are not described further (see App. A). Archaeology revealed in the north-eastern half of the site comprised several probable field system/drainage ditches on varying alignments, the finds from which indicate a Romano-British date. Also in this area, Trench 10 revealed a masking deposit which contained both Roman and medieval pottery and overlay a pit and three ditches, at least one of which also appeared to be Roman in date given its continuation to the north-west (in Trench 11), where datable finds were recovered from it.

3.3.2 Archaeological features were comparatively sparse in the south-western half of the site. These comprised two undated small sub-circular pits and three pits and a ditch in Trench 1 which were overlain by colluvial deposits/quarry backfill. The finds from some of these features indicated a medieval/post-medieval to modern date and they were located within, or very near to, a bowl-like depression in the southern corner of the field which may have been the result of quarrying. This is further supported by the fact that the depression was located very near to the current road (Water Lane) and watercourse (Fig. 3).

### **3.4 Trench 1**

3.4.1 This trench was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and was re-aligned from its original north-north-east to south-south-west course during the fieldwork to examine the bowl-like depression in this part of the field (Fig. 3). The subsoil was found

to overlie two probable colluvial deposits or backfills within the depression. Several archaeological features were revealed below these deposits.

- 3.4.2 Close the south-south-western corner of the trench, an amorphous probable pit **101** (Fig. 4, Section 2, Plate 2) was partially revealed extending for 0.5m from the north-north-west limit of the trench. Measuring 1.38m wide and 0.12m deep, this pit had gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and gravel inclusions (102) which contained three fragments (26g) of ceramic building material (CBM).
- 3.4.3 To the north-north-east, another probable pit (**103**, Fig. 4, Section 2, Plate 2) was revealed, extending for 0.56m from the north-north-western limit of the trench. This circular feature had steep sides and a flat base, and measured 1.02m wide and 0.2m deep. Its sole fill was a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and gravel inclusions (104) which contained four fragments (90g) of post-medieval CBM.
- 3.4.4 Close to the centre of the trench and located on the edge of the bowl-like depression, but not overlain by colluvial deposit 105, a ditch aligned west-north-west to east-south-east was revealed (**106**, Plate 2). This feature extended for 3.3m from the south-south-eastern limit of the trench before terminating. The terminus of this ditch was not excavated due to its truncation by the machine excavator while re-aligning the trench. At the intervention it had steep sides and a concave base: measuring 1.05m wide and 0.66m deep, its sole fill was a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint inclusions (107). This produced a sherd (16g) of post-medieval pottery, a sherd (14g) of modern pottery, 258g of CBM, a fragment (5g) of clay tobacco pipe and four fragments (46g) of animal bone.
- 3.4.5 Near to the centre of the north-north-west to south-south-east extension of Trench 1, and located on the higher ground beyond the depression, a sub-circular pit was partially revealed (**108**). With steep sides and a flat base, this pit extended for 1.58m from the north-north-eastern limit of the trench and measured 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep. Its sole fill was a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint inclusions (109) which contained a sherd (18g) of modern pottery and one fragment (11g) of CBM.
- 3.4.6 Overlying the features (and possibly within a quarry cut), was a mid yellow-brown clay silt with rare flint inclusions (110). This deposit had an average thickness of 0.25m but tapered away to the north-north-east and contained no finds. Overlying this, deposit 105 (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 1) comprised a mid red-brown clay sand with very frequent chalk inclusions and moderate flint. This deposit had an average thickness of 0.45m and contained one sherd (7g) of post-medieval pottery, two fragments (26g) of post-medieval CBM and one fragment of animal bone (5g).

## 3.5 Trench 2

- 3.5.1 West of Trench 1, this trench contained a circular pit (**201**) measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.23m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The sole fill was a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and rare charcoal inclusions (202), which contained no finds.

### 3.6 Trench 4

- 3.6.1 East of Trench 1, this trench contained a single ditch (**401**) in the north-eastern half of the trench, on a north-west to south-east alignment. With gently sloping sides and a concave base, this feature measured 0.68m wide and 0.13m deep. The sole fill was a mid grey brown clay silt with frequent flint inclusions (**402**), which contained no finds.

### 3.7 Trench 5

- 3.7.1 The only feature revealed in this trench was a sub-circular pit (**501**, Plate 3) in the south-western half of the trench. Measuring 0.6m in diameter and 0.12m deep, it had irregularly sloping sides and a concave base. The sole fill was dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint inclusions (**502**) which contained four pieces (47g) of burnt flint. An environmental sample (1) taken from this deposit contained a small amount of charcoal and snail remains.

### 3.8 Trench 7

- 3.8.1 This trench revealed three ditches, one of which was aligned north-west to south-east (**703**) and two of which were aligned north-north-west to south-south-east (**701** and another similar 1.05m-wide ditch located 20.5m to the south-west which was not excavated).
- 3.8.2 Located near to the north-eastern end of the trench, ditch **701** had gently sloping sides and a V-shaped base. It measured 1m wide and 0.24m deep and was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and chalk inclusions (**702**), which contained two sherds (30g) of Early Roman pottery.
- 3.8.3 Ditch **703** was approximately 2.6m to the south-west of **701**, but was on a slightly different north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. With moderately sloping sides and a similar V-shaped base, this ditch measured 1.02m wide and 0.3m deep. Its only fill consisted of a mid grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and chalk inclusions (**704**), which contained no finds.

### 3.9 Trench 8

- 3.9.1 The solitary feature revealed in Trench 8 was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**801**, Plate 4), located in the south-eastern half of the trench. This ditch had steep sides and a flat base, and measured 0.8m wide and 0.22m deep. The sole fill was a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and gravel inclusions (**802**), which contained one undiagnostic struck flint, 269 sherds (1727g) of Early Roman pottery, one fragment (14g) of CBM, eight fragments (51g) of animal bone and three fragments (5g) of oyster shell.

### 3.10 Trench 9

- 3.10.1 This trench revealed a ditch aligned north-west to south-east (**901**). With steep sides and a flat base, it measured 0.69m wide and 0.21m deep, and was entirely filled by mid grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and chalk inclusions (**902**), which contained one sherd (16g) of medieval pottery and two fragments (49g) of CBM.

### 3.11 Trench 10

- 3.11.1 This trench was located near to the lowest part of the field as it sloped downwards from north-west to south-east. This position, combined with its proximity to the current course of Water Lane and Bumpstead Brook, may account for the presence of a layer (1003) which masked several features.
- 3.11.2 Three ditches and a pit were present in the southern half of the trench. These features, which were sealed beneath 1003 (see below), were not excavated at this time as doing so would have resulted in hand digging beyond a safe overall trench depth of 1.2m.
- 3.11.3 Near to the north-eastern end of the trench was another ditch (**1001**) aligned north-west to south-east, parallel with two of the unexcavated ditches. These, along with ditch **1107** in Trench 11 (see below), may have formed part of a system of small plots and/or land subdivisions.
- 3.11.4 Ditch **1001** (Fig. 4, Section 4) had gently sloping sides and a concave base. The only fill was a dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions (1002), which contained two sherds (33g) of Early Roman pottery, one fragment (25g) of possibly post-medieval CBM and one fragment (44g) of not closely datable CBM.
- 3.11.5 Overlying features in the southern half of the trench was a very dark grey brown clay silt deposit that was present for 21m (1003; Fig. 4, Section 13, Plates 5 & 6). It had an average thickness of approximately 0.45m and was 0.6m thick at its deepest point at the south-western end of the trench. This increase in depth corresponded with a long, concave depression in the field aligned broadly north-west to south-east, perpendicular to the field edge, road and course of the brook (Fig. 3). Two 1m x 1m test pits (TP1 & TP2) were hand excavated into deposit 1003 and these produced four sherds (235g) of Early-Mid Roman pottery, a sherd (78g) of medieval pottery, one fragment (12g) of CBM, one fragment (12g) of fired clay and two fragments (17g) of animal bone. An environmental sample (2) taken from this deposit contained a moderate quantity of free-threshing wheat and rye, which is somewhat anomalous given the Roman pottery also recovered from this deposit (see Appendix C.1 below).
- 3.11.6 The mechanical excavator was then used to remove the remainder of this deposit to ascertain its depth and reveal any features below (see above).

### 3.12 Trench 11

- 3.12.1 Trench 11 revealed two ditches. Ditch **1101** (Fig. 4, Section 7) was located near to the eastern end of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west. Measuring 0.85m wide and 0.42m deep, it had steep, slightly stepped sides and a concave base. Its lower fill was a 0.17m-thick mid yellow brown sandy silt with moderate flint inclusions (1102), which contained no finds. Above this was a 0.22m-thick mid grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and gravel inclusions (1103), which contained seven sherds (42g) of medieval pottery, one fragment (147g) of Roman CBM and one fragment (26g) of CBM that is not closely datable.
- 3.12.2 Located approximately 12.7m to the west on an opposing north-west to south-east alignment was another ditch **1107** which cut post-hole/post-pit **1104** (Fig. 4, Section 9, Plate 7).



- 3.12.3 Post-hole **1104** was slightly irregular in plan but had fairly steeply sloping sides: it measured 0.77m by 1.25m in plan and was 0.47m deep. The main fill/ post-packing deposit consisted of a mid brown clay silt with frequent flint and chalk inclusions (1105), which contained three sherds (34g) of Early-Mid Roman pottery, one fragment (150g) of Roman CBM and two fragments (4g) of not closely datable fired clay. The fill of the post-pipe comprised a very dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint, chalk and charcoal inclusions (1106), which contained one fragment (295g) of Roman CBM. An environmental sample (3) taken from this fill contained a single fragment of heavily abraded cereal grain.
- 3.12.4 Ditch **1107** truncated post-hole **1104**. The ditch had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The fill was a mid grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and chalk inclusions (1108), which contained two sherds (32g) of Early-Mid Roman pottery.

### 3.13 Trench 12

- 3.13.1 This trench revealed two parallel ditches, spaced approximately 3.3m apart, aligned north-west to south east, neither of which were present in any of the trenches to the south-east.
- 3.13.2 The westernmost of the two ditches (**1201**, Fig. 4, Section 12, Plate 8) was 2.5m wide and 0.97m deep. It had a steeply sloping, stepped side to the north-east and appeared to have a concave base. The lower fill was a 0.2m thick mid grey brown clay silt with frequent chalk inclusions (1202), which contained one fragment (17g) of animal bone. An environmental sample (4) taken from this fill produced only a small amount of charcoal and snail remains. Above this was a 0.3m-thick mid grey brown sandy clay with frequent manganese and rare chalk inclusions (1203), which contained no finds. The upper fill was a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent flint and chalk inclusions (1204), which contained one large burnt stone (1.502kg), three sherds (19g) of medieval pottery, 696g of CBM, and nine fragments (93g) of animal bone.

### 3.14 Finds and environmental summary

- 3.14.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of burnt and worked flint (five pieces, 49g) and a large burnt stone that is not worked (Appendix B.1 and B.2).
- 3.14.2 A total of 282 sherds (2091g) of primarily Early Roman (AD50-100) pottery was recovered predominantly from ditch fills in trenches in the north-eastern quadrant of the site, with the largest group (95% by sherd count) from ditch **801** (Trench 8) (Appendix B.3). A small assemblage of post-Roman pottery (16 sherds, weighing 210g) was also recovered, from features in Trenches 1, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (Appendix B.4).
- 3.14.3 In addition, 38 fragments of Roman and post-medieval CBM, and four fragments of fired or burnt clay (1.889kg in total) were recovered (Appendix B.5), along with a fragment of plain clay tobacco pipe stem (5g) (Appendix B.6).
- 3.14.4 Four bulk samples produced low levels of carbonised remains, predominantly charcoal (Appendix C.1), although Sample 2, layer 1003 (Trench 10), contained cereals, weed seeds and legumes. The small fragmentary animal bone assemblage (214g) includes remains of cattle, sheep/goat and a large unidentified bird (Appendix C.2). Three oyster shell fragments were also recovered (Appendix C.3).

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are considered reliable, with the archaeological features and geological horizon both clearly visible within the trenches.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The objectives of the evaluation have been achieved in so far as the presence of archaeological remains, focused in the north-eastern and southern areas of the site, has been established.
- 4.2.2 In general, the results can be characterised into two broad groups relating to Early Roman and medieval to post-medieval activity (with a smaller component of possible prehistoric activity). It should be noted that there is a degree of reworking of finds, with both Roman and post-Roman finds being present in some contexts (notably in Trenches 10 and 11).
- 4.2.3 Evidence of a probable Early Roman field system was revealed in the north-eastern part of the site. These features were broadly aligned with, or perpendicular to, the valley bottom, where the modern watercourse (Bumpstead Brook) flows.
- 4.2.4 The second group of features comprised several pits and ditches in the southern and northern parts of the site which probably relate to medieval to post-medieval land division/drainage and quarrying.

### 4.3 Interpretation (Fig. 3)

#### *Undated/possibly prehistoric*

- 4.3.1 The two small circular pits revealed in Trenches 2 and 5, while undated, are possibly of prehistoric origin: the small assemblage of burnt flint from pit **501** (Trench 5) being a common occurrence in such features in the region. They may represent sporadic prehistoric activity along this tributary of the River Stour.

#### *Early Roman (c. AD50-100)*

- 4.3.2 The evaluation revealed clear evidence of a network of probable field system and/or drainage ditches in the north-eastern quadrant of the site. Focused around the area of Trenches 7, 8, 10 and 11, these ditches were probably aligned with the topography of the slope leading down to the valley bottom. The possibility that there may have been a road/trackway similarly aligned to the current Water Lane would also seem to be a reasonable assumption, especially given the proximity to the presumed Roman Road to the north-west (Fig. 2).
- 4.3.3 Pottery recovered from these ditches indicates an Early Roman date, with some sherds having a broader date range due to their lack of closely diagnostic features. The pottery is typical of a rural, domestic assemblage of this date, although the quantities recovered indicate that most of these features lay on the periphery of any settlement, the focus of which is likely to be further to the south of the evaluation area. Of note is the assemblage from ditch **801** (Trench 8), which is not only sizeable but, more

importantly, contains a significant number of refitting sherds suggesting this material had been deposited soon after breakage/discard and had suffered little in the way of post-depositional disturbance. This indicates that the pottery had not travelled far from where it was used/broken, and therefore suggests that this feature may lie closer to the core of the associated settlement/activity

- 4.3.4 The presence of a comparatively large post-hole (**1104**, Trench 11) with evidence of a post-pipe, suggests the possibility of structural remains on the site. Roman CBM was also recovered from this feature.
- 4.3.5 Combined, the ditch network, post-hole, pottery and CBM assemblages all indicate the nearby presence of a Roman rural settlement located in the valley bottom. Evidence for this settlement may be suggested by the discovery of probable Roman foundations immediately to the south-east of the site, in the area of the current Broadgate House (Fig. 2, MEX5867, Powell 1963).

#### *Medieval (c.11th-16th century)*

- 4.3.6 Trench 10 revealed a 21m-wide dark deposit containing Early – Mid Roman and also medieval pottery (one sherd, which may be intrusive), which masked some (unexcavated) ditches and which appeared to be aligned with features of a Roman date. While the Roman finds from this may be residual, it is possible that this feature is the result of relatively high-intensity Roman activity near to the valley bottom, and that it accumulated within the linear depression visible in the field today – a landscape feature possibly representing a silted-up trackway or hollow way. However, the environmental samples taken from this deposit showed the presence of a moderate quantity of free-threshing wheat and rye: cereals which are more common in post-Roman contexts.
- 4.3.7 Several ditches (and the layer described above) in the northern part of the site (in Trenches 9, 11 and 12) produced small quantities of medieval pottery and may represent boundaries extending back from, or parallel to, the Water Lane frontage. Two large parallel ditches were revealed in Trench 12 and while one of these produced probably residual Roman CBM (along with medieval pottery and post-medieval CBM), these may represent a – possibly hedged – field boundary or narrow track of medieval date that was infilled during the post-medieval period.
- 4.3.8 The small quantities of pottery and moderate abrasion suggests these finds relate to agricultural activity rather than settlement, although this was presumably located nearby.

#### *Post-medieval and modern (c. 17th to 20th centuries)*

- 4.3.9 Trench 1 was located across a bowl-like depression in the south-western corner of the site. Two colluvial or backfill deposits overlay pits and a ditch containing mixed finds dated to the medieval and post-medieval to modern periods. It is possible that these pits, and the depression itself, represent quarrying activity. The road and brook-side location of these features would have been ideal for servicing the small-scale industrial activity known to have taken place in Steeple Bumpstead. Other quarry pits are shown nearby on 19th century Ordnance survey maps of the area.

## 4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 This evaluation has revealed somewhat dispersed evidence for Early Roman, medieval and post-medieval land division/drainage and quarrying, with some indication of peripheral settlement-related activity in the Early Roman period in the north-eastern part of the site. The recovery of animal bone alongside occasional charred grain, chaff, legumes, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is some potential to contribute to the understanding of diet and economy at this site.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW & NW-SE	
Trench contained three pits and one ditch (WNW-ESE). Consisted of topsoil (0.42m), subsoil (0.2m) and colluvium (0.28m) overlying natural geology of clay silt with pockets of sand frequent chalk and flint inclusions.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
101	Cut	1.38 x 0.5	0.12	Pit			
102	Fill		0.12	Pit	not closely dateable CBM		
103	Cut	1.02 x 0.56	0.2	Pit			
104	Fill		0.2	Pit	Post-medieval & not closely dateable CBM	Post-medieval	
105	Layer		0.28	Colluvium	Post-medieval pot & CBM, animal bone	Post-medieval	
106	Cut	1.05	0.66	Ditch			
107	Fill		0.66	Ditch	post-medieval pot, modern pot, Roman CBM, post-medieval CBM, not closely dateable CBM, clay tobacco pipe, animal bone	Post-medieval	
108	Cut	1.58 x 1.5	0.2	Pit			
109	Fill		0.2	Pit	modern pot, not closely dateable CBM	Modern	

Trench 2							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained one pit. Consisted of topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of clay silt with pockets of sand and frequent flint and chalk inclusions.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
201	Cut	0.5	0.23	Pit			
202	Fill		0.23	Pit			

Trench 3		
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil (0.27m) and subsoil (0.25m) overlying natural geology of clay sand and silt with frequent flint inclusions.	<b>Length (m)</b>	30
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW				
Trench contained one ditch (NW-SE). Consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of clay sand and silt with frequent flint inclusions.	<b>Length (m)</b>	30				
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2				
	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5				
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
401	Cut	0.68	0.13	Ditch		
402	Fill		0.13	Ditch		

Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW				
Trench contained one pit. Consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of clay silt with frequent flint inclusions	<b>Length (m)</b>	30				
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2				
	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5				
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
501	Cut	0.6	0.12	Pit		
502	Fill		0.12	Pit	burnt flint	

Trench 6		
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.15m) overlying natural geology of clay sand and silt with frequent flint and chalk inclusions.	<b>Length (m)</b>	30
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4

Trench 7						
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW				
Trench contained three ditches (2 x NNW-SSE, 1 x NW-SE). Consisted of topsoil (0.23m) and subsoil (0.35m) overlying natural geology of clay silt with frequent flint and gravel inclusions.	<b>Length (m)</b>	30				
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2				
	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.58				
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
701	Cut	1	0.24	Ditch		
702	Fill		0.24	Ditch	Roman pot	Roman
703	Cut	1.02	0.3	Ditch		
704	Fill		0.3	Ditch		

Trench 8		
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
	<b>Length (m)</b>	30

Trench 8						
Trench contained one ditch (NE-SW). Consisted of topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.12m) overlying natural geology of clay silt with frequent flint inclusions.					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
801	Cut	0.8	0.22	Ditch		
802	Fill		0.22	Ditch	struck flint, Roman pot, not closely dateable fired clay, animal bone, oyster shell	Roman

Trench 9						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench contained one ditch (NW-SE). Consisted of topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of chalk and pockets of clay silt with frequent flint inclusions.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
901	Cut	0.69	0.21	Ditch		
902	Fill		0.21	Ditch	medieval pot, post-medieval CBM	Post-medieval

Trench 10						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench contained four ditches (3 x NW-SE, 1 x N-S) and one pit. Consisted of topsoil (0.3m), subsoil (0.2m) and an archaeological deposit (0.4m) overlying natural geology of clay sand and silt with frequent flint inclusions.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.7
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1001	Cut	1.1	0.3	Ditch		
1002	Fill		0.3	Ditch	Roman pot, possibly post-medieval & not closely dateable CBM	Roman? Post-medieval?
1003	Layer	21	0.4	Archaeological deposit	Roman pot; medieval pot, not closely dateable CBM & fired clay, animal bone	Roman? Medieval?

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two ditches (1 x NW-SE, 1 x NE-SW) and one post-hole. Consisted of topsoil (0.28m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of clay silt with frequent flint and chalk inclusions					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1101	Cut	0.85	0.42	Ditch		
1102	Fill		0.17	Ditch		
1103	Fill		0.22	Ditch	medieval pot, not closely dateable CBM	Medieval
1104	Cut	1.25	0.47	Post-hole		
1105	Fill		0.3	Post-hole	Roman pot, Roman & not closely dateable CBM	Roman
1106	Fill		0.42	Post-hole	Roman CBM	Roman
1107	Cut	0.65	0.15	Ditch		
1108	Fill		0.15	Ditch	Roman pot	Roman

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two ditches (NW-SE). Consisted of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.08m) overlying natural geology of chalk with frequent flint inclusions.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1201	Cut	2.5	0.97	Ditch		
1202	Fill		0.2	Ditch	animal bone	
1203	Fill		0.3	Ditch		
1204	Fill		0.22	Ditch	burnt stone, medieval pot, Roman CBM, Post-medieval CBM, not closely dateable CBM, animal bone	Post-medieval



## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Flint

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### *Assemblage*

- B.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of flint (five pieces, 49g) from Trench 5 and Trench 8. Pit **501** (fill 502) in Trench 5 produced four pieces (47g) of fractured burnt flint, none of which appears to be worked. No other material was recovered from this pit.
- B.1.2 Ditch **801** (fill 802) in Trench 8 produced a single piece (0.002kg) of struck flint, which is not chronologically diagnostic.
- B.1.3 The flint and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.

### B.2 Non-building stone

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### *Introduction and methodology*

- B.2.1 An unworked piece of sandstone with evidence of heating was recovered during the evaluation. The stone was identified visually using a x10 magnifying lens. The stone and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

#### *Assemblage*

- B.2.2 A moderately-sized piece of fine-grained micaceous sandstone weighing 1.502kg was recovered from ditch **1201** (fill 1204) in Trench 12. The outer, somewhat weathered, surfaces of the stone are dark grey in places, while the exposed areas of unweathered surface are pale yellowish brown. Various scratches represent post-depositional damage. Natural cracks are evident on the faces that appear to have been heat-altered.

#### *Discussion*

- B.2.3 Dating of unworked lithics is problematic, and the stone was recovered alongside Roman ceramic building material and three sherds of medieval pottery. The stone was probably used as part of a hearth or firepit surround.

#### *Retention, dispersal or display*

- B.2.4 If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record. The stone may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

## B.3 Roman pottery

*By Katie Anderson*

### *Introduction and methodology*

B.3.1 The assemblage recovered from the evaluation comprises 282 sherds weighing 2091g and represents 15 minimum number of vessels (MNV) and a 2.04 estimated vessel equivalent (EVE). The pottery primarily dates to the Early Roman period, with a suggested peak between AD50-100. All of the pottery was analysed and recorded in accordance with the Study Group for Roman Pottery guidelines (Perrin 2011). This report provides quantification and characterisation of the pottery, as well as a brief discussion on the distribution of material across the evaluation.

### *Results*

B.3.2 The assemblage comprises predominantly small sherds reflected in the low assemblage mean weight of 7.41g. Pottery was recovered from six different contexts, representing six interventions across four trenches (Table 1). Five contexts contained small assemblages of material (fewer than five sherds), which are small and fragmented. The exception to this is fill 802 of ditch **801**, Trench 8, which contained a large group of pottery totalling 269 sherds weighing 1727g, thus representing 95% of the total assemblage (by sherd count). While the mean sherd weight of this group is low at 6.4g, this context does largely comprise sherds from a small number of vessels, which refit or at least clearly derive from the same vessels. This indicates that the pottery had not travelled far from where it was used/broken, and therefore suggests that this feature may lie closer to the core of the associated settlement/activity. A minimum of 11 different vessels are present in this context based on the number of unique rim sherds, including two different channel rim jars, a further six jars with either everted rims or beaded rims as well as two beakers and one ring-neck flagon. A group of 24 sherds (151g) from a rouletted beaker were also identified, although none of the rim was present. The fabrics are predominately sandy coarse wares (72% by sherd count), with a further 16% deriving from a single sand and grog-tempered vessel and the remaining 12% comprising sand and calcareous inclusions.

B.3.3 This is a similar pattern to the remainder of the assemblage which comprises sandy coarse greywares, reduced wares and a single fine sandy oxidised ware from ditch fill 1002 (**1001**). No imported wares were identified and there are no sourced wares within the assemblage. Outside of context 802 in ditch **801**, four further sherds from vessel rims were recovered, including a sherd from a large storage jar with a rim diameter of 40cm, two everted rim jars and one triangular beaded rim jar.

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature Type	No.	Wt(g)	MNV	EVE	Date
702	<b>701</b>	7	ditch	2	30	1	0.1	AD50-100
802	<b>801</b>	8	ditch	269	1727	11	1.6	AD50-100
1002	<b>1001</b>	10	ditch	2	33	0	0.1	AD50-100
1003		10	layer	4	235	2	0.1	AD50-150
1105	<b>1104</b>	11	post-hole	3	34	1	0.1	AD70-200
1108	<b>1107</b>	11	ditch	2	32	0	0	AD50-200
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>282</b>	<b>2091</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	

Table 1: Quantification of Roman pottery by context

## Discussion

B.3.4 Overall, the pottery demonstrates activity exclusively in the Early Roman period, with a likely date range of AD50-100, based on the fabrics and forms identified. However, some material has a larger date range due to the material representing 'generic' forms and fabrics, which could therefore only be broadly dated. The pottery is representative of a rural, domestic settlement assemblage, dominated by jars, in locally made coarseware fabrics. The quantities of material recovered indicate that most of these features lay on the periphery of any settlement, and in some cases may represent redeposited material. The exception to this is the large assemblage from ditch slot **801** which not only is sizeable but more importantly contains a significant number of refitting sherds suggesting this material had been deposited soon after breakage/discard and had suffered little in the way of post-depositional disturbance. The distribution of the assemblage indicates the focus of the settlement is likely to be further to the south of the evaluation area.

## B.4 Post-Roman pottery

*By Carole Fletcher*

### *Introduction*

B.4.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery, 16 sherds, weighing 210g, from features in Trenches 1, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The condition of the assemblage is moderately abraded, and the average sherd weight is low to moderate at approximately 13g.

### *Methodology*

B.4.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards. Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London.

B.4.3 Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types using Essex fabric types (Cotter 2000), based on those of Cunningham (1985), however identifications are tentative, and dating is necessarily broad. All sherds have been counted, classified, minimum number of vessels (MNV) established, and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the catalogue at the end of this report (Table 2). The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.

### *Assemblage and discussion*

B.4.4 Trench 1 produced only post-medieval material from colluvial layer 105, ditch **106** (fill 107) and pit **108** (fill 109). The latest material recovered dates to the c.19th-20th century.

B.4.5 Trench 9, ditch **901** (fill 902), produced a single medieval sherd (0.016kg).

B.4.6 In Trench 10, layer 1003 produced a mixture of Roman shell-tempered sherds (see Appendix B.3), alongside a large moderately abraded sherd (0.078kg) from the base of a late medieval tripod pipkin, with a single surviving foot.

B.4.7 Ditch **1101** (fill 1103), in Trench 11 also produced medieval pottery, including sherds from a Hedingham ware (Fabric 22) jug.

B.4.8 Finally, ditch **1201** (fill 1204) in Trench 12 produced a single sherd of early medieval pottery, alongside medieval greyware sherds.

B.4.9 Only a few glazed wares were present, and much of the pottery appears to have been reworked. The small size of the assemblage makes conclusions difficult to draw, other than to say that the vessels present are domestic in nature and that the pottery may relate to rubbish deposition from nearby occupation.

### *Retention, dispersal or display*

B.4.10 This statement acts as a full record and the pottery should be retained for archival deposition.

B.4.11 Should further work be undertaken, this report should be incorporated into any later catalogue with the proviso that the medieval pottery should be re-examined. If no further work on the site is undertaken, the following catalogue acts as a full record. The post-medieval pottery may be dispersed, the medieval pottery should be retained.

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Description	MNV	Count	Weight (kg)	Date Range
1	105		Post-medieval red earthenwares (Fabric 40)	Moderately abraded to abraded rim sherd from an internally (greenish) glazed vessel, probably a bowl. The sherd is too small to establish a rim diameter	1	1	0.007	c.1675-1850
	107	106	Post-medieval red earthenwares (Fabric 40)	Moderately abraded to abraded rim fragment. Rim externally thickened and rounded, with traces of what is probably internal (brownish) glaze. Because of the way the sherd had broken, a rim diameter could not be established	1	1	0.014	c.19th-20th century
			English stoneware (Fabric 45)	Unabraded body sherd and fragment of strap handle (turned or moulded lines below the handle) from a drinking vessel with external brown salt glaze and internal paler brown wash	1	1	0.016	c.mid/late 17th-18th century
	109	108	Post-medieval red earthenwares (Fabric 40)	Moderately abraded rim sherd. Rim externally thickened and rounded, with internal brownish glaze, probably from a bowl. Diameter 180mm, EVE 8%	1	1	0.018	c.19th-20th century
9	902	901	East Anglian Redware, orange surfaces and margins with grey core.	Moderately abraded body sherd	1	1	0.016	c.1200-1500
10	1003		Reduced fabric, red brown margins and grey core. Possibly a late Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21-type late)	Slightly convex, obtuse base and foot, very probably from a tripod pipkin, unglazed	1	1	0.078	c.1400-1550
11	1103	1101	Hedingham ware (Fabric 22)	Rim and body sherds from a clear-green glazed jug with Fe-rich slip decoration. The rim is everted, slightly externally thickened, internally bevelled. Rim diameter 120mm, EVE 16%	1	6	0.030	c.1150-1350
			?Hedingham-type coarseware (Fabric 20D)	Slightly convex base sherd, externally slightly sooted	1	1	0.012	c.1150-1350
12	1204	1201	Early Hedingham-type coarseware	Abraded body sherd	1	1	0.011	c.1050-1250
			Medieval Sandy greyware (Fabric 20)	Moderately abraded body sherds	1	2	0.008	c.1150-1350
<b>Total</b>					<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0.210</b>	

Table 2: Pottery by Context and Cut (EVE= estimated vessel equivalent)

## B.5 Ceramic building material and fired or burnt clay

*By Carole Fletcher*

### *Introduction and methodology*

- B.5.1 A small assemblage of 38 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), and four fragments of fired or burnt clay, weighing in total 1.889kg, was recovered from quarry pits, ditches, layers and a post-hole across the evaluated trenches. No complete examples were recovered, and abrasion varies from moderately abraded to abraded. Both Roman and later material was recovered.
- B.5.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded where this was identifiable (Table 3). Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. Fabrics are noted and dating is necessarily broad, although where Roman pottery was recovered (Appendix B.3) the dating of the CBM may be similar.
- B.5.3 The Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group *Ceramic Building Material, Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication* (2002) forms the basis for recording, and Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification. The CBM and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.

### *Assemblage*

- B.5.4 The assemblage of CBM is mostly moderately abraded, except for a few abraded fragments. The bulk of the assemblage (by weight) is Roman, although most of the tile fragments are post-medieval, with the remainder of the assemblage being not closely datable.
- B.5.5 Trench 1 produced 22 fragments of CBM in total, weighing 0.411kg, recovered from pits **101**, **103**, **106**, **108** and layer 105; the CBM is mainly post-medieval. Pit **106** also produced a single fragment from a Roman box flue tile. The pottery recovered from pits **106**, **108** and layer 105 is post-medieval.
- B.5.6 Trench 8 produced a fragment of fired or burnt clay from ditch **801**, which also produced Roman pottery.
- B.5.7 Ditch **901** produced fragments of post-medieval tile.
- B.5.8 CBM was recovered in Trench 10 from ditch **1001** and layer 1003. Only one piece of CBM from ditch **1001** could be possibly dated to the post-medieval period, and although layer 1003 produced both Roman and medieval pottery, much of the CBM could not be closely dated.
- B.5.9 Trench 11 produced in total six fragments of CBM weighing 0.622kg, the largest fragments were recovered from ditch **1101** and post-hole **1104** and all were identified as Roman. In the case of ditch **1101**, the Roman CBM is very probably residual, having been found alongside medieval pottery, while post-hole **1104** could be Roman.

B.5.10 Finally, Trench 12 produced seven fragments (0.700kg) of CBM, with both Roman and post-medieval material recovered from Trench **1201**, where the Roman material is very probably residual.

B.5.11 The small fragments of fired clay were recovered from ditch **801**, layer 1003 and post-hole **1104**.

### Discussion

B.5.12 The fragmentary assemblage of Roman and post-medieval CBM indicates Roman and later structures somewhere in the vicinity of the site. The small fragment of box flue tile and fragment of *imbrex* suggest a roofed and heated building, however, the fragments are small and have very probably been redistributed through manuring and later ploughing. The majority of the Roman CBM is likely to have been produced locally, although the post-medieval material could have come from a more distant source.

### Retention, dispersal or display

B.5.13 The significance of the assemblage is uncertain, its fragmentary nature is of limited interest other than to indicate that, if further work is undertaken, further CBM is likely to be produced, although only at low levels. Should further work be undertaken, the CBM report should be incorporated into any later archive. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

Trench	Context	Cut	CBM Description and Form	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
1	102	101	Fragments of CBM in a dull, red-brown, quartz-tempered silty fabric. Moderately abraded. One fragment has a surviving surface	3	0.026	Not closely datable
	104	103	A fragment of tile, broken into two pieces, in a dull-orange, quartz-tempered fabric with occasional flint, slightly micaceous. Upper and lower surfaces survive, lightly sanded but uneven base. Thickness 14mm. Moderately abraded	2	0.027	Post-medieval
			Abraded fragment of CBM in a dull, red-orange, quartz-tempered silty fabric. Abraded. One surviving surface, lightly sanded	1	0.027	Not closely datable
			Fragment of brick, dark orange quartz-tempered fabric with occasional flint and rounded stones up to 5mm. Fragment of surface survives	1	0.028	Post-medieval
			Flake from the surface of a brick or tile with a hard fired, dull red quartz-tempered sanded surface	1	0.008	Post-medieval
	105		Moderately abraded tile fragments, dull-orange, quartz-tempered fabric 12mm and 14mm thick	2	0.026	Post-medieval
	107	106	Small fragment of box flue tile with combed surface, pale orange fabric with pinkish lenses. Only the upper combed surface survives	1	0.006	Roman
			Abraded fragment of CBM, possibly a brick in a dull, red-orange, quartz-tempered silty fabric. Abraded. One surviving surface, lightly sanded	1	0.061	Not closely datable
			Abraded fragment of tile in a dull, red-orange, quartz-tempered silty fabric. Abraded	1	0.016	Not closely datable
			Abraded fragments of CBM in a dull, red-orange, quartz-tempered silty fabric. Abraded. One surviving surface lightly sanded	2	0.024	Not closely datable
			Fragment of tile, dark orange red quartz-tempered fabric, 13mm and 15mm thick	5	0.130	Post-medieval

Trench	Context	Cut	CBM Description and Form	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
			Fragments of ? brick in a dull, red-brown, quartz-tempered silty fabric. Moderately abraded. One surviving surface	1	0.021	Not closely datable
	109	108	Hard fired, moderately abraded to abraded, orange silty fabric CBM fragment	1	0.011	Not closely datable
8	802	801	Irregular fragment of pale buff pink to grey fired or burnt clay, slightly quartz-tempered with common small to medium rounded lumps of chalk. Possible surface survives on one side	1	0.014	Not closely datable
9	902	901	Hard fired quartz-tempered orange fabric, well mixed. Both surfaces survive, the lower being sanded. Fragments approximately 14mm thick, although not from the same tile	2	0.049	Post-medieval
10	1002	1001	Sub-rectangular fragment of CBM with possible fragment of sanded surface surviving. Hard fired moderately well mixed, oxidised dull red orange fabric	1	0.044	Not closely datable
		1001	Irregular fragment of dull red hard fired, slightly silty fabric with sanded base appears to be a fragment of tile. 14mm thick	1	0.025	Possibly post-medieval
	1003		Formless fragment of fired or burnt clay in a dull red-brown silty fabric with occasional ?grog inclusions and sanded base	1	0.012	Not closely datable
			Abraded fragment of CBM. Hard fired orange silty fabric with fine quartz and some calcareous inclusions. Appears to have surfaces surviving	1	0.012	Not closely datable
11	1103	1101	Formless fragment of CBM in a dull red-brown fine quartz-tempered silty fabric	1	0.026	Not closely datable
11	1103	1101	Sub-rectangular fragment of Roman brick or tile. Reduced surfaces. Dull red-orange margins and mid grey core. Quartz-tempered, lightly sanded base, upper and lower surfaces and side survive. Thickness 31-34mm	1	0.147	Roman
11	1105	1104	Formless fragment of fired or burnt clay in a pale buff-pink silty fabric with calcareous inclusions	2	0.004	Not closely datable
			Curved fragment of tile, very probably an <i>imbrex</i> rather than a field drain. Hard fired, dull orange, fine quartz-tempered fabric with occasional large pebbles, moderately well mixed. Some coarse quartz inclusions. Sanded base. Small portion of end survives	1	0.150	Roman
11	1106	1104	Fragment of brick/tile with reduced surfaces. Dull red-orange margins and mid grey core. Quartz-tempered, lightly sanded base upper lower surfaces and side survive, thickness 30-32mm	1	0.295	Roman
12	1204	1201	Sub-rectangular fragment of brick/tile in an orange silty quartz-tempered fabric. Uneven, base surface has been lost, upper surface survives in reasonable condition, thickness 34-36mm	1	0.620	Roman
			Formless fragments of CBM in an orange silty fabric with fine quartz	2	0.016	?Roman
			Fragment of tile in dull orange, fine quartz-tempered fabric with occasional dark inclusions thickness 13-13.5mm	1	0.017	Post-medieval
			Moderately abraded fragment of CBM in a dull, red-brown, quartz-tempered fabric	1	0.039	Post-medieval
			Abraded fragment of CBM in an orange silty fabric with fine quartz and some calcareous inclusions. Appears to have a single surviving surface	1	0.004	Not closely datable
			Sub-rectangular fragment of CBM in an orange silty quartz-tempered fabric.	1	0.004	Not closely datable
<b>Total</b>				<b>42</b>	<b>1.889</b>	

Table 3: CBM and Fired or Burnt Clay



## B.6 Clay tobacco pipe

*By Carole Fletcher*

- B.6.1 During the evaluation, a single fragment of white ball clay tobacco pipe stem (5g) was recovered from ditch **106** in Trench 1. Simplified recording only has been undertaken, with material type, basic description and weight recorded. Terminology used in this report is taken from Hind and Crummy (Hind and Crummy 1988, 47-66).
- B.6.2 The fragment is 52mm long, and the stem is fairly circular, 9mm in diameter, with a small off-centre bore. The seams are well trimmed. It represents what is, most likely, a casually discarded pipe and the fragment does little, other than to indicate the consumption of tobacco on, or near, the site and is of a similar date to pottery also recovered from the same feature.

### *Retention, dispersal or display*

- B.6.3 If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the clay tobacco pipe may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

## APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental samples

*By Martha Craven*

#### **Introduction**

C.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 5, 10, 11 and 12, from deposits that are thought to be either Roman or later in date.

#### **Methodology**

C.1.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (up to 32L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.1.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 4. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

#### **Quantification**

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

# = 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

C.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Key to tables:

f=fragmented

#### **Results**

C.1.6 The botanical material from this site consists of carbonised remains. Charcoal fragments are present in all the samples in relatively small quantities. Only two

samples contain plant remains other than charcoal. Sample 3, fill 1106 of post-hole **1104** (Trench 11), contains a single fragment of a cereal grain which was too heavily abraded for positive identification. Sample 2, layer **1003** (Trench 10), contains frequent cereals: oats (*Avena sp.*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum sp.*). The sample also contains a moderate quantity of weed seeds; including stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), clover (*Trifolium sp.*) and corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*). A small quantity of chaff and a small quantity of legumes (*Pisum/Lathyrus/Vicia sp.*) was also recovered from this sample.

C.1.7 The samples from this site all contain small quantities of relatively well-preserved molluscs.

Trench no.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut no.	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Snails	Small Bones	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery	Flint debitage
5	1	502	<b>501</b>	Pit	12	15	0	0	0	0	+	0	<1	0	0
10	2	1003	N/A	Layer	32	10	###	#	#	##	+	+	1	0	#
11	3	1106	<b>1104</b>	Post-hole	16	15	#f	0	0	0	++	+	2	#	#
12	4	1202	<b>1201</b>	Ditch	12	5	0	0	0	0	+	0	<1	0	0

Table 4: Environmental samples

## Discussion

C.1.8 The recovery of charred grain, chaff, legumes, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is the potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. Future excavation has the potential to recover larger, more meaningful assemblages that would contribute to the evidence of diet and economy at this site.

C.1.9 The single cereal grain from Sample 3 is not significant and probably represents a background scatter of refuse material.

C.1.10 The small quantity of chaff in Sample 2 suggests that this sample represents fully processed grain that has then been accidentally burnt. The presence of a moderate quantity of free-threshing wheats and rye in this sample is also intriguing. These cereals are not commonly known from the Roman period and yet Roman pottery was recovered from this layer. Rye and free-threshing wheat are cultivated much more frequently in the medieval period.

C.1.11 If further excavations are planned for this site, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

## C.2 Animal bone

*By Anthony Haskins*

### *Introduction and methodology*

- C.2.1 A small assemblage of animal bone weighing 214g was recovered from the evaluation. The 25 bones are fragmentary with some evidence of butchery. Species present include cattle, sheep/goat and a large unidentified bird (Table 5).
- C.2.2 The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick & Murray (2007), which is modified from Albarella & Davis (1996). Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at OA East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972) and von den Driesch (1976) were used where necessary.

Species	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle	4	22%	1	20
Sheep/Goat	9	50%	2	40
Bird	5	28%	2	40
Total	18	100	5	100

*Table 5: Quantification of the number of identifiable fragments by species (NISP) and minimum number of individuals (MNI)*

### *Results*

- C.2.3 The assemblage is dominated by sheep/goat (50%) and the fragments of an unidentified bird species (28%; all five fragments are likely to be the same bird, recovered from medieval or later fill 1204, ditch **1201**, Trench 12). There is a cut metacarpus from a medium-sized mammal (probably sheep/goat) in context 107 (fill of ditch **106**, Trench 1) and a cut horn core in context 802 (fill of ditch **801**, Trench 8).
- C.2.4 The condition of the bone is largely moderate with one element in poor condition and several elements in better condition. Most bones have lost their collagen content due to taphonomic processes.

### *Discussion*

- C.2.5 The remains are potentially suggestive of some re-use of elements for secondary products such as bone for tool production with the cut metacarpus and the cut horn core. However, much of the assemblage seems to be of a domestic nature.
- C.2.6 As the assemblage currently stands the only further work required would be the identification of the large bird species present in context 1204. Further analysis of the assemblage would only be required if further remains are recovered from the site and could lead to insights into husbandry practices and the use of secondary products.

## C.3 Shell

*By Carole Fletcher*

### *Introduction and methodology*

- C.3.1 A total of 5g of shell was collected by hand during the evaluation. The shell recovered is an edible example of oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine and shallow coastal waters. The shell is poorly preserved and has suffered considerable post-depositional damage.
- C.3.2 The shell was weighed and recorded by species, with complete or near-complete right and left valves noted, where identification can be made, using Winder (2011) as a guide. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage.

### *Assemblage and discussion*

- C.3.3 The shell fragments were recovered from ditch **801** in Trench 8. They consist of three fragments from the same oyster left valve in poor condition, size indeterminate.

### *Retention, dispersal and display*

- C.3.4 The assemblage indicates that, should further work take place, additional shell could be found. If no further work is undertaken, the catalogue acts as a full record and the shell may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

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## APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-392759		
Project Name	Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex		
Start of Fieldwork	06/04/2020	End of Fieldwork	15/04/2020
Previous Work	No	Future Work	TBC

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STBWL20	Planning App. No.	18/00408/FUL
HER Number	TBC	Related Numbers	

Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
Development Type	Urban Residential
Place in Planning Process	After outline determination (eg. A a reserved matter)

### Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling              | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new            | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch         | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning             | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey           | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling   | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey     | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography      |  |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pit	Uncertain	Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)	Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
		CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

### Project Location

County	Essex	Address (including Postcode) Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex CB9 7DS
District	Braintree	
Parish	Steeple Bumpstead	
HER office	Essex County Council	
Size of Study Area	c.1.8ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 67680 41094	

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Essex Places Services
Project Design Originator	Pat Moan
Project Manager	Pat Moan
Project Supervisor	Neal Mason



## Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	OA East	XEXWLS20
Digital Archive	OA East	XEXWLS20
Paper Archive	OA East	XEXWLS20

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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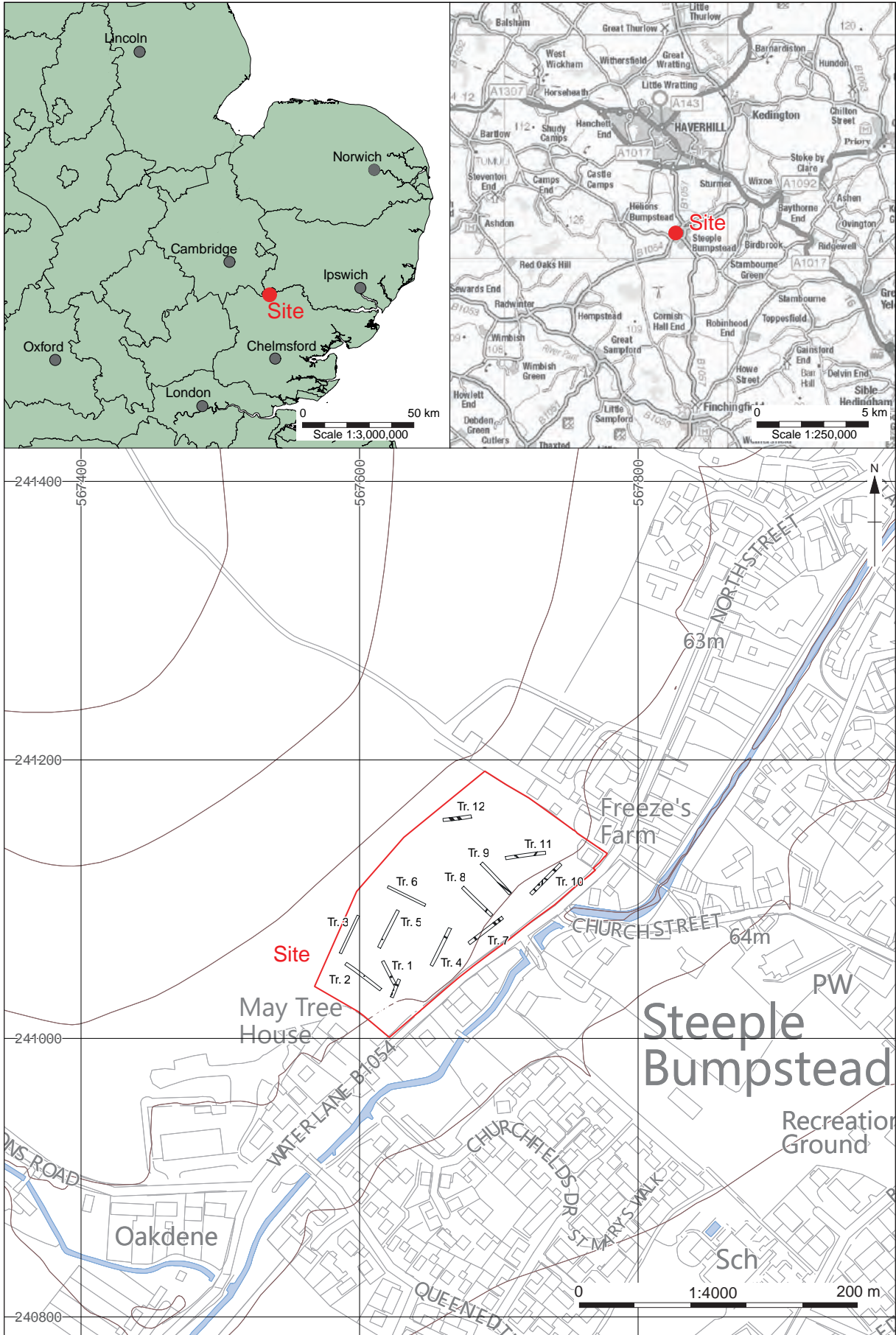
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### Paper Media

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Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Further Comments





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Figure 1: Site location

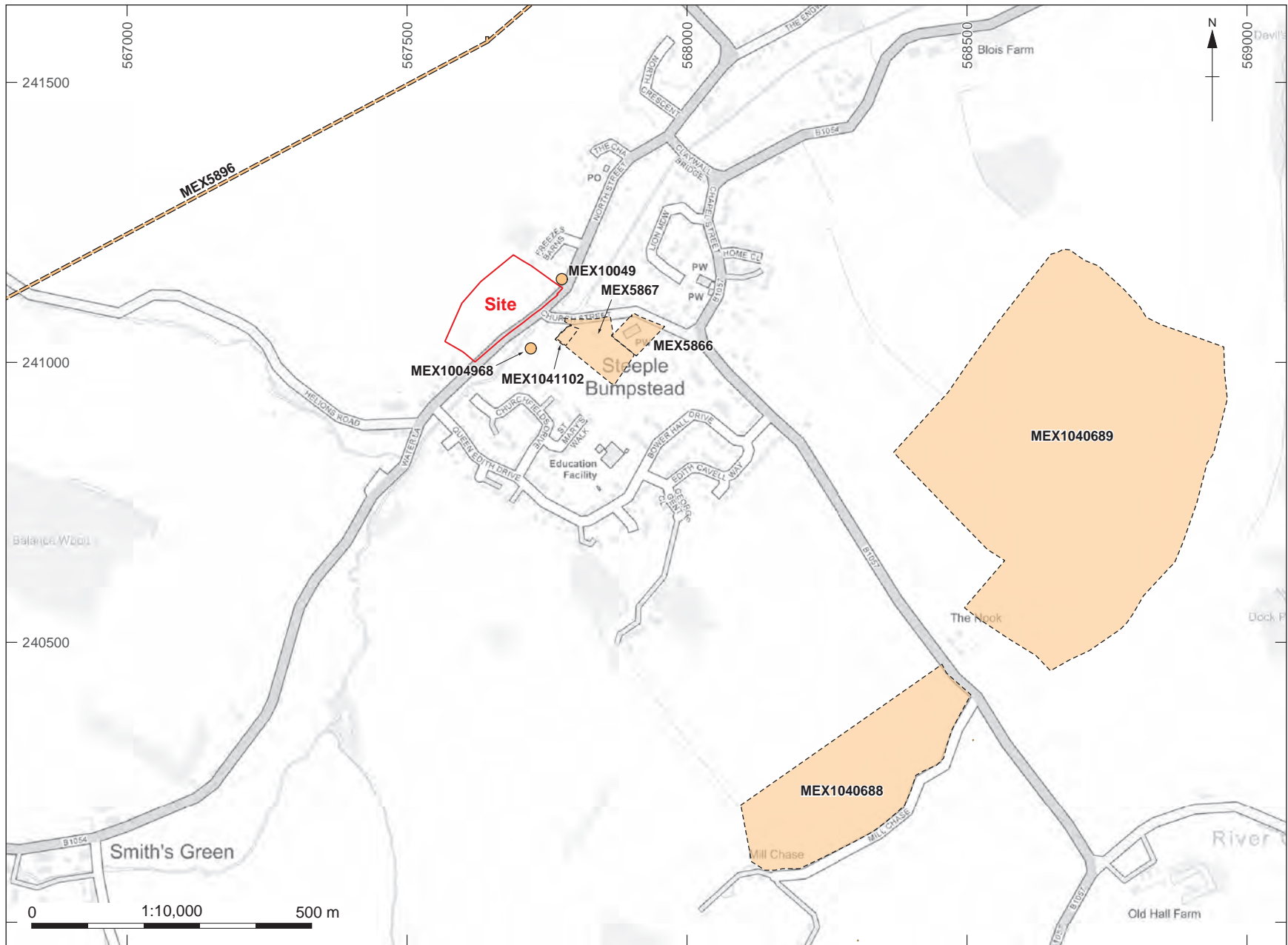


Figure 2: Site location with selected Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) entries

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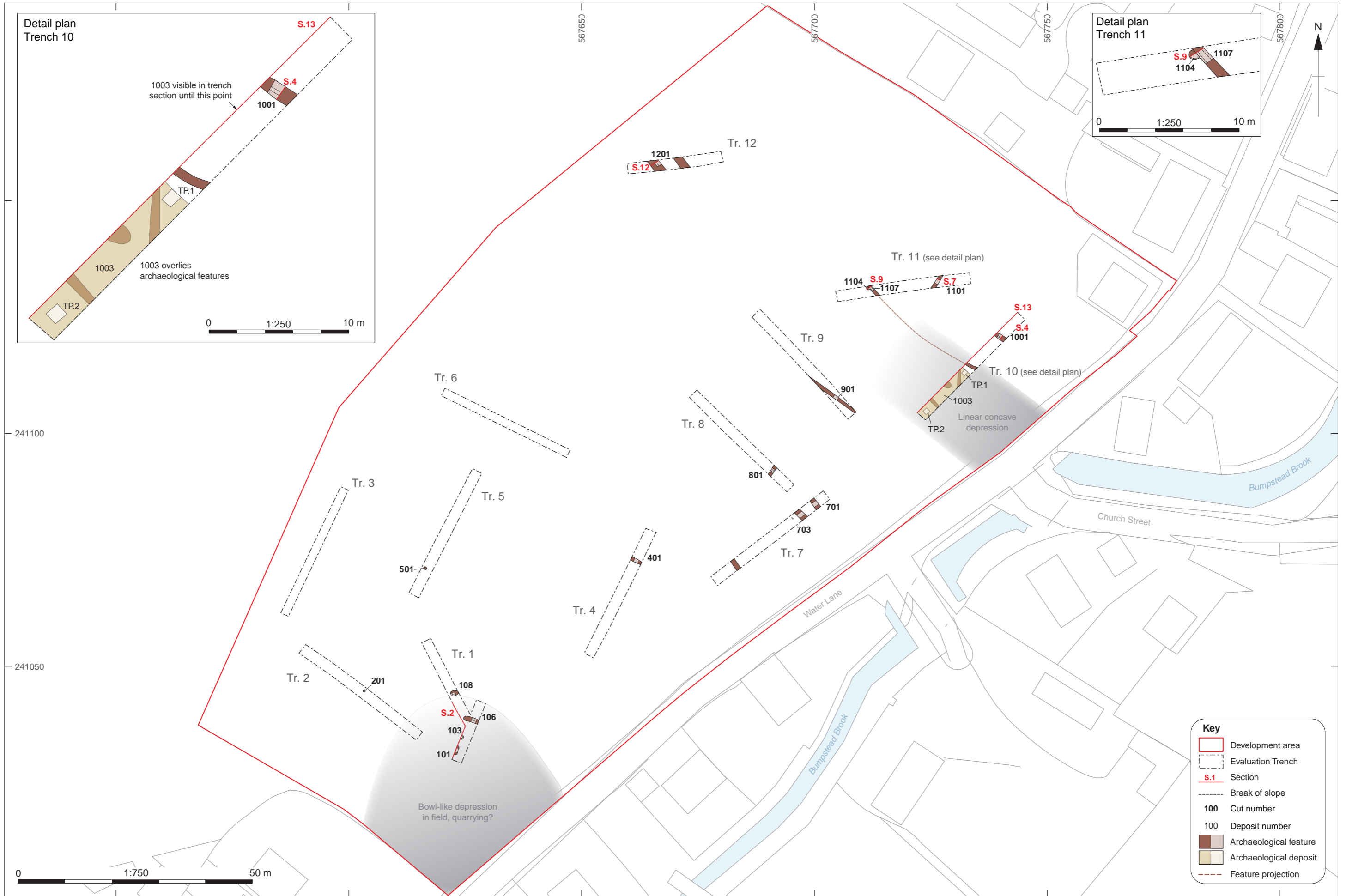
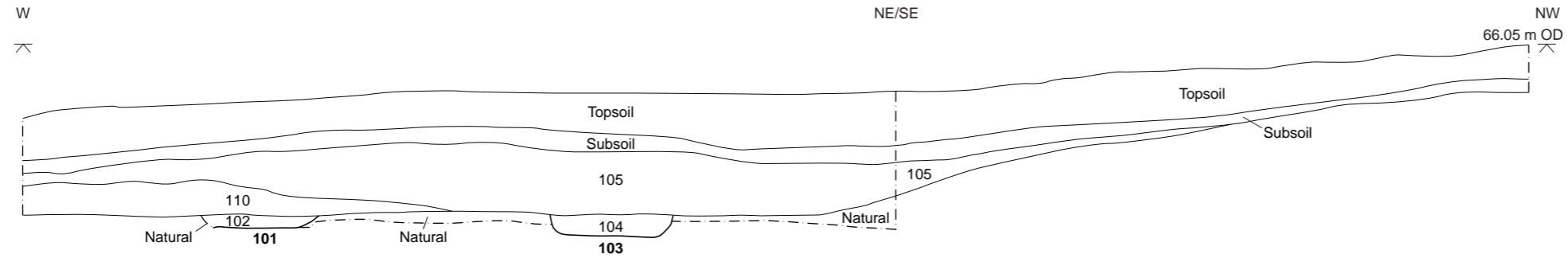


Figure 3: Trench plan showing archaeological features, interpretation and ditch alignment extrapolation

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Section 2 Trench 1

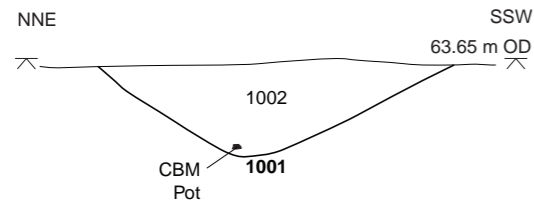


**Key**

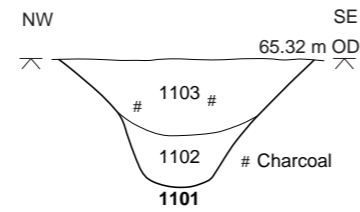
- - - - - Limit of Excavation
- Top surface
- Cut
- Deposit Horizon
- 117 Cut Number
- 116 Deposit Number
- 32.26 m OD Level



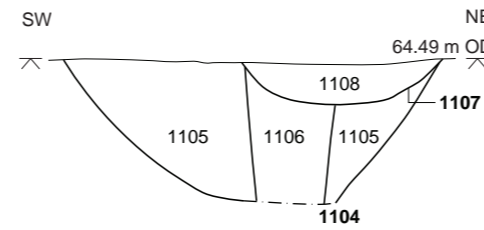
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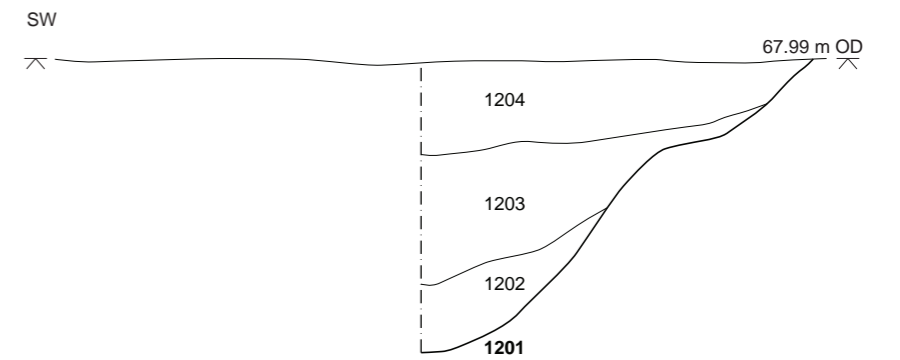
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Section 9 Trench 11



Section 12 Trench 12



Section 13 Trench 10

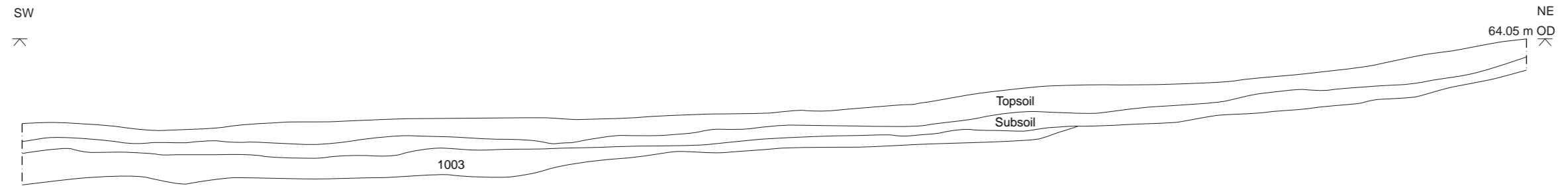


Figure 4: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, colluvial layers 105 and 110, looking north-west



Plate 2: Trench 1, showing pits 101 and 103 and ditch 106, looking north-north-east



Plate 3: Trench 5, pit **501**, looking north-east



Plate 4: Trench 8, ditch **801**, looking north-east





Plate 5: Trench 10, showing archaeological deposit 1003 prior to machine excavation, looking south-west



Plate 6: Trench 10, showing features exposed underneath deposit 1003, looking west



Plate 7: Trench 11, post-hole **1104** truncated by ditch **1107**, looking north-west



Plate 8: Trench 12, ditch **1201**, looking west



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