

**An archaeological desk-based assessment
of the Bull Motors/Celestion site,
Foxhall Road, Ipswich,
Suffolk**

**report prepared by
Kate Orr**

**commissioned by
the Stanley Bragg Partnership Ltd
on behalf of
Mersea Homes**

CAT project ref.: 04/7d
NGR: TM 0855 4385



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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims and objectives	2
5	Methodology	2
6	Results	2
7	The finds	3
8	Discussion	3
10	Archive deposition	3
11	Acknowledgements	3
12	References	3

Figures after p 4

EHCR summary sheet

List of figures

Fig 1 Location of the North Field, Brightlingsea Quarry.

Fig 2 Plan of all excavated archaeological features
(plotted in red). Cropmarks plotted in black.

Fig 3 Section drawings.

1 Summary

An area of approximately 19,600 square metres was stripped in the North Field at Brightlingsea Quarry in Essex. A total of five ditches (two containing pottery dated to the very early/early Iron Age), one post-medieval pit and four modern features were recorded. The ditches appear to relate to the Neolithic and later Iron Age/Roman rectilinear field system laid out over the entire area (previously excavated by CAT in 2002 and 2003).

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the report on an archaeological monitoring and recording project at Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane, Brightlingsea, Essex (National Grid Reference TM 0750 1830 (centre)).
- 2.2 An area of 19,600 square metres (in the North Field) was stripped of topsoil and subsoil in advance of quarrying works.
- 2.3 The work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) from 15th to 13th June and 5th to 7th July 2004, on behalf of Alresford Sand and Ballast Co Ltd. The project was carried out according to a scheme agreed with the Essex County Council Heritage Advice, Management and Promotions (ECC HAMP) group. This scheme involved:
- detailed walkover of stripped area to identify archaeological features
 - cleaning/excavation/recording of any exposed archaeological features
 - monitoring of any future topsoil strips.
- 2.4 The project was monitored by the ECC HAMP group.
- 2.5 This report follows the standards set out in the Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (2003), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1999).

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 The site lies within an area of intense archaeological activity. The North Field (east of 'The Link') and the South Field (east of 'The Long Plantation') are located in an area of cropmarks which include at least two prominent sub-rectangular enclosures, a number of ring-ditches, two trackways, and numerous field boundaries (Figs 1-2; EHCR no 2234).
- 3.2 The excavated Bronze Age ring-ditch and the burial site at Moverons Pit are located 500m north-west and 150m west of the site respectively (Fig 1; Clarke 1990; Clarke 1991; EHCR no 2142).
- 3.3 During monitoring and recording in 2002 in the eastern half of the North Field, field-ditches containing Neolithic pottery, and a disturbed Beaker burial, were recorded. Middle Bronze Age and Roman material was recovered from the ploughsoil (CAT Report 214).
- 3.4 Monitoring and recording in 2003 in a small area in the south of the North Field revealed two ditches (one containing prehistoric pottery and the other Roman), three undated features and one post-medieval feature (CAT Report 252).

4 Aims and objectives

The aim of the archaeological project was to identify, excavate and record any archaeological features or deposits exposed in the topsoil strip to enable their date, importance and condition to be assessed.

5 Methodology

- 5.1 The stripped area was examined by detailed walkover. Where archaeological features were visible, they were marked and then examined by excavation. This involved half-sections of the pits and sections across the ditches. All digging was by hand.
- 5.2 Features were recorded on standard CAT pro-forma sheets, plans were drawn at scale on film, and photographs were taken with a digital camera.
- 5.3 The record system was continued from the 2002 and 2003 work, so the feature numbers began at F17.

6 Results

- 6.1 The recorded features comprised of ditches, pits and four modern features (Figs 2-3).

6.2 The ditches

Five ditches were recorded; all but one (F25) have been previously identified on cropmark plots.

F17/F19 – length approximately 90m (although the ditch had been machined away in places). A U-shaped ditch approximately 13.8cm deep, filled with a mid brown loamy sand. Ditch F17/F19 extended from the southern edge of the site towards to the north-west baulk (where the spoil-heaps were located).

F18 – length approximately 44m. A U-shaped ditch approximately 16.6cm deep, filled with a mid brown loamy sand. The ditch extended west-east from the western edge of the excavation towards the centre of the site but disappeared at this point.

F20/F21/F22 – length approximately 155m (although the ditch had been machined away in places). A multi-phased U-shaped ditch approximately 26.3cm deep, filled with a mid brown/grey loamy sand. F20, F21 and F22 all appear to be part of the same length of ditch which extends in a roughly south-north-west direction from the southern edge of the excavation towards the spoil-heaps along the western edge. F22 is the main length of ditch which extends across the site; however, within the northernmost section, a probable recut was found. As it was uncertain which part of the ditch was original and which was the recut, they were given two separate numbers (F20 and F21). A piece of very early/early Iron Age pot was found within this ditch.

F24 – length approximately 40m. A U-shaped ditch approximately 25cm deep, filled with a mid brown/grey loamy sand. This ditch extends from the eastern edge of the excavation in a south-west direction but disappears before it reaches the centre of the site. Ditch F24 is probably a continuation of F8 (recorded in the 2002 excavation). A piece of very early/early Iron Age pot was found within this ditch.

F25 – length approximately 5m. A U-shaped ditch approximately 16cm deep, filled with a mid brown/grey loamy sand. This is a short section of ditch which is parallel to ditch F24 and may have originally formed part of a driveway with it.

6.3 The pits

One pit, F23, was excavated; it was filled with a mid brown/grey loamy sand.

6.4 The modern features

Four modern features were identified on this site (F27, F28, F29, F30). They appear to have been square (although not all of the four sides were revealed in the strip), straight-sided trenches, approximately 27-46cm deep, filled with a dark brown silt.

7 The finds

Finds no	Feature and section no	Context type	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)	Finds date
1	F22 Sx 1	Ditch	Pot (flint- and sand-tempered)	1	2.3	very early/early Iron Age
2	F22 Sx 6	Ditch	Burnt flint	1	16.3	-
3	F23	Pit	Tile	1	16.0	post-medieval
4	F19 Sx 3	Ditch	Burnt flint	1	31.3	-
5	F24 Sx 3	Ditch	Pot (flint- and sand-tempered) Burnt flint	1 1	2.6 2.5	very early/early Iron Age -
6	F25 Sx 1	Ditch	Tile fragments	5	0.8	-
7	F29 Sx 1	Modern trench	Pot	1 (in 2 pieces)	5.6	modern
8	F28 Sx 1	Modern trench	Brick and tile	4	155.6	post-medieval

8 Discussion

During this watching brief, five ditches, one post-medieval pit and four modern features were recorded. In previous excavations on the site, ditch F3/F5 and ditches F4 and F9 were dated to the Neolithic and appear to have formed part of a rectilinear field system. This system then survived in some form into the Roman period when ditches F6 and F8 were added. F8, recorded in the 2002 excavation and containing late Iron Age and Roman pottery within its fill, is probably the same feature as F24. F24 contained one fragment of very early/early Iron Age pottery, indicating that this ditch was probably in use throughout the Iron Age and into the Roman period. Ditch F20/F21/F22, also containing one piece of very early/early Iron Age pottery, probably also dates to this period of activity as do the undated ditches F18, F19 and F25. It is possible that F24 also formed part of a driveway incorporating F25.

9 Archive deposition

A copy of this report will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museums under the accession code 2004.308.

10 Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to Alresford Sand and Ballast Co Ltd for commissioning and funding the work, and to Paul R Sealey for looking at the pottery.

11 References

- CAT Report 214 An archaeological watching brief and recording at Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane, Brightlingsea, Essex, by Howard Brooks, 2002
- CAT Report 252 An archaeological watching brief and recording at Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane, Brightlingsea, Essex, by Howard Brooks, 2003
- Clarke, C P, 1990 'Brightlingsea, Moverons Pit', *Essex Archaeology and History*, **21**, 128
- Clarke, C P, 1991 'Brightlingsea, Moverons Pit', *Essex Archaeology and History*, **22**, 152

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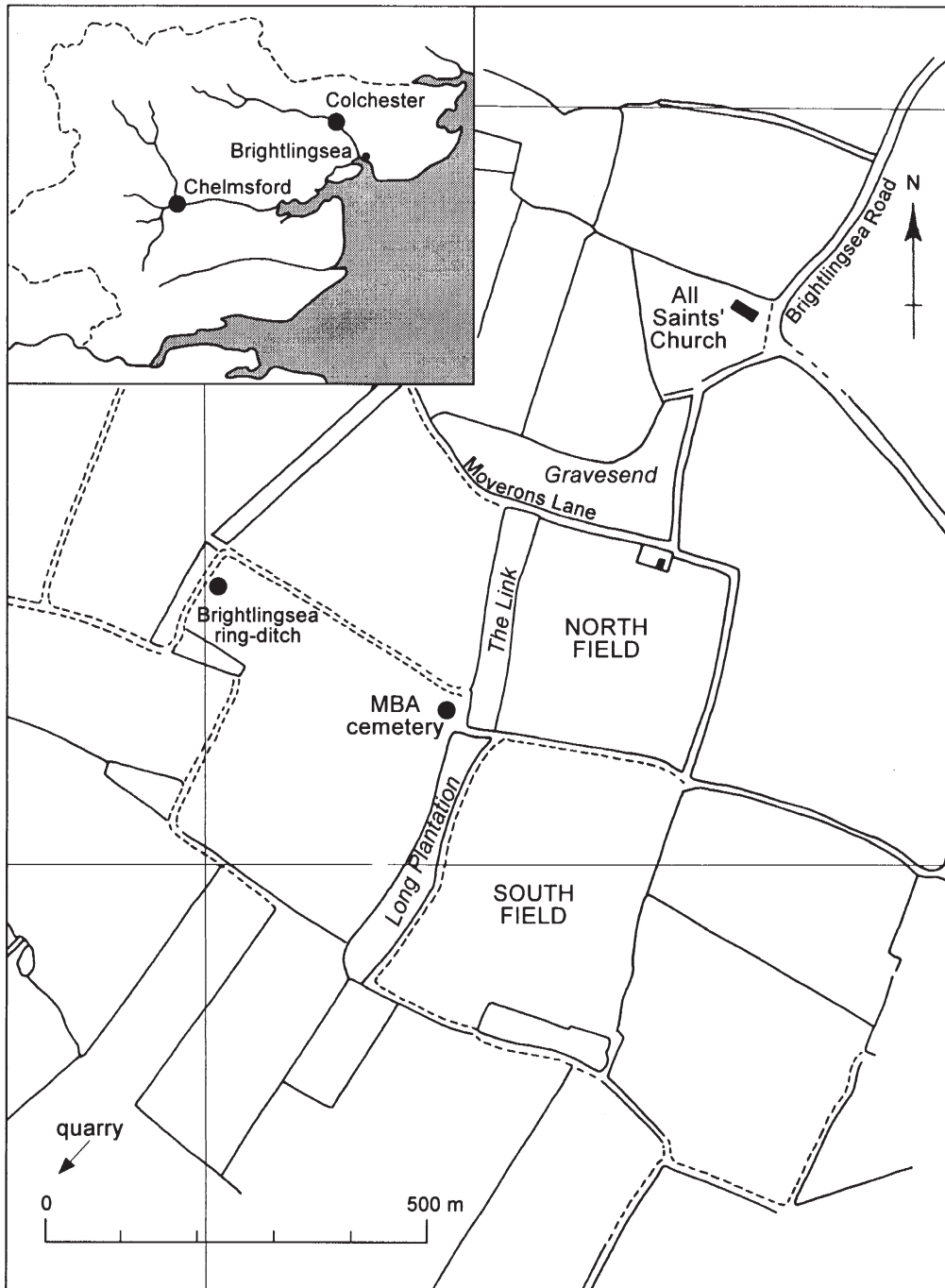


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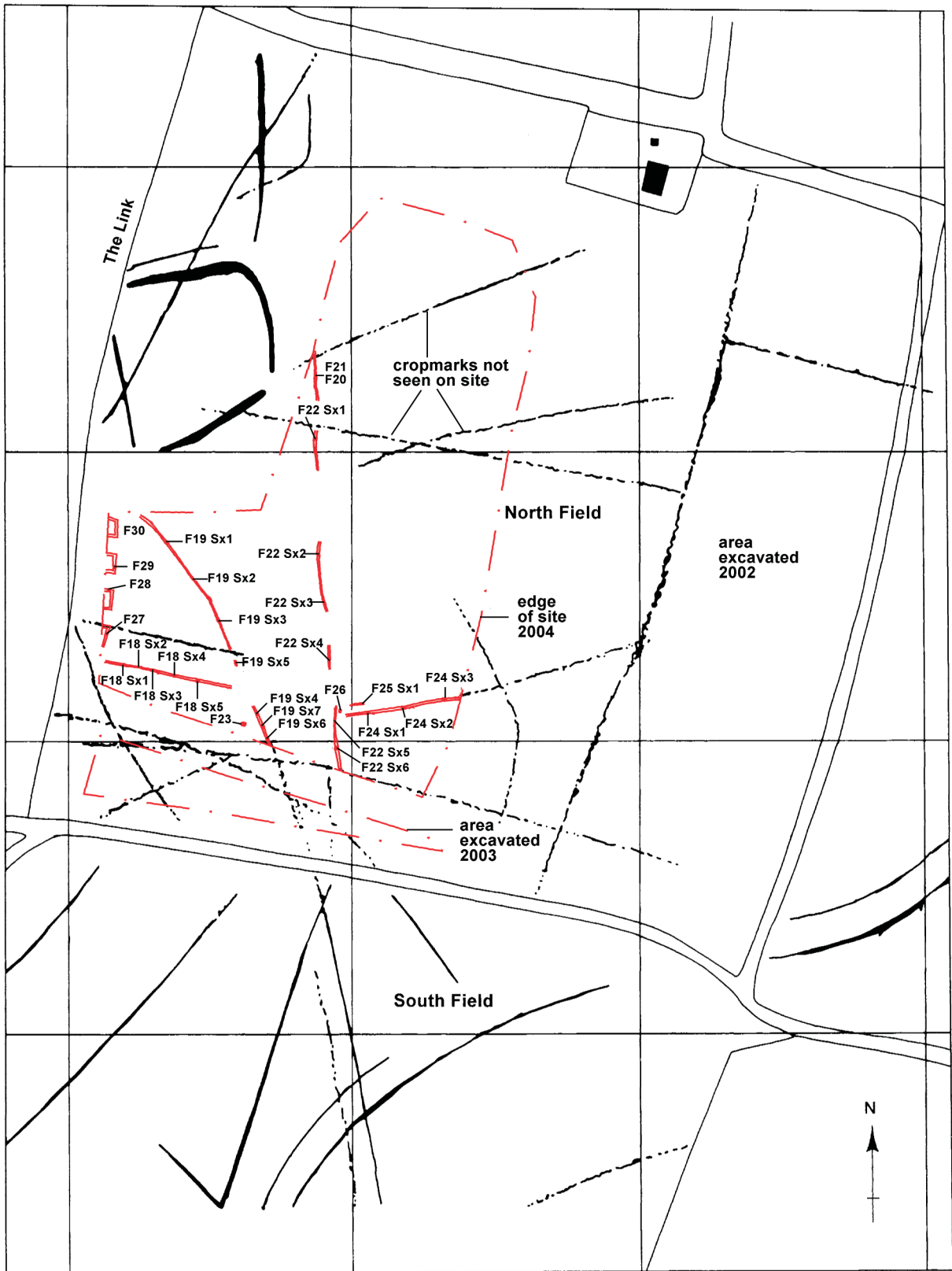
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Fig 1 Location of the North Field, Brightlingsea Quarry.



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Fig 2 Plan of all excavated archaeological features (plotted in red). Cropmarks plotted in black.

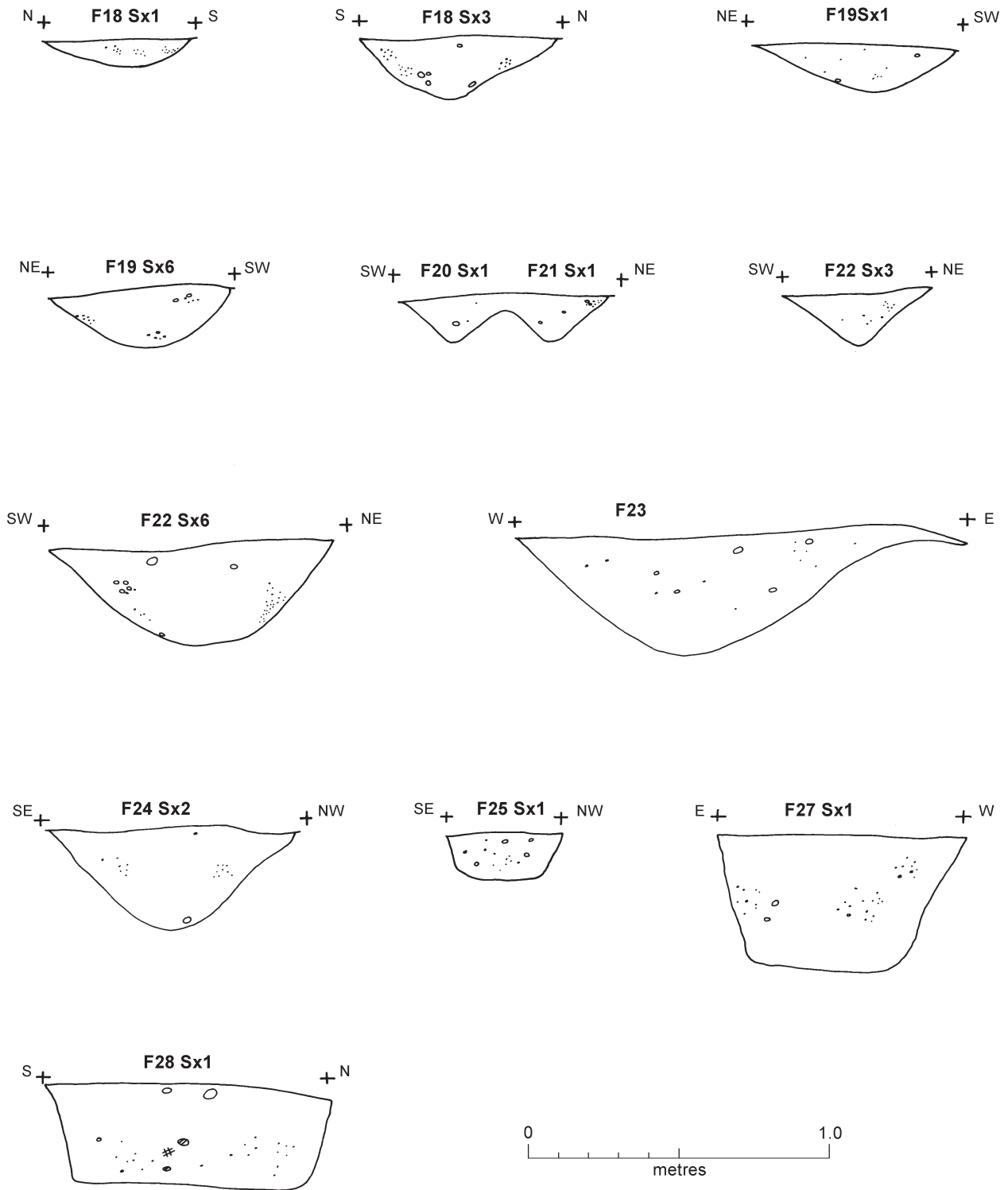


Fig 3 Section drawings.

**Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane, Brightlingsea, Essex	
Parish: Brightlingsea	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 0750 1830 (centre)	Site code: Museum accession 2004.308
Type of work: Watching brief and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: June-July 2004	Size of area investigated: 19,600 square metres
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: developer
Further seasons anticipated? uncertain	Related EHCR nos:
Final report: CAT Report 280 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Iron Age, Roman, post-medieval and modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An area of 19,600 square metres was stripped in the North Field at Brightlingsea Quarry in Essex. A total of five ditches (two containing pottery dating to the very early/early Iron Age), one post-medieval pit and four modern features were recorded. The ditches appear to relate to the Neolithic and later Iron Age/Roman rectilinear field system laid out over the entire area (previously excavated by CAT in 2002 and 2003).</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 214 and 252	
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: July-August 2004