Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation on land west of Hams Farmhouse, Back Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk

Fieldwork date: January 2014

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on behalf of Prime Irrigation

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1 Summary

Evaluation by Colchester Archaeological Trust on the site of a proposed agricultural reservoir has revealed an Anglo-Saxon pit (which may be a sunken-featured building), and a number of prehistoric and Roman ditches and pits. There were also a number of undated ditches whose proximity to and shared alignment with prehistoric ditches means they may also be part of a prehistoric ditched landscape whose field boundaries were principally aligned north-south.

The largest of the Roman ditches may have been part of an enclosure sitting on top of slightly higher ground, a location in which the later Anglo-Saxon activity is also to be found.

There were a number of modern field ditches. Two of them can be identified as a hedge boundary shown by Ordnance Survey map to have been grubbed out between 1968 and 1973.

No archaeological strata or features were exposed which are worthy of preservation in situ*. However, SCCAS have indicated that they will require further archaeological work in the form of a 'strip, map and excavate' exercise.*

2 Introduction (Figs 1 and 3)

2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation on land to the west of Hams Farmhouse, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk, carried out on behalf of clients by Colchester Archaeological Trust on 27th January 2014.

2.2 Site centre is at TM 2805 3862

2.3 The proposed development site is located on arable land 100m west of the Hams Farmhouse.

2.4 The proposed development work is the construction of an agricultural reservoir.

2.5 The Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal District Council) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that this proposal lies in an area of high archaeological importance, and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF DCLG 2012)

2.6 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief and Specification* detailing the required archaeological work (evaluation trenching) written by Dr Abby Antrobus (SCCAS 2013), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2014).

2.7 In addition to the *brief* and wsi all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA **14** and **24**). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b).

3 Archaeological background

This section is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

The proposed reservoir affects a site of extremely high archaeological potential. It lies immediately adjacent to known major cropmark complexes to the north (Suffolk County Historic Environment Record TYN 028) and east (TYN 010). These include relict field systems, enclosures and probable prehistoric burial monuments. In all likelihood, these

continue into the current site. There may be other reasons why they do not show so clearly on aerial photographs. The site lies within a broader multiperiod archaeological landscape, particularly overlooking the valley of Falkenham Brook. There are numerous prehistoric barrows (TNY 016, 017, 020, 027, 119), and further cropmark complexes to the southeast (TYN 025) and southwest (TYN 025).

The site has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation. There is high potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to be present in view of the site's topographic location, the sites around it, and its large size (over 2 ha). The proposed development will involve total destruction of any archaeological remains across much of its footprint.

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

5 Results (Figs 1-5)

This section gives an archaeological summary of the trenching, with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

Evaluation trenching summary

The evaluation trenches were 1.8m wide and 30m long and were arranged in a grid pattern on a N/S – E/W alignment. The trenches were positioned centrally with the area of the proposed reservoir excavation.

The trenches were excavated through L1 - a ploughsoil horizon 350-450mm thick. This sealed geological material consisting of a silt-clay matrix with occasional patches of sand and gravel (L2). At the north end of the site, it could be seen in Trenches 4, 7, 9 and 10 that a layer of colluvium (F1) had settled in a hollow. Colluvium F1 must be at least as old as prehistoric pit F15, which cut it.

Trench 1: summary

Trench 1 (T1), the northernmost trench, contained no archaeological features. There was some minor scarring resulting from modern ploughing. The unusually wet weather caused the north end of the trench to flood.

Trench 2: summary

T2, in the north-western corner of the site, contained no archaeological features. There were post-medieval or modern ceramic land drains, and some plough scarring.

Trench 3: summary

T3, in the northern centre of the site contained an undated, N/S aligned ditch (F18) whose leached fill may indicate a prehistoric date. No other site features appear to align with this ditch.

Plate 1: T3 working shot, view west. Examining undated ditch F18

Trench 3: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F18	ditch	--	undated (prehistoric?)

Trench 4: summary

T4, in the north-eastern part of the site, contained four features: a natural pit F1, two post-medieval ditches F3 and F4, and Roman or later pit F2.

F1 appears to be a natural depression where colluvial deposits running off the surrounding high ground have collected. The manganese-rich fill of F1 was seen in a number of trenches in the north-eastern part of the site, and is cut by F15 in T9.

Ditches F3 and F4 are modern drainage or field boundary ditches. F4 is almost certainly the same ditch as F17 in T6 to the west. Further, ditch F4/F17 is almost certainly the field boundary visible on OS coverage up to 1968, but removed before 1973.

Pit F2 contained an abraded Roman sherd. This can be interpreted in two ways: the pit is Roman, or the sherd is residual in a later feature.

Trench 4: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F1	natural silt patch	--	post-glacial
F2	pit	abraded Roman sherd	Roman (or later?)
F3	ditch	modern pottery, clay pipe	post-med/modern
F4	ditch	post-med brick and glass	post-med/modern

Plate 2: T2 ?Roman pit, view south (natural pit F1 beyond)

Trench 5: summary
T5, on the western site edge, contained no archaeological features. There were post-medieval or modern ceramic land drains, and some plough-scarring.

Trench 6: summary
T6, located in the centre of the site, contained two archaeological features: ditches F16 and F17.

F17 is undated, but as it appears to be a continuation of F4 in T4 to the east it is almost certainly a modern field ditch.

F16 is on a different orientation to that of the modern field ditch F17/F4 immediately to the north, and contains a fragment of imported lava quern in its upper fill. Lava quern is found in both Roman and Anglo-Saxon contexts in Britain (see Stephen Benfield's finds report). This leaves a rather open interpretation of its date – it could be either Roman or AS.

Trench 6: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F16	ditch	lava quern	Roman/Anglo-Saxon?
F17	ditch	--	Undated, but as but it continues line of F4, most probably a modern field ditch

Trench 7: summary
T7, on the eastern side of the site, contained two archaeological features: ditches F5 and F6). Neither is dated by ceramic finds, but the fragments of burnt flint in F5 indicate that it is prehistoric in date. The same may be true of the adjacent F6.

T7 also contained part of the natural silt patch F1. Sondages were excavated in the centre of the trench to test the thickness of F1.

Trench 7: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F5	ditch	burnt flint	prehistoric?
F6	ditch	-	undated - prehistoric?

Plate 3: T7 view east. Excavating ?prehistoric ditches F5 (foreground) and F6.

Trench 8: summary

T8, located on the western side of the site, contained no archaeological features. There were post-medieval or modern ceramic land drains and some plough-scarring.

Trench 9: summary

T9, located in the centre of the site, contained pit F15. Although undated by ceramic finds, its charcoally mid-lower fill contained a 414g group of burnt flints. This may be hearth waste, indicating local settlement or agricultural processing. Burnt flints are not intrinsically dateable, but there is a presumption that they are likely to be prehistoric (and usually Bronze Age). The fragment of a whetstone or saddle quern from F15 supports a prehistoric date for this feature, as (in the latter case) saddle querns were generally replaced by rotary querns in the Roman period.

Pit F15 cut the colluvial silt patch F1, in support of a natural (ie, geological) interpretation for F1.

Plate 4: T9 view west. Pit F15 in mid trench

Trench 9: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F15	pit	group of burnt flints, ?quern fragment	prehistoric?

Trench 10: summary

T10, located on the eastern side of the site, contained ditch (F7). This is undated, although its profile more closely resembles that of the ?prehistoric ditches on this site than the modern ones.

Trench 10: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F7	ditch	--	undated

Trench 11: summary

T11, located on the western side of the site contained no archaeological features. There were post-medieval or modern ceramic land drains, and some plough scarring.

Trench 12: summary

T12, located in the centre of the site, contained ditch F13 and pit F14 (both undated).

Ditch F13 appears to be a continuation of undated ditch F12 in T15 to the south.
Pit F14 had a highly leached-out fill and irregular cut suggesting that it is of natural origin, possibly a tree-throw.

Trench 12: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F13	ditch	--	undated
F14	pit	--	natural

Trench 13: summary

T13, located on the eastern side of the site, contained ditch F8, and curved gully F9.

Ditch F8 contained a prehistoric struck flint, and for that reason may be a prehistoric ditch. Undated curved gully F9 may be part of a ring-gully, and therefore evidence of a prehistoric settlement (most of the postulated gully lies to the south of the trench position).

Trench 13: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F8	ditch	flint	prehistoric
F9	curved gully (ring-gully?)	--	prehistoric?

Trench 14: summary

T14, at the southern end of the site, contained ditch F20, and pit F19.

Ditch F20 contained a probable Roman sherd. F20 is more or less on the same alignment as Roman ditch F10 in T16 to the east, although there is admittedly a 50-metre gap between the two sections.

Pit F19 has potential to be an Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building (SFB) although this would require further excavation to confirm. The feature is dated by two annular loom-weight fragments and an AS rim sherd (dating to the 5th-7th/8th century). A deposit of charcoal in the base of the feature may indicate domestic or industrial activity.

Trench 14: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F19	pit or SFB	AS rim sherd, loom-weight fragments, burnt flint	AS
F20	ditch	probable Roman sherd	Roman?

Trench 15: summary

T15, at the southern end of the site, contained undated ditch F12. However, this appears to continue as F13 in T12 to the north.

Trench 15: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F12	ditch	--	undated

Trench 16: summary

T16, located on the southern end of the site, contained ditch F10. This contained a quantity of Roman pottery including samian ware. It was the largest ditch exposed by this evaluation (1.8m wide, 0.6m deep), had a U-shaped profile, and was of a size which may indicate an enclosure boundary rather than a field ditch.

Trench 16: context and dating information

context no	type	dated finds	period
F10	ditch (enclosure?)	samian ware, flint, fired clay	Roman 2nd cent

Plate 5: T16 working shot.

Trench 17: summary

T17, the southernmost evaluation trench, contained undated pit F11.

Trench 17: context and dating information

Feature no	type	dated finds	period
F11	pit	--	undated

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield (12/02/14)

Introduction

Bulk finds of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and late post-medieval or modern date were recovered from twelve contexts (F2-F6, F8-F10 F15, F16, F19 & F20) located in seven evaluation trenches (T4, T6, T7, T9 T13, T14 & T16). The finds types and quantities recovered are listed in Table 1. All finds are listed and spot-dated by context in Section 14 (below). Four finds (fired clay objects and quernstone) were allocated individual small find (SF) numbers.

Finds type	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	14	90
Fired clay	17	335
Ceramic building material (CBM)	2	516
Flint	10	47
Burnt stones	15	414
Quernstone	2	177
Utilised stone	1	176
Glass	4	332
Clay pipe	1	2

Table 1. Type and quantities of finds

No animal bone was recovered, which suggests that bone does not survive well here.

Pottery

Sherds of pottery which can be closely dated as Roman, Anglo-Saxon and modern were recovered from several features. The pottery was recorded using the Suffolk fabric series and the modern pottery as recorded using the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham, 1985 & *CAR* **7**) and the fabrics recorded are listed in Table 2.

Fabric code	Fabric name	no	wt(g)
Roman fabrics			
SACG	Central Gaulish samian	2	12
GX	Miscellaneous sandy greywares	9	35
STOR	Storage jar fabrics	1	16
Anglo Saxon fabrics			
ESHW	Early Saxon handmade wares	1	24
Modern fabrics			
48J	Jackfield ware	1	3

Table 2. Pottery fabrics list

Roman pottery

Small groups (consisting of a few sherds) or single sherds of abraded Roman pottery were recovered from three features, pit/tree throw F2(T4), ditch F10(T16) & ditch F20(T14), and as unstratified sherds from topsoil (1).

There are two moderately thin sherds which appear to be imported Central Gaulish samian and can be dated to the 2nd century (F10). Although the micaceous fabric is slightly coarse, traces of a good quality, fine red surface coating show that the form is an open vessel with steeply sloping sides which suggests that it is probably a cup and supports the identification as samian rather than a colour-coated ware such as Oxford. Most of the sherds are coarseware body sherds (Fabric GX & Fabric STOR) and are not closely dated, although there is an impression that some at least are more likely to date to the early-mid Roman period of the 1st-2nd/3rd century rather than later.

One small, abraded sherd from ditch F8(T13) is not closely dated but is probably also Roman.

Anglo-Saxon pottery

A rim sherd in a sandy fabric from a hand-made pot, a jar/deep bowl with slightly restricted mouth and simple rim, can be identified as Anglo-Saxon and is broadly dated to the period of the 5th-7th/8th century. This was recovered from the fill of pit F19(T14). The fabric is predominantly a fine sand, with a black fabric core and brown-greyish brown and black surfaces. One small area of the surface at the sherd edge is oxidised a brownish-orange. There is a small area of burnt residue on the external surface just below the vessel rim.

Modern pottery
A single sherd of Jackfield ware (dating to the mid-late 18th century) was recovered from ditch F3(T4).

Fired clay
Pieces of Anglo-Saxon fired clay ring shaped loom-weights were recovered from pit F19(T14).

There is a half of a loomweight (19) weighing 227 g (SF1) in a buff coloured, moderately-well fired, fine sand/silty clay fabric. It has an elongated D-shaped cross section with flattened surfaces. The maximum diameter of the weight is probably about 120 mm. The clay ring is approximately 45 mm broad with a maximum thickness of 40 mm, with the diameter of the centre hole estimated at approximately 40 mm.

A number of pieces, some of which are clearly from a different, but similar, loomweight in a fine sand red fabric (SF2) were also recovered (18). A few other pieces with these, which could not be closely identified, are probably also fragments from loom-weight(s).

There is an accepted broad typological development of loom-weights in the Saxon period with annular type weights (where the central hole is greater than the width of the clay ring) appearing from the Early Saxon period, which were gradually superseded by thicker intermediate and bun-shaped forms, which come to dominate by the Middle Saxon period (Blackmore 2008). The single part loomweight (SF1) appears to be of intermediate type, where the diameter of the central perforation is less than the breadth of the clay ring, although it is probably best described as annular/intermediate. Fragments from the other weight (SF2) appear to be similar with a broad clay ring in relation to the probable overall diameter of the weight. However, the different types are difficult to identify closely from small pieces (as here) and there is a significant chronological overlap between them. At Mucking loom-weights classified as of intermediate type are recorded from contexts dated to the 5th-6th century (Hamerow 1993, 66). All of this makes close dating of the loomweight pieces recovered hazardous, although they might suggest a date within the Early-Middle Saxon period (6th-7th century) rather than at the beginning of it (5th century).

A small abraded fragment of sandy, yellow-brown fired clay was recovered from ditch F10(T16).

Ceramic building material (CBM)
Two pieces (516 g) from a single red brick (60 mm thick) of late post-medieval/modern date were recovered from F4(T4).

Flint
A few or single worked (struck) flints were recovered from three ditches, F4(T4), F8(T13) & F10(T16). All are residual in later dated contexts. Three flakes were also recovered as unstratified (US) finds from topsoil L1(1). None of the flint is patinated.

The flints from the ditch sections are broadly typical of assemblages dating to the Later Bronze Age. The flakes are relatively thick with broad striking platforms, common hinge fractures. A number have cortex on one face or on flake edges and it is noted that several pieces are snapped flakes. There is limited retouch or use-wear on some flakes from ditch F10.

Two of three unstratified flints recovered from topsoil exhibit a more controlled working technique with extensive retouch. Both have retouch extending around most or all of the

edges and have small retouched notches. Although one is moderately thick with a hinge fractured end, the other is a thinner flake than most making up the assemblage, with flaking scars on the dorsal face. Neither flake retains any cortex. These are likely to date earlier than the other flints and are probably of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

Burnt stone
Burnt (heat altered) stones were recovered from four features. A small group of twelve burnt flints (414 g) came from pit F15(T9) and single pieces of burnt flint from gully F5(T7), ditch/gully F6(T7) and pit F19(T14).

The burnt stones are not of themselves closely datable, but are most commonly associated with prehistoric activity. There is little associated dating evidence with any of the burnt stones, although as predominantly individual pieces they may be residual in the contexts from which they were recovered. The small group from pit F15 is associated with a piece of possible sandstone quernstone, which itself is not closely dated and the piece from pit F19 is associated with finds dated to the Anglo-Saxon period.

Quernstone and utilised stone
Two abraded pieces of imported lava quernstone (SF3) were recovered from ditch F16(T6). Lava quern stones were imported in the Roman period and the trade resumed again the Late Saxon and medieval period. The pieces are probably from a Roman quernstone(s).

A small piece of sandstone/gritstone with one lightly polished face (SF4) may also be part of a quern, although this may have been used or reused as a whetstone. It was recovered from pit F15(T9). It may originally have been part of a saddle quern and was associated with a small quantity of burnt flints.

Glass
A broad, hollowed, base from a bottle in a thick dark green glass came from ditch F4(T4). This is of late 17th- to 18th-century date.

A small quantity of glass from a broken window pane was recovered from the same feature and is probably of late 18th- to 20th-century date.

Clay pipe
A small fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from ditch F3(T4). The narrow bore (1.5 mm) suggests a late date and it is probably 19th century.

Discussion
Prehistoric
A small quantity of worked flints indicate activity in the area in the prehistoric period, although all of the stratified pieces are residual in later dated contexts. Some flints can be fairly confidently dated to the Late Bronze Age or possibly slightly later, although two unstratified flints are possibly of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date. It is likely that some at least of the burnt stones recovered are also of prehistoric date, but close dating for these from associated finds is lacking.

A small piece of utilised sandstone, possibly part of a quern (possibly a saddle quern) or a whetstone, recovered with a small group of burnt stones in pit F15(T9) might, by association with these, also be prehistoric.

It can be noted that no prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered.

Roman
There is a small quantity of pottery sherds which can be dated to the Roman period. The majority are abraded, some quite badly so and suggesting they have a history of deposition before arriving in these contexts, although soil conditions may also have adversely affected the surfaces of sherds. Two quite abraded pieces of imported lava quernstone (SF3) are also almost certainly of Roman date. The only pottery for which a closer dating has been assigned

are two very abraded sherds which are probably 2nd-century samian, while the fabric of some of the other sherds could suggest an early-mid Roman date rather than later.

The nature of the Roman activity represented by the finds is difficult to approach. Small amounts of Roman finds are the only, or latest dated finds associated with four features, F2(T4), F10(T16), F16(T6) & F20(T14), but the degree of abrasion on many of these finds might indicate they result from manure scatter and were incorporated incidentally at a later date. However, it is noticeable that small groups of Roman pottery were associated with both pit/tree throw F2 and ditch F10, which in relation to the single sherds from other contexts implies a possible focus of deposition in these features and might indicate a Roman date.

The absence of Roman CBM is notable.

Anglo-Saxon
The most significant finds from the evaluation are associated with pit F19(T14). This feature produced a moderately large rim sherd of hand made Anglo-Saxon pottery and parts of at least two ring shaped clay loom-weights of Anglo-Saxon date (one surviving as a half ring) which are of annular/intermediate form. These finds clearly demonstrate occupation in the Early-Middle Saxon period. The association of fired clay loom-weights with the pit F19 could indicate either a rubbish pit or the pit of a sunken-feature building (SFB).

Given the small amount of finds, close dating within the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon period is difficult. The hand made pottery indicates a 5th-7th/8th century date, while the loomweight pieces probably date to the 5th/6th-7th century or slightly later. Overall, on present evidence a 6th-7th/8th century date may be more likely than earlier.

Post-medieval-modern
A few finds of late post-medieval or modern pottery, glass, CBM (brick) and clay pipe were recovered, broadly dating to the period of the late 17th/18th-19th/20th century. These probably mostly date toward the end of this date range rather than earlier. They are associated with two ditches F3(T4), F4(T4).

7 Evaluation of charred plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer (February 2014)[1]

Introduction and method statement
Seven samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds, chaff and arthropod remains were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results
Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present within all seven assemblages, other plant macrofossils are extremely scarce, and all are poorly preserved. Cereal grains, including specimens of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) are recorded along with a few grains which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Sample 6, from Saxon pit F11, also includes a single fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell.

[1] Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF

Occasional fragments of charred root/stem, including some pieces of possible heather (Ericaceae) stem, are also recorded.

Other remains are also scarce. However, the fragments of black porous and tarry material are possible residues of the combustion of organic remains, whilst the vitreous concretions noted within F19 (sample 4 Saxon pit/sunken-featured building) may be derived from either industrial/craft activities or the high temperature combustion of silica rich ash. The coal fragments are all probably intrusive within the feature fills, being introduced via root channels or other forms of bioturbation. Such contamination is commonly seen where night soil or similar detritus was spread on the land during the post-medieval period or where steam implements were used during the early modern era.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although the current assemblages are sparse, they do show that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon in this area of Trimley. Sample 4 is of particular note as it may indicate that some form of craft activity or industry was occurring within the immediate vicinity during the earlier Saxon period. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples are taken from any features which are both well sealed and dated, which especial attention being given to any contexts of Saxon date.

Sample no.	**1**	**2**	**5**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**6**
finds no.	**9**	**10**	**14**	**16**	**12**	**13**	**15**
feature no.	**F8**	**F9**	**F15**	**F7**	**F10**	**F19**	**F11**
feature type	ditch	gully	pit	ditch	ditch	pit/SFB	pit
date	prehist	prehist	prehist	prehist	Roman	Saxon	?Saxon
plant macrofossils							
Hordeum sp. (grains)	xcf	xfg				x	
Triticum sp. (grains)					x		
Cereal indet. (grains)					xcffg	x	
Coryllus avellana L.							x
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xxxx	x	xx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	xxxx	x	x	xxx	x
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	xxx	x	x	xx	
Charcoal >10mm		x	x		x	x	
Charred root/stem	x		x	x	x		
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	xcf		xcf		xcf		
Other remains							
Black porous 'cokey' material		x					x
Black tarry material	x		x			x	x
Small coal frags.		x		x	x		
Vitreous material					xx		
Sample volume (litres)	**20**	**10**	**20**	**10**	**40**	**30**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.4**	**<0.1**	**0.1**	**0.3**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100**	**100**	**25**	**100**	**100**	**50**	**100**

Table 3: charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Key to Table

x = 1-10 specimens xx = 11-50 specimens xxx = 51-100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare fg = fragment SFB = sunken-featured building

8 Conclusions (Fig 2)

With the exception of the extreme northern and north-western sides, archaeological features were found over all the site.

There were twenty in all. Two were natural - one pit (F14), and one patch of colluvium (F1). There were three modern field ditches (F3, F4, F17), the latter two of which are firmly identifiable as part of an east-west hedge visible on all OS coverage up to 1968, but removed thereafter.

Of the remaining features, most were ditches (eleven), and there were three pits. Most of these were undated (ditches F6, F7, F9, F12, F13, F18, pit F11). However, there is small core of dated features here which shows that there was activity here in the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.

North-south aligned ditches F5 and F8 contained struck flints and burnt flints, which date them generally (assuming the finds are not residual) to the to prehistoric period, and in the case of the burnt flints perhaps to the Bronze Age. Pit F15 also contained a group of burnt flints and a sandstone fragment which may be part of a saddle quern or a whetstone. Taken together, pit F15 and the prehistoric ditches are good evidence for prehistoric settlement here within a ditched landscape. But we may be able to extend this landscape by noting that some of the undated ditches are close to and therefore possibly in association with dated features. Thus, undated ditch F6 is parallel to prehistoric ditch F5. Curved gully F9, close to prehistoric ditch F8, is of particular interest because it may be part of a ring-gully (perhaps an eaves-drip around a round-house). However, this is a speculation which needs to be tested by excavation. On a similar theme, ditches F12 and F13 (the same ditch intercepted in two trenches) are on a similar north-south alignment and may therefore be prehistoric as well.

Of particular interest is the southern part of the site, which sits on the top of a slight ridge. Here, ditches F20 and F10 contained Roman pottery. Although the two are on a matching east-west alignment and may therefore be the same ditch, there is good reason to think that F10 is in fact something separate. This is because of its large size (perhaps indicating an enclosure ditch), and the comparatively large group of finds. If F10 were an enclosure ditch, then F20 is a contemporary ditch on the same alignment.

A ditch which may be part of this Roman phase is ditch F16, 100m to the north of F10/F20. This contained imported lava quern, which may be of Roman date. Pit F2 in T4 also contained Roman pottery. However, this was an abraded sherd, allowing the possibility that it is a residual sherd in a later context. This is interesting in the context of ditch F16 above. This contained lava quern which could equally be Anglo-Saxon as well as Roman in date. There is therefore the possibility that some of these Roman features are Anglo-Saxon in date.

Of some particular interest is pit F19 in T14, which contained Anglo-Saxon pottery and fragments of two annular loom-weights. It is a large pit which (despite the lack of post-holes) may be a sunken-featured building (SFB). Further excavation is required to confirm this hypothesis. The environmental sampling identified vitreous concretions derived from either industrial or craft activities being carried out in or near this feature (Section 7 above).

Whether or not this turns out to be an SFB, the presence here of the loom-weights and the pottery indicates local domestic activity, with the loom-weights as specific evidence of weaving.

There were no medieval remains.

The depth and nature of the soils sealing the archaeological features is consistent with soil generated by normal agricultural activities. There was a slight colluvial deposit in a shallow hollow in the northern part of the site.

9 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under project code TYN 130.

10 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Prime Irrigation Ltd for commissioning this project on Behalf of Mr Phil Mayhew. Site work was managed by B Holloway, and undertaken by BH, A Wightman, E Holloway and M Baister. Figures 1-3 are by MB, and 4-5 by EH.

The project was monitored by Dr Abby Antrobus for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

11 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at http://cat.essex.ac.uk

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12 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from *c* AD 410 to Norman conquest of AD 1066
BA	Bronze Age
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick and tile
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
IA	Iron Age
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from *c* AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to *c* AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD410
Samian	lustrous, high quality Roman table ware imported from Gaul
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds

1 museum box containing all finds.

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 754)
SCCAS Evaluation Brief and Specification
CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record)
Site digital photographic log
Site photographic record on CD
Attendance register
Trench record sheet
Finds register
Benchmark data
Risk assessment

14 Spot-dated finds by context (TYN 130)

Trench	context	finds no	description of finds	finds spot-dating
	US topsoil	1	**Pottery Roman** (1@ 16g) Fabric STOR, abraded, voids from burnt-out organic-temper fragments in surface, possibly wheel made (Roman, possibly M1-2C) **Flint** (3@ 16g) **1** Flake, continuous retouch around flake edges, two adjacent small, notches with steep retouch at distal end; **2** Irregular flake with hinge fracture, almost continuous edge retouch around flake, steep retouch forming three shallow notches at hinge fractured distal end; **3** Small squat secondary flake, some limited retouch/use wear on side edges (later prehistoric)	Rom (M/L1-2C?)
T04	**F002** pit/tree throw	2	**Pottery Roman** (3@ 8g) Fabric GX, some burnt organic fragments in fabric, abraded (Roman, possibly M/L1-2C)	Rom (M/L1-2C?)
T04	**F003** ditch	3	**Pottery modern** (1@ 3g) Jackfield ware (M-L18C) **Clay pipe** (1@ 2g) stem fragment, narrow bore (1.5 mm) (19C?)	Mod (M-L18/19C)
T04	**F004** ditch	4	**CBM modern** (2@ 516g) corner of a brick, red, medium sand fabric, thickness 60 mm, sharp, regular edges, (18/19-20C) **Vessel glass modern** (1@ 316g) base of a bottle, surface degrading with translucent flaking, thick green glass (L17-18C) **Glass modern** (3@ 16g) widow glass, thin, flat, clear, taint blue-green tint (L18/19-20C) **Flint** (1@ 3g) small irregular flake with hinge fracture, edge of distal end snapped off (secondary flake)	Mod (L18/19-20C)
T06	**F016** ditch	17	**Quernstone** (2@ 177g) imported lava quern (SF3), one large piece and one small, both abraded (probably Roman)	(Rom)
T07	**F005** gully	5	**Burnt stone** (1@ 20g) flint	
T07	**F006** ditch/gully	6	**Burnt stone** (1@ 30g) flint	
T09	**F015** pit	20	**Quernstone(?)** (1@ 176g) small piece of sandstone/gritstone (SF4), rounded corner piece with one small area of flat, worn surface, possibly part of a broken corner of a quern; or a stone piece, possibly used/reused for a whetstone/polisher **Burnt stone** (12@ 349g) all flint	prehistoric(?)
T13	**F008** ditch	7	**Pottery** (1@ 14g) small, abraded sand-tempered sherd, moderately thick, reduced surface with brownish-orange fabric, probably Roman **Flint** (1@ 1g) small snapped flake or blade (tertiary flake)	Rom(?)
T13	**F009** ring-gully	8	**Burnt stone** (1@ 10g) flint	
T14	**F019** pit	18	**Pottery Anglo-Saxon** (1@ 24g) sand-tempered, hand-made (Fabric ESHW), simple rounded rim from small jar/deep bowl with restricted mouth, burnt residue on external surface just below rim (dated 5th-7th/8th century) **Fired clay** (11@ 107 g) pieces of ring (annular or intermediate type) loomweight (SF 2) and other fragments without distinguishing surface features which are probably also from a ring loomweight(s), most pieces in a fine orange-red coloured sandy fabric, moderately well fired (A Sax - 5th/6th/7th century or later **Burnt stone** (1@ 15g) flint	A Sax

Trench	context	finds no	description of finds	finds spot-dating
T14	**F019** pit	19	**Fired clay** (5@ 227g) ring (annular or intermediate type) loomweight (SF 1) about half of weight, most one piece comprising about half of the weight, four other small pieces, two joining, buff coloured fine sand/silty clay, moderately well fired, elongated D shaped cross section, max dia. probably about 120 mm, ring approx. 45 mm broad & max. 40 mm thick, centre hole est. approx. 40 mm dia. (A Sax- 5th/6th-7th century or later).	A Sax
T14	**F020** ditch	21	**Pottery Roman** (1@ 20 g) Fabric GX, jar/deep bowl base (Roman)	Rom
T16	**F010** ditch	11	**Pottery Roman** (Total 6@ 26g) Fabric SACG (2@ 12g) very abraded (2C); Fabric GX (4@ 14g) abraded (Rom) **Fired Clay** (1@1g) small abraded fragment yellow in colour **Flint** (5@ 27g) generally squat/thick irregular flakes with broad striking platforms, two with hinge fractures, one with 50% cortex two others with cortex on dorsal face or edges, one with use wear or limited edge retouch on part of one side edge (later prehistoric, probably later BA-IA)	Rom (E-M2C+)

Distribution list:
Graham Hall, Prime Irrigation
Dr Abby Antrobus, SCCAS
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record

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Roman Circus House,
Circular Road North,
Colchester,
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tel.: 07436 273 304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

checked by: Philip Crummy
date: 24.02.14

HB current projects/2014/Trimley St Martin/report 754.doc

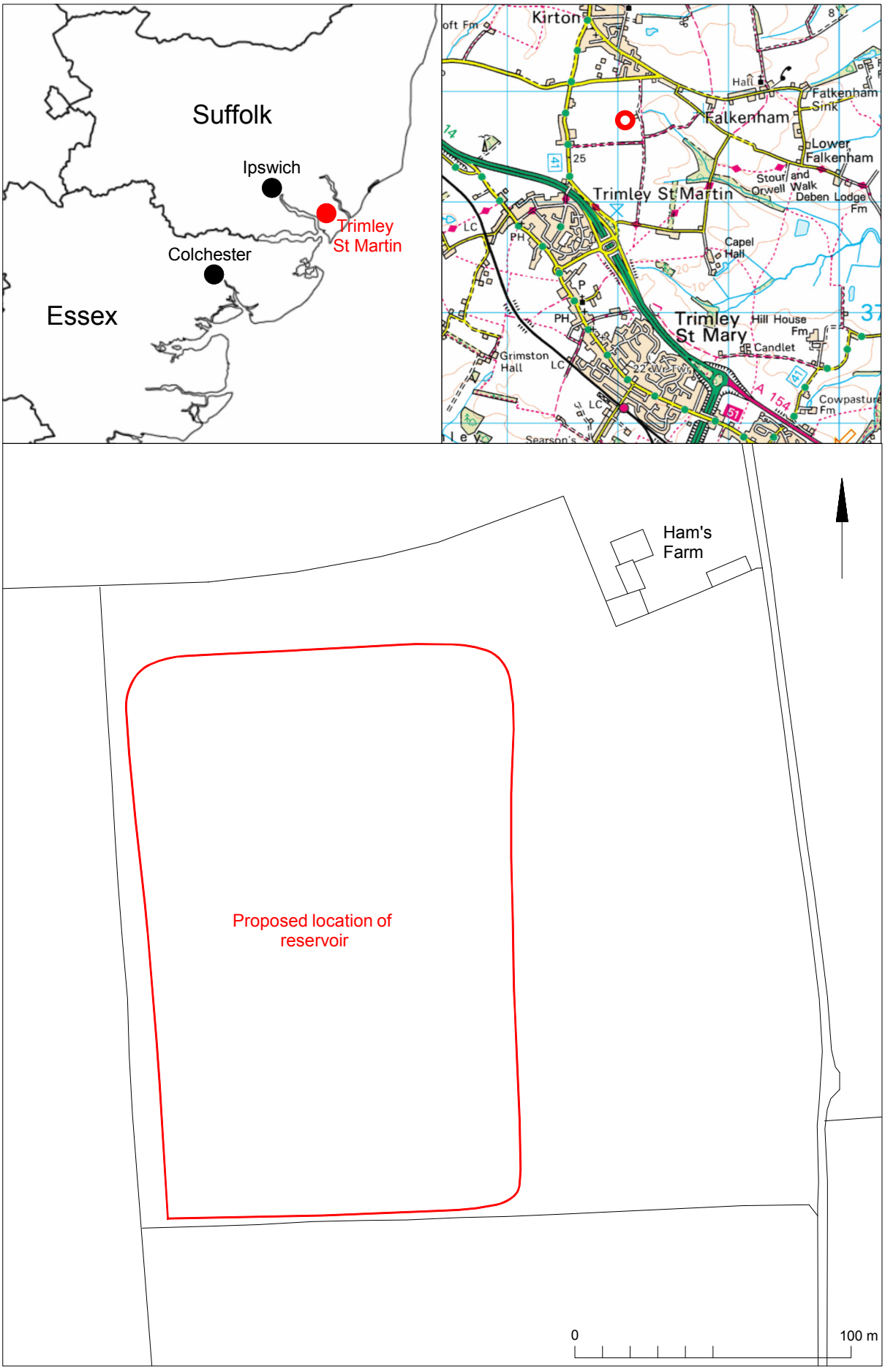


Fig 1 Site location.

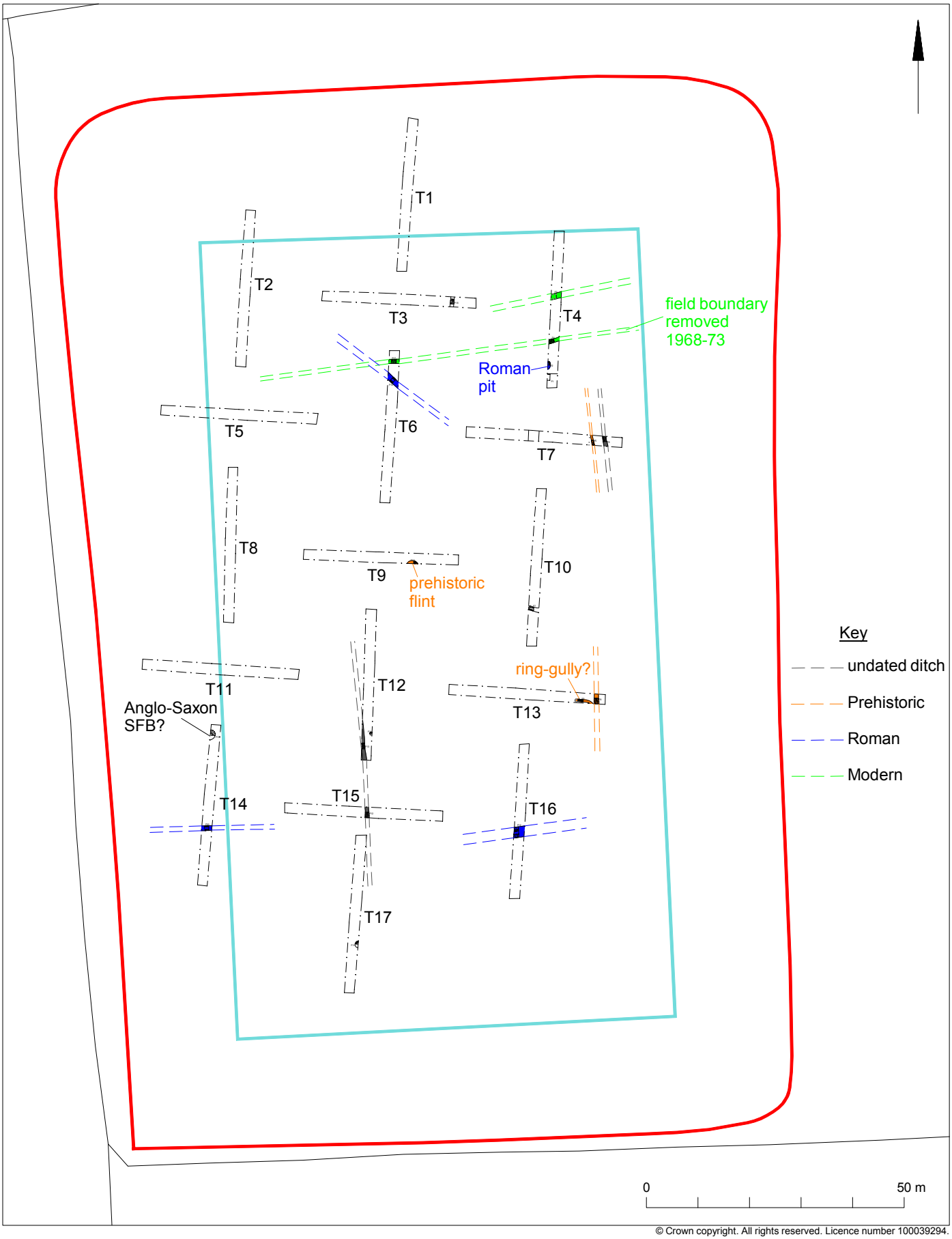
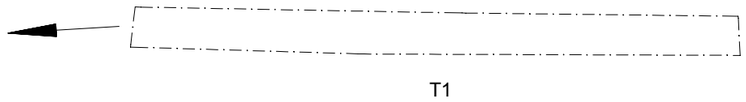
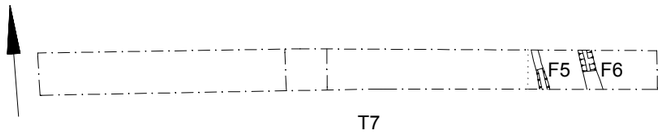
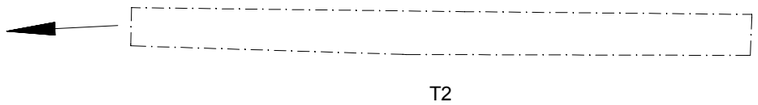
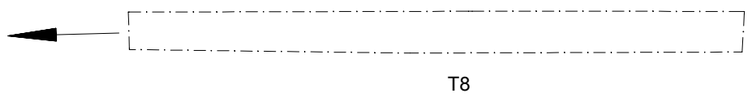


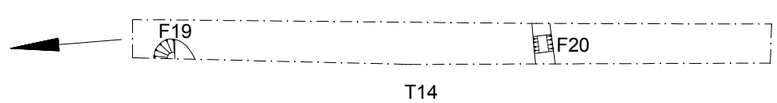
Fig 2 Trench location, with interpretation. Proposed reservoir shown in light blue, outer edge of surrounding earth bund shown in red.

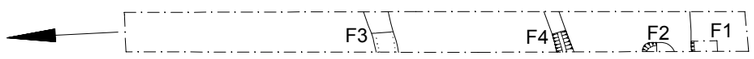


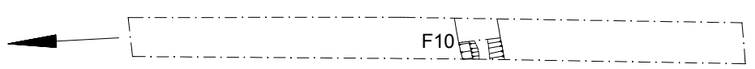


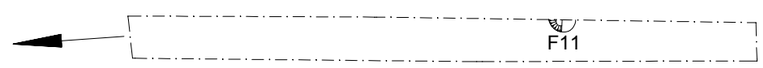


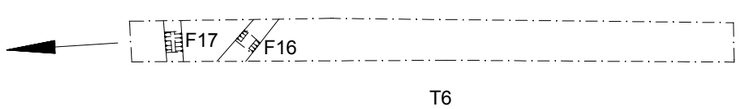












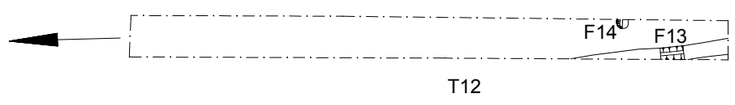


Fig 3 T1 - T17: Detailed trench plans.

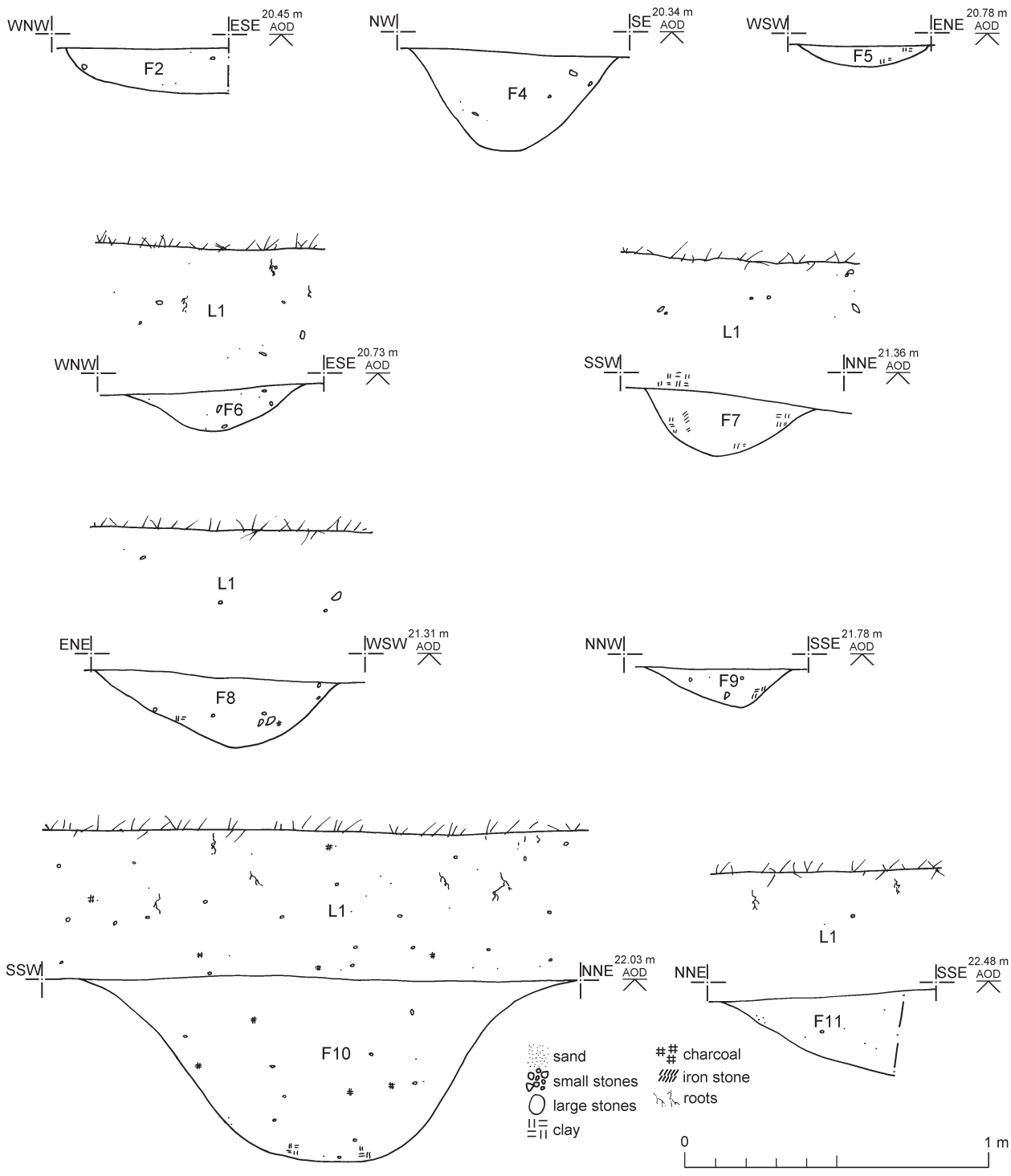


Fig 4 Sections.

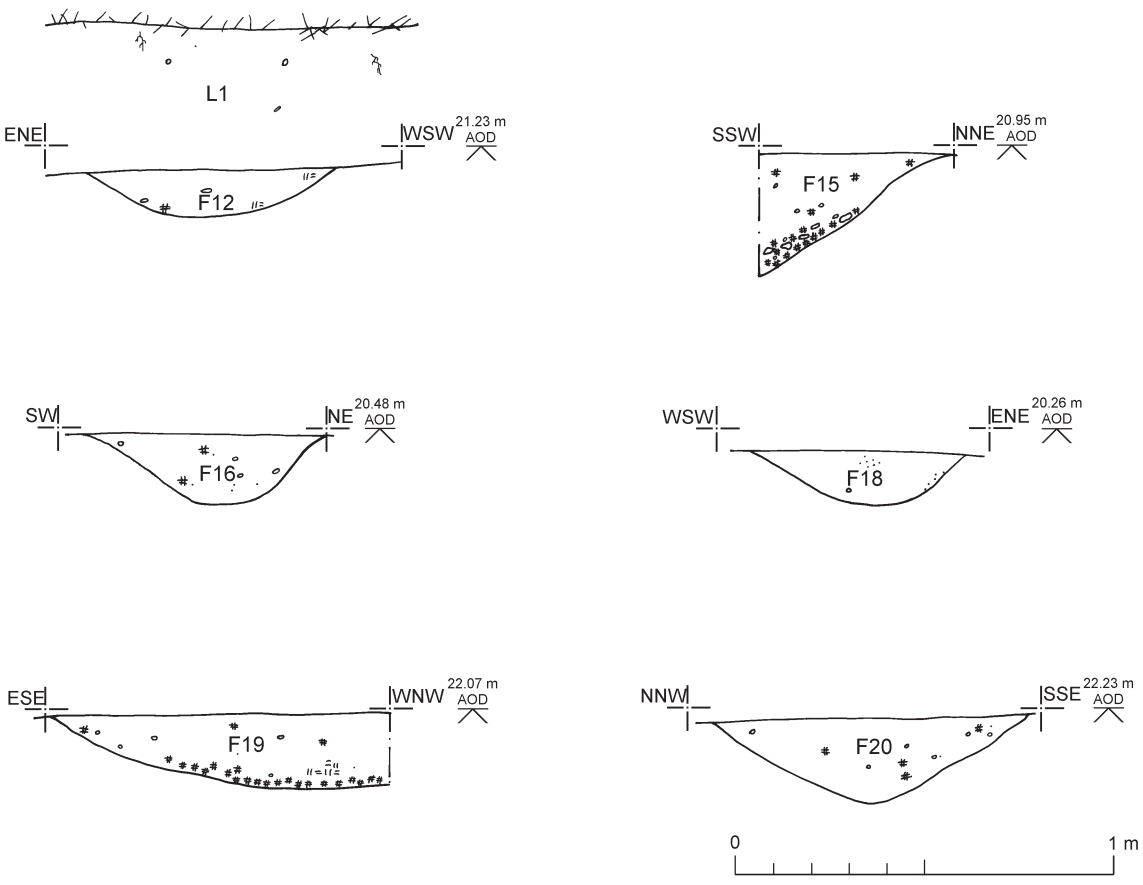


Fig 5 Sections.