

**An archaeological evaluation
at Carringtons Farm, Carringtons Road,
Great Bromley, Essex
December 2010**

**report prepared by
Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway
on behalf of
Mineral Services Ltd**

HEM project code: GBY CF10
CAT project code: 10/11e
Colchester and Ipswich Museums accession code: 2010.101
NGR: TM 08198 27425 (c)



Colchester Archaeological Trust
12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
(01206) 500124
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 579
February 2011

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	2
4	Aim	2
5	Evaluation results	2
6	Finds, <i>by Stephen Benfield</i>	20
7	Discussion	22
8	Acknowledgements	23
9	References	23
10	Abbreviations and glossary	24
11	Archive deposition	24
12	Contents of archive	24
13	Context list	24
14	Bulk finds list	27

Figures after p 28

EHER summary sheet

List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location (pink) and trench positions in relation to cropmarks (green).
- Fig 2 Trench positions, showing finds locations, and suggested correction to cropmark plot.
- Fig 3 T1-T3, T6, T8-T9, T12, T14: trench plans.
- Fig 4 T16-T19, T21-T24: trench plans.
- Fig 5 T25, T27-T29, T31, T33-T34, T36: trench plans.
- Fig 6 T37-T39, T42-T43, T45, T47-T48, T50: trench plans.
- Fig 7 Prehistoric pits (F18, F24, F26, F45) and prehistoric ditches (F46, F49): sections.
- Fig 8 Post-medieval ditches (F11, F13, F20, F21, F39, F55, F57, F61): sections.

1 Summary

Much of the Tendring peninsula is rich in cropmarks, and this part of Great Bromley is no exception. A 6.5ha field north of Carringtons Farm contains the cropmarks of a rectilinear field system and a small subrectangular enclosure. The cropmarks of the rectilinear field system continue on either side of the site, and there are ring-ditches (presumably ploughed-out burial mounds) to the west and east.

Prior to mineral extraction and the creation of an agricultural reservoir, a 4% evaluation by 50 trenches found 67 archaeological features. The majority of these (31) were of natural origin.

Twenty-one features were field ditches (mostly undated) which share a SW-NE alignment with the present-day field boundaries, and are probably part of the same field system (also undated, but presumed to be post-medieval).

The small cropmark enclosure may be of prehistoric date. Together with three prehistoric pits, these demonstrate thinly-spread prehistoric activity here.

There were also a few undated ditches on a W-E alignment. These would appear to be part of an earlier landscape which, given the presence of the prehistoric features and ring-ditches among the cropmarks, may be prehistoric in date.

The position of the excavated field ditches shows that the cropmark plot is slightly in error. However, a small adjustment would bring it into line with the ditch positions revealed here.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation carried out in December 2010 by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Mineral Services Ltd prior to mineral extraction and the creation of an agricultural reservoir on land to the north of Carringtons Farm, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley, Essex (NGR TM 08198 27425).
- 2.2 The site occupies an area of approximately 6.5 ha and is currently under arable cultivation.
- 2.3 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, with archaeological sites represented by cropmarks in the field under investigation and in adjacent fields.
- 2.4 An Early Iron Age screening request (ESS/04/08/TEN/SO) for the reservoir was submitted to Essex County Council (ECC) in January 2008. In response to consultation, the ECC HEM team made a recommendation for an archaeological field evaluation comprising aerial photograph rectification and trial-trenching as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment. (The current requirements outlined in a revised brief issued in October 2010 (Gascoyne 2010) no longer includes aerial photograph rectification.)
- 2.5 The required archaeological work was outlined in a brief written by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) officer Adrian Gascoyne (Gascoyne 2010). Required work comprised a 4% sample of the area proposed for mineral extraction by a programme of trial-trenching, with a further 1% sample held in reserve in order to examine areas in more detail if necessary. The 4% sample of a 6.5ha site equates to 1,444m of trenching in 50 trial-trenching trenches (45 at 30m length and 5 at 20m length, all 1.8m wide), systematically covering the area under investigation and crossing the cropmarks plotted by ECC.
- 2.6 The archaeological work reported here was carried according to the ECC HEM brief (Gascoyne 2010), and according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT and agreed with ECC HEM (CAT 2010).
- 2.7 In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with 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). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

This section is based on records held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

Much of the Tendring area is rich in cropmarks, a high proportion of which appear to relate to prehistoric activity. Aerial photographs in the Tendring District have recently undergone a systematic programme of enhancement including re-digitising. The study area is one of archaeological potential with the EHER noting the cropmark of a subrectangular enclosure and former field boundaries (EHER no 2457). To the immediate north is a dense concentration of cropmarks comprising further enclosures and linear features (EHER no 2460), and to the west is a further concentration (EHER no 2640) including a double-ditched trackway. Previous experience has demonstrated that, in many cases, only a proportion of surviving below-ground archaeological features/deposits are revealed as cropmarks. There is, thus, the potential for significant archaeological survival within the development area.

4 Aim

The archaeological evaluation aimed to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed reservoir. The archaeological trenching reported on here will form the initial phase of assessment to determine the need for any further archaeological work or mitigation measures.

5 Evaluation results

This section gives an archaeological summary of each of the 50 trenches with context and finds dating information. Unless stated otherwise, each trench was cut through topsoil L1 and subsoil L2 to reveal natural L3, at which level (the 'archaeological level') features were visible.

Notes

- 1) Where a trench has no finds column, there were no finds from that trench.
- 2) Where finds are shown in *italic*, they are residual in that context.

Trench 1: summary

Located in the north-eastern corner of the site, T1 was positioned to intersect two cropmarks, ie a linear feature and a potential enclosure.

T1 contained seven archaeological features: ditches F39, F46 and F52, natural pits F48 and F53, and post-holes F40, F49 and F54.

Although the cropmark plotted as line B-B (Fig 2) does not appear to pass through the north end of T1, ditch F39 was in a suitable position to be a continuation of that cropmark line (below, in T3, it will be seen that the line of B-B might be moved slightly north to line D-D, which passes through T1 and T3). Ditch F39 contained no finds, and so is undated. However, given the general match of F39's alignment with the current fields, a post-medieval date seems appropriate.

Cropmark enclosure A should have been intercepted by T1, and ditch F52 was only around 3m south of the plotted position of the north side of enclosure A (ie the green plot on Fig 2). Given the closeness of F52 to the predicted enclosure position, there can be little doubt that it is the same feature (below, in T2, a continuation of this enclosure was intercepted as F59). Ditch F52 contained a prehistoric worked flint. This, along with the fact that F52 does not particularly align with the current field boundaries, may indicate a prehistoric date for the enclosure.

Pits F48 and F53 had leached fills and irregular profiles, indicating a natural origin. The three undated post-holes (F40, F49, F54) are most likely to be associated with the post-medieval ditches at the northern end of T1, perhaps forming parts of a fence close to the field edge.

Trench 1: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds nos and detail	date
F39	ditch		undated (post-medieval?)
F40	post-hole		undated (post-medieval?)
F46	ditch		undated (?prehistoric)
F48	natural pit		-
F49	post-hole		undated (post-medieval?)
F52	ditch	11: prehistoric flint	?prehistoric
F53	natural pit		-
F54	post-hole		undated (post-medieval?)

Trench 1: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	450mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	450mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 2: summary

Located in the north-eastern corner of the site, T2 was targeted on cropmark enclosure A (Fig 2).

T2 contained a ditch (F59). Although this is some 6m to the east of the plotted position of the eastern edge of enclosure A, there is little doubt that it is the same feature, and is a continuation of F52 in T1. Although F59 is undated, the same ditch in T1 (ie F46) contained a prehistoric flint.

Trench 2: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	finds nos and detail	date
F59	ditch		?prehistoric

Trench 2: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	450mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	500mm

Trench 3: summary

Located in the northern corner of the site, T3 was targeted on cropmark ditch B-B (Fig 2).

T3 contained a ditch (F55). As this was only a short distance north of the plotted position of the cropmark ditch (Fig 2, B-B), there is little doubt that it is the same feature. The ditch was undated but, given its alignment with the current field system, it is probably post-medieval.

Trench 3: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	finds nos and detail	date
F55	ditch		undated (post-medieval?)

Trench 3: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	240mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	350mm	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	400mm

Trench 4: summary

Located on the north-western side of the site, T4 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 4: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 5: summary

Located in the northern half of the site, T5 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 5: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	320mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	500mm

Trench 6: summary

Located in the northern half of the site, T6 contained two archaeological features - ditch F60 and a large shallow area of burning (L4).

Ditch F60 is in the correct position to be the cropmark plot B-B, as intercepted in T3 (F55) and T1 (F39) to the NW and in T14 (F67) and T23 (F66) to the SE. However, F60 was not excavated due to significant flooding at the east end of T6.

L4 was an extensive shallow deposit of burnt material containing peg-tile fragments. These finds indicate a post-medieval or even modern date for L4, which was probably the site of an agricultural burning pit.

Trench 6: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds nos and detail	date
L4	agricultural burning	13: post-medieval/ modern peg-tile	post-medieval/ modern
F60	ditch	-	undated (post- medieval?)

Trench 6: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	550mm

Trench 7: summary

Located on the western side of the site, T7 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 7: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	550mm

Trench 8: summary

Located on the western edge of the site, T8 contained a ditch (F13) dated to the post-medieval period by clay pipe.

There is a mismatch between the EHER crop-mark plot and ditches intercepted by this evaluation. The EHER cropmark plot shows a ditch which should have passed through our trenches T16, T17, T28, T38 and T46. In fact, there is no ditch in the correct position in any of these trenches (those in T28 and T38 are on markedly different alignments). However, two separate ditch lines have been found, both of which are parallel with the EHER plot and are almost equidistant from it.

First, the NW-SE line of ditch F13 in T8 is directly continued by ditches F20 in T17, F44 in T28, and (after an apparent gap), F50 in T39. This is shown as line E-E and F-F on Figure 2. Second, a parallel ditch has been revealed as F14 (T16), F21 (T27) and F43 (T37). This is shown as line G-G on Figure 2.

The more northerly ditch line contains the clay-pipe fragment in F13, and a prehistoric flint in F20 in T17. Although neither F44 (T28) nor F50 (T39) contained finds, both are assigned to the post-medieval period, along with F20 with its prehistoric flint (which must be residual).

The more southerly ditch line contained burnt flint (F14, T16), burnt and worked flint (F21, T27), and no finds (F43, T37). There would appear to be a case for regarding this ditch as prehistoric, were it not for the fact that it aligns so well with the post-medieval field ditches around it. For that reason, it is dated as post-medieval, and the flints in T16 and F27 are residual.

Trench 8: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	finds nos and detail	date
F13		2: clay tobacco-pipe stem	post-medieval

Trench 8: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	450mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	550mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	620mm	550mm

Trench 9: summary

Located on the north-western side of the site, T9 contained five archaeological features, ie linears F15, F16, F17 and F19, and pit F18.

The four linears had leached fills and irregular profiles, and appear to be of natural origin (alluvial channels?). Pit F18 contained a tiny fired clay pellet. This cannot be closely dated, but Stephen Benfield prefers a prehistoric and possibly Late Iron Age date.

Trench 9: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds nos and detail	date
F15	natural linear		-
F16	natural linear		-
F17	natural linear		-
F18	pit	4: tiny clay pellet	?prehistoric (?Late Iron Age)
F19	natural linear		-

Trench 9: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	260mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	380mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	400mm	380mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	520mm	460mm

Trench 10: summary

Located in the north-western part of the site, T10 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 10: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	380mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	460mm	500mm

Trench 11: summary

Located in the north-western half of the site, T11 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 11: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	380mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	460mm	450mm

Trench 12: summary

Located in the central-northern part of the site, T12 contained two ditches, F56 and F57.

Both appear to be agricultural ditch lines which can be traced beyond T12. Undated F56 is directly in line with ditch F41 in T19 to the SW (shown by line H-H on Fig 2), and F57, dated by post-medieval or modern glass, is directly in line with undated F58 in T21 to the SE (line I-I on Fig 2). Given that both ditches are aligned on the post-medieval/modern field system, it is most likely that F56/F41 is also of post-medieval date. However, no hedge is shown in this position in 1875 (*Old Maps* website: accessed 24/01/11). This would indicate that the boundaries represented by lines H-H, I-I and J-J must have been removed prior to 1875.

Trench 12: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds nos and detail	date
F56	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F57	ditch	12: post-medieval/ modern glass	post-medieval

Trench 12: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	450mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	450mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 13: summary

Located in the north-eastern half of the site, T13 contained no archaeological features. A cropmark ditch should have crossed this trench, but did not (its correct position is probably line D-D, Fig 2).

Trench 13: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	400mm	400mm

Trench 14: summary

Located in the north-eastern corner of the site, T14 contained ditch F67. This is most likely to be a continuation of the ditch in T1 and T3 (ie line D-D), which appears to be the correct position of cropmark B-B. The same comment applies to ditch F66 in T23 to the SE.

As was the case in T6, the ditch (F67) was not excavated due to extensive flooding.

Trench 14: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	finds nos and detail	date
F67	ditch		undated (?post-medieval)

Trench 14: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	450mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	450mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 15: summary

Located in the western half of the site, T15 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 15: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	400mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	600mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	700mm	600mm

Trench 16: summary

Located in the south-western part of the site, T16 contained ditch F14, the line of which continued as F21 (T27) and as F43 (T37) to the SE. (See discussion of this in T8 above.)

The lower ditch fill contained burnt flint. Although burnt flint is not a material which can readily be dated, there is a consensus that it is usually prehistoric and, in some cases, specifically Bronze Age in date. However, given the alignment of the ditch with the post-medieval landscape, this is most likely to be a post-medieval ditch with residual prehistoric flints.

Trench 16: archaeological context and dating.

Context	Description	Finds no and detail	Date
F14	ditch	3: <i>burnt flint</i>	undated (post-medieval?)

Trench 16: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	430mm	430mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	350mm	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	550mm	630mm

Trench 17: summary

Located in the central-western part of the site, T17 contained two archaeological features, ie ditch F20 and pit F22.

Ditch F20 appeared to be a continuation of the ditch F13 in T8 to the NW and F44 in T28 to the SE. Together, these are part of the same ditch line (E-E on Fig 2), and taken with the ditch shown as F-F, are an alternative location for the cropmark ditch C-C which was not found in that position.

Pit F22 had a leached fill and irregular profile, indicating a natural origin.

Trench 17: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds no and detail	date
F20	ditch	5: <i>prehistoric flint</i>	post-medieval
F22	natural pit	-	-

Trench 17: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	400mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	500mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	600mm	600mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	600mm	600mm

Trench 18: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T18 contained two archaeological features, ie a pit F38 and a linear feature F42, both of natural origin (with leached-out fills and irregular profiles).

Trench 18: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	Description	Date
F38	natural pit	-
F42	natural linear	-

Trench 18: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	400mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	450mm

Trench 19: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T19 contained two archaeological features, a ditch F41 and a natural linear feature F47.

F41 is a direct continuation of ditch F56 in T12 to the NE (Fig 2 H-H). Although neither ditch is dated, both are a right-angles to the dated post-medieval field ditches in T8, T17, T28, and for that reason are interpreted as part of the post-medieval field system. However, no hedge is shown in this position in 1875 (*Old Maps* website: accessed 24/01/11).

F47 had a leached fill and an irregular profile, and is most likely to be of natural origin.

Trench 19: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	420mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	420mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 19: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F41	ditch	undated (post-medieval)
F47	natural linear	-

Trench 20: summary

Located in the western half of the site, T20 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 20: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	400mm	380mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	420mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 21: summary

Located in the eastern half of the site, T21 contained an undated ditch F58. This is a continuation of F57 (dated by post-medieval or modern glass) in T12 to the NW.

Trench 21: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	date
F58	ditch	undated (post-medieval?)

Trench 21: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	420mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	420mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 22: summary

Located on the eastern edge of the site, T22 contained two features - a natural linear feature F63 and a ditch F64.

F63 had a leached fill and irregular profile, and appears natural. F63 was cut by a larger F64, which, given its alignment, may be a continuation of ditch J-J (ie, F62 in T31 and F51 in T39).

Trench 22: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F63	natural linear	undated
F64	ditch	undated (post-medieval)

Trench 22: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	450mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	350mm	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	500mm

Trench 23: summary

Located on the eastern edge of the site, T23 contained two undated ditches F65 and F66. Given the probability that the cropmark ditch B-B is actually ditch line D-D - ie F67 (T14), F55 (T3), F39 (T1) - then F66 would appear to be this field ditch. But F65, although it appears to be on cropmark line B-B, is a separate and undated (probably post-medieval) field ditch.

Trench 23: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	300mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	600mm	580mm

Trench 23: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F65	ditch	undated (?post-medieval)
F66	ditch	undated (?post-medieval)

Trench 24: summary

Located on the western edge of the site, T24 contained four natural features (linear features F2 and F7, pit F4), and ditch F1. Linear features F2 and F7 and pit F4 had leached fills and irregular profiles indicative of a natural origin.

F1, although undated, is almost certainly a field ditch. Given that it does not share the generally NW-SE alignment of other fields here, it may predate the post-medieval field system.

Trench 24: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	400mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	600mm	600mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	600mm	600mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	600mm	600mm

Trench 24: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F1	ditch	prehistoric
F2	natural linear	-
F4	natural pit	-
F7	natural linear	-

Trench 25: summary

Located on the western side of the site, T25 contained four features: natural linear feature F10, natural pit F6, and ditches F11 and F12.

F6 and F10 had leached fill and irregular profiles indicative of a natural origin. Ditches F11 and F12 met approximately at right angles, and would appear to be the corner of a field or enclosure which lies to the north of T24. F11 contained sherds and a flint flake indicating a potential prehistoric (Bronze Age or Late Iron Age) date. However, given that these ditches align with the post-medieval field system, it is likely that the finds are residual, and the ditches post-medieval.

Trench 25: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds no and detail	date
F6	natural pit	-	-
F10	natural linear	-	-
F11	ditch	1 (F11/F12): <i>flint, pot, prehistoric or Late Iron Age</i>	?post-medieval
F12	ditch		?post-medieval

Trench 25: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	400mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	600mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	600mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	650mm	600mm

Trench 26: summary

Located in the south-western corner of the site, T26 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 26: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	550mm	550mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	550mm	600mm

Trench 27: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T27 contained a ditch F21. This appears to be a continuation of ditch F14 (T16) to the NW and of F43 (T37) to the SE.

F21 contained worked flint and burnt flint. Given that F14 in T16 also contains burnt flint, a prehistoric date for this field boundary or drainage ditch would initially appear to be appropriate. However, this ditch also aligns with the post-medieval field system, so it is more likely to be a post-medieval field ditch.

Trench 27: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	finds no and detail	date
F21	ditch	6: <i>burnt flint</i>	undated (post-medieval?)

Trench 27: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	400mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	600mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	600mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	650mm	600mm

Trench 28: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T28 contained a natural pit F35, and a ditch F44. Pit F35 had a leached fill and an irregular profile, indicative of a natural origin (tree-throw pit?). F44 is a continuation of ditches F13 (T8) and F20 (T17).

Trench 28: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F35	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-
F44	ditch	post-medieval

Trench 28: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	280mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	450mm

Trench 29: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T29 contained pit F36 which had a leached fill and irregular profile indicative of a natural origin (tree-throw pit?).

Trench 29: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	date
F36	natural pit (tree-throw?)	undated

Trench 29: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	280mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	350mm	350mm

Trench 30: summary

Located in the western half of the site, T30 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 30: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 31: summary

Located in the eastern half of the site, T31 contained two ditches, F61 and F62. F62 appears to be a continuation of F15 (T39) to the SW, and both share the alignment of the post-medieval field system. (F61 is slightly off alignment to be the continuation of F15, but its alignment indicates a post-medieval date.)

Trench 31: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F61	ditch	undated (?post-medieval)
F62	ditch	undated (?post-medieval)

Trench 31: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	320mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	300mm	320mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	600mm	600mm

Trench 32: summary

Located on the eastern edge of the site, T32 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 32: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 33: summary

Located in the south-western corner of the site, T33 contained two natural pits F3 and F5. Neither contained finds. Their leached fills and irregular profile would indicate a natural origin (possibly tree-throw pits).

Trench 33: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	400mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	550mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	550mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	650mm	550mm

Trench 33: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F3	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-
F5	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-

Trench 34: summary

Located in the south-western part of the site, T34 contained a natural pit F8 whose leached fill and irregular profile indicate a natural origin (a tree-throw pit?).

Trench 34: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	date
F8	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-

Trench 34: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	208mm	320mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	430mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	450mm	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	600mm	620mm

Trench 35: summary

Located in the western half of the site, T35 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 35: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	330mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	450mm	550mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	600mm	550mm

Trench 36: summary

Located in the south-central part of the site, T36 contained two archaeological features, pit F24 and linear feature F25. Pit F24 contained a sherd of prehistoric (perhaps Late Bronze Age or Early/Middle Iron Age) date.

The E-W alignment of F25 is shared by ditch fragments in T24 to the W and T38 to the E. All three differ from the NW-SE alignment of the post-medieval field system, and they may therefore be of a different period.

Trench 36: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds no and detail	fate
F24	pit	7: prehistoric pottery	prehistoric (Late Bronze Age/Iron Age)
F25	ditch	-	?prehistoric

Trench 36: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	550mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	550mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	600mm	550mm

Trench 37: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T37 contained a ditch F43. This ditch appears to be a continuation of F21 in T27 and F14 in T16. Although F21 and F14 contain prehistoric material, all three ditches align with the NW-SE alignment of the post-medieval field system and are therefore more likely to be of post-medieval date.

Trench 37: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	date
F43	ditch	undated (post-medieval?)

Trench 37: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	500mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	500mm	500mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	550mm	550mm

Trench 38: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T38 contained two archaeological features, pit F37 and ditch F45. Pit F37 contained a grog-tempered sherd of Late Iron Age date. Ditch F45 is likely to be a field ditch. However, its W-E alignment does differ from the general NW-SE alignment of the surrounding fields. This may indicate that it is part of an earlier landscape sequence. In addition, F45 contained a stone fragment which may be part of a prehistoric saddle quern.

Trench 38: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds no and detail	date
F37	pit	9: Late Iron Age pottery	Late Iron Age
F45	ditch	10: saddle quern fragment?	prehistoric

Trench 38: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	400mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	550mm	550mm

Trench 39: summary

Located on the eastern edge of the evaluation, T39 contained two ditches, F50 and F51, both of which conform to the NW-SE aligned post-medieval landscape.

F50 is most likely to be a continuation of F44 (T28), F20 (T17) and F13 (T8). T8 contains a clay-pipe fragment which dates the whole ditch. F51 also appears to be a continuation of F61 in T31 to the NE.

Trench 39: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F50	ditch	undated (post-medieval)
F51	ditch	undated (post-medieval)

Trench 39: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	400mm	450mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 40: summary

Located on the eastern edge of the evaluation area, T40 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 40: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	-	-
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	600mm	600mm

Trench 41: summary

Located in the SW corner of the site, T41 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 41: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	450mm	430mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	560mm	560mm

Trench 42: summary

Located in the south-western part of the site, T42 contained pits F9 and F23, both with leached fills and irregular profiles indicative of a natural origin (tree-throw pits?).

Trench 42: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F9	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-
F23	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-

Trench 42: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	330mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	460mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	400mm	460mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	520mm	600mm

Trench 43: summary

Located in the southern central part of the site, T43 contained two features, pit F26 and natural linear feature F27.

F26 contained a small amount of charcoal and fragments of burnt flint, which may indicate that it is man-made, possibly a stump removal pit.

F27 was a fragment of undated ditch which does not appear to relate to the post-medieval agricultural landscape and may be of natural origin.

Trench 43: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	finds no and detail	date
F26	pit	8: burnt flint	prehistoric
F27	natural linear?		-

Trench 43: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	280mm	280mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	360mm	340mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	360mm	340mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	430mm	400mm

Trench 44: summary

Located in the south-central part of the site, T44 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 44: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	550mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	550mm	440mm

Trench 45: summary

Located in the south-eastern part of the site, T45 contained a pit F34 which had a leached fill and irregular profile indicative of a natural origin (tree-throw pit?).

Trench 45: archaeological context and dating.

Context	description	date
F34	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-

Trench 45: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	400mm	460mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	450mm

Trench 46: summary

Located on the eastern edge of the site, T46 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 46: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	420mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 47: summary

Located on the southern edge of the site, T47 contained three archaeological features, ie pits (F28, F30) and linear (F29), all of which appear to be natural. The highly irregular profile of F29 indicates a glacial channel, and pits F28 and F30 may be tree-throw pits.

Trench 47: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F28	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-
F29	natural linear	-
F30	natural pit (tree-throw?)	-

Trench 47: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	310mm	320mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	440mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	400mm	440mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	560mm	480mm

Trench 48: summary

Located on the southern edge of the site, T48 contained two linear features (F32, F33), both of which appear, from their irregular profiles and leached fills, to be natural in origin.

Trench 48: archaeological contexts and dating.

Context	description	date
F32	natural linear	-
F33	natural linear	-

Trench 48: dimensions.

	west end	east end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	420mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	420mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	500mm	500mm

Trench 49: summary

T49 was located on the south-eastern edge of the site, T49 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 49: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	350mm	350mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	400mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	-	-
Modern ground-level to base of trench	450mm	450mm

Trench 50: summary

Located in the southern corner of the site, T50 contained a pit (F31) which, from its leached fill and irregular profile, would appear to be of natural origin (tree-throw pit?).

Trench 50: archaeological context and dating.

Context	Description	Date
F31	natural pit (tree-throw?)	undated

Trench 50: dimensions.

	north end	south end
Modern ground-level to base of topsoil	300mm	300mm
Modern ground-level to base of subsoil	400mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to archaeological level	400mm	420mm
Modern ground-level to base of trench	480mm	480mm

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The types of finds and the total quantities recovered are set out in Table 1. These are listed by context in section 14 below.

Table 1: type and quantities of finds.

Finds type	no	wt (g)
Pottery	4	30
Ceramic building material (CBM)	1	37
Worked flint	4	28
Burnt flint	3	60
Stone	1	396
Fired clay	1	3
Glass	2	65
Clay pipe	1	7

Pottery

Only a very small quantity of pottery was recovered. In total, there are four sherds together weighing 30g. All are of prehistoric and Late Iron Age date and were recovered from features in three trenches: T25 (F11/F12), T36 (F24) and T38 (F37). The pottery sherd count and weight was recorded for each finds number by context and the fabrics are described with the discussion of the individual sherds below.

The most closely dated of the pottery is a grog-tempered sherd (14g) from T38 F37 which is Late Iron Age. The sherd, which is 10 mm thick, is slightly abraded with brownish surfaces and a grey-brown core speckled with dark grog-temper. Although Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware first appears in the period of the early-mid 1st century BC in southern England (Kent and Sussex), on settlement sites in Essex it is generally only common after c 50-25 BC (Sealey 2007, 31) and remains current on some sites until c 50 AD.

There are also two small hand-made, grog-tempered sherds from F11/F12. These are from two separate pots and both are abraded. One (3g) is entirely oxidised (orange-red) with red grog-temper; the other (4g) is reduced (dark-grey), also with red grog-temper and may have been burnt. These two sherds may also be of Late Iron Age date. However, some of the pieces of grog-temper in the sherd with the reduced fabric are quite coarse, with one fragment at around 5mm, so that an earlier dating as 'prehistoric' (Neolithic-Bronze Age) may also be possible.

There is one other sherd (9g) from F24, the fabric of which contains crushed, burnt flint-temper which is of moderate to common density and small-medium (1-2 mm) in size. The external surface is oxidised a red-brown and smoothed while the interior is reduced. There are some inclusions of sand within the fabric, but this may be natural rather than a deliberately added tempering material. Overall the nature of the sherd suggests a Late Bronze Age or Early/Middle Iron Age date, but this dating is not certain and as a single body sherd it cannot be confidently dated other than as prehistoric.

Worked flints

In total, there are four pieces of worked (struck) flint together weighing a total of 28g. These were recovered as single pieces from contexts located in four trenches: T1 (F52), T17 (F20), T25 (F11/F12) and T27 (F21). All are flakes with some cortex material remaining on them, although all exhibit scars from the prior removal of other flakes, suggesting they represent working of locally available material. None are patinated. One of the flakes was recovered from the same context (F11/F12) as two abraded pieces pottery dated as Late Iron Age or possibly prehistoric (Bronze Age). An overall dating of later prehistoric, that is a Late Neolithic-Bronze Age/Iron Age date, would appear appropriate for these pieces.

Burnt flints

Three small pieces of burnt (heated) flint, which are part calcified (white) and crazed, were recovered from features in three of the trenches: T27 (F21), T16 (F14) and T43 (F26). Burnt flints are commonly associated with prehistoric activity or occupation. None of the burnt flint was recovered with any closely-dated finds material and the their distribution pattern does not appear to be significant in relation to the finds which can be independently dated as prehistoric (ie pottery and struck flints). However, overall a prehistoric date for these heated flints is probably most likely.

Quern

A piece of gritstone was recovered from F45 (T38). One surface, which is slightly dished, is worn smooth with use. As the smooth surface extends right to the edges of the piece this indicates that it was probably originally part of a larger object. It seems likely that this might be part of a saddle quern. Saddle querns were in use in Essex from the Neolithic-Iron Age (Major 2004, 135-8) and examples in gritstone are known from the Iron Age settlement at Little Waltham (Drury 1978, 110, nos 11.4 & 11.6). The stone colour is a pale, faintly greenish-grey and the dimensions are 65 mm x 55 mm x 50 mm, weight 369g.

Other finds

Other finds recovered as single pieces or which are of limited archaeological significance are listed here together.

A small, very abraded fragment of fired clay (3g) was recovered from F18 (T9). This cannot be closely dated but is probably most likely to be associated with the prehistoric or Late Iron Age activity or occupation demonstrated by a small number of finds of pottery and worked flint.

A single piece of peg-tile (37g) was recovered from L4 (T6). The tile has a red sandy fabric and is 11 mm thick. This can only be broadly dated as medieval/post-medieval to modern. Based on the archaeological sequence at Harwich (Essex), peg-tiles appear from the 13th century, but probably only become relatively common from the 14th century onward (Ryan 1993, 97).

Two joining pieces of glass (65g), were recovered from F57 (T12). The surfaces are iridescent and have degraded, while the glass itself is a pale green colour. The pieces are curved and are probably part of a bottle. They can be dated to the post-medieval or early modern period.

There is a single fragment of clay-pipe stem (7 g) from close to the pipe bowl. The stem has a bore of 2.5 mm. It was recovered from F13 (T8) and is of post-medieval or modern date.

Finds discussion

The quantity of finds recovered is quite small in relation to the area encompassed by the archaeological evaluation. The significant, or potentially significant, finds consist of a few pieces of worked flints, burnt flints, fired clay and pottery. There is also a possible piece from a saddle quern. Most of these finds cannot be closely dated other than as later prehistoric (Neolithic-Iron Age), although a Bronze Age-Iron Age date seems likely for one flint-tempered pottery sherd, and another pottery sherd can be dated to the Late Iron Age. Two other grog-tempered pottery sherds may also be of Late Iron Age date, but this is not certain and they might date earlier (Neolithic-Bronze Age). These finds are not closely grouped on any one part of the evaluation area, but most were recovered from trenches located across the central to southern half of the evaluation. The finds recovered attest activity in the later prehistoric (Neolithic-Iron Age) period and the Late Iron Age but at a low level, possibly peripheral to occupation or centres of activity located close by. A small quantity of finds of post-medieval to modern date was also recovered.

7 Discussion (Fig 1)

General

The total number of excavated features, by period, was as follows:

prehistoric	6
?prehistoric	3
post-medieval	3
post-medieval?	24
natural	<u>31</u>
	67

Post-medieval field boundaries

Figure 1 shows the existing rectilinear field layout (in black) and the EHER cropmark plot (in green). Superimposed on this in blue is the 1875 field layout (as viewed on the *Old Maps* website). One thing is immediately apparent, ie that (with a few exceptions) there is a very strong correlation between the cropmarks and existing field boundaries, to such an extent that the two must belong to one coherent field system, albeit one which has changed over time.

It is assumed that the existing rectilinear field system is post-medieval in origin. An earlier origin (medieval?) could be speculated, but there is no material evidence for this (and no medieval pottery from the evaluation).

It is clear that the field system has been changed from time to time, mainly (though not exclusively) by field boundaries being removed. This is apparent because some of the boundaries shown in 1875 are now missing, and appear as cropmarks (Fig 1, **13**, **14**, **15**). However, if the conclusion of this report that Figure 2 lines H-H, I-I, and J-J do represent missing field boundaries, then one of the major landscape changes seems to be the removal of hedges and ditches to make four smaller fields into one larger field. Given the absence of these boundaries on the 1875 maps, this consolidation of fields took place before that date.

Other cropmarks would appear to be part of the same field system, for instance, the rectilinear pattern around **11**, to the east of the site, and **8-10**, to the west. Although the long-term trend is for boundaries to be removed, one new hedge **16** was established after 1958 to the east of Carringtons Farm, but has now been removed.

In addition to post-medieval and modern agriculture, evidence of gravel-quarrying was seen in the north-western corner of the site, where a large pit F13 filled the eastern half of T1. The position on a gravel ridge provides a good location for extraction. Material recovered from the backfill of the pit suggest an 18th-century date at the earliest for the deposit.

Prehistoric landscape?

As mentioned above, there are a number of cropmarks which do not align with the existing (post-medieval) field system. On Figure 1, these are an enclosure at **1**, field corners at **2** and **3**, enclosures at **4** and **5**, and a pattern of field boundaries at **6**. Likewise, ring-ditches at **7** and **17** are taken to be (?Bronze Age) ritual monuments. Given that some elements of the rectilinear system appear to cut across these earlier ditches (ie **8**, **9**), it would appear that **1-7** are part on an earlier landscape, of unknown date.

On the evaluation site, ditch fragments in T1, T24, T36 and T38 were on different alignments to the post-medieval system. Given the lack of Roman and medieval finds from the evaluation, it is possible that these ditches are part of a prehistoric landscape.

Prehistoric evidence

Apart from the possible field ditches (above), evidence for prehistoric activity consists of four sherds of prehistoric pottery, four struck flints and three burnt flints. These were generally found in pits in the southern part of the site. One sherd is of Late Iron Age type, and two others possibly so. The fourth sherd cannot be more closely dated than prehistoric. There is also a possible fragment of saddle quern, which could date from Neolithic to Iron Age.

As Stephen Benfield points out in his report (above, section 7), the finds are in low quantities, which probably indicates that the evaluated area was essentially rural, and any living sites were located elsewhere; although the sites are unexcavated, it is possible that the enclosures **1** and **4** on Figure 1 are living sites.

Whether any of this prehistoric activity is related to the ring-ditches **7** and **17** is unclear.

Natural features

Numerically, the largest group of features (31) were of natural origin: 14 were natural channels, presumably of glacial origin, and 17 were pits (many of which may be tree-throw pits).

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mineral Services Ltd for commissioning and funding the work.

The project was managed by B Holloway, and the site work was carried out by M Baister, L Driver, B Hurrell, P Spencer, and N Rayner. Survey set-up was by C Lister and A Wightman, and digital survey was carried out by B Holloway and M Baister. Illustrations are by C Lister and E Spurgeon.

The project was monitored for the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) team by Adrian Gascoyne.

9 References

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|
| CAT | 2010 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching on land north of Carringtons Farm, Great Bromley, Essex (Slough Farm Site)</i> , November 2010 |
| Drury, P | 1978 | <i>Excavations at Little Waltham 1970-71</i> , CBA Research Report 26 |
| EAA 14 | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney |
| Gascoyne, A | 2010 | <i>Archaeological evaluation, Slough Farm reservoir site, Ardleigh, October 2010</i> (HEM brief) |
| Havis, R, & Brooks, H | 2004 | <i>Excavations at Stansted Airport, 1986-91</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, 107 |
| IfA | 2008a | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> |
| IfA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Major, H | 2004 | 'Stone objects', pp 135-8, in Havis & Brooks 2004 |
| MAP 2 | 1991 | <i>Management of archaeological projects</i> , second edition (EH) |
| <i>Old Maps</i> | | website at http://www.old-maps.co.uk : accessed 24/01/11 |
| Ryan, P | 1993 | 'A brick typology for Cressing Temple', pp 93-104, in <i>Cressing Temple: A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex</i> , ed by D D Andrews, ECC Planning Department |
| Sealey, P | 2007 | <i>A Late Iron Age warrior burial from Kelvedon, Essex</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, 118 |

10 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBA	Council for British Archaeology
context	specific location, especially one where finds are made
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a feature such as a pit or ditch
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
HEM	Historic Environment Management team (ECC)
Iron Age	period immediately pre-Roman, 700 BC to AD 43
Late Bronze Age	1000-700 BC
Late Iron Age	mid 2nd century BC to Roman invasion AD 43
modern	19th-21st centuries
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	period from 1530 to c 1800
prehistoric	belonging to the Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages (pre-Roman)
quern	stone on which grain was rubbed down into flour
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLIM 2010.101.

12 Contents of archive

Finds

1 'museum' box

Paper record

1 A4 wallet containing:

- copy of report
- original site record sheets
- photo. log
- sundry papers
- CD with digital images

13 Context list

italic = residual find

Context	Trench	Description	Finds	Date
F1	T24	ditch	-	?prehistoric
F2	T24	natural linear	-	
F3	T33	natural pit	-	
F4	T24	natural pit	-	
F5	T33	natural pit	-	
F6	T25	natural pit	-	
F7	T24	natural linear	-	
F8	T34	natural pit	-	
F9	T2	natural pit	-	
F10	T5	natural linear	-	
F11	T5	ditch	<i>flint, prehistoric (Late Iron Age) sherds</i>	post-medieval?
F12	T5	ditch	-	post-medieval?
F13	T8	ditch	clay pipe stem	post-medieval
F14	T6	ditch	<i>burnt flint</i>	undated (post-medieval?)
F15	T9	natural linear	-	
F16	T9	natural linear	-	
F17	T9	natural linear	-	
F18	T9	pit	clay pellet	prehistoric (Late Iron Age?)
F19	T9	natural linear	-	
F20	T17	ditch	<i>flint flake</i>	post-medieval
F21	T27	ditch	<i>flint flake, burnt flint</i>	undated (post-medieval?)
F22	T17	natural pit	-	
F23	T42	natural pit	-	
F24	T36	pit	Late Bronze Age pot	prehistoric (Late Bronze Age/Iron Age?)
F25	T36	ditch	-	undated (prehistoric?)
F26	T43	pit	burnt flint	prehistoric

Context	Trench	Description	Finds	Date
F27	T43	natural linear?	-	
F28	T47	natural pit	-	
F29	T47	natural linear	-	
F30	T47	natural pit	-	
F31	T50	natural pit	-	
F32	T48	natural linear	-	
F33	T48	natural linear	-	
F34	T45	natural pit	-	
F35	T28	natural pit	-	
F36	T29	natural pit	-	
F37	T38	pit	Late Iron Age pottery	prehistoric (Late Iron Age)
F38	T18	natural pit	-	
F39	T1	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F40	T1	post-hole?	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F41	T19	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F42	T18	natural linear	-	
F43	T37	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F44	T28	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F45	T38	ditch	saddle quern fragment?	prehistoric
F46	T1	ditch	-	prehistoric
F47	T19	natural linear	-	
F48	T1	natural pit	-	
F49	T1	post-hole	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F50	T39	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F51	T39	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F52	T1	ditch	flint	?prehistoric
F53	T1	natural pit	-	
F54	T1	post-hole	-	undated (post-medieval)
F55	T3	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F56	T12	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F57	T12	ditch	glass	post-medieval
F58	T21	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval)
F59	T2	ditch	-	?prehistoric
F60	T6	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F61	T31	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F62	T31	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F63	T22	natural linear	-	
F64	T22	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F65	T23	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F66	T23	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F67	T14	ditch	-	undated (post-medieval?)
L1	all	ploughsoil	-	modern
L2	all	accumulation horizon	-	post-Roman
L3	all	natural	-	post glacial
L4	T6	agricultural burning	peg-tile, burnt flint	post-medieval/modern

14 Bulk finds list by context

Trench no	context	context type	finds no	pottery no	pottery wt (g)	worked flint no	worked flint wt (g)	burnt flint no	burnt flint wt (g)	CBM no	CBM wt (g)	other finds/notes	finds spot date
T1	F52	ditch	11			1	4						prehistoric
T6	L4	dump	13							1	37	CBM = peg-tile (thickness 11mm)	medieval/post-medieval to modern
T8	F13	ditch	2									clay-pipe stem 1@7g (bore 2.5mm)	post-medieval to modern
T9	F18	pit	4									fired clay 1@3g	?prehistoric
T12	F57	ditch	12									glass 2@65g (flaking surfaces)	post-medieval/modern
T16	F14	ditch	3					1	37				?prehistoric
T17	F20	ditch	5			1	12						prehistoric
T25	F11/F12	gully	1	2	7	1	5						prehistoric Bronze Age/Late Iron Age
T27	F21	ditch	6			1	7						prehistoric
T36	F24	pit	7	1	9			1	8				prehistoric
T38	F37	gully	9	1	14								Late Iron Age
T38	F45	ditch										?quernstone piece 1@ 396g	?prehistoric
T43	F26	pit	8					1	15				?prehistoric

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2011

Distribution list:

Mineral Services Ltd

Keith Thompson

Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,

Colchester,

Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051

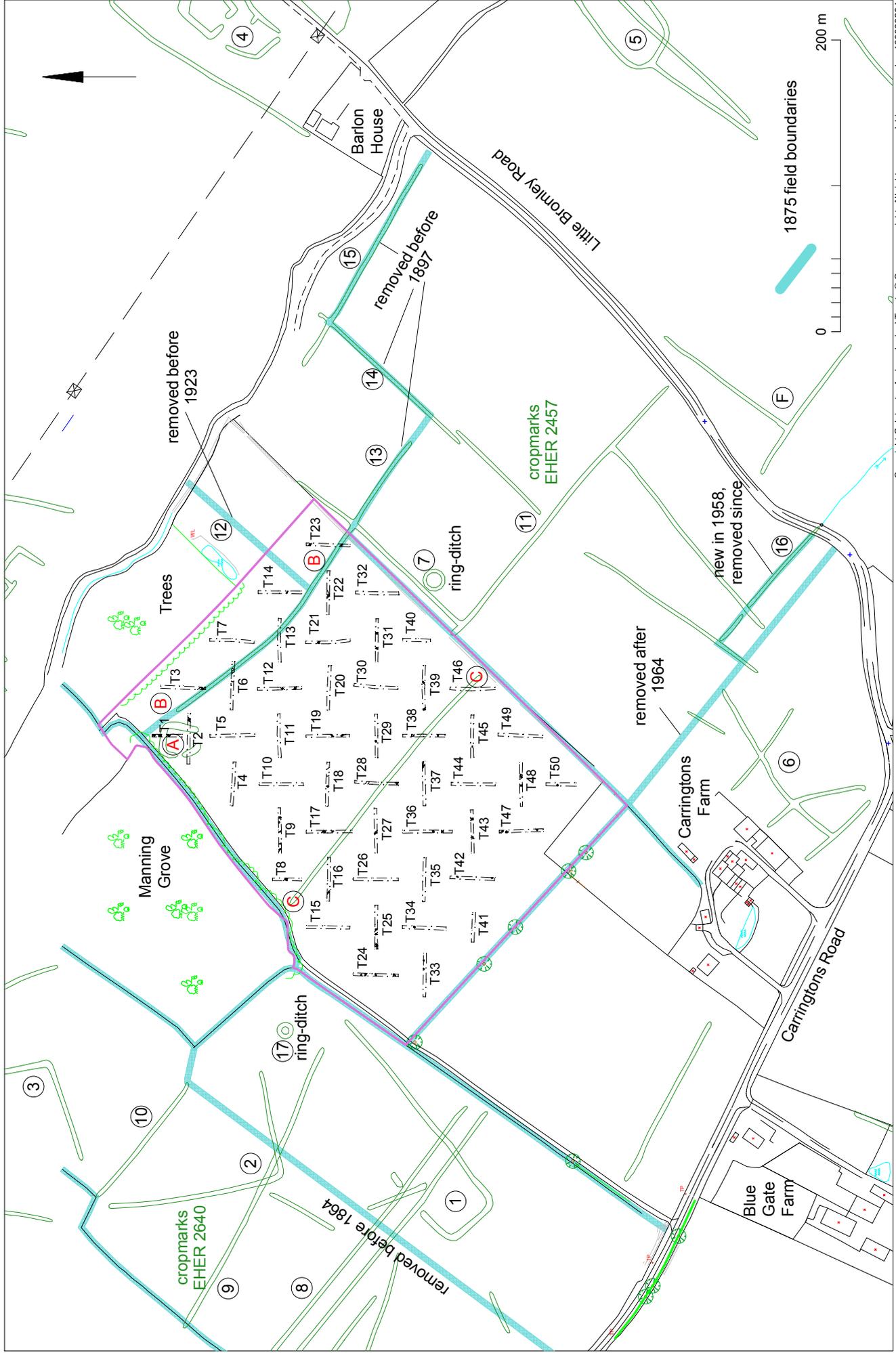
(01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 07.02.11

Adams x c:/reports 11/carringtons/report579.doc



Copyright Colchester Archaeological Trust. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location (pink) and trench positions in relation to cropmarks (green).

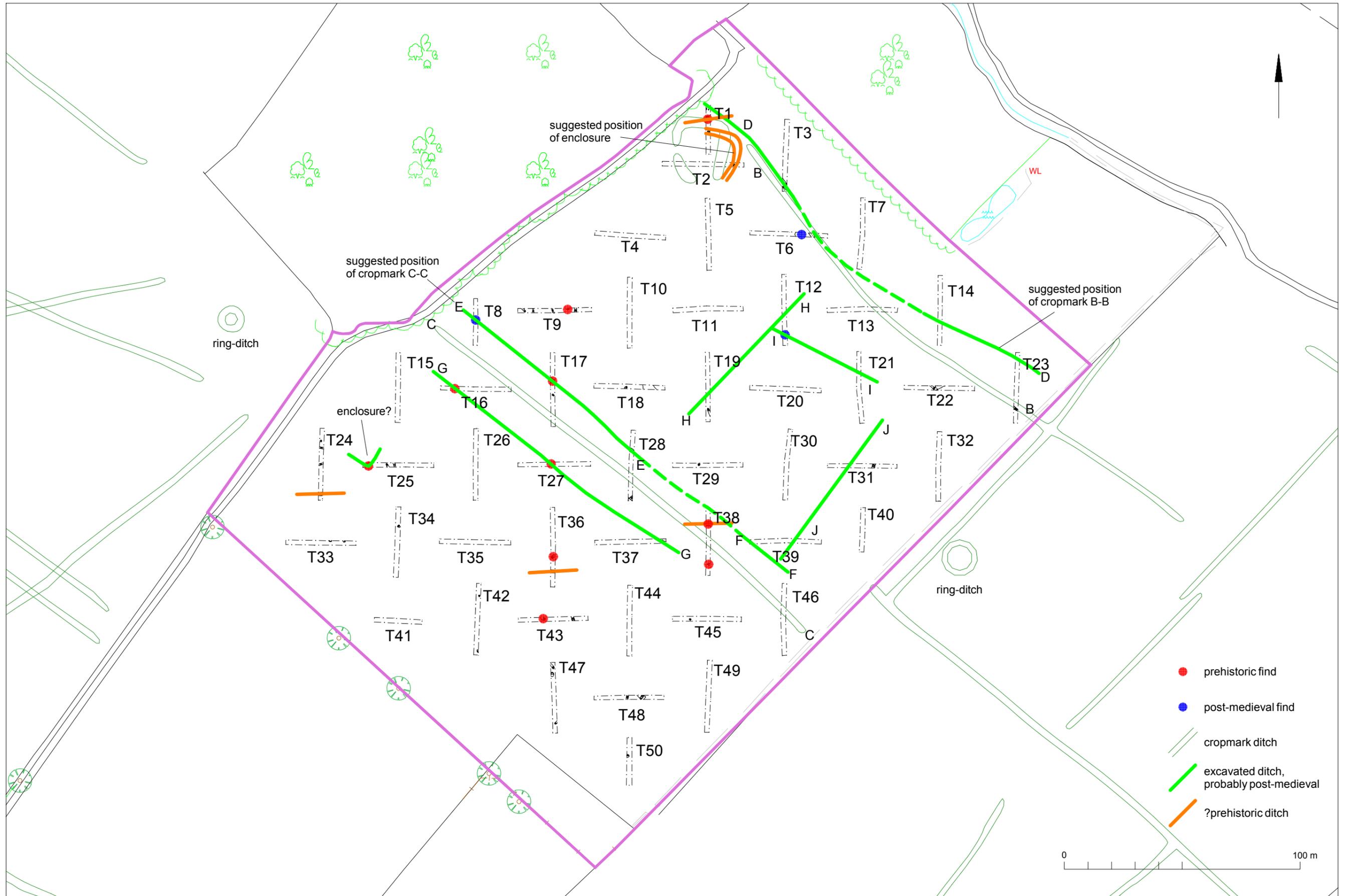


Fig 2 Trench positions, showing finds locations, and suggested correction to cropmark plot.

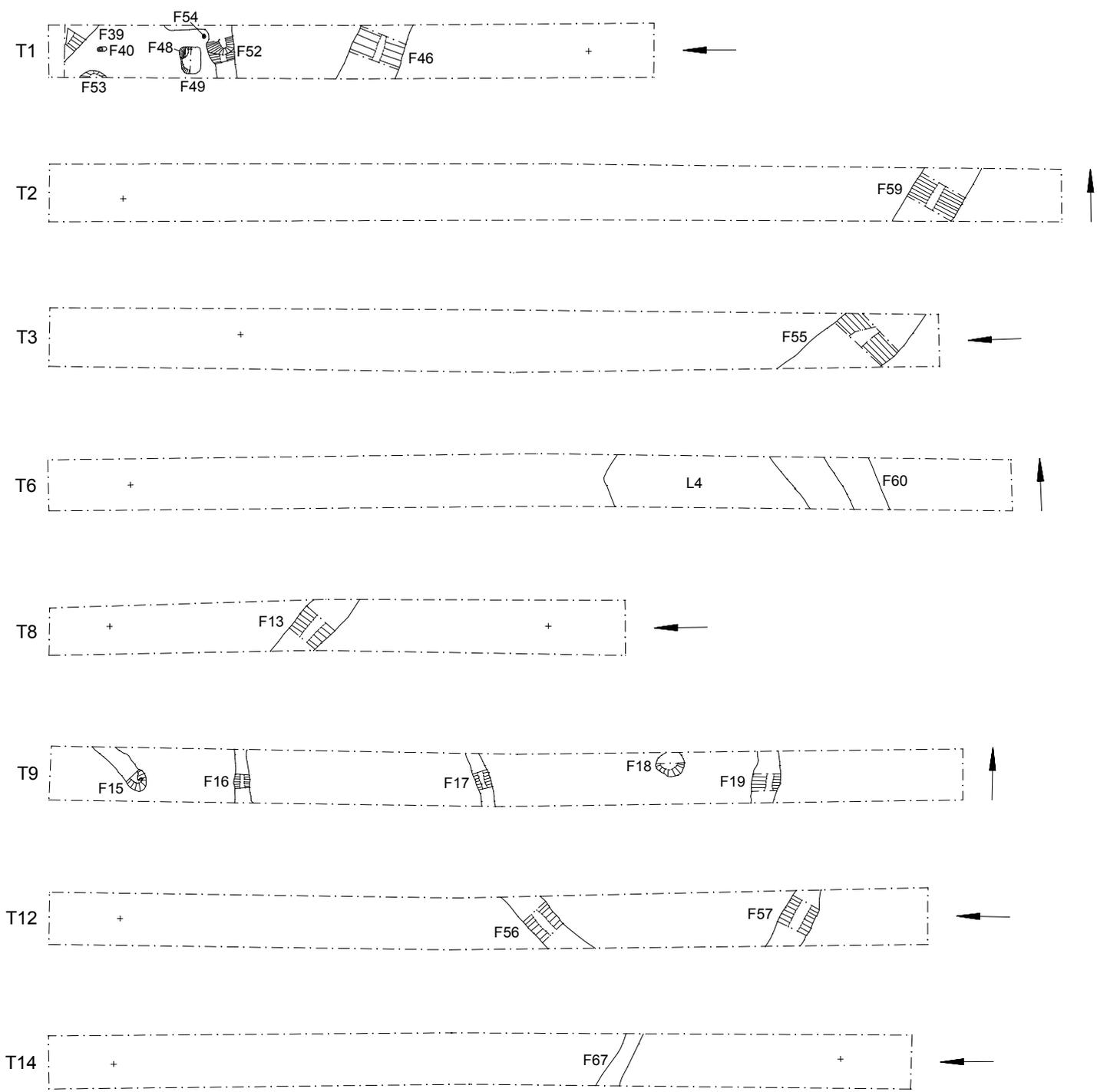


Fig 3 T1-T3, T6, T8-T9, T12, T14: trench plans.

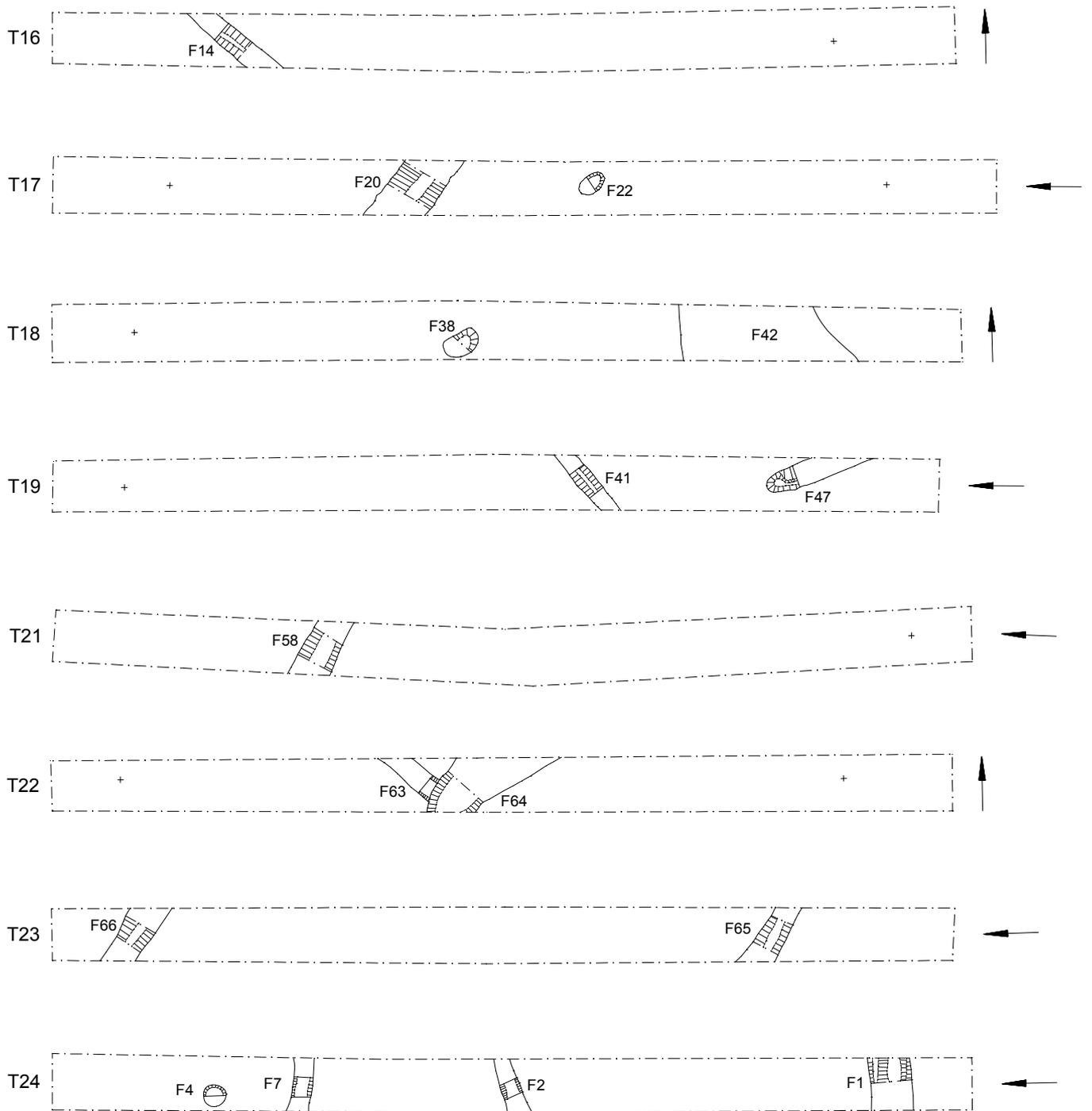


Fig 4 T16-T19, T21-T24: trench plans.

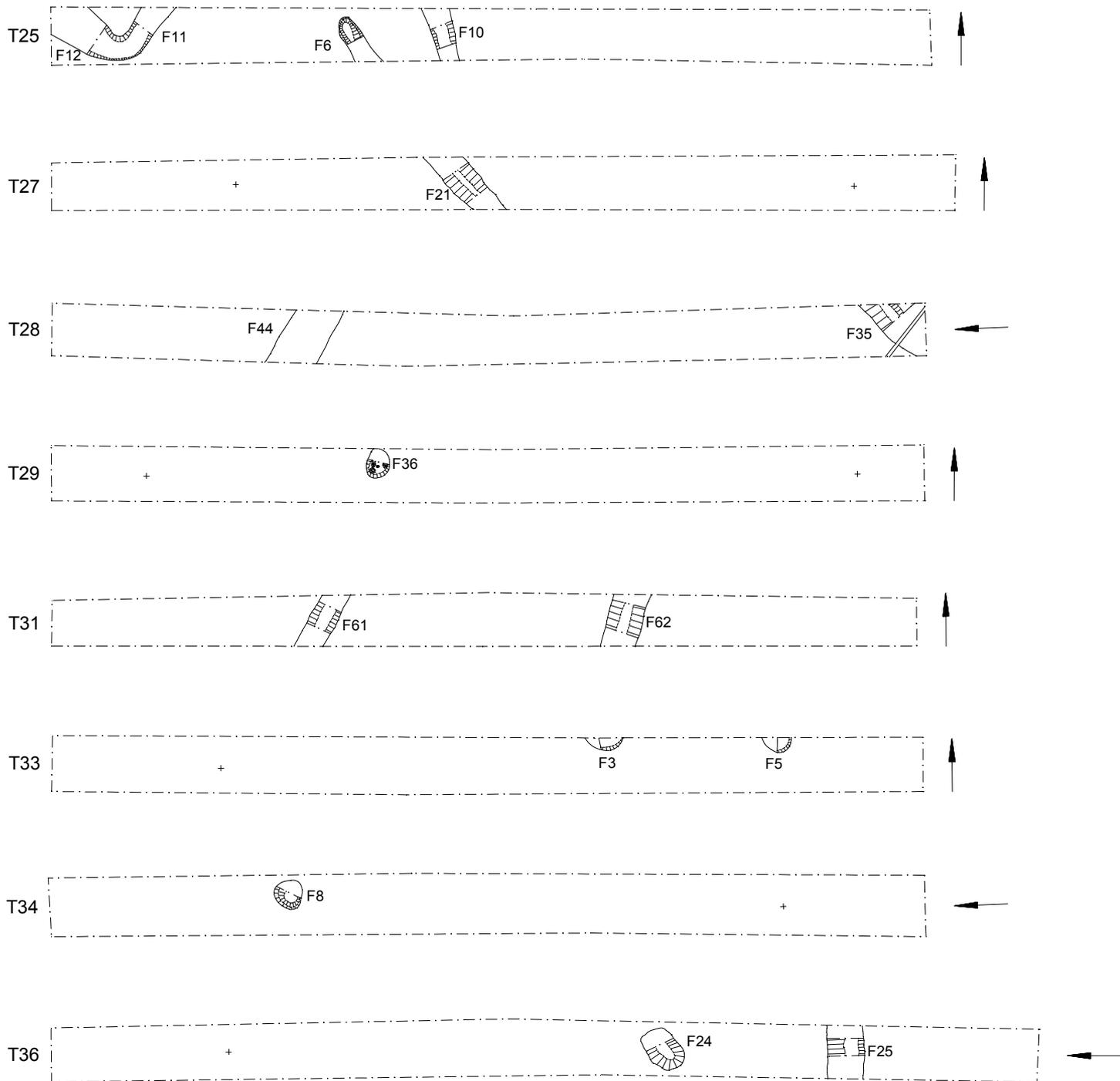


Fig 5 T25, T27-T29, T31, T33-T34, T36: trench plans.

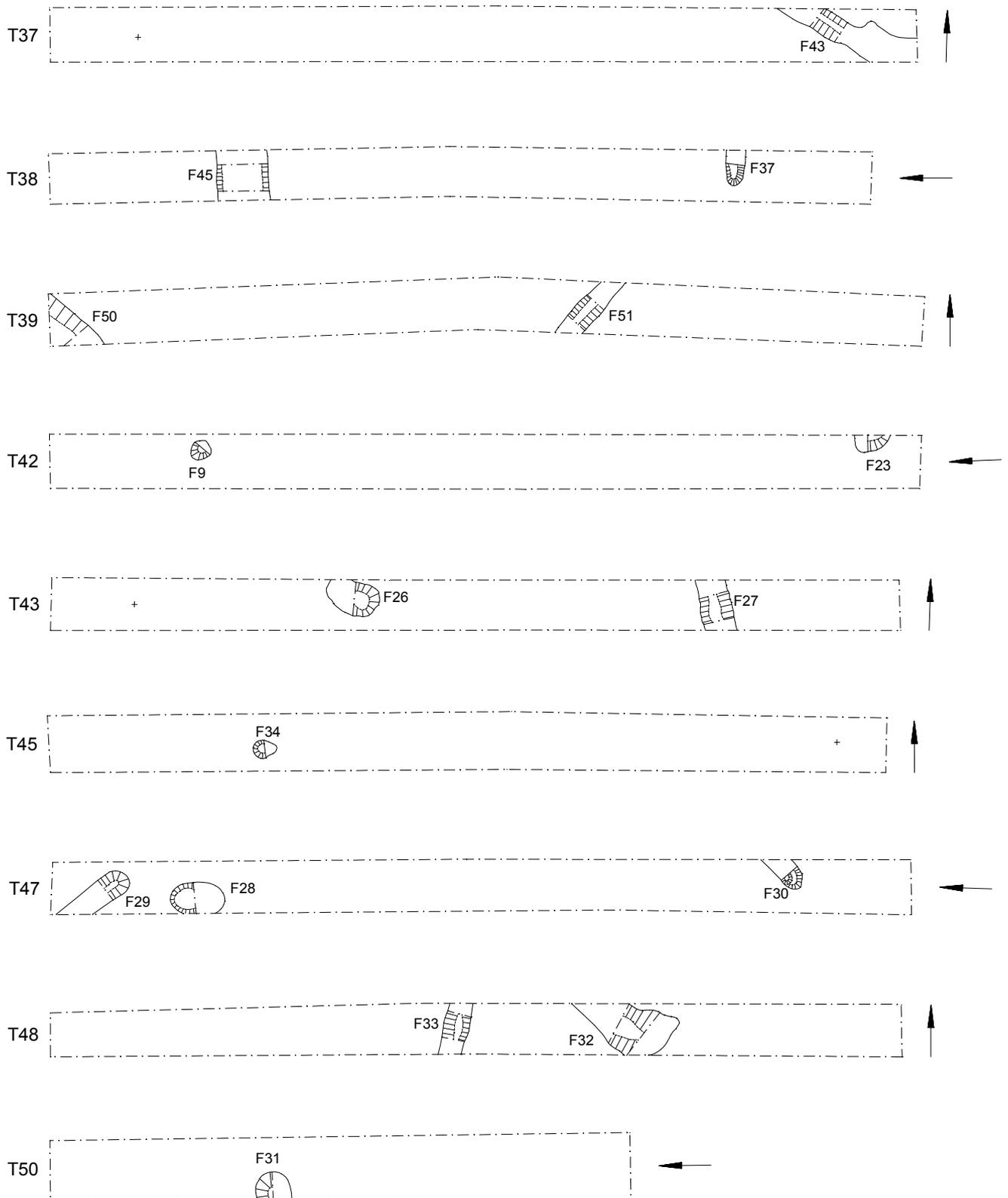


Fig 6 T37-T39, T42-T43, T45, T47-T48, T50: trench plans.

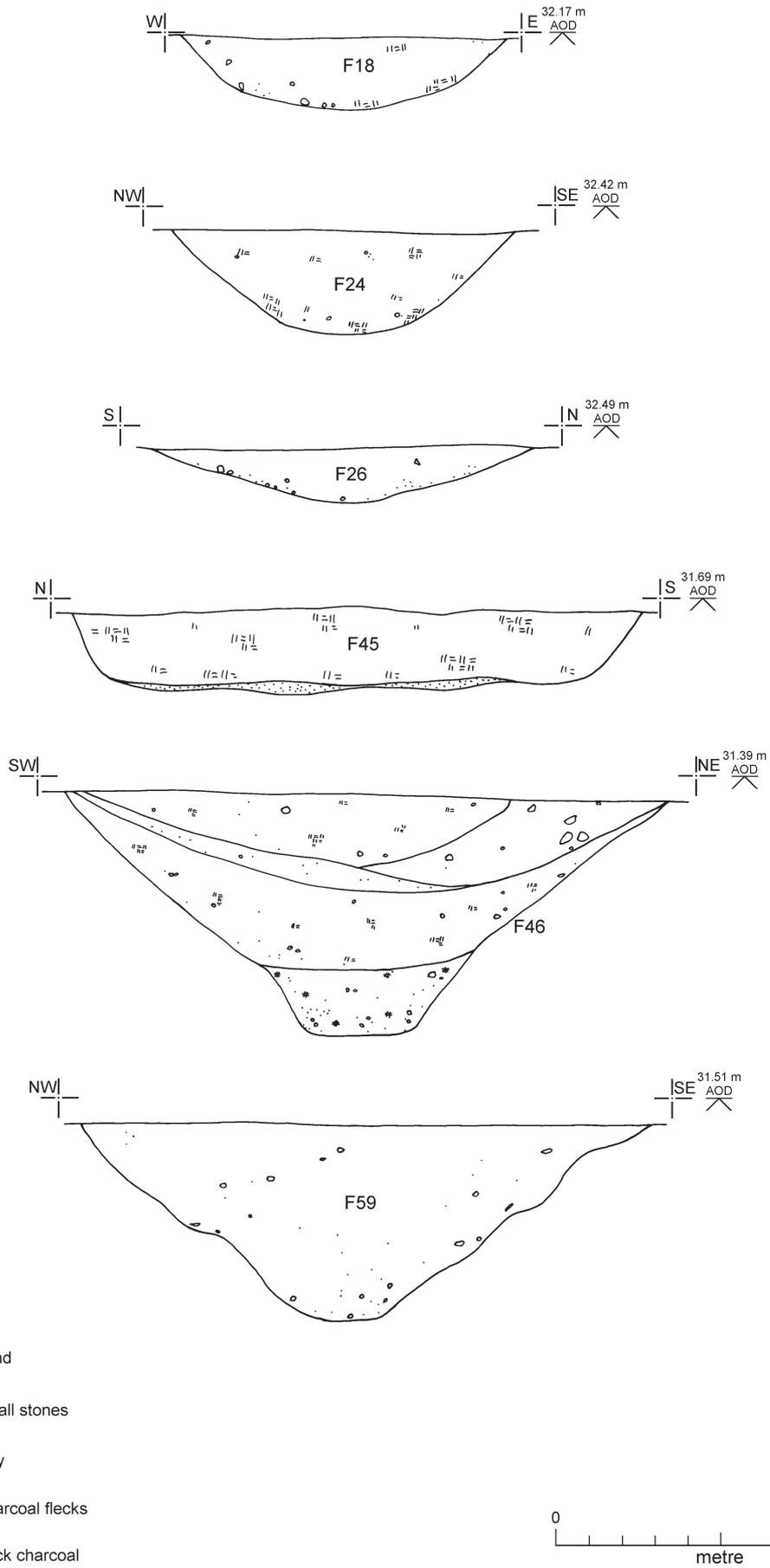


Fig 7 Prehistoric pits (F18, F24, F26, F45) and prehistoric ditches (F46, F59): sections.

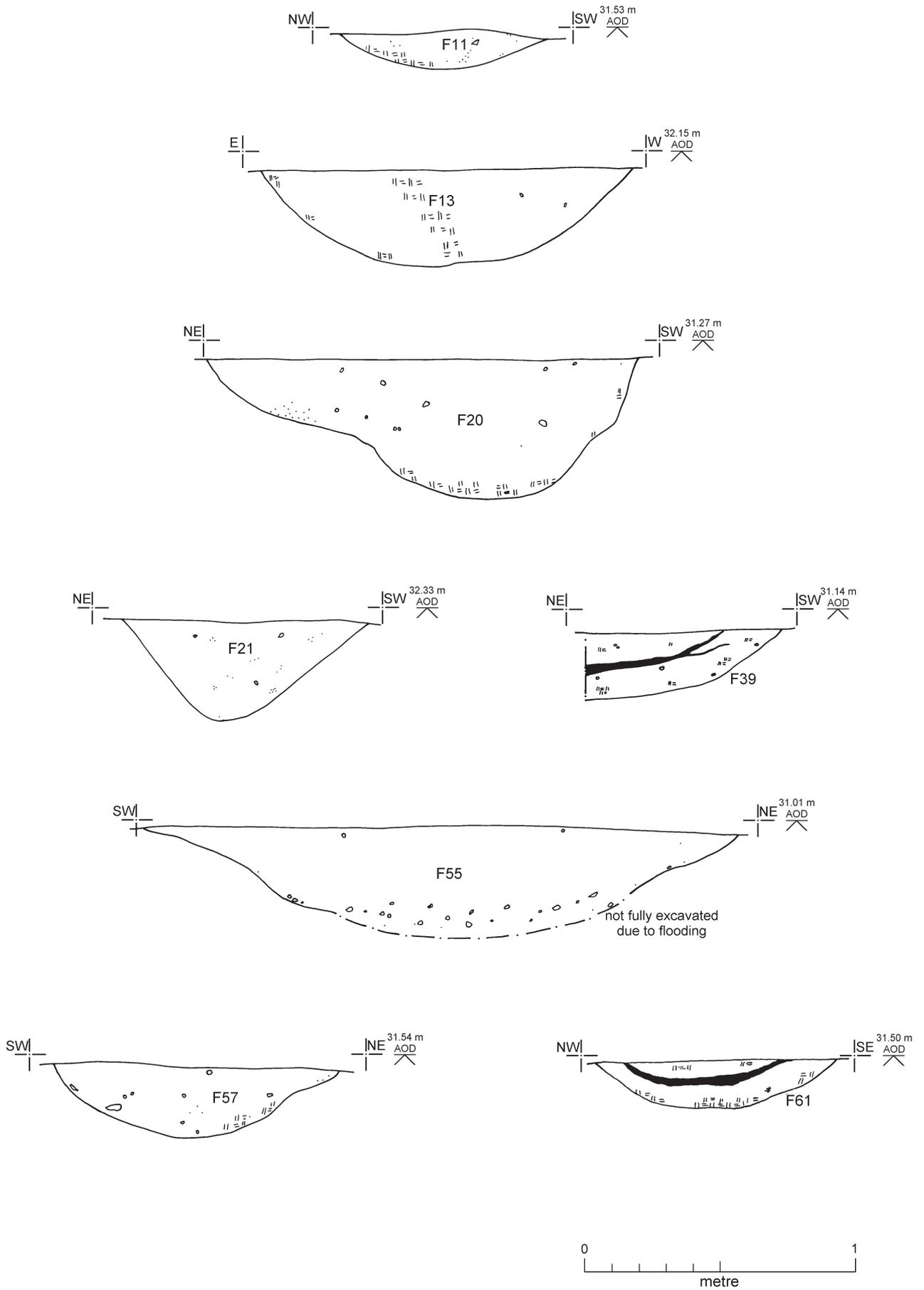


Fig 8 Post-medieval ditches (F11, F13, F20, F21, F39, F55, F57, F59, F61): sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Carringtons Farm, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley, Essex	
Parish: Great Bromley	District: Tendring
NGR: TM 08198 27425 (c)	Project codes: CAT: 10/11e HEM: GBY CF10 Museum accession: COLIM 2010.101
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: December 2010	Size of area investigated: 30 trenches (total length 841m) in a site of approximately 7.5 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related EHER nos: 2457, 2640
Final report: CAT Report 579 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: prehistoric, Late Iron Age, post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>Much of the Tendring peninsula is rich in cropmarks, and this part of Great Bromley is no exception. A 6.5ha field north of Carringtons Farm contains the cropmarks of a rectilinear field system and a small subrectangular enclosure. The cropmarks of the rectilinear field system continue on either side of the site, and there are ring-ditches (presumably ploughed-out burial mounds) to the west and east.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to mineral extraction and the creation of an agricultural reservoir, a 4% evaluation by 50 trenches found 67 archaeological features. The majority of these (31) were of natural origin.</i></p> <p><i>Twenty-one features were field ditches (mostly undated), which share a SW-NE alignment with the present-day field boundaries, and are probably part of the same field system (also undated, but presumed to be post-medieval).</i></p> <p><i>The small cropmark enclosure may be of prehistoric date. Together with three prehistoric pits, these demonstrate thinly-spread prehistoric activity here.</i></p> <p><i>There were also a few undated ditches on a W-E alignment. These would appear to be part of an earlier landscape which, given the presence of the prehistoric features and ring-ditches among the cropmarks, may be prehistoric in date.</i></p> <p><i>The position of the excavated field ditches shows that the cropmark plot is slightly in error. However, a small adjustment would bring it into line with the ditch positions revealed here.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
Keywords: prehistoric, pits, ring-ditch, post-medieval, field system	Significance: */**
Author of summary: Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway	Date of summary: February 2011