

# **Report on a watching brief on the Anglian Water Castle Hedingham to Halstead pipeline**

**December 1999-May 2000**

**on behalf of  
Anglian Water Plc**



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**CAT Report 85**

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on the  
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# 1 Summary

*A watching brief on the laying of a 4km-long water-pipe revealed a Roman ditch and pit at Castle Hedingham, close to the site previously excavated at the sourceworks in 1992 (Lavender 1996). The pit produced over 8kg of Roman brick and tile, reinforcing previous ideas that a demolished Roman building with a hypocaust lies upslope of the site. The ditch broadly followed the alignment of the 1992 features. There were other undated features, recent drain lines, and other features connected with the now-dismantled railway line. Loose surface finds included Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery, and a few struck prehistoric flints. Although no subsoil features were seen, a large group of burnt flints and a quantity of Roman pottery were found in the ploughsoil at TL 7915 3421; this may be on the periphery of a prehistoric and Roman site lying upslope of this spot.*

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1** This is the archive report on a watching brief carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between December 1999 and May 2000 on the laying of an Anglian Water pipeline from the existing sourceworks at Sheepcotes Road, Castle Hedingham (TL 7871 3478) to Doe's Corner, Halstead (TL 8048 3169).
- 2.2** The work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd.
- 2.3** All work was carried out according to a brief issued by Essex County Council Heritage Advice, Management and Promotion (ECC HAMP), who also monitored the project.
- 2.4** The 4km route traversed undulating topography of mainly open arable land and 'improved' grassland pasture. Along its route it crossed several minor roads, and also the River Colne at TL 801 321.

## 3 Archaeological background

The proposed route of the pipeline ran through or close to four archaeologically sensitive areas shown on the Essex Heritage Conservation Record (EHCR).

- 3.1** At the northern end of the pipeline, a Roman occupation site was excavated in 1992 during the construction of the Castle Hedingham sourceworks (EHCR 14538-9). The excavation uncovered evidence for Roman enclosure ditches of 2nd- to 3rd-century date, and industrial activity in the form of Roman ovens, two of which cut a 4th-century ditch (Lavender 1996).
- 3.2** A cropmark site west of Wallace's Plantation (EHCR 17192) includes undated linear field boundaries and pits. A number of undated earthworks (EHCR 14290-2) are visible in the water meadows beside the River Colne.
- 3.3** Finds ranging in date from prehistoric to medieval have been made at the River Colne crossing (EHCR 9348-52). Bronze Age flints, Roman tile, and medieval pottery (EHCR 6909-14, 9348, 9350) have been dredged from the river. Trenching was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Group in 1961-2 in an unsuccessful attempt to locate the Roman road (which should pass close to the railway bridge across the River Colne), and located quantities of medieval and Roman debris. It was also suspected that some of the material found was part of a causeway across the river.
- 3.4** Lying in the field north-east of Doe's Corner sourceworks is a group of three very fine ring ditches (EHCR 9464).

## **4 Methodology**

- 4.1** Contractors stripped the 14-21m pipeline easement using a 360° Hymac with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.2** Stripping started at the north end and worked south. However, this progress was not continued and some areas were stripped apparently out of sequence. The numbering of the various areas in which archaeological recording took place reflects the order on which the easement was stripped (see section 5 below). CAT observed stripping close to the known archaeological sites.
- 4.3** After the easement had been stripped, CAT staff walked the easements, looking for archaeological features. In addition, the spoil heaps were inspected for loose finds, and also scanned with a metal detector <sup>1</sup>. All finds from the spoilheaps or metal-detector scan were recovered for processing.

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<sup>1</sup> Viking 7MX2

- 4.4** In some areas, CAT cleaned the surface of the easement to look for features. The two areas where this was done are: **Area 1** near the sourceworks (because archaeological features were seen nearby in 1992, and because plough stripes were at first mistaken for archaeological features); and **Area 6.1** (where considerable quantities of surface finds were made).
- 4.5** A pipe trench was subsequently excavated by contractors to one side of the easement using a 1.8m claw bucket, allowing for two pipes to be positioned side by side in the trench. This process was observed at the points where there were surface finds or recorded features. The principal discoveries at this stage were confirmation that there were no subsoil features at Area 6.1 and the discovery of features in the section of the pipe trench at the Hedingham sourceworks end (Area 1).

## 5 Results

For the purposes of recording, the route of the pipeline was split into random areas (Figs 1-3). The boundaries of these areas were usually field boundaries, or changes in direction of the pipeline. Where the boundary between areas was not clear on modern maps, a squiggle is shown on Figures 1-3. The 4km-long route was therefore divided into eighteen areas of variable length (50-440m). Each area is discussed separately below.

### Area 1

**TL 7870 3480-TL 7877 3474** (70 metres) - arable (Figs 1, 5, 6)

*Location:* north of Sheepcote Road, adjacent to the Hedingham sourceworks

Cleaning of this area resulted in only a few finds which included sherds of Roman pottery and two flint blades. A considerable amount of cleaning was undertaken here because it was close to the 1992 excavation site. However, no archaeological features were uncovered, plough-marks being the only visible disturbance. It was confirmed later (when the pipe trench was cut) that a layer of colluvium covered the Roman features at this spot.

After the initial inspection of the easement, a later watching brief was maintained on the machining of the pipe trench across Sheepcote Road (to connect the pipe in Area 1 with the sourceworks). A trench 1.25m wide and 1.50m deep was

excavated. Backfilled roadside ditches were revealed either side of the metalled road surface. Three other features of archaeological origin were recorded (Figs 5 & 6). A pit (Feature 11 or F11) was uncovered beneath the modern road; this contained Roman pottery and tile. There was over 8kg of tile from this pit, indicating the presence of a nearby demolished Roman building. The other two features were revealed in Area 1, ie a north-south ditch F9 and a cut F10 which may be associated with the ditch or alternatively is a separate feature. Both of these features yielded finds of Roman date. Finds from ditch F9 suggest a date of the late 1st to the 2nd century. However, F10 has a single rim from a jar dated early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century. If this feature is associated with the ditch F9, then the ditch line becomes considerably later in date.

Comparison with the plan of the 1992 excavation shows that ditch F9 broadly follows the north-west/south-east alignment of the features of the 1992 2nd- to 3rd-century phase (Lavender 1996, figs 5-6).

### Area 1 finds

Bag no	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
1	u/s	1	6	Fe nail (discarded)	
1	u/s	1	15	grey ware base sherd	Roman
1	u/s	4	5	small grey ware sherds	probably Roman
1	u/s	1	5	Fabric 13 sandy orange ware	13th-16th centuries
1	u/s	1	5	Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th centuries
1	u/s	2	7	two smashed fragments, probably neither struck	prehistoric
2	u/s	2	5	two narrow utilised flake blades, very similar	prehistoric
13	u/s	1	82	Fe object, probably shattered nail (discarded)	
13	u/s	1	20	coke fragment (discarded)	
25	F9	42	395	Roman sherds - see report	
26	F10	1	80	Roman tile fragment	Roman
26	F10	8	60	tile fragments probably Roman	Roman
26	F10	1	35	Fe nail	?
26	F10	1	5	Roman sherds - see report	Roman?
27	F11	1	2	orange ware sherd	late Roman
27	F11	9	127	Roman sherds - see report	Roman
27	F11	10	6250	Roman brick; typically 30mm thick, with grey core	Roman
27	F11	9	1792	Roman roof tile including two flanges; typically 14-25mm thick	Roman
27	F11	1	130	Combed box-tile fragment, 15mm thick	Roman
28	u/s	1	28	Roman grey ware sherd	Roman
28	u/s	2	649	Roman tile fragments	Roman
28	u/s	2	25	undated tile fragments	?

## Area 2

**TL 7877 3474-TL 7882 3472** (50 metres) - arable (Fig 2)

*Location:* north-west of Sheepcote Road and Maiden Ley Farm

A short flat stretch bounded by ditch. Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.

### Area 2 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
4	u/s	1	4	sherd of dark green glass from a post-medieval wine bottle	post-medieval
4	u/s	1	5	sherd Fabric 40	16th-19th centuries
4	u/s	1	2	sherd Fabric 20 medieval grey sandy ware	12th-13th centuries

## Area 3

**TL 7882 3472-TL 7897 3460** (180 metres) - arable (Fig 2)

*Location:* north of Green Crofts and Sheepcote Road

Gently rising south-east, bounded by ditch and road. Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.

### Area 3 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
15	u/s	1	111	circular, flat lead disc - 63mm diameter, thickness 1.5-3mm; back section of a two-part post-medieval cloth seal	post-medieval
15	u/s	2	70	sundry Fe fragments, almost certainly agricultural in origin (discarded)	
15	u/s	1	3	fragment of burnt flint	prehistoric
15	u/s	1	1	end of snapped blade, probably never used	prehistoric
15	u/s	1	41	fragment of smashed flint nodule	prehistoric?

## Area 4

**TL 7897 3460-TL 7904 3448** (180 metres) - improved grassland pasture (Fig 2)

*Location:* south-west of Hopwell's Farm

Level area of land bounded by road and stream. Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.



## Area 5

**TL 7904 3448-TL 7908 3427** (220 metres) - improved grassland pasture (Fig 2)

*Location:* south-west of Hopwell's Farm

Gently rising southwards, steeper near the road, bounded by stream and road. Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.

### Area 5 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
7	u/s	1	84	Fe object, unknown use, probably recent agricultural use	
7	u/s	1	10	fragment of burnt flint	Prehistoric
7	u/s	1	15	waste flake, probably reused with secondary working	prehistoric
18	u/s	6	215	one Fe wire loop, five Fe nails (discarded)	
18	u/s	2	27	fragments of burnt flint	Prehistoric

## Area 6

**TL 7908 3427-TL 7926 3412** (225 metres) - arable (Fig 1)

*Location:* north-east of Alderford Farm

Very slight rise, then steeply down south-east to stream valley; bounded by road and stream.

There is a hill crest at TL 7915 3421, from where the land slopes away south-east down to a small stream valley. At the crest, a localised concentration of pottery and burnt flint was recovered from the spoil (Area 6.1). Careful cleaning did not highlight any archaeological features - the only visible features were criss-crossing plough stripes. However, south of this scatter and downslope of it <sup>2</sup> a shallow 'saucer'-shaped cut was visible in section in the pipe trench, some 20m wide and 0.45m deep. This was sketched (note in archive), but there was no datable material in its exposed face. It was too dangerous to excavate this context because the pipe trench was 4m deep and in soft ground. The size and the uneven profile of the reverse face of the section of this feature suggested a filled-in hedge ditch or tree-root hole.

<sup>2</sup>

at TL 7915 3420

## Area 6 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
8	u/s	26	436	Roman sherds - see report	
8	u/s	1	5	Fabric 48d sherd	19th-20th centuries
8	u/s	1	5	Fabric 48d sherd	19th-20th centuries
8	u/s	6	126	fragments of burnt flint	prehistoric
8	u/s	1	9	small scraper	prehistoric
8	u/s	1	10	utilised flake blade	prehistoric
9	u/s	2	23	slate fragments	post-medieval
9	u/s	1	20	sherd Fabric 13 or 20	12th-13th centuries
9	u/s	1	12	Fabric 40 PMRE	16th-19th centuries
9	u/s	1	2	Fabric 48d modern china	19th-20th centuries
9	u/s	1	7	fragment of burnt flint	prehistoric
9	u/s	1	1	fragment/spall of white flint: not struck	?
10	u/s	1	42	fragment of burnt flint	prehistoric
10	u/s	1	3	waste flake; probably never used	prehistoric?

## Area 7

**TL 7926 3412-TL 7943 3398** (240 metres) - improved grassland pasture (Fig 1)

*Location:* north of Purlshill Plantation, rises southwards

Bounded by stream and direction change. Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.

## Area 7 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
11	u/s	1	4	snapped end of blade, heavily patinated flint; might not be product of flint knapping	prehistoric?
16	u/s	10	219	sundry Fe fragments, almost certainly agricultural in origin (discarded)	modern
16	u/s	1	1	pale green glass sherd	post-medieval
16	u/s	1	5	grey ware sherd	Roman

## Area 8

**TL 7943 3398-TL 7950 3378** (210 metres) - improved grassland pasture (Fig 1)

*Location:* north-east of Purlshill Plantation

Rises southwards to road south west of 'Purlshill'. Stripping of this area revealed no visible archaeological features.

## Area 8 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
12	u/s	4	96	Fe nails (discarded)	
17	u/s	1	5	stoneware sherd Fabric 45	16th-17th centuries
17	u/s	1	9	fragment of smashed or spalled flint: not struck	?

## Area 9

**TL 7964 3282-TL 7986 3247** (400 metres) - rough grassland (Figs 2 & 8)

*Location:* south-west of Wallace's Plantation, west of dismantled railway

This area lies within EHCR 14290-2 where a number of earthworks are visible in the water meadows which lie to the east of the River Colne, and extend to the base of the now disused railway embankment. The water meadows comprise a wet rough grassland habitat.

The width of the easement along this stretch was 14m. Initial stripping of the topsoil (L2) exposed a fairly uniform clay substrate (L3). Two ditch lines were revealed (Fig 8). A long linear ditch-line F2 was exposed for approximately 80m. The Ordnance survey 1:10,000 sheet<sup>3</sup> shows this feature, thus confirming its modern origin. South of F2 was a larger ditch F3 (3m wide) which cut across the width of the easement. A slot 0.30m wide was excavated across it, in which a large concrete drain-pipe was located (0.30m below site level) and part of a wooden fence stake, both of which confirm the recent date of this feature (which also shows on the OS sheet as one of a series of approximately parallel ditches draining south-west into the river).

At the southern end of this area, the stripping uncovered a large area of very dark organically rich soil with the remains of rotted tree debris (F5). Its extent was unknown at this stage, because it was masked by a layer of clay. Subsequent machining of the pipe trench revealed that this organic layer extended continuously beneath a 0.20m-thick clay deposit. This layer (L4, 0.50m thick) was very 'peaty', suggesting that the environment was marshy along this section of the river floodplain. A similar peaty layer was seen on the scraped easement surface near the river crossing (ie in Area 15). This indicates that the peat is not a closed deposit but a surface layer of probably recent origin. As mentioned below, there is good reason to see the clay dumped over it at the river crossing as being related to the construction of the railway embankment. Apart from being a place to dispose of

excess waste material, the dumping of clay may have raised ground level to render the land useful for grazing. Metal-detector finds from the topsoil included horseshoes and chain links. Towards the north end of this area, the organic deposit peters out and is replaced by a grey clay layer with silt to a depth of approximately 0.50m below easement level, sealed by orange clay. This could indicate the limits of floodplain washed silts.

A small area of stones and peg-tile fragments (F4) also appeared to be a modern feature, possibly relating to the time of construction of the railway embankment (Fig 8).

### Area 9 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
19	F3	2	158	modern concrete lumps (one discarded)	?
20	F4	1	55	peg-tile	medieval
20	F4	1	65	abraded sherd of ?Roman ?storage jar or unusual peg-tile	?
20	F4	1	44	peg-tile fragment in very sandy fabric	post-medieval
22	u/s	1	142	Fe chain - certainly recent (discarded)	
22	u/s	1	366	tine off agricultural rake or drill (discarded)	
22	u/s	2.5	961	Fe horseshoes (discarded)	

### Area 10

**TL 7957 3324-TL 7964 3282** (440 metres) - arable/semi-natural grassland (Fig 2)

*Location:* west of Wallace's Plantation

This area incorporates ECHR 17192, a series of cropmarks recorded from aerial photography. Two of the features (F7 and F8), revealed after stripping of the easement, were identified as those on either side of the ploughed-out railway embankment. Excavation of the pipe trench showed the ditch to the north-east of the embankment to be approximately 2.75m wide and over 1.5m deep, while the south-west ditch was 3m wide and over 1.8m deep. These two ditches were on either side of a deposit of gravels in coarse sand L6, which almost certainly resulted from the upcast of the adjacent ditches during construction. A shallow ditch nearby (F6), which yielded no finds, is most likely the remains of an old field boundary shown on the OS 1:10,000 sheet <sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> TL 73 SE, 1976

<sup>4</sup> TL 73 SE, 1976

## Area 10 finds

<b>Finds</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Qt</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
24	u/s	1	390	Fe horseshoe fragment and two nails	?
24	u/s	1	70	Roman? tile	Roman?
24	u/s	1	40	undated tile	?
24	u/s	2	50	rim sherds of Fabric 40 post-medieval red earthenware (PMRE)	16th-19th centuries

## Area 11

**TL 7956 3342 -TL 7957 3324** (150 metres) - arable (Fig 2)

*Location:* north-west of Wallace's Plantation

Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.

## Area 12

**TL 7948 3357-TL 7956 3342** (190 metres) - arable (Fig 2)

*Location:* north-west of Wallace's Plantation

Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.

## Area 13

**TL 7952 3378-TL 7948 3357** (225 metres) - grassland/scrub (Fig 2)

*Location:* south-east of Purlshill Plantation

Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.

## Area 14

**TL 7986 3247-TL 7986 3247** (250 metres) - improved grassland pasture (Fig 2)

*Location:* east of Sparrows Farm, west of dismantled railway

Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features.

## Area 15

**TL 7986 3247-TL 8012 3210** (470 metres) - improved grassland pasture (Fig 2)

*Location:* north of Brook Street Farm, between dismantled railway and east/north banks of the River Colne

The initial inspection of this stripped area revealed a number of patches of peaty-looking topsoil on the easement surface on the north side of the river (similar to those in Area 9 below). Standing on the north bank of the River Colne and looking south over the river, the same deposit was seen, but in section and sealed by a 1m depth of brickearthy-type clay. How old is this deposit? Two points should be sufficient to clarify this. First, a piece of modern salt-glazed pipe and a 19th-/20th-century sherd were recovered from the peat layer on the north bank. Second, the brickearth sealing the peat on the south side of the river also sealed a wooden base plate supporting a rickety wooden fence post. This fence is clearly quite old, a century or so perhaps, and is definitely part of the railway whose boundary it defines. It seems quite evident that the peat layer was at one time on the surface of this field, and that it was sealed by the dumping of clay at the time of the construction of the railway, which runs immediately to the east of this spot.

Three pieces of engineering then took place in 2000: first, a pipe was laid in the bed of the River Colne; second, loose soil was pushed over this to provide a dry bridge; and third, two deep holes were excavated (partly through recently dumped soil), one on each bank, to insert a permanent pipe under the river. It was at the time when the two holes were open that the sections on Figure 7 were drawn. These show the peat as if buried below old land surface, but on the north bank material was dumped over it in 2000, and on the south bank at the time of the construction of the railway.

After the initial installation of a section of pipe beneath the channel of the River Colne, two deep trenches were excavated to the north and south sides of the river to a depth of approximately 2m. Earlier machining had already destroyed the uppermost stratigraphy; however, the lower layers were exposed in section. These showed that an orange brown clay layer sealed an organic rich 'peaty' deposit, somewhat similar to that recorded in Area 9.

## Area 15 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
29	u/s	1	6	fragment of burnt flint	prehistoric
31	peat	1	130	modern ceramic drain-pipe fragment	modern
32	peat	1	5	Fabric 48d sherd	19th-20th centuries

## Area 16

**TL 8012 3210-TL 8020 3201** (120 m) - improved grassland pasture (Fig 3)

*Location:* north of Brook Street Farm, between dismantled railway and south bank of the River Colne

Stripping of this area revealed no archaeological features. There were a few loose finds of pot/tile and a struck flint. Four sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the surface of the easement, 57m south of the south bank of the River Colne. Despite careful cleaning, no subsoil features were seen.

## Area 16 finds

Finds	Context	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
30	u/s	1	35	PMRE sherd	16th-19th centuries
30	u/s	4	20	Roman grey ware sherds	Roman
33	u/s	1	23	Fabric 40 PMRE or glazed tile fragment?	16th-19th centuries
33	u/s	1	14	large retouched flake with part of cortex along one side; utilised flake blade	prehistoric

## Area 17

**TL 8020 3201-TL 8039 3187** (240 metres) - improved grassland pasture (Fig 3)

*Location:* south-west of Doe's Corner, west side of dismantled railway

Stripping of this areas left several patches of darker soil, which upon investigation contained peg-tile and modern brick. A shallow feature filled with grey silty clay over a stony layer was recorded in the section of the pipe trench, though no finds were recovered. This feature was thought to be of natural origin.

## Area 18

**TL 8039 3187-TL 8048 3170** (200 metres) - sourceworks land (Fig 3)

*Location:* Doe's Corner sourceworks

A short length of modern service-pipe trench was observed near the entrance gate to the sourceworks. No archaeological features were observed.

## 6 The finds

### 6.1 The Roman pottery

*by Stephen Benfield*

Roman pottery, recovered from two discrete locations along the course of the pipeline - Area 1 (TL 7870 3480), the pipe trench crossing the road at the Castle Hedingham source works, and Area 6.1 (TL 7915 3421) - is described below. Other Roman material from various unstratified locations along the pipeline is included in the table (see below). The pottery forms listed are those of the Camulodunum (CAM) Colchester Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958), and pottery form dates follow those of Symonds & Wade 1999.

#### 6.1.1 Roman pottery from Area 1

Approximately 533g of Roman pottery were recovered from three features: a ditch (F9), a feature (F10) which is either part of the ditch or is a separate pit, and a small pit (F11). The majority of the pottery (395g) came from the ditch, with 11g from F10 and the remaining 127g from F11.

The pottery from the ditch (F9) consists of sherds from at least three vessels:

- A.** A group of sherds, several joining, from a wide mouth bowl with shoulder cordon in (Romanising) grey ware with a brown/reddish-brown core and grey surfaces. The cordon is decorated with angled burnished lines. CAM 218c, dated 1st to early 2nd century.
- B.** Several joining sherds from a jar with upright slightly hooked rim and high shoulder in (gritty) sandy grey ware with red-brown core and grey surfaces. CAM 266, dated 1st century.
- C.** Several body sherds from a large beaker decorated with panels of raised dots. The fabric is red with very dark grey/black surfaces and a smoothed exterior, probably late 1st to 2nd century.

Of the small quantity of sherds from the other two features, there is only one significant piece - a jar rim from F10 in sandy grey ware with a pale grey core and grey surfaces which corresponds to CAM 268 dated early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century. The pottery from F11 consists of sherds of Roman grey ware and one orange oxidised sherd which is also considered to be of Roman date.

The pottery from the three features is all of Roman date. The three vessels from the ditch (F9) suggest that this feature can be dated to the earlier Roman period of the late 1st or 2nd century, though if F10 is part of this same ditch then it should date to after the earlier to mid 2nd century.



### 6.1.2 Roman pottery from Area 6.1

A small quantity of pottery was recovered from this area as a localised group in spoil deposited along the pipeline easement. No features were located in the vicinity and not all of the pottery recovered is necessarily of Roman date. The majority of the pottery can be broadly divided into two groups: there is approximately 380g of grey ware, all of which is Roman or probably Roman, together with a few Roman sherds in other fabrics; and a further 50g of abraded orange oxidised ware sherds which may be Roman, though it should be noted that there is also one sherd of modern glazed pottery with this collection of material.

Amongst the definite Roman sherds are:

- A. A rim from a CAM 305 flanged bowl in sandy grey ware with a grey-brown core and grey surfaces, and which can be dated to the later 3rd to 4th century.
- B. A narrow pedestal base, possibly from a beaker, in grey ware with a grey core and lighter grey surfaces. The exterior surface has close-set horizontal burnished lines which ring the body. Probably of later Roman date.
- C. A sherd from a narrow necked jar or flask with a bead rim in sandy grey ware with a dark grey core and grey surfaces.
- D. Small joining sherds from a medium sized hooked rim jar in heavily (organic) tempered fabric with a grey-black core and brown-to pale brown exterior surfaces.
- E. Sherd with white/cream slip surface, fabric orange-brown with pale brown core.

In the oxidised sherds there is only one rim:

- A. Rim sherd in sandy orange oxidised fabric with traces of darker orange surface and burnishing. Corresponds to CAM 317, dated late 3rd to 4th century.

The small amount of Roman pottery from Area 6.1 which can be identified and dated is of late Roman (later 3rd- to 4th-century) date. There is also one undated small flint-tempered sherd with the material from Area 6.1. The sherd is 0.9cm thick with red brown fabric and brown surfaces, while the flint inclusions are of small to medium size and moderate to common.

#### Roman pottery table

Bag no	Context	Area	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
1	u/s	1	1	15	grey ware base sherd	Roman
1	u/s	1	4	5	small grey ware sherds	probably Roman
8	u/s	6	26	436	Roman sherds - see report above	
16	u/s	7	1	5	grey ware sherd	Roman
20	F4	9	1	65	abraded sherd of ?Roman ?storage jar or unusual peg-tile	?
25	F9	1	42	395	Roman sherds - see report above	
26	F10	1	1	5	Roman sherds - see report above	Roman?
27	F11	1	9	127	Roman sherds - see report above	Roman
28	u/s	1	1	28	Roman grey ware sherd	Roman
30	u/s	16	4	20	Roman grey ware sherd	Roman

## 6.2 The medieval and post-medieval pottery

by Howard Brooks

There is a very small quantity of unstratified medieval and later pottery <sup>5</sup>. This includes medieval Fabrics 13 (early medieval sandy grey ware) and 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), but predominantly Fabrics 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE) and 48d (modern earthenwares).

Bag no	Context	Area	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
1	u/s	1	1	5	Fabric 13 sandy orange ware	13th-16th centuries
1	u/s	1	1	5	Fabric 40 PMRE	16th-19th centuries
4	u/s	2	1	5	sherd Fabric 40	16th-19th centuries
4	u/s	2	1	2	sherd Fabric 20 medieval grey sandy ware	12th-13th centuries
8	u/s	6	1	5	Fabric 48d sherd	19th-20th centuries
8	u/s	6	1	5	Fabric 48d sherd	19th-20th centuries
9	u/s	6	1	20	sherd Fabric 13 or 20	12th-13th centuries
9	u/s	6	1	12	Fabric 40 PMRE	16th-19th centuries
9	u/s	6	1	2	Fabric 48d modern china	19th-20th centuries
13	u/s	1	1	20	coke fragment (discarded)	
17	u/s	8	1	5	stoneware sherd Fabric 45	16th-17th centuries
20	F4	9	1	44	peg-tile fragment in very sandy fabric	post-medieval
24	u/s	10	2	50	rim sherds Fabric 40 post-medieval red earthenware (PMRE)	16th-19th centuries
28	u/s	1	2	649	Roman tile fragments	Roman
28	u/s	1	2	25	undated tile fragments	?
30	u/s	16	1	35	PMRE sherd	16th-19th centuries
32	u/s	15	1	5	Fabric 48d sherd	19th-20th centuries

## 6.3 Flints

by Philip Crummy

Note: *italicised* items are certainly or probably tools.

Bag no	Context	Area	Qt	Wt	Comment
1	u/s	1	2	7	two smashed fragments, probably neither struck
2	u/s	1	2	5	<i>two narrow utilised flake blades, very similar</i>
7	u/s	5	1	10	fragment of burnt flint
7	u/s	5	1	15	waste flake; probably reused with secondary working
8	u/s	6	6	126	fragments of burnt flint
8	u/s	6	1	9	<i>small scraper</i>
8	u/s	6	1	10	<i>utilised flake blade</i>
9	u/s	6	1	7	fragment of burnt flint
9	u/s	6	1	1	fragment/spall of white flint: not struck
10	u/s	6	1	42	fragment of burnt flint
10	u/s	6	1	3	waste flake; probably never used
11	u/s	7	1	4	snapped end of blade, heavily patinated flint; might not be product of flint knapping
15	u/s	3	1	3	fragment of burnt flint
15	u/s	3	1	1	end of snapped blade, probably never used
15	u/s	3	1	41	fragment of smashed flint nodule
17	u/s	8	1	9	fragment of smashed or spalled flint: not struck
18	u/s	5	2	27	fragments of burnt flint
29	u/s	15	1	6	fragment of burnt flint
33	u/s	16	1	14	<i>large retouched flake with part of cortex along one side;</i>

<sup>5</sup>

fabric descriptions here are after Cotter forthcoming (CAR 7) and Cunningham 1985

Bag no	Context	Area	Qt	Wt	Comment
					utilised flake blade

### Comment

The most significant pieces are the scraper (33) and the two flake blades (2), which are probably Neolithic or Bronze Age. The burnt flint all looks like burnt flint pebbles which have fractured as a result of heating and cooling.

## 6.4 Other finds

Apart from the finds listed above, other finds were as follows (weights are grammes).

Bag no	Context	Area	Qt	Wt	Description	Date
1	u/s	1	1	6	Fe nail (discarded)	
4	u/s	1	1	4	sherd of dark green glass from a post-medieval wine bottle	post-medieval
7	u/s	5	1	84	Fe object, unknown use, probably recent agricultural use	
9	u/s	6	2	23	slate fragments	post-medieval
12	u/s	8	4	96	Fe nails (discarded)	
13	u/s	1	1	82	Fe object, probably shattered nail (discarded)	
15	u/s	3	1	111	circular, flat lead disc - 63mm diameter, thickness 1.5-3mm; back section of a two-part cloth seal <sup>6</sup>	post-medieval
15	u/s	3	2	70	sundry Fe fragments, almost certainly agricultural in origin (discarded)	
16	u/s	7	10	219	sundry Fe fragments, almost certainly agricultural in origin (discarded)	
16	u/s	7	1	1	pale green glass sherd	post-medieval
18	u/s	5	6	215	one Fe wire loop, five Fe nails (discarded)	
19	F3	9	2	158	modern concrete lumps (one discarded)	?
20	F4	9	1	55	peg-tile	medieval
22	u/s	9	1	142	Fe chain - certainly recent (discarded)	
22	u/s	9	1	366	tine off agricultural rake or drill (discarded)	
22	u/s	9	2.5	961	Fe horseshoes (discarded)	
24	u/s	10	1	390	Fe horseshoe fragment and two nails	?
24	u/s	10	1	70	?Roman tile	Roman?
24	u/s	10	1	40	undated tile	?
26	F10	1	1	80	Roman tile fragment	Roman
26	F10	1	8	60	tile fragments, probably Roman	Roman
26	F10	1	1	35	Fe nail	?
27	F11	1	1	2	orange ware sherd	late Roman
27	F11	1	1	2	tile spall	undated
31	peat	15	1	130	modern ceramic drain-pipe fragment	modern
33	u/s	-	1	23	Fabric 40 PMRE or glazed tile fragment?	16th-19th centuries

<sup>6</sup>

We are grateful to Nina Crummy for identifying and commenting on this object.

## 7 Discussion

Roman features were found at the Castle Hedingham sourceworks end of this pipeline, within 20m of those excavated by Nick Lavender in 1992. It can be seen from Figure 4 that the ditch observed under Sheepcote Road in 2000 (ditch F9) is on the same alignment as the major 1992 ditches, and is effectively part of the same archaeological site. The 2000 site features were masked by a blanket of colluvium, as were the 1992 features<sup>7</sup>.

The date of the 2000 material (entirely ceramic) differs slightly from the 1992 results. The 1992 site had a phase of major ditches dated to the later 2nd to 3rd century (Lavender 1996, 27), but F9 here has reasonably good group of pottery which in Colchester would be considered to be late 1st or 2nd century in date, slightly earlier than the 1992 dating. However, the problem with the 2000 results is that it was not clear whether cut F10 was actually part of the F9 ditch line or not. If F10 is part of F9, then the joint date of the feature rises to the 2nd to 3rd century, precisely in line with the 1992 evidence. In that case, there is residual material on this site dating to the later 1st or 2nd centuries which was not previously apparent.

Whereas the Roman pottery from the site is not remarkable in its quantities, the weight of Roman brick and tile from F11 is surprising (over 8kg). Hilary Major remarked on the large volume of tile from the 1992 excavations in her tile report (Lavender 1996, 32), and the 2000 tile certainly supports the idea that a demolished Roman building with a hypocaust lies somewhere upslope of the 1992 and 2000 sites.

None of the other archaeological material from this watching brief (natural features, recent field and drain lines, and surface finds of pottery, flint and tile) seems to be of any particular archaeological significance. However, there is one group of material which deserves some comment. This was a group of twenty-six Roman sherds (436g) and six burnt flints (126g) at TL 7915 3421 (Area 6.1). There were two other burnt flints and two utilised flakes from Area 6, though not from the same spot. No subsoil features were associated with this material, despite the intensive cleaning of this location to look for them. The findspot was slightly downslope of one of the highest points reached by the pipeline, so the possibility of hillwash covering a potential archaeological site can be ruled out<sup>8</sup>. The Roman pottery was dated to the 3rd to 4th century, but the presence of burnt flint and struck flints in the vicinity indicates that a multi-period site lies close to this spot. A further significant point is that Area 6.1 lies slightly downslope of a hill crest - precisely the situation of the

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<sup>7</sup> 0.75m of colluvium in 2000: 0.45-0.9m combined topsoil and colluvium in 1992 (Lavender 1996, 25)

<sup>8</sup> and none was seen in the section of the pipe trench

1992 excavation site which Lavender considered to be peripheral to a Roman site lying upslope of the 1992 excavation area.

## 8 Glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum (sea level)
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
dump	material dumped to raise ground level (eg before construction)
ESMR	Essex Sites and Monuments Record
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
hypocaust	Roman underfloor heating system
intrusive	material out of place in a later context (eg a Coke bottle in a Roman pit)
layer	an archaeological deposit which is basically flat, eg soil
make-up	material dumped specifically to raise ground level to a certain height
medieval	AD 1066 to Henry VIII
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
PMRE	post-medieval red earthenware pottery
post-medieval	Henry VIII up to Victorian
prehistoric	before the Romans - the years BC
residual	found in a later context (eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Romano-British	AD 43 to early 5th century
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
Saxon	after Roman, before medieval
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record

## 9 Acknowledgements

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The project was monitored for Essex County Council HAMP by Richard Havis.

## 10 Archive deposition

The finds and paper record are presently at CAT headquarters at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3NF, but will presently be deposited at Braintree Museum under

accession BRNTM 1999.3.

## 11 References

- |                            |             |   |
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Colin Austin and Howard Brooks  
November 15th 2000

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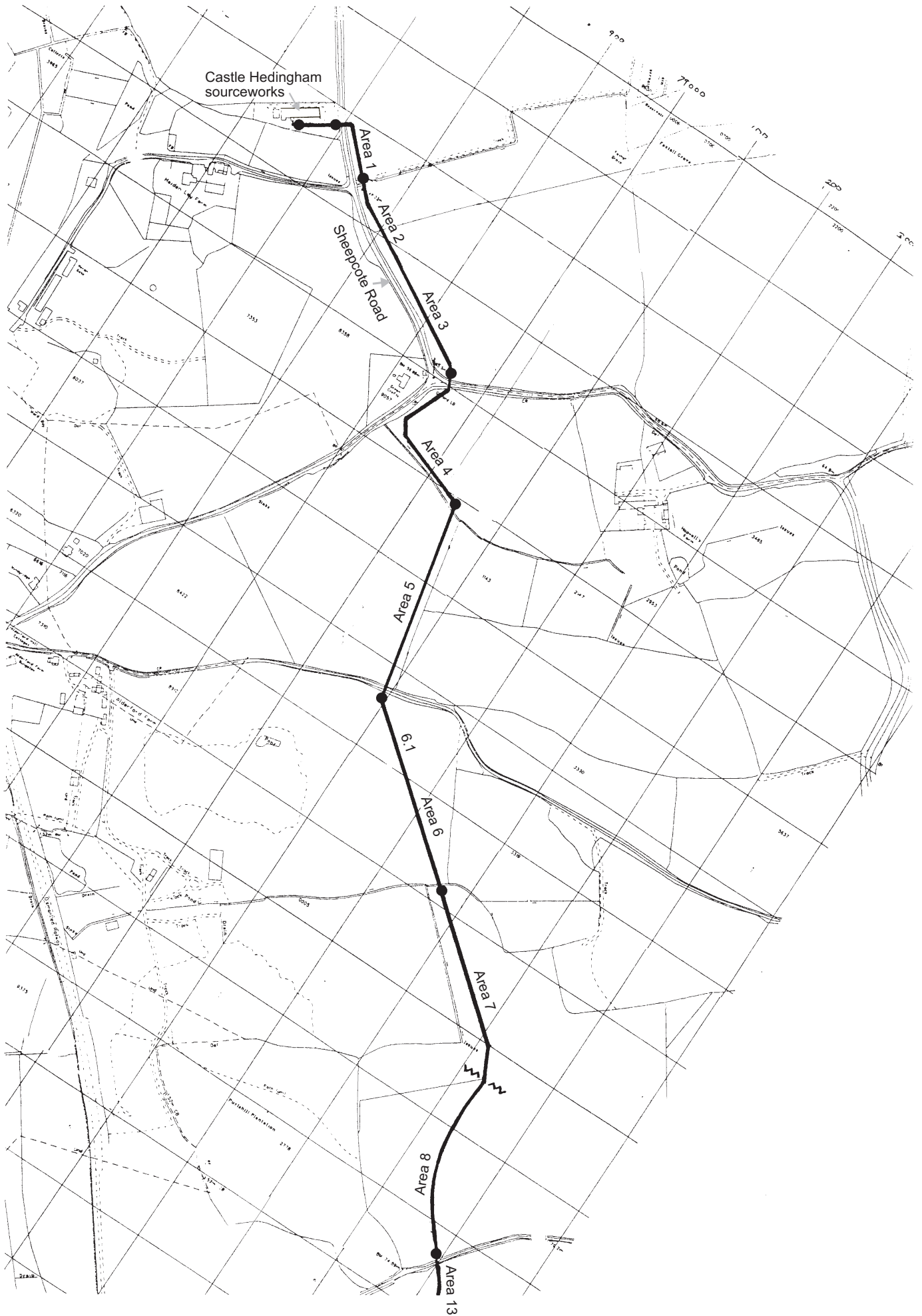


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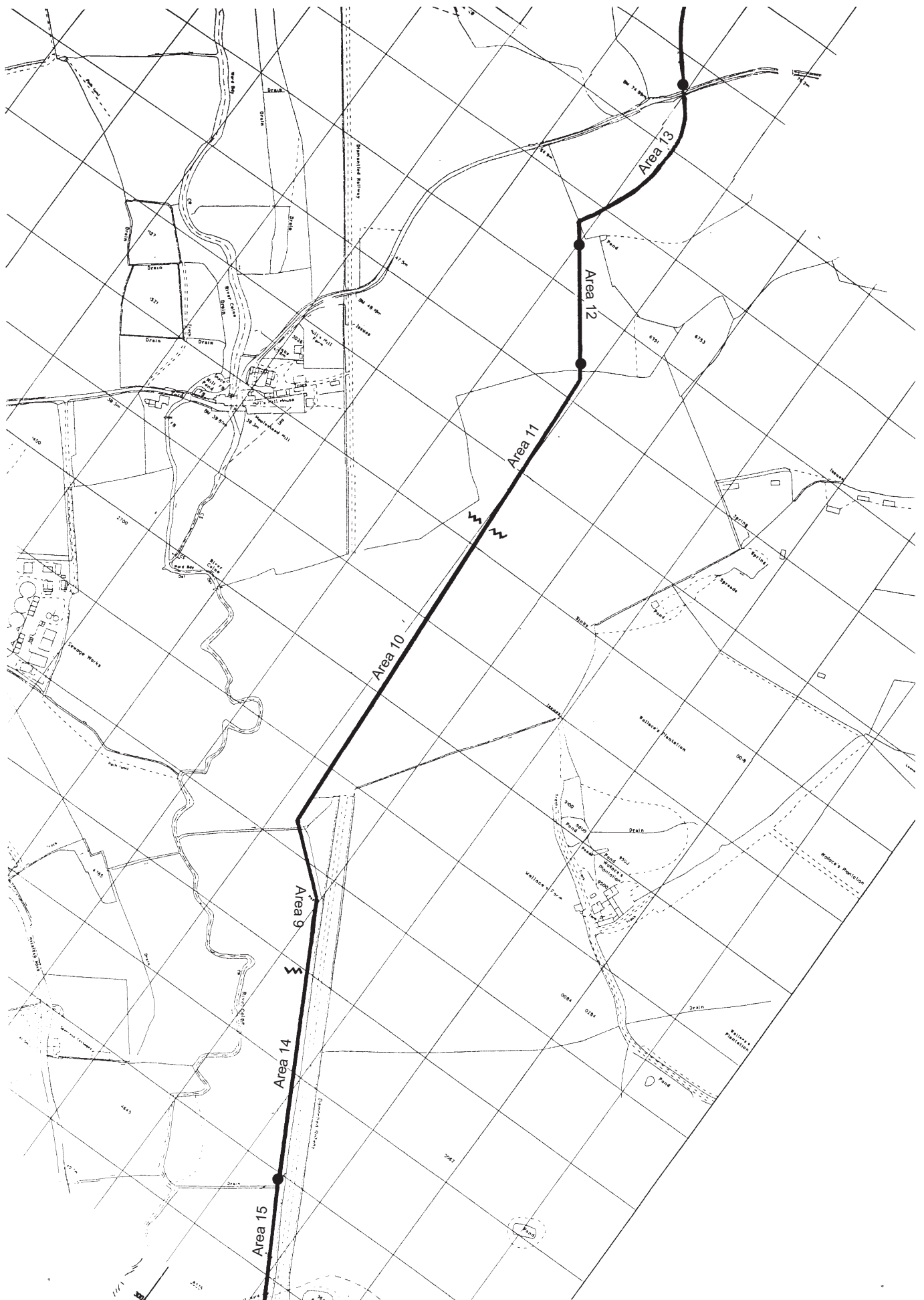
tel/fax: (01206) 500124  
tel.: (01206) 541051  
email: [archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk](mailto:archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk)

checked by: Philip Crummy

date: 28.11.00

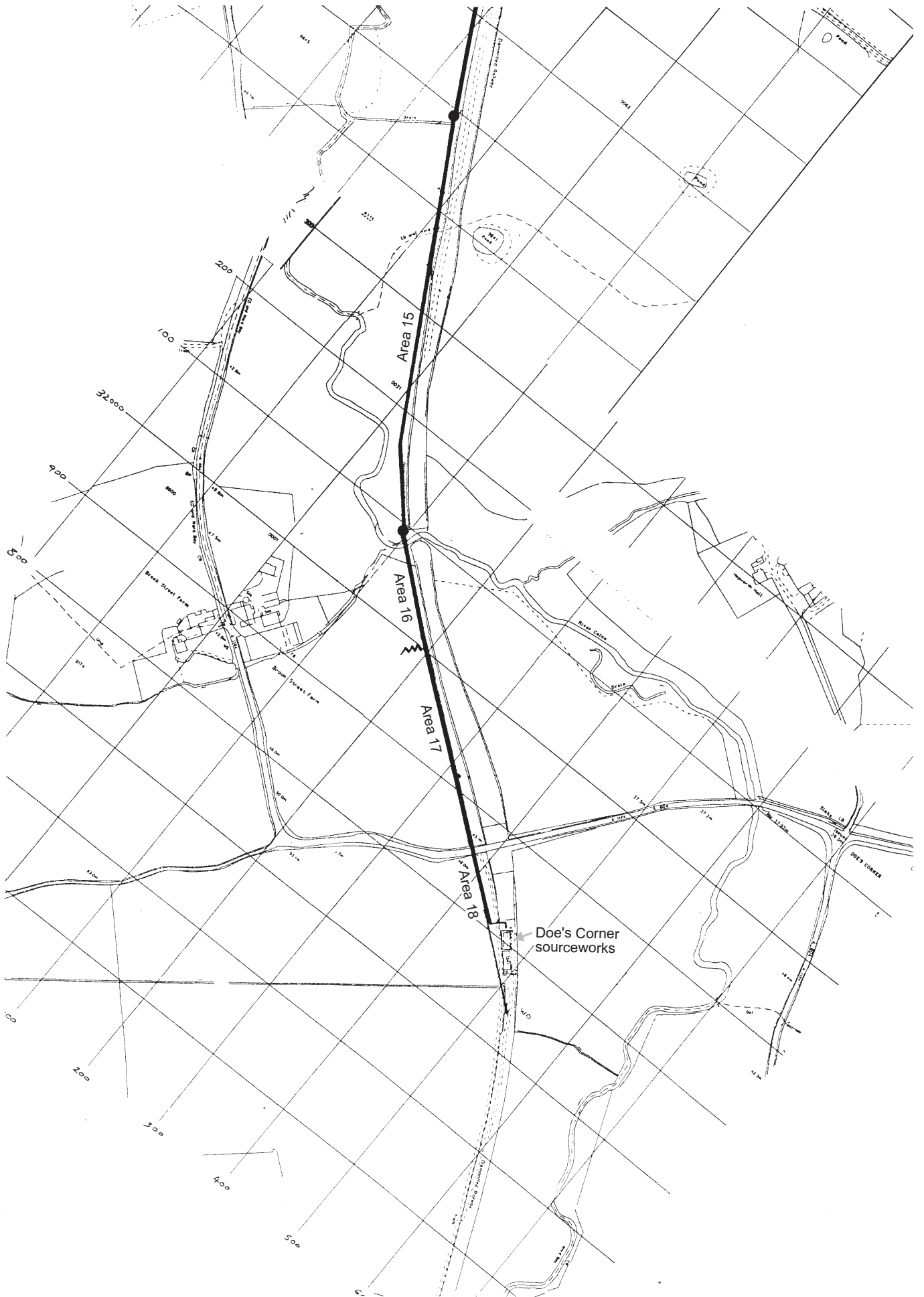


**Fig 1 Location of pipeline.**

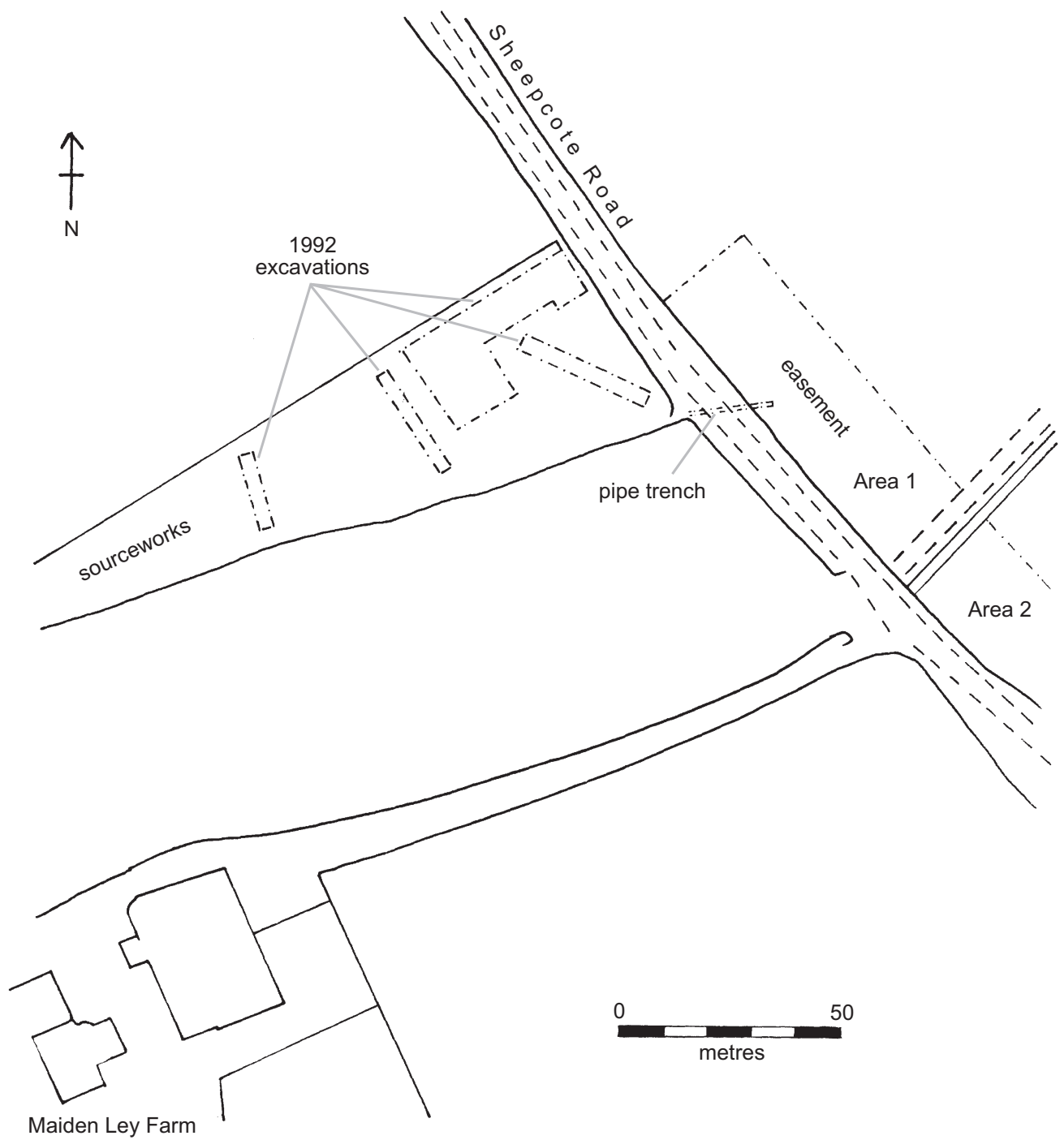


**Fig 2. Location of Pipeline**

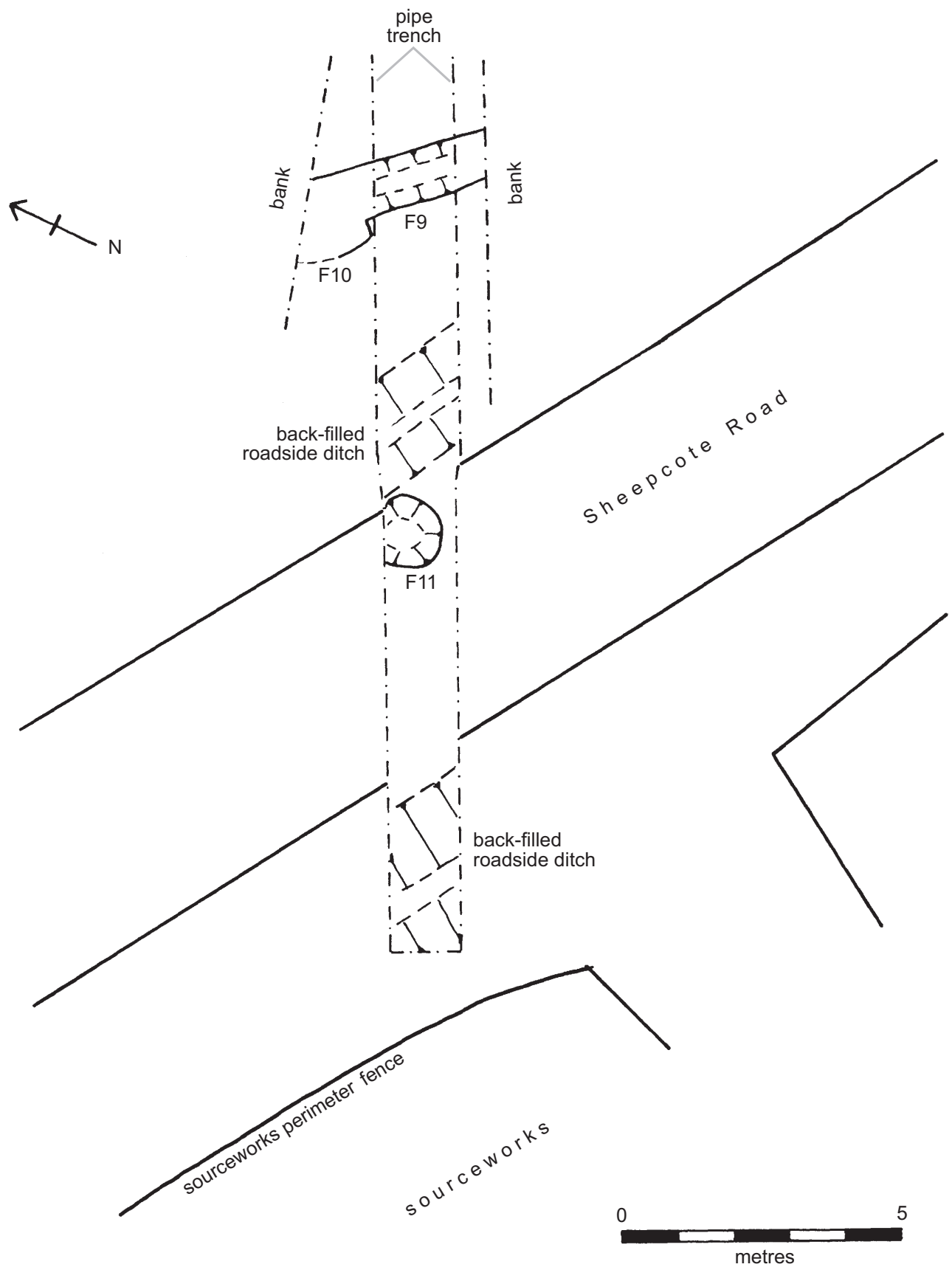




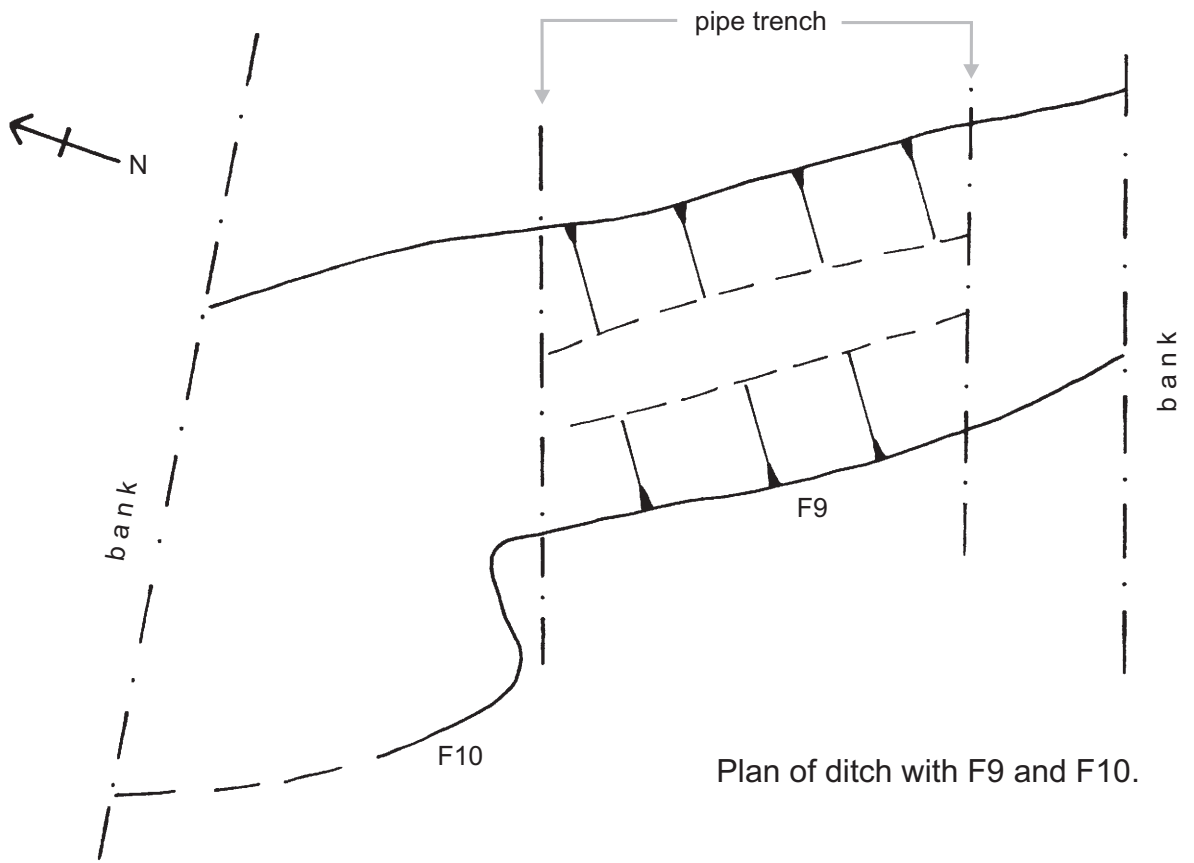
**Fig 3 Location of pipeline.**



**Fig 4 Plan showing 1992 excavations and 1999/2000 pipe trench across road.**



**Fig 5 Plan of pipe trench across road to Castle Hedingham sourceworks.**



Plan of ditch with F9 and F10.

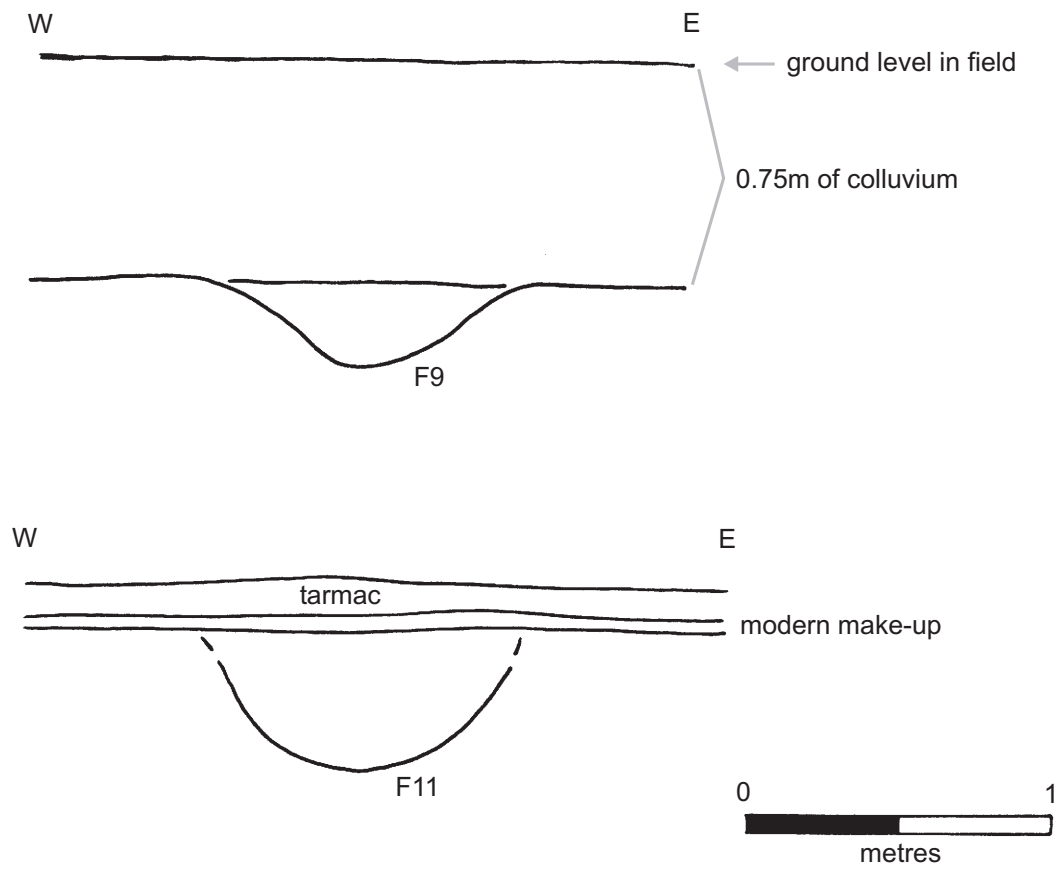
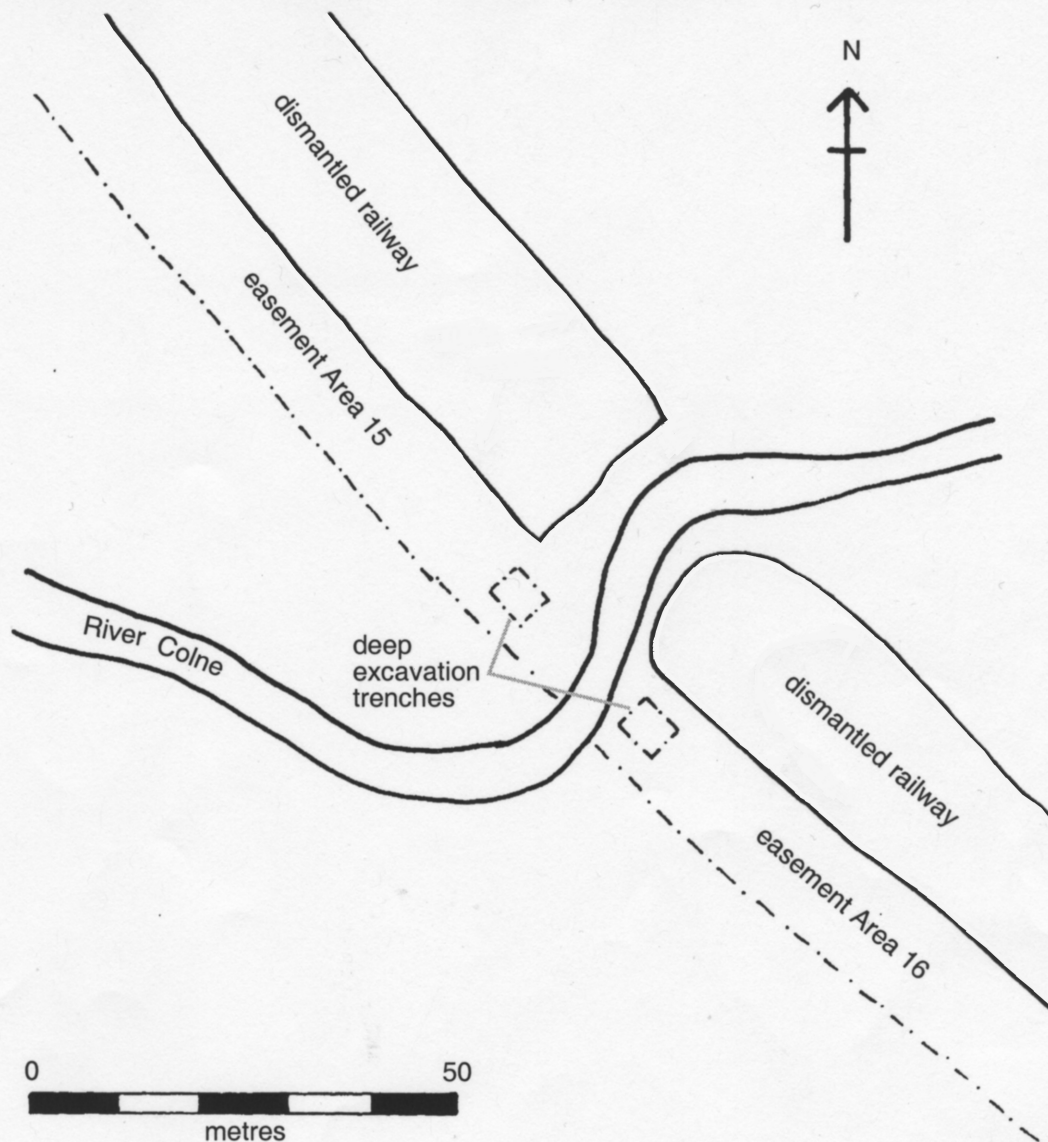


Fig 6 Sketch sections of ditch F9 and pit F11.



Sketch section (not to scale) of deep pipe excavations.

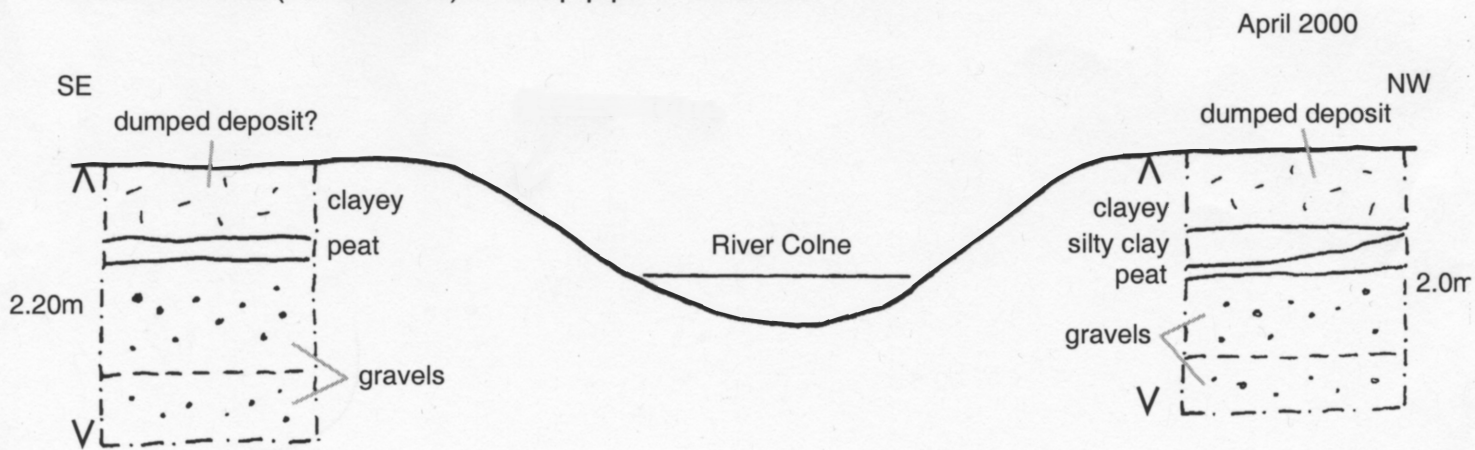
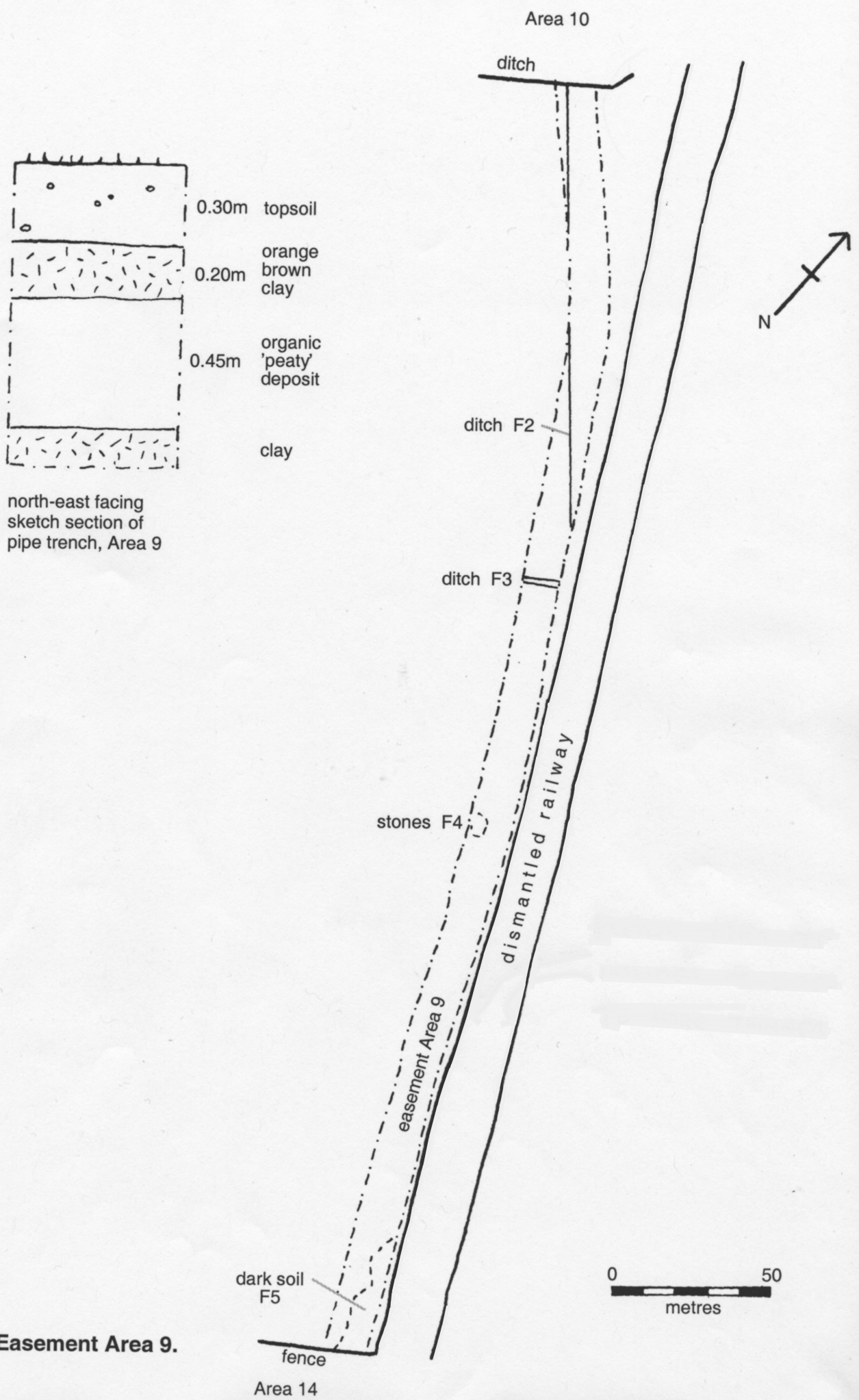


Fig 7 Location of deep pipe excavations, river crossing at TL80123210.



**Fig 8 Easement Area 9.**