

Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Sturrick Farm, Sturrick Lane, Great Bentley, Essex

October 2014



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on behalf of Mersea Homes

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1 Summary

An evaluation of this 2 ha site revealed two parallel field ditches which may be part of a droveway. A number of other ditches at right angles may be interpreted as fragments of adjacent field boundaries. Together, these may be part of a field system.

Finds were very scarce. There were only two sherds (plus a few sherd flakes) in the field ditches, both Bronze Age. There were four burnt flints in the ditches, generally supportive of the prehistoric date proposed for this field system. There was one stratified Neolithic/Bronze Age flint (possibly slightly residual), and three unstratified Bronze Age flints. There were no later finds.

This proposed droveway is a new addition to the cropmark complex more strongly represented to the north and west of Sturrick Farm. Excavation has shown that not all these cropmarks are prehistoric, but there are sufficient prehistoric burial sites and a potential living site (approximately 700m NW of Sturrick Farm) to give a prehistoric context to the Sturrick Farm features.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report on the archaeological trial-trenching evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land south and east of Sturrick Farm, Great Bentley, October 28th to 30th 2014 (site centre: TM 10856 22213). Post-excavation work was carried out in October and November 2014.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT and agreed with Essex County Council Historic Environment team (CAT 2014). In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with local and national standards as detailed in IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, CIM 2008a, CIM 2008b, English Heritage 2006, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

The archaeological work was commissioned and funded by Mersea Homes. Proposed development is residential housing.

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 This section is based on records held by Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), and on a desk-based assessment of this site (CAT Report 764) prepared in July 2014 for Mersea Homes.
- 3.2 The Tendring Peninsula is rich in archaeological cropmarks. These are generally an indicator of extensive prehistoric and later occupation. In that context, there is a large group of cropmark sites to the north of Sturrick Farm. The cropmarks include ring-ditches (circular marks which are normally interpreted as burial or ceremonial sites), straight lines (field ditches), and rectilinear or curvilinear clusters of lines which are normally interpreted as 'enclosures' (living sites). Two of the ring-ditches to the NW of Sturrick Farm have been excavated. One proved to be a ploughed-out Bronze Age burial site, and the other a medieval windmill. For more detail of the prehistoric monuments, see 3.3 below.



Figure 1: Archaeological sites around Sturrick Farm (red outline). Blue – cropmarks:

Prehistory (Figure 1 above)

- 3.3 This is the period with the greatest relevance to this evaluation. It had always been assumed, even with the lack of excavation, that many of the cropmark sites in Tendring and specifically around Great Bentley are of prehistoric date (**8-11: EHER 3063, 3150, 3176, 17261**). The excavation of site **7c** showed that it was a ploughed-out Bronze Age barrow (burial site). The same is likely to be the case with the unexcavated ring-ditches which form part of sites **8, 9, and 11**. Together, these sites are the ceremonial or burial element of a farmed landscape whose fields are likely to be represented by some of the straight-line cropmarks. Where did these prehistoric farmers live? The standard explanation is that they lived on the cropmark enclosure sites. There are several such rectilinear and curvilinear cropmarks within sites **8-11**. The fieldwalking stage (**7a**) of the *Enclosures Project* (Brown & Germany 2002) collected large quantities of burnt flints in the northern half of that survey area (ie, west of Sturrick lane). Burnt flints, while not intrinsically dateable, are often interpreted as 'potboilers', and so are an indicator of nearby living sites. So it is possible that the cropmark enclosures immediately north of site **8** are the prehistoric living sites. It may even be possible to discern in these marks a central routeway either side of which are enclosed living sites (the proviso here is that these cropmarks are unexcavated, and so this remains a speculation).
- 3.4 The most interesting local fact to come from the *Essex Cropmarks Enclosures Project* was the demonstration that the large circular enclosure (**7b**), previously thought to be a prehistoric henge or ceremonial site turned out to be medieval, and most likely to be the ditch around a (now-disappeared) windmill.
- Roman**
- 3.5 Roman material was picked up during the fieldwalking survey (**7a**). The source of this material is unclear - it is unlikely to be from the nearest Roman 'villa' at Little Oakley, 14km to the NE (Going 1996, figure 1). The obvious interpretation is that there is an undetected Roman site somewhere in the vicinity.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval

- 3.7 There is no evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity here. Some medieval pottery was picked up in the fieldwalking survey (7a). This may be manure scatter from Bentley Hall farm.

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record the character, extent, date, condition and significance of any archaeological remains likely to be disturbed by the proposed works, in particular the archaeological remains mentioned in section 3 above.

5 Evaluation results (Figs 2-7; Plates 1-7)

The brief called for a 4% evaluation, with 1% held in reserve. This was achieved by cutting 18 x 30m x 1.8m wide trenches and 2 x 15m x 1.8m wide trenches in the locations shown on Fig 2.

This section gives an archaeological summary of the evaluation trenches (T1-T20), with context and finds dating information. At the time of evaluation, the site was turfed paddocks (T1-17), and an overgrown grassy area (T18-20).

Two contexts were removed by machine (under archaeological supervision); (L1) modern topsoil, 300-500 mm thick, a medium brown slightly sandy silty loam, clean, with very few finds (rare peg-tile, modern potsherds), (L2) subsoil 100mm thick, a pale /medium brown slightly sandy silty loam, sometimes stony (small-medium stones). Removal of L2 revealed the natural (L3), which was a mottled orange brown slightly sandy silty clay, with some patches of both pale grey silt, and sand and stones.

Trench 1: summary

T1 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 2: summary

T2 contained ditches F14 and F15. The only dating evidence was a piece of burnt flint in F15. This is most likely to be of prehistoric date, and perhaps Bronze Age.

Both ditches appear to be a continuation of F10 in T3, F6 in T9, and F4 or F5 in T10. The six ditches apparently define the southern side of a droveway whose northern side includes F9 in T3, F8 in T4, and F3 in T10.

Trench 2: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Trench	Finds detail	Period
F14	NW-SE ditch	T02		BA? by association
F15	NW-SE ditch, same as F04, F06, F10	T02	6: Burnt flint Small piece (1, 2) Preh (Neo-BA/IA)	BA?



Plate 1: T2 ditches F14 (left) and F15, view W. One of these is the south side of droveway, the other possibly a recut?

Plate 2: T3 ditch F10, view SE. This is the southern side of the droveway

Trench 3: summary

T3 contained two ditches, F9, F10, and a post-hole F11. The only dating evidence was a piece of burnt flint in F9. This is most likely to be of prehistoric date, and perhaps Bronze Age.

Both ditches appear to be part of a droveway. F10 appears to be a continuation of F14 or F15 in T2, F6 in T9, and F4 or F5 in T10. The six ditches apparently define the southern side of a droveway whose northern side includes F9 in T3, F8 in T4, and F3 in T10.

Post-hole F11 is undated, but given the existence of fenced paddocks on this site, a modern date is most likely.

Trench 3: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F9	NW-SE ditch same as F3, F8	4: Burnt flint (1, 8g) Preh (Neo-BA/IA)	BA?
F10	ditch same as F04, F6, F15		BA? by association
F11	post-hole		probably modern fence post

Trench 4: summary

T4 contained undated ditch F8 and small natural pit F7. However, the ditch appears to be a continuation of F9 in T3, and F3 in T10. The three ditches apparently define the northern side of a droveway whose southern side includes F14 or F15 in T2, F10 in T3, F6 in T9, and F4 or F5 in T10.

Trench 4: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F07	small natural pit	-	-
F08	NW-SE ditch same as F03, F09	-	BA? by association

Trench 5: summary

T5 contained an undated post-hole F2 and ditch F1, aligned SW-NE. The post-hole is most likely to be modern, given the extensive modern wooden fencing on this site (some cleared before the evaluation).



Plate 3: T5 ditch F1 and post-hole F2, view SE.

The ditch, dated to the Iron Age by two sherds, would meet the proposed Bronze Age droveway almost at right angles.

Trench 5: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F01	NE-SW ditch	1: Burnt flint (4, 73g) Preh (Neo-BA/IA): pottery GTW common fine dark grog (1, 2g): Pottery? HMS small frag, prob sand-temp (1,1g) M-LIA	Iron Age
F02	post-hole		undated, prob modern fence

Trenches 6-8: summary

T6-8 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 9: summary

T9 contained an undated ditch F6, aligned NW-SE. Although undated, the ditch appears to be a continuation of F14 or F15 in T2, F10 in T3, and F4 or F5 in T10. These six ditches apparently define the southern side of a droveway whose northern side includes F9 in T3, F8 in T4, and F3 in T10.

Trench 9: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F06	NW-SE ditch same as F04, F10, F15	-	BA? by association

Trench 10: contexts and dating

T10 contained three ditches, F3, F4, F5. F3 was one of the few ditches containing a prehistoric (Bronze Age) sherd.



Plate 4: T10 ditch F3, view SE



Plate 5: T10. Ditch F5 is left of centre. Ditch F4 is this side of scale. View NW is along direction of ?droveway.

All three ditches appear to be a continuation of droveway ditches in other trenches. F3 defined the northern side of the droveway, along with F9 in T3 and F8 in T4.

Both F4 or F5 could be the southern side of the droveway along with F15 in T2, F10 in T3, F6 in T9. F4, rather than F5, is in line with other ditches – F5 may be a recut or a separate ditch line.

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F03	NW-SE ditch, same as F8, F9	2: Burnt flint (3, 36g). Flint , blade-like flake. Pottery flakes (7, 6g)	BA?, with resid Neo-BA
F04	NW-SE ditch, same as F6, F10, F15	3: Burnt flint (1, 11g) Preh (Neo-BA/IA)	BA?
F05	NW-SE ditch		undated

Trench 11: summary

T11 contained a natural pit F16.

Trench 11: context and dating

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F16	natural pit		-

Trenches 12-13: summary

T12 -13 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 14: summary

T14 contained an undated pit (natural, or possible tree-throw), and a ditch aligned SW-NE. The ditch F13 is undated, but is more or less at right-angles to the driveway in T2-4, T9-10. It may therefore be prehistoric by association.



Plate 6: T14, ditch F13, view NE.

Plate 7: T17 F17, view SW

Trench 14: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F12	tree-throw?	-	undated
F13	NE-SW ditch	-	undated

Trenches 15-16: summary

T15-16 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 17: summary

T17 contained a ditch terminal F17.

Trench 17: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F17	ditch terminus	7: pottery HMF sherd (1, 7)	M-LBA/EIA

Trench 18: summary

T18 contained a ditch F22, aligned NE-SW. The ditch is undated, but is more or less at right-angles to the driveway in T2-4, T9-10. It may therefore be prehistoric by association. It is clearly the same ditch as F21 in T19, 8m to the SW.

Trench 18: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Trench	Finds detail	Period
F22	NE-SW ditch	T18		undated

Trench 19: summary

T19 contained three undated features – ditches F18 and F21, and curving gully F19.

F18 does not share the alignment of the other field- or driveway ditches here. F21 shares an alignment with F22 in T18 to the north. Neither is dated, but both may be prehistoric by association. F19 is a curving feature. Although it is tempting to see this as a structural gully, its fill was clean, and did not contain any charcoal flecking or finds which might be expected close to a house site.

Trench 19: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Trench	Finds detail	Period
F18	ditch	T19		undated
F19	terminus of curving ?gully	T19		undated
F21	NE-SW ditch	T19		undated

Trench 20: summary

T20 contained undated ditch F20, aligned N-S.

Trench 20: contexts and dating

Context no	type	Finds detail	Period
F20	ditch		undated

6 Finds (Tables 1-3)
by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Bulk finds, consisting of small quantities of pottery, worked flints and heat affected (burnt) flints, were recovered as stratified finds from the fill of a number of features (almost entirely ditches) in several of the evaluation trenches (T2, T3, T5, T10) and as unstratified (US) finds from topsoil spoil (T3, T10, T14 & T17). The finds can be dated to the later prehistoric period (Bronze Age-Iron Age), or where not closely dated are almost certainly of prehistoric date. The total quantities of these finds are listed by type in Table 1.

Finds type	no	wt (g)
Pottery	10	16
Flints	5	66
Heat affected (burnt) flints	10	130

Table 1: Type and quantities of finds

A few unstratified finds of post-medieval, probable post-medieval and modern date were noted in topsoil but not collected. These consisted of a single clay pipe stem, a small piece of slate, brick and peg-tile pieces and small sherds of modern (factory produced) pottery.

Bulk finds

The pottery fabrics are listed with a brief description of the fabric in Table 2 below. All of the finds are listed with a spot date in Table 3.

Fabric	Fabric description
HMF	Hand made, flint-tempered
HMFG	Hand made, flint-tempered with some grog-temper
HMS	Hand made, sand-tempered
GTW	Grog-tempered ware (Late Iron Age)

Table 2: Pottery fabrics

Trench (T)	Ctxt	Find no	find type	Fabric	no	wt/g	Form/ description	Period	spot date
T02	F15 (natural?)	6	burnt flint		1	2	Small piece	preh	Preh (Neo-BA/IA)
T03	F09 (ditch)	4	burnt flint		1	8		preh	Preh (Neo-BA/IA)
T03	US	8	flint		1	29	Secondary flake, thick, squat, part snapped away, limited indication of use wear, brownish flint	preh	M-LBA
T05	F01 (ditch)	1	burnt flint		4	73		preh	Preh (Neo-BA/IA)
T05	F01 (ditch)	1	pottery	GTW	1	2	Broken sherd, common fine dark grog*	preh	LIA
T05	F01 (ditch)	1	pottery (?)	HMS	1	1	Small fragment, prob sand-temp pot*	preh	M-LIA
T10	F03 (ditch)	2	burnt flint		3	36		preh	Preh (Neo-BA/IA)
T10	F03 (ditch)	2	flint		1	5	Secondary, blade-like flake, snapped, possibly some platform preparation, dark flint	preh	Neo-BA
T10	F03 (ditch)	2	pottery	HMFG	7	6	Small flakes mainly from internal surface of a pot, moderate small-medium flint, some grog(*)	preh	BA?
T10	F04 (ditch)	3	burnt flint		1	11		preh	Preh (Neo-BA/IA)
T10	US	9	flint		1	4	Small flake, large striking platform, brown flint	preh	M-LBA
T10	US	9	flint		1	18	Flake with multiple flake removal scars across	preh	BA?

Trench (T)	Ctxt	Find no	find type	Fabric	no	wt/g	Form/ description	Period	spot date
							dorsal face, use wear/ damage to edges, dark (black) flint		
T14	US	5	flint		1	10	Flake, large patinated striking platform, previous flake removals, limited retouch, brown flint	preh	M-LBA
T17	US (F17? ditch)	1	pottery	HMF	1	7	Thick sherd, med-coarse flint(*)	preh	M-LBA/EIA

Table 3: Finds by context (* = abraded).

The finds recovered can be dated to the later prehistoric period (Bronze Age-Iron Age) or are almost certainly of later prehistoric date. However, confident close dating of many of the finds is difficult.

Pottery

Potentially the most closely datable finds are the pottery sherds. Pottery was recovered from ditches F1(1), F3(2) & T17(US) but most of the sherds are very small - the average sherd weight for the pottery from the site is just 1.6 g. There are no diagnostic pieces so that dating relies entirely on the pottery fabrics. Most of the sherds contain crushed, burnt flint-temper indicating a date prior to the Middle-Late Iron Age in the late 1st millennium BC. Some small sherds recovered from ditch F3(2) have pieces of grog-temper alongside the flint and a Mid-Late Bronze Age (M-LBA) date may be most likely for these, though an Iron Age date may also be possible. One sherd from T17(US) (probably associated with F17) is thick and coarse flint-tempered with an oxidised surface. This is probably of Mid-Late (later) Bronze Age or possibly Early Iron Age (EIA) date. The most closely dated sherd (F1(1)) is in an entirely grog-tempered fabric (Fabric GTW) and can be confidently dated to the Late Iron Age (LIA) (c. 50/25 BC-AD 50). A very small, abraded sherd, also from ditch F1(1), appears to be sand-tempered pottery (rather than a natural concretion) and is of probable Mid-Late Iron Age date.

Worked flints

The few worked flints recovered are consistent with a later prehistoric (Later Bronze Age) flint working techniques. Only one was stratified, being recovered from ditch fill in T10 (F3(2)). Although there is some indication of platform preparation the nature of the flake suggests it is probably of later Bronze Age date rather than earlier. The other flints, recovered from topsoil spoil in T3(8), T10(9) & T14(5) are also consistent with a later Bronze Age date.

Heat altered (burnt) flints

Pieces of heat altered stones, consisting of burnt flint, were recovered from several of the excavated ditches – F1(1), F3(2), F4(3) & F9(4). While not closely datable, burnt flint is typical of many prehistoric activity and occupation areas where it is was probably most commonly used as an indirect source of heating water or cooking when removed from a fire. A single small piece of burnt flint was also recovered from F15 which is considered to be a natural, silt-filled feature. The size of the piece (weight 2 g) may allow this to be intrusive to the fill.

Summary of finds dating evidence

The lack of significant quantities of finds, both from the ditches and from the trench spoil (topsoil & subsoil) suggests that the area is peripheral to the settlement area(s) with which these features are associated. While difficult to date closely, the association of flint-tempered pottery with burnt flints and with a worked flint in ditch F3 indicates a date for this group of finds prior the late 1st millennium BC and the nature of the pottery fabrics and flint working suggests they are of later Bronze Age or possibly Early Iron Age date – late 2nd -early 1st millennium BC. A similar date range, although slightly broader (Mid Bronze Age-Early Iron Age) appears likely for the pottery sherd which may be associated with ditch(?) terminal F17. However, the most closely dated pottery, from ditch F1, is a sherd of Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware (current c 50/25 BC-50 AD) and dating a full half century later than the dating suggested by the other finds.

While the finds indicate activity on this area in the Mid-Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age the apparent lack of finds from spoil (other than rare later prehistoric worked flints) suggest that the finds from the features are likely to be contemporary rather than residual. However, the grog-tempered sherd indicates that the ditch F1 was an open feature in the Late Iron Age. Assuming this sherd, which was also found alongside burnt flints, is not intrusive this suggests that the ditches could represent a long-lived, possibly evolving field system, or that many of the finds recovered are residual from earlier activity which was not otherwise apparent or detected during the evaluation and that the ditches date from the later 1st millennium BC.

7 Discussion

The general level of archaeological activity at Sturrick Farm is low. Seven out of the 20 trenches contained no archaeological features, and only six out of the 22 archaeological features contained finds. The general absence of charcoal flecks, shell, bone, pottery or tile of the type generated by living sites means it can be stated with some confidence that there is no prehistoric or Roman-period living site nearby.

However, without question, a fragmentary field system has been detected by this evaluation. There is a convincing alignment of ditches F9, F8, and F3 in T3, T4, T10, over a distance of approx 65m. Twelve metres to the south is another alignment of ditches parallel to F9/F8/F3. However, this is not quite as convincing a ditch line because there is some doubt as to which of F14/F15 in T2 and F4/F5 in T10 is the relevant ditch in alignment with F10 in T2. Nevertheless, the two parallel ditches may define a droveway.

Dating of the ?droveway is not secure – there is only one stratified sherd, probably of Bronze Age date, and four burnt flints in the ?droveway ditches. Though burnt flints are not strictly dateable, they are often found in prehistoric contexts, and are supportive of a general prehistoric date.

There are fragments of six other ditches, four of which are generally at right angles to the ?droveway. The only finds are two Bronze Age or Iron Age sherds and one burnt flint. In terms of alignment, it seems reasonable to propose that these are fragments of the same field system as the ?droveway, but there is no junction between these ditches and the ?droveway, and in fact three of the ditches are not evident in trenches which should have intercepted them (F13 probably in T10: F17 in T16 and ?T7: F21/22 in T6).

In summary: this is at best a probable droveway which may have an associated field system surviving only in fragments. It is prehistoric, and either Bronze Age or Iron Age in date.

One curious feature was the curved feature in T19. Although in plan it looked like part of a gully around a prehistoric house, this is unlikely to be the case because if the arc is continued, it clashes with the position of adjacent ditch F21. Plus it had a

clean fill without charcoal or other finds which might indicate nearby habitation. It may well be a natural feature.

There were no Roman or medieval features or finds on this site.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mersea Homes for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by Stephen Benfield, assisted by Nigel Rayner. The project was monitored by Adrian Gascoyne for Historic and Built Environment Team Manager (ECC Place Services). Figures 1, 3,4, 7 are by HB. Fig 2 is by Adam Wightman. Figs 5-6 by Gillian Adams.

9 References

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are published online at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

AP	air photograph
AS	Anglo-Saxon (AD 430 to 1066)
Bronze Age	BA - after Neolithic, approximately 2500 to 700 BC
BCE	before Common Era (equivalent to BC in Christian calendar)
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CE	Common Era (equivalent to AD in Christian calendar)
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
cropmark	ancient features which show in crops due to differential root depth over damp soil in

	archaeological features
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by ECC
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
Iron Age	After the Bronze Age and before the Romans – 700 BC to AD 43
LIA	Late Iron Age - 100 BC – AD 43
medieval	from AD 1066 to around AD 1530
modern	19th – 21st centuries
Neolithic	New Stone Age – the earliest farming (around 4,000-2,000 BC).
post-medieval	from 16th century to 18th century
prehistoric	before Roman period - i.e. the years BCE to AD 43
Roman period	from AD 43 to around AD 410

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, CO2 7GZ, but will be deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum under accession code COLEM 2014.106

12 Contents of archive

Finds archive

1 Museum box containing all retained finds (pottery, flints, burnt flints)

Paper archive

1 A4 wallet containing:

this report (CAT Report 794), original site record (context and finds sheets), section drawings, trench sheets, digital photo log, digital photos on disc
attendance record, sundry papers

13 Context list

Context no	type	Trench	Finds detail	Period
F01	NE-SW ditch	T05	1: Burnt flint (4, 73g) (Neo-BA/IA). 1: pottery GTW 1: Pottery? HMS M-LIA	LIA with resid M-LIA and ?BA burnt flint
F02	post-hole	T05		undated, prob modern fence
F03	NW-SE ditch, = F8, F9	T10	2: Burnt flint, Neo-BA/IA) 2: flint, blade-like flake 2: pottery flakes HMFG	BA?, with resid Neo- BA
F04	NW-SE ditch, = F6, F10, F15	T10	3: Burnt flint (1, 11g) Preh (Neo-BA/IA)	BA?
F05	NW-SE ditch	T10		undated
F06	NW-SE ditch = F4, F10, F14	T09		BA? by association
F07	small natural pit	T04		-
F08	NW-SE ditch = F3, F9	T04		BA? by association
F09	NW-SE ditch = F3, F8	T03	4: Burnt flint (1, 8g) Preh (Neo-BA/IA)	BA?
F10	ditch =F4, F6, F14	T03		BA? by association

Context no	type	Trench	Finds detail	Period
F11	post-hole	T03		prob mod fence post
F12	tree-throw?	T14		undated
F13	NE-SW ditch	T14		undated
F14	NW-SE ditch = F4, F6, F10	T02		BA? by association
F15	NW-SE ditch terminal	T02	6: Burnt flint Small piece (1, 2) Preh (Neo-BA/IA)	BA?
F16	natural pit	T11		-
F17	ditch terminus	T17	7: pottery HMF	M-LBA/EIA
F18	ditch	T19		undated
F19	curving ?gully terminus	T19		undated
F20	ditch	T20		undated
F21	NE-SW ditch	T19		undated
F22	NE-SW ditch	T18		undated

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Distribution list:

Mersea Homes
Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO)
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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email: archaeologists@catuk.org



Fig 2 Site and trench locations, with interpretation.

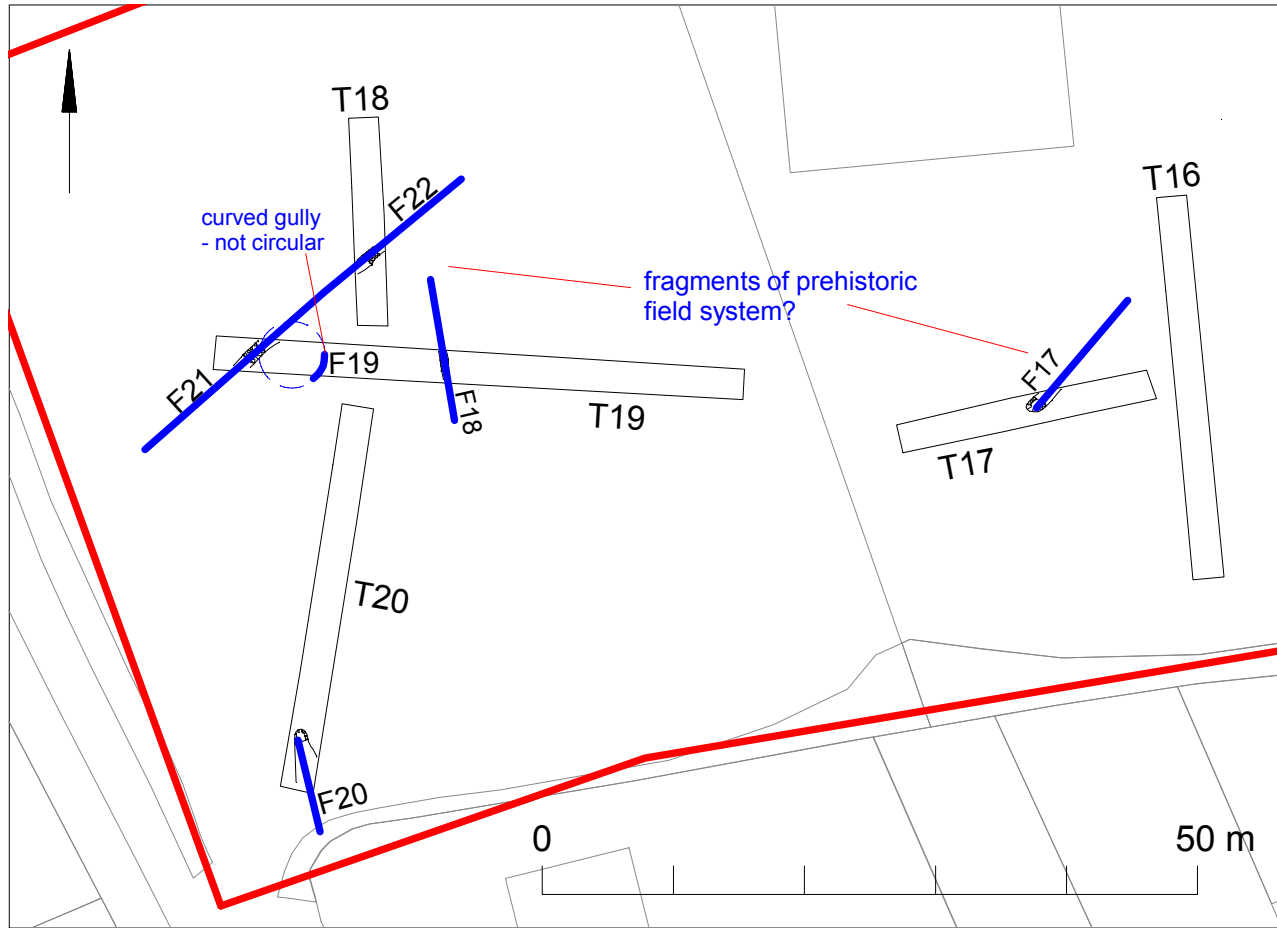


Fig 3 T16-20: detail of western side of site

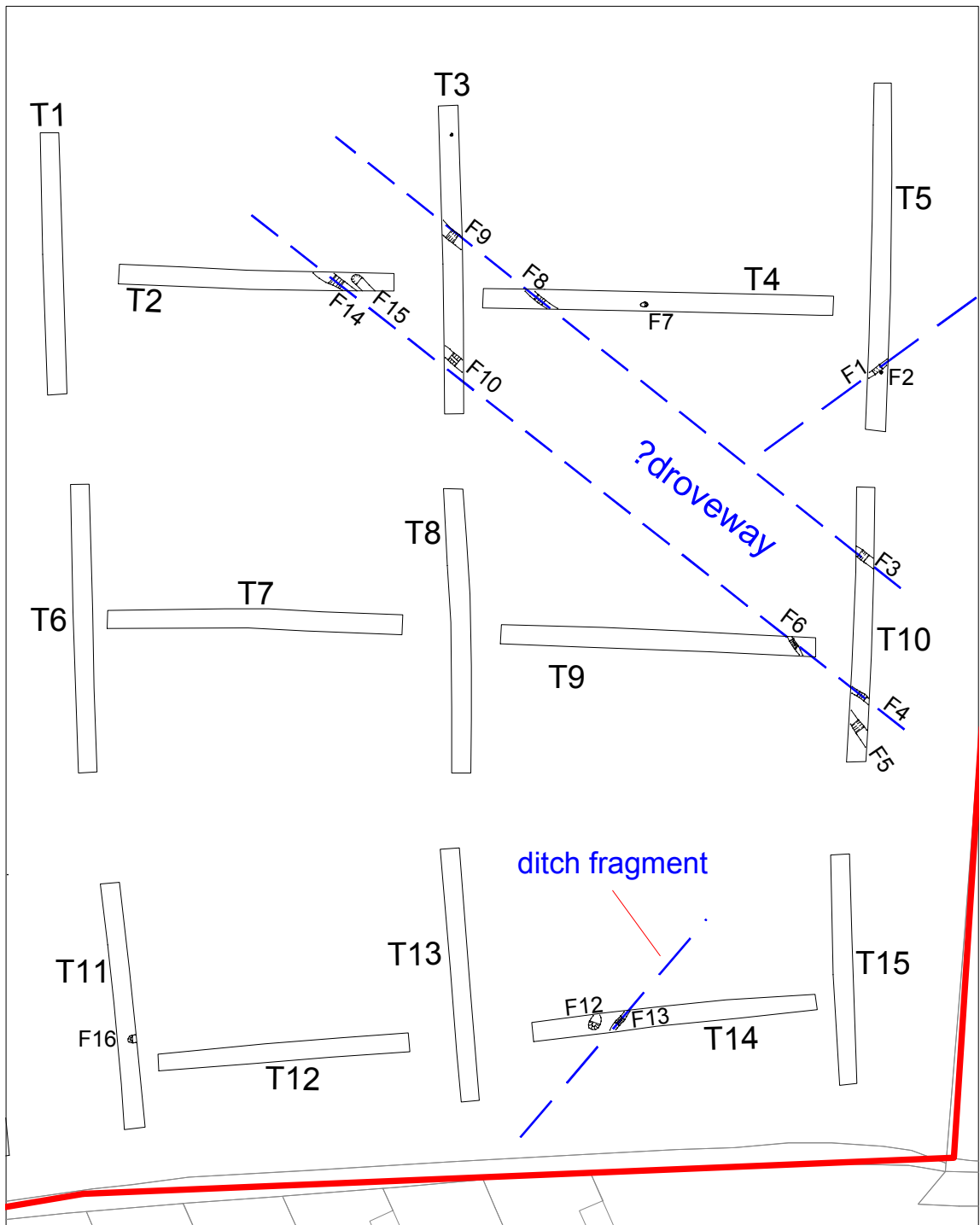


Fig 4 T1-T15: detail of eastern side of site, showing ?doveway and ditch fragments

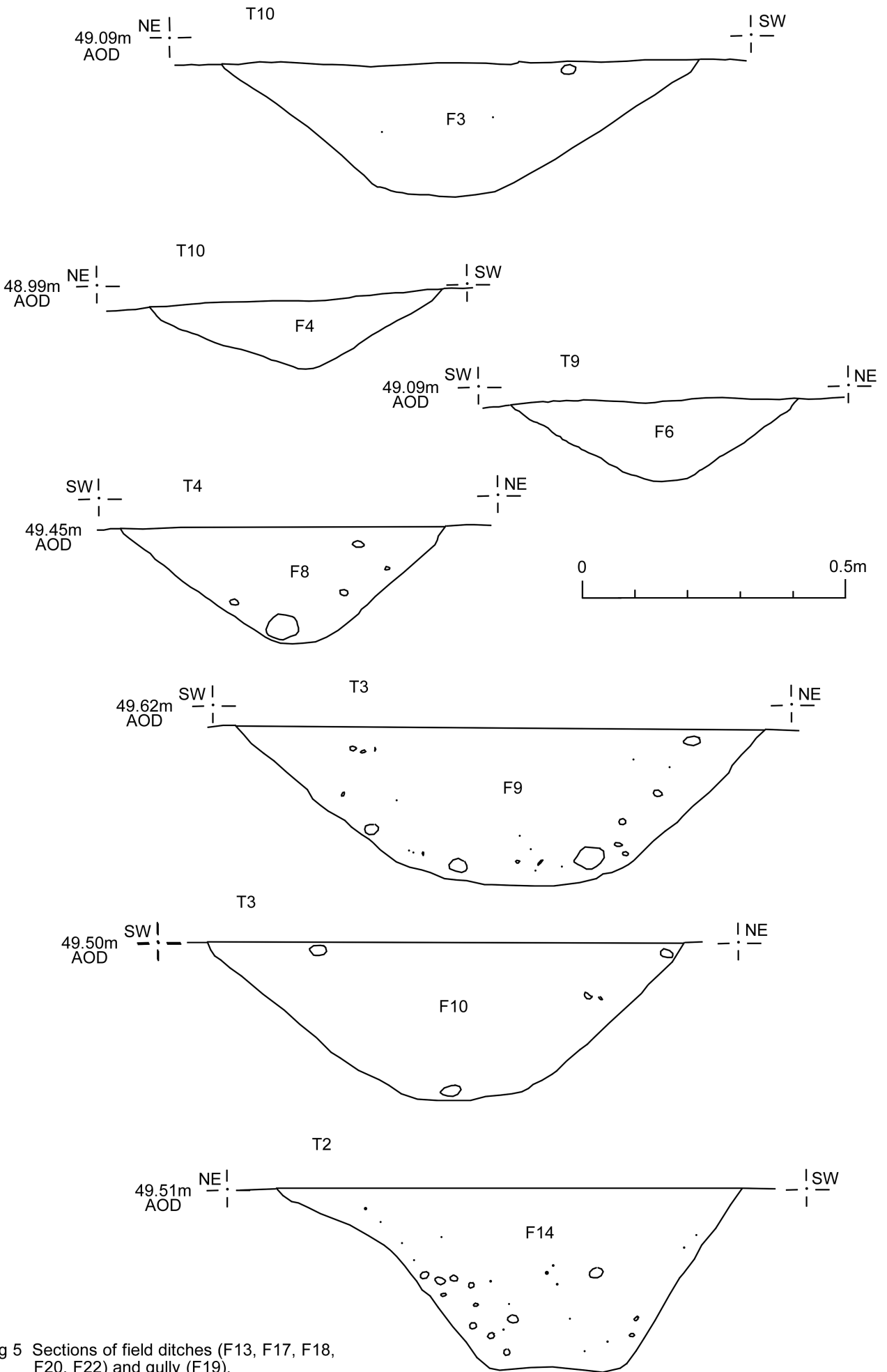


Fig 5 Sections of field ditches (F13, F17, F18, F20, F22) and gully (F19).

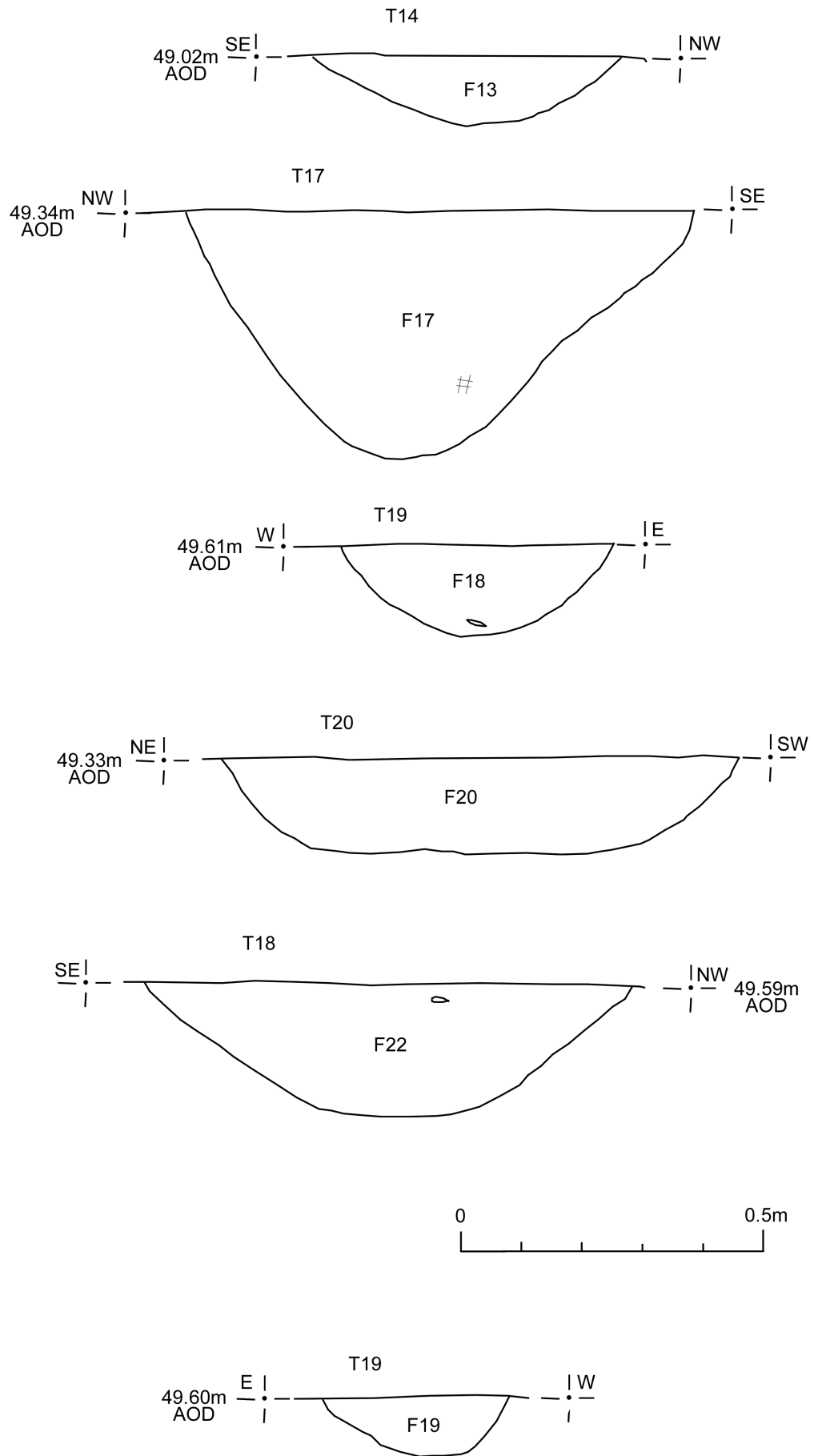


Fig 6 Sections of droveway ditches (F3-F4, F6, F8-F10, F14).

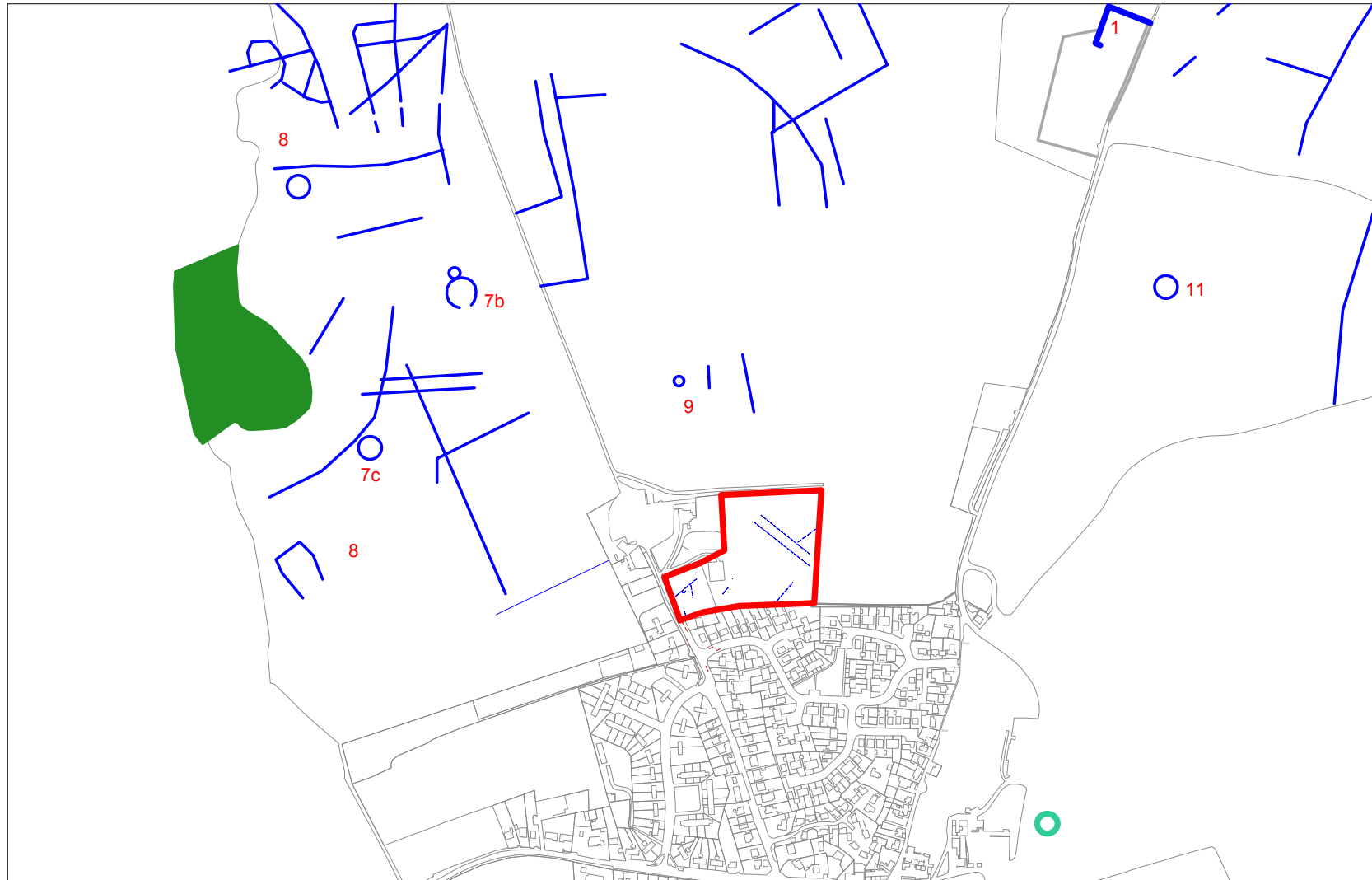


Fig 7 Sturrick Farm 2014 excavated features in the context of local cropmarks (numbers refer to archaeological background)

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Sturrick Farm, Sturrick Lane, Great Bentley, Essex	
Parish: Great Bentley	District: Tendring
NGR: TM 10856 22213 (c)	Site codes: CAT project – 14/10h Museum accession – 2014.106
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: October 2014	Size of area investigated: 18 x 1.8m x 30m, and 2 x 1.8m x 15m of trenches
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related EHER number: 3063, 3150, 3176, 17261
Final report:	CAT Report 783
Periods represented:	prehistoric
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An evaluation of this 2 ha site revealed two parallel field ditches which may be part of a droveway. A number of other ditches at right angles may be interpreted as fragments of adjacent field boundaries. Together, these may be part of a field system.</i></p> <p><i>Finds were very scarce. There were only two sherds (plus a few sherd flakes) in the field ditches, both Bronze Age. There were four burnt flints in the ditches, generally supportive of the prehistoric date proposed for this field system. There was one stratified Neolithic/Bronze Age flint (possibly slightly residual), and three unstratified Bronze Age flints. There were no later finds.</i></p> <p><i>This proposed droveway is a new addition to the cropmark complex more strongly represented to the north and west of Sturrick Farm. Excavation has shown that not all these cropmarks are prehistoric, but there are sufficient prehistoric burial sites and a potential living site (approximately 700m NW of Sturrick Farm) to give a prehistoric context to the Sturrick Farm features.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 764	
ECC / CBC monitor: Adrian Gascoyne	
Keywords: prehistoric droveway? and ditches	Significance: *
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: November 2014