

# Archaeological monitoring and excavation at Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane, Brightlingsea, Essex

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## 1 Summary

*An excavation at Brightlingsea Quarry prior to mineral extraction revealed further evidence of a substantial multi-period site, first exposed in excavations in 2013-2015 (CAT Report 1097). The smaller-scale excavations detailed in this report uncovered evidence for intermittent occupation near or on the site from the Late Neolithic to the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon period.*

*The results from this excavation support the conclusions and interpretations formed in the previous phase of work, and showed a continuation of the previously uncovered mid-Roman trackway and the Middle Bronze Age field system. Additionally, and most prominently, this excavation showed a continuation of the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement in the form of a Grubenhause with an associated pit complex.*

*As previously, the evidence uncovered during this excavation suggests that any more work on the ridge overlooking the Colne estuary is very likely to reveal more multi-period archaeology, including settlement evidence.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is a report on archaeological monitoring and excavation at Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane, Brightlingsea. The quarry is located north-west of the town centre of Brightlingsea. The site detailed in this report (centred on NGR TM 0734 1805) is within the larger extraction area of Brightlingsea Quarry, and previously comprised open ground which had until recently been under arable cultivation.

The requirement for archaeological work was prompted by the western extension of the existing quarry for the continued extraction of minerals. The Essex County Council Place Services Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) was consulted in late 2017 concerning continuation of existing planning consent for mineral extraction at Brightlingsea Quarry.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with this consultation and a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) previously produced by CAT and agreed with the HEA (CAT 2013).

The phase of fieldwork detailed in this report was carried out between December 2017 and January 2018, and followed on from a previous phase of work in 2013 – 2015 (CAT Report 1097).

The archaeological work detailed in this report was commissioned by Mr Andy Josephs on behalf of Brett Aggregates and was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

All archaeological work was conducted according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA OP 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA OP 24).

### 3 Archaeological Background (Figs 2 and 3)

This section is based on the CAT report archive, as well as records held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The archaeological potential of this area of Brightlingsea Quarry has always been high. The presence of a large number of cropmarks, now destroyed by quarrying, to the north and west of the current extraction area suggested an extensive multi-period landscape (Fig 3). These cropmarks included at least two prominent sub-rectangular enclosures, a number of ring-ditches, trackways and numerous field boundaries (EHER 2234).

To the immediate north-west of the current extraction site (Fig 2), an extensive Middle Bronze Age burial complex was excavated in 1989-90 (EAA **126** 2008, EHER 2142). This exposed thirty-one ring-ditches and forty-eight cremation burials, thirty-four of which were urned (EAA **126**, 10). Also observed were three boundary ditches and several postholes and pits of unknown dates. The only dated feature outside of the ring-ditches and cremations was a pit in the south-west of the site which was radiocarbon dated to the Anglo-Saxon period (EAA **126**, 15).

Further west from the 1989-90 excavation, a Neolithic ring-ditch and associated features were excavated in 1994-5 (EAA **126**, 5 and Fig 2). The exposed ring-ditch measured 21m x 26.5m and, when excavated, was found to have been re-cut seven times during the Neolithic period. Bisecting the ring-ditch on an east-west alignment was a later boundary ditch containing Roman and Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery (EAA **126**, 10).

In 1996 an evaluation was undertaken across the eastern side of the quarry site (Clarke 1996) although no trenches were located within the current extraction area (Fig 2). Within the trenches were several ditches that corresponded with the cropmark survey of the site, including two overlaid trackways and the southern side of a ring-ditch. Several of these features were subsequently re-exposed during the 2013-2015 excavation (see below).

In 2002-2004, CAT carried out monitoring work to the north of the current extraction site. This exposed substantial prehistoric landscape features (CAT Reports 214, 252 and 280). Multiple field boundaries were also observed during this monitoring.

In 2013-2015, CAT conducted an excavation immediately to the east of the current site (CAT Report 1097). This led to the discovery of a large multi-period site with evidence for occupation from the Early Neolithic to the Late Anglo-Saxon period. A multitude of tree throws were excavated and tentatively identified as being the result of extensive deforestation in the Late Neolithic period. A partially-surviving Bronze Age field system crossing the west of the site was uncovered as well as a substantial Bronze Age ring-ditch. A Late Iron Age/early Roman field system with several associated burials was excavated to the east of the site. Cutting across the centre of the site, aligned north-east to south-west, was a mid-Roman trackway. One of the ditches in this trackway contained a leaded-bronze brazier foot in the shape of a harpy, dating from the 1st century AD and made in Campania, southern Italy. In addition to this, three mid Roman cremations were uncovered in the south-west of the site. Most of the archaeological features were in the south of the site, where the remains of an Anglo-Saxon settlement was excavated. Large numbers of finds were recovered from pits and structural features, including at least ten Grubenhäuser and two post-built buildings.

Given the nearby sites of archaeological interest, it was considered highly likely that further concentrations of significant archaeological remains would be encountered during this phase archaeological work. In particular, it was anticipated that more of the remains of the Anglo-Saxon settlement, the Roman trackway and the Bronze Age field system would be found.

#### **4 Aims**

The aim of the archaeological monitoring and excavation was to determine the location, extent, date, character and significance of any surviving archaeological remains that would be impacted by the extraction of minerals. This included any archaeology that continued from, or related to, the features observed during previous phases of excavation (see above).

#### **5 Methodology**

The extraction area (Fig 2) was stripped under constant archaeological supervision with a 360 degree mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. Once archaeology was exposed, it was excavated and recorded in such a way as to minimise the delay to mineral extraction, i.e. the archaeology closest to the working edge of the quarry was recorded first.

Unfortunately, in the time between the end of the previous excavation in 2015 (CAT Report 1097) and the beginning of this phase of work in 2017, a strip about 20m wide to the east of the current site was extracted by the quarry without any archaeological supervision (Fig 2). In addition, the eastern 6.5m (approximately) of the current area was in use as a haul road until quite recently. This haul road caused large amounts of disturbance in this area, making the identification of features impossible.

In an attempt to mitigate these oversights, a series of cropmark rectifications were undertaken by Airphoto Services (Jarvis 2018) to try and identify what features may have been lost (Fig 3). Their report concluded that eight ditches and twelve Grubenhäuser/pits were discernable on the rectified cropmark plots, and had as a result been removed without archaeological supervision. They did stress, however, that due to the typological similarities between the Grubenhäuser/pits and tree throws it was not possible to be absolutely certain how many archaeological features had been removed (Jarvis 2018).

The majority of the removed ditches identified in the rectified cropmarks had been sectioned, excavated and recorded during the 2013-2015 excavation, or during the investigation detailed in this report.

As has been observed in the previous excavations and the preceding evaluation (Clarke 1996, 5), there is a brickearth layer of natural subsoil (L2) on the peninsula that seals the natural sands and gravels. All the archaeological features on the peninsula are cut through this brickearth layer, but the vast majority of features have such a similar fill to it that they are not visible on its surface.

As with Area B in the previous excavation phase (CAT Report 1097, 4), and the evaluation beforehand (Clarke 1996, 5) the brickearth was removed by machine down to the sand and gravels (L3) to fully expose the archaeology. To the very south of the site, the brickearth layer became thinner and eventually vanished entirely. In its place was a substantial vein of gravel against which features could be successfully identified. Accordingly, the level of machining was raised and as a result some features which straddle both types of natural subsoil have differing recorded depths.

Because a substantial amount of tree throws were investigated in the previous excavation (CAT Report 1097, 4), it was concluded, with consultation with the HEA, that they had already been suitably sampled enough. Any features that in plan appeared to be tree throws were not excavated as a matter of course during this work. Several less obvious tree throws were still incidentally excavated (see results below).

## **6 Monitoring and excavation results** (Figs 4 - 6)

The excavation covered an area of 2956 square metres, measuring approximately 190m north to south and 21m east to west (Fig 5).

Three layers were observed during the excavation:

L1 was a dark grey-brown sandy silt topsoil that was present across the entire site. Its thickness was approximately 200mm. Until very recently the excavation site had been covered by a large bund produced from stripping the adjacent extraction area (detailed in CAT Report 1097). The removal and levelling of this bund resulted in a large amount of mechanical plant moving around the site. This had the effect of disturbing L1 and the underlying layers significantly, most notably to the east of the site where L1 had been removed entirely to create a haul road. Where present, L1 sealed the natural subsoil layer L2.

L2 was a natural medium grey sandy silt brickearth which sealed natural sand and gravel (L3). It varied in thickness from 100-200mm. All of the archaeology was cut through this layer, but almost all features were indistinguishable until the natural sand and gravel (L3) had been exposed.

L3 was a light yellow-orange sand and gravels. Within this horizon, there were occasional natural silt patches.

As with previous adjacent excavations, a multi-period site with several types of features was exposed during this excavation. In total 68 features were excavated.

The results from the investigation have been divided into five periods, in keeping with the interpretation presented in the previous excavation to the east (CAT Report 1097, 5). The previous excavation had eight periods, but, presumably due to the significantly smaller size of the current extraction area, no features from the Early Neolithic, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Late Anglo-Saxon or the Post-Medieval periods were present within the current phase of work.

Additionally, the run of context numbers has been continued from the previous phase.

### **Tree throws** (Fig 4)

As detailed in the methodology above, tree throws were not excavated routinely during this excavation. Fifty-three tree throws were identified during the excavation, of which only 12 were investigated. The tree throws were identified by their leached light grey fill, alongside their elongated and irregular shape. When excavated, they typically had an uneven profile, with one side of the feature substantially steeper than the other.

Only two of the excavated tree throws, F1811 and F1818 (Fig 4), contained finds, in the form of worked flint fragments.

The tree throws were spread across the entire site, and it is assumed that they form part of the deforestation of the peninsula in the Late Neolithic period, as postulated during the previous phase of excavation (CAT Report 1097, 119).

### **Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (3200 – 1500 BC)**

A small pit (F1829) and an elongated pit (F1813) towards the south of the site are tentatively dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Both these features contained only small fragments of pottery.

F1813 was located in close proximity to two other irregularly shaped pits dated as generically prehistoric (F1809 and F1810), and may be associated with them.

**Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (1500 – 400 BC)**

Continuing on from the previous phase of work are the remains of a Middle Bronze Age field system, in the form of two ditches, F1798 and F1817. These ditches had a steep “u”-shaped profile, with a relatively steep break of slope leading down to a narrow rounded base. As before, this field system is aligned north-east to south-west (Fig 5).



**Photograph 1** Middle Bronze Age ditch F1798 SX2. Part of the Middle Bronze Age field system. Photograph taken facing south.

Also dating from the Middle Bronze Age was a small oval pit to the north of the site, which contained one small fragment of pottery (F1785).

Of note, a ditch identified as Middle Bronze Age in date during the last phase of excavation (largely due to its alignment) continued into the current phase. It was sectioned again (F1777) and this time fragments of lava quernstone were recovered from its fill. This material was not imported into Britain until the Roman period (see Finds below). The implications of this are examined in the discussion.



**Photograph 2** Ditch F1777 SX1. Photograph taken facing south.



**Roman (AD 50 – 410)**

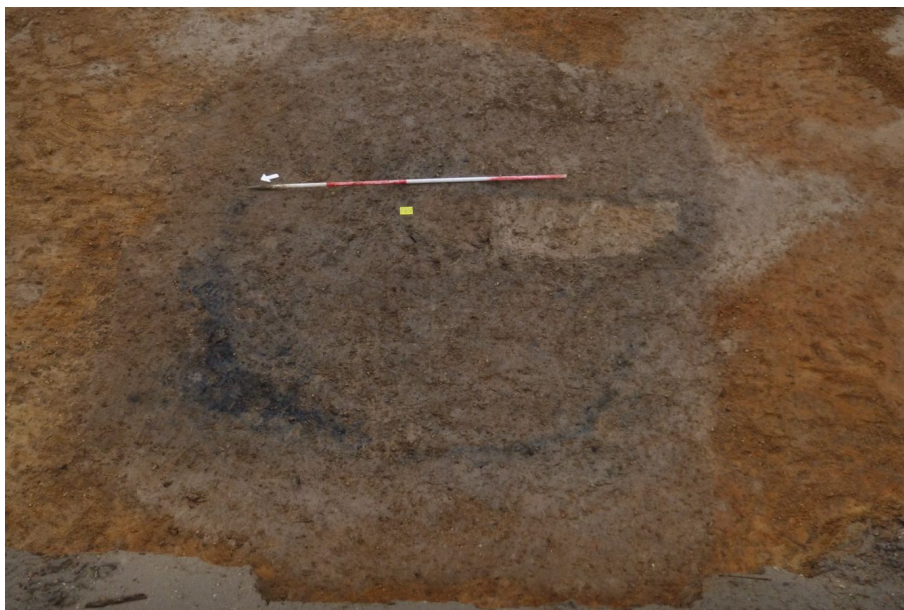
Two mid-Roman ditches to the south of the site were “u”-shaped with gently sloping sides meeting a rounded base (F1820 and F1825). These ditches were between 320-350mm in depth and between 1.2m and 1.7m in width. Although no finds were recovered from their fill, their alignment leaves little doubt that they form a continuation of the north-west/south-east aligned Roman trackway observed in the previous phase of work (Fig 5). The area between these two ditches was the interior of the trackway, which measured 7.5m wide within this excavation area.



**Photograph 3** Mid-Roman ditch F1825 SX1. Photograph taken facing west.

**Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 850)**

This excavation uncovered a continuation of the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement observed in the previous phase (CAT Report 1097). In the centre of the excavation area, directly adjacent to the western limit of excavation, was a Grubenhaus (F1808). It was in close proximity to three Anglo-Saxon pits to the east (F1787, F1793 and F1794), all of which were fully excavated.

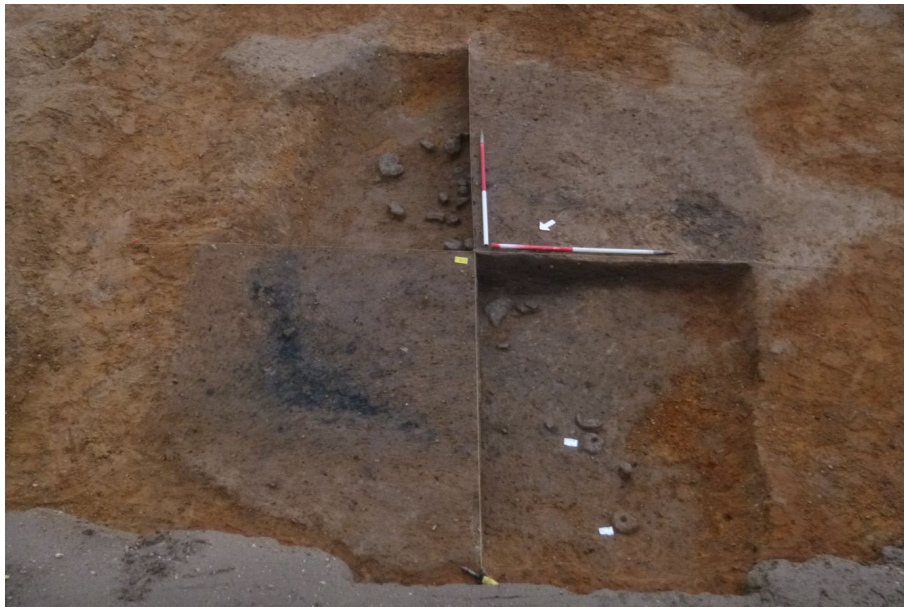


**Photograph 4** Grubenhaus F1808 prior to excavation. Dark, charcoal rich 'central fill' clearly visible in plan. Photograph taken facing south-east.

F1808 was a north-west to south-east aligned Grubenhaus, 4.3m x 3.3m in area and 570mm deep. It had two gable postholes (F1837 and F1838) and four corner postholes (F1834, F1831, F1836, and F1839) as well as two other postholes around its interior edge (F1835 to the north and F1832 to the south-east). The postholes were mostly circular in shape, with some being slightly more oval (Fig 6). They ranged in diameter from 300mm to 700mm, and in depth from 140mm to 400mm (Fig 10).



**Photograph 5** Grubenhaus F1808 mid-excavation, showing clear edge of 'central fill'. Photograph taken facing south-east.



**Photograph 6** Grubenhaus F1808 mid-excavation, showing layer of unfired loomweights and clay fragments. Photograph taken facing south-east.

Grubenhaus F1808 was fully excavated in quadrants, to allow a complete section across the feature to be recorded on the both the north-west/south-east and the north-east/south-west axis (Fig 7). Each quadrant was numbered (Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4; Fig 7) and finds recovered from the feature were labelled with the quadrant they were found in.



**Photograph 7** Detailed section shot of quadrant 1 (Q1), showing loomweights and unfired clay fragments. Photograph taken facing south-west.



**Photograph 8** Grubenhaus F1808 with complete layer of loomweights and unfired clay exposed. Photograph taken facing south-east.

As with five Grubenhäuser in the previous phase of excavation (AF107, AF108, BF39, BF1589 and BF1689 in CAT Report 1097), F1808 contained a dark brown/grey sandy silt finds-rich 'central fill' overlying the other fill within the feature, and containing a thick lens of charcoal (Fig 7). As in the other Grubenhäuser, this 'central fill' was very clear in plan, contained proportionally more of the finds from the feature and was located exactly in the centre of F1808. It was, however, much larger in plan than the previous examples, measuring approximately 2.4m in diameter. The other two fills within the Grubenhäuser were very similar grey/brown sandy silts with the lower, thinner fill only being distinguished by being slightly darker (Fig 7). The north-east and north-west edges of the feature had evidence of collapse in the form of redeposited natural sand (Fig 7).



**Photograph 9** Grubenhäuser F1808 mid-excavation after removal of unfired clay and loomweights. Photograph taken facing south-east.



**Photograph 10** Fully excavated Grubenhäuser F1808, showing postholes and pit in base. Photograph taken facing south-east.

The finds recovered from this feature are consistent with other Grubenhäuser found previously at Brightlingsea Quarry (CAT Report 1097) and across Anglo-Saxon sites in general, including Roman tile, Anglo-Saxon pot sherds, unfired clay fragments, loomweights and small fragments of slag. Of particular note was a high concentration of loomweight and unfired clay fragments which appeared to have been dumped into the Grubenhäuser as a single event, forming a distinct layer within the feature.



**Photograph 11** Pit in the base of Grubenhäuser, F1833, half-sectioned. Photograph taken facing south-east.

There was also a pit set into the base of the structure. It was 200mm deep and irregular in shape (F1833), and sealed by the backfill of the Grubenhäuser. The pit's single fill consisted of a dark-grey-brown sandy silt. This pit contained a single find – a shard of Roman window glass (see Finds below).

The three Anglo-Saxon pits to the east of the Grubenhäuser (F1787, F1793 and F1794) contained much the same selection of finds and material culture as the Grubenhäuser, including Roman tile fragments, Anglo-Saxon pot sherds and pieces of slag. The pits are all largely round or oval in shape, F1794 was slightly more irregular in plan and appeared to have been impacted by ploughing or machines tracking above. The profile of each pit varied considerably (Fig 8), but they all contained significant amounts of charcoal in their fill.



**Photograph 12** Section of Anglo-Saxon pit F1787. Photograph taken facing south.

Unlike in the larger, adjacent area (CAT Report 1097), no burials or post-built structures were uncovered during this excavation. How much of this is the result of the relative size of the two phases, and how much can be attributed to the excavation area being located further away from the centre of occupation on the ridge overlooking the River Colne, is uncertain.

## 7 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

### Introduction

A moderate quantity of finds, mostly of Early Anglo-Saxon date but with some material of prehistoric and Roman date, were recovered. Many of the Early Anglo-Saxon finds are associated with two features: the fill of a Grubenhaus (F1808) and a pit feature (F1794). Of particular interest is a group of unfired clay from the Grubenhaus. This includes pieces from annular loomweights, indicating manufacture of these objects, in association with discarded raw clay. The Roman finds are limited to pieces of tile, a single piece of window glass and imported (lava) quernstone which were probably brought onto the site for re-use in the Anglo-Saxon period. All of the bulk finds are listed and described in Appendix 1.

### Prehistoric

#### Pottery

A small assemblage of pottery sherds of prehistoric date was recovered. In total there are just 12 sherds with a combined weight of 119 g. The pottery fabrics relating to these and the quantity recorded for each fabric are listed in Table 1. The fabrics broadly follow those commonly used for cataloguing prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Sherd no.	Weight/g
B	Flint small-medium	3	15
C	Flint small-medium with occasional large	3	18
E	Flint & sand-tempered	1	4
M	Grog-tempered, often with some sand or flint	4	80
W	Flint with sand and some vegetable-temper	1	2

**Table 1** Prehistoric pottery fabrics and quantity

Most of the prehistoric pottery consists of small abraded sherds which are difficult to date closely within the prehistoric period. The small size and common incidence of recorded abrasion suggests most are residual and likely to be of some age in the contexts from which they were recovered.

There are several dark coloured, flint-tempered sherds that might possibly be Neolithic (from F1793, F1813 & F1829) and Early Neolithic pottery has been previously recovered in quantity from nearby (Brown 2008) as well as during the previous phase of work at the quarry (CAT Report 1097). However, none of the sherds are particularly diagnostic and overall a later date appears more likely. A significant assemblage of pottery typical of the Post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition, dating to the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age (c early 1st millennium BC) has also been recovered during the excavation on the adjacent area (CAT Report 1097) and some or all of these sherds appear much more likely to belong within that tradition.

The remainder of the sherds are, or are probably, Bronze Age. The base from a large pot with coarse grog-temper that was recovered from ditch F1817 is certainly Middle Bronze Age (c mid-late 2nd millennium BC) and another grog-tempered sherd from ditch F1798 can be dated to the period of the Early-Middle Bronze Age. It can be noted that a number of Middle Bronze Age burials accompanied by Ardleigh-style pottery urns has been previously excavated on an area just to the north-west of the present site (Clarke & Lavender, 2008).

Of note is one small sherd from the surface of ditch F1825 which is unusual in having flint-tempered fabric but also containing a significant quantity of chaff-tempered fabric. This sherd was recorded as Fabric W.

*Lithics*  
by Adam Wightman

context	finds no.	artefact type	cortex %	soft/hard hammer	modification
F1788	582	flake (denticulate)	35	hard	Six abrupt flake removals on RL & distal edges (dorsal)
		flake	25	hard	
F1793	583	flake	0	hard	
		flake (axe thinning)	0	soft	
	598	blade (retouched)	0	hard	abrupt retouch on LL (dorsal)
F1798	589	flake (scraper)	15	hard	abrupt on RL (ventral)
F1808	616	flake	0	hard	use-wear/edge-damage
	623	flake	0		
Q2	637	flake	0	hard	use-wear/edge-damage
	638	flake	90		
		blade	60	soft	?use-wear/edge-damage
	639	flake	60	hard	
F1810	592	?blade	35	soft	
F1811	591	core fragment		hard	
		blade	5	hard	use-wear/edge-damage
F1818	596	flake	5		
F1820 SX3	602	?flake	0	hard	
F1829	604	flake	70	hard	

**Table 2** Worked flints (a more detailed catalogue can be found in the site archive)

The lithic assemblage recovered during the 2017 phase of archaeological investigations at Brightlingsea Quarry comprised a total of eighteen worked flints (Table 01). They were recovered from a Grubenhaus (F1808) and a post-hole (F1788) dated to the Anglo-Saxon period, a pit (F1793) and two ditches (F1798 & F1820) dated to the Roman period, and from two pits (F1810 & F1829) and two tree-throws (F1811 & F1818) which could be prehistoric in date. The worked flints from the Anglo-Saxon and Roman contexts are considered to be residual, but the worked flints from the possible prehistoric pits could have been deposited in these features when they were excavated. Previous phases of archaeological fieldwork immediately to the east in 2013 (Area A) and 2014/2015 (Area B) produced a combined assemblage of two hundred and ninety-six pieces of worked flint (CAT Report 1097, 60).

The assemblage consists of worked nodular flint which is likely to have been collected from local secondary gravel sources. The predominant colour of the flint used is mottled or dark grey and none of the pieces exhibit any patination. All of the worked flints have been tabulated and described in a spreadsheet catalogue which is available in the site archive.

Thirteen of the worked flints are flakes and there is one fragment of probable flake core. Two of the flakes are retouched and one is a small, thin soft-hammer flake created during the process of thinning a Neolithic axe (F1793). The unmodified flakes are relatively thin and have been detached from their parent cores using hard-hammers without any preparation of the striking platform. Two of the flakes exhibit evidence of having been used or damaged. One of the flakes has been retouched into a side scraper (F1798) and another has six abrupt flake removals from the right lateral edge and distal end creating a denticulate (F1788). Neither of the retouched flakes are typologically diagnostic, although a Neolithic or Bronze Age date is most likely based on the quality of the retouch, size and knapping characteristics of the flakes on which they were made.



The assemblage also includes four secondary/tertiary blades, one of which is retouched. Two of the blades were detached using a soft-hammer as opposed to a hard-hammer and three exhibit evidence of the preparation of the platform prior to the detachment of the blade. The retouched blade has a single edge of retouch on the distal end which may have been used as a cutting edge. These blades date to the Mesolithic or, more likely, the Early Neolithic period.

The small worked flint assemblage from the most recent phase of archaeological investigations has similar characteristics to the larger assemblage collected during the two previous phases of work. Most of the pieces are likely to belong to a period of activity on the site in the Early Neolithic (based on a significant incidence of secondary and tertiary blades as well as an axe-thinning flake), although some of the flakes could date to later in the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

### **Early Anglo-Saxon**

A number of finds can be directly dated as Early Anglo-Saxon (pottery, annular clay loomweights) while there are several other finds groups that while of themselves not closely datable (slag, fired clay & stone) are almost exclusively from features of Early Anglo-Saxon date so that most, if not all of these finds, are almost without doubt associated with the Early Anglo-Saxon occupation. Finds that can be closely dated as Roman are separately listed together (below) but again, most of these were probably brought onto the site in the Early Anglo-Saxon period.

#### *Pottery*

In total there are 43 sherds of hand-made pottery that can be dated to the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon period. The combined weight of this pottery is 484g. The majority of this pottery comes from two features, a Grubenhaus (F1808) which produced 26 sherds (weight 388g) and a pit (F1794) which produced 7 sherds (weight 74g).

All the pottery is chaff-tempered and almost all can be characterised as Fabric 1B: relatively hard with exclusively chaff (vegetable fragment) tempering, with just one sandy sherd recorded as Fabric 1C: chaff and sand tempering (CAR 7, 24). While broadly current from the 5th to 8th centuries, at a number of sites in the south-east the proportion of chaff-tempered pottery in has been found to increase or come to dominate assemblages from the 6th to 7th centuries. Early Anglo-Saxon pottery with 'brickearth' fabrics (CAR 7, 21-23) are generally more dominant among domestic assemblages in the 5th-6th century. Some 'brickearth' pottery of this type has previously been recovered from Saxon features in the previous excavation area at Brightlingsea (CAT Report 1097, 71). However, this made up only a relatively small proportion of the pottery assemblage and chaff-tempered fabrics were predominant. This background and the exclusively chaff-tempered fabrics here suggest a date for the assemblage in the period of the 6th/7th to 8th centuries.

Only a small number diagnostic sherds were present that include both rim and base sherds (Fig 11). All of these come from the Grubenhaus (F1808) and the pit F1794. The vessel forms represented are typical of Early Anglo-Saxon domestic pottery, being small-medium jars with slack shoulders, simple, slightly flaring rims and with rounded edges to the base. There is one rim from larger storage-type jar which has a narrowed aperture, created by sloping in the neck of the pot, and a bead rim (Fig 11.5). Several of the sherds from pit F1794 have patches of burnt (carbonised) residue on the interior, most probably indicating their use in domestic food preparation.

Of interest are two thin sherds from pit F1787 that have light, slightly irregular grooves on the surface. These do not appear to be residual prehistoric sherds (for example Groove Ware), but rather appear fairly typical, fabric-wise, of the other Early Anglo-Saxon pottery found with them.

Fig 11.1 F1794 (585) Jar/bowl rim and shoulder, dark brownish surface dark fabric and interior, smoothed exterior, appears to be burnished on interior, internal burnt residue. Fabric 1B

Fig 11.2 F1794 (587) Jar base, rounded edge sharp internal angle, dark brownish surface dark fabric smoothed surfaces. Fabric 1B

Fig 11.3 F1794 (644) Jar/bowl rim and shoulder, dark brownish surface dark fabric and interior, smoothed exterior, burnished over rim, internal burnt residue. Fabric 1B

Fig 11.4 F1808 Q3 (616) (upper fill) Small jar with smoothed surface extending over rim, almost certainly same pot as one (rim) in Q2 (637) Fabric 1B

Fig 11.5 F1808 Q3 (639) (lower fill) Rim & neck (joining sherds) from a large jar with thickened bead-like rim, dark grey surfaces and fabric. Fabric 1B

Fig 11.6 F1794 (581) small sherd, relatively thin, chaff-tempered, fabric appears to be fairly typical of the other Early Anglo-Saxon pottery, low close-set, irregular parallel ridges on the surface, possibly resulting from straw or matting pressed against surface. Fabric 1B

Fig 11.7 F1794 (588) small sherd recovered from bulk sample, chaff-tempered fabric typical of the other Early Anglo-Saxon pottery, small, low curving ridges, possibly from wiping the surface. Fabric 1B

#### *Clay loomweights and associated unfired clay*

Pieces of unfired annular loomweights of Saxon date were recovered from the fill of a Grubenhau (F1808). Pieces of a single, similar loomweight were also recovered from posthole F1835, within the Grubenhau. The loomweights from the Grubenhau were among a larger number of pieces of unfired grey clay encountered in the fill, many of which were either relatively thin pieces or more substantial broad clay lumps or slabs. The approximate weight (dry) of all of the unfired clay recovered from F1808 is 19 kg (c 18,940 g). When dry the clay is predominantly a pale blue-grey in colour but also with a brownish hue in places. It appears slightly silty with fine-medium sand and occasional small stones in the matrix. There are also common small voids and fine elongated voids presumably from small roots. The visual similarity of the unfired clay and the unfired loomweights suggests that the clay had been used for making the weights. Both the loomweight pieces and the unfired clay are listed in Table 3.

Ctxt & Find no	Plan letter code	Quad (F1808 only)	Catalogue
<b>F1808:</b>			
593		Q3	Small clay lumps
612		Q3	Part of an annular loomweight
613		Q3	Annular loomweight piece
614	A	Q3	Small clay lump
614	B	Q3	Small clay smear
614	C	Q3	Small clay lump
614	D	Q3	Small thin clay slab up to 10 mm thick
614	E	Q3	Part of an annular loomweight (flattened?) or bun-like weight?
614	F	Q3	Thin clay smear c 2 mm-10 mm thick
615	A	Q1	Thin clay piece/clay smear c 3 mm thick
615	B	Q1	Thin clay piece/clay smear c 3 mm thick
615	C	Q1	Thin clay slab up to 5 mm thick
615	E	Q1	Thin clay piece/clay smear
615	F	Q1	Thin clay piece/clay smear c 2 mm thick
615	G	Q1	Small clay lump
615	H	Q1	Small clay fragments
615	I	Q1	Thin clay piece/clay smear
615	J	Q1	Thin clay slab pieces up to 15 mm thick & clay smears
615	K	Q1	Thin clay piece/clay smear up to c 6 mm thick
615	L	Q1	Small clay lumps
615	M	Q1	Small clay lump
615	N	Q1	Small clay lump
633	A	Q2	Small clay lumps

Ctxt & Find no	Plan letter code	Quad (F1808 only)	Catalogue
633	B	Q2	Small clay lump
633	C	Q2	Small clay smear
633	D	Q2	Small clay lump
633	E	Q2	Small clay lump
633	F	Q2	Small thin clay slab up to 10 mm thick
633	G	Q2	Small clay lump
633	H	Q2	Small clay lump
633	I	Q2	Clay smear
633	K	Q2	Thin clay piece/clay smear & other small clay fragments/smears
633	L	Q2	Thin clay piece/clay smear c 2 mm thick
633	M	Q2	Thin clay pieces/clay smears up to c 3 mm thick
633	N	Q2	Small clay lumps
633	J	Q3	Clay smear 3 mm thick
634	A	Q4	Annular loomweight piece
634	B	Q4	Large clay slab up to 10 mm thick
634	C	Q4	Thin clay piece/clay smear c 5 mm thick
634	D	Q4	Clay lump/slab 10 mm-20 mm thick + some small clay fragments
634	E	Q4	Clay slab piece up to c 15 mm thick
634	F	Q4	Thin clay slab piece c 15 mm-20 mm thick
634	G	Q4	Small clay lumps/clay smears
635		Q4	Small clay lumps/loomweight fragments?
<b>F1835:</b>			
642	(Not applicable)	(Not applicable)	Annular loomweight pieces

**Table 3** Clay loomweights and associated unfired clay

#### *Annular loomweights*

Although generally poorly preserved a number of annular loomweight pieces could be identified among the unfired clay recovered from the fill of the Grubenhau. Groups of pieces that can be certainly identified as loomweights represent a minimum of three of these weights and distorted pieces suggest four to five (Figs 12-13). The best preserved pieces indicate weights of c 120 mm overall diameter with the clay ring of approximately the same thickness as the diameter of the central hole at c 40 mm.

Saxon loomweights can be seen to follow a general typological development which can be used to propose a broad date for a particular group or assemblage. The Early Anglo-Saxon annular ring-like weights have a central hole which is greater than the width of the clay ring. These were joined in the 6th century by thicker intermediate examples with a thicker clay ring and proportionally smaller central hole and which gradually superseded them. By the 8th century, more bun-shaped forms having narrowed central holes become increasingly common (Walton-Rogers 2015, 288). While many of the pieces here are difficult to assign to a particular type as they are partial and some have been deformed, the general shapes and measurements of the relatively-intact pieces allow these to be classified as of intermediate type; although two pieces of clay might be from a more bun-like weight (Fig 12). This suggests that as an assemblage they can be broadly dated to the Early-Middle Saxon period of the 6th/7th to 9th centuries (Walton-Rogers 2015, 288).

Early Anglo-Saxon annular loomweights have been recovered from the previous excavation phase at Brightlingsea and these were predominantly also of unfired grey coloured clay (CAT Report 1097, 78). The overall diameter of the better-preserved weights there appeared to be a little larger at c 130 - 160 mm although, given the damage and distortion to the unfired examples here, which are difficult to measure, this may not be significant.

The occurrence of unfired annular form loomweights is not unusual; for example at West Stow, whole sets of unfired (green) loomweights were found together in positions that

suggest they had been in use on looms there (EAA **24** 1985, 138-139). It seems possible that at least some of the pieces from the Grubenhau here may represent an episode of manufacture or manufacture waste. Also it is noted that, while drying, the clay began to crack causing structural flaws making the weights and clay pieces prone to fragmenting and relatively fragile as objects.

Fig 12.1 F1808 Q3 (613) Large part of an annular loomweight in unfired grey clay, part flattened with one end preserving rounded shape with flattened base (wall c 40 mm thick, central hole probably originally similar diameter)

Fig 12.2 F1808 Q3 (612) complete circle of annular loomweight in unfired grey clay, upper part scraped away, lower part and negative image preserved in underlying soil (attached) (wall originally c 40 mm thick, central hole probably originally similar diameter)

Fig 12.3 F1808 Q4 (634) part of an annular loomweight in unfired grey clay, clay body in poor condition with pieces fragmented from it leaving part of an uneven ring (central hole probably originally c 40 mm, surviving wall pieces c 30 mm-40 mm thick)

Fig 12.4 F1808 Q4 (635) quantity of thick unfired clay pieces of which one can be identified as probably part of an annular loomweight

Fig 13.5 F1808 Q3 (614) pieces of unfired grey clay, c 60 mm-70 mm broad with a curving edge, possibly flattened loomweight pieces, one with indication of part of a small central hole, the small central hole and relatively thick wall might possibly indicate a more bun-like weight although this might be quite large at possibly c 150 mm diameter at the base.

Fig 13.6 F1835 (642) Three sections from an annular loomweight in unfired grey clay, probably all parts of the same weight (central hole probably originally c 40 mm-45 mm, surviving wall pieces c 30 mm-40 mm thick)

#### *Other unfired clay*

Unfired clay seemingly of the same type as that used to manufacture the loomweights was also recovered from the fill of the Grubenhau, although this was generally in the form of irregular lumps, slab-like pieces and relatively thin clay pieces/clay smears (Table 3). A few pieces appear to have right-angled side edges suggesting bar or thick slab pieces (Fig 13) while others are simply irregular lumps with some flat surfaces (Fig 13). Clearly much of the clay has been flattened and truncated. It seems unlikely that most of the irregular pieces could ever have been loomweights and there are indications of some formed bar-like or thick slabs present. This suggests that some of this material is raw, possibly processed clay that was being used to make loomweights, but which might also have been used for other clay objects, and in part might represent a dumped, unused clay stock. The grey colour and fine sand silty matrix of the clay suggests a possible coastal/estuarine source.

In this context it can be noted that there is a dump of unfired clay recorded at the Anglo-Saxon settlement at West Stow, Suffolk. This was located within a small ditched enclosure defining the clay dump and was interpreted as extracted clay left to weather and had been intended for later use in activities such as potting or making loomweights (EAA **24**, 35).

Fig 13.7 F1808 Q3 (614) piece of unfired grey clay preserving part of a straight, right angle edge with rounded end?

Fig 13.8 F1808 Q1 (615) piece of unfired grey clay preserving part of a straight, right angle edge

Fig 13.9 F1808 Q4 (634) example of irregular, slab-like pieces of unfired grey clay

Fig 13.10 F1808 Q4 (635) example of irregular lumps of unfired grey clay

### *Slag*

While not of itself closely dated, a small quantity of slag was recovered from two features which are both clearly of Early Anglo-Saxon date, these being pit F1794 and the 'central fill' of the Grubenhuis F1808. All of the slag is visually similar, being a slightly vesicular grey (glassy) medium weight slag with some orange/red-brown iron content, although subjectively the small pieces from the Grubenhuis felt slightly heavier (denser). In total there are 13 pieces from the pit F1794 (weight 604 g) and 14 pieces from the Grubenhuis (weight 34 g). The orange/red-brown iron based content suggests some association with iron working, although no indicative material in the form of smithing waste (hammer scale or small spherical globules) was found to be present in the remaining soil detritus directly associated with the slag lumps.

### *Fired clay*

Small, undistinguished, pieces of fired clay, either as individual pieces or small groups, were recovered from three features. These include pits F1787 and F1794, although by far the majority comes from the fill of the Early Anglo-Saxon Grubenhuis F1808. These are listed and described in Appendix 1. Of interest is a piece of fired clay (weight 15g) from the middle fill of excavation quadrant 2 (find no. 637) of the Grubenhuis. This has a large piece of chaff-tempered clay in it, probably part of an Early Anglo-Saxon pot in the fabric. The object itself might be a part of a broken crucible.



**Photograph 13** Fired clay from quadrant 2 of Grubenhuis F1808. Piece of chaff-tempered pot visible in the fabric.

*Small finds*

by Laura Pooley

Two iron nails were recovered from Anglo-Saxon contexts, both with square-sectioned shanks and flat rectangular heads. Nails were primarily used for holding together caskets, chests and other items of furniture, and for securing iron fittings such as corner brackets and hinge straps (Ottoway 2016).

SF1 F1787 (588) Complete iron nail, square-sectioned shank, flat rectangular head measuring 13mm by 8mm, 38mm long, 4.1g.

SF2 F1808 quad 1, central fill (611) Almost complete iron nail in two pieces (modern break), square-sectioned shank, damaged flat rectangular head measuring 11mm by 10mm, 39mm long, 2.9g.

SF	Context	Context type	Find no.	Object type	Description	Qt	Wt. g	Length mm	Date
1	F1787	Anglo-Saxon pit/ fire pit	588	Iron nail	Iron nail, complete, square-sectioned shank and flat rectangular head, 13mm by 8mm.	1	4.1	38	Anglo-Saxon
2	F1808 quad 1 central fill	Anglo-Saxon Grubenhaus	611	Iron nail	Iron nail in two pieces (modern break), almost complete, square-sectioned shank, head damaged but appears to have a flat rectangular head, 11mm by 10mm.	1	2.9	39	Anglo-Saxon

**Table 4** Small finds

*Animal bone*

by Alec Wade

The excavation at Brightlingsea Quarry produced a very small assemblage of animal bone amounting to 21 pieces weighing 66g. Most of the material was recovered from the 1st and 3rd quarters of the Grubenhaus F1808 and was in poor condition.

The only species positively identified from F1808 was sheep or goat – fragments of teeth were recovered from the 1st quarter and the charcoal lens (Finds no. 617) recorded in the 3rd quarter produced white calcinated pieces of rib bone, also possibly sheep or goat (based on size).

Additionally, several small pieces of what may be badly degraded cattle horn core were found along with the tooth fragments from the 1st quarter.

Context	Finds no.	Quantity	Weight g	Animal bone
F1808 Grubenhaus Q1	610	9	28g	Fragments of sheep or goat teeth (3 pieces) and possible cattle horn core fragments (6) in very poor condition.
F1808 Grubenhaus Q3	617	5	4g	Burnt (white in colour) fragments of medium sized mammal rib bones, probably of sheep or goat.
F1808 Grubenhaus Q3	639	2	6g	Unidentified fragments – possibly large sized mammal.
F1794 pit (Anglo-Saxon)	644	5	28g	Cattle teeth (2 pieces) and unidentified medium sized mammal bone.

**Table 5** Animal bone

### **Roman finds**

Finds that can be dated to the Roman period, or are almost certainly of Roman date, consist of a small quantity of brick and tile pieces, a piece of window glass and pieces of imported lava quern. These are strongly associated with the features of Early Anglo-Saxon date and most if not all of this material was probably brought onto the site in the Early Anglo-Saxon period.

#### *Roman brick and tile*

In total 11 pieces of Roman brick and tile were recovered with a combined weight of 2524g. All are orange in colour with relatively fine-medium sand fabrics. Apart from two relatively small pieces from pits F1793 & F1794, the rest came from the fill of the Grubenhau F1808. A few thick pieces come from broken flat brick (F1793 & F1808). The majority are flat pieces of brick or tile, probably mostly from the bases of *tegulae* although one piece from F1808 is probably part of a square hypocaust brick, either a *bessalis* or *pedalis*. The strong association of these with features of Early Anglo-Saxon date suggests they are scavenged from an abandoned Roman settlement for re-use in the Early Anglo-Saxon settlement here.

#### *Roman glass*

A piece of blue-green Roman window glass was recovered from pit F1833 (in the base of the Grubenhau F1808) and was the only find from that feature. The piece is flat, 3 mm thick with one opaque side from casting onto a flat surface. Like the Roman brick and tile, this is likely to have been scavenged for re-use.

#### *Quernstone*

Two small, degraded pieces of lava quernstone (weight 578g) were recovered from ditch F1777. This stone is a continental import into Britain, almost certainly coming from Mayen in the Rhineland. Quernstones made of this lava stone were first imported during the Roman period but this trade essentially ceased in the Early Anglo-Saxon period only to be revived in the mid-late Saxon period and then continued through the Middle Ages (CAR 2, 75).

### **Other finds**

#### *Heat-affected (burnt) stone*

Discoloured and slightly-modified heat-affected stone and calcified and crazed heavily burnt stones were recovered from a number of features during the excavation: F1775, F1777, F1787 F1808, F1809, F1810, F1813 & F1820. In all, there are 27 stones/stone pieces with a combined weight of 354 g. Most contexts containing this material produced between one and five pieces. Grubenhau F1808 did contain 12 pieces but this may simply reflect the relatively large size of the feature. All of the material consists of flint, although it is worth noting that a piece of heat-affected sandy limestone was also recovered from the Grubenhau.

Commonly heat-affected/burnt stones are associated with prehistoric activity, usually deliberately heated in the context being used to transfer heat from a fire to water. However, stone can of course come into contact with heat incidentally and the small incidence of heat-altered stone from any one feature here could of itself be of any date. The few pieces of heat-affected/burnt stones from pit F1810 and linear/ditch F1813 are both associated with prehistoric pottery. Others are either the only find associated with that context or come from features with finds dated to the Early Anglo-Saxon period.

## Assessment Of Environmental Samples

By Lisa Gray

### Introduction – aims and objectives

Fourteen samples were presented for assessment (see table 1 below). They were taken pits and a Grubenhaus dated as Anglo-Saxon.

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples, consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

This assessment follows an earlier archaeobotanical assessment at Brightlingsea Quarry by the author when fifty samples from a range of feature types dating from the Late Neolithic to Saxon periods were assessed (Gray 2017).

Sample	Finds no.	Feature number	Feature type	Date	Bulk sample size (L)
1	584	F1793	pit	Anglo-Saxon	20
2	587	F1794	pit	Anglo-Saxon	40
3	588	F1787	pit	Anglo-Saxon	40
4	601	F1824	pit	Undated	10
5	605	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
6	606	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
7	607	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
8	608	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
9	622	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
10	627	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
11	628	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
12	629	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
13	630	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40
14	641	F1808	Grubenhaus	Anglo-Saxon	40

**Table 6** Samples presented for Assessment

### Sampling And Processing Methods

Samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were completely processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. 510 litres of soil was sampled. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried. 0.354 litres of flot was produced.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Plant macro-remains are referred to as 'grain', 'seed' or 'fruitstone' rather than by their correct botanical names. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.



At this stage numbers given are estimates but, where only one item is present, that has been noted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been described as that. Charred wood <4mm diameter are described as 'flecks'. Samples this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, ¶ 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Fragments smaller than this and larger than 2mmØ were scanned in case any fragments of twig or roundwood survived.

## Results

### *The plant remains*

The approximate densities of plant macro-remains per litre of sampled soil (excluding charcoal flecks and uncharred root/rhizome fragments) ranged from 0 to 2.75 items per litre of sampled soil (see Table 7 below). The highest density of plant macro-remains was found in pit F1794 (sample 2). At assessment stage items are not counted. These estimates are based a value of 10 items to an abundance of '1' and 100 items to an abundance of '2'. They are estimates at this stage.

Sample	Finds no.	Feature number	Feature type	Date	Bulk sample size (L)	Estimated density (items per litre of sample)
1	584	F1793	pit	Anglo-Saxon	20	1
2	587	F1794	pit	Anglo-Saxon	40	2.75
3	588	F1787	pit	Anglo-Saxon	40	2.5
4	601	F1824	Grubenhau	Undated	10	1
5	605	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.025
6	606	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.025
7	607	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.5
8	608	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.5
9	622	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	2.5
10	627	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.5
11	628	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	2.75
12	629	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.75
13	630	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.75
14	641	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0

**Table 7** Estimated density of plant macro-remains in each sample

The plant remains in these samples (see Table 8 below) consisted of charcoal, grains, charred and uncharred seeds and uncharred root/rhizome fragments.

Sample	Finds no.	Feature number	Feature type	Date	Bulk sample size (L)	Flot size (L)	Estimated density	Charred						Uncharred/ Dried Waterlogged						
								Grain			Seed			Nutshell?	Charcoal >4mmØ	Charcoal <4mmØ	Seed			Root/rhizome fragments
								a	d	p	a	d	p				a	a	a	
1	584	F1793	pit	Anglo-Saxon	20	0.002	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	3	2	
2	587	F1794	pit	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.025	2.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	3	1	
3	588	F1787	pit	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.15	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	2	
4	601	F1824	Grubenhau	Undated	10	0.005	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	
5	605	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.01	0.025	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	
6	606	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.05	0.025	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	
7	607	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.005	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3	-	
8	608	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.015	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	3	1	
9	622	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.05	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	
10	627	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.005	0.5	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	
11	628	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.015	2.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	3	1	
12	629	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.005	0.75	1	1	3	1	1	2	-	1	2	1	1	2	1
13	630	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.002	0.75	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	1	2	1	1	3	1
14	641	F1808	Grubenhau	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.015	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	

Key: a = abundance [1=occasional1-10,2=moderate 11-100 and 3= abundant>100;

d = diversity[1=low1-4 taxa types, 2=moderate5-10,3= high;

p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only), 2= moderate (genus), 3= good (species identification possible)

**Table 8** Plant Macro-Remains in the Samples

Twelve samples contained low to moderate quantities of identifiable charcoal fragments. Two samples from Grubenhau F1808 (sample 10, Finds no. 627 and sample 12, Finds no. 629) contained charred grains. These consisted of one straight barley (*Hordeum* sp) grain in sample 10 and one bread/club/rivet wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) grain in sample 12. Charred seeds were found in three samples in Grubenhau F1808 (sample 11, Finds No. 628, sample 12 Finds no. 629 and sample 13 Finds no. 630). The charred seed in sample 11 was a fragment of cherry/sloe (*Prunus* sp.) with fruitstone and flesh visible. The seed in sample 12 was a fragment of broad bean (*Vicia faba* L.). The seed in sample 13 was a grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.) seed. Grubenhau F1808 sample 7 finds no 607) contained a fragment of nutshell that resembled shell of a stone pine (*Pinus pinea* L.) nut. Uncharred seeds were present in low to moderate numbers in seven samples. These were all seeds of ruderal plants. Most of these were seeds of fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.) found in samples 1,7 and 8. Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* L.) seeds were found in samples 1 and 2. Goosefoot/Orache (*Chenopodium/Atriplex* sp.) seeds were found in sample 2, 12 and 13. A violet seed (*Viola* sp.) was found in sample 11. Low numbers of hedge/lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum/mollugo*) seeds were found in sample 14.

#### *Fauna*

The only faunal remains were low numbers of puparia found in pit F1794 (sample 2) and Grubenhau F1808 (Finds No. 630, sample 13)

#### *Inorganic Remains*

No artefactual inorganic remains were found in any of the flots.

### **Discussion**

#### *Biases in Recovery, Residuality, Contamination*

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples at the time of writing. The only evidence for bioturbation and possible intrusivity in the flots was present in the form of uncharred root/rhizomes fragments. The uncharred seeds are not recent seeds because there is no internal tissue present but it is possible that they are intrusive, especially as the species present are found in samples from all periods.

#### *Quality and type of preservation*

The plant remains in these samples were preserved by charring and anaerobically rather than by waterlogging as the uncharred seeds that are present are types with robust endocarps that can survive changing levels of waterlogging and aeration of the soil.

Charring of plant macrofossils occurs when plant material is heated under '...reducing conditions...' where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2) leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to biological and chemical decay (Campbell *et al.* 2011,17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

#### *Potential of these samples to provide information about food, crop-processing, craft, medicine, trade, feature function and environment*

The likelihood that the dried plant remains are intrusive means that only the charred plant remains have most potential to answer any of these questions.

However, the very low density of all the plant macro-remains in these samples means that it is possible that many of these are general background waste rather than indicative of original feature use. They could have moved from their original context by bioturbation and re-working.

A study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for southern and central England (Pelling *et al.* 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between

contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96).

Therefore, it is not wise to assume that the context in which the plant macro-remains were found during excavation were the contexts in which it was originally deposited, especially when the preservation of the plant remains are poor and numbers are very low relative to the amount of soil sampled.

It is because of this that it is unlikely that the charred plant remains can give anything other than a general overview of activities and it would be unwise to assume that the plant remains are from the periods the sampled contexts have been dated to.

*Significance of the Samples and Recommendations for Further Work*

Although charred plant remains are present in these samples they are present in very low density. Further work on these samples is unlikely to provide anything more than a very general overview. This is the same conclusion the author came to on carrying out an archaeobotanical assessment on samples from an earlier phase of excavation at Brightlingsea Quarry (Gray 2017).

Therefore, no further work is recommended on these samples unless it will be useful to identify the charcoal for selection for radiocarbon dating or information about fuel. With regards the grains and seeds this report should suffice because they have been counted and identified as best as is possible.

## 8 Discussion

These excavations at Brightlingsea, although limited in scope compared to the adjacent excavations carried out three years earlier (CAT Report 1097), serve to reinforce the same conclusions and interpretations.

Although lacking the full scale of archaeological remains uncovered on the adjacent site, this excavation still exposed features ranging in date from the Late Neolithic to the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon, suggesting a long-running level of occupation on or nearby the site during this time-frame.

The investigated tree throws produced three worked flint fragments, one of which was a blade probably datable to the Early Neolithic period (see finds above). The small number of finds recovered from the excavated tree throws is in keeping with the previous excavation; very few of the over 400 tree throws excavated within that area contained any finds at all (CAT Report 1097, 117). The interpretation of the tree throws from the previous phase was that, if they were the result of a single event of human-enacted deforestation, it dated to the Late Neolithic period. Nothing uncovered in this excavation seems to contradict that interpretation.

The two Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age features excavated on the site were small pits containing only small fragments of pottery within their fill, and add little to the interpretation established in the previous report, besides reinforcing the evidence for nearby occupation in that period (CAT Report 1097, 121).

The Middle Bronze Age field system observed in the previous phase continues into this excavation area, with ditches F1798 and F1817 both being part of it and containing finds of Middle Bronze Age date (see above). F1777 is also the continuation of a ditch assigned as being part of the Middle Bronze Age field system in the previous phase, largely on account of its alignment (the previous excavated sections having no finds). During this excavation, however, one of the excavated sections of this ditch contained fragments of lava quernstone, a material first imported from the Rhineland in the Roman period (pg 20). This material, if not intrusive, suggests a much later date for this ditch. Although lava quernstone is also imported during the mid to late Anglo-Saxon period, this ditch is considered far more likely to be Roman in date, landscape features dating from the Anglo-Saxon period being uncommon. The ditch's alignment, of course, remains the same as the rest of the Middle Bronze Age field system, suggesting it may have originally been part of the field system but was backfilled/re-cut in the Roman period.

The two ditches to the south of the site, based on their location and alignment, are unquestionably a continuation of the mid-Roman trackway from the previous phase and serve to show that the trackway continued westwards at least as far as this latest excavation area (Fig 5). As postulated in the report of the previous phase of work (CAT Report 1097), this trackway probably led to Roman settlements elsewhere on the ridge and, in particular, seems to line up with the location of a Roman villa exposed by trenching during the First World War about a mile to the west (EHER 2116).

The Grubenhäuser and three pits in the centre of the site form a continuation of the extensive Anglo-Saxon settlement observed on the ridge in the previous phase of work. In many ways it is typical of the Grubenhäuser previously excavated at Brightlingsea. Its size and rectangular shape is within the parameters of the Grubenhäuser excavated in the last phase (see CAT Report 1097, Appendix 1). There is also a complex of pits in close proximity, and, like the majority of Grubenhäuser found at Brightlingsea, it is a six-post derivative structure (based on West's accepted classification model: see EAA 24, 113-115).

Like most of the previously-excavated Grubenhäuser at Brightlingsea, F1808 contained unfired clay and loomweight fragments within its fill. Compared to the other excavated Grubenhäuser, however, there was a considerably higher quantity of this material. In addition, whereas previously these unfired clay fragments were found generally mixed

within the lower fills of the other Grubenhäuser, within F1808 almost all of the loomweight and unfired clay fragments were present within what appeared to be a single deposition layer, at the same level throughout the backfill of the feature (pg 10). This clearly represents a single, intentional, deposition of unfired clay, in greater quantities than found in any previously-excavated Grubenhäuser on the site (CAT Report 1097).

The redeposited natural sand on the north-east and north-west edges of F1808 (pg 9) suggests that after the removal of its superstructure the pit of the Grubenhäuser must have been left open for some time, enough for the partial collapse of those two sand edges into the base of the feature. This is unusual, as usually Grubenhäuser have very little in the way of redeposited natural material within their fill, indicating that, after their abandonment, they were rapidly backfilled and were not left open for a prolonged period of time (Tipper 2004, 103). F1808 does have a parallel, however, with Grubenhäuser BF141 from the earlier phase of work. This also had redeposited natural sand within its fill (CAT Report 1097, 26).

Similarly, the pit in the base of F1808 (F1833; pg 7), while an uncommon feature of Grubenhäuser generally, can be compared to the two pits in the base of Grubenhäuser BF1626 in the previous phase of excavation (CAT Report 1097, 31). Although pit F1833 in the base of F1808 is not surrounded by stakeholes (as the pits in BF1626 were), the same possible interpretation applies, i.e. that it was a storage pit in the base of the Grubenhäuser, presumably for the keeping of foodstuffs. As with the other pits, the find recovered from F1833 (a single shard of Roman window glass) does little to prove or disprove this theory and it will take further excavated examples of these features before a definite interpretation can be provided.

The environmental samples recovered from Grubenhäuser F1808 contained seeds of cherry/sloe, broad beans and grapes, as well as a possible pine nut (pg 24). Interestingly, none of the environmental remains recovered from the previously excavated Grubenhäuser at Brightlingsea contained any of these seed types (CAT Report 1097, 103). Although the possibility these seeds are intrusive is considered likely in the environmental report (pg 25), the stark difference between the environmental samples from F1808 and the previous Grubenhäuser on the site is still worthy of note.

Although only a small area compared to the substantial excavation to the east, these results show that the extensive, regionally important, multi-period site uncovered during that excavation does continue to the west, as postulated. As before, should any further work be undertaken on or around the quarry site, then it seems very likely that more evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation would be uncovered, as well as possible prehistoric and Roman settlements.

## 9 Acknowledgements

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Figures are by M Baister. Sections and plans are by S Carter and finds drawings are by E Holloway.

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The text was reviewed and edited by Philip Crummy, director of CAT.

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## 11 Glossary and abbreviations

Anglo-Saxon	the period from AD 410 to AD 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, tessera)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
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 hole such as a pit or ditch
Grubenhaus	a building built in a pit sunk into the ground. Common in northern Europe, prevalent in the Anglo-Saxon period in Britain. Plural Grubenhäuser.
HEA	Historic Environment Advisor
layer	an accumulation or deposition of archaeological material
medieval	the period from AD 1066 to AD 1500
modern	the period from AD 1800 to present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
post-medieval	the period from AD 1500 to AD 1800
Prehistoric	the period prior to the Roman invasion of Britain, i.e. pre AD 43
Roman	the period from AD 43 to AD 410



## 12 Contents and deposition of the archive

### Finds archive

1 Museum box of finds

### Paper archive

1 A4 wallet containing:  
this report (CAT Report 1458)  
original site record (context and finds sheets)  
section drawings  
digital photo log  
attendance record  
sundry papers  
digital photos on disc

The paper and digital archive are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, C02 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum.

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## Appendix 1 Bulk Finds

Key: FC=fired clay; BS=heat affected (burnt) stone; RBT=Roman brick or tile; RB=Roman brick; S/Q=sandstone/quartzite; <>=recovered from processing a bulk soil sample

Ctxt	Ctxt Type	On site dated	Find no	Find type	Period	Fabric	Description	Form/type	No	Wt/g	EVE	Abr/burnt	Spot date	Pot/ illust
F1771	Tree Throw	Preh?												
F1773	Pit/Tree Throw	Preh?												
F1774	Ditch E-W Aligned	Preh?												
F1775	Pit	Preh	13	BS	Preh?	flint	Piece part calcified and reddened by heat		1	4			Preh?	
F1776	Pit/Tree Throw	Preh?												
F1777	Ditch - Aligned NE-SW	preh	578	quern		lava	2 small abraded pieces of imported lava quernstone (probably German Mayen stone)		2	32		A	Rom?	
F1777	Ditch - Aligned NE-SW	preh	578	BS	Preh?	flint	Piece calcified		1	6			Preh?	
F1778	Glacial Scare													
F1779	Pit/Tree Throw	Preh?												
F1780	Post Hole/Tree Throw	Preh?												
F1782	Post-Hole													
F1783	Post/Stake Hole	Preh?												
F1784	Post Hole	Preh?												
F1785	Pit	Preh	580	pot	preh	C	Oxidised on one surface		1	2		A	Preh - Bronze Age?	
F1786	Tree Throw													
F1787	Pit/Fire Pit	Preh	581	pot	ASax	1B	Small pottery sherd – fabric appears to be typical ASax <b>one sherd with low close-set parallel ridges on the surface- base(?) could suggest manufacture on coarse wood surface (wood grain) or a mat</b>		1	6				Fig 11.6
F1787	Pit/Fire Pit	Preh	581	BS		flint	Burnt (calcified) flint		1	28				
F1787	Pit/Fire Pit	Preh	581	FC			Three pieces, 2 sandy orange, one same with pale grey coloured flat		3	36		A		

Ctxt	Ctxt Type	On site dated	Find no	Find type	Period	Fabric	Description	Form/ type	No	Wt/g	EVE	Abr/ burnt	Spot date	Pot/ illust
							surface – moderately hard fired							
F1787	Pit/Fire Pit	Preh	588 <	pot	ASax	1B	Small pottery sherds, very broken-up, fabric appears typical Asax– <b>one sherd, low close-set parallel ridges on the surface - base(?) sherd with underside(?) could suggest manufacture on coarse wood surface (wood grain) or a mat</b>		8	12			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	Fig 11.7
F1787	Pit/Fire Pit	Preh	588 <	pot	ASax	1C	Jar rim, slightly flaring; orange sandy fabric & surfaces with some chaff showing in surfaces	jar	1	4			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	
F1787	Pit/Fire Pit	Preh	588 <	FC			Hard fired orange sandy clay, almost brick/tile-like hardness but can be chipped away with a fingernail		1	10		A		
F1787	Pit/Fire Pit	Preh	588 <	nail		fe	Small forged nail with distinct rectangular flat head, lower shaft missing – <b>possibly post-medieval?</b>		1				NCD (poss post-med?)	
F1788	Post-Hole	Saxon					St, Fl							
F1789	Post-Hole	Saxon?												
F1790	Post-Hole	Saxon												
F1791	Post-Hole	Saxon												
F1792	Post-Hole	Saxon												
F1793	Pit	Roman	583	pot	preh		Flat base, sparse flint, dark surfaces		1	6		A	Late Neo-Bronze Age	
F1793	Pit	Roman	583	CBM	Rom		Brick (30 mm thick) orange sandy fabric	RB	1	174			Rom	
F1794	Pit	A Sax	585	slag			Irregular, slightly vesicular grey (glassy) medium slag with some orange/red-brown iron content (note- no hammer scale or spheres appear to be present in associated loose dusty material in bag)		4	330			(ASax?)	
F1794	Pit	A Sax	585	pot	ASax	1B	<b>Jar/bowl</b> rim and shoulder, dark brownish surface dark fabric and interior, smoothed exterior, appears to be burnished on interior - <b>internal burnt residue</b>		1	24			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	Fig 11.1
F1794	Pit	A Sax	585	CBM	Rom		Small piece of flat tile, <b>probably tegula</b> , 18 mm thick, orange-red	RBT	1	400			Rom	

Ctxt	Ctxt Type	On site dated	Find no	Find type	Period	Fabric	Description	Form/ type	No	Wt/g	EVE	Abr/ burnt	Spot date	Pot/ illust
							sandy fabric, grey fabric core, part of spiral or double oval signature on surface							
F1794	Pit	A Sax	586	Stone			Natural piece of very sandy limestone – discarded.		1	283				
F1794	Pit	A Sax	587 <	pot	ASax	1B	<b>Jar base</b> , rounded edge sharp internal angle, dark brownish surface dark fabric smoothed surfaces	jar	1	16			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	Fig 11.2
F1794	Pit	A Sax	587 <	pot	ASax	1B	Small body sherd		1	4			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	
F1794	Pit	A Sax	644	slag			Irregular, slightly vesicular grey (glassy) medium & medium-heavy slag with some orange/red-brown iron content (note-no hammer scale or spheres appear to be present in associated loose dusty material in bag)		9	274			(ASax?)	
F1794	Pit	A Sax	644	pot	ASax	1B	<b>Jar/bowl</b> rim and shoulder, dark brownish surface dark fabric and interior, smoothed exterior, burnished over rim - <b>internal burnt residue</b>	Jar/ bowl	2	6			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	Fig 11.3
F1794	Pit	A Sax	644	pot	ASax	1B	<b>Jar/bowl</b> rim and shoulder, dark brownish surface dark fabric and interior, smoothed exterior, appears to be burnished on interior, <b>part of pot 585.1</b> not joining	Jar/ bowl	1	12			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	
F1794	Pit	A Sax	644	pot	ASax	1B	<b>Jar base</b> , rounded edge, dark brownish surface dark fabric - <b>internal burnt residue</b>	jar	1	12			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	
F1794	Pit	A Sax	644	FC			Small pellet-like piece of sandy orange fired clay		1	1				
F1795	Pit/Rooting													
F1796	Pit	Saxon?												
F1797	Post-Hole	Saxon?												
F1798	Ditch – Aligned NW-SE	Roman?	597	pot	preh	M	Sandy sherds with orange grog, oxidised surfaces		3	12			Bronze Age (c early-middle Bronze	

Ctxt	Ctxt Type	On site dated	Find no	Find type	Period	Fabric	Description	Form/ type	No	Wt/g	EVE	Abr/ burnt	Spot date Age)	Pot/ illust
F1799	Post Hole?													
F1800	Pit													
F1801	Post-Hole													
F1802	Tree Throw													
F1803	Tree Throw													
F1804	Pit/Tree Throw													
F1805	Post-Hole													
F1806	Post-Hole													
F1807	Pit													
F1808 Q1 (upper fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	605	CBM	Rom		Small piece of flat tile, orange-red sandy fabric	RBT	1	64			Rom	
F1808 Q1	Grubenhaus	Saxon	609	stone		septria	Small lump of septria with pale cortical edge (individually numbered on site but just an irregular, broken septaria piece - discarded)		1	110				
F1808 Q1 (upper fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	610	CBM	Rom		Orange-red sandy fabric	RBT	4	94			Rom	
F1808 Q1 (upper fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	610	slag			Small pieces & fragments of non-magnetic grey, vesicular medium & medium-heavy density/weight slag, glassy/shiney appearance on broken surfaces (ave weight 2.4 g)		14	34			(ASax?)	
F1808 Q1 (upper fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	610	FC			Many small abraded pieces, dark brown fired clay (ave weight 1.3 g)		15	20		A		
F1808 Q1 (middle fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	615 A-N	Clay	(ASax)		Raw/unfired grey clay (small pieces thin clay smears) <b>Separately listed and described</b>						(ASax)	
F1808 Q1 (middle fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	619	Stone			Burnt piece of sandy limestone – discarded.		1	179				
F1808 Q1 (middle fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	621	pot	ASax	1B	Sherds from more than one pot, brownish surfaces, dark fabric; one sherd dark surfaces and dark fabric		4	26		(*)	Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	
F1808 Q1 (middle fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	621	CBM	Rom		Corner piece from a Roman brick, 30 mm thick, <b>possibly a hypocaust brick</b> ( <i>Bessalis/Pedalis</i> ) but no indication (mostar/scorching) of any use as such, orange-red sandy	RB	1	556			Rom	



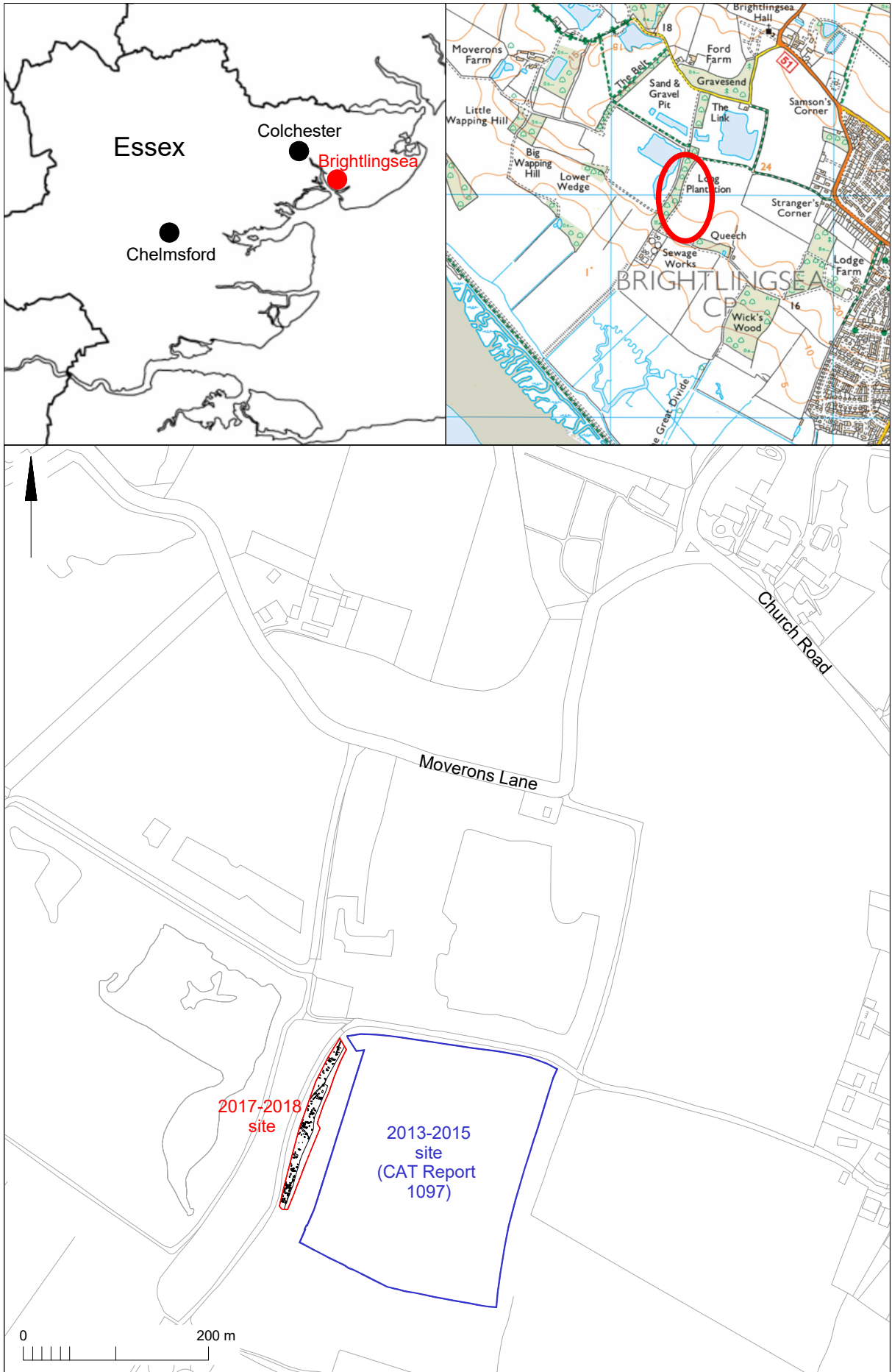
Ctxt	Ctxt Type	On site dated	Find no	Find type	Period	Fabric	Description	Form/ type	No	Wt/g	EVE	Abr/ burnt	Spot date	Pot/ illust
fill)							<b>Separately listed and described</b>							
F1808 Q3 (mid-lower fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	613	Clay			<b>Part of a circular loom weight</b> in Raw/unfired grey clay - <b>Separately listed and described</b>						ASax	
F1808 Q3 (middle fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	614 A-F	Clay	ASax		Raw/unfired grey clay ( <b>part of a circular loomweight</b> , small pieces thin clay smears & slab piece) <b>Separately listed and described</b>						ASax	
F1808 Q3 (upper fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	616	pot	ASax	1B	<b>Small jar</b> with smoothed surface extending over rim, second rim sherd almost certainly <b>same pot as one in Q2 (637)</b>	jar	1	8			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	Fig 11.4
F1808 Q3 (central fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	618	pot	ASax	1B	Body & neck sherd, probably from different pots, brown surfaces dark grey/black fabric		2	40			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	
F1808 Q3 (central fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	618	BS	Preh?	flint	Piece calcified by heat		1	4			Preh?	
F1808 Q3 (lower fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	639	pot	ASax	1B	Rim & neck (joining sherds) from a <b>large jar with thickened bead-like rim</b> , dark grey surfaces and fabric	jar	2	150			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	Fig 11.5
F1808 Q3 (lower fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	639	pot	ASax	1B	Sherds from at least two, possibly three pots (one possibly from pot 639.1)	Inc Small jar?	3	32			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	
F1808 Q3 (lower fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	639	stone		Septaria ?	Small piece, soft, abraded stone? Probably local septaria		1	60				
F1808 Q3 (lower fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	639	CBM	Rom		Piece of flat tile <b>probably tegula</b> , 22 mm thick, orange-red sandy fabric, recently broken into two pieces	RBT	1	828			Rom	
F1808 Q4 (upper fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	623	CBM	Rom		Piece of Roman brick, 40 mm thick, appears body partly distorted by heat, poss during firing, grey fabric brownish orange surfaces, broken in three pieces	RB	1	222			Rom	
F1808 Q4 (lower fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	625	BS	Preh?	flint	Pieces part calcified and reddened by heat		2	26			Preh?	
F1808 Q4 (mid/lower fill – below charcoal)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	626	pot	ASax	1B	One sherd with abraded surfaces exposing the chaff-temper (this pot also has a smooth oxidised interior) this suggests it is possibly could be from an open	Bowl??	2	20			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	

Ctxt	Ctxt Type	On site dated	Find no	Find type	Period	Fabric	Description	Form/ type	No	Wt/g	EVE	Abr/ burnt	Spot date	Pot/ illust
							form such as a bowl but other jar-like sherds also oxidised so possibly not; other sherd dark brown exterior and otherwise black – the sherds are from different pots							
F1808 Q4 (central fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	628 <	pot	ASax	1B	Single sherd (recently broken), black fabric oxidised (brownish-orange) surface		1	18			Early-Saxon 5th/6th-8th c	
F1808 Q4	Grubenhaus	Saxon	634 A-G	Clay	ASax		Raw/unfired grey clay ( <b>part of a circular loomwight</b> , small pieces thin clay smears & slab piece) <b>Separately listed and described</b>						ASax	
F1808 Q4	Grubenhaus	Saxon	635	Clay	ASax		Raw/unfired grey clay (small pieces, <b>possible loomweight fragment</b> ) <b>Separately listed and described</b>						ASax	
F1808 Q4 (lower fill)	Grubenhaus	Saxon	640	BS	Preh?	flint	Piece calcified by heat		1	22			Preh?	
F1809	Pit?		590	BS	Preh?	flint	More heat affected/reddened than heavily burnt		1	44			Preh?	
F1810 (upper fill)	Pit	preh	592	pot	preh	E	Small sherd, coarse mix of flint & sand, dark brown, slightly abraded		1	4		(A)	preh	
F1810 (upper fill)	Pit	preh	592	pot	preh	B	Small sherd, sparse flint in a naturally sandy fabric bae (B/E), dark grey-brown surfaces		1	4			preh	
F1810 (upper fill)	Pit	preh	592	BS	Preh?	flint	More heat affected/reddened than heavily burnt		2	44			Preh?	
F1811	Tree Throw	preh					St, Fl							
F1812	Post-Hole													
F1813	Linear	Preh	594	pot	preh	C	Shoulder sherd, some medium-large flint, also sand in fabric, grey colour (Fabric E?) smoothed more above shoulder carination, appears to be reasonably large pot – possibly Neolithic?		1	12			Preh Neo(?)	
F1813	Linear	Preh	594	pot	preh	B	Sherd from an open bowl with slightly rounded (flange?) rim, back of sherd has broken away, some sand, grey colour (Fabric E?), relatively sharp angle from wall-rim might indicate late Bronze Age rather than earlier(?)		1	6			Preh Neo or LBA(?)	



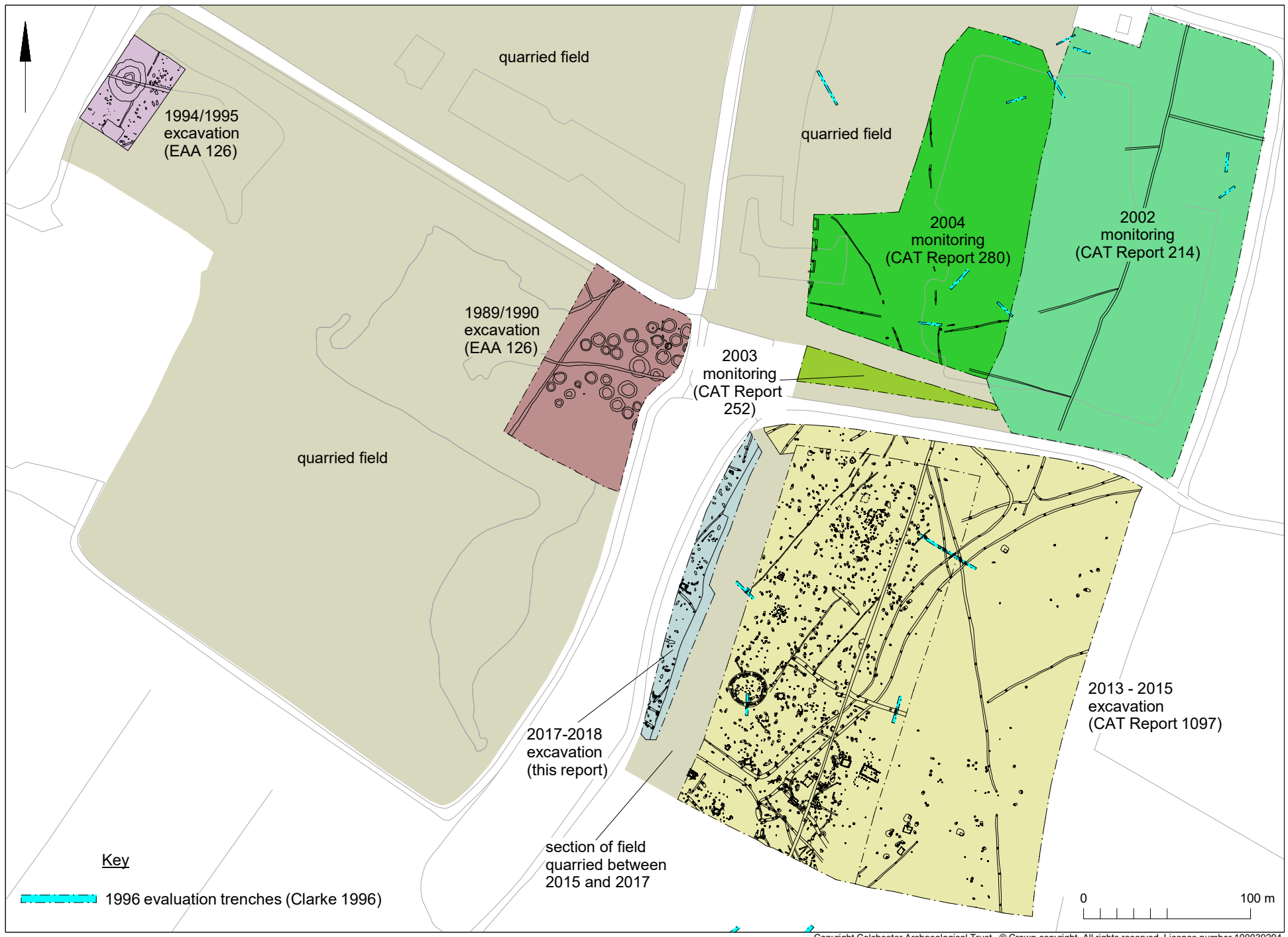
Ctxt	Ctxt Type	On site dated	Find no	Find type	Period	Fabric	Description	Form/ type	No	Wt/g	EVE	Abr/ burnt	Spot date	Pot/ illust
F1813	Linear	Preh	594	BS	Preh?	flint	Pieces part calcified and reddened by heat		4	64			Preh?	
F1814	Linear – Aligned NE-SW													
F1815	Pit													
F1816	Tree Throw													
F1817	Linear/ Boundary ditch	BA	595	pot	preh	M	Base sherd from a large grog-tempered pot (Middle Bronze Age) – possibly associated with the MBA cemetery		1	68		A	Preh MBA	
F1818	Tree Throw(s)	PH?					St, Fl							
F1819	Pit	PH?												
F1820 sx1	Ditch - Aligned WNW-ESE	Roman		BS	Preh?	flint	Piece, part calcified and reddened by heat		1	8			Preh?	
F1820 sx2	Ditch - Aligned WNW-ESE	Roman	599	BS	Preh?	flint	Pieces, part calcified and reddened by heat		4	52			Preh?	
F1820 sx2	Ditch - Aligned WNW-ESE	Roman	599	BS	Preh?	S/Q			1	50			Preh?	
F1820 sx3	Ditch - Aligned WNW-ESE	Roman	602	BS	Preh?	flint	More heat affected/reddened than heavily burnt		3	50			Preh?	
F1821	Pit													
F1822	Tree Trow													
F1823	Pit?													
F1824	Pit													
F1825 (surface)	Ditch – Aligned NW-SE	Roman	603	pot		W	Small abraded sherd, flint and sand-temper with common vegetable chaff (note - not Saxon)		1	2		A	Preh (Neolithic -Early Iron Age)	
F1826	Pit													
F1827	Pit													
F1828	Tree Throw		624	stone			Natural fragments of sandy limestone – discarded		3	13				
F1829	Pit	preh	604	pot	preh	C	Dark fabric and surfaces		1	4			Preh Neo?	
F1830	Tree Throw													
F1831	Post-Hole													
F1832	Post-Hole	Saxon												
F1833	Pit	Saxon	647	glass	Rom		Roman window glass, blue-green,	Window	1	12				

Ctxt	Ctxt Type	On site dated	Find no	Find type	Period	Fabric	Description	Form/ type	No	Wt/g	EVE	Abr/ burnt	Spot date	Pot/ illust
							one matt surface, 3 mm thick	glass						
F1834	Post-Hole	Saxon												
F1835	Post-Hole	Saxon	642	clay			Circular loomweight pieces in raw/unfired grey clay <b>Separately listed and described</b>						ASax	
F1836	Post-Hole	Saxon												
F1837	Post-Hole	Saxon												
F1838	Post-Hole	Saxon												
F1839	Post-Hole	Saxon					(Fe Objs)							



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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Plan showing latest excavation area in relation to previous archaeological work.

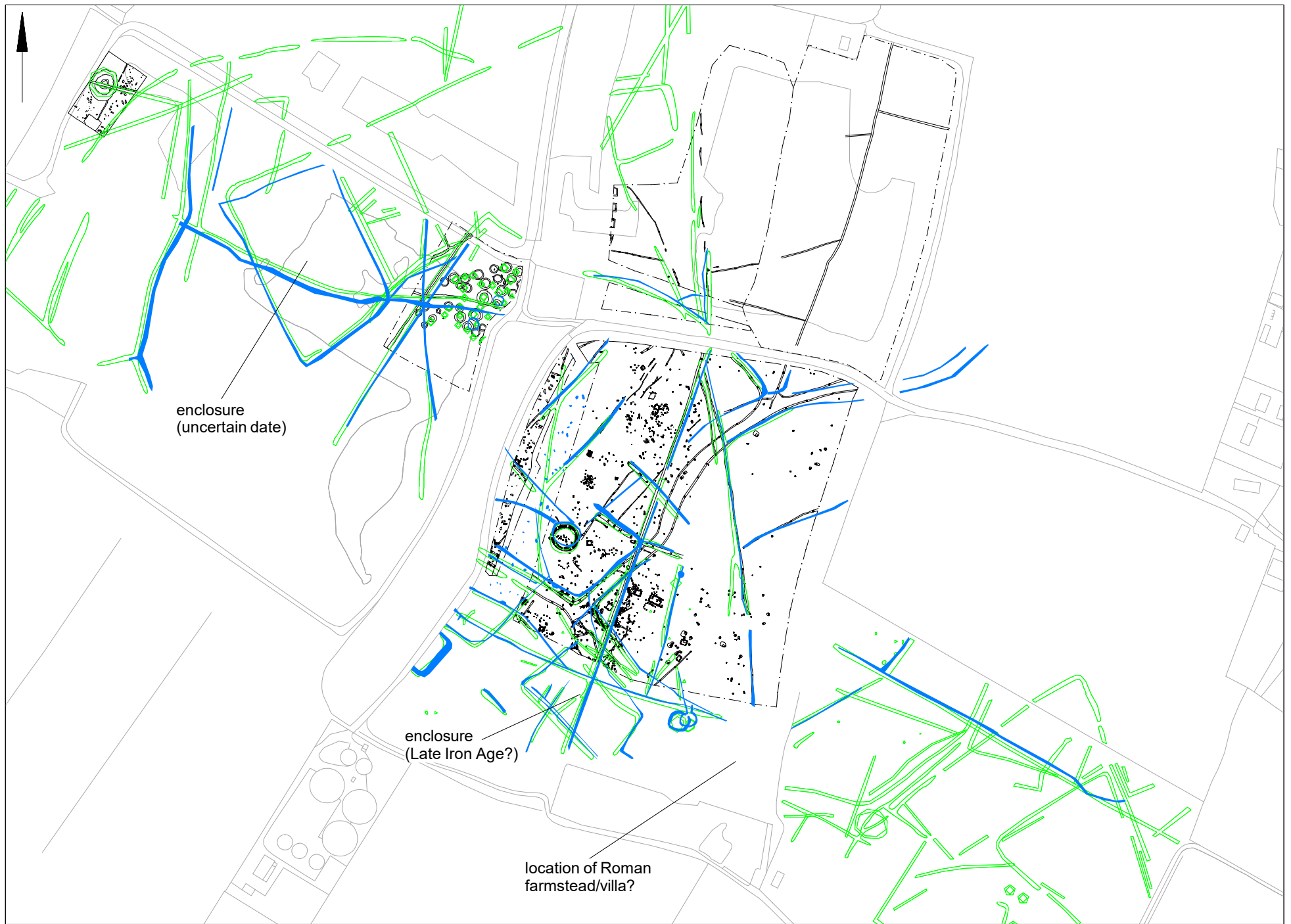


Fig 3 Rectified (blue) and NMP (green) cropmark plot of area surrounding excavation.

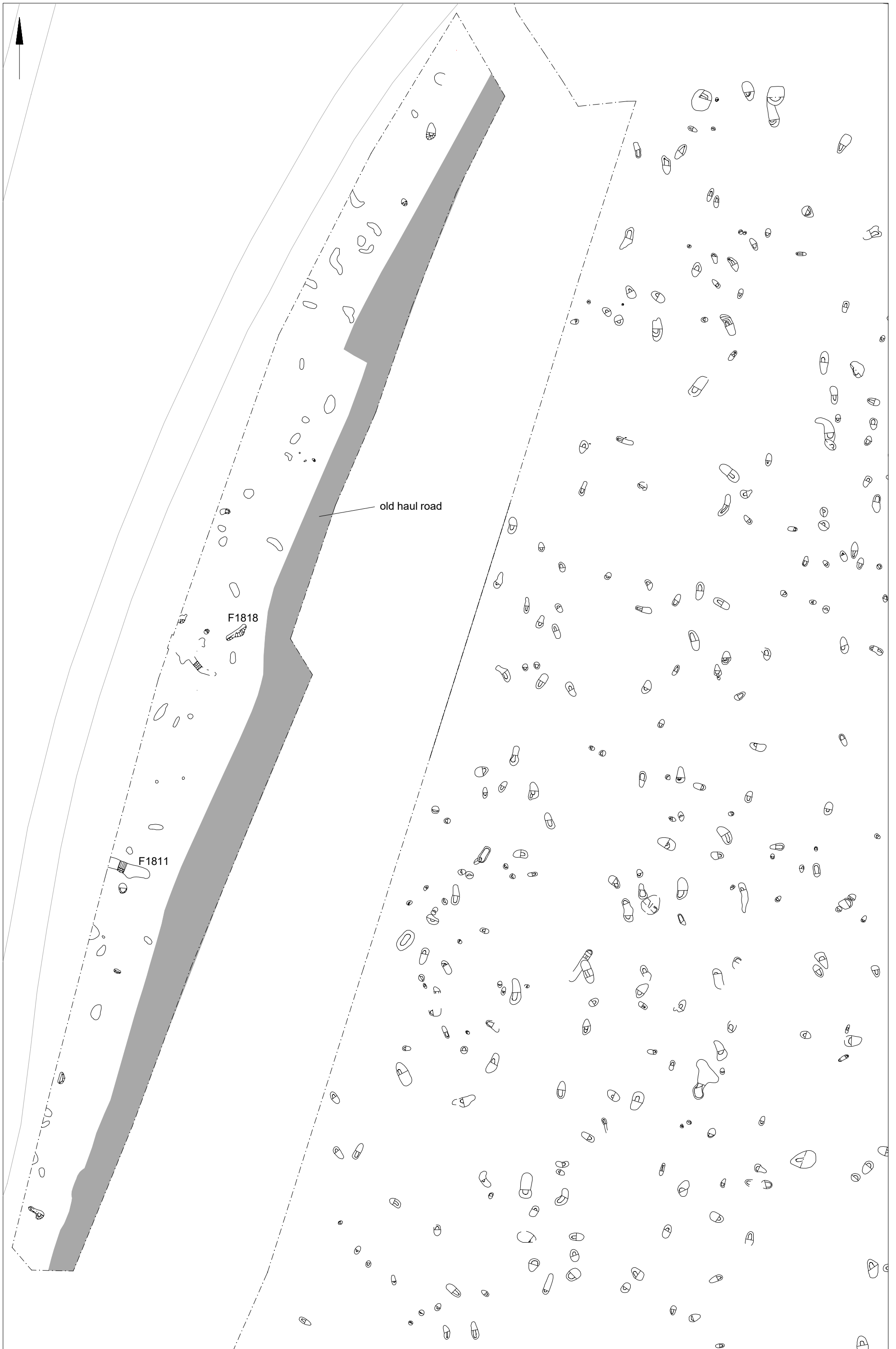


Fig 4 Tree throws across current site and half of 2013-15 excavation, with other features not shown.

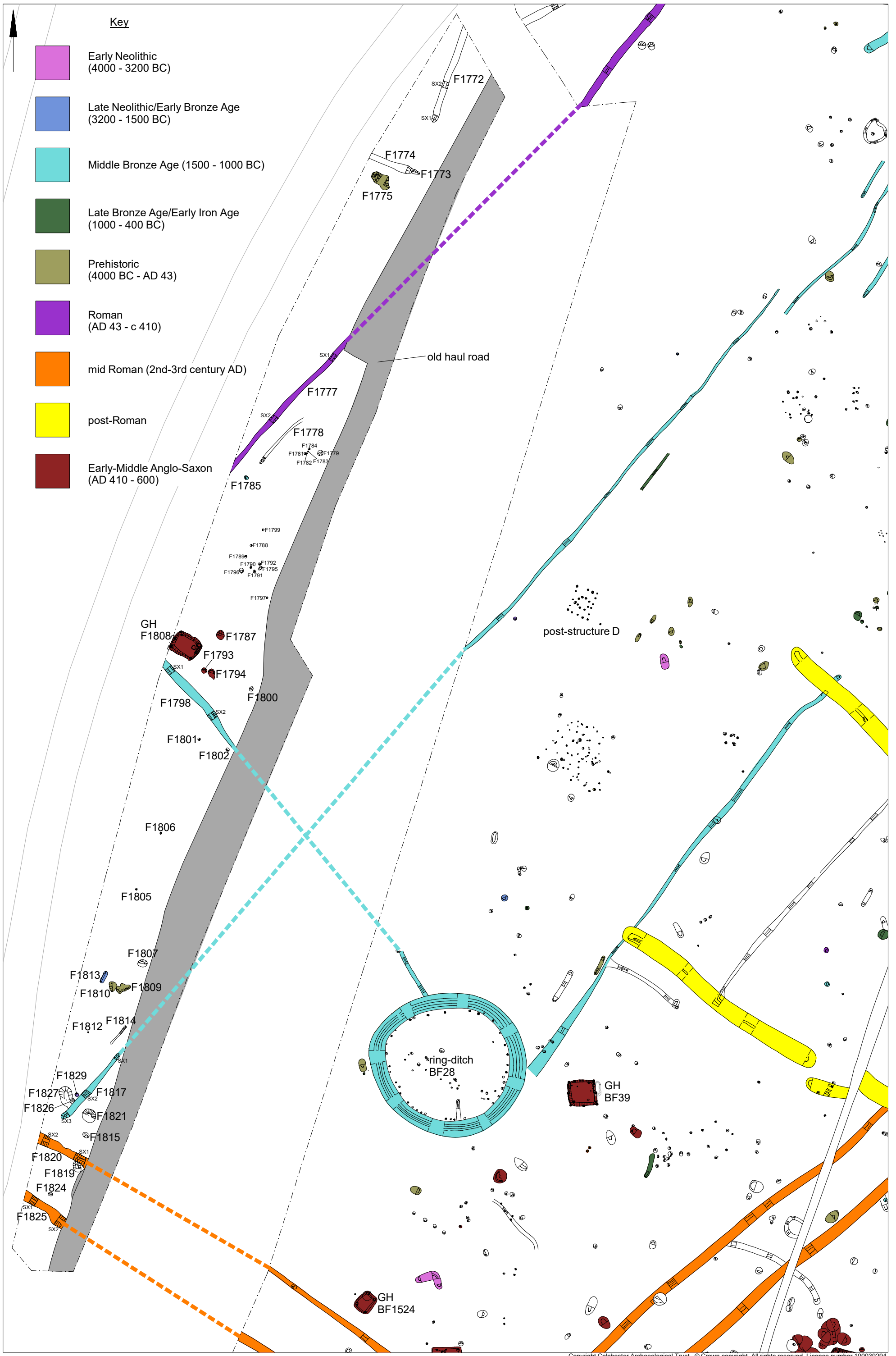
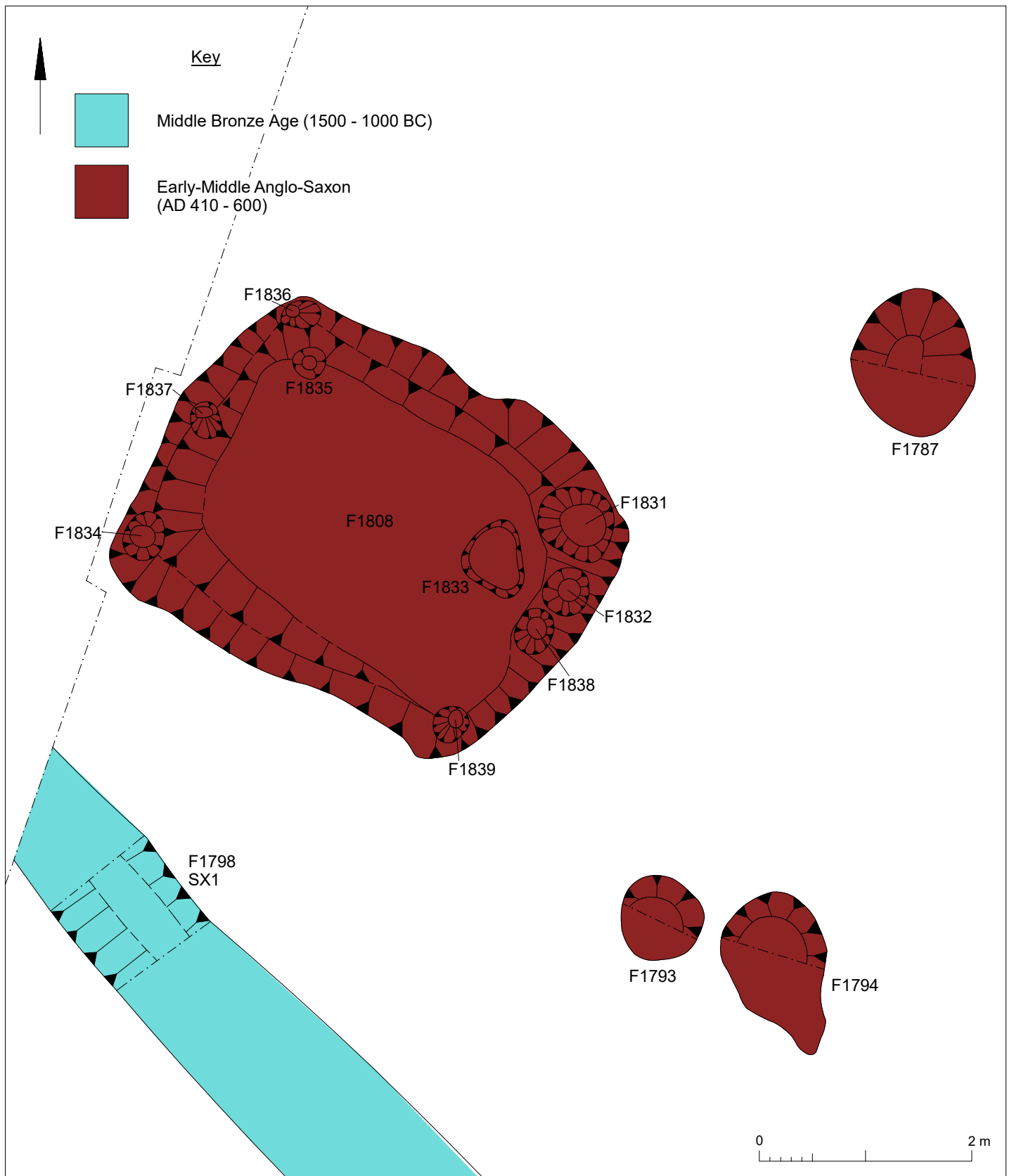


Fig 5 Excavation results, alongside adjacent area (west part of 2015 excavation). Projected ditches between two areas and phasing shown. Tree throws not shown.



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Fig 6 Detailed plan of Grubenhaus F1808 and nearby features.



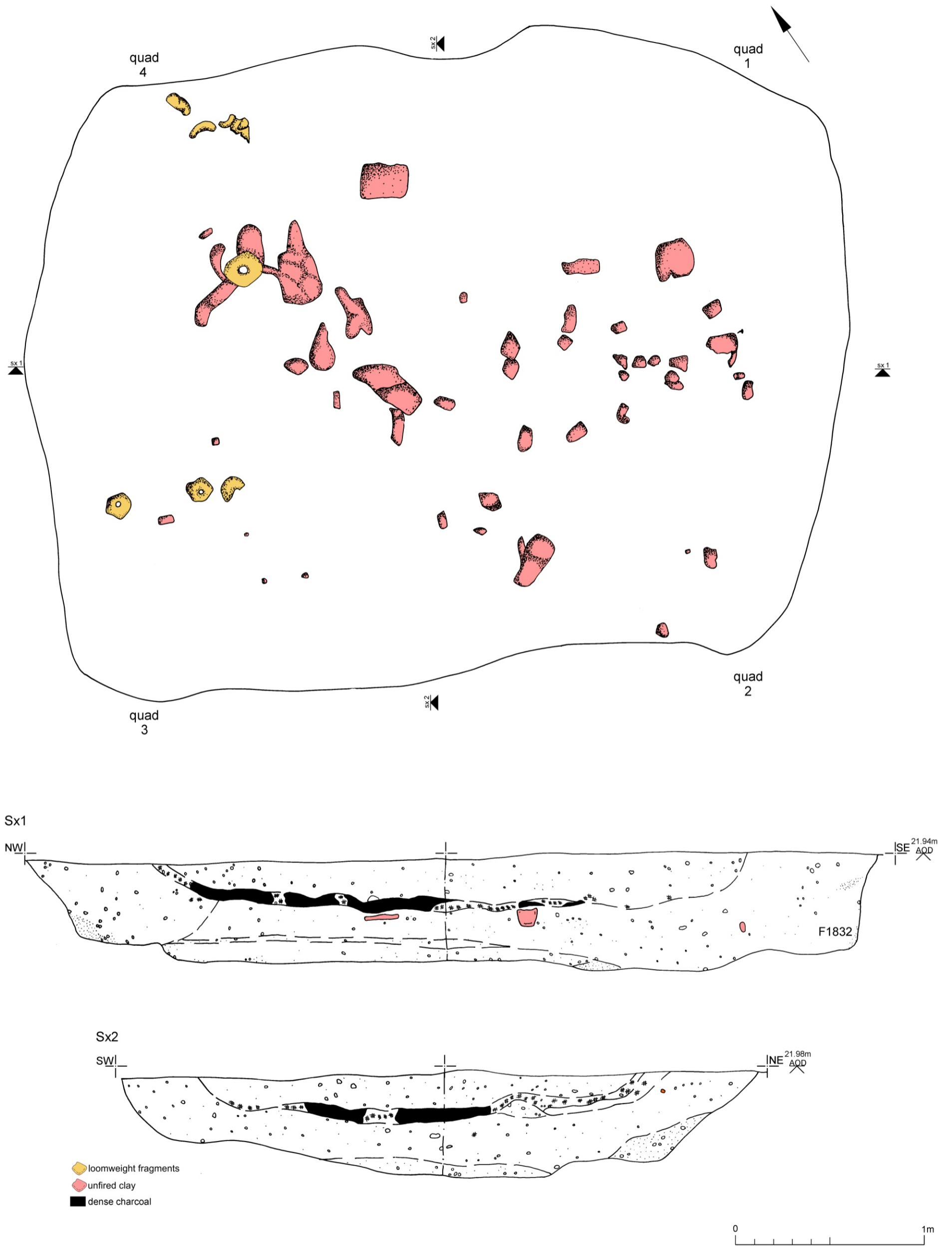


Fig 7 Grubenhaus F1808 sections and plan, showing layer of unfired loomweights and clay fragments.

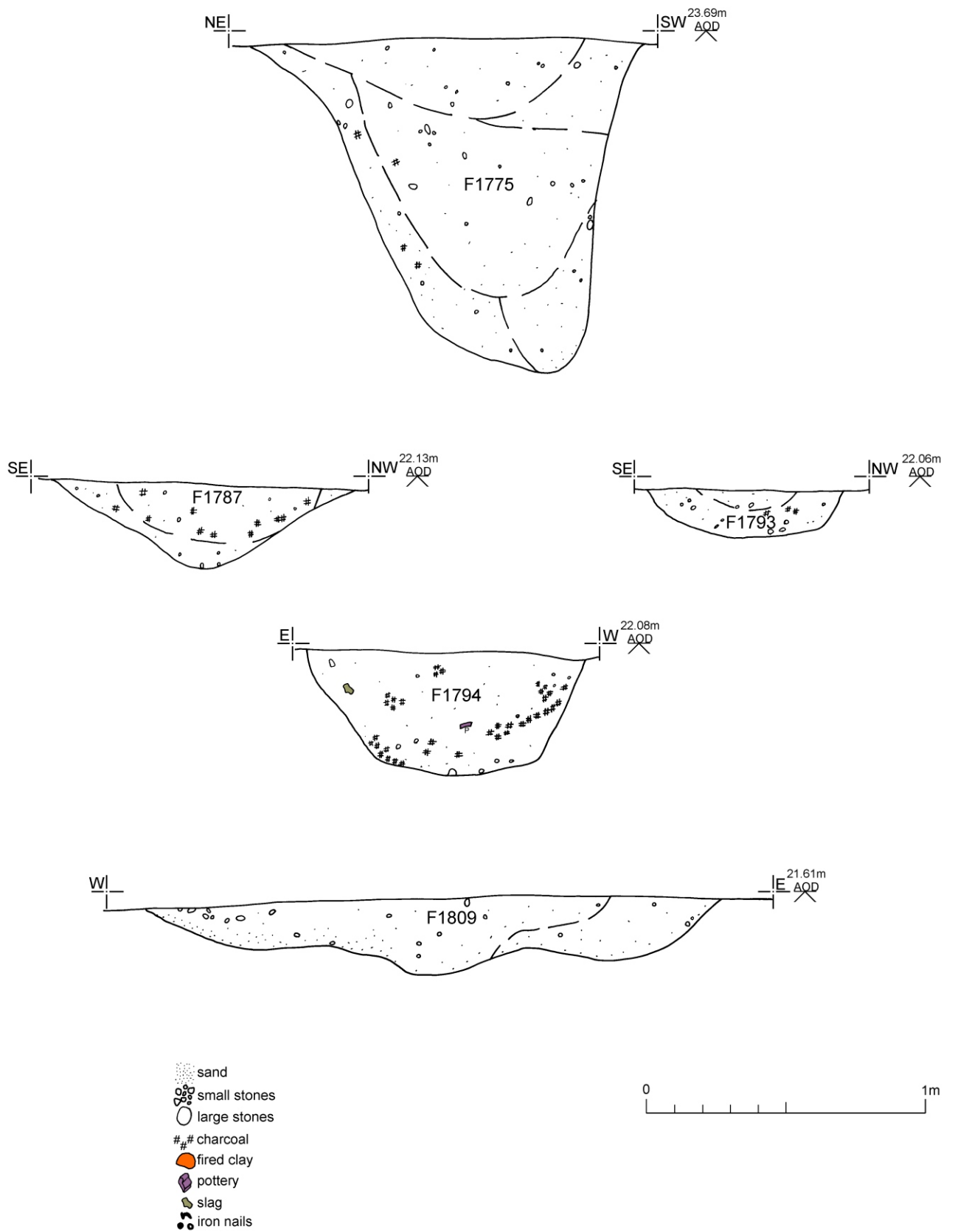


Fig 8 Feature sections.

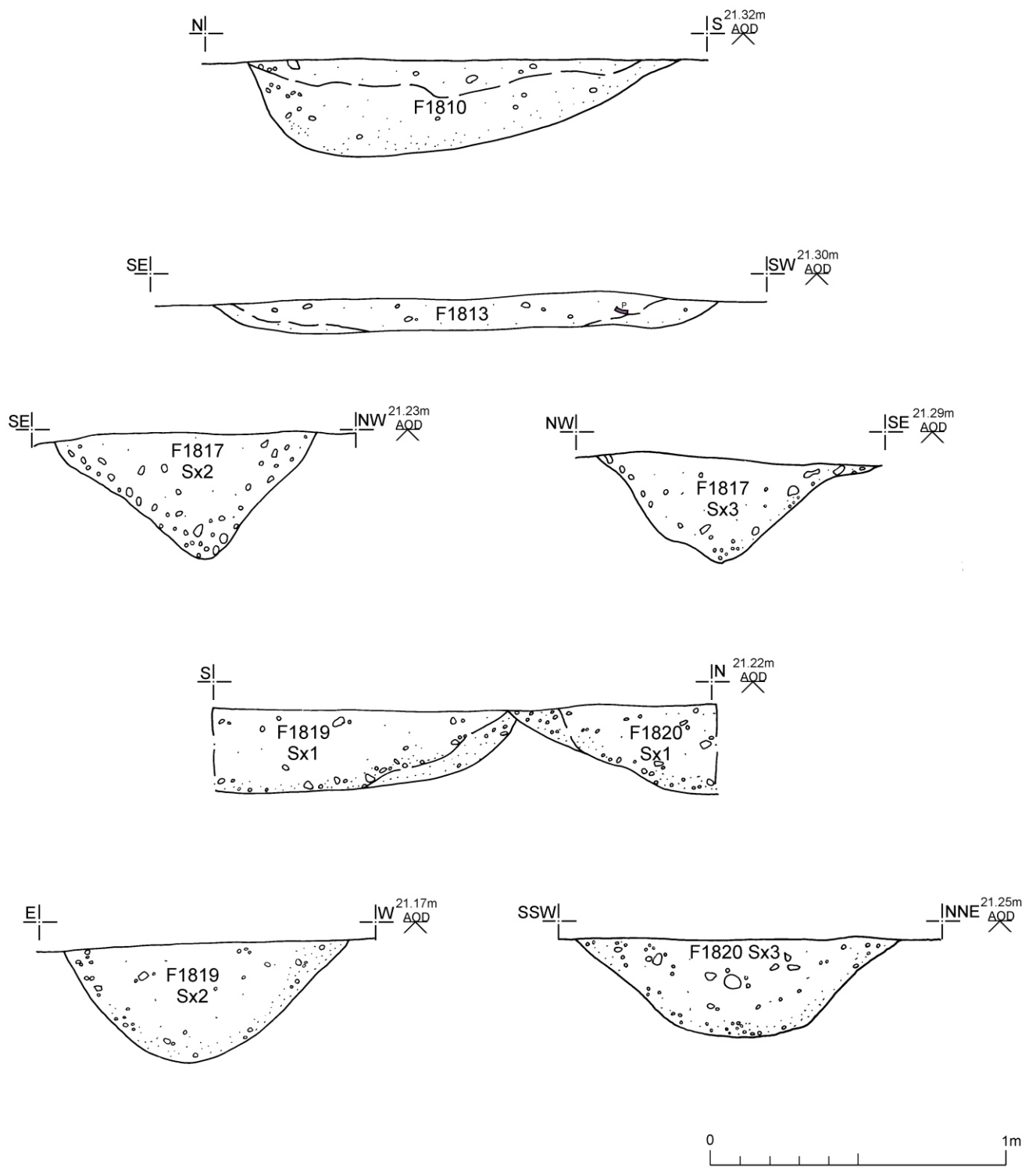


Fig 9 Feature sections.

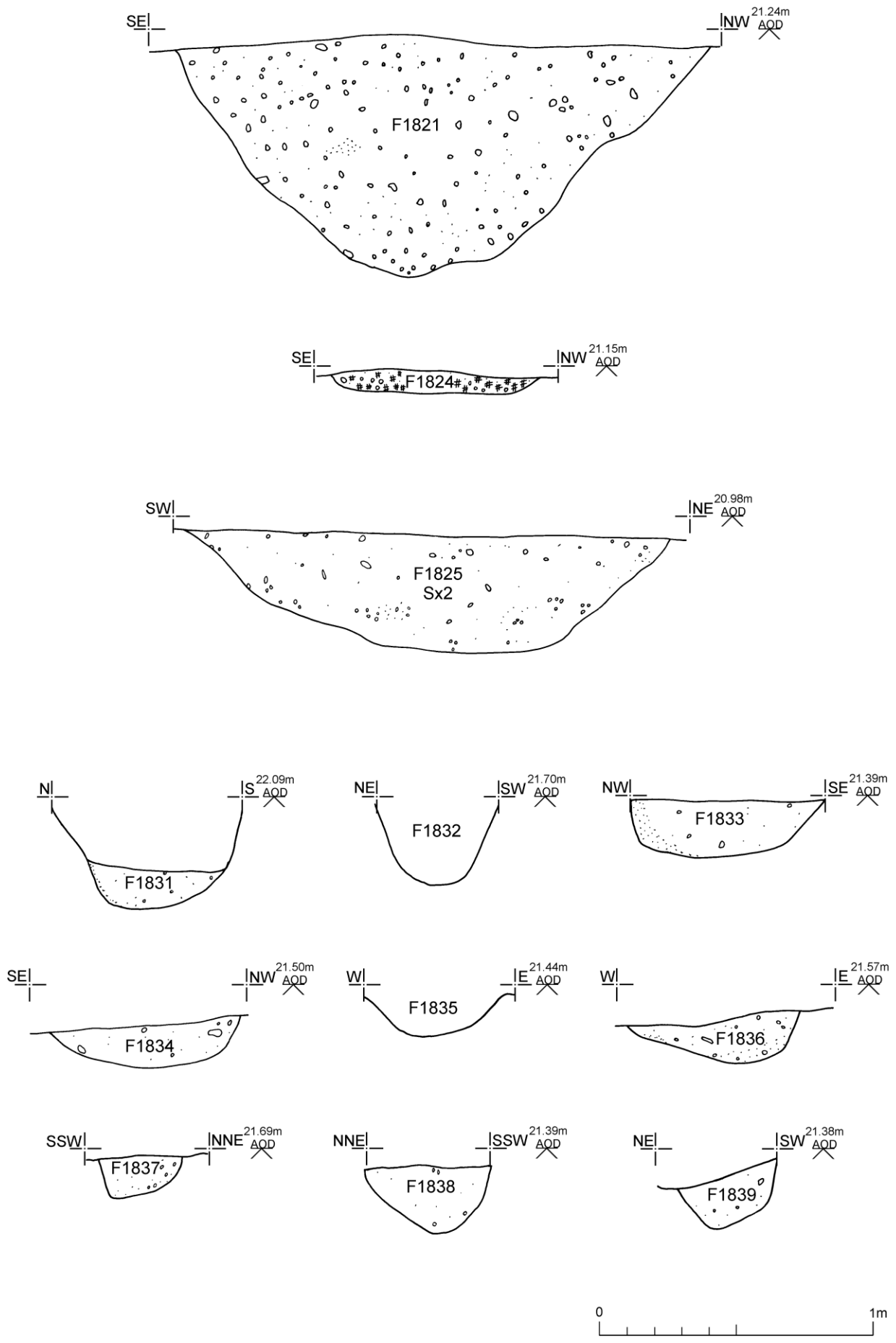


Fig 10 Feature sections and profiles.

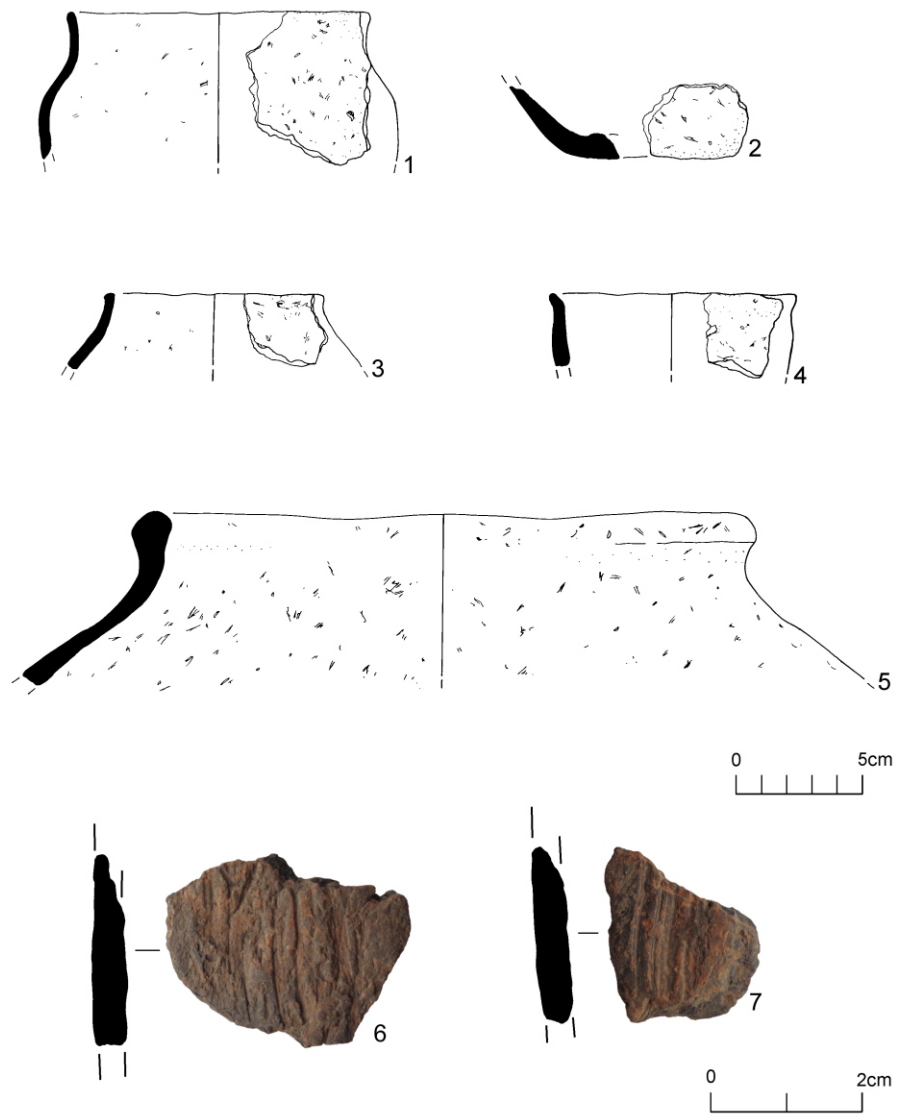


Fig 11 Early Anglo-Saxon pottery.



Fig 12 Clay annular loomweights from F1808.



Fig 13 Clay annular loomweights from F1808 (5) and F1835 (6). Other unfired clay with surviving edges from F1808 (7-8) and examples of irregular fragments of unfired clay from F1808 (9-10).

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-365003**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and excavation at Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane, Brightlingsea, Essex
Short description of the project	An excavation at Brightlingsea Quarry prior to mineral extraction revealed further evidence of a substantial multi-period site, first exposed in excavations in 2013-2015 (CAT Report 1097). The smaller-scale excavations detailed in this report uncovered evidence for intermittent occupation near or on the site from the Late Neolithic to the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon period. The results from this excavation support the conclusions and interpretations formed in the previous phase of work, and showed a continuation of the previously uncovered mid-Roman trackway and the Middle Bronze Age field system. Additionally, and most prominently, this excavation showed a continuation of the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement in the form of a Grubenhaus with an associated pit complex. As previously, the evidence uncovered during this excavation suggests that any more work on the ridge overlooking the Colne estuary is very likely to reveal more multi-period archaeology, including settlement evidence.
Project dates	Start: 11-12-2017 End: 23-01-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	17/02b - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 5 - Mineral extraction
Monument type	GRUBENHAUS Early Medieval
Monument type	TRACKWAY Roman
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Middle Bronze Age
Significant Finds	LOOMWEIGHT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Early Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Middle Bronze Age
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING BRIGHTLINGSEA Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane
Postcode	CO7 0SA
Study area	2956 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0734 1806 51.82208503064 1.008935576436 51 49 19 N 001 00 32 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Mark Baister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Contents	"Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","other"



Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological monitoring and excavation at Brightlingsea Quarry, Moverons Lane, Brightlingsea, Essex: December 2017 - January 2018

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