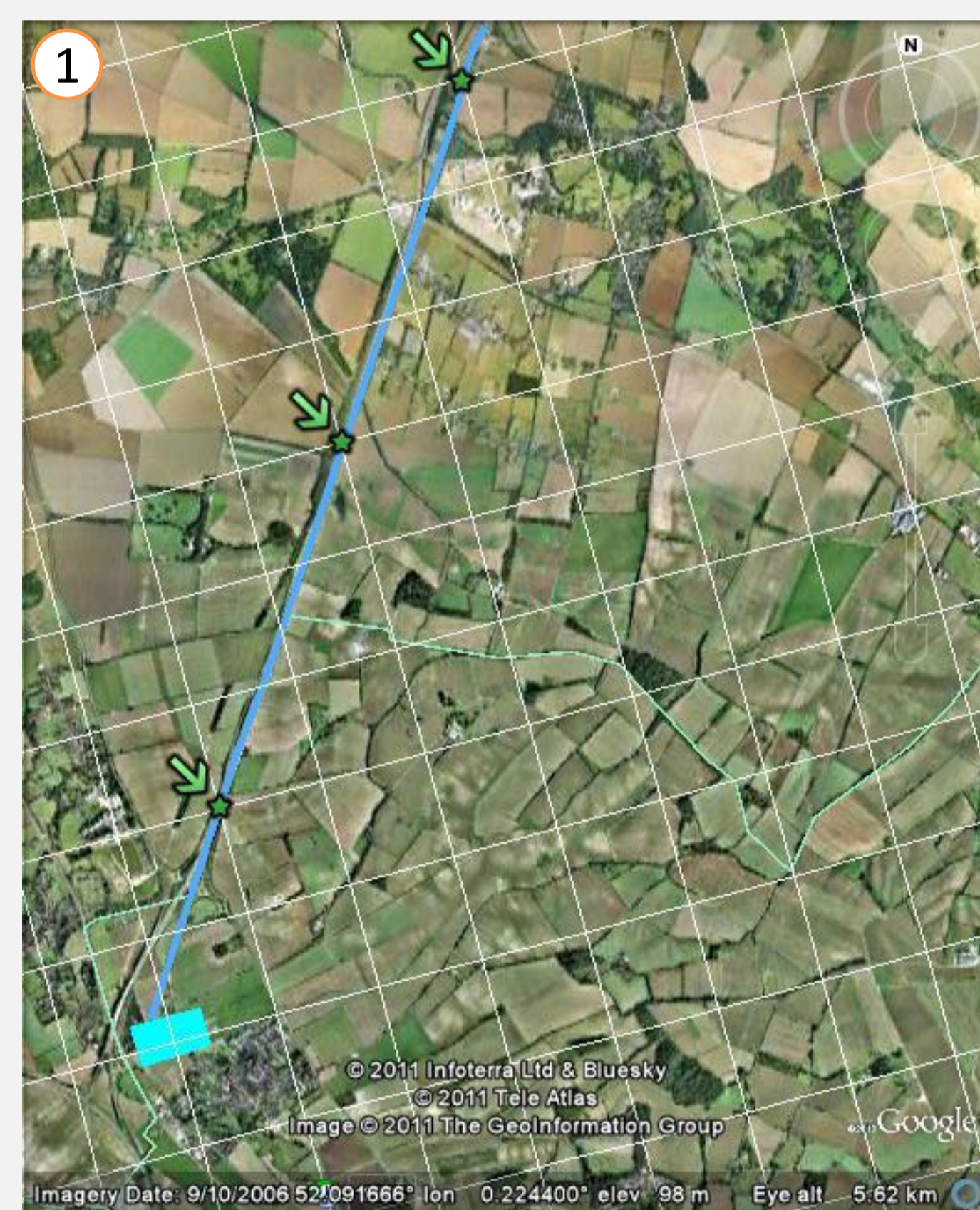
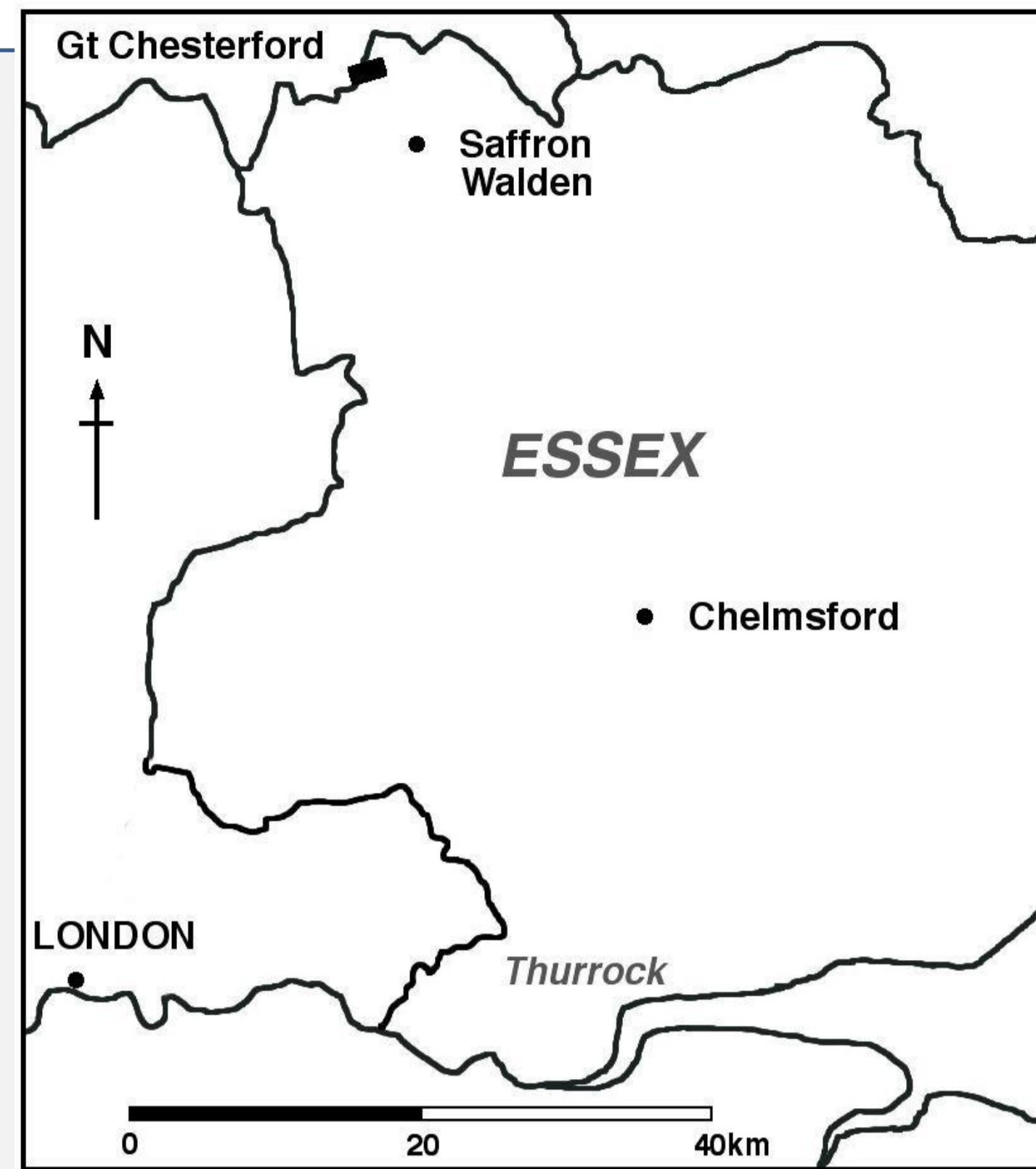


## Military Landscape (1)

A Roman land survey, with a 710m grid, has been proposed in the area north and east of London (Peterson 1990). Its parameters were deduced from existing topography in Thurrock, and it corresponds to some of the traces of Roman landscape mapped there from air photographs (Ingle and Saunders 2011). This *limitatio* seems to have been used to plan the layout of military roads, some of them more than 50km away, near the fort at Great Chesterford. The lines of the *limitatio*, generated by a computer application and shown in white in Google Earth (GE) images, may be compared with these Roman military structures.



The fort is shown as a bright blue filled polygon (image 1, bottom left). The outline was traced from an Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) map overlaid onto the corresponding features shown in GE. The position of only its north and east sides is definitely known, but an intersection of the grid must lie within the fort, which might therefore have been placed according to the map of the *limitatio*.

The Roman road to the north-northeast (dark blue) coincides with grid intersections (arrowed), and so is at 2:3 to the grid. Such relationships have been seen elsewhere as a consequence of planning (Peterson 1992) or even the deliberate creation of harmony (Clavel-Lévêque, 1992).

Another road, number 300 (right), approaches the fort from the south-east. It is close to a line that would pass through opposite corners of squares of the *limitatio*. The road and the grid could thus be at 1:1.



## Military Landscape (2)

The section of road 300 that is visible in existing boundaries (image 2) ends nearly 8km from the Great Chesterford. It evidently aims for the fort, but does not define a precise line. At least three different estimates have been made of its course in the "missing" section. The most recently published is by Medlycott (2011). The same line is displayed in image 3, using Eckardt's (2009) data.

However, the alternative line indicated by large arrows in image 3 is confirmed by the EHER plot overlaid in image 4. These better defined features, independently mapped, clearly show their 1:1 relationship with the *limitatio*.



## Divided Agricultural Landscape

Bassett (1982) suggested that the landscape of Saffron Walden, 6km from Great Chesterford, contains relics of a pre-medieval field system, with major divisions at 300 - 400m. An overlay of Bassett's illustration onto GE (left) shows the close correspondence between his reconstruction and the independently proposed *limitatio*.

This may not be the only example of such relics. Study of landscape at Little Chesterford (image 4) could perhaps reveal another case.

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## Ritual Landscape

The precinct of the temple to the east of the fort is visible on GE. The location of the temple itself (black and white circle) may be defined by overlaying plans (Medlycott 2011) successively on the GE feature and on each other. The temple's orientation conforms to that of the grid, as does the eastern boundary of the precinct. Furthermore, measurement using the GE ruler indicates that the temple could have been planned to be 1,500 feet from the grid line to its west. This suggests that, contrary to published views, the first (wooden) temple is not pre-Roman. Also shown in the image above are the projected line of road 300 (red) and a line at 7:1 (yellow). The latter seems to define the northern precinct ditch, as can be seen (below) in a closer view, with and without this line. Northeast of the precinct the trace of a road may possibly also be seen, on the line and so at 4:3 to road 300.

