



Archaeological Field Unit

**Saxo-Norman and Medieval Remains at
St Andrew's House, Soham, Cambridgeshire:
An Archaeological Evaluation**

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November 2000

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SUMMARY

Between 20th-24th October 2000 the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an archaeological evaluation on land off High Street and Clay Street (St Andrew's House), Soham, Cambridgeshire (TL 593 731). The work was carried out to satisfy a planning condition in advance of development of the land.

Four phases of activity/occupation were identified, Prehistoric, Late Saxon to Norman, medieval and post-medieval. Prehistoric activity was represented by a shallow ditch that produced Bronze Age flint debitage. Late Saxon evidence emerged from a boundary ditch which may have represented the rear boundary of properties flanking High Street. The medieval period (13th-16th centuries) is represented by quarrying, postholes, slots and ditches, the later of which may have represented property boundaries.

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Saxo-Norman and Medieval Occupation at St Andrew's House, Soham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation (TL 593 731)

1 INTRODUCTION

Between 20th-24th October 2000 the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an archaeological evaluation on land off High Street and Clay Street (St Andrew's House), Soham, Cambridgeshire (TL 593 731). The work was carried out to satisfy a planning condition in advance of development of the land.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning Background

The proposed development entails the construction of dwellings. Given the known archaeological background of Soham (below), the possibility of there being Saxon and Medieval remains within the application area determined the requirements for an archaeological evaluation.

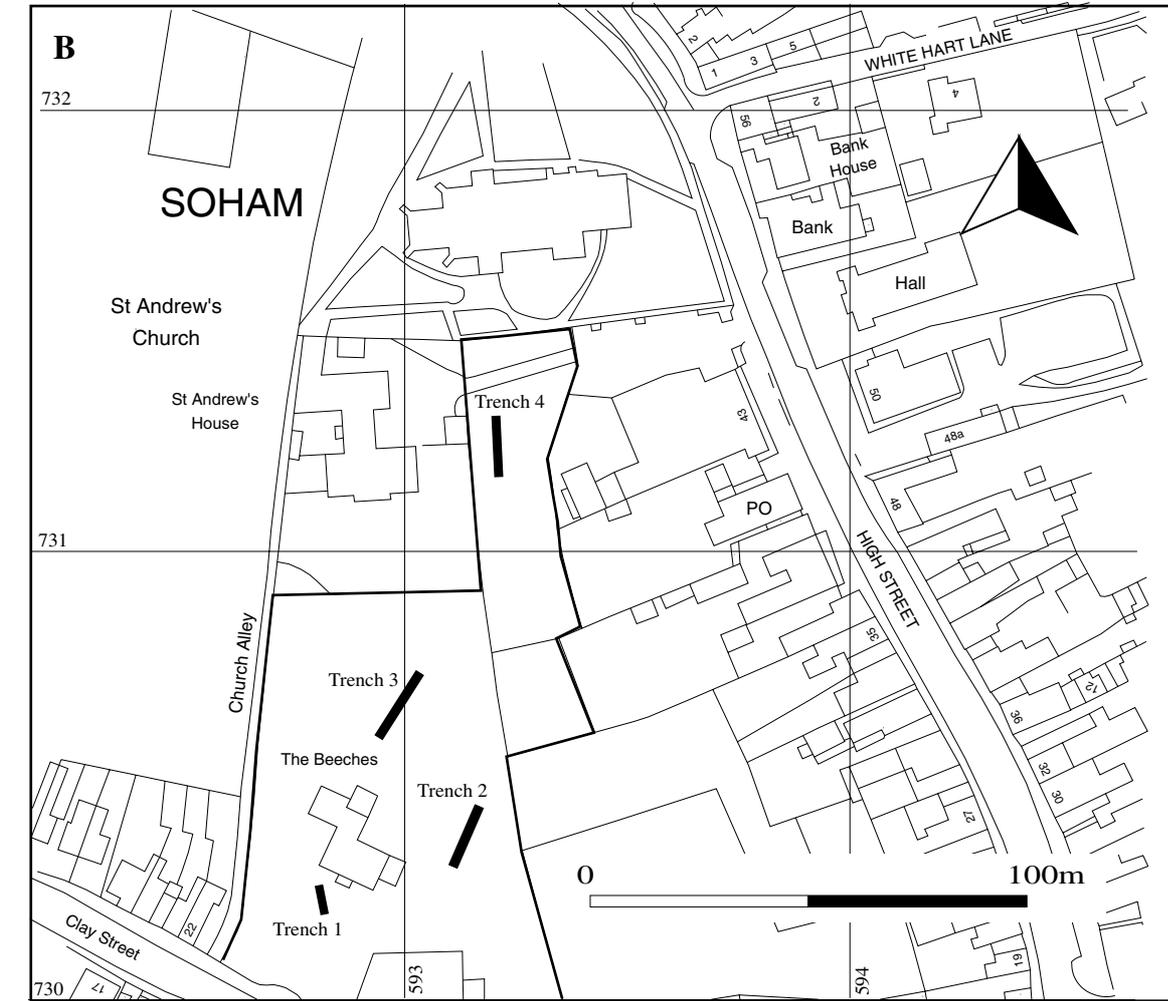
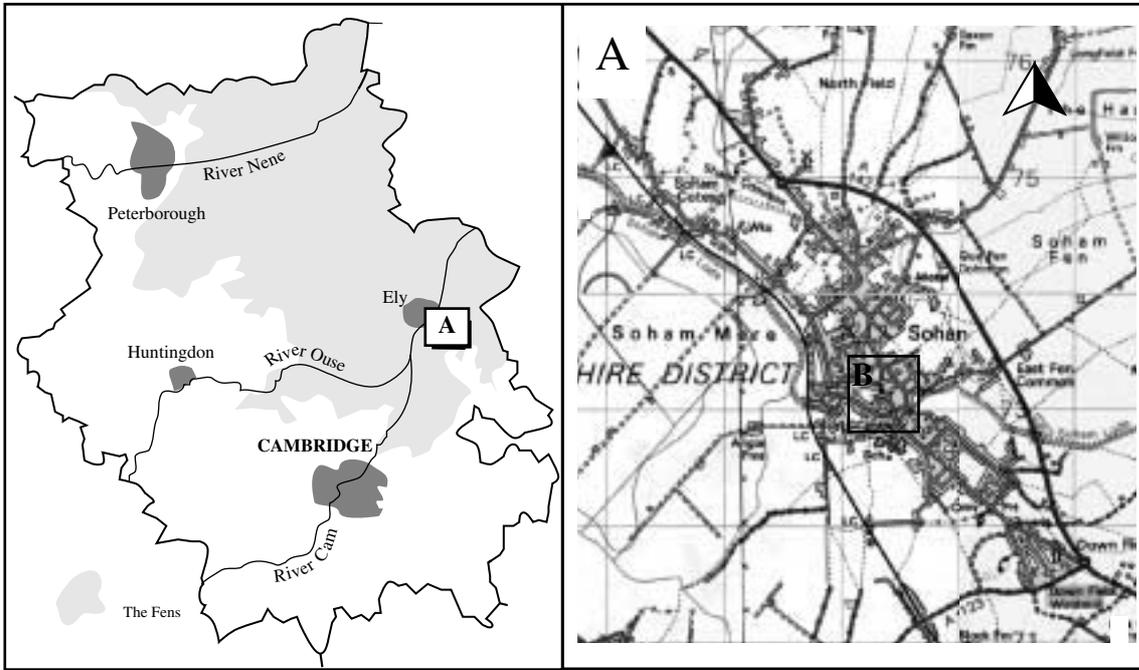
The work was carried out by the AFU on behalf of John Living Partners for Clivedon Estates Ltd. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Project Specification (Jul 323/00) produced by Stephen Macaulay in response to a Design Brief issued by Andy Thomas and amended by Simon Kaner, Cambridgeshire County Council, County Archaeology Office (October 2000).

2.2 Site Location

The village of Soham sits near the southern Cambridgeshire Fen-edge, some 8km south-east of Ely, on the A142 between Ely and Newmarket. The development site is located in the centre of the village, immediately to the south of St. Andrew's Parish Church. It is bound by the rear of properties on High Street to the east and by Clay Street to the south (Fig. 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

The site is centred on NGR TL 593 731, at an average height of 8m OD. At the time of the archaeological investigation it comprised some 6000sqm of mature gardens located to the south and east of St Andrew's House (formerly



TL

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Figure 1 Site Location Map

known as 'The Vicarage'). Within the site, a mid-20th century brick building (The Beeches) occupies the south-west corner of the proposed development.

The site also contains numerous mature trees, most with Tree Protection Orders (TPO), the presence of which leaves very limited open space available.

The village of Soham is located on an irregular peninsula of Bedford Lower Chalk and 3rd gravel terrace, which projects north-west from Fordham into the Fens, between the Isleham embayment and the former Soham Mere (British Geological Survey, Sheet 188).

2.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

The present account follows the results from a desktop evaluation undertaken in the past (Hatton 1998a). The results have been integrated with information from recent excavations.

Prehistoric

The Fen-edge around Soham and the Snail Valley has a long history of human activity.

Mesolithic and Neolithic remains have been recorded to the north-west of Broad Hill, where a large quantity of worked flints, including axes, knives and scrapers, was recovered (Hall 1996). Immediately to the north-east of the village of Soham the SMR records Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age stray finds, namely lithic artefacts (SMR 07077,07098,07101, 07102, 11019 and 11019a).

A number of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites and artefacts scatters have been located on the light sandy soils to the west of Soham Mere (SMR 07037, 07039, 07040, 07041, 07044, 07061, 07061a, 07482, 09230).

A Bronze Age settlement was located at Eye Hill Farm during field-walking. The flint assemblage consisted of barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, scrapers and awls (Macaulay 1999).

The evidence for later prehistoric (Iron Age) activity in and around Soham is scanty. One site has been located on the hilltop at Henney, on the periphery of Stuntney and Ely where Iron Age remains are fairly common (Hall 1996).

Roman

Cropmarks dating to the later Roman period have been identified to the south and south-east of Soham, and interpreted as representing a probable villa (Site 2, 3rd-4th century), and farmsteads/industrial sites (Hall 1996, Site 3 [SAM 47], 2nd-3rd century, and Site 5). Roman occupation appears to have occurred

during the 2nd-4th century, the traditional date for Romanisation in the Fens. As in prehistoric times, Roman sites are located on the light sandy soils at Soham, Wicken and Padney, probably attracted by the presence of the River Cam and the nearby crossing point at Fordey

Saxon and Medieval

Early Saxon occupation at Soham is documented by funerary remains from three cemeteries. Burials were discovered in the church graveyard (TL 5998 7239) where grave-goods and stray finds included brooches, several beads and spearheads (Fox 1923, Meaney 1964) (SMR 01723a), and pottery (SMR 11386). Another cemetery was located at the Soham/Fordham Waterworks during excavations conducted in the 1930s (Lethbridge 1933, Meaney 1964). Some 23 furnished inhumations (and 2 cremations) were identified and assigned to the 6th-7th century. Further Anglo-Saxon inhumations (SMR 11789) were uncovered in the rear garden of a house located on White Hart Lane. Evidence suggested that they had been re-buried, and may have originally belonged to the same cemetery as the burials from the Church graveyard (Robinson 1995).

Saxon Soham is also known through documentary sources. The place name is derived from Saegham (11th century, AS Wills), probably meaning 'ham by the lake'. It is recorded as 'Soeham' or 'Seaham' in the Domesday Book. The name Soham first appears in 1294 (FF) and, later, in 1353 (Min Acct et passim) (Reaney 1943, 196,197).

Further documentary sources refer to the foundation in the 7th century AD of a monastery by St. Felix, first bishop of the East Angles, who was buried in Soham. The monastery was destroyed during the Danish invasions of East Anglia (late 9th century) along with many other religious foundations in the area, never to be re-established (Salzman 1948). The manor of Soham was given to Ely abbey shortly after the re-foundation of the latter in the 10th century (Conybeare 1887). The exact location of the monastery is unknown, although it is possible that the Parish church of St Andrew's (late 12th century) was founded on the site of the Saxon predecessor.

Evidence for occupation during the Late Saxon-early Norman period has emerged through recent excavations. At 9-13 Pratt Street, an archaeological evaluation has revealed shallow gullies, a posthole and a large pit containing 11th-12th century sherds of Thetford Ware (Hatton and Last 1997).

Evaluation trenches at the rear of 38 Station Road produced evidence of ditches dating from the 10th to 12th centuries (Heawood 1997).

An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Soham County Infant's School, where several ditches were revealed. The features contained an assemblage of pottery sherds (10th to 13th century), predominantly St Neots and Thetford Ware (Bray 1991).

Evidence for activity, mainly in the form of unstratified pottery dating from the 10th century, although also linked to a series of linear ditches, has also emerged immediately to the east of the development site, at High Street/Clay Street (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2000).

The remains from the Infant's School (and from High Street/Clay Street) are consistent with a major phase of development and prosperity that is attested by the construction of St Andrew's Church in the late 12th century (Hatton & Last 1997).

Finally, evidence for medieval occupation was uncovered at Cloverfield Drive where pits and ditches contained pottery dating between 1150-1550 and mainly consisting of Ely Ware (Hatton & Macaulay 1999).

Post Medieval

The fields around Soham were not enclosed and persist today as remnants of the medieval field-systems, as in North Field. There windmills and pumps for drainage have been recorded (SMR).

3 METHODS AND AIMS

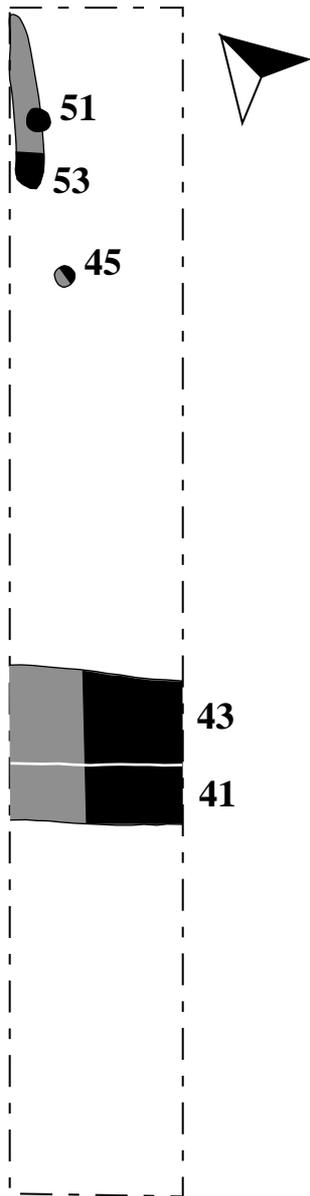
Notwithstanding the fact that a recent evaluation conducted to the south of St Andrew's church proved inconclusive as to the location of the Saxon monastery of St Felix (Hatton 1998b)¹, the development site is located in an area of archaeological potential, with particular reference to the evidence for Saxon funerary activity (above). Therefore, the aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence and quality (i.e. degree of preservation and significance) of archaeological remains within the subject site.

The archaeological evaluation targeted areas most likely to be damaged by development. To this aim, four linear trenches were located in correspondence with the proposed house-foundations. Constraints were posed by the presence of extant brick-walls and protected trees (Fig.2).

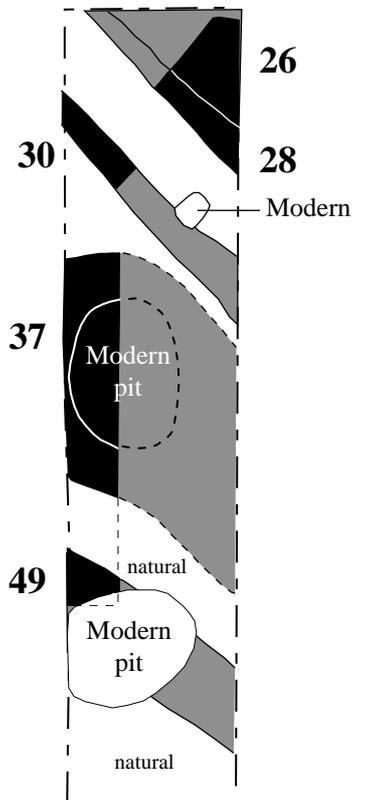
The trenches were excavated using a toothless ditching bucket 1.60m wide, cleaned by hand to allow feature and deposit recognition, and planned at 1:100 scale.

¹ *Disarticulated bones were found outside the south porch of the church, and interpreted as belonging to a burial ground associated with St Andrew's Church. At least one burial was generically dated to the post-medieval Period.*

Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4

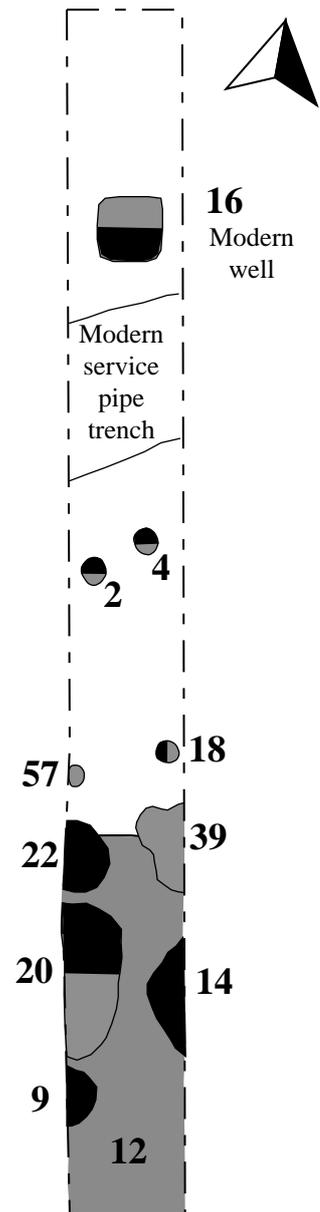


Figure 2 Plans of Trenches 2, 3 and 4

Within the trenches, each feature and deposit was allocated a unique reference number (single context recording). Relevant vertical sections were drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scale. A general scale plan of the site was also produced to show the location of the excavated trenches within the development site. Finally a photographic record was compiled which consisted of colour slides, colour and monochrome prints.

The recording system and the post-excavation procedures followed the standard AFU practice.

4 RESULTS

Trench I (Fig. 1)

Trench 1 (6.0m x 1.50m) was located near the south perimeter of the development site, to the south of the mid-20th century brick building and parallel to Church Alley to the west. It was excavated to a depth of 0.85m (north end) and 1.05m (south end).

The removal of imported topsoil (0.30m thick) revealed an earlier phase of levelling (tarmac and brick debris) associated with the back-filling of modern ditches.

The trench could not be extended further due to the presence of manholes associated with the brick house.

Trench 1 produced no archaeological remains, undoubtedly due to the high degree of modern disturbance.

Trench 2 (Fig. 1)

Trench 2 (16m x 2.20m) was located to the east of the mid-20th century brick building, on the same north-east to south-west alignment. It was excavated to a depth of 0.60m (north-east end), and 0.78m (south-west end). The removal of imported topsoil some 0.30m thick revealed a dark organic deposit that was interpreted as representing an early topsoil.

Archaeological features (namely two postholes, one beam-slot and two ditches) were identified (Fig. 2). They had been cut through natural chalk.

Cut 41: Ditch, linear, NW/SE oriented, 0.80m wide (truncated width), 0.10m deep and 1.20m long (excavated length). One fill, 40 (Figs 2, 3).

Fill 40: Fill of ditch 41. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Flint flakes and one flint core with multiple percussion marks were uncovered suggesting a prehistoric date for the ditch. One of the flakes had been adapted to make a

pointed tool. Truncated by ditch **43**.

Cut 43: Ditch, linear, NW/SE oriented, 1.30m wide, 0.12m deep and 1.20m long (excavated length). One fill, 42 (Figs 2, 3).

Fill 42: Fill of ditch **43**. light grey chalky clayey silt, soft. One sherd of pottery was retrieved (undatable) (Appendix).

Cut 45: Posthole, circular, 0.30m in diameter, 0.17m deep. One fill, 44 (Figs 2, 3).

Fill 44: Fill of posthole **45**. Dark greyish brown clayey silt, soft). No finds were recovered.

Cut 51: Posthole, circular, 0.25m in diameter, 0.10m deep. One fill, 50 (Figs 2, 3).

Fill 50: Fill of posthole **51**. Dark greyish brown clayey silt, soft. One sherd of pottery was recovered (13th-15th century) (Appendix).

Cut 53: Slot, linear, NNE/SSW oriented, 0.50+m wide, 0.30m deep and 0.50m long (excavated length). One fill, 52 (Figs 2, 3).

Fill 52: Fill of slot **53**. Dark brown to dark greyish brown clayey silt with chalk lumps and mottles, firm to soft. One fragment of animal bone was recovered.

The ditches were on a north-west to south-east alignment. They may have represented land boundaries.

In the north-east portion of the trench there was evidence for two postholes and a narrow linear feature that was interpreted as representing a beam-slot. The latter followed the same orientation as the postholes, with which it may have been associated as part of a structure or a fence.

Trench 3 (Fig. 1)

Trench 3 (18mx2.20m) was located to the north of the mid-20th century brick building, on the same north-east to south-west alignment as the building, i.e. parallel to Trench 2. It was excavated to a depth of 0.60m in the north-east end, and 0.78m in the south-west end. The removal of the topsoil some 0.30m thick revealed the dark organic deposit (early topsoil). The thickness of the latter ranged between 0.30m in the north-east end, and 0.48m in the south-west end.

Archaeological features (namely ditches) were identified (Figs. 2, 4). They had been cut through natural sand.

Cut 26: Ditch, linear, N/S oriented, 2.0m wide, 1.30m deep (from present ground level) and 1.30m long (excavated length). Three fills, 23, 24 and 25 (**Figs. 2, 4**).

Fill 23: Upper fill of ditch **26**. Dark greyish brown clayey silt, soft, 10% of small flint inclusions (dia.=3cm). Animal bone was recovered.

Trench 2 Sections

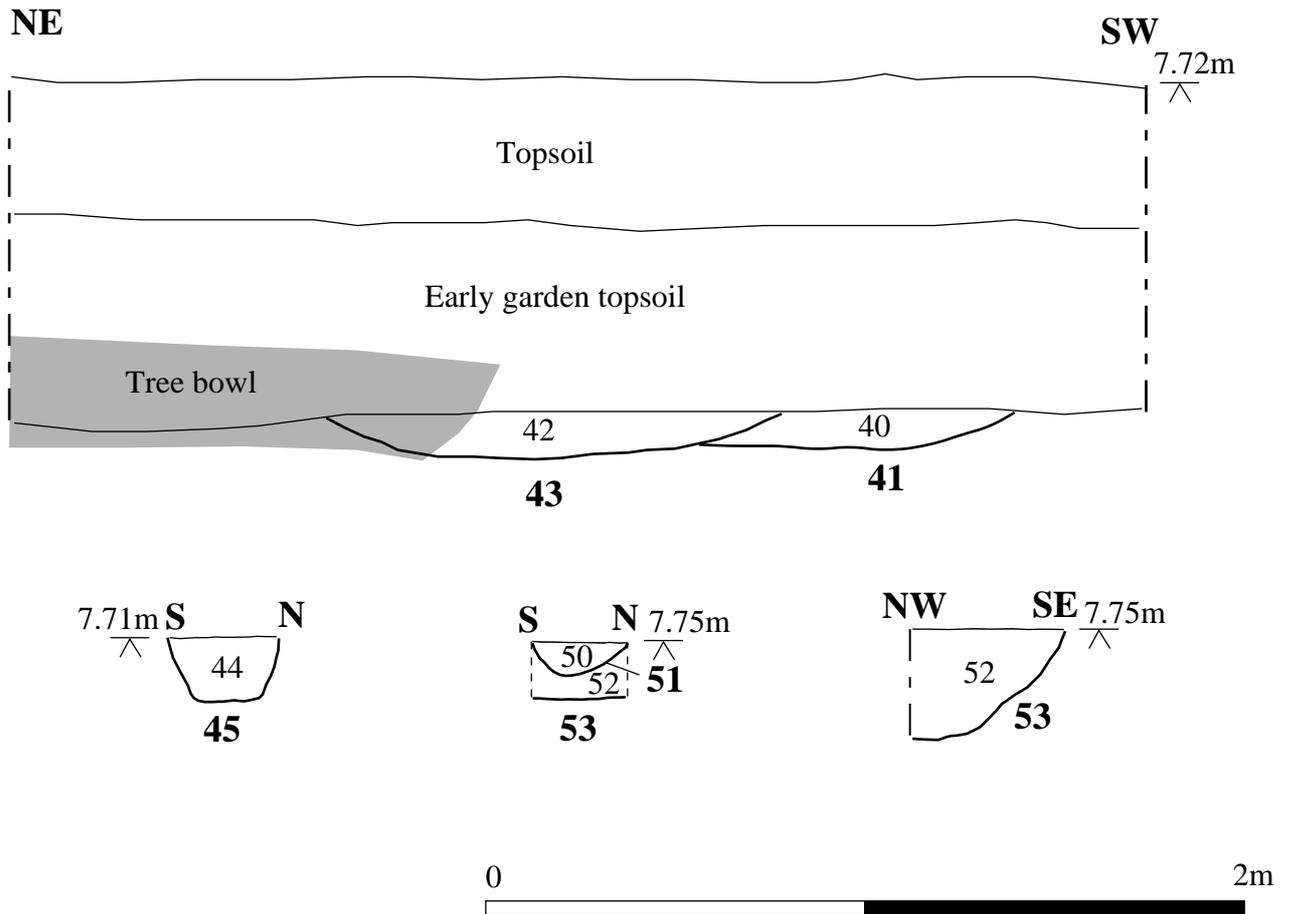


Figure 3 Sections from trench 2

Fill 24: Mid fill of ditch **26**. Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional sand mottles, soft, 10% of small flint inclusions (dia.=3cm). Animal bone, shell and pottery (10th-12th century) (Appendix) were recovered.

Fill 25: Lower fill of ditch **26**. Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional sand mottles, soft, 10% of small flint inclusions (dia.=3cm). Animal bone, shell and pottery (9th-10th century) (Appendix) were recovered

Cut 28: Ditch, linear, N/S oriented, 0.80m wide (truncated), 0.90m deep (from present ground level) and 1.70m long (excavated length). One fill, 27 (Figs. 2, 4).

Fill 27: Fill of ditch **28**. Mid greyish brown silt with frequent sand mottles, soft, 10% of small flint inclusions (dia.=2cm). No finds were recovered

Re-cut by 26.

Cut 30: Gully/slot, linear, N/S oriented, 0.20m wide, 0.20m deep (from present ground level) and 1.30m long (excavated length). One fill, 29 (Figs. 2, 4).

Fill 29: Fill of ditch **30**. Mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate sand mottles, soft, 10% of small flint inclusions (dia.=< 3cm). Fragments of animal bone were recovered.

Cut 37: Ditch, linear, N/S oriented and possibly bending westwards, 3.25m

wide (truncated), 2.0m deep (from present ground level) (not bottomed) and 0.75m long (excavated length). Eight fills, 31-36, 46, 47 (Figs. 2, 4).

Fill 31: Fill of ditch **37**. Light grey chalky silt, soft). No finds were recovered.

Fill 32: Fill of ditch **37**. Light grey silt with chalk flecks and mottling, firm, 25% of inclusions (dia.=<6cm). No finds were recovered.

Fill 33: Fill of ditch **37**. Light grey silt with chalk flecks and mottling, firm. No finds were recovered.

Fill 34: Fill of ditch **37**. Mid-dark grey sandy clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and mottling, firm, 10% of inclusions (dia.=<3cm). No finds were recovered.

Fill 35: Fill of ditch **37**. Mid-pale grey sandy clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and mottling, firm. Bone, tile and pottery (13th-14th century) (Appendix) were recovered.

Fill 36: Fill of ditch **37**. Orange brown silty sand, soft, irrelevant percentage of inclusions (< 2%). No finds were recovered.

Fill 46: Fill of ditch **37**. Light brownish grey sandy clayey silt, firm, 10% of small gravel inclusions (dia.=<3cm). No finds were recovered.

Fill 47: Fill of ditch **37**. Light grey sandy silt with chalk flecks, firm, 10% of small gravel inclusions (dia.=<4cm). No finds were recovered.

Cut 49: Ditch, linear, N/S oriented, 0.60m wide (excavated width), 0.85m deep (excavated depth) (from present ground level) and 0.75m long (excavated length). One fill, 48 (Figs. 2, 4).

Fill 48: Fill of ditch **49**. Very light grey decayed chalk, soft, irrelevant percentage of inclusions (< 2%). No finds were recovered.

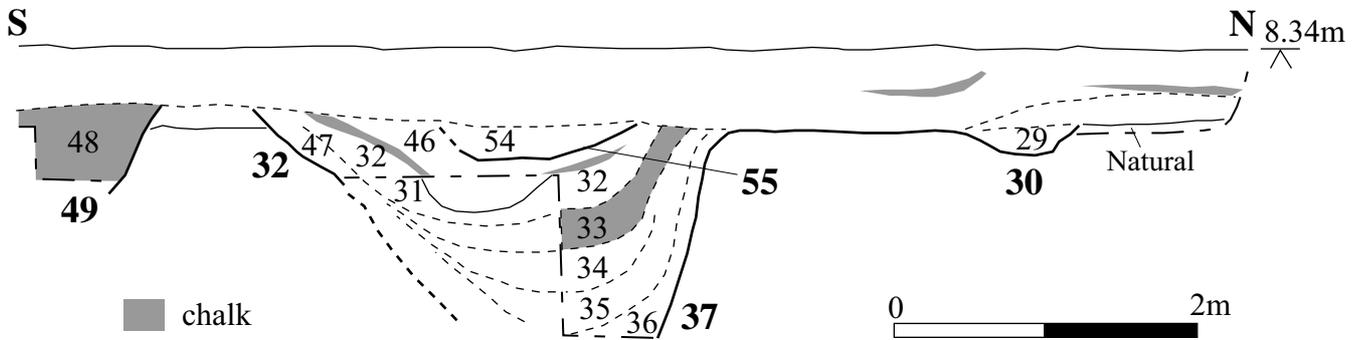
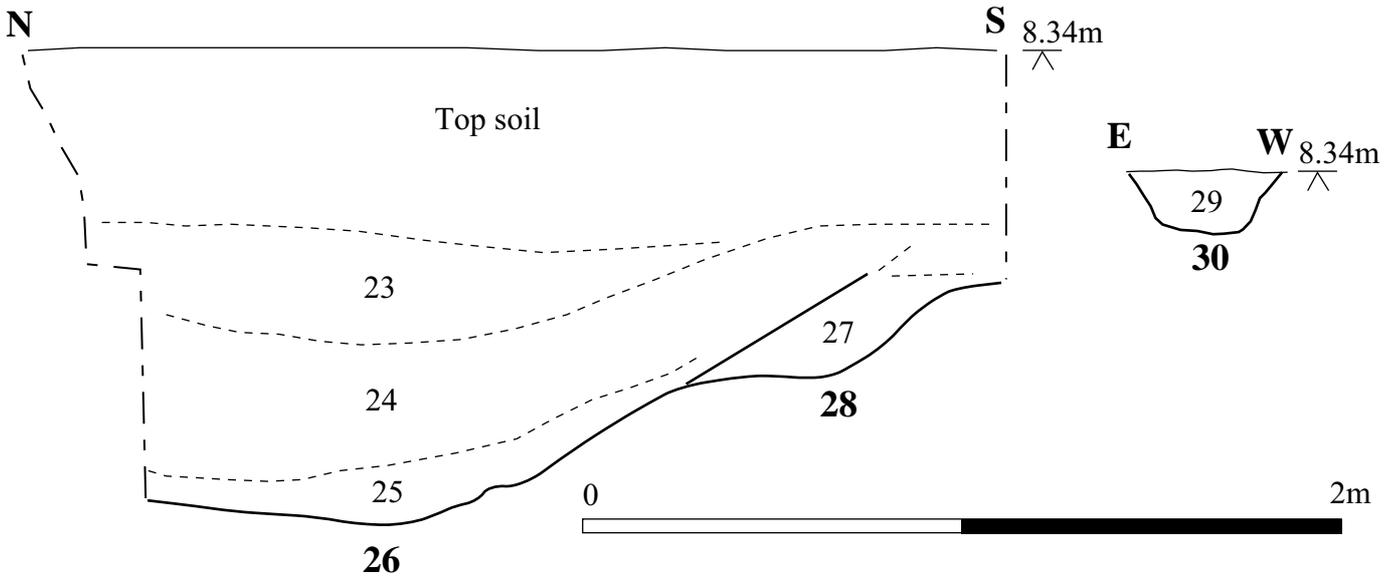
The ditches (and the gully) were on the same north to south alignment. They may have represented a major land boundary that was re-cut at least once, and had shifted only a few metres away at a later stage. The ditches had been disturbed by the excavation of two modern pits.

Trench 4 (Fig. 1)

Trench 4 (16m x 1.5m) was located in the north-eastern portion of the development site, parallel to the brick boundary wall associated with 'The Vicarage'. It was excavated to a depth of 0.90m (north end) and 0.80m (south end). The removal of imported topsoil (0.35m thick, north end, and 0.50 cm, south end) exposed the dark organic deposit (early topsoil). The thickness of the latter was 0.55m at the north end, decreasing to 0.30m at the south end. Here, the organic soil partially sealed two archaeological deposits, 10 and 11, that produced post-medieval/Victorian finds. The deposits were interpreted as being the result of in-filling and levelling of the area as the result of quarrying/landscaping (referred to as **12**) from the post-medieval period.

Archaeological features (namely pits and postholes) were identified (Fig. 2). They had been cut through natural light brown sand and chalk.

Trench 3 Sections



Trench 4 Sections

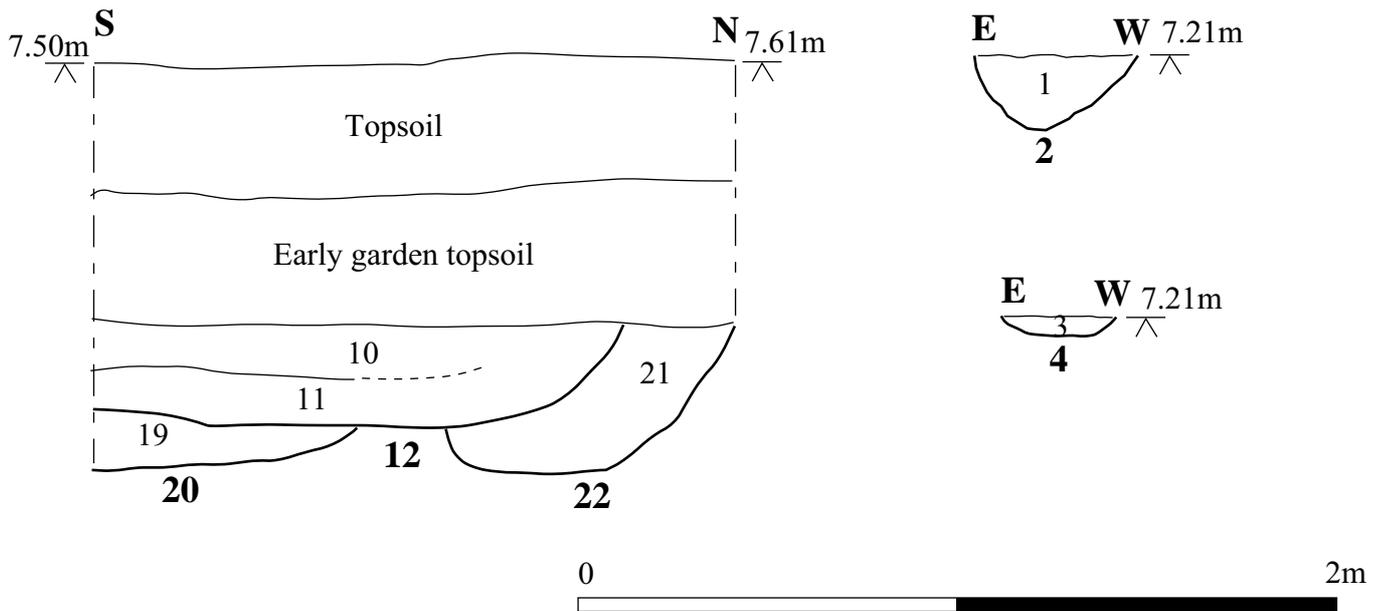


Figure 4 Sections from trenches 3 and 4

Cut 2: Posthole, circular, 0.42m in diameter, 0.20m deep. One fill, 1 (Figs. 2, 4).

Fill 1: Fill of posthole 2. Dark greyish brown clayey silt, soft. Bone fragments and one sherd of pottery was recovered (13th-16th century) (Appendix).

Cut 4: Posthole, circular, 0.30m in diameter, 0.10m deep. One fill, 3 (Figs. 2, 4).

Fill 3: Fill of posthole 4. Dark greyish brown clayey silt, soft. No finds were recovered.

Cut 9: Pit, circular?, 0.90m in diameter, 0.20m deep. Two fills, 7 and 8.

Fill 7: Upper fill of pit 9. Dark grey clayey silt, soft, large flint nodules (dia.=10cm). Tile and bone were recovered. Truncated by post-medieval Quarring/ terracing 12.

Fill 8: Lower fill of pit 9. Dark greyish brown and fluorescent green, 'cessy' clayey firm. No finds were recovered.

Cut 14: Pit, sub-rectangular/square?, 1.50m visible width/length, 0.96m deep (truncated depth) (from present ground surface). One fill, 13.

Fill 13: Fill of pit 14. Dark greyish brown and fluorescent green, 'cessy' silty clay firm. Bone, shell and pottery (14th-16th century) (Appendix) were recovered. Truncated by post-medieval terracing.

Cut 18: Posthole, circular, 0.3m in diameter, 0.14m deep. One fill, 17.

Fill 17: Fill of posthole 18. Dark greyish brown clayey silt, soft. One sherd of pottery was recovered (13th-15th century) (Appendix).

Cut 20: Pit, sub-rectangular/square? 2.0m long (visible length), 0.70m wide (visible width) 0.16m deep (truncated depth). One fill, 19 (Figs. 2, 4).

Fill 19: Fill of pit 20. Dark greyish brown and fluorescent green, 'cessy' silty clay, firm. Bone, shell and pottery (14th-16th century) were recovered. Truncated by post-medieval terracing.

Cut 22: Pit, circular?, 0.80m in diameter (truncated), 0.40m deep (maximum depth). One fill, 21 (Figs. 2, 4).

Fill 21: Fill of pit 22. Dark greyish brown and fluorescent green, 'cessy' silty clay, firm. Fragments of animal bone were recovered. Truncated by post-medieval terracing.

Cut 39: Pit, amorphous shape, 1.20m x 0.70m (visible in the trench). One fill, 38.

Fill 38: Fill of pit 39. Dark greyish brown and fluorescent green, 'cessy' silty clay, firm. Severely disturbed by rooting. Fragments of post-medieval tile and brick were recovered (intrusive), together with a flint flake (residual). Truncated by post-medieval terracing.

Cut 57: Posthole, circular, 0.3m in diameter. One fill, 56.

Fill 56: Fill of posthole **57**. Dark greyish brown clayey silt.

The features in the southern portion of the trench were interpreted as representing quarry pits for the extraction of chalk. They had been disturbed by terracing/quarrying (**12**) during the post-medieval period (Figs. 2, 4).

To the north of the quarry area there were 4 postholes that enclosed a rectangular area some 1.25 sqm. The postholes could have represented the remains of a small building, or a double fence on a west-east or north-south alignment.

5 DISCUSSION

Notwithstanding the absence of archaeological remains directly associated with the Saxon monastery traditionally founded by St Felix, the results from the evaluation have demonstrated the existence of Late Saxon/Medieval features surviving to the south of St Andrew's Church.

Based on stratigraphic relationships and dating evidence from most excavated contexts, four phases of activity/occupation were identified, as follows:.

- Prehistoric
- Saxo-Norman
- Medieval
- Post medieval

Prehistoric

Prehistoric evidence emerged in Trench 2 where the fill of a possible Bronze Age ditch, fill 40 of **41**, produced a significant assemblage of flint debitage including one core and several flakes. A residual flint flake was also recovered from the fill of one of the medieval quarry pits in Trench 4 (i.e. fill 38 of pit **39**) and from the fill of the medieval gully/slot in Trench 3 (fill 29 of **30**).

Prehistoric activity is fairly well documented in and around Soham (above). In particular, Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age stray finds (namely lithic artefacts) have been located to the north-east of the present village, and to the south of the development site (above).

Late Saxon

Late Saxon evidence emerged from **26/28** in Trench 3, a boundary ditch that was re-cut (or re-defined by a fence) at least once, possibly due to partial silting of the feature. Whether it may have originally been associated with the alleged (above) Saxon religious foundation is uncertain. Documentary evidence would suggest that the monastery of St Felix was destroyed in the later 9th century and never re-built. It is more likely that the boundary ditch

was associated with activity post-dating the monastery including the deposits uncovered during trenching conducted to the east of Trenches 2 and 3 (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2000). According to the excavator, evidence emerged for Late-Saxon domestic activity of the site (from the 10th century), with very little evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity.

Ditch **26/28** could have represented the boundary defining the rear of the properties flanking High Street. This interpretation would be consistent with the re-planning of the settlement after the abandonment of the alleged Middle Saxon monastery (Paul Spoerry, pers. comm.).

Medieval

When analysed in the broader context of the area, the evidence from the evaluation shows that a change occurred between the Late Saxon and medieval period, with occupation expanding northwards, i.e. within the northern portion of the present development site, between 1200 and 1500 AD.

It is uncertain as to whether the 13th-14th century ditch, **37**, in Trench 3 may have represented the eastern boundary of a possible medieval predecessor to the extant manor house ('The Vicarage'). It is more likely that the ditch acted as a major boundary, probably originating from the Late Saxon predecessors, **26/28** (above), on the same north-south alignment as **37**.

The postholes (Trenches 2 and 3) and the slot (Trench 2) are likely to have represented less substantial forms of boundaries to the north and south of the present development site (13th-16th century). Immediately to the south of the southern 'boundary' there was possible evidence of prehistoric activity, as suggested by the recovery of flint debitage from ditch **41**, but no evidence of medieval features. Immediately to the south of the northern 'boundary' quarry pits were uncovered that produced pottery dating to the 14th-16th century.

Post Medieval

The site produced no evidence of activity later than the 16th century. Lack of evidence is consistent with the fact that the site reverted to an open space. The whole area was landscaped in post-medieval and modern times, as suggested by the stratigraphy in Trench 4.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The objective of the evaluation was to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains likely to be affected by housing-development.

Archaeological remains were identified in all but one trench (Trench 1) where modern disturbance would have obliterated any archaeological remains and deposits.

Flint debitage from at least one ditch and residual flakes from medieval contexts would suggest Bronze Age activity on site. However, the lithic assemblage was too small to represent conclusive evidence for flint-napping in the area.

During the evaluation evidence emerged for occupation dating from the late Saxon period and spreading throughout the Middle Ages. Late Saxon evidence was located in the south-east portion of the site. A possible late Saxon ditch could have represented the boundary defining the rear of the properties flanking High Street in the context of the re-planning of the settlement after the abandonment of the alleged Middle Saxon monastery (Paul Spoerry, pers. comm.).

The late Saxon rear boundary may have been re-defined and maintained throughout the medieval period (Paul Spoerry, pers. comm.) explaining close the association of **26**, **28**, **30** and **49**.

In post-medieval times the site was an open space.

Although the location of the evaluation trenches aimed to obtain the best possible coverage of the area under investigation, it was also conditioned by obstacles in the form of trees, extant brick walls and service pipes. In spite of limitations and constraints, the results were satisfactory, providing a good understanding of the site.

In the whole, the evidence from the present evaluation is consistent with what is known of Saxon and Medieval Soham. Whereas Early Saxon activity is still elusive and consists primarily of funerary remains near St Andrew's Church, i.e. in the context of the monastery traditionally associated with St Felix, Late Saxon occupation is known to have occurred to the north, east and south of the Church. Although the Saxon monastery had by then disappeared, the distribution of known sites and scatters of finds seem to indicate that whatever attracted the Anglo-Saxon burials was still acting as a focal point. Not surprisingly, during the medieval period occupation took place over a wider area, with St Andrew's Church becoming the fulcrum of the settlement from the late 12th century.

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MAPS

British Geological Survey (BGS) 158, 1:50000

APPENDIX The Pottery: Spotdating (by Paul Spoerry)

Context	Trench	Feature Type	Pottery Type	Form	Date
1	Tr 4	posthole	Ely Ware	body sherd	1200-1500
13	Tr 4	pit	Grimston Ware Ely Ware /	jug angled bowl large vessel	1250-1500 1350-1500 Late Med.
19	Tr 4	pit	Ely Ware /	angled bowl large vessel	1350-1500 Late Med.
24	Tr 3	ditch	St Neots Ware St Neots Ware St Neots Ware	inverted bowl rim jar rim body sherd	900-1100 900-1100 900-1100
25	Tr 3	ditch	Stamford Ware (1)	body sherd	875-950
29	Tr 3	gully	/ (2) / (3)	body sherd body sherd	500-800 500-800
35	Tr 3	ditch	Hedingham Ware Thetford GreyWare	body sherd body sherd	1200-1300 900-1200
42	Tr 2	ditch	/ (4)	body sherd	undatable
50	Tr 2	posthole	Lyveden Stanion (5)	body sherd	1200-1400
u/s	Tr 3	/	Ely Ware Ely Ware	body sherd body sherd	1200-1500 1200-1500
u/s	Tr 4	/	/ (6)	body sherd	500-800

Notes

- (1) Glazed sherd with possible iron-rich painted line.
- (2) Black hand-made sherd with quartzite and ferruginous lumps.
- (3) Buff surface dark grey ware, hand-made with quartz, quartzite and possible shell)
- (4) Shelly fragment.
- (5) Orange buff sherd.
- (6) Hand (?) made shelly sherd.



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