Witham Archaeology

A Report to Clayland Architects on behalf of Clayland Estates Ltd

April 2021

LAND EAST OF MANOR FARM, ASHBURTON ROAD, ICKBURGH, NORFOLK

Informative Trenching as Part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigation Work

A Pascoe

WA Report No.: 438 ♦ Event No.: ENF151136 ♦ OASIS ID: withamar1-419746

LAND EAST OF MANOR FARM, ASHBURTON ROAD, ICKBURGH, NORFOLK.

INFORMATIVE TRENCHING AS PART OF A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION WORK

PROJECT QUALITY CONTROL DETAILS:

Project Personnel:

Role	Name
Project Manager(s):	R. Trimble
Fieldwork Supervisor(s):	A Pascoe
Fieldwork Technicians:	R Jedzrejweski and A Jedzrejewska
Report Text:	A Pascoe
Report Illustrations:	A Pascoe
Ceramics Report:	A. Irving
Environmental Assessment:	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Other Finds	Gary Taylor
Animal Bone Report	Julie Curl
Lithics	Tom Lane

Report Production Details:

Issue No.	Status:	Editor	Issue Date
1	Draft for client review	R Trimble	19/04/2021
2	Draft for curator review	R Trimble	18/05/2021
3	Final Issue	R Trimble	25/05/2021

Cover Photograph: View of site from the south looking north.

LAND EAST OF MANOR FARM, ASHBURTON ROAD, ICKBURGH, NORFOLK.

HER Event No.: ENF151136
HES Ref.: CNF49267
Museum Accession No. : NWHCM 2021.65
Planning Application No.: BRECKLAND 3PL/2020/1264/F
NGR: TL 8158 9498

Informative Trenching as Part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigation Work

Contents ***Page***

Colour plates

Illustrations

LAND EAST OF MANOR FARM, ASHBURTON ROAD, ICKBURGH, NORFOLK.

INFORMATIVE TRENCHING AS PART OF A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION WORK

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology at Ashburton Road, Ickburgh in Norfolk. The project was commissioned by Clayland Architects in compliance with a condition of planning permission relating to the proposed construction of 3 domestic residences with detached garages.

The area of the proposed development comprises a parcel of land measuring 0.36ha located at the eastern edge of the village and 65m west of the medieval church of St Peter. The site also lies in very close proximity to a circular ditched enclosure of possible Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon date.

For trenches were excavated on the site, revealing evidence of Neolithic activity in the form of residual worked flint, although no features were recorded from this period. The most intensive period of activity occurred in the medieval period, during the 11th to 13th centuries, represented by finds of pottery, a lava quern, a possible chisel and features such as extraction pits, a possible well and ditches. Later evidence of ridge and furrows and possibly post medieval enclosure boundaries were also recorded during the investigation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of informative trenching as part of a programme of archaeological mitigation work undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a proposed housing development comprising three domestic residences with detached garages on land east of Manor Farm, Ashburton Road, Ickburgh, Norfolk. The project was commissioned by Clayland Architects on behalf of Clayland Estates Ltd in response to a condition of planning permission issued by Breckland District Council. Archaeological fieldwork was completed during the period 10th March 2021 to 17th March 2021.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 & 2)

Ickburgh is a village and civil parish located in the south-west of the county of Norfolk, 9km west of Brandon and 14km south of Swaffham in the administrative district of Breckland. The parish encompasses an area of 1221 hectares. The village is located at the south-west corner of the parish, in a linear arranged extending along Ashburton Road.

The site, comprising 0.36ha of agricultural land, lies at the eastern edge of the village, 290m north of the west-to-east flowing River Wissey and 65m west of the medieval church of St Peter.

The site lies at an elevation of approximately 19m OD on a solid geology of chalk of the Hollywell Nodular and New Pit undifferentiated formations overlain by superficial deposits of aeolian windblown sands.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest evidence of human activity dates to the Palaeolithic period, with several finds recovered within the parish of Ickburgh, including a flint handaxe (NHER 11482) and blades (NHER 24828).

Evidence of Neolithic activity is more substantial. A Neolithic hearth was excavated in the 1960s during a monitoring of a pipeline excavation (NHER 11771) and several finds have been recovered, including arrowheads (NHER 5029, 5030) and axeheads (NHER14789, 14790, 17123). Many of the Neolithic finds recovered within the parish were found during fieldwalking surveys carried out at the Stanford Training Area (STANTA), an armed force training area established in 1942. The flint recovered was especially prevalent close to a terrace overlooking the flood plain of the River Wissey, here a possible flint working site was found.

Occupation in the parish during the Bronze Age period was also significant, as several Bronze Age barrow sites were recorded (NHER 5037, 21998, 35569, 44216).

A Roman settlement (NHER 35605) was identified on a terrace overlooking the River Wissey during the STANTA survey. This site is possibly the same as to a 'Roman fortification' described in the 18th century. Roman coins, including one with a skeleton, and pottery has also been found within the Parish.

According to the parish summary in the Norfolk Heritage Explorer, Saxon activity within the parish is for the most part restricted to the STANTA area. The survey recovered middle and late Saxon pottery fragments. Finds outside this area include an Early Saxon pendant (NHER14331) recovered during a 1973 metal detecting survey.

The 1086 Domesday Book lists five manors at Ickburgh with a total of 17.5 households, which were held by William of Warenne, Ralph of Tosny, Walter Giffard, which held two of the manors, and Roger son of Rainard (Open Domesday website).

The site of the proposed development is located just 65m west of the Grade II* church of St Peter (NHER 5048; National Heritage List no.: 1077286). The present church building dates from the mid 19th century and stands in the site of a 14th to 15th century church, of which only the 14th century tower survives (Historic England website).

Between the church and the development site, a large circular ditched enclosure of uncertain date has been identified from aerial photographic imagery. It could feasibly represent an Iron Age fort although the banks have now largely been reduced by ploughing. An alternative interpretation of the earthwork is that it represents the remains of an Anglo-Saxon fortification or 'burh' which would have been an early estate centre. Interestingly, the village name derives from Old English and means 'Ica's fortified place' (Key to English Place-Names website).

Immediately to the south-east of the Site lies a Grade II 17th century farmhouse (NHL 1305318), which is believed to be located close to the site of an earlier manor dating from the medieval period. This adds support to the premise that the circular ditched enclosure is Anglo-Saxon in date. The location of this site is shown as Manor Farm on the 1884 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch County Map.

4.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Full planning permission has been granted for a proposed development entailing the construction of three detached dwellings each with a detached garage.

To mitigate potential adverse impacts on the any archaeological deposits present on the site, a Programme of informative trenching as part of a programme of Archaeological Mitigation Work in advance of construction was recommended by the Historic Environment Service, Norfolk County

Council. In accordance with a brief issued by the HES, the first phase of mitigation required on the site was a scheme of Informative Trenching comprising the excavation of four trenches each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width. Contingency provision was made for a further trench measuring 20m by 1.8m to be excavated if deemed necessary by the planning archaeologist.

5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 4th March 2021, were to:

- *provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.*
- *assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*
- *provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.*
- *provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.*
- *provide information for accession to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (HER).*

6.0 METHODOLOGY

Four trenches were excavated, each measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide. Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, trench locations were agreed with the planning archaeologist, Norfolk County Council, focussing upon those areas most likely to be affected by development groundworks.

Topsoil and other recent deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trench bases and representative samples of the trench sides were subsequently cleaned by hand, prior to the part-excavation of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin, to ascertain character, extent and date.

Excavated features were recorded through drawn plans and sections at a scale of 1: 20. This record was augmented by colour photographs and written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. All trenches and reference points used in planning were located by survey grade GPS.

7.0 RESULTS (Figs. 3 and 4)

7.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located at the north-western edge of the development area aligned north-east to south-west. Measuring 1.8m wide and 30m long, the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.83m deep, with a sondage at the western end of the trench excavated to a further depth of 0.46m. The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 was the natural - a loose yellow to light brown fine silty sand (101) with occasional to moderate cracked flint stones and compact white to yellowish white chalk with occasional subangular flint stones.

Near the north-eastern end of the trench, a linear feature [114] aligned south-east to north-west had moderate to gently sloping concave sides and a concave base, measuring up to 1.8m long, 1m wide and 0.2-0.25m deep. The gully was filled by a firm to soft greyish brown silty sand (115) containing occasional charcoal, gravel and small angular flint and moderate chalk grit (Figure 8, Section 11. *Plate 15*).

At the north-east end of the trench, a partially exposed feature [116] may be interpreted as either a pit or as a linear feature such as a ditch. Extended for distances of least 2.5m south-west to north-east and at least 1.8m south-east to north-west, it was filled by a soft to loose greyish brown to brown silty medium sand (117) containing frequent flint.

In the central part of the trench, linear cut [112] had moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base, measuring at least 1m wide, 0.6m long and 0.4m deep (Figure 8, Section 10. *Plate 14*). It was filled by a soft to loose brownish grey silty sand (113) containing frequent flecks of chalk and moderate flecks of charcoal, pebbles and gravel. The fill produced two sherds of pottery dated 11th to mid-12th century, a prehistoric flint flake, an early Neolithic flint knife and an early Neolithic flint core. No relationship was recorded between pit [108] and linear feature [112].

At the south-western end of the trench, cut [102] had straight steep sides but was only partly revealed and its shape in plan could not be determined. It extended at least the width of the trench and over a distance of at least 7.2m south-west to north-east, measuring at least 0.8m deep (Figure 5, Section 4, *Plate 8*; Figure 8, Section 6, *Plate 10*; Figure 7, Section 7. *Plate 11*). Interpreted as a possible extraction pit or pond, it contained five fills, the earliest a soft mottled dark blackish grey medium sand (107) with frequent chalk flecks, measuring at least 0.08m thick and including an Early Neolithic flint flake. This was covered by a soft, brownish, grey sand (106) containing occasional flecks of charcoal and flecks of chalk and measuring 0.26m-0.40m thick. The latter produced cattle and sheep bone and an Early Neolithic serrated flint blade. Overlying the latter deposit was a firm dark blackish grey mottled with light brownish grey, medium sand (105) containing moderate charcoal and occasional gravel. The deposit was at least 0.30m thick and produced a sherd of pottery dated 12th to early 13th century as well as a pig bone. Overlying (105) was a soft brownish grey silty sand (104) containing occasional charcoal, flecks of chalk, moderate gravel and small cracked flint. Measuring 0.10m-0.60m thick, the deposit produced nine sherds of pottery dated 12th to mid-13th century. The final fill was a soft dark grey medium silty sand (103) measuring 0.20m thick and containing occasional gravel, flecks of chalk and charcoal.

To the north-east of [102] and south-west of [114], possible pit [108] was partially excavated to reveal moderately sloping to vertical side south-west side and a slightly concave base [108]. Investigated within a 1.4m by 0.6m segment, the feature extended the width of the trench and for an uncertain distance to the north-west where its fill was indistinguishable from deposits contained in [114]. Where excavated, it was up to 0.8m deep (Figure 8, Section 9. *Plate 13*). The lowest fill was a soft to loose rusty brown medium sand (111) measuring 0.10m thick. The latter was overlain by a soft to loose pale brown medium sand with rusty brown mottles (110) and containing moderate gravel. Measuring 0.46 m thick (110) was sealed by a soft to loose brownish grey medium sand with dark grey mottles (109), measuring 0.32m thick and containing frequent fragments of chalk. The deposit included a sherd of pottery dated 12th to mid-13th century and a possible chisel or wood splitter dated as medieval or post medieval.

The topsoil, extending throughout the upper levels of the trench, was a firm dark blackish grey silty sand containing occasional angular flint (100) and measuring 0.25m to 0.40m thick.

7.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located at the north-eastern edge of the site, aligned north north-west to south south-east. Measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide, it was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.49m to reveal the natural - a compact pale yellowish to white chalk and soft yellow to orangish/reddish yellow silty sand (202), with moderate subangular flints and grit.

In the central part of the trench, two small discrete features, [223] and [225], were found to have been cut by a much larger feature, [203/[220], interpreted as possibly an extraction pit. Cut [223] was oval in plan with steep straight sides and a rounded base. Interpreted as a possible post hole or a solution hollow, the cut (Figure 10, Section 13. Plate 17), measuring 0.3m long, 0.24m wide by 0.3m deep, was filled by a firm light reddish brown silty sand (224). To the south-east of [223], another possible post hole or solution hollow [225] was oval in plan with steep straight sides and a pointed base. It measured 0.34m long, 0.17m wide and 0.3m deep and was filled by a firm light reddish brown silty sand (Figure 9. Section 13. *Plate 17*).

The possible post holes [223] and [225] were both cut by a large feature, [203]/[220] which was only partially revealed, measuring 6.6m from south-east to north-west and extending at least the width of the trench. Partial investigation, [203], on the north-west side revealed moderately concave sides and a depth of up to 1.1m (Figure 5, Section 2. *Plate 2*). Interpreted as a possible extraction pit, the feature contained a primary fill of soft to loose dark reddish brown to greyish brown, mottled light brown silty sand (204), with moderate subangular flint and occasional pebbles and measuring 0.40m thick. Fill (204) was overlain by a soft to loose mottled greyish brown silty sand (205), with occasional sub-angular flint and grit and measuring 0.40m thick. The final fill was a loose mottled light brownish grey silty sand (206), with moderate sub-angular flint and occasional grit and measuring 0.30m thick. The latter produced three sherds of pottery dated 13th to mid 15th century together with a prehistoric flint flake, an Early Neolithic flint flake and a Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint flake. A segment, [220], excavated on the south-east side revealed a moderately concave side, breaking to a step and then falling in a steep to vertical convex side. The base was not exposed [220] and the feature was only partly excavated to a depth of 0.6m deep (Figure 8, section 12. *Plate 16*). The lower fill in [220] was a firm to friable light brown mottled with grey to light greyish brown silty sand (221), with occasional small pebbles and measuring 0.06-0.28m thick. Fill (221), which can be equated with (205) in [203], was overlain by a soft to loose mottled light brownish grey silty sand (222), with occasional angular flint and measuring 0.38m thick. Fill (222) can be equated to (206). The final fill sealing both (222) and (206) was a friable dark brown to brown silty sand (201), with occasional flint, grit and chalk fragments, and measuring 0.08m-0.26m thick. Deposit (201) was interpreted as a possible buried soil.

Fill (201) was cut by a south-west to north-east aligned linear feature with concave sides and a concave base [207], measuring 2.46m wide by 0.48m deep and extending at least the width of the trench (Figure 6, Section 3. *Plate 3*). Interpreted as a possible boundary ditch, the feature contained a fill of a firm dark greyish brown silty sand (208) with moderate flint stones and chalk fragments and grit and occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal. The deposit yielded a sherd of pottery dated 12th to mid 13th century and 12 Rhinish lava stone fragments dated to the medieval period.

In the south-eastern third of the trench, a probable ditch [213] aligned south-west to north-east had moderately concave sides and base measuring 3.2m wide by 0.82m deep and extending at least the width of the trench (Figure 6, Section 3. *Plate 5*). The ditch contained a primary fill of firm greyish brown silty sand (214) including moderate chalk grit and occasional flecks of charcoal and flint. The deposit was 0.20m-0.25m thick and yielded three sherds of pottery dated 11th to mid 12th century togther with a copper alloy button dated to the 18th century. Fill (214) was overlain by a firm to compact light greyish brown mottled with light brown silty sand (215) mixed with chalk fragments and grit, with occasional angular flint and a lense of compact chalk. It measured 0.60m thick and contained four sherds of pottery dated 12th to mid 13th century as well as fired clay.

A probable ditch, [209], cut the south-east side of [207] and the north-west side of [213]. Also aligned south-west to north-east, it had moderately sloping irregular sides and a concave base [209] measuring 3.4m wide and 0.7m deep and extending at least the width of the trench (Figure 6, Section 3. *Plate 4*). The lowest fill was a firm dark brown silty sand (210), with occasional sub-angular flint, moderate chalk fragments and grit, measuring 0.20-0.30m thick and yielding a fragment of cat bone. Fill (210) was overlain by a firm dark greyish brown silty sand (211) with moderate sub-angular flint and occasional flecks of charcoal, chalk fragments and grit, measuring 0.52m thick.

Ditch [213] was also cut by ditch, [216], which was also aligned south-west to north-east. The cut had moderately sloping sides and a concave base [216], measuring 1.3m wide and 0.36m deep (Figure 7, Section 3. *Plate 6*). It contained a fill of firm dark brown silty sand (217) with moderate chalk grit and occasional angular flint stones.

Ditches [209] and [216] were both sealed by a layer of firm to compact mottled grey to brownish grey silty sand (212) measuring 0.06-0.14m thick.

Another ditch, [218], at the south-eastern edge of the sequence cut layer (212). In common with the neighbouring ditches, [218] was aligned south west to north east. It had moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base [218], measuring 2.1m wide and 0.6m deep (Figure 7, Section 3. Plate 6). The ditch contained a lower fill of firm dark brown silty sand (227), with moderate chalk fragments and grit and occasional sub-angular flint and measuring 0.20m thick. Fill (227) was covered by a firm mottled greyish brown silty sand (219) with frequent chalk fragments and grit and occasional sub-angular and angular flint, measuring. 0.42m thick and containing five large mammal bones.

The topsoil was a firm dark blackish grey silty sand (200) with occasional angular and sub-angular flint and occasional chalk fragments and grit, measuring 0.30m-0.45m thick.

7.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located at the south-eastern edge of the site, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide and up to 0.67m deep. At the south-western end of the trench a sondage was excavated to a depth of 0.83m, while at the north-eastern end a sondage was excavated to a depth of 1.36m.

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 3 was the natural - a soft to loose light brown silty sand (302) with moderate cracked flint stones and lumps of chalk, measuring at least 0.54m thick. The natural was overlain by a layer of soft to loose dark brown fine to medium sand (301) with frequent angular cracked flint stones and sub-angular gravel and occasional flecks of charcoal, measuring 0.30m thick. Sealing the above deposits, the topsoil was a firm dark blackish grey silty sand (300) measuring 0.40m thick (Figure 5, Section 1. *Plate 1*).

7.4 Trench 4

Situated at the centre of the proposed area of development and aligned east to west, Trench 4 was excavated to a depth of 0.74m. The natural was a compact white to light yellow chalk with frequent sub-rounded flint modules and sub-angular flint flakes and soft yellow to reddish yellow sand (401) with frequent small to medium subangular flint flakes and occasional degraded chalk.

At the eastern end of the trench, the natural (401) was cut by a linear feature [415] aligned north-east to south-west with vertical to steep straight sides and a sloped flat base (Figure 7, Section 14, Figure 9,

Section 16. *Plate 18*). Interpreted as either a gully or possibly a structural feature, it measured over 2m long, by 0.35m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a friable mid grey-brown silty sand (416) with occasional flint, sub-angular pebbles and occasional chalk, measuring 0.22m thick and containing a pig/boar bone. The feature was cut by [411].

In the western half of the trench, cutting the natural (401), a partially exposed feature [402] had a curving south side with steep slightly concave sides. The feature, which was not excavated to full depth, measured 1.3m deep, 1.7m across and at least 0.86m south to north (Figure 7, Section 5, *Plate 7*). Interpreted as a pit or possibly a well, it contained four fills, the lowest a soft mid yellowish brown silty sand (408) with occasional chalk flecks and occasional small sub-angular flint, measuring at least 0.10m thick. Fill (408) contained a worked flint and a single sherd of pottery dated 11th to mid 12th century. It was overlain by a soft mid brownish yellow sand (407) with occasional chalk flecks, measuring 0.06m thick. Covering (407) was a firm dark yellowish brown silty sand (406) with occasional small sub-angular flint, occasional chalk flecks and large chalk nodules and degraded chalk, measuring 0.69m thick and containing four sherds of pottery dated 11th to mid 12th century together with an Early Neolithic flint scaper, one Early Neolithic flint flake, one Early Prehistoric flint flake and one possible Early Neolithic flint flake worked flint. Fill (406) was sealed by a friable mid yellowish brown silty sand (405) with occasional small sub-angular flint, occasional charcoal flecks and chalk flecks, measuring 0.45m thick.

At the south-east corner of the trench, a friable dark yellowish brown silty sand (417) with occasional small subangular flint stones and occasional chalk flecks, measuring at least 0.30m thick, was interpreted as either a later or the fill of an undefined cut.

Deposit (417) was cut by [413], a feature partially revealed on the south side of the trench east of possible gully [415]. Cut [413] extended beyond the limit of excavation to the south, its visible extent indicating a rectangular plan with rounded corners. It had steep straight sides and a flat irregular base [413], measuring over 2m long, probably around 1.5m wide and 0.65m deep (Figure 6, Section 14. Figure 9, Section 15. *Plate 18*). The cut contained a fill of friable mid to dark grey brown silty sand (414) with frequent small sub-angular flint and cobbles and occasional charcoal flecks, which produced a sherd of pottery dated 12th to mid 13th century together with a horse bone.

A linear feature was recorded cutting both gully [415] and [413]. The feature was aligned north to south and had moderately sloping regular sides and a flat base [411]. Measuring 4m wide, over 2m long (extending beyond the limits excavation) and 0.3m deep (Figure 7, Section 14, Figure 9, Section 15. *Plate 18*), the feature contained a single fill of friable mid grey-brown silty sand (412) with occasional flint and occasional chalk flecks.

A similar feature to [411] was recorded in the western part of the trench cutting the possible well [402]. The feature, [403], was linear in plan, aligned north to south, with moderately sloping concave sides and an irregular flat base. It measured at least 2m long, 3.15m wide and 0.38m deep (Figure 7, Section 5. *Plate 9*) and contained a friable mid grey-brown silty medium sand (404) with occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles.

In the cental part of the trench another broad and shall linear cut on a similar alignment had moderate concave sides and a flat base [409], measuring at least 2m long, 3.8m wide and 0.35m deep (Figure 7, Section 8. *Plate 12*). The feature contained a single friable mid yellow brown silty sand fill (410) with occasional small sub angular flint.

Features [411], [403] and [409] had similar orientations and morphologies, which together with roughly regular spacings are indicative of remnants of a ridge and furrow field system. It is possible that similar features in Trenches 1 and 2 formed parts of the same system.

The above stratigraphy was sealed by the topsoil, a firm dark grey black silty sand (400) with occasional small flint stones, occasional flint cobbles and occasional chalk fragments and grit, measuring 0.30m-0.40m thick. A sherd of pottery dated 19th to 20th century was recovered from (400). An Early Neolithic flint flake, a possible Early Neolithic flint flake and an Early Neolithic flint scraper were also recovered.

8.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

A total of fourteen worked flints were recovered from the site, consisting mainly of debitage from flint working, together with items such as a flint core, also from flint tool production in the area. A few tools were recovered, mostly from the Early Neolithic period (Appendix F) but none of the features excavated contained finds assemblages exclusively made up of worked flint. Their occurrence in association with later material suggests that the finds were residual and likely to have been redeposited in later contexts. However, the presence of Early Neolithic tools and debitage from the same period does suggest contemporary activity in the locality.

The earliest dated contexts were the fills of the possible well in Trench 4 and the ditch in Trench 1, both of which contained finds dated to 11th to mid -12th century. A rectilinear cut in Trench 4 and a pit and a pit or pond in Trench 1 contained finds dated as 12th to mid-13th centuries. In Trench 2 the undated post holes or probable solution hollows lay at the base of the stratigraphy and may represent an early phase of activity. The probable pit or extraction pit in Trench 2 contained 13th to mid- 15th century pottery but was succeeded by a ditch containing pottery dated 12th to mid 13th century, which suggests an overall date of 13th century for the two features. This would make them roughly contemporary with the 13th activity recorded in Trenches 1 and 4.

The final phase of activity recorded in Trench 4, appears to consist of three broad, linear hollows sharing approximately the same orientation and morphologically similar. These may be interpreted as furrows with a medieval and post medieval ridge and furrow field system. Four ditches from Trench 2 have been assigned to the 18th century, but only on the basis of the dating of a button recovered from within a securely stratified context. The features ran in parallel and may have represened successive delineations of a boundary or enclosure. No comparable evidence was recovered Trenches 1, 2 and 3.

Most of the pottery recovered from the site fell within a time frame of 11th to mid- 13th century (Appendix B). The assemblage was mainly comprised of sand tempered fabrics common in the area. Although some of the material could be residual the relatively short date span covering most of the assemblage suggests a concentrated period of activity in the earlier part of the medieval period.

This dating is supported by the information on other finds recovered during the investigations. The fragment of Rhinish lava stone recovered from Trench 2 is probably from a quern stone (Appendix C), possibly from the 13th century. This suggests domestic food grinding on the site or nearby. The possible chisel from Trench one was located with 12th to 13th century pottery, which suggests wood working in the vicinity at that time.

Environmental samples (Appendix D) produced evidence of domestic waste in quantities consistent with occupation in the immediate area, while evidence of iron working in the form iron scale indicates industrial activity in the area. The samples produced rye, hulled barley, free threshing wheat and oats consistent with the types of grains found elsewhere on early medieval sites. The animal bone assemblage (Appendix E) is largely the product of butchering and food waste, providing further support for the overall impression of domestic activity and waste disposal in the area of investigation.

The large circular enclosure identified between the development site and the church has been interpreted as a possible Iron age fort or the site of an Anglo-Saxon burh or early estate centre. However, no evidence of activity from either of these periods was found as a result of the recent investigations, with the intensive phase of activity concentrating in the medieval period, from the 11th to 13th century, possibly giving way to arable cultivation in the later medieval and post medieval periods. Medieval domestic and industrial activity is evident from the features recorded and from environmental analysis and the makeup of the finds assemblage.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Clayland Architects for their interest and support in ensuring the successful completion of this project. Thanks, are also due to Anne Irving for the Ceramics Report, Gary Taylor for the Other Finds Report, James Rackham for the Environment Report, Julie Curl for the

Animal Bone Report and Tom Lane for the Flint Finds Report, and to staff at the Historic Environment Record office, Norfolk for assistance in locating background information for the site.

10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic England website.
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1077286 [accessed 11th May 2021].
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1305318 [accessed 11th May 2021].

Key to English Place-Name website.
http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/county/Norfolk [accessed 11th May 2021].

Open Domesday website.
https://opendomesday.org/place/TL8195/ickburgh/ [accessed 11th May 2021].

11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: ENF151136

OASIS ID: withamar1-419746

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: BRECKLAND 3PL/2020/1264/F

FIELD OFFICER: A Pascoe

NGR: TL 8158 9498

CIVIL PARISH: Ickburgh

SMR No.: CNF49267

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 10th March 2021 to 17th March 2021.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Clayland Architects on behalf of Clayland Estates Ltd

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Norfolk County Council Museums Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: NWHCM 2021.65

ACCESSION DATE: - May 2022

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	67
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	14
Section Drawings at Scale 1:10	2
Digital Photographs	109
Set of Site Notes	6
Registers	8
Trench Sheets	4

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES

Plate 1: North west facing view of representative section trench 3, looking south east. 1 x 2m scale.

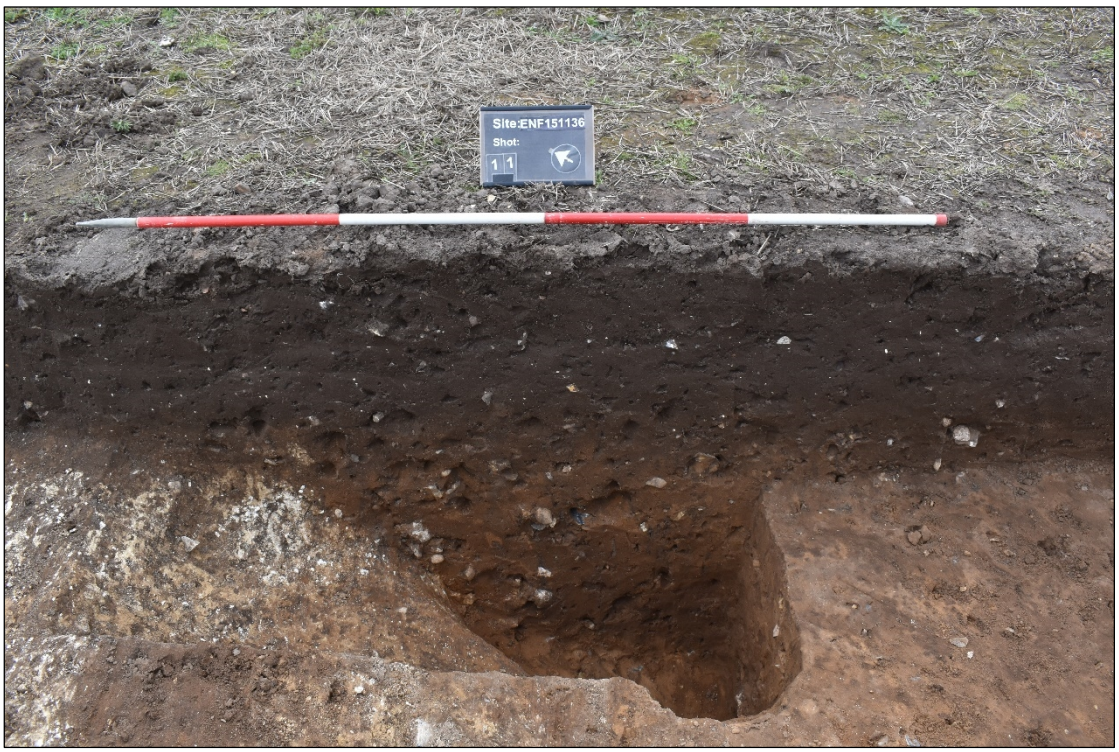


Plate 2: View of pit [203] looking north east. 1 x 2m scale.

Plate 3: View of ditches [207] and [209] looking north east. 1 x 2m scale.

Plate 4: View of ditches [209] and [213] looking north east. 1 x 2m scale.

Plate 5:View of ditch [213]looking north east. 1 x 2m scale.

Plate 6: View of ditches [218] and [216] looking north east. 1 x 2m scales.

Plate 7: View of well [402] looking north west. 2 x 1m scales.

Plate 8: View of pit [102] looking north. 1 x 2m scales.

Plate 9: View of ditch [403] and well [402] looking north northwest. 1 x 2m scale.

Plate 10: View of pit [102] looking south west. 1 x 0.5m scale.

Plate 11: View of pit [102] looking north west. 1 0.5m scale.

Plate 12: View of ditch [409] looking north west. 1 x 2m scale.

Plate 13: View of pit [108] looking north west. 1 x 2m scale.

Plate 14: View of ditch [112] looking north west. 1 x 2m scale.

Plate 15: View of ditch [114] looking north west. 1 x 1m scale.

Plate 16: View of pit [220] looking north east. 1 x 2m scales.

Plate 17: View of post holes / solution hollows [223] and [225] looking north east. 1 x 0.5m scale.

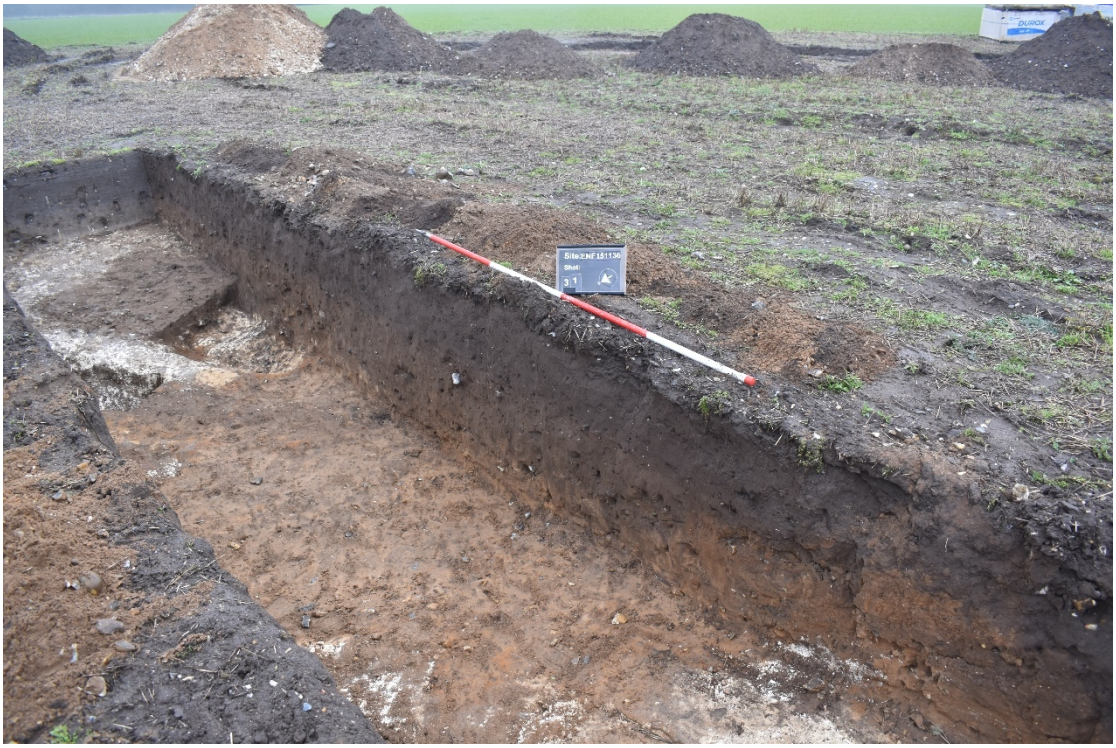
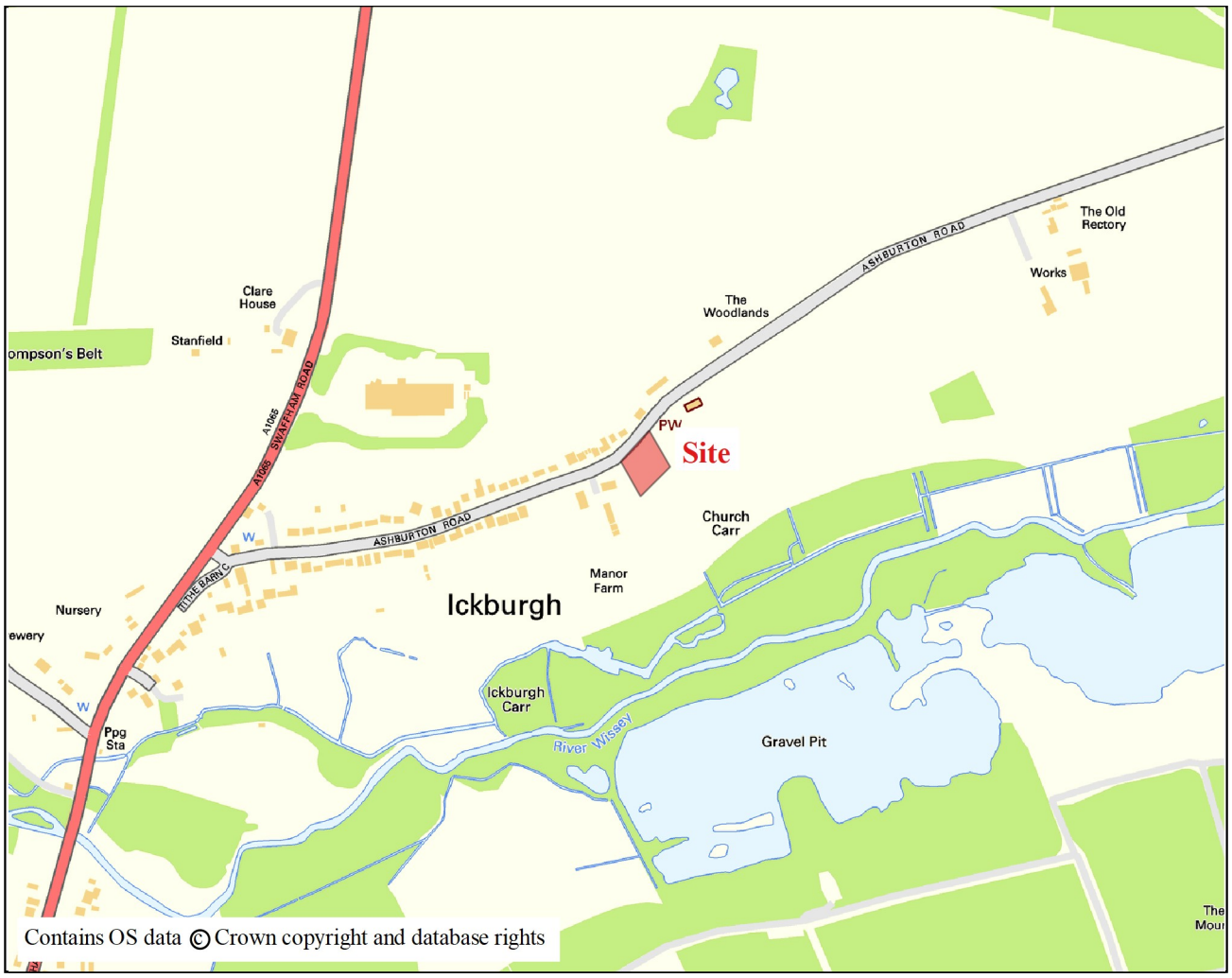
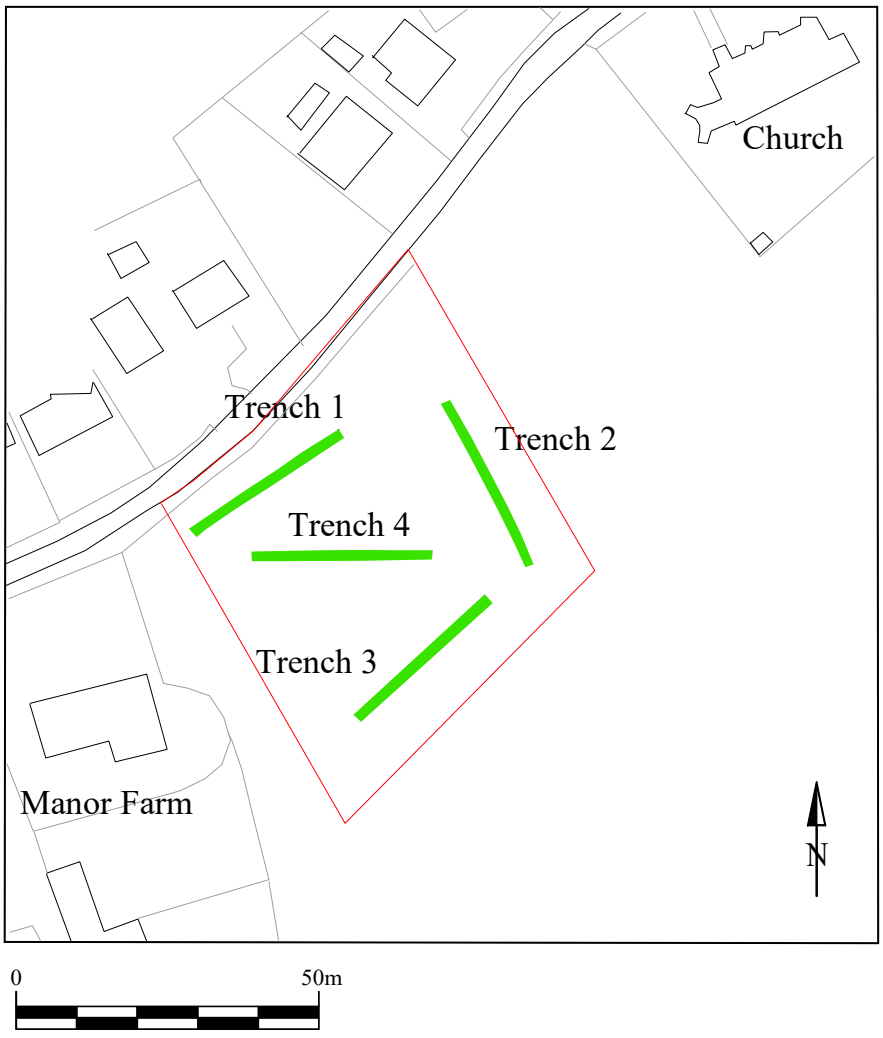


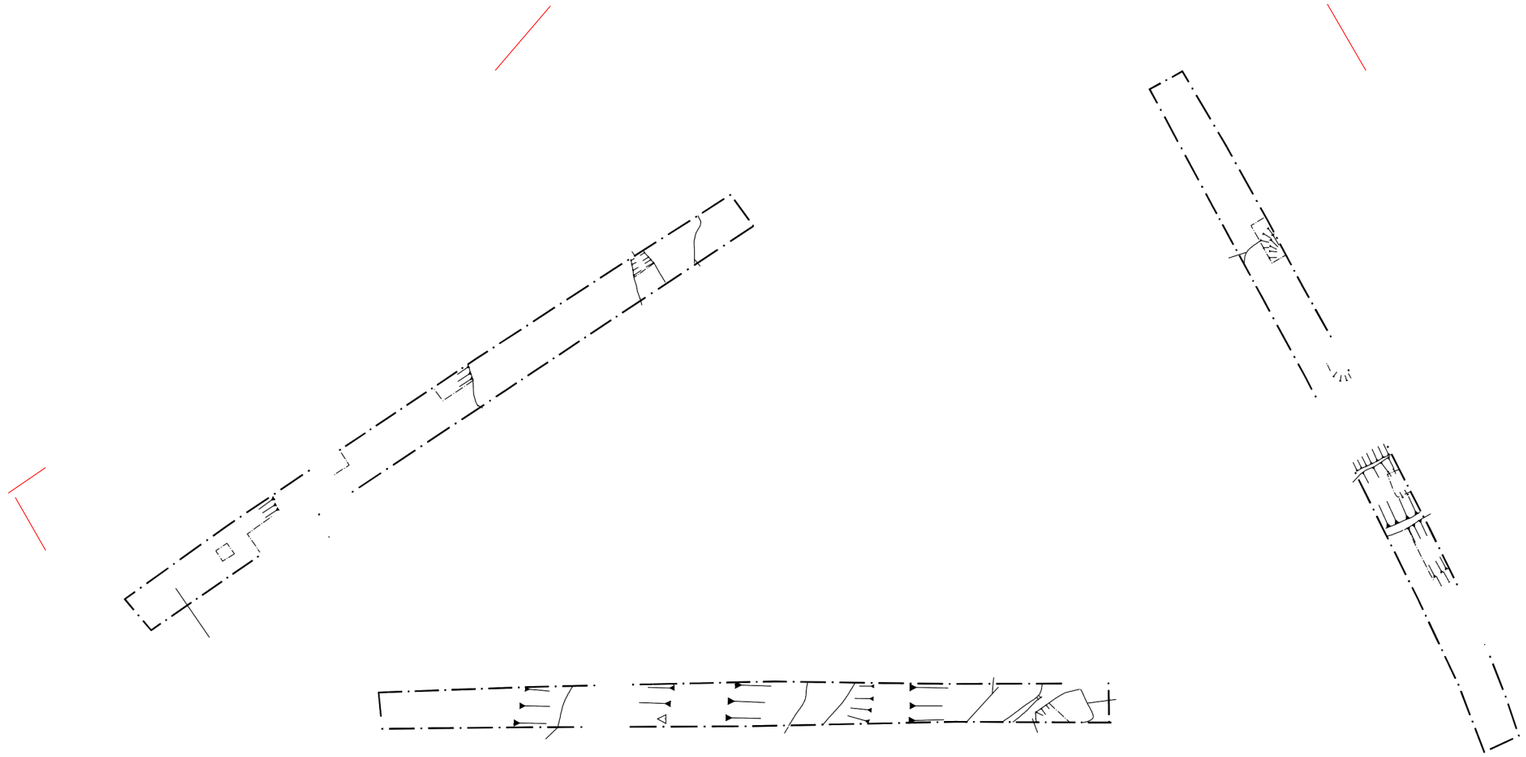
Plate 18: View of ditch [411], sunken featured building [413], Gully [415] looking south west. 1 x 2m scale.

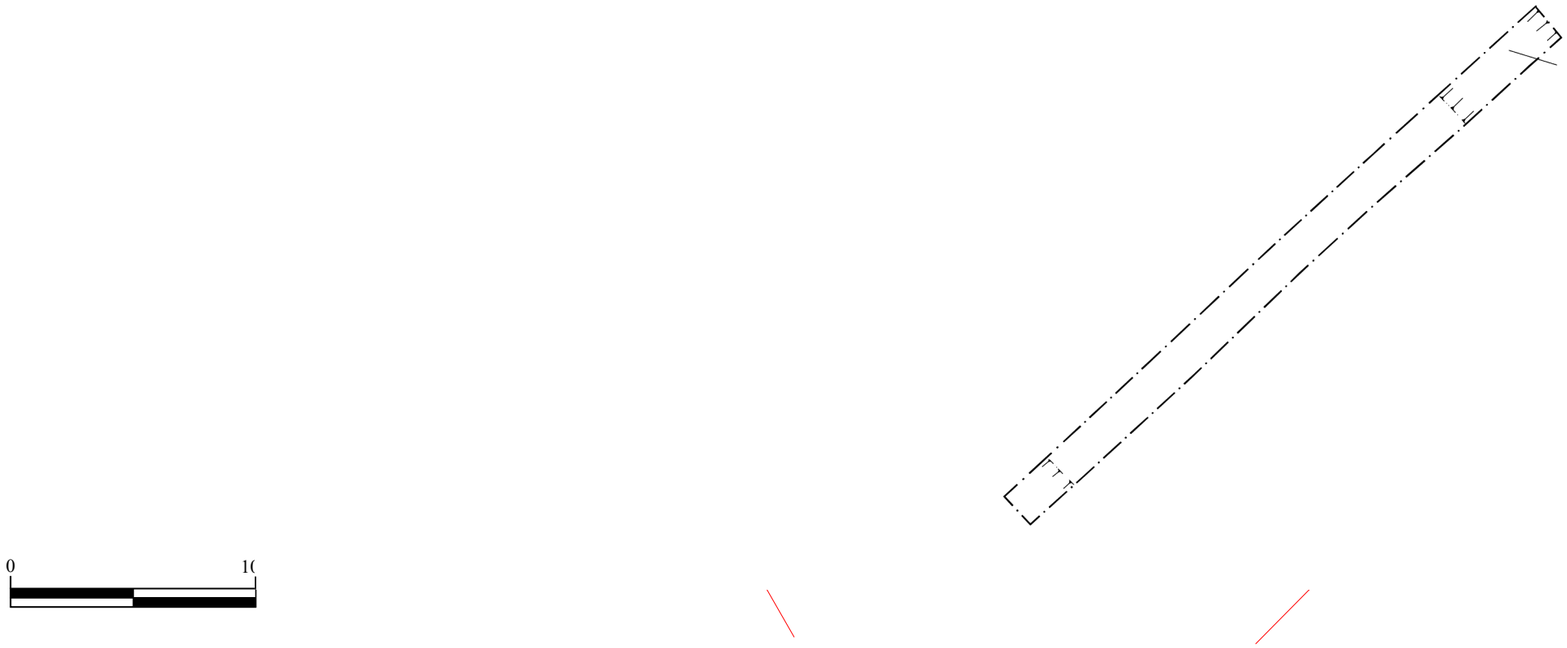


Witham Archaeology Site Location Maps Fig. 1

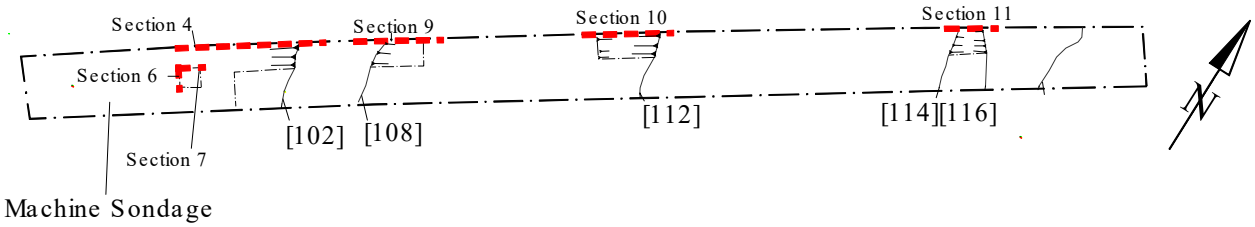


Witham Archaeology Trench location Plan. Scale 1:1250 Fig. 2

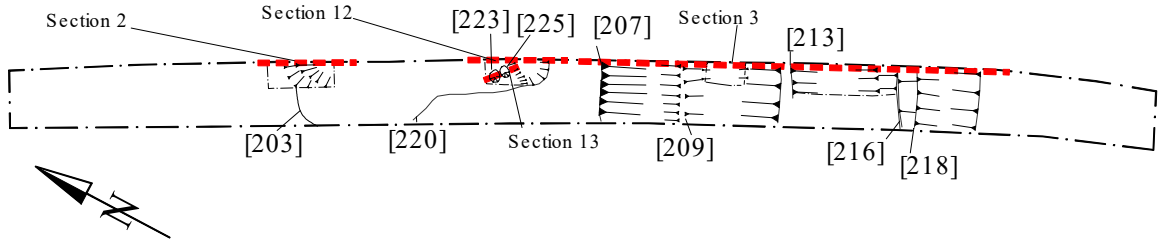



0
10

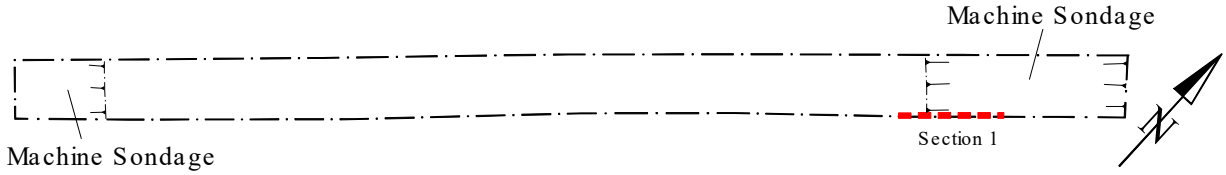
Trench 1



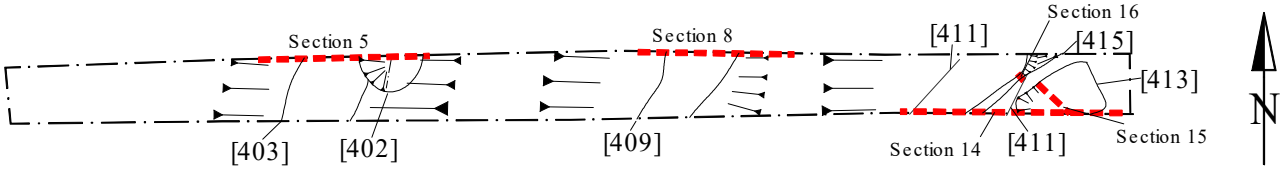
Trench 2



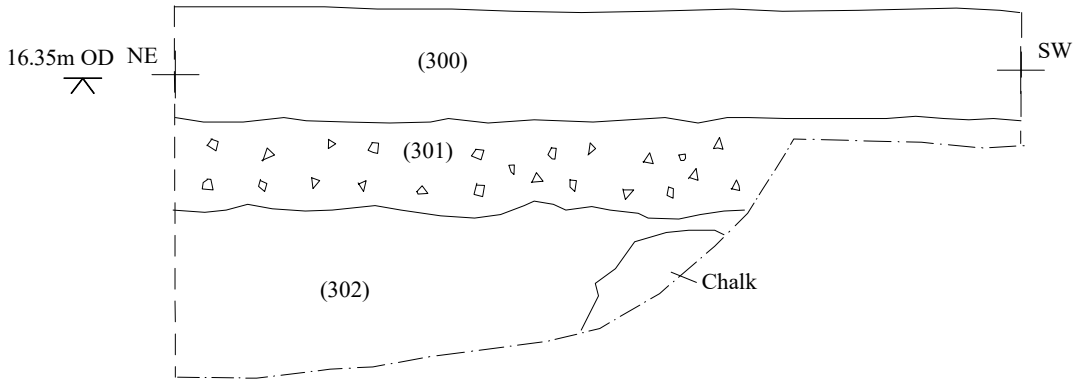
Trench 3



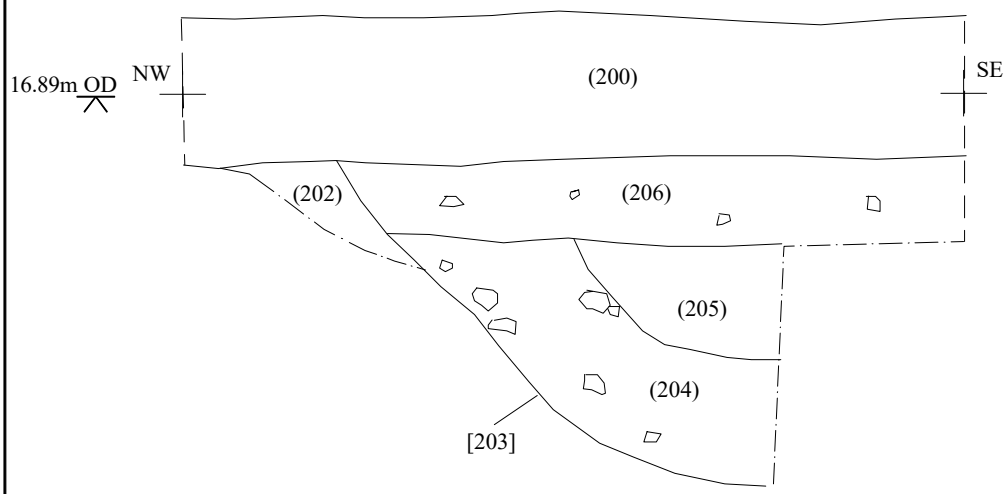
Trench 4



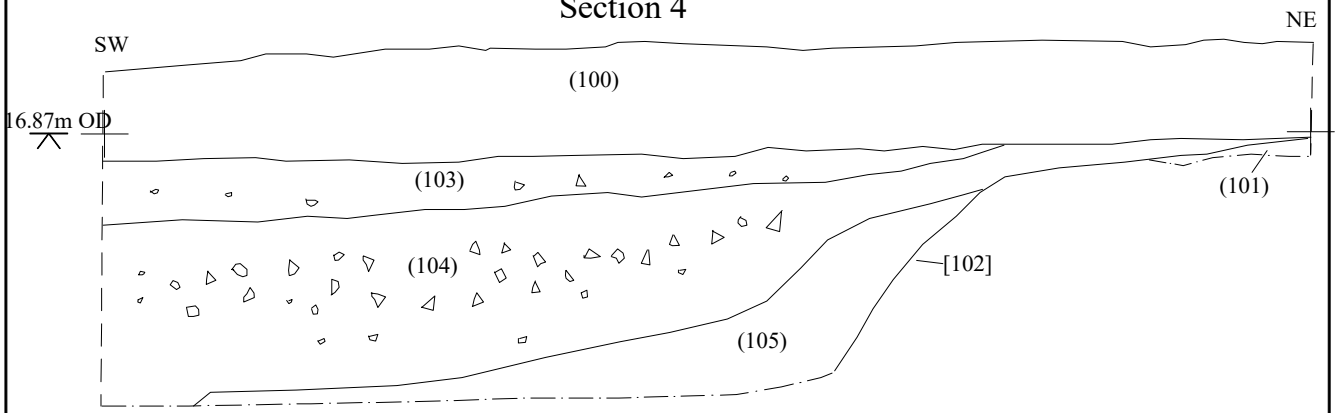
Section 1



Section 2

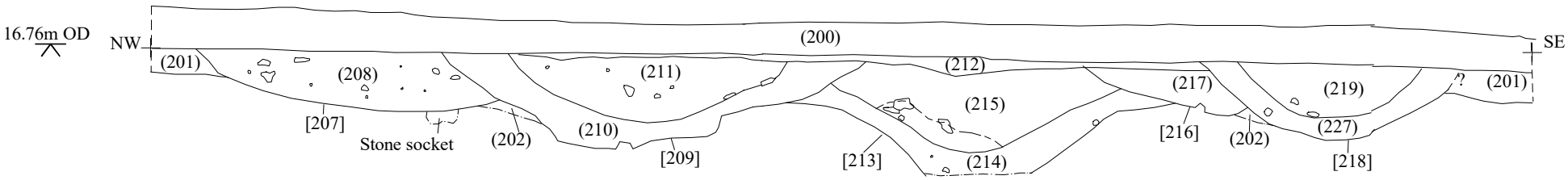


Section 4

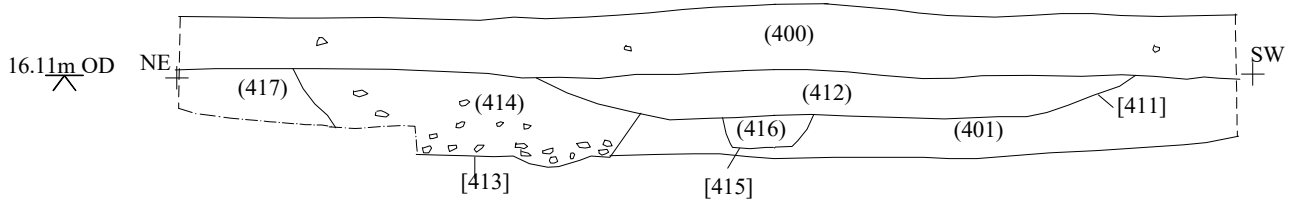


Witham Archaeology Sections 1, 2,4 Scale 1: 25 Fig. 5

Section 3



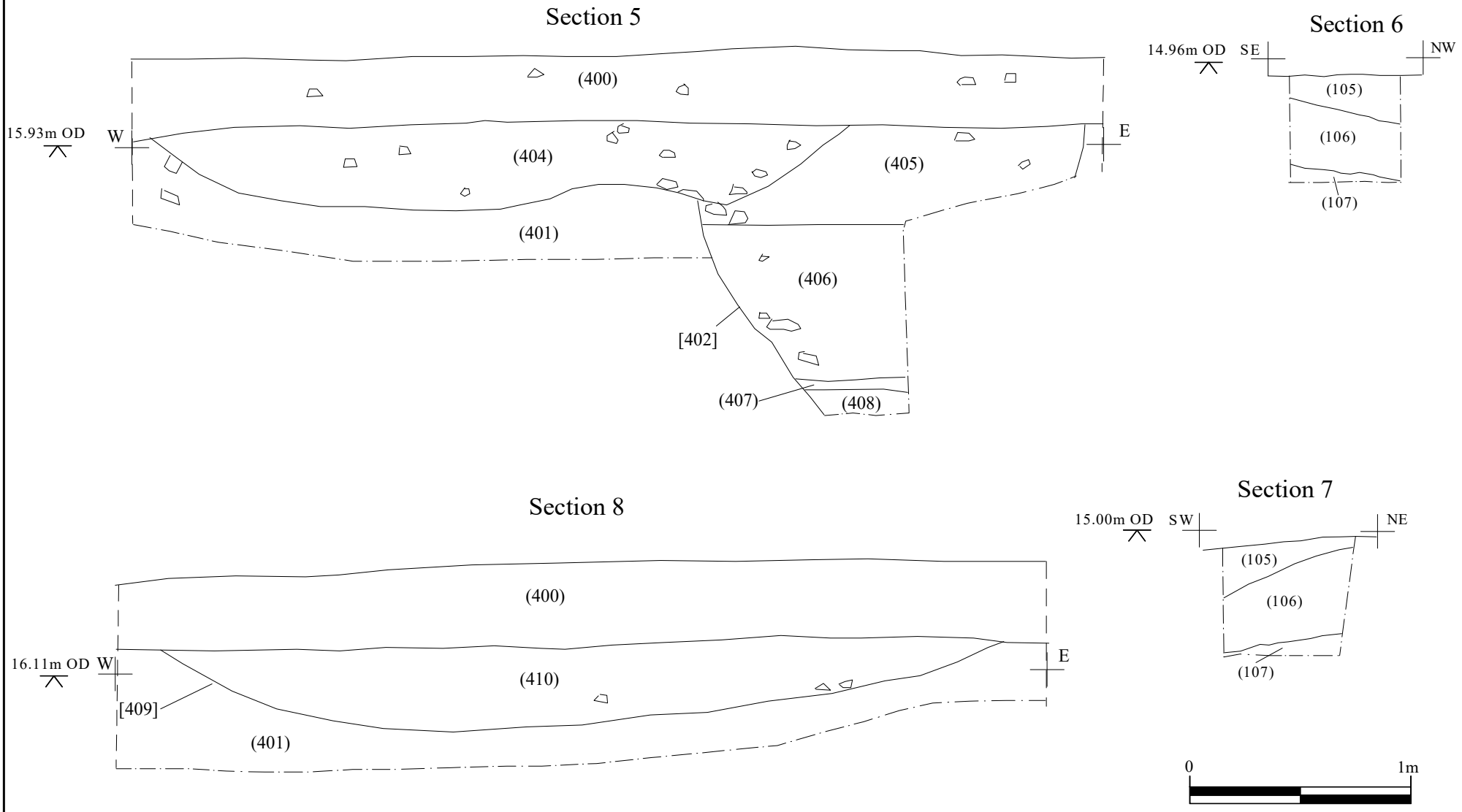
Section 14



Witham Archaeology

Sections 3 and 14 Scale 1: 50

Fig. 6

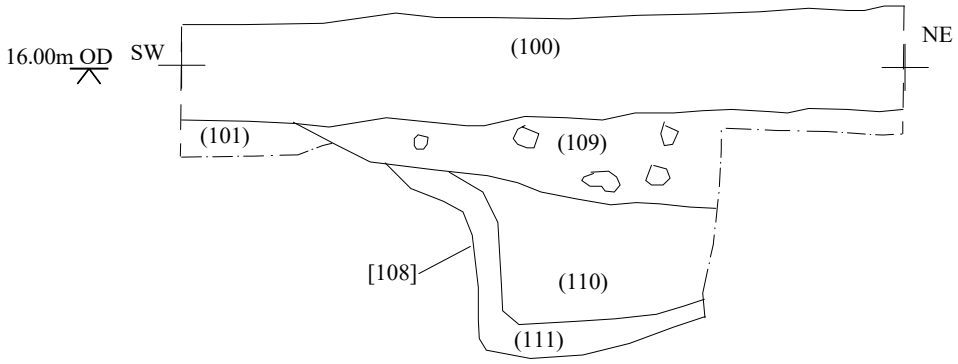


Witham Archaeology

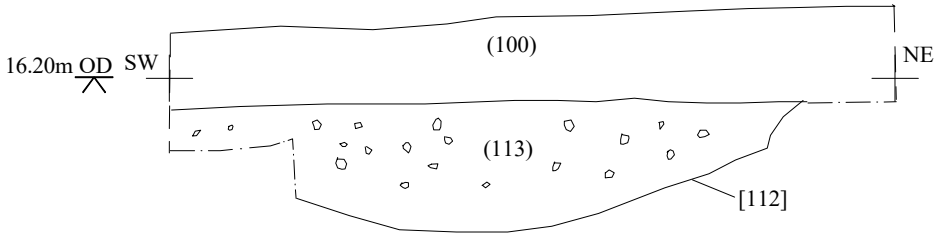
Sections 5-8 Scale 1: 25

Fig. 7

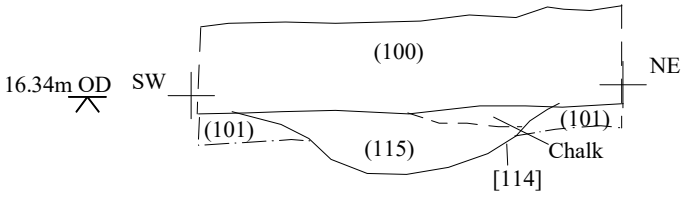
Section 9



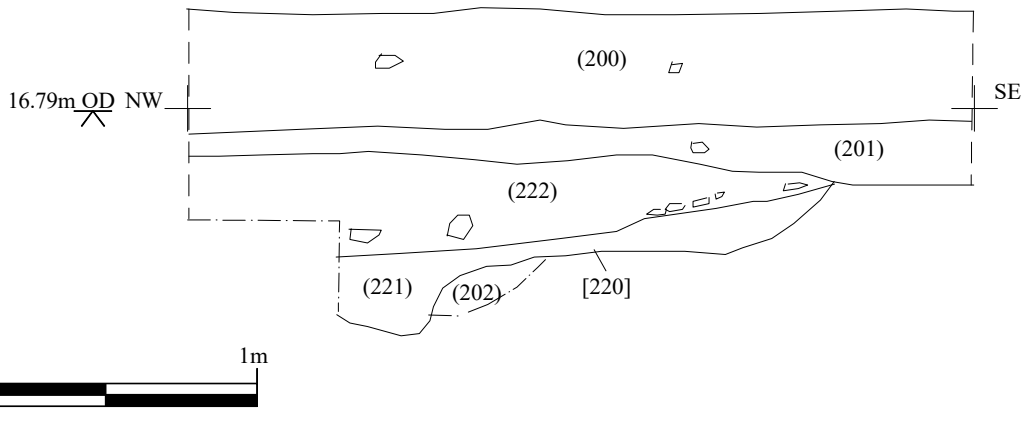
Section 10



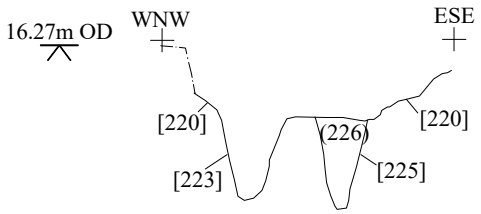
Section 11



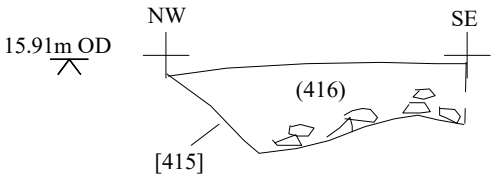
Section 12



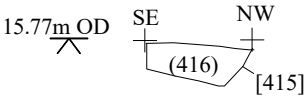
Section 13

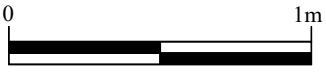


Section 15



Section 16





APPENDIX A – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

CONTEXT	TYPE	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
100	Deposit	01	Firm dark blackish grey silty sand with occasional angular flint stones, 0.25m-0.40m thick.	Topsoil
101	Deposit	01	Loose yellow to light brown fine silty sand with occasional to moderate cracked flint stones and compact white to yellowish white chalk with occasional subangular flint stones.	Natural
102	Cut	01	Large in size feature with stepped regular sides. Base is not exposed. 4m-7.20m+ long, 1.80m+ wide, 0.80m+ deep. Filled by (103), (104), (105), (106), (107).	Feature
103	Fill	01	Soft dark grey medium silty sand with occasional gravel, dots of chalk and charcoals. 3m-6.20m+ long, 1.80m+ wide, 0.20m thick.	Fill of feature [102]
104	Fill	01	Soft brownish grey silty sand with occasional charcoals, dots of chalk, moderat gravel and small cracked flint stones. 4m- 7.20m+ long, 1.80m+ wide, 0.10m-0.60m thick.	Fill of feature [102]
105	Fill	01	Firm dark blackish grey mottled with light brownish grey medium sand with moderate charcoals and occasional gravel. 2.60m+ long, 1.80m+ wide, 0.30m+ thick.	Fill of feature [102]
106	Fill	01	Soft, brownish, grey sand with occasional charcoals and dots of chalk. 0.26m-0.40m+ thick.	Fill of feature [102]
107	Fill	01	Soft mottled dark blackish grey medium sand with frequent chalk dots. 0.08m+ thick.	Fill of feature [102]
108	Cut	01	Possible extraction pit with change in slope side and partially exposed gently concave base. 2m+ long, 0.60m-1.80m+ wide, 0.80m deep. Full extention unknown. Filled by (109), (110), (111).	Possible extraction pit
109	Fill	01	Soft to loose brownish grey mottled with dark grey medium sand with frequent fragments of chalk. 2m+ long, 0.60m-1.80m+ wide, 0.32m thick.	Secondary fill of possible extraction pit [108]
110	Fill	01	Soft to loose pale brown mottled with rusty brown medium sand with moderate gravel. 0.86m+ long, 0.60m+ wide, 0.46 m thick.	Secondary fill of possible extraction pit [108]
111	Fill	01	Soft to loose rusty brown medium sand. 1m+ long, 0.60m+ wide, 0.10m thick.	Primary fill of possible extraction pit [108]
112	Cut	01	Possible linear aligned SE to NW with regular sloping side and partially exposed concave base. 0.60m-1.80m+ long, 2m+ wide, 0.40m deep. Filled by (113).	Possible linear

113	Fill	01	Soft to loose brownish grey silty sand with frequent dots of chalk, moderate flecks of charcoals, pebbles and gravel. 0.60m-1.80m+ long, 2m+ wide, 0.40m thick.	Fill of possible linear [112]
114	Cut	01	Linear - gully aligned SE to NW with change in slope regular sides and concave base. 0.70-1.80m+ long, 0.55m-1m wide, 0.20-0.25m deep. Filled by (115).	Gully
115	Fill	01	Firm to soft greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal, gravel and small angular flint stones and moderate chalk grit. 0.70m-1.80m+ long, 0.55m-1m wide, 0.20 - 0.25m thick.	Fill of gully [114]
116	Cut	01	Not explored possible feature. 2.50m+ long, 1.80m+ wide. Filled by (117).	Possible feature
117	Fill	01	Soft to loose greyish brown to brown silty medium sand with frequents flint stones. 2.50m+ long, 1.80m+ wide.	Fill of possible feature [116]
200	Deposit	02	Firm dark blackish grey silty sand with occasional angular and subangular flint stones and occasional chalk fragments and grit, 0.30m-0.45m thick.	Topsoil
201	Deposit	02	Friable dark brown to brown silty sand with occasional flint stones and grit, occasional chalk fragments. 4.70m+ long, 1.80m+ wide, 0.08m-0.26m thick.	Interface/ buried soil?
202	Deposit	02	Compact pale yellowish to white chalk to soft yellow to orangish/reddish yellow silty sand with moderate subangular flints and grit.	Natural
203	Cut	02	Partially exposed oval large pit with change in slope, regular side and partially exposed concave base. 2.10m+ long, 0.60m+ wide, 1.10m deep. Full extention in plan 6.60m long, 0.90m-1.80m+ wide. Filled by (204), (205), (206).	Extraction pit
204	Fill	02	Soft to loose dark reddish brown to greyish brown mottled with light brown silty sand with moderate subangular flint stones and occasional pebbles. 1.30m+ long, 0.60m+ wide, 0.40m thick	Primary fill of extraction pit [203]
205	Fill	02	Soft to loose mottled greyish brown silty sand with occasional subangular stone flint and grit. 0.70m+ long, 0.60m+ wide, 0.40m thick.	Secondary fill of extraction pit [203]
206	Fill	02	Loose mottled light brownish grey silty sand with moderate subangular flint stones and occasional grit. 2.10m+ long, 1.80m+ wide, 0.30m thick.	Secondary fill of extraction pit [203]
207	Cut	02	Linear aligned SW to NE with concave sides and gently concave base. 1.80m+ long, 2.46m wide, 0.48m deep. Filled by (208).	Boundary ditch(?)
208	Fill	02	Firm dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint stones and chalk fragments and grit and occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoals. 1.80m+ long, 2.46m wide, 0.48m thick.	Fill of boundary ditch (?) [207]
209	Cut	02	Linear aligned SW to NE with change in slope, regular sides and gently concave to flat base. 1.80m+ long, 3.40m wide, 0.70m deep. Filled by (210), (211).	Ditch

210	Fill	02	Firm dark brown silty sand with occasional subangular flint stones and moderate chalk fragments and grit. 1.80m+ long, 3.40m wide, 0.20-0.30m thick.	Base fill of ditch [209]
211	Fill	02	Firm dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate subangular flint stones and occasional flecks of charcoals, chalk fragments and grit. 1.80m+ long, 2.30m wide, 0.52m thick.	Secondary fill of ditch [209]
212	Deposit	02	Firm to compact mottled grey to brownish grey silty sand. 1.80m+ long, 5.80m wide, 0.06-0.14m thick.	Layer/ spread
213	Cut	02	Linear aligned SW to NE with change in slope, convex sides. Base not exposed. 1.80m+ long, 3.20m wide, 0.82m+ deep. Filled by (214), (215).	Ditch
214	Fill	02	Firm greyish brown silty sand with moderate chalk grit and occasional flecks of charcoals and flint stones. 1.80m+ long, 3.20m wide, 0.20m-0.25m thick.	Fill of ditch [213]
215	Fill	02	Firm to compact light greyish brown mottled with light brown silty sand mixed with chalk fragments and grit. Occasional angular flint stones and lense of compact chalk. 1.80m+ long, 2.40m wide, 0.60m thick.	Fill of ditch [213]
216	Cut	02	Linear aligned SW to NE with sloping straight side and concave base. 1.80m+ long, 1.34m wide, 0.36m deep. Filled by (217).	Ditch (?)
217	Fill	02	Firm dark brown silty sand with moderate chalk grit and occasional angular flint stones. 1.80m+ long, 1.34m wide, 0.36m thick.	Fill of ditch(?) [216]
218	Cut	02	Linear aligned SW to NE with sloping moderate straight sides and concave base. 1.80m+ long, 2.10m wide, 0.60m deep. Filled by (219), (227).	Ditch
219	Fill	02	Firm mottled greyish brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments and grit and occasional subangular and angular flint stones. 1.80m+ long, 1.50m wide, 0.42m thick.	Secondary fill of ditch [218]
220	Cut	02	Not fully exposed extraction pit with stepped regular side. Base not exposed. 2.10m+ long, 0.60m+ wide, 0.60m+ deep. Filled by (221) and (222).	Extraction pit
221	Fill	02	Firm to friable light brown mottled with grey to light greyish brown silty sand with occasional small pebbles. 1.60m+ long, 0.60m+ wide, 0.06-0.28m thick.	Fill of extraction pit [220]
222	Fill	02	Soft to loose mottled light brownish grey silty sand with occasional angular flint stones. 2.10m+ long, 0.38m thick.	Fil of extraction pit [220]
223	Cut	02	Oval possible posthole/solution hollow with steep straight sides and rounded base. 0.30m long, 0.24m wide, 0.30m deep. Filled by (224).	Possible posthole/ solution hollow
224	Fill	02	Firm light reddish brown silty sand. 0.30m long, 0.24m wide, 0.30m thick.	Fill of possible posthole/solution hollow [223]
225	Cut	02	Oval possible posthole/solution hollow with steep straight sides and rounded pointed base. 0.24m long, 0.17m wide, 0.30m deep. Filled by (226).	Possible posthole/ solution hollow

226	Fill	02	Firm light reddish brown silty sand. 0.24m long, 0.17m wide, 0.30m thick.	Fill of possible posthole/solution hollow [225]
227	Fill	02	Firm dark brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments and grit and occasional subangular flint stones. 1.80m+ long, 2.10m wide, 0.20m thick.	Primary fill to ditch [218]
300	Deposit	03	Firm dark blackish grey silty sand. 0.40m thick.	Topsoil
301	Deposit	03	Soft to loose dark brown fine to medium sand with frequent angular cracked flint stones and subangular gravel and occasional dots of charcoals. 0.30m thick	Layer/ interface
302	Deposit	03	Soft to loose light brown silty sand with moderate cracked flint stones and lumps of chalk. 0.54m+ thick	Natural
400	Deposit	04	Firm dark grey black silty sand with occasional small flint stones, occasional flint cobbles and occasional chalk fragments and grit. 0.30m-0.40m thick.	Topsoil
401	Deposit	04	Compact white to light yellow chalk with frequent subrounded flint modules and subangular flint flakes and soft yellow to reddish yellow sand with frequent small to medium subangular flint flakes and occasional degraded chalk.	Natural
402	Cut	04	Circular pit with steep to slightly concave sides. Base not exposed. 0.80m long, 1.70m wide, 1.30m+ deep. Filled by (405), (406), (407), (408).	Pit
403	Cut	04	Linear aligned N to S with moderate concave sides and irregular flat base. 2m+long, 3.15m wide, 0.38m deep. Filled by (404).	Ditch
404	Fill	04	Friable mid grey brown silty medium sand with occasional small subangular flint pebbles. 0.38m thick.	Fill of ditch [403]
405	Fill	04	Friable mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subangular flint stones, occasional charcoal flecks and chalk flecks. 0.45m thick.	Fill of pit [402]
406	Fill	04	Firm dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subangular flint stones, occasional chalk flecks and large chalk moduls and degraded chalk. 0.69m thick.	Fill of pit [402]
407	Fill	04	Soft mid brownish yellow sand with occasional chalk flecks. 0.06m thick.	Fill of pit [402]
408	Fill	04	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional chalk flecks and occasional small subangular flint stones. 0.10m+ thick.	Fill of pit [402]
409	Cut	04	Linear aligned NW to SE and turns NE to SW with moderate concave sides and flat base. 3.80m+ long, 2m+ wide, 0.35m deep. Filled by (410).	Ditch
410	Fill	04	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand with occasional small subangular flint stones. 0.35m thick.	Fill of ditch [409]
411	Cut	04	Linear aligned N to S with moderate straight sides slope and flat base. 2m+ long, 4m wide, 0.30m deep. Filled by (412).	Ditch
412	Fill	04	Friable mid grey brown silty sand with occasional flint stones and occasional chalk flecks. 0.30m thick	Fill of ditch [411]

413	Cut	04	Rectangular pit with slightly rounded corners with straight steep sides and irregular flat base. 2m long, 1.30m wide, 0.65 deep. Filled by (414).	Structural pit
414	Fill	04	Friable mid to dark grey brown silty sand with frequent small subangular flint stones and cobbles and occasional charcoal flecks. 0.65m thick.	Fill of structural pit [413]
415	Cut	04	Linear aligned NE to SW with vertical straight to steep straight sides and sloped flat base. 2m+ long, 0.35m wide, 0.22m deep. Filled by (416).	Gully
416	Fill	04	Friable mid grey brown silty sand with occasional flint subangular pebbles and occasional chalk. 0.22m thick.	Fill of gully [415]
417	Deposit	04	Friable dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subangular flint stones and occasional chalk flecks. 0.30m+	Soil deposit

APPENDIX A – FINDS LIST

CONTEXT	TYPE	TRENCH	INTERPRETATION	FINDS	SAMPLE
100	Deposit	01	Topsoil		
101	Deposit	01	Natural		
102	Cut	01	Feature	2 sherds of Early Medieval Courseware and 4 sherds of Early Medieval Handmade ware dated from the 12th to mid 13th century, an Early Neolithic flint serrated blade and a Prehistoric flint flake.	
103	Fill	01	Fill of feature [102]		
104	Fill	01	Fill of feature [102]	3 sherds of Early Medieval Courseware and 6 sherds of Early Medieval Handmade ware dated from the 12th to mid 13th century.	
105	Fill	01	Fill of feature [102]	1 sherd of Early Medieval Courseware dated from the 12th to early 13th century, 1 fragment of pig/boar bone.	01
106	Fill	01	Fill of feature [102]	1 fragment of undiscriminated cattle bone and six fragments of sheep/goat bone, an Early Neolithic flint serrated blade.	
107	Fill	01	Fill of feature [102]	1 possible Early Neolithic flint flake.	
108	Cut	01	Possible extraction pit		
109	Fill	01	Secondary fill of possible extraction pit [108]	1 sherd of Early Medieval Handmade ware dated 12th to mid 13th century, 1 possible iron chisel/wood splitter dated medieval/post medieval.	
110	Fill	01	Secondary fill of possible extraction pit [108]		
111	Fill	01	Primary fill of possible extraction pit [108]		
112	Cut	01	Possible linear		
113	Fill	01	Fill of possible linear [112]	2 sherds of Thetford-type fabrics dated from the 11th to mid 12th century, 1 Early Neolithic flint knife, 1 Early Neolithic flint core and 1 Prehistoric flint flake.	
114	Cut	01	Gully		
115	Fill	01	Fill of gully [114]		
116	Cut	01	Possible feature		
117	Fill	01	Fill of possible feature [116]		
200	Deposit	02	Topsoil	6 fragments of undiscriminated cattle bone.	

201	Deposit	02	Interface/ buried soil?		
202	Deposit	02	Natural		
203	Cut	02	Extraction pit		
204	Fill	02	Primary fill of extraction pit [203]		
205	Fill	02	Secondary fill of extraction pit [203]		
206	Fill	02	Secondary fill of extraction pit [203]	2 sherds of Early Medieval Handmade ware dated from the 12th to mid 13th century, 1 sherd of Essex Micaneous ware dated from the 13th to mid 15th century, 1 possible Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flint flake, 1 Early Neolithic flint flake, and 1 Prehistoric flint flake.	
207	Cut	02	Boundary ditch(?)		
208	Fill	02	Fill of boundary ditch (?) [207]	1 Early Medieval Handmade ware dated from the 12th to mid 13th century, 12 fragments of rhenish lava quern stone possibly dated from the 8th to the 13th century.	
209	Cut	02	Ditch		
210	Fill	02	Base fill of ditch [209]	1 fragment of cat bone	
211	Fill	02	Secondary fill of ditch [209]		
212	Deposit	02	Layer/ spread		
213	Cut	02	Ditch		
214	Fill	02	Fill of ditch [213]	3 sherds of Thetford-type fabrics dated from the 11th to mid 12th century, 1 copper alloy button possibly dated from the 18th century.	02
215	Fill	02	Fill of ditch [213]	1 sherd of Early Medieval Course ware, 3 sherds of Early Medieval Handmade ware dated from the 12th to mid 13th century, 1 fragment of undated fired clay.	
216	Cut	02	Ditch (?)		
217	Fill	02	Fill of ditch(?) [216]		
218	Cut	02	Ditch		
219	Fill	02	Secondary fill of ditch [218]	Five fragments of large mammal bone.	
220	Cut	02	Extraction pit		
221	Fill	02	Fill of extraction pit [220]		
222	Fill	02	Fil of extraction pit [220]		
223	Cut	02	Possible posthole/ solution hollow		

224	Fill	02	Fill of possible posthole/solution hollow [223]		
225	Cut	02	Possible posthole/ solution hollow		
226	Fill	02	Fill of possible posthole/solution hollow [225]		
227	Fill	02	Primary fill to ditch [218]		
300	Deposit	03	Topsoil		
301	Deposit	03	Layer/ interface		
302	Deposit	03	Natural		
400	Deposit	04	Topsoil	1 sherd of Transfer Printed ware dated from the 19th to 20th century and 2 Early Neolithic flint flakes.	
401	Deposit	04	Natural		
402	Cut	04	Pit		
403	Cut	04	Ditch		
404	Fill	04	Fill of ditch [403]		
405	Fill	04	Fill of pit [402]		
406	Fill	04	Fill of pit [402]	2 sherds of St Neots-type ware dated from the late 9th to the late 12th century, 2 sherds of Thetford-type fabrics dated from the 11th to mid 12th century, 1 Early Prehistoric flint flake, 1 Early Neolithic flint scrapper, and 2 Early Neolithic flint flakes.	03
407	Fill	04	Fill of pit [402]		
408	Fill	04	Fill of pit [402]	1 sherd of Thetford-type fabrics dated from11th to mid 12th century.	
409	Cut	04	Ditch		
410	Fill	04	Fill of ditch [409]		
411	Cut	04	Ditch		
412	Fill	04	Fill of ditch [411]		
413	Cut	04	Structural pit		
414	Fill	04	Fill of structural pit [413]	1 sherd of Early Medieval Handmade ware dated from the12th to mid 13th century, 1 fragment of equid bone.	
415	Cut	04	Gully		
416	Fill	04	Fill of gully [415]	1 fragment of pig/boar bone.	
417	Deposit	04	Soil deposit		

APPENDIX B - THE CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

POTTERY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Barclay *et al* (2016). A total of 37 sherds from a maximum 35 vessels, weighing 297g was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the pottery is included in Appendix 1, with a summary in Table 1.

Results

Table 1, Summary of the Pottery

Period	Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W (g)
Saxo-Norman to Early Medieval	SNEOT	St Neots-type ware	870	1200	2	2	5
	THETT	Thetford-type fabrics	1000	1150	8	8	126
	EMCW	Early Medieval Coarse ware	1100	1230	7	5	46
	EMHM	Early Medieval Handmade ware	1100	1250	18	18	110
Medieval	ESMIC	Essex Micaceous ware	1200	1450	1	1	5
Early Modern	TPW	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900	1	1	5
				TOTAL	**37**	**35**	**297**

The pottery is mainly early medieval in date, comprising sand-tempered fabrics which are common in this area.

FIRED CLAY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A single fragments of fired clay was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the material is included in Table 2.

Results

Table 2, Archive of the Fired Clay

Cxt	Classification	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Comment
215	Amorphous	Oxidised medium sandy + ca	3	13	No form

CONTEXT DATES

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comment
102	12th to Mid-13th	
104	12th to Mid-13th	
105	12th to Early 13th	Date on a single sherd
109	12th to Mid-13th	Date on a single sherd
113	11th to Mid-12th	
206	13th to Mid-15th	
208	12th to Mid-13th	Date on a single sherd
214	11th to Mid-12th	
215	12th to Mid-13th	
400	19th to 20th	Date on a single sherd
406	11th to Mid-12th	
408	11th to Mid-12th	Date on a single sherd
414	12th to Mid-13th	Date on a single sherd

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd	NoV	Number of vessels
CXT	Context	PMD	Press Moulded Dish
LHJ	Lower Handle Join	TR	Trench
NoS	Number of sherds	W <g>	Weight <grams>

REFERENCES

~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm

Barclay, A., Booth, P., Brown, D. H., Evans, J., Knight, D. and I. Wood, 2016, *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* [Internet], Medieval Pottery Research Group, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman pottery. Available at <https://medievalpottery.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/A-Standard-for-Pottery-Studies-in-Archaeology.pdf>

APPENDIX 1: POTTERY ARCHIVE

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
102	EMCW	Oxidised	Jar/ bowl	2	2	12	BS	Soot; handmade
102	EMHM		Jar/ bowl	3	3	26	BS	Soot
102	EMHM	B	Jar/ bowl	1	1	1	BS	Soot
104	EMCW	Oxidised	Jar/ bowl	3	1	17	BS	Patchy soot; all same vessel?
104	EMHM	Some flint	Jar/ bowl	6	6	54	BS	Soot
105	EMCW	Oxidised	Jar/ bowl	1	1	14	BS	Soot
109	EMHM		Jar/ bowl	1	1	4	BS	Soot
113	THETT		Jar/ bowl	1	1	17	BS	
113	THETT		Jar/ bowl	1	1	54	BS	Soot
206	EMHM		Jar/ bowl	2	2	4	BS	Soot
206	ESMIC		Jug	1	1	5	BS	Splashed amber glaze; ?ID
208	EMHM		Jar/ bowl	1	1	1	BS	Soot
214	THETT		Jar/ bowl	3	3	23	BS	Soot
215	EMCW		Jar/ bowl	1	1	3	BS	
215	EMHM		Jar/ bowl	3	3	4	BS	Soot
400	TPW		Flat	1	1	5	Rim	
406	SNEOT		Jar/ bowl	2	2	5	BS	Soot
406	THETT		Jar/ bowl	1	1	10	Base	
406	THETT		Jar/ bowl	1	1	4	BS	
408	THETT	Oxidised surfaces	Bowl	1	1	18	BS	Patchy soot
414	EMHM	B	Jar/ bowl	1	1	16	BS	Soot
			TOTAL	**37**	**35**	**297**		

APPENDIX C – METAL AND STONE FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Artefacts recovered during investigations at Ickburgh, Norfolk (ENF151136), are reported, below.

The finds were examined and reported in accordance with CIfA guidelines (2020). All the finds were examined and reported in April 2021.

Metal Finds

Introduction

Two metal finds weighing a total of 26g were recovered.

Results

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
109	iron	Possible chisel/splitter, 62mm long, 14mm max width, 9mm max thickness, chisel point 7mm long	1	21	Medieval - post-medieval?
214	Copper alloy	Button, plano-convex, 17mm diameter, 6mm max thickness	1	5	18th century?
Totals			**2**	**26**	

Provenance

The metal items were recovered from pit fill (109), and ditch fill (214).

Discussion

A possible small chisel or wood/stone splitter made of iron was recovered. This has a tapering shaft with a chisel point and what appears to be a turned-over or burred head. It is perhaps of medieval to post-medieval date.

A plano-convex button was also found. Buttons of similar form occur in 17th and 18th century contexts (Egan 2005, 48-9; Hume 1991, 90-1), with the present example perhaps most likely to be of the 18th century.

Potential and Recommendations

The metal items are of limited potential. The possible chisel may indicate wood or stone working, while the button is likely a casual loss.

No further work is required. The material could be discarded.

Other Finds

Introduction

Nine other finds weighing a total of 1641g were recovered.

Results

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
208	stone	Lava quern	12	113	8th-13th centuries?

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from ditch fill (208). They are of material from the Rhineland of Germany.

Discussion

All the stone items are pieces of Rhenish lava quern. Such material was traded widely around Europe in the Roman period, and then, after a hiatus, resumed in the 8th century, thereafter continuing well into the medieval period (Mann 1982, 21-2; Pohl 2010, 149). The recovered pieces are small, degraded, and lack discriminatory features but are likely to be medieval rather than Roman. All the fragments could derive from a single quern stone. They are likely to represent domestic food grinding processes at the site during the medieval period.

Potential and Recommendations

The other finds are of limited potential. They indicate food processing activities at the site, perhaps in the Saxo-Norman-medieval period.

No further work is required. The material can be discarded.

Context Date Summary

The dating in the following table is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Spot dates

Cxt	Date (Century AD)	Comments
109	Medieval to post-medieval?	Based on 1 metal
208	8th-13th?	Based on stone
214	18th?	Based on 1 metal

References

CIfA, 2020 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Egan, G, 2005 *Material culture in London in an age of transition Tudor and Stuart period finds c. 1450-c.1700 from excavations at riverside sites in Southwark*, MoLAS Monograph **19**

Hume, I N, 1991 *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America* (Vintage Books)

Mann, J E, 1982 *Early Medieval Finds from Flaxengate I: Objects of antler, bone, stone, horn, ivory, amber, and jet*, The Archaeology of Lincoln **XIV-1**

Pohl, M, 2010 Quern-stones and tuff as indicators of medieval European trade patterns, *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology* **20**, 148-153

Abbreviations

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

APPENDIX D - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Introduction

Three samples were taken from the evaluation excavations conducted by Witham Archaeology at Ickburgh, Norfolk. Samples were taken from a feature, a ditch fill and a pit fill (Table 1) and are provisionally dated to the Saxon/early medieval period.

The site lies over chalk with superficial deposits in the locale of cover sands, sands and gravels and alluvium and river terrace deposits in the valley immediately south of the village.

Table 1. – Ickburgh, Norfolk. ENF151136. Samples collected for environmental study

sample no.	context no.	samp. vol (l).	sample weight (kg)	context type	Spot date
1	105	29	37.5	Fill of feature 102	Saxon/early Medieval
2	214	20	26	Fill of ditch 213	Saxon/early Medieval
3	406	18	24	Fill of pit 402	Saxon/early Medieval

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1.0mm mesh for the residue. The flots and residues were dried and the dried residues refloated for the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volumes of the flots were measured, and the volume and weight of the dried residues recorded.

The residues were sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheets and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residues in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residues were then discarded. The dry flots were divided into fractions using a stack of sieves for ease of assessment and scanned using a stereo-binocular microscope, with a magnification of up to x40. The presence and abundance of charred plant remains were recorded, along with the frequency of charcoal fragments larger and smaller than 2mm, the larger pieces being potentially identifiable and thus suitable for analysis. Other biological evidence in the flots was also noted, including un-charred plant material, wood, bones, snails and insect remains. The item frequency of the charred plant and other environmental remains was scored using a scale (see Table 3). The flots were then bagged. The flots and finds from the sorted residues constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 and 3.

Results

The samples washed down to a residue of angular flint with chalk, flint and quartz pebbles, sediment concretions, and a little limestone in context 214. Archaeological finds included pottery in contexts 105 and 406, flint – including possible waste, a corroded iron nail, animal bone and hammerscale (Table 1). The latter includes a few flakes of hammerscale in all three samples which could indicate contemporary iron smithing in the area although at these low concretions (less than 1 flake per 2 litres of sample) it is possible the hammerscale has moved down through the soil from more recent activity.

Table 2: **ENF151136**. Archaeological finds from the samples

sample	cont	vol in l.	residue vol .in ml.	pot no/wt g	Flint no/wt.	Fe no.	magn. comp. g.	hammer-scale no. fl'k/sph	slag wt	bone wt g.	marine shell wt. g.	other
1	105	29	1000	3/18	1/5	1	7	4fl		9		Fe- concreted nail; Bone worked fragment fibula shaft-filed or sawn; flint- possible dressing waste flake
2	214	20	1200		3/<1		4	10fl		1		Flint chips – possible waste
3	406	18	1500	1/47	10/17		2	1fl		+		Flint – chips and waste, including flake

Table 3. **ENF151136.** Environmental finds from the processed samples

Sample	Context	Vol. in l.	Flot vol. ml	Char-coal */*	Char'd grain *	Charr'd chaff *	Char'd seed *	Uncharred seed *	Snail *	Comment
1	105	29	56	5/5	3	1	3	2	5	Charred grains – mainly rye (*Secale cereale*) & (six-row) hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), also ?wheat (cf *Triticum*) & oat (cf *Avena*), indet grains & fragments; charred chaff – rye rachis fragments; charred seeds – ?pea (cf *Pisum*), legumes (large fragments & small seeds), *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle), *Chenopodium* (goosefoot), *Carex* (sedge), Poaceae (large & small seeded wild grasses), indet seeds; uncharred seeds – *Sambucus* (elder), *Chenopodium, Hyoscyamus niger* (henbane); charcoal – small twigs, roots/rhizomes, culm nodes/stems – mostly 'shrubby' charcoal; bone – 32 fragments (5 burnt), sheep/goat, pig, sheep size, indet, mouse, rat/water vole, newt, frog/toad, small fish vert (7); cf chicken eggshellx4, cf goose eggshell x1; snails – *Trochulus hispidus ++, Vallonia costata ++, Vallonia excentrica,* slug*, Aegopinella pura, Aegopinella nitidula, Cochlicopa lubrica, Pulilla muscorum+++, Cecilioides acicula, Helicalla itala, Vertigo* sp.
2	214	20	9	1/3	2	1	1	1	5	Charred grains - ?wheat, ?rye, hulled barley, ?oat, indet grains & fragments; charred chaff – rye rachis; charred seeds – *Rumex* (dock), small legumes; uncharred seeds – *Sambucus, Chenopodium*.; charcoal- mainly small twigs with little comminuted larger charcoal; bone – 7 frags, sheep/goat, shrew, frog/toad, cf herring (x1); cf chicken eggshell x3, cf goose eggshell x1; snails – *Cornu aspersum,* slug, *T. hisipidus ++, V. costata, V. excentrica, P. muscorum, C. acicula +, C. lubrica, Vallonia* sp*. ++, Punctum pygmaeum, Hygromia* sp.
3	406	18	5	1/3	2		1	1	4	Charred grains - ?free-threshing wheat (cf *Triticum aestivum*), rye, ?barley, indet grain and fragments; charred seeds – *Cladium mariscus* (great fen sedge), Poaceae, culm nodes, roots/rhizomes; uncharred seeds - *Chenopodium, Sambucus, Atriplex/Chenopodium, Urtica* (nettle),*Carduus/Cirsium* (thistle); bone – squashed herring? vertebra; snails – *T. hispidus, V. costata +, V. excentrica +, Vallonia* sp*. ++, H. itala, C. lubrica, P. muscorum +, C. acicula +, Oxychilus alliarus;*

$ - frequency of >2mm/<2mm fragments of charcoal
* frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-100; 3=101-250; 4=251-500; 5=500-1000; 6+>1000
# diversity as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa

The environmental finds include charred plant remains, charcoal, uncharred seeds, animal bone, bird eggshell and snails (Table 3). The bone included sheep/goat, pig, sheep size and small fish, including herring, of possible economic importance; and shrew, mouse, rat/water vole, newt and frog/toad as representatives of the wild small vertebrate fauna at the site. The domestic and probable domestic bones are represented by thirty nine small bone and tooth fragments with an average weight of 0.25grammes. A few small bird eggshell fragments were recovered from contexts 105 and 214, with chicken and goose tentatively identified on the base of shell thickness and mammillae size (Sidell 1993) although species could be definitively determined using the method of ZooMS (Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry).

The charcoal assemblages appear to mainly include smallwood with twigs and small Roundwood where identifiable as well as a background of comminuted fragments. In context 105 the charcoal sample has sufficient material for the identification and analysis of the wood species present, with some consideration of the character of the wood (coppice, branchwood, timber, etc) being burnt.

The three samples all produced variable amounts of identifiable charred plant remains consisting mainly of cereal grains and wild plant/weed seeds and occasional chaff fragments in two samples; the richest assemblage was from fill 105. The identifiable cereal grains consisted mainly of rye (*Secale cereale*) (also identified by a few chaff fragments) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) with occasional records for possibly free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* cf *aestivum/turgidum*) and oat (*Avena*). A few large charred legume seeds and fragments may belong to cultivated pulses including a possible pea (cf *Pisum*) in fill 105 (Table 3).

There were fewer charred wild plant/weed seeds (mainly in fill 105) with evidence for potential arable weeds, for example *Rumex* (dock), *Chenopodium* (goosefoot) and *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle), the latter frequently found in sandy loams particularly in rye crops; a few wetland plants were also represented including *Carex* (sedge) which may point to the cultivation of damp areas of ground and/or possibly the collection of this plant along with *Cladium mariscus* (great fen sedge) for uses on site as flooring/roofing materials; roots/rhizomes and stem/culm node fragments in two of the samples may be from the gathering of wild vegetation by uprooting.

There were occasional and small numbers of uncharred seeds in the three samples including from *Sambucus* (elder), *Chenopodium* (goosefoot), *Carduus/Cirsium* (thistle), *Urtica* (nettle) and *Hyoscyamus niger* (henbane); these seeds, however, are probably intrusive.

All three samples produced fairly large assemblages of terrestrial snails (Table 3). These include species typical of 'catholic' habit (*Trochulus hispidus, Cochlicopa lubrica, Cornu aspersum*), open grassland (*Vallonia costata, Vallonia excentrica, Pupilla muscorum, Helicella itala*), and shaded or woodland habitats (*Aegopinella pura, Aegopinella nitidula, Oxychilus alliarus, Punctum pygmaeum*) and the small blind burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula*, found in calcareous soils which is probably intrusive in the deposits.

The catholic and grassland elements dominate in the assemblages suggesting an open grassland habitat in the immediate area of the sampled features.

Discussion

The three evaluation samples produced assemblages consistent with domestic waste. The densities of finds are sufficient to indicate occupation (settlement/houses) in the immediate area with the possibility of industrial (iron working) activity also taking place, although this evidence might be intrusive. The samples show the survival of animal bone, charcoal, charred plant remains, snail shells and eggshells indicating that both economic and palaeoenvironmental evidence survives in the local soils, although 'waterlogged' preservation of organic remains is unlikely.

The three evaluation samples showed the presence of mainly rye and hulled barley with occasional records for possibly free-threshing wheat and oats, these four grains representing the cereals most frequently found in Saxon/early medieval contexts in England (Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019, 105, 124; Greig 1991, 315, 321, Moffett 2006, 45). Rye grows better than other cereals on drought effected soils perhaps indicating cultivation of the cover sands and terrace sands and gravels in the area. Pulses including possibly pea may have also been grown at the time. The weed seeds may provide some additional information on crop husbandry with evidence for the cultivation of the damp sandy loamy soils around the site. The grains may have been incidentally charred while being dried before milling or storage or during food preparation/cooking, possibly in hearths along with the other wild plant remains burnt as fuel. The sedges may have been collected by uprooting for use on site as roofing/flooring materials.

As well as the economic plants domestic animal bone, fish and bird eggshell indicate some of the animal foods available, with the probable herring bones suggesting trade with the coast. The squashed herring? vertebra in context 406 is typical of material that has passed through the gut (Wheeler and Jones 1989) and suggests the possible presence of cess in the pit, which also raises the possibility of mineralised plant remains being present on the site. Significantly more samples/bigger assemblages from the site can be expected to yield a broader range of animal foodstuffs and coastal trade in the form of fish and marine shellfish, although the latter were not identified in these evaluation samples. The richer charcoal assemblages should reflect the local fuel resources and may indicate the character of local woodland and could yield evidence for woodland management.

Small vertebrate remains and the snail assemblages illustrate the potential for reconstructing the immediate environment of the site, the snail assemblages pointing to an open grassland habitat, but with sufficient shade or perhaps hedgerows to support some woodland elements.

Recommendations

With a fairly wide range of evidence surviving well in the soils of the site there is considerable potential for collecting material relevant to the dietary and agricultural economy, and a more limited range indicative of possible industrial activities and the character of the immediate landscape of the site. Evidence for trade with the coast - it is

about 24 miles to Kings Lynn - is suggested by the fish remains. The density of finds in the three samples points to local Saxon/early medieval occupation on the site.

Two of the evaluation samples, from ditch fill 214 and pit fill 406, produced moderate amounts of identifiable charred plant remains while fill 105 produced a fairly rich charred plant assemblage, the cereal remains and wild plant/weed seeds providing information on the agricultural economy/crop husbandry of the site during the Saxon/early medieval period as well as other human activities including the collection of wild vegetation for various uses on site. One of the samples produced a rich charcoal assemblage suitable for study and all three samples produced evidence for iron smithing which may be contemporary and fish bones that reflect trade with the coast.

On the basis of these results it is recommended that a programme of bulk soil sampling (30 litre samples where possible) should be carried out in the event of further excavations at the site. Sampling should concentrate of well dated deposits from a range of feature types with a good spatial coverage across the whole site to allow analysis of the distribution of activities across the site. Sample processing is more efficient than hand collection such that samples often yield dating evidence that is missed during excavation so it is appropriate to sample some undated deposits particularly where context or location suggests potentially different origins or the field excavator has specific questions. These samples are for the recovery of charred plant remains and additional information on crop husbandry and processing activities at the site, fish bones, bird eggshell, a control sample of domestic animal bones, charcoal, and information on the concentration and distribution of hammerscale (ie iron smithing) and any slag across the site.

The evaluation samples have established good preservation of land snails and the presence of substantial assemblages. The shells permit some consideration of the local environment at the site but although they are likely to be present in all the bulk samples they have more information potential when taken as a series of samples through infilling sediments, particularly of ditches. They allow comparison of features of different periods and the recognition of any changes in the local environment as features infill, such as a change from arable to pastoral use in adjacent fields. A few well dated ditches that can be assigned to the different phases of activity at the site (both field and enclosure ditches where possible) should be sampled in column, with approximately 5 litre samples taken in units of 5 or 10 centimetres through the ditch fills, with the individual samples numbered and drawn on a section drawing (and the finished column photographed). These would form the primary source of evidence for any palaeoenvironmental interpretation of the site, with the snail assemblages from the bulk samples merely offering supporting or ancillary data.

In the event that no further archaeological excavation is undertaken at the site a detailed quantified analysis of the charred plant remains and species identification of the fishbones from the three evaluation samples should be carried out as part of the archaeological mitigation and this report updated with these results.

Acknowledgements
We should like to thank Angela Bain for the sample processing and sorting.

Bibliography
Carruthers WJ & Hunter Dowse KL 2019, *A Review of Macroscopic Plant Remains from the Midland Counties*. Historic England Research Report Series 47/2019
Greig, J, 1991, The British Isles, *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany* (eds W van Zeist, K Wasylikowa and K-E. Behre), Rotterdam, 229-334
Moffett L 2006, The Archaeology of Medieval Plant Foods, in CM Woolgar, D Serjeanston & T Waldron, *Food in Medieval England. Diet and Nutrition*, 41-55
Wheeler, A. and Jones, A.K.G 1989 *Fishes*. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, CUP.
Williams, D.1973 Flotation at Siraf, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202, Harmondsworth.

Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
25 Main Street
South Rauceby
Sleaford
Lincolnshire NG34 8QG

[1] 6 Puddavine Terrace
Dartington
Totnes
Devon TQ9 6EU

APPENDIX E – HAND COLLECTED BONE

By Julie Curl (Sylvanus)

THE ANIMAL BONE

Methodology

A summary assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and Baker and Worley, 2014. All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were considered where appropriate following Von Den Driesch, 1976. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'. Attempts were made, where possible, to refit possible fragments in the same bag and these were included in NISP counts. As this is a small assemblage, information was recorded directly into the appendix in this report

The bone assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of seven bags, amounting to 327g of bone, consisting of 22 elements was recovered, with the totals quantified in Table 1. Remains were produced from ditch fills, a gully, one pit and Feature 102. No dating was available at the time of writing this report.

The bone is in good condition, although most of the remains have been fragmented from butchering and natural breakages from wear and soil pressures. None of the remains show any burning, which would suggest burial was the favoured method of disposal.

One cattle lower limb bone from skinning waste showed canid gnawing, suggesting scavenging or the possibility that some elements are provided for gnawing by domestic dogs.

Context	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP
105	Feature 102	1	16g	Pig/Boar	1
106	Feature 102	7	94g	Cattle	1
				Sheep/goat	6
200	Topsoil	6	103g	Cattle	6
210	Ditch 209	1	17g	Cat	1
218	Ditch 218	5	45g	Large mammal	5
414	Structural Pit	1	26g	Equid	1
416	Gully 415	1	26g	Pig/Boar	1

Table 1. Quantification of the faunal remains

Five species were seen in this assemblage, all from adult animals, with a range of domestic animals, in addition, dog is represented by gnawing on one bone.

Cattle were seen in two fills, with chopped tibia fragments in the Topsoil 200. A cattle calcaneus (ankle/lower limb bone) was found in fill 106, the bone showed knife cuts

from the skinning process and the bone had been gnawed by a dog; such skinning waste is often available for scavengers and may be kept for domestic dogs to gnaw.

Pig/boar were seen from two deposits, with a canine tooth in fill 105 and a mandible fragment from the Gully fill 416.

A **sheep/goat** mandible (in six pieces, including loose teeth) was found in the fill 106. An **equid** proximal radius fragment was recovered from the Pit fill 414. An adult **cat** ulna was produced from the Ditch fill 210.

The Ditch fill 218 produced bone that was heavily fragmented and showed no diagnostic features that would allow species identification, the size of these pieces suggest a **large mammal** scapula of cattle/equid size.

Discussion and conclusions
This is a small assemblage that largely consists of butchering and meat waste from the main domestic stock. The cat in the assemblage may be a feral animal, but perhaps more likely domestic or for pest control.

Skinning waste from many assemblages is often gnawed, which would suggest these primary waste bones, with little or no meat use, may be kept for domestic or working dogs to gnaw, much as they are today; such waste may also be left in open pits for a time before burial and may be available to scavengers. The presence of gnawing in the absence of canid bone at least confirms the presence of this group on site.

Recommendations for further work
This is a small assemblage that has limited potential for further study and no further work is recommended on this particular assemblage. If further work is carried out at this site it is recommended that samples are taken for sieving to maximise chances of recovery for small bones. If further work produces bone, then this assemblage can be included in the analysis.

Bibliography

Baker, P. and Worley, F. 2014. *Animal Bones and Archaeology, Guidelines for best practice*. English Heritage.

Davis, S. 1992. *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites.* English Heritage AML report 71/92

Hillson, S. 1992. *Mammal bones and teeth.* The Institute of Archaeology, University College, London.

Hillson, S. 1996. *Teeth.* Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology. Cambridge University Press.

Von Den Driesch, A. 1976, *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Harvard University, Harvard

Appendix 1

Catalogue of the animal bone recovered from ENF151136
Listed in context order.

Key:
NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present
Measureable following Von Den Driesch, 1976.
Countable following Davis,1992.

Context	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Juvenile	Neonatal	Element range	Measurable	Countable	Butchering	Gnaw	Burnt	Comments
105	Feature 102	1	16g	Pig/Boar	1	*			Canine tooth						
106	Feature 102	7	94g	Cattle	1	*			Calcaneus		1	Knife cuts	1		Cuts from skinning, canid gnawing
				Sheep/goat	6	*			Mandible fragments, isolated teeth		1				
200	Topsoil	6	103g	Cattle	6	*			Distal half of tibia and fragments of the shaft			chopped			Fragments refit
210	Ditch 209	1	17g	Cat	1	*			Ulna						
218	Ditch 218	5	45g	Large mammal	5				Fragments						Cattle/equid size
414	Structural Pit	1	26g	Equid	1	*			Radius fragment						Proximal end

416	Gully 415	1	26g	Pig/Boar	1				Mandible condyle fragment						

APPENDIX F - FLINT

By Tom Lane

Introduction
A total of 14 flints from site ENF151136 at Ickburgh, Norfolk, were submitted for Assessment.

Condition
The items were all abraded to an extent. No conservation measures are required ahead of deposition in a museum or similar repository.

Results

Cxt No	Description	No	Wt(g)	Date
102	Serrated blade. Slight serration along one lateral edge. Small notch near distal end on same side as serration. Opposing lateral edge has damage near proximal end and flake removed, possibly to enable a better grip. Cortex on distal end. Pronounced dorsal ridge. Non-patinated. 45 x 22 x 6mm	1	8	Early Neolithic
102	Flake. Utilised. Some secondary working along one edge and very limited working along distal edge. Dorsal ridge. Non-patinated. 53 x 41 x 5mm	1	13	Prehistoric
106	Serrated Blade. Notched. Serrations along both lateral edges with notch on one edge near distal end. Broken at distal end. Non-patinated. 35 x 29 x 4mm	1	4	Early Neolithic
107	Flake. Waste flake. Cortex on c.10% of dorsal surface. Non patinated. 26 x 14 x 3mm	1	1	Early Neolithic?
113	Flake. Scars on dorsal surface. Severe damage (pitting) at proximal end. Possibly used as hammerstone. Light patination. 29 x 18 x 9mm	1	6	Prehistoric
113	Knife. Irregular-shaped with much cortex remaining on dorsal surface. Serrated lateral edge. Some serration from dorsal and some from ventral side. Non-patinated. 55 x 31 x 12mm	1	24	Early Neolithic
113	Core. Not worked out. Flake removal over part of surface. Some cortex remaining. Some pitting. Non-patinated. 44 x 45 x 44	1	124	Early Neolithic
206	Flake. Debitage. Dorsal ridge. Non-patinated. 18 x 14 x 4mm	1	<1	Prehistoric
206	Flake. Debitage. Cortex remaining on c.30% of dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 38 x 19 x 6mm	1	5	Early Neolithic
206	Flake. Debitage. Distal end broken off. Moderate-heavy patination. 24 x 17 x 5mm	1	3	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?
400	Flake. Core rejuvenation flake. Some cortex remaining.	1	12	Early Neolithic
	Non-patinated. 40 x 35 x 6mm			
400	Flake. Dorsal ridge. Cortical at distal end. Non-patinated. 24 x 15 x 4mm	1	<1	Early Neolithic?
406	Scraper. Disc Scraper. Semi-abrupt retouch. Some cortex on dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 43 x 44 x 9mm	1	23	Early Neolithic

406	Flake. Utilised. Secondary working along one lateral edge. Some cortex on dorsal surface on opposing lateral edge and on distal end. Non-patinated. 39 x 30 x 6mm	1	11	Early Neolithic
406	Flake. Narrow bladelet scar on dorsal surface. Moderately patinated. 28 x 22 x 3mm	1	1	Early Prehistoric
406	Flake. Some cortex on distal end. Light patination. 33 x 38 x 7mm		9	Early Neolithic?

Range

The items are predominantly debitage from flintworking. A single core, a core rejuvenation flake and several flakes attest to flint working in the general area, while a few tools are also present. A single scraper, a disc scraper, came from pit fill (406) while serrated blades/knives are also present from fills of linears (Cxt 102, 106, 113). Many of the finds are dateable to the Early Neolithic period.

Potential

The majority of the finds come from Trenches 1 (7) and 4 (6), with a single find from Trench 2 and none from Trench 3. Any future work on the site may benefit from searching finds samples from Trenches 1 and 4.

APPENDIX G
OASIS SUMMARY FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-419746

Project details

Project name	Trial Trench Evaluation on land East of Manor Farm, Ashburton Road, Ickburgh, Norfolk
Short description of the project	Four trial trenches were excavated on and east of Manor Farm, Ashburton Road, Ickburgh, Norfolk in advance of residential development on the site. The site is located 65m south-west of the medieval parish church and adjacent to a large cropmark enclosure identified as a possible Iron Age fortification or Anglo-Saxon burh. The evaluation revealed evidence of medieval occupation, mainly in the form of ditches and pits dated 12th to mid 13th century. A number of flints - mostly Early Neolithic - were recovered from later contexts.
Project dates	Start: 10-03-2021 End: 17-03-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF151136 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUTTON Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CHISEL Uncertain
Significant Finds	QUERN Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND ICKBURGH Land east of Manor Farm, Ashburton Road
Postcode	IP26 5JG
Study area	0.36 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 8158 9498 52.521967467292 0.676742821034 52 31 19 N 000 40 36 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Gary Trimble
Project director/manager	Russell Trimble
Project supervisor	Andy Pascoe
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Clayland Estates Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Informative Trenching as Part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work on Land East of Manor Farm, Ashburton Road, Ickburgh,Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pascoe, A
Other bibliographic details	438
Date	2021

Issuer or publisher	Witham Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Ruskington
Description	A4, comb-bound
Entered by	Russell Trimble (russell.trimble@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	20 April 2021

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

Witham Archaeology
2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
NG34 9DT

Tel/Fax: (01529) 300890
Email: info@withamarchaeology.co.uk