# Witham Archaeology

A Report to Mrs Roseann Allum October 2015



# LAND AT ALFREDA COURT, RED LION SQUARE, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

### **Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation**

V Mellor

# LAND AT ALFREDA COURT, RED LION SQUARE, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CHER Event No.: ECB4593 Planning Reference: 13/00060/FUL

NGR: TL 5942 7294

OASIS ID: withamar1-230441

### Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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# LAND AT ALFREDA COURT, RED LION SQUARE, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

### **SUMMARY**

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on land at Alfreda Court, Red Lion Square, Soham, Cambridgeshire. The project was commissioned by Mrs Roseann Allum. Archaeological trial trenching was required in advance of development of the site, in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.

The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive location, in the historic core of the settlement, approximately 200m southeast of the 12th century parish church. The settlement dates to at least the late Saxon period, and previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity had revealed evidence of an Iron Age and Roman settlement in addition to Saxon, Medieval and post-medieval remains.

A single 8m long trench was excavated as part of the evaluation.

The trenching revealed three undated features comprising a pit or post hole, a feature of uncertain form and a ditch. The ditch was the latest of these undated features. As this was on a slightly different alignment to boundaries recorded on consulted Ordnance Survey maps of the area it is possible that these features pre-date the 20th century layout of this part of the settlement. However, as no finds retrieved during the investigation pre-dated the mid 16th to 18th centuries there was no clear evidence for earlier activity at the site.

The remainder of features on the site were of late 18th to 19th century date. These included a brick wall corresponding to a building depicted on Ordnance Survey maps of the site and an earlier ditch with a similar alignment and position to the wall. Both the wall and ditch apparently marked the boundary between the rear of properties fronting onto Red Lion Square to the north and the rear of properties fronting onto High Street to the east.

A ditch at the northern end of the trench, which also dated to the late 18th to 19th centuries, was on a markedly different alignment to boundaries and buildings shown on the Ordnance Survey maps consulted. Although the reason for this is uncertain, it is possible that this ditch served as drainage, perhaps leading from the area of Red Lion Square to the northwest, and on to meet the Soham Lode watercourse which lies around 50m south of the site (this ditch possibly being culverted in part). The somewhat curious alignment of this ditch compared to the property boundaries may be the result of the positioning of this drain in the available space between standing buildings.

A small quantity of post-medieval pottery and a single undated animal bone were retrieved during the investigation.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on land at Alfreda Court, Red Lion Square, Soham, Cambridgeshire. The project was commissioned byMrs Roseann Allum in order to fulfil a condition of planning permission (13/00060/FUL) which had been submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council for the development of the site. Fieldwork was carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation compiled by Witham Archaeology, and approved by the Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council.

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 and 2)

Soham is located in the administrative district of East Cambridgeshire, 9.5km southwest of Ely and 20km northeast of Cambridge.

The proposed development area is in the historic core of the settlement, approximately 220m southeast of St. Andrew's, the 12th century parish church at National Grid Reference TL 5942 7294. The site lies at the south end of a small plot accessed off Red Lion Lion Square adjacent to the War Memorial.

The geology of the area is the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey online Geology of Britain Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk).

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Soham has origins dating back at least to the late Saxon period as indicated by its entry in the Domesday book in 1086. At the time of the survey there were three manors in Soham and the combined total of 71 heads of families (Pankhurst 2012)

Soham's place-name is probably early Saxon in origin and probably derives from Soegam Ham meaning 'swampy' settlement or enclosure (Reaney 1943).

Records contained in the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record indicate that the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, situated within the historic core of Soham, approximately 200m south of the medieval parish church of St. Andrew.

An evaluation carried out along Brook Dam Lane to the northeast of Red Lion Square in 2004 (ECB 18570 identified a pit of possible medieval date alongside a ditch containing post medieval pottery and a Victorian rubbish pit. Also along Brook Dam Lane a three trench evaluation in 2002 (ECB926) revealed ditches of post medieval and modern date.

To the north of the proposed development an evaluation at St. Andrew's house in 2000 revealed features of 17th to nineteenth century date. Other investigations to the north of the development area have revealed evidence of an Iron Age and Roman settlement (MCB18184), Saxon and medieval settlement (MCB18688, MCB18185) and post-medieval occupation (MCB17349).

In addition, numerous burials have been recorded from the gardens of houses along White Hart Lane (for example, at No 1: MCB17746; at No 11: CB13882 and adjacent to No 46: MCB19457).

### 4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification 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 the 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 Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

### 5.0 METHODOLOGY

The project specification provided for the excavation of a single 8m long by 1.6m wide trench across the footprint of the proposed dwelling.

All excavations were carried out by mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Trench bases and sides were then cleaned by hand to allow characterisation and where possible dating of the stratigraphic sequence.

A metal detector survey was undertaken of spoilheaps generated during mechanical excavation, the exposed surface of the trench and spoil excavated from archaeological features.

Due to the depth, character and recent date of overburden in the trench it was not considered appropriate to undertake artefact characterisation of soils at this site.

A record of the site was compiled through GPS survey plan, hand-drawn sections at a scale of 1:20, colour digital and monochrome (35mm) photographs, and individual written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets.

### 6.0 RESULTS (see Fig. 3)

Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A and a complete catalogue of finds is provided in Appendix B.

### Natural deposits

One of the earliest recorded deposits in the evaluation trench was (114), a light yellowish-brown sandy clay. A layer of mid reddish-brown sandy clay with grey patches (120) was exposed at the southern end of the trench. Both deposits appear to represent the local geology.

### Undated features and deposits

Cut into layer (120), near the southern end of the trench, was a feature [119]. This was not fully exposed in plan, but was over 0.58m by at least 0.55m wide and 0.67m deep with steep to near-vertical sides and a flat to gently concave base, and may have been a pit or a post hole. It contained a single fill of mid greyish-brown sandy clay with small reddish-brown patches (118). No artefacts were retrieved from this fill, and this feature was undated.

Pit or post hole [119] was truncated by a further feature [109], which was of uncertain shape in plan but was at least 2.05m long by over 1.20m wide and 0.53m deep with a gently concave base. Deposit (106) formed the earliest fill of this feature. This mottled light brown and light grey sandy clay (106) contained no dateable artefacts. Deposit (107) overlay (106) and was contained within feature [109]. This comprised a mid greyish-brown sandy clay with occasional light brown mottles, and a single sheep or goat bone was retrieved from this fill. As feature [119] was not fully exposed in plan its precise nature remains uncertain.

Cut into fill (107) was a ditch [116], which was east-west aligned, 0.48m wide and over 1.30m long with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. This contained a 0.1m thick, single fill (117) of mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small stones, from which no dateable material was retrieved.

### Late 18th century to 19th century features and deposits

An unexcavated deposit of mid greyish-brown sandy clay (102) was recorded at the northern end of the trench and overlay natural layer (114). This (102) contained occasional charcoal flecks and shell, and three sherds of pottery were retrieved from it. These were of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century, 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century and late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. This dates this context to at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Ditch [108], which has already been mentioned, was southwest-northeast aligned, over 0.95m wide and 0.45m deep with a concave base. Its fill (104) was a mid grey sandy clay from which two sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century were retrieved.

A further ditch [105] had cut into fills of late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch [108], and also into the possible fill (106) of undated feature [109]. Ditch [105] was ENE to WSW aligned, 0.52m wide and over 0.42m deep with moderately steep sides. A single fill was recorded within it (103), and this was a mid to dark grey sandy clay, from which a single sherd of late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was retrieved.

Also overlying 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch fill (104) was a possible surface (112). This comprised a 50mm thick layer of loose mid reddish-brown coarse sand and gravel with small stones and occasional medium stones.

Sealing possible surface (112) was a 0.44m thick layer of mid brown sandy clay (101), which contained occasional fragments of brick and pottery and extended throughout the trench. Two sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery were retrieved from this layer, which apparently either formed a subsoil or may possibly have been a make-up layer.

Layer (101) was truncated by an ENE- WSW aligned brick wall foundation (115). Eight courses of mortar bonded brickwork were recorded, supported on a stone plinth. Wall foundation (115) was 0.65m deep and 0.27m wide. This wall was visible on the pre-existing ground surface and is of very recent date.

Post dating brick wall (115) on its north side was layer (113), possibly a make-up layer for a floor internal to the building represented by the wall. This 0.37m thick layer (113) was made up of alternating horizontal bands of mid reddish-brown and dark grey crushed stone and gravel with fragments of tile. This deposits extended northeastwards from the wall for remaining length of the trench.

South of brick wall foundation (115), and extending the full distance of the remaining length of the trench, was a 0.45m thick deposit of garden topsoil (100). This comprised dark brownish-grey sandy clay with inclusions of occasional roots, modern glass, small stones, medium rounded stones and charcoal flecks.

The metal detector survey did not identify anything other than artefacts of very recent date in the site spoilheaps, which were not retained.

### 7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The site lay in the historic core of the settlement, approximately 200m southeast of St Andrew's, the 12<sup>th</sup> century parish church. The settlement dates to at least the late Saxon period, and previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity had revealed evidence of an Iron Age and Roman settlement in addition to Saxon, Medieval and post-medieval remains.

A pit or post hole [119], a feature of uncertain form [109] and a ditch [116] were all identified in the evaluation trench. These features were all undated, but had stratigraphic relationships with one another, demonstrating a sequence of activity at the site. The latest of these three features was ditch [116]. The location and orientation of this ditch was compared with an Ordnance Survey map of the site dating to 1926 (Fig. 4), and appears to be on a slightly different alignment to the extant property boundaries of the time. This could indicate that these features pre-date the property layout as depicted on this map, but this is very uncertain. As no finds retrieved during the investigation pre-dated the mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries there was no clear evidence for any earlier activity at the site.

All three of these undated features were located at the southern end of the trench, to the south of a late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch [105] and a brick wall (115). This ditch and wall were stratigraphically separated, but shared a very similar alignment to one-another, and also to a distinct boundary shown on

the 1926 map. This also appears on other 1:2500 OS maps spanning the 1880s to 1970s, and appears to mark the boundary between the rear of properties fronting onto Red Lion Square, and the east-west plots to the rear of buildings along High Street to the east. This wall was probably built along an existing boundary between the Red Lion Square and High Street plots, which might explain the similar alignment and position of late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch [105], which pre-dates the building represented by (115). Apart from undisturbed natural deposits, all of the deposits and features in the northern portion of the trench were dated to at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These included two ditches [108] and [105], possible make-up layer (101) and a brick wall (115). The latter truncated fill (106) which formed a fill of undated featured [109] at the southwest end of the trench.

Brick wall (115) was the latest recorded archaeological feature in the trench, and appears to correlate to the position of buildings marked on Ordnance Survey maps including the map of 1926 (Fig. 4). Makeup layer (113) was recorded at the northern side of this wall whilst topsoil (100) was recorded to the south. This confirmed the interpretation of the area to the north of the wall as internal to the building and the area to the south as external.

Ditch [108] at the northern edge of the trench was also dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and predated wall (115), but was on a markedly different alignment to boundaries and buildings shown on the Ordnance Survey maps consulted. Given the short stretch of this ditch which was exposed during the investigation it is uncertain why this should be the case. One possible explanation might be that this ditch served as drainage, perhaps leading from the area of Red Lion Square to the northwest, and on to meet the Soham Lode watercourse which lies around 50m south of the site (possibly being culverted elsewhere). The somewhat curious alignment of this ditch compared to the property boundaries may be the result of the positioning of this drain in the available space between standing buildings.

### 8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr & Mrs Allum for their support in ensuring that the project was brought to successful conclusion. Thanks are also due to Alex Beeby and Paul Cope-Faulkner for production of the finds report.

### 9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Pankhurst N., 2012. Gimbert Road, Soham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation. Unpublished Pre-Construct Archaeology Report

Reaney, P. H., 1943, The Place Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, English Place Name Society Volume XIX

### 10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

### 10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: ECB4593

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 13/00060/FUL

FIELD OFFICERS: D Trimble and R Trimble

NGR: TL 5942 7294

CIVIL PARISH: Soham

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 18th October 2015

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mrs Roseann Allum

### 10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34

FINAL LOCATION: Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

19

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: ECB4593

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

### The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records

Context Records	1)
Plans	GPS digital
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	1

Black and White photographs 6
Digital Photographs 15
Set of Site Notes 1

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: General view of the site during backfilling of Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 1, showing Section 1 and excavated features and deposits, looking northeast, scale 1m

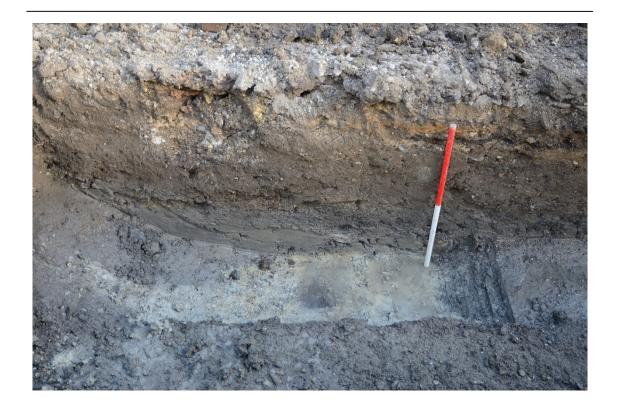
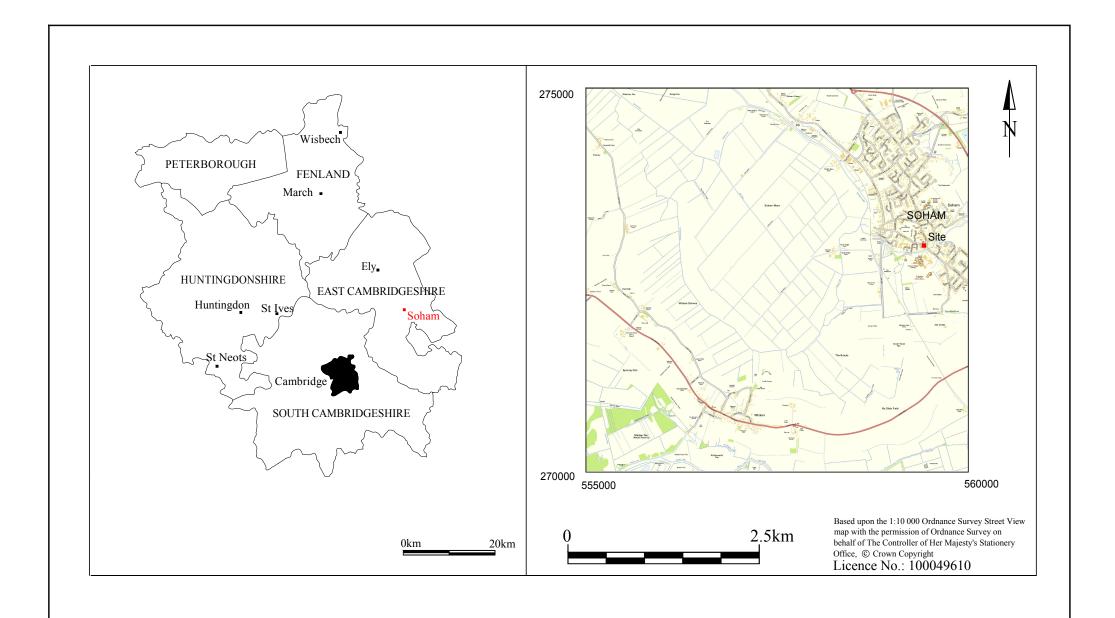
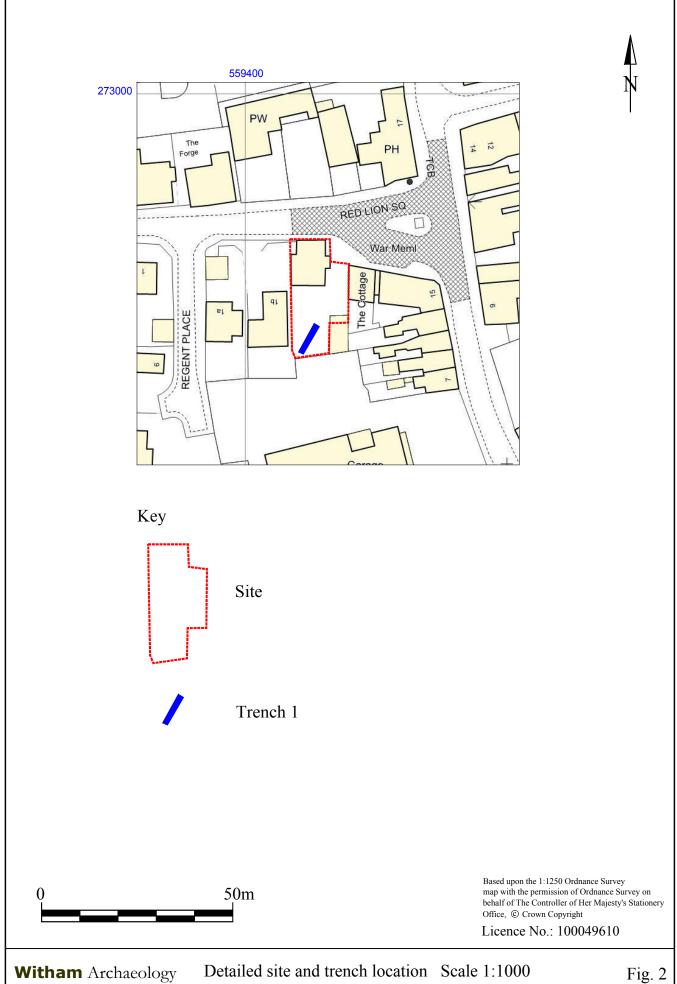
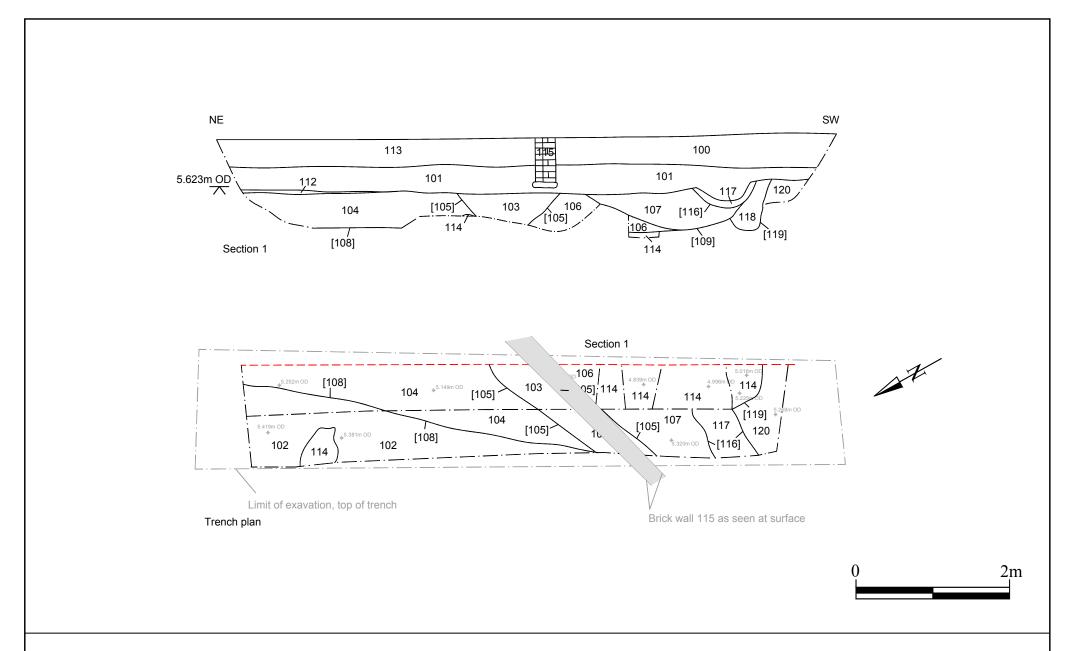


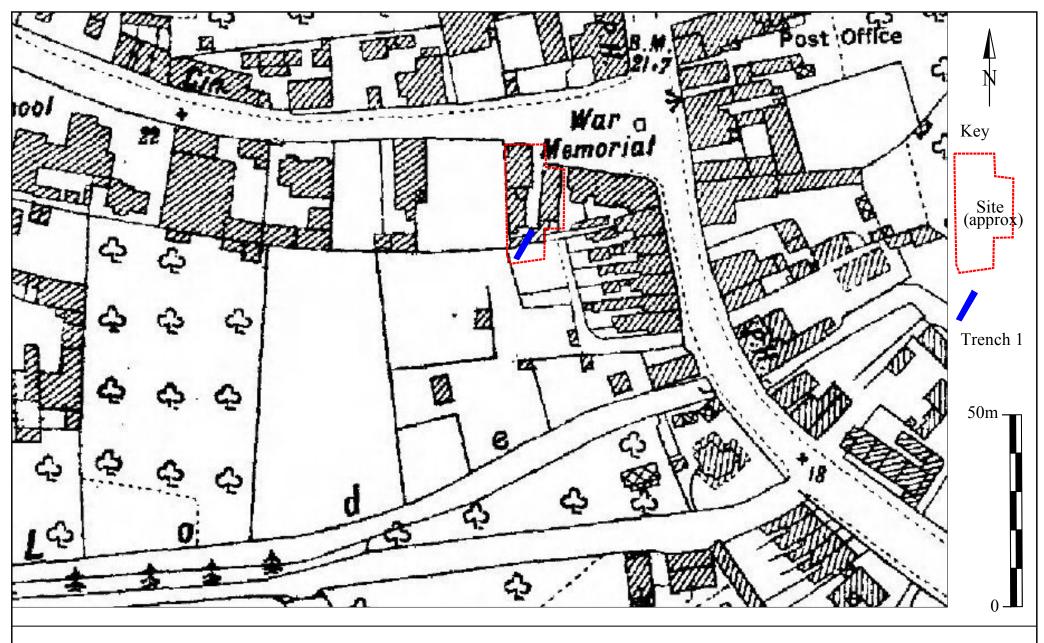
Plate 3: Trench 1, detail of Section 1 following full excavation of ditch [108], looking southeast, scale 1m





Witham Archaeology Detailed site and trench location Scale 1:1000





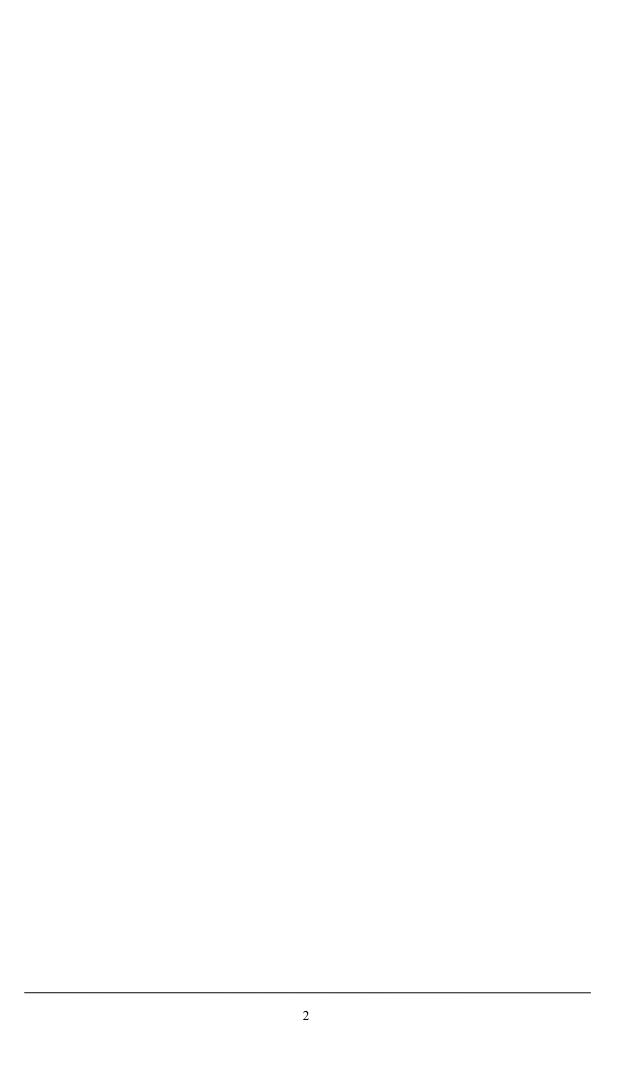
Witham Archaeology

Extract from 1926 OS 1:2500 map Scale 1:1000

Fig. 4

### **APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Context	Interpretation	Description				
100	Topsoil	Loose to soft dark brownish-grey sandy clay with				
		occasional roots, modern glass, small stones, medium rounded stones and charcoal flecks, 0.45m thick				
101	Subsoil or possible make-up layer	Loose to soft mid brown sandy clay with occasional to moderately frequent small stones, moderately frequent medium stones, whitewares and modern brick, 0.44m thick				
102	Unexcavated deposit.	Compact to plastic mid greyish-brown sandy clay with moderately frequent small stones, occasional medium stones, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional shell				
103	Fill of ditch [105]	Soft to plastic mid to dark grey sandy clay with moderately frequent small angular stones large grit, moderately frequent medium stones and occasional whitewares and pot, at least 0.42m thick				
104	Fill of ditch [108]	Loose to soft mid grey sandy clay with occasional to moderately frequent small stones and moderately frequent to frequent medium stones, 0.45m thick				
105	Ditch	Eastnortheast-westsouthwest aligned linear feature, 0.52m wide and over 0.42m deep with moderately steep sides				
106	Fill of feature [109]	Soft and sticky mottled light brown and light grey sandy clay with occasional small stones and moderately frequent medium stones, over 0.50m thick				
107	Fill of feature [109]	Soft mid greyish-brown with occasional light brown mottles sandy clay with moderately frequent medium stones and occasional to moderate small stones, 0.53m thick				
108	Ditch	Southwest-northeast aligned linear feature, over 0.95m wide and 0.45m deep with a concave base				
109	Feature of uncertain origin	Feature of uncertain shape in plan, at least 2.05m by over 1.20m wide and 0.53m deep with a gently concave base				
112	Layer at base of possible subsoil 101, or possibly marking line of truncation	Loose mid reddish-brown coarse sand and gravel with small stones and occasional medium stones, 50mm thick				
113	Make up layer for floor within building defined by wall 115	Loose alternating horizontal bands of mid reddish-brown and dark grey crushed stone and gravel with fragments of tile, occasional fragments of medium stone, 0.37m thick				
114	Natural	Soft and sticky light yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional medium stones, occasional to moderately frequent medium to large flint nodules, over 70mm thick				
115	Brick wall associated with make-up layer 113 to north. Garden soil 100 abuts wall to south.	Brick wall foundation, approximately east-west aligned, mortar bonded with stone plinth at base 0.65m deep and 0.27m wide				
116	Ditch	East-west aligned linear feature, 0.48m wide and over 1.30m long with moderately sloping, concave sides and a concave base				
117	Fill of ditch [116]	Soft mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small stones, 90mm thick				
118	Fill of possible post hole [119]	Soft to firm mid greyish-brown with small reddish-brown patches sandy clay with moderately frequent small stones, 0.61m thick				
119	Possible post hole	Feature not fully exposed in plan, over 0.58m by at least 0.55m wide and 0.67m deep with steep to near-vertical sides and a flat to gently concave base				
120	Natural	Soft mid reddish-brown with moderately frequent grey patches sandy clay with occasional to moderately frequent small stones, 0.30m thick				



### APPENDIX B

### Soham Red Lion Square (SORL15) - Finds Report

### **POST ROMAN POTTERY**

By Alex Beeby

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski et al. (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young et al. (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of 12 sherds from eight vessels, weighing 461 grams 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 list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the post medieval period.

The condition of the material is mixed, but none of the pieces are noticeably abraded.

### Results

Table 1 Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Decoration	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
121	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware	Fe; Ca	Large bowl		Rims; BS; base	Fresh breaks; fresh	M16th-18th	4	1	287
101	CREA	Creamware		Flat		Bases		L18th-E19th	2	1	19
102	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware		Bowl		BS	White deposit over the break; amber glaze	M16th-18th	1	1	62
102	ENGS	English Stoneware		Large bowl or dish		Base		18th-19th	1	1	68
102	CREA	Creamware		Flat		BS		L18th-E19th	1	1	8
103	CREA	Creamware		Bowl or dish		Rim		L18th-E19th	1	1	3
104	SLIP	Miscellaneous Slipware	Orange Fabric	Bowl		BS		17th-18th	1	1	5
104	STSL	Staffordshire Type Slipware		Press moulded dish	Mid brown stripes and dark brown dots on yellow	BS		M17th-18th	1	1	9
								Total	12	8	461

### **Provenance**

The pottery was recovered from layer (101), deposit (102) and ditch fills (103) in [105] and (104) in [108]

### Range

There is a range of domestic pottery of post medieval date. There is no pottery which can definitely be said to postdate AD 1830 and all of the material could conceivably have been produced in the 18th century.

### **Potential**

There is limited potential for further work. The material can be discarded once the relevant permissions have been obtained. Should the items be kept, they are stable and will pose no problems for long term storage.

### **FAUNAL REMAINS**

By Alex Beeby with Paul Cope-Faulkner

### Introduction

A single fragment of animal bone weighing 18 grams was recovered from a stratified context.

### Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were identified to species. The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

### Provenance

The bone was recovered from fill (107) in feature [109].

### Condition

The overall condition of the remains is good or grade 3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

### Results

Table 2 Fragments Identified to Taxa

	Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
Ī	107	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpal	n/a	1	18	Lyman grade 3

### Summary

A single metacarpal bone from a sheep or goat was recovered. The bone can be discarded.

### SPOT DATING

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

Table 3. Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
121	M16th-18th	Unstratifed; four sherds from a single vessel
101	L18th-E19th	
102	L18th-E19th	
103	L18th-E19th	
104	M17th-18th	
107	Undated	A single animal bone was recovered from this context

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

BS Body sherd CXT Context

**Number of Fragments** NoF NoS Number of sherds Number of vessels NoV Weight (grams) W (g)

### REFERENCES

Hillson, S. 2003 Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification (London) Lyman, RL, 1996 Vertebrate Taphonomy, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)

- Schmid, E, 1972 Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists (Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier)
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln (Oxford)

### APPENDIX C

**OASIS FORM** 

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

### Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-230441

### **Project details**

Project name Archaeological trial trenching at Red Lion Square, Soham, Cambridgeshire

Short description of the project

A single 8m long trench was excavated as part of the evaluation. The trenching revealed three undated features comprising a pit or post hole, a feature of uncertain form and a ditch. The ditch was the latest of these undated features. As this was on a slightly different alignment to boundaries recorded on consulted Ordnance Survey maps of the area it is possible that these features pre-date the 20th century layout of this part of the settlement. However, as no finds retrieved during the investigation pre-dated the mid 16th to 18th centuries there was no clear evidence for earlier activity at the site. The remainder of features on the site were of late 18th to 19th century date. These included a brick wall corresponding to a building depicted on Ordnance Survey maps of the site and an earlier ditch with a similar alignment and position to the wall. Both the wall and ditch apparently marked the boundary between the rear of properties fronting onto Red Lion Square to the north and the rear of properties fronting onto High Street to the east. A small quantity of post-medieval pottery and a single undated animal bone were retrieved during the investigation.

Project dates Start: 18-10-2015 End: 18-10-2015

Previous/future work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

SORL15 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes

ECB4593 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes

13/00060/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Monument type POST HOLE Uncertain

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm 1/3

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Methods &

"Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### **Project location**

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOHAM Alfreda Court, Red

Lion Square, Soham

Postcode CB7 5HQ

Study area 0.38 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 59416 72935 52.330887055438 0.339817212701 52 19 51 N 000 20 23 E

Point

Height OD /

Depth

Min: 5.08m Max: 6.24m

### **Project creators**

Name of

Organisation

Witham Archaeology

Project brief

originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design

originator

Dale Trimble

Project director/manager

Russell Trimble

\_ . . . . .

Project supervisor Russell Trimble

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Developer

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive

recipient

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store

Physical Archive

ID.

ECB4593

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"

Digital Archive

recipient

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store

Digital Archive ID ECB4593

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Survey"

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Images

vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store

Paper Archive ID ECB4593

Paper Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

## Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at Alfreda Court, Red Lion Square, Soham, Cambridgeshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Mellor, V

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### **OASIS:**

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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