



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Observation and Recording Report

Land Adjacent to Elm House

The Causeway

Therfield

Hertfordshire



Quality Check

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Summary

Between January and August 2017 KDK Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and Observation and Recording at land adjacent to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling, associated garage and access.

The works revealed boundary ditches, drainage gullies, rubbish pits, a flint surface and a number of shallow discrete features that may be pits or tree activity. A number of the features had previously been excavated during the 2016 evaluation on the site (Summerfield-Hill, 2009). Finds recovered included Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery with some residual Iron Age and Romano-British pottery; post-medieval pottery and tile was also found. A silver coin of Aethelred II (978-1016 AD) that had been minted in Cambridge was discovered in a boundary ditch; it is the first coin of this type to have been found in Hertfordshire. Fragments of daub were also found, some of which appeared structural.

Overall the findings indicate well established settlement activity dating from the Saxo-Norman and into the medieval period, along with later evidence for post-medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the excavation.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between January – August 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and a programme of Observation and Recording at Land adjacent to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Linda Brogden, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Barclay Jones 2016), and approved by Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET), archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), North Hertfordshire District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 15/02914/1.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

The development site is in the village and parish of Therfield and the administrative district of North Hertfordshire District Council. It is centred on National Grid Reference TL 3351 3728 (Fig. 1).

Description

The development site currently forms part of the gardens of Elm House, a 16th century Grade II listed building that was altered and extended in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries (English Heritage Building ID: 162452). The eastern boundary is formed by The Causeway, the main north-south road through the village. Elm House stands to the west, Therfield chapel to the south and a further residential property to the north (Fig. 2).

Geology and Topography

The solid geology comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of diamicton from the Lowestoft formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). It lies on level ground at c.160m AOD.

Development

The development entails the construction of a two-storey dwelling with a detached garage. (Fig. 3).

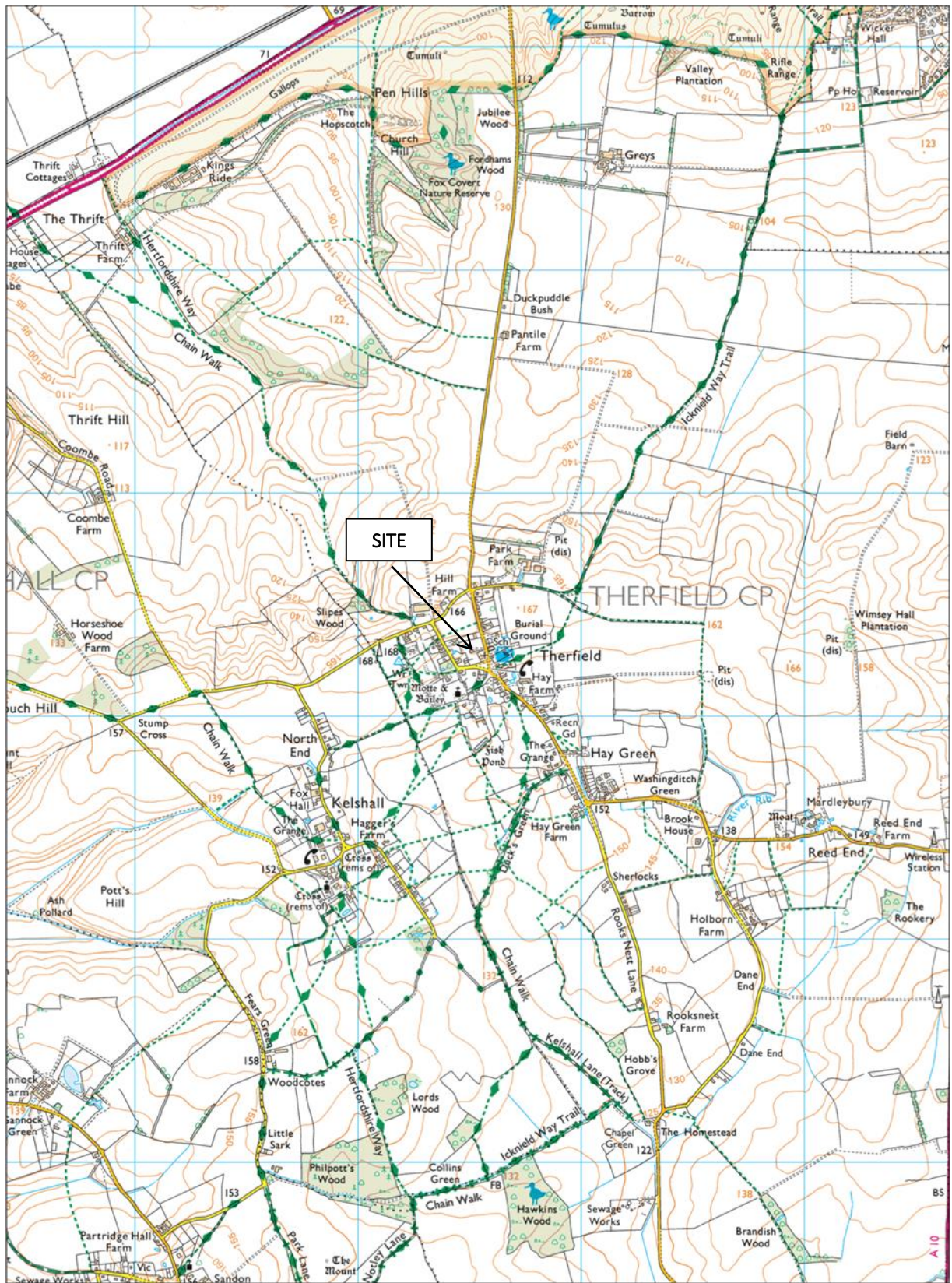
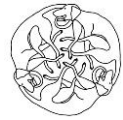


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

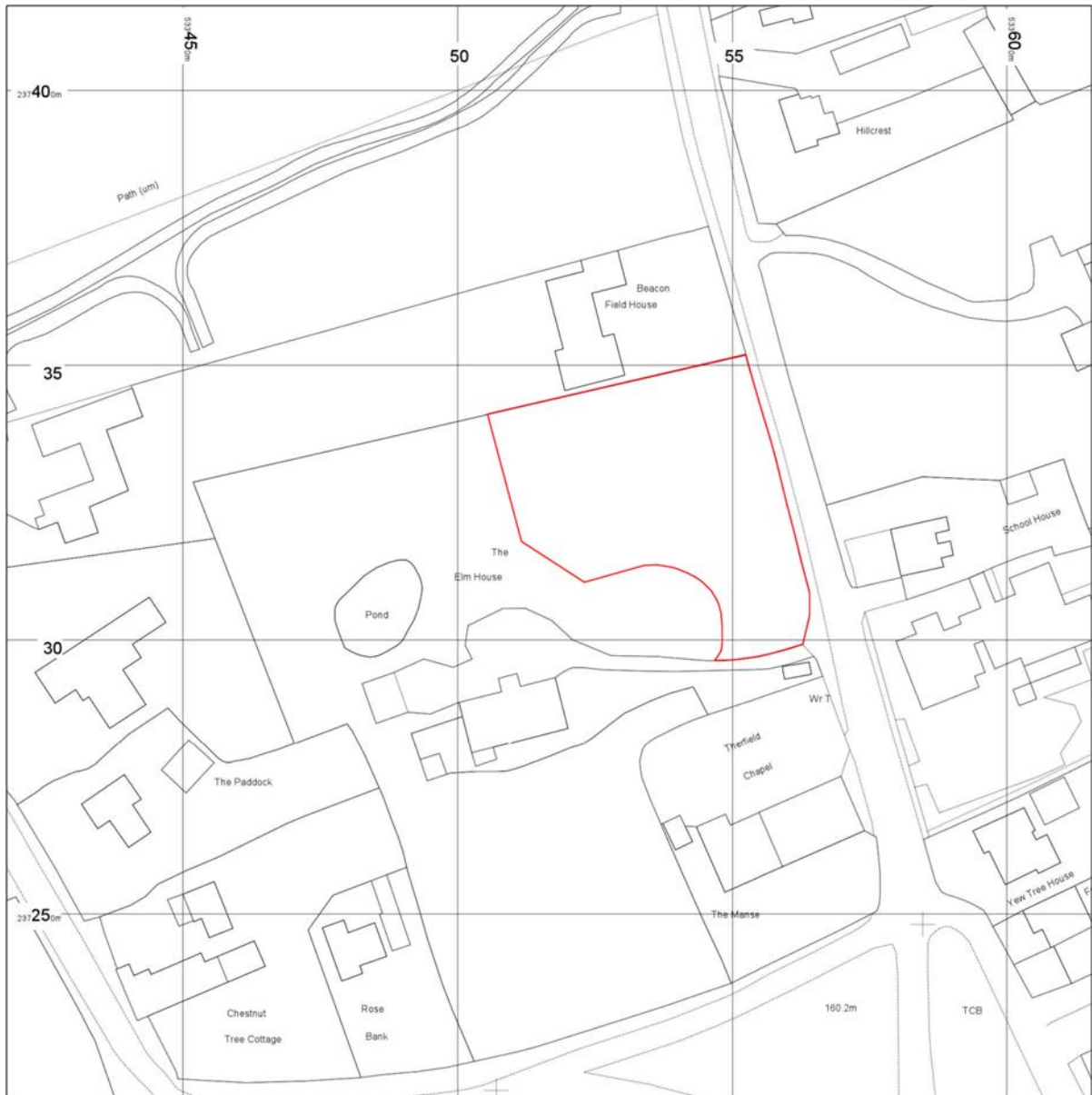
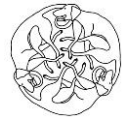


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1: 1,250)

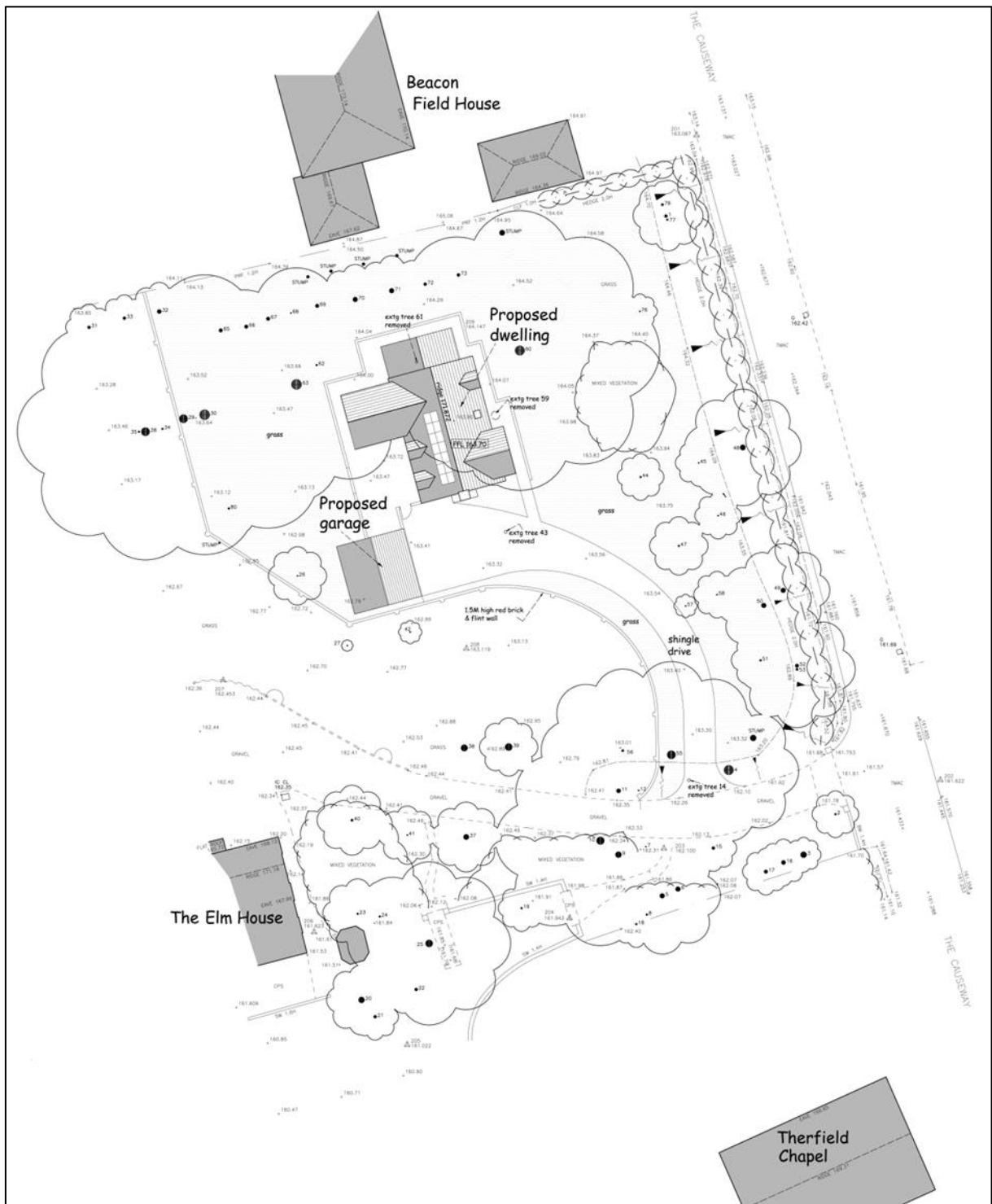
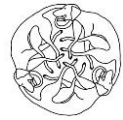


Figure 3: Development (not to scale)



2 Aims and Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Barclay Jones 2016) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the brief, the methods used were as follows:

Strip, Map and Sample Excavation:

Phase 1:

- The archaeologically controlled strip of the area of new buildings down to the archaeological horizon or natural geology
- The inspection of the sub-soil, or the archaeological horizon, for archaeological features, deposits, and artefacts and manual cleaning thereof

Phase 2:

- The detailed investigation and recording of archaeological features or deposits that were encountered. These were excavated stratigraphically and where appropriate environmental samples taken
- Where required further detailed investigation and recording of archaeological features or deposits was carried out
- Spoil-heaps were examined for archaeological material, using metal detection equipment

Phase 3:

- A programme of post-field analysis, archiving and publication.

Observation and Recording:

- All archaeological monitoring of areas of ground reduction or excavation were done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision. That includes the drive and hardstanding, the flint wall and service/drainage trenches.
- A contingency for the archaeological investigation and recording of any remains encountered during the monitoring programme

In addition:

- Provision is to be made to preserve *in situ* archaeological features which may be present, but not impacted by the development, after consultation with the Archaeological Advisor

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief



-
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
 - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
 - Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)
 - The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 Therfield is a small village 3 miles southwest of Royston in Hertfordshire. The village is set within a wider prehistoric landscape and is close to the Roman road known as Ermine Street. Early Saxon burials have been found on Royston Heath however there is no evidence for settlement prior to the late Saxon period when the manor was granted to Ramsey Abbey. The name of the village derives from the Old English 'þyrre' meaning dry or withered and 'feld' meaning open country (KEPN online).

This section has been compiled with information from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER 29/16, search radius 500m), KDK'S own library and other reliable sources.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Therfield Heath, a prehistoric upland landscape spanning the 4km chalk escarpment from Therfield north east to Royston, is rich in prehistoric significance. It contains monuments spanning from the Neolithic, with a fairly small long barrow, to the largest round barrow cemetery in Hertfordshire (13 barrows of various forms). All of which would have been highly visible from the Icknield Way, an ancient trackway at the northern end of the heath, on the line of the A505.

Aerial photos show cropmarks 500m to the east of the village of an unknown date. They are listed as showing several ditches as well as 2 possible rectangular enclosures, these could possibly be prehistoric but are listed as being 'indistinct' and 'incomplete' (HER 2539). Several other cropmarks are also visible within 1km of the development site, particularly to the west near Kelshall, on photographs in the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP: online).

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC - AD43)

Little evidence exists for Iron Age activity in Therfield, but the Mile Ditches, a trio of Iron Age ditches still traceable in aerial photographs (CUCAP online), run from the northern side of Therfield Heath to Bassingbourn in Cambridgeshire, a distance in excess of 3.5km. Several of the barrows on the Heath, particularly the long barrow, have Iron Age insertions demonstrating a continued presence in the landscape.

3.4 *Roman* (AD43 - c.450)

The projected line of a major Roman road north from London to Lincoln and York, Ermine street, lies around 2km to the east of the development site near the present A10.

A pair of silver Roman coins (one 1st – 2nd century, the other 3rd – 4th), as well as several pot sherds were recovered during the excavations around the motte and bailey (HER 1247). Beyond the village, a monument on the location of the present cricket pitch at Therfield Heath was levelled in 1854. This produced a central cremation burial consisting of a flagon and a large globular urn (Smith and Ransom 2001:2).

The low volume of finds across this period is generally more indicative of people making chance losses travelling through the area rather than the accrual of waste through habitation.

3.5 *Saxon* (c.450 - 1066)

No evidence for an early or middle Saxon presence in Therfield village has come to light; however, beyond the village Saxon burials have been found inserted as secondary burials, into



the barrows on Therfield Heath. These have been given a date range from the 5th to 9th century, although the recovery of a 6th century spearhead suggests an earlier date may be more likely (Smith and Ransom 2001: 3). This distribution is indicative of an earlier Saxon presence in the wider landscape.

In the late Saxon period, circa 980, land at Therfield was given to Ramsey Abbey by Etheric, Bishop of Sherborne (VCH online). The Domesday Survey records the land of Therfield at 1066, to still be in the possession of Ramsey Abbey with a minority lordship of Alaric the priest (opendomesday online). The presence of a priest in the village at this point, rather than merely collecting dues from tenants, suggests that there may have been a church established in Therfield fairly early.

3.6 *Medieval* (1066 - 1500)

Following the Norman Conquest, the Abbey retained their lands. The land that was formerly held by Alaric the priest passed to Hardwin de Scales, with Wigar acting as his presence in the village (Williams and Martin 2002: 377,390). The Domesday listing for Therfield shows it to be one of the principle settlements of Odsey Hundred, having one of the largest populations at 52 households as well as a large tax bill of 11 geld units (opendomesday online).

The importance of medieval Therfield is demonstrated by the development of a motte and bailey with associated fishponds in the village (HER 67). Through excavation this has been dated to the 12th century, although it is uncertain whether it was completed. It is one of several adulterine castles, built in the Anarchy period without Royal approval in the hope of gaining power and favour for a local minor noble (Coulson 1994:85).

The monument has for some time been in a poor state of repair having been described in 1910 as being 'much denuded'. The motte was at this time 1.8metres in height with a 14m diameter at the base and only 8m at the top (RCHME online).

The excavations revealed evidence for a prior Saxo-Norman settlement on the site of the castle. This had been abandoned before construction of the castle had commenced.

Earthworks in the adjacent field to the north of the development site, comprising ditches, platforms and pits, may be a remnant of a shrunken village possibly contemporary with the Saxo-Norman remains below the motte and bailey or possibly structures associated with the motte and bailey itself (HER 1659).

3.7 *Post-medieval* (1500 - 1900)

The only entries in the HER data for the post medieval period are historic buildings. Elm House is an early 16th century timber framed farmhouse with extensive alterations and additions from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The 1843 Tithe Map shows the house at the north end of a yard lined with barns and associated farm buildings; these were removed in the mid-19th century (HER 31103). It is also a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1102622).

In the south of the village, is a 16th century timber framed farmhouse 'Hay Farm' (HER 16747), with a 17th century timber framed barn (HER 15062) as well as a second 16th/17th century timber framed farmstead 'The Grange' (HER 30136). The proliferation of 16th century buildings suggest a period of development, possibly indicating the point at which the village focus shifts from the area of the motte and earthworks to the north and east of the current village. All of these buildings are Grade II listed.



Also, to the west is Tuthill Manor, another timber framed house dating to the late 15th – early 16th century, that is thought to have originally been a beacon tower, part of the early warning system designed to foil a Spanish invasion (HER 17638). In addition to these 16th century constructions there is an 18th century red brick manor house called ‘the Rectory’ which incorporates surviving elements of an earlier 15th century building (HER 4129). Similarly, to the previous buildings, this is also listed however at the slightly higher level of II*.

To the immediate south of the development site is the Independent Therfield Chapel, Protestant dissenters have had a certified place of worship in Therfield since 1691, with worship on this site dating to 1836 and the current chapel being built in 1854 (VCH online, <http://www.therfieldchapel.org/blog/further-information.html>). The Chapel sits in its own early burial ground (HER 12025). This had become disused by 1878 and was possibly superseded by the burial ground to the east (HER 12026). Schools were endowed in the village in 1854 (HER 12024).

The church of St Mary the Virgin, on the south western fringe of the village, was entirely rebuilt in 1878 with further additions in 1906 and 1911. The later additions were to provide a new home for the bells, 5 in total, as there were insufficient funds initially for the construction of a belfry resulting in a bell being suspended from a nearby walnut tree for around 30 years until construction was complete (The Cardiff Times: online). The current church has decorative elements such as angels and bosses, dated to the 15th century incorporated into the roof and a 14th century double piscine set in the south wall of the modern chancel (VCH, [RCHME](#) online).

3.8 **Modern** (1900 - present)

The most significant development in the modern period has been the construction of Hay Green and Meadow Way, a development of semi-detached properties at the southern end of the village at the end of the Second World War.

3.9 **Undated**

An undated chalk pit is sited 600 metres north east of the development site, on the eastern flank of Mill Lane and a second similar pit is said to have been sited 200 metres north of the development near Hill Farm (VCH online). These pits could have been excavated at any period since the Neolithic.

3.10 **Recent Archaeological Investigations**

Trial trenching by KDK Archaeology Ltd on the site revealed a ditch that was most probably a land boundary, rubbish pits and gullies also used for land boundaries or land drainage (Fig. 4). The features contained finds that included mostly Saxo-Norman or medieval pottery and some residual Romano-British pottery as well as a small assemblage of animal bone. Overall the findings indicate well established settlement activity dating from the Saxo-Norman and into the medieval period in the immediate vicinity of the excavation (Summerfield-Hill 2016).

Occupation evidence has also been found on land at Tuthill Farm, but this has not been datable.

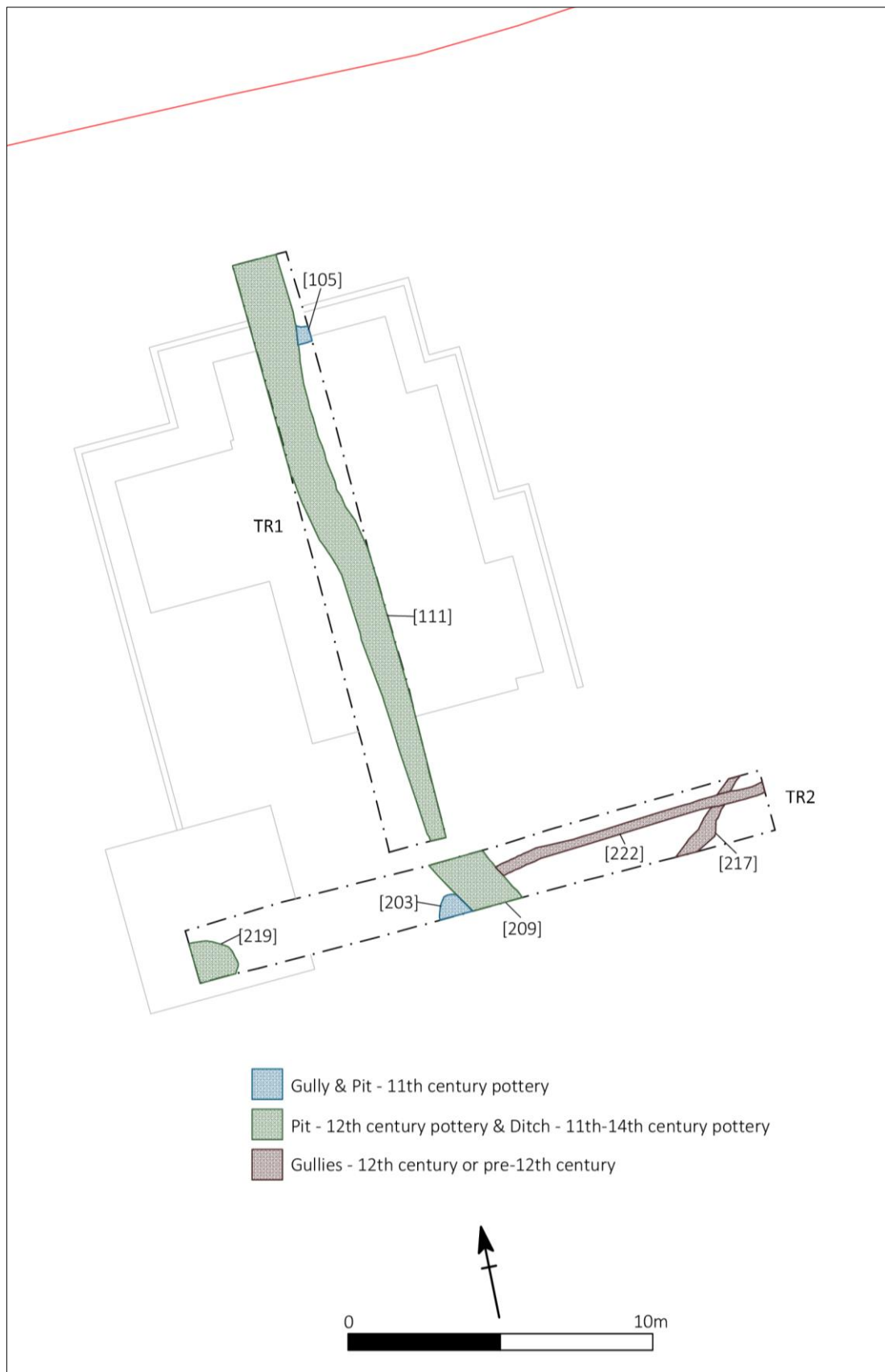
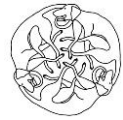


Figure 4: Trial trenching results (scale 1:200)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

Initially in January 2017 a Strip, Map and Sample area of 361 sq. m was mechanically stripped using a JCB fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless bucket, in the footprint of the new development. Two soakaways were also mechanically excavated; soakaway 1 measured 15 sq. m and was 0.83m deep and soakaway 2 was 15 sq. m and was 0.4m deep. A temporary access road was also stripped to a maximum depth of 0.3m. This was mainly within the topsoil with some areas of sub-soil exposed.

In August 2017 a further site visit was made to monitor the stripping of the final location for the access road, it was stripped to a depth of 0.5m. A hedgerow was exposed, orientated NE-SW, irregular in plan and petered out at the eastern end of the area. No finds were present and the whole feature was heavily bioturbated. It measured 5.4m in length, 0.79m in width (at its widest point) and 0.15m in depth. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed in this area (Plate 4).

The general site stratigraphy comprised (Plate 2):

0.35m max of topsoil (100) consisting of dark greyish brown, very clayey silt, very friable with occasional sub-angular stones less than 50mm;

0.16m max of sub-soil (101) consisting of mid orangey brown, fairly silty clay, fairly soft with moderate sub-angular stones less than 50mm;

Natural strata (102) consisting of light brownish yellow, fairly firm clay with frequent sub-angular chalk fragments less than 50mm.

4.2 Archaeology

The archaeology encountered consisted of four ditches, GN[145], GN[144], GN[114] and [164]; three gullies, GN[128], [115] and [155]; seven pits, [111], [129], [138], [147], [150], [169] and [172]; flint surface [107], a possible pit [126] and two shallow discrete features that were possible pits or tree throws, [153] and [160]. A continuation of gully GN[128] was also found in soakaway 1.

All archaeological features are presented in Fig. 5, including features found during the initial evaluation.

Appendix 1 has the full context descriptions and Appendix 4 is the specialists reports for pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and environmental sampling. The environmental report includes the results for both this project and the previous evaluation.

Ditches

Ditch Group [145] was situated at the southern end of the site. Three slots were initially excavated slot [103] filled by (159) and (161), slot [131] filled by (132), and slot [165] filled by (174, 166, 175 and 167). The ditch was orientated east-northeast-west-southwest, the east-northeast end continued beyond the limit of excavation, whilst at the west-southwest end a terminus was excavated. The ditch had concave sides with a flat base and had been backfilled. Towards the west-southwest end of the ditch its primary fill (161)/(132) contained pottery sherds dating from c.900-1100, and 12th – 13th century and some animal bone. The secondary fill (159) contained a silver coin of Aethelred II 978-1016, more 12th -13th century pottery, daub and animal bone. Also, in this area a tertiary fill (104) was observed that contained residual Romano-British pottery and animal bone. The slot excavated at the east-northeast



end of the ditch [165] included a naturally silted channel (174) at its base that may have been for drainage, whilst the upper fills in this slot were backfilled (166, 175 and 167) (Figs. 6, 7, 8; Plates 5-6).

Due to the presence of the silver coin, this ditch was then 100% excavated revealing a further ditch [164]. Over all Ditch GN[145] was cut by ditch GN[114] at the east-northeast end, whilst at the west-southwest the ditch cut ditch [164] and was cut by rooting GN[146].

Ditch [164] was revealed during the 100% excavation of ditch GN[145]. It was located in the centre and towards the western end of ditch GN[145]. It was orientated ENE-WSW, it measured 4m in length with a terminus at either end. It was directly underlying and cut by ditch GN[145]. It had steep sloping sides to the north and south, whilst at the east-northeast and west-southwest ends, the sides stepped down to a U-shaped base. It was backfilled with (162) and (163). Primary fill (163) contained no finds, whilst secondary fill (162) contained fragments of St Neots Ware dating from c.AD1000-1200, animal bone and fragments of pumice stone (Figs. 6 & 7; Plate 9).

Ditch Group [114] was found towards the east part of the area. Three slots were excavated slot [108] filled by (109) and (110); slot [121] filled by (122) and (123) and slot [133] filled by (134). The ditch was orientated north-northeast-south-southwest, and extended beyond the limit of excavation at both ends. It had steep sides and a U-shaped base. The basal fill (110)/(123) contained fragments of Saxo-Norman St Neots Ware, 12th-13th century Sandy-shelly Ware, Shelly Coarseware dating between AD1100-1400 and daub (123). The secondary fill (109)/(122)/(134) contained St Neots Ware T1(2), animal bone (109), Sandy-shelly Ware) and daub. Towards the SSW end of the ditch it cut ditch GN[145], whilst at the north-northeast ditch GN[114] was cut by gully GN[128]. The ditch also cut pit [111] (Figs. 6 & 7; Plates 10, 12-13 & 17).

The ditch extended into Trenches 1 and 2 where it had been numbered [111] and [209] respectively during the evaluation. In Trench 2 it was found to be cutting pit [203] and gully group [222].

Ditch Group [144] was located in the SW corner of the area, orientated east-northeast-west-southwest, terminated at the east-northeast end and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the west-southwest. The full profile was not visible as the feature extended beyond the limit of excavation along its southern side, but it appeared to have concave sides and a broad U-shaped base. It had been backfilled; basal fill (141) contained residual Iron Age pottery fragments and Shelly Coarseware, dating from AD1100-1400, along with pieces of daub. The secondary fill (142) contained fragments of St Neots Ware T1(2). The tertiary fill (119)/(143) contained residual Iron Age pottery, animal bone and slag (143). The ditch cut pits [138] and [169], and was partly overlaid by flint surface [107] (Fig. 10; Plate 19).

This ditch was also originally found during the evaluation in Trench 2, where it was recorded as a pit [219].

Gullies

Gully [115] was located towards the southwest corner of the area. It was orientated north-northwest-south-southeast and had a very shallow profile with less than 45-degree sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (116) with no finds. As the gully was cut by ditch GN[144] and by rooting GN[146], only a small section was seen (Fig. 10; Plate 14).



Gully Group [128] was situated at the northern end of the area and was also found in Soakaway 1. Three slots were excavated in the feature, slot [135] filled by (136); slot [124] filled by (125); and slot [157] filled by (158). The gully was orientated ENE-WSW, and had steep sloping sides and a U-shaped base. It contained a naturally silted fill containing St Neots Ware c.AD1000-1200, 10th -12th century Thetford Ware, 16th-19th century Glazed Red Earthenware, post-medieval tile, animal bone and a nail (136). The gully cut ditch GN[114] (Fig. 9; Plate 15).

This gully was also originally exposed during the evaluation in Trench 1, where it was numbered as [105]. At that time the gully was thought to have been cut by ditch GN[114] but further investigation has found that it cuts ditch GN[114].

Gully [155] was only partly exposed along the western side of the area. As it extended beyond the limit of excavation the full shape in plan and profile could not be recorded. It was orientated NNW-SSE and had steep sides. It contained a naturally silted fill (156) with no finds (Fig. 9; Plate 16).

Pits

Pit [111] was found towards the south-eastern side of the area and was cut by ditch slot [108] part of ditch GN[114]. As a result, the pit's full shape in plan was not visible. Nonetheless, it did appear to be sub-circular in plan with sheer sides and a U-shaped base and contained two fills (113) and (112), with no finds (Fig. 7-8; Plate 17).

Pit [129] was found towards the southern side of the area. As it was cut by ditch GN[145] and ditch GN[114], the full shape in plan and profile were not visible. However, it appeared to be sub-rectangular with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a primary slumped fill (149) with no finds. Overlying this was a secondary naturally silted fill (130) that contained St Neots Ware T1(2) pottery, c.AD1000-1400 (Fig. 7-8; Plate 18).

Pit [138] was found towards the SW corner of the area, and was cut by ditch GN[144]. It appeared to be oval in plan with steep sides and a U-shaped base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (139) with no finds (Fig. 9; Plate 19).

Pit [147] was situated in the central part of the area. It was sub-circular in plan with less than 45-degree angled sides at the top that stepped down to steep sides with a flat base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (148) containing St Neots Ware, c.AD900-1100 pottery and animal bone (Fig. 11; Plate 20).

Pit [150] was situated at the SW corner of the area, and was found underlying flint surface [107], and partly underlying rooting GN[146]. It extended beyond the limit of excavation but appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides, a U-shaped base and orientated ENE-WSW. It had been backfilled (151) with no finds (Fig. 10-11; Plate 21).

Pit [169] was also found towards the SW corner of the area. It extended beyond the limit of excavation and was also cut by ditch GN[144], therefore its full shape in plan and profile were not fully visible. What was exposed was oval in plan with steep sides and a flat base and had two layers of backfill (170) and (171). Basal fill (170) contained one fragment of Shelly Coarseware, dating from AD1100-1400 and animal teeth. Fill (171) contained no finds (Fig. 10; Plate 22).



Pit [172] was found at the base of and was cut by ditch GN[145]. It was orientated east-northeast-west-southwest, and was sub-rectangular in plan with very shallow steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single deliberately deposited fill (173) with a single sherd of St Neots Ware T1(2), c.AD1000-1200 (Fig. 7, 11; Plate 23).

Flint Surface

Flint Surface [107] was found in the SW corner of the area that extended beyond the limit of excavation. It consisted of rough flint nodules with no bonding material in a matrix of mid-dark greyish brown, soft silty clay, overlying the natural strata. The nodules were up to 0.22m long, 0.15m wide and 0.08m deep. The surface contained post-medieval brick (100mm wide, 60mm deep – $3^{15/16} \times 2^{3/8}$ inches), tile and animal bone. It overlay pit [150], rooting GN[146] and ditch GN[144] (Fig. 10; Plate 24).

Other

Situated along the eastern side of the excavation area were three discrete features of shallow depth that may have been pits or trees.

Pos. Pit/Tree [126] was found towards the NE end of the area. It was very shallow, but due to its sub-rectangular shape was less likely to be a tree but may have been a truncated pit. It was orientated north-south, had less than 45-degree sides and an irregular base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (127) with finds of residual Romano-British pottery, St Neots Ware, c.AD900-1100 and flint (Fig. 11; Plate 25).

Pos. Pit/Tree [153] was located immediately south of pit [147]. It was semi-circular with very shallow, less than 45-degree sides and a flat base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (154). A fragment of post-medieval clay pipe stem was recovered from this fill (Fig. 11; Plate 26).

Pos. Pit/Tree [160] was found towards the SE corner of the area. It was sub-circular with shallow concave sides and U-shaped base. It had a single naturally silted fill (176) with no finds (Fig. 11; Plate 27).

Rooting Group [146] was found in the southwest corner of the area. Two slots were excavated as it was initially thought to have been a gully; slot [105] filled by (106); and slot [117] filled by (118). The feature was roughly linear but with irregularity due to heavy rooting in this part of the site. It was orientated ENE-WSW and terminated at both ends. It cut ditch GN[145] and gully [115] to the ENE, and overlay pit [150] to the WSW. The profile showed some regularity and had less than 45-degree sides with a U-shaped base, but again there were areas of irregularity due to rooting. It contained a single fill (106)/(118) with no finds. Due to such irregularity and its length this feature could have been a hedge line rather than a gully (Fig. 10; Plate 28).

4.3 **Artefacts and Environmental**

The coin found in ditch GN[145] has been described by the Portable Antiquities as *an early-medieval silver penny of Aethelred II (978-1016), First Hand type (979-985); North 766, mint: Cambridge (GRANT), moneyer: Wilmund (PILMVND)* (ID BH-C48D20). This coin is the first of its type to have been found in Hertfordshire (Plate 13-14).

The pottery recovered from the excavation was a mixture of Iron Age, Romano-British, Late Anglo-Saxon and later. The majority of the pottery recovered indicated that the main period of post-Roman activity was from the late Saxon period to the 12th century. By which time



activity had ceased as there was no evidence for the usually commonly found Hertfordshire Greyware, which came into production in the mid-late 12th century. The types of vessels found consisted entirely of unglazed jar and bowl fragments.

A small assemblage of brick, tile and fired daub was also found. The brick and tile were all largely worn and likely redeposited. The daub recovered derived from contexts with 11th or 12th century pottery and was thought to have been of a similar date. The highest concentration of daub derived from (159) fill of Ditch GN[145], the daub recovered here appeared to be structural.

The animal bone assemblage derived from three main periods on the site. Late Anglo-Saxon pits [126] and [147] consisted of horse, cattle, sheep/goat remains, and indeterminate bird and mammal. Evidence of human gnawing was also found. Medieval 11th-12th century pits [169] and [172] and ditches GN [114, 144 and 145]; the pits contained remains of cattle, pig, indeterminate bird and mammal, whilst the ditches contained horse, cattle, sheep/goat. Butchery marks were identified on cattle bones from GN[114 and 145] indicative of dismembering. Post-medieval flint surface [107] and drainage gully GN[128]; the gully contained small or large mammal, whilst the flint surface contained horse, cattle and sheep/goat. The cattle remains from this context also had butchery marks indicative of skinning and filleting, also gnawing was also noted which may have derived from sheep. The animal bone recovered indicates the disposal of domestic refuse in convenient places, i.e. pits, ditches, etc. The animals were likely exploited for a range of uses and products e.g. traction, meat, milk, wool, leather, etc, with the predominance of cattle being recovered likely indicating that beef was a primary resource.

The environmental analysis of charred plant microfossils, incorporated both the initial evaluation and this phase of the works. Cereal grains were common; wheat ('bread wheat') and barley. However, there was an absence of chaff possibly indicating that the early stages of cereal processing may have taken place elsewhere. A small number of oat grains, legume fragments with peas, charred grass seeds and weeds, a small quantity of charred hazel nutshell fragments and wild cherry. Coprolite fragments, fly pupae and snail shells were also found, and wood charcoal was present in all of the samples. Uncharred seeds were also recovered as a result of modern intrusion. The material identified certainly does indicate that agricultural, horticultural and domestic activities were taking place in the vicinity. The cereal grains, legumes, fruits, nuts and wood charcoal remains, along with animal bone found certainly suggests food preparation and the evidence of coprolite remains also suggests general domestic waste, deliberately disposed of within the backfill of the archaeological features.

4.4 ***Phasing***

Chronological phasing has been established for the archaeology found on the site (including features found during the initial evaluation) by referring to stratigraphic relationships and dating. The phases are described as follows and presented in Fig. 11:

Phase 1

The earliest features on the site are pit [147] and possible pit/tree [126], which are thought to have been rubbish pits. Both contained late Anglo-Saxon pottery and residual Romano-British pottery was found in pos.Pit/Tree [126].

Phase 2



The features that fall within this category include ditch [164], pits [172] and [129], dating to the 11th-12th century. All three features were cut by ditch GN[145].

Ditch [164] followed the same alignment as ditch GN[145], and was only 4m long. It was backfilled in the 12th century.

The pottery evidence suggests that two pits had also fallen into disuse by this time.

This phase also includes pit [203], found during the initial evaluation. This pit contained 11th century St Neots Ware pottery and was cut by ditch GN[114].

Phase 3

The most significant feature in this phase is ditch GN[145], thought to represent a boundary that was backfilled. Finds from this ditch included residual Romano-British pottery, 11th -12th century pottery, daub and a silver coin of Aethelred II 978-1016 AD, minted in Cambridge.

Two discrete rubbish pits [138] and [169] may also fit Phase 3. Both were cut by ditch GN[144] and pit [169] contained 12th pottery fragments. A small gully [115] was also found in close proximity to pit [138] and [169] that contained no finds but was cut by ditch GN[144] and is therefore likely to have been medieval. Pit [150], which had no finds but was found underlying post-medieval flint surface [107] and can be assigned to the medieval period also. Although no datable material was recovered from rubbish pit [111], the stratigraphic relationship with ditch GN[114] indicates its medieval date.

Phase 4

Phase 4 consists of ditch GN[144], this feature also represents a boundary that had been backfilled. Finds from this ditch included residual Iron Age and 11th - 12th century pottery, along with daub and slag.

Phase 5

Two gullies excavated during the initial evaluation have been grouped into this phase, GN[222] and [217]. Despite these features containing no finds gully [217] was cut by GN[222], and GN[222] was cut by 11th-12th century ditch GN[114].

Phase 6

Phase 6 comprises a single feature; boundary ditch GN[114]. This cut ditch GN[145] and was backfilled in the 11th/12th century.

Phase 7

This encompasses the post-medieval period features that includes a very rough flint surface [107] containing post-medieval brick and tile. This most likely represents a yard when Elm House was still a working farm. A further post-medieval feature was gully GN[128] that was found both in the strip, map and sample area and in Soakaway 2. This gully clearly cut through ditch GN[114] and contained residual medieval pottery along with 17th century pottery and post-medieval tile, and was likely used for land drainage.

Unphased/Undated

A few discrete undated features were also found that could not be ascribed a date; these include gully [155], which was probably a land drain, and features [153] and [160] that were either shallow pits or tree throws.



Plate 1: Strip, Map and Sample area, looking SW (1m scale)



Plate 2: Strip, Map and Sample area, stratigraphy, looking WNW (2x1m scale)



Plate 3: Final access road, looking W (1m scale)



Plate 4: Hedgerow, looking E (2m scale)



Plate 5: Ditch GN[145], mid-ex, looking ENE (2x1m scale)



Plate 6: Ditch GN[145] cutting ditch [164], looking ENE (1m scale)



Plate 7: Silver coin of Aethelred II 978-1016 AD, found in ditch slot [103](159) of ditch GN[145] (3cm scale)



Plate 8: Silver coin of Aethelred II 978-1016 AD, found in ditch slot [103](159) of ditch GN[145], hand of god depicted (3cm scale)



Plate 9: Ditch [164], underlying ditch GN[145], looking SE (1m scale)



Plate 10: Ditch GN[114], looking SSW (2x1m scale)



Plate 11: Ditch [164], underlying ditch GN[145], looking SE (1m scale)



Plate 12: Ditch GN[114], looking SSW (2x1m scale)



Plate 13: Ditch GN[144], looking WSW (2x1m scale)



Plate 14: Gully [115], shown here cut by ditch GN[144] to the right and rooting GN[146] to the left, looking ENE (1m scale)



Plate 15: Gully GN[128], cutting ditch GN[114], looking ENE (2x1m scale)



Plate 16: Gully [155], looking NNW (200mm scale)



Plate 17: Pit [111], cut by ditch slot [108] part of ditch GN[114], looking SSE (1m scale)



Plate 18: Pit [129] cut by ditch [114] slot [133], looking ENE (1m scale)



Plate 19: Pit [138] cut by ditch [144] slot [140], looking WSW (1m scale)



Plate 20: Pit [147], looking NE (1m scale)

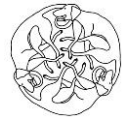


Plate 21: Pit [150], looking WSW (1m scale)



Plate 22: Pit [169], cut by ditch [144], looking ENE (1m scale)



Plate 23: Pit [172], truncated by ditch GN[145], looking ENE (200mm scale)



Plate 24: Flint surface [107], looking NNW (1m scale)



Plate 25: Pos. Pit/Tree [126], looking S (1m scale)



Plate 26: Pos. Pit/Tree [153], looking NNW (1m scale)



Plate 27: Pos. Pit/Tree [160], looking NE (500mm scale)



Plate 28: Rooting GN[146], looking WSW (1m scale)



Figure 5: All features plan (scale 1:250)

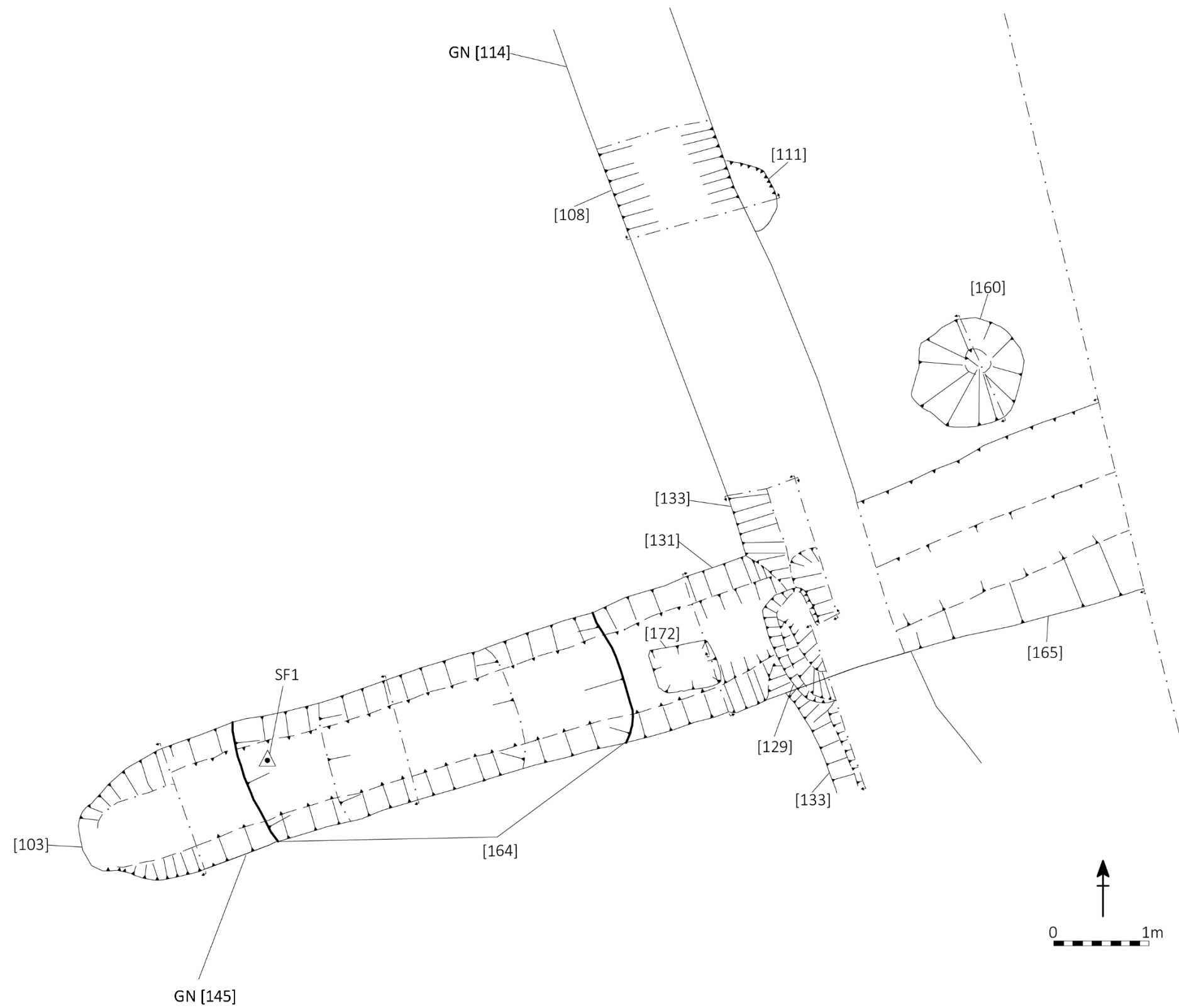


Figure 6: Feature plans (scale 1:50)

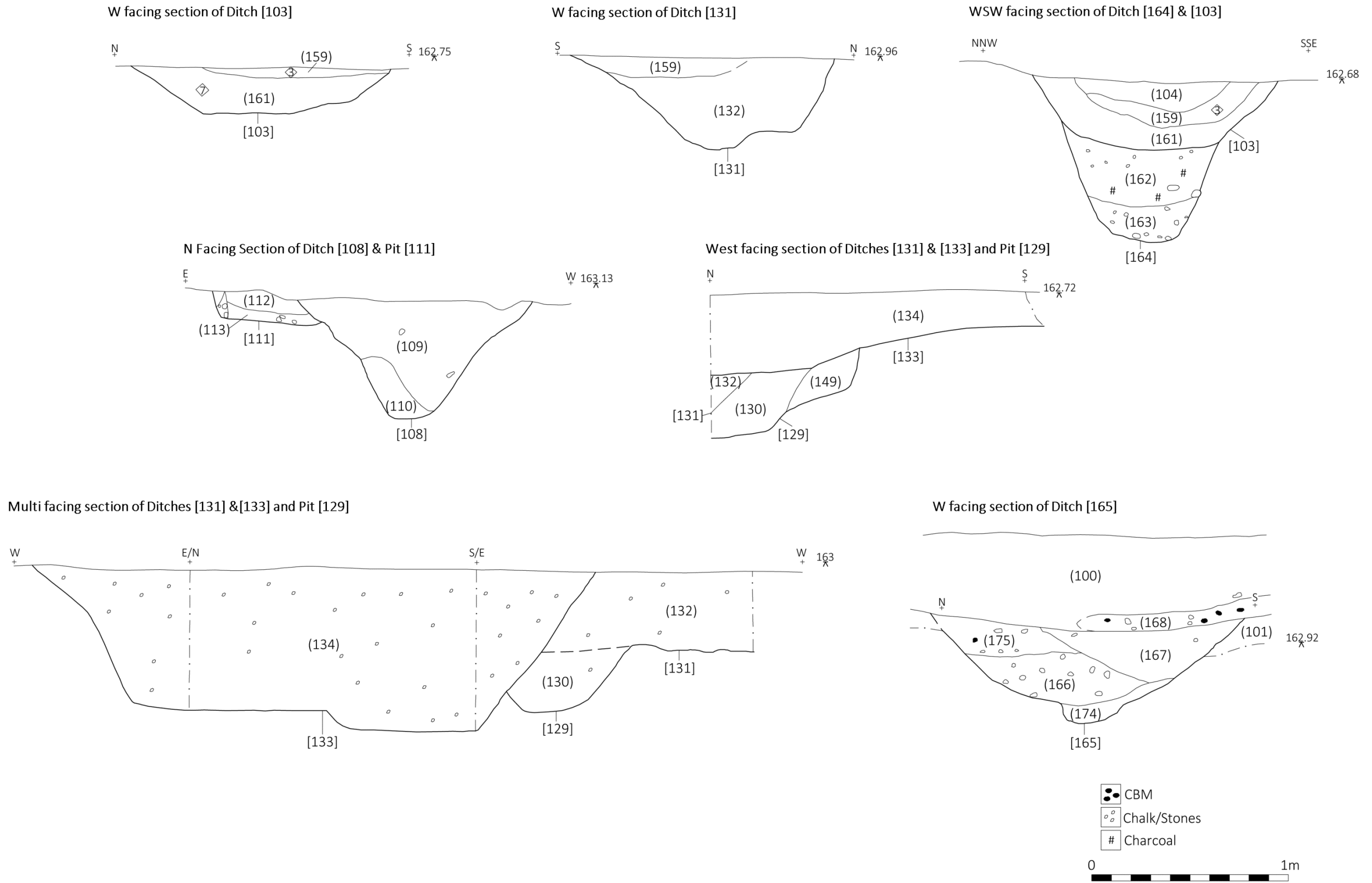


Figure 7: Feature sections (scale 1:20)

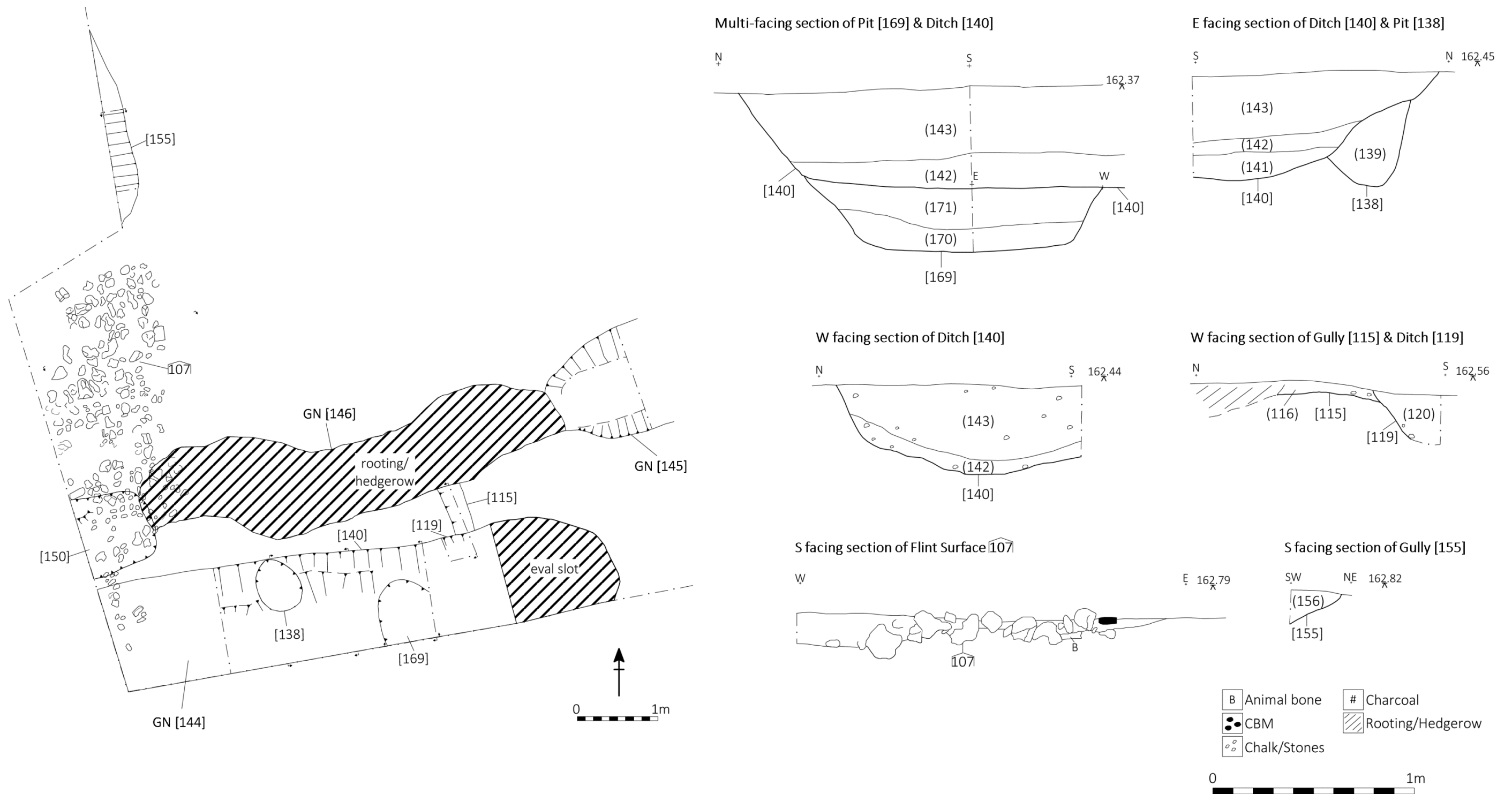


Figure 8: Plans and sections (scale: plans 1:50, sections 1:20)

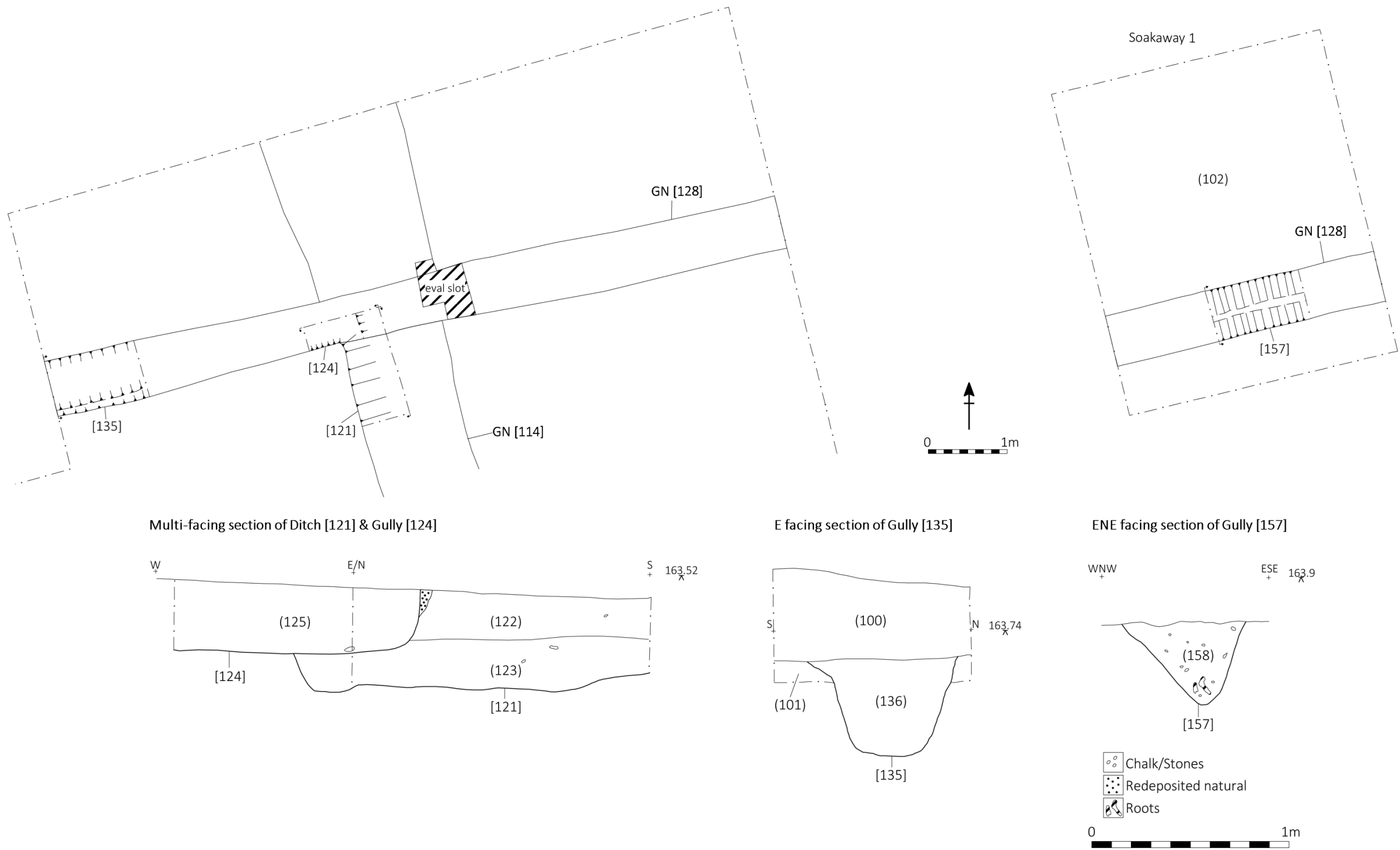


Figure 9: Plans and sections (scale: plans 1:50, sections 1:20)

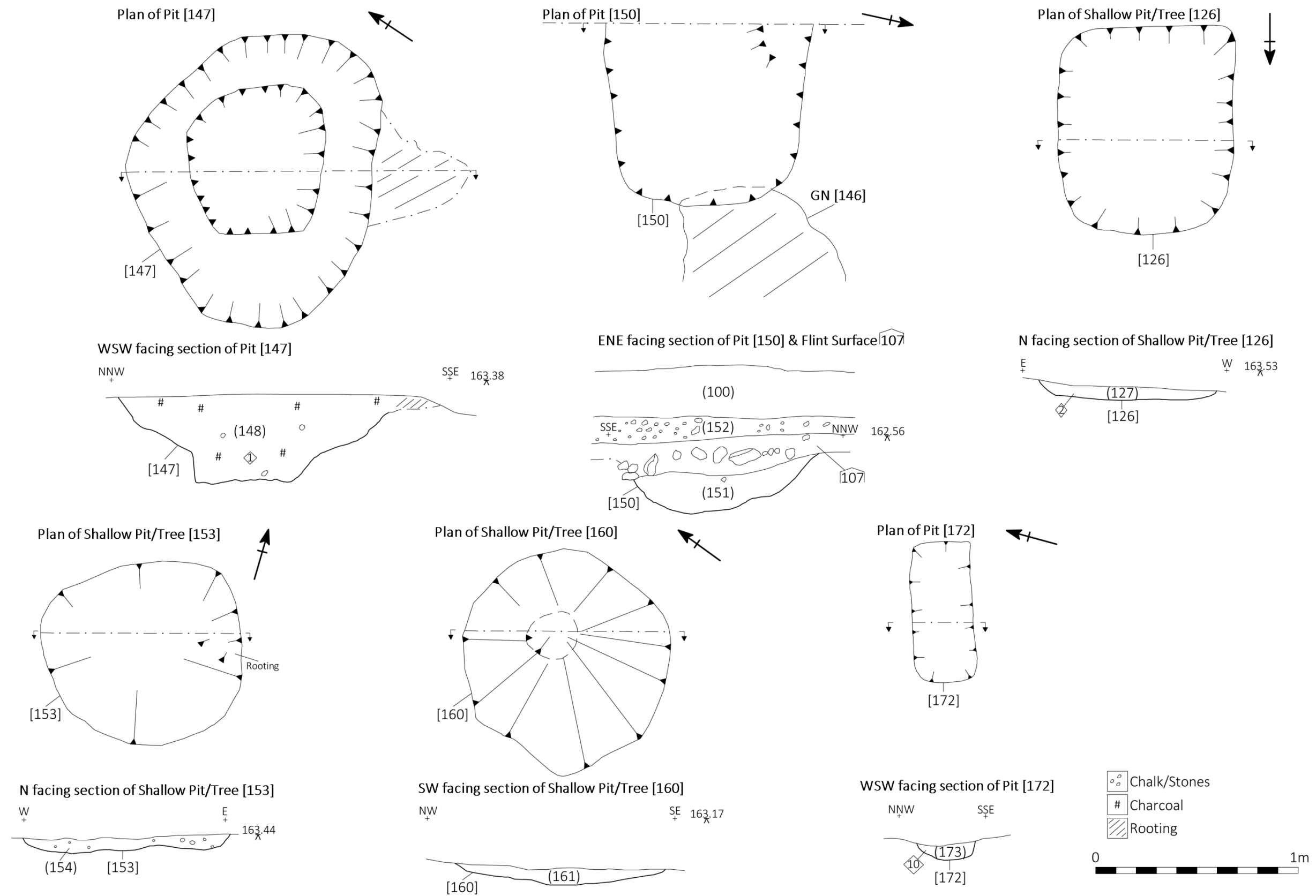


Figure 10: Plans and sections (scale: plans 1:50, sections 1:20)



Figure 11: Phase plan (scale 1:250)



5 Conclusions

The initial research aims of the project were centred around understanding the chronology and function of identified features within the surrounding contemporary landscape and determining local environmental conditions. Each of these aims have been achieved to some extent throughout the project.

The works have demonstrated that hints of Iron Age and Romano-British activity exist within the site's vicinity, although no archaeological features were found from these periods, residual pottery was identified.

The phasing established for the archaeology indicate that the earliest occupation evidence dates from the late Anglo-Saxon period (9th-11th century), in the form of domestic pits. This appears to be in keeping with the known history of the area with an earlier Saxon presence more in the wider landscape, which may have become more centred by the late Saxon period. This is highlighted in the Domesday Survey of 1066 mentioning the presence of a priest in the village possibly suggesting that there may have been a church established in Therfield fairly early and as such more settled occupation. Such settled occupation has also been found on the site of the motte and bailey castle, south of the development, here a Saxo-Norman settlement has been excavated, that was abandoned prior to the castle's construction dating to the 12th century.

Medieval activity dating between the 11th-12th century formed the main occupation period for the site in the form of boundary ditches, gullies and pits, suggestive of domestic, agricultural occupation. At this time the Domesday survey shows Therfield to be one of the principle settlements of the area and having one of the largest populations. This further importance is also demonstrated with the motte and bailey castle. Known earthworks in the adjacent field to the north of the development site, comprising ditches, platforms and pits, are thought to have been a remnant of a shrunken village possibly contemporary with the Saxo-Norman remains below the motte and bailey or possibly structures associated with the motte and bailey itself. It is highly probable that the features found during this project are directly associated with such earthworks. Interestingly the pottery recovered from the site indicated that the main period of activity was from the late Saxon period to the 12th century, and by which time activity had ceased as there was no evidence for the commonly found Hertfordshire Greyware, that came into production in the mid-late 12th century. It may be that the settlement had moved nearer to the castle at this time. Further finds from this phase i.e. daub, also suggests structures were within the vicinity, and hints of industrial activity as small quantities of metal working slag were found.

Post-medieval activity was also found on the site in the form of a rough flint surface likely representing a yard when Elm House, an early 16th century timber framed farmhouse with 18th-20th century alterations and additions, was still a working farm, and a gully that was likely used for drainage.

The animal bone recovered from the site as a whole indicated the disposal of domestic refuse in convenient places, i.e. pits, ditches, etc. The animals were likely exploited for a range of uses and products e.g. traction, meat, milk, wool, leather, etc, with the predominance of cattle being recovered likely indicating that beef was a primary resource. The environmental analysis also indicated agricultural, horticultural and domestic activities were taking place in



the vicinity. Food preparation and again general domestic waste deliberately disposed of within the backfill of the features.

Overall the findings indicate well established settlement activity dating from the Saxo-Norman and into the medieval period, along with later evidence for post-medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the excavation.



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The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA, Cameron Kaye, Barney King, Dan Phillips BA and Martin Sycamore BA. The report was written by Carina Summerfield-Hill and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Fieldwork sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Finds
6. Environmental sample residues
7. Client's site plans
8. List of photographs
9. B/W prints and negatives
10. Specialist reports
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with the North Hertfordshire Museum.



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Appendix 1: Fieldwork Registers

Context No.	Type	Dimensions (m)	Description
100	Deposit	D: 0.35	Topsoil: A dark greyish brown, very clayey silt, very friable with occasional sub-angular stones <50mm.
101	Deposit	D: 0.16	Subsoil: A mid orangey brown, fairly silty clay, fairly soft with moderate sub-angular stones <50mm.
102	Deposit	-	Natural geology: light brownish yellow, very clay, fairly firm with frequent sub-angular chalk <50mm.
103	Cut	W: 1.2 L: >1 D: 0.22	Ditch terminus part of ditch GN[145]: situated at the southern end of the strip map, orientated ENE-WSW. It had concave sides with a flat base and was deliberately backfilled with (159) & (161). Cut by rooting GN [146] slot [105].
104	Fill	W: 1.2 L: >1 D: 0.22	Fill of ditch [103] part of GN[145]: deliberate backfilling consisting of mid greyish brown, slightly firm slightly silty clay with moderate sub-angular chalk <50mm and occasional sub-angular stones <20mm with finds of residual Romano-British pottery.
105	Cut	W: 1.2 L: >1.2 D: 0.22	Rooting part of GN[146]: an Irregular shaped terminus of a roughly linear feature. It was orientated ENE-WSW, and had concave sides and an irregular base, and filled by (106). Edges were very uneven and at least two large roots extended into the natural. It was thought to have been a hedge line.
106	Fill	W: 1.2 L: >1.2 D: 0.22	Fill of rooting slot [105] part of GN[146]: dark greyish brown, fairly soft silty clay with moderate sub-angular chalk <20mm, no finds and heavy rooting.
107	Structure	W: >1.8 L: >4.8 D: 0.22	Flint Surface: was found in the SW corner of the area and extended beyond the limit of excavation. It consisted of rough flint nodules with no bonding material in a matrix of mid-dark greyish brown, soft silty clay, overlying the natural strata. The nodules were up to 0.22m long, 0.15m wide and 0.08m deep. The surface contained post-medieval brick and tile and animal bone. It overlay pit [150], rooting GN[146] and ditch GN[144].
108	Cut	W: 1.17 L: >1 D: 0.59	Boundary ditch part of GN[114]: slot excavated towards the central part of the ditch, orientated NNE-SSW. It had steep sides and a U-shaped base and was deliberately backfilled with (109) & (110). The ditch cut pit [111].
109	Fill	W: 1.17 L: >20.0 D: 0.50	Secondary fill of ditch slot [108] part of GN[114]: deliberate backfill consisting of a dark greyish brown, firm silty clay with moderate sub-angular chalk <20mm and occasional rounded stones <10mm with finds of St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200 and animal bone.
110	Fill	W: 0.33 L: >1 D: 0.30	Primary fill of ditch slot [108] part of GN[114]: deliberate backfill consisting of a mixed of mid greyish brown mixed with redeposited natural, soft silty clay with occasional stones <50mm and chalk <50mm, with no finds.
111	Cut	W: 0.47 L: 0.69 D: 0.20	Pit: was found towards the south-eastern side of the area and was cut by ditch slot [108] part of ditch GN[114]. As a result, the pit's full shape in plan was not visible. Nonetheless, it did appear to be sub-circular in plan with sheer sides and a U-shaped base. It contained two fills (113) & (112) with no finds.
112	Fill	W: 0.47 L: 0.69 D: 0.12	Secondary fill of pit [111]: consisting of light greyish white, very firm fairly gravelly chalk with frequent sub-angular chalk <20m and no finds.
113	Fill	W: 0.47 L: 0.69 D: 0.1	Primary fill of pit [111]: consisting of mid brownish black, very firm gravelly chalk with frequent sub-angular chalk <20mm and no finds.
114	Group	W: 1.25 L: >24 D: 0.55	Boundary ditch: found at the east part of the strip map area. Three slots were excavated slot [108] filled by (109) & (110); slot [121] filled by (122) & (123) and slot [133] filled by (134). The ditch was orientated NNE-SSW and extended beyond the limit of excavation at both ends. It had steep sides, a U-shaped base. It was deliberately backfilled and contained finds of Saxo-Norman St Neots Ware, 12 th -13 th century Sandy-shelly Ware, , Shelly Coarseware dating between AD1100-1400 and daub (123); St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200 and animal bone (109); St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200, Sandy-shelly Ware, 12 th -13 th century (122) & (134) and daub (134). Towards the SSW end of the ditch it cut ditch GN [145], whilst at the NNE ditch GN [114] was cut by gully GN[128]. The ditch also cut pit [111].



115	Cut	W: 0.25 L: 0.65 D: 0.06	Drainage Gully: was located towards the SW corner of the strip map area. It was orientated NNW-SSE and had a very shallow profile with <45 degree sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (116) with no finds. As the gully was cut by ditch GN [144] slot [119] and by rooting GN [146] slot [117], only a small section was seen.
116	Fill	W: 0.25 L: - D: 0.06	Fill of gully [115]: naturally silted consisting of mid greyish brown, fairly friable fairly silty clay, with no finds. Fill cut by ditch GN [144] slot [119] and by rooting GN [146] slot [117].
117	Cut	W: 0.90 L: >1 D: 0.15	Rooting part of GN [146]: an irregular roughly linear feature, orientated ENE-WSW. It had <45-degree sides and U-shaped base and filled by (118). Edges were very uneven and heavy rooting in the area. It was thought to have been a hedge line.
118	Fill	W: 0.90 L: >1 D: 0.15	Fill of rooting slot [117] part of GN [146]: dark greyish brown fairly soft fairly silty clay, frequent rooting and no finds.
119	Cut	W: >1.1 L: - D: >0.25m	Boundary ditch part of GN [144]: relationship slot excavated towards the SW corner of the strip map area so the full shape in profile was not established in this slot. The slot did however show that the ditch cut gully [115]. Slot [119] was filled by deliberate backfill (120).
120	Fill	W >0.3 L: >0.3 D: >0.25	Fill of ditch slot [119] part of GN [144]: deliberate backfill consisting of dark greyish brown, fairly soft fairly silty clay with no finds.
121	Cut	W: 1.30 L: >1 D: 0.55	Boundary ditch part of GN [114]: slot excavated towards the northern part of the ditch, orientated NNE-SSW. It had steep sides and a V-shaped base and was deliberately backfilled with (122) & (123). The slot was cut by gully GN [128] slot [124].
122	Fill	W: 1.30 L: >1 D: 0.20	Secondary fill of ditch slot [121] part of GN [114]: deliberate backfill consisting of dark greyish brown firm silty clay and finds of St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200, Sandy-shelly Ware, 12 th -13 th century.
123	Fill	W: >0.5 L: 1 D: 0.55	Primary fill of ditch slot [121] part of GN [114]: deliberate backfill consisting of mixed mid greyish brown and redeposited natural, soft silty clay with occasional stones <50mm and chalk <50mm, and finds of Saxo-Norman St Neots Ware, 12 th -13 th century Sandy-shelly Ware, Shelly Coarseware dating between AD1100-1400 and daub.
124	Cut	W: 0.54 L: >1 D: 0.35	Drainage gully part of GN [128]: slot excavated was a relationship slot with ditch slot [121] part of GN [114]. The gully was orientated ENE-WSW and had steep sloping sides and a flat base and that was naturally silted by fill (125). The gully cuts ditch slot [121] part of GN [114].
125	Fill	W: 0.54 L: >1 D: 0.35	Fill of ditch slot [124] part of GN [128]: naturally silted dark greyish brown, firm silty clay with occasional fragments of chalk <20mm, with no finds.
126	Cut	W: 0.87 L: 1.02 D: 0.07	Pos. Pit/Tree: was found towards the NE end of the area. It was very shallow, but due to its sub-rectangular shape was less likely to be a tree but may have been a truncated pit. It was orientated N-S, had <45-degree sides and an irregular base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (127).
127	Fill	W: 0.87 L: 1.02 D: 0.07	Fill of pos. Pit/Tree [126]: naturally silted dark greyish brown, firm silty clay, with finds of residual Romano-British pottery, St Neots Ware, c.AD900-1100 and flint.
128	Group	W: 0.66 L: >21.18 D: 0.39	Drainage gully: was situated at the northern end of the strip map area and also found in Soakaway 1. Three slots were excavated in the feature, slot [135] filled by (136); slot [124] filled by (125); and slot [157] filled by (158). It was orientated ENE-WSW and had steep sloping sides and a U-shaped base. It contained a naturally silted fill with finds of St Neots Ware, dating from c.AD900-1100, 10 th -12 th century Thetford Ware, 16 th -19 th century Glazed Red Earthenware, post-medieval tile, animal bone and a nail (136). The gully cut ditch GN [114].
129	Cut	W: 0.54 L: 1.24 D: 0.3	Pit: was found towards the southern side of the strip map area. As it was cut by ditch slot [131] part of GN [145] and ditch slot [133] part of GN [114], the full shape in plan and profile were not visible. However, it appeared to be sub-rectangular with steep sides and a flat base. It contained fills (149) & (130).
130	Fill	W: 0.54 L: >1.24 D: 0.3	Secondary fill of pit [129]: naturally silted mid greyish brown, fairly friable silty clay with frequent sub-angular chalk <10mm and occasional sub-angular stones <20mm. St Neots Ware pottery dating from c.AD1000-1200 was found within this context. Fill cut by ditch slot [131] part of GN [145] and ditch slot [133] part of GN [114].



131	Cut	W: 1.5 L: >1 D: 0.5	Ditch part of GN [145]: slot situated towards the ENE end of the ditch at the southern side of the strip map area. It was oriented ENE-WSW and had concave sides with a flat base. It was deliberately backfilled with (132). Slot was cut by ditch GN [114] slot [133], and also cut pit [129].
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132	Fill	W: 1.5 L: >1 D: 0.5	Fill of ditch slot [131] part of GN [145]: deliberate backfill consisting of mid greyish brown, slightly firm slightly silty clay with moderate sub-angular chalk <50mm and occasional sub-angular stones <20mm with finds St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200 pottery. Fill cut by rooting GN [146] slot [105].
133	Cut	W: 1.4 L: >1 D: 0.9	Boundary ditch part of GN [114]: slot excavated towards the southern end of the ditch, orientated NNE-SSW. It had steep sides and a U-shaped base and was deliberately backfilled with (134). Ditch cuts pit [129] and ditch slot [131] part of GN[145].
134	Fill	W: 1.40 L: 22.20 D: 0.90	Fill of ditch slot [133] part of GN [114]: deliberate backfill consisting of consisted of dark greyish brown, firm silty clay with moderate sub-angular chalk <20mm and occasional rounded stones <10mm and finds of St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200, Sandy-shelly Ware, 12 th -13 th century and daub.
135	Cut	W: 0.66 L: >1 D: 0.39	Drainage gully part of GN [128]: slot excavated at the WSW end of the gully in the strip map area. It had steep sloping sides and a U-shaped base and was naturally silted by fill (136).
136	Fill	W: 0.62 L: >8.2 D: 0.39	Fill of gully slot [135] part of GN [128]: naturally silted dark greyish brown, firm silty clay with occasional fragments of chalk <20mm. It contained fragments of pottery St Neots Ware, dating from c.AD900-1100, 10 th -12 th century Thetford Ware, 16 th -19 th century Glazed Red Earthenware, post-medieval tile, animal bone and a nail.
138	Cut	W: 0.4 L: >0.46 D: 0.44	Pit: was found towards the SW corner of the area and was cut by ditch slot [140] part of GN [144]. It appeared to be oval in plan with steep sides and a U-shaped base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (139).
139	Fill	W: 0.4 L: >0.46m D: 0.44m	Fill of pit [138]: naturally silted mottled dark grey brown and brown yellow, malleable clay with moderate chalk <20mm and no finds. Fill cut by ditch slot [140] part of GN [144].
140	Cut	W: >1.27 L:>2.5 D: 0.5	Boundary ditch part of GN [144]: slot excavated towards the SW corner of the strip map area, orientated ENE-WSW. The full profile was not visible as the feature extended beyond the limit of excavation but appeared to have concave sides and a broad U-shaped base. It was deliberately backfilled with (141-143). The slot cut pits [138] & [169].
141	Fill	W: >0.7 L: >0.5 D: 0.14	Primary fill of ditch slot [140] part of GN [144]: deliberate backfill consisting of dark grey brown, fairly firm clay with moderate chalk <20mm and occasional sub-angular stones <20mm and finds of residual Iron Age pottery fragments and Shelly Coarseware, dating from AD1100-1400, along with pieces of daub.
142	Fill	W: >1.15 L: >2.5 D: 0.08	Secondary fill of ditch slot [140] part of GN [144]: deliberate backfill consisting of consisted of mottled dark grey brown and brown orange, firm clay and contained fragments of St Neots Ware, type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200.
143	Fill	W: >1.2 L: >2.5 D: 0.37	Tertiary fill of ditch slot [140] part of GN [144]: deliberate backfill consisting of dark grey brown, fairly firm clay with moderate chalk <20mm and occasional sub-angular stones <20mm. It contained residual Iron Age pottery, animal bone and slag.
144	Group	W: >1.27 L: >6.3 D: 0.5	Boundary ditch: located in the SW corner of the area. Two slots were excavated slot [119] filled by (120), and slot [140] filled by (141-143). The ditch, which was orientated ENE-WSW, terminated at the ENE end and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the WSW. The full profile was not visible as the feature extended beyond the limit of excavation along its southern side but appeared to have concave sides and a broad U-shaped base and had been deliberately backfilled. The ditch cut pits [138] & [169], and at the WSW end of the ditch was partly overlaid by flint surface [107].
145	Group	W: 2 L: >11.5 D: 0.35	Boundary ditch: situated at the southern end of the strip map area. Two slots were initially excavated slot [103] filled by (159) & (104), and slot [131] filled by (132). The ditch was orientated ENE-WSW, the ENE end continued beyond the limit of excavation, whilst at the WSW end a terminus was excavated. The ditch was deliberately backfilled and contained finds of residual Romano-British pottery (104); St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200 pottery (132); silver coin of Aethelred II 978-1016 AD, St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200 pottery, daub and animal bone (159). The ditch was cut by ditch GN [114] at the ENE end, whilst at the WSW the ditch cut ditch [164] and was cut by rooting GN [146]. This ditch was 100% excavated, during which at the ENE slot [165] was recorded and filled by (174, 166, 175 & 167). This slot appeared to have a channel at the ditches base which had not been previously observed. It did not appear to have been a separate cut but formed part of ditch GN [145].



146	Group	W: 0.9 L: >5.3 D: 0.15	Rooting: was found in the SW corner of the area. Two slots were excavated as it was initially thought to have been a gully; slot [105] filled by (106); and slot [117] filled by (118). The feature was roughly linear but with irregularity due to heavy rooting in this part of the site. It was orientated ENE-WSW and terminated at both ends. It cut ditch GN [145] and gully [115] to the ENE and overlay pit [150] to the WSW. The profile showed some regularity and had <45-degree sides with a U-shaped base, but again there were areas of irregularity due to rooting. It contained a single fill (106/118) with no finds. Due to such irregularity and its length this feature could have been a hedge line rather than a gully.
147	Cut	W: 1.2 L: 1.44 D: 0.42	Rubbish pit: was situated in the central part of the area. It sub-circular in plan with <45-degree angled sides at the top that stepped down to steep sides with a flat base and contained a single naturally silted fill (148).
148	Fill	W: 1.2 L: 1.44 D: 0.42	Fill of pit [147]: naturally silted fairly friable mid greyish brown, fairly silty clay, with moderate sub-angular chalk <20mm, occasional sub-angular chalk <50mm and occasional sub-angular charcoal <20mm. It contained St Neots Ware pottery, c.AD900-1100 and animal bone.
149	Fill	W: 0.35 L: >0.35 D: 0.25	Primary fill of pit [129]: slumping episode consisting of mid brown yellow, fairly friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular chalk <10mm and sub-angular stones <20mm and no finds.
150	Cut	W 1 L: >0.90 D: 0.4	Pit: was situated at the SW corner of the area, and was found underlying flint surface [107], and partly underlying rooting GN [146]. It extended beyond the limit of excavation but appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides, a U-shaped base and orientated ENE-WSW. It had been deliberately backfilled by (151) with no finds.
151	Fill	W: 1.00 L: 0.90 D: 0.4	Fill of pit [150]: deliberate backfill consisting of mid greyish brown, fairly soft clay with frequent sub-angular chalk <20mm, and no finds.
152	Deposit	W: - L: >5 D: 0.14	Dumped deposit: observed in the stratigraphy at the S-W corner of the strip, map area. A mixture of mid greyish brown with flecks of light yellowy orange, friable silty gravelly clay with frequent sub-angular stones <50mm, with no finds. Deposit overlying flint surface [107].
153	Cut	W: 1.2 L: 1 D: 0.06	Pos. Pit/Tree: was located immediately south of pit [147]. It was semi-circular with very shallow, <45-degree sides and a flat base, and contained a single naturally silted fill (154). May possibly be the base of a pit but most likely a tree.
154	Cut	W: 1.2 L: 1 D: 0.06	Fill of pos. Pit/Tree [153]: naturally silted mid greyish brown, very soft silty clay with moderate sub-angular chalk <10mm, and a post-medieval clay pipe stem.
155	Cut	W: >0.3 L: >2.4 D: >0.2	Drainage gully: was only partly exposed along the western side of the area. As it extended beyond the limit of excavation the full shape in plan and profile could not be recorded. It was orientated NNW-SSE and had steep sides. It contained a naturally silted fill (156) with no finds
156	Fill	W: >0.3 L: >2.4 D: >0.2	Fill of gully [155]: naturally silted dark greyish black, very firm loamy clay with no finds.
157	Cut	W: 0.62 L: >1 D: 0.42	Drainage gully part of GN [128]: slot excavated in Soakaway 1. The gully was orientated ENE-WSW and had steep sloping sides and a flat base and that was naturally silted by fill (158).
158	Fill	W: 0.62 L: >1 D: 0.42	Fill of gully slot [156] part of GN [128]: naturally silted dark greyish brown, firm silty clay with occasional fragments of chalk <20mm, with no finds.
159	Fill	W: 1.0 L: >1.0 D: 0.12	Fill of ditch slot [103] part of GN [145]: deliberately backfilled consisting of dark greyish brown, very soft clay with moderate sub-angular chalk <20mm and occasional pieces of charcoal <5mm with finds of a silver coin of Aethelred II 978-1016 AD (SF1), St Neots Ware type T1(2), c.AD1000-1200 pottery, daub and animal bone.
160	Cut	W: 1.0 L: 1.1 D: 0.08	Pos. Pit/Tree: was found towards the SE corner of the area. It was sub-circular with shallow concave sides and U-shaped base. It had a single naturally silted fill (176) and was likely associated with tree activity.
161	Fill	W: 1.2 L: >7.0 D: 0.30	Fill of ditch [103] part of GN [145]: deliberately backfilled consisting of dark greyish brown, very friable clayey silt with occasional sub-angular stones <50mm. It contained finds of St Neots Ware, c. AD900-1100, Sandy-shelly Ware, 12 th – 13 th century and animal bone.



162	Fill	W: 1.56 L: 4.0 D: 0.6	Secondary fill of ditch [164]: deliberate backfill consisting of mid brown, soft/malleable clay with moderate sub-rounded chalk <20mm, moderate sub-angular chalk <20mm and occasional flecks of charcoal. It contained finds of St Neots Ware dating from c.AD1000-1200, animal bone and fragments of pumice stone. Fill cut by ditch GN [145].
163	Fill	W: 1.06 L: 4.0 D: 0.36	Primary fill of ditch [164]: deliberate backfill consisting of mottled light brown with flecks of brownish yellow, soft/malleable clay with frequent sub-rounded chalk <50mm and frequent sub-angular chalk <50mm and no finds.
164	Fill	W: 1.6 L: 4.0 D: 0.7	Ditch: found towards the southern side of the strip map area. It was orientated ENE-WSW and was directly underlying and cut by ditch GN[145]. It had steep sloping sides to the north and south. At the ENE and WSW ends, the sides stepped down to a U-shaped base. It was deliberately backfilled with (162) & (163).
165	Cut	W:1.6 L: >1.0 D: 0.57	Boundary ditch part of GN[145]: slot excavated at the ENE end of the ditch, orientated ENE-WSW. It had concave sides with a shallow channel at the base. The channel was not thought to have been a separate cut but formed part of the ditch and was naturally silted by (174), whilst the upper fills of the ditch were deliberately backfilled (166, 175 & 167).
166	Fill	W: 0.95 L: >1.0 D: 0.25	Secondary fill of ditch slot [165] part of GN [145]: deliberate backfill consisting of mid greyish brown, friable slightly silty clay, containing animal bone.
167	Fill	W: 1.0 L: >1.0 D: 0.30	Quaternary fill of ditch slot [165] part of GN [145]: deliberate backfill consisting of dark greyish brown, soft slightly silty clay, with no finds.
168	Deposit	W: - L: 1.2 D: 0.08	Dumped deposit: found along the eastern side of the area towards the SE corner. It consists of a mixture of grey brown and light yellowish brown, slightly silty clay, fairly soft with frequent sub-angular stones <50mm and frequent sub-angular chalk <50mm with finds of daub. This deposit was overlying ditch GN [145], slot [165].
169	Cut	W: >0.7 L: >0.7 D: 0.32	Rubbish pit: was also found towards the SW corner of the area. It extended beyond the limit of excavation and was also cut by ditch slot [140] part of GN[144], therefore its full shape in plan and profile were not fully visible. It was deliberately backfilled by (170) & (171).
170	Fill	W: >0.65 L: >0.7 D: 0.15	Primary fill of pit [169]: deliberately backfilled mottled light grey with flecks of orange brown, soft clay with frequent sub-angular chalk <20mm, one fragment of Shelly Coarseware, dating from AD1100-1400 and animal teeth.
171	Fill	W: >0.8 L: >0.7 D: 0.2	Secondary fill of pit [169]: deliberately backfilled mid greyish brown, soft clay, with moderate sub-angular chalk <50mm and no finds.
172	Cut	W: 0.3 L: 0.7 D: 0.07	Rubbish pit: was found at the base of and was cut by ditch GN [145]. It was orientated ENE-WSW, and was sub-rectangular in plan with very shallow steep sides and a flat base. It was deliberately backfilled by (173).
173	Fill	W: 0.3 L: 0.7 D: 0.07	Fill of pit [172]: deliberately backfilled light greyish brown, slightly silty clay, fairly soft with occasional sub-angular chalk <10mm and a single sherd of St Neots Ware dating from c.AD1000-1200.
174	Fill	W: 0.65 L: >1.0 D: 0.10	Primary fill of ditch slot [165] part of GN [145]: naturally silted fill of channel found at the base of the ditch, consisting of light orangey brown soft fairly silty clay, with no finds.
175	Fill	W: 0.75 L: >1.0 D: 0.2	Tertiary fill of ditch slot [165] part of GN [145]: deliberate backfill consisting of light-mid greyish brown, fairly silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular chalk <20mm, and no finds.
176	Fill	W: 1.0 L: 1.1 D: 0.08	Fill of pos. Pit/Tree [160]: dark greyish brown, very friable clayey silt with occasional sub-angular stones <50mm and no finds



Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
2	4	1:20	Plan of [103] & [105]
3	6	1:20	Plan of ditch [108] and pit [111]
1	7	1:20	Plan of flint surface [107]
1	10	1:20	Plan of gully [115] [117] and Ditch [119]
3	13	1:20	Plan of linear [121] and [124]
3	15	1:20	Plan of pit [126]
3	17	1:20	Plan of gully [135]
1	19	1:20	Plan of pit [147]
2	21	1:20	Plan of gully [135]
4	25	1:20	Plan of relationship of [129] [13] [133]
1	28	1:20	Plan of ditch [140]
5	32	1:20	Plan of pit [150]
5	34	1:10	Plan of gully [155]
5	36	1:20	Plan of soakaway 1 and section of [157]
4	38	1:20	Plan of shallow pit
4	40	1:20	Plan of pit [153]
3	42	1:20	Plan of ditch [108] pit [111]
6	45	1:10	Plan of ditch [140] & pit [169]
7	47	1:50	Plan of ditch group 145 100% excavation
7	49	1:10	Plan of rec. feature [172]
8	50	1:20	Plan of hedgerow in final driveway

Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
2	1	1:10	Profile through ditch terminus [103] & pit/tree bowl [105]
2	2	1:10	East facing section of pit/tree bowl [105]
2	3	1:10	West facing section of ditch [103]
3	5	1:10	North facing section of ditch [108] and pit [111]
1	8	1:10	West facing section of gully [115] [117] ditch [119]
1	9	1:10	East facing section of gully [117]
3	11	1.10	Relationship slot section [129] [131] [133]
3	12	1:10	Relationship slot section, linear [121] and [124]
3	14	1:10	North facing section of pit [126]
3	16	1:10	East facing section of gully [135]
1	18	1:10	West-south-west section of pit [147]
2	20	1:10	West facing section of gully [135]
3	22	1:10	West facing section of ditch [131]
2	24	1:10	West facing section of ditches [129] & [133]
1	26	1:10	West facing section ditch [140]
1	27	1:10	East facing section of ditch [140]
1	29	1:10	East facing section gully [135]
5	30	1:10	South facing section of flint surface [107]
5	31	1:10	East-north-east facing section of pit [150] & surface [107]
5	33	1:10	South-south-east facing section of gully [155]
5	35	1:10	East-north-east facing section [157]
4	37	1:10	South-west facing section of shallow pit [160]
7	48	1:10	West facing section of rec. feature [172]
6	46	1:10	West facing section of ditch slot [165]



Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
6	43	1:10	West-south-west facing section of ditch [103] & [164]
6	44	1:10	Multi facing section of ditch [140] & pit [169]
3	41	1:10	North facing section of ditch [108]
4	39	1:10	North facing section of pit [153]

Registered Finds

Registered Find No.	Context No.	Material	Description
1	159	Silver	Aethelred II 978-1016ad coin

Sample Register

Site Code	Sample No	Context No	Sample Type	Quantity
Evaluation				
212/TEH	1	102	Bulk – fill of ditch [103]	40 litres
212/TEH	2	104	Bulk – fill of ditch [103]	20 litres
212/TEH	4	205	Bulk – fill of pit [203]	40 litres
212/TEH	4	220	Bulk – fill of pit [219]	40 litres
Strip, Map & Record				
246/TEH	1	148	Bulk – fill of pit [147]	40 litres
246/TEH	2	127	Bulk – fill of pit [126]	40 litres
246/TEH	3	159	Bulk – fill of ditch [103]	40 litres
246/TEH	4	104	Bulk – fill of ditch [103]	40 litres
246/TEH	5	139	Bulk – fill of pit [138]	10 litres
246/TEH	6	123	Bulk – fill of ditch [121]	20 litres
246/TEH	7	161	Bulk – fill of ditch [103]	40 litres
246/TEH	8	162	Bulk – fill of pos. ditch [164]	40 litres
246/TEH	9	130	Bulk –fill of pit [129]	10 litres
246/TEH	10	173	Bulk – fill of rectangular pit [172]	10 litres

Note: samples taken from the initial evaluation 212/TEH have been processed and reporting on within this final report.



Appendix 2: Finds Concordances

Bulk Finds

Context	Pottery		Bone		CBM		Other	
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	Type	No/Wt(g)
100							Clay pipe	1/7
101	1	8						
104	1	10	3	21				
107			27	1130	4*	1437		
109	1	16	9	128				
122	10	61	7	71				
123	3	15			1	2		
127	3	10					Flint	1/5
130	1	42						
132	2	4			2	17		
134	4	68	5	175	2	19	Slag	1/18
136	7	81	4	67	2	105	Nail	1/6
141	7	358			3	12		
142	1	6						
143	8	53	1	77			Slag	1/5
148	13	64	13	153			Stone	1/261
153							Clay pipe	1/3
159	1	13	2	7	36**	758	Silver Coin (SF1) Charcoal Pos. metal catch plate (found on spoil heap but thought to have come from context 159)	1/2 3/3 1/<1
161	6	67	11	358				
162	1	13	2	22	1	1	Pumice	2/38
166			10	119				
168	2	12			4	25		
170	1	2	3	40				
173	1	6						
TOTAL	74	909	97	2368	55	2376		14/348

* includes a brick fragment not retained for the archive

**may be kiln lining



Finds Recovered from Environmental Samples

246/TEH – Strip, Map and Sample

Sample No/Cntxt	Pottery		Bone		CBM		Fe		Stone		Other		
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	Type	No.	Wt (g)
1 (148)	6	12	30+	11					25+	20	Flint	3	4
2 (127)	7	12	30+	30	30+	35					Flint	10	22
3 (159)			12	18					30+	60	Flint	2	25
4 (103)													
4 (104)	6	9	20+	9	15	10	1	<1			H/I Stone	4	12
5 (139)	3	10	1	<1					1	2	Flint	1	<1
6 (123)											Flint	6	3
6 (123)	3	3	8	1	8	24					Marine shell	3	<1
7(161)	5	4	30	9					21	49			
8 (162)	4	5	42	14	11	8					Shell	5	<1
9 (130)			4	<1	7	1			1	<1			
10 (173)			4	<1					3	3			
Totals	34	55	101	92	41	78	1	0	26	134		34	66

212/TEH – Evaluation

Sample No/Cntxt	Pottery		Bone		CBM		Stone		Shell		Other		
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	Type	No.	Wt (g)
1 (102)	7	9	6	3			12	9	2	2	Flint	4	23
2(104)	4	6	5	2			1	1	4	2			
3(205)	1	1	30+	25	30+	54			2	2			
4(220)	6	23	20	13	22	21							
Totals	18	39	61+	43	52+	75	13	10	8	6		4	23



Appendix 3: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 246/TEH			Site Name: Land adj. to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire
Digital	B&W	View	Subject
1	1	NW	Pre- ex of SW corner of strip map area (1m scale)
2	2	N	Pre-ex of W side of strip map area (1m scale)
3	3	N	Pre-ex of E side of strip map area (1m scale)
4	4	NW	Overall pre-ex of strip map area (1m scale)
5	5	W	Pre-ex of S side of strip map area (1m scale)
6	6	W	Pre-ex of N side of strip map area (1m scale)
7	7	S	Overall pre-ex of strip map area (1m scale)
8	8	N	Ditch terminus [103] & pit [105] (1m scale)
9	9	N	Flint surface [107] (1m scale)
10		S	Flint surface 107] (1m scale)
11		N	Flint Surface [107] (1m scale)
12	10	SE	Ditch [108] & pit [111] (1m scale)
13	11	W	Rooting [105] - part of GN [146] (1m scale)
14	12	E	Ditch terminus [103] (1m scale)
15	13	E	Gully [115], ditch [119] & rooting [117] (1m scale)
16	14	W	Rooting [117] - part of GN [146] (1m scale)
17	15	E	Ditch [121] & gully [124] (1m scale)
18	16	N	Ditch [121] & gully [124] (1m scale)
19	17	S	Pit [126] (1m scale)
20		NW	General shot mid-ex of strip map area (2x1m scale)
21		NW	Relationship slot pit [129] and ditches [131] & [133] (2x1m scale)
22		NW	General shot mid-ex of strip map area (2x1m scale)
23	18	S	Relationship slot of pit [129] & ditches [131] [133] (2x1m scale)
24	19	E	Relationship slot of pit [129] & ditches [131] [133] (2x1m scale)
25	20	N	Ditch [133] (1m scale)
26	21	W	Ditch [131] (1m scale)
27	22	W	Ditch GN [144] (2x1m scale)
28	23	E	Ditch [140] (1m scale)
29	24	W	Ditch [140] & pit [138] (1m scale)
30	25	E	Pit [147] (1m scale)
31	26	E	Gully [135] (1m scale)
32		E	Soakaway 1, stratigraphy (1m scale)
33		S	Soakaway 1, gully GN [128] (1m scale)
34	27	W	Ditch [131] (1m scale)
35	28	E	Ditch [133] & pit [129] (1m scale)
36		NE	Relationship slot of pit [129] & ditches [131] [133] (2x1m scale)
37		NW	Relationship slot of pit [129] & ditches [131] [133] (2x1m scale)
38		E	Post-ex of gully GN [128] (2x1m scale)
39	29	ENE	Post-ex of pit [147] (1m scale)
40	30	N	S facing section of flint surface [107] (1m scale)
41	31	WSW	ENE facing section of pit [150] (1m scale)
42	32	N	S facing section of tree/pit [153] (1m scale)
43	33	NNW	SSE facing section of gully [155] (200mm scale)
44	34	WSW	ENE facing section of gully [157] (1m scale)
45	35	W	Soakaway 1, gully [157] (2x1m scale)
46		E	Soakaway 1, stratigraphy (2x1m scale)



47	36	NNW	Post-ex of tree/pit [153] (1m scale)
48	37	W	Post-ex of rooting/hedgerow GN [146]
49	38	E	Post-ex of ditch GN [145] (2x1m scale)
50	39	SSE	Post-ex of GN [114] (2x1m scale)
51	40	E	Pit [160] (500mm scale)
52		S	SF 1 (coin) in situ (200mm scale)
53	41	NE	Post-ex of pit [160] (500mm scale)
54	42	SW	Access road (2x1m scale)
55		W	Strip map area, stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
56	43	S	Soakaway 2 (2x1m scale)
57		E	Soakaway 2, stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
58	44	ENE	Pit [169] & ditch [140] (1m scale)
59	45	W	Ditch [140] (1m scale)
60		SSE	Pit [169] & ditch [140] (1m scale)
61		SW	Ditch [140] (1m scale)
62	46	ESE	Pit [169] & ditch [140] (1m scale)
63	47	ENE	Ditch [164] & [103] (1m scale)
64	48	WSW	Post-ex of ditch GN [145] (1m scale)
65	49	E	Post-ex of ditch GN [145] (1m scale)
66	50	E	Post-ex of ditch GN [145] (1m scale)
67	51	ENE	Post-ex of ditch GN [145] (1m scale)
68	52	ENE	Pit [172] (200mm scale)
69	53	W	Post-ex of ditch [164] & GN [145] (1m scale)
70	54 & 55	E	Ditch [165] (1m scale)
71		NNE	Ditch [165] (1m scale)
72	56	WSW	Post-ex of pit [172] (200mm scale)
73	57	N	Final driveway, hedgerow (2m scale)
74		E	Final driveway, hedgerow (2m scale)
75	58	W	Final driveway (2x1m scale)
76	59	E	Final driveway (2x1m scale)
77		SW	Hedgerow (500mm scale)
78		SSE	Hedgerow (500mm scale)



Appendix 4: Specialist Reports

Pottery and CBM from Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Herts (Site 246/TEH)

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 94 sherds with a total weight of 929g. It consisted of a mixture of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval wares. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Prehistoric

The following fabric types were noted:

F1: Iron Age. Fine, slightly sandy fabric. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 0.1mm, rare iron ore up to 0.2mm, rare flint up to 0.5mm, dense very fine silver mica. 1 sherd, 8g.

F2: Iron Age? Rare to moderate, coarse sand, rare to sparse shell fragments up to 5mm. 9 sherds, 71g

The fabric types of fairly typical of the mid-late Iron Age pottery of the region (eg Partridge 1989, 159). The whole assemblage consisted of fairly small bodysherds which are all the product of secondary deposition.

Romano-British:

The Romano-British pottery was recorded utilising the conventions of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), as follows:

HADRE: Hadham Grey Ware. 1 sherd, 10g.

NVCC: Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware. 1 sherd, 2g.

The sherd of HADRE is from the shoulder of a jar with horizontal cordons, while the small piece of Nene Valley Colour-coat has rouletted decoration. Both types are common finds in the region.

Late Anglo-Saxon and Later

The following fabric types were noted:

F100: St Neots Ware, c. AD900-1100 (Denham 1985). 45 sherds, 179g.

F102: Thetford Ware, 10th – 12th century (Rogerson and Dallas 1984) 2 sherds, 43g.

F200: St. Neots Ware type T1(2), c. AD1000-1200 (Denham 1985). 22 sherds, 193g.

F303: Sandy-shelly Ware, 12th – 13th century (Blackmore and Pearce 2010). 4 sherds, 56g.

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400 (McCarthy 1979). 8 sherds, 339g.

F425: Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century (Brears 1969). 1 sherd, 28g.

The range of fabric types are typical of sites in the region and indicate that the main period of post-Roman activity was from the late Saxon period to the 12th century. The fact that no Hertfordshire Greyware was present suggests activity had ceased by the time that this usually very common ware came into production in the mid-late 12th century (Turner-Rugg 1993).



The range of vessel types is also very typical of the period, consisting entirely of unglazed jar and bowl fragments, including rimsherds from types of vessel. All the sherds of F330 from context 141 are from a single vessel, a wide shallow bowl which is a typical product of the tradition. The assemblage is generally in fairly good condition and appears reliably stratified. The mean sherd weight is fairly low, but this is in part due to the fairly large assemblage of St Neots Ware, which is generally somewhat friable and usually occurs in a highly fragmented state, and also due to the inclusion of pottery from environmental samples, which is usually far smaller than sherds recovered by hand.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	F1		F2		RB		F100		F102		F200		F303		F330		F426		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
101	1	8																	IA
104					1	10	6	10											LSAX
109											1	15							11thC
122											9	44	1	17					12thC
123											1	4	1	5	1	5			12thC
127					1	2	8	12			1	8							11thC
130											1	42							11thC
132											2	4							11thC
134											3	40	1	27					12thC
136							3	10	2	43							1	28	17thC
139			2	11															IA
141			1	8											6	33	2		12thC
142											1	6							11thC
143			6	52															IA
148							18	71											LSAX
159											1	13							11thC
161							5	60					1	7					12thC
162							3	4			1	12							11thC
168							2	12											LSAX
170															1	2			12thC
173											1	5							11thC
Total	1	8	9	71	2	12	45	179	2	43	22	193	4	56	8	339	1	28	

CBM

A small assemblage of brick, fired daub and tile was present. Its occurrence is shown in Table 2

Table 2: CBM occurrence by number and weight (in g) of fragments per context by material type

Context	Brick		Daub		Tile		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
107	1	147			2	167	Post-med
123			1	2			?
132			2	17			?
134			2	19			?
136					2	105	Post-med
141			3	12			?
159			36	678			?
162			1	1			?



168			4	25			?
	1	147	49	754	4	272	

All the daub was in the same fabric, with plentiful chalk fragments up to 10mm. The material from context 159 appears to be structural, with smoothed faces and with impressions noted. None of it can be closely dated on its own, but it all occurs in contexts with 11th or 12th century pottery, and thus is likely to be of a similar date. Certainly, it does not occur in any of the post-medieval contexts.

The brick and tile were all largely worn and likely to be redeposited.



Animal Bone from Land adjacent to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire

Derek Watson, PhD

Introduction

Archaeological evaluation of Land adjacent to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire, generated an animal bone assemblage of 351 fragments (Table 1). The bones were recovered from 19 contexts and were generally well preserved, though the assemblage was highly fragmented. The relative dates obtained from pottery and a silver coin of Aethelred II (978-1016 AD) span the Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Methodology: Taxonomic identification and Quantification

All specimens were identified to species or taxonomic group where possible, using published criteria and quantified by a fragment count (i.e. Number of Identified Specimens/Skeletal Parts, NISP) of 351 specimens. This was reduced to a NISP of 330 by grouping bone fragments from the same element. A total of four species were positively identified in the assemblage: cattle (*Bos taurus*), pig (*Sus scrofa* sp.), horse (*Equus caballus*) and sheep/goat. Differentiation between sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*) was not possible as none of the requisite diagnostic features were preserved in the assemblage. Consequently, sheep/goat will be referred to by the general term 'ovicaprine'. It was also not possible to determine either the species or taxon of any of the bird bone though many were identifiable to element (Table 1). Ribs and vertebrae and unidentifiable specimens were assigned to size classes (very small/small/medium/large). As most elements were not identifiable to species and have been assigned to broad size classes, it is probable that many of the remains in the smaller categories derive from, for example, sheep/goat, while a sizable fraction of those from the Large Mammal class are liable to be the remains of cattle as these formed the majority of the identifiable species.

The Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) was calculated from the greater number of left or right complete bones or epiphyseal ends and/or mandibles with *in situ* teeth. Measurements of the elements were taken in accordance with von den Driesch (1976; Table 2).

Estimation of age-at-death was based on dental eruption and tooth wear of mandibles with *in situ* teeth (Grant 1982; Payne 1973), and the stage of epiphyseal fusion (Habermehl 1975; Silver 1969) for elements identified to species (Table 3). Animal/human gnawing, butchery marks and other forms of modification were also recorded, if present. Unfortunately, none of these remains could be assigned to sex due to the complete lack of suitable skeletal elements.

Results

Late Anglo-Saxon: Pits [126] [147]

Animal bone from these pits (from fills (127, 148)) comprised horse, cattle and ovicaprine remains, indeterminate species of bird and, predominantly, material classified by size (Table 1). A 3rd molar from a cattle mandible from fill (148) provided the age estimate of >3 years old based on tooth wear (Table 2). This context also yielded 3 elements (large mammal, n=2, ovicaprine, n=1) that were probably gnawed by a human due to the size and pattern of the tooth marks. The MNI was probably no more than 1-2 individual animals per context.

Medieval 11th – 12th Centuries: Pits [169] and [172], GN (114, 144 and 145)

Fills (170, 173) from pits [169, 172] yielded the scant remains of cattle, pig, and indeterminate species of bird and mammal (Table 1). The animal bone from ditches GN (114, 144 and 145) comprised the



bulk of the assemblage from the site. Unsurprisingly, this includes the majority of remains identified to species (horse, cattle and ovicaprids), and the broadest range of elements overall (Table 1). Rare butchery marks on cattle bones from GN (114, 145) are indicative of dismembering (i.e. at or near joints). Available age data (Table 2) for these contexts demonstrates that all of these animals were mature individuals. The MNI was probably no more than 1-2 individual animals per context.

Post-Medieval: Flint Surface (107), GN (128)

Gully GN (128) yielded only a few indeterminate specimens of bone that have been classed as either small or large mammal remains (Table 1). Conversely, a high proportion of identifiable remains of horse, cattle and ovicaprids were recovered from flint surface (107) (Table 1). Cattle (metacarpals, phalanx 2) and horse (tibia) remains from this surface also had butchery marks indicative of skinning and filleting: i.e. shallow mid-shaft cuts/scrapes associated with filleting, and deeper cuts around the circumference or merely concentrated at, for example, the distal tibia/metapodials indicate skinning. An unusual pattern of gnawing was also noted on two cattle metacarpals, consisting of incisor tooth marks clustered at the lateral and medial aspects of the elements. These do not resemble rodent gnawing (i.e. tightly spaced with deep striations), rather they are comparatively broad (<7mm) and are similar to examples seen by the author of gnawing by ungulates (often sheep) whereby these usually herbivorous animals gnaw on animal bone to obtain minerals (e.g. calcium). The age data provided by this assemblage also indicates a predominance of mature animals (Table 2). Once again, the MNI was probably no more than 1-2 individual animals per context.

Conclusion

The animal bone assemblage is small though it does enable the formulation of some tentative conclusions concerning human activities and animal husbandry. The archaeological findings indicate well established settlement activity spanning the Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval periods. An earthwork in the adjacent field to the north of the development site, with associated ditches, platforms and pits, may be a remnant of a shrunken village possibly contemporary with the Saxo-Norman settlement remains situated underneath a medieval motte and bailey or possibly structures associated with the motte and bailey. The nearby Elm House dates from the 16th century and surface (107) may have been a yard associated with it when it was still a working farm. All of the contexts from which animal bone was recovered were from fills of ditches, pits and a gully, or were recovered from a flint surface, a pattern suggestive of the disposal of domestic refuse in the most convenient places. The animals represented in the assemblage were probably exploited for a range of uses and products (e.g. traction, meat, milk, wool, leather etc.) though the predominance of cattle remains indicates that beef was probably a primary resource used to feed the labour force that worked the local land.



Table 2: Measurements of the elements from 246/TEH. All measurements are in mm.

Context	Species	Element	Side	GL	Bp	Bd	Dp	Dd	SD	DD	BT	BFp	BFd	GB	DM	GLI	GLM
107	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Metacarpal	R						35.59	24.28							
107	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Metacarpal	L	183	54.81	57.9	32.16		32.45	20.64							
107	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Humerus	R			64.47					64.1						
107	Horse (<i>Equus caballus</i>)	Tibia	R			83.65		53									
107	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Phalanx 1	R	67.02	31.16	32.09	34.67		27.12			30.66	31.29				
107	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Phalanx 1	R	60.05	27.57	25.85	28		24.88								
134	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Tibia	L			59.27											
148	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Astragalus	R			40.23										63.98	57.42
161	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Calcaneus	R											44			
161	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Astragalus	R												38.42	65.73	59.65
161	Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Metatarsus	L		45.8												

Table 3: Age data from 246/THE

Groups	GN(114)	GN(128)	GN(144)	GN(145)			
Contexts	109	134	136	143	161	107	148
Horse (<i>Equus caballus</i>)							
Tibia							
>20-24 Months (Fused)						1	
Max/M2							
>16-24 Months (wear)				1			
Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)							
Humerus							
>12-18 Months (Fused)						1	
Metacarpus							
<2-2.5 years (Unfused)						1	
>2-2.5 years (Fused)						1	
Femur							
<3.5-4 years (Unfused)						1	
Tibia							
>2-2.5 years (Fused)		1					
Metatarsal							
>2.25-3 years (Fused)					1		
Calcaneus							
>3-3.5 years (Fused)					1		
Phalanx 1							
>1.5 years (Fused)						2	
Phalanx 2							
>1.5 years (Fused)						1	
Mand Tooth/M3							
>3 years (wear)	1						1
Large mammal							
Thoracic Vert							
<5 years (Unfused)			1				



Plant macrofossils

Anna West, Suffolk Archaeology CIC

Introduction and Methods

Fourteen bulk samples were taken during the excavation and evaluation, from pits and ditches. The samples were processed in full by Suffolk Archaeology CIC in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological analysis.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any ecofacts or artefacts are recorded in Table 1 & 2.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. The residues were scanned using a magnet to recover any ferrous material present. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

The volumes of flot recovered from the samples varied greatly from 5ml to 200ml, for this report all the flots were scanned in full.

Quantification

For the purpose of this report, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded quantitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

x = rare, xx = moderate, xxx = abundant

Results

The material recovered from the excavation and the evaluation samples were fairly consistent with each other, therefore to save repetition and to allow relevant comparison the results from these two phases of work will be discussed together.

The preservation of the majority of the plant macrofossil remains was through charring and was fair to poor. Many of the cereal grains present were puffed, as though they had been exposed to high temperatures, and many were fragmented and abraded, making identification difficult or impossible.

Wood charcoal was present in all the samples and made up the majority of the material present. The charcoal was often highly comminuted, although a number of the flots contained larger fragments, no attempt at species identification has been made for the purposes of this report.

Cereal grains were common in nearly all the samples, often making up the majority of the material present. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopses were most common and were the rounded grains of a 'bread wheat', no chaff remains were recovered that could assist in a more accurate identification. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) caryopses are also common. Chaff fragments were extremely rare with only two small sections of barley rachis being present in Samples 1 and 2, from ditch 103 212/TEH. The absence of chaff suggests cereal processing was taking place elsewhere and it is possible that cereals were imported on to the site as prime grain, ready for use. A small number of oat (*Avena* sp.) grains were observed within Sample 4, pit 219 212/TEH however, it is not clear whether these are wild or domesticated. Oats were predominantly used as animal feed, although they were used, along with other grains, within pottage and bread. Dredge, a mix of barley and oats grown together was utilised for making ale. The low quantity of oats recovered from these samples, and the lack of diagnostic remains makes it impossible to draw any conclusions as to whether or not these are cultivated or wild oats.



Legume fragments were present in many of the samples with peas (*Pisum sativum* L.) being identified within six samples and legume fragments being observed within ten. Garden peas, broad beans (*Vicia faba* L.) and common vetch (*Vicia sativa* L.) were often of a similar size and shape during the Medieval period, in the absence of any diagnostic elements, such as the hilum or testa, it is often impossible to distinguish between them. These remains most likely represent the production of pulses within the vicinity, either as part of a crop rotation system or as smaller scale garden-type horticulture. Pulses provided an important source of protein both for humans and as animal fodder during the Medieval period, however as they do not require processing with heat in the way cereals do, they are less likely to be exposed to chance preservation through charring and are often under-represented in the archaeological record.

The charred seeds of grasses (Poacea) were common within many of the samples. Segetal weeds were common: stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.) which is generally found on heavier soils and oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam) were abundant, cornflower/knapweed (*Centaurea cyanus* L.), long headed/common poppy (*Papaver dubium/rhoeas* L.), corncockle (*Agrostemma githago* L.) corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense* L.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus* L.), cleavers (*Galium aparine* L.) which is often an indicator of winter sown crops, white ramping-fumitory (*Fumitory capreolata* L.) and common vetch (*Vicia sativa* L.), which was formerly cultivated as a fodder crop (Stace, 1997), were all observed in low numbers. Flowers of grasslands such as bladder campion (*Silene vulgaris* L.), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens* L.) were present in low numbers, although these may also be found on disturbed or arable land. A number of species that could be considered arable weeds or herbs utilised for flavouring or food were also recovered such as: carrot family (Apiaceae), mustard family (Brassicaceae), goosefoots (*Chenopodium* L.). It is difficult to distinguish whether these are cultivated species as their seeds are identical to their wild cousins. Curly dock (*Rumex crispus* L.), knotweed family (Polygonaceae), were present in low numbers. Many of these plants may also have been tolerated within a crop, particularly around the edges, to be utilised as a source of green vegetables, particularly during hard times. A single dyer's greenweed (*Genista tinctorial* L.) seed was tentatively identified, this was used as a yellow dye particularly of woollen fabrics, although no further remains were identified, the stem of greenweed is relatively soft and is more likely to be preserved in waterlogged or anaerobic conditions than through charring. Sedges (*Carex* sp.) and rushes (*Juncus* sp.) were observed in small numbers and may indicate the exploitation of grasslands or damp meadows nearby for domestic materials such as fodder, litter or thatch.

The un-charred seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* L.), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum* L.), red deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum* L.) and violas (*Viola* sp.) were all observed in low numbers or as single specimens, these are all considered to be modern and intrusive within the archaeological contexts sampled.

Charred hazel (*Corylus* sp.) nutshell fragments and wild cherry (*Prunus avium* L.) endocarp fragments were rare within Sample 1, pit 147 246/TEH. Nutshell fragment may represent a food resource, or they may have been incorporated within material collected for use as fuel. These remains illustrate the exploitation of wild or cultivated fruits and nuts within the vicinity of the site.

Fragments of animal bone were observed within the flots of Sample 2, ditch 103 and Sample 3, pit 203 212/TEH. Although the presence of this material is recorded here, the remains were too sparse and too fragmented to justify any further examination by the relevant specialist. The animal bone fragments in conjunction with the cereal, legume and wood charcoal remains most likely represent domestic waste and indicate that activities such as food preparation were taking place on the site.

Coprolite fragments were common within Sample 8, ditch 164 246/TEH, the fragments recovered were too small to be identified as human or animal waste. Fly pupae were also recovered from Sample 1, ditch 103 212/TEH, Sample 2, pit 126 and Sample 8, ditch 164, both from 246/TEH. Their presence suggests that domestic waste may have been left exposed for a period of time within the features, prior to back filling.



Snail shells were common, especially within the samples from ditches. A small number of white/brown lipped snails *Cepaea hortensis/nemoralis* (Muller, 1774/Linnaeus, 1758) were recovered from samples 1 and 2, from fills of ditch 103 212/TEH, beyond this no attempt has been made at identification of these remains for the purposes of this report.

Discussion

The charred cereals and legumes observed from the excavation and evaluation on this site, most likely represent domestic activity such as cereal processing and food preparation. Although cereal grains were common the lack of chaff makes it impossible to determine with any conviction the exact activity taking place. In damper climates or during poor weather cereals may require drying prior to storage, however, Medieval documents more frequently mention malting kilns than corn driers and other less labour intensive methods of drying the harvest, such as air drying in the field or barn are more likely to have been used during this period (Moffett, 2011, p 52). The absence of chaff suggests the early stages of cereal processing may have been taking place elsewhere rather than on site. Grains may be dried, as required, prior to milling in order to improve the quality and the quantity of the flour produced, resulting in some grains becoming accidentally charred. No sprouted grains were present that would suggest malt production. Some grains such as barley may have been consumed whole, whilst others such as wheat or oats may have been crushed (kibbled) or milled into a rough meal prior to being added to a pottage.

On the whole, the material recovered indicates that agricultural, horticultural and domestic activities were taking place in the vicinity. It is difficult to say with any certainty the exact process taking place on site, however, the cereal grains, legumes, fruits, nuts and wood charcoal remains, along with the animal bone fragments indicate food preparation and the coprolite remains suggest general domestic waste, most likely deliberately deposited within the back fill of the archaeological features. The material recovered is fairly consistent across the site and it is likely that domestic and possibly small-scale horticultural activities were taking place at this location during the Medieval period.

**Table 1:** Environmental Data – 212/TEH

Sample No.	1	2	3	4
Context No.	102	104	205	220
Cut No.	103	103	203	219
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Pit
Date	Med	Med	Med	Med
Cereals and other food plants				
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	xxx	xxx	xx	xx
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	xx	xx	x	x
<i>cf Avena</i> sp.				#
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	xx	xx	xx
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	#		#	#
Legume fragments		#		
Chaff remains				
<i>Hordeum</i> rachis		#		
Indent rachis fragments	#			
Weeds/other charred				
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	##		#	#
<i>Juncus</i> sp.		#		
Poaceae	##	#		#
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	#			
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	##	##		
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> Lam	#			
<i>Apiaceae</i> sp.		#		
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L.			#	#
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.		#		
<i>Silene vulgaris</i> L.				#
<i>Rumex crispus</i> L.	#			
Tree/shrub un-charred				
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	#	#	#	
Un-charred weed seeds				
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.		#		
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal 0-5mm	xxx	xx	xxx	xx
Charcoal 5-10mm	x		x	x
Fibrous roots	xxx	xx	xxx	xxx
Other remains				
Animal bone fragments		#	#	
Fly pupae	#			
<i>Cepaea hortensis/nemoralis</i> (Muller,1774/Linnaeus,1758)	#	#		
Snails	xx	xx	x	xx
Sample volume (litres)	40	20	40	40
Volume of flot (ml)	80	20	50	40
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%



Table 2: Environmental Data – 246/TEH

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Context No.	143	127	159	104	139	123	161	162	130	173
Cut No.	147	126	103	103	138	121	103	164	129	172
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	
Date	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Cereals and other food plants										
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	xxx	xxx	xxx	x	#	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	xxx	xx	xx	x		x	x	x	x	#
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	xxx	xxx	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	#	#				#				
Legume fragments	#	#	#				#	#		
Tree/shrub charred										
<i>Corylus</i> sp.	#									
<i>Prunus avium</i> L.	#									
Fruit endocarp frag indent			#							
Weeds/other charred										
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	x	#	xx						#	
Poaceae	xx	x		x			x	#	#	
<i>Carex</i> sp.				#			#			
<i>Juncus</i> sp.						#				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.			#	#		#				
<i>Silene vulgaris</i> L.		#				#				
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L.		#								
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> L.		#								
<i>Genista tinctoria</i> L. ?		#								
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L.		#								
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	#									
<i>Fumitory capreolata</i> L.	#									
<i>Papaver dubium/rhoeas</i> L.	#					#				
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> L.	#									
<i>Rumex crispus</i> L.		#		#		#				
<i>Brassica</i> sp.			#						#	
<i>Viola</i> sp.	#									
<i>Vicia sativa</i> ssp <i>sativa</i> L. ?	#									
Polygonaceae	#	#	#							
Weeds/other un-charred										
<i>Rubus</i> sp.		#								
<i>Viola</i> sp.	#	#								
<i>Lamium purpureum</i> L.						#	#			
Tree/shrub un-charred										
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.		#			#	#	#	#		
Other plant macrofossils										
Charcoal 0-5mm	xxx	xxx	x	xxx	x	xx	xx	xx	x	x
Charcoal 5-10mm	xxx	x	x	x		x	x	x		
Charcoal >10mm	x	x	x							
Fibrous roots	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xxx	xx	xx	xx



Other remains										
Snails	x	x	x	x	#	xx	xx	xx	#	x
Amphibian/Small mammal bones	#									
Fly pupae		#						#		
Coprolite fragments								#		
Recovered from non-floating residue										
<i>Corylus</i> sp.	#									
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	#									
Cereal indent	#									
Sample volume (litres)	40	40	40	40	10	20	40	40	10	10
Volume of flot (ml)	200	100	200	20	5	40	20	40	10	5
% flot sorted	100%	100%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



Appendix 5: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land adj. to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code	246/TEH
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-265136	Event/Accession no	
OS reference	TL 3351 3728	Study area size	c.585 sq. m
Project Type	Strip, Map & Sample and Observation & Recording	Height (mAOD)	162.2
Short Description	<p>Between January - August 2017 KDK Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and Observation and Recording at land adjacent to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling, associated garage and access.</p> <p>The works revealed boundary ditches, drainage gullies, rubbish pits, a flint surface and a number of shallow discrete features that may be pits or tree activity. A number of the features had previously been excavated during the 2016 evaluation on the site. Finds recovered included Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery with some residual Iron Age and Romano-British pottery; post-medieval pottery and tile was also found. A silver coin of Aethelred II (978-1016 AD) that had been minted in Cambridge was discovered in a boundary ditch; it is the first coin of this type to have been found in Hertfordshire. Fragments of daub were also found, some of which appeared structural.</p> <p>Overall the findings indicate well established settlement activity dating from the Saxo-Norman and into the medieval period, along with later evidence for post-medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the excavation.</p>		
Previous work	Evaluation - KDK 212/TEH/2.0	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Construction of a new dwelling land adj. to Elm House	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	North Hertfordshire District Council	Planning application ref.	15/02914/1
Monument type	Ditches, gullies, pits, stone surface	Monument period	Late Saxon-Post-Medieval
Significant finds	Aethelred II 978-1016ad coin, pottery, cbm, animal bone	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET)	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	Director/Supervisor	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Linda Brogden		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	16.01.17	End date	16.08.17
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	North Hertfordshire Museum	Aethelred II 978-1016ad coin, pottery, cbm, animal bone	
Paper		Development plans, WSI, report, site records & drawings, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital		CD, report onto oasis	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Strip, Map and Sample and Observation and Recording: Land adj. to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	246/TEH/2.3		
Author(s)	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA		
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Appendix 6: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Land adj. to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire	
County: Hertfordshire	District: Therfield
Village/Town: Therfield	Parish: Therfield
Planning application reference: 15/02914/1	
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Linda Brogden, Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield	
Nature of application: Construction of a new dwelling land adj. to Elm House	
Present land use: Garden	
Size of application area: c.2315 sq. m	Size of area investigated: c.585 sq.m
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3351 3728	Site code: 246/TEH
Site director: Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd
Type of work: Strip, Map and Sample and Observation and Recording	
Date of Work: Start: 16.01.17	Finish: 16.08.17
Curating museum: North Hertfordshire Museum	
Related HER nos: KDK 212/THE/2.0	Periods represented: late Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Summerfield-Hill, C 2016 <i>Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land adj. to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire</i> . Leighton Buzzard: KDK Archaeology Ltd: KDK212/TEH/2.	
Summary of fieldwork results: Between January - August 2017 KDK Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and Observation and Recording at land adjacent to Elm House, The Causeway, Therfield, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling, associated garage and access. The works revealed boundary ditches, drainage gullies, rubbish pits, a flint surface and a number of shallow discrete features that may be pits or tree activity. A number of the features had previously been excavated during the 2016 evaluation on the site. Finds recovered included Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery with some residual Iron Age and Romano-British pottery; post-medieval pottery and tile was also found. A silver coin of Aethelred II (978-1016 AD) that had been minted in Cambridge was discovered in a boundary ditch; it is the first coin of this type to have been found in Hertfordshire. Fragments of daub were also found, some of which appeared structural. Overall the findings indicate well established settlement activity dating from the Saxo-Norman and into the medieval period, along with later evidence for post-medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the excavation.	
Author: Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA	Date: 15.08.19