



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Evaluation and Strip, Map and Sample Report

Land Adjacent to 7 Church Lane  
Wrestlingworth  
Bedfordshire



**Quality Check**

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## CONTENTS

Summary .....	1
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Aims & Methods .....	6
3. Archaeological & Historical Background .....	7
4. Results: Stage I - Evaluation.....	10
5. Results: Stage II - Strip, Map and Record.....	14
6. Conclusions .....	31
7. Acknowledgements .....	32
8. Archive .....	33
9. References.....	34
 <b>Appendices:</b>	
1. Excavation Summary Tables .....	36
2. Finds Concordances .....	47
3. List of Photograph.....	49
4. Specialist Reports.....	52
5. OASIS and Site Data.....	79
 <b>Figures:</b>	
1. General location .....	2
2. Site location.....	3
3. Development plan.....	4
4. Location of excavation areas.....	5
5. HER data plan .....	9
6. Trench 1 stratigraphy.....	10
7. Trench 2 stratigraphy.....	10
8. Plan of Trench 1 .....	11
9. Plan of Trench 2 .....	12
10. Ditch [203] section.....	12
11. SMR excavation plan.....	19
12. Ditch & Pit sections .....	20
13. Ditch/Gully & Pit sections .....	21
14. Pit [113] sections.....	22
15. SMR excavation phase plan.....	23
 <b>Plates:</b>	
1. Trench 1, looking south southwest.....	11
2. Trench 1 stratigraphy, looking east southeast .....	11
3. Trench 2, looking east.....	13
4. Trench 2 stratigraphy, looking south .....	13
5. Ditch [203], looking southwest.....	13
6. South southeast facing section of [203] .....	13
7. Excavation area overview, looking south.....	24
8. Excavation area overview, looking northeast.....	24
9. Northwest area of excavation, looking northeast.....	25
10. Northwest area of excavation, looking northwest.....	25
11. Ditches GN1-2 [135], GN1 [137] and Pit [139] sections, looking southeast .....	26
12. Ditches GN1-2 [135], GN1 [137] and Pit [139], looking southwest.....	26
13. Ditch GN1 [105] section, looking southeast .....	26
14. Ditches GN1 [105] & GN 2 [109] & Pit [107] sections, looking northwest.....	26



15. Ditches GN1 [105] & GN 2 [109] & Pit [107], looking southwest .....	26
16. Intersection of Ditches GN1 [149], GN2 [151] & GN4 [147], looking southeast .....	26
17. Ditch GN1 [169] & Posthole [171] section, looking northwest .....	27
18. Ditches GN1 [118], GN2 [122] GN3 [120] section, looking northeast.....	27
19. Ditch GN2 [109] section, looking southeast .....	27
20. Ditches GN2 [149] & GN4 [147] sections, looking northeast .....	27
21. Ditch GN3 [153], looking southeast .....	27
22. Ditch GN3 [153] section, looking west.....	27
23. Ditch GN3 [153], looking southeast .....	28
24. Ditch GN4 [167] section, looking northeast .....	28
25. Ditch GN4 [167], looking northwest .....	28
26. Ditch Terminus/Pit [111], looking northwest .....	28
27. Ditch Terminus/Pit [111], looking northeast .....	28
28. Ditch [141], Ditch [161] Ditch terminus/Pit [165], looking northwest.....	28
29. Ditch [141], Ditch [161] Ditch terminus/Pit [165] section, looking southwest.....	29
30. Ditch [163] section, looking northeast.....	29
31. Pit [113] section, looking northeast.....	29
32. Pit [113] section, looking northwest .....	29
33. Pit [113] & Pit [124] section, looking northeast .....	29
34. Pit [124], Pit [130] and Pit/Posthole [143] section, looking southeast .....	29
35. Pit [124], Pit [130] and Pit/Posthole [143], looking northeast.....	30
36. Natural feature [145], southeast.....	30
37. Pit [159] section, looking east .....	30
38. Pit [159], looking south.....	30
39. Dog mandible (buccal view) - note extensive wear to the carnassial tooth (indicated) .....	60
40. Dog mandible - occlusal view, note wear affecting carnassial and adjacent teeth.....	60
41. Horse shoe.....	75
42. Brooch (SF1) .....	75
43. Ferromagnetic iron (SF6) .....	75
44. Copper alloy pin (SF4) .....	75
45. Ferromagnetic iron .....	75
46. Ferromagnetic iron strip (SF5).....	75
47. Ferromagnetic pin/nail (SF3).....	76
48. Ferromagnetic iron nail .....	76
49. Ferromagnetic iron nail .....	76
50. Radiograph of metal objects .....	77



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## Summary

In May 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook Stage I of a programme of Archaeological Evaluation followed by a Stage II programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation of the Land adjacent to 7 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire, as a condition for the development of the site. Two trenches were excavated, which revealed three ditches and two pits. Trench 1 was subsequently expanded for the Strip, Map and Sample, which revealed five ditches, a ditch/gully and ditch terminus/pit, six pits, and a pit/posthole, many with fills containing pottery dated to the late Anglo-Saxon to the medieval period (12<sup>th</sup> century). The cut-features and environmental data suggest an agrarian settlement.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In May 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Strip, Map and Sample excavation of the Land Adjacent to 7 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by J & S Dickinson Builders, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by KDK (Dodd 2019), and approved by Martin Oake of Central Bedfordshire Archaeological Team (CBAT), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire County Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/17/03027/FULL.

### 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*

Wrestlingworth is a village and civil parish located within Central Bedfordshire. Church Lane is situated to the southwest of the village, close to the parish church of St Peter. The site lies at National Grid Reference TL 2589 4741 (Fig. 1).

#### *Description*

The development site is a roughly rectangular plot to the west of Church Lane. It is surrounded on all sides by dwellings and the parish church of St Peter's is located to the south (Fig. 2).

#### *Geology & Topography*

The superficial geology comprises the Quaternary Oadby Member and the Bedrock is recorded as being a Gault Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 101-113 million years ago (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### *Development*

The Development comprises the erection of a new dwelling with garden and associated parking (Fig. 3).

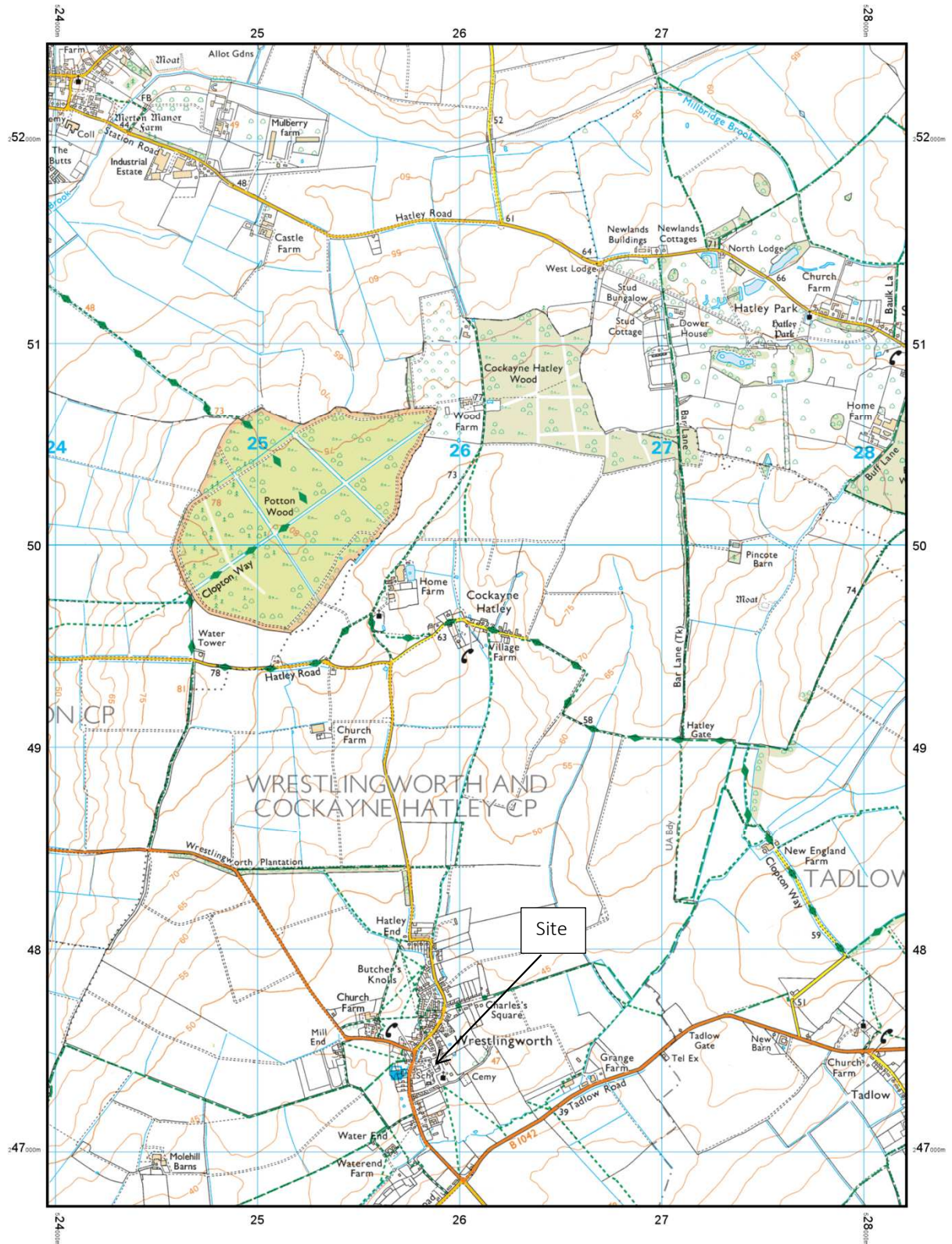


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

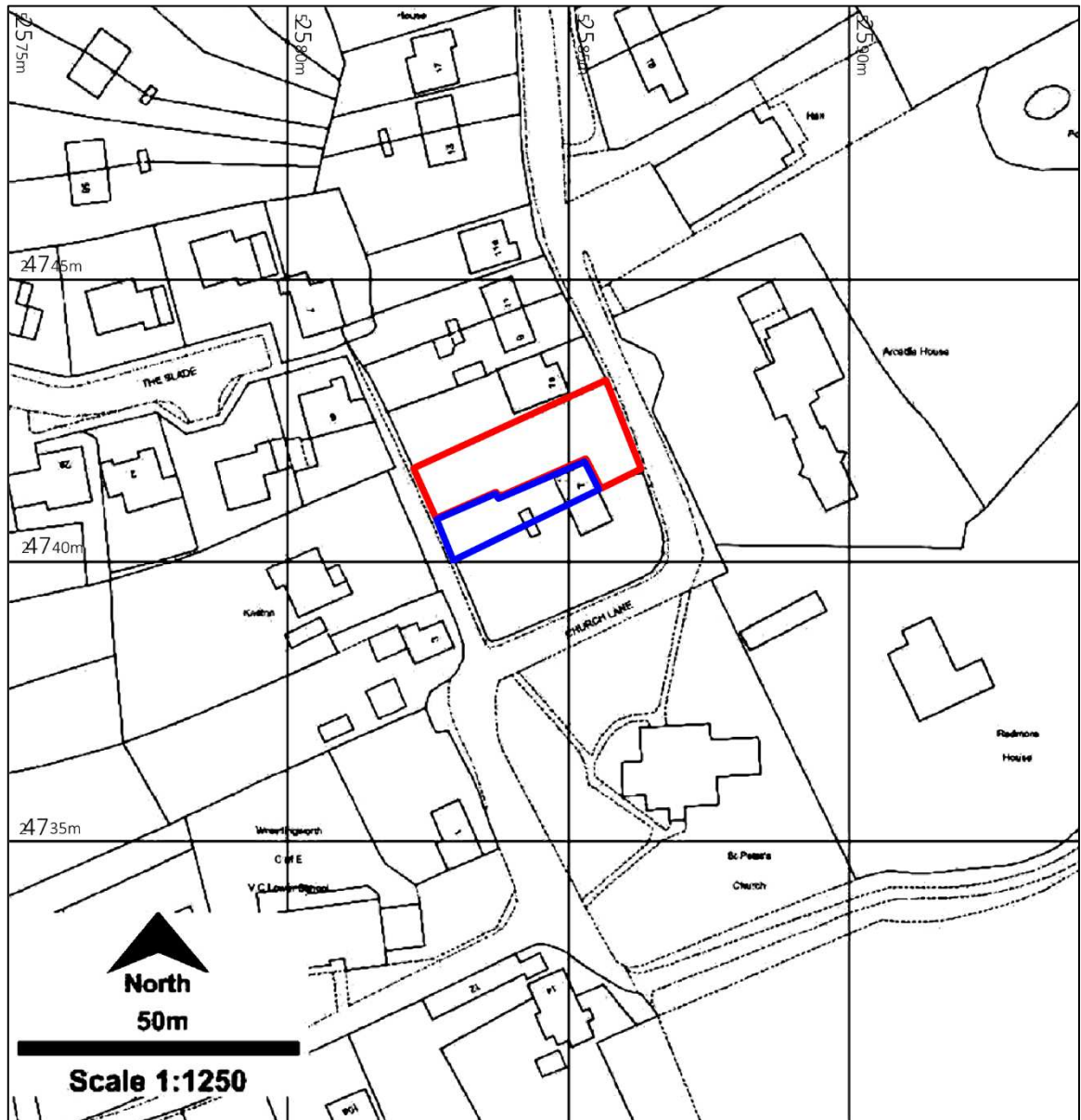


Figure 2: Site location outlined in red (scale 1:1250)

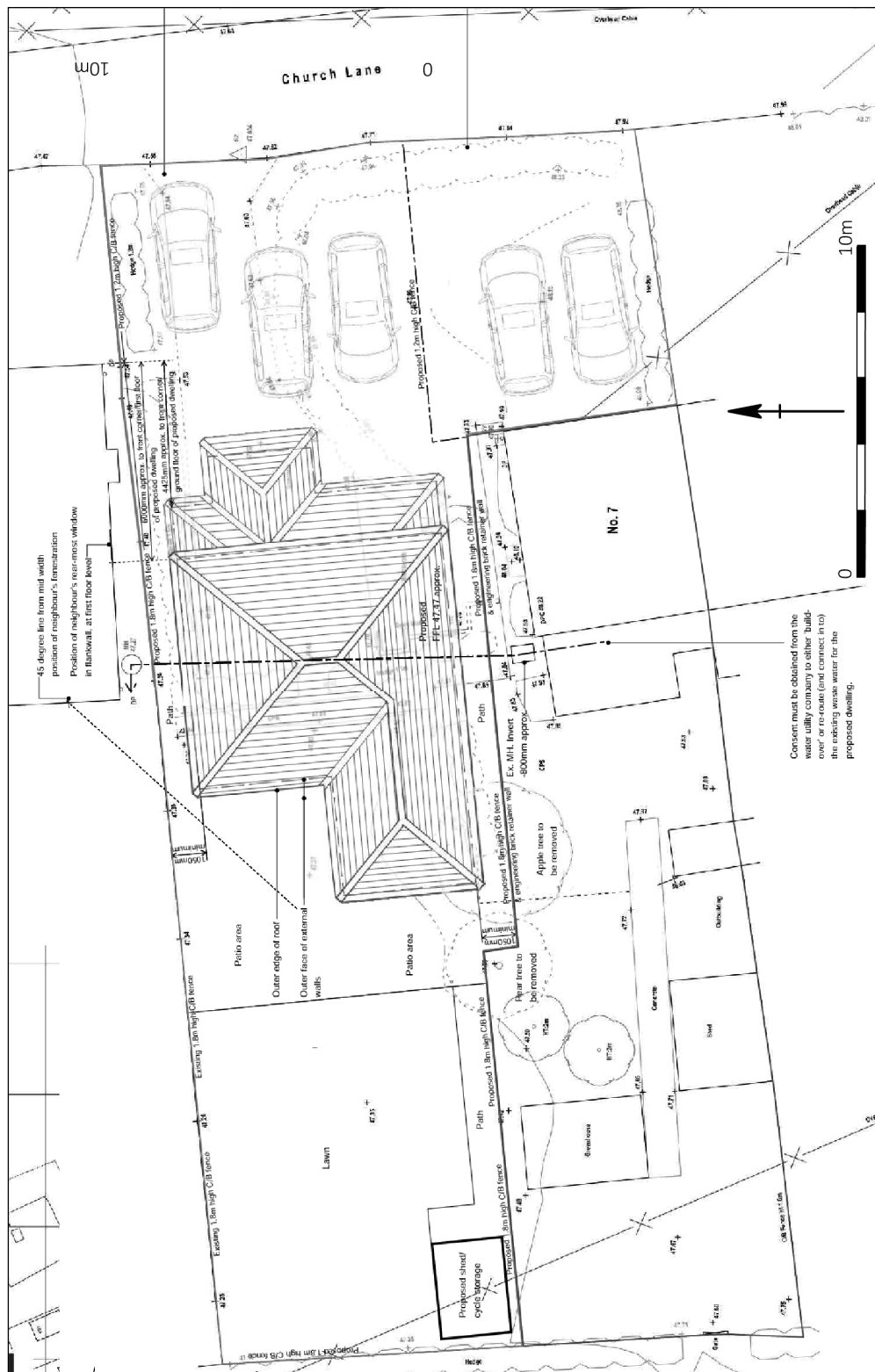


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:200)



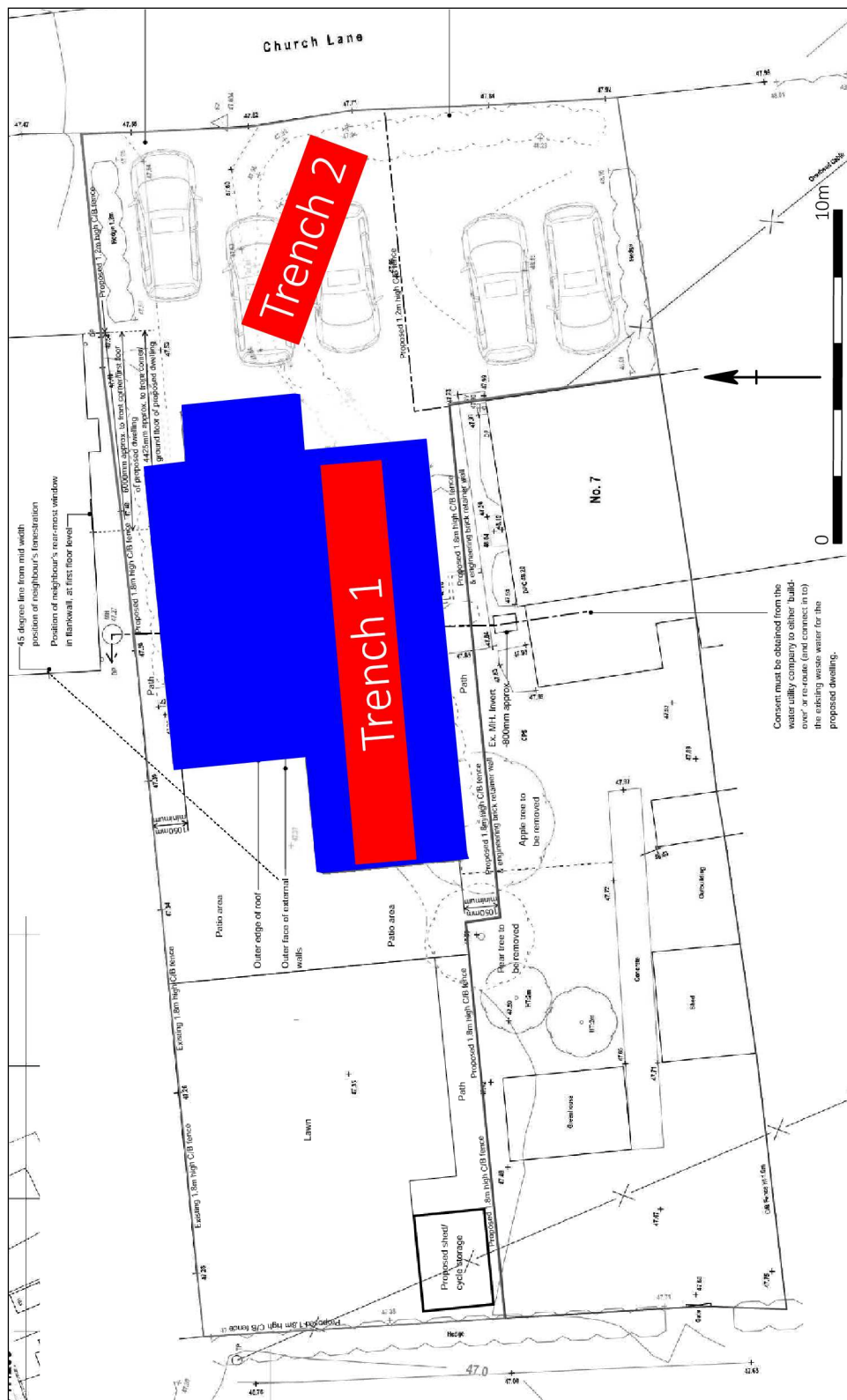


Figure 4: Location of excavation areas.

Red = Evaluation trenches; Blue = Strip, Map and Record (scale 1:200)



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## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Dodd 2019) 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.

In addition, the research aims will *inter alia* consider various aspects of the development of rural Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlements; their origins, morphology, diversity and ultimate success or failure (Wade 2000: 24-25; Oake 2007: 14; Medlycott 2011: 70 and Edgeworth 2007: 121-123).

### 2.2 *Methods*

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

- Stage One: An archaeological field evaluation of the site consisting of two trenches totalling an area of 36 square metres will be excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling, access and parking.
- Stage Two: An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation. As a large portion of the site had already been stripped and due to the complexity of the archaeological remains which could be observed within the Evaluation trench, it was deemed appropriate to excavate the entire footprint of the new dwelling down to the archaeological horizon as an addendum of the original WSI.

### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief (Oake 2018)
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & 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 The parish consists of two main settlements; the village of Wrestlingworth to the south and the hamlet of Cockayne Hatley to the north. The core of the village is located along the High Street and the developments site is within the medieval core of the village (HER 17167) and immediately to the north of the Wrestlingworth conservation area.

This section has been compiled with information from Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER search no. 201819/280) and reputable online sources. The location of known heritage assets recorded within a 500m radius of the development site is shown in Fig. 5.

3.2 ***Prehistoric- Anglo-Saxon*** (before 600BC-1066BC)

There is little information about the village of Wrestlingworth prior to the medieval period. Data recovered from these early periods are limited to a single find spot to the northwest of Grange Farm, where a copper alloy bell was found that is believed to date to the Roman period (HER 20361).

3.3 ***Medieval*** (1066 - 1500)

The village is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, but the name is first documented in written records of c. 1150 as *Wrastlingewrd*, which in Old English translates as 'the enclosure of the family or followers of a man called Wræstel' (Mills 1991: 373). By the 13<sup>th</sup> century, two manors are believed to have existed in the village; Kendels Manor and Hereford's Manor. The former manor house is recorded to have been still standing at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Page 1908). In addition, Home Farmhouse, a 16<sup>th</sup> century building situated on the High Street is possibly built on the site of the former Hereford Manor House (HER 6058). The farmhouse underwent major alterations in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and included the installation of barns and stables (HER 12783).

Evidence of medieval activity can be found to the west of the village in a pasture field (HER 3421). A series of earthworks including two housing platforms and two holloways are clearly visible within the field as well as a number of small quarry pits. It is believed that these earthworks represent an area of deserted or shrunken medieval settlement. In 2013 trial trenching on the Land at Home Farm revealed a number of features attributed to the early medieval period (EBD 1062). These included pits, and ditches with possible agricultural connotations which show medieval activity in the periphery of the village core. Residual Saxo-Norman pottery was also recovered from this excavation (Albion 2013). Further medieval agricultural activities have been recorded to the north of the village, north of Potton Road in the form of ridge and furrow (HER 558).

A Watching Brief undertaken by Albion Archaeology in 2002 exposed a possible early medieval post structure or fence corner during the development of a new classroom at Wrestlingworth Lower School (Albion 2008; EBD221).

St Peter's Church (HER 1155), which stands at the highest point in the village, was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Within the churchyard (HER 8997) the graves of plague victims are still visible and 19 Grade II listed headstones dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> through to the 18<sup>th</sup> century can also be seen within the cemetery (HER 14475, 14476, 14477, 14478, 14479 & 20635). The churchyard also contains the grave of William Ernest Henley, a Gloucester born poet whose work included 'Invictus'. Henley had a wooden leg and it is believed that Robert Louis Stevenson, who was a



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close friend of Henley, partly based *Treasure Island's* Long John Silver on him (<https://wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk/history/>).

#### 3.4 **Post-Medieval** (1500 - 1900)

The post-medieval entries in the Historic Environment Record are predominantly buildings including a number of Grade II listed buildings at; Hill Farmhouse, High Street (HER 6063), Home Farmhouse (HER 6058) with 17<sup>th</sup> century Dovecote (HER 6059), 3 Church Lane (HER 6057), 12 Church Lane (HER 4323), 7 Water End (HER 14484), 88 High Street (formerly College Farmhouse; HER 6064) and Chequers Inn (HER 6061). The Chequers Inn is a late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century building which is known to have been used as a public house or inn since at least 1727. The pub was originally called the Three Horseshoes but changed its name to the Chequers Inn around 1853. In the 1840s the pub played host to the most notorious event in Wrestlingworth's history; the case of the murderess, Sarah Dazley. Sarah had already lost two husbands and a child under suspicious circumstances, but when due to marry a third husband, the villagers stepped in and warned the unsuspecting fiancé of their concerns. Subsequent investigations took place and the bodies of her victims were exhumed and re-examined by the coroner, whose inquest was held at the Three Horseshoes Pub. Traces of arsenic were found on all three victims. Evidence of foul play along with testimonies from the villagers was enough to convict Sarah, who was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged outside Bedford Gaol. Sarah Dazley was the last woman to be publically hanged in England (<https://wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk/history/>).

Further buildings of interest comprise; The Old Rectory (HER 13430), 8 Mill End (HER 14480), 42 High Street (HER 11481), Long Acre (HER 14482), Wrestlingworth Free Church, built in 1887, and converted into residential dwellings in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century (HER 19615), 2 Potton Road (HER 3333), 32 High Street (HER 6060), 10 & 12 Mill End (HER 6065) and Church Farmhouse, Potton Road (HER 6066).

A toll road existed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century along the former turnpike road at Wrestlingworth Cross which is now part of the B1042 (HER 20569). Along this road, and at the western edge of the village, is the site of a post-medieval windmill (HER 3135).

#### 3.5 **Modern** (1900 - present)

A Grade II listed war memorial commissioned in 1922 to commemorate the 15 individuals who died in the First World War was erected in front of St Peter's Church (HER 20414). After the Second World War, two more names were added to the memorial.

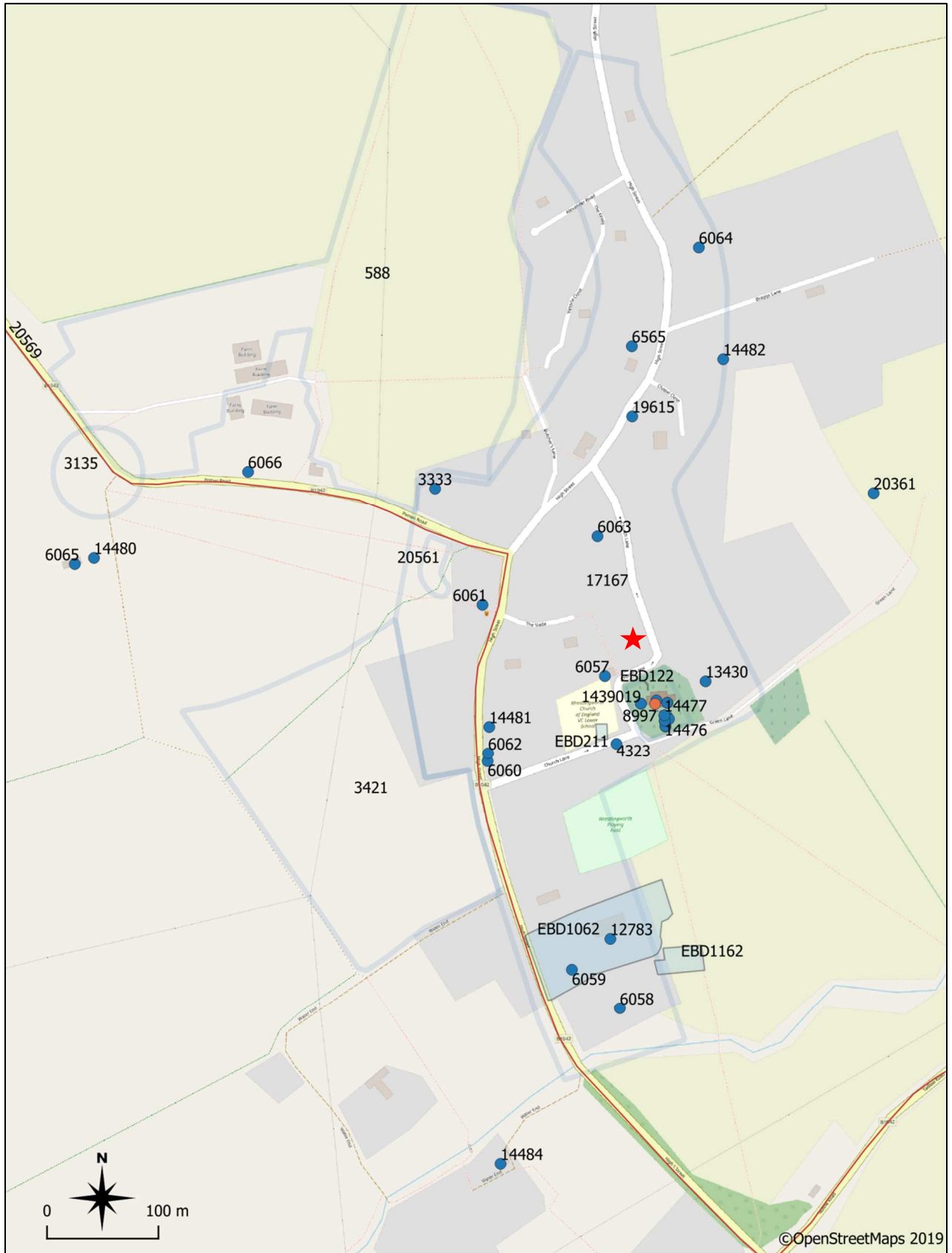


Figure 5: HER data plan (scale 1:5000; development site marked with a red star)



## 4 Results

### 4.1 Stage 1: Evaluation

Two trenches equalling 35.60 square metres were excavated within the footprint of the proposed building and the parking area (Fig. 4). These were mechanically stripped down to the natural geology using a 5 tonne machine fitted with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket. Trench 1 was c. 0.53 deep, whereas Trench 2 was 0.8m deep.

The stratigraphy encountered comprised (Figs. 6-7):

- Topsoil (100) and (200) was a dark brownish grey, friable clayey silty loam, which contained occasional small rounded stones and flecks of charcoal. A number of hedges were removed before stripping commenced. This layer reached a depth of 0.35m.
- Made ground (101) was documented in Trench 1 only. Consists of concrete and brick made-ground to the east of the trench (and in the subsequent Strip, Map and Sample area). This was a former path and driveway which was 0.15m deep.
- Sand (102) was a 0.18m deep layer of builders sand beneath made ground later (101).
- Subsoil (103) and (201) consisted of a mid greyish brown slightly plastic silty clay, which contained occasional sub-angular and rounded stones and occasional flecks of chalk, and 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> century potsherds. Rooting was heavy in places. Pottery, CBM, animal bone, glass and iron objects were recovered from this layer. This layer reached a maximum depth of 0.30m in both trenches.
- Natural (104) and (202) was mixed orange, yellow and brown firm silty clay, which contained frequent pieces and flecks of chalk; occasional large sub-angular nodules of flint; and patches of orange sand were documented in both trenches.

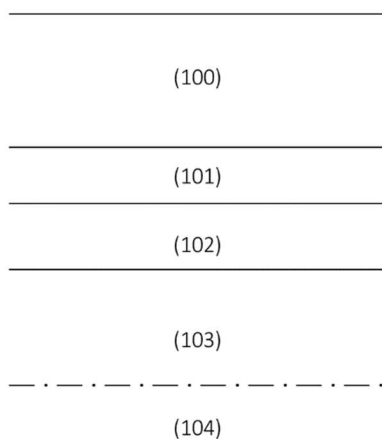


Figure 6: Trench 1 schematic stratigraphy

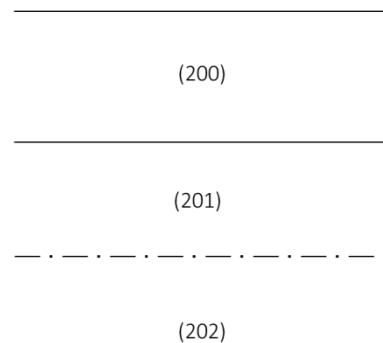


Figure 7: Trench 2 schematic stratigraphy



On completion of the mechanical strip, three ditches and two pits were exposed.

#### 4.2 Trench 1

Trench 1, located within the footprint of the new dwelling, measured 12 x 2m and was orientated approximately northeast-southwest (Figs. 4 & 8; Plates 1 & 2). A series of intercutting features comprising two ditches [105, 109] and two pits [107, 130] were encountered in the middle and north-eastern end of the trench. Excavation of the north-eastern features [105, 107, 109] produced residual late Bronze Age/Romano-British potsherds, and various artefacts that were dated to the late Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods (Blinkhorn)

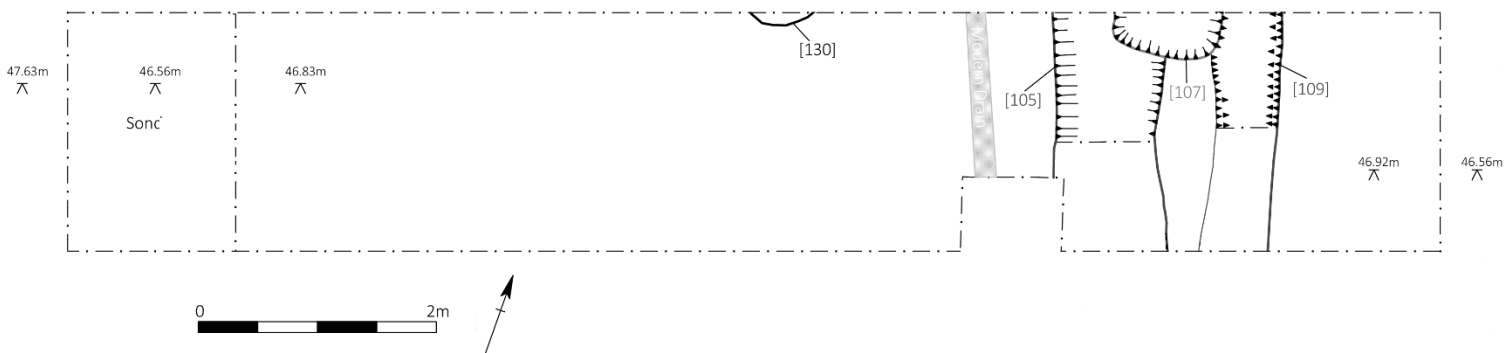


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 1 (scale 1:75)



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south southwest



Plate 2: Trench 1 stratigraphy, looking east southeast



4.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Figs. 4, 9 & 10; Plates 3-6), orientated approximately east-west, was located within the proposed parking area and measured 5.8 x 2m. A single Ditch [203] was exposed at the western end. This feature was orientated southeast-northwest and was at least 2.40m in length, although it continued beyond the limits of excavation. The ditch was 0.34m wide and reached a depth of 0.17m. The feature contained two naturally silted fills: an upper fill (204) of brownish yellow clay and a lower fill (205) of greyish brown silty clay. A small fragment of undiagnostic Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was recovered from the lower fill and a few fragments of animal bone were recovered from both. No datable material was recovered from this feature.

Subsequent discussions with CBAT deemed it appropriate to extend Trench 1 to encompass the entire footprint of the new dwelling, and record the area through a Strip, Map and Sample excavation.

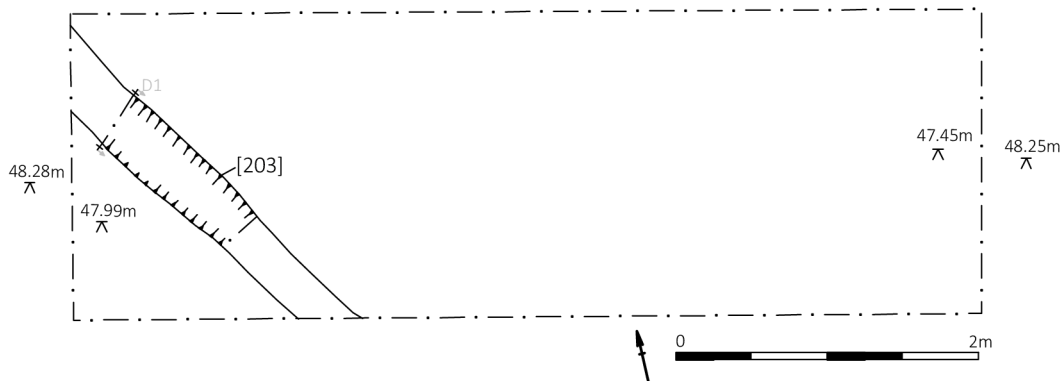


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 2 (scale 1:50)

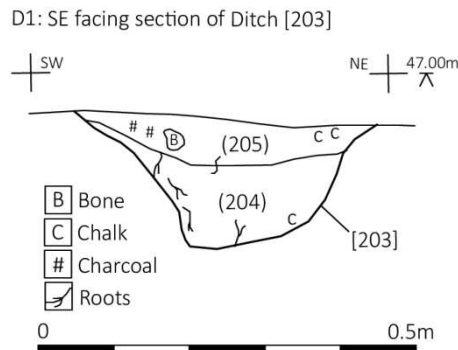


Figure 10: Ditch [203] section (scale 1:10)





Plate 3: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 4: Trench 2 stratigraphy, looking south



Plate 5: Ditch [203], looking southwest



Plate 6: South southeast facing section of [203]



## 5 Results: Stage II - Strip, Map and Sample

### 5.1 *Site Stripping*

The discovery of late Anglo-Saxon and medieval artefacts in Evaluation Trench 1, and subsequent discussions with CBAT, resulted in the extending the excavation area to encompass the entire footprint of the new dwelling (Figs. 4 & 11; Plates 7-10). Consequently, an area of 95.25 square metres was mechanically stripped of topsoil and overburden under close archaeological supervision as required by the WSI (Dodd 2019).

### 5.2 *Sampling Strategy*

On completion of the site strip, three clusters of inter-cutting ditches, pits and other archaeological cut features were revealed. Following consultation with the AA, it was agreed that subsequent excavation would follow the sampling strategy outlined in the brief (Oake 2018).

### 5.3 *Archaeology*

#### *Ditches*

A total of five ditches [GN1\*, GN2, GN4, 141, 161, & 163,], a Ditch/Gully [GN3] and Ditch Terminus/Pit [111 & 165] were encountered during the excavation. (\*Group Number - this is applied to features where multiple sections were excavated).

**Ditch GN1** was originally exposed in Evaluation Trench 1. Its full extent was obscured by the limit of excavation, though a total of 9.12m was visible within the Strip, Map and Sample area (Figs. 11-13; Plates 11-18). Five slots [105, 118, 135, 151, 169] were excavated into this feature to determine its attributes and its stratigraphic relationships with inter-cutting features. Ditch GN1 was U-shaped in cross-section, orientated northeast-southwest, with a width that varied between 0.71m to 0.29m. The depth of the feature remained fairly consistent measuring between 0.35-0.40m. A single fill (106, 119, 136, 152, & 170) of mid greyish brown silty clay was revealed in the five slots. Ditch GN1 was stratigraphically one of the earliest features on the site and the artefactual evidence supports this as pottery collected from fill (106), date to the late Anglo-Saxon period. Animal bone was also found in two fills (106, 136). The ditch was cut by Ditch/Gully [GN3], Pit [107], and Linear [161], which may form part of GN4.

**Ditch GN2** was also originally exposed in Evaluation Trench 1. Similar to Ditch GN1, which runs parallel, its full extent was obscured by the limit of excavation, and a total of 9.12m was visible within the excavation area (Figs. 11-13; Plates 11 & 12, 14-20). A total of four slots [109, 122, 137, 149] were excavated into this feature with a similar aim as described for Ditch GN1. Ditch GN2 had a variable cross section that was either U-shaped or flat, with a width varying between 0.33-0.7m, and a consistent depth of 0.35-0.4m. The single fill (110, 123, 138 & 150) excavated in the four slots was mid greyish brown silty clay. Stratigraphically, Ditch GN2 is the earliest cut feature revealed on the site and potsherds from fill (110), dated to the late Anglo-Saxon period. Animal bone was also found in fills (110 & 123).

**Ditch/Gully GN3** was ENE-WSW orientated cut feature may have been the terminus of a ditch or a gully, as only c. 3.66m was evident within the excavation area and it did not appear to continue to the southwest (Figs. 11-13; Plates 18, 21-23). Ditch/Gully GN3 was U-shaped in cross section and measured 0.4m (W) x 0.25-0.3m (D). Two different fills were encountered within two excavation slots [120 & 153] with the lower (155) light orangey brown sandy clay



only found in slot [153], whereas the upper fill of greyish brown sandy clay (121 & 154) was documented in both slots. Fill (154) also contained a late Anglo-Saxon potsherd indicating that Ditch/Gully GN3 may date to that period.

**Ditch GN4** was WSW-ENE orientated cut feature had two slots [147 & 167] excavated along its length which were U-shaped in section, and between 0.82-0.88m wide and 0.38m deep (Figs. 11-13; Plate 24 & 25). The fills [147 & 168] were a consistent brownish grey sandy clay that contained 12<sup>th</sup> century potsherds, animal bone, and metal objects. Ditch GN4 extends 4.52m across the north eastern side of the excavation, and both ends terminate at the limits of excavation. Its extent is unknown, but it is possible that it continues to the southwest in the form of Ditch [161].

**Ditch Terminus/Pit [111]** was located near the southwest limit of excavation (Figs. 11 & 12; Plates 26 & 27). As only a 0.82m portion extends from the baulk the extent and type of cut feature remain uncertain, so it may be either a pit or a ditch terminus. Feature [111] measured 1.1m wide x 0.4m deep, and contained two fills. The basal fill (114) was a yellowish-brown sandy clay, with no finds, which may have been the result of colluviation from the sides, and a darker greyish brown silty clay top fill (112), which contained some animal bone, pumice stone, and 12<sup>th</sup> century potsherds. The purpose of this cut feature remains uncertain, but it appears to have been used for the disposal of waste.

**Ditch [141]** ran parallel with the site boundary on an ENE-WSW axis, and was 1.36m wide and reached a depth of 0.54m (Figs. 11 & 12; Plates 28 & 29). It has a U-shaped section. However, the length of the feature could not be ascertained as it was obscured by the baulk and was also cut by Pit [113] to the southeast, so only a 1.63m portion was visible in plan. The feature did not appear to continue into the western part of the excavated area, but its width suggests it may have been a substantial earthwork. A second ditch [161] was cut into the northern half of Ditch [141] along the same orientation. This narrower ditch may continue beyond Pit [113] into the north eastern end of the excavation. Ditch [141] cuts Ditch Terminus/Pit [165], which appears to be the earliest within this cluster of features. The single fill (142) of Ditch [141] was yellowish brown silty clay that contained medieval (12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, pumice, and occasional lumps of chalk and charcoal. In addition, several large, battered flint nodules were found close to the base of the ditch.

**Ditch [161]** was situated in the north-western corner of the site (Figs. 11 & 12; Plates 28 & 29). This feature was 0.88m wide and 0.31m deep, and was a narrower and shallower U-shaped cross-sectional cut into Ditch [141]. The fill (162) of Ditch [161] was a comparatively darker yellowish brown silty clay than the sediment filling Ditch [141]. Fill (162) contained 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery, CBM/burnt daub, pumice, animal bone, and iron objects. GN4 cut through Ditches GN1-2, and was therefore later in date. Ditch [161] may connect with Ditch GN4 given similarities in dimensions and orientations. However, the fills are different in composition and it is possible that both terminate within the unexcavated and extensively disturbed area where the modern drain is situated.

**Ditch Terminus [163]** may be the terminus of an E-W orientated rectilinear ditch or gully (Figs. 11 & 13; Plates 30). The rectilinear portion revealed within the excavation area was 1.3m long x 0.83m wide x 0.32m deep, with straight sides and the base flat. The mid greyish brown sandy clay fill (164) contained potsherds dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century. As this feature did not appear within Trench 2 to the east, it either terminated or turned between the two excavation areas.

**Ditch Terminus/Pit [165]** was the earliest feature identified in the north-western clusters of cuts, as it was found beneath, and was cut by Ditch [141] (Figs. 11 & 12; Plates 28 & 29). The portion of this truncated cut revealed within the excavated slot was 0.94m wide x 0.33m deep, and only 0.44m in length, so it remains unclear whether this feature was a pit or the terminus of a ditch. The sides had a >45-degree slope, flat base, and was filled by yellowish brown silty clay (166), which was void of any artefacts or datable material.



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### ***Pits and other cut features***

A total of six pits [107, 113, 124, 130, 139, 159], a pit or post-hole [143], and a potentially natural feature [145] were also revealed within the excavation area.

**Pit [107]** was first identified in Evaluation Trench 1. It was cut into the fill (110) of Ditch GN2, and contained two fills: 1) a naturally silted layer of yellowish brown silty clay (134) and backfill of mid brownish grey silty clay (108) (Figs. 11m & 12; Plates 14 & 15). Fill (108) contained 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery, which may be intrusive given the dating of GN1-2, an iron brooch (SF1), and animal bone. Pit [107] cuts into the fill of adjacent Ditches GN2, but is stratigraphically earlier than GN1.

**Pit [113]** was situated in the northwest corner of the excavation, one of the most prominent and the latest within the local stratigraphic sequence (Figs. 11 & 14; Plates 31-33). This large feature measured 3.70m wide and reached a depth of 1.15m. Its full extent was obscured to the north east due to disturbance caused by a modern foul drain/service trench. Pit [113] contained 12 different fills (115, 116, 117, 127, 128, 129, 132, 133, 156, 157, 158), which contained numerous animal bones, flecks of charcoal, lumps of chalk, pumice (132), lenses of apparent yellowish white mortar, fragments of CBM, and pottery. Most of the fills contained 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery, although the single sherd found in fill (133) dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> century may have been residual. Fills (117, 127) had an abundance of burnt, ashy material, with large concentrations of charcoal, often in thick lenses throughout. Lower fill (129) was similar to fills (117, 127) but the distinct dark reddish hue of the silty clay suggests the sediment had been subjected to heat, i.e. *in situ* burning. The heat affected fills and the frequent burnt, ashy inclusions in most of the other fills, suggests that Pit [113] may have been a work-space associated with a stoke-hole, attached perhaps to a kiln, or corn-dryer situated to the northwest, and beyond the limit of excavation. Pit [113] fills also contained most of the metal small finds: SF3 (117), a possible iron pin; SF4 (115), a copper-alloy brooch/button; SF5 (116), a possible iron blade fragment; and SF6 (115), which is a possible iron buckle/strap.

**Pit [124]** was situated immediately southeast of Pit [113] (Figs. 11 & 13; Plates 33-35). However, its shape was obliterated by the cuts for Pits [113, 130], which bracket Pit [124]. The surviving remnant of this feature had steep sides and a flat base, and measured 1.90m long x 1.5m wide x 0.24m deep. It had two fills: 1) a lower fill (125) of brownish grey silty clay and 2) yellowish brown silty clay upper fill (126). Both fills contained 12<sup>th</sup> century potsherds, and fill (125) also had an animal bone spindle whorl (SF2).

**Pit [130]** cut was also obscured and may have been disturbed (Figs. 11 & 13; Plates 34-35). The dimensions revealed were 0.5m (L) x 0.43m (W) x 0.19m (D). The single fill (131) was very similar in colour and composition to the upper fill of [124]. As the only find was a single potsherd dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century this cut may date to that later period.

**Pit [139]** may have been cut into Ditch GN1, but as only a small portion was revealed the type of feature, and its purpose, are entirely conjectural (Figs. 11 & 12; Plates 11 & 12). Its yellowish grey sandy clay fill (140) did not contain any finds.

**Pit/Posthole [143]** cut into fill (131) of Pit [130] may have may be a small pit, or a cut for a posthole (Figs. 10 & 12; Plates 34 & 35). Its brownish grey silty clay fill (144) contained a single potsherd dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

**Pit [159]** was a sub-circular feature, measuring 1.34 (D) x 0.95m (W) x 0.30m (D), is situated in the east of the site near the baulk (Figs. 11 & 13 Plates 37 & 38). The fill (160) of this feature contained nine potsherds dating from the late Saxon period, and animal bone. It is likely that feature [159] was utilized as a shallow rubbish pit. However, as it cuts into pit [130] the sherd may be residual, and the cut features dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Posthole [171]** or at least a potential posthole, cut into Ditch DN1, and though the edges were indistinct it had steep sides with a flat base, and measured 0.43m (L) x ~0.17m (W) x 0.28m (D) (Figs. 11 & 13; Plate 17). It did not contain any datable artefacts.

**Natural feature [145]** was located in the south-eastern corner of Trench 1 (Figs. 11 & 13; Plate 36). The shape of the feature suggests that it has been formed naturally, i.e. bioturbation through the presence of a tree or bush. The sides of the feature were concave and the base was irregular. The fill (146) contained two 12<sup>th</sup> century potsherds, and fragments of animal bone.

#### 5.4 *Specialist Summaries*

The pottery assemblage comprised 265 sherds with most dated to the late Anglo-Saxon and medieval, although small quantities of late Bronze Age, Romano-British and modern wares were also documented (Blinkhorn). The prehistoric and Romano-British wares were residual. The earliest pottery, particularly the Maxey Ware, indicate that late Anglo-Saxon activity at the site started in the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, with the other wares evidence activity continuing into the medieval period. Activity appears to have terminated at the site after the 12<sup>th</sup> century, as all later medieval wares are entirely absent. The rim-sherds are entirely limited to jar and bowl types, which are fairly typical of the pottery of the region. The CBM assemblage includes burnt greyish brown sandy daub, which may be medieval in date, and in subsoil (103) a small fragment of modern roof-tile.

A total of 145 fragments of animal bone were recovered from the site with five species identified in the assemblage, including: cattle, pig, horse, and dog; some of the bird remains from medieval contexts are probably derived from chicken. Cattle remains and fragments from smaller mammal species were found in cut features dating from the late Anglo-Saxon period, with the preponderance of the assemblage derived from contexts dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. These species are commonly found on Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites in England. All of the contexts from which animal bone was recovered were the fills of ditches and pits, indicating that the remains were probably domestic refuse that was disposed of in convenient places.

Fourteen environmental samples were taken from most of the cut features revealed on-site (Fig. 9), with seven subjected to detailed archaeobotanical analysis (Gray). The charred plant remains were dominated by cereal grains, particularly those of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.), and the lack of chaff indicates that the grain was already prepared for storage, milling and consumption.

Nine objects were examined; none of which were independently datable. For the most part, they comprised domestic objects including two brooches, a pin and a possible strap end of a type that occur from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century Leahy and Lewis 2018. 45, 61-64) and structural fittings including small to medium sizes nails. One item (SF5) has the superficial appearance of a small blade of a type found in the Anglo-Saxon period, however X-radiography showed it is lacking any of the diagnostic features necessary for a knife or blade and can only be regarded as a strip fragment.

#### 5.5 *Phasing*

Site phasing was established by combining stratigraphic evidence and datable artefacts, and is depicted in Figure 15.



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***Phase 1: Prehistoric to Roman-Britain***

This broad phase is constituted by a small quantity of residual late Bronze Age and Romano-British potsherds, which allude to the potential antiquity of local human activity/occupation.

***Phase 2: Late Anglo-Saxon to medieval (11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century)***

Ditches [DN1-2, ditch/gully GN3], pit [159], and possible ditch terminus [163] form a distinct cluster of cut features on the eastern side of the excavation. These contained pottery dated to the late Anglo-Saxon period, from the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, and the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD. Features containing pottery dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century are clustered in the west and northeast of the site and include ditches [GN4, 141, 161], and pits [111, 113, 124]. Possible pit [107] and natural feature [145] are outliers to this cluster. Ditch terminus/pit [165] is undated but as it underlies a group of inter-cutting features dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century it is likely to fit within this phase. Ditch [203] is also undated, though its physical proximity (c. 6m east) to the Phase 2 cut features suggests it may have formed part of these earthworks. It is possible that posthole [171] also belongs to this phase, but no dating evidence was found associated with this cut feature

***Phase 3: Modern***

Pit [130] was the only cut feature that contained pottery dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the pit cut and its fill did appear to have been subjected to some form of mechanical disturbance and this may have vertically displaced the modern sherd from an upper layer e.g. from subsoil (103), which contained 10 other modern potsherds. As pit/posthole [143] cut into pit [130] this feature also dates to the modern period.

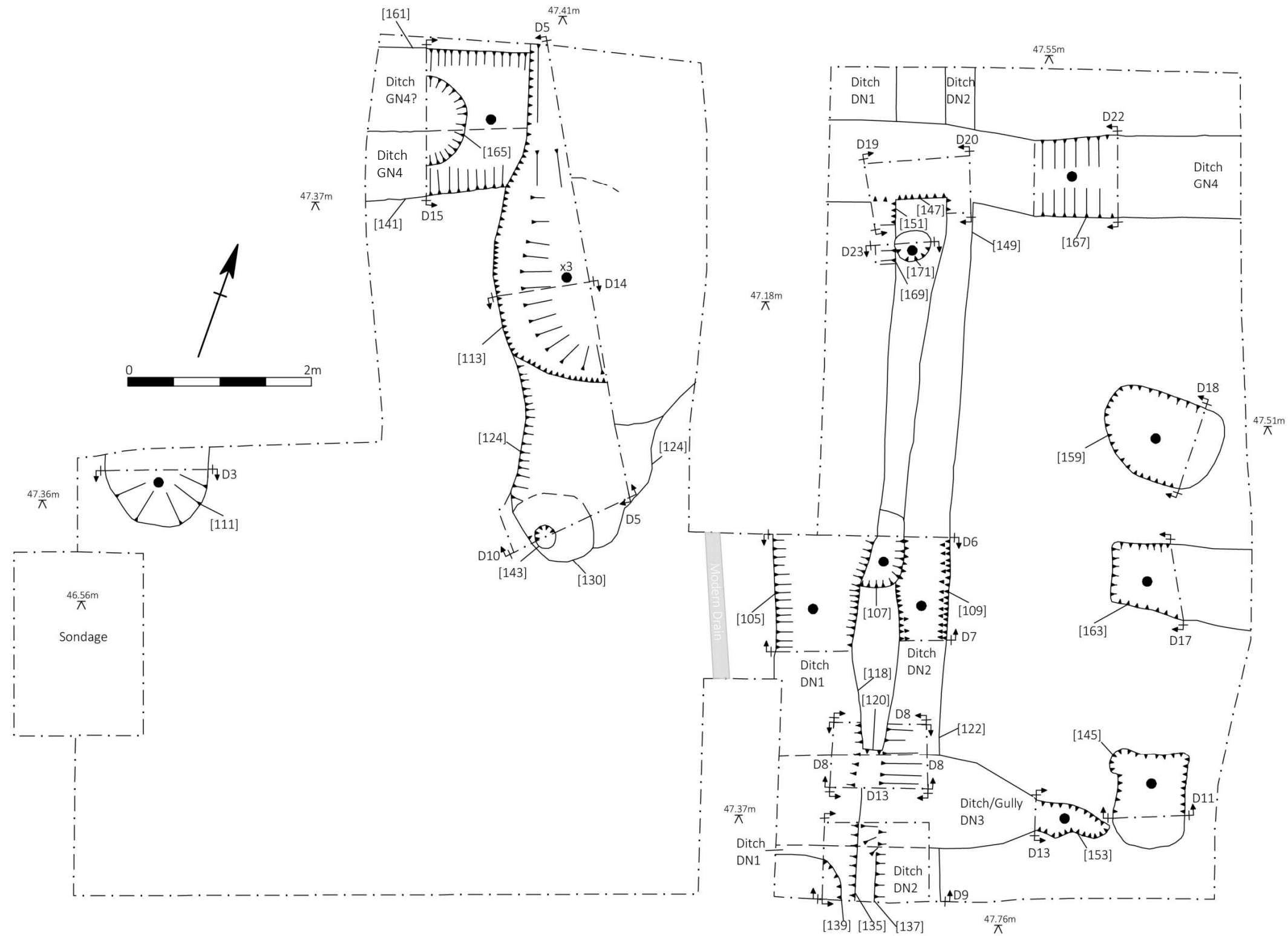


Figure 11: SMR excavation plan (scale 1:50)

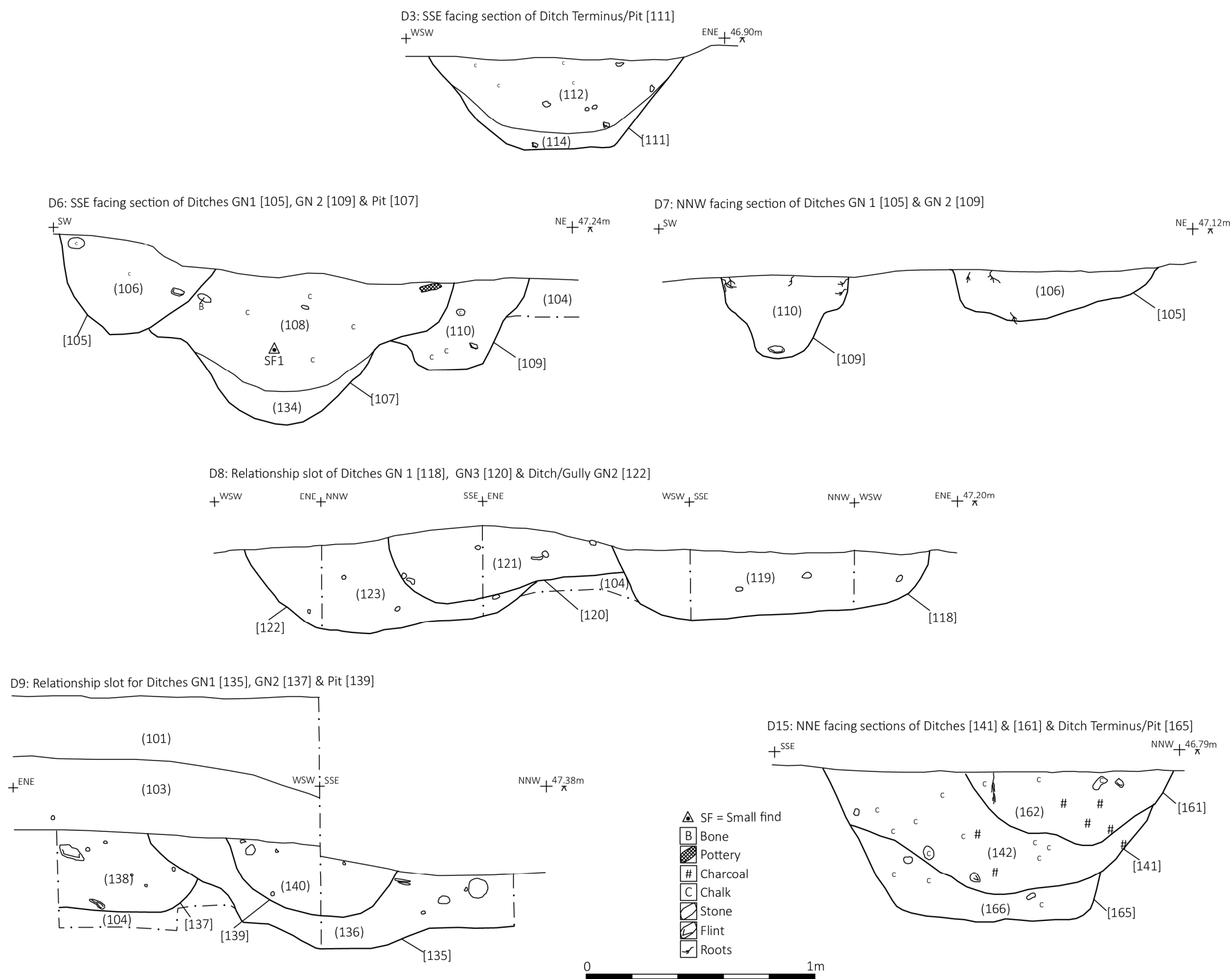


Figure 12: Ditch & Pit sections (scale 1:20)



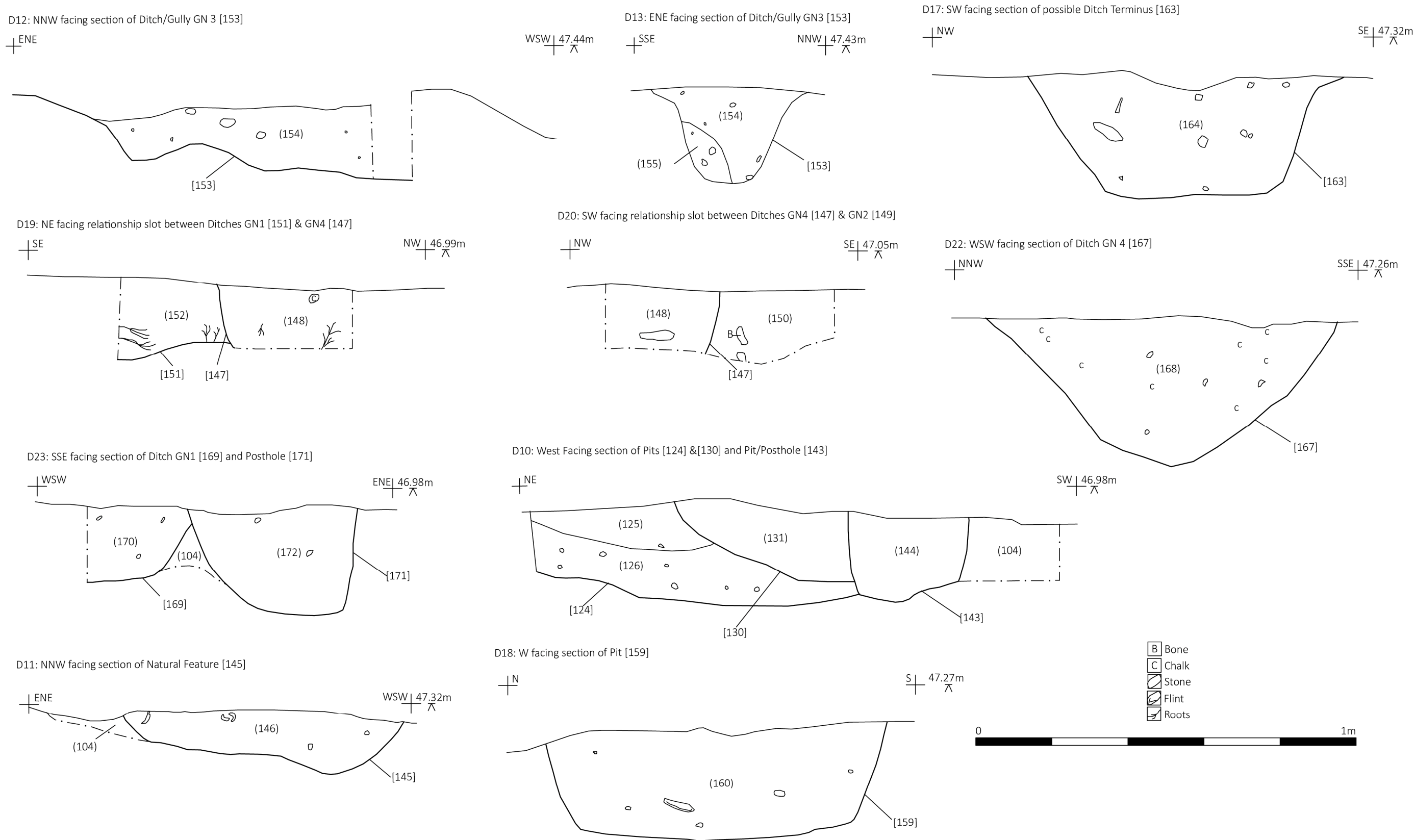


Figure 13: Ditch/Gully & Pit sections (scale 1:10)

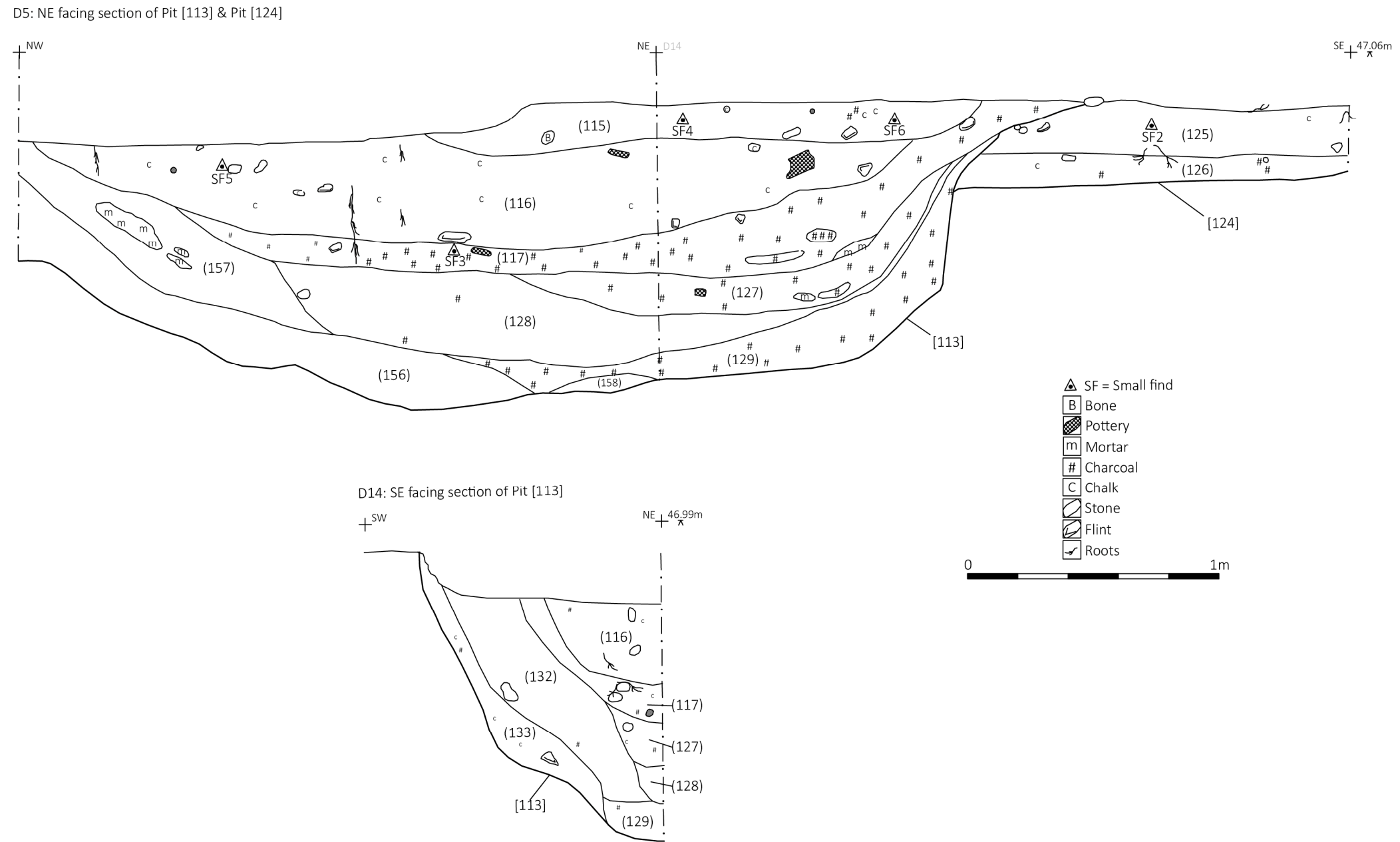


Figure 14: Pit [113] sections (scale 1:20)

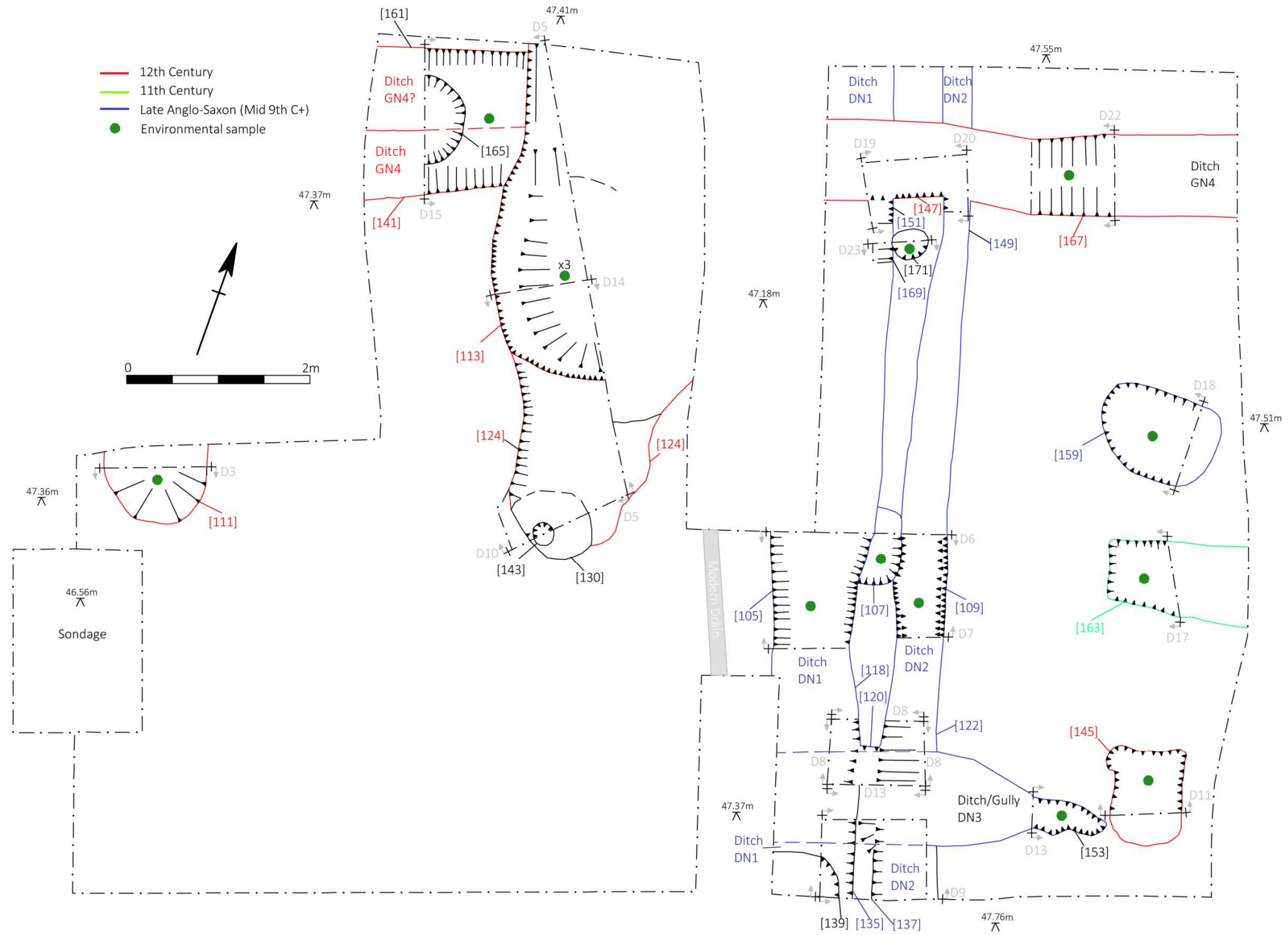


Figure 15: SMR excavation phase plan (scale 1:50)



**Plate 7:** Excavation area overview, looking south



**Plate 8:** Excavation area overview, looking northeast



Plate 9: Northwest area of excavation, looking northeast



Plate 10: Northwest area of excavation, looking northwest



**Plate 11:** Ditches GN1-2 [135], GN1 [137] and Pit [139] sections, looking southeast



**Plate 12:** Ditches GN1-2 [135], GN1 [137] and Pit [139], looking southwest



**Plate 13:** Ditch GN1 [105] section, looking southeast



**Plate 14:** Ditches GN1 [105] & GN 2 [109] & Pit [107] sections, looking northwest



**Plate 15:** Ditches GN1 [105] & GN 2 [109] & Pit [107], looking southwest



**Plate 16:** Intersection of Ditches GN1 [149], GN2 [151] & GN4 [147], looking southeast



**Plate 17:** Ditch GN1 [169] & Posthole [171] section, looking northwest



**Plate 18:** Ditches GN1 [118], GN2 [122] GN3 [120] section, looking northeast



**Plate 19:** Ditch GN2 [109] section, looking southeast



**Plate 20:** Ditches GN2 [149] & GN4 [147] sections, looking northeast



**Plate 21:** Ditch GN3 [153], looking southeast



**Plate 22:** Ditch GN3 [153] section, looking west



Plate 23: Ditch GN3 [153], looking southeast



Plate 24: Ditch GN4 [167] section, looking northeast



Plate 25: Ditch GN4 [167], looking northwest



Plate 26: Ditch Terminus/Pit [111], looking northwest



Plate 27: Ditch Terminus/Pit [111], looking northeast



Plate 28: Ditch [141], Ditch [161] Ditch terminus/Pit [165], looking northwest





**Plate 29:** Ditch [141], Ditch [161] Ditch terminus/Pit [165] section, looking southwest



**Plate 30:** Ditch [163] section, looking northeast



**Plate 31:** Pit [113] section, looking northeast



**Plate 32:** Pit [113] section, looking northwest



**Plate 33:** Pit [113] & Pit [124] section, looking northeast



**Plate 34:** Pit [124], Pit [130] and Pit/Posthole [143] section, looking southeast



**Plate 35:** Pit [124], Pit [130] and Pit/Posthole [143], looking northeast



**Plate 36:** Natural feature [145], southeast



**Plate 37:** Pit [159] section, looking east



**Plate 38:** Pit [159], looking south



## 6 Conclusions

The cut features revealed within the SMR and Trench 2 excavations and the associated dating evidence indicate there was activity on the site from the late Anglo-Saxon period, with the preponderance of features/pottery dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. Residual prehistoric and Romano-British potsherds hint at the deeper antiquity of local human occupation/activity.

The size of the SMR and Trench 2 excavations provides only a small window onto past human activities/occupation in Wrestlingworth. The cut features, predominantly ditches and a few pits, probably denote spatial boundaries that are likely to have been connected with settlement and agriculture. As the ditches revealed within the excavations were narrow (<1.38m) they may not have been dug to enclose large areas of land as such boundaries were more usually emplaced by larger scale earthworks. Therefore, these ditches may represent internal sub-divisions within a larger enclosed area. The Anglo-Saxon and 11<sup>th</sup> century features are concentrated in the eastern half of the excavation area, whereas the 12<sup>th</sup> century features are situated to the north and northwest. Limitations imposed by the size of the excavation notwithstanding, this suggests a possible shift in site focus, at least some form of re-orientation, though whether the Anglo-Saxon boundaries were merely altered or were overwritten by the medieval (12<sup>th</sup> century) period is unknown given the available data.

The archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological data from the site provide information concerning aspects of the medieval economy. The plant remains were dominated by cereal grains, particularly those of bread wheat, and the lack of chaff indicates that the grain was already prepared for storage, milling and consumption. The identified animal remains comprise species commonly found on Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites in England: including cattle, pig, horse, and dog; some of the bird remains from medieval contexts are probably derived from chicken. These remains were domestic refuse that was disposed of in convenient places, i.e. pits and ditches. The botanical and faunal remains provide a glimpse into the 'everyday' subsistence economy of the agrarian settlement of *Wrastlingewrd*.

The small assemblage of burnt daub may be derived from multiple sources (e.g. structural) but as most were collected from the fills of Pit [113] these are potential by-products of activities associated with the putative stoke-hole. The contents of Pit [113] do not indicate any obvious industrial focus, and the environmental data within the pit fills, and from across the site, did not contain any hammerscale, a by-product of iron forging/working processes, or any indications of a pottery kiln. Instead, the samples from pit [113] contained abundant remains of grain that may have been waste from a corn dryer situated to the northwest, beyond the limit of excavation.

All of the small finds were retrieved from 12<sup>th</sup> century contexts, predominantly from the fills of Pit [113], and though the animal bone spindle whorl (SF2) signals a commonly practiced initial stage in textile production, the remaining finds were metal objects (iron pin (SF3), possible iron blade (SF5), iron buckle/strap end (SF6), and a copper alloy brooch/button pin). These metal objects are typical of sites from this period and offer little by way assessing the relative status of either the individuals or the community as a whole. Whether these objects were manufactured locally, though not within the immediate vicinity of the excavation, or acquired through wider trade networks is unknown. The small fragments of pumice stone in Ditches [141, 161], Ditch Terminus/Pit [111] and Pit [113] indicate some wider trade, probably from either Iceland, eastern or southern Europe, or Turkey. Pumice is a fine abrasive, and was used, *inter alia*, in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and in the preparation of parchment for manuscripts.

The aims of the Archaeological Evaluation and SMR have been achieved as they have provided valuable insights into the late Anglo-Saxon/medieval settlement and economy of Wrestlingworth, albeit only on a small scale.



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## 7 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to J & S Dickinson Builders for commissioning this report and to Jason and Matt Dickinson for their assistance on site. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire County Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Slawek Utrata and Martin Oake of Central Bedfordshire County Council for monitoring the project. We would also like to extend our sincerest thanks to John and Elizabeth Jarvis for their kindness and generosity during the excavation.

The fieldwork was carried out by Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA, Chris Martin-Taylor BSc, Barney King and Tori Jarvis. The report was written by Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA & Derek Watson PhD, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



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## 8 Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

8.2 The archive will be deposited with The Higgins Museum, Bedford (Accession: BEDFM 2019.16).



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## Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

### Context Register

Context	Type	W	L	D	Colour/ Shape	Texture/ Sides	Consistency /Base	Orientation	Filled By	Description
100	Layer	>9.44	>13.58	0.35	Dark Brownish Grey	Slightly Clayey Silty Loam	Fairly Friable			
101	Layer	>9.44	>13.58	0.15	Grey	Concrete and Brick	Solid	-	-	Concrete and brick made ground found to the east of the site and was part of the previous driveway
102	Layer	>9.44	>13.58	0.18	Mid Orange	Sand	Very Loose	-	-	Builders sand beneath made ground (101)
103	Layer	>9.44	>13.58	0.30	Mid Greyish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Slightly Plastic	-	-	Subsoil within Trench 1. Contained occasional sub-angular and rounded stones and chalk flecks. Pottery, CBM, animal bone, glass and iron were recovered from the layer
104	Layer	>9.44	>13.58	N/A	Mixed orange, yellow and brown	Fairly silty clay with occasional sand patches	Fairly firm	-	-	Natural geology. Much sandier to the west of the site. To the east there was a higher concentration of clay. Very frequent chalk pieces and flecks, many of which were >100mm Large flint nodules were also present.
105	Cut	<0.88	>1	<0.41	Linear	Irregular. Gentle slope in the SE section but steeper in the NW	U-shaped	SE-NW	106	Linear feature which can be observed running SE-NW across the whole site. Mostly obscured by the limit of excavation caused by the presence of a foul drain to the southwest. This slot was one of four to have been excavated. Runs roughly parallel to Ditch 1 which can be found to the northeast.
106	Fill	<0.88	>1	<0.41	Mid Greyish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Slightly Firm	SE-NW	105	Fill of ditch [105]. Deliberate backfill. Contained pottery and animal bone as well as occasional flecks of charcoal and chalk and occasional sub-angular flint pieces. The animal bone displayed butcher marks where it is evident that the marrow has been utilized





107	Cut	0.85	1.25	0.65	Circular	Steep	U-shaped	0	108, 134	Cut of pit which was first identified in Evaluation trench 1. Cuts fill of ditch [109]. Contains two fills, Redeposited natural/naturally silted layer (134) and deliberate backfill (108). Pottery dating from the late Anglo- Saxon period through to the medieval period WAS recovered from the fills as well as an iron brooch. It is possible that this ditch was utilized for the disposal of rubbish. Although not a great amount of finds were recovered, it is likely that this pit was used for the disposal of organic detritus. Cuts fill of [109] to the northeast
108	Fill	0.85	1.25	0.50	Mid Brownish Grey	Fairly Silty Clay	Slightly Friable	0	107	Fill for pit [107] Deliberately backfilled. Contained occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal and occasional small sub-angular flints. Finds were recovered from this fill and they included pottery dating from the late Anglo-Saxon to the medieval period, a small amount of animal bone and SF1, an iron brooch were recovered. Cut by [105] to the southwest
109	Cut	0.54	>1	0.38	Linear	Other (specify) Irregular . Has a step on each side	Flat	SE-NW	110	Cut of linear feature to the northeast of Ditch 1. Shared the same alignment although the stratigraphy shows that this is the earliest ditch in the sequence. It was orientated SE-NW
110	Fill	0.54	>1	0.38	Mid Brownish Grey	Fairly Silty Clay	Slightly Friable	SE-NW	109	Fill of linear [109]. Contained occasional charcoal and chalk flecks throughout the fill which appears to have been the result of purposeful deposition. Also contained pottery and a small amount of animal bone. Cut by Pit [107]
111	Cut	1.1	>0.82	0.4	Sub-circular	Straight	Flat	SSE-NNW	112, 114	Ditch Terminus/Pit. Sub-circular cut, not fully visible in plan as only partially exposed by stripping. Either a pit or a ditch terminus. Contained two fills, (114) and (112). Pit has an unknown purpose but may have been a sump or had a similar function for containing water. Unlikely to be a rubbish pit as the fills did not have an appropriate density of finds.
112	Fill	1.1	0.82	0.32	Mottled Greyish Brown	Slightly Silty Clay	Fairly Friable	SSE-NNW	111	Top fill of pit [111] containing animal bone, pumice stone and possible Anglo-Saxon pottery. Filled by either natural silting or backfill.



113	Cut	>2.30	3.70	1.15	Sub-circular	Steep	U-shaped	0	115, 116, 117, 127, 128, 129, 132, 133, 156, 157, 158	Large pit located near to the centre of the trench. Comprised a number of deposits which were rich in dating material. Possible stoke hole perhaps for a kiln which would be situated in the neighbouring garden. Three of the fills were also rich in burnt material and it is evident that in situ burning had taken place within the pit. Contained 12 different fills (115), (116), (117), (127), (128), (127), (129), (156), (157), (158), (132) and (133).
114	Fill	0.56	Unknown	0.08	Mid Yellowish Brown	Fairly Sandy Clay	Fairly Soft	SSE-NN W	111	Base fill of pit [111]. Contained no finds, may have been deposited by collapse of the natural soil or by other means of natural deposition such as silting from the presence of water.
115	Fill	2.15	>2.20	0.18	Mid Greyish Brown	Very Silty Clay	Fairly Friable	0	113	Upper and 12th fill of [113]. Intentional deposition of material which contained a decent amount of pottery as well as a few pieces of animal bone, occasional flecks of charcoal, chalk and possible CBM/fired clay, sub-angular flint pieces and stones. Contained a piece of Iron (SF6)
116	Fill	4	>2.20	0.38	Mid Yellowish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Fairly Soft	0	113	11th fill of pit [113]. Contained occasional sub-angular stones, charcoal and chalk flecks and chalk pieces. Pottery was rich within this fill which appear consistent to the material found throughout the site.
117	Fill	3.45	>0.80	0.32	Dark Brownish Grey	Very Silty Clay	Very Friable	0	113	Dark layer of burnt, ashy material which contained a large quantity of charcoal, quite often in thick lenses throughout the fill. The fill was rich in dateable material including pottery and burnt daub/fired clay. Very similar to lower fill (127) which also contains a high proportion of burnt material. This deposit had become slumped at its middle.
118	Cut	>0.33	>0.7	0.3	Linear	Straight	U-shaped	SSE-NN W	119	Same as [105] and [135]. Provisionally dated to Anglo-Saxon due to general site phasing.
119	Fill	>0.33	>0.7	0.3	Mid Greyish Brown	Slightly Sandy Clay	Slightly Firm	SSE-NN W	118	Single fill of [118]. No finds, dated due to general site phasing. Likely backfilled
120	Cut	>0.4	>0.6	0.3	Linear	Concave	U-shaped	ENE-WS W	121	Ditch/gully running ENE-WSW with a single fill. Cuts [122] but is cut by [118]



121	Fill	>0.4	>0.6	0.3	Mottled Greyish Brown	Fairly Sandy Clay	Slightly Compact	ENE-WS W	120	Single fill of [120]. No finds but likely backfilled.
122	Cut	>0.33	>0.7	0.4	Linear	Concave	U-shaped	SSE-NN W	123	Linear running parallel to [118]
123	Fill	>0.33	>0.7	0.4	Mid Brownish Grey	Fairly Sandy Clay	Slightly Firm	SSE-NN W	122	Fill of [122], contained sherds of animal bone and a tooth. Probably backfill. Provisionally dated Anglo-Saxon due to general site phasing.
124	Cut	1.50	1.90	0.24	Sub-circular	Steep	Flat	0	125	cut of possible pit found to the SE of [113]. Its shape is obscured by the features which intercept it. Contained two fills, (125) and (126).
125	Fill	1.50	1.90	0.13	Mid Brownish Grey	Fairly Silty Clay	Slightly Soft	0	124	Secondary fill of [124]. Appears to be the result of deliberate backfilling. Finds were present throughout but were limited in number. A bone spindle whorl was recovered as well as pottery and a few pieces of animal bone. Chalk was present throughout as well as occasional charcoal flecks and sub-angular stones
126	Fill	1.50	1.90	0.18	Mid Yellowish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Fairly Soft	0	124	Primary fill of [124]. Possibly redeposited or heavily trodden on natural
127	Fill	UNKNO WN	1.65	0.15	Dark Brownish Grey	Very Silty Clay	Very Friable	-	113	Almost identical to (117) but contained a much higher concentration of burnt daub/fired clay and the occasional patch of a mortar like material. There were a moderate amount of charcoal pieces and large flecks throughout which may indicate that in situ burning had taken place within the pit. There were also lenses of a heavily disturbed redeposited clay natural within this deposit.. As the upper layer (117), slumping has occurred within this fill. Contained pottery which appeared to be consistent with sherds found within all fills of the pit
128	Fill	Unkno wn	2.22	0.34	Mixed Yellow Brownish Grey	Slightly Silty Clay	Fairly Soft	-	113	Heavily mixed layer between two layers of burning: (127) and (129). Charcoal still present within the fill but is far less concentrated. Pottery recovered from the fill which appears to be of a contemporary date to the other sherds found within the pit



129	Fill	Unkno wn	1.57	0.50	Dark Reddish Brownish Grey	Very Silty Clay	Fairly Loose	-	113	Fill of pit [113] which shows evidence for in situ burning. Similar in composition to (117) and (127) but contains a reddish hew. This fill sits just above the water table and moisture has seeped into the fill which, although still friable, has left it with a slightly sticky consistency. Like the upper layers, there was a moderate amount of charcoal flecks and pieces throughout. Rooting did not appear to have penetrated this lower fill
130	Cut	0.43	~0.50	0.19	Circular	<45 degrees	U-shaped	-	131	Cut of pit to the southeast of feature [124]. Full extent was obscured as the fill was very similar in colour and composition to the upper fill of [124]. Contained a single fill (131)
131	Fill	0.43	~0.50	0.19	Mid Brownish Grey	Slightly Silty Clay	Fairly Firm	-	130	Fill of pit [130]. Contained animal bone and pottery whose fabrics were consistant to others found in surrounding features. Occasional chalk flecks and subangular stones observed within the fill. Cut by posthole [143]
132	Fill	Unkno wn	0.45	0.84	Mottled Yellow Brown	Slightly Silty Clay	Fairly Soft	-	113	Fill similar to (116) a heavily disturbed layer of redeposited natural which appears to line Pit [113] on the southwest side. This layer appears to be the same as 157. Contains pumice.
133	Fill	0	0.30	0.94	Mottled Yellow Brown	Slightly Silty Clay	Slightly Firm	-	113	Redeposited natural layer which lines the southwest edge of pit [113]. Appears to be the primary fill of the pit. Could have been the result of leeching from (132). Possibly the same as 156
134	Fill	0.76	>0.27	0.15	Mid Yellowish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Fairly Soft	-	107	Sumped redeposited natural layer at the base of pit [107]. May have formed through the natural silting of the pit prior to the upper fill (108) being deposited
135	Cut	>0.74	>0.83	0.44	Linear	Compo nd hallow followed by a sharp step, then another gentle slope to base	Irregular	SSE- NN W	136	SSE to NNW orientated ditch cutting [137]. Possibly part of a system of drainage ditches.



136	Fill	>0.74	>0.83	0.3	Mid Brownish Grey	Slightly Sandy Clay	Slightly Friable	SSE-NN W	135	Fill of ditch [135], cut by pit [139]. Probably backfill.
137	Cut	>0.6	>0.85	0.35	Linear	Concave truncated by [135]	Flat	SSE-NN W	138	Ditch cut by [135] but on same alignment.
138	Fill	>0.6	>0.85	0.35	Mottled Yellowish Brown	Slightly Sandy Clay	Fairly Firm	SSE-NN W	137	Fill of ditch [137] containing animal bone and a small fragment of mortar or daub. Probably backfill
139	Cut	0.33	0.4	0.3	Circular	Straight	U-shaped	ENE-WS W	140	Possible pit cut into the fill of the ditch [135]. Unknown purpose but may have been a rubbish pit.
140	Fill	0.33	0.4	0.3	Mottled Yellowish Brown	Slightly Sandy Clay	Slightly Firm	ENE-WS W	139	Fill of pit [139]. Contained no finds but likely backfill.
141	Cut	1.36	>1.63	0.54	Linear	>45 degrees	U-shaped	ENE-WS W	142	Cut of large ditch which runs parallel with the site boundary. This feature was cut by large pit [113] and was also recut by a narrower, shallower ditch [161] which respects [141]'s orientation. Cannot be seen beyond pit [113]
142	Fill	1.36	>1.63	0.54	Mixed Yellow Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Fairly Soft	ENE-WS W	141	Fill of large boundary ditch. Contained pottery, pumice, and a small amount of animal bone. Has a similar appearance to redeposited natural and contained several large battered flint nodules at its base. Charcoal was present within the fill as was occasional chalk pieces. The fill was cut by a second ditch which was much shallower and narrower by comparison.
143	Cut	0.30	0.23	0.21	Circular	Steep	Irregular	-	144	Cut of posthole or small pit within cluster of features.
144	Fill	0.30	0.23	0.21	Mid Brownish Grey	Slightly Silty Clay	Fairly Firm	-	143	Fill of posthole [143]. Slightly darker than the surrounding fills
145	Cut	0.85	1.04	0.16	Sub-rectangular	Concave	Irregular	N-S	146	Cut of probable natural feature, possibly tree throw, flower bed or hedgerow
146	Fill	0.85	1.04	0.16	Mottled Yellowish Brown	Slightly Silty Clay	Slightly Compact	N-S	145	Fill of natural feature [145], likely natural deposition.



147	Cut	0.82	>1	Not reached	Linear	Not excavated	Base not reached	NE-SW	148	Northeast- southwest running ditch. Not fully excavated as this slot was dug to discover the relationship between [147] and ditches 1 and 2.[147] appears to cut both
148	Fill	0.82	>1	Not reached	Mid Brownish Grey	Fairly Sandy Clay	Fairly Firm	NE-SW	147	Fill of [147]. Slot not fully excavated
149	Cut	>0.70	>0.24	Base not reached	Linear	>45 degrees	Base not reached	SE-NW	150	Cut of SE-NW ditch. Not fully excavated as this slot was dug to ascertain relationships with ditch [147]
150	Fill	>0.70	>0.24	Base not reached	Mid Brownish Grey	Fairly Silty Clay	Slightly Friable	SE-NW	149	Fill of [149]. Cut by [147]
151	Cut	>0.24	>0.60	Base not reached	Linear	>45 degrees	Base not reached	SE-NW	152	Cut of SE-NW ditch. Not fully excavated as this slot was dug to ascertain relationships with ditch [147]
152	Fill	>0.24	>0.60	Base not reached	Mid Greyish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Slightly Firm	SE-NW	151	Fill of [151]. Cut by ditch [147]
153	Cut	0.4	>0.82	0.25	Linear	Straight	U-shaped	ENE-WSW	154 ?	Terminus of ditch/gully containing two fills. Same as ditch [120]. Dated to Anglo-Saxon due to possible Anglo-Saxon pot in fill [154].
154	Fill	0.4	>0.82	0.25	Mid Greyish Brown	Slightly Sandy Clay	Slightly Firm	ENE-WSW	153	Top fill of ditch terminus [153] containing pot and animal bone, possibly Anglo-Saxon. Likely backfill.
155	Fill	0.09	>0.2	0.12	Light Orangey Brown	Fairly Sandy Clay	Fairly Soft	-		Redeposited natural or collapse fill
156	Fill	2.15	Unknown	0.24	Mid Yellowish Brown	Slightly Silty Clay	Slightly Firm	-	113	Redeposited natural layer which lines the southwest edge of pit [113]. Appears to be the primary fill of the pit. Could have been the result of leeching from upper layers
157	Fill	1.15	Unknown	0.32	Mid Greyish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Fairly Firm	-	113	Contained several large lenses of what appears to be a light yellowish white mortar which is compact but quite friable
158	Fill	0.39	Unknown	0.07	Mid Brownish Yellow	Very Silty Clay	Slightly Friable	-	113	Small deposit of yellow silty sand at the base of [113]



159	Cut	0.95	1.34	0.30	Sub-circular	Straight	Flat	E-W	160	Pit of unknown purpose by the east baulk. One fill with animal bone and pottery, probably Anglo-Saxon in date. Also contained possible fossilised shell. Maybe a rubbish pit.
160	Fill	0.88	>1	0.30	Mid Brownish Grey	Slightly Sandy Clay	Fairly Friable	E-W	159	Single fill of pit [159] containing probably Anglo-Saxon pot, animal bone and fossilised shell. Probably backfilled.
161	Cut	0.88	>1.68	0.31	Linear	<45 degrees	U-shaped	SSE-NNW	162	Cut of recut linear feature within ditch [141]. This feature continues into the northern part of the trench whereas the larger ditch [141] does not. The ditch contains a single fill [162] which produced pottery and a small amount of animal bone. Pre-dates large pit [113] which intercepts with [161] to the northeast
162	Fill	0.88	>1.68	0.31	Dark Yellowish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Fairly Soft	SSE-NNW	161	Fill of recut pit [161]. Contained pottery contemporary with other fabrics observed on the site. Also contained a pumice, a small amount of animal bone, flecks of charcoal and shell.
163	Cut	0.83	1.3	0.32	Rectangular	Straight	Flat	E-W	164	Possible terminus of rectilinear ditch. May also be a pit but appears linear. Single fill containing bone fragments and also a probable Anglo-Saxon pot rim.
164	Fill	0.83	1.3	0.32	Mid Greyish Brown	Slightly Sandy Clay	Slightly Soft	-	163	Single fill of possible ditch terminus [163] containing probable Anglo-Saxon pot rim and some animal bone. Likely backfill.
165	Cut	0.94	>0.44	>0.33	Circular	>45 degrees Steeper on the NNW edge	Flat	-	166	Pit or possible ditch terminus/pit found beneath [141].
166	Fill	0.94	>0.44	>0.33	Mid Yellowish Brown	Fairly Silty Clay	Fairly Soft	-	165	Fill of pit [165] which is located beneath Ditch [141]



167	Cut	0.9	>0.88	0.38	Linear	Straight with a slight concave side to the SSE	Linear	ENE-WSW	168	Ditch running WSW - ENE. Same as [147] and [161], the latter of which appeared as a smaller recut within the large boundary ditch [141]. Appears in this area independent of [141], which presumably terminates somewhere to the WSW. Total length of feature is at least 7.5m. Single fill with likely Saxon pottery and animal bone. Unknown purpose but possibly intended as a less severe boundary ditch or drainage channel.
168	Fill	0.9	>0.88	0.38	Mid Brownish Grey	Fairly Sandy Clay	Fairly Firm	-	167	Single fill of [167] containing probably Anglo-Saxon pottery and animal bone. Most likely backfill.
169	Cut	>0.27	>0.19	0.2	Linear	Straight	Flat	SSE-NNW	170	Ditch cut by possible posthole or rooting [171]. Same as [105]
170	Fill	>0.27	>0.19	0.2	Mid Brownish Grey	Fairly Sandy Clay	Fairly Firm	-	169	Backfill in ditch [169]
171	Cut	>0.17	0.43	0.28	Sub-circular	Steep	Flat	SSE-NNW	172	Possible posthole. Contained no finds and the edges were indistinct.
172	Fill	>0.17	0.43	0.28	Light Yellowish Brown	Slightly Sandy Clay	Fairly Soft	-	171	Fill of posthole or rooting [171]. May be backfill or redeposited natural soil.
200	Layer	2	5.80	0.39	Mid brownish grey	Fairly silty sand	Fairly friable	-	-	Topsoil
201	Layer	2	5.80	0.30	Mid brownish grey	Slightly silty sandy clay	Fairly compact	-	-	Subsoil
202	Layer	2	5.80	-	Mixed orangey brown	Very silty clay	Very firm	-	-	Natural geology. Orange sandy patches also found in places
203	Cut	0.34	>2.40	0.71	Linear	>45 degrees	U-shaped	SE-NW	204, 205	Linear feature to the west of trench 2. Only feature within this trench. Extent continues beyond the limit of excavation. Contains two fills. A darker upper layer (205) and a lower silted layer (204)





204	Fill	0.34	>1	<0.16	Mixed brownish yellow	Fairly silty clay	Very soft	203	Lower fill of ditch [203]. Silted fill which closely resembles the natural. Has been disturbed throughout by rooting which has left it with a mixed colouring. Contained shell, animal bone and a small piece of fired clay.
205	Fill	0.38	>0.3	0.07	Mid greyish brown	Slightly silty clay	Fairly soft	203	Upper layer of ditch [203]. Not found consistently throughout the ditch as it only appears to the north west where rooting is more frequent. Contained the leg bone of a sheep/goat. No dating recovered

### Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	2	1:20	Plan of Ditch [203]
1	4	1:20	Plan of pit [111]
3	16	1:20	Plan of northwest corner of trench
5	21	1:20	Plan of features in the eastern half of the site

### Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1	1	1:10	Southwest facing section Ditch [203]
1	3	1:10	SSE facing section of pit [111]
2	5	1:10	Running section of [113] and [124]
2	6	1:10	SSE facing section of [105], [107], [109]
2	7	1:10	NNW facing section of [105] and [109]
2	8	1:10	Relationship slot of ditches [118], [120] and [122]
1	9	1:10	Relationship slot of ditches [135], [137] and pit [139]
2	10	1:10	West Facing section of pits [124],[130] and [143]
2	11	1:10	NNW facing section of possible rooting/tree throw [145]
2	12	1:10	NNW facing section of ditch terminus [153]
2	13	1:10	ENE facing section of ditch [153]
4	14	1:10	South west facing section [113]
4	15	1:10	Northeast facing section of [141]
3	17	1:10	SW facing section of possible ditch terminus [163]
3	18	1:10	W facing section of pit [159]
3	19	1:10	Relationship slot between [151] and [147]
3	20	1:10	Relationship slot between [147] and [149]
3	22	1:10	WSW facing section of ditch [167]
3	23	1:10	SSE facing section of ditch and posthole [169] + [171]



## Registered Finds

Registered Find No.	Context No.	Material	Description
1	108	Fe	Iron brooch
2	125	Animal bone	Spindle Whorl
3	117	Fe	Iron Pin
4	116	Ca	Copper alloy object
5	116	Fe	Strip of iron, possible blade?
6	115	Fe	Buckle/strap end

## Sample Register

Sample No	Context No	Sample Type	Quantity
1	204	Bulk	40l
2	106	Bulk	40l
3	108	Bulk	40l
4	110	Bulk	40l
5	112	Bulk	40l
6	115	Bulk	40l
7	117	Bulk	40l
8	129	Bulk	40l
9	154	Bulk	30l
10	168	Bulk	40l
11	171	Bulk	10l
12	160	Bulk	40l
13	164	Bulk	40l
14	142	Bulk	40l



## Appendix 2: Concordances

### Finds Concordance

Context		Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM		Fe Objects		Other		
Cut	Fill	#	g	#	g	#	g	#	g	#	g	Details
Subsoil	103	10	259	1	3	1	4	1	152	1	5	Slate sticks
										1	12	Glass
105	106	2	8	9	336							
107	108	15	108	5	25	1	3	1	9			Fe SF 1
109	110	6	17	1	8							
111	112	8	34	4	24					10	33	Pumice stone
113	115	34	301	19	54	1	11			1	32	Fe SF 6
113	116	22	207	7	35	4	37	2	41	1	>1	Wood
										1	11	SF 4
										1	11	SF 5
113	117	83	869	38	191	14	193			1	1	Flint
										1	7	Burnt bone
										1	1	Charcoal
										6	6000	Stones
										1	5	Fe SF 3
122	123			5	23							
	124	7	76	6	27	3	13			1	1	Burnt bone
										1	20	Bone spindle whorl SF 2
124	126	3	50	2	40							
113	127	19	339	4	11	4	54			1	19	Flint
										1	2308	Stone with mortar
113	128	12	78	5	55	3	17			1	6	Flint
										1	314	Stone
113	129	6	48	6	55	2	26			1	16	Stone
130	131	1	11	4	85					1	303	Stone
113	132	10	87							10	37	Pumice
										6	12	Charcoal
113	133	1	3			2	1					
135	136			3	204							
137	138			3	14	1	2					
141	142	9	75									
143	144	1	13									
145	146	2	6	3	3							
	147	2	13							1	>1	Charcoal
										1	41	Stone
147	148	4	30	4	8			1	5	1	>1	Charcoal
153	154	1	1	5	44					1	10	Flint
113	157									3	123	Mortar
159	160	9	91	8	109							



Context		Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM		Fe Objects		Other		
Cut	Fill	#	g	#	g	Cut	Fill	#	g	#	g	Cut
161	162	7	67	8	13	3	10			1	1	Burnt bone
										1	3	Pumice
										3	306	Stone
163	164	1	49	3	2							
167	168	4	36	4	41			1	1			
203	204			2	3					1	<1	Stone
203	205			2	23							
<b>Totals</b>		<b>279</b>	<b>2876</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>1436</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9626</b>	

### Sample Concordance

Context no.	Sample no.	Sample Vol.	Flot	Retent										
			Plant matter and Charcoal	Animal bone	Shell	Charcoal	Fe (Hammerscale/Cast off etc)	Pottery	CBM	Flint- Heat Affected or possibly worked	Stones and flint	Other objects		
204	1	40L	x	x	x									
106	2	40L	x		x	x	x	x	x			x		
108	3	40L	x		x	x	x	x	x			x		
110	4	40L	x	x	x	x						x		
112	5	40L	x	x	x	x				x		x		
115	6	40L	x	x	x				x	x		x		
117	7	40L	x	x		x	x	x	x			x		
129	8	40L	x	x		x			x	x		x		
142	14	40L	x	x	x				x	x		x		(pumice)
154	9	30L	x	x					x					
160	12	40L	x	x	x		x	x	x			x		
164	13	40L	x	x	x		x	x				x		
168	10	40L	x		x		x	x	x			x		
171	11	10L	x	x		x	x			x		x		



### Appendix 3: Photograph List

Shot	B&W	View	Subject
1		SSW	Trench 1
2		SE	Trench 1 stratigraphy
3		E	Trench 2
4		S	Trench 2 Stratigraphy
5		SW	Pre-excavation [203]
6		SW	Ditch [203]
7		NE	Southwest facing section of [203]
8		NNW	Pre-excavation [103]
9		NE	Pre-excavation [105], [107] and [109]
10		NNW	SSE facing section [105], [107] and [109]
11		NNW	SSE facing section [105], [107] and [109]
12		NNW	SSE facing section [105], [107] and [109]
13		NNW	SSE facing section [105], [107] and [109] NB
14		WSW	[105], [107] and [109]
15		WSW	[105], [107] and [109]
16		WSW	Trench 1
17		WSW	Trench 1
18		SSE	Trench 1 east
19		SSE	Trench 1 west
20		WSW	Trench 1 west
21		NNW	Pre-excavation of pit [111]
22		SW	Pre-excavation pit [113]
23	X	NNW	SSE facing section of pit [111]
24		NNW	SSE facing section of pit [111] - no board
25	X	ENE	Overall shot of pit [111]
26		ENE	Overall shot of pit [111] - no board
27	X	ENE	WSW facing section of ditches [118], [120]
28		ENE	WSW facing section of ditches [118], [120] - no board
29	X	SSE	NNW facing section of ditches [118], [120], [122]
30		SSE	NNW facing section of ditches [118], [120], [122] - no board
31	X	WSW	ENE facing section of ditches [120] and [122]
32		WSW	ENE facing section of ditches [120] and [122]
33		WSW	ENE facing section of ditch [120] and [122] - no board
34	X	NE	Quarter sectioned pit [113]
35		NE	Quarter sectioned pit [113] -No board
36	X	NE	Southwest facing section of [113]
37		NE	Southwest facing section of [113]- No board
38		-	Void
39		NW	Southeast facing section of [113]
40		NE	Southwest facing section of [113]
41		NE	Southwest facing section of [113]
42	X	NE	Southwest facing section of [113] and [124]
43		NE	Southwest facing section of [113] and [124]
44		NE	Southwest facing section of [113] and [124]
45		NE	Southwest facing section of [113] and [124]- no board
46		NE	Southwest facing section of [113] and [124]- no board
47	X	SE	Northwest facing section of [109]
48		SE	Northwest facing section of [109]
49	X	SE	Northwest facing section of [105]



50		SE	Northwest facing section of [105]- no board
51		SE	Northwest facing section of [109]- no board
52	X	SSE	NNW facing section of ditches [135], [137] and pit [139]
53		SSE	NNW facing section of ditches [135], [137] and pit [139] - no board
54	X	WSW	ENE facing section ditch [135] and pit [139]
55	X	WSW	Overall of relationship slot between [135], [137], [139]
56		WSW	Overall of relationship slot between [135], [137], [139] - no board
57		WSW	ENE facing section ditch [135] and pit [139] - no board
58		SE	Possible pits [124] [130] and [143]
59	X	SE	NW facing section of possible pits [124] [130] and [143]
60		SE	NW facing section of possible pits [124] [130] and [143]- Noboard
61	X	NNE	Possible pits [124] [130] and [143]
62		NNE	Possible pits [124] [130] and [143]- No board
63	X	SSE	NNW facing section of tree throw/rooting [145]
64	X	WSW	Overall of tree throw/rooting [145]
65		NW	Pre excavation shot of [147] [149] and [151]
66	X	SSE	NNW facing section of ditch terminus [153]
67		SSE	NNW facing section of ditch terminus [153] no board
68	X	NE	Pit [113] fully excavated
69		NE	Pit [113] fully excavated
70		NE	Pit [113] fully excavated
71		NE	Pit [113] fully excavated
72		NE	Pit [113] fully excavated
73		NE	Pit [113] fully excavated- No board
74	X	WSW	ENE facing section of ditch [153]
75		WSW	ENE facing section of ditch [153] no board
76	X	SSE	Overall of ditch terminus [153]
77		SSE	Overall of ditch terminus [153] no board
78	X	NW	Ditch [141] [161] and pit [165]
79		NW	Ditch [141] [161] and pit [165]. No board
80		NW	Ditch [141] [161] and pit [165]
81	X	SW	NE facing section of [141] [161] and [165]
82		SW	NE facing section of [141] [161] and [165]. No board
83	X	NE	SW facing section of possible ditch terminus [163]
84		NE	SW facing section of possible ditch terminus [163] no board
85	X	S	Overall of ditch terminus [163]
86		S	Overall of ditch terminus [163] no board
87	X	NW	SW area
88		NW	SW area
89		NW	SW area -no board
90		NW	SW area
91		NE	SW area
92		SE	SW area
93		SE	SW area
94		SSE	SW area -no board
95	X	SSE	[113] fully excavated
96		NE	[113] fully excavated
97		NE	[113] fully excavated
98		NE	[113] fully excavated
99		NE	[113] fully excavated
100		NE	[113] fully excavated- no board



101		NE	SW facing section of possible ditch terminus [163]
102		NE	SW facing section of possible ditch terminus [163] no board
103		S	Overall of ditch terminus [163]
104		S	Overall of ditch terminus [163] no board
105	X	E	W facing section of terminus or pit [159]
106		E	W facing section of terminus or pit [159]
107	X	S	Overall of terminus or pit [159]
108		S	Overall of terminus or pit [159]
109	X	SSE	Relationship slot [149] [147] and [151]
110		SSE	Relationship slot [149] [147] and [151]- No board
111	X	NE	[147] and [149] relationship
112		NE	[147] and [149] relationship- no board
113	XX	SW	[151] and [147] relationship
114		SW	[151] and [147] relationship
115		SW	[151] and [147] relationship- no board
116	X	ENE	WSW facing section of ditch [167]
117		ENE	WSW facing section of ditch [167]
118	X	NNW	Overall of ditch [167]
119		NNW	Overall of ditch [167]
120	X	NNW	SSE facing section of relationship of [169] + [171]
121		NNW	SSE facing section of relationship of [169] + [171]
122		-	Dog mandible (buccal view) - note extensive wear to the carnassial tooth (indicated)
123		-	Dog mandible - occlusal view, note wear affecting carnassial and adjacent teeth
124		-	Horse shoe
125		-	Brooch (SF1)
126		-	Ferromagnetic iron (SF6)
127		-	Copper alloy pin (SF4)
128		-	Ferromagnetic iron
129		-	Ferromagnetic iron strip (SF5)
130		-	Ferromagnetic pin/nail (SF3)
131		-	Ferromagnetic iron nail
132		-	Ferromagnetic iron nail
133		-	Radiograph of metal objects



## Appendix 4: Specialist Reports

### 4.1 Pottery

Paul Blinkhorn

#### Pottery

The pottery assemblage comprised 265 sherds with a total weight of 2,681g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 1.98. It was mostly late Anglo-Saxon or early medieval, although small quantities of prehistoric, Romano-British and modern material also occurred.

The following fabric types were noted:

**LBA:** Flint. Sparse to moderate angular white flint up to 1mm. Late Bronze Age? 3 sherds, 7g.

**RB: Romano-British.** The entire assemblage consisted of grey wares. 2 sherds, 6g.

All the prehistoric and Romano-British pottery was residual and somewhat abraded. The post-Roman material was recorded using the conventions of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg. Baker and Hassall 1979), as follows:

- A11:** Maxey Ware, mid 7<sup>th</sup> – mid 9<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 47g, EVE = 0.05.  
**B01:** T1 (1) type St Neots Ware, AD900-1100. 17 sherds, 75g, EVE = 0.15.  
**B01A:** T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 17 sherds, 147g, EVE = 0.31.  
**B07:** Medieval Shelly Ware, AD1100-1400. 124 sherds, 1397g, EVE = 0.84.  
**C08:** Thetford-type Ware, AD850 – 1100. 1 sherd, 11g, EVE = 0.  
**C12:** Stamford Ware, AD900-1200. 1 sherd, 3g, EVE = 0.  
**C59a:** Coarse Sandy Ware, 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. 11 sherds, 85g, EVE = 0.06.  
**C60:** Hertfordshire-type Greyware, mid/late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. 83 sherds, 867g, EVE = 0.57.  
**P56:** Modern Wares, 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century. 3 sherds, 22g.

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*. The Maxey-type Ware is the St Neots Ware variant, Denham's T1(4) type (ibid 1985) which dates to the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. It is, unusually for the tradition, the rim of a shallow "dog-dish" type bowl. Otherwise, the range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region.

The earliest pottery, particularly the sherd of A11, suggests that there was not only late Anglo-Saxon activity at the site, but it started in the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, with the other St Neots Wares suggesting it continued, albeit at a low level, into the medieval period. The main period of activity appears to be the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It seems very unlikely that it continued into the 13<sup>th</sup> century as common "high" medieval wares of such date, such as Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware (Bedfordshire fabric B09) and Brill/Boarstall Ware (fabric C09) are entirely absent, as are all known late medieval wares.

Rimsherds are entirely limited to jar and bowl types, which again is fairly typical of the pottery of the region. The Late Anglo-Saxon material consists of both, all in St Neots Ware, with jars (EVE = 0.15) more common than bowls (EVE = 0.05). The 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century material consists of jars and bowls in late St Neots ware type B01A (EVE = 0.14 and EVE = 0.17 respectively) and type B07 Shelly Ware (EVE = 0.64 and EVE = 0.20), with the sandy wares (fabrics C59a and C60) being entirely jar rims (EVE = 0.06 and EVE = 0.57).





Overall, the assemblage is in fairly good condition and the mean sherd size is reasonably large, suggesting that the post-Roman material is reliably stratified. A number of refits were noted, indicating that much of the material was disposed of near to where it was originally used. Some vessels were fairly well-represented, but none of them were reconstructable to a full profile.

### **CBM**

A number of small groups of burnt daub were noted. In addition, context 103 produced a fragment of modern roof-tile weighing 103g. The daub was in a soft, greyish brown sandy fabric. No withy impressions were noted, but a few fragments did have finished, fairly smooth faces, indicating that the material was originally structural. It cannot be dated, other than by the associated pottery, which suggests it is almost all of 12<sup>th</sup> century date. The occurrence by number and weight of fragments per context is shown in Table 2.



Contxt	LBA		RB		A11		B01		C08		B01A		C12		B07		CS9a		C60		P56		Date	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
103															8	104					2	12	MOD	
106							2	2															LSAX	
108									1	11	11	75					2	14					12thC	
110	1	1	1	4			3	9															LSAX	
112															1	1			3	30			M12thC	
115															13	95	3	25	18	181			M12thC	
116															16	144			6	65			M12thC	
117	1	5									2	7			36	383			41	467			M12thC	
125											2	5			5	70							12thC	
126															2	23			1	27			M12thC	
127															12	277			7	58			M12thC	
128															8	63			3	15			M12thC	
129	1	1	1	2			1	9							2	34							12thC	
131																					1	10	MOD	
132											1	11			9	73								12thC
133													1	3										11thC
142															4	47	3	18						12thC
144															1	13								12thC
146																			1	4				M12thC
147								1	9															12thC
148							1	2							1	12			2	14				M12thC
154							1	1																LSAX
160							1	47	8	43														LSAX
162																								M12thC
164											1	49							1	6				M12thC
168																								11thC
Total	3	7	2	6	1	47	17	75	1	11	17	147	1	3	120	1352	11	85	83	867	3	22		12thC

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



Cntxt	No	Wt
103	1	3
108	1	1
115	1	11
116	3	35
117	12	192
125	3	12
127	4	53
128	3	17
129	2	25
133	2	1
162	3	9
Total	35	359

**Table 2:** Burnt daub occurrence by number and weight of fragments per context

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## 4.2 Animal bone

Derek Watson, PhD

### Introduction

An archaeological Evaluation, and Strip, Map and Sample investigation of land adjacent to 7 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire generated an animal bone assemblage comprising 163 fragments (1.473kg bone dry weight; Table 1). Animal bones were recovered from numerous fills of pits and ditches, and the assemblage was highly fragmented. Spot-dating of the pottery recovered from the project dates the site to the late Anglo-Saxon (Mid-9<sup>th</sup> century) and medieval periods (12<sup>th</sup> century AD).

### Methodology: Taxonomic identification and Quantification

All of the bone fragments were identified to species or taxonomic group where possible, using published criteria and quantified by a Number of Identified Specimens/Skeletal Parts (NISP) that grouped the fragments into a total of 145 elements. A total of five species were positively identified in the assemblage, including: cattle (*Bos taurus*), pig (*Sus scrofa* sp.), horse (*Equus caballus*), and dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*). 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 informal collective terms 'ovicaprines' or 'ovicaprid'. The identification of chicken (*Gallus gallus*) is tentative, as the elements were too fragmented to be certain. The elements described as 'Bird Indet.' were also highly fragmented but appear to be the remains of bird species similar in size (n=1) or larger (n=1) than chicken.

High fragmentation also precluded most attempts at estimation of age-at-death (Grant 1982; Habermehl 1975; Hillson 2005; Payne 1973; Silver 1969), or the recording of metric data (von den Driesch 1976). Animal/human gnawing, butchery marks were observed in the assemblage and are discussed below. Ribs, vertebrae, and unidentifiable specimens were assigned to broad overlapping size classes (small/medium/large). As most elements were not identifiable to species and have been assigned to size classes, it is probable that many of the remains in the small-medium categories derive from, for example, ovicaprids and pig, and the remains in the large mammal class are liable to be, predominantly, the remains of cattle and/or horse. 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. The mammalian and avian species comprise no more than 1 or 2 individuals in, perhaps, each context.

### Results

#### Late Anglo-Saxon (mid-9<sup>th</sup> century)

Only a few elements were identifiable to species (i.e. cattle) and most were assigned to size classes (Table 1). Some of the latter, as previously stated, may have been the remains of cattle or other species frequently found on Anglo-Saxon sites such as ovicaprids and pigs. Cattle husbandry was an essential element of the domestic/manorial economy throughout the Anglo-Saxon period, particularly on contemporary (Scandinavian) Danelaw sites in England (O'Connor 2013).

#### Middle Ages (12<sup>th</sup> century)

The range of species identified increased and now includes cattle, ovicaprines, and avian species such as a possible chicken, and the small fragmentary remains of at least 1 - 2 other unidentified bird species. The identifiable remains are from domesticated mammal/bird species that are commonly found on archaeological sites of this date. Age data was recorded for some of the pig and ovicaprid remains



from context (117). A pig mandible with an unerupted M3 was <16-22 months at the time of death, whereas the wear/eruption pattern on two ovicaprid mandibles were >12 months and >24 months (Hillson 1986: 231). A fragment of a male pig tusk was retrieved from context (112). A single small fragment of bone was burned to a calcined (white) state. All of the butchery marks observed in the assemblage were on the lower limbs of cattle (n=2; contexts (106, 108)) and medium-large mammal remains (n=1; context (113)). The butchery marks evince skinning, filleting, and chopping, i.e. carcass processing and dismemberment. Two unidentifiable fragments of bone had distinct gnawing marks that may have been made by human teeth.

### Undated

The remains from the undated archaeological features are difficult to interpret as these may be generated by temporally unrelated pattern(s) of human-animal interaction. The bone assemblage contains elements similar to the patterns observed in dated contexts (e.g. ovicaprids and bird remains to fragmentary to identify), but now includes horse and dog remains. The latter species are certainly not uncommon in archaeological sites, but as only a single element of horse has been identified it is difficult to know if this animal was merely buried in order to dispose of the carcass, or if it was exploited for more than just its muscle power. The dog remains are also scant, but the mandible is noteworthy as it bears an unusual wear pattern (Plates 1-2). The M1 carnassial tooth is flattened and has two caries; this wear also seems to impact the contiguous P4 and M2. The carnassial teeth (molars and premolar) are typical of carnivores, and are triangular in profile and modified for shearing flesh by having cusps with sharp cutting edges. Normal wear patterns for these teeth usually comprise pitting, splintering/cracking, and chipping, often caused by chewing activities (e.g. chewing hard objects such as bones) or (e.g. direct force) external trauma. However, the tooth wear pattern on the canine mandible from context (126) is more akin to that seen on horses that have been 'bitted', or the flattened ground down teeth of herbivorous animals. Unfortunately, the cause remains unknown. Still, as all of the teeth are erupted the animal was >7 months old (Hillson 1986: 242).

Two small unidentifiable fragments of bone ( $\leq 3\text{cm}$ ) were charred black (n=1) and bore evidence of, potentially, human gnawing. The charred bone was found in fill (117) of pit [113], which contained three fills with abundant burnt material.

### Discussion and Conclusions

The animal bone assemblage is small and only enables the formulation of some tentative conclusions concerning human activities and animal husbandry. The diversification of species between the Anglo-Saxon and medieval features may indicate significant changes in the local economy, though this may simply be a consequence of differential preservation, or disposal behaviour. All of the contexts from which animal bone was recovered were the fills of ditches and pits - adumbrating that these remains were probably domestic refuse that was disposed of in convenient places.

The species in the assemblage are quite typical of those found on Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites in England (Gidney 2018). During the Anglo-Saxon period and most of the Middle Ages, the exploitation of cattle included their uses for traction power, though with the increasing use of horses for ploughing and other agricultural activities, there was a change in the use of cattle, which, by post-medieval times, had in many areas, mainly become a source of meat and milk (Albarella 1997: 22; O'Connor 2013: 8). Beef formed a minor component of the medieval upper-class diet as it was believed to be the coarsest meat, so it was the cheapest and thought fit only for consumption by the lower orders, particularly those engaged in heavy physical labour (Adamson 2004: 31). Ovicaprines are next in terms of incidence, and were important for wool and meat. Indeed, meat from older sheep (i.e. mutton) was favoured by the medieval palate, and was often the most expensive fresh meat available in a market (Adamson 2004: 31-33). Pig was also regarded as a delicacy, and if not served as sucking pig, as was common among the upper class in the Middle Ages, these animals were generally slaughtered at the end of the year to provide ham, bacon, sausages, and



lard for the winter (Adamson 2004: 30). Horses were not usually regarded as a source of meat, especially as they were increasingly utilised for traction. Consequently, the undated horse remains may represent the convenient disposal of a carcass, though as pit [130] was only ~0.50m wide it seems unlikely it was dug for the purpose. Thus the horse axis may have been residual, and this element was merely included with the fill. However, it remains unknown if the axis was from a carcass that was dismembered, and stripped of useful parts, prior to disposal.

The assemblage of animal remains from Project 446/WCS provides some insights into the Anglo-Saxon and medieval economy of Wrestlingworth.



Context	Anglo-Saxon				12th Century													Undated							Total # (%)		
	110 # (%)	123 # (%)	154 # (%)	160 # (%)	106 # (%)	108 # (%)	112 # (%)	115 # (%)	116 # (%)	117 # (%)	127 # (%)	128 # (%)	129 # (%)	136 # (%)	146 # (%)	148 # (%)	168 # (%)	103 # (%)	125 # (%)	126 # (%)	131 # (%)	138 # (%)	162 # (%)	165 # (%)		204 # (%)	205 # (%)
<b>Horse</b>																									<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	
Axis																									1 (0.7)		
<b>Cattle</b>	<b>2 (1.4)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>														<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>						<b>10 (6.9)</b>		
Mand. Molars	2 (1.4)																								2 (1.4)		
Scapula	1 (0.7)																								1 (0.7)		
Humerus																									1 (0.7)		
Femur																									2 (1.4)		
Metatarsal																									3 (2.1)		
Phalanx I																									1 (0.7)		
<b>Pig</b>																									<b>3 (2.1)</b>		
Mand. +P3 & M2																									1 (0.7)		
Mand. Tusk frag. (male)																									1 (0.7)		
Mand. frag.																									1 (0.7)		
<b>Sheep/Goat</b>																									<b>7 (4.8)</b>		
Humerus																									1 (0.7)		
Radius																									1 (0.7)		
Femur																									1 (0.7)		
Metatarsal																									1 (0.7)		
Mand. tooth frag.																									3 (2.1)		
<b>Dog</b>																									<b>2 (1.4)</b>		
Mand. + P1-4,M1-3																									1 (0.7)		
Scapula																									1 (0.7)		
<b>Small</b>																									<b>8 (5.5)</b>		
Scapula																									1 (0.7)		
Humerus																									1 (0.7)		
Rib																									4 (2.8)		
Indet.																									2 (1.4)		
<b>Small-Med.</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>			<b>2 (1.4)</b>	<b>2 (1.4)</b>				<b>4 (2.8)</b>	<b>31 (21.4)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>						<b>3 (2.1)</b>	<b>6 (4.1)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>				<b>52 (35.9)</b>			
Skull Frag.																									6 (4.1)		
Mand. Hinge																									2 (1.4)		
Humerus																									1 (0.7)		
Radius																									1 (0.7)		
Femur																									2 (1.4)		
Vertebra																									1 (0.7)		
Rib																									3 (2.1)		
Tibia	1 (0.7)																								1 (0.7)		
Indet.	1 (0.7)																								3 (2.1)		
<b>Medium</b>																									<b>13 (9.0)</b>		
Mand. Frag.																									1 (0.7)		
Thoracic Vertebra																									1 (0.7)		
Indet.	1 (0.7)																								12 (8.3)		
<b>Med-Large</b>																									<b>9 (6.2)</b>		
Tooth frag.																									1 (0.7)		
Radius																									1 (0.7)		
Metapodial																									1 (0.7)		
Indet.	4 (2.8)																								6 (4.1)		
<b>Large</b>	<b>2 (1.4)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>2 (1.4)</b>																							<b>16 (11.0)</b>	
Metacarpal																									1 (0.7)		
Rib																									2 (1.4)		
Pelvis																									1 (0.7)		
Indet.	2 (1.4) 1 (0.7)																								12 (8.3)		
<b>Mammal Indet.</b>																									<b>15 (10.3)</b>		
Indet.																									15 (10.3)		
<b>Chicken (?)</b>																									<b>2 (1.4)</b>		
Synsacrum																									1 (0.7)		
Phalanx II																									1 (0.7)		
<b>Bird Indet.</b>																									<b>6 (4.1)</b>		
Scapula																									1 (0.7)		
Humerus																									2 (1.4)		
Tibiotarsus																									1 (0.7)		
Indet.																									2 (1.4)		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>5 (3.4)</b>	<b>2 (1.4)</b>	<b>7 (4.8)</b>	<b>5 (3.4)</b>	<b>4 (2.8)</b>	<b>4 (2.8)</b>	<b>17 (11.7)</b>	<b>6 (4.1)</b>	<b>38 (26.2)</b>	<b>3 (2.1)</b>	<b>4 (2.8)</b>	<b>6 (4.1)</b>	<b>3 (2.1)</b>	<b>3 (2.1)</b>	<b>4 (2.8)</b>	<b>4 (2.8)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>7 (4.8)</b>	<b>2 (1.4)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>3 (2.1)</b>	<b>9 (6.2)</b>	<b>3 (2.1)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>1 (0.7)</b>	<b>145 (100)</b>

Table 1: Animal bone (Abbreviations = Indet.= indeterminate; Frag. = fragment; Mand. = mandible)



**Plate 39:** Dog mandible (buccal view) - note extensive wear to the carnassial tooth (indicated)



**Plate 40:** Dog mandible - occlusal view, note wear affecting carnassial and adjacent teeth

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### 4.3 Assessment of Environmental Samples

Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA

#### Introduction – Aims and Objectives

Fourteen samples were presented for assessment (see table 1 below). They were taken during an evaluation in advance of development on land currently used as a garden (Dodd 2019, 1).

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples and consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

#### Sampling and Processing Methods

Samples were taken and processed by KDK Archaeology Ltd. These samples were completely processed using a flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

At this stage numbers given are estimates but where only one item is present that has been noted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been described as that. Charred wood <4mm diameter are described as 'flecks'. Samples this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Fragments smaller than this and larger than 2mm $\varnothing$  were scanned in case any fragments of twig or roundwood survived.

#### The Plant Remains

Low to moderate numbers of charcoal fragments of identifiable size were found in nine samples. Most were found in possibly Medieval pit [113] (sample 6) and Anglo-Saxon pit fill (160) (sample 12).

Charred grains were found all samples. Moderate quantities were found in Medieval pit fill (108) (sample 3), Medieval ditch fill (110) (sample 4), Anglo-Saxon pit fill (160) (sample and undated large ditch fill (142) (sample 14). Abundant grains were found in possibly Medieval pit [113] upper and lower fills (samples 6 and 8) and undetermined undated feature fill (117) (sample 7). The grains in these samples were dominated by those of bread/club/rivet (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) with grains of straight hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and oat (*Avena* sp.) present in lower numbers.



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No cereal chaff was present.

Low numbers of charred seeds were found in Medieval pit [113] (samples 5 and 6), possibly Anglo-Saxon feature [167] (sample 10), Anglo-Saxon pit fill (160) (sample 12), Anglo-Saxon terminus fill (164) (sample 13) and undated fill of large ditch (142) (sample 14). These seeds consisted of legumes such as cultivated pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) and broad bean (*Vicia faba* L.) and possible segetals such as dock (*Rumex* sp.) and plantain (*Plantago* sp.).

Uncharred seeds of ruderals such as elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.) and fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.) were found in low numbers in four samples. Each sample also contained low to abundant quantities of root/rhizome fragments so these seeds could be intrusive.

### **Fauna**

This is not a zooarchaeological report and very general identifications can only be made. Low to moderate numbers of terrestrial snails were found in eleven samples.

### **Artefactual remains were found**

No artefactual remains were found in these flots.

### **Discussion**

#### **Biases in Recovery, Residuality, Contamination**

Root and worm action was noted for several of these samples. Modern root/rhizome fragments and terrestrial mollusca were present in each sample so bioturbation is possible.

#### **Quality and type of preservation.**

The level of preservation of the cereal grains and seeds was good enough to allow for identification beyond genus with no significant abrasion of grains.

The plant remains in these samples were preserved by charring. Charring of plant macrofossils occurs when plant material is heated under ‘...reducing conditions...’ where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2) leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to biological and chemical decay (Campbell *et al.* 2011,17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

No plant remains were preserved by mineralisation (Green 1979, 281) or silicification (Robinson and Straker 1990), which means that there is no archaeobotanical evidence for the cess disposal or slow-burning aerated fires.

#### **Potential and Significance**

The apparent densities of charred plant remains per litre of sampled soil for most of these samples is quite high, suggesting that they are evidence of activities taking place at the site and that there may be evidence for grain processing in some form. The absence of chaff suggests that these assemblages are evidence of the final stage of grain processing, such as grain drying, storage or milling.

The charred plant remains in these samples have the potential to provide information about agricultural activities and activities taking place at the site in the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods of the village, periods about which there seems to be little detailed archaeological evidence to date (Dodd, 2019, 11).



## Recommendations

Further work is recommended on seven of these samples, particularly samples 6, 7 and 8 if sample 7 can be given and interpretation and dated. Samples 3, 4, 12, and 14 contain fewer charred plant remains but be useful to include. It is the charred plant remains that should be analysed. The cereal grains and seeds are the most interesting assemblages. If it would be useful to identify the charcoal then samples 6 and 12 may provide the most useful results.

Sample	Context	Description	Provisional Date	Volume
1	204	Fill of ditch	Undated	40L
2	106	Fill of ditch [105]	Late Saxon/early medieval	40L
3	108	Fill of Pit	Medieval	40L
4	110	Fill of ditch	Medieval	40L
5	112	Fill of pit [113]	Possibly Medieval	40L
6	115	Upper fill of Pit [113]	Possibly Medieval	40L
7	117	Upper fill of [113]	Undated	40L
8	129	Lower fill of [113]	Possibly Medieval	40L
9	154	Fill of [153]	Undated	30L
10	168	Fill of [167]	Probably Anglo-Saxon	40L
11	171	Fill of posthole	Undated	10L
12	160	Fill of pit	Anglo-Saxon	40L
13	164	Fill of terminus	Anglo-Saxon	40L
14	142	Fill of large ditch	Undated	40L

**Table 1:** Samples Assessed



Sample	Context	Feature	Date	Sample volume L.	Flot volume L.	Charred										Uncharred			Fauna
						Grains			Seeds			4mmø		>4mmø		Seeds			
						a	d	p	a	d	p	a	a	a	d	p	a	a	a
1	204	Fill of ditch	Undated	40	0.3	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1
2	106	Fill of ditch [105]	Late Saxon/early medieval	40	0.02	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
3	108	Fill of Pit	Medieval	40	0.01	2	1	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
4	110	Fill of ditch	Medieval	40	0.03	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
5	112	Fill of pit [113]	Possibly Medieval	40	0.005	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	2	-	-
6	115	Upper fill of Pit [113]	Possibly Medieval	40	0.04	3	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1
7	117	Unknown	Undated	40	0.05	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	2	2	-
8	129	Lower fill of [113]	Possibly Medieval	40	0.03	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
9	154	Fill of [153]	Undated	30	0.01	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2
10	168	Fill of [167]	Probably Anglo-Saxon	40	0.3	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	1
11	171	Fill of posthole	Undated	10	0.02	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
12	160	Fill of pit	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.03	2	1	3	1	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	-
13	164	Fill of terminus	Anglo-Saxon	40	0.05	1	1	3	1	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1
14	142	Fill of large ditch	undated	40	0.015	2	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	1	-	-

Key: a = abundance 1=occasional 1-10, 2=moderate 11-100 and 3= abundant>100; d = diversity 1=low 1-4 taxa types, 2=moderate 5-10, 3= high; p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only), 2= moderate (genus), 3= good (species identification possible)]

Table 2: Contents of Flots



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## 4.5 Analysis of Environmental Samples

Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA

### 1. Introduction

These samples were taken during archaeological works in advance of development on land currently used as a garden (Dodd 2019:1). Seven samples were presented for the identification and analysis of plant macro-remains after an assessment revealed potentially useful charred plant remain assemblages in several samples that might provide information about the Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval activities at Wrestlignworth about which knowledge is currently scant (Gray 2019). This report will list the plant macro-remain identifications and supply any information they give with regards the interpretation of features, economic and ecological information.

### 2. Methodology

#### 2.1. Identification and Recording

Identification of these plant remains were made using modern reference material (author's own and the seed reference collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947, Cappers *et al.* 2006 and Jacomet 2006). Whole and embryo ends of grains were counted. Grain fragments were given estimated levels of abundance as follows:- + =1-10, ++ =11-50, +++ = 51-150, ++++ = 151-250 and +++++ = >250. Plant nomenclature follows this Stace (Stace 2010). The correct botanical terms for the items identified have been taken from the 'Digital Seeds Atlas of the Netherlands' (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and used in the tables. The word 'seed' will be used in the text to avoid confusion.

### 3. Results (see tables 3-4 in the Appendix)

Most of the plant remains in these samples were preserved by charring. Some present were uncharred and it is difficult to tell if they are contemporary with the charred plant remains or intrusive. This is because although several of these uncharred seeds have robust endocarps that survive changing preservation conditions but there is also evidence for bioturbation in the form of modern root/rhizome fragments and terrestrial mollusca. The presence of charred and uncharred seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.) does suggest that those uncharred seeds are contemporary with the charred plant remains. It is not possible to be sure with regards the other uncharred seeds.

The charred plant remains are, as observed in the assessment (Gray 2019) dominated by cereal grains. Seeds of wild plants and crop weeds were also frequent and very little chaff was present. The most productive samples (see table 1 below) came from the middle and lower layer in Pit [113]. The densities of charred plant remains in these samples are most likely to be remnants of cereal processing or storage with the lower densities for the other samples being evidence of this type of activity taking place in the vicinity on the form of general background waste entering the sampled contexts incidentally in backfill or as evidence of previous use.

The cereal grains were dominated by those of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). These grains were found in every sample apart from 12th C pit fill (108), sample 14. Poorly preserved barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains were found in each sample. These grains were straight but not well-preserved enough to tell if they were hulled or naked. Better preserved hulled straight barley grains were found in the middle and lower fills of pit [113], sample 7 and 8. Grains of oat (*Avena* sp.) were found in each sample apart from late Saxon pit [159]. The absence of oat chaff means that it is difficult to tell if these grains are a crop or a crop weed. Rye (*Secale cereale* L.) grains were found in pit [113] and pit [159].



Cut	113	113	113	109	107	141	159
Fill	115	117	129	110	108	142	160
Sample	6	7	8	4	3	14	12
Description	Pit- upper fill	Pit – mid fill	Pit - lower fill	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Pit
Pot Dates	M12thC	M12thC	12thC	L Sax	12th C	12th C	L Sax
Initial Volume (L.)	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Density	6.8	25.75	18.6	2.95	0.6	1.23	2.4

**Table 1:** Densities of counted charred plant remains per litre of sampled soil

The only chaff fragments were found in the middle and lower layers in pit [113]. These were one poorly preserved barley rachis segment, four cereal culm nodes and three cereal stem fragments.

Seeds of legumes were found in four features. These seeds were poorly preserved. It is also not possible to be sure that the smaller legume seeds are not from wild plants. Two fragments of possible broad bean (*Vicia faba* L.) were found in the bottom fill of pit [113] and in ditch [161]. Four peas (*Pisum sativum* L.) were found in the upper fill of pit [113].

Most of the wild plant seeds were found in the three samples from pit [113]. These were mostly of crop weeds with stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.) being the most prevalent.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Taphonomic Issues and Feature Interpretation

As observed in the assessment (Gray, this volume) the plant macro-remains revealed no evidence for these features being used for the disposal of cess, domestic or industrial waste or for the presence of water.

What seems to be present is charred plant remains that are remnants of grain being prepared for storage, milling and consumption. Assemblages where chaff was scarce and seeds were the same size or smaller than the grain these have been observed during ethnographic studies of non-industrial cereal processing in Turkey where they were observed to be created at the final stage of sieving before kiln drying (Hillman 1984, 4-5). Pit [113] does seem to contain hearth waste. The charred plant remains in the other samples could be indicative of an activity in the area that involved fire.

The grain-dominated assemblage in pit [113] could be waste from corn drying. Corn driers have been identified in many parts of the British Isles, from sites dating from the late prehistoric to the medieval period (van der Veen 1989, 315). They have been found in areas where summers were cool and moist (Gibson 1989, 219) meaning harvests were damp (Monk 1985, 34) and grains needed to be dried to prevent spoilage by germination or insect damage (Van der Veen 1989, 303).

### 4.3. Crop husbandry and Food production.

The cereals in these samples are common medieval Britain (Van der Veen *et al.* 2013, 172). The high number of stinking mayweed seeds in samples from pit [113] could indicate the cultivation of heavy clay soils (Lodwick 2018, 806) and henbane, also a frequent find among these samples albeit in lower numbers, tends to grow in very nutrient rich situations such as cattle resting places (Hill *et al.* 2004, 16). Unfortunately, it is difficult to know which arable weeds were originally associated with which cereal crop when more than one cereal type is present. In general, the weed seeds among the grains come mostly from nutrient rich environments as one would expect if the ground had been manured (Fowler 2002, 208).





The cereals present may indicate that several types of soil were used to grow the crops found in Wrestlingworth. They may be from mixed crops such as 'maslin' (rye and wheat), 'pulse' (beans and peas) or 'bullymong' (oats, peas, vetches or buckwheat) (Hammond, 1993, 3).

Rye grows well in poor, sandy soils (Behre 1992, 150) and in the Medieval period would have been grown as a food plant with secondary uses for fodder or thatching (ibid, 153). Barley and oats also grow well in poor soils (Fowler 2002, 215). Bread wheat is a more demanding crop preferring loessic soils (van Zeist *et al* 1994, 194).

The cereals in these samples would have had several culinary uses and may have been used to make bread or brew ale (Hammond 1993, 28). No grains were sprouted so there is no archaeobotanical evidence of brewing but it is possible that the grain became charred while it was being dried prior to milling.

#### 4.5. Environment

If the uncharred seeds are contemporary with the archaeological features they are from plants of nutrient rich, ruderal environments with no strong evidence for waterlogged ground or standing water. The charred seeds and cereals could be from crops brought in from the surrounding areas. The charred plant remains assemblage contain plants that would have grown in a variety of soils, with bread wheat on loess soil, rye in poor sandy soils and stinking mayweed in clay rich soils.

#### 5. Conclusion

The charred plant remain assemblages in these samples, particularly those in pit [113] are evocative of those produced when grain is being dried prior to storage or milling. They reveal the exploitation of a variety of soils. The wild plant seeds seem to indicate crops grown in nutrient rich, manured fields and clay rich fields.

#### 6. Acknowledgments

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Cut			109	159
Fill			110	160
Sample			4	12
Description			Ditch	Pit
Initial Volume (L.)			40	40
Density			2.95	2.4
Charred Grains				
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Oat	grain	2	-
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	poorly preserved barley	grain (straight)	5	2
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	Rye	grain	-	1
<i>Secale/Triticum</i> sp.	Rye/Wheat	grain	-	1
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	poorly preserved Wheat	grain	3	-
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Bread Wheat	grain	37	40
Indeterminate cereal		grain tissue	++	++
Charred Legumes				
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i> sp.	Vetch/Tare/Vetchling/Pea	cotyledon	-	1
Charred Seeds				
<b>Wild Plants Frequenting Nutrient Rich Ground</b>				
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	Henbane	seed	2	-
<b>Wild plants frequenting clay soil</b>				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking Chamomile	fruit	8	-



<i>Wild plants of varied habitats</i>				
		fruit, pappus		
Cut		113	113	113
Fill		115	117	129
Sample		6	7	8
Description		upper fill	middle fill	lower fill
Pot Dates		M12thC	M12thC	12thC
Initial Volume (L.)		40	40	40
Density		6.8	25.75	18.6

Key to Estimated Quantities: + =1-10 items, ++ =11-50 items, +++ = 51-150, ++++ = 151-250., +++++ = >250

**Table 2:** Late Saxon Samples

Cut			107	161
Fill			108	142
Sample			3	14
Description			Pit	Ditch
Initial Volume (L.)			40	40
Density			0.6	1.23
<b>Charred Grains</b>				
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Oat	grain	3	4
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	poorly preserved Barley	grain (straight)	4	4
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	two/six rowed Barley	straight grain	-	-
<i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> sp	poorly preserved Barley/Wheat	grain	-	2
<i>Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum</i> L.	Bread Wheat	grain	-	7
Indeterminate cereal		grain tissue	+	+
<b>Charred Legumes</b>				
cf. <i>Vicia faba</i> L.	poorly preserved Broad Bean	cotyledon	-	1
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i> sp.	Vetch/Tare/Vetchling/Pea	seed	3	1
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i> sp.	Vetch/Tare/Vetchling/Pea	cotyledon	-	2
<b>Charred Seeds</b>				
<b><i>Wild plants frequenting clay soil</i></b>				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking Chamomile	fruit	-	6
<b><i>Wild plants of varied habitats</i></b>				
<i>Festuca</i> sp.	Fescue	seed	1	-
<b>Uncharred</b>				
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Black nightshade	seed	-	1
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	Elderberry	fruit endocarp	2	-
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	Fat hen	fruit	-	10

Key to Estimated Quantities: + =1-10 items, ++ =11-50 items, +++ = 51-150, ++++ = 151-250., +++++ = >250

**Table 3:** 12<sup>th</sup> Century samples



Charred Grains					
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Oat	grain	8	22	23
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	poorly preserved Barley	grain (straight)	21	77	16
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	two/six rowed Barley	straight grain	-	18	19
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	Rye	grain	10	12	8
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Bread Wheat	grain	155	679	572
Indeterminate cereal		grain tissue	++	++	++
Charred Cereal Chaff					
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	poorly preserved Barley	rachis	-	-	1
Indeterminate cereal		culm node	-	1	3
Indeterminate cereal		stem fragment	-	3	-
Charred Legumes					
cf. <i>Vicia faba</i> L.	poorly preserved Broad Bean	cotyledon	-	-	1
<i>Vicia faba/Pisum sativa</i>	Broad Bean/Pea	seed	1	-	-
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i> sp.	Vetch/Tare/Vetchling/Pea	seed	2	15	3
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i> sp.	Vetch/Tare/Vetchling/Pea	cotyledon	5	-	-
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	Pea	seed	4	-	-
Charred Seeds					
Wild Plants Frequenting Nutrient Rich Ground					
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A.Love	Black Bindweed	fruit	-	2	-
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	Henbane	seed	5	4	3
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L.	Nipplewort	seed	-	1	-
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	Cleavers	fruit	-	2	-
Wild plants frequenting clay soil					
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking Chamomile	fruit	2	71	14
Wild plants of varied habitats					
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L.	Field Gromwell	fruit	-	1	-
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp.	Thistles	fruit	-	4	-
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	Elderberry	fruit endocarp	-	6	9
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	Meadow/Creeping Bulbous Buttercup	fruit	1	1	-
<i>Trifolium</i> sp.	Clover	seed	1	24	11
<i>Plantago</i> sp.	Plantain	seed	-	-	1
<i>Rumex acetosa/crispus/obtusifolius</i>	Common/Curled/Broad-leaved dock	seed	2	7	9
Charred miscellaneous					
Poaceae	Grass	stem fragment	1	-	-
Uncharred					
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Black nightshade	seed	1	-	-
<i>Lamium</i> sp.	Dead-nettle	fruit	-	1	-
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	Elderberry	fruit endocarp	2	3	-
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	Fat hen	fruit	-	13	-
<i>Taraxacum</i> sect. <i>Ruderalia</i> ( <i>T. officinale</i> )	Dandelion	fruit	-	1	-

Key to Estimated Quantities: + =1-10 items, ++ =11-50 items, +++ = 51-150, ++++ = 151-250., +++++ = >250

**Table 4: Pit [113]**



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## 4.4 Metal Finds

Becca Bradford

### Methodology

This report is based on the examination of the material by eye with the aid of radiography and under low powered magnification. The catalogue is in context order, each item being identified by a small find number if one has been allocated.

### Condition

The material is currently packed in self-sealed polythene bags with each item individually wrapped in acid free tissue paper and all stored in an air-tight storage box with silica gel to act as a desiccant. The condition of the individual metal finds is recorded in the basic record.

### Summary

Nine objects were examined; none of which were independently datable. For the most part, they comprised domestic objects including two brooches, a pin and a possible strap end of a type that occur from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century Leahy and Lewis 2018. 45, 61-64) and structural fittings including small to medium sizes nails. One item (SF5) has the superficial appearance of a small blade of a type found in the Anglo-Saxon period, however X-radiography showed it is lacking any of the diagnostic features necessary for a knife or blade and can only be regarded as a strip fragment.

### Context 103

**Horse shoe** Flat, semi-circular quarter with side wall and three slots for nails (only visible in x-ray). Fragment has toe and other quarter missing. Incomplete. Surviving length 119mm, width 34mm, thickness 15mm and weight 152g. The fragment is heavily encrusted and corroded with some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

The partial horseshoe was found in the subsoil of Trench 1.

### Context 108

**Brooch. (SF1)** Majority of a safety-pin or strip brooch with complete pin and catch but small section of the bow corroded. Incomplete. Surviving length 71mm, width 16mm, thickness 8mm and weight 9g. The brooch is encrusted, heavily at one end, and corroded with some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

(SF1) was found in the fill (108) of ditch [107]. It is comparable to other examples that have been dated to 720-820 (Leahy and Lewis 2018. 45).

### Context 115

**Ferromagnetic iron. (SF6)** Roughly triangular sectioned/wedge shaped fragment with nodule at point, possibly a strap/belt end. Highly irregular surface with impressions of random vegetable matter (grass/straw) in the corrosion products. Incomplete. Surviving length 58mm, width 31mm, thickness 14mm and weight 32g. The fragment heavily encrusted and corroded some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

(SF6) was found in the upper fill (115) of pit [113]. It has a superficial resemblance to an Anglo-Saxon strap or belt end, but no distinguishing features were present in the X-ray.

### Context 116



**Copper alloy pin. (SF4)** Circular pin, with four curved “petals” and a central pin on the reverse. Broken/partially corroded main disc. Incomplete. Surviving length 35mm, width 32mm, thickness (pin) 5mm and weight 11g. The pin is slightly corroded with some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

The copper alloy pin (4, SF4) was found in fill (116), below (115) of pit [113]. It is comparable of other examples dated to 850-950 (Margeson 1993: 19-21).

**Ferromagnetic iron.** Two fragments; the larger is sub-rectangular and the smaller is squarer, with a slightly curved profile and highly irregular surfaces with impressions of vegetable matter (grass/straw) within the corrosion products. No distinguishing features. Incomplete. Surviving lengths 79mm & 25mm, widths 29mm & 22mm, thickness 11mm & 4mm and weight total 41g (35g and 6g individually). The fragments are both heavily encrusted and corroded with some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

The two fragments also came from fill (116), however due to high corrosion and no distinguishing features they cannot be positively identified.

**Ferromagnetic Iron strip. (SF5)** Sub-rectangular fragment with highly irregular surfaces with impressions of vegetable matter (grass/straw). Flat top with tapering adjacent edge, possibly a blade. No distinguishing features. Incomplete. Surviving length 67mm, width 14mm, 6mm and weight 11g. The strip is heavily encrusted and corroded with some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

(SF5) also from fill (116) has the superficial appearance of a small blade of a type found in the Anglo-Saxon period. However, as no diagnostic features necessary for a knife or blade were revealed in the X-ray, it can only be regarded as a strip fragment.

#### Context 117

**Ferromagnetic pin/nail. (SF3)** Tear drop shaped fragment, possibly a nail or pin. No distinguishing features. Incomplete. Surviving length 33mm, width 18mm, thickness 8mm and weight 5g. The fragment is heavily encrusted and corroded with some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

(SF3) was found in fill (117) of pit [113]. Possibly a pin, however as the X-radiograph showed no distinguishing features, it can only be regarded as a ferromagnetic material.

#### Context 148

**Ferromagnetic Iron nail.** Sub-rectangular fragment with flattened edges, broken at one end. No distinguishing features. Incomplete. Surviving length 43mm, width 7mm, thickness 3mm and weight 5g. The fragment is lightly encrusted and slightly corroded with some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

The nail was found in the fill (148) of ditch [147], and is possibly a broken nail shank.

#### Context 168

**Ferromagnetic iron nail.** Small sub-rectangular fragment with irregular surfaces with impressions of vegetable matter (grass/straw) within the corrosion products. No distinguishing features. Incomplete. Surviving length 23mm, width 7mm, thickness 3mm and weight 1g. The fragment is encrusted and corroded with some soil still adhering to all surfaces that cannot be removed.

The ferromagnetic iron nail was found in the fill (168) of ditch [167], and is possibly a broken nail shank.



**References**

Leahy K. and Lewis M. 2018 *The British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Identified*.  
Witham, Essex: Greenlight Publishing

Margeson S. 1993 *Norwich Households: the medieval and post-medieval finds from Norwich survey excavations 1971-1978*. Norwich: the Norwich survey/Norfolk museums service



**Plate 41:** Horse shoe



**Plate 42:** Brooch (SF1)



**Plate 43:** Ferromagnetic iron (SF6)



**Plate 44:** Copper alloy pin (SF4)



**Plate 45:** Ferromagnetic iron



**Plate 46:** Ferromagnetic iron strip (SF5)



**Plate 47:** Ferromagnetic pin/nail (SF3)



**Plate 48:** Ferromagnetic iron nail



**Plate 49:** Ferromagnetic iron nail



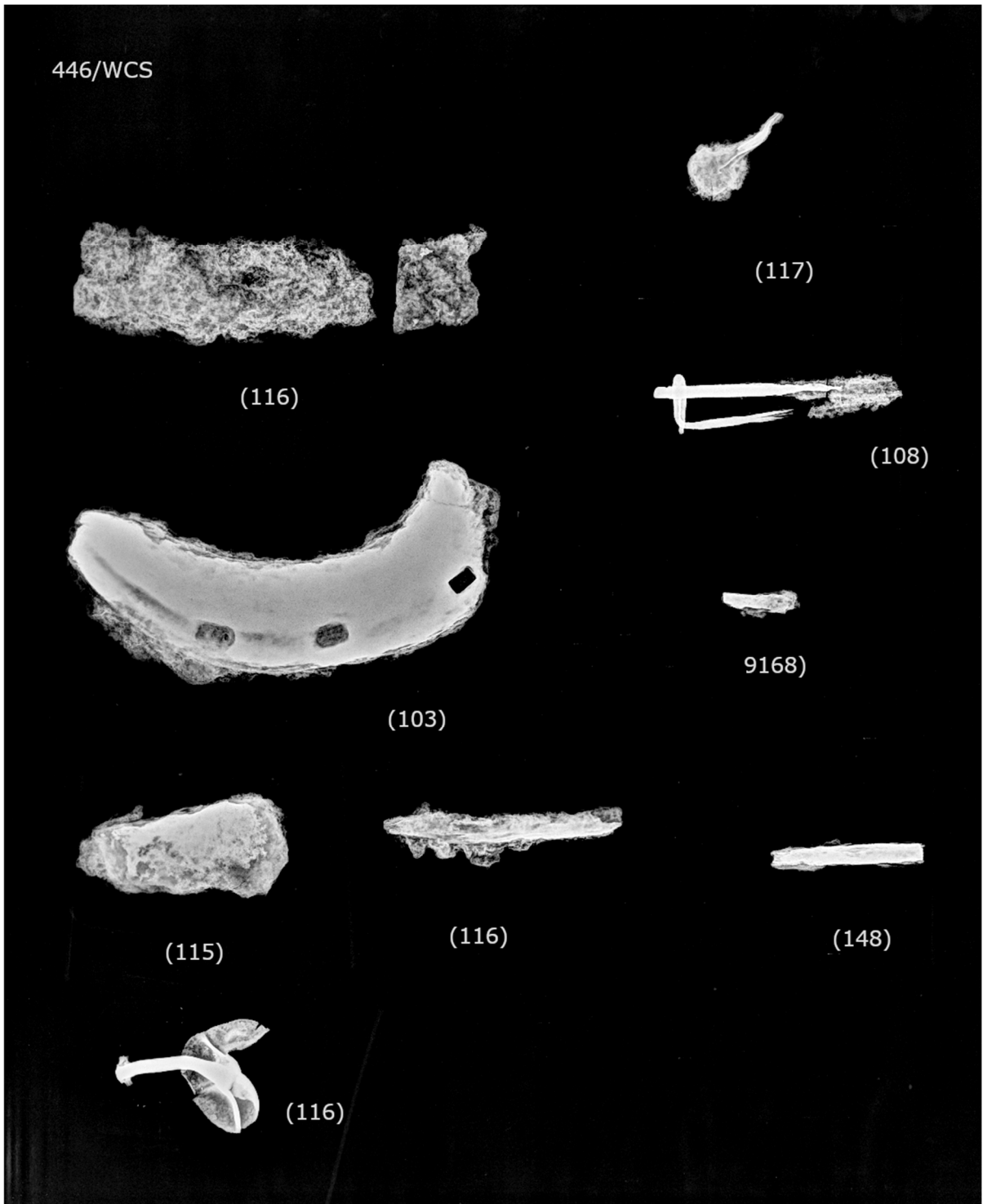


Plate 50: Radiograph of metal objects



## Appendix 5: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land Adj. to 7 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	446/WCS
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-334519	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2019.16
OS reference	TL 2589 4741	Study area size	106.50 sq m
Project Type	Archaeological Evaluation and Strip Map and Record Excavation	Height (mAOD)	Approx. 47.40
Short Description	In May 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook Stage I of a programme of Archaeological Evaluation followed by a Stage II programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation of the Land adjacent to 7 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire, as a condition for the development of the site. Two trenches were excavated, which revealed three ditches and two pits. Trench 1 was subsequently expanded for the Strip, Map and Sample, which revealed five ditches, a ditch/gully and ditch terminus/pit, six pits, and a pit/posthole, many with fills containing pottery dated to the late Anglo-Saxon to the medieval period (12th century). The cut-features and environmental data suggest an agrarian settlement.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Development of new dwelling house, garden and car parking	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire County Council	Planning application ref.	CB/17/03027/FULL
Monument type	Ditches, pits, posthole, possible stoke hole	Monument period	
Significant finds	Spindle Whorl (bone), Cu pin, Fe pin, Fe belt end, Small Fe blade, Fe brooch	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Martin Oake	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Laura Dodd
Sponsor/funding body	J & S Dickinson Builders		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	07.05.2019	End date	24.05.2019
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	The Higgins, Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford BEDFM 2019.16	Potsherds, animal bone, Fe/bone objects, glass, shell	
Paper		Brief, WSI, report, fieldwork sheets and drawings. WSI, field records/drawings, B&W photographs and negatives, contact sheet of digital photographs printed out	
Digital		Digital versions of the above and report downloads to ADS	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation and Strip Map and Sample Report: Land Adj. to 7 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	446/WCL/2.2		
Author(s)	Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA & Derek Watson		
Page nos	78	Date	04/11/2019