



Archaeological Evaluation on land off Soham Road Fordham Cambridgeshire December 2020

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Illustrator: Olly Dindol



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-411407	
Project title	Archaeological Evaluation on land off Soham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire, November 2020		
Short summary	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, Bellway Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land off Soham Road, located on the western fringe of the historic village of Fordham in Cambridgeshire. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 14 trenches dispersed across the site. A network of ditches and gullies were encountered during the evaluation which most probably formed an irregular agrarian field system typical of the region during the early and later medieval periods. Pits representing a small-scale practice of chalk extraction, possibly used to aid the fertilisation of crops, were also identified. A very modest quantity of artefactual evidence was recovered. When viewed in correlation with the results of several other recent archaeological investigations undertaken in the immediate environs of the proposed development area, the evaluation results contribute to a significant dataset relating to the development of Fordham's agricultural economy in the early medieval period and have potential to address the research priorities of the region.		
Project type	Evaluation		
Site status	Undesignated		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment, Geophysical Survey		
Current land use	Ploughed field and paddocks		
Development type	Residential		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/period	Medieval, Post-medieval		
Significant finds	Pottery; animal bone; metal nail		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Cambridgeshire		
Site address	Land off Soham Road, Fordham		
Postcode	CB7 5LB		
OS coordinates	TL 62226 71106		
Area (sq m/ha)	2.26ha		
Height aOD	8m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project Brief originator	Andy Thomas, Senior Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Project Director/ Manager	Camilla Collins		
Project Supervisor	Paul Sharrock/Alex Shipley		
Sponsor or funding body	Bellway Homes via RPS Consulting Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date (dd-mm-yyyy)	30-11-2020		
End date (dd-mm-yyyy)	11-12-2020		
ARCHIVES		Location (Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Storage Facility – Deep Store		Animal bone, pottery
Paper			Context sheets, Registers, Drawings
Digital		ADS	Digital photos, PDF report, Database, GIS

BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph or unpublished MOLA report
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	BACKGROUND.....	3
2.1	Location, geology and topography.....	3
2.2	Historical and archaeological background	3
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
3.1	Project aims and objectives.....	5
3.2	Research framework	5
4	METHODOLOGY.....	6
5	EXCAVATION RESULTS	9
5.1	General stratigraphy.....	9
5.2	Excavated evidence	9
6	THE FINDS.....	30
6.1	The pottery by Jennifer R McNulty.....	30
6.2	The animal bone by Sander Aerts	31
6.3	The environmental analysis by Sander Aerts.....	31
6.4	The metal by Tora Hylton	32
7	DISCUSSION.....	33
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	34
	Appendix 1: TRENCH INVENTORY.....	36

Figures

Front cover: Pre-excavation view of the evaluation area

Fig 1: Site location and excavated trenches

Fig 2: Plan of trenches and features, scale 1:1500

Fig 3: Representative section showing general stratigraphic sequence, trench 6

Fig 4: Plan of trenches 2 and 4, scale 1:250

Fig 5a: Trench 2 sections and photographs, Scale 1:25

Fig 5b: Trenches 2 & 4, features 207, 209 & 405 photographs

Fig 6: Plan of trenches 5-7, scale 1:350

Fig 7a: Trenches 5 and 6, features 507 & 609-618 sections and photographs, scale 1:25

Fig 7b: Trench 6, features 607, 609 and 614 sections and photographs, scale 1:25

Fig 8: Plan of trench 9, scale 1:250

Fig 9a: Trench 9, feature 906 section and photograph, scale 1:25

Fig 9b: Gully [910] and ditch [908], viewed looking north-east

Fig 10: Plan of trenches 10 and 11, scale 1:250

Fig 11a: Trench 11, features 1108 and 1111 sections and photographs

Fig 11b: Trenches 10 & 11, features 1005, 1008, 1011 & 1108 photographs

Fig 12: Plan of trenches 12 and 13, scale 1:250

Fig 13: Trenches 12 & 13, features 1205, 1305, 1307 & 1309 photographs

Fig 14: Plan of trench 14, scale 1:250

Fig 15: Trench 14, features 1406, 1408, 1412, 1416 & 1418 photographs

Back Cover: General view of the site following backfill of the trenches

Tables

Table 1: The medieval pottery

Table 2: The animal bone

Table 3: The palaeoenvironmental remains

Archaeological Evaluation on land off Soham Road Fordham Cambridgeshire December 2020

ABSTRACT

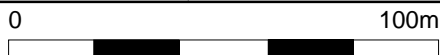
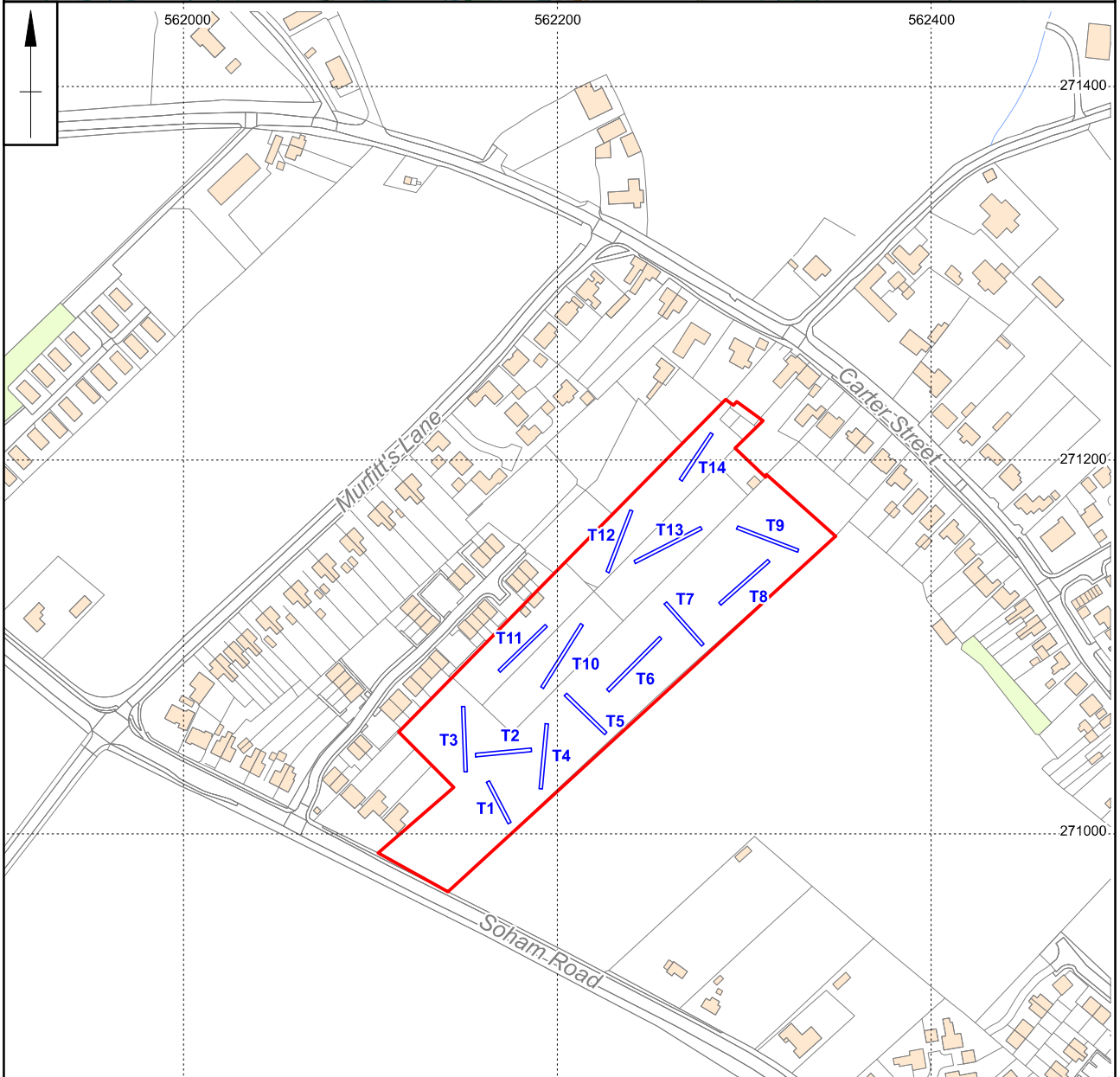
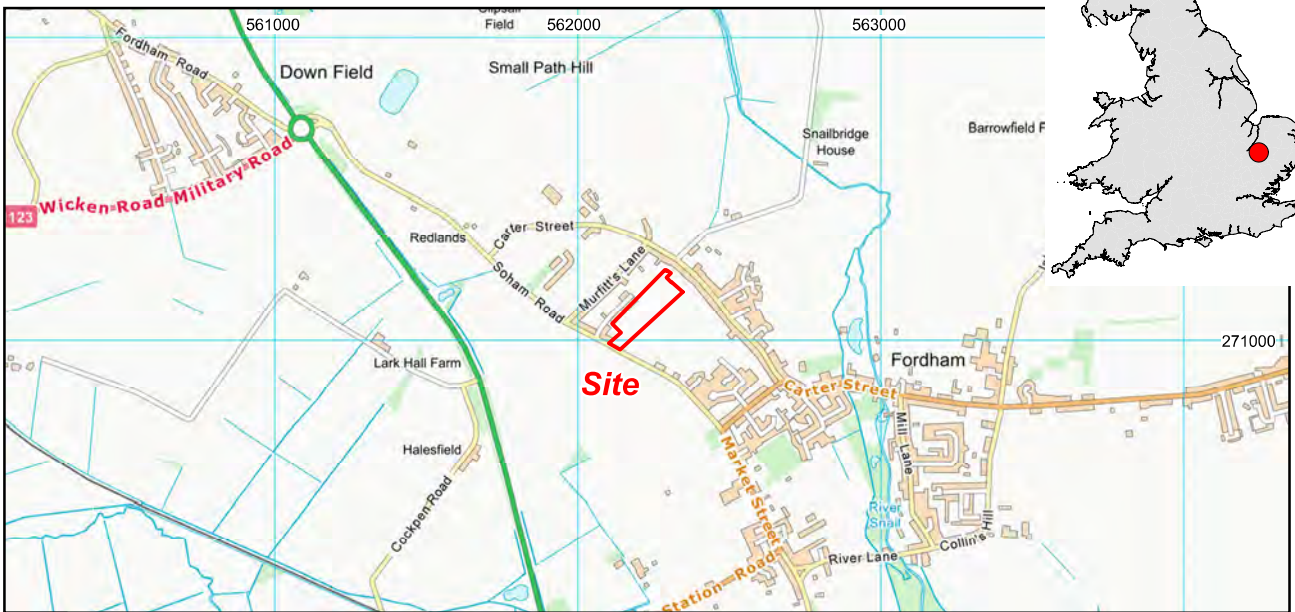
MOLA Northampton was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, Bellway Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at land off Soham Road, located on the western fringe of the historic village of Fordham in Cambridgeshire. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 14 trenches dispersed across the site. A network of ditches and gullies was encountered during the evaluation which most probably formed an irregular agrarian field system typical of the region during the early and later medieval periods. Pits representing a small-scale practice of chalk extraction, possibly used to aid the fertilisation of crops, were also identified. A very modest quantity of artefactual evidence was recovered. When viewed in correlation with the results of several other recent archaeological investigations undertaken in the immediate environs of the proposed development area, the evaluation results contribute to a significant dataset relating to the development of Fordham's agricultural economy in the early medieval period and have potential to address the research priorities of the region.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, Bellway Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at land off Soham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (Fig 1). The evaluation was required in compliance with a pre-commencement condition appended to a planning approval (reference 17/01572/OUM; appeal 18/00006/REFAPP) for a proposed residential development of up to 52 dwellings, public open space and associated infrastructure.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to establish the presence/absence, character, date, state of preservation and significance of the proposed development area's archaeological resource, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019). The methodology employed by MOLA Northampton was in accordance with the brief prepared by the Senior Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) and adhered to the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA Northampton (MOLA 2020).

All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), as well as the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).



- Site location
- Excavated trench

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The site comprised a ploughed field and paddocks totalling approximately 2.26ha and was located on the western fringe of the historic village of Fordham. To the north-west, the site was bounded by modern residential properties and paddocks, to the rear of which was further housing fronting Rule Gardens. Bounding the site to the north-east were further properties fronting onto Carter Street and agricultural fields were situated to the south-east and south-west beyond Soham Road. The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference TL 62226 71106. The site was flat and positioned at approximately 8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

The underlying geology of the site was characterised by deposits of West Melbury Marly Chalk formation (BGS 2020). Superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel were present towards the north-eastern extent of the site. The overlying soils were freely draining and slightly acidic (CSAI 2020).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

Provided within the brief issued by CCHET (2020) were the results of a Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) search for any relevant data concerning the archaeological background of the proposed redevelopment site. This baseline data has been used to prepare the following summary.

Prehistoric

Evidence of early prehistoric activity within the immediate environs of the site comprises both findspots and excavated archaeological features. The former include a lithic implement dating to the Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic period (MCB1384) approximately 500m to the south of the site, a cluster of Neolithic finds (MCB9093, MCB1586, MCB16112) approximately 500m to the west of the site and a more dispersed scatter of Mesolithic (MCB9076) and Neolithic (MCB9116, MCB9123, MCB9124, MCB9350) finds approximately 800m to the east of the site. Additionally, a total of 14 flakes of struck flint were recovered during an evaluation immediately to the north of the site off Rule Gardens (ECB5901) (Archaeological Solutions 2020) of potential Mesolithic or early Neolithic date.

Archaeological mitigatory works 625m south-west of the site conducted in advance of the Fordham Bypass construction recorded several prehistoric features and find scatters including a shallow hollow containing early Neolithic pottery in addition to a ditch and enclosure of possible Bronze Age date. Nearby archaeological investigations revealed a scatter of prehistoric artefacts (MCB15001) recovered from the topsoil; a possible burnt mound of potentially Bronze Age date and traces of Iron Age activity (MCB16950); and a possible prehistoric structure (MCB15000).

Roman

Evidence of Roman activity within the site and its immediate surrounds is limited to Roman quarry pits and a field system excavated ahead of the Fordham Bypass (MCB15002); surface finds of a coin (MCB9161) and brooch (MCB11040) approximately 900m north-west of the site; and a scatter of pottery sherds (MCB9349) approximately 800m to the north-east.

Saxon

The HER contains four entries relating to Saxon activity within the surrounding landscape of the site. These comprise a Saxon cemetery (MCB9062), excavated

approximately 830m to the north-west of the site; settlement remains excavated at Hillside Meadow (MCB14613), approximately 950m to the south-east of the site and to the east of the River Snail. Two ditches containing late Saxon to early Medieval pottery identified during an excavation at Scotsdales Garden Centre to the south of the site (MCB25851).

Fordham's name is suggestive of a settlement developing during the Saxon period next to the crossing of the River Snail, and this is supported by documentary evidence in addition to the archaeological record: it is recorded that the abbot of Ely bought two hides at Fordham in the late 10th century. The Domesday Book (1086) records that the village was quite large by the time of the Conquest, comprising two manors. The first belonged to the royal demesne and had six villagers, 15 smallholders, one slave and two mills. The second had three freemen. The lords of these manors were Brunmann and King Edward; and Earl Algar and Edeva (the Fair).

Based on the excavated evidence and the later pattern of settlement, it would appear likely that the site lies outside of the Saxon settlement boundary and would have been agricultural hinterland during this period.

Medieval

An archaeological evaluation conducted by Archaeological Solutions to the immediate north of the site off Rule Gardens (ECB5901) revealed a series of ditches and associated features thought to represent a medieval field system. Several pits and postholes were identified alongside several enclosure ditches, which were interpreted as ephemeral structures and an enclosed field system associated with the agricultural economy of the landscape. Of particular relevance to the current scheme of works are several curvilinear enclosure ditches of 11th to 12th century AD date that were identified within the south-eastern area of the Rule Gardens site. The close proximity of these features to the current investigation area suggests that the field system may extend into the proposed development area. The archaeological remains encountered possibly formed a continuation of a late Saxon to early Medieval manorial farm estate identified during an excavation at Scotsdale Garden Centre to the south of the site (MCB25851) (Oxford Archaeology East 2019). The field system complex encompassed a number of features associated with grain processing, drying and storage, with the predominant crop appearing to be wheat. The abandonment of the estate in the 12th century possibly corresponded with the establishment of enclosed crofts to the west of the town.

Post-medieval and Modern

The earliest depiction of the site is recorded on a map dating to 1656, which shows the site as part of a collection of narrow rectangular fields bounded by a lane running along the rear of properties on Carter Street, Soham Road (unnamed) and Murfitt's Lane (unnamed) following their current layout. Carter Street, which was then the principal route north-west of Fordham, is bordered by properties to both sides. By the publication of the 1809 Enclosure Map, several of the narrow fields occupying the site had been combined to form four larger enclosures and the lane running along the rear of the properties on Carter Street had been amalgamated into adjacent plots.

A building of probable agricultural function is illustrated immediately outside of the site's north-eastern boundary to the rear of what is now known as Cromwell House (List 1309797/MCB21540). Further reorganisation of the agricultural landscape by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866 is evident, with only two large fields now within the current site boundary. No significant changes within the site are shown on subsequent maps.

The cartographic regression has revealed that the site remained in use as undeveloped agricultural land, most probably for pasture, during the post-medieval and modern periods.

Recent Investigations

A geophysical survey of the site was conducted by Magnitude Surveys in July 2017 (Fortuny 2017). The survey identified a single linear anomaly that corresponded to a field boundary visible on historic mapping and a small number of ephemeral linear and sub-circular anomalies interpreted as natural subsurface variation.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project aims and objectives

The trial trench evaluation aimed to examine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological resource of the site in its cultural and environmental setting and to preserve by record that which will be negatively impacted or destroyed by the development. The project aims can be summarised as:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation identified;
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Recover palaeoenvironmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions; and
- Produce a report which presents the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to inform a decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

The overall objectives of the trial trench evaluation comprised:

- To conduct a study of the presence and absence of palaeosoils, the character of deposits and their contents within negative features, palaeochannels and general site formation processes;
- To elucidate our understanding of the environmental and dietary conditions of previous inhabitants through the examination of suitable deposits, retrieval of charred plant macro- and microfossils, faunal remains and land molluscs;
- To carefully consider the retrieval, characterisation and dating of any artefact, burial or economic evidence present; and
- To assist in the characterisation of the site's evidence in order to inform future mitigation strategies.

3.2 Research framework

The project was undertaken within the priorities established by the research frameworks for the region (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011). The following research objective is of particular relevance to this project:

- To investigate the origins, development and dynamics of the region's medieval rural settlements in order to elucidate our understanding of the way places appear, grow, shift and disappear (Medlycott 2011, 70-71)

4 METHODOLOGY

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 14 trenches dispersed across the site (Fig 2). Trenches 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 and 14 measured 30m in length, whilst Trenches 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 measured 40m in length. The rationale behind the placement of the trenches was to rapidly assess the archaeological potential of a wide sample of the site.

Trenches were located using a Leica Survey Grade RTK GPS operating to an accuracy of +/-0.05m to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. All trenches were machine-excavated using a flat toothless bucket 1.8m wide under continuous archaeological supervision to the depth of the first horizon of archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the upper interface of geological deposits.

The artefact content of the topsoil and subsoil, which were stored separately to either side of each trench, was examined through a bucket sampling programme that entailed the retrieval and hand-sorting of 90 litres from each soil horizon at the extend of each trench. Metal detectors were used to aid in the recovery of unstratified artefacts from trench spoil heaps and stratified artefacts from archaeological features.

The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of archaeological remains. Features present were further investigated through means of hand excavation to determine their date and character, and were plotted on an overall plan at a scale of 1:50. All archaeological deposits, features and artefacts encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). All archaeological features and deposits were assigned a separate context number and were described on pro-forma context sheets that included details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Finds were collected from individual deposits and were appropriately packed and stored in stable conditions by context (ClfA 2014b; Watkinson and Neal 2001). Sections and profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10, with all deposit heights established relative to Ordnance Datum.

No finds which came under the definition of 'treasure' were identified by the evaluation and no burials or human remains were encountered.

A photographic record was maintained using high resolution uninterpolated digital photography exceeding 12 megapixels taken using a camera with an APS-C or larger sensor. Overall shots of the site were taken prior to excavation and after backfilling. Overall shots of each trench were taken together with detailed shots of individual features and feature groups. All photographs, except general site shots, included a north arrow and graduated metric scales of appropriate lengths.

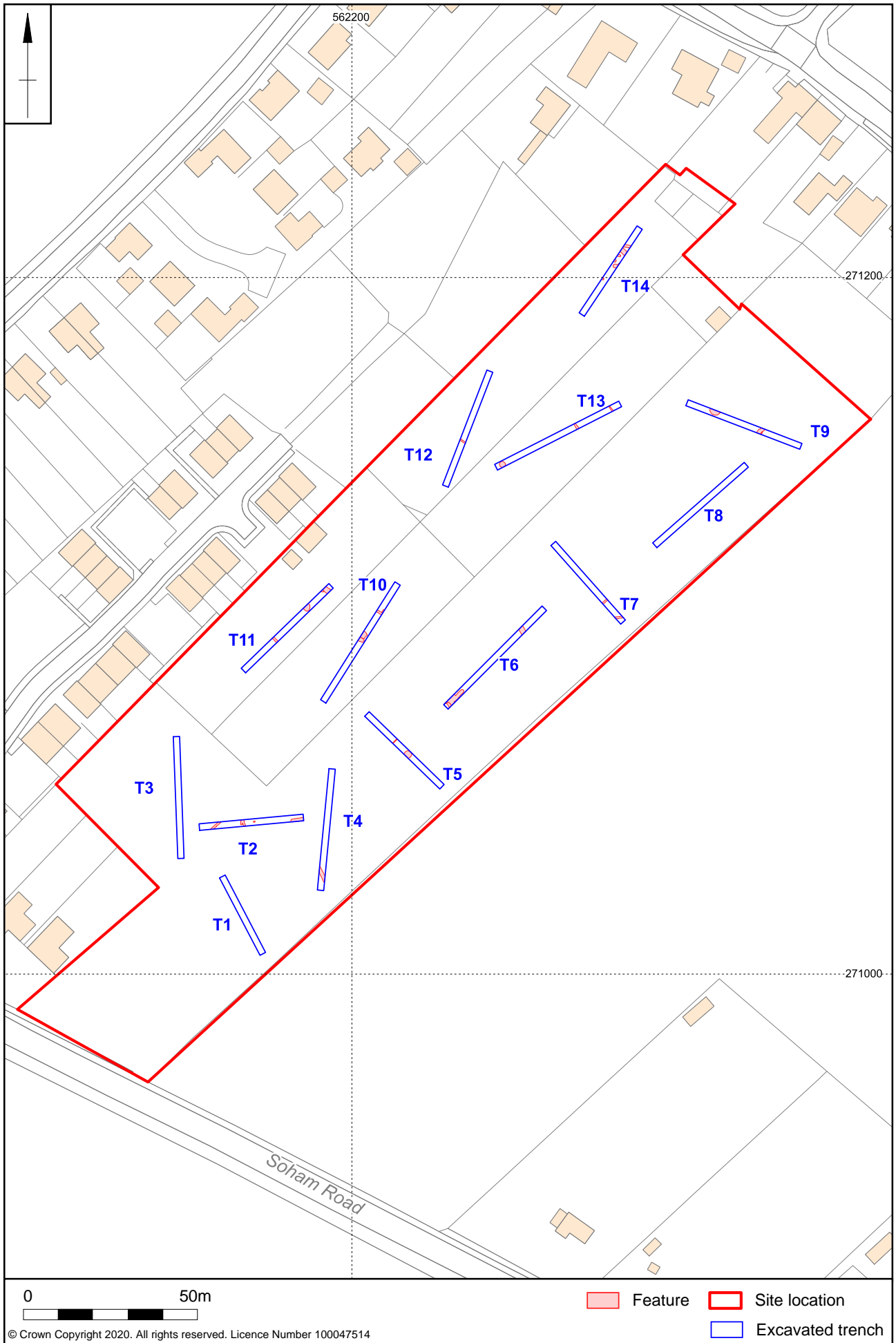
Samples were taken for environmental analysis from all suitable contexts following the guidance for sampling as outlined by Historic England (Campbell *et al* 2011). Bulk environmental samples were taken from securely dated, sealed archaeological features for plant macro fossils, small animal bones and small artefacts. The volume of the samples was 40 litres or 100% of feature fills, whichever was less. All samples were processed at MOLA using the flotation technique to retrieve seed, charcoal and mollusc remains. All the resultant residues were then hand sorted to retrieve bones and other finds.

All finds were cleaned, catalogued and prepared for storage in accordance with the guidelines contained in UKIC's *Guidelines for the Presentation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (Walker 1990) and the MGC's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992).

Following the approval of the CCHET, all trenches were backfilled with their up-cast and lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator.

The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The archive has been fully catalogued and prepared for deposition in accordance with the specific Cambridgeshire archiving standard, as well as with national guidelines by Walker (1990), Brown (2011), SMA (1993), the ClfA (2014c) and the MGC (1992). Any material requiring special curation will be handled under the recognised guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 2001).



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Scale 1: 1500

Excavated trenches and archaeological features Fig 2

5 EXCAVATION RESULTS

5.1 General stratigraphy

A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was observed across the site (Fig 3). The geological substrate was encountered at a depth of 0.25m to 0.6m below the existing ground level and comprised a mixture of soft white chalk and yellow orange sand. Sealing the geological substrate was a thin deposit of subsoil composed of soft light brown sandy silt that measured 0.05m to 0.2m in depth. Completing the general stratigraphic sequence was the soft dark brownish grey silty loam topsoil, which measured 0.25m to 0.3m in depth and was consistent across the evaluation area. Bucket samples of topsoil and subsoil were retrieved from either end of each trench which returned no finds.



Representative section showing stratigraphic sequence, Trench 6 Fig 3

5.2 Excavated evidence

The evaluation established that features of archaeological interest were present across the site, with the densest concentrations of remains focused in the central, northern and eastern areas. Of the 14 trenches that were excavated during the evaluation, three did not contain archaeology. These comprised Trenches 1 and 3, which were located at the western extent of the site, and Trench 8, which was located towards the south-eastern boundary.

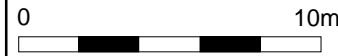
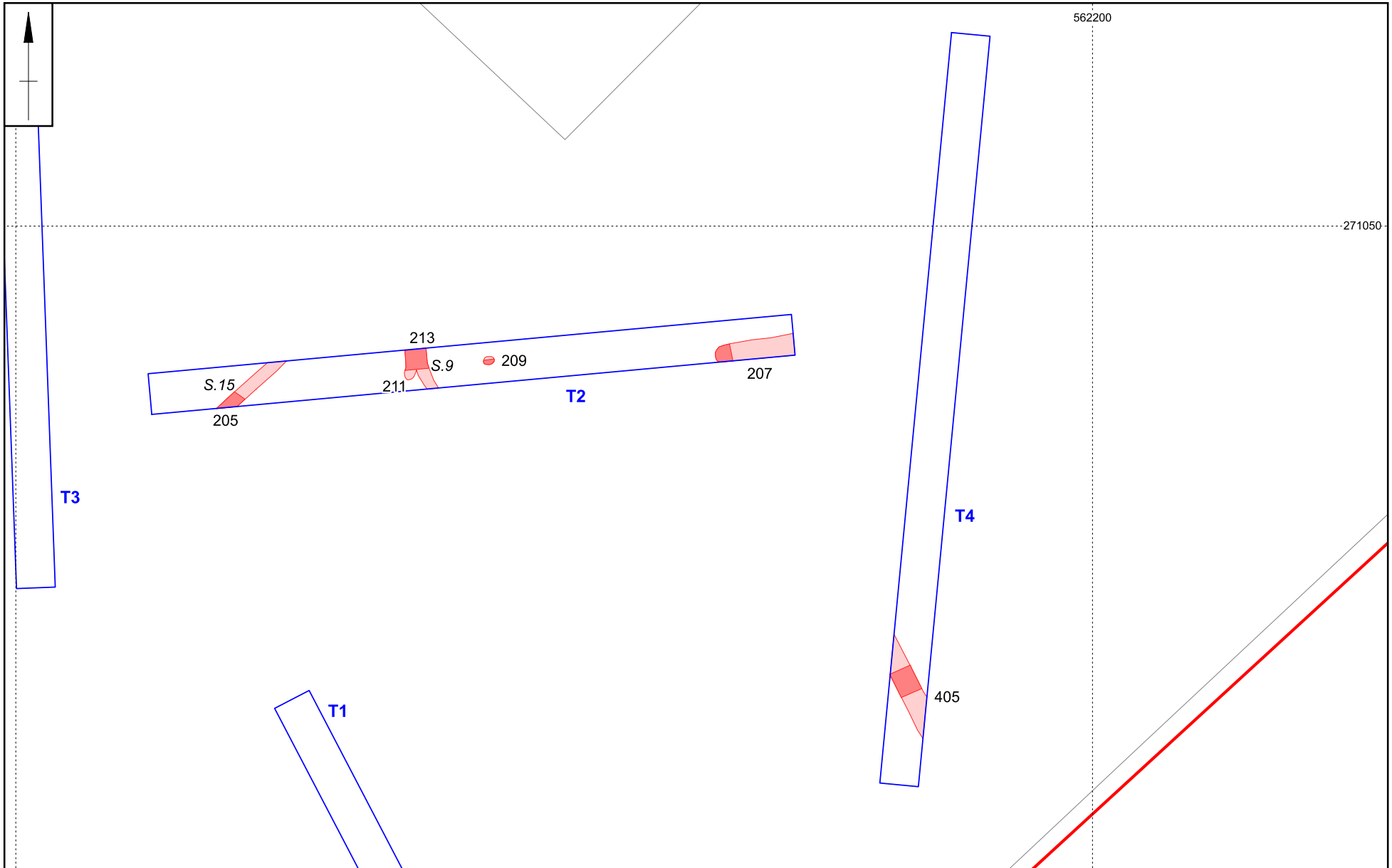
The results of the geophysical survey identified very few anomalies of interest, which varied greatly from the high densities of archaeological remains encountered during the evaluation. The disparity of results may have been caused by the soils and underlying geology of the site being unfavourable for gradiometer survey.

Very little artefactual evidence was recovered during the evaluation and as such only a limited understanding of the site's origin and development has been ascertained. Due to the lack of clarity surrounding the chronological progression of site activities, the results outlined herein have been presented in stratigraphic order by trench.

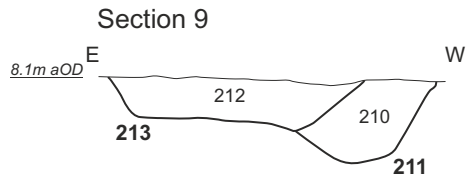
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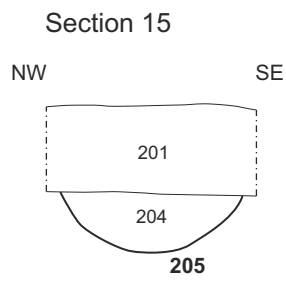
Plans of trenches 2 and 4
Fig 4



- Excavated section
- Feature
- Excavated trench
- Site location



Features 213 and 211, looking south



Feature 205, looking south-east



Scale 1:25

Trench 2, features 205 & 211 sections and photographs Fig 5



Feature [207], viewed looking north-east



Feature [209], viewed looking north



Feature [405], viewed looking north-west

Trench 2

Trench 2 contained a total of three ditches and two pits (Fig 4). The terminus of a broadly east to west orientated ditch was recorded at the eastern extent of trench 2 (Fig 5b). Ditch terminus [207] had steep sides leading to a sharp break of slope and a flat base. The full width of this feature was not established within the confines of the evaluation as it extended beyond the limit of excavation. The width of ditch [207] was in excess of 0.9m, with a depth of 0.4m. A single fill (206) of soft dark brown silty sand was present.

A circular pit [209] was located towards the centre of Trench 2, which measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.12m deep (Fig 5b). The pit had a U-shaped profile with a concave base and contained a single fill (208) of soft mid greyish brown chalky sand.

A second pit [211] was located approximately 3.2m west of [209] (Fig 5a, Section 9). Pit [211] was oval in plan with a U-shaped profile and concave sides and base. Measuring 0.9m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.3m in depth, this feature contained a single fill (210) of soft mid greyish brown silty sand.

Cutting pit [211] at its eastern edge was a curvilinear ditch [213] that measured 0.92m in width and 0.15m in depth (Fig 5a, Section 9). Ditch [213] exhibited steep sides with a wide, flat base and contained a single fill (212) of soft mid brown silty sand.

Ditch [205] was aligned north-east to south-west and was located towards the western end of Trench 2 (Fig 5a, Section 15) following the line of the extant plot division to the north-east of the evaluation area, which can be seen on the 1656 and 1809 maps. This ditch had a U-shaped profile with concave sides and base and measured 0.6m in width and 0.2m in depth. Within ditch [205] was a single fill (204) of mid brown silty sand.

Trench 4

A single feature was present in Trench 4, comprising north-west to south-east aligned ditch [405] that measured 0.57m in width and 0.16m in depth (Figs 4 & 5b). This ditch had an asymmetrical profile resulting from a steep north-eastern and stepped south-western sides leading to a sharp break of base and contained a single fill (404) of light brown silty sand.

Trench 5

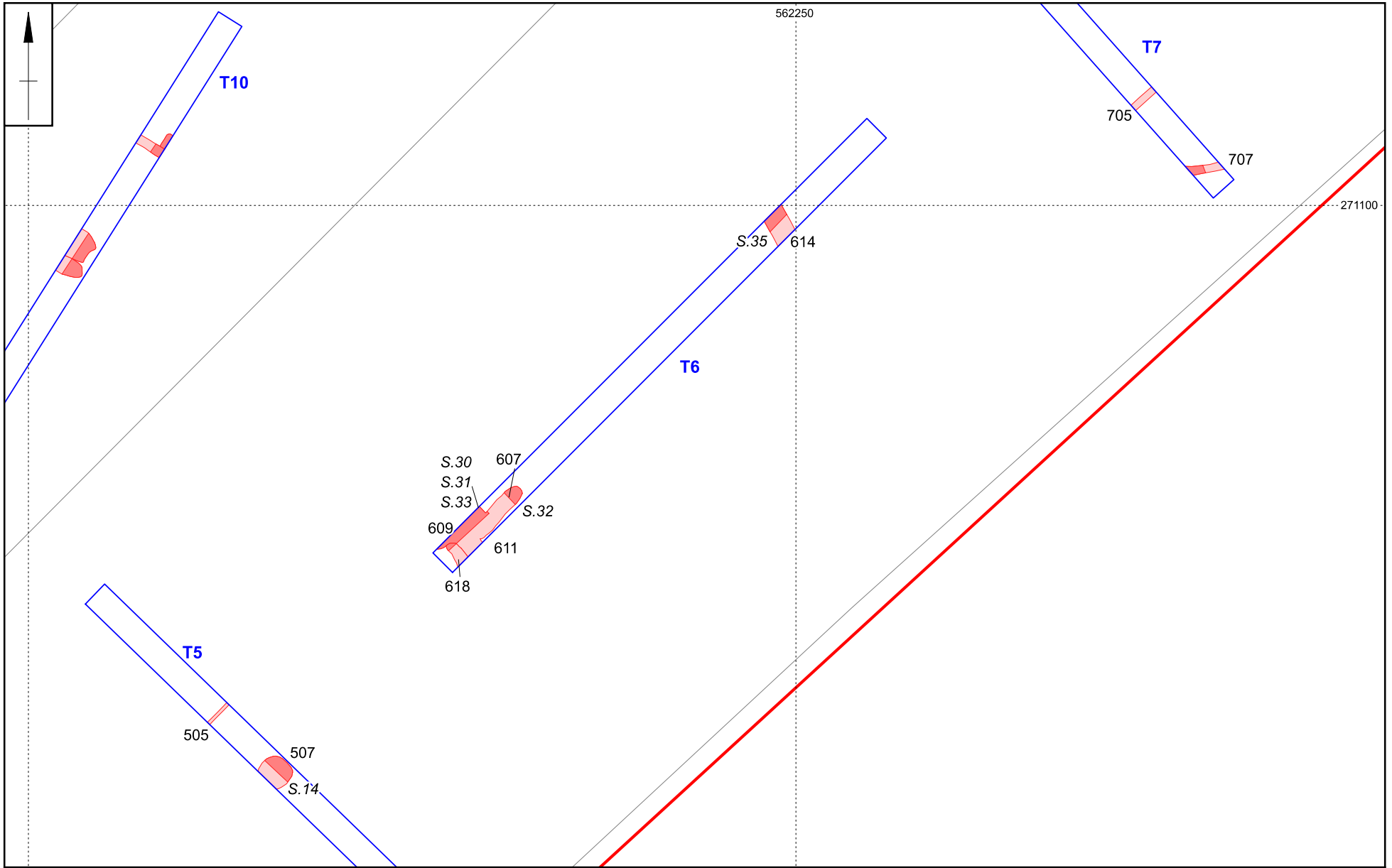
Trench 5 contained one pit and one gully (Fig 6). A substantial pit [507] measuring 2.02m in width and 0.5m in depth was partially observed towards the centre of Trench 5 and extending beyond the south-western limit of Trench 5 (Fig 7a, Section 14). The pit had an elongated U-shaped profile with steep sides leading to a concave base. A single fill (506) was observed, which comprised soft mid brown silty sand. An undiagnostic iron rod fragment was recovered from fill (506), which has tentatively been attributed a possible date of mid-16th to 17th century.

Gully [505] was visible in the north-eastern section of Trench 5, where it truncated subsoil (502). This later feature had a squared profile and measured 0.14m in width and 0.09m in depth. A single fill (504) of dark brownish grey silty sand was observed.

Scale 1:350

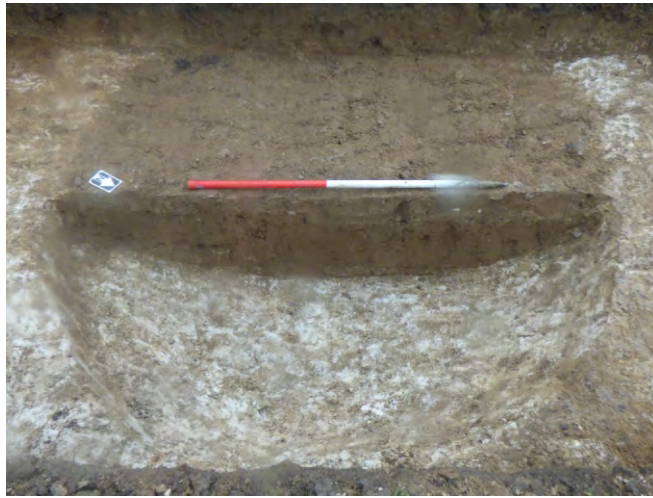
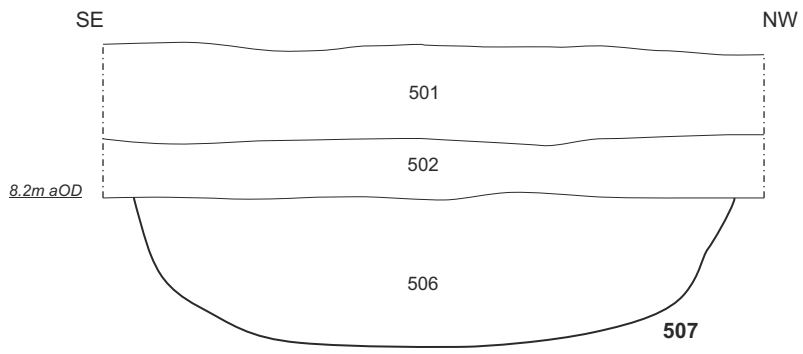
Plan of trenches 5-7

Fig 6



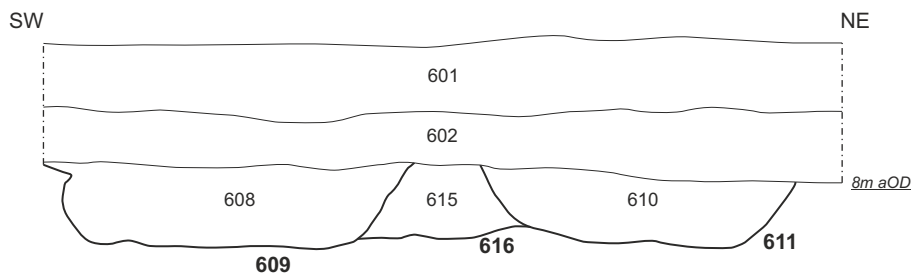
Excavated section
 Feature
 Excavated trench
 Site location

Section 14

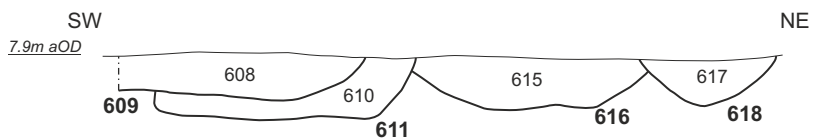


Feature 507, looking south-west

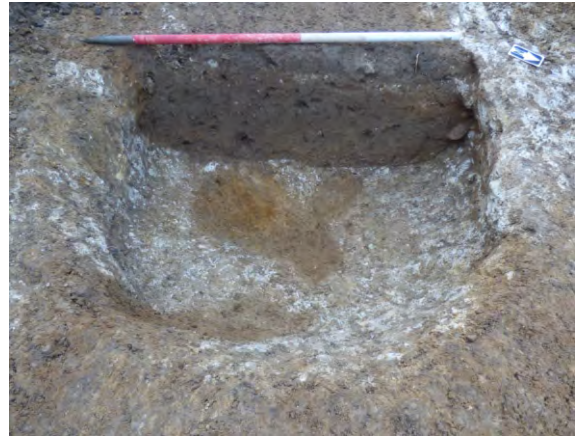
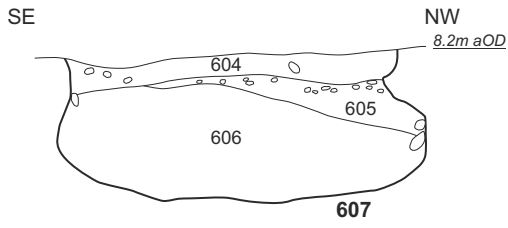
Section 30



Section 31

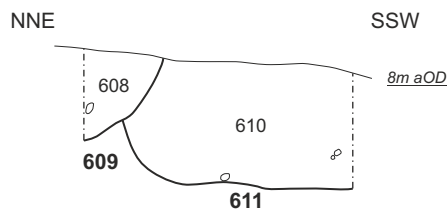


Section 32

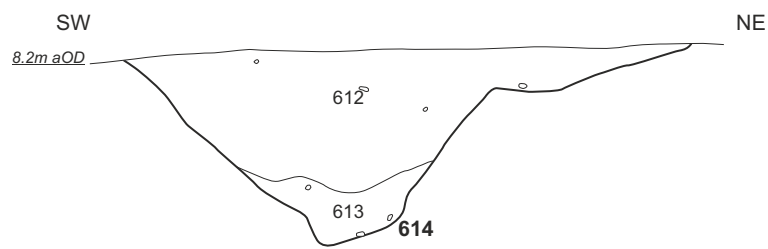


Feature 607, looking east

Section 33



Section 35



Feature 614, looking north-west



Trench 6

Six ditches were encountered within trench 6 (Fig 6), comprising a single ditch in the north-eastern part of the trench and five intersecting features at the south-west of the trench. Ditch [614] was in the north-eastern part of Trench 6 and was aligned broadly north to south (Fig 7b, Section 35). The ditch measured 1.9m in width, 0.64 in depth and exhibited an asymmetrical profile resulting from a stepped north-east edge, steep south-western edge and sloped base. Contained within ditch [614] were two distinct fills comprising a basal fill (613) of soft pale orange brown sandy silt measuring 0.2m in depth, which was overlain by a fill (612) of mid brown sandy silt that measured 0.62m in depth. A single horse radius was recovered from fill (612). This feature reflects a plot boundary visible on the 1809 and 1656 maps at the main half-way division between Carter Street and Soham Road.

A short length of ditch [607] that was orientated north-east to south-west terminated 2.25m north-east of ditch [618] (Fig 7b, Section 32). Ditch [607] was 1.2m in width and 0.48m in depth with steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base. Three distinct fills were recorded, the earliest of which (606) comprised soft mid brownish grey silty sand and measured a maximum of 0.42m in depth. Partially overlying (606) was fill (605), which was composed of soft chalky orange brown sand and measured a maximum of 0.2m in depth. Sealing (605) and (606) was an uppermost fill (604) of soft dark grey sandy silt that measured a maximum of 0.2m in depth.

Ditch [616] was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.77m in width and 0.25m in depth (Fig 7a, Sections 30 & 31). This feature exhibited gently sloping sides with a flat base and contained a single fill (615) soft orange brown sandy silt.

Truncating ditches [607] and [616], and obscuring the relationship between the two, was ditch [611], which was orientated north-west to south-east and featured steep sides and a flat base (Fig 7a, Sections 30 & 31). The terminus of ditch [611] was broadly square in plan and was located towards the south-eastern section of Trench 6. Measuring 0.86m in width and 0.22m in depth, ditch [611] contained a single fill (610) of soft dark grey silty sand.

Also cutting ditch [616] was a second north-west to south-east ditch [618] that had a U-shaped profile with concave sides and base (Fig 7a, Section 31). Ditch [618] measured 0.45m in width and 0.15m in depth and contained a single fill (617) of soft mid brown sandy silt.

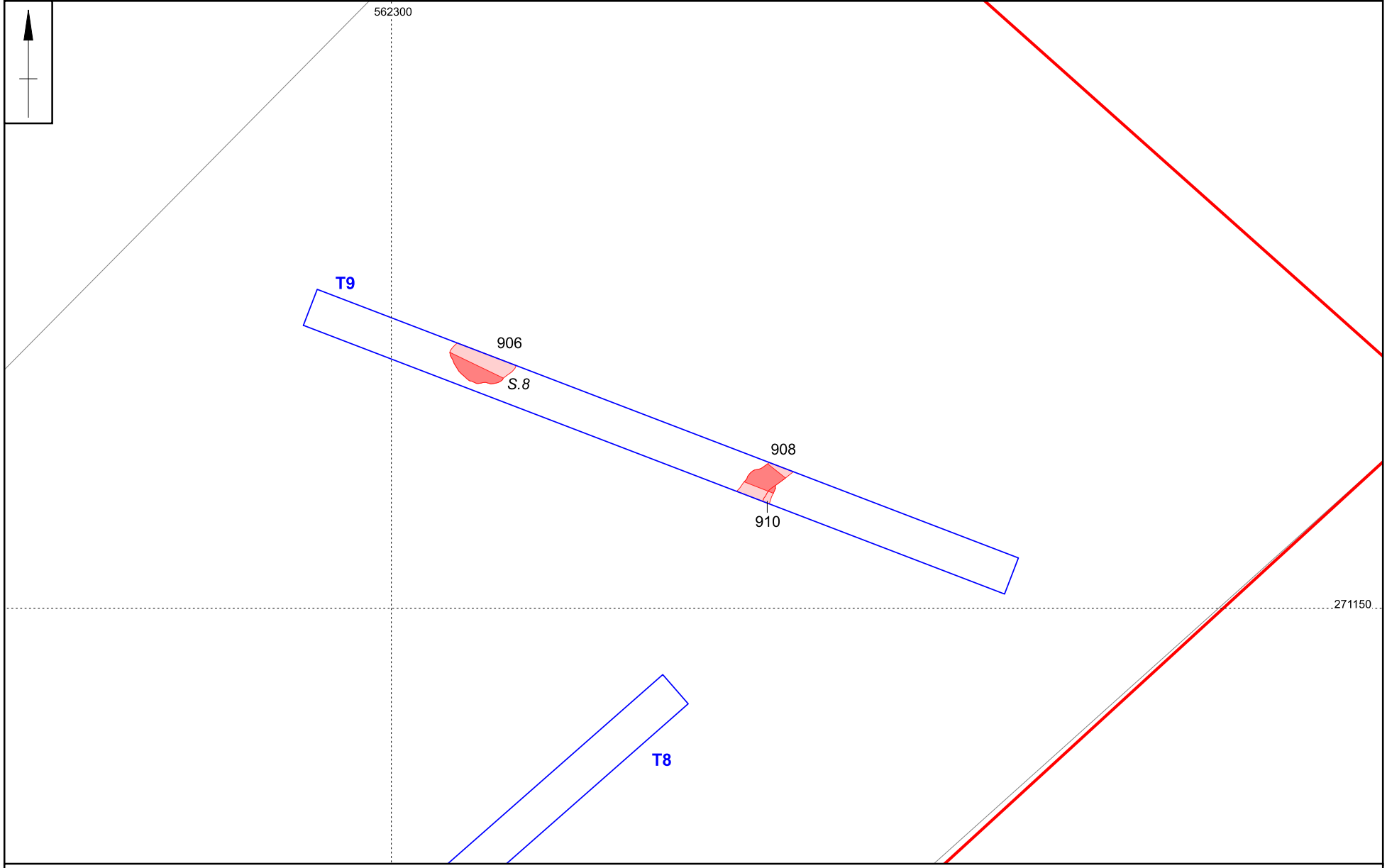
The terminus of a final north-west to south-east ditch [609] truncated the south-western side of ditch [611] (Fig 7a, Sections 30 & 31). This feature had steep sides leading to a broad, flat base and measured 0.75m in width and 0.16m in depth. Within [609] was a single fill (608), which comprised soft dark greyish brown silty sand.

Trench 7

Trench 7 contained a single ditch and a gully (Fig 6). Ditch [707] was aligned broadly east to west, measuring 0.55m in width and 0.2m in depth. The ditch had a U-shaped profile with concave sides and base and contained a single fill (706) of soft mid greyish brown silty sand.

Truncating the subsoil was a narrow gully [705], which also exhibited a U-shaped profile with concave sides and base. This feature measured 0.35m in width, 0.12m in depth and contained a single fill (704) of soft mid brown sandy silt. Gully [705] is likely to be contemporary with gully [505]. The stratigraphic position of both features indicated that they are relatively recent in date.

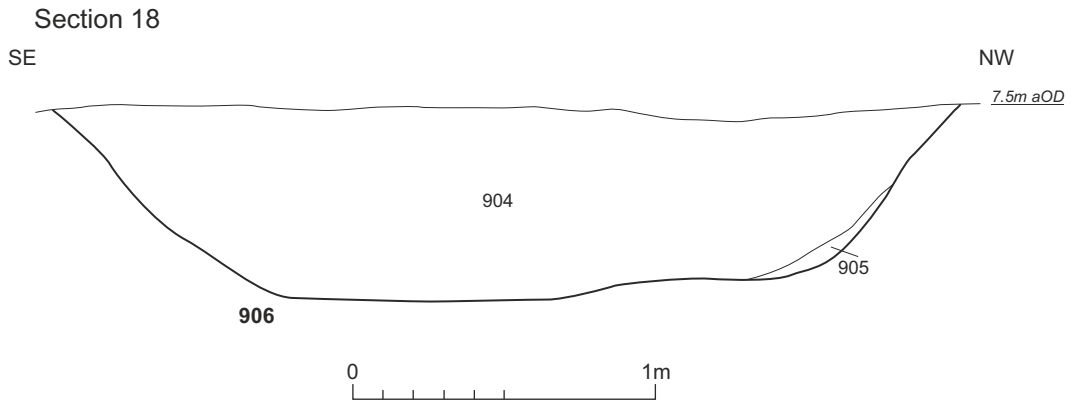
Scale 1:250



Plan of trench 9
Fig 8

0 10m

 Excavated section	 Feature	 Excavated trench	 Site location
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Feature 906, looking north-east

Scale 1:25

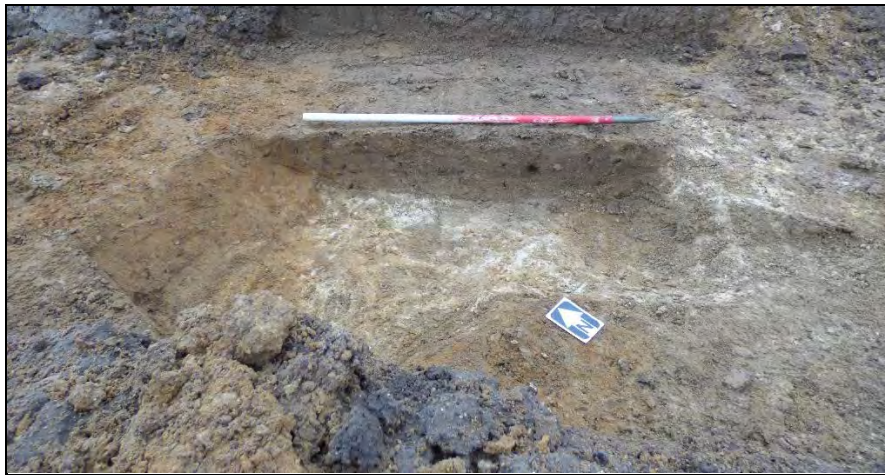
Trench 9, feature 906 section and photograph Fig 9

Trench 9

Trench 9 contained a single pit and two gullies (Fig 8). A large oval pit [906] was present towards the centre of Trench 9 (Fig 9a, Section 18). Pit [906] measured 3.1m in width and 0.7m in depth with steep sides leading to a flat base. Two distinct fills were present, the earliest of which was a thin basal fill (905) composed of soft mid orange brown silt. Fill (905) was overlain by an uppermost fill (904) of softly compact mid orange brown sandy silt. Two sherds from a single Developed St. Neot's ware bowl base were recovered from (904), providing a date of AD 1050 to 1250.

Located approximately 2m south-east of pit [906] was the rounded terminus of a narrow gully [910] that measured 0.4m in width and 0.17m in depth (Fig 9b). Gully [910] exhibited steep sides and a flat base, with a single fill (909) that comprised soft mid brownish orange sandy silt.

Truncating gully [910] was ditch [908], a larger feature that measured 1.05m in width and 0.3m in depth (Fig 9b). Ditch [908] had steep sides, a flat base and contained a single fill (907) of soft mid brown sandy silt.



Gully [910] and ditch [908], viewed looking north-east Fig 9b

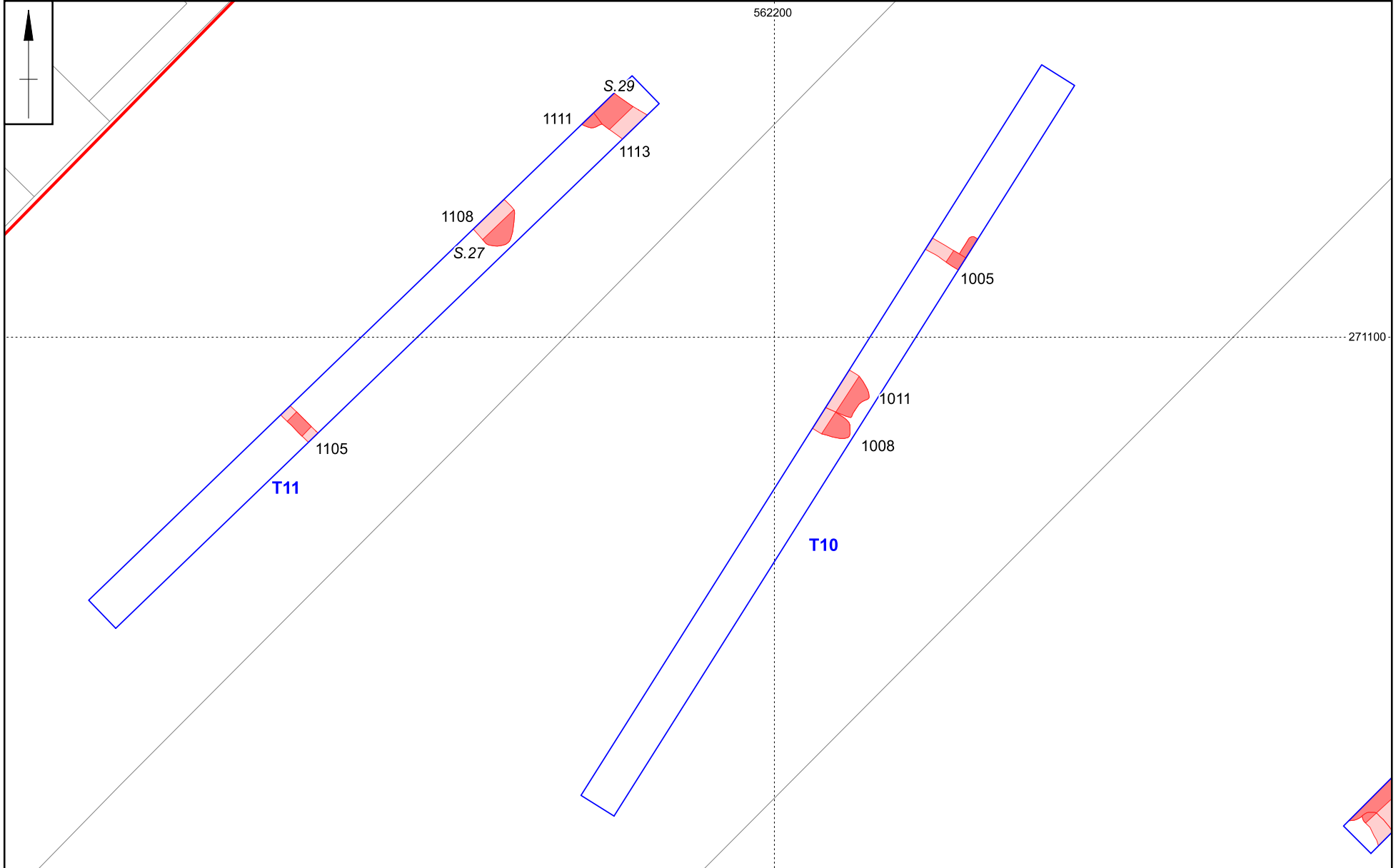
Trench 10

Three ditches were encountered within trench 10 (Fig 6). Ditch [1005] was aligned north-west to south-east and featured an elongated U-shaped profile with gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base (Fig 11b). This ditch measured 1.7m in width, 0.3m in depth and contained a single fill (1004) of soft mid brown silty sand.

Located approximately 6.8m south-west of ditch [1005] were two parallel features, [1008] and [1011], that may have either been pits or the termini of north-west to south-east aligned ditches (Fig 11b). Feature [1008] exhibited moderately steep sides and a sloping base and measured 0.6m in width and 0.25m in depth. Two distinct fills were present, including a basal fill (1007) of mid brownish orange sandy silt overlain by (1006), which comprised soft mid brown sandy silt.

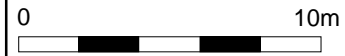
Immediately north-east of [1008] was [1011], which measured 1m in width and 0.2m in depth. Feature [1011] had an asymmetrical profile with moderately steep sides and a sloped base. Contained within [1011] was a basal fill (1010) of soft mottled mid brown silty sand and chalk, which had been sealed by an upper fill (1009) of mid brown silty sand. Two sherds of medieval Ely ware pottery dating between AD 1150 and 1350 were recovered from fill (1010).

Scale 1:250

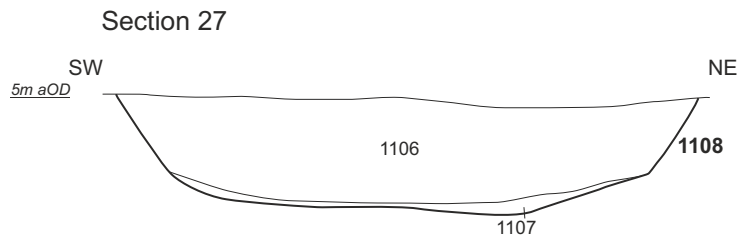


Plans of trenches 10 and 11

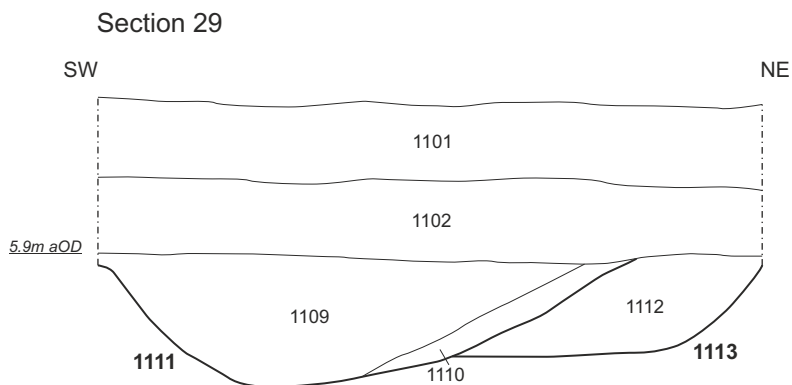
Fig 10



- Excavated section
- Feature
- Excavated trench
- Site location



Feature 1108, looking north-west



Features 1111 and 1113, looking north-west

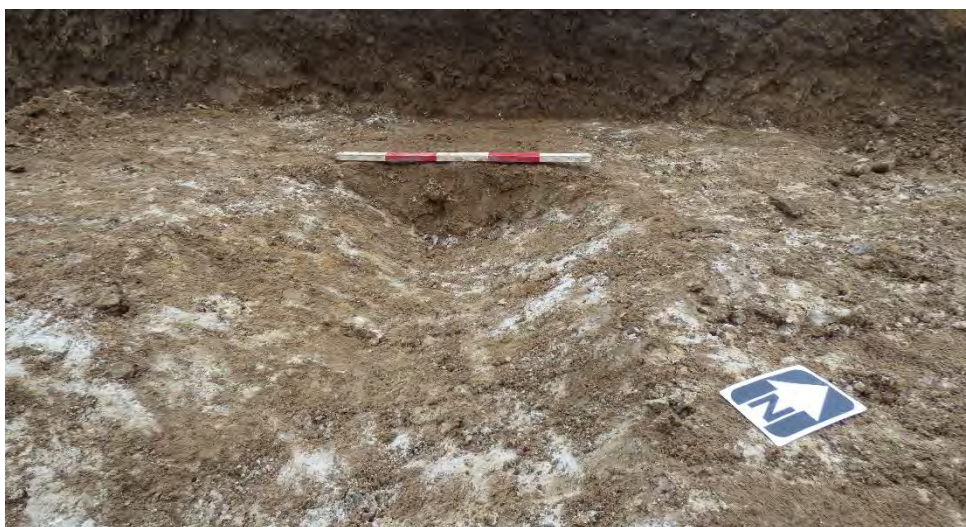




Feature [1005], viewed looking east



Features [1008] and [1011], viewed looking north-west



Feature [1108], viewed looking north-west

Trench 11

Four ditches were present within trench 11 (Fig 10). Ditch [1105] was aligned north-west to south-east and exhibited gradually sloping sides with a slightly concave base. The ditch measured 0.6m in width and 0.18m in depth and contained a single fill (1104) of soft mid brown sandy silt.

Ditch [1113] was located towards the north-eastern extent of Trench 11 and was aligned parallel to ditch [1105] (Fig 11a, Section 29). This feature had steep sides with a flat base and measured 1.2m in width and 0.4m in depth. A single fill (1112) was present, which comprised soft mid brown sandy silt.

Truncating ditch [1113] was the south-eastern terminus of a north-west to south-east aligned ditch [1111] (Fig 11a, Section 29). The ditch had a rounded terminus with a broadly U-shaped profile and measured 1.7m in width, 0.45m in depth and contained two distinct fills. The earliest fill, (1110) had resulted from the slumping of the north-eastern edge and comprised soft mixed mid orange silt and chalk. Overlying (1110) was fill (1109), which was composed of soft mid brown sandy silt. Two sherds of South-east Fenland medieval calcareous buff ware dating to AD 1150 to 1450 were recovered from fill (1109).

A second, parallel ditch terminus [1108] was located approximately 2m north-west of [1111] (Fig 11a, Section 27 & Fig 11b). This ditch exhibited a rounded terminus and an elongated U-shaped profile with steep sides leading to a broad, slightly concave base. Measuring 1.9m in width and 0.45m in depth, ditch [1108] contained a basal fill (1107) of soft mixed mid brown and white chalky clay, which was overlain by a fill (1106) of soft mid brown sandy silt.

Trench 12

A single ditch was present within trench 12, comprising ditch [1205] which was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.5m in width and 0.22m in depth (Figs 12 & 13). This feature had a U-shaped profile with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (1204) comprised soft mid brown sandy silt.

Trench 13

Trench 13 contained two ditches and one gully (Fig 12). A curvilinear gully [1307] was present at the south-western extent of Trench 13 (Fig 13). Gully [1307] featured steep sides with a flat base and had a total diameter of 1.7m. It measured 0.2m in depth and contained a single fill (1306) of soft mid reddish brown sandy silt.

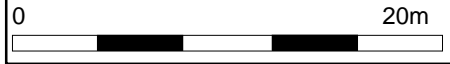
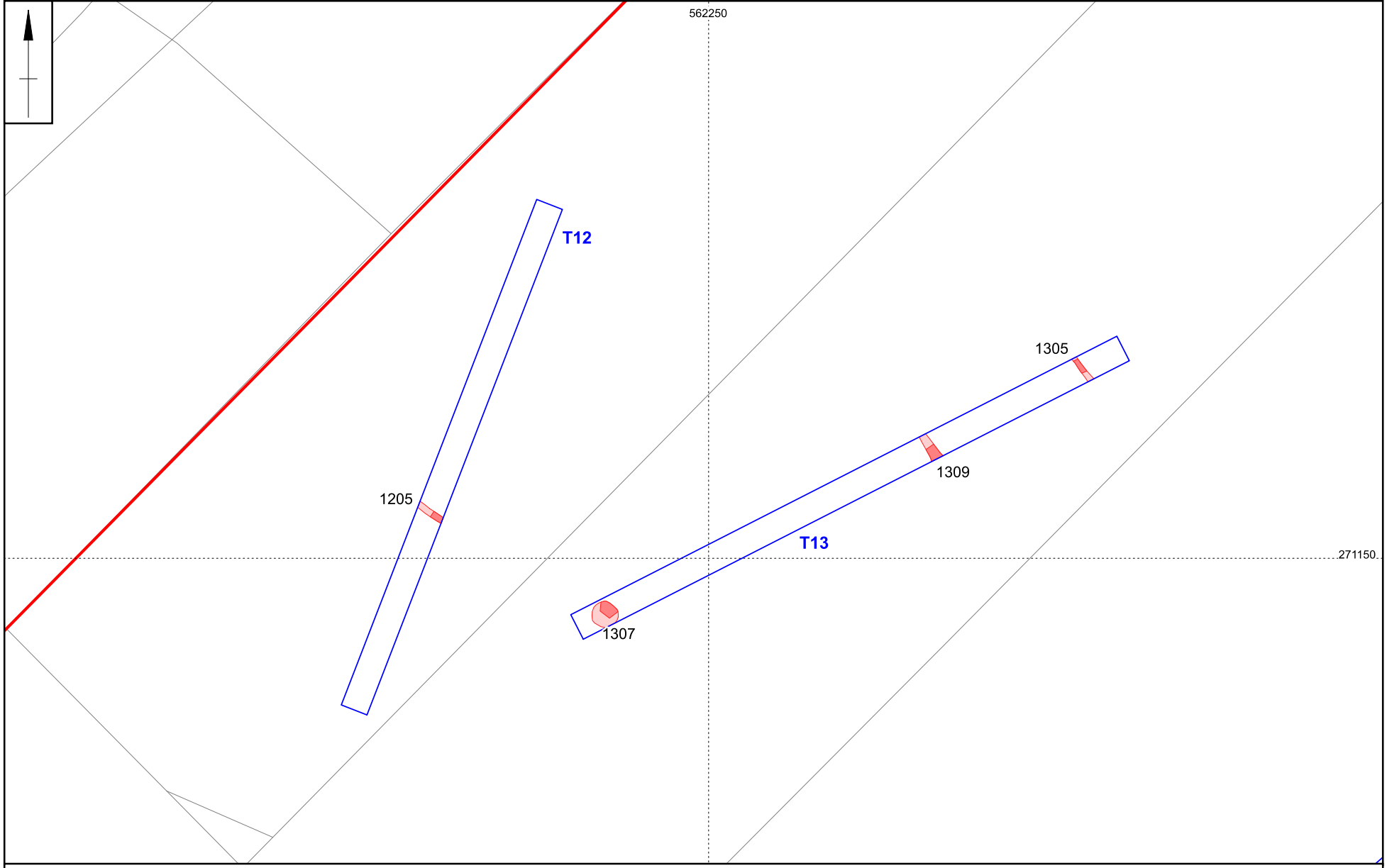
Ditch [1305] was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.7m in width and 0.25m in depth (Fig 13). This feature had a U-shaped profile and contained a single fill (1304) of soft mid brown sandy silt.

A second north-west to south-east orientated ditch [1309] was present towards the centre of Trench 13 (Fig 13). This feature measured 0.45m in width and 0.2m in depth and had steep sides with a flat base. This feature contained a single fill (1308) of soft mid reddish brown sandy silt.

Scale 1:350



Plan of trenches 12 and 13 Fig 12



- Excavated section
- Feature
- Excavated trench
- Site location



Feature [1205], viewed looking south-east



Feature [1309], viewed looking south



Feature [1305], viewed looking north-east



Feature [1307], viewed looking west



Feature [1307], viewed looking north-east

Trench 14

Trench 14 contained seven ditches and a single pit (Fig 14). Ditch [1404] was aligned broadly east to west and measured 0.7m in width and 0.25m in depth (Fig 15). This feature exhibited a U-shaped profile with concave sides and base and contained a single fill (1403) of soft mid brown sandy silt.

Located approximately 0.25m south-west of ditch [1404] was ditch [1406], which measured 1.3m in width and 0.35m in depth (Fig 15). Ditch [1406] was aligned broadly north-west to south-east and had an asymmetrical profile created by a steep north-eastern edge, gradually sloping south-western edge and a sharp break of base. A single fill (1405) was observed, which comprised soft mid brown sandy silt.

Feature [1408], which comprised the eastern terminus of an east to west aligned ditch or an oval pit, was present approximately 0.7m south-west of ditch [1406] (Fig 15). This feature had a rounded terminus with an asymmetrical profile resulting from a stepped southern edge, steep northern side and sharp break of base. It measured 0.55m in width, 0.22m in depth and contained a single fill (1407) of soft mid brown sandy silt.

Located 1m south-west of [1408] was a second ditch terminus or pit [1416] that was aligned broadly north to south (Fig 15). Ditch [1416] measured 0.92m in width, 0.24m in depth and exhibited a rounded terminus with concave sides and a U-shaped profile. A single fill (1415) of soft mid brown sandy silt was present. An assemblage of 90 animal bone fragments was recovered from fill (1415).

Feature [1418], which also formed either a ditch terminus or oval pit, was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.92m in width and 0.32m in depth (Fig 15). This feature had steep sides with a flat base and contained a single fill (1417) of soft mottled dark and mid brown sandy silt.

A circular pit [1414] was present extending beyond the south-eastern limit of Trench 14 (Fig 15). The pit measured 0.75m in width, 0.3m in depth and had steep sides with a flat base. Contained within pit [1414] was fill (1413), which comprised soft dark brown silty sand.

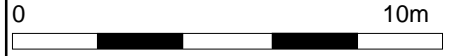
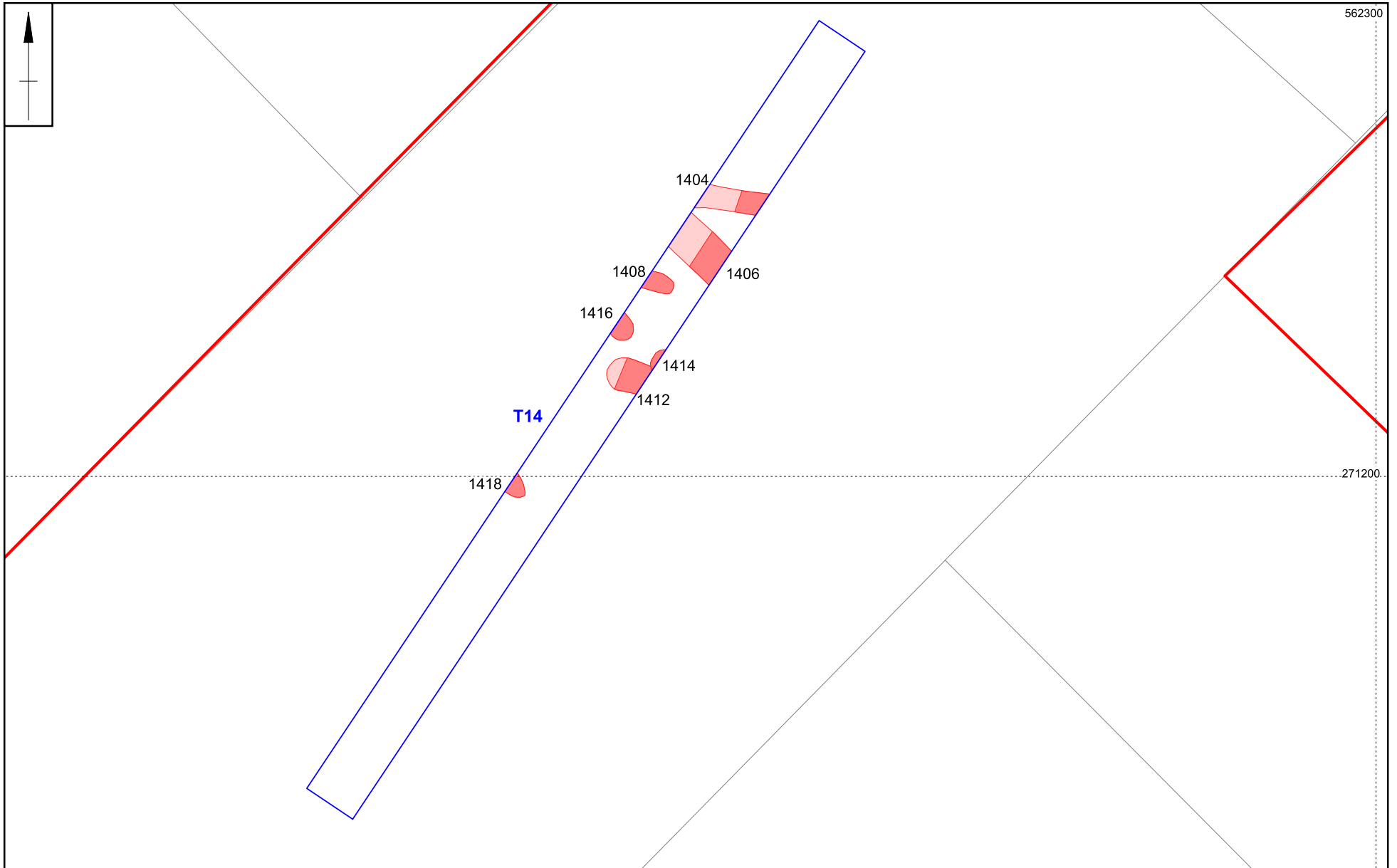
Cutting pit [1414] was the western terminus [1412] of an east to west aligned ditch (Fig 15). This feature exhibited steep sides with a flat base and measured 1.3m in width and 0.3m in depth. A single fill (1411) of soft dark greyish brown sandy silt was recorded.

Truncating the subsoil of Trench 14 was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch [1410]. This feature had steep sides, a flat base and measured approximately 0.2m in depth. A single fill (1409) was present of soft dark greyish brown sandy silt.

Scale 1:175



Plan of trench 14
Fig 14



- Excavated section
- Feature
- Excavated trench
- Site location



Feature [1406], viewed looking north-west



Feature [1408], viewed looking north-west



Features [1412] and [1414], viewed looking south-east



Feature [1418], viewed looking north-east

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Jennifer R McNulty

Five sherds of pottery weighing 101g were recovered from three fills during trial trench excavations. The material was examined under and x10 binocular microscope and recorded according to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016). The Cambridgeshire county ceramic type-series (Spoerry 2016) was used in the identification of the pottery. The assemblage ranged in date from the 11th to the 15th century (Table 1).

Table 1: The medieval pottery

Context / fill / type	Fabric Code	Fabric Name	Count	Weight (g)	Max Vessel	Date	Vessel Form
906 / 904 / pit	DNEOT	Developed St. Neot's-type ware	2	68	1	1050-1250	Bowl base
1011 / 1010 / ditch terminus	MEL	Medieval Ely Ware	2	13	1	1150-1350	Externally thickened and internally bevelled jar rim (Spoerry 2016, fig. 9.47, HM100)
1111 / 1109 / ditch terminus	SEFEN	South-east Fenland Medieval calcareous buff ware	2	20	1	1150-1450	Flat topped jug rim w sooting (Spoerry 2016, plate 9.70, HM132)
Total			5	101	3		

The fabrics identified are commonly found in areas surrounding Fordham. The assemblage represents three vessels as the two sherds from fill (904) were co-joining, as were the two sherds from (1109). All three vessels were identifiable to form, and included a bowl, (904), a jar, (1010), and a jug, (1109). The jar and the jug both have parallels available in the Cambridgeshire type series (Table 1). Although the vessel forms indicate possible domestic activity during the medieval period, the assemblage overall does not indicate any significant activity or settlement.

No further work is required and discard is recommended.

6.2 The animal bone by Sander Aerts

A total of 91 poorly preserved remains of animal bone were hand-collected during trenching works at Fordham. Only three fragments could be identified to species and element (see Table 2). A heavily abraded horse radius was identified from fill (612) of ditch [614]. A cattle humerus and pelvic fragment were identified from fill (1415) of ditch terminus [1416]. These were associated by a large number of cattle-sized long bone, rib and vertebrae fragments. No evidence for butchering, gnawing, burning or other taphonomy were observed.

Table 2: The animal bone

Context / fill / type	Taxon	Element	N
614 / 612 / ditch	Horse	Radius	1
1416 / 1415 / ditch	Cattle	Humerus	1
1416 / 1415 / ditch	Cattle	Pelvis	1
1416 / 1415 / ditch	LM	Indet	79
1416 / 1415 / ditch	UM	Indet	9
Total			91

No further work is required on this assemblage. Due to the limited research value of this assemblage, disposal is recommended.

6.3 The environmental analysis by Sander Aerts

A total of seven environmental soil samples comprising 170 litres were submitted for analysis. The samples were processed at MOLA Northampton using a siraf tank fitted with a 500 micron nylon mesh and a 250 micron test sieve to retrieve the flots. The flots and hand residues were hand-sorted using a desk magnifier with a maximum magnification of 10X. Analysis and identification of the botanical remains was carried out using a low power binocular microscope (Brunel MX1) with a maximum magnification of 40X. Identifications were further aided by the MOLA Northampton reference collection for cereal crops. Identifications per fill are given in Table 3.

Table 3: The palaeoenvironmental remains

Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fill	506	1306	1403	1405	1415	904	1010
Vol (L)	40	20	20	20	10	40	20
Cereal crops							
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)						Xc	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)						cfXc	
<i>Secale cereale</i> (grain)							cfXc
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (grain)						Xc	
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Xc			Xc		XXc	Xc
Grain indet.	Xc			Xc		XXc	Xc

Herbs and weeds

<i>Galium aparine</i>						Xc	
<i>Chenopodium sp.</i>		Xdw	XXdw	XXdw	XXXdw		XXdw

Charcoal

<2 mm	XX	XX		XX	X	XX	X
2-5 mm	XX			X	X	XXX	X
5-10 mm	XX					XX	
10> mm	XX					XX	

Invertebrates

Gastropoda spp.	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXX	XXXX	XXXX
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Key: X=1-3 (rare); XX=4-20 (occasional); XXX=21-50 (common); XXXX=50+ (abundant); CF = confer; C = Charred; DW = Dewatered; WL = Waterlogged

The assemblage comprises small concentrations of carbonised cereal grains. Fill (504) of gully [505] produced a fragment of a charred wheat kernel (*Triticum sp.*), as did fill (1405) of ditch [1406]. Fill (1415) of ditch terminus [1416] produced a single charred grain that was too distorted for identification. A larger assemblage of grains was observed from fill (904) of pit [906], including grains of wheat, spelt and/or emmer (*T. dicoccum/spelta*), oats (*Avena sp.*) and a possible barley grain (cf *Hordeum sp.*). A possible rye grain (cf *Secale cereale*) and wheat grain were identified from fill (1010) of ditch terminus [1011]. All carbonised cereal crops were associated with small concentrations of charcoal.

Small to medium concentrations of dewatered goosefoot seeds (*Chenopodium sp.*) were identified from various fills. Some or all of these may be intrusive. A charred cleaver seed (*Galium aparine*) was found from fill (904). Snail shells, mostly terrestrial but some (semi-)aquatic, were observed from all sampled fills. This indicates that the features were exposed for some time – although a large number of subterranean *Cecilioides acicula* shells are likely to be intrusive. No further work is required on this assemblage.

6.4 The metal by Tora Hylton

Two iron small finds were recovered during fieldwork at Fordham, Cambridgeshire. Both finds were recovered from stratified contexts and they include, a hooked fitting <SF1> and an incomplete, undiagnostic rod fragment <SF2>. <SF1> was recovered from fill (506) of pit [507] and it comprises a tapered bar, which terminates in a sharply pointed hook at one end and a flat rounded terminal at the other. It is possible that the rounded terminal is perforated, but the presence of corrosion deposits makes it impossible to confirm this (an x-ray would be helpful). However, if the terminal is perforated, the object, is not only a similar size (133mm) to, but also displays distinct similarities to a structural fitting recovered from a service room/kitchen floor (makeup) at Linford Manor, Milton Keynes (Zeepvat 1992, fig 114, 430) for which a mid-16th/late 17th date has been attributed. Finally, the rod fragment <SF2> was recovered from fill (904) of pit [906], since it is incomplete and both terminals are missing, it is impossible to identify.

7 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation has conclusively demonstrated that archaeological remains including elements relating to varied medieval activities are well preserved across the proposed development area.

A network of ditches was encountered during the evaluation which most probably formed an 'irregular' agrarian field system typical of the region during the early and later medieval periods. 'Irregular' systems were largely formed of either open fields or croft land divided into strips or parcels of differing sizes, allowing for an exceedingly flexible arrangement of fallowing and cropping (Bailey 2009). The division of the site into narrow strips or varying sizes and the single-use nature of the remains identified by the evaluation, in addition to the evidence of sequential reorganisation of land divisions, is highly consistent with this form of agricultural production (Williamson 2016).

Pits [507] and [906] are also notable due to their substantial size and the sterile nature of their fills. It is possible that these features represent a small-scale practice of chalk extraction to aid in the fertilisation of crops within the identified field system.

The complex of ditched features and associated pits was remarkably similar to contemporary systems investigated at Rule Gardens to the north (Archaeological Solution Ltd 2020) and Scotsdale Garden Centre to the south-west of the site (Oxford Archaeology East 2019). Specifically, Phase 3.1 (mid 12th to 14th century AD) of the latter excavation revealed a comparable field system comprised of irregular arrangements of linear and rectilinear ditches in addition to several chalk extractive pits thought to relate to the establishment of two crofts that replaced an abandoned Saxo-Norman agricultural complex. When viewed in correlation with the 1656 map of Fordham Manor, it is probable that the field system identified by the current evaluation represents the remains of one of the manor's several crofts and common furlongs occupying the agrarian hinterland of Fordham village from the early medieval period.

A very modest quantity of pottery and animal bone was recovered from the features associated with the field system, presumably indicating that the site held a primarily agricultural focus during the medieval period rather than also encompassing some degree of domestic occupation such as a toft. This is consistent with the findings of the nearby investigations at Rule Gardens and Scotsdale Garden Centre.

When viewed in isolation, the results of the evaluation have provided a wealth of new information about specific activities relating to the agricultural usage of the landscape within the site's boundaries. However, this is compounded by the results of the several other investigations undertaken within the environs of the proposed development area in recent years. Together, these results have provided a significant dataset relating to the development of Fordham's agrarian economy during the early and later medieval periods. The combined results have potential to address the research priorities of the region and in particular the study of manorial farm estates and regional variations in agricultural practices, field systems, farmsteads and crofts, in addition to how these were influenced by characteristics specific to the local environment.

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MOLA

11th January 2021

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH INVENTORY

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
1	30m	1.8m	North-west to south-east	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
102	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
103	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-



General view of Trench 1, viewed looking north-west

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
2	30m	1.8m	East to west	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
202	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
203	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
204	Fill	Fill of ditch [205], soft mid brown silty sand	0.6m wide 0.2m deep	-
205	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-east to south-west aligned, U-shaped profile, concave base, concave sides	0.6m wide 0.2m deep	-
206	Fill	Fill of ditch terminus [207], soft dark brown silty sand	>0.9m wide 0.4m deep	-
207	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, east to west aligned, steep sides, sharp break of slope, flat base	>0.9m wide 0.4m deep	-
208	Fill	Fill of pit [209], soft mid greyish	0.35m long	-

		brown chalky sand	0.35m wide 0.12m deep	
209	Cut	Cut of circular pit, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.35m long 0.35m wide 0.12m deep	-
210	Fill	Fill of pit [211], soft mid greyish brown silty sand	0.9m long 0.6m wide 0.3m deep	-
211	Cut	Cut of oval pit, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.9m long 0.6m wide 0.3m deep	-
212	Fill	Fill of ditch [213], soft mid brown silty sand	0.92m wide 0.15m deep	-
213	Cut	Cut of curvilinear ditch, steep sides, wide flat base	0.92m wide 0.15m deep	-



General view of Trench 2, viewed looking east

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
3	40m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
302	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
303	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-



General view of Trench 3, viewed looking north

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
4	40m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
402	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
403	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
404	Fill	Fill of ditch [405], soft light brown silty sand	0.57m wide 0.16m deep	-
405	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, asymmetrical profile, steep north-eastern side, stepped south-western side, sharp break of base	0.57m wide 0.16m deep	-



General view of Trench 4, viewed looking south-west

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
5	30m	1.8m	North-west to south-east	
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
502	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
503	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
504	Fill	Fill of gully [505], soft dark brownish grey silty sand	0.14m wide 0.09m deep	-
505	Cut	Cut of gully, truncated subsoil, north-east to south-west aligned, squared profile, steep sides, flat base	0.14m wide 0.09m deep	-
506	Fill	Fill of pit [507], soft mid brown silty sand	2.02m wide 0.5m deep	-
507	Cut	Cut of pit, circular, elongated U-shaped profile, steep sides, concave base	2.02m wide 0.5m deep	-



General view of Trench 5, viewed looking north-west

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
6	40m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
602	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
603	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
604	Fill	Uppermost fill of ditch [607], soft dark grey sandy silt	0.2m deep	-
605	Fill	Fill of ditch [607], soft chalky orange brown sand	0.2m deep	-
606	Fill	Basal fill of ditch [607], soft mid brownish grey silty sand	0.42m deep	-
607	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-east to south-west aligned, steep sides, flat base	1.2m wide 0.48m deep	-
608	Fill	Fill of ditch terminus [609], soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.75m wide 0.16m deep	-
609	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, broad flat base	0.75m wide 0.16m deep	-
610	Fill	Fill of ditch [611], soft dark grey silty sand	0.86m wide 0.22m deep	-
611	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, flat base	0.86m wide 0.22m deep	-
612	Fill	Uppermost fill of ditch [614], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.62m deep	-
613	Fill	Basal fill of ditch [614], soft pale orange brown sandy silt	0.2m deep	-
614	Cut	Cut of ditch, north to south aligned, asymmetrical profile, stepped north-east side, steep	1.9m wide 0.64m deep	-

		south-western side, sloped base		
615	Fill	Fill of ditch [616], soft orange brown sandy silt	0.77m wide 0.25m deep	-
616	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, gently sloping sides, flat base	0.77m wide 0.25m deep	-
617	Fill	Fill of ditch [618], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.45m wide 0.15m deep	-
618	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.45m wide 0.15m deep	-



General view of Trench 6, viewed looking north-east

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
7	30m	1.8m	North-west to south-east	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
701	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
702	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
703	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
704	Fill	Fill of gully [705], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.35m wide 0.12m deep	-
705	Cut	Cut of gully truncating subsoil, north-east to south-west aligned, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.35m wide 0.12m deep	-
706	Fill	Fill of ditch [707], soft mid greyish brown silty sand	0.55m wide 0.2m deep	-
707	Cut	Cut of ditch, east to west aligned, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.55m wide 0.2m deep	-



General view of Trench 7, viewed looking north-west

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
8	40m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
801	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
802	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
803	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-



General view of Trench 8, viewed looking north-east

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
9	30m	1.8m	North-west to south-east	
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
902	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
903	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
904	Fill	Uppermost fill of pit [906], soft mid orange brown sandy silt	0.7m deep	AD 1050-1250 pottery
905	Fill	Basal fill of pit [906], soft mid orange brown silt	0.1m deep	-
906	Cut	Cut of large oval pit, steep sides, flat base	3.1m wide 0.7m deep	-
907	Fill	Fill of ditch [908], soft mid brown sandy silt	1.05m wide 0.3m deep	-
908	Cut	Cut of ditch, steep sides, flat base	1.05m wide 0.3m deep	-
909	Fill	Fill of gully [910], soft mid brownish orange sandy silt	0.4m wide 0.17m deep	-
910	Cut	Cut of gully terminus, steep sides, flat base	0.4m wide 0.17m deep	-



General view of Trench 9, viewed looking north-west

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
10	40m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1001	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
1002	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
1003	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
1004	Fill	Fill of ditch [1005], soft mid brown silty sand	1.7m wide 0.3m deep	-
1005	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-east to south-west aligned, U-shaped profile, gently sloping sides, slightly concave base	1.7m wide 0.3m deep	-
1006	Fill	Uppermost fill of ditch terminus [1008], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.15m deep	-
1007	Fill	Basal fill of ditch terminus [1008], soft mid brownish orange sandy silt	0.1m deep	-
1008	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, north-east to south-west aligned, steep sides, sloping base	0.6m wide 0.25m deep	-
1009	Fill	Uppermost fill of ditch terminus [1011], soft mid brown silty sand	0.1m deep	-
1010	Fill	Basal fill of ditch terminus [1011], soft mid brown silty sand and chalk	0.1m deep	-
1011	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, north-east to south-west aligned, asymmetrical profile, moderately steep sides, sloped base	1m wide 0.2m deep	-



General view of Trench 10, viewed looking north-east

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
11	40m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1101	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
1102	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
1103	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
1104	Fill	Fill of ditch [1105], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.6m wide 0.18m deep	-
1105	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, gradually sloping sides, slightly concave base	0.6m wide 0.18m deep	-
1106	Fill	Uppermost fill of ditch terminus [1108], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.3m deep	-
1107	Fill	Basal fill of ditch terminus [1108], soft mixed mid brown and white chalky clay	0.15m deep	-
1108	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, north-west to south-east aligned, elongated U-shaped profile, steep sides, broad slightly concave base	1.9m wide 0.45m deep	-
1109	Fill	Uppermost fill of ditch terminus [1111], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.35m deep	-
1110	Fill	Basal fill of ditch terminus [1111], soft mixed orange silt and chalk	0.1m deep	-
1111	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, north-west to south-east aligned, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	1.7m wide 0.45m deep	-
1112	Fill	Fill of ditch [1113], soft mid brown sandy silt	1.2m wide 0.4m deep	-
1113	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, flat base	1.2m wide 0.4m deep	-



General view of Trench 11, viewed looking north-east

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
12	40m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1201	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
1202	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
1203	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
1204	Fill	Fill of ditch [1205], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.5m wide 0.22m deep	-
1205	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, concave base	0.5m wide 0.22m deep	-



General view of Trench 12, viewed looking north-east

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
13	40m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1301	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
1302	Subsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt	-	-
1303	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
1304	Fill	Fill of ditch [1305], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.7m wide 0.25m deep	-
1305	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.7m wide 0.25m deep	-
1306	Fill	Fill of gully [1307], soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.4m wide 0.2m deep	-
1307	Cut	Cut of curvilinear gully, steep sides, flat base	1.7m diameter 0.4m wide 0.2m deep	-
1308	Fill	Fill of ditch [1309], soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.45m wide 0.2m deep	-
1309	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, flat base	0.45m wide 0.2m deep	-



General view of Trench 13, viewed looking north-east

Trench No	Length	Width	Alignment	
14	30m	1.8m	North-east to south-west	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1401	Topsoil	Soft dark brownish grey silty loam	-	-
1402	Natural	Soft mixed white chalk and yellow orange sand	-	-
1403	Fill	Fill of ditch [1404], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.7m wide 0.25m deep	-
1404	Cut	Cut of ditch, east to west aligned, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.7m wide 0.25m deep	-
1405	Fill	Fill of ditch [1406], soft mid brown sandy silt	1.3m wide 0.35m deep	-
1406	Cut	Cut of ditch, north-west to south-east aligned, asymmetrical profile, steep north-eastern edge, gradually sloping south-western edge, sharp break of base	1.3m wide 0.35m deep	-
1407	Fill	Fill of ditch terminus [1408], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.55m wide 0.22m deep	-
1408	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, north to south aligned, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.55m wide 0.22m deep	-
1409	Fill	Fill of ditch [1410], soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.2m deep	-
1410	Cut	Cut of ditch truncating subsoil, north-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, flat base.	0.2m deep	-
1411	Fill	Fill of ditch [1412], soft mid brown silty sand	1.3m wide 0.13m deep	-
1412	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, east to west aligned, elongated U-shaped profile, concave sides, flat base	1.3m wide 0.3m deep	-
1413	Fill	Fill of pit [1414], soft dark brown silty sand	0.75m wide 0.3m deep	-
1414	Cut	Cut of circular pit, steep sides, flat base	0.75m wide 0.3m deep	-
1415	Fill	Fill of ditch [1416], soft mid brown sandy silt	0.92m wide 0.24m deep	-
1416	Cut	Cut of ditch, north to south aligned, U-shaped profile, concave sides, concave base	0.92m wide 0.24m deep	-
1417	Fill	Fill of ditch terminus [1418], soft mottled dark and mid brown sandy silt	0.92m wide 0.32m deep	-
1418	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, north-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, flat base	0.92m wide 0.32m deep	-



General view of Trench 14, viewed looking north-east



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