

---

# Report on an Archaeological Test Pit at The Weatheralls Junior School 24-29 April 2017

## Soham, Cambridgeshire



Report prepared by Catherine M Cantrell & Donna Martin  
July 2020



---

**Report No** 0005/CMC  
**Site Name** The Weatheralls School  
Playing Field  
**HER Event No** ECB5214  
**OASIS ID** archaeol33-315413  
**Date of Works** 24-28 April 2017  
**Grid Reference** TL59420 73611 Nearest postcode CB7 5BJ Ten Bells Lane, Soham  
**Site Code** SOHWE17  
**Receiving Body** The Weatheralls School, Soham  
**Accession No** TBA

**Prepared By** Cathy Cantrell  
Position ACE Member  
Date July 2020

**Records** Donna Martin  
Position ACE Member  
Date April 2018

Signed .....

**Disclaimer**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Archaeology Cambridgeshire East (ACE) being obtained. Archaeology Cambridgeshire East accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned.*

**Archaeology Cambridgeshire East**

Cathy Cantrell  
c/o Soham Museum  
7 Churchgate Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5BJ

t:  
e: [museum@soham.org.uk](mailto:museum@soham.org.uk)  
w: [www.sohammuseum.co.uk](http://www.sohammuseum.co.uk)



---

## **SUMMARY**

*Archaeology Cambridgeshire East (ACE) were invited to support the Weatheralls School annual archaeology project taking place 24-28 April 2017. Their curriculum project was “Stone Age to Iron Age”.*

*It was a chance for the children to be real archaeologists undertaking a Test Pit evaluation using real archaeological techniques. Referencing previous evaluations, old maps and LIDAR a test pit site in previously undisturbed land was selected.*

*Approximately 90 students took part each day with an opportunity for everyone to have a try at the various tasks. Finds included several sherds of Saxon pottery, a fine worked flint and at 1 metre depth a possible beaten clay floor of an Iron Age dwelling.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>6</b>
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	6
1.2 Geology and topography.....	6
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	6
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	7
<b>2 Aims and methodology</b> .....	<b>8</b>
2.1 Aims.....	8
2.2 Methodology.....	8
<b>3 Results</b> .....	<b>10</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	10
3.2 Test Pit Summary.....	10
3.3 Finds Summary.....	10
3.4 Environmental Summary.....	10
<b>4 Discussion and conclusions</b> .....	<b>11</b>
4.1 Conclusion.....	11
4.2 Significance.....	11
4.3 Recommendations.....	11
<b>Appendix A: Test Pit Description and Context Inventory</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix B: Finds Report</b> .....	<b>15</b>
B.1 Summary of Finds.....	15
B.2 Pottery Finds.....	15
B.3 Flints.....	17
B.4 Glass.....	17
<b>Appendix C: Environmental Reports</b> .....	<b>20</b>
C.1 Environmental Samples.....	20
<b>Appendix D: Bibliography</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix E: OASIS Report Form</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>List of Figures</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Fig 1: Location of Test Pit Site.....	24
Fig 2: Historical Location – 1600’s.....	24
Fig 3: Soham Village map circa 1650.....	25
Fig 4: Historical Location 1900’s & Location 2017.....	26
Fig 5: Location of 1991 Survey Trenches.....	26
Fig 6: Triangulated Location of 2017 Test Pit.....	27
Fig 7: Underlying Geology.....	27
Fig 8: Plans & Sections.....	28
Fig 8 a) Plan 1.....	28
Fig 8 b) Plan 2.....	28
Fig 8 c) Section.....	29



---

<b>List of Plates .....</b>	<b>30</b>
Plate 1: Flotation Table .....	30
Plate 2: Test Pit Layer 10 .....	30
Plate 3: Worked Flint.....	31
Plate 4: Sieving Spoil for Finds.....	31
Plate 5: Exhibition Stand .....	32

---

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological test pitting survey was conducted in the North East corner of The Weatheralls School playing field at

Pratt Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire  
TL59420 73611

by Cambridgeshire Archaeology East (ACE), the week of 24-28 April 2017. **Figure 1**

ACE is a community archaeology group affiliated to the Jigsaw Project hosted by Oxford Archaeology East.

- 1.1.2 The work was carried out by students from The Weatheralls School aged between 8 and 10 years old with the help and supervision of members of ACE, plus their class teachers, as part of their school project work. Approximately 90 students attended on each of the five days.
- 1.1.3 The Test Pit site was carefully selected to ensure that it was in an area undisturbed by previous school projects and a previous archaeological assessment undertaken in 1991 by Cambridgeshire County Council (Bray, 1991) and Oxford Archaeology East (Drummond-Murray, 2010). **Figures 5 & 6**
- 1.1.4 Additionally the project would assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the area, in accordance with Jigsaw Cambridgeshire and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology of the test pit site is West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas.  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain3d/index.html>
- 1.2.2 The test pit area lies on the edge of an area of superficial river terrace deposits, ie sand and gravel. This deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present, ie during the Quaternary period. **Figure 7**

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 There is evidence of settlement within the parish of Soham from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Large numbers of hand axes and other implements have been found by farming folk, although the location in most cases is not recorded (Wymer, 1985).
- 1.3.2 A Neolithic polished stone axe was found on clay underlying peat at the north end of Soham Cotes. (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record 07065)

- 1.3.3 Soham was certainly inhabited in Anglo Saxon times judging by the high number of recorded artefacts (Taylor, 1985) its people being buried in three separate cemeteries. One, on the site of the modern churchyard, has produced cruciform brooches, perhaps mid-6th-century with a second at Soham Water Tower (Lethbridge, 1933, 152). The third which lay partly within the modern burial ground off the Fordham Road, was excavated in 2016 prior to building on the site and revealed 55 graves, several with high quality grave goods (Archaeology South-East forthcoming).
- 1.3.4 Excavations at nearby Pratt Street have revealed post-holes, possibly of dwellings with Saxo-Norman and later pottery from an apparently substantial domestic settlement (Bray, 1991).
- 1.3.5 The current parish church of St Andrews (late 12<sup>th</sup> century) is thought to be the most likely location of the Monastery established by St Felix in 630AD. The Monastery was destroyed by the Vikings in 870AD and never rebuilt, although William of Malmesbury records that a Cathedral and Palace was established in Soham circa 900AD by Lutlingus, a Saxon nobleman. (Franklin, 2014, 80)
- 1.3.6 Soham has three unique commons which are derived from strip farming methods and land rights that go back to the medieval period. The Commons and Horse Fens are not known to exist, in quite the same way as they do in Soham, anywhere else in the country. They are protected by law and are not allowed to have developments built on them by a Decree of the Court of Exchequer made in the Easter Term of 1686 which prevented Sir Thomas Chicheley from overturning an earlier Deed Poll Agreement (Syme, date unknown). The villagers had stood firm and 116 acres of Soham Moor were returned to Common Land and held in Trust. Part of the funds collected from tenants paid for the first school and schoolmasters in Soham, latterly known as Soham Grammar School as noted in documents held by Pembroke College, Cambridge (Browning, 1953).
- 1.3.7 There is very little historical evidence making direct mention of The Weatheralls. It is possible that it may be a corruption of the nearby "Netherhall Closes" (Wareham and Wright, 2002) which is shown just to the south of the excavation site on the Soham 1650 map as well as the map commissioned by Sir Thomas Chicheley, completed in 1656. **Figures 2 & 3**

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks to Bill Franklin for his mapping and research to ensure that the test pit was dug in an area of previously undisturbed ground and to Chris Terry for his surveying skills.

Thanks also to the Head Teacher, Laurence Ball, and Class Teachers of The Weatheralls School for all their support and for hosting the Exhibition at the school.

---

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 While the primary aim of the test pitting was to give the students a practical introduction to archaeology it was also to
- Provide actual material for their curriculum project “Stone Age to Iron Age”
  - Demonstrate stratification to the natural level
  - Record and preserve any finds
  - Add to the archaeological understanding of the area

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The site was assessed and a risk assessment prepared beforehand noting hazards (signed copies have been retained for insurance purposes). A minimum of two ACE group members and two teachers from The Weatheralls School supervised the students during the sessions.
- 2.2.2 Students had provided parental permission to take part in the excavation. Any students not wishing to be included in any photographs were noted. A list of equipment required had been provided to the school in advance and stored close to the location
- 2.2.3 A Test Pit of 1m x 1m was dug in a location researched as to be previously undisturbed by building works or earlier archaeological excavations. **Figure 6**
- 2.2.4 Turf was removed and stored for replacement. The Test Pit was dug in 10cm layers with the spoil placed into buckets. The layers were labelled, stratification recorded with changes noted and photographs taken.
- 2.2.5 Students working in pairs sieved the contents of the buckets onto a large tarpaulin. Finds were collected in finds trays and passed to the Finds Processing table for washing on site. A team of students washed the Finds for a group examination and discussion at the end of each class session. **Plate 4**
- 2.2.6 Soil samples were taken at every layer starting with Layer 1. The samples were taken to the Environmental Processing tables and processed using the Flotation method. Macro finds were examined using magnifying glasses and included in the Finds Record. **Plate 1**
- 2.2.7 The excavation covered 5 days. Approximately 90 Year 3 students attended each day, split into three groups of thirty. The various tasks were rotated daily, so that as far as possible, each student was able to have a try at everything. The weather was unseasonably cold with rain on the final two days, however the enthusiasm of the students seemed undiminished.
- 2.2.8 At the end of the week, the test pit was back filled with the spoil which had been metal detected and the site left tidy and clean.





- 
- 2.2.9 The following week ACE group members were invited to the school to view an exhibition of work about the dig including photographs and finds and their individual experiences. **Plate 5**
- 2.2.10 Finds of interest will be retained by The Weatheralls school with some included in the Soham Museum or ACE handling collections. All finds surplus to these outcomes will be disposed of safely at a location near to Middle Drove, Soham - NGR TL57780 73649.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Descriptions of ground conditions encountered, features identified and artefacts recovered are supplied in this section. A full description of the test pit is shown in **Appendix A** with its location shown in **Figure 6**.
- 3.1.2 Test Pit plans and section are shown in **Figures 8 a) to 8 c)**.

#### 3.2 Test Pit Summary

- 3.2.1 Layers 1 and 2 were composed of sandy silt, mid brown in colour and appeared to be stratified as a layer of Victorian pottery was found to be sealed in by the compacted sub soil. In the next two layers the soil became more sandy and less firm with pottery dating to Medieval emerging.
- 3.2.2 By Layer 5 it was clear that the test pit was cut with ditch fill, yellowish brown in colour. A fine example of a worked flint was recovered from this layer (**Plate 3**) and a sherd of Saxon pottery - black with very fine mica inclusions, approximately 2 inches square.
- 3.2.3 In Layers 6 and 7 the soil became increasingly sandy, with few finds, mostly medieval or small sherds of Saxon pottery. Subsequent layers confirmed that the ditch fill was more likely to be infill of a pit. There were some large pebbles in these layers, but no finds of significance. In Layer 9 a chalk patch emerged in one corner of the trench which after scraping back revealed more chalk beneath the sandy layer.
- 3.2.4 Layer 10 was completed after the final student session had ended. The chalky substance (ie clunch) flecked with charcoal appeared to be floor surface. Beneath this was a very wet brown/grey clayey soil with very tiny regular gravel inclusions. **Plate 2**

#### 3.3 Finds Summary

A summary of all artefactual evidence is shown at **Appendix B**. Some analysis along with the full finds list included.

#### 3.4 Environmental Summary

- 3.4.1 Soil samples were taken from every layer from 1 to 9, processed by the hand flotation (**Plate 1**) method and the flot examined under magnifying glasses. Several tiny conical shells were found in layers 1-5 – these were added to the Finds Record.

No deposits were retained.



---

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Conclusion

The Aims of the Test Pitting had been met in full.

### 4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The Saxon and Early Medieval pottery sherds indicate the presence of a domestic site circa 900 -1200 AD, and probably later up to 1600 AD.
- 4.2.2 If the fine worked flint is proven to be Bronze Age it indicates a much earlier human presence in the area.
- 4.2.3 It is possible that the chalky substance flecked with charcoal in Layer 10 was the floor of an Iron Age dwelling.

### 4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 As the location of this test pit has been carefully recorded, further archaeological excavations could be carried out as part of the school curriculum on similarly undisturbed soil. The potential for further finds would make it an exciting prospect.

## APPENDIX A: TEST PIT DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Inclusions	Finds
<b>Test Pit 1</b> Dimensions 1m x 1m					
1 24/05/17	Layer	Mid brownish brown, firm Sandy silt Environmental sample taken	10 cm	Stones Infrequent	Brick\tile, charcoal, flint, glass, metal, pottery, stone, sheep's tooth Photo taken
	<p><b>Notes:</b> Stand out find was a sheep's tooth.</p> <p>The layer appeared undisturbed with Victorian pottery appearing beneath the turf layer and mixture of abraded finds beneath.</p>				
2 24/04/17	Layer	Dark brownish brown, firm Sandy silt Environmental sample taken	10 - 20 cm	Stones, charcoal Infrequent	Brick\tile, bone, charcoal, flint, glass, metal, pottery, stone
	<p><b>Notes:</b> Contained shift to darker soil in stratification.</p> <p>Few stone and charcoal inclusions with bone, CBM, flint, glass, metal, pottery. Layer included a shift to darker soil within the stratification. All finds very abraded.</p>				
3 25/04/17	Layer	Mid brownish brown, firm Silty sand Environmental sample taken	20 – 30 cm	Stones Infrequent	Brick\tile, charcoal, flint, glass, metal, pottery, stone
	<p><b>Notes:</b> Change mid level from sandy silt to silty sand.</p> <p>Very few finds within the context but pottery dating to Medieval period starting to emerge. Although still firm the layer was less compacted than those above.</p>				
4 25/04/17	Layer	Mid brownish yellow, soft Silty sand Environmental sample taken	30 – 40 cm	Stones, charcoal Infrequent	Charcoal, flint, glass, pottery, shell, stone Very few finds Photo taken
	<p><b>Notes:</b> Dark patch within layer suggested the possibility of a ditch or pit with the sandy layer as backfill running south-west across the trench. This was observed during subsequent layers and concurs with the 1991 evaluation.</p> <p>The few finds within the sandy context included some Medieval pottery and large pebble like stones. Conical shells appearing in macro finds.</p>				

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Inclusions	Finds
5 26/04/17	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown, soft	40 – 50 cm	Stones, charcoal	Charcoal, flint, pottery, stone
	Ditch	Silty sand Environmental sample taken		Infrequent Cut by ditch fill	Very few finds
<p><b>Notes:</b> Obvious ditch fill – very loose charcoal inclusions patches of pure sand. Conical shells appearing in macro finds.</p> <p>Best find from layer 5 – piece of worked flint. Best pottery find - piece of Saxon pottery (black with mica inclusions, very fine, approx. 2 inches square) missing during handling in session 3. Dark patch or edge to feature was preserved in situ.</p>					
6 27/04/17	Buried Soil	Mid yellowish brown, soft	50 – 60 cm	Stones, charcoal	Charcoal, flint, pottery, stone
	Ditch	Silty sand to sand Environmental sample taken		Infrequent Ditch Fill	Few finds mainly Early medieval small abraded sherds
<p><b>Notes:</b> Soil increasingly sandy with a few large stones and small sherds of Saxon to Early Medieval pottery.</p>					
7 28/04/17	Buried Soil	Light yellowish brown, soft	60 – 70 cm	Stones	Pottery, stone
	Ditch	Silty sand to sand Environmental sample taken		Infrequent Ditch Fill	Photo taken
<p><b>Notes:</b> Only one piece of Medieval pottery found in the second half of the layer 65-70cm. Other pottery mainly medieval.</p> <p>Concerns that burned soil was evidence from a previous dig, but 1991 suggestion of sand as ditch fill and the fact that stratification of Victorian finds higher up sealed it in so unlikely. Evident that sandy layer also transected what was thought to be a ditch, although 1m truncation due to trench parameters does not preclude a pit.</p>					
8 & 9 28/04/17	Buried Soil	Light yellowish brown, loose	70 – 90 cm	Stones	Stone
	Pit	Silty sand to sand Environmental sample taken		Infrequent	
<p><b>Notes:</b> Layers cut beneath former shallow feature with no inclusions other than large pebbles. No finds in these layers but indication of waterlogging towards the bottom section suggesting the water table may have been reached. The 1991 report commented that the water table was high (Bray, 1991, 5). Compacted clay apparent in north-west corner of trench excavated out.</p>					



Context	Type	Description	Depth	Inclusions	Finds
10 28/04/17	Buried Soil	Mid greyish yellow, firm Clayey sand	90 – 100 cm	Charcoal, chalk  Frequent	Charcoal  No evident finds  Photo taken
		<p><b>Notes:</b> Frequent inclusions of charcoal and chalk concurring with compacted chalk found in layer 9 which appeared to be a surface as follows: Top 5cm of layer appeared to be a flat surface or floor of a levelled chalky substance (ie. Clunch) with frequent flecks of charcoal and orange patches of burning.</p> <p>A small cut was made through this to reveal a very wet (saturated) brown/grey clayey soil with regular tiny gravel inclusions.</p>			



## APPENDIX B: FINDS REPORT

### B.1 Summary of Finds

Finds	Depth in Centimetres									Total Finds
	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-70	70-80	80-90	90-100	
Bones & Teeth	3	4	4	3	1					15
Carbon	13	14	17	2		2				48
CBM	15	8	7	10						40
Clay Pipe			1	1						2
Flint	8	8	7	6	1	2				32
Glass	7	5	5	3						20
Iron	1	2	2	1	1					7
Pottery - Medieval	6	11	19	15	10	8				69
Pottery - Modern	5	9	1							15
Pottery - Post Medieval	3	2								5
Pottery - Roman		1				1				2
Shell	3	1	6	1	1					12
Slate			1							1
No Finds							0	0	0	0
<b>Total Finds</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>268</b>

### B.2 Pottery Finds

Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Medieval	6	1x sherd Stamford ware c 875-1200, 1x sherd Bourne D ware c1430-1650
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Post Medieval	3	1x sherd late C16 mottled brown glaze stoneware jug
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Modern	5	
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Roman	1	Sherd of Roman Tile
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Medieval	11	
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Post Medieval	2	1x brown, 1x blue & white glazed very small
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Modern	9	1x small piece of blue & white pottery with houses in the design
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Pottery - Medieval	19	Some sherds Medieval Ely ware 1150-1350
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Pottery - Modern	1	
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Pottery - Medieval	15	1x rough rim sherd Thetford ware 840-1150, 1x rough rim sherd Stamford ware 875-1200, 1x sherd late C16 stoneware jug, 1x sherd C17 glazed red ware
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Pottery - Medieval	10	3x sherds Saxon pottery (black), 7x sherds various Medieval
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Pottery - Roman	1	Red sherd with black centre
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Pottery - Medieval	8	4x Saxon sherds (black), 4x various Medieval
<b>Total Pottery Finds</b>				<b>91</b>	



### B.2.1 Roman Pottery

Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Roman	1	Sherd of Roman Tile

### B.2.2 Early Medieval – Saxon Pottery

Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Pottery - Medieval	3	3x sherds Saxon pottery (black)
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Pottery - Medieval	4	4x sherds Saxon pottery (black)

### B.2.2 Mid to Late Medieval Pottery

Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Medieval	6	1x sherd Stamford ware c 875-1200, 1x sherd Bourne D ware c1430-1650
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Medieval	11	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Pottery - Medieval	19	Some sherds Medieval Ely ware 1150-1350
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Pottery - Medieval	15	1x rough rim sherd Thetford ware 840-1150, 1x rough rim sherd Stamford ware 875-1200, 1x sherd late C16 stoneware jug, 1x sherd C17 glazed red ware
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Pottery - Medieval	7	7x sherds various Medieval
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Pottery - Medieval	4	4x various Medieval
<b>Total Mid Late Medieval Finds</b>				<b>62</b>	

### B.2.2 Post Medieval & Modern Pottery

Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Post Medieval	3	1x sherd late C16 mottled brown glaze stoneware jug
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Modern	5	
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Post Medieval	2	1x brown, 1x blue & white glazed very small
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Modern	9	1x small piece of blue & white pottery with houses in the design
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Pottery - Modern	1	



### B.3 Flints

Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Flint	8	2x burnt flint, 6x showing signs of working
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Flint	8	4x showing signs of working, 4x burnt flint
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Flint	7	6x burnt flint, 1x flint core
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Flint	6	5x pieces burnt flint, 1x piece showing signs of working
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Flint	1	Bronze Age worked flint (boxed)
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Flint	2	Possible signs of working
<b>Possible Worked Flints</b>				<b>15</b>	
<b>Burnt Flint</b>				<b>17</b>	

### B.4 Glass

Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Glass	7	2x pieces fine early green glass, 3x pieces of same modern bottle
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Glass	5	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Glass	5	
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Glass	3	



## B.4 Complete List of Finds

Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Medieval	6	1x sherd Stamford ware c 875-1200, 1x sherd Bourne D ware c1430-1650
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Post Medieval	3	1x sherd late C16 mottled brown glaze stoneware jug
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Pottery - Modern	5	
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Bones & Teeth	3	1x sheep's tooth
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Flint	8	2x burnt flint, 6x showing signs of working
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Glass	7	2x pieces fine early green glass, 3x pieces of same modern bottle
24/04/2017	1	0-10	CBM	15	2x pieces burnt CBM
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Carbon	13	
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Iron	1	1x smithed partial nail
24/04/2017	1	0-10	Shell	3	1x tiny land snail, 1x fossil (possible ammonite), 1x oyster shell
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Roman	1	Sherd of Roman Tile
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Medieval	11	
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Post Medieval	2	1x brown, 1x blue & white glazed very small
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Pottery - Modern	9	1x small piece of blue & white pottery with houses in the design
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Bones & Teeth	4	1x tiny fragment of tooth, 2x toe bones
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Flint	8	4x showing signs of working, 4x burnt flint
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Glass	5	
24/04/2017	2	10-20	CBM	8	1x piece of thick red tile
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Carbon	14	
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Iron	2	Iron staple and nail
24/04/2017	2	10-20	Shell	1	Small fragment of shell
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Pottery - Medieval	19	Some sherds Medieval Ely ware 1150-1350
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Pottery - Modern	1	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Clay Pipe	1	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Bones & Teeth	4	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Flint	7	6x burnt flint, 1x flint core
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Slate	1	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Glass	5	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	CBM	7	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Carbon	17	
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Iron	2	1x large piece of flat iron, 1x corroded nail
25/04/2017	3	20-30	Shell	6	Shell, mostly oyster



Date	Layer	Depth cm	Item	No of Finds	Comments
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Pottery - Medieval	15	1x rough rim sherd Thetford ware 840-1150, 1x rough rim sherd Stamford ware 875-1200, 1x sherd late C16 stoneware jug, 1x sherd C17 glazed red ware
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Clay Pipe	1	
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Bones & Teeth	3	
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Flint	6	5x pieces burnt flint, 1x piece showing signs of working
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Glass	3	
25/04/2017	4	30-40	CBM	10	
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Carbon	2	
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Iron	1	Anomalous modern bolt fitting
25/04/2017	4	30-40	Shell	1	1x fragment fresh water mussel shell, 2x tiny conical fresh water shells
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Pottery - Medieval	10	3x sherds Saxon pottery (black), 7x sherds various Medieval
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Bones & Teeth	1	Probable piece of bone/skull
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Flint	1	Bronze Age worked flint (boxed)
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Iron	1	Probable nail
26/04/2017	5	40-50	Shell	1	1x tiny conical shell, small piece of fresh water mussel shell
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Pottery - Roman	1	Red sherd with black centre
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Pottery - Medieval	8	4x Saxon sherds (black), 4x various Medieval
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Flint	2	Possible signs of working
26-28/04/2017	6 & 7	50-70	Carbon	2	
28/04/2017	8	70-80			No Finds
28/04/2017	9	80-90			No Finds
28/04/2017	10	90-100			Not sifted



---

## **APPENDIX C: ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS**

### **C.1 Environmental Samples**

#### **C.1.1 Introduction and methodology**

A one litre soil sample was taken from each of the ten Layers of the Test Pit. Students (under supervision) processed the samples using the hand flotation method in order to recover any plant or macro organism remains.

The Flot was collected in tea strainers (mesh – small gauge) and turned onto petri dishes for identification using x4 magnifying glasses. Anything of interest was collected was transferred to plastic sample bags.

The Residue was returned to the outer perimeter of the site.

#### **C.1.2 Discussion**

A number of good examples of conical shells were discovered by the students and noted on the Finds Report.

Despite the cold and often wet weather, the students undertook this task with enthusiasm!

## APPENDIX D: BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bray, S (1991), *An Archaeological Assessment of Medieval Settlement at Pratt Street, Soham* Cambridgeshire County Council, Archaeology Section Report No28

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer  
<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Browning, J R (1953), "A History of Soham Grammar School [how the history came to be written]", in the *Soham Grammarian*, Coronation issue, Summer 1953

County Records Office, L107/P10. Part of a Manorial Survey of Soham undertaken in 1656 for Sir Thomas Chicheley. Sheets A to S.

Drummond-Murray, J (2010), *Specification for archaeological evaluation. The Weatheralls School, Soham*. Oxford Archaeology East unpublished report.

Franklin, W (2014), *By Mere and Fen: A History of Soham*, p80

Lethbridge, T C (1933), "Anglo-Saxon Burials at Soham, Cambridgeshire" in *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, Volume 33, 1933 pp152-163

Syme A, *Open Field, Horse Fen and Common – The survival of an open field system at Soham, Cambs*, (article not now available)

Taylor, A (1985), "Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval artefacts from the Southern Fen Edge, Cambridgeshire", in *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, Volume 74, 1985 pp1-52

Wareham, A F and Wright, A P M (2002), "Soham", in *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 10, Cheveley, Flendish, Staine and Staploe Hundreds (North-Eastern Cambridgeshire)* (London, 2002), pp 489-499. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol10/pp489-499>

Wymer, J J (1983), *Palaeolithic Sites of East Anglia*, Geo Books, Norwich



## APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol33-315413

### Project details

Project name	The Weatheralls School Student Test Pit April 2017
Short description of the project	Archaeology Cambridgeshire East (ACE) were invited to support the Weatheralls School annual archaeology project taking place 24-28 April 2017. Their curriculum project was "Stone Age to Iron Age". It was a chance for the children to be real archaeologists undertaking a Test Pit evaluation using real archaeological techniques. Referencing previous evaluations, old maps and LIDAR a test pit site in previously undisturbed land was selected. Approximately 90 students took part each day with an opportunity for everyone to have a try at the various tasks. Finds included several sherds of Saxon pottery, a fine worked flint and at 1 metre depth a possible beaten clay floor of an Iron Age dwelling.
Project dates	Start: 24-04-2017 End: 28-04-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5214 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SOHWS17 – Site code
Type of project	Research project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	JUNIOR SCHOOL Modern
Significant Finds	SHERD Early Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Investigation type	""Test-Pit Survey""
Prompt	Research
Prompt	Training for Students 9-10 years old

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOHAM Test Pit The Weatheralls School Soham
Postcode	CB7 5BJ
Study area	1 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 559419 273614 51.922437149325 0.26797661756 51 55 20 N 000 16 04 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology Cambridgeshire East
Project brief originator	Group Member
Project design originator	Mrs Donna Martin
Project director/manager	Mrs Donna Martin
Project supervisor	Mrs Catherine Cantrell



Type of sponsor/funding body Local Arch. Society/Amateur Archaeologist

Name of sponsor/funding body The Weatheralls School

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient The Weatheralls School

Physical Archive ID SOHWS17

Physical Contents "Worked stone/lithics","Ceramics"

Physical Archive notes Items of interest will be passed to The Weatheralls Primary School or retained in the ACE Handling Collection. Items not being retained will be placed in a dump site with a GPS reading recorded.

Digital Archive recipient Soham Museum

Digital Archive ID ECB5214

Digital Contents "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Media available "Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Digital Archive notes Items of interest will be passed to The Weatheralls Primary School or retained in the ACE Handling Collection. Items not being retained will be placed in a dump site with a GPS reading recorded.

Paper Archive recipient Soham Museum

Paper Archive ID ECB5214

Paper Contents "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"

Paper Media available "Diary","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Photograph","Survey","Unpublished Text"

Paper Archive notes Items of interest will be passed to The Weatheralls Primary School or retained in the ACE Handling Collection. Items not being retained will be placed in a dump site with a GPS reading recorded.

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Report on an Archaeological Test Pit at The Weatheralls Junior School, Soham, Cambridgeshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Cantrell, C M

Author(s)/Editor(s) Martin, D

Other bibliographic details 0005/CMC

Date 2020

Issuer or publisher Archaeology Cambridgeshire East

Place of issue or publication Soham

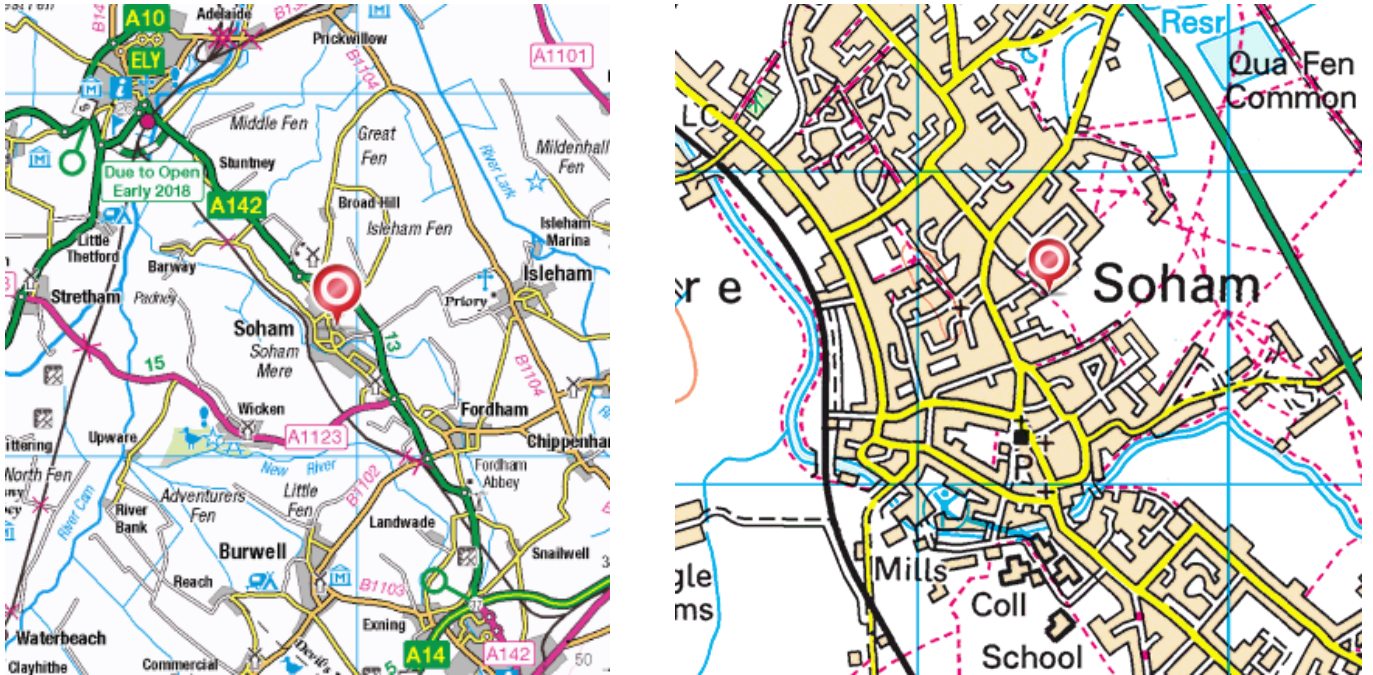
Description A4 pamphlet, including Figures, Plates, Finds Database,

Entered by Catherine Cantrell

Entered on 16 July 2020

## LIST OF FIGURES

**Fig 1:** Location of Test Pit Site  
Ordnance Survey Maps



**Fig 2:** Historical Location – 1600's  
Sir Thomas Chicheley's Map of 1656 (County Records Office)

Current street & place names

Berry Croft

Station Road

Fountain Lane

Walter Gidney Pavillion

St Andrews Church



Ten Bells Lane

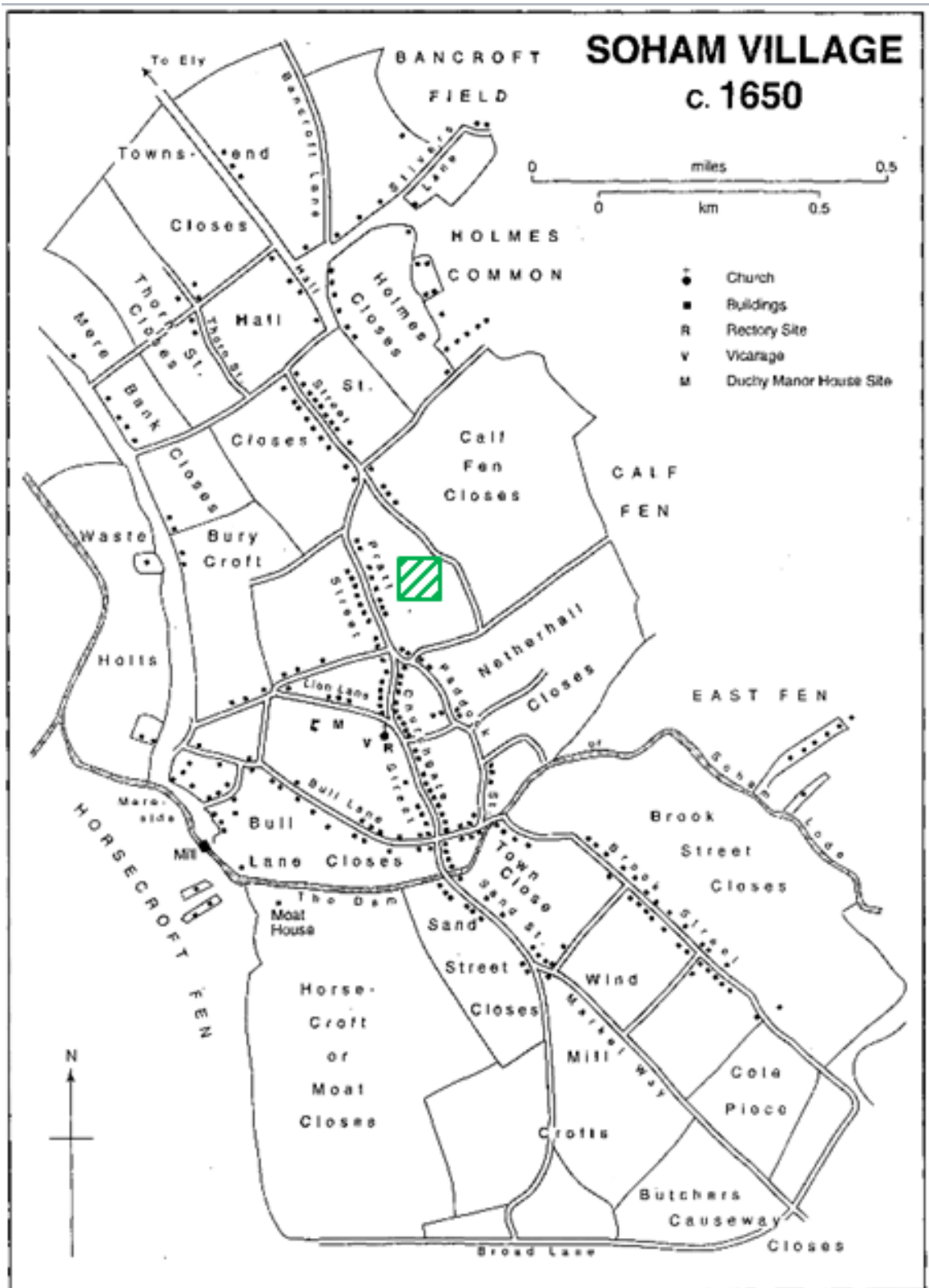
Kents Lane

Brewhouse Lane

↑ North

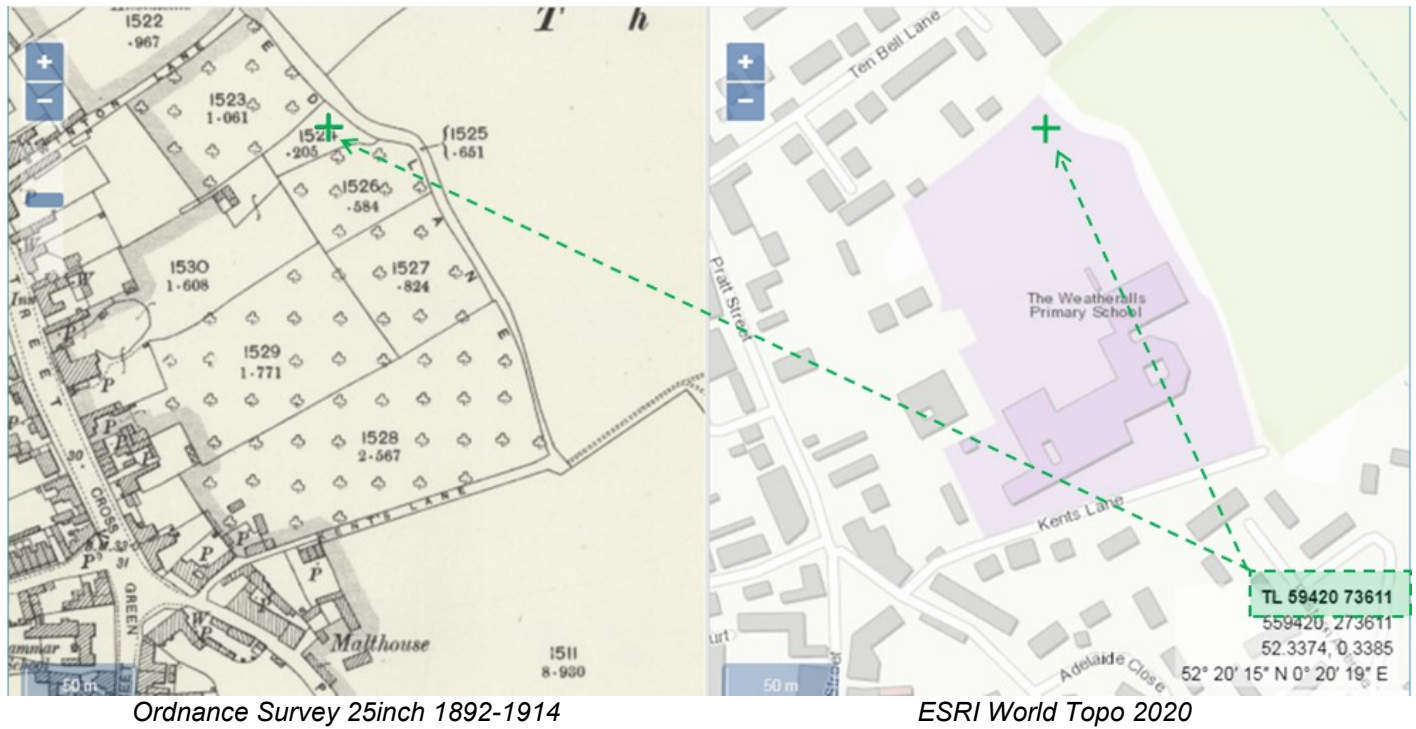


**Fig 3:** Soham Village map circa 1650  
<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol10/pp489-499>

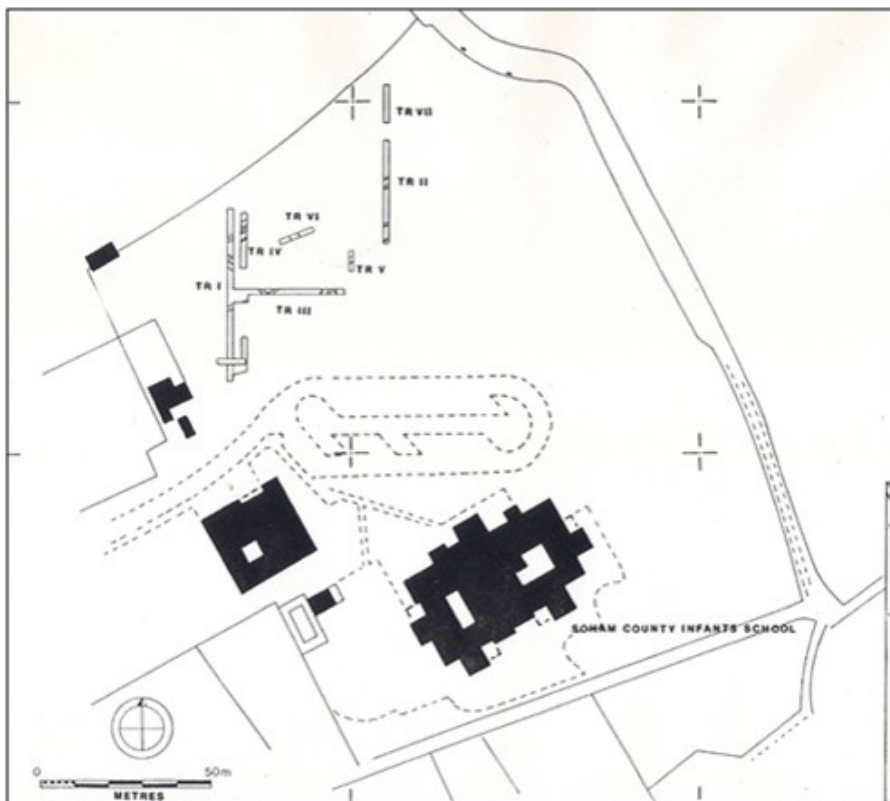


Approximate location of Test Pit shown shaded in green.

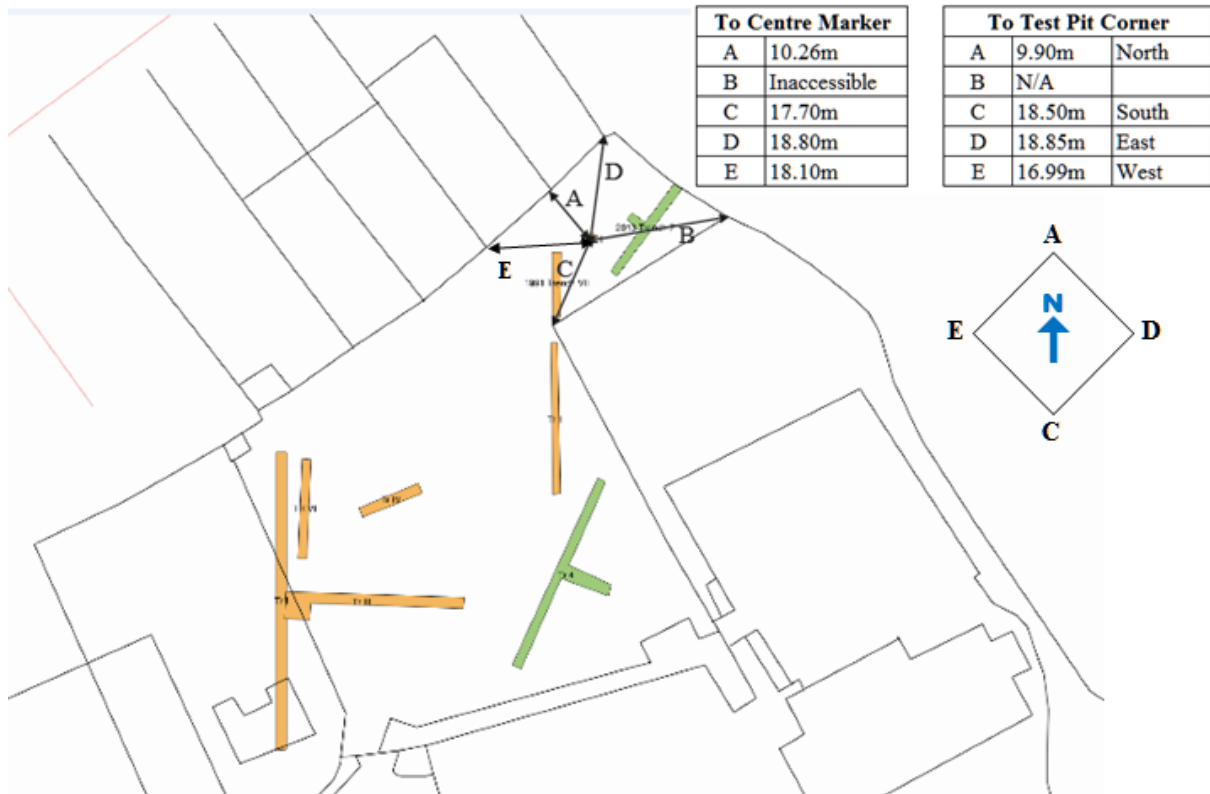
**Fig 4:** Historical Location 1900's & Location 2017  
*National Library of Scotland Map Images* <https://maps.nls.uk/>



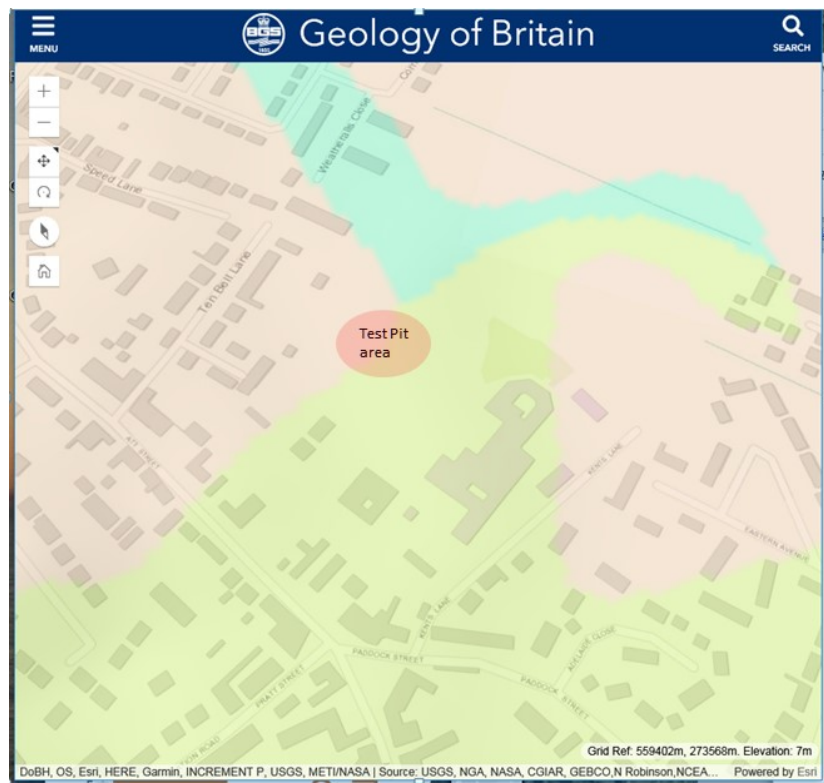
**Fig 5:** Location of 1991 Survey Trenches  
*(Bray, 1991, 7)*



**Fig 6:** Triangulated Location of 2017 Test Pit  
 Overlaid onto current building configuration and 1991 & 2010 Evaluation Trenches (W Franklin)





**Fig 7:** Underlying Geology  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain3d/>



**Fig 8: Plans & Sections**

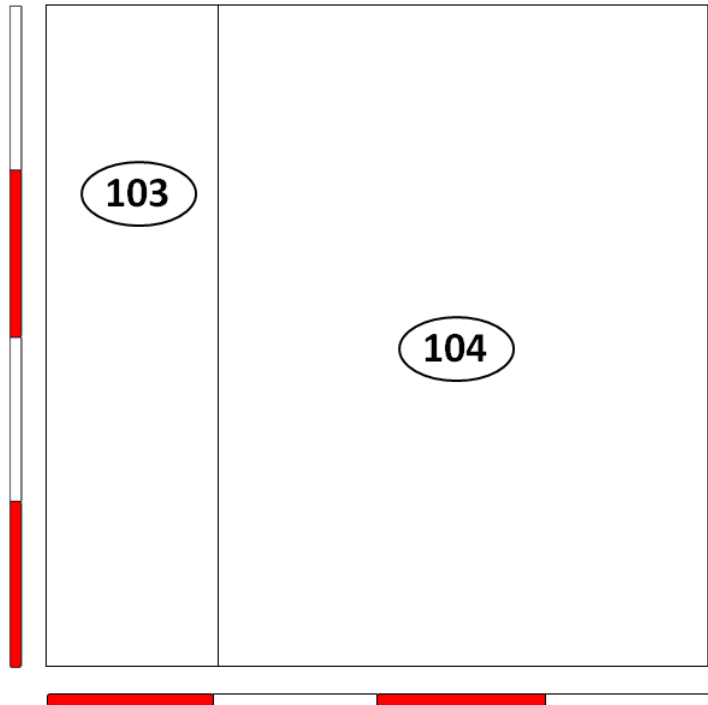
(C M Cantrell)

-  Context (layer) number – in spits of 10cm
-  Environmental sample number


**Fig 8 a) Plan 1**

1m x 1m Test Pit  
Aligned North East

Context 103: Soil changing  
from dark to mid colour,  
becoming increasingly  
sandy.



**Fig 8 b) Plan 2**

 Chalk/clunch  
inclusions in compacted  
floor layer

Shallow gully, or sondage,  
made in context 110  
revealed saturated brown  
grey soil with tiny gravel  
inclusions

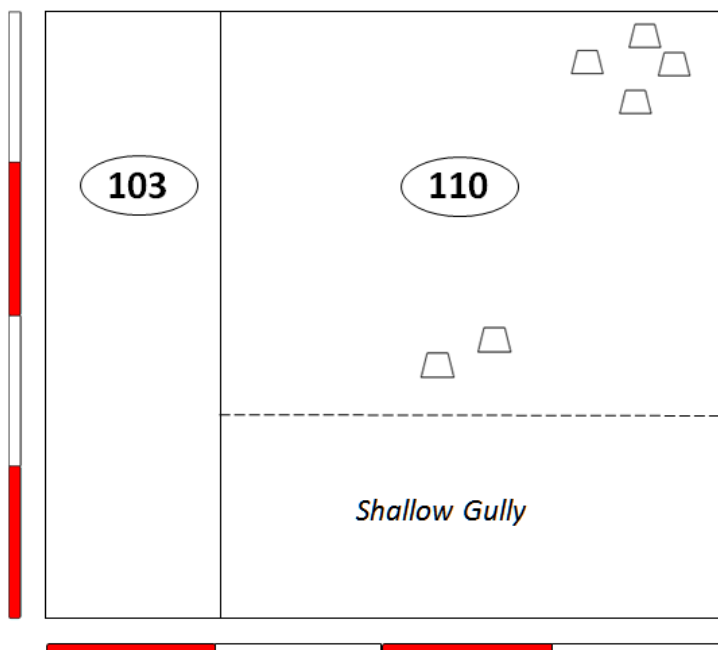
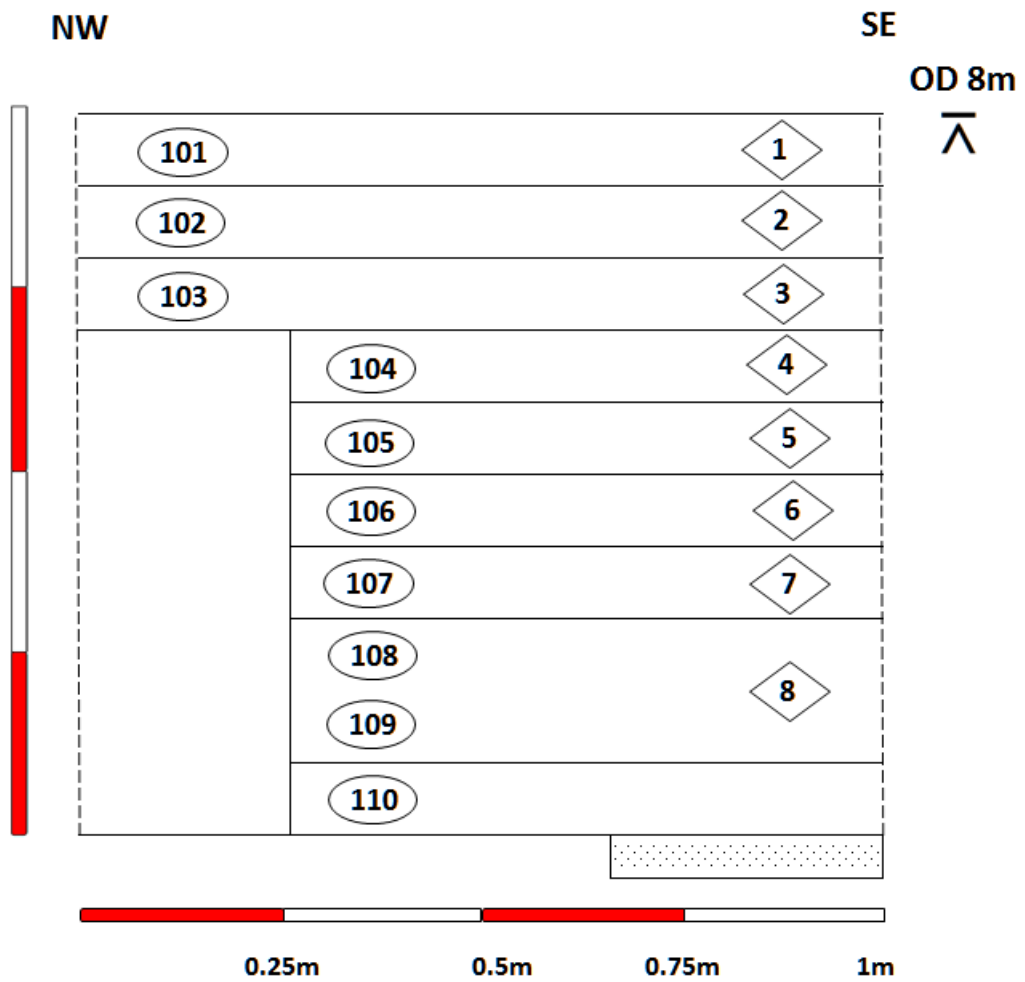


Fig 8 c) Section



## LIST OF PLATES

### Plate 1: Flotation Table



### Plate 2: Test Pit Layer 10



Plate 3: Worked Flint



Plate 4: Sieving Spoil for Finds



Plate 5: Exhibition Stand

