



## 33 Thrapston Road, Spaldwick Cambridgeshire

### Post -excavation Assessment Report





**33 THRAPSTON ROAD,  
SPALDWICK,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

## **Post-excavation Assessment Report**

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Report reference: 75070.03  
Path: x:\PROJECTS\75070\Post Excavation\Reports\33 Thrapston Rd Spaldwick  
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**December 2010**

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## Quality Assurance

Site Code	<b>75070</b>	Accession Code	<b>ECB 3445</b>	Client Code	
Planning application Ref.	<b>0802547REM</b>	NGR	<b>512780 272917</b>		

Version	status*	Prepared by	APPROVED BY	Approver's Signature	Date	File
3	F	Susan Clelland and Brendon Wilkins			01.12.2010	Path: x:\PROJECTS\75070\Post Excavation\Reports\33 Thrapston Rd, Spaldwick Post-excavation Assessment Report.doc

\* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

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**33 THRAPSTON ROAD, SPALDWICK,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE****Post-excavation Assessment Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by SD Construction and Developments Ltd, to carry out an archaeological excavation at 33 Thrapston Road, Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire (NGR) 512780 272917. This Assessment reports on fieldwork undertaken between July and August 2010 which covered an area of 0.12 hectares within the development footprint.

The Site, which encompasses the majority of the total development, was densely occupied by archaeological remains dating from the early prehistoric to post-medieval periods and in particular Iron Age and Saxon activity. The concentration and continuous nature of occupation during these periods is of regional significance and provides an exciting opportunity to examine a small area which will reveal evidence for rural life and the development of Cambridgeshire at this time.

The archaeological fieldwork produced ephemeral traces for a transient early prehistoric use of the Site largely through the recovery of residual artefacts dating to this period. By the Iron Age the presence of a trackway implies an increased use of the area for pastoral activities and the movement of animals which by the Middle to Late Iron Age periods developed into a succession of small enclosed settlements likely to relate to mixed farming use. Finds of fired clay, including one with wattle impressions, pottery, charcoal, slag, a spindle whorl and quernstone are typical of traditional occupational and subsistence activities. During the Romano-British period however, the Site had become an abandoned or liminal zone. A concentration of fire pits provisionally assigned to the Saxon period denotes the repopulation of the area during this time for specialist small scale, possibly charcoal producing activity. The Late Saxon to early medieval period sees the formal organisation of the Site into linear land divisions (burgage plots) within a probable ditched enclosure, each containing rectangular post-built structures with sub-divided yard areas to the rear. By the middle to later medieval periods settlements patterns have shifted with the Site becoming part of an agricultural field system. The northern part of the Site was landscaped during the post-medieval period creating a level area adjoining Thrapston Road. A fragment of a small probable boundary wall survived.

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**33 THRAPSTON ROAD, SPALDWICK  
CAMBRIDFESHIRE****Post-excavation Assessment Report****Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by SD Construction and Development Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Steve Daniels of SD Construction and Development Ltd for his assistance with the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Dan McConnell Historic Environment Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council for his guidance and support throughout the course of the project.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Brendon Wilkins. Susan Clelland directed the fieldwork with the assistance of Ross Lefort, Virginia Vargo, Virginia Meszaros, Jeff Muir and Marius Wiczeniewski.

This report was written and compiled by Susan Clelland with contributions from Lorraine Mepham (Finds), Rachel Billson and Lorrain Higbee (Animal bone) and Matt Leivers (Flint). The samples were processed by Libby Philpott and were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles and Dr Chris J. Stevens. The illustrations were drawn by Rob Goller.

## 33 THRAPSTON ROAD, SPALDWICK, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

### Post-excavation Assessment Report

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by SD Construction and Development Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation on land at 33 Thrapston Road, Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire, centred on national Grid Reference (NGR) 512780 27291 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the residential development of the Site (application number 0802547REM) with a condition that a programme of archaeological mitigation was undertaken during the development works. This phase of archaeological excavation forms the second stage of that mitigation programme (see **Table 1** below).
- 1.1.3 Information concerning the project and archaeological background to the Site is detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation* (WA 2010 75070.01) and is not repeated here.

Work	Date	Organisation	Report
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment	2001	Wessex Archaeology	WA 2001 51568.01
Archaeological Field Evaluation	2002	Wessex Archaeology	WA 2002 51568.02

**Table 1: Previous stages of work within the mitigation programme**

- 1.1.4 This report presents an initial interpretation of the excavation results. Proposals and recommendations for further analysis and publication are also included.

### 1.2 The Site: location, topology, land-use and geology

- 1.2.1 The development Site, which lies on the north-western fringes of the village of Spaldwick, comprises a parcel of overgrown scrub incorporating approximately 0.12 ha. Sited on a gentle north-east facing slope, the Site is bounded to the north-east by Thrapston Road, the north-west and south-east by residential properties and the south-west by overgrown scrub land backing onto St James Church (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The known archaeological and historical context of the Site is brief with little evidence for prehistoric settlements known within the immediate vicinity although Iron Age ditches were located within a Transco pipe trench within 1km of the Site. The Roman Road from Leicester (*Ratae*) to Godmanchester (*Duroviutum*) lies a few miles to the north (A14). The Site lies on the northern edge of an oval banked enclosure identified with the shrunken



settlement of Danesfield which may have been existence before AD 991 when Spaldwick was granted to Ely Abbey. Previous archaeological projects within the village of Spaldwick located on the northern side of Thrapston Road found two Saxon or early medieval buildings succeeded by later medieval rubbish pits.

- 1.2.3 The underlying geology is shown by the British Geological Survey (Sheet 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1:625,000) as comprising Oxford Clays with Kellaway beds.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (as amended 2008), except where they are superseded by statements below.

### **2.2 Excavation methodology**

- 2.2.1 In consultation with Cambridgeshire County Council a programme of mitigation was devised, to be undertaken in advance of development (WA 2010a).
- 2.2.2 The methodology for the excavation is recorded in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation (WA 2010a).
- 2.2.3 Following the removal of a significant proportion of the Site overburden (topsoil and palaeo-cultivation soil) to expose the archaeological surface. An on-site meeting was held with Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council and an excavation sampling strategy agreed. The strategy was reviewed continuously throughout the course of the fieldwork in consultation with Cambridgeshire County Council during weekly monitoring meetings.
- 2.2.4 The excavation of linear features, discrete features and structural remains of all periods were sampled sufficiently through hand-excavation, as agreed in this consultation, to allow an informed interpretation of their date and function.

#### ***Recording***

- 2.2.5 The extent of the excavation areas were accurately recorded using a Leica Global Positioning System (GPS 1200). The data was overlaid onto the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid (using digital map data). During fieldwork digital plans were produced using AutoCAD.
- 2.2.6 A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological features. Hand drawn plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. All plans and section points were surveyed using Lecia GPS 1200, giving accurate 3D OS co-ordinates and spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum. Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets were used exclusively for all recording.
- 2.2.7 Colour transparency, monochrome negative photographs (35mm) and digital images were taken (including a scale) as appropriate. A number of general

photographs were also taken to provide an overview of the Site and the progress of the excavation.

#### **Artefact Recovery**

- 2.2.8 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (IFA 2008: SMA 1993: SMA 1995). Small finds were recorded three dimensionally using a Leica GPS and bulk finds were collected and recorded by context.
- 2.2.9 All artefacts have been retained from excavated contexts unless they are of modern origin, in which case the relevant context records have been amended and the finds discarded.

#### **Environmental Sampling**

- 2.2.10 Sampling targeted dateable archaeological contexts where appropriate and was conducted under the guidance of the Wessex Archaeology environmental specialists.

#### **Machine-excavation**

- 2.2.11 Machine excavation was used to augment the information gained from the hand excavation of several of the wider successive intercut ditches. This method of investigation was approved by Dan McConnell (CCC) during weekly monitoring meetings.
- 2.2.12 A machine-excavated slot was dug using a mechanical excavator with a grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision through a sequence of boundary ditches (**804, Figure 6**) within an area previously impacted during the excavation of Trench 1 (WA 2002). Deposits were removed in spits no more than 0.1 m in depth and spoil was examined for artefacts. A full written, drawn and photographic record was produced of all exposed archaeological features and deposits and where appropriate representative environmental samples were taken.

### **3 RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The following section summarises the results of the archaeological excavation and integrates the relevant findings from the evaluation (**Figures 2-6, Plates 1-4**). An assessment of the artefactual and palaeo-environmental assemblages is presented in Sections 4 and 5 below. More detailed descriptions of the archaeological features and deposits can be found in the paper and digital archive.
- 3.1.2 Evidence for activity dating from the early prehistoric to the post-medieval periods was identified within the excavation area. The earliest phases were represented only by artefacts typological distinctive residual in later contexts. The Site phasing is, at this stage, provisional, and some features may be reassigned to other phases following further excavation and a more detailed assessment at the post-excavation stage.

## 3.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

- 3.2.1 The modern overburden generally comprised a mixed layer of artificially made ground (rubbish/debris) and topsoil, typically a mid dark grey brown silty loam. This overlay a layer identified as a palaeo-cultivation soil typically a dark brown silty loam. Across the Site this sequence of deposits varied in thickness from 0.4m at the northern end of the Site up to 1m at the southern end. Archaeological features and deposits were noted both within the base of and below this palaeo-cultivation soil.

## 3.3 Early Prehistoric (c. 4000 BC – 700 BC)

- 3.3.1 Evidence for a human presence on the Site during the early prehistoric period was indicated by a small assemblage of flint artefacts belonging typologically to this period and recovered as residual artefacts from features and deposits of later date. The assemblage, mainly comprising flake debitage also included two scrapers likely to be of a Neolithic date found in the topsoil and one dating to the early Bronze Age (Late Iron Age pit **663**, **Figure 2**). In addition a single sherd of decorated Beaker (early Bronze Age) pottery was also recovered as a residual artefact from the topsoil.

## 3.4 Iron Age (c. 700 BC – AD 43)

### *Introduction*

- 3.4.1 A majority of the archaeological features recorded on site have been found to date to the Iron Age occupation of the area (**Figure 2**). Provisional analysis has broadly identified five fairly short-lived phases of activity based on stratigraphic associations and the recovered ceramic assemblage.

### *Early Iron Age (c. 700 – 500 BC)*

#### *Landscape organisation – Phase 1*

- 3.4.2 The earliest datable structural remains record a probable track or droveway demarcated by parallel shallow gullies **758**, **774**, **787** and **796** (**Figure 2**) each measuring on average 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep. The gullies define a north-east to south-west route ranging between 2 and 8 metres across which may have been used to funnel traffic (people or animals) through the woodland edge. The few finds recovered included sherds of pottery dating to this period, several un-diagnostic flint flakes and small fragments of animal bone unidentifiable to species.

#### *Landscape organisation – Phase 2*

- 3.4.3 The Early-Middle Iron Age sees a definite demarcation of boundaries within the landscape, demonstrated by the construction of substantial 'U-shaped' ditch **783** across the centre of the Site and parallel ditch **628** located 26m to the south (**Figure 2**). Ditch **628** was only partially present and the shallow nature of the excavated northern edge suggests a stepped profile. The base of the ditch was not accessible within the Site. Aligning east to west ditch **783** extended 22m across the Site and measured 2.5m in width and was 1.1m deep with a steep concave profile. The associated fill sequence suggests a bank mounded along its northern edge was later levelled into the ditch following the accumulation of a secondary deposit from which the majority of the finds from the ditch were recovered. This secondary sequence was limited suggesting the ditch may only have been in use for a

short time. The pottery and animal bone found comprised a range of vessel types, with horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig all being represented and implying settlement was within close proximity. The slighting of the bank signified a change in land-use where-by the area appears to have been levelled and cleared for occupation.

### ***Early-Middle Iron Age (c. 500 – 300 BC)***

#### ***Settlement and landscape organisation – Phase 3***

- 3.4.4 Ditch **792** is thought to represent the northern end of a possible settlement enclosure (**Figure 2**). The rounded south-western end of the ditch suggests an east-facing access into the enclosure, an orientation broadly replicated by later enclosure ditches **784** and **794** (**Figure 2**). The ditch was on average 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep with a moderate to steep concave profile and two distinct secondary episodes of infilling. This ditch's profile and sequence of deposition was similar to that recorded in later enclosure ditch **784**. The lower secondary deposit contained a greater concentration of deliberately dumped domestic debris including charcoal and heat affected flint nodules which were mainly found along the base of the ditch. Domestic debris including, pottery dating to this period and a fragment of saddle quern were recovered from the upper secondary ditch fill however this deposit contained notably less fire debris and degraded organic material. The pottery recovered from the upper ditch fill was predominately of a Middle Iron Age date while the few sherds recovered from the basal secondary deposit were of a general Iron Age in date. It is postulated that there was a chronological overlap between the end of use of enclosure **792** and the use of enclosure **784** (see 3.4.7).
- 3.4.5 Forming a north facing arc ring ditch **789** located in the centre of the Site (**Figure 2**) had been re-cut along its southern side by ditch **790**. This feature, forming a mirror image of ditch **792** is thought to be contemporary and perhaps defined an associated working area. The gradient suggests the ditches (**789/790**) may have served a drainage function protecting the internal area from ground water run-off. No evidence of internal features were identified however Iron Age pottery fragments, shell, fired clay fragments and animal bone recovered from the associated ditch fills suggest a degree of domestic activity.

### ***Middle-Late Iron Age (c. 300 – 100 BC)***

#### ***Settlement and landscape organisation – Phase 4***

- 3.4.6 The late prehistoric period is characterised by the construction of what appears to be two adjacent sub-rectangular settlement enclosures represented by ditches **784** and **798** (**Figure 2**). These features were on the western side of the Site with the majority of both the enclosure ditches and the areas they enclosed located beyond the limits of the excavation.
- 3.4.7 Two opposing rounded terminals 3m apart defined an east facing access into the northern of the two enclosures defined by ditch **784** (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). As with ditch **792** (see 3.4.4 above), two distinct secondary deposits were recorded within this ditch which also contained the richest finds and environmental assemblage of all the enclosure ditches recorded during the excavations. Measuring 1.2m wide and 0.6m deep with a steep concave profile, ditch **784** was predominately filled with a rich secondary deposit

incorporating deliberate dumps of domestic debris including fired clay fragments, charcoal and heat fractured stones. The stones were mainly found along the base of this deposit against the external side of the ditch. Within the initial secondary infilling, pottery recovered predominately represented Middle Iron Age vessels as well as a fragment of a chalk spindle whorl suggesting that this enclosure was active while the earlier enclosure **792** was being backfilled. An upper secondary deposit sealed ditch **784** and though also containing charcoal and degraded organic material few heat affected flint nodules were present and the pottery recovered was mainly typical of Late Iron Age vessels. A mixed assemblage of animal bone which included dog and horse was found within both the associated ditch fills. Sheep/goat remains were the most heavily represented though cattle and pig, were also present.

- 3.4.8 Ditch **798** at the southern end of the Site is thought to represent the north-eastern corner of a settlement enclosure (**Figure 2**). The ditch appeared to have a different profile than enclosure ditches **784**, **792** and **794**. A shallow outer lip led to a deeper 'u-shaped' central channel creating a total width of 1.2m. Along the centre, the ditch was between 0.3m and 0.4m deep. A majority of the domestic debris found was recovered from deposits within the central channel and towards the southern (inner) side of the ditch. An intrusive sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from a section excavated at the point of intersection with later ditch **794**.
- 3.4.9 Discrete features, predominately small pits of an Iron Age date, have been provisionally assigned to this phase of activity (**Figure 2**). This interpretation is based on the evidence derived from the enclosure ditches suggesting that it was during this phase that the Site was most intensely occupied. Further structural and specialist analysis may clarify this.
- 3.4.10 Sub-circular pits **440**, **549**, **693**, **695**, **701**, **762** and **801** (**Figure 2**) which measured between 1.2m x 1m x 0.4m and 0.9m x 0.4m x 0.2m mainly contained single mixed backfill deposits comprising re-worked upcast material and domestic debris including animal bone, occasional pieces of slag and pottery dating to the Iron Age. The profile of pits **549** and **792** in particular suggest they may be reused post-pits.
- 3.4.11 The base of large oval pit **663** (2.3m x 1.6m x 1m) adjacent to the eastern edge of the Site (**Figure 2**) cut through natural sand deposits breaching the water table and as such has been tentatively interpreted as a possible watering hole. The pit filled after going out of use through the gradual accumulation of laminated silt deposits. A deliberate dump of occupation debris including a possible hearth bottom sealed the feature. Late Saxon-early medieval ditch **791** cut away the top of the pit causing the introduction of intrusive Saxon remains.
- 3.4.12 Wattle impressions indicative of structural features such as roundhouses, were present on a fragment of fired clay recovered from a deposit of occupation debris within the latest pit within group of intercut pits (**800**) located between enclosure ditches **798** and **784** (**Figure 2**).

- 3.4.13 Several small abraded sherds of Iron Age pottery recovered from postholes **802 (Figure 2)** may be residual. The function of this small group of at least four intercut postholes each approximately 0.4m in diameter is unknown.

#### ***Late Iron Age – Early Romano-British (c. 100 BC – 150 AD)***

##### ***Settlement and landscape organisation - Phase 5***

- 3.4.14 Ditch **794** in the south-west of the Site (**Figure 2**) represents the north-east corner of a probable sub-rectangular enclosure and appears to be the latest of the successive Iron Age enclosures. Though similar in profile to earlier enclosure ditches **784** and **792**, the formation of associated ditch fills and the comparative lack of finds and environmental evidence derived from them perhaps implies a move away from occupation towards a more agricultural/pastoral function. The ditch was approximately 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep. A rounded end was recorded at the southern extent of the ditch suggesting an east facing access into the enclosure.
- 3.4.15 Lying approximately 2m east and aligned parallel to enclosure ditch **794** a shallow north-east to south-west ditch **783** is thought to be associated forming a prescribed route towards the east facing access into the enclosure (**Figure 2**). A 10m length of the ditch (**783**) was recorded the southern extent destroyed by later ditch **780 (Figure 4)**.

#### **3.5 Saxon (AD 410 – 1066 )**

##### ***Introduction***

- 3.5.1 No archaeological features dating from the middle to late Romano-British period were identified on Site however the recovery of small fragments of both intrusive and residual Romano-British pottery suggests that though the area does not appear to have been settled during this time it was not completely abandoned but may have been liminal. It is during the Saxon period however that evidence survives for the repopulation and active use of the Site. Initially as an apparent focus of industrial activity peripheral to domestic settlement by the late Saxon to early medieval period the Site had become part of a formally apportioned village.

##### ***Settlement and landscape organisation - Phase 1***

- 3.5.2 A total of nine sub-rectangular fire pits, Group **785** interpreted as possible specialist charcoal roasting pits, were recorded in two main zones within the centre of the Site (**Figure 3**). Within these zones the pits were located close enough together to imply successive employment rather than contemporary use. An assertion supported by the fact that pit **435** cut away the corner of pit **725**. All the pits (**433 Plate 2, 435, 450, 705, 715, 724 Figure 3 inset, 725, 729, 752**) were very similar in size, shape and in the type and composition of their associated backfills, measuring between 1.2m and 1.8m long, 0.8 and 1.2m wide and 0.1m and 0.2m deep. All had rounded corners and near vertical sides with a moderate concave break of slope to a flat base. The sides of the pits were heat affected to a maximum thickness of 0.02m though this was neither consistent nor necessarily complete around the sides of any of the pits. This variation is likely to relate to function, longevity of use and the varying amounts of sand, clay and gravel within the geology through which each feature was cut. Though the bases of the

features were slightly heat-affected, reddening was only evident as a discrete patch of burning in pit **435**.

3.5.3 Pit **724** (**Figure 3 inset**) located in the southern zone of five pits, appears to have been abandoned leaving an undisturbed sequence of deposits and provides an insight into how the pits may have functioned. A dense layer of charcoal approximately 0.07m deep and comprised predominately of fairly large pieces (roundwood) lay at the base of the pit. This was overlain by a deliberately arranged 0.15m deep layer of large to moderate slightly heated stones (mainly flint) forming a possible fire platform. The gaps between the stones were filled with a charcoal rich silty loam thought to derive from the layer above. A deposit of accumulated fire debris comprising fine dark silty loam with a distinct ashy grey hue and moderate to small fine charcoal sealed the stones. The charcoal pieces within this deposit were small suggesting that the fire burnt well. The pit was sealed by a secondary deposit of topsoil derived material. The upper 0.2m of the pit sides, which corresponded to the upper level of the stones, were fired red though no further reddening was recorded below this point on either the sides or base of the pit. It is postulated that the stone layer was constructed as an interface between the roundwood on the base and a smouldering fire above allowing both oxygen and moisture to be drawn upwards by the fire preventing the roundwood igniting and allowing charcoal to be formed. Further research and analysis may elucidate this interpretation.

3.5.4 With the exception of pit **724** the remaining 8 pits were filled with a mixed layer of silty loam including abundant charcoal and significant quantities (30-70kg) of heat-affected stones, including flint, which ranged from small fragments c. 0.05m to larger stones of c. 0.15m in size (see backcover). The density and size of the charcoal present increased towards the base of these deliberately backfilled deposits. All the pits were 100% excavated however few artefacts were recovered. Several sherds of Saxon pottery and a single sherd of early medieval pottery were the only datable finds recovered. A range of animal bone fragments, predominately derived from cattle and sheep/goat were found though several red deer and pig bones were also recovered. None of these artefacts are thought to relate to the function of the pits.

#### ***Settlement and landscape organisation (Phase 2)***

3.5.5 During the Late Saxon to early medieval period a significant episode of landscape organisation is demonstrated by the construction of a series of timber buildings and associated fences within clearly defined ditched property strips or burgage plots (**Figure 4**) likely to represent the earliest evidence for the village of Danesfield.

3.5.6 The Site constitutes the majority of one and part of a second north-east to south-west aligned land division defined by opposing ditches **791** and **780** and ditch **780** and the western limit of excavation. The trapezoidal area of approximately one tenth of an acre demarcated by ditches **791** and **780** was 37m long with the narrow 11m wide end of the plot fronting towards St James' Church. The rear of the plot was approximately 17m wide and was enclosed by boundary ditch **782**.

- 3.5.7 Boundary **782 (Figure 4)** was a broad north-west to south-east aligned feature exhibiting several episodes of re-cutting actions which partly resulted in the boundary width of 3.6m. The ditch was between 0.9m and 1.1m deep and had a steep southern side and a shallow undulating northern side. Deposits within the ditch suggest the presence of a southern bank which would appear to have been deliberately backfilled during the medieval period,
- 3.5.8 Ditches **780** and **791** were both moderate concave boundaries measuring between 1m and 1.2m wide and approximately 0.5m deep (**Figure 4**). Ditch **791** in particular appeared to have a shallower stepped eastern side indicative of an additional stock/animal control function.
- 3.5.9 A rectangular timber structure **799** lay on a north-east to south-west long axis and formed the focus of the plot located towards its narrow southern end (**Figure 4, Plate 3**). The building, comprising 12 postholes, measured 8m by 4m. The largest of the postholes were **647** and **717** located in the centre of the eastern side of the building and **568** on the western side. All were sub-oval post pits ranging from 0.2m to 0.5m deep and were between 0.9m and 0.8m long and 0.6m wide. In addition post-pit **647** had a narrow 0.05m wide and 0.05m deep slot along the centre of its base. The profile and plan of several of the postholes (**571** and **603**) on the western side of the structure record that posts were replaced during the buildings use.
- 3.5.10 To the north of structure **799**, fence **786**, posthole **776**, pits **448**, **455** and **525** and occupation spread **753 (Figure 4)** represent the subdivision of a probable yard area. None of the pits were significant in size and it is possible all four were post-pits re-used as small rubbish dumps. Oval pits **448** and **525** in particular were very similar in size and profile to features **647** and **717** in structure **799**. The recovery of animal bone representing the full range of domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) very small quantities of slag and pottery fragments are typical of the range of artefacts associated with small scale domestic subsistence activities likely to have been undertaken during this period. In addition a fragment of antler comb was found in pit **525**.
- 3.5.11 A second rectangular building has been tentatively identified within the adjacent plot, structure **803 (Figure 4)**. Comprising ten postholes forming a 10m by 4m ground plan the structure lies on a north to south long axis. Circular 0.3m deep rubbish pit **543 (Figure 4)** lay to the north-west of the building and is thought to be an example of the small rubbish pits associated with the use of the yard area to the rear as seen in the adjacent plot.
- 3.6 Medieval (AD 1066-1500)**
- 3.6.1 Archaeological features pertaining to the medieval period suggest the area was used for agriculture during this time. Orientated north-west to south-east boundary **804** represents an 8m wide ditch and hedge bank aligned to respect Thrapston Road (**Figure 5**). Cutting at a slightly oblique angle two parallel deep furrows **539** and **793** align with the Site gradient.
- 3.7 Post-medieval/Modern (AD 1500 – present)**
- 3.7.1 The northern end of the Site was levelled during the post-medieval period sealing boundary **804**. A large irregular pit or tree-throw hole **406** was also



found to be deliberately backfilled as part of this levelling episode. The remains of a road frontage garden/property wall **402** mirroring the north-west to south-east alignment of Thrapston Road at the northern end of the Site was abutted on either side by cobbled surface **404** (**Figure 5**). Wall **402** comprised a maximum of two courses of frogged red brick. The lower course arranged as a series of headers overlain by a stretcher course.

## **4 ARTEFACTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The excavation has produced an assemblage of moderate size, but which is relatively limited in range; only pottery and animal bone were recovered in any significant quantity. The date range of the assemblage is from prehistoric to post-medieval, with an emphasis on the later prehistoric period.

4.1.2 All finds have been quantified (count and weight) by material type within each context, and the data entered on to the project database (Access). Totals by material type are given in **Table 2** (see Appendix). Subsequently, the whole assemblage has been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain the nature, range and condition of each material type. This information forms the basis of this descriptive section, and on this is based an assessment of its potential to contribute to an understanding of the Site (see below, **Section 7**). Recommendations for a limited amount of further analysis are made, and also for long-term storage and curation (**Sections 8-10**).

### **4.2 Pottery**

4.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes sherds of early prehistoric, late prehistoric, Romano-British, possible Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date, although the majority belongs to the late prehistoric period. The condition of the assemblage is generally fair; sherds are relatively small and often heavily abraded. This is particularly true of the prehistoric and possible Saxon wares. Mean sherd weight overall is 9.6g.

4.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by broad date range, and the presence of diagnostic sherds noted. Spot dates have been assigned on a context-by-context basis. However, this has not been altogether straightforward. The fragmentary condition of the assemblage, the low level distribution (few contexts produced more than ten sherds), the relative scarcity of diagnostic sherds, and the extreme longevity in the region of most of the ware types encountered, has limited the confidence with which sherds have been assigned to date range. This is particularly true of the possible Saxon material.

#### ***Early prehistoric***

4.2.3 A single early prehistoric sherd was recovered; this is a small, abraded body sherd with comb tooth decoration, clearly identifiable as Beaker. This came from the topsoil.

### **Late prehistoric**

- 4.2.4 The majority of the assemblage (338 sherds) has been dated as late prehistoric. Three broad ware groups are represented: calcareous (shell, chalk), sandy and grog-tempered. Shelly and sandy wares constitute the two main fabric groups in use during the mid to late Iron Age in Cambridgeshire; grog-tempered wares rarely appear before the late Iron Age. No quantified breakdown between the three groups has been made at this stage, but it was observed during the scan that the grog-tempered wares were in a minority, suggesting that the emphasis of this assemblage is in the middle Iron Age. This is supported by the vessel forms represented – mainly convex jars with simple or pulled bead rims, frequently scored, with a few necked and cordoned jars. The grog-tempered wares are restricted to the latter forms, which also occur in shelly wares.
- 4.2.5 Parallels for this small assemblage can be sought amongst other published assemblages from west Cambridgeshire (e.g. Hancocks 2003; Percival 2008; Leivers 2009). The emerging pattern of middle Iron Age assemblages in west Cambridgeshire in which shelly wares predominate, and in which scored wares occur, does seem to be supported by the data from Spaldwick, but further detail is likely to emerge during further analysis.

### **Romano-British**

- 4.2.6 The Romano-British component of the ceramic assemblage is small (13 sherds). Of these, two are of decorated samian (enclosure ditch **794**), and the remainder are coarse greywares, probably from various sources and were found as residual components within later features. Apart from the samian, there are no diagnostic sherds.

### **Saxon**

- 4.2.7 The identification of a Saxon element within the assemblage is problematic. A total of 86 sherds have been tentatively dated as early/middle Saxon solely on the grounds of fabric; there are no clearly diagnostic sherds. All fabrics are sandy and are almost entirely unoxidised; these are harder-fired than those sandy wares identified as later prehistoric, and coarser; some also include igneous inclusions. One rim sherd (pit **725**, **Figure 3**) is from a fairly thick-walled vessel with an upright, rounded rim. None of these characteristics can necessarily be taken as indicating a Saxon date, and the dating must at this stage remain uncertain, but there are similarities with Saxon wares identified at other Cambridgeshire sites, such as Cambourne New Settlement and Eynesbury (Seager Smith 2009; Mephram 2004) and, in general, these sherds were found in separate contexts to those containing later prehistoric wares.

### **Medieval**

- 4.2.8 Medieval wares (72 sherds) consist largely of St Neot's ware (later 9th to 11th century), with some later shelly wares (11th/12th century). Two sherds of Stamford ware are of the same date range as St Neot's ware, and there are a few later sandy wares (12th/13th century or later), which are largely confined to topsoil and two other contexts from ditch **782**.

### **Post-Medieval**

4.2.9 Post-medieval sherds were found only in the topsoil and tree-throw hole **406**. They include coarse redwares, tinglazed earthenware, Staffordshire type slipware and mottled ware, creamware, and modern refined wares.

### **4.3 Ceramic Building Material**

4.3.1 Very little ceramic building material was recovered, and all is of medieval or post-medieval date. It includes fragments of brick and roof tile in a small range of fabric types. Fragments came from topsoil, tree-throw hole **406** and ditch **791**.

### **4.4 Fired Clay**

4.4.1 The fired clay may also represent structural material, from hearth/pit linings or upstanding structures, although most of the fragments recovered are small, abraded and undiagnostic. One piece from pit **612**, (Group **800**) has possible wattle impressions.

### **4.5 Stone**

4.5.1 A single piece of worked stone was recovered, from enclosure ditch **792**; this is a fragment of a saddle quern.

### **4.6 Worked Flint**

4.6.1 Only 48 pieces of worked flint were recovered, as in **Table 3** (See Appendix).

4.6.2 Raw material was mostly a pale to dark brown inclusion-free flint, with a worn cortex indicating a source in the local drift geology. The only notable exception was the large scraper from the topsoil which was in a very mottled banded flint with abundant cherty inclusions. No cortex survived, but this too was probably collected locally.

4.6.3 Most of the pieces are in good condition, with a minimum of gloss, rolling or edge damage. Some of the pieces from contexts in the 500s and 600s are lightly patinated.

4.6.4 Most of the material is flake debitage, and not chronologically distinct. Of the tools, the three scrapers are of varied date: a large end scraper (topsoil) made on a tertiary trimming flake in a distinctive banded flint is likely to be (perhaps later) Neolithic; an end scraper (topsoil) on a pale brown blade with neat edge damage on both margins is likely to be Early Neolithic or even Mesolithic; a somewhat shapeless end and side scraper (pit **663**) on a secondary flake struck from a small pebble is likely to be earlier Bronze Age.

4.6.5 There are also two gun flints (topsoil and ditch **425** within boundary **804**) of post-medieval date.

### **4.7 Glass**

4.7.1 The glass is all of post-medieval date, and includes both vessel and window fragments. All came from topsoil, or tree-throw hole **406**.

## 4.8 Slag

- 4.8.1 A small quantity of slag was recovered. Some of this clearly represents iron smithing slag, and includes one possible hearth bottom (pit **663**). However, the small assemblage also includes pieces of a very light, vesicular material, grey in colour, which results from some kind of pyrotechnical activity, but not necessarily metalworking. Overall, the quantities of slag are insufficient to postulate on-site metalworking, or any other industrial activity. Fragments came from topsoil, and from both prehistoric and medieval features.

## 4.9 Metalwork

### *Copper alloy*

- 4.9.1 The four copper alloy objects recovered comprise two buttons (plain discs with rear loop attachments), one rectangular buckle, and a small dressmaking pin. All are of post-medieval type, and came from tree-throw hole **406**.

### *Lead*

- 4.9.2 The single lead object is a small, undiagnostic fragment of sheet, of unknown function and date (layer **753**; the associated pottery is early medieval).

### *Iron*

- 4.9.3 The iron consists largely of nails (25 examples, 24 from post-medieval tree-throw hole **406** and one from topsoil). Other objects comprise a key, a scythe, a large U-staple and a short length of wire (all post-medieval and all from either topsoil or tree-throw hole **406**), and a possible weight (layer **753**)

## 4.10 Animal Bone

### *Introduction*

- 4.10.1 The assemblage comprises 1214 fragments of animal bone recovered during the evaluation and excavation phases of fieldwork. There are a number of refits and this has reduced the overall fragment count to 1183. Most (c.99%) of the material was recovered by hand during the normal course of excavation. Bulk soil samples produced a negligible quantity of small undiagnostic fragments.

- 4.10.2 Bone was recovered from 111 contexts, the majority of which date to the Iron Age period. Small amounts of bone were also recovered from Roman, Saxon, Early Medieval and Post-medieval contexts.

### *Methodology*

- 4.10.3 The following information was recorded, where applicable/possible: species, skeletal element, preservation, fusion, ageing data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning, pathology as well as any non-metric traits. This information was recorded directly into a relational database, in MS Access and cross-referenced with contextual information.

### *Condition and preservation*

- 4.10.4 Bone preservation was recorded on a scale of 1 (good) to 4 (poor); over 60% of contexts include bones in category 2 (fair). Bone preservation was

generally consistent within contexts (i.e. there is little residual material present).

4.10.5 Gnaw marks were recorded on bones from 15% of contexts or 30 fragments in total (<2%) of material recovered. This indicates that the majority of bone was buried quickly after deposition or was inaccessible to scavengers. Butchery marks were noted on 21 fragments (c.2%) in total.

4.10.6 Burning was noted on 39 fragments (or 3%); large amounts of burnt material were noted from contexts 577 (58% of fragments from this context??), 723 (40% of fragments) and 436 (42 % of fragments). It is likely that this material was burnt during cooking or as a part of deliberate waste disposal practices.

### **Species representation**

4.10.7 Thirty-two percent of fragments are identifiable to species and element. This is a relatively high proportion and reflects the large number of loose teeth in the assemblage and also the degree of fragmentation. The following species have been identified and are listed in terms of their relative frequency: sheep/goat (c.44%), cattle (29%), pig (12%), bird (c.4% includes domestic fowl), horse (c.3%), deer (c.3%), rat and cat (<1%).

### **Period**

4.10.8 The assemblage is quantified by the number of identified specimens present (or NISP expressed as a percentage) and period in the table below.

Species	Late Prehistoric	Iron Age	Saxon	Late Saxon/Early medieval	medieval	post-medieval	undated	Total
cattle		55	33	12	4	1	1	106
sheep/goat		95	22	22	13	2	2	156
pig		28	4	10	1	1	1	45
horse		6		2		1		9
dog		3						3
deer		2	2	4			1	9
rat							1	1
bird		4	1	6		1	2	14
unidentifiable	1	453	141	193	24	3	25	840
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1183</b>

**Table 4: Composition of Animal bone by chronological period**

### **Brief overview**

4.10.9 Eleven fragments were recovered from the fill of an Early/Middle Iron Age curvilinear enclosure (ditches **789** and **790**) six sheep/goat bones were identified.

4.10.10 Seventy-seven fragments were recovered from Middle to Late Iron Age settlement enclosure (Ditch **784**). Most (56%) of the identified bones belong to sheep/goat, other identified species include cattle (21%), pig (10%), horse (3%), dog (3%), and bird (3%).

4.10.11 A small number of pig, sheep/goat, cattle and horse bones were identified from Middle Iron Age settlement enclosure (Ditch **792**).

4.10.12 Group **785** which are interpreted as Saxon charcoal burning pits produced a reasonable number of bone fragments (c.17% of the total assemblage), mostly cattle and sheep/goat bones, but also a few pig, red deer and bird bones.

**Worked bone**

4.10.13 A fragment of antler comb (Object 6) was recovered from pit **525**. The object is part of a double sided composite comb.

**5 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

**5.1 Introduction and results**

**Environmental samples taken**

5.1.1 A total of 34 bulk samples were taken from features within each phase and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoals.

5.1.2 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
IA-MIA	2	16	Enclosure ditch, pit
M-LIA	1	17	Ditch
IA	3	25	Enclosure ditch
IA	2	15	Waterhole
Saxon	25	157	Fire pits, pits
E med	1	2	Boundary ditch
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>232</b>	

**Table 5: Sample Provenance Summary**

**Charred plant remains**

5.1.3 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereobinocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 6, see Appendix**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

5.1.4 The flots were generally large, particularly those from the Saxon fire pits Group **785**. There were varying numbers of roots and modern seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material was broadly well preserved.

5.1.5 Both samples from Iron Age-Middle Iron Age features contained moderate to good numbers of cereal remains. These included grain fragments of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) as well as hulled wheat glume fragments and a spikelet fork of

emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). The large quantities of other charred remains included shell fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) and tubers of pignut (*Conopodium majus*) together with seeds of oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* spp.), bedstraw (*Galium* spp.), vetch/wild peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus* spp.), brassicas (Brassicaceae), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* spp.), meadow grass (Poaceae) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.). The weed seed assemblage may be indicative of those recovered from arable deposits and field margins. The presence of pignut, however, is more usually thought to demonstrate a clearance event.

- 5.1.6 Large quantities of charred cereal remains, comprising both grain and chaff fragments of hulled wheat and barley, and very high numbers of other charred remains were retrieved from the Middle-Late Iron Age ditch **784**. These remains included a similar range of weed seeds to those recovered from the Iron Age – Middle Iron Age features with the addition of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), sedge (*Carex* sp.), orache (*Atriplex* sp.), stitchwort (*Stellaria* sp.) knotgrass (Polygonaceae) and rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* spp.). Again these, together with the cereal remains, are typical of general settlement assemblages. There were also a number of tubers and stem fragments observed, including those of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) and probably also pignut (*Conopodium majus*), most likely resulting from clearance activities, rather than food for which false-oat grass is less likely related or from harvesting cereals in which tubers of false-oat grass might be uprooted but pignut would not.
- 5.1.7 The three samples from the Iron Age enclosure ditches only produced smaller numbers of charred remains. The charred remains recovered from the possible Iron Age watering hole **663** included those of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum*), which is believed to have become common within the Saxon and medieval periods (Greig 1991). This feature was cut by a Saxon ditch **791** and it seems likely that there are intrusive plant remains within these samples.
- 5.1.8 The Iron Age samples are generally broadly comparable to other Iron Age sites in this part of Cambridgeshire in which emmer and spelt are often found in broadly similar quantities (Stevens 2009).
- 5.1.9 Only low numbers of charred remains were recovered from the Saxon fire pits group **785**. These included cereal remains of free-threshing wheat and a few seeds of oats/brome grass, brassicas, vetch/wild pea and flax (*Linum usitatissimum*). There were also a few stone fragments of sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) and fruit and stone fragments of possibly dwarf cherry (*Prunus cerasus*) or cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*). There was also an oak gall.
- 5.1.10 Two of the Saxon pits, **448** and **525**, contained large numbers of free-threshing wheat grain fragments and a few seeds of oats/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, ribwort plantain and clover/medick.
- 5.1.11 High numbers of charred plant remains were recovered from the early medieval boundary ditch **782**. These included cereal remains of free-threshing wheat, and possibly barley, together with seeds of oats/brome grass, bedstraw, vetch/wild pea, goosefoots, orache and stinking mayweed

(*Anthemis cotula*). Stinking mayweed is generally more widely reported from sites of Saxon to medieval date than from Roman date and is characteristic of the cultivation of heavy clay soils (Green 1984).

### **Wood charcoal**

- 5.1.12 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 6 (see Appendix). Wood charcoal fragments >4 mm were generally recovered in moderate to small quantities from the samples from Iron Age-Middle Iron Age, Middle-Late Iron Age, Iron Age, and early medieval features. This was also the case for the samples from the Saxon pits. Very large amounts of wood charcoal were retrieved from the Saxon fire pit group **785**. The wood charcoal assemblages from these pits tended to be dominated by larger charcoal pieces, generally of roundwood, but with some mature wood pieces also present. Some of the pieces were clearly ring-porous and therefore probably of oak (*Quercus* sp.). The high presence of roundwood suggests managed woodland and possibly even charcoal burning.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Overview of the structural evidence**

- 6.1.1 The results of the archaeological work discussed above formed the full extent of mitigation associated with the development. The provisional interpretations of the archaeological evidence may be revised or augmented subsequent to further analysis.
- 6.1.2 Activity dating from the early prehistoric to the post-medieval periods was recovered from the excavation but prior to the Early Iron Age there is only limited evidence which comprises Neolithic and Bronze Age finds recovered from later features and deposits. The predominately lithic assemblage is largely indicative of transient occupation.
- 6.1.3 The Iron Age sees a more visible and permanent occupation of the area. The creation of a trackway implies an increased use of the area for pastoral agriculture and the movement of animals. From this period onwards the definite demarcation of boundaries and the construction of enclosures increasingly express the sense of tenure from which a sustained settlement emerges. A variety of subsistence activities are represented in the range and quantity of occupational debris recovered implying a mixed farming economy.
- 6.1.4 Although no definite evidence for house structures was found within the excavation area, the occurrence of wattle impression on a fragment of fired clay is indicative of house construction which is likely to lie beyond the western and southern limits of the Site. The recovery of a spindle whorl and quernstone as well as small quantities of slag and animal bone suggest small scale undertaking of animal butchery and cooking, textile manufacture and crop harvesting and production.
- 6.1.5 The animal bone assemblage implies that while sheep/goat were the predominate species utilised within the settlements cattle remains were also common. Horse and dog remains were also recorded along with pig though



in far smaller numbers. The environmental remains indicate that both emmer and spelt wheat were being cultivated in an area increasingly being cleared for cultivation while the ceramic evidence suggests the exchange of locally made pottery.

- 6.1.6 Further assessment of the structural and artefactual evidence and a more detailed investigation of the surrounding landscape through a review of the available literature may clarify this. As prior to the present fieldwork there was scant evidence of Iron Age activity from the vicinity the presence of this small but significant settlement site indicates its regional importance.
- 6.1.7 The latest of the enclosures appears to have been backfilled by the early Romano-British period with occupation during the Romano-British period implied by the presence of residual artefacts dating to this time occurring in later features.
- 6.1.8 Early Saxon activity appears to centre on a concentration of industrial fire pits possibly relating to specialised charcoal production. Very few pottery sherds were recovered from these features however and it should be noted that many of the components present within these fire pits (heat affected stones and charcoal) were also identifiable within the earlier Iron Age enclosure ditches and it may be that radiocarbon dating and further research of available literature will more accurately clarify date of use and provide evidence for comparison.
- 6.1.9 The Late Saxon to early medieval period saw the repopulation of the Site through the creation of formalised land divisions or burgage plots. These plots appear to have comprised rectangular timber buildings with fences sub-dividing the yard areas to the rear and perhaps represent the beginnings of the village.
- 6.1.10 By the middle and later medieval period the area appears to have been maintained as agricultural land prior to the levelling and terracing of the northern portion of the site during post-medieval redevelopment. By the modern period the site had become overgrown scrub.
- 6.1.11 The results from the excavations provide the opportunity to study the development of the landscape from the sporadic early prehistoric period through a succession of enclosed Iron Age settlements to the Saxon and early medieval establishment of the village (**Figure 6 Plate 4**). This spatially compressed continuity is of particular relevance within an area where little prehistoric and early historic evidence is known.

## **7 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL**

### **7.1 Structural potential**

- 7.1.1 The recorded stratigraphic sequence formed the full extent of archaeological work to be undertaken. This assessment report has shown that the Site has the potential to augment the known archaeology for this area. A reassessment of the structural remains following detailed documentary analysis and further consideration of the finds and environmental evidence including radiocarbon dating will elucidate the provisional interpretations provided here.

## 7.2 Finds potential

7.2.1 The finds assemblage recovered from the Site during excavation is not extensive, and only pottery and animal bone occurred in any significant quantity. Evidence for the earlier prehistoric period (Mesolithic/Neolithic flint tools, single sherd of Beaker pottery) is tantalisingly slight, and wholly residual. The focus of the assemblage is on the later prehistoric period, from Middle to Late Iron Age; there appears to be little or no continuity into the Roman period. Pottery provides the only chronological evidence for this period. Functional evidence, apart from the pottery, is extremely scarce - there is one quernstone, and the possible metalworking evidence is slight and almost certainly redeposited.

7.2.2 The pottery assemblage can be added to the small but growing collection of material from sites in the west of the county, on the clay uplands and in the Ouse valley. Further analysis of the prehistoric assemblage will contribute to the ongoing discussion of the composition of Iron Age assemblages in the region (the proportions of shelly and sandy wares), and a limited programme of thin section analysis may enable discussion of potential sources for the pottery, and thus highlight any preference for non-local over local clays, as has been noted for other sites in the region (e.g. Percival 2008, 5). Examination of vessel forms and surface treatments should enable characterisation as a Scored Ware or plainware assemblage. The presence of possible Saxon sherds is also of interest, and wider comparisons within the region may enable more confident identification of these sherds.

### ***Lithics***

7.2.3 There is limited potential for any further work on the material.

### ***Animal bone***

7.2.4 Most (84%) of the 111 contexts that produced animal bone include less than 20 fragments each, this limits the potential for intra-site comparison between feature types or periods and will not add significantly to our understanding of animal husbandry techniques in the East Anglian region for the periods under consideration.

## 7.3 Environmental potential

### ***Charred plant remains and wood charcoal***

7.3.1 The analysis of the charred plant remains has the potential to provide information on the crop-processing techniques employed on the Site. It may also augment the data on the nature of the local landscape, the site economy and the nature of the settlement during the Iron Age-Middle Iron Age, Middle-Late Iron Age, Saxon and early medieval periods. These results could be compared with those from other sites in the area such as Raunds Area survey (Parry 2006) and Camborne (Stevens 2009).

### ***Wood charcoal***

7.3.2 There is potential for obtaining information on the nature of and the exploitation and management of the local woodland resource during the Saxon period and for assisting in determining any specific function of the fire pits, such as charcoal burning.

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## 8 PROPOSALS FOR ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The excavation at 33 Thrapston Road, Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire has achieved the aims set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2010) with regard to identifying the nature and extent of surviving archaeological remains.

8.1.2 It is proposed to conduct further analysis on a limited range of finds and palaeoenvironmental material. Further detailed proposals for each class of material are listed below.

8.1.3 The results of these analyses will be correlated with the stratigraphic and structural data recovered during the excavation and will allow a review of the preliminary phasing. The descriptions of the stratigraphic/structural evidence, with the results of the analysis of the finds and environmental evidence will form the basis of the publication text.

8.1.4 A report on the results of the post-excavation analysis work will be produced, with additional discussion on the wider significance of the results. It is proposed that the report will take the form of an integrated article. The preferred forum of publication would be the *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*.

### 8.2 Aims and Objectives

8.2.1 The aims for the analysis and publication phase are as follows;

- To carry out an agreed programme of post-excavation analysis and reporting following the procedures set out in MAP2
- To produce an integrated and synthesised report on the findings, and an interpretation and discussion of them, for dissemination as an academic publication commensurate with the significance of the data recovered
- To ensure the long-term curation of the data recovered and its dissemination in a form appropriate to its significance and academic value

8.2.2 The structure of the proposed integrated report is detailed in Table 7 below (see 9.1.1).

### 8.3 Finds proposals

#### *Introduction*

8.3.1 Further analysis is proposed only for the pottery and animal bone, although details of other material types, as presented in this document, may be incorporated in the publication report by integration into the structural text. None of these finds warrants illustration.

#### *Pottery*

8.3.2 The prehistoric and possible Saxon pottery will be subjected to full fabric and form analysis, following the standard Wessex Archaeology pottery recording system (Morris 1994), which accords with nationally recommended

guidelines for the recording of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 1997). Samples of selected fabric types will be submitted for thin section analysis (maximum ten samples).

8.3.3 The results of the analysis will be presented in a description of the fabrics and forms represented. The chronology and affinities of the assemblage will be discussed, with any implications for the understanding of patterns of pottery production and distribution in west Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas (e.g. the perceived distinction in terms of fabrics between east and west Cambridgeshire). A limited discussion of the intra-site distribution will also be included. A small selection of vessels will be illustrated as a representative sample, focusing on the middle Iron Age assemblage (maximum ten vessels).

8.3.4 No further analysis of the Romano-British, medieval or post-medieval pottery is proposed.

#### ***Worked Stone***

8.3.5 A geological identification will be obtained for the saddle quern.

#### ***Animal Bone***

8.3.6 No further analytical work is required; complete catalogue of the assemblage complete with all the available age and biometric data has been compiled and is available in the site archive. However, it is recommended that a brief summary of the assemblage (c.300-400 words) together with a basic quantification table be included in any future publication of the fieldwork results.

### **8.4 Environmental proposals**

#### ***Charred plant remains***

8.4.1 It is proposed to analyse the charred plant remains from a targeted selection of six samples. The suggested samples are those from the Iron Age-Middle Iron Age enclosure ditch 792 and pit 612, the Middle-Late Iron Age ditch 642, the Saxon fire pit 433, group 785, and pit 647 and early medieval boundary ditch group 782. This will provide information on the nature of the settlement and local crop husbandry.

8.4.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate, quantified and the results tabulated.

#### ***Wood charcoal***

8.4.3 It is proposed that the wood charcoal from five of the Saxon fire pits group 785 should be analysed. The five fire pits selected are 433, 435, 450, 724 and 729, which should provide the opportunity to examine any spatial variation. It is hoped that this analysis will not only provide information on the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource but also assist in determining the function of these fire pits.

- 8.4.4 Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Loney and Casteel (1975, see also Gale and Cutler 2000). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x400 using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

## 9 PROVISIONAL TASK LIST, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

### 9.1 Task List

- 9.1.1 **Table 7** below presents the list of tasks required within the proposed programme to produce the publication report, together with the necessary resources. Proposed personnel and their qualifications are listed.

**Table 7: Task list and resources**

Task	Grade	Days/cost
<b>ANALYSIS TASKS</b>		
<i>Finds</i>		
Pottery	PO	2
Pottery thin section analysis	Ext	3500
Stone ID	Ext	TBA
Animal Bone	PO	1.5
<i>Environmental analyses</i>		
Extraction of charred plants and charcoal (10 samples)	EO	4
Charred Plant Remains, 6 samples	SPO	3
Charcoals, 5 samples	SPO	5
Overview and Palaeoenvironmental Summary	SPO	1

<b>REPORTING TASKS</b>		
Introduction and Methods	SPO	0.5
Archaeological background	SPO	0.5
Site descriptions	SPO	2
Discussion and synthesis, acknowledgements and bibliography	SPO	5
Preparation of publication illustrations	SPO	1
Editing of finds reports	FM	0.5
Editing of environmental reports	EM	0.5
Site illustrations	Drawing Office	3
Finds illustration	Drawing office	1
Editing/reading and amendments	PM	2
	EM	0.5
	FM	0.5

	Reports Manager	1
<b>Other tasks</b>		
Management	Project Manager	2
Archive preparation	PO	0.5
Carry out & document discard policy; finalise finds box lists and index	PS	0.25
Microfilm jobsheets & checking	PO	0.5
Microfilm paper records	Marathon	TBA
Archive deposition	PO	1
Box storage grant		£150

## 9.2 Personnel

9.2.1 It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses.

Project Manager	Brendon Wilkins MA, BSc, MIAI MIFA
Finds Manager	Lorraine Mepham, BA, MIFA
Environmental Manager	Chris Stevens, BSc, PhD
Senior Project Officer/Main author	Susan Clelland, BA
Environmental Officer/Charred Plant remains	Chris Stevens, BSc, PhD
Environmental Officer/Charcoal	Cathie Chisham, Bsc, MSc, PhD, MIFA
Senior Project Officer/Pottery/Other finds	Lorraine Mepham, BA, MIFA
Project Officer/Animal Bone	Lorrain Higbee BSc Msc MIFA
Environmental Officer	Sarah Wyles, BA, PIFA, MAEA

## 9.3 Wessex Archaeology Quality Standards

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology operates an integrated project management system. Projects are assigned to individual Project Managers who monitor their progress and quality and control budgets from inception to completion, in all aspects including Health and Safety. Projects are managed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines outlined in the document Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991).

## 10 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 10.1 Museum

10.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Cambridgeshire Archaeological Store. Deposition at the store on completion of the project has been agreed in principle with Cambridgeshire County Council, under the Accession Code **ECB 3445**. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### 10.2 Preparation of Archive

10.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the guidelines for the deposition of archaeological archives in the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Store, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

10.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the Site code and accession code, and a full index has been prepared. The archive comprises the following:

- 6 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts ordered by material type
- 3 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- 8 files photographs
- 2 A1 graphics

### 10.3 Conservation

10.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.

10.3.2 Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site, no objects have been selected for further conservation treatment. Recommendations are made for the discard of this material type (see below).

### 10.4 Discard Policy

10.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint, clay pipe (plain stems only) and shell (small fragments of oyster) have already been discarded following quantification and scanning. Any further discard is likely to be minimal, but the following categories are proposed for discard:

- *fired clay*: undiagnostic; total discard
- *CBM*: medieval and post-medieval pieces only; total discard
- *pottery*: discard post-medieval sherds
- *glass*: post-medieval only; total discard
- *metalwork*: post-medieval or undated objects only; unstable for long-term curation; total discard

10.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms to nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

10.4.3 The discard policy for both finds and environmental material will be fully documented in the project archive.

### 10.5 Copyright

10.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational

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purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

## **10.6 Security Copy**

- 10.6.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.



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**12 APPENDIX: FINDS AND PALEO-ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES**
**Table 2: Finds totals by material type**

<b>Material Type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Wt. (g)</b>
Pottery	575	5507
<i>Early Prehistoric</i>	1	3
<i>Later Prehistoric</i>	338	3293
<i>Romano-British</i>	13	49
<i>Saxon</i>	86	515
<i>Medieval</i>	72	919
<i>Post-medieval</i>	65	728
Ceramic Building Material	16	1187
Fired Clay	56	318
Clay Pipe	7	13
Stone	1	2180
Flint	48	307
Burnt Flint	165	349
Glass	11	53
Slag	26	626
Metalwork	36	-
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	5	-
<i>Lead</i>	1	-
<i>Iron</i>	30	-
Animal Bone	1348	10768
Shell	2	44

**Table 3: The composition of the lithic assemblage**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Flakes (incl broken)	31
Blade(lets)	3
Chips	1
Irregular debitage	3
Cores (incl broken)	4
Scrapers	3
Gun flints	2
Miscellaneous retouch	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

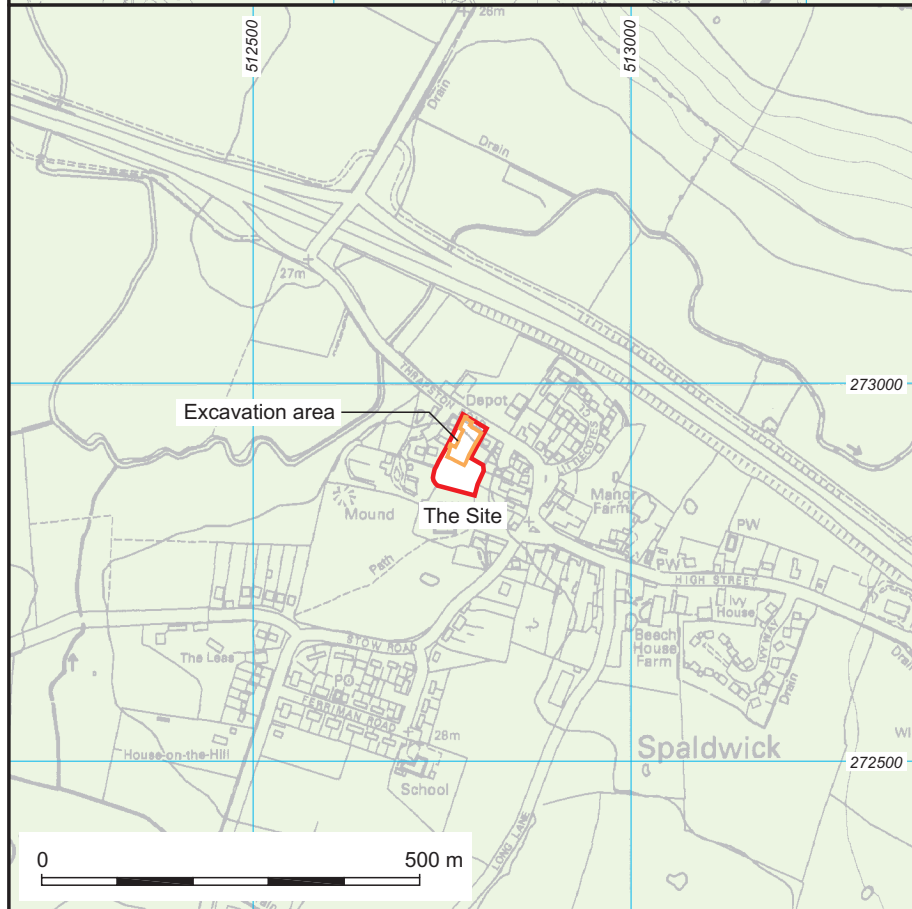
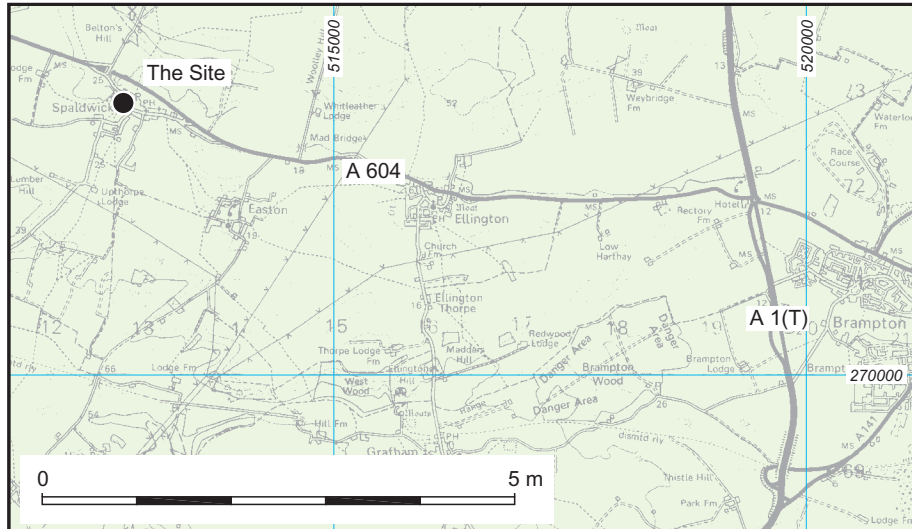
**Table 6: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature Number	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
<b>Iron Age - Middle Iron Age</b>													
Enclosure Ditch													
513 gp792	515	21	8	110	25	B	B	Hulled wheat grain frags, Emmer spikelet fork, glume frags	A	<i>Avena/Broums, Galium, Vicia/Lathyrus, Brassicaceae, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	25/25 ml	Min. nodules, Sab (C)	P
Pit													
612	609	37	8	100	20	A	A	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, glume frags	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Trifolium/Medicago, Chenopodium</i> , Poaceae, Polygonaceae, pignut tubers	15/20 ml	Sab (C), Moll-t (C)	P
<b>Middle-Late Iron Age</b>													
Ditch													
642	678	24	17	180	65	A*	A*	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, glume frags, Barley rachis, culm node	A**	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Trifolium/Medicago, Plantago, Avena/Bromus, Galium, Chenopodium, Carex, Atriplex, Stellaria, Lolium/Festuca</i> , Polygonaceae, Poaceae, Brassicaceae, <i>Arrhenatherum</i> , odd tuber, ?pignut, stem frags	10/10 ml	-	P
<b>Iron Age</b>													
Enclosure Ditches													
731 gp783	733	25	8	30	70	C	C	?Hulled wheat grain frags, glume frags	A	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Trifolium/Medicago, Chenopodium</i> , Brassicaceae	1/2 ml	Moll-t (C), Sab (C)	
	734	26	9	30	30	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	0/3 ml	Moll-t (A)	
425	599	19	8	10	40	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	-	
<b>?Iron Age</b>													
Waterhole													

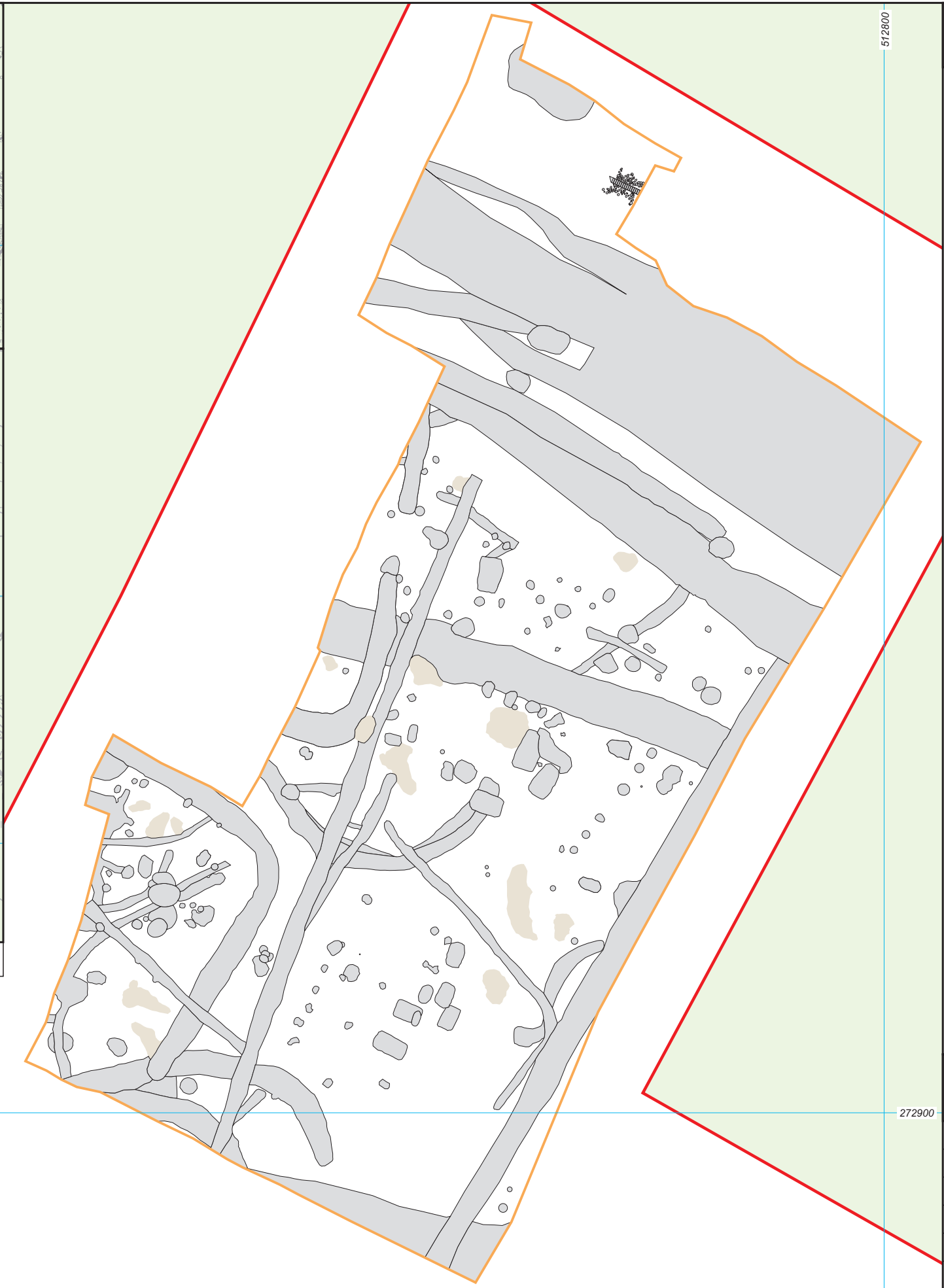
Feature Number	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
663	667	28	8	25	5	B	C	F-t wheat and ?Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Trifolium/Medicago, Chenopodium, Poaceae</i>	7/5 ml	Sab (B)	
	671	29	7	30	10	A	-	F-t wheat and Barley grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, Chenopodium</i>	5/7 ml	Sab (C)	
Saxon													
Fire Pits group 785													
433	434	35	2	700	3	-	-	-	-	-	350/200 ml	Sab (C)	
	434 NW quad	6	8	1250	3	-	-	-	-	Oak gall	750/250 ml	Moll-t (C)	
	434 NW quad	7	15	2250	4	-	-	-	-	-	1350/ 475 ml	-	
	434 SE quad	4	10	850	5	-	-	-	-	-	400/225 ml	-	
	434 SE quad	5	17	16501	3	-	-	-	-	C	<i>Prunus</i> sp (???) <i>Prunus cerasus</i> or <i>cerastifera</i> ) fruit and stone frags, ?oak gall	700/500 ml	Moll-t (C)
435	437	9	2	90	5	-	-	-	-	-	25/15 ml	-	
	437	12	9	200	10	C	C	Indet. grain frags, F-t wheat rachis frag	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Brassicaceae</i>	55/50 ml	Sab (C)	
	438	8	5	275	3	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> seed	150/75 ml	-	
	436 NW quad	11	9	1700	3	B	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	950/425 ml	-	C
	436 SE quad	10	8	950	3	-	-	-	-	-	500/275 ml	-	
450	451 NE quad	15	7	150	20	-	-	-	-	-	60/50 ml	-	
	451 SW quad	17	2	200	5	-	-	-	-	-	100/60 ml	Moll-t (C)	
	452 SW quad	16	8	425	7	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	-	-	150/150 ml	-	C
705	706	33	1	95	8	-	-	-	-	-	40/20 ml	-	
715	716	30	2	175	7	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	80/60 ml	-	
724	723	22	2	500	3	-	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	250/125 ml	-	
	723	23	2	500	3	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	275/125 ml	-	
	723	32	2	250	5	-	-	-	C	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> stone frag	160/50 ml	-	C

Feature Number	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
725	726	31	1	250	8	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	100/80 ml	Sab (C)	
729	730	34	2	400	5	-	-	-	-	-	240/100 ml	-	C
752	751	36	1	350	7	-	-	-	-	-	170/110 ml	-	
<b>Pits</b>													
448	449 NE quad	13	7	80	25	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	Brassicaceae	15/15 ml	-	
	449 SW quad	14	8	80	20	A	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	15/25 ml	Sab (C)	
525	524	18	18	100	30	A	C	F-t wheat grain frags, F-t wheat rachis, Spelt wheat glume, culm node	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Plantago, Trifolium/Medicago</i>	10/30 ml	Sab (C)	P
647	646	20	9	90	10	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	15/25 ml	Sab (C)	
<b>Early medieval</b>													
<b>Boundary ditch</b>													
746 gp782	748	27	2	20	10	A*	A	F-t wheat and ?Barley grain frags, F-t wheat rachis frags	A**	<i>Avena/Bromus, Galium, Vicia/Lathyrus, Chenopodium, Atriplex, Anthemis cotula</i>	5/4 ml	-	P

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5, sab = small animal bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant,



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Archaeological feature  
Root disturbance



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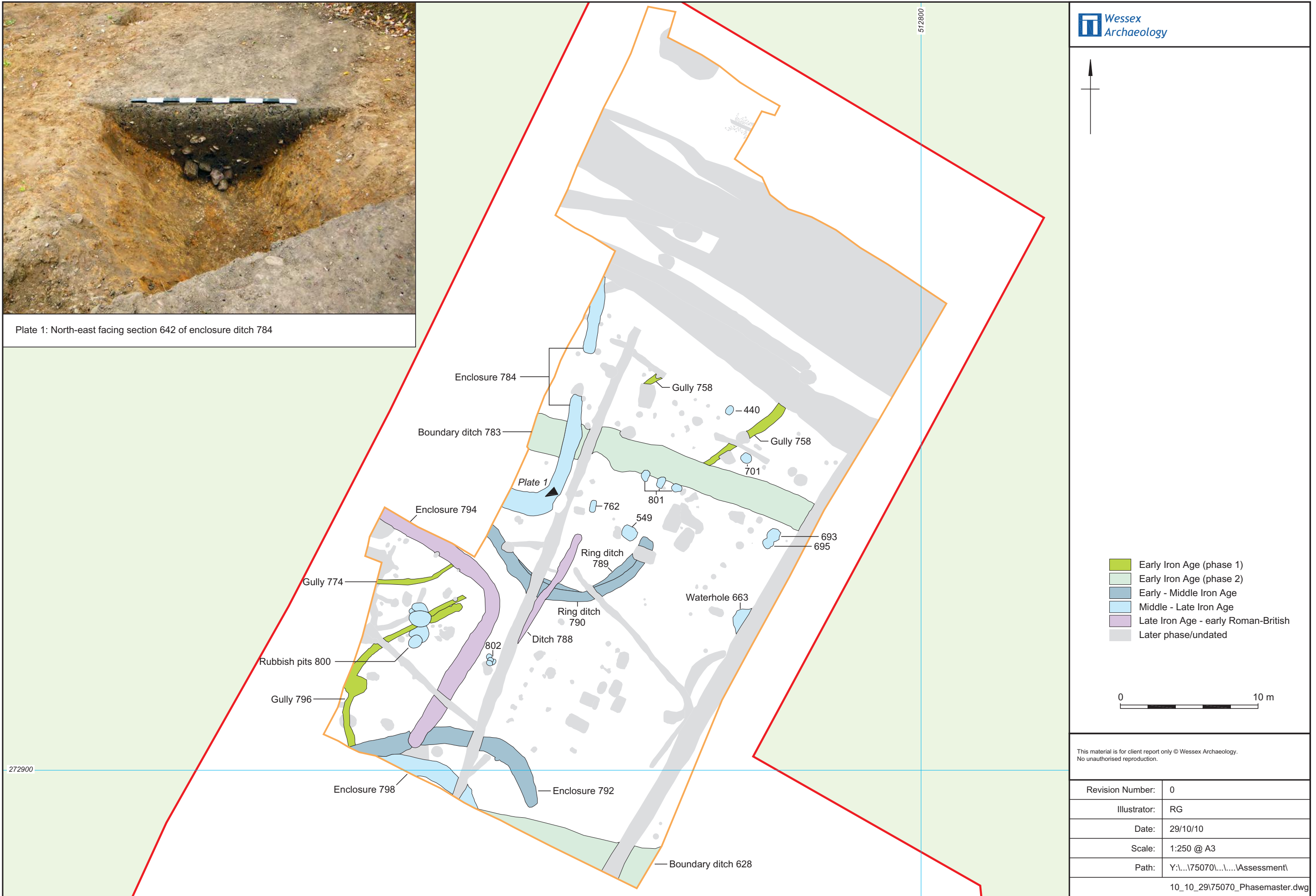
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Site location and archaeological features of all periods

Figure 1



Plate 1: North-east facing section 642 of enclosure ditch 784



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Section through fire pit 724

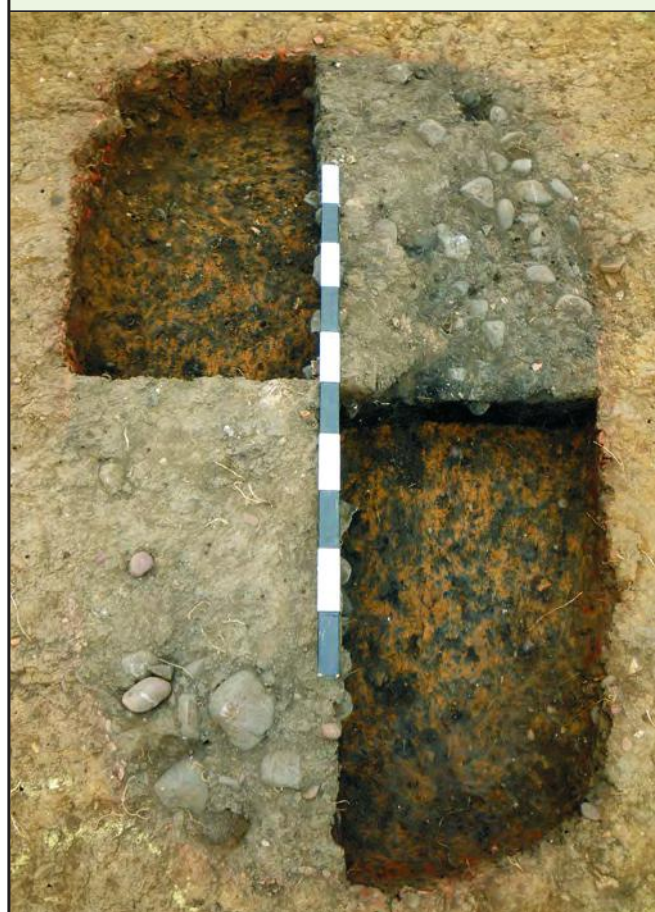
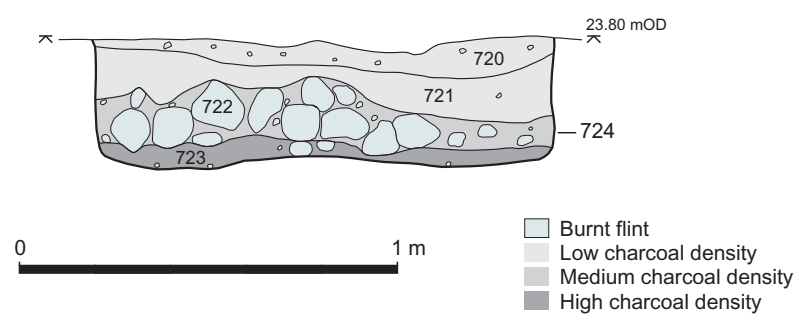


Plate 2: Plan view of fire pit 433, group 785



Orange Saxon (phase 1)  
Grey Other phase/undated



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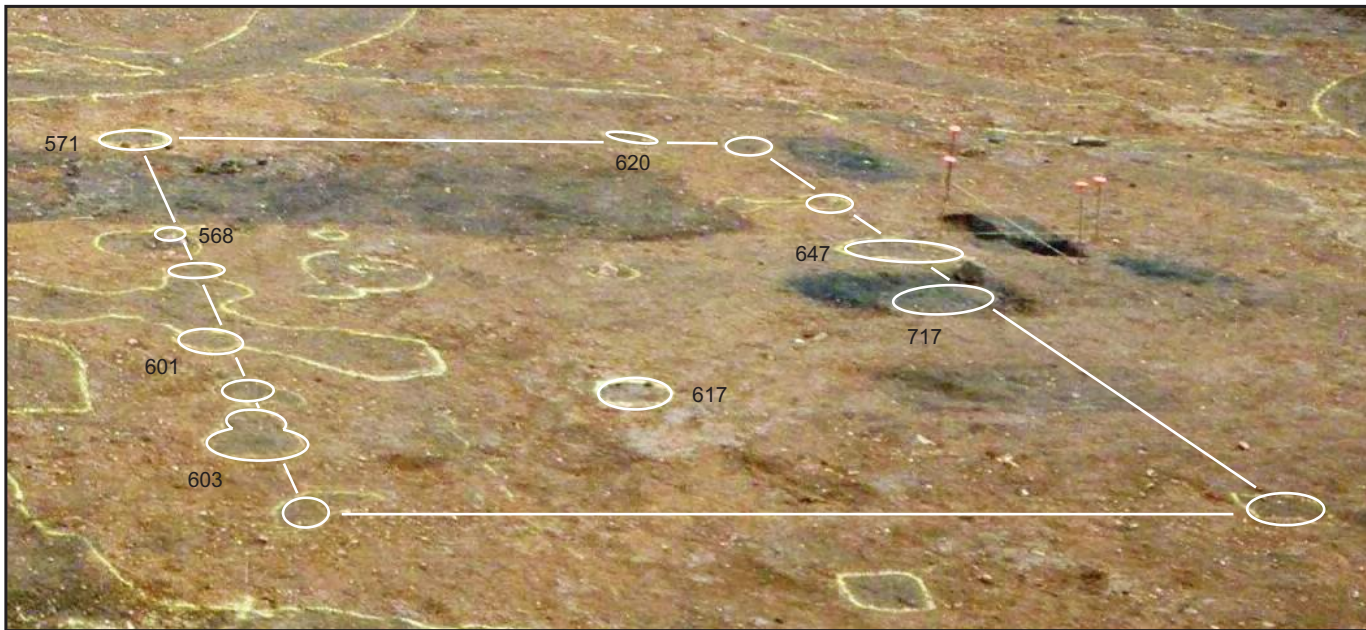
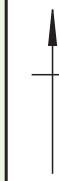
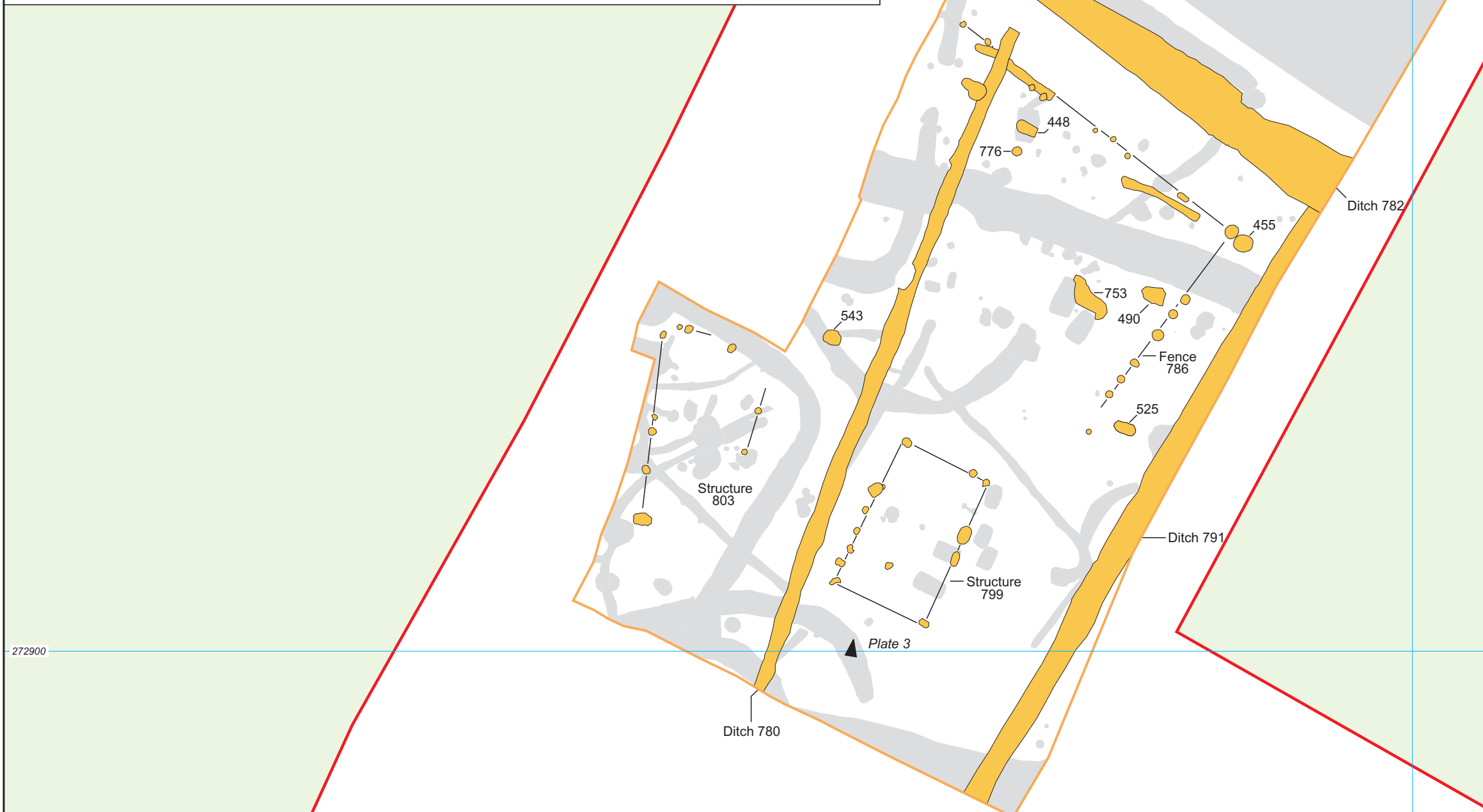


Plate 3: Timber structure 799 looking north



Late Saxon - early medieval  
 Other phase/undated

0  10 m

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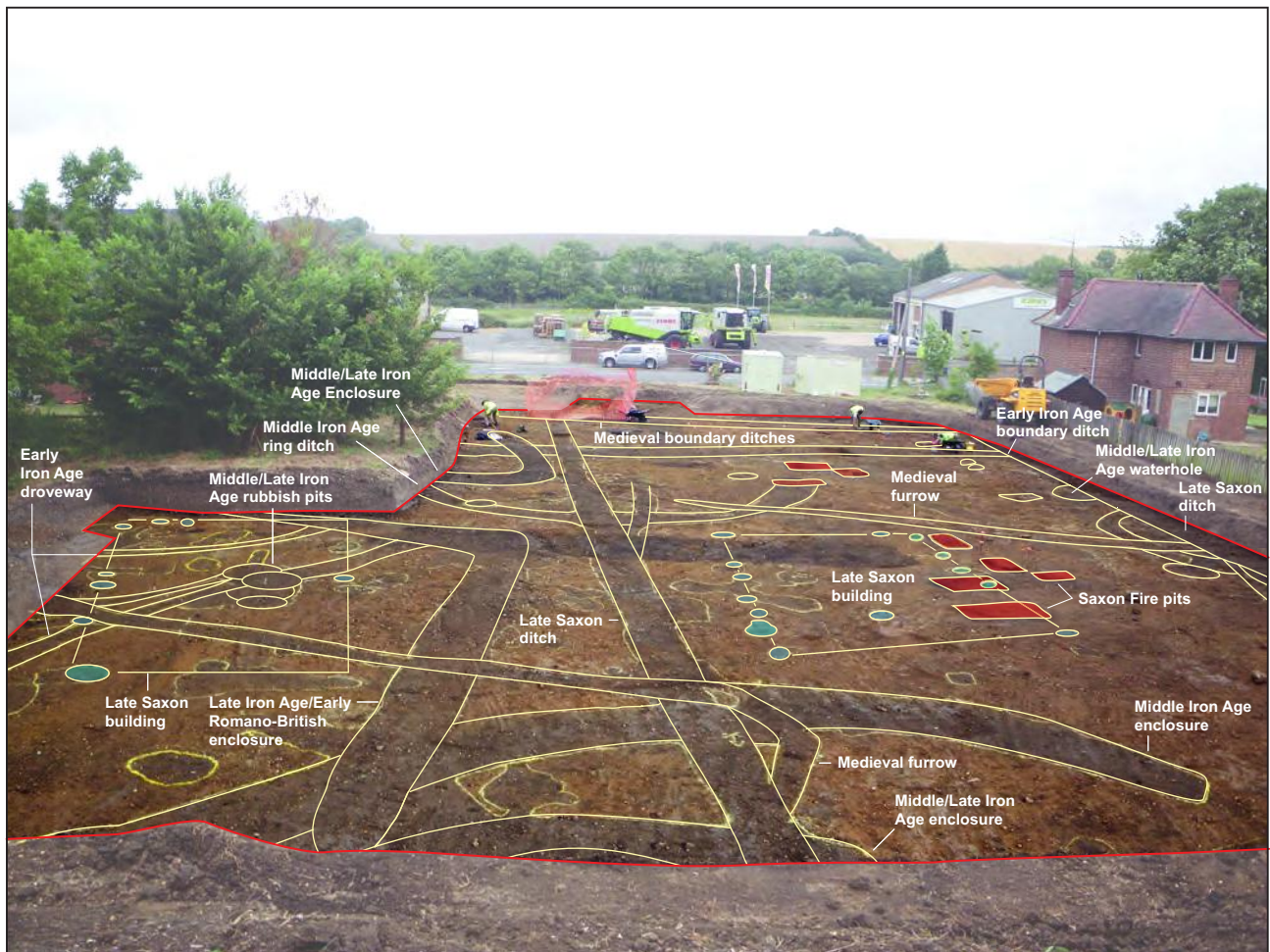


- Medieval
- Post-medieval
- Other phase/undated




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Aerial view of the site looking north

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