

**DUCK STREET
WENDENS AMBO
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



MAY 2006



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

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WENDENS AMBO
ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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DUCK STREET
WENDENS AMBO, ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Client: Mr R. Joslin

NGR: TL 510361

Site Code: WEADS 06

Oasis No.: essexcou1-15332

Dates of Fieldwork: 19th to 24th April 2006

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in a field to the west of the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane in Wendens Ambo, during April 2006. Three connecting trenches were excavated.

A wide variety of features and deposits were revealed, dating predominately to the Roman and medieval periods, though a small quantity of residual prehistoric worked flints and single sherds of prehistoric and Saxon pottery were also recovered.

The earliest Roman features were a series of ditches and gullies dated to the 1st century AD. Also of this date was a metalled surface, perhaps part of an area of hard standing. A subsoil deposit containing mid 2nd – mid 3rd century pottery was excavated and 4th century deposits were found overlying the metalled surface in an area of relatively deep and complex stratigraphy. Most of the Roman features are probably the result of agricultural activities associated with the Roman occupation site to the west of, and beneath, the near-by M11 motorway.

The medieval features ranged in date from the 12th to the 16th centuries. Two ditches were dated to the 12th to early 13th century and a pit and a ditch to the 14th to early 15th century. The latest feature investigated was a metalled yard or track, present in two trenches, containing 15th to 16th century pottery. The type and frequency of the medieval remains may indicate the presence of a previously unknown occupation site in the vicinity.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out in advance of residential development in a field fronting Duck Street, Wendens Ambo. The fieldwork was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of the owner, Mr R. Joslin, in accordance with an archaeological brief prepared by Richard Havis of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) team (ECC HEM 2006) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by ECC FAU (2006). ECC HEM monitored the work on behalf of the local planning authority.

The site archive will be deposited in Saffron Walden Museum. A digital version of this report will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

2.1 Topography and Geology

Wendens Ambo is situated in north-west Essex, in a side valley of the River Cam. The development area was located in the bottom of the valley, on the south-east edge of the village to the west of the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane (TL510361).

The development area was located in a small, flat, rectangular field (0.243ha) covered by low vegetation. The eastern and western boundaries of the field may have been formerly embanked, as raised mounds of earth were noted around the base of trees located along these boundaries. A water main passes through the southern part of the development area.

The local geology consists of glacial head deposits overlying bedrock chalk. A number of springs are recorded to the north of the site.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following archaeological background uses the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

Archaeological excavation and evaluation, undertaken during various works associated with the construction and development of the M11, provides archaeological evidence for occupation spanning several periods of antiquity in the area of the proposed development (EHER 169, 170). Of particular archaeological interest are the sites in close proximity to a

natural spring, identified on the current OS edition maps. The principal site is that at Chinnel Barn, first excavated in 1853, then again ahead of M11 construction in 1973-4 (Hodder 1982). More recently, further parts of the site and its surrounds have been investigated by ECC FAU as part of proposals for motorway widening, in 1992-5 (Atkinson 1993; Gilman 1994, 243-5).

An extensive flint assemblage was recovered from Chinnel Barn (EHER 16924), located 200m to the east of the proposed development. This indicated that the manufacture of flint tools was taking place from as early as the Mesolithic and continued to the Bronze Age. However, these flint artefacts were generally found within later contexts. Despite this, associated occupation activity and further archaeological remains of similar type and date may be located in the wider vicinity.

By the Iron Age, a settlement was firmly established at Chinnel Barn. This dates mainly from the 3rd to 1st centuries BC but may have continued into the 1st century AD. Generally, succeeding Roman occupation masked the full extent of these earlier features and deposits but settlement evidence included roundhouses, hearths, pits and a four-post structure.

The predominant archaeological remains at Chinnel Barn comprise a Roman Villa complex and associated occupation. The villa is likely to have had extensive influence over the surrounding landscape and further associated occupation and agriculture remains are likely to be present in the wider vicinity. Structural material and artefacts dating to the Roman occupation have been recovered to the south and south-west during fieldwalking alongside the M11 motorway in 1992. Additionally, fragments of Roman brick and tile can be found in the construction of the St Mary's church 500m to the north-east.

The origins of the present-day settlement at Wendens Ambo go back as least as far as the Late Saxon period. Wendens Ambo is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) and, prior to the conquest (1066 AD), land in Wendens Ambo, belonged to Wulfmer and an unnamed freeman (Rumble 1983, 22.19 and 32.18). The name Wendens Ambo is derived from the Old English word 'Wendena' which is interpreted as meaning 'winding valley' (Reaney 1969, 542).

St Mary's church is dated to the 11th century. The site of a second church (EHER 162), to the west of the village, was indicated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. Traces of a possible medieval structure excavated in 1953 (EHER 163) led to speculation that the church was accompanied by a medieval village subsequently deserted. No evidence for the church or deserted village were identified during fieldwork associated with the M11 and their existence has yet to be firmly substantiated.

The focus of the medieval and later village would appear to be around St Mary's church with more modern activity focused on the railway station. Duck Street is a probable medieval lane which survives as a hollow-way to the south-west of the development area. Bulse Farm, located 150m south-east of the development area in Newport Parish, has documentary references dating from the end of the 13th century (Wade and Atkinson 1992, 28).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to establish the presence, nature and complexity of surviving archaeological deposits within the development area in order to allow due consideration to be given to the archaeological implications of the proposed development on these deposits (HEM 2006).

The specific objectives were to:

- Identify and assess the presence and nature of Roman settlement remains
- Identify any earlier or later settlement remains

3.1 Research Objectives

The research objectives for the project were in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

Specific research objectives were to record archaeological evidence that will contribute to further understanding of the date, form and function of any Roman, medieval and post-medieval settlement, including, characteristics, development, and associated activity.

4.0 METHOD

Three archaeological trenches were opened under archaeological supervision, using a wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed deposits were hand-cleaned and investigated. Enough of the deposits and features were excavated to characterise and understand their date and nature without necessitating their wholesale removal or destruction.

Two evaluation trenches were originally proposed in the WSI (ECC FAU 2006) arranged in a T-shaped formation. However, after several potential linear archaeological features were identified in Trench 1, this layout was amended into a three trench U-shaped formation on the advice of the monitoring officer (Fig. 1).

All work adhered to regional standards (Gurney 2003) and was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines. Standard ECC FAU excavation and recording methodologies were employed.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2 - 5)

The topsoil in the development area was of recent origin, presumably imported, and consisted of dark grey-brown clay-silt which varied in depth between 0.2m and 0.5m. Beneath the topsoil was a deposit of mixed modern overburden, up to 0.4m deep, comprised of varying quantities of ash, brown clay, chalk, brick rubble and gravel. This deposit was present in the sides of all of the evaluation trenches. Underlying the modern material was a layer of brown to dark grey brown clay silt, in excess of 0.3m deep in places, which appeared to represent undisturbed subsoil.

A range of archaeological deposits and features were revealed in the investigation trenches dating to the Roman and medieval periods. The features were cut into natural clay which was broadly yellow-brown in colour and became chalkier with depth. Survival was good, due to the depth of overburden, with little truncation or disturbance from modern drainage features.

The archaeological features and deposits are described below, in trench order, with further context information presented in Appendix 1.

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was 1.6m wide and 29m long and was orientated north-west/south-east. The combined overburden was up to 1m deep.

The earliest feature was a large ditch (4), 2.4m wide and 0.76m deep, aligned north-east/south west (Fig. 3, Section 1). The ditch contained two fills (6 and 7) which produced early Roman pottery. Further pottery dating to the mid Roman period was recovered from the subsoil (5) which sealed the ditch and had slumped into its top. Located 1.5m north-west of the ditch was a small oval post-hole (20) containing fragments of baked clay. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature but its proximity to Roman ditch 4 might suggest it is contemporary.

Towards the north-west end of the trench were two small gullies (8 and 49) that were also of probable Roman date. Both gullies were broadly orientated north-east/south-west. Gully 8 contained one large sherd of early Roman pottery and may possibly link either with Roman gully 32 or 33 in Trench 3. Gully 49 was not investigated in Trench 1, but appeared to be aligned with Roman gully 35 in Trench 3.

Medieval pottery and animal bone was recovered from ditch 2. This ditch was poorly-defined but appeared to be on a rough north-west/south-east alignment. As exposed in the trench, the ditch was 8.2m long and 0.4m deep and filled with dark brown silty clay (3). The relationship between ditch 2 and gully 8 was unclear. However, both features were cut by a large pit (18) that continued beyond the edge of the trench. This pit had a brown-grey fill (19), lighter than the surrounding deposits, and contained a varied finds assemblage including medieval pottery and fragments of roof tile. Ditch 2 was cut through a mixed deposit of light brownish yellow to grey-green silty clay (41) that could either be the fill of an earlier feature or a localised difference in the natural clay. A slight variation in the natural was also observed to the west of pit 18. Here the natural clay was brownish yellow in colour along the south side of the trench but appeared marginally darker in the north of the trench (40).

Towards the west-end of the trench was a north-east/south-west aligned ditch (44); 2.3m wide and 0.3m deep where excavated. This ditch was filled with dark brownish grey clay silt (45) and contained a variety of finds including animal bone, Roman tile and four sherds of Roman pottery. The Roman material is almost certainly a residual element, as ditch 44 aligned with medieval ditch 37 in Trench 3. Immediately adjacent to ditch 44 and running on a parallel alignment was a shallow, undated, gully (42) which continued into Trench 2.

The south-east end of ditch 2 was overlain by a deposit of flint cobbles (1) that formed a patchy surface extending in width for approximately 5m (See Fig. 5 for full extent). A small amount of medieval (14th century) pottery was recovered from the top of this surface.

5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 was 1.6m wide and 6.2m long, was orientated north-east/south-west, and linked trenches 1 and 3. The overburden was 0.85m deep.

The only excavated feature in Trench 2 was north-west/south-east aligned ditch 28 (Fig. 3, Section 2). This ditch was 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep and contained two fills (29 and 30). The main fill (30), a dark yellowish brown clay silt, contained early Roman pottery, a residual sherd of prehistoric pottery and flint working waste. A second parallel ditch may be represented by an unexcavated area of poorly-defined mid greyish brown silty clay (47), located approximately 1.3m to the east.

Gully 42, continued from Trench 1, had an uncertain relationship with ditch 28 but appeared to continue beyond it and to cut deposit 47. Two vague protrusions from the side of gully 42 may indicate the position of adjoining features from the south-west. A separate irregular patch of dark greyish brown clay silt (48) was recorded at the junction of Trench 2 and 3 may represent the presence of at least one further archaeological feature.

5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Trench 3 was 1.6m wide and 27m long and was orientated north-west/south-east. The overburden was 0.8m deep.

This trench contained several Roman features. At the south-east end of the trench (Fig. 3, Section 3), three sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered from the top of a layer of orange clayey sand (13). Set into the top of this deposit was a flint cobble surface (12), probably part of an area of hard standing. The orange clayey sand (13) extended beyond the limit of the cobbles where it was overlain by a mottled grey/orange silty clay (14) containing late Roman pottery. These deposits were sealed by a 0.28m thick layer of dark grey clay silt (10/11) containing further late Roman (4th century+) pottery and tile.

The edge of a probable Roman ditch (23) was partly exposed beneath later archaeological deposits and is almost certainly a continuation of ditch 4 excavated in Trench 1. The top fill of this ditch contained Roman pottery and a few sherds of medieval pottery that are probably an intrusive element from the overlying medieval deposits.

Three parallel gullies (32, 33 and 35) of possible Roman date on a north-east/south-west alignment were excavated. Gully 32 was 0.16m deep and contained one sherd of Roman pottery and a residual worked flint. Gullies 33 and 35 were both shallow. Gully 33 was the better-defined with an apparent rounded terminus and was separated from gully 35 by a slight ridge of natural. It contained 2 sherds of Roman pottery. Gully 35 was located immediately adjacent to medieval ditch 37 and possibly represented the top edge of this ditch rather than a separate feature. However, the quantity and range of finds recovered from gully 35, which included Roman pottery and tile, baked clay and deer bones, coupled with the presence of a gully in a similar position (49) in Trench 1, suggests that gully 35 is more likely a feature in its own right.

In the centre of the trench was a dark grey clay silt deposit (46), probably the top of a north-east/south-west orientated archaeological feature. This deposit was left unexcavated as it was part-sealed beneath later surface 16. A late Roman coin of Crispus (AD322-3) was recovered from the cleaning of the surface of this deposit.

Several medieval features and deposits were also identified in Trench 3. Ditch 37 was clearly a continuation of ditch 44 investigated in Trench 1, and was further excavated for finds retrieval purposes. Five sherds of medieval pottery dating to c.1200 AD were recovered. Ditch 24 was orientated north-east/south-west and was 0.21m deep. It was filled with mid to light grey clay silt (25) and contained a small amount of later medieval pottery. Ditch 24 appeared to align with 'pit' 18 in Trench 1, but there was a wide discrepancy in depth between the two features. While 18 could possibly represent the ditch terminal, it could equally simply be a pit

Surface 16 comprised a patchy flint cobble surface interspersed with grey silt and was probably the equivalent of surface 1 in Trench 1. The top of this deposit was exposed in plan to reveal its width (approximately 9m) but was not investigated apart from a small area excavated to clarify relationships between deposits in the south end of the trench (Fig. 3, Section 3). Two sherds of pottery dating to the 15th to 16th century and fragments of peg-tile were recovered from the excavated area. Surface 16 appeared to slump slightly into the top of underlying ditch 23 and the consequent hollow above 16 was filled by a layer of grey clay silt (15) containing further 15th to 16th century pottery and peg-tile fragments. Traces of possible flint surface were visible in section for an additional 1.5m beyond the planned extent of 16 and were overlain by a layer of chalky grey clay silt (26). At the top of the sequence,

and underlying the modern overburden, was a layer of brownish grey clay silt (27), possibly a remnant of truncated subsoil.

6.0 FINDS by Joyce Compton

6.1 Introduction

A variety of finds types were recovered from a total of twenty-four contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below.

6.2 Pottery

Twenty-two contexts produced pottery, amounting to 163 sherds, weighing 1812g. The principal periods represented are medieval (39% of the total by weight) and Roman (60% of the total). A single rim sherd of Saxon date came from layer 16 and a further small sherd (2g) in the fill of ditch 28 is prehistoric. Overall, the pottery is fragmentary, with an average sherd weight of 11g, but the condition is good with little abrasion noted, even among the residual sherds.

Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Late Iron Age and Roman pottery (106 sherds, weighing 1086g) was recovered from eighteen contexts in total. As noted above, the pottery is in good condition and most of the diagnostic (and thus closely datable) pieces are large sherds of mainly 1st century AD date. Difficulty was experienced in assigning small body sherds in mixed contexts, such as ditch fill 3, to the correct period, as similar clay was used for both Roman and medieval locally-made pottery types. Fabrics were recorded using the ECC Field Archaeology Unit fabric series; forms were classified using the *Camulodunum* type series (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 215-75) for Late Iron Age vessels and Going (1987, 13-54) for the Roman.

The pottery was recorded primarily to provide dating evidence for features and layers, although firm dating could only be supplied for a third of the contexts with Roman pottery. A variety of fabric types were recorded, ranging from local coarse wares to imported samian and amphora. Features with early Roman pottery include gully 8 and ditches 4 and 28, and 1st century pottery also came from layer 13. Wendens Ambo is within Thompson's (1982) Zone 7, where the classic Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery fabric very often also included sand. This appears to be the case with the pottery recorded here, although in most cases sandy grey ware is also present. Contexts are thus provided with a mid to late 1st century date, although some sherds may well derive from pre-conquest-date vessels. Later pottery

included a B2/B4 dish rim, dated mid 2nd to mid 3rd century, found in the subsoil. Fabrics dating to the second half of the 4th century occurred in layer 11 and residually in the fill of pit 18. A sherd of Hadham oxidised ware, produced in quantity during the 4th century, was found in layer 14.

The pottery is predominantly early Roman in character, although quantities are small and many contexts contained coarse body sherds which could not be closely dated. As might be expected from a site in north-west Essex, the pottery appears to have affinities with Great Chesterford and Cambridgeshire, as well as with material excavated at the near-by Roman villa site at Chinnel Barn.

Saxon pottery

A single sherd (14g) of early Saxon pottery was recovered from medieval layer 16. The sherd formed part of an upright thickened jar rim in a sandy fabric and is dated to the c. 5th – 7th century AD.

Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A small quantity, fifty-five sherds weighing 711g, of medieval and later pottery was excavated from eight contexts (Appendix 3). Some of the earliest pottery came from ditch 2 (fill 3) comprising large fragments of early medieval ware thumbled beaded cooking pot rims, datable to the 12th century. A couple of sherds of medieval coarse ware are also present, which could be contemporary with, or later than, the cooking pot rims. Early medieval ware also occurs in ditch 37 (fill 38), diagnostic finds comprising a B2 type bowl rim dating to c.1200. Ditch 23 is interpreted as a Roman feature, but produced intrusive sherds of early medieval ware and medieval coarse ware (from fill 17).

Pit 18 (fill 19) and ditch 24 (fill 25) both produced single sherds of early medieval ware, containing sparse chalk inclusions as well as coarse sand, no doubt reflecting the underlying geology of chalky boulder clay. These features also produced later sherds of sandy orange ware. One is slip-coated with a splash of clear glaze and may be an example of sgraffito ware but without the decoration, datable to the 14th to early 15th centuries.

Layers 15 and 16 both produced sherds of late medieval sandy orange ware and smooth red earthenware and are datable to the 15th to 16th centuries. Layer 1 may be equivalent to layer 16; it also produced sandy orange ware, but as finds include a 14th century type jug rim, it could be slightly earlier than layer 16.

The pottery shows activity during the 12th to early 13th century and in the later medieval period, from the 14th to 16th centuries. There may be a hiatus during the later 13th to earlier 14th centuries. The sandy orange ware fabrics are similar to those found elsewhere in north-west Essex, for example at Thaxted and Saffron Walden. Residual Roman pottery occurs in several medieval contexts (principally 3, 19 and 38); this indicates that the contexts are not secure and that the medieval pottery may also be residual.

6.3 Other Finds

Brick and tile

Eleven contexts produced brick and tile fragments, totalling thirty-three pieces, weighing 3240g. Five contexts are of Roman date and Roman tile was found residually in a further three contexts. *Tegula* and *imbrex* roofing tile types were both noted, along with brick, one piece of which, from the fill of pit 18, made from buff clay. The medieval or post-medieval component forms 22% of the total by weight and was found in four contexts, although the fragments in the fill of ditch 37 were too small and abraded for certain identification. The pottery associated with the tile pieces from layers 15 and 16, and the fill of pit 18, is dated 15th to 16th century, and the tiles may also be of this date.

Metalwork

Two small, slightly curved pieces of copper wire (SF1), with traces of a silvered or tinned surface, were recovered from late Roman layer 11. These are in poor condition, but may represent the remains of a bracelet.

Items of ironwork came from two contexts; layer 15 produced two iron nails and the fill of ditch 2 contained a piece of square-sectioned rod which may be a large nail. The iron items are from medieval contexts and are likely to be of this date or later.

Copper Alloy coin by P. McMichael

A single copper alloy coin (SF2, diameter 18mm, weight 2g) was found on the surface of deposit 46. This is a follis of Crispus, minted in AD322/3:

Obv: Laureate and cuirassed bust r.

Legend "CRISPVS NOB CAES"

Rev: Wreath enclosing VOT X

Legend: "CAESARVM NOSTRORVM"

LONDON mintmark PL

The lettering is worn (die worn?) but the coin is in very good condition with no active corrosion.

Baked clay

Eleven contexts produced baked clay fragments weighing a total of 374g. Almost 82% of the assemblage is from contexts of Roman date, and the few small pieces in medieval contexts could also derive from Roman features. Few of the pieces are diagnostic; a possible corner fragment from a loom weight was found in the subsoil and gully 35 contained a large piece with one flat surface, which could be a further loom weight. It seems unlikely that any of the fragments constitute daub from structures.

Worked and burnt flints by Hazel Martingell

A total of twenty flints, two of which are natural unworked pieces, were recorded in six contexts. Burnt flints, weighing a total of 48g, were noted in three contexts. Two of the burnt flints are flaked fragments. Thirteen flints are humanly worked (Appendix 4), comprising five flakes, five blades, one of which, from the fill of ditch 28, is probably Mesolithic or Early Neolithic, and one fragment. There are two retouched pieces; one is a fragment and one a large cortex-backed blade with a denticulated sharp edge (from the fill of ditch 44). The denticulation is deliberate and not damage. It is likely to be a cutting tool of some sort. It is possible that the denticulate blade is a 'tool of convenience' and was used during the Roman period. Apart from the blade in ditch 28, the remaining flint artefacts are not datable.

During excavation of the Late Iron Age site and Roman villa (Hodder 1982) a large number of worked flints were recovered. These finds were described as a 'mixed flint industry' (Hivernel 1982, 23) with artefacts of all periods, from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age, some of which are particularly good examples of their type. The current finds are likely to be an extension of the spread along the banks of a tributary of the River Cam, and are suggestive of considerable prehistoric activity in the area.

Animal bone

Eighty-one pieces of animal bone, weighing 1148g, were recovered from twelve contexts in total. Eight of these are of Roman date, and the remainder are medieval. The bone was scanned for condition and completeness, and the main elements of the assemblage were identified using Schmid (1972). The bone is generally fragmented, although there are intact bones in two contexts, and the surface condition is good. The fragmentary nature of most of the assemblage has masked any signs of butchery, but dog-gnawed bones were noted in the fill of medieval ditch 2. Just over half of the assemblage by weight was found in contexts dated to the medieval period. Examples of cattle, pig and sheep/goat were identified, although much of the bone could only be assigned by size (*i.e.* large, medium-sized or small

mammals). Similarly, the bone from Roman contexts could mainly be identified by size only, although an intact red deer metacarpus was retrieved from the fill of gully 35. Finds of deer bones are usually restricted to late Roman contexts, but the pottery from the gully fill does not confirm the date. No bird or fish bones were recognised in the assemblage.

Shell

Oyster shell was recorded in just three contexts, and comprises small examples amounting to five valves, weighing 30g. The shell comes from layer 15 and the fill of gully 37, both medieval, and that from Roman ditch 23 probably derives from an overlying medieval layer, since intrusive medieval pottery was recorded in the fill.

6.4 Comments on the Assemblage

The range and variety of the finds recovered is notable, considering the relatively small quantities recorded. The finds types indicate occupation in the vicinity during the Roman period and probably during the Late Iron Age. The later finds are also consistent with rubbish disposal in the medieval period. Any development work which might take place is likely to produce more finds of the same nature, and in some quantity.

The finds do not require further work at this stage. The coin is in a stable condition and the remaining metalwork will not benefit from conservation. All of the finds should be retained.

7.0 DISCUSSION (Figs 4 and 5)

A wide variety of archaeological features were investigated and these have been broadly divided into Roman and medieval phases (Figs 4 and 5). The division is based mainly on small quantities of pottery and is therefore somewhat tentative. Some interpretation of features has been attempted though is difficult given the limited size of the trenches. Ditch 2 was of irregular shape and contained both Roman and medieval pottery and may on wider investigation prove to be comprised of several inter-cutting features.

7.1 Prehistoric

A small collection of worked flint and one sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the evaluation. This was found as a residual element in later features but does at least attest to human activity in the landscape in the prehistoric period. It has been previously speculated that there may have been a prehistoric occupation site on raised ground in the vicinity, considering the large quantity of worked flint which was recorded during excavations under

the near-by M11 (Hodder 1982, 64). The evidence from the evaluation would fit with this suggestion.

7.2 Iron Age

The M11 excavations revealed evidence of Iron Age occupation and farming activities, dating mainly to the 3rd to 1st centuries BC, and possibly continuing into the 1st century AD (Hodder 1982, 64). Although no evidence of 3rd to 1st century BC occupation was identified in the evaluation trenching a quantity of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered in the Roman contexts. This indicates that Iron Age settlement in the vicinity probably continued into the first half of the 1st century AD.

7.3 Roman

Roman features and deposits ranging in date from the 1st to the 4th century AD were encountered during the evaluation. The date range of this activity would appear to be similar to and contemporary with the Roman phases of the occupation site excavated under the M11 which also spanned the 1st to 4th centuries AD.

The majority of the Roman features are probably the remains of farming activities associated with the near-by villa. Flint cobble surface 12 may be an area of hard standing used for crop processing or livestock management or perhaps laid down to firm-up the ground surface around a source of water. The ditches, such as 4/23 and 28, may represent field boundaries, with the smaller gullies most probably having a drainage function. It is possible, though uncertain without wider-scale excavation, that gullies 33 and 35/49 could mark the positions of beams forming part of a timber structure.

Most of the Roman linear features are aligned north-east/south-west, apart from ditch 28 and possible ditch 47 which are aligned at right angles to these features. Similar trends were noticeable in the M11 excavations and it may be that these reflect field systems aligned on the stream that runs through the southern part of Wendens Ambo village.

At the east-end of Trench 3 was a stratigraphic build-up of Roman deposits in excess of 0.25m in depth. These deposits were not present in Trench 1 and indicate an intriguing concentration of activity that was localised in the eastern corner of the development area, perhaps associated with the position of a former spring. One spring is marked on the Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 1), only 20m to the north of the development area, and it is feasible others existed in the vicinity in antiquity.

7.4 Saxon

One sherd of early Saxon pottery was recovered from the top of medieval surface 16. The sherd is undoubtedly residual. While it may have been imported to the site from elsewhere along with the flint cobbling, it should be borne in mind that some Saxon fabrics do not tend to survive well. It may therefore be the case that this particular sherd has not moved far from its point of original deposition; Saxon occupation is a possibility.

7.5 Medieval

The medieval features excavated in the evaluation can also be seen as the remains of farming activities. The features appear to fall into two date ranges: the 12th to early 13th century and the 14th to 16th century.

Most of the ditches are likely to be field boundaries, with ditch 24 perhaps being a later (14th-15th century) replacement of 12th to 13th century ditch 37/44. Layer 1 would appear to be a continuation of the same track or hard standing as flint cobble surface 16 and is therefore most likely to be of the same date. This surface becomes wider to the north-east. Gully 42 seems more structural in plan than it did on the ground and has been assigned to the medieval period mainly on its relationship with undated feature 47, though it does have similarities (size, alignment, position, etc) with Roman gully 35/49.

The majority of the medieval linear features show the same north-east/south-west alignment as exhibited by their Roman precursors. This alignment is repeated in some of the modern-day ditches to the north of the site and in Duck Street itself which is believed to have originated in the medieval period.

7.6 Modern

No post-medieval remains were identified. All sections contained mixed modern overburden sealed by modern topsoil. The land surface had been raised-up by modern imported material.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The evaluation has revealed a dense concentration of archaeological features and stratified deposits predominately dating to the Roman and medieval periods. These have been preserved from modern truncation by their relative depth (approx. 1m) below the present ground surface. This depth was probably initially due to a build-up of alluvial/colluvial subsoil deposits on the valley floor. This sealed and protected the archaeological deposits. Some of

the subsoil may have been removed during later machine clearance of the site but replaced with imported material.

The presence of Roman remains is not surprising given the close proximity of the complex of Iron Age and Roman occupation excavated at Chinnel Barn (Hodder 1982), located only 150m to the north-west of the present site. The presence of medieval remains is more unexpected. The frequency of the remains suggests the presence of a near-by occupation site, perhaps located at the junction of Duck Street and Rookery Lane.

The archaeological remains are a significant discovery that will help put the Wendens Ambo Iron Age settlement and Roman villa complex in its wider landscape context and further several research themes as set out in the regional agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). The remains will increase our understanding of the evolution, development and utilisation of the side valleys of the Cam/Granta through time. The occupation of these valleys from the Mesolithic period onwards is already appreciated.

The implication from the evaluation trenching is that the archaeological remains are likely to cover most of the development area with a possible concentration of Roman and medieval deposits towards the eastern corner of the field. Further work on these remains, or preservation in-situ, will almost certainly be required prior to any development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ECC Field Archaeology Unit would like to thank Mr Roy Joslin for funding the work and Mr Edward Gittins for commissioning the work. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Chris Down, Dave Smith and Adrian Turner. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson and monitored by Richard Havis of ECC HEM.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Period
01	1	Layer	Flint Surface. Same as 16?	Medieval
02	1	Ditch	8.2m x 1.6m+ x 0.4m deep	Medieval
03	1	Fill of 2	Dark brown silty clay	Medieval
04	1	Ditch	1.6m+ x 2.4m x 0.76m deep. Same as 23?	Roman
05	1	Layer	Dark grey clay silt subsoil, 0.36m thick	Roman
06	1	Fill of 4	Mid yellow brown/mid grey, 0.24m thick	Roman
07	1	Fill of 4	Mid grey brown clay silt, 0.18m thick	Roman
08	1	Gully	0.9m+ x 0.42m x 0.18m deep	Roman
09	1	Fill of 8	Dark brown silty clay	Roman
10	3	Layer	Dark grey/black clay silt, 0.2m thick	Roman
11	3	Layer	Dark grey/black clay silt, 0.28m thick	Roman
12	3	Layer	Flint Surface	Roman
13	3	Layer	Orange clayey sand	Roman
14	3	Layer	Mottled mid-dark grey/orange silty clay, 0.10m thick	Roman
15	3	Layer	Grey clay silt, 0.10m thick	Medieval
16	3	Layer	Flint Surface. Same as 1?	Medieval
17	3	Fill of 23	Grey clay silt	Roman?
18	1	Pit	1.76m x 0.86m+ x 0.82m deep	Medieval
19	1	Fill of 18	Mid brown-grey silty clay	Medieval
20	1	Post-hole	Oval, 0.5m x 0.4m x 0.18m deep	Roman
21	1	Fill of 20	Dark-mid grey brown clay silt	Roman
22	-	-	(unused number)	-
23	3	Ditch	1.6m+ x 0.75m+ x 0.3m+ deep. Same as 4?	Roman
24	3	Ditch	1.6m+ x 1.8m x 0.21m deep	Medieval
25	3	Fill of 24	Mid-light grey clay silt	Medieval
26	3	Layer	Grey clay silt, 0.16m thick	Medieval
27	3	Layer	Brownish grey clay silt, 0.2m thick	Med/mod?
28	2	Ditch	1.5m wide x 0.5m deep	Roman
29	2	Fill of 28	Mid yellowish brown clay silt	Roman
30	2	Fill of 28	Dark yellowish brown clay silt	Roman
31	3	Fill of 32	Dark grey clay silt	Roman
32	3	Gully	1.6m+ x 0.4m x 0.16m deep	Roman
33	3	Gully	1.2m x 0.48m x 0.04m deep	Roman
34	3	Fill of 33	Mid-dark grey clay silt	Roman
35	3	Gully	1.5m x 0.98m x 0.05m deep	Roman
36	3	Fill of 35	Mid-dark grey brown clay silt	Roman
37	3	Ditch	1.6m+ x 2.1m x 0.2m+ deep. Same as 44?	Medieval
38	3	Fill of 37	Very dark grey brown clay silt	Medieval
39	3	Layer	Dark grey brown clay silt, 0.38m thick	Medieval
40	1	Layer	Light brownish yellow silty clay	Natural?
41	1	Layer	Light brownish yellow to grey-green silty clay	Natural?
42	1/2	Gully	2.4m+ x 0.5m x 0.10m deep	Medieval
43	1/2	Fill of 42	Dark grey brown clay silt	Medieval
44	1	Ditch	1.6m+ x 2.3m x 0.3m deep. Same as 37?	Medieval
45	1	Fill of 44	Dark brownish grey clay silt	Medieval
46	3	Feature fill	Unexcavated fill, part sealed by 16	Roman?
47	2	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown silty clay	Roman?
48	2/3	Feature fill	Dark greyish brown clay silt	Medieval?
49	1	Gully fill	Dark grey brown clay silt	Roman

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights given in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Layer	1 4	4 68	Baked clay fragment Pottery; rim with rod handle, and body sherds	- Medieval
3	2	1 27 1 6 21 16	6 540 14 814 336 242	Iron rod fragment Animal bone; radius, cattle, unfused distal end; skull, pelvis and vertebra fragments, large mammal; mandible fragment with four molars, pig, metapodial shafts, sheep/goat, gnawed Baked clay fragment Brick and tile, inc imbrex Pottery; rim and body sherds Pottery; rim and body sherds	- - - Roman Medieval Roman
5	Subsoil	3 1 1 12	104 6 28 112	Animal bone; ?humerus shaft, large mammal; long bone shaft, small mammal; fragment Burnt flint, flaked fragment Baked clay, ?corner Pottery; rim and body sherds	- - - Roman
6	4	11 1 1 3	54 4 20 26	Animal bone; mandible hinge with two and a half molars, sheep/goat; vertebra spine, large mammal; fragments Baked clay Slag Pottery; body sherds	- - - Roman
7	4	1 10	6 56	Animal bone fragment Pottery; rim and body sherds	- Roman
9	8	1	94	Pottery; rim sherd	Roman
10	Layer	1 1 4	2 400 76	Animal bone fragment Tile, tegula fragment Pottery; body sherds	- Roman Roman
11	Layer	2 2 1 1 6	1 32 30 34 40	SF1, Copper alloy ?bracelet fragments Animal bone; vertebra fragment; long bone shaft fragment Baked clay fragment Tile fragment, laminated Pottery; rim and body sherds	?Roman - - Roman Roman
13	Layer	3	24	Pottery; body sherds; samian footing sherd	Roman
14	Layer	5 8	66 88	Baked clay fragments, two are probably tile spalls Pottery; rim and body sherds	- Roman
15	Layer	2 2 2 2 15	12 22 14 66 216	Iron nails Animal bone; skull fragment; rib, proximal end, large mammal Shell, oyster, two valves, small examples Roof tile fragments Pottery; base and body sherds	- - - Med/post med. Medieval
16	Layer	4 2 1	280 12 14	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole Pottery; body sherds Pottery; rim sherd	Med/post med. Medieval Saxon
17	23	2 1	8 110	Shell, oyster, one valve and fragment Natural stone fragment	- -

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		3 5	18 24	Pottery; body sherds Pottery; base and body sherds	Medieval Roman
19	18	4 1 2 8 2 2 2	22 4 36 358 352 12 12	Animal bone; ulna fragments, ?pig; fragments Natural long flint fragment Baked clay fragments Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole Brick; large piece in buff clay, plus sliver Pottery; body sherds Pottery; body sherds	- - - Med/post med. Roman Medieval Roman
21	20	2	14	Baked clay fragments	-
25	24	3 3 3	50 400 12	Animal bone; humerus shaft, medium-sized mammal; long bone shaft; fragment Tile fragment, abraded, and slivers Pottery; body sherds	- Roman Medieval
30	28	4 11 3 5 1 13 1	14 40 18 14 104 80 2	Animal bone; fragments, inc rib Flints, blades, one patinated, and working waste Burnt flints, one is a flaked fragment Baked clay fragments Tile fragment Pottery; body sherds Pottery; body sherd	- - - - Roman Roman Prehistoric
31	32	1 1	20 20	Worked flint Pottery; body sherd	- Roman
34	33	2	28	Pottery; body sherds	Roman
36	35	3 1 2 3	198 154 394 16	Animal bone; metacarpus, deer; carpus, ?deer; fragment Baked clay Tile, one is a large tegula fragment Pottery; rim and body sherds	- - Roman Roman
38	37	1 1 2 5 9	18 8 20 36 58	Split flint, caused by fossil inclusion Shell, oyster, one valve Tile fragments, poor condition Pottery; rim and body sherds Pottery; rim and body sherds	- - Undated Medieval Roman
39	Layer	4	62	Pottery; joining base sherds	Roman
45	44	20 1 1 1 1 4	104 32 24 10 18 28	Animal bone; rib fragments, large mammal; ?humerus shaft, medium-sized mammal; fragments Worked flint Burnt flint block Baked clay Tile fragment Pottery; base and body sherds	- - - - Roman Roman
46	Surface find	1	-	SF2, Copper alloy coin, Crispus	AD322-3

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY DATA

Roman Pottery data

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
3	2	16	242	Rim sherds, jars Cam 228 and Cam 229, and body sherds, black-surfaced ware; body sherds, sandy grey ware, buff ware and red ware; body sherd, amphora	Mid-late 1st C
5	Subsoil	12	112	Rim sherd, B2/B4 dish, and coarse body sherd, black-surfaced ware; body sherds, fine grey ware, sandy grey ware and coarse grog-tempered ware; footring sherd, samian cup	Mid 2nd - mid 3rd C
6	4	3	26	Body sherds, black-surfaced ware, one with combing; body sherd, buff ware	Early Roman
7	4	10	56	Joining rim sherds, f18 or f18/31 samian platter; body sherds, buff ware, one carinated; body sherds, black-surfaced ware, one with bands of combing	Mid-late 1st C
9	8	1	94	Rim sherd, large jar Cam 260, black-surfaced ware, with rilling on shoulder	Early Roman
10	Layer	4	76	Body sherds, sandy grey ware	Roman
11	Layer	6	40	Rim sherd, jar and body sherd, black-surfaced ware; body sherds, Oxford ware, red ware, buff ware and grog-tempered ware	Late 4th C+
13	Layer	3	24	Body sherd, grog-tempered ware, with well-defined groove; body sherd, buff ware; footring sherd, samian cup, with rouletting on lower body	Mid-late 1st C
14	Layer	8	88	Rim sherds, jars, and body sherds, black-surfaced ware; body sherds, white ware, fine grey ware and Hadham oxidised ware	Late Roman
17	23	5	24	Base and lower wall sherd, buff ware; body sherds, sandy grey ware and black-surfaced ware	Roman
19	18	2	12	Body sherd, grog-tempered ware, no surfaces; body sherd, late shell-tempered ware	Late 4th C+
30	28	13	80	Body sherds, black-surfaced ware, one with small hole, and coarse grog-tempered ware	Early Roman
31	32	1	20	Body sherd, storage jar	Roman
34	33	2	28	Body sherds, sandy grey ware	Roman
36	35	3	16	Rim sherd B1 dish, and small body sherd, fine grey ware; body sherd, sandy grey ware	Roman
38	37	9	58	Small rim sherd and body sherds, sandy grey ware; body sherds, fine grey ware and grog-tempered ware	Roman
39	Layer	4	62	Joining jar base sherds, sandy grey ware	Roman
45	44	4	28	Small rim sherd and body sherd, black-surfaced ware; body sherd, sandy grey ware; base sherd, grog-tempered ware, with two small holes	Roman
		106	1086		

Medieval and later pottery data

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Layer	1	8	Early medieval ware with chalk and ?clay pellets	10th to 13th C
		3	61	Sandy orange ware; unglazed body sherds and rim of small jug with rod handle, unglazed	?14th
3	2	19	318	Early medieval ware including thumbbed, beaded rims from cooking pots, up to three vessels represented	12th C
		2	17	Medieval coarse ware	12th to 14th C
15	Layer	6	97	Late medieval sandy orange ware, sparsely glazed, some sherds from jars	15th to 16th C
		9	119	Smooth red earthenware	15th to 16th C
16	Layer	1	7	Late medieval sandy orange ware	15th to 16th C
		1	5	Smooth red earthenware	15th to 16th C
17	23	1	1	Early medieval ware	10th to 13th C
		2	17	Medieval coarse ware	12th to 14th C
19	18	1	5	Early medieval ware with chalk	10th to 13th C
		1	8	Sandy orange ware with slip-coating and patch of clear glaze, could be sgraffito ware without the decoration	14th to early 15th C
25	24	1	4	Early medieval ware with chalk	10th to 13th C
		2	8	Sandy orange ware, unglazed	13th to 16th C
38	37	5	36	Early medieval ware including a B2 bowl rim and a sherd with combed decoration	c.1200
		55	711		

APPENDIX 4: WORKED FLINT CATALOGUE

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
30	28	11	40	Three blades, tertiary, longest is 47mm	M/EN
				Blade, patinated, punch struck, 44 x 15mm	
31	32	1	20	Blade, large, butt part, good quality	Recent
				Three flakes, secondary waste	
				Fragment, tertiary	
				Flake, tertiary	
				Flake, tertiary, sharp	
				Retouched fragment	
45	44	1	32	Denticulate blade with cortex backing	

APPENDIX 5: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: Duck Street, Wendens Ambo

SITE CODE: WEADS 06

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

1.1 Brief

1.2 WSI

2. Research Archive

2.1 Client Report

2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

3.1 Context Record Register

3.2 Context Records (1 to 49)

3.3 Plan Register

3.4 Section Register

3.5 1x A4 plan sheets

3.6 Levels Register

3.7 Small Finds Register

3.8 Trench location plans

3.9 Photographic Registers

3.10 Site Photographic Record (1 Set of Colour Slides, Colour and Black & White prints, 1 Set of digital images on disk)

3.11 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

3 large plan and 2 large section sheets

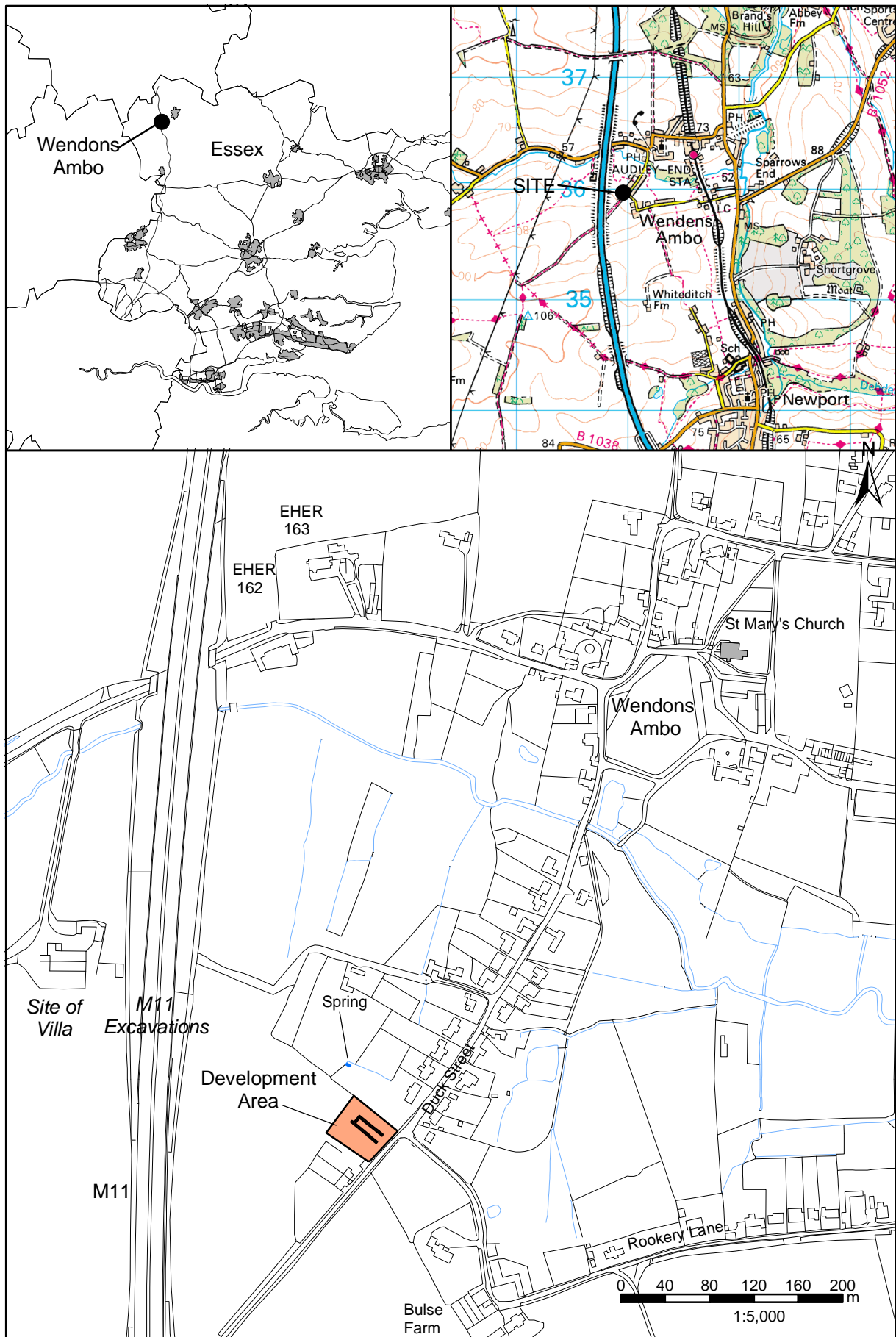
Finds

The finds occupy one box.

APPENDIX 6: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Duck Street, Wendens Ambo	
Parish: Wendens Ambo	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 510361	Site Code: WEADS06
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 19th to 24th April 2006	Size of Area Investigated: 100 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden	Funding source: Mr R. Joslin
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Possibly	Related HER Nos.: 169, 170, 16924
Final Report:	
Periods Represented: Roman, medieval, modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out in a field to the west of the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane in Wendens Ambo, during April 2006. Three connecting trenches were excavated. The archaeological remains were sealed beneath up to 1m of overburden which comprised topsoil overlying imported modern deposits.</p> <p>A wide variety of features and stratified deposits were revealed dating predominately to the Roman and medieval periods, though a small quantity of residual prehistoric worked flints and single sherds of prehistoric and early Saxon pottery were also recovered.</p> <p>The earliest Roman features excavated were a series of ditches and gullies dated to the 1st century AD and predominately aligned north-east/south-west. It is possible, although not certain without wider excavation, that some of the gullies were features with a structural function. Also of a 1st century date was a metalled surface, perhaps part of a yard or area of hard standing. A subsoil deposit containing mid 2nd – mid 3rd century pottery was excavated and 4th century deposits were found overlying the metalled surface in an area of concentrated activity in the east of the field. Most of the Roman features are probably the result of agricultural activities associated the Roman occupation site beneath the M11.</p> <p>The medieval features excavated ranged in date from the 12th to the 16th century. Two ditches dated to the 12th to early 13th century and a pit and a ditch to the 14th to early 15th. The latest feature investigated was a metalled yard or track, aligned north-east/south-west, and dated to the 15th to 16th century. The medieval features may indicate the presence of an unknown occupation site in the vicinity perhaps adjacent to the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: May 2006



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Fig.1. Location plan

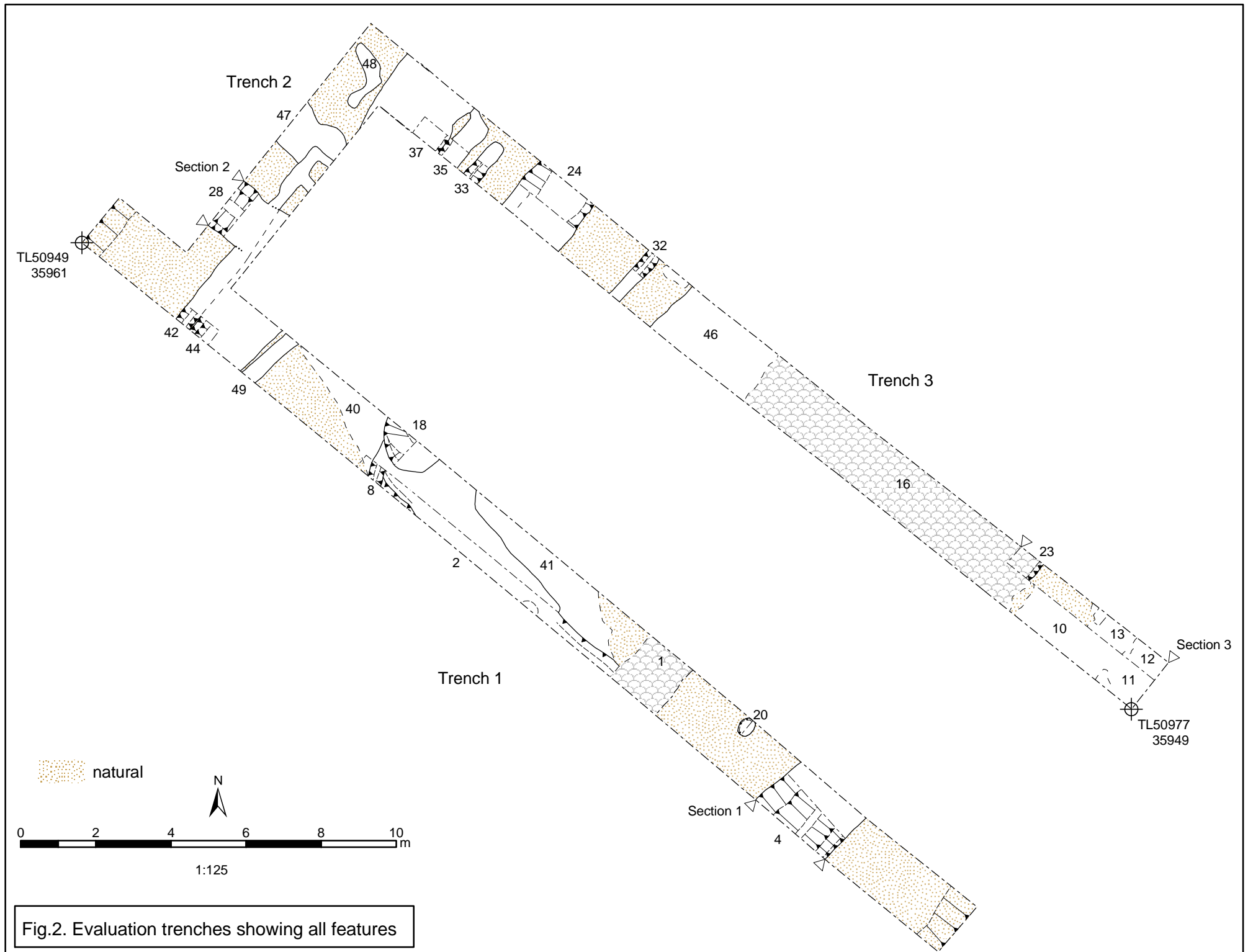


Fig.2. Evaluation trenches showing all features

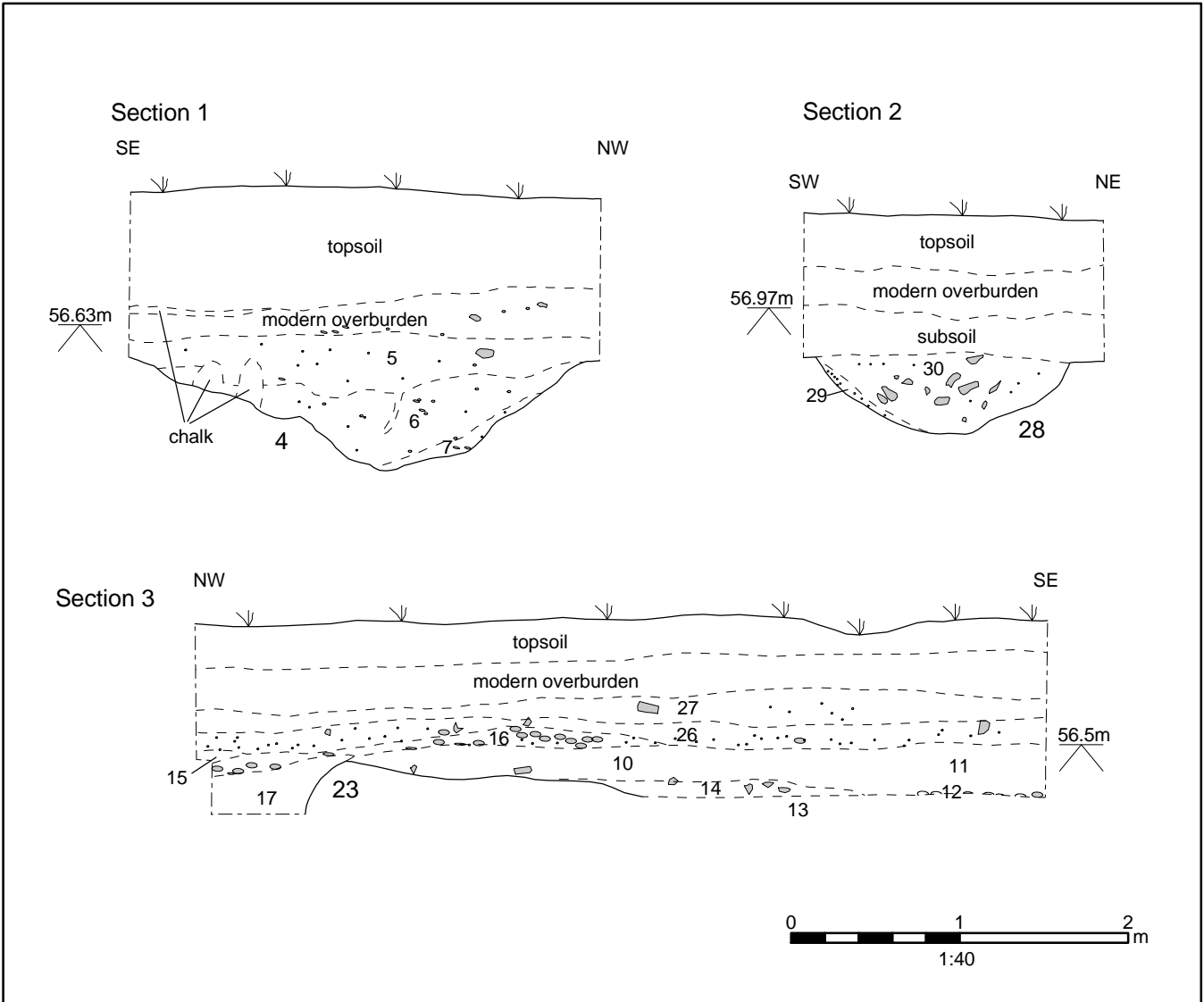


Fig.3. Sections

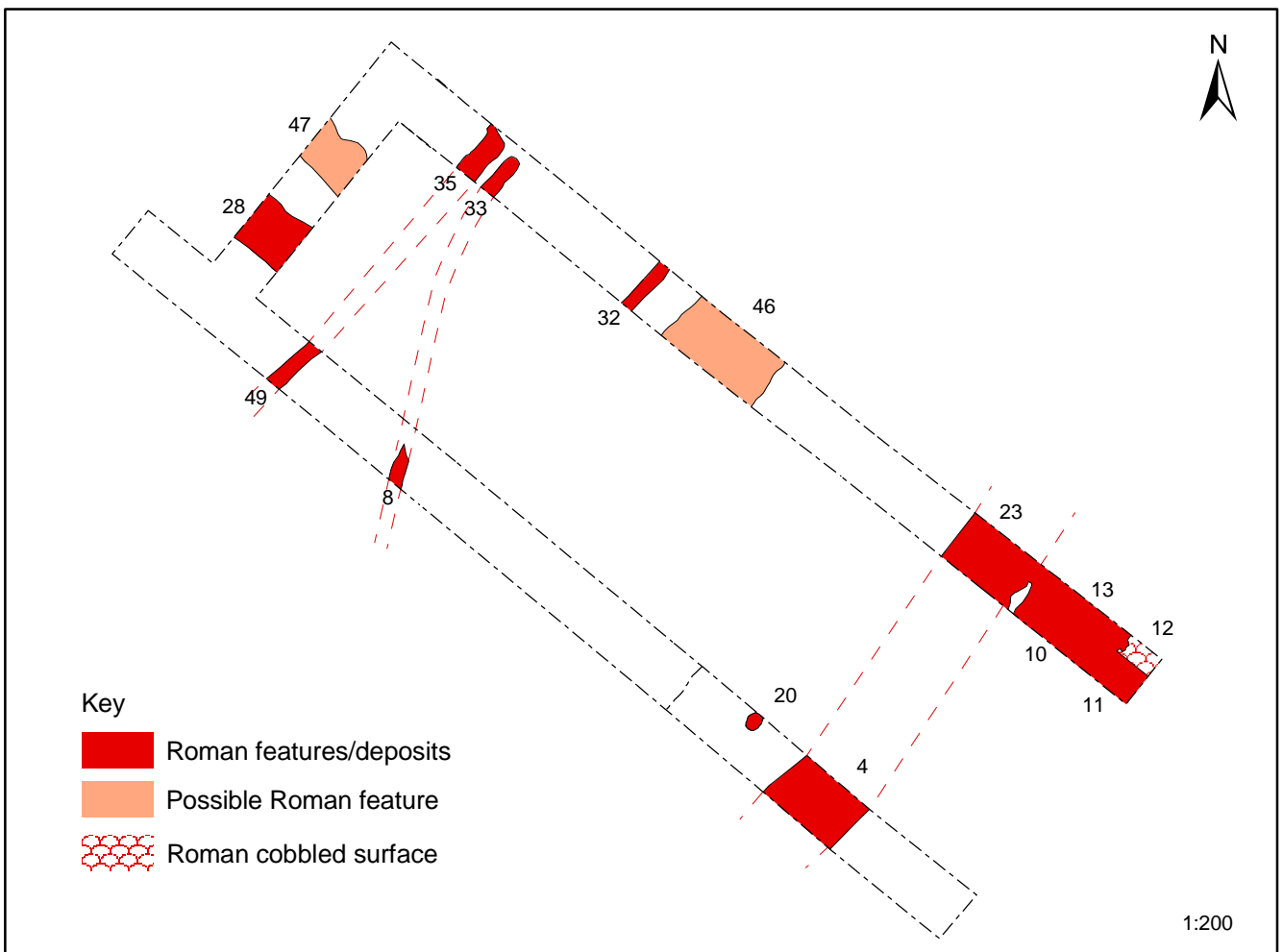


Fig.4. Roman phase plan

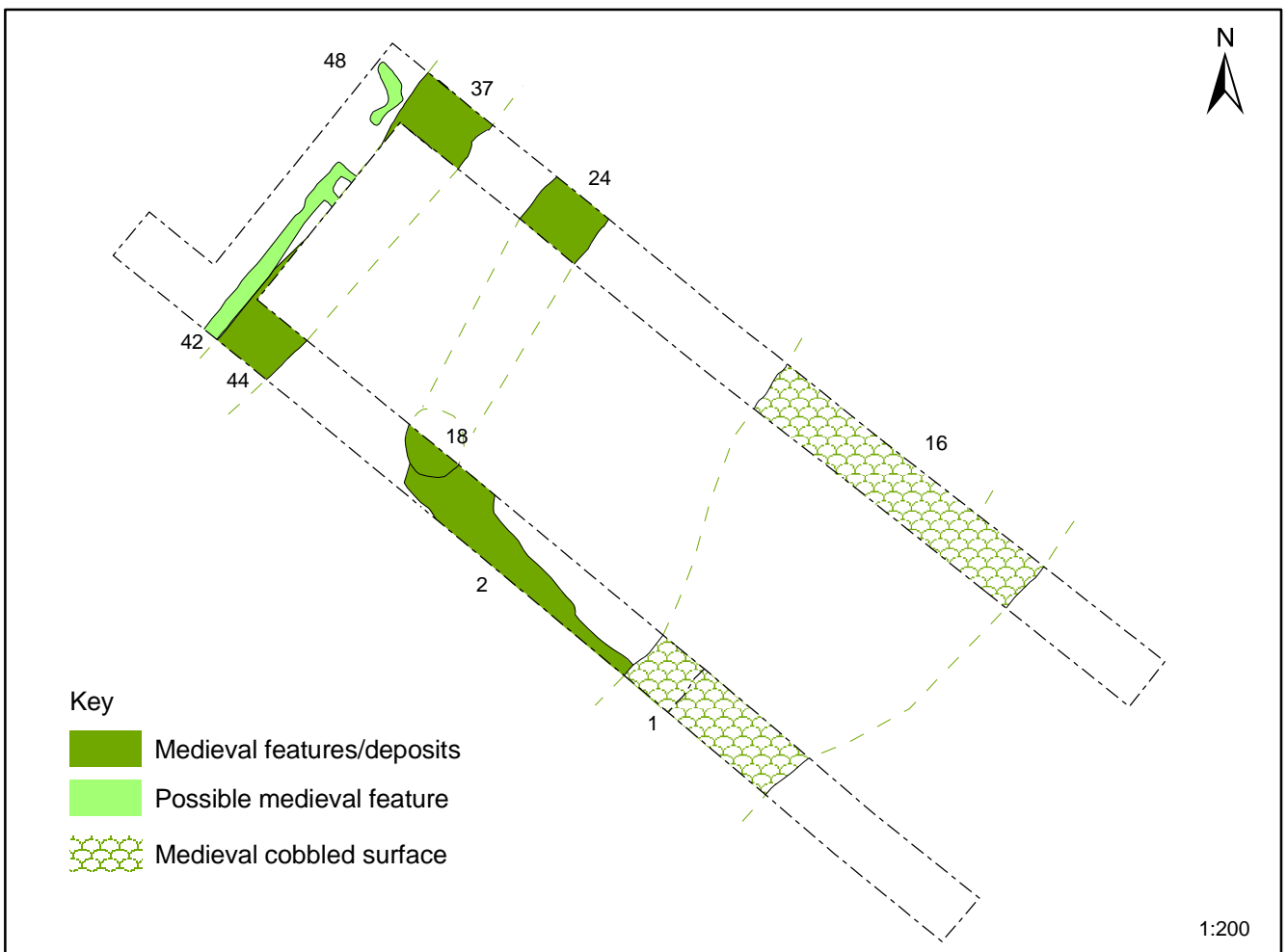


Fig.5. Medieval phase plan



Plate 1. Roman ditch 4



Plate 2. Roman surface 12



Plate 3. Medieval pit 18 under excavation



Plate 4. Medieval ditch 37 under excavation