HERITAGE NETWORK

Land at WEAVERHEAD LANE Thaxted, Essex

TX8 (HN302, HN314)

Archaeological Assessment Report

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THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land off
WEAVERHEAD LANE
Thaxted, Essex

TX8
(HN302, HN314)

Archaeological Assessment Report

Prepared on behalf of Claydens of Saffron Walden Ltd and Thaxted Builders

by

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with contributions by

Alison Turner-Rugg, Quita Mould, James Rackham and Damian Goodburn

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The cover photograph shows a view of the site from Weaverhead Lane, prior to the demolition of the existing buildings

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Karin Semmelmann, Geoff Saunders, Paul Palmer, and Chris Turner under the direction of David Hillelson. Specialist reports were prepared by Alison Turner-Rugg (medieval pottery), Quita Mould (leather), James Rackham (environmental) and Damian Goodburn (wood). The report was compiled by Karin Semmelmann, Helen Ashworth, Chris Turner, and Hannah Firth. The illustrations were prepared by Karin Semmelmann. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land off Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted, Essex		
County:	Essex	**District:**	Uttlesford
Village/town:	Thaxted	**Parish:**	Thaxted
Planning reference:	UTT/0907/00 UTT/0989/00	**NGR:**	TL6123 3101
Client name and address:	Peter Clayden, Claydens of Saffron Walden, The Haven , London Rd., Newport, Saffron Walden, CB11 3PP (Areas 1 & 2) Robert Johnson, Thaxted Builders, Hunts Farm, Bardfield Rd, Shalford, Braintree, CM7 5HX (Areas 3 & 4)		
Nature of work:	New development	**Previous use:**	Factory
Size of affected area:	500m^2	**Size of area investigated:**	500m^2
Site Code:	TX8	**Other reference:**	HN302/HN314
Organisation:	Heritage Network	**Site Director:**	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Evaluation	**Finds location/Museum:**	Saffron Walden Mus.
Start of work	24/07/01	**Finish of work**	29/01/02
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	**Periods represented:**	M, P/M & Modern
Previous summaries/reports:	Germany & Wade (1998); SMR summary, 31st August 2001		

Summary of fieldwork results:

As the result of archaeological conditions on the planning permissions for new developments on land off Weaverhead Lane (to the rear of 30-32 & 34 Town Street) Thaxted, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake an archaeological evaluation for the site.

Four areas were investigated. The first phase (Area 2) covered the area of a proposed garage block and car port in the south-western corner of the site to the rear of 30-32 Town Street. Approximately 60m^2 was opended up initially, but this area was reduced after preliminary investigation, to approximately 39m^2. A number of post-medieval and medieval features and deposits were recorded, including a number of pits, a former garden path and levelling deposits.

The second phase (Area 1) encompassed the building footprint along the street frontage plus a 2m margin on the western side. It measured approximately 360m^2. A number of late medieval features with well-preserved artefacts were excavated. These included a cess-pit and a large ditch close to the street frontage. The environmental and artefactual analyses provided further evidence for the cutlery industry in Thaxted, indicating that blade manufacture occurred in close proximity to handle production on or near the present site. The investigation of the post-medieval and modern features both in this area and in Area 2 suggests that the site was converted to a residential garden after the decline of the cutlery industry, before being used for manufacturing purposes again in the 20th century.

The third phase (Area 3), lay in the plot of land to the rear of 34 Town Street. This area was fully recorded but not excavated as it was agreed that it should be preserved in situ beneath the driveway. Recorded features included a former boundary wall running east-west as well as a square posthole and a number of pits.

The fourth phase (Area 4) was also located to the rear of 34 Town Street and overlapped with the eastern edge of area 3. This area covered a further proposed garage block and measured 42m^2. Nine features were identified in this small area, including: two pits, a ditch, a possible quarry, two post holes, a wall foundation and two linear features. The features in this area all date to the post medieval period or later.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Claydens of Saffron Walden Ltd,* and *Thaxted Builders* as the assessment stage for two stages of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of development works in Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted, Essex. The investigations were defined in an *Archaeological Brief* prepared by the *Heritage Management, Advice and Promotion Group* (HAMP) of Essex County Council, acting as advisers to the local planning authority, Uttlesford District Council (UDC) (planning refs. UTT/0907/00 and UTT/0989/00) The work followed a *Project Design* prepared by the Heritage Network in June 2001 and approved by HAMP.

1.2 The development works involved the construction of four new dwellings on the street frontage, and two garage blocks and a car port, together with a paved driveway, at the rear of the site. The plot to the rear of 30-32 Town Street was formerly occupied by a small factory and outbuildings, whilst the plot to the rear of 34 Town Street was derelict.

1.3 On the basis of the known archaeological evidence from the vicinity of the present site, HAMP advised that archaeological excavation should be undertaken in advance of groundworks, in order to preserve by record any archaeological features and deposits which would otherwise have been destroyed. In particular, the investigation had the aim to seek further evidence on:

- the nature and extent of the earliest and subsequent settlement in this part of Thaxted;
- the presence and extent of the late medieval cutlery manufacture;
- the nature, range and origins of objects in use on the site.

1.4 The aim of the project has been to investigate and record all archaeological features and deposits on the site before the start of the development programme. The present document presents, and reviews the of the data gathered, so as to allow the planning authority to consider its potential and the nature of any future programme of analysis, leading to publication.

1.5 In accordance with the requirements set out in English Heritage's document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2, 1991), the present document reviews the data gathered in the course of the fieldwork programme, and assesses its quality, character and significance. On the basis of this assessment, an updated research design has been prepared which is intended to provide a framework for an appropriate programme of post-excavation research leading to publication.

2 General Background

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 The site lies at the core of the medieval town of Thaxted which was a centre for cutlery manufacture during the fourteenth century. A number of excavations have taken place in the vicinity of the site in recent years, which have uncovered medieval and post-medieval features and artefacts. A small excavation on the frontage of the plot to the north of the present site, undertaken in 1977 by Essex County Council, revealed two ditches, two post-holes and a cesspit with finds ranging in date from the 13th to the 16th centuries.

2.2 In the course of the present project, four excavation areas were investigated on the west side of Weaverhead Lane, centred on grid reference TL 6123 3101 (Fig.1). Area 1 lay in the eastern half of the land to the rear of 30-32 Town Street and measured approximately 360m^2; Area 2 lay immediately west of Area 1 and measured approximately 60m^2; and Areas 3 and 4 lay to the rear of 34 Town Street and measured approximately 38m^2, and 42m^2 respectively.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.3 As the history of Thaxted is otherwise well documented, this report will focus on the medieval period, when the local cutlery manufacture flourished.

2.4 The present site lies between Town Street, the main street running through Thaxted, and Weaverhead Lane, which marked the boundary to the open field known as Ashfield in the medieval period. The medieval burgage plots are still evident on modern maps, but the date of the sub-division of the land behind 31-32 Town Street remains to be clarified. A workshop for Land Rovers, and other military vehicles, stood on the site prior to the construction of the spring factory that was demolished to make way for the present development.

2.5 Although the documentary evidence for the presence of cutlers in the town prior to the late 14th century is scarce, it has been postulated that the manufacture of cutlery began during the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) (Symonds 1889:257). A male population of 250 was recorded in the Poll Tax Return of 1381, of these 78 were described as cutlers (Ramsay 1991:xxviii). The industry also provided employment for merchants, sheathers and smiths, suggesting that over a third of the male population was involved in the trade in one form or another (Newton 1960:20). By the late fourteenth century the industry had become successful enough for the cutlers to form a guild and gain, along with other inhabitants, a number of privileges which removed them from many of the feudal and seigneurial obligations of medieval society.

2.6 Until now it has not been clear whether the blades were imported ready-made, possibly from London, or manufactured locally, as the presence of forges discovered in Cutlers Green in the nineteenth century suggests (cf. Symonds 1889:258). The bone used in making the handles may have been derived from local sources, or imported from elsewhere.

Documentary sources, for example, indicate that Welsh cattle were being sent to East Anglia in the 13th century (Noddle 1975:250).

2.7 The general economic decline of the later middle ages is also evident in the demise of the cutlery industry in Thaxted. By the mid sixteenth century, recession had left Thaxted *"in great ruin and decay"*, according to a Royal Charter of 1556 (Symonds 1889:258). The name Weaverhead Lane reflects the attempt to restore the economic balance under Elizabeth I, when clothiers and weavers were introduced to the town.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.8 Archaeological excavations have been undertaken on three other sites in the immediate vicinity of the present site. In 1997 Essex County Council excavated land at 34 Weaverhead Lane, to the north of the current study area (Germany & Wade, 1997). A number of features were revealed, including two parallel ditches, which may relate to the large ditch [1091] exposed during the present investigations.

2.9 Excavations in 1984 at the northern end of Weaverhead Lane revealed the traces of a structure and a large pit (Andrews 1989). A large number of worked bone offcuts and reject pieces were recovered, mainly from the manufacture of scale tang handles, providing a comparable assemblage to that from the present site.

2.10 Investigations to the rear of 23 Town Street revealed a number of features of medieval and post-medieval date (Medlycott 1996). Aretefacts recovered from the site included 16 pieces of bone working waste.

3 Methods Statement

EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 The present site was investigated in four stages (Fig.2). All areas of excavation focused on areas of construction where preservation in situ of archaeological remains was not considered viable.

- Area 1 encompassed the footprints of the three proposed dwellings along the street frontage, with a 2m margin on the western side, and measured approximately 360m^2.
- Area 2 covered the area of the proposed garage block and car port in the south-western corner of the rear of 30-32 Town Street. This area initally measured approximately 60m^2, but was reduced after initial investigation, to the southern part measuring approximately 40m^2.
- Area 3 lay at the western end of the plot of land to the rear of 34 Town Street. This area was fully recorded in plan but was not excavated as it was to form part of the proposed driveway .
- Area 4 was also located to the rear of 34 Town Street and overlapped with the eastern edge of area 3. This area covered another proposed garage block and measured 42m^2.

3.2 The overburden in each area was removed, under close archaeological supervision, by a JCB fitted with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket. Each area was then trowelled to provide a clean surface, photographed, and drawn at an appropriate scale, using an established grid which was related to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

3.3 Features were then systematically excavated by hand and recorded, using appropriate *pro forma* record sheets, scaled plans and photographs, in accordance with the local planning authority's Archaeological Brief and the Heritage Network's approved Project Design. In addition, where there was no indication of archaeological features, the ground was scanned with a metal detector.

3.4 Area 1 was subdivided into seven parts during excavation, labeled 1A to 1G. This was partly because of the presence of the foundation walls for the former factory, and partly to make work easier under variable weather conditions. Areas 1E, 1F and 1G have been consolidated in the post-excavation process.

POST-EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

3.5 Following current professional practice, the post-excavation phases of the present project have been divided between the Archive and Assessment stages and Post-excavation analysis and Publication stages.

Archive

3.6 Following the completion of the fieldwork, the site archive, comprising the excavation records and materials recovered have been quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. A Harris Matrix has been compiled (Figs.7 & 8), together with an overall site summary, and a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

3.7 The archaeological records for all areas have been amalgamated and the archive will be prepared for deposition at Saffron Walden Museum.

Artefacts

3.8 Where appropriate bulk finds, such as pottery and ceramic building material, have been carefully washed in clean water to remove the soil. All pottery has been marked with the site code and context number. Where washing has not been appropriare, such as with the daub, they have been allowed to dry naturally, before being carefully brushed with a soft dry brush to remove as much soil as possible.

3.9 A total of twenty eight individual leather items were recovered from seven stratified contexts. On advice from the specialist they were carefully washed under clean running water, wrapped in impervious black plastic whilst wet and kept refrigerated in airtight containers. They were submitted to Quita Mould for analysis and have subsequently been freeze-dried at the Museum of London laboratories.

3.10 The metalwork from the site includes iron knife blades, iron nails and copper alloy fragments. They have been submitted to a conservation laboratory for x-raying and conservation as appropriate.

Ecofacts

3.11 A total of twenty three bulk soil samples were collected. These included a number of waterlogged samples which have been submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy (EAC) for analysis without prior washing. The remainder were washed in a flotation tank, using a 0.5mm mesh. The resulting flots and residues were submitted to the EAC for analysis.

3.12 Over one thousand pieces of animal bone, weighing approximately 19504g were collected from 47 stratified and 7 unstratified contexts. These were washed and dried and submitted to the EAC for analysis.

3.13 Almost five hundred pieces of marine shell, weighing 3354g, were collected from all excavation areas. These have been submitted to the EAC for analysis.

3.14 A total of thirty-one pieces of wood were collected from eleven stratified contexts. On advice from the specialist, they were carefully wrapped, excluding as much air as possible, and kept out of the light. They were submitted to Damian Goodburn for analysis.

4 Collected Data

QUANTIFICATION

Documentary Archive

4.1 The documentary archive incorporates the written, drawn and photographic records for the four stages of excavation on the present site. The various elements of the documentary archive are quantified in Table 1, below:

Table 1

Record type	Items
Context records (Area 1)	88
Context records (Area 2)	34
Context records (Area 3)	16
Context records (Area 4)	21
Bulk soil sample sheets	23
Registered finds sheets	64
Matrices	4
Plans A2 (1:50)	3
Plans A3 (1:50)	1
Plans A3 (1:20)	3
Plans A4 (1:10)	11
Plans A4 (1:20)	3
Sketch plans (nts)	12
Level record sheets	13
Sections A2 (1:20)	3
Sections A3 (1:20)	1
Sections A3 (1:10)	5
Sections A4 (1:10)	19
Black & white photographs	70
Colour transparencies	55

Material Archive

4.2 The material archive incorporates the artefacts, faunal remains and environmental samples collected during the four stages of excavation on the present site, including both stratified and unstratified material. The various elements of the material archive are quantified in Table 2, below:

Table 2		
Type	**Number**	**Weight (g)**
Pottery	390	5713
Tile	1090	49490
Brick	100	18275
CBM/Daub	19	695
Animal bone	1026	19504
Shell	493	3354
Slag	9	155
Stone	17	1130
Iron objects	25	455
Copper alloy objects	37	n/a
Glass	34	310
Mortar	12	144
Clay pipe	9	36
Coal/clinker		
Leather	27	n/a
Wood	31	n/a
Samples	23	c.355 litres

STRATIGRAPHY AND SITE PHASING

Context types

4.3 A total of 162 contexts were recorded from 91 features investigated during the present project. Area 1 accounted for 60.5% of all recorded contexts, 21% were recorded in Area 2, and Areas 3 and 4 produced 5.5% and 13% respectively. The distribution of contexts by Area and Type is demonstrated in Table 3, below:

Table 3					
Feature	**Area 1**	**Area 2**	**Area 3**	**Area 4**	**Total**
Layers	8	12	0	2	22
Deposits	3	2	0	0	5
Ditches	1	0	0	1	4
Other linears	2	0	0	1	3
Pits	8	3	0	2	13
Post holes	6	0	0	2	8
Structures	7	1	1	2	11
Other features	12	6	7	0	25
Total	47	24	8	10	89

Context groups

4.5 Three context groups were identified during post-excavation analysis. The first two represent the grouping of multiple sections across the same feature and the third unites the elements of the sunken barrel feature excavated in Area 1. These groups are shown in Table 4, below:

Table 4			
Group Number	**Feature Type**	**Area**	**Phase**
1087	Linear	1	?Medieval
1091	Ditch	1	Medieval
1092	Barrel feature	1	Post medieval

Phasing

4.6 The preliminary dating of artefacts collected within the defined features from the four excavated areas across the present site has allowed three broad phases of activity to be defined (Figs.7 & 8). These include the medieval period (11th-15th centuries), the post-medieval period (16th-19th centuries) and modern (20th century). The distribution of features by phase is shown in Table 5, below:

Table 5				
Feature	**Medieval**	**Post medieval**	**Modern**	**Unknown**
Layers	0	0	0	22
Deposits	0	0	0	5
Ditches	1	1	0	0
Other linears	2	0	0	1
Pits	8	4	1	0
Postholes	0	0	5	3
Structures	0	1	7	3
Other features	0	1	1	23
Total	11	7	14	57

SITE NARRATIVE

Area 1

4.7 Evidence for the previous uses of the site, as a former spring factory and vehicle repair shop, was recovered from Area 1 (Fig.3). This included two sumps, contexts [1095] & [1096], a brick pillar base [1097], a brick-lined void [1094], a large contaminated area and the remains of some brick-built walls. Modern service trenches were also observed running east to west across the southern half and north-east to south-west in area 1C. An access point, and its construction trench, [1005], was identified to the south. Immediately south-west of this was a large feature, [1091], which measured 5.9m in width and 1.19m in depth. This has been interpreted as a probable ditch, running on a north - south alignment. As the lower fills were waterlogged, the ditch produced some very well preserved organic artefacts including worked and unworked bone, wood pieces, two leather shoes as well as some copper alloy fragments. Of comparable date and artefact assemblage was the sub-circular cess pit [1021], which lay to the north of the manhole.

4.8 A sub-rectangular pit [1029] to the west of this also revealed some copper alloy strips. In addition, there was a 3cm thick layer of mussel and oyster shells at its base. When seen in section, this feature seems to have consisted of a pit with a posthole at its western end. This was, however, not evident during the excavation; the fill was homogenous. If this was one cut, its unusual shape may indicate a specific function for the pit that is not readily discernible.

4.9 Between the pit [1029] and the ditch [1091] lay a shallow, sub-rectangular pit [1032], a rectangular post hole [1034] and a rectangular pit [1037]. The primary fill of the latter consisted of sand, which was also the case for the wall foundation trench [1002], which lay to the south-east of it. This may indicate that they were structurally and/or chronologically associated. To the west of [1037] was the remains of another brick wall [1098] running north to south.

4.10 To the east of the wall [1098], adjacent to the north-west corner of the ditch [1091] was a shallow deposit [1067] which may have been an attempt to level the ground.

4.11 In the south-west corner of Area 1 was a stave barrel sunk into a pit which appeared rectangular in plan and had a wooden surroun, contexts [1065] & [1063] respectively (group number [1092]). This was not excavated to the bottom as it constantly filled with water and was not due to be destroyed by the building programme. The presence of a clay pipe fragment suggested a post-medieval date, as did the state of preservation of the barrel staves and the pottery fragments.

4.12 The central section of Area 1, which had formerly been an open yard contained the contaminated area, the brick pillar base [1097], one of the concrete sumps and a modern pit [1039].

4.13 To the north of the contaminated area was another large pit [1062], measuring 3.1m in length and 0.75m in depth. Within the fill of the pit were two further cuts, contexts [1059] & [1090]. The former contained a high amount of burnt material which may indicate its use in an industrial capacity. The latter appeared to be a tertiary cut within the group, despite the fact that it contained the same type of fill as [1059].

4.14 Immediately to the west of this pit [1062] was a modern cut [1049], which was both shallow and irregularly shaped, giving the appearance of a garden feature.

4.15 Context [1050], which lay to the north of the [1049] proved to be a shallow deposit of a maximum of 0.02m depth.

4.16 The northern end of the area consisted of a linear feature, [1087], which was though to represent a boundary feature, such as a section of walling. At the western end of this was a tree bole [1024], beyond which a series of three regularly spaced, modern features extended westwards (contexts [1041], [1046], & [1044]). Whilst these could represent a continuation of the boundary feature in the form of planting holes for trees, cut [1044] extended beneath the western trench edge and its true dimensions, and thus its possible function, could not be established.

4.17 Area 1D, which lay south of the linear feature [1087] consisted of very clean, minimally disturbed subsoil, possibly as a result of having lain beneath a building shown on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map. In the north-west corner of the area was a concrete sump [1095]), south of which lay two postholes, [1055] & [1057]. A third, potential posthole [1058]) proved to be drift deposit gathered around a large piece of building material. Similarly, feature [1023] also failed to resolve itself into a posthole, being merely a shallow deposit.

Area 2

4.18 Area 2 was flanked to the north and the south by brick walls (Fig.4). A brick-lined well [2025] lay at the eastern edge and a crescent-shaped area of red brick staining [2026], which was considered to be the remains of a garden planter, in the north-east corner.

4.19 The area to the west of these features was not excavated as they were not under threat of destruction. It appeared, however, that another well may have present here [2030]. To the south of this lay a potential pit [2028], a possible post-hole [2027] and a feature which extended beneath the northern trench edge [2029].

4.20 Although four potential features [2002], [2005], [2033] & [2034]) proved to be residual deposits, a medieval rubbish pit [2013] with clearly defined tip lines was discovered in the western end of the area.

4.21 Two sondages were dug at either side of the southern end of the area, which showed that an attempt had been made to level the ground which was sloping to the south. A garden path [2023], running east to west, was evident in both sondages, as was a similarly orientated layer of probable foundation deposit for a boundary wall. In addition, two pits [2019] & [2022] were identified in the eastern sondage.

Area 3

4.22 As Area 3 was not excavated (Fig.5), it is not possible to determine with any certainty some of the features that were present. The area was bounded to the south by a wall [3005], the construction trench of which [3006] made a 90° turn to the north.

4.23 Two potential pits [3001] & [3004] lay to the north of the wall, the northern most one of which appeared to have been cut by a possible post hole [3002] and a potential linear feature [3003].

4.24 The north-west part of Area 3 contained either one large potential pit or two adjacent features [3007] & [3008].

Area 4

4.25 Area 4 lay at the northern limit of the site, immediately adjacent to Area 3 to the west (Fig.6). This area was situated in what was the land to the rear of 34 Town Street.

4.26 This area measured 5.25m x 7.40m, and overlapped area 3 by c.1m. The topology of the ground followed the natural slope of the hill down to the south, falling from c.86.76m to 86m OD.

4.27 The stratigraphy consisted of a dark silty clay overburden c.0.30m thick, overlying the natural clay.

4.28 Nine features were identified in this small area: 2 pits, 1 ditch, 1 possible quarry, 2 post holes, 1 wall foundation and 2 linear features.

4.29 Apart from some residual medieval pottery in linear feature [3016], the features in this area all date to post medieval period or later.

4.30 The earliest of the two pits was [3022], this feature had steep sides and flat base with four fills, the primary clay silt fill (3023) indicates that this pit dates to the 16th -17th century. Fragments of animal bone was recovered from all of the fills. It has remained in use until the 17th -18th century, where it was truncated by pit [3027].

4.31 Pit [3027], appears to have been backfilled quickly after it was excavated. Fragments of cattle bone was recovered from the single fill (3028) of this feature, but there was no direct dating evidence. However, stratigraphic evidence indicates that this feature is 17th - 18th Century in date as ditch [3029] cuts this feature.

4.32 Cutting through the southern edge of pit [3027] was ditch [3029]. This 'U' shaped feature, orientated broadly east- west, measured 0.80m in depth and 1.12m in width. This feature extended into Area 3 to the west and joined onto [3006], but was truncated by feature [3020]. The primary silty clay fill contained dating evidence from the 17th -18th century.

4.33 The base foundation for a wall [3021], measuring 0.30m wide and 0.18m deep was cut into the top fill of ditch [3029]. This part of the wall was constructed from reddish brown brick, laid in a rectangular foundation cut. Only the lower crushed brick course survives. This wall on an east-west orientation formed the plot boundary between 34 and 32 Town Street and was demolished during the development of this site.

4.34 The area was dominated by a large possible quarry pit [3020] in the centre of the area. This feature measured 3m in length, 2.60m in width and 0.60m in depth. This feature was backfilled with redeposited reddish brown clay and post medieval CBM. The quarry post-dated the pits [3022], [3027] and ditch [3029], in turn a linear feature [3016] cut across this feature.

4.35 Along the northern limit of the site was two rectangular post holes [3014] and [3012]. Both of these features were similar in size c. 0.30m in width and length and 0.07m in depth. These post holes are aligned along the east -west boundary 2m apart. They are modern in date and may represent a temporary structure adjacent to the boundary wall.

4.36 A shallow undated linear feature [3017], was orientated NW-SE and measured 0.75m in length and 0.18m in width. This feature only survived for a depth of 0.02m, and its single fill contained a high amount of modern brick fragments, indicating this was either the remains of a wall or a garden feature.

4.37 Another linear feature [3016], was orientated NE-SW. This feature clearly cut across feature [3020] and was truncated by the boundary wall [3021]. This feature measured 0.67m in width, and butt-ended after 2.5m. The maximum depth of this feature was 0.13m in depth.

A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the northern butt end of this feature, the stratigraphic relationship suggests that this is redeposited. The function of this feature is unclear; it may be a modern garden feature, but a similar feature from excavations at the junction of Margaret Street and Weaverhead Lane, to the north was interpreted as part of a structure (Andrews 1990:110).

4.38 Although material indicative of bone working was recovered from some of the features, the features encountered in this area represent pits from the 16th - 18th centuries and disturbed by later modern features. No features were directly dated to the medieval period.

5 Artefact Assemblages

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Alison Turner-Rugg

Introduction

5.1 A small collection of pottery from Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted was examined, in total 357 sherds from stratified contexts and 34 unstratified sherds. Most of the material was fragmentary and probably residual. With the exception of 2 Roman sherds and 3 earlier medieval sherds, the collection ranges in date from the later medieval to modern times.

Fabric and Vessel Forms

5.2 Sandy Orange ware (Fabric 21)

Originally published by Cunningham (1982) at Colchester Castle, and at Thaxted by Walker (1996 and 1998). This is a hard orange sand-tempered ware which may have white slip-painted decoration and partial clear splash-glaze. It was produced, probably locally, over a long time period, 13th to the 16th centuries. It is commonest in the later medieval. The lid-seated rims and cauldron forms found here would agree with a later medieval date, probably 14th-15th century.

1	TX8 1075 [3008]	Jug rim edge sherd, white slip on lower part. Badly corroded surface. Sandy orange ware with grey core, slightly coarser fabric. Diameter unmeasurable.
2	TX8 1010 [1091]	Jug rim edge/upper handle sherd, sandy orange ware with grey core, specks of clear glaze externally. Internally badly corroded surface. Diameter 110mm
3	TX8 2010 [2019]	Jug or Cistern rim edge sherd, specks of clear glaze. Probably from same vessel are 2 body sherds from just below rim/upper body with external clear glaze and lines of white slip; one with only traces of splash glaze; 5 conjoining sherds from handle base/lower handle; 10 other body sherds with and without similar glaze. Sandy Orange ware. Diameter 160mm.
4	TX8 2010 [2019]	Jug/cistern/jar rim sherd and probably from same vessel are 4 body sherds with badly corroded surfaces, and only traces of glaze surviving). Sandy Orange ware. Diameter 190mm
5	TX8 1012 [1021]	Jug rim/upper handle sherd, smudges of white slip internally and externally, a few glaze specks externally. Burnt after breakage. Sandy orange ware without grey core but the burning appears to have reduced the surface in some places. Diameter 140mm.
6	TX8 1030 [1029]	Cauldron (?)rim edge sherd, lid-seated, clear lead glaze on upper surface of rim and extreme upper internal rim edge. Sandy orange ware without grey core. Almost identical to 7. but not same vessel. Diameter unmeasurable.
7	TX8 2018 [2013]	Cauldron (?) with lid-seated rim+upper body/handle. Sandy orange ware without grey core, unglazed except for upper surface of rim and extreme upper internal rim edge. No traces of slip nor sooting. Diameter unmeasurable.
8	TX8 1012 [1021]	Bowl rim sherd, traces of clear splash-glaze internally and on external rim. Sooted externally. Sandy Orange ware, no grey core. Diameter 330mm.
26	TX8 1010 [1091]	?Jug rim edge sherd. Orange sandy ware without grey core. Probably jug because of external white slip and clear splash glaze. Diameter unmeasurable.

5.4 Cambridge Sgraffito Ware

This is very similar to Fabric 21, but has incised sgraffitto decoration through the slip to reveal the colour of the pot beneath. The clear glaze can have green (copper) specks. It is thought to have been made in Cambridgeshire, and possibly other areas, during the 14th and early 15th centuries (Bushnell and Hurst 1952, 26).

9	TX8 1012 [1021]	Jug rim+neck sherd and 4 body sherds probably from same vessel, sandy orange fabric, without grey core, patches of white slip externally and over internal rim/neck, clear lead glaze, sgrafitto patterns through slip areas. Diameter 100mm
10	TX8 1009 [1091]	Jar/Cistern(?) rim edge sherd, White slip externally and internally, specks of clear glaze, horizontal wavy line sgraffito pattern below rim. Sandy orange fabric, without grey core. Diameter 180mm.

5.6 Dull orange fine sandy ware

A hard thinwalled fine sandy ware, dull reddish/orange in colour, sometimes with grey core. These rim forms suggest a later medieval date.

11	TX8 1010 [1091]	Jug rim+neck sherd, diameter 120-140mm. No glaze, slight sooting externally. Dull reddish/orange sandy ware, without grey core
12	TX8 1011 [1091]	Lidseated jar (2 conjoining sherds), dull reddish/orange sandy ware, with grey core and specks of clear glaze externally. Reduced patch externally. Diameter 140mm
13	TX8 2004 [2013]	Lidseated rim from small vessel (?jug) in dull reddish/orange sandy ware, without grey core. Diameter 150mm

5.7 Dull orange coarse sandy ware

14	TX8 1014 [1091]	Jar rim sherd, lidseated, dull orange coarse sandy ware without grey core. No trace of sooting or glaze. Diameter 300mm.
15	TX8 2002	Jar rim sherd, coarse sandy ware with dull orange surfaces, bright orange margins, blue-grey core. No glaze or sooting. Diameter unmeasurable.

5.8 Medieval Unglazed Sandy Reduced ware (1)

These unglazed reduced wares are also probably later medieval i.e. 14th/15th centuries, based on the presence of cauldron/handled jar forms and the fine texture. Number 22 may be earlier on the basis of both shape and decoration.

16	TX8 1006[1005]	Jar rim sherd, sandy reduced ware without oxidised core. Diameter 160-180mm. No sooting.
17	TX8 1010 [1091]	Handled jar/cauldron rim (2 conjoining sherds), sandy reduced ware with oxidised core. One sherd has a handle scar. No sooting traces. Diameter 270mm
18	TX8 1080 [1091]	Jar rim (2 conjoining sherds), sandy reduced ware without oxidised core. Very similar to no. 17. No trace of sooting. Diameter 260mm. Also, probably from the same vessel, one body sherd with vertical, stamped, applied band decoration.

19	TX8 2012	Jar rim sherd, sandy reduced ware; reduced surfaces and core, oxidised margins. Diameter 220mm
20	TX8 2018[2013]	Jar rim edge sherd, sandy reduced ware with oxidised core. No sooting traces. Diameter 210mm
21	TX8 u/s	Jar rim edge sherd, sandy reduced ware with oxidised core. Sooting traces on internal rim edge. Diameter 220mm.
22	TX8 2005	Broken edge of T-shaped rim, too small to classify form. Incised wavy line decoration on upper rim edge. Sandy reduced ware with oxidised core. No sooting traces. Diameter unmeasurable. This sherd could be earlier medieval.

5.9 Medieval Unglazed Sandy Reduced ware (2)

23	TX8 1030 [1029]	Jug rim+upper handle sherd, sandy reduced ware without oxidised core. Diameter140mm. This has different range of inclusions. CF

5.10 South Herts Greyware

This is usually dated to the late 12th/13th century by reference to the London sequence i.e. apparently slightly earlier than the majority of the rest of the medieval pottery.

24	TX8 1014[1091]	Jar rim sherd, no sooting. Diameter 260mm.
25	TX8 1014[1091]	Jar rim sherd, lidseated rim, no sooting. Diameter unmeasurable.

5.11 Medieval Coarse Sandy (burnt)

27	TX8 1079 [1091]	Rim+upper body of bowl , coarse sandy fabric. Pattern of oxidation/reduction difficult to see because of burning. Internal opaque yellow splash glaze. Diameter unmeasurable.

Recommendations

5.12 Given the small size of the assemblage and the fact that the majority of sherds were fragmentary and probably residual, no further analysis is proposed on this material.

Acknowledgements

I am extremely grateful to Helen Walker, of the Essex Archaeological Unit, for her time and assistance with the medieval wares. *AT-R*

LEATHER

Quita Mould

Introduction

5.13 Twenty eight individual leather items were recovered from seven stratified contexts, fills (1014) (1015) (1080) (1081) and (1088) in ditch [1091]; fill (1020) in pit [1021] and fill (1061) in pit [1062]. The assemblage comprises parts from at least eight separate shoes, a strap and a thonged bag.

5.14 The majority of the leather was recovered from ditch [1091]. The shoe remains from this feature suggest the deposition of cobbling waste. The shoes are principally of turnshoe construction, with some components indicating turn-welt construction, a developed form of turnshoe manufacture. The evidence from the shoe sizes and construction methods suggests they date to the mid fifteenth century.

5.15 A cess pit, cut [1021], contained components of a shoe of turnshoe construction (SF14) and fragments of a shoe vamp (SF 83) of possible welted construction. If this is proved to be the case following closer examination, then this may indicate a slightly later date.

5.16 Of particular interest are the remains of what appeared, on initial examination, to be a bag with decorative thonging (SF 50) in fill (1080). This object was folded and in a fragile state, and it was suggested that full examination be postponed until the item had been conserved.

5.17 A single heavily compacted scrap fragment, likely to have come from the seat of a shoe sole was found in pit [1062]

Methodology

5.18 The assessment of the leather was made following a rapid scan of the material. The leather had been carefully washed in clean water, and was wet when examined, having been stored under refrigeration.

5.19 Each item was examined manually and cleaned further where appropriate. Its dimensions were then recorded as far as possible.

5.20 The assemblage was then submitted for freeze-drying under the auspices of the conservator from Safron Walden Museum. This will enable the material to be studied and illustrated without further deterioration.

Assemblage Potential

5.21 The study of this material will aid site interpretation by providing independent dating evidence to complement those derived from the pottery and other materials. The leather is also able to give an insight into activities in the immediate vicinity, as the leather from ditch

[1091] appears to be waste from cobbling. This is the first group of leather to be recovered from Thaxted and is, therefore, of local interest. Further the receiving body, Saffron Walden Museum, has no other organic material from archaeological excavations within its collections and has expressed an interest in displaying selected items.

5.22 This particular group is also of wider interest. The archaeological record is dominated by large assemblages of medieval leather from urban contexts, material from a small town setting is less common. Publication of the data collected from the study of the Thaxted assemblage will add further to the information being gathered from smaller settlements and will eventually enable comparison to be made with assemblages from the large centres of population.

5.23 The Thaxted group is of fifteenth century date. At present leatherwork of this date is uncommon in the large urban assemblages, possibly due to the apparent change in rubbish disposal at that time. Should the leather bearing contexts be closely dateable the assemblage will have added significance.

5.24 One object (SF50), tentatively identified as a bag with decorative thonging, is an unusual find, of interest to both those studying archaeological leatherwork and medieval costume.

Recommendations

5.25 All the leather items should be fully recorded by written, drawn and photographic methods as appropriate, and details entered on a database. The leather species should be identified using low powered magnification.

5.26 The potential bag (SF50), should be subject to further study to describe and identify it, and locate comparable material.

5.27 A summary of the assemblage, accompanied by catalogue descriptions of those items requiring illustration, will be provided for publication.

TILE

5.28 A total of 1090 fragments of ceramic roofing tile, weighing 49490g, was recovered from all excavated areas. They ranged from small sherds to almost complete peg tiles.

5.29 The assemblage predominantly comprises hand-made peg tile of post-medieval date, probably 17th/18th century. The peg tile is mostly reddish brown on the exterior, with some some examples having a dark grey core. The fabric is coarse and heavily sand-tempered. The thickness of the individual tiles varies very little, most pieces measure between 12 to 16mm. A large number of the tiles show at least one peg hole and many of the pieces still have mortar adhering.

5.30 Very little of the tile could be definitely dated to the medieval period. No evidence of glazing has been noted. A single example from context (1009) may have traces of a small animal's footprints across the upper surface.

5.31 The largest group, representing 31.5% by number of the total assemblage, came from the fills of ditch [1091], contexts (1009), (1010), (1011), (1013, (1014), (1016), (1079), (1080), (1081) and (1084). Pottery from these contexts has been spot-dated to the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The relatively large size of the individual pieces and their generally unabraded state suggests that they may have been used in the deliberate backfilling of this feature and may have been collected from a nearby demolition site.

5.32 Further relatively large groups were recovered from the fills of pits [1021], [1029], [2013], [2019], [3022] and posthole [1034].

Recommendations

5.33 Post-medieval peg tile is common on urban sites and therefore no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

BRICK

5.34 A total of 123 fragments of brick, weighing 18,000g, was recovered from 23 stratified contexts and one unstratified context during the excavation. The largest quantity came from fill (1030) of refuse pit [1029], and layer (2002), which appears to have been deliberately deposited to raise the ground level at the southern end of the site, for which the brick would have provided a good ballast.

Recommendations

5.35 As most of this material appears to have been used as deliberate backfill and given that brick is a common find in this type of context, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

OTHER CBM/DAUB

5.36 A total of 287 fragments of other ceramic building materials and daub, weighing 1865g, was recovered during the excavation. The material came from twelve stratified contexts and one unstratified context.

Recommendations

5.37 In common with the other building materials recovered, the presence of these fragments is not unexpected, and no further work is therefore proposed on this assemblage.

MORTAR

5.38 A total of 410 fragments of mortar, weighing 715g, was recovered from 13stratified contexts on the present site. It was distributed across all the excavated areas, with the greatest quantities being recovered from fills (1012) and (1020) of the probable cess pit [1021], and several of the fills of ditch [1091]. As both these features produced large quantities of peg tile, the recovery of mortar is unremarkable.

Recommendations

5.39 No further work is proposed on this material.

CLAY PIPE

5.40 A total of 9 clay pipe stem fragments, weighing 36g, were recovered from all excavated areas. Only undiagnostic stem fragments were recovered, which are common finds on post-medieval sites.

Recommendations

5.41 No further work is proposed on this material.

IRON OBJECTS

5.42 A total of 131 iron objects and fragments, weighing 1690g, was recovered from 27 stratified contexts and one unstratified context on the site. These are listed in Table 6, below. Sixty two objects have been identified as complete or partial iron nails and tacks. A number of contexts also produced small unidentifiable fragments, these have been quantified, but are not included in Table 6.

Table 6:Iron Objects

Context	Details	Date
1004	nail; 54mm in length, 13mm diameter, shank 4mm diameter at end; curved, corroded.	?Med/P-med
1004	nail; 55mm in length, 15mm diameter, shank 2mm diameter at end; slightly curved, corroded	?MedP-med

Table 6:Iron Objects		
Context	**Details**	**Date**
1006	nail shank; 41mm in length, 11mm diameter, tapering to 5mm, corroded	?Med/P-Med
1006	nail shank; 31mm in length, 7mm diameter, tapering to 4mm, corroded	?Med/P-med
1006	nail shank; 48mm in length, 6mm diameter, tapering to 1mm diameter, slightly curved, corroded	?Med/P-med
1006	?nail shank; 14mm in length, 5mm diameter, tapering to 2mm; curved towards end, corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	nail; 65mm in length, 19mm diameter, shank 6mm diameter at end, corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	?chisel fragment; 24mm in length, 8mm in width, 5mm in depth; broken at both ends, corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	strip; 32mm in length, 13mm in width, 6mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	?knife tip; 40mm in length, 16mm in width, 4mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	?knife tip; 28mm in length, 12mm in width, 5mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	rivetted strip, ?door fitting; 72mm in length, 37mm in width, 4mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	strip, ?knife blade fragment; 43mm in length, 17mm in width, tapering to 11mm , 2-3mm depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	?nail; 35mm in length, 13mm diameter, shank 6mm diamter at end, tip broken; heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1010	unidentified rectangular object, 62mm in length, 10mm diameter tapering to 4mm; possible nail shank, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1011	nail shank; 40mm length, 10mm diameter tapering to 4mm, corroded	?Med/P-med
1011	nail; 40mm in length, 14mm diameter, shank 5mm diameter at end, corroded	?Med/P-med
1011	unidentified fragment; 20mm in length, 10mm in width, 8mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1011	unidentified curved fragment; c 50mm in length, 10mm width at narrow end, 20mm at broader end; maximum depth 20mm, broken at narrow end, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1011	strip fragment; 12mm in length, 8mm in width, 2mm depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1011	strip fragment; 12mm in length, 10mm in width, 2mm in depth, broken at one end and curved at the other, corroded	?Med/P-med
1012	unidentified sub-circular fragment; 50mm in length, 35mm in width, 20mm in depth, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1012	unidentifed object, rectangular with rounded end; 40mm in length, width 6mm tapering to 3mm, corroded	?Med/P-med
1012	11 nail shanks; varying from 40mm to 24mm in length, 12mm to 7mm in diameter, all corroded	?Med/P-med
1012	nail; 28mm in length, 20mm diameter, shank 10mm diameter at end, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1012	nail; 43mm in length, 15mm in diameter, shank 5mm diameter at end, corroded	?Med/P-med

Table 6:Iron Objects		
Context	**Details**	**Date**
1012	unidentified rectagular object; rounded at both ends, 68mm in length, 12mm in width, 10mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1012	rivetted strip fragment; 45mm in length, 50mm in width, 5mm in depth, broken at one end, rounded at the other, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1012	?knife blade fragment; 50mm in length, 12mm in width, 5mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1012	3 strip fragments; between 52mm and 20mm in length, c 30mm in width, between 10mm and 15mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
1013	?folding knife; extended length c 121mm, 9mm in width, 3mm in depth narrowing to <1mm, ?brass rivett joining the two blades, off-centre tang at one end, corroded	?Med/P-med
1014	?nail shank; 28mm in length, 5mm diameter, corroded	?Med/P-med
1014	nail; 27mm in length, 14mm diameter, shank 4mm diameter at end, slightly curved, corroded	?Med/P-med
1020	nail; 30mm in length, 10mm diameter, shank 5mm diameter at end; head distorted	?P-med
1020	nail; 56mm in length, 14mm diameter, shank 3mm diameter at end, slightly curved	?P-med
1020	tack; 15mm in length, 8mm diameter, shank 2mm diameter at end; end bent	?P-med
1020	tack; 8mm in length, 5mm diameter, shank 2mm diameter at end, slightly curved, end bent	?P-med
1020	tack shank; 15mm in length, 1mm diameter, end slightly curved	?P-med
1028	nail; 37mm in length, 10mm in diameter, shank 2mm diameter at end, heavily corroded	?Med-P-med
1030	?arrowhead; 48mm in length, 20mm in width at socket end tapering to 5mm, 10mm in depth; socket diameter 9mm; heavily corroded	?
1030	nail; 49mm in length, 5mm diameter, shank 1mm diameter at end	?Med-P-med
1043	unidentified triangular object, 40mm in length, 30mm in width, 10mm in depth, corroded	?
1043	unidentified triangular object, 70mm in length, 30mm in width, 3mm in depth; underside curved, corroded	?
1047	nail; 60mm in length, 20mm diameter, shank 10mm diameter at end; end curved, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1047	nail; 35mm in length, 17mm diameter, shank 3mm diameter at end	?Med/P-med
1052	?nail shank; 35mm in length, 10mm diameter, corroded	?
1053	nail; 50mm in length, 14mm in diameter, shank 3mm diameter at end, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1053	nail shank; 53mm in length, 4mm diameter, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
1053	curved spike, 80mm in length, 8mm diameter, tapering to 2mm	?P-med
1054	?door lock; base plate roughly square 85mm in length and 70mm in width, broken on one side; total depth of object 24mm; ?locking mechanism rivetted to base plate, corroded	?P-med

Table 6:Iron Objects		
Context	**Details**	**Date**
1061	nail; 45mm in length, diameter 13mm, shank 3mm diameter at end	?Med/P-med
1061	nail; 38mm in length, diameter 11mm, shank 3mm diameter at end, slightly curved	?Med/P-med
1064	nail; 18mm in length, diameter 12mm, shank 5mm at end, corroded	?Med/P-med
1066	unidentified sub-circular object; 57mm in length, 110mm diameter, corroded	?
1066	unidentified curved object; 44mm in length, diameter 20mm tapering to 8mm, corroded	?
1066	nail; 45mm in length, diameter 13mm, shank diameter 3mm at end, corroded	?Med?P-med
1066	nail; 45mm in length, diameter 14mm, shank diameter 4mm at end, slightly curved towards the shank end, corroded	?Med/P-med
1066	nail; 53mm in length, diameter 12mm, shank diameter 3mm at end, shank end curved, corroded	?Med/P-med
1066	?staple; 61mm in length, width 10mm, tapering to 5mm, depth 4mm, corroded	?P-med
1066	unidentified curved object ?heavily corroded staple; 72mm in length, width 15mm, depth 13mm	?
1079	unidentified sub-circular object ; 115mm in length, diameter at widest point 220mm, narrowing to 155mm, heavily corroded	?
1080	unidentified sub-rounded object; 45mm in length, 18mm in width, 10mm in depth, slightly pointed towards one end, corroded	?
1080	?nail shank; 18mm in length, 5mm diameter, 2mm diameter at end, corroded	?Med/P-med
1080	unidentified rectangular object; 57mm in length, width in centre 5mm, tapering at both ends to 4mm and 2mm respectively, depth in centre 3mm, depth at ends 1mm	?
1084	4 ?buttons; diameters between 10mm and 12mm, depth 1mm,	?P-med
1084	staple; length 117mm, width 5mm, depth 4mm, one end broken, corroded	?P-med
1084	nail; 43mm in length, diameter 17mm, shank diameter 5mm at end	?Med/P-med
2004	nail; 50mm in length, diameter 10mm,	?Med/P-med
2004	nail; 44mm in length, diameter 6mm, shank diameter 4mm at end	?Med/P-med
2007	nail; 72mm in length, diameter 14mm, shank diameter 2mm at end, corroded	?Med/P-med
2007	nail; 35mm in length, 12mm diameter, shank 2mm diameter at end, corroded	?Med/P-med
2007	nail shank; 43mm in length, diameter 10mm, tapering to 2mm, corroded and in two peices	?Med/P-med
2007	nail; 30mm in length, diameter 10mm, shank diameter 2mm at end,	?Med/P-med
2010	nail; 45mm in length, diameter 17mm, shank diameter 4mm at end	?Med/P-med
2010	nail; 62mm in length, diameter 10mm, shank diameter 5mm at end	?Med/P-med
2010	nail; 55mm in length, diameter 13mm, shank diameter 3mm at end	?Med/P-med

Table 6:Iron Objects		
Context	**Details**	**Date**
2010	?nail/tack shank; 20mm in length, diameter 3mm tapering to 1mm	?Med/P-med
2011	hook; 40mm in length, 6mm diameter tapering to 2mm at curved end, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
3013	strip fragment; 25mm in length, 20mm in width, 6mm in depth, corroded	?Med/P-med
3013	nail; 34mm in length, 7mm diameter, shank 4mm diameter at end, corroded, slightly curved	?Med/P-med
3023	strip fragment; 45mm in length, 30mm in width, 1mm in depth, corroded, in two pieces	?Med/P-med
3023	nail; 41mm in length, diameter 11mm, shank diameter 10mm at end, corroded	?Med/P-med
3025	unidentified rectangular object; 78mm in length, diameter 4mm, corroded, one end curved to form a ?hook	?Med/P-med
3026	nail; 60mm in length, 16mm diameter, shank 10mm diameter at end, corroded, end curved	?Med/P-med
3026	nail; 28mm in length, 8mm diameter, shank 3mm diameter at end, corroded	?Med/P-med
3026	nail; 59mm in length, 18mm diameter, shank 3mm diameter at end, corroded, curved	?Med/P-med
3026	?nail shank; 49mm in length, diameter 10mm, tapering to 4mm, corroded	?Med/P-med
3026	?nail shank; 45mm in length, 15mm diameter, heavily corroded	?Med/P-med
U/S	key; 115mm in length, diameter 8mm tapering to 3mm, incomplete, corroded	?P-med

5.43 The presence of a large number of nails and tacks in this assemblage is unsuprising, given that they are commonly found on urban sites and that a number of probable house timbers have also been recovered from the current excavation.

5.44 The recovery of a number of broken knife blades from fill (1010) of ditch [1091], which also contained worked bone, supports the evidence for the cutlery trade on this site.

Recommendations

5.45 There are a number of objects within this assemblage that may warrant further study in order to ascertain their form, function and if possible date. These include the two fragments from fill (1011); the possible door fitting, rivetted strip fragment and unidentified object from fill (1012); the possible folding knife from fill (1013); the possible arrowhead from fill (1030); the two triangular objects from fill (1043); the spike from fill (1053); the possible door lock from fill (1054); and the unidentified objects from fills (1079) and (1080).

5.46 All the iron objects have been X-rayed and should Saffron Walden Museum wish to display any of the more interesting items conservation should be arranged.

5.47 No further work is proposed on the remainder of the material.

COPPER ALLOY OBJECTS

5.48 A total of 173 copper alloy objects and fragments, weighing 100g, was recovered from 16 stratified contexts and 3 unstratified contexts on the site, and are listed in Table 7, below. The small unidentifiable fragments have been quantified but are not included in Table 7.

Table 7:Copper alloy objects

Context	Details	Date
1010 <64>	strip; 53mm in length, 12mm in width, 1mm in depth, curved	?Med/P-med
1010 <64>	strip fragment; 34mm in length, 14mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1010 <64>	?pin fragment; 34mm in length, 1mm diameter	?Med/P-med
1010 <074>	strip fragment; 58mm in length, width 31mm at broadest point, <1mm in depth, twisted at one end	?Med/P-med
1010 <066>	strip fragment; 60mm in length, 13mm in width, <1mm in depth, slightly curved at one end	?Med/P-med
1010 <066>	strip fragment; 34mm in length, 12mm in width, 1mm in depth, broken at both ends	?Med/P-med
1010 <066>	?pin fragment; 47mm in length, 1mm diameter	?Med/P-med
1010 <8>	strip fragment; 37mm in length 13mm in width, <1mm in depth, slightly curved	?Med/P-med
1011 <011>	?strip fragment; 38mm in length, 24mm in length, <1mm in depth, slightly twisted at one end	?Med/P-med
1011	?pin fragment; 30mm in length, 1mm diameter	?Med/P-med
1011 <077>	strip fragment; 20mm in length, 17mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1011 <077>	strip; 92mm length, 22mm in width, 1mm in depth, rounded at both ends on one edge only and slightly curved	?Med/P-med
1012 <009>	unidentified triangular object; 30mm in length, 11mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1013 <068>	strip fragment; 53mm in length, 11mm in width, 1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1013 <069>	strip fragment; 19mm in length, 14mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1013 <069>	strip fragment; 67mm in length, 13mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1013 <069>	strip fragment; 58mm in length, 27mm maximum width, <1mm depth, hevaily corroded	?Med/P-med
1013	?strip fragment; 51mm in length, maximum width 21mm, depth <1mm; twisted	?Med/P-med
1013 <076>	strip fragment: 112mm in length, width 8mm tapering to 4mm, <1mm depth	?Med/P-med
1013 <076>	?wire fragment; 90mm in length, width 4mm tapering to 3mm, 1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1013 <076>	strip fragment; 27mm in length, 16mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1014	strip fragment; 29mm in length, 20mm in width, <1mm in depth, sligthly twisted	?Med/P-med
1014	strip fragment; 19mm in length, 15mm in width, tapering to 9mm, 1mm in depth, slightly curved	?Med/P-med

Table 7:Copper alloy objects		
Context	**Details**	**Date**
1014	unidentified triangular point; 28mm in length, 9mm in width, tapering to 1mm in width, curved, corroded	?Med/P-med
1015 <013>	pin; 76mm in length, diameter 1mm, pointed at one end, broken at the other	?Med/P-med
1016 <073>	strip fragment; 23mm in length, 11mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1016 <078>	strip fragment; 48mm in length, 56mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1020	curved pin fragment, with short length of copper wire; 30mm in length, 1mm diameter, one end pointed; wire twisted around object	?Med/P-med
1030	?pin fragment; 20mm in length, diameter 1mm, slightly twisted	?Med/P-med
1030 <25>	strip fragment; c 25mm in length, width 3mm tapering to 2mm, curved	?Med/P-med
1030 <20>	strip fragment; 24mm in length, width 17mm tapering to 14mm, depth 1mm	?Med/P-med
1030 <22>	coil; width 1mm, depth <1mm, both ends pointed	?Med/P-med
1030 <27>	strip fragment; 62mm in length, 13mm in width, <1mm depth, folded in half	?Med/P-med
1030 <27>	unidentified fragment; 42mm + in length, maximum width 33mm, depth <1mm, one end twisted over on itself	?Med/P-med
1030 <024>	strip fragment; 27mm in length, width 3mm tapering to 2mm, depth 1mm, broader end slightly curved	?Med/P-med
1031 <21>	strip fragment; 20mm in length, 10mm in width, 1mm in depth, slightly curved	?Med/P-med
1052	unidentified curved object; 25mm in length, 6mm in width, <1mm in depth, edges and ends curved upwards	?Med/P-med
1052	pin; 24mm in length, 1mm diameter, shaft diameter <1mm at end, bent	?Med/P-med
1060 <29>	strip fragment; 26mm in length, width 6mm tapering to 4mm, depth <1mm, one end rounded and slightly curved	?Med/P-med
1066 <045>	strip fragment; 18mm in length, 8mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1066	pin fragment; 20mm in length, 1mm diameter, tapering to <1mm, corroded	?Med/P-med
1066	pin; 17mm in length, 1mm diameter, shaft diameter <1mm at end, bent	?Med/P-med
1080	triangular strip fragment; 18mm in length, 10mm in width, tapering to 1mm in width, depth <1mm	?Med/P-med
1080 <056>	?wire; 380mm in length, diameter 1mm, one end pointed	?Med/P-med
1084	strip fragmrnt; 28mm in length, 22mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1084	strip fragment; 24mm in length, 12mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
1084	?pin fragment; 35mm in length, 1mm diameter	?Med/P-med
1084	strip fragment; 42mm in length, 13mm in width, <1mm in depth, strip curved round to form a tube	?Med/P-med
1088 <60>	?pin fragment; 34mm in length, 1mm diameter	?Med/P-med
1088 <60>	?pin fragment; 69mm in length, 1mm diameter, curved	?Med/P-med
2002 <001>	strip fragment; 58mm in length, 19mm in width, 1mm in depth, underside slightly curved	?Med/P-med

Table 7:Copper alloy objects		
Context	**Details**	**Date**
2004 <004>	?pin fragment; 35mm in length, 1mm diameter tapering to <1mm diameter at one end, slightly curved	?Med/P-med
2004<55>	strip fragment; 61mm in length, 4mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
2018 <072>	strip fragment; 20mm in length, 14mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
U/S <28>	strip fragment; 42mm in length, 26mm in width, 1mm in depth, curved	?Med/P-med
U/S Area 1d <035>	strip fragment; 16mm in length, 11mm in width tapering to 8mm, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
U/S Area 1d <037>	strip fragment; 29mm in length, 15mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
U/S Area 1d <039>	strip fragment; 30mm in length, 8mm in width, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
U/S Area 1d <040>	strip fragment; 20mm in length, 13mm in width, tapering to 9mm, <1mm in depth	?Med/P-med
U/S Area 1f <070>	strip fragment; 22mm in length, 13mm in width, <1mm in depth, slightly curved on one side	?Med/P-med

5.49 Of the copper alloy objects recovered from the site, forty appear to be strips or strip fragments. Whilst their dimensions vary, their basic form remains uniform, suggesting that their function may be the same. The greatest quantity of this material came from ditch [1091], which also produced evidence of cutlery manufacturing and cobbling, therefore it is possible that this material may be related to one of these trades.

Recommendations

5.50 The strip fragments should be compared with similar published and unpublished examples to ascertain their form, function and if possible date.

5.51 All the copper aloy material has been stabilised and no other work is proposed on the remainder of the objects.

LEAD

5.52 Three lead objects, weighing a total of 135g, were recovered from one stratified context and one unstratified context on the present site. One of the objects from fill (1023) appears to be a strip fragment of uncertain function, whilst the other two represent a partial weight (SF038) and a complete weight (SF033).

Recommendations

5.53 As both the lead weights came from unstratified contexts no further work is proposed on these objects.

FLINT

5.54 Ninety four pieces of flint, weighing 280g, were recovered from the present excavations, of which only one piece may have been worked. The rest of the material appears to represent naturally weathered flint flakes and in some cases small nodules.

Recommendations

5.55 No further work is proposed on this material.

COAL/CLINKER

5.56 A total of forty nine pieces of coal and clinker, weighing 211g, were recovered from 6 stratified contexts during the excavations. Two of these were fills (1011) and (1080) of ditch [1091].

Recommendations

5.57 The recovery of this type of material from an urban context is to be expected and as the assemblage is extremely small no further work is proposed.

GLASS

5.58 Forty two pieces of glass, weighing 310g, were recovered from 11 stratified contexts and one unstratified context during the present excavations. Most of this material represents post-medieval and modern bottle glass sherds, with the greatest quantity coming from the modern pit [3022] in Area 4.

Recommendations

5.59 As this assemblage does not include any complete vessels and is of late date, no further work is proposed.

SLAG

5.60 Eighteen fragments of slag, weighing 185g, were recovered from 6 stratified and 2 unstratified contexts on the site. The distribution and size of this assemblage, seems indicate that metalworking was unlikely to have taken place on the present site.

Recommendations

5.61 No further work is proposed on this material.

STONE

5.62 Twenty fragments of stone, weighing 1233g, were recovered during the excavation. They came from eight stratified contexts, three of which represent ditch [1091]. Most of the

assemblage consists of unworked fragments and pebbles, the remaining worked material is listed in Table 8, below.

Table 8: Worked Stone		
Context	**Stone Type**	**Details**
1010	sandstone	1 triangular fragment; maximum length 49mm, 40mm in width, 8mm in depth; two worked sides at 60 degrees, two worn sides; one surface has some score marks
1011	sandstone	?whetstone; 60mm in length, 14mm in width, 10mm in depth; one end is broken, but the remains of a possible perforation are still visible, the other end has a small triangular notch in it
1012	York stone	1 fragment; maximum length 90mm, maximum width 63mm, depth 13-20mm; one surface shows ridge and grove, the other is pock marked
1014	sandstone	1 slab; maximum length 72mm, maximum width 70mm, depth 14-20mm; seems to be covered with some form of fe and cu alloy residue
1064	sandstone	1 triangular fragment; maximum length 58mm, maximum width 35mm, depth 24mm; one side appears to be smoother than the other
2004	micaceous limestone	1 fragment; maximum length 50mm, maximum width 48mm, depth 28mm
2004	sandstone	diameter 28mm, 15mm depth, groove running around the outside
2005	micaceous limestone	1 fragment; maximum length 36mm, maximum width 28mm, depth 8mm, two worked edges at 90 degrees and one ?worked or worn edge

Recommendations

5.63 Although this is a very small assemblage a specialist opinion should be sought on at least four of the pieces, including the possible whetstone from (1011).

5.64 The York stone fragment with pock marks from (1012) may be significant, as these marks may represent a key for the application of plaster.

5.65 The fragment of sandstone from fill (1014) of ditch [1091] may likewise warrant further comment as this context also produced evidence relating to the cutlery industry, and the existence of what could be metalworking residue may be significant to our understanding of the development of the trade in Thaxted.

5.66 It may be possible to identify the function and perhaps date of the possible weight from fill (2004) of pit [2013].

BEADS

5.67 Two beads were recovered from a cleaning layer (1051) and refuse pit [2013] during the present excavations, the details of which are outlined in the table below.

Table 9: Beads		
Context	**Material**	**Details**
1051	?glass	turquoise blue bead; circular in shape, diameter 3mm, depth 2mm, hole diameter 1mm
2004	?glass	dark blue bead; hexagonal in shape, diameter 2mm, depth 1mm, hole diameter 1mm

Recommendations

5.68 As both beads were found in isolation, and after consideration of the contexts within which there were found, no further work is proposed on either object.

6 Ecofact Assemblages

BULK ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

James Rackham

Introduction

6.1 During the excavations a total of 23 samples (Table 9) were collected for environmental study, and their location on the site (except sample 2) is indicated in Figure 8, and assemblages of animal bone and marine shell were hand collected. These were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy, some already processed, for assessment. The following report details the results of this assessment which are presented in summary in Tables 9 - 14.

Table 9:Environmental samples				
Sample	**Context**	**Volume (l)**	**Feature**	**Date**
1	2004	15	Pit fill	14/15th C
2	2010	15	Fill of cut 2019	13-16th C
3	2018	12.5	Primary fill of pit 2013	14/15th C
4	1006	30	Upper fill pit 1005	14/15th C –with poss 15/16th
5	1009	15	Upper fill feature 1018/1091	14/15th C
6	1011	15	Fill of feature 1018/1091	14/15th C
7	1013	10	Fill of pit 1017/1091	
8	1014	10	Wood pieces from fill feature 1018/1091	12th - mid 15th C
9	1012	30	Fill of pit 1021	13-16th C
10	1020	20	Lower fill of pit 1021, poss cess pit	
11	1014	10	Fill of feature 1018/1091	12th – mid 15th C
12	1030	20	Fill of pit 1029	14/15th C
13	1052	15	Charcoal rich fill of pit 1059	

Table 9:Environmental samples				
Sample	**Context**	**Volume (l)**	**Feature**	**Date**
14	1052	5	Charcoal	
15	1063	5	Wood from pit 1063 with timber surround	16-17th C
16	1063	5	Wood from pit 1063 with timber surround	16-17th C
17	1061	20	Primary fill of 1062	15th C
18	1064	5	Charcoal rich deposit within barrel 1065 in pit 1063	Post-medieval
19	1020	30	Lower fill of pit 1021	
20	1066	5	Wood from barrel 1065	16/17th C
21	1066	25	Fill of barrel 1065	16/17th C
22	1080	30	Fill of feature 1091	14/15th C
23	1084	10	Lower fill of feature 1091	

Methods

6.2 Those samples not already washed were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a *Siraf* tank (Williams, 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and flot were dried and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material and mollusc shells. However a number of the samples contained well preserved waterlogged organic remains and the flots from these were retained wet. The dry (or wet) volume of the flots was measured, and the volume and weight of the residue recorded. For those samples already washed, floated and dried, when received the dried residue was subjected to a second flotation in line with the other samples. Four of the samples were specifically wood or charcoal and these have not been processed for the assessment.

6.3 The dried residues were sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill and an estimate made of the number of flakes or spheroids of any hammerscale collected. The dried flot of each sample was studied using x10 magnifications and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones, etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The waterlogged (wet) flots (Table 11) were sieved through a range of sieves and the coarser fraction sorted by eye for finds, fruit stones, worked wood, etc, while a small proportion of the finer fractions were scanned under the microscope at x10 for identifiable environmental material. The abundance and diversity of this material was recorded but no attempt was made to identify the elements further. The flots were then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the samples.

6.4 Some individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 10, 11 and 12. At this assessment stage very few of

the botanical seeds were taken to species and no attempt was made to identify the insect fragments in the samples.

Results

6.5 The majority of the samples were exceptionally rich both in archaeological and environmental finds and it is evident that most of them contained preserved organic remains, although some were much better preserved than others. A considerable range of archaeological debris was recovered from these samples (Table10) including pottery, flint, brick/tile, iron and non-ferrous metal objects, bone working waste, wood working waste, mortar, hammerscale and slag, glass, leather, a whetstone and a small bead. This combined with the bone working finds that were hand collected clearly indicates that a range of industrial or craft activities were undertaken at the site or immediately adjacent.

6.6 Hammerscale is present in all the processed samples and is particularly abundant in the [1017/1091] and [1018/1091] complex of cuts and also in feature [1059]. This is clear evidence for the presence of iron smithing on or immediately adjacent to the site in the 14th to 15th centuries, and possibly at other periods.

6.7 Bone working evidence was present in a number of the samples and also in many of the hand excavated bone assemblages. The location of those contexts that produced bone working debris is indicated on Figures 8 and 9. The most concentrated assemblages occur in the south-east part of Area 1, associated with the [1017/1091] and [1018/109]1 complex of cuts. It is evident from the small finds and the waste that the main objects of manufacture are handles, presumably of knives, made from scales (plates) cut from the sides of cattle metapodial bones. The waste will allow a reasonably good interpretation of the mode of manufacture of the handles and a concentration of the waste in contexts dating to the 14th to 15th centuries suggests a date for this activity at Thaxted. Thaxted became a major centre for the manufacture of knives for the London market in the late medieval period and both the smithing evidence and the bone working waste may relate to this production. The presence of smithing debris and the handle production waste in the same deposits suggests that the bladesmiths and cutlers (who made the handles and other fittings and sold the final product) worked in close proximity. By the early 14th century there was certainly an area in London known as the Cutlery (Cowgill et al, 1987: 32) and the Cutlery area in Sheffield (a mass of small workshops usually around yards) survived until the middle of the last century.

6.8 One context, [1084], has produced what appears to be good evidence for the manufacture of wooden combs. A single comb fragment with its sawn teeth is included with a small assemblage of worked wood and wooden offcut debris consistent with the making of comb roughouts. The very fine grain of this wood also suggests that it may be boxwood, the traditional wood used for the making of combs (Morris, 2000), and this should be identified during post-excavation. No dating evidence was recovered from the sample but its stratigraphic association indicates a 14/15th century date. A number of other contexts in this complex ([1017/1091] and [1018/1091]) of cuts and other waterlogged features have produced evidence of wood working in the form of shavings or worked wood and these fragments will require study and species identification to establish whether they relate to a

manufacturing process like that of the combs or may merely be the debris from building construction.

6.9 A number of the soil samples also produced a few small fragments of leather. These all appear to be offcuts but do not occur with a frequency that would suggest that leatherworking was actually taking place on the site as a 'commercial' enterprise.

6.10 Although evidence for these industrial activities occurs across all three areas of the site, there is a marked concentration in the south-east half of Area 1. The survival of some of this evidence is almost certainly a factor of preservation, but the vast majority of the bone working evidence, unaffected by preservation conditions, is contained within a small group of features in the south-east corner of the site, adjacent to Weaverhead Lane, suggesting an area of fairly intensive craft and industrial activity in the late medieval period, in or behind, several adjacent tenements.

6.11 The environmental evidence from these sampled features relates primarily to the diet of the inhabitants and the surrounding palaeoenvironment. There is no clear evidence that any of the plant (other than that already discussed) and insect evidence relates to craft or industrial activities although until the seeds and insect fragments have been specifically identified this cannot be ruled out. The botanical assemblages from most of the samples appear to show a similar suite of taxa, although only a few have so far been taken to genus. These latter include taxa common in archaeological samples and may drive from plants growing in the locale or perhaps used as food such as bramble, *Rubus* sp., elderberries, *Sambucus* sp., fathen or goosefoots, *Chenopodium* spp., as well as others such as docks, *Rumex sp.* and hogweed, *Heracleum* sp. the latter perhaps suggesting the presence of hay. The large flots are also generally full of small roundwood and twigs, with some thorns (both hawthorn/blackthorn type and Rosaceae such as bramble), mosses and numerous small buds. These flots do however show some variations in their organic components. The bulk of the flot from sample 17, context [1061], appears to be composed of comminuted wood fragments, with a very low density of seed and insect fragments, while the flot of sample 9, context [1020], is largely composed of fibrous 'grassy' stem and leaf matter as well and small roundwood and twigs. The organic component of the remainder of the samples is generally comminuted stem and wood fragments with much small wood and twigs. The significance of these differences may only be interpretable after identification of the plant and insect components although it seems likely that the small wood and twig components merely reflect the 'litter' accumulating in these features from shrubs and trees in the vicinity.

Table 10: Finds from the processed samples																				
No.	**Cont. no.**	**Vol. in l.**	**Feature**	**Resid-ue vol. (l)**	**Pot #/g**	**Flint #/g**	**Brick/ tile (g)**	**Build stone (g)**	**Fir-ed earth (g)**	**Fe metal #/g**	**Non-fero us #/g**	**Coa l (g)**	**mor tar (g)**	**mag (g)**	**ham' scale**	**glas s #/g**	**slag (g)**	**work-ed bone**	**mar ine shell (g)**	**bon e (g)**	**other**
1	2004	15	Pit fill	8.5	7/35	6/3	1904	71			1/1		9	2	+++			+	18	58	Bead
2	2010	15	Fill of cut 2019	3.5	10/22	3/1	633			3/11			7	3	+++			+	47	115	
3	2018	12.5	Primary fill of pit 2013	2	11/40		44				2/1			2	+++			+	34	7	
4	1006	30	Upper fill pit 1005	2.5	3/6	3/1	715			3/6		+	52	6	+++				85	66	
5	1009	15	Upper fill feature 1018/1091	1.5	10/14		110						9	3	++++		18		4	20	
6	1011	15	Fill of feature 1018/1091	7	29/90	25/88	895	+		17/34	1/1	19	40	10	++++			+	230	182	Leather, whet-stone
7	1013	10	Fill of pit 1017/1091	1.3	3/3		445		35	++/13	30/2			2	+++			+++++	17	303	
8	1014	10	Wood pieces from fill feature 1018/1091	1	9/15	2/<1				7/8	21/9			19	++++		2	++	21	11	
9	1012	30	Fill of pit 1021	6.5	5/25	7/5	939			4/2			98	3	++++			+	83	202	Leather x 4
10	1020	20	Lower fill of pit 1021, poss cess pit	5	8/8	2/4	298	+		3/18	1/2		152	3	++++			+	60	117	Leather x 2
11	1014	10	Fill of feature 1018/1091	1.5	4/12	7/3	26			2/2			18	2	+++		8	+	11	194	Leather x 2
12	1030	20	Fill of pit 1029	8	8/36		72		+		1/<1		2	1	++		11	+	232 7	54	

Table 10: Finds from the processed samples																				
No.	**Cont. no.**	**Vol. in l.**	**Feature**	**Resid-ue vol. (l)**	**Pot #/g**	**Flint #/g**	**Brick/ tile (g)**	**Build stone (g)**	**Fir-ed earth (g)**	**Fe metal #/g**	**Non-fero us #/g**	**Coa l (g)**	**mor tar (g)**	**mag (g)**	**ham' scale**	**glas s #/g**	**slag (g)**	**work-ed bone**	**mar ine shell (g)**	**bon e (g)**	**other**
13	1052	15	Charcoal rich fill of pit 1059	1.9	5/10	2/1	165			1/2	3/1			17	++++	6/1			4	6	
14	1052	5	Charcoal																	9	
15	1063	5	Wood from pit 1063 with timber surround																		
16	1063	5	Wood from pit 1063 with timber surround																		
17	1061	20	Primary fill of 1062	1.5	2/4		15							1	++	2/<1					
18	1064	5	Charcoal rich deposit within barrel 1065 in pit 1063	0.5	3/4		92	62		2/3			3	1	++		1			3	
19	1020	30	Lower fill of pit 1021	5.75	6/9	11/3	527		+	7/15	2/1	2	147	6	+++				57	45	Leather
20	1066	5	Wood from barrel 1065																		
21	1066	25	Fill of barrel 1065	8	12/70	15/7	335			7/65	4/1		37	7	++	1/1			3	24	2 Cu pins
22	1080	30	Fill of feature 1091	5	15/33	4/32	331			4/14	2/1	3		5	++++				27	33	Leather

Table 10: Finds from the processed samples																				
No.	**Cont. no.**	**Vol. in l.**	**Feature**	**Resid-ue vol. (l)**	**Pot #/g**	**Flint #/g**	**Brick/ tile (g)**	**Build stone (g)**	**Fir-ed earth (g)**	**Fe metal #/g**	**Non-fero us #/g**	**Coa l (g)**	**mor tar (g)**	**mag (g)**	**ham' scale**	**glas s #/g**	**slag (g)**	**work-ed bone**	**mar ine shell (g)**	**bon e (g)**	**other**
23	1084	10	Lower fill of feature 1091	0.6	4/21		1			21/22	48/1 4			4	++			++	6	?	Wooden comb, comb making waste

#/g = number/weight
+ = present; ++ =11-50; +++ = 51-150, ++++ = 151-250; +++++ = >250 items

Table 11: Environmental finds from the processed samples																
No.	**Cont. no.**	**Vol. in l.**	**Feature**	**Wet flot vol (ml)**	**Dry flot vol. (ml)**	**Char -coal */<2 ***	**Charr-ed grain ***	**Chaff ***	**Charred seed ***	**Water-logged seed ***	**Wood ***	**Beetle ***	**Egg-shell wt g.**	**Fish wt g.**	**Snail ***	**Comment**
1	2004	15	Pit fill		65	4/5	2		2	3			<1	<1	3	Wheat, oat?, pea?, *Rubus*, *Sambucus*, *Chenopodium*, oyster, mussel, cattle, chicken, herring
2	2010	15	Fill of cut		250	5/5	2		2	2			<1	<1	1	Wheat, oat, pea?, *Sambucus*, *Chenopodium*, oyster, sheep, hare, rat, chicken, herring, eel, other small fish - ?CESS
3	2018	12.5	Primary fill of pit		65	4/5	1		1	2				<1	1	Wheat, oats?, *Sambucus*, oyster, mussel, rabbit
4	1006	30	Fill of pit		300	3/4	1			5	4		1	<1	1	Wheat, oats?, *Rumex*, *Chenopodium*, *Rubus*, *Sambucus*, hazelnut, moss, thorns, oyster, mussel, cockle, periwinkle, sheep, cattle, small fish
5	1009	15	Fill of pit		60	3/5	1			2			<1	<1		Oats?, *Sambucus*, *Rumex*, oyster, mussel, pig, sheep, frog/toad, newt, rodent, small bird, small fish, mite
6	1011	15	Fill of pit/ ditch		400	5/5	1		1	5	4		2	3	1	Barley, oats?, hazelnut, *Sambucus*, *Rubus*, *Chenopodium*, buds, thorns, moss, oyster, mussel, whelk, barnacle, cockle, pig, cattle, rodent, frog/toad, chicken, herring, haddock, other fishes, pupae, beetles, lots small twigs
7	1013	10	Fill of pit 1017		70	3/5			1	4	3		<1	<1		*Galium*, *Chenopodium*, *Rumex*, *Sambucus*, thorns, oyster, mussel, beetles, hair, concretions-poss cess?
8	1014	10	Wood pieces	75	100	4/5	1			4	5		<1		1	Wheat, *Chenopodium*, *Rubus*, buds, *Daphnia*, hair, oyster, mussel, mouse, beetles, lots tiny wood fragments
9	1012	30	Fill of pit 1021		500	2/3	1		1	5	5			1	1	Wheat, hazelnut, pea?, *Rumex*, *Chenopodium*, moss, thorns, oyster, mussel, cockle, cattle, sheep, pig, horse, beetles, wood shavings, hair
10	1020	20	Lower fill of pit 1021	1000	180	4	1			5	5		<1	1		Wheat, walnut, hazelnut, bullace?, cherry, *Rubus*, *Rumex*, moss, thorns, oyster, mussel, cockle, sheep, pig, eel, other small fish, beetles, lots wood, some worked, twigs, wood shavings

Table 11: Environmental finds from the processed samples																
No.	**Cont. no.**	**Vol. in l.**	**Feature**	**Wet flot vol (ml)**	**Dry flot vol. (ml)**	**Char-coal */<2 ***	**Charr-ed grain ***	**Chaff ***	**Charred seed ***	**Water-logged seed ***	**Wood ***	**Beetle ***	**Egg-shell wt g.**	**Fish wt g.**	**Snail ***	**Comment**
11	1014	10	Fill of pit 1018	2000		4				5	5	4	<1	<1		Plum, damson?, nut, thorns, moss, *Sambucus*, *Rumex*, *Chenopodium*, roots, cockle, mussel, oyster, cattle, small fish, *Daphnia*, pupae, cut wood, wood shavings, small twigs and roundwood
12	1030	20	Fill of pit 1029		25	2/4	1			2		1			1	Wheat, *Sambucus*, *Rumex*, *Chenopodium*, mussel, cockle, periwinkle, oyster, whelk, flat winkle, dog whelk, cattle
13	1052	15	Fill of pit 1059		1000	5/5	2	3	3	5			<1			Barley, wheat, oat, *Chenopodium*, *Rumex*, *Sambucus*, oyster, pig, frog/toad
14	1052	5	Charcoal													
15	1063	5	Wood ex 1063													
16	1063	5	Wood ex 1063													
17	1061	20	Fill of 1062	1200	15	3				3	2	3		<1	1	*Rumex*, *Sambucus*, moss, small fish, hair
18	1064	5	Fill of pit 1063		100	2/3	1			5	2				1	Barley, wheat?, *Sambucus*, *Rubus*, *Chenopodium*, *Rumex*, hazelnut, moss, bird
19	1020	30	Fill of pit 1021	1500	120	3	1			5	5	3	<1	1		Walnut, hazelnut, plum, cherry?, bullace?, *Rumex*, *Sambucus*, *Rubus*, *Chenopodium*, moss, thorns, stems, oyster, mussel, sheep, eel, gadid, other small fish, mites, worked wood, small roundwood and twigs, wood shavings, faceted piece 'pole', *Daphnia*, hair,
20	1066	5	Wood ex barrel 1065													
21	1066	25	Fill of barrel 1065	200	30	2	1			5	4	3	<1		2	Grape, hazelnut, *Rubus*, *Sambucus*, *Rumex*, *Chenopodium*, moss, buds, leaves, thorns, oyster, mussel, hair, small roundwood, twigs, chopped wood

Table 11: Environmental finds from the processed samples																
No.	**Cont. no.**	**Vol. in l.**	**Feature**	**Wet flot vol (ml)**	**Dry flot vol. (ml)**	**Char -coal */<2 ***	**Charr-ed grain ***	**Chaff ***	**Charred seed ***	**Water-logged seed ***	**Wood ***	**Beetle ***	**Egg-shell wt g.**	**Fish wt g.**	**Snail ***	**Comment**
22	1080	30	Fill of pit 1018	1400		2				5	5	3	<1		2	Plum, bullace?, damson?, *Rubus*, *Chenopodium*, moss, oyster, mussel, pig, cattle, frog/toad, chicken, *Daphnia*, small roundwood, twigs, worked wood
23	1084	10	Fill of pit 1018	1800		2			1	5	4	4	<1		1	Pulse, *Rumex*, *Chenopodium*, *Sambucus*, *Heracleum*, thorns, moss, oyster, mussel, cattle, pig, *Daphnia*, pupae, wood, roundwood, twigs, worked wood, wooden objects, wooden comb, wood offcuts and trials.

* = abundance: 1 = 1-10; 2 = 11- 50; 3 = 51-150; 4 = 151-250; 5 = 250+
/<2= abundance/abundance<2mm

Table 12: The Molluscs from the processed samples													
Sample number	1	2	3	4	6	8	9	12	17	18	21	22	23
Context	2004	2010	2018	1006	1011	1014	1012	1030	1061	1064	1066	1080	1084
Abundance*	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Open country													
Cecilioides acicula	+												
Helicella sp.	+												
Vertigo sp.								+					
Pupilla muscorum													
Vallonia costata	+							+	+				
Vallonia excentrica	+		+					+			+		
Catholic													
Trichia hispida		+			+		+	+		+	+	+	
Trichia striolata											+		
Cochlicopa sp.						+		+	+		+		
Helix aspersa												+	
Shaded ground													
Discus rotundatus	+				+			+				+	+
Oychilus sp.				+	+						+	+	+
Retinella sp.					+								
Clausilidae			+	+									
Marsh / aquatic													
Lymnaea truncatula												+	
Anisus leucostoma												++	

*=abundance: 1=1-10; 2 =11-50; 3 = 51-150;4 =151-250; 5 = 250+

6.12 Other occupants of the local environment include rats, mice, frogs or toads and newts, and a number of snails (Table 12). The latter do not occur in abundance but include species of open country or grassland habitats, and those of shaded or woodland environments in approximately equal measure, with a few taxa with more catholic tastes. In sample 23, context [1084], several shells of *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula*, taxa found in

damp and marshy habitats or ditches were recovered. The presence of ephippia (resting eggs) of *Daphnia* sp., freshwater fleas, in a number of samples is testimony to these features having some standing water for periods.

6.13 One item of note is that although small quantities of coal are present in four of the samples (Table 10) and coal is present in the flot of a number of other samples there is little indication that coal was used as a fuel at the site at any time. On the other hand charcoal is fairly abundant in many of the samples and it seems likely that this was used as a source of fuel for the smithing and wood was the main domestic fuel.

6.14 One of the major components of the samples includes the many indicators of the diet of those living on the site. Many samples produced a few charred cereals, whose preliminary indentification suggests that wheat, barley and oats are present. Interestingly one sample, sample 13 - context [1052], includes a number of chaff fragments. Chaff is not common in samples from urban sites and is sometimes used to suggest the presence of animal fodder. In addition to the cereals charred finds of pulses, possibly pea, and preserved shells of hazelnut and walnut, stones of plum, cherry, possibly damson and bullace, and pips of grapes have all been recognised and further plant food species may be identified under more detailed examination.

6.15 Shellfish occur consistently and although oyster occur with greater frequency in the samples, marine mussels, cockles, whelks, dog whelks, periwinkles, and flat winkles are present. One sample 12, context 1030, the fill of pit 1029, included a large number of mussel shells (over 2 kilogrammes) perhaps from a single dumping event. A similar suite of taxa was recovered by hand excavation (Appendix 4) and these were dominated by oyster shells, although the smaller shells, such as winkles and cockles are likely to have been less effectively recovered during hand excavation. A small number of fish bones were recovered from most of the samples. All were generally from small fish, although one or two bones from medum sized fishes were present. Preliminary identification of some of the bones includes herring, eel, haddock and small gadid. Apart from the eels, most of these fish bones probably derive from marine species and these remains indicate the trade in shellfish and fishes from coastal ports, probably in Suffolk and Essex, or perhaps traded from London.

6.16 Several bones of domestic food species are also present in the samples. These include cattle, sheep/goat, pig, chicken and horse, although the latter may not have been eaten. Two samples produced bones of hare and rabbit, and an occasional bone of a small bird may also have been a food item. Fragments of bird eggshell, comparable with chicken, are present in most of the washed samples, evidence for another element of the diet.

Excavated animal bones

6.17 Hand excavation produced an assemblage of 994 bone fragments. These bones have been assessed by producing a context record summarising the bones and species present (Appendix 5). The condition of the bone is good with little or no evidence of surface etching and corrosion, although there is a difference between those bones buried in waterlogged deposits, stained dark and in very good condition, and those in non-waterlogged contexts, unstained.

6.18 The frequency of finds by context are summarised in Table 13.

Table 13: Frequency of animal bones by context from the hand collected sample

Species	Freq. contexts
Horse	6
Cattle	36
Sheep/goat	23
Pig	16
Dog	1
Fallow deer	2
Hare	1
Chicken	4
Goose	2
Fish	1

6.19 Cattle bones occur in appreciably more contexts than any other species, followed by sheep, then pig. A few bones of horse, dog, fallow deer, hare, chicken and goose also occur. The bulk of these bones can be assigned to the late medieval period (Table 14) but over 40 percent of the assemblage relates to the bone working activities and are not directly related to food consumption on the site (Table 14).

6.20 As can be seen from the catalogue (Appendix 5), the majority of the bone working waste can be identified as cattle metapodials, although metatarsals appear more frequent than metacarpals. With the material from the samples (Appendix 6), the small finds (Appendix 7) and this worked bone from the hand collected assemblage the collection of material that can be related to the bone working activities on the site adds up to 795 fragments. This shows the various stages of the reduction of the cattle metapodials, with the waste pieces and partly worked or broken scales (plates) that form the process of the production of handles for knives. This group certainly warrants some detailed identification with a description of the manufacturing process.

6.21 An appreciable number of the bones (131 fragments) are sufficently intact to permit the taking of at least two measurements, but very few jaws with teeth suitable for estimating the age at death of the animals have been recovered. The only data available for consideration of this latter aspect of the assemblage is the fused or unfused condition of the epiphyses.

Table 14: Preliminary phasing of hand collected animal bone

Date	Fragments	Waste fragments
Proto-Roman	34	27
Rom/med	3	2
?14/15th	1	
12-14th-med	16	7
12-15th	21	
13-15th	12	1
poss 13-15th	8	2
13-16th	75	2
14/15th	243	115
14/15th - poss 15/16th	22	4
14/15th + 13-16th	264	129
Med?	4	2
Poss 15th	9	
Mid 15th	35	35
14-16th	3	
16/17th	45	13
Med+17/18th	68	
17/18th	14	2
18th	5	
Post-med-modern	4	1
Undated	108	67
TOTAL	994	409

Discussion

6.22 The results of the assessment of the soil samples and excavated animal bones and shells has illustrated that one of the major aspects of the site are the industrial or craft actvities undertaken there. It is possible that two of these crafts, the iron smithing and the bone handle making, are related to an early phase in the late medieval development of the cutlers trade in Thaxted and suggests that both the blade smithing and handle-making may be taking place on the site. Although the quantity of slag recovered from the samples was small the abundance of hammerscale, a material generally closely associated with the smithy itself,

suggests that the smithing may have been undertaken on the site. The handle making is indicated by small finds and bone waste and illustrates that the primary source for these are cattle metatarsals. Virtually all the bone waste can probably be assigned to cattle metapodial bones and many fragments show evidence for sawing, shaving and filing. This affords a very useful assemblage for understanding the process of manufacture of the handle scales from the cattle bones.

6.23 Another craft activity, comb making, is suggested by the worked wood and wooden offcuts from context [1084]. Confirmation of the offcuts and worked wood in this context as box wood would serve to confirm that craft wood working was being undertaken and analysis of the wood should permit a conclusion on whether combs were the product. It is possible that other wood working waste and worked wood in other contexts may also reflect craft working, rather than timber construction, but this will require study of the wood fragments and their species identification before a more confident conclusion can be drawn.

6.24 Although very few of the rich botanical remains and the insect fragments have been identified there are clear indications that the general character of the waterlogged material in some of the features varies. While this might be a circumstance of their location it seems likely that some of this variation is a product of the different functional use or discard pattern associated with the features. There is a background similarity in the seed assemblages in most of the samples but clear differences are present and detailed study of the plant and insect assemblages is likely to enhance our understanding of both the taphonomy of the deposits and the local ecology of the site. The density of insect fragments in the samples is much lower than that of seeds, but paraffin flotation can be usefully used to concentrate these remains. Occasional small mammal and other hairs are present in the flots but probably do not warrant further study.

6.25 The evidence for the diet of the inhabitants of the site is quite rich and the survival of well preserved organic remains affords an opportunity to recover and identify taxa that do not normally survive on many archaeological sites. In this initial assessment fruits, nuts, pulses, and cereals have been recognised and other edible or medicinal plants may be represented among the remainder of the botanical material. Marine shellfish occur in most of the samples with oyster and mussels most abundant and further study of the fish bones will extend the limited range of taxa and fish size already recognised and is likely to add to the evidence for trade with coastal areas. These assemblages, with the excavated animal bone and shell, offer an opportunity to study a wide range of foodstuffs available to the later medieval urban population of Thaxted. The occurrence of grape, walnut and fallow deer in the assemblages may have some implications for status but such finds are not unknown in urban assemblages of this period.

6.26 Although no contexts have been confidently identified as cess deposits, the general occurrence of fruit stones, grape pips, eggshell, cereals and animal bone indicates that much domestic food rubbish is being disposed of in the features and cess is likely to have been a

component of many deposits. The sample from context [1011] has a high fish bone, eggshell, shellfish and bone concentration suggesting that it may contain much primary domestic refuse, while the odd mineralised seed in contexts [1013] and [2010] might indicate that these deposits include some cess. Nevertheless the great diversity of remains in all the samples serves to indicate that the sampled deposits contain material from several sources, industrial, domestic and probably cess.

Recommendations

6.27 A number of areas of study deserve further work.

6.28 The bone working assemblage deserves a detailed study to establish the manufacturing process of the knife handle scales and confirm that no other by-products are likely to be represented by the evidence.

6.29 The wood working debris, particularly that from context [1084], needs detailed post-excavation study and description, with the species identification of as much of the worked wood as is reasonable. Since wood working often relies on specific species for different products the identification of this material should be a clue to its use in craft production, furniture or constructional work. Specific identification of the wood sampled from the barrel, context [1065], and other features should also be undertaken.

6.30 Knowledge of the late medieval diet on the site can be extended by study of the fish bones, the excavated animal bones and a detailed study of the flots. Some of the organic flots are very large and the coarser fractions should be further checked for fruit stones and nut shells, while the smaller fractions are subsampled and their botanical elements identified.

6.31 Finally the flots may permit some interpretation of the taphonomy of the deposits, and hence perhaps some functional aspect of the feature, and the immediate environment of the site. This can be studied through the analysis of the botanical remains already indicated, but also the paraffin flotation of the flots and study of the insect remains.

6.32 Not all the samples are as yet closely dated. It is important that time and money is spent on assemblages that can be dated and/or are archaeologically important. The initial dating of the soil samples indicates a concentration of samples dating to the 14/15th centuries and clearly these should be the focus of the work. Most of the craft evidence can be asociated with this time period but one or two later features, such as the barrel [1065] and pit [1063] may deserve study.

Acknowledgements

6.33 I should like to thank Trude Maynard and Alison Foster for sorting the samples, and Alison Foster for producing the assessment catalogue of the animal bone. I should also like to thank Jane Cowgill for her comments, particularly on the medieval knife industry. *DJR*

WOOD

Damian Goodburn

6.34 A total of thirty-one samples were taken from eleven contexts, which came from four features; the ditch [1091], the cess-pit [1021], the large pit [1029] containing a layer of shells and the sunken barrel [1092] (see Appendix 3).

6.35 The general character of the assemblage can be summarised as follows. Several items appeared to be fragments of weathered decayed building timbers and laths that could have come from the superstructure over cess pits or adjacent buildings. Other material seems to have derived from light carpentry and or joinery work in the general area, this included small offcuts of oak and softwood, and very decayed wood chip and straw deposits. None of the debris was characteristic of large scale woodworking, such as the making of timber building frames or the conversion of logs, but it rather fits with the fitting out and repair of buildings. The cut roundwood fragments found may have derived from wattle fencing or building infill panels.

6.36 The range of material seen would suggest a later 17th or even early 18th century date for the assemblage if it were all from contemporaneous contexts. This is due to the presence of several fragments of worked imported softwood such as [1010] (a). Judging from what is typical in London, this material is relatively rare until the late 17th century and becomes commonplace in the 18th century although small amounts are known from earlier contexts. One decayed oak timber had just enough rings to warrant tree ring sampling [1087] (a), however, as the sample has relatively few rings, no sapwood and is almost certainly in a secondary context it is unlikely that attempting tree ring dating would be very useful.

6.37 Amongst the most diagnostic material (see below) were two fragments of boxed halved oak building timbers, one of which was of potentially fourteenth century date. These formed part of the sunken barrel surround. Another fragment of a once larger oak beam was found in the ditch [1091], which also yielded two fragments of radially cleft oak lath; possibly the remains of lath and plaster work, slate battens or the infill of a timber framed building. Two pieces of softwood were also present in this feature. One gave the appearance of a crude spatula-like object and the other was a fragment of planed joinery with a tongued edge. An oak offcut from joinery or light carpentry work was also present in the cess-pit [1021].

Recommendations

6.38 Further work on this material could include the identification of the wood species of the samples, with the more diagnostic fragments being photographed in black and white and colour. Following the above, the repackaged, more diagnostic and well preserved items retained might be offered to the receiving museum for possible conservation.

7 Further Research

RESEARCH AIMS

7.1 The original research aims for the project, as defined in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated June 2001, were to establish:

- the nature and date of the earliest and subsequent settlement in this part of Thaxted
- the presence and extent of late medieval cutlery manufacture
- the nature, range and origins of objects in use on the site

7.2 The assessment of the results of the fieldwork demonstrates that the information collected is adequate to meet the research aims. The results can be summarised as follows.

7.2.1 The pottery evidence suggests that this part of Thaxted may have been settled in the 13th century. As discussed above, the study area was within the rear of a medieval burgage plot, which appeared to see considerable activity relating to the cutlery industry in the 14th and 15th centuries, before reverting to a more domestic usage in the post medieval period. Industrial activity was resumed in the 20th century, with the establishment of the vehicle workshop and the spring factory.

7.2.2 The presence of the cutlery industry has been confirmed, and current knowledge of the nature of the industry has been increased by the present investigations. The material evidence suggests that the smiths and the cutlers worked in close proximity to each other rather than there being a separate blade production site outside Thaxted itself.

7.2.3 The preservation qualities of some of the features on the site allowed a diversity of organic as well as non-organic objects to be recovered. Whilst some of these, such as the copper alloy fragments, may well be related to the cutlery industry, others, such as the pottery fragments and leather shoes, are representative of the everyday existence of the medieval inhabitants of Thaxted. Whilst the nature of many of the objects recovered from the study area can be identified, their origin is not always readily discernible. Exceptions to this include the stone fragments, and, more interestingly, the wood remains.

UPDATED RESEARCH DESIGN

7.3 Within the context of this investigation, further areas of research to be recommended fall into two categories; those that enhance our understanding of the study area in particular, and those that provide further data for comparative studies.

7.4 The initial concern in the first category is the nature and extent of the cutlery industry in medieval Thaxted. To this end it would be beneficial to analyse the worked bone to indicate the manufacturing process and confirm that no other by-products are likely to be represented by the evidence. In addition, the copper alloy fragments should be examined to ascertain their form, function and possible date. The piece of sandstone from context [1014], which appears to have copper or iron residue embedded on it, could also be analysed to provide further evidence for metal-working on the site.

7.5 A number of iron objects are worthy of further analysis to ascertain their form, function and possible date (see above), as this could provide further evidence for both the cutlery manufacture and, if tenterhooks were to be identified, the weaving industry.

7.6 The identification of the wood species would provide not only further evidence for craft production, light carpentry or joinery and constructional work in the vicinity, but also provide more data on the importation, distribution and usage patterns of imported timber for comparative analysis.

7.7 Similarly, as there is little published on leather items from small towns, further data for comparative analysis would be achieved by fully recording the leather fragments, and by identifying the bag and locating comparable material.

7.8 Our knowledge of late medieval diet would be enhanced by further analysis of the fish and animal bones and a detailed study of the flots. The latter could also provide more site specific information regarding craft and industrial activities, the taphonomy of the deposits, and perhaps the functional aspects of the features, as well as the immediate environment of the site.

PUBLICATION

Provisional Synopsis

Section	Content	Words	Pages
Introduction	Project background	1000	1
	Site location, geology and topography	200	0.2
Results	Features and deposits, by period	3000	3
Artefacts	By type	2500	1.5
Ecofacts	By type	2500	1.5
Discussion	The present project	2000	2
	The project in the context of previous work	1500	1.5
Bibliography		500	0.3
	Total words:	13200	11
Illustrations	Site location plan		0.5
	Phase plan		2
	Sections		1
	Artefacts		2
Tables	Artefact x 4		2
	Ecofact x 4		2
		Total Pages:	20.5

ARCHIVE

7.9 The documentary and material archive is currently held by The Heritage Network Ltd at its premises at 12 Royston Road, Baldock.

7.10 In its final form, the archive will conform to UKIC guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage. All post-excavation documentation will be filed, ordered, and indexed as part of the research archive.

7.11 The documentary and material archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum.

TASK LIST TO PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Task	Description	Undertaken by	Days
1	Worked bone analysis & report	Helen Ashworth, James Rackham	4
2	Copper alloy identification & report	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
3	Worked stone identification & report	David Williams, U.of Southampton	1
4	Iron objects identification & report	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
5	Wood analysis & report	Damian Goodburn	2
6	Leather research & report	Quita Mould	3
7	Environmental research & report	James Rackham	5
8	Conservation - x-ray, stabilisation etc.	Verulamium Museum	6
9	Conservation - leather	Saffron Walden Mus., Mus.of London	6
10	Finds illustrations	Garth Denning	5
11	Finds photography	David Hillelson, Heritage Network	1
12	Additional background research	Karin Semmelmann, Heritage Network	3
13	Revised phasing	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	1
14	Compile publication text	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	5
15	Prepare publication plans / sections	Karin Semmelmann, Heritage Network	5
16	Editing	David Hillelson, Heritage Network	2
17	Submission to Essex Archaeology & History	David Hillelson, Heritage Network	0.5
18	Final archive	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	5
19	Archive deposition	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	0.5
			59

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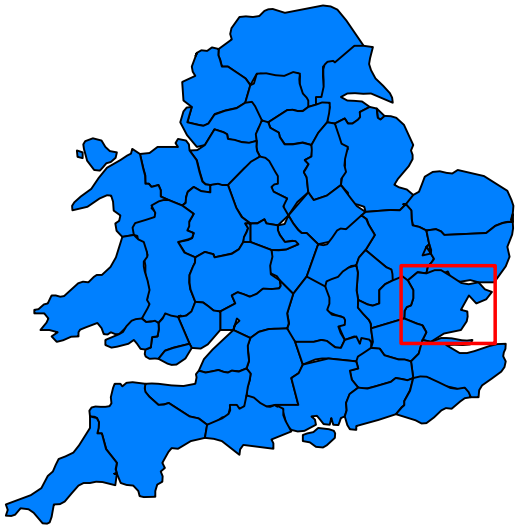
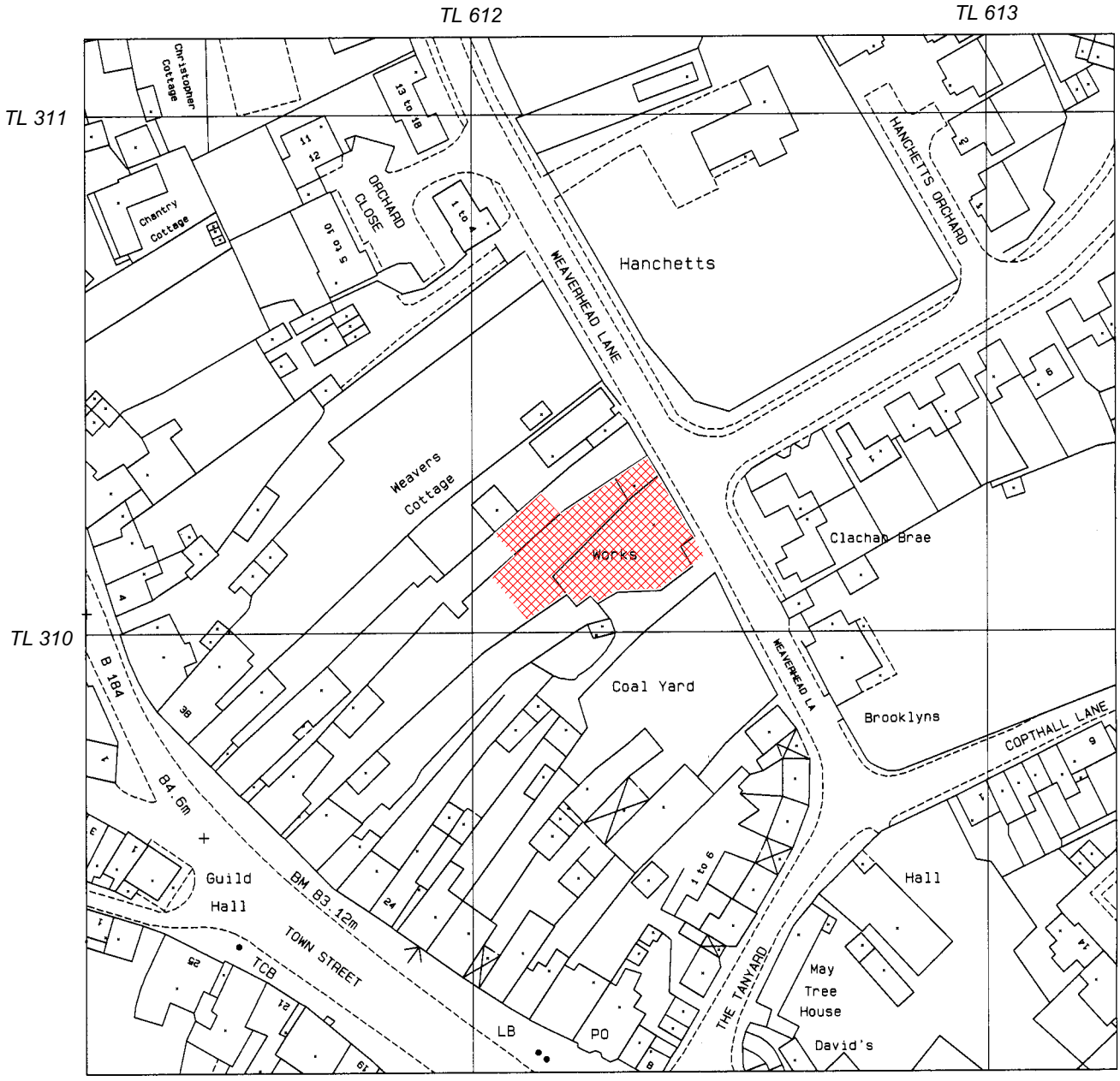
9 Illustrations

.

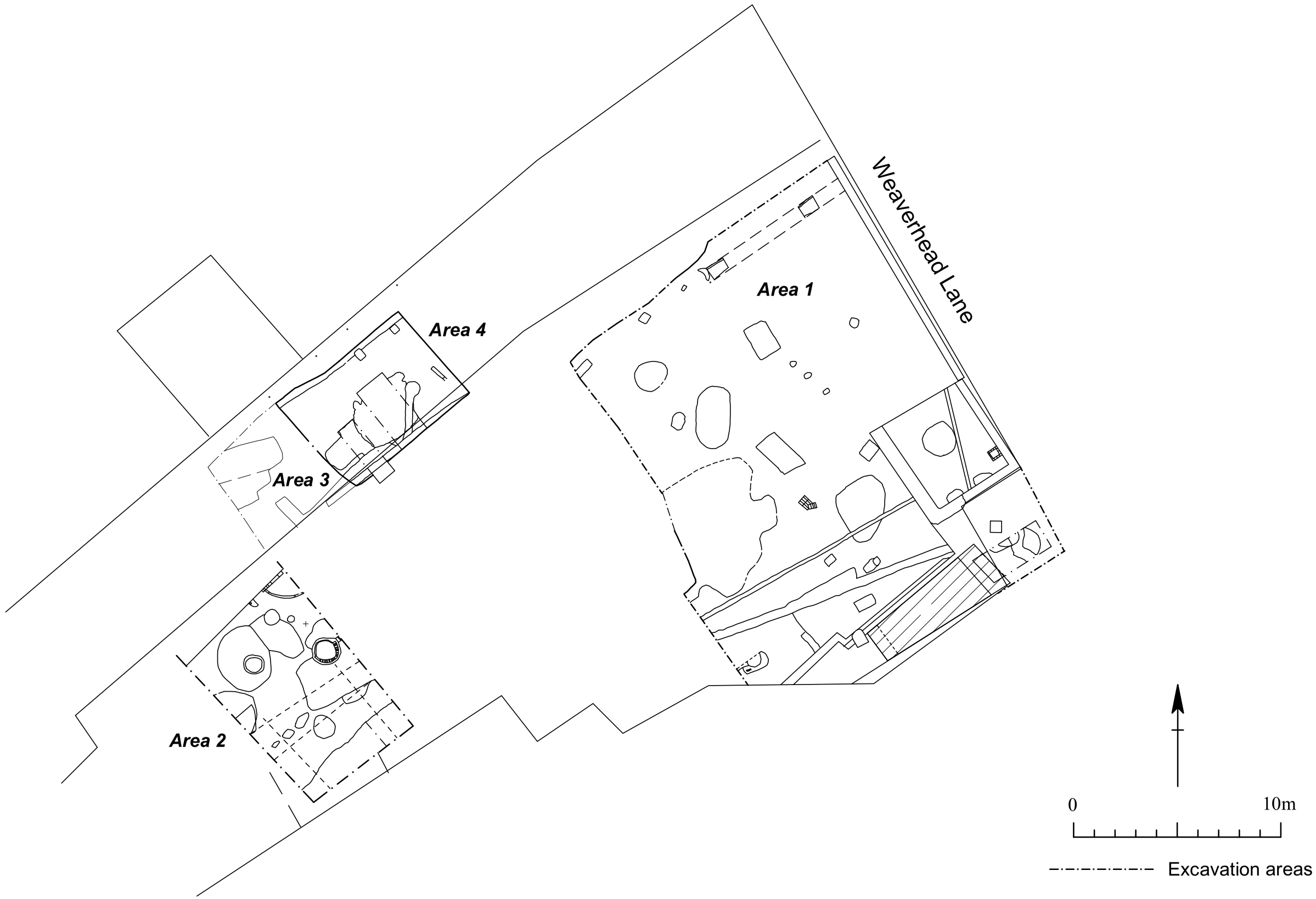
THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land off Weaverhad Lane, Thaxted	HN302





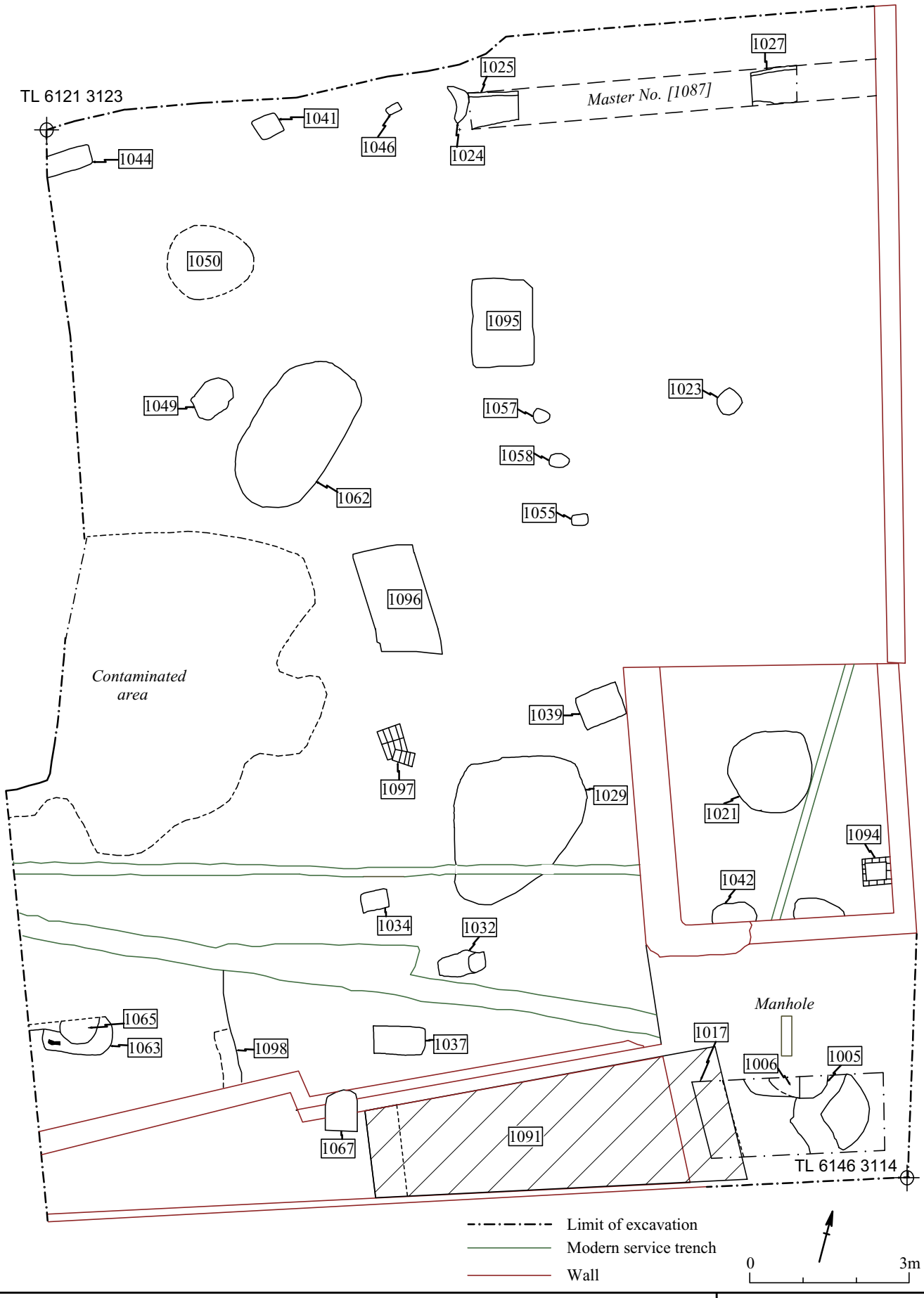
Site Location	Scale 1:1250
Reproduced from OS mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL100014861	Figure 1

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land off Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted	HN302



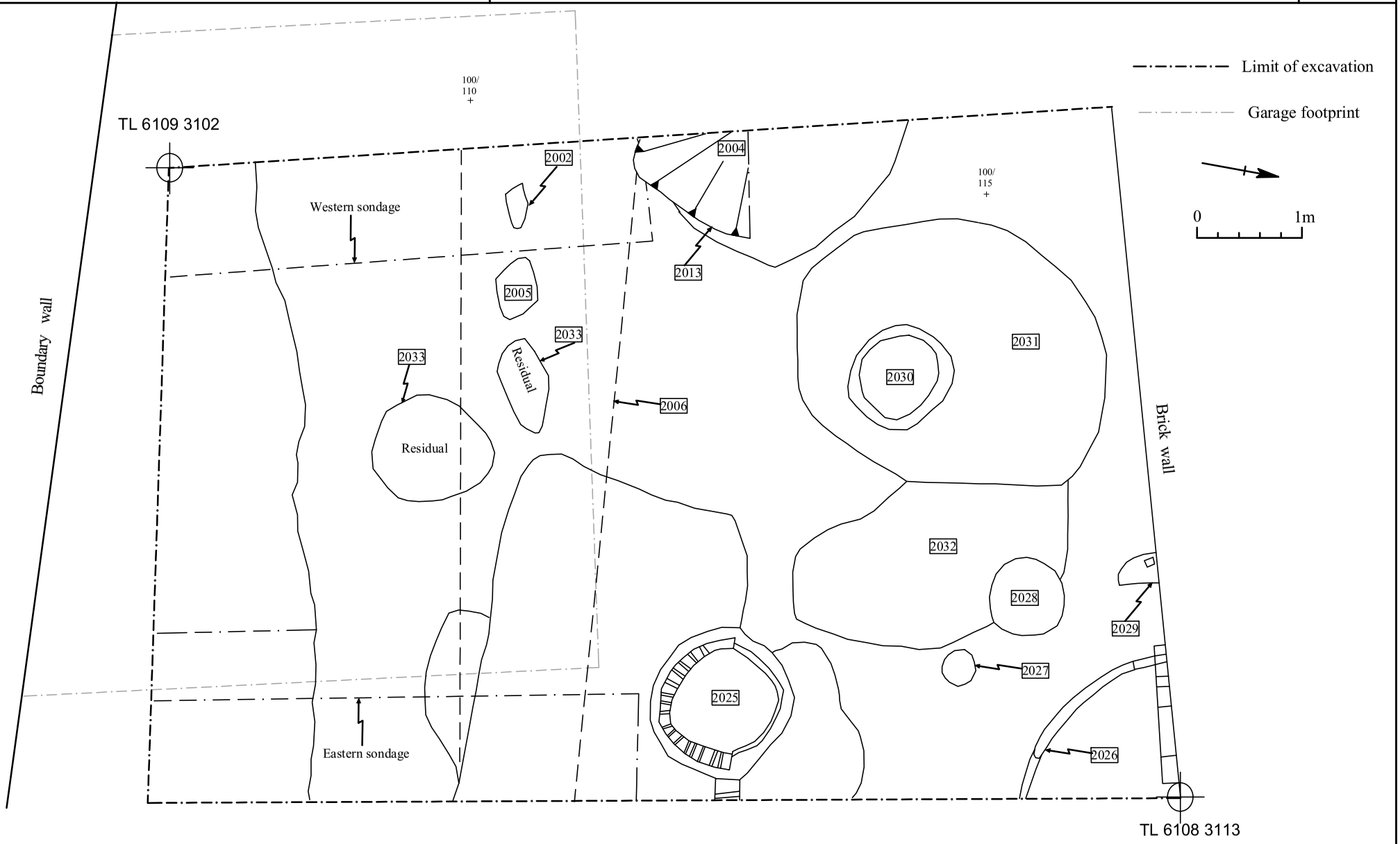
Overall site plan	Scale 1:200
	Figure 2

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land off Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted	HN302



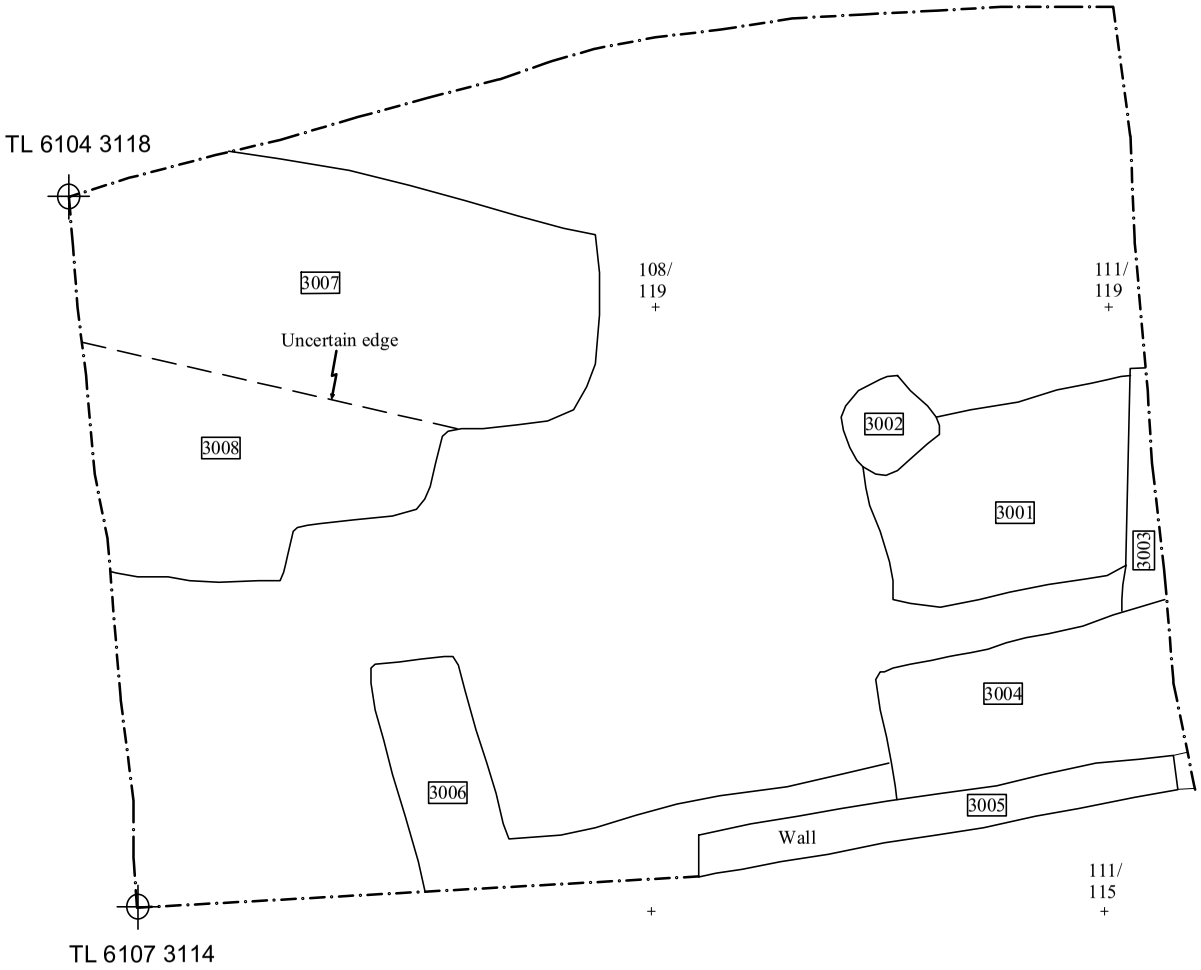
Area 1	Scale 1:100
	Figure 3

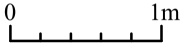
THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land off Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted	HN302



Area 2	Scale 1:50
	Figure 4

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land off Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted	HN302

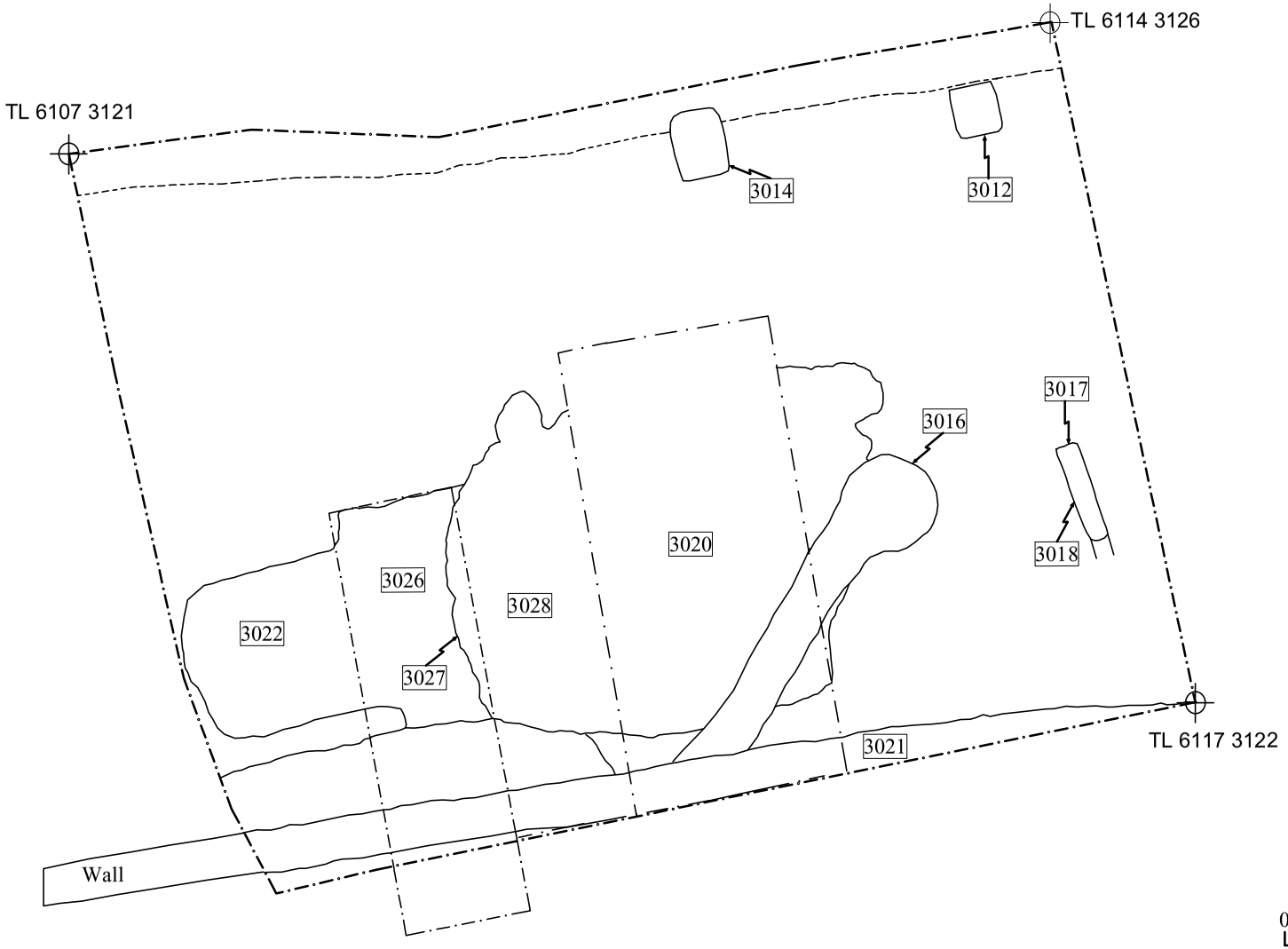




Limit of excavation

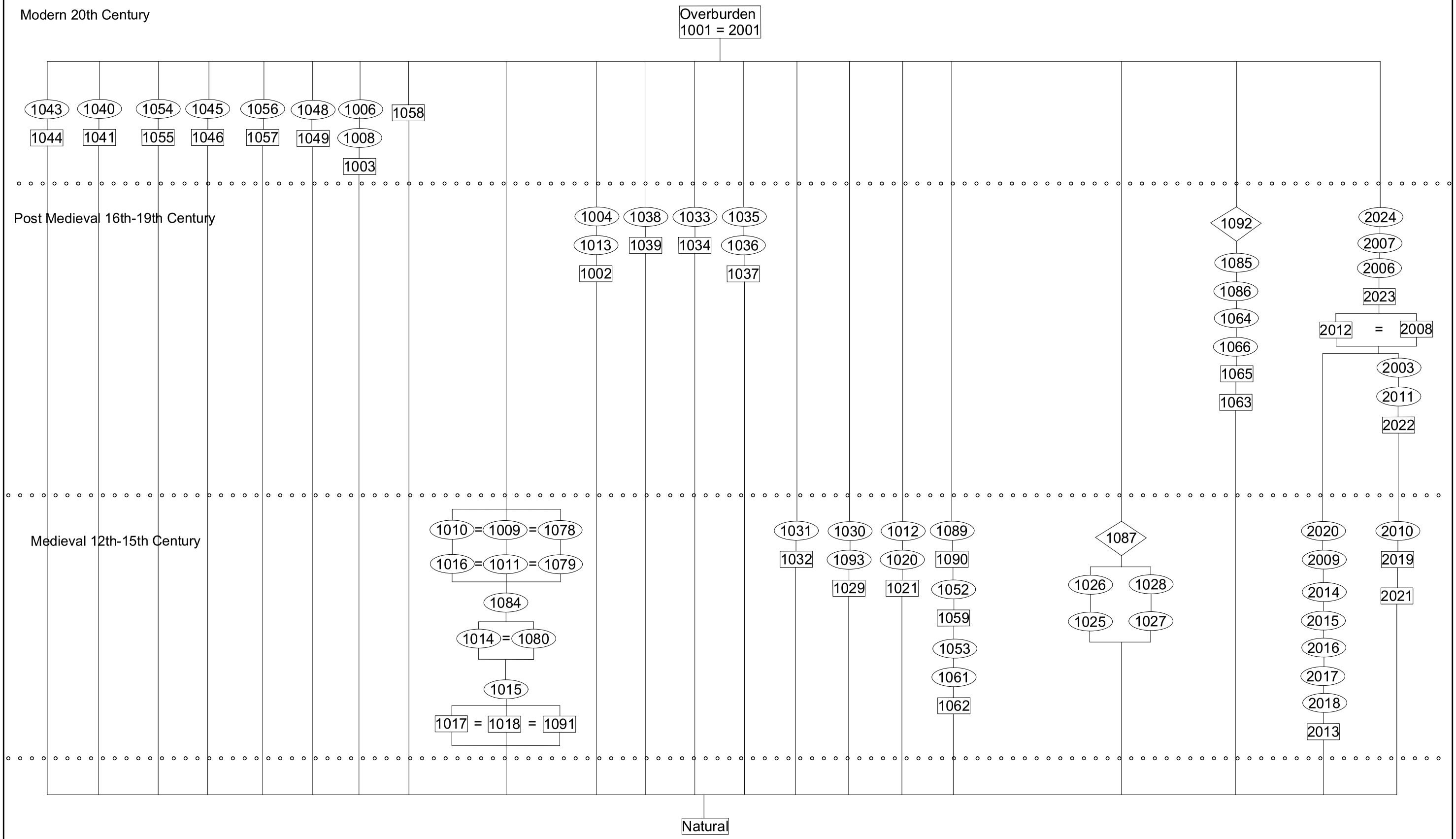
Area 3	Scale 1:50
	Figure 5

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land off Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted	HN302



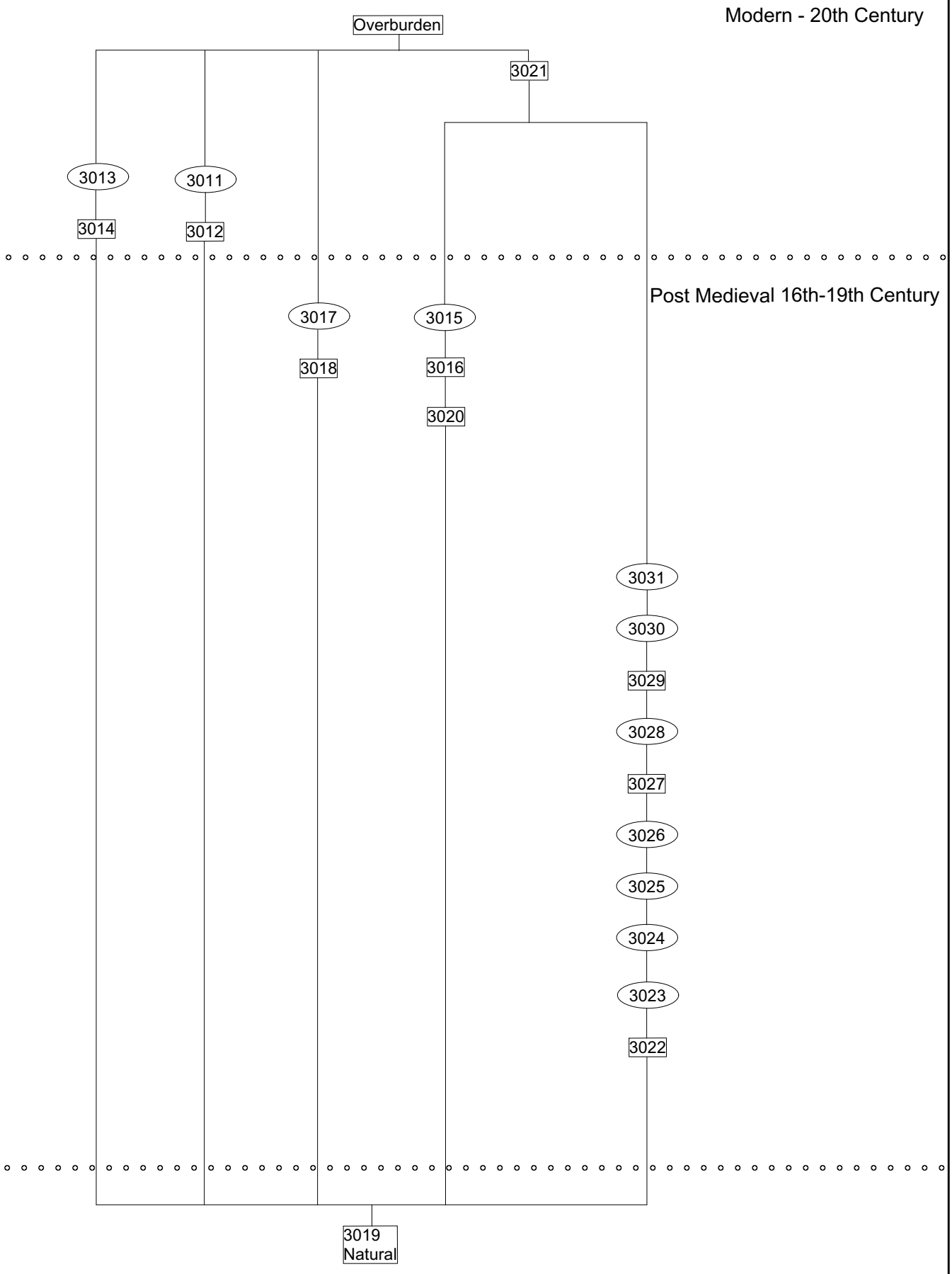
Area 4	Scale 1:50
	Figure 6

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted	HN302



Harris Matrix for Areas 1 and 2	Scale : N/a
	Figure 11

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land off Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted	HN302



Harris Matrix for Area 4	Scale : N/a
	Figure 12