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**LATE IRON AGE, ROMAN, SAXON AND MEDIEVAL OCCUPATION AT
THE FORMER CHURCH HALL SITE, HIGH STREET, SOHAM**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ARCHIVE REPORT**

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OASIS SUMMARY

Project details			
Project name	<i>The Former Church Hall Site, High Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Excavation</i>		
<i>In June to July 2011, archaeological excavation on the site of St Andrew's church hall in Soham town centre revealed well-preserved multi-period settlement remains. Apart from residual struck flint and pottery, the earliest remains were of a late Iron Age to early Roman (c. 50 BC – AD 70/80) ditched enclosure with associated rubbish pits, possible structural features and evidence of high-status occupation including imported Gallo-Belgic pottery. Evidence for late Roman settlement (4th to possibly early 5th centuries) was also present. The site lies within the conjectured precinct of St Felix's monastery (founded in AD 631 and destroyed in the late 9th century) and activity during this period was represented by a pit and residual handmade pottery and Ipswich ware found in later features. This was followed by a continuous sequence of late Saxon and medieval occupation (c. 10th to early 15th centuries), comprising enclosure and plot boundary ditches, possible structures, and quarry/ rubbish pits containing large quantities of domestic finds. Evidence of later medieval occupation had been removed by an episode of site-wide clearance, possibly associated with the construction of a building shown in the north-west corner of the site on a map of 1656; the site was probably gardens associated with this building throughout the post-medieval period. The excavation was only a small window on what, in all phases, was a larger settlement. Rich plant macrofossil assemblages provide important evidence for local agriculture between the late Iron Age and medieval periods.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>2nd June – 7th July 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3993</i>	Site code	<i>AS1406</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological excavation</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Former church hall and car park, now residential</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Late Iron Age to early Roman ditched enclosure associated with high-status settlement (c. 50 BC – AD 70/80); late Roman (4th - ?early 5th century) pits, ditches and layers; middle Saxon pit; late Saxon (10th-12th century) enclosure ditches, pits and possible sunken-featured building; medieval (13th-14th century) plot boundary ditch, quarry and rubbish pits and structural features.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Locally-produced 'Belgic' pottery and imported Gallo-Belgic wares (1st century BC – mid 1st century AD); Ipswich ware pottery (early 8th – 9th century); medieval Ely ware pottery (c. 12th-15th century); charred plant macrofossils and animal bone (late Iron Age to 'high' medieval).</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>East Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Soham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CB7 5HE</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.17ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 5942 7316</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>8.18m/ 7.61m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>CAPCA</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Chris Leonard</i>		
Funded by	<i>C.J. Murfitt</i>		
Full title	<i>Late Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval Occupation at the Former Church Hall Site, High Street, Soham. Archaeological Excavation Archive Report.</i>		
Authors	<i>Chris Leonard and Tom Woolhouse</i>		
Report no.	<i>4138</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2012</i>		

LATE IRON AGE, ROMAN, SAXON AND MEDIEVAL OCCUPATION AT THE FORMER CHURCH HALL SITE, HIGH STREET, SOHAM

SUMMARY

In June to July 2011, an archaeological excavation on the site of the former church hall, opposite St Andrew's parish church in Soham town centre, revealed well-preserved and deeply-stratified multi-period settlement remains. Apart from residual Neolithic - Bronze Age struck flint and pottery, the earliest and most significant remains were of a late Iron Age to early Roman (c. 50 BC – AD 70/80) ditched enclosure associated with rubbish pits, possible structural features and evidence of high-status occupation including imported Gallo-Belgic pottery. Activity appears to have shifted away from the site between the late 1st and late 3rd centuries AD, after which ditches, pits and surface layers containing pottery from the Nene Valley, Oxfordshire and Hadham industries attest to a further period of high-status occupation in the 4th and possibly early 5th centuries. The site lies within the conjectured precinct of St Felix's monastery (founded in AD 631) and activity during this period was represented by a pit and residual handmade pottery and Ipswich ware found in later features. This low-level activity was followed by late Saxon and early medieval occupation (c. 10th to 12th centuries), comprising boundary ditches that respected the position and alignment of the late Iron Age/ Roman enclosure, possible structures, and rubbish pits containing quantities of domestic finds. The beginning of this settlement sequence might represent the resumption of activity in Soham after the razing of the monastery by the Danes in the late 9th century. The site was reorganised in the late 12th century, probably associated with the consolidation of the present line of the High Street in this part of Soham. Subsequently, the site was divided into two roadside plots by an east-north-east to west-south-west-aligned boundary ditch running perpendicular to the High Street. Chalk/ sand quarry pits containing large quantities of domestic-type finds (e.g. Ely ware cooking pot sherds), and postholes and slots associated with small outbuildings, reflect activity in the backyard areas to the rear of a building at the (unexcavated) street frontage. Evidence of later medieval occupation had been removed by an episode of site-wide clearance, possibly associated with the construction of a building shown in the north-west corner of the site on a map of 1656; the site was probably gardens associated with this building throughout the post-medieval period. The excavation was only a small window on what, in all phases, was a larger settlement. Rich plant macrofossil assemblages provide important evidence for local agriculture between the late Iron Age and medieval periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between June and July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on the former site of St Andrew's Church Hall, High Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5942 7316) (Figs. 1 & 2). The excavation was commissioned by Andrew Fleet Limited on behalf of the client, C.J. Murfitt, in advance of proposed residential development (Planning Ref: 09/00299/FUL). It was carried out as part of a planning requirement of the local planning authority (based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA)). The proposed development comprises the construction of new houses with garages, gardens and associated services, and an access road and turning area.

1.2 The archaeological excavation was conducted in accordance with a Brief issued by CAPCA (Kasia Gdaniec; dated 28th June 2010) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Specification) compiled by AS (dated 9th May 2011). It complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2008) and the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The site lies in the presumed Saxon and medieval core of Soham, immediately opposite the parish church of St Andrew, which retains some late Norman elements, and within the conjectured precinct of St Felix's monastery, founded in AD 631 and destroyed by the Danes in the late 9th century (Oosthuizen 2000; HER¹ 07124). The archaeological potential of the site was confirmed by a trial trench evaluation carried out by Oxford Archaeology East (Thatcher 2008), which identified possible early Roman quarry pits and settlement-related features (boundary ditches, pits and a metalled surface) of medieval date. A spelt wheat glume base (possibly from a residual context) also suggested potential for evidence associated with late Iron Age/ Roman agriculture or crop-processing. The principal aims of the excavation were to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site over time. Specific objectives were:

- To contribute towards the development of period-based settlement plans for the centre of the fen island of Soham and to provide relative dating for the major periods represented (combining archaeological evidence with any documentary records which may exist).
- To understand, through appropriate sampling strategies and analysis, the nature of the spelt wheat grain assemblage from the site, in particular whether it was processed and traded, and whether it was grown in the vicinity and then cleaned on the site.

¹ Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

(Figs. 1 & 2)

The site is located in Soham in the south-eastern part of the Cambridgeshire Fens. The core of the modern small town (and presumably also the Saxon and medieval settlement) occupies a low ridge of higher ground (c. 5-10m OD), running broadly south-east to north-west, which forms a peninsula extending into the former fen. To the east, west and south-west are areas of lower ground that were fen prior to large-scale drainage works carried out between the 17th and 19th centuries. Soham Mere, to the west of the town, was a large freshwater lake until the 19th century. The town centre is on the north and east side of Soham Lode, the partially-canalized course of the river Snail, which flows from the south-east to join the Great Ouse 6km north-west of Soham. The original course of the river has been considerably altered and once flowed into Soham Mere. The main present-day through-routes run approximately south-east to north-west, between the Fen-edge and Ely. It has been plausibly suggested that a prehistoric trackway ran along the high ground of Soham from the Fen-edge towards the Isle of Ely; a timber track associated with Bronze Age artefacts has been identified in excavation where this conjectured route crossed the Cam/ Little Ouse at Little Thetford (Malim 2000).

The site itself is on the east side of the High Street, immediately opposite St Andrew's Church and close to the junction between the High Street and White Hart Lane, to the north. It comprises a roughly rectangular plot approximately 25m wide from north to south (widening to 30m at the rear) by 60m east to west, extending back from the High Street frontage, with a total area of c. 0.17ha. The church hall, now demolished, was in the central western part of the site and was constructed on a concrete ground-slab. The site lies at an elevation of between 8.18 and 7.61m OD, falling away gently to the south-east, though this slope may relate to past landscaping rather than the natural topography. Soham town centre lies on Lower Chalk (BGS 1981), although there is some variation in the superficial geology and pockets of clay and sand also occur.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

(Fig. 3)

Finds of Mesolithic tranchet axeheads (HER 07098), Neolithic axes (HER 02097, 07087 and 11019) and scatters of Bronze Age flints (HER 07101, from The Weatheralls, to the north-east of the town centre) in Soham are listed in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record, but the precise locations where they were found are frequently not recorded.

Part of an early Iron Age settlement, represented by pits, ditches and a few possible postholes, has been investigated during two phases of evaluation and small-scale excavation work at Clay Street/ St Andrew's House (HER CB15776, Atkins 2004, Nichol 2001 and 2002). Another late Bronze Age to

early Iron Age settlement has been identified around 1km south-east of the town centre at Fordham Road allotments (HER CB14631, Connor 2001; MCB19583, Quinn and Peachey 2012). A grave containing an undated female burial with an infant and child, excavated 300m north-west of the site, may be prehistoric (HER MCB18106). A possible early Iron Age ditch has been excavated at Weatheralls Close, 500m north of the site, though it contained only a single sherd of pottery (HER MCB16872). Prehistoric or Romano-British ditches have also been excavated at 38 Station Road, 250m away (HER 11985, Heawood 1997). Cyril Fox (1923, 81) records the discovery in Soham of an early Iron Age male warrior burial accompanied by a spear and two dogs (HER 07086), although its precise location is not known and an Anglo-Saxon date may be more likely.

Roman 'villas' or other substantial buildings are known in East Fen (HER 07688 and 07578) and to the south of the town (HER 02087). The former site has had some small-scale intrusive investigation, revealing hypocaust tiles still set in mortar. Surface finds of Roman pottery, coins and metalwork are common in East Fen, Clipsall Field, around Down Field and at several other locations in fields to the south of the town. Some evidence for Roman occupation has also been found in the vicinity of the modern town centre but the character and status of this activity is not yet well understood. Pottery, including castor ware and a cordoned jar of 1st - to 2nd-century date, has been found in association with a human skull at Weatheralls Close, approximately 600m north of the site (HER 07100). A Roman burial ground in the vicinity of White Hart Lane, just north of the site, may be indicated by seven skeletons found in building trenches (HER 06971) and an additional inhumation uncovered nearby during other construction work (HER MCB17746). However, in both cases only one or two sherds of Roman pottery were present with which to date the graves and this could have been residual in later (Anglo-Saxon?) burials. A Roman ditch has been excavated during trial trenching off Paddock Street, 200m south-east of the site (HER MCB18200, Rees 2009). Clearer evidence for settlement comes from just over 1km south-east of the town centre, where Roman ditched enclosures, pits, evidence for buildings and a possible metalled track or cobbled surface have been found in trial trenches at Fordham Road allotments and on adjacent sites (HER CB14630, Murray and Hounsell 2001; CB14632, Connor 2001; MCB19583, Quinn and Peachey 2012).

The name Soham is thought to derive from Old English *Sægan Hamm*, meaning 'settlement or enclosure by the swampy pool' (Reaney 1943), presumably a reference to Soham Mere. The site is located close to the reputed site of the monastery of St. Felix, founded in AD 631 and destroyed by the Danes in the late 9th century (HER 07124; Salzman 1948, 141 and 199). The broadly circular morphology of the roads and lanes in the town centre is suggestive of a religious enclosure (Oosthuizen 2000), with the medieval parish church of St Andrew in the centre and perhaps located on the site of the original monastery. However, no clear evidence for the monastery has yet been found. T. C. Lethbridge argued that there was an Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the site of St Andrew's churchyard (Lethbridge and O'Reilly 1934, plate XI, 89). A mid-6th-century cruciform brooch found in the vicinity

(HER 07123a) and a Saxon socketed spearhead from the High Street (HER 02086) add some weight to this suggestion. A sherd of mid to late Saxon pottery has been found in a test pit in the south-east corner of the churchyard, apparently in a grave fill (HER 11386). Disarticulated bone from several individuals was found during construction of a garden shed on White Hart Lane and has been interpreted as deriving from inhumations associated with St Felix's monastery (HER 11789). Other burials have been recorded in this area but none are securely dated (see above). Other Saxon inhumations and grave goods were found in the 19th and early 20th centuries on the site of the new cemetery on Newmarket Road, and under the neighbouring houses (HER 07027). A mid-6th- to 7th-century Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Soham/Fordham waterworks, comprising 23 inhumations and two cremations, was excavated in the 1930s (Lethbridge 1933). All the burials were laid out in a circle, suggesting the original presence of a central barrow.

The monastery was not re-founded after the Viking invasions (Salzman 1948, 141 and 199). However, the construction of a cathedral and 'palace' in Soham by one Luttingus, a Saxon nobleman, has been suggested (Martin 2000, 4; Website 1). By the early 11th century, Soham had become an important manor. In a will of c. AD 1000, the lands of the widow of Ealdorman Brihtnoth, the famed warrior of the epic poem 'The Battle of Maldon', are mentioned, and a document of AD 1044 describes food-rents due to the abbey of Bury St Edmunds from lands previously given by Aelfric, Bishop of Elmham. Domesday Book (1086) describes three manors in Soham, the main one belonging to the king, a smaller one belonging to the Abbot of Ely and a third in secular ownership; land was also held by (Bury) St Edmund's Church. Some 60 peasant families, engaged in mixed agriculture, are recorded, as well as two watermills (Darby 1971, 23). The present church, 50m west of the site, has some surviving late Norman (late-12th-century) elements, with a 13th-century chancel and other later rebuilding (HER 07123; Listed Building 48866). Its cruciform plan may add weight to identification as a minster church (Baggs 2000). Soham is thought to have held an unchartered market before the 12th century (Ridout 2000). The 1327 lay subsidy returns record 85 tax-payers in the village, working in a broad range of trades.

A number of small-scale archaeological investigations in the town centre have found evidence of late Saxon and medieval occupation. Structural beam slots containing Saxo-Norman pottery have been recorded at 38 Station Road (HER 11985, Heawood 1997) and 10th-12th-century pits, ditches and postholes have been found nearby at Nos. 9-13 Pratt Street (HER 11932, Hatton and Last 1997). Saxo-Norman ditched enclosures and associated settlement evidence have been identified by two phases of trial trench evaluation at Weatheralls Primary School (HER 07099, Bray 1991; MCB19459, Phillips and Diffey 2011). A beam slot and posthole from a probable late Saxon building have been found at 8 Market Street, 100m north of the site (HER MCB16868). To the south of St Andrew's Church, a late Saxon boundary ditch that may represent the rear boundary of properties flanking the High Street, and additional 10th-12th-century ditches and pits, have been found during investigations off Clay Street (HER CB15776, Casa

Hatton 2000, Atkins 2004). Medieval (13th-14th-century) property boundary ditches, quarry and rubbish pits and a posthole structure were also identified. A late medieval quarry pit and possible burgage plot boundary ditches have been recorded at Ten Bell Lane, 450m to the north of the site (HER MCB16279, Atkins 2004b). A 12th-century ditched enclosure and two possible large retting pits excavated on land off Paddock Street reflect agricultural land use (HER MCB18201, Rees 2009). Most of these sites appear to relate to occupation along the axis of High Street/ Pratt Street and the side roads running perpendicular to it. However, medieval settlement remains at other sites, such as Cloverfield Drive/ Thorn Street, 1km north-west of the church, show that medieval Soham also had areas of dispersed settlement.

With the exception of the church, the earliest extant buildings in Soham are thought to date to the 16th century. Timber-framed cottages, some formerly shops and inns, are found along the High Street, Pratt Street and many of the adjoining side roads. A map of 1656 shows a building on the street frontage in the north-west corner of the site. The associated plot is not shown as containing any further substantial buildings and was probably gardens and yards associated with this building.

2.3 Trial trench evaluation

(Fig. 4; Thatcher 2008)

Four trial trenches were excavated in April 2008 in order to better-establish the site's archaeological potential and inform decision-making about possible mitigation strategies prior to redevelopment. In the east of the site, Trench 1 revealed early Roman quarry pits cut by a late medieval ditch. Trench 3, in the south-west of the site, contained medieval settlement features including a boundary ditch, several pits and a possible metallised surface. A large portion of the area encompassed by Trenches 1 and 2, in the central and south-eastern parts of the site, appeared to have been severely truncated by post-medieval quarrying, probably for clunch. Deep deposits were encountered in Trench 4, close to the street frontage, and it was thought that they might have helped to preserve any underlying medieval features; however, the extent of investigation here was limited by the high watertable. It was also suggested by the excavators that medieval remains, perhaps related to the building shown on the 17th-century map, stood a good chance of surviving beneath the concrete ground slab of the former church hall, as it appeared to lie between 0.20 and 0.40m above the level of the archaeological deposits. However, the proposed trial trench in this part of the site could not be excavated in practice as it would have had to be cut through the floor of the (then) still-standing parish hall, possibly affecting its structural integrity. It was often not possible to match features found during the excavation with those recorded in the trial trenches, but instances are discussed in the text where possible.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

Due to the relatively confined nature of the site, stripping and excavation took place in stages in order to allow space for spoil. The site was divided into four quadrants (see Fig. 2), with the north-eastern and south-western areas stripped first and the resultant spoil stored on the south-eastern and north-western quadrants, respectively. When excavation and recording in the north-eastern quadrant was complete, the south-eastern quadrant was stripped and the spoil used to backfill the north-eastern quadrant. A 1m overlap was left open to allow inter-feature relationships between these two quadrants to be accurately planned.

Stripping of the south-eastern and south-western quadrants revealed unexpectedly complex stratigraphy and, after initial excavation and recording of the visible/ latest features in order to establish their date and character, an additional spit was removed by machine to better-define the edges of the underlying features. After these had been planned and the quantity of the surviving archaeology appreciated, a decision was taken by the developer to use piled foundations in order to minimise the impact of construction on these archaeological remains; archaeological excavation therefore ceased at this level in these areas and deeper deposits are to be preserved *in situ*.

Due to the considerable depth (1.20m+) of the overlying subsoil in the western part of the site and the proposed positioning of the future site access in this area (*i.e.* minimal ground disturbance only), a decision was taken in conjunction with the planning archaeologist not to undertake any excavation in the north-western quadrant or under the hard-standing at the street frontage.

Undifferentiated overburden was excavated under close archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket; a metal detector was used during topsoil and subsoil stripping. Following topsoil and subsoil stripping, the exposed archaeological features and layers were hand-cleaned and scanned with a metal detector. Features and deposits were excavated manually, recorded under a single context recording system using pro-forma recording sheets, and photographed as appropriate. All feature sections were drawn to scale and the site was planned digitally using a total station theodolite (Nikon NPL 820). Excavated spoil was scanned for finds with a metal detector. Discrete pits and postholes were half-sectioned, while linear features were excavated in slots providing a minimum of between 10 and 25% coverage depending on whether they were directly associated with settlement areas or less intensive activity. Slots were positioned for optimal determination of inter-feature relationships. Intrinsically-interesting features e.g. structural remains (where recognised) were 100% excavated.

Finds were recovered by hand and the assemblages are therefore biased towards larger fragments. A purposive environmental sampling programme

was undertaken with the aim of recovering information about the past environment and economy of the site and surrounding area, particularly the possible growing and processing of spelt during the Romano-British period (as suggested by the trial trench evaluation). A total of 79 bulk soil samples, generally 40 litres in volume, were taken from sealed contexts with the aim of recovering plant macrofossils and crop processing debris, as well as bones of fish and small mammals, which might shed light on the exploitation of Fenland resources.

3.2 Confidence rating

Recognition and excavation of features in the western part of the site, towards the street frontage, was affected to some extent by standing water from the high perched watertable.

Due to the unexpected density of archaeological deposits on the site, a decision was taken by the developer part-way through the excavation to use piled foundations and thus minimise damage to the more deeply-stratified archaeological remains. Excavation therefore ceased in the south-east quadrant, although several cut features (gullies, pits and a possible sump or well) and a (possibly Iron Age) surface layer (L2260) had not yet been characterised or dated. After initial sampling of the visible features in the south-west quadrant, and the mechanical removal of an additional spit of soil in order to allow the edges of the underlying ditches and pits to be better-defined, excavation also ceased in this area at the level of Layer L2147, a compact cassy silt layer of possible late Roman date. The cessation of excavation at this level inevitably has some negative impact on understanding of the site's development over time, perhaps particularly before and during the Romano-British period. However, these deeper remains are to be preserved in-situ during the site's redevelopment.

3.3 Phasing and post-excavation analysis

(Figs. 5 & 6)

The site phasing is based on a combination of chronologically-diagnostic finds, stratigraphic relationships and a degree of subjective judgement about the overall sense which can be made of the site's layout during each period of activity. The site's archaeology was almost 'urban' in character, with deep post-medieval and modern overburden facilitating a relatively good degree of preservation of underlying archaeological features, and the survival of some surface layers rather than just negative/ cut features. Fairly intensive activity over the last two millennia had resulted in numerous inter-cutting features, widespread truncation of earlier deposits by later features, and consequently very mixed finds and environmental assemblages, with high levels of residuality and intrusiveness; stratigraphy is therefore considered to be a more reliable indicator of phasing than finds dates from a given context.

Seven phases of activity have been identified, as shown below:

Phase	Description used in this report	Date range
1	Neolithic to Bronze Age	c. 4300 – 750 BC
2	Late Iron Age to early Roman	c. 50 BC – AD 70/80
3	Late Roman	c. AD 300 – 410+
4	Early to middle Saxon	c. AD 450 – 900
5	Late Saxon to early medieval	c. AD 900 – 1175
	5.1 Late Saxon	c. AD 900 – 1050
	5.2 Saxo-Norman/ early medieval	c. AD 1050 – 1175
6	High medieval	c. AD 1175 – 1400
7	Late medieval to post-medieval	c. AD 1400+

Table 1: Phasing

The transitions between the defined chronological phases varied from clear-cut ‘breaks’ in on-site activity, as occurred between the early and later Roman periods of occupation (Phases 2 and 3), and more gradual developments with strong elements of continuity in land use from the preceding phase, as seems to have been the case in the late Saxon to early medieval period (Phases 5.1 and 5.2). Of course, the site was only a very small window on what was, in all phases, part of a larger ‘site’. The apparent breaks in activity may simply indicate periods when occupation shifted a short distance away from this site, but was nevertheless still present in the wider vicinity. Phase 1 was represented only by residual finds, Phase 4 by residual pottery and a single middle Saxon pit; Phase 7 largely also lacked ‘cut’ features. The date ranges assigned to each phase in Table 1 are approximate only and are based on a combination of finds dates and stratigraphy rather than strict adherence to the possible date ranges of the associated pottery.

As mentioned above, intensive settlement activity on the site between the late Iron Age and the medieval period had resulted in extensive truncation of earlier deposits by later features and mixed finds assemblages with high levels of residuality and intrusiveness. The principal artefact assemblages from the site (struck flint, pottery, ceramic building materials and small finds and other objects) have nevertheless been analysed in their entirety, regardless of the contexts in which they were found, as these finds are to some extent chronologically-diagnostic in themselves and can be related to specific periods of on-site activity even where they were not stratified in features of that period. However, animal bone and bulk samples (for plant macrofossil recovery) from contaminated contexts were not submitted for further analysis (see Appendices 2 and 3) as they could not be related with confidence to a particular period of occupation. The contexts identified as definitely containing residual/ intrusive material are certainly a minimum, particularly in the case of ‘open’ ditches and gullies, and the results of faunal and botanical analysis should be viewed with caution, as should assessment of the metalworking residues.

4 SITE NARRATIVE

4.1 Phase 1: Neolithic to Bronze Age

(Fig. 7)

Phase 1 was represented only by a modest scattering of handmade flint-tempered pottery and struck flint found residually in later features across the site. Both the pottery and the handful of more diagnostic worked flints (including side and thumbnail scrapers) would fit with a later Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Minor localised concentrations of residual struck flint and pottery (respectively) in the ditches of the late Iron Age to early Roman enclosure (F2100 Seg. A and F2091 Seg. B) and in a late Saxon/ early medieval re-cut of the north side of the enclosure (Ditch F2013) may have derived from underlying Neolithic or Bronze Age features that had been entirely destroyed by the later ditches.

4.2 Phase 2: late Iron Age to early Roman

(Figs. 7)

The excavation uncovered important evidence of a previously-unknown high-status late Iron Age to early Roman-period settlement in the centre of Soham. Within the site, this was represented by a ditched enclosure with slight evidence for associated structures, in addition to signs of a rich material culture. Although small and fragmentary, the pottery assemblage reflects a wealthy community or household and includes a large proportion of locally-produced 'Belgic'-type vessels, as well as imported Gallo-Belgic wares, a rim sherd from a La Graufesenque samian ware platter and body sherds from a fine ware beaker produced at Cherry Hinton. The overall character of activity in this phase is perhaps more in keeping with a (craft/ industrial?) area on the edge of a high-status settlement site rather than the settlement core. However, including those found residually in later contexts, the quantities of late Iron Age and early Roman pottery from the excavation area point to domestic occupation very close by.

The late Iron Age to early Roman features had mostly been heavily-disturbed by the intensive later activity at the site and only survived to shallow depths. The general lack of stratigraphy within or between Phase 2 features hinders a refined understanding of the settlement's longevity. However, on-site observations regarding the changing character of pottery found at different fill levels within some features suggest that the origins of the settlement may predate the late pre-Roman Iron Age. The ceramic evidence indicates that the settlement was thriving in the first half of the 1st century AD and probably continued to do so for at least a few decades after the Roman conquest. As the excavation was clearly just a small window on a larger 'site', it may simply be that occupation shifted a short distance away in the late 1st century rather than coming to an end; this possibility is enhanced by the resumption of on-site activity in the late Roman period (Phase 3).

In the rear portion of the excavation area (the NE and SE quadrants) was part of a roughly rectangular ditched enclosure or compound positioned on broadly west-north-west to east-south-east by north-north-east to south-south-west

axes. It was defined by boundary ditches on its north-east, north-west and south-west sides and enclosed a visible area measuring approximately 20 x 20m internally; it extended beyond the site to the south-east.

The enclosure ditches were best-preserved on its north-west side, where there was clear evidence for the initial boundary ditch (F2091) having been re-cut (F2100) after it had silted up. The earlier ditch had stepped sides, while its re-cut had a steep rounded profile; both survived to around 1.20m wide by 0.45m deep (Fig. 10).

Along the enclosure's north-east side, the original boundary ditches had been heavily obscured by later re-cutting. It appears that this side of the enclosure (at least) remained visible as a linear depression into the late Saxon period and that its alignment was deliberately reused in a new system of land division established at that time (see below). However, short stretches of the original late Iron Age to early Roman ditches forming the north-east side of the enclosure survived either outside the areas of late Saxon re-cutting (F2093, F2095 and possibly F2049) or were visible underneath them when viewed in section (possibly F2102). Considerable quantities of residual 1st-century AD pottery were present alongside Saxon and early medieval finds in all of the later ditches running through this area (e.g. F2011, F2013, F2097 and F2017; see below), adding to the likelihood that the late Iron Age ditches which originally defined the enclosure's north-east side had been destroyed. Features 114 and 127, recorded in Trial Trench 1 and found to contain early Roman pottery, were probably parts of Ditches F2093, F2097 and F2013.

The south-west side of the enclosure was also difficult to trace as the boundary ditch demarcating it (F2284) was partially obscured on its south side by a soil layer (L2260) which remained unexcavated (see *Methodology*, above). Where visible, it was of similar dimensions and profile to the ditches on the enclosure's north-west side (stepped to rounded profile; 1.40m+ wide x 0.50m deep).

The largest group of stratified late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery from the site (95 sherds weighing nearly 1kg) came from one of the north-western enclosure ditches (F2091 Seg. B). The assemblage, which was noted as coming from fairly high-up in the ditch fill, includes fragments of jars, bowls, beakers and flagons in a range of wheel-made sand-and-grog- and grog-tempered 'Belgic' fabrics that would all fit a date in the first half of the 1st century AD. Identifiable vessels include part of a butt beaker with cordons filled with bands of rouletted decoration, a flagon with collared rim and long neck, and a necked bowl with plain everted rim, shoulder cordon and burnished exterior. The excavator noted that sherds found lower down in the (single) fill of the ditch had a 'cruder' appearance, which might be a reference to the handmade sand-, flint- and shell-tempered pottery recorded in the finds concordance as coming from the adjacent slot excavated through the re-cut of the enclosure ditch (F2100 Seg. A). This might indicate that the enclosure originated in the period before 'Belgic' imports and influence reached this area. The pottery from the south-western enclosure ditch (F2284) includes body sherds in northern Gaulish Terra Rubra fabric; the ditches forming the

north-east side of the enclosure yielded sherds from a Terra Nigra platter (F2093) and basal and body sherds from an ovoid beaker in the same fabric (residual in late Saxon Ditch F2013 Seg. D).

Within the enclosure and probably abutting its north-east side were two 'sub-compartments' defined by right-angled ditches and gullies. One, demarcated by a large ditch with variable stepped or steep rounded sides (F2182; 1.15m wide x 0.60m deep; Fig. 10), was partially revealed at the eastern edge of the excavation area. Assuming that the conjectured position of the north-east side of the enclosure is correct, this ditch would have divided-off an area measuring roughly 8m from north to south by 4m+ east to west from the rest of the enclosure. In one excavated segment (Seg. A), the profile of the lower portion of the ditch had the appearance of having been re-cut, with the remnant of the 'original' ditch represented by the lower fill (L2183). At its northern end, Ditch F2182 was cut by one of a group of late Iron Age/ early Roman pits (F2037). A moderate assemblage of 1st-century AD pottery from F2182 Seg. A, including one isolated sherd from its lower fill, supports the date indicated by stratigraphy. However, the ditch was a substantial feature and appears to have remained at least partially open and in use in the later Roman period, perhaps having been re-cut at this time (see below).

Immediately west of this compartment was another small area subdivided from the rest of the enclosure's interior by two adjoining right-angled gullies (F2063 and F2085). These were both narrow and shallow (0.80 and 0.60m wide by 0.11 and 0.30m deep, respectively) and, even allowing for subsequent truncation, were clearly considerably different in form from the ditch which surrounded the adjacent compartment. They may have been structural slots, forming the north-west and south-west sides of a small rectangular building (c. 4.5 x 3m internally), the other sides of which had been completely removed by later ditches (F2017 to the north and F2025 to the east). However, it is probably more likely that they represent the remains of a foundation trench for a post-in-trench fence-line enclosing a small area which had a specific function. A posthole (F2061) cut through one of the gullies (F2063) close to their point of intersection further implies the presence of a small structure or fence. This gully also had a dark charcoal-rich fill suggestive of wooden components (e.g. a wattle fence or wall) having burnt down. The presence of slag (816g) within the ashy fill might indicate that this part of the enclosure was used for metalworking, perhaps being enclosed by a windbreak on the side exposed to the prevailing south-westerly wind. A small but homogenous assemblage of wheel-made sand-and-grog-tempered sherds was found in one of the gullies (F2085); the other features have been phased based on stratigraphy and their perceived functional association.

Elsewhere inside the enclosure were scattered rubbish pits, most of which only survived to shallow depths or were cut by other features and consequently contained few finds (clockwise from the north-east corner: F2031, F2033, F2037, F2280, F2187, F2191, F2295, F2297, F2257, F2265, F2165 and F2089). These were generally around 1.00-1.50m across and between 0.15 and 0.50m deep. Several of the pits (F2031, F2033 and F2037) formed an inter-cutting cluster truncating the north-east end of the ditch

(F2182) which surrounded the first of the 'sub-compartments' described above. One of these (F2037) was large (3.5m+ x 2m+ x 0.72m) and irregular in profile (Fig. 10) and may have been dug to extract either natural chalk or a localised deposit of the sand which occurred intermittently within the chalk at the site. The other pits were more scattered, though were mainly located in the southern half of the enclosure; they were probably dug for rubbish disposal and their number is suggestive of fairly intensive occupation in the near-vicinity, especially in view of the likelihood that other pits had been completely destroyed by later features.

The phasing of several of the pits is tentative, being based solely on their stratigraphic relationships or very small quantities of late Iron Age/ Roman finds (F2031, F2280, F2257 and F2265). The largest group of pottery (16 sherds; 333g) came from a pit cut into the north-western enclosure ditch (F2089) and includes part of a thick-walled handmade grog-and-sand-tempered storage jar with combing on the exterior; some or all of this assemblage could be residual from the fill of the underlying enclosure ditch. Another notable pottery group (12 sherds; 179g) was found residually in a medieval posthole (F2041) cut through Pit F2031. This includes fragments from several bowls/ jars with beaded rims/ plain shoulder cordons in sand-and sand-and-grog-tempered wheel-made 'Belgic' fabrics. Three sherds from an imitation Gallo-Belgic platter were recovered from another of the pits (F2187), while small concentrations of handmade shell-tempered pottery were found, in one case alongside wheel-finished sand-tempered sherds, in two adjacent pits which had been heavily-truncated by a late Saxon ditch (F2295 and F2297). Finds other than pottery were scarce. Pit F2089 contained the only moderately-large assemblage of animal bone (672g), though animal bone was recovered in smaller quantities from several other Phase 2 features; F2037 contained a few fragments of box flue tile.

The other main feature inside the enclosure was a short (c. 6m long), heavily-disturbed gully (F2278) running at a distance of c. 2m from, and parallel to, the south-western enclosure ditch. It was re-cut by a slightly later gully on the same sinuous alignment (F2211). Neither contained datable finds but the stratigraphic relationship between the earlier gully and one of the late Iron Age/ early Roman pits (F2187) indicates a late Iron Age or earlier date. They may have demarcated another subdivision of space within the enclosure.

Possible late Iron Age/ early Roman features were also identified outside the boundaries of the enclosure, suggesting that this was just part of a larger settlement site extending beyond the excavation area to the north, east, south and probably also the west (excavation in the western part of the site ceased at the late Roman level so evidence of earlier activity here would not have been seen). Features outside the enclosure included a few small rubbish pits in the north of the site (F2111, F2051, F2106 and F2045); the latter two each yielded single sherds of 1st-century AD pottery, while the former were both early Roman or earlier based on stratigraphic relationships and also contained fragments of Roman tile.

Of greater interest was an alignment of postholes identified at the southern edge of the excavation area, just outside the enclosure (from west to east: F2249, F2241, F2227, F2243, F2245, F2247 and F2225). These were all roughly circular in plan with steep to near-vertical sides and flat or pointed bases, and were of similar size (average 0.35m across x 0.15 - 0.30m deep; Fig. 10), with the exception of the post at the west end of the alignment (F2249), which was rather deeper (0.65m). No post-pipes were observed, suggesting that the posts were removed rather than decaying *in situ*. All the postholes were cut into the grey silty layer (L2260) at which excavation ceased in the SE quadrant of the site. The alignment ran west-south-west to east-north-east for 4.5m, with hints of a possible right-angled return running south-east from its eastern end. The postholes may represent the footprint of a small post-built structure, probably an outbuilding rather than a domestic building. Three of the postholes (F2249, F2245 and F2225) each yielded one or two small sherds of wheel-made sand-and-grog-tempered pottery. The proximity of the baulk and the fact that excavation in this part of the site stopped at the level of L2260 renders their phasing highly tentative and prevents a more conclusive identification of their function. A later posthole (F2251), cut through the posthole at the west end of the alignment, contained two sherds of Ely-type pottery, as well as a residual sherd of Roman sandy grey ware, casting additional uncertainty on the structure's possible early Roman date. Small pieces of slag were found in two postholes (F2249 and F2241), indicating the presence of metalworking activity somewhere in the vicinity and perhaps in association with the structure itself.

4.3 Phase 3: late Roman (Fig. 7)

There was an apparent break in activity between the late 1st and late 3rd century AD. As discussed above, it may be that local settlement simply shifted a short distance away from the site for much of the Romano-British period, rather than necessarily ceasing altogether. Nevertheless, the complete absence of even residual 2nd- to 3rd-century finds from the excavation area is striking in view of the clear evidence for activity in the conquest and late Roman periods.

On-site activity resumed in the late 3rd or 4th century AD. The ditches of the earlier enclosure would certainly have remained visible at this time, as some of them were later reused in a system of land division laid out in the late Saxon period (see below). All archaeological features on the site had been affected by widespread vertical truncation, the result of an episode of site-wide clearance, possibly associated with building construction, in the late medieval or early post-medieval period (see below). It is highly probable that the upper portions of the enclosure ditches had been removed by a combination of late Saxon re-cutting and this general site-wide truncation, removing any evidence of later Roman use. Close to the north-eastern boundary of the enclosure, the severely-truncated base of a possible late Roman ditch (F2015) was traced in places beneath the late Saxon and medieval ditches which ran through the area. It followed a sinuous but

broadly east to west alignment, parallel and just south of the late Iron Age/early Roman ditches (e.g. F2093 and F2095) and apparently respecting their position. Phasing is tentative as the ditch was heavily-disturbed and contained only a few potsherds of mixed early (e.g. two body sherds from a ring-and-dot beaker in Cherry Hinton oxidised ware) and mid to late Roman (a Lower Nene Valley colour coat sherd) date, alongside a small fragment of handmade sand-and-organic-tempered early to middle Saxon pottery. It is thought that the earlier finds were residual in a late Roman ditch which remained open into the Saxon period. Six additional fragments from the same Cherry Hinton beaker were found residually in the medieval burgage plot boundary ditch (F2017 Seg. C), which cut F2015.

The easternmost of the two 'sub-compartments' within the enclosure may also have continued to be used, with the ditch around it (F2182) either remaining open or perhaps being deliberately re-cut (there was slight evidence for this in the profile of Seg. A of the ditch; Fig. 11). The upper fill of the ditch contained a large (for the site) group of 4th-century pottery (31 sherds; 846g), which includes fragments of a Lower Nene Valley colour-coat necked jar with bead rim, a Hadham oxidised ware mortaria and the lower part of a Hadham oxidised ware jar or flagon. Animal bone (1.1kg), a piece of worked stone and a (*bessalis?*) brick fragment were also present, the latter pointing to the presence of substantial stone buildings somewhere in the vicinity.

In the western part of the enclosure were two fairly large (c. 2m across x 0.60-0.70m deep), steep-sided pits (F2071 and F2075), which may originally have been dug to extract a localised pocket of sand/ gravel from this area, but were subsequently filled-in with occupation debris. Pit F2071 contained a small late Roman pottery assemblage including sherds in Lower Nene Valley colour coat and Hadham oxidised ware, in addition to 2.2kg of animal bone, a worked stone fragment and a piece of box flue tile with a partial key mark. Pit F2075 contained fragments from a bead-rimmed hemispherical bowl in Hadham oxidised ware and sherds from a late Roman shell-tempered bead-rimmed jar, as well as 2.5kg of animal bone and a few tile fragments. The quantities of finds indicate domestic occupation nearby. These were part of a small cluster of pits, the others of which were undated but could feasibly also have been of later Roman date. A small pit or large posthole just north of the enclosure (F2029) contained pottery of broad Roman date.

A north-west to south-east aligned gully (or truncated ditch base) ran north-west to south-east across the south-western part of the excavation area, to the west of the enclosure (F2137). It contained a few Hadham oxidised ware sherds and two coins (SFs 1 and 2). The gully was cut into a layer of pale greenish-grey clayey silt (L2147) that was present across the whole of the SW quadrant of the site (17m+ x 7m+), except where it had been removed by modern demolition. Both Gully F2137 and this layer were cut by late Saxon and medieval features (see below). The nature of L2147 is difficult to discern as the excavation ceased at this level (see *Methodology*, above). However, the recovery of a moderate quantity of animal bone (2.7kg) and a large fragment of (late-3rd- to 4th-century) Oxfordshire white-slipped ware mortaria with heavy trituration grits from the slots that were excavated through it

indicate that it was a cultural deposit, of probable later Roman date. Its 'cessy' appearance may be a consequence of the high perched watertable on the site. Where excavated, the layer was usually around 0.20m deep but was probably deeper in places. After the discrete features cut into L2147 had been excavated, a 10cm spit was removed from it by machine and the tops of further pits and linear features could be seen (apparently) *within* the layer; elsewhere, earlier features were found to be completely sealed by it (e.g. undated Pit F2148, identified in section adjacent to the southern baulk). These features were left unexcavated and are to be preserved *in situ*, but appear to reflect intensive Romano-British occupation. L2147 also contained a fragment of human tibia.

Late Roman pottery distributed fairly widely in residual contexts across the site indicates that occupation during this phase was more intensive than the scatter of surviving features and deposits implies. The large proportion of Hadham oxidised ware and the presence of Oxfordshire red-slipped wares and diagnostically late jar forms in Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware suggest that the late Roman phase of occupation belongs to the 'latest' Roman period: the second half of the 4th and potentially the early 5th century AD. Although conjectural, the presence of very heavily-worn mortaria could also be taken as an indication of continuity into the final years of the Romano-British period, when regional imports of pottery were becoming harder to come by and vessels perhaps could not be easily replaced. As in the earlier Roman period, the presence of imported fine wares indicates a relatively high-status settlement.

4.4 Phase 4: early to middle Saxon

(Fig. 8)

An isolated early to middle Saxon pit (F2087) containing a small group of sand-and-organic-tempered and quartz-and-flint-tempered handmade pottery (9 sherds; 27g) was located in the eastern part of the site. The presence of residual handmade pottery of similar broadly early to middle Saxon date in a number of other features (11 sherds), and of four large sherds of Ipswich ware, add to the picture of occupation at this time. The distribution of pottery shows a concentration of handmade sherds towards the north of the site, while three out of the four Ipswich ware fragments were found towards the southern baulk. This might reflect a chronological shift in occupation or some kind of spatial zoning of activity in the wider area, but given the very small quantities of pottery involved and the small size of this excavation area, detailed questions about the layout of the Saxon settlement at Soham will have to await future fieldwork. The presence of Saxon activity on the site is perhaps not unexpected given its location within the conjectured precinct of St Felix's monastery (c. AD 631 – late 9th century).

4.5 Phase 5: late Saxon to early medieval (Fig. 8)

The ditches of the late Iron Age to early Roman enclosure seem to have remained visible for a considerable period of time, as they were referenced by a new system of land division laid out in the late Anglo-Saxon period. This comprised a set of boundary/ drainage ditches positioned on broadly west-north-west to east-south-east by north-north-east to south-south-west axes, parallel to and in several cases re-cutting the boundaries of the earlier enclosure. The associated pottery generally indicates a broad 10th-12th-century date range. This partly reflects the difficulties of closely-dating the Thetford and St Neots ware forms which make up the bulk of the assemblage. However, repeated re-cutting and minor reorganisations of the ditch system do reinforce the picture of a relatively long period of activity. Stratigraphic relationships allow a tentative breakdown into two sub-phases, with earlier features occasionally containing Ipswich ware sherds (e.g. Pits F2133 and F2180) and later features often containing early medieval pottery (e.g. Ely-type ware) alongside Saxo-Norman fabrics. The earlier sub-phase has been assigned to the late Saxon period, the latter to after the Norman Conquest. However, this involves a high degree of conjecture and the majority of the associated pottery could in reality almost all date to the post-Conquest period.

It is possible that there was no break between the period of occupation that resulted in the deposition of small quantities of Ipswich ware on the site (during Phase 4) and the start of this phase of more intensive activity. However, in light of the conjectured history of Soham and St Felix's monastery, it is perhaps more likely that there was a hiatus following the late-9th-century Viking invasions. In this scenario, the Phase 5 features would reflect the resumption of occupation and reorganisation of the secular settlement at Soham after the disuse of the monastery. As in all phases, features extended beyond the confines of the small excavation area, so what was seen was only a small part of a larger 'site'.

4.5.1 Sub-phase 5.1: late Saxon

The eastern (rear) part of the site was occupied by part of a rectilinear plot or enclosure orientated on approximately the same west-north-west to east-south-east by north-north-east to south-south-west axes as its late Iron Age/ early Roman predecessor. The enclosure was formed by shallow boundary/ drainage ditches on its north-east (F2023 and F2097), north-west (F2067=F2223) and south-west (F2239) sides; its eastern limit lay beyond the excavation area. An angled ditch (F2189) ran south-eastwards from midway along the enclosure's north-western boundary, before turning after 10m and continuing south-westwards to meet the terminus of Ditch F2239. This formed a smaller compartment inside the enclosure, the interior of which appears to have continued beyond the site to the south. Two parallel north-north-west to south-south-east aligned ditches (F2005 and F2007) cut across Ditch F2023 and continued under the northern baulk, indicating that this was part of a wider system of land division extending beyond the limits of the excavation area.

All the ditches were fairly narrow and shallow (c. 1.10-1.40m wide x 0.20-0.50m deep), their upper portions probably having been removed by the site-wide truncation which seems to have occurred in the late medieval/ early post-medieval period (see below). Their profiles varied from steep-sided and 'v'-shaped (as in some sections of F2223 and F2189) to more moderately-sloping and rounded (F2023 and F2239) (Fig. 11). Finds were not abundant but all the ditches contained small amounts of Saxo-Norman pottery, distributed in segments dug throughout their lengths. The pottery from F2223 includes a sagging base in Thetford ware, while that from F2023 includes Thetford ware sherds with applied thumb-impressed clay strips. Most of the ditches also yielded small amounts of Ely-type ware, probably indicating that they remained (partially) open into Phase 5.2. By contrast, the sealed pits of this sub-phase frequently contained only St Neots ware, Thetford ware and occasional Ipswich ware, with no early medieval pottery present (see below). Ditch F2189 also contained 2kg of animal bone and several nails and other iron fragments; F2223 contained 1.8kg of animal bone including a horse skull found on the base of Segment C and 431g of slag.

In the angle of Ditch F2189, and enclosed by it, was a rectangular pit with steep to vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 1.70m long by 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep (F2180) (Fig. 11). Sitting centrally on the base with its sides aligned parallel to the edges of the pit was a roughly-worked rectangular block of clunch. The fill of the pit (L2181) was unremarkable, being similar to that of most of the features in the vicinity, and contained only a small neck fragment from a Thetford ware jar and a sherd of Ipswich ware. The pit stood out as unusual because of its position in relation to Ditch F2189, its very regular shape in plan and profile and the presence of the clunch block on its base. It is possible that it was associated with an (unidentified) industrial process.

In the south-western part of the site, cut into late Roman Layer L2147, was a cluster of small later Saxon rubbish pits (F2135, F2133 and F2150). These yielded small quantities of Thetford ware and Ipswich ware, the former including sherds with horizontal line decoration from F2133. There were few other finds, perhaps indicating that the pits were primarily used to dispose of organic waste which had not survived. Pit F2135 had a charcoal-rich fill that may have been derived from hearth waste. The pits attest to occupation somewhere in the immediate vicinity.

4.5.2 *Sub-phase 5.2: Saxo-Norman/ early medieval*

The north-eastern boundary of the late Saxon enclosure was re-cut on several successive occasions (Ditches F2013 and F2011), indicating a long period of use. These re-cuts closely followed the line of the late Iron Age to early Roman enclosure, demonstrating that this was still visible, at least as a linear depression. The ditches were very similar in size and profile, being steep-sided, flat-based and measuring (at most) around 1.20m wide by just under 0.50m deep (Fig. 12). Ditch F2013 contained Thetford ware and a spout and strap handle from a jug in coarse sand and quartz-tempered Ely-type fabric. All three ditches contained large amounts of residual late Iron Age pottery

deriving from the underlying ditches; the stratigraphically latest re-cut (F2011) contained only late Iron Age/ early Roman sherds.

There was also some modification to the ditches subdividing the interior of the enclosure. The south-western boundary, formerly demarcated by F2239, was replaced by Ditch F2185, which initially ran on the same south-east to north-west alignment but continued further to the north-west, before curving northwards to enclose Pit F2180. This was subsequently replaced by another ditch (F2178) which entered the excavation area from the south-west and ran north-east for 8m parallel to, and 6m south of, the north-western boundary of the enclosure (still demarcated by Ditch F2223). Its north-east end was cut by a possible sunken-featured building (see below), but in any case it does not appear to have ever continued much further across the internal area of the enclosure. In the south-western quadrant of the site, a short ditch (F2139) was cut through late Roman Layer L2147. This ran on a south-west to north-east alignment for 12m+, extending into the central area of the site which was disturbed by modern demolition. It contained late Saxon - early medieval pottery including a large decorated sherd from a Thetford ware storage jar and 1.7kg of animal bone. Its alignment was offset slightly from that of the late Saxon enclosure ditches; however, it ran almost exactly perpendicular to Ditches F2005 and F2007, which were also located outside the boundaries of the enclosure. It is possible that F2139 equates to a curving east to west ditch recorded in Trial Trench 3 (Feature 313), which contained medieval pottery in its upper fill. This would mean that the trial trench was surveyed incorrectly and was actually c. 4m further north than is indicated in the evaluation report, but this would help to explain the general lack of correspondence between features recorded in the trench and in the part of the excavation area where it is stated to have been located.

Positioned approximately centrally within the enclosure was a possible sunken-featured building (F2173). This was a sub-rectangular pit with a rounded eastern end, near-vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 3.00m long by 2.28m wide and 0.60m deep. It contained a sequence of fills, comprising (from basal to uppermost): a layer of silt and redeposited natural chalk (L2174) representing weathered material from the exposed sides of the pit, a soft dark grey/ black humic layer containing much charcoal and occasional sandy lenses (L2175), another weathered chalky layer (L2176) and a final fill of dark grey/ black sandy silt with charcoal inclusions (L2177). The basal fill contained animal bone (612g), the middle fills were sterile, and the uppermost fill contained 4 sherds (28g) of medieval pottery including a yellow-glazed possible Stamford ware sherd, in addition to several lead fragments (SFs 7-9), nails (SFs 6 and 10) and two pieces of medieval roof tile.

The feature was recorded on site as a simple quarry or rubbish pit. However, its shape in plan, its profile and its sequence of alternating chalky/ organic-looking fills were very similar to those of the hollows which are left by sunken-featured buildings (SFBs). The dimensions of the pit were perhaps marginally smaller than those of an 'average' SFB; however, smaller, perhaps ancillary, structures of this type are known from other late Saxon sites. The sequence of fills appears to reflect periods when the subsurface pit left from the building

was left open and exposed to natural weathering, interspersed with phases of deliberate dumping/ clearance of accumulated organic debris from surface middens into an available open hollow. The lower humic layer (L2175) could potentially represent the remnants of the cleared/ collapsed turf side walls or roof of the structure. Stratigraphy indicates a Saxo-Norman/ early medieval or later date, with the associated pottery fitting a 12th-14th-century range, though the small assemblage all derived from the pit's uppermost fill. While SFBs are more commonly found in early and middle Saxon contexts, they certainly continued to be constructed and used into the post-Norman Conquest period. This interpretation remains tentative as the potential structural nature of F2173 was not identified during excavation and therefore only a small portion of the feature was excavated.

A few possible rubbish pits, one in the central northern part of the site (F2109) and two in the south-west (F2160 and F2131), also belonged to this period of activity. They ranged in size between c. 0.80 and 1.50m across and were around 0.30m deep. Few finds were present but single sherds in Thetford ware, St Neots ware or local medieval coarseware, combined in two cases with stratigraphic relationships, probably place them in this sub-phase. Given the small quantities of cultural material that were present, they may primarily have been used for disposal of cess or other organic material.

4.6 Phase 6: 'high' medieval (Fig. 9)

Probably in the latter half of the 12th century, the site's layout was subject to a reorganisation. This is likely to reflect wider changes in layout and land tenure in the centre of Soham and appears to have been related to the formalisation/ consolidation of the present route of the High Street in this area.

The principal (WNW-ESE by SSW-NNE) alignments that land divisions had adhered to since the late Iron Age were abandoned in favour of a new broadly east- to west-aligned toft/ tenement boundary ditch (F2017) running across the site on a perpendicular alignment to the High Street and dividing the site into (parts of) two separate roadside plots. It was recorded for a length of around 28m and extended beyond the site to the east, and westwards underneath the area truncated by the modern buildings which had previously occupied the site. It had fairly steep straight sides and a flat base and survived to up to 1.85m wide by 0.60m deep (Fig. 12). Allowing for the site-wide truncation, which had removed the upper portions of the majority of features across the site, it would have been a sizeable feature, feasibly having been supplemented by above-ground elements (e.g. a hedge or fence) that had not survived. Most of the pottery found throughout the ditch's length (17 sherds; 164g) fits a 12th-13th-century date and includes a simple small everted jar rim in a fairly fine quartz and chalk-tempered Ely-type fabric, found in Segment C.

A range of large quarry pits, dug to extract either natural chalk or the pockets of sand and gravel which occurred intermittently within it, smaller pits

containing domestic-type 'rubbish', and lightweight structural features including postholes and beam slots, are in keeping with the 'backyard' areas of a medieval toft or burgage plot. Domestic dwellings were probably located immediately adjacent to the High Street frontage, in the unexcavated areas of the site (perhaps in the same position as the building shown on the 1656 map; see *Archaeological and historical background*, above). They may or may not have survived subsequent truncation, but given the depth of overburden and the level of preservation evident elsewhere on the site, it is possible that at least some elements might remain. This street-front area will be preserved *in-situ* during the site's redevelopment.

Large chalk quarry pits were located in the centre (F2299) and south-eastern corner (F2263) of the site. The former was at least 6m across with vertical/under-cutting sides and was more than a metre deep (excavation ceased at that depth because of the site's high watertable). Pottery from its lower (excavated) fill includes a sagging base in an Ely-type quartz and limestone-tempered fabric and other Ely-type sherds with dispersed groove decoration; the upper fill contained several Ely-type jar rims. The pit also contained small amounts of animal bone and slag. The second pit was larger, measuring at least 11 x 7m and continuing beyond the site to the south-east. It had steep sides and was at least a metre deep; its base was not reached due to safety constraints. The excavated slot yielded a small group of mid 12th-13th-century pottery including an Ely ware jug rim, and just under 1kg of animal bone. Pit F2263 and some of the medieval rubbish pits cut into it (see below) can probably be equated with some of the unnumbered quarry pits recorded in the southern part of Trial Trench 1 (e.g. Feature 104). These were characterised as post-medieval in the evaluation report due to the presence of modern pottery and metalwork but during the excavation, modern material was only present as superficial surface deposits overlying these features. In the south-western part of the site, another large pit measuring approximately 5m across (F2145) may have initially been dug to extract natural chalk, before being backfilled with domestic refuse. The pottery from F2145 is one of the largest groups of medieval pottery from the site (40 sherds; 0.5kg) and includes a large proportion of Ely ware including jar and bowl fragments, as well as a jug rim in Hedingham fine ware, altogether indicating a 14th-century date. Animal bone (388g) and a worked stone fragment were also present.

A tight cluster of smaller pits (generally 1-2m across and mainly of shallow depth) was located in the central northern part of the site and continued under the area truncated by modern buildings. The positioning of these pits (F2124, F2122, F2128, F2116, F2118 and possibly F2120 (though this latter feature may have been a ditch terminus)), the earliest of which were probably dug to extract the sand deposits in this area, appears to have been dictated to an extent by the adjacent property boundary ditch, with the extraction activity possibly deliberately being restricted to a peripheral/ unutilised area at the edge of the toft. The narrow gap between the southernmost of the pits and the boundary ditch might reinforce the idea that an above-ground feature such as a hedge was originally present. However, the small portion of the northern plot that was revealed by the excavation renders this interpretation of the spatial patterning of different activities within it conjectural. Pits F2128 and

F2118 had greenish-tinged fills and may have contained dumped cess/nightsoil; these also contained the largest pottery groups from this pit cluster (43 sherds weighing 588g and 14 sherds weighing 95g, respectively). The former includes parts of at least three different jars in Ely-type fabrics, the latter a sherd of Hedingham fine ware with glossy green glaze; both would fit a 13th-14th-century date.

Other generally smaller medieval rubbish pits were scattered at a moderate density across the site (from west to east: F2158, F2156, F2154, F2081, F2079, F2267, F2167, F2039, F2021, F2193, F2209, F2213, F2215 and F2217). The largest pottery assemblages came from F2081, F2193 and F2209; the group from F2209 comprises 50 sherds (303g) and includes several Ely ware jar and bowl rims and base fragments. Most of the pits also contained small quantities of animal bone and residual Roman tile; F2081 contained two small fragments of medieval peg roof tile suggesting the presence of well-constructed buildings somewhere in the area at this time. A deposit of articulated animal bone (4.3kg) was found in Pit F2021. Another articulated animal bone deposit, thought by the excavator to include parts of at least three horses, was found in Pit F2217, which was cut through the fill of Quarry Pit F2263 in the south-east corner of the site. This was a stratigraphically-late feature and only contained a few sherds of medieval pottery; however, it was similar in size, plan and profile to other pits clustered in this area (F2213 and F2215) and is therefore thought to be of medieval date.

A c. 4m long east to west row of five postholes (F2197, F2201, F2203, F2207 and F2219) was located close to the south-east corner of the site. Two additional postholes (F2199 and F2205) possibly formed a parallel row less than a metre to the south. The postholes were all circular in plan with steep to vertical sides and flat bases and averaged 0.30-0.40m across by c. 0.40m deep (Fig. 12); Posthole F2219 was shallower. No evidence of post-pipes was seen in any of the postholes. Two (F2203 and F2201) contained medieval pottery, including a small group (5 sherds; 41g) of Ely ware and glazed Ely-type sherds from F2203. Some of the postholes were cut into the fills of underlying Quarry Pit F2263 and Pit F2209; the postholes at the east end of the row were in turn truncated by other, later, medieval rubbish pits (F2213 and F2215). The posthole alignment probably relates to a small outbuilding. At the west end of the alignment, just before the westernmost posthole, was a shallow, steep-sided, flat-based slot (5.21 x 0.25 x 0.07m) running on a north to south alignment roughly perpendicular to the row of postholes (F2221). It contained a few sherds of 12th-14th-century pottery. The slot was probably a foundation trench for a ground sill beam, representing the west wall of the conjectured outbuilding. The combination of datable finds and stratigraphic evidence (where present) suggests that the building dates to the 13th century.

The majority of features assigned to this phase contained pottery dating to the late 12th - 14th centuries. A handful of sherds in later medieval and transitional fabrics that could extend into the 15th century were sparsely scattered in the

backfills of some of the quarry and rubbish pits (F2145, F2116, F2118, F2167, F2267 and F2217).

4.7 Phase 7: late medieval to post-medieval (Fig. 6)

There was almost no evidence for activity on the site between c. AD 1400 and the demolition of the modern church hall building. It is thought that this gap in archaeologically-visible activity is the result of an episode of site-wide clearance in the late medieval period, perhaps associated with the construction of a (no longer extant) building at the High Street frontage, beneath the footprint of the later church hall. This conjectured episode of clearance would also explain the shallow depths of the majority of the features across the site, particularly the various phases of enclosure ditches, which had almost certainly had their upper levels removed. With the exception of modern service trenches and areas of disturbance associated with the recently-demolished buildings, the only post-medieval features on the site were a shallow north to south gully (F2025) containing 18th-19th-century pottery and clay pipe and a possible posthole (F2114), both located in the rear northern part of the site. Gully F2025 was recorded as a root-disturbed ditch (126=108) during the trial trench evaluation and contained (residual) late medieval pottery.

4.8 Deposit model

Dark grey-brown sandy silt topsoil (L2000) c. 0.30-0.40m deep was present across the whole excavation area. This sealed a mid grey-brown sandy silt subsoil (L2001) with small flint and gravel inclusions, which varied from 0.30m deep in the east of the site to 0.70-0.80m deep close to the street frontage. The natural geology (L2002), light yellowish-white chalk containing localised pockets of light orange-yellow sand, was present at depths of c. 0.60-0.70m below modern ground level in the eastern part of the site and 1.10-1.20m in the west. A large area in the centre of the site had been heavily-disturbed by demolition activity.

5 SPECIALIST REPORTS

All specialist databases can be found on the accompanying data CD.

5.1 The struck flint

Andrew Peachey

Introduction

The excavation produced a total of 19 pieces of struck flint (122g) and 14 fragments (421g) of burnt flint. The struck flint includes side and thumbnail scrapers and sparsely-distributed debitage flakes (Table 2) which exhibit

varying levels of patination. The burnt flint was sparsely distributed in low quantities and exhibits no evidence of having been worked before or after firing. The morphology of this small group of flint suggests that it was produced in the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age and, while many fragments were contained in undated pit, ditch and gully contexts, it is likely that these features relate to early Roman to medieval activity and that the flint has been redeposited.

Struck flint type	F	W
Side scraper	2	51
Thumbnail scraper	1	7
Debitage	16	64
Burnt flint	14	421
<i>Total</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>543</i>

Table 2: Quantification of struck flint implements anddebitage by frequency (F) and weight (W, in grams)

Methodology & terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a *Microsoft Excel* spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive. Flake type (see ‘Dorsal cortex’, below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this dataset, along with free-text comments.

The term ‘cortex’ refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint and the term ‘patination’ to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115), with ‘primary flake’ referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face, ‘secondary flake’ to those with 50-99%, ‘tertiary’ to those with 1-49% and ‘un-corticated’ to those with no dorsal cortex. A ‘blade’ is defined as an elongated flake, the length of which is at least twice as great as its breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/ breadth ratio). Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9).

Commentary

The side scrapers in the assemblage, contained in post-medieval Gully F2025 (L2026) and medieval Pit F2213 (L2214), were both formed through the application of limited abrupt retouch to the lateral edges ofdebitage flakes with relatively large extant striking platforms and bulbs of percussion. These characteristics are typical of later Neolithic to early Bronze Age scrapers (Butler 2005, 166). The thumbnail scraper, also contained in Gully F2025 (L2026) was formed using a comparable method of production, and is a form of implement generally associated with the early Bronze Age, possibly contemporary with the two side scrapers.

The methods of flint reduction evident on the debitage flakes suggest they are contemporary with the scrapers. The raw flint is predominantly dark grey with a thin, slightly pitted cortex, but red-brown flakes are also present, suggesting a low degree of care in the selection of raw flint from surface gravels. The debitage flakes comprise a mix of secondary, tertiary and uncorticated flakes, which, although all less than 50mm in length, exhibit considerable variability in profile, ranging from blade-like to broad, squat or slightly irregular. The bulk of flakes appear to have been hard-hammer-struck and hinged terminations are relatively common. These characteristics are typical of the less systematic core reduction techniques and reduction of skill that is often observed in later Neolithic to Bronze Age flint assemblages (Butler 2005, 157).

5.2 The prehistoric and Roman pottery

Andrew Peachey

Introduction

The excavation produced a total of 647 sherds (8242g) of prehistoric and Roman pottery (Table 3). The bulk of the assemblage dates to the 1st century AD and includes Gallo-Belgic imports and 'Belgic' bowls and vessels comparable to those produced at the pre-Flavian Kilns at Greenhouse Farm, Cambridge, c. 16km south-west of Soham. The forms and fabrics within the 1st-century AD group indicate a date within the early to mid 1st century AD, probably pre-Roman conquest; however, sparse sherds including a ring-and dot beaker produced at Cherry Hinton suggest continued post-conquest occupation in the mid to late 1st century AD. A significant element of the assemblage is also comprised of late Romano-British pottery, with products of the Hadham, Lower Nene Valley and Oxford industries, including bowls and mortaria indicating a date within the 4th century AD. Sparse body sherds of flint-tempered Neolithic to Bronze Age pottery are also present in the assemblage.

Pottery date	Sherd count	Weight (g)
Prehistoric (Neolithic/ Bronze Age)	17	198
Late Iron Age/early Romano-British (1 st century AD)	524	5802
Late Romano-British (4 th century AD)	106	2242
<i>Total</i>	<i>647</i>	<i>8242</i>

Table 3: Quantification of prehistoric and Roman pottery according to date of fabric

The assemblage as a whole is very highly fragmented and exhibits degrees of abrasion varying from moderate to very high, with a high proportion of the prehistoric and Roman pottery found as residual material in post-Roman features. However, the generally sparse distribution of *in-situ* 1st-century AD pottery includes a concentration of 120 sherds (1359g) contained within Ditch F2091 (and Pit F2089, which cut the ditch). Further notable small groups of 1st-century AD pottery were contained in Ditches F2011, F2093 and F2284, Pit F2021 and Posthole F2041, with the remainder distributed in very low

quantities in other pits, postholes, ditches and gullies. The 4th-century AD pottery is sparsely distributed but includes a small *in-situ* group contained in Pit F2075, with the remaining *in-situ* late Roman sherds sparsely distributed in ditches, pits and layers. The prehistoric pottery is limited to isolated residual sherds in Roman and post-Roman features.

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and fully described in this report. Rim type, profile and decoration were also recorded in free-text comments in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995) and the Study Group for Roman Pottery. All data has been entered into a *Microsoft Excel* spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Fabrics

Prehistoric

F1 Handmade, flint-tempered ware. Dark grey to pale red-brown surfaces fading to a mid grey core. Inclusions comprise common calcined flint (0.5-4mm). Moderately hard with a highly-abrasive feel. Neolithic to Bronze Age.

1st-century AD (late Iron Age-early Roman)

GAB TN1	Gallia-Belgica (Vesle Valley) Terra Nigra 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 15; Rigby 1989, 126)
GAB TR1A	Gallia-Belgica Terra Rubra 1A (Tomber & Dore 1998, 17; Rigby 1989, 121)
NOG WH3	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic Sandy) white ware 3 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 24)
LGF SA	La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 28)
CHH OX	Cherry Hinton oxidised ware (Evans 1990, 24). Pale orange surfaces, mid orange margins and a pale orange core. Inclusions comprise sparse angular quartz and chalk (both 0.25-0.5mm).
Q1	Sand-tempered 'Belgic' ware 1, wheel-made. Dark grey to black (often burnished surfaces), mid grey margins and a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise moderately-sorted, common quartz (0.1-0.25mm) with sparse black iron-rich grains (0.2-0.5mm). A hard fabric with a smooth (burnished) feel.
Q2	Sand-tempered ware 2, handmade and finished on a slow-wheel. Dark grey-brown to pale red-brown surfaces fading to a dark grey to dark red-brown core, sometimes with orange-red margins. Inclusions comprise poorly-sorted, common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with occasional iron-rich grains/ ?grog and flint (0.25-1.5mm). Moderately hard with slightly abrasive surfaces.
QG1	Sand and grog-tempered 'Belgic' ware 1, wheel-made. Dark grey/ black to dark red-brown surfaces, orange-red margins and a mid-dark grey core. Inclusions comprise moderately-sorted, common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse red, grey and black angular grog (0.25-2mm). Moderately hard with slightly abrasive to soapy surfaces.
QG2	Sand and grog-tempered 'Belgic' ware 2, wheel-made. Pale to mid orange-brown to orange surfaces, mid orange margins and a mid grey core. Inclusions comprise well-sorted, common quartz, red and black grog (all 0.1-0.25mm, occasionally to 0.5mm). A moderately hard fabric with a soapy feel.
QG3	Grog and sand-tempered ware 3, handmade, mainly a storage jar fabric. Dark red-brown surfaces fading to a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise sparse quartz (0.1-0.25mm) and common angular grog (0.25-2.5mm). Moderately hard with a soapy, slightly lumpy feel.

- S1 Shell-tempered ware 1, hand-made. Black to dark grey throughout. Inclusions comprise common shell (0.25-3mm) with sparse quartz (0.1-0.5mm). A soft fabric with soapy surfaces.
- BSW1 Black-surfaced/ Romanising grey ware 1, wheel-made (1st-4th-century AD). Black surfaces fading to a mid-dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.25mm, sparse grains to 1mm), sparse fine mica and sparse iron-rich grains (<0.5mm). Moderately hard with smooth (burnished) surfaces.

4th-century AD fabrics (late Roman)

- GRS1 Sandy grey ware 1 (wheel-made). Mid to dark grey throughout. Inclusions comprise common to abundant quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with occasional flint and iron-rich grains (<2.5mm). Moderately hard with slightly abrasive surfaces.
- S2 Shell-tempered ware 2, wheel-made. Dark red-brown surfaces fading to a dark red core. Inclusions comprise common to abundant plate-like shell (0.5-10mm).
- LNV CC Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118)
- HAD OX Hadham oxidised ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 151)
- HAD OX (M) Hadham oxidised ware mortaria (Tomber & Dore 1998, 151)
- OXF RS Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 177)
- OXF WS (M) Oxfordshire white-slipped ware mortaria (Tomber & Dore 1998, 176)
- LNV WH (M) Lower Nene Valley white ware mortaria (Tomber & Dore 1998, 119)

Discussion

The prehistoric pottery

The assemblage contains a total of 17 body sherds (198g) of fabric F1, the flint temper of which is typical of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery in the East Anglian region. All the prehistoric sherds occur in a relatively unabraded but highly-fragmented condition and are limited to non-diagnostic, plain body sherds. They were contained as residual sherds in Ditches/ Gullies F2005, F2097, 2100, F2137, F2223, F2178, F2189 and F2025 and Pits F2021 and F2075.

The 1st-century AD pottery

The 1st-century AD pottery (Table 4) was sparsely-distributed and includes a high degree of redeposited sherds, but remains of intrinsic interest as it signifies occupation of significant status within or in the immediate vicinity of the excavated area. The largest group of 1st-century AD pottery, in total 104 sherds (1026g), was contained in Enclosure Ditch F2091, with a further 16 sherds (333g) contained in Pit F2089, which cut the ditch. Further notable small groups were contained in Ditches F2011, F2093 and F2284, Pit F2021 and Posthole F2041, but only amount to a sparse distribution of sherds.

Fabric	Sherd count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
GAB TN1	14	80	0.00
GAB TR1A	1	2	0.00
NOG WH3	3	10	0.00
LGF SA	1	2	0.02
CHH OX	8	41	0.00
Q1	75	629	2.23
Q2	63	698	0.00
QG1	276	3358	1.48
QG2	49	406	0.33
QG3	6	275	0.00
S1	18	189	0.00
BSW1	10	112	0.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>524</i>	<i>5802</i>	<i>4.06</i>

Table 4: Quantification of 1st-century AD fabric types

The principal indicators of status within the assemblage comprise Gallo-Belgic wares (GAB TN1, GAB TR1A and NOG WH3) imported from the Marne-Vesle Valley in northern Gaul, a single sherd of south Gaulish samian ware (LGF SA) and body sherds from a single fine ware beaker produced at Cherry Hinton (CHH OX).

The Terra Nigra (GAB TN1) includes basal and body sherds from an ovoid beaker (Rigby 1989, 122: fig. 54 - GB24) contained in Ditch F2013 (L2014 Seg. D) and a wall sherd from a platter (Rigby 1989, 122: fig. 54 - GB3) contained in Ditch F2093 (L2094 Seg. B). Both vessels suggest a pre-Roman conquest date in the early to mid 1st century AD, with the pottery from Ditch F2093 representing an *in situ* deposit and that from Ditch F2013 residual in a late Saxon/ early medieval feature cutting through an earlier Roman enclosure ditch. The non-diagnostic body sherds of Terra Rubra (GAB TR1A) and North Gaulish white ware, contained in Ditches F2284 (L2285), F2223 (L2224 Seg. B) and F2013 (L2014 Segs. D and F), also support an early- to mid-1st-century date. In contrast, the south Gaulish samian ware and Cherry Hinton fine ware probably originate in the mid to late 1st century AD, after the Roman conquest. The LGF SA is limited to the rim of a Dr.18 platter contained in Ditch F2067 (L2068), while the CHH OX includes body sherds from a single ring-and-dot beaker (Evans 1990, 25: fig. 4.12) distributed in inter-cutting Ditches F2015 (L2016 Seg. B) and F2017 (L2018 Seg. C).

The northern half of Cambridgeshire is within the distribution zone for Gallo-Belgic wares in Britain, typically south of a line between the Humber and Severn, but nonetheless they are more common in the Hertfordshire-Essex region than in the Fenland to the north. Low quantities of Gallo-Belgic wares were recorded in late Iron Age to early Roman deposits at Castle Hill, Cambridge, including a similar Terra Nigra platter (Farrar, Hull & Pullinger 1999, 121: plate XXXV.91), while Gallo-Belgic wares were absent in the early- to mid-1st-century deposits (phases 3-5) at the Wardy Hill Ringwork, Coveney (Hill with Horne 2003, 164-6). However, south Gaulish Dr.18 platters were recorded in the earliest (Flavian) post-Roman conquest deposits at both Castle Hill (Dickinson 1999, 137) and the Wardy Hill Ringwork (Hill with Horne

2003, 166), while Cherry Hinton ring-and-dot beakers also occurred in late-1st-century AD deposits at Castle Hill (Hull and Pullinger 1999, 142).

However, the bulk of the assemblage is comprised of locally-produced pottery, predominantly wheel-made/ finished coarse ware fabrics produced in the late Iron Age 'Belgic' tradition and tempered with a combination of sand and grog (Fabrics QG1, QG3 and Q1). Also present are low quantities of classic 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware (Fabric QG2), early Romanising sand-tempered ware (Fabric BSW1), and handmade wares that represent a continuation or survival of mid to late Iron Age pottery manufacturing techniques (Fabrics Q2 and S1). The most popular fabric, QG1, is closely comparable to sand-and grog-tempered fabrics recorded at Greenhouse Farm (Gibson and Lucas 2002, 126: Q1) and the Wardy Hill Ringwork (Hill with Horne 2003, 168). The remaining fabric groups in the assemblage are also closely paralleled in the very large Wardy Hill Ringwork assemblage (Hill with Horne 2003, 166-8), which has differing proportions of comparable fabrics but represents a much longer period of occupation in a contrasting settlement type spanning the late Iron Age and early Roman periods.

Diagnostic sherds in the locally-produced coarse wares are limited due to the high degree of fragmentation, but confirm the predominance of 'Belgic' form types. In Fabric QG1 this includes a necked bowl with a plain everted rim, shoulder cordon and burnished exterior (Thompson 1982: type B3-5) found in Ditch F2091 (L2092 Seg. B), while several further everted bead or plain rims cannot be assigned a specific bowl or jar type. Similar necked, cordoned Belgic bowls were a common element in 1st-century AD deposits at Castle Hill, Cambridge (Farrar, Hull & Pullinger 1999, 125), and were also recorded at the Wardy Hill Ringwork (Hill with Horne 2003, 158). Ditch F2013 (L2014 Seg. E) contained a Fabric QG1 large plain rim that probably formed part of a storage jar, while Fabric QG3 is entirely represented by thick-walled, comb-decorated body sherds that would also have formed parts of storage jars.

Everted rims, probably parts of Belgic bowls, also occur in the classic 'Belgic' Fabric QG2 and finer sand-tempered Fabric Q1, including a Q1 bowl with a plain shoulder cordon (Thompson 1982: type B3-1) contained in Posthole F2041 (L2042). The QG2 form types are notable for including isolated examples of a butt beaker and flagon, both contained in Ditch F2091 (L2092 Seg. B). The flagon has a collared rim and long neck comparable to types produced at the Greenhouse Farm kilns (Gibson and Lucas 2002, 120: fig. 12.26), while the butt beaker sherds (Thompson 1982: type G5-2/G505) exhibit cordons filled with bands of rouletted decoration similar to examples from Castle Hill, Cambridge (Farrar, Hull & Pullinger 1999, 129: vessel 227). The finer Q1 vessels are notable for their parallels with vessels produced at the Greenhouse Farm kilns: Pit F2187 (L2188) contained a platter that imitates Gallo-Belgic types (Gibson and Lucas 2002, 120: fig. 12.21), while Ditches F2013 (L2014 Seg. D) and F2097 (L2098 Seg. C) contained sherds from a single carinated cup with a constructed waist (Gibson and Lucas 2002, 119: fig. 11; Thompson 1982: type E1-1).

The close comparisons that can be made between the fabric and form types which occur at Castle Hill, Cambridge and the Wardy Hill Ringwork, as well as with form types produced at the Greenhouse Farm kilns, confirm a date in the early to mid 1st century AD, probably spanning the Roman conquest. The presence of the Gallo-Belgic imports, south Gaulish samian ware and local fine ware suggests a settlement of significant status. The consumption of imported pottery and locally-produced 'Belgic'-style vessels can be viewed in the context of Soham's position on a spur of land jutting out into the Fenland to the south-east of the Cove settlement system (Evans 2003, 267) and to the north-east of the late pre-Roman Iron Age settlement and industry that developed at Cambridge.

The 4th-century AD pottery

The late Roman pottery in the assemblage is dominated by regionally-imported fabric and form types, notably jars, bowls and mortaria of the Hadham and Lower Nene Valley industries (Table 5), which suggest a date in the 4th century AD. Pottery of this date was sparsely distributed in residual contexts across the site, and also included small *in-situ* groups contained in Ditch F2137 and Pits F2071 and F2075.

Fabric	Sherd count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
GRS1	26	504	0.00
S2	13	488	0.30
LNV CC	23	294	0.35
LNV WH (M)	1	60	0.00
HAD OX	35	730	0.30
HAD OX (M)	2	104	0.10
OXF RS	5	27	0.05
OXF WS (M)	1	35	0.10
<i>Total</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>2242</i>	<i>1.20</i>

Table 5: Quantification of 4th-century AD fabric types

Hadham oxidised ware (HAD OX and HAD OX (M)) comprises a total of 35 sherds (834g) of the assemblage and includes fragments from a minimum of seven vessels: three bowls, two jars or flagons and two mortaria. The bowls include an imitation of a samian Dr. 37 contained in Pit F2075 (L2076) and a bowl with an 's'-shaped profile contained in Ditch F2189 (L2190 Seg. C), which are comparable to examples in the *Camulodunum* typology (Symonds and Wade 1999: figs. 5.54.83 and 5.55.125). A foot-ring base from a bowl was also contained in Ditch F2189 (L2190 Seg. B). All the bowl fragments exhibit a very high burnish on their interior and exterior surfaces. Jars and flagons in HAD OX are represented by a bifid, frilled rim (Symonds and Wade 1999: fig. 5.56.151-2) which may have formed part of a face-pot, and the lower body of a vessel decorated with narrow burnished hoops, both contained in Ditch F2182 (L2184 Segs. B and C, respectively). Ditch F2182 (L2184 Seg. C) also contained a HAD OX (M) mortaria with an upright bead and short angular flange (Symonds and Wade 1999, 191: fig. 4.20.27), while further mortaria body sherds were contained in Pit F2290 (L2292). In both instances the mortaria exhibit heavily-worn trituration grits. Hadham oxidised

ware was produced from the late 2nd century but did not peak in Cambridgeshire until the mid 4th century. Moderate quantities of Hadham oxidised wares have been recorded in late Roman deposits at Castle Hill, Cambridge (Hull and Pullinger 1999, 141) and Wimpole (Lucas 1994, 49) and may indicate that sherds in this assemblage date to the latter half of the 4th century AD.

A date in the latter part of the 4th century AD is also supported by the colour-coated wares (LNV CC and OXF RS) in the assemblage. Diagnostic rim sherds in Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (LNV CC) are limited to those from jars (Perrin 1999, 106: types 277-9), although body sherds from beakers are also present. The LNV CC jar rims were contained in Ditches/Gullies F2067 (L2068), F2178 (L2179 Seg. D) and F2182 (L2184 Seg. C) and their chronology appears focused on the 4th century AD, extending to the end of Roman ceramic production potentially in the early 5th century AD. Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (OXF RS) is only present in limited quantities, including a shallow bowl with an upturned lip (Young 2000, 158-61: types C49-50) contained residually in medieval Pit F2299 (L2301). OXF RS had a wide distribution from the mid 3rd century AD but did not make a significant impact on consumption within the eastern region until into the 4th century, largely due to the presence of competition from the Lower Nene Valley and Hadham industries. Fragments of heavily-worn mortaria manufactured by these two industries are also present in the form of LNV WH (M) contained in Ditch F2189 (L2190 Seg. C) and OXF WS (M) contained in Layer L2147.

The remaining coarseware fabrics appear very limited, with shell-tempered ware (S2), possibly also produced in the Lower Nene Valley, limited to fragments of storage jars, notably contained in Ditches F2182 (L2184 Seg. B) and F2189 (L2190 Seg. D). The sandy grey ware (GRS) sherds do not include any diagnostic rim sherds, only a basal fragment with a dense distribution of narrow perforations that probably formed part of a cheese press rather than a strainer.

Despite the limited size of the pottery group, the fabrics and forms present suggest a considerable level of consumption during the 4th century AD in the near-vicinity. Soham was situated within the intensely-settled landscape of the south-eastern fen-edge during the Roman period, with at least two villas in the surrounding area. Roman ditches and burials have previously been recorded close to the site (e.g. HER MCB18200), suggesting a focus of Roman occupation in the vicinity of the modern town centre.

5.3 The Saxon and medieval pottery

Peter Thompson

Introduction

Excavation of the site produced 518 post-Roman sherds weighing 4.646kg. The pottery is generally moderately to heavily abraded. Intermixing with

Roman and prehistoric sherds indicates high levels of residuality and intrusiveness. The pottery is quantified by period below (Table 6).

Period	Number of sherds	Fabric weight (g)	% of assemblage
Early to middle Saxon	24	287	4.6
Saxo-Norman	66	769	12.7
Medieval	424	3575	81.9
Post-medieval	4	15	0.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>518</i>	<i>4646</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 6: Quantification of post-Roman pottery by period

Methodology

The assemblage was examined under a x35 binocular microscope and recorded on an *Excel* database that forms part of the site archive. Fabrics have been equated, where possible, with regional fabrics (Ratkai 1993; Spoerry 2008). Forms are described according to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms published by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), and with published Ely wares (Spoerry 2008).

Fabric	Description	Date	Sherd number	Fabric weight (g)
Saxon				
Sand		5 th -9 th /10 th C	6	69
Sand & burnt organics		5 th -9 th /10 th C	11	46
Quartz & flint		5 th -9 th /10 th C	1	4
Shell		5 th -9 th /10 th C	2	24
Ipswich (SIPS)	As Hurst 1957 and Mortimer 2000	8 th -9 th C	4	144
Saxo-Norman				
Thetford-type (THETT)	As Leah 1994	10 th -12 th C	58	670
St Neots (SNEOT)	As Hurst 1956	10 th -12 th C	8	99
Medieval				
Ely ware (MEL)	As Spoerry 2008	12 th -14 th C	126	1261
Ely-type (MELT)	Moderate to common medium to coarse grey, clear and occasionally pink quartz. Rare to moderate white calcareous, occasional red or black iron mineral, clay pellets and coarse quartzite or flint inclusions.	11 th -14 th C	27	189

Sand and calcareous grey ware (MELT?)	Sandy matrix, sparse to moderate sub-angular grey and clear quartz, sparse black ferruginous inclusions and sparse grog or clay pellets, sparse voids and occasional white calcareous inclusions.	11 th -14 th C	54	442
Sandy and calcareous buff ware (MELT?)	Smooth off-white, buff or pale orange surfaces; cores the same colour or pale grey. Medium to very coarse sub-rounded to sub-angular grey, clear and red quartz, red ferruginous inclusions, black mineral inclusions, possible clay pellets and sparse shell and limestone.	11 th -14 th C	59	697
Sandy coarse ware (MELT?)	Generally oxidised brown or orange on one or both surfaces with grey cores. Moderate to common sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz sand with sparse coarse quartz and flint. Can contain occasional ferrous, clay pellets and/ or white calcareous inclusions.	11 th -14 th	119	660
Sandy orange ware	As in Ratkai 1993	14 th -15 th C	6	19
Shell-tempered	Grey, brown or red-brown surfaces, grey or red-brown cores. Sparse to common shell inclusions or voids.	11 th -14 th C	16	199
Hedingham ware	As in Cottar 2000	Mid 12 th -14 th C	8	41
Grimston ware	As in Leah 1994	Late 12 th -14 th C	3	29
Brill ware	As in Yeoman 1983	13 th -15 th C	1	18
Late Medieval Transitional?	As in Jennings 1981	Mid 14 th -16 th C	2	8
Medieval glazed wares	Miscellaneous group, unsourced	Mid 12 th -15 th C	3	12

Post-medieval				
Red earthenware		16 th -19 th C	4	15

Table 7: Quantification of Saxon and medieval pottery by fabric group

The Saxon pottery

Twenty-four sherds of residual Anglo-Saxon pottery (287g) were recovered, which for the most part cannot be closely dated, with the exception of four sherds of Ipswich ware from Ditches F2017 (L2018 Seg. E) and F2185 (L2186) and Pits F2133 (L2134) and F2180 (L2181). This is suggested by Blinkhorn as commencing in the first or possibly second quarter of the 8th century (c. AD 720) and was supplanted by Thetford ware at some point in the mid to late 9th century (Blinkhorn 1999, 8-9). The Ipswich ware sherds were all associated with Thetford wares and, in the case of Ditch F2185, also with medieval coarsewares.

The Saxo-Norman pottery

The Saxo-Norman pottery assemblage numbers 66 sherds (769g), with Thetford-type ware (58) accounting for 11.2% of the entire post-Roman assemblage. The remaining sherds are in St Neots ware, with no imported fine Stamford ware present. Ditch F2139 (L2140 Seg. A) contained a thick Thetford-type shoulder sherd in dark grey fabric (175g). It is over 1cm thick and probably comes from a large jar (Fig. 13.1). The decoration is unusual, comprising a double row of circular grid stamps beneath the neck, and a wide lattice of incised lines along the body.

The medieval pottery

Almost 82% of the assemblage is medieval, overwhelmingly coarsewares, with just 20 (4.7%) of the 424 sherds exhibiting glaze. The coarsewares can broadly be divided into sand and calcareous wares and sand-tempered wares (also containing small amounts of calcareous inclusions).

Ely ware

There are 126 Ely sherds (1,261g) that are likely to derive from the kilns at Forehill, Ely. Four everted jar rims of Types A (2) and B (2) and three Type C jug rims can be identified. The majority, however, are bowl rims of Types C (5) and D (4), comprising everted, sometimes thickened, rims, from flared or concave forms. One bowl has thumb or finger impressions below the rim (Fig. 13.5). The remaining decoration is limited to two bowls with thumb-decorated rims, one with possible stab decoration beneath, and a thumb-decorated strip from a cooking pot. Only six glazed sherds are present.

Pit F2193 (L2194) contained a Type F inturned bowl rim (Fig. 13.2); these forms are commonest in 12th-century Ely groups (Spoerry 2008, 50 & 66). Pit F2145 (L2146) contained 34 sherds (469g) of Ely ware, including a Jar B form (Fig. 13.3), which were common as cooking pots in the 13th and 14th

centuries, and a Type C jug rim (Fig. 13.4). The thumb-decorated Bowl D form (Fig. 13.5) was also common in the 'high medieval' period (Spoerry 2008, 45, 50, 52 & 66). Pit F2299 also contained a relatively large quantity of Ely ware (22 sherds; 212g) including an everted Jar A form (Fig. 13.6).

Ely-type ware

Three more fabric types can be classed as Ely-type wares (259 sherds; 1,988g). One group of 54 sherds (442g) are in a fine calcareous grey ware that bears some resemblance to the description of Fabric D10 from the White Hart, Ely, which was dated to the 13th-15th centuries, although the latter tended to have orange surfaces (Ratkai 1993, 129).

Ditch F2095 (L2099 Seg. A) contained 24 sherds (144g) of grey calcareous Ely-type ware in an early medieval fabric superficially resembling Thetford ware. These come from the handmade, wheel-finished rim (15cm diameter) of a small Type A cooking pot (Fig. 13.7). Ditch F2097 (L2098 Seg. C) contained a Type D simple jar rim (Fig. 13.8). A shoulder sherd with double horizontal line decoration from Ditch F2013 (L2014 Seg. D) may come from the same or a similar vessel. This context also contained a Type A jar rim (Fig. 13.9), while another flat-topped Type B jar rim came from Pit F2209 (L2210) (Fig. 13.10).

Another sub-group (described above as 'sandy and calcareous buff wares' (59 sherds; 697g)) in off-white or buff fabrics are probably lacking in iron content, again suggesting a local source. These fabrics are of fairly similar description to Fabric C2 from the White Hart, although again the latter had orange-brown rather than paler surfaces (Ratkai 1993, 127). The bulk of this group (43 sherds; 588g) derives from three vessels found in Pit F2128 (L2130), including the complete profile of a small baggy Type A cooking pot (Fig. 13.11). The rim of a Type B cooking pot is also present and a second came from Pit F2116 (L2117) (Fig. 13.12).

Another group (119 sherds; 660g) account for 28% of the medieval assemblage and, although un-provenanced, are almost certainly local wares, with much of the pottery containing rare calcareous and black ferruginous inclusions. The forms generally match Ely forms and include a Type B cooking pot rim found in Pit F2215 (L2216) (Fig. 13.13). One small group (6 sherds; 19g), in a fine orange fabric with smooth surfaces, which was present in five features, probably equates with fabric D2 ('orange sandy ware') from the White Hart, Ely, dated to the 14th-16th centuries (Ratkai 1993, 130). A miscellaneous group of shelly wares (16 sherds; 199g) completes the medieval coarseware assemblage.

Glazed wares

A total of 20 glazed sherds are present, including the six Ely wares. Five glazed sherds are of Hedingham fine ware from Essex, including a jug rim from Pit F2145 (L2146) (Fig. 13.14). Three sherds of Norfolk Grimston ware are present, one with trailed iron slip and another decorated with applied clay

pellets. A highly-decorated jug sherd in Brill type ware from Buckinghamshire was unstratified in the topsoil. Three glazed sherds are un-provenanced, while two small sherds in oxidised fabric with copper speckled glaze are probably Late Medieval Transitional wares.

Discussion

This location in the historic core of Soham has seen heavy truncation from successive phases of intensive activity, resulting in a mixed pottery assemblage with high levels of residuality and intrusiveness. The presence of Saxon sherds, most notably Ipswich ware, indicates that there was occupation on, or close to the site, from at least the middle Saxon period. The assemblage, as might be expected, is dominated by Ely and Ely-type wares (385 sherds; 3,249g), which account for 78.5% of the medieval pottery (this figure includes the Saxo-Norman assemblage, and is 90.8% without). The percentage compares fairly well with assemblages from Ely, where, for example at Forehill, Ely wares comprised 70% of the medieval assemblage (Hall 2003, 153); at other Ely sites this proportion reaches 75% to 90% (Spoerry 2008, 67). No large assemblages of medieval pottery have previously been recovered from Soham; out of 90 sherds recovered from Cloverfield Drive, all but six are in Ely wares, with the remainder comprising late medieval smooth Essex redwares and a sherd of Mill Green ware (Spoerry 2004). The few sherds of imported finer wares at the site fit the pattern observed at Forehill, where imported wares were predominantly from the Grimston kilns (Norfolk) and Essex (Hall 2003, 153). Two unusual sherds from this site are the decorated Brill jug neck, a ware not present at Forehill, and the decorated Thetford-type ware, which may be a local product (Fig. 13.1).

Illustrations

- Fig. 13.1 Ditch F2139 (L2140 Seg. A) Thetford-type decorated storage jar. 10th-12th C.
- Fig. 13.2 Pit F2193 (L2194) Ely ware inturned bowl rim. c. 12th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.3 Pit F2145 (L2146) Ely ware cooking pot rim. c. 13th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.4 Pit F2145 (L2146) Ely ware jug rim. c. 13th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.5 Pit F2145 (L2146) Ely ware bowl rim with impressed decoration. c. 13th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.6 Pit F2299 (L2301) Ely jar rim. c. 13th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.7 Ditch F2095 (L2099 Seg. A) Ely-type jar upper profile. c. 11th-12th C?
- Fig. 13.8 Ditch F2013 (L2014 Seg. D) Ely-type jar rim. c. 12th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.9 Ditch F2013 (L2014 Seg. D) Ely-type flat-topped jar rim. c. 13th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.10 Pit F2209 (L2210) Ely-type flat-topped jar rim. c. 13th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.11 Pit F2128 (L2130) Ely-type cooking pot. c. 13th-14th C?
- Fig. 13.12 Pit F2116 (L2117) Ely-type flat-topped jar rim. c. 13th-14th C?
- Fig. 13.13 Pit F2215 (L2216) Ely-type clubbed cooking pot rim. 12th-14th C.
- Fig. 13.14 Pit F2145 (L2146) Heddingham ware jug rim. Mid 12th-13th/14th C.

5.4 The ceramic building materials

Andrew Peachey

Introduction

The excavation recovered a total of 76 fragments (4451g) of Romano-British CBM and four fragments (226g) of medieval to post-medieval peg tile. The Romano-British CBM was recovered in a highly-fragmented and abraded condition from pit and ditch/ gully features and was only rarely associated with Roman pottery or other artefacts. The assemblage includes small fragments of tegula and imbrex roof tile, box flue tile and bessalis brick that must have originally formed part of a significant structure somewhere in the local area. However, the limited size and preservation of the fragments suggest that this was not in the immediate vicinity of the site and that the Romano-British CBM has been subject to a high degree of redeposition.

Methodology

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and all data entered into a *Microsoft Excel* spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive. Roman CBM forms were identified using the conventions defined by Brodribb (1987).

The Romano-British CBM

The 76 fragments (4451g) of Romano-British CBM occur in three fabrics, described below, and four form types defined by extant dimensions and characteristics (Table 8), although identification is hampered by the limited size of the fragments present.

Romano-British CBM fabrics

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fabric 1 | Thin oxidised orange-red surfaces with a thick reduced mid grey core. Inclusions comprise common, poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse calcareous grains, often oolitic (0.1-0.25mm), sparse iron-rich grains (0.1-0.75mm) and occasional flint (<10mm). Very hard-fired with a slightly abrasive feel. |
| Fabric 2 | Oxidised mid-dark orange throughout. Inclusions comprise common plate-like shell (0.5-8mm) and common, poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm). Moderately hard with a slightly soapy feel. |
| Fabric 3 | Pale yellow to cream-brown throughout. Inclusions comprise sparse quartz and red/ black iron ore (0.1-0.5mm), sparse calcareous grains/ voids (0.5-3mm) and sparse red grog/ clay pellets (0.5-10mm). Hard-fired with a slightly abrasive feel. |

Form	Fabric 1		Fabric 2		Fabric 3	
	F	W	F	W	F	W
Tegula	28	2234	1	51	0	0
Imbrex	1	195	0	0	0	0
Box flue tile	5	789	0	0	17	261
Bessalis	4	823	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	20	98	0	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>4139</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>261</i>

Table 8: Quantification of Romano-British CBM form types by frequency (F) and weight (W, in grams)

The bulk of the Romano-British CBM occurs in Fabric 1, which appears to be locally-produced. The most common Fabric 1 form type is 20-30mm thick flat tile, probably derived from tegula roof tile, although only a single fragment found as residual material in a medieval pit (F2156, L2157) exhibits a partial flange to confirm this identification. A fragment in an early medieval ditch (F2013, L2014 Seg. A) also exhibits a partial arcing finger signature, typically found on tegula roof tile, and possibly denoting a batch mark. The second type of roof tile, imbrex, is represented by a single fragment contained in early medieval Ditch F2139 (L2140 Seg. B). The Fabric 1 tegula fragments were sparsely distributed in numerous pit and ditch/ gully features, often in association with Saxon or medieval pottery. Fabric 2, probably produced in north Cambridgeshire or Bedfordshire, is also represented by a single fragment of probable tegula contained in medieval Pit F2299 (L2301).

The box flue tile in the assemblage occurs in Fabric 1 and Fabric 3, the latter of which may have been produced locally or in north Cambridgeshire. The box flue tile is 15-20mm thick and defined by the right-angled corners of the tubes or the presence of key marks on the exterior (to aid the application of plaster). Partial key marks, arranged in a lattice pattern, are present on fragments from Roman Pit F2071 (L2072) and medieval Pit F2021 (L2022). Box flue tiles were designed to allow the passage of heated air from a furnace to pass through the hypocaust heating system of a building, and a single fragment contained in late Iron Age - early Roman Pit F2037 (L2038) exhibits partial burning along one end, suggesting that it was located close to a furnace. A hypocaust heating system would also have required bricks to construct the *pilae* and floor. The 40mm thick Fabric 1 fragments would have formed parts of such bricks, probably bessalis type, although given the absence of any other extant dimensions other larger types cannot be discounted. Bessalis fragments were found in Pits F2081 (L2082) and F2145 (L2146) and Ditches F2182 (L2184 Seg. B) and F2223 (L2259 Seg. B), and, like the tegula fragments, were often associated with medieval pottery.

The medieval to post-medieval CBM

Low quantities (4 fragments; 226g) of 12-14mm flat tile, probably peg roof tile, were contained in late Saxon/ medieval Pits F2081 (L2082) and F2173 (L2177), the latter of which may have been a small sunken-featured building. The fragments are in a very hard-fired, possibly over-fired, oxidised orange-

red fabric with inclusions of abundant quartz (<0.1mm), sparse poly-crystalline quartz and red iron-rich grains (<0.5mm), and sparse calcareous/ chalk grains (0.5-5mm). Although generally flat, the peg tile also has quite uneven surfaces. These fabric and form characteristics suggest this peg tile may have been manufactured in the local area at any time from the late 12th to 16th centuries or possibly later, although the limited quantities suggest that it was not directly associated with a structure in the vicinity.

5.5 Small finds, coins, metal and stone objects

Nina Crummy

Summary

A total of fourteen objects were examined, from contexts ranging in date from Romano-British to medieval.

Condition

Two lead items are in good condition, with little surface corrosion. Two worn copper alloy coins are in a stable condition but the reverse face of one is encrusted with corrosion products. The ironwork is in poor condition. All the objects are encrusted with thick ferrous corrosion mixed with grey silt/clay, some have broken since excavation and one is badly delaminated.

Objects of all metals are packed to a good standard of storage in crystal boxes or polythene bags, supported by pads of acid-free tissue. The bags and boxes are stored in an museum-standard cardboard box.

The assemblage

The objects are catalogued below. The majority are of iron, two are of copper alloy and two are of lead. The greater proportion of ironwork to other metals is common to most sites. None of the iron objects can be closely dated as they are general purpose items whose forms have not changed over time. Most are nails and other fittings, such as a ring-headed pin from pit F2073, a probable rotary key from gully F2223 and a probable chain link fragment from pit F2173. The loop-headed spike was driven into a wooden post or beam and its shank clenched to hold it firm, giving a wood thickness of less than 52 mm. Its looped head could have been used in a variety of ways, such as hanging gates or shutters over pintles, suspending objects with hooked handles or securing one end of a rope or chain.

The two copper-alloy objects are both late Roman coins. Both are worn and illegible, but probably date to the later 3rd or 4th century. Both come from the fill of ditch F2137.

One of the lead objects is a refrozen dribble from small-scale lead-working, found in ditch F2189. The other, from pit F2173, is a plaque or tag with one gabled end that may be part of a medieval or early post-medieval cloth seal, although this identification is far from certain.

Catalogue

The objects are catalogued by feature number.

SF 14. (2074), fill of pit F2073. Iron loop-headed spike, the end of the shank doubly clenched. Length 103 mm, diameter of head 33 mm.

SF 1. (2138), fill of ditch F2137. Copper-alloy coin, late 3rd to 4th century. Obverse, head right, worn, legend illegible; reverse, male figure to left, -/[REI]PVBL/-. Diameter 18 mm.

SF 2. (2138), fill of ditch F2137. Copper-alloy coin, late 3rd to 4th century. Obverse, head right, legend illegible; reverse obscured by thick layer of corrosion. Diameter 18 mm.

SF 8. (2177), fill of pit F2173. Iron object, form obscured by corrosion. Maximum dimensions 55 by 41 by 14 mm.

SF 9. (2177), fill of pit F2173. Lead tag with gabled end. Length 31 mm, width 22 mm.

SF 6. (2177), fill of pit F2173. Iron shank fragment, probably from a nail. Length 37 mm.

SF 7. (2177), fill of pit F2173. Iron chain link fragment? Length 38 mm, width 15 mm.

SF 10. (2177), fill of pit F2173. Complete iron nail with round slightly convex head. Length 66 mm.

SF 4. (2190), fill of ditch F2189. Delaminated iron square-section bar, probably part of a fitting of some kind. Length 85 mm, section approx. 7 mm square.

SF 11. (2190), fill of ditch F2189. Iron hobnail, shank incomplete and detached. Length 11 mm.

SF 12. (2190), fill of ditch F2189. Iron nail with round flat head, missing most of the shank. Length 16 mm.

SF 13. (2190), fill of ditch F2189. Refrozen dribble from lead-working. 27 by 19 by 7 mm.

SF 3. (2224), fill of gully F2223. Iron object with loop handle, in two pieces, form obscured by corrosion; probably a rotary key. Maximum length 52 mm, width 29 mm.

SF 5. (2264), fill of pit F2263. Iron nail with round flat head, most of shank missing. Length 17 mm.

5.6 Slag

Andrew A.S. Newton

Introduction

A total of 69 pieces of slag, originating from 22 contexts, were recovered during archaeological excavation of The Former Church Hall Site, High Street,

Soham, Cambridgeshire. The slag was identified on morphological grounds by visual examination.

Results

F2013, L2014 3 fragments (2500g). The largest fragment, which measures max L16cm x W14cm x D10cm displays a light to mid grey outer surface with frequent orange brown staining indicative of iron oxides. Fractures reveal a dark grey to black interior with moderate air pockets. Several small stones and other material adhere to the outer surface. The large size of this object suggests that it may represent a *smithing slag cake*, which are usually sub-circular in plan and vary considerably in weight from c. 100g to in excess of 2kg. Most, however, weight between 200 and 500g (Crew 1996). Only very rarely, in shallow hearths do smithing slag cakes pick up stones and clay from the kiln lining. Such slags are usually magnetic and often strongly so, which this object is not. It is, therefore, perhaps more likely that it represents a *furnace bottom*; an accumulation of slag in the base of a smelting furnace. Such items, like this one, usually weigh upwards of 2kg and often retain the shape of the furnace sometimes with part of the clay structure attached (Crew 1995), although this appears not to have happened in this case.

F2015, L2016A 1 fragment (7g). Light grey exterior. Fractures reveal dark grey to black interior. Moderately porous interior. Little to no response to magnet. Undiagnostic Fe slag.

F2017, L2018C 1 fragment (4g). Light grey exterior, broken surfaces reveal dark grey interior. Orange brown staining suggests the presence of iron oxides but fragment gives little to no response to magnet. Interior is moderately porous. The small size of this fragment indicates that it can only be classified as undiagnostic Fe slag.

F2017, L2018D 18 fragments (248g). All of the fragments in this group display a dull light to mid grey outer surface and tend to be light in comparison to their size indicate that they are not particularly dense. Several have a mammilated morphology indicating the slow flow of viscous molten slag. Two pieces displays glassy, vitreous patches on their surfaces. Several display orange brown staining indicative of Fe oxides and it tends to be these fragments which are densest and display the most obvious response to a magnet. The similarities between these fragments suggests that they may have come from the same source and are possibly broken from a single larger piece of slag. However, there are no obvious conjoining pieces amongst those present. The surface morphology may indicate that these pieces represent tap slag allowed to flow in quite large quantity from the furnace.

F2017, L2018E 1 fragment (335g). Dull mid grey surface with orange brown patches indicating the presence of iron oxides. Moderately dense although some porosity is evident. Little to no response to magnet. Charcoal adhering to the outer surface, and further impressions of charcoal within the surface of the fragment itself suggest that this might represent a coalescence

of *furnace slag* (Crew 1995) accumulated within the furnace during the smelting process. Alternatively, this could represent an accumulation of slag *prills* and *runs* that have escaped from incorporation into the smithing cake and which are morphologically indistinguishable from similar slags formed in a smelting furnace (Crew 1996); however, the size of this fragment indicates that it is more likely that it results from the smelting process.

F2055, L2056 1 fragment (79g). Dull light grey outer surface with some darker grey areas. Dense material with varying but generally low response to the magnet. No obviously diagnostic morphological traits are present although some small stones adhere to one surface.

F2063, L2064A 14 fragments (816g). The majority of these fragments are all very similar in appearance. They vary from mid grey to mid red-brown with occasional orange staining. They have a rippled surface indicating the viscosity of the molten slag. These ripples appear very sharp as though the molten material has been subject to a strong blast of air close to the time of cooling. Impressions of charcoal are evident on two pieces while another piece has stones and a fairly large piece of what may be vitrified clay impressed into it. This piece of clay is light grey in colour suggesting that it has been subject to a reducing atmosphere. This evidence perhaps indicates that these fragments are pieces broken from a larger piece of *tap slag*, perhaps coalesced into a larger *slag cake* outside the furnace, or a *furnace bottom*. Possibly the contorted shape of these fragments suggests that they are *raked slags* (Crew 1995).

There are three exceptions to the descriptions given above. A single piece of slag from this context has a mostly dark greeny grey glassy exterior surface with some duller patches. It is a low-density brittle material and broken surfaces reveal numerous very small air pockets. Two further pieces are very similar in character. Both have dull but smooth surface on one side and on the opposite side appear to have clay, presumably from the furnace lining adhering to them. On one piece this clay is dull orange red colour, on the other a mid yellow-grey. The latter has several pieces of burnt flint adhering or incorporated into it. Smooth curves in the shape of both of these pieces suggest that they may represent the original shape of the furnace in which they were formed.

F2091, L2092B 1 fragment (11g). Light grey outer surface, light grey interior as shown by broken surfaces. One surface has a slightly more vitreous appearance than the others, which are very dull. This surface displays some purplish pink colouration. No response to magnet. Material is dense but light; only very small air pockets are present if at all. This material clearly results from a high temperature process but can only be identified as undiagnostic slag.

F2100, L2101A 2 fragments (66g). Both fragments are clearly of the same material but there is no indication that one is broken from the other. Outer surfaces are a dull light grey while angular fractures reveal a dull black interior. Moderate response to magnet. The material is fairly dense with only

moderate air pockets evident where it is fractured. The outer morphology, the overall colour and the character of the fractures of this material may indicate that it is a smelting furnace *tap slag* (Crew 1995).

F2178, L2179D 1 fragment (17g). Dull mid to dark grey surface with some darker, more vitreous patches. Material is not particularly dense and fractures show frequent air pockets of varying sizes. Small quantities of burnt flint are apparent adhering to the outer surfaces and this must represent the material that the slag cooled from. A moderate response to the magnet indicates that this material came from the production of iron but its amorphous form makes it difficult to assess whether it was the result of smelting or smithing practices.

F2185, L2186 1 fragment (8g). Smooth vitreous outer surface ranging from dark grey to reddish purple ion colour. Very small fragments of burnt flint adhere to the outer surface. Morphologically would appear to represent a small fragment of tap slag.

F2191, L2192 2 fragments (17g). Both fragments are mid grey brown to mid orange brown in colour. The lightly smaller piece is less dense and displays broken surfaces revealing a dark grey to black interior with numerous small air pockets. Its surface morphology is mostly rippled with no impressions of having been in contact with any other object at the time of cooling. One rougher surface may represent the point of contact with the furnace base or sides. The denser piece shows a strong response to the magnet. Its rougher outer surface would appear to be the impressions left by the material it was surrounded by as it cooled. The small size of these fragments and their outer morphology may indicate that they are *slag prills* formed within the furnace.

F2193, L2194 2 fragments (24g). These fragments are a dull mid grey to dark reddish brown in colour. They are amorphous and both moderately to strongly magnetic. Undiagnostic Fe slag.

F2209, L2210 1 fragment (31g). Mid brown grey to dark orange grey. This fragment is strongly magnetic suggesting that it may be almost purely iron. Marks on one side may represent the impressions of the charcoal fuel used in the furnace. At one end of this fragment is a hard but completely non-magnetic area. This would appear to be very well baked clay containing small fragments of flint and possibly other minerals and presumably represents part of the furnace superstructure.

F2223, L2224B 2 fragments (23g). Mid to dark grey dull outer surfaces with occasional staining from iron oxides. Fractures reveal interior of similar colour displaying moderate air pockets. Strong response to magnet confirms this as Fe slag but its small size and limited diagnostic characteristics provide little help in identifying it to a particular process.

F2223, L2224C 3 fragments (388g). The largest of these three fragments displays a mid to dark grey exterior surface with frequent orange brown staining indicative of iron oxides. Despite this it gives little or no response to

the magnet. It is very dense material. It displays frequent impressions of charcoal across its outer surface as well as, in places, displaying some lava-like characteristics to its surface morphology. This suggests that it may represent an accumulation of *furnace slag* comprising coalesced slag within the smelting furnace (Crew 1995).

The two smaller pieces of slag from this context have smooth, dark grey to black outer surfaces with reddish purple staining. This would appear to be the result of surface oxidisation caused by the slag remaining within the furnace arch for some time (Crew 1995). This helps to identify this material as *tap slag*; further indications of this include the morphology of the larger of the two pieces and the dull angular fracture of the material (Crew 1995). However, the material is not particularly dense as tap slag from antiquity should be. The material is similar in character to a piece of post-medieval tap slag in the author's reference collection, recovered from the vicinity of the Consett Iron Works in County Durham.

F2223, L2275 1 fragment (20g). One surface is predominantly dark grey in colour with frequent mid grey-green patches; this surface shows much vitrification. Other surfaces are dull and mid grey in colour, some displaying orange brown staining indicative of rust or oxidisation of iron while others show the same kind of reddish purple colouration evident on the tap slag recovered from L2224C. Angular fractures show a frothy/porous interior that is a dull mid grey in colour. The smooth, flow-like morphology of several of the surfaces may indicate that this is *tap slag*.

F2241, L2242 1 fragment (57g). This is a not particularly dense fragment of slag for its size (c. 6 x 3.75 x 3 cm). Its outer surface is mostly a dull green-grey with occasional dark grey smooth glassy patches. It is roughly rippled or mammilated and appears to be broken from a larger fragment.

F2249, L2250 6 fragments (77g). Slag from this context comprises 6 fragments of moderately dense dull greenish grey material with occasional orange brown patches indicative of Fe oxides. The fragments with the greater proportion of orange brown colouration are the more magnetic within the group. No particularly diagnostic features are present although the material is most likely to derive from the smelting process.

F2271, L2272 4 fragments (115g). All display a dull, rough mid grey to dark brown outer surface with much orange brown rust-like staining. A moderate to strong response to the magnet indicates a variable but high Fe content, suggesting that this material came from a fairly inefficient smelting technology. There is no obvious surface morphology to help identify this slag to type and it may represent a fragment or fragments of *furnace slag* accumulated within the smelting furnace (Crew 1995).

F2299, L2300 1 fragment (24g). Mid grey dull outer surface with some green staining. Broken surfaces reveal some interior Fe oxide staining. The material gives a fairly strong response to the magnet. It clearly originates

from iron smelting or refinement but remains classified as undiagnostic Fe slag.

F2299, L2301 2 fragments (72g). These two fragments are both greenish grey in colour with extensive orange brown patches indicating the high iron content of them. Their strong response to the magnet also demonstrates their high iron content. This material may be considered undiagnostic Fe slag. However, they clearly come from very inefficient smelting process though the possibility remains that the smaller piece may represent pure iron with a large quantity secondary corrosion products and other material adhering to it.

Discussion

The majority of the slag was recovered from medieval contexts with a small quantity coming from Roman contexts. The overall character of the assemblage hints at iron production in the vicinity. The possible furnace bottom recovered from F2013 L2014 was not identified *in situ* but it may not have been moved particularly far from the location of the furnace in which it originated. Although the majority of the identifiable slag in the assemblage is considered to result from the smelting process it is feasible that other elements of the assemblage may have been the result of smithing. Indeed, the initial stages of refinement are likely to have been carried out at the primary production site (Crew 1996). Therefore, the presence of both smelting and smithing slags within this assemblage is quite likely.

5.7 Animal bone

Julia Cussans

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone is examined from deposits spanning from Phase 2 (Late Iron Age to Early Roman) through to Phase 6 (High Medieval). Some possible changes in animal husbandry overtime are suggested but the sample sizes are too small for firm conclusions to be drawn. Two pit deposits from Phase 6 contain partially articulated animal remains and are of particular interest.

Method

Context Selection

Not all of the animal bone was recorded as many of the deposits from the site were identified as containing residual material. A list of contexts suitable for analysis, containing minimal residual material (primarily based on ceramic inclusions) was prepared by T. Woolhouse, only contexts from this list were analysed, with the addition of L2022, which clearly contained articulated animal remains. Contexts examined in this report are listed in Table 9.

Phase	Feature	Context	Description
2	2063	2064 A	gully
2	2085	2086	gully
2	2089	2090	pit
2	2091	2092 A	ditch
2	2091	2092 B	ditch
2	2091	2092 C	ditch
2	2093	2094 B	ditch
2	2095	2096 A	ditch
2	2100	2101 A	ditch
2	2100	2101 B	ditch
2	2182	2183	ditch
2	2187	2188 B	pit
2	2243	2244	posthole
2	2284	2285	ditch
2	2297	2298	pit
3	\	2147	layer
3	2071	2072	pit
3	2075	2076	pit
3	2182	2184 A	ditch
3	2182	2184 B	ditch
4	2087	2088	pit
5.1	2023	2024 A	gully
5.1	2055	2056	pit
5.1	2189	2190 A	ditch
5.1	2189	2190 E	ditch
5.1	2223	2259 A	ditch
5.1	2223	2259 B	ditch
5.1	2223	2275	ditch
5.1	2239	2240	ditch
5.2	2013	2014 C	ditch
5.2	2057	2058	pit
5.2	2109	2110	pit
5.2	2139	2140 A	ditch
5.2	2139	2140 B	ditch
5.2	2139	2140 C	ditch
5.2	2160	2162	pit
5.2	2173	2174	SFB?
5.2	2173	2176	SFB?
5.2	2178	2179 B	ditch
5.2	2185	2186 B	ditch
5.2	2185	2186 C	ditch
6	2021	2022	pit
6	2041	2042	posthole
6	2081	2082	pit
6	2116	2117	pit
6	2120	2121	ditch?
6	2122	2123	pit

6	2128	2130	pit
6	2145	2146	pit
6	2156	2157	pit
6	2158	2159	pit
6	2167	2168	pit
6	2173	2177	SFB?
6	2193	2194	pit
6	2205	2206	posthole
6	2209	2210	pit
6	2213	2214	pit
6	2215	2216	pit
6	2217	2218	pit
6	2221	2222 B	beam slot
6	2251	2252	posthole
6	2263	2264	pit
6	2267	2268	pit
6	2299	2300	pit
6	2299	2301	pit

Table 9. List of contexts examined in animal bone analysis

Recording

Bones were identified using the in-house reference collection and bone identification manuals such as Schmid (1972) and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996). Species distinctions of sheep and goat bones were made solely on the basis of horn core morphology, all other bones being recorded as indeterminate sheep/goat. A large number of bones could not be identified to species, where possible these were classified by size as large (cattle or horse sized) mammal, medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal or small (cat or hare sized) mammal. A further quantity of fragments could not be assigned to a size category and were recorded simply as unidentified.

Bone fragments were recorded in an Access database using codes provided by NABONE (NABO 2008). Individual fragments were recorded according to element, species, side and part (e.g. proximal or distal). Where possible bone zones (Dobney and Rielly 1998) were recorded as was bone fusion. A variety of taphonomic information was recorded including fragment size, weathering (following Behrensmayer 1978), erosion (following McKinley 2004), the presence of any burning or gnawing and finally the type and location of any butchery marks. The presence of bones belonging to foetal, neonate or particularly elderly animals was noted, as were any pathologies. Complete mandibular tooththrows or loose lower deciduous 4th premolars (dP4s) and 3rd molars (M3s) were assessed for tooth eruption and wear following Grant (1982) for cattle and sheep/goat and Levine (1982) for horse; no pig teeth were available for aging. Notes were made on any further points of interest, such as paired or articulating elements.

Data Processing

To aid the assessment of the relative importance of the main domestic species present three methods of quantification were used. Number of identified specimens (NISP) gives a basic fragment count of recorded bones. Minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated for the five domestic mammal taxa present based on the most frequently repeated bone element within a particular phase, taking into account bone zone and side; no account was taken of variation in animal age. Percentage presence or ubiquity was also calculated for these taxa to examine their distribution throughout the contexts examined. This takes account of how many contexts a particular species appears in within a phase.

Tooth eruption and wear data were assigned to age stages following Halstead (1985) for cattle and Payne (1973) for sheep/goat; horse teeth were assigned to approximate ages based on the work of Levine (1982).

Closer examination was made of two specific bone deposits that were identified during excavation as containing articulated animal remains; these were Pit fills L2022 and L2218, both from Phase 6.

Taphonomy

As described in the method section several taphonomic indicators were noted during recording. Results of the taphonomic analyses for fragment size, bone weathering, erosion, and dog gnawing are shown in Chart 1. Butchery of bone is discussed separately below. A very small number of bones from most phases (with the exception of Phase 5.2) were noted as having been burnt, these accounted for less than 1% of the total assemblage and were in the main not identifiable beyond large or medium mammal. One cattle metatarsal from Phase 5.1 was noted as having a scorch mark on the proximal articulation, through which the bone had been broken. It is possible that this burning was a purposeful way of aiding bone breakage to access bone marrow, however without further investigation this is a somewhat speculative interpretation.

The vast majority of bone fragments fell between 2cm and 10cm, with roughly even numbers falling into 2-5cm and 5-10cm categories. Very few fragments were found to be less than 2cm in their greatest dimension and slightly more were found to be greater than 10cm. The greatest number of bones falling into this largest category was from Phase 6. This figure is likely influenced by the presence of two deposits of semi-articulated large mammal remains in this Phase (L2022 & L2218); these are discussed in more detail below.

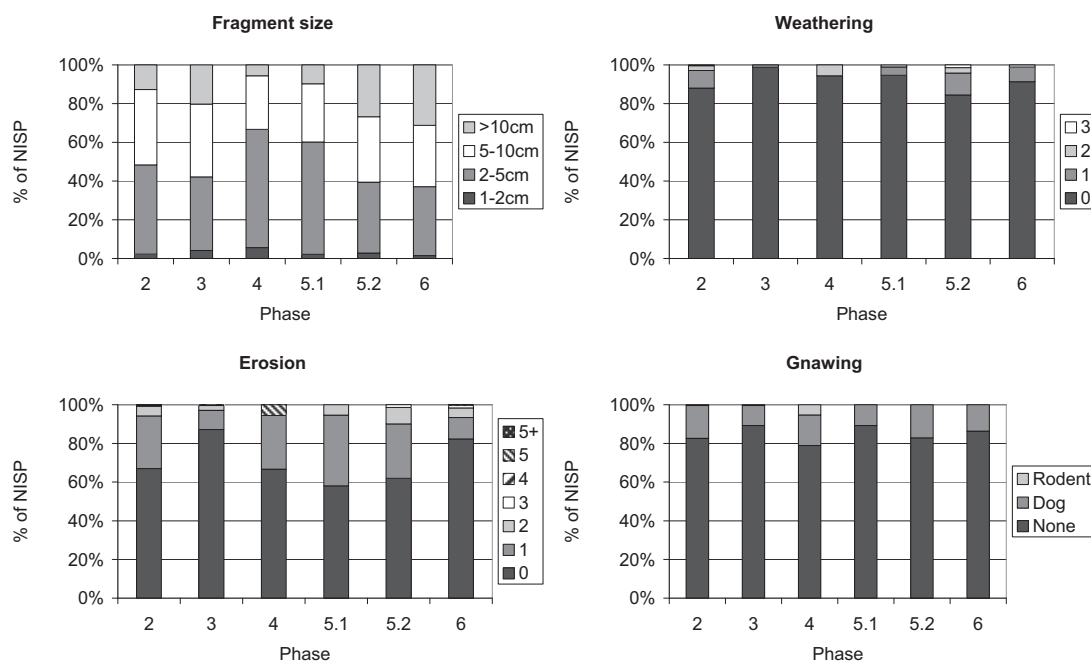


Chart 1. Taphonomic indicators shown as percentage of NISP, weathering scores follow Behrensmeyer (1978) and erosion scores follow McKinley (2004).

Bone weathering was noted at low levels throughout the assemblage, with usually less than 10% of bones affected and the majority of these having only the lowest weathering score, indicating the presence of some bone cracking (Behrensmeyer 1978). This would indicate that the majority of bone was fairly rapidly buried and was not exposed to the elements for long; some bones from Phases 2 and 5.1 may have been left lying on the surface for longer periods of time, as these phases show the highest levels of bone weathering.

Bone erosion was considerably more common than weathering with upto 40% of bones being affected in some phases. Some problems with residuality in the assemblage were noted above and it seems that although careful context selection took place some residual or redeposited material may still persist. Phases 3 and 6 have the lowest levels of bone erosion, again in the case of Phase 6 this is likely due to the presence of articulated and clearly undisturbed material. Some of the bone erosion may also be attributed to dog gnawing.

Dog gnawing was present throughout the phases, affecting between 10% and 20% of bone fragments, indicating again that some bones were either left lying around on the surface before burial or that they were purposely fed to the dogs at the site. Rodent gnawing was noted on a single bone each from Phases 2, 3 and 4.

Results

Species Presence and Abundance

NISP data are displayed in Table 10. These show that a large number of the bone fragments could not be identified to species but that approximately half of the total bone count could only be identified as large or medium mammal. Of the identified species cattle were the most abundant, with horse and sheep/goat being present in roughly equal numbers; pigs were less well represented and dogs were present in small numbers. Sheep were positively identified from horn cores in Phases 2, 3, 5.2 and 6; no goats were positively identified, it is therefore assumed that the majority of sheep/goat bones in fact belong to sheep. A number of wild mammal species were represented by small numbers of bones; these were red deer, roe deer, hare and badger. A small number of bird bones were also recovered; identified birds include goose (wild or domestic) and domestic fowl.

Species		2	3	4	5.1	5.2	6	Total
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>	40	43	2	12	21	93	211
Sheep/Goat	<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	24	20	2	3	6	29	84
Sheep	<i>Ovis aries</i>	3	2	-	-	3	1	9
Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	15	4	-	3	2	9	33
Horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>	10	10	-	18	1	46	85
Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	1	3	-	-	2	6	12
Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Large mammal		115	96	2	40	22	246	521
Medium mammal		51	47	11	11	9	33	162
Small mammal		-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bird		-	4	-	-	1	4	9
Goose	<i>Anser sp.</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chicken	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Human	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Unid.		12	11	1	5	3	72	104
Total		276	242	18	93	71	542	1242

Table 10. NISP by phase

Patterns of species abundance varied between the phases (Chart 2), but the small size of assemblages from Phase 4, 5.1 and 5.2 in particular should be noted here. In the majority of phases cattle are the most abundant species with the exception of Phase 4 where they have equal representation with sheep/goat and Phase 5.1 where they are outnumbered by horse. Sheep/goat is usually the second most abundant taxa with the exception of Phase 5.1 and Phase 6 where in both cases they are outnumbered by horse bones. For each of these phases the majority of horse bones are from a single deposit rather than being spread throughout the deposits. Percentage representation of horse NISP varies throughout the phases, but horse is usually better represented than pig and dog, exceptions being Phase 2 where it is outnumbered by pig and Phase 5.2 where it is outnumbered by both pig and dog. Pig and dog are represented by only small numbers of bones; pig bones are usually more numerous than dog bones.

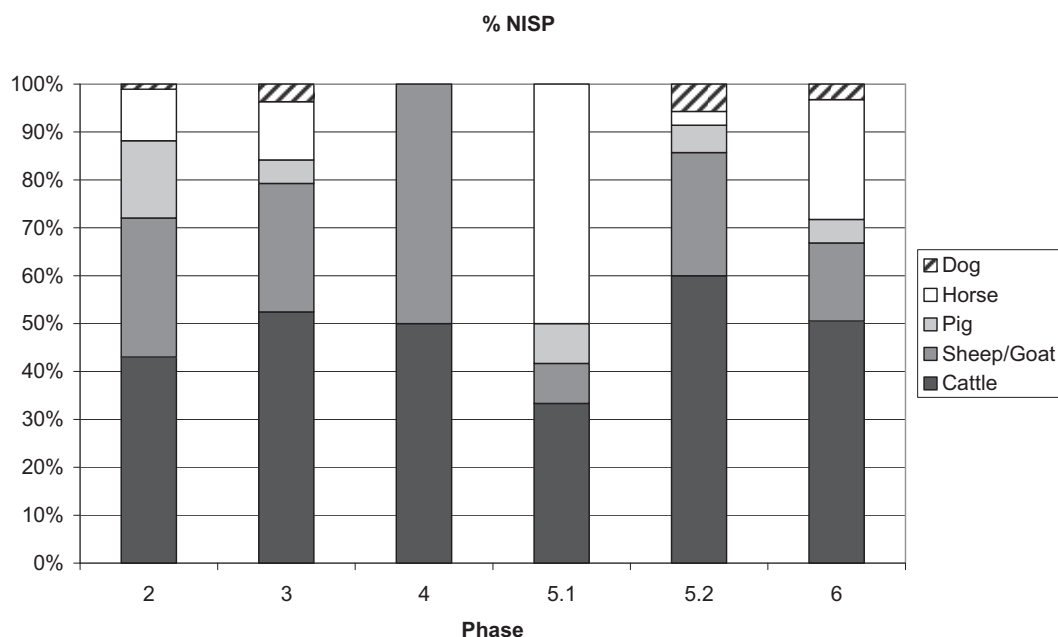


Chart 2. Percentage representation of main domestic species based on NISP.

While there are large variations in percentage representation (based on NISP) of species across the phases it seems unlikely that these are necessarily due to changes in economy or husbandry practice but, particularly in the case of Phase 4, 5.1 and 5.2 are vagaries of small sample size. More reliable interpretations may be drawn from Phases 2, 3 and 6.

MNI data (Table 11) show less variation in species abundance than the NISP data, largely due to the small sample size and unlikelihood of getting MNI values over one or two. Overall cattle are the best represented and dog the least well represented. There is little to suggest any major disparity between the representation of species by NISP and MNI.

Species	2	3	4	5.1	5.2	6
Cattle	2	2	1	1	2	5
Sheep/Goat	2	2	1	1	1	2
Pig	2	1	0	1	1	2
Horse	2	1	0	1	1	3
Dog	1	1	0	0	1	1

Table 11. MNI by phase

Some differences in species representation are seen however between NISP (Chart 2) and ubiquity (Chart 3). Cattle are always the most ubiquitous species (i.e. present in the most contexts) followed by sheep/goat or pig, depending on the phase. Horse and dog generally have very low ubiquity with the exception of Phase 3 horses. Dogs are poorly represented by all methods of quantification so their low ubiquity is not surprising. The low ubiquity of horses, especially in comparison to sheep/goat, which has an almost equal NISP, is of interest. This is most notable in Phase 6 where horse NISP is considerably higher than sheep/goat but horse ubiquity is much lower. This indicates that while the remains of sheep/goat (and cattle and pig) are fairly

evenly distributed throughout the deposits, those of horse tend to be concentrated in specific deposits. This indicates differential treatment of horse remains compared to those of the principal food animals: cattle, sheep/goat and pig.

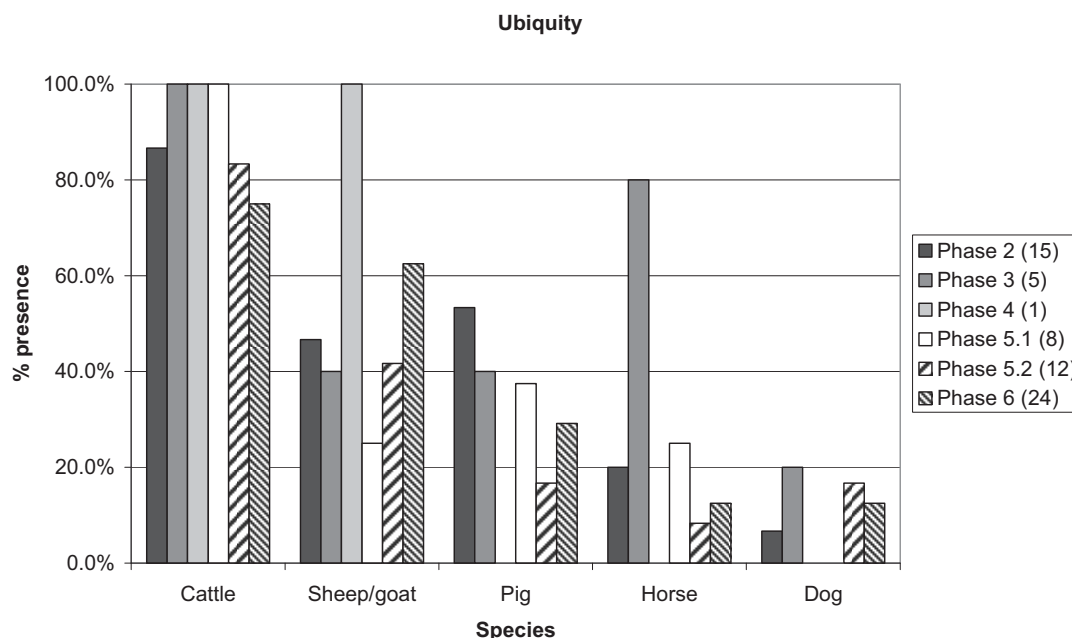


Chart 3. Ubiquity of species by phase, figures in brackets in legend indicate total number of contexts examined within that phase.

Exploitation of wild animals appears to have been minimal throughout, although it is noteworthy that four of the five deer bones come from Phase 2 (Table 10) indicating that hunting may have formed a more significant part of the economy at this time than in later periods. It is also worth noting that no antler fragments were recorded from this assemblage.

Ageing

Tooth wear data were only available for cattle, sheep/goat and horse and for these species data were sparse. Age stages for cattle and sheep/goat are shown in Charts 4 and 5. A range of animal ages are present for both taxa but little can be inferred about differing husbandry practices between the phases from such small amounts of data. Animals present appear to represent a mix of those slaughtered for meat and those kept to older ages for breeding, wool and traction. The lack of very young animals represented in the tooth wear data would suggest that dairying was not practiced to any great extent during any of the periods. Some particularly old animals were present in the Phase 6 sheep/goat assemblage; these were likely wool producing animals.

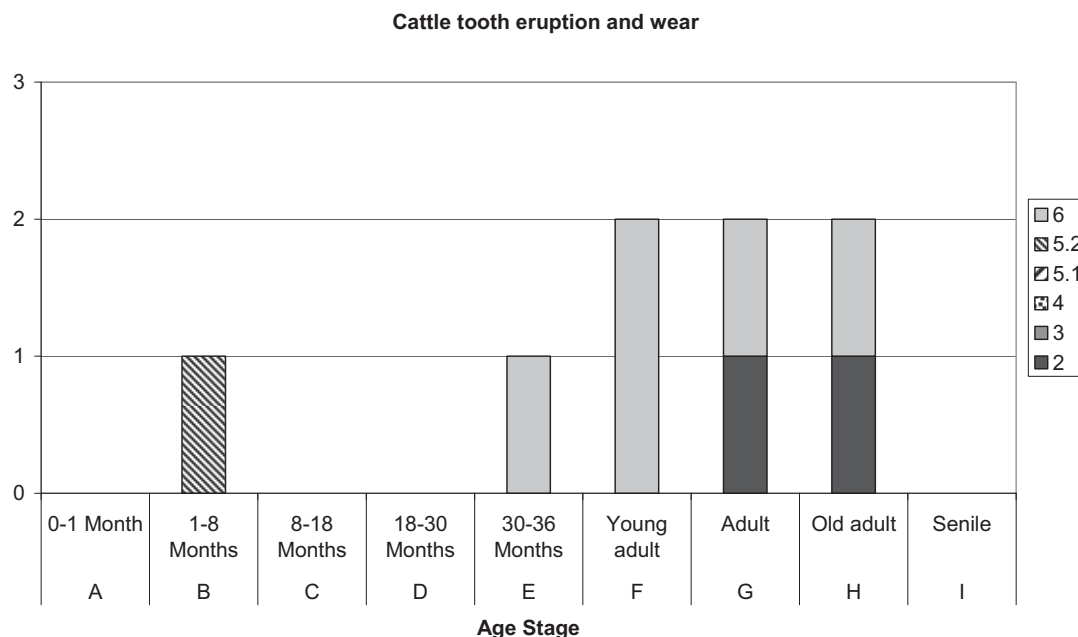


Chart 4. Cattle age stages based on tooth eruption and wear.

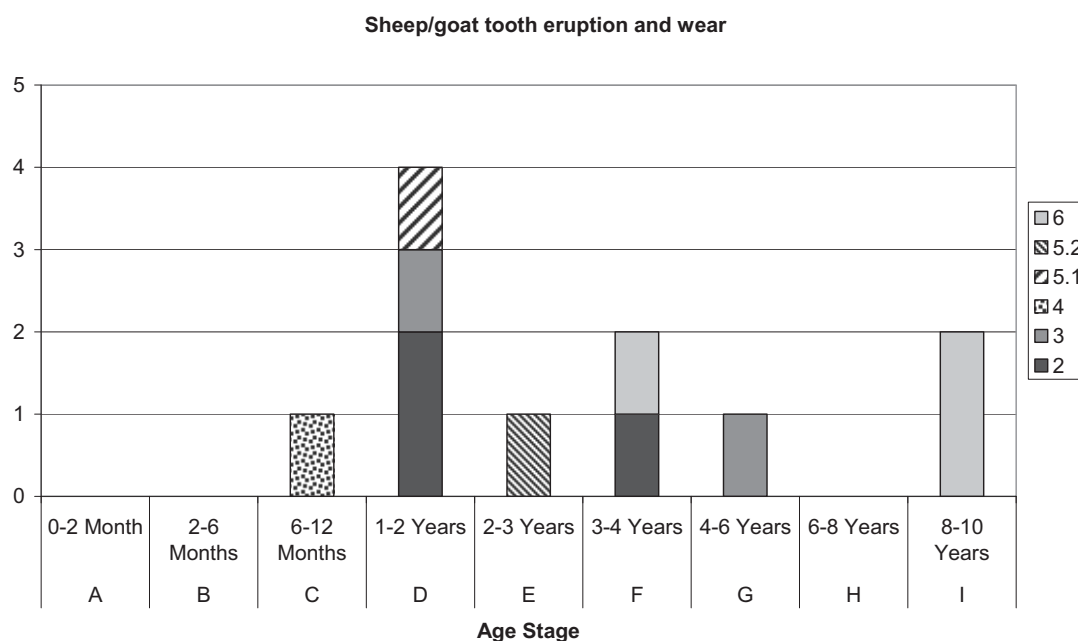


Chart 5. Sheep/goat age stages based on tooth eruption and wear.

Horses of two different ages could be determined from teeth. From Phase 5.1 (L2240) a pair of upper dP2 teeth, which were in wear, indicated an animal aged between 3 months and 2 years (Levine 1982). From L2218 (Phase 6) a horse aged 7-8 years was identified based on the height of the mandibular P4 (*ibid.*).

Bone fusion data were also sparse, too much so for meaningful survivorship curves to be drawn; however some differences were noted between species. The majority of pig bones were unfused indicating the presence of juvenile

animals, likely utilised for meat. With a few exceptions the majority of horse bones were fused indicating the presence of mostly adult animals. For cattle a mix of fused and unfused elements was present. In Phase 2 there were more than twice as many fused bones as there were unfused bones. In Phases 3 and 6 numbers of fused and unfused bones are almost even, with slightly more fused bones in both cases. This would indicate that more older cattle were present in Phase 2 than later on in the site's history with possibly more animals being slaughtered for prime meat in the Roman and high medieval periods than during the prehistoric period. The data from tooth eruption and wear (Chart 5) support this to some extent.

The fusion data for sheep/goat generally show higher numbers of fused bones than for cattle. Phase 2 has over three times as many fused elements as unfused elements and in Phase 6 no unfused elements were recorded, indicating high numbers of adult animals were present in these phases and possibly indicating a focus on wool production over meat production at these times, especially in the high medieval period. In Phase 3 there are even numbers of fused and unfused elements indicating that during the Roman period meat production may have been the primary economic focus of sheep husbandry.

Very small numbers of neonate bones were recorded. For cattle one definite neonate was recorded from Phase 6 and a possible neonate or very young bone was recorded from Phase 3. Two neonate sheep/goat bones were recorded from Phase 2 and one from Phase 6. Two possibly neonate or very young pig bones were recorded, one from Phase 2 and one from Phase 6. One very young or possibly neonate horse bone was recorded in Phase 6. A large mammal long bone fragment that appeared to come from a neonate animal was recorded in Phase 6 and a large mammal tibia fragment from Phase 2 was also recorded as a possible neonate. The presence of a small number of very young animals at the site, especially in Phases 2 and 6, indicates that animals were likely bred at the site at these times and that the animals represent natural losses to the population.

Butchery

Frequencies of butchery marks by phase and taxa are shown in Chart 6. Only Phases 2, 3 and 6 are displayed due to the extremely small size of the other samples. There is little in the way of clear patterning in the data, but some general observations can be made. Overall cattle have the greatest proportion of butchered bones. This is likely due to them being one of the principal meat providing animals and having considerably larger carcasses than either sheep or pig, hence requiring a greater degree of carcass dismemberment to make manageable food portions. Roman period (Phase 3) butchery comprised of large blade chop marks on the large mammal bones and knife marks on the small mammal bones, indicating likely differing butchery practices on different carcass types. In the other phases there is a mix of cut and chop marks present; no chop marks are present on pig bones from any phase. Overall the highest occurrence of butchery is in Phase 6, possibly indicating a change in

butchery technique or a greater intensity of butchery being practiced at this time.

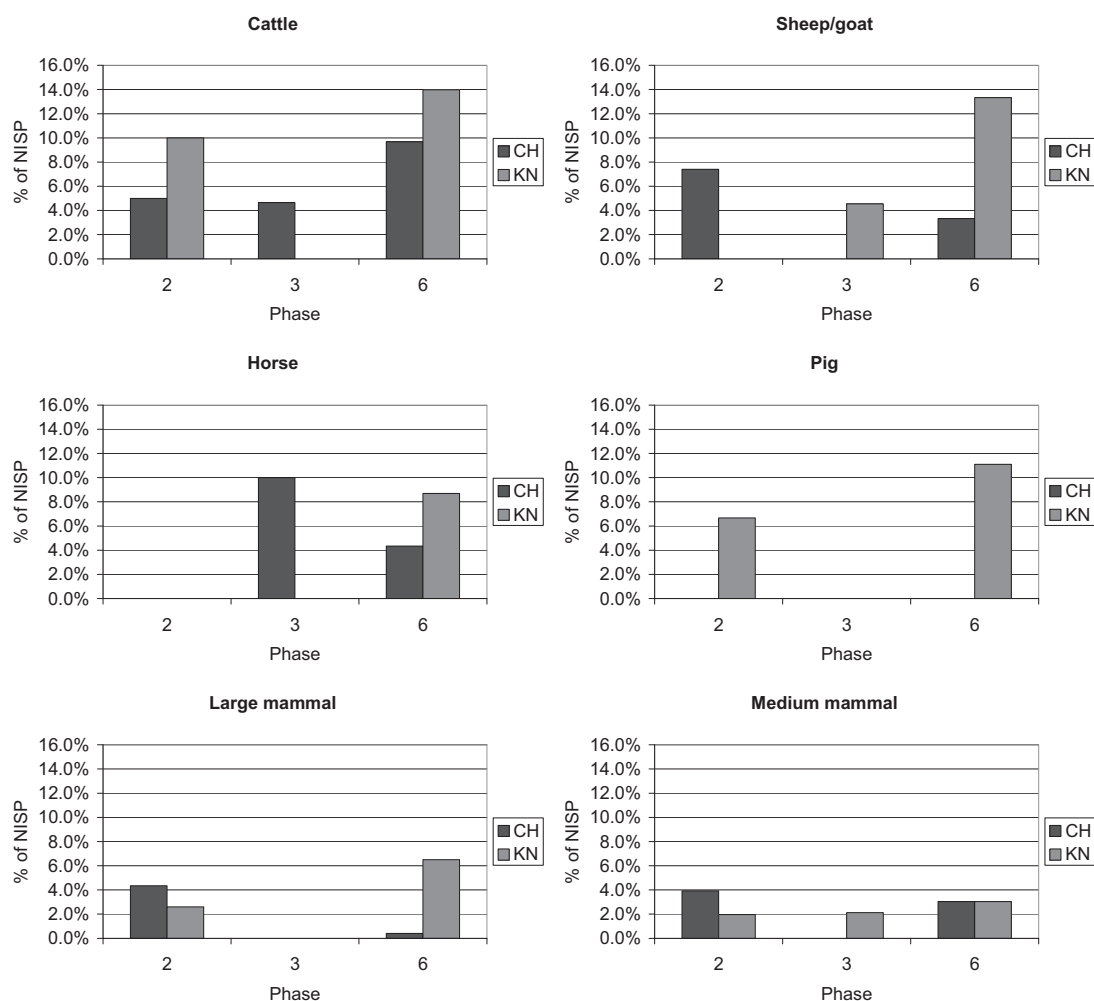


Chart 6. Frequency of butchery marks by species and phase as a percentage of NISP.

A number of more specific observations were made on types and locations of butchery marks during bone recording, some of the more significant ones are described here. Butchery of Phase 2 cattle included femur fragments with filleting marks and a metatarsal with marks indicative of skinning. One scapula was recorded as having a hole punched through the blade; this has been noted as a specifically Roman practice (Maltby 2007) and likely dates to the latest part of Phase 2. A number of large mammal vertebrae from this phase displayed large blade chop marks, although no consistency in the direction of chops made was apparent.

In Phase 3 one cattle skull has evidence for the removal of the horn cores and a sheep/goat metacarpal had evidence of skinning. No butchery marks of any note were present in Phase 4. In Phase 5.1 two examples of the removal of horn cores from the skull were noted, as was one possible example of pole-axing. A pig mandible was found to have a number of cuts on the lingual side which may have resulted from the removal of the tongue.

In Phase 6 a cattle neonate frontal bone from L2218 bore marks indicative of skinning, indicating that although cattle do not appear to have been routinely killed at this age good use was made of their carcasses when they did die, the manufacture of vellum is a possibility in this case. Dismemberment chop marks were noted through cattle distal humeri and also through the neck or distal articulation of the scapula. Cut marks, likely also resulting from dismemberment, were found around the margins of the proximal articulations of cattle metapodials. A cattle mandible with cuts on the lingual side likely indicated tongue removal. A small number of butchery marks were found on horse bones, all of which came from Pit Fill L2218 and will be discussed separately below. A number of large mammal rib fragments were noted as having transverse cuts; these were observed on both the medial and lateral sides of the bones and likely represent the filleting of meat from the bones. Sheep/goat butchery included disarticulation cuts on proximal radii and a sheep horn core that had been chopped through approximately half way up.

Pathology

The majority of pathological bones came from the semi-articulated horse remains in L2218 and will be discussed in the *Specific Deposits* section below. A small number of other pathological bones were also recorded and are described here. Three pathological bones were noted in Phase 2. Two of these were large mammal vertebrae; one was a cervical vertebra with a notch in one of the articular facets and the other was a lumbar vertebra displaying some lipping around the articulations and enlarged and additional foramen in the neural arch. A sheep/goat maxillary tooth row had some calculus deposits and teeth that were worn flat rather than into the usual ridges.

A sheep/goat mandible from Phase 3 was noted as having rough and swollen bone around the area of the 2nd and 3rd molars (M2 and M3) and that there were gaps or slits present in the dentine of the M2. Finally in Phase 6 a sheep/goat mandible was noted as having an enlarged muscle attachment, possibly indicating an animal of advanced age.

Specific deposits

Two pit deposits, both from Phase 6 (L2022, F2021 and L2218, F2217) were noted as containing large deposits of semi-articulated animal remains. These are described in detail here and quantifications of bones found within these pits are given in Table 12.

Species	L2022		L2218	
	NISP	MNI	NISP	MNI
Cattle	26	2	34	3
Horse	-	-	44	3
Sheep/goat	2	1	2	1
Pig	1	1	-	-
Dog	-	-	2	1
Large mammal	52	-	134	-
Medium mammal	6	-	1	-
Unid.	49	-	2	-
Total	136		219	

Table 12. Quantification of species in specific deposits L2022 and L2218.

L2022, F2021

L2022 (Plate 5) contained a collection of cattle and large mammal bones (plus a small number of other bones) some of which are articulating elements and some of which make sided pairs. A minimum of two cattle are represented, denoted by the presence of two right tibiae and two axis vertebrae. Interestingly the two axis vertebrae appear to come from animals of similar ages but different sizes. Another point of interest is that the majority of bones that could be sided were right hand elements; identifiable elements, where side could be assigned are detailed in Table 13. Additional cattle and large mammal bones found within the deposit were a fragment of 1st phalange, the two axis vertebrae mentioned above, six other cervical vertebrae, three thoracic vertebrae, three articulating lumbar vertebrae and a selection of rib fragments including four articular ends.

Left	Bone	Right	Notes
0	Nasal	1	
0	Maxilla	1	
0	Mandible	1	
0	Scapula	1	
0	Radius	1	Articulates with ulna
0	Ulna	1	Articulates with radius
1	Tibia	2	Includes matching L & R pair
0	Calcaneus	1	
1	Astragalus	1	Not noted as a pair
0	Naviculocuboid	1	
1	Metatarsal	1	L & R pair
3	Total	12	

Table 13. Sided cattle bones from L2022

Some age data were available from both bone fusion and tooth eruption and wear. A number of unfused elements were present including all proximal and distal tibiae, a proximal calcaneum and the distal metatarsals; the radius fragment was a fused proximal end. Following the fusion ages given by Silver (1969) this would indicate the cattle in this pit were aged between c. 18 months and 2.5 years at death. The cattle mandible was found to belong to Halstead's (1985) age stage E, indicating an age of between 30 and 36

months. If the majority of these bones come from a single individual these data would indicate that the animal was around 2.5 years old at death, the second individual (indicated by the additional tibia and axis) would also appear to be of a similar age. If a mix of animals is present, all of these could be classed as prime meat age animals.

A small quantity of butchery marks were observed, including dismemberment marks on the left astragalus and left metatarsal, chops into the spine of the scapula, a cut on the proximal radius articulation and cuts and chops on some of the ribs. The quantity of taphonomic indicators recorded for this deposit was quite different to that seen for Phase 6 as a whole. Although dog gnawed, weathered and eroded bones were present they appeared in much lower frequencies than for the Phase 6 assemblage as a whole and the percentage of bones falling into the largest size category (over 10cm) was slightly over 40%, approximately 10% more than for the assemblage as a whole. These data indicate that the bones within Pit F2021 were likely deposited much more swiftly than those from the majority of other deposits hence avoiding surface damage and fragmentation. Their swift deposition is also attested to by the presence of some articulated elements, indicating that some soft tissues were still attached on deposition.

L2218, F2217

The second pit fill (L2218) contained a collection of cattle, horse and large mammal remains (Table 12), again with some articulating and some paired elements, plus a few bones of other animals. Cattle mandibles gave an MNI of 3, but the majority of other bones would not account for more than one animal. As for the cattle bones from L2022 the majority of sided elements (Table 14) came from the right hand side and paired elements account for the majority of those from the left hand side. Few of the cattle elements were found to be articulating with the exception of a right hand astragalus and naviculocuboid. In addition to the sided elements noted in Table 14 a number of other bones were recorded. These included an occipital, an axis, a number of loose teeth and mandible fragments, and a fragment of sacrum.

Left	Bone	Right	Notes
0	Frontal	1	Neonate
1	Maxilla	1	L & R pair
3	Mandible	3	Includes at least two L & R pairs
0	Scapula	2	
0	Humerus	1	
2	Metacarpal	1	Not noted as paired
1	Pelvis	1	L & R pair
0	Femur	1	
0	Tibia	1	
0	Calcaneus	1	
0	Astragalus	1	
0	Naviculocuboid	1	
0	Metatarsal	1	
7	Total	16	

Table 14. Sided cattle bones from L2218

The three left hand mandibles were assessed for tooth eruption and wear. Two of these were classed as Halstead's (1985) age stage F (Young Adult) and one at age stage G (Adult). Animals of slightly varying ages are also represented by long bone fusion. Two metacarpals (one left and one right) are fully fused indicating an animal or animals over 2-2.5 years (Silver 1969) and a third metacarpal with an unfused distal end indicates an animal younger than 2-2.5 years (*ibid.*). Again these may represent prime meat animals. One very young individual was represented by the neonate frontal bone mentioned in the butchery section above, this is the only cattle neonate represented in the whole assemblage and essentially represents a fourth animal in terms of MNI.

Twelve of the 34 cattle bones had butchery marks, including four chop marks and eight knife marks. The only skinning marks represented were those on the neonate frontal bone already mentioned in the butchery section above; the majority of marks were indicative of dismemberment and filleting. Dismemberment marks included a chop through an occipital articulation indicative of decapitation and cuts around the edges of a proximal metacarpal. A number of the long bones bore horizontal cuts along their shafts indicating the removal of meat.

Two pathologies were noted on the cattle bones from this deposit. One of the scapulae had an oddly formed spine and one of the mandibles had calculus deposits on the M1.

Horse was slightly better represented in this deposit in terms of NISP, although the MNI was also three (Table 12), based on the metatarsals present. For horse the majority of sided elements came from the left hand side (Table 15), which is interesting in contrast with the two groups of cattle remains described above. Two sets of articulating elements are present in the horse bone assemblage. The first comprises a pathological lower left hind limb and includes the 1st phalange, the metatarsal and peripheral metatarsals, and all of the tarsals. The second is a pathological section of the spine including the last eleven thoracic vertebrae and the first lumbar vertebrae; there is a selection of other vertebrae and ribs that may belong with this but this could not be ascertained with any certainty and these bones could only be identified as large mammal. The only paired bone that could be identified was a right astragalus that matched with the astragalus from the articulated hind limb.

Left	Bone	Right	Notes
1	Mandible	0	
1	Scapula	0	
2	Humerus	0	
0	Radioulna	1	
1	Metacarpal	0	
2	Pelvis	1	No pair noted
1	Femur	0	

1	Calcaneus	0	
1	Astragalus	1	Probable L & R pair
1	Grand cuneiform	0	
1	Scaphoid	0	
1	Cuboid	0	
3	Metatarsal	2	No pairs noted
16	Total	5	

Table 15. Sided horse bones from L2218.

In terms of the ages of the animals represented all of the bones present are fully fused, including the vertebrae which would suggest an age of over five years (Silver 1969). As mentioned in the ageing section above the horse mandible present in this deposit suggested an animal aged 7-8 years (Levine 1982).

A small number of bones showed signs of butchery, these included cuts, chops and one sawn bone. Most of the marks appeared to be associated with disarticulation of the carcass, some possible cuts on one of the metatarsals may indicate skinning and cuts on a piece of pelvis may indicate the removal of meat. The sawn bone is a metacarpal with vertical saw marks around the proximal end, the purpose of this is unknown.

The majority of the pathological bones identified in the assemblage come from the horse remains from L2218. These can be divided into three groups: the articulated section of spine, the articulated hind limb and two right hand metatarsals.

The severity of the pathological lesions on the articulating vertebrae varies along the length of the spine, with the least severe being at the cranial end and the most severe at the caudal end (Plate 7). Vertebrae at the cranial end have slight lipping on the articulations and some osteophyte formation on the ventral edges of the articulations. The last six thoracic vertebrae and the lumbar vertebrae are much more severely affected with much more extensive osteophyte formation, particularly around the joints between the dorsal processes; this has become so extensive between the last thoracic and first lumbar vertebrae that they have become fused together, although they have now broken apart either during or since excavation. It is thought this is a case of *ankylosing spondylitis* – a progressive inflammatory disease affecting the spine (Roberts and Manchester 1995, 118f). A particularly severe case of this disease, also called ‘bamboo spine’ was reported by Bartosiewicz and Bartosiewicz (2002) on a horse burial from Hungary. Further, less severe, examples were reported from horse burials excavated in Lithuania (Daugnora & Thomas 2005). In both cases this condition was thought, at least partly, to have been caused by the horses having been ridden. Levine *et al.* (1998) note that injuries of the caudal thoracic vertebrae (i.e. those towards the caudal end of the spine) tend to be associated with horses having been ridden.

The pathologies noted on the articulated lower left hind limb may also have been associated with excessive use or over work of the joints. In the majority of cases some lipping was observed around the articulations and there was

some degeneration of the joint surface, usually giving a porous appearance. The condition of the 1st phalanx appeared more severe, where in addition to lipping around the edges of the articulation the degeneration of the joint surface was much more pronounced with eburnation (polishing) and grooving being present on the distal joint surface along with exostosis and extension of the articulation. Together these conditions indicate a diagnosis of osteoarthritis (Baker & Brothwell 1980, 115). This may have resulted from heavy use, such as the horse having been regularly ridden or from constant trauma to the joint, such as walking on a hard, metal surface (*ibid.*). Levine *et al.* (1998) note that high levels of foot pathologies are noted in horses that have worked a great deal on hard surfaces, whether this is as a result of riding or traction.

The two pathological right hand metatarsals also displayed slight lipping and porousness of the proximal articulations and seem likely to be similar in nature to the pathology noted for the left hind limb noted above.

It seems likely that the two main groups of pathological, articulated horse bones within this deposit may have belonged to the same animal and that these pathologies were caused by the animal having been regularly ridden, most likely on hard surfaces. The Hungarian horse reported by Bartosiewicz and Bartosiewicz (2002) also had injuries to the lower hind limb.

As for the assemblage from L2022 the taphonomy of the bones from L2218 is interesting. Bone weathering and bone erosion appear in much lower quantities than for the Phase 6 assemblage as a whole and there is a high percentage of bones over 10cm in size (47%). These figures are similar to those seen for L2022 and indicate that the material was fairly quickly deposited and buried in comparison to the rest of the assemblage. The quantity of dog gnawing present is however interesting as 21% of bones from this deposit showed signs of gnawing, including a number of the articulated horse bones. This is a higher occurrence of dog gnawing than seen for the Phase 6 assemblage as a whole (Chart 1). It appears that while the animal remains within this pit were deposited fairly quickly dogs were allowed access to some of the bones before deposition, including the articulated parts of horse skeleton. The level of gnawing was however not severe and appears not to have been enough to have disarticulated the bones before burial. This may indicate that while a dog had had access to the bones they may have been fairly quickly taken away from them. It seems possible that in a very short space of time a dog may cause low levels of damage to a high number of bones whilst they were still part of an articulated element.

Summary and Discussion

Overall the animal bone assemblage from Soham High Street is small and offers little opportunity for detailed analysis of changes in economy and animal husbandry over the long history of the site's settlement. However some inferences can be made and there are other points of interest in the assemblage, namely in the partially articulated remains of cattle and horse

excavated from two Phase 6 (High Medieval) pits. Some general observations can be made on the species exploited. Cattle appear to be the dominant species throughout, beef likely accounting for the majority of meat eaten. Horses are also well represented in some phases but appear to be disposed of differently to the main food animals, indicating their different economic value. Exploitation of wild animals was minimal but was possibly more prolific in Phase 2 (Later Iron Age to Early Roman period) than in the later phases. Although a small number of neonate bones indicate that domestic mammals were bred at the site there is no indication that dairying was practiced on a large scale. Pigs are likely to have been kept for meat throughout all of the phases. Cattle husbandry may have been more concentrated on producing prime meat in the Late Roman (Phase 3) and High Medieval (Phase 6) periods than in the Late Iron Age to Early Roman (Phase 2) period. The economic focus of sheep husbandry appears to have changed over time from a mix of meat and wool in the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period to a greater focus on meat in the Late Roman period and then a concentration on wool production in the High Medieval. This concentration on wool production seen in Phase 6 fits well with the general pattern seen for medieval England. Both Grant (1984) and Sykes (2006) note that wool production formed an important part of the medieval economy and Ryder (1983, 455) noted that wool production increased from the 12th century onwards, essentially over the period covered by Phase 6. The earlier postulated changes in sheep husbandry, essentially from a mixed economy in the Late Iron Age to a more meat focused economy in the Late Roman period is one also seen at Cedars Park, Stowmarket (Cussans & Philips forthcoming). The possible change from more older cattle to more prime meat cattle over the same time period is however with odds with the pattern seen at Stowmarket (*ibid.*), where in the Roman period there appears to be a greater focus on the use of cattle for traction. The sample for Soham is however quite small and as already mentioned difficult to draw firm conclusions from.

The cattle and horse bones from the specific deposits appear to have been more swiftly deposited than those in the rest of the assemblage. The distribution of elements is quite interesting as the cattle remains appear to be dominated by right hand elements in both L2022 and L2218 and the horse remains, found only in L2218 are dominated by left hand elements. It is difficult to determine if this side selection was purposefully made or has occurred simply by chance. The fact that for both species the elements present are not entirely from one side of the body may suggest that there was no conscious selection of body side. Additionally the fact that the two species were principally represented by different body sides may indicate that there was no favouring of a particular body side for deposition. Alternatively if a side was favoured this varied between species. MacKinnon (2010) reported that side selection often took place in ritual or sacrificial contexts and this was more often of the right hand side than the left, with different meanings being assigned to the two sides in classical Greece. He also noted that side selection was often applied to specific body parts; this was the case at Great Chesterford Roman Temple in Essex, where sheep right hand forelimbs were favoured (Legge *et al.* 2000). All of the examples cited by MacKinnon (2010) involve large quantities of animals where side selection can be clearly

demonstrated. The small numbers of animals involved here mean that such firm conclusions cannot be drawn.

The cattle remains present appear to represent prime meat animals and given that they have clearly been butchered may represent the remains of a special meal or feast. That is to say that the method of preparation or consumption may have been different to that occurring on a day to day basis and given the quantity of meat they may have been involved, this may have been a community level event rather than remains created by a single family unit.

The horse remains appear to have mainly come from a horse that has been regularly ridden. However it does not appear to have been afforded any special reverence in death given that some carcass dismemberment has taken place, dogs have been allowed to chew the bones, if only for a short while, and they have been placed in a mixed deposit with cattle remains and small quantities of other species. Grant (1984) noted that while horses were not economically important as food animals in the medieval period and would probably have been disposed of differently to cattle, sheep or pig, as appears to be the case here, they would have had high economic value as pack animals, particularly in association with the wool trade. This therefore offers the possibility that the horses represented in L2218 were pack animals, rather than those used for riding and incurred their injuries through carrying heavy loads and travelling considerable distances on metalled roads.

5.8 Charred plant macrofossils

John Summers

Introduction

Excavated features at Church Hall, Soham, show a high intensity of occupation over a prolonged period of time. This provides the ability to examine changes and developments in subsistence and economy over time within a well defined location. The sampled features date from site Phases 2 (late Iron Age/ early Roman), 3 (late Roman), 5.1 (late Saxon), 5.2 (Saxo-Norman/ early medieval) and 6 ('high' medieval). This report presents the results from the full analysis of the most productive samples and discusses the results in relation to other comparable assemblages in the region and further afield.

Methodology

Samples were processed using a Siraf type flotation tank at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds. The light fraction was washed onto a 250µm mesh, while the heavy fraction was retained in a 500µm mesh. Sorting and identification was carried out using a low-power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) and a modern reference collection of seeds and fruits were used to refine identifications. All cereal remains and carbonised and

mineralised seeds were fully quantified, while most other remains were recorded using a semi-quantitative scale.

Sample selection

A total of 22 samples were selected for full analysis, covering Phases 2, 3, 5.1, 5.2 and 6 (Table 16). Selection was based on the potential for samples to yield an analytically viable number of charred plant remains (*c.*>30). In addition, some pre-selection of samples was made by Tom Woolhouse prior to the assessment based on evidence of mixing and residuality within a number of deposits. In reality only 12 samples contained 30 or more identifiable items. Despite this, all fully quantified samples will be discussed here. The composition of the remaining samples can be found in the assessment report (Summers 2011) in the project archive.

Phase	Number of samples	Volume (litres)	Number of items	Items per litre
2	6	190	220	1.16
3	3	90	63	0.7
5.1	4	120	234	1.95
5.2	5	130	5310	40.85
6	4	120	998	3.32

Table 16: Distribution of fully analysed samples and their contents across the site phases.

Results

The data from the analysis of the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Tables A-E (see Data CD). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997). The bulk of the material recovered was in the form of charred plant macrofossils, although a small number of mineralised items were also identified. The dominant class of material was in the form of carbonised cereal grains, with associated chaff and weed seeds also present. In addition to the cereals were the remains of pea (*Pisum sativum*) and indeterminate large legumes (Fabaceae indet.). A number of probable weed taxa were also represented.

Phase 2 (late Iron Age/ early Roman)

The six samples analysed from Phase 2 produced an overall density 1.16 items per litre of sediment. Wheat, barley and oat were all present, with wheat being numerically dominant (Chart 7). The majority of the wheat grains (74% of positively identified wheat grains) were of a glumed variety (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*), with some free-threshing type grains (*T. aestivum/ compactum* type) also present. The glume bases which could be positively identified were of spelt (*T. spelta*), indicating that this was the primary glumed wheat variety present. Hulled barley grains were present within all of the samples, with some asymmetric grains indicating the presence of a six-row variety (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *vulgare*). Oats (*Avena* sp.) were present in

three contexts (L2101A, L2166A and L2192). No diagnostic elements were present to determine whether a wild or cultivated variety was represented.

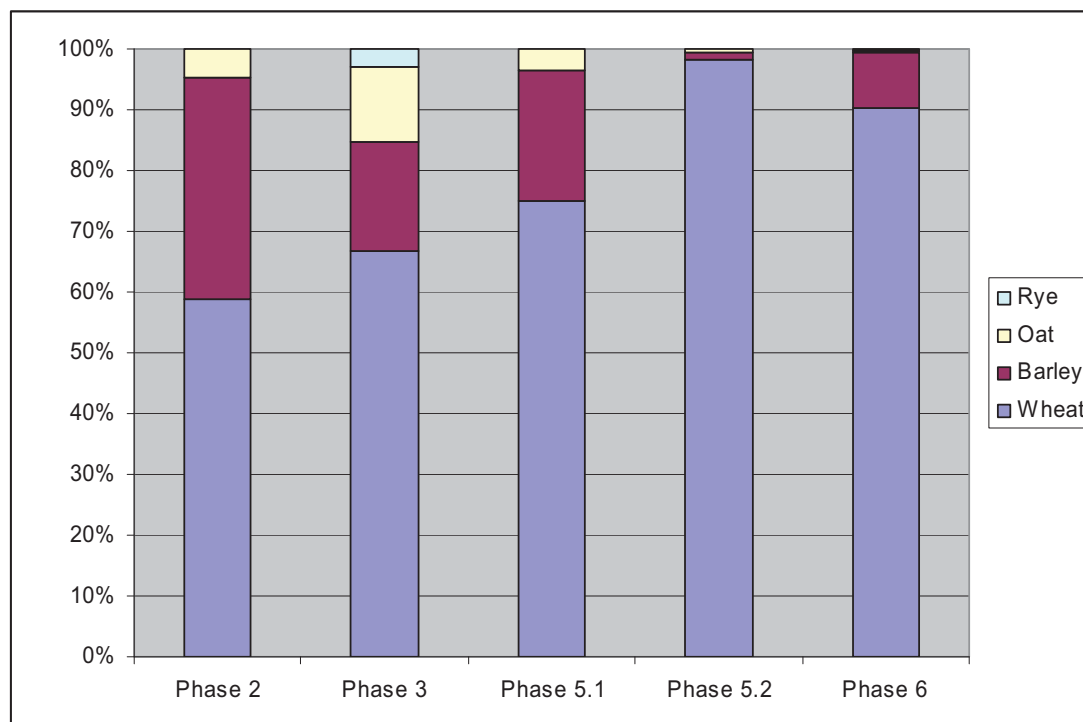


Chart 7: Species representation of the four cereal types by phase (Phase 2 N=85; Phase 3 N=33; Phase 5.1 N=112; Phase 5.2 N=2797; Phase 6 N=556)

Glume bases and spikelet forks were quite common, occurring in four of the six samples. A comparison of a corrected total of glume wheat grains to glume bases produced ratios of between 0.4:1 and 6.1:1. Although the sample sizes are too small to make any reliable comments, it seems plausible that some of the deposits contain cereal processing waste, albeit intermixed with other material from alternative sources.

Further to the cereals, the remains of large legumes (Fabaceae indet.) were also recorded. Some were morphologically similar to pea (*Pisum sativum*), although preservation was insufficient for accurate identification. These are likely to represent another food crop grown by the site's inhabitants.

The range of non-cereal taxa was quite limited. Most taxa are those which can be considered arable weeds, including goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), vetch/ wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and barren brome (*Anisantha sterilis*). A number of these are large seeded plants or those with large seed heads which could remain with the crop following sieving, although some could also be associated with crop processing debris.

Three of the Phase 2 samples contained mineralised remains. Mineralised nodules were present in L2086 (gully F2085) and L2192 (pit F2191). A chickweed seed and another un-identified seed were present in L2090 (pit F2089). The occurrence of these items indicates some highly organic matter

was present in these features to cause such phosphatic mineralisation. The low density of such remains suggests that such enrichment was not extensive.

The majority of the small mammal bones from the site were recognised in the Phase 2 deposits and were present in four of the six samples. One bone from L2101A showed signs of scorching. These could represent household or granary pests, although the number of specimens was low.

Phase 3 (late Roman)

The three samples from Phase 3 produced a lower density of material than the previous phase (0.7 items per litre). The range of cereals was comparable to that from Phase 2, although with the addition of a single rye grain (*Secale cereale*) in L2138C (ditch F2137C). Wheat was again the dominant cereal type (Chart 7). As in the previous phase, glume wheat grains (*T. dicoccum/ spelta*) were more numerous (91% of positively identified wheat grains) than free-threshing type wheat grains (*T. aestivum/ compactum* type) and identifiable glume bases demonstrate the presence of spelt (*T. spelta*). Hulled barley grains (*Hordeum* sp.) were present but no asymmetric grains were recognised. A single large legume (Fabaceae indet.) in layer L2147 suggests that pulse crops were also cultivated during the late Roman period.

The assemblage of non-cereal taxa was limited but included likely arable weeds, such as medium legumes (Fabaceae indet.), goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae indet.) and wild grasses (Poaceae indet.).

Phase 4 (early – middle Saxon)

Only a single sample was present from Phase 4 and was not taken further than the assessment stage (Summers 2011). The material comprised glume wheat (*T. dicoccum/ spelta*), hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.) and brome grass (*Bromus* sp.).

Phase 5.1 (late Saxon)

In the four samples from Phase 5.1, a density of 1.95 items per litre was recorded. As in the previous phases, wheat was numerically dominant, with a greater number of glume wheat grains recorded (85% of positively identified wheat grains). The presence of spelt wheat glume bases (*T. spelta*) indicates that these grains were predominantly of this species. A small number of free-threshing type wheat grains (*T. aestivum/ compactum* type) were present but as a smaller proportion than should be expected for a late Saxon assemblage.

Hulled barley was well represented (23%) and the absence of asymmetric grains may indicate the use of 2-row barley (*H. distichon*), although this is difficult to prove with a small assemblage such as this. Oats (*Avena* sp.) were

present in three of the four samples examined and large legumes (Fabaceae indet.) were present in L2274 (pit F2273). In general, the assemblage of cultivars shows a remarkable similarity to the preceding phases.

The non-cereal taxa are mostly those which are likely to have been arable weeds, including goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), medium legumes (Fabaceae indet.), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) and chess (*Bromus secalinus* type). The single seed of cabbage/ mustard (*Brassica/ Sinapis* sp.) could represent a deliberately cultivated brassica crop or a weed within the other crops. Unfortunately it was not possible to identify the specimen more precisely.

Some fuel ash slag and spheroidal hammer scale was present in the Phase 5.1 samples but only in low concentrations.

Phase 5.2 (Saxo-Norman/ early medieval)

Phase 5.2 represents a massive increase in the density of remains, with 40.85 items per litre from five samples. Three rich deposits from two features (F2013E and F2173) are responsible for this pattern. The remaining two samples produced a density of 2.15 items per litre. The majority of the samples were dominated by wheat. However, L2014E was dominated by spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) chaff, along with a number of glume wheat grains, whilst L2174 and L2175 were dominated by grains and chaff of free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum/ compactum* type). Although less rich, L2058 was also dominated by the remains of free-threshing type wheat.

L2014E (ditch segment F2013E)

The overwhelmingly dominant class of material in L2014E was glume bases and spikelet forks. Those which could be identified precisely were found to be of spelt wheat (*T. spelta*). The ratio of glume wheat grains to glume bases was 0.12:1, considerably below the 1:1 expected in an un-threshed ear. This indicates the presence of crop processing waste; more specifically the remains from the final de-husking of the spelt crop following threshing, winnowing and coarse sieving (e.g. Stevens 2003). In addition to the wheat remains were two barley grains and two oat grains. A single free-threshing type grain (*T. aestivum/ compactum* type) was also present in the sample.

Numerous likely arable weeds were present including goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), oraches (*Atriplex* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), vetch/ wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), fescue (*Festuca* sp.) and chess (*Bromus secalinus* type). It would appear that most of these had been removed from the crop during processing.

The apparently late date for this deposit appears anomalous compared to other earlier medieval crop records in England and it is possible that the

material dates to an earlier period of activity on the site. However, this would only be the case if ditch F2013 has been incorrectly dated as the deposit is rich (28.65 items per litre) and well preserved. This indicates that it is unlikely to represent re-worked, residual material from an earlier phase which was disturbed during the ditch construction.

L2174 and L2175 (possible SFB L2173)

Of the five Phase 5.2 samples, L2175 was the richest (140 items per litre), with underlying deposit L2174 also containing numerous carbonised remains (11 items per litre). Both samples were very similar in composition and shall be considered together. The dominant class of material in these deposits was free-threshing type wheat grain (*T. aestivum/ compactum* type), along with bread wheat rachis (*T. aestivum* sl), hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains, oat (*Avena* sp.) grains and a number of arable weed seeds.

In both deposits, free-threshing wheat grains (corrected to include the relative number of indeterminate grains) dramatically outnumber rachis nodes (128:1 in L2174 and 110:1 in L2175). Even taking into account the poorer relative preservation of rachis compared to grain (Boardman and Jones 1990), this is dramatically higher than the 2-6:1 expected in an un-threshed ear of *T. aestivum* type (van der Veen 1992, 82). A small number of culm nodes and cereal leaf fragments also occurred in the samples. The number of such items was quite low and does not suggest a significant presence of crop processing debris.

The proportion of weed taxa is also quite low at between c.3% to c.8%. The weeds include a number of large-seeded types (40%-60%), including vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), other knapweeds (*Centaurea* sp.) and brome grass (*Bromus* sp.). Being a similar size to cereal grains, these seeds are more difficult to remove from the crop by sieving. A number of other taxa, such as campion (*Silene* sp.), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*) can also remain with sieved cereals in large seed heads/ capsules. The retention of large-seeded weeds in the final grain product is known from cesspit deposits containing evidence of consumed cereal products (e.g. Kenward and Hall, 758; Bakels 2012, 26). Therefore one possible interpretation of the material in L2174 and L2175 is as the remains of a threshed, winnowed and sieved product which became carbonised in a drying or storage accident.

It is also possible that some of the chaff and weed elements were present as fuel which became mixed with the product during carbonisation. Chaff fuel is common in Roman corn driers (e.g. van der Veen 1989) and has been interpreted from remains in late Saxon ovens from Stafford (Moffett 1994). The charcoal in these two deposits is also likely to represent the remains of fuel. No *in situ* burning was noted during excavation and it would seem most likely that the charred remains were dumped into the disused pit rather than representing the remains from the destruction of the SFB and its contents.

The presence of a large bulb (c.20mm diameter) in L2175 indicates that the crop could have been reaped close to the ground, which would have resulted in some plants being uprooted. This would also account for the inclusion of some shorter plants, such as stinking chamomile and scentless mayweed. However, it could also have been introduced with fuel resources.

The great similarity between the samples, along with the otherwise sterile nature of L2174 (primary weathered fill) raises the possibility that the material in both deposits originated from the same burning event. The proportions of different cereal taxa, chaff and weed seeds are very similar between L2174 and L2175, with the primary difference being the concentration of remains (11.15 items per litre in L2174 compared to 140.17 items per litre in L2175). It seems likely that the carbonised material from L2174 represents contamination from the overlying deposit (L2175), most likely as mixing of material at the boundary of the two contexts, with remains from L2175 probably filtering into voids within L2174. This would explain the similarity of the samples from the two deposits and reduced concentrations of carbonised remains in the basal fill (L2174).

Phase 6 ('high' medieval)

The four samples from Phase 6 produced a more typically medieval assemblage dominated by free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum* type). Hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oats (*Avena* sp.) and a single rye grain (*Secale cereale*) were also all present. Pea (*Pisum sativum*) was positively identified in L2177 (F2173), along with other large legume seeds in other contexts. A single possible celtic bean (cf. *Vicia faba*) was also identified in L2222B (beam slot F2221B) during the assessment (Summers 2011).

The range of non-cereal taxa was broadly similar to the preceding period. The taxa present included mostly taxa that could grow as arable weeds, such as common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), cabbage family (Brassicaceae indet.), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), medium and small legumes (Fabaceae indet.), common gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), knapweed (*Centaurea* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp.) and wild grasses (Poaceae indet.). Sedge could represent wetter habitats, as could the single specimen of possible water-dropwort (cf. *Oenanthe* sp.), which could reflect dampness in cultivated fields or other sources of vegetation. Hemlock (cf. *Conium maculatum*) also grows on damp ground and waste places and is likely to have been common in the vicinity of the site.

Three of the four samples contained quite low densities of material and probably represent background levels of debris from cereal use and processing. On the other hand, the sample of L2177, the upper fill of possible SFB F2173, was rather rich (22.7 items per litre) and is likely to represent a more discrete dump of material. In many ways, this sample was similar in composition to those from L2174 and L2175. However, there were some

significant differences. For example, the proportion of barley was higher than the other two samples and the quantity of chaff much lower. In addition, the number of large legume seeds, which included *Pisum sativum* was much higher and the amount of knapweed (*Centaurea* sp.) in the weed community was much reduced. This serves to indicate that a separate burning event is represented from L2174/ L2175. How far this is separated in time from the other deposits in F2173 however, is indeterminate.

The elevated levels of barley compared to L2174/ L2175 could indicate either a less pure wheat crop or the presence of charred material from multiple events. The proportion of weed seeds was comparable to L2174 and L2175, although the number of chaff elements was lower. Around half of the weeds present were large-seeded types. The overall impression is that the bulk of the deposit represents processed grain, although perhaps from more than one crop.

Discussion

Following the analysis of the carbonised plant remains, it is possible to highlight a number of important features regarding the arable economy at the site. It is clear that the economy underwent a number of developments over time, as well as some apparent continuity in the cultivation of spelt wheat (*T. spelta*).

In the late Iron Age/ early Roman period (Phase 2), the mainstay of the cereal economy appears to have been spelt wheat. However, free-threshing type wheat was also present and may have been grown as a parallel crop, perhaps having a different role in the diet or economy. Iron Age and Roman free-threshing wheat has been identified elsewhere but results such as this should be treated with a little caution. It is sometimes possible that short, rounded spelt grains display the same characteristics as free-threshing grains, causing misidentification (e.g. Campbell 2000). Large legumes, most likely pea (*Pisum sativum*), are also likely to have been cultivated, probably on smaller garden plots. The density of remains in the Phase 2 deposits, along with the relatively high proportion of weeds and chaff is indicative of mixed accumulations of debris from general refuse disposal, which is likely to have included some processing debris as well as other domestic waste, such as grain destroyed during food preparation and cooking.

There is little change in the macrofossil assemblage in Phase 3, suggesting that the arable economy was little changed during the late Roman period. Similarly, there is no detectable variation in the single sample from Phase 4 which was recorded in the assessment (Summers 2011).

The late Saxon period (Phase 5.1) appears to show an increased intensity in the carbonisation and deposition of plant remains at the site, which peaks in Phase 5.2 at the very end of the Saxon period. However, the dominant cereal remained the same, with 85% of positively identified wheat grains being of a glumed variety and glume bases of spelt and emmer/ spelt also present. This

suggests that the cultivation of spelt wheat extended well into the Saxon occupation of the site, although there is a possibility that the remains could be residual from the disturbed fills of earlier features.

During Phase 5.2, the relative proportion of free-threshing type wheat increases, which culminates in the exclusive use of this wheat crop in Phase 6. Hulled barley and oats also continue to be present in these phases and are likely to also have been cultivated. The same is probably true for pulses, represented by pea and possible Celtic bean.

The limited presence of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) in L2175 (Phase 5.2) indicates cultivation of heavier soils, while the large number of knapweed seeds, some of which were identified as cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), and field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*) reflect the calcareous nature of the underlying geology. Both gromwell and cornflower are also typical of autumn/ winter sown cereals and probably grew amongst a winter crop of free-threshing type wheat. The association of cleavers (*Galium aparine*) with the spelt remains in L2014E suggests that this crop was also cultivated as a winter-sown cereal. Barley and oats are more likely to have been spring sown crops.

It is interesting that cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) and other knapweeds (*Centaurea* sp.) are only associated with medieval assemblages. This matches well with previous research that indicates this taxon became much more prevalent in arable fields from c.1200AD (Greig 1991). Interestingly, it also has a strong medieval association in other parts of Europe, such as the Netherlands (Bakels 2012).

The richest samples are from the latest phases (5.2 and 6), although these are restricted to just two features (F2013E and F2173). Following van der Veen and Jones (2006), the greater occurrence of large deposits of carbonised cereals reflects a greater incidence of bulk processing, resulting in a higher likelihood of accidents. Considering that only a portion of the original site is represented in these excavations, this implies that this area of the site was a more significant focal point for cereal processing and/ or storage in the late Saxon and medieval periods.

Spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) in the late Saxon/ early medieval period at Soham

Within a number of the samples from Phase 5, there was a strong presence of glume wheat grains and associated chaff, much of which could be identified as spelt (*T. spelta*). This is exemplified by the chaff-rich deposit in ditch fill L2014E (F2013). A date of between 1050 and 1175AD is considerably later than should be expected for this cereal. Many of the low-density concentrations of glume wheat could be explained away as residual material from re-worked deposits. However, the numerous well preserved grains and glume bases in L2014E are unlikely to represent a residual deposit.

There is a precedent for the recovery of glume wheat remains from Saxon contexts in England. In some earlier Saxon assemblages, there appears to be a continuation in the cultivation of spelt wheat from preceding periods. This has been interpreted at West Stow, Suffolk (Murphy 1985) and Mucking, Essex (van der Veen 1981 cited in Murphy 1994). The site of Dernford Farm, Sawston, also produced a discrete deposit of glume wheat grains from a probable plank-lined pit of Anglo-Saxon date (Summers 2012).

At Stansted Airport, grains displaying the characteristics of glume wheat were radiocarbon dated to AD960-1040 ± 30 (Carruthers 2008, 34.16). This firmly places the remains within the late Saxon period, although the identification is perhaps not as secure as would be achieved through the presence of glume bases. Late Saxon glume wheat chaff, predominantly spelt, was found in numerous deposits at Springfield Lyons, Essex, the majority of which were considered to be of genuine late Saxon date rather than residual remains (Murphy 2005, 151-160). At West Fen Road, Ely, spelt wheat apparently re-appears in samples during the 12th-13th century, perhaps representing a re-introduction during the medieval period (Ballantyne 2005).

Outside the present region, remains of emmer wheat have been dated to the middle Saxon period from sites at Yarnton and Lake End Road, Dorney, both in Oxfordshire (Pelling and Robinson 2000). In this instance, the use of emmer wheat appears to represent a deliberate re-introduction rather than a continuation of cultivation from earlier periods and may be part of a different trend to that seen with spelt wheat in Eastern England.

At West Fen Road, Stansted, Springfield Lyons and Dernford Farm, the remains of glume wheat occurred in combination with free-threshing type wheat. The only securely dated remains are those from Stansted. However, if all are considered to be of genuine middle-late Saxon date, this indicates that separate crops of glumed and free-threshing type wheats were raised. Evidence from the present site at Soham indicates a similar scenario, with discrete deposits of spelt processing waste (L2014E) and free-threshing type wheat grain (L2174 and L2175) both recorded in Phase 5.2.

The above examples indicate that there may be a regional, or even national, trend towards the use of glume wheats during the Anglo-Saxon period. Processing of glume wheats is very different to that of naked wheats (e.g. Stevens 2003) and cultivation and processing would have been a deliberate decision, perhaps relating to specific uses for different crops and cultural preference. There may also be differences in the ecological tolerances of spelt and bread wheat which could have led to the simultaneous cultivation of both crops. By Phase 6 ('high' medieval), glume wheat was entirely absent, indicating that free-threshing type wheat was the only wheat crop cultivated.

Possible SFB F2173

The three sampled fills of possible SFB F2173 produced the richest samples of free-threshing type wheat from the site. Although the material from the

lower fills (L2174 and L2175) is likely to represent a single deposition event (see Results), the remains from the upper fill (L2177) are likely to be from a separate series of burning events. The upper fill (L2177) has been dated to a later phase (Phase 6) and there are some differences in the remains recorded (see Results). Both the upper and lower fills appear to contain the remains of processed (threshed, winnowed and sieved) crops containing a few impurities, some of which could even have been introduced as a fuel source. The material in the upper fill seems more likely to be the mixed debris from more than one crop, with barley and wheat both represented. The greater presence of pulses may indicate the presence of food preparation debris.

The implication of the material from F2173 is that there was a significant source of carbonised remains in the vicinity of the feature during Phases 5.2/6. Grain could have been stored nearby or drying activities could have taken place close to the feature. It is also possible that domestic activities (daily processing and food preparation) took place nearby, particularly in Phase 6 (L2177).

Conclusions

The archaeobotanical remains from the Church Hall site, Soham, represent an interesting assemblage providing an insight into local cultivation regimes between the late Iron Age and medieval periods. Some fascinating questions have emerged regarding the late Saxon and early medieval economy and the potential role of spelt wheat in the agricultural system. This may not only be a feature of the local economy but a broader regional pattern in many parts of Eastern England.

6 DISCUSSION

The late Iron Age and Roman settlement

The most significant discovery on the site is the evidence of high-status occupation in the late pre-Roman Iron Age, continuing into the period following the Roman conquest. This is the first evidence for late Iron Age activity from Soham town centre, although a late Iron Age settlement in East Fen/ Wet Horse Fen, just over 1km away, is suggested by previously-reported finds of metalwork (HER 04456c), pottery (HER 07560 and 07503) and Trinovantian and Icenian coins (HER 04456b and 07602). The original context of a gold torc ploughed-up in the 1950s in The Bracks, a mile south-west of the town, is uncertain (HER 07092).

By contrast, evidence of early Iron Age activity is relatively widespread in Soham and suggests the existence of at least two separate settlement foci. One, around 1km south-east of the town centre, is indicated by rectangular ditched enclosures, pits, a cobbled surface and evidence for timber structures recorded during two trial trench evaluations at Fordham Road allotments

(HER CB14631, Connor 2001; MCB19583, Quinn and Peachey 2012). Notable finds, including a bone comb and pendant, have been recovered (*ibid.*). A second settlement, in the vicinity of the town centre, is indicated by ditches (including a large possible enclosure boundary ditch), a few pits and two possible postholes excavated on land off Clay Street, 200m south-west of the Church Hall site (HER CB15776, Atkins 2004, Nichol 2001 and 2002), and by recent test-pitting on Market Street, just north of the Church Hall, which has found an intact early Iron Age soil horizon (20cm thick) cut by late Iron Age ditches (Richard Mortimer, pers. comm.). It is possible that the late Iron Age enclosure at the Church Hall site forms part of the same, perhaps long-lived, Iron Age settlement.

Of course, the present site is only a small window on the settlement, so it is not possible to draw firm conclusions about either its character or chronology. Many questions are only likely to be answered through further, larger-scale intrusive fieldwork in any parts of the town centre which have survived medieval and modern truncation. Nevertheless, the site provides an opportunity to make some preliminary, provisional observations.

Reasonable evidence for the Iron Age agricultural economy was identified. Arable production appears to have been dominated by wheat, mostly glumed varieties though some free-threshing varieties were noted. Oats and barley were also present. At least some of the Barley was of a six-row variety. Insufficient evidence was available to indicate whether or not the oats were of wild or domesticated varieties. Pastoral agriculture also appears to have been practised, with the presence of cattle, sheep and pig in the Iron Age faunal assemblage. Wild species of animal were not well represented during any phase of activity but were most prevalent in Phase 2, indicating that hunting played a more important role in food procurement strategies during the Iron Age than in later phases.

Given the small size of the excavation area and the relatively limited sampling (half-sectioning of the 15 pits and c. 25% excavation of the surviving 55m of ditches belonging to this phase), the quantity of pottery 'consumed' by the late Iron Age to early Roman occupants is striking (524 sherds weighing 5.8kg, although a large proportion of the assemblage was present as residual material in some of the late Saxon and medieval ditches and pits). Some individual groups are very large, notably 104 sherds (1kg+) recovered from just two slots excavated through one of the main enclosure ditches (F2091). The finds imply intensive occupation by inhabitants with access to large quantities of material goods. A crude comparison can be drawn with the very large (by East Anglian/ East Midlands standards) Iron Age and early Roman pottery assemblage recovered from the Wardy Hill ringwork, which is roughly ten times the size of that from Soham (5311 sherds, 61kg; Hill with Horne 2003, 145), but was recovered from an excavation area ten times larger (0.8ha+ compared to the c. 700 sq. m area containing late Iron Age and early Roman features at Soham), with features that were both better-preserved and more extensively sampled (Evans 2003).

The presence of imported fine ware from northern Gaul is noteworthy and suggests that the late pre-Roman Iron Age inhabitants enjoyed some status. Use of imported Continental tableware also indicates that they had access and were receptive to at least some elements of the Belgic/ Roman 'cultural package' that was becoming widespread in south-eastern Britain at this time, although it can only be guessed at whether this extended beyond simple 'borrowing' of objects to adoption of Roman eating and dining habits. Imported Gallo-Belgic vessels were also present at the late Iron Age (late-1st-century BC to mid-1st-century AD) settlement at Castle Hill, Cambridge (Alexander and Pullinger 1999, 17; Farrar, Hull and Pullinger 1999, 117-18) and, at least in terms of material culture, these finds would place the settlement at Soham within the same 'zone' of cultural contact and influence as contemporary communities in south Cambridgeshire and the Cam valley, where wheel-made pottery and Belgic imports became widespread from the last decades of the 1st century BC. Here, as elsewhere in south-eastern Britain, changes in pottery manufacture and trade/ exchange were associated with new fashions in personal grooming and dress equipment, the spread of the Aylesford-Swarling cremation rite, and some use of coinage, which were gradually adopted from the late 2nd century BC onwards (Hill 2000; Hill, Evans and Alexander 1999, 243). Whether the use of Belgic pottery in Soham was accompanied by any of these other cultural changes is a question for future fieldwork, although a handful of late Iron Age coins (see above) are known from the parish.

It is worth highlighting that contemporary communities on the Isle of Ely, only a few miles north-west of Soham, either did not have regular access to or chose not to use imported Gallo-Belgic pottery, which was scarce or entirely absent from the excavated late Iron Age settlements at Wardy Hill (Evans 2003; Hill with Horne 2003), Hurst Lane Reservoir (Evans *et al.* 2007, 57), Ely Trinity Lands (*ibid.*, 66-8) and Prickwillow Road (Atkins and Mudd 2003). This is part of a wider pattern, also reflected in a paucity or absence of personal grooming and dress equipment, late Iron Age and early Roman coins, and cremation burials, which sets the Ely settlements apart in some respects from the Aylesford-Swarling/ Belgic/ Roman-influenced zone to the south (Evans 2003, 268; Evans *et al.* 2007, 72-3). These and other differences in material culture, burial practice and social organisation also appear to distance contemporary communities in the central Fenland, the Iceni of Norfolk and Suffolk, and people living along the Ouse valley and western fen edge, from this south-eastern cultural 'zone', the northern boundary of which extends up the chalk ridge of the Chilterns from Bedfordshire to the Snail valley on the Cambridgeshire/ Suffolk border, also encompassing south Cambridgeshire and the Cam valley (Hill *et al.* 1999, 264). Soham lies on the extreme northern fringe of this zone of cultural contact and influence. Changes in artefact distributions, burial customs and social practices in south-eastern Britain during the late Iron Age have been interpreted in terms of individuals, families and communities actively deciding whether or not to adopt new lifestyles and 'network' affinities (Haselgrove 1989; Hill 1995). In south Cambridgeshire, these choices would have been made within a context of shifting political power and allegiances as the Iceni gained influence in the

Fens and the Catuvellauni/ Trinovantes sought to extend their power northwards from Hertfordshire/ Essex (Hill *et al.* 1999, 269; Hill 2000).

The presence of ceramic building materials, including roof and box flue tile, in early Roman contexts, merits comment. However, all the (28) fragments, which in total weigh only 400g, were very small and could have been intrusive given the level of later disturbance at the site and the generally extremely shallow depths of the features containing them; there were no concentrations. The amount of slag from the late Iron Age and early Roman site is also small and widely-scattered but hints at metalworking taking place within the settlement.

In terms of longevity, sherds of coarser handmade pottery found alongside Belgic fabrics could represent residual material from an earlier phase of activity on the site. However, these sorts of fabrics might equally have continued to be manufactured alongside wheel-made/ -finished vessels into the 1st century AD and therefore belong to the late pre-Roman Iron Age phase of activity. In any case, evidence from adjacent sites in the town centre demonstrates that there was already occupation in the vicinity by the early Iron Age, if not before (see above). The pottery assemblage from the buried soil at Market Street (see above) is thought to include middle Iron Age sherds (Richard Mortimer, pers. comm.), thus providing a complete sequence of early through to late Iron Age occupation in the area.

At the other end of the phase, there is no obvious sign of discontinuity at the time of the Roman conquest or in the aftermath of the Boudiccan revolt, with occupation apparently continuing into the later 1st century AD. The presence of early Roman fine tableware, including the sherd of south Gaulish samian ware and the Cherry Hinton ring-and-dot beaker fragments, suggests that the settlement's population remained affluent and receptive to outside influences. This lack of discontinuity is reflected in the arable agricultural economy which displays little change between the late Iron Age/ early Roman period (Phase 2) and the late Roman period (Phase 3). The same cannot be said with regard to the evidence for animal husbandry. Sheep appear to have been exploited for a mix of meat and wool in the late Iron Age/ early Roman period with a shift in focus to meat in the later Roman period. Cattle husbandry also displays a shift to the production of prime meat in the later Roman period.

At the Wardy Hill ringwork, there was also evidence for continuity into the third quarter of the 1st century AD, but, as at the Church Hall site, no evidence of 2nd-century settlement. At Wardy Hill, this was suggested as reflecting either the intentional 'unseating' of its (elite) inhabitants or the erosion of the social and economic network within which they existed at the time when the Fenland landscape was being opened up to 'Romanization' (Evans 2003, 270-1). Wardy Hill contrasts with the other Iron Age settlement complexes that have been investigated on Ely, which all have clear evidence of Roman continuity (*ibid.*). The absence of occupation on the Church Hall site after the late 1st century may not be significant in view of the small size of the investigation. Certainly, there is widespread evidence for Roman-period activity elsewhere in Soham and it is likely that settlement simply shifted away from this site for a

time rather than there being any larger-scale discontinuity. This would then provide a context for the resumption of on-site activity in the late Roman period (late 3rd and 4th centuries).

Some limited evidence for Roman occupation has previously been found in the town centre (Fig. 14) but the character and status of this activity is not yet well understood. A Roman burial ground in the White Hart Lane area, just north of the Church Hall site, is suggested by the discovery of seven skeletons in building trenches (HER 06971) and an additional inhumation uncovered nearby during other construction work (HER MCB17746). However, in both cases only one or two sherds of Roman pottery were present with which to date the graves and this could have been residual in later (Anglo-Saxon?) burials. Pottery, including castor ware and a cordoned jar of 1st- to 2nd-century date, has been found in association with a human skull at Weatheralls Close, approximately 600m north of the site (HER 07100). Possible Roman ditches have been identified in an evaluation at 38 Station Road (HER 11985, Heawood 1997), 200m north-west of the site, and another Roman ditch has been excavated during trial trenching off Paddock Street, 200m to the south-east (HER MCB18200, Rees 2009). Roman wells have been found in excavations at Cloverfield Drive, 1km north-west of the church (HER MCB16867).

In the wider area, Roman 'villas' or other substantial buildings are known from cropmarks and surface finds in East Fen (HER 07688 and 07578) and to the south of the town (HER 02087). The former site has had some small-scale intrusive investigation, revealing part of a hypocaust; cropmarks of associated enclosures, probable field systems and tracks are visible over a wide area (Hall 1996, 76). Finds of Roman pottery, coins and metalwork are common in East Fen, Wet Horse Fen, around Down Field and at several locations in fields to the south of the town, suggesting a relatively dense distribution of Roman-period settlement. The absence of sites in the west of the parish is due to land in Soham Mere only having been drained in the 19th century. Settlement remains, including Roman ditched enclosures, pits, evidence for buildings and a possible metalled track or cobbled surface, have been excavated on and adjacent to Fordham Road allotments, 1km south-east of the town centre (HER CB14630, Murray and Hounsell 2001; CB14632, Connor 2001; MCB19583, Quinn and Peachey 2012). The latter site appears to span the 2nd to 4th centuries, while many of the scattered coin finds from the parish, mentioned above, also reflect activity during the late Roman period (3rd - 4th centuries AD). The evidence from the Church Hall site demonstrates with certainty that there was also a late Roman settlement in the area of the modern town centre. Based on the high proportions of regionally-imported fine tableware, its inhabitants appear to have been at least moderately affluent. The presence of late fabrics and forms also points to continuity into the 'latest Roman' period – the second half of the 4th and, possibly, early 5th centuries AD. Continuity of high-status settlement into the post-Roman period would be highly significant in view of the later foundation of a monastery in Soham, an act which would have involved the support of the East Anglian royal family. However, given the small size of the excavation area and the

high levels of truncation from later features, many questions about the extent, character and longevity of the Roman settlement remain unanswered for now.

Saxon and medieval occupation

(Fig. 15)

A single pit and small quantities of residual handmade pottery and Ipswich ware found sparsely but consistently in later features attest to some activity in the area during the early to middle Saxon period. Despite the conjectured presence of St Felix's monastery in Soham between the 7th and 9th centuries, no evidence for pre-10th-century settlement has previously been found at any site in the town centre. This may simply be a reflection of the ephemeral and difficult-to-identify nature of many settlement remains of this period, as well as the small-scale and evaluative nature of most fieldwork in the town. The Church Hall site proves that there was middle Saxon settlement, though if/how it was related to the conjectured monastery remains unknown.

Intensive occupation resumed in around the 10th century. It is tempting to view the late Anglo-Saxon remains as relating to a phase of reconstruction following the destruction/ abandonment of the monastery during the Viking invasions of the late 9th century (Salzman 1948, 141 and 199; Oosthuizen 2000). The construction of a cathedral and 'palace' in Soham in c. AD 900 has been suggested (Martin 2000, 4; Website 1). However, it is not possible in most cases to narrow the dating of the associated Saxo-Norman pottery to closer than a broad 10th-12th-century range. While stratigraphy at the site does allow the identification of 'earlier' (Phase 5.1) and 'later' (Phase 5.2) stages of development within this timeframe, it is not possible to say precisely when in this chronological range the stages belong. All the features could theoretically date from the very end of the Saxon period or after the Norman Conquest, the latter made more likely in a number of instances by the occurrence of small quantities of Ely-type ware alongside Saxo-Norman sherds. The types of features (ditches enclosing small areas, pits, a possible sunken-featured building) and finds (simple cooking and storage vessels in Thetford and St Neots ware) indicate a domestic area. A small concentration of slag in some of the enclosure ditches and related features in the centre of the site (F2223 and Pit F2271; ten fragments weighing 546g) hints at small-scale ironworking also being carried out, although residuality from Roman pits and ditches in this area is a problem. A hearth bottom (2.5kg) was also recovered from one of the north-eastern enclosure ditches (F2013 Seg. A).

Late Saxon features, including structural remains, have now been excavated at a number of sites in the town centre, particularly to the north of (outside) the conjectured monastic enclosure. Two phases of trial trenching and archaeological monitoring at Weatheralls Primary School, 350m north of the Church Hall, identified 10th- to mid-12th-century boundary ditches and enclosures, some lined with post-/ stake-holes, which respected the alignment of Pratt Street. The features themselves probably relate to a system of fields, paddocks or corrals, but possible structural remains and quantities of un-abraded pottery and other domestic-type waste indicate settlement in close proximity (HER 07099, Bray 1991; HER MCB19459, Phillips and Diffey 2011).

Saxo-Norman ditches, pits and postholes have also been identified on the opposite side of Pratt Street (HER 11932, Hatton and Last 1997), and 50m further south, at 38 Station Road, where small-scale evaluation has found at least five 10th- to 12th-century beam slots indicating the presence of timber buildings and a contemporary ditch running parallel to Station Road (HER 11985, Heawood 1997). Further south, another beam slot and posthole from a late Saxon building have been recorded in an evaluation at 8 Market Street, 100m north of the Church Hall site (HER MCB16868, Cooper 2004). To the south of the church, phases of evaluation and excavation on adjacent sites at St Andrew's House/ Clay Street revealed a late Saxon stock enclosure (Nichol 2001 and 2002) and backyard features including rubbish pits and boundary ditches (HER CB15776, Casa Hatton 2000, Atkins 2004). One of the latter may have been the rear boundary of properties fronting the High Street. Slightly later, a 12th-century ditched enclosure and possible driveway have been identified in trial trenches behind Paddock Street (HER MCB18200, Rees 2009).

Combining the results of the present excavation with these investigations, it begins to be possible to speculate on the size, spatial organisation and character of the late Saxon and early medieval settlement. Sound evidence for late Saxon/ Saxo-Norman occupation and associated agricultural activity has now been found at sites located across an area c. 600m from north to south by 200m wide, indicating a substantial settlement (Fig. 15). It may be significant that clearly settlement-related features have been found mainly at sites approximately in the middle of this distribution (the buildings at 38 Station Road and Market Street), while sites on the northern and southern fringes (The Weatheralls and St Andrew's House/ Clay Street) have contained features with a more agricultural character (enclosures, likely to do with livestock). The Church Hall site thus appears to lie within the settlement 'core'.

At first glance, the Saxo-Norman settlement appears linear in plan, with its long axis running broadly north to south. However, as the majority of opportunities for archaeological investigation have been along High Street/ Pratt Street and the adjoining side streets, it is unsurprising that the resulting distribution of late Saxon settlement evidence has a rather linear appearance. Nevertheless, many of the boundary ditches and beam slots on the excavated sites do follow north-north-west to south-south-east and west-south-west to east-north-east alignments either parallel or perpendicular to Pratt Street/ High Street and imply that a through-route along approximately this line was already in place by the c. 10th century, perhaps with some of the side roads, such as Station Road, having also been established (though features at St Andrew's House extended under the present line of Clay Street, suggesting that this road did not exist; Atkins 2004, 55). It is notable in this regard that the late Saxon/ early medieval boundary alignments at the Church Hall site do not quite 'fit' the pattern, being slightly offset from the current position of the High Street, to their west. The division of space on and around the Church Hall site might have been dictated to some extent by the surviving earthworks of the Roman enclosure. Alternatively, it is possible that the alignment of the main road was originally different in this area and 'matched' the layout of the

Phase 5 features, perhaps being influenced by a now-lost feature such as an earlier church building.

Probably in the latter part of the 12th century, a reorganisation of land divisions on the site, and probably also in adjacent areas, took place. This was manifested by the abandonment of the north-west to south-east by north-east to south-west alignments which had hitherto dominated, and their replacement with a large east-north-east to west-south-west boundary ditch running directly perpendicular to the (south-south-east to north-north-west) line of the High Street. This is likely to have formed the boundary between two house plots fronting onto the road to the west and suggests that the present line of the High Street, at least where it runs through this part of the village centre, was consolidated at this time. The quantities of medieval pottery (424 sherds; 3.6kg) and animal bone (21.5kg) indicate domestic occupation immediately adjacent to the excavated parts of the site, probably in dwellings located along the High Street frontage. The character of the excavated features, comprising pits containing domestic refuse, and small post- and beam-slot-built structures, is in keeping with the 'backyard' areas to the rear of dwellings. Similar backyard features, including property boundary ditches, quarry and rubbish pits and a posthole structure, have been excavated at St Andrew's House, 200m away, and dated to the 13th to 14th centuries (HER CB15776, Atkins 2004).

The larger pits on the site were likely dug to extract either chalk or the sand that occurred in sporadic pockets. Medieval quarrying, to extract a range of natural materials depending on the variable geology which underlies the town, has been identified at numerous other sites in Soham. A dense concentration of chalk quarry pits was identified in excavations off Clay Street but, in contrast to some of the large quarry pits at the Church Hall site, these were mainly only c. 1m deep before the underlying clay was encountered (Atkins 2004, 56-7). The extracted material was thought likely to be for lime mortar or rendering as the chalk was not good enough for building, an observation which is probably also true of the chalk at the Church Hall site. A late medieval sand extraction pit with undercutting sides, extending to at least 1.7m deep, was found in trial trenching at Ten Bell Lane, 500m to the north of the Church Hall site (HER MCB16279, Atkins 2004b) and is closer in size to the large quarry medieval pits identified there (e.g. F2299 and F2263).

The occupants of the late Saxon and medieval site were of low to moderate status. Most of the pottery they used was produced in the local area, particularly, from the c. 12th century, the kilns at Ely, with a handful of vessels from Essex. There are very few sherds from glazed vessels. The assemblages from St Andrew's House (Fletcher 2004, 33) and Cloverfield Drive (Spoerry 2004) are very similar in their composition and overall domestic character. With the possible exception of one of the late Saxon pits (F2180), which may have had an (unidentified) industrial function, and the slight evidence for small-scale ironworking, there was no evidence of specialised craft or manufacturing activity and the inhabitants of the site are likely to have been engaged in agriculture for their livelihoods.

Evidence for a focus on agricultural production in the Saxon and medieval periods is apparent in the archaeobotanical assemblages from these phases. There is an increased intensity in the carbonisation and deposition of plant remains at the site in the late Saxon period (Phase 5.1) and this appears to peak in Phase 5.2 at the end of the Saxon period. The evidence indicates that Spelt wheat was still being grown in the Saxon period but that free-threshing varieties increase during the later Saxon period. By the high medieval period, only free-threshing wheat varieties are present. Evidence from L2175 may indicate that heavier soils were cultivated in the later Saxon period. This may indicate an attempt to increase agricultural output by turning previously marginal areas to arable cultivation.

The concentration of rich archaeobotanical samples from Segment E of enclosure Ditch F2013 and possible SFB F2173 suggest that this part of the site was a focal point for the storage of cereals or for domestic activities including the processing of cereals and food preparation.

In the high medieval (Phase 6) there is a clear focus in the pastoral economy on the production of prime meat from cattle and wool from sheep. As Cussans (this report) notes, the production of wool formed an important part of the medieval economy on a near nationwide basis.

Amongst the faunal assemblage from Phase 6 are the notable deposits of articulated remains in F2021 and F2217. The cattle in these deposits are suggested to represent the remains of a special meal or feast. Cussans (this report) suggests that this may have been a community-wide event, rather than just being restricted to a single family unit. The horse remains from F2217 are unlikely to represent such activity. The evidence for *ankylosing spondylitis* on the section of articulated spine from this deposit may be considered to contradict the evidence for the low to moderate status of the inhabitants of the medieval site. This progressive inflammatory disease is associated with animals that have been ridden regularly; it may be suggested that low status members of society may not have been able to afford such a luxury. However, horses were economically important in medieval wool trade as pack animals (Grant 1984; Cussans, this report). Given the evidence for the focus on wool production at this site in the medieval period it appears possible that the injuries that resulted in this undoubtedly painful spinal disease may have been incurred through the carrying of heavy loads. The evidence for excessive use or over work apparent on the articulated lower left hind limb that also came from Pit F2217 may support that argument that these remains are from an animal/animals used in the transportation of locally cultivated wool.

Conclusions

Apart from a break between the late 1st and late 3rd century AD, when settlement probably shifted a short distance away, and a period of enigmatic low-level activity in the early to middle Saxon period, this site in Soham town centre has been occupied near-continuously since the late Iron Age. The intensity of past occupation on the site and the resulting 'urban' nature of its

archaeological remains are perhaps surprising given present-day Soham's character as a small rural town. The evidence for high-status occupation during the late Iron Age to early Roman period is particularly significant and was previously unknown in Soham, although other fieldwork in and to the south-east of the town centre has identified early, and possibly middle, Iron Age activity which provides some background context for this later occupation. Their use of imported Gallo-Belgic pottery perhaps tells us something about the contacts and cultural affinities of the late pre-Roman Iron Age population, who may have had more in common with communities in the Cam valley, to the south, than with the inhabitants of the Isle of Ely, to the north-west. In combination with a number of other small-scale archaeological investigations in and around the town centre, the Church Hall site also adds to existing knowledge of Soham's development during the Anglo-Saxon period, particularly the extent and layout of the late Saxon/ Saxo-Norman settlement. The traces of occupation during the early to middle Saxon period are also notable given the site's location on or near to the presumed site of St Felix' monastery; no definite middle Saxon finds have yet been recovered from any other site in the town. The excavation again underlines the value of developer-funded excavations, even on small 'infill' sites, for building understanding of the history and development of the region's towns and villages.

7 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store.

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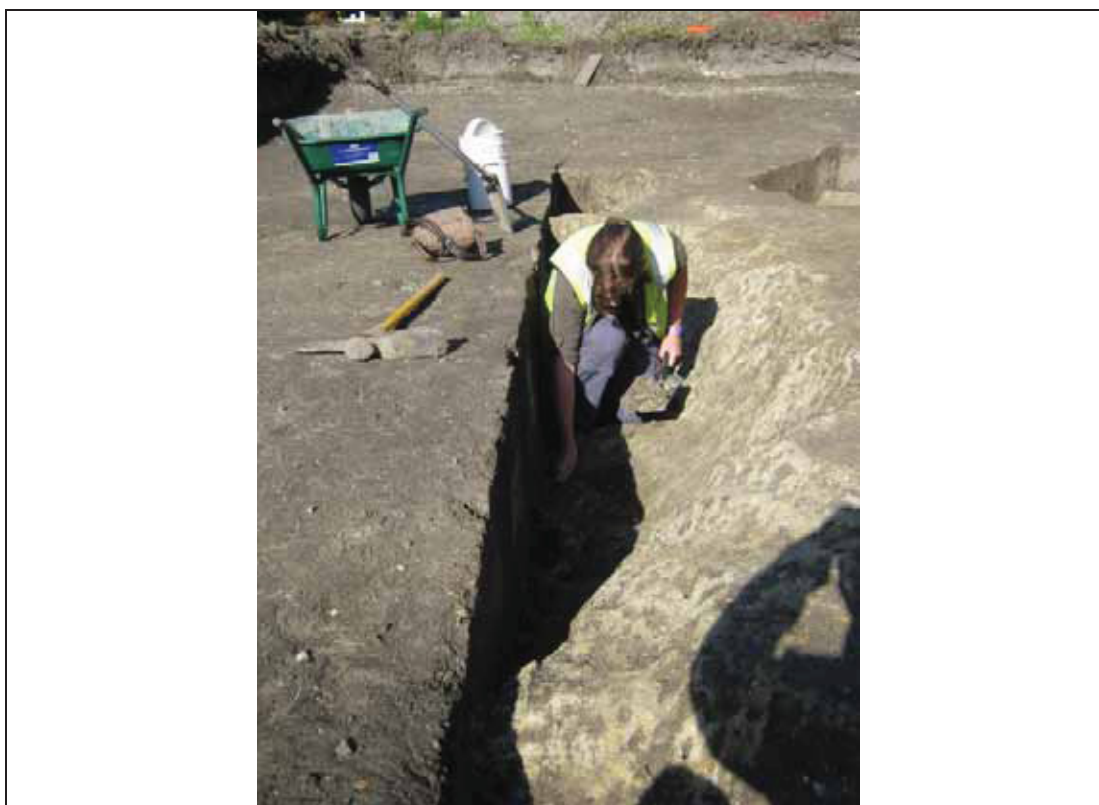
PLATES



1 North-eastern area under excavation



2 North-eastern area mid-excavation, with storm drain cutting medieval (Phase 6) Ditch F2017 in middle ground, view east



3 Pit cluster including late Roman (Phase 3) Pits F2071 and F2075 (foreground) and medieval (Phase 6) Pit F2081 (rear) mid-excavation, view west



4 (From left to right) late Saxon (Phase 5.2) Ditches F2011 (A) and F2013 (A), late Roman (Phase 3) Ditch F2015 (A) and medieval (Phase 6) Ditch F2017 (A), view east



5 Articulated bone in medieval (Phase 6) Pit F2021 mid-excitation



6 Medieval (Phase 6) Beam Slot F2221



7. Horse spine from Pit F2217 displaying the effects of *ankylosing spondylitis*—a progressive inflammatory disease—on the thoracic vertebrae and first lumbar vertebrae

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Phase	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other	Comments	Analyse? (see below)
2001			Subsoil	12th-13th	N/A	(5) 233g				Undated	N
2003	2004		Pit		U/D			44	Shell 19g	Undated	N
2005	2006	A	Ditch	Mid 2nd-4th C AD	5.1	(1) 6g		22		Residuality	N
2005	2006	B	Ditch	10th - 12th (with residual Roman)	5.1	(9) 58g		42		Residuality	N
2007	2008	A	Ditch	1st C AD	5.1	(5) 138g		28		Residuality	N
2007	2008	B	Ditch	11th-13th (with residual Roman)	5.1	(6) 63g		288	B.Flint 21g	Residuality	N
2007	2008	C	Ditch		5.1			15		Residuality	N
2009	2010		Pit		U/D			14		Undated	N
2011	2012	A	Ditch	Roman	5.2	(1) 8g		187		Residuality	N
2011	2012	B	Ditch	1st C AD	5.2	(1) 7g				Residuality	N
2011	2012	C	Ditch	1st C AD	5.2	(6) 27g	203	80		Residuality	N
2011	2012	D	Ditch	1st C AD	5.2	(4) 13g		15		Residuality	N
2011	2012	E	Ditch	1st C AD	5.2	(10) 83g		244	S.Flint (1) 9g	Residuality	N
2013	2014	A	Ditch	1st C AD	5.2	(1) 15g	343	579	Slag 2500g	Residuality	N
2013	2014	B	Ditch	12th (with residual Roman)	5.2	(13) 250g				Residuality	N
2013	2014	D	Ditch	late 12th-14th (with residual Roman)	5.2	(92) 780g		186	Cu Fragment 6g; shell (58g)	Residuality	N
2013	2014	F	Ditch	12th-13th (with residual Roman)	5.2	(7) 50g		358		Residuality	N
2013	2014	C	Ditch	11th - 13th	5.2	(4) 12g		3			Y
2013	2014	E	Ditch	Med	5.2	(3) 109g		5	W.Stone 625g		Y
2015	2016	A	Ditch	Mid 2nd-4th C AD	3	(2) 14g	23	264	Slag 7g	Very truncated	N

2015	2016	B	Ditch	Early to Middle Saxon (mainly RB pottery and CBM)	3	(5) 100g			125		Very truncated	N
2017	2018	A	Ditch	4th C AD	6	(1) 4g	156		796		Residuality	N
2017	2018	C	Ditch	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	6	(18) 134g	1181			Slag 4g	Residuality	N
2017	2018	D	Ditch	12th-13th/14th (with residual Roman)	6	(1) 3g	9		447	Slag 248g; shell 7g	Residuality	N
2017	2018	E	Ditch	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	6	(7) 132g			551	Slag 335g	Residuality	N
2017	2018	F	Ditch	11th-13th (with residual Roman)	6	(8) 198g	441		875		Residuality	N
2017	2018		Ditch		6				368			Y
2017	2018	B	Ditch	11th-12th	6	(3) 71g			18			Y
2019	2020		Ditch	1st C AD	2?	(1) 4g			320		Uncertain date	N
2021	2022		Pit	12th-14th (with residual 1st C AD)	6	(5) 98g	287		4314	Fe Nail 19g	Residuality	N
2023	2024	B	Gully	Roman	5.1	(7) 94g			3		Residuality	N
2023	2024	E	Gully	1st C AD	5.1	(4) 13g			54		Residuality	N
2023	2024	A	Gully	11th-12th	5.1	(4) 14g	9		31			Y
2023	2024	C	Gully	11th-12th	5.1	(2) 9g			9			Y
2023	2024	D	Gully	11th-12th	5.1	(3) 103g			55			Y
2025	2026		Gully	12th-14th (with residual Roman)	7	(4) 26g			239	S. Flint (2) 41g	Low interest	N
2025	2026		Gully	12th-13th/14th	7					Shell 7g; clay pipe 1g	Low interest	N
2025	2026	A	Gully	18th-19th	7	(2) 13g			13		Low interest	N
2025	2026	B	Gully		7				30		Low interest	N
2025	2026	D	Gully	late 12th-mid14th	7	(5) 13g	47		60	Slag 15g	Low interest	N
2025	2026	E	Gully		7				1	Shell 2g	Low interest	N
2029	2030		Pit	Mid 2nd-4th C AD	3?	(4) 23g			26		Uncertain date	N
2031	2032		Pit		2?		40		104		Uncertain date	N
2033	2034		Pit	10th-12th (with 1st C AD)	2	(6) 39g			161		Intrusion	N
2037	2038		Pit	1st C AD	2	(3) 39g	102					Y
2039	2040		Pit	12th-13th/14th	6	(1) 1g			11			Y
2041	2042	B	Posthole	12th-13th (with 1st C AD)	6	(12) 179g			165		Residuality	N
2045	2046		Pit	1st C AD	2?	(1) 5g			5		Uncertain date	N
2049	2050		Ditch		2?				42		Uncertain date	N
2051	2052		Pit		2		127		19		Tentative date	N

2055	2056	Pit	10th-12th	5.1	(2) 25g				19	Slag 79g			Y
2057	2058	Pit	10th-12th	5.2	(6) 37g	21			490				Y
2059	2060	Pit	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	5.2	(2) 25g				11			Residuality	N
2061	2062	Posthole		2					13				Y
2063	2064	A	Gully	2		85			45	Slag 816g			Y
2067	2068	Ditch	4th C AD	5.1	(10) 103g				108			Residuality	N
2069	2070	Pit		U/D					9	Glass 1g		Undated	N
2071	2072	Pit	4th CAD	3	(9) 74g	400			2208	W.Stone 300g; B.Flint 87g; B.Bone 1g			Y
2073	2074	Pit		U/D						SF14 Fe Hook 147g		Undated	N
2075	2076	Pit	4th CAD	3	(23) 528g	276			2472	B.Flint 169g			Y
2079	2080	Pit	Med	6	(3) 28g				53				Y
2081	2082	Pit	late 12th - 14th	6	(29) 262g	222			278	Shell 10g; Fe Fragment 61g			Y
2085	2086	Gully	1st C AD	2	(12) 80g				177	S.Flint (1) 2g			Y
2087	2088	Pit	7th-10th	4	(10) 42g				99	S.Flint (2) 4g			Y
2089	2090	Pit	1st C AD	2	(16) 333g				672				Y
2091	2092	A	1st C AD	2	(9) 117g				180	B.Flint 6g			Y
2091	2092	B	1st C AD	2	(95) 909g				421	Slag 11g; B.Flint 30g; S. Flint (4) 15g			Y
2091	2092	C	Ditch	2					24				Y
2093	2094	A	1st C AD	2	(1) 11g				17				Y
2093	2094	B	e-m 1st C AD	2	(5) 35g				65				Y
2095	2096	A	1st C AD	2	(3) 8g	28			389				Y
2095	2099	A	10th-12th	2	(27) 159g				60			Intrusion	N
2097	2098	C	11th-12th (with residual 1st C AD)	5.1	(63) 706g				179			Residuality	N
2097	2098	D	1st C AD	5.1	(2) 21g							Residuality	N
2097	2098	E	1st C AD	5.1					150	W.Stone 81g		Residuality	N
2097	2108	Ditch	1st C AD	5.1	(2) 2g				33			Residuality	N
2100	2101	A	1st C AD	2	(10) 102g				239	Slag 66g; B.Flint 8g; S.Flint (2) 5g			Y
2100	2101	B	12th-14th (with Roman)	2	(4) 39g				354				Y
2106	2107	Pit	1st C AD	2?	(1) 8g				4			Uncertain date	N
2109	2110	Pit	11th-13th	5.2	(1) 5g				7				Y
2111	2112	Pit	Roman CBM	2?		214						Uncertain date	N

2111	2113	Pit		2?				168		Uncertain date	N
2116	2117	Pit	late 12th -14th	6	(5) 67g			9			Y
2118	2119	Pit	13th-14th (with residual Roman)	6	(16) 146g			22	Daub 12g	Residuality	N
2120	2121	Ditch?	11th-13th	6	(6) 75g			9	Shell 6g; Fe Fragment 1g		Y
2122	2123	Pit	13th-14th	6	(1) 5g			32	Shell 6g; Glass 2g		Y
2128	2130	Pit	late 12th-14th	6	(43) 582g			101			Y
2131	2132	Pit	11th-13th	5.2	(2) 5g			102			Y
2133	2134	Pit	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	5.1	(6) 78g			7		Residuality	N
2135	2136	Pit	10th-12th	5.1	(1) 60g			7			Y
2137	2138	Ditch		3					SF2 Cu Coin 2g		Y
2137	2138	Ditch A	Roman	3	(1) 3g				SF1 Cu Coin 3g		Y
2137	2138	Ditch B	4th C AD	3	(2) 18g			39			Y
2137	2138	Ditch C	4th C AD	3	(3) 45g			64			Y
2139	2140	Ditch A	10th-12th	5.2	(1) 176g			748			Y
2139	2140	Ditch B		5.2		195		73			Y
2139	2140	Ditch C	12th-13th	5.2	(3) 49g			770			Y
2139	2140	Ditch D		5.2				157			Y
2141	2142	Ditch		U/D					Shell 3g	Undated	N
2143	2144	Pit		U/D				112		Undated	N
2145	2146	Pit	13th-14th	6	(41) 532g	95		388	W.Stone 2426g; S.Flint (1) 64g; Shell 18g		Y
2147		Layer	L 3rd-4th C AD	3	(2) 45g			2784	Daub 46g; Stone 1096g		Y
2148	2149	Pit		U/D				341		Undated	N
2150	2151	Pit	11th-12th (with residual 1st C AD)	5.1	(2) 27g			42	B.Flint 37g	Residuality	N
2152	2153	Pit	1st C AD	U/D	(1) 11g			4		Undated	N
2156	2157	Pit	13th-14th	6	(2) 21g	83		38			Y
2158	2159	Pit	late 12th-14th	6	(7) 31g			129	Shell 18g		Y
2160	2162	Pit	11th-12th	5.2	(1) 54g	19		42			Y
2165	2166	Pit A	11th-13th (+ 1st C AD)	2	(6) 63g			23			Y
2167	2168	Pit	late 12th-mid 14th (with residual Roman)	6	(10) 78g			3	Fe Nail 17g		Y
2169	2170	Pit		U/D				16		Undated	N

2173	2174	SFB?						612					Y
2173	2175	SFB?									B. Bone 7g; Shell 3g		Y
2173	2176	SFB?						126			Shell 19g		Y
2173	2177	SFB?	12th-14th		6	(4) 30g	183	28			Fe Fragment 22g; B. Bone 31g; SF6 Fe Nail 4g; SF7 Pb Fragment 11g; SF8 Pb Fragment 65g; SF9 Pb Fragment 17g; SF10 Fe Nail 14g		Y
2178	2179	C	1st C AD		5.2	(2) 21g	64	14			Slag 17g	Residuality	N
2178	2179	D	4th C AD		5.2	(5) 81g		276				Residuality	N
2178	2179	B	Ditch		5.2			3					Y
2180	2181	Pit	9th-12th		5.1	(3) 17g		2			W. Stone 6350g		Y
2182	2183	Ditch	1st C AD		2	(1) 5g		7					Y
2182	2184	Ditch	Ditch		3			275					Y
2182	2184	A	1st C AD		3	(11) 125g							Y
2182	2184	B	4th C AD		3	(4) 324g	247	840					Y
2182	2184	C	4th C AD		3	(16) 402g		17			W. Stone 1489		Y
2185	2186	Ditch	1st C AD		5.2	(23) 420g	50	75				Residuality	N
2185	2186	B	Ditch		5.2			149					Y
2185	2186	C	Ditch	11th-13th	5.2	(5) 72g		357			Slag 8g		Y
2187	2188	B	Pit	1st C AD	2	(3) 13g		90					Y
2189	2190	B	Ditch	4th C AD	5.1	(7) 115g		985				Residuality	N
2189	2190	C	Ditch	11th-13th (with residual Roman)	5.1	(8) 123g		403			Shell 5g	Residuality	N
2189	2190	D	Ditch	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	5.1	(10) 237g		407				Residuality	N
2189	2190	F	Ditch	11th-13th (with residual Roman)	5.1	(5) 24g		77				Residuality	N
2189	2190	Ditch	Ditch		5.1						SF4 Fe Fragment 32g; SF11 Fe Nail 1g; SF12 Fe Fragment 5g; SF13 Slag 14g		Y
2189	2190	A	Ditch		5.1			145					Y
2189	2190	E	Ditch	11th-12th	5.1	(1) 2g		52					Y
2191	2192	Pit	1st C AD		2?	(2) 2g					Slag 17g	Uncertain date	N
2193	2194	Pit	mid 12th-14th (with residual 1st C AD)		6	(30) 260g	159	79			W. Stone 96g; Slag 24g		Y
2195	2196	Pit	19th - 20th C		6	(2) 29g		36				Intrusion	N
2197	2198	Posthole			6			1					Y

2199	2200		Posthole	1st C AD		6	(1) 12g			1			Residuality	N
2201	2202		Posthole	11th-13th		6	(2) 12g							Y
2203	2204		Posthole	late 12th-14th (with residual Roman)		6	(7) 44g			12			Residuality	N
2205	2206		Posthole			6				297				Y
2209	2210		Pit	late 12th-14th (with residual Roman)		6	(53) 374g			63		B.Flnt 15g; Slag 31g		Y
2211	2212	A	Gully			2?				6			Uncertain date	N
2213	2214		Pit	12th-14th		6	(5) 33g			28		S.Flnt (1) 17g		Y
2215	2216		Pit	late 12th-mid 14th		6	(20) 197g		130	35		C.Pipe 1g		Y
2217	2218		Pit	late 12th-mid 14th		6	(3) 9g			11042				Y
2221	2222	B	Beam Slot	mid 12th-mid 14th		6	(2) 10g			14				Y
2223	2224	B	Ditch	10th-12th (with residual Roman)		5.1	(11) 115g			442		Slag 23g; S. Flint (1) 3g; B.Flnt 54g	Residuality	N
2223	2224	C	Ditch	10th-12th (with residual 1st C AD)		5.1	(4) 53g			274		W.Stone 252g; Slag 388g	Residuality	N
2223	2224	D	Ditch	1st C AD		5.1	(9) 133g			625		Slag 5g	Residuality	N
2223	2224		Ditch			5.1						SF3 Fe Fragments 25g		Y
2223	2224	A	Ditch	10th-12th		5.1	(2) 15g			67		S.Flnt (1) 4g		Y
2223	2259	A	Ditch			5.1				238				Y
2223	2259	B	Ditch	10th-12th/early 13th		5.1	(5) 33g		302	35				Y
2223	2275		Ditch	10th-12th/early 13th		5.1	(3) 9g			165		Slag 20g; Daub 4g		Y
2225	2226		Posthole	1st C AD		2	(2) 3g							Y
2229	2230		Posthole			U/D				4			Undated	N
2237	2238		Pit			U/D				128			Undated	N
2239	2240		Ditch	12th-14th		5.1	(1) 5g			1038				Y
2241	2242		Posthole			2				6		Slag 57g		Y
2243	2244		Posthole			2				56				Y
2245	2246		Posthole	1st C AD		2	(1) 3g					Shell 1g		Y
2249	2250		Posthole	Roman		2	(1) 4g			25		Slag 77g		Y
2251	2252		Posthole	12th-14th		6	(4) 14g			128				Y
2255	2256		Pit			U/D				7		S.Flnt (1) 1g	Undated	N
2257	2258		Pit			2?				46		S.Flnt (1) 5g	Uncertain date	N
2261	2262	A	Gully			U/D				16			Undated	N

2263	2264		Pit	mid 12-13th	6	(10), 52g	247	850	SF5 Fe Nail 4g			Y
2265	2266		Pit		2?		12	15	S.Flint (1) 5g		Uncertain date	N
2267	2268		Pit	mid 12th-13th	6	(6) 29g		27				Y
2271	2272		Pit	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	5.1	(4) 18g		32	Slag 115g		Residuality	N
2271	2276		Pit		5.1			6			Residuality	N
2273	2274	A	Pit	11th-12th/13th	5.1	(5) 30g						Y
2282	2283		Pit		U/D			247			Undated	N
2284	2285		Ditch	e-m 1st C AD	2	(17) 127g	49	2471				Y
2287	2289		Pit		U/D			147			Undated	N
2290	2292		Pit	13th-15th	U/D	(4) 18g		444			Undated	N
2293	2294	A	Gully		2?				S.Flint (2) 13g		Uncertain date	N
2293	2294	B	Gully		2?			3			Uncertain date	N
2295	2296		Pit	1st C AD	2	(5) 61g			S.Flint (1) 3g			Y
2297	2298		Pit	1st C AD	2	(7) 97g		10				Y
2299	2300		Pit	13th-14th	6	(13) 89g		48	Slag 24g			Y
2299	2301		Pit	late 12th-14th	6	(34) 289g	100	282	Slag 72g; Shell 7g			Y
		FS1		12-14th		(2) 11g					N/A	N
		FS2		Post-med			10				N/A	N
		FS3		1st C AD		(1) 2g					N/A	N
		FS4		Post-med			14				N/A	N
		FS5		mid 12th - early 14th		(1) 9g					N/A	N

Note: Environmental material (animal bone) and any finds which are not in themselves chronologically-diagnostic, which were recovered from contaminated contexts, have not been subject to full specialist analysis as they cannot be confidently assigned to a specific phase of activity.

APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF SAMPLES

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Phase	Sample No.	Size (l)	Flot (ml)	Pot (g)	A. Bone (g)	CBM (g)	Flint	Other	Comments	Analyse? (see below)
2003	2004	Pit		U/D	1	40	40	3	18			Fe Frag 7g	Undated	N
2005	2006A	Ditch	Mid 2nd-4th C AD	5.1	2	20	75		18		4		Residuality	N
2005	2006B	Ditch	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	5.1	8	30	35	18					Residuality	N
2007	2008B	Ditch	11th-13th (with residual Roman)	5.1	3	40	75	3	4				Residuality	N
2009	2010	Pit		U/D	6	20	25	6	5			Slag 50g	Undated	N
2013	2014D	Ditch	Late 12th-14th (with residual Roman)	5.2	24	40	50	24	9		1		Residuality	N
2013	2014E	Ditch	Med	5.2	27	20	15	5	7					Y
2015	2016A	Ditch	Mid 2nd-4th C AD	3	4	20	15	9	29		3	Slag 4g	Very truncated	N
2017	2018A	Ditch	4th C AD	6	5	20	30	15	65	1	6	Charcoal 2g; Slag 151g	Residuality	N
2021	2022	Pit	12th-14th (with residual 1st C AD)	6	16	20	8	8	3				Residuality	N
2029	2030	Pit	Mid 2nd-4th C AD	3?	7	20	8		6			Slag 35g	Uncertain date	N
2041	2042	Posthole	12th-13th (with 1st C AD)	6	9	10	25		6				Residuality	N
2045	2046	Pit	1st C AD	2	11	20	10		1		5			Y
2047	2048	Posthole		U/D	10	10	5						Undated	N
2053	2054	Posthole		U/D	12	10	3		6				Undated	N
2057	2058	Pit	10th-12th	5.2	13	20	25		3		2	Shell 1g		Y
2061	2062	Posthole		2	14	10	5		6					Y
2063	2064A	Gully		2	15	40	70	7	13			Slag 538g		Y
2067	2068	Ditch	4th C AD	5.1	17	20	80	12	73		18	Slag 118g	Residuality	N
2081	2082	Pit	Late 12th-14th	6	18	40	8	87	14		2			Y
2085	2086	Gully	1st C AD	2	19	20	20	3	10			Slag 1g		Y
2087	2088	Pit	7th-10th	4	20	40	55	22	28		3			Y
2089	2090	Pit	1st C AD	2	21	40	35	11	40		23			Y
2091	2092B	Ditch	1st C AD	2	22	40	25	3	5					Y

2097	2098C	Ditch	11th-12th (with residual 1st C AD)	5.1	25	40	40	40	43	5		3		Residuality	N
2097	2098D	Ditch	1st C AD	5.1	26	10	10	10	6	6				Residuality	N
2100	2101A	Ditch	1st C AD	2	23	40	40	35	36	26					Y
2118	2119	Pit	13th-14th (with residual Roman)	6	28	40	40	25	5	24				Residuality	N
2126	2127	Posthole		U/D	30	10	2							Undated	N
2128	2130	Pit	late 12th-14th	6	29	20	3	13	6						Y
2131	2132	Pit	11th-13th	5.2	31	20	15	15	7						Y
2133	2134	Pit	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	5.1	32	40	0							Residuality	N
2135	2136	Pit	10th-12th	5.1	33	20	30	23							Y
2135	2136	Pit	10th-12th	5.1	34	20	55	29	15			29	Fe Frag 24g		Y
2137	2138A	Ditch	Roman	3	37	40	7	3	2				Fe Frag 5g		Y
2137	2138C	Ditch	4th C AD	3	35	20	20	8	7			108			Y
2145	2146	Pit	13th-14th	6	36	20	15	46	19						Y
2148	2149	Pit		U/D	38	20	5	3						Undated	N
2150	2151	Pit	11th-12th (with residual 1st C AD)	5.1	39	10	25	1				1		Residuality	N
2156	2157	Pit	13th-14th	6	41	20	8	31							Y
2158	2159	Pit	Late 12th-14th	6	42	20	5	13	8						Y
2160	2162	Pit	11th-12th	5.2	40	20	35	7	9				Boiling Stone 183g		Y
2160	2162	Pit	11th-12th	5.2	43	C14	C14	C14	C14	C14	C14	C14		TBC	TBC
2165	2166A	Pit	11th-13th (+1st C AD)	2	44	30	20	53	21						Y
2167	2168	Pit	Late 12th - mid 14th (with residual Roman)	6	45	10	5	1							Y
2173	2174	SFB?		5.2	47	40	25	9	13				Shell 14g		Y
2173	2175	SFB?		5.2	48	30	90	11				4	Charcoal 25g		Y
2173	2177	SFB?	12th-14th	6	49	40	70	7	27	148	2				Y
2178	2179D	Ditch	4th C AD	5.2	69	40	10	21	28					Residuality	N
2180	2181	Pit	9th-12th	5.1	50	40	8	16	9				Mortar 38g		Y
2182	2184A	Ditch	1st C AD	3	52	30	40	4	13	9					Y
2185	2186C	Ditch	11th-13th	5.2	67	10	4	4	13						Y
2189	2190D	Ditch	10th-12th (with residual Roman)	5.1	51	40	35	63	39					Residuality	N
2191	2192	Pit	1st C AD	2	58	40	25	6					Slag 9g		Y
2193	2194	Pit	Mid 12th-14th (with residual 1st C AD)	6	59	20	4	18	19						Y

2197	2198	Posthole																					
2199	2200	Posthole	1st C AD			6	54	20	15	4											Residuality	N	
2201	2202	Posthole	11th-13th		6	55	10	5	3													Y	
2203	2204	Posthole	Late 12th-14th (with residual Roman)		6	56	10	8	7	18	2										Residuality	N	
2209	2210	Pit	Late 12th -14th		6	53	40	10	34	16	20											Y	
2211	2212D	Gully			2?	73	20	8													Uncertain date	N	
2219	2220	Posthole			6	46	10	4														Y	
2221	2222	Beam Slot	Mid 12th-mid 14th		6	60	10	15		3												Y	
2221	2222B	Beam Slot	Mid 12th-mid 14th		6	61	10	3														Y	
2223	2259B	Ditch	10th-12th/early 13th		5.1	76	20	15		11	2											Y	
2225	2226	Posthole	1st C AD		2	62	10	7	7	2												Y	
2231	2232	Posthole			U/D	66	10	3		2											Undated	N	
2237	2238	Pit			U/D	65	20	5		1											Undated	N	
2239	2240	Ditch	12th-14th		5.1	68	20	0	10	42	3											Y	
2241	2242	Posthole			2	63	10	35	8													Y	
2251	2252	Posthole	12th-14th		6	64	10	3	11	6												Y	
2271	2272	Pit	10th-12th (with residual Roman)		5.1	71	10	8		7g											Residuality	N	
2271	2276	Pit			5.1	72	10	2													Residuality	N	
2273	2274A	Pit	11th-12th/13th		5.1	70	40	20	29	10												Y	
2282	2283	Pit			U/D	74	10	2		2											Undated	N	
2284	2285	Ditch	e-m 1st CAD		2	75	40	45	14	59												Y	
2299	2300	Pit	13th-14th		6	77	20	8	22	23												Y	
2299	2301	Pit	Late 12th-14th		6	78	20	10	35	28	5											Y	
N/A	2147	Layer	L 3rd-4th C AD		3	79	40	15		65												Y	

Note: Flots from contaminated contexts have not been subject to full specialist analysis as their contents cannot be confidently associated with a specific phase of activity.

APPENDIX 3 FEATURE/ CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Feature	Context	Type	Max. Dimensions (L x W x D in m)	Description	Findings date	Relationships (largely in stratigraphic order)	Phase	Other comments (e.g. significant or diagnostic finds)
	2000	Topsoil	Whole site except far west	Loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt		Seals (2001)		
	2001	Subsoil	Whole site	Loose mid yellowish-brown sandy silt		Seals (2002)		
	2002	Natural Geology	Whole site	Compact chalk with orange-yellow sand pockets	N/A		N/A	
2003		Pit	1.08 x 0.80 x 0.25	Steep-sided, flat-based oval pit	N/A	Cuts [2002], filled by (2004)	U/D	
	2004	Pit Fill		Loose dark grey-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2003], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2005		Ditch	4.00+ x 0.75 x 0.30	NW-SE aligned ditch with moderately-sloping sides and base	C10-12	Cuts (2024), filled by (2006)	5.1	
	2006	Ditch Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	C10-12	Fill of [2005], cut by [2011]	5.1	Contained a St Neots ware rim and a burnished early to middle Saxon sand-tempered sherd.
2007		Ditch	4.7+ x 0.92 x 0.37	NW-SE aligned ditch with steep sides and flattish base	C11-13	Cuts (2020) and (2024), filled by (2008).	5.1	Relationship with Ditch [2023] revised in post-ex. Roman finds residual.
	2008	Ditch Fill		Compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C11-13	Fill of [2007], sealed by (2001)	5.1	
2009		Pit	0.68 x 0.66 x 0.21	Roughly circular pit with steep sides and flattish base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2010)	U/D	
	2010	Pit Fill		Loose dark brownish-grey sandy silt with chalk inclusions	N/A	Fill of [2009], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2011		Ditch	17.7+ x 0.90 x 0.38	WNW-ESE aligned ditch with steep sides and flattish base	C1	Cuts (2014), (2006), (2024), (2098) and (2050), filled by (2012)	5.2	Dated by stratigraphy; pottery residual
	2012	Ditch Fill		Dark brownish-grey sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2011], cut by [2057], [2059] and [2025]	5.2	21 sherds (138g) of LIA/ early Roman wheel-made sand- and sand-and-grog-tempered pottery including Belgic-type fabrics and an everted bead rim from a burnished sand-tempered Belgic bowl. Also contained slag (2.5kg) and animal bone (500g). Stratigraphic relationships with other ditch cuts on this alignment indicate that all the C1 pottery is residual in a late Saxon ditch, but derives from the heavily-truncated underlying LIA/ early Roman enclosure ditches which follow roughly the same alignment.
2013		Ditch	17.7+ x 1.14+ x 0.49	WNW-ESE aligned ditch with fairly steep sides and flat base	C12-13	Cuts (2098) and (2016), filled by (2014)	5.2	

2014	Ditch Fill			Loose dark greyish-brown sandy silt	C12-13	Fill of [2013], cut by [2011] and [2025]	5.2	27 sherds (237g) medieval pottery incl. a spout and strap handle from an Ely-type vessel and a large (late or residual) Theford ware sherd. Also 1 .1kg animal bone and 2.5kg of slag. Throughout the ditch were large quantities of residual 1st-century AD pottery incl. an important group from Seg. D (79; 651g), which contained base and lower body sherds from a terra nigra beaker and sherds from a 'Belgic' carinated cup with bead rim. This derives from the heavily-truncated underlying ditches on the north side of the LIA-early Roman enclosure.
2015	Ditch	16+ x 0.83+ x 0.47		W-E aligned sinuous ditch with fairly steep straight sides and flat base	Roman and Saxon	Cuts (2002), filled by (2016)	3	Heavily-truncated base/ side of a ?late- to post-Roman ditch
2016	Ditch Fill			Loose dark greyish-brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman and Saxon	Fill of [2015], cut by [2097] and [2017]	3	Contained a mixed Roman pottery assemblage incl. two body sherds from a mid to late 1st-century Chery Hinton oxidised ware ring and dot beaker with decoration in iron-rich red slip (residual?), and a Lower Nene Valley colour coat sherd. Also 1 sherd (6g) early to middle Saxon pottery with sand and organic temper.
2017	Ditch	27.5+ x 1.85 x 0.57		W-E aligned ditch with fairly steep straight sides and flat base	C12-13	Cuts (2014), (2224), (2101), (2090), (2016), (2064), (2068) and (2032), filled by (2016)	6	Medieval burgrave plot/ tenement boundary
2018	Ditch Fill			Dark brown/ black sandy silt with sand and charcoal-rich lenses	C12-13	Fill of [2017], cut by [2025]	6	Contained 3kg animal bone, 0.6kg slag, residual Roman tile and pottery and 17 sherds (164g) of 12th-13th-century pottery.
2019	Ditch	5+ x 0.46+ x 0.50		WSW-ENE aligned ?ditch with moderate to steep sides and rounded base	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2020)	2?	Mostly under baulk; heavily-disturbed
2020	Ditch Fill			Mid brown-grey/ orange-mottled sandy silt with chalk inclusions	C1	Fill of [2019], cut by [2007]	2?	1 handmade shell-tempered sherd only (+ 320g animal bone)
2021	Pit	2.75 x 1.32 x 0.55		Elongated pit with steep sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2038) and (2034), filled by (2022)	6	
2022	Pit Fill			Loose dark grey-brown sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2021], sealed by (2001)	6	C1 pottery is residual from Pit [2037]. Contained 4.3kg animal bone, some articulated
2023	Gully	15+ x 1.30 x 0.21		Broadly E-W aligned ditch with moderately-sloping sides and rounded base	C11-12	Cuts (2107), (2030) and (2105), filled by (2024)	5.1	Recorded on site as cutting Ditch [2007] but the reverse seems more likely in view of its stratigraphic relationship with [2005], which ran parallel to [2007] and seems to have been associated with it.
2024	Gully Fill			Mid to dark greyish-brown sandy silt	C11-12	Fill of [2023], cut by [2005], [2007], [2011] and [2025]	5.1	Theford ware sherds with applied thumb-impressed clay strips. Residual Roman sherds.
2025	Gully	13.5+ x 0.95 x 0.36		N-S aligned gully with moderately-sloping sides and flat base	C18-19	Cuts (2018), (2012), (2014), (2024), (2098), (2088), (2050), (2028) and (2170), filled by (2026)	7	Truncated base of a post-medieval ditch
2026	Gully Fill			Brown-grey sandy silt	C18-19	Fill of [2025], sealed by (2001)	7	
2027	Pit	0.64 x 0.23+ x 0.19		Oval pit with steep rounded sides and base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2028)	U/D	
2028	Pit Fill			Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2027], cut by [2025]	U/D	

2029		Pit	0.75 x 0.40+ x 0.37	?Circular pit with steep straight sides	C2-4	Cuts (2002), filled by (2030)	3?	Possibly a large posthole. Contained a small group of Roman pottery incl. early sand-and-grog-tempered sherds, 1 Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat and 1 in sandy grey ware
2030		Pit Fill		Loose mid brown sandy silt	C2-4	Fill of [2029], cut by [2023]	3?	
2031		Pit	1.50 x 0.68+ x 0.25	Oval pit with moderately-sloping sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2034), filled by (2032)	2?	Stratigraphy + quantity of residual C1 pottery from Posthole [2041], which cuts it, suggests a LIA/ early Roman date
2032		Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2031], cut by [2017] and [2041]	2?	
2033		Pit	2.08 x 1.20+ x 0.45	Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2034)	2	
2034		Pit Fill		Loose mid grey-brown sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2033], cut by [2021], [2031] and [2043]	2	1 x C10-12 sherd is probably intrusive from Pit [2021]
2035		Pit	1.06 x 0.27+ x 0.10+	?Oval pit with gently-sloping sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2036)	U/D	Heavily-truncated. C1 or earlier
2036		Pit Fill		Loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2035], cut by [2037]	U/D	
2037		Pit	3.5+ x 2+ x 0.72m	?Oval pit with moderate to steep sides and irregular/ flat base	C1	Cuts (2036) and (2184), filled by (2038)	2	Heavily-truncated
2038		Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2037], cut by [2021], [2039] and [2261]	2	Also contained a few small box flue tile fragments
2039		Pit	0.91 x 0.80 x 0.33	Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2038), filled by (2040)	6	
2040		Pit Fill		Loose dark brown-grey sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2039], sealed by (2001)	6	Only 1 sherd (1g) medieval pottery
2041		Posthole	0.41 x 0.30 x 0.29	Oval in plan with steep to vertical sides	C12-13	Cuts (2032), filled by (2042)	6	Characterised as a pit in site records
2042		Posthole Fill		Loose dark grey-brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	C12-13	Fill of [2041], sealed by (2001)	6	Fairly large (for the site) assemblage of C1 pottery is likely to be residual from underlying Pit [2031]
2043		Pit	0.40 x 0.32 x 0.07	Oval pit with gently-sloping sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2034), filled by (2044)	U/D	Roman or later
2044		Pit Fill		Loose dark grey-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2043], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2045		Pit	1.37 x 0.97 x 0.48	Oval pit with near-vertical sides and flatish base	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2046)	2?	Only a single sherd of pottery
2046		Pit Fill		Fairly compact mid to dark grey-brown sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2045], sealed by (2001)	2?	
2047		Posthole	0.35 x 0.27 x 0.06	Oval in plan with steep sides and concave base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2048)	U/D	
2048		Posthole Fill		Loose dark brownish-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2047], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2049		Ditch	6.81+ x 0.30+ x 0.17	WNW-ESE aligned ditch with steep sides and flat/ rounded base	N/A	Cuts (2052), filled by (2050)	2?	[2049] Seg. A = Void. Heavily-truncated ?LIA/Roman enclosure ditch largely lying beneath late Saxon re-cuts. Phased based on its stratigraphic position and likely association with the other truncated LIA/ Roman enclosure ditches on the same alignment.
2050		Ditch Fill		Mid brownish-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2049], cut by [2005], [2011] and [2025]	2?	
2051		Pit	1.2 x 0.40+ x 0.20	Oval pit with steep rounded sides and base	Roman	Cuts (2002), filled by (2052)	2	Stratigraphically early as cut by one of the earliest enclosure ditches ([2049]).
2052		Pit Fill		Compact mid yellowish-brown sandy silt	Roman	Fill of [2051], cut by [2049]	2	Contained 11 fragments (132g) Roman tile.
2053		Posthole	0.32 x 0.32 x 0.10	Circular posthole with rounded sides and base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2054)	U/D	
2054		Posthole Fill		Loose mid orangey-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2053], sealed by (2001)	U/D	

2055	Pit		0.74+ x 0.60 x 0.15	Oval pit with moderately-steep rounded sides and flat base	C10-12	Cuts (2002), filled by (2056)	5.1	
2056	Pit Fill			Compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C10-12	Fill of [2055], cut by [2023] and [2059]	5.1	Contained a Theford ware sherd and a base fragment from a St Neots ware vessel, as well as a slag fragment (79g)
2057	Pit		1.6 x 1.3 x 0.55	Oval pit with steep to vertical sides and flat base	C10-12	Cuts (2006) and (2012), filled by (2058)	5.2	
2058	Pit Fill			Compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C10-12	Fill of [2057], cut by [2059]	5.2	Pottery includes an everted St Neots ware jar rim; also 490g animal bone
2059	Posthole		0.62 x 0.56 x 0.37	Circular posthole with steep rounded sides and base	C10-12	Cuts (2058) and (2056), filled by (2060)	5.2	
2060	Posthole Fill			Firm mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C10-12	Fill of [2059], sealed by (2001)	5.2	
2061	Posthole		0.34 x 0.34 x 0.08	Circular posthole with steep sides and flattish base	N/A	Cuts (2064), filled by (2062)	2	Possibly associated with [2063] and [2085], forming a structure
2062	Posthole Fill			Loose dark grey/black sandy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions	N/A	Fill of [2061], sealed by (2002)	2	
2063	Gully		2.85+ x 0.80 x 0.11	NNE-SSW aligned gully with stepped/ steep sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2064)	2	Possibly a structural slot. LIA/ early Roman by association with [2085], with which it appears to be contiguous
2064	Gully Fill			Loose dark grey/black sandy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions	N/A	Fill of [2063], cut by [2061] and [2017]	2	Charcoal-rich fill and slag (826g) might indicate an industrial function.
2065	VOID							
2066	VOID							
2067	SAME AS [2223]				C4		5.1	
2068	SAME AS (2224)				C4		5.1	Residual group of mixed Roman pottery (10; 103g) incl. local coarseware, a beaded rim fragment from a shallow platter in early- to mid-1st-century La Graufesenque samian ware, and the everted bead rim of a Lower Nene Valley colour coat jar. Derives from the Roman pits cut by this slot of Ditch [2067]=[2223].
2069	Pit		0.31+ x 0.25+ x 0.38	?Oval pit with vertical sides and a flat base	N/A	Cuts (2084), filled by (2070)	U/D	Heavily-truncated; stratigraphy indicates Roman or earlier
2070	Pit Fill			Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2069], cut by [2071] and [2223]	U/D	
2071	Pit		1.92 x 1.23+ x 0.60	Oval pit with near-vertical sides and flat base	C4	Cuts (2074) and (2070), filled by (2072)	3	
2072	Pit Fill			Loose mid grey-brown sandy silt	C4	Fill of [2071], cut by [2075]	3	Small late Roman pottery assemblage incl. sherds in Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat and Hadham oxidised ware. Also 2.2kg animal bone, a worked stone fragment and a piece of box flue tile with partial key mark.
2073	Pit		0.98+ x 0.99+ x 0.30+	Oval pit with rounded sides and a flat base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2074)	U/D	Heavily-truncated. No chronologically-diagnostic finds; stratigraphy indicates a Roman or earlier date
2074	Pit Fill			Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2073], cut by [2071] and [2075]	U/D	Contained an iron hook (SF14)

2075	Pit	2.16 x 1.90 x 0.68	Oval pit with fairly steep sides and rounded base	C4	Cuts (2072), (2078) and (2074), filled by (2076)	3	
2076	Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	C4	Fill of [2075], sealed by (2001)	3	Also residual C1 pottery. Late Roman forms include a bead-rimmed hemispherical bowl in Hadham oxidised ware and sherds from a late Roman shell-tempered bead-rimmed jar. Other finds include 2.5kg of animal bone and a few undiagnostic Roman tile fragments.
2077	Pit	0.86 x 0.72+ x 0.39+	Oval pit with moderately-steep sides and rounded base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2078)	U/D	Roman or earlier
2078	Pit Fill		Loose mid grey-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2077], cut by [2075] and [2079]	U/D	
2079	Pit	0.70 x 0.54 x 0.40	Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	Med	Cuts (2078), filled by (2080)	6	
2080	Pit Fill		Loose dark grey-brown sandy silt	Med	Fill of [2079], sealed by (2001)	6	Spot-dated medieval pottery (3 sherds; 28g) missing and therefore not fully-analysed
2081	Pit	1.66 x 1.82 x 0.79	Oval pit with steep undercut sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2110), filled by (2082)	6	
2082	Pit Fill		Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2081], sealed by (2001)	6	Large (for the site) group of medieval pottery incl. 11 x (123g) Ely-type sherds and a coarseware bowl rim
2083	Pit	0.66+ x 0.66+ x 0.10+	Oval pit with gently-sloping sides; base did not survive	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2084)	U/D	Heavily-truncated; stratigraphy indicates Roman or earlier
2084	Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2083], cut by [2069]	U/D	
2085	Gully	2.7+ x 0.60 x 0.30	WNW-ESE aligned gully with steep straight sides and flattish base	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2086)	2	Possibly a structural slot
2086	Gully Fill		Loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2085], cut by [2087]	2	Contained 12 sherds (80g) C1 wheel-made sand-and-grog-tempered pottery
2087	Pit	1.38 x 0.90 x 0.49	Oval pit with steep straight sides and flat base	C7-10	Cuts (2086), filled by (2088)	4	Only securely-identified middle Saxon feature on the site
2088	Pit Fill		Loose mid to dark brownish-grey sandy silt	C7-10	Fill of [2087], cut by [2025]	4	Contained a small, homogenous assemblage (9 sherds; 27g) of handmade middle Saxon sand-and-organic/-flint-and-quartz-tempered pottery; also a small amount of animal bone including cut-marked piece(s).
2089	Pit	1.75 x 1.2+ x 0.48	Roughly rectangular pit with vertical sides and flat base	C1	Cuts (2101) and (2092), filled by (2090)	2	
2090	Pit Fill		Compact dark greenish-grey silty sand	C1	Fill of [2089], cut by [2109] and [2017]	2	16 sherds (333g) LIA pottery incl. part of a thick-walled handmade grog-and-sand-tempered storage jar sherd with combing on the exterior. Also contained animal bone (672g)
2091	Ditch	12.7+ x 1.40 x 0.49	NE-SW aligned ditch with stepped sides and a narrow flattish base	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2092)	2	Profile might derive from repeated re-cutting or clearance of silt from the base of the ditch with a spade.

2092	Ditch Fill					C1	Fill of [2091], cut by [2100], [2089], [2097] and [2109]	2	Homogenous groups of LIA/ early Roman pottery were present in two segments excavated through the ditch, including the largest group from the site (85 sherds weighing nearly 1kg). The assemblage, which was noted as being found fairly high up in the ditch fill, includes fragments of jars, bowls, beakers and flagons in a range of wheel-made sand- and grog-tempered 'Belgic' fabrics which would all fit a date in the first half of the 1st century AD. The excavator noted that several sherds found on the base of the ditch were 'cruder' in appearance - this appears to be a reference to the handmade sand- and flint-tempered sherds found in the base of the re-cut of the ditch, [2100] Seg. A.
2093	Ditch		5 x 0.68+ x 0.28+		Loose mid grey/ yellow/ brown sandy silt	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2094)	2	Heavily-truncated
2094	Ditch Fill				W-E aligned ditch (terminus) with moderately-steep sides and rounded to flat base	C1	Fill of [2093], cut by [2095] and [2097]	2	Everted bead rim of wheel-made necked ?jar in sand-and-grog-tempered fabric and a sherd from a terra-nigra platter
2095	Ditch		3.39+ x 1.28 x 0.36		Light yellowish-grey sandy silt	C1	Cuts (2094), filled by (2096) and (2099)	2	LIA pottery in basal fill. Early medieval (Ely-type) pottery in upper fill intrusive from Ditch F2097?
2096	Ditch Fill				Greyish-brown sandy silt	C1	Basal fill of [2095], sealed by (2099), cut by [2097]	2	3 x C1 sherds
2097	Ditch		10.69+ x 1.28+ x 0.47+		WNW-ESE aligned ditch with steep straight or rounded sides and flattish base	C11-12	Cuts (2092), (2016), (2099) and (2094) and (2103), filled by (2108) and (2098)	5.1	Mixed assemblage of LIA and late Saxon/ early medieval finds, but cuts Ditch [2015], which is probably late Roman.
2098	Ditch Fill				Mid yellowish-brown sandy silt with chalk inclusions	C11-12	Upper (main) fill of [2097], seals (2108), cut by [2013], [2011], [2017] and [2025]	5.1	20 sherds (209g) late Saxon - early medieval pottery incl. an Ely-type ware jar fragment and Thetford ware. Also fairly large amounts of residual LIA/ early Roman pottery from the underlying earlier cuts of the enclosure ditch, incl. wheel-made sand-tempered 'Belgic' carinated cup fragments.
2099	Ditch Fill				Fairly compact mid grey-brown sandy silt	C10-12	Upper fill of [2095], seals (2096), cut by [2097]	2	Fragments of an Ely ware jar are thought to be intrusive from Ditch F2097.
2100	Ditch		11.78+ x 1.08 x 0.44		NE-SW aligned ditch with fairly steep rounded sides and flattish base	C1	Cuts (2112) and (2092), filled by (2101)	2	
2101	Ditch Fill				Loose mid to dark greyish-brown sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2100], cut by [2089], [2114] and [2017]	2	Contained a group of LIA pottery including both wheel-made sherds and fragments of handmade sand-, flint- and shell-tempered vessels. Also contained approx. 600g animal bone.
2102	Ditch		0.72 x 0.60+ x 0.15+		? Ditch with steep sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2103)	2?	Heavily-truncated. Could be the base of another Roman ditch on this alignment, especially in view of its similar profile to Ditch [2015], just to the south. Possibly a continuation of Ditch [2095]. Stratigraphy indicates late Saxon or earlier.

2103	?Ditch Fill			Loose mid yellowish-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2102], cut by [2097] and [2013]	2?	
2104	Pit	0.63 x 0.36+ x 0.05	?Circular pit with gently-sloping sides and flattish base	N/A	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by [2105]	U/D	Possibly Roman given stratigraphic relationships and its similarity to adjacent [2106]
2105	Pit Fill		Loose mid yellowish-brown sandy silt	N/A	N/A	Fill of [2104], cut by [2023]	U/D	
2106	Pit	0.71 x 0.44+ x 0.19	?Circular pit with moderately-sloping sides and rounded base	C1	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by [2107]	2?	
2107	Pit Fill		Loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C1	C1	Fill of [2106], cut by [2023]	2?	1 sherd wheel-made sand-and-grog-tempered pottery
2108	Ditch Fill		Loose dark brown/black sandy silt with charcoal	C1	C1	Basal fill of [2097], sealed by (2098)	5.1	Tip of organic/ domestic midden material in base of ditch? Contained a few sherds of wheel-made sand- and sand-and-grog-tempered pottery. Pottery from upper fill (2098) and stratigraphic relationship with Ditch [2015] indicate a post-Roman date.
2109	Pit	1.60 x 1.40 x 0.27	Oblong pit with vertical sides and flattish base	C11-13	C11-13	Cuts (2090) and (2092), filled by (2110)	5.2	Only datable find was a single early medieval coarseware sherd but stratigraphy would fit that date.
2110	Pit Fill		Loose yellowish-brown sandy silt with chalk lenses	C11-13	C11-13	Fill of [2109], cut by [2081]	5.2	
2111	Pit	2.2+ x 0.90+ x 0.30	?Circular pit with gently-sloping sides and rounded base	Roman	Roman	Cuts (2002), filled by (2113) and (2112)	2?	
2112	Pit Fill		Mid brownish-grey sandy silt	Roman	Roman	Upper fill of [2111], cut by [2100]	2?	Fragment of Roman tile
2113	Pit Fill		Mid orangey-brown sandy silt with frequent chalk sides and flat base	N/A	N/A	Basal fill of [2111], sealed by (2112)	2?	
2114	Posthole	0.69 x 0.38 x 0.29	Roughly circular posthole with steep rounded sides and flat base	Post-Med?	Post-Med?	Cuts (2101), filled by (2115)	7?	
2115	Posthole Fill		Fairly compact brownish-grey/ green sandy silt with chalk inclusions	Post-Med?	Post-Med?	Fill of [2114], sealed by (2001)	7?	Brick fragments (not recovered) suggest fairly recent date?
2116	Pit	2.25 x 1.95 x 0.29	Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	C12-14	C12-14	Cuts (2129), filled by (2117)	6	
2117	Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt with chalk inclusions	C12-14	C12-14	Fill of [2116], cut by [2118]	6	Ely-type sherds incl. a jar fragment and a Heddingham ware sherd
2118	Pit	1.70+ x 1.60 x 0.63+	?Oval pit with fairly steep sides and rounded base	C13-14	C13-14	Cuts (2117), filled by (2119)	6	
2119	Pit Fill		Loose dark grey/ green sandy clayey silt with chalk inclusions	C13-14	C13-14	Fill of [2118], cut by modern foundations	6	Contained 14 sherds (95g) medieval pottery incl. green-glazed Heddingham fine ware sherd
2120	Ditch?	3.75+ x 1.00 x 0.19	?Linear feature with gently-sloping sides and flat base	C11-13	C11-13	Cuts (2123), filled by (2121)	6	Recorded on site as a pit but linear shape in plan suggests it could be the base of a truncated ditch or gully.
2121	?Ditch Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	C11-13	C11-13	Fill of [2120], cut by modern foundations	6	
2122	Pit	1.3 x 1.2 x 0.18	Circular pit with gently-sloping sides and flat base	C13-14	C13-14	Cuts (2125), filled by (2123)	6	
2123	Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt with chalk inclusions	C13-14	C13-14	Fill of [2122], cut by [2120]	6	
2124	Pit	1.8+ x 1.65+ x 0.25	?Oval pit with steep convex sides and rounded base	N/A	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2125)	6?	Undated but similar to, and cut by, medieval pits
2125	Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A	N/A	Fill of [2124], cut by [2122] and [2120]	6?	
2126	Posthole	0.34+ x 0.33 x 0.07	Oval posthole with vertical sides and flat base	N/A	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2127)	U/D	

2127	Posthole Fill				Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A		Fill of [2126], cut by modern drain	U/D	
2128	Pit	1.08 x 0.65 x 0.65			Oval pit with vertical/ under-cutting sides and flat base	C12-14		Cuts (2002), filled by (2129) and (2130)	6	Cess pit?
2129	Pit/Fill				Loose light green-grey clayey sand	N/A		Lower fill of [2128], sealed by (2130)	6	
2130	Pit/Fill				Loose dark green-grey sandy silt with moderate chalk and charcoal inclusions	C12-14		Upper fill of [2128], seals (2129), cut by [2116]	6	43 sherds (588g) Ely-type ware including fragments of three jars
2131	Pit	0.82 x 0.75 x 0.26			Circular pit with rounded sides and flattish base	C11-13		Cuts (2147), filled by (2132)	5.2	
2132	Pit/Fill				Loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt	C11-13		Fill of [2131], sealed by (2001)	5.2	Small Thetford-type jar rim
2133	Pit	0.75+ x 1.20+ x 0.20			Oval pit with moderately-steep rounded sides and flat base	C10-12		Cuts (2147), filled by (2134)	5.1	
2134	Pit/Fill				Mid brown-grey clayey sandy silt	C10-12		Fill of [2133], cut by [2135] and modern feature	5.1	Decorated Thetford ware and (residual) Ipswich ware sherds
2135	Pit	1.00 x 0.86 x 0.15			Roughly rectangular pit with steep rounded sides and flat base	C10-12		Cuts (2134) and (2147), filled by (2136)	5.1	
2136	Pit/Fill				Fairly compact mid brown-grey clayey silty sand with charcoal inclusions	C10-12		Fill of [2135], sealed by (2001)	5.1	Humic fill. 1 large sherd (56g) Thetford ware
2137	Ditch	13.9+ x 0.68 x 0.14			NW-SE aligned ditch with moderately-sloping sides and rounded base	C4		Cuts (2147), filled by (2138)	3	
2138	Ditch Fill				Loose greenish grey-brown silt	C4		Fill of [2137], cut by [2139], [2145] and [2152]	3	6 sherds (66g) of Roman pottery incl. 3 fragments of Hadham oxidised ware, and two coins (SFs 1 and 2).
2139	Ditch	11.5 x 1.00 x 0.31			SW-NE aligned ditch with fairly-steep rounded sides and flattish base	C12		Cuts (2138), (2147) and (2142), filled by (2140)	5.2	
2140	Ditch Fill				Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt	C12		Fill of [2139], cut by [2160] and [2143]	5.2	1.7kg animal bone and late Saxon - early medieval pottery incl. a large decorated sherd (175g) from a Thetford ware storage jar.
2141	Ditch	0.62+ x 0.62+ x 0.38			NW-SE aligned ditch with (apparently) steep sides and flattish base	N/A		Cuts (2147), filled by (2142)	U/D	Heavily-truncated ditch terminus?
2142	Ditch Fill				Loose mid grey sandy silt	N/A		Fill of [2141], cut by [2139] and [2143]	U/D	
2143	Pit	7.00+ x 3.0 x 0.32			Elongated pit with stepped sides and flat base	N/A		Cuts (2140), (2138), (2147) and (2142), filled by (2144)	U/D	Thought by excavator to be modern, though no dating evidence was present. Stratigraphy indicates late Saxon or later.
2144	Pit/Fill				Loose dark grey/black clayey silt	N/A		Fill of (2144), sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2145	Pit	5.4 x 3.5 x 0.49+			Oval pit with steep rounded sides; base not reached due to high water table	13-14		Cuts (2138), filled by (2146)	6	One of the largest medieval pottery groups from the site, comprising 40 sherds (0.5kg) and incl. Ely ware jar and bowl fragments and a Hedingham fine ware jug rim. Also worked stone.
2146	Pit/Fill				Loose dark grey-brown clayey silt	13-14		Fill of [2145], sealed by (2001)	6	

2148	2147	Layer	17+ x 7.0+ x 0.20				CL3-4		Seals (2149), cut by [2141], [2137], [2139], [2150], [2152], [2133], [2135], [2131], [2154], [2156], [2158], [2145] and [2143]		Finds from excavated slots include 2.7kg of animal bone. Only two sherds of pottery, one residual sand-and-grog-tempered LIA/ early Roman sherd, and a large fragment of Oxfordshire white-slipped ware mortaria with heavy vitrification grits. However, stratigraphy is not out of keeping with a late Roman date.
		Pit	0.94+ x 0.68+ x 0.69	?Oval pit with steep rounded sides and flat base	N/A			Cuts (2002), filled by (2149)		U/D	Stratigraphic relationship with Layer (2147) indicates Roman or earlier. Some inconsistencies in recording, but section drawing shows (2147) overlying the pit.
	2149	Pit Fill		Loose dark brownish-grey sandy silt	N/A			Fill of [2148], sealed by (2147)		U/D	
2150		Pit	0.89 x 1.12 x 0.17	Circular pit with rounded sides and flattish base	C11-12			Cuts (2147), filled by (2151)		5.1	
	2151	Pit Fill		Loose mid yellowish-brown sandy silt	C11-12			Fill of [2150], sealed by (2001)		5.1	
2152		Pit	1.15 x 0.55 x 0.21	Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	C1			Cuts (2147), (2138) and (2149), filled by (2153)		U/D	Stratigraphy indicates late Roman or later
	2153	Pit Fill		Loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C1			Fill of [2152], sealed by (2001)		U/D	1 residual LIA/ early Roman sherd
2154		Pit	0.68 x 0.54 x 0.08	Oval pit with moderately-steep rounded sides and flat base	N/A			Cuts (2157), filled by (2155)		6	
	2155	Pit Fill		Dark blue/grey clayey silt	N/A			Fill of [2154], sealed by (2001)		6	
2156		Pit	1.25 x 1.17 x 0.46	Circular pit with steep rounded sides and base	C13-14			Cuts (2147), filled by (2157)		6	
	2157	Pit Fill		Dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt	C13-14			Fill of [2156], cut by [2154]		6	Ely-type rounded jar rim and sherd of decorated Grimston ware with applied pellets
2158		Pit	1.16 x 1.06 x 0.35+	Circular pit with steep to near-vertical sides; base not reached	C12-14			Cuts (2147), filled by (2159)		6	Base of pit not reached due to high water table in SW part of site.
	2159	Pit Fill		Dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt	C12-14			Fill of [2158], sealed by (2001)		6	
2160		Pit	1.14 x 0.90 x 0.32+	Oval pit with steep sides; base not reached due to waterlogging	C10-12			Cuts (2140) and (2147), filled by (2161) and (2162)		5.2	
	2161	Pit Fill		Loose mid brown sandy clayey silt	N/A			Lowest excavated fill of [2160], sealed by (2162)		5.2	
	2162	Pit Fill		Loose dark brown sandy clayey silt with charcoal inclusions	C11-12			Upper fill of [2160], seals (2161), sealed by (2001)		5.2	1 large St Neots ware sherd (54g), possibly residual
2163		Pit	1.14+ x 1.18+ x 0.11	?Oval pit with gently-sloping sides and irregular base	N/A			Cuts (2002), filled by (2164)		U/D	Stratigraphy indicates LIA/ early Roman or earlier
	2164	Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A			Fill of [2163], cut by [2165] and [2167]		U/D	
2165		Pit	1.78+ x 1.14+ x 0.24	Oval pit with moderately-sloping sides and irregular base	C1			Cuts (2164), filled by (2166)		2	
2167		Pit Fill		Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	C1			Fill of [2165], cut by [2189] and [2167]		2	1 intrusive medieval coarseware sherd
2169		Pit	0.70 x 0.50+ x 0.27	Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	N/A			Cuts (2166), filled by (2168)		6	
	2168	Pit Fill		Loose dark brown-grey sandy silt	C12-14			Fill of [2167], cut by modern service		6	Small group (9 sherds; 76g) medieval pottery
	2170	Pit Fill		Loose yellow/ brown/ grey sandy silt	N/A			Cuts (2002), filled by (2170)		U/D	
					N/A			Fill of [2169], cut by [2025]		U/D	

2171	Pit	0.40+ x 0.44+ x 0.40	Oval pit with steep sides and rounded base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2172)	U/D	Heavily-truncated. Stratigraphy indicates late Saxon or earlier.
	Pit Fill		Loose light yellowish-grey silty sand	N/A	Fill of [2171], cut by [2189]	U/D	
2173	Pit	3.00 x 2.28 x 0.60	Oval pit with near-vertical sides and fiat base	C12-14	Cuts (2179) and (2190), filled by (2174), (2175), (2176) and (2177)	5.2?	Sequence and appearance of fills appears similar to a sunken-featured building; the dimensions of [2173] would not be out of keeping with the ancillary structures of this type found on some Anglo-Saxon sites. Finds from uppermost fill indicate a 'high' medieval date, with which stratigraphy broadly agrees, but these were not deeply-stratified within the feature and could be intrusive or from its final infilling some length of time after disuse.
	Pit Fill		Loose mid grey sandy silt with chalk lenses	N/A	Fill of [2173], sealed by (2175)	5.2?	Weathered material from open sides of the hollow. Contained 612g animal bone.
2174	Pit Fill		Soft dark grey/black humic, slightly sandy silt with frequent charcoal. Contains and overlie in places by orangey sand lenses	N/A	Fill of [2173], seals (2174), sealed by (2176)	5.2?	Organic appearance - remains of turf wall and other structural material?
2175	Pit Fill		Fairly compact mid grey sandy silt with chalky inclusions	N/A	Fill of [2173], seals (2175), sealed by (2177)	5.2?	Weathered material from open sides of the hollow or a deliberate levelling layer.
2176	Pit Fill		Loose dark grey/black sandy silt with charcoal patches	C12-14	Fill of [2173], seals (2176), sealed by (2001)	5.2?	4 sherds (28g) of medieval pottery, including a yellow-glazed possible Stamford Ware sherd. Also contained several lead fragments (SFs 7-9), nails (SFs 6 and 10) and 2 fragments of medieval roof tile.
2177	Pit Fill		NE-SW aligned gully with moderately-steep rounded sides and flattish base	C4	Cuts (2186), filled by (2179)	5.2	Stratigraphy and spatial relationships indicate an early medieval date, but contained residual Roman pottery, including a bead rim from a jar in Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat.
2178	Gully	7.93+ x 0.77 x 0.30	Loose dark greyish-brown sandy silt with chalk inclusions	C4	Fill of [2178], cut by [2173]	5.2	
2179	Gully Fill		Rectangular pit with steep to near-vertical sides and perfectly-flat base	C9-12	Cuts (2212), filled by (2181)	5.1	Presence of a roughly rectangular clunch block sitting centrally on the base of the pit, combined with the pit's unusually regular plan and profile and its spatial relationship with contemporary features (it is enclosed by Ditches [2189] and [2185]), suggests some kind of specialised ?Industrial function.
2180	Pit	1.70 x 1.31 x 0.39	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt	C9-12	Fill of [2180], cut by [2178]	5.1	Small neck fragment from a Theford ware jar and 1 sherd of Ipswich ware
	Pit Fill		Right-angled ditch with moderately-steep sides and rounded base	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2183) and (2184)	2 + 3	Stratigraphy and pottery from basal fill (in Seg A) suggests LIA/ early Roman date, but the ditch remained at least partially open into the late Roman period.
2182	Ditch	8.45+ x 1.16 x 0.59	Loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C1	Basal fill of [2182], sealed by (2184)	2	Possibly the fill of an earlier cut of Ditch [2182]
	Ditch Fill						

2184	Ditch Fill			Loose light to mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C4	Upper (main) fill of [2182], cut by [2037], [2263] and [2261]	3	Diagnostic sherds of C4 date incl. from a bifid filled rim jar in Hatham oxidised ware. Also 1. kg animal bone and a worked stone fragment.
2185	Ditch	9.38+ x 0.84 x 0.31		Curvilinear ditch, aligned N-S, turning to NW-SE as it runs southwards; moderate to steep sides and rounded base	C11-13	Cuts (2240), (2189), (2285), (2294), (2281), (2212) and (2279), filled by (2186)	5.2	
2186	Ditch Fill			Loose mid grey-brown sandy silt	C11-13	Fill of [2185], cut by [2235] and [2178]	5.2	Small quantity of medieval coarseware, 1 large residual Ipswich Ware sherd (50g). Part of a C1 wheel-made sand-and-grog-tempered jar with plain everted rim (23 sherds; 420g) in Seg. A is likely to be residual from the underlying (undated) ditches.
2187	Pit	1.56 x 0.55+ x 0.08		Shallow oval pit with gently-sloping sides and flat base	C1	Cuts (2279), filled by (2188)	2	Heavily-truncated
2188	Pit Fill			Loose mid grey-brown sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2187], cut by [2185] and [2193]	2	Contained 3 sherds (13g) from an imitation Gallo-Belgic platter
2189	Ditch	14.75 x 1.09 x 0.44		NW-SE aligned ditch which turns to a south-westward alignment as it runs south; steep sides and variable flat or v-shaped base	C11-12	Cuts (2166), (2212), (2294) and (2238), filled by (2190)	5.1	
2190	Ditch Fill			Mid yellowish brown/grey sandy silt	C11-12	Fill of [2189], cut by [2185], [2178] and [2173]	5.1	6 sherds (20g) Saxo-Norman/ early medieval pottery distributed throughout length. Also contained c. 2kg animal bone, several nails and iron fragments and a large (for the site) assemblage of residual (mainly late) Roman pottery (29 sherds; 447g) incl. bowl fragments in Hatham oxidised ware and a Lower Nene Valley white ware mortaria sherd.
2191	Pit	1.30 x 0.56 x 0.12		Oval pit with gently-sloping sides and flat base	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2192)	2?	LJA/ early Roman? Only a v. small amount of pottery.
2192	Pit Fill			Loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2191], sealed by (2001)	2?	2 sherds (2g) wheel-made sand-and-grog-tempered pottery
2193	Pit	2.28 x 1.49 x 0.42		Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2188) and (2279), filled by (2194)	6	
2194	Pit Fill			Compact dark grey sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2193], sealed by (2001)	6	Large (for the site) assemblage of medieval pottery (27; 225g) incl. Ely-type bowl rims
2195	Pit	0.62+ x 0.82+ x 0.59		?Circular pit with steep rounded sides and base	N/A	Cuts (2264), filled by (2196)	6?	Part of a cluster of pits of medieval date; probably contemporary
2196	Pit Fill			Loose mid yellowish-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2195], cut by [2215] and modern drain	6?	2 small intrusive post-medieval red earthenware sherds derive from the modern drain which cuts it to the east.
2197	Posthole	0.22 x 0.28 x 0.33		Circular posthole with vertical sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2264), filled by (2198)	6	Part of a possible structure. Medieval by association with other postholes in the row?
2198	Posthole Fill			Loose dark brownish-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2197], cut by [2213] and [2217]	6	
2199	Posthole	0.38+ x 0.36 x 0.41		Circular posthole with vertical sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2264), filled by (2200)	6	Part of possible structure. Medieval by association with other postholes in the row?
2200	Posthole Fill			Loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2199], cut by [2215]	6	One sherd of residual Roman pottery
2201	Posthole	0.18 x 0.43 x 0.41		Circular posthole with vertical sides and flat base	C11-13	Cuts (2264), filled by (2202)	6	Part of possible structure

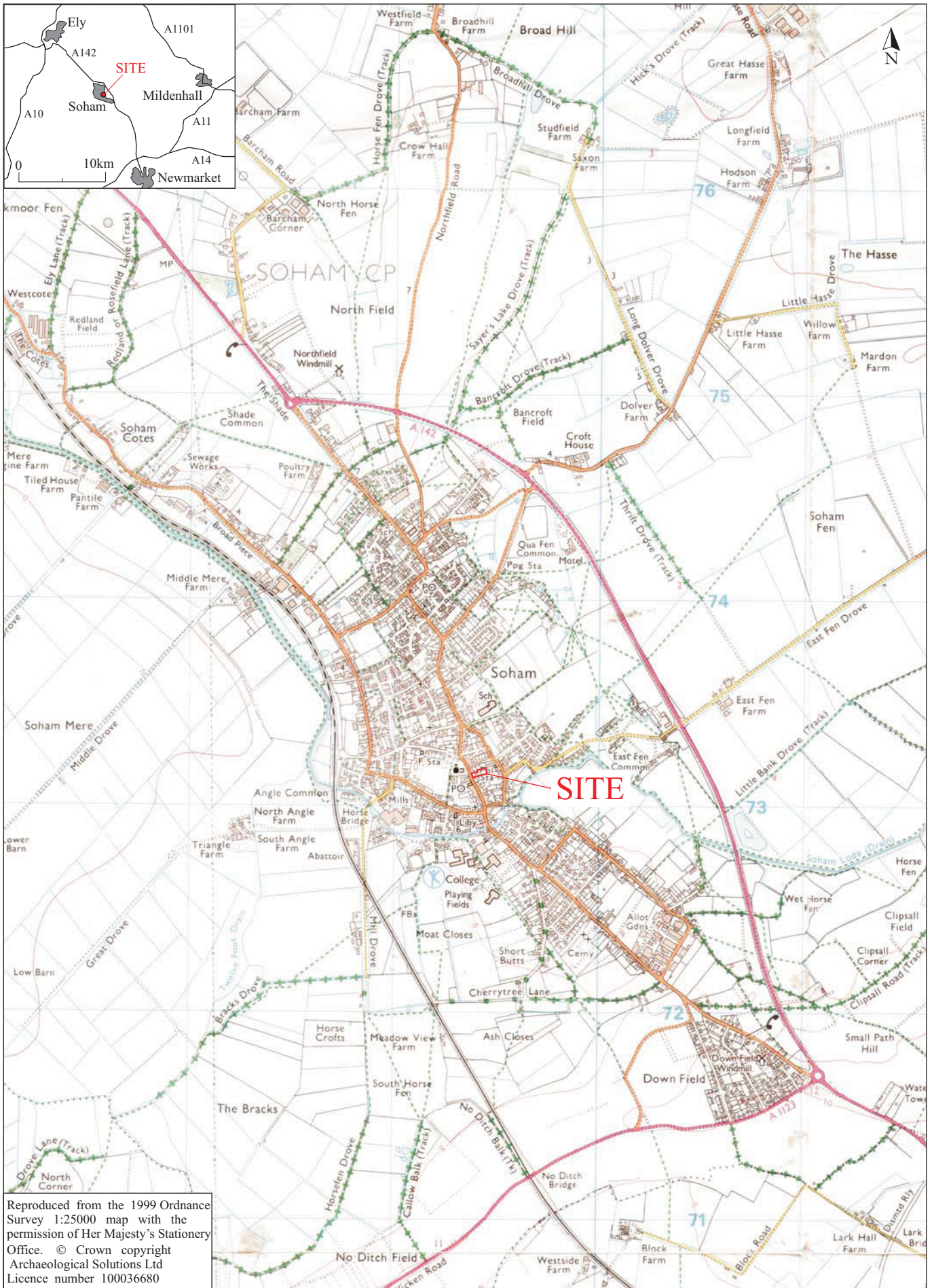
2202	Posthole Fill				Loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt	C11-13	Fill of [2201], cut by [2213]	6	
2203	Posthole	0.32 x 0.45 x 0.52			Circular posthole with steep to vertical sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2210) and (2264), filled by (2204)	6	Part of possible structure
2204	Posthole Fill				Loose dark brownish-grey sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2203], sealed by (2001)	6	Small group of pottery incl. Ely and glazed Ely-type sherds
2205	Posthole	0.30 x 0.63 x 0.26			Circular posthole with steep sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2210) and (2264), filled by (2206)	6	Part of a possible structure. Medieval by association with other postholes?
2206	Posthole Fill				Loose mid greenish-grey chalky silt	N/A	Fill of [2205], sealed by (2001)	6	
2207	Posthole	0.24 x 0.38 x 0.42			Circular posthole with vertical sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2210), filled by (2208)	6	Likely to be medieval by association with other postholes in the row e.g. [2203] and [2201]. Part of a possible structure.
2209	Pit	2.16 x 1.10 x 0.91			Oval pit with vertical/ undercutting sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2264), filled by (2210)	6	
2210	Pit Fill				Loose dark brownish-grey sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2209], cut by [2203], [2205] and [2207]	6	50 sherds (303g) 'high' medieval pottery - one of the largest groups from the site
2211	Gully	6 x 0.98 x 0.25			WNW-ESE aligned gully with steep rounded sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2279), filled by (2212)	2?	Re-cut of Gully [2278]. Stratigraphy and residual C1 pottery from [2185] Seg. A suggest a LIA/ early Roman date
2212	Gully Fill				Loose dark brown-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2211], cut by [2180], [2185] and [2189]	2?	
2213	Pit	0.63+ x 0.92+ x 0.23			Oval pit with gently-sloping sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2202) and (2198), filled by (2214)	6	
2214	Pit Fill				Loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2213], cut by [2217]	6	
2215	Pit	0.56+ x 1.96+ x 0.31			Oval pit with steep sides and flattish base	C12-14	Cuts (2200) and (2196), filled by (2216)	6	
2216	Pit Fill				Loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2215], cut by [2217]	6	Contained 18 sherds (130g) pottery incl. jar and bowl rims in Ely-type fabrics, as well as a few fragments of residual Roman tile and a small intrusive piece of clay pipe (from the modern drain which cut it to the east).
2217	Pit	1.1 x 0.82 x 0.16			Oval pit with moderately-sloping sides and flattish base	C12-14	Cuts (2216) and (2214), filled by (2218)	6	Only sparse pottery.
2218	Pit Fill				Loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2217], cut by modern drain	6	Contained 11kg of animal bone incl. partially-articulated remains from at least 3 horses
2219	Posthole	0.40 x 0.38 x 0.07			Circular posthole with moderately-steep sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2220)	6	Part of a possible structure. Medieval by association with other postholes in row?
2220	Posthole Fill				Loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2219], sealed by (2001)	6	
2221	Beam Slot	5.21 x 0.25 x 0.07			N-S aligned gully with vertical sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2238), filled by (2222)	6	Structural slot for ground sill beam or post-in-trench construction; may be associated with adjacent E-W medieval posthole alignment.
2222	Fill of Beam Slot				Loose dark brownish-grey sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2221], sealed by (2001)	6	Two small sherds of flint-tempered medieval coarseware and Hedingham fine ware.

2223	Ditch	17.5+ x 1.19 x 0.48	NE-SW aligned ditch with fairly steep sides and variable rounded or 'v'-shaped base	C10-12	Cuts (2272), (2274), (2070), (2084), (2258), (2298), (2296), (2279), (2212), (2294), (2285), (2289) and (2292), filled by (2275), (2259) and (2224)	5.1	Saxo-Norman pottery distributed throughout its length including some in its basal fills. Assemblage incl. a sagging Thetford ware base. Also C1 pottery in upper fill, incl. a localised group (9 sherds: 1339) in Seg. D which possibly derives from the underlying (undated) pits (2297) and (2295). Ditch also contained a total of 1.8kg animal bone and 450g slag.
2224	Ditch Fill		Brownish-grey sandy silt	C10-12	Upper fill of [2223], seals (2259) and (2275), cut by [2017] and [2267]	5.1	C10-12 pottery throughout, as well as some residual C1 pottery.
2225	Posthole	0.28 x 0.34 x 0.27	Circular posthole with vertical sides and flat base	C1	Cuts (2260), filled by (2226)	2	Part of possible structure.
2226	Posthole Fill		Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2225], sealed by (2001)	2	2 sherds (3g) C1 pottery
2227	Posthole	0.34 x 0.40 x 0.17	Circular posthole with fairly steep rounded sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2260), filled by (2228)	2	Part of possible structure. Phased by association.
2228	Posthole Fill		Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2227], sealed by (2001)	2	
2229	Posthole	0.20 x 0.18 x 0.13	Circular posthole with steep sides and rounded base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2230)	U/D	
2230	Posthole Fill		Loose greyish-black sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2229], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2231	Posthole	0.34 x 0.30 x 0.24	Circular posthole with steep sides and rounded base	N/A	Cuts (2238), filled by (2232)	U/D	
2232	Posthole Fill		Loose dark brown/black sandy silt with chalk inclusions	N/A	Fill of [2231], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2233	Posthole	0.28 x 0.33 x 0.34	Circular posthole with steep, tapering sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2238), filled by (2234)	U/D	
2234	Posthole Fill		Loose brown/black sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2233], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2235	Posthole	0.34 x 0.36 x 0.40	Circular posthole with near-vertical sides and rounded base	N/A	Cuts [2186], filled by (2236)	U/D	Stratigraphy indicates early medieval or later
2236	Posthole Fill		Loose dark brown/black sandy silt with chalk inclusions	N/A	Fill of [2235], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2237	Pit	1.75+ x 1.4 x 0.34	Oval pit with moderately-steep irregular sides and flattish base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2238)	U/D	Stratigraphy indicates late Saxon or earlier
2238	Pit Fill		Loose mid brownish-grey silt with yellow sand patches and flint inclusions	N/A	Fill of [2237], cut by [2231], [2233], [2189] and [2221]	U/D	
2239	Ditch	4.7+ x 1.43+ x 0.20	Shallow ditch with moderately-sloping rounded sides and flat base	C12-14	Cuts (2294) and (2256), filled by (2240)	5.2	Heavily-truncated; recorded as a pit but appears to have been linear in plan.
2241	Posthole	0.31 x 0.46 x 0.14	Circular posthole with steep sides and flat base	N/A	Fill of [2239], sealed by a layer of redeposited chalk (not numbered), cut by [2185]	5.2	1 small medieval coarseware sherd (4g) and 1kg animal bone. Layer of redeposited chalk could be the remnant of a collapsed bank, or a levelling deposit. Stratigraphic relationship with Ditch [2185] and pottery suggests a C12 date?
2242	Posthole Fill		Loose dark brownish-grey sandy silt	N/A	Cuts (2260), filled by (2242)	2	Part of possible structure. Phased by association.
2243	Posthole	0.35 x 0.21+ x 0.26	Circular posthole with near-vertical sides and rounded base	N/A	Fill of [2241], sealed by (2001)	2	Slag (57g)
				N/A	Cuts (2260), filled by (2244)	2	Part of possible structure. Phased by association.

2244	Posthole Fill			Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2243], cut by [2245]	2	
2245	Posthole	0.48 x 0.46 x 0.30		Circular posthole with steep rounded sides and base	C1	Cuts (2244), filled by (2246)	2	Part of possible structure.
2246	Posthole Fill			Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2245], cut by [2247]	2	Only 1 sherd (3g) LIA/ Roman pottery
2247	Posthole	0.25 x 0.22 x 0.23		Circular posthole with steep tapering sides and 'v'-shaped base	N/A	Cuts (2246), filled by (2248)	2	Part of possible structure. Phased by association.
2248	Posthole Fill			Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2247], sealed by (2001)	2	
2249	Posthole	0.40 x 0.20+ x 0.65		Circular posthole with near-vertical tapering sides and flat base	Roman	Cuts (2260), filled by (2250)	2	Part of possible structure.
2250	Posthole Fill			Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	Roman	Fill of [2249], cut by [2251]	2	Only 1 sherd (4g) Roman pottery. Also 80g slag.
2251	Posthole	0.44 x 0.52 x 0.30		Circular posthole with steep sides and rounded base	C12-14	Cuts (2250), filled by (2252)	6	
2252	Posthole Fill			Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	C12-14	Fill of [2251], sealed by (2001)	6	Only 2 sherds (6g) medieval pottery; also residual Roman sandy greyware (1; 5g)
2253	Stakehole	0.14 x 0.15 x 0.20		Circular stakehole with near-vertical sides and rounded base	N/A	Cuts (2260), filled by (2254)	U/D	
2254	Fill of Stakehole			Loose dark greenish-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2253], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2255	Pit	0.66+ x 0.50+ x 0.37+		?Pit with steep rounded sides and base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2256)	U/D	Heavily-truncated. Stratigraphy indicates late Saxon or earlier.
2256	Pit Fill			Fairly compact mid greenish-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2255], cut by [2239] and [2185]	U/D	
2257	Pit	1.36 x 0.92+ x 0.32		Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	Roman?	Cuts (2266), filled by (2258)	2?	Stratigraphy would fit with a Roman date.
2258	Pit Fill			Fairly compact mid grey-brown sandy silt	Roman?	Fill of [2257], cut by [2223]	2?	Roman pottery recorded on context sheet but not on Finds Concordance.
2259	Ditch Fill			Compact greenish-brown sandy silt with flint inclusions	C10-12	Basal fill of [2223], sealed by (2224)	5.1	Present in Segs. B and D only. Different appearance to majority of fills on site; excavator noted a horse skull found on base of ditch in Seg. B. Also contained C10-12/13 pottery.
2260	Pit Fill/ Layer?	7.5+ x 3.80+ x 0.20		Not recorded	N/A	Cut by Postholes [2249], [2241], [2227], [2243], [2225] and Stakehole [2253]		Layer in south of SE Quadrant of site at which excavation ceased. Thought by excavator to represent a cluster of intercutting medieval quarry rubbish pits with very similar fills, but no dating evidence was found.
2261	?Beam Slot Fill of Beam Slot	3+ x 0.23 x 0.06		WNW-ESE aligned shallow slot with fairly steep sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2184), filled by (2262)	U/D	Stratigraphy indicates Roman or later
2263	Quarry Pit	11+ x 7+ x 1.09		Large, roughly ?oval pit with steep sides; base not reached	C12-13	Cuts (2184), filled by (2264)	6	
2264	Quarry Pit Fill			Loose dark brown-grey sandy silt	C12-13	Fill of [2263], cut by [2195], [2199], [2197], [2201], [2213] and [2215]	6	
2265	Pit	0.72 x 0.58 x 0.13		Circular pit with gently-sloping sides and flattish base	Roman?	Cuts (2002), filled by (2266)	2?	
2266	Pit Fill			Fairly compact mid brown-grey sandy silt	Roman?	Fill of [2265], cut by [2257]	2?	Contained two tiny fragments of Roman tile

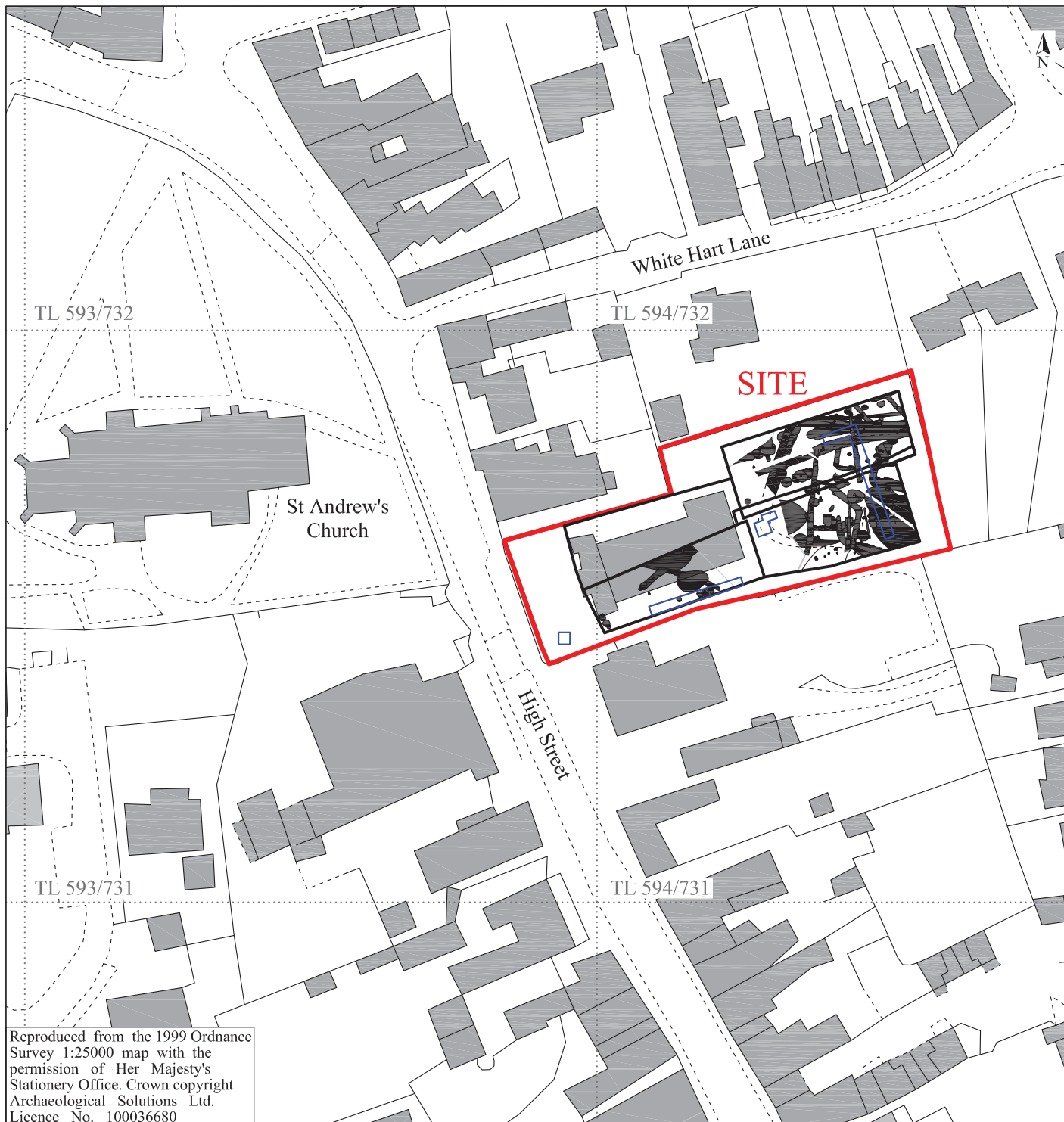
2267	Pit		1.20 x 0.46 x 0.43	Oval pit with steep, undercutting sides and rounded base	C12-13	Cuts (2224) and (2270), filled by (2268)	6	
2268	Pit Fill			Fairly compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt	C12-13	Fill of [2267], sealed by (2001)	6	9 sherds (76g) medieval pottery
2269	Posthole		0.26 x 0.17+ x 0.18+	?Circular posthole with moderately-sloping sides; base truncated	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2270)	U/D	Stratigraphy indicates early medieval or earlier
2270	Posthole Fill			Fairly compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2269], cut by [2267]	U/D	
2271	Pit		0.91 x 0.48+ x 0.46	Oval pit with steep, stepped sides and flat base	C10-12	Cuts (2274), filled by (2276) and (2272)	5.1	Contained two small Thetford ware sherds and slag (120g)
2272	Pit Fill			Fairly compact mid brownish-grey sandy silt	C10-12	Upper Fill of [2271], seals (2276), cut by [2223]	5.1	
2273	Pit		0.90 x 0.75+ x 0.20	Roughly square pit with shallow sides and undulating base	C11-13	Cuts (2002), filled by (2274)	5.1	Heavily-truncated; irregular appearance
2274	Pit Fill			Fairly compact mid brownish-grey sandy silt	C11-13	Fill of [2273], cut by [2271] and [2223]	5.1	Contained a small group of late Saxon/ early medieval sherds including two Ely-type jar rims.
2275	Ditch Fill			Dark brownish-grey sandy silt	C10-12	Basal fill of [2223], sealed by (2224)	5.1	Present in Seg. A only. Contained C10-12/13 pottery.
2276	Pit Fill			Fairly compact dark greyish-brown sandy silt	C10-12	Basal fill of [2271], sealed by (2272)	5.1	
2277	VOID							
2278	Gully		5.6 x 0.56 x 0.31	WNW-ESE aligned gully with moderately-sloping sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2281), filled by (2279)	2?	Re-cut by Gully [2211]. Relationship with Pit [2187] suggests a LIA/ early Roman date
2279	Gully Fill			Loose mid grey-brown/ yellow sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2278], cut by [2211]	2?	
2280	Pit		0.92+ x 0.50+ x 0.30	Truncated pit with moderately-sloping sides and flattish base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2281)	2?	Heavily-truncated. Stratigraphy indicates a LIA/ early Roman or earlier date.
2281	Pit Fill			Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	N/A	Fill of [2280], cut by [2278], [2185] and [2178]	2?	
2282	Pit		0.51 x 0.36 x 0.11	Oval pit with gently-sloping sides and rounded base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2283)	U/D	
2283	Pit Fill			Compact mid greyish-brown silty sand	N/A	Fill of [2282], sealed by (2001)	U/D	
2284	Ditch		13+ x 1.35+ x 0.51	WNW-ESE aligned ditch with moderate rounded/stepped sides and an irregular flattish base	C1	Cuts (2294), filled by (2286) and (2285)	2	Truncated ditch; hard to trace due to depth at which excavation stopped in this part of the SE Quadrant. South-eastward continuation of [2284] was originally identified on site as part of Gully [2293], but based on its width and alignment, this is considered unlikely.
2285	Ditch Fill			Loose mid brown-grey sandy silt	C1	Upper fill of [2284], seals (2286), cut by [2223], [2239] and [2189]	2	Homogenous group of early- to mid-1st-century pottery (17 sherds) incl. sand-and-grog-tempered wheel-made fabrics and a tiny fragment from a Belgic Terra Rubra vesSEL. Also contained 2.5kg of animal bone.
2286	Ditch Fill			Loose light grey silty sand with frequent flints	C1	Lower fill of [2284], sealed by (2285)	2	
2287	Pit		2.40+ x 0.90+ x 0.72	Oval pit with steep sides and flat base	N/A	Cuts (2002), filled by (2288) and (2289)	U/D	
2288	Pit Fill			Loose light yellow-grey/ green silty sand with flint inclusions	N/A	Basal fill of [2287], sealed by (2289)	U/D	
2289	Pit Fill			Loose yellow-grey/ green sandy silt	N/A	Upper fill of [2287], cut by [2290] and [2223]	U/D	

2290	Pit	2+ x 1.8+ x 0.83	?Circular pit with steep sides and flat base	C13-15	Cuts (2289), filled by (2291) and (2292)	U/D	Not a quarry pit, as it was cut directly through the fill of an earlier pit. Two small sherds of late medieval pottery from its upper fill are likely to be intrusive from the extensive modern disturbance to the west. Stratigraphically, it predates well-dated Saxo-Norman Ditch [2223].
	Pit Fill		Loose light brownish-grey/ yellow silty sand	N/A	Basal fill of [2290], sealed by (2292)	U/D	
	Pit Fill		Loose dark greenish grey-brown sandy silt	C13-15	Upper fill of [2290], cut by [2223]	U/D	Pottery likely to be intrusive
2293	Gully	1.5+ x 0.46+ x 0.10	NW-SE aligned gully with steep rounded sides and narrow base	N/A	Cust (2002), filled by (2294)	2?	On site, [2293] was recorded as continuing to the south-eastern baulk, but based on its width and alignment, the SE section is thought more likely to be a continuation of Ditch [2284]. Re-numbered in post-ex.
	Gully Fill		Compact mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent small flints	N/A	Fill of [2293], cut by [2284] and [2223]	2?	2 pieces of struck flint
2295	Pit	0.70 x 0.46+ x 0.19	Circular pit with gently-sloping rounded sides and base	C1	Cust (2002), filled by (2296)	2	Heavily-truncated
	Pit Fill		Mid yellowish-grey sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2295], cut by [2223] and [2299]	2	Small group of pottery incl. handmade shell-tempered and wheel-finished sand-tempered sherds.
2297	Pit	0.67 x 0.37+ x 0.23	?Circular pit with rounded sides and base	C1	Cuts (2002), filled by (2298)	2	Heavily-truncated
	Pit Fill		Fairly compact mid orange-grey sandy silt	C1	Fill of [2297], cut by [2223] and [2299]	2	Contained a small homogenous assemblage (7; 97g) of handmade shell-tempered pottery.
2299	Pit	6 x 3.9+ x 1.05+	?Oval pit with irregular steep/ undercutting sides; base not reached	C13-14	Cuts (2296) and (2298), filled by (2300) and (2301)	6	Medieval quarry pit left open for a time before being deliberately backfilled with cess?
	Pit Fill		Loose dark brownish-grey silt	C13-14	Lower (excavated) fill of [2299], sealed by (2301)	6	
	Pit Fill		Compact dark greenish-grey-brown sandy silt	C13-14	Upper fill of [2299], cut by modern disturbance	6	



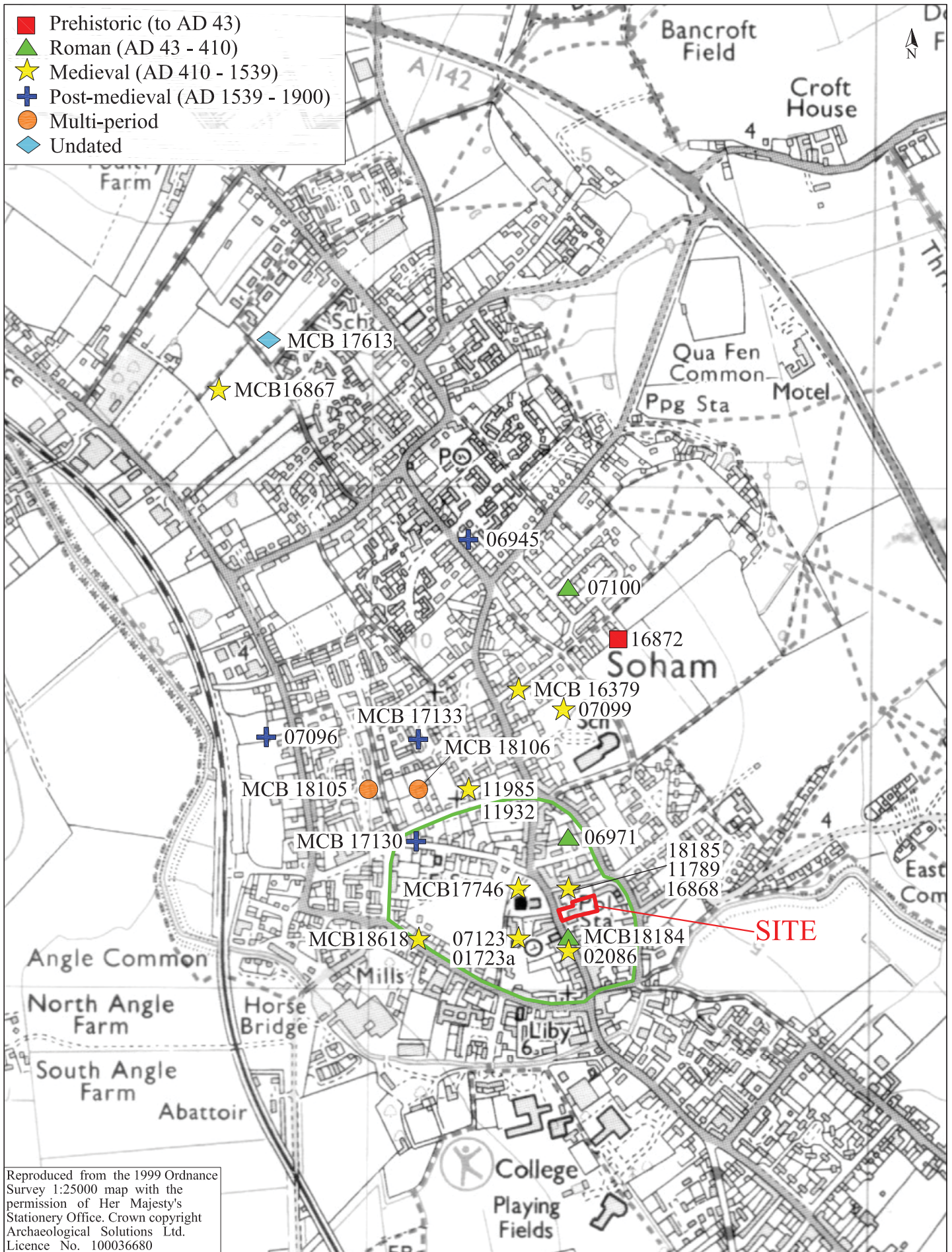
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 50m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



— Possible Middle Saxon monastic precinct (AD 631 - late 9th C)

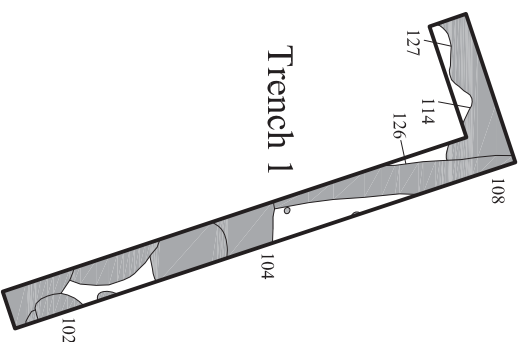
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Fig. 3 HER Data
Scale 1:10,000 at A4



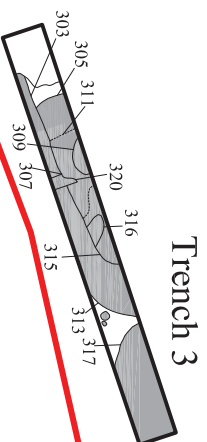
SITE



Trench 2



Trench 1



Trench 3



Trench 4



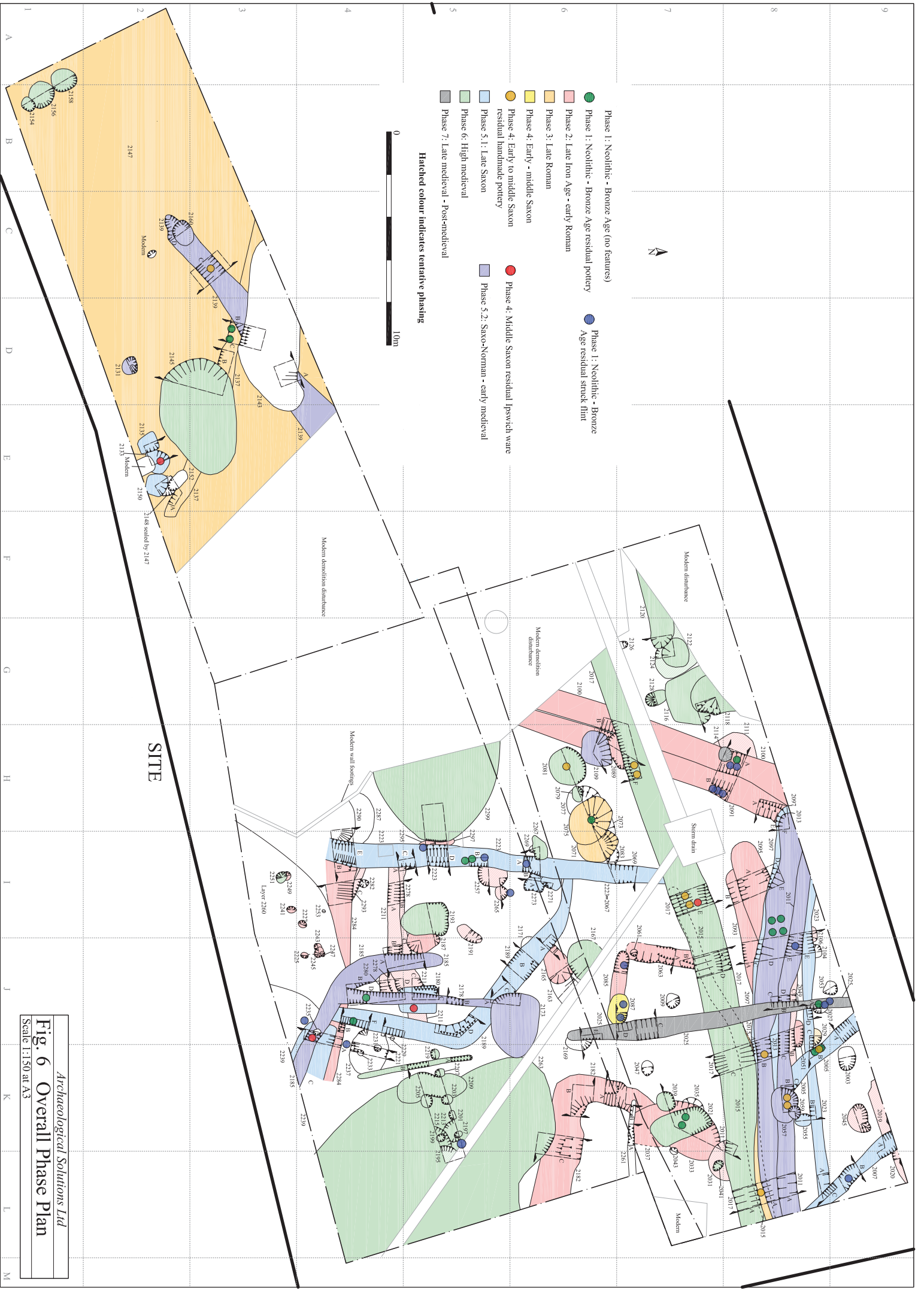
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Fig. 4 Trial trench evaluation

Scale 1:300 at A4



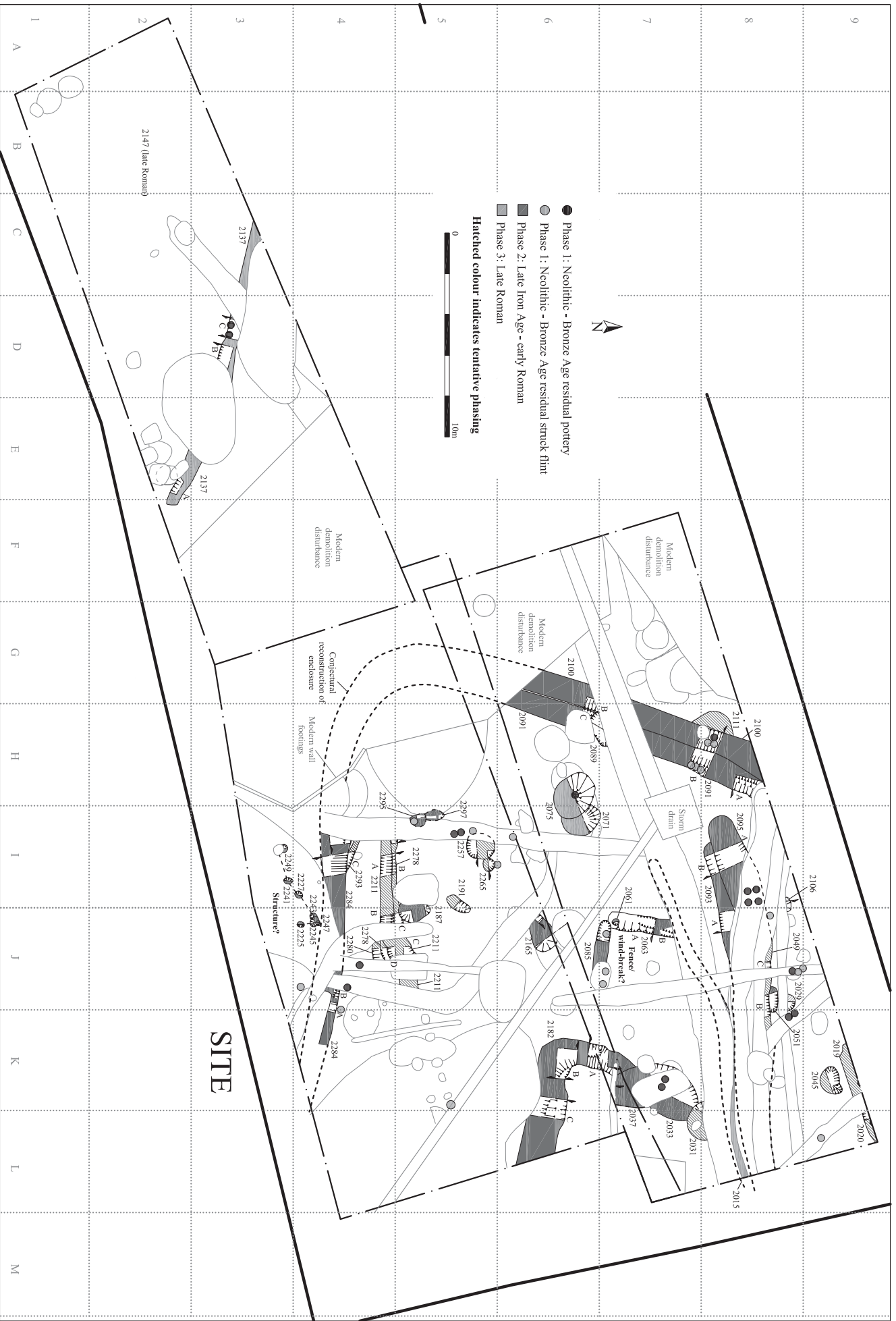
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Fig. 5 Excavation plan
 Scale 1:150 at A3



- Phase 1: Neolithic - Bronze Age (no features)
- Phase 1: Neolithic - Bronze Age residual pottery
- Phase 1: Neolithic - Bronze Age residual struck flint
- Phase 2: Late Iron Age - early Roman
- Phase 3: Late Roman
- Phase 4: Early - middle Saxon residual handmade pottery
- Phase 4: Early to middle Saxon Middle Saxon residual Ipswich ware
- Phase 5.1: Late Saxon
- Phase 5.2: Saxo-Norman - early medieval
- Phase 6: High medieval
- Phase 7: Late medieval - Post-medieval
- Hatched colour indicates tentative phasing



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Fig. 6 Overall Phase Plan
 Scale 1:150 at A3



● Phase 1: Neolithic - Bronze Age residual pottery

● Phase 1: Neolithic - Bronze Age residual struck flint

▨ Phase 2: Late Iron Age - early Roman

■ Phase 3: Late Roman

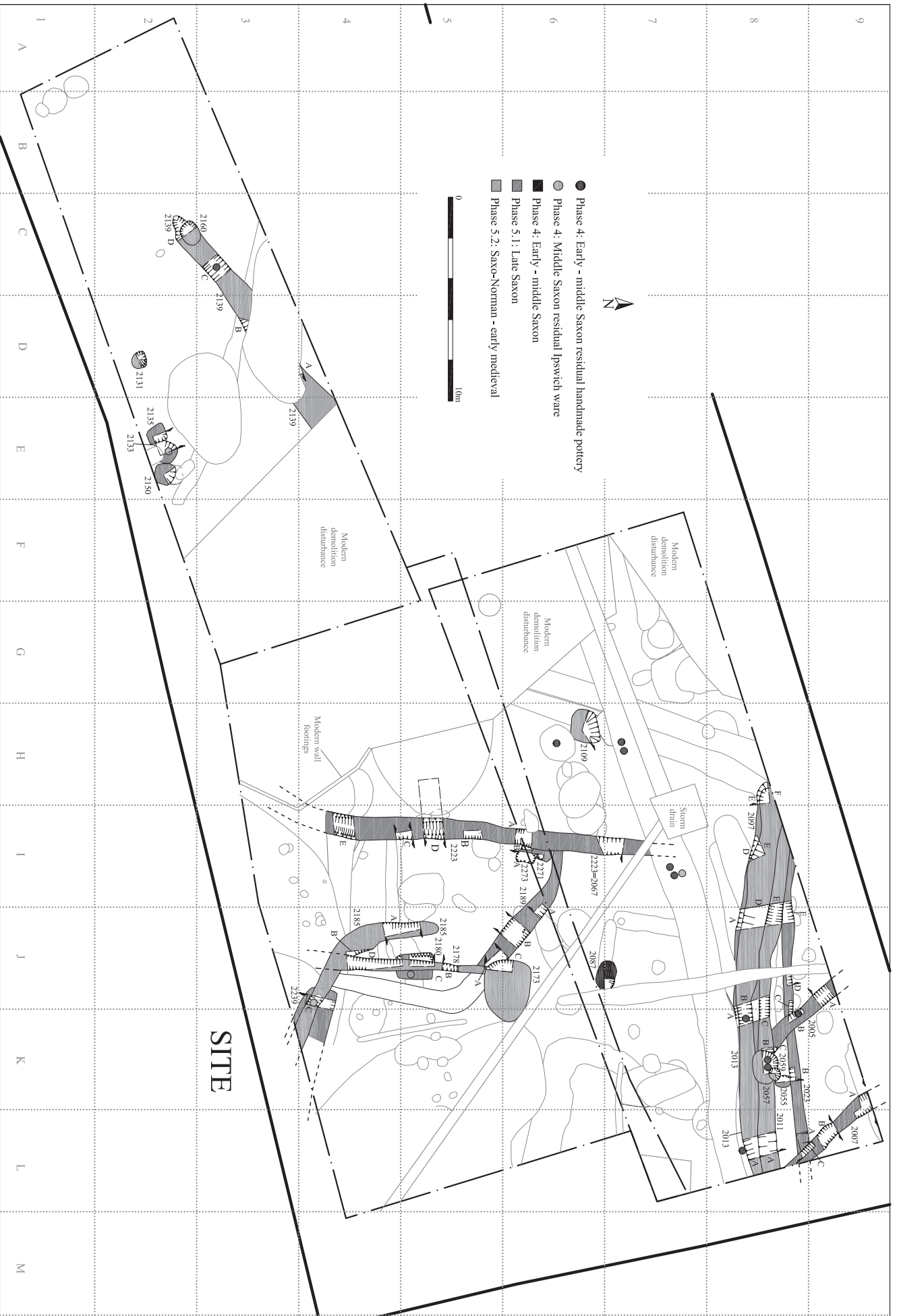
Hatched colour indicates tentative phasing

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SITE

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Fig. 7 Phases 1, 2, and 3 plan
Scale 1:250 at A4



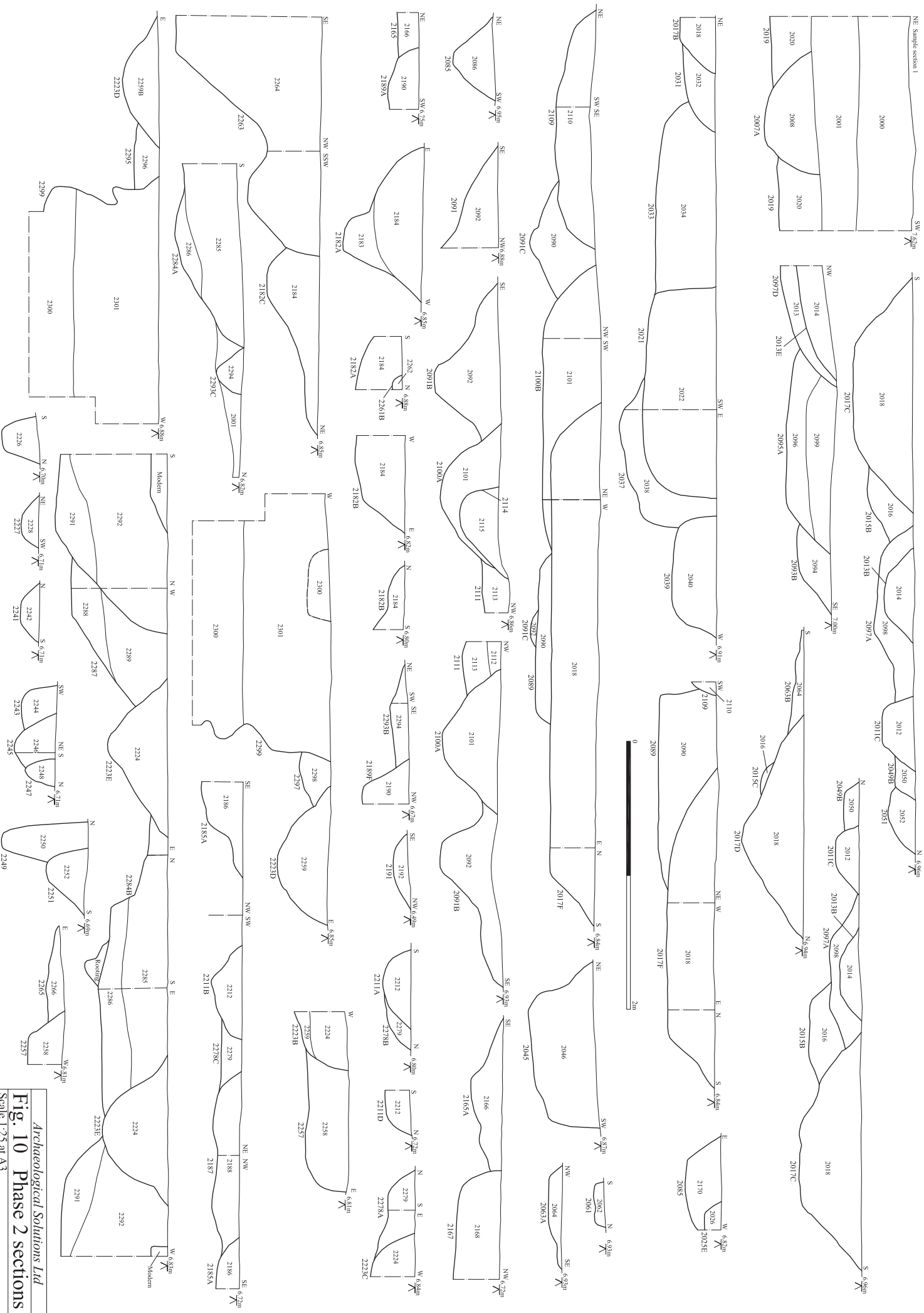
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Fig. 9 Phase 6 plan

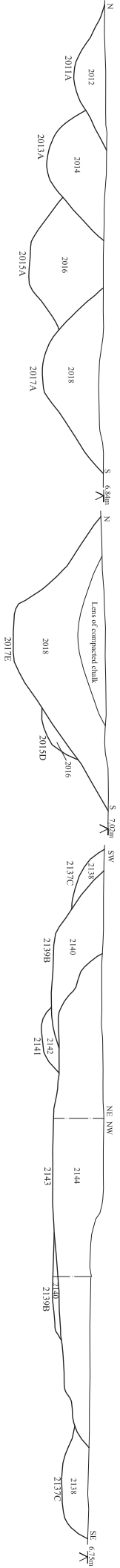
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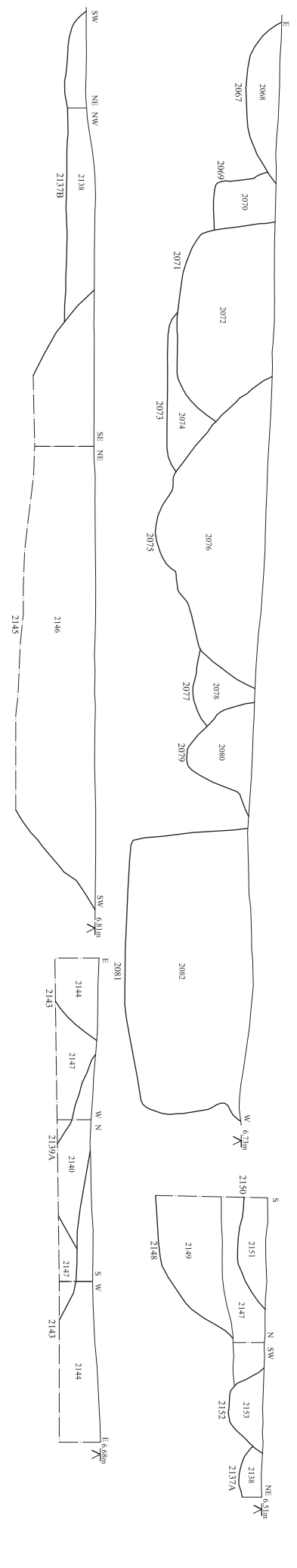


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Fig. 10 Phase 2 sections
 Scale 1:25 at A3

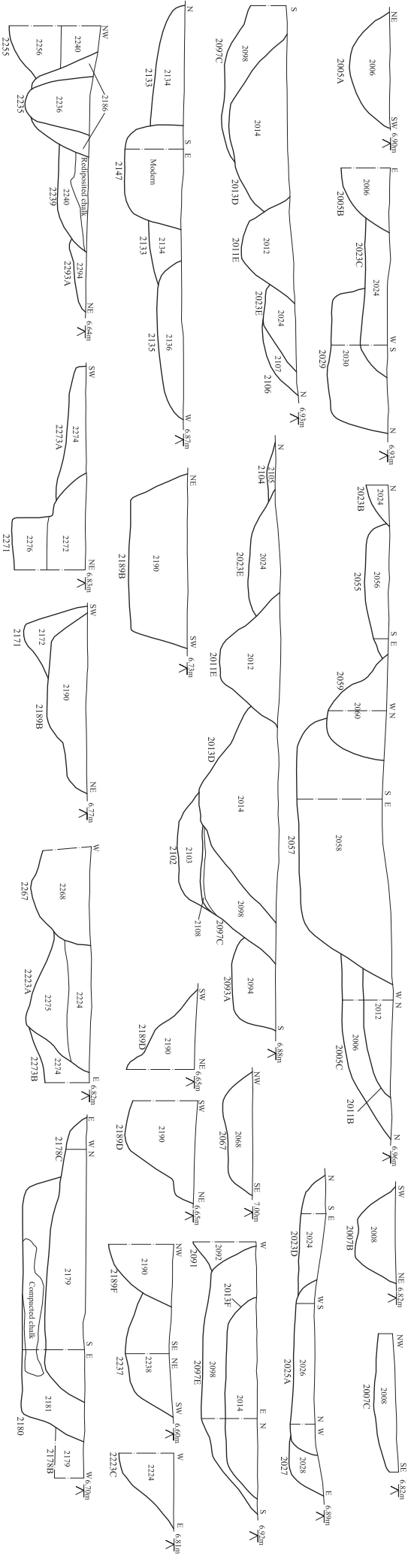
Phase 3: Late Roman



Phase 4: Early - middle Saxon

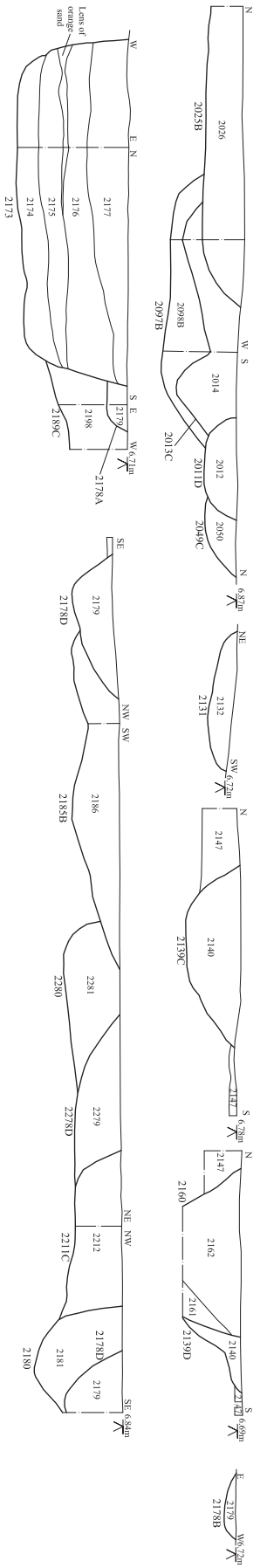


Phase 5.1: Late Saxon

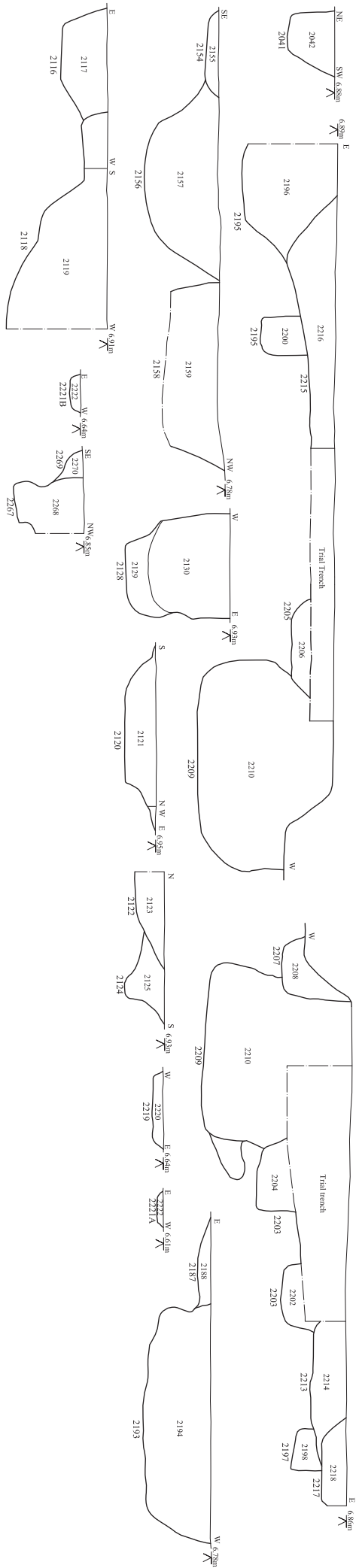


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Fig. 11 Phase 3, 4, & 5.1 sections
Scale 1:25 at A3

Phase 5.2: Saxo-Norman - early medieval



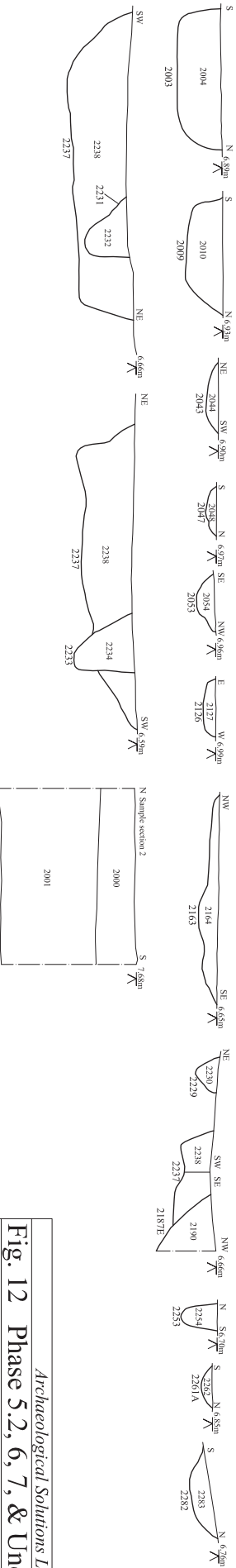
Phase 6: High medieval



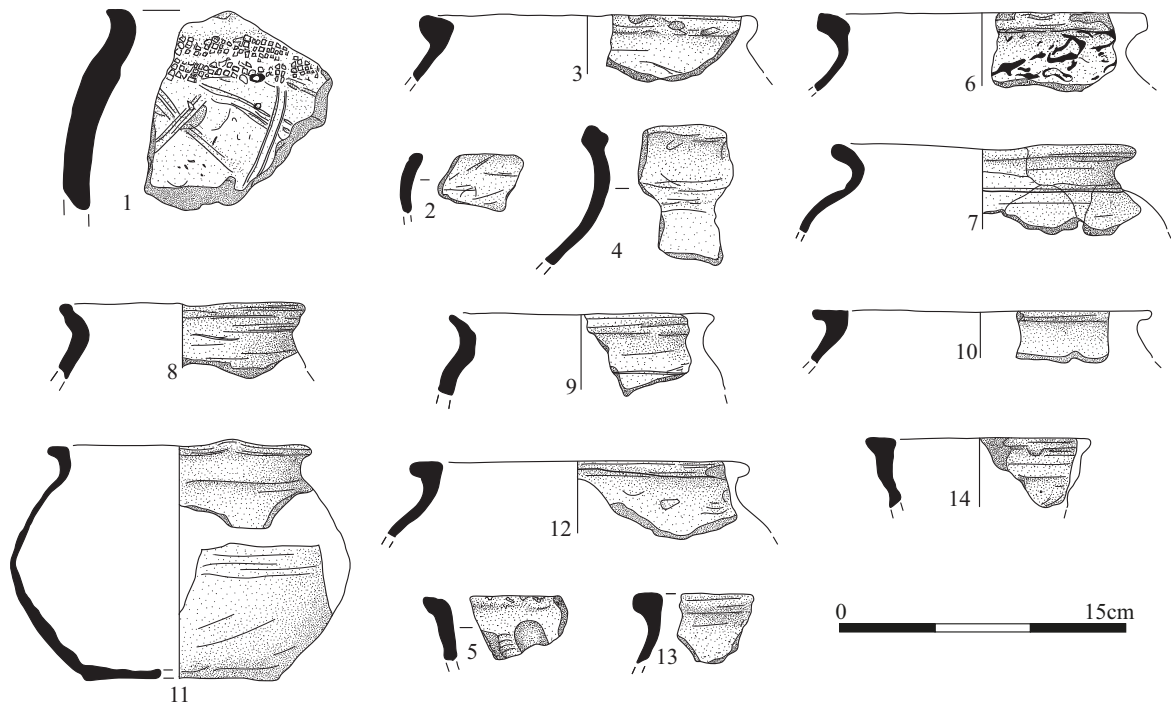
Phase 7: Late medieval - Post-medieval



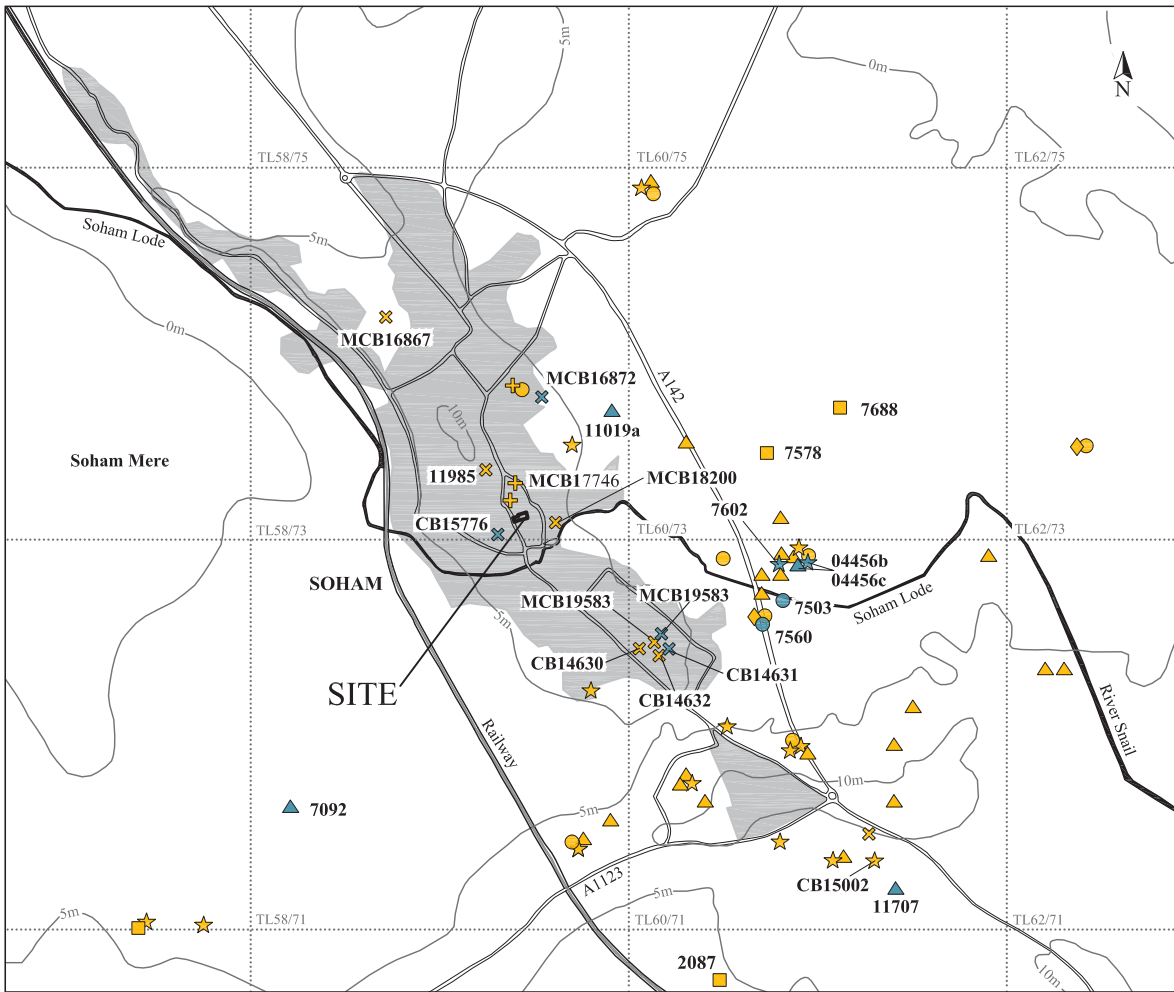
Undated



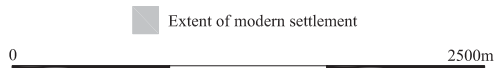
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Fig. 12 Phase 5.2, 6, 7, & Undated sections
 Scale 1:25 at A3



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Fig. 13 Pottery illustrations
Scale 1:4 at A4



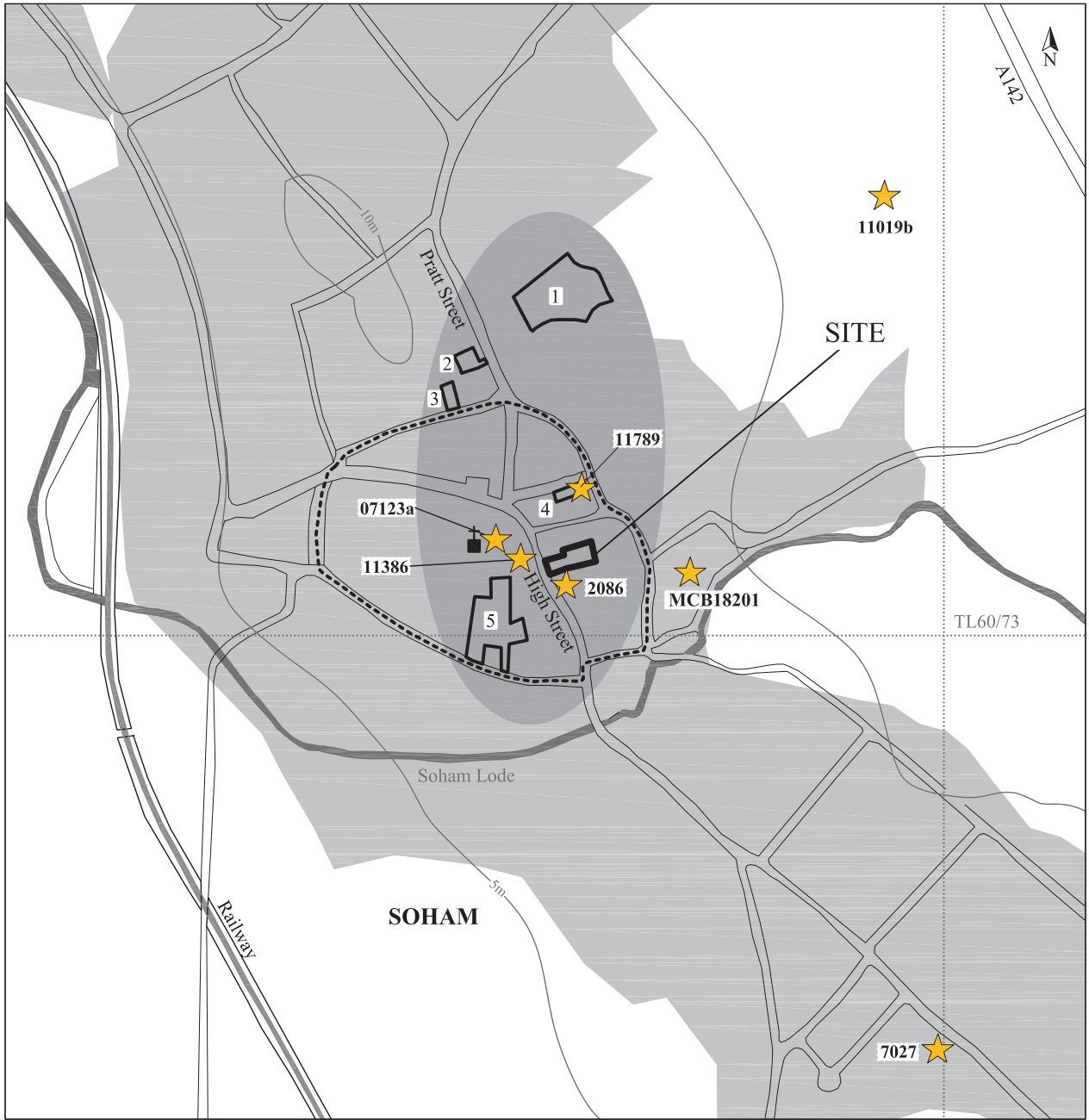
- | Roman HER points | Iron Age HER points |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ✚ Burial | ✚ Excavated features |
| ✘ Excavated features | ★ Coins |
| ★ Coins | ▲ Metalwork |
| ▲ Metalwork | ● Pottery |
| ● Pottery | |
| ■ Building | |
| ◆ Other | |



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Fig. 14 Iron Age and Roman Soham

Scale 1:40000 at A4



- ★ Anglo-Saxon HER points
- Monastic enclosure?
- Area of late Saxon/
Saxo-Norman settlement
- Extent of modern settlement

0 500m

- 1: The Weatheralls Primary School (HER 07099, MCB19459)
- 2: 9-13 Pratt Street (HER 11932)
- 3: 38 Station Road (HER 11985)
- 4: 8 Market Street (HER MCB16868)
- 5: St Andrew's House/ Clay Street (HER CB15776)

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Fig. 15 Anglo-Saxon Soham

Scale 1:10,000 at A4