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**9 LONDON ROAD, GREAT CHESTERFORD,
ESSEX**

RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

Authors: Andrew A. S. Newton, Gareth Barlow and Peter Thompson	
NGR: TL 50536 42512	Report No: 5101
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: GC59
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P5881
Signed:	Date: 26 April 2016

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	9 London Road, Great Chesterfield, Essex		
<p><i>In November 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR TL 50536 42512). It followed an initial programme of trial trenching. The site lies within the area of the Roman cemetery lining London road (EHER 4948, 4949) associated with the contemporary walled town at Great Chesterford which is a Scheduled Monument (SM 24871). The earlier Roman town was associated with a walled enclosure around the church. A second walled enclosure was noted to the south of Newmarket Road, thought to follow the northern churchyard wall. It is thought to be either a military fortification pre-dating the Roman town, or part of the additional defences constructed in the 4th century AD.</i></p> <p><i>The presence of four graves shows that this site was within the boundary of the south-western cemetery of Great Chesterford. That all the burials were present to the south-west of a substantial ditch suggests that this ditch may have formed the boundary to the cemetery in this location. Sometime after the cemetery had gone out of use a Sunken-Featured Building (SFB) was constructed across the boundary ditch. Architecturally, this structure is suggestive of an early Anglo-Saxon population; Roman artefacts present in its fill might indicate an early Saxon community living alongside a post-Roman Romano-British community or an expression of the Anglo-Saxons' inherent interest in the past.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	November 2015		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P5789	Site code	GC 59
Type of project	An archaeological excavation		
Site status			
Current land use	Dwelling and associated land plot/garden		
Planned development	Two replacement dwellings		
Main features (+dates)	Inhumation burials		
Significant finds(+dates)	Roman coins, Roman pottery		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Uttlesford	Great Chesterford
HER/ SMR for area	Essex HER		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	Approx. 700m ²		
NGR	TL 50536 42512		
Height AOD (max/ min)	Approximately 38m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Essex County Council HEA		
Project Supervisor	Gareth Barlow		
Funded by	JMJ Construction		
Full title	9 London Road, Great Chesterfield, Essex. An Archaeological Excavation. Research Archive Report		
Authors	Newton, A. A. S.		
Report no.	5101		
Date (of report)	April 2016		

9 LONDON ROAD, GREAT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

SUMMARY

In November 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR TL 50536 42512). It followed an initial programme of trial trenching. The site lies within the area of the Roman cemetery lining London road (EHER 4948, 4949) associated with the contemporary walled town at Great Chesterford which is a Scheduled Monument (SM 24871). The earlier Roman town was associated with a walled enclosure around the church. A second walled enclosure was noted to the south of Newmarket Road, thought to follow the northern churchyard wall. It is thought to be either a military fortification pre-dating the Roman town, or part of the additional defences constructed in the 4th century AD.

The presence of four graves shows that this site was within the boundary of the south-western cemetery of Great Chesterford. That all the burials were present to the south-west of a substantial ditch suggests that this ditch may have formed the boundary to the cemetery in this location. Sometime after the cemetery had gone out of use a Sunken-Featured Building (SFB) was constructed across the boundary ditch. Architecturally, this structure is suggestive of an early Anglo-Saxon population; Roman artefacts present in its fill might indicate an early Saxon community living alongside a post-Roman Romano-British community or an expression of the Anglo-Saxons' inherent interest in the past.

1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR TL 50536 42512; Figs. 1 – 2). It followed an initial programme of trial trenching. The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct a replacement dwelling and an additional new dwelling to the rear of the site, following demolition of the existing dwelling (Planning Ref. UTT/14/1341), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (HEA ECC).

1.2 The excavation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by ECC HEA *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation Trenching and Excavation at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford*, dated 23rd July 2014), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 24th September 2015), and approved by ECC HEA. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Chartered

Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014).

1.3 The primary aim of the excavation was to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the surviving areas of the site, and to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings and scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Description of the site

2.1.1 The site is located on the south-western side of London Road, in the south-western part of Great Chesterford. It comprised a bungalow on the street frontage with garden plot to the rear.

2.2 Topography, geology and Soils

2.2.1 Great Chesterford is located on the north-west boundary between Essex and Cambridgeshire and is 15km south of Cambridge. It lies on well-drained terraces above the River Cam at 37m AOD, and is flanked by chalk hills rising to 90m AOD, with the site located at approximately 38-9m AOD (Medlycott 1999).

2.2.2 The soils of the valley slope are well drained coarse and fine loamy soils with similar shallow calcareous coarse loamy soils over chalk, or chalk rubble in places. On the valley floor peat is present in places caused by flooding. The solid geology comprises Cretaceous Middle Chalk.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Introduction

2.3.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), within the area of the Roman cemetery associated with the contemporary walled town at Great Chesterford. The site lies immediately south of the Scheduled Ancient Monument area of the 4th century Roman walled town (SM 24871). The development of the settlement is detailed in the historic town assessment report for Great Chesterford (Medlycott 1999) and the recent publication report for the Roman town (Medlycott 2011a). The latter identifies the current site as being within the area of the Roman cemetery outside the settlement, where a number of excavations and find spots record Roman burials. The Essex HER notes Roman burials along London Road (EHER 4948).

Prehistoric

2.3.2 There is quite abundant evidence for prehistoric activity from the Mesolithic period onwards within the environs of the town. In particular, a Bronze Age barrow is located on the site of the later Roman town as is evidence for late Iron Age settlement (Medlycott 1999). Two prehistoric worked flints were found during removal of topsoil 65m south-east of No. 9 London Road (EHER 13929).

Romano-British

2.3.3 Archaeological evidence suggests that Trinovantian Essex was already highly Romanised by the time of the invasion. This fact explains the apparent lack of Claudian forts in the area. An early Roman settlement was built just to the north of the modern town of Great Chesterford shortly after the Conquest. A small fort was established at Great Chesterford, probably in response to the revolt of Boudica in 60-61AD, as part of a network of forts maintaining a watchful military presence. This strategically placed fort controlled the river

Cam, Ermine Street and the Icknield Way into East Anglia (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 138-142). Over the last 50 years, archaeological investigations have revealed the shape and extent of this fort. (Rodwell 1972: 290-293; Eddy 1980: 42) The fort would have covered an area of c. 9.9ha.

2.3.4 The fort was abandoned around the end of the 1st century. The settlement expanded into the area of the abandoned fort, and during the second century reached urban status. It went through a period of decline during the third century before expanding again in the fourth century, culminating in the building of the town walls, making it one of only two walled towns in Essex, the other being Colchester. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 24871).

2.3.5 The extent of the urban area of Roman Great Chesterford has been well characterised and the locations of five cemeteries and a Roman temple have been identified around its outer margins, along with ribbon development along the main roads, some of it industrial in nature (www.unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk). The earlier Roman town was associated with a walled enclosure around the church. Antiquarian observations in the 18th century noted a second walled enclosure to the south of Newmarket Road, thought to follow the northern churchyard wall. The enclosure is believed to be either a military fortification pre-dating the Roman town, or part of the additional defences constructed in the 4th century AD.

2.3.6 In 1823, several Roman vases were found close to the location of the later railway. In 1934 gravel extraction in the same area found remains of a Roman cemetery containing skeletons and urns. In 1971, more bones were found in the area, and a Roman building is also reported. These finds are given a central grid reference 90m west of No. 9, and are within its assigned polygon that includes No. 9 (EHER 4948). However, an archaeological watching brief for an extension to the house immediately to the north-west of Number 9, found no archaeological remains to be present (EHER 45213). Several skeletons (undated but probably Roman), are also recorded during gravel digging at a central grid reference of 180m east of No. 9, in an area to the rear (north) of houses fronting London Road (EHER 4949).

Anglo-Saxon

2.3.7 There was a large settled Anglo-Saxon population at Great Chesterford from the end of the Roman period until at least the 7th century, indicated by evidence from burials. The location of the settlement itself is uncertain, but it may have been the one identified at Hinxton Hall, Cambridgeshire. In the later Saxon period the settlement was probably on the same site as the later medieval (and current) town (www.unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk). A metal pin dated to the middle Saxon period was found in the same area as the Roman cemetery to the west of No. 9 (EHER 51196).

Medieval and Post-Medieval

2.3.7 Great Chesterford was reasonably prosperous during the medieval period, largely due to the cloth trade. It was also a royal manor. The layout of the tofts within the town, and on its outskirts, are Midlands in style, with the main dwelling set back from the road. The post-medieval period was a time of decline for Great Chesterford, mainly because of the collapse of the cloth trade. However, there was some trade from passing traffic due to the road link with Newmarket and Cambridge, and to the London-Cambridge railway (EHER 40893). The main railway station building was built in the mid 19th century by Francis Thompson (EHER 25374). Great Chesterford is now largely a commuter village for Cambridge.

Previous Investigations

2.3.8 Trial trenching at 5 London Road to the north has identified evidence of quarrying which potentially could date to the Roman period, but is probably later (EHER 47068). Only a preponderance of modern finds were present suggesting that the quarry was not fully backfilled until the 20th century. The absence of prehistoric to medieval finds suggests that either they were all completely quarried out, or that there was no settlement in this area during those periods. Cropmarks of a rectilinear system of paddock enclosures and a trackway have been identified from aerial photographs in an area that reaches to within 220m east of No. 9 (EHER 4866).

2.3.9 The current site has previously been subject to an initial phase of trial trench evaluation (Barlow 2015). In summary:

Two trial trenches were excavated; one in the area of the proposed drive and one in the footprint of the proposed new house plot in the southern part of the site (Trench 2).

Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds. Trench 2 contained Ditches F1003 and F1008, and ?Flue F1005. The features contained Roman (generally early 2nd - 4th century) pottery, some CBM, animal bone and iron fragments.

Ditch F1008 (L1010) contained four fragments (867g) of Roman tegula roof tile in a moderately abraded condition (CBM Report below). Interestingly the specialist notes, 'the flanged fragment appears partially burnt, therefore the tile may have been incorporated into a nearby structure with a hypocaust heating system, or may have been used to construct the flue or superstructure of a hearth, oven or kiln in the vicinity'. F1005 was interpreted on site as a possible flue and this partially burnt tile supports this suggestion. Also the pottery report (below) notes that sherds from F1005 (L1006) were all over-fired, and again this supports the interpretation of F1005 as a flue.

Residual prehistoric sparse struck flint was found and also a residual prehistoric sherd of possible Bronze Age/Iron Age date was found within Roman Ditch F1003.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Following the results of the initial trial trenching, ECC required an area of c.10m x 10m proposed for the new house plot/patio in the southern part of the site to be stripped of topsoil where remains were present in the trial trench and to be subject to further open area excavation.

3.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

4.1 Phasing (Fig. 3)

A total of 17 archaeological features were recorded during the programme or archaeological 'strip, map and sample' investigation. On the basis of dateable artefactual evidence, stratigraphic relationships, and clear functional and spatial relationships with other features, the excavated features have been divided in to three distinct phases of archaeological activity.

The earliest phase occurred in Romano-British period and comprised four inhumation graves and contemporary features. The second phase of activity can be dated to the Anglo-Saxon period and represents domestic activity in the form of a *Grubenhaus* or sunken-featured building (SFB). The third phase of activity represents modern activity and is represented by a single pit.

Phase	Date	Description
1	Romano-British	Four inhumation graves, a boundary ditch possibly representing the cemetery boundary, a possible floor surface, and part of a hearth or oven
2	Anglo-Saxon	A sunken-featured building containing Roman pottery
3	Modern	A single sub-circular pit
-	Unphased	A possibly natural spread of friable, brownish orange sandy silt with occasional flint nodules

Table 1: Summary of phasing

4.2 Phase 1: Romano-British (Figs 3 and 4)

Introduction

The Romano-British archaeology comprised a single ditch (F2005=F2012), a pit (F2002), a layer or buried soil deposit (L2007), and four graves (F2014, F2017, F2020, and F2023). The graves and Pit F2002 were all arranged to the south-west of the Ditch F2005=F2012.

Ditch F2005=F2012 (Fig. 3)

Ditch F2005=F2012 (14.50+ x 0.60 x 0.32m) followed a north-west to south-east alignment, terminating in the south-eastern part of the excavated area. It had very steeply sloping sides and a flat base; the terminus was rounded. Its fill (L2006=L2013) was a mid orangey grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular, sub-angular, and sub-rounded flints. It contained pottery (24/245g), struck flint (30g), and burnt flint (9g).

The positions of the other Romano-British features in relation to this ditch suggest that it represents a boundary feature enclosing the activity that these other features represent.

Pit F2002 (Fig. 3)

F2002 was an oval pit (1.10 x 0.72 x 0.87m) located in the centre of the site adjacent to the south-western edge of Ditch F2005=F2012. It had steep sloping sides and a concave base. Its lower fill (L2004) was a firm, dark grey sandy silt with occasional sub-angular and rounded flint, and moderate charcoal. It contained pottery (18/108g). The upper fill (L2003) was a firm, mix of mid grey-brown and mid orange-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained Roman tile fragments (1093g) and an Fe object (6g).

During the Trial Trench Evaluation (Barlow 2015) of the site, the north-eastern part of this pit was excavated at the edge of the trench. At this time it was interpreted as a possible flue. Full excavation now shows this not to be the case. Reddening of the natural substrate around the sides is suggestive of *in situ* burning; however, the absence of a clay lining suggests that interpretation as a kiln is inaccurate. A hearth is the more likely interpretation.

Layer 2007 (Fig. 3)

L2007 (4.00+ x 4.20+ x 0.40m) was a possible buried soil or sub-soil cut by ditch F2012 and SFB F2031. It comprised a firmish, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints. It contained pottery (23/240g), animal bone (227g), and CBM (198g).

The Graves (Figs 3 and 4)

The four graves (F2014, F2017, F2020, and F2023) were located to the south-west of Ditch F2005=F2012. Two of the graves (F2014 and F2023) were positioned on a north-west to south-east alignment, immediately adjacent to one another. It is possible that this demonstrates some kind of kinship link between the two individuals. Sk 1, the burial present in F2014, was that of a woman of approximately 35-50 years of age. Sk 4, the burial recorded in Grave F2023, was that of a man aged 45+ years.

Slightly to the south-east of these features was Grave F2017, which was aligned north-east to south-west. The human remains contained within this grave were badly damaged with only a few teeth and skull fragments present. This was an infant burial, Sk 2 would have been approximately 5 years old, and this, to some extent, may account for the poor preservation of this skeleton.

Four meters to the south-east of Grave F2017 lay Grave F2020. This was arranged on a similar alignment to that of the infant burial with the head of the individual to the north-east and the feet to the south-west. This was a male of c. 35-45 years of age.

Grave F2014 Adult Skeleton SK 1 (Plate 1)

Age	Adult c.35-50 years
Sex	Female
Stature	1.665m (5' 5")
Grave Dimensions	Length: 1.74m; Width 0.68m; Depth 0.10m
Orientation	NW/SE
Shape of Grave	Elongated oval with gentle sloping sides and flattish base
Fill	L2016. Mid brownish-grey silty sand with moderate small and medium angular/sub-angular flint.
Skeletal Position	Supine extended. Skull at northwest end turned to face north-east. Left arm down by side, hand over pelvis. Right arm down by side, hand alongside pelvis. Legs straight.
Bones Present	Skeleton in moderate condition. Much of skull is missing, only fragments remain. Both feet are missing. Rib cage mostly absent.
Grave Goods	None
 Finds	Pottery (4/10g), struck flint (3g).
Notes	Lies adjacent to north-east side of Grave F2023.

Table 2. Grave F2014

Grave F2017 Infant Skeleton SK 2

Age	Infant c. 5 years
Sex	Unknown
Stature	Unknown
Grave Dimensions	Length: 0.45m; Width 0.25m; Depth 0.02m
Orientation	E/W
Shape of Grave	Sub rectangular with gentle sloping sides and flattish base
Fill	L2019. Mid brownish orange sandy silt with moderate small and medium sub-angular and rounded flint
Skeletal Position	Unknown
Bones Present	Skeleton in very poor condition. Only small number of teeth and a few small skull fragments remain.
Grave Goods	None
Finds	None
Notes	-

Table 3. Grave F2017

Grave F2020 Adult Skeleton SK 3 (Plate 2)

Age	Adult c. 35-45 years
Sex	Male
Stature	1.684m (5' 6")
Grave Dimensions	Length: 1.98m; Width 0.94m; Depth 0.12m
Orientation	NE/SW
Shape of Grave	Sub rectangular with gentle sloping sides and flattish base
Fill	L2022. Mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium sub-angular and rounded flint
Skeletal Position	Supine extended. Skull at northeast end. Left arm down by side, hand under pelvis. Right arm is flexed, hand on right clavical. Left leg slightly bent with knee out to left. Both feet placed to the left of the line of the spine.
Bones Present	Skeleton in moderate condition. Much of skull is missing, only fragments remain. Right leg is missing, although foot is present. Missing elements of the front rib cage.
Grave Goods	None
Finds	Pottery (4/10g), oyster shell (4g).
Notes	-

Table 4. Grave F2020

Grave F2023 Adult Skeleton SK 4 (Plate 1)

Age	Adult 45+ years
Sex	Male
Stature	1.746m (5' 9")
Grave Dimensions	Length: 1.72m; Width 0.60m; Depth 0.12m
Orientation	NW/SE
Shape of Grave	Elongated oval with gentle sloping sides and shallow concave base.
Fill	L2025. Dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium sub-angular and rounded flint
Skeletal Position	Supine extended. Skull at northwest end. Right arm down by side. Left arm is flexed 90° across body. Right leg slightly bent with knee out to left.
Bones Present	Skeleton in moderate - poor condition. Much of skull is missing, only fragments remain. Left leg, both hands, both feet, and majority of torso

	are missing.
Grave Goods	(SF1) Silver siliqua of Arcadius AD395 – 402, with Roma on reverse. Minted in Milan. Placed next to knee.
Finds	Struck flint (2g).
Notes	Lies adjacent to south-west side of Grave F2014.

Table 5. Grave F2023

4.3 Phase 2. Early Anglo-Saxon (Fig. 3)

A single coherent and inter-related group of features was assigned to Phase 2 on the basis of their stratigraphic relationship with a late Roman feature and because the form of the group may be considered to be representative of a distinctive Anglo-Saxon architectural tradition.

SFB 2031 was constructed over the top of Phase 1 Ditch F2012, cutting the earlier feature. It was sub square in plan (3.30 x 3.10 x 0.33m) with vertical sides and a flat base. Six structural postholes (Table 6) were recorded in association with this structure but their positioning suggests that further such features would have been present. On this basis, it appears that SFB 2031 was a 'six-post derivative (B1)'-type SFB (West 1985) or possibly a *Wandpfostenhaus* according to Ahrens' (1966, 202-229) typology. Alternatively, of course, the arrangement of the postholes in this structure may be the result of structural modification, repair and/or replacement (Tipper 2004, 68).

SFB 2031 contained a single fill (L2032), suggesting that it was backfilled in a single event, comprising a firm, dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained a copper alloy brooch pin (SF2), a Roman copper alloy coin (SF3), pottery (199/2876g), animal bone (2128g) and CBM (4485g) in addition to small quantities of struck flint, oyster shell, slag, burnt flint, fired clay and an Fe object. It is interesting to note that despite the typological identification of this structure as Anglo-Saxon in origin, the entirety of the dateable artefactual assemblage from SFB2031 indicates a late Romano-British date.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill	Location	Finds
F2008	L2009	Circular, very steep sides, flat base (0.31 x 0.31 x 0.24m)	Friable, dark brownish grey sandy clay with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint.	North corner	None
F2010	L2011	Circular, very steep sides, flat base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.54m)	Friable, dark brownish grey sandy clay.	Centre, north-west side.	None
F2029	L2030	Oval, vertical northeast side, moderate sloping southwest side, flat base. (0.64 x 0.40 x 0.17m)	Firm, dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small angular flints and charcoal flecks.	North-west end, south-west side	Pottery (8/81g), animal bone (18g)

F2033	L2034	Circular, vertical sides, flat base. (0.25 x 0.25 x 0.16m)	Firm, dark brownish grey silty sand with occasional small angular flints and charcoal flecks.	Centre, south-west side.	Pottery (1/12g)
F2035	L2036	Circular, vertical sides, flat base. (0.32 x 0.32 x 0.38m)	Friable, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small angular flints.	South corner.	None
F2037	L2038	Circular, vertical sides, flat base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.30m)	Firmish, mid orangey grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.	Centre, north-east side.	None
F2039	L2040	Circular, vertical sides, flat base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.45m)	Firmish, mid orangey grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.	East corner	None

Table 6: Postholes in SFB (F2031).

4.4 Phase 3: Modern (Fig. 3)

A single feature of modern origin was recorded in the northern corner of the excavated area. F2027 was a sub-circular pit (1.50 x 1.50 x 0.19m) with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L2028) was a firm, dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and rounded flints. It contained CBM (17g), burnt bone (8g), an Fe fragment (1g), modern glass (17g), and asbestos.

4.5 Unphased deposit (Fig. 3)

Recorded extending in a south-westerly direction from beyond the north-eastern limit of the excavated area, L2026 was a probable natural spread of friable, brownish orange sandy silt with occasional flint nodules. It contained no finds.

4.6 Deposit model

The uppermost deposit recorded across the excavation area was Topsoil L2000, a friable, dark to mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (0.27 - 0.30m thick). L2000 overlay the natural substrate L2001, a firm, mid brown orange sandy silt with occasional small to medium angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.

4.7 Confidence rating

It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or the recovery of finds during the excavation.

5 SPECIALISTS ARTEFACT AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

5.1 The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Excavations recovered a total of 12 pieces (110g) of struck flint in an un-patinated, sharp condition (Table 7); however, the struck flint was recovered as residual material from Roman contexts with technological traits that indicate mixed prehistoric origins, spanning the Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

Flint implement/flake type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Side Scraper	1	31
Blade	2	5
Debitage: blade-like flakes	5	14
Debitage: broad-squat flakes	4	60
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>110</i>

Table 7. Quantification of struck flint

Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments. Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9). 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' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex.

Discussion

The bulk of the assemblage appears consistent with the soft-hammer blade technology that is characteristic of early Neolithic assemblages across East Anglia. Single blades of 35-40mm length were contained in the backfills of Graves F2014 and F2023, with the former exhibiting traces of wear on one lateral edge. Furthermore the blade-like debitage, which is very close to the proportions of true blades, supports the presence of core reduction and blade production on or close to the site, with three flakes from a single core, very close to re-fitting in SFB 2031. These are also associated with the only re-touched implement, a side scraper with semi-invasive retouch that is likely to be contemporary. The remaining flakes comprise a range of tertiary and un-corticated debitage with broad, squat profiles, and traits that indicate they were removed by hard-hammer percussion, including pronounced bulbs, hinged and overshoot terminations. This suggests they are more likely to have been produced in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age, but based on isolated residual flakes this remains a limited conclusion.

5.2 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Excavations recovered a total of 264 sherds (3642g) of pottery, predominantly moderately abraded early Iron Age sherds (Table 9) in the Darmsden-Linton ceramic style, albeit contained in late Roman features. The Roman pottery is dominated by late Roman fabric types, notably coarse wares from Much Hadham, including a fragment of face flagon, and fine wares imported from the major regional centres of the Lower Nene Valley and Oxfordshire that collectively suggest a date in the mid to late 4th century AD. The highest concentration of Roman pottery was within a building, with further sherds contained in graves and ditches, probably associated with activity around the south-western extramural settlement and cemetery, associated with the town to the north.

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight (g), with fabrics analysed at x20 magnification, and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive. Where possible fabric and form types have been cross-referenced with the type-series for Great Chesterford (Martin 2011), which utilises form types after the type series for Chelmsford (Going 1987). Fabrics are also cross-referenced with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998) and samian ware forms reference Webster (1996). The pottery fabrics are described (Table 8) and quantified (Table 9)

Fabric Code	Chelmsford Fabric*	Fabric Description
<i>Prehistoric</i>		
Q1	na	Black, sometimes with a dark red-brown to grey core. Inclusions comprise common angular quartz (0.2-0.5mm) with sparse polycrystalline grains (<2mm) and occasional argillaceous red-brown grains (<2.5mm). Relatively hard and fairly smooth to the touch. Early Iron Age
<i>Roman</i>		
LEZ SA2	60	Lezoux samian ware 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 32)
NVC	2	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118: LNV CC)
HAX	4	Hadham Oxidised ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 151: HAD OX)
OXRC	3	Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 176: OXF RS)
GROG	53	Grog-tempered reduced ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214)
BSW	45	Miscellaneous Black-Surfaced Wares
GRS	47	Sandy Grey Ware
HAG	36	Hadham Grey ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 152: HAD RE1)

Table 8. Prehistoric and Roman pottery fabric descriptions

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
<i>Prehistoric</i>			
Q1	222	3229	0.50
<i>Roman</i>			
LEZ SA2	7	39	0.00
NVC	1	7	0.00
HAX	3	21	0.10
OX RC	1	24	0.05
GROG	1	2	0.00
BSW	4	22	0.00
GRS	19	185	0.10
HAG	6	113	0.10
<i>Total</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>3642</i>	<i>0.85</i>

Table 9. Quantification of prehistoric and Roman pottery

Commentary

The prehistoric pottery occurs in a single medium-coarse sand-tempered fabric (Q1) that is identified by form and decorative traits as dating to the early Iron Age, consistent with a trend away from flint-tempered fabrics as the late Bronze Age progresses to sand-tempered fabrics in early Iron Age assemblages in Essex and adjacent regions (Brown 1988, 269). Despite the absence of flint temper, fabric Q1 is not a fine ware, typically exhibiting medium to thick walls with a lumpy finish, even where wiped or burnished. Diagnostic sherds are limited to the concentration of 174 sherds (2716g) of Q1 contained in SFB 2031, but limited quantities of cross-joining body sherds in L2007, Posthole F2010, Pit F2004 and Posthole F2029 are consistent with this group and exhibit further burnished exteriors with traces of soot, while Pit F2033 contained the base of small bowl or cup. The vessels in SFB 2031 (L1032) include a small bowl with a shallow tripartite profile, comparable to vessels at Linton (Fell 1953: fig.4.21) and Lofts Farm, Heybridge (Brown 1988, 266: fig.15.43), associated with at least two jars with slack barrel-shape profiles, plain rims and mid bodies decorated with two rows of finger-tip impressions, comparable to vessels at Linton (Fell 1953: fig.5.13) and West Harling, Norfolk (Clark & Fell 1953, 18: fig.12.20). These vessels also exhibit soot on their interior surfaces, potentially the result of domestic cooking processes. However, the most enigmatic vessel in the group is represented by a basal sherd, the lower wall of which exhibits a line of small hollow dot impressions extending vertically, possibly made with a bone, feather or reed. The type of decoration is one element amongst several characteristic of the Darmsden-Linton ceramic style of early Iron Age pottery (Cunliffe 2005, 102), and its occurrence is perhaps not unexpected c.6km south-west of the type-site of Linton, where such decoration has been recorded (Fell 1953, 37: fig.5A&B). The combination of fabric and form types, albeit of limited quantity, place this assemblage in the 'full' early Iron Age, probably in the 6th-5th centuries BC, in the latter phases of 'decorated ware' in the evolution of the post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) ceramic tradition that spans the late Bronze age to early Iron Age in East Anglia (Brudenell 2012, 197).

Roman pottery accounts for a total of 42 sherds (413g) of the assemblage, predominantly if not entirely in deposits broadly dated to the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD, probably limited to the mid to late 4th century AD. The bulk of

the Roman pottery, 21 sherds (289g), were contained in SFB 2031 (L3032), with further sparsely distributed sherds contained in Graves F2014, F2020, Ditches F2006, F2007 and F2010. The most common fabrics comprise locally produced coarse wares (GRS & BSW) with diagnostic sherds limited to the everted bead rims of ubiquitous jars or cooking pots, while a single sherd of grog-tempered reduced ware is derived from a storage jar. A major source of pottery to Great Chesterford appears to have been the industry at Hadham, Herts. c.25km to the south, which provided Hadham Oxidised ware (HAX) and Hadham Grey ware (HAG). The HAX in Building F2031 included part of the rim and neck of a face flagon, including the finger-impressed dimples that would have formed part of the hair on an applied face mask, comparable to 4th century AD examples at Burgh Castle, Norfolk (Johnson 1983, 93: fig.39.43/46a). It is likely that this vessel dates to the latter half of the 4th century AD; a chronology supported by the presence of body sherds from a HAG 'Romano-Saxon' bowl in the same deposit, a type that is in fact exclusively Roman in the mid-late 4th century AD. The bowl would have had an ovoid boss filled with a burnished cross, similar to examples previously recorded at Great Chesterford (Martin 2011: vessel 561) and Colchester (Symonds & Wade 1999, 445: fig.6.99.40). A further HAG vessel in Ditch F2007 comprised a characteristic late 3rd-4th century AD bead-and-flange rim dish with highly burnished surfaces.

Supplementing the coarse wares manufactured at or in the environs of Great Chesterford are limited quantities of continental and regional imports. Continental imports are limited to a single central Gaulish Lezoux samian ware (LEZ SA2) bowl contained in Layer F2007, with body sherds indicating the presence of an ovolo and panelled design, probably on a 2nd century AD Dr.37 bowl, but in contrast to other colour-coated vessels in the assemblage, the slip is too abraded to allow further identification, suggesting this bowl was re-deposited. In the same context were well-preserved body sherds from a Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (NVC) lid with rouletted decoration, probably of 4th century AD date. The supply (or proportion) of regionally-traded fine wares such as NVC and Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (OXRC) increases in East Anglia in the 4th century AD. This chronology and trend is supported by the presence of a mid-late 4th century AD OXRC hemispherical bowl with an impressed cordon (Young 2000, 162: type C61) in SFB F2031; associated with contemporary Hadham products, and attested in late Roman deposits at Colchester (Symonds & Wade 1999, 306: fig.5.57.32). This supply pattern, including the presence of 'Romano-Saxon' vessels from Hadham and the appearance of Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (OXRC) are consistent with Phase 6 of activity previously defined from Roman occupation at Great Chesterford, dated c.AD360-400+ (Martin 2011, 305 & CD: 3.1.6.11) with deposition appearing consistent with occupation evidence in the London Road area, close to the south-western cemetery of the town (Medlycott 2011b, 250: sites 135, 139 & 140), while none of the pottery appears to have been deliberately deposited in the graves recorded.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Excavations recovered a total of 19 fragments (5835g) of highly fragmented Roman CBM, including roof tile and brick (Table 10). The bulk of the assemblage was associated with a single building, SFB 2031, although it seems unlikely this structure had a significant CBM component. The remainder of the assemblage was sparsely distributed in pit and ditch features.

Fabric type	Fragment count	Weight (g)
Tegula roof tile (Flanged)	2	968
Tegula roof tile (flat tile only)	5	500
Imbrex roof tile	2	178
Bessalis brick	12	4172
Miscellaneous fragments	2	17
<i>Total</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>5835</i>

Table 10. Quantification of Roman CBM types

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 will be deposited as part of the archive. Roman CBM forms were identified using the conventions defined by Brodrigg (1987). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Discussion

The Roman CBM was recorded in a single fabric, whose characteristics are typical of those produced in large quantities using resources local to Great Chesterford in Essex and Cambridgeshire, potentially in short-lived or purpose-built kilns on the periphery of the town. The fabric ranges from mid to 'burnt' orange in colour, with inclusions of common fine quartz (<0.1, occasionally to 0.5mm), sparse red iron rich grains (<0.5mm) and occasional flint (<3mm).

The most common fragments recorded were 40-45mm thick, indicating they probably formed part of bessalis bricks, though other less common brick types cannot be discounted. The bricks include small sections of extant regular-sharp edges, but no complete examples, corners or large fragments were recovered. This type of brick was used in the construction of hypocaust heating systems, and as bonding courses in walls, but equally may have formed part of a floor or hearth. A total of nine fragments (3079g) of bessalis were contained in SFB 2031 (L2032), with further fragments in Pit F2002. SFB 2031 also contained small fragments of tegula and imbrex roof tile, with the former type including fragments with the scar of a flanged edge but not an extant flange, and the latter a slightly ribbed upper surface and sanded base. The limited quantities of roof tile suggest this structure did not have a ceramic

roof, but this need not discount the secondary use of CBM fragments for other purposes.

5.4 The Small Finds

Nicholas J. Cooper, with coin identifications by Richard Buckley, and conservation and x-radiography by Graham Morgan and Heidi Addison, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Introduction

A total of four small finds were presented for conservations and identification. All objects were x-rayed and the copper alloy coin was cleaned and stabilised. Objects other than coins have been assigned functional categories according to Crummy (1983).

Coins

- 1) Sf1 [2023] (2025) backfill Grave 4. Silver siliqua of Arcadius AD 395-402. 17mm 1.1g.
Obverse: pearl diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right, D N ARCADIVS P F AVG
Reverse: Roma seated left on cuirass with Victory on globe and spear, VIRTUS ROMANORVM.
Mint mark: MDPS Milan
- 2) Sf3 [2031] (2032) fill of building. Copper alloy coin. SECVRITAS REPUBLICAE House of Valentinian AD 364-78.

Household Objects

- 3) Sf2 [2031] (2032) Cu alloy spoon handle. Tapering handle of circular section terminating in a point. Handle becomes square-sectioned towards bowl end and has transverse grooved mouldings, giving way to an offset 'forked' slot used to accommodate the detachable 'mandolin-shaped' bowl (now missing). This is a spoon of Crummy Type 3, thought to be produced throughout the Roman period (Crummy 1983, 69). Length of handle: 105mm.

Modern Fitting

- 4) Sf4 (2007) Fill of ditch containing late Roman pottery. Modern iron hinged lock plate or hasp with oval wire loop which would be secured by a padlock, of the kind used for a shed door or toolbox.

5.5 Human Skeletal Remains

Sue Anderson

Introduction

Four articulated skeletons of Roman date were analysed. A catalogue is included as Appendix 4

Method

Measurements were taken using the methods described by Brothwell (1981), together with a few from Bass (1971) and Krogman (1978). Sexing and ageing techniques follow Brothwell (1981) and the Workshop of European Anthropologists (WEA 1980), with the exception of adult tooth-wear scoring which follows Bouts and Pot (1989). Stature was estimated according to the regression formulae of Trotter and Gleser (Trotter 1970). All systematically scored non-metric traits are listed in Brothwell (1981), and grades of *cribra orbitalia* and osteoarthritis can also be found there. Pathological conditions were identified with the aid of Ortner and Putschar (1981) and Cotta (1978).

Number of individuals

The minimum number of individuals from the articulated remains was four, each discrete burial containing the bones of only one individual.

Condition

The individuals were all in fair condition, but none was complete and there was a high degree of fragmentation of all bones, but particularly those of the torso in each burial. There was also some surface erosion. All three adult skulls were missing the facial bones and much of the front half of the cranial vault and base.

Demographic analysis

Table 11 shows the age and sex determinations for the seven articulated skeletons.

Grave	Sk. No.	Male	Female	Child
2014	1		c.35–50 years	
2017	2			c.5 years
2020	3	c.35–45 years		
2023	4	c.45+ years		

Table 11. Age and sex of articulated skeletons.

The group consisted of one middle-aged woman, two middle-aged or older men and one young child.

Metrical and morphological analysis

Articulated skeletons were measured where possible and the results are included at the end of the catalogue (Appendix 4). Tables of systematically-scored non-metric traits can also be found there.

Stature could be calculated for all three adults. The female, at 1.665m (5' 5"), was slightly above average for her period, whilst Sk. 3 was below average for a male, at 1.684m (5' 6"), and Sk. 4 was above average at 1.746m (5' 9"); all were within the normal range.

Non-metric traits were only partially scored in this group due to the incomplete nature of the skulls and surface erosion of the post-cranial skeletons. Nothing particularly unusual was recorded.

Dental analysis

Incomplete dental remains of three individuals were present. The group is too small for statistical analysis of disease prevalences, but a few general observations can be made.

Most of the mandible of the adult female, Sk. 1, was present. The right lower third molar appeared to be congenitally absent but the second was lost ante-mortem, as was the left (the left third molar area was missing). The other teeth were present at death but the left first molar had been lost post-mortem. There were large carious lesions in the cementum-enamel junctions of both canines and first premolars on the labial surfaces, and a carious lesion was also present in the crown of the right lateral incisor. Calculus was moderate to heavy on the lingual surfaces of most teeth, and alveolar resorption was also moderate to considerable.

Sk. 2 was represented by eight teeth and a few small fragments of skull only. The teeth were all maxillary. Erupted teeth comprised a right first deciduous molar, and both left deciduous molars. The first four adult teeth and the first molar of the left side were also present, but their roots were not fully formed. No dental pathology was noted.

Only the right side of the mandible of Sk. 3 survived. The third molar was present, but the first and second were lost ante-mortem. The premolars and canine were also present. Attrition was not heavy, but alveolar resorption was considerable.

Pathology

Pathological conditions were present in all three adult individuals and are summarised below for each skeleton. Further details are available on the original recording sheets in the archive (Appendix 4).

Sk. 1: Degenerative joint disease was present in the spine, particularly in the form of osteophytes on the vertebral bodies (C5, T5-9, S1) and osteoarthritic changes (Grade II) to the rib head joints (right T10, T12). Grade III osteoarthritis was present in the zygapophyseal facets of the fifth lumbar vertebra and sacrum. Other evidence of stress on the spine was in the form of Schmorl's nodes (T5, T7-9, L1-4, S1). In the hips, there was slight porosity of the superior edges of both acetabulums with new bone and thickening around the rims. At the right elbow, there was slight enlargement and osteophyte formation at the lower edge of the ulnar trochlea. At the right knee, the patella had a small osteophyte on the lateral edge of the facet. In the remains of the skull, the right parietal was incomplete, but there was a probable depressed fracture covering part of the centre next to the broken edge, c.30mm in diameter (Plates 3-4).

Sk. 3: The spine of this individual was incomplete, but osteophytes were certainly present in the lower spine (T7-10, L1-5), large in the lumbar area, and there were porotic areas of Grade II osteoarthritis in the bodies of the cervical C6-7 vertebrae and in the zygapophyseal facets of the thoracic T8-9. There appeared to be crush fractures of the T9 and possibly also T8, with slight collapse of the bodies and anterior wedging of the T9 and T10 (Plate 5). Schmorl's nodes were also present (T8-L1). Other degenerative changes comprised enthesophytes on the left patella and slight osteophytosis of both acetabular rims.

Sk. 4: The spine was in poor condition, but there were large frilled osteophytes on at least the T12-S1 vertebrae, and areas of osteoarthritis (Grades II/III) in the zygapophyseal facets of T4-5 (left) and T6-7 (right). Small osteophytes were present on a number of other joints, including both hips, the right shoulder at the scapula glenoid, and the right knee on the patella. Enthesophytes were present on the right patella and calcaneus (heel), and there was slight new bone formation along the linea aspera of both femora. Grade III osteoarthritis was present in the left wrist, with eburnation on the lunate and distal ulna, and large osteophyte formation around the joint between the distal ulna and radius. Several fractures were present, with at least four ribs being involved (three left, one right?; Plate 6), and the proximal end of the right fifth metacarpal had been fractured with some displacement (Plate 7); all were well healed.

Summary and discussion

The three adults in this group, one woman and two men, were all mature at the time of death. Unfortunately all that could be understood from the remains of the child was its age at death. The adults were all within the normal range of statures for a pre-modern group.

Dental disease affected two of the adults, the woman having a number of carious lesions and two lost teeth, and one of the men having also lost at least two teeth before death. Roman populations seem to have been more affected by caries than any British populations before or after, until modern times, presumably relating to a diet high in carbohydrates.

Each of the adults presented evidence for trauma and degenerative joint disease, with stress on the spine and hips being particularly prevalent. Whilst osteoarthritis is not directly linked with physical work and can have a number of other causes, its presence together with other evidence of physical stress and trauma may indicate that this group had a harder life than average for the period.

5.6 Animal Bone

Dr Julia E M Cussans

Introduction

A moderately sized animal bone assemblage was recovered and analysed in its entirety. The majority of the bone derived from Phase 2 SFB Fill L2032, but a small assemblage was also present for Phase 1. The assemblage is described in detail and some tentative interpretations are made.

Method

Individual bones were, where possible, identified to element, species, part and body side and recorded into an MS Access database using codes provided by NABONE (NABO 2008). Data on bone zone (Dobney & Rielly 1988), fragment size, fusion state, butchery, burning, gnawing, bone erosion and weathering, sex, pathology (including non-metric traits) and tooth wear were also gathered where possible. Bone identifications were made using the in house reference collection at Archaeological Solutions and with the aid of reference manuals (e.g. Schmid 1972, Pales & Lambert 1971a&b, Pales & Garcia 1981a&b, Hillson 1992, Cohen & Serjeantson 1996). Bone fusion, butchery, burning and gnawing was recorded following the NABONE guidelines; bone weathering was recorded following Behrensmeyer (1978) and erosion following McKinley (2004). Tooth eruption and wear was recorded following Grant (1982). Tooth eruption and wear age stages were assigned following Halstead (1985) for cattle and Hambleton (1999) for pig. Where mammal bones could not be identified to specific taxa they were assigned as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal; these included ribs, vertebrae and long bone shaft fragments. Bird bones were similarly assigned to size categories where more specific identifications could not be made.

Results

Taphonomy

Overall the bones were relatively well preserved, but had suffered to varying extents from root etching causing damage or loss of surface on some bones, documented through the scoring of bone surface erosion (see below).

Bone fragment sizes are displayed in Chart 1 and show that a large percentage of the bones for both Phases 1 and 2 were over 5cm in their greatest dimension, with significant percentages being over 10cm. This indicates relatively good preservation compared to some other sites. For example at Snape in Suffolk (Cussans 2013) analysis of fragment size showed approximately 50% of fragments to be 5cm or smaller in their greatest dimension.

Bone weathering is shown in Chart 2 and indicated very low levels of weathering with the vast majority of bones showing no signs of weathering and on the few bones where signs of weathering were present these were at the lowest possible grade. Largely due to the root etching mentioned above bone surface erosion was much more common than bone weathering (Chart 3) but was generally limited to the lower grades of bone erosion (1-3 of a possible 1-5+). Bone erosion appeared to be slightly more common and more severe in Phase 2 compared to Phase 1; this may be as a result of these bones being closer to the current ground surface and hence more exposed to the action of plant roots than those from the earlier phase.

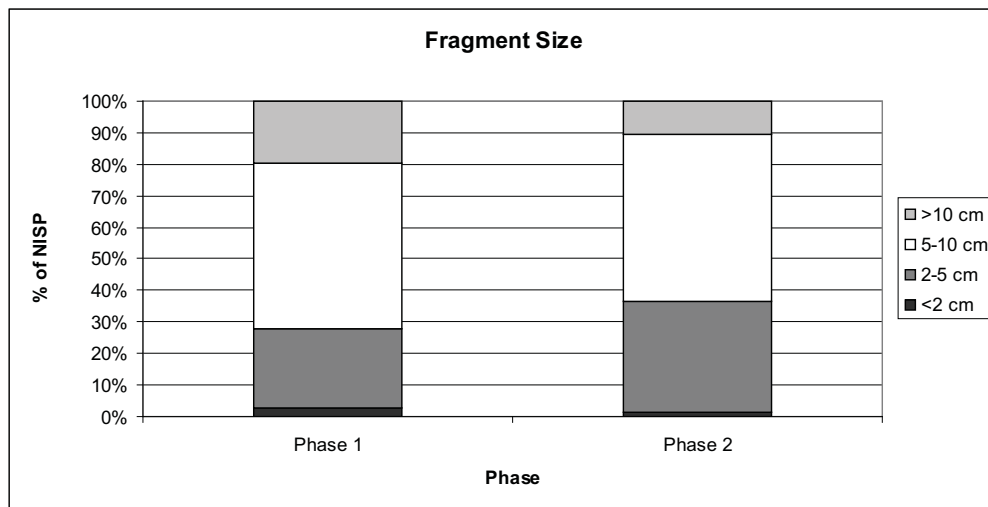


Chart 1. Bone fragment size as a percentage of NISP

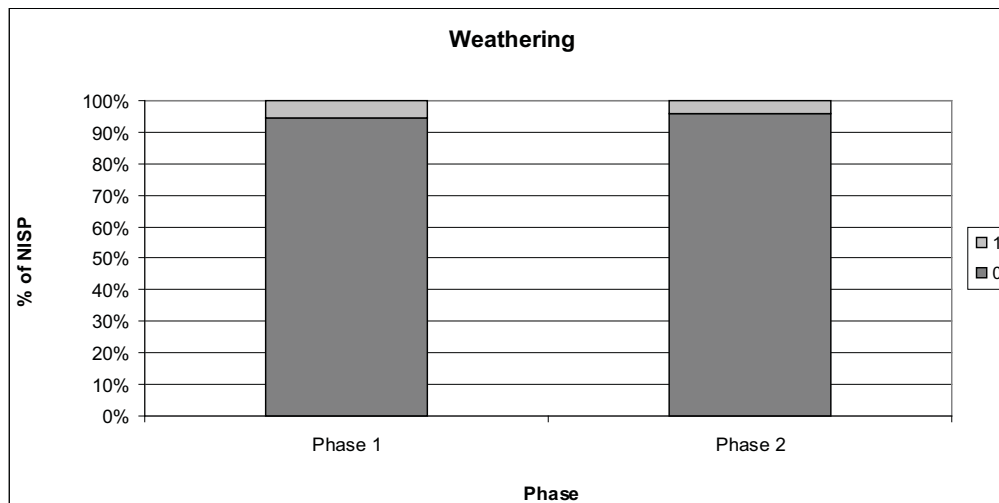


Chart 2. Bone weathering as ratings as a percentage of NISP

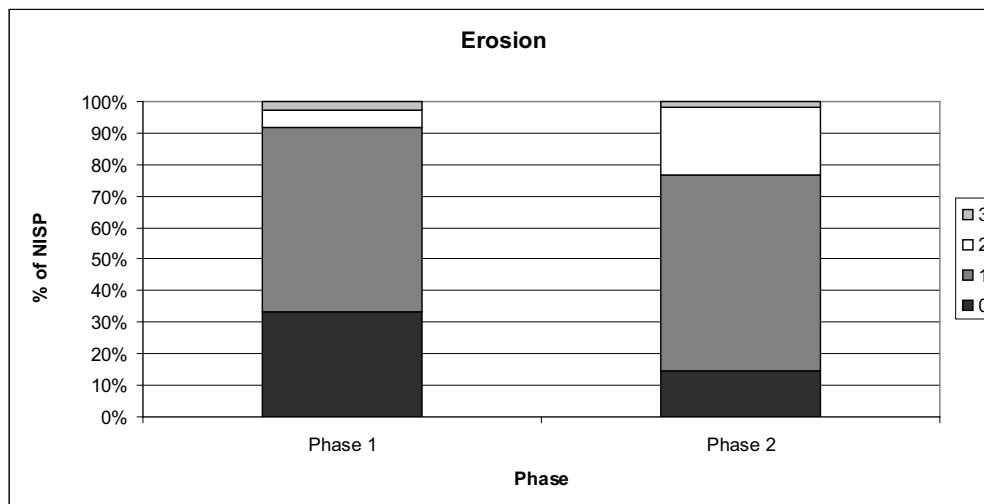


Chart 3. Bone surface erosion ratings as a percentage of NISP

A small quantity of gnawed bones was present and derived from just two contexts. In Phase 1 Buried soil L2007 six of 24 bones were found to be gnawed and in Phase 2 SFB Fill L2032 14 bones out of 215 were gnawed. All of the gnawing was identified as canid gnawing and was most likely caused by dogs. Three burnt bones were present in the assemblage; one scorched and one charred bone from L2032 and a scorched bone from L2028 (Phase 3). Due to their low frequency it is thought most likely that these bones were accidentally burnt.

Species Present and Quantification

The majority of the bones derive from Phase 2 (Table 12), a small assemblage from Phase 1 and only a single bone from Phase 3 (Modern) this was a large mammal rib fragment and will not be discussed any further. Domestic mammal taxa present in order of overall abundance are cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse. Wild mammals were represented by a single red deer bone; chicken and goose bones were also present. The vast majority of the bones, however, could only be identified as large or medium mammal, a small quantity of fragments were recorded as unidentified mammal. Not all of the taxa were present in both Phases 1 and 2 and the two assemblages are described separately below.

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Total
Cattle	2	17		19
Sheep/goat	2	15		17
Pig	1	11		12
Horse		1		1
Red Deer	1			1
Large Mammal	12	80	1	93
Medium mammal	17	76		93
Unid. Mammal		19		19
Chicken	1	4		5
Goose sp.		2		2
Bird indet.		2		2

Total	36	227	1	264
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Table 12. Quantification of animal bone by number of identified specimens (NISP)

Phase 1 (Romano-British) animal bone

The phase 1 assemblage contained a total of 36 bones (Table 12) of which only seven were identified to specific taxa; the remainder were identified as large or medium mammal. Identified taxa were cattle, sheep/goat, pig, red deer and chicken.

The chicken bone was a distal femur, the epiphysis of which was not fully fused, indicating the animal was not fully mature at death. No butchery marks or pathologies were observed. The red deer bone was a complete first phalange with both epiphyses fully fused; no butchery or pathologies were present. The single pig bone was an unfused distal fibula with a transverse cut mark mid shaft; no pathology was noted.

Cattle were represented by two fragments of metacarpal, one shaft fragment and one fragment of a proximal end. Neither of the bones showed any signs of pathology or butchery. The proximal epiphysis was fused, but as this fuses before birth (Silver 1969) it is not particularly useful in age determination. Sheep/goat was represented by an unfused distal femur diaphysis (epiphysis missing) and a relatively complete left pelvis. No butchery or pathology was noted on either of these bones. The femur was noted as being particularly gracile, indicating a relatively primitive animal possibly similar to the Soay in build. The distal femur is a late fusing bone (O'Connor 1989) indicating that this animal was not fully mature at death. Conversely the three bones of the pelvis are early fusing and so the pelvis here represents an animal that survived beyond the early fusion stage. It is possible that the femur and pelvis came from the same animal.

Large and medium mammal bones made up the majority of the Phase 1 assemblage, with medium mammal bones being slightly more numerous. Both of these groups were dominated by rib fragments, but long bone fragments were also prominent. The majority of butchery marks recorded for Phase 1 were observed on large and medium mammal bones, and of these, transverse chops through the ribs were most common. Transverse cuts on the ribs were also observed as were cuts on a medium mammal vertebra.

Phase 2 (Early Anglo-Saxon) animal bone

The majority of the Great Chesterford animal bone assemblage belonged to Phase 2 and the majority of that derived from SFB Fill L2032 (F2031). As for Phase 1 the majority of the bone fragments could only be determined as large or medium mammal; a small number of fragments were recorded as unidentified mammal. Identified taxa were cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, chicken and goose; two indeterminate bird bones were also present.

Area	Element	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
Head	Skull					5	1	6
	Horn core	1						1
	Frontal			1				1
	Nasal					1		1
	Hyoid	2					1	3
	Maxilla		2					2
	Mandible	4	1	2		3		10
	Molar	2	2	1				5
	Premolar	1			1			2
Trunk	Atlas		1					1
	Axis		1					1
	Cervical vert					2		2
	Thoracic vert					3	2	5
	Rib					32	39	71
	Lumbar vert					3		3
	Vert frag					1		1
	Long bone frag					23	30	53
Limbs	Scapula		5	1		5	1	12
	Humerus			1				1
	Radius							0
	Radio-ulna					1		1
	Ulna			1		1		2
	Pelvis							0
	Femur	1					1	2
	Tibia	1	1	1			1	4
	Fibula			2				2
	Long bone frag					23	30	53
Feet	Astragalus	1						1
	Calcaneus			1				1
	Carpal/tarsal							0
	Metacarpal	2						2
	Metatarsal		2					2
	1st phalanx	2						2
	2nd phalanx							0
	3rd phalanx							0
	Total	17	15	11	1	80	76	200

Table 13. Mammal body part representation for Phase 2 by NISP. Shaded elements are never recorded to specific taxa, only to size group.

Horse was represented by a single lower second premolar tooth, which was noted as being in wear. Pig was largely represented by a mix of limb and head elements plus a single foot bone (Table 13), none of which showed any signs of butchery. A single pathological lesion was recorded on a fibula which was noted as having an odd formation at the mid shaft point and was thought to have been broken and healed, although this could not be confirmed without an x-ray. A small number of ageable bones were present including one ageable mandible (Table 14) determined to be at age stage C (Hambleton 1999) with an indicative age of 7-14 months. A small number of unfused bones were present which were a proximal calcaneus (intermediate fusing), a proximal fibula (late fusing) and a relatively complete frontal bone. The only

fused bone present was a distal humerus (early fusing). Together these data show only the presence of relatively young animals, although the small sample size means that these data are unlikely to be fully representative.

Taxa	dp2	dp3	dp4	P2	P3	P4	M1	M2	M3	Age Stage
Pig	\\	in wear	f				≥b	C		C: 7-14 mths
Cattle		\\	f				b	C		C: 8-18 mths

Table 14. Phase 2 tooth wear data. Tooth wear stages follow Grant (1982) and age stages follow Hambleton (1999) for pig and Halstead (1985) for cattle

Cattle were largely represented by head and foot elements although femur and tibia are also present. Only two of the bones showed any signs of butchery. These were a hyoid fragment with a possible transverse cut and a mandible fragment with a deep vertical cut below the M1 on the lingual side. Both of these cuts may have resulted from the removal of the tongue. A single pathological cattle bone was present; this was a metacarpal with a fused vestigial metacarpal and some possible lateral extension of the distal articulation. Bartosiewicz (2013, 121f) quotes a similar example from 17th century Hungary and attributes it to either old age or draught work and states that it is a rare phenomenon. He also (*ibid.*) indicates that the bones in question were particularly large compared to most others at the same site and were likely to have belonged to a large ox or bull. The size of the specimen found here is of a similar size to Bartosiewicz's Hungarian example and may also belong to a large ox or bull.

Small amounts of age data were available for Phase 2 cattle. A single ageable mandible (Table 3) was assessed at age stage C (Halstead 1985) with an indicative age of 8-18 months. Fused elements were a proximal tibia and proximal femur (both late fusing) and a distal metacarpal (intermediate fusing). A further distal metacarpal was found to be partially fused, indicating that the animal died at the time of fusion, and a first phalanx was fused distally (before birth) but unfused proximally (early fusing). This bone fusion data, whilst sparse, indicates cattle of a variety of ages present at the site with some surviving beyond the late fusion stage and others dying before early fusion has completed.

Sheep/goat were very slightly less numerous than cattle in Phase 2 and were represented by a mix of head, neck, limb and foot bones. A single sheep/goat bone was recorded as having butchery marks, a scapula with tiny parallel cuts in the centre of the blade on the medial side; these cuts probably resulted from the filleting of meat from the bone. No pathological bones were noted in the assemblage. Very little in the way of ageable elements was present. A distal tibia (intermediate fusing) was found to be fused and an articulating atlas and axis were found to have incomplete fusion, no mandibular tooth wear data were available. Two fragments of sheep/goat maxilla, however, indicated the presence of immature individuals with the deciduous premolars still present or the permanent premolars in the process of erupting.

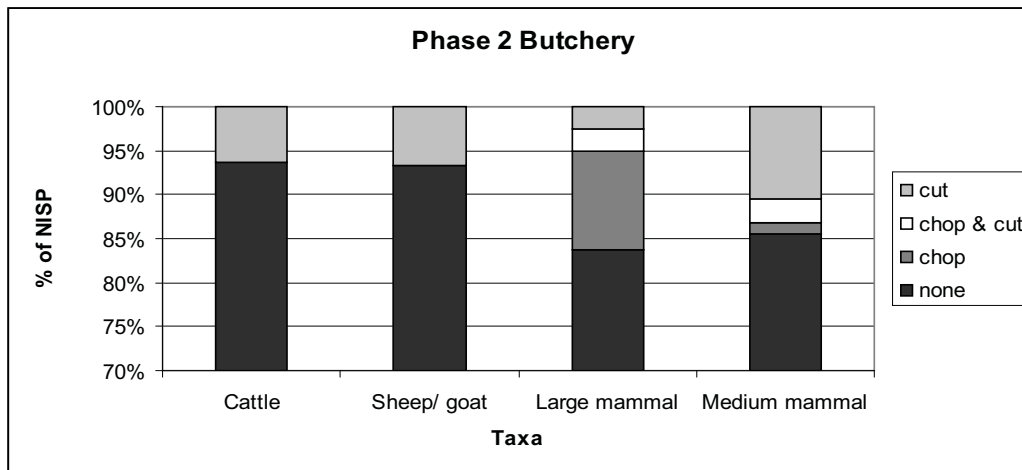


Chart 4. Butchery marks shown as a percentage of NISP for Phase 2. Note y-axis scale starts at 70% to allow focus on the top of the graph.

As was this case in Phase 1, large and medium mammal make up the majority of the Phase 2 assemblage, being present in roughly equal numbers. Ribs and long bone fragments make up the majority of this group but vertebrae, skull and limb bones are also present (Table 13). The majority of Phase 2 butchered bones belonged to large and medium mammal with c.16% and 14.5% of bones being affected respectively. The types of butchery marks observed vary between the two groups with chop marks being much more common on large mammal bones and cut marks being much more common on medium mammal bones (Chart 4). Large mammal butchery was largely focused on the ribs and vertebrae. Ribs had been chopped through transversely and occasionally also cut in the same plane. Vertebrae had been chopped through longitudinally or on a diagonal or had processes chopped through. Longitudinal chops through the vertebrae and the removal of lateral processes are likely to have resulted from the splitting of a carcass in two. Diagonal chops through the vertebrae and transverse rib chops indicate carcass division into meat joints. A scapula fragment was also observed with cut marks. Medium mammal butchery was largely observed on ribs but transverse cuts were also observed on long bone shaft fragments, indicating the filleting of meat from the bone. Rib butchery included diagonal and transverse chops through the bone and cuts around the neck and across the main body of the rib. These marks indicate carcass dismemberment and filleting of meat from the bone.

A small but significant number of bird bones were present in the Phase 2 assemblage (Table 12). These included chicken (*Gallus gallus*) and goose (*Anser* sp.) plus two indeterminate bird bones. The chicken bones were a radius, a proximal ulna and a distal femur, all of which were fused and a neonate (unfused, porous and very small) humerus indicating the onsite breeding of chickens. No butchery marks or pathologies were observed on any of these bones. Goose was represented by an ulna and a proximal tibio-tarsus, which may have belonged to domestic or wild types but given the propensity for geese to be present on Anglo-Saxon sites (Holmes 2014; Albarella 2005) it is thought most likely that these represent domestic specimens. No butchery marks were observed on either of these bones but

the ulna was noted as having a pathological lesion. This was a slightly lumpy bone growth around the mid-shaft, noted as being fairly smooth and not immediately obvious. The bone was also noted as being somewhat shorter than the reference specimen and it was thought possible that this was a well healed break, although without an x-ray this cannot be confirmed with certainty. The final two bird bones were both ribs, one of which was noted as being goose sized and had a cut mark across the lateral side of the distal end.

Summary and Discussion

Overall the bones were well preserved, although a number had suffered from minor surface erosion which may have disguised butchery marks or other modifications in some cases. The small Roman assemblage indicates the presence of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, red deer and chicken. It is likely that other animals such as horse and dog were also present at the site but due to the small sample size are not represented. Butchery marks on large and medium mammal bones indicate the use of animals for meat but the lack of age at death data precludes any detailed analysis of the pastoral economy.

The Phase 2 assemblage, despite being fairly small displays a number of characteristics common in Anglo-Saxon assemblages. Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, chicken and goose were all identified. The relatively high proportion of pig bones and the presence of goose are both common Anglo-Saxon features (Crabtree 2014; Albarella 2005). As was the case in Phase 1, butchery observed on the large and medium mammal bones indicates the utilization of the principal domesticates for meat. Cattle of a variety of ages were present on the site including prime meat age animals, very young and mature animals, indicating that they were put to a variety of uses. Limited pathological evidence may be an indicator of the use of cattle for traction. The restricted age data for available for sheep/goat is consistent with these animals having been exploited for their meat, however, it seems highly unlikely that this was their sole use; products such as wool, milk and dung are also likely to have been utilized. Chicken and geese also appear to have been kept for meat and probably eggs.

5.7 The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During archaeological excavations at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, nine bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological analysis were taken and processed. Eight were from Romano-British deposits, including the fills of three inhumation burials and one was from the fill of an Anglo-Saxon building (F2031). A further four samples were present from the trial trench evaluation, all of which were dateable to the Romano-British period. This report presents the results from the analysis of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the remains in their archaeological and archaeobotanical context.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were sorted under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 15.

Phase 1

Twelve samples were present from Romano-British Phase 1, of which five contained carbonised plant macrofossils. The bulk of the material recovered was in the form of carbonised cereal grains. Cereal remains were most common in the fill of flue F1005 (L1006) and the basal fill of pit F2002 (L2004). In both samples, barley grains (*Hordeum* sp.), including hulled grains, were dominant, accompanied by a small number of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and oats (*Avena* sp.) in L1006. Also in L1006 were two spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases. These demonstrate the presence of spelt wheat, which was the dominant wheat crop throughout the Roman period (e.g. Carruthers 2008; Murphy 2003), as well as indicating the presence of processing by-products. Other remains associated with crop processing were a fragment of cereal culm and a small range of non-cereal taxa (see below).

In addition to cereal remains, L2004 also contained four seeds of flax (*Linum usitatissimum*), an important oil and fibre crop. The presence of carbonised seeds suggests that flax was being used for its seeds, perhaps for oil production. The seeds can also be consumed, although they are unlikely to have been an important part of the diet.

Non-cereal taxa included goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), medium legume (Fabaceae), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) and wild grass (Poaceae). All of these are common arable weeds and are likely to be associated with the cereal remains recovered. The presence of non-cereal taxa and a small number of chaff remains in L1006 indicates a contribution from crop processing by-products.

The samples from Graves 1, 3 and 4 contained only single cereal grains likely to represent incidental inclusions from background scatters of carbonised debris. There was no evidence of deliberate deposits of plant material in the grave fills.

Charcoal was present in four of the Phase 1 samples, being abundant in L1006. This material is likely to represent fuel debris from the feature. An assessment of vessel patterns indicated the use of a diffuse porous wood type, although full identification to species was not undertaken.

Mollusc remains from the samples indicated grassland habitats (e.g. *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.), as well as taxa indicative of taller vegetation and ground litter (e.g. *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group).

Phase 2

Phase 2 deposits were limited to L2032, fill of Building F2031. The sample was dominated by barley grains, of which two could be identified as a hulled variety. Two wheat grains were also present, although these were not sufficiently well preserved to allow a precise taxonomic identification. A single small legume (Fabaceae), most likely part of the arable weed community was also present, along with fragments of diffuse porous charcoal. This deposit most likely represents clean grain carbonised during food preparation activities and deposited with hearth ash and other midden material.

Terrestrial mollusc taxa in the deposit were mostly characteristic of ground litter (e.g. *Cochlicopa* sp., *Discus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus* sp., *Trichia hispida* group and *Vitrea contracta*). These could have inhabited longer vegetation close to the building or sheltered areas associated with it.

Conclusions

The archaeobotanical remains from 9 London Road show the use of cereals on or close to the site during both Phases 1 and 2. Romano-British activity included the potential use of cereals in a kiln/ oven, of which the flue was excavated and sampled. In addition to cereals were the remains of flax, which may have been used for oil or fibre. The mixed range of material in the samples suggests the deposition of carbonised remains from a range of domestic activities, including the routine processing and use of cereals and flax. The single Phase 2 deposit from L2032 indicated that a similar range of cereals were being used during the Anglo-Saxon period. The absence of processing debris suggests a deposit derived from the use of cereals, such as food preparation activities. The present evidence from Phase 2 is insufficient to determine whether local cereal cultivation was being undertaken.

Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
							Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
1004 A	1003	Fill of Ditch	1	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX X	X	X	-	-	-
1004 B	1003	Fill of Ditch	1	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX X	-	X	-	X	-	-
1006	1005	Basal Fill of Flue	1	10	10	100%	X	-	HTB (2), HB (18), Hord (20), Trit (3), Oat (5), cf. Oat (6), NFI (38), Spelt GB (2), Culm (1)	X	<i>Chenopodium</i> <i>m</i> sp. (1), <i>Polygonum</i> <i>aviculare</i> (1), <i>Capsella</i> <i>bursapastoris</i> (1), Medium Fabaceae (1), <i>Galium</i> sp. (1)	-	XX X	Diffuse porous	X	<i>Helicella</i> <i>itala</i> , <i>Trichia</i> <i>hispida</i> group., <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX X	X	X	-	-	Root / tuber (1)
1010	1008	Upper Fill of Ditch	1	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	XX X	X	X	-	-	-
2004	2002	Basal Fill of Pit	1	10	10	100%	X	-	HB (7), Hord (18), Trit (2), NFI (19)	X	<i>Linum</i> <i>usitatissimum</i> (4), Large Poaceae (1)	-	XX	Diffuse porous	X	<i>Pupilla</i> <i>muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX X	X	X	X	-	-
2006 A	2005	Fill of Ditch	1	20	20	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX X	X	X	-	X	-	
2007	2005	Fill of Ditch	1	40	20	50%	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX X	X	X	-	X	-

2016	2014	Fill of Grave (SK1)	1	40	40	100%	X X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	X X	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX X	X X	X	-	X	-
2021	2020	SK3 Head	1	1	1	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
2021	2020	SK3 Body Cavity	1	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
2022	2020	Fill of Grave (SK3)	1	40	40	100%	X X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	X X	<i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX X	X X	X X	-	-	-
2025	2023	Fill of Grave (SK4)	1	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX X	X X	X	-	-	-
2032	2031	Fill of Building	2	40	40	100%	X X	-	HB (2), Hord (16), E/S (1), Trit (2), NFI (9)	X	Small Fabaceae (1)	-	XX	Diffuse porous	X X	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp., <i>Vitrea contracta</i>	XX X	X X	X	-	-	-	

Table 15. Results from the bulk sample light fractions from 9 London Road, Great Chesterford. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Spelt = spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain), GB = glume base.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Evidence for Prehistoric activity

The struck flint artefacts which were recovered during excavation have been identified as belonging to traditions of Neolithic to early Bronze Age date. A Bronze Age funerary monument is known from the area that would later form part of the Roman walled town and so it is conceivable that these objects are representative of a population utilising this part of the Great Chesterford area but which has left little other trace.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Great Chesterford was already a thriving Iron Age settlement at the time of the Roman conquest. Finds include a trumpet mouthpiece and an early sword-chape from excavations of the Saxon cemetery to the north (Evison 1969) and harness pendants found south of the town's southern gate (Saffron Walden Museum accession number SAFWM 1988. 16-17) and outside the town at Ashdon (Wickenden 1988, 242 and pl. 2; Wickenden 1996, 77). This goes some way to explaining the presence of the large quantity of early Iron Age pottery that was found, in abraded condition, as residual material in later features. No features of early Iron Age date were identified but the prevalence of this pottery in the assemblage, comprising 84% of the pottery assemblage by sherd count and 88% by weight, and its distribution within the majority of the recorded features, indicates that there must have been a concentration of early Iron Age settlement activity in the surrounding area.

In light of the large quantity of early Iron Age pottery present as residual material in later features, some further consideration must be given to the origin of the struck flint. It has been generally accepted that flintworking ceased in Britain during the later Bronze Age (Saville 1981, 6) but the work of Young and Humphrey (1999), Humphrey and Young, and Humphrey (2003) suggests that flintworking may have continued for much longer, possibly into the Iron Age. The association of the struck flint from this site with the early Iron Age pottery (three of the twelve struck flint artefacts came from SFB 2031 which contained the majority of the residual early Iron Age pottery assemblage) and the lack of pottery of a date consistent with the late Neolithic/Bronze Age date suggested for the lithic material raises the possibility that the flintwork may, in fact, represent the retention of flint-knapping skills by the local early Iron Age population. Indeed, in Humphrey's (2004, 209) analysis of Iron Age flintworking it is noted that flint flakes of this date are very similar in shape to flakes of late Neolithic and Bronze Age date.

6.2 The Roman cemetery

The site is located in part of Great Chesterford that has previously been identified as forming part of the Roman cemetery lining London Road (EHER 4948, 4949). The presence of burials at this site is, therefore, not

unexpected. The excavation recorded four burials and what would appear to be a boundary ditch representing the limits of the cemetery.

Ceramic evidence suggests a date in the mid to late 4th century AD for the Roman phase of activity that was recorded at this site, although pottery of types associated with the 2nd century was also present in the assemblage. Much of the Roman pottery assemblage, however, was recovered from SFB 2031, which is of a structural form more usually associated with the post-Roman period. This suggests that the material recovered from this structure may be later than the features which can be directly associated with funerary activity and the cemetery, for which the pottery assemblage was much smaller and is only indicative of a broad Roman date.

Of the four inhumations that were recorded, three were adults of mature age. Anderson (Ch. 5.4) suggests that the evidence for physical stress and trauma that the adult skeletons displayed might indicate that this group had a harder than average life for the period. It is possible, therefore, that they belonged to the lower ranks of late Roman society. It is not possible to state with any certainty if these individuals had been slaves but this remains a possibility, although later in the Roman period the supply of slaves, at least from conquest, is understood to have dwindled (Birley 1976, 133).

The individual represented in Grave F2014 (Sk 1) was a woman aged between 35 and 50. She would have stood at 5 feet 5 inches in height which is slightly above average for a woman in this period. She displayed evidence for having suffered from dental disease, had degenerative joint disease in the form of osteoarthritis, and displayed evidence of stress injuries in the forms of Schmorl's Nodes on her spine. She had also suffered a depressed fracture of the skull. Arranged immediately adjacent and parallel to Grave F2014 was Grave F2023. The individual present in this grave (Sk. 4) was a man of 45 years of age or older who stood at 5 feet 9 inches tall, making him slightly taller than average for a male in this period. He too suffered from osteoarthritis and degenerative joint disease. This was particularly noted in his spine, hips, right knee and right shoulder, which could potentially indicate that he was right-handed and engaged in some kind of task or activity that put particular strain on his right shoulder, leading or contributing to the degeneration of this joint. He also displayed several fractures, notably to his ribs. The positioning of these graves immediately adjacent to each other suggests that there may have been a familial or marital link between this man and this woman. No other graves appear to have been located in similarly close proximity to these two graves suggesting that they form a distinct and deliberate pair. Beyond this spatial relationship, however, there is little to definitely confirm such a link other than the skeletal evidence which indicates that the two individuals were subject to similar levels of physical stress.

Grave F2017, containing Sk 2, was located a little way to the south-east of F2014. This was the grave of a child of approximately five years of age, who was only represented by a small number of teeth and a small quantity of skull. It is possible that there is a link between this child and the presumed couple to the north-west, although it might be argued that the child's grave

would be placed in closer proximity to the paired graves if they formed a family group.

Further to the south-east, Grave F2020 contained Sk. 3, a man 35-45 years old who was of slightly below average height for the Roman period, standing at 5 feet 6 inches. Like the other two adults, this individual suffered from degenerative joint disease and appeared to have suffered fractures of the thoracic vertebrae.

If the Roman pottery evidence recovered from SFB 2031 is indicative of the date of the graves then it is likely that the burials were carried out in accordance with Christian rites and traditions. Taylor (2001, 110) indicates that following the adoption of Christianity as the state religion of Rome in fourth century, its practices were widely adopted and that these were arguably the major influences over cemeteries of this date. This may explain the apparent lack of grave goods present in the graves; goods for the afterlife were no-longer required as the Christian ethic concentrated more on the spiritual side of the life hereafter (Wacher 1978, 246-247). The broad west to east alignment (in reality, closer to west-north-west to east-south-east) of Graves F2014 and F2023 may be considered to conform to the Christian tradition of east-facing burials. F2020, however, was arranged with the head of the burial to the north-east and the feet to the south-west.

Medlycott (2011b, 98-99 & fig. 6.1) has defined the limits of the south-western cemetery in Great Chesterford. The current site is located close to the northern edge of the area identified by Medlycott (2011b, fig. 6.1) and the position and alignment of Ditch F2005=F2012 is consistent with it being the outer defining boundary of the cemetery, running broadly parallel with the course of the river Cam.

6.3 The Roman hearth/oven

Full excavation of F2002, the feature previously suggested to be a flue (F1005 in Trial Trench 2), now shows this not to be the case. Reddening of the natural around the sides is suggestive of *in situ* burning, however, the absence of a clay lining counts against it being a kiln. A hearth is the more likely interpretation. Such a feature may appear to be incongruous within a cemetery site. It is possible that it had a function associated with the cemetery but this seems unlikely. Casa Hatton (1999, 122) notes that in some Roman towns there is evidence for areas previously used for industrial purposes later used as burial sites. In particular, there appear to have been links between burial grounds and sites used for the production of pottery and for smithing activity. It seems most likely, therefore, that the hearth pre-dates the use of this area as a burial ground. Whether or not it represents industrial activity remains open to debate; apart from a single iron fragment (6g) there was nothing associated with the feature to suggest such an interpretation.

6.4 The Sunken-Featured Building

Despite the dating evidence, and indeed the majority of the Roman pottery and CBM assemblages were recovered from this feature (as was the residual, abraded, Iron Age pottery), SFB 2031 represents a building type that is more usually associated with the Anglo-Saxon period. It is possible that the artefactual material is representative of activity within the building. At Heybridge, Drury and Wickenden (1982, 34) have suggested the use of Roman pottery by the local early Saxon population in the 5th century. Indeed, they go so far as to suggest that the early Saxon settlement at this location operated in a symbiotic relationship with the sub-Roman settlement; the Saxon settlement, which was located on the periphery of the Roman small town, would have acted as an extension of the perhaps now contracted settlement of the pre-existing Romanised population. It is possible that a similar state of affairs existed in the early Anglo-Saxon period in Great Chesterford. Taylor (2003, 188, 191) suggests that the spatial relationship between the early Saxon cemetery and the Roman town indicates the Roman settlement retained an importance into the early Saxon period at Great Chesterford and has identified a high level of continuity from the late Roman period to the early Anglo-Saxon period in neighbouring Cambridgeshire. It is possible that SFB 2031 represents a structure that was constructed by an incoming group of Anglo-Saxon settlers but whom interacted with, and used the material culture of, the local Romanised population.

Alternatively, it has been noted that the Anglo-Saxons were inveterate collectors of old or interesting objects (Williams 1993, 97). It is possible that this material, including both Roman and Iron Age pottery, was gathered together and placed into SFB 2031 because it held a specific interest for the Anglo-Saxon population that built the structure. Evidence for the deliberate collection and curation of Roman artefacts has been noted in one of the Mucking *Grubenhäuser* (GH 57) and other Roman artefacts have been recovered from other Saxon contexts at this site (Hamerow 1993; Going 1993). Indeed, the presence of Roman artefacts in Saxon structures is a fairly widely-observed phenomenon (c.f. Newton 2015; Newton 2014; O'Brien forthcoming; Mortimer and Evans 1996; Drury and Wickenden 1982; Hamerow 1993; Going 1993). There is evidence to suggest that Anglo-Saxon groups deliberately tried to demonstrate links to the past (see Semple 1998; Williams 1998) in order to portray themselves as the legitimate heirs of the ancient peoples who formerly occupied the lands in which they were living. It is possible that the presence of this Roman material in SFB 2031 represents some kind of expression of this set of beliefs. It appears possible that the Roman material within this structure was deliberately deposited as part of a 'termination deposit' (c.f. Hamerow 2006) that had deliberate symbolic or cultural links with the Roman past; this may explain why brick and tile were recovered from a structure that is extremely unlikely to have had brick-built walls or a tiled roof.

Because of the lack of Saxon artefactual evidence, it is impossible to state with any certainty how long the gap was between the last use of the area as

a cemetery and the construction of the sunken-featured building. On this basis, either of the above scenarios is plausible. However, it might be considered unlikely that a building of this type would be constructed in an area that was still being used as a functioning cemetery. This and the stratigraphic relationship with the underlying ditch F2005=F2012 suggest that the latter scenario is perhaps more likely. The re-use of this area specifically, however, might be considered to be of particular interest. It has been noted that the practice of reusing ancient sites for burial is known in the 'Anglo-Saxon homelands' from at least the 3rd century (Taylor 2001, 158) and this has been observed at a variety of sites in eastern England (c.f. Newton 2010; Evison 1994). Clearly, however, at this site an earlier cemetery site was being re-used for other purposes; this may simply be coincidence but could represent behaviours similar to those others which have been suggested as a conscious effort on the part of the Anglo-Saxon population to demonstrate clear links with the former inhabitants of the area (c.f. Semple 1998; Williams 1998).

7 CONCLUSIONS

The site lies within that part of Great Chesterford considered to be location of the Roman cemetery lining London Road (EHER 4948, 4949) and associated with the contemporary walled town which is a Scheduled Monument (SM 24871). The presence of four graves (F2014, F2017, F2020, and F2023) demonstrates that this site does indeed lie within the cemetery and helps to define the form and extent of the area used for burial activity. That all of the recorded burials were identified to the south-west of ditch F2005 (=F2012) suggests that this ditch may form the boundary to the cemetery in this location.

Skeletal evidence suggests that the individuals represented in the graves recorded here had hard, working lives. This might suggest that they were from the lower strata of Romano-British society in Great Chesterford.

The sunken-featured building is a potentially interesting feature possibly representing either an early post-Roman incoming community occupying, and possibly sharing, the same settlement as the local Romanised population or an expression of the Anglo-Saxon's inherent interest in the structures, landforms, and material culture of the societies that previously occupied the land in which they were inhabiting. In either case, it provides an interesting case study regarding Anglo-Saxon attitudes to, and relationships with, the Roman past.

Overall the true research value of the site is the contribution it can make to the ever-increasing body of information regarding the Roman town at Great Chesterford. It adds detail to the known extent and form of the south-western cemetery, provides a possible indication of the position of the boundary of the cemetery, it provides new demographic information regarding the Romano-British population, and adds to what is known regarding the reoccupation (or continued occupation) of the area in the Anglo-Saxon period.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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WEBSITES

(www.unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk) Unlocking Essex's Past – Great Chesterford

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
2002	2003			Fill of Pit				1093		Fe Frag	1	6
	2004	A		Base fill of Pit	EIA	18	108					
	2006		Fill of Ditch	Roman	1	14				S. Flint B. Flint	1 1	30 9
	2007			Fill of Ditch	Late 3rd-4th C AD	23	240	198	227	SF 4 - Fe Frag	1	26
										Fe Frag Cu.Frag	2 1	24 7
2010	2012			Fill of Ditch					7			
	2013									Fe.Frag	1	3
		B			Roman	9	153		38	FeFrag	1	18
2014	2015			Grave (SK1)						H.Bone SK1		1784
	2016			Grave Backfill	Roman	4	10			S.Flint	1	3
2017	2018			Grave SK2						H.Bone SK2		12
	2019			Grave Backfill								
2020	2021			Grave (SK3)						H.Bone SK3		1678
	2022			Grave Backfill	Roman	4	10			S.Flint	3	4
2023	2024			Grave SK4						H.Bone SK4		1926
	2025			Grave Backfill						SF1- AG Coin S.Flint	1 1	1 2
2027	2028			Fill of Modern Pit				17		Glass	1	17
										Fe.Frag	1	1
										S.Flint		
										B.Bone		8

2029	2030			Fill of Post Hole	EIA	8	81		18			
2031	2032			Fill of Building						SF2 -Fe Frag - Pin	1	6
										SF3- Coin	1	2
		A			3rd-4th C AD	115	1565	1650	966	Shell	2	19
								27		Fe.Frag		44
										B.Bone		1
										Slag	1	18
										Fired Clay	1	15
										B.Flint	1	61
										S.Flint	4	42
		B			Mid-late 4th C AD	84	1311	2808	1162	Fe.Frag	2	33
										PB.Frag	1	62
										S.Flint	1	14
2033	2034			Fill of Pit	EIA	1	12					
2035	2036			Fill of Post Hole								
2037	2038			Fill of Post Hole								
2039	2040			Fill of Post Hole								
	U/S									S.Flint	1	10
	U/S									Fe.Frag	1	5g

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
F2002 looking north-west



2
F2008 looking south-east



3
F2032 looking north-west



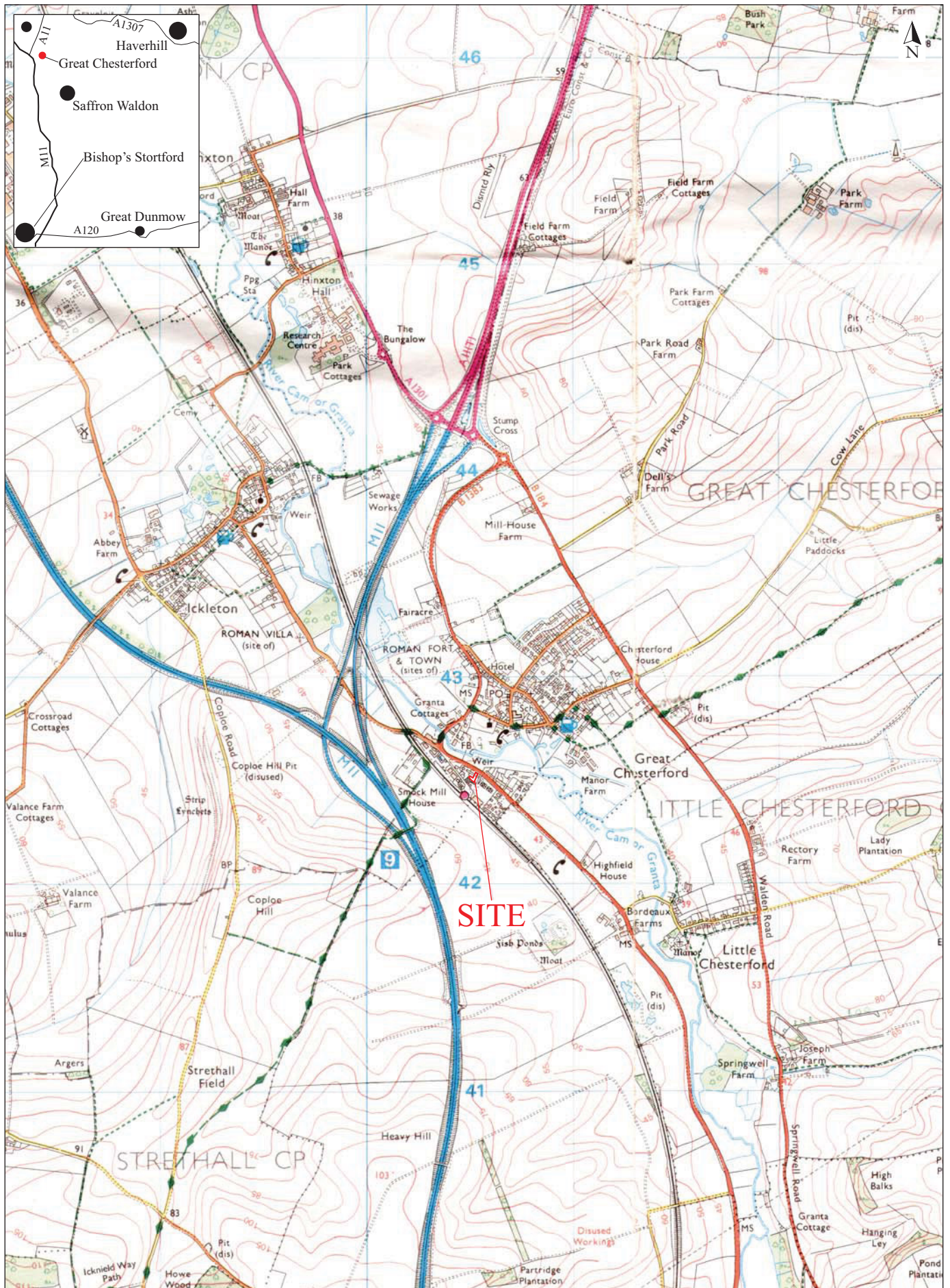
4
F2039 looking north-east



5
Sk.1 and Sk.4 looking south-west

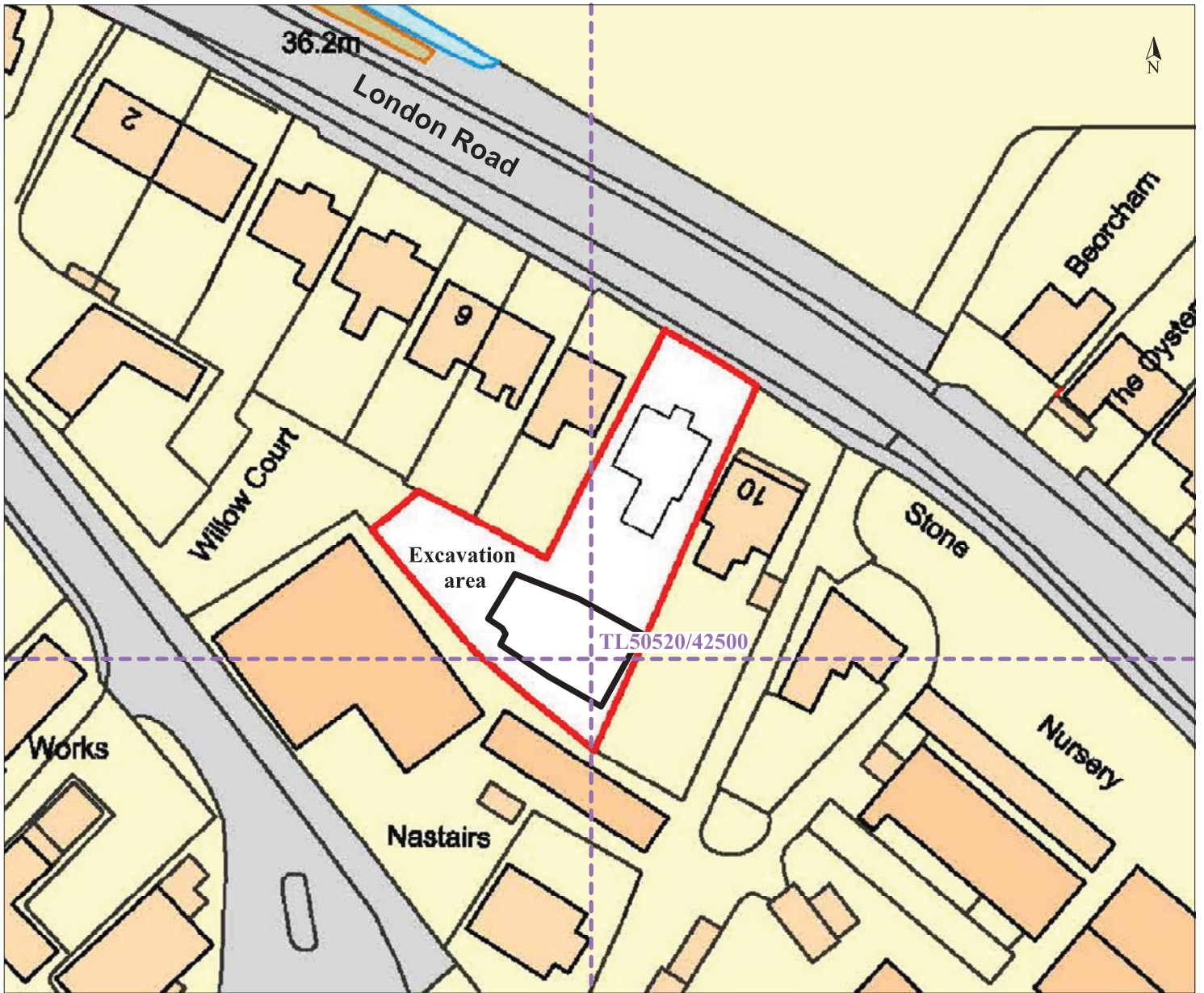


6
Sk.3 looking south-east



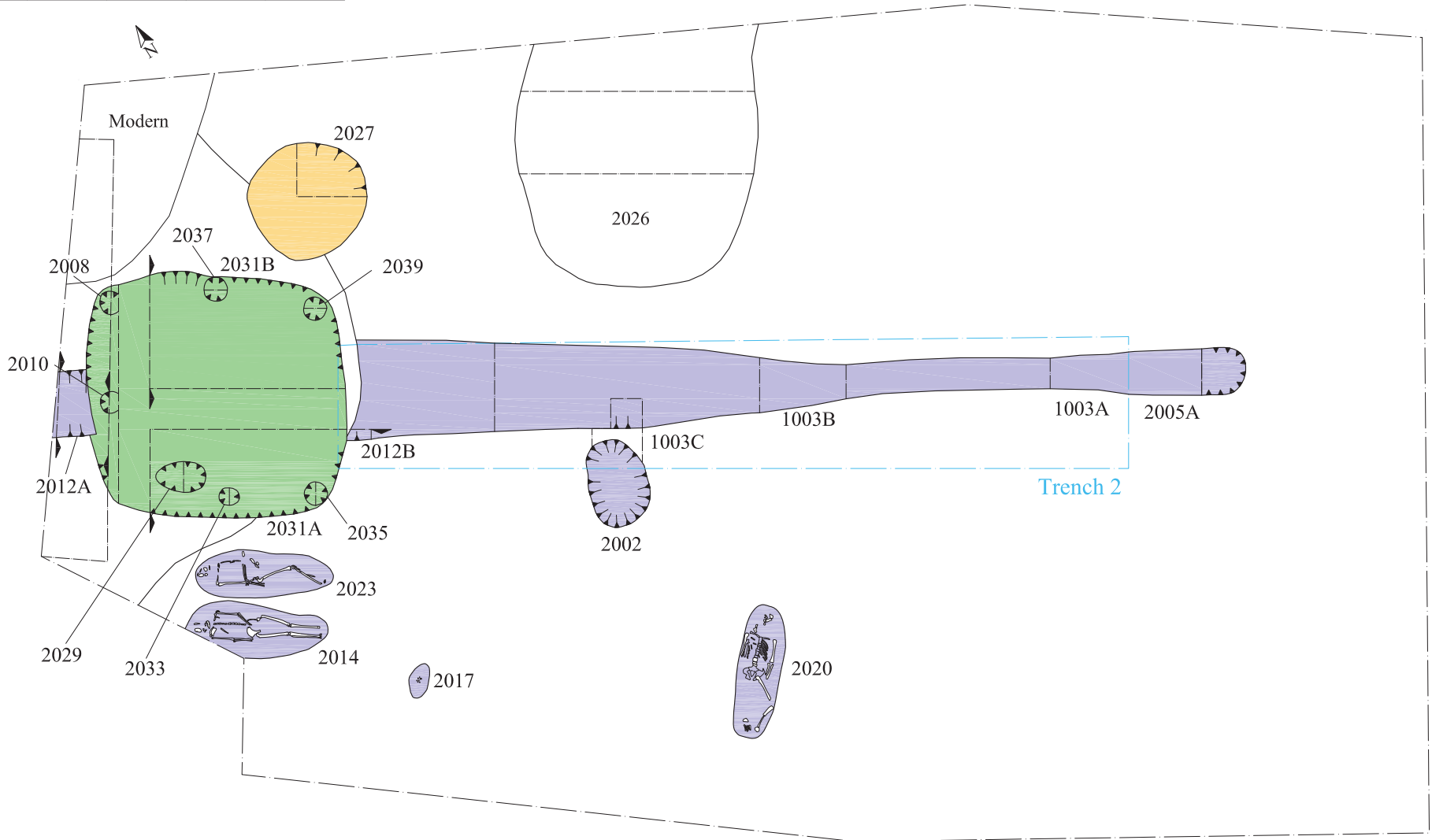
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Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (P5881)

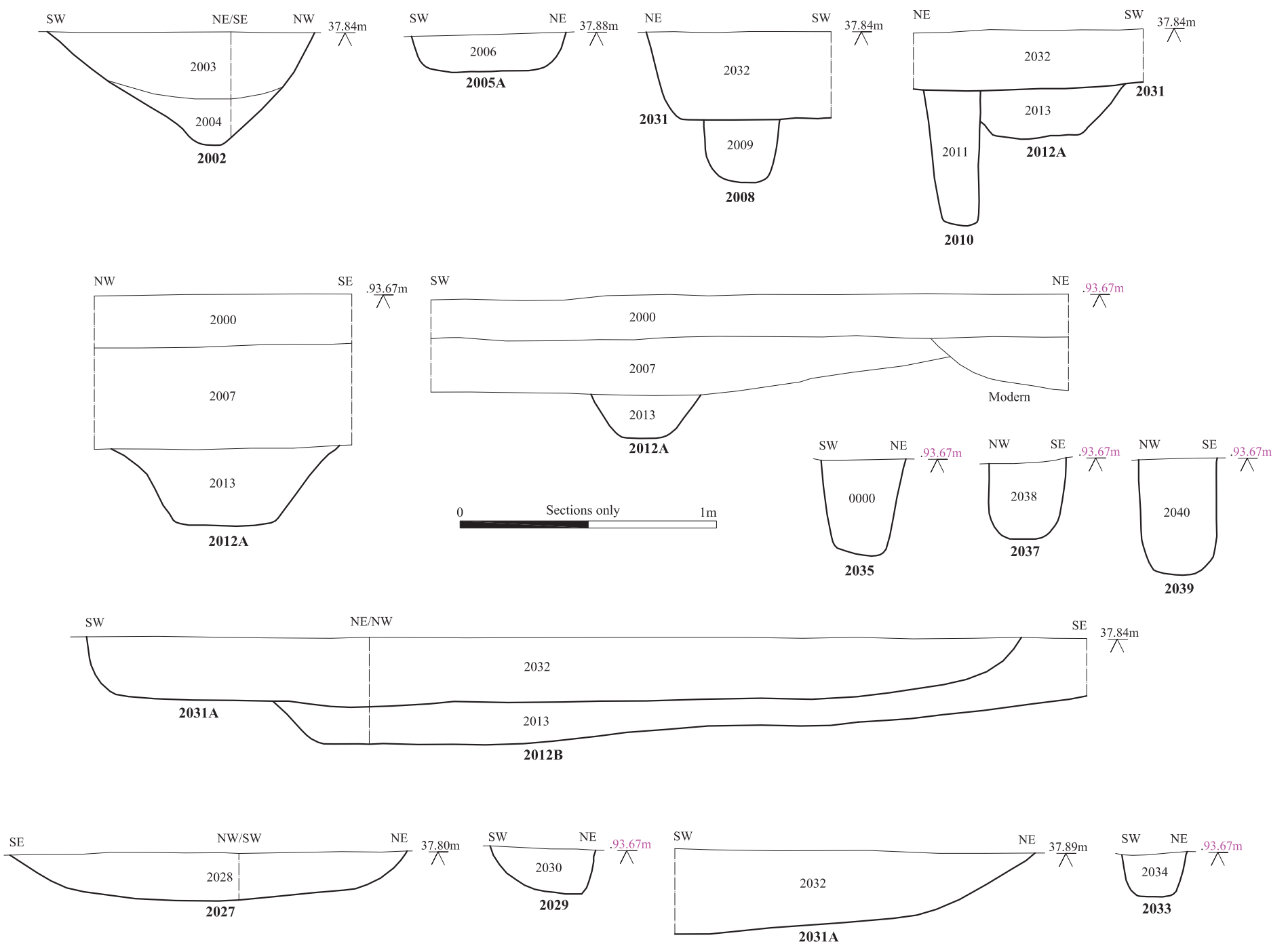


<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:750 at A4
9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (P5881)

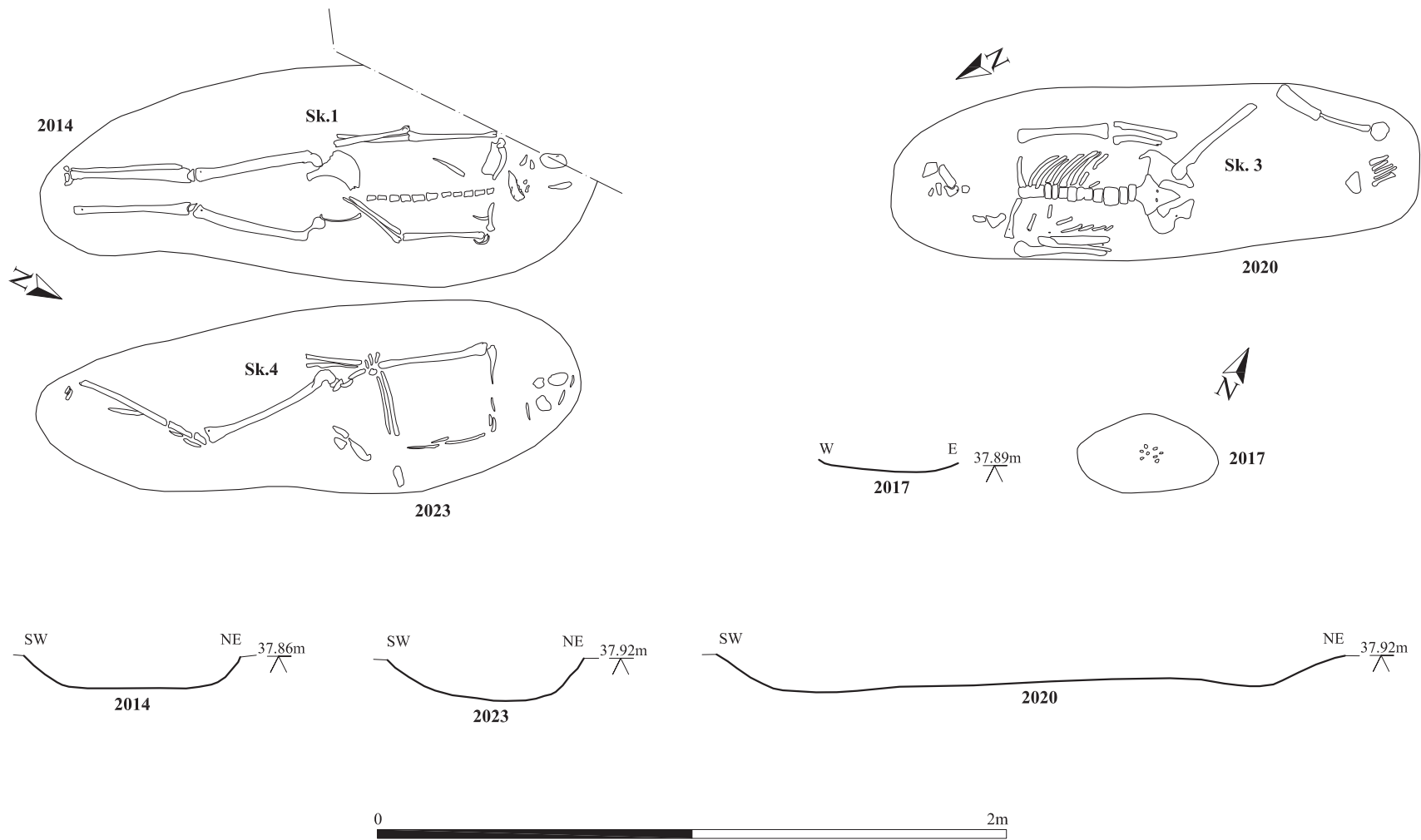
0 Plan only 5m



Phase 1: Roman Phase 2: Anglo-Saxon Phase 3: Modern



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Fig. 3 Excavation area plan and sections
Scale 1:75 and 1:20 at A3
9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (P5881)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 4 Grave plans and sections
Scale 1:20 at A4
9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (P5881)