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LAND NORTH OF THE SHADE, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

CHER ECB 4753

Authors: Vinny Monahan (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 5887 7471	Report No: 5216
District: East Cambs	Site Code: ECB 4753
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 6747
Signed:	3rd October 2016

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In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench on land north of The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5887 7471). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed construction of a residential development of approximately 90 dwellings. The evaluation was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) *Following a geophysical survey, the trial trenching only picked up some of the identified furrows in Trenches 12 – 15. The footpath was not evident in Trench 11, nor was the L-shaped anomaly in Trenches 7 and 8. Archaeological features were recorded at the eastern end of the site in Trenches 13, 14 and 15. Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern features were recorded.* *The earliest features date from the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age (LBA – EIA) and were recorded in Trenches 13 and 14. They comprise discrete features, Pits F1012 (Trench 13) and F1034 (Trench 14); Ditch F1021 (Trench 13) and an unusual Metalled Surface F1018 (Trench 13). Pits F1034 and F1012, 16 and 40 sherds respectively, and the prehistoric features produced associated finds of struck flint and animal bone* *The Roman and medieval periods were represented by single features: Ditch F1048 (Trench 14) and Ditch F1046 (Trench 14), respectively. Post-medieval and modern ditches and furrows were recorded in Trenches 13, 14 and 15.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	September 2016		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	Future work	*TBC*
P. number	*6747*	Site code	*ECB 4753*
Type of project	*Archaeological trial trench evaluation*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Agricultural*		
Planned development	*Residential*		
Main features (+dates)	*Pits, ditches, furrows*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*LBA – EIA assemblages, Roman and medieval finds*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Cambridgeshire*	*East Cambs*	*Soham*
HER/ SMR for area	*Cambridgeshire HER*		
Post code (if known)	*CB7 5DE*		
Area of site	*3.8 ha.*		
NGR	TL 5887 7471		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.5m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*		
Funded by	*CJ Murfitt Ltd*		
Full title	*An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Authors	*Monahan, V.*		
Report no.	*5216*		
Date (of report)	*October 2016*		

LAND NORTH OF THE SHADE, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench on land north of The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5887 7471). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed construction of a residential development of approximately 90 dwellings. The evaluation was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET)

Following a geophysical survey, the trial trenching only picked up some of the identied furrows in Trenches 12 – 15. The footpath was not evident in Trench 11, nor was the L-shaped anomaly in Trenches 7 and 8.

Archaeological features were recorded at the eastern end of the site in Trenches 13, 14 and 15. Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern features were recorded.

The earliest features date from the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age (LBA – EIA) and were recorded in Trenches 13 and 14. They comprise discrete features, Pits F1012 (Trench 13) and F1034 (Trench 14); Ditch F1021 (Trench 13) and an unusual Metalled Surface F1018 (Trench 13). Pits F1034 and F1012, 16 and 40 sherds respectively, and the prehistoric features produced associated finds of struck flint and animal bone

The Roman and medieval periods were represented by single features: Ditch F1048 (Trench 14) and Ditch F1046 (Trench 14), respectively. Post-medieval and modern ditches and furrows were recorded in Trenches 13, 14 and 15.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench on land north of The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5887 7471; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed construction of a residential development of approximately 90 dwellings. The evaluation was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET)

1.2 A geophysical survey had been completed (Blagg-Newsome, 2016).

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by **the CCC HET (Andy Thomas, dated 20th May 2016)**, and a specification compiled by AS (dated 25th May 2016) and approved by CCC HET. It adhered to the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning Policy Context

1.5 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.

1.6 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, 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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies near the north-western tip of Soham, between The Shade and the A142. The plot of land is an irregular shape and fronts The Shade to the south-west and Northfield Road to the north-east. To the south-east, the

site abuts residential properties whilst further fields lie to the north-east. A business park lies to the north.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS

3.1 The site lies at approximately 5m AOD in a fenland environment, with the landscape to the south-west of the town scattered with drainage channels. The Soham Lode drain runs along the south-western border of the town, running into the River Great Ouse 5km to the north-west.

3.2 The underlying geology forms part of the Gault formation, a mudstone formed in the Cretaceous period. The overlying soil type is a lime-rich, loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistory

4.1 Excavations at Cloverfield Drive prior to development *c*.400m to the south-west (ECB2139) revealed the area had been pasture, with field wells from the Bronze Age through to the Anglo-Saxon period (CHER MCB16867). Further to the south an evaluation and subsequent excavation revealed Late Bronze Age pottery, animal bone and burnt flint, as well as Late Iron Age pottery and a field system (CHER MCB19766).

Romano-British

4.2 South of the main town, approximately 2km south east of the site, excavations along Fordham Road found a series of Roman enclosure ditches and pits of probable 2nd-century date (Sutherland 2002), which may have been associated with a possible dwelling. Excavations at the former Fordham Road Allotments recorded Bronze Age and Roman enclosures, in conjunction with possible evidence for Roman timber buildings and a metalled surface or trackway (Connor 2001). Subsequent excavations of this site recorded ovens, corn-driers and a possible kiln representing agricultural yards or compounds for the collection and processing of produce, situated to the south of metalled road on the shoreline of the fen island (Quinn & Newton 2014, 5). Pastureland with field wells still occupied the area to the south-west during this period, as confirmed by excavations at Cloverfield Drive (ECB2139).

Medieval

4.3 A settlement at Soham was certainly well established by the late Saxon period. Allegedly an abbey and monastery was founded here in the 7th century, although investigation at the church found no evidence of a structure predating the extant church (12th century) (Hatton 1998). Late Saxon or Saxo-Norman occupation evidence has been found throughout Soham, with

principal sites investigated at Pratt Street, *c.*1km south of the site (Hatton & Last 1997) and nearby at Station Road (Heawood 1997). The Anglo-Saxon period is the last period in which the area around Cloverfield Road remained as pasture.

4.4 Before the fens were drained, Soham was a seaport town with water links to Kings Lynn and The Wash via the River Ouse. Within Soham, goods yard and old docks are evident. The mere has been claimed to be one of the largest in England, possibly second only to Whittlesey Mere in south England (www.soham.org.uk/history).

4.5 As with the present town layout, medieval Soham probably extended from the southeast to northwest, comprising networks of closes and crofts off the main road. In the Medieval period two houses were built on the Cloverfield Road site, associated with wells that contained large amounts of pottery, wooden objects and leather shoes (CHER MCB16867). However further to the south-east remained agricultural, and field systems and scattered pottery were found *c.*980m to the south (CHER MCB19766). Medieval sherds have been uncovered *c.*160m to the north-east (CHER 07103) and a medieval windmill lies to the north (CHER 06946).

Post-medieval

4.6 Evaluations to the south-west revealed a post-medieval field system or drainage system possibly relating to the draining of Soham Mere (CHER CM15241). A post-medieval brick kiln is recorded on the 1841 tithe map *c.*570m to the north-west (CHER 07088).

Undated

4.7 Over the road from the site, undated ditches were uncovered during the evaluation prior to the building of the new school. Identified as drainage ditches, each was on a different alignment, so not thought to be related, and no finds were present (CHER MCB19797).

5 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION

5.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken (Blagg-Newsome, 2016). In summary:

The geophysical survey has identified several anomalies which could be of archaeological origin. These were six parallel NE-SW positively trending linear magnetic responses consistent with the remains of ridge and furrow (1). These appear to respect a footpath (2), which could indicate an older origin for this anomaly. A very weak, negative linear anomaly forming an inverted 'L' shape (3), might also be of archaeological significance.

In the most northern field in the survey area (Field A), a series of weakly NE-SW positive linear trending anomalies were observable in the data

(4). The parallel and weakly positive nature of these anomalies is suggestive of modern ploughing activity. Three further very faint and narrow positive anomalies may relate to field drainage (5, 6 & 7).

The relatively clear magnetic contrasts seen in the data indicate that the underlying geology and site formation processes were conducive to magnetic gradiometer survey. However, there were areas of the site which could not be surveyed due to standing vegetation, as well as large areas of magnetic interference around the site boundaries (9, 10) and areas of disturbed ground (8). All of these could have inhibited the recognition of further anomalies of archaeological origin.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 The evaluation provided for a *c.*3% sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched, with a further 1% contingency held to further define any features. Fifteen trenches, *c.*40m x 1.6m, were excavated. It targeted the geophysical anomalies and also the 'blank' areas.

6.2 The topsoil was removed under close archaeological supervision and control using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand

6.3 Exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually / visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 1A: *0.00m = 6.76m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.33m+	L1001	Natural. Firm, pale yellow silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flints.

Sample section 1B: *0.00m = 6.68m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.38m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 2A: *0.00m = 6.70m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.33m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 2B: *0.00m = 6.79 m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.36m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 3A: *0.00m =6.38 m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.34m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 3B: *0.00m = 6.63m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.35m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 4A: *0.00m = 6.11m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.36m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 4B: *0.00m = 6.46m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.41m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 5A: *0.00m = 5.81m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.32m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 5B: *0.00m = 6.41m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.33m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 6 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 6A: *0.00m = 5.65m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.36m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 6B: *0.00m = 6.04m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.32m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 7A: *0.00m = 5.40m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.34m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 7B: *0.00m = 5.88m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.38m+	L1002	**Natural. Firm, mid blue-grey clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flints.**

Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 8 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 8A: *0.00m = 5.92m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.33m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.7

Sample section 8B: *0.00m = 6.14m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.32m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 9 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 9A: *0.00m = 6.90m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1003	Topsoil. Friable, dark reddish brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flints.
0.31m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 9B: *0.00m = 6.84 m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1003	Topsoil. As above.
0.22 – 0.4m	**L1004**	**Subsoil. Friable. Light reddish brown silty sand with no inclusions.**
0.4m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 10 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 10A: *0.00m = 6.91m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.23 – 0.41m	L1004	Subsoil. As above Tr.9
0.41m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 10B: *0.00m = 6.87m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.3m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.3 – 0.48m	**L1004**	**Subsoil. As above Tr.9**
0.48m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 10 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 11 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 11A: *0.00m = 6.57m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.22 – 0.34m	L1004	Subsoil. As above Tr.9
0.34m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 11B: *0.00m = 6.67m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.2m	L1003	Topsoil. As Above Tr.9
0.2 – 0.34m	**L1004**	**Subsoil. As Above Tr.9**
0.34m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 12 (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section 12A: *0.00m = 6.54m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.2m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.2 – 0.37m	L1004	Subsoil. As above Tr.9
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.7

Sample section 12B: *0.00m = 6.55m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.24 – 0.4m	**L1004**	**Subsoil. As above Tr.9**
0.4m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Description: Trench 12 contained four furrows which were recorded in plan but not excavated.

Trench 13 (Figs. 2 – 3 & 5)

Sample section 13A: *0.00m = 6.81m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.33 – 0.52m	L1004	Subsoil. As above Tr.9
0.52m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.7

Sample section 13B: *0.00m = 6.57m AOD*

0.00 – 0.31m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.31 – 0.5m	**L1004**	**Subsoil. As above Tr.9**
0.5m+	L1002	**Natural. As above Tr.7**

Description: Trench 13 contained seven ditches (F1007, F1010, F1014, F1016, F1021, F1023 and F1026), three furrows (F1005, F1028 and F1030), Pit F1012, and a metalled surface, F1018. Pit F1012 contained a large assemblage of Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (40; 934g), and Ditch F1021 contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (4; 16g). Metal Surface F1018 contained a sherd of Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery. Furrow F1028 contained a residual sherd of Roman pottery, and Ditch F1023 contained a medieval sherd, possibly also residual. Ditches F1007 and F1014 contained post-medieval / modern (18th – 20th century) pottery, as did Furrow F1030. The other features were undated.

Pit F1012 was sub circular in plan (1.30+ x 1.30 x 0.49m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a dark grey brown silty clay with moderate small angular and sub-angular flints. It contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (40; 934g), CBM (12g), animal bone (1708g) and struck flint (1; 16g). It cut Ditch F1010.

Metalled Surface F1018 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.23 x 0.18m), orientated east / west. It profile was unseen and its base was flat. It comprised two layers: L1019 was a white/blue-grey, compact metalled layer of small to large angular and sub-angular flints. It contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (1; 2g), animal bone (26g), burnt flint (3g) and struck flint (5g). Above L1019, L1020 was a friable, dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flints.

The recorded ditches are tabulated below:

Feature	***Plan/ Profile (dimensions)***	***Fill (s)***	***Relationships***	***Finds***
F1007	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 0.75 x 0.52m) with steep sides and a concave base. Orientated E/W	L1008. Firm, pale grey brown silty clay.	Cut F1005	Modern pottery (16; 359g), Fe. fragment (11g), slate (11g)
		L1009. Friable, dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints.		Post-medieval /modern (18th – 19th C) pottery (1; 9g), CBM (1030); animal bone (2403g)
F1010	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 2.30 x 0.25m) with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Orientated E/W	L1011. Firm, light orange grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints.	Cut by F1012	-
F1014	Linear in plan (1.60 x 1.08 x 0.29m) with moderately sloping	L1015. Firm, dark orange grey silty clay with		Post-medieval (16th – 18th C) pottery (2; 5g)

	sides and a concave base. Orientated SW/NE	occasional small sub-angular flints.		
F1016	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.15 x 0.32m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated E/W	L1017. Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay.	Cut F1018	Animal bone (51g)
F1021	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 0.90 x 0.40m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated E/W	L1022. Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small, angular and sub-angular flints.	Cut F1018 Cut by F1023	Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (4; 16g), animal bone (16g)
F1023	Linear in plan (1.60 x 3.25 x 0.58m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated NE/SW	L1024. Friable, pale brownish grey silty clay. L1025. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay.	Cut by F1026 Cut F1021	X1 sherd medieval (13th – 15th C) pottery (1; 15g), animal bone (2666g), slag (15g), burnt flint (92g), fired clay (29g)
F1026	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.12 x 0.21m) with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated E/W	L1027. Friable, mid reddish brown silty clay.	Cut F1023	-

The recorded furrows are tabulated below:

Feature	*Plan/ Profile (dimensions)*	*Fill (s)*	*Relationships*	*Finds*
F1005	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 2.51 x 0.26m) with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated E/W	L1006. Firm, mid blue grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints.	Cut by F1007	-
F1028	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 3.01 x 0.18m) with gently sloping sides and a flat base Orientated E/W	L1029. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints.		Residual Roman pottery sherd (1; 7g), Struck flint (1; 11g)
F1030	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 0.79 x 0.16m) with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated E/W	L1031. Friable, mid reddish brown silty clay.		Post medieval/modern (Late 18th – early 19th C) pottery (3; 20g), animal (1g); struck flint (1; 4g)

Trench 14 (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 14A: *0.00m = 6.46m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.28 – 0.45m	L1004	Subsoil. As above Tr.9
0.45m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 14B: *0.00m = 6.66m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.31 – 0.51m	**L1004**	**Subsoil. As above Tr.9**
0.51m+	L1002	**Natural. As above Tr.7**

Description: Trench 14 contained Pit F1034, five ditches (F1034, F1038, F1042, F1046 and F1048), Furrow F1036, and two irregular hollows, L1040 and L1044. The most securely dated features were Pit F1034 which contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery, Ditch F1046 which contained an assemblage of medieval (13th – 15th century) pottery, and Ditch F1048 which contained Roman pottery. Ditch F1032 and Hollow F1040 each contained a sherd of Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery, and Hollow F1044 contained a sherd of medieval (13th – 14th century) pottery. The sherds within Ditch F1032 was likely residual and derived from the pit below.

Pit F1034 was sub circular in plan (1.29+ x 0.51 x 0.35m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1035, was a firm mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (16; 18g), animal bone (9g). It was cut by Ditch F1032.

Furrow F1036 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.10 x 0.10m), orientated south-east/north–west. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1037, was a firm, pale grey brown silty clay. It contained CBM (1g), an Fe. fragment (1; 2g) and oyster shell (1; 6g)

Hollow F1040 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 2.98+ x 0.29m). It was shallow with an irregular in profile. Its fill, L1041, was a firm mid grey brown silty clay. It contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (1; 11g), and CBM (19g).

Hollow F1044 was irregular in plan (1.60+ x 2.0+ x 0.18m). It was shallow with an irregular profile. Its fill, L1045, was a firm mid grey brown silty clay. It contained medieval (13th – 14th century) pottery (1; 5g), CBM (189g), animal bone (14g), burnt flint (6g), an Fe. fragment (1g) and fired clay (4g).

The ditches are tabulated below:

Feature	*Plan/ Profile (dimensions)*	*Fill (s)*	*Relationships*	*Finds*
F1032	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.15 x 0.45m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated SE/NW	L1033. Firm mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints.	Cut Pit F1032	Residual Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (1; 4g), animal bone (468g)
F1038	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 0.00 x 0.34m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated SE/NW	L1039. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints.		Pottery (1; 11g), animal bone (29g) and struck flint (8g).
F1042	Linear in plan (1.60 x 0.87 x 0.20m) with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Orientated N/S	L1043. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flints.	Cut by F1040	
F1046	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 0.99 x 0.34m) with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Orientated N/S	L1047. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular flints.		pottery (14; 150g), CBM (288g), animal bone (285g), Cu. Fragment (<1g), struck flint (12g)
F1048	Linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.15 x 0.45m) with moderately sloping sides and a flat base Orientated NW/SE	L1049. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flints.	Cut F1018	Early Roman pottery (7; 53g), animal bone (2g)

Trench 15 (Figs. 3 - 4)

Sample section 15A: 0.00m = 6.74m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.26 – 0.45m	L1004	Subsoil. As above Tr.9
0.45m+	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 15B: 0.00m = 6.17m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1003	Topsoil. As above Tr.9
0.29 – 0.38m	**L1004**	**Subsoil. As above Tr.9**
0.38m+	L1001	**Natural. As above Tr.1**

Ditch F1052 was linear in plan (1.60 x 0.94 x 0.46m), orientated north-west/south-east. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1053, was a friable pale blue grey silty clay with occasional small orange ferrous flecks. It contained burnt flint (25g).

Hollow F1050 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 6.1 x 0.15m). It was shallow and irregular with an uneven profile. It was a firm mid red brown silty clay. It contained prehistoric pottery (1; 7g) and a Cu. Fragment (22g).

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

8.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 In the northern field, uppermost, Topsoil L1000 was a dark red brown silty clay with occasional small to large angular and sub-angular flints (0.32 – 0.41m thick). Below L1000 was the natural, L1001, a firm pale yellow clay (c.0.40m below the present day ground surface).

9.2 In the southern field, uppermost, Topsoil L1003 was a friable, red brown silty sand with occasional small angular and sub-angular flints (0.20 – 0.51m). L1003 overlay Subsoil L1004, a friable mid grey brown silty clay. At the base of the sequence was the natural L1003 as above (C.0.50m below the present day ground surface).

9.3 A variation in the natural occurred in both fields, L1002, was a firm mid blue-grey clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flints (C.0.40 – 0.50m below present day ground surface.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
13	F1005	Furrow	-
	F1007	Ditch	Post-medieval / modern (18^{th} – 20^{th} century)
	F1010	Ditch	-
	F1012	Pit	LBA – EIA
	F1014	Ditch	Post-medieval (16^{th} – 18^{th} century)
	F1016	Ditch	-
	F1018	Metalled Surface	Single sherd of LBA – EIA
	F1021	Ditch	LBA – EIA
	F1023	Ditch	Single sherd of medieval sherd, possibly

			residual
	F1026	Ditch	-
	F1028	Furrow	Residual Roman sherd
	F1030	Furrow	Post-medieval / modern (Late 18th – early 19th century)
14	F1032	Ditch	Residual sherd of LBA – EIA
	F1034	Pit	LBA – EIA
	F1036	Furrow	-
	F1038	Ditch	-
	F1040	Hollow	Single sherd of LBA – EIA
	F1042	Ditch	-
	F1044	Hollow	Single sherd of medieval (13th – 14th C)
	F1046	Ditch	Medieval (13th – 15th C)
	F1048	Ditch	Early Roman
15	F1050	Hollow	Single sherd of prehistoric pottery
	F1052	Ditch	-

10.2 The geophysical survey identified six parallel NE/SW positively trending linear magnetic responses consistent with the remains of ridge and furrow (1) (Fig.3), and they appeared to respect a footpath (2). A very weak, negative linear anomaly forming an inverted 'L' shape (3) was also judged to be of potential archaeological significance. The trial trenching only picked up some of the furrows in Trenches 12 – 15. The footpath was not evident in Trench 11, nor was the L-shaped anomaly evident in Trenches 7 and 8.

10.3 Archaeological features were recorded at the eastern end of the site in Trenches 13, 14 and 15. Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern features were recorded.

10.4 The earliest features date from the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age (LBA – EIA) and were recorded in Trenches 13 and 14. They comprise discrete features, Pits F1012 (Trench 13) and F1034 (Trench 14); Ditch F1021 (Trench 13) and an unusual Metalled Surface F1018 (Trench 13). The metalled surface produced just one sherd but the other features contained larger sherd numbers in particular the Pits F1034 and F1012, 16 and 40 sherds respectively. Ditch F1021 had four sherds. Hollows F1040 (Trench 14) and F1050 (Trench 15) contained single sherds of LBA-EIA and prehistoric pottery. Ditch F1032 contained a single sherd of LBA-EIA pottery likely derived from Pit F1034 which it cut. Two residual sherds of pottery were found within Ditch F1046. The prehistoric features produced associated finds of struck flint and animal bone

10.5 Ditch F1048 (Trench 14) contained four sherds of Early Roman pottery and Furrow F1028 had a residual sherd of Roman pottery. Ditch F1046 contained three fragments of Roman tegula.

10.6 Like the Roman period, a single feature represented the medieval period: Ditch F1046 (Trench 14) produced 14 sherds of medieval (13th – 15th century) pottery. Associated finds comprise CBM and animal bone. Single

sherds of medieval pottery were derived from Ditch F1023 and Hollow F1044 (both Trench 14). Furrrow F1030 contained a residual sherd of medieval pottery.

10.7 Post-medieval and modern ditches and furrows were recorded in Trenches 13, 14 and 15.

Research Potential

10.8 The identification of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity in a Fenland environment is potentially significant. Targeted programmes of sedimentological, palynological and macrofossil analyses of sediments in river valleys or lakes, adjacent to known archaeological sites, are needed to determine the date and nature of changes associated with the adoption and development of farming, the beginnings of large-scale woodland clearance and the establishment of permanent field systems (Medlycott 2011, 20). The potential of sites in environments such as this to contain such evidence suggests that this site may contribute to the study of human alteration to the natural environment. The recorded activity of this date is suggestive of settlement activity and as such has the potential to contribute to studies regarding variation and changes in settlement types during the Bronze Age (Medlycott 2011, 20). Settlement types are also considered to be an important research subject for the Iron Age, with particular emphasis on the zonation of use and internal spaces, and the ways in which settlements interacted with their hinterlands and their locations in relation to the local topography, geology, natural resources, and communication routes (Medlycott 2011, 31). As a settlement site, information relating to social organisation, belief systems, the agrarian economy, and trade, craft, and industrial processes (Medlycott 2011, 30-32). The date of the site also indicates that it may provide information relating to the transitional phase between the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods (Medlycott 2011, 29).

10.9 The identification of Roman archaeology in the form of a single ditch suggests that there may have been some continuity of occupation from the Iron Age, although evidence for the intervening middle and later Iron Age occupation was note recorded during the evaluation; Iron Age to Roman transition/continuity and the process of Romanisation is identified as an important research subject (Medlycott 2011, 31, 47). Rural settlement is also identified as an important research subject for region, with the form of farmsteads and the relationship between field size and shape and agricultural regimes being particularly pertinent to this site (Medlycott 2011, 47).

10.10 The single medieval ditch recorded during the evaluation may indicate that the site has the potential to provide information relating to the management of the landscape in this period and potential relates to issues associated with the fenland environment prevalent here (Medlycott 2011, 70). Similar issues may be considered with regard to the post-medieval features that were recorded; land reclamation and water management are identified as particularly important research subjects for this area in the region (Medlycott 2011, 79).

11 CONCLUSION

11.1 Following the geophysical survey, the trial trenching only picked up some of the identified furrows in Trenches 12 – 15. The footpath was not evident in Trench 11, nor was the L-shaped anomaly in Trenches 7 and 8.

11.2 Archaeological features were recorded at the eastern end of the site in Trenches 13, 14 and 15. Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern features were recorded.

11.3 The earliest features date from the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age (LBA – EIA) and were recorded in Trenches 13 and 14. They comprise discrete features, Pits F1012 (Trench 13) and F1034 (Trench 14); Ditch F1021 (Trench 13) and unusually Metal Surface F1018 (Trench 13). Pits F1034 and F1012, 16 and 40 sherds respectively, and the prehistoric features produced associated finds of struck flint and animal bone

11.4 The Roman and medieval periods were represented by single features: Ditch F1048 (Trench 14) and Ditch F1046 (Trench 14), respectively. Post-medieval and modern ditches and furrows were recorded in Trenches 13, 14 and 15.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

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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)
	1000			Topsoil Field A	late 18th-19th	4	26	19				
		A	1		late 18th-early 20th	1	11	103				
		B	1		Medieval	1	6	191				
		A	2		19th-early 20th C	3	30	4				
		B	2		19th-20th C	3	20	41				
		B	3		19th early 20th C	2	8	31				
		A	4					63				
		B	4		late 19th C	5	31					
		A	5		late 18th - early 19th C	2	21	14				
		B	5					9				
		A	6		late 18th - early 20th C	2	85					
		B			mid 18th-19th C	2	44					
		A	7		19th-early 20th	5	19	237				

		B			late 18th - early 20th C	5	43	22				
		A	8		late 18th - early 20th C	2	40	2				
		B			mid 19th-early 20th C	3	28					
		A	12		19th C	1	18					
		B						63				
	1003			Topsoil Field B	late 18th-19th C	6	17					
		A						7				
		B	9		17th-18th/19th C	2	25					
		A	10		19th-20th C	1	5					
		B	10									
			11		late 18th-19th C	4	43					
		A	11		19th-early 20th	1	<1					
		B	13					168				
		A	14		19th-early 20th	1	1	15				
		B			18th-19th	3	62					
	1004		9	Subsoil Field B	16th-17th C	3	19					
1007	1008		13	Fill of Ditch	19th-early 20th C	16	359			Fe.Frag	1	11
										Slate	1	11
	1009		13	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th C	1	9	1030	2403			
1012	1013		13	Fill of Pit	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron AGE	40	934	12	1708	S.Flint	1	16
1014	1015		13	Fill of Ditch	16th-18th C	2	5					
1016	1017		13	Fill of Ditch					51			
1018	1019		13	Metalled Surface	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron AGE	1	2		26	B.Flint	1	3
										S.Flint	1	5

1021	1022		13	Fill of Ditch	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron AGE	4	16		16			
1023	1024		13	Fill of Ditch	13th-15th C	1	15		2666	Slag B.Flint Fired Clay	1 3 1	15 92 29
1028	1029		13	Fill of Ditch	Roman	1	7					
1030	1031		13	Fill of Furrow	Late 18th-early 19th C	3	20		1			
1032	1033		14	Fill of Ditch	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron AGE	1	4		468			
1034	1035		14	Fill of Pit	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron AGE	16	18		9			
1036	1037		14	Fill of Furrow				1		Fe.Frag Oyster Shell	1 1	2 6
1038	1039		14	Fill of Ditch					29			
1040	1041		14	Fill of Hollow	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron AGE	1	11	19				
1044	1045		14	Fill of Hollow	13th-14th C	1	5	189	14	B.Flint Fe.Frag F.Clay	1 1 1	6 1 4
1046	1047		14	Fill of Ditch	13th-15th C	14	150	288	285	Cu Frag	1	<1
1048	1049		14	Fill of Ditch	Early Roman	7	53		2			
1050	1051		15	Fill of Hollow	Prehistoric	1	7			Pb/Cu.Alloy Frag?	1	22
1052	1053		15	Fill of Ditch						B.Flint	1	25

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered two pieces (11g) of struck flint in an un-patinated condition; contained in Pit F1012 and Metalled Surface L1019. The former comprises a small re-touched flake, possibly a crude side scraper formed on a primary flake by the application of very limited fine retouch. The latter is a debitage flake of chert-like flint with a shattered bulb of percussion that exhibits an impact scar possibly indicative of the use of a metal striking tool.

Both flakes exhibit little evidence of systematic technological traits, and it is likely they represent the expedient continued utilization of flint into the Bronze Age, possibly contemporary with late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery also contained in both contexts.

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The assemblage contains a total of 72 sherds (1052g) of well preserved pottery; including a diagnostic pit group of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date, with a further sparse distribution of sherds from this period and of early Roman date (Table 1). The group in Pit F1012 is consistent with the post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) ceramic tradition in the region , including a large jar decorated with an applied thumb-impressed and a fine polished globular bowl, The PDR ceramic tradition spans the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age in the region, and although based on deposits limited by the extent of the trial-trench evaluation, the fabric and form types present may tentatively be identified with 'early' decorated PDR assemblages in the region (*c*.800-600BC). This chronology may coincide with the earliest groups recorded at Fordham Road *c*.2km to the south-east; a pit group at Halstead Lodge, White Hart Lane c.1.5km to the south-east; as well as less diagnostic prehistoric sherds with calcined flint temper from features recorded at the former Church Hall Site, High Street.

Feature Group/Pottery type	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
Pit F1012 – Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	40	934
Other Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Pottery	28	82
Early Roman Pottery	4	36
Total	72	1052

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by frequency (F) and weight (W, in grams) in feature groups

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE (including minimum number of vessels) with fabrics examined at x20 magnification. Rim type, profile and decoration were also recorded in separate fields and free-text comments in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995). To reduce the repetition of references to general and particular form types, abbreviations (*italicised*) have been utilised for Barrett's (1980) classification of PDR vessel *Class*, and for the type-sites at *West Harling* (Clark & Fell 1953). All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

The Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age Pottery

A total of 68 sherds (1016g) of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was present in the assemblage, of which *c*.59% by sherd count (*c*.92% by weight) was contained as well-preserved sherds in Pit F1012, with significantly smaller non-diagnostic body sherds also contained in Ditches F1021, F1032, F1040, F1048, Pit F1034, Hollow F1050 and Metalled Surface L1018. The group from Pit F1012 was well-preserved with an average sherd weight of 23.4g and intact surfaces and substantial profiles; the group includes the remnants of a minimum of three vessels (total R.EVE: 0.24), though the bulk of the sherds (some cross-joining) can be attributed to a single fabric F3 large jar decorated with an applied thumb-impressed strip.

The late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery occurred in three hand-made, bonfire-fired fabrics, all of which represent the use calcined flint temper of varying coarseness (F1, F2 & F3). The fabrics can be described as:

F1 Sparse-common flint-tempered ware. Black to pale red brown surfaces over a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise sparse-common calcined flint (0.25-2mm, occasionally to 5mm) with common sub angular quartz (0.2-0.5mm)

F2 Fine flint-tempered ware. Black to dark grey throughout. Inclusions comprise sparse-common calcined flint (<1mm), sparse quartz (<0.5mm) and occasional grey ?rock/clay pellets (<1mm). Almost always with burnished exterior.

F3 Coarse flint-tempered ware. Orange brown surfaces over a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common calcined flint (0.5-5mm, occasionally to 5mm) with sparse sub angular quartz (0.2-0.5mm)

Fabric	Pit F1012		Other Features		*Total*	
	F	W	F	W	*F*	*W*
F1	1	16	2	13	*3*	*29*
F2	4	61	16	18	*20*	*79*
F3	35	853	10	51	*45*	*904*
Total	*40*	*930*	*28*	*82*	*68*	*1016*

Table 2: Quantification of fabric types in Pit F1012 and other features by frequency (F) and weight (W, in grams)

Vessels in all three fabrics were contained in Pit F1012, with 'coarse' fabric F3 common, 'fine' and 'medium fabrics F1 and F2 rare (Table 2) were present

elsewhere. All three fabrics are paralleled in the pit group at Halstead Lodge (Peachey 2015a, 33), while only fabrics F1 and F2 are directly paralleled in the significant assemblage from Fordham Road, Soham (Peachey 2015b). This contrast, with the presence of coarse fabric F3 relative to the absence of the sand or shell-tempered fabrics evident at Fordham Road maybe indicative of a chronology in the early stages of the progression from flint to sand temper in PDR pottery (Needham 1996, 245), though this may be biased by a single large vessel in Pit F1012. Nonetheless, the coarser fabric F3 is consistent with the calcined flint-tempered pottery recorded at the former Church Hall Site, where diagnostic form types were absent (Peachey 2012, 33-4).

The classification of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age form types is framed by the development of chronologies for PDR pottery in eastern England. This framework is underpinned by the broad definition of PDR ceramic tradition spanning the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age by Barrett (1980), in parallel with the early Iron Age regional style zones defined by Cunliffe (1968; 2005), specifically the West Harling-Fengate group and the Ivinghoe-Sandy group (Cunliffe 2005, 94-7, figs. A:5 & A:7). Defining and refining a ceramic-based chronology within the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age has proved problematic, in part because inter- and intra-site comparisons often appeared to show inconsistent patterns; and because in regions such as the fens and fen-edge, substantial diagnostic assemblages remained relatively uncommon therefore comprehensive data with which to determine a satisfactory resolution remained absent. However the compilation of new data (and associated radio-carbon dates) has allowed greater rigour and understanding to be applied to PDR chronologies in eastern England (Brudenell 2008a; Knight 2002), in particular northern East Anglia (Brudenell 2011), while recent excavations in the southern half of the fens/fen-edge have provided similar assemblages from sites such as Colne Fen (Brudenell 2013, 213). Therefore, it has proved possible to move beyond Barrett's, still applicable vessel classes, to recognise form and decoration types characteristic of early plain ware, early decorated ware and late decorated ware (i.e. Brudenell 2011, 13-22) associated with chronological phases within the PDR ceramic tradition.

The group from Pit F1012 includes two examples of Barrett (1980) *Class I* coarse jars, and a single *Class IV* fine bowl. The bulk of the sherds in Pit F1012 appear derived from a *Class I* jar in fabric F3, which has a flared plain rim with an applied thumb-impressed strip decorating the angular junction of the neck, closely comparable to *West Harling I* jars. This jar is also notable for exhibiting a bitumous soot-like resin on its rim and exterior surfaces, probably derived from a cooking or smoking process. Notably, this type of jar was not recorded in other contemporary assemblage from Soham, although vessels comparable to the fabric F2 jar with a frilled rim, and the F1 globular bowl with a polished exterior are both paralleled at Halstead Lodge (Peachey 2015a, 34) and Fordham Road (Peachey 2015b: fig.96.8 & 101.1&3). This combination of form types and decoration appears most consistent with PDR form types that develop in the earliest Iron Age (*c*.800-600BC) in 'early' decorated PDR assemblages (Brudenell 2008a, 188-90; Brudenell 2011, 17-19). This pattern is most evident at West Harling *c*.40km to the east, but has been identified in the pit group at Halstead Lodge (Peachey 2015a, 34); and

components of the assemblage from Fordham Road, Soham, notably in Phase 1, although activity appears to continue there longer through the early Iron Age Peachey 2015b).

It is acknowledged that chronological differentiation in PDR assemblages is laced with difficulty due to vessel types maintaining long currencies that transgress traditional divides (Brudenell 2008a, 191; Knight 2002, 127), but it may be pertinent that radiocarbon dating at Fordham Road returned dates that supported a chronology in the 8th to 7th centuries BC (Peachey 2015, 81 & 212). On a broader scale it must be stated that these vessel types are distinct from the bi-partite vessels with a lower girth/shoulder recorded in the late Bronze Age assemblage from Addenbrooke's, Cambridge (Brudenell 2008b, 36), and the more rounded shoulder of the earliest middle Iron Age jars from Haddenham V (Hill & Braddock 2006). Based on a single pit as the principal depositional context, it is unclear if the PDR vessels were associated with settlement activity, although it appears the deposit represents a single act of the disposal of vessels.

Roman and later pottery

The assemblage included a total of four sherds (36g) of Roman pottery, contained as sparse sherds in Ditch F1048 and Furrow F1028. The Roman pottery was entirely comprised of a locally-produced sandy grey ware, with inclusions of moderately sorted common quartz and sparse black iron ore (both 0.1-0.75mm). Ditch F1048 included a bowl-jar with an everted bead rim, plain shoulder cordon and carinated body, comparable to types produced in the Greenhouse Farm, Milton kilns (Gibson & Lucas 2002: fig.11.4), and to bowl-jars present in mid 1st to early 2nd century AD groups at Fordham Road (Peachey 2015: fig.107.16).

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The Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery

Peter Thompson

Introduction

The archaeological evaluation recovered 104 sherds weighing 1.311kg from five features, a furrow and the topsoil and subsoil. The bulk of the pottery is of late 18th-mid 20th centuries date and derives from the topsoil. Three residual flint tempered late prehistoric sherds were also present, and 22 medieval sherds, all but two being Ely type wares.

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and quantified in Table 3. The recording was carried out in keeping with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001 & MPRG 1998). Dating is in accordance with the London medieval and post-medieval range (MoLAS), and other local published material. Form terminologies are based on the MPRG descriptions and Paul Spoerry's typology on Ely Wares (Spoerry 2008).

The Pottery

There are three features that contained medieval pottery and nothing later (in one case with two residual prehistoric sherds also present), all these sherds being Ely-type ware. Ditch F1046 was the feature of most interest containing 12 lightly to moderately abraded Ely ware sherds (and the two prehistoric sherds). These include two cooking pot upper profiles, both with rims approximately 16cm in diameter and of the Type D category. The rim type and smooth surfaces may indicate a late Ely fabric. There is charcoal residue present on the interior of three or four of the sherds. Ditch F1023 (L1024) contained a body/base angle sherd. Furrow F1030 (L1031) contained a type D bowl rim, and Ditch F1044 (L1045) also contained a body sherd of Ely ware.

KEY (codes applicable to Cambridgeshire are included in brackets):

PFTW (0.41): Prehistoric flint tempered ware c.1000 BC –AD 50

MCW (3.20): Medieval coarse ware 1: fine to medium sandy fabric with rare very coarse calcareous inclusions, grey cores with brown or oxidised surfaces.

MEL (3.61): Medieval Ely and Ely type Ware (-t) mid 12th-15th

PMCRE (6.17): Calcareous post-medieval red earthenware 16th-18th

PMBL (6.11): Post-medieval black glazed red earthenware 16th-18th

LGRE (8.50): Late post-medieval red earthenware late 18th+

LPMRE (8.01): Late post-medieval red earthenware late 18th+

LONS (8.21): London type stoneware late 17th-19th

ENGS (8.20): English stoneware 18th+

ENPO (8.30): English porcelain mid 18th+

RWE (8.03): Refined factory made white earthenware late 18th+

TPW (8.00): Transfer Printed Ware late 19th+

MOCH (8.13): Mocha type ware late 18th-early 20th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil Field A	1000	1x16g MEL	mid 12th-14th	
Topsoil Field A	1000	2x4g ENPO 1x1g RWE 1x7g LONS	19th-early 20th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 1A	1x11g LGRE	late 18th-early 20th	LGRE: kitchen ware
Topsoil Field A	1000 1B	1x6g MEL		
Topsoil Field A	1000 02B	1x7g ENPO 2x16g RWE	19th-20th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 3B	1x4g RWE 1x2g MOCH	19th-early 20th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 4B	1x1g ENPO 3x28g PMBL 1x1g GRE	late 19th-19th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 02A	2x29g LPMRE 1x2g ENPO	19th-early 20th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 05A	1x18g LGRE 1x3g ENPO	late 18th-early 19th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 06A	1x85g ENGS 1x1g TPW	late 18th-early 20th	ENGS: grey heavy jar base TPW: 'willow pattern' plate rim
Topsoil Field A	1000 06B	1x39g LGRE 1x7g ENPO	mid 18th-19th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 06A	2x10g LGRE 2x2g RWE 1x8g PMCRE	19th-early 20th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 07B	1x25g LGRE 2x9g ENPO 2x9g RWE	late 18th-early 20th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 08A	1x38g LGRE 1x4g ENGS	late 18th-early 20th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 08B	1x20g LGRE 1x1g TPW 1x11g ENGS	mid 19th-early 20th	ENGS: fragment of preserve jar
Topsoil Field A	1000 TT12 A	1x18g LGRE	19th-19th	
Topsoil Field A	1000 TT12 seg B	1x39g MEL	late 13th-15th	MEL: inturned jug rim 10cm diam, and scar of strap handle
Topsoil Field A	1000	1x3g RWE 4x17g TPW 1x1g GRE	late 18th-19th	
Topsoil Field B	1003 09B	1x22g GRE	17th-18th /19th	
Topsoil Field B	1003 10A	1x5g RWE	19th-20th	
Topsoil Field B	1003 14A	1x2g TPW	19th-early 20th	TPW: blaxk transfer print

Topsoil Field B	1003 14A	1x50g LGRE 2x13g MEL	18th-19th	LGRE: flanged or bifid bowl rim
Topsoil Field B	1003 TT109	2x23g RWE	late 18th-19th	
Topsoil Field B	1003 TT11A	1x1g RWE	19th-early 20th	
Topsoil Field B	1003 TT11B	1x18g GRE 1x18g ENGS 1x19g TPW 1x1g RWE	late 18th-19th	
Topsoil Field B	1003 TT13A	1x42g ENGS 1x2g TPW	late 18th-early 20th	ENGS: decorative handle to teapot or other vessel
Subsoil Field B	1004 TT11	1x3g PMCRE 1x14g MEL 1x1g MCW1	16th-17th	MEL: bowl rim Type D category
Ditch 1007	1008 TT13	5x273g LGRE 5x58g MOCH 3x12 RWE 2x15g TPW	19th – early 20th	LGRE: includes lug handle to a large jar TPW: includes green transfer printing
	1009	1x11g LGRE	18^{th} – 19^{th}	
Ditch 1014	1015	1x5g PFTW 1x1g PMBL	16^{th}-18^{th}	
Ditch 1023	1024	1x14g MEL-t	13^{th}-15^{th}	MEL: base/body angle
Furrow 1030	1031	1x1g TPW 1x18g MEL 1x2g MCW1	Late 18^{th}-early 19^{th}	MEL: type D bowl rim
Linear 1044	1045	1x6g MEL	13^{th}-14^{th}	
Ditch 1046	1047	12x119g MEL-t 2x39g PFTW	13^{th}-15^{th}	MEL: x2 cooking pot rims both c.16cm diam. Surfaces smooth and form may indicate late Ely fabric, also little or no calcareous visible, but an Ely type fabric. Internal sooting to 3 or 4 sherds.

Table 3: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

MPRG, 1998, A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms Medieval Pottery *Research Group Occasional Paper No. 1*

Slowikowski, A. Nenk, B. and Pearce, J. 2001, Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2*

Spoerry, P., 2008 Ely Wares *East Anglian Archaeology* Report 122

The Fired Clay
Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered two pieces (33g) of fired clay in a highly abraded condition, contained in Ditch F1023 and Hollow. Both fragments were manufactured in a moderately chalky fabric that had been fired at a low temperature, probably as a loom weight or oven furniture; however there are no extant surfaces, edges or diagnostic traits to confirm exactly what type or date these objects could have been.

The Ceramic Building Materials
Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of 57 fragments (2587g) of CBM in a moderately to highly abraded condition; including Roman tegula roof tile from a single contect, but with the bulk comprised of late post-medieval to early modern debris (Table 4), largely from the topsoil.

CBM type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Roman tegula roof tile	3	288
Post-medieval peg tile	39	1551
Post-medieval/early modern pantile	13	485
Post-medieval/early modern floor tile	1	191
Post-medieval/early modern chimney pot	1	72
Total	*57*	*2587*

Table 4: Quantification of 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 Brodribb (1987). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spread sheet that forms part of the site archive.

The Roman CBM

Ditch F1046 contained three fragments (288g) of Roman tegula roof tile, including one fragment with a flanged edge. The tegula was manufactured in a coarse orange sandy fabric, with inclusions of common moderately sorted quartz (0.1-1mm), with occasional flint and red-iron rich grains (0.5-3mm). The limited quantitiy of Roman CBM suggests it is not directly associated with a structure, but may be derived from Roman occupation that has been identified on the slightly higher ground of the fen island to the east.

The late post-medieval to early modern CBM

The bulk of the assemblage appears to represent 18th-19th century debris, distributed as largely re-deposited small fragments across the site. The most common form is peg tile, including fragments from a single highly fired tile in a cream calcareous fabric contained in Ditch F1007 L1009; however the remainder of the small fragments were manufactured in a red sandy fabric, including those in Hollow F1044 and Ditch F1046. The topsoil also contained several other types in near vitrified red earthen ware fabrics including small fragments of pantile, floor tile (20mm thick), and chimney pot with a black glaze on the exterior. It is highly unlikely that any of these fragments are related to a structure, but were re-deposited from the town to improve soil drainage.

Bibliography

Brodribb, G. 1987 *Roman Brick and Tile*, Gloucester

The Slag
Andrew A. S. Newton

Introduction

One piece (15g) of slag, originating from 1 context, was recovered during archaeological work at The Shade, Soham. The slag was identified on morphological grounds by visual examination.

Visual examination of metalworking residues allows them to be categorised according to morphology, colour, density, and vesicularity. It should be noted, however, that not all slags are diagnostic of a particular metalworking process or part of that process. Slags are also particularly susceptible to morphological and composition alteration by secondary corrosion products.

Reference was made to the National Slag Reference Collection (Dungworth *et al* 2009) where appropriate and to the relevant subject-specific (Bayley *et al* 2008) and regional (Medlycott 2011) research frameworks.

Results

F1023 L1024 *1 frag; 15g.* Very dark grey to black in colour. Occasional burnt stones appear as inclusions in the material. Material is dense but with moderate air pockets. Upper surface slightly mammilated in appearance, lower surface bears what may be charcoal impressions. Material gives slight response magnet. Undiagnostic Fe Slag.

Discussion

The response to the magnet suggests that this material derives from the production of iron. The fragment itself is undiagnostic and clearly broken from a larger accumulation of slag. This single fragment is not, in itself, indicative of iron production in the immediate vicinity but its presence might indicate that such activities occurred in the wider area.

References

Bayley, J., Crossley, D. and Ponting, M. 2008, *Metals and Metalworking: a research framework for archaeometallurgy*, The Historical Metallurgical Society/English Heritage, London

Dungworth, D, with Blakelock, E. and Nicholas, M. 2009, *National Slag Collection*, Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust/Historical Metallurgy Society

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011, *Research and Archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, ALGAO East of England Region, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24

The Animal Bone
Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A moderately sized animal bone assemblage was recovered during the evaluation, totalling over 400 bone fragments. Bones derived from a variety of features including ditches, pits and a metalled surface, with spot dates ranging from Late Bronze Age through to post medieval. Their preservation was rated from poor to good on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent; bone preservation for the majority of contexts was rated as ok. Bone abrasion varied between contexts and fresh breaks were largely uncommon in most contexts, canid gnawed bone was present in less than half of the context. No burnt bones were present.

Identified taxa present, in order of abundance, were cattle, horse, sheep/goat and pig. The majority of the assemblage was made up bones that could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. No bird, fish or wild mammal remains were present. The bone count for horse is largely inflated by the presence of a partial neonate skeleton from post-medieval Ditch Fill L1009 (F1007), with all of the horse and large mammal remains in this context likely belonging to the same individual. Elements represented in this deposit include limbs, ribs, vertebrae, skull and mandible fragments and a few foot bones. All of the long bones were small and unfused, many of the vertebral body segments were unfused and the teeth present showed little sign of wear. No butchery marks or other modifications were noted on these bones. The only other horse element present was a single tooth from L1024.

Cattle were represented by a variety of bones spread over several different contexts although the majority derived from Ditch Fill L1024. Here a mix of elements were present with head, limbs and feet all represented. Butchered elements included a metatarsal with cut marks indicative of skinning or dismemberment and a hyoid with cut marks indicative of the removal of the tongue. Ageable elements included two lower third molars (LM3), both in wear, indicating the presence of adult animals and a neonate astragalus and two metapodials with unfused distal ends indicating the presence of younger animals. A single horn core present was of the short horn type. One of the LM3s present had a reduced/absent hypoconulid (third cusp) thought to be indicative of a narrow gene pool (O'Connor 2000, 121). One of the unfused metapodials present was noticeably asymmetrical at the distal end, Bartosiewicz (2013, 144) notes this as a sub-pathological symptom of draught work in cattle.

Further cattle bones of note came from Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age Pit Fill L1013. Positively identified cattle elements included a mandible with an LM3 in wear, indicating an adult animal and some butchered elements. Of particular note were several large mammal vertebrae (probably belonging to cattle rather than horse) which were noted as particularly large, indicating the presence of a large type of cattle or a large bull.

Sheep/goat was represented by a mix of head and limb elements. Two mandibles were present both having LM3 teeth in wear, indicating the presence of adult animals. None of the elements present could be determined specifically as sheep or goat. None of the sheep/goat elements were butchered and none showed signs of pathology.

Pig was represented by only a few bones: a pelvis fragment and fragments of a mandible plus some loose teeth. The canine teeth present indicated that the mandible belonged to a male animal. No butchery marks or pathologies were noted.

The Environmental Samples
Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the evaluation at The Shade, Soham, two bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The samples were from late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age pit fill L1013 (F1012) and medieval ditch fill L1047 (F1046). This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

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 scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification).

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 5. No carbonised remains were identified within the bulk sample light fractions. A small number of potentially archaeological mollusc shells were present, but the concentration of these was too low for any meaningful comment.

Conclusions

The absence of carbonised remains in the bulk sample light fractions indicates that the sampled deposits were not receiving burnt material from domestic or agricultural activities. However, the results from two samples from widely separated periods of activity is not necessarily representative of the overall pattern of archaeological deposits that may be present across the site as a whole. Should further excavation be carried out at the site, further targeted bulk sampling may result in the recovery of archaeobotanical remains that can provide information about the past diet and economy of the site and its inhabitants.

Site code	Sample number	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	
ECB4753	1	1013	1012	Fill of Pit	LBA-EIA	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp.	X	X	X	-	-	-
ECB4753	2	1047	1046	Fill of Ditch	Medieval	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Carychium* sp., *Vallonia* sp.	X	X	X	-	-	-

Table 5: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from The Shade, Soham.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-278156

Project details

Project name	Land North of The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench on land north of The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5887 7471). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed construction of a residential development of approximately 90 dwellings. The evaluation was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) Following a geophysical survey, the trial trenching only picked up some of the identified furrows in Trenches 12 - 15. The footpath was not evident in Trench 11, nor was the L-shaped anomaly in Trenches 7 and 8. Archaeological features were recorded at the eastern end of the site in Trenches 13, 14 and 15. Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern features were recorded. The earliest features date from the Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age (LBA - EIA) and were recorded in Trenches 13 and 14. They comprise discrete features, Pits F1012 (Trench 13) and F1034 (Trench 14); Ditch F1021 (Trench 13) and an unusual Metalled Surface F1018 (Trench 13). Pits F1034 and F1012, 16 and 40 sherds respectively, and the prehistoric features produced associated finds of struck flint and animal bone The Roman and medieval periods were represented by single features: Ditch F1048 (Trench 14) and Ditch F1046 (Trench 14), respectively. Post-medieval and modern ditches and furrows were recorded in Trenches 13, 14 and 15.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2016 End: 30-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P6747 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4753 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Late Bronze Age
Monument type	PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	DITCH Roman

Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	FURROW Post Medieval
Monument type	FURROW Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOHAM Land North of The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB7 5DE
Study area	3.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 5887 7471 52.3469920521 0.332649913505 52 20 49 N 000 19 57 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5m Max: 5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land North of The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Monahan, V
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Entered by	Sarah Powell (info@ascontracts.co.uk)
Entered on	3 March 2017

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

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Ditches 1005 and 1007 in Trench 13 looking SW

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Ditch 1046 in Trench 14 looking N

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Ditch 1052 in Trench 15 looking SE

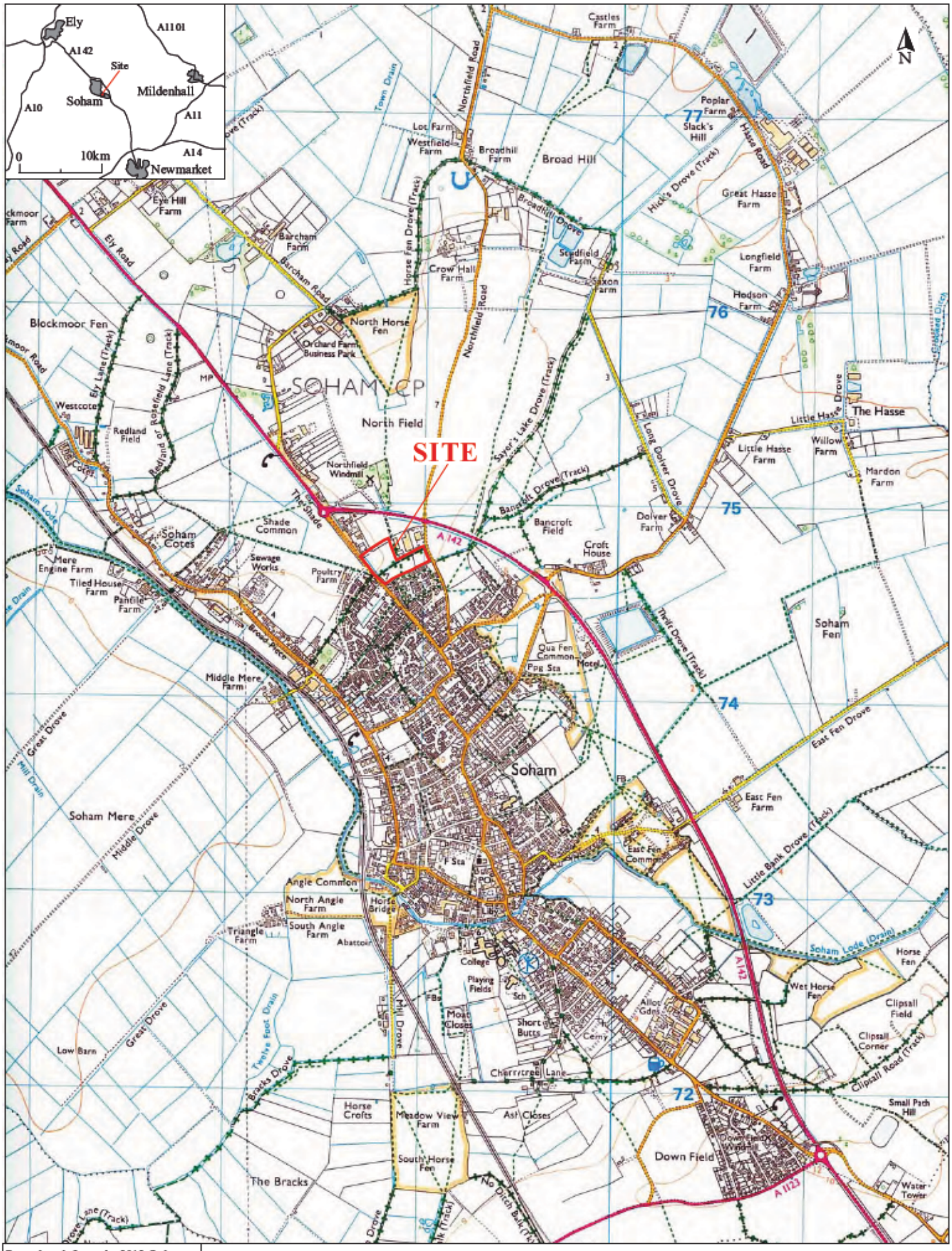

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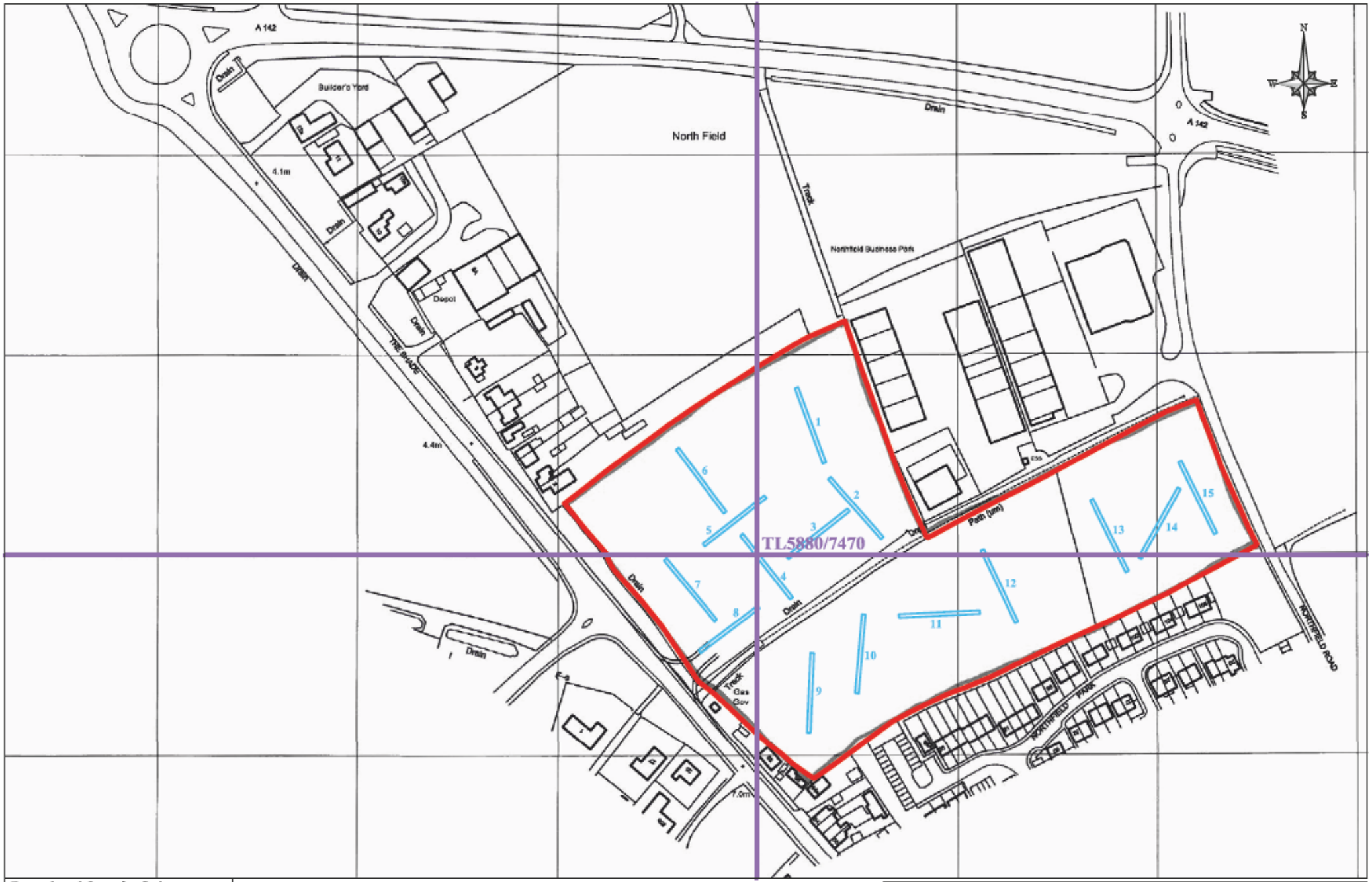
Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P6747)



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0 1:2500 150m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:2500 at A4

The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P6747)


KEY
ARCHAEOLOGY
Negative linear anomaly
OTHER ANOMALIES
Modern footpath
Ridge and furrow
Areas of dense vegetation
Linear anomaly- possible modern plough scars and field drainage
NORTHFIELD PARK
7.0m
0
50m
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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A3
The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P6747)

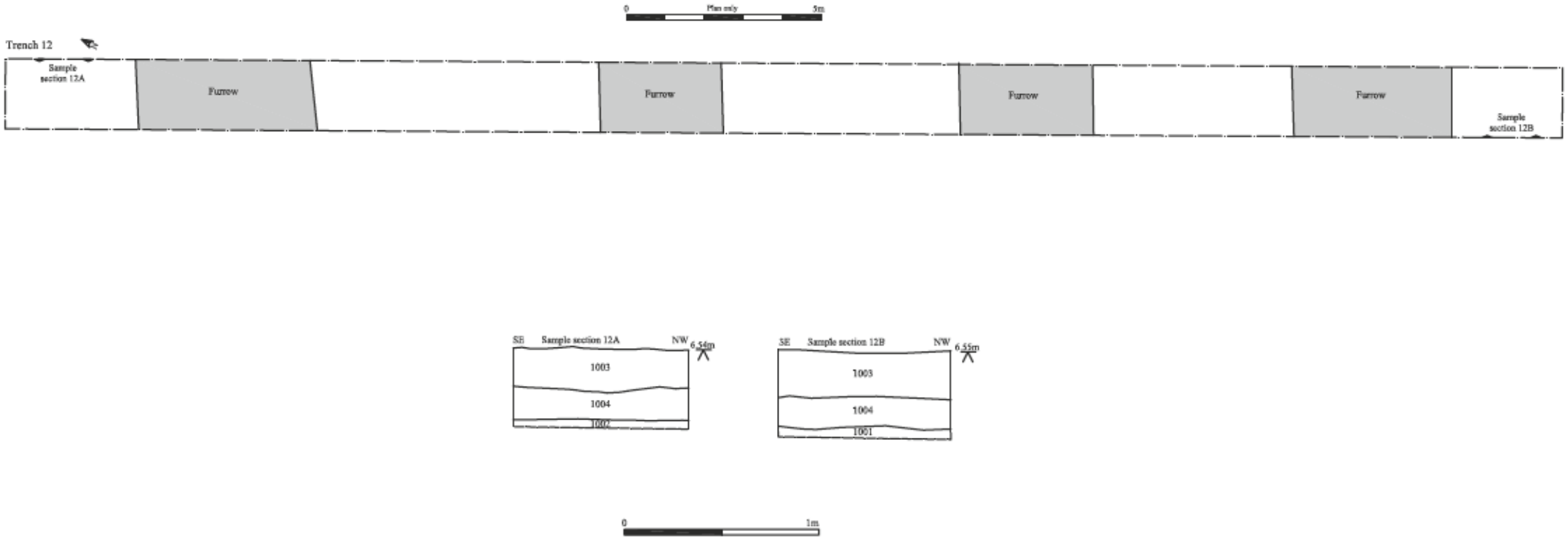

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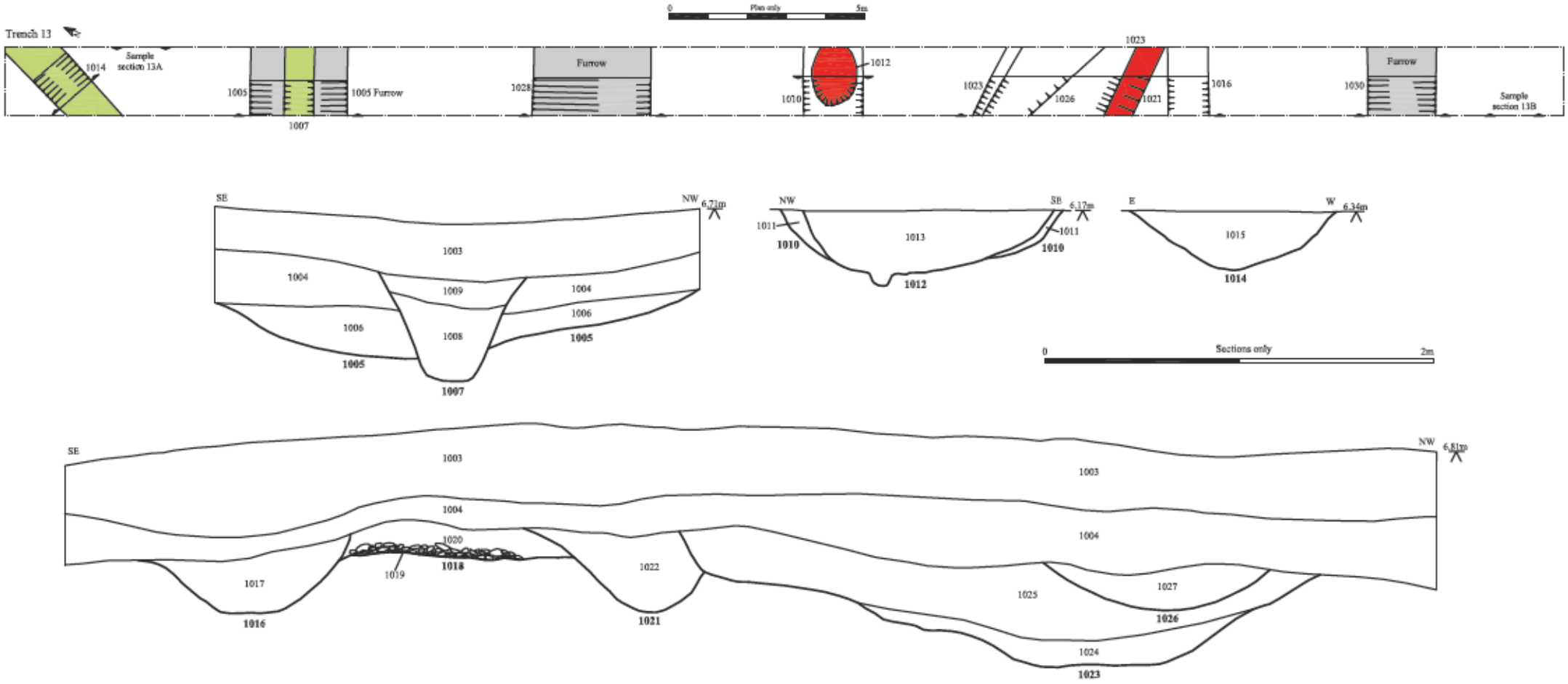
Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
Scale- Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P6747)



Phase 1 LBA - EIA Phase 4 Post-medieval Undated

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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

Scale- Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P6747)

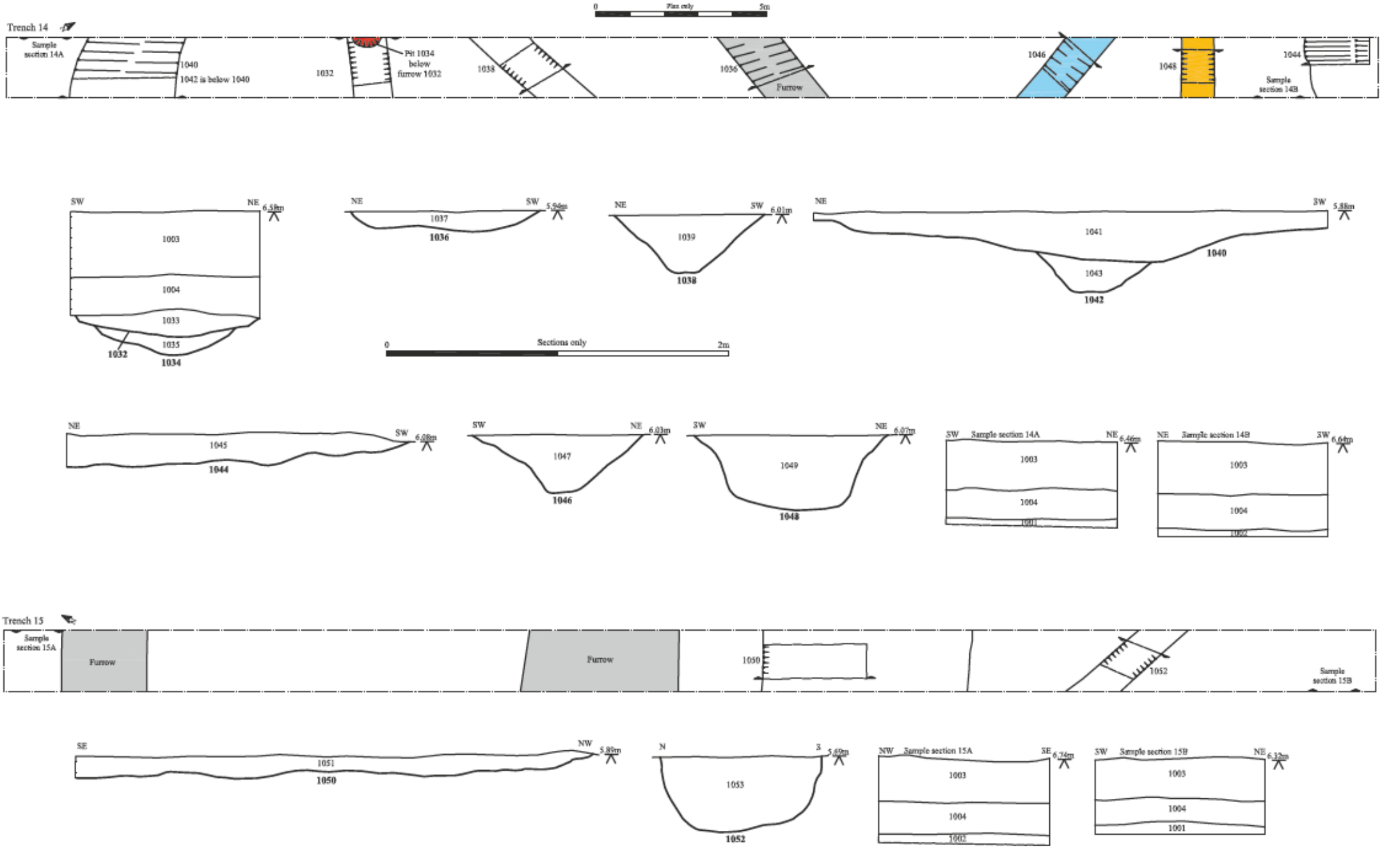

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Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections

Scale – Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

The Shade, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P6747)