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**AFFORDABLE DEVELOPMENT SITE,
POUND HILL, SAHAM TONEY, NORFOLK**

RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

Authors: Pip Stone BA Illustrations by: Caroline Wolfe Murray and Tansy Collins Edited by: Gary Brogan	
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AFFORDABLE DEVELOPMENT SITE, POUND HILL, SAHAM TONEY, NORFOLK. RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

This report comprises the research archive for an excavation at the Affordable Development Site, Saham Toney, Norfolk (centred on NGR TF 9002 0209; Figs. 1 & 2). The excavation was carried out by Archaeological Solutions Ltd (formerly the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust). An evaluation was undertaken in March 2008 (Smith *et al* 2008), and was followed by an excavation in November and December 2008 (Smith 2008). The evaluation was commissioned by Parsons and Whittlely Ltd., and the excavation by Hastoe Housing Ltd. The work was undertaken prior to a residential development. It adhered to a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (dated 20/6/2008), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 20/06/08). This report has been compiled in accordance with EH MAP 2, Section 7 and Appendix 6, and MoRPHE (2006). It follows the Interim Site Narrative (Smith 2008) and the Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design (Stone 2009).

The purpose of this Research Archive Report is to describe, analyse and interpret the archaeological remains found during the investigations. The report is supported by catalogues, databases and an archaeological description compiled during post-excavation analysis (on the accompanying CD), plans and section drawings (Figs. 1 – 8) and finds illustrations (Fig. 9).

2 SITE NARRATIVE

2.1 Overview

In March 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd. (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of the Affordable Development Site, Saham Toney, Norfolk (Figs. 1-3). This was followed in November and December 2008, by an excavation within the footprints of two of the proposed buildings (Fig. 3). The evaluation revealed gullies and ditches of medieval and post-medieval date, and the excavation focused on the areas of Trenches 2 and 4 where a Romano-British quarry pit, a Saxon ditch, a possible medieval post-built structure and a post-medieval ditch system were revealed. The evaluation was commissioned by Parsons and Whitley Ltd., and the excavation by Hastoe Housing Ltd. The work was undertaken prior to the residential development of the site, and in response to a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (dated 20/6/2008) and a specification compiled by AS (dated 20/06/2008).

The village of Saham Toney is situated at between 40 and 45m AOD, with the land sloping steadily downwards, to 30 – 35m AOD, to the south-east (Fig. 8). The solid geology consists of cretaceous undivided upper chalk (British Geological Survey 1991), overlain by glaciofluvial boulder clay. The soils in the area are of the Burlingham 3 association (SSEW 1983). These consist of deep fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils, which traditionally support cereals, sugar beet and other arable crops.

2.1.1 Historical and Archaeological Background

Palaeolithic to Neolithic (c. 750,000 – 2100 BC)

The only evidence for Palaeolithic occupation of the area derives from two find spots of lower Palaeolithic flint axes (Brown 1998, 2). The Neolithic period is slightly better represented, with a polished axe (NHER 8739¹) found c. 750m north-east of the site, and worked flint tools (NHER 8744) found c. 1km north-east.

Bronze Age (c. 2100 - 750BC)

Several Bronze Age finds have been made in the vicinity of Saham Toney. Swords and red deer bone were found in the Saham Mere (NHER 8743, c. 250m south-east of the site) in the mid 19th century. The assemblage is thought to have represented a ritual deposition in the lake. A bronze sword (NHER 8744) has also been recovered c.1km north-east of the site. Extensive metal-detecting and fieldwalking of the surrounding farmland has resulted in the discovery of Bronze Age finds, including pottery (NHER 12064), and a macehead (NHER 34101).

Iron Age (c. 750 BC - AD 43)

There is a considerable amount of evidence for Iron Age settlement in, and around, the village. A late Iron Age settlement (NHER 4697) was identified through a programme of extensive fieldwalking and metal detecting at Woodcock Hall, c. 1.5km to the south-west of Saham Toney. Numerous Iron Age coins, pottery, brooches and metal objects were recovered (Brown 1998, 8). Other Iron Age evidence includes find spots of pottery, c.1km north-east of the site (NHER 8744), and a coin found 1km to the west (NHER 34324).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

The Iron Age site at Woodcock Hall (NHER 4697) is thought to have been occupied in to the Roman period. Although the site has never been excavated, fieldwalking and metal detector finds, combined with aerial photographic surveys, have enabled a degree of analysis. Two forts are thought to have existed at Woodcock Hall; one on the area known as Sand Hill is thought to be Claudian and to have housed a quingenary cohort (500 auxiliaries), probably to monitor the Iceni tribesmen (Brown 1996, 16-17). The second, later, fort was discovered in 1996 when cropmarks were enhanced by very hot weather to reveal a five-hectare fort likely to have housed 800-1000 men (Brown 1996, 16-17). It is thought this fort was only occupied for ten years, probably until the Iceni were no longer a threat (Brown 1996, 16-17). Other activity identified at this location includes a probable late Roman villa. It is judged that at the end of the military occupation the area became a Roman market town (Brown 1996, 16-17).

Extensive metal detecting to the south of the village in the 1950s recorded the remains of four Roman houses and recovered numerous finds, suggesting a settlement site

¹ A complete list of all NHER records mentioned in the text is included as Appendix 1 and their positions are illustrated on Fig. 1.

(NHER 31226) *c.* 1km to the south. A small evaluation of land along Bell Lane (*c.*500m south-east of the site) in 1995 found little evidence of settlement but did recover two Roman brooches (Gurney 1995, 1). There have been find spots very close to the site, including a coin of Valens, found *c.* 100m north-west of the site (NHER 4695). Numerous other finds of Roman date have been discovered during an extensive programme of metal detecting, including two coins, a furniture handle and a brooch (NHER 32021), a coin and a vessel (NHER 35636) and another brooch (NHER 32270).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)

Little is known about Anglo-Saxon Saham Toney, although the extensive listing in Domesday Book indicates a late Saxon settlement. It has been suggested that an earlier wooden church stood on the site of the medieval church of St George's (Brown 1998, 27), although the evidence on which this judgement is based is unclear. If this were the case, it is likely the late Anglo-Saxon settlement would have been close by. Robin Brown, a local historian, has suggested that the Anglo-Saxon village was located to the north of the Mere, within, or close to, the site's boundaries, although this suggestion is tentative in the absence of supporting evidence (Brown 1998, 27, 43; Figure 4).

Archaeological evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period is scarce. A Saxon brooch and coin (NHER 32019) have been found *c.* 1km south of the site. The only other evidence of Saxon activity is derived from find spots from metal detecting. These include a brooch, two dress hooks and two strap fittings (NHER 34101), a spangle, a hook, a barrel padlock, an ingot, and a strap fitting (NHER 35636), and a pot and a knife (NHER 37465). There was little in the way of evidence for Saxon occupation at the Roman site at Woodcock Hall (NHER 4697).

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

Based on its listing in Domesday Book, Saham Toney is likely to have been a settlement of moderate size (Morris 1984). The listing describes a large number of livestock and a mill (Morris 1984). The last part of the village's name, 'Toney', originates from Ralph de Toeni, standard bearer to William the Conqueror, who owned the majority of the land in Saham immediately after the Norman Conquest (Brown 1998, 34-35). The village boasted several manors, including Page's Manor, and an un-named manor close to the Mere (Brown 1998, 33). The fabric of the parish church of St George (NHER 4696; *c.* 125m south-west of the site) dates mainly from the 13th to 15th centuries; however, there is one Norman feature (the door above the pulpit, leading to the rood stairs), which indicates that the original church dates at least from this period. The proximity of the site to the church indicates that it is likely to have been within the centre of the medieval village.

Cropmarks, *c.* 600m east of the site, may relate to the medieval village (NHER 29689). These have been suggested to be medieval tofts bordering the edge of common land, possibly a green. A 16th-century map recorded a medieval deer park (NHER 14158) in the location of Park Farm. Extensive metal detecting both close to the village centre and on the surrounding farmland, has recovered a large number of medieval finds, including a buckle, a dagger, a thimble, a coin and two strap fittings

(NHER 12064), a knife, a spur and a weight (NHER 12650), a purse frame (NHER 40660), a brooch, coin, and harness fittings (NHER 34101) and a metal box (NHER 31863).

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)

Saham Toney was a prosperous village in the post-medieval period. Numerous windmills have been recorded within the parish (NHER 8787, 8790, 15264, 15265 and 15266), with lime burning and brick production (NHER 8744) also noted to the east. The town's buildings reflect its past affluence, with structures such as the Old Rectory (NHER 46199) and White Hall (NHER 46200), both built in the 18th century. An evaluation at the Bell Inn, c.500m south-east of the site, revealed two post-medieval ditches likely agricultural field boundaries. Metal detector finds across the parish include some quite rare artefacts, for example, a post-medieval mount in the style of a fleur-de-lys, found just south of the site (NHER 35769).

2.2 Phasing

Dateable material was assigned to the four chronological phases outlined below (Fig. 4):

PHASE	DATE
Phase 1	Roman (AD 43 to AD 410)
Phase 2	Middle to late Saxon (AD 650 to AD 1150)
Phase 3	Medieval (AD 1150 to AD 1500)
Phase 4	Post-Medieval (AD1500 to AD 1750)
Unphased	-

Table 1: Chronological Phasing

Numbers commencing 1000+ relate to the evaluation (Trenches 1-4). Numbers commencing 2000+ derive from the excavation (Areas 1 -2).

2.3 Phase 1: Romano-British (AD 43 to AD 410)

A single quarry pit was assigned to Phase 1 (Figs. 4 and 5). Pit F2061 was an irregular feature which extended beyond the excavation boundary of Area 2. The visible extent of the feature was roughly triangular, measuring c. 3.5m x 2.5m x 4m, and was c. 1m deep. It contained four fills; L2066 (the basal fill), comprised a mid greyish brown clayey silt which contained frequent large flint nodules, Roman pottery (1 sherd – 15g) and animal bone (29g). The second fill (L2065) also contained large flint nodules, Roman Pottery (2 sherds - 44g) and animal bone (42g). The third fill contained smaller amounts of flint as well as chalk, clay, and animal bone (30g). It did not contain Roman pottery. The upper fill contained small amounts of chalk and red clay, Roman pottery (1 sherd - 1g) and animal bone (524g). It contained no flint. The relatively large quantities of flint found within the fills of this feature are thought to be the result of mineral extraction. A single sherd of residual Iron Age pottery was also recovered. The presence of four fills within the F2061 suggests that it may have filled in over time after the cessation of quarrying, however, the small amount of cultural material recovered indicates that this may not have been a very protracted

process, and the lack of frog/toad elements or small mammals suggests that the feature was infilled relatively quickly (Animal Bone report below).

Residual Roman material was found in medieval and later features during both the evaluation and excavation. This material includes reasonably large fragments of tile probably derived from tegula roof tile, and small fragments of brick and tile (CBM Report below). This residual material extended widely across the site; it was found in Pits F2007, F2034 and F2054, Ditches F2009, F2011, F2022 and F2028, Posthole F2049 from Areas 1 and 2, and in Ditches F1011 and F1019 from Trial Trenches 1, 2 and 4. Such a large spread of Roman material is indicative of a settlement in the vicinity; however the small total amount of material indicates that this was probably not directly on site. Evidence for such activity (both domestic and industrial) has been previously recorded in Saham Toney (Bates 2000, 235), and thus was not unexpected.

2.4 Phase 2: Middle to late Saxon (AD 650 to AD 1150)

Ditch F2028 was the only feature assigned to Phase 2 (Figs. 4 and 5). It was aligned south-west to north-east within excavation Area 2. Ditch F2028 was overlain by the boundary of Area 2, however the dimensions of the feature that were visible measured *c.* 8m x *c.* 1m x *c.* 0.50m. It extended beyond the site boundaries to the south-west and north-east. It cut Phase 1 Quarry Pit F2061 and was cut by undated Pit F2030 at its north-eastern terminus. Ditch F2028 contained two fills; the basal, L2064 was a dark greyish brown sandy silt which contained no finds. The upper fill was L2029, a mid greyish brown clayey silt. It contained mid/late Saxon pottery (7 sherds – 124g), CBM (28g) and animal bone (377g). It also contained a sherd of residual Iron Age pottery.

Archaeological remains from Anglo-Saxon Saham Toney are scarce, so there is little to compare this isolated feature to. An extensive listing in Domesday Book indicates that a late Saxon settlement existed at Saham Toney however all the archaeological evidence derives from metal-detecting. The latter has revealed a brooch and a coin (NHER 32019) *c.* 125m east of the site, other find spots of brooches, coins and metalwork have been found in the vicinity of the site, but due to the imprecise nature of metal-detecting, these are not pinpointed to precise locations (e.g. NHER 34101, 35656 and 37465). Further afield there is a little evidence for Saxon occupation at Woodcock Hall (NHER 4697), *c.* 1.5km to the south-west of the village.

2.5 Phase 3: Medieval (12th to 16th century)

Eight postholes were recorded in Area 1 of the excavation (Figs. 4 and 5). Postholes F2005, F2007, F2019, F2024, F2026 (not on plan), F2034, F2049 (not on plan) and F2069 are tentatively identified as forming an L-shape, on south-west to north-east and south-east to north-west alignments.

The majority of these postholes were rectangular or oval in plan with steep to vertical sides and flat bases. They were variable in dimensions, measuring between 0.24m and 1.19m length, 0.17m and 0.81m in width and 0.19m and 0.70m deep. They all

contained a brownish grey silty clay with occasional fragments of chalk, gravel and flint. Some of the postholes inter cut. It seems possible, based on the L-shape formation of the post holes and the proximity of the features with, and alignment to, the road which passes along the eastern boundary of the site, that the postholes represent the partial remains of a rectangular structure. This structure would have been at least 8m long, by at least 6.5m wide. It would have been orientated in a north-east to south-west direction.

The dating evidence for this proposed structure is sparse. Posthole F2034 contained late 15th to 16th-century pottery (1 sherd, 158g), and though it was the only feature in the group to contain datable material, the seven other postholes are judged to be associated based on their similarities with, and relationships to, each other and Posthole F2034. Other finds recovered from these features comprise animal bone (F2005 – 72g, F2049 – 64g and F2069 – 14g), CBM (F2034 – 30g and F2049 – 21g), iron (F2005 – 1g and F2069 – 23g), glass (F2007 – 3g and F2049 – 7g) and a clay pipe stem (F2007 – 5g).

A small number of comparable sites have been identified in East Anglia which include evidence of earth-fast post buildings e.g. Heigham, on the outskirts of Norwich, where the continuing use of such technology is thought to indicate the rural nature of the community and low rents (Evans and Atkin 2002, 240). Also in Norfolk, excavations on the Transco Bacton to Kings Lynn pipeline revealed a small farmstead identified by the presence of two earth-fast post built structures very similar in nature to the one postulated at Saham Toney (Wilson Forthcoming). Further afield, similar buildings have been found at sites in Suffolk and Essex e.g. Hazel Stub, Haverhill (SCCAS Unpublished) and at the A12 interchange, Chelmsford (Lavender 1999).

Ditch F1036 (Tr. 3), Posthole F1056 and Ditch F1044 (Tr. 4), revealed during the evaluation, were also dated to this phase (see Smith and *et al* 2008 and the archaeological description on the accompanying CD). Ditch F1044 contained a large quantity of late medieval/transitional pottery (42 sherds, 1.684 kg) which included the lower part of a flat-based cooking pot with brown splash glaze, and the rim of a pancheon in buff fabric with internal clear and copper speckled glaze. The presence of a sherd of imported Raeren stoneware within the assemblage suggests a date of late 15th to mid 16th century. As well as this large pottery assemblage, Ditch F1044 also yielded a large assemblage of animal bone, which comprises 29 fragments. One cow radius from this context displays extensive butchery marks, likely to have resulted from attempts to break the shaft, possibly to gain access the marrow. Bird fragments were also recovered from Ditch F1044, including ten domestic fowl, one crow/rook and one coot fragment (Animal Bone Report, below).

2.6 Phase 4: Post-medieval (AD 1500 to AD 1750)

Ditches and pits/postholes are assigned to Phase 4 (Figs. 4 and 6). Large Ditch F2022 (=F2072, F1019) was a south-west to north-east aligned boundary ditch. It was cut by the much later, shallower Ditch F2071. Adjacent were Pits/Postholes F2040, F2043, F2051, F2053 and F2067, possibly aligned. Four ditches (F2009, F2011, F2015 and F2047) were identified in Area 1.

2.7 Unphased

Undated features comprised twenty-three pits and postholes, six tree hollows, two gullies and two ditches (Figs. 4 and 6).

3 SPECIALISTS' FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

3.1 The pottery *By Peter Thompson*

The combined evaluation and excavation recovered 78 multi-period sherds weighing 2.349 kg. The pottery is in mixed condition but overall is abraded. The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and have been quantified below (Table 2) by time period.

Fabric and wares by period	Sherd Number	Fabric weight	Percentage of sherd total
<i>Iron Age</i>			
Quartz sand and grass temper (Mid to late Iron Age)	2	44	2.6
<i>Roman</i>			
Roman grey ware (1 st - 4 th)	1	12	1.3
<i>Saxon</i>			
Saxon quartz temper (mid 5 th - mid 9 th)	3	85	3.8
Thetford-type 10 th - mid 12 th)	2	5	2.6
<i>Medieval</i>			
Early medieval sandy ware (11 th - 13 th)	3	15	3.8
Medieval grey ware (12 th - 14 th)	5	33	6.4
Glazed Grimston ware (late 12 th - 14 th)	2	58	2.6
Unsources medieval glazed ware (late 12 th - 14 th)	2	77	2.6
<i>Late Medieval Transitional</i>			
Late medieval transitional ware (15 th - 16 th)	44	1,701	56.4
Raeren stoneware (late 15 th - 16 th)	2	168	2.6
Post-medieval red earthenware (late 16 th - 18 th)	10	143	12.8
<i>Early modern</i>			
Staffordshire salt glazed stone ware (18 th)	2	8	2.6

Table 2: Chronological table of the pottery by sherd number and weight and period

Iron Age and Roman

Two residual Iron Age sherds were recovered from Ditch F2028 and Pit F2061, the latter was an upright rim sherd from a burnished weak shouldered vessel, probably a bowl (Fig. 9). The sherds contained quartz sand and grass inclusions, and together with the vessel form, indicate a mid to late Iron Age date. The presence of a residual Roman grey ware base sherd also from F2061 suggests a late Iron Age/Romano-British date which is unsurprising as Woodcock Hall, Saham Toney was the site of an extensive late Iron Age settlement continuing into the Roman period, and Saham Toney was also the location of a Claudian fort (Cunliffe 2005, 198 and Todd 2004, 51).

Saxon

Three thick handmade sherds profusely tempered with very coarse crushed quartz came from Ditch F2028. These look typically early to middle Saxon, as Iron Age pottery for the area comprises sand, grass and flint inclusions. Two small abraded grey quartz sand tempered sherds, one apiece from Ditch 2028 and Pit F2061, have the appearance of Saxo-Norman Thetford-type wares.

Medieval

Ditch F2028 contained two sherds of early medieval sandy ware, including a thickened externally bevelled rim and Pit F2061 contained another, indicating these two features are unlikely to predate the 11th century, although it is possible they could be pre-Conquest. An 11th - 12th century date would accommodate the latest sherds from these two features. The residual Iron Age, Roman and Saxon sherds are indicative of earlier periods of activity. Ditch F1036 (Tr.3) yielded only one small sherd of 12th - 14th century medieval grey ware. The only other sherd possibly in a primary context was a small abraded unsourced glazed ware from Pit F2040 indicating a late 12th - 14th century date.

The remaining medieval sherds were all residual in later features. Ditch F2022 (L2023 Seg. C) contained two medieval sherds, an everted slightly hollow grey ware rim, and a large fragment of Grimston-type green glazed jug with strap handle. The latter fabric was of Grimston type, although the glaze was a little more pimply and thin than usual Grimston glazes. These would indicate a late 12th - 13th/14th century date, but the feature also contained post-medieval pottery. Further residual medieval pottery comprised two glazed Grimston jug sherds and a grey coarse ware from Ditch F1044 (Tr.4), and another residual grey sandy sherd from Ditch F1019 (Trs. 2 & 3). An unsourced medieval sherd also came from Ditch F2022 which contained post-medieval pottery.

Late medieval transitional to early post-medieval

The evaluation produced a large quantity of late medieval/transitional pottery from Ditch F1044 (Tr.4) accounting for over 50% of the entire assemblage. These 42 sherds, weighing 1.684 kg, included the lower part of a flat-based cooking pot with brown splash glaze, and the rim of a pancheon in buff fabric with internal clear and

copper speckled glaze. These wares may relate to a late medieval and transitional (LMT) pottery industry in the Waveney Valley located to the south-east of Thetford which probably supplied Norwich, although such wares are likely to have also been made at other centres (Anderson 1996, 7-10). The association with a sherd of imported Raeren stoneware suggests a date of late 15th to mid 16th century. A Raeren frilled jug base also came from Ditch F2028 (L2029) and Posthole F1056 (Tr.4) contained two further sherds of LMT indicating a 15th - 16th century date.

Ditch F2011 contained five red earthenware sherds with brown (or clear glaze giving a brown from the surface below) or mottle brown and copper green glaze, one from the neck of a jug. Together with a jug sherd with internal and external glossy black glaze a date centred on the 17th century is indicated. Ditch F2022 (L2023 Seg. A) contained an early post-medieval internally green glazed bowl or dish base.

Early Modern

Ditches F1019 (Trs.2&3) and F2022 each contained a tiny sherd of Staffordshire salt glazed stoneware indicating an 18th century date.

3.2 The ceramic building materials *By Andrew Peachey*

The archaeological investigations recovered a total of 46 fragments (2468g) of CBM during a trial trench evaluation and open area excavation. The assemblage includes both Romano-British and post-medieval CBM (Table 3) in a highly abraded and fragmented condition.

Excavation Phase	Romano-British CBM		Post-medieval CBM	
	F	W	F	W
Evaluation	6	1102	16	652
Excavation	18	650	6	64
Total	24	1752	22	716

Table 3: *Quantification of CBM from excavation phases by fragment count (F) and weight (W, in grams)*

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g) with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and described below. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

Fabric Descriptions

Romano-British

Fabric 1: Red (2.5YR 4/8) throughout. Inclusions comprise fine quartz sand with sparse silver mica and sparse iron rich grains (<0.5mm). Medium hardness with a slightly irregular fracture and powdery to slightly abrasive feel.

Fabric 2: Orange-red (5-7.5YR 5/8) throughout. Inclusions comprise medium quartz sand, sparse silver mica, sparse crushed flint and iron rich grains (0.5-6mm). Medium

hardness with a slightly irregular fracture and powdery to slightly abrasive feel.

Fabric 4: An off-white/cream fabric with pale oxidised streaks with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse iron rich grains (0.25-1mm) and sparse calcined flint (2-10mm). The fabric is of a moderate hardness with a slightly powdery finish.

Post-medieval

Fabric 3: Red (2.5YR 4/8) throughout. Inclusions comprise abundant medium quartz sand and sparse flint (<3mm). Very hard with a slightly granular fracture and an abrasive feel.

Fabric 5: A pale reddish yellow fabric (7.5YR 6/6) with sparse narrow cream streaks. Inclusions comprise abundant, well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm, occasionally larger) with sparse iron rich grains (0.1-0.25mm). The fabric is very hard with a smooth to finely abrasive feel.

Fabric 6: A dark red fabric (10R 5/6). Inclusions comprise common, well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm, occasionally to 0.5mm) with iron ore and clay pellets (<0.25). The fabric is hard with an abrasive feel.

Findings

Although no conclusively diagnostic fragments are present in the assemblage, the composition, technology and firing conditions of Fabrics 1, 2 and 4, which comprise the bulk of the CBM suggest they are Roman products. Fabric 2 includes a total of four fragments (341g) of flat tile that are 18-20mm thick with a smoothed upper surface and almost certainly derived from Romano-British tegula roof tile. These fragments were contained in Ditches F1019 (L1021; Trs.2&3), F2009 (L2010 Seg. A) and F2011 (L2012 Seg. A). Fabric 4 includes a total of five fragments (929g) in Ditches F1019 (L1021; Trs.2&3) and F1011 (L1012; Tr.1) that are 40mm thick and probably derived from Romano-British bessalis type bricks, although without more diagnostic or intact fragments, the possibility that they are derived from a form of medieval brick cannot be totally discounted. The remaining fragments in Fabrics 1 and 2, in total 15 fragments (482g), cannot be identified with a form but are probably fragments of unidentified Romano-British brick or tile. These fragments were contained in Pit F2007 (L2021), Ditches F2009 (L2010 Seg. A) and F2011 (L2012 Seg. A), F2022 (L2023 Seg. C and L2060), F2028 (L2029 Seg. B), Pits F2034 (L2035), F2074 (L2075) and Posthole F2049 (L2050). The preservation and fragmentation of the fragments in Fabrics 1, 2 and 4 suggests they were redeposited and not directly associated with any nearby structure. Evidence for Roman domestic activity and industrial (metal working) waste has previously been recorded at Saham Toney, which may have been along with Ashill, a major Icenian centre (Bates 2000, 235) therefore the occurrence of re-deposited Roman CBM in the vicinity is to be expected.

Alongside sparse Romano-British fragments Ditch F1019 (L1021; Trs.2&3) contained fragments of post-medieval CBM including brick and peg tile. The single identifiable fragment of brick in Ditch F1019 (L1021; Trs.2&3) is in Fabric 5 with a thickness of 52mm (and no further extant dimensions) with regular sharp arrises,

smooth faces and a smooth base. These characteristics are typical of bricks produced in the 18th century, probably from a Norfolk source although they may have been manufactured in Suffolk or Cambridgeshire. Further miscellaneous fragments of brick in Fabric 6, that exhibit no extant dimensions, surfaces or edges are also present in Ditch F1019 (L1021; Trs.2&3), Ditch F1044 (L1045; Tr.4) and Pit F1048 (L1049; Tr.4). Small fragments of post-medieval peg tile (c. 12-14mm thick) in Fabric 3 were recovered from Topsoil L1000 Ditch F1019 (L1021; Trs.2&3), Pit F1048 (L1049; Tr.4), Ditch F2022 (L2060), Posthole F2038 (L2039) and are probably of a similar date.

3.3 The animal bone *By Dr James Morris*

Introduction

In total 625 fragments of animal bone were recovered during the evaluation and excavations. Hand excavation resulted in the collection of 336 fragments, with the remaining 289 smaller fragments recovered from the soil samples. Faunal remains have been recorded in 31 contexts from 23 features, and from all phases of activity. 137 fragments recovered from undated features are not discussed below.

Methodology

All animal bones were recorded individually into a Microsoft Access database (see data CD accompanying this report). When possible bones with recent breaks were reconstructed and counted as single specimens. Where appropriate, the following information for each fragment was recorded: context; phase; species; anatomy; zone(s) of bone present; fusion data; taphonomic condition; tooth ageing data; pathological data; butchery data; metrical data; other comments. Taxonomic identifications were checked utilising available reference collections.

When fragments can be assigned to a particular size of mammal but not to species, the categories 'SAR' (small ungulate size; for indistinguishable fragments from sheep/goat and pig size mammals), and 'LAR' (large ungulate size; for indistinguishable fragments from cattle size mammals are used). Other unidentified fragments of mammal bones will be recorded as 'MAM' (unidentified mammal). Bird bones will be identified to species where possible, or otherwise recorded as 'BIRD' (Unidentified bird). Where possible sheep and goat were separated using the methods of Boessneck (1969), Payne (1985) and Halstead and Collins (2002).

Counts of the number of identified specimens present (NISP), included any identified limb bone fragments, ribs, skull fragments, loose teeth and vertebral bodies. Minimum numbers of individuals (MNI) calculations were derived from the most common zone of a bone, taking side and epiphyseal fusion into account. To ascertain the effect taphonomic conditions have had upon the assemblage the level of erosion is recorded. These are defined as; none or limited erosion; E1, slightly eroded (c.25% of the bone is effected), E2, moderately eroded (26-50% of the bone is effected), E3, severely eroded (>50% of the bone is effected).

Tooth eruption and wear stages were recorded following Grant (1982). Long bone epiphyseal fusion was recorded and used to estimate the age profiles for cattle,

sheep/goat and pig following Silver (1969). Measurements following von den Driesch (1976) were taken and withers heights estimated using those recommended by von den Driesch and Boessneck (1974). Evidence of gnawing, burning, butchery (knife cuts, chopping, deliberate smashing, sawing) pathology and any taphonomic effects were also recorded.

Species proportions

The majority of the assemblage consists of unidentified mammal elements, most of which were collected from the environmental samples (Table 4). From those bones that were identifiable, domestic species dominate the assemblage. Cattle, sheep/goat and dog are the most common species from the hand collected sample. The majority of the dog remains were collected from post-medieval Ditch F1019 (Trs.2&3). The cat and wild mammal elements (roe deer and rabbit) were also post-medieval in date. With the exception of one domestic fowl element the bird remains were recovered from medieval contexts.

Species	1	2	3	4	Undated	Total
Cattle	9	10	17	29	9	74
Sheep/goat	5	2	4	26	10	47
Pig	2		3	14	1	20
Horse			1	5		6
Dog				46		46
Cat				4		4
Roe deer				1		1
Rabbit				3		3
Domestic fowl			10	1		11
Coot			1			1
Crow/rook			1			1
Mole		1				1
Shrew				1		1
Vole				1		1
Frog/Toad	1		3	43		47
large mammal, cattle-sized	9	4	14	49	11	87
large mammal, sheep/pig sized	20	19	17	110	14	180
unidentified small mammal				29		29
mammal, indeterminate	3			60		63
bird, indeterminate			1	1		2
Total	49	36	72	423	45	625

Table 4: Summary of the NISP counts for each species per element

Phase 1: Roman (AD 43 to AD 410)

All the faunal remains dating to the Romano-British period were recovered from Pit F2061. In total 49 elements were collected from this feature, it was possible to identify 34% (17²) to species and element. The majority of the identified remains

² Bracketed numbers = number of elements.

come from cattle, followed by sheep/goat and pig. No specific elements dominate the assemblage. One frog/toad element was recovered from the soil sample of fill, L2065. The lack of other frog/toad elements or those from small mammals such as mouse and vole may suggest that the feature may not have been left open for a protracted period of time, or alternatively may be a result of taphonomic processes unfavourable for the preservation of small bones.

The assemblage from the pit was relatively well preserved. Four elements were lightly eroded and one element had weathering cracks present. Canid gnawing was also observed on four elements. A cow tibia had iron concretions present, indicating it may have been deposited in close proximity to either an iron artefact, or waste. None of the elements had butchery marks present, although all were fragmented.

Phase 2: Middle to late Saxon (AD 650 to AD 1150)

Only 36 faunal remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period were recovered. These were all recovered from Ditch F2028 (L2029). It was only possible to identify 13 of the elements, the majority of which were cattle. All areas of the body were represented. Two sheep/goat and one mole element were also recovered. The mole mandible and the majority of the unidentified fragments came from the environmental sample. The mole element is likely to be intrusive. The assemblage is well preserved; evidence for gnawing and erosion was not present on the elements. Some fragmentation was present due to modern damage. No butchery marks or pathology was present.

Phase 3: Medieval (12th to 16th century)

The medieval faunal remains were recovered from nine separate features (F1030 (Tr.2), F1036 (Tr.3), F1044 (Tr.4), F1052 (Tr.4), F2005, F2013, F2040, F2049 and F2069). Each feature had only one fill with animal remains present. The majority of the features produced only a small number of fragments; only Pit F1030 (Tr.2) and Ditch F1044 (Tr.4) had more than ten fragments present. The majority of the fragments from Pit F1030 (Tr.2) are from unidentified mammals, only five fragments could be identified, frog/toad (3), cattle (1) and pig (1).

The largest assemblage from this period was recovered from Ditch F1044 (Tr.4). It comprises of 29 elements, of which the majority of fragments can be identified to species and element. Domestic mammals are represented by seven cattle and one sheep/goat element. The elements are well preserved with no evidence of erosion or gnawing.

Butchery, comprising chop marks to the medial side of a cow radius just below the proximal epiphysis, has resulted in some fragmentation of the bone. Excessive chop marks are also present on the medial and lateral aspects of the shaft with at least 12 separate marks present. This is likely to have resulted from attempts to break the shaft, possibly to gain access the marrow (Plate 1 – see below). The only other bone with butchery marks present from this period is a sheep/goat metatarsal from Ditch F1036 (L1037; Tr.3). This is also excessively butchered with 17 chop/heavy knife marks present around the medial and lateral aspects of the distal epiphysis.



Plate 1: Butchery marks on the medial side of a cow radius.

Bird elements were recovered from Ditch F1044 (Tr.4), including ten domestic fowl, one crow/rook and one coot (*Fulica atra*) element. An MNI of three domestic fowl has been calculated based on three left and one right ulna. Three tarsometatarsi are also present; one has a spur, allowing it to be sexed as male. The other domestic fowl bones present are a scapular, radius and sternum. The elements may represent the deposition of the carcasses of at least three birds with at least one of them being male. No butchery or taphonomic indicators were noted on the elements. Crow/rook are represented by a tarsometatarsus, the bone is porous and appears to be from a young individual.

Phase 4 Post-medieval

The majority of the faunal remains from the site were recovered from post-medieval features. In total 423 animal bones were collected from thirteen fills of eight separate features. The assemblages recovered from most features consisted of less than 10 fragments (F1048 (Tr.4), F2009, F2011, F2038, F2053 and F2072). In comparison 286, 68 and 30 fragments were collected from Ditches F1019 (Trs.2-3), F2022 and F2047 respectively.

The majority of the elements from Ditch F2047 came from the environmental samples. It was possible to identify 36% (11) to species and element. The majority of these are cattle elements (6) followed by sheep/goat (3), horse (1) and domestic fowl (1). The horse element was a loose tooth. Two of the cattle elements displayed evidence of butchery. A metacarpal had been split longitudinally and a femur had chop marks to the lateral mid shaft close to the resultant break in the shaft.

The faunal remains from Ditch F2022 were recovered from the upper (L2023) and basal fills (L2057). Only 17 elements were recovered from the L2057; it was possible to identify pig (4), cow, (3) and sheep/goat (1) elements, the rest consist of unidentified mammal fragments. Some of the elements are eroded and the majority are loose teeth, which indicate relatively poor preservation conditions in this fill. In contrast, 51 elements were recovered from the top fill (L2023), of which it was possible to identify 41% (21) to species and element. This included sheep/goat (9),

cow (4), dog (3), pig (2), frog/toad (2) and roe deer (1). The roe deer element was a loose upper molar. No pattern was noted in the body parts represented. The assemblage was well preserved and no butchery or pathology was present. Although fragmented it was noted that a number of the sheep/goat elements were particularly large, comparing well with early modern examples held in the authors reference collection. The size of the elements therefore corresponds with the archaeological phasing. The frog/toad and the majority of the unidentified mammal elements were recovered from the soil samples.

The three dog elements consist of a radius, ulna and rib fragment. The radius is fragmented but can be reconstructed and articulates with the ulna indicating the elements may be from the same individual. The elements could represent a disturbed dog associated bone group (ABG). It is possible to measure the ulna which gives a wither height of 0.41m, meaning the dog would have been a relatively small Labrador/Collie size.

The largest assemblage from this period comes from Ditch F1019 (L1020 and L1021; Trs.2&3). In total 286 fragments were collected from the ditch. The majority of the animal remains from the basal fill came from the environmental samples. It was only possible to identify 39 elements, of which 23 are from frog/toad. Only one horse, one cow and one pig element were recovered from the basal fill. Within the environmental sample 10 unidentified small mammal (mouse/vole size) elements were also present. This combined with the frog/toad elements could indicate the basal fill developed gradually.

The remaining identified elements from L1020 are those of dog. Thirteen elements are present in the fill. With the exception of a right hand radius and a right third metatarsal all the dog elements are fragmented. The greatest length of the radius indicates it came from a dog with a withers height of 0.48m. Two of the fragmented dog elements in L1020 fit with fragments from the top fill (L1021). The proximal end of a radius in L1021 fits with a fragment in L1020 to make a complete element. Also a fragment of mandible tooth row, with the first molar present, in L1021 fits a fragment of ramus in L1020. The radius break looks modern and may have occurred during the excavation; however the mandible break looks much older. This could indicate that some of the dog elements present are secondary depositions. The remains may have been primarily deposited in an above ground midden where some fragmentation has occurred before being deposited into Ditch F1019, possibly in two separate filling events. However the location of the dog elements within the two contexts is unknown, therefore the elements may have been present at the interface between the two contexts resulting in some being assigned to L1020 and others to L1021.

Including the two elements discussed above, 30 dog elements were present in the upper fill (L1021). The elements represent all areas of the body. Only a right third metatarsal is complete, the rest of the elements are fragmented. The metatarsal has pathology present in the form of osteoarthritis. This is indicated by eburnation on the distal articulation facet. The dog remains indicate that three individuals are possibly represented due to large size differences in the elements. Three radii are present, two of which are complete and one which consists of a fragment of the distal epiphysis (one of which is the inter-fitting fragment discussed above). These elements appear to

be from two medium sized animals and one smaller canid.

Four cat fragments were also present in L1021; these consist of left and right mandibles and two fragments of right tibia. It is unknown if all the elements present are from the same individual. The two mandible fragments are stained differently and the fourth premolar is in a different state of eruption on each mandible. One is fully erupted where as the other is not. However, this could just be due to natural variation. One of the tibia fragments consist of the distal end, with the epiphysis having just fused. If all the bones are from the same individual this would mean it died when approximately 12 months old (Smith 1969). The remains may represent a disturbed cat ABG or may be elements which have been re-deposited.

A small number of other domestic mammals are also present in L1021, including pig (6), cow (5), sheep/goat (5) and horse (2). The majority of the pig and horse elements present are loose teeth. Most of the cattle and sheep/goat elements are limb bones. Butchery evidence comprising a knife cut on the lateral side just above the distal epiphysis is present on a sheep/goat tibia. This was probably caused during the dismemberment of the hind limb. The remains of a number of smaller animals were recovered from the environmental sample. This included frog/toad (16), rabbit (3), common shrew (1) and vole (indeterminate) (1). Nineteen elements of unidentified small mammals were also recovered. As with the basal context, this could indicate that the upper fill gradually developed. However, only a small amount of erosion and canid gnawing is present. This would indicate the bones deposited within the feature were quickly covered over.

Discussion

Although small, the faunal assemblage from Saham Toney has added to our knowledge of animal husbandry in the region. Cattle are the most common species in the Romano-British period, closely followed by sheep/goat. This fits into the general trend seen from urban and rural Romano-British sites in this region, such as Scole-Dickleburgh (Baker 1998), Hockwold-cum-Wilton (Cram 1967) and West Stow (Crabtree 1990) where both cattle and sheep/goat are relatively common. In comparison cattle are much more common on military sites (Harman 1993; King 1984). Cattle are again the most common species in the Anglo-Saxon assemblage, with only two sheep/goat elements present. Although the Saham Toney assemblage is limited, the dominance of cattle remains has been noted from other sites in the region (Crabtree 1994; 1996).

The medieval assemblage is larger and more varied. Again cattle are the most common domestic mammal. This differs to the pattern seen on other rural settlements in the region where sheep/goat or pig are the most common domestic mammal (i.e. Ambros 1980; Cartledge 1989). High numbers of cattle are more common on urban sites such as Norwich (Cartledge 1988) and Kings Lynn (Noddle 1977). The majority of the assemblage is fragmented reducing the amount of material data available. One sheep/goat metacarpal was complete and indicated a withers height of 0.51m. This fits with measurements from other medieval sites in the region (Jones 1993; Weinstock 2002). Some butchery marks are present, which could indicate that marrow was being extracted from cattle elements (see above).

Bird remains were also found in the medieval assemblage, the majority which are from domestic fowl. A coot radius was also present. Although not common, coot elements have also been recovered from medieval features at Thetford (Jones 1993) and Norwich (Albarella *et al.* 1997). This could indicate that water fowl from the nearby mere were being exploited in the medieval period. A crow/rook tarsometarsus was also recovered. Crow/rook elements have also been recovered on nearby urban (Albarella *et al.* 1997; Harman *et al.* 1985) and rural sites (Cartledge 1989). The corvids present may be commensal, although Platt (1951) does suggest they may have been eaten as a stew, there is little evidence for this.

The largest proportion of the assemblage came from post-medieval features. Cattle and sheep/goat are present in roughly equal numbers, a trend which has been observed on other post-medieval sites (Cartledge 1985). A small number of wild mammal elements are present (see above), including roe deer. Post-medieval roe deer elements have also been recovered from Norwich (Albarella *et al.* 1997). The rabbit elements present may be intrusive. An MNI of three dogs and possibly two cats are also present in the post-medieval assemblage which may represent the deposition of dog and cat carcasses in Ditch F1019 (Trs.2-3). Post-medieval dog and cat burials are relatively frequently encountered in the archaeological record (Morris 2008) and there is documentary evidence for the burial of dogs and cats in the ditches at Norwich castle (Albarella *et al.* 1997).

Although relatively small the post-medieval assemblage from Saham Toney represents one of the largest rural assemblages from the region. At present all regional post-medieval faunal assemblages are from large urban centres (Albarella and Pirnie 2008).

3.4 The environmental samples *By Dr. Alexandra Livarda*

Introduction

Twenty one bulk environmental samples were taken according to a purposive sampling strategy. Three bulk samples were taken from the different fills of a large quarry pit dating to the Roman period (F2061) identified in Area 2. A further sample was taken from a ditch slot (F2028) which was associated with the Saxon period. Six samples came from various ditch slots excavated across the site in order to provide further dating and possible environmental data. Five pits, five postholes and two postpipes were identified as structural and were sampled.

Sampling and processing methods

A selection of features was sampled from all four phases based on a judgement-based sampling strategy, resulting in 20 bulk environmental samples. The size of the samples varied between 10 and 40 litres as dictated by the dimensions of the deposit. The sampled features are tabulated below. All samples were processed by flotation, using meshes with 1mm and 0.25mm apertures for the retention of the residue and the flot respectively.

The samples were scanned in their entirety using a stereoscope with magnifications

ranging from x7 to x45. The charred plant remains were recorded and fully counted on the basis of the minimum number of characteristic plant parts.

Results

The archaeobotanical assemblage was overall poor. Charred plants were present in slightly more than half of the samples (11 out of the 20). The range of charred plant species was very much restricted. Table 5 shows the list of plant and other organic remains by sample.

Sample Size (l)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	Sample Size (l)
Feature	2011	2005	2019	2028 B	2034	2040	2022 B	2047	2051	2053	2061	2061	2061	2067	2069	2022 C	2022 C	2024	2043	2074	Feature
Context	2012	2006	2020	2029 B	2035	2041	2023 B	2048	2052	2054	2066	2063	2065	2068	2070	2023 C	2057 C	2025	2044	2075	Context
Description	D	Ph	Ph	D	Ph	P	D	D	P	P	P	P	P	P	Ph	D	D	Ph	Ph	P	Description
Phase	4	3	3	2	3	?	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	4	3	4	4	3	?	4	Phase
Latin name																					English name
CARBONIZED																					
<u>cereals</u>																					
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. grain		1		7		1	6				5		4	2			4		1	4	barley
<i>Triticum</i> sp. grain																	3			3	wheat
cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. grain											2										cf. wheat
<i>Avena</i> L. sp. grain											1										oat
cf. <i>Avena</i> L. sp. grain																	1				cf. oat
<i>Cerealeae indet.</i> grain				1			3				6+fr	1	1+fr	2			11			3+fr	indet. cereal
<u>legumes</u>																					
indet.							1														legume indeterminate
<u>nuts</u>																					
cf. <i>Corylus avellana</i> L.																	fr				hazelnut
<u>wild</u>																					
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.																	1				corn cockle
Poaceae				2			1				2		3								grasses
<i>Bromus</i> L. sp.													1								brome grass
TOTAL charred items	0	1	0	10	0	1	11	0	0	0	10	1	8	4	0	0	20	0	1	7	
density (items/litre)	0	0.03	0	0.25	0	0.05	0.28	0.00	0	0	1.00	0.025	0.20	0.4	0	0	0.5	0	0.1	0.175	

Table 5: The archaeobotanical remains (D=ditch fill, Ph=posthole fill, P=pit fill, fr=fragments, + = scarce, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent)

Sample Size (l)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	Sample Size (l)
Feature	2011	2005	2019	2028 B	2034	2040	2022 B	2047	2051	2053	2061	2061	2061	2067	2069	2022 C	2022 C	2024	2043	2074	Feature
Context	2012	2006	2020	2029 B	2035	2041	2023 B	2048	2052	2054	2066	2063	2065	2068	2070	2023 C	2057 C	2025	2044	2075	Context
Description	D	Ph	Ph	D	Ph	P	D	D	P	P	P	P	P	P	Ph	D	D	Ph	Ph	P	Description
Phase	4	3	3	2	3	?	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	4	3	4	4	3	?	4	Phase

WATERLOGGED/UNCHARRED

cereals

Triticum aestivum L. rachis

cereals

bread wheat rachis

wild

Urtica dioica L.

wild

stinging nettle

Chenopodium L. sp.

goosefoot

Atriplex L. sp.

orache

Stellaria media (L.) Vill.

common chickweed

cf. *Stellaria*

cf. chickweed

Polygonum sp.

knotgrass

Polygonum aviculare agg.

knotgrass

Rumex L. sp.

dock

Malva sp.

mallow

Coronopus squamatus (Fskl) Ascherson fruit

swine-cress

Rubus fruticosus agg.

bramble

Rubus fruticosus/idaeus L.

blackberry/raspberry

Euphorbia L.

spurge

Aethusa cynapium L.

fool's parsley

Hyoscyamus niger L.

henbane

Solanum nigrum L.

black nightshade

cf. *Marrubium vulgare* L.

cf. white horehound

Lamiaceae

deadnettle family

Sambucus nigra L.

elder

Asteraceae

daisy family

Sonchus oleraceus L.

smooth sow-thistle

Crepis cf. *biennis* L.

rough hawk's-beard

indet.

wild indeterminate

Table 5: (continued)

Sample Size (l) Feature Context Description Phase	1 40 2011 2012 D 4	2 40 2005 2006 Ph 3	3 10 2019 2020 Ph 3	4 40 2028 B 2029 B D 2	5 10 2034 2035 Ph 3	6 20 2040 2041 P ?	7 40 2022 B 2023 B D 4	8 40 2047 2048 D 4	9 40 2051 2052 P 4	10 20 2053 2054 P 4	11 10 2061 2066 P 1	12 40 2061 2063 P 1	13 40 2061 2065 P 1	14 10 2067 2068 P 4	15 40 2069 2070 Ph 3	16 40 2022 C 2023 C D 4	17 40 2022 C 2057 C D 4	19 40 2024 2025 Ph 3	20 10 2043 2044 Ph ?	21 40 2074 2075 P 4	Sample Size (l) Feature Context Description Phase
other organic material																					other organic material
charcoal fragments	+	+		++	+	+	++	+	+		++	+	+	+		+	++	+	+	+	charcoal fragments
large mammal bone										+											large mammal bone
small mammal bone	+			+		+	+		+	+								+		+	small mammal bone
fish scale										+								+			fish scale
marine mollusc	+	+	+	+			+			+	+		+	+		+	+		+	+	marine mollusc
terrestrial mollusc	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	+++	++	+	+++	++		++	++	+++	+++		terrestrial mollusc
beetle	+			+																	beetle

Table 5: (continued)

The plant remains by phase

Phase 1: Roman (AD 43 to AD 410)

Three different fills of the same quarrying pit (F2061) were dated to the Roman period. The basal fill (Sample 11, L2066) had the largest amount of charred plant material and the upper fill the smallest. The charred remains were mainly poorly preserved cereal grains that could not be fully identified. Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) was the most common of the cereals, dominating the charred assemblages of the two lower fills. The basal fill had also a small mixture of other cereals, including possibly wheat (cf. *Triticum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.), and some grasses (Poaceae). In the next fill up a few more grasses were found, one of which was identified as brome grass (*Bromus* sp.).

On the whole, no substantial zoning was observed in the quarry pit in terms of its plant remains. In addition, there was no deliberate deposition of this type of material. The pit contained a mixture of food plant remnants that were probably a mixture of cooking spillages and crop cleaning discard, charred by the fire and incorporated into the ground layer. In the bottom fills there was also evidence of fish and marine mollusc consumption, further suggesting scattered food waste. The presence of most of the organic material at the bottom of the pit supports the idea that it was probably filled in with the discarded soil from the opening of a new pit, which would be expected to have seeds of the surrounding environment as well as food remnants within its top layers.

Phase 2: Middle to late Saxon (AD 650 to AD 1150)

One soil sample was taken from the single Saxon feature, Ditch F2028 Segment B. A similar range of species to the Roman contexts was found. Barley was the main species among the charred remains, followed by a couple of indeterminate grasses. The few remains may indicate the same open or waste/disturbed ground, although there is a strong possibility that, in the absence of substantial archaeobotanical deposits, they may simply represent residual or even intrusive material, given the multi-phase activities on site. Evidence for the presence of insects (beetles) and small mammals also hint at bio-turbation that would have led to mixing of the material.

Phase 3: Medieval (AD 1100 to AD 1600)

Five samples derived from a series of medieval postholes that were part of an L-shaped arrangement, possibly dated to the late 15th to 16th centuries (Area 1). Charred plant material was almost absent from these contexts, with the exception of a single barley grain in one of the largest postholes (F2005).

Phase 4: Post-medieval (AD 1500 to AD 1750)

Post-medieval features comprised ditches and pits that contained fairly small archaeobotanical assemblages. This holds particularly true for the charred plant remains, which were present only in four samples: Samples 7 and 17 from Ditch F2022, Sample 14 from Pit F2067 and Sample 21 from Pit F2074. Sample 14 had the fewest remains, containing only some barley and other very poorly preserved cereal grains. Barley was also present in the other three samples, but Sample 17 had in addition wheat, possibly oat

grains and hazelnut fragments (cf. *Corylus avellana* L.) and corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago* L.), Sample 7 had some indeterminate legume and a grass seed, and Sample 21 had additionally a few wheat grains.

Remnants of fish consumption were found in Sample 17, while marine molluscs were present in almost all post-medieval samples. Thus, taking also into account the low density of the charred plants, the organic material is mainly indicative of food waste, scattered across the ground.

Unphased

Two samples (6 and 20) remained unphased, both of which had poor archaeobotanical assemblages.

Concluding remarks

The archaeobotanical material represented mostly scattered food remains and plants from the local vegetation. Barley was the commonest cereal, being present in all phases, while few other food plants were found. It would appear that the local environment did not undergo substantial changes in the different phases. The general similarities may be partly the result of mixing of the material in the soil after deposition, while the lack of substantial archaeobotanical assemblages from all phases masks potential greater differences.

4 DISCUSSION

The Romano-British Quarry Activity

Quarry Pit F2061 was an irregular feature, *c.* 1m deep, which extended beyond the excavation boundary of Area 2. It contained many large flint nodules, animal bone (625g) and Roman pottery (4 sherds – 60g). Though the amount of Roman pottery was small, it generally occurred within the four fills of the feature, and is regarded as being relatively conclusive dating evidence. The occurrence of four fills indicates that the pit may have been filled in gradually; however, the small amount of cultural material recovered from Pit F2061 suggests is unlikely to have been left open for a prolonged period. It is unclear whether flint or chalk extraction was the primary motive for quarrying. If flint, it is likely to have been used for building purposes, however the pit was only *c.* 1m deep, so is unlikely to have provided particularly large quantities. It is possible that it represented a test pit, dug to ascertain the presence and/or quality of the material below. If chalk was the primary focus of the quarrying then being so close to the surface it is likely to have been of fairly poor quality thus unlikely to have been of much use for construction (McConnell and Woolhouse 2007).

Residual Roman material including large fragments of tegula roof tile was relatively common in medieval and later features from this excavation and from the trial trench evaluation. Such a wide spread of Roman material is probably indicative of local settlement activity, however the small total amount of material indicates that this was probably not directly on the site. Evidence for such activity (both domestic and

industrial) has been previously recorded in Saham Toney (Bates 2000, 235), thus was not unexpected.

Middle to late Saxon Activity

The only Phase 2 feature excavated was Ditch F2028. It was aligned south-west to north-east and extended beyond the site boundaries to the south-west and north-east. It contained mid to late Saxon pottery (7 sherds – 124g), CBM (28g) and animal bone (377g). Archaeological remains from Anglo-Saxon Saham Toney are scarce, so there is little to compare this isolated feature to. An extensive listing in Domesday Book indicates a late Saxon settlement existed at Saham Toney. Metal detecting has revealed Saxon finds including a brooch and a coin (NHER 32019) *c.* 125m east of the site. Numerous other find spots of brooches, coins and metalwork have been found in the vicinity of the site, but due to the imprecise nature of metal-detecting, these are not pinpointed to precise locations (e.g. NHER 34101, 35656 and 37465). It is thought that a wooden church existed at the time of Domesday Book on the site of the current Norman/medieval church of St. George, which is located *c.* 75m south-west of the site (Brown 1998). Robert Brown, a local historian, believes that if this was the case then the settlement would have surrounded the church, and would have been within, or in very close proximity to, the site's boundaries. The excavation revealed only small scale archaeological remains.

Medieval Activity

It is thought that the eight Phase 3 postholes (F2005, F2007, F2019, F2024, F2026, F2034, F2049 and F2069) arranged in an L-shape, on south-west to north-east and south-east to north-west alignments, represent the partial remains of a 15th to 16th-century rectangular structure. This interpretation is tentative. It is generally accepted that by the 13th/14th centuries in Norfolk and Suffolk, the construction of structures with earth-fast foundations had largely been abandoned in favour of clay built structures, sometimes with flint foundations (Woolhouse forthcoming). Thus the presence of a potentially 15th to 16th-century earth-fast building at Saham Toney is unusual.

That 'archaic' technology reliant on the expensive commodity of building timber was employed in the construction of this building is curious, when a cheaper and more reliable technology was being employed elsewhere (Rackham 1986, 64). It is possible that Saham Toney remained true to a localised building tradition which continued to be reliant upon earth-fast timbers. It may have been that the timber used in the construction of the structure was of low quality, and that the building was intended to be short-lived, possibly as a byre or shelter. The use of this construction method certainly indicates that this building was not intended as a domestic dwelling. This is corroborated by the absence of a hearth and any trace of foundations in the vicinity of the features, and by a lack of CBM or domestic debris which one might usually associate with a dwelling. It is more likely that the postholes represent a timber ancillary building related to a smallcroft or toft which was situated adjacent to Pound Hill. Such a building might have been a barn, byre, workshop, shed or other kind of relatively simple short-lived building which did not need to be as weather resistant as a domestic space.

A small number of comparable sites have been identified in East Anglia including

evidence of earth-fast post buildings in Heigham, on the outskirts of Norwich, where the continuing use of such technology is thought to indicate the rural nature of the community and low rents (Evans and Atkin 2002, 240). Also in Norfolk, excavations on the Transco Bacton to Kings Lynn pipeline revealed a small farmstead identified by the presence of two earth-fast post-built structures very similar in nature to the one postulated at Saham Toney (Wilson forthcoming). Further afield, similar buildings have been found at sites in Suffolk and Essex e.g. Hazel Scrub, Haverhill (SCCAS Unpublished) and at the A12 interchange, Chelmsford (Lavender 1999).

Ditch F1044 (Tr.4), excavated during the evaluation, is thought to have been contemporary with the possible building described above. It contained over 50% of the entire pottery assemblage, (42 sherds, 1.684 kg). This included the lower part of a flat-based cooking pot with brown splash glaze, and the rim of a pancheon in buff fabric with internal clear and copper speckled glaze thought to relate to a late medieval and transitional (LMT) pottery industry in the Waveney Valley located to the south-east of Thetford which probably supplied Norwich (Anderson 1996, 7-10). The association with a sherd of imported Raeren stoneware suggests a date of late 15th to mid 16th century.

Post Medieval

Ditches and pits/postholes are assigned to Phase 4. It is known from a tithe map of 1842 (Fig. 8), that the site was divided through its centre to create two plots of land; the primary use of both was for agricultural purposes.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

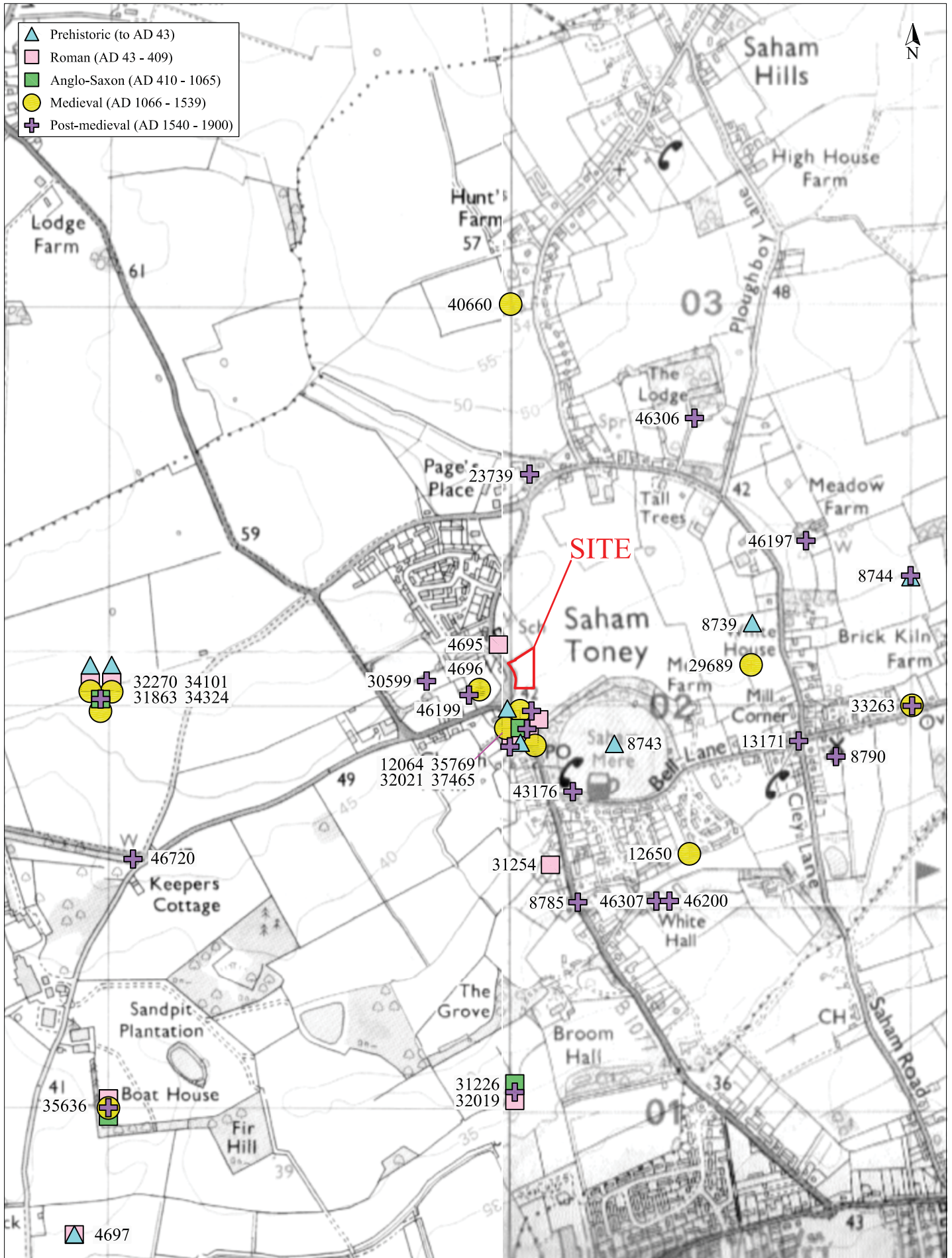
The following sites are those that lie within a *c.* 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER). The locations of the sites are shown in Fig. 1.

HER No.	NGR TF	Description
Prehistoric (700,000 BC – AD 43)		
1398	7870 1040	The Icknield Way, a possible prehistoric road which connected Norfolk with southern England. It is thought it could be part of several shorter linked routes. Dating evidence is fragmentary and its prehistoric origins are under constant discussion.
4697	8890 0065	Woodcock Hall Iron Age settlement. Systematic fieldwalking and metal detecting have recovered an enormous amount of coins, pottery, building material and metal objects. (See Roman 4697 for further finds).
8739	906 022	Neolithic polished flint axe was found near White House in 1952.
8743	9024 0189	The bones of a red deer and some possible Bronze Age swords were retrieved from the Mere around 1856.
8744	910 023	A number of Neolithic tools, Iron Age pottery sherds and a Bronze Age sword were recovered from this site (See post-medieval 8744 for further finds).
12064	90 02	Metal detecting has produced numerous prehistoric finds including Bronze Age and late Prehistoric pottery.
32021	90 02	Metal detecting has produced an Iron Age coin.
34101	89 02	Multi-period find scatter including Bronze Age artefacts.
34324	89 02	An Iron Age Trinovantes coin of the facing horse type found by metal detector.
Roman (AD 43 – 410)		
1289	82470 12458	The Peddar's Way, a Roman road visible by crop marks and on aerial photographs. The road enters Norfolk at Brettenham and follows a very direct line apart from a slight bend at Hockham. Likely to be early Roman in date and was probably of military origin.
2796	92631 11265	The Fen Causeway, a Roman road which runs from a junction at Ermine Street to Kings Street near Peterborough across the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk fens. In Norfolk the road runs between Upwell and Denver although there are other possible routes.
4695	8997 0214	In 1951, a Roman coin of Valens was recovered from the School House.
4697	8890 0065	Woodcock Hall Roman settlement and two forts. Systematic fieldwalking and metal detecting have recovered an enormous amount of coins, pottery, building material and metal objects. Two forts have also been noted by cropmarks, one Claudian to

		guard the River and the other straddles the Peddar's Way. Other cropmarks have been identified thought to be part of the settlement site (See prehistoric 4697 for further finds).
12064	90 02	Metal detecting in the area has produced one Roman coin.
31226	90 01	The site was metal detected in the 1950's after deep ploughing. The remains of four buildings and numerous Roman finds were uncovered suggesting a settlement site (See post-medieval for further finds).
31254	901 016	In the 1940's/50's three Roman coins were found in a property on Richmond road.
32021	90 02	Metal detecting has produced a selection of Roman metal finds.
32270	89 02	Metal detecting in 1996 recovered a Roman brooch.
34101	89 02	Multi-period find scatter including Roman seal box and other finds.
35636	89 01	Multi-period find scatter including Roman coins and pottery.
35769	90 02	Multi-period find scatter including a Roman coin.
37465	90 02	Multi-period find scatter including four Roman coin and other finds.
<i>Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)</i>		
32019	90 01	Metal detecting in 1995 found two Saxon finds. The first was a late Saxon disc brooch and the other a Saxon coin.
34101	89 02	Multi-period find scatter including a Saxon square headed brooch and other finds.
35636	89 01	Multi-period find scatter including early and late Saxon finds.
37465	90 02	Multi-period find scatter including Middle Saxon pottery.
<i>Medieval (AD 1066 – 1550)</i>		
4696	8993 0204	St George's Church. The church mainly dates to the 13 th -15 th centuries and is constructed in a mix of Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles. It was restored in 1936 but the carvings of St George fighting the dragon are still present above the west door.
12064	90 02	Metal detecting in the area has produced numerous medieval finds including a dagger, lead weight, buckle and coins.
12650	9043 0162	A local farmer recovered a selection of medieval metal finds including lead weights, iron spurs and also some pottery.
29689	906 021	An RAF aerial photograph records a number of cropmarks and features which may be medieval tofts bordering the edge of common land, perhaps the village green.

31863	89 02	Metal detecting recovered a very nice medieval casket mount. The almost square panel had a fleur-de-lys depicted against a blue enamel background.
32270	89 02	Metal detecting in 1996 recovered a medieval spur.
33263	91 02	Metal detecting in 1997 found numerous medieval metal objects including a French Jetton.
34101	89 02	Multi-period find scatter including a medieval horse harness pendant decorated with crowns and other finds.
35636	89 01	Multi-period find scatter including a medieval buckle frame.
35769	90 02	Multi-period find scatter including a medieval seal matrix and other finds.
37465	90 02	Multi-period find scatter including an unusual medieval buckle with punched triangle and transverse groove decoration.
40660	90 03	A piece of medieval unglazed pottery and purse frame was found by metal detecting.
<i>Post-medieval (AD 1550 – 1900)</i>		
13588	01541 22121	Route of Wymondham to Wells railway including a mid Norfolk railway with Walsingham Light railways.
13581	01896 19803	This is the line of the Midland and Great Northern railway between Great Yarmouth and Sutton Bridge opened in 1864 and closed 1959.
13571	1399 9627	This is the line of the Norfolk railway which opened in 1844. The line ran between Yarmouth, Norwich and Brandon. It was the first line in the country to have a Cook and Wheastone telegraph and thus the first block system in the country.
13601	9134 0278	This was the route of Thetford, Watton and Swaffham railway opened in 1869-1875. The route was mainly used for industrial goods and joined the Lynn to Dereham railway (NHER 13600) at Swaffham. It is now closed.
8744	910 023	A map of 1836 depicted a Suffolk style brick kiln along with a coal store and a building erected in 1828, the kiln no longer exist but two buildings are still surviving (See prehistoric 8744 for further finds).
8785	9018 0151	In 1971 an 18 th century bread oven was noted in the side of a cottage.
8790	9081 0187	A tower mill was built here in 1828 and was last used in 1900. It was converted to a house in 1948 but the spur of the mill still survives inside.
12064	90 02	Metal detecting in the area has produced numerous post-medieval finds including tokens, coins, a thimble and a buckle.
13171	9072 0191	A local mans burial was laid at this spot after his suicide in 1790 for becoming unpopular locally for pouring wine and beer in the river.
23739	9003 0258	Page's Place, a 16 th /17 th century house which has been much restored

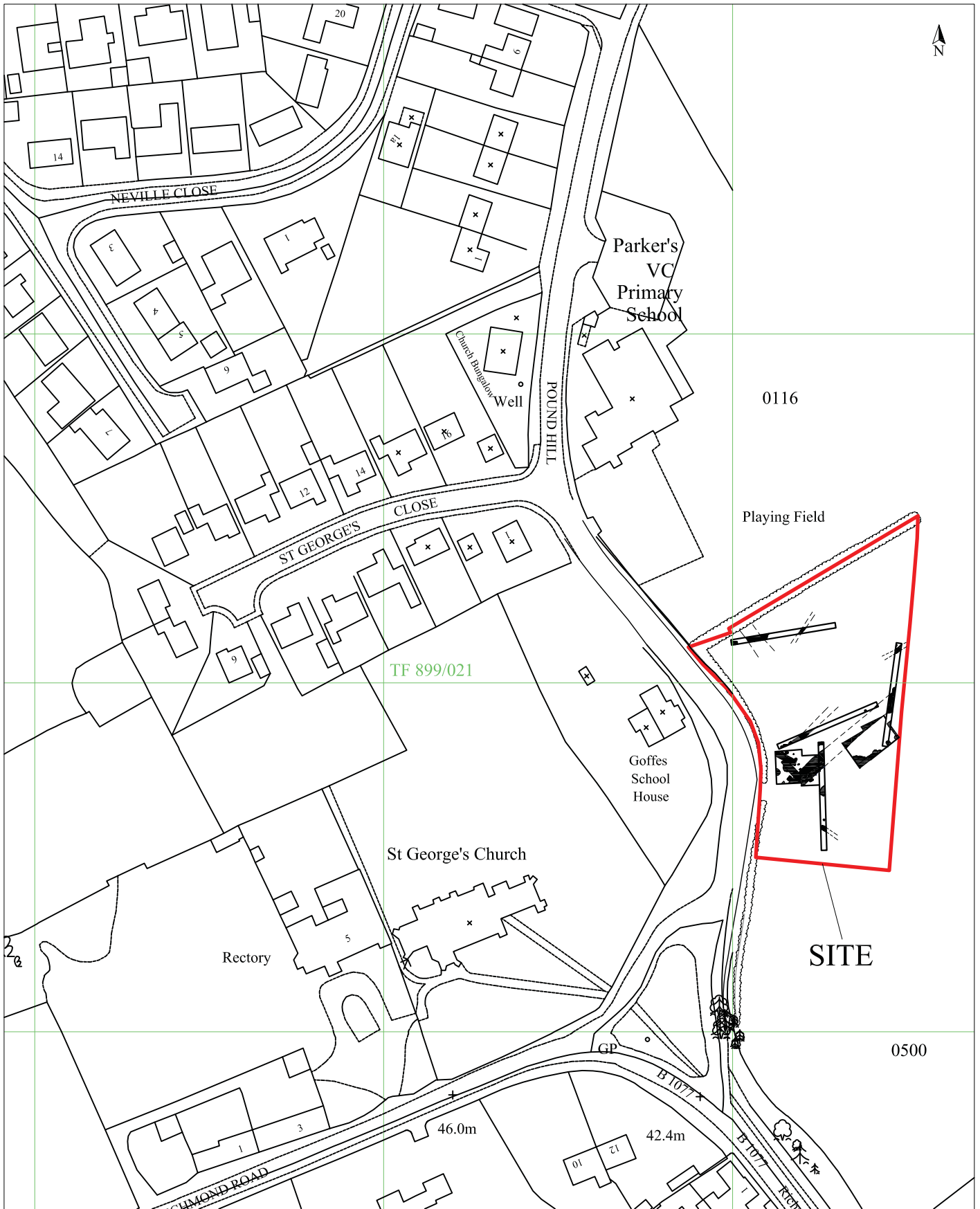
30599	8979 0206	A landscaped park of a former rectory of pre-1797 origins. A commemorative monument in the shape of a Greek alter survives in north-west corner.
31226	90 01	The site was metal detected in the 1950's after deep ploughing. Later evaluations revealed two medieval/post-medieval ditches/field boundaries.
33263	91 02	Metal detecting in 1997 found numerous post-medieval metal objects including a hooked fastener.
34101	89 02	Multi-period find scatter including a post-medieval hook from a book clasp and other finds.
35636	89 01	Multi-period find scatter including post-medieval book clasp and other finds.
35769	90 02	Multi-period find scatter including a post-medieval mount in the style of fleur-de-lys and other finds.
37465	90 02	Multi-period find scatter including a post-medieval lead bird feeder trough and other finds.
43176	90144 01782	An archaeological watching brief took place in 2006 at The Bell Inn and revealed a single 19 th to 20 th century rubbish pit.
46197	9074 0241	Meadow Farmhouse was an 18 th century two storey red brick house, listed Grade II.
46199	8989 0202	The Old Rectory, Richmond Road dates to the 18 th century and is a red brick two storey former rectory.
46200	9040 0151	White Hall, Richmond Road dates to the mid 18 th century and is whitewashed brick two storey house.
46306	9045 0272	The Lodge, Chequers Lane dated to 1724 with later 19 th century additions and is a colour-washed brick two storey house.
46307	9035 0151	A post-medieval barn on Richmond Road which dates to the 17 th century with later additions.
46720	8905 0161	Gardener's Cottage dates to the mid 19 th century and is a two storey flint built cottage.



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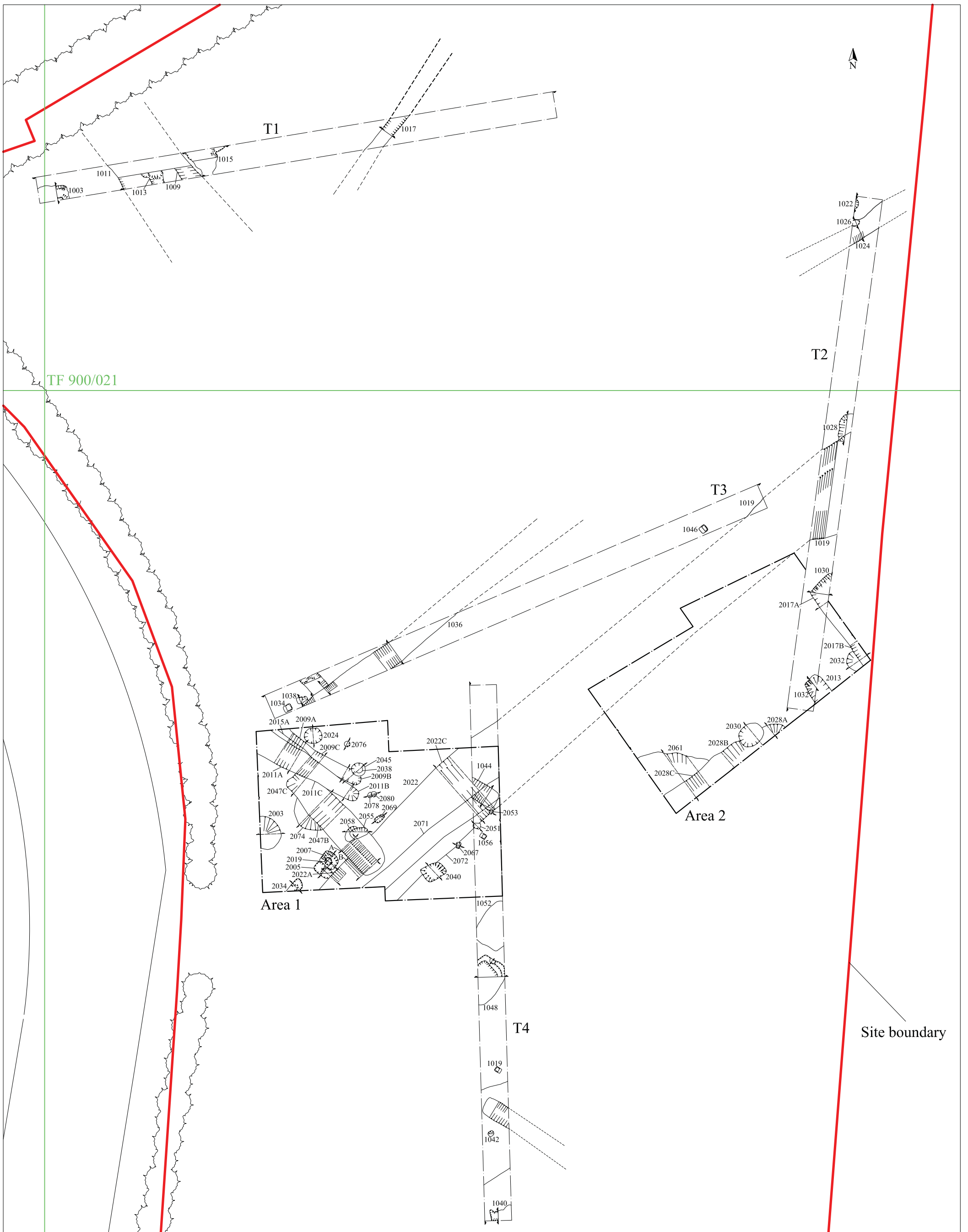
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Fig. 1 Site location plan and HER data
Scale: 1: 12,500 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1500 at A4

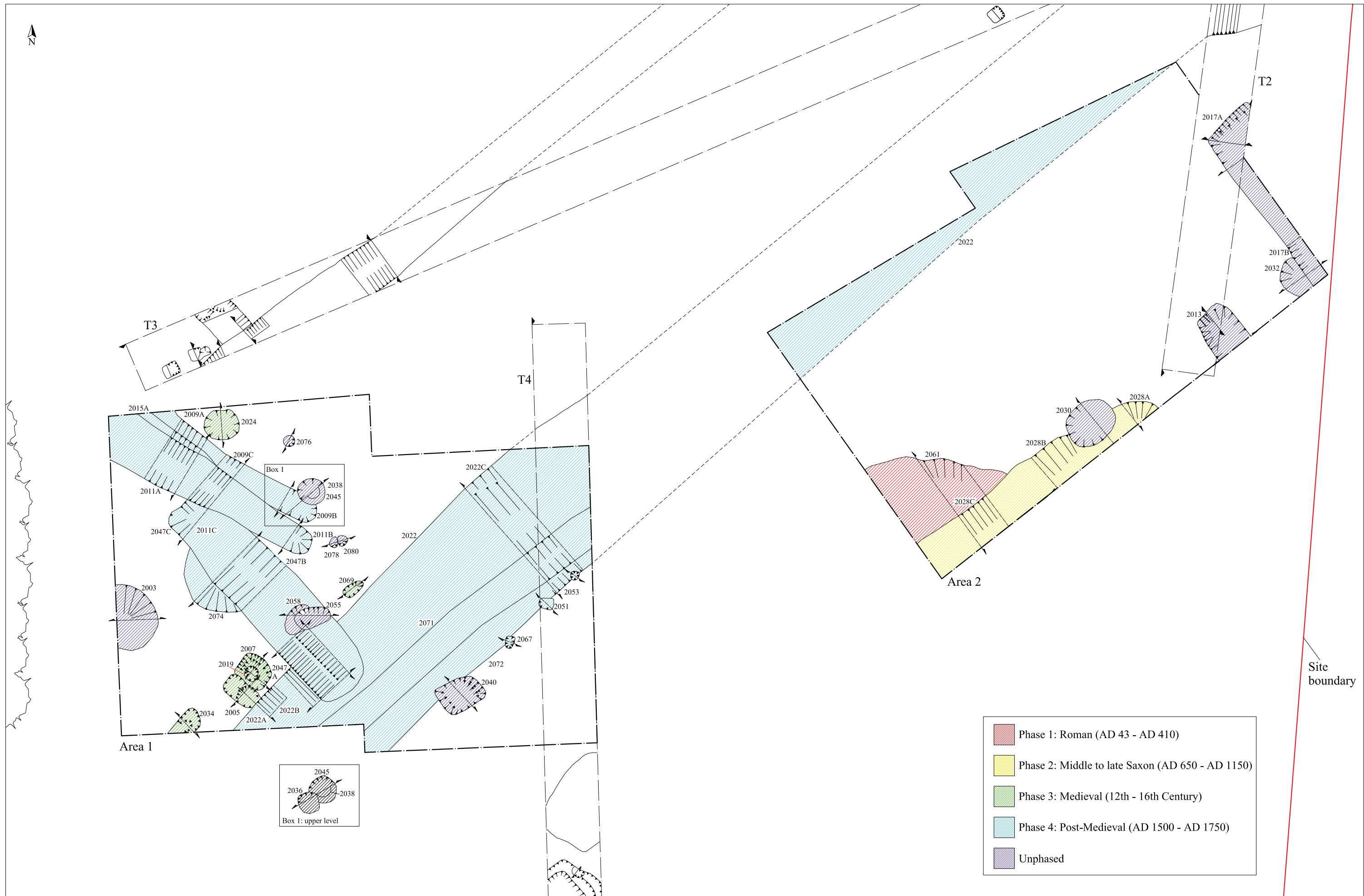


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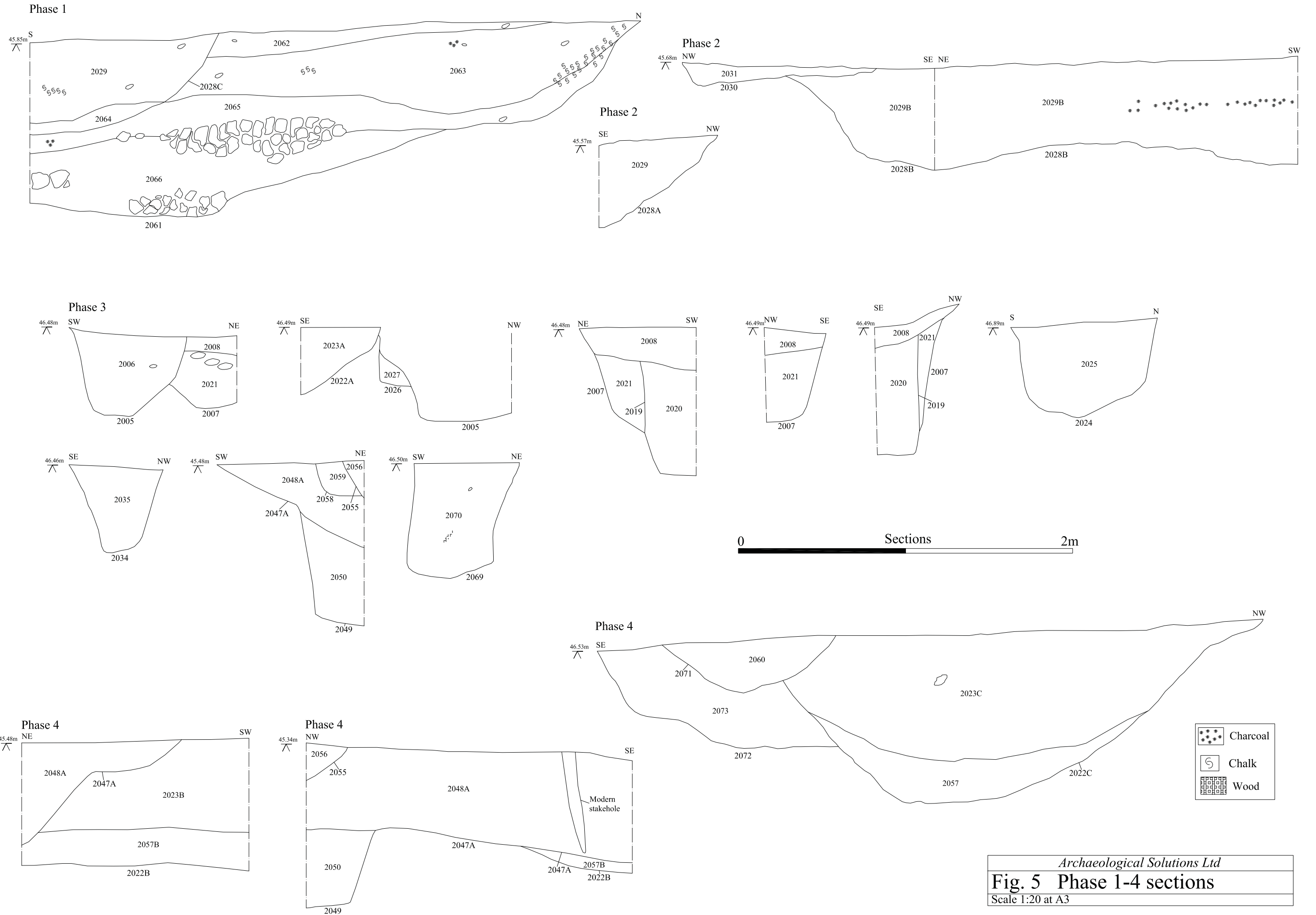
Fig. 3 All features plan

Scale 1:400 at A3

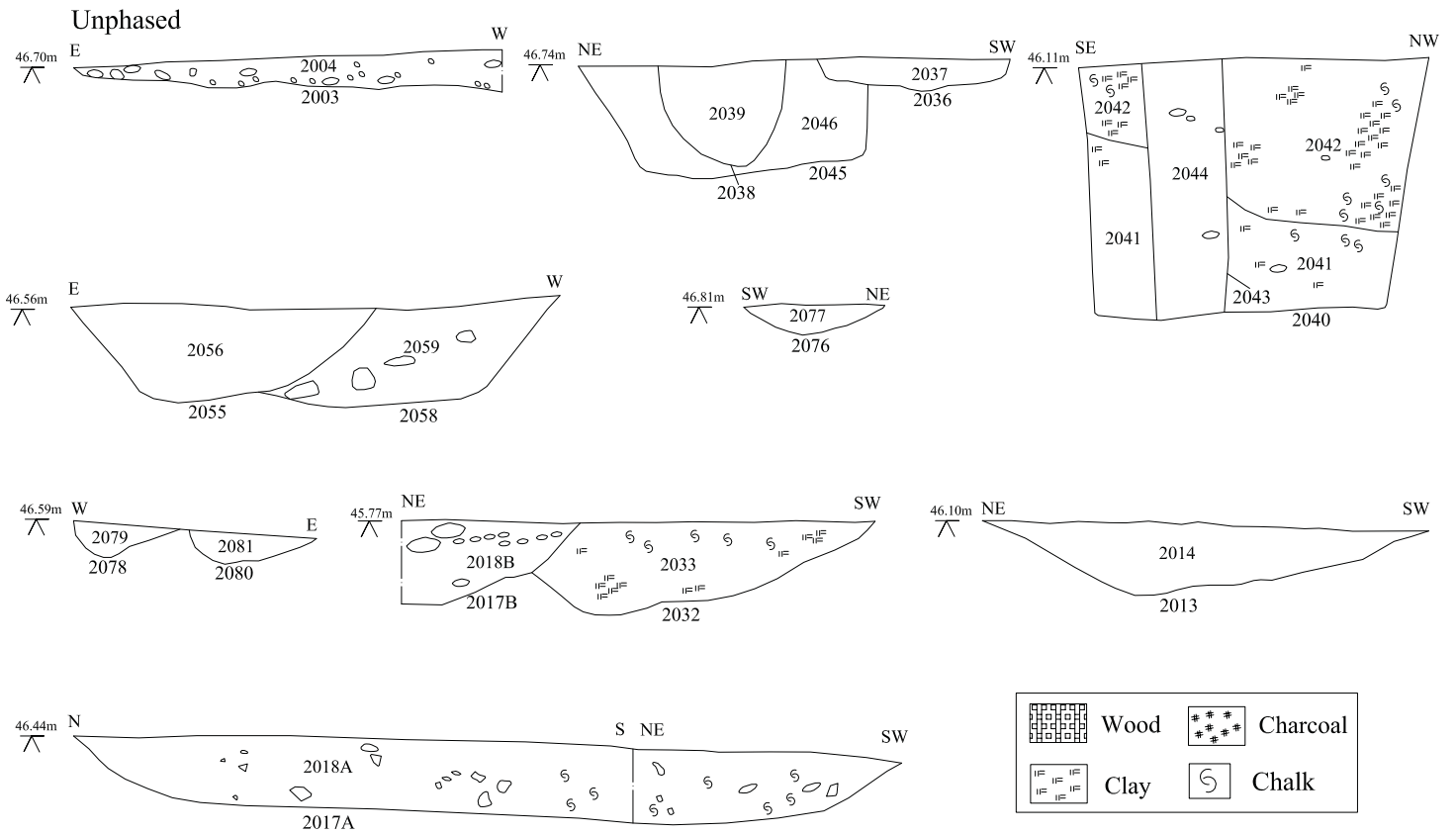
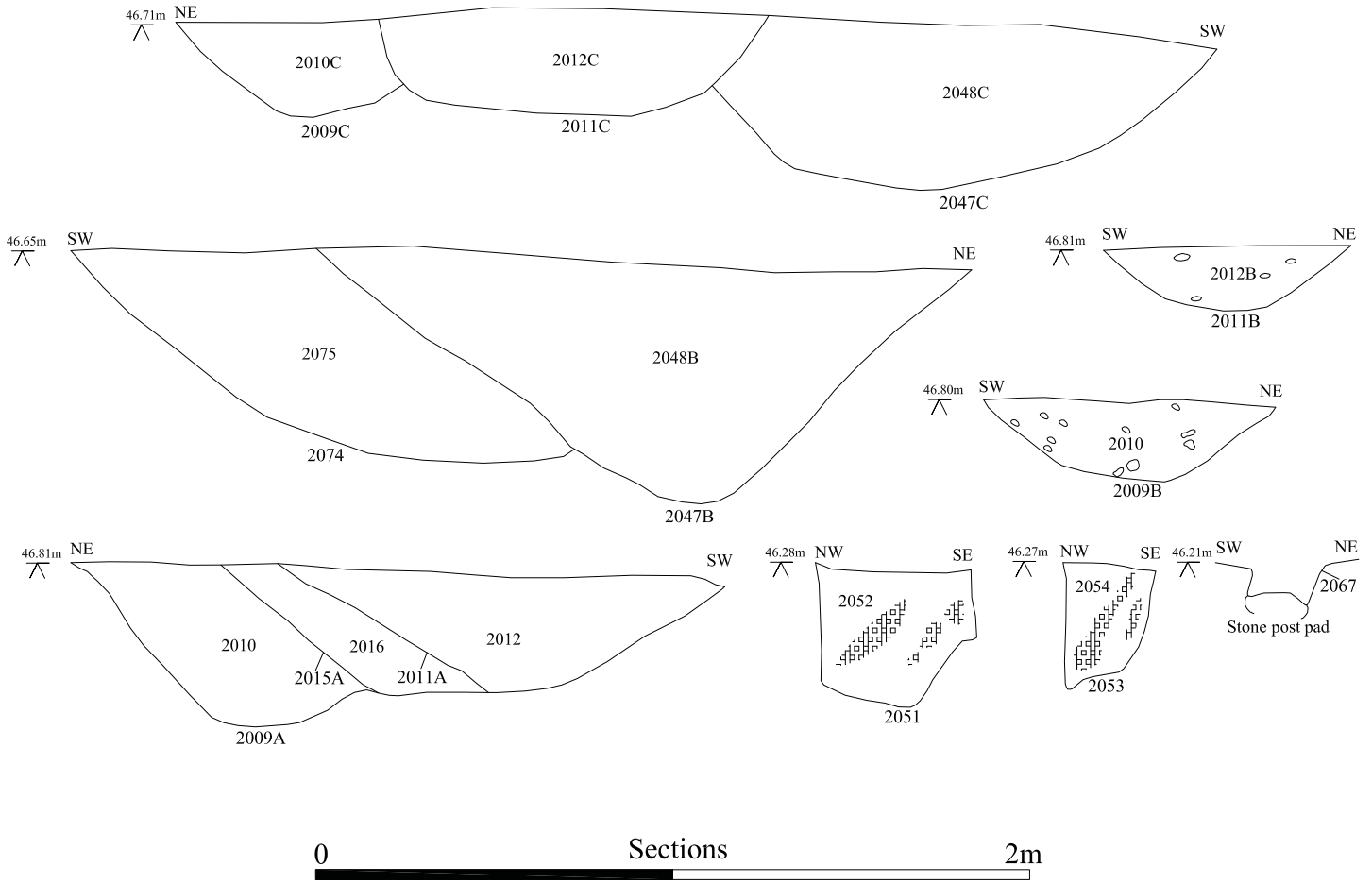


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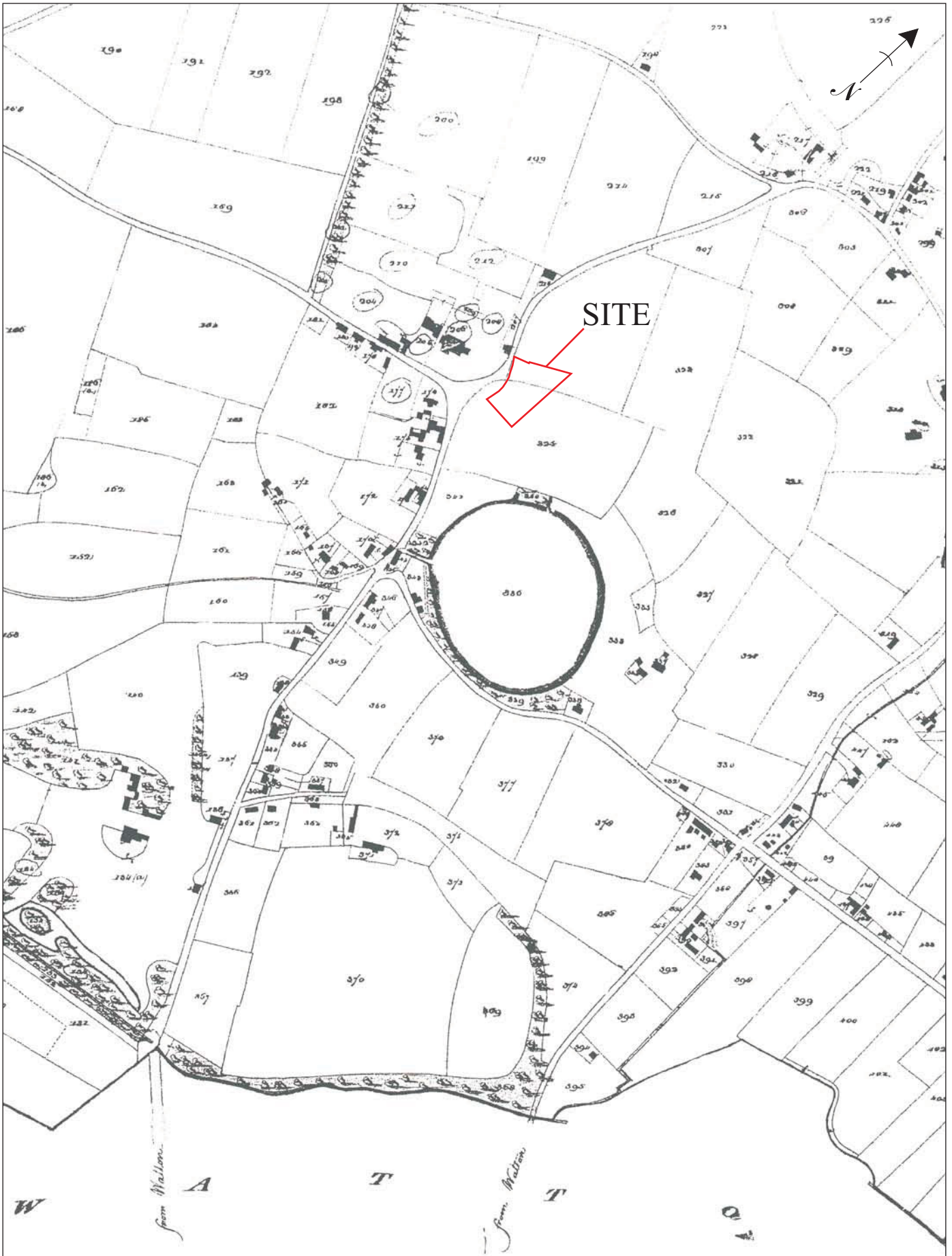
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Fig. 4 Phase plan
 Scale 1:100 at A3



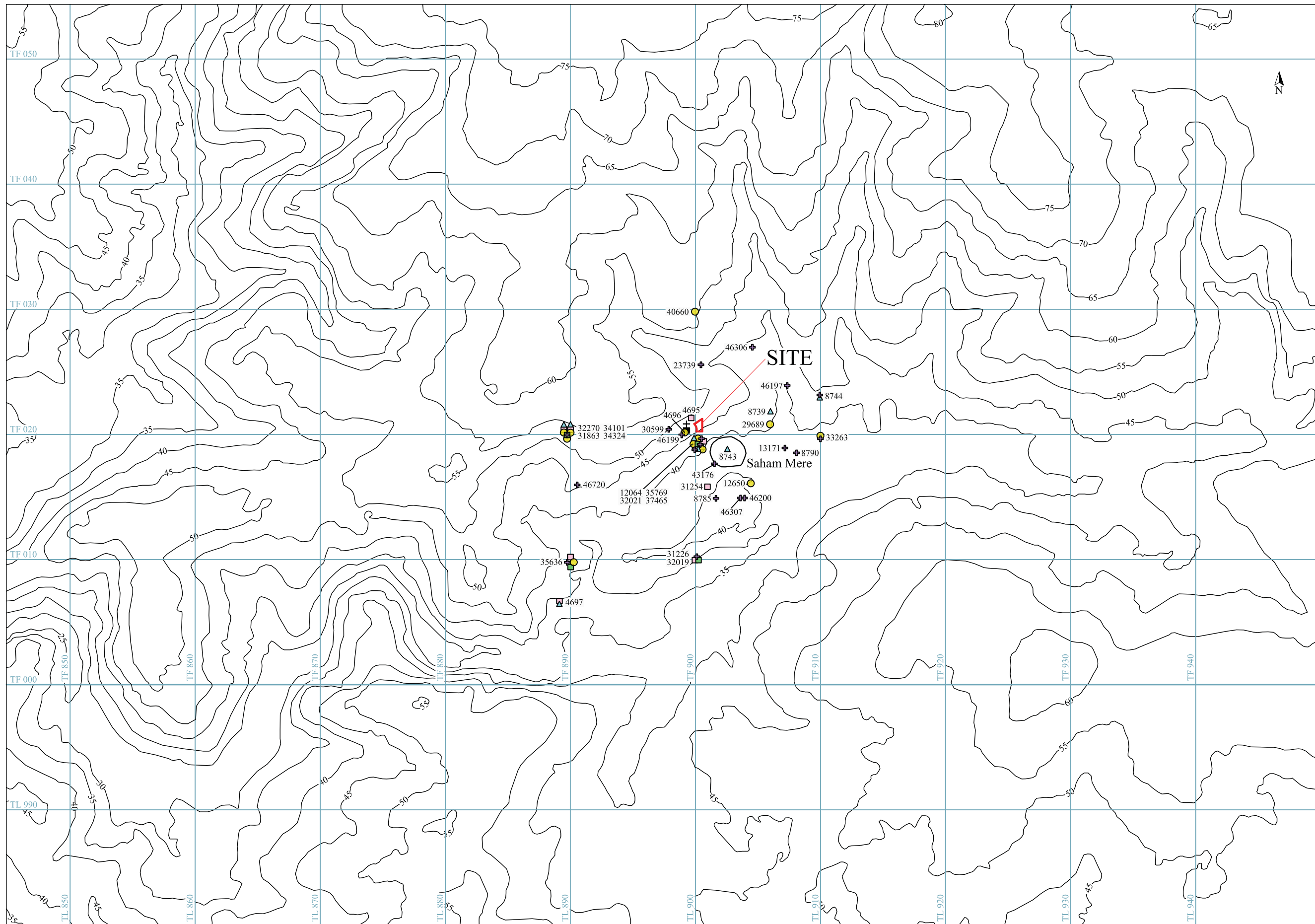
Phase 4



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Fig. 6 Phase 4 & Unphased sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4



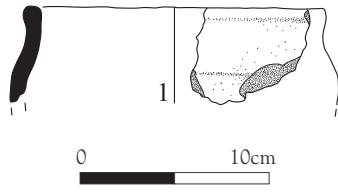
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Fig. 7 Tithe map, 1842
Not to scale



- ▲ Prehistoric (to AD 43)
- Roman (AD 43 - 409)
- Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 - 1065)
- Medieval (AD 1066 - 1539)
- ✚ Post-medieval (AD 1540 - 1900)



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Fig. 8 Contour survey of surrounding area
 Scale 1:30,000 at A3



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Fig. 9 Pottery illustration

Scale 1:4 at A4