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**SAXON AND MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT
AT THE OLD BELL, MARHAM, NORFOLK**

RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

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NGR: TF 7084 0979	Report No. 3458
Borough: King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Site Code: 49785
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Project details			
Project name	<i>The Old Bell, Marham, Norfolk</i>		
<i>Between March and May 2008 and during September 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at The Old Bell, Marham, Norfolk. Post-excavation analysis has identified five phases of activity at this site, with the earliest occurring in the mid Saxon period. This period was represented by a SFB in the north-western corner of the site. Occupation activity continued in the late Saxon period as is evidenced by a further possible SFB and a possible cellared-building. The third identifiable phase represents a period of rapid change within the area of the site and begins with the construction of an enclosure ditch which may relate to a dwelling of elevated, possibly thegnly, status. This enclosure appears to be modified at a later date and the culmination of activity in the Saxo-Norman period is the division of the western part of the site into apparent roadside plots. Activity continues in the medieval and post-medieval periods but for the most part, although domestic, is not directly indicative of occupation.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>14/03/08 – 30/05/08, 03/09/10-16/09/10</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>P2699</i>	Site code	<i>49785 (49785.MRM)</i>
Type of project	<i>Open Area Excavation</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Vacant; formerly a 1950s public house, beer garden and parking area</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential development (14 houses)</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Mid and late Saxon Sunken-Featured Buildings, late Saxon possible cellared-building, Saxo-Norman enclosure, boundary ditches, post-pits and pits, medieval possible building, gullies and pits.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Mid to late Saxon pottery (Ipswich Ware, Thetford Ware), animal bone, worked bone needle and ?pin</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</i>	<i>Marham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER (Gressenhall)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>3657 sq. m (excavation area c. 1000m²)</i>		
NGR	<i>TF 7084 0979</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>12.09m – 9.50m OD (whole site, prior to stripping)</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Ken Hamilton, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>T. Woolhouse (Excavation), G. Barlow (Strip, Map and Record), A. A. S. Newton (Post-Excavation)</i>		
Funded by	<i>Veltshaw Builders Limited</i>		
Full title	<i>Saxon and medieval settlement at the Old Bell, Marham, Norfolk. Research Archive Report</i>		
Authors	<i>Andrew A. S. Newton</i>		
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Date (of report)	<i>October 2010</i>		

RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT FOR EXCAVATIONS ON LAND AT THE OLD BELL, MARHAM, NORFOLK

RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report comprises the research archive for excavations on land at The Old Bell, Marham, Norfolk (centred on NGR TF 7084 0979; Fig. 1) carried out by Archaeological Solutions Ltd between March and May 2008 and during September 2010. It has been compiled in accordance with English Heritage MAP 2, Section 7 and Appendix 6. It follows the Interim Site Narrative (Woolhouse 2008a) and the Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design (Woolhouse 2008b).

1.2 Part I of the report comprises the analytical reports which have arisen from post-excavation research. This is supported by Part II, on the accompanying CD, which comprises finds catalogues and full archaeological descriptions of each of the recorded features.

I ANALYTICAL REPORTS

2 SITE NARRATIVE

2.1 Overview

Between March and May 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at The Old Bell, Marham, Norfolk (NGR TF 7084 0979; Figs. 1 and 2). The excavation was commissioned and funded by Veltshaw Builders Limited in advance of the redevelopment of the site and the construction of 14 new residential dwellings with associated services and access roads (Planning Application No. 2/03/2276/O). The excavation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition applied by the local authority (King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council) following advice from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA; part of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS)) regarding the high potential of the site for Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeological remains. The excavation followed an earlier trial trench evaluation, conducted by AS in February 2007 (Adams *et al* 2007). In September 2010, AS conducted a Strip, Map and Record excavation on two areas to the east of the original area of excavation.

The site covers a total area of 3657m². The excavation was conducted in a square area in the north-west corner of the site, measuring c. 33 x 30m (c. 0.1ha). Trench A, excavated during the programme of Strip, Map and Record, measured c. 12 x 7.9m; Trench B measured c. 11 x 8.5m. The site was formerly occupied by a public house with associated car parking and gardens.

2.1.1 Background

Introduction

The site is located in Marham, a village and parish in north-west Norfolk. It is approximately 10km west of Swaffham and a similar distance north-east of Downham Market. King's Lynn lies approximately 12km to the north-west. Nearly half of the parish is occupied by RAF Marham airfield and base, one of the largest operational RAF bases in the country. The village is predominantly linear in plan, having many of the characteristics of a 'street village' strung out along a principal through road (Fig. 3). The site lies close to the southern end of the village, at the junction of The Street (the main south-west to north-east village road) and Church Lane, which runs south-eastwards at a right angle to the main road.

Topography, geology and soils

Although this part of West Norfolk is generally quite flat, the settlement at Marham has developed along the foot of a steep ridge. This rises to a high point of 44m OD at Chapel Hill, just over 1km south-east of the site (Figs. 1 and 4). A short distance to the west of the village, the ground level falls to just a few metres above sea level and prior to the large-scale drainage schemes that began from the 17th century, these areas would have been fenland. The course of The Street, the main road through the village, is probably a product of the past hydrology of the area. It skirts north-eastwards along the former fen edge at a height of 5 – 10m OD. Further areas of fen would have lain to the north of the village, along the margins of the river Nar. The site itself lies at an elevation of 12.09m OD in the east, sloping gently downwards to the south-west, to a minimum height of c. 9.50m at the street frontage.

The site is located on the divide between the Lower Chalk (Totternhoe Stone) and Middle Chalk, on the spring line (Fig 5). Soils on the upland to the east and south are the shallow, well-drained, calcareous sandy and coarse loamy soils, with some similar deep sandy soils of the Newmarket 1 association. To the north, along the river Nar, are river terrace gravels of the Hurst association (BGS 1985; SSEW 1983a and 1983b). Peat was probably forming in the Nar basin from the 3rd millennium BC, although peat deposits have been reduced through wastage and modern agricultural practices (Silvester 1988, 119).

Iron Age and Roman

Numerous scatters of Iron Age pottery, found both towards the fen and on the higher ground a few hundred metres to the south and east of the site (e.g. HER 29189), attest to continued occupation in the Marham area in later prehistory. One probable late Iron Age site identified during the Fenland Survey lies just south of the modern village (MRM 6; Silvester 1988, 121, 123 fig. 93). The available evidence indicates fairly intensive prehistoric occupation in the area, mirroring the pattern seen elsewhere along the fen edge. Approximately 2.5km south of the site, the modern A1122 follows the

route of a Roman road. The only firm evidence for Roman occupation so far found in Marham is a site c. 1.5km south of the modern village where pottery, metalwork, numerous coins, bricks and roof tile have been recovered from ploughed fields (HER 28645). It seems likely that these finds derive from a Roman farmstead/villa range, but no archaeological investigation has yet been undertaken. Closer to the site, fieldwalking and metal detecting have recovered Roman coins and pottery (e.g. HER 24545). An archaeological watching brief in the village has also found Roman pottery and a 4th century coin (HER 29262). The presence of background activity of this date goes some way to explaining the presence of residual Iron Age and Roman pottery and CBM recovered from features at the Old Bell site (see Thompson, this report and Peachey, this report).

Anglo-Saxon and medieval

The name 'Marham' first appears as *Merham* in the middle of the 11th century and is usually interpreted as 'the homestead or village by the mere' (Ekwall 1960, 314). This Anglo-Saxon name implies an early origin, of possibly mid Saxon, or earlier, date, for the settlement (Silvester 1988, 121). Several Saxon objects have been found in and around Marham. A 10th century Viking brooch has been found some 900m south-west of the site (HER 23366); a mid to late Saxon animal-head strap-end has also been found (HER 33947), but its exact findspot is not recorded. Metal detecting at Chapel Hill, 1km south-east of the site, recovered a second 9th/10th century Viking brooch (HER 4511) and several other Saxon metalwork items.

Several landholdings in Marham are recorded in the Domesday Book. The recorded Domesday population (78) and value (£3-9s-3d) indicate that Marham was a substantial settlement by 1086 (Leah *et al.* 1997, 508).

The site lies to the immediate east of the remains of Marham Abbey (HER 4483), founded in AD 1249 by Isabel, widow of Hugh D'Albini, Earl of Arundel. It was one of only two Cistercian nunneries in England. The Abbey was dissolved, and presumably largely demolished, in 1536 (VCH 1906, 369). The south wall of the abbey church's nave survives in the gardens of Abbey House, elements of other buildings survive in a field to the south as do, under pasture, the impressive earthwork remains of the cloistral range and other buildings (Silvester 1988, 121, 125). Remains of a fortified moated manor (HER 11462; a Scheduled Ancient Monument) survive on the edge of woodland c. 400m south-west of the site at Hills and Holes Plantation, just beyond the Abbey earthworks. This site may represent the 'castle' mentioned in late 13th century documents, which was constructed illegally by William Belet and was seen as a threat to royal authority in the area (Silvester 1988, 125; Leah *et al.* 1997). William Belet and his wife held the advowsons of both the churches in the village, and in 1260, were granted the right to hold a market and fair on their estates (Leah *et al.* 1997, 509). Nearby, and adjacent to the Shouldham road, a concentration of medieval pottery was recorded during the Fenland Survey. The presence of some Thetford-type ware amongst this concentration was considered to indicate that late Saxon

occupation occurred at this location (Silvester 1988, 125).

Holy Trinity Church (HER 4509) is located to the immediate south of the Old Bell site and is, in its present form, a Perpendicular building of the 14th/ 15th century, but which retains some of the original Norman elements such as the north doorway and tympanum. The position of The Street, flanked by Marham Abbey precinct to the west and by Holy Trinity Church to the east, strongly suggests that, at least in the southern part of the village, the road already followed its present course by around the mid-13th century.

Around 150m south-east of the site is the former location of a second church, St Andrew's (HER 4501). Both St Andrew's and Holy Trinity are mentioned in mid-13th century records (VCH 1906, 369) though the former was ruinous by 1500. Several inhumations have been discovered in gardens adjacent to the site of St Andrew's, indicating the extent of its original cemetery. A medieval chapel, dedicated to St Guthlac, is recorded in 16th and 17th century documents and is thought to have lain in the vicinity of Chapel Hill, 1.5km south-east of the village (HER 4511).

Numerous medieval finds have been recovered through fieldwalking and metal detecting around the parish including some found along the line of The Street, such as a coin of Edward I (HER 58388). A watching brief conducted to the rear of Abbey House, 200m west of the site, recorded medieval pottery and fragments of window tracery, probably deriving from the Abbey complex (HER 29261). Sherds of medieval pottery have also been found close to the site of St Andrew's Church (HER 7242). However, an archaeological evaluation at Squire's Hill, also adjacent to the site of St Andrew's, and close to the site of The Old Bell, found no significant features and only two pieces of medieval pottery (HER 33378).

The later history of the site

Marham is recorded in the 1845 edition of *White's Norfolk Directory* under alternative name 'Cherry Marham'. This relates to the production of cherries and walnuts for which Marham was renowned. It is suggested that this arboricultural practice was halted as a result of the Napoleonic Wars, during which the walnut trees were cut down for use in gun-making. A late 16th century map in the Hare (prominent local landowners from the dissolution of the Abbey onwards) collection at Norfolk Record Office (Ref: NRO Hare 6811) depicts the whole area of the village of Marham as being thickly and prominently wooded suggesting that the cherry and walnut growing trade was important to Marham.

A slightly later map, also in the Hare collection, dated to 1734 (NRO Hare 6814) and its associated field book (NRO Hare 6815) demonstrate that the site several tenements and at least two cottages. The map is not of sufficient scale or detail for these buildings to be located with any accuracy.

The site was formerly occupied by a public house, the Old Bell, with

associated car parking and gardens. The current owner of the site, Ted Carter, was himself involved in the construction of the pub in the 1950s (Ted Carter, pers. comm.). Prior to this, it was the site of The Old Bell Inn, which local residents claim to have been a 17th century or earlier building. It is understood that the site may have originally been a blacksmith's with conversion to use as an inn or public house sometime prior to 1836 when the earliest reference to this use of the site appears (Website 1). On the 1840 Tithe Map, the main inn building was located in the approximate centre of the site, with numerous outbuildings clustered in the south-east corner and along the Church Lane frontage. Large areas in the north-east, north and west of the site, including the entirety of the excavation area, were devoid of buildings. A catalogue description from the sale of the premises in 1847 indicates that a coach house, stables and outbuildings were also present on the site (Website 1). The site appears to have remained largely unchanged from the Tithe Map on the 1st Edition (1891) and later Ordnance Survey maps. The pub was rebuilt in 1952 and much of the site was concreted over for car parking.

2.2 Phasing

Approximately 150 archaeological features were identified and excavated (Figs 6 and 7). Based upon analysis of the site's pottery assemblage and associated stratigraphic evidence, an assessment and refinement of the dating of on site activity was conducted as part of the project's post-excavation analysis. During excavation, five distinct phases of archaeological activity were identified; these are set out in the Site Interim Narrative (Woolhouse 2008a) and the Assessment and Updated Project Design (Woolhouse 2008b). Post-excavation analysis of the stratigraphic and dateable evidence has confirmed the existence of five distinct phases of the dates identified by Woolhouse (2008a, 2008b) but has, in some cases led to the revision of the dates of some features.

CHRONOLOGICAL PHASE	PERIOD	DATE RANGE
Phase 1	Mid Saxon	6th to 9th century AD
Phase 2	Late Saxon	Mid 9th to 11th century AD
Phase 3	Saxo-Norman/early medieval	11th to 12th century AD
Phase 4	Medieval	Late 12th to 14th century AD
Phase 5	Later post-medieval/modern	

Table 1: Chronological phasing (see also Figs. 6 and 7)

2.3 Phase 1: Mid Saxon (6th to 9th century AD) (Fig. 8)

Phase 1 was represented by a Sunken-Featured Building (SFB) located in the north-west corner of the site. SFB 2037 (Fig. 9) extended beyond the excavated area to the west. That part of it that was identified within the excavated area was rectangular in plan and measured 3.75m from north to south and in excess of 3.40m from west to east; it had near vertical sides and a flat base and survived to a depth of 0.50m. It was cut by several later pits (F2102, F2074 and F2064), Ditch F2019 and a short north to south aligned gully (F2062). The upper parts of the SFB had been subjected to modern disturbance (F2038) from the roots of a large horse chestnut tree that was present in this part of the site during the earlier part of the 20th century.

The basal fill of SFB 2037 (L2108) was a compact, hard, light greyish-brown chalky clay layer up to c. 50mm deep, containing frequent pea grit. Clayey and chalky patches within this layer may have represented the degraded remnants of a beaten clay and chalk floor surface but the overall appearance of this basal fill was more in-keeping with a layer of highly compacted trample, built up during the occupation of the building. Five abraded sherds of early to mid Saxon pottery in organic and sand tempered fabrics were recovered from L2108

An irregular patch of fairly loose dark brown/black sandy silt and ash (L2107), c. 0.90 x 0.50m across and 50mm deep, contained a number of small burnt animal bone fragments (90g), suggesting an association with cooking. This ashy layer was surrounded by a loose ring of small pieces of unfired clay and occasional pieces of crudely-fired ceramic material, which could represent the remnants of a fireplace. It would appear that L2107 represented the remains of a roughly centrally-located hearth, perhaps slightly offset towards the southern part of the structure. This deposit partially overlay, and was partially contained within, the Occupation Layer L2108, suggesting that the latter built up during the period that the hearth was in regular use. The presence of evidence to suggest that cooking occurred within SFB 2037, along with the presence of a loomweight, made of clunch, with a central perforation (SF3), which was found lying on the floor, would suggest that domestic activities occurred in this building. This loomweight was of the bun-shaped form which was used between the 6th and 9th centuries AD (see Crummy, this report). The presence of this item may be taken to suggest that sheep were farmed for their wool in the vicinity.

A baulk of natural chalk appears to have been deliberately left in place when the foundations of the SFB were originally dug. This formed an apparent step on the eastern edge of the building and appears to have been intended to allow access to the structure. The step was flanked to the north by two postholes (F2111 and F2113) and to the west by two small stakeholes (F2293 and F2295), which together formed some kind of entrance arrangement set back into the building. It is clear from the step down into the structure, the 'trample' layer covering the base of the feature, and the presence of the hearth and loomweight, that the base of cut F2037 was its floor level; unlike some sunken-featured buildings, there was no suspended floor.

Positioned along the eastern side of the SFB, and slightly cutting the inside edge of the building's sunken area, was a line of three narrow stakeholes (F2297, F2299 and F2301). It is possible that these held the vertical stakes, or sails, of a wattle and daub wall. The small dimensions of these stakeholes indicate that this would not have been a load bearing wall; support of the roof structure was probably achieved through the use of posts, possibly incorporated into, but essentially separate from the walls. A large, deep posthole (F2007) was identified at the north-east corner of F2037, just outside the main footprint of the building and contained pottery of a date that indicated that the two were broadly contemporary with one another. A posthole of this size could potentially have held a fairly substantial supportive timber and may have been associated with the building's roof structure. There was, however, no sign of a corresponding posthole at the building's south-east corner.

It appears that, following its fall into disuse, the sunken part of SFB 2037 may have been deliberately backfilled. Above Occupation Layer L2108, the remainder of the sunken building was filled with L2034, a clayey silt deposit which contained large numbers of artefacts including 125 sherds (1089g; including 8g of residual Iron Age pottery) of pottery and more than 20kg of animal bone. These finds included part of a bone and horn comb of a type that was in use from the 9th century onwards, suggesting that this fill was deposited late in the date range for Phase 1 activity. Residual Roman tile was also present. Amongst the animal bone assemblage was the incomplete, partially-articulated skeleton of a medium-sized dog (SK2031), buried adjacent to the central eastern edge of the building towards the end of the backfilling process. Although it is possible that the presence of this animal represents the opportunistic burial of a deceased pet or working animal in a convenient location, it may alternatively be possible to regard this as evidence for ritualised or symbolic behaviour associated with the end of use or 'closure' of the SFB. As Hamerow (2006, 1) states, there has until recently been very little discussion with regard to evidence for such activity in Anglo-Saxon contexts though it is a well recognised phenomenon in earlier periods. Indeed, Lethbridge (1927) described the presence of a dog burial in an SFB at Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, and which he assumed to be part of a midden deposit built up during occupation of the structure as being indicative of a "very low standard of living and complete disregard for cleanliness or comfort". Hamerow (2006), however, has identified this dog burial as being a special deposit. Hamerow (2006) has demonstrated that termination deposits, which the Marham dog burial would appear to be, are widespread in Anglo-Saxon England, particularly in SFBs and that dogs, along with human infants and horses, are prominent in Anglo-Saxon settlements, just as they are across the whole of the Germanic world in this period. Further examples of dogs as termination deposits include the partial dog skeleton found in GH 10 at Mucking, Essex, and the two dog skeletons, one with the skull separated from the main body, identified in the basal fill of Hut 16 at West Stow (West 1985, 23).

The pottery recovered from L2034 included incised and stamped Saxon sherds, Ipswich ware and Thetford-type ware. The lack of any medieval

pottery in this deposit indicates that backfilling of SFB 2037 probably occurred during the later 9th to 10th centuries and certainly took place in the pre-Conquest period (see Thompson, this report). An obviously residual Neolithic flint flake was also recovered from SFB F2037.

2.4 Phase 2: Late Saxon (mid 9th to 11th century) (Fig. 10)

Introduction

Phase 2 activity occurred in the greatest density in the western half of the site with only a small number of features of this date identified in the eastern half. The principal evidence for this phase of activity was located in the south-eastern quadrant of the site and comprises a second sunken-featured building (SFB 2109) and further possible building (F2131) of perhaps more unusual design.

The majority of other features identified as being of Phase 2 date appear to have been rubbish pits but some evidence suggestive of possible industrial activity was identified towards the northern part of the site.

Sunken-featured building 2109

SFB 2109 (Grid Squares D4, D5, E5; Fig. 11) comprised a shallow, steep-sided, flat-based rectangular pit with an elongated rounded end to the west. To the east, it was cut by Phase 3 Ditch F2070, obscuring one end of the building. No internal features, floor surface or occupation layers were identified but shallow postholes at the corners of the western end (F2137 (Grid Square D6) and F2152 (Grid Square D4)) and along the northern and southern sides (F2156 (Grid Square E5) and F2175 (Grid Square E4)), all partially cutting the edges of the SFB, would appear to represent the remains of the building's superstructure.

SFB 2109 was less well-preserved than the Phase 1 SFB 2037. It appears to have been a smaller structure and contained none of the evidence to suggest domestic activity that was present in the other SFB. It might, therefore, have been used as an ancillary building, perhaps a storeroom. The lack of evidence for a floor surface or occupation layer certainly suggests that people were not living or working in the building on a daily basis, though this could just be because such evidence has not survived. A broken iron knife blade was found lying on the base of the structure, towards its western end. Following its disuse, the building seems to have silted-up naturally; the fairly small quantity of finds from fill L2110 suggest that the derelict remains of the structure were not used for deliberate dumping in the same way that those of SFB 2037 were. A key terminal fragment recovered from F2109 cannot be closely-dated but is probably broadly contemporary with the pottery that was recovered from the feature. However, a find suggestive of high status Saxo-Norman occupation was also recovered from L2110, the fill of SFB 2109. This artefact (SF 4) is an openwork strap, which probably came from the curved lid of a

wooden box. It is similar to examples found at several manor and castle sites, such as Castle Acre Castle in mid to late 12th century contexts and at the Manor of Goltho, Lincolnshire, in contexts dating to c. 1080 to 1150 (Goodall 1982, 235-6, fig. 43, 1-5; Goodall 1987, fig. 154, 18, 21-2, 24; see Crummy, this report). This artefact may have been incorporated in to the fill of F2109 as it silted up naturally over a long period of time. A second artefact suggestive of high status Saxo-Norman occupation, a bone head-dress pin (SF 9) similar to examples from Castle Acre and Goltho (Crummy, this report), was also found outside of a Saxo-Norman context; this was recovered from the Subsoil L2001. SFB F2109 also contained a very small quantity of residual Iron Age pottery (6g).

Possible Building F2131

F2131 (Fig. 12) was located 4m to the west of SFB 2109 in Grid Squares B3-A5. It comprised a very large oval pit measuring 7.00m in length and approximate 3.40m in width. At its northern end it was in excess of 3m in depth. For health and safety reasons, excavation was halted when it was identified that the feature was deeper than 2.50m and its full depth was established using an auger.

A pit of this size may be considered to represent a quarry pit. It is certainly possible that the underlying chalk was utilised as a natural resource during the late Saxon period in this area. Several features were clustered around the outer edges of F2131 and may represent activity associated with quarrying. For example postholes F2206 (Grid Square A4), F2161 (Grid Square B3), F2158 (Grid Square C2), F2147 (Grid Square D3) and possibly F2081 and/or F2083 (both Grid Square B5), despite some being undated, may have supported tethers for ladders in to the quarry pit or mechanisms for hauling the excavated chalk out of the pit. The amorphous shape of F2131 may indicate that it was a chalk quarry pit. Parsons (1990, 1) suggests that following the collapse of Roman authority in the British Isles there was little need for the quarrying of stone but that the conversion of the Anglo-Saxon population to Christianity (from around AD 600) provided a fresh impetus to erect masonry structures. It is, therefore, tempting to associate the presence of a possible quarry pit with the proximity of Holy Trinity Church to the immediate south of the site. However, the earliest known elements of the church are of Norman date, making this feature probably too early to have been created in order to supply material for the adjacent building work.

During excavation it was felt that F2131 was not the result of quarrying activity as quarry pits typically have one steep edge, representing the face where the raw material was extracted, and a more gently sloping side, which facilitated access to the pit and easy removal of the quarried material. Pit F2131 had one near-vertical side (to the north) and a shallower side (to the south), but this shallower side was still relatively steep and would not have been an easy point via which heavy quarried chalk could have been removed from the feature. Furthermore, the northern side of Pit F2131 was a clean, regular, near-perfect semicircle and this face, and probably also the east and west

edges of the pit, appear to have been deliberately chiselled smooth giving an appearance that is unusual for a quarry pit.

Immediately following excavation it was tentatively suggested that F2131 represented the remains of a cellared-building based primarily on the impression that the feature was not typical of a quarry pit and the presence of the postholes (F2206, F2161, F2158, F2147, F2081 and F2083) that surrounded it (see Woolhouse 2008a, 33). Although several of these postholes, particularly those at the southern end of the building, lay at a distance of up to 3m from the feature itself, their spatial configuration may suggest a broadly rectangular superstructure constructed above Pit F2131. All exhibited very similar steep-sided, rounded profiles and were of similar dimensions, sufficient to suggest that they would have originally held fairly substantial timber posts. Under this interpretation, the building would have had a suspended floor overlying the excavated F2131 and the pit itself would possibly have had some kind of internal revetments or other subsurface structural elements. Cellared-buildings of Anglo-Saxon date have been recorded in London close to Billingsgate and Cheapside to the rear of contemporary surface-laid domestic buildings that would have formed the street frontage (Horsman *et al* 1988). Cellared-buildings also occur in slightly more rural settings. Matthews and Burleigh (1989) identified cellared-buildings during excavation work at Green Lane in Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire. The Letchworth cellared-buildings showed slightly more uniformity in plan than F2131 though all were a similar sub-rectangular shape with some displaying the rounded end evident at Marham. In one of the Letchworth examples, internal postholes suggested partitioning and the presence of shelving and racking within the cellar part of the building (Matthews and Burleigh 1989, 27). Like the possible cellared-building at the Old Bell, those recorded in Letchworth were dated to the late Saxon period suggesting that they may have belonged to the same architectural tradition.

Unsurprisingly for such a feature, F2131 exhibited a fairly complex sequence of infilling. This began with the natural silting up of the deepest end of the pit (L2290) and was followed by a sequence of chalky layers which may have slumped in from the weathered eastern and western sides (L2288, L2292, L2291, L2210, L2211, L2212 and L2272 (=L2285)). The quantity of finds recovered from the last of these fills suggests that it may have been deliberately dumped, rather than resulting from natural weathering and this would account for the presence of the residual Neolithic or Bronze Age hammerstone and the Iron Age (33g) and Roman (10g) pottery recovered from F2131. Following this, F2131 seems to have remained open for some time, during which several small pits were cut into L2272 (=L2285) and L2212. At approximately the same time, a red-brown soil of humic/organic appearance (L2255) built up or was deposited in the northern end of the feature. Following the cutting and backfilling of these pits, the remainder of F2131 gradually filled in with around 1.00m of fairly homogenous mid grey-brown clayey silt (L2132 (=L2093)).

Possible Industrial activity

Pit F2045 (Grid Square G12) had a basal fill comprising a bed of large (c. 100mm in width) burnt flints in a matrix of ash or charcoal. It was cut on its western edge by Pit F2040, which displayed an almost identical basal fill and which may have been of a similar date but is more likely to have belonged to Phase 3. It seems possible that the burning of this material may have occurred *in situ* and that these features were part of some process, possibly industrial, requiring high temperatures. The observation that the natural chalk surrounding these features displayed no evidence of burning or heating, however, does little to support this interpretation (Woolhouse 2008a, 48).

To the south-west of Pit F2045 lay shallow Gully F2009 (=F1016). Pottery recovered from this feature indicated that it was contemporary with F2045; it also contained residual Roman tile and some intrusive medieval tile. It was interpreted on site as representing the foundation slot for a fence or windbreak associated with the industrial activity thought to be represented by F2045 and the slightly later F2040. While it seems very likely that this feature may represent part of a fenceline its distance from F2045 is in excess of 5m and is therefore probably too great for it to have functioned as an effective windbreak. Further evidence for fences or structures with which this gully may have been associated is lacking.

Other Phase 2 features (Figs. 10 and 13)

Posthole F2262 (Grid Squares F8, F9) was located to the south-east of the north-west to south-east Gully F2009 (=F1016). It was, however, slightly offset from the line followed by the gully and therefore unlikely to have been directly related to it. F2262 lay in isolation from other features of Phase 2 date but did fall within a loose cluster of postholes (comprising F2186, F2275, F2262, F2268, F2125, F2251, F2273, F2196, F2198 and F2270) in and around the entrance to the Phase 3 enclosure (see below). The majority of these postholes were undated while one (F2186) was of Phase 3 date. Posthole F2251 (Grid Square G6), however, like F2262 was of Phase 2 date and lay in isolation from other features of the same date. While it is possible that some, or all, of these postholes were related to one another or functioned as part of the same system, there is no clear structural configuration.

F2235 (Grid Square J7), a third posthole of Phase 2 date lying in relative isolation from other features assigned to the same phase, was located in close proximity to a series of intercutting Phase 4 gullies that are considered to possibly represent the remains of a structure or building. The isolation of this posthole from other Phase 2 features with which it might have had a functional relationship and its proximity to later features of a structural nature raises the possibility that the dating evidence recovered from it may have been misleading.

The form of, and finds assemblages recovered from, Phase 2 features F2102 (Grid Squares A13, A14), F2074 (Grid Squares B12, B13), F2015 (Grid

Squares E12, E13), F2200 (Grid Square K7) and F2184 (Grid Square A1) suggests that they may have functioned as rubbish pits. All contained material such as animal bone and shell, along with pottery, suggestive of domestic waste (see Appendices 1 and 2). Pit F2200, however, yielded a copper-alloy openwork buckle-plate fragment, decorated with punched ring-and-dot motifs and debased animal heads on either side (SF14a) and a thin copper-alloy curved plaque fragment with raised linear and boss decoration and a large perforation (SF14b); these are both likely to be of late Saxon date.

It remains possible of course that at least some of these features were not created primarily as waste pits but originally had some unidentifiable purpose and were only used for waste disposal when this original functionality was no longer required. The presence of possible refuse pits in proximity to Phase 2 buildings F2109 and F2131 is understandable; the presence of such features towards the northern end of the site may suggest that further structures or buildings existed beyond the site to the north. Activity contemporary with the Phase 2 features clearly did occur beyond the boundaries of the excavated area as F2062 (Grid Square A12) represented the terminus of a small ditch or gully, the rest of which would have continued to the west.

2.5 Phase 3: Saxo-Norman (11th to 12th century AD) (Figs. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)

Introduction

Phase 3 was the best represented of the identifiable phases of activity, comprising 50 individual features. Phase 3 is characterised by a series of substantial ditches which appear to represent boundaries. Further smaller features in many cases appear to be related to, or complement, these boundary ditches.

Features assigned to Phase 3 were not all directly contemporary; some cut, or were cut by, other features assigned to the same Phase. To demonstrate the development of the site during the time span represented by Phase 3 it has been broken down into sub-phases. This sub-phasing is based primarily on the stratigraphic relationships between the features and is supported, where appropriate, by the dateable artefactual evidence.

Sub-Phase A (Fig. 15)

The stratigraphically earliest Phase 3 feature was Pit F2056 (Grid Squares G11, G12) which was cut on its eastern side by Ditch F2027. It contained an artefactual assemblage suggestive of domestic waste, including pottery (21g), animal bone (82g), mussel shell (5g) and an iron nail (6g). The pottery recovered from F2056 comprised a sherd of Thetford-type ware (10th to 12th centuries) and a sherd of 11th to 13th century pottery suggesting an early date within the range for Phase 3 for the feature. Consequently, all other features containing artefactual assemblages the overall character of which suggested

an equally early date and which were clearly stratigraphically early in Phase 3 were assigned to Sub-Phase A. Additionally, features with no stratigraphic relationships from which their place in the chronological development of Phase 3 could be elucidated but which were found to contain pottery of a similarly early date to that recovered from Pit F2056 were assigned to Sub-Phase A.

Pit F2056 lay within a concentration of features of Phase 3 Sub-Phase A date. To its immediate south lay Posthole F2186 (Grid Square G11), one of a number of postholes in the area in and around the gap in Enclosure Ditch F2027 but the only one of these to be dated to Phase 3. Slightly further to the south lay Pit F2224 (Grid Square G10) which contained pottery of a similar nature to F2056 and which was cut by Sub-Phase C Gully F2192. To the west of F2056 lay Pit F2058 (Grid Squares G11, G12, F12) and to the north of this Pit F2040 (Grid Squares F12, G12). Pit F2040 was very similar to the Phase 2 Pit F2045, which it cut, containing a basal fill of burnt flints in a matrix of ash and charcoal. These pits may be regarded as being associated with some kind of industrial activity. The dating evidence indicates that this possible industrial activity appears to have continued from the late Saxon period and continued into, or been resumed during the Norman period. The final feature in this concentration of Sub-Phase A features was Pit F2035 (Grid Square G14), which was located slightly distant to the north. To the west of this concentration lay two postholes. F2231 (Grid Square D11) and F2241 (Grid Square C10) were similar in plan, though F2241 was much shallower, suggesting that it had been truncated. These features appear not to have been directly related.

Two further pits, F2052 (Grid Square K12) and F2188 (Grid Square K10) lay to the east of the concentration of Sub-Phase A activity. These lay within the area defined by the Sub-Phase B Enclosure Ditch F2027. Both features contained pottery of similar dates. F2052 also contained animal bone (36g) possibly suggesting that a small quantity of domestic refuse was deliberately dumped in to it. Its amorphous plan and profile (Figs. 15 & 16) suggest that it was a tree hollow, possibly removed prior to the establishment of the enclosure represented by Ditch F2027 in Sub-Phase B.

The remaining features assigned to this sub-phase were encountered within the south-western quadrant of the site. These features were identified as belonging to Sub-Phase A on the basis of the early dates indicated by the pottery recovered from them. Gully F2177 (=F2167) (Grid Squares A4-E4) contained pottery particularly early in the date range for Phase 3 (in addition to residual Iron Age pottery (10g)). It ran on a broadly east to west alignment and was fairly insubstantial. It cut across the southern part of the Phase 2 Cellared-Building F2103 and may have been dug as a drainage channel. The site sloped to the south-west and this channel may have facilitated surface run-off. It contained a residual Neolithic flint blade. To its south lay Pit F2213 (Grid Squares B2, B3), which contained pottery (6g) of the same 10th to mid-12th century date as that recovered from Gully F2177 (=F2167), and animal bone (48g). To the east of these features lay Ditch F2121, a steep sided ditch running on the same alignment as the slightly later Ditch F2070, which

completely obscured it. A narrow gully (F2123) was cut into the base of Ditch F2121 and may have acted as a soakaway.

The features assigned to Sub-Phase A were mostly insubstantial. None can be considered to be representative of the kind of complex structures evident in earlier phases or to represent major boundaries (with the possible exception of F2121) or aspects of land division as many later Phase 3 features can be seen to be. However, several of these features may be considered to represent refuse pits while one hints at the possibility of some kind of industrial activity. These features might, therefore, be considered to indicate that occupation continued in the area surrounding the site in this earlier part of Phase 3, despite there being no direct evidence for buildings or structures within the excavated area.

Sub-Phase B (Fig. 15)

The Enclosure Ditch

Enclosure Ditch F2027 was the dominant feature of Sub-Phase B. It was a curvilinear feature which was observed running from a terminus located in the far north-eastern corner of the excavation area to the west for a distance of 10m, it then curved south-westwards and continued for a further 7m before ending in an abrupt, angular terminus. After a gap of c. 9.5m, the enclosure ditch started again and continued on its south-westward course for another 10m. At this point it began to curve through 90° to run on a south-eastward alignment. It appeared to continue towards the eastern boundary of the excavation area, but after 4m its course was obscured by the backfilled foundations of one of the former public house buildings. The course taken by the ditch suggests that it continued to the east of the excavated area, encompassing and enclosing an area of land, the western end of which has been identified by the field work undertaken at the Old Bell. It seems likely that the terminus of this feature located in the north-eastern corner of the site (Grid Square L14) represents a second opening in the circuit of the ditch. It is not possible to state with any certainty how far Ditch F2027 extended in an easterly direction beyond the site but a feature identified in Trial Trench 5, excavated during the preceding trial trench evaluation (Adams *et al* 2007), may represent another terminus belonging to F2027. It was located in alignment with the possible course of F2027 and had a steep-sided profile very similar to the other termini of F2027. Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from the fill of this ditch terminus indicating that it was broadly contemporary with Ditch 2027.

The fill (L2028) of the portion of F2027 to the north of the probable enclosure entrance provides evidence to suggest that the ditch had gradually filled in through a combination of natural silting and occasional slumping or collapsing of weathered chalk from its open sides. This may have been a recurrent problem during the lifespan of the ditch as there were signs that it had been scoured clean at least once. The upper fill (L2115) of the portion of the ditch to the south of the possible entrance contained numerous fairly large lumps of

chalk that may indicate deliberate backfilling of this part of the feature. It may be that this south-western part of the enclosure ditch was altered; the similarly wide Sub-Phase C Ditch F2070 cut F2027 in this area and this could conceivably represent remodelling of the enclosure. L2028, the main fill of Enclosure Ditch F2027, and the only one to contain ceramic evidence, yielded 2.3 kg of pottery. The character of this assemblage indicates that the earliest possible date for this feature is in the late 11th century but that it is most likely to date to the mid to late 12th century (see Thompson, this report). Also from this fill came an iron binding strip from the corner of a wooden box and a burnt fragment of iron sheeting measuring 58 by 43 mm. Residual Neolithic or Bronze Age thumbnail scrapers, Iron Age pottery (45g) and Roman pottery (6g) were also present in F2027.

In the southern terminus of the northern portion of Ditch F2027, a gully, F2032 (Grid Squares G12, H12) was identified cut into the base. This was presumably carried out shortly after the ditch itself was created and may have functioned as a soakaway to aid drainage. A small amount of pottery suggestive of mid to late 11th century activity was recovered from this feature. Animal bone (138g), pumice (20g) and mussel shell (4g) were also recovered F2032 and probably represent refuse material that made its way unintentionally in to the fill of this feature. Residual Iron Age pottery (3g) was also present.

Within Area B of the Strip, Map and Record, a length of east to west aligned ditch measuring 3m in width and 1.5m in depth was recorded. The position of this length of ditch suggests that it may represent a continuation of F2027. Its dimensions certainly suggest that it may have served as an effective and substantial boundary and the pottery recovered from its eight fills indicate that it was contemporary with F2027.

The Post-Pits

Within the area that Ditch F2027 is considered to have enclosed, two large circular pits, F2173 (Grid Squares J10, J11) and F2182 (Grid Square I7), were identified. F2173 lay approximately 6m to the south-east of the southern terminus of the northern portion of Ditch F2027 and F2182 lay approximately 6m to the east-north-east of the northern terminus of the southern portion of F2027.

Pit F2173 was almost perfectly circular, measuring 1.85 x 1.76m. In section, it was very steep sided and these sides became near vertical as its depth increased. It measured at least 2.47m in depth, the last metre of which was established using an auger for health and safety reasons. The lowest identified fill, L2228, was a firm clay with frequent chalk inclusions, which is thought to represent a packing deposit around the base of a timber post. Above L2228 was a firm silty clay (L2179) which probably formed a second packing deposit. These fills were both cut by F2217, a steep, straight-sided channel, located centrally within F2173. This appears to represent the void left when the large timber post, that F2173 is conjectured to have held, was removed. The dimensions of Post-Pipe F2217 suggest that this timber was

probably fairly substantial, at a depth of 1.50m, the lowest investigable part of the feature, it was 0.51m in width, whereas, the upper reaches of the feature measured 1.12m. This may indicate that post tapered to a point, or may be the result of 'rocking' to free the timber when it was removed.

Posthole F2229 was identified cut within Post-Pit F2173 and lay towards its south-eastern edge. It appeared to cut the south-east side of Post-Pipe F2217. Given the probable size of the original post, F2229 seems too small to have been a replacement. It is, perhaps, more likely that it represents a support inserted to help maintain the stability of the original timber, possibly after it had begun to rot.

Pit F2182, a feature very similar to F2173, lay almost 8m to the south-west. This feature was sub-circular in plan measuring 1.80m in length and 1.55m in width. As with F2173, excavation ceased at 1.50m due to safety constraints and the full depth of 2.31m was established by auger. Unlike F2173, F2182 displayed no central post-pipe or any other evidence for a large timber having been present; its classification as post-pit is based on its similarity in shape and size to F2173 and the spatial relationship between them.

Post-Pits F2173 and F2182 are assigned to Sub-Phase B on the basis of the striking spatial relationship between them and the possible entrance in enclosure in Ditch F2027 which suggests that all three features formed part of a single system; the pits were positioned in very close alignment with the terminals of Enclosure Ditch F2027. This link is made despite the dateable pottery evidence not supporting the suggestion that the pits were contemporary with the enclosure ditch. Pottery recovered from the fills of F2173 was generally dateable to between the 10th and early 12th centuries; much earlier than the approximate 12th century date of the enclosure ditch. Conversely, the character of pottery assemblage recovered Post-Pit F2182 suggested a date slightly later than that which Sub-Phase B is considered to represent. It also contained a fragment of residual Roman tessellated brick.

It has been established that the two Post-Pits F2173 and F2182 display a distinct spatial relationship with the gap between the two identified portions of Enclosure Ditch F2027. Pits of the dimensions of F2173 and F2182 may be interpreted as wells. Although the form of these features in plan and section is reminiscent of well shafts, neither displayed the waterlogged organic fills that are typical within wells and neither reached to the water table. The timbers that these pits held would have been of considerable size, possibly a metre or more in width and presumably, at this width, also substantial in height. It may be reasonable to suggest that such large posts are unlikely to have formed part of a structure but post-pits of similar width were identified forming the remains of the 11th century single-aisled hall at Goltho in Lincolnshire (Beresford 1982, 30). These post-pits, however, differed slightly to the Marham pair; they were sub-rectangular in plan, and at just under 1m deep, were nearly half the depth. Not only did this building display post-pits similar in size to F2173 and F2182, but it was recorded as being 24ft or 7.3152m in width, approximately the same distance that F2173 and F2182 lay from one another. There is, however, no further evidence to indicate if these two post-

pits represent part of a building. If they did, it appears likely that they would represent the gable end, with the building aligned broadly north-west to south-east and extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation. Although much of the area to the east of these features is truncated by modern activity (especially adjacent to F2173), it may be expected that other structural features would have been identifiable if these two features did indeed represent the gable end of a large post-built structure. An alternative interpretation, given the positioning of the two post-pits in relation to the gap between the two portions of Enclosure Ditch F2027, may be that they formed part of a gateway, entrance structure or just some kind of elaboration to the entrance to the enclosure.

Other Sub-Phase B features

Located almost centrally in the gap between the two portions of Ditch F2027, which is considered to represent the entrance to the Phase 3 enclosure, lay Pit F2221 (Grid Square F9). This was a sub-circular pit measuring just over 1m in width. It was found to contain 12th century pottery (72g), which provided the basis upon which it was assigned to Sub-Phase B, along with residual Roman tegula roof tile (112g), pumice (260g), animal bone (1298g), oyster shell (16g) and mussel shell (32 fragments; 9g). The quantity of animal bone, combined with the presence of the shell, is suggestive of food waste leading to the interpretation that this was a rubbish pit. The entrance to an enclosure is an unlikely location for a refuse pit; this would suggest that the dateable pottery evidence is misleading and that the pit is not contemporary with Ditch F2027 or that it had some unidentifiable earlier function, probably associated with the entranceway, and that it was filled in with refuse material.

To the west of Pit F2221, lay Pit F2180 (Grid Square D9). In addition to the 12th century pottery that dated this feature to Sub-Phase B, animal bone (36g) was recovered from its fill. It has no obvious structural function and may have been excavated to deposit waste in to. Its northern edge was cut by Phase 4 Pit F2169. To the north, at a distance of c. 4m lay Sub-Phase B Pit F2233 (Grid Square D11). This feature substantially truncated the Sub-Phase A F2231.

Elongated Pit F2260 was located in Grid Square C3 and cut the upper fill L2132 of Phase 2 possible cellared-building F2131. Finds from F2260 comprised a small quantity of 12th century pottery (6g) and animal bone (12g).

Sub-Phase C (Fig. 15)

Introduction

Sub-Phase C was represented by four different features. These features were assigned to this sub-phase on the basis that they were stratigraphically later than the Sub-Phase B Enclosure Ditch F2027. Not all of these features yielded dateable artefactual evidence of the same date, indeed three

contained pottery that was considered to be of the same date or earlier than that recovered from Ditch F2027 itself. These three displayed no stratigraphic relationships with any other features of Phase 3 date. The fourth, and the only one to yield pottery of a later date than that recovered from the Ditch F2027, was cut by the Sub-Phase D Ditch F2100 (=F2139). Thus Sub-Phase C features can be classified as those Phase 3 features which are stratigraphically later than Sub-Phase B but that are not, or cannot be proven to be, later than Sub-Phase D.

The Minor Features

Of the four features assigned to Phase 3 Sub-Phase C, two were small features cutting the northern portion of Sub-Phase B Ditch F2027. Posthole F2029 (Grid Squares H12, H13) cut the outer edge of the enclosure ditch. There no other postholes dated to this sub-phase existed. The single sherd of pottery (18g) that was recovered from the posthole was identified as being of 10th to mid 12th century date. Pit F2048 (Grid Square G11) was cut into the fill of Ditch F2027, L2028. It was superimposed over the southern end of the gully, F2032, that was cut in to the base of Ditch F2027, but did not extend to the depth of this feature. F2048 was clearly a rubbish pit.

Possible remodelling of the enclosure

Positioned across the gap between the portions of Enclosure Ditch F2027 lay north-east to south-west aligned Gully F2192 (Grid Squares F8, G9, G10, G11). This was generally narrow and shallow and ran for around 9m between the ends of the two portions of Ditch F2027. To the north it cut the very edge of Ditch F2027, while to the south it terminated just short of the enclosure ditch. Given its location, F2192 must represent a foundation trench for a wattle and daub fenceline across the entrance to the possible Phase 3 enclosure. Given its stratigraphic relationship with Ditch F2027, Gully F2192 was probably created during the lifespan of the enclosure ditch but possibly after some degree of natural infilling had occurred. If indeed this feature did represent a fence or wall blocking the entrance to the enclosure this may indicate that the entrance was permanently closed or diminished in importance in favour of another entrance. Access may, however, still have been possible through the western entrance; it is possible that some kind of gate existed in the fence represented by F2192 and it appears that access may have been possible around the southern end of F2192. This possible closing off of an entrance may indicate that some kind of change or adaptation had occurred to the layout of the interior of the enclosure or the activity carried out therein.

Ditch F2070 (Grid Squares F3, G3, F4, G4, E5, F5, E6, F6) was a roughly north to south aligned ditch running for 9m along, and cutting, the outside (western) edge of F2027, at a slight angle to the line of the original enclosure boundary. It appears that this feature may have been cut as a replacement or realignment of part of the southern portion of Ditch F2027. The pottery

recovered from F2070 included a residual prehistoric sherd in addition to Saxo-Norman/early medieval types. The overall character of this assemblage suggested a date of late 12th to early 13th century, a date later than that assigned to Ditch F2027 and therefore suggesting that this realignment must have taken place late in the lifespan of the enclosure ditch. The northern end of Ditch F2070 ended just short of the terminus of this southern portion of Ditch F2027, respecting the position of the entrance to the enclosure. The re-cutting of this part of the enclosure boundary with Ditch F2070 might have been a response to Ditch F2027 gradually silting up; due to the south-westward slope of the site, the southern part of F2027 is likely to have been more affected by surface runoff than the northern section. However, the apparently deliberate final backfilling (L2115) of the southern part of F2027 suggests a deliberate reorganisation of the enclosure's boundaries. If Ditch F2070 is viewed in conjunction with Gully F2192 as a single remodelling event then a fairly major change in the layout of the entrance to the enclosure can be seen; the entrance is now narrower than the original but substantial enough to allow easy access. Ditch F2070 truncated the earlier (Sub-Phase A) Ditch F2121 which appeared to run on exactly the same alignment as Ditch F2070. Ditch F2121 is not thought to represent any remodelling of the enclosure boundary, in the way that F2070 is, as it does not appear to have cut Enclosure Ditch F2027 and is considered to be earlier than this feature.

Sub-Phase D (Fig. 15)

Phase 3 Sub-Phase D is represented by a series of broadly parallel linear features running perpendicular to the line of The Street, which runs north to south immediately west of the site. Two of these ditches, F2135 (=F2150) and its re-cut F2100 (=F2139) cut the ditches of the earlier enclosure, indicating that they belonged to a later sub-phase. However, the other ditches have been assigned to this later sub-phase without any supporting stratigraphic relationships. Their phasing rests largely on their shared alignment and similar profiles and on analogy with other excavated sites, where similar systems of regular parallel boundary ditches running back from a street frontage are typical of the arrangement of roadside plots.

Ditch F2135 (=F2150) was identified where its 'v'-shaped base survived below Ditch F2100. The date range assigned to the pottery recovered from this ditch of 11th to 12th century clearly indicates that at least some residual material must have existed amongst this assemblage. F2135 (=F2150) was stratigraphically later than Ditch F2027 and is also likely to have been later than Ditch F2070. Ditch F2135 (=F2150) was recut by Ditch F2100 (=F2139) (Grid Squares A7, B7, C7, D7, E6, E7, F6, F7, G6) which, like the earlier ditch, ran on a broadly west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. That part of it which lay within the excavated area measured c. 15m in length and it extended beyond the site to the west. It was a large, prominent feature, on average c. 2m in width and c. 0.80m deep, and was probably intended to delineate a boundary. It would appear likely that this had also been the function of Ditch F2135 (=F2150). In addition to the pottery that dated it to Phase 3, F2100 (=F2139) contained a small quantity of residual Iron Age

pottery

To the north, and running approximately parallel to Ditch F2100 (=F2139), lay Ditch F2019 (Grid Squares B14-G14). Only the southern edge of this feature lay within the excavated area. Although the full width of the feature was not identified, it appeared to reach to a similar depth to that which Ditch F2100 (=F2139) reached, and so may be regarded as having been comparable in size and therefore also probably a boundary ditch. At a point approximately 5m from the western terminus of the feature two postholes (F2023 and F2025) were identified. These appear to have been cut in to the base of the ditch. As such they may represent a fence installed within it to emphasise or reinforce the boundary. However, no other postholes were identified running the length of the ditch and so it may be more likely that the posts that would have been contained within these postholes would have supported a wooden bridge or causeway allowing the boundary to be traversed.

Just as Ditch F2019 lay approximately 15m to the north of Ditch F2100 (=F2139), so Ditch F2094 (Grid Squares A1-C1) lay approximately 15m to its south. Ditch F2094 lay largely beneath the unexcavated southern baulk, but appeared to be steep-sided, fairly deep and generally of very similar size and profile to Ditch F2019. It ran on approximately the same alignment as the other Phase 3 Sub-Phase D ditches and the group as a whole would appear to represent a system of boundaries or land division delineating two separate plots within the excavation site.

Sub-Phase E (Fig. 15)

Ditch F2094 was recut on its northern edge by Ditch/Gully F2098, a far shallower and less prominent feature. This may have been cut to try and re-establish or re-emphasise the boundary after it had silted up, though it may equally have functioned as a soakaway or drainage gully. It extended beyond the western edge of the excavated area while its eastern terminus was obscured by Phase 4 Pit F2104.

To the north of Ditch F2094, at a distance of c. 13m, lay Pit F2066 (Grid Squares C6, D6, C7, D7). Despite containing pottery of a slightly earlier date, which must be considered residual and some residual Iron Age pottery, Pit F2066 was clearly later than Boundary Ditch F2100 (=F2139), which it cut. In addition to the pottery, animal bone (361g) was recovered from Pit F2066. The character of this artefactual assemblage led to the feature being interpreted as a rubbish pit, though at in excess of 2m across this would have been a large rubbish pit. To the east of F2066 lay Pit F2127 (Grid Square E6). Like F2066, this feature cut Boundary Ditch F2100 (=F2139) and appeared to be a rubbish pit.

Sub-Phase F (Fig. 15)

A single feature was assigned to Phase 3 Sub-Phase F. Posthole F2072 (Grid

Square D6) was the stratigraphically most recent of the Phase 3 features. It cut Sub-Phase E Pit F2066 and was positioned in the approximate centre of the earlier feature. It was not possible to identify any other postholes with which F2072 had an obvious functional relationship. A large flint nodule present within the feature, against its western edge appeared to represent packing material to hold a post in place.

Phase 3 features within the enclosure

Within Area A of the part of the site subject to the programme of Strip, Map and Record excavation in 2010 a series of features dateable to Phase 3 were recorded (see Fig. 14). These features displayed insufficient stratigraphic relationships, though there was intercutting between them, and did not display sufficient variety of dates, within the span for Phase 3, to allow them to be sub-phased with any degree of accuracy.

It appears that these features represent the presence of structures within the area enclosed by Ditch F2027 (=F3015). F3011 was a shallow linear feature (3.80 x 0.34 x 0.14m) with shallow sides and a shallow concave base, suggesting that it was a slot for a ground beam, and was aligned north-east to south-west. It was in direct alignment with another beam slot, F3026, similar in form and dimensions, to the north-east. Two oval pits, F3036 and F3038, aligned north-west to south-east lay at a right-angle to the beam slots suggesting that they may have had some associated structural function. Beam Slot F3011 was cut on its southern side by sub-square, steep-sided, flat-based Pit F3009. Approximately 3m to the north of Pit F3009 lay sub-square Pit F3042. It is possible that these two features had some kind of structural relationship with one another and would appear to represent a slightly later building or structure than that represented by Beam Slots F3011 and F3026. The remaining Phase 3 features in this part of the site, which included the intercutting Pits F3052, F3054 and F3058, which cut Beam Slot F3026, displayed no obvious structural configuration.

Phase 3; an overview

Phase 3 represents activity during the period either side of the Norman Conquest, covering a period of just over a century based on the dateable artefactual evidence. The stratigraphic evidence appears to demonstrate considerable change during this period with the establishment of an enclosed space, the apparent remodelling of part of the boundaries of this enclosure and then subsequently, when the enclosure appears to have gone out of use and its ditch filled in, the division of the western side of the site in to separate plots that appear to have been aligned perpendicular to the adjacent road. While it is a widely acknowledged fact that much remained the same in rural settlements following the Norman Conquest it can also be seen that the Domesday Survey records accelerating change in Post-Conquest England (Platt, 1978, 2). The fairly rapid changes that occurred at the Old Bell site during Phase 3 may, in part, reflect the changes that were occurring

throughout the country as a result of the conquest. The Domesday entries for Marham do hint at some fairly significant changes in land holding; prior to the conquest it appears that all of the land in Marham was held by St Æthelrith or the Abbey of Ely but at Domesday, while much of the land still appears to belong to the Abbey, several other individuals appear to hold land there (Williams and Martin 1992, 1130).

2.6 Phase 4: Medieval

(Figs. 19 and 20)

Introduction

The fourth identifiable phase of activity recorded during excavation at the Old Bell site is dated to the 12th to 14th centuries. Activity in this period is less well represented than for the preceding Saxo-Norman period but the evidence appears to indicate that settlement activity continued within the site during this period.

Possible buildings

Located in Grid Squares H4, H5 and H6 was F2279. This was a steep-sided, flat-based pit, which, probably coincidentally, lay within the Phase 3 enclosure formed by Ditch F2027. F2279 was of sufficient depth (over 1m) for it to have been dug in order to quarry the natural chalk. However, its very regular rectangular plan and its angular, flat-based profile would appear to suggest otherwise. It was originally dated to the late Saxon period but further analysis of the pottery assemblage suggests a later date. Castle Acre-type pottery, a distinctly medieval ware, was the most abundant type of pottery recovered from L2284, the basal fill of the feature. This fill also yielded Blackborough End-type pottery, which can be dated to the mid 12th to 13th centuries. However, Saxo-Norman period pottery was also recovered from this deposit and from layers overlying this basal fill. It must be considered that this earlier material is residual and that the true date is more accurately reflected by the later material in the stratigraphically earliest fill. This late Saxon date comfortably supported the interpretation of F2279 as a third possible Sunken-Featured Building. The form of the feature, which makes it unlikely to represent quarrying activity, and its size suggest that it may indeed have been part of a building of this type, though no postholes indicative of the building's superstructure or roof were identified. At 1m in depth it is probable that the building had a suspended floor with F2279 forming a void or storage area below the floor level. Although Sunken-Featured Buildings are generally associated with the Anglo-Saxon period there are occasional instances of them as late as the 12th to 14th century (Rahtz 1982). A late 12th or early 13th century SFB was recorded during excavations at Kent International Business Park in Manston (Perkins *et al* 1998) and a similarly late example has been postulated at Fordham Road in Isleham, Cambridgeshire (Newton 2006). Therefore, the later date assigned to this possible building following further analysis of the pottery assemblage does not negate the interpretation of this feature as the remains of a Sunken-Featured Building.

Amongst the pottery, animal bone and mussel shell that was recovered from L2284, the earliest fill of this feature, was a small fragment from an adult left scapula. A second fragment of scapula, which joins with the other via a break suffered whilst in the burial environment, and part of an adult rib, were recovered from L2280, the upper fill of the feature. The human scapula fragment from L2284 presumably originated in L2280 and had been disturbed by the cutting of the modern service trench through F2279. Fragments of disarticulated human bone do occasionally appear amongst domestic rubbish deposits. In an Anglo-Saxon context, the inclusion of human bones in the deliberate backfill of what may have been a Sunken-Featured Building, on a site with another instance of an unusual/special deposit associated with a building (see SFB 2037, above), may be understood to have been intentional and imbued with meaning or significance for the site's occupants. In a medieval building, however, as this is, occupied or utilised by what would probably have been members of a highly Christianised society very much influenced by the Church, the kind of symbolic behaviour intimated by such special deposits is very unlikely. However, even in modern Britain, there is a sub-culture who still believe in what they regard as ancient, pre-Christian, super-natural powers associated with human remains (*c.f.* Clarke and Roberts 1996, 138-145); it is, therefore, reasonable to suggest that similar relic beliefs of Pagan Saxon origins may still have been present amongst the superstitious medieval populace. On balance, however, the evidence cannot be taken to indicate anything other than accidental incorporation of human bone fragments in to a fill containing a proportion of refuse material.

To the east of F2279 were a group of intercutting gullies, F2237, F2286 and F2239, which are thought, based on their form and arrangement in plan, to have had a structural function. F2286 (Grid Squares I4-J7) and F2239 (Grid Squares I7-K7) had steep to near-vertical sides and flat bases and intersected at right angles possibly representing two wall lines. F2237 was shallower and less well-defined feature and ran at a slight angle to that of the other two gullies but was similar in plan and may well have also formed part of the possible structure. It is possible that the gullies held ground beams on which the structure rested or that the building was a post-in-trench structure. However, the excavation of transverse sections down the lengths of the gullies failed to find any evidence of post voids in their fills. Neither was there any evidence for the presence of remains of any beams. Therefore, it seems that if these features were foundation trenches, any structural elements were removed rather than allowed to rot *in situ*.

The proximity of the possible structural features F2237, F2286 and F2239 to possible SFB F2279 make it reasonable to suggest that the two elements may have comprised a single building. F2279 may represent a cellared-room, or below-floor storage area, within or attached to a ground-beam or post-built building. Alternatively, a Sunken-Featured Building and a ground-beam or post-built structure may have lain in close proximity to one another.

Possible Boundary

Gully F2079 (=F2021) was a shallow, narrow feature which was aligned north-east to south-west. It traversed the entire site, extending beyond the limits of excavation to both the north and south. It cut all features that it encountered, with the exception of post-medieval (Phase 5) Gully F2005 and a pair of disused 19th/20th century service trenches (F2090 and F2087). Pottery recovered from this feature helped confirm what the stratigraphic information indicated; most of the pottery recovered from it was medieval (including Grimston and Hedingham finewares) in character although from Segment B, where it cut the Phase 3 Pit F2044 11th to 12th century pottery was recovered and a residual sherd of Ipswich type pottery of 8th to 10th century date and a residual sherd of Sandy Ipswich ware of early 8th to late 9th century date were recovered from separate locations along its length. Residual Iron Age pottery was also present. While Gully F2079 (=F2021) did show some resemblance to the post-medieval/modern service trenches present to the east, the lack of any artefactual material later in date than the 14th century and the fact that it was cut by three different features of post-medieval/modern date is probably sufficient to identify it as being of Phase 4 date.

Gully F2079 (=F2021) cut Phase 3 Boundary Ditch F2139 (=F2100) close to its eastern terminus. Extrapolating the line it followed makes it possible to suggest that it also cut Phase 3 Ditches F2094 and F2019, which are thought to form the boundaries, along with F2139 (=F2100), demarcating two separate roadside plots running back from The Street, close to their eastern termini. The gully can therefore be seen to run the width of the two possible roadside plots at, or close, to what may be their most easterly extent. It ran broadly parallel to The Street, though to the south it veered to the west (and thus closer to The Street). Its form suggests that it could have held a wattle and daub fence or series of hurdles. The conjectured fence line could have formed the common rear (eastern) boundary of the roadside plots delineated by Phase 3 Ditches F2139 (=F2100), F2094 and F2019.

Medieval Pits

Pits (F2064, F2169, F2141 and F2104) identified as being medieval in date were scattered throughout the area to the west of possible fenceline F2079 (=F2021). A further pit (F2219) lay c. 2m to the east of F2079 (=F2021) in Grid Square G9. Despite some obvious differences in plan and size all of these pits were very similar in character. All were steep sided and had flattish bases, Pits F2064, F2169 and F2141 all contained similar compact clayey silt fills and all five pits produced similar artefactual assemblages comprising pottery, animal bone and shell. The pottery recovered from these features comprised typical medieval fabrics such as medieval grey ware, Grimston ware, Grimston Glazed ware, Castle Acre type and Hedingham 'coarse' fine ware. In addition, some Saxo-Norman or early medieval fabric types, including Thetford type and St Neots ware, were present and a residual sherd of a Saxon fine micaceous fabric was recovered from Pit F2064. The character of these assemblages suggests that the pits represent the dumping of domestic

rubbish from adjacent occupation areas. The assemblages were not large possibly indicating that the pits were used for disposal of largely organic matter which has not survived.

Pit F2141 was cut by small Pit or Posthole F2143 (Grid Square E10). In addition to the 75g of Blackborough End type pottery recovered from this feature was animal bone (52g) and mussel shell (2g). A further posthole dated to Phase 4 was present to the south of Phase 2 possible cellared-building F2131. F2060 (Grid Square C2) contained a single sherd of 12th to 14th century Grimston glaze ware and a residual Neolithic flint flake. This pottery may be intrusive as it was recovered from near the top of the fill and the feature lies in close proximity to two other postholes (F2158 and F2147) which have been dated to Phase 2 and have been tentatively suggested to form part of the superstructure of the possible cellared-building F2131. The structural configuration between these postholes and F2131 is not particularly convincing as they are removed from it by a distance of c. 2-3m though the possibility that the three are related in some way is more convincing. Despite this, the positioning of this feature in relation to the adjacent Phase 2 features is probably not sufficient evidence to contradict the dateable artefactual evidence, albeit limited.

2.7 Phase 5: Post-Medieval to Modern (Figs. 21 and 22)

The earliest feature assigned to this date was Gully F3003 which was aligned east to west across the centre of Area B, excavated during the Strip, Map and Record programme, and was a continuation of Gully F1059 recorded in evaluation Trench 5. This feature contained late 16th to 18th century pottery making it considerably earlier than other features assigned to this date, the earliest of which have been dated to the 18th century.

Modern features were concentrated in the eastern half of the excavation area and were mainly related to the construction and demolition of the two former public houses. They included a backfilled cellar in the north-east of the site and an area of foundations backfilled with rubble, located in the south-east corner. Several redundant service trenches ran on south-west to north-east alignments across the eastern side of the site. A north-west to south-east aligned boundary depicted on historic cartographic sources was identified as a wall present in the subsoil with a drainage gully, F2005, running parallel to it. Evidence of the public houses formerly occupying the site was also recorded during the programme of Strip, Map and Record investigation.

The main research focus of the excavation was on the Saxon and medieval archaeology present at the site. Therefore, the excavation of the later post-medieval and modern features that were present was limited to a characterisation exercise; features that were clearly of recent date were not excavated. Those features that were excavated and that have been assigned to this phase are those that were not immediately identifiable as being of later post-medieval or modern date.

Drainage Gully F2005 (Grid Squares A9-L8) traversed the site from east to west and ran parallel to a flint rubble and mortar wall foundation present in Subsoil L2001. The gully and the wall were identified as a boundary depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map and subsequent historic cartographic sources. Interestingly, F2005 also ran parallel to Phase 3 Boundary Ditch F2100 (=F2139), considered to represent a boundary between two Saxo-Norman to early medieval roadside plots. This suggests a longevity of boundaries. The dateable material recovered from F2005 was mostly of 18th to 19th century character, comprising English stoneware, post-medieval red earthenware and transfer printed ware but medieval grey ware and green glazed border ware (16th to 18th century in date) was also recovered.

Features such as F2303 (Grid Square B1), F2090 (Grid Squares A2-G2) and F2087 (Grid Squares D1-G2), upon excavation, proved to be redundant service trenches. F2096, a rectangular feature with a flattish base, aligned east to west, which cut Phase 3 Ditch F2100 (=F2139), was present in Grid Square B7 (not shown on plan). This may have been a foundation trench for an outbuilding associated with the former public house buildings on the site. F2154 (Grid Square C3), which cut Phase 2 and 3 features at the southern end of the Phase 2 possible cellared-building F2131, was identified as a modern rubbish pit.

2.8 Unphased

(Figs. 23 and 24)

The majority of unphased features were discrete features containing no finds to indicate their date or from which their function could be elucidated. From these features, which were mostly present in the north-western quarter of the site, only 32g of animal bone and 12g of oyster shell was recovered.

One discrete feature of particular intrinsic interest, however, was F2190. This was very similar to Hearths F2040 and F2045, that were dated to Phase 3 and Phase 2 respectively, though was of a more regular rectangular shape. No finds were recovered from F2190 but its fill comprised chalk and abundant burnt flint.

Other unphased features did display stratigraphic relationships with dateable features. These features remain unphased, however, as they contained no dateable artefactual material and the nature of these stratigraphic relationships was insufficient to identify them to a single phase of activity.

Pits F2277 (Grid Square C2) and F2226 (Grid Squares C2, C3) were stratigraphically later than Phase 3 Pit F2258 and stratigraphically earlier than Phase 5 disused service trench F2090. This does not, however, indicate that they were of Phase 4 date; with no dateable evidence to confirm the date of these features the stratigraphic evidence only indicates that they may be of Phase 3, Phase 4 or Phase 5 date. Similarly, all that can be said about Pit F2202 (Grid Square K7) and Pit F2145 (Grid Square E10) was that they were of the same date or later than the Phase 2 and Phase 4 features that they, respectively, cut. For similar reasons, Posthole F2229 remains undated.

Although this feature, which cut Post-Pit F2173 and appeared to cut the edge of F2217, the Post-Pipe within F2173, and has been interpreted as possibly representing a support for the post after it had begun to rot its stratigraphic relationship with these features only indicates that it was of the same phase or later.

Undated features were recorded in the same area as structural features of Phase 3 date recorded in Area A of the Strip, Map and Record investigation. One of these features, Pit F3040, clearly predated Phase 3 while others amongst them may have been contemporary with or later than the Phase 3 activity recorded in this area; there are no clear functional or spatial relationships apparent between these undated features and those of Phase 3 date. Within Area B of the Strip, Map and Record investigation an undated ditch, F3013, was cut by the Phase 3 Enclosure Ditch F3015.

While being able to accurately identify to which phases of activity the undated features belong would have helped to further characterise the activity that occurred at the site, the lack of such information would not appear to detrimentally effect the interpretation of the archaeology. Accurate dating of the number of undated postholes in the approximate area of the entrance to the Phase 3 enclosure may offer useful information in understanding how the entrance was arranged. The limited dating evidence that does exist, however, suggests that these features were not all of the same date and some (e.g. F2262) at least were clearly earlier than the enclosure.

3 SPECIALISTS' FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

3.1 The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The excavation recovered 1,966 sherds weighing 18,754 kg; 83% of the assemblage is late Saxon or Saxo-Norman leading into the early medieval period, and the pottery is of particular interest as it provides quite a tight grouping spanning less than two centuries. The early to mid Saxon periods make up 10.7% of the site assemblage, but this is nearly all residual. The overall condition of the ceramics ranges from moderate to heavily abraded, with an average sherd size of 9.5g. The pottery is broken down by period below (Table 2).

Period	Sherd Number	Percentage of Assemblage	Fabric Weight (g)
Iron Age	60	3.1	252
Roman	4	0.2	35
Early Saxon	4	0.2	65
Early to mid Saxon	122	6.2	732
Mid Saxon	85	4.3	1,326
Saxo-Norman (10 th - mid 12 th)	1044	53	8,400
Early Medieval (11 th -12 th / mid 13 th)	587	29.9	6,930
Late Medieval (mid 13 th -15 th)	8	0.4	150
Post-medieval to Modern	52	2.7	864

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by period

The Fabrics

The main fabric groups have been quantified and listed below (Table 3). Where possible the Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval wares or fabric descriptions have been referenced to published material.

Iron Age

The prehistoric fabrics are heavily abraded and almost exclusively flint-tempered and can only be dated broadly to the Iron Age.

Early to mid Saxon

The early to mid Saxon pottery is dominated by sand-tempered sherds (60%) whilst organic temper, sometimes also containing sand or quartz, accounts for 37.6%; organic tempering reaches its *floruit* in the 6-7th/8th centuries. The sand-tempered sherds include mid Saxon wheel-made Ipswich ware dated c.725 to 850/900, which accounts for 19% of the Saxon total (31% of the Saxon sand tempered sherds). Another group of 44 sandy sherds comprising thick walls with abundant well-sorted quartz sand fabric, and red-brown and grey mottled surfaces, may be local handmade copies of Ipswich ware. They are of similar frequency (20.9%/34.9%) and in most cases appear alongside Ipswich ware.

Saxo-Norman

The 1,043 Saxo-Norman sherds make up 53.% of the site total and are dominated by Thetford-type wares at the ratio; Thetford: 993, St Neots: 49, Stamford: 1. The Thetford wares can be divided into Grimston-Thetford (16.8%) with buff to brown surfaces and slightly coarser fabrics, and the more usual Thetford-type wares (83.2%) with grey surfaces and smoother fabrics. The majority of the typically grey Thetford-type wares may provenance from several sources.

<i>Period and Ware with date</i>	<i>Fabric description</i>	<i>Sherd count</i>	<i>Fabric weight (g)</i>
<i>Iron Age</i>			
Flint temper	Sparse to common, medium to very coarse angular flint; can contain sand in the clay matrix. Surfaces grey, buff or orange	59	250
Chalk temper	Sparse rounded chalk with buff orange surfaces; possibly daub	1	2
<i>Roman</i>			
Sand temper	Fine to medium well sorted quartz sand, with grey or red brown surfaces	2	16

Sand and grog	Fine to medium quartz sand with sparse orange grog or clay pellets; buff orange surfaces	2	19
<i>Early to Mid Saxon</i>			
Organics (sometimes with sand)	Sparse to moderate burnt organics sometimes with sparse fine to medium quartz sand and occasional coarse mineral	69	518
Quartz and organics	Moderate to common, medium to coarse sub-angular to sub-rounded grey and clear quartz with sparse burnt organics	10	59
Quartz	Moderate to common Medium to coarse sub-angular to sub-rounded grey and clear quartz, can contain occasional calcareous material	3	16
Quartz	Moderate medium rounded red quartz	1	9
Sand and Flint	Moderate sub-angular quartz and sparse angular flint in a sandy clay matrix	1	4
Sand	Moderate to common fairly well-sorted sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz. Can contain rare to sparse burnt organics, quartz clusters, probably from sandstone or quartzite, and rare very coarse mineral	42	204
Ipswich ware	<i>West 1963</i>	40	801
Ipswich-type ware	Moderate to common well-sorted sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz. Walls are thick and brown sometimes with grey mottling	45	516
<i>Saxo-Norman</i>			
Grimston-Thetford type ware	<i>Clarke 1970; Little with Lentowicz 1994</i>	167	1,842
Thetford type ware	<i>Hurst 1957; Jennings 1983; Dallas 1993</i>	825	6,212
St Neots ware	<i>Hurst 1956</i>	51	302
Stamford ware	<i>Kilmurry 1980</i>	1	14
<i>Medieval</i>			
Developed St Neots type ware 11 th /12 th - 13 th	<i>Hurst 1956</i>	16	98
Medieval shell and sand (11 th -12 th)	Sparse to moderate shell and calcareous, or vesicles where it has leached out, with fine to medium quartz sand	4	13
Early medieval sandy wares, unsourced (11 th -12 th /early 13 th)	<i>Hurst 1976</i>	199	1,153
Castle Acre type ware (mid 11 th – early 13 th)	<i>Milligan 1982</i>	59	1,277
Early medieval sandwich type ware	<i>Jennings 1981</i>	13	256

(late 11 th -early 12 th)			
Medieval coarse wares, unsourced (late 11 th /12 th -13 th)	Moderate to common sub-angular to sub-rounded, fine to medium quartz sand with occasional other inclusions such as very coarse mineral or clay pellets. Cores are grey and surfaces usually grey but can be buff-brown or mottled.	82	817
Grimston type unglazed ware (late 11 th -mid 13 th)	<i>Little with Lentowicz 1994</i>	168	2,738
Blackborough End type ware (mid 12 th -13 th)	<i>Rogerson and Ashley 1985</i>	26	195
Medieval Quartz sand and calcareous (13 th -15 th)	Moderate to common poorly sorted quartz sand with sparse rounded chalk or limestone and coarse flint	1	16
Medieval Grey ware (mid 13 th -15 th)	Moderate to common poorly sorted grey or clear quartz, grey throughout	2	26
Developed Stamford Ware (mid 12 th -mid 13 th)	<i>Kilmurry 1980</i>	3	31
Hedingham ware (mid 12 th -14 th)	<i>Cottar 2000</i>	9	82
Glazed Grimston ware (late 12 th -15 th)	<i>Little with Lentowicz 1994</i>	10	373
Medieval glazed ware (unsourced)	Similar to Grimston ware (above)	2	22
Late Medieval Transitional (15 th -16 th)	Moderate poorly sorted sub-angular clear, grey and white quartz, rare rounded red pellets	1	13
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
Post-medieval red earthenware		18	666
Green Glazed Border Ware		2	5
Staffordshire Mottled Ware		1	3
Nottinghamshire type Stoneware		2	30
Early Modern to Modern			
English Stoneware		2	10
Creamware		5	9
English Porcelain		2	46
Transfer Printed Ware		3	13
Factory made refined earthenwares		17	82

Table 3: Quantification of wares/fabrics by sherd count and fabric weight

Early Medieval

The 589 early medieval coarse wares of 11th-13th century date are nearly all in sandy fabrics and make up nearly 30% of the site assemblage. Where possible these have been categorised into published groups, the two local generic groups of early medieval sandy ware and medieval coarse wares are differentiated by the latter being wheel-made and more homogenous, usually grey and containing less minor inclusions. Fine table wares are represented by just 20 glazed sherds appearing in three fabrics of which one is local (Grimston ware), one imported from south Lincolnshire (Developed Stamford ware) and one brought in from furthest away in Essex (Hedingham Fine ware). An additional four late medieval glazed sherds in Grimston or unsourced wares were residual in a later feature along with a fifth Late Medieval Transitional sherd.

Forms

Prehistoric and Roman

There are no prehistoric profiles and one Roman beaded rim probably from a dish or bowl

Early to Mid Saxon

The early to mid Saxon handmade pottery produced eleven rims all simple upright or everted (Figure 25.1) no base fragments were noted suggesting that they were rounded. Surface decoration is present on 25 sherds (14.7%) with burnishing the commonest. Two early Saxon stamped sherds are also present from F2037 and F2131. The Ipswich ware includes three simple, fairly upright rims, of West's Group I A type (West 1963, 248), three sagging bases and a nearly complete upper profile containing girth grooves from a cooking pot (Figure 25.5). Two Ipswich sherds are burnished and two have roulette decoration (Table 4).

<i>Forms</i>	<i>Early to Mid Saxon (handmade)</i>	<i>Ipswich ware</i>
Simple upright rim	9	3
Simple outturned rim	2	
Sagging base		3
Flat base		
<i>Decoration</i>		
Burnished	19	2
Incised	2	1
Finger nail/tip	2	
Stamped	2	
Rouletted		2

Table 4: Forms and decoration on the early to mid Saxon sherds

The Saxo-Norman

The diagnostic Thetford-type rims and decoration indicate a ratio of 58:6:15 cooking pots to storage jars to bowls, whilst a handle from a spouted pitcher and another strap handle from a similar vessel or jug are also preserved. The rim forms have been arranged into groups, although there is variation within each (Table 5). Groups 1-5 are mainly from cooking pots/jars, Group 6 are storage jars, and Group 7-11 are all bowls. Group 5 is the commonest rim type. Group 10 carinated Thetford-type bowl rim forms (Figure 25.14 and 26.15) were not present at Grimston or Norwich, but were at Thetford (Rogerson and Dallas 1984, fig. 173:323 and Dallas 1993, fig. 137:22). Two bowl rims from 'Cellar' F2131 (L2132) are of particular interest. One upright rim from a deep bowl that can be described as 'highly decorated' by Thetford ware standards, could not be paralleled elsewhere (Figure 25.6), and an inturned rim from a deep bowl (Figure 25.13) is not typical of the more usual Thetford forms. The only sherd of Stamford ware is a yellow glazed pitcher handle from Posthole F2029 (L2030).

<i>Group</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Grimston-Thetford</i>	<i>Thetford</i>	<i>St Neots</i>
1	Simple upright/straight (Fig 25.6)		1	
2	Simple everted (Fig 25.7)		11	1
3	Everted with thickened/expanded ends (Fig 25.8)		11	4
4	Everted and hollowed (Fig 25.9)		11	4
5	Everted and hollowed with thickened/expanded ends (Fig 25.10-25.12)	2	27	
6	Clubbed/squared	3	6	
7	Inturned bowl (Fig 25.13)		1	1
8	Flat/bevelled upright	1	2	
9	Hammerhead			(1)
10	Carinated bowl (Fig 25.14-25.15)		2	
11	Thickened/rounded ends		7	1

Table 5: Saxo-Norman rim forms

Bases are quite evenly divided between sagging and flat with one further Thetford-type base flat but with a slight pedestal (Table 6).

<i>Description</i>	<i>Grim Thet</i>	<i>Thet</i>	<i>St Neots</i>
Sagging base	3	11	1
Flat	2	9	1
Pedestal		1	

Table 6: Saxo-Norman bases

Decoration is not common featuring on only 4.1% of the Saxo-Norman sherds, roulette decoration is commonest, applied along the shoulder but with one example on the rim (Table 7). At least two of the thumb impressed clay strips on thick body sherds represent further evidence of storage jars (Figure

25.16 & 25.33). The remaining decoration comprises incised horizontal lines and one wavy line. The Grimston-Thetford pitcher is roulette decorated (Figure 25.17) whilst a simple flat bowl rim and a second thickened, thumb decorated bowl rim are also present (Figures 25.18 and 25.19). One Grimston-Thetford cooking pot rim appears to have acquired accidental 'decoration', possibly from an animal, whilst awaiting firing (Figure 25.34). A roulette decorated hammerhead bowl rim visually resembles St Neots ware but has a sandy fabric with little shell and has been classed as Developed St Neots.

<i>Decoration type</i>	<i>Grimston-Thetford</i>	<i>Thetford</i>	<i>St Neots</i>
Incised line		5	
Thumb impressed clay strip	4	9	
Roulette	2	21	2
<i>Total</i>	6	35	2

Table 7: Saxo-Norman decoration

Medieval

The identifiable medieval forms are tabulated below (Table 8). The early medieval sandy wares generally produced few diagnostic rims, the small cooking pot rim from Pit F2109 (L2110) is an exception (Figure 25.22). However, Castle Acre-type pottery sometimes with mottled firing and characterised by frilled rims (two thirds from Castle Acre were decorated in this way) is comparatively more common (Figures 25.23-25.25: Milligan 1882, 225). Thirteen sherds of early medieval sandy ware containing white inclusions and oxidised margins are similar in description to Early Medieval Sandwich Wares identified at Norwich and dated to the late 11th-early 12th centuries (Jennings 1983, 23). The forms from Marham comprise a rim probably from a pitcher and a handle from a socketed bowl (Figures 25.20-25.21) but manufactured in the Thetford tradition (Andrew Rogerson *pers comm.*). Grimston coarse ware fabrics can also

	<i>Early medieval ware</i>	<i>Early medieval Sandwich-type ware</i>	<i>Castle Acre-type ware</i>	<i>Medieval Grey ware</i>	<i>Blackborough End-type ware</i>	<i>Grimston ware</i>
Cooking pot	3		11	2	4	2
Storage jar	1					1
Socketed bowl		1				
Bowl	1					2
Spouted pitcher						3
Jug	2					2

Table 8: Medieval forms

be very similar to Grimston-Thetford wares, which they succeed, and are distinguished mainly by form. One bowl rim from Cellared-Building F2131 (L2132) is probably an early Grimston product (Figure 25.26 and Little with

Lentowicz 1994, 88 and fig. 66:25), and a wedge-shaped cooking pot rim can also be paralleled with Grimston forms (Figure 25.27: Little with Lentowicz 1994, figure 64:4). A partially reconstructable spouted pitcher (Figure 25.28) was recovered from Gully F2239 (L2266). Other wheel-made medieval coarse wares are present in smaller amounts including Blackborough End-type cooking pots with bevelled rims (Figure 25.29). A medieval coarse bowl rim with grey fabric and grey-buff surfaces from Pit F2169 (L2170) may be another Grimston vessel (Figure 25.30). A glazed Grimston-type strap handle in good condition, residual from Gully F3003 (L3004) which contained post-medieval pottery, is quite broad in width and suggests a late medieval or early post-medieval date (Clarke and Carter 1977, 200).

The Archaeology

This section describes the three features containing the most pottery, all in excess of 100 sherds.

The SFB (F2037) and other pre-Conquest features

The lowest fill of SFB F2037 (L2108), a possible occupation layer, contained 5 abraded Early Saxon sherds in organic and sand fabrics. The feature was backfilled with 124 sherds of mixed periods including burnished, incised and stamped Saxon sherds, Ipswich ware and Thetford-type ware (Figures 25.1-26.5). The lack of any medieval pottery shows that this probably occurred during the later 9th to 10th centuries and certainly took place in the pre-Conquest period. Posthole F2147 contained one sherd of Ipswich ware and three Saxon quartz and organic tempered pottery suggesting a mid Saxon date of 8th/9th centuries. Several other features including Posthole F2133, Post-pipe F2217 and Pit F2184 contained only Ipswich and Thetford type pottery which, as in the case of SFB F2037, indicate pre-Conquest activity (see discussion).

Cellared-Building F2131

The large cellar-like feature F2131 located towards the south-west of the site contained the largest quantity of pottery comprising 466 sherds (25% of the site assemblage)

<i>Ware</i>	<i>Sherd number</i>	<i>Fabric weight</i>	<i>Average sherd size</i>	<i>Percentage of sherds in the feature</i>
Residual Prehistoric	5	33	6.6	1.1
Residual Roman	1	10	10	0.2
Residual Saxon	32	352	11	6.9
Grimston-Thetford type	39	480	12.3	8.4
Thetford type ware	330	2325	7	70.8
St Neots type ware	11	76	6.9	2.4
Early medieval shelly wares	6	48	8	1.3
Early medieval Sandwich-type	8	130	16.2	1.7

ware				
Early medieval sandy wares	27	224	8.3	5.8
Castle Acre-type	2	9	4.5	0.4
Medieval grey ware	3	10	3.3	0.6
Grimston type ware	2	25	12.5	0.4

Table 8: Quantification of sherds from 'Cellar' feature F2131

weighing 3.722 kg (Table 8). This assemblage is dominated by Saxo-Norman wares accounting for 82% of the pottery. The stratigraphy suggests two main phases for the infilling of the feature, the first containing 225 sherds and the latter 241 sherds (Table 9). The lowest three fills contained 21 sherds almost exclusively comprising small abraded Thetford-type and Grimston-Thetford sherds, whilst the absence of Grimston ware, which commenced production perhaps around the mid 12th century suggests an 11th century date for the earliest infilling of the feature. The comparatively small amount of early medieval sherds, representing 9.8% of the total, mainly appear in the highest fill L2132 suggesting that they were coming in later, perhaps in the late 11th-early 12th centuries.

Ware	Fills beneath L2132	Top fill L2132
Residual Iron Age	1	4
Residual Roman		1
Residual Saxon	20	12
Grimston-Thetford type	19	20
Thetford type ware	166	164
St Neots type ware	5	6
Early medieval shelly wares	3	3
Early medieval Sandwich-type ware	1	7
Early medieval sandy wares	10	17
Castle Acre-type		2
Medieval coarse ware		3
Grimston ware? (unglazed)		2
<i>Total</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>241</i>

Table 9: Comparison of sherds from 'Cellar' feature F2131

Enclosure Ditch (F2027)

Gully F3032, underlying the main Enclosure Ditch F2027, may represent an initial phase of enclosure, but contained only 4 tiny abraded sherds weighing 10 grams; one prehistoric flint tempered sherd, two Grimston-Thetford type sherds and a fragment (less than 1g) of probable Thetford type ware. Gully F2032 cut Pit F2056 which contained a sherd each of Thetford-type and early medieval sandy ware which taken all together indicates an 11th century date.

The Enclosure Ditch F2027 (L2028) and F3015 (L3018, 3019 & 3020) contained 238 sherds weighing 2.618 kg. The pottery is fairly evenly divided between Saxo-Norman wares (48.7%) and early medieval wares (42.8%)

including Castle-Acre type and Grimston ware (Table 10). Segment E of the enclosure ditch was excavated in spits, the lowest, Spit 5, contained two medieval sandy sherds in Castle Acre-type fabric including a simple rim but minus the frilling, and five small Thetford-type sherds. At Castle Acre 12 km to the north-west of Marham the early medieval wares were present in the earliest levels dating from the second half of the 11th century, whilst Thetford-type ware was dated to the mid to late 11th century with very little appearing in the early 12th century (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 167). Spit 2 contained a Thetford-type Group 5 rim and carinated bowl rim (Figure 25.15), whilst the highest spit, Spit 1, included a Grimston shallow bowl rim. At Grimston, levels containing only Thetford-Grimston ware were assigned an end date of late 11th century and those containing mainly unglazed Grimston, but with a small amount glazed, commenced by the mid 12th century (Little with Lentowicz 1994, 90). On this, albeit sparse, stratigraphic evidence, the lowest fill suggests a date of mid to late 11th century and the highest fill a date not earlier than the mid 12th century but not later than c.1180/1200 due to the absence of glazed sherds. This is supported by further stratigraphic evidence where the enclosure ditch was cut, presumably after it went out of use, by Ditch F2070 (40 sherds) and Ditch F2100 (23 sherds). These produced just one small glazed Grimston sherd which suggests that even if the site was one of low status the ditches are unlikely to date much beyond c.1200.

<i>Ware</i>	<i>Sherd number</i>	<i>Fabric weight</i>	<i>Average sherd size</i>	<i>Percentage of sherds in the feature</i>
Residual Iron Age	11	42	3.8	5.3
Residual Roman	1	6	6	0.5
Residual Saxon	7	51	7.3	3.4
Residual Ipswich ware	1	20	20	
Grimston-Thetford type	27	355	10.1	8.2
Thetford type ware	84	711	8.8	36.5
St Neots type ware	5	32	9	0.9
Early medieval shelly wares	7	32	4.6	3.3
Early medieval sandy wares	34	199	6.7	12.5
Castle Acre-type	32	833	26	15.4
Medieval grey ware	17	145	8.5	8.2
Grimston type ware	12	192	16	5.8

Table 10: Quantification of sherds from Enclosure Ditch F2027

The few later glazed sherds are mainly residual or relate to later activity succeeding the main phase of the site. Ditch F2021 contained 4 sherds of Hedingham and Grimston ware, the highest concentration of fine wares from any feature, and this feature clearly post-dates the end of the enclosure ditch by some time.

Discussion

The presence of 60 residual Iron Age flint tempered sherds and four Roman attest the earliest activity in the vicinity, whilst the earliest datable feature is

the Saxon SFB (F2037). The lowest fill, L2108, contained 5 highly abraded early Saxon sherds in organic and sand fabrics which would suit a date of 6th-8th centuries. The feature was backfilled with later pottery as described above.

At the large excavation at North Elmham in middle Norfolk, dating was in part based on a relative chronology. Contexts containing Ipswich and Thetford-type ware were dated to the 9th century, Thetford-type alone was 10th century, and where Thetford-type and early medieval ware appeared together an 11th century date was assigned. Thetford-type was dominant in the earlier part and succeeded by early medieval ware in the later 11th century; glazed wares began to appear from the mid 12th century as is the case at Grimston (Wade 1980, 125-222, 445 and Little with Lentowicz 1994, 90). When applying this relative chronology to Marham it suggests that the Cellared-Building F2131 belongs to the first half of the 11th century but the latest fill containing the majority of the early medieval pottery probably dates to around the mid 12th century (Table 9). The Enclosure Ditch F2027 was also not dug before the 11th century because early medieval ware was present in the underlying pit F2056, although it is possible that the enclosure could be pre-Conquest. The presence of residual rim sherds from several small vessels in some features suggests that they could pre-date the Conquest. The even ratio of Saxo-Norman to early medieval sherds would point however, to a post-Conquest occupation ending well before the end of the 12th century, as discussed above.

The heartland for the distribution of Thetford-type ware lies in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. It is thought to have its origins at Ipswich as a direct successor to mid Saxon Ipswich ware, but all other known production sites are in Norfolk and north Suffolk, close to the Norfolk border. Marham is near two known major production sites at Grimston and Thetford, but Thetford-type ware could have been imported from further afield. The Marham assemblage contains a fairly even split of 11 sagging bases to 9 flat. In Norwich, it was shown that flat bases were early with sagging bases appearing in the 11th century (Jennings 1981, 14). At various sites in Thetford 76% of the bases were sagging and it was thought that flat bases related mainly to small and medium jars (Rogerson and Dallas 1984, 121) whilst at the Brandon Road period III and IV site, Thetford (10th-11th centuries), 93% of the bases were sagging and these were dominant at all levels (Dallas 1993, 125). The Marham bases do not conform particularly to these patterns, although the sample is small, and a possibility is the pottery derives from multiple sources that might also include locally produced wares.

St Neots ware accounts for just 2.6% of the assemblage, and 3.6% when combined with the medieval shelly wares. The main distribution area for St Neots ware lies to the south-west of The Wash and being of poorer quality and less permeable than the more robust Thetford-type wares, no great amount would be expected to feature in Norfolk. Hurst suggests imported St Neots wares are the result of travellers moving along the Ouse Valley bringing pottery into the main centres in Norfolk (Hurst 1956, 35). None has as yet been found in Kings Lynn which was only developing by the early 12th century, and has few finds pre-dating c.1100 (Clarke and Carter 1977, 183).

St Neots ware was present at Thetford, appearing in large quantities at the Brandon Road site in late 10th to early 11th century layers, suggesting importers of St Neots ware occupied this part of town (Dallas 1993, 125), and therefore there may have been a more organised market for it than first thought.

It is suggested that Early Medieval ware was introduced c.1000 as a competitor to the Saxo-Norman wares (Wade 1980, 426 & 435). No production centres for early medieval ware have been found and it is likely that they were produced in clamp kilns which are difficult to identify. It is suggested that early medieval ware at sites such as North Elmham, achieved dominance over Thetford wares because of the considerable distance from those centres of production (Wade 1980, 436). This may be the case in some areas, but there is increasing evidence that Thetford-type ware manufacture was not restricted to a few, mainly urban centres, but was made at a number of locations in rural settings (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 148). Examples include Langhale and Bircham, the latter located near the parish church was interpreted as a one off single kiln structure used by an itinerant potter in an area of below average settlement for the county (Rogerson and Adams 1978, 42). The presence of forms at Marham which are atypical of Thetford-type ware suggests that there might also have been a local kiln close to Marham. In particular the two deep bowls (Figures 25.6 and 25.13) appear to be unusual, if not unparalleled forms.

The absence of Ely-type ware from Marham is of as much significance as the wares that are present. At Forehill, Ely it was present in roadside ditches dated to the 12th century. The lowest level contained only Saxo-Norman sherds, the middle level contained 71 sherds of which 6 (8.5%) were Ely ware, whilst the uppermost levels contained 14 sherds of mixed Saxo-Norman and Ely wares with one sherd of Lyveden-type (Hall 2003, 138). Lyveden 'A' ware is believed to have commenced production at the earliest around the mid 12th century, and this would suggest that Ely ware appears at some point in the second half of the 12th century. Marham lies on the eastern edge of the distribution area for Ely wares (Spoerry 2008, 34). At Kings Lynn, which was excavated before the Forehill kiln was investigated, it was labelled 'Grimston Software' and was dated mainly to the late 12th and early 13th centuries marking the transition between Saxo-Norman wares and the medieval industries (Clarke and Carter 1977, 186-9). Ely ware distribution also penetrates along the Nar Valley, and although absent at Castle Acre castle, was present in small amounts at Castle Acre priory. Here some 19 sherds with orangey surfaces containing calcitic inclusions of shell, chalk or limestone and believed to provenance from Cambridgeshire match Ely-type descriptions (Wilcox 1980, 258-60). These came from a 13th to 14th century layer, which indicates that Marham was abandoned before Ely ware was imported into the area.

The latest dating evidence for Marham are the 20 glazed sherds, of which 14 were in primary deposits. Gully F2239 (L2266), which also contained the Grimston spouted pitcher (Figure 25.28), contained a Grimston sherd with faint vestiges of splash glaze suggesting an early stage where glaze was just

coming into use (Andrew Rogerson *pers. comm.*). At North Elmham glazed sherds were appearing in the mid 12th century and so the splash glazed Grimston sherd may date to around c.1170-80 when glaze was becoming more common. The scarcity of glazed medieval fine wares suggests that either the site was of low status or again, that it went out of use before glazed decoration was introduced. Potentially the latest sherd from the main phase of occupation of the Marham site is the Hedingham glazed anthropomorphic face (Figure 25.31) from the uppermost fill of Pit F2182 (L2254). This overlay fill L2253 containing the sherds of Developed Stamford ware and two Blackborough End-type rims, an industry that began shortly after the mid 12th century (Rogerson and Ashley 1985, 188). Hedingham fine ware large, early rounded jugs, in 'Scarborough-style' with high relief plastic decoration have been dated between c.1175/1200-1250 (Cottar 2000, 91 & fig. 52). At Denny Abbey, north of Cambridge, imported Hedingham ware was present in the Benedictine occupation layers dated between c.1159 and 1170 (Coppack 1980, 226). Pit F1069 contained a sherd of Hedingham ware similar to fabrics excavated from the Hole Farm kiln site at Sible Hedingham. The red slip-painting suggests it is from a London-style early rounded jug, dated by Cotter (2000) to mid 12th to c.1200. There is no compelling evidence therefore, to demonstrate that the main enclosure formed by Ditch F2027 excavated at Marham was occupied beyond c.1200, and conceivably it may not have continued much later than c.1180.

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Figure 25.31 Pit F2182 (L2254) Hedingham Fine Ware face jug

Figure 25.32 Gully F3003 (L3004) Grimston-type glazed strap handle

Figure 25.33 Ditch F3015 (L3020) Grimston-Thetford storage jar body sherd with applied thumb impressed strip

Figure 25.34 Ditch F3015 (L3018) Grimston-Thetford cooking pot with pre-firing marks on rim

3.2 The Flint

Andrew Peachey

Excavations produced a total of 47 fragments (740g) of struck flint, including 2 hammerstones (402g) and a single scraper (34g); and a further 35 fragments (583g) of burnt flint. The flint is entirely residual in Saxon, medieval or subsoil contexts. Cellar F2131 contained 10 fragments (255g) of struck flint, including a hammerstone (180g), with 2 fragments (218g) of burnt flint also present and is the only notable concentration of flint in the assemblage.

The struck flint exhibits a range of lithic technology with the bulk appearing to have been produced using later Neolithic/early Bronze Age technologies, but sparse fragments appear to have been produced using Earlier Neolithic and Mesolithic technologies. As none of the flint is present in its original context, it is discussed by these technological groups.

The flint generally occurs in a slightly to moderately patinated and near fresh condition, however rare fragments are also heavily patinated and blunted. These preservation conditions are not surprising given the residual and re-deposited nature of the flint.

Methodology & Terminology

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

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

Results

Raw Materials

The flint appears uniform in terms of natural type, with almost all fragments dark grey in colour with (where present) a moderately thick white to off-white cortex. A few fragments in mid grey tones may be derived from the same source or possibly from more weathered local tertiary gravels. High quality, dark grey flint with a white cortex such as this occurs naturally in primary deposits of chalk ('the flint belt') that run down through central and western Norfolk (Orna and Orna 1984, 3; Waddington 2004, 3) and would have been easily accessible locally.

Lithic Technology

The earliest lithic technology evident in this assemblage is represented by a single Mesolithic microlith contained in SFB F2109 (L2110), alongside struck flint of a later date. The microlith has been neatly bilaterally retouched with especially fine and sharp retouch on its leading edge, and is very similar to examples previously recorded at Spong Hill (Healy 1988, 50: L13-L14).

Eight fragments (34g) in the assemblage may be tentatively identified as having affinities with the lithic technology of the earlier Neolithic period in the region (Healy 1988, 45-46), although the hammerstones and further fragments of debitage could potentially also have origins of this date. Single examples of heavily patinated blades (35-14mm long, 13-18mm wide) were contained in Gullies F2062 (L2063 Seb. B) and F2177 (L2178), while elongated flakes of debitage (including secondary, tertiary and uncorticated flakes) with blade-like dorsal scars were contained in SFB F2037 (L2108), Posthole F2133 (L2134), Ditches F2100 (L2101 Seg. A) and F2135 (L2136 Seg. B).

The two hammerstones in the assemblage could be of either Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Both are manufactured from the same dark grey flint as the remainder of the assemblage, are roughly spherical in shape and have been heavily used. The hammerstone in Cellar F2131 (L2132) weighs 180g and has a single striking surface. The hammerstone in Post Pipe F2233 (L2234) weighs 222g and has multiple, ill-defined striking surfaces. According to the classifications developed through experimentation by Lord (1993, 24) and Whittaker (2007, 87) these can be classified as hard, small and medium sized hammerstones respectively, although in this instance there is little practical difference in size, weight or dimensions. Comparable hammerstones have been recorded in the region at Feltwell (Wymer 1986, 22) and Grimes Graves (Saville 1981: fig.15).

The remainder of the struck flint assemblage has affinities with the lithic technology of the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age period in the region (Healy 1988, 46-47). Clearly indicative of this period, and comparable to examples recorded at Spong Hill (Healy 1988), are the Levallois-type core contained in Cellar F2131 (L2255) and the thumbnail scrapers in Enclosure Ditch F2027

(L2028 Seg. C) and SFB F2109 (L2110). The Levallois-type core is keeled and has clearly had a flake blank removed. Its relatively small size suggests the core may have been exhausted and discarded. Also manufactured on a probable Levallois flake is the side scraper contained in L3018 (Seg.B), which has had abrupt retouch applied to approximately two-thirds of one lateral edge. The debitage (32 fragments, 230g) includes a high proportion (c.47%) of flakes that are quite thick and squat in shape or have faceted butts (or both), which are common features of debitage from the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age. At least two of these flakes, in Posthole F2060 (L2061) and Pit F2188 (L2189) were struck from prepared cores and may represent discarded flake blanks. The remaining debitage could potentially be the bi-product of Neolithic or Bronze Age lithic technologies and although faceted butts are absent and shape inconclusive, the flakes lack the regularity and blade-like qualities associated with earlier Neolithic struck flint, suggesting they probably belong with that defined as produced in the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age.

The burnt flint in the assemblage includes a small concentration of 23 fragments (312g) in Pit/Hearth F2040 (L2041 and L2041), including two uncorticated flakes (9g) of debitage in L2044, but is otherwise limited to just one or two fragments in the eight contexts in which it occurs. None of the burnt flint exhibits any traces of working after it has been burnt. The only other notable piece of burnt flint in the assemblage comprises a single relatively large fragment (186g) in Cellar F2131 (L2292 Seg. D). This fragment appears to have been deliberately struck from a larger irregular natural nodule of flint and may be the product of 'quartering' or splitting natural nodules into fragments of workable size, however this fragment remained unworked prior to its burning.

3.3 The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Excavations produced a total of 32 fragments (2767g) of CBM. The bulk of the CBM is comprised of very small residual fragments of Roman origin, with sparse medieval, post-medieval and modern fragments also present. All the CBM is in a very highly abraded condition.

Methodology

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g) with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and described below. Any extant dimensions or typological features were also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Fabric Descriptions

Romano-British

Fabric 1: Surfaces are oxidised red and the thick core either very dark grey or slightly darker red. Inclusions comprise common, poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-

0.3mm), sparse flint (2-10mm) and sparse iron rich grains/clay pellets (0.5-4mm). The fabric is hard with abrasive surfaces.

Fabric 4: Oxidised red-orange. Inclusions comprise common, poorly sorted quartz (0.1-0.3mm) with sparse shell or voids (1-4mm). The fabric has a medium hardness and abrasive surfaces.

Medieval

Fabric 2: Surfaces are cream to pale yellow-brown and the core is pale, often streaky, oxidised tones. The fabric is manufactured from calcareous clay with sparse inclusions of quartz (0.1-0.25mm) and iron rich grains (0.2-2.5mm). The fabric is hard with slightly abrasive surfaces which may appear vesiculated.

Post-medieval/modern

Fabric 3: Oxidised red-orange throughout. Inclusions comprise common, well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25) and sparse iron rich grains (<0.5mm). The fabric is very hard with abrasive surfaces.

Commentary

Romano-British CBM accounts for 18 fragments (1082g) of the assemblage. The bulk of these fragments (13 fragments, 517g) are made up of small pieces of 20mm thick flat tile in Fabric 1, probably tegula or box flue tile. Two fragments, contained in Pit F2221 (L2222) and Subsoil L2001 (south-west side) exhibit part of the flange that confirms they are from tegula roof tile, while a single fragment contained in Pit F2066 (L2067) exhibits a combed lattice on one surface suggesting it is from a box flue tile. The remaining fragments of 20mm thick Fabric 1 tile were contained in Gully F2009 (L2010 Seg. B), SFB F2037 (L2034), Ditch F2100 (L2101 Seg. B), Pit F2102 (L2103), Subsoil L2001 and L3004. The three very small fragments (6g) of Fabric 4 recorded in Posthole F2133 (L2134) and Gully F2239 (L2240 Seg. A) are probably also from these types of tile but are too abraded to be conclusive. The remaining fragments of Romano-British CBM comprise 40mm thick Fabric 1 fragments (559g) contained in Post Pit F2182 (L2253) and L3004, and probably formed part of a bessalis brick, however these fragments are too insubstantial to allow for a more certain definition. The Romano-British CBM is too insubstantial and highly abraded to represent any direct association with a structure or occupation in the immediate vicinity and probably represent material re-deposited through agricultural processes from a structure in the surrounding area.

Seven small fragments (199g) of medieval CBM were present in the assemblage. All three fragments were in Fabric 2 and appear to belong to 12-14mm thick flat tile, probably peg tile manufactured in the 12th to 14th centuries. These fragments were contained in Gully F2009 (L2010 Seg. A) (10g), Pits F2247 (L2248) (34g), F2279 (L2281) (14g) and L3004 (141g). Given their insubstantial size these fragments have probably been re-deposited by processes similar to those that re-deposited the Romano-British

CBM.

Post-medieval/modern CBM in Fabric 4 was recovered in very limited quantities from four features dated (by pottery) to the late 18th century to modern period. The fragments all appear to be parts of 15mm thick, ridge tile and were contained in Posthole F2077 (L2078), Gully F2087 (L2088), Foundation Trench F2096 (L2097) and Pit F2247 (L2248). Also present in the assemblage is a single fragment (683g) of later 20th century brick associated with two fragments (609g) of concrete contained in L3069.

3.4 The small finds

Nina Crummy

The material from Marham ranges in date from Saxon to modern. The later material is recorded in the assemblage assessment in the site archive.

The Saxon objects consist of fragments from a loomweight and part of a buckle. The loomweight is the earliest item, being of the bun-shaped form in use from the 6th to 9th centuries (Fig. 26.1). Made from a soft chalk (clunch), almost certainly of local origin, it is no heavier than a fired clay loomweight would be, possibly even lighter. Approximately half of the loomweight is present, giving a total weight of about 320-330g, close to the 330-40g of weights from Coppergate, York, and within the middle of the main 150-550g cluster for these objects (Walton Rogers 1997, 1753). Its presence in the occupation level of SFB F2037 implies both the presence of a loom in either that building or an adjacent one, and also the keeping of a flock sheep or goats, many of which were allowed to reach maturity, rather than being slaughtered in their first or second year, as would be the case for animals bred for milk or meat (Payne 1973, 282-4).

Two copper-alloy items from Pit F2200 are probably Late Saxon. One is part of a perforated plaque with raised decoration (Fig. 26.8), the other is part of an openwork buckle-plate (Fig. 26.3). The distinctive split socket for attaching the leather belt or strap to the buckle-plate allies it to split-end strap-ends, while the openwork form and use of zoomorphic and ring-and-dot decoration suggests an affinity with Marzinzik's narrower Type II.26 buckles that date to the late 7th century and perhaps into the 8th (2003, 53, pl. 150, 3). The plaque may be from a book cover; it seems to be a cheaper form of the later medieval gilt sheet metal ornament found at St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury (Henig & Woods 1988, 204-5).

A fragment of single-ended pin-beater from Pit F2081 (Fig. 26.4) is a form that first appeared in the Late Saxon period and continued in use until perhaps as late as the 14th century, although pieces from contexts later than the 12th century may be residual. The fragment from Marham is presumably contemporary with the 10th to mid 12th century pottery from the same feature. Its entire surface is polished from much use, and it has incised lattice decoration on one face. Although usually plain, some examples from Thetford and York are decorated with similar simple incised designs (Rogerson &

Dallas 1984, fig. 192; MacGregor *et al.* 1999, fig. 923). Pin-beaters were used in a variety of ways in weaving, including to separate the warp threads and push down the weft (Walton Rogers 1997, 1755). Examples from the Manor of Goltho in Lincolnshire were found scattered about the area of the weaving sheds (MacGregor 1987, 191, 193, fig. 161, 9-10, fig. 162, 11-140).

Part of a bone and horn comb is also a type that developed in the Late Saxon period (Fig. 26.2). It was in use from the 9th century into the 12th century (Margeson 1993, 65-6). It was of composite double-sided form, with bone connecting-plates and horn tooth-plates, cut so that the teeth on one side were slightly thicker than on the other. Only two small opposed pieces from the connecting-plates remain, missing the horn tooth-plate that lay between them and was more susceptible to decay. Debris from the manufacture of these combs has been found at Thetford, along with several complete connecting-plates lacking the more delicate horn components (Rogerson & Dallas 1984, fig. 186, 1, fig. 188; Riddler 2004, 64).

A key terminal fragment from SFB F2109 cannot be closely dated but is probably broadly contemporary with the 9th to 11th century pottery from the same context. It has a distinctive suspension loop, rising from one side of the shank only and curving over to form a hook (Fig. 26.5).

Two objects are indicative of high-status Norman occupation. One is an openwork strap (Fig. 26.6), which probably came from the curved lid of a wooden box. It parallels those found at several manor and castle sites, such as Castle Acre Castle in mid to late 12th century contexts and at the Manor of Goltho, Lincolnshire, in contexts dating to c. 1080 to 1150 (Goodall 1982, 235-6, fig. 43, 1-5; Goodall 1987, fig. 154, 18, 21-2, 24). Some of those from Goltho were found in close association with fragments of wood and bone that may be from a box. Of similar date and cultural affinity is a bone head-dress pin (Fig. 26.7). There are a substantial number of these pins from Castle Acre Castle, although none have a spatulate head like that from Marham, but the openwork head of a much larger dress pin from Goltho has the same triangular lugs at the base (Margeson 1982, 248-9; MacGregor 1987, fig. 161, 2).

The remaining objects consist principally of iron scrap and nails, but they include some badly corroded copper-alloy fragments from the fill of SFB F2037, and a fiddle-key horseshoe nail, a type that was in use from the late 11th to the 14th century (Clarke 1995, 86-7, 95-6).

In summary, the objects range in date from later mid Saxon at the earliest to about the 12th century or a little later. Most are personalia or household equipment, but there is evidence for weaving in the form of a loomweight and a pinbeater, the former certainly relating to an Anglo-Saxon population but the latter more broadly representative of the Saxo-Norman period. There is evidence of high-status occupation in the post-Conquest period, indicative of an implanted Norman element to the population.

Fig. 26, SF 3. (2108) F2037. Occupation of SFB. Shattered fragments

from a bun-shaped loomweight made from soft chalk. Only one fragment is illustrated. Diameter approximately 120 mm, height 28 mm, thickness 41 mm; weight 168 g.

Fig. 26, (2034) F2037. Backfill of SFB. Two slightly tapering convex-section bone connecting-plate fragments from opposite sides of a composite double-sided comb. One iron rivet survives, and the fragment has broken across the hole for a second rivet. On one of the fragments a group of four incised lines lie close to and over the empty hole. Maximum length 41 mm, maximum width 13 mm; individual thickness 3.5 mm.

Fig. 26, SF 14. (2201) F2200. Pit fill. a) Copper-alloy openwork buckle-plate fragment, decorated with punched ring-and-dot motifs and debased animal heads on either side. The inner end was split to accommodate the leather of the belt or strap, but the upper element of this socket has broken off, although the two rivets that secured the leather remain. Length 27 mm, width 25 mm. b) Thin copper-alloy curved plaque fragment with raised linear and boss decoration and large perforation. Length 11 mm, width 21 mm.

Fig. 26, (2082) F2081. Pit fill. Bone pin-beater fragment, with incised lattice decoration on one face and with cancellous tissue exposed at the upper end on the other side. The surface is slick from much use. Length 46 mm, maximum width 14 mm.

Fig 26, SF 5. (2110) F2109. Fill of SFB. Terminal from an iron key with broken suspension loop. Length 65 mm, width 14 mm.

Fig. 26, SF 4. (2110) F2109. Fill of SFB. Copper-alloy openwork strap fragment. Length 106 mm, width 7 mm.

Fig. 26, SF 9. (2001). Subsoil. Bone head-dress pin with spatulate head above prominent lugs. Length 46 mm.

SF 2. (2034) F2037. Backfill of SFB. Corroded fragments of delaminated copper-alloy sheet with a very small part of a straight edge remaining on the largest piece. Dimensions of largest fragment 33 by 20 mm.

(2174) F2173. Post-pit fill. a) Iron horseshoe nail of post-Conquest fiddle-key type. Length 26 mm. b) Iron nail shank fragment. Length 60 mm.

(2028) F2027. Fill of enclosure ditch. Iron right-angled binding strip from the corner of a wooden box. The ends of each arm are broken. Length of arms 26 and 20 mm, width at angle 10 mm.

(2028) F2027. Fill of enclosure ditch. Burnt iron sheet fragment with one thickened edge. 58 by 43 mm.

(2020) F2019. Ditch fill. Iron strip fragment. Length 54 mm, width 11 mm.

(2057) F2056. Pit fill. Iron nail shank fragment with clenched tip. Length 50 mm.

(2095) F2094. Ditch fill. Iron tack. Length 18 mm.

(2110) F2109. Backfill of SFB. Narrow bent iron strip fragment. Length 60 mm, width 8 mm.

(2142) F2141. Pit fill. Thin iron sheet fragment. 45 by 46 mm.

3.5 Human bone

Emma Pomeroy

Three small fragments of disarticulated human bone were identified during the initial evaluation of the animal bone, all from Pit F2279. A fragment of an adult rib and an adult left scapula were identified in L2280. A second fragment of a left scapula was identified in L2284, which fits together with the fragment from L2280 via a modern break (probably caused by the modern service trench which had truncated this feature). Dating indicates that these contexts date to the medieval period (Phase 4). Potential for further analysis and discussion is limited due to the small quantity of material and its disarticulated and fragmentary nature. The recovery of isolated disarticulated human bone fragments mixed with domestic waste is not uncommon on archaeological sites.

3.6 Animal bone

Dr James Morris and Dr Stephany Leach

Introduction

The following report concerns the faunal remains from the Old Bell, Marham, Norfolk. In total 5,653 fragments of animal bone were recovered from the site. All of the faunal material was hand-collected. Faunal remains were recovered from all five of the site's phases. Overall, the majority of the remains were recovered from Phases 1 to 3, with 2,096 (37%) from Phase 1 (mid Saxon 6th to 9th centuries AD), 1,473 (26%) from Phase 2 and 1,432 (25%) from Phase 3. Only a small number of fragments, 307 and 336, were recovered from Phases 4 and 5 respectively. Nine fragments of animal bone came from undated features and are not included in the analysis. Therefore the majority of this report will concentrate on the mid Saxon to early medieval faunal assemblage.

This report consists of a discussion of the main aspects of the assemblage by phase. The report concentrates on the remains from Phases 1-3 as these assemblages provide the largest amount of information. Faunal remains from undated contexts are not discussed.

Methods

All animal bones were recorded individually into a Microsoft Access database which is deposited with the site archive. Where possible, bones with recent

breaks were reconstructed and have been 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, pig (*Sus scrofa*) size mammals, and 'LAR' (large ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from cattle (*Bos taurus*) size mammals, are used. When it is not possible to identify the bones of small mammals (mouse size), the elements are recorded as USM. When it is possible to identify a small mammal to genus but not subgenus (i.e. field mouse) the element is recorded as species indeterminate (i.e. mouse indeterminate). Other unidentified mammal fragments 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.

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.

The faunal assemblage was recorded by Stephany Leach, under the supervision of James Morris. This report was written by James Morris.

Preservation

Of the 5,653 fragments, it was possible to identify 2,138 (38%) of the assemblage to species and element. This relatively low level of identification is likely to be due to the poor preservation conditions. The majority of the elements recovered were highly fragmented. Overall 13% (742) of the assemblage was eroded and 7% (391) had evidence of canine gnawing. Poor preservation was noted on bones from each of the phases and appears to be due to the soil conditions as well as the taphonomic processes the assemblage underwent. Erosion and gnawing was notably more common in Phases 1 to 3. During these time periods the faunal remains appear to have been exposed above ground in a midden deposit, resulting in erosion and gnawing taking place, before being secondarily deposited within sunken-featured buildings and pits.

The poor preservation is also reflected in the percentage of loose teeth in the cattle and sheep/goat assemblages from Phases 1 to 3 (see below). Maltby (1985) has shown that when an assemblage has a high number of loose teeth this is often because of a poor preservation biasing effect rather than a true indication of the element proportions. This is because teeth often survive the taphonomic processes.

Species proportions

As noted, it was possible to identify 2,138 (38%) of the assemblage to species and element. Overall, the majority of the identified elements, 2,064 (97%), consist of domestic mammals. Cattle are the most common species by NISP count from each phase. With the exception of dog remains from Phase 1, sheep/goat are the second most common species (Table 11). The large number of dog remains from Phase 1 is due to the presence of an almost complete skeleton.

Only four wild mammal elements are present in the whole assemblage (Table 11). Bird remains were recovered from all phases from either domestic fowl (chicken) or goose. It was unknown if the goose remains are from domestic or wild individuals. One amphibian fragment, a frog/toad long bone, was also recovered from a Phase 3 context.

The unidentified elements mainly consist of large and small sized ungulate long bone and rib fragments. A number of unidentified mammal fragments are also present from Phase 1.

Species	Phase 1 (mid Saxon)	Phase 2 (late Saxon)	Phase 3 (Saxo-Norman/ early medieval)	Phase 4 (late medieval)	Phase 5 (post-medieval/ modern)	Undated	Total
Cattle	325	230	234	41	62		892
Sheep/goat	187	194	158	39	27	3	608
Pig	32	115	70	22	11		250
Horse	6	17	19	4	2		48
Dog	223	7	4	2			236
Cat	3		26		1		30
Red deer	1			1			2
Roe deer				1			1
Mole			1				1
Goose	7	3	7	2	2		21
Domestic fowl	23	5	15	4	1		48
Frog/Toad			1				1
LAR	426	427	442	84	73	2	1454
SAR	538	470	445	105	133	4	1695
MAM	314	4	4		23		345
USM	1		2				3
UBIRD	10	1	3	2			16
UFISH			1		1		2

Total	2096	1473	1432	307	336	9	5653
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Table 11. Summary of the faunal remains by phase from The Old Bell, Marham

Phase 1 mid Saxon

All of the faunal remains from Phase 1 were recovered from Sunken-Featured Building F2037. The assemblage comes from four contexts SK2031, L2034, L2107 and L2108. Of the 2,069 fragments, 1,866 come from L2034 which appears to be a deliberate infill of the SFB. An almost complete dog skeleton (SK2031) comprised 145 bones. A small number of remains, 25 and 60, came from contexts L2107 and L2108 respectively.

It was only possible to identify one cow loose tooth, seven sheep/goat and one domestic fowl long bone element from L2107. All of the remains from this context had been burnt, which is not unexpected given that the context is regarded as a hearth. The elements may represent waste that was thrown into the fire. Similarly cattle (6), sheep/goat (9) and domestic fowl (1) were identified from L2108. Most of the cattle and sheep/goat elements were loose teeth. Many of the remains from L2108 were eroded and poorly preserved. As the context represents the floor layer of the SFB, the remains may represent waste which became incorporated into the floor layer and was therefore subject to trampling.

Context SK2031 represents the skeleton number given to the almost complete dog skeleton recovered in association with the filling event L2034. The dog consists of 136 elements. Fusion data indicates that the remains are from an adult animal with a withers (shoulder) height of 0.55 meters. Most of the axial elements appear to be present with the skull, maxilla, cervical and thoracic vertebrae and ribs. However, the mandibles are missing as are the lumbar and caudal vertebrae and pelvis. Both left and right upper forelimbs (scapula and humerus) and both left and right metacarpals are present. But of the lower long bones only the right radius is present, the left and right ulna and left radius are missing. A similar pattern exists for the hind limbs with the left and right tarsals and metatarsals present, but of the long bones, only a distal fragment of the left tibia is present. No butchery marks were present and it appears that the missing elements may have become disarticulated naturally. Some elements may also have been mis-assigned as a proximal left tibia fragment, which fitted the one discussed above, was recovered from elsewhere in context L2034.

In total, 87 dog remains were also recovered from context L2034, consisting mainly of vertebra, long bone and metapodial elements. Overall, the remains from L2034 represent a minimum number of individuals (MNI) of three dogs, including the elements that are possibly from the individual SK2031. It was not possible to positively identify all of the elements to individual animals especially as they are all from adult individuals with withers of heights of between 0.51 to 0.56 meters. It was possible to identify two thoracic vertebrae as coming from the same individual. Both vertebrae articulated and had pathologies present on the spinous processes. The pathology consisted of

healed fractures which are slightly mal-aligned. The fractures would have occurred through trauma to the back. Pathology was also noted on the distal aspect of a third metacarpal, consisting of eburnation which is indicative of osteoarthritis. This would suggest that this element came from an old individual.

It has been suggested that the partial dog skeleton SK2031 may represent some form of special closure deposit. Recently, Hamerow (2006) has suggested that such animal skeletons may represent a continuation of 'special deposits' seen on some Iron Age and Romano-British sites, although this has been questioned by this author (Jervis and Morris, in press; Morris 2008). To investigate such suppositions we must first consider the actions that resulted in the dog skeleton being deposited. The epiphyseal fusion and pathological data indicates that the dogs recovered were adults and in one case an old adult, although the lack of *in situ* teeth means it is unknown if they represent older adults. However, we do know that they do not represent infant mortalities or the culling of an unwanted litter. They may therefore represent older individuals who died of natural causes or were killed (although no butchery marks are present on any of the dog remains). The carcass of the dog from SK2031 was then at some point deposited in the SFB along with the deliberate backfill L2034. The presence of two inter-fitting bone fragments from the two contexts is interesting. The break in the tibia is old and not caused by modern damage. This, along with the partial nature of the dog skeleton SK2031, suggests that upon deposition, aspects of the skeleton became disarticulated and, due to slumpage and post-depositional movement, elements became dispersed. Taking into consideration the presence of a number of other dog remains in L2034, another possibility is that the dog carcasses were firstly deposited in an above ground midden, during which time they became to an extent naturally disarticulated. Then, material from the midden was used to infill the SFB. Aspects of one carcass were still articulated resulting in the partial skeleton SK2031. As the other dog elements were not recovered in articulation they may represent carcasses of animals which had been deposited in the midden for a longer period of time. This may also explain why elements such as the skull and toes are missing from L2034. It would also explain the lack of *in situ* teeth in the maxilla and mandibles which are present. Such an explanation does not discount a 'ritualised' nature to the deposits of the midden material. Dog skeletons are the most common type of articulated animal remain from the Anglo-Saxon period (Morris 2010), but are also a species that do not appear to be consumed.

As well as dog elements, L2034 mainly produced cattle (318), sheep/goat (171) and pig elements (30), with MNI calculations suggesting that five cattle, nine sheep/goat and two pigs are represented. Although all body areas are represented, the cattle assemblage mainly consisted of loose teeth, skull and distal scapula fragments with, on average, limb bone elements making up less than 5% of the assemblage each (Chart 1). The sheep/goat remains show a similar pattern with loose teeth, distal scapula and mandible fragments making up the majority of the assemblage. As discussed above, the high proportion of loose teeth is likely to be due to taphonomic biases. Also, the

most common bones, scapula, mandible, tibia and radius, are those which are more likely to survive due to high bone density of such aspects of the element (Lyman 1994). The cattle and sheep/goat elements therefore appear to represent a biased assemblage, although the presence of a large number of cattle skull fragments may suggest that the remains represent some form of butchery rather than consumption waste.

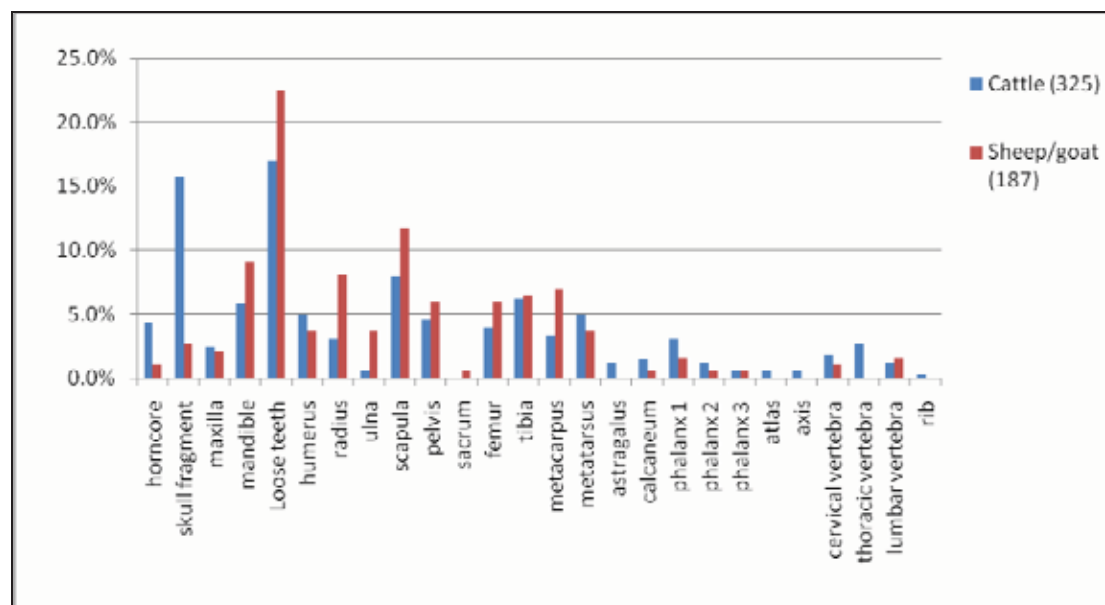


Chart 1. Percentage of cattle and sheep/goat elements from Phase 1

Limited aging data for cattle is available. One mandible has a well worn third molar, which under Halsteads (1985) system would classify it as coming from a very old animal. The only other mandible with teeth present was from a young calf, approximately 8-18 months old. A young calf is also represented by a porous pelvis fragment with an unfused acetabulum, suggesting an age of under 10 months old. Overall, of the 75 epiphyses present, 20 are unfused, with only 50% (13) of the late-fusing epiphyses fused and belonging to animals probably over three years of age. Relatively high frequencies of immature slaughter of cattle are not unusual in Saxon and contemporary assemblages in Britain (Maltby, 1981). West Stow, for example, produced relatively high percentages of immature cattle (Crabtree, 1989). The presence of young calves could indicate that dairy production was of some importance. Age related pathology was present on the femoral head of a proximal femur fragment. This consisted of eburnation around the fovea area, indicating the animal suffered from osteoarthritis. Eburnation was also present on the proximal epiphysis of a first phalanx. Therefore, some older animals were present and utilised on the site.

The sheep/goat aging data comes from seven mandibles ranging in age from 6-12 months to 6-8 years old. However, only four of the seven mandibles come from individual animals with fully developed dentition. Epiphyseal fusion data is available from 54 elements. The data indicates that 64% (11) and 38% (8) of the elements that fuse in an animal's second and third year respectively are fully fused. Therefore, a high proportion of the animals may have been

culled at the end of their first and second years. This is similar to the pattern at West Stow (Crabtree 1989) and it is suggested that these may indicate the culling of excess stock in the autumn and winter of their first year (Crabtree 1994, 1996). The older animals probably mainly represent breeding stock. There is no evidence that wool production was a primary aim of sheep exploitation at The Old Bell, Marham. The sheep/goat therefore appear to be mainly exploited for meat in this phase.

Butchery was present on a number of sheep/goat and cattle remains. In total, 14 cattle elements had butchery marks present, the majority of which were long bones. A horn core fragment had a chop mark on the inferior surface, which is likely to be associated with the removal of the horn. A mandible had multiple chop marks (9) on the temporo-mandibular joint which would have occurred during the disarticulation of the jaw, probably to access the tongue. Further evidence of disarticulation of the carcass was present in the form of knife and chop marks to femoral heads, a scapula's glenoid and proximal radii. Three metacarpals and two metatarsals had also been split vertically using cleavers. Two vertebral bodies have also been split vertically which may be associated with the sectioning of the carcass for further processing. Splitting of cattle metapodials was also noted at West Stow (Crabtree 1989) and Mundham (Leach and Morris 2009). Such splitting probably occurs to access the marrow and to produce blanks for bone working. The sheep/goat butchery shows a similar pattern with 13 elements with butchery marks present. The majority of the sheep/goat butchery took place using a cleaver, with chop marks to a horn core, scapula glenoid and pelvis. Six metapodials also have butchery marks present, all of which also appear to have been split longitudinally.

As well as cattle and sheep/goat, a small number of other species were present in the assemblage from this phase. Thirty pig elements were recovered, like the cattle and sheep/goat elements, a large proportion of the remains were from loose teeth, with the rest long bone and metapodial fragments. No tooth wear data is present, the epiphysis data indicates that many of the remains come from young adult individuals. None of the elements had butchery marks present.

Six horse elements were also recovered from this feature (all from context L2034). These consisted of radius, pelvis, metacarpal and first phalanx fragments. All of the elements were fully fused and therefore from adult animals. With the exception of the first phalanx all of the elements were fragmented, some of which was due to butchery. Chop marks were present on a metacarpal and radius both resulting in the splitting of the element longitudinally. As with the cattle elements this may be to access the marrow.

Three cat remains were recovered from context L2034. These consisted of fragments of scapula and left and right proximal radii fragments. Due to the fragmentation it is unknown if the remains are from the same individual animal. Wild mammals were represented by a fragment of red deer metatarsal shaft. The bird remains come from domestic fowl (21) and goose (7). All of the bird remains consist of long bone fragments. Medullary bone was present in a

domestic fowl femur, indicating that it came from a hen which was in lay. Canid gnawing was present on a goose tibio-tarsus fragment.

Phase 2 late Saxon

In total 1,473 fragments of faunal material were recovered from 33 separate contexts. The majority of the remains, 78% (1,150) come from the nine fills of Cellared-Building F2131. The rest of the contexts contain a small number of elements. Overall, of the 1,473 fragments it was possible to identify only 571 fragments to species and element. This was due to the relatively poor preservation conditions and the fragmented nature of the assemblage. The unidentified remains mainly consist of large and small ungulate long bone, vertebra and rib fragments.

As with the previous phase, the majority of the remains come from domestic mammals with cattle, sheep/goat and pig the dominant species. Overall, the remains represent a minimum number of individuals of seven cattle, seven sheep/goat and two pigs.

Both the cattle and the sheep/goat elements have a similar pattern to that seen from the Phase 1 assemblage. Loose teeth are the dominant element for both species. For cattle this is then followed by metatarsal and scapula fragments. With metacarpal, tibia, femur and mandible fragments also relatively common and fragments from other elements present (Chart 2). In the sheep/goat assemblage, after loose teeth, tibia and radius fragments are the most common, with relatively high numbers of metapodials, humerus and mandible fragments. The pig assemblage also has a similar pattern with 53 of the 115 pig elements consisting of loose teeth. Fragments of the distal humerus and tibia were also common, although all body areas were represented in small numbers. As with the previous phase, the elements fall into a pattern which can be expected if the assemblage has been heavily affected by preservation conditions with the denser parts of certain elements surviving. As all body areas are present, the remains suggest that both butchery and consumption waste were deposited in the site features.

Due to the fragmentation, again information is limited. Tooth wear analysis was only available from two sheep/goat mandibles, both of which came from animals approximately 6-8 years old. Epiphyseal fusion data is available from 27 sheep/goat elements. One porous metatarsal with an unfused proximal epiphysis does indicate the presence of remains from foetal/neonatal animals. This suggests that the breeding herd may have been kept close to the settlement. The fusion data indicates that roughly half of the sheep/goat lived to adulthood. Also, the majority of second year elements are fused, which suggests that sheep are killed either at one or three years old, if they are slaughtered before adulthood. The relatively high percentage of adult sheep compared to the previous phase could suggest a shift towards wool being more important.

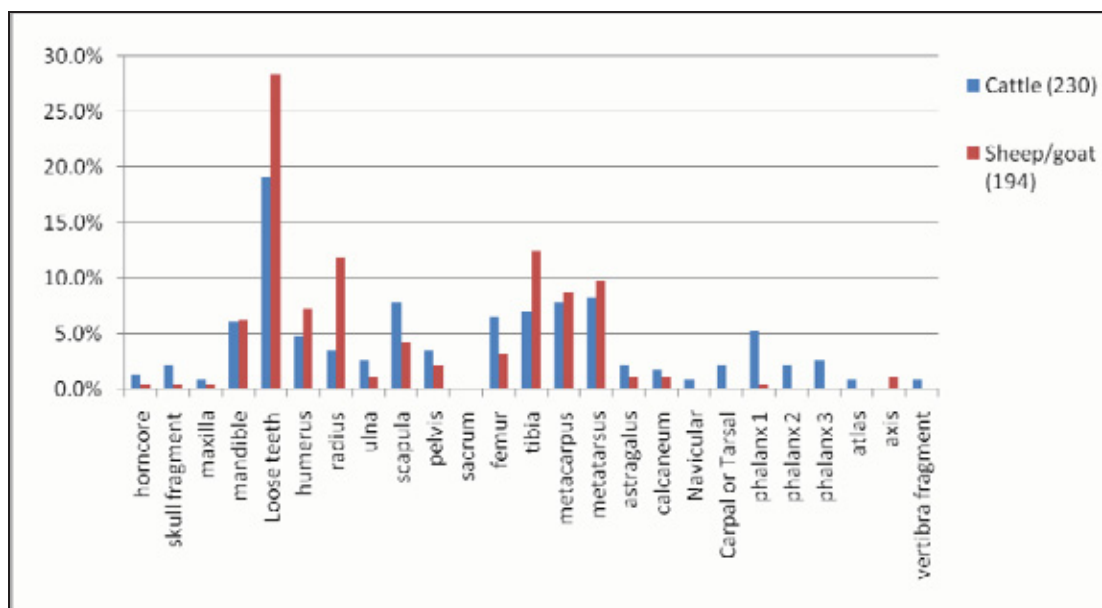


Chart 2. Percentage of cattle and sheep/goat elements from Phase 2

No tooth wear data is available for cattle from this period. Epiphyseal fusion information is present from 58 elements. This indicates that some cattle may have been selected for slaughter around their second year, as 68% (11) of those epiphyses present which fuse during the second year of life were fused. For those cattle that are not slaughtered in their second year most live into adulthood, with 77% (14) of the late-fusion epiphyses fused. As with the previous phase this may indicate that secondary dairy products were of some importance. Using Irish documentary and archaeological data, McCormick (1992) has argued that calves may have been kept alive for longer in this period than is commonly practised in modern dairy herds because cows required the presence of their calves to give milk. In which case, the number of animals killed before 18 months of age may represent the cull of male calves for meat in herds that were also exploited for milk.

As with the cattle, no pig tooth wear data is available. Epiphyseal information is present from 26 elements. This shows that the vast majority of pigs were slaughtered before they reached two years old. Of the 14 elements present with epiphyses that fuse after two years, all are unfused. Also, only 58% (7) of the early-fusion elements are fully fused. To some extent such a pattern is to be expected as, with the exception of manure, pigs provide no secondary products. The lack of evidence of older animals which would have been kept for breeding suggests that they were either not consumed, which seems unlikely, or that their remains were deposited elsewhere. The high proportion of sub-adults compares well with the large assemblages from West Stow and Wicken Bonhunt (Crabtree 1994; 1996).

The generally poor condition and erosion of many elements may have limited the butchery information available from the assemblage. Only four cattle elements have butchery marks present. A radius has three parallel knife cut marks on the anterior aspect of the shaft just below the proximal epiphysis. These would have been made during the dismemberment process. A

vertebral body has been split in half longitudinally, which may represent sectioning the body into areas for further processing. Also, a metacarpal and a metatarsal were chopped in half longitudinally. Such splitting of the metapodials was also observed from the Phase 1 assemblage. Only one sheep/goat element with butchery was present. This consists of a metatarsal fragment which has also been slit longitudinally. A pig pelvis also has butchery marks present, with three knife marks running around the acetabulum. These are likely to have occurred during the disarticulation of the hip joint.

A small number of other domestic mammal remains are also present. Seventeen horse elements were recovered, like the species discussed above, the majority (9) are loose teeth fragments. Fragments of humerus, femur, tibia, metacarpal, metatarsal and second phalanx are also present. The remains come from a number of contexts and do not appear to represent a single individual animal. It was possible to measure two loose lower second molars, which, using Levine (1982), suggests ages of nine to eleven years old and over 18 years old. Seven dog elements are also present, including fragments of axis, loose teeth, skull, humerus, tibia and calcaneus. Only the axis and calcaneus are complete. The remains do not appear to be from the same animal. As discussed above, they may represent the secondary depositions of carcasses that were firstly deposited above ground, thus resulting in disarticulation. All of the epiphyses present are fused and no butchery marks are present. Finally, eight bird elements are present, five domestic fowl and three goose (Table 11). All are fragments of long bones.

Phase 3 Saxo-Norman

In total 1,432 fragments of animal bone were recovered from 41 contexts dating to this phase. However, over 50% of the remains come from four contexts, L2028 (370), L2020 (181), L2051 (113) and L2174 (113). The remains come from a number of different feature types with 759 fragments from ditch fills, 303 from pits, 106 from gullies, 262 from posthole/post-pit fills and two from hearth remains. However, as with the previous periods it was only possible to identify a small proportion of the assemblage, 37% (535), to species and element. This was due to the poor preservation of the assemblage.

Domestic mammals dominate, making up 511 of the 535 fragments identified to species and element. Like previous phases, cattle, sheep/goat and pig are the most common species, with a small number of horse, dog and cat elements. Wild mammals are represented by one mole skull fragment recovered from L2027. However, we must be aware that this element may not necessarily date to this phase and may be a more recent inclusion due to burrowing. One amphibian element is present, a frog/toad tibia recovered from L2173. A small number of bird elements were also recovered, all from either domestic fowl or goose, all consisting of fragments of long bone elements (Table 11). An unidentified fish skull fragment was also present from context L2027.

Although the faunal remains were recovered from a number of different feature types the proportion of the main three species (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) recovered from them remains roughly the same. The main exception appears to be posthole fills which contain over 50% of the cattle remains (Chart 3). It is also notable that sheep/goat are the most common species from gullies. However, there does appear to be some homogeneity into which feature type species are deposited.

The cattle and sheep/goat elements continue the pattern seen in the previous phases with loose teeth dominating the assemblage (Chart 4). For cattle, the next most common elements are the tibia, skull fragment and pelvis, for sheep/goat the tibia, radius and humerus. In both cases, the assemblage appears biased by taphonomic survival factors. The spread of elements does suggest that both butchery and consumption waste are represented. Although smaller, the pig assemblage follows the same pattern with all body areas represented, but loose teeth the most common element making up 28% (20), followed by mandibles 15% (11) and humeri 11% (8) fragments.

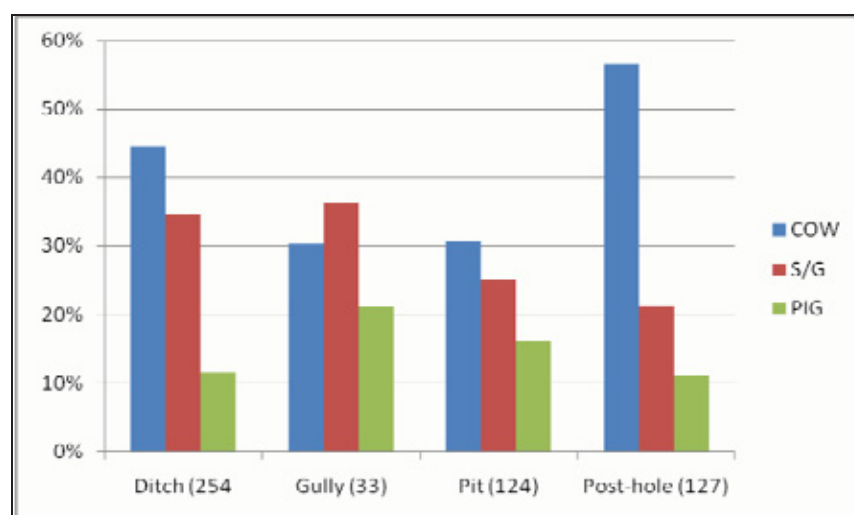


Chart 3 Percentage of cattle, sheep/goat and pig recovered from Phase 3 feature types.

Aging data for cattle is limited. One mandible is present from context L2222, which comes from an individual 1 to 8 months old, therefore indicating the presence of calves on the site. Epiphyseal data is available for 45 elements, which indicates that a high proportion of the cattle were killed off before their third year. All of the early-fusion (less than a year old) elements are fully fused, 86% (13) of the second year elements are fused and only 38% (5) of the third year elements. Therefore, the majority of cattle appear to live into their second year but are slaughtered between the end of their second year and beginning of their third. This is often seen as a prime time to slaughter cattle for beef (Davis, 2002). Some older animals would then be kept for breeding and some secondary products. This age structure differs from the possible secondary product emphasis of the previous phases. The presence

of older animals is attested to by pathological changes noted on a pelvis from L2020. This consists of eburnation on the medial superior section of the outer rim of the acetabulum and is indicative of osteoarthritis age-related pathology.

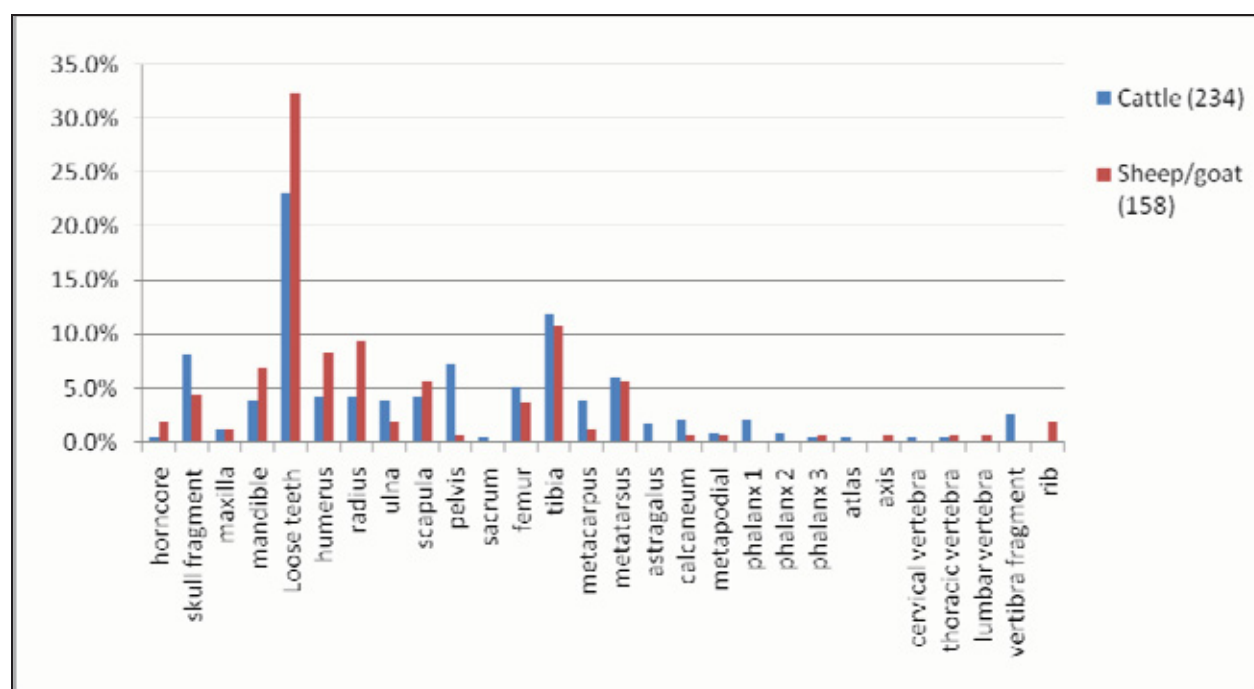


Chart 4 Percentage of cattle and sheep/goat elements from Phase 3

Tooth-wear ageing data is available, although limited, for sheep/goat. One mandible from a 1 to 2 year old is present, as are three from animals 4 to 6 years old and one which would have been 6 to 8 years old. Epiphyseal data is present but only available from 19 fragments. The data suggests that some sheep/goat died at less than one year old, with only 40% of the early-fusion elements fully fused. These may also represent winter kill-offs or deaths, however no such pattern is seen in the cattle data and the sample size is very small. All of the second year elements are fully fused suggesting if an animal survived its first year it would live until its third at least. Only 28% (2) of late (third year fusion) elements are fully fused, suggesting that a large proportion of sheep/goat were slaughtered at the end of their second year and beginning of their third. This may suggest that in this phase sheep/goat, like cattle, were being utilised mainly for meat as opposed to secondary products. This is in relative contrast to the tooth wear data in which older animals are represented. This discrepancy could be due to the size of the samples.

Three pig mandibles are present, all of which came from animals 14 to 21 months old. The epiphyseal fusion data also suggests that animals were being slaughtered relatively early with 66% (8) of the early-fusion elements fused and none of the second year elements. This would indicate that the majority of the pigs were killed towards the end of their first year and beginning of their second. Older animals are represented by a fully fused ulna, meaning it is from an animal over 36 months old (Reitz and Wing 1999,

76).

A small number of butchery marks were present from the cattle (5) and sheep/goat (1) assemblages. Three of the cattle elements with marks present have chop marks caused by a cleaver, the other marks were made by a knife. A proximal femur fragment has knife cut marks lateral and inferior to the lesser trochanter, which would have occurred during the disarticulation of the hip joint. Further evidence of disarticulation actions come from chop marks found on two pelvis fragments, both to the supra medial aspect of the acetabulum and may be related to disarticulating the hip joint. A scapula also has chop marks on the medial aspect of the glenoid, caused during the disarticulation of the shoulder joint. Further knife cut marks were observed on a thoracic vertebra either side of the spinous process, which may be associated with filleting meat from the spine and ribs. The majority of the cattle butchery marks are therefore associated with the dismemberment process. The sheep/goat butchery consists of two knife cuts to the medial anterior area of the femoral head and again would have been caused when disarticulating the hip joint.

The horse remains consist of 19 elements from thirteen different contexts. As with the species discussed above, horse remains were recovered from all feature types. Loose teeth are also the most common element, making up 31% (9) of the horse assemblage. The rest of the remains consist of fragments of scapula, femur, metacarpal, metatarsal and phalanges. All of the epiphyses present are fused and the elements appear to come from adult animals. Ageing data also came from two loose lower second molars, one coming from a horse 9 to 11 years old, the other 12 to 14 years. Metrical data is also available from a complete metacarpal from context L2179, which came from an individual with a withers height of 1.58 meters, approximately 15.2 hands, for the time period a relatively large horse.

The dog remains consist of four elements; a loose incisor from L2033, a proximal ulna fragment from L2051 and a maxilla and proximal radius fragment from L2179. The maxilla fragment is from an old adult animal, based on the heavily worn teeth. Overall 26 cat elements were also present, from three contexts, L2028, L2033 and L2051. Only one element, a lumbar vertebra fragment, was recovered from L2033. The remains from L2028 consist of eight fragments, which all appear to be from the same individual animal. The remains include mandible, left humerus, right radius and ulna, left and right femur and tibia fragments. The majority of the bones are porous and most of the epiphyses are unfused, with only the distal humerus and proximal radius fused. This suggests the remains came from an individual around 18 weeks old (Smith, 1969). The cat elements from L2051 also appear to be from one individual animal. In total, 18 elements were recovered from the context including skull fragments, right scapula, left and right humeri, left radius and ulna, left and right pelvis, femur and tibia. These remains are also from a young animal with epiphyseal fusion suggesting an age of around 1 year old. As with the dog remains discussed in Phase 1, these partial skeletons may represent the deposition of carcasses which have then become disturbed. As the individuals are also young they may represent the culling of an unwanted

population.

Phase 4 medieval

In comparison to the previous phases the medieval assemblage is relatively small consisting of 307 fragments from 18 contexts. However, a high proportion of the remains come from two features. The fills of Gully F2239 produced 113 fragments and the fills of Pit F2279, 90 fragments. Overall it was possible to identify 37% (116) of the assemblage to species and element. As with the other phases this is due to the poor condition of the assemblage.

The majority of the remains come from domestic mammals. Cattle (41 fragments) are the most common followed by sheep/goat (39) and pig (22). A small number of horse (4) and dog (2) elements were also present. Wild mammals are represented by one red deer beam and tine antler fragment from L2142. A roe deer antler beam was also recovered from context L2144.

The cattle remains represent all body areas, with a familiar pattern of loose teeth fragments being the most common elements (9), followed by femur (6) and metatarsal (5). With the exception of the loose teeth there is no specific pattern to the cattle elements, with both butchery and consumption waste present. The sheep/goat remains have a similar pattern, loose teeth making up 41% (16) of the assemblage, with radii (6), metatarsals (4) the second and third most common elements. The pig elements also have the same pattern with loose teeth 40% (9), and a small number of other elements representing other bone areas.

Further information from the assemblage is extremely limited due to the fragmentation and preservation. No tooth-wear and only very limited epiphysis data is present. The majority of the remains appear to be from adult animals. Butchery marks were noted on a cow metatarsal. This consists of a horizontal chop mark to the proximal epiphysis, possibly associated with disarticulating the foot from the main limb. Butchery marks were also noted on two sheep/goat elements. A pelvis ilium had been chopped through close to the acetabulum, possibly associated with further dismembering the carcass. A sheep/goat tibia also had butchery present, with three cut marks to the medial border of the proximal shaft, just below the epiphysis. This may be associated with disarticulating the knee joint.

The horse elements consist of two loose teeth fragments and a first and second phalanx. The dog element is also a loose tooth fragment. The domestic fowl and goose remains also consist of long bone fragments and are likely to represent consumption waste.

Phase 5 post-medieval/modern

The small assemblage from this phase consists of 336 fragments from five contexts. The majority of the remains were recovered from subsoil layer

L2001 (194 fragments) and possible 20th century context L2039 (133 fragments). As with the previous phases the assemblage was poorly preserved with 31% (106) of the assemblage identifiable to species and element. Overall cattle, sheep/goat and pig are the most common species (Table 11). The poor preservation and problematic dating of the material from this phase means that information offered by the assemblage is limited.

3.7 The Shell

Emma Pomeroy

Marine shell was hand excavated from 38 features, with common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) being most commonly observed, followed by common European oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). Small quantities of common cockle (*Cardium edule*) were also identified. Spot dates indicate that features containing marine shell date principally from the mid Saxon to Norman/early medieval periods. Notable assemblages include approximately 730 common mussel valves from Phase 3 Pit F2048 L2050 and approximately 230 common mussel valves from Phase 3 Ditch F2139 L2140. Preservation is generally good, with little evidence of erosion or concretion.

3.8 The charred plant remains and other environmental material from flotation

Dr Rob Scaife

Introduction

Excavation of Saxon and early medieval contexts at the Old Bell, Marham revealed a range of features which had obvious potential for preservation of environmental remains. These contexts included the sediment fills of pits, ditches, gullies, postholes and occupation horizons from which charcoal, mollusca, charred cereal remains and some seeds have been recovered from the flotation of bulk samples. There was, therefore, potential for studying the character of crops grown and utilised on these sites, the local environment and to add further data to existing regional data. A total of 115 samples were processed and examined for environmental remains. These range in date from the middle Saxon to early medieval period. This report gives the results of examination of the mostly charred cereal grain and the less well represented weed flora and the relative abundance of other environmental material which was extracted (wood charcoal and terrestrial molluscs).

Method

The strategy adopted was in accord with English Heritage policy for recovery of charred plant macrofossils (English Heritage 2002). Because of the importance of any information relating to the Saxon and medieval economy of the site, an extensive sampling strategy was adopted which would provide material for any subsequent analysis. Bulk samples of between 10 and 30

litres volume which were taken from all of the principal contexts (the fills of pits, ditches, gullies and postholes) and especially those exhibiting obvious charred remains. In the case of important or small features total recovery was adopted.

The archaeobotanical and other buoyant (mollusca and charcoal) remains were extracted using a water flotation tank with the flot collected in nested sieves down to 0.3mm mesh size. The flot obtained was subsequently gently air-dried. The residues were kept and examined for non-floating remains and scanned for other archaeological material. Examination of the environmental elements and identification of the plant macro-remains was carried out using a Wild M3c low power binocular microscope with magnifications of x6 to x40. Material obtained from the flotation comprised largely, charred cereal remains some weed seeds, charcoal and mollusca. Identification was assisted by comparison with reference collections of modern seeds and descriptions given in Jacomet (1987), van der Veen (1992) and Prof. G. Hillman (unpublished notes). Taxonomy follows that of Stace (1991) and Jacomet (1987).

The charred remains

Plant macrofossils (especially seeds) can provide a valuable record of the crops being cultivated and foods being consumed. Preservation requires suitable contexts for the preservation of charred and/or waterlogged remains. Only the former state of preservation was in evidence.

The contexts

Table 12 (see accompanying CD) gives the results of the examination of the 115 samples obtained. Contexts with more abundant charred crop remains are listed in Tables 12 and 13 below. These date mostly to Phase 3, coming from features including especially the fills of the enclosure ditch, gullies, a numbers of pits, occupation layers including those of the sunken-featured building and a hearth. Typically, these are all features which were used as repositories for domestic waste.

The crop plants

Crop plants form the most important fraction recovered and consist largely of cereal grain with a small number of peas (*Pisum sativum*) and Celtic bean (*Vicia faba*) (see below). The former include hexaploid/bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* type. *sensu* *T. aestivo-compactum*), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.), and rye (*Secale cereale*).

Feature	Context	Phase	Depositional Context
2027	2028	Phase 3	Enclosure ditch
2032	2033	Phase 3	Gully
2037	2034	Phase 1	Fill SFB 2037/occup layer
2035	2036	Phase 3	Pit
2048	2050	Phase 3	Pit
2048	2051	Phase 3	Pit
2052	2055	Phase 3	Pit or tree hollow
2058	2059	Phase 3	Pit
2102	2103	Phase 2	Pit
2108	2107	Phase 1	Hearth layer in SFB
2131	2228/2229	Phase 2	Pit of cellared-building
2131	2132	Phase 2	Fill of pit 2131
2239	2240	Phase 4	Gully fill

Table 13: Features and contexts containing most cereal grain remains.

Bread wheat (*Triticum aestivo-compactum*) is unsurprisingly, the most abundant record (numbers of grain) and is positively identified in 43 of the samples (37%) with less definitive identification from many more. However, with the exception of context (2055), numbers per sample are small. These occurrences probably represent occasional background waste which became incorporated in sweepings and dumped domestic waste. Sample 22 from context 2055, is however, different in containing very substantial numbers of bread wheat grain of 8th-11th century age. This was clearly a batch of grain deliberately burnt which was disposed of in this feature (rubbish pit). No chaff remains were present which would allow identification to bread and/or club wheat. It is, however, most probable that this is the former. The fact that there were few seeds and no chaff present implies that the grain was fully cleaned/prepared for use. Small numbers of spelt (*Triticum spelta* type = emmer/spelt wheat) in the Saxon period adds to the increasing evidence that it remained as a secondary crop after the Roman period.

Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) is the second most abundant crop remain with presence in more contexts (65 in total; 56%), More than sporadic occurrences occur in contexts (2028 A), (2028), (2033) and (2057). This abundance, although fewer real numbers of grain than bread wheat, but present in a greater number of contexts attests to the importance of barley as crop throughout the period of occupation. Identification to hulled or naked barley was not carried out systematically (for full analysis).

Oat (*Avena*) and rye (*Secale cereale*) are present in a relatively small number of samples but are, never the less diagnostic of the period.

Overall, this assemblage of cereal crop types is typical of the Saxon to medieval period recovered from sites across England back to the pioneer work of Jessen and Helbaek (1944), Helbaek (1952) and subsequently by Jones (1981), Green (1981) and Murphy (1985).

The non-cereal crops

As noted, remains recovered include *Pisum sativum* L. (pea) and *Vicia faba* L. (Celtic bean/horse bean). The latter, *Vicia faba* L. (celtic bean) has been identified from fragments obtained from fragments (2028) (2281) although at present these are tentative. Specific identification as *V. faba* ssp. *minor/major* was not possible from these fragments. Celtic (horse) bean as a food crop became progressively more important from the late prehistoric period with expansion during Late Bronze Age and particularly in the Iron Age and Romano British periods (Murphy 1977; Jones 1981). It is unfortunate that more beans were not found to enable size measurements to be made. Its occurrence here is, therefore, not surprising. The writings of Pliny suggest it is possible that Celtic bean (*Vicia faba* L.) was being cultivated for flour used in making a type of bread and/or porridge in earlier periods (Zohary and Hopf 1994; Renfrew 1973).

Pisum sativum L. (pea) is substantially more abundant than the horse bean and is present in 16 samples (see Table 14) from a range of contexts including the fills of ditches, gullies, pits, occupation layers, hearths and posthole fills. As with *Vicia faba*, there have been an increasing number of archaeological records of cultivated pea as sample sizes have been increased and extraction methods improved. Clearly this was an important crop throughout the period represented at this site and numbers of charred remains belies its importance since the majority of the crops are unlikely to have been burned. Presence here in such a varied range of domestic contexts can be viewed as occasional waste food disposed of in the various contexts rather than single caches of dumped peas.

Feature	Context	Phase	Depositional Context
2027	2028	Phase 3	Ditch fill
2037	2034	Phase 1	Backfill SFB
2052	2055	Phase 3	Pit or tree throw hollow
2098	2099	Phase 3	Gully fill
2102	2103	Phase 2	Pit
2037	2107/2108	Phase 1	Layer in SFB
2131	2132	Phase 2	Layer in building F2131
2143	2144	Phase 4	Post hole
2147	2148	Phase 2	Pit
2173	2179	Phase 3	Post hole packing
2182	2183	Phase 3	Post pit
2190	2191	Undated	Pit
2239	2240	Phase 4	Gully fill
2131	2255	Phase 2	SFB fill.
2239	2267	Phase 4	Gully fill
2279	2282	Phase 4	Pit

Table 14: Features and contexts containing *Pisum sativum* L. (pea).

Conclusions

The extensive sampling of all of the principal contexts on this site has produced substantial numbers of charred agricultural plant remains from a varied range of contexts. The range of agricultural plant remains obtained is

diagnostic/typical of the middle Saxon to medieval period with a predominance of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivo-compactum* type) with barley oats (*Avena*) and rye (*Secale cereale*). Peas (*Pisum sativum*) especially and beans (*Vicia faba*) are also present. No other cultigens (e.g. flax or hemp) were observed. There are only very small numbers of weed seeds present from which it is concluded that the crops had been cleaned/processed previously elsewhere and the remains here represent the final stages of such processing. Preservation was in large part probably by accidental burning and waste disposal in the various contexts.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 The mid Saxon site

Sunken-Featured Building F2037

Mid Saxon activity at the Old Bell is represented by SFB F2037 and the probably related Posthole F2007. Tipper (2004, 11) states that there is a decline in the use of *grubenhäuser* on settlement sites of middle Saxon date. In addition to its stratigraphic relationships, the dating of the SFB to the mid Saxon Phase 1 is based on the quantity of Ipswich ware, Ipswich-type ware, and a very similar sandy ware that all date to the middle Saxon period, that was recovered from it. It contained a slightly higher proportion of the early to middle Saxon pottery, which is present across the site in small quantities as residual material, than most other parts of the site. This might indicate a slightly earlier date for the origins of the building with final abandonment and infilling occurring in the mid Saxon period; the five sherds that were recovered from the occupation layer in the base of the SFB were all of these early to middle Saxon fabrics.

The presence of an occupation layer containing hearth deposits in the base of the feature suggests that there was no suspended floor in this building and that all of the activities that occurred within it were carried out on the base of the cut. This does not mean, however, that this was necessarily a simplistic structure. The provision of a step down in to the building, which further indicates the lack of a suspended floor, and the presence of postholes indicating some kind of entrance arrangement set back into the building indicate that thought was put in to the organisation of the entrance and in to the internal layout.

The presence of the clunch loomweight within SFB 2037, lying on the floor surface, suggests that weaving may have been carried out within the building. Many *grubenhäuser* have been associated with textile production. Tools used in weaving are generally found in a wide distribution across sites within many *grubenhäuser*. At West Stow, loomweights and associated weaving implements were intrinsic to the fills of most structures (Gibson with Murray 2003, 211). Sunken-featured buildings at Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire were interpreted as specialised ancillary structures, most commonly as weaving

sheds, on the basis of cultural material in their fills (Tipper 2004, 161). Classical sources also appear to suggest that weaving took place in SFBs, or at least possibly similar structures; Pliny in his *Naturalis Historia* (XIX.9) states that 'in Germany the women carry on the manufacture of linen in pits dug underground'. This rather ambiguous source might, if taken at face value, indicate a reason for the lack of a suspended floor in SFB 2037; textile production, for some reason which is not immediately obvious, may have been carried out on surfaces lower than the surrounding ground level. This seems unlikely, however, as it is believed that most, if not all, of the SFBs at West Stow, in which there was a proliferation of evidence for textile production, had wooden floors at ground level (Rahtz 1982, 75). It has also been suggested that SFBs provided an (unnecessary) humid environment suitable for weaving. Interpretations made regarding the function of SFBs is often based on the artefactual material recovered from them. Examination of the assemblages from such structures shows that most of the material in their fills was the result of tertiary deposition, with no direct association with the function of the building (Tipper 2004, 160). *Grubenhäuser* probably served a variety of functions and were not necessarily constructed for any specific or specialised purpose (Tipper 2004, 185). Tipper (2004) has dismissed the mostly circumstantial evidence and the rather vague documentary evidence on which the understanding that *grubenhäuser* were constructed as weaving sheds has been based. This is not to say that weaving did not occur in some of these buildings and the presence of the loomweight within SFB 2037 may indicate the function of this particular SFB just as much as it may be coincidental.

The upper fills of F2037 clearly post-date the use of it as a building, as does dog skeleton SK2031, which was incorporated in to the fill during the backfilling process. Rahtz (1982, 73) states that the presence of dead dogs, or even humans, in the fill of SFBs are not evidence of the kind of squalor suggested by Lethbridge (1927), with regard to the dog skeleton in an SFB at Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, rather, that it may have more to do with the function that the hollow was put to following the building's disuse. Lethbridge's (1927, 146) opinion that the articulated dog remains that he recorded at Waterbeach indicated 'a very low standard of living and complete disregard for cleanliness or comfort' is typical of the understanding of the Saxon period at the time that he was writing. As recently as 1985, however, West (1985, 23) was expounding the theory that the presence of two dog skeletons in SFB 16 at West Stow, Suffolk was due to the dogs crawling into the space beneath the suspended floor in order to die. It is unlikely that the odour given off by a decomposing dog carcass would not have been noticed by those using or inhabiting the building and, unless they had the kind of disregard for cleanliness or comfort suggested by Lethbridge (1927) or the building was only used for storage, it seems probable that the source of the offending smell would have been removed. The unhygienic living conditions theories of Lethbridge (1927) and West (1985) can be discounted for the presence of dog skeleton SK2031 in SFB 2037 as both common sense and the stratigraphic evidence indicate that the animal did not decompose within the building while it was in use. Instead, it seems more likely that the remains of the SFB made a convenient place to dispose of the body of a recently deceased animal as it

was being filled in. Just from the three sites discussed here (the Old Bell, West Stow and Waterbeach) it is obvious that the presence of dogs in SFBs is a recurring theme. Hamerow (2006, 27) has identified that termination deposits of animals, humans and, less commonly, ceramic vessels are relatively widespread in Anglo-Saxon England, especially in SFBs. It seems that there is some reason to believe that SK2031 is just as likely to represent a termination deposit as it is to represent the opportunistic burial of a dead animal in a pit that was being filled in. Indeed, given the regular occurrence of dog skeletons in SFB fills, it seems that it is more likely that the presence of SK2031 in SFB 2037 is linked to an act which was carried out at many Saxon period sites and which may have ritual connotations than it is to the casual disposal of a dead animal. This act appears to have taken place at a time broadly contemporary with the conversion of the English people to Christianity, which is generally held to have occurred in the early part of the 7th century. If this act was indeed an act of religious symbolism then it must have occurred prior to the missions from Rome of Augustine to Kent and Paulinus to Northumbria or, if after these missions, as an act of defiance against the new religion, by a group who had not yet converted or as a relic of the old religion that remained relevant to the individuals involved. Alternatively, there may have been no intrinsic *religious* aspect to the act at all and it may have been carried out simply for good luck.

The landscape and the origins of the settlement at Marham

The name Marham is normally interpreted as 'the homestead or village by the mere' and implies an early beginning for the settlement (Ekwall 1960, 314; Silvester 1988, 121). Although the earliest features recorded at the Old Bell site have been dated to the mid Saxon period, the pottery fabrics, recovered as residual material, of 5th to 8th century date from the site indicate that there was early Saxon activity in the area and would appear to confirm the early date that the name of the settlement implies. Finds of early and mid Saxon artefacts in the wider area of Marham also play testament to the presence of activity in the area at this time. Fieldwalking and metal detecting in the area has led to the recovery of an early Saxon small long brooch (NHER 1146; unspecified NGR), an early Saxon cruciform brooch (NHER 29903; NGR given as TF 71 10), a mid Saxon strap end (NHER 33436; NGR TF 70 09), a Cu alloy strap end, dating to the middle Saxon period, in the form of an animal's head (NHER 33947; NGR TF 70 09) and mid Saxon pottery (NHER 22985 and 29189; both NGR TF 71 09). Mid Saxon pottery has also been recovered from a location c. 500m to the south-east of the Old Bell site.

Clearly, there was also pre-Saxon activity in the area surrounding the site. A late Iron Age site was identified to the south of the village during the fenland survey (Silvester 1988, 121, 123 fig. 93) and scatters of Iron Age pottery have been found in the direction of the fen and on the higher ground to the south and east of the village. A concentration of Roman coins, bricks and roof tile in fields 1.5km south of the village suggests the presence of a villa or farm complex in the area while Roman pottery and 4th century coin have been found at a site within the village. Residual Neolithic or Bronze Age worked flint

and Iron Age and Roman pottery CBM was present at the Old Bell site. This indicates that the area was attractive for settlement, though there is insufficient evidence to indicate whether there was any degree of continuity of settlement from one period to another.

Marham is located on porous chalk geology and relatively well draining soils but with easy access to the nearby fen. This may have been attractive to not only Saxon settlers but also those of earlier periods. Coles and Hall (1998, 63-64, fig. 6.3) demonstrate that the distribution of early Saxon sites in the fenland region is markedly on river and fen-edge gravel with some sites occurring in the silt fen. Clearly, sites that would have remained comparatively dry but which were close to waterways or the fen were attractive for settlement in the early Saxon period. The wildlife of the fen would have provided useful additions to the diet of the local population. Norman and medieval records indicate that fish and birds were abundant, by 1086 the settlement at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire could record an annual catch of 33,000 eels and ducks, geese, heron and teal were caught by trap or net in the medieval period. In addition the fen would have provided a variety of seeds, nuts and berries (Coles and Hall 1988, 3). Useful building materials were available in the fen; in later periods reeds, rushes and sedge, usually referred to by the now obsolete term '*lesch*' (which probably covered all species of the genus *Carex*), were collected for thatching and other uses (Darby 1977, 28). In the medieval period willow withies were used for basket making and alder was available for poles and rods. Furthermore, the peat of the fenland could be cut and dried and used for fuel (Coles and Hall 1988, 3). With such resources, it is quite apparent why the Marham area would have been attractive for settlement. Good communication links via the fenland waterways and The Street, which follows the foot of the higher ground around the fen and the edge of the Nar valley, would probably also have been a factor. Quite large Anglo-Saxon settlements, such as that which existed on the Isle of Ely (Mortimer *et al* 2005) and, quite probably, that at Cherry Hinton would have made use of the resources provided by the Fenland. The steep ridge that rises to the immediate east of Marham may also have made the area attractive for settlement. Norfolk is characterised by cold winters with biting easterly winds blowing across the North Sea direct from the Urals, unchecked by any physical barrier (Davies 2008, 19). The flatter areas of the county are particularly exposed and the ridge to the east of Marham may have afforded a settlement at its western foot some degree of shelter. The presence of a fairly well established route through the area (2.5km south of the site, the modern A1122 follows the route of a Roman road) may also have been a factor in the choice of this area for settlement in the Saxon period.

Evidence for mid Saxon settlement sites in Norfolk and Suffolk is often, although not always, found in close proximity to medieval churches. Examples of this include Middle Harling, Bridgham, Larling, Eccles and Knettishall (Rogerson 1995, 87). Excavation at Burnham Sutton showed that middle Saxon activity was present only at the southern end of the village, close to the ruined former parish church of St Æthelbert and a crisply defined spread of Ipswich ware pottery, indicating middle Saxon activity, was recorded to the east of St Michael's parish church in Wormegay (Rogerson 2003). The Old

Bell site lies adjacent to Holy Trinity Church and clearly conforms to this pattern. Further middle Saxon evidence may exist in the immediately surrounding area, outside of the excavated site.

4.2 Late Saxon activity

The buildings

The main focus of the Phase 2 activity recorded at the site was the south-western quadrant in which the two possible buildings were located. F2131 is perhaps the most interesting of these, given its slightly unusual construction. While it is possible that the depth of the large pit and the positions of the surrounding contemporary features represent a quarry pit and associated structures, the general impression, based on the appearance of the pit, was that this was not its function. The similarities between F2131 and the cellared-buildings recorded in Letchworth Garden City (Matthews and Burleigh 1989) seem sufficient to suggest that F2131 may also have been a building of this type. Cellared-buildings of this approximate date have been recorded elsewhere; Horsman *et al* (1988) recorded cellared-buildings of Saxo-Norman date at Cheapside and Billingsgate, London and Saxo-Norman cellared-buildings are known from the City of London (Watson 1996). Excavations in the 1960s at Brandon Road, Thetford recorded two structures which were interpreted as cellars. Although cellared-buildings of late Saxon date are not particularly common, the example at Marham is not the only one to have been excavated in Norfolk recently. Excavations at Church Close in Shipdham have revealed a cellared-building, which, like one of the Letchworth Garden City examples, displayed postholes in its base (Ames *et al* 2009). The absence of such features from F2131 hampers its interpretation slightly; if postholes, or similar, features had been present within F2131, this would have gone some way to confirming that it was the same kind of structure as those identified at Letchworth Garden City and Shipdham and may also have given some impression as to its function. Deep cellared-buildings in late Saxon urbanised areas may have been intended to increase available space under crowded conditions (c.f. Tipper 2004). However, in the more rural settings in which the Marham, Shipdham and Letchworth Garden City cellared-buildings would have been located, space is less likely to have been at such a premium. The Letchworth Garden City example that was found to contain postholes and to be provided with steps was interpreted as a place to store foodstuffs, due to the even cool temperature and fairly dry atmosphere that the cellar would have afforded (Matthews and Burleigh 1989, 27). The cellared-building at Shipdham, however, has been interpreted as a light industrial workshop (Ames *et al* 2009, 107). Either of these interpretations could be applied to the cellared-building at Marham but the latter seems the more unlikely of the two. The provision of a cellar in a building being used for light industrial activity seems pointless when any kind of building could be put to use for such a function. It seems much more likely that a cellared-building would have been constructed for a specific purpose associated with the conditions that a cellar could supply. Despite its location close to the Fen edge the Old Bell site is situated on well-draining soils and a chalky geology suggesting that the

interior of the cellared part of the building represented by F2131 would have been capable of retaining a fairly cool, dry atmosphere. This would suggest that the building, or at least the cellar, would have been suitable for the storage of foodstuffs. Whether it was used for this purpose remains open to conjecture; that cereal remains and *pisum sativa* (pea) were recovered from L2132 are of no real consequence in this debate as this is not the primary fill of the feature and would have made their way in to it following the abandonment or disuse of the building.

It is generally stated that sunken-featured buildings were an architectural aspect of Saxon settlement that did not continue beyond the 7th century (c.f. Adkins and Adkins 2003, 144). However, as has been shown with regard to Phase 4 feature F2279, instances of sunken-featured buildings are recorded as late as the 12th to 14th centuries (Rahtz 1982). The dating of SFB F2109 to the late Saxon phase of activity at the Old Bell site in Marham is, therefore, not a wildly unusual date for such a feature. Indeed, the sunken-featured buildings recorded by Lethbridge and Tebbutt (1933) at the site in St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, where Saxo-Norman St. Neots ware pottery was first identified, have been shown to be of late Saxon date (Addyman 1973, 75).

Although SFB F2109 appears somewhat amorphous in plan, this is probably an impression given by the way in which later features appear to cut its western end. It is, however, of a distinctly less regular shape than the Phase 1 SFB F2037 and the Phase 4 possible SFB F2279 though, like these features, it lacks the internal postholes positioned at either end that are often recorded within such buildings. Some definite evidence for a superstructure associated with this SFB was present; something that was lacking from the other two examples recorded at this site. Postholes were located, outside of the sunken part of the building, at its north-western and south-western corners (F2137 and F2152) and mid-way along its length (F2156 and F2175). This suggests that this feature was constructed according to a slightly different method to Phase 1 SFB F2037 which, despite the presence of Posthole F2007 close to its north-eastern corner, may have been constructed using sleeper beams and posts merely resting on the base of the building rather than being earth-fast.

When discussing late Saxon sunken-featured structures, Tipper (2004, 13) states that these are an urban building type, which do not occur on rural settlements. Late Saxon sunken-featured buildings are also fundamentally different to early Anglo-Saxon *grubenhäuser*. The late Saxon buildings were regular in plan and had perpendicular sides, in contrast to the sub-oval or sub-rectangular shapes of earlier types. The pattern of associated postholes also appears to differ, suggesting that the construction of the late Saxon superstructures was not the same (Tipper 2004, 14). Tipper (2004, 14) goes on to state that the late Saxon sunken-featured structures that have been interpreted as cellars or basements developed as a response to the pressure on urban space in the towns of the 9th and 10th centuries and that such buildings are not found on contemporary rural settlements. The evidence from Marham, Letchworth Garden City and Shipdham would appear to contradict this last statement. The *Domesday* entries for Marham indicate that it was a

sizeable settlement by this time. This may indicate that it was already a large settlement during the preceding late Saxon period, though probably not of true urban status, suggesting that buildings of an urban type would not have been out of place.

The form of SFB 2109 and possible Cellared-Building F2131 present at the Old Bell site would also appear to contradict Tipper's (2004, 14) statement that late Saxon sunken-featured structures were regular in plan and had perpendicular sides (see Figs. 9 & 11). This raises the possibility that F2131 and SFB F2109 were structures that were built and in use during the middle Saxon period and that their abandonment and infilling occurred in the late Saxon period, in a similar way to the suggested use, abandonment and infilling of Phase 1 SFB F2037. This, however, would appear not to be the case. If SFB 2109 was in use in the middle Saxon period it may be expected that more than one sherd of middle Saxon pottery would have been present in its only fill; the majority of the pottery recovered from it was of late Saxon date. Thompson (this report) has used the ratios of fabrics present and the stratigraphic evidence to suggest that the earliest infilling of possible cellared-building F2131 occurred in the 11th century, a date late enough to indicate that the building would have been extant and functioning in the late Saxon period.

Other late Saxon activity

The other features that were assigned to this date were mostly located in the northern part of the site. Limited conclusions have been drawn with regard to their function though it appears that Pit F2045 was associated with burning or some kind of high temperature process. Pits F2102, F2074, F2015, F2200 and F2184 have all been tentatively interpreted as refuse pits due to the character of the artefactual assemblages that they yielded. These assemblages may not, of course, be indicative of the primary function of these features. Pit F2200 was found to contain a perforated plaque displaying raised decoration which may be from a book cover (see Crummy, this report). This seems to be a cheaper form of the later medieval gilt sheet metal ornament found at St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury (Henig & Woods 1988, 204-5). This item is clearly of late Saxon date and may indicate a certain level of affluence.

While the excavated area is too small for firm conclusions on the subject to be drawn, the presence of buildings in the southern part of the site and seemingly non-structural features in the northern part of the site makes it possible to tentatively suggest that there was some degree of functional organisation within the layout of the site. Further late Saxon activity clearly existed in the area surrounding the site; the terminus of a small ditch or gully entered the excavated area from the west suggesting that activity continued in that direction at least. The presence in the surrounding area of findspots recorded on the Norfolk HER at which late Saxon artefacts have been found (e.g. NHER 11461, 23366, 29189, 30141, 33436, 33947, 51156) may be taken as an indication that late Saxon settlement at Marham extended well beyond the Old Bell site.

4.3 Enclosures and boundaries: The Saxo-Norman activity

Introduction

The features assigned to Phase 3 represent the development and alteration of the site over the course of little more than two centuries spanning the late Saxon and Norman/early medieval periods. There is evidence for fundamental changes in settlement patterns in the late Saxon period (Hurst 1971, 539) and Platt (1978, 2) notes that the period following the Norman Conquest was one of accelerating change in England; the rapid alterations that appear to occur at the Old Bell site during Phase 3 may reflect this context of change.

The earliest Saxo-Norman activity

The Phase 3 features which are thought to be the earliest assigned to this phase, those classed as Sub-Phase A, were all fairly insubstantial features. None can be identified as forming part of any kind of structure and none were substantial enough to represent boundary features (F2177 perhaps being the exception). Several were identified as possible refuse pits while one, F2045, was very similar to the Phase 2 Pit F2040, and, indeed, cut it, suggesting that F2045 shared the possible industrial function of F2040, and was probably created very soon after it.

Although these features do not represent buildings or enclosures, they clearly indicate that occupation continued in the immediate area. Given their early date within Phase 3, it may be that some, at least, of the Sub-Phase A features are associated with the later stages of occupation of the Phase 2 buildings. These features provide firm evidence, as if any were needed, that further buildings must have existed beyond the limits of the excavated area. The non-structural nature of these features may also suggest that, following the end of the use of the Phase 2 buildings, this part of late Saxon Marham may have stood as open land until its division and enclosure in subsequent sub-phases of Phase 3.

The Enclosure and the Post-pits

The large Enclosure Ditch F2027 (=F3015) and the post-pits that lay within the area that it enclosed represent the next stage (Sub-Phase B) in the development of the site during Phase 3. Despite the somewhat contradictory artefactual evidence that was recovered from them, the post-pits are assigned to Sub-Phase B on the basis of impressions gained during excavation work at the site and their positions in alignment to the probable entrance way in the enclosure ditch.

The arrangement of the ditch and the post-pits is striking and the size of the features suggests that an imposing structure was present at the site. The exact nature of this structure is difficult to determine. Woolhouse (2008a),

immediately following excavation suggested that the post-pits represent a timber hall, and, as has been previously discussed, the timbers used in the construction of the single-aisled 11th century hall at Goltho, Lincolnshire would have been similar in size to those that were presumably contained within Post-pits F2173 and F2182 (see Fig. 27). The lack of any further postholes or post-pits representing the walls of the hall means that alternative possibilities have to be considered. The position of the post-pipes in relation to the perceived entrance to the enclosure may indicate that they represent some kind of gate house, or even just a form of embellishment intended to make for an impressive or imposing entrance. The late Saxon enclosure excavated by P. V. Addyman (1969) at Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire displayed a line of three postholes across its entrance, set approximately 1.2m inside the ditches forming the enclosure. The two outer posts were oval in plan and deeper than the centre one. It seems that these would have held hanging posts for double gates while the centre posthole represented a catch post. The two outer posts were set approximately 3m (or 10ft) apart, 10ft being the traditional width of farm gates in Cambridgeshire prior to the advent of the combine harvester (Addyman 1969, 68). While the distances and dimensions involved are far larger at the Old Bell, the evidence from Little Paxton demonstrates that it is possible that Post-pits F2173 and F2182 could represent a gate house or entrance system. At Goltho, Lincolnshire, two very large postholes, comparable in size to F2173 and F2182 were recorded either side of the entrance through the rampart associated with the activity dated to 1000-1080, set back from the encircling ditch (Beresford 1982, fig. 4). The Old Bell post-pits cannot, however, be directly compared to those at Goltho as there is no evidence for an associated rampart and the enclosure is substantially smaller. One common theme runs through all of the suggested interpretations of the combination of ditch and post-pits; all suggest high status.

The Domesday Book indicates that by 1086 Marham was a substantial settlement and that there were several separate landholdings in the area. Much of this land, prior to the Conquest, appears to have been held by the Abbey of Ely, though Domesday records that at least one of these holdings “Thorkill held....in the soke of St Æthelthryth” (Williams & Martin 1992, 1124). This indicates the possibility that there was indeed a high status secular dwelling or dwellings in Marham in the late Saxon period. Senecal (2000, 252-261) states that Anglo-Saxon aristocrats or would-be-aristocrats participated in a variety of habits and activities, including conspicuous displays of wealth or power, that she terms ‘thegnly culture’, intended to signify dignified social standing. No matter what its exact nature, the construction of a structure requiring timbers of the size that would have stood in Post-pits F2173 and F2182 may be considered to have been deliberately conspicuous, especially as it appears to have stood within its own enclosure, and as such may be an expression of Senecal’s (2000) ‘thegnly culture’.

One element of this ‘thegnly culture’ was the construction of high status residences; from the late 10th century, aristocratic residences had become physically separate from those of the lower classes and were increasingly expensive and elaborate (Senecal 2000, 261). Whitelock (1952, 88) states that English lordly residences were “...surrounded by an earthwork and

stockade...". The structure represented by Post-pits F2173 and F2182 certainly lay within a ditched enclosure large enough to have had a defensive function, though its scale is not as great as the stockades around late Saxon halls recorded at Goltho, Lincolnshire or Guiting Power, Gloucestershire (Beresford 1992; Marshall 2004). It has been suggested that a large pit, similar in dimensions to Post-pits F2173 and F2182, present in Trial Trench 6 (see Fig. 2) of the preceding trial trench evaluation, could have functioned in conjunction with F2173 and F2182 forming the north-eastern corner of a possible timber hall (Woolhouse 2008a). This seems unlikely as the position of this pit (F1044) in relation to F2173 and F2182 would make any rectangular building, that all three formed corners of, asymmetrical. This suggestion, however, may be taken to imply that posts were sunk only for the corners of the putative hall and that the lengths of the walls were supported by some other means, possibly on ground-beams. Although this would be an unusual constructional technique for the late Saxon period it must be considered as a possibility; it provides an explanation for the function of Post-pits F2173 and F2182 and the lack of any other related structural features. By the 13th century, there had been a move away from earthfast-post structures and many framed buildings were raised on continuous sill-beams. However, earthfast-post construction appears to have continued alongside what became the standard box-frame carpentry supported by continuous sill-beams (Meeson and Welch 1993, 1). It may be possible to suggest that, if Post-pits F2173 and F2182 do represent a hall or large timber building, it was an, admittedly, early hybrid of the more traditional earthfast-post construction and the later type supported on continuous sill- or ground-beams which must have rested on the ground surface. F3011 and F3026 are considered to represent slots for ground-beams and have been dated to Phase 3. However, the position of these features in relation to the post-pits suggests that they would not have formed part of the superstructure of any hall; instead, they may represent internal aspects of the structure or part of an unrelated structure or building within the enclosure. The Saxo-Norman Structure 1 recorded at Church End, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire (Cessford and Dickens 2005, fig. 6), as well as clearly being comprised of postholes, displayed gullies that may have contained ground-beams. The postholes of this structure also appear to have been set at irregular intervals (see Fig. 27). Although this may be a result of the preservation of the archaeological remains in this specific area, it may indicate that a line of regularly spaced postholes representing the walls of the possible structure at the Old Bell site is not to be expected. If this is the case then such a line may not be easily identifiable, a problem exacerbated by the presence of later features in the approximate locations of where such lines of postholes should conceivably have run. The position of sub-square Pit F3042, in alignment with Post-pit F2173, raises the possibility that this feature may share a structural relationship with the post-pit. However, this feature appears to have a more convincing spatial relationship with Pit F3009 which is unlikely to have formed part of the putative hall, unless it was an internal feature.

The position of the site and the possible hall in close proximity to Holy Trinity Church may also be of significance. At Furnells, Raunds, Northamptonshire, a narrow timber building, which eventually developed in to an aisled hall and

probably represents the manor of thegn Burgred, referred to in the Domesday Book, was constructed in c. 875. To the east, a small stone church was erected in c. 900 (Dix 1987, 20). The construction of churches was another element of 'thegnly culture' that the late Saxon elite could indulge in to distinguish themselves from the less well-to-do. Church building was an expensive enterprise and only the very wealthiest could build churches of the splendour of, for instance, Waltham Abbey, endowed by Earl Harold. Lesser thegns built more modest churches but this was still one of the best ways to announce their status within the village communities that they controlled (Senecal 2000, 260-261). The church is described as an integral part of the thegnly estate in the *Gepyncðo* the 11th century, so called, 'promotion law' that describes how a ceorl may attain thegnly status (Williams 1992, 232). The presence of the church suggests that the site of a thegnly residence or manor may lie in the vicinity. It should be noted though that the earliest fabric of Holy Trinity, Marham is of Norman date. This may be broadly contemporary with the Saxo-Norman activity represented by Ditch F2027 and Post-pits F2173 and F2182. This activity is, however, more likely to be of very late Saxon date suggesting that the current church building did not stand at the same time as the structure represented by Post-pits F2173 and F2182. It is quite likely, however, that the Norman church was constructed on, or very near, the location of a Saxon predecessor. This does not diminish the possibility that Post-pits F2173 and F2182 and the ditch that encloses them, F2027, represent a thegnly residence but does add a further possible interpretation. The activity within the site may, conceivably, represent part of a Saxon precursor to the Norman church. The *Gepyncðo* indicates that the ideal thegnly residence should have a 'bell-house', a tower or loft in which a bell is hung, to go with the church. The term for this, '*berefry*', from which 'belfry' is derived, indicates a secure or defended place (Williams 1992, 232-233). The manor house of Adam of Cockfield, which was located at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, reportedly had a wooden belfry 140 feet high (Williams 1992, 226). The substantial width of Post-pits F2173 and F2182 suggests that they could have held timbers that may also have been of a substantial height, probably not as tall as those of the manor house of Adam of Cockfield but possibly reaching to a reasonable enough height for a bell tower. The distance that these two features lay from each other may, however, preclude this as an interpretation.

At Barton Bendish, c. 4.5km to the south of Marham, a large 13th to 15th ditch was recorded. This has been interpreted as an unfinished moat intended to surround a building (Pritchard 1997, 75). Although of much later date, its position, immediately to the west of St Andrew's church indicates parallels with the enclosure ditch at the Old Bell site. The remains of Capel Hall, a basic aisled hall manor house, were recorded immediately to the south.

All of the interpretations relating to high status or religious establishments rely on an assumption that this was a defended site or '*burh*' (a middle English word denoting only fortification and not necessarily anything to do with towns of the Bural Hidage). Although Ditch F2027 was a fairly substantial ditch it clearly would not have acted as well as an effective defensive feature as the ditch and rampart surrounding the Saxo-Norman hall at Goltho (Beresford

1928, fig. 5). Marshall (2004, 21) suggests, however, that the term '*burh*' denotes only the ditched nature of the perimeter defence. It seems unlikely, however, that F2027 would have been the only defensive feature associated with a '*burh*', if that is what is represented by these features. A larger ditch encompassing a wider area, which must, if it ever existed, lie beyond the limits of the excavated area, seems much more realistic. If the excavated area does lie within what was a defensive enclosure for a thegnly residence, then this implies that the preceding mid and late Saxon activity of Phase 1 and 2 may also be related to an important or high status site. Small finds recovered from the site hint at a certain degree of wealth, but Crummy (this report) indicates that the items most indicative of high status are of post-Conquest date and hint at an implanted Norman element to the population. It is possible, of course, that this newly arrived Norman elite may, at least initially, have occupied the most well-appointed residence in the settlement.

Should excavation occur to the east of the site, further information regarding the area enclosed by Ditch F2027 may be revealed. The area to the east is the only potential source of information from which conclusive answers as to the nature and function of the enclosure and the Post-pits F2173 and F2182. Without that information, interpretations regarding Phase 3 Sub-Phase B activity remain mostly speculative.

Modifications to the Enclosure

Sub-Phase C represents the Phase 3 features that appear to chronologically and stratigraphically follow Sub-Phase B. Three features are assigned to this Sub-Phase: Pit F2048; Gully F2192; and the substantial Ditch F2070. These may not all be directly contemporary with one another, indeed F2070 is the only feature of the three that is definitely stratigraphically later than Sub-Phase B and stratigraphically earlier than Sub-Phase D. F2048 and F2192 could be contemporary with features of Sub-Phase D or later. Their relative positions to Ditch F2027, however, suggest that they were created while the large Enclosure Ditch remained, at least partially, open.

These features have been interpreted as representing modifications to or remodelling of the Enclosure Ditch F2027. This seems to conform to the general nature of Phase 3 activity as a whole which appears to represent fairly rapid change through a short period of little more than two centuries (at most). The changes that the Sub-Phase C features represent may have been a response to the gradual silting up of the Enclosure Ditch F2027; this appears to make sense as the features cut the edges of F2027, those parts mostly likely to have been subject to slumping or damage. Alternatively, these alterations may have been made by, or at the behest of, the landowner with the infilling of the relevant parts of Ditch F2027 carried out deliberately. Combined, Pit F2048, Gully F2192 and Ditch F2070 appear to form a reorganised entrance to the enclosure, narrower and not directly aligned with Post-pits F2173 and F2182 as before. It seems unlikely that this new entrance would have been for defensive purposes as Gully F2192 would have been of little defensive strength due to its narrow width, though it probably represents

a slot to hold a fence or screen. It may be that another entrance to the enclosure was made more prominent to the east, either through deliberately increased use or through actual physical alteration, and that this entrance became a secondary point of access and egress. It may, alternatively, be that apparent alterations to the entrance reflect a change in function of the enclosure.

Later Phase 3 developments

The three broadly parallel Ditches F2094, F2019, F2135 (=F2150) and its recut F2100 (=F2139) that comprise the majority of the features assigned to Sub-Phase D have been interpreted as a system of boundaries or land division delineating two separate plots of land. These ditches ran perpendicular to the line of The Street, which runs north to south immediately west of the site. Systems of regular parallel boundary ditches running back from a street frontage are typical of the arrangement of domestic plots/crofts in medieval villages. This would be a dramatic departure from the possible high status dwelling postulated from the Sub-Phase B evidence.

Such a stark change is possible in the period of change that the Saxo-Norman period represents. As Phase 3 activity is understood to represent occupation at the site in the period either side of the Norman Conquest it is possible to suggest that possible high status dwelling of Sub-Phase B belongs to the pre-Conquest period while the division of the land in to roadside plots is a result of the changes brought about by a newly implanted elite who altered the layout of the estate upon their arrival. High status Norman artefacts have been recovered from the site (see Crummy, this report) which does, however, suggest at least some degree of occupation by new landholders at or in the near vicinity of the site.

Occupation at the Saxon site at Church Close, Shipdham appears to display a marked decline in the medieval period as is the case at the site of North Elmham, where the size of the settlement declined from a late Saxon village to a single medieval house (Ames *et al* 2009, 107; Wade-Martins 1980a). The excavators of the site at Shipdham state that the replacement of settlement with an agricultural landscape between the Saxon and medieval periods is a recurrent theme on sites in Norfolk (Ames *et al* 2009, 107). Settlement activity has not necessarily disappeared from these sites, there must be some settlement associated with agricultural sites and a search of the Norfolk HER for Saxon settlements in a 25km radius of the Old Bell site returns numerous sites where settlement activity has continued in to the medieval period. It seems from the evidence from some sites (North Elmham, Mileham, Shipdham), however, that there may have been a general contraction in settlement size at many locations in Norfolk at this time. This is, however, in contradiction with Wade-Martins' (1980b, 85) statement that the population of East Anglia started to rapidly increase in the 10th and 11th centuries. The evidence from Domesday for Marham suggests, however, that, despite being a substantial settlement by the time of the survey, there may have been a slight decrease in population from that of the pre-Conquest period. The

apparent division of the western part of the Old Bell site into roadside plots may be indicative of this observed replacement of settlement activity with an agricultural landscape following the Norman Conquest though cannot be said to provide evidence as to whether there was a contraction in the size of the settlement at Marham.

The reorganisation of the site into these roadside plots is reminiscent of many medieval villages across the region (e.g. the deserted medieval village at Thuxton, Norfolk (Butler and Wade-Martins 1989, 4, fig. 4)). This layout of plot boundaries compares well to the existing street pattern at the southern end of the village, where The Street, the principal through road, is lined with house plots, and perpendicular side roads (Church Lane, Mill Lane) lead off to a parallel back lane (School Lane). It may be that this reorganisation represents deliberate settlement planning under manorial control, it is especially tempting to view this development in this way due to the possible high status activity suggested to have occurred within the excavated area earlier in Phase 3. The socio-political changes that occurred, on a local scale, as a result of the Norman Conquest are likely to have precipitated this reorganisation of land ownership and the division of land but this does not necessarily indicate that these plots arose from deliberate re-planning of the settlement layout under manorial control. Villagers used to operating within a communal/cooperative agricultural system would have been more than capable of collectively organising themselves in other ways. It is interesting to note that on some other Saxon sites (e.g. Pennyland (Buckinghamshire), Wicken Bonhunt (Essex), North Elmham (Norfolk)), apparently 'planned' rectilinear settlements emerged from as early as the 7th/ 8th centuries (Reynolds 2003, 131).

While the earlier sub-phases of Phase 3 clearly represent significant change in the layout and possibly the use of the site, even if its exact nature remains open to discussion, the stratigraphically latest features (those assigned to Sub-Phases E and F) are significantly less indicative of change. This is mostly due to the small numbers in which they are present; only three small features were assigned to Sub-Phase E and a single posthole to Sub-Phase F. The situation is exacerbated by the characters of the features, which are not particularly enlightening as to the nature of the activity that represent. A possible refuse pit and the possible recutting of one of the Sub-Phase D boundaries may indicate domestic or backyard activity.

The Phase 3 site and the surrounding area

The range of resources provided by the nearby fen would have changed little from those available for exploitation in the middle Saxon period (see above) and it may be postulated that wildlife, building materials and fuel were all collected from the fen in the Saxo-Norman period. The fen may also have been used for summer grazing, as Silvester (1988, 125) suggests that it was in the medieval period. The chalk ridge to the south of Marham, now mostly occupied by the air force base, was formerly reputed to have some of the best grass turf in the county. Silvester (1988, 125) suggests that this was the focus for medieval land use and its reputation suggests that it must have been

exploited for grazing. It seems reasonable to suggest that it was used for this purpose prior to the medieval period and so Saxo-Norman pastoral agriculture must have taken place in this area to the east and south of the Old Bell site.

Silvester (1988, 121) states that by the medieval period the focus of the settlement at Marham was at the south-western end of the current village. This suggests that the Old Bell site may have lain within or towards the north-eastern edge of the settlement at this time. The positions of the precinct of Marham Abbey, to the west, and Holy Trinity Church, to the east, suggest that, in the southern part of the village at least, the line of The Street, the main road through the village, must have already followed its present course by around the mid-13th century. The positions of the Phase 3 Sub-Phase D ditches that appear to delineate plots leading back from the current roadside may indicate that the road followed its current route from an even earlier date.

4.4 Later developments: the medieval period

Despite Silvester's (1988, 121) statement that the medieval focus of settlement was at the south-western end of the current village, little activity of this date was recorded during the excavation at the Old Bell.

For the most part, the recorded features seem to suggest occupation in the vicinity but offer little insight in to the character of this occupation activity. Gully F2079 (=F2021) ran parallel to The Street and was located at the western end of the possible roadside plots delineated by Phase 3 Ditches F2139 (=F2100), F2094 and F2019. Although these ditches were clearly infilled by this time there is no reason why the boundaries that they represented could not have remained established and marked in some other way, or that they had been removed and the land along the roadside combined into a larger plot or plots of land. On the basis of its alignment with The Street and the perceived history of enclosed plots along the roadside, it is considered possible that Gully F2079 (=F2021) represented a fenceline or series of hurdles forming an eastern or rear boundary to a plot or plots of land flanking the main route through medieval Marham. Features to the west of Gully F2079 (=F2021) may relate to domestic occupation.

Features to the east of Gully F2079 (=F2021) are more noteworthy. Regular rectangular Pit F2279 and intercutting gullies F2237, F2286 and F2239 have been interpreted as representing a building or buildings. The rectangular plan and angular, flat-based profile of F2279 make it possible that this was a sunken-featured building although, according to the criteria for their identification preferred by Tipper (2004), would not have been of the same architectural tradition or type as the *grubenhäuser* of the early Saxon period. According to Tipper's (2004) criteria this feature may be better understood as a sunken or cellar element within a building and may, therefore, have been structurally associated with the gullies to the immediate east which, it has been suggested, held ground beams or were associated with post-in-trench construction. The presence of two parts of the same human scapula and part of a human rib in the fills of F2279 is intriguing but is probably nothing more

than coincidence. It is possible that the proximity of the church, and a possibly associated burial ground may account for the presence of these human remains. They could even derive from a pagan context; Pope (later Saint) Gregory (r. 590-604) instructed that pagan temples be converted to Christian use, suggesting some possibility, albeit a slim one, that a pagan site may have existed in the area of the church, which, although Norman, is quite likely to have had a Saxon predecessor (Taylor 2001, 180).

The medieval activity recorded within the Old Bell site seems to be somewhat different in nature to that representing earlier periods. While the earlier sub-phases of Saxo-Norman (Phase 3) activity may be suggested to represent a site of high status, as may activity during earlier phases by extension, the Phase 4 features are less suggestive of a higher than normal level of wealth. Although Norman artefacts indicating the presence of a wealthy elite are present amongst the small finds assemblage from this site artefacts of medieval date are sparse. The medieval pottery assemblage from the site is not particularly suggestive of any level of wealth. More is known about the layout of the settlement in the medieval period than the Saxon period; the sites of Marham Abbey and of the fortified manor house at the Hills and Holes Plantation, possibly that constructed illegally in the 13th century by William Belet, are well known and there is little to indicate a high status site in the vicinity of the Old Bell. Clearly, the focus of occupation or activity of the local elite had shifted away from the Old Bell site by the medieval period. This event is probably represented by the division of the western part of the site in to parallel roadside plots during Phase 3 Sub-Phase D and may have been as a result of the supplanting of the local Saxon elite with a Norman one following the Conquest.

5 CONCLUSION

The excavation at the Old Bell affords a small and tantalising window on to the layout of Saxon and early medieval Marham. Clearly occupation and domestic activities were occurring at this location but the exact nature of the occupation is not entirely apparent. The enclosure formed by Phase 3 Ditch F2027 and the large post-pits that lay within it are suggestive of something other than the normal domestic occupation arrangements of the common man. Comparison with other sites and the layout of these features may suggest that these features relate to, if not high-status, at least elevated status activity. Post-excavation research has demonstrated that it is not possible to confirm Woolhouse's (2008a) suggestion, made immediately following excavation, that the enclosure and postholes represent an enclosed timber hall, but neither is it possible to dismiss this suggestion. Features of a structural nature have been recorded within the enclosed area but it is not possible to relate these with any certainty to the large post-pits and are insufficient to indicate the nature of the structure or building of which they must have formed part. The presence of possible high status activity at the site is further suggested by Norman artefacts indicating a degree of affluence amongst the small finds assemblage although these are likely to derive from an implanted elite group following the Norman Conquest and therefore after

the use of the enclosure in the very late Saxon or Saxo-Norman period.

The evidence appears to indicate that the site did not retain its elevated status following the Norman Conquest. This is suggested by the apparent division of the western part, at least, of the site in to probable roadside plots leading back from The Street and the known presence of high status residences and seats of manorial power elsewhere in the settlement. Although it cannot be inferred directly from the archaeological evidence, the presence of possible high or elevated status activity during Phase 3 may suggest that the activity represented in earlier phases may also represent activity of higher than average status.

Although it is possible to associate the Phase 3 enclosure with Senecal's (2000, 261) 'thegnly culture', firm conclusions regarding this aspect of the site are difficult to draw due to the lack of associated evidence and the small part of the enclosure that falls within the excavated areas. The imprecise understanding of the nature of the occupation activity at the Old Bell site that the evidence provides makes identifying directly comparable sites difficult, despite the wealth of sites of this approximate date within a 25km radius (Fig. 28). Perhaps the most intriguing of the sites identified is that at Shipdham (Ames *et al* 2009), where buildings of a similar date and construction to some of those recorded at Marham have recently been identified.

Presuming it to represent secular activity, despite its proximity to Holy Trinity church, the site as a whole provides valuable information about the early history of the settlement of Marham away from the religious institutions about which much is already known. Aside from spot finds, little Saxon evidence has been recorded in Marham and this site provides firm evidence for Saxon settlement activity to support the documentary and place-name evidence. The results of this excavation should provide a foundation upon which any further work in the area can build to produce a more complete picture of Saxon Marham.

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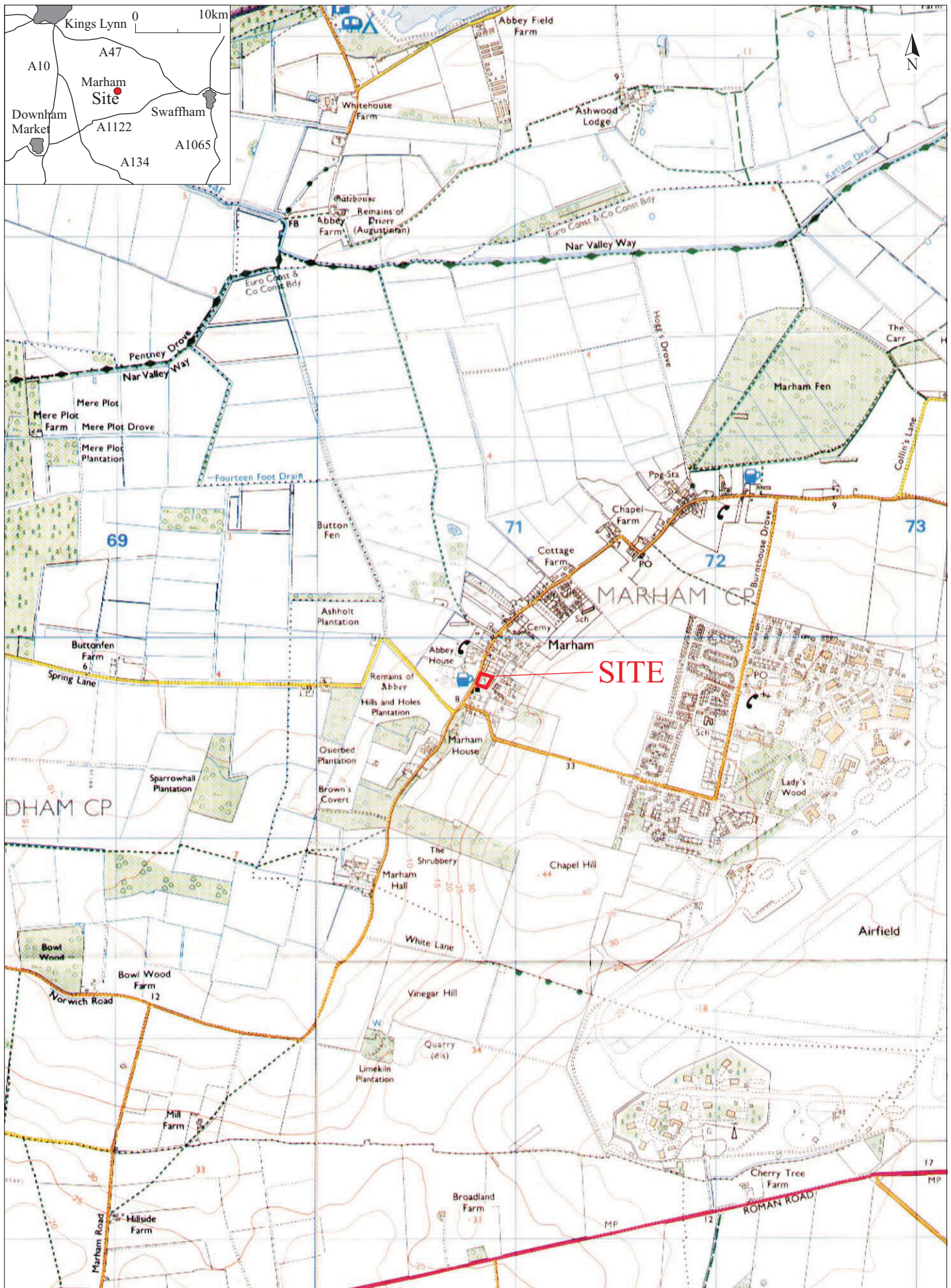
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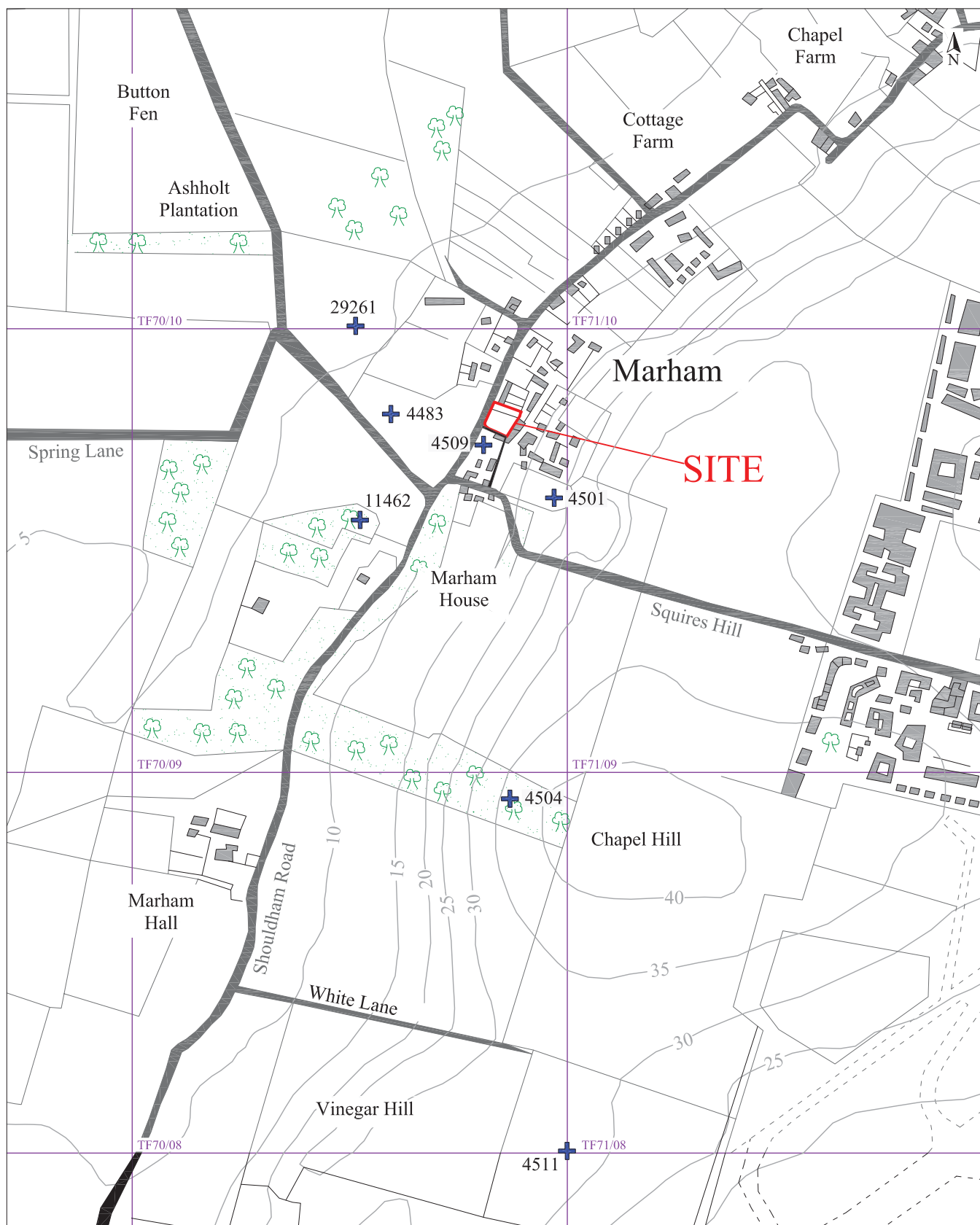


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A3



HER points

4501: Site of St Andrew's Church

4504: Site of medieval to post-medieval cross

4509: Holy Trinity Church

4511: Chapel Hill

4483: Site of Marham Abbey

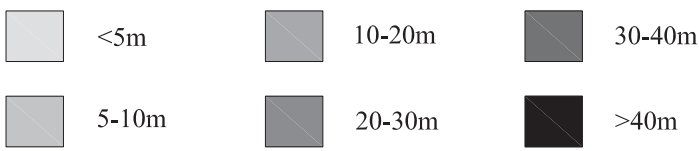
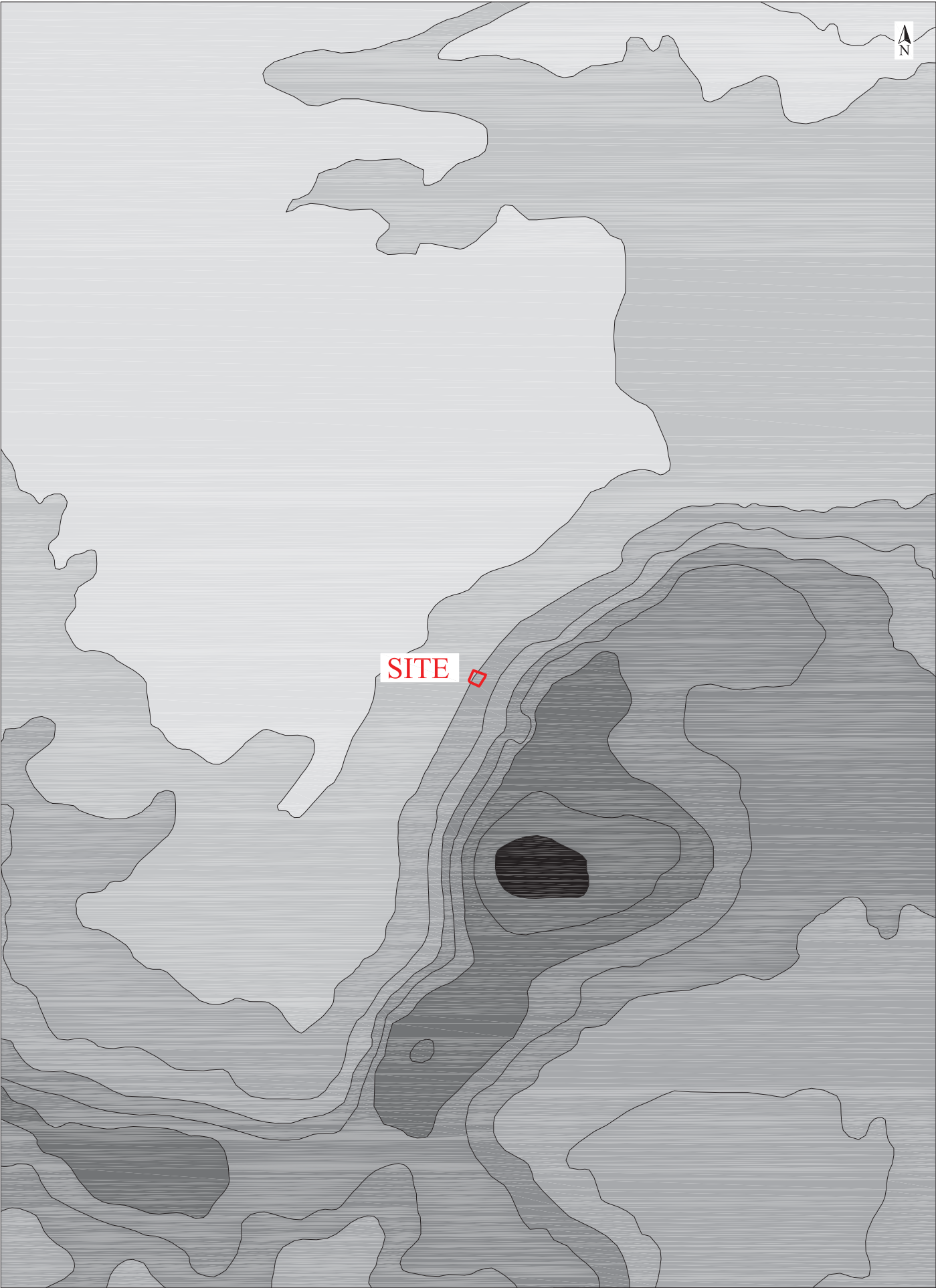
11462: Medieval Moat

29261: Medieval pottery & fragments of masonry

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Fig. 3 Layout of the village of Marham with significant historic sites

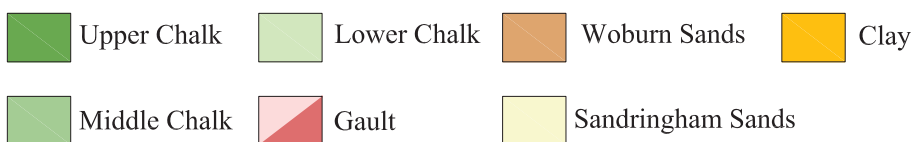
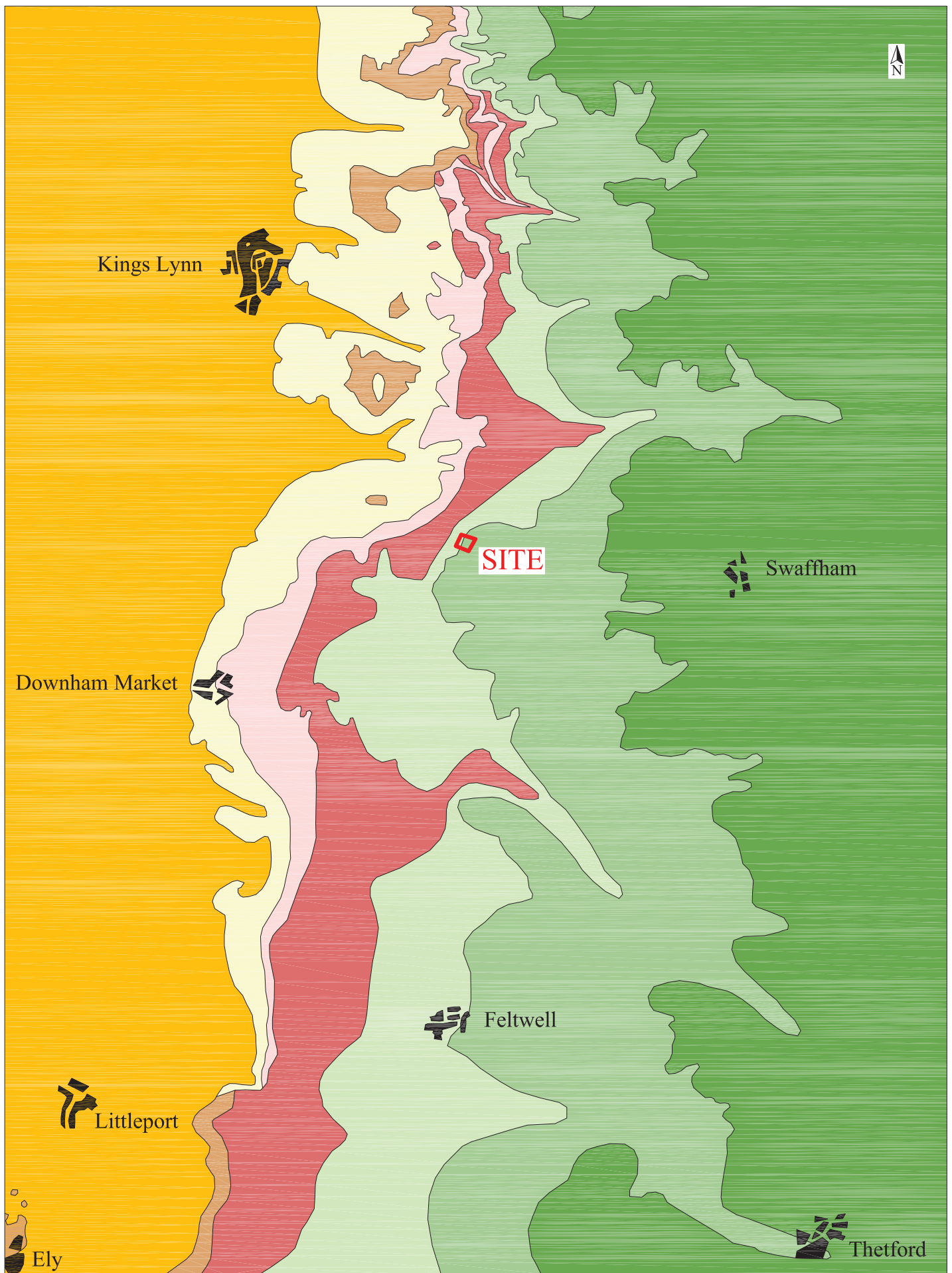
Scale 1:12,500 at A4



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Fig. 4 Topography

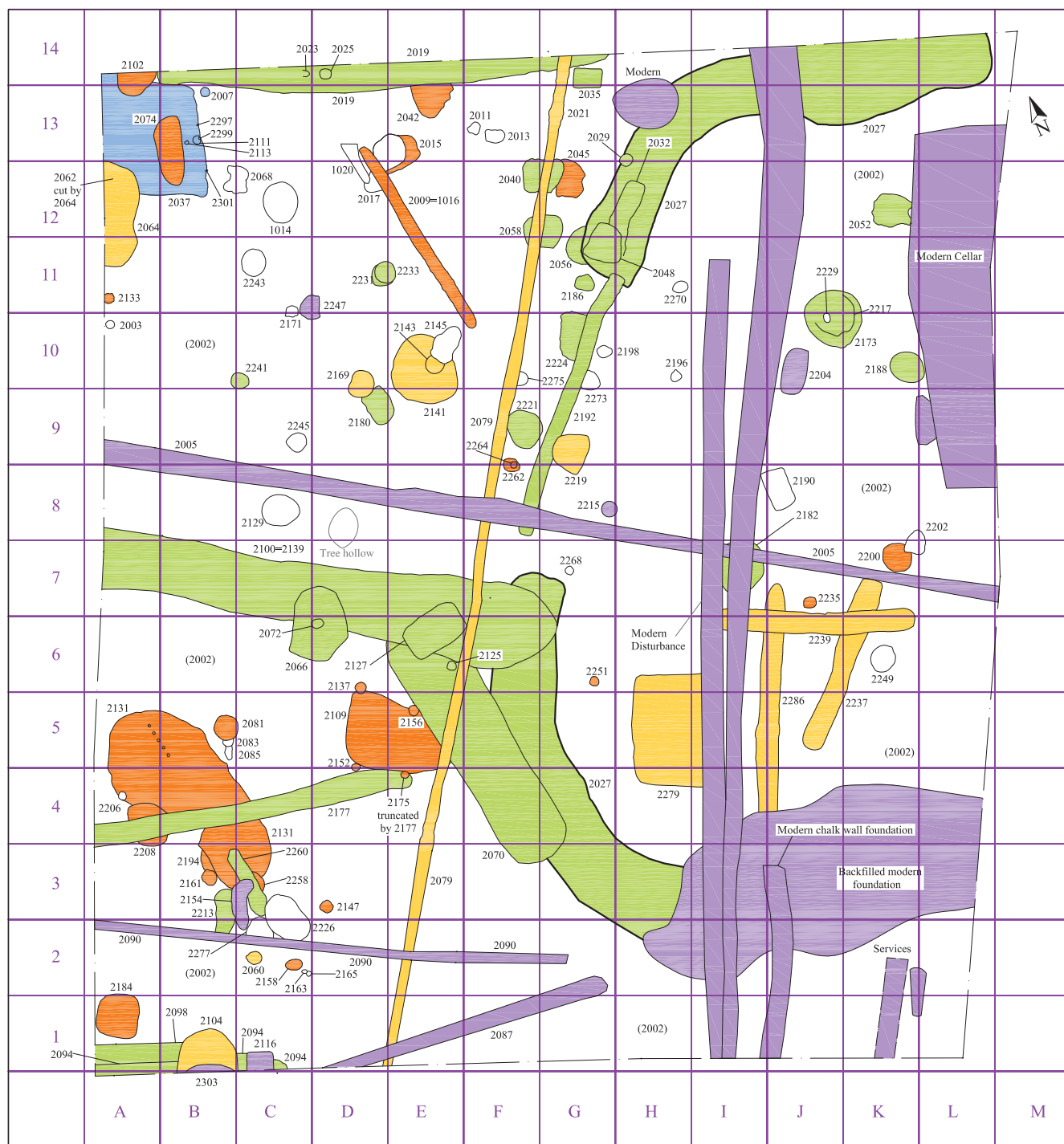
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 5 Geology

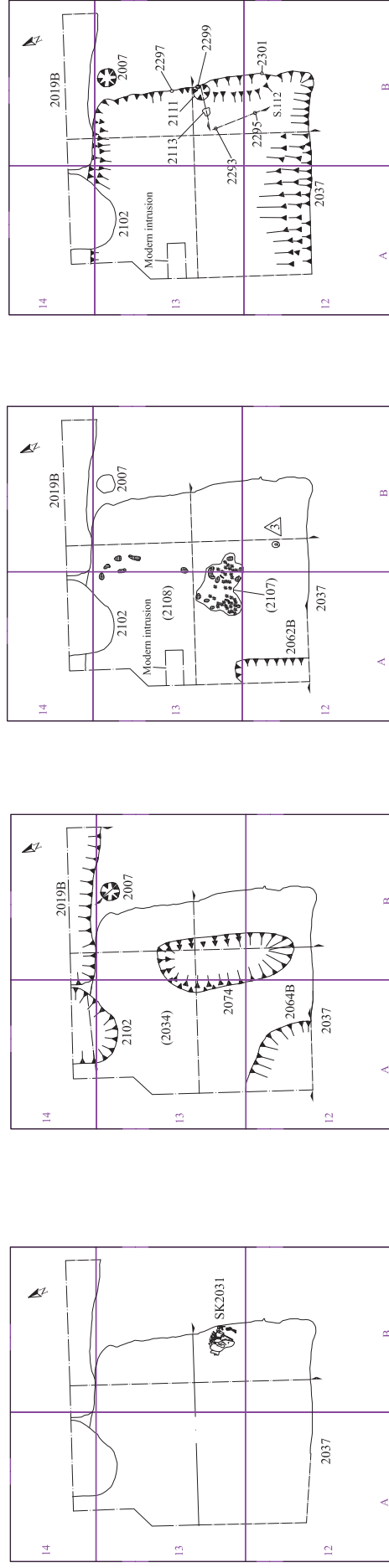
Scale 1:20,000 at A4



- Phase 1 Middle Saxon (6th - 9thC AD)
- Phase 2 Late Saxon (Mid 9th - 11thC AD)
- Phase 3 Norman/early medieval (11th - 12thC AD)
- Phase 4 Medieval (Late 12th - 14thC AD)
- Phase 5 Post-medieval/modern
- Undated/natural features

0 5m

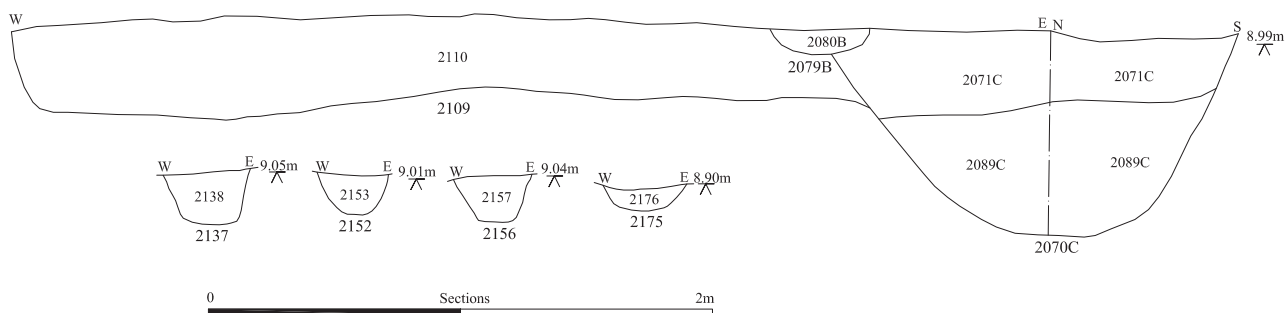
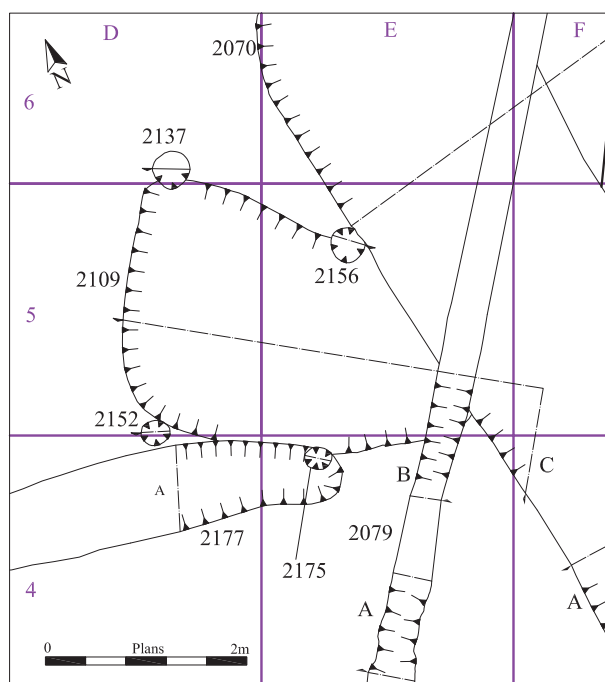
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Fig. 7 Phase plan
 Scale 1:200 at A4



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Fig. 9 SFB F2037 & associated features

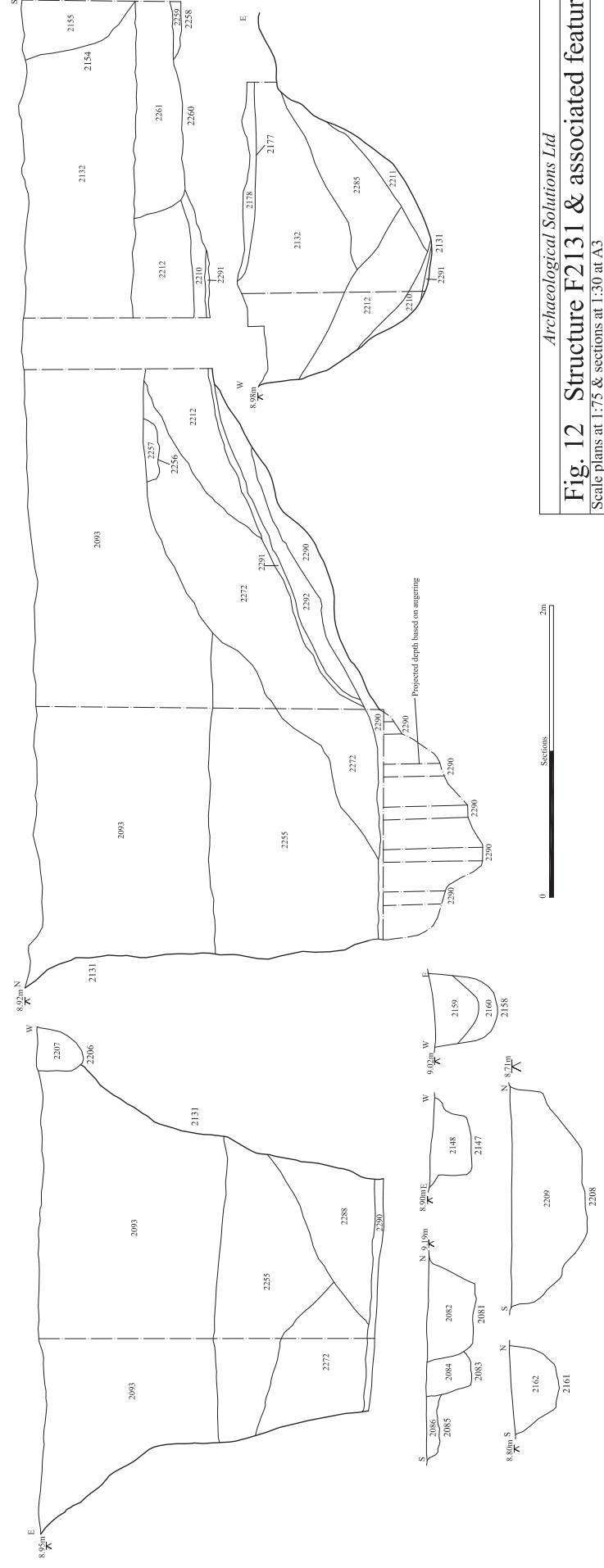
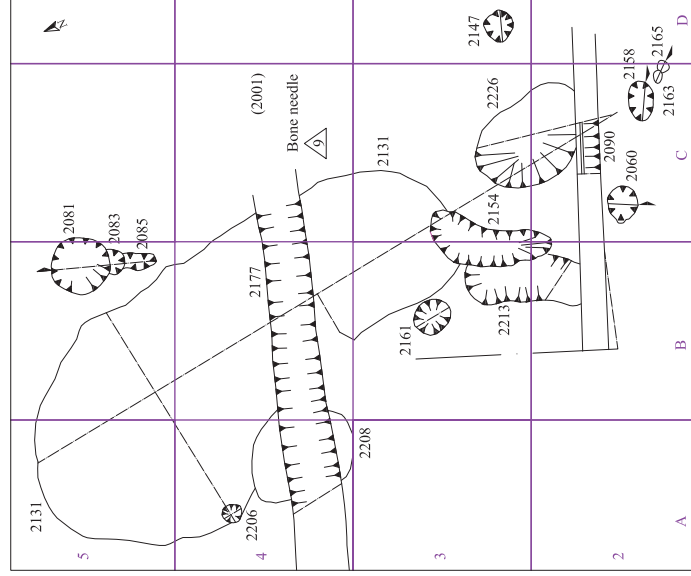
Scale plans at 1:75 & sections at 1:30 at A3



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Fig. 11 SFB F2109 and associated features

Scale plan at 1:75 & sections at 1:30 at A4

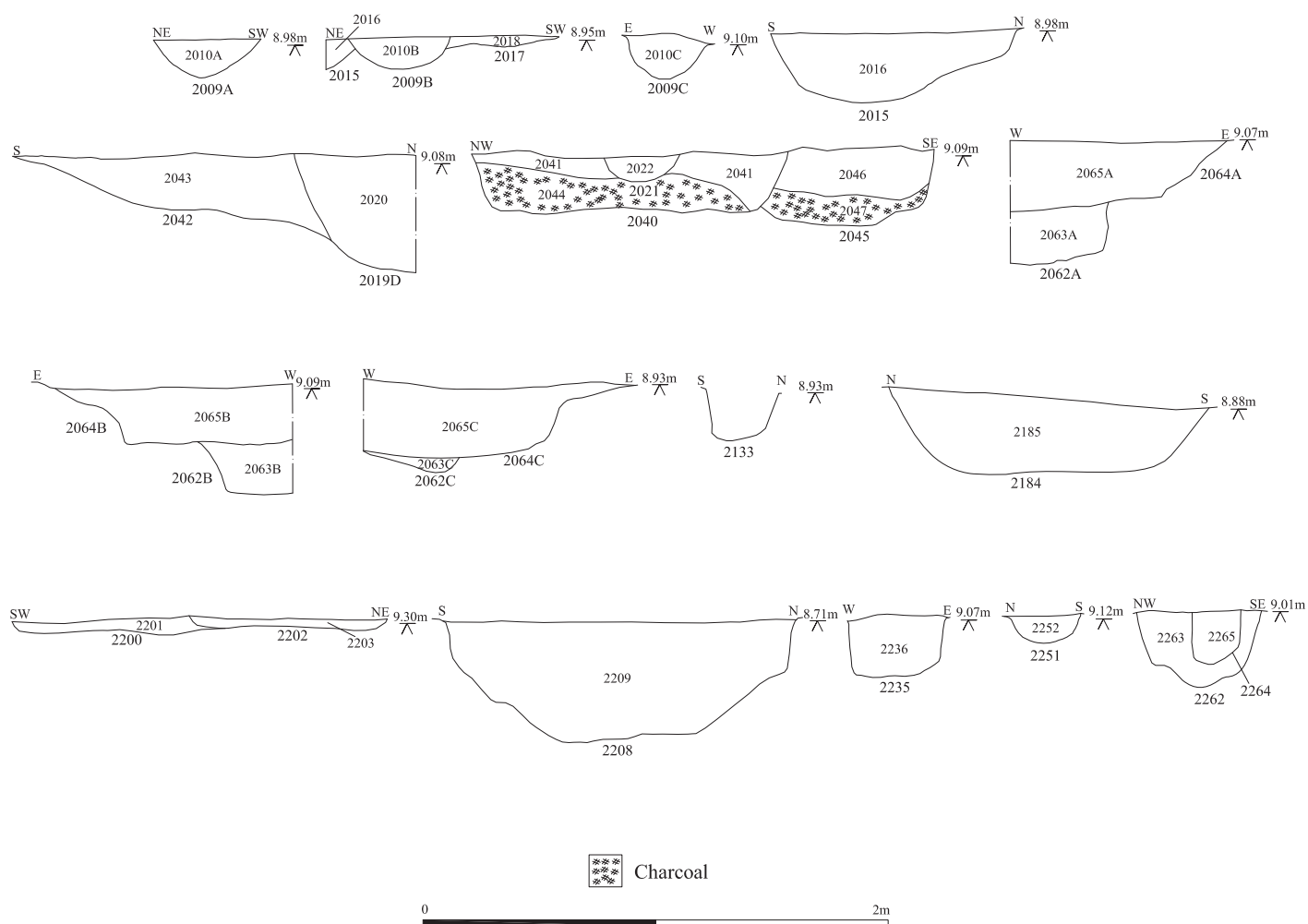


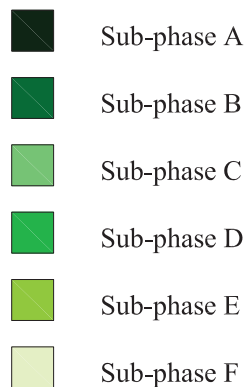
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Fig. 12 Structure F2131 & associated features

Scale plans at 1:75 & sections at 1:30 at A3

Phase 2 Late Saxon (Mid 9th - 11thC AD)





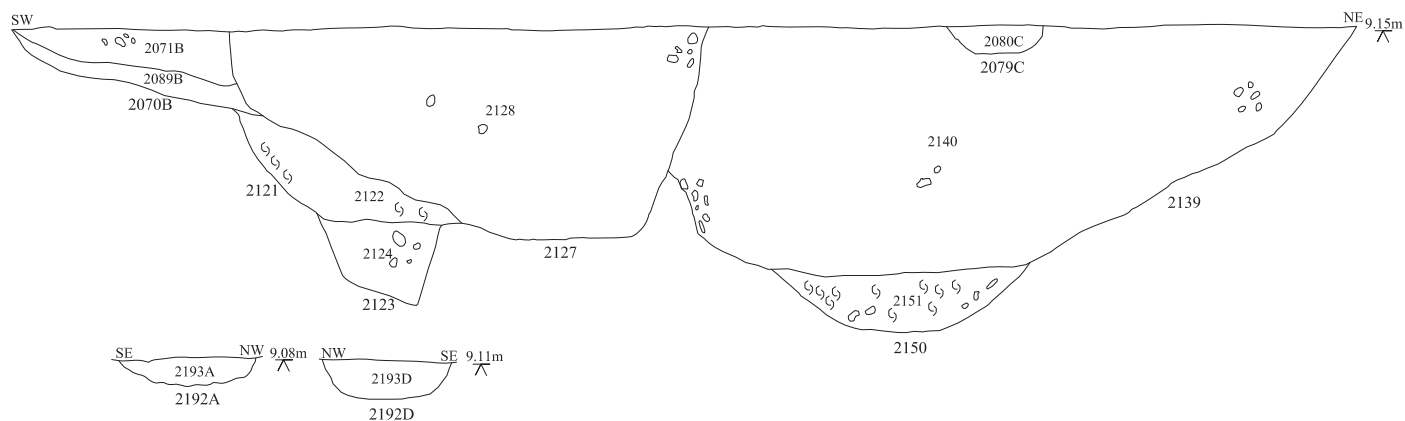
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 15 Phase 3 sub-phase plan
Scale 1:200 at A4

Sub-phase A

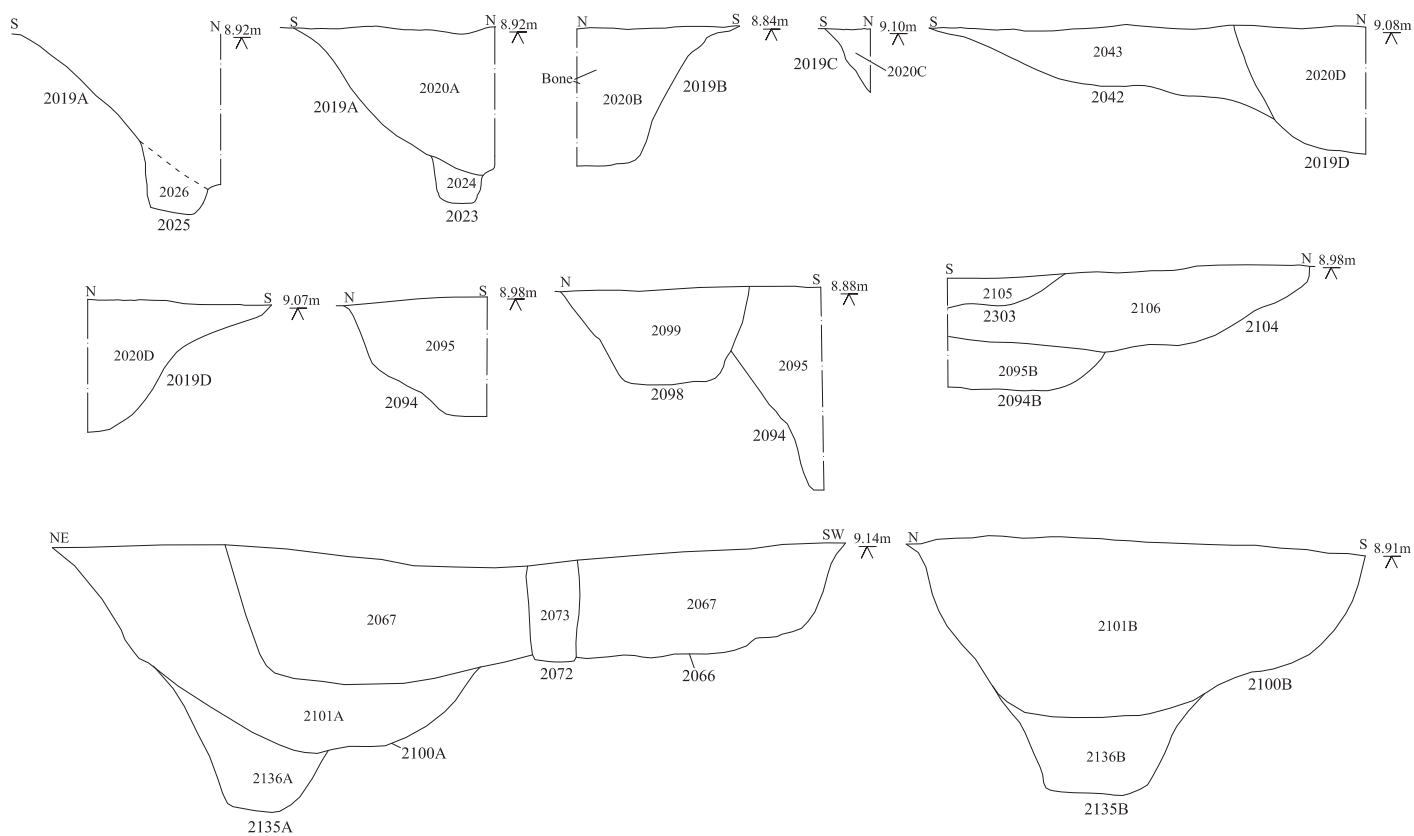


Phase 3 Norman/ early medieval (11 - 12thC AD) continued

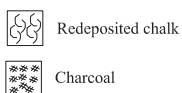
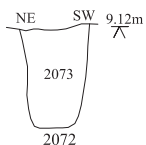
Sub-phase C



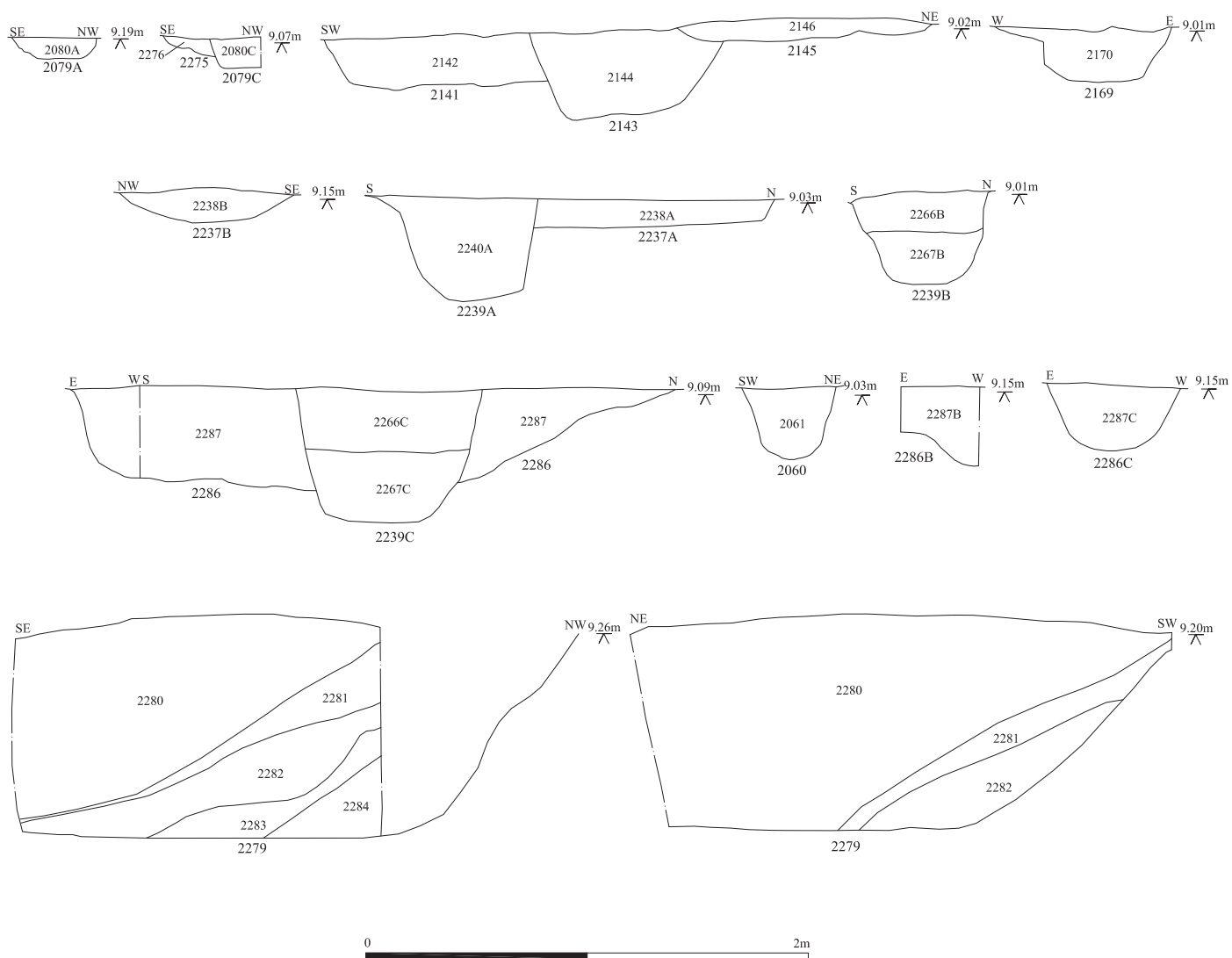
Sub-phase D



Sub-phase F

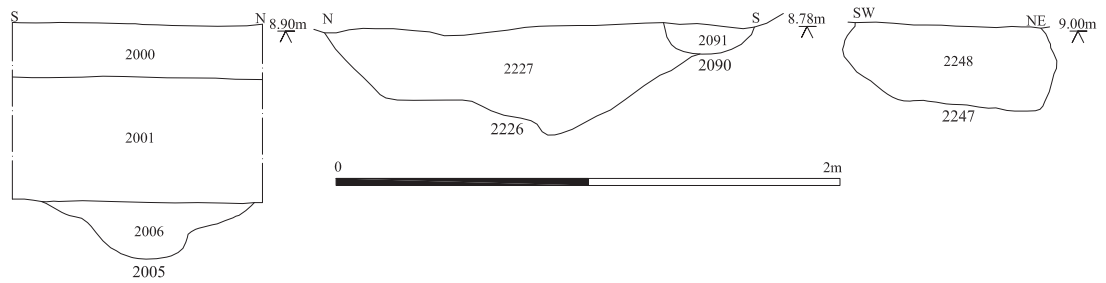


Phase 4 Medieval (late 12th - 14thC AD)



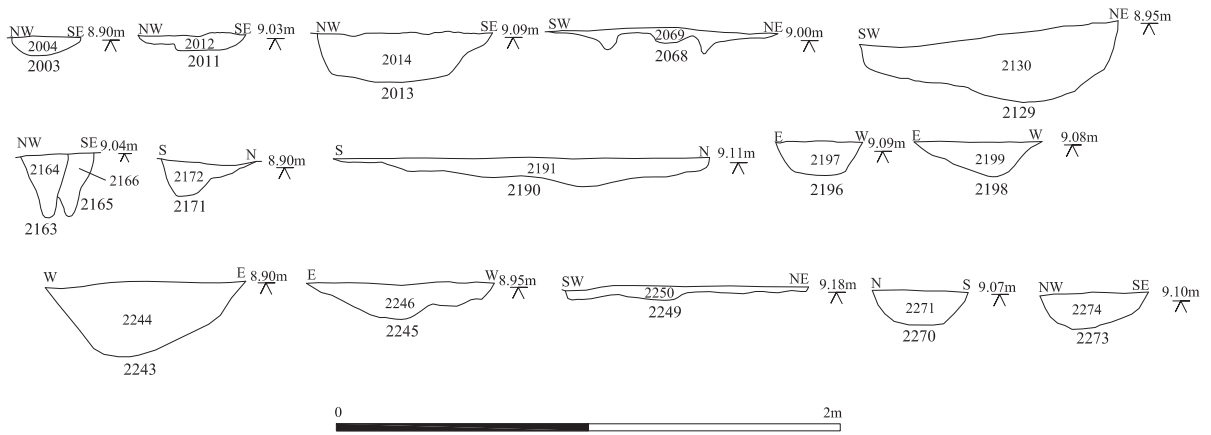
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Fig. 19 Phase 4 sections
Scale 1:30 at A4

Phase 5 Post-medieval/ modern



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 21 Phase 5 sections
Scale 1:30 at A4

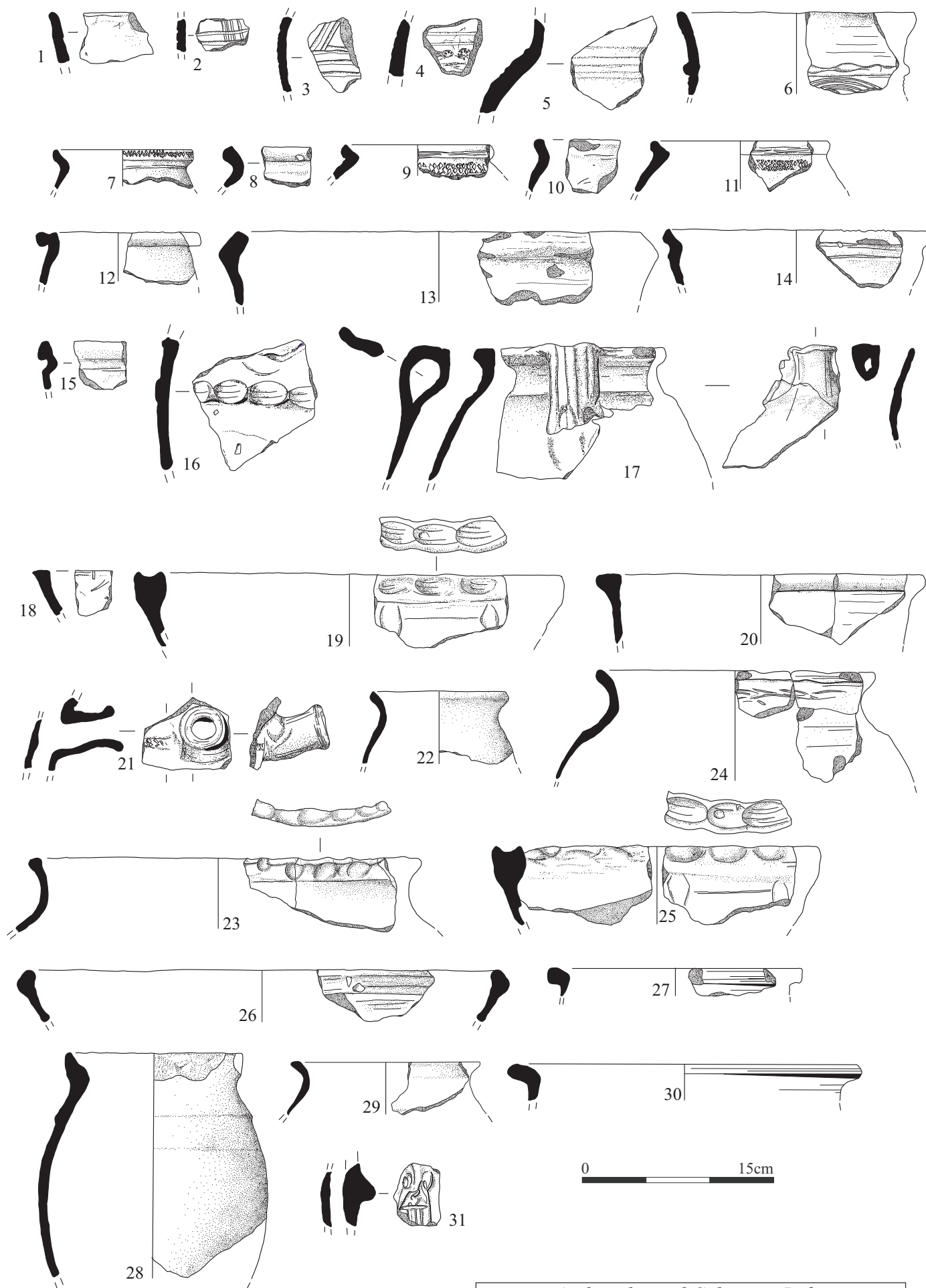
Undated/ natural features



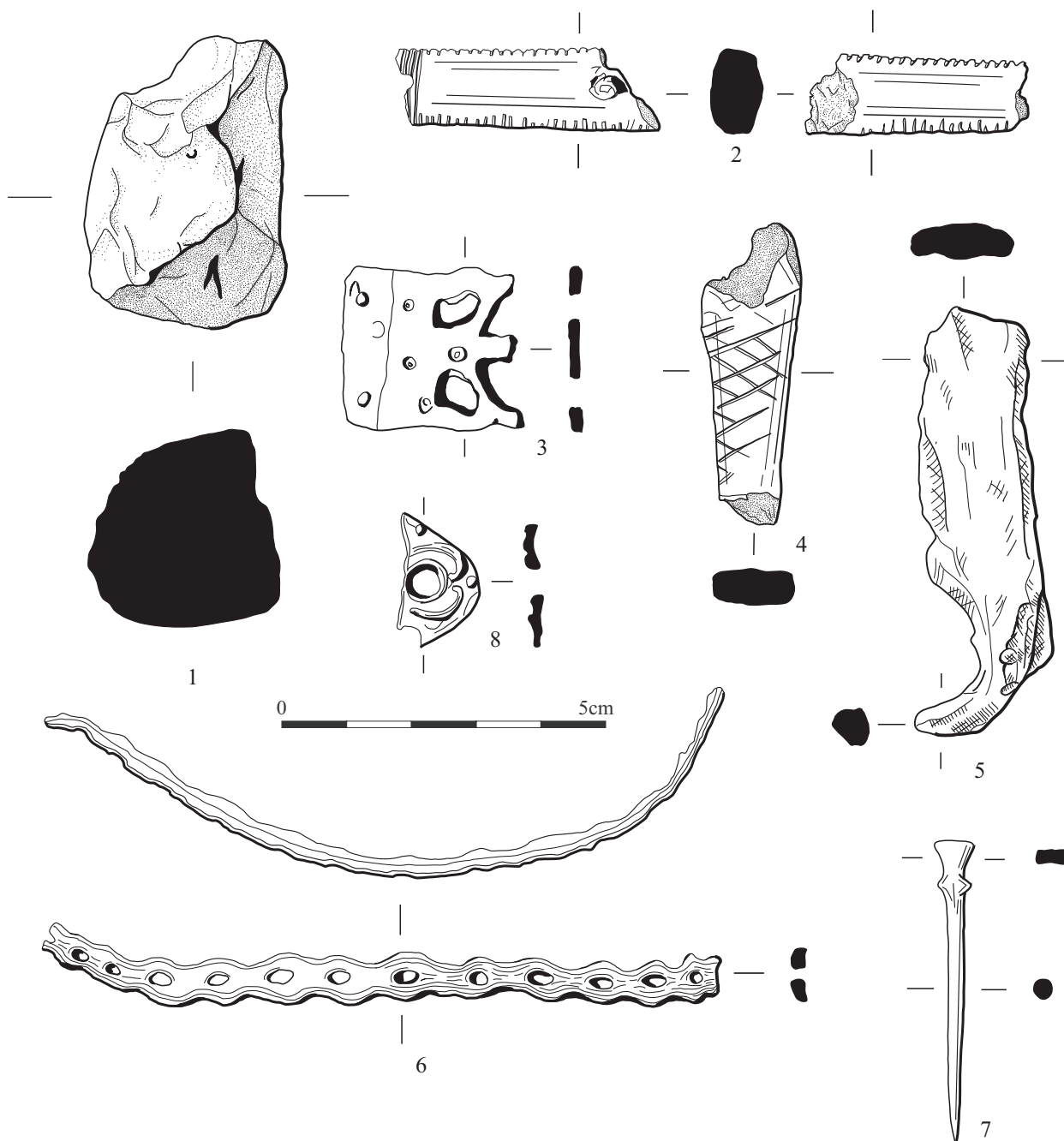
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Fig. 23 Undated sections

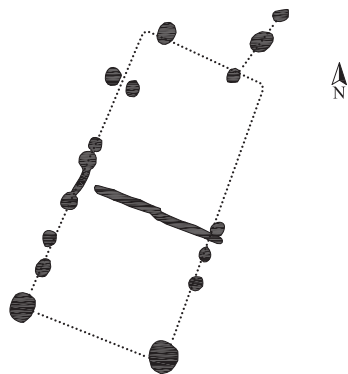
Scale 1:30 at A4



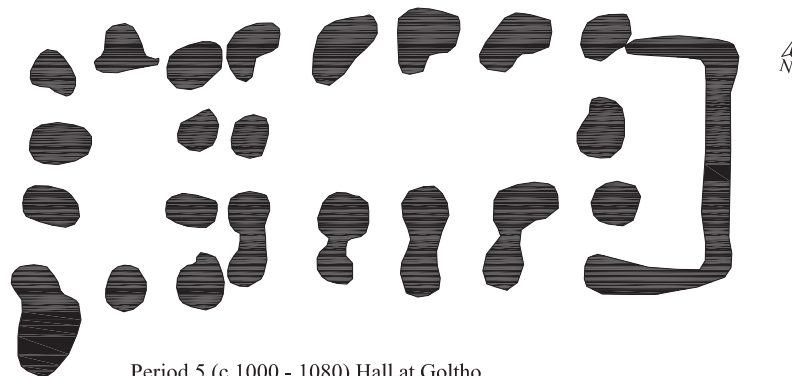
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Fig. 24 Pottery illustrations
 Scale 1:4 at A4



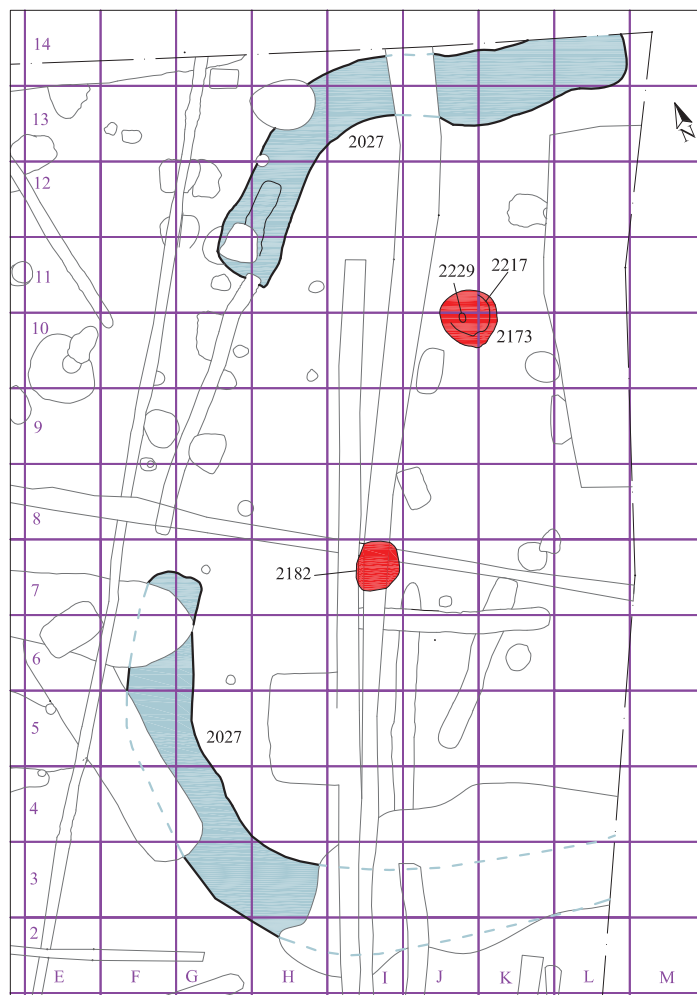
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Fig. 25 Small finds
 Scale 1:1 at A4



Saxo-Norman Structure 1 at Church End, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire (after Cessford & Dickens 2005, fig. 6)



Period 5 (c.1000 - 1080) Hall at Goltho, Lincolnshire (after Beresford 1982, fig. 5)



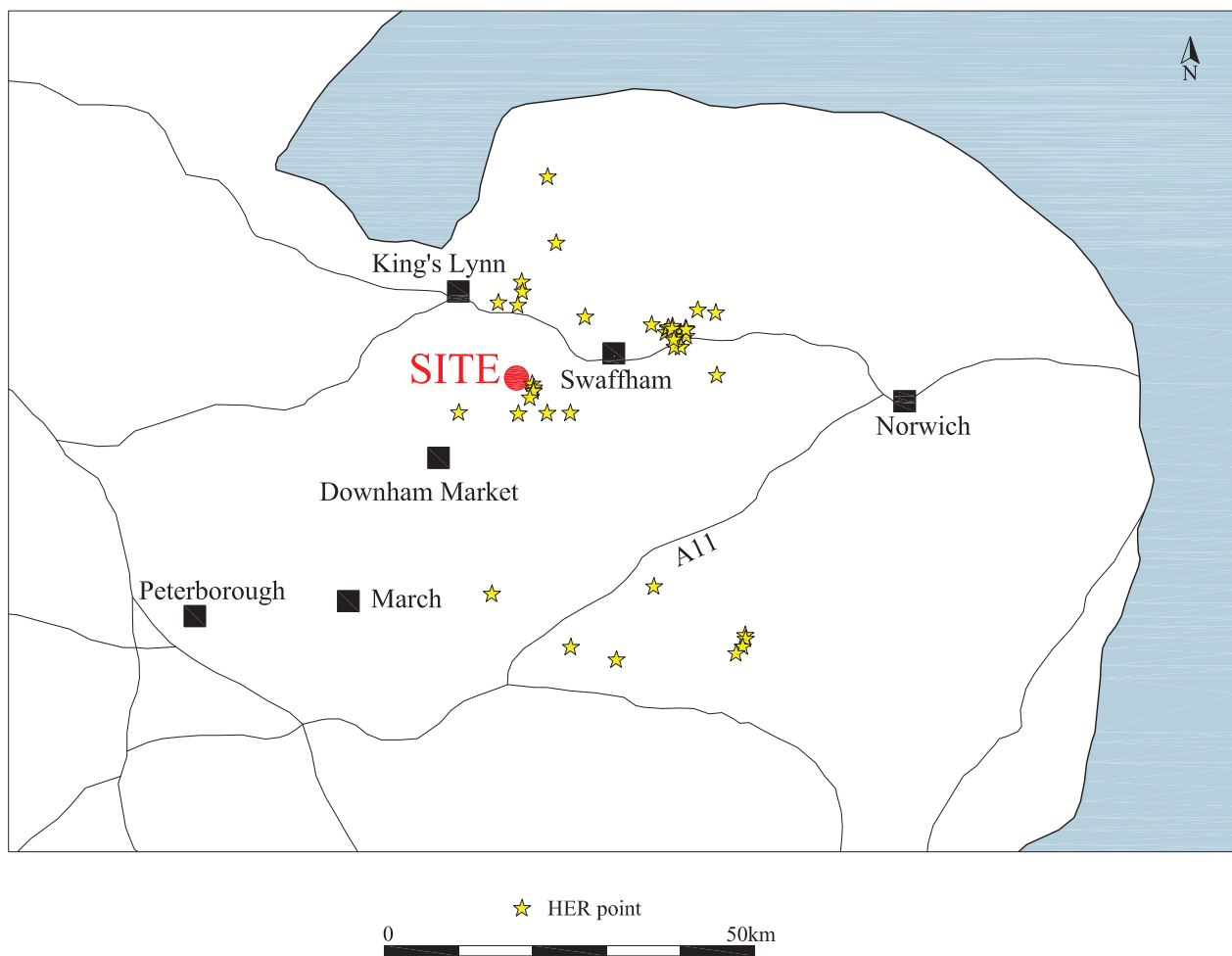
Possible Structure, The Old Bell, Marham

0 10m

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Fig. 26 Comparison of Saxon buildings

Scale 1:250 at A4



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Fig. 27 Middle & late Saxon sites in Norfolk

Scale 1:1,000,000 at A4