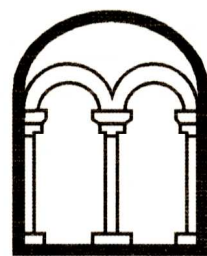


**LAND ADJACENT TO 25 HIGH STREET
TILBROOK
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, RECORDING
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Albion
archaeology



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, RECORDING
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Shiner of 25 High Street, Tilbrook and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor). This report was prepared by Ian Turner with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer).

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Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CHER Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Record
HET Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team
IfA Institute for Archaeologists



Non-Technical Summary

A planning application (13/00142/FUL) for the erection of a detached residential dwelling together with access and car parking on land adjacent to 25 High Street, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire was approved by Huntingdon District Council.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition was placed on the planning consent, requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken. The work comprised trial trench evaluation followed by open area excavation.

The archaeological excavations revealed features and deposits of the early-medieval period (1150–1250). These comprised six post holes, three pits, three large and three small erosional hollows and two gullies. The features were sealed by two anthropogenic layers also of early medieval date.

The archaeological evidence is indicative of a prolonged period of activity which has disturbed and churned the ground with the dark colouration of the deposits being caused by the introduction of rubbish, charcoal-rich hearth debris and other domestic material. This process is suggestive of backyard activity, close to dwellings, from where the pottery and charcoal would have originated.

A NW-SE aligned gully may indicate that the ditched boundaries of the early medieval settlement followed a different alignment to the extant north-south running property boundaries on the north side of the High Street.

Subsequent human activity and natural processes resulted in a degree of truncation and disturbance of the medieval features. This process is exemplified by the presence of occasional small fragments of coal, glass and pottery of modern date recovered from the samples taken from four of the features and the sealing layer.

The contextual data have allowed reconstruction of a sequence of activity on the site from the early medieval periods onwards. The shallow features have provided insight into medieval settlement activity in the immediate vicinity. However, given the small size of the investigation area and the nature of the recovered data, the potential for further analysis is limited.

Details of the project, including this report, will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number albionar1-209444. A summary of the results will be submitted for the annual round-up section of the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under event number ECB4147.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

A planning application (13/00142/FUL) for the erection of a detached residential dwelling together with access and car parking on land adjacent to 25 High Street, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire was approved by Huntingdon District Council.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition was placed on the planning consent, requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken. Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) advised the Planning Authority that the first stage of work should be an archaeological evaluation of the site to determine the potential impact of the proposals on archaeological remains (HET 2014a). This is in line with the requirements of paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The evaluation was carried out by Albion Archaeology in May 2014. Based on the results (Albion Archaeology 2014a), the HET issued a further design brief setting out the requirements for open area excavation (HET 2014b).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out this work and in accordance with the HET Brief, produced a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014b) which was approved by the HET prior to commencement of the fieldwork.

1.2 *Status and Purpose of this Document*

This report brings together the results of the trial trenching and the open area excavation. It interprets the results and discusses the recovered data-sets to the level required to complete the dissemination and archiving of the results of the fieldwork. This report is intended to fulfil the requirements of the HET's brief and will allow the discharge of the archaeological planning condition.

1.3 *Site Location and Description*

Tilbrook is a small village located in the western part of Cambridgeshire. It lies within the valley of the River Til, which forms a loop around the northern side of the settlement (Figure 1).

The site lies in the southern part of the village on the northern side of the High Street near its junction with Church Lane. At the time of the fieldwork it was an empty plot between the properties of 25 High Street and 2 Church Lane. It consisted of a garden with a small brick and tile outbuilding and was bordered by hedgerows. The site lies at the base of a north-facing slope between 45m and 40m OD and is centred on grid reference TL 0794 6899.

The underlying geology is Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone with no superficial layers recorded. The River Terrace Deposits of the River Til are not recorded as reaching as far as the development area.



1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

Tilbrook is of Saxon origin and is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 when it consisted of four householders. Previous archaeological investigations in the village have found evidence dating to this period.

Evaluation trenches to the west and north-west of the Church of All Saints found evidence of two phases of mid to late Saxon occupation, dating from at least the 9th century AD (CHER MCB18229). The evidence comprised a series of ditches and recuts, running in all directions and recorded over an extent of more than 100m within four trenches. The alignment is in contrast to the regular gridded layout of modern Tilbrook, suggesting that the village was replanned probably in the later 11th century. A few probable medieval quarry pits were also found, probably dug for the extraction of gravel.

A large number of records for Tilbrook held by the CHER describe medieval ridge and furrow agricultural earthworks, showing that the land around the village was intensively cultivated during the medieval period.

Medieval house platforms (CHER MCB16816) have been recorded from aerial photographs to the north of Station Road. An evaluation at Chestnut Cottage in Station Road (CHER MCB 16876) revealed modern remains and a gully containing a fragment of 9th–11th-century pottery.

A moated site (CHER MCB18650), consisting of a partially water-filled medieval square homestead moat with a modern dwelling called Hardwicks, is located to the south of Tilbrook on the top of an east-west aligned spur of land. An extension of the moat to the west is recorded as a cropmark on 1996 aerial photographs. The manor house (CHER MCB00235) in the north of Tilbrook dates from the 17th century.

1.5 Project Objectives

The evaluation revealed archaeological deposits and features dating to the late Saxon and early medieval period in the form of pits, postholes and a ditch. Some of the features appeared to represent structural remains, although their shallow nature suggested that they might not be associated with significant buildings, such as dwellings.

The principal objective of the archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting and in its immediate context of the late Saxon and early medieval settlement of Tilbrook.

The specific research aims of the open area excavation were:

1. To further clarify the nature of late Saxon and medieval activity on the site (i.e. is it settlement, industrial or “backyard” activity?);
2. To collect further palaeo-environmental evidence from the site in order to elucidate, for example, possible food production processes.

The general research aims of the archaeological investigations were to:



1. Establish the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation on the site.
2. Establish the relationship of any remains found to surrounding contemporary landscapes.
3. Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.
4. Determine site formation processes and the nature of preservation and truncation of features present, and in particular the presence or absence of a palaeosol or “B” soil horizon.

All research aims were referenced to the regional research agenda, the *Revised Framework for the East of England*, which identifies the need to study settlement and site typologies, chronologies and dynamics, and processes of economic and social change in all periods, from the Bronze Age to the medieval period, and in particular the transition phases between periods (Medlycott 2011, pp 20-21, 29-32, 57-59).

As, historically, Tilbrook lay in Bedfordshire, the research framework for Bedfordshire (Oake et al. 2007) was also applicable. This states that in general few medieval rural settlements have been investigated in Bedfordshire and there is a particular need to study present-day settlements with Saxon or medieval origins (Oake in Oake et al. 2007, 14).



2. METHODOLOGY

The open area excavation took place between 28th October and 4th November 2014. The work comprised the open area excavation of the L-shaped footprint of the proposed new house. The excavation area measured 11.30m long, 9.40m wide and was machined to a depth below ground level of 0.53–0.70m (Figure 2).

The area was opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first.

Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, and 200 for Trench 2 etc. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO (east)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i>
• CCC	<i>Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store</i> (HER 2004/1).
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> (2009)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i>

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under event number ECB4174.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number albionar1-209444.



3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All features and deposits found during the investigations are described below and shown in Figure 2. Contexts from the trial trench are numbered in the 100s; those from the excavation area in the 200s. The results of the trial trenching are included and re-assessed within this section. Detailed information on all finds, features and deposits can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The overburden comprised topsoil over levelling layers and a demolition layer. The layers are described from top to bottom.

The topsoil was a 0.14–0.28m thick layer of dark grey-black clay silt (100)/(200).

A 0.05–0.14m thick levelling layer (101) of dark brown-grey clay silt, containing occasional modern brick, china and bottle glass, was observed at the south-west end of the trial trench.

A 0.05–0.12m thick demolition layer (102)/(201) of light brown-yellow clay silt with frequent patches of modern mortar and moderate modern brick, roof tile and china fragments was present across the excavation area. The layer is judged to be associated with the demolition of a cottage known to have been located towards the southern edge of the development and demolished in the later 20th century (pers. comm. N. Shiner).

A c. 0.22m-thick levelling layer (233) of mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional modern pottery fragments was observed towards the north end of the excavation area.

A c. 0.10m-thick layer (202) of dark grey-brown clay silt with occasional modern roof tile and pottery fragments was present across the excavation area. The layer is judged to be a buried former garden topsoil associated with the demolished cottage.

Three layers of greater archaeological significance (106), (105/204) and (203) were present beneath the overburden. They are discussed in detail below (see Sections 3.3.6 and 3.4.2).

Geological deposits (107)/(205), comprising light grey-orange silty clay with mid grey mottling, were encountered at a depth of 0.55–0.68m below ground level.

3.3 Early Medieval Settlement Activity (c. 1150–1250)

3.3.1 Introduction

The investigations revealed a group of features containing pottery of early medieval date. They comprised six post holes, three pits, three large and three



small erosional hollows and two gullies. An anthropogenic layer (105)/(106)/(204) which overlay the features and sealed them is also dated to this period.

Two sherds of high medieval date (1250–1400) were also recovered, one in the sealing layer and one within a post hole, attesting to the continuation of activity beyond the early medieval period.

Analysis of soil samples taken from four of the features and the sealing layer revealed the presence of occasional very small fragments of coal, glass and modern ceramics in the sampled deposits (see Section 4.2). However, these are considered to be intrusive artefacts from later features and deposits which overlie the early medieval horizon. The intrusive material may have been introduced by root action, worm action, hot weather cracking of the ground or by disturbance associated with use of the excavation area as a garden / back yard to the cottage known to have occupied the site in the 20th century.

3.3.2 Post holes

Six post holes were identified within the excavation area: two pairs of post holes [115], [117], [210], [212]; a post hole within an erosional hollow [208]; and another isolated post hole [221].

The post holes ranged from circular to oval in plan and concave to steeply concave in profile. They were 0.24–0.55m long, 0.24–0.38m wide and 0.07–0.17m deep. Their fills varied from light grey to dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Three of the post holes contained pottery of early medieval date; post hole [117] contained a single sherd of earlier Saxo-Norman date (850–1150); and post hole [210] contained a sherd of high-medieval date (1250–1400).

As the number of surviving post holes and their locations do not indicate obvious structural arrangements, their purpose is uncertain. The pair located towards the centre of the excavation area [115] and [117] were probably associated with the short gully [113]. Post hole [208] lay in the base of erosional hollow [206]. The erosional hollows may have been formed by the repeated movement of animals within a defined area (see Section 3.3.4) and the post hole could indicate the location of an animal tether post.

3.3.3 Pits

Three pits [108], [219] and [227] were identified towards the centre of the excavation area.

The pits were circular to oval in plan with concave sides and flat bases in profile. They were up to 0.70m long, 0.35–0.65m wide, 0.08–0.12m deep and contained deposits that varied from mid orange-grey to dark brown-grey silty clay. Pits [108] and [227] contained moderate amounts of early medieval pottery. Pit [219], which continued beyond the southern baulk, contained no artefacts.



The purpose of the pits is uncertain. The features were adjudged to be pits rather than erosional hollows because their shape in plan was more regular and their profiles more pronounced. They might have originally been dug as small quarry pits to obtain clay for building repairs, later becoming infilled with deposits derived from backyard activities (see also Section 3.3.6).

3.3.4 Erosional hollows

Three large and three small erosional hollows were identified within the excavation area. Two of the larger hollows continued beyond the baulk to the north-west.

The larger hollows [110/128], [206], [215] were irregular in plan with shallow concave sides and slightly uneven but broadly flat bases. They were 1.55–2.50m+ long, 0.80–1.35m+ wide and 0.08–0.18m deep. They contained deposits that varied from mid orange-grey to dark grey silty clay with occasional to moderate charcoal flecks and relatively high amounts of pottery of early medieval date.

The smaller erosional hollows [119], [123], [130] were circular to oval in plan with shallow concave profiles. They were 0.30–0.46m long, 0.20–0.33m wide and 0.03–0.05m deep. They were filled with light grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Erosional hollow [130] produced two sherds of early medieval pottery.

It is uncertain how the larger erosional hollows were created. They were probably formed by either human or animal footfall within an area that was in regular use under wet conditions. If pigs had been present within the settlement, the features could represent wallows. The post hole within the base of hollow [206] could represent an animal tether post.

The hollows are suggestive of backyard activity close to dwellings as they contain dark-coloured, charcoally deposits and relatively high amounts of domestic pottery. The pottery was mixed, with the sherds originating from many different vessels. It was also abraded — again suggestive of a dynamic ‘churned’ environment (see also Section 3.3.6).

The smaller erosional hollows are also most likely to have been formed by similar processes.

3.3.5 Gullies

Two small gullies, or ditches, were investigated during the trial trenching.

N-S aligned gully [113]/[126] was linear in plan and widened considerably at its north end. It was generally concave with a flat or concave base; it was 1.58m long, 0.28–0.50m wide and 0.10 deep. It contained mid orange-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and early medieval pottery. It was truncated by erosional hollow [110/128].

NW-SE aligned gully [121] was linear in plan with a concave profile. It was 1.50m+ long, 0.30m wide, 0.10m deep and contained mid brown-grey silty



clay with occasional charcoal. It produced two sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery (850–1150).

With its widened north end, gully [113]/[126] probably served to drain rainwater away from the structure represented by the two nearby post holes [115] and [117].

Gully [121] was only observed within the trial trench as it lay beyond the excavation area. However, the feature is of some interest as it may indicate that the ditched boundaries of the early medieval settlement were aligned NW-SE, rather than following the broadly N-S alignment of the modern property boundaries. However, the gully is relatively small in size and may, again, only have served to improve drainage on a localised basis.

3.3.6 Anthropogenic layers

The early medieval features discussed above were sealed by layers (106) and (105)/(204).

Layer (106) was observed towards the south-west end of the trial trench where it lay beneath layer (105). It was *c.* 0.20m thick and comprised mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal. It contained occasional sherds of early medieval pottery.

Layer (105)/(204) was observed across the excavation area. It was *c.* 0.10–0.15m thick and comprised dark brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal. It contained moderate amounts of early medieval pottery and a single sherd of high medieval date.

Layer (106) is interpreted as being similar in character to layer (105)/(204), albeit formed as a result of a lower level of activity with fewer ‘inputs’.

The origin of layer (105)/(204) is uncertain. No buried subsoil or topsoil was present within the excavation area. The layer directly overlay the geological horizon, effectively replacing the subsoil and topsoil. This is suggestive of a dynamic environment where a prolonged period of activity has disturbed and churned the ground with the dark colouration of the deposit being caused by the introduction of rubbish, charcoal-rich hearth debris and other domestic material. This process is suggestive of backyard activity, close to dwellings, from where pottery sherds and charcoal would have originated from.

The erosional hollows (see Section 3.3.4) identified beneath this layer support this interpretation and may indicate the presence of animals, for which the ongoing process of movement, feeding and soiling would obviously have contributed to the build-up of layer (105)/(204).

3.4 Post-Medieval Anthropogenic Layer (*c.* 1500–1750)

A layer (203) containing post-medieval artefacts overlay early medieval layer (105)/(204). It was *c.* 0.10m thick and comprised dark brown-grey clay silt with moderate charcoal flecks. It contained occasional post-medieval artefacts.



Layer (203) was similar in appearance to the earlier underlying layer (105)/(204), suggesting similar formation processes continued into the post-medieval period. However, it is possible also that the post-medieval sherds are intrusive artefacts within an earlier layer, resulting from later disturbance.

3.5 Modern Features

3.5.1 Post holes

Two post holes contained modern artefacts. Post hole [231] was circular; post hole [223] was square and contained a square post pipe [225].

3.5.2 Pits

Three pits contained modern artefacts alongside residual early medieval pottery. Pit [132] was identified at the north-east end of the trial trench. It had a concave profile measuring at least 1.50m long, 1.35m wide and 0.15m deep. Pit [229] was identified at the north-east limit of the excavation area. It had a concave profile measuring at least 0.60m long, 0.35m wide and 0.08m deep. Pit [217] was identified at the south-east limit of the excavation area. It had a concave profile measuring at least 1.50m long, 0.65m wide and 0.11m deep. It contained a fragmentary piece of medieval horse harness (see Section 6.3).

3.5.3 Land drains

Two N-S aligned land drains were identified towards the west end of the excavation area and within the trial trench.

3.5.4 Wall foundation

The foundation course of a modern brick wall was present within the trial trench; it continued across the excavation area for a total surviving length of *c.* 5m. The foundation course, which was removed during machining, was probably contemporary with the extant brick outbuilding to the east of the site. The latter was probably demolished at the same time as the cottage in the late 20th century.



4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 *Synthesis of Results*

The open area excavation within the footprint of the proposed new house revealed features and deposits dated by pottery to the early medieval period (1150–1250). They comprised six post holes, three pits, three large and three small erosional hollows and two gullies. The features were sealed by two anthropogenic layers also of early medieval date.

The formation process of the erosional hollows and the sealing layer is uncertain but they were probably formed by either human or animal footfall within a regularly used, albeit wet, backyard area. An isolated post hole in the base of one of the hollows may represent the location of an animal tether post.

The presence of the hollows and the dark-coloured sealing layer is indicative of a prolonged period of activity which has disturbed and churned the ground. The dark colouration of the deposits results from the introduction of rubbish, charcoal-rich hearth debris and other domestic material. This process is suggestive of backyard activity, close to dwellings, from where the pottery sherds and charcoal would have originated.

The purpose of the three small pits is uncertain. They might have originally been dug as small quarry pits to obtain clay for building repairs, before being used for rubbish disposal.

A NW-SE aligned gully in the trial trench produced two sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery (850–1150). This feature may indicate that the ditched boundaries of the early settlement did not share the N-S alignment of the present-day property boundaries along the High Street.

The post holes do not form obvious structural arrangements and their purpose is uncertain. A short N-S aligned gully in the centre of the excavation area was probably a drainage feature and may have been associated with a structure in this part of the site.

Above the early medieval layer were layers of post-medieval and modern date, including a demolition layer associated with a cottage known to have been located adjacent to the excavation area.

4.2 *Significance of Results*

The contextual and finds data have allowed reconstruction of a sequence of activity on the site from the early medieval periods onwards. The shallow features have provided limited insight into medieval settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Subsequent human activity and natural processes within the excavation area have resulted in a degree of truncation and disturbance of the medieval features. This process is exemplified by the presence of occasional small fragments of modern coal, glass and pottery in the samples taken from the early medieval features.



Given the small size of the site and the limitations of the recovered data, there is no potential for further analysis of the artefact and ecofacts. Accordingly, this report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no: albionar1-177354) and a summary of the results will be submitted for the annual round-up section of the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*. The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under event number ECB4147.



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6. APPENDIX 1: FINDS ASSEMBLAGES

6.1 Introduction

Twenty-five features yielded an assemblage comprising mainly pottery, and a small quantity of non-ceramic items. The largest finds deposits derive from layer (203) and erosional hollow [215] (Table 1).

Feature	Description	Fill	Date range	Finds Summary
101	Make-up layer	101	Modern	Pottery (42g)
105	Layer	105	Early medieval	Pottery (40g)
106	Layer	106	Early medieval	Pottery (73g)
108	Pit	109	Early medieval	Pottery (31g); animal bone (1g)
110	Erosional hollow	112	Early medieval	Pottery (39g)
113	Ditch	114	Early medieval	Pottery (32g); burnt stone (8g)
115	Post hole	116	Early medieval	Pottery (4g)
117	Post hole	118	Late Saxon	Pottery (1g); burnt flint (1g)
121	Ditch	122	Late Saxon	Pottery (3g)
128	Erosional hollow	129	Early medieval	Pottery (8g); animal bone (2g)
130	Erosional hollow	131	Early medieval	Pottery (4g)
132	Pit	104	Modern	Pottery (69g)
202	Buried topsoil	202	Modern	Pottery (159g); ceramic roof tile (39g)
203	Layer	203	Post-medieval	Pottery (803g)
204	Layer	204	Medieval	Pottery (125g)
206	Erosional hollow	207	Early medieval	Pottery (65g)
208	Post hole	209	Early medieval	Pottery (6g)
210	Post hole	211	Medieval	Pottery (27g)
212	Post hole	213	Early medieval	Pottery (1g)
215	Erosional hollow	216	Early medieval	Pottery (274g); iron nail x1; burnt flint (8g)
217	Pit	218	Modern	Pottery (15g); iron cheekpiece (RA1); iron nail x1; animal bone (5g)
225	Post pipe	226	Modern	Pottery (1g); clay tobacco pipe (1g)
227	Pit	228	Early medieval	Pottery (31g)
229	Pit	230	Modern	Pottery (1g); clay tobacco pipe (1g); iron nail x1
231	Post hole	232	Modern	Pottery (1g)

Table 1: Artefact Summary

6.2 Pottery

A total of 160 pottery sherds (1.8kg), representing 145 vessels was recovered. The assemblage displays variable fragmentation, with the smallest sherd weighing only 1g and the largest, deriving from a post-medieval bowl, 469g. Fabric types identified are summarised in Table 2.



Fabric type	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill / Sherd No.
<i>Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman</i>			
St Neots type ware	52	223	(105):5, (106):1, (109):2, (112):3, (114):1, (118):1, (122):2, (129):2, (131):2, (204):11, (207):5, (211):3, (216):14
Stamford ware	4	16	(116):1, (216):3
<i>Early medieval</i>			
Shelly coarse ware (Developed St Neots type)	49	282	(105):3, (106):6, (109):1, (112):4, (114):2, (116):1, (129):2, (131):1, (204):2, (207):4, (209):1, (211):1, (213):1, (216):16, (218):3, (228):1
Developed Stamford ware	4	19	(204):1, (207):1, (216):2
Sandy coarse ware	11	87	(109):4, (112):1, (204):1, (207):2, (211):1, (216):1, (218):1
Shell and sand	5	98	(204):1, (216):1, (228):3
Sand and limestone	1	27	(216):1
Brill-Boarstall ware	1	9	(204):1
Hedingham ware	1	15	(211):1
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
Glazed red earthenware	1	93	(203):1
Black-glazed earthenware	11	774	(101):2, (104):3, (202):1, (203):5
<i>18th century+</i>			
Creamware	1	2	(218):1
Yellow ware with mocha decoration	4	110	(101):2, (202):2
Pearlware	2	16	(104):2
Transfer-printed ware	3	9	(101):2, (202):1
Brown salt-glazed stoneware	1	20	(203):1
Nottingham stoneware	1	1	(232):1
Stoneware (misc.)	1	16	(203):1
White earthenware	6	35	(104):1, (202):2, (218):1, (226):1, (230):1
Mass-produced misc. ware	1	3	(202):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

The majority of the assemblage spans the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman and early medieval periods (*c.* 950–1250). The earliest in date comprises 52 sherds (223g) of shell-tempered St Neots type ware, and four Stamford ware sherds (16g), the latter a regional import from Lincolnshire. The shelly vessels survive in poor condition and are highly fragmented, with a mean sherd weight of 4g. Although mainly represented by abraded body sherds, diagnostic forms include a bowl and everted rim jar (diameter 180mm), the latter with thumbled decoration. Feature sherds are two small everted rims, deriving from jars. The characteristics and appearance of some of the St Neots type sherds suggest they date towards the later end of the range for these wares (*c.* 1050–1100). All occur as residual finds in medieval or later features, apart from three tiny sherds (3g) from pit [117] and ditch [121], which are, however, considered too small to provide an accurate date for these features.

Medieval pottery, datable mainly to *c.* 1050–1250 totals 49 sherds (282g) of developed St Neots type ware, 17 contemporary sand-tempered coarse ware sherds (212g), and four glazed sherds of developed Stamford ware (19g). Also present are single abraded sherds of 13th–14th-century Hedingham ware



and Brill-Boarstall ware, respectively from Essex and Buckinghamshire. The medieval assemblage is less fragmented than the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman material, demonstrated by a mean sherd weight of 7g; however, it is uniformly abraded and survives in poor condition. Vessel forms are jars with everted or square rims, ranging in diameter from 110–160mm. Feature sherds are a strap handle from a jug and a flat base, the latter with a diameter of 180mm. Sooting on several shelly sherds suggests their use as cooking pots.

Make-up layer (101), pit [132], buried topsoil (202) and layer (203) yielded 12 sherds (867g) of 17th-century glazed earthenware, most deriving from large bowls.

The remainder of the assemblage (20 sherds: 212g) comprises a range of mass-produced 18th and 19th-century tablewares (Table 2), deriving mainly from buried topsoil (202).

6.3 Other Finds

Iron objects recovered from modern pits [217], [229], and early medieval hollow [215], comprise four incomplete and poorly preserved timber nails. Horse harness is represented by a fragmentary iron cheekpiece and mouthpiece from a snaffle bit of Ward Perkins Type C (Clark 1995, 47). The object is broadly datable to the medieval period and is considered a residual find in pit [217].

A piece of Gault clay flat roof tile (39g), likely to be modern in date, derived from buried topsoil (202).

A clay tobacco pipe stem and bowl fragment, the latter with ribbed decoration, were collected, respectively, from post pipe [225] and pit [229]. Both are thought to date to the 19th century.

Ditch [113], pit [117] and hollow [215] contained three pieces of burnt unworked flint (11g) and a burnt sandstone fragment (6g), none of which have been retained.

6.4 Ecofacts

6.4.1 Animal bone

Three abraded, undiagnostic animal bone fragments (8g) were collected from early medieval pits [108], [128] and modern pit [217]. Bright green staining on the piece recovered from the latter indicates contact with a copper or bronze object, although none was recovered from the feature.

6.4.2 Environmental samples

Environmental samples were taken from five features which contained deposits that were darkly coloured and considered to have good potential for preservation and environmental analysis. The sampled features were post holes [210] and [212], erosional hollows [206] and [215] and layer (204). A minimum of 10 litres of each of the five samples were processed in a flotation / wet sieving tank; two buckets (c. 18 litres) were processed from the



two potentially more significant features: erosional hollows [206] (Sample <1>) and [215] (Sample <5>).

Small assemblages of charcoal and charred grain were recovered from each of the samples; samples <1> and <5> contained greater frequencies of charred grain. However, all of the deposits were rooty and contaminated with post-medieval to modern artefacts, particularly small fragments of coal, glass and pottery. The presence of this modern material indicates a degree of disturbance of the deposits and intrusion of non-contemporary material. These factors, together with the limited size of the recovered charred assemblages, mean that the material has no potential for further analysis.



7. APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DETAILS

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 9.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0794168992

OS Grid Ref.: TL0794768998

Reason: Archaeological evaluation trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey black clay silt occasional small-medium stones Occasional modern roof tile, bottle glass and china fragments. 0.14m to 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Levelling layer	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Occasional modern roof tile, bottle glass and china fragments. 0.05m to 0.14m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
102	Demolition layer	Friable light brown yellow clay silt moderate small chalk, moderate flecks charcoal Deposit contains frequent mortar and occasional modern brick fragments. 0.05m to 0.12m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Wall	Single course of modern bricks - light yellow in colour. C. 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Layer	Plastic dark brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Anthropogenic layer. 0.15m to 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
106	Layer	Anthropogenic layer, overlain by associated layer (105). 0.04m to 0.24m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
107	Natural	Firm light grey orange silty clay A natural layer surviving to a depth of c. 0.05m. A lighter coloured clay (125) is present beneath this layer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Pit	sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.45m, min depth 0.12m, min length 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Fill	Plastic dark brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
110	Feature	Sub-oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.12m, min length 1.5m An erosional hollow.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Primary fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Secondary fill	Plastic dark grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
113	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.28m, min depth 0.1m, min length 1.9m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
115	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min depth 0.12m, min diameter 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
117	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min depth 0.07m, min diameter 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Fill	Plastic light grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
119	Feature	Oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.2m, min depth 0.03m, min length 0.3m An erosional hollow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Fill	Plastic light grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Gulley	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.1m, min length 1.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
122	Fill	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 9.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0794168992

OS Grid Ref.: TL0794768998

Reason: Archaeological evaluation trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
123	Feature	Sub-oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.33m, min depth 0.05m, min length 0.36m An erosional hollow.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
124	Fill	Plastic light grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	Natural	Firm light orange clay Clean clay natural below natural layer (107).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.1m, min length 1.5m Same feature as [113].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	Fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
128	Feature	Sub-oval sides: irregular base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.95m, min depth 0.14m An erosional hollow. Same feature as [110].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
129	Fill	Plastic dark grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
130	Feature	Sub-circular dimensions: min depth 0.03m, min diameter 0.46m An erosional hollow.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	Fill	Plastic light grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
132	Pit	sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, min depth 0.15m Cut of a modern pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Friable mid grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal Moderate modern brick, bottle glass and china fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Area: 2
 Extent (ha): 0.005
 OS Co-ordinates: TL0794768998
 Description: Archaeological area excavation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey black clay silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. Occasional modern roof tile, bottle glass and china fragments. 0.17m to 0.40m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Demolition layer	Friable light grey yellow clay silt. Deposit contains frequent mortar and occasional modern brick fragments. 0.10m to 0.16m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Buried topsoil	Plastic dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. A buried modern period topsoil beneath the demolition layer (201). Deposit contained occasional modern pottery fragments. C. 0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
203	Layer	Plastic dark brown grey silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. A anthropogenic layer, similar to lower layer (204), but containing pottery of post-Medieval date. C. 0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
204	Layer	Plastic dark orange grey silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
205	Natural	Plastic light grey orange silty clay . With mid grey silt mottling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Feature	Sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.08m. An erosional hollow.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Fill	Plastic dark grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
208	Posthole	Oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.29m, min depth 0.09m, min length 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
210	Posthole	Oval sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.35m, min depth 0.17m, min length 0.55m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Fill	Plastic dark grey silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
212	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min depth 0.14m, min diameter 0.29m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Primary fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
214	Secondary fill	Plastic light orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
215	Feature	Irregular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.1m, min depth 0.18m, min length 2.35m. An erosional hollow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Fill	Plastic dark grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
217	Pit	Sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.11m, min length 1.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
218	Fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay moderate flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
219	Pit	Sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.08m, min length 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
220	Fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
221	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min depth 0.1m, min diameter 0.38m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
222	Fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Area: 2
Extent (ha): 0.005
OS Co-ordinates: TL0794768998
Description: Archaeological area excavation

223	Posthole	Square sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min depth 0.18m, min length 0.44m. A modern post hole with post pipe containing clay pipe and china fragments in post pipe deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
224	Fill	Plastic dark orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
225	Postpipe	Square sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min depth 0.18m, min length 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
226	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Contained clay pipe and china fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
227	Pit	Oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.47m, min depth 0.08m, min length 0.75m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
228	Fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay moderate flecks chalk, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
229	Pit	Sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, min depth 0.08m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
230	Fill	Friable mid orange grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Deposit contained modern period clay pipe and china fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
231	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min depth 0.04m, min diameter 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
232	Fill	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones. Deposit contained modern china fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
233	Levelling layer	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Deposit contained occasional modern brick and tile fragments. 0.22m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

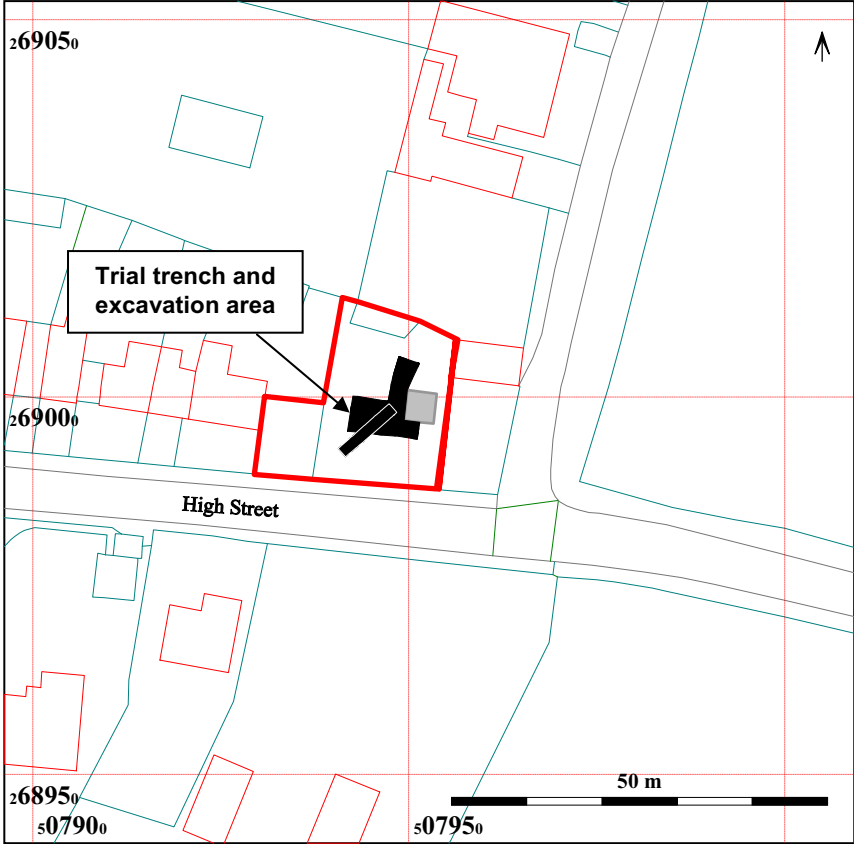
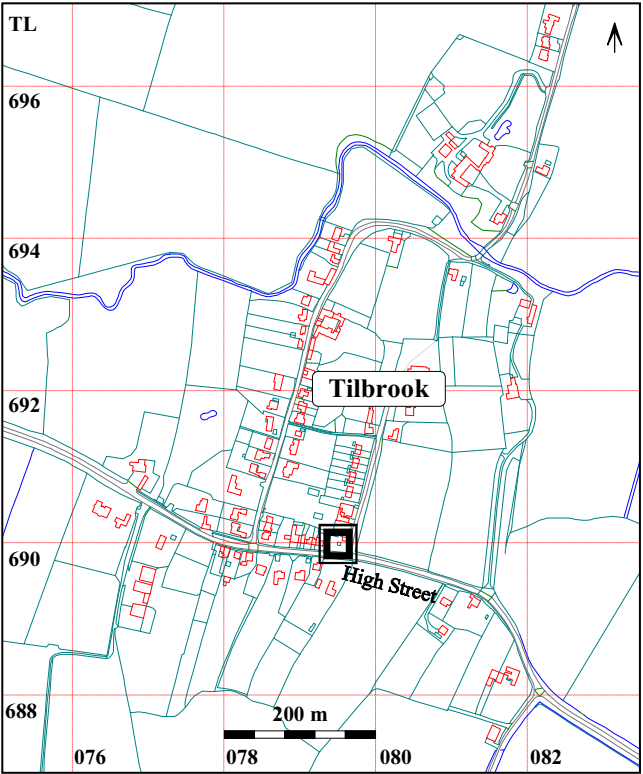
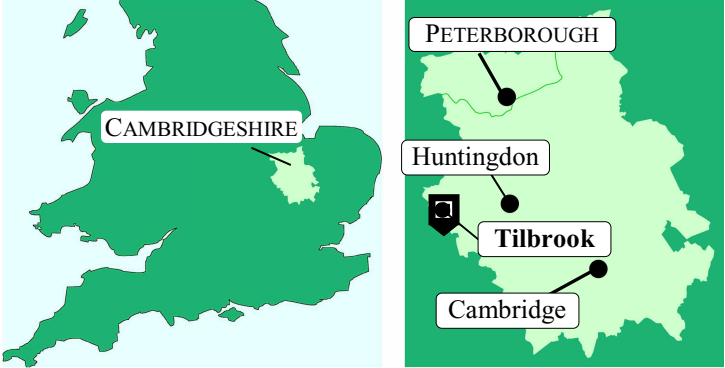


Figure 1: Site location

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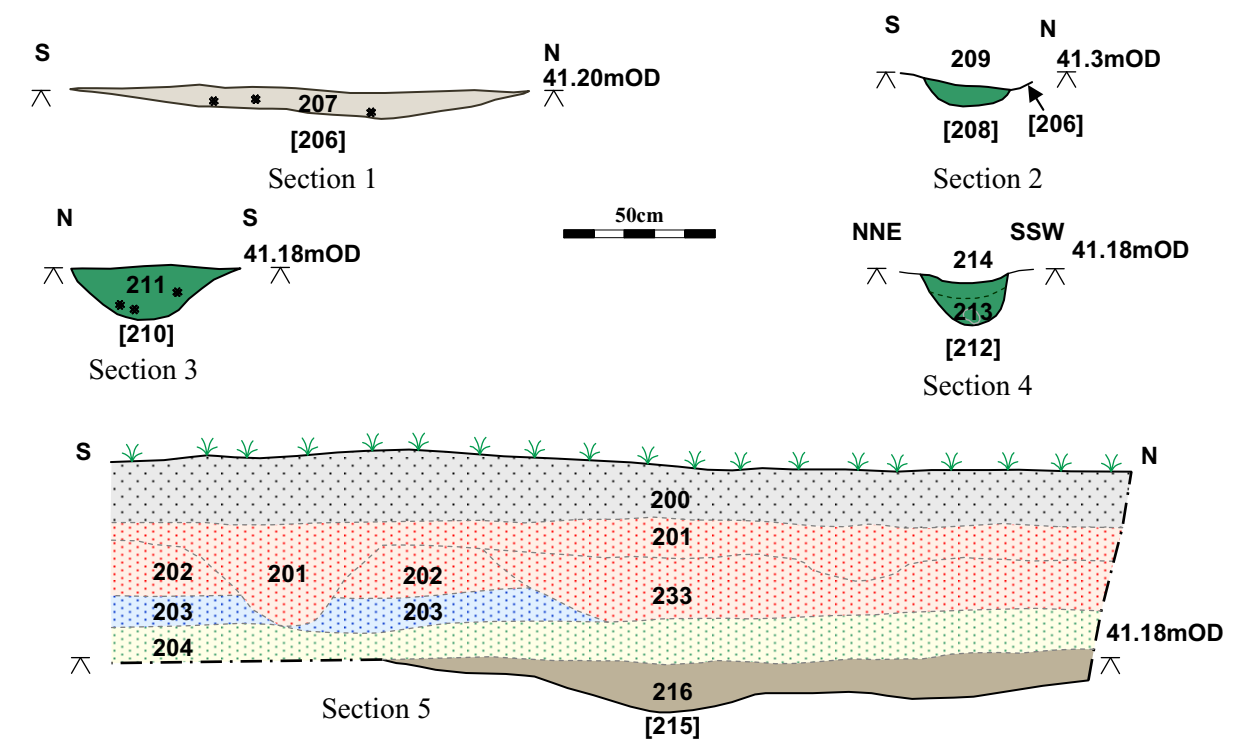
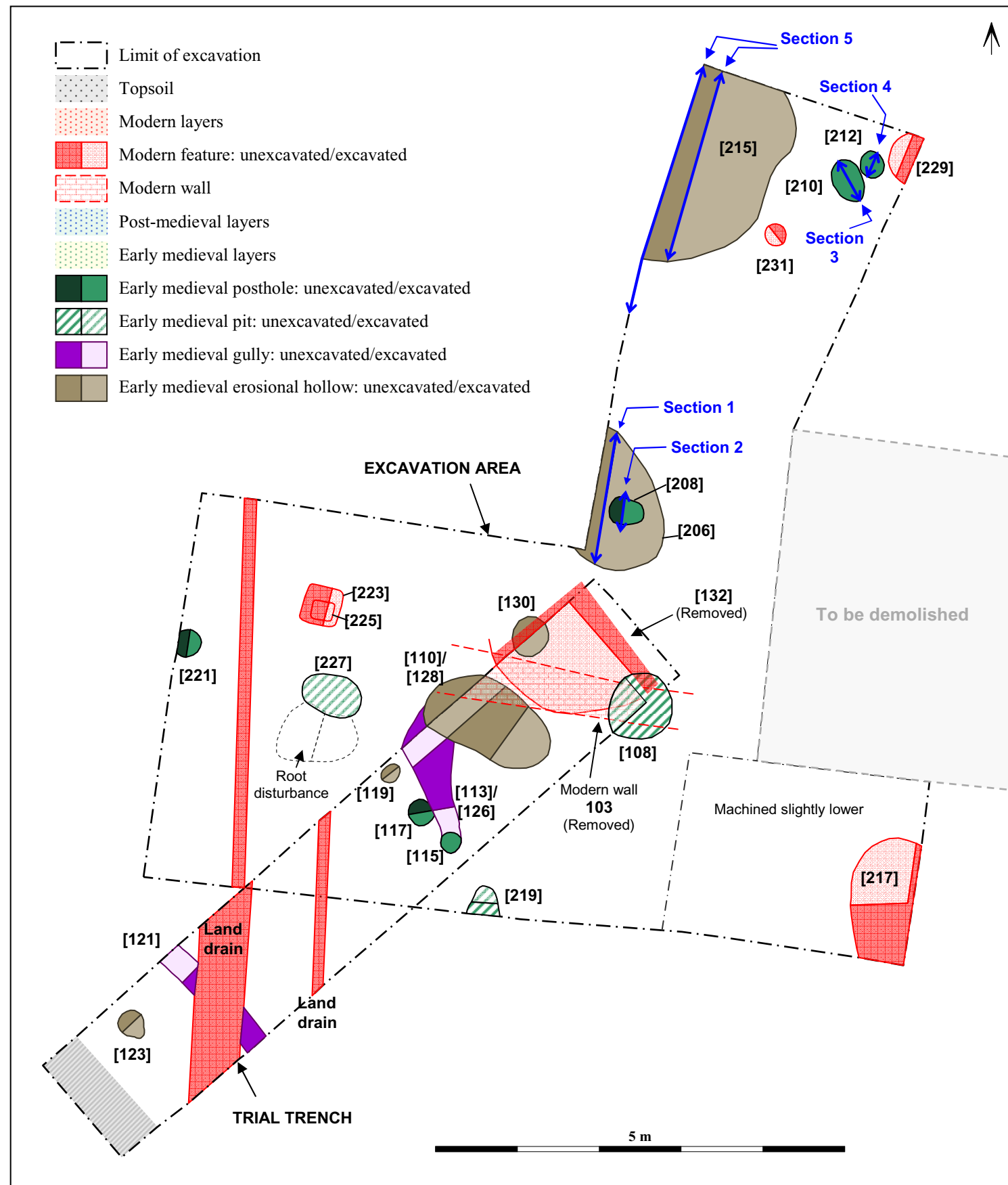


Figure 2: Excavation results



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