

**LAND AT FORDHAM ROAD AND CHERRYTREE LANE
SOHAM
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION**

Albion
archaeology



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

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The project was commissioned by Paul Clark (CgMs Consulting Ltd) on behalf of Hopkins Homes Ltd. It was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor) with the assistance of Anna Orłowska-Synus, Krzysztof Ryniec, Marcin Synus and Heather White (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors). All finds were processed by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer), and ecofact samples were processed by Anna Rebisz-Niziolek. The project was managed by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager) with the support of David Ingham (Project Officer).

This report has been prepared by David Ingham, with contributions from Jen Browning (animal bone), Holly Duncan (non-ceramic artefacts), Corinne Duhig (human bone), John Giorgi (ecofacts), Peter Guest (coins) and Jackie Wells (ceramic artefacts). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff.

Version History

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Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

BAR	British Archaeological Reports
CHER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
HET	Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

From June to August 2016, Albion Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation in advance of residential development on the southern edge of Soham, Cambridgeshire (TL 6013 7213). The work had been requested by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team, following the results of a trial-trench evaluation there in 2015, and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Hopkins Homes Ltd. This report presents the results of the excavation.

The excavated area was c. 1.1ha in extent, and contained features dating from the Bronze Age to the modern era, primarily in the form of drove-ways, trackways and field boundaries. A few water-pits were also identified, as well as three Bronze Age cremation burials. Very few finds were recovered, and there is no evidence that this land was ever used for settlement, which was presumably situated on the slightly higher ground to the north, beneath the modern town of Soham.

A summary of the work will be published in Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society, and this report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no.: albionar1-251280). With the landowner's permission, the archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archive Facility.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission was granted by East Cambridgeshire District Council for a residential development by Hopkins Homes Ltd on the southern edge of Soham, Cambridgeshire (Figure 1). Due to the site's location within an area of high archaeological potential, Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) recommended that a programme of archaeological works should be undertaken as a condition of planning consent.

Trial trenching by Pre-Construct Archaeology indicated that a relatively low density of prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains survived within the development area (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2016). Eighteen trenches were excavated in total, seven of which contained a sufficiently high density of remains to warrant archaeological mitigation of an area covering *c.* 1.1ha (Figure 1 – black outline). The HET issued a design brief setting out the requirements for the excavation of this area (HET 2016).

Archaeological consultants CgMs Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of Hopkins Homes Ltd, commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake the archaeological mitigation, in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that was approved in advance by the HET (Albion Archaeology 2016).

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Soham lies roughly halfway between Ely and Newmarket, with the development area located on the southern side of the town (Figure 1). The eastern edge of the development area is bordered by Fordham Road, with Cherrytree Lane to the south, a modern cemetery to the north, and pasture to the west. The development area itself was under cultivation until shortly before the excavation began.

Soham is situated on West Melbury Marly Chalk, overlain by second terrace river gravels to the south and west. The excavation area lay on relatively level ground at *c.* 5 OD, centred on grid reference TL 6013 7213.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Soham lies within an area known to be rich in archaeological remains of all periods from at least the Bronze Age onwards, with Neolithic flints also recorded nearby (HER 02097; MCB19936). The information below represents a summary of the data supplied in the Archaeological Design Brief (HET 2016).

1.1.1 *Bronze Age / Iron Age*

The fen edge is an area known for its wealth of Bronze Age and Iron Age remains, and Soham is no exception to this. A number of finds relating to these periods have been made within a 1km radius of the development area: Bronze Age flints (HER 07101A), Bronze Age / Iron Age flints (MCB17961), Bronze Age pottery (HER 07492; HER 07493), the tip of a bronze spearhead (HER 07605a), a Bronze Age cremation urn with a bronze pin (HER 07518), and Iron Age pottery (HER 07503; HER 07560). Trial-trench evaluations a short distance north of the development area have also revealed a probable late Bronze Age to Iron Age settlement (ECB455/CB14631), and an Iron Age settlement (MCB19583).



1.1.2 Roman

Extensive Roman remains have been found in and around Soham. Within c. 400m of the development area, archaeological evaluations have revealed evidence of Roman pits and ditches (MCB19583 / ECB3613; CB14630 / ECB454) plus remains indicative of Roman settlement (CB14632 / ECB455), and a Roman denarius was found c. 100m to the north-west (MCB 16684).

1.1.3 Saxon

A Saxon cemetery is known within the area of the modern cemetery immediately north of the development area (HER 07027), while Saxon artefacts have also been found elsewhere within Soham (HER 07121a; HER 07585; HER 07603; MCB17389).

1.1.4 Medieval and post-medieval

Soham is recorded in Domesday, and developed into a wealthy town during the medieval period, following its conversion into an inland port. Beyond the town's extant buildings, however, there is little archaeological evidence for the town's history from this period onwards. A few metal artefacts have been recovered from fields to the south of the development area (HER 07119a; HER 07502A), while the site of a medieval or post-medieval mill is known immediately to the north (HER 07497). The development area itself is likely to have been rural land throughout these periods.

1.1.5 Trial-trench evaluation

Eighteen trenches that were dug in November – December 2015 revealed features dating to the late Bronze Age / early Iron Age and the Roman and medieval periods, plus some limited evidence for early Neolithic flint-working (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2016). Dating evidence was limited, however, and the date of many of the features that were revealed is speculative. The generally low quantities of finds suggested that the area was peripheral to any nearby areas of occupation, such as those identified by Connor (2001) and Quinn and Peachey (2012), remaining as agricultural land throughout its history.

1.4 Project / Research Objectives

The principal objective of the archaeological investigation was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting. In particular, the excavation aimed to:

- investigate the extent and character of late Mesolithic / early Neolithic activity on site through the collection and examination of lithic artefacts;
- investigate the character and morphology of later prehistoric activity in the area;
- investigate the character and morphology of Roman activity in the area and its relationship to known areas of Roman settlement to the north; and
- contribute to an understanding of the pattern of medieval agricultural activity in the area.

The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott, M. 2011).



1.5 Methodologies

The full methodological approach to the project is detailed in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2016). The project adhered throughout to the standards set out in the following documents:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd ed, 2001)
• CHER	<i>Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Cambridgeshire</i> (April 2017, Version 2)
• CfA	<i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)
• HET	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation: Land at Fordham Road and Cherrytree Lane, Soham</i> (April 25th, 2016)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2015)

An excavation area of c. 1.1ha was stripped to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits under archaeological supervision. This process was delayed by flooding as a result of heavy rain, with re-machining of some areas required once the groundwater had receded. The investigations were undertaken between 13th June and 31st August 2016 under the general oversight of CgMs Consulting Ltd, and were monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by the HET.

1.6 Project Archive

With the landowner's permission, the project archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archive Facility. Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-251280) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



2 CONTEXTUAL RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

The results of the excavations are presented below. Section 2 presents the contextual evidence, while information on the artefacts and ecofacts that were recovered can be found in Section 3. For ease of reference, the more significant features recorded on site have been combined into Groups (indicated by a 'G' prefix); only 28 of the total 485 context numbers were not assigned to Groups. The Groups were then assigned to chronological Periods.

Period	G	Description	No. Contexts
1 Bronze Age	1	Boundary ditch	12
	2	Boundary ditch	4
	3	Boundary ditch	4
	4	Boundary ditch	11
	5	Water-pit	4
	6	Water-pit	12
	7	Boundary ditch	13
	8	Boundary ditch	18
	29	Cremation burials	8
2 Early–middle Iron Age	9	Field ditch	16
	10	Drove-way ditch	19
	11	Drove-way ditch	18
	12	Drove-way ditch	37
	13	Drove-way ditch	20
	14	Water-pit	6
	3 Late Iron Age / early Roman	15	Field ditch
16		Trackway	79
17		Trackway	38
18		Two pits	6
4 Roman	19	Boundary ditch	17
	20	Boundary ditch	22
	21	Drove-way ditch	24
5 Post-medieval	22	Field ditch	10
	23	Field ditch	6
	24	Field ditch	10
	25	Field ditch	2
	26	Field ditch	2
	27	Field ditch	11
	28	Pit	2
	6 Modern	33	Animal burials
0 Undated	30	Pit	3
	31	Possible structural feature	5
	32	Two pits	2
Total			457

Table 1: Summary of phasing

The text which follows is structured by Period and discussed by Group. A phased plan of all the excavated features can be found on Figure 2, with selected section drawings on Figure 3 and images on Figures 4–7).

Most of the deposits on site comprised relatively homogeneous, light to mid-brown sandy silt, with minor variations. Individual deposits are only described below where they differed significantly from this.



2.2 **Bronze Age (Period 1)**

Several ditches (G1–4 and G7–8), two water-pits (G5–6) and three cremation burials (G29) were assigned to Period 1 (Figure 2 – yellow features), which is loosely dated to the latter half of the Bronze Age. Evidence for dating is mostly restricted to 86g of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery and stratigraphic relationships with the Period 2 features, none of which were entirely unambiguous. Only middle Bronze Age cremation burials G29 can be dated confidently, as two samples from the central pit produced radiocarbon dates of 1395–1196 cal. BC and 1393–1131 cal. BC.

Ditches G1 and G2 were the largest on site, measuring 2.5–3m wide and 0.6–0.7m deep and with similar profiles (Figure 3: section a). Their spatial relationship suggests that they were contemporaneous, with a 3.5m gap between them; they presumably marked boundaries, though to what is unclear. Ditch G3 was much smaller (Figure 3: section b) and followed the alignment of G1; it was probably later than G1 and G2, but the ditches' fills were too similar to be certain of this.

Ditches G7 (Figure 4: image 1) and G4 may also have been contemporary with each other, as they were roughly perpendicular. There was a gap of nearly 15m between them, but most of this was filled by water-pit G6: this and water-pit G5 were perhaps used as watering holes for animals that were driven through the gap between the ditches. Ditch G7 was much the larger of the two, measuring 0.5m deep and up to 3.5m wide (Figure 3: section c), whereas G4 was no more than 0.3m deep and 1m wide. The eastern end of G4 formed a junction with ditches G8, but this area was too disturbed by later activity to define their relationship clearly.

The two water-pits were similar in character, if not so much in size — G5 was 6.2m by 4.7m in area and 0.9m deep (Figure 4: image 2), whereas G6 measured nearly 8m across and was over 1.2m deep. There was disturbance around the southern edge of G6 that is likely to have been caused by trampling rather than deliberate pit-digging, particularly as it was shallow in nature.

Cremation burials G29 were all heavily truncated, with the pits measuring 0.1–0.15m deep and containing only 100g of bone in total. Charcoal was present in the fill of all three, though only the southern one contained more than trace amounts.

2.3 **Early–middle Iron Age (Period 2)**

Ditches G9–G13 and water-pit G14 were assigned to this period (Figure 2 – red features). Stratigraphic evidence places them between those of Period 1 (Bronze Age) and Period 3, but their date cannot reliably be refined any further: 37g of pottery is all the dating evidence that was recovered from them.

Ditches G10–G13 are likely to represent the eastern ends of two drove-ways. Their convergence towards the north-east was perhaps designed to allow the animals to be funnelled into a more tightly knit pack, so that they could be more easily controlled as they exited the drove-ways. The ditches were mostly up to *c.* 0.4m deep and less than 1.5m wide (Figure 3: sections d–g and Figure 5: images 3 and 4), with evidence of re-cutting along much of their lengths. Only ditch G12 was intermittently more substantial: at least two areas near its eastern end had been deepened, presumably to act as sumps. Ditches G9 may have formed field boundaries, but too little of them was revealed to determine this conclusively.



Water-pit G14 measured 4.7m long, 4.1m wide and over 1.2m deep. It appeared to have been dug through ditch G12, though in reality the two are likely to have been broadly contemporary, with the still partially open ditch perhaps feeding the water-pit.

2.4 Late Iron Age / early Roman (Period 3)

The area around the junction of G16 and G17 (Figure 2 – green features) was heavily used and re-used in antiquity, making interpretation of it difficult (particularly in view of the homogeneity of the features' fills), but G16 and G17 appear to have been trackways. Their precise configuration is open to interpretation, but parallel wheel ruts *c.* 1.3m apart were present in both (Figure 3: sections h, j and k and Figure 6: image 5), indicating that these tracks were used by carts etc. No wheel ruts were apparent as trackway G16 headed south and G17 headed north, however; this may be an indication that carts followed a less constrained course away from the trackways' intersection, where they were perhaps channelled to follow the same line by archaeologically invisible methods such as the use of hedgerows. Individual ditches that either defined the trackways' route or provided drainage for them, or both, were visible to the north and south, but these largely merged with the wheel ruts where the trackways changed to an east–west orientation. Only G15 was clearly visible as a separate entity at this point, perhaps suggesting that this defined a more significant boundary, following the one originally established here in Period 2.

Two pits (G18) were visible between the two trackways. The northern one was shallow and may even have been a pothole where the trackways merged, but the southern one was *c.* 1m in diameter and 0.55m deep (Figure 3: section I and Figure 6: image 6), and may have held a gatepost as part of a measure to control passage along the trackways.

While these features have been assigned to the late Iron Age or early Roman period, dating evidence is restricted to one sherd of Roman pottery and stratigraphic relationships. Sunken tracks such as G16 and G17 are more commonly seen in the form of medieval hollow-ways, and the relationship between G16 and Period 4 ditch G20 was not entirely clear: the possibility that the trackways were in fact medieval therefore cannot be conclusively refuted. However, only one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the site, and the trackways are not typologically medieval — it therefore seems better to follow the artefactual and stratigraphic evidence which suggests that the trackways were formed in the late Iron Age or Roman.

2.5 Roman (Period 4)

Ditches G19–G21 (Figure 2 – blue features) were all *c.* 0.8–1.5m wide and displayed evidence of re-cutting. G19 and G21 were up to 0.6m deep, whereas G20 was shallower (Figure 3: sections g, l and m). They appear to represent a north–south drove-way and an east–west boundary, broadly following previously established alignments but cutting across Period 3 trackway G16; indicating that this was no longer in use.

2.6 Post-medieval (Period 5)

Several ditches were dated by sherds of pottery or fragments of ceramic building material to the post-medieval period (Figure 2 – light brown features). These ceramic finds amounted to only *c.* 1kg in total, but the phasing is supported by the stratigraphic evidence. Re-cutting was apparent in several of the ditches, though the



minimal deviation in their course during this exercise suggests that their routes may well have been fixed by adjacent hedgerows. A small pit (G28) was also recorded; the single sherd of pottery recovered from it is thought to be medieval; though possibly residual.

2.7 Modern (Period 6)

A group of nine pits forming G33 was identified in the north-eastern corner of the excavated area. The pits were all broadly similar in size and shape and had dark mixed fills (Figure 2 – black features). The two that were excavated contained animal skeletons, with a very small sherd of 19th-century creamware pottery weighing 1g and a pale olive green glass fragment from a vessel. The condition of the bone also suggested that the farm animals had been interred relatively recently — possibly in the last 100–200 years. No further analysis of the material was undertaken.

2.8 Undated (Period 0)

A number of features could not be dated: they yielded no artefacts, and could not reliably be associated with any dated features either spatially or stratigraphically. Most of these features are ones that were recorded during the evaluation but which could not be identified during the subsequent excavation. A number of these had a similar ENE-WSW alignment and may be the remnants of cultivation furrows characteristic of medieval and later arable cultivation.

Only a few of these features are worth a brief mention: pits G30 and G32, and G31, a short linear feature that was 6.4m long, 1m wide and 0.4m deep. G31 is similar to features seen commonly on late Iron Age and Roman sites in the region, and is often suggested to have had a structural function (possibly housing a windbreak or some other form of screen or shelter), but its purpose here is essentially unknown.

Pit G30 was sub-circular in plan, measuring *c.* 1.6m across and 1.05m deep. No finds were recovered from it to give a clue as to its date, but its depth suggests that it was a small water-pit — it was too deep to have been viable for dry storage, and the lower fills did appear to have formed in standing water. Pits G32 were a similar size in plan to G30 but only 0.25m deep, with dark fills that contained burnt flint and charcoal; their date is unknown, but a prehistoric origin is possible.



3 ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

3.1 Pottery

The pottery assemblage totals forty-nine sherds, representing approximately thirty vessels (586g), and comprises wares of later prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. Pottery was collected from twenty deposits, all but one containing assemblages weighing less than 100g (Table 2).

Period	Group	No. Sherd	Wt. (g)
1	G1 Boundary ditch	1	1
	G3 Boundary ditch	1	2
	G5 Water-pit	6	54
	G6 Water-pit	3	23
	G7 Boundary ditch	1	4
	G8 Boundary ditch	1	2
2	G9 Field ditch	3	8
	G12 Drove-way ditch	1	7
	G13 Drove-way ditch	1	2
	G14 Water-pit	10	20
3	G17 Trackway	1	7
4	G19 Boundary ditch	2	41
	G21 Drove-way ditch	4	14
5	G22 Field ditch	3	33
	G24 Field ditch	3	16
	G25 Field ditch	3	326
	G27 Field ditch	2	7
	G28 Pit	1	16
6	G33 Animal burials	1	1
0	G31 Gully	1	2
Total		49	586

Table 2: Pottery quantification by Period and Group

3.1.1 Periods 1 and 2: Bronze Age to early–middle Iron Age

Twenty-eight handmade sherds (123g) derived from prehistoric features assigned to Periods 1 and 2. Most are flint- and flint/sand-tempered wares suggesting a later Bronze Age to early Iron Age date. The pottery is poorly preserved and highly fragmented, with a mean sherd weight of only 4g. Few vessels are represented by more than one sherd, and there are no diagnostic vessel forms. The assemblage contains no decorated sherds, although distinction can be made between coarse vessels containing high densities of flint and finer-walled examples with sparser, finer inclusions. A single upright rounded rim is the sole feature sherd. The absence of vessel forms or decorative elements precludes refinement of date range.

3.1.2 Periods 3 and 4: Late Iron Age / Roman

Single abraded body sherds of locally manufactured Roman coarse ware (total weight 22g) derived from trackway G17 (Period 3), and ditches G19 and G21 (Period 4). The latter also contained four residual early Iron Age sherds (40g), comparable with those deriving from Period 1 and 2 features.

3.1.3 Periods 5 and 6: Post-Roman

Twelve abraded sherds (398g) collected from Period 5 ditches G22, G24, G25 and G27 and pit G28 mainly comprise 17th-century glazed red earthenware vessels, including three bowl rims (326g) recovered from G25. A residual 12th–13th-century



sandy coarse ware strap jug handle (16g) derived from G28, and two Iron Age sherds (7g) from G27. Modern animal burial G33 yielded a sherd of 19th-century creamware (1g).

3.1.4 Pottery type series

Pottery fabrics were assigned on the basis of surface appearance and the type, size and density of principal inclusions. Codes are in accordance, as far as possible, with the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group's guidelines (PCRG 2010); the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998); and the Cambridgeshire Post-Roman Type Series (Spoerry 2016). All are previously recognised wares, for which detailed descriptions are available in the archive.

Fabric Code	Common Name	No. Sherd	Wt. (g)
<i>Prehistoric</i>			
FLCF	Fine flint	5	24
FLCC/QUMM	Coarse flint and quartz	11	66
FLCF/QUMF	Fine flint and quartz	14	71
FLSM/GRSC	Flint and grog	1	2
QUMF	Fine sand	2	4
QUCC	Coarse sand	1	3
QUSM/GRSF	Sand and grog	1	2
<i>Roman</i>			
GW CO	Coarse grey ware	1	7
GW BS	Black-slipped grey ware	1	3
HOR RE	Horningsea reduced ware	1	12
<i>Medieval and later</i>			
SW	Early medieval coarse sand	1	16
GRE	Glazed red earthenware	6	359
-	Creamware	1	1
UNID	Misc. undatable	3	16

Table 3: Pottery quantification by fabric

3.2 Ceramic Building Material

Six post-medieval brick fragments (508g) and a piece of flat roof tile (87g) were collected from Period 5 field ditches G22 and G24.

3.3 Other Artefacts

3.3.1 Introduction

Eighteen 'Other Artefacts' were recovered. Bulk finds comprise ferrous slag (31.7g), ceramic hearth lining (31g) and burnt, unworked flint (556.1g). Quantities by material and Period are presented in Table 4. Nine items were found via systematic metal-detecting of the site including one gold, one iron and seven copper-alloy objects. The remainder of the assemblage was recovered via hand-excavation. All objects were assigned to a 'broad term' and functional category. Iron and selected copper-alloy objects were the subject of digital x-rays carried out by Pieta Graves of Drakon Heritage and Conservation. Coins were identified by Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University).

Six functional categories are represented: fasteners and fittings (nail); household (glass vessel, ceramic hearth-lining 31g, burnt flint 17.1g); craft and industry (ferrous slag 31.7g); multipurpose bladed implements and sharpeners (scythe stone); commerce (six coins); dress and personal adornment (brooch, button, lace tag, purse



frame); and prehistoric implements (six worked flints). A further 539g of burnt unworked flint formed part of a cremation deposit and hence has been assigned to the category of religious and personal belief.

Material	Period						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	0
Objects							
Gold	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Copper alloy	-	2	-	-	2	-	4
Iron	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Glass	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Flint	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
Stone	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bulk finds							
Ceramic hearth lining	-	-	-	-	-	31g	-
Ferrous slag	-	-	-	-	31.7g	-	-
Burnt flint	543.1g	-	13g	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Other Artefacts assemblage

3.3.2 Date range

The oldest datable items (flint) in the assemblage derive from the Neolithic period, including a disc scraper, four possible earlier Neolithic flakes and a single late Neolithic flake. There are no objects that can definitively be assigned to the Bronze Age. The later Iron Age is represented by a quarter stater Trinovantian D Whaddon Chase type, which, according to Van Arsdell (1989, 337), dates to 55–45 BC. A second Iron Age coin is thought to be early 1st-century AD in date and may be a late bronze coin of Cunobelin (Van Arsdell's Trinovantian W; Van Arsdell 1989, 419–23). The Roman period is represented by a Hod Hill brooch of Mackreth's type 4.b.2 (2011, 137–8), dated to AD 43–100; a radiate coin (uncertain ruler) of the later 3rd century (AD 260–90); and a 4th-century coin of the House of Valentinian (AD 364–78). The post-medieval period is represented by a fragment of a cast copper alloy purse frame of LMMC type A (Ward Perkins 1940, 162–7), a lace tag with edges folded inwards, a rose farthing of c. 1636–44 and a sherd of pale olive green vessel glass, possibly deriving from a wine bottle.

3.3.3 Provenance

The archaeological features primarily consisted of ditches, trackways, pits and water-pits, representing drove-ways and field systems. Ditch fills accounted for eleven objects, along with 17.1g of burnt stone and 31.7g of ferrous slag, while water-pits accounted for only one item. Topsoil and subsoil deposits yielded five items. Cremation burials accounted for 539g of burnt flint.

Six periods have been identified during post-excavation analysis, spanning the Bronze Age to the Roman period, plus post-medieval and modern activity. The assemblage is discussed below by Period (see Table 5).

3.3.3.1 Period 1 (Bronze Age)

The Other Artefacts assemblage from Period 1 is limited to residual flints and a gold coin (Figure 7: image 7). The latter, a quarter stater of Whaddon Chase Type (Trinovantian D), with its abstracted head of Apollo, dates to the mid-1st century BC and is an intrusive find from the junction of water-pit G5 and ditch G12. The secondary flint flake from water-pit G6 possesses a relatively thick butt and



prominent bulb of percussion, suggesting a late Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Boundary ditch G4 contained a disc scraper with semi-abrupt retouch on its lateral edges and invasive retouch on the distal end, with a thinning flake on the proximal end; this is likely to be of Neolithic date.

The southernmost cremation burial in G29 contained 539g of burnt unworked flint and a quantity of charcoal. Although the flint is not datable, it is likely to have formed a part of the middle Bronze Age cremation ritual.

Period	Group	Material	Object	No.	Wt.
1	G4: Boundary ditch	Flint	Scraper	1	
	G5: Water-pit	Gold	Quarter stater	1	
		Flint	Burnt unworked flint	1	4.1g
	G6: Water-pit	Flint	Flake	1	
2	G29: Cremation burials	Flint	Burnt unworked flint	1	539g
	G11: Boundary ditch	Copper alloy	Coin	1	
	G12: Drove-way ditch	Flint	Flake	2	
		Copper alloy	Brooch	1	
G13: Drove-way ditch	Flint	Flake	2		
3	G15: Ditch	Flint	Burnt unworked flint	1	13g
4	G21: Drove-way ditch	Iron	Nail	1	
5	G23: Field ditch	Copper alloy	Lace tag	1	
		Copper alloy	Coin	1	
	G24: Field ditch	Slag	Ferrous slag	1	31.7g
6	G33: Animal burial	Glass	Vessel	1	
		Ceramic	Vitrified clay	1	31g

Table 5: Other Artefacts assemblage by Period and Group

3.3.3.2 Period 2 (early–middle Iron Age)

Boundary ditch G11 contained a very worn probable late Iron Age coin, possibly of Cunobelin (Van Arsdell's Trinovantian W); again this should be considered intrusive. Drove-way G12 also produced both residual and intrusive finds. Two secondary flint flakes display characteristics, such as narrow blade-like removal scars, suggestive of a date in the early Neolithic. In contrast, a Hod Hill brooch of Mackreth's type 4.b.2 (2011, 137–8), dating to *c.* AD 43–100, was also found in G11 (Figure 7: image 8). Drove-way ditch G13 contained a narrow blade-like flint flake with shallow bulb and thin butt; this is likely to be late Mesolithic to early Neolithic in date.

3.3.3.3 Period 3 (late Iron Age / early Roman)

No datable finds were recovered from Period 3 features, though a small amount (13g) of burnt unworked flint came from field ditch G15.

3.3.3.4 Period 4 (Roman)

Drove-way ditch G21 yielded a nail with a T-shaped head and a robust shank bent into a U-shape. The end of the shank has been flattened / splayed. The head and shank of the nail conform to Manning's type 3 nails (1985, 135). This nail may have been utilised to form a loop on a key (*cf.* Manning 1985, pl. 39 no. O15), or alternatively to form a swivel fitting (such as on hanging lamps).

3.3.3.5 Periods 5 (post-medieval) and 6 (modern)

Period 5 field ditches G23 and G24 contained both contemporary and residual finds. The fill of G23 yielded a lace tag with its edges folded inwards to grip the lace. This is a post-medieval form of tag, mainly found in 16th–17th-century contexts (Oakley



1979, 263). G24 produced a small amount (31.7g) of undiagnostic ferrous slag, along with a residual radiate coin of *c.* AD 260–90. Modern animal burial G33 contained a small quantity of vitrified clay (31g) and a thin-walled body sherd of pale olive green glass; the vessel form is indeterminate but it is likely to be post-medieval.

3.4 Human Bone

3.4.1 Methods

The methods followed are those of Mayne Correia 1997, Mays 1998, and McKinley 1989.

Material was recovered from three features, F1268, F1270 and F1273 (G29, Period 1). The samples were of low weight and very small fragment size, so it was easy to divide them into the identifiable material and some bone dust. The heaviest, representing the combined material from the upper and lower half of F1270, was only 99g, the lightest about 1g. For comparison, the expected weight range for a whole body after burning is approximately 1,600–3,600g, and for ancient cremations is approximately 200 to 2000g. The average for the latter is 800g (McKinley 1989), although many are of low weight, just a few grams, like these.

3.4.2 Results

The small size of the samples restricts their potential for detailed analysis, but the northern pit (F1268) appears to have contained cremated remains from an infant or small child, while the central one (F1270) yielded remains indicative of an adult human. Only one tiny bone flake that may be human was recovered from the southern pit (F1273), while both F1270 and F1273 contained bone that may be non-human. Radiocarbon results (SUERC-72763 and SUERC-73392) on two bone fragments from F1270 produced dates of 1395–1196 cal. BC and 1393–1131 cal. BC respectively, placing this burial (and by association the two others) in the middle Bronze Age (see section 3.7 below).

3.4.2.1 F1268

The northernmost of the three pits in G29 yielded 4g of human bone: one fragment from the skull vault, one from the face, one from a rib, and several from the shafts of long bones. The bone is white, except for some grey-blue on the outer table of the skull vault, so it has been well burnt: white bone has lost all its organic component through combustion and is almost pure mineral, having been burned at a temperature of at least 645°C over several hours with adequate oxygen access (Mayne Correia 1997; Mays 1998, 216, table 11.1; McKinley 1989). Poorer burning produces bone in shades including bright blue-grey, grey, black and reddish-brown. All fragments are of the size appropriate for an infant or small child.

3.4.2.2 F1270

This pit was excavated in two spits. The lower one contained 5g of white and grey bone from the skull vault, ribs, femur and some unidentifiable long bones, plus one root of a single-rooted tooth (*i.e.* incisor or canine). The femoral shaft fragments are of adult size. The upper spit had 94g of mixed-colour bone, white, grey and brown (within the long-bone shaft). Identifiable areas were the skull vault, face and base — which included the bone that surrounds the inner ear — three tooth roots, a rib fragment, part of the head of the humerus, many fragments of long-bone shaft, and



part of one tiny foot bone. The long-bone shaft and skull fragments are of adult size. Two fragments are possibly non-human.

There are no duplications, and the similar size of the bones from both samples suggests that they derive from the same individual (although there are no pairings or refits, so this cannot be proved). If the two samples are pooled, the pit contained approximately 99g of bone, some well burnt, some reasonably-well burnt and some, within the long bone, where the burning had barely reached and the organic material was almost totally present — this part of the bone had been no more than ‘cooked’. This shows that the pyre had not been managed well, with temperature and/or oxygen being inadequate in some areas, or time being too short.

3.4.2.3 F1273

This pit was excavated in two spits, but no useful information can be obtained from either because the lower spit has a single tiny bone flake, probably human, while the upper one has two flakes, one probably not human and one indeterminate.

3.5 Animal Bone

3.5.1 Introduction

A total of 247 animal bone fragments were recovered from 33 deposits, associated with activity from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period. The bones were mostly hand-recovered, with sieved environmental samples producing little bone.

3.5.2 Methods

Specimens were identified with reference to comparative modern and ancient skeletal material held at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. A *pro forma* spreadsheet was used for recording data on preservation, taxa, bone element, state of epiphyseal fusion and completeness, to elicit information on species proportions, skeletal representation, age and taphonomy. Where possible, the anatomical parts present for each skeletal element were recorded using the ‘zones’ defined by Serjeantson (1996), with additional zones ascribed to mandibles based on Dobney and Reilly (1988). Surface preservation was assessed after Harland *et al.* (2003). The occurrence of burning, gnawing and pathologies was noted and described. Butchery was recorded using simple coding and description. Joining fragments were re-assembled and the resulting specimen counted as a single fragment, although a record of the original number of fragments was retained.

3.5.3 Results

3.5.3.1 Preservation and taphonomy

The bones exhibited both old and modern breakage; noting the presence of joining fragments reduced the total from 247 to 161 specimens. The assemblage was fragmented, and only five bones were complete — these include three astragali, which are compact bones that are less susceptible to fragmentation. Surface condition was assessed, following Harland *et al.* (2003), and found to be predominantly poor or fair (Table 6). The early–middle Iron Age and late Iron Age / early Roman bones (Periods 2 and 3) were particularly poorly preserved.

Poor preservation of the bones inhibited the identifications of modifications such as butchery, gnawing and pathologies. Seven bones in the assemblage were gnawed, all



but two of which were Bronze Age cattle limb bones recovered from water-pits. No burnt bones were noted.

Period	0	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Good	0%	12%	1%	7%	0%	0%	7%
Fair	50%	73%	21%	27%	100%	100%	47%
Poor	50%	16%	77%	67%	0%	0%	47%
Total	100% (2)	100% (77)	100% (71)	100% (15)	100% (2)	100% (2)	100%

Table 6: Animal bone: Percentage of assemblage in each preservation category by period (number of fragments in brackets)

The proportion of identifiable fragments was fairly average for an assemblage of this type (33%; n=55) and, unfortunately, the sample size is insufficiently large to provide information on husbandry and the economy of the site.

3.5.3.2 Provenance and Dating

The bones were recovered during excavation of ditches, trackways and pits dating from the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. The largest assemblages were recovered from ditches and water-pits associated with Bronze Age and early–middle Iron Age activity (Table 7).

Period and Date	Ditch	Trackway	Pit	Water-pit	Percentage of assemblage (No. fragments)
1 Bronze Age	20%	0%	0%	67%	46% (77)
2 Early–middle Iron Age	76%	0%	0%	33%	43% (71)
3 Late Iron Age / early Roman	0%	100%	0%	0%	9% (15)
4 Roman	2%	0%	0%	0%	1% (1)
5 Post-medieval	2%	0%	0%	0%	1% (1)
0 Undated	0%	0%	100%	0%	1% (2)
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 7: Animal bone: Chronological distribution of assemblage by feature type

3.5.3.3 Taxa and Carcass Representation

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog and red deer were represented in the assemblage (Table 8). No birds, fish or small mammals were identified. The greatest number of bones came from Bronze Age and early–middle Iron Age features, although in each period no more than just over twenty bones were identifiable to taxon.

	Period	0	1	2	3	4	5	Total
cattle		1	19	14	4	-	-	38
sheep/goat		-	1	1	2	-	-	4
pig		-	-	3	-	-	-	3
dog		-	-	2	-	1	-	3
red deer		-	1	-	-	-	-	1
horse		1	2	1	1	-	1	6
Total identified		2	23	21	7	1	1	55
large mammal		-	52	48	4	-	-	104
medium mammal		-	-	-	4	-	-	4
indeterminate		-	2	2	-	-	-	4
Total		2	77	71	15	1	1	167

Table 8: Animal bone: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP)



Most of the identified bones belonged to cattle and included a variety of elements, although not in sufficient quantities to suggest activity or deposition patterns (Table 9). However, bones represented were commonly robust elements, such as metapodials, tibiae, astragali and pelvis. A cattle tibia and astragalus in early–middle Iron Age water-pit G14 may have been articulated.

Period	0	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Cattle	1	19	14	4	-	-	38
astragalus	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
atlas	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
femur	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
humerus	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
mandible	1	3	-	1	-	-	5
metacarpal	-	2	3	-	-	-	5
metatarsal	-	3	2	-	-	-	5
molar	-	1	1	1	-	-	3
pelvis	-	3	-	1	-	-	4
radius	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
scapula	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
tibia	-	2	2	1	-	-	5
Dog	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
humerus	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
mandible	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
ulna	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Horse	1	2	1	1	-	1	6
mandible	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
metacarpal	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
pelvis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
tibia	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
cheek tooth	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pig	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
mandible	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
maxilla	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
premolar	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Red deer	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
radius	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Sheep/goat	-	1	1	2	-	-	4
humerus	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
mandible	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
molar	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	2	23	21	7	1	1	55

Table 9: Animal bone: Distribution of taxa and elements within the assemblage (raw fragment count)

Sheep/goat bones were significantly rarer than cattle. A Bronze Age deposit contained a mandible fragment, whilst a humerus fragment was recovered from an early–middle Iron Age feature. A partial humerus and a molar were found in the Roman assemblage.

The only bones attributed to pig were fragments of jaws and teeth recovered from early–middle Iron Age water-pit G14. Dog was represented in early–middle Iron Age and Roman deposits: a partial humerus and ulna recovered from early–middle Iron Age ditch G10 could conceivably belong to the same individual, while a partial mandible was recovered from Roman ditch G21. A red deer radius was excavated from Bronze Age water-pit G6. Only four horse bones were identified in the assemblage, each found within features of a different period.



Sieving of environmental samples produced faunal remains from just a single sample, with no identifiable specimens.

3.5.3.4 Age Structure

Analysis of age at death is normally carried out using tooth eruption and wear as a guide, supplemented by the state of epiphyseal fusion of post-cranial bones. The small sample size here precludes detailed analysis and provides few clues regarding husbandry practices on the site. It should be noted that since juvenile bones are more susceptible to destruction than those of adults, they are likely to be under-represented in the assemblage.

There were no mandibles whose teeth could be aged. In Period 1 deposits, only cattle and a single red deer bone had surviving epiphyses. The only unfused bones were late-fusing, such as a bovine distal femur, which fuses between 42 and 48 months (after Silver 1969). There were no unfused bones in subsequent periods (Table 10). Most bones with surviving epiphyses belonged to cattle; a single sheep/goat distal humerus from Period 3 was also fused.

Taxon	Period	Group	Element	Proximal	Distal
cattle	1	6	femur	-	u
		6	metacarpal	f	f
		6	metatarsal	-	f
		6	metatarsal	f	f
		2	pelvis	f	-
		6	scapula	-	f
		6	tibia	-	f
	2	14	metacarpal	f	f
		14	metatarsal	-	f
		14	tibia	-	f
horse	3	16	pelvis	f	-
		27	metacarpal	f	-
	5	27	metacarpal	f	f
		30	pelvis	f	-
large mml	1	6	lumbar vertebra	u	-
		6	lumbar vertebra	u	u
red deer	1	6	radius	-	f
sheep/goat	3	17	humerus	-	f

Table 10: Animal bone: Fused (f) and unfused (u) elements in the assemblage

3.5.3.5 Measurements

Measurements taken are recorded in Table 11. While there are insufficient numbers to use for intra-site comparisons, they could potentially contribute to wider studies.

Period	Group	Taxon	Element	Measurement (mm)
1	6	cattle	tibia	bd=56.3
	6	cattle	scapula	glp=61.9
	6	cattle	metatarsal	bd=44.2; bp=37.7; gl=197;
	6	red deer	radius	bfd=38.4
2	14	cattle	astragalus	glm=54.3;
3	17	sheep/goat	humerus	bt=22.6; htc=11.1
4	21	dog	mandible	p4 and m2 present l=10.2, b=7.2
5	27	horse	metacarpal	bp=49.1; bd=47.5; gl=225;

Table 11: Animal bone: Measurements taken on bones and teeth (after von den Driesch 1976)



3.5.3.6 Butchery

Butchery marks were extremely scarce in the assemblage, with only a single bone affected — a cattle pelvis from Period 1 (Bronze Age), which had cut marks on the inside of the ilium, probably occurring during disarticulation of the carcass.

3.5.4 Discussion

The animal bone was associated with activity dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period. The largest groups of material were from features of Bronze Age and early–middle Iron Age date; however, they constitute very small samples. Cattle bones were most numerous in all periods, which may be more indicative of preservation than of economic factors. Sheep/goat, pig, dog and horse were present in the assemblage in small numbers, and not in all periods. Wild taxa were represented by a single red deer bone from a Bronze Age context. The sieved environmental samples were unproductive and no small mammals, birds or fish were recovered. These results may be at least partly attributed to the poor preservation that affected almost half the assemblage. In these conditions, juvenile bones and modifications such as butchery marks and pathologies are almost certainly under-represented.

Although preservation partially accounts for the paucity of faunal evidence, the faunal assemblage is still unusually small for the size of the excavation area (c. 1.1 ha). The bones may result from secondary or tertiary deposition, located at a distance from the focus of settlement activity.

3.6 Charred Plant Remains

3.6.1 Introduction and methods

Six bulk soil samples were taken during the excavations: two from water-pits G5 and G6 and three from two cremation burials G29, all Bronze Age (Period 1); and one from an undated pit G32. The volumes of the samples ranged from 7l to 20l and were processed using a Siraf-style type flotation tank, with mesh sizes of 0.3mm and 1mm for the recovery of the flot and residue respectively. The residues were dried and sorted for biological and artefactual material.

Four of the samples produced small flots (<1ml to 8ml), with the two Bronze Age water-pits yielding none. The flots were dried, divided into fractions using a stack of sieves for ease of assessment, and scanned using a stereo-binocular microscope with a magnification of up to x40. The presence and estimated abundance of charred and uncharred plant remains and charcoal in each flot was recorded.

3.6.2 Results

The samples produced very few archaeobotanical remains (Table 12). Other than charcoal, the only charred plant remains were a few unidentifiable tuber and rhizome fragments in Sample 4 from the central cremation burial in G29. Only occasional or very small amounts of charcoal were present, with the exception of the southern cremation burial in G29, from which Sample 5 contained a good charcoal assemblage. Other botanical remains consisted of a few uncharred seeds of *Fallopia convolvulus* (black bindweed) and uncharred chaff fragments that are likely to represent recent intrusive material, judging by the large amounts of roots in three of the samples.



Date	Group	Sample	Vol. soil processed (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal (>,<2mm)	Comments
Bronze Age	G5	10	10	0	1,-	One rectilinear fragment of wood charcoal (9mm)
	G6	9	10	0	1,-	One fragment of small round wood charcoal (8mm)
	G29	4	8	3	1,3	Occ charred rhizome/tuber fragments; traces charcoal fragments; uncharred seeds (<i>Fallopia convulvulus</i>)
	G29	5	10	8	4,5	No CPR; mainly charcoal; uncharred seeds (<i>Fallopia convulvulus</i>)
	G29	6	10	<1	1,2	No CPR; traces charcoal fragments; uncharred free-threshing wheat rachis; mainly roots
Undated	G32	15	7	2	1,3	No CPR; traces charcoal fragments; uncharred grass husks and few roots

1 = 1–10; 2 = 11–50; 3 = 51–150; 4 = 151–250; 5 = >250 items

Table 12: Charred and uncharred archaeobotanical remains

3.6.3 Discussion

There was very little archaeobotanical evidence in the samples, limited mainly to very small amounts of charcoal: only the southern cremation burial in G29 produced a significant amount. The few tuber and rhizome fragments in the central cremation burial in G29 probably represent spent fuel from the collection of local vegetation used as tinder for the cremation, or possibly burnt vegetation under a pyre. The uncharred plant remains in the samples are likely to be intrusive.

3.7 Radiocarbon Dating

Two samples of human bone from fill 1272 of F1270 were submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) for dating. Initially one of the samples failed to yield a date; though a date was achieved on the second attempt, as summarised below in Table 13 and in the associated calibration plots (Figure 8). The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal4).

Lab Code	Sample Ref	Radiocarbon Age BP	Calibrated Date
SUERC-72763 (GU43610)	1272a	3030 ± 29	1395–1196 cal. BC
SUERC-73392 (GU43611)	1272b	3021 ± 32	1393–1131 cal. BC

Table 13: Radiocarbon dates



4 DISCUSSION

The excavations at Fordham Road revealed repeated use of the area from the Bronze Age onwards, but with no indication that it was ever inhabited. The excavated features primarily represent drove-ways, trackways and field boundaries that lay beyond the margins of any related settlement, which was presumably situated on the slightly higher ground to the north, beneath the modern town of Soham.

Very few artefacts were recovered, making it difficult to date the excavated remains with any great precision or confidence. Relative phasing of the remains relies primarily on stratigraphic evidence, which itself is uncertain in a number of cases, due to the largely homogenous nature of the features' infill. While it seems probable that the first four periods of activity labelled on Figure 2 spanned the Bronze Age to the Roman period, the chronological distinctions that have been made between them are based on no more than a handful of datable artefacts from each period, and a less even distribution across the time-span of 1,500 years is possible. The repeated use of alignments for ditched boundaries also introduces an element of uncertainty: ditches G2 and G9, for example, were assigned to the Bronze Age and early–middle Iron Age respectively on the basis of just a few potsherds — if these were in fact residual, then a post-medieval date would be entirely plausible.

In some respects, however, the lack of chronological precision in the phasing structure is unimportant in terms of what the remains signify. Those from Periods 1–4 relate to a landscape that people moved through, rather than settled in: Period 2 ditches G10–G13 are thought to represent a pair of drove-ways, while the wheel-ruts visible in Period 3 trackways G16 and G17 point to the use of wheeled vehicles. Wheel-ruts were only visible at the point where the two trackways converged, however: vehicles were perhaps channelled by archaeologically invisible methods such as the use of hedgerows to take a specific route through this part of the landscape, whilst being allowed more freedom to follow their own path to the north in particular. This point subsequently constituted the junction between a north–south drove-way and an east–west boundary in Period 4 (ditches G19–21), possibly indicating an area less-prone to flooding than the lower ground to the south, towards the watercourse.

Few discrete features were identified, and even fewer could be closely dated. Water-pits G5 and G6 were stratigraphically earlier than Period 2 ditch G12 and contained small amounts of Bronze Age pottery, suggesting that they were part of the poorly understood Bronze Age landscape of Period 1. In contrast, water-pit G14 cut through Period 2 ditch G12, and is presumed to have been broadly contemporary with it. The three cremation burials in G29, which contained only 100g of bone between them, were also Bronze Age: radiocarbon analysis of two samples from the central one produced dates of 1395–1196 cal. BC and 1393–1131 cal. BC. Pits G18 are assumed to have been contemporary with trackways G16 and G17: the depth and profile of the southern pit suggest that it may have held a gatepost as part of a measure to control passage along the trackways.

The historic absence of settlement at Fordham Road is likely to have been because this low-lying land, only 5m OD, was too prone to flooding, with the nearest settlement lying on the higher ground beneath the modern town. It was a landscape



that people and animals primarily moved through during their lifetimes, settling here only after death.



5. OASIS Form

OASIS ID: albionar1-251280

Project details

Project name	Fordham Road, Soham
Short description of the project	From June to August 2016, Albion Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation in advance of residential development on the southern edge of Soham, Cambridgeshire. The work had been requested by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team, following the results of a trial-trench evaluation there in 2015, and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Hopkins Homes Ltd. This report presents the results of the excavation. The excavated area was c. 1.1ha in extent, and contained features dating from the Bronze Age to the modern era, primarily in the form of drove-ways, trackways and field boundaries. A few water-pits were also identified, as well as three Bronze Age cremation burials. Very few finds were recovered, and there is no evidence that this land was ever used for settlement, which was presumably situated on the slightly higher ground to the north, beneath the modern town of Soham.
Project dates	Start: 04-07-2016 End: 25-08-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	FR2913 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4734 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	DITCHES Bronze Age
Monument type	PITS Bronze Age
Monument type	CREMATION BURIALS Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCHES Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	TRACKWAYS Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Modern
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	LINEAR Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval



Significant Finds	COINS Iron Age
Significant Finds	FLINT FLAKES Neolithic
Significant Finds	COINS Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Bronze Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Middle Iron Age
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOHAM Fordham Road, Soham
Study area	1.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6009 7215 52.323638028843 0.349326998355 52 19 25 N 000 20 57 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Gary Edmondson
Project director/manager	David Ingham
Project supervisor	Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Stores
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Human Bones", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Stores
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Human Bones", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Human Bones", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project



bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Fordham Road, Soham, Cambridgeshire: Archive Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Ingham, D'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Edmondson, G'
Other bibliographic details	2017/90
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford

Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	14 February 2018



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Figure 1: Site location

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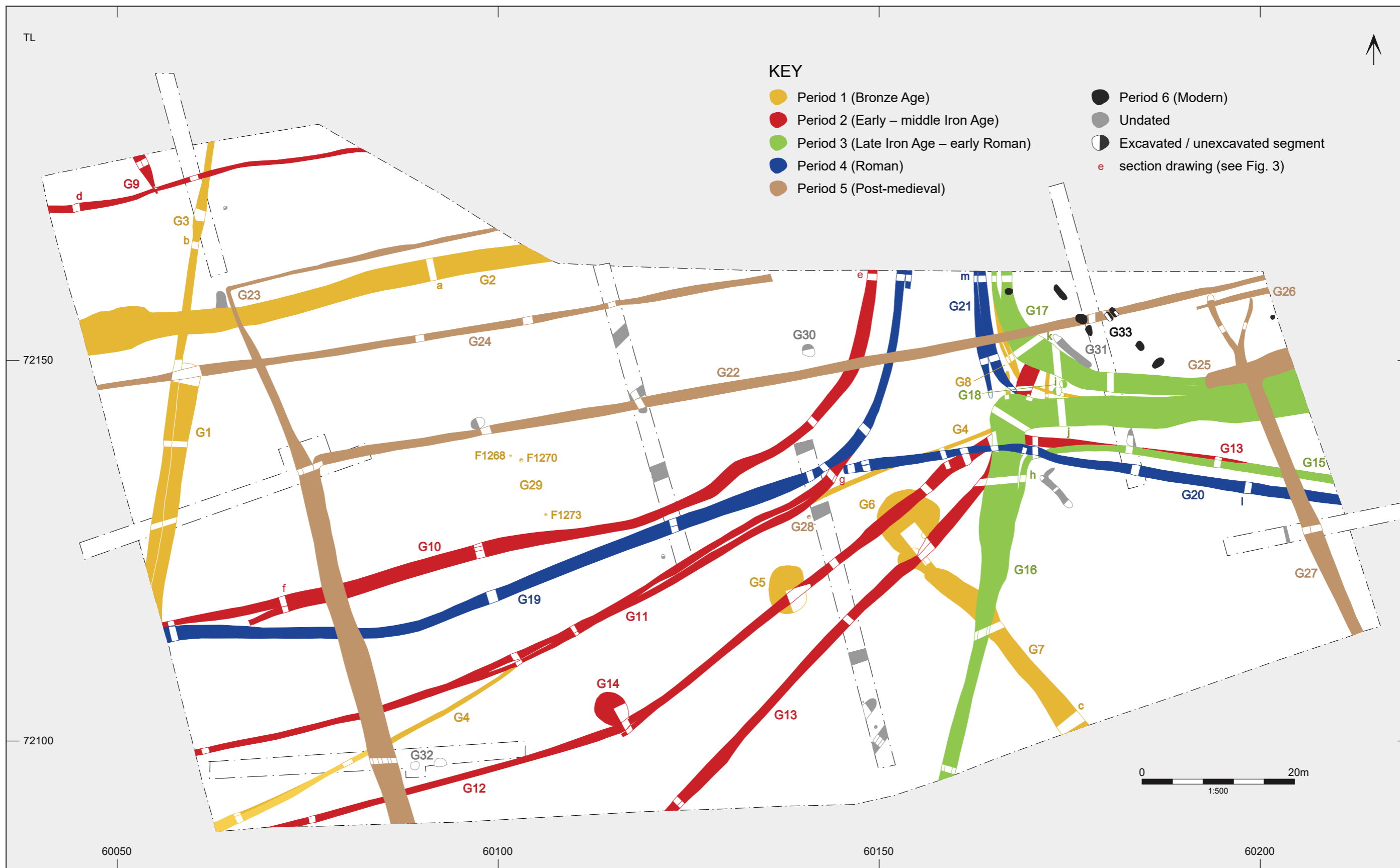
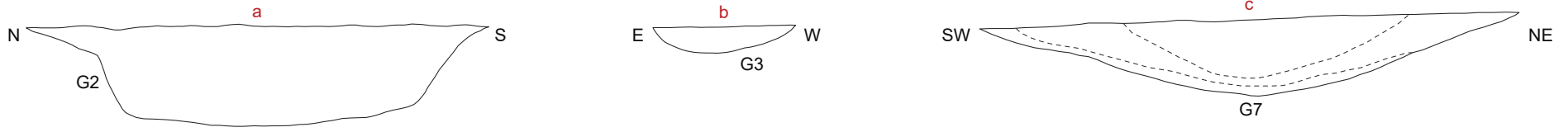


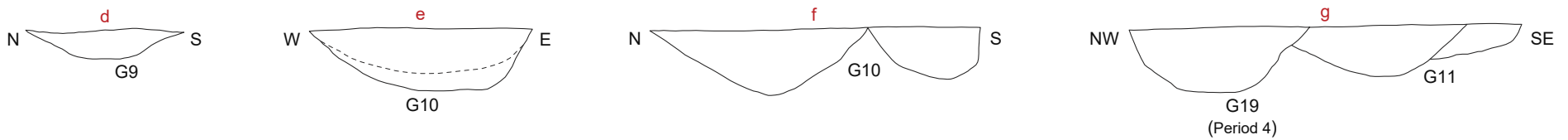
Figure 2: Phased plan of all features



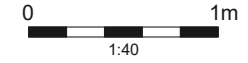
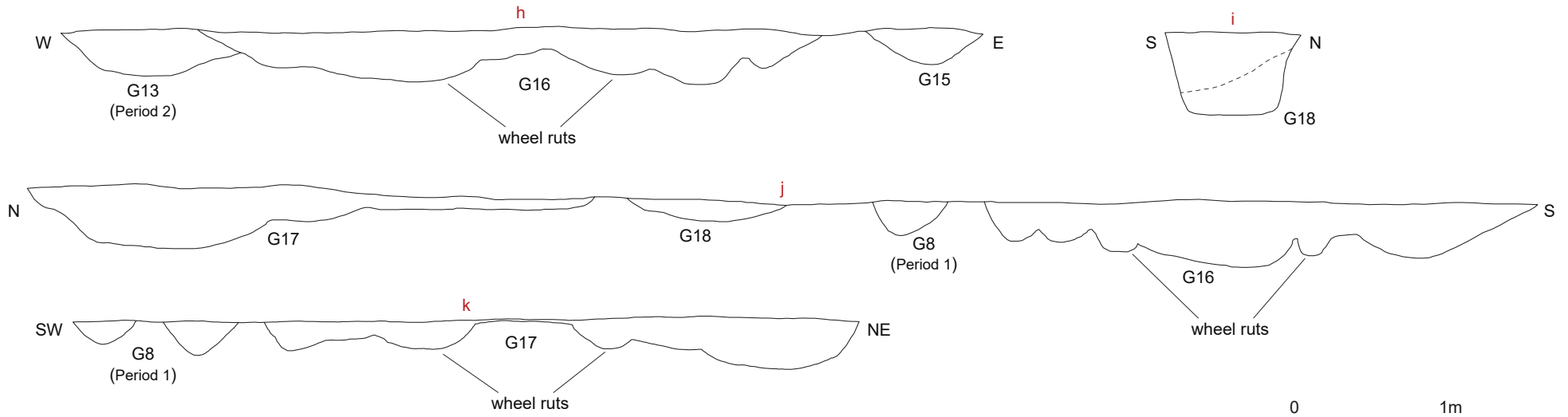
Period 1



Period 2



Period 3



Period 4

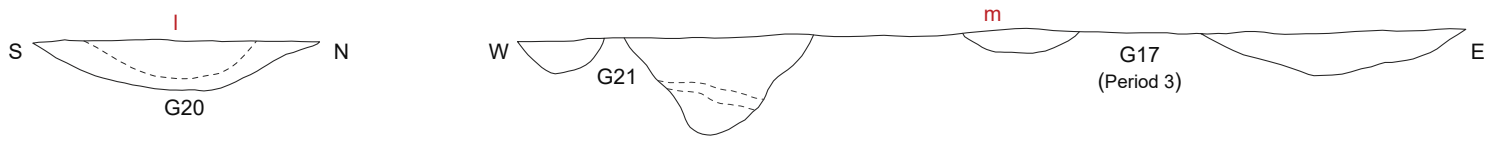


Figure 3: Selected section drawings



Image 1: Section across sequence of ditches G7 (Period 1) and later trackway ditches G16 (Period 3). Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Image 2: General view of water-pit G5 (Period 1), looking north-west. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Figure 4: Selected images 1 and 2



Image 3: Section across sequential ditches G11 (Period 2). Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Image 4: Section across sequential ditches G13 (Period 2) and G15 (Period 3). Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Figure 5: Selected images 3 and 4



Image 5: Section across sequential ditches G17 etc. (Period 3). Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Image 6: Section across pit G18 (Period 3). Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Figure 6: Selected images 5 and 6



Image 7: Iron Age quarter stater of Whaddon Chase Type (Trinovantian D) — an intrusive find from the junction of water-pit G5 and ditch G12.

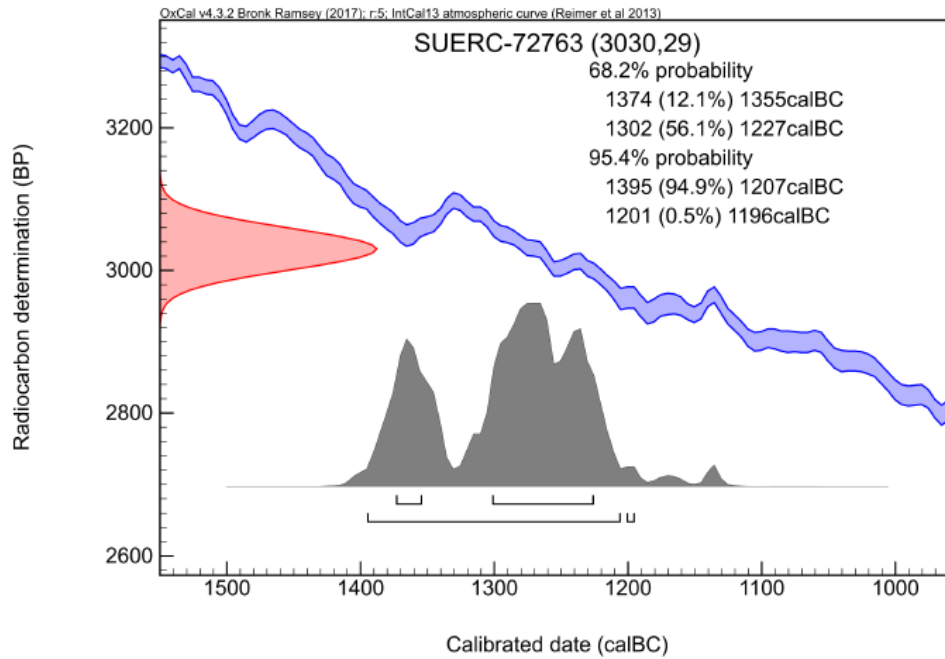


Image 8: Hod Hill brooch of Mackreth's type 4.b.2 (dating to *c.* AD 43–100) from G11. Scale 5cm in 1cm divisions.

Figure 7: Selected finds — images 7 and 8



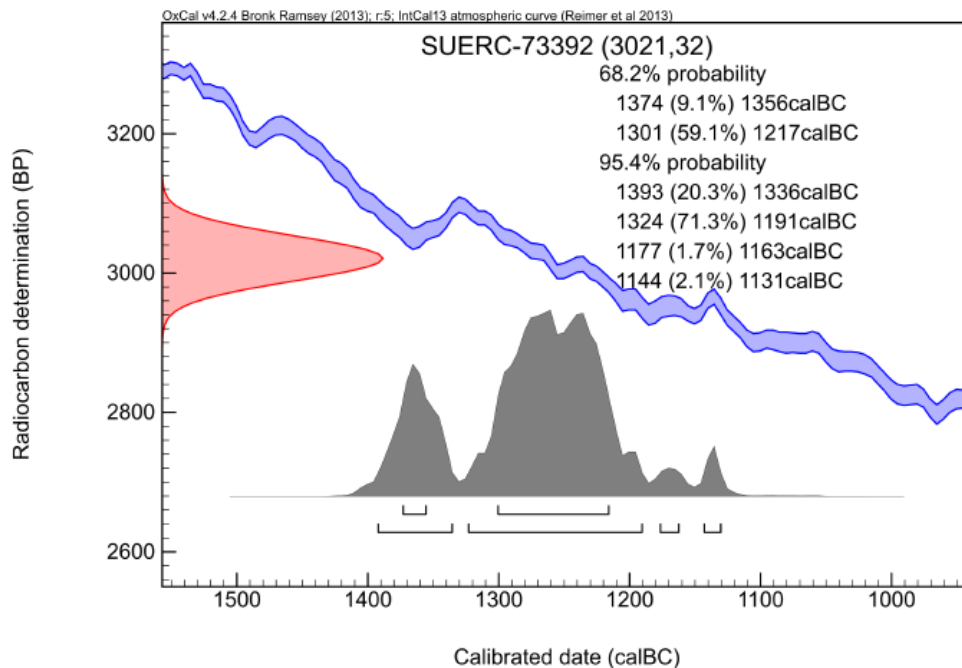
Calibration Plot



Laboratory Code

SUERC-72763 (GU43610)

Calibration Plot



Laboratory Code

SUERC-73392 (GU43611)

Figure 8: Radiocarbon dating – Calibration plots



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