

# Land west of Thorney Green Road Stowupland Suffolk

*Post-Excavation Assessment and  
Updated Project Design*



*for:*  
Linden Homes Eastern  
(Vistry Group)

CA Project: SU0039 and SU0226  
CA Report: SU0226\_1  
OASIS ID: 363517  
HER Ref: SUP 047

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Land west of Thorney Green Road
<b>Location:</b>	Stowupland, Suffolk
<b>NGR:</b>	606052 259736
<b>Type:</b>	Excavation
<b>Date:</b>	06 January – 20 November 2020
<b>Planning reference:</b>	0195/16 and 5024/16
<b>OASIS ID:</b>	cotswold2-511304 (previously recorded as cotswold2-363517)
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archive and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
<b>Site Code:</b>	SUP 047

Between January 2020 and November 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation on a piece of land west of Thorney Green Road, Stowupland, Suffolk, prior to the construction of a housing-led development on the site.

The site lies within the clay-land landscape of Mid Suffolk. Excavation was preceded by two geophysical surveys and two phases of trial-trench evaluation. These previous phases of work identified multi-period activity on the site, focussed on three areas. The evidence suggested Middle Iron Age occupation, with a probable settlement located on the higher ground in the northern part of the site, an area of dense 11th-12th century medieval occupation in the north-eastern part of the site comprising ditches and pits, and the remains of a 12th-early 14th century medieval roadside settlement represented by a system of ditched enclosures and associated pits. Evidence of Early Roman occupation was also identified but was less well-defined, with one or two pits dated to this period and a small Roman pottery assemblage that mainly occurred as residual material in later features.

Three excavation areas were opened, and the results confirmed the results of the earlier phases of work. In the north-west corner of the site, prehistoric activity was evident. Here, excavations revealed a large ditch dating to the Middle Iron Age that extended the full width of the excavation area. To the north of this, two partial and superimposed penannular gullies represented the remains of a roundhouse, associated with pits also of Middle Iron Age date. A near complete pottery vessel was recovered from a short ditch.

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Early Roman (and probably Late Iron Age) activity of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD was confirmed in the north-east corner of the site. Dense networks of ditches representing enclosures and field boundaries were identified, as were occasional pits and other discrete features. Closely spaced systems of parallel narrow ditches/trenches were encountered across the north of the site, and these have been interpreted as cultivation trenches. The pottery assemblage recovered mainly comprised cooking and storage jar forms with some fragments of drinking vessel, and the assemblage does not represent a high-status site. The remains of most of a pot were recovered from the terminus of a ditch.

Medieval features dating from the 11th to the 14th centuries were seen in concentrations across the eastern half of the site. Here, complex systems of enclosure and field boundary ditches were recorded, with subtle changes in alignment, size and concentration through time. The main group of early (11th-12th century) rectilinear enclosures were focused on the north-east corner of the site, closest to the historic Thorney Green, and it was in this area that the majority of (residual) Late Anglo-Saxon finds were recovered. By the 13th century, the focus of activity had changed to the south-east of the site where enclosures appeared to have been aligned with frontages onto Thorney Green Road. These enclosures could represent individual dwelling plots or farmstead elements, although no obvious structures were recorded. It is likely that the widening of the road in more recent times could have removed this evidence. The assemblage of environmental remains was relatively modest, and the ceramic assemblage comprised both local and regional wares, with a fairly typical percentage of glazed wares for a rural site. The metalwork assemblage includes shears, horseshoes, nails and pieces of locks and padlocks.

The land may well have lain within the manor of Abbot's Hall in Stowmarket in the medieval period, which was a possession of St Osyth's in Essex. Unfortunately, no archive relating to the priory's medieval estate management is traceable. However, the site lies in an area which has seen previous historical research into the medieval landscape and it also adds to the sample of excavated areas of dispersed settlement in the Stowupland and Stowmarket area.

This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered from the excavation. It considers the evidence collectively in its local, regional and national contexts, and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to publication in a local journal.



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cotswold Archaeology (CA) would like to thank Linden Homes Eastern (part of the Vistry Group) for funding the excavation. CA would also like to thank Gemma Stewart of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service for her assistance. Fieldwork was led by Martin Cuthbert and Mark Sommers, assisted by fieldwork staff from CA and Trent and Peak Archaeology. Project management was undertaken by Adrian Scruby.

Post-excavation management was provided by Joanna Caruth and Richard Mortimer. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians. The specialist finds reports were produced by Sue Anderson, Pete Banks, Stephen Benfield, Ruth Beveridge, David Dungworth, Richenda Goffin and Jacky Sommerville. The environmental report was written by Anna West and Clare Randall. The report illustrations were created by Ryan Wilson. The archive was prepared for deposition by Zoe Emery. The stratigraphic analysis and preliminary phasing was undertaken by Martin Cuthbert and this report was written by Martin Cuthbert and Jezz Meredith, with review by Abby Antrobus. Nicholas Amor provided information into the medieval documents from Thorney.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Between January and November 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation on a piece of land west of Thorney Green Road, Stowupland, Suffolk (centred at NGR: 606052 259736; Fig. 1). This excavation was undertaken for Linden Homes Eastern (part of the Vistry Group).
- 1.2. The excavation was required under the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Two planning applications were submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) for a housing development, consisting of one hundred and forty-three dwellings with associated parking, landscaping, open space, surface water attenuation and a new vehicular access off the B1115. The relevant planning application references are 0195/16 and 5024/16.
- 1.3. Outline consent for the proposed developments was granted on appeal (Refs: APP/W3520//W/17/3184908 and APP/W3520//W/17/3184909, dated 18 May 2018), subject to conditions. Condition 7 of the appeal decision states:

*“No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation/resource management; that includes post excavation analysis and publication has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development hereby approved shall only be implemented in full accordance with the approved scheme.”*
- 1.4. The excavation was carried out following consultation with the archaeological advisor to MSDC, Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) which was then addressed by a Written Scheme of Investigation (CA 2019, Appendix F), prepared by CA and approved by SCCAS.
- 1.5. The fieldwork followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2020a), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney, 2003), *Requirements for archaeological excavation* (SCCAS 2017), *Management of research projects in the historic environment (MORPHE): project planning note 3* (English Heritage 2008), *Management of research projects in the historic environment (MORPHE): project manager’s guide and the accompanying PPN 3: archaeological excavation* (Historic England 2015). The excavation was initially monitored remotely by Gemma Stewart of SCCAS due to Covid-19 restrictions.

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Following easing of the restrictions in August 2020, five site monitoring visits were carried out in the final four months of excavation.

- 1.6. The site is located in the Mid Suffolk district, in the civil parish of Stowupland, and in total equates to 7.7ha hectares in size, of which 1.85ha was subject to archaeological investigation (Figs 1 and 2). The development area comprises two large former arable fields located on a gradual slope, falling from 59.7m OD in the north to 57.4m OD in the south, bisected by a north-east to south-west orientated public footpath. The site is bound to the north and west by further arable land, to the north-east by Pooles Farm, to the south by the B1115 road and to the east by Thorney Green Road, with residential development beyond.
- 1.7. The solid geology of the site comprises Crag Group Sand which is overlain by superficial deposits of glacial till (Diamicton) of the Lowestoft Formation. Overlying soils belong to the Beccles 1 Association, consisting of slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, fine loamy over clayey soils on chalky till (BGS 2021).

## 2. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (FIG. 1)**

- 2.1. This section has been compiled with information obtained from a 500m radius search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), a Desk Based Assessment (John Newman Archaeological Services 2016), two geophysical survey reports (ASL 2015; ASL 2016), two phases of trial trench evaluation (Heard 2017 and CgMs Heritage 2019), and other readily available sources.

### *Prehistoric and Roman*

- 2.2. Prior to the above-noted works, little evidence had been recovered in the area for prehistoric activity, although recent archaeological works in connection with the Cedars Park development, approximately 1km to the south, produced evidence for settlement-related activity, particularly of Iron Age to Roman date. The Cedars Park development revealed the remains of a farmstead dating from the late Iron Age to the mid-4th century AD (site SKT 018), while sites SKT 036 and SKT 048 provided evidence for Roman agricultural activity (Nicholson and Woolhouse 2016).

### *Anglo-Saxon and Medieval*

- 2.3. The place-name Stowupland is derived from stow, meaning 'place' and upland meaning 'above/higher', in this instance above the town of Stowmarket ('place with a market'). Historically, the parish boundary between Stowupland and Stowmarket ran



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along the River Gipping c. 900m to the west of the site, but the two parishes were linked, with the manorial organisation of Stowupland always being incorporated with Stowmarket. Further links between Stowupland and Stowmarket are demonstrated by the former having no church mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, while Stowmarket had two churches with large land holdings, providing the mother church for Thorney, Stowupland, Newton, Gipping and Dagworth.

- 2.4. Within the parish of Stowupland, the medieval Thorney Green and settlement (SUP 022) is located c. 180m to the north-east of the site and a number of dispersed farms were likely to have been in the vicinity during the medieval period. Trial trenching within the site in 2017 and 2019 identified settlement remains of medieval date, which are discussed further below in sections 2.8 and 2.9.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 2.5. Pooles Farm and Green Farm both have 16th century cores (sites SUP 024 and 026: Fig. 1 inset). The site is adjacent to the principal historic route between Stowmarket and Thorney Green, as shown on Hodkinson's map of 1783, which appears to show buildings on the east side of the road, opposite the site.
- 2.6. The earliest available large-scale map showing the site in any detail is the parish Tithe Map of 1839, which shows the site comprising arable and pasture fields. The only features shown within the site area are a building next to Thorney Green Road and a pond. The First Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1883 and the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1906 both show little change from the earlier Tithe Map, with little development having taken place near the site and the field boundaries remaining unchanged. A probable barn in the north-eastern corner of the site had been demolished by 1883.

#### *Geophysical survey and trial trenching*

- 2.7. Geophysical (magnetometer) surveys undertaken in 2015 and 2016 (ASL 2015 and ASL 2016) identified a number of positive rectilinear anomalies, forming several enclosures containing further fragmented linear, rectilinear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies. These features were primarily located in the eastern part of the survey area, but further linear, curvilinear and discrete responses were noted elsewhere, along with evidence for three former field boundaries and magnetic debris associated with an infilled pond.

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- 2.8. Subsequently, an initial phase of trial-trenching undertaken in 2017 in the east-central part of the site (Fig. 2) confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and revealed medieval roadside settlement remains of 11th to 14th-century date, comprising a system of ditched enclosures and associated pits, with some shallower ditches potentially partially defining building plots (Heard 2017).
- 2.9. A second phase of trial trenching in 2019 revealed four Middle Iron Age features, comprising probable pits and ditches, along with an undated cooking pit filled with fire-cracked flint, found on the higher ground in the north part of the site. Small numbers of pits of Roman date were also identified.
- 2.10. In common with the 2017 evaluation, this second phase of trenching revealed another area of medieval occupation, in the north-eastern part of the site, again confirming the results of the preceding geophysical survey. The investigated features principally comprised ditches and pits, with some possible postholes, dated mainly to the 11th century but possibly extending into the 12th century. The investigators conjectured that this area of settlement was replaced by the larger and slightly later (12th–early 14th century) roadside settlement to the south, revealed during the first phase of trial trenching.
- 2.11. Following the abandonment of the second area of settlement in the 14th century, the site appears to have been given over to agriculture. Three ditches were found, corresponding to field boundaries shown on historic mapping; two of them remained in use until at least the 1950s. A pond in the eastern part of the site was also known from map evidence, and was not backfilled until modern times (CgMs Heritage 2019).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the archaeological excavation were to:
- preserve by record any significant archaeological remains within the area designated for excavation and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site
  - record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
  - record any evidence of past settlement or other land-use
  - recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified

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- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land-use and economy
  - contribute to an understanding of the archaeological remains of the area with regard to local and regional research frameworks (e.g., *Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, Medlycott 2011, recently updated: RRF 2022)
  - produce a project archive for deposition with the SCC Archaeology Store
  - disseminate the results of the investigation via a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, publication and outreach tasks.

3.2. The excavation work had the potential to provide evidence contributing to research themes identified by Medlycott (2011) pertaining to the Middle Iron Age and medieval period in particular. Potential research themes included:

- The transition from often unenclosed settlements in the Middle Iron Age to increasingly enclosed settlements by the Late Iron Age and the processes behind this (Medlycott 2011: 32). The Middle Iron Age features identified by the evaluation appeared to comprise part of an essentially unenclosed settlement, in contrast to the often heavily enclosed settlements of the Late Iron Age. It was considered that further investigation of these remains may help to shed light on this process and the date at which it occurred.
- What is the nature of the settlement remains identified and, if related to the agrarian use of the landscape, what forms do farms take in the Iron Age and medieval periods, what forms of buildings are present and how far can functions be attributed to them? (Medlycott 2011: 47, 58, 70). How far can the size and shape of fields be related to the agricultural regimes identified, and what is the relationship between rural and urban sites? (Medlycott 2011: 47).
- Nucleation and settlement contraction and/or desertion: deserted medieval settlements are common across the region; however, the reasons for desertion remain unknown in most individual cases and different factors were probably involved at different sites and in different areas, including animal and human pandemics, famine and economic problems of the 14th century. The medieval remains identified by the evaluation trenching appeared to represent an episode of settlement shift and subsequent contraction, and consequently the potential was identified for them to contribute to research themes and objectives relating to processes of settlement foundation, shift and

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subsequent contraction/ desertion, including the date at which this process took place (Medlycott 2011: 70-71).

- Material culture and consumption: the study of pottery distribution and consumption is one way of tracing interactions between town and country, markets and consumers. Consequently, it was anticipated that pottery from the site would have the potential to inform understanding of regional distribution and consumption patterns during the medieval period. Contrasting the assemblage with rural sites post-dating the postulated 14th-century end date for the medieval settlement remains has also has the potential to shed further light on pottery supply and consumption in the region following the crises of the mid-14th century (Medlycott 2011: 70-71).

3.3. The work also had the potential to provide evidence to facilitate a better understanding of the presence/absence, nature and extent of any Roman activity in the vicinity, as suggested by the discovery of a small number of Roman pits and residual Roman pottery in later features during the evaluation trenching.

3.4. The recently updated Regional Research Framework for the East of England (RRF 2022) also has significance for the results and builds on earlier iterations (Medlycott 2011). The main areas of interest for the new framework can be summarised thus:

- The Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age Research Agenda includes a focus on the scale of rural homesteads and on the relationship between open and enclosed settlements (LBA-MIA 05 and 07: RRF 2022);
- The Late Iron Age to Roman Research Agenda highlights a need for a better understanding of the transition between the Late Iron Age and Roman periods and the distinction of features and finds assemblages of the two periods in the 1st century AD (LIA-Rom 05 and 16: RRF 2022);
- The Medieval (Rural) Research Agenda includes questions on the understanding of agricultural practices and rural industries, characterising rural settlement types and looking at settlement change, evolution and abandonment (Med/rural 03, 04, 09 and 14: RRF 2022).

3.5. These themes will be discussed more fully in the section on Updated Aims and Objectives and will underlie future research questions (Section 9).

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## 4. METHOD

- 4.1. Three excavation areas were opened within the site (Figs 2 and 3): These totalled 18,555sqm (1.85ha) in area and comprised:
- Area 1 (6,952sqm): located to investigate medieval settlement remains of 12th–14th century date, potentially representing settlement shift and continuation from Area 2;
  - Area 2 (6,061sqm): located to investigate medieval settlement remains of 11th–12th century date;
  - Area 3 (5,542sqm): located to investigate Middle Iron Age settlement remains.
- 4.2. The excavation areas were positioned to investigate features recorded by the previous geophysical surveys and trial trench evaluations (see *Archaeological Background*, above).
- 4.3. A borehole standpipe accessed for monitoring groundwater was located close to the northern limit of excavation within Area 3. A small area of topsoil and subsoil deposits were left *in situ* around the standpipe (not illustrated).
- 4.4. Heavy rain during machine excavation of the topsoil deposits within Area 1 flooded the site. A strip of topsoil located at the centre north was left *in situ* to act as a bund to contain the flooded area, with an intention to return and strip the small strip of topsoil once the water had subsided. Following discussions with SCCAS it was agreed the small strip of topsoil could remain *in situ*.
- 4.5. The excavation areas were set out on Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the excavation areas by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered. The plough soil was metal detected during machine excavation and the spoil heaps were visually scanned and metal detected for the presence of archaeological artefacts.
- 4.6. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA technical manual 1: fieldwork recording manual*.

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- 4.7. During fieldwork, features on site were assigned a cut number per intervention and a series of fill numbers as appropriate. During post-excavation, where more than one cut number was assigned to an individual feature, the feature was given an overall feature/group label. For ease of orientation within the site, these have alphabetical prefixes, with 'A' for features in Area 1, 'B' for features in Area 2 and 'C' for features in Area 3. Further group labels were assigned for the major ditch boundaries, pit groups, enclosures and trackways.
- 4.8. Deposits were assessed for their palaeo-environmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA technical manual 2: the taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites*.
- 4.9. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA technical manual 3: treatment of finds Immediately after excavation*.
- 4.10. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

### *Introduction*

- 5.1. The archaeological potential of the 7.07ha site had been highlighted by earlier archaeological desk-based assessment (John Newman Archaeological Services 2016), two geophysical surveys (ASL 2015; ASL 2016) and two phases of trial-trench evaluation (Heard 2017 and CgMs Heritage 2019). Archaeology was spread across the three excavation areas, although less concentrated towards the south of Areas 1 and 2 (Fig. 2).
- 5.2. Over 2500 context numbers were assigned, with features mainly comprising ditches, pits and postholes. Table A.1 presents the numbers present of the main feature types. Features excavated have been assigned to periods based on spot-dates from recovered artefacts, feature morphology and their spatial/stratigraphic relationships with those features that did contain dated artefacts (Fig. 3). Due to the large number of intercutting features, there was a large amount of residual and intrusive pottery found within many of the deposits. For clarity, in the results sections below the pottery referred to is that which is believed (along with stratigraphic relationships) to date the

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features, with residual/intrusive material not mentioned unless it is helpful for explaining the sequence.

5.3. This section provides an overview of the excavation results, and Fig. 3 presents a phased plan showing all features. Detailed summaries of features by period and by area are presented in Appendix A. Full details of contexts are available in Appendix F. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the biological evidence are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.

5.4. Based on the criteria discussed above, features were assigned to the following provisional phases, with only significant periods numbered:

- Geology
- Mesolithic-Early Neolithic (residual finds)
- **Period 1:** Middle Iron Age (c. 300-50 BC)
- **Period 2:** Roman (Late Iron Age/Early Roman AD 1st–2nd Century)
- Late Anglo-Saxon (residual finds)
- **Period 3:** Medieval (1066-1539)
  - **Period 3.1:** 11th-12th centuries
  - **Period 3.2:** 12th-13th centuries
  - **Period 3.3:** 13th-14th centuries
  - **Period 3.4:** 14th-16th centuries
- **Period 4:** Post-medieval (1540-1800)
- Modern (1801-2000)
- **Undated**

### **Geology**

5.5. Across the three areas a plough soil of mid to dark grey-brown silty clay loam (0.3m–0.4m thick) directly overlay the natural geological substrate. This comprised yellow and grey clay containing occasional chalk flecks and small stones, with occasional patches of more sandy orange clay containing occasional chalk flecks and small stones. Close to the edge of the field, along the northern boundary of Areas 2 and 3 and the eastern boundary of Area 1, a subsoil deposit of mid-brown, orange silty clay (0.15-0.3m thick) was evident below the plough soil.

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- 5.6. Several areas of more localised deposits were recorded during excavation (context numbers 10002, 10130, 10279, 10637, 10677, 10776, 10882, 10688, 10925, 20070, 20152, 20146, 20310, 20338, 20615, 20820 and 30296). These are generally interpreted as areas of natural silting or washing either over or under features and are indicated on the phase plans, as they may have had an impact on feature definition. Additionally, some of these deposits included finds contemporary to nearby features: deposit 20070 produced nine sherds of Roman pottery and was next to pit 20067 (Period 2, Fig. 7), 10776 yielded medieval pottery and was over the northern end of ditch A48 (Period 3.1, Fig. 11), 10632 and 10861, noted to include CBM and waste, were to the north and south of pits 10632 and 10882 (Period 3.2, Fig. 15), and 10677 yielded medieval pottery and was next to A20 (Period 3.4, Fig. 27). The exception was an area of possible consolidation (20820, 20615) that was undated but located within the corner of ditch B33 (Phase 4, Fig. 29).

#### *Mesolithic- Early Neolithic*

- 5.7. A small assemblage of residual flint work typical of a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date was retrieved as residual finds from later features. The assemblage comprised blades, bladelets, flint cores and a leaf shaped arrowhead with the majority recovered from features in Area 2.

#### *Period 1: Middle Iron Age (c. 300-50 BC)*

##### *Area 3 (Figs 4 – 6)*

- 5.8. Middle Iron Age (MIA) activity extended across most of Area 3. A large ditch, C13, extended the full width of the excavation area, east to west, close to the southern excavation boundary, and may have enclosed or at least defined the edge of the MIA activity located to its north. To the north of the ditch, two partial, superimposed penannular gullies representing the remains of a roundhouse were recorded (C16 and C17), along with a further possible ring gully to the north, C6, and a number of pits that were either dated to the MIA or which remain undated, although these are also likely to be MIA in date.

#### *Ditches*

- 5.9. Ditch C13 was large and meandering, and was recorded close to the southern boundary of Area 3. It extended the full width of the excavation area, orientated roughly east to west. The ditch measured between 1.2 and 2.7m wide and between 0.8-1.02m deep with its widest part located at the centre and to the east of the area, where a possible re-cut was evident in five of the seven excavated sections. The



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profile typically displays steep sides to a sharp break of slope and a rounded base (see Section CC, Fig. 6). A single bend within the ditch is evident at the centre of the area that may correspond with and respect the two superimposed penannular gullies (C16 and C17) located to its north (Fig. 5).

- 5.10. The sixty-eight sherds of MIA pottery recovered from six of the ditch fills from five of the slots down its length suggest that it was open and in use at this time, whilst the four sherds of Early Iron Age pottery are likely to be residual (although they could also be MIA, see Benfield, this report Appendix B). Other finds recovered from the ditch include four flint flakes, likely residual, and fourteen fragments of fired clay from fill 30362 south west of the roundhouse features. A nail, with rectangular head and rectangular profiled shank, was recovered from fill 30318 within 30317, a likely recut of this ditch.
- 5.11. Ditch C13 was not apparent within Area 2 to the east, and we can only surmise that it either terminated between the two excavation areas or turned north to enclose the settlement activity located within Area 3.
- 5.12. Ditch C8 (Fig. 4) contained no datable finds and was identified close to the south-western corner of the excavation area, orientated roughly east/west and aligned with the Period 1 large boundary ditch (C13) and probably belongs to Period 1. The ditch had steep almost vertical sides leading to a gradual concave base. The ditch profile was similar in shape to the western end of Period 1 ditch C13 that it aligned with and it is almost certainly associated with this boundary.
- 5.13. Ditches C14 and C15 extended southwards from ditch C13, eventually leaving the excavation area along its southern edge. Both ditches cut the large boundary feature C13. Their proximity to one another suggests they were not in use at the same time but perhaps represent a re-cut of the same boundary.
- 5.14. Both ditches were relatively shallow measuring c. 0.2m deep and between 0.81-1.24m wide with gradual sloping sides leading to a flat base and no finds were recovered from either feature.
- 5.15. Ditch C3, a short stretch of ditch, was identified centrally at the northern end of the excavation area. The ditch was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 10.3m long with a maximum width of 0.4m and a depth of 0.16m. A single sherd of MIA pottery and a flint flake were recovered from the ditch fill, whilst a single sherd of

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intrusive medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of the southern terminal end prior to the excavation of the feature.

#### *Roundhouses and associated features*

- 5.16. Part of a truncated penannular gully, C17, defined the position of a roundhouse situated north of boundary ditch C13. The gully measured between 0.30-0.62m wide and between 0.06-0.25m deep but was highly truncated and only its western edge survived. Forty-three sherds of MIA pottery were recovered during the full excavation of the silty-clay fill of the feature. Gully C17 was re-cut by gully C16 (Fig. 5).
- 5.17. When a circle is drawn around the surviving part of gully C17, pit 30163 located c. 7.5m to the east is approximately in line with the projected continuation and may have been associated with this structure. Pit 30163 was sub-oval in plan with steep sides leading to a concave base, measuring 1.66m long, 0.88m wide and 0.2m deep. Fifty-one sherds of MIA pottery, fired clay and ninety fragments of bone (cattle and pig) were recovered from the dark grey silty clay single fill of the pit, 30164.
- 5.18. Ditch C19 was a short stretch of curving ditch identified just south of roundhouse C17 and it may have been associated with this structure. The ditch measured 11.5m long, between 0.58-0.8m wide and c. 0.3m deep. A single sherd of MIA pottery was recovered from the ditch. The ditch was cut at the eastern end by curvilinear ditch C18.
- 5.19. Roundhouse gully C16 was represented by part of a truncated penannular gully situated north of boundary ditch C13. The penannular gully was superimposed over penannular gully C17 and forms a second, recut phase. The gully was a maximum of 0.48m wide and 0.14m deep but was highly truncated and only its western edge survived. No finds were recovered from the gully fill.
- 5.20. Other potentially associated features include a small sub-circular pit (30204) and a sub-oval pit (30202) located centrally within roundhouse gullies C16 and C17 close to their northern edge. Both, however, are undated by finds and the features have been assigned to Period 1 by association.
- 5.21. Ditch C18 was a short stretch of curving ditch identified just south of roundhouse C16 and may have been associated with this structure. The ditch measured 7.6m long, between 0.58-1m wide and c. 0.45m deep, with a secondary fill in places. Recovered from it were 170 sherds of MIA pottery and seven sherds of possible Late Iron Age

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pottery, along with fifty-seven fragments of fired clay, three heat-altered flints, a flint flake and flint blade. One sherd of pottery had possible traces of residue on it (see below, Appendix B).

#### *Pit Group 1*

- 5.22. Pit Group 1 was located at the northern end of the excavation area and was formed of eleven pits. This group includes an arc of features (30050, 30062, 30136, C6 and 30380) and probably represents a circular structure some 12m in diameter (Fig. 4). Three pairs of pits intercut one another, but the only stratigraphic relationship between dated features was pit C6 (see below, 5.25) cutting undated pit 30080.
- 5.23. The pits varied in size and shape, with the most common form being elongated and between 1-2.3m long by 0.43-0.84m wide. All were presumably truncated by modern land-use as the depths were relatively shallow between 0.24-0.4m deep.
- 5.24. Pit fills were generally mid to dark grey or grey brown silty clay with occasional inclusions such as rounded flints, chalk flecks and variable amounts of charcoal.
- 5.25. Pits 30050, 30062 (Section *BB*, Fig. 6), 30131, 30136, C6 and 30380 form an arc and probably represent another roundhouse location. A spread of pits represented by cuts 30028, 30030, 30068, 30076 and 30078 were located thirteen metres to the east of the potential structure.
- 5.26. A single sherd of MIA pottery was recovered from pit 30062 and a further two sherds of MIA pottery were recovered from pit C6, whilst pit 30136 produced fifty sherds of MIA pottery during the evaluation stage of works. A partially complete pottery vessel, a simple bowl-like jar, was recovered from the fill of Pit 30068.
- 5.27. The majority of the pits were undated by finds but they have been assigned to this period due to their spatial relationship and similarity in shape to the three dated features within the group.
- 5.28. Table A.2 (Appendix A) summarises the results of Pit Group 1.

#### *Pit Group 2*

- 5.29. Pit Group 2 was located just north of penannular gullies C16 and C17 and was formed of nine pits ranged across the remainder of Area 3. Six of them 30012, 30072, 30074, 30154, 30155, 30200, 30258 were tightly grouped together whilst pits 30034 and

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30044 were located just to the north. All the pits seen in this group were discrete from each other and no cut relationships were present.

- 5.30. The pits varied in size and shape, with the most common form being an elongated shape between 1.2-2m long by 0.50-1m wide and 0.20-0.48m deep, with their shallow depths suggesting they were truncated by modern land-use. Within the group, pits 30012 and 30072 displayed deeper more steep sided profiles typical of pits utilised for storage (Section AA, Fig. 6).
- 5.31. Most features contained single fills and these were generally mid to dark grey or grey brown silty clay with occasional inclusions such as rounded flints, chalk flecks and with variable amounts of charcoal from scarce to abundant.
- 5.32. Five of the nine pits were undated by finds whilst four contained MIA pottery totalling sixty-eight sherds with thirty-three of these recovered from pit 30044.
- 5.33. The undated pits were assigned to this period due to their spatial relationship and similarity in shape to the four dated features within the group.
- 5.34. Table A.3 (Appendix A) summarises the details of the features in Pit Group 2.

#### *Other Pits*

- 5.35. Four small undated pits measuring between 0.4-0.7m wide (30104, 30109, 30150 and 30092) were recorded in the area. Two of the pits were isolated whilst pits 30104 and 30109 were in close proximity to one another, just to the west (8m) of penannular gullies C16 and C17, where they may relate to this occupation. The four pits have been assigned to this period due to their proximity to MIA features.
- 5.36. Two other undated pits measuring between 1.3-1.4m in diameter (30260 and 30266) were also recorded in the area. Pits 30260 and 30266 were in close proximity to one another and displayed similar shallow and gradual concave profiles. A small quantity of fired clay fragments was recovered from pit 30260 and a single fragment of animal bone from 30266. The two pits have also been assigned to this period due to their proximity to MIA features.
- 5.37. Finally, undated pits 30248 and 30010 were sub-circular in plan and measured c. 2m in diameter and 0.3m deep. The pits were similar in size to MIA pit 30200, assigned to Pit Group 2. Three fragments of heat-altered flint were recovered from pit 30248.

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### Area 2 (Fig. 4)

- 5.38. Four isolated pits dating to the MIA have been identified in Area 2. Pit 20376 was in the northwest corner of the excavation area. The pit was sub-oval in plan and measured 2.18m x 1.04m and 0.3m deep. Two sherds of MIA pottery and seven fragments of fired clay were recovered. Pit 20533 was located at the centre north of the excavation area. The pit was sub-circular in plan with shallow concave sides and contained five sherds of MIA pottery and a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery. Pits 20054 and 20032 were located at the centre south of the excavation area. Pit 20518, which measured 2.24m x 0.78m x 0.72m, and a shallow feature which was cut by it on the edge of the excavation, possible gully 20488, were undated by finds although were stratigraphically early, cut by pit 20590. They are provisionally suggested to potentially belong to the wider group of features dating to this phase in the Area.

### Period 2: Roman (Late Iron Age/Early Roman: AD 1st to 2nd Century)

- 5.39. Period 2 saw intense utilisation of Area 2 in particular, with multiple field boundaries and enclosures on several different alignments. Closely spaced, parallel cultivation trenches were apparent in the north-west corner of Area 2 and across parts of Area 3 (see below, 5.40). These were likely to be of Early Roman date (Wiseman *et al.* 2020) and appear to pre-date some of the large boundary ditches of Area 2. Only one feature of this period was recognised from Area 1 (pit 10695).
- 5.40. The pottery was predominantly of Late Iron Age/Early Roman type (of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD), but the presence of parallel cultivation trenches suggests an Early Roman date: extensive systems of similar features were found at the nearby site of Cedars Park (Nicholson and Woolhouse 2016). There is a possibility that some of the Period 2 features could date to the Late Iron Age.

### Area 2 (Figs 7 – 9)

- 5.41. Area 2 was by far the most heavily utilised during Period 2, with substantial ditches representing field and landscape boundaries and probably some rectilinear enclosures (on at least two slightly different alignments). In the north-west corner of the area was a small group of closely spaced, parallel cultivation trenches (B101, B102 *etc.*). A modest number of pits and some other discrete features were also recognised in Area 2.

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### *Cultivation trenches*

- 5.42. Five parallel cultivation trenches were recorded in the north-west corner of the area, and all continue under the northern edge of the site. This set of features were bounded by the substantial enclosure ditch B99 (Section *DD*, Fig. 8), with the cultivation trenches B104 and B106 appearing to respect the enclosure's edge. Cultivation trench B102 was truncated by the large ditch B99, raising the possibility that this was something different, of an earlier phase or perhaps not a cultivation ditch like the others. Both B101 and B102 were cut by discrete features of the same period (with B102 cutting an earlier pit 20388: Section *HH*, Fig. 9). Cultivation trench B103 is illustrated (Section *FF*, Fig. 8).
- 5.43. A copper alloy brooch (RA 2000) dating to AD 200-350 was recovered from B99 (fill 20427 of cut 20422), along with a piece of mid-late 1st century Samian ware. Notable among the animal bone assemblage, a cattle skull and portion of cattle skull were recorded from slots dug into the corner of the ditch (fills 20659, on the east side, and 20713, at the corner itself.) A very small amount of smithing slag was also recovered.
- 5.44. Table A.4 (Appendix A) lists all the cultivation trenches in detail.

### *Ditches*

- 5.45. The earliest ditches were of possible Late Iron Age date and these were represented by B11, B12 and B80, with B11 and B80 on a similar alignment to and southwards of a slightly meandering double ditch arrangement c. 2m apart and probably running either side of a hedge line (wider, deeper ditches B10/B85 on the south side and B21/B63/B96 on the north). A piece of iron sickle, possibly medieval and intrusive, was recovered from B85 (RA2004, fill 20839, cut 20840), and this will need further dating and research at the analysis stage. An iron fiddle key nail (RA 2008) from B10 is likely intrusive, as it was recovered from an intersection with medieval features B31, B28 and B17.
- 5.46. The double ditched hedge line appeared to pre-date the large enclosure ditch B99 (Fig. 8) that defined the area of cultivation trenches (B101-B104).
- 5.47. Ditch B13 represented part of a possible polygonal enclosure or field boundary that cut the earlier ditches (of the same period) and was on a slightly different alignment (or perhaps combines the various alignments) of the earlier phases (Section *EE*, Fig. 8). The south terminal of ditch B36 (near the east edge of the Area) could have

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represented an opposed entranceway with the east terminal of ditch B13. A small amount of smithing slag was recovered.

- 5.48. Many smaller ditches were on a variety of alignments and were difficult to define in the sequence, likely belonging to smaller sub-divisions and maybe enclosures, some of which might relate to occupation and other activity and might possibly relate to discrete features which were concentrated towards the south-east corner and north edge of the area. The different alignments of ditches B1, B2, B90 are difficult to explain and point to the complexity and diversity of this period.
- 5.49. It is possible that the formal straight-sided field division boundaries on an east/west or north/south grid (e.g. B3, B26 and B91) might all be broadly contemporary with the B99 enclosure.
- 5.50. Fills were quite variable but were generally pale to mid grey brown in colour and consisted of clay silt or silty clay, with the clay silt more friable than the silty clay (which tended to be firm or compact). Inclusions were sparse, with many fills having small quantities of chalk flecks and rounded flints and some with charcoal flecks too.
- 5.51. A full list of all ditches is shown in Table A.5 (Appendix A). Those marked with an asterisk might be of Late Iron Age date but have provisionally been included in this period.
- 5.52. Finds included an iron object from B67 (RA 2024) and a nail from B79 (RA 2022), and potentially the remains of much of a pot from the southern terminus of B79. To the southwest of this terminus, a few pieces of smithing slag were recovered from pit 20579.

#### *Pits*

- 5.53. Twenty-three individual pits were spread across the entirety of Area 2. These were a very variable group with some as large as 2.5m in diameter (pit 20067) and others as deep as 0.8m (pit 20662) although most were of modest size and fairly shallow (mainly <0.3m deep). Most were either circular or oval in plan (similar numbers of each). Pit B100 (cut 20354) is illustrated (Section GG, Fig. 9).
- 5.54. Fills ranged from mid orange brown to dark grey brown in colour, mainly friable to firm in compactness and mainly silty clay in texture but some sandy clay and silty



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sand examples were encountered. Inclusions were rare but most fills had small quantities or rounded flints and occasional charcoal flecks.

- 5.55. Table A.6 (Appendix A) lists all discrete features in numerical (context number) order.
- 5.56. Butt-beaker fragments were recorded from pit 20979, and the finds assemblage also included nails(?) from pit 20272.

### **Area 3 (Fig. 7)**

#### *Cultivation trenches*

- 5.57. Ditches C9, C10 and C11 were three equally spaced cultivation trenches c. 5m apart, identified at the centre of the area, orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. The ditches terminated roughly in line with one another c. 2m from the northern excavation limit and all continued southwards, exiting the excavation area along the southern limit. The ditches were relatively shallow measuring a maximum of 0.38m deep, but on average were c. 0.15m deep and c.1m wide.
- 5.58. Two ditches (C1 and C2) spaced c. 4.5m apart were identified at the north of the area orientated west-south-west to east-north-east. Ditch C1 traversed the entire excavation area, extending beyond the western and northern trench limits. Ditch C2 seemed to terminate within the excavation area, although it was much shallower at this point and may have been truncated by modern land-use. The ditch began again after a gap of c. 3m where it continued east-north-east, extending beyond the northern trench limit.
- 5.59. Three additional un-excavated ditches running parallel to ditches C1 and C2 were identified from satellite imagery (Google Earth May 2020) just to the north (Fig. 7). The ditches were not identified at ground level during the excavation. The unexcavated ditches along with C1 and C2 were all equally spaced apart (c. 4.5m).

#### *Late Anglo-Saxon 10th-11th centuries*

- 5.60. Late Anglo-Saxon pottery of Thetford and St Neots type wares were recovered as residual finds in later contexts. Forty-four sherds in total have been recognised (see Appendix B) with the majority from Area 2. Large pieces of the same Thetford ware vessel were distributed across a number of ditches and a pit in Area 2 (ditches B16, B32, B48 and pit 21080 (Figs 13, 17 and 18, 25 and 26) belonging to Periods 3.1 to 3.3. Ditch A23 (Figs 21 and 22, Period 3.3) was a rare feature in Area 1 with residual Late Anglo-Saxon pottery. A piece of iron stylus of Early Medieval date was recovered



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from Period 3.2 ditch A26 (Figs 15 and 16) (RA 2039), and a piece of harness link c. AD 1000-1100 was recovered from Period 3.2 ditch B50 (Figs 14 and 17) (RA 2006). A horseshoe of early medieval type was also recovered from Period 3.3 ditch A4, and A1 (Fig 21). A fragment of shears and a tag were recovered from ditch B49, (Figs 13 and 14), Period 3.1.

### ***Period 3: Medieval 11th-16th centuries (Fig. 10)***

- 5.61. Medieval ditches, enclosures, discrete pits and other features dating from the 11th to 16th centuries were a major element of Areas 1 and 2 and have been sub-divided into four sub-periods: 3.1, 11th-12th centuries; 3.2, 12th-13th centuries; 3.3, 13th-14th centuries; and 3.4, 14th-16th centuries. In broad outline, the earlier focus was centred on Area 2, then shifted to Area 1, but both areas were in sharp decline by Period 3.4, starting in the 14th century. An overview of the medieval phasing in all areas is presented on Figure 10.

### ***Period 3.1: Medieval 11th-12th centuries***

- 5.62. This period represents the earliest phase of medieval activity on site, belonging to the 11th to 12th centuries. The main concentration of features (mainly ditches but also a few pits) was in Area 2 where a number of rectilinear enclosures were suggested but were heavily truncated by later features on similar alignments. Area 1 also produced a smaller number of linear features of this period. There were no Period 3.1 features in Area 3.

### ***Area 1 (Figs 11 – 12)***

- 5.63. Area 1 features of this period were sparse and were predominantly ditches and smaller linear features. The alignments of these ditches appeared to influence the orientations of subsequent medieval and post-medieval ditches.

### ***Ditches***

- 5.64. Most linear features were on either north to south or north-north-east to south-south-west alignments, with one ditch at approximate right-angles to these and orientated east-north-east to west-south-west. Substantial ditches such as A16, A48 and A59 might represent early manifestations of enclosures, modified and replaced in later periods. Many of the ditches of this period were truncated and obscured by later features on similar alignments.
- 5.65. Linear features were variable in dimension and ranged from the large ditch A59 (c. 2.4m wide and 0.6m deep) to the smaller gully A52 (0.6m wide and 0.2m deep).

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Between these extremes, most ditches had widths of between 1m and 1.7m and depths of between 0.25m and 0.4m.

- 5.66. Ditch fills tended to be pale to mid grey-brown or brown-grey silty clays (occasionally sandy clays) with infrequent inclusions of small rounded flints, some with flecks or small nodules of chalk, others with charcoal flecks.
- 5.67. Table A.7 (Appendix A) list all Period 3.1 linear features from Area 1.
- 5.68. Finds included a horseshoe (RA 2037), nail shank fragment (RA 2045), nail (1036), strap fitting (1035) and iron fitting (RA 1034) from ditch A59 (10431). Ditch A34 yielded one of the larger assemblages of cereal grains, although the environmental assemblages were modest overall.

#### *Pits*

- 5.69. Pit 10343 was located towards the east edge of Area 1. Oval in plan (axis east/west) it was a moderately sized feature (length 1.1m, depth 0.36m) with three fills, one of which contained a dog skeleton.
- 5.70. A large irregular feature 10978, located in the southern half of Area 1, was over 5m in length (north to south) and 1.32m deep (Fig. 14, Section II). It contained three fills with sixty-three sherds of post-Roman pottery, mainly belonging to the 11th to 12th centuries (Fig. 12), one of the largest assemblages from features other than ditches. A strip of plate iron was recovered, RA 2050.

#### **Area 2 (Figs 13 – 14)**

- 5.71. The main concentration of Period 3.1 features was found in Area 2. Here, this period was represented by linear features and a small number of pits.

#### *Ditches*

- 5.72. Some of the ditches appeared to be forming boundaries (e.g. B22), while others might indicate rectilinear enclosures with approximate north-south and east-west orientations (e.g. B23/B48, B52 etc.). Smaller ditches, such as the L-shaped B82, might represent smaller enclosures or internal sub-divisions.
- 5.73. Ditches were generally quite narrow, with widths between 0.5m and 1m, some were even narrower, such as B52 and B53 (0.4m and 0.3m wide respectively). All had shallow depths, mainly between 0.1m to 0.3m.

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- 5.74. Fills were fairly uniform across most ditches, tending to be friable to firm, pale to mid grey brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small flints, some with rare chalk and/or charcoal flecks.
- 5.75. Table A.8 (Appendix A) identifies the Period 3.1 linear features from Area 2, see Figure 13 for locations.
- 5.76. Finds from across the area, with no particular distribution, included: a fiddle key nail for shoeing horses or oxen from ditch B25; a fragment of Early Medieval(?) shears and contemporary tag from B49 (RA 2021, RA2020), burnt stone, one of the larger assemblages of fired clay including pieces with wattle impressions, two nails, a hooked tag and a piece of wire from B45 (RA 2015, 2017, 2020 and 2016); a nail fragment from B47 (RA 2011), and a piece of hasp recovered from pit 20677 (RA 2025).

#### *Pits*

- 5.77. Near the northern edge of Area 2 were two features of this period. Pit 20459 was a fairly large pit truncated by the Period 3.1 ditch B52. It had a diameter of c. 1.16m and was 0.7m deep and had a single fill. Pit 20588 was truncated by later ditches (Period 3.3 ditch B32 and Period 3.2 ditch B57) and had a diameter of c. 1m and a depth of 0.52m with a single fill containing six sherds of pot, two pieces each of Ceramic Building Materials (CBM) and fired clay and six pieces of animal bone. An early 15th century jetton was recovered from this feature (RA 2019), although may have been intrusive from later features which cut it.
- 5.78. Towards the centre of Area 2 were two Period 3.1 features. Pit 21080 was a small, shallow feature of c. 0.4m diameter, depth of c. 0.1m and a single fill with four sherds of pottery. Nearby was pit 21158 with a diameter of 1.2m and depth of 0.22m, which had a single fill.
- 5.79. Towards the southern part of the site, feature 20061 was recorded over ditch B4, but was cut by a later ditch, B16 (Period 3.2). It measured 1.98 by 0.64m, and was 0.28m deep. It contained ten pieces of fired clay and burnt material, but was otherwise undated by artefactual evidence.

#### ***Period 3.2: Medieval 12th-13th centuries***

- 5.80. This period was represented by a fairly dense grid of ditches representing enclosures and boundaries, many on the same orientations and some replacing and recutting

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the ditches of the earlier Period 3.1. A small number of discrete features were also recognised as belonging to this period. The greatest intensity of ditches was within Area 2, but Area 1 saw a marked increase of activity compared to earlier.

### Area 1 (Figs 15 – 16)

- 5.81. Area 1 saw more utilisation in this period than during the previous century (Period 3.1) with the ditches on similar alignments to the previous period but with further elaboration. Small numbers of discrete features were present, some of them clustered near to a probable enclosure and thus likely to have been associated with it. As noted below (Section 7), the fired clay, metalwork and burnt stone assemblages appear to indicate a possible more distinct focus of activity in the vicinity of the enclosure formed by ditches A25 and A26 and features A66 and pit 10919, in the north-western part of the Area.

#### *Ditches*

- 5.82. The main orientation of the ditches was west-north-west to east-south-east, with ditches A25 and A26 (Fig. 16), both c. 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep appearing to form two sides of a rectilinear enclosure with an opposed terminal entrance to the east (Section KK, Fig. 15). Ditches A38 and A39 seem to formalise the southern boundary of medieval activity (established as a strong tendency in the following Period 3.3). Ditches A6 and A17 form a north to south running boundary along the eastern edge of the site and together respect and run parallel with the road, supporting the inference that it was an early route.
- 5.83. The ditches were generally between 0.5 and 1m wide, with A12 and A22 wider at 1.4 and 1.75m wide respectively, and between 0.15 and 0.8m deep (ditches A6 and A9). Generally, the ditches had a single fill apart from A9, A22 and A45 which had three and two fills recorded respectively. Ditches A25 and A26 had between two and four fills, and ditch A66 had up to five fills recorded in the excavated slots.
- 5.84. Table A.9 (Appendix A) lists the Period 3.2 linear features from Area 1, shown on Figure 15.
- 5.85. A piece of iron strip was recovered from A9 (RA 1025). A piece of early medieval stylus was recovered from A26 (RA 2039), and fiddle key nails came from A26 (fill 10581) and A12 (10913). Some of the larger assemblages of fired clay were recovered from ditches A66 and A26. Pieces of slag were recovered from A25.

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### *Pits*

- 5.86. Pits within the north-west corner of Area 1 all seem to have been closely associated with, and often had cutting relationships with, linear features of this period. Pit 10752 was cut by ditch A66 and was an irregular, elongated feature, orientated north-north-east to south-south-west, and measured c. 1.9m in length and was 0.4m deep (Fig.16, Section *MM*). Fills were rich in charcoal and fired clay. Pit 10632 cut ditch A66 in turn. It was oval, orientated north-east to south-west, with a length of 2.4m and a depth of 0.5m (Fig.16, Section *LL*). Fills contained fired clay fragments and other debris.
- 5.87. Shallow, oval pit 10468 cut ditch A29, was orientated north-east to south-west, and was 1.7m in length and 0.2m deep. Pit 10712 was also a shallow feature which cut ditch A25. It was 1.2m long and 0.2m deep, and a piece of lead casting waste was recovered from it (RA 1039).
- 5.88. Pit 10185 was located near the eastern edge of Area 1 and was truncated by Period 3.3 ditch A5. It had a diameter of 2.2m and was 0.3m deep. A casket key was recovered from it (RA 1001).

### **Area 2 (Figs 17 – 20)**

- 5.89. Period 3.2 saw considerable activity within Area 2 with formalised ditch systems, elaborated into a number of rectilinear enclosures, some with multiple recuts. Small numbers of discrete features were also recorded with some of these quite sizeable, such as the large pit or well B109. There appears to be a general distribution of some types of finds in the eastern side of the site, although the density of objects is not high; nails, slag, quern pieces, knives, horseshoes, quern and strap handle fragments were recovered from ditches B75, B110/B29, B57/B58, B50, B16, B7, B20, B50, B43, B35. Detailed analysis of the distribution of pottery will be undertaken at publication stage.

### *Ditches*

- 5.90. Ditch orientations across Area 2 during Period 3.2 were within a north-south and east-west grid across the central and northern parts of the area, while there was a general rotation towards a north-west to south-east alignment within the south-eastern corner of the area, perhaps influenced by the angle of the curving road adjacent.
- 5.91. Within the northern half of the area was a partially revealed large enclosure measuring c. 20m wide and at least c. 30m long and represented by ditches B58,

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B75 and B76 *etc.* The arrangement of ditches may be interpreted as another enclosure along the eastern half of Area 2, although more difficult to distinguish because of later truncating features and because they extended beyond the excavation edge. In the north-east corner of the area, ditches B30, B35 and B50 (Fig. 14) could have created one enclosure, while in the south-east corner, ditches B7 and B38 *etc.*, could have formed another. The L-shaped ditch B14 might suggest another rectilinear enclosure in the southern half of the area.

- 5.92. Some substantial ditches were present in the area during this phase, with the dimensions of the largest ranging from c. 2.4m wide and 0.6m deep (ditch B35) to c. 1.8m wide and 0.75m deep (ditch B75). Ditch B38 was wide (c.2.3m) but was only 0.2m deep. Large to medium sized ditches (B7, B8, B57, B72 *etc.*) measured between 1.3m to 1.5m wide and 0.35 to 0.45m deep. Most of the ditches, however, were quite small and measured less than 0.8m wide and no deeper than 0.4m. Ditches B75, B76, B30 and B16 are illustrated (Fig. 18, Sections NN and OO).
- 5.93. Most ditches had single fills with occasional examples having multiple fills (e.g. B75). The majority of fills were firm to compact and were dark brown to mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional inclusions included small flints, with many examples also with rare flecks of chalk or charcoal.
- 5.94. Table A.10 (Appendix A) outlines information on all linear features identified to Period 3.2 (Fig. 17)
- 5.95. Finds included iron fragments and nails from B16 (RA 2009, 2010), nails from B14 (RA 2051) and B43 (RA 2053), a piece of lead casting spill from B75 (RA 2023), an iron knife fragment from B35 (RA 2005), an object from B38 (RA 2052), an early medieval harness link fragment from B50 (RA 2006), and an iron strap handle from B29 (RA 2058). Some slag was recovered from B29, B75, B7, B35 and B57 (and pit 20943 close to B57), in the eastern half of the site.

#### *Pits and other discrete features*

- 5.96. The large well B109 (individual cut numbers 20631 and 21129) was an irregularly shaped feature with a diameter of c. 6m, depth of 2.9m and had steep, slightly undulating sides to a narrow flat base (Fig. 19, Section *PP*). It had multiple fills (nine recorded) and included a single sherd of medieval pottery and seven small fragments of animal bone.

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- 5.97. Located towards the north-western corner of the area was pit 20499, cutting ditch B98 and probably representing another well. It was an oval shaped feature, orientated north-east to south-west, was c. 5m in length and was augered to a depth of c. 1.3m (Fig. 20, Section QQ). It had a variety of fills, including the charcoal-rich 20504, and contained twelve sherds of pottery with four of them of medieval date.
- 5.98. Pit B86 (individual cut numbers 20824 and 20898) was truncated by ditch B76 (forming the western flank of the central enclosure). Where visible, it appeared to be oval with a north-east to south-west axis, it measured at least 3m long and was c. 0.25m deep. The two fills contained three sherds of medieval pottery and six small fragments of animal bone (61g). Also in the northern half of the area was pit 20597 which cut ditch 20469 (also of Period 3.2). It had a diameter of c. 1.5m and was 0.34m deep, it had two fills and contained a single sherd of pottery. Pit 20412 was a large oval feature with an east-west axis, cutting ditches B73 and B74, and measured c. 2.2m long, 1.4m wide and 0.65m deep. It had three fills and contained two sherds of pottery, some small fragments of fired clay, lave quern and animal bone.
- 5.99. At the centre of the area was pit B110 (20857, 20967). This was a large, irregularly shaped feature, roughly oval and orientated north to south. It had a width of c. 2m and was 0.7m deep. It was truncated by ditch B29. This feature was recorded with four fills and contained twelve sherds of pottery and some small pieces of fired clay (9g).

### ***Period 3.3: Medieval 13th-14th centuries***

- 5.100. Period 3.3 saw a dramatic switch in focus from Area 2 (so prominent in the previous Period) to Area 1, which witnessed a pronounced elaboration of ditches forming enclosures (presumably associated with frontages on the road to the east) with smaller ditches perhaps forming internal divisions within the larger enclosures. There appears to have been a change in activity within Area 1 also, with more intensity towards the east and away from the enclosure ditches A25 and A26. Further discussion is provided below, Section 7.

### ***Area 1 (Figs 21 – 24)***

- 5.101. Period 3.3 saw the intense development of a sequence of rectilinear enclosures in Area 1, suggesting a series of expansions. A line of postholes (A67), most likely the remains of a fence line although possibly part of a more complex structure, represents



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the first structural evidence for the medieval period (Fig. 23). A small number of other discrete features included the very large pit (or pond?) A32.

### *Ditches*

- 5.102. Ditches of this period were mainly on a grid either parallel with or at right-angles to the adjacent road to the east. Prominent enclosures were formed, with ditch A1 creating one in the north-east quadrant of the area, with ditches A15 and A59 (Fig. 22, Section *RR*) appearing to have created a later extension to the west. At a later date, ditches A23 and A24 (Fig. 22, Section *SS*) appear to have extended the enclosure further, making it more than 60m in size east to west. Two of the larger assemblages of pottery that were derived from ditches came from A59 and A51.
- 5.103. Ditches A36 and A37 formalised a strong boundary along the southern edge of medieval activity with no features of medieval date south of this line. With A27, these were likely to be the latest linear features of this period, stratigraphically later than most of the other ditches of this period.
- 5.104. Small rectilinear arrangements near the eastern edge of the area (i.e. A7 and A53-56) might represent beam-slots for structures, although their profiles were variable and generally more ditch-like and they might represent drainage gullies around buildings.
- 5.105. Table A.11 (Appendix A) lists all linear features of Period 3.3 in Area 1 (Fig. 21).
- 5.106. Small finds included: a nail and copper alloy buckle from A3 (RA 1000); another buckle from nearby pit A32 (RA 1045); two nails (RA 1021) and iron staple? From A51 (RA 2038); some smithing slag, a padlock(?) (RA 1023), padlock bolt (RA 2036), plate fitting (RA 1024), and padlock case(?) (RA 2049) from A7; a nail and early medieval horseshoe from A4 (RA 1027, RA 2032); three nails, a piece of goad, a piece of iron strip, a pin and a piece of harness and horseshoe (Medieval or earlier) and a fitting from A1 (RAs 1028, 1030-1, 1029, 2031, 2034, 2044); a piece of rod like object and two buckles from A10 (RA 1033, 2046-7); three nails and an object from A23 (RA 1037, 1042-3, and 1040); fiddle key nails from A15 (RA 1038) and A54; two nails from A24 (RA 1041, 1044) and a nail from A18.
- 5.107. A dog skull was also recovered from A51, in the western part of area 1, and a juvenile pig skeleton was excavated from A60.



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### *Pits and other discrete features*

- 5.108. A large feature, A32, was located within the north-eastern quadrant of the area (individual cut numbers 10931, 10435, 10764 and 10917). It was a large sub-rectangular feature, measuring c. 8m (north-south) by 6.5m (east-west) and was c. 2.3m deep. It had gently sloping, undulating edges to a rounded base (Fig. 24, Section 77). Four separate slots were excavated into this feature (resulting in ten recorded fills) and finds included sixty-five pottery sherds and small amounts of fired clay, animal bone and marine shell. The pit may have originated as a clay extraction pit, although the environmental remains included aquatic remains which indicate that it may have served as a pond or watering hole (see below, 6.104).
- 5.109. Post-line A67 (group 10615) was formed of nine postholes on an east-south-east to west-north-west line (individual contexts 10565, 10559, 10563, 10555, 10542, 10658, 10540, 10530 and 10466; Fig. 25). Most likely representing a fence-line running parallel with ditch A59 (or A27), it could however be part of a structure, its southern side lost to truncation (by ditch A59?).
- 5.110. Two pits were located just to the north of the post-line. Pit 10360 had a diameter of 0.75m and depth of 0.4m. It contained one pottery sherd and five fragments of lava quern. Pit 10656 had a diameter of c. 0.75m and a depth of 0.46m. It contained nine pottery sherds. Both had fills of dark grey brown silty clay.
- 5.111. A small cluster of three pits were located near the eastern edge of the area in the south-east quadrant. Pit 10209 had a diameter of 0.5m and a depth 0.37m. Immediately adjacent was pit 10211 was 0.56m across and 0.14m deep. Slightly to the east was pit 10225, with a width of 0.46m and 0.1m deep. They had grey brown clay sand fills with occasional small stones and chalk fragments. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from pit 10211.
- 5.112. To the south-east of this group were two other pits. Pit 10231 was an oval feature (axis north to south) with a length 0.9m, width 0.6m and depth 0.08m. It contained two sherds of pottery. Pit 10241 had a diameter of c. 0.6m and was only 0.08m deep. Fills were grey brown silty clay with occasional flints and charcoal flecks.
- 5.113. A small cluster of three features were located to the south of the large pit A32. Posthole 10616 had a diameter of c. 0.35m and a depth 0.23m. Pit 10732 cut ditch A10 and a width of 0.6m and a depth of 0.32m. Both features contained single sherds

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of pot. Pit 10750 had a width of c. 1.2m and a depth of 0.22m and included five sherds of pottery.

- 5.114. Near the north of Area 1, ditch A1 cut pit 10019 and was itself cut by pit 10448. Pit 10119 was aligned east to west and was 1m long and 0.4m deep. Pit 10448 was a large oval feature with an east-west axis, measuring 2.1m long and 1m deep. Both had mid grey brown silty clay fills. These features held seven sherds and a single sherd of pottery respectively.

### **Area 2 (Figs 25 – 26)**

- 5.115. While Area 1 witnessed expansion during Period 3.3, Area 2 saw a pronounced contraction and a realignment of enclosures. Those from the previous period were mainly on a north-south, east-west grid, while during this period there was a strong north-north-west to south-south-east tendency, an alignment used predominantly for later post-medieval boundaries (Period 4). No pits or other discrete features were identified.

### *Ditches*

- 5.116. Ditch B32 formed a partially revealed rectilinear enclosure in the north-east corner of Area 2 (Fig. 25 and Fig. 26, Section *UU*). Finds included a ferrule, fiddle nail key, nails and waste (RA 2012-2014, 2018), as well as four dog bones and the remains of four young pigs. Ditch B34 appeared to be an early manifestation of a post-medieval ditch on the same alignment as it (B33).
- 5.117. Table A.12 (Appendix A) gives details of these ditches.

### **Period 3.4: Medieval 14th-16th centuries**

- 5.118. After the intensity of Period 3.3 in Area 1, Period 3.4 saw a sharp decline with a single ditched enclosure in Area 1 and a solitary ditch in Area 2.

### **Area 1 (Figs 27 – 28)**

- 5.119. A clear rectilinear enclosure appeared to be associated with the road frontage to the east and was formed by ditches A5, A19, A20 and A44 (Fig. 28).
- 5.120. Finds from ditches included a padlock bolt (RA 1005), pin (RA 1022) and fiddle key nail from A44, a pruning hook from A19 (RA 1032), and a nail and strap fitting from A5 (RA 1026, 2033).
- 5.121. Table A.13 (Appendix A) lists linear features of this period.

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### Area 2 (Fig. 27 inset)

- 5.122. A single large ditch terminal of this period was found in Area 2. Ditch B55 (individual cuts 20854, 20573) was in the north-east corner of the area. It was an irregular feature with steep sides, highly truncated by later features, and had a width of c .2.6m and a depth of c. 1.25m (Fig. 28, Section *WW*). A fragment of barrel lock (RA 2059) and nail were recovered, and the remains of a squat-legged dog.

### Period 4: Post-medieval (1540 – 1800)

#### Area 1 (Fig. 29)

##### *Ditches and associated features*

- 5.123. Ditch A31 was orientated north-west to south-east and was in the northern central part of the excavation area extending beyond the western and eastern excavation limits. The ditch cut all medieval features it came into contact with and was a maximum of c. 2m wide and 0.75m deep. Two residual sherds of early medieval pottery and five fragments of post-medieval pottery and CBM were recovered from the ditch fills, with a piece of medieval padlock? casing, file and bucket handle and nails (RA2041-3) The ditch corresponds with a field boundary identified on the 1st edition OS map of 1886 (Fig. 29) and was backfilled sometime between 1958 and 1968.

Two irregular tree-throw holes (10592 and 10858) were identified on the northern edge of ditch A31, indicating a hedge line existed on the northern side of the ditch. The tree throws were visibly cut by the ditch suggesting the ditch was re-dug and maintained during its use. Only 12-14th century pottery was recovered with no post-medieval finds from either tree throw, however the fills of each feature were very similar in nature to that of ditch A31 which, along with their irregular shape, suggests that the features were tree throw holes and that the pottery is residual within them.

- 5.124. A63 was a short linear feature located just on the eastern side of the excavation area south of, and parallel too, post-medieval ditch A31. The feature was orientated north-west to south-east and was truncated by a modern waterpipe (see above, 5.34) and was in turn cut a small undated pit (10374) and was a maximum of 0.75m wide and 0.53m deep. The fill of the feature was like those seen within ditch A31 suggesting that they are contemporary. A single sherd of medieval pottery and a fragment of post-medieval CBM were recovered.

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### *Pits*

- 5.125. Pit 10382 was located close to the eastern edge of the excavation area just south of post-medieval ditch A31. The pit cut medieval ditch A59 along its southern edge and measured 2.2m by 1.7m and 0.9m deep. Two partial pig skeletons were recovered from the pit, one of which had an intact nose ring. A handful of iron objects were also recovered.

### **Area 2 (Fig. 29)**

#### *Ditches and associated features*

- 5.126. Ditch B27 was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and was located close to the western edge of the excavation area extending beyond the northern and southern excavation limits. The ditch was 1.82m wide and 0.81m deep. Single sherds of medieval, late medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the ditch along with four sherds of pottery and three fragments of post-medieval CBM. Several nails and an iron rod were also recovered. The ditch corresponds with a field boundary identified on the 1st edition OS map (1886) and was backfilled sometime between 1958 and 1968.
- 5.127. A single irregular tree-throw (20567) was identified on the eastern edge of ditch B27, indicating a hedge line existed on the eastern side of the ditch. The tree throw was visibly cut by the ditch suggesting the ditch was re-dug and maintained during its use. A single small fragment of post-medieval glass was recovered from the tree throw.
- 5.128. Ditch B33 extended north-north-west from the eastern edge of the excavation area for c. 18.5m before turning north-east for c. 13m where it left the excavation area along its eastern edge. The ditch cut all medieval and late medieval features it came into contact with and was a maximum of 2.1m wide and 0.7m deep. A re-cut was visible in one of the three excavated slots indicating the ditch was re-dug and maintained during its use. Asbestos sheet fragments were identified in one excavated slot and all modern finds recovered from the ditch were photographed but were not retained. The ditch corresponds with a field boundary identified on the 1st edition OS map of 1886 (Fig. 29) and was backfilled sometime between 1977 and 1981.
- 5.129. Ditch 20008 was a short stretch of ditch identified in the south-eastern corner of the excavation area orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, parallel with Thorney Green Road. The ditch was only partially exposed with the majority located beyond the southern excavation limit. The ditch measured 1.15m deep and contained three

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fills in which orange baling twine and modern pottery sherds were recovered, but not retained. The ditch corresponds with a field boundary identified on the 1st edition OS map (1886) and was backfilled sometime between 1958 and 1968.

### **Area 3 (Fig. 29)**

#### *Ditches*

- 5.130. Ditch C4 extended the full length of the excavation area on a north-north-east to south-south-west orientation, extending beyond the northern and southern limits of excavation. It cut MIA Penannular gullies C16 and C17 and ditches C19 and C13. The ditch typically measured between 0.74-1.18m wide and 0.20-0.45m deep and contained a single fill. Nine sherds of medieval pottery were recovered along with three pieces of animal bone.
- 5.131. Ditch C7 was orientated north-west to south-east and was in the southwest corner of the excavation area extending beyond the western and southern excavation limits. The ditch cut MIA Period 3 ditch C10 and C11 and Period 1-2 ditch C13 along with (Period 1) ditch C8. The ditch was a maximum of 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep and contained ten sherds of post-medieval pottery (16th-20th century).
- 5.132. Running parallel to post-medieval ditch C7, c. 9m to the east, was a short stretch of ditch (C12) measuring c. 40m long and a maximum of 0.9m wide and 0.35m deep. The ditch contained a small, abraded sherd of either Roman or medieval pottery and cut MIA ditches C9, C10 and C11 along with large boundary ditch C13.

#### *Modern (1801 – 2000)*

### **Area 1 (Fig. 29)**

- 5.133. A large ceramic waterpipe was identified just south of, and parallel with, post-medieval ditch A31. The pipe was likely to have been placed following the infilling of ditch A31.

#### *Undated*

- 5.134. Most undated features were small discrete pits/possible pits, mainly without datable finds or with only poorly dated finds. There were a few cases with more significant linear features where the finds dating and/or the stratigraphic relationships were uncertain. In many cases an approximation of phasing can be proposed but is uncertain at present and might not fit precisely within the four-period framework

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proposed for Thorney Green. In the following discussion, only features deemed to be of significance will be mentioned.

### Area 1 (Fig. 30)

- 5.135. Ditch A28 was an L-shaped segment of ditch, partly revealed against the western edge of the trench and was c. 0.8m wide and c. 0.35m deep. Ditch A33 was a smaller (and companion?) L-shaped ditch of c. 0.5m width and c. 0.15m deep. Together they were likely to have been part of a rectilinear enclosure, similar to (but perhaps more truncated and more ephemeral) than the other enclosures in Area 2 that belong to Periods 3.1 to 3.4. It is highly likely that these ditches belong to one of these medieval periods.
- 5.136. Other short stretches of linear feature were also likely to have been of medieval date. The small ditch A47 was at right-angles to the road and parallel to other east-to-west running ditches to its north. This was a small feature of c. 0.45m width and c. 0.15m deep. Ditch A46 was on a different orientation to the main medieval grid but did appear to be parallel with the L-shaped Period 3.3 ditch A41. Ditch A69 was a short segment of ditch, orientated east to west and measured c. 0.5m wide and c. 0.4m deep. This feature cut Period 3.3 ditches, although it was parallel with other Period 3.3 ditches and could be a later phase of this or a later period.
- 5.137. Small, shallow pits/possible pits were scattered in the south of Area 1, beyond the main medieval concentrations. Most of these features had diameters of 0.9m or less and none were deeper than 0.2m. Another undated cluster was located towards the north-east corner of the trench, close to a number of Period 3.3 features. These were mainly small features with diameters of 0.8m or less and depths within the range of 0.1m and 0.25m.

### Area 2 (Fig. 31)

- 5.138. Area 2 had dense concentrations of features from Periods 2, 3.1 and 3.2 so it is highly likely that most of the undated features belong to one of these periods. Area 2 had more undated pits and possible pits than the other two areas and most appear to have been located close to or within areas defined by Period 2 ditches, so a Late Iron Age/Early Roman (1st century AD) date is possible for some or most of these features.
- 5.139. The slightly meandering and generally parallel ditches B40 and B41 were both c. 1m wide and c. 0.2m deep. Together they might have formed part of a drove-way and to

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have belonged to a possible drove system recognised across the middle of the Period 2 features (e.g. ditches B10 and B63 *etc.*). Short sections of linear feature such as B77 and B97 (of c. 7m and c. 2m in length respectively) could relate to either Period 2 or later alignments.

- 5.140. Against the eastern edge of the site were a couple of ditches appearing to be on similar alignments to the medieval series but which were possibly earlier. Ditch B37 was a north to south running feature of c. 15m length (and width of c. 0.8m, depth of c. 0.2m) cut by a Period 3.3 ditch. A highly truncated ditch segment (ditch 20816) ran at right-angles to B37 (a possible return?) and was cut by a Period 2 ditch. It is probable that both belong to an early phase of Period 2 or were earlier.
- 5.141. Fragments of possible fired clay loomweights were recovered from undated pit 20940 in Area 2.

### Area 3 (Fig. 31)

- 5.142. A short stretch of ditch was identified close to the north-eastern corner of the area extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation. Ditch C5 was quite a substantial feature revealed against the eastern edge of the site. It was orientated east to west: a run of c. 5m was revealed within the site area and it was c. 7m wide and 0.3m deep. Its orientation was different from other linear features in the vicinity but Roman (Period 2) and post-medieval (Period 4) ditches were present nearby.
- 5.143. Pits 30113 and 30129 were undated features in the south of Area 3, close to Period 1 (Middle Bronze Age) features, although 30113 was likely to have been a tree-throw, possibly associated with the post-medieval ditch C12.

## 6. FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL

### *Stratigraphic record: factual data*

- 6.1. On the completion of fieldwork, the site archive was consolidated with databases created of the written records and scans made of field drawn plans and sections. The site archive was compiled in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2020b), *Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Archives: guidelines for archive preparation and deposition* (SCCAS 2022a), *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in*

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*creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007) and *Standard and guide to best practice for archaeological archiving in Europe: EAC Guidelines 1* (Europae Archaeologia Consilium 2019).

6.2. A database has been created for context, artefact and environmental information. Security scans have been made of all context sheets, registers and site drawings. Site plans have been digitised and combined with GIS site mapping where necessary.

6.3. The fieldwork archive comprises the following physical and digital records:

Table 1. Breakdown of physical and digital archives

Context sheets	2,590
Sections (1:10, 1:20), A4 sheets	131
Sections (1:10, 1:20), A3 sheets	72
Sample sheets	88
Digital photographs	2,942

6.4. Feature recognition could be difficult across the exposed clay of the excavated trenches because of the flooded nature of some areas of the site when wet or the extremely parched and cracked nature of the ground when dry. The intensity of intercutting features in Areas 1 and 2 in particular made feature recognition problematic initially but allowed for complex cutting relationships to be observed and site phasing to be proposed. Because of the cutting relationships coupled with the dating of finds retrieved (and other factors such as alignment and dimensions) many features have been assigned a preliminary period with only a small number of features remaining undated or poorly dated.

#### ***Stratigraphic record: statement of potential***

6.5. The site has revealed a complex, well-dated stratigraphic sequence of negatively cut features across three areas. This sequence has the potential to provide the spatial and temporal framework for the interpretation of artefact and biological evidence. Further detailed analysis of the sequence, additional integration of artefact information and incorporation of documentary results has the potential to better date, characterise and understand the archaeological sequence.

6.6. Results have revealed a number of features and finds of different periods but three of these are of particular consequence:



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- Middle Iron Age settlement represented by round structures and a large ditch of potential enclosure type
  - 1st Century AD activity of likely Early Roman date including cultivation trenches, ditched enclosures and a double ditched hedge line
  - Medieval ditched enclosures and activity areas that span the 11th to 16th centuries

6.7. These three periods have significant potential to address some of the questions posed by the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (RRF 2022). The relevant research questions will be outlined below in the section on Updated Aims and Objectives (section 9).

6.8. A small number of finds and features belong to periods that are not thought at present to be of much significance in the site sequence. These include:

- Residual worked flints of probable Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date
- Some linear features of possible Late Iron Age date which have been combined with Period 2 (Early Roman)
- Late Anglo-Saxon pottery, residual in medieval contexts but could represent a potential 11th century origin for the medieval sequence

6.9. Although these periods are not thought to offer any particular importance or potential, further analysis of the stratigraphy, artefact/biological evidence or documentary research might suggest that these categories be kept under review for further consideration.

***Artefactual record: factual data***

6.10. All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. All metalwork has been x-rayed and stabilised where appropriate.

Table 2. Quantification of artefact evidence

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
<b>Pottery</b>	Prehistoric	1057	5799
	Roman	1013	8109
	Anglo-Saxon	44	1814
	Medieval	3321	26,034
	Post-medieval/ modern	48	1138
	<i>Total</i>	<i>5483</i>	<i>42894</i>
<b>Flint</b>	Worked	75	6964
	Burnt	118	2747
<b>Fired Clay</b>	All	2061	10325
<b>Brick/tile</b>	All	86	7340
<b>Clay pipe</b>	All	2	2
<b>Glass</b>	Vessel	7	30
	Window	2	5
<b>Metals</b>	Silver	4	7
	Copper alloy	20	87
	Iron	121	1914
	Lead alloy	5	60
	Composite	2	23
	Residues	N/A	2217
<b>Stone</b>	Lava quern	112	4236
	Other stone	5	4301
	Burnt	17	6434

- 6.11. A moderately large artefactual assemblage was recorded which is described in summary below, with more detailed assessment set out according to material class in Appendix B (Tables B.1 to B.20).

#### Worked flint

- 6.12. A modest assemblage of flint was recovered from Areas 1 to 3, however it is likely that all pieces are residual. The debitage comprises 63 flakes, five blades and one bladelet. Blade production was a feature of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic technology, whilst bladelets are typically Mesolithic in date. Three cores and a potential hammerstone were also recovered. The two retouched tools comprise an Early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (Period 3.2 ditch B8 in the south-west of Area 2) and a miscellaneous retouched item that is not closely datable but was recovered from the same feature.
- 6.13. The heat-affected flint was also found across Areas 1 to 3, with the largest proportion (49% by count and 75% by weight) from Period 3 deposits. This material type is intrinsically undatable but often associated with prehistoric activity.

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### Prehistoric pottery

- 6.14. With one or two exceptions the prehistoric pottery can be broadly dated to the Later Iron Age, the period broadly spanning the Middle and Late Iron Age c. 4th century BC to early 1st century AD. It was recovered from Area 2 (504 sherds, 2217g) and Area 3 (553 sherds, 3582g).
- 6.15. The earliest pottery is possibly a few sherds that are flint-tempered which came from ditch fills within Area 3 (ditch C13). Of themselves, these appear likely to be Early Iron Age, c. 600-350 BC, but could also from a part of the Middle Iron Age assemblage – flint-tempered Middle Iron Age pottery is not unknown in the region.
- 6.16. Almost all the pottery making up the assemblage is characteristic of the Middle Iron Age c. 350-25 BC with a few sherds potentially dating to the Late Iron Age. The Middle Iron Age pottery is fairly typical of other assemblages of this period from East Anglia, although the absence of any clear decoration of any of the pots is notable. Surface treatments include smoothing or burnishing, with marks from surface wiping also noted on one part pot. As is usual of Iron Age assemblages the pots are dominated by jars; here mostly of ovoid or slack-shouldered form; although the presence of several neckless ovoid jars/bowls with simple rim and narrowed mouth is notable as, while relatively common, they do not appear to be strongly represented among many assemblages.
- 6.17. Although much of the pottery is quite broken up, an almost intact vessel of Middle Iron Age date was found in ditch 30068. The pot is an upright, simple, neckless, bowl-like jar, however only 0.27% of the rim is now present suggesting that some or much of this at least was missing when the pot arrived in this context. It seems possible this may not necessarily have significantly affected its overall appearance and serviceability due to its relatively simple form.
- 6.18. The only other pottery that may represent much of one pot comes from gully 21064. This consists of a group of mostly small sherds (210g) which includes some pieces from a rim, but no clear base pieces. In terms of survival, this is different to the part pot from ditch 30068 but might represent a significant part of a pot discarded into a gully and which has become fragmented.
- 6.19. Placed pots can be a feature of some aspects of Iron Age activity, and while formal deposits are more usually considered in association with pits they are often associated with other features. Ditches and house gullies, perhaps representing a

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physical and psychological boundary may also contain material laden with resonance in terms of structured deposits. This is not just as complete or unusual artefacts but also in terms of different assemblages of more mundane material such as broken pottery (Hill 1995, 80-85).

- 6.20. A small proportion of the pottery has some grog temper while some of the sandy fabric sherds appear to be wheel-finished and these almost certainly can be dated to the Late Iron Age. A moderate quantity of grog-tempered pottery typical of the 'Belgic' tradition is reported with the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery.

#### **Late Iron Age/ Roman pottery**

- 6.21. The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery is almost exclusively associated with the features on Area 2. The assemblage spans the period c. late 1st century BC-early/mid-2nd century AD. While some of the Roman pottery cannot be more closely dated, other than as Roman, there is no indication among either the vessel forms or the fabrics of any pottery that need date later than the early-mid 2nd century. At its most compressed all the assemblage could be encompassed within the 1st century AD and principally belongs to the post-conquest period.
- 6.22. The assemblage itself is heavily dominated by jar forms – in black-surfaced sandy wares and grog-tempered wares – which would indicate a relatively low status with a prosaic employment of pottery for the more basic and traditional uses of cooking and storage. This type of assemblage would appear to follow that of the Middle and Late Iron Age where jar forms dominate.
- 6.23. One rim from a necked jar in a Romanising courseware fabric is slightly distorted and might be a kiln second or waster. This came from pit 20970 (Area 2). It is noted that a few pieces of fired clay recovered from Area 1 and Area 2 might be from kiln furniture, but there does not appear to be any further pottery among the assemblage that indicates production waste or seconds from a kiln.
- 6.24. It would appear likely that the occupants of the site had some desire for specialist pottery vessels and access to them, probably in the period of the mid-late 1st century AD. There is one imported samian cup of a form which in Britain is usually pre-Flavian in date, and which hints at other aspects to the assemblage also involving drinking vessels represented by sherds that are probably from one or more girth-beakers and also probably from at least one butt-beaker; although some sherds that might be from beakers could also be from narrow-necked jars or flask-like pots. Girth beakers are

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pre-Flavian and the buff fabric would indicate either an import in the Iron Age or an Early Roman example likely made in Britain. Butt-beakers can be broadly dated to the same period, although the general form can be seen to have a longer life evolving from the Gallo-Belgic types of the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period into similar, more distinctly necked vessels. However, there are no sherds recognised from flagons and no sherds at all from platters or dishes which would make up the higher status Gallo-Roman dining pottery taken up by elites and brought in by merchants and officials in the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period.

### Post-Roman pottery

- 6.25. The assemblage comprises largely 11th–14th-century wares and may represent continuous occupation from the early to high medieval periods, with little material post-dating this. The medieval assemblage includes similar coarsewares to those identified elsewhere around Stowmarket. In the early period, both shelly and sandy wares are present suggesting that wares were sourced from areas to the north and south of the village, although the southern types were most frequent and this may relate to the period of activity. Glazed wares are relatively scarce, but came from local or unknown production sites. Jars are notably more common than bowls in this assemblage, which tends to be more typical in urban assemblages than rural ones of the period. Pottery of both early and high medieval date are present in similar quantities (based on MNV), but there appears to have been an increase in activity in Area A, and a decrease in Area B, between the two periods. The few later medieval wares perhaps indicate that it had largely ceased by the end of that century.

### Ceramic building material

- 6.26. Ceramic building material of Roman and post-Roman date was recovered from forty-five contexts. The Roman assemblage includes roof tile fragments (*tegulae* and *imbrices*) and undiagnostic pieces that may derive from roof, floor or wall tiles. The medieval to post-medieval material is also dominated by roofing tile, with post-medieval brick, one possible paviour, a field drain fragment and a possible modern interlocking brick also present.

### Fired clay

- 6.27. The fired clay assemblage is dominated by small amorphous fragments that are likely to derive from structures such as kilns/ovens or hearths. Eighteen fragments preserved the impressions of wattle or rods from a timber structural frame. The few

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portable objects include a trapezoidal-shaped object, possible a kiln bar or spacer, and the bases of two cylindrical objects, possibly used in the internal support of a kiln.

### **Metalwork**

- 6.28. The metalwork comprises four silver objects, 20 of copper alloy, 121 of iron (including 61 nails/rivets, all undated) and 4 composite objects. Most came from Areas 1 (87 objects) and 2 (62 objects), with a small number from Area 3 (3 objects). The earliest is a Roman plate brooch, of late 2nd to 4th century date, from ditch 20422 (Area 2). Items of late Saxon to earlier medieval (10th to 12th century) type include one dress accessory – a hooked tag, and one item associated with textiles – the bow and handle from a pair of shears, both from ditch B50 and broadly of mid-8th to mid-11th century dating. A possible iron stylus from ditch A26 may indicate literacy on the site. Other items of this period are associated with transport and include a copper alloy strap distributor or harness link, two iron horseshoes and eight iron fiddle key (horseshoe) nails.
- 6.29. The main period of activity represented by the metalwork is the medieval period. The limited number of dress accessories include four buckles (three of copper alloy and one of iron), a copper alloy buckle plate and copper alloy strap slide. There is little evidence for commercial activity, comprising two silver coins – a hammered groat of Edward III and a complete voided long-cross penny of Henry III. The latter had been folded in half, suggesting possible reuse as a pilgrimage token (Kelleher 2012, 195). Items associated with agriculture include an iron goad, two iron nose rings (one associated with a pig skeleton), an iron pruning hook and an iron sickle. An iron ferrule may have been affixed to a tool to prevent wear. Of the 11 household items, nine are associated with security: an iron rotary casket key, a white metal hasp (possibly used to fasten a casket), one to three iron U-shaped padlock bolts, and one to three iron barrel padlocks (one decorated). Other household items comprise an iron whittle tang knife and a complete bucket handle. Evidence for transport in this period is provided by two iron horseshoe fragments.
- 6.30. Items of post-medieval to modern date are predominantly associated with commercial activity: a hammered silver Three Farthings of Elizabeth I, a copper alloy Nuremberg Rose and Orb jetton for Hanns Krauwinkel II, a French jetton of the 'Paschal lamb of Bourges (Berry/Berri)' type (Charles VII), a copper alloy trader's token, a copper alloy coin weight and a lead cloth/bag seal. Dress accessories are limited to two

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copper alloy buckles, evidence for textile-working to a single thimble and other activities by an iron tanged file.

### **Industrial waste**

- 6.31. Most of the slag (1.6kg) comes from Area 2, with only 569g of slag from Area 1; no slag was recovered from Area 3. The assemblage includes four Smithing Hearth Cakes (combined weight of 1.25kg) that provide evidence that iron-smithing probably took place within the wider settlement. There is one small (47g) fragment of what appears to be tap slag, which is a form of smelting slag. The small size of this single fragment leaves some doubt over the correct identification of the process that generated it. It is possible that overheated smithing slag may occasionally flow and produce small lumps that resemble tap slag. Even if the identification of tap slag is correct, the small quantity of material cannot suggest that smelting took place within the vicinity. This fragment probably represents 1% of the tap slag that would be generated by a single bloomery smelt in which slag was tapped from the furnace. The assemblage includes 869g of non-diagnostic ironworking slag which (in the absence of convincing evidence for smelting) were probably also produced by smithing. The small quantities of vitrified ceramic lining probably come from one or more smithing hearths.
- 6.32. The excavated slag from Stowupland provides evidence for smithing. The amount of slag assessed is modest and could have been generated in less than a week of smithing. The slag assemblage also spans several phases of activity at the site.

### **Lava quern**

- 6.33. An assemblage of grey, vesicular lavastone is likely to derive from millstones and quernstones imported from the Mayen area of the Eifel hills region of Germany during the medieval period. The material is now very fragmentary; the best-preserved fragments indicate the presence of a possible millstone and a lower quernstone.

### **Other stone**

- 6.34. Five pieces of stone were retained. Three are fragments of roofing slates, the other two comprise a waterworn cobble and pebble with no obvious signs of working or utilisation, however the pebble from the pit fits nicely in the hand may have been used as a processor.

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### Clay pipe

- 6.35. Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem fragments are broadly of 17th to 19th century date.

### Glass

- 6.36. A small quantity of post-medieval glass was recovered, including green bottle glass from ditch B27 and deposit 20567; and window glass from pit 10382.

### *Artefactual record: statements of potential*

#### Worked flint

- 6.37. The small flint assemblage from Thorney Green provides evidence of prehistoric activity on the site, including during the Early Neolithic period and possibly the Mesolithic period, although all have been redeposited. Most flints cannot be dated more closely than to the prehistoric period. The recording and analysis which have been carried out for the purpose assessment are sufficient for the archive. No illustrations are required.

#### Prehistoric pottery

- 6.38. The pottery has been fully quantified and described as a catalogue. A small proportion of the pottery which was initially included in the Post-Roman assemblage can be dated to the Late Iron Age, or is probably Late Iron Age in date, and this should be incorporated with the catalogue of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery.
- 6.39. The quantity of prehistoric pottery comprises a reasonable assemblage, comparable in size with the Middle Iron Age assemblages at Days Road, Capel St Mary (Brudenell 2014) and larger than Morland Road, Ipswich (Brudenell and Hogan 2014), both close to the Essex-Suffolk border. However, it is much smaller than that of the nearest comparable assemblage at Cedars Park, Stowmarket (Peachy 2016), which although containing handmade, sand-tempered pottery was all dated to the Late Iron Age period.
- 6.40. Overall, statistically the pottery here is more broken-up than that from Cedars Park with a lower average sherd weight. The vessel forms, certainly as far as represented by the illustrated pots there, are also different but find parallels among the pottery from Days Road and Morland Road, both dated as Middle Iron Age; that at Morland Road dated to the early part of the Middle Iron Age. Notably, at Cedars Park there are no examples of the neckless ovoid jars/bowls with simple rim and narrowed mouth (Form K). In this respect while quite broken-up and with limited pieces for



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illustration it is recommended that a selection of rimsherds be illustrated. However, overall, it is not a significant assemblage in terms of its potential for illustration.

- 6.41. That a small proportion of the pottery is difficult to date in terms of Middle and Late Iron Age highlights the difficulty of drawing a firm division between some of the pottery and might suggest an evolution in local potting into the Late Iron Age or a currency of Late Iron Age and Middle Iron Age pots. However, that the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from just one area (Area 2), while the Middle Iron Age pottery was consistent and approximately proportional on two areas (Area 2 and Area 3) might indicate some dislocation and temporal gap between the two assemblages. Limited residues on sherds from three pots of Middle Iron Age type might allow direct dating of some this pottery which might give an indication of the date span of the Middle Iron Age assemblage, but of itself seem unlikely to resolve the issues of closer dating and continuity. This may, however, be able to be approached through examination of groups of sherds with Middle and Late Iron Age pottery.
- 6.42. The pottery should be further reviewed in relation to assemblages of similar date from the area and the text enhanced where appropriate.
- 6.43. The potential date and question of continuity between the Middle and Late Iron Age assemblages should be reviewed in the light of the pottery itself as well as distribution and stratigraphic evidence and other finds material.
- 6.44. The general homogeneity in terms of fabric and lack of a significant diversity of vessel forms limits analysis, but the pottery should be reviewed in relation to pit deposits and identified house gully deposits as well as its potential association with any other finds materials as special deposits.
- 6.45. The potentially placed part, or near complete, pot from ditch 30068 should be explored further in terms of its specific context and any associated finds and the discussion expanded. Other of the coarse pottery should also be briefly reviewed in terms of context and location to elucidate any further instances of potential deliberate structured deposition.
- 6.46. In order to further explore the dating of the ceramic traditions, provision has been made for up to two radiocarbon dates from either residues on Middle Iron Age pottery sherds (e.g. from context 30382) and/or animal bones associated with assemblages of Middle Iron Age pottery, with the selection to be confirmed with SCCAS as the

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further analysis of the assemblage as proposed above is undertaken and subject to the availability of suitable material. There were insufficient charred plant remains suitable for dating from the Period 1 features (see Appendix C, tables C9-C11).

- 6.47. A small selection of sherds, maximum six, including the part pot from ditch 30068, should be selected for illustration from the pieces noted as illustratable in the archive list.

#### **Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery**

- 6.48. The assemblage is of modest size but is significant in that it spans the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period but does not appear to date much beyond the late 1st or early 2nd century.
- 6.49. It is also significant as it contrasts in terms of date with a much larger published assemblage from Stowmarket at Cedars Park (12,864 sherds, 132047g) where alongside 1st century pottery, the majority of the assemblage appears to date to the 2nd-3rd century (Peachey 2016). It is notable that there is essentially no samian prior to the early 2nd century from Cedars Park, although there is one sherd of Trajanic samian (from Chémery-Faulquemont).
- 6.50. There is a 1st century (probably pre-Flavian) samian vessel represented in the current assemblage as well as sherds from girth and butt-beakers of broadly similar date. However, in this context it is notable that a sherd of imported Lyon colour coated ware was recovered from Cedars Park, which is very rare in East Anglia and is usually confined to urban and military sites with most examples of pre-Flavian date.
- 6.51. Samian, where it represents the dominant fineware, and Lyon ware are most typical of Roman sites (a few pieces of early samian are not uncommon on rural settlements), while the girth and butt-beakers are more typical of a Gallic or Gallo-Roman orientated background. Taken together this pottery has parallels among the assemblage from Burgh, Suffolk (Martin 1988) which, like Stowmarket, is not far north of the Essex-Suffolk border. While only a few pieces and lacking other vessel types (such as platters and flagons), it could possibly hint at a settlement of some status in the immediate area or with some form of official function in the 1st century.
- 6.52. However, although the assemblage is relatively small, the limited number of sherds identified from girth and butt-beakers together with the absence of other eating and drinking vessels does not suggest any unusual status reflected among the

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assemblage here. There also appears to be nothing among the Registered Artefacts (RAs) which would suggest a site of unusual status here in the 1st century.

- 6.53. The coarseware assemblage is notable for the dominance of pottery that can be classified as Black surface wares, an East Anglian pottery tradition lasting from the Late Iron Age and through the Roman period, but which encompasses a Romanising tradition in the early/mid-late 1st century (Martin 2003, Biddulph *et al.* 2015). The forms indicate a 1st-early 2nd century date, while the majority of this pottery is probably post-conquest.
- 6.54. The pottery should be further reviewed in relation to the nature of the assemblage and assemblages of similar date from the area with the text enhanced where necessary.
- 6.55. The girth-beaker and probable butt-beaker sherds should be reviewed to establish their type where possible and the fabrics of these should also be reviewed to see if there are possible imports or, as appears the case at the moment, of probable post-conquest British manufacture.
- 6.56. The sherds in fabric W XO should also be reviewed as in some cases the slip may be a natural deposit.
- 6.57. The context of the pottery should be briefly reviewed as well as its potential association with any other closely dated finds material to see if dating could be refined and if any of the deposition appears deliberate.
- 6.58. A selection of sherds, maximum twenty, should be selected for illustration from the pieces noted as illustratable in the archive list.

### **Post-Roman pottery**

- 6.59. This is the largest quantity of pottery of this date to have been recovered from Stowupland parish in recent years, and the only one to have been recorded using the new Suffolk Post-Roman fabric series (Anderson 2020). Such a large, well-preserved assemblage has very high potential to further our knowledge of medieval pottery of this period in the region. A large assemblage from Church Road, Stowupland (Anderson 2018) will provide a good comparison, and there are some large assemblages from the Stowmarket area generally (e.g. Anderson 2004; Anderson

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and Thompson 2016), and groups from other Suffolk rural sites will help to place the group in context.

- 6.60. Spatial distribution of the pottery may be of value in determining the growth and decline of areas within the site, and use of pottery associated with any structural remains.
- 6.61. In summary, the potential of this assemblage is to provide evidence for dating and phasing of the site; pottery use, consumption and possibly manufacture; trade links both within and outside East Anglia; and status of the occupants.
- 6.62. The assemblage has been recorded in full and no further cataloguing is required. The pottery needs to be put into context with relation to site phasing and spatial distribution, and a more detailed publication report produced. Twenty-one vessels are recommended for illustration.
- 6.63. It is recommended that samples of local coarsewares should be selected for compositional (ICP-MS) analysis. It would be of value to enhance to the basic dataset which was created as part of the Suffolk Medieval Pottery Project and is a recommendation for all large assemblages excavated in Suffolk. Up to ten samples could be selected for this.

#### **Ceramic building material**

- 6.64. The assemblage has been fully catalogued, and a report prepared. Suggestions for discard are included in the archive catalogue (MS Access database). No further work is recommended.

#### **Fired clay**

- 6.65. The scarcity of diagnostic material and highly fragmented nature of the fired clay means that the assemblage provides limited potential for further analysis. The kiln bricks and kiln bar, together with a possible waster identified amongst the Roman pottery, may provide evidence for pottery production in the vicinity of the site, whilst the fragments of daub provide evidence for building material. It is recommended that information on the character of the assemblage be included in the publication report.

#### **Metalwork**

- 6.66. The metalwork assemblage provides evidence for possibly continuous activity within the vicinity of the site from the late Anglo-Saxon period through to the end of the 14th

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century. This activity appears to be concentrated in Area 1. Only one residual Roman artefact was recovered from the topsoil in Area 2 and the few later post-medieval items retrieved were likely to have entered the archaeological record as casual losses or discarded debris.

- 6.67. The metalwork assemblage has the potential to assist with the dating of the site and to assist in understanding the nature of the transition of occupation from the Anglo-Saxon to later periods in the vicinity. It will also further our knowledge of medieval rural material culture through comparison to assemblages from dispersed settlements within the local area, for example those excavated on the Cedars Park development in Stowmarket (Crummy 2016, 87-92) as well as to local manorial settlements (Anderson 2004).
- 6.68. It is of note that overall, the medieval metalwork assemblage does not indicate wealth, with a dearth of dress accessories and coinage; however, the presence of a number of finds associated with security indicates the protection of precious possessions. It has been noted that the site has been exposed to metal detecting in the past, resulting in the present metalwork assemblage not being a true reflection of the nature of the site.
- 6.69. Taking into consideration the condition of the objects and the future archival storage of the assemblage recommendations are made as set out below in sections 6.71-6.73.
- 6.70. A summary report on the metalwork should form part of any future analysis, considering the finds spatially and temporally, as well as relating the assemblage to those from similar sites regionally and nationally. Further spatial analysis of the assemblage may assist with dating some of the artefacts currently undatable. It is recommended that a brief survey of finds from the vicinity reported on PAS are taken into consideration during the preparation of the final analysis.
- 6.71. Conservation: Clean and stabilise RA 2000, copper alloy plate brooch; RA 2020 copper alloy hooked tag; RA 2006 copper alloy bridle bit. Noted in catalogue. Further x-ray of terminal of RA 2039, iron stylus.
- 6.72. Draw or photograph c.20 objects: RA 1000 copper alloy buckle; RA 1001 iron casket key; RA 1003 copper alloy buckle; RA 1004 copper alloy strap slide; RA 1005 iron padlock key, RA 1032 iron pruning hook; RA 2004 iron sickle; RA 2005 iron knife; RA

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2019 jetton; RA 2020 copper alloy hooked tag; RA 2006 copper alloy bridle bit; RA 2021 iron shears; RA 2025 white metal hasp; RA 2036 iron padlock bolt; RA 2042 and 2049 iron padlock casing; RA 2043 and 2058 iron bucket handle and lug; RA 2046 iron buckle; RA 2059 iron barrel padlock. These have been marked in the catalogue.

### **Industrial waste**

- 6.73. The modest assemblage of industrial waste provides evidence for iron-smithing. It has been recorded in sufficient detail at this stage, however the results presented in this assessment may be incorporated into any future dissemination of the results.

### **Stone**

- 6.74. Overall the lava quern assemblage is in poor condition, with few groups having any diagnostic features. The exceptions to the above are two joining fragments of possible millstone from pit A32, and shaped fragments from ditches A59 and B57. These are worthy of consideration when discussing the medieval material culture. The distribution of the lavastone should also be investigated during the analysis stage and included in the final report for publication. No further work is necessary for the other stone.

### **Other finds**

- 6.75. The small assemblage of clay tobacco pipe has been fully catalogued and apart from its contribution towards the dating of features, has no further potential for further analysis.
- 6.76. The glass assemblage consists of fragments of post-medieval bottle fragments and a small amount of window glass. These have been fully catalogued and no further work is recommended.

### ***Biological record: factual data***

- 6.77. All ecofacts recovered from the excavation have been cleaned, marked where required, quantified and catalogued by context. In total forty-two bulk samples (820 litres) were taken for the recovery of environmental remains.

Table 3. Quantification of environmental evidence

<b>Type</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Count</b>
Animal bone	Fragments	c. 4000
Marine shell	Weight	2.311kg
Samples	Environmental	42

## **Animal bone**

by Clare Randall

- 6.78. Over 4000 fragments of animal bone were examined. These originated from three areas spread over the site phases. The material was largely hand collected co-mingled fragments, but also included sieved material and a number of Associated Bone Groups (ABG). The material was fully recorded, and this report provides an assessment of the data obtained and its potential for further analysis.

### *Method*

- 6.79. Recording was undertaken largely in line with Baker and Worley (2019); the material was fully recorded, but the data have only been assessed. Each bone fragment was identified where possible to element and species, and where this was not possible large mammal (e.g., cattle sized), medium mammal (e.g., sheep sized, but potentially pig) and unidentified mammal categories. All data were recorded in an Access relational database. Identification was carried out using comparative collections and with reference to Hillson (1992) Schmid (1972) and Hillson (2005) for domestic mammals, and Yalden (2003) for small mammals. Zones were recorded where possible for each anatomical element using the Maltby/Hambleton method (n.d.).
- 6.80. Where available cattle, sheep/goat, and pig toothwear was assessed using Grant (1982), and Payne (1973; Deniz and Payne 1982). Bone porosity was recorded for all fragments, and each fragment examined for fusion information. The percentage of the element present was estimated and recorded to the nearest 10% for all identified fragments. Each fragment was also examined for pathological changes, breakage patterns, gnawing and weathering indicators. Burnt bone was recorded by colour (buff, brown, grey, black and calcined). The condition of all fragments was assessed on a five-point scale through poor, poor-average, average, average-good and good. Pathological changes were noted and metrical data recorded in accordance with von den Driesch (1976).

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## *Results*

- 6.81. In total 4197 fragments were recorded, although 1483 of those were components of material noted as part of 12 Associated Bone Groups, and 367 were recovered from soil samples from 15 contexts, leaving 2347 fragments in the hand collected assemblage.
- 6.82. Material came from a total of 317 contexts across three areas, 116 contexts in Area 1, 161 contexts in Area 2 and 40 contexts in Area 3. ABGs occurred in 12 contexts spread across all three areas. In total 74% of the material was poor or poor-average in condition. A considerable amount of material was however porous, and fusion data are also available. Mandible wear stages are available from cattle (7), sheep/goat (7) and pig (9), with additional mandibles which may be estimated and further data from loose teeth.
- 6.83. Taphonomic changes have been noted in 359 cases across all fragments, involving the main livestock species as well as unidentified mammal fragments. This includes dog gnawing, weathering, and burning. Butchery was noted in twenty-two cases, and fragmentation of the bone when fresh in twenty-five cases. A total of 75 specimens (including co-mingled, ABG and sample material) of a range of mammals and birds were measurable which will allow some consideration of body size. A total of nine pathological changes were noted which affected dog, pig and in particular cattle, which will allow for a limited degree of consideration of animal health.
- 6.84. The sieved material only contributed a handful of identifiable additional fragments (Table C.1, Appendix C) and was dominated by small fragments of unidentifiable material. This seems to indicate that there was generally good recovery in the hand collected assemblage.

### *The hand collected and co-mingled assemblage*

- 6.85. Material was recovered from across the phases of activity, and the species identified were cattle, sheep/goat (both goat and sheep being positively identified), pig, horse, dog and red and roe deer with single examples of unidentified bird and fish (Table C.2, Appendix C). The spread of the material across the periods has reduced the potential as the individual assemblages are therefore small. Nevertheless, most groups of material are large enough to provide an indication of the animal economy and change to that over time, with the medieval assemblage providing the most robust sample. Ageing data (Table C.3, Appendix C) are available for all periods and



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most species, albeit with some restriction. Measurable specimens are limited by period (Table C.4, Appendix C), as are indications of pathological changes. There are indications of butchery in most periods as well as potential deliberate fragmentation, although in both cases the numbers are too small to support detailed analysis over time or between species. There are taphonomic data in all phases which may inform understanding depositional processes.

#### *Associated Bone Groups (ABGs)*

- 6.86. A marked feature of this assemblage is the number of ABGs which are present (Table C.5, Appendix C) the proportion of which in comparison to the main assemblage appears uncommon. Those included from the Iron Age and Romano-British period are of a different character where they comprise skulls and large mammal fragment groups and need to be understood as potentially different from articulated ABGs. They are associated, but their aetiology is probably different.
- 6.87. The medieval and Late medieval ABGs were dominated by dogs, not an unusual occurrence, with the addition of pig; two deposits of multiple pigs were located in post-medieval pits. A chicken carcass was associated with a fragment of post-medieval pottery. Ageing data are available for most examples along with metrical information (Table C.6, Appendix C). No butchery was noted on any of the ABGs. Only the cattle skull in 30356 displayed evidence of taphonomic alteration.

#### **Marine shell**

by Anna West

- 6.88. A total of 2.311 kg of marine shell was hand collected from 71 contexts across Areas 1 and 2. Only shell apices (for gastropod species) or umbos (for bivalve species) were counted to provide the Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI), as each complete individual bivalve would originally have had two umbos. The shells were all examined for signs of infesting or encrusting organisms, as well as notches or cut marks created when the shell was prised open and the oyster consumed. The results are presented by context in Tables C.7 and C.8 (Appendix C).

#### *Oysters*

- 6.89. Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shells were the most common shell remains collected from this site and were recovered from 68 contexts. The bulk of the material (2.160 kg) was recovered from medieval contexts, whilst 74g were recovered from features allocated to the Late Iron Age – Early Roman period. Material was sparse within post-medieval

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(22g) and undated features (55g). The majority of the assemblage was in relatively good condition, with little fragmentation and abrasion observed. No pest infestation was observed and only a small number of notches were recorded within the oyster shell assemblage. The oyster shells were subdivided into left and right valves and the MNI recovered was 48 in Area 1 and 77 in Area 2. Although more left valves were recovered, there does not appear to be any significant differences in the distribution of these shells. There is no indication from this assemblage of different areas of preparation (significantly more right valves) and consumption (significantly more left valves) on the site.

- 6.90. Oysters would have been collected from the inter-tidal zone along the coast and imported inland, if stored correctly they can survive for up to two weeks. Shellfish and fish formed an important part of the early medieval diet and were religiously consumed on Fridays and during lent (Serjeantson and Woolgar, 2006). It is likely that oysters were collected from natural oyster beds along the coast, river estuaries and creeks in the area and transported to the site.

#### *Mussels and whelks*

- 6.91. Common mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) were present in low quantities from the site, 3g of mussel shell fragments were present in two, the fragmented nature of the remains means that no hinges were present and the MNI could not be assessed. 3g of common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) fragments were recorded from two contexts. These species would have been collected from the same habitats as the oysters. The fragile nature of the small mussel shells means that they become more easily fragmented during deposition and may be underrepresented in comparison to the robust oyster shells.

#### **Plant macrofossil and charcoal**

by Anna West

- 6.92. In total forty-two bulk environmental samples (820 litres of soil) were processed from a range of feature types, dating from the Middle Iron Age through to Late medieval periods, from three areas. The breakdown of the samples by area and period is recorded in Table 4 below. The bulk samples were taken with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of domestic and industrial activity on the site.

Table 4: Breakdown of bulk samples by area and period

Area	Period	No of bulk samples	Vol. of bulk samples	Features
Area 1	3.1	1	20	ditch
	3.2	4	80	pits + ditches
	3.3	9	180	pits, ditches + gully
	Undated	3	60	pits
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>340</i>	
Area 2	1	1	20	pit
	2	9	170	pits, ditch + gully
	3.1	3	60	ditches
	3.2	3	60	pits
	3.4	1	20	ditch
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>330</i>	
Area 3	1	8	150	pits + ditches
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>150</i>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>820</b>	

6.93. The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300µm mesh sieve. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x10 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted on Tables C.9 to C.11 (Appendix C). Identification of plant remains is with reference to Stace (1995) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals.

6.94. For the purpose of this report, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories # = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens. Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

#### *Period 1 – Middle Iron Age*

6.95. Only a single context allocated to Period 1 was sampled within Area 2. Pit fill 20085 from feature 20054 (sample 2004) produced no charred plant remains other than small quantities of wood charcoal. Two Period 1 pit fills from Area 3 were also examined. Both fill 30201 from pit 30200 (sample 3017) and 30249 from pit 30248 (sample 3018) produced very small flots at 2ml or less. Neither contained any charred plant remains other than small wood charcoal fragments, such as in pit fill 20085 in Area 2.

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- 6.96. Eight ditch fills allocated to Period 1 were examined from Area 3. Fills 30173 (sample 3004) and 30166 (sample 3005) from curvilinear C18 both produced small flots of 10ml or less, wood charcoal fragments were more frequent within these flots, however, other charred plant remains were absent other than a low number of indeterminate cereal grain fragments within fill 30201 (sample 3004).
- 6.97. The remaining samples from gully fill 30253 (sample 3015) from roundhouse C16, 30361 (sample 3019) and 30366 (sample 3020) both from boundary ditch C13 and fill 30068 (sample 3007) from ditch 30068, were all absent of charred plant remains other than a very low number of fragments of wood charcoal within fill 30366 of boundary ditch C13.
- 6.98. The remains recovered from the Period 1 features across Areas 2 and 3 add little information to the results of the excavation. Material is sparse and fragmented and most likely represents settlement detritus, resulting from activity on site during the Middle Iron Age, that has made its way in to the backfill of the sampled features through the actions of wind, water or trample.

#### *Period 2 – Late Iron Age – Early Roman*

- 6.99. In total six pit fills allocated to Period 2 were examined from Area 2. Fills 20079 from 20078 (sample 2003), 20110 from 20108 (sample 2005), 20564 from 20562 (sample 2015), 20580 from 20579 (sample 2016), 20809 from 20808 (sample 2021) and 20867 from 20866 (sample 2024) were all absent of charred plant remains other than small quantities of wood charcoal. The flots were generally small with only pit fills 2064 (sample 2015) and 20580 (sample 2016) producing around 20ml each. This moderate volume was made up entirely of wood charcoal, other than a low number of indeterminate cereal grain fragments within pit 20562 (sample 2015).
- 6.100. Fill 20936 (sample 2026) was examined from gully B78, and two fills were examined from ditch B99; 20327 (sample 2010) and 20372 (sample 2011), all dating from Period 2, within Area 2. Charred plant remains were generally absent from these samples, other than a low number of wood charcoal fragments within gully B78 (sample 2026).
- 6.101. The results from these samples add little information to the interpretation of activity on site during the Middle Iron Age to Early Roman period. No identifiable charred plant remains were recovered and the wood charcoal fragments, which may represent settlement activity within the vicinity, could easily have been subject to

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movement through the actions of wind or and water prior to becoming incorporated within the backfill of the sampled features.

### *Period 3 – Medieval*

- 6.102. Fourteen contexts allocated to Periods 3.1 to 3.3 were examined from Area 1. Three pit fills; 10635 (sample 10013) and 10636 (sample 1004) from Period 3.1 10632, and 10862 from Period 3.2 10861 (sample 1016) contained low to moderate numbers of charred cereal grains. Cereal grains were also recovered from enclosure ditches within the southwestern part of Area 1. Ditches A34 (Period 3.1): fill 10790 (sample 1014) and A24 (Period 3.3): fill 10741 (sample 1011) contained the highest number of cereal grain fragments.
- 6.103. Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum*) grains were dominant over barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) as would be expected for the medieval period (Hillman, 1981). Fragments of larger (bean sized) and smaller (pea/vetch sized) legumes were also present in low numbers within four of the medieval samples from Area 1.
- 6.104. The material observed within this small number of samples indicates that agricultural, horticultural and domestic activities were taking place in the vicinity. The presence of charred cereal remains within enclosure ditches, to the rear of the main roadside activity within Area 1, may indicate the disposal of domestic waste away from the main settlement or possibly the processing of cereals and legumes in an agricultural setting, on field edges, as part of preparation of this material prior to storage. However, there is no evidence in these assemblages for this initial crop processing in the field.
- 6.105. Fill 10988 (sample 1021) from Period 3.3 pit A32 contained a small number of mineralised cherry family (*Prunus* sp.) stones. A small number appeared to be sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) and a few may be a cherry type (cf. *Prunus malhaleb*). Aquatic and wetland species were also present within this sample. Pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.), stoneworts (*Charophyceae*) and crowfoot (cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*) are all aquatic species found in fresh water such as ponds, streams and ditches. Seeds of the buttercup family (*Ranunculus* sp.), knapweeds (*Centarureae*), bristly oxtongue (*Picris echioides*) and bramble family (*Rubus* sp.) were also recovered from this fill. These species can be found on roadside or field margin habitats and suggest an area of open, rather rough grassland in the vicinity of this feature. The plant remains recovered from fill 10988 (sample 1021) indicate a freshwater, aquatic environment

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within a scrubby, rough grassland. This suggestion is supported by the field description of the context as being peat-like and containing scrubby wood fragments throughout. It is possible pit A32 represents a roadside pond, possibly utilised for watering livestock which may account for the mineralisation of some of the remains recovered. Phosphatic mineralisation occurs when conditions within a deposit turn anoxic or acidic, the presence of material such as faecal material or dung can create high concentrations of phosphate and calcium ions. The rate of decay is slowed and buried soft tissues such as plant and insect remains can absorb these ions forming a calcium phosphate sub-fossil (Carruthers, 2020). Although it is also possible domestic waste from nearby settlement was also deposited within this feature, as suggested by a low number of animal bone fragments recovered from fill 10988 (sample 1021).

- 6.106. On the whole, the samples examined from contexts allocated to the medieval period in Area 2 were poor. Period 3.1 ditch B4 fills 20004 (sample 2000) and 20005 (sample 2001) and ditch B48 fill 21036 (sample 2028), Period 3.2 pit fills 20655 (sample 2019) and 21199 (sample 2036), both from B109, and Period 3.4 ditch B55 fill 20575 (sample 2035) contained either no charred plant remains or mainly indeterminate fragments. Pit fill 20523 (sample 2014, Period 3.2) contained free threshing wheat and barley grains in small numbers along with legume fragments, indeterminate endocarp fragments and grass (*Poaceae*) seeds. Wood charcoal fragments were rare within these samples and it is likely the remains represent general settlement detritus that has been moved through the actions of wind or water prior to becoming incorporated within the backfill of the sampled features.

#### *Undated*

- 6.107. Three samples from pit fills remain undated: 10483 (sample 1002), 10683 (sample 1006) and 10685 (sample 1007). Charred plant remains were sparse within these samples with only pennycress (*Thlaspi* sp.) and daisy family (*Asteraceae*) present in low numbers within fill 10483 (sample 1002). No charred plant remains were recovered from the other two pit fills, other than wood charcoal fragments.

#### ***Biological record: statements of potential***

edited by Anna West

- 6.108. Biological and environmental potential evidence centres on remains of animal bone, charred plant remains and charcoal.

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### **Animal bone**

- 6.109. This assemblage has been recorded in its entirety and no further work is recommended on the faunal material itself. No further analysis is recommended on the sieved material.
- 6.110. Whilst taking the phase sub-divisions into account creates a series of modest assemblages, there is limited capacity for the material to inform on issues of diet, site economy/resourcing, butchery and disposal practice in most phases, and to indicate change over time or perhaps variation across the site.
- 6.111. The Associated Bone Groups in particular are significant, forming a greater proportion of the overall assemblage than is common. The condition of the material is good and there is ageing and metrical information available. The treatment of dog and pig remains during the medieval and post-medieval periods is of interest and needs consideration with respect to the nature of other activity on the site. Whilst dogs were probably companion animals, their characteristics and mode of disposal need consideration. The post-medieval disposal of multiple pig carcasses, which includes animals of different ages could inform on the types of activities being carried out on the site during this period A chicken carcass was associated with a post-medieval earthenware sherd (10395).
- 6.112. It is therefore recommended that further analysis should be undertaken of these data to consider the incidence of species over time and spatially across the site, for the Iron Age to Roman and medieval phases, to examine economic, consumption and disposal practices, and, if relevant, to consider the social role of animals during the various phases of site use. This would include suitable local and regional comparison (for example, with remains from Cedars Park (Nicholson and Woolhouse 2016), to provide a discussion at an appropriate level of detail for inclusion in any publication.

### **Marine shell**

- 6.113. It is evident that oysters, mussels and whelks all formed part of the diet, in the vicinity during the Early Roman and medieval periods. Only a small number of contexts produced sufficient material to suggest deliberate disposal within the backfill of the excavated features, and on the whole it is likely the empty shells were discarded, along with other food preparation and domestic waste, within settlement middens which were later used for manuring on agricultural land, thus making their way into the backfill of the ditches and pits excavated on site. The shell numbers recovered

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from the site would suggest that the marine shells augmented rather than formed a significant part of the diet on this site.

- 6.114. The hand collected assemblage has been recorded in full within this assessment and no further work is recommended on this material.
- 6.115. The marine shell has the potential to indicate where midden material was stored and/or spread on agricultural land during the Early Roman and medieval periods 2 and 3.

#### **Charred plant remains and charcoal**

- 6.116. Overall, the samples taken during these investigations were poor in terms of identifiable charred plant remains. Charred plant remains were generally sparse and where they were present, they were fragmented and abraded making identification difficult or impossible.
- 6.117. General trends in the cereals recovered from the samples examined for this report provide little information to support the chronology of the site. Cereal remains were generally absent from the Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Early Roman features submitted for assessment. This may be because the main area of domestic activity, where hulled cereals would have been processed lay beyond the limits of this excavation. Free-threshing wheat, barley and legumes, typical species for this period (Greig 1991), were recovered in low numbers from the medieval features, although again the majority of the samples submitted for assessment were devoid of charred plant remains. This may be because the expansion of Thorney Green Road has removed the concentration of the medieval settlement activity to the east, leaving only sparse evidence of domestic activities on site.
- 6.118. The charred weed assemblage was limited with generally only grasses representing grassland or arable weeds. The un-charred and mineralised remains within pit A32, especially the aquatic species recorded, suggest this feature may represent a pond or watering hole at the edge of the settlement. Possible sloes, wild cherry type stones and bramble pips indicate rough scrubland or hedgerows in the vicinity of this feature.
- 6.119. The weed seed assemblages are generally poor across the site and provides little information regarding agricultural regimes or the utilisation of different soil types during the periods examined.



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### *Area 1*

- 6.120. Potential domestic activities during the medieval period are represented within Area 1. The material recovered however is generally sparse and no further work is required on the samples from this area. Wood charcoal analysis could add data to the interpretation of the landscape within the vicinity of the site during these periods. Further examination of the wood charcoal from pit fill 10862 (sample 1016) may provide information regarding the range of species available, any management or exploitation of woodlands and the selection of fuels during the medieval period on site.

### *Areas 2 and 3*

- 6.121. There is little potential for further analysis of the assemblages examined from Areas 2 and 3, mainly due to the low levels of charred plant remains recovered from the majority of the samples. The cereal remains recovered were sparse and fragmented and provide little detail of crop husbandry practices or the utilisation of wild resources.
- 6.122. Wood charcoal was the most frequent charred plant material recovered from the samples, however, the material is limited and further analysis is unlikely to provide useful data regarding the range of species within the local landscape, woodland management and/or fuel selection across the site periods. The site stratigraphic data does not prompt particular questions of the charcoal assemblage.

### *Analysis*

- 6.123. It is not recommended that any further bulk samples are selected for plant macro analysis, as the material examined as part of this assessment was sparse and adds little detail to the results of the excavation; all remaining bulk samples remaining from this excavation should be discarded. In total, 83 bulk samples were taken during excavation.

### *Documentary, historical and cartographic records: available evidence*

*by Dr Abby Antrobus*

- 6.124. Documentary, historical and cartographic records have scope to add to our understanding of medieval and subsequent landscape development at rural sites. They can provide information on land ownership, tenancy, economy and land-use, which may all enhance our understanding of the role and origins of remains such as the ditch systems, enclosures, artefacts and environmental remains excavated at Thorney Green. A neat coincidence between surviving earlier historical evidence and

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archaeological remains is, however, not always forthcoming. For Thorney, Nicholas Amor's detailed study of Late medieval enclosure highlights the quality of the fifteenth century material, and the Ashburnham family archive held at Suffolk Records office provides one of the county's best series of manorial court rolls (2006, 176). However, as noted by Amor and by Edward Martin and Tony Breen's work on the nearby Cedar's Park development (Breen 2016, 12), the survival of earlier material from the area is less remarkable, and the chance of finding detailed site-specific information to add to our understanding of the enclosures and activity from the 11th to 14th centuries is slim. Nonetheless, historical evidence gathered for this assessment provides context for the site, and as set out below, there are avenues to follow. There may also be information relating to some of the later phases of activity (e.g., Period 4.4, 14th-16th century).

### *Context*

- 6.125. The excavation site lies c. 180m to the south-west of the medieval Thorney Green, within the parish of Stowupland. Thorney was the old name for Stowmarket, and the name derives from 'thorn-tree island'; it is spelt variously as 'Tornai', 'Tornei', 'Thorneya', 'Thorneie', 'Thorneye' and 'Thorney' in documents from Domesday onwards. The higher ground upon which Stowmarket church stands perhaps formed the 'island', and Thorney Hall stood in the area that is now in the vicinity of Stowmarket Railway Station. Thorney Green (or Tye) is in the upland part of Thorney's original lands, on the higher clay plateau above the river valley (Briggs and Kilpatrick 2016, 139; Martin and Aitkens 2017, 147). Stowmarket developed as a church site, market and hundredal meeting place (Briggs and Kilpatrick 2016, 151). Stowupland was a hamlet of Stowmarket until 1843, comprising all the land east of the River Gipping, and in a 1568 subsidy return, was called 'Thorney and Saxton hamlet, otherwise called Stowe Uplonde', meaning land outside/above Stowmarket (Briggs and Kilpatrick 131-2). It is suggested that the modern Stowupland parish area comprises parts of the ancient Thorney, with other early centres of 'Roweham' at Saxham Street and 'Columbers', later Columbine Hall manor (Birch 2004, 360). In historic landscape terms, Stowupland can be defined by its tyes and greens and clusters of farm buildings along the edges of open spaces (Murphy 2018).
- 6.126. Nick Amor's paper (2006) explores the process and origins of the enclosure of common fields (arable and pasture), which was generally noted to have increased through the second half of the fifteenth century. His case study of Thorney is rooted

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in observations (by Mark Bailey and Edward Martin) that the higher Suffolk clay land has complex field systems. Here, some enclosure likely occurred over the three centuries from 1300, resulting in a landscape of irregular open fields with a few hedged, smaller enclosures or crofts c. 1400, with an increase in enclosure through the fifteenth century, resulting in a broadly wood pasture landscape by the sixteenth century (p175, see also Bailey 2007, 108). Amor observes that generally, the language in the earlier Thorney material reflects that of open field farming, with references to selions (strips) and heads of tenant land that abutted that of others, with increased reference in the later fifteenth century to crofts and closes, land passing to tenants and a concomitant decrease in reports of straying livestock all compatible with enclosure (Amor 2006, 179-81). At risk of over-simplification, the context for the process was social change following the plague, reduced pressure on arable land, an increased demand for the products of pastoral farming, and the improved efficiency that enclosure rather than roaming animals on common fields offered to husbandry. In the case of Thorney, there was also the relationship between an emerging urban centre and its uplands, which may have affected economic and enclosure patterns. This picture gives a general character of the medieval landscape context of the development site. It appears to have been a mixed regime of pasture, arable and meadow.

### *Domesday*

- 6.127. Domesday entries for Thorney reveal that it was a royal manor, administered by Roger Bigod. Thorney was one of the larger Domesday settlements, with one hundred and twelve households in 1086, a market, mill and a church, and five major landowners. There are occasional references in the Domesday book to 'Stou', used in the sense of 'holy place' (Martin and Aitken 2017, 147). Stowmarket, under Count Robert of Mortain, had twelve freemen and a church (Martin and Williams 1992, 1071; Powell-Smith 2022). Overall, the Domesday entries appear to indicate that an earlier, ancient estate had been subject to some partition at the time of the survey, with further disintegration in subsequent centuries (Amor 2006, 178; Martin and Aitken 2007, 147). The Domesday survey also seems to indicate a decline in the number of ploughs, pigs and meadow land, and where there had been two mills in 1066, there was one in 1086 (Amor 2006, 186). This context may have relevance for interpreting the earliest phases of the site, given its location in the uplands of a developing urban centre.

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### *Manorial Organisation*

- 6.128. In terms of manorial organisation, Stowupland was incorporated with Stowmarket. The Domesday manor of Thorney included much of Stowupland, Stowmarket and portions of neighbouring parishes, but became divided into smaller manors (see also Woolhouse 2016, 10). The manor of Thorney Hall centred on the manor house. Much of the area that became Stowmarket belonged to Abbot's Hall, also called the Manor of Stowmarket, which was in the possession of the Abbot of St Osyth, Essex, from the 12th century, perhaps indicating a divide in the ancient manorial rights of Thorney (Copinger 1910, 229-30; Langridge 2021, 68). Sub-manors included Columbine Hall (Thorney Columbiers), Thorney Campsey (possession of Campsea Ashe), Thorney Kebles, Clements, Cardons, Thorney Lizon's (Liesnes), and Thorney Mumpliers with Braziers (Birch 2004, 358, summarising Copinger 1910). Amor notes that alongside the fragmentation of the manor and estate, there was fragmentation of open fields (2006, 183), and Breen also notes that some of the Thorney manorial holdings were interspersed with each other (2016, 12).

### *Land ownership and early records*

- 6.129. Understanding the manorial context of a site is usually the key to unlocking earlier material, and regression through landownership history from more recent times can often achieve this. Nineteenth century Tithe Maps and Apportionments give invaluable detail on the past owners of a piece of land and can provide historic place-name evidence. The Stowupland Tithe Map of 1839 and apportionment of 1842 are at The Hold in Ipswich (ref: P461/240 and FDA 240/A1/1a). The map (not illustrated) shows several former boundaries within the site, the majority of which survived into the later 19th century (Fig. 29). The development area is made up of part of parcel 501, in the northeast corner (a cottage and appurtenances), and, moving clockwise, parcels 502 ('Stow Meadow'), 551 (pasture called 'Barn Meadow'), 553 (arable called 'Dock Field'), part of 554 (arable called 'Dulls') and part of 555 (arable called 'Great Dulls'). Additionally, field 625 in the Tithe records, to the south of 555 and south of the development site, is called 'Long Dulls'. Parcel 550, 'Stow Field', comprises the north-western portion of the site which is bordered by a 'drift' (549). The land was all owned by the trustees of John Edgar Rust.
- 6.130. The Tithe information for Suffolk shows that John Edgar Rust held lands in Stowmarket, Stowupland, Old Newton and Norton, including Abbot's Hall in Stowmarket (parcel number 288 on the Stowmarket Tithe). The Suffolk Records

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Office catalogue includes details of sales particulars for Abbot's Hall with its land and estate from 1840, 1853 and 1858. In 1840 and 1853, it was late the residence of John Edgar Rust (SRO HE402/1/1840/15) and then the late Reverend Edgar Rust D'Eye; the sale included the 'court leet and other manorial rights' (HE402/1/1853/1, HE402/1/1853/36). By 1910, the land was in the hands of George F. Beaumont, linked to Haughley (Copinger 1910, 231). If the properties held by John Edgar Rust at the time of the Tithe Apportionment were within the estates of Abbot's Hall and had been so historically, earlier manorial records would be relevant.

- 6.131. The manorial history may provide a link to surviving documents. The listed building of Abbot's Hall dates to 1709 but it stands on the site of a monastic grange that had belonged to the priory of St Osyth, and as noted above Stowmarket Manor and Abbot's Hall were one and the same (SCCAS 2022b and b, Historic Environment Record, SKT 016 and 062). A document relating to evidence of title shows that Abbot's Hall and its land was sold to John Edgar Rust in 1803, and that previously it had been conveyed by Samuel Rout of Stowmarket to John Cobbold of Trimley and Thomas Rout of Stowmarket, as a settlement on Richard Rout, gentleman, and Sarah Cobbold, his intended wife (SRO HB8/2/91). A marriage licence bond shows that John Edgar Rust was married to Ann Sarah Rout (SRO E14/8/1/29/79). A search for Rout/Cobbold and Abbot's Hall/Thorney did not yield further information. The manor had passed through the hands of various owners after the dissolution, including: Edward Lynch (seventeenth century), Richard Broke, linked to Bucklesham, Nacton, Blythburgh and Creting St. Peter (1610); John Howe (1557); and Sir Thomas Darcy, linked to Shimpling and Cavenham (1538) (Copinger 1910, 231). Pre-dissolution, there is some confusion in antiquarian texts as to the date for the grant of the manor of Stow Hall to the priory (later abbey), which is recorded as both 1405 and earlier, although St Osyth's did benefit from both churches in Stowmarket from grants given in the reign of Henry I (Hollingsworth 1844, 71-2; Copinger 1910 229-30). It may be that the 1405 date was a confirmation of earlier rights, as it was for a market and fair charter; Copinger notes that in 1321-2, the Abbot of St Osyth complained of the seizure of the manor by the Constables of Stow Hundred, which was subsequently restored (1910, 229-30), suggesting it was under the control of the abbey by the 14th century.
- 6.132. The Abbot's Hall manorial records are divided between the Suffolk Records Office, Hadleigh Guildhall, Norfolk Records Office and the National Archives, but it appears

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that earlier documents relating to the period of interest have not survived (Dugdale 1817-1830 volume 6(1), 309; Page and Round 1907, 157-162; HMSO 1922, 195-206; Davis 1958, National Archives 2022, UCL 2022, and searches in the Suffolk Records Office, Essex Records Office and the British Library catalogues). The state and value of possessions of St Osyth's were recorded in 1491-2 and 1494-5 (National Archives SC11/200 and SC11/984), but the accounts are likely to be high level, like that for the dissolution which lists properties at manor level (Watney 1871, 80-81). The Suffolk Records Office holds courts records from Abbot's Hall from 1647-1928, including property ownership and rental documents from 1681 (SRO HB456/3), but it does not appear that earlier records have survived apart from a rental dated 1523-4 for it and other manors of John Harman (SRO HB416/B4/7/19), which may provide information for Phase 4.4 activity at the site. It may also give earlier information, as rentals do sometimes include a few generations of previous tenants.

- 6.133. An article on St Osyth's may be useful (Watney 1873), as a note by historian Walcott notes that some of the St Osyth books were at Helmingham Hall in 1870 (p20, citing Appendix 61 of the First Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts). Nonetheless, it appears that there is no information on the medieval management of Abbot's Hall. There are some medieval charters surviving from Thorney generally (detailed in Copinger 1904), but further names and information from tenement history would be required to establish whether they are relevant or not.

#### *Topographic references*

- 6.134. Aside from tracing manorial documents, the field-names from the Tithe Map provide another direction for assessment. The northern of the two areas of the most intensive medieval activity appears to lie within Tithe allocation 502 ('Stow Meadow'), perhaps also catching the edge of enclosure 501 as visible on the Tithe Map. This latter appears to relate to Pooles farm and properties on the south-western edge of Thorney Green. The southern area of intensive activity, which also has a 14th-16th century phase, is within 553 ('Dock Field'). There is potential to follow these names through rentals (see below) but to date, they have yielded just a few leads from searches of readily available catalogues (Suffolk Records Office, National Archives). In his research, Nick Amor noted forty named crofts and enclosures from the 1400s to 1500s, and eleven unnamed ones (Amor 2006, 180). He has kindly shared his database of place-names from the court records and review of this rules out any

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obvious leads from there (although the data could be re-visited for personal names if more information comes to light).

- 6.135. A 'Stowefield' is mentioned in a document in the Chancery records from 1603-1623, in a case between Blomefield and Brooke regarding a messuage called 'Wyles and Chilton Hall, lands in Stowefield, Foxall Downe and other land in Abbots Hall, meadow and land in Stowe, Chilton, Stowmarket and Onehouse, Suffolk, late of Margaret Gowle' (National Archives C 2/Jasl/B38/5). There was also an Elizabethan case (c. 1580) for action by Henry Wentworth against John Hore, respecting a messuage and land in 'Stowfield' which had 'formerly been given for certain superstitious uses, and therefore forfeited to the crown'. In 1588 at Debenham, further consideration was given to concealed lands and 'superstitious uses' (Copinger 1904, 74, citing Proceedings in Chancery, and documents from the Exchequer). The term 'concealed lands' refers to some of the spoils of dissolution that evaded the crown (Kitching 1974). A document from c. 1613 relates to John Howe's demonstration of title for Stowmarket Manor (Copinger 1904, 77), and so the Stow Field in question may have been in St Osyth's hands and may therefore lie within the development site. In addition to the 'Stow Field' here, there are other 'Stow Meadows/Fields' on the Stowupland and Stowmarket Tithe maps (parcels 27, 120, 666 and 1, 5, 78, 144, 147 and 427), scattered through the parishes. However, only one was in the hands of John Edgar Rust at the time of the Tithe Map, where it may have come through with the manorial land. Later rentals may provide a link.
- 6.136. A messuage called 'Stowes' was also contested c. 1430-1450, between Thomas Gode, Thomas Sengylton and others, Thomas Ashe, Agnes, late wife of Thomas Sengylton, and the executors of Thomas Syngleton and Thomas Tudenham (including a refusal to execute a warrant of arrest against Thomas Ashe and Agnes) (Copinger 1904, 72). Nick Amor comments that Thomas Ash was a sort of medieval rancher, holding land across the Hundred of Stow, and that he appears to have been fined for various trespasses and acquisitions of land, with the Stowes messuage case involving him disregarding six royal decrees, a hefty fine and intervention from the Abbot of Bury St Edmunds (Amor 2006, 186). Again, further work may enable links to be identified.
- 6.137. 'Dulls' may relate to a close called 'Doolys' left in 1511 by a Robert Kebbyl to his sons Richard and Robert (Amor 2006, 179), although this may have been associated with the Columbine Manor and there are also field-names 'Doal's Field' and 'Great Doals'



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in the northwest of the parish (Tithe allocations 43 and 48). There are also references from the Columbine Hall archive relating to 'closes called Dulls' in Stowupland in the occupation of Robert Lancaster in 1613 (SRO HA1/CA/3/3), and from 1582 (SRO HA1/C/A/4/3 and 4). Nick Amor notes a 'Dullystrete', which may be a related topographic reference. Martin and Satchell (2008, 28-9, 243-4) note that boundary markers of wood, stone or earth on otherwise unenclosed land were often called 'doles' or 'dools', with the term coming from 'dole', a share in a common field, and that the term may also to apply to strips of wood/pasture left at the edges of arable fields. It could be that the 'Dulls' field-name does relate to more open fields, and that the excavation therefore picked up areas of enclosure outside of these.

- 6.138. The site is adjacent to the principal historic route between Stowmarket and Mendlesham, as shown on Hodkinson's map of 1783, and the road should provide a point of reference for studying early material, as should Thorney Green and place-names from the Tithe Map for within and around the site.

#### *Other sources*

- 6.139. The site appears to have been part of the Abbot's Hall estate and hence owned by the Priory of St Osyth in the period of interest. However, it is also possible that it came under other manors which held property in and around Thorney Green. If this is the case, as noted above, the records from the manor of Thorney Hotot (and Thorney Columbine and Thorney Lizons) are very well preserved, with sixty court rolls for the former dating to the period 1400-1510, although there are only three rentals dating to before 1441 and no surveys, extents or accounts (Amor 2006, 176-7). A search of available online catalogues (National Archives, Suffolk Archives, Norfolk Records Office) using various terms (available in the project archive) has not yielded relevant documents dating from 1000-1400, apart from a few 13th and 14th and century sources from Stowmarket and Thorney in the historical compendium of primary sources collated by W.A. Copinger (1904) and in the Iveagh collection at the Suffolk Records Office (SRO HD/1538/236 and C/143/81/2), but they would only be relevant if further searches provide names that link.

#### *Documentary, historical and cartographic records: statement of potential*

- 6.140. In summary, the manorial history of Thorney is relatively complicated. The indication at this stage is that the development site was most likely associated with the manor of Abbot's Hall, and that therefore it fell within the estates of the Abbey of St Osyth in the main periods of archaeological interest. There do not appear to be any surviving



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documents relating to the Abbey's estate management (Dugdale 1817-1830, Watney 1871, Woolcott 1873, Copinger 1904, Page and Round 1907, Amor 2006, HMSO 1922, National Archives 2022). A review of Watney's 1873 article may be useful, as information may have come to light after the 1871 publication; it is however a long shot, although there is Walcott's reference to books from St Osyth's at Helmingham Hall.

- 6.141. Nonetheless, consultation of the later manorial rentals (1681-1809, SRO HB456/3/1), sales particulars (referenced above) and also the glebe terriers and other Tithe information (1717-1795, sale of Tithes, SRO HA1/F/21/2; Stowmarket Glebe terrier seventeenth century to 1788, SRO FB78/C/1/1; Glebe terrier 1827 SRO FB215/C/4/1) would be worthwhile, to confirm the association with the Abbot's Hall manor and to establish whether the land followed the same ownership history. The 1858 particulars are noted to include a plan (SRO HE402/1/1858/19). With earlier sources available, it may not be necessary to look at enclosure documents or rentals post-dating the Tithe Map (including the 1853 rental held at the Norfolk Records Office, NRS 16999).
- 6.142. Review of documents mentioned above has potential to provide information on tenants/owners and any other place-name or topographic evidence, and would provide links for looking at the rental from 1522-3 (SRO HB416/B4/7/19). This is worth consulting as a source in relation to Period 4.4 of the site, and to see whether the rental lists earlier tenants back several generations. It may be possible to obtain further information that could be re-checked against names or terms against catalogues and the sparse earlier records. The Hadleigh Archive also holds a rental from 1618, and one dated '1500-1600' (066/A/01). Any information on landownership in the area might enable review of the differing archaeological signatures across the site. The Suffolk Records Office holds court records from Abbot's Hall from 1647-1928 (SRO HB456), including court books and property ownership and rental documents 1681-1954 (HB 456/3, with a rental HB 456/3/1). Court records may include perambulations giving the name of tenants (Breen 2016, 12), although no surveys are listed. There are a few earlier documents from Thorney (Copinger 1904; also catalogued in the Iveagh collection at the Suffolk Records Office, SRO HD/1538/236 and C/143/81/2). A review of the documents for the 'Stowfield' case would in theory establish whether they include any geographical and topographical

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information, although this would involve a trip to the National Archives and the potential for useful results does not seem high.

- 6.143. SRO's card index and registers of maps and plans should also be consulted. The Tithe Map may well be the earliest available cartographic source, as was the case for research into the nearby Cedar's Park development (Breen 2016). Thorney Green is shown on Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk as a T-shaped green with buildings around it although the map does not provide detail on the development site. There are earlier plans of other manors, for example Columbine Hall (a 1741 estate map by William Collier hangs at the hall, or a plan from 1772 which is held in the Suffolk Records Office, HA1/H/B/4/1), which may provide information.
- 6.144. Should the land not turn out to be linked to the Abbot's Hall estate, it would be worthwhile looking at later and accessible material from other manors, to establish whether the development site may have been part of their estates, although as noted above there is a relative absence of survival of earlier documents and rentals.

## 7. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 7.1. The site at Thorney Green has revealed a long and interesting chronological sequence with particular focus on the Middle Iron Age, the Early Roman and medieval periods. These are the three major areas of potential, offering opportunities to investigate several regional research themes, set out further in section 9 below (RRF 2022). Besides these, further research could consider continuity of the Late Iron Age into the Roman period and of the Late Anglo-Saxon into the medieval period. Both these poorly represented periods might have significance for the more intense activity that post-dated them.

### *Period 1: Middle Iron Age (c. 350-50 BC)*

- 7.2. Period 1 belonged to the Middle Iron Age and was a period of great significance within the Gipping corridor. This area has revealed a number of significant sites of this period, including Cedars Park in Stowmarket and Shrublands quarry near Coddendam (Nicholson and Woolhouse 2016, Meredith 2017 and 2018). The analysis report on Thorney Green has great potential to contribute to an understanding of the range of types of site seen along the valley and on the clay plateaus overlooking the river.

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7.3. At Thorney Green the arrangement of small, rather ephemeral structures seen next to a large boundary ditch is reminiscent of the development of large ‘ranches’ or ‘estates’ seen from the Late Bronze Age onwards (Bradley 2007). These landscape-sized arrangements were expressed as large enclosures formed by meandering ditches with nodes of structures and pit groups along their margins. Thorney Green has the potential allow investigation of one of these ‘node’ areas, to look at the arrangements of settlements and their relationships with enclosures. These reflect research themes for the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age in the region (RRF 2022; see Section 9 below). Publication of these results would allow Thorney Green to join the small corpus of Iron Age published sites for the Gipping valley.

7.4. The pottery assemblage is comparable in size to several significant recently documented sites along the Gipping valley, and there is the potential to compare this with other sites (Brudenell 2014, Peachy 2016, Doherty 2018). There is also the possibility of direct dating of residues on some of the pottery, which may help refine the ceramic sequence for the region during the Middle Iron Age, with the potential to investigate continuity into the Late Iron Age. Although much of the ceramic assemblage is fragmented, there are a small number of vessels that are worthy of illustration and publication.

***Period 2: Roman (Late Iron Age, AD 1st to 2nd century)***

7.5. Period 2 was represented by Late Iron Age to Early Roman features and finds, probably of the 1st century AD and possibly post-conquest. The sequence consisted of a number of irregularly shaped enclosures, a ditched hedge-bank/boundary and a series of cultivation trenches (which appeared near the stratigraphic beginning of the sequence). These trenches were likely to represent Early Roman agricultural practices (Wiseman *et al.* 2020) and have been extensively seen at the nearby Cedars Park excavations (Nicholson and Woolhouse 2016). They are suggested to represent an approach to the better cultivation of clay soils, perhaps with heaped ‘lazy beds’ in between (Woolhouse 2016, 10). The informality of the enclosure layouts and ditched boundaries at Thorney Green are in marked contrast to those at Cedars Park, making the Thorney site an interesting case-study in comparison, possibly reflecting transitional agricultural practices and activities, for more piecemeal, less organised ones.

7.6. The Period 2 finds assemblage reflects the transition from Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery, making the Thorney Green site of relevance to a regional research

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theme on pottery dating in the 1st century AD (RRF 2022; see Section 9 below). Some of the pottery assemblage appears to be pre-Flavian (pre AD c. 70) and is in marked contrast to the Cedars Park assemblage of predominantly the 2nd and 3rd centuries (Peachy 2016). There are potentially some kiln furniture and pottery wasters in the finds. The publication of the Thorney Green assemblage would enhance understanding of Early Roman occupation of the Gipping valley and could potentially inform discussions on trade networks, local industry and the characterisation of the finds of this period.

### ***Period 3: Medieval 11th-16th centuries***

- 7.7. Medieval activity (Period 3) formed the predominant aspect of the site sequence. As for the earlier periods, it adds to the corpus of recently excavated sites in the vicinity and has potential to contribute to the archaeological study of the dynamics of settlement in the Gipping Valley, and hence to explore wider themes for this period. It was highlighted that excavations in advance of Cedars Park allowed exploration of elements of the medieval small farms, roadside and green edge settlements that are typical of the landscape of the East Anglian clays (Woolhouse 2016, viii); this is true of the site also.
- 7.8. The excavation revealed a complex sequence of multiple ditched enclosures and field boundaries, with the earliest concentration to the south-west of Thorney Green (11th to 13th centuries, and residual Late Anglo Saxon finds), before a shift to the south (13th to 14th centuries), likely towards Thorney Green Road. After the 14th century, there was a sharp decline in activity.
- 7.9. There are some caveats with detailed interpretation. There are hints that the land may have been held by the Priory of St Osyth, but no firmer documentary information as yet, and the preservation of environmental remains was relatively poor. Whilst they suggest agricultural, domestic and horticultural waste from pastoral and arable economies they do not support a sufficiently detailed reconstruction of changing economy such as to draw firm conclusions about functional zones in areas of the site, or to explore longer term changes between arable to pastoral regimes; from the historical context, both may be expected, including farming of cattle and sheep which may have involved enclosures for keeping flocks or herds safe, for storing fodder and lambing. As is noted, the lack of evidence for initial crop processing may not indicate that it did not take place, for example. The limits of excavation also mean that the

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enclosures are truncated to the east, and potentially key areas of activity which may have shed further light on their use, layout and purpose were beyond reach.

- 7.10. Nonetheless, there are indications of the character of settlement in different areas at different times, and detailed spatial analysis of finds and animal bone has potential to contribute further.
- 7.11. It is possible that the Period 3.1-3.2 enclosures in Area 2 were focussed on Thorney Green itself, although they were separated from the earliest mapped extent of the green in the 18th century by farmsteads. The chronology of the creation of greens has been explored by Edward Martin, with settlement around them generally considered to have occurred after the Norman Conquest (Woolhouse 2016, 121), although scope for earlier greens is acknowledged. The presence of Late Saxon finds may indicate an early focus in the area. In Area 2 in Period 3.2, the density of objects is not particularly high but there appears to be a general distribution of some types of finds on the eastern side of the site: nails, slag, quern pieces, knives, horseshoes, quern and strap handle fragments were recovered from B75, B110/B29, B57/B58, B50, B16, B7, B20, B50, B43, B35. The possible areas of enclosure north of B14 and south of B75, and the area enclosed by B16/B31, may perhaps therefore have had some particular purpose distinct from other enclosures, possibly even to do with horses although the evidence is not strong. Smaller features within the ditches (from periods 3.1-3.2) may resolve into subdivisions, or possibly even may be interpreted as beam slots associated with structures, on further consideration. Periods 3.1-3.2 activity may represent farmsteads or enclosures associated with the green, and further assessment of the distribution of pottery and animal bone may shed further light on any spatial differences across the site.
- 7.12. In Period 3.2 in Area 1 to the south, some finds types may suggest or uses that lead to more dumping of waste than towards the east, perhaps within the enclosure formed by A25 and A26, and possibly related to a farmstead. From A25, one of the larger assemblages of pottery was recovered along with a small amount of slag, with lead casting spill from its possible return 10712. In A26, a possible earlier stylus, fiddle key nail, fired clay some with wattle impressions and burnt stone were recovered. Nearby, fired clay was recovered from a cluster of pits just to the south, 10632/A66/10752, and a low to moderate number of cereal grains worthy of comment was noted from 10861, with burnt stone from 10919 and a chain link from undated deposit 10645

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(RA1020) in the vicinity. The focus in this area contrasts with Period 3.3 for Area 1, where there was a more intense enclosure system towards Thorney Green Road.

- 7.13. In Period 3.3, Area 1, the intensity of activity in the form of ditches and distribution of finds was shifted towards the road frontage. The smaller parcels created by the ditches may represent the rear, western part of tofts and crofts laid out in the 13th century in a period of general growth. Equally, given the relatively narrow spacing between ditches, they may represent sheep walks or long linear yards associated with farms, or even overlain enclosures. The pond and scrubby land with it likely related to stock management. The eastern sides of the enclosures were beyond the limits of excavation. Further investigation of the small finds, ceramic and animal bone distribution would be beneficial, as there is a diversity of objects from the eastern part of the site, broadly west of ditch A1 (harness fittings, horseshoes, buckles, padlock bolts, nails, fiddle key nails and staples, a few pieces of quern, pin, from A1, A3, A4, A51 and A54), with nails and burnt stone from features to the east (A15, A23 and A24). Relatively higher assemblages of pottery came from features A1, A51 and A59 in the eastern side. A small enclosure formed from A7/A10 may represent drainage ditches around a building, or could have been a relatively small enclosure, perhaps a sheep fold. This feature was associated with two pieces of padlock bolts, pieces of lock and a possible piece of plate. It may, perhaps, have been lockable (or the pieces of lock may be entirely coincidental). At Cedars Park, a possible ditched sheepcote was c. 6m by 18m (Woolhouse 2016, Fig. 14). The edge of the site against Thorney Green Road meant that the probable frontage, or front of the complex, at least, could not be explored. Comparisons with other farmsteads and other frontage sites may be of benefit (e.g Woolhouse 2016, Welch 2020). A site at Capel St Mary gives a good example of a farmstead, which may assist with interpretation (Tabor 2016).
- 7.14. In Period 3.3, Area 2 towards the road looked very different, with a pronounced contraction and realignment of enclosures. Speculation might suggest, if the land was under one ownership, that there was a regime change involving enclosure of larger areas in Area 2 at the same time as an intensification of land closer to the road frontage in Area 1.
- 7.15. Generally, there is a change in character with a much less intensive use of the site after the 14th century, and there were simpler and larger enclosures in Area 1 and 2 by the 14th-16th centuries. Decline (or possibly a switch to a regime that had less of an archaeological signature) may have related to potential problems with farming clay

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soil during a period of worsening climate (Woolhouse 2016, viii) and for Thorney Hotot at least, a decline in tenant numbers in the second half of the 15th century has been suggested (Amor 2006, 185).

- 7.16. The date of the more intense activity on the site reflects a nationally observed general expansion of medieval settlement and arable farming in the 12th-13th centuries, during a time of rising population and favourable environmental conditions. This was followed by a contraction in the 14th century, following the Black Death and associated social changes and changes in land ownership and use, including consolidation into larger holdings (Woolhouse 2016, viii; O'Donnell 2018, 94-6). The site, as for others of its type, offers the potential to explore some of the detail of these changes.
- 7.17. Enclosure is another major process of landscape and economic change. This relates to the enclosure of parcels of land by individuals or estates, often from previously open or common fields. Nationally this tends to be evident from the later medieval period onwards, but there is general appreciation of regional differences (O'Donnell 2018) and Nick Amor's work on the Thorney area (see above, 6.128) highlighted the irregular systems of Suffolk where the creation of an enclosed landscape, or at least a mixed landscape of enclosed and open fields, was noted to have had early origins. It is acknowledged that the landscape likely comprised open fields with a few small crofts and some areas of enclosed arable around AD 1400, becoming generally more enclosed, with blocks of demesne or farmstead land (Martin 2008, 197). Amor charts the process of enclosure through and into the fifteenth century. The documentary sources, however, are more sparse for the earlier period, and the evidence from the site enables enquiry about landscape use and division to be extended back into earlier periods. Two questions explored by Dr Amor where archaeological evidence could contribute were 'how much was the enclosure the result of pre-existing settlement patterns and land-use? And 'what influence did the urban economy of Stowmarket have on enclosure? (Amor 2006, 176). Additionally, the site, with evidence of smaller sub partitions and features, provides a finer grain to that offered by historical sources.
- 7.18. Alongside engagement with the context provided by historical work, the site has particular potential to contribute to the existing published body of excavated medieval settlement remains from the environs of Stowmarket/Stowupland and the Gipping Valley (see also Anderson 2003; Woolhouse 2016; Welch 2020), adding another



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detailed element to a broad south-west to north-east transect sample of excavated sites in the environs of the developing urban centre of Stowmarket that can illuminate some of the wider themes in regional landscape history (see Fig. 1 for locations). It has been suggested that the 12th to 13th century boom, which saw the practice of assarting or expansion into non-prime land, was represented locally by incursion into the clay with activity that necessitated the digging of ditches and the creation of enclosures, perhaps in former wood or pasture or waste. It also saw a wave of smaller scale settlement established away from Domesday centres and parish churches potentially in the context of the fragmentation of an earlier estate (Woolhouse 2015, viii, 115).

- 7.19. The excavations in advance of Cedars Park indicated a landscape with some hedges and ditches from at least the 12th century, and provided snapshots of the landscape around Sheep Cote Hall particularly in the 13th and 14th centuries, including an enclosed farmstead with traces of buildings, an area of roadside settlement around a former green (likely associated with the manor of Thorney Hall), a stock enclosure potentially for corralling sheep and another area of roadside settlement indicated by toft boundaries and rubbish pits (Woolhouse 2016). The overall impression from the Sheepecote Hall area was of low status settlement with little evidence for specialised agricultural or craft production, and mixed farming with an important pastoral component, with most objects from the site likely originating with a thirty-mile radius and from local sites (Woolhouse 2016). The results of excavation to the northwest of Thorney Green (SUP 025, SUP 036), opposite Columbine Hall and on the south side of Thorney Green Road where it becomes Back Road, have been published by Oxford Archaeology. Excavation here explored areas of road frontage which recorded successive agricultural plots and ditches along the road frontage in the 13th and 14th centuries, along with a partial farmstead or toft, with a shift in the later period to the Gipping Road frontage of the site (Welch 2020). Oxford Archaeology also excavated a site immediately to the east of these, to the south of Gipping Road, which revealed a similar pattern of overlain settlement to the site. Evidence was recorded for a farmstead that went through two distinct phases of activity from the 11th-13th century, and which went out of use in the 14th century (Cox and Clarke 2022).
- 7.20. The site therefore has potential to contribute further detail of dispersed settlement in the Thorney Green area, giving an excavated sample between these two sites. This is of benefit, as archaeological data can be drawn out to contribute information on



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buildings, economy and the environment, moving the focus towards the study of inhabitation and the material remains of production, exchange and consumption, as well as an appreciation of time depth and evolution (Finch 2002, 115). The assemblages from the site have particular potential to offer insights when compared to other published sites in the area, to consider provisioning, such as the main sources of pottery, for example and the main types and uses of wares. The pottery appears from local and regional markets (perhaps fairs and markets at Stowmarket), and the metal items are on the whole low-status and utilitarian tools and objects. The site may either confirm the results of other excavations in the area or may highlight differences that could be explored as a result of topography, activity, soil types and ownership. The site may also be compared to the contemporary excavated moated site at Cedars Field, on the opposite side of the Gipping, which offers a contrast with a high-status site (Anderson 2003).

- 7.21. A specific question for ceramic and animal bone analysis, towards realising the potential of the site, is whether more can be said about the character of these enclosures, and also whether the signature from the east of Area 1 in Period 3.3 looks like the rear of crofts, or more like farmstead and rural divisions. There is also potential to compare the layouts, sizes and dimensions of enclosures and features of site to others in the area for inspiration on interpretation, looking at dimensions and layouts of suggested enclosures, tofts and crofts, stock enclosures or yards and beam slots. In the fifteenth century material, Amor observed that crofts in the early decades were of modest size. He also suggests that fields of between one and five acres could be fossilisations of earlier strips (Amor 2006, 182), which may be something to bear in mind when considering ditch systems and layouts.
- 7.22. In addition to considering environmental factors that may have influenced the working of clay soil, there is also scope to consider the remodelling and changes in alignments of enclosure through the lens of social factors, such as shifting ownerships or tenancy, and, potentially, the introduction of enclosure and resistance to this process. The concentration of enclosures in parts of the development area supports the general view of a pattern of more open fields and smaller enclosures at a relatively early date. Amor highlights, from the later medieval records, that there were episodes of conflict, with documented unrest surrounding the lack of maintenance of enclosures, ditches and hedges, complaints of encroachment, raids and ranching, confiscation of lands and vandalism, including resistance to enclosure and damage

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to hedges in the fifteenth century (2006, 182). These processes may explain some of the archaeological signatures of the earlier periods, such as the palimpsest of boundaries. The row of postholes A67 against a ditch A27 could represent a hedge repaired with a fence (Area 1, Period 3.3). The finds associated with security are of interest, in this context. Area 2 was within Dock Fields in the medieval period; a question may be whether Dock is a term with any early meaning. A preoccupation with security devices (keys and locks) might indicate that they had something precious to keep and guard? Amor notes that the Lord's pound for Thorney Hoton held at least forty sheep in 1464 (2006, 182): what would a pound look like, archaeologically?

- 7.23. In conclusion, publishing the excavations with reference to previous sites would contribute to regional research themes. These include concerns for understanding rural agricultural practices and industries and the explanation of settlement change, evolution and abandonment (RRF 2022; see Section 9 below). Publication of the large group of medieval ceramics would also greatly enhance an understanding of pottery dating, consumption, trade links and status in southern Suffolk and northern Essex (see Anderson above: paras 6.59-64). This also ties into national research questions (Condon *et al.* 2002, 32) 'What economic role can be ascribed to peasant buying power and consumption? How did this affect access to markets and regional variation? (Town and Country in England Research Question 31).

## 8. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 8.1. The archive is currently held at CA offices, Suffolk, whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, CA will make arrangements with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archive for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner, the artefact collection. The Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archive has agreed in principle to accept the archive upon completion of the project.
- 8.2. A digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). This archive will be compiled in accordance with the ADS Guidelines for Depositors.

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- 8.3. The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2020b).
- 8.4. Table 5 gives a quantification of the archive, which will be finalised once the archive is prepared for deposition.
- 8.5. It is proposed that the following should be discarded: post-medieval pigs from pit 10382 (contexts 10383, 10849), post-medieval chicken bones (10395), heat altered and unworked stone, post-medieval CBM, clay pipe, post-medieval glass.

Table 5: Archive quantification

<b>Box Type</b>	<b>Count</b>
Bulk finds	25
Registered Artefacts	5
Environmental remains	2
Paper archive	13

## 9. UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 9.1. To fulfil the potential of the site data, the following updated objectives have been set out to provide a framework for proposed further analysis. These add to and enhance the original objectives as laid out in Section 3 above. The recently updated Regional Research Framework for the East of England will be referenced wherever possible (RRF 2022). The three main periods (Middle Iron Age, 1st century AD/Late Iron Age to Early Roman and medieval/11th to 16th centuries) have informed the three first objectives. An extra objective is intended to bear in mind long-term developments and the intervening periods that might have been overlooked in the assessment stage:

**Objective 1: what sort of settlement and/or activity was taking place during the Middle Iron Age and how does this relate to the wider landscape during this period?**

- 9.2. The Middle Iron Age evidence has revealed the presence of roundhouses, isolated pits and linear features, including a large (boundary?) ditch which appears to respect the buildings. Supplementary questions to be considered might be:

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- Do the roundhouses represent settlement rather than temporary, seasonal or occasional occupation?
  - Do the artefacts/ecofacts give any indication of the activities taking place in Period 1 and why were pits being dug?
  - Can the large ditch C13 be considered to be part of an enclosure (even though it does not continue into Area 2) and if not, what was its function?
  - How does this site relate to other sites of similar age in the vicinity with particular reference to i) the Gipping Valley and ii) exploitation of the claylands?

9.3. According to the resource assessment for the region, discussion of the Iron Age generally has been over-dominated by discussions of 'big men', chiefdoms and polities (Brudenell 2022). Settlement evidence could be better understood in terms of familial and communal organisation that explains observed patterning (RRF 2022: LBA-MIA 05). Understanding how roundhouses, pits and ditches were used might shed light on the organisational structures that influenced them.

9.4. The long-standing debate about whether settlements were either enclosed or open and if East Anglia was typified by unenclosed settlements still needs to be addressed (Cunliffe 2005). The relationship and distinction between open occupation sites and other categories such as ringworks, enclosures and large agglomerated pit dominated sites is seen as an important research issue (RRF 2022: LBA-MIA 07). Further review of the finds assemblages as proposed (pottery and small finds in particular) and the animal bone assemblage will contribute to achieving this objective.

**Objective 2: what was happening at Thorney Green during the 1st century AD and how does this relate to the Late Iron Age and the Roman periods, and the wider landscape during this period?**

9.5. Intensive activity was revealed belonging to the 1st century AD, particularly within Area 2. The meandering form of some of the ditches and the multiple reconfigurations of alignments and enclosures might point to a longer sequence that spans the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period (as the pottery evidence seems to suggest). The groups of closely parallel cultivation trenches appear to be at the beginning of this sequence however and these conventionally are thought to be Early Roman, associated with roadways and might have military origins (Wiseman *et al.* 2020).

9.6. When considering Period 2, some subsidiary questions might be considered:

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- What is the evidence for Late Iron Age activity at Thorney Green and how reliable is this dating?
  - How can the activity during the 1st century AD be characterised and why was there so many changes and reconfigurations of ditch alignments?
  - When did this period end and why did it end then?
  - How does the site contribute to knowledge and understanding when considered in the light of other known and published sites in the area?

9.7. The influence of Rome both before and after the invasion has been problematic for the study of this period (Evans 2022). Plus, there has been an over-emphasis on the excavation of Roman period farmsteads and neglect of the intervening areas ( Evans 2022.).

9.8. The research themes for East Anglia in the Late Iron Age to Roman periods include a concern for understanding the transition from one period to the next (RRF 2022: LIA-Rom 05) and a concern with distinguishing the artefacts, feature types and site layouts of the two periods (LIA-Rom 16). Further review of the finds assemblages as proposed (pottery and small finds in particular) and the animal bone assemblage will contribute to achieving this objective.

**Objective 3: what kind of activity was being carried out at Thorney Green in the medieval period across time and in different areas of the site, and how did this relate to agricultural practice, rural industry, green edge settlement and the evolution and abandonment of settlements? What does this tell us about the wider landscape during this period?**

9.9. Excavations at Thorney Green have demonstrated a complex sequence of developments dating from the 11th to 16th centuries. These mainly took the form of extensive systems of ditched enclosure and linear boundaries, frequently remodelled and re-aligned resulting in at least four separate phases of medieval activity recognised across Areas 1 and 2.

9.10. In general terms, the earlier phases (Periods 3.1 and 3.2) were focussed on Area 2, while Area 1 saw greatest intensity from the 13th century onwards (Periods 3.3 and 3.4). There appeared to be a shift of focus from Area 2 (associated with the south-west end of the medieval green?) to Area 1, more directly associated with Thorney Green Road and probably linked to street frontages and possible dwellings, all within a general period of expansion of medieval settlement.

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- 9.11. As noted above (section 7), characterisation and interpretation of the medieval deposits at Thorney Green is not clear cut. The intensity of ditches, enclosure sequences and artefact scatters suggests that settlement and/or other activity was taking place in the vicinity although structures and dwellings seem absent. It might be that structures of this period are difficult to recognise in excavation (Martin 2022) or that dwellings might be beyond the limits of the site (e.g. occupying road frontages against Thorney Green Road). Detailed analysis of feature groupings and artefact types and concentrations might help interpretation, alongside targeted comparison to sites from the area and excavated examples of farmsteads and roadside settlements (including Cedars Park (Woolhouse 2016), Gipping Road, Stowupland (Welch 2020), Days Road, Capel St Mary, for an example of a farmstead (Tabor 2016). The dimensions of enclosures and features will be compared, alongside possible interpretations.
- 9.12. The review of the situation in East Anglia for the regional framework (Martin 2022) has suggested that the landscape was organised around dispersed farmsteads with settlements strung along the edges of ‘greens’ (areas of common pasture). Such green-edge developments are generally suspected to be of post-conquest date (Martin 2022.), so the 11th century date for the earliest phase at Thorney Green (Period 3.1) must be reviewed and the scatter of Late Anglo-Saxon artefacts be considered in the light of the possible early origins of some greens (Woolhouse 2016).
- 9.13. Research themes identified for the regional framework have focussed on improving the understanding of agricultural practices and rural industries (RRF 2022: Med/rural 03 and 04), rural settlement morphology and site relationships (Med/rural 09) and the explanation of settlement change, evolution and abandonment (Med/rural 14). In the light of these themes the following subsidiary questions might be considered:
- How does the observed patterning of archaeological features relate to medieval agricultural practices and/or rural industries at different times and in different areas of the site?
  - Does the site landscape setting give any indication of the farming regimes adopted? Is there useful information from the evaluation data, on field systems?
  - How can the Thorney Green site be characterised in relation to settlement/ activity type and its relationship to other sites in the vicinity? This is key as the site represents one of several which form an approximate transect through

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the uplands of Stowmarket (Woolhouse 2016, Welch 2020; efforts will be made to compare to other more recently excavated sites also).

- What can be said about the development, evolution and abandonment of the site during the medieval period?
- How do finds assemblages compare to those from other sites in the immediate area?
- How have earlier events influenced the post-medieval and modern development of the village and parish?

**Objective 4: can the chronological sequence at Thorney Green be further refined and undated features be brought into the period framework?**

9.14. Although the excavation results have been well sequenced on the whole, with the majority of features and finds attributed to one of the four main periods, there are still some grey areas, potential transitions and undated features. The following additional questions might help characterise some of these problematic issues as further work is undertaken on the finds assemblages:

- Can the chronological sequence be improved?
- Was there a Late Iron Age stage?
- Was there a Late Anglo-Saxon phase?
- Can undated features be placed in one of the four main periods, or could they belong to another (as yet unrecognised) period?

## 10. PUBLICATION

10.1. The results from the investigations of the Thorney Green excavations are of regional and local interest and merit publication. The Thorney Green excavations are of significance particularly because of the local context of the site:

- Thorney Green is close to the multi-period discoveries at Cedars Park (Nicholson and Woolhouse 2016, Woolhouse 2016) with particular focus on the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods,
- The site is close to the important medieval green of Thorney Green itself and has potential to discuss the kinds of activity and settlement that occurred along the green edge and the road during the medieval period, adding to a sample of excavations of dispersed settlement in the area.

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- Thorney Green should be considered within the setting of the Gipping River corridor which acted as both a routeway and a barrier during different periods (e.g. the 'Gipping Gap', Martin 2022).

10.2. A summary will be prepared for the proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. The article will focus in particular on the medieval sequence and be supported by documentary research. The Early Roman and Middle Iron Age would also be considered and reviewed in summary outline.

10.3. For the purposes of archiving, an updated version of this report will be reissued with the more detailed small finds, animal bone and ceramic analytical reports, further discussion of features and an expanded discussion section in line with the revised research aims as set out in this document and any new insights into spatial activity across the site.

10.4. Proposed publication synopsis:

- Introduction – to set out aims of paper
- Background – Gipping Valley context (with a figure showing location and context).
- Documentary evidence
- Medieval site sequence (including comments on finds and illustrations, environmental remains, animal bone, comparisons to features from other sites and discussion of plot sizes), figures to include information from 1839 tithe map.
- Medieval pottery (including illustrations and spatial analysis, comparisons to other assemblages)
- Medieval small finds (illustrations to indicate phase, comparisons to other assemblages).
- Discussion (landscape and chronological context/interpretation/comparison/part of a transect along with other published sites; topographical context, economy and landscape use; trade and material culture; location and lordship).



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- Conclusion – contribution of site to knowledge, pointer to availability of archive reports
  - Additional note – Iron Age and Roman occupation, note on finds, especially pottery.

## 11. PROJECT TEAM

11.1. The analysis and publication programme will be quality assured by CA management team. It will be managed by Richard Mortimer (Post-Excavation Manager), who will contribute to the discussion as senior author and co-ordinate the work of the following personnel.

- **Abby Antrobus (Senior Publications Officer: AA)**  
Post-excavation phasing, draft report preparation, research and archive
- **Richard Mortimer (Post Excavation Manager: RM)**  
Publication management, budgeting, editing, liaison
- **Grace Jones (Finds Manager: GJ)**  
Specialist report preparation and liaison, post-excavation phasing
- **Stephen Benfield (Senior Finds Officer: SB)**  
Specialist reports (Prehistoric and Roman ceramics)
- **Peter Banks (Finds Officer: PB)**  
Specialist reports (fired clay)
- **Alex Bliss (Finds Officer: AB)**  
Specialist reports (Registered Artefacts and metallic finds)
- **Clare Wootton (Post-Excavation Supervisor: CW)**  
Preparing finds, sending to specialists, logistics
- **Clare Randall (Post-Excavation Manager: CR)**  
Specialist reports (animal bone)
- **Anna West (Environmental Officer: AW)**  
Specialist report preparation plant macrofossil, molluscs and liaison
- **Ryan Wilson (Illustrator: RW)**  
Production of all site plans, sections and artefact drawings
- **Zoe Emery (Archives Supervisor: ZE)**  
Preparation and submission of archives

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11.2. Contributions by the following external consultant will be managed by GJ:

- Sue Anderson: post-Roman pottery, CBM (**SA**)

11.3. The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management and will also be externally refereed.

## 12. TASK LIST

Task	Staff
<b>Staff related tasks</b>	
General project management	RM, GJ
Preparation of synopsis for SIAH	AA
Stratigraphic analysis, text and synthesis	AA
Documentary, historical and cartographic research	AA
Finds management (preparation for sending to specialists etc.)	GJ, CW
Prehistoric and Roman pottery analysis	SB
Post-Roman pottery and CBM analysis	SA
Registered Artefacts (metalwork)	AB
ICP-MS analysis on pottery	Specialist
Cleaning and conservation of metal items	PG
Charred plant macrofossils	AW
Animal bone	CR
Charcoal analysis (sample 1016)	Specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Specialist
General illustrations/graphics	RW
Checking and editing illustrations	AA
Artefact photos/illustrations (pottery and metal finds)	RW
Editing of specialist reports	GJ
Final discussion of material evidence	GJ
Compiling full overall SIAH article for submission	AA
Dissemination via CA website/blog	RP/IJ
Update/Append to PXA to create archive report	AA
Preparation and deposition of site archive	ZE
<b>Non-staff tasks and consumables</b>	
Finds transport	
Additional x-ray plates	
Small finds conservation	
Misc. consumables	
Finds boxes	
SCCAS archiving costs (bulk finds)	
SCCAS archiving costs (Registered Artefacts)	
SCCAS archiving costs (environmental remains)	
SCCAS archiving costs (paperwork)	
Paper archive boxes	

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## 13. TIMETABLE

Following approval of this PXA report, it is intended that an archive report will be finalised and produced and an article will be submitted within eighteen months to the *Journal of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. CA programme allows for commencement of work on the document within six months of the submission of the PXA, subject to approval of the PXA.

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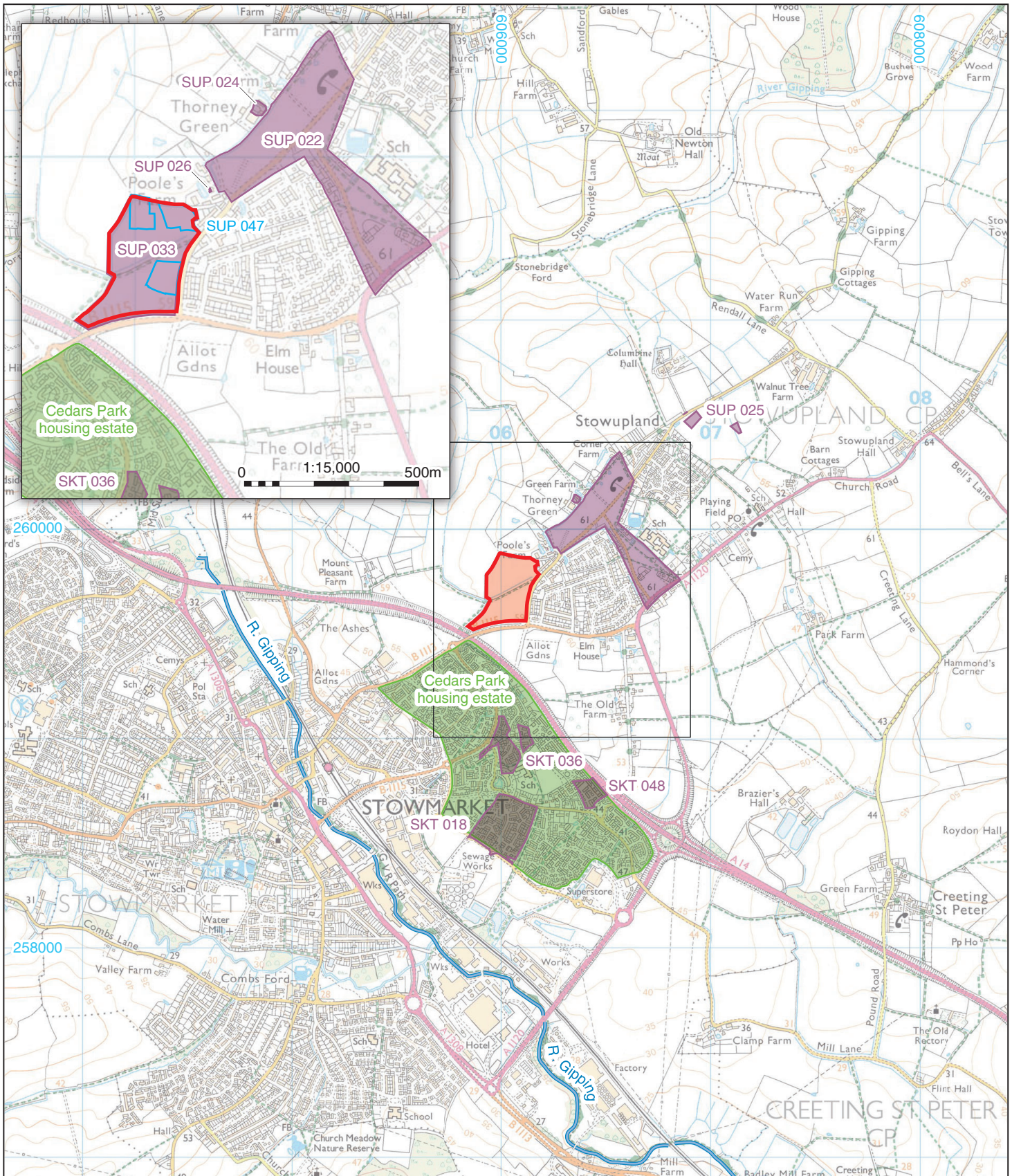
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### Cartographic Sources

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- Site boundary
- Cedars Park
- HER Monument
- Selected watercourse



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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



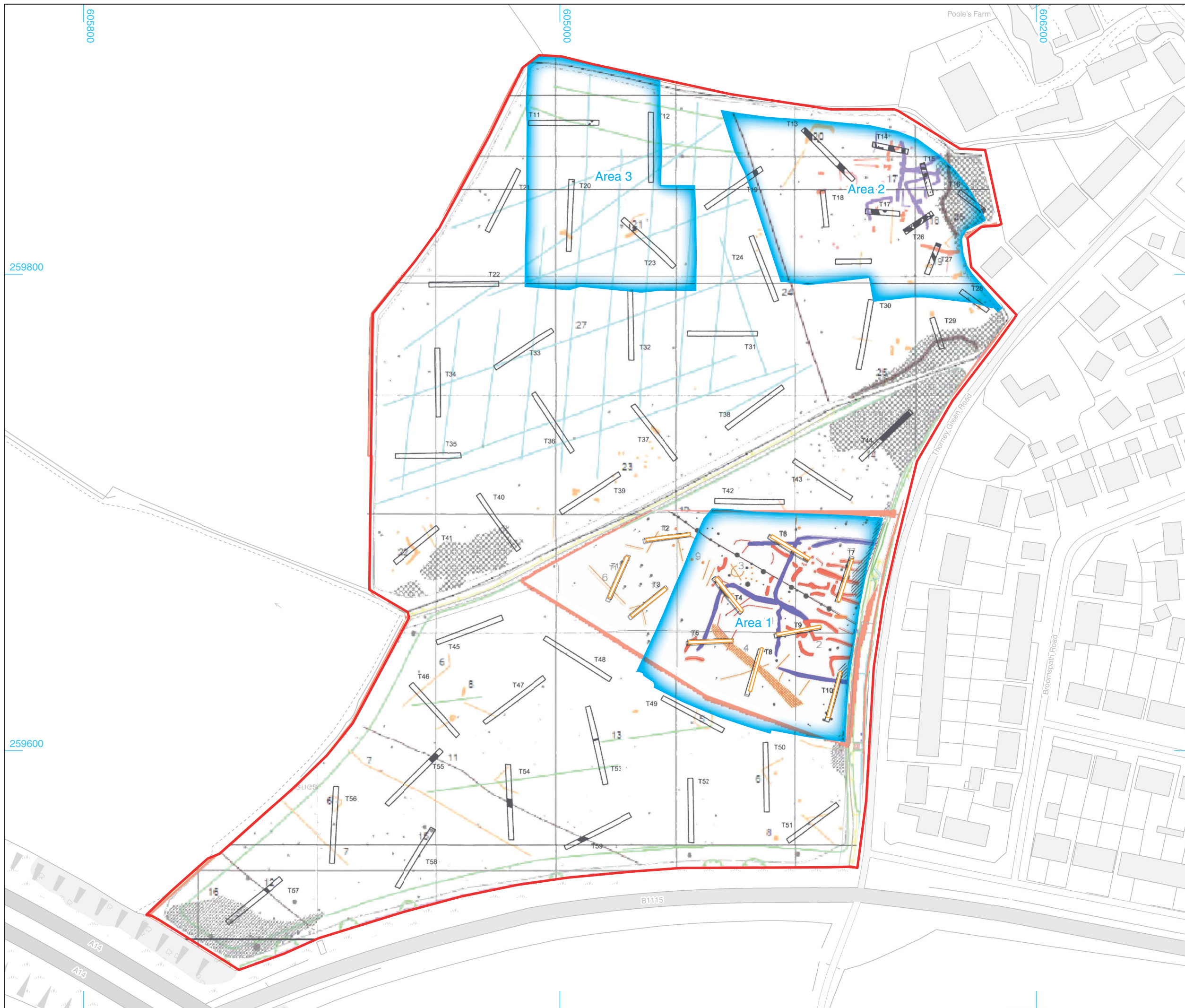
Andover 01264 347630  
Cirencester 01285 771022  
Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
Suffolk 01449 900120  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
Thorney Green, Stowupland, Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan with selected local HER entries

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0226	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/12/2021	1
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	





- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Evaluation trench (ASE 2019)
- Evaluation trench (ASE 2017)

*Geophysical survey results (ASL 2015/17)*

- Survey boundary
- Positive linear (archaeological potential)
- Positive rectilinear (enclosure)
- Positive linear (ditch-like)
- Positive linear (agricultural)
- Positive linear (possible former field boundary)
- Field drain
- Discrete positive response (archaeological potential)
- Discrete positive response (pit-like)
- Positive anomaly (magnetically enhanced material)
- Magnetic debris
- Magnetic distribution from ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly



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Mapping showing state of site during excavation (2021)

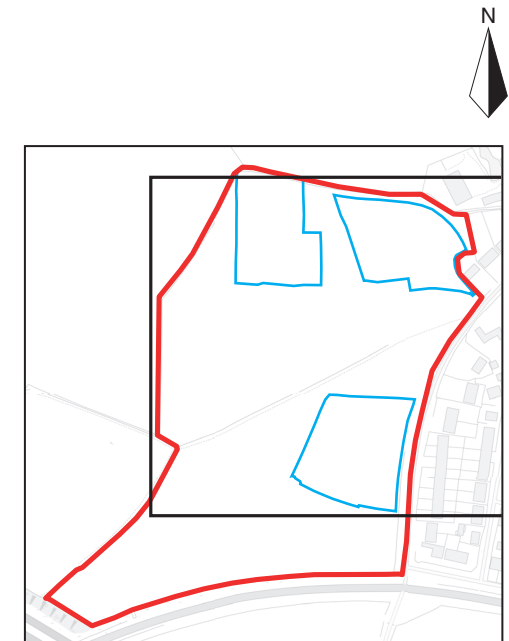
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Thorney Green, Stowupland, Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Plan with evaluation trench locations and geophysical survey results

<b>DRAWN BY</b> RW	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> SU0226	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 06/12/2021	<b>2</b>
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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 1: Middle Iron Age
- Period 2: Late Iron Age–Early Roman
- Period 3: medieval
- Period 4: Post-medieval
- Period 5: Modern, 1800+
- Undated
- Deposit

0 1:1000 50m

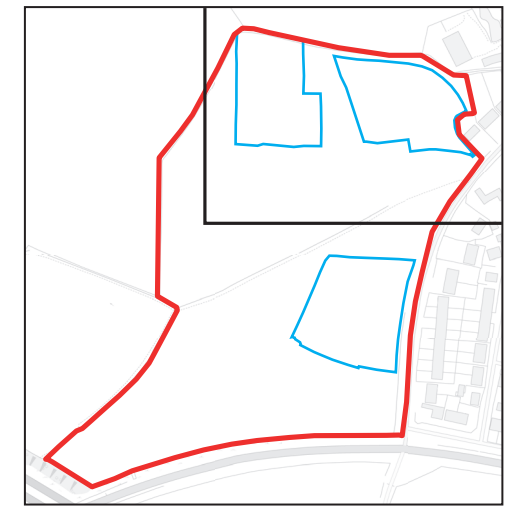
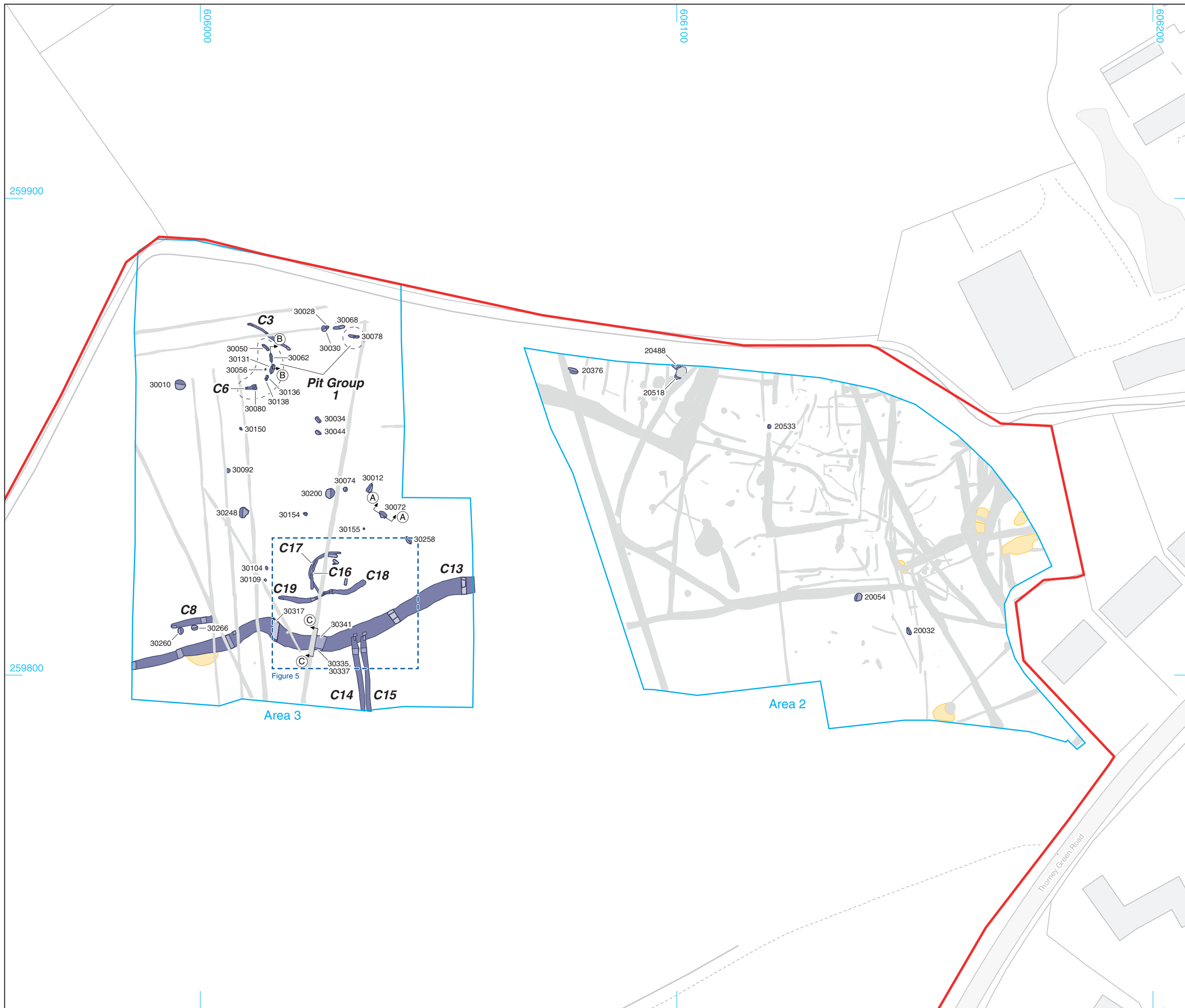
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Thorney Green, Stowupland, Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
All feature plan showing phased archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> SU0226	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 3
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 25/05/2023	
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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 1: Middle Iron Age
- Other period
- Deposit
- A Section location



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Mapping showing state of site during excavation (2021)

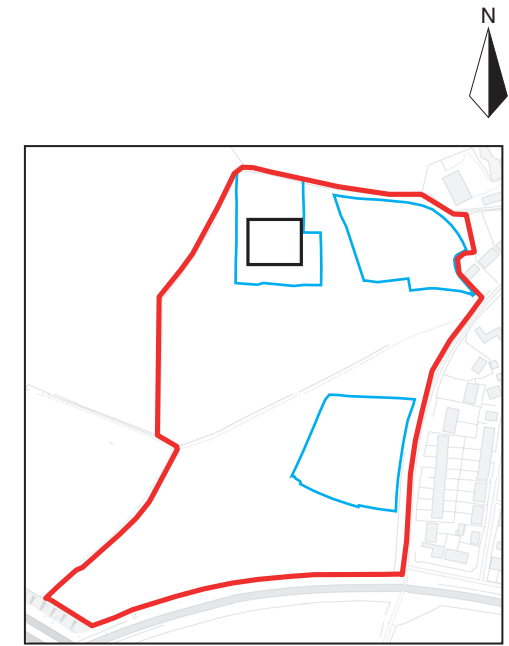
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 1 (Areas 2 and 3), Middle Iron Age phased site plan

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/12/2021	4
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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 1: Middle Iron Age
- Other period
- A Section location



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PROJECT TITLE  
 Thorney Green, Stowupland, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE  
**Plan of Period 1 roundhouses C16 and C17, and features C18 and C19**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/12/2021	5
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:100	

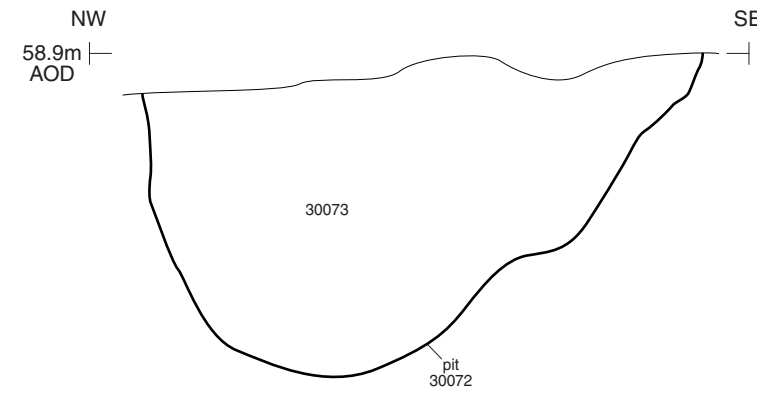


Roundhouses C16 and C17, and features C18 and C19, looking north (2m scales)

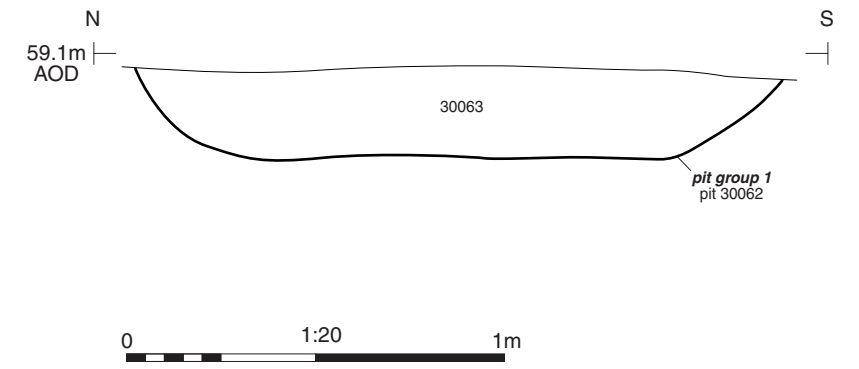
C14 C15



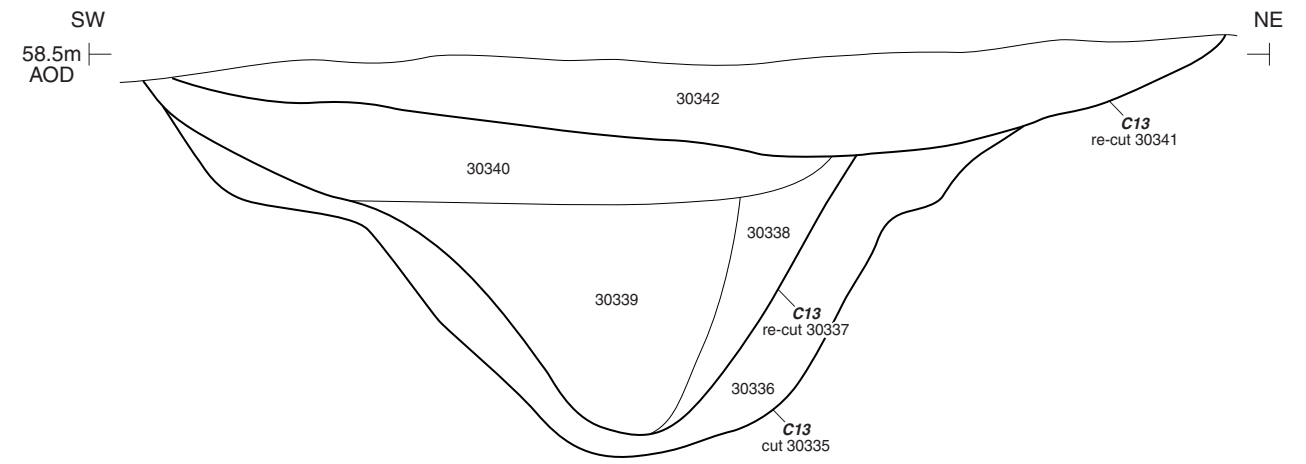
Section AA



Section BB



Section CC



Pit 30072, looking north-east (1m scale)



Pit Group 1, 30062, looking east (1m scale)



Boundary ditch C13 cut 30335 and re-cut 30337, looking north-west (2m scale)

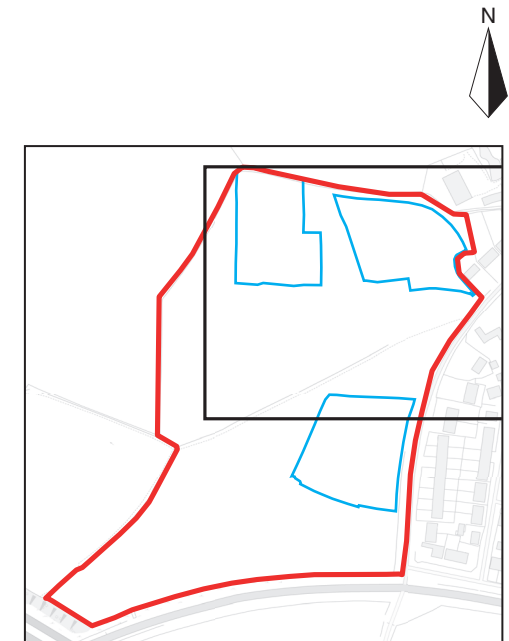
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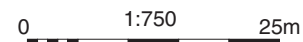
FIGURE TITLE  
**Period 1 (Area 3), sections and photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/12/2021	6
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:20	





- ▭ Site boundary
- ▭ Excavation area
- ▭ Period 2: Late Iron Age–Early Roman
- ▭ Other period
- ▭ Deposit
- - - Potential features identified on aerial photography
- ⓐ Section location



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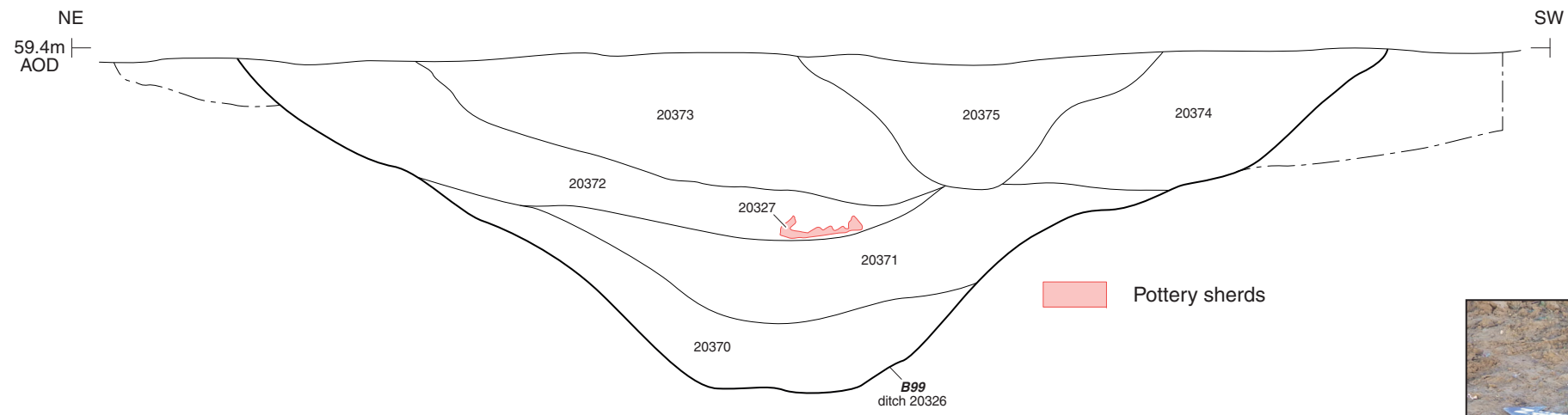
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 2 (Areas 1, 2 and 3), Late Iron Age–Early Roman phased site plan

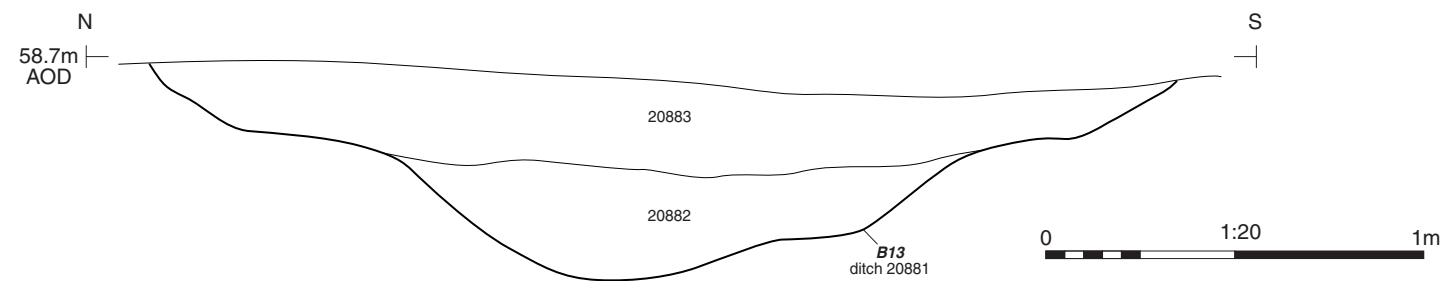
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/12/2021	7
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:750	



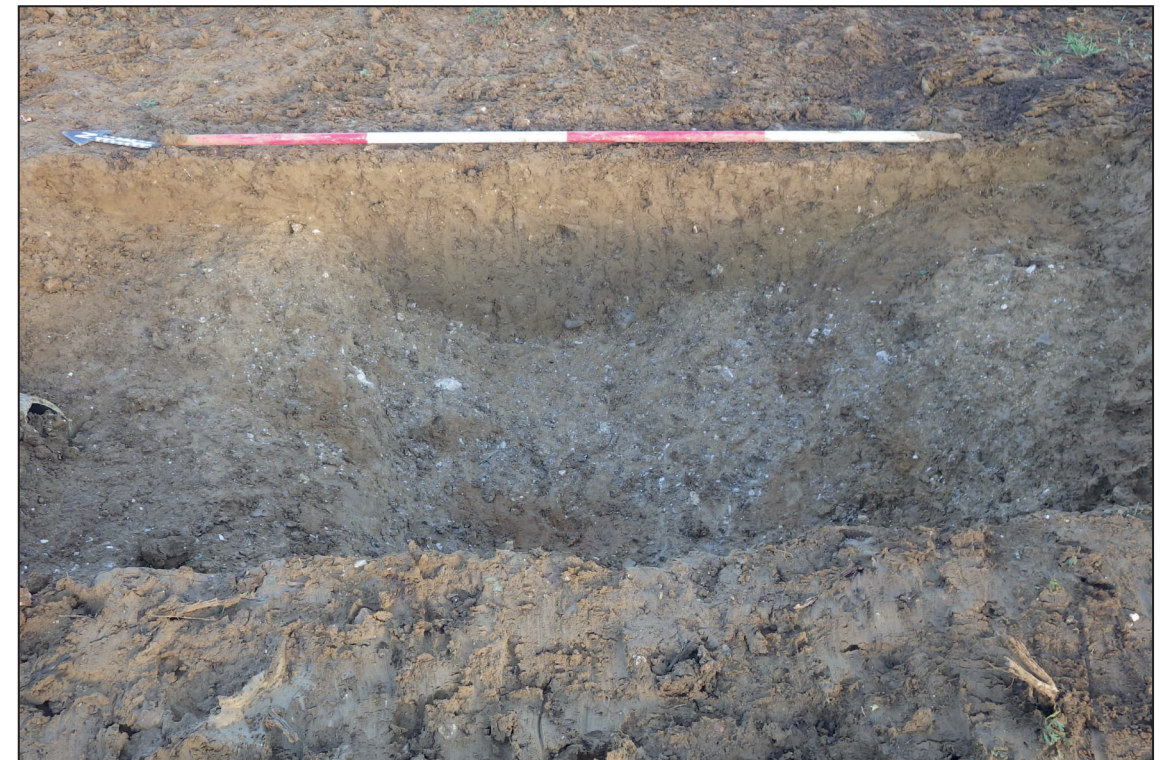
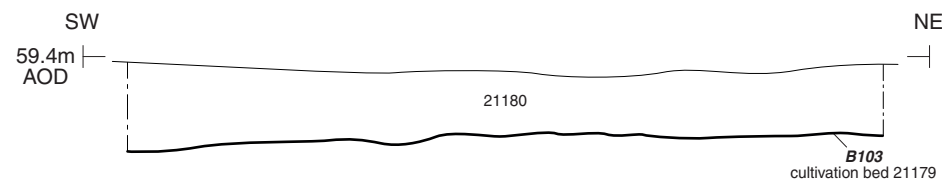
Section DD



Section EE



Section FF



Ditch B13 (20881), looking north-east (2m scale)



Enclosure ditch B99 (20326), looking north-east (2m scale)



Cultivation bed B103 (21179), looking south-west (1m scale)

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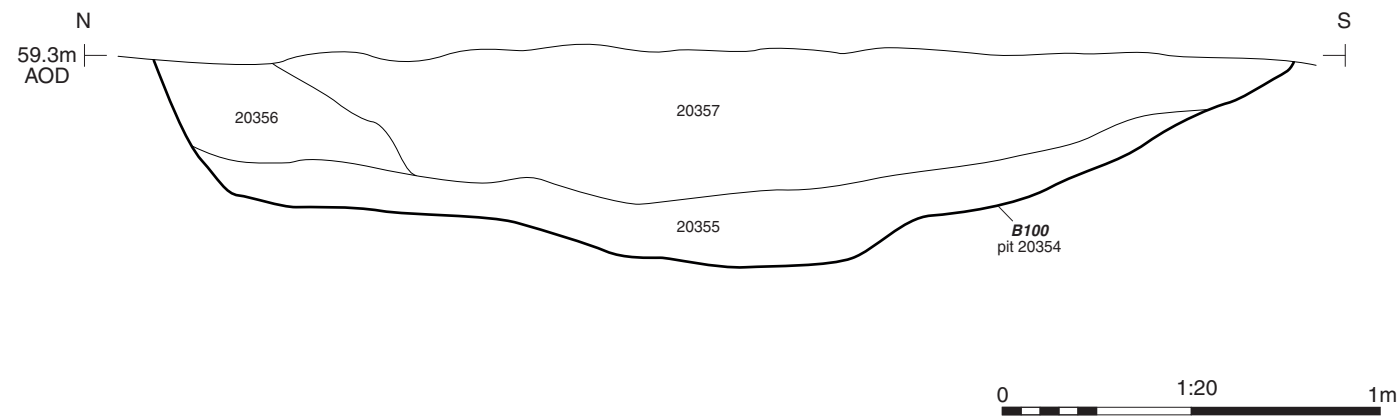
PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
 Period 2 (Area 2), sections and photographs

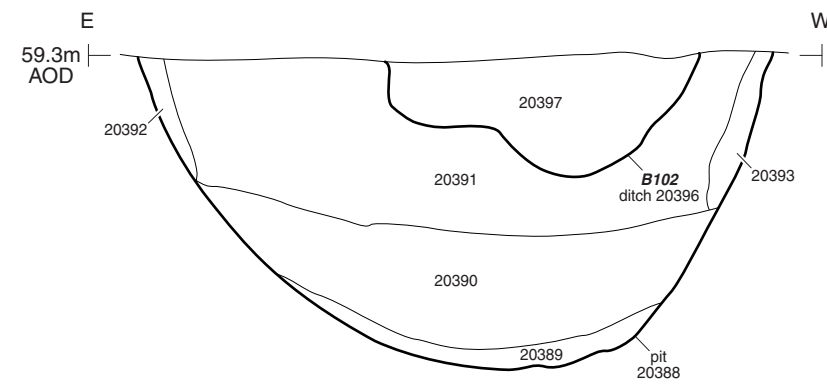
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Section GG



Section HH



Pit B100 (20354), looking east (2m scale)



Pit 20388 cut by ditch B102 (20396), looking south (2m scale)

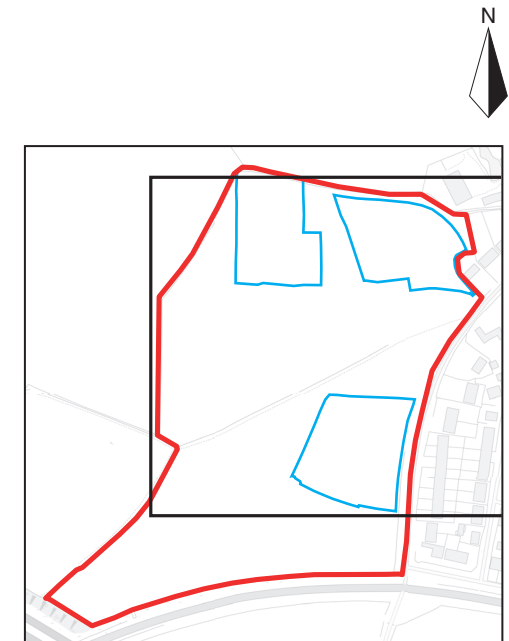

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PROJECT TITLE  
**Thorney Green, Stowupland, Suffolk**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Period 2 (Area 2), sections and photographs**

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APPROVED BY	<b>MC</b>	SCALE@A3	<b>1:20</b>	





- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 3.1: 11th–12th century
- Period 3.2: 12th–13th century
- Period 3.3: 13th–14th century
- Period 3.4: 14th–16th century
- Other period
- Deposit

0 1:1000 50m

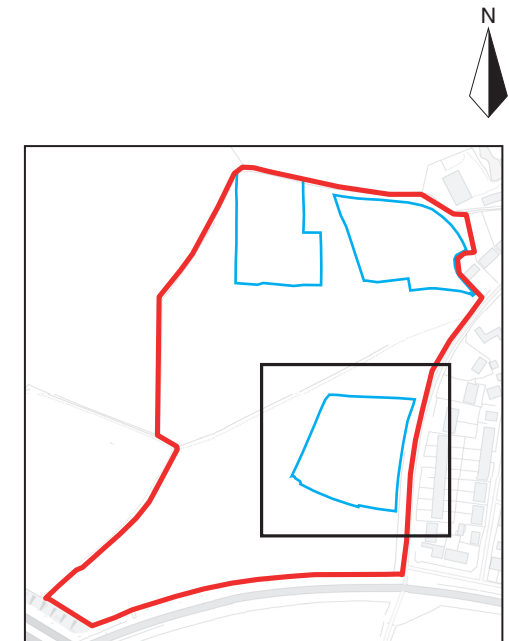
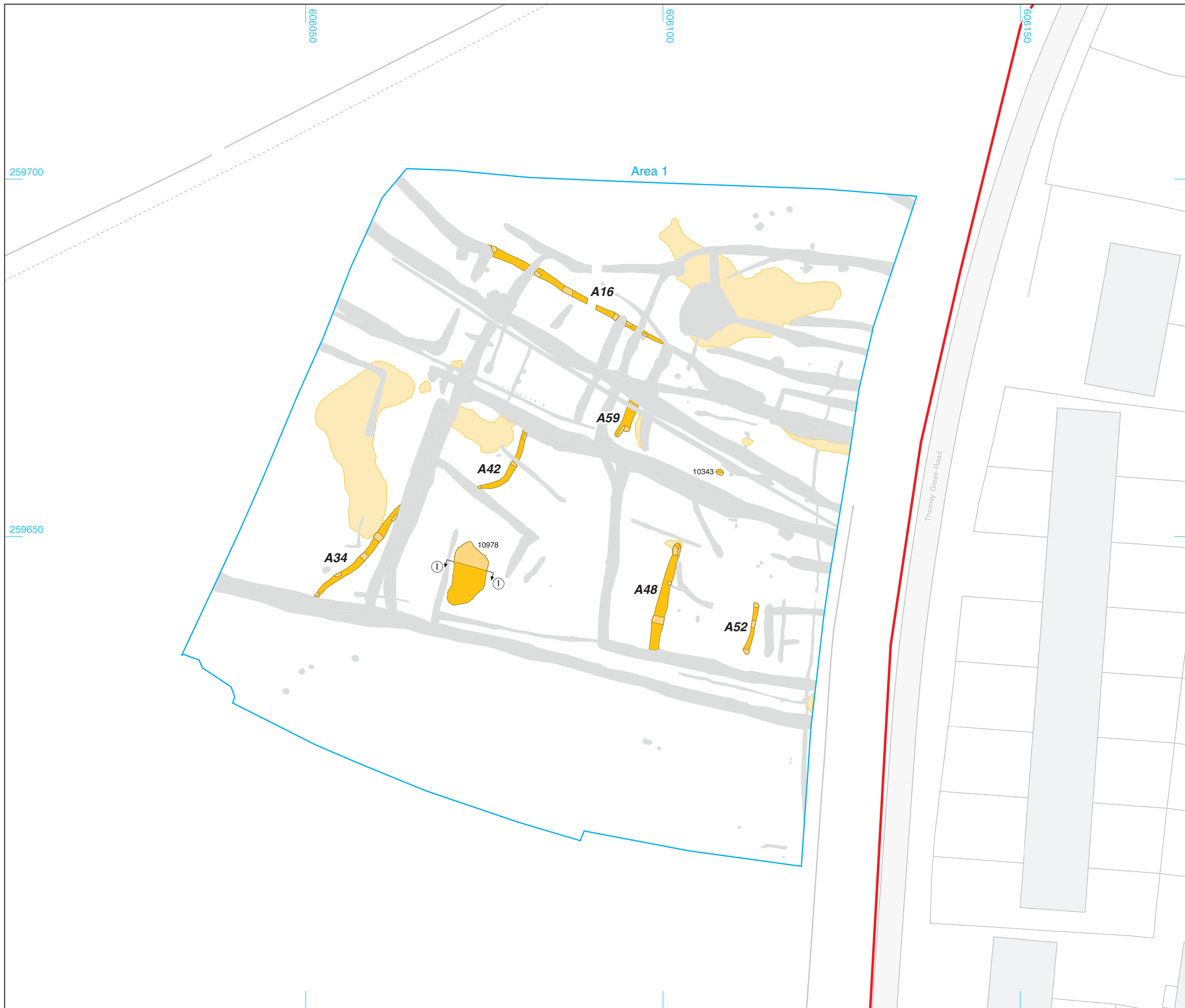
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 3, Medieval phased site plan

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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 3.1: 11th–12th century
- Other period
- Deposit
- A ↑ ↓ Section location



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Mapping showing state of site during excavation (2021)

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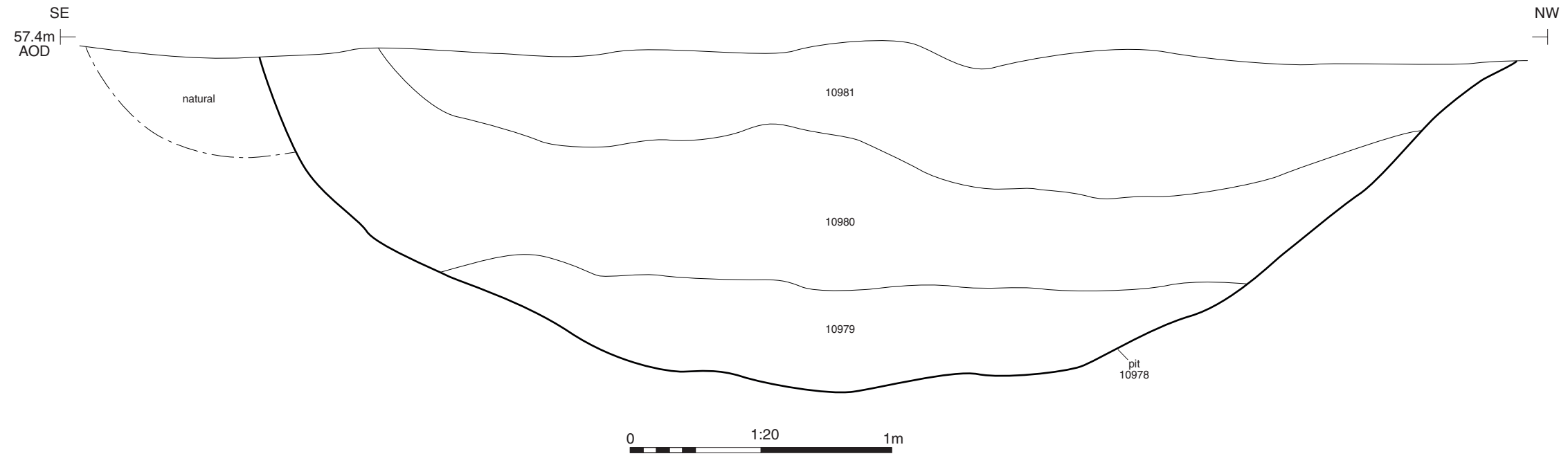
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
Period 3.1 (Area 1), 11th–12th century phased site plan

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Section II



Pit 10978, looking south-west (4m scale)

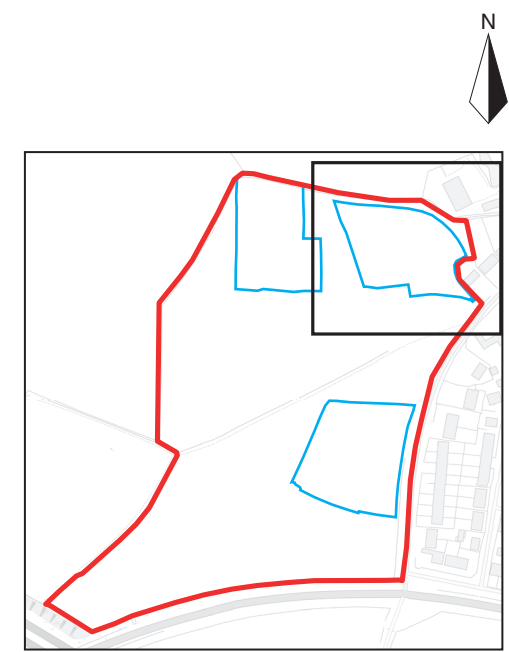
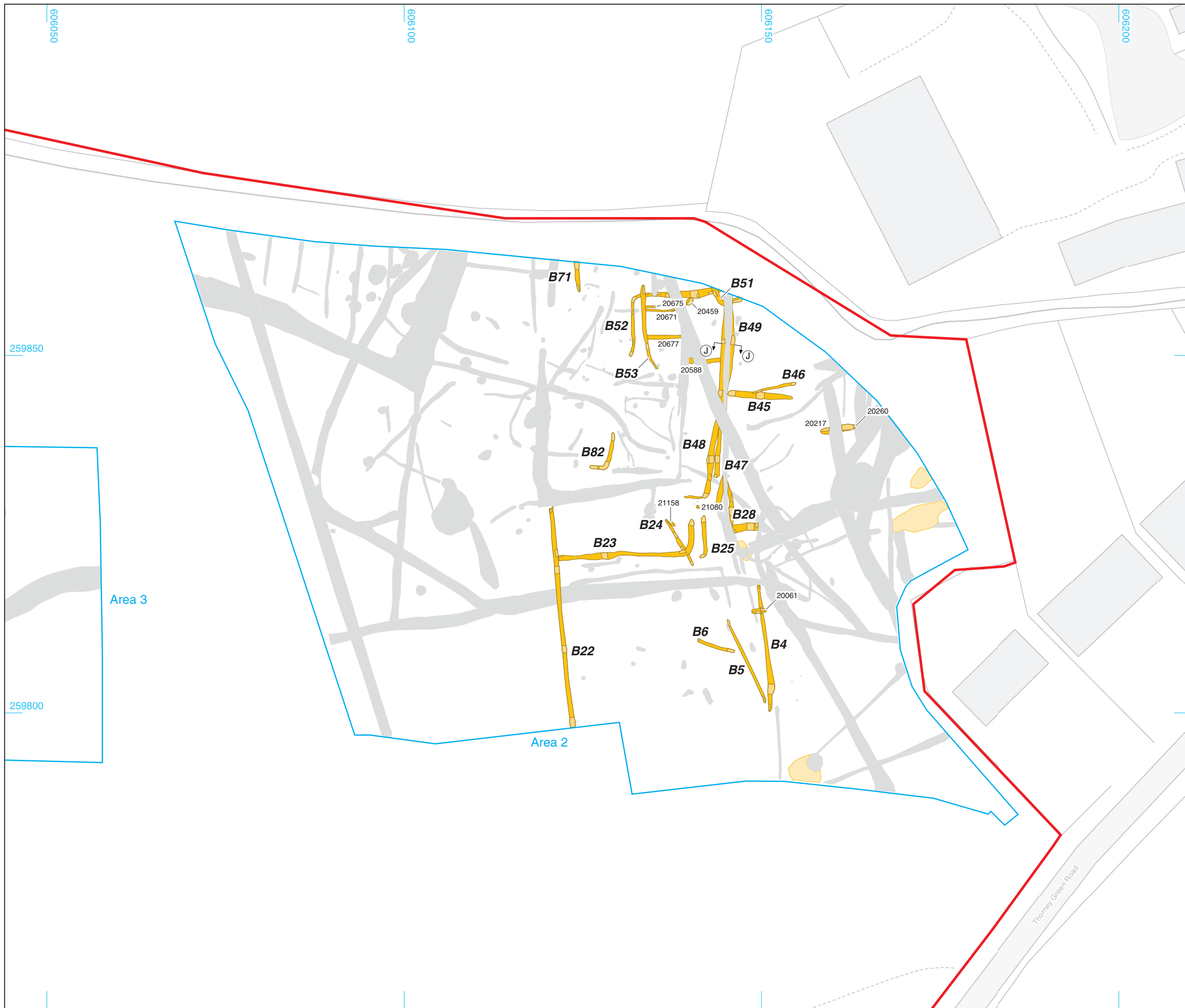
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FIGURE TITLE  
Period 3.1 (Area 1), section and photograph

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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 3.1: 11th–12th century
- Other period
- Deposit
- A A Section location



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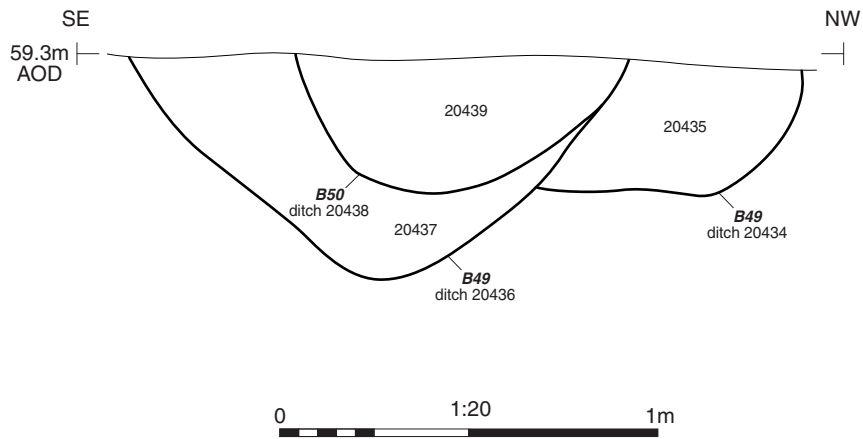
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 3.1 (Area 2), 11th–12th century  
 phased site plan

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Section JJ



Ditch B49 (20436 and 20434) and B50 (20438), looking south-west (2m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

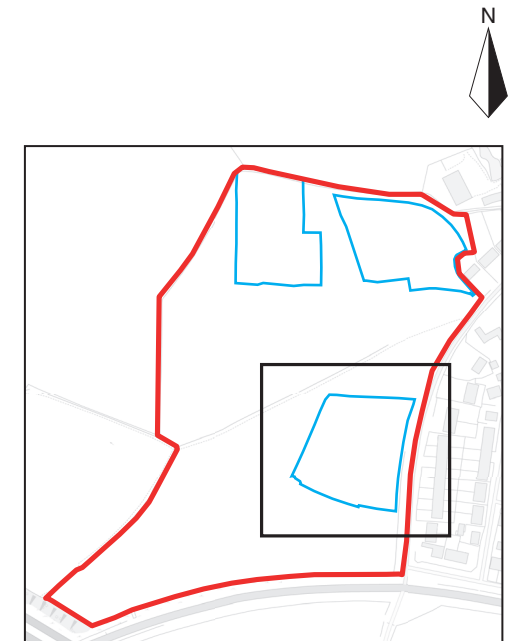
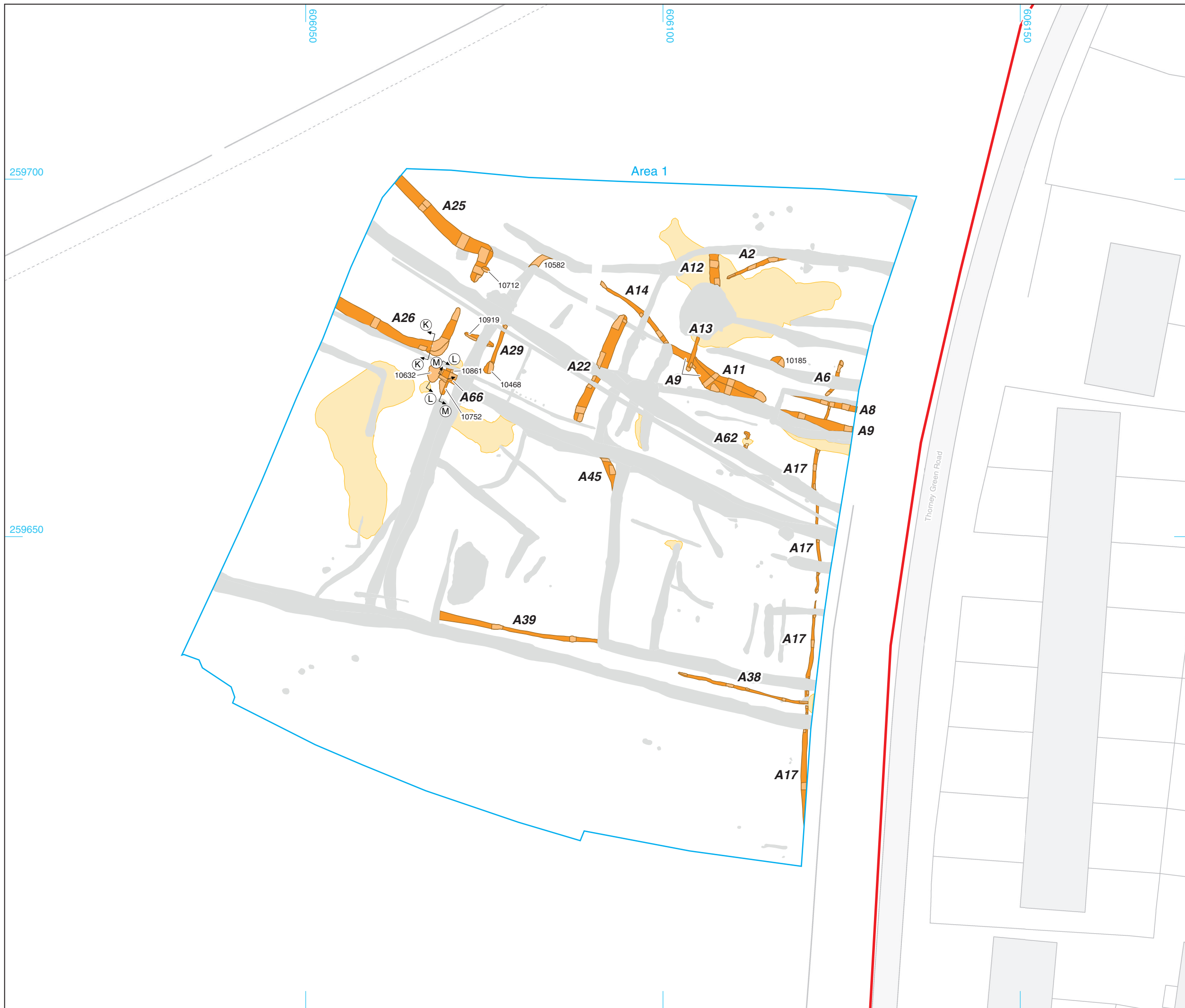
Period 3.1 (Area 2), section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

14





- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 3.2: 12th–13th century
- Other period
- Deposit
- A ↑ ↓ Section location



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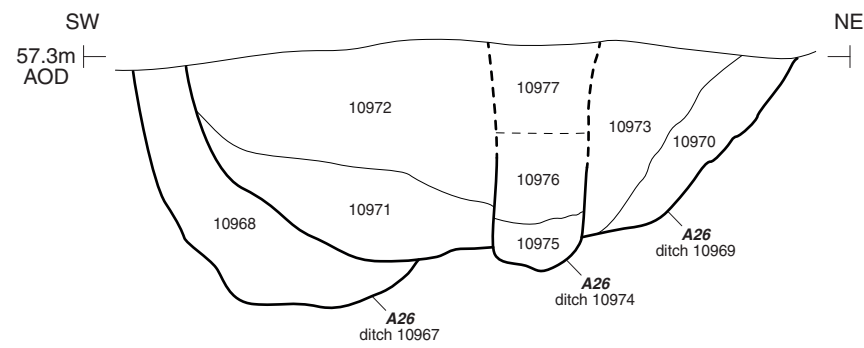
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
Period 3.2 (Area 1), 12th–13th century phased site plan

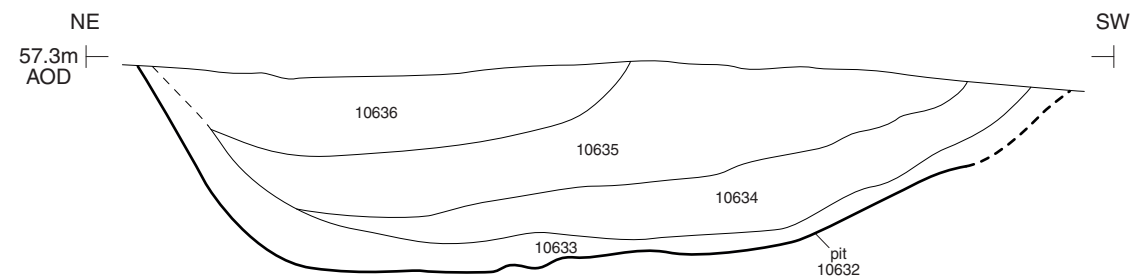
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APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:500	



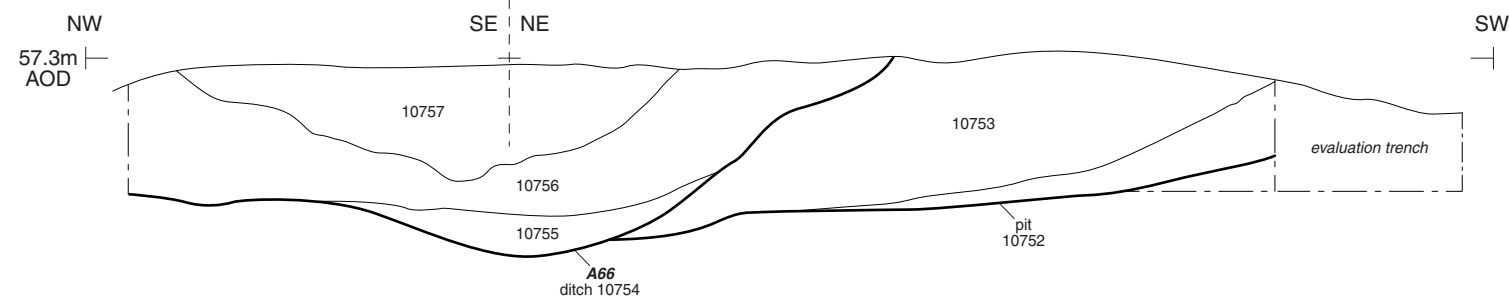
Section KK



Section LL



Section MM



Ditch A26 (10967, 10974 and 10969), looking north-west (1m scale)



Pit 10632, looking east (1m scale)



Ditch A66 (10754) cutting pit 10752, looking north-east (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE  
 Period 3.2 (Area 1), sections and photographs

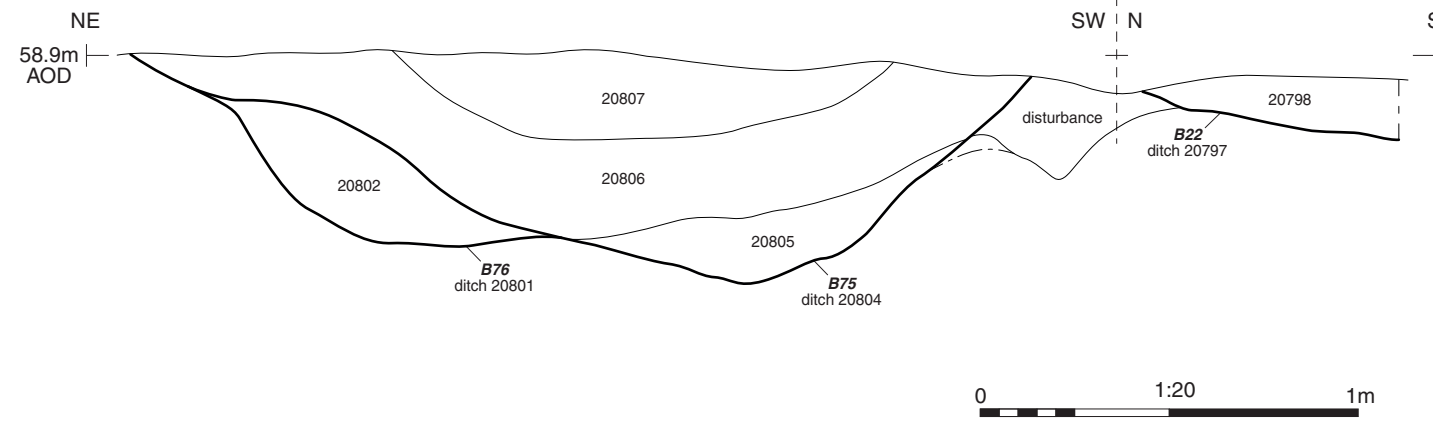
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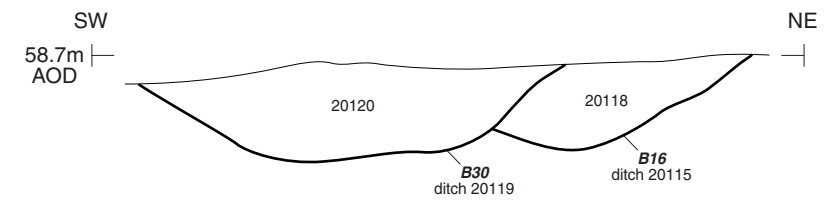




Section NN



Section OO



Ditches B75 (20804), B76 (20801), and B22 (20797), looking south-east (2m scale)



Ditches B30 (20119) and B16 (20115), looking north-west (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE  
 Period 3.2 (Area 2), sections and photographs

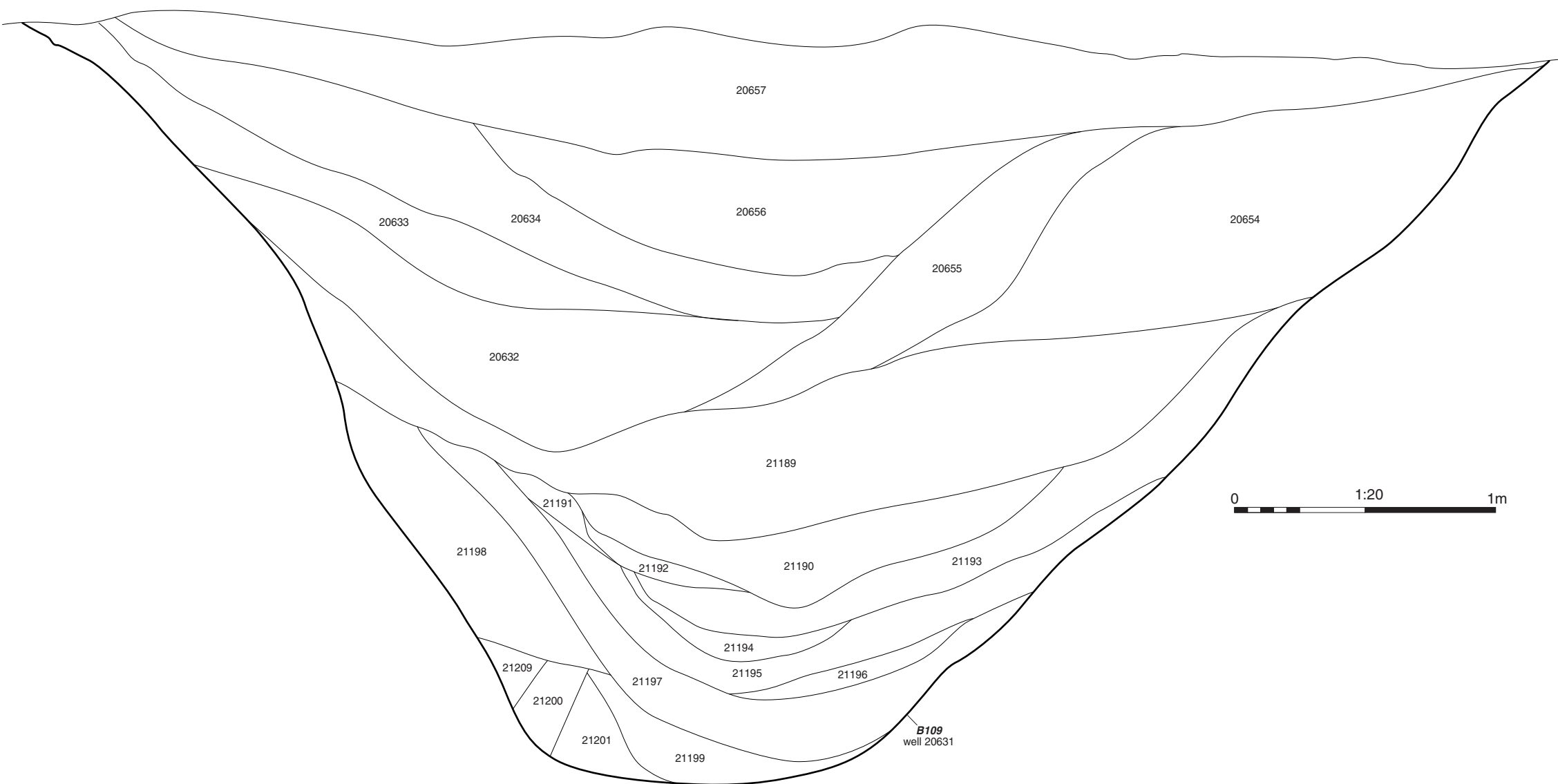
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APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:20	



Section PP

NE  
58.8m  
AOD

SW



Well B109, looking south-west (1m and 2m scales)

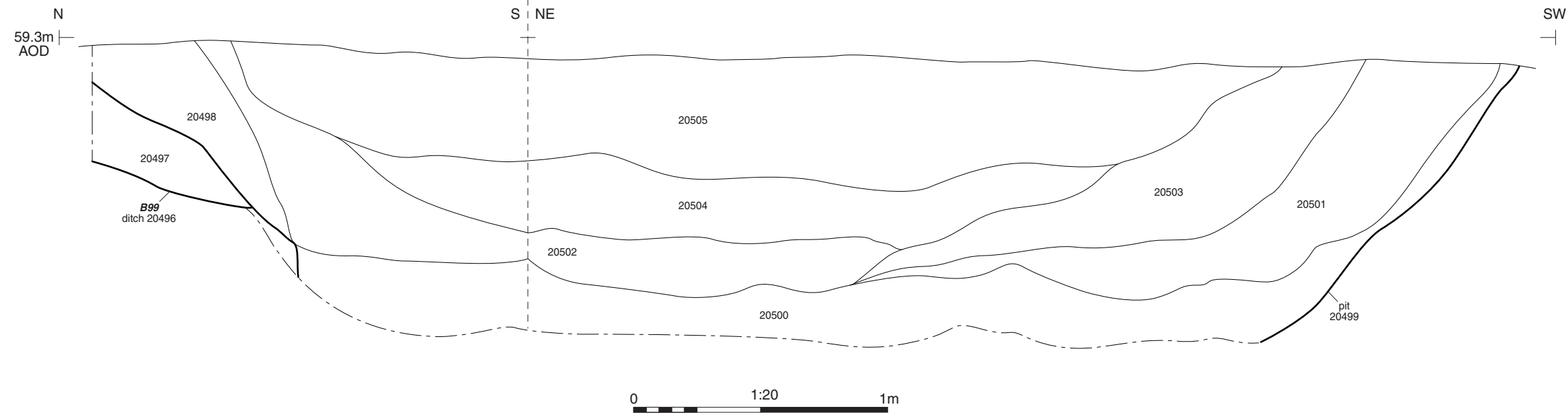

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FIGURE TITLE  
**Period 3.2 (Area 2), section and photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/12/2021	19
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:20	

Section QQ



Ditch B99 (20496) and pit 20499, looking south-east (1m and 2m scale)

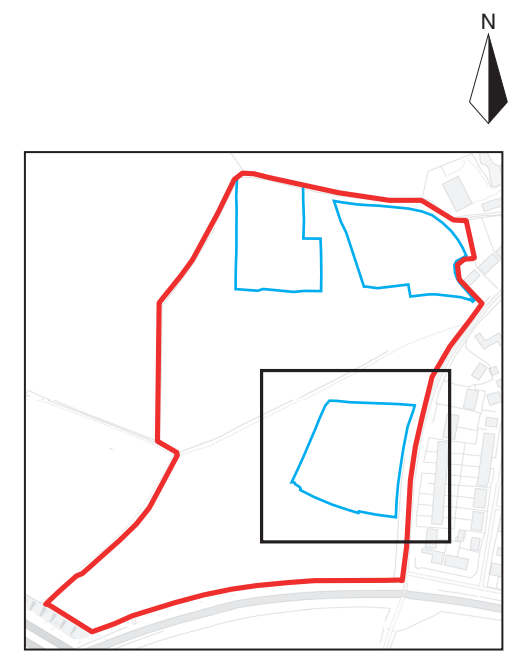
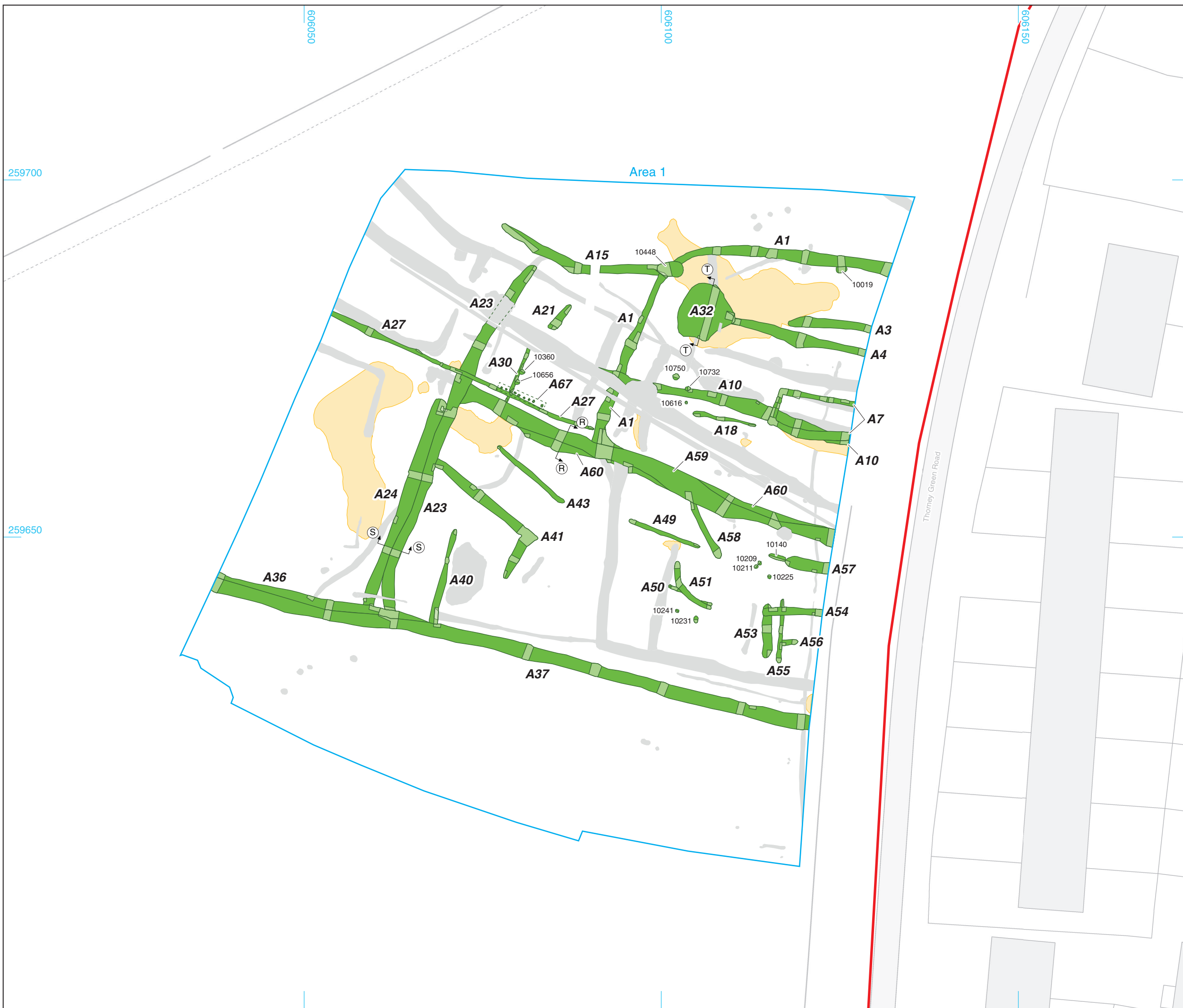

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 3.2 (Area 2), section and photograph

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<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 06/12/2021	<b>20</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> MC	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:20	





- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 3.3: 13th–14th century
- Other period
- Deposit
- A R S T Section location



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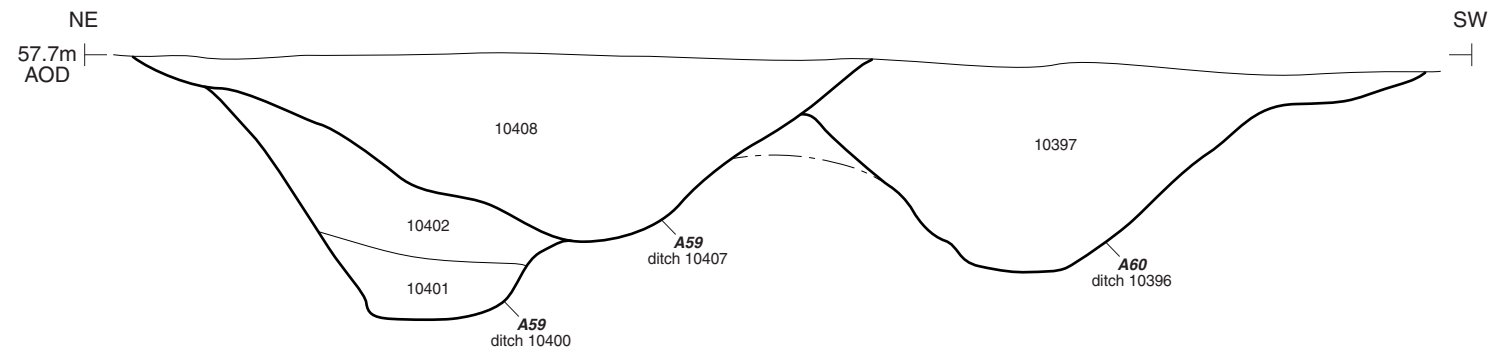
**PROJECT TITLE**  
Thorney Green, Stowupland, Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Period 3.3 (Area 1), 13th–14th century phased site plan

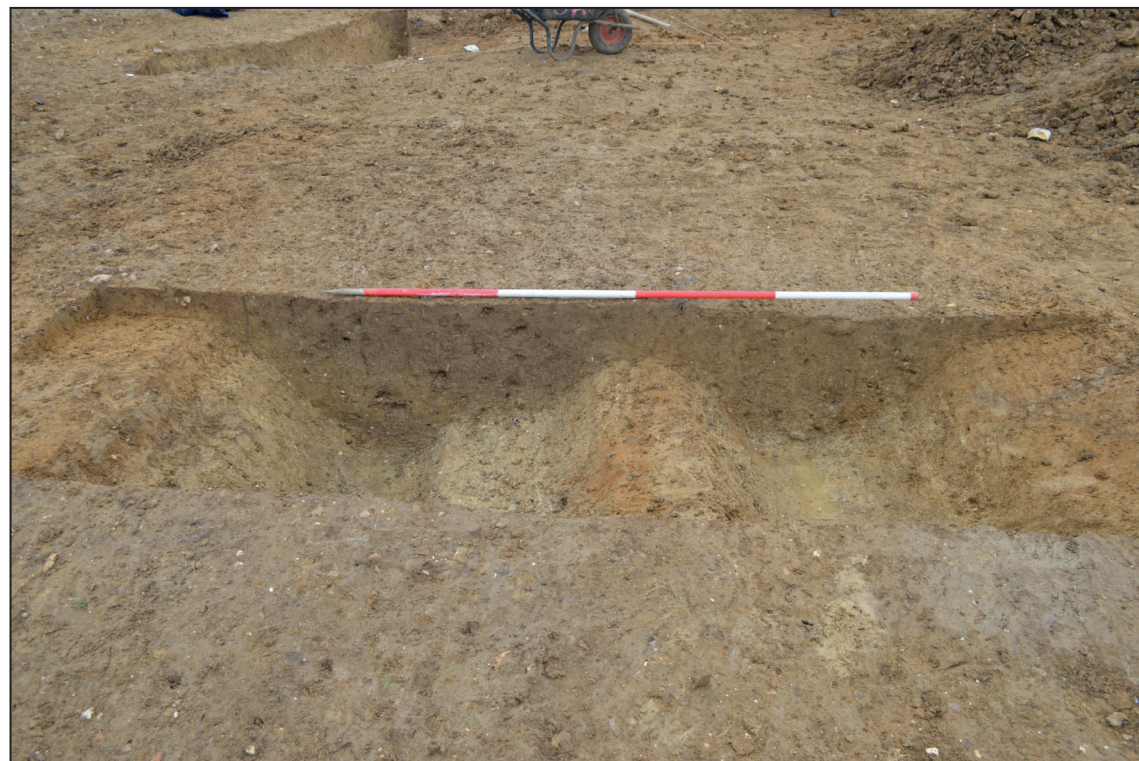
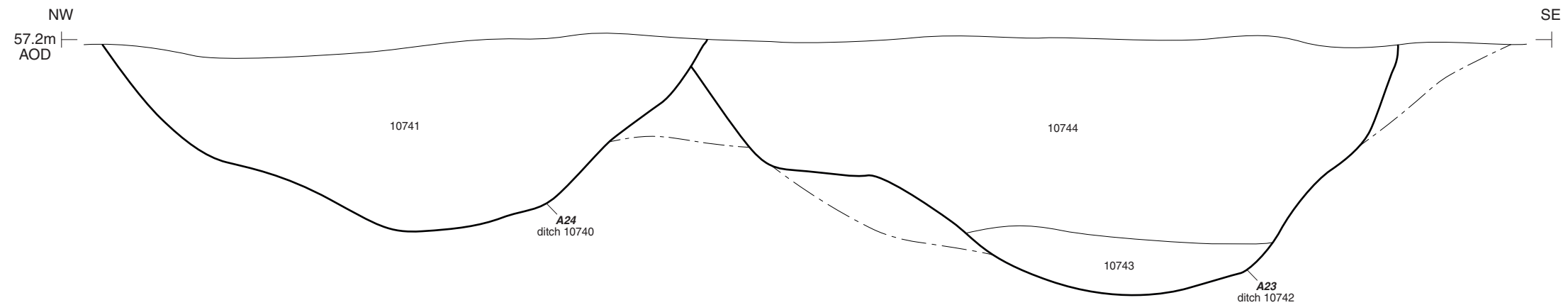
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<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>06/12/2021</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>MC</b>	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	<b>1:500</b>	



Section RR



Section SS



Ditches A59 (10400 and 10407) and A60 (10398), looking south-east (2m scale)



Ditches A24 (10740) and A23 (10742), looking north-east (2m scale)

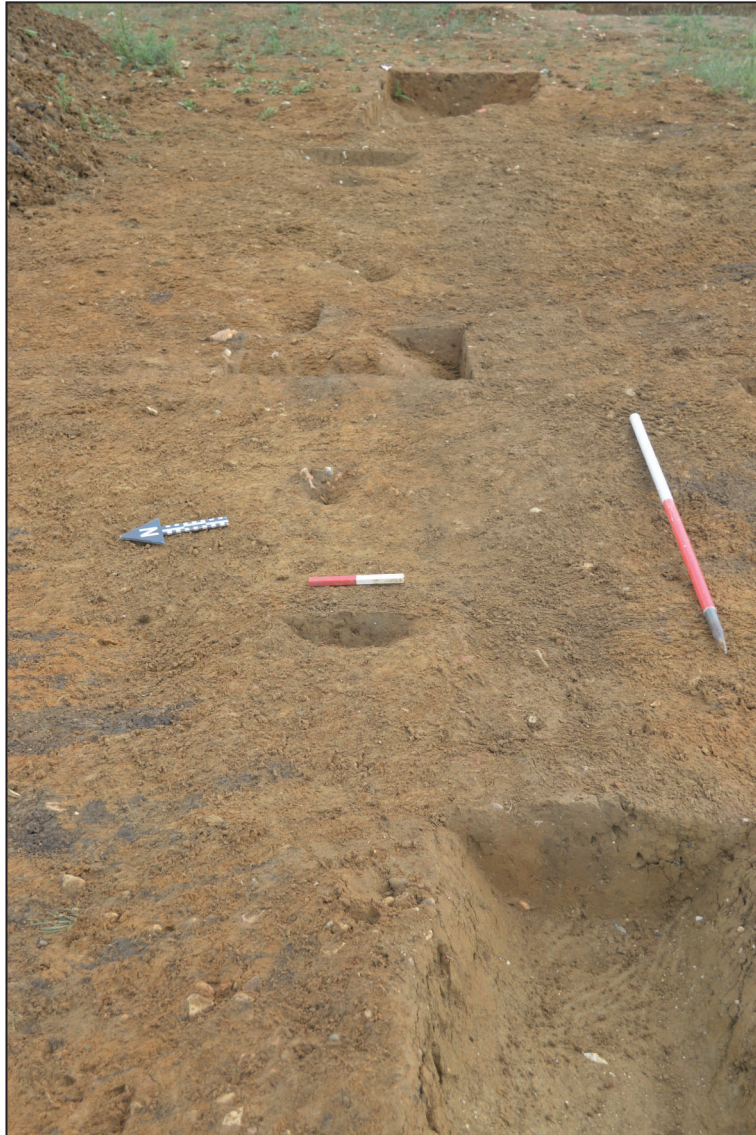

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PROJECT TITLE  
 Thorney Green, Stowupland, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE  
 Period 3.3 (Area 1), sections and photographs

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Fence line A67, looking south-east (0.2m and 1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

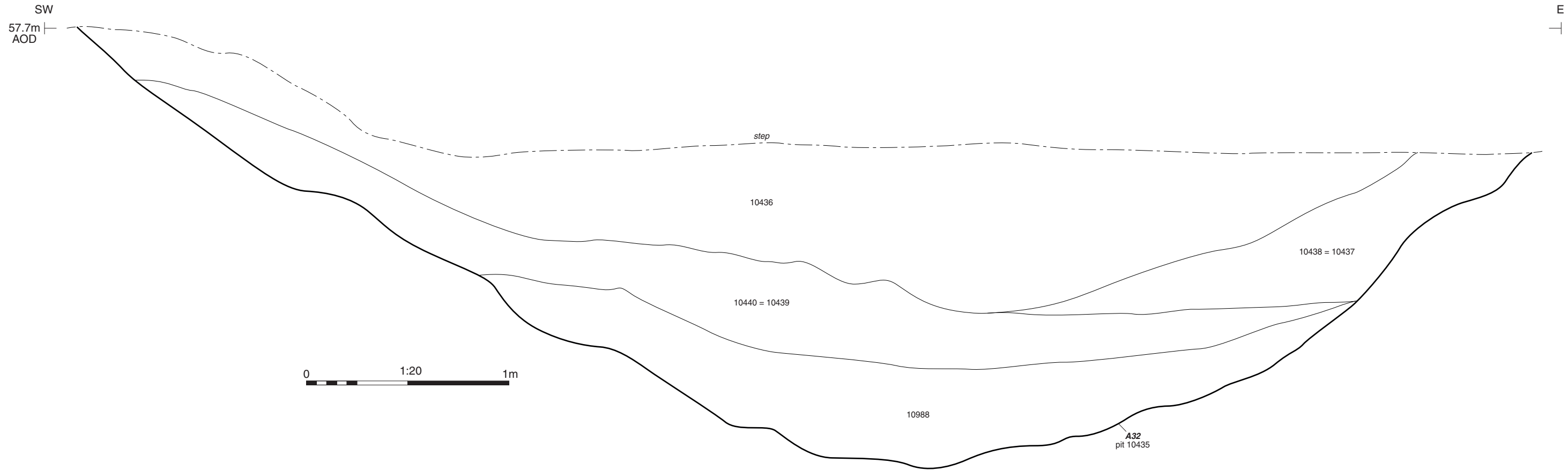
Period 3.3 (Area 1), photograph

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CHECKED BY DJB DATE 06/12/2021  
APPROVED BY MC SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

23

Section TT



Pit A32 (10435), looking north-west (2m scale)

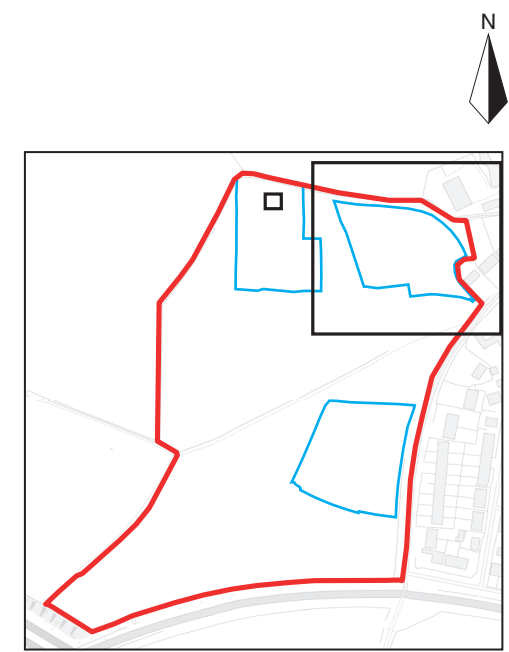

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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Period 3.3 (Area 1), section and photograph**

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CHECKED BY	<b>DJB</b>	DATE	<b>06/12/2021</b>	<b>24</b>
APPROVED BY	<b>MC</b>	SCALE@A3	<b>1:20</b>	





- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 3.3: 13th–14th century
- Other period
- Deposit
- A A Section location



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Mapping showing state of site during excavation (2021)

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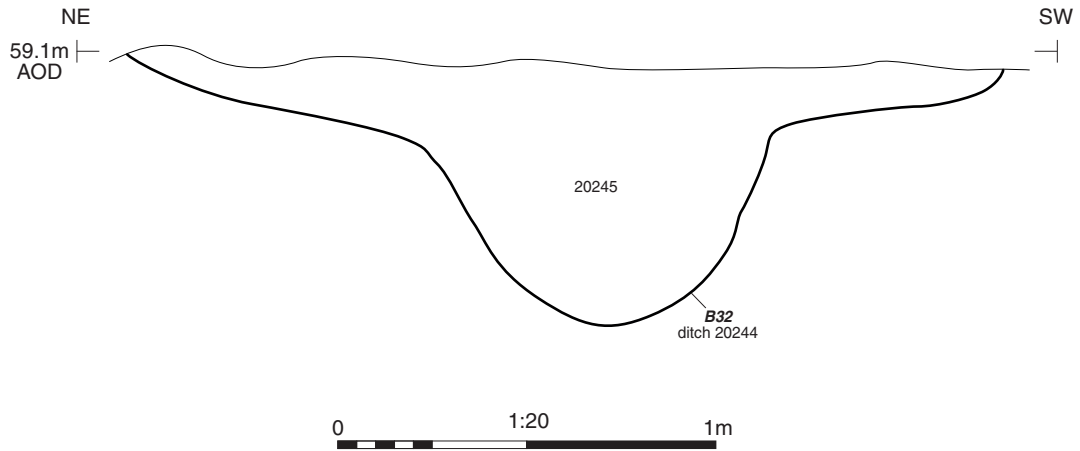
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
Period 3.3 (Areas 2 and 3), 13th–14th century phased site plan

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Section UU



Ditch B32 (20244), looking south-east (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

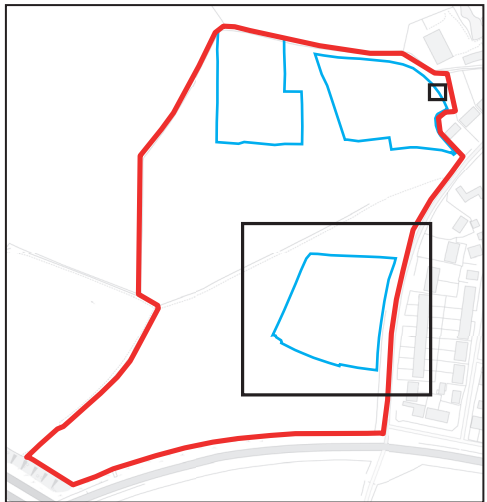
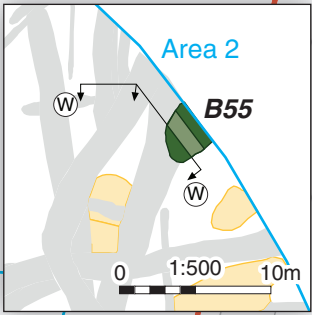
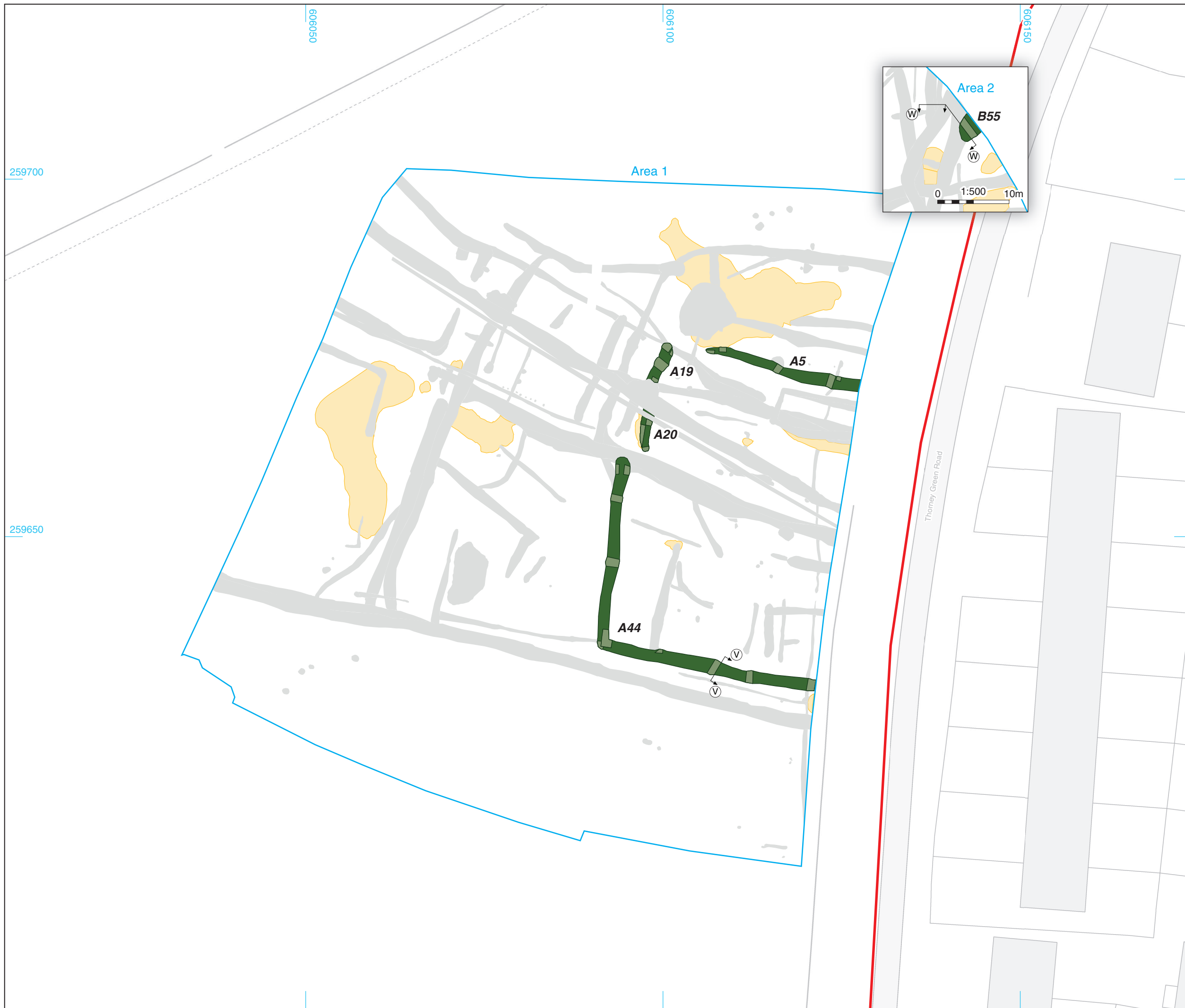
Period 3.3 (Area 2), section and photograph

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APPROVED BY MC SCALE@A4 1:20

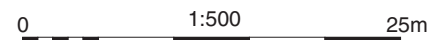
FIGURE NO.

26





- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Period 3.4: 14th–16th century
- Other period
- Deposit
- A Section location



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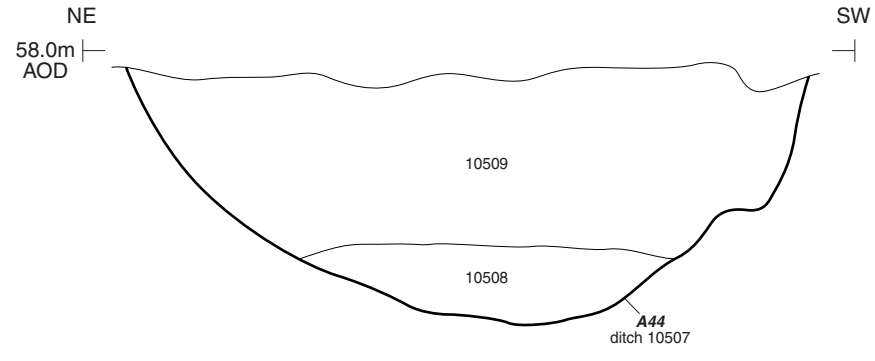
**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Period 3.4 (Areas 1 and 2), 14th–16th century phased site plan**

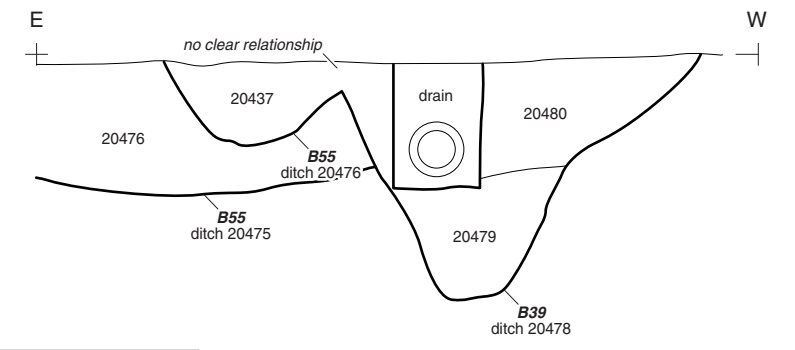
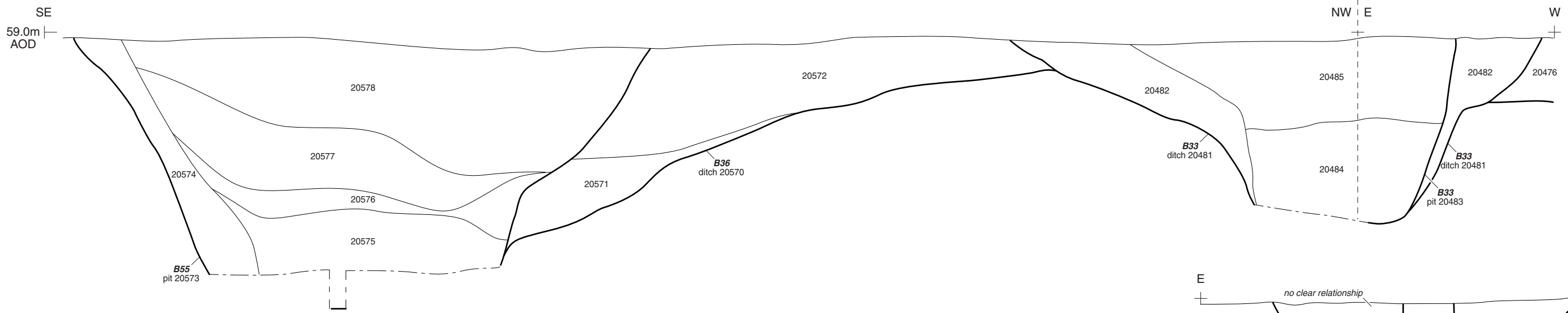
<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> SU0226	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 06/12/2021	<b>27</b>
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Section VV



Section WW



Ditch A44 (10507), looking south-east (1m scale)



Pit B55 (20573), and ditches B36, B33, B55, and B39, looking ? (?m scale)

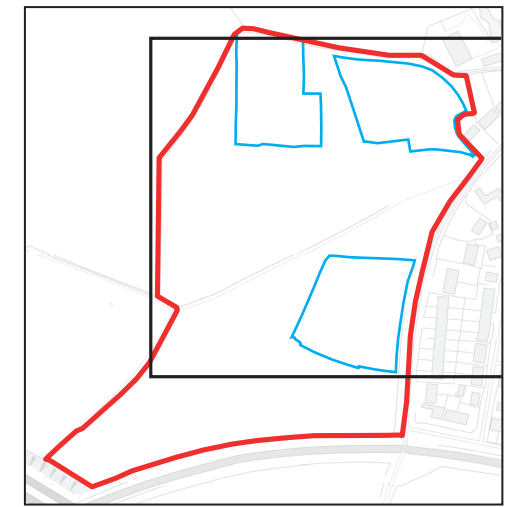
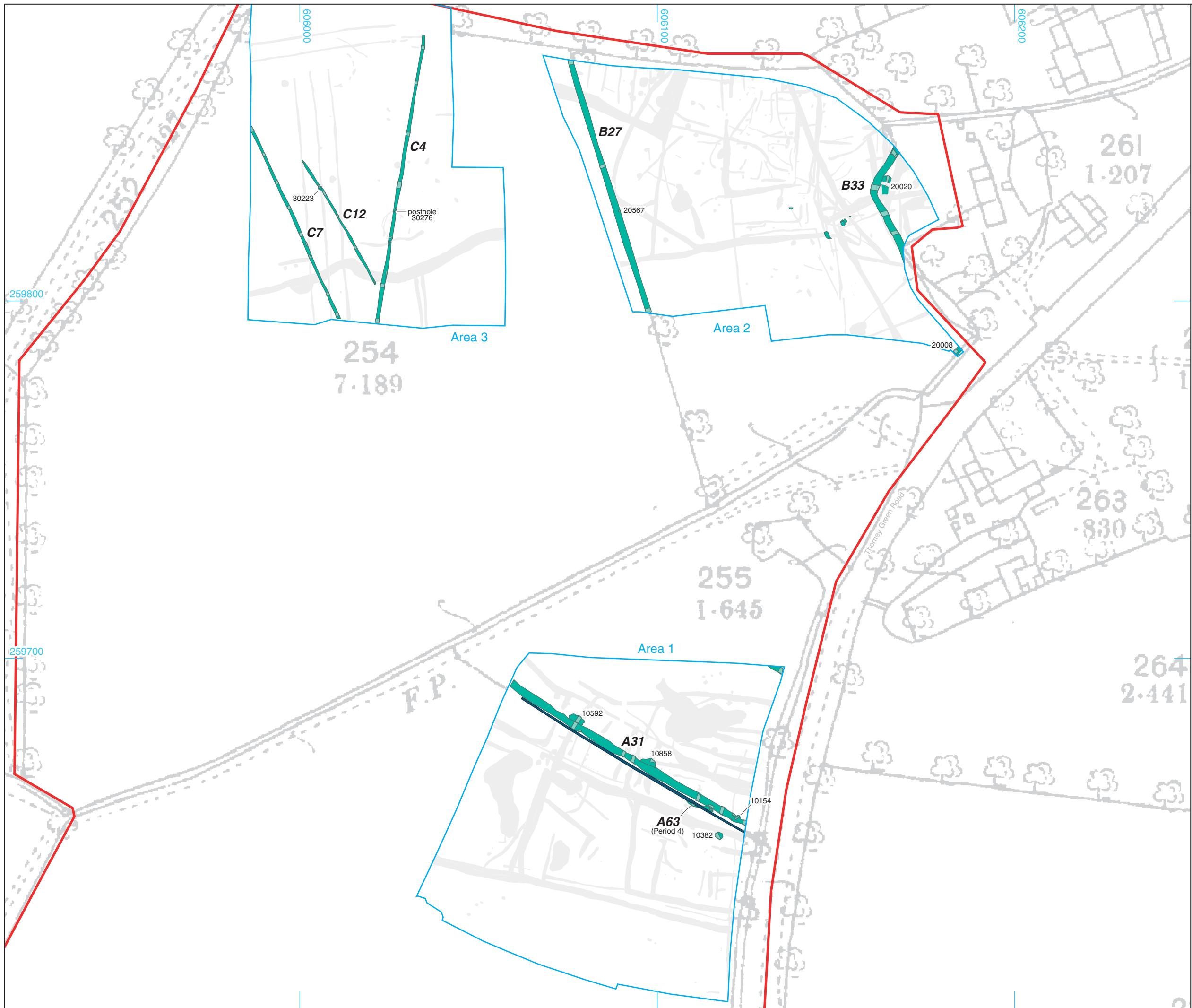
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FIGURE TITLE  
 Period 3.4 (Areas 1 and 2), sections and photographs

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- ▭ Site boundary
- ▭ Excavation area
- ▭ Period 4: Post-medieval
- ▭ Period 5: Modern, 1800+
- ▭ Other period / deposit



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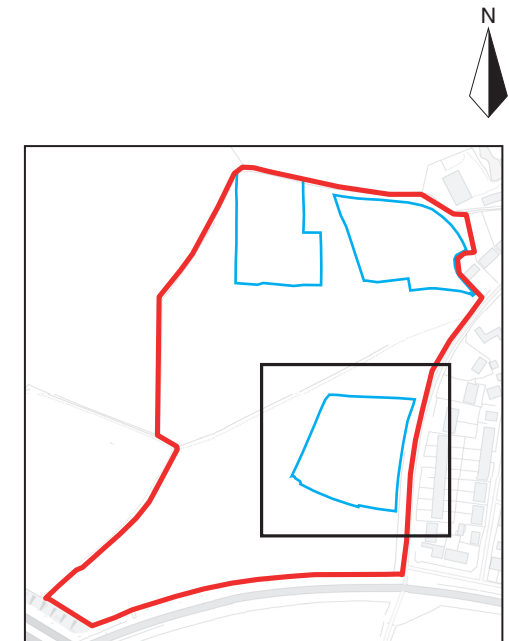
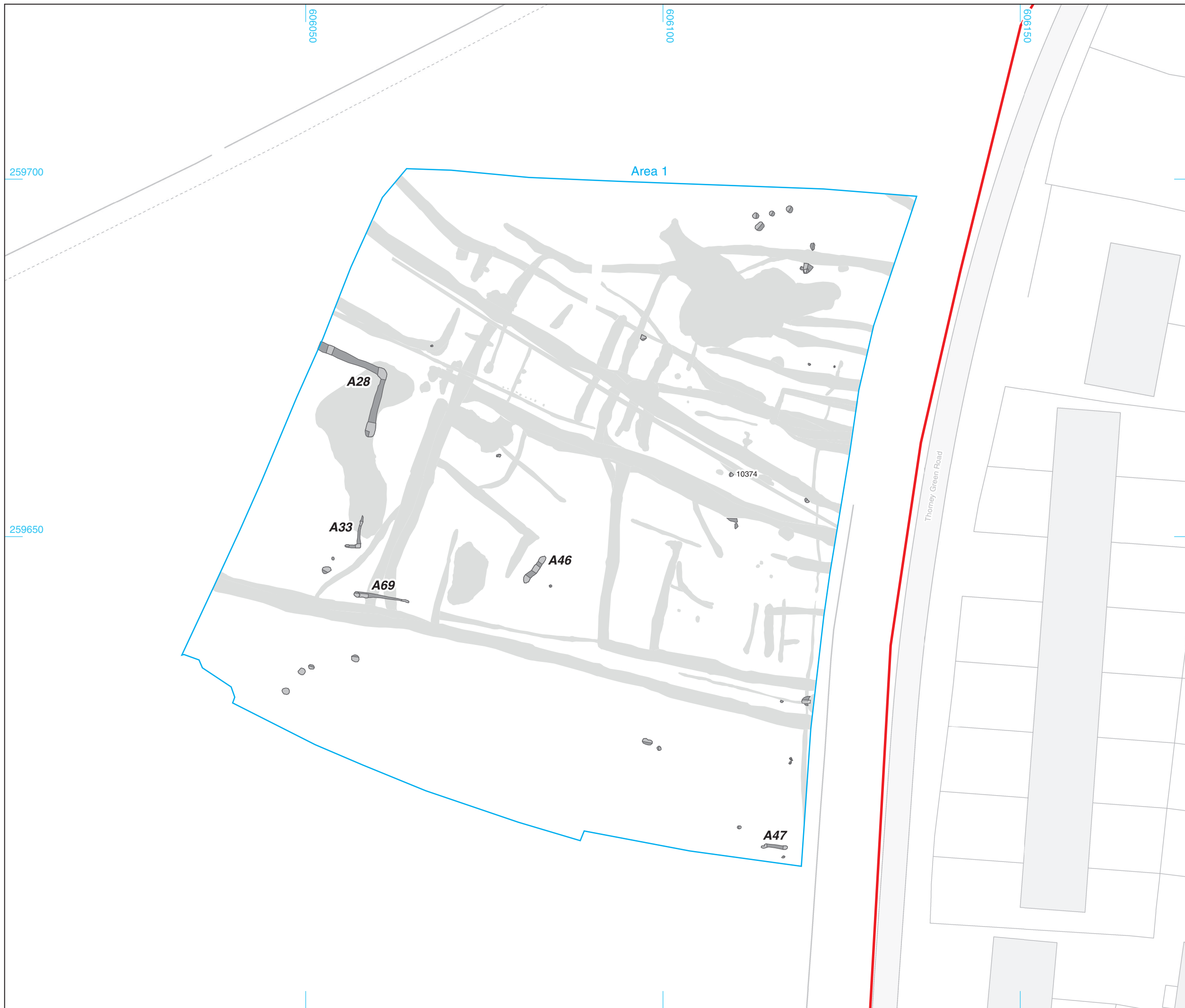
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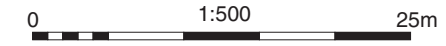
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Periods 4 and 5: 16th–19th century, overlaying 1888 Ordnance Survey map

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	25/05/2023	29
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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Undated
- Other period / deposit
- A ↑ ↓ Section location



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Mapping showing state of site during excavation (2021)

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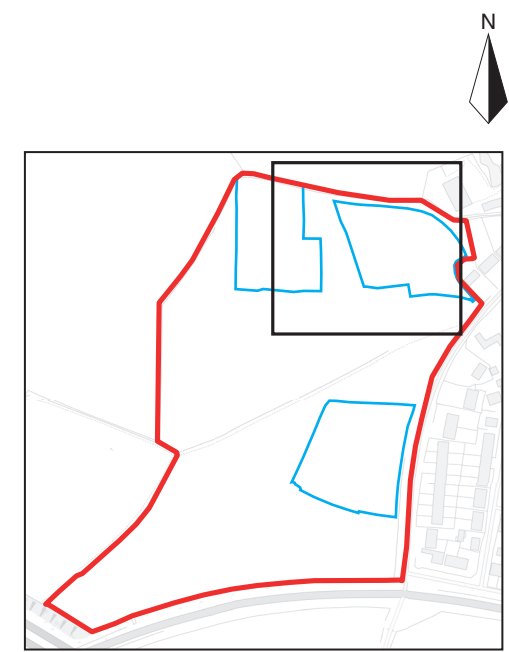
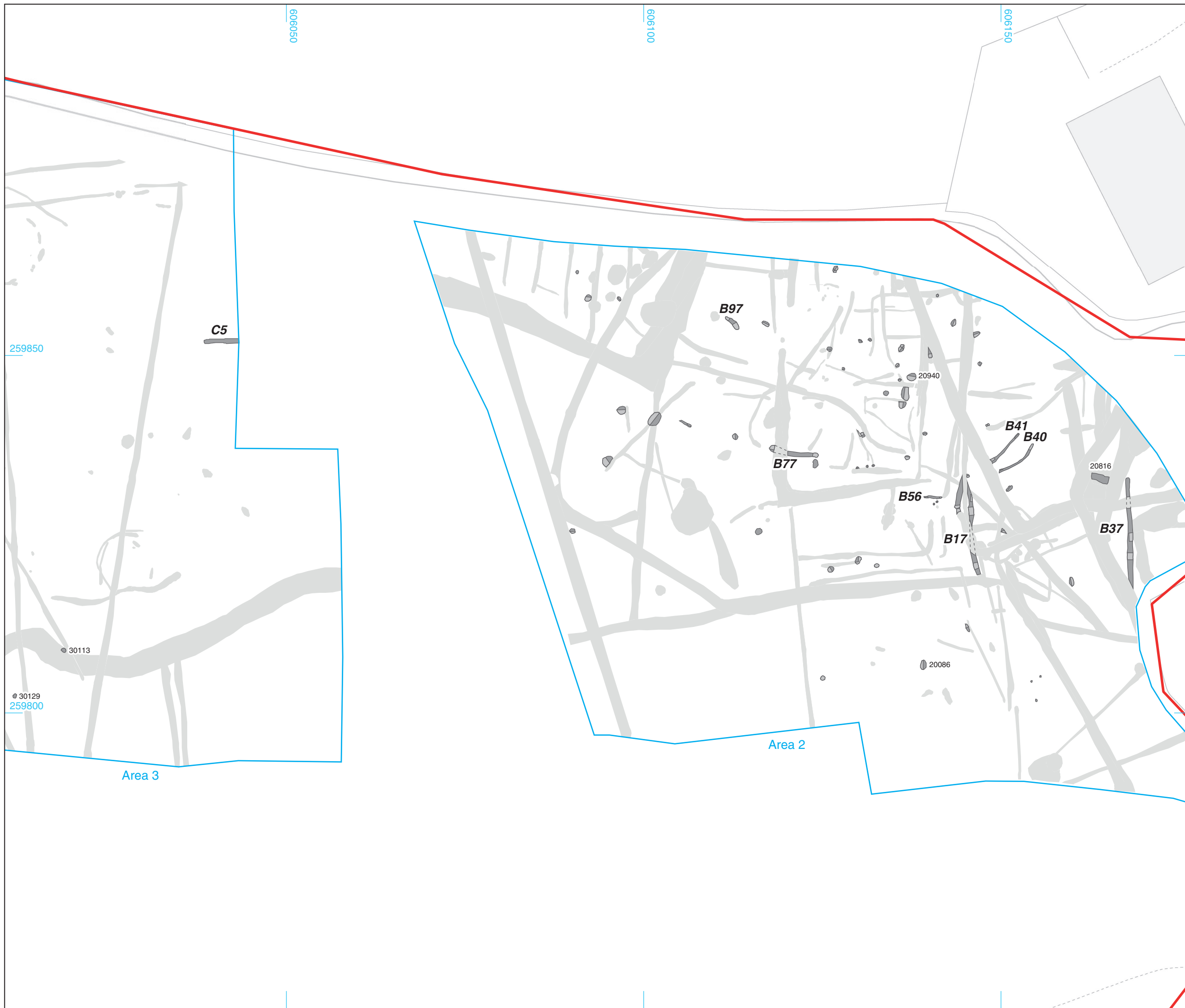
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
Undated site plan (Area 1)

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<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 06/12/2021	<b>30</b>
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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Undated
- Other period / deposit
- A ↑ ↓ Section location



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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Undated site plan (Areas 2 and 3)

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