

Westfield Farm, Ely

An Archaeological Excavation



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Summary

A 1600m² open area excavation was undertaken on land at Westfield Farm, Ely, between the 29th of November and the 22nd of December 2006. During the course of this work fifteen plough-damaged graves were uncovered, dating from the late 7th century AD. The majority of these burials were oriented west-east and nine were accompanied by grave goods, with two graves in particular containing rich assemblages. The first of these graves was a centrally located 'founder burial' which may originally have been sealed beneath a barrow, the second was one of the few satellite interments to have been placed on a non west-east alignment. The cemetery is contemporary with the foundation of the first monastery at Ely, and appears to contain at least one elite female individual.

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Figure 1. Site location

INTRODUCTION

From the 29th November to the 22nd December 2006 a team from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook the excavation of a small Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery in advance of housing development. This had been identified during an archaeological trench evaluation in May 2006, when four definite graves had been identified as probably 7th-century (Mackay and Swaysland 2006). The excavation was centred on TL 526 799 and covered an area of approximately 0.16ha (Figure 1). The investigation was commissioned by Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd, and followed a specification of work issued by the CAU that outlined the methods statements (Standing 2006).

Geology and Topography

The site lies at an approximate height of 24.5m OD on a geology of Lower Greensand, Glacial Till and Kimmeridge Clay (Figure 2). A natural ridge was originally present, running southwest to northeast across the area of excavation, but this has now been almost entirely denuded by post-Medieval ploughing activity. Based upon the depth to which sub-soil has survived to the northwest, it would appear that this ridge was originally 0.5m to 1m higher than the present ground surface.

Historical and Archaeological Background (Figure 3)

With Sam Lucy

Prehistoric and Roman

Recent excavations (by the CAU and others) in the fields directly to the north of Westfield Farm have revealed various elements of prehistoric and Roman settlement systems. Briefly, moving from south to north, sporadic Neolithic and Bronze Age activity has been revealed in Trinity and Runciman fields immediately to the north of Westfield Farm, followed by more intensive settlement activity in the Middle and Later Iron Age (Masser 2001). Further to the north, at the West Fen Road site, a similar picture of pre-Iron Age visitation with a subsequent sequence of Iron Age, and also Roman, enclosures has been extensively published (Mortimer *et al.* 1995). More extensive Iron Age settlement is known from the rescue excavation site of Hurst Lane (Evans and Knight forthcoming). The area around Westfield Farm, therefore, saw concentrations of settlement in later prehistory and the Roman period, but does not appear to represent such a concentration itself.

Anglo-Saxon

The background to Anglo-Saxon period settlement on the Isle of Ely is a central issue here, given the significance of the cemetery revealed at Westfield Farm. Holton-Krayenbuhl's (2005) summary of the historical evidence details that the first documentary reference to Ely records the foundation of a monastery by Etheldreda (or Æthelthryth) *c.* AD 673; this was a double house (for both monks and nuns) and she was its first abbess. The history of the monastery, and of the Church at Ely, from its foundation until the 10th century is given in Book I of *Liber Eliensis* (Blake 1962, 1–62), a work compiled between 1131 and 1174 by one of the monks of Ely. This



Figure 2. Site located on 1st edition Ordnance Survey map 1886.

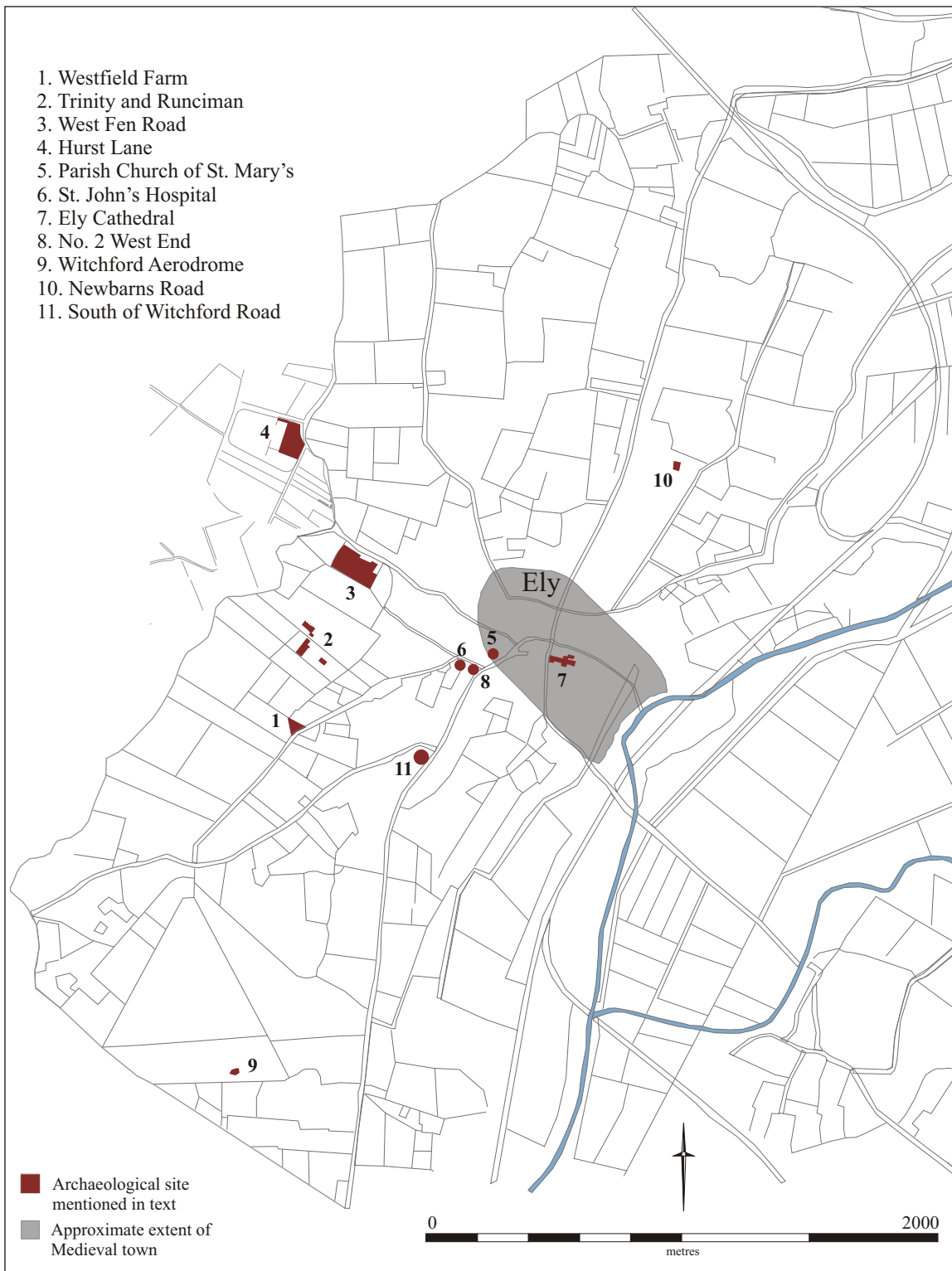


Figure 3. Sites mentioned in the text

records that Etheldreda established her monastery on a new site a mile away from an existing settlement at *Cratendune*, where ancient objects and coins were still being found. The location of both Cratendune, and of this first monastery, have both therefore been the subject of much debate.

No direct archaeological evidence of Etheldreda's monastery has yet been found. One possibility is, of course, the location of the present Cathedral, but there are also alternatives: the parish church of St Mary's and the site of St John's Hospital are both viable options (Holton-Krayenbuhl 2005). The arguments in favour of each are, however, weak. Recent excavations in the Cathedral grounds uncovered a pit containing an extensive deposit of mid Saxon pottery of the 8th century and later, although no earlier material was recovered (Cessford forthcoming). There is no archaeological evidence for an early date for St Mary's, but it does occupy an unusually dominant position adjacent to the Cathedral. An Anglo-Saxon origin for the St John's hospital site (now St John's Farm) rests primarily on the discovery of a fragment of stone sculpture in one of the barn walls, which has been tentatively identified as part of an 8th-century frieze, and therefore possibly a remnant of the first stone church at Ely (Cobbett 1934; Henderson 1997).

Recent archaeological work has revealed a number of settlements and cemeteries belonging to this period, which can help set the Westfield Farm cemetery in context. While the settlement at West Fen Road was probably not established until the second quarter of the 8th century (Mortimer *et al.* 2005: 25), a small number of possibly early Anglo-Saxon sherds were found to the east at 2 West End (Kenney 1999). Otherwise, the early Anglo-Saxon settlement record from Ely is rather blank. A small number of cemeteries are known: at Witchford aerodrome a cemetery of around 30 skeletons was observed being levelled during urgent war work (Fowler 1948: 70–6); grave-goods recovered (including saucer brooches, a square-headed brooch, an annular brooch, spearheads and a sword) suggest that it dated to the 6th century. To the north of the city, further probably 6th-century burials were recorded during the construction of the Newbarns Road housing estate in 1959 (*Med. Arch.* 1960: 134). Nearer to the site, evaluation in 2002 to the south of Witchford Road revealed an area of ploughed-out burials, but these were undated (Carlyle 2002).

Medieval and post-Medieval

Of immediate relevance to the Medieval field system at Westfield Farm is the extensive settlement sequence revealed at West Fen Road 500m to the north (Mortimer *et al.* 2005). This demonstrated the presence on the west side of Ely of a rural 'producer' site, which undoubtedly supplied the now well documented urban settlement and port facilities of medieval Ely (Cessford *et al.* 2006); the field systems identified at Westfield Farm could possibly have belonged to the West Fen Road settlement, or to a similar site closer by.

Methodology

An area of 1647m², lying to the southwest of the farmhouse in a small triangle of rough grass that had previously been under arable cultivation, was stripped of ploughsoil by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a 2.0m-wide toothless

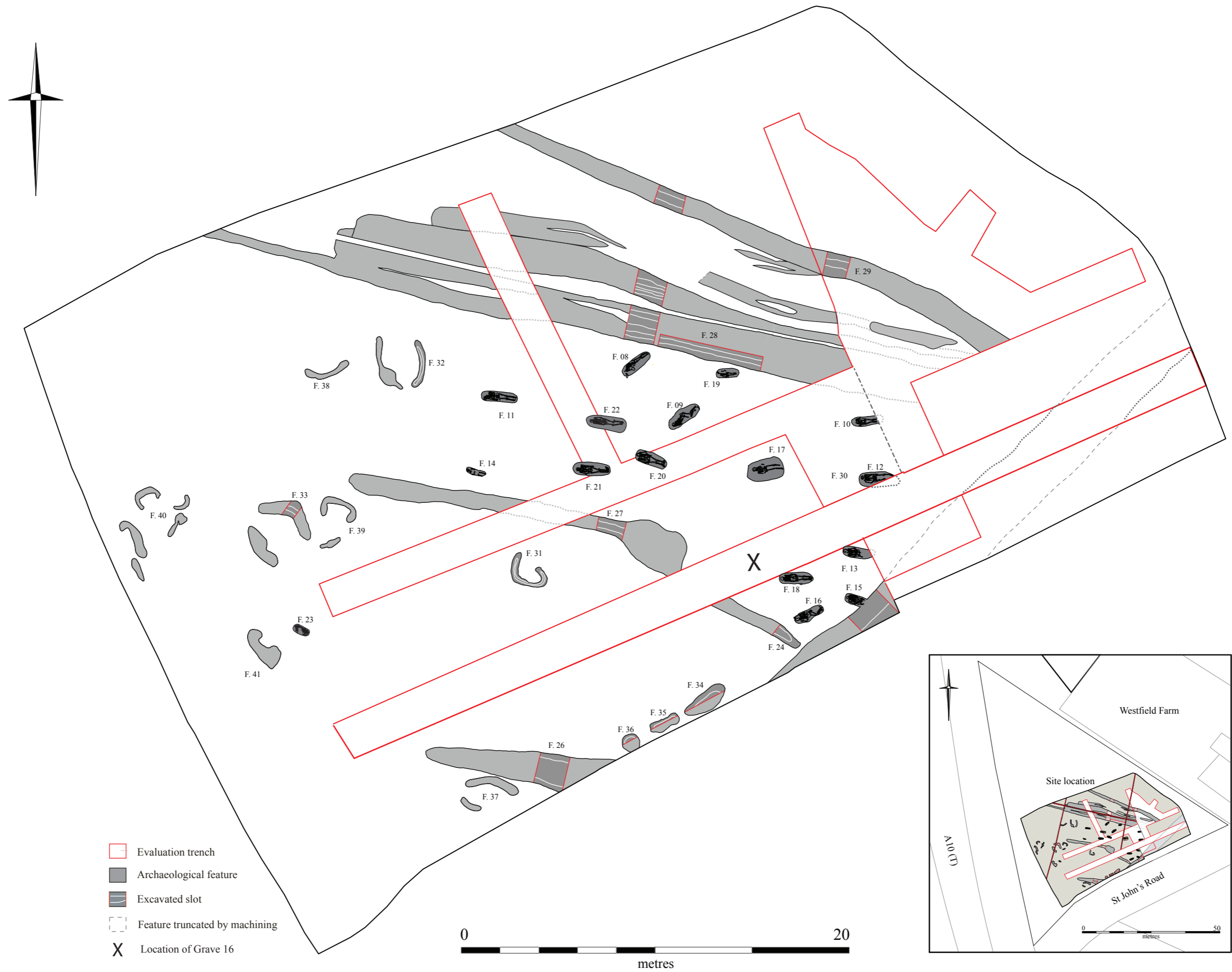


Figure 4. Base plan, with all features.

ditching bucket (see Figure 4). Spoil was separated into topsoil and subsoil, with both deposits being visually scanned and metal-detected.

All features were then excavated by hand and recorded using the CAU-modified version of the MoLAS system (Spence 1990); base plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50, whilst skeletons and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Context numbers are indicated within the text by square brackets (e.g. [001]), and feature numbers are denoted by the prefix F. (e.g. F.23). Grave-goods were assigned unique small finds numbers (e.g. SF2), and their locations plotted on the grave plans. The photographic archive consists primarily of digital images, supplemented by some medium format shots.

Particular care was taken with the excavation of the human remains, as a programme of collaborative research involving stable isotope and DNA analysis had been agreed with colleagues in the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Particularly for the DNA analysis, this involved excavators wearing masks and gloves, using sterilised tools, and lifting bodies immediately after exposure; it has also meant that some elements of the human bone have not yet been analysed for age, sex and pathology (this can be carried out once samples have been taken).

RESULTS

Features identified during the current excavation have been assigned to one of four chronological stages. These comprise:

- Phase 1: Prehistoric and Roman activity.
- Phase 2: Small later 7th-century cemetery.
- Phase 3: Medieval field-system.
- Phase 4: Post-Medieval activity.

Of these stages, Phases 1, 3 and 4 form necessary but archaeologically rather insignificant ‘bookends’ to the main period of activity during Phase 2.

Phase 1: Prehistoric and Roman activity (Figure 5)

The evidence for pre-cemetery activity on the site is largely inferential. It is derived primarily from the sub-soil horizon and the presence of tree-bowls **F.30–F.33** and **F.37–F.41**. Although no finds were recovered directly from the sub-soil layer itself, residual sherds of Romano-British pottery and undiagnostic flint flakes were present in the backfill of several of the burials into which this material was later redeposited (see Appendices 1 and 2). This indicates that the area had formed part of the cultivated hinterland of the IA/RB settlement that lay to the north (see further above). The tree bowls, in contrast, are most likely to predate agricultural activity on the site. Whilst they could have resulted from clearance to allow farming to begin, none of them contained the typical slanted bands indicative of a deliberately ‘thrown’ tree stump. Indeed, none of them contained any evidence of anthropogenic assistance in their creation.

Subsoil [072]: this layer consisted of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge, and contained occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions. It survived to a maximum depth of 0.35m, but was present only on the northwestern side of the site as it had been greatly denuded by later ploughing to the southeast.

Tree-bowl **F.30**: this feature is irregularly sub-oval in form. Cut [086] is 1.10m+ by 0.30m in extent and 0.18m+ deep with moderately sloping irregular sides leading to an irregular base. This was filled with [085], a deposit of mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional moderately sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Tree-bowl **F.31**: this feature is irregular sub-oval in form. Cut [088] is 1.85m+ by 0.38m in extent and 0.26m+ deep with moderately to gently sloping irregular sides leading to an irregular base. This was filled with [087], a deposit of mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional moderately sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Tree-bowl **F.32**: this feature is irregularly sub-oval in form. Cut [090] is 2.53m+ by 0.37m in extent and 0.12m+ deep with moderately to gently sloping irregular sides leading to an irregular base. This was filled with [089], a deposit of mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional moderately sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Tree-bowl **F.33**: this feature is irregularly sub-oval in form. Cut [092] is 3.10m+ by 0.86m in extent and 0.42m+ deep with moderately to steeply sloping irregular sides leading to an irregular base. This was filled with [091], a deposit of mid to dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional moderately sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions and discrete lenses of manganese flecks.

Tree-bowls **F.37–41**: although unexcavated, these features were identical in both form and fill to the excavated examples.

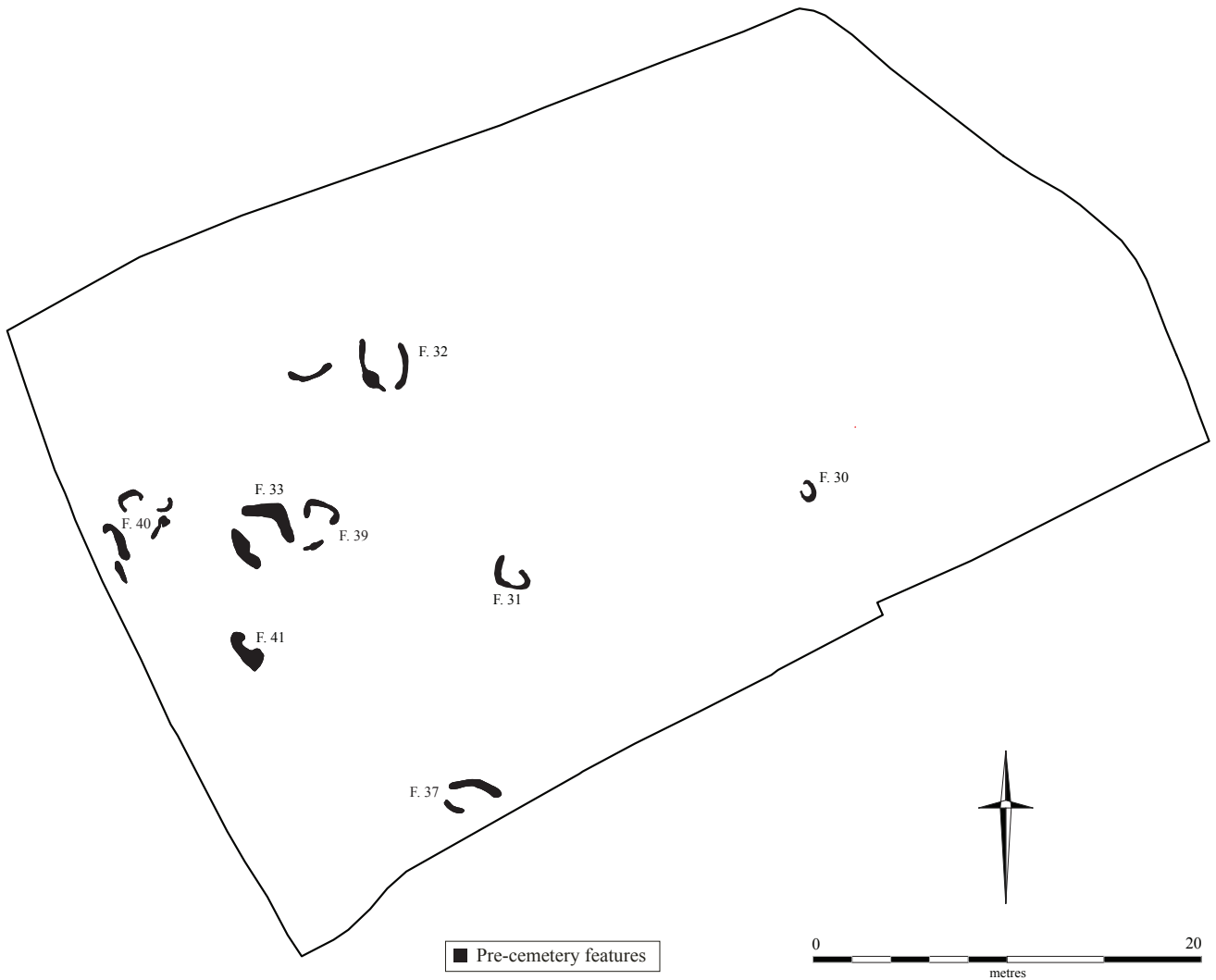


Figure 5. Pre-cemetery features

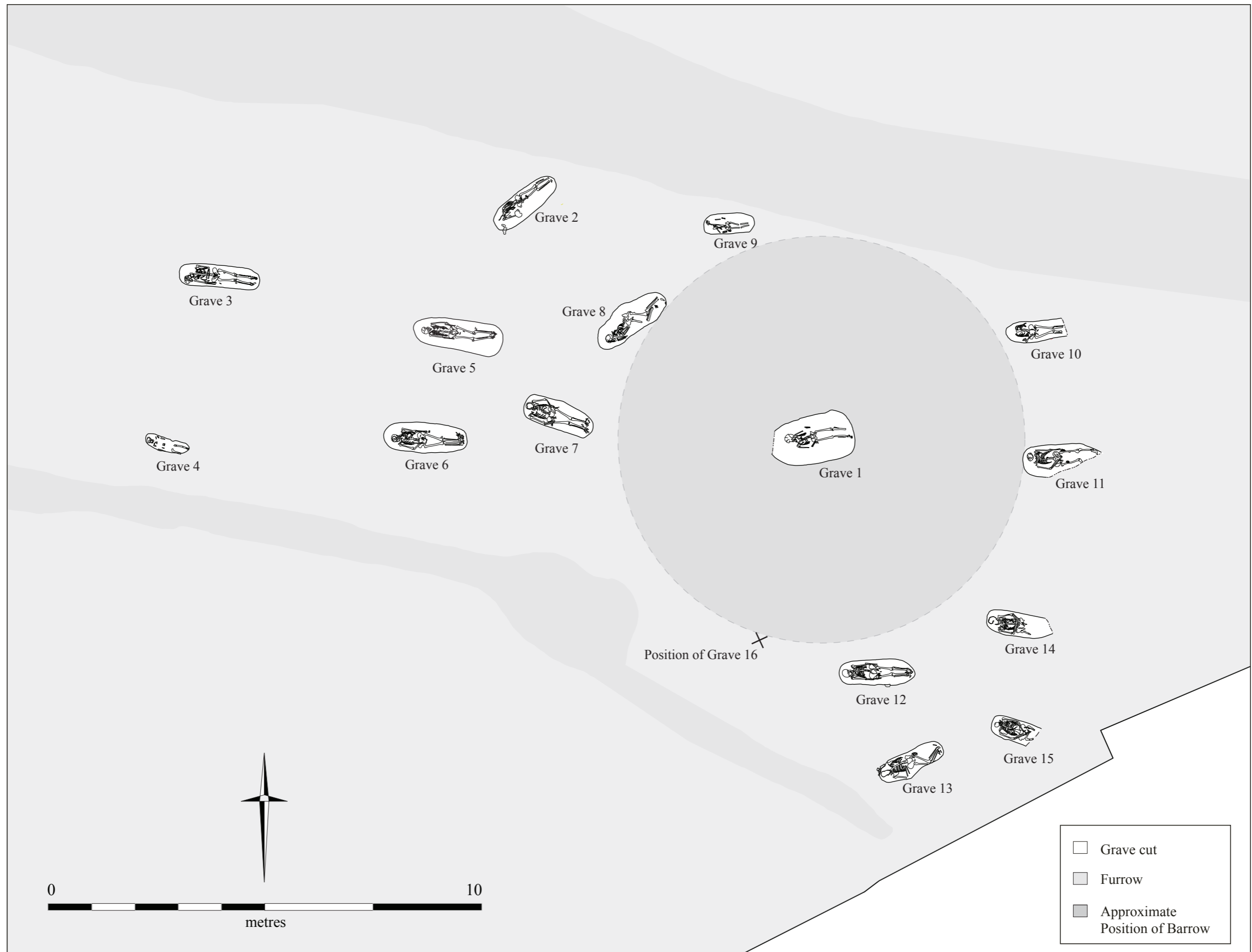


Figure 6. Cemetery features

Phase 2: the Anglo-Saxon cemetery (see Figure 6)

The results presented below are provisional: some of the skeletal material has not yet been washed, as its sampling for DNA analysis is imminent. The age of adult individuals was determined, as far as possible, according to bone and teeth measurement parameters (as defined by Bass 1997; McMinn and Hutchings 1988; Brothwell 1981; Brooks and Suchey 1990; Lovejoy *et al.* 1985). The age of immature individuals was determined using long bone measurements (Scheuer and Black 2000) and the degree of dental development and eruption age (Brown 1985; Ubelaker 1989). The age categories employed were:

Neonate	<6months
Infant	0–4years
Juvenile	5–12years
Sub-adult	13–18years
Young adult	19–25years
Middle adult	26–44years
Mature adult	45+ years

As the material reserved for DNA analysis comprises mandibles, this has implications for whether ageing and sexing has yet been possible on a number of the skeletons, as teeth are a key source of ageing data and skull morphology is used in determining the sex of a skeleton. Once available for analysis, further information will become available. Similarly, discussion of the grave-goods is also provisional, as X-radiography and conservation will enable fuller identification and analysis. Below, a grave catalogue is presented. This is followed in the subsequent section by initial discussion of the cemetery, the grave-goods, and some tentative discussion of the site's archaeological and historical significance. Recommendations for further work can be found in the conclusions to this report.

The cemetery comprised fifteen known graves (with a further grave inferred from human remains recovered during soil-stripping). These were arranged apparently around a central burial, Grave 1. Heads were generally to the west, with some variation; discussion of potential age and sex patterning in grave-goods and burial position can be found after the catalogue, together with a table detailing currently visible pathologies.

Grave Catalogue

With Catherine Hills and Natasha Dodwell

Grave 1 (Older juvenile, 10–12 years; F.17; Fig. 7)

The grave is sub-oval in form, though it was partially truncated at one end by a field drain, and is aligned west to east. Cut [052] is 1.83m+ by 1.11m in extent and 0.24m+ deep with a steep to near vertical top break of slope leading to a moderately to gently sloping lower break of slope onto a relatively flat base. Within this grave, skeleton [051] was laid in an extended and supine position, with the arms partially flexed so that the hands rested on the pelvis; the head lay at the west end. It was accompanied by a wooden box, distinguished both by a stain and by its numerous iron fittings, which contained a matching pair of glass palm cups and a single sided composite bone comb. Around its neck was a necklace, whilst a silver pin with chain lay across the chest. From the belt were suspended an iron chatelaine and an iron knife, whilst above the head rested an iron fitting with attached chains. The cut was backfilled with [050], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge which contained occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions and rare residual flint and pottery fragments.

Associated grave goods:

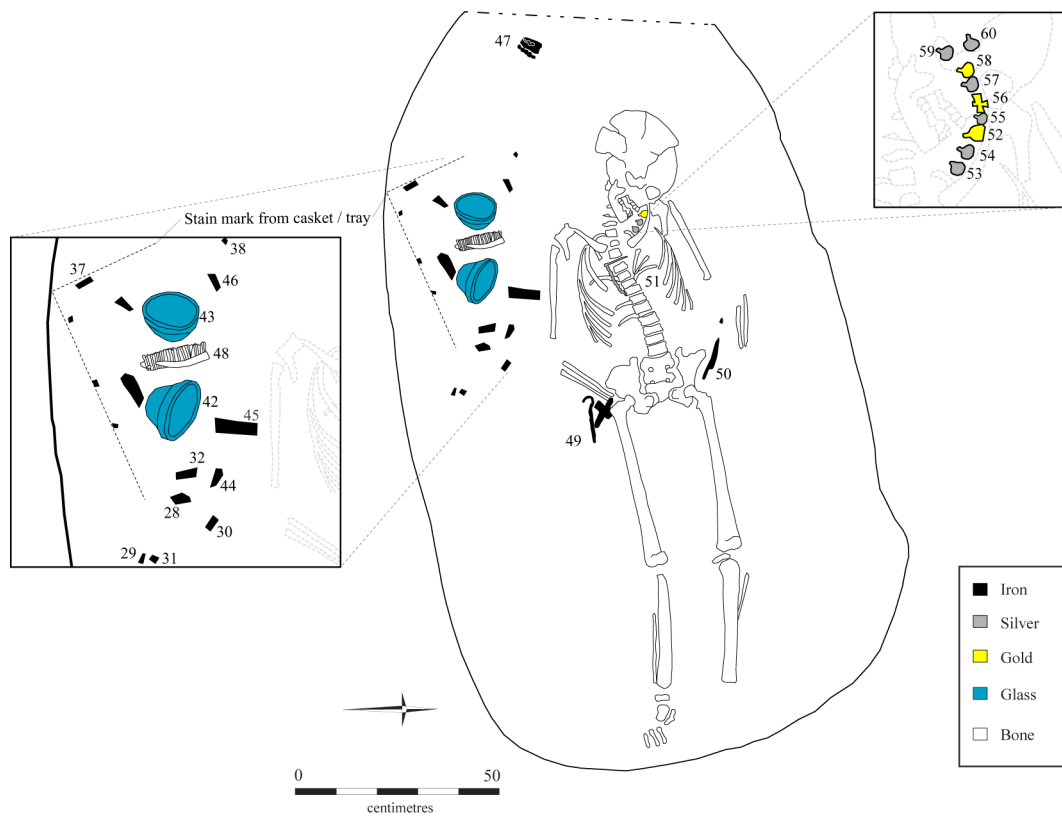


Figure 7. Grave 1 plan and photograph

Necklace (SF52–60): Gold pendant: cross minus fourth arm, suspension loop in that position. Original settings for arms and centre now missing; gold pendant, D-shaped cabochon garnet setting; one gold bulla pendant; six silver bullae.

Silver, pin and chain (SF51).

Glass, blue-green, two palm cups, plain with out-folded rim (SF42–43).

Bone, single-sided comb, slightly curved back, small cu alloy ring through one end, probably for suspension (SF48).

Iron knife (SF50).

Iron fittings from box (SF28–33, 36, 44–47, 49).

Grave 2 (?female, older sub-adult 15–17 years, F.08; Fig. 8)

The grave is sub-oval in form, and is aligned southwest to northeast. Cut [046] is 1.60m by 0.57m in extent and 0.12m+ deep with steeply sloping sides leading to a shallowly concave base. Within this grave, skeleton [045] was laid tightly against the northwest side, in an extended position resting partially on its right-hand side and with its head at the southwest end. Unfortunately, later ploughing action had badly disturbed the skull and upper vertebrae, scattering them across the grave. It appears to have been very tightly bound, with the left arm flexed at a sharp right-angle, and occupied less than half the available space; the reason for this is unclear. A bag or box had been placed by the right leg; it contained a copper alloy work-box, a copper alloy brooch, five amethyst beads and a worked bone counter. The cut was backfilled with [044], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Associated grave goods:

Copper alloy brooch (SF23): partly like a cruciform in the form of its terminal and side knob, but other features atypical: conservation may clarify details.

Bone, part of cylindrical bead (SF17).

Copper alloy flat ring: ?bag fastener (SF18) and iron nail fragments (SF19–22).

Amethyst, five beads (SF11–14, 26).

Copper alloy workbox (SF15). Cylindrical, punched dot decoration; some details unclear before conservation.

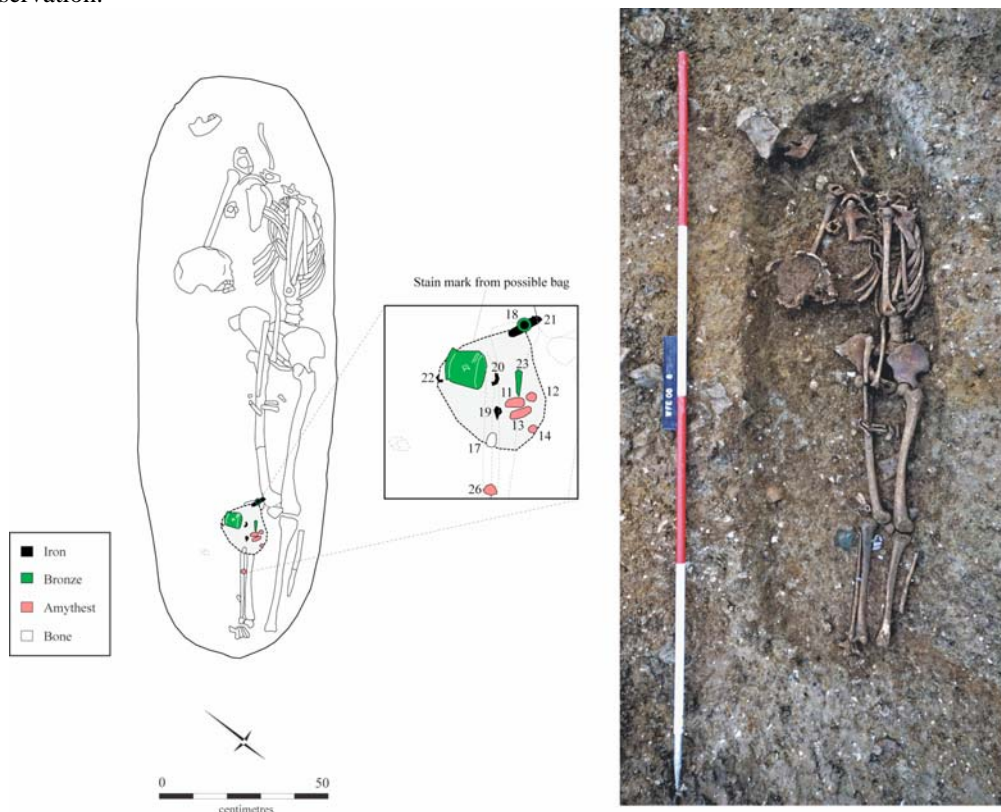


Figure 8. Grave 2 plan and photograph

Grave 3 (sub-adult, c. 14–16 years, F.11; Fig. 9)

The grave is sub-oval in form, and is aligned west to east. Cut [029] is 1.85m by 0.50m in extent and 0.16m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides leading to a relatively flat base. Within this grave, skeleton [028] was laid in an extended and supine position with the left arm flexed across the chest and the head at the west end. It was accompanied by an iron knife, located partially beneath the pelvis, which had most probably been suspended from a belt. A copper alloy belt buckle was also present. The cut was backfilled with [027], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Associated grave goods:

Copper alloy, small buckle (SF3). Oval loop, rectangular plate folded over loop, three copper alloy rivets fastening short ends, one missing, zig-zag end.

Iron knife (SF24).

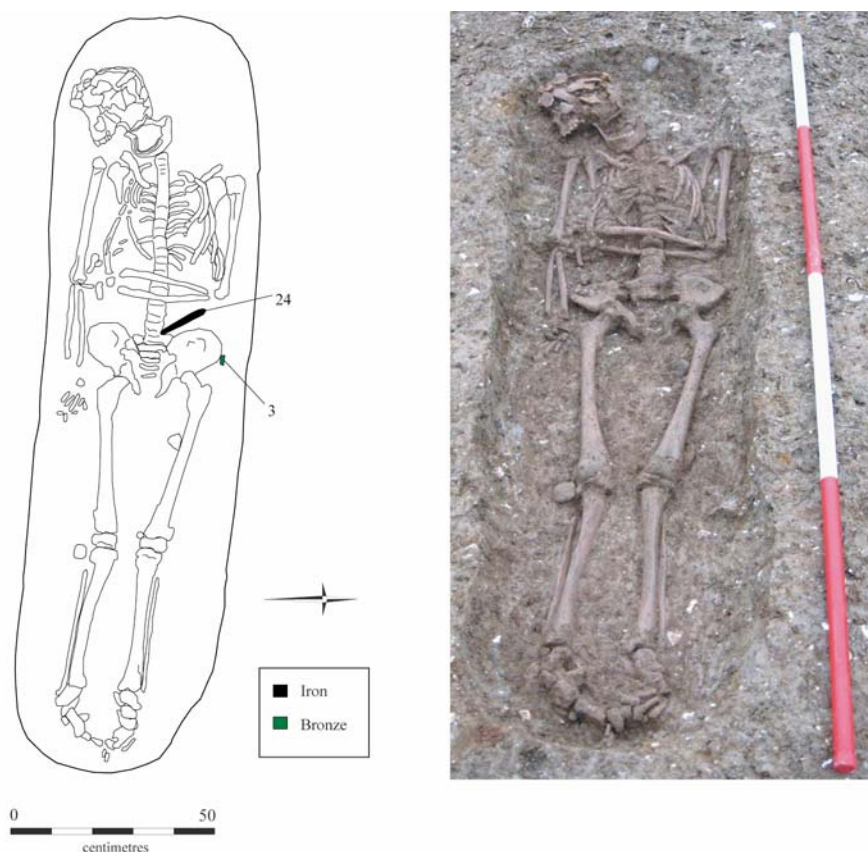


Figure 9. Grave 3 plan and photograph

Grave 4 (female, older middle/younger mature adult, F.14; Fig. 10)

The grave is sub-oval in form, though it was very heavily disturbed by later ploughing, and is aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. Cut [037] is 1.37m+ by 0.39m in extent and 0.04m+ deep with a relatively flat base – the sides were almost entirely truncated away. Within this grave, skeleton [036] was laid in an extended and supine position with the head at the west end. It was accompanied by a large iron knife, which was placed beside the right upper arm. The cut was backfilled with [035], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Associated grave goods:

Iron knife (SF8).

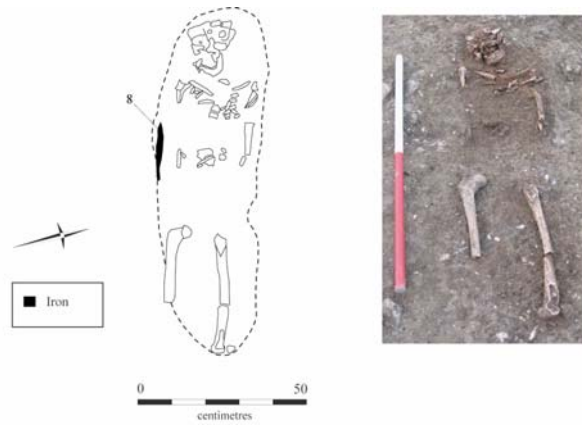


Figure 10. Grave 4 plan and photograph

Grave 5 (?male, 17–20 years, F.22; Fig. 11)

The grave is sub-oval in form and is aligned west to east. Cut [067] is 2.09m by 0.74m in extent and 0.37m+ deep with steeply sloping sides leading to a relatively flat base. Within this grave, skeleton [066] was laid in an extended and supine position with the head resting at the west end. It was unaccompanied. The cut was backfilled with [065], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

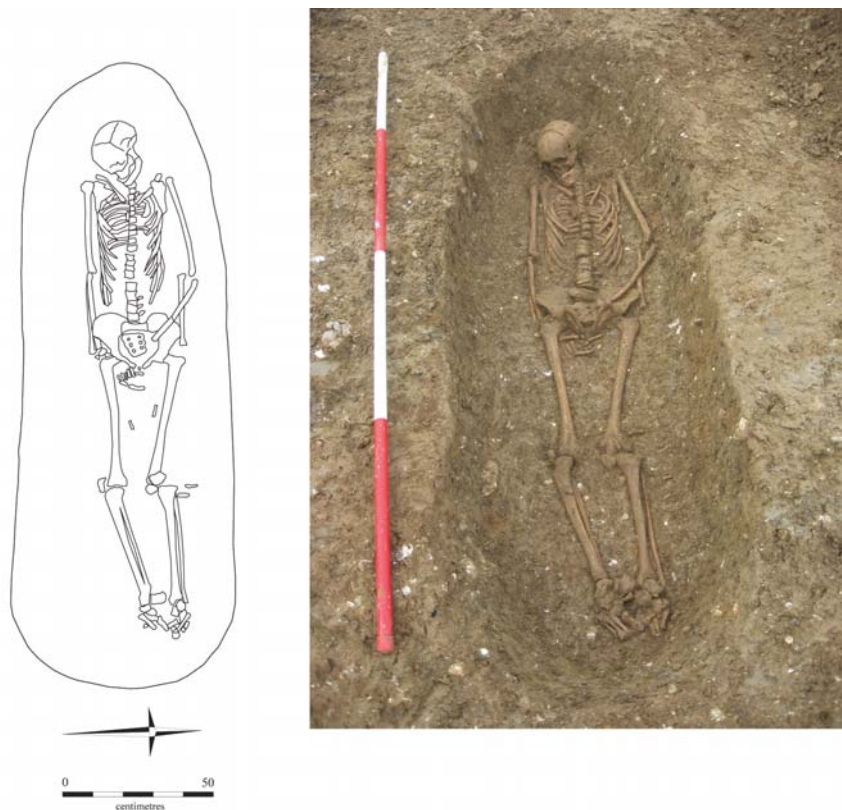


Figure 11. Grave 5 plan and photograph

Grave 6 (male, middle adult, F.21; Fig. 12)

The grave is sub-oval in form and is aligned west to east. Cut [064] is 1.94m by 0.71m in extent and 0.24m+ deep with moderately to steeply sloping sides leading to a relatively flat base. Within this grave, skeleton [063] was laid in an extended and supine position, with the right arm partially flexed so that the hand rested on the sacrum and the head at the west end. It was accompanied by an iron knife and a possible iron belt buckle on the pelvis, whilst a copper alloy pin was located by the left knee. The cut was backfilled with [062], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Associated grave goods:

Iron knife (SF63).

Iron lump (possibly a buckle; details to be clarified after conservation; SF62).

Copper alloy pin (SF61).

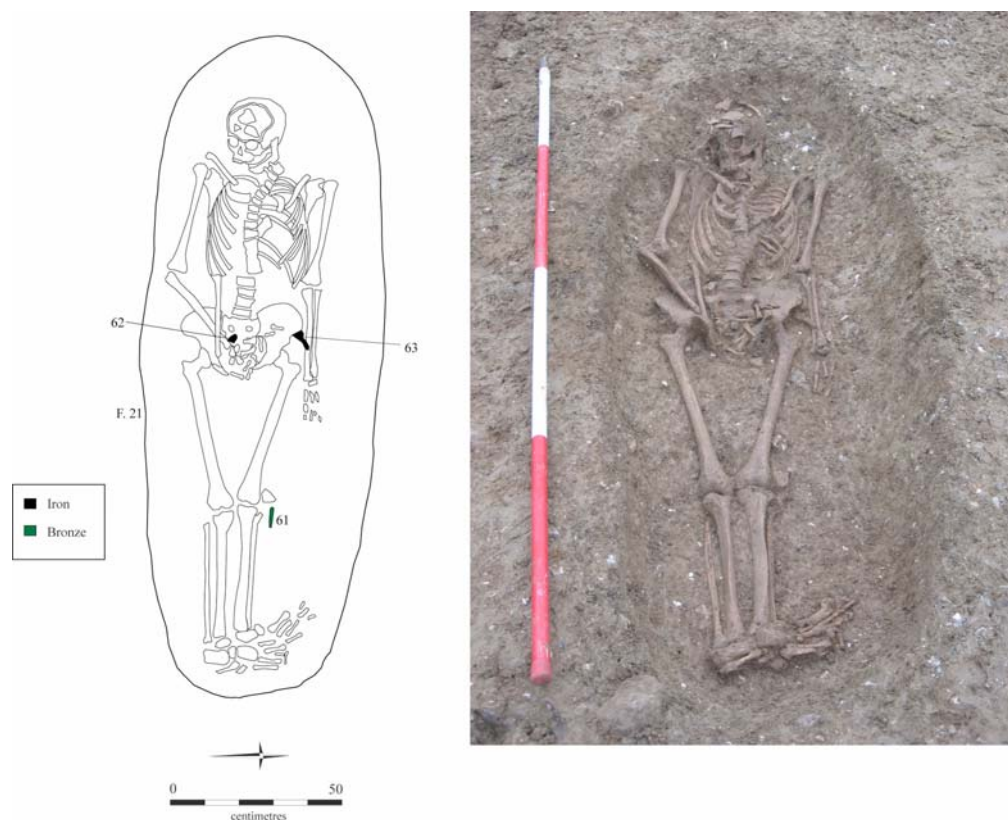


Figure 12. Grave 6 plan and photograph

Grave 7 (female, middle/mature adult, F.20; Fig. 13)

The grave is sub-oval in form and is aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. Cut [061] is 1.68m by 0.66m in extent and 0.25m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides to the north, south and west and a moderately sloping side to the east; the base is relatively flat. Barely enough space was provided to accommodate skeleton [060], which was laid in an extended and supine position with the head forced forward onto the chest. It was unaccompanied. The cut was backfilled with [059], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Grave 8 (unsexed as yet, young adult, F.09; Fig. 14)

The grave is irregularly sub-oval in form, and is aligned southwest to northeast. Cut [023] is 1.91m by 0.71m in extent and 0.15m+ deep with an irregular upper break of slope leading to a more regular sub-oval and shallowly concave base. Within this grave, skeleton [032] was laid on its right side in a flexed position, with the arms brought up tightly against the chest and the head at the west-southwest end. It was accompanied by an iron 'latch-lifter' which was located beneath the pelvis and had most probably

been suspended from the belt. The cut was backfilled with [022], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions and rare residual worked flint flakes.

Associated grave goods:
Iron latch-lifter (SF25).

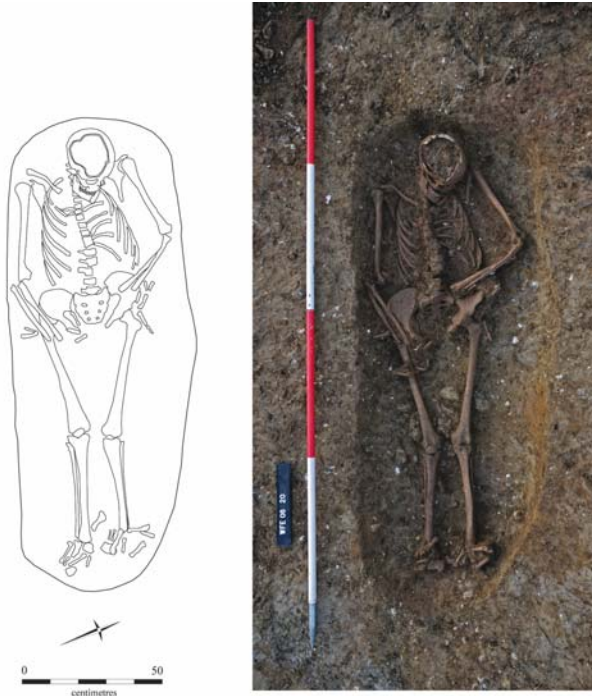


Figure 13. Grave 7 plan and photograph

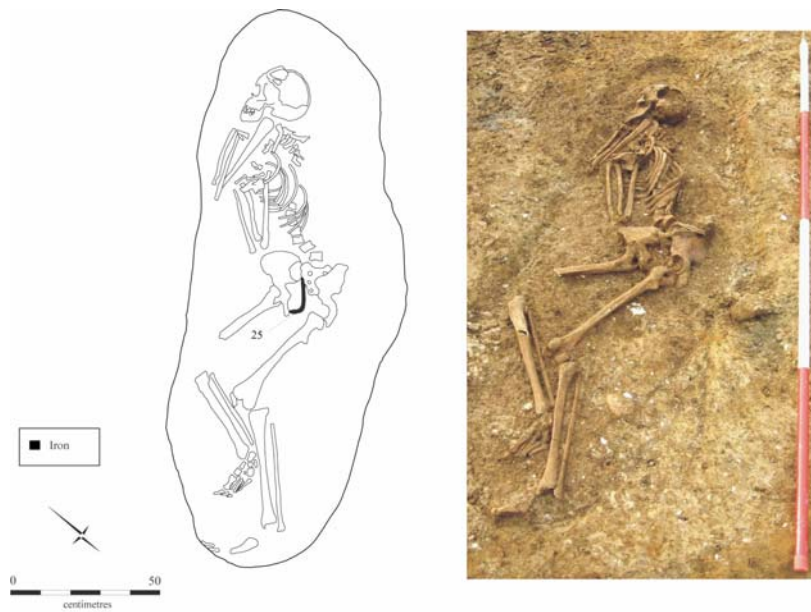


Figure 14. Grave 8 plan and photograph

Grave 9 (unsexable, older infant, 4–5 years, F.19; Fig. 15)

The grave is sub-oval in form, though it was heavily disturbed by later ploughing, and is aligned west to east. Cut [058] is 1.00m by 0.40m in extent and 0.03m+ deep with a partially concave base; the sides were almost entirely truncated away. Within this grave, the skeleton [057] of a young child was laid in an extended and supine position with the head resting at the west end. It was accompanied by two glass beads, one red and one green, which were found in the area of the head and had most probably been worn around the neck. The cut was backfilled with [056], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Associated grave goods:

Glass beads, green and red (SF40–41).

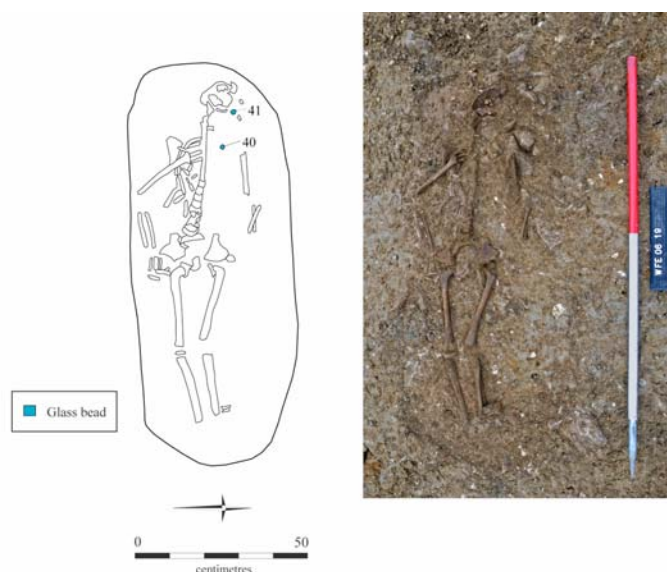


Figure 15. Grave 9 plan and photograph

Grave 10 (female, young adult, F.10; Fig. 16)

The grave is sub-oval in form, though it was partially truncated by machining during the evaluation phase, and is aligned west to east. Cut [026] is 1.37m+ by 0.47m in extent and 0.04m+ deep with gently sloping sides leading to a shallowly concave base. Within this grave, skeleton [025] was laid in an extended and supine position with both hands resting on the pelvis; the head was not present, having most probably been removed by later ploughing, but would have lain at the west end. It was accompanied by an iron knife which appears to have been suspended from the belt and a single sided composite bone comb that had been placed by the left tibia. These were both lifted during the evaluation stage. The cut was backfilled with [024], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Associated grave goods:

Iron knife (SF2).

Single-sided composite bone comb (SF1).

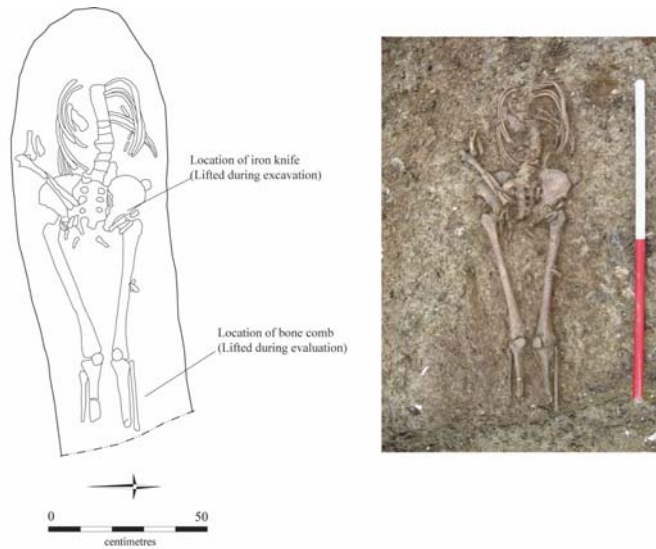


Figure 16. Grave 10 plan and photograph

Grave 11 (?female, middle/mature adult, F.12; Fig. 17)

The grave is sub-oval in form, though it was partially truncated by machining during the evaluation phase, and is aligned west to east. Cut [031] is 1.50m+ by 0.67m in extent and 0.16m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides leading to a relatively flat base. Within this grave, skeleton [038] was laid in an extended and supine position with the right arm partially flexed so that the hand rested on the pelvis; the head was at the west end. It was unaccompanied. The cut was backfilled with [030], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions and rare residual pottery fragments.

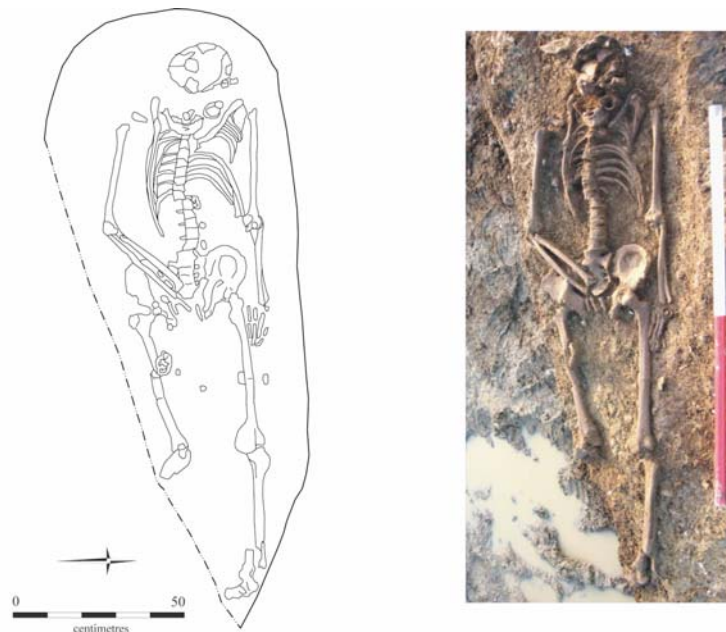


Figure 17. Grave 11 plan and photograph

Grave 12 (male, younger middle adult, F.18; Fig. 18)

The grave is sub-oval in form and is aligned west to east. Cut [055] is 1.76m by 0.56m in extent and 0.20m+ deep with moderately to steeply sloping sides leading to a relatively flat base. It was barely large enough to accommodate skeleton [054], which was laid in an extended and supine position with the hands resting on the femurs and the head at the west end. It was unaccompanied. The cut was backfilled with [053], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

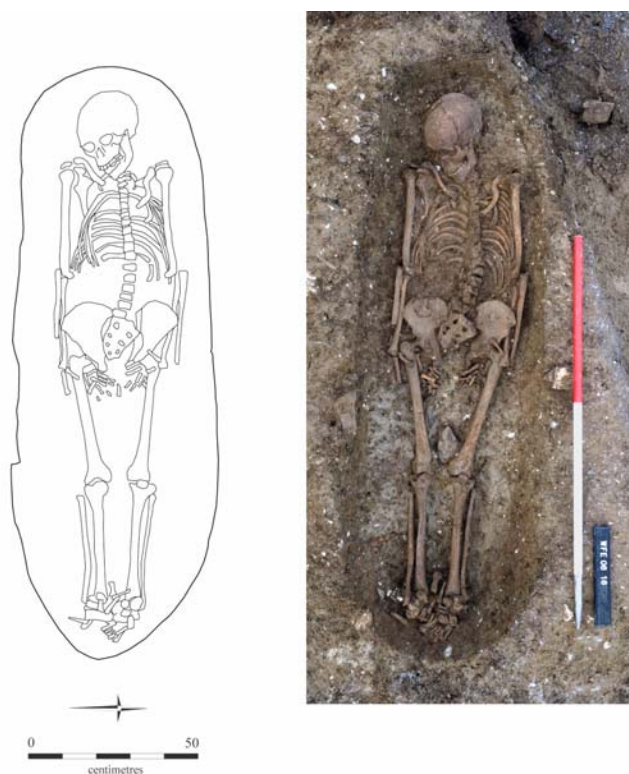


Figure 18. Grave 12 plan and photograph

Grave 13 (?male, older middle adult, F.16; Fig. 19)

The grave is sub-oval in form, though it was partially truncated by later ploughing, and is aligned west-southwest to east-northeast. Cut [049] is 1.47m+ by 0.54m in extent and 0.05m+ deep with moderately to gently sloping sides leading to a partially concave base. Within this grave, skeleton [048] was laid in a supine and partially extended position with the right arm crossed above the sacrum, the knees flexed to the right and the head resting at the west end. It was accompanied by a badly degraded iron knife which appears to have been suspended from the belt. The cut was backfilled with [047], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Associated grave goods:
Iron knife (SF27).

Grave 14 (?male, younger middle adult 31–35 years, F.13; Fig. 20)

The grave is sub-oval in form, though it was partially truncated by machining, and is aligned west to east. Cut [034] is 1.45m+ by 0.53m in extent and 0.10m+ deep with moderately sloping sides leading to a partially concave base. Within this grave, skeleton [039] was laid in an extended and supine position with the right arm crossed above the sacrum, the left hand lying on the pelvis and the head at the west end. It was unaccompanied. The cut was then backfilled with [033], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

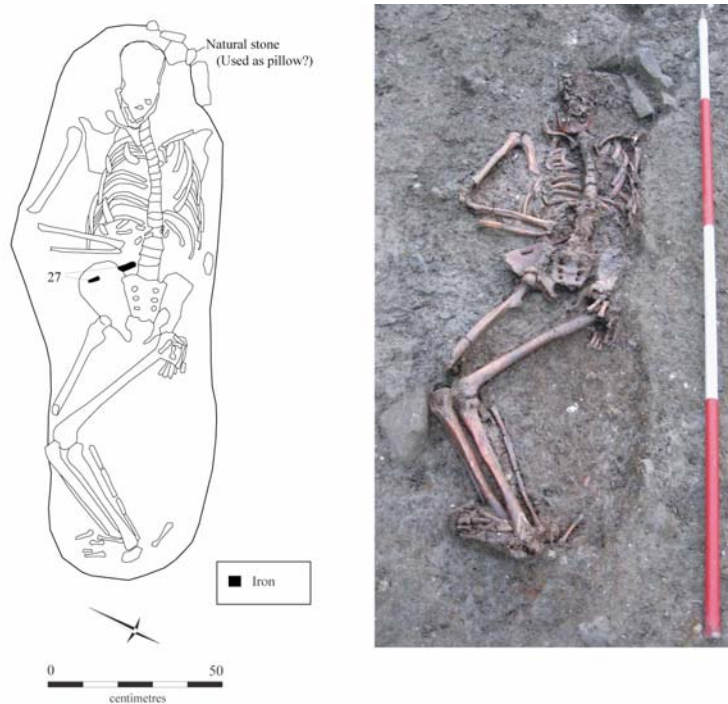


Figure 19. Grave 13 plan and photograph

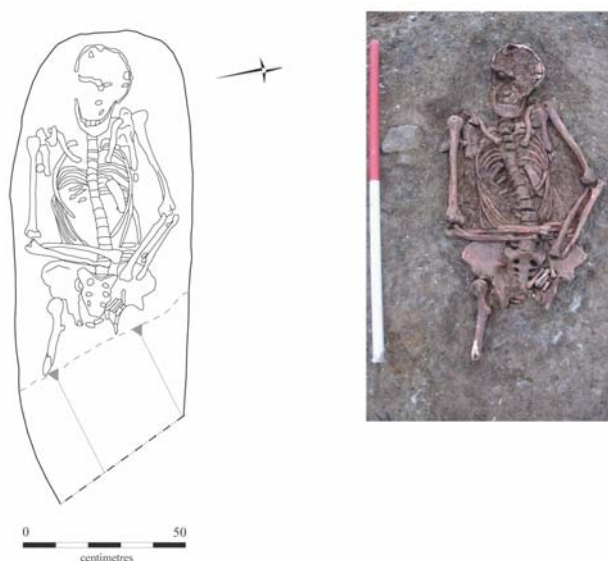


Figure 20. Grave 14 plan and photograph

Grave 15 (?male, young adult, F.15; Fig. 21)

The grave is sub-oval in form, though it was partially truncated by ditch F.25, and is aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. Cut [043] is 1.02m+ by 0.51m in extent and 0.04m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides leading to a relatively flat base. Within this grave, skeleton [042] was laid in an extended and supine position with the arms partially flexed, the hands resting on the sacrum and the head at the west end. It was unaccompanied. The cut was backfilled with [041], a relatively firm deposit of mid to pale brown sandy silty clay with a distinct orange tinge and occasional poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions.

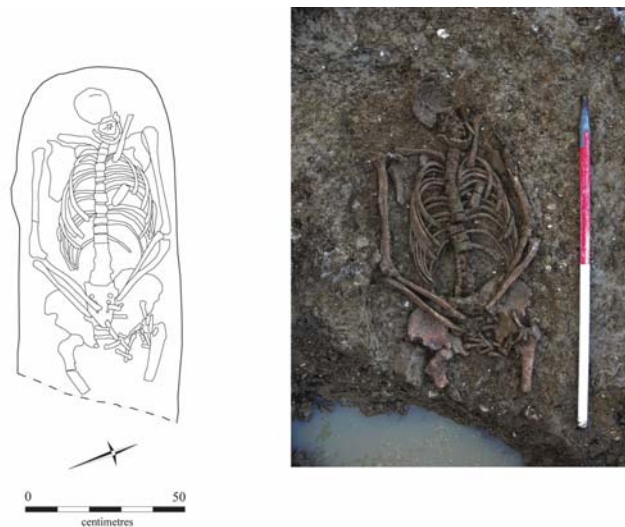


Figure 21. Grave 15 plan and photograph

Phase 3: the Medieval field system (Figure 22)

Once the use of the site as a cemetery had finished, there appears to have been a lengthy period during which the area remained a ‘marginal’ space before agricultural activity resumed. A new field-system was eventually established by boundary linear **F.25**, which cut across the southeastern side of the burial ground and partially truncated burial Grave 15; it may well have removed other interments entirely. Although no dating evidence was recovered from this feature, the presence of an associated plough furrow (**F.24**) demonstrates that it is probably Saxo-Norman or later in origin as such remains of ridge and furrow indicate large-scale landscape reorganisation (Hinton 1990: 107–8).

Metal-detecting finds recovered from the topsoil indicate that there was little activity prior to the 13th century; the ditch and furrow could be even therefore be quite late, perhaps of the 14th/15th century (see Appendix 3).

Furrow F.24: this feature is linear in form and is aligned northwest to southeast. Cut [074] is 4.60m+ by 0.80m in extent and 0.06m+ deep with gently sloping sides leading to a relatively flat base. This was filled with [073], a relatively firm deposit of mid orangey brown sandy silty clay with occasional to rare poorly sorted sub-angular gravel and chalk fleck inclusions.

Ditch F.25: this feature is linear in form and is aligned northeast to southwest. Cut [076] is 13.10m+ by 3.15m in extent and 0.38m+ deep with moderately to gently sloping sides leading to an irregular base. This was filled with [075], a relatively firm deposit of mid orangey brown sandy silty clay with occasional to rare poorly sorted sub-angular gravel and chalk fleck inclusions.

Phase 4: Post-medieval activity (Figure 22)

Post-Medieval activity on the site is primarily represented by a series of plough furrows, distinguished from their Medieval predecessors both by their alignment and the nature of their fills. A well-worked humic topsoil deposit [020] had replaced the sub-soil material encountered within the earlier features, and the shift in alignment that accompanied this development is likely to represent the consolidation — and probably also the expansion — of the earlier field-system. This can be dated by the

presence of a sherd of 17th-century Staffordshire Slipware recovered from **F.28** (D. Hall, pers. comm.). Unfortunately, however, as no map of sufficient scale covers the site until the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1890, the relationship of the post-Medieval field-system to the modern hedge boundaries cannot be determined.

Furrow **F.26**: this feature is linear in form and is aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. Cut [078] is 9.35m+ by 1.24m in extent and 0.12m+ deep with moderately to gently sloping sides leading to a partially concave base. This was filled with [077], a deposit of mid brown clay silt with occasional moderately sorted sub-angular gravel and rare CBM and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Furrow **F.27**: this feature is linear in form and is aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. Cut [080] is 17.80m+ by 0.79m in extent and 0.24m+ deep with moderately sloping sides leading to a concave base. This was filled with [079], a deposit of mid brown clay silt with occasional moderately sorted sub-angular gravel and rare CBM and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Furrow **F.28**: this feature is linear in form and is aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. Cut [082] is 30.00m+ by 3.40m in extent and 0.21m+ deep with irregular and undulating sides and base representing numerous, and probably repeated, plough marks. This was filled with [081], a deposit of mid brown clay silt with occasional moderately sorted sub-angular gravel and rare CBM and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Furrow **F.29**: this feature is linear in form and is aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. Cut [084] is 26.70m+ by 0.82m in extent and 0.30m+ deep with moderately sloping sides leading to a concave base. This was filled with [083], a deposit of mid brown clay silt with occasional moderately sorted sub-angular gravel and rare CBM and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Four further features, including a piglet burial and disturbances associated with a modern hedge line, were also uncovered. These are all most probably 20th-century in origin. The reason for the special treatment of the piglet, which does not appear to have been associated with a wider culling event, is unclear. It may perhaps have been the victim of an isolated outbreak of disease, buried at a safe distance to prevent infection, or could possibly have been adopted as a family pet.

Piglet burial **F.23**: this feature is sub-oval in form, though it was partially truncated by machining, and is aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. Cut [070] is 0.90m+ by 0.44m+ in extent and 0.08m+ deep with moderately to steeply sloping sides leading to a relatively flat base. Within this grave, the skeleton of an immature pig [069] (C. Swaysland, pers. comm.) was laid in a flexed position with the head (which was no longer present) resting at the east-southeast end. The cut was backfilled with [068], a relatively loose deposit of dark brown sandy clay with occasional grey clay mottles and frequent poorly sorted sub-angular gravel inclusions that represents redeposited topsoil material.

Hedge-line disturbance **F.34**: this feature is irregularly sub-oval in form and is orientated northeast to southwest. Cut [094] is 2.01m+ by 0.89m in extent and 0.11m+ deep with moderately to gently sloping sides leading to an irregular, partially concave base. This was filled with [093], a semi-loose deposit of dark brown humic silt with very occasional moderately to poorly sorted sub-angular gravel and rare charcoal fleck inclusions.

Hedge-line disturbance **F.35**: this feature is irregularly sub-oval in form and is orientated northeast to southwest. Cut [096] is 1.42m+ by 0.57m in extent and 0.10m+ deep with moderately to gently sloping sides leading to an irregular, partially concave base. This was filled with [095], a semi-loose deposit of dark brown humic silt with very occasional moderately to poorly sorted sub-angular gravel and rare charcoal fleck inclusions.

Hedge-line disturbance **F.36**: this feature is irregularly sub-oval in form and is orientated northwest to southeast. Cut [098] is 0.91m+ by 0.80m in extent and 0.12m+ deep with moderately to gently sloping sides leading to an irregular, partially concave base. This was filled with [097], a semi-loose deposit of dark brown humic silt with very occasional moderately to poorly sorted sub-angular gravel and rare charcoal fleck inclusions.

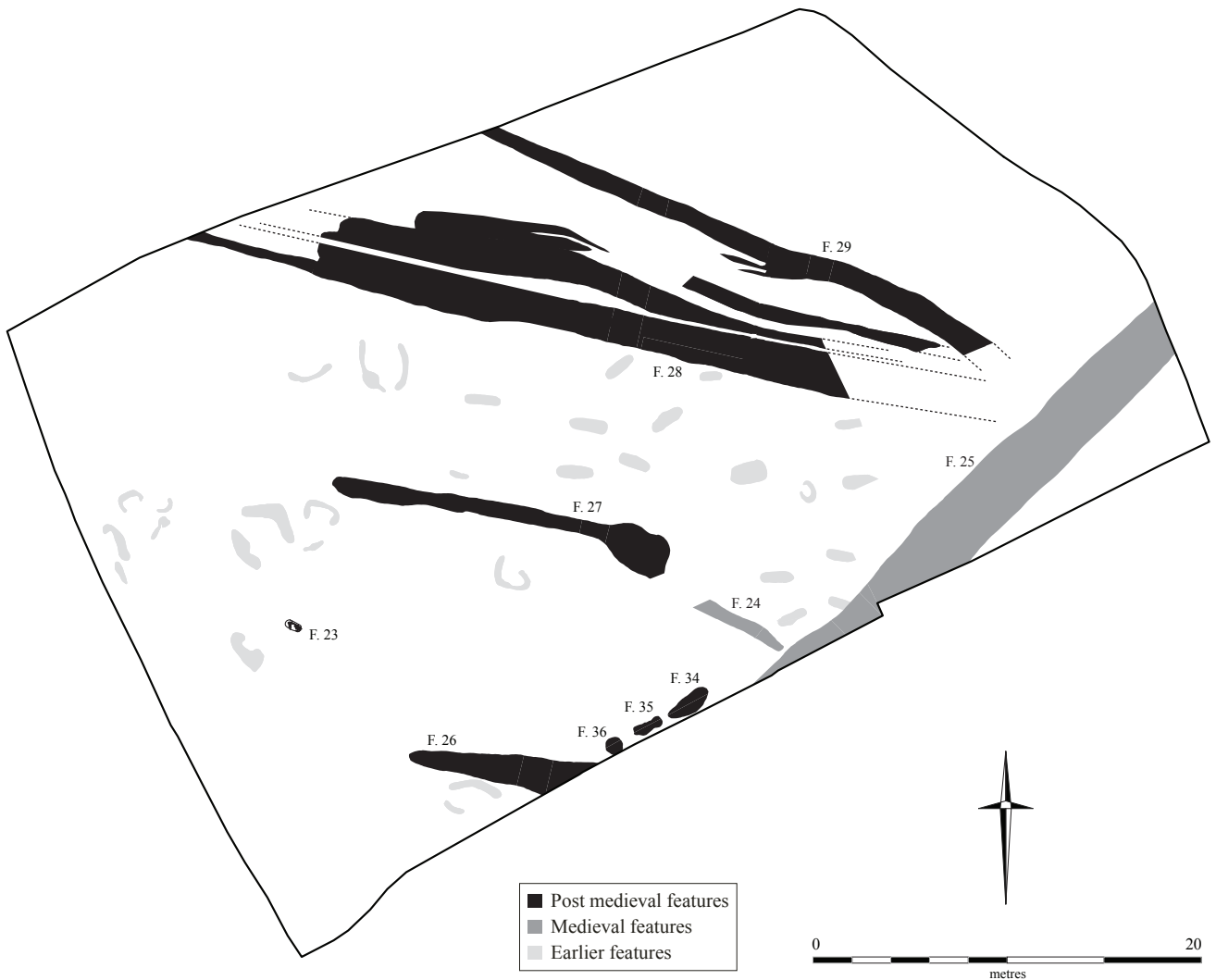


Figure 22. Post cemetery features

DISCUSSION

Discussion of cemetery layout

By Sam Lucy and Catherine Hills

The arrangement of the Westfield graves suggests they were buried around a central rich grave, and are likely to be approximately contemporary, although the focus of burial around Grave 1 does indicate a chronological ordering. This is not a complete cemetery but the group seems to be reasonably intact. The scale of wealth is not as great as for example at Swallowcliffe Down or Roundway Down (these both in barrows which may also be the case for Westfield Farm Grave 1) but is still significant in its range of gold, silver, imported amethysts, and glass vessels.

The preliminary ageing and sexing data at this stage indicates a mixed population, with broadly similar numbers of (probable/possible) males and females. The youngest individual (in Grave 9) was aged four to five years, and the cemetery population as a whole tends towards the younger age ranges, with few obvious pathological conditions (N. Dodwell, pers. comm.). There is some variability in grave orientation, with Graves 2, 8 and 13 oriented with heads to south-west, while the remainder tend more to west or slightly north-west. This does not, however, appear at the moment to be related to provision of grave-goods, or to age or sex, although these are the only three graves with bodies that have not been laid out in a strictly extended and supine position.

The layout of graves around central Grave 1 does show some potential patterning: graves of females (or those with ‘feminine’ assemblages), those of individuals aged under 20 years, and those with grave goods are all more likely to be found to the north-west of Grave 1, while unfurnished graves and burials of males are more likely to be found to its south-east (Figure 23). This intriguing suggestion of social differentiation through grave position can be explored more thoroughly once the full variability of data (including isotopic and DNA results) has been established.

Discussion of artefact types

By Catherine Hills

Glass palm cups

The most striking find from the cemetery was a pair of blue-green glass palm cups, both complete and undamaged. Glass is in general an unusual find in burials, usually interpreted as a sign of wealth. To find two is rare; that they were complete and unbroken is even more so. Evison (2000) has published a recent classification of Anglo-Saxon glass vessels. These vessels belong to her phase II, AD 550–700; within that they can be assigned to group 57: plain with out-folded rim, dated 7th-century and later. An example from Mannheim is dated by Koch to “first half of the seventh century” (Koch 1996: abb. 468). Evison lists 34 vessels in group 57: 15 from Kent, five unprovenanced, with others widely scattered from Northants to Hampshire. There are also five from Suffolk, from two cemeteries near Ipswich, at Hadleigh Road and Buttermarket. Pairs of palm cups (though not group 57) were found in the rich female burial at Swallowcliffe Down (Speake 1989) and at Kingston Down grave 205 (Faussett 1856). Each of the Ipswich cemeteries, however, includes pairs of group 57:

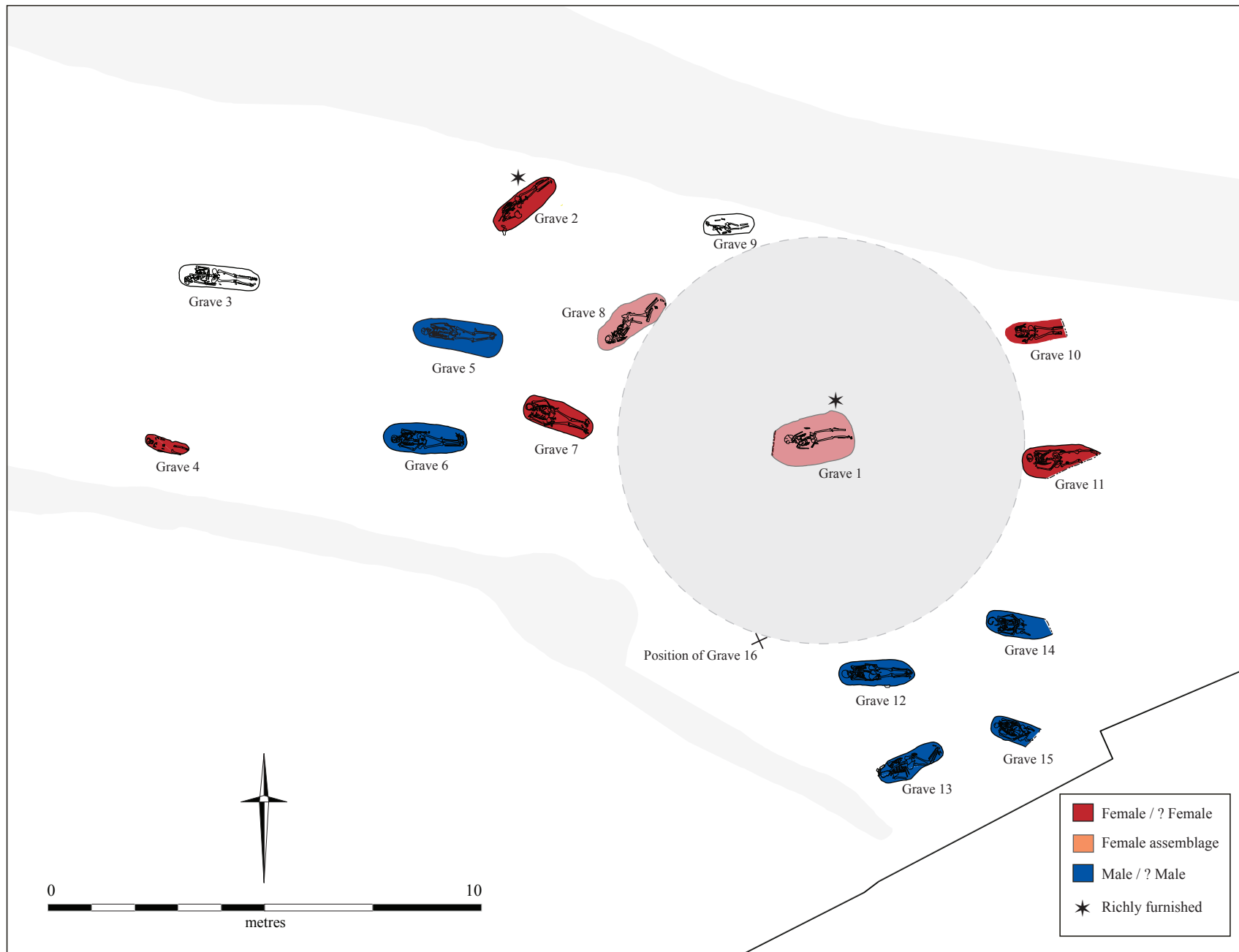


Figure 23. Sex and gender of burials.

grave 85 from Hadleigh Rd, found at the feet of a female skeleton, who also had a buckle at her waist, two small double toothed combs and a pot hook (Layard 1907). At the Buttermarket cemetery a pair of palm cups came from one of the well equipped male graves, grave 1306, which also contained a seax, shield boss, two spear heads and a buckle set of continental type. Continental chronologies put this grave into the period 640–670AD (Scull and Bayliss 1999: 82) . A third palm cup of the same kind was found in another grave. It would be interesting to compare the Ipswich examples with those from Ely to see if they might have a similar source. They look very similar at first appearance, although the Buttermarket examples maybe slightly shallower, with rims more widely splayed. Although more glass vessels are known from Kentish cemeteries than elsewhere, this predominance is reduced if the many glass finds from cremations are taken into account. Imports will also have arrived directly in East Anglia, via ports such as Ipswich.

Bulla pendants

This type of pendant is widespread across England, and has been dated most commonly to the second half of the 7th century (Geake 1997: 36). The examples from Buttermarket grave 4275 were part of a necklace which also included coins with a suggested *terminus post quem* of 660/680. Southampton stadium grave no. 4203 contained a necklace similar to that from Westfield, with four silver bulla pendants, a few beads and crescent shaped pendants which, though not like the cross from Ely, would nonetheless have presented a similar composition. At Winchester (Hawkes 1990), there was a more complex necklace with silver rings and glass beads as well as one gold and two silver bullae, and also three other gold pendants, two with garnet settings, similar to the gold/garnet pendant from Westfield Farm Grave 1.

Gold and garnet pendants

Gold and garnet pendants are found in many other 7th-century burials, especially in Kent, but also East Anglia, for example Boss Hall, Ipswich where they were associated with a sceatta of c. 690 (Webster and Backhouse 1991).

The most elaborate necklace recorded is that from Desborough (Webster and Backhouse 1991, fig. 13). This is far more elaborate and complete than others mentioned here. But one feature it shares with Westfield Farm Grave 1 is the central gold cross pendant. At Desborough this is a simple gold cross, while at Ely it is a pendant which once had settings in its arms and centre, though these are now missing. This pendant is odd in that it is missing the fourth arm but otherwise takes the shape of a “Celtic” cross like other more elaborate gold and garnet pendants such as Ixworth. Cross pendants are usually taken as indicators of the Christianity of their owner and so dated by association with historical accounts of the date of conversion of the relevant region of England. There are several weak points in this argument, but it is clear that most such pendants do belong to the 7th century, and that some, if not all of them, had an original connection with Christianity.

Silver pin and chain

Silver or copper alloy pins linked by chains are known from 7th- and 8th-century burial and settlement contexts. At Harford Farm (Penn 2000), linked pins were found in grave 18, together with a workbox, pendants and coins.



Sf. 53



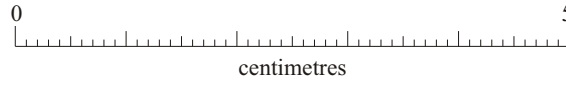
Sf. 56



Sf. 52



Sf. 58



centimetres



Sf. 42



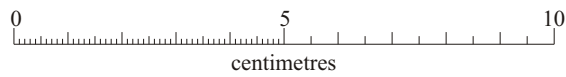
Sf. 43



Sf. 48



Sf. 51



centimetres

Plate I. Selected grave-goods from Grave 1

Boxes

Remains of boxes or their fittings have been found in a number of 7th-century burials. Sometimes the grave-goods are contained in the box, as in Grave 1 here. At Boss Hall, Ipswich, a bag had contained a rich assemblage of objects: garnet brooch, gold pendants, silver cosmetic set and coins, one of which dates this grave to c. 700AD or later (Newman 1991).

Bone combs

The combs in Grave 1 and Grave 10 are both single-sided composite bone (?antler) combs. Combs in general occur in later graves; those of relatively longer, slightly curved or 'humpbacked' form are 7th- to 8th-century in date, and have been recovered both from burials and from settlements.

Amethyst beads

According to Geake (1997) these occur in Kent from the late 6th century and continue throughout the 7th century, but probably were most popular towards the end of that century. Brugmann (2004) assigns them to her phase C, starting in the mid 7th century.

Workbox

The copper alloy workbox is an example of a type of artefact which has been variously interpreted as a practical workbox or a relic box/reliquary, partly based on recorded finds of textile, pins *etc.* inside the boxes. It will be interesting to see if this one has any contents. They are small cylindrical copper alloy boxes decorated either as here with rows of punched dots, or with more elaborate linear and even zoomorphic designs. The lids of some have cruciform patterns which could have a Christian significance, while one from Burwell instead has style II animals. They have been dated to the 7th century, mostly to the second half of the century, by most scholars. Recently excavated examples in association with sceattas put their deposition if not manufacture towards the end of that century or even into the early 8th century. Recently published examples include that from Harford Farm, south of Norwich (Penn 2000: 62–4, fig. 88) which was decorated with rows and zig-zag lines of punched dots. This was in Grave 18, associated with two coins (sceattas struck around 690 and likely to have been deposited not later than 710), box-fittings; a bracelet, a purse-mount, a gold and garnet pendant, and a complex of objects inside the workbox including silver pins. A second example comes from burial 4202 at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton (Birbeck *et al.* 2005: figs 17–18), which was accompanied by two sceattas, a box or casket, a silver disc, a knife, gold and silver bulla pendants and glass beads. Both of these two graves are good parallels to Westfield Farm Grave 1 (although the workbox itself comes from Grave 2). Both have coins which provide secure dating for deposition to the late 7th or early 8th century.

Knives

Small iron knife blades are a long-lived artefact type, mostly not diagnostic as to date. Evison (1987: 113–117) identified some forms of knife blades as belonging to the 7th or 8th centuries. When the Ely examples are X-rayed it will be possible to see to which types these belong.

Buckles

The buckle belongs to a type commonly found in 7th-century Anglo-Saxon burials, that is often associated with a knife. Geake (1997: 79, fig 4.27) describes these as “small simple buckles”, and “overwhelmingly the most popular type of buckle in Conversion period burials”. In use throughout the 7th century, these are distributed widely across England. A recent classification of buckles by Marzinzik (2003: 33, pl. 60) would place this in her oval buckles, type I1a a-ii, which have a date range of the 6th to 7th centuries.

Preliminary discussion of cemetery dating and significance

By Catherine Hills

Chronology

All types of artefacts found at Westfield Farm are known from other burials dated to the 7th century AD. Helen Geake’s (1997) seriation of finds from conversion period graves identifies five groups, A-E. Group D, distinguished clearly from preceding groups, and dated 650–720/30, includes key types found at Westfield: the humpbacked comb, bulla pendants, plain palm cups, workboxes and linked pins. On her classification then these burials are likely to belong to the later part of the 7th century. The review of dating for individual types above confirms that. However, there is perhaps some contradiction between the late 7th-century date suggested for some types, such as workboxes, and the mid 7th-century date suggested by Scull for the Buttermarket grave with two palm cups (see below). Of all artefact types, one might expect glass vessels to have been too fragile to have survived intact for many years after manufacture. It may have been that the workbox and other ‘late’ types were in fact being made from the mid 7th-century, and so were buried at Westfield when new: examination of the workbox for repairs, or wear *etc.* might help here. Alternatively, the plain palm cups may have been made later. Another possibility is that these two glass vessels were indeed valuable and may have been carefully curated. The last scenario is perhaps the most interesting, but perhaps the most simple explanation is that the central Grave 1 with the palm cups, was earlier than those which surrounded it, including Grave 2 with the workbox.

The historical context of the cemetery

It is worth attempting greater precision on the cemetery dating because of the historical accounts relating to Ely. Bede records that Aethelthryth, wife of Ecgrith of Northumbria, left him to become a nun, and founded a monastery at Ely. This was in the 670s, and she died in 679, from a tumour on her neck which Bede says she regarded as punishment for having worn necklaces when younger. The search for a suitable sarcophagus in which to bury her led the monks to the “civitatum... desolatum... Grantacaestir vocatur” usually taken as the first documentary reference to Cambridge (Bede IV 19).

Do the Westfield Farm burials belong to the 670s, in which case they would have been contemporary with Aethelthryth, or to the end of the 7th century, a generation after her death? In either case the burials took place close to a Christian community living on a limited area of land in the fens. We might expect members of the monastic community to have been buried near the church, which these are not (although they do lie just 650m west of the possible monastic site at St John’s Farm), but given the

variety of burial form and location current at the time even that cannot be ruled out. Those buried in Graves 1 and 2 were elite females, the type of women who joined nunneries founded by royalty, one of them wearing a necklace of the kind Aethelthryth blamed for her illness, and including a Christian cross pendant. One of the most intriguing aspects of this site is the youth of both of these burials: Grave 1 is currently thought to be between 10 and 12 years of age, while the ?female in Grave 2 is a little older at 15 to 17 years. The elaborate burial of young (presumably female) members of the community, while other older female and male individuals are barely furnished, or are buried unaccompanied, is something which demands exploration in the publication of this site.

The wider context of the cemetery

The burials excavated at Westfield Farm, Ely fall into a pattern of 7th-century cemeteries originally recognised by T.C. Lethbridge and described by Leeds (1936) as ‘final phase’ in relation to the end of furnished Anglo-Saxon burial, a time when conversion to Christianity might have been assumed to have had an impact on burial rites. The idea was developed further by Hyslop (1963), in relation to burials from Leighton Buzzard, and by Meaney and Hawkes at Winnall (1970). More recently, Helen Geake has reviewed the material from these burials, under the title “Conversion period” (1997). It is now clear that the arrival of Christianity did not at once signal the end of grave-goods, or even always the abandonment of earlier cemeteries; it is apparent that the relationship between religion and burial rite in this period is complex. The church seems not, initially, to have taken control of burial and churchyard burial did not become the norm until the late Anglo-Saxon period (Lucy and Reynolds 2002).

During the 7th century there was a range of different burial practices: inhumation was the norm, although cremations have recently been radiocarbon-dated to the 7th or early 8th century at Southampton (Birbeck *et al.* 2005: 11–13). In some cases large cemeteries in use during the 6th century continued into the 7th century, for example Barrington (Cambs.; Malim and Hines 1998) and Dover Buckland (Kent; Evison 1987). In other places new, often short-lived, cemeteries were founded. There are also instances of rich burials within barrows: not just Sutton Hoo at the start of the 7th century, but also later, for example Swallowcliffe Down (Speake 1989). What characterises these cemeteries is the general decline in the incidence of grave-goods (which means that many burials of this date may remain unrecognised), together with a relatively large number of burials furnished only with a knife and a small simple buckle. Each cemetery also usually contains some well equipped graves. Spectacular male assemblages such as Sutton Hoo mound I, Taplow, or Prittlewell mostly give way to rich female graves by the mid 7th century, but there are also some male graves. One example would be Ipswich Buttermarket grave 1306, which was buried with a seax, spearheads, shield boss and two palm cups; this grave is dated by Scull through continental parallels to AD 640–670 (Scull and Bayliss 1999: 82). The recent Southampton Stadium finds also included male weapon graves as well as females with jewellery, of the mid 7th to 8th century. Here, a sample of a larger cemetery produced 23 inhumations and 18 cremations. Nineteen of the inhumations had grave-goods, including two females with gold pendants, and several weapon burials. Burials in Ipswich, London, Winchester and Southampton seem to fall into the same pattern, but because these are all later urban contexts — indeed were becoming urban at the time of the burials — we have incomplete preservation. At Winchester, Lower Brook

St (Hawkes 1990), for example, there were four burials, one with an elaborate necklace.

Cemeteries of this type are known from Cambridgeshire and East Anglia, for example Burwell and Shudy Camps, both excavated by Lethbridge (1931, 1936). The best recently excavated and published example is Harford Farm, Norfolk (Penn 2000). This is a rural site, completely excavated in advance of road construction. The burials were in two groups: in area A were 31 graves, ten without grave-goods, eight knife and buckle only, and three rich, while in area C/D there were 15, mostly with knife and buckle, but one well equipped. At Ipswich Buttermarket, burials were disturbed by later use of the site (Scull 1998). A total of 77 inhumations were recovered, 32 of which were accompanied by grave-goods, but most only with a single knife. A few were well equipped including items such as silver bullae and weapons.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval remains need no further work; they merely serve to illustrate the agricultural usage of the area during these periods. Of key interest is the Anglo-Saxon cemetery. It has nationally-important grave-good assemblages in Graves 1 and 2, and is a well-preserved example of this form of cemetery: small, possibly associated with a central barrowed burial, variably furnished and with significant potential for analysis.

The isotopic and DNA analysis will offer valuable information on diet, place of childhood origin, confirmation of biological sex, and potentially familial relationships. When combined with the full range of data on age and pathological conditions, and with the social information offered by further analysis of the grave-goods, a detailed study of this burial community will result; further historical and background research may be able to elaborate on the contemporary setting of the cemetery. Dr Lucy and Dr Hills both recommend full analysis and publication of this cemetery in an international journal, such as *Medieval Archaeology*.

Acknowledgements

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Lithics (Emma Beadsmoore)

A total of six flints (weighing less than 12g in total) were recovered from the site. The material comprises chronologically non-diagnostic waste flakes and a fragment of a scraper. The six flints were recovered from three graves; Grave 1 (F.17), Grave 2 (F.8) and Grave 8 (F.9), with two examples being contained in each. The flints were residual, inadvertently incorporated into the fills. However, they provide evidence, albeit limited, for background prehistoric activity at the site.

Appendix 2: Roman Pottery (Katie Anderson)

The site yielded a total of six sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 24g. All of the material was examined and details of fabric and form were noted, along with any other information deemed important.

The assemblage comprised small, abraded sherds, all of which were non-diagnostic, which is likely to be because the sherds were all residual. All but one of the sherds came from Grave 1 (F.17), comprising four sandy greyware sherds dating mid 1st–2nd century AD, and one vegetable-tempered sherd, dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. The final sherd was recovered from the subsoil in Area 1, consisting of a buff sandy sherd, dating mid 1st–2nd century AD, which was found alongside several later dating sherds of pottery, thus implying this too was residual.

Overall, the assemblage is too small to be able to reach any conclusions about any Roman activity in the vicinity. All of the sherds were residual and of poor quality, thus no vessel forms could be determined. The only possible interpretation of the material is that it appears to be early Roman in date (mid 1st–2nd century AD), but since no Roman features were uncovered, this is of little significance.

Appendix 3: Metal-detected Finds

The following finds were retrieved from the spoil heaps [20] or from subsoil layers / backfill of earlier evaluation trenches.

The coin and the tokens

Martin Allen

- <028> Silver coin, illegible, probably 16th to 17th century, possibly a clipped groat of Mary (1553–4). Weight 0.97g (bent and cracked).
- <117> Lead alloy ‘Boy Bishop’ token, penny size, Rigold series I, F; c. 1500. *Obv.* [SANC]TVS [NICH]OLAE. *Rev.* A[V]E REX [GENTIS]. Weight 1.96g (chipped and bent); diameter 16mm.
- <118> Elizabeth I (1558–1603), silver penny, privy mark Cross Crosslet (1560–1). Weight 0.45g (bent).
- <119> Lead alloy(?) token(?), 16th–19th century(?); illegible. Weight 0.71g (fragment).

The ‘Boy Bishop’ token is of a type probably produced in Bury St Edmunds, as the *Ave rex gentis* inscription on the reverse is derived from an antiphon sung at a visit of Henry VI to Bury St Edmunds Abbey (Rigold 1978: 91). ‘Boy Bishop’ tokens made in Bury St Edmunds, Ely and Ipswich between

the late 15th century and the mid 16th century, for religious purposes, are common finds in East Anglia and Cambridgeshire.

The relatively unworn condition of the Elizabeth I silver penny suggests that it may be a late 16th-century or early 17th-century loss, and the recoinage of pre-1662 silver coins in 1696–8 provides a probable *terminus ante quem*.

Small Finds

Andrew Hall and Simon Timberlake

Silver

<116> SF34. Silver thimble dating to late 19th or early 20th century, machine turned decoration. 22mm in height, damaged, no visible hallmark.

Copper Alloy

<025> Subsoil Tr. 6. Cast copper alloy buckle with traces of gilding. Oval frame with integral, rigid plate (broken) punctuated by a single rivet. The end of the plate has two decorative knobs or projections in line with the pin hole. Pin appears to be a replacement. Possibly a spur buckle and similar to examples published from London and Oxford that date to the 13th–14th centuries (Egan and Pritchard 2002). 32 x 26mm, incomplete.

<030> Fragment of sheet copper alloy. The shape suggests this could be part of a round vessel lid or cover. 70 x 35mm incomplete.

<120> Complete but damaged finger ring possibly in silver, but more likely in a copper alloy, with traces of a notched decoration to the edges and a central band around the hoop. No bezel. A maximum internal diameter of 17mm. Probably of Medieval date.

<121> Fragment of a cast copper alloy buckle frame with integral floral decorative motives to the front and a plain reverse. Likely to be from a shoe or belt buckle of 17th–18th century date.

<122> Copper alloy machine pressed overall button with four holes, 15mm diameter, 19th–20th century

<123> Copper alloy domed button, of pressed sheet metal, with loop missing, undecorated. 13mm diameter, 17th–18th century.

<124> Cast copper alloy flat button with loop intact. 19mm diameter. Reverse with script, “Superior Warranted, London” 19th–20th century.

<125> Fragment of copper alloy button. Estimated 30mm diameter. 18th–19th century.

<126> Copper alloy fob watch key. 27mm length. 19th century.

<127> Crudely cast copper alloy ring. Possible a harness buckle or related attachment. 27mm diameter. Medieval.

<128> Two fragments of copper alloy. One an irregular shaped strip of sheet, possibly a binding strip or attachment, 39 x 12mm. The other, a cast strip of irregular rectangular shape, 25 x 18mm. Both undiagnostic and likely post-Medieval.

<129> A copper alloy strap-end or handle comprising two copper alloy sheets either side of a central iron? core. Flaring to a rounded terminal. 21 x 23mm. Medieval–post-Medieval.

Lead

<141> A lead alloy (white metal) tack or nail with square section shank, 35mm length. Undated.

<142> Seven fragments of lead including sheet offcuts, casting spill, a fragment of window lead and a possible seal fragment. All recovered from the topsoil and Medieval–post-Medieval in date.

<143> SF5. Small folded fragment of lead sheet. 19 x 10mm.

Iron

<029> Two heavily corroded iron objects recovered from the subsoil. One of semicircular shape and dished with a centrally placed projection on the diameter. Initial appearance suggests a pendant or decorative fitting. 65 x 45mm. Requires X-ray for accurate identification. The other consists of two plates offset from each other, separated by a central rib. Has the appearance of shrapnel.

<079> SF6. F.28. Small fragment of a horseshoe. 32 x 23mm.

<080> SF7. F.28. Large iron stud with tapering square section shank of 50mm length and square, domed head of 35mm width. Similar to a published example from Norwich (Margeson 1993: 147).

<130> Fragment of a large horseshoe and a fragment of a curved iron bar, possibly a hook or hooked tool 82 x 36mm.

<131> A small fragment of a horseshoe. 70 x 22mm.

<132> A group of eight nails of varying size, some incomplete, the largest measuring 95mm in length. All recovered from the topsoil spoilheap.

<133> A large well made iron ring of square section with a diameter of 58mm. Likely to originate from agricultural or horticultural machinery.

<134> An irregular shaped Iron slab consisting of at least three "layers" of metal with a iron wire loop attached to one side possibly for suspension. This could be the fragmentary remains of a padlock. 44 x 29mm. Requires X-ray.

<135> Three fragments, including a short length of iron sheet and two cast, irregular shaped objects. One resembles a tapered tool such as a small chisel. Both are most likely plough or harrow fragments.

<136> Probably part of a small 'billet' of forged iron – a state prior to being work forged into an artefact. The presence of a dark grey hammerscale over part of the surface supports the notion that this has been forged on an anvil from a bloom into raw iron. There appears to be a break at one end. This implies the presence of a blacksmith's forge and metal-working but not the smelting of iron. Any absence of iron slag on site might suggest that the iron blooms arrived on site largely refined to billets or bars and ready for ironworking.

<137> A small fragment of a horseshoe. 40 x 20mm.

<139> A large stud with slightly offset shank of square section of 62mm in length. The head is oval in shape and slightly domed. Has some similarities to small metal-working anvils (Margeson 1993: 175) but is of a much smaller size.

<140> A length of finely forged iron strip, folded over tightly to form an ornate terminal. Possibly an architectural fitting. Length 160mm.

<147> A large hand forged nail, with square section shank and rounded head. 105mm in length.

Grave No.	Feature No	Skeleton No.	Age	Sex	Pathology	DNA	Further work needed
G1	17	51	older juvenile (10-12yrs)	?		mandible in fridge	Yes
G2	8	45	older subadult (15-17 years)	?female		skull & mandible in fridge	Yes
G3	11	28	subadult (c. 14-16 years)	?		mandible in fridge	Yes
G4	14	32	older middle/young mature adult	female	spondylolosis of L5		
G5	23	66	older subadult/young adult (17-20yrs)	?male	enamel hypaplasia	mandible in fridge	Yes
G6	21	63	middle adult	male	calculus, compression fracture of L5?	mandible in fridge	Yes
G7	20	60	middle/mature	female	OA in left elbow, spine & AMTL	mandible in fridge	Yes
G8	14	36	young adult	?		mandible in fridge	Yes
G9	19	57	older infant (4/5yrs)	?		2x teeth in fridge	
G10	10	25	young adult	female		mandible in fridge	Yes
G11	12	38	middle/mature	??female	degenerative disease in spine	mandible in fridge	Yes
G12	18	54	younger middle adult	male	fractured l. clavicle, calculus	mandible in fridge	Yes
G13	16	48	older middle adult	?male			
G14	13	39	younger middle adult (31-35yrs)	? male	degenerative disease in spine		
G15	15	42	young adult	? male	degenerative joint disease	mandible in fridge	Yes