

Lion Mill Soham Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Lion Mills, Soham, Cambridgeshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In December 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting at the site of the former Lion Mills, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 590 729). The evaluation revealed medieval ditches and pits close to Clay Street at the northern edge of the site, together with an undated ditch parallel to the road frontage. Three ditches of uncertain function were also found at the south-west of the site. These may be of medieval or post-medieval date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In December 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Lion Mills, Soham, Cambridgeshire (fig. 1), on behalf of CgMs Consulting prior to submission of a planning application, for possible redevelopment of the site for housing. A brief was prepared by CgMs (CgMs 2006) and a WSI agreed with Andy Thomas, Principal Archaeologist, Land Use and Planning: Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). The development site is at the south-western edge of the built-up area of Soham at NGR: TL 590 729 and is 3.1 hectares in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies at the south-western edge of the built-up area of Soham and straddles the Soham Lode. The evaluation took place in the main mill site, which lies to the north of the Lode. Levels rise in a gentle slope from the banks of Soham Lode at *c* 5.5 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the northern boundary on Clay Street at *c* 7.2 m aOD.

1.2.2 The solid geology comprises Chalk of Cretaceous date, overlain by Gault Clay.

1.2.3 Geotechnical investigations were carried out on the site in June 2005 by Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (Europe) Ltd. These investigations confirmed that the site is underlain by Gault Clay.

1.2.4 The site is currently occupied by the former Lion Mills complex, comprising silos, warehouses, a weigh-bridge, other site buildings and areas of concrete and tarmac hard standing. In the northern part of the site there are areas of grassland overgrown with brambles and substantial willow trees. In this northern area spoil heaps are dispersed randomly across the site.

1.2.5 The site is bordered to the north by Clay Street, to the west by properties off Mill Corner, to the south by Soham Lode and to the east by land to the rear of a residential care home (Keith Leonard House).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (CgMs 2005). It is not intended to reproduce the results of the study beyond a brief summary (below).
- 1.3.2 Soham is sited on a ridge of slightly higher ground overlooking an extensive area of fenland to the west. The topographic position of the site, on the edge of a well-drained fertile ridge of land overlooking fenland, is the type of topographic location, which has been shown to have a high archaeological potential.
- 1.3.3 There is potential for prehistoric remains, particularly those that relate to increasing land clearance and use in the late prehistoric periods (Bronze Age and Iron Age).
- 1.3.4 A small Roman cemetery has been found within Soham and it is thought that there may be a Roman road in the area, but evidence for Roman settlement is limited.
- 1.3.5 St. Andrews Church is thought to be on the site of a monastery founded in c 630 AD by St. Felix, which was subsequently over-shadowed by the monastic settlement at Ely.
- 1.3.6 There is extensive evidence of Saxon and early medieval settlement within what is now Soham, although by analogy with other Saxon settlement sites, a location away from the fen-edge is more probable. It is possible that there was a Saxon Mill in the vicinity of the current mill site.
- 1.3.7 From the medieval period onwards the land is likely to have been farmed, with medieval and post-medieval settlement developing around the historic core of Soham.
- 1.3.8 The Soham Lode, which runs to the south of Soham, through the development area, is thought to have been created or modified as a 17th century diversion of the River Snail.
- 1.3.9 Maps of the area show a group of rectangular fishponds just to the north of the southern bend of the Soham Lode. It is thought that a series of deeper readings from the 2005 Geotechnical survey are likely to relate to the position of these ponds, which have been deliberately backfilled with rubble.
- 1.3.10 In 1670 it is recorded that two water-mills were located 'east of the mere' and by 1841 Soham Mill was in use as a corn-mill.
- 1.3.11 Soham Mill was sold to H. A. Butcher and Alfred Clark in 1876, and after the construction of the London to Ely Railway (opened in 1878) the mill expanded considerably. During the Second World War it was a major supplier of flour to London. In 1945 the mill was destroyed by fire and was completely rebuilt along with new silos in 1946-1948. The mill became redundant during 2005.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To clarify the impact of 19th and 20th century developments and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- To clarify the presence and character of any evidence of prehistoric settlement/activity at the site.
- To clarify the presence/absence of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon settlement.
- To clarify the presence and character of any prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, and medieval agricultural activity.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The proposed scope of the work consisted of twenty-nine trenches, each measuring between 10 and 25 m in length by *c* 2 m wide (Fig. 2). The lengths of individual trenches are detailed in the table of trenches (Appendix 1). Trenches 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 26 and 27 were not excavated following consultation and agreement between Andy Thomas of CCC and Sally Dicks of CgMs.
- 3.1.2 Trenches 11 and 18 were excavated within the warehouse buildings and are thought to be representative of the underlying sequence of stratigraphy in these areas, subsequently it was agreed between Andy Thomas and Sally Dicks that there was no requirement to excavate trenches 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17, as these areas seemed to be heavily truncated during the construction of the current mill buildings. It was also agreed that Trenches 26 and 27 situated on the southern side of the Soham Lode need not be excavated as they were in an area designated for a children's playground, where there would be no archaeological impact.
- 3.1.3 Elsewhere, Trenches 2 and 29 were lengthened to maintain the percentage sample excavated. An additional contingency trench (Trench 30) was excavated along the site frontage adjacent to Clay Street, following agreement between Andy Thomas and Sally Dicks, to further investigate the presence of medieval features and the state of preservation in this area.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.2.2 Where appropriate the trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features sample excavated to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All trenches and archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 A total of five environmental samples were taken from features within Trenches 20 and 30.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 A general description of soils and ground conditions is given and the distribution of archaeological deposits stated. This is followed by a description of the trenches containing archaeological or other significant features. Contexts are described according to the stratigraphic sequence (i.e. describing the earliest deposits or features first). Empty trenches are not described beyond the general description given within section 4.1. Further details of trenches and contexts are given within the Table of Contexts (Appendix 2).
- 3.5.2 The finds and results of environmental sampling are described, followed by a discussion and interpretation of the results.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The site is located on chalk overlain by Gault clays, however, no chalk was observed during the evaluation despite some sondages being in excess of 2.5 m deep.
- 4.1.2 The sequence of deposits was consistent across the site. The earliest deposits seen were within deeper trenches and within boxed sondages across the site and consisted of a pale blue-grey silty clay containing veins of orange sand and a fairly uniform layer of pale grey (Gault) clay. All of the features were cut from the top of the clay or above. Layers of orange brown clay and dark grey clay were seen above the Gault clay and are assumed to be alluvial deposits. These were observed in trenches 7, 8, 9, 11, 18, 21, 23,

28 and possibly trench 9. They do not appear to be linked to any specific archaeological activity. It is assumed that trenches 10, 14, 19, 20 and 22, which are within the same areas as the above trenches, would have revealed these alluvial deposits but that they have been removed during previous development of the site, or were unrecognised as alluvial deposits during the fieldwork.

- 4.1.3 Former topsoils and subsoils were also seen in some trenches, although in some cases these had been removed before the laying down of concrete and tarmac surfaces over associated hardcore deposits. Modern disturbance was extensive around the mill buildings and within one trench (Trench 19) at least four successive levels of reinforced concrete were observed.
- 4.1.4 The evaluation took place during a wet December and most of the trenches were wet, with gradual flooding occurring within most trenches, even those excavated within standing warehouses (Trenches 11 and 18), where water ran-off the underlying clays.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 Medieval ditches and pits were found within Trenches 1 and 30 at the north of the site, together with two undated, possibly earlier ditches within Trenches 2 and 30.
- 4.2.2 Two modern ditches were found within Trenches 7 and 8. These share a similar alignment and are possibly the same feature.
- 4.2.3 A pair of parallel ditches were found within Trench 20 and may be associated with a single undated ditch within Trench 22.
- 4.2.4 Changes in the level of the underlying ground were seen within the south of Trench 21 and the east of Trench 22. These are thought to relate to the former river bank and a possible shallow channel.
- 4.2.5 *In-situ* narrow gauge railway tracks were encountered within Trenches 10, 20 and 22.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 7)

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was aligned north-south at the north of the site, close to Clay Street and an group of disused wooden garages. Two medieval ditches (106/112) were revealed within the centre of the trench, together with extensive modern disturbance and the partial remains of modern floor levels.
- 5.1.2 The underlying grey clay natural (105) was encountered at a depth of 0.92 m below ground level (BGL), at 6.44 m aOD.
- 5.1.3 The earliest features seen were ESE-WNW and NNE-SSW ditches (106 and 112 respectively). These were cut from the level of the underlying clay.

- 5.1.4 Both ditches were of a similar size and varied between 0.5 m and 0.9 m wide and were up to 0.3 m deep. Ditch 112 had a rounded base and sides, whereas ditch 106 was squarer in section, with nearly vertical sides and a flat base. Both ditches were filled by a similar dark grey loamy clay (107/113) which contained animal bone and medieval pottery. No distinction could be made between the two ditches in the trench baulk (Fig.7) and it is thought possible that they are a corner formed by a ditch rather than a junction.
- 5.1.5 The levels above the ditches were heavily disturbed and ditch 112 and fill 113 were cut by a small modern pit (108), which contained modern brick and other modern material. The ditch fills were also overlain by a 0.1 m thick layer of dark grey clay (104), which was overlain by a 0.2 m thick layer of disturbed brown loamy clay (103), which contained modern brick. Above this a herringbone pattern brick floor and later rebuild were seen within the north-western side of the trench. These surfaces were of relatively modern date, being constructed of machine-made bricks. The bricks were overlain by demolition debris and the modern brown loam topsoil (101).
- 5.1.6 A modern pit (116) was seen cutting from beneath the present topsoil within the northern end of the trench. This was filled by brown silty clay (117) and brick rubble (111).

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 7)

- 5.1.7 Trench 2 lay within the north of the site on a east-west alignment and was approximately 35 m to the south of Clay Street.
- 5.1.8 The underlying natural consisted of a pale grey clay (204). Within Trench 2 this was found at a depth of 0.8 m BGL (*c* 5.80 m aOD).
- 5.1.9 A modern service pipe was encountered within the north-eastern end of the trench and was left *in situ*.
- 5.1.10 A single ditch (205) was seen cutting the clay within the north-eastern end of the trench. The ditch was aligned east-west and was sectioned against the eastern baulk of the trench. Here it was fairly well defined but it rapidly became much fainter to the west, where it appeared to terminate after approximately 2 m. The ditch had a rounded base and sides and measured 1.06 m wide by 0.4 m deep. It was filled by a brownish- grey clay (206). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.1.11 The ditch fill was overlain by 0.2 m of brownish grey clay (203), up to 0.4 m of modern demolition debris (202) and the current topsoil (201).

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

- 5.1.12 Trench 4 was aligned NNE-SSW within the north of the site and lay parallel to the boundaries of properties to the north-east.

- 5.1.13 The underlying natural grey clay (404) was found at a depth of 0.86 m BGL (2.25 m aOD). It was overlain by 0.38 m of brownish grey clay (403) and up to 0.38 m of greyish brown silty clay (402). This layer contained frequent modern demolition rubble. It was overlain by a root disturbed dark brown silty loam topsoil (401).
- 5.1.14 A small slightly irregular linear (406) was seen within the southern end of the trench at the level of the underlying clay. It was aligned north-south along the trench and measured 0.45 m wide by 0.9 m long and 0.13 m deep. It had a flat base and shallow sides and appeared to be at least partially root disturbed. Its fill, a brown silty clay (405) contained pockets of darker brown humic loam. No finds were recovered and the feature is interpreted as root disturbance.

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 4 and 8)

- 5.1.15 Trench 6 was aligned NE-SW within a field to the east of the site.
- 5.1.16 The underlying grey clay (603) was found at a depth of 0.6 m BGL (5.00 m aOD). It was overlain by 0.25 m of brown grey clay (602) and 0.3m of grey-brown loam topsoil (601).
- 5.1.17 A single shallow east-west aligned linear was cut from beneath the brown clay within the middle of the trench. The ditch (604) measured 0.6 m wide by 0.25 m deep and had rounded sides and a broad flat base. It was filled by a pale orange grey clay (604). No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 4)

- 5.1.18 Trench 7 was aligned north-south to the east of the site.
- 5.1.19 The underlying pale grey clay (706) was found at a depth of 0.86 m BGL (4.70 m aOD). It was overlain by 0.36 m of orange-grey clay (705), a 0.3 m thick grey clay (704) and the present brown silty loam topsoil (701).
- 5.1.20 A faint narrow NNE-SSW linear (707) was seen cutting the underlying clay within the middle of the trench. This feature was only 0.3 m wide and was filled by a pale grey clay (708) that was approximately 0.01 m deep. It contained no finds.
- 5.1.21 A possibly modern east-west aligned ditch (703) cut from beneath the topsoil was also seen across the middle of the trench. The ditch had steep, nearly vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.96 m wide by 0.48 m deep and was filled by a greyish brown silty clay (702). No dating evidence was recovered from this deposit.

Trench 8 (Figs 2, 4 and 8)

- 5.1.22 Trench 8 was aligned NNE-SSW close to the eastern edge of the site.
- 5.1.23 The general sequence was similar to that in Trench 6. The underlying grey clay was found at a depth of 0.32 m BGL (4.80 OD). It was overlain by 0.12 m of brown grey clay (802) and 0.2 m of dark grey-brown silty loam topsoil (801).

- 5.1.24 A east-west aligned ditch (803) was seen cutting from beneath the brown grey clay (802) in the middle of the trench. The ditch measured 0.75 m wide by 0.4 m deep. Its sides sloped evenly at 60° to the horizontal to meet a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay (804) which contained CBM and 18th/19th century pottery.

Trench 10 (Figs 2 and 5)

- 5.1.25 Trench 10 was aligned NE-SW across a tarmac area, to the south of the site and close to the Soham Lode.
- 5.1.26 The southern end of this trench was machined down into the underlying clays to reveal an orange-brown sandy clay (1008) at 1.63 m BGL (3.34 m aOD). This deposit contained veins of orange sand and is probably an alluvial deposit. It was overlain by 0.52 m of grey clay (1007), 0.26 m of brownish grey silty clay (1006) and 0.26 m of pale grey clay (1006). These deposits were overlain by up to 0.8 m of made-ground, hard-core, concrete and tarmac surfaces.
- 5.1.27 Within the north of the trench a pair of east-west aligned narrow gauge railway tracks were also uncovered at a high level and sit within the made-ground deposits.

Trench 20 (Figs 2, 6 and 9)

- 5.1.28 Trench 20 was aligned NW-SE across a tarmacadam area to the west of the site, and lay between a weigh-bridge and the mill silo complex.
- 5.1.29 The underlying grey clay (2006) was observed at a depth of 0.7 m BGL (*c.* 3.70 aOD). It was overlain by a 0.2 m thick made-ground deposit (2001) consisting of stone hardcore and fragmentary concrete and tarmac, beneath the modern tarmac and concrete yard surfaces (2000).
- 5.1.30 Two parallel ditches (2003 and 2005) were seen cutting the underlying clay beneath the made-ground deposits. Both ditches were aligned north-south and lay 2.6 m apart. The largest of the ditches (2003) lay within the western end of the trench. Its sides sloped at between 30°-40° to a broad flat base and the ditch measured 1 m wide by 0.4 m deep. It was filled by a dark yellowish grey silty clay (2002) that contained occasional animal bone and a single piece of struck flint, as well as frequent snail shells.
- 5.1.31 Ditch 2005 lay 2.4 m to the east of ditch 2003. It had 70° sloping sides rounding to a flat base and measured 0.4 m wide by 0.64 m deep and was filled by a pale yellowish grey silty clay (2004), similar to fill 2002. The fill contained occasional animal bone and frequent snail shells and a single piece of Roman sandy-ware.
- 5.1.32 A narrow gauge railway track ran along the southern side of the trench at a high level and crossed its western end. These tracks continued to the west and also cross Trench 21 and may be related to the tracks observed in Trench 10.

Trench 21 (Figs 2, 6 and 10)

- 5.1.33 Trench 21 was aligned SW-NE at the west corner of the site and lay to the west of a weigh-bridge and former site offices. The yard surfaces were of tarmac, with a concrete slab to the south.
- 5.1.34 The general sequence here is similar to that within Trench 20, except that the underlying grey clay (2105) sloped down within the southern end of the trench, where it falls from 0.8 m BGL (3.46 m aOD) to 1.56 m BGL (2.61 m aOD). The southern end of the slope was overlain by a charcoal flecked grey gritty clay (2211), which contained a post-medieval pottery base. The gritty clay was overlain by 0.45 m of dark blue-grey clay (2210), a 0.1 m thick band of dark grey clay (2109) and up to 0.4 m of dark brown silty clay (2204). This later deposit is probably a former topsoil. It was overlain by a thick concrete slab within the south of the trench and hardcore, make-up and tarmac elsewhere.

Trench 22 (Figs 2, 6 and 11)

- 5.1.35 Trench 22 was aligned NW-SE within the south-west of the site. A drainage pipe ran across the middle of the trench and the trench was excavated in two sections, either side of the pipe.
- 5.1.36 Within the eastern end of the trench the underlying clay falls from 0.8 m BGL (*c* 3.48 m aOD) to 1.6 m BGL (2.68 m aOD). It was overlain by 0.15 m of orange gritty clay (2209), *c* 0.1 m of brown silty clay (2208) and up to 0.4 m of dark brown silty clay (2207). The brown silty clays probably represent the former subsoil and topsoil in this area. They were covered by 0.56 m of modern made ground and the present yard surfaces.
- 5.1.37 A large diameter pipe of unknown purpose was seen within the remains of a modern brick structure in the middle of the trench. The structure had been robbed out from a high level and back-filled with brick rubble.
- 5.1.38 Just to the south of the structure, two narrow gauge railway rails were seen running across the trench. These were partially covered by tarmac and were left *in situ*.

Trench 29 (Fig. 2)

- 5.1.39 Trench 29 was aligned NNE-SSW close to the north-western boundary of the site.
- 5.1.40 The underlying grey clay (2904/2905) was found at a depth of 0.7 m BGL (*c* 2.75 m aOD). It was overlain by 0.25 m of pale brown silty clay (2903), 0.15 m of brown clay loam (2902) and the present topsoil (2901).
- 5.1.41 A single feature (2907) was seen cutting from the level of the underlying clay, near to the middle of the trench. The feature was quite poorly defined, with a fill that differed from the surrounding pale grey clay (2905) mainly in that it contained a concentration of blue-ish black mottles and flecking. The feature was roughly circular in plan and measured 1.25 m in diameter by 0.25 m deep. When excavated

the sides of the feature were found to be irregular and undercutting, with a irregular base. Given the shape and nature of it's fill, this feature was probably caused by root disturbance. No finds were recovered.

Trench 30 (Figs 2, 3 and 12)

- 5.1.42 Trench 30 was aligned SE-NW parallel to the north boundary of the site and adjacent to Clay Street.
- 5.1.43 The underlying pale grey clay (3003/3011) was found at a depth of 0.8 m BGL (c 5.20m aOD). It was overlain by 0.4 m of disturbed brown silty clay (3002). This deposit contained modern debris and is probably a disturbed former topsoil. It was in turn overlain by 0.36 m of hardcore and brick rubble made ground (3001).
- 5.1.44 The earliest features seen were two NW-SE aligned ditches (3006/3018 and 3008), which ran along the length of the trench. The earliest of these ditches (3008) was only clearly seen within the eastern end of the trench. It measured 0.4 m deep by at least 0.5 m wide. Its northern side sloped at 60° to the horizontal to meet a flat base. The ditch was filled by a greyish brown clay (3007) and truncated on its NE side by a later re-cutting ditch (3006).
- 5.1.45 Ditch 3006/3018 was similar in profile to the earlier ditch, with 40° sloping sides and a flat base. It measured between 0.8 m - 1.25 m wide and up to 0.5 m deep. It contained two fills, it's primary fill (3005) consisted of 0.12 m of pale grey-brown clay which contained a piece of animal bone as well as occasional mussel shells and some charcoal flecking. The secondary fill (3004) was up to 0.28 m thick and was a pale brown silty clay incorporating patches of orange clay, which may indicate that this is a deliberate backfill deposit.
- 5.1.46 The fills of ditch 3006 were cut by a series of small pits (3010, 3012, 3016, 3020, 3022).
- 5.1.47 Cut 3010 was a small pit seen within the NE corner of the trench. It had steep sides and a flat base and, as seen, measured 0.4 m across by 0.35 m deep. it was filled by a brown silty clay (3009). No finds were recovered.
- 5.1.48 A larger pit (3012) was excavated within the west of the trench. This pit had steep sides rounding to a broad flat base and measured 1.3 m in diameter by 0.44 m deep. It was filled by a dark grey clay (3013) with patches of orange sandy clay and frequent small round stone. The fill contained 4 sherds of medieval pottery, an unidentified small metal object and occasional seashell.
- 5.1.49 A smaller pit (3016) was excavated just to the east of pit 3012. It had nearly vertical sides and a flat base and measured 0.9 m long, 0.6 m wide and 0.35 m deep. it was filled by a grey brown clay (3015). Pottery from this fill was early medieval in date.

- 5.1.50 Two other pits - 3020 and 3022 - measured 0.6 m long by 0.4 m wide and up to 0.2 m in diameter respectively. Their fills were similar to that of pit 3016. These features were not excavated.
- 5.1.51 All of these pits appeared to be overlain by disturbed topsoil (3002). Whereas pit 3012 and 3016 are medieval in date, the other pits are undated, and given the disturbed nature of the overlying ground, are possibly later post-medieval rubbish pits.

6 FINDS

6.1 Pottery

by John Cotter, OA

Introduction and Methodology

- 6.1.1 A total of 81 sherds of pottery weighing 1053g was recovered (see Appendix 3). Most of this is of medieval date with a much smaller number of post-medieval types and two probable Roman sherds. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (e.g. decoration etc.). A small assemblage of pottery (24 sherds, 59g) derived from sieved environmental samples, mostly very small scraps, has also been included in the spot-dates although the quantification data have been kept separately from that of the hand-excavated assemblage.

Date and Nature of the Assemblage

- 6.1.2 Although the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition, many of the sherds are fairly large and quite fresh. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented.
- 6.1.3 The pottery appears to fall into three discrete chronological groups, Roman, medieval and post-medieval. These are detailed in Appendix 3 but summarised here. There are only two small sherds of probable Roman date (Dan Stansbie *pers. comm.*). These are grey sandy wares possibly of fairly local or regional origin and not particularly diagnostic or closely datable. Both are probably residual - that from 107 certainly is and the worn rim sherd from a context (2004) sieved sample is probably also.
- 6.1.4 The bulk of the pottery recovered is medieval and probably dates to the 13th to early 14th century. It possibly all dates to the 13th century (bar a few residual sherds) as the forms present are typologically fairly simple and, apart from one small sherd, glazed wares are entirely absent. Most of this (72 sherds) comes from a single

context (107) which also produced two definite post-medieval sherds including a large fragment of a slipware dish. The fresh condition and uniformity of much of the medieval pottery however may suggest a degree of post-medieval contamination of an otherwise purely medieval context. Most of the medieval pottery is in a single fabric - a pale brown unglazed coarse sandy ware with a grey core. This is probably of fairly local origin although there is some fabric resemblance to Ely-type ware but not close enough to suggest that source with certainty. The forms present appear to be exclusively from cooking pots with a variety of sub-squared rim forms and with sagging bases showing soot marks from heating. The pots may have been hand-built but with wheel or turntable-finished rims - another feature suggesting a 13th-century date. Only a few small scraps of other medieval pottery types are present including (from sieving of 3013 and 3015) two scraps of shell-tempered ware and a small sherd of yellow glazed fine whiteware. The latter may be Stamford ware (c 850-1150) or Developed Stamford ware (c 1150-1250). All three might be of Saxo-Norman date (11-12th century?) though they are almost certainly residual. No medieval pottery types obviously later than the 13th or early 14th century were noted.

6.1.5 Eight sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. These are of 17th- and 18th-century date. Two of the sherds are slip-decorated red earthenwares and are of some interest. The sherd from (107) is a large fresh sherd from a dish profile of angled or carinated form while that from (2111) is from the base of a colander. Both are decorated internally with very similar zig-zag designs in trailed white slip. Although Potterspury in Northamptonshire is the nearest best-known source for this type of 'metropolitan'- style slipware the designs present at Soham are not matched by any of the published Potterspury designs but find a much closer match with examples of West Norfolk slipware (late 17th to 18th century) found during excavations at Kings Lynn, Norfolk. However, other slipware dishes with this design are also known from Bedford, so there could be more than one source for this particular style of slip decoration. The latest pieces from the excavation (804) date to the late 18th century and include a tankard in brown salt-glazed London stoneware and a sherd of Staffordshire-type Creamware.

6.2 Lithics

The flint and burnt un-worked flint

By Hugo Lamdin-Whymark, Freelance

Introduction

6.2.1 A total of 15 flints and 17 pieces/33 g of burnt un-worked flint was recovered from the evaluation. The flint assemblage comprises four flint flakes and eleven chips; the latter all recovered from sieving (See Appendix 4).

Methodology

- 6.2.2 The artefacts were catalogued according to broad artefact/debitage type, general condition noted and dating attempted where possible. Un-worked burnt flint was quantified by weight and number.

The assemblage

- 6.2.3 The assemblage recovered from Lion Mill, Soham, was recovered from seven contexts (Appendix 4), but for the purpose of this report the flint will be considered as a single group. The assemblage consisted of four flakes and eleven chips. The flakes were all small, not exceeding 30 mm and bore few technological traits. There was no evidence of platform edge abrasion and it was not possible to determine hammer mode. There flakes do not appear to derive from a blade-based industry (i.e. careful preparation and blade scars), perhaps suggesting they are the product of a late Neolithic or Bronze Age flake-based industry; although this date remains speculative. The chips may represent genuine micro-debitage from flint knapping, but equally these chips may represent the accidental by-products of digging gravel containing natural flints. Their presence is, therefore, not necessarily significant. The burnt un-worked flint assemblage is exceptionally limited and was mainly recovered from the sieving of environmental samples.

6.3 Fired Clay

By Luke Howarth, OA

- 6.3.1 A total of 19 fragments of fired clay weighing 8.5 g were recovered from two contexts, all from sieved samples (Appendix 5). The mean fragment weight (MFW) is 0.5 g or less, which is extremely low: an MFW of less than 10 g is likely to indicate un-diagnostic material. The assemblage reflects this, as all fragments are amorphous. It not possible to give any indication of date or function, though it is likely that such material is derived from hearth or oven bases especially if associated with burnt debris or charcoal rich layers.
- 6.3.2 Fabric: fine silty - sandy clay; sand predominantly fine-medium quartz; rare mica silt/fine sand.

6.4 Environmental and economic data

By Dawn Irving and Rebecca Nicholson, OA

Methodology

- 6.4.1 A total of 5 soil samples from the evaluation at Lion Mill Soham ranging from 40 - 20 litres, were submitted for processing and assessment of charred plant material and other ecofacts (Appendix 6). All samples were processed by mechanical flotation in a modified Siraf machine. The flots were collected on a 0.25 mm mesh and after air-

drying were scanned for material under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification.

Plant Remains

6.4.2 The flots ranged in size from 10 to 50 ml and contained a range of ecofactual material. Elements of small rootlets were present in some flots indicating a degree of intrusion. Well-preserved charred plant remains were present in 3 of the flots; species present include free threshing *Triticum* sp (bread or rivet type wheats), *Hordeum vulgare* (hulled barley) and *Avena* sp (oats). An excellently preserved item of *Hordeum vulgare* (hulled barley) was present in sample 3 (context 3015) taken from a pit fill, while less well preserved grains of *Hordeum vulgare* were present in sample 5 (context 3013) a pit fill thought to be medieval in date. Less easily identified seeds of *Triticum* sp. (wheat) were present in sample 4 (ditch fill context 3017). *Avena* sp. (oats) and legumes (pulses) were present in sample 3 (context 3015) and sample 5 (context 3013). Charcoal was present but not identifiable and cereal chaff was absent from the flots.

6.4.3 Charred weed seeds were present in samples 3 (context 3015) and 5 (context 3013) of which the most frequent were from *Graminaea* (grasses) and *Chenopodium* sp (goosefoot). Un-charred elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds were common in sample 3 (3015); these seeds appear to be particularly robust and often survive where other organic material does not. Moss fragments were also present in sample 3, suggesting a degree of anaerobic preservation.

Snails, Ostracds and Foraminifera

6.4.4 Molluscs were present in all the samples, and were extremely abundant in samples 1 (context 2007) and 2 (context 2004) both from ditch features. The snails were extremely well preserved in both samples and a range of *taxa* were present, both samples were scanned by Carl Champness and contained a mixed assemblage of freshwater (95%) and terrestrial snails (5%) which indicated that the features must have been drainage ditches or contained flowing water. *Ostracods* and possibly *foraminifera* were also present in low frequencies in sample 3 (3015).

Fish bone and scales.

6.4.5 Extremely well-preserved fish bones and scales were observed in the flots from samples 3 (3015) and 5 (3013). *Taxa* included tiny *cyprinids* (*Cyprinidae* including roach, bream, dace, minnow etc.) and bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) as well as possibly 3-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*). These fish are all inhabitants of freshwater rivers and streams. The presence of freshwater snails and *ostracods/foraminifera* alongside fish remains particularly in pit context (3015) may suggest that the feature contained either floodwater or other redeposited aquatic material. *Anuran* (frog/toad) bone was also present in the flot from pit fill sample 3 (3015).

Other Finds Recovered by Environmental Sieving

- 6.4.6 Mammal bone was present in all samples, while frog/toad (*anuran*) bone was recovered from pit sample 3 (3015). Notably, individual, probably fossil, shark teeth were recovered from samples 4 (context 3017) and 5 (context 3013), which may indicate a degree of deposit reworking. Marine shell was present in samples 1 (context 2007), sample 3 (context 3015) and 5 (context 3013): identified shells included mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*) and cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*).
- 6.4.7 Pottery was present in samples 5 (context 3013), 2 (context 2004) and 3 (context 3015), and burnt clay found in samples 3 (context 3015) and 5 (context 3013). Burnt and un-burnt flint was present in all samples. All finds will be added to the Finds compendium.

Discussion

- 6.4.8 The excellent preservation of snails in samples 1, 2 and 3 demonstrates the potential for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction through molluscan analysis at this site and this should be borne in mind for any future investigations. It is recommended that 2L incremental samples are taken from deep, datable, ditch fill sequences. It is unlikely that pollen will be preserved unless waterlogged deposits are encountered.
- 6.4.9 Bones and charred material were also well-preserved, and limited anaerobic preservation is indicated in the deeper pit fills. During any further work, suitable well-sealed and datable deposits should be sampled in line with Oxford Archaeology Sampling Guidelines (2000) and English Heritage Sampling Guidelines (2002).

6.5 Report on the Marine Shell from the Evaluation

By Rebecca Nicholson, OA

Introduction

- 6.5.1 Fifteen fragments of marine mollusc shell (21g) were recovered by hand collection during the excavation, and an additional 44 fragments (21g) were recovered from the sieved residues (See Appendix 7).

Identifications

- 6.5.2 The majority of fragments were from mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), although two small cockles (cf. *Cerastoderma edule*) and a periwinkle (*Littorina litorea*) were also recovered. Details are given Appendix 5 below.

Discussion

- 6.5.3 The marine shells are likely to have derived from domestic rubbish, although the small size of several shells would have made them poor for eating.

6.6 Report on Slag

By Luke Howarth, OA

- 6.6.1 The material described (see Appendix 8) should be considered in context with the rest of the material from the site.
- 6.6.2 The large fragment from context (3013) is interpreted as being a waste product from smelting, however one piece in isolation should not be considered significant. The smaller fragments recovered from sieving appear to be geological with the exception of a small piece of un-diagnostic vesicular slag.

7 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

7.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 7.1.1 The evaluation took place during a wet December and ground conditions could be described as poor, with wet ground gradually draining into opened trenches. Within the footprint of the former Lion Mills buildings and immediate surroundings there were significant made-ground deposits and much modern disturbance, with some petro-chemical staining of underlying clays within these areas. However, the underlying sequence was fairly consistent across the site, with a uniform underlying pale grey clay which in turn overlay clay with sand at depth. All of the archaeological features cut from the grey clay or above and were readily identified. The underlying natural deposits were tested by machining sondages into the underlying deposits and to test for any overlying and masking of possible features by alluvial or fluvial deposits.
- 7.1.2 Therefore it is thought that the overall reliability of the evaluation is good.

7.2 Overall interpretation

- 7.2.1 A general scarcity of finds and features indicates that the majority of the site was either relatively undeveloped or that former remains, including those of possible former mill buildings, were destroyed during the various construction and rebuilding phases of the later mills and its out-buildings.
- 7.2.2 Only two main areas of archaeological interest were identified, one was close to the northern boundary of the site, close to Clay Street, where medieval ditches and pits were found, and to the south-west, where three ditches of unproven date were also found.
- 7.2.3 Two ditches (106/112) within the middle of Trench 1 form what is possibly the corner of a medieval plot boundary that relates to the present alignment of Clay Street, which is to the north. Medieval pits also cut ditch/ditches (3006/3008) which lay close to and parallel to Clay Street within Trench 30. It is possible that these ditches predate the medieval period, although it is thought to be likely that they are also medieval and also relate to the former frontages here.

- 7.2.4 A single undated ditch, which was aligned east-west within the eastern end of Trench 2, may be related to the features within Trenches 1 and 30 because of its proximity, but is otherwise of limited interpretative value.
- 7.2.5 A pair of parallel north-south aligned ditches (2003/2005) were found within Trench 20 and may be associated with a single undated ditch (2203) within Trench 22. A small struck flint was recovered from the fill of ditch 2005 together with small quantities of animal bone. The flint would suggest that these ditches are possibly prehistoric in date, but it is not certain whether the flint is a deliberately struck piece or an incidental creation. Elsewhere on the site, deposits containing animal bone have been medieval in date, so it would seem more likely that these features are also of medieval date.
- 7.2.6 Changes in the level of the underlying ground were seen within the south of Trench 21 and the east of Trench 22 and are thought to be the former river bank within Trench 21 and a possible shallow channel within Trench 22.
- 7.2.7 Modern ditches were found within Trenches 7 and 8. These share the same alignment and are possibly the same feature. 19th/20th century pottery was recovered from the fill of ditch 803 within Trench 8.

Summary of results

- 7.2.8 Two main areas of archaeological interest were identified, one was close to the northern boundary of the site and Clay Street, where medieval ditches and pits which probably relate to former street frontages were found, and to the south-west, where three possibly medieval ditches were located, close to the former river channel.

Prehistoric

- 7.2.9 The lack of any evidence of prehistoric activity in the development area is surprising, as there is a known Iron Age settlement c 150 m to the north-east of the development area (CgMs 2006).
- 7.2.10 The flints recovered during the evaluation may be late Neolithic or Bronze Age, but could also be accidental products of digging.

Roman

- 7.2.11 The presence of a Roman cemetery and coins (CgMs 2006) within the vicinity of Soham, indicates settlement/occupation activity within the Soham area.
- 7.2.12 The presence of a single sherd of Roman pottery, within a ditch in Trench 20 to the south-west of the site, may attest to Roman land management, division/drainage.
- 7.2.13 Further investigation of the site may produce more evidence for Roman activity.
- 7.2.14 The absence of Roman settlement/occupation activity within the development area is not surprising given its proximity to Soham Lode and the presence of raised ground more suitable for these activities to the north.

Medieval to post-medieval

- 7.2.15 There is strong evidence for 'early' medieval occupation along Clay Street. This is attested to by the pottery recovered from the possible boundary ditches and pits in Trenches 1 and 30, to the north of the site.
- 7.2.16 The environmental evidence from Lion Mills produced mussels, periwinkles and cockles and demonstrate trade with the adjacent coast, which may reflect the use of inland water ways for trade, prior to the drainage of the fens.
- 7.2.17 Exploitation of, probably local, freshwater resources has also been demonstrated by the presence of fish-bones and scales (roach, bream, dace, minnow and bullhead) from samples taken from pit 3012 in Trench 30
- 7.2.18 The absence of pottery between the 'early medieval and post-medieval, 17th to 18th century, may indicate a lack of activity during this period. This may be due to the focus of activity shifting elsewhere, or a reduction of economic activity caused by the Black death. Further investigation may provide better evidence for the nature of activity during this period.

Significance

- 7.2.19 The overall density of features and finds was low, with just two areas of archaeological activity identified across the site, in the north and to the south-west.
- 7.2.20 Possible medieval plot boundaries and rubbish pits were identified near the frontage onto Clay Street, and three possibly medieval ditches were found near to the Soham Lode in the south-west.
- 7.2.21 No traces of possible pre-19th century mill buildings were found.
- 7.2.22 There were significant and extensive made-ground deposits and disturbance associated with the development of Lion Mills, but away from these, features or finds were scarce and indicate a general low level of archaeological activity within the site boundary. Therefore the overall significance of the site would appear to be low.
- 7.2.23 The evaluation has produced evidence that Clay Street was a 'busy' area reflecting Soham's status as a large village or Market Town.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 PROPOSED TRENCH SIZES, LOCATIONS AND DEPTHS

Trench Number	Trench length (all trenches c 2 m wide)	Ground Conditions
T1	25m 1 m deep	Grass and nettles
T2	25m 1 m deep	Dense bushes
T3	25m 1 m deep	Dense bushes
T4	20m 1 m deep	Rough grass
T5	15m 1 m deep	Dense bushes
T6	25m 1 m deep	Rough Grass
T7	25m 1 m deep	Rough Grass
T8	25m 1 m deep	Rough Grass
T9	25m 1 m deep	Rough Grass
T10	10m 1-2 m deep	Tarmac
T11	10m 1 m deep	Inside Church/River building-Concrete
T12	10m 1 m deep	Inside Church/River building-Concrete
T13	10m 1 m deep	Inside Church/River building-Concrete
T14	10m 1-2 m deep	Inside Store Buildings -Concrete
T15	10m 1-2 m deep	Inside Store Buildings-Concrete
T16	10m 1 m deep	Inside Store Buildings-Concrete
T17	10m 1 m deep	Inside Store Buildings-Concrete
T18	10m 1 m deep	Inside Store Buildings-Concrete
T19	10m 1 m deep	Inside Store Buildings-Concrete
T20	25m 1-2 m deep	Concrete
T21	25m 1-1.5 m deep	Concrete
T22	25m 1-1.5 m deep	Concrete
T23	25m 1.5-2 m deep	Concrete
T24	20m 1 m deep	Dense Bushes
T25	25m 1-1.5 m deep	Rough grass
T26	20m 1-2 m deep	Tarmac
T27	20m 1-1.5 m deep	Tarmac
T28	15m 1 m deep	Dense Bushes
T29	15m 1 m deep	Grass
T30	15 m 1 m deep	Grass

Depths are taken from geotechnical plots and are indicative (T. Haines)

APPENDIX 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 1	Dimensions : 21 m x 2.2 m					
101	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			
102	Layer	Made ground	0.4			
103	Layer	Loamy clay	0.2			
104	Layer	Dark grey clay	0.1			
105	Layer	Yellowish grey clay				
106	Cut	SE-NW ditch	0.3-0.6	0.5-0.8		
107	Fill	Fill of 106	0.3-0.6	0.5-0.8	Pot, bone, Metal, shell	Medieval

108	Cut	Modern disturbance	1.1+			Modern
109	Fill	Fill of 108	1.1+			Modern
110	Cut	Modern pit	0.9+			Modern
111	Fill	Fill of 110	0.9+			Modern
112	Cut	SW-NE ditch	0.3-0.6	0.7-0.9		
113	Fill	Fill of 112	0.3-0.6	0.7-0.9		
Trench 2	Dimensions : 21 m x 2.2 m					
201	Layer	Topsoil	0.2			Modern
202	Layer	Made ground	0.4			Modern
203	Layer	Subsoil	0.2			
204	Layer	Pale grey clay				
205	Cut	SE-NW ditch	0.4	1.06		
206	Fill	Fill of 205	0.4	1.06		
Trench 3	Dimensions : 21 m x 2.2 m					
301	Layer	Topsoil	0.05			
302	Layer	Disturbed ground	0.5			
303	Layer	Alluvial?	0.2			
304	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 4	Dimensions : 31 m x 2.2 m					
401	Layer	Humic topsoil	0.1			Modern
402	Layer	Disturbed ground	0.38			Modern
403	Layer	Brownish grey clay	0.38			
404	Layer	Pale grey clay				
405	Fill	Fill of 406	0.13	0.45		
406	Cut	NW-SE feature (roots)	0.13			
Trench 5	Dimensions : 17.7 m x 2.2 m					
501	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			
502	Layer	Grey brown silty clay	0.26			
503	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 6	Dimensions : 26 m x 2.2 m					
601	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			
602	Layer	Subsoil	0.25			
603	Layer	Pale grey clay	0.52+			
604	Cut	E-W ditch	0.2	0.6		
605	Fill	Fill of 604	0.2	0.6		
606	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 7	Dimensions : 25 m x 2.2 m					
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Finds	Date
701	Layer	Humic topsoil	0.28			
702	Layer	Subsoil	0.48		Bone	
703	Cut	E-W ditch	0.48	0.96		
704	Layer	Grey clay alluvial	0.3			
705	Layer	Orange grey clay alluvial	0.36			
706	Layer	Pale grey clay				
707	Cut	NE-SSW linear	0.01	0.3		
708	Fill	Fill of 707	0.01			Modern
Trench 8	Dimensions : 24.2 m x 2.2 m					
801	Layer	Humic topsoil	0.2			
802	Layer	Grey clay alluvial	0.4			

803	Cut	E-W ditch	0.4	0.75		Post-medieval
804	Fill	Fill of 803	0.4		Pot, bone	Post-medieval
805	Layer	Pale grey clay				
806	Layer	Disturbed dark brown clay	0.12			
Trench 9	Dimensions : 23.5 m x 2.2 m					
901	Layer	Topsoil	0.4			
902	Layer	Subsoil	0.34			
903	Layer	Orange-brown clay	0.2			
904	Layer	Pale grey clay	0.58			
905	Layer	Sandy pale grey clay				
Trench 10	Dimensions : 11 m x 2.2 m					
1001	Surface	Tarmac	0.2			Modern
1002	Layer	Concrete	0.1			Modern
1003	Layer	Tarmac	0.2			Modern
1004	Layer	Made ground	0.26			Modern
1005	Layer	Pale grey clay	0.23			
1006	Layer	Brownish grey silty clay	0.23			
1007	Layer	Pale grey clay	0.56			
1008	Layer	Sandy pale grey clay				
1009	Structure	Narrow gauge railway				Modern
Trench 11	Dimensions : 10 m x 2.2 m					
1101	Layer	Concrete warehouse floor	0.2			Modern
1102	Layer	Hardcore make-up	0.5			Modern
1103	Layer	Former topsoil	0.3			
1104	Layer	Grey alluvial clay	0.6			
1105	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 12	Not excavated					
Trench 13	Not excavated					
Trench 14	Dimensions : 9.5 m x 2.2 m					
1401	Surface	Tarmac	0.12			Modern
1402	Layer	Concrete	0.48			Modern
1403	Layer	Former topsoil	0.46			
1404	Layer	Brown clay	0.16			
1405	Layer	Pale grey clay	0.7			
1406	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 15	Not excavated					
Trench 16	Not excavated					
Trench 17	Not excavated					
Trench 18	Dimensions : 10 m x 2.2 m					
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Finds	Date
1801	Layer	Concrete warehouse floor	0.2			Modern
1802	Layer	Hardcore make-up	0.2-0.75			Modern
1803	Layer	blackish brown clay loam	0.15			
1804	Layer	Orange brown clay	0.3			
1805	Layer	Grey alluvial clay	0.35			
1806	Layer	Pale grey clay				

Trench 19	Dimensions : 10 m x 2.2 m					
1901	Layer	Concrete slab	0.23			Modern
1902	Structure	Reinforced concrete	0.7			Modern
1903	Layer	Grey clay	1.5			
1904	Layer	Brown-grey peaty clay	0.2			
1905	Layer	Orange grey clay				
1906	Layer	Stone hardcore	0.45			Modern
1907	Layer	Black stained clay	0.2			
Trench 20	Dimensions : 26 m x 2.2 m					
2000	Surface	Tarmac and make-up	0.36			Modern
2001	Layer	Made ground	0.2			Modern
2002	Fill	Fill of 2003	0.4			
2003	Cut	N-S ditch	0.4	0.48		
2004	Fill	Fill of 2005	0.64			
2005	Cut	N-S ditch	0.64	0.4		
2006	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 21	Dimensions : 23.5 m x 2.2 m					
2101	Surface	Tarmac	0.04			Modern
2102	Layer	Hardcore make-up	0.16			Modern
2103	Layer	Brick rubble	0.25			Modern
2104	Layer	Former topsoil	0.4			
2105	Layer	Sandy pale grey clay				
2106	Structure	Backfilled brick structure		2		Modern
2107	Structure	NE-SW railway tracks				Modern
2108	Structure	Concrete track base				Modern
2109	Layer	Dark grey clay	0.1			
2110	Layer	Dark blue grey clay	0.45		Stone	
2111	Layer	Grey gritty clay	0.3		Pottery	Medieval
Trench 22	Dimensions : 20 m x 2.2 m					
2201	Surface	Concrete and tarmac	0.55			Modern
2202	Layer	Grey clay	0.35			
2203	Cut	WNW-ESE ditch	0.6	0.6		
2204	Fill	Fill of 2203	0.6			
2205	Layer	Grey clay	0.14			
2206	Layer	Pale grey clay				
2207	Layer	Former topsoil?	0.4			
2208	Layer	brown silty clay	0.1		Stone	
2209	Layer	Brownish orange silty clay	0.15			
2210	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 23	Dimensions : 25 m x 2.2 m					
2300	Surface	Tarmac and make-up	0.2			Modern
2301	Cut	Cut of modern services				Modern
2302	Structure	Cement services capping				Modern
2303	Layer	Made ground	0.4			
2304	Layer	brown silty clay	0.3		CBM	
2305	Layer	Dark grey clay	0.4			
2306	Cut	Cut of modern services				Modern
2307	Fill	Modern backfill				Modern
Trench 24	Dimensions : 20 m x 2.2 m					

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Finds	Date
2400	Fill	brown silty clay fill of 2401	0.5	0.5		Modern
2401	Cut	Modern ditch	0.5	0.5		Modern
2402	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			
2403	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 25	Dimensions : 27 m x 2.2 m					
2501	Layer	Disturbed topsoil	0.32			Modern
2502	Layer	Redeposited chalk	0.1			
2503	Layer	Made ground	0.36			
2504	Layer	Brownish grey clay	0.18			
2505	Layer	Pale grey clay				
Trench 26	Not excavated					
Trench 27	Not excavated					
Trench 28	Dimensions : 15 m x 2.2 m					
2800	Layer	Dark brown clay	0.2			
2801	Layer	Dark humic topsoil	0.05			
2802	Layer	Dark grey clay	0.7			
2803	Layer	Dark brown humic loam	0.15			
2804	Layer	Grey clay natural				
Trench 29	Dimensions : 25 m x 2.2 m					
2901	Layer	Topsoil	0.35			
2902	Layer	Brown clay	0.15			
2903	Layer	Light brown clay	0.25			
2904	Layer	Yellowish grey clay	0.5			
2905	Layer	Pale grey clay				
2906	Layer	Fill of 29070	0.25			
2907	Cut	Probable root disturbance	0.25	1.25		
2908	Layer	Brick rubble	0.4			Modern
Trench 30	Dimensions : 13 m x 2.2 m					
3001	Layer	Brick rubble	0.35			Modern
3002	Layer	Former topsoil	0.4			
3003	Layer	Pale grey clay natural	N/A			
3004	Fill	Fill of 3006	0.35	1.33		
3005	Fill	Fill of 3006	0.12	1.34		
3006	Cut	NW-SE ditch	0.45	0.8		
3007	Fill	Fill of 3008	0.25	>0.6		
3008	Cut	NW-SE ditch	0.4	0.5		
3009	Fill	Fill of 3010	0.35	>0.3		
3010	Cut	Small pit	0.35	0.3		
3011	Layer	Pale grey clay	0.3			
3012	Cut	Pit	0.44	1.3		
3013	Fill	Fill of 3012	0.44	1.44	Pottery	Medieval
3014	Layer	Sandy clay	>0.5			
3015	Fill	mid grey brown clay	0.35	0.66		
3016	Cut	Pit	0.35	0.66		
3017	Fill	Light brown clay	0.5	1.25		
3018	Cut	NW-SE ditch	0.5	1.25		
3019	Fill		N/A	0.4		

3020	Cut		N/A	0.4		Not exc.
3021	Fill	Dark grey brown clay	N/A	0.9		
3022		Small pit not exc.	N/A	0.9		

APPENDIX 3 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
107	L17-18C (bulk mainly 13-E14C)	74	871	2x glazed post-med red earthenware incl. carinated bowl with int. slip-trailed dec. (broad zig-zags) - poss. Potterspury (Northants) but design not exactly paralleled there - better parallels in W Norfolk slipware & at Bedford. Bulk (72 sh) medieval - prob. 13-E14C. Mainly 1 fabric - pale brown coarse sandyware - poss. related to Ely-types but seems coarser and lighter coloured. Incl. 8x rims - all prob. cook pots. undec, unglazed. Incl. sagging bases - many sooted. Sherds fairly large fresh. 3x other sherds incl. 1x poss. Roman greyware?
804	c1770-1800	5	87	1x bs Creamware ?mug. 3x bss & handle London stoneware tankard. 1x worn ?jar base post-med red earthenware
2004	Roman	1	6	Sieved sample <2> 1sh/6g. Worn rim sherd coarse pale grey Roman sandy ware - flanged rim dish? (D. Stansbie pers. Comm.)
2111	L17-18C	1	89	Base from a colander/strainer dish in slip-trailed red earthenware - dec. with slip zig-zags as dish in 107 but glaze (int. only) is reduced greenish-brown and white slip dec. has a matt black surface (prob. chemical reaction with reduced lead sulphides? From waterlogged deposits?). Poss. a kiln 'seconds' but ext. wear suggests use. Coarser fabric, thicker walls. W Norfolk slipware?
3013	13-E14C	1	6	Bs coarse pale brown sandy ware as in 107 (NB. Marking error? Sherd marked 2110 bag & labels marked 3013)
3013	13-E14C?	4	4	Sieved sample <5> 4sh/4g. 3x pale brown coarseware as in 107. 1x scrap medieval shell-tempered sandy ware
3015	13-E14C?	19	49	Sieved sample <3> 19sh/49g. 16x pale brown coarseware as in 107 incl. 13C-style cook-pot rim. 1x scrap medieval shell-tempered ware. 1x bs oxidised fine orange-brown sandy ware. 1x scrap thin-walled yellow glazed fineware - poss. Stamford ware or Developed Stamford ware (c850-1250)
TOTAL		81	1053	

APPENDIX 4 WORKED FLINT

	Context							
CATEGORY TYPE	3015	3017	2004	3013	2007	107	2002	Grand Total
Flake		2				1	1	4
Chip <10 mm ²	4			2	5			11
Grand Total	4	2		2	5	1	1	15

Burnt un-worked flint No./Wt (g)	6/6	6/17	1/1	3/8	1/1	17/33

APPENDIX 5 FIRED CLAY

Cont ext	Sampl e	Count	Weight	MFW	Description
3013	<5>	3	0.5 g	0.16 g	Amorphous; 4 -10 mm size
3015	<3>	16	8 g	0.5 g	Amorphous; 4 -21 mm size
Total		19	8.5 g		

APPENDIX 6 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

charred plant remains

Sample No.	Context No.	Sample size (g. or L.) and Flot Vol. (ml)	Charcoal	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other chard	Mollusc	Notes
1	2007	20L/30ml						++++	<i>Possible Medieval ditch fill Mollusc Rich</i>
2	2004	20L/50ml						++++	<i>Possible Medieval ditch fill Mollusc Rich</i>
3	3015	40L/20ml	>2mm ++ <2mm ++++	+++		+	+	++++	<i>Pit fill Fish +++++ Flint + Mammal +</i>
4	3017	40L/10ml	>2mm ++	+				+	<i>Ditch Mammal +</i>
5	3013	30L/20ml	>2mm +	+++		+	+	++	<i>Possible Medieval pit Fish +++++</i>

Key to Table: + = 1-5 items; ++ = 6-25 items; +++ = 26-100 items

APPENDIX 7 MARINE SHELL

Cntxt	Nos	Wt (g)	Sample No	Identification	Feature Date/type
107	13 frags	18g	N/A	Mussel, minimum of 11 valves Cockle (small). I valve	
	1	0.5g			
3013	1	0.5g	N/A	Mussel. 1 valve	?Medieval /Pit fill
2007	2 frags	0.1g	1	Mussel, minimum of 1 valve	?Medieval /ditch fill
3013	40	0.19g	5	Mussel, minimum of 9 valves	?Medieval/ Pit fill
	1	0.5g		Periwinkle. 1 Juvenile.	
	1	0.5g		Cockle. 1 juvenile.	

APPENDIX 8 SLAG

Sample <>/ Context ():	Weight (g) / Size (mm)	Description:	Comments:
(3013)	500g/ 100x50x70	A moderately dense fragment covered with a dark red patina of Fe oxide. The two largest faces are loosely flatish, though one is smoothly undulating, the other is rougher and appears more 'broken'. The newer breaks show a vitreous lustre on the un-weathered surface. Over the surface of the fragment vesicles are visible though most are infilled with pale coloured sediment. Inclusions consist solely of flint and range in size from 5-<1mm. The inclusions are a mixture of well rounded material to angular fragments.	Sunken hearth, smelting slag
<2> / (2004)	<10g / ≤10mm	11 fragments. The majority of the fragments are of a black moderately coarse crystalline material, all the fragments of this are angular. One small fragment has a more vitreous lustre and is vesicular. It also has a red brown patina and a smooth rounded surface. All of the fragments have some degree of magnetism.	Mostly fragments of igneous rock. One small fragment of un-diagnostic slag.

APPENDIX 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- CgMs 2005, *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Lion Mills, Soham, Cambridgeshire*
- EH 2002, *Environmental Archaeology, a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines.*
- Martin D 2000, *Soham Community History Museum: The Soham Book 2000*
- OA 2000, *Oxford Archaeology Environmental Sampling Guidelines. Internal Document.*
- OA 2005, *Land at Lion Mills, Soham, Cambridgeshire : Written Scheme of Investigation for a Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX 10 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Lion Mills, Soham, Cambridgeshire.

Site code: SOHLM 06

Grid reference: TL 590 729

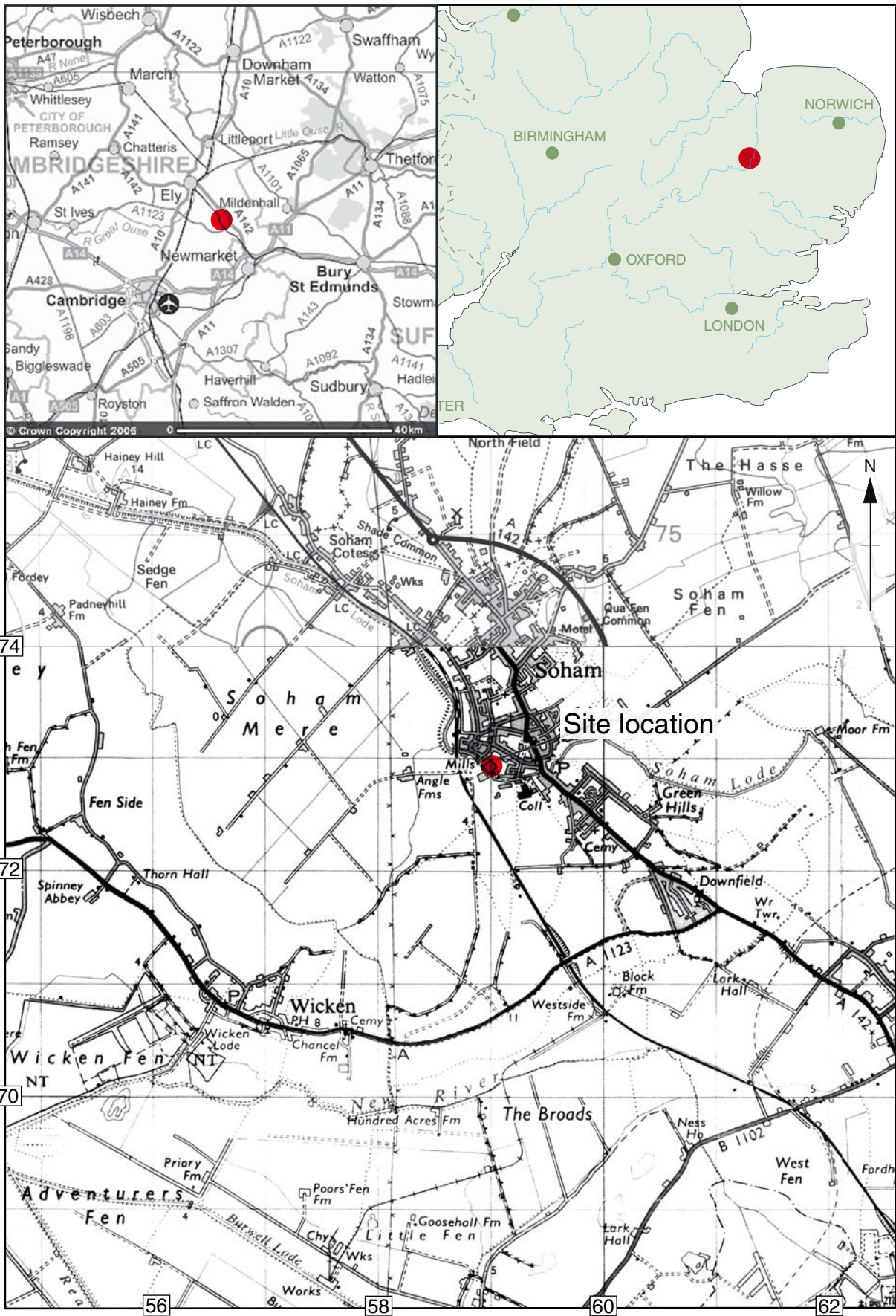
Type of evaluation: 20 trenches within the grounds and buildings of the former Lion Mills.

Date and duration of project: Three weeks, December 2006

Area of site: 3.1 hectares

Summary of results: Medieval ditches and pits found close to the street frontage of Clay Street, to the north of the site, together with two undated, possibly earlier ditches. Two parallel ditches which are probably medieval, but are possibly prehistoric are located within the south-west of the site, together with a further separate undated ditch. Evidence of a former channel and the riverbank was also found close to the south-western edge of the site.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with **Cambridgeshire County Museums Service** in due course, under the following **Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Resource number: ECB 2451**



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

\\Server1\projects\SOHLM\EV_Lion Mills_Soham_Cambridgeshire EVAL\010\Geomatics\CAD\001\Current\SOHLM\EV_20122006.dwg(Figure02)****evangelia.kappa* 19 Jan 2007

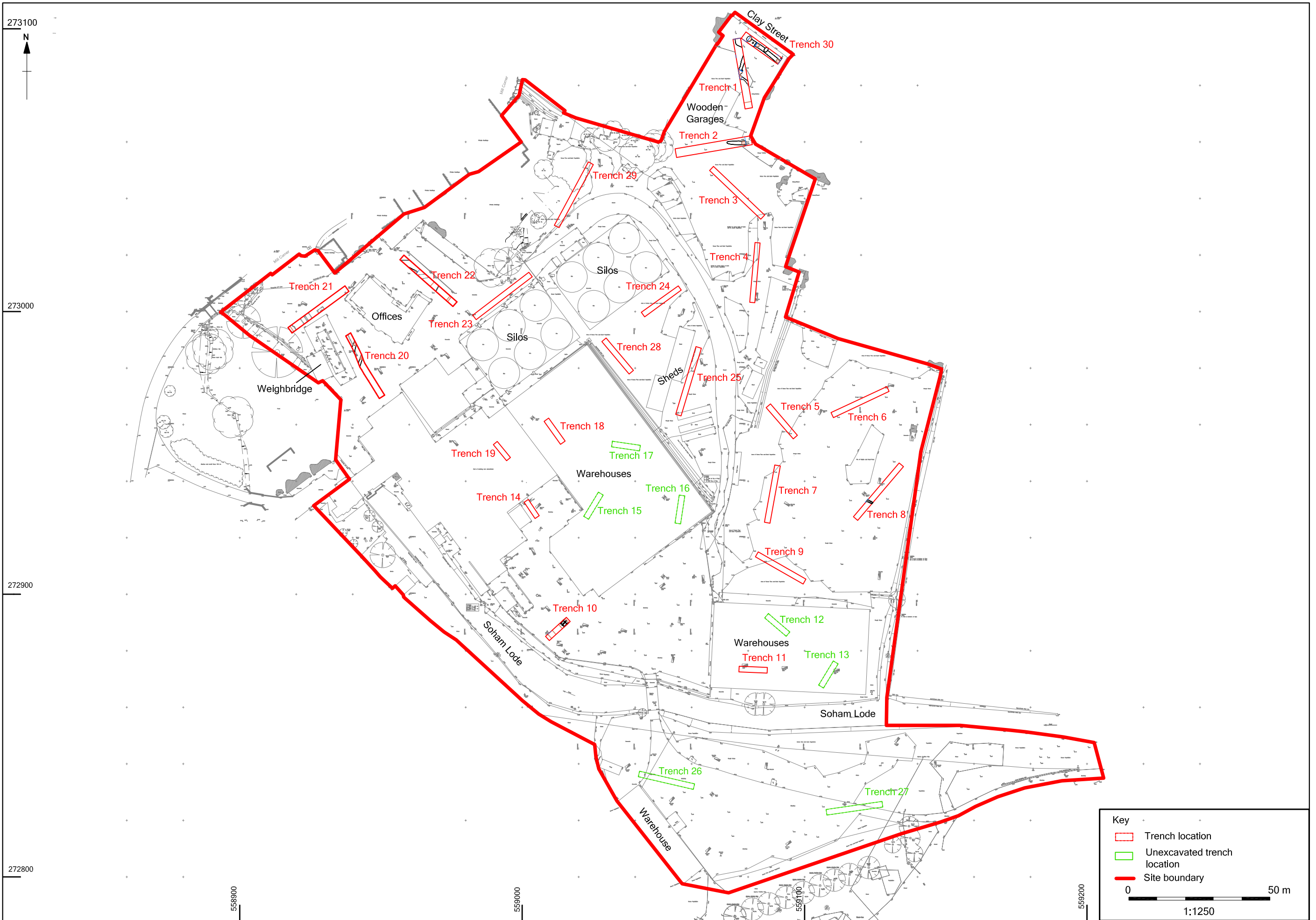


Figure 2: Trench location plan

\\Server1\projects\SOHLM\EV_Lion Mills_Soham_Cambridgeshire EVAL\010\Geomatics\CAD\001\Current\SOHLM\EV_20122006.dwg(Figure03)****evangelia.kappa* 19 Jan 2007



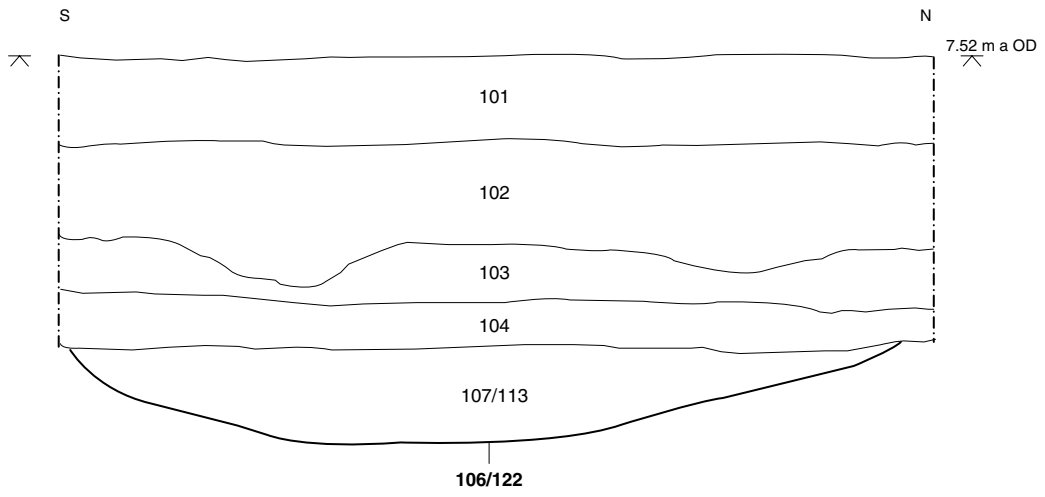
Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2 and 30, detailed plans

\\Server1\projects\SOHLMEV_Lion Mills_Soham_Cambridgeshire EVAL\010\Geomatics\CAD\001\Current\SOHLMEV_20122006.dwg(Figure04)****evangelia.kappa* 19 Jan 2007



Figure 4: Trenches 20, 21 and 22, detailed plans

Trench 1 Section 101



Trench 1 Section 102



Trench 1 Section 103

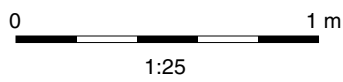
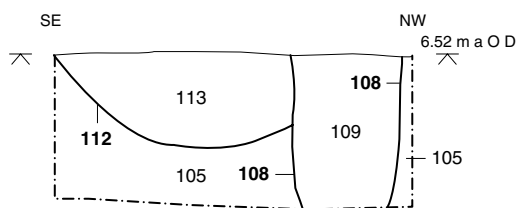
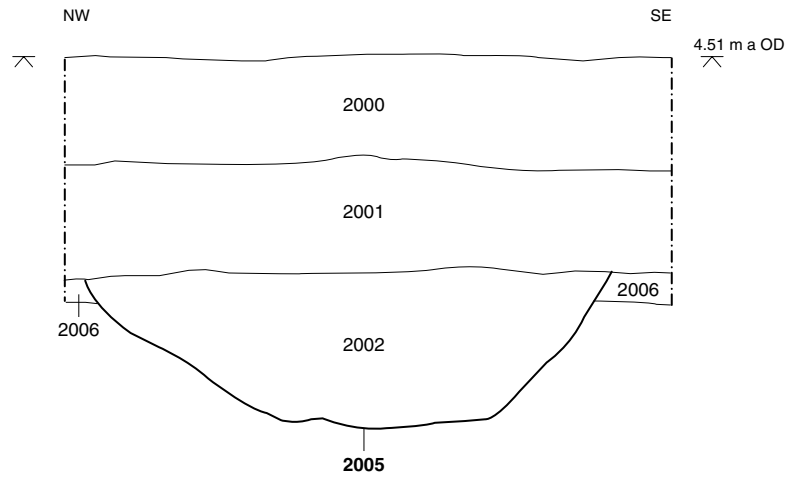


Figure 5: Trench 1, sections

Trench 20 Section 2001



Trench 20 Section 2003

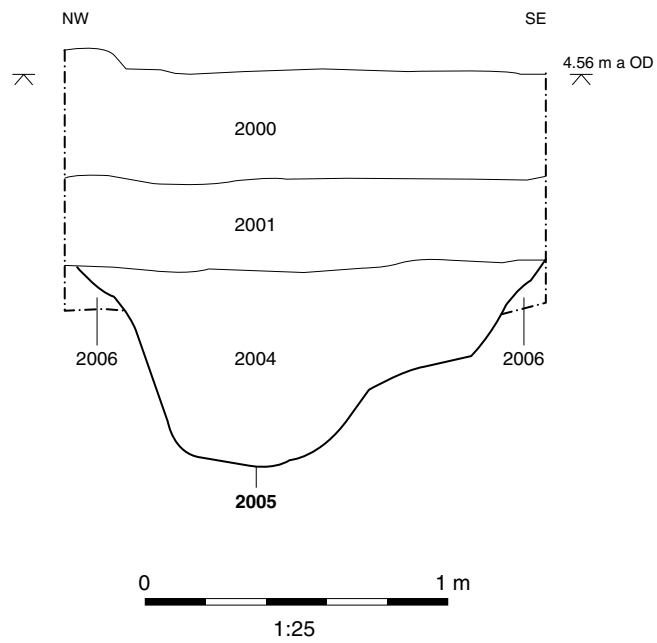


Figure 6: Trench 20, sections

Trench 21 Section 2102

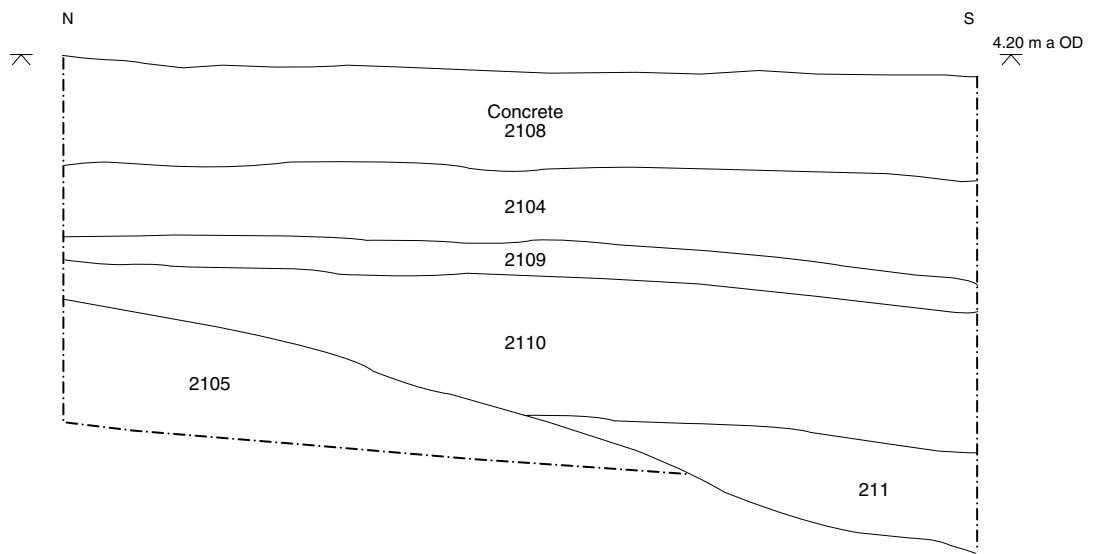
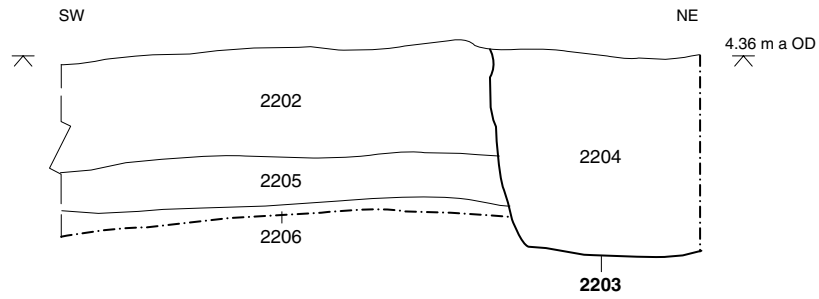


Figure 7: Trench 21, section

Trench 22 Section 2201



Trench 22 Section 2204

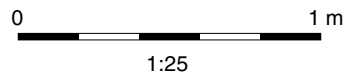
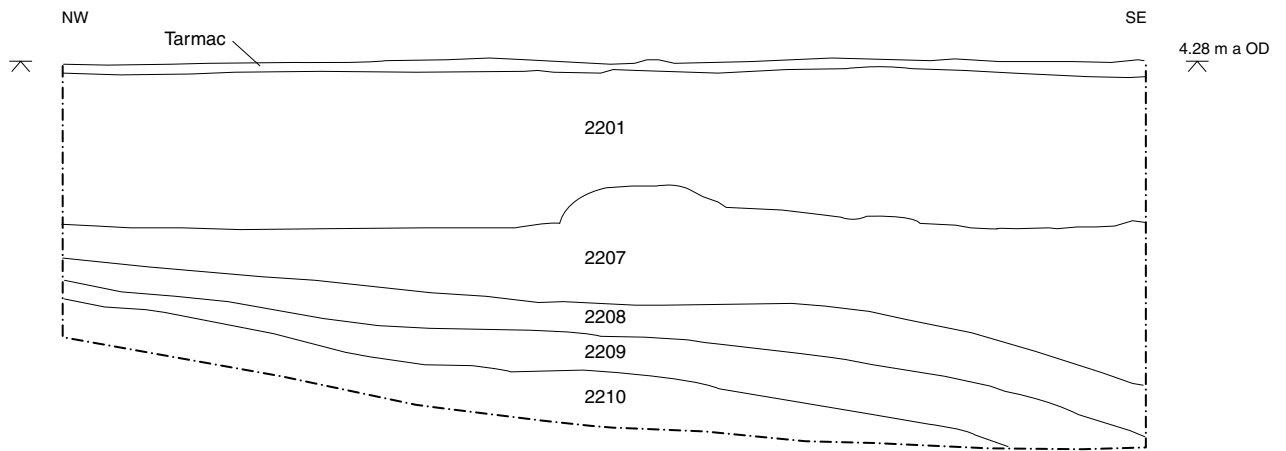


Figure 8: Trench 22

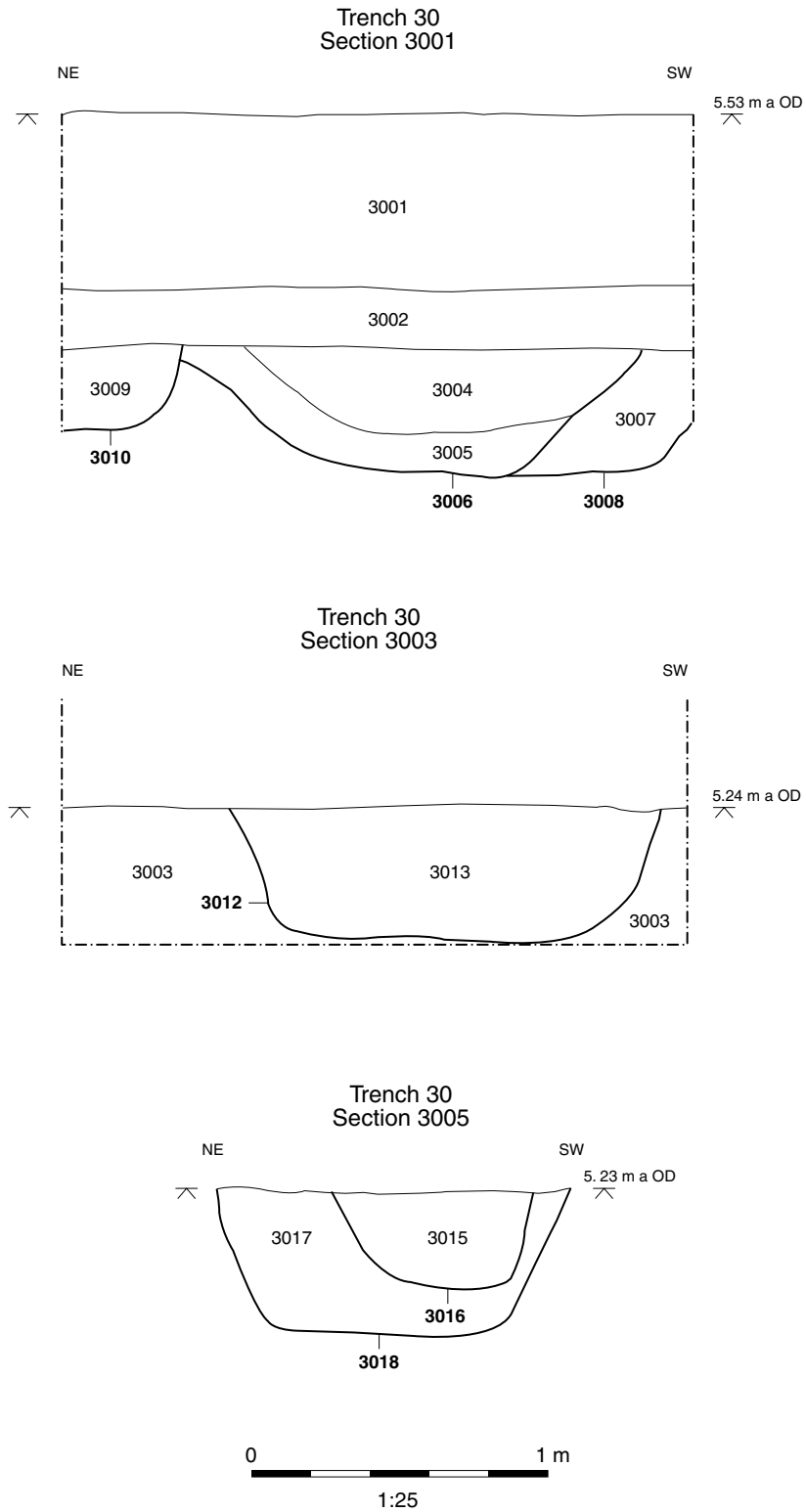


Figure 9: Trench 30, sections



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