Excavation Report

Roman and Medieval Settlement remains along the Stow Longa to Tilbrook Anglia Water Pipeline

Evaluation and Excavation Report

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Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement remains along the Stow Longa to Tilbrook Anglian Water Pipeline

Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

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Summary

Between November 2007 and October 2008 OA East conducted a series of evaluations and two small excavations along a proposed Anglian Water pipeline and associated pumping stations from Stow Longa to Tilbrook. The archaeological work was very piecemeal over long periods of time and comprised 14 evaluation trenches (700m) on land between between the villages, 7 evaluation trenches within Tilbrook and 2 small excavations within Stow Longa.

Within Tilbrook village there were at least two phases of Middle to Late Saxon occupation to the west and north-west of All Saints church and this was recorded over more than 100m length within 4 Trenches. The Middle and Late Saxon features ran in all directions including towards the All Saints Church boundary wall. These features are at odds with the well planned north to south and east to west gridded plan of Tilbrook today with the church in the centre of a large sub-rectangular gridded layout. This implies that Tilbrook was re-planned probably in the later 11th century. A few probable medieval quarry pits were also found and these seem to have been dug for the extraction of gravel. A large amount of modern make up deposits was uncovered near the river in the position where the 1802 map of Tilbrook seems to show there had been a mill leat.

In the area between Tilbrook and Stow Longa evaluation trenches found previously unknown settlement(s) remains between a 1km and 1.5km to the north-east of Tilbrook. An Early/Middle Roman period (2nd to 3rd centuries AD) settlement was found within within three evaluation trenches over a 400m area. Overlaying this settlement in one trench was an Early Saxon to Late Saxon settlement (6th to middle/end 9th centuries AD). This latter trench was by far the most dense with the remains of 20 postholes probably of several different phases, some in linear alignments, 13 ditches (Roman and Early/Middle and Late Saxon) and at least four pits. Two of these pits were dated to the Early/Middle and Middle Saxon period and had been used as rubbish pits.

An excavation at Church Lane, Stow Longa found six phases of occupation/activity. The earliest remains comprised a bank running parallel adjacent to the east of Church Lane. This bank was cut by a Middle Saxon ditch running parallel to the road and the latter could have represented a road-side ditch. The next phase consisted of a clay floor which was probably a 12th or 13th century date. This floor may relate with one or two of the east to west possible plot boundary ditches c.3m and 9m respectively to the north. This structure went out of use in around the 13th or 14th century as it was cut by east to west ditch. In the late medieval period (c.16th century), there was a probable post hole and post/pad structure and associated yard surface partly within the excavation area and was probably the structure recorded within the site on the 1591 map. The dating of artefacts within the cobbled surface show that it is likely this structure was abandoned by the end of the 17th century and the area has become pasture/grassland since.

The Spaldwick Road, Stow Longa, site found the southern boundaries of the former cobbled medieval road and its associated roadside ditch. This part of the road surface was abandoned by the early medieval period. After disuse, the ground surface was raised in the 18th century with a dumping layer associated with the adjacent 18th century brick boundary wall of the manorial farm.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 A series of archaeological works have been conducted over 2007 and 2008 between Stow Longa and Tilbrook prior to the construction of an Anglian Water scheme to construct a sewer pipe and associated pumping stations between the two villages (NGR TL 1100 7100 to NGR TL 0800 6900).

1.1.2 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed pipeline easement and other associated working sites, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.3 There were four phases of archaeological works proposed in the archaeological Brief issued by Andy Thomas (2007) of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). Phase 1 of the archaeological works comprised a desktop assessment and Air Photo report which was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains in the area of the proposed Anglian Water pipeline routeway (Atkins and Palmer 2007). This report was followed by a review (Phase 2) to assess the suitability and scope of the proposed evaluation strategy. Phase 3 was a field evaluation of areas of high archaeological potential and Phase 4, a mitigation of buried remains. Phase 3: Specification for archaeological evaluation was written in October 2007 (Atkins 2007). This specification was for the evaluation of 33 trial trenches for the whole scheme consisting of c.5% of the area. The Event Number for this work was ECB 2780.

1.1.4 Later the scheme for this evaluation was modified in places as Anglian Water decided to change various aspects. Instead of open trench laying where the pipeline was not running under existing roads, it was decided to directionary drill all pipe routeways within Tilbrook village. The route of the pipe scheme was changed near to Stow Longa after the discovery of newts which resulted in the proposal of the new route to run only along existing roadways within Stow Longa. Therefore the former proposed routeway which would have run to the west and north of Stow Longa church was removed from the scheme.

1.1.5 In the event, the archaeological works were carried out in an *ad hoc* way over nearly a year. The first works took place in November 2007 within the area of the Tilbrook pumping station and here an evaluation trench found post-medieval deposits within the backfill of a probable mill leat.

1.1.6 A Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording was written dated 15th January for 14 evaluation trenches (700m) along the proposed Anglian Water pipeline from the proposed treatment works at Tilbrook to Stow Longa village (Gore 2008). Between the 21st and 31st January 2008 Oxford East excavated these trenches and found an unknown Early Saxon to Late Saxon settlement. An interim statement of results was written as these areas were initially likely to be excavated (Atkins 2008). Later, Anglian Water decided to also directionally drill this part of the route and therefore no further archaeological work took place in this location.

1.1.7 Within Tilbrook village, in response to changed circumstances in Phase 3 of the project, a new specification was prepared in April 2008 for the excavation of two 2m² areas for

directional drilling (Drummond-Murray 2008a). Subsequent excavation found Middle Saxon features within both pits. The location of the directional drill pits were subsequently moved which resulted in a further specification dated June 2008 for the excavation of a further two 2m² areas (Drummond-Murray 2008b). Middle Saxon archaeology was again found in the excavation. A further test pit was excavated in July and found three probable medieval quarry pits.

1.1.8 In September 2008, in preparation for work within the two pumping stations for Stow Longa village, a specification was written dated 30th September (Connor 2008). A single trial north to south trench was excavated by machine at the Church Lane site. The evaluation trench revealed a single ditch at its north end on an east to west alignment, the ditch contained animal bone; a cobbled surface that covered the majority of the trench, the cobbled surface contained fragments of medieval pottery and tile in its surface; at the south end of the trench and adjacent to the cobbled surface there was a layer of clay, possibly the remains of a floor surface. The whole area to be affected by development was excavated in October and a separate event number was given for this work (ECB 3507). In October the second Stow Longa site was also excavated.

1.1.9 This report has collated all the evaluation and excavation work for the pipeline. The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography (by Rob Atkins and Steve Critchley)

1.2.1 The underlying geology comprises River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel in the area around the River Til, changing to Till deposits on the rising ground outside Tilbrook to Oxford Clays on the high ground for the majority of the area of the pipeline (British Geological Survey (BGS 1946 and web site (http: // www.bgs.ac.uk /magazine/geology/ home.html)). The River Til flows west to east and joins with the River Kym to the east and then flows towards the Great Ouse.

1.2.2 The archaeological work revealed the different geology at different points within the scheme. At Stow Longa the main excavation area within Church Road was underlain by Middle Pleistocene glacial tills deposited from the Anglian Glaciation. These were seen to be composed of stiff light brown to greyish stony clays. The contained clasts or stones were generally rounded to irregular in form and composed of predominantly chalk and oolitic limestones along with subordinate, flint, quartzite, sandstone and ironstone with some derived Jurassic fossils such as belemnite and gryphea species.

1.2.3 In the evaluation area between Tilbrook and Stow Longa (Trenches 10 to 22) the geography was more complex because of the size of the area involved allowing a greater appreciation of the spatial variability of the tills. Overall this area was underlain by the tills deposited during the Anglian Glaciation and can be described as for Stow Longa, but with the following additions:-

Within a number of trenches, patches of orange brown coarse fluvial gravels and chalk/ flint rich clays were noted derived and incorporated into the sediment load of the Anglian ice sheet as unmodified frozen ground. Numerous periglacial ground ice features were observed such as sand wedge polygons, ice wedge casts and cryoturbation remnants. The underlying solid geology is composed of Upper Jurassic Oxford Clay which is mapped as sub cropping in the stream and river valleys beneath an alluvial cover. Trenches 10 and 11, on relatively low land just beyond Tilbrook, fell into the edge of this zone, but any exposures were buried by late Holocene to recent colluvium deposits. Within Tilbrook village itself the natural was recorded as

yellow/orange clay gravel with some sand. The quantity of gravel increased northwards, away from the church. In the latter area the gravel sealed a blue clay.

1.2.4 The small villages of Tilbrook and Stow Longa are situated on the western border of Cambridgeshire and within the District of Huntingdonshire. Both villages are located approximately 3km and 4km to the north-west and north respectively of the large village/small town of Kimbolton.

1.2.5 Both villages were originally built, at least in part, due to geographic reasons. Tilbrook was built in the middle of a valley bottom at the junction of two roads and the River Til (Fig. 6). Stow Longa was built on a promontory at the northern edge of a high ridge (Figs. 4, 12a and 12b). The location was a gateway into the ridge, where a north to south roadway crossed a stream directly below and then passed to the west of St Botolph's church before crossing an east to west roadway (Fig. 16).

1.2.6 The pipeline runs from Tilbrook (NGR TL 0800 6900) for *c.*4.2km in a roughly north-east direction to Stow Longa (NGR TL 1100 7100) and the middle of the route is centred at TL 0959 7016 (Fig.1). Tilbrook is on the River Til at *c.*33m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), the pipeline rises to over 80m AOD at Kimbolton Hill, at the top of the ridge before falling slightly to between 68m and 71m AOD at Stow Longa.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The air photo, archaeological, cartographic and historical references for the area have been extensively cited in the desktop assessment and air photo report (Atkins and Palmer 2007). This is an abridged version of the above report.

Stow Longa – historical and cartographic evidence

1.3.2 Stow Longa is within the Leightonstone hundred of Huntingdonshire. The village lies on a ridge between the River Kym and Alconbury Brook systems, both tributaries of the River Great Ouse and this ridge provided a favourable position for the siting of several villages in the post-Roman period (Spoerry and Last 1996, 1). However, the north-west/south-east alignment of this and other ridges and small valleys, which provide the most obvious choices for routeways linking settlements in the area, is at odds with the current road system, which exhibits a pronounced north-east/south-west orientation. It has been suggested that earlier trackways may have exhibited the former, more natural alignment but that they were replaced by north-east/south-west routes linking the major roads which eventually became the A14 and A45 (C. Taylor, pers. comm. quoted in Spoerry and Last 1996, 1). At Stow Longa this reorientation may be evidenced by the medieval church lying on what is now a minor route running north-west out of the village while the majority of the village runs along the road from Spaldwick to Covington and a minor road leads to Kimbolton.

1.3.3 Stow Longa was called Estou, Estove in the middle 11th century, Stowe by 1219, Oueristowe by 1248 and Longestowe by 1286 (Mawer and Stenton 1969, 248). Mawer and Stenton say they have no knowledge of the sense in which the term *v.* stow was used. *Long* probably because the village was somewhat long and straggling, *Over* because it is on some of the highest ground in the neighbourhood (Mawer and Stenton 1969, 248).

1.3.4 The district formerly known as Stow was in two parishes. The eastern part (Estou), in which were the church and the present village, known as long Stow, was within the

soke of Spaldwick and was of considerable area. The western part, of scarcely half the area of the other, was called Overstow and has always been in the parish of Kimbolton, being a parcel of the manor of Kimbolton (Page *et al* 1974, 101). It is the latter half which is recorded in the two medieval maps (Atkins and Palmer 2007 figs. 9-11) with only the 1591 map re-published here (Fig. 17).

1.3.5 There is pre-Domesday Survey evidence for Stow Longa. The village/parish name and relationship with other parishes and manors in the immediate area suggest that a large pre-conquest estate may have been centred on Stow Longa, before it was transferred in 991 to Spaldwick (Taylor 1989, 74). This estate had belonged to Brithnoth, Ealdorman of Essex who died at the Battle of Maldon in 991 and he left two estates to the Abbey of Ely – Somersham and Spaldwick (Hart 1966, no. 25). Stow Longa as the place-name might suggest, was the mother church of this estate and consisted of Stow Longa, Spaldwick, Easton, Little Catworth, Barham and Upthorpe, so forming a compact block of land on either side of the Ellington Brook (Taylor 1989, 72).

1.3.6 The first physical evidence of probable settlement at Stow Longa consists of structural material within its parish church, St Botolph. Sculptured and structural remains indicate the existence of a pre-Conquest and a 12th century church, but the earliest work *in situ* is of mid 13th century date (RCHME 1926, 260). The church is dedicated to St Botolph, a medieval saint and Abbot *c.* 654, often related to gateways and bridges. This may be significant as the church is perched on a very high promontory with a steep slope downwards directly to the north where there is a brook/stream running east to west. The present bridge over this stream seems to be Victorian but there is too much vegetation growing to have a proper look. St Botolph is sometimes an early dedication popular with the Middle Saxons – given the probability that it was a mother church; it may imply the original church dates from this early period.

1.3.7 In the Domesday Survey Stow Longa parish was not included as a single entry as it formed part of the Soke of Spaldwick estate, which was recorded *en bloc* as well as presumably the western segment in Kimbolton parish. In 1109 this estate was transferred from Ely to the Bishopric of Lincoln as part of the compensation given to the Bishops when the new diocese of Ely was created. Although the manor of Spaldwick was the head of Spaldwick Soke for civil purposes, Stow Longa was the head ecclesiastically, with Spaldwick as a separate village and Easton and Barham as chapalries dependent upon it (Page et al 1974, 104).

1.3.8 Stow Longa was confirmed as a prebend by the pope on 6th February 1146, and again on 5th January 1163 (Richardson 2007, 14). This prebendal manor at Stow Longa comprised the rectory estate and advowson. The prebendal church was valued at more than £40 in 1291 (Page and Proby 1994, 359). The wealth and importance can be seen by the fact that it attracted people such as Thomas Wolsey who was prependary of Stow Longa 1509-14.

1.3.9 The post-medieval prependal manor farm was situated on Spaldwick Road and there was a large 17th century manor building on that site into the 20th century (CHER 00703). This location may have been the medieval manorial centre in this area – certainly earthworks suggest that part of a moat lies to the north of the Spaldwick Road, although this identification is not absolutely certain.

1.3.10 The Bishops of Lincoln re-located and re-planned many towns and villages in the 12th century onwards including probably Somersham village (Taylor 1989, 74). The church at Stow Longa was rebuilt in this period but it is uncertain what, if anything, was done to the village. As part of this exploitation of their large estates, the Bishop of Lincoln had

licence in 1215 to assart Stow Grove, less than a kilometre to the north of the village, and to impark it (Page *et al* 1974, 100-1). In 1330 the Bishop had a further licence to impark 100 acres adjoining (Page *et al* 1974, 101). This was a woodland deer park, which was, as usual, distant from manorial residence (Way 2000, 40; CHER 00701).

1.3.11 The estate remained the property of Lincoln until 1547 when it was exchanged for other properties and thus passed into lay hands (Page *et al* 1974, 98) and belonged to the Earls (later Dukes) of Manchester. The population of the village declined in size with map evidence showing that houses and the sub-rectangular green on the village western side became fields by the 19th century (and probably a long time before this).

1.3.12 In the post medieval period the village was relatively small with a recorded population in 1709 of 143, falling to 118 by 1801 before rising to 180 by 1831 and then 174 in 1851 (Hatfield 1854).

1.3.13 There are two late medieval maps for Stow Longa, the earliest is listed by the Huntingdonshire Record Office listed it as *c*.1590. It is likely that the map is earlier, *perhaps* middle 16th century in date, as there are many differences between this map and the later map dated 1591 (Figs.). Unfortunately only the western part of Stow Longa is drawn on both these maps – the areas largely within the Kimbolton parish. The eastern part of Stow Longa

1.3.14 The maps show there was a medium size green (a sub-rectangular enclosure to have been *c*.260m by 200m in size) with streets projecting off it including St Botolph's church on the north side. This can be seen on the western side of the village, a road runs from the green to Filman Waye (Fig. 17). On the east, the beginning of the road to Spaldwick is shown on the 1591 map with houses fronting this street. This Stow Longa village layout is probably Middle Saxon in origin.

1.3.15 Larger (mostly sub-oval) greens dating from the Anglo-Saxon period have been suggested nearby for parishes in the southern part of Cambridgeshire on low-lying ground (Taylor 2002; Oosthuizen 2006, 51-59). Taylor has argued that this is perhaps suggesting centralised planning in this part of central eastern England. At Haslingfield, for example, Christopher Taylor and Sue Oosthuizen have suggested that the whole ovoid area was a green (a 48ha site) and it may have been used as a very large ill-drained former meadow (Oosthuizen 1996; Taylor 2002, 62). Oosthuizen points out that Haslingfield's 11th century parish was built just within the green indicating that encroachment into the former meadow land had therefore just begun at the time the church was initially constructed (Oosthuizen 2006 fig. 3.6, 54). For Stow Longa the location of its church and green seem to complement each other and implies an early date probably Early or Middle Saxon.

1.3.16 The three houses shown on the north side of the road on the c.1590 map are not shown on this 1591 Bigrams map and had presumably been demolished (Fig. 17). The Bigrams map also shows that some of the closes have been sub-divided. The proposed pumping station on the east side of Church Road and the pipeline route running into Church Road are to be located just north/?just clipping a building shown on the map (Fig. 4).

1.3.17 The next map surviving for Stow Longa is the 1839 Apportionment and Plan (Fig. 5). This 1839 map only shows the eastern half of Stow Longa village and the area is shown for the first time in detail (the Jeffery's 1766 (Fig. 3) and the early 19th century 1" OS map were are both far less detailed). The proposed pipeline route and pumping stations do not affect any buildings shown on the 1839 map (or the other three mid -19th century maps of Stow Longa). The building to the east of Church Lane on the

1591 map has gone. The land to the east of Church Lane and the land to the south of Spaldwick Road (where the pipeline and pumping stations are proposed) are recorded on the 1841 map as belonging to/worked by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England and J. E Reade Esq. and others.

Tilbrook historical and cartographic evidence

1.3.18 The first documentary record for Tilbrook was within the Domesday book where it is recorded as Tilebrok (Mawer and Stenton 1969, 248). This name may derive from 'Til(l)a's stream' *v.* brock (Mawer and Stenton 1969, 249). If that is the case this must have been the old name of what is now called the river Til or (further down stram) the river Kym. Alternatively says Mawer and Strenton, broc may mean low-lying land (*v.* EPN). The river-name *Til* is certainly only a back-formation from Tilbrook.

1.3.19 In 1086 Tilebrook belonged to William de Warenne, a major landholder at this time who also controlled, for example the manor of Kimbolton (Page *et al* 1974, 79; Page 1972, 171). It was assessed at 5 hides and valued at 100s. There were twenty socmen there, who had held it in the Late Saxon period in Edward the Confessor's time and could assign their land to whom they pleased and put themselves under another lord as well as four lower status *bordars* (Williams and Martin 2003, 568-9; Page 1972, 171). William de Warenne had added this property to his fief by force (Page 1972, 171).

1.3.20 Documentary evidence is wanting concerning the early history of Tilbrook, but as William de Warenne also held the manor of Kimbolton, it is probable that their early history is identical, and that by 1199 Tilbrook, like Kimbolton, was in the hands of Geoffrey Fitz Piers Earl of Essex, the husband of the heiress of the Mandevilles (Page 1972, 171). Tilbrook later came under the ownership of the de Bohun family and Humphrey de Bohun declared in 1287 that the whole vill of Tilbrook belonged to his fief, and that the tenants there attended the view of frank-pledge that he held at Kimbolton (Page 1972, 171). Later the village became divided into three manors.

1.3.21 Apart from the church and village cross, the remaining buildings in the village are at least 17th century in date. The Late Saxon/medieval layout of the village is uncertain as virtually no archaeological work has been done and the earliest maps date from *c.*1800. These enclosure maps imply that the layout in Tilbrook is post-conquest. The map shows the centre of the village consisting of a large sub-rectangular space (*c.*450m by 300m) with All Saints Church roughly in the centre. The main Kimbolton Road (turnpiked road from Higham Ferrers to Kimbolton) runs along the south part of this rectangle and most houses run along the western and northern streets of the rectangle (now called Station Road). On the northern side just before the road turns north to Catworth there is probably a mill on the River Till and large associated leat on its western side. Within the rectangle space there is a gridded network comprising three internal roads all c.150m apart (two east to west roads and one north to south road (now called Church Lane). This map records that only a few houses front parts of these internal roads (for example the western side of Church Lane near the High Street).

1.3.22 This planned nature of the village is clearly seen on this 1802 plan and it is likely that this occurred in the later 11th or 12th centuries presumably by the Warenne family, a major landholder in the area who ownership also included Kimbolton manor (see 4.1 below). In the post-conquest period many villages seem to have been deliberately planned or replanned with peasant houses laid out along a village street on house plots of uniform or near-uniform size (Faith 1997, 225).

Archaeological Excavations and Surveys

1.3.23 There has been only three small archaeological works carried out within the search area as well as two finds spots located. Within Tilbrook village the 15th century cross was subjected to a small excavation (CHER 05221; Bray 1993) and a small evaluation took place at Chestnut Cottage, Station Road in 2005 (CHER MCB 16876; Doyle et al 2005). The latter evaluation found a small gully perpendicular to the road. It is possible that the gully relates to the post-medieval plot boundaries seen in the cartographic evidence. The backfill of the gully contained a 9th to 11th century pottery sherd and an undated ceramic building material object which could date from the Roman period onwards (Doyle *et al* 2005, 11).

1.3.24 Within Stow Longa village there has been a single evaluation (CHER MCB15839; Spoerry and Last 1996). This evaluation took place at Manor Farm on land directly to the south of Spaldwick Road. Earthworks visible on the site were demonstrated to be mainly the result of 19th and 20th century dumping and make-up, with the exception of a probable house platform by the road frontage, which was associated with, finds of late medieval and early modern pottery. This house platform was left *in situ* preserved under the modern dumping layers.

1.3.25 There was also some Late Saxon and medieval pottery, as well as a possible square lead wool seal (found in 1951 by Mr Wright) on the eastern periphery of the present Stow Longa village, just north of Spaldwick Road (CHER 00702). A medieval silver paten was found somewhere in the vicinity of Stow Longa but its relevance is uncertain.

Air Photographs

1.3.26 Two groups of levelled ditched features were identified. One of these, on the west side of the former airfield, comprises a linear straggle of enclosures and other ditches and is on the route of the pipeline (see 1.3.28 below). The other is south of Stow Longa village. Medieval fields cover a large percentage of the corridor examined (1km around the proposed route). Slight earthwork remains have been mapped in fields on the west side of Stow Longa and may remain from earlier occupation. Hard standing and tracks of the Second World War airfield have been mapped and the munitions storage area indicated.

1.3.27 Most fields in the area are now in arable use and this may assist the detection of levelled features from the air although it is pointed out that crops on clay may not readily indicate sub-surface features and that it needs an unusually persistent observer (or lucky timing of vertical photography) to record these. There may, thus, be more features below the ground surface than have been mapped for this assessment.

1.3.28 The main interest lay in the pipeline cutting through a probable prehistoric and/or Roman cropmark system which is likely to represent a single settlement. These cropmarks consist of a linear sprawl of small enclosures and other ditched features that follow a ridge of higher ground. Originally it was thought the cropmarks may represent two different systems (HER nos.10036 and 10039, Fig. 2) but the reappraisal by Rog Palmer shows these main areas are probably linked although there are less features recorded and it may be less busy here. It is at this point that the projected pipeline seems to cut through this settlement.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work especially Ian Boon and Karl Morrison who organised the scheme. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and this report was also edited by James Drummond-Murray. The Brief for archaeological works was written initially by Andy Thomas (Thomas 2007) and then a further Brief by Eliza Gore (Gore 2008), both of Cambridgeshire County Council. The various archaeological works were visited and monitored by Eliza Gore and Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council. There were four successive specifications for the separate sites along the route (Atkins 2007; Drummond-Murray 2008 a and b and Connor 2008). Steve Parnwell of Greenwillows Associates Ltd gave advice on newt fencing. Bar Hale, contractors for the scheme were helpful to the smooth running of the project.

1.4.2 I am grateful for specialist analysis from Barry Bishop, Peter Boardman, Paul Blinkhorn, Alasdair Brooks, Nina Crummy, Chris Fane, Carole Fletcher, Rachel Fosberry, Alice Lyons and Paul Spoerry. Steve Critchley, as ever, made an important contribution by writing on the geology of the sites and metal detected the main evaluation and excavation areas. Helen Fowler supervised the post-excavation work on the artefacts.

1.4.3 Gareth Rees surveyed in the test pits, trenches and the small excavations. Rob Atkins directed the evaluation with Jon House and Sarah Henley supervising various parts of the project with Hannah Bosworth, Louis Budworth, Caoimhín Ó Coileáin, Zoe Uí Choileáin, Anna Finesilver, Nick Gilmour, Steve Graham, Jonathon Lay, Ross Lilley, Tom Lyons and Rachelle Wood assisting. Ann and John Jarzabek kindly volunteered on site. Crane Begg, Gillian Greer and Caoimhín Ó Coileáin produced the illustrations. Photographs of the stamped pottery and bone comb were taken by Andrew Corrigan.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of the various archaeological works were, apart from the main Stow Longa site, general and these were to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.1.2 As the result of a possible medieval building and related features found in the evaluation at Church Lane, Stow Longa. The aims of the subsequent excavation were laid out in a new specification (Connor 2008) and these were to:

- To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record.
- To attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.
- To address relevant research issues relating to medieval buildings and settlement with reference to local, regional and national research priorities.
- To make the results of the work available to the public.

National research aims (English Heritage) that this site may have potential to contribute towards include:

- The transition from medieval to post-medieval traditions (c 1300-1700 AD). It is likely that this excavation will uncover features associated with a medieval/early post medieval dwelling. It will be a priority to ensure that any evidence for the transition from medieval to post-medieval will be fully documented, thus helping to add to the evidence for this period of archaeology.

Regional research aims (EAA Research Agenda and Strategy for the Eastern Counties, East Anglia 2000) that this site may have the potential to contribute towards include but are not restricted to:

- 'Characterisation of settlement forms and functions particularly with regard to the development of present day villages.' The excavation is taking place within the medieval core of the village of Stow Longa and is therefore ideally placed to contribute towards our knowledge about this topic.
- 'Households - there are few known plans of rural medieval buildings in Eastern England'. This excavation may have potential to provide information regarding the evolution of the medieval house and farmstead, given its location in relation to a house shown on Bigram's map of 1861.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The methodology on some of the different parts of the route changed over time and the work became very piecemeal. The original specification (Atkins 2007) had proposed 33 archaeological trenches with the majority of these trenches positioned over known potential areas of historical interest (from cartographic or air photo evidence). In the event only half of these trenches were excavated with the remainder modified or not excavated. These substantial changes were due to unforeseen circumstances. Most of the proposed trenches in Tilbrook village (Trenches 1-5) did not take place as the landowner decided not to allow access to the land apart from where drill pits were needed. Apart from these locations the pipeline were drilled under the land with any

archaeological remains seemingly unaffected. Proposed Trenches 23-31 in the original specification, mostly directly to the west of the existing village of Stow Longa, were not excavated as the Anglian Water pipeline was re-routed under the existing road network to avoid newts.

2.2.2 All locations for the proposed directional drilling pits, pumping stations, the evaluation trenches, excavation area and the treatment works were laid out by Anglian Water. The majority of the sites including the fifteen evaluation trenches between the two villages and work within Stow Longa were surveyed in by Gareth Rees of Oxford East using a Leica G.P.S. 1200.

2.2.3 In all, over the project there were seven different archaeological events involving several having very different methodologies – therefore each work is reported separately below:

2.2.4 Seven trenches (Trenches 1-7) were excavated within Tilbrook village. This consisted of four separate events over an eight month period with one or two trenches being excavated at any one time. All this archaeological work used a 3 ton kubota with toothless ditching bucket. Newt fencing was established around Trenches 6 and 7. Over 20th and 21st November 2007, the area of the proposed Tilbrook pumping station and the land to the east of it (Trenches 6 and 7) were excavated. The other 5 trenches within Tilbrook village comprised the areas of the proposed drill pits. Trenches 4 and 5 were excavated on the 15th and 16th April 2008, Trenches 2 and 3 on the 2nd June 2008 and Trench 1 on the 23rd July 2008.

2.2.5 The majority of the fourteen trial trenches (700m) excavated between the two villages were positioned over known potential areas of historical interest and are placed relatively closely together (Atkins and Palmer 2007; Atkins 2007 fig 1; table 1). Trenches 11-13 and 19-22 were spaced further apart as they are not targeted on specific features. Within these trenches two areas have relatively large gaps – there is a drain running between Trench 11 and 12. With the removal of proposed evaluation trenches to the north-west of Stow Longa from the scheme, Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) added an additional trench (Trench 34) between Trenches 11 and 12 in order to keep a 5% sample of the route. Between the 21st and 31st January 2008, CAM ARC excavated these 14 trenches using a tracked 360° excavator with a 2m wide tooth less ditching bucket.

2.2.6 At Stow Longa, the presence of newts meant that the excavation policy had to be modified. A preliminary meeting, a week before start of works, was arranged with Anglian Water, Bar Hale contractors, Steve Parnwell of Greenwillows, Oxford East archaeology, although a County Council DC archaeologist could not attend. It was agreed that the trees along the bank at Stow Longa had to cleared before archaeology was to take place. Newt fencing was to be established around both Stow Longa areas with access for excavators.

2.2.7 Archaeological work started on the 29th September at Church Lane with a 15m evaluation trench initially excavated using a JCB excavator providing a *c*.20% sample of the site. After stratified archaeological remains were found in the trench, Kasia Gdaniec (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeologist) stipulated that full mitigation (excavation) of the whole area to be affected by the pumping station and access road was required. This consisted of an L shaped area c. 20m long by 7m wide and c. 6m long by 2m wide. A meeting took place and Anglian Water requested that this work should be done immediately and therefore no formal evaluation report was produced. A specification for this work was written (Connor 2008). The JCB excavator opened up

the area of the highest level of stratified archaeology but not the access road. The site was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec on Monday October 6th. An area of great interest was the bank. All spoil from the bank was to be visibly monitored and any relationship between archaeology found within the pumping station area and the access road was to be tied in. The site was visited by Steve Parnwell of Greenwillows Associates who stipulated that the bank as well as the newt fencing had to put back and the former bank compacted on the same day of excavation. Therefore, on Tuesday the 7th of October, a trench was excavated through the bank. All staff monitored this work, with artefacts retrieved from monitoring the spoil from the machine buckets. After this was achieved, the JCB excavator removed remaining upper stratified deposits in order to uncover archaeological remains beneath.

2.2.8 The section through the bank was recorded and excavated. The JCB excavator then replaced the spoil and compacted it in stages. After this was finished, the newt fencing was reinstated. The next day Steve Parnwell monitored the work on the bank and fencing. Excavations finished on the 8th October.

2.2.9 The final site at Stow Longa along Spaldwick Road was excavated from 13th October to 15th October using a tracked 3 ton kubota.

2.2.10 Metal detecting was carried out by Steve Critchley on the main two archaeological parts of the scheme, the 14 evaluation trenches between the two villages and the Church Road area at Stow Longa. Here, spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern. The small test pits were not metal detected.

2.2.11 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.12 Fifteen environmental samples of between 10 and 30 litres were taken from the fills of ditches, pits and post holes within the various archaeological works. These samples were taken to investigate the quality of preservation of charred remains, small animal bones, land molluscs and macro-fossils.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the archaeological work has been divided below into three parts (archaeological excavations within Tilbrook village, on Land between Tilbrook and Stow Longa villages and within Stow Longa village). The work within the two villages found archaeological remains which directly related to these settlements whereas the evaluation on land between the two villages found a both a previously unknown Roman and Saxon settlement. Although, the archaeological work in each of the three areas were relatively small, each has provided new information which has added greatly to the knowledge of the area.

3.2 Archaeological work within Tilbrook village (Fig. 7)

3.2.1 The work within Tilbrook village comprised seven 'Trenches' labelled Trench 1 to 7 (Fig. 7). Trenches 1 to 5 lay on land both adjacent to the west and to the north-west of All Saints church, to the south of Station Road and were test pits for the directional drilling. Trenches 6 and 7 lay to the north of Station Road with the former positioned within the pumping station area and Trench 7 within part of the proposed pipe trench area directly to the east. Within Trenches 1 to 5 there was a fairly uniform topsoil (up to 0.35m thick) and subsoil (up to 0.2m thick). The subsoil was a middle grey brown clay silt while the topsoil was a mid to dark grey brown sand with a little clay.

Allotment field (Trenches 1 and 4)

3.2.2 In the allotment field, directly to west of the church, there were two test pits (Trenches 1 and 4) which were *c.*2m apart (Figs. 7 and 9). Trench 4 was the original location of the drill directional pit and this latter changed to be positioned directly to the north-west (Trench 1). Middle Saxon features were found in both trenches, running on at least two different alignments imply there were probably at least two phases of occupation within this area (Fig. 9). The 1802 map records this allotment area as being part of a wide north to south roadway (Fig. 6).

3.2.3 Trench 1 was slightly irregular in plan (Fig. 9). It was machined to a square 2.5m² area but there was a round iron object, 0.3m in diameter, partly in the south-west corner of the trench. The trench was extended in this direction in case this object proved to be important. In the event the metal object proved to be modern. There were three ditches within Trench 1 (**104**, **106** and **108**). Ditch **108** was possibly the continuation of ditch **403** to the south-east in Trench 4 (Fig. 9).

3.2.4 Ditch **104** ran north to south, was at least 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep with moderate edges and a rounded base (Fig. 10, S. 35). It was 100% excavated within the test pit. The ditch was filled with a dark brown clay silt and one Middle Saxon pottery sherd was found. Ditches **106** and **108** ran north-west to south-east and probably represented a ditch and a later recut although due to the similar nature of their backfills, it is uncertain which was the original ditch (Fig. 10, S. 42). The ditches were similar sized probably at least 1m wide and up to 0.48m deep and were filled with a mid brown clay silt. One Early/Middle Saxon pottery and six Middle Saxon Ipswich ware pottery sherds were recovered from ditch **106**. Two Roman pottery sherds were found within subsoil (101).

3.2.5 Trench 4 was excavated to a 3m by 2.5m size. There were three features, probably all ditches, within the trench (**403**, **405** and **407**) as well as an area of modern disturbance.

Two ditches running roughly parallel in a north-western to south-eastern direction (**403** and **405**). These ditches were fairly shallow up to *c.*0.80m wide, and 0.30m to 0.36m deep respectively (Fig. 10, S. 30). They were both filled with a mid to dark brown clay sand with a few charcoal flecks. No artefacts were recovered from ditch **403** but ditch **405** contained a Late Saxon Thetford type ware pottery sherd, bone and a slag piece. Ditch **407** was reasonably substantial, it was aligned roughly east to west, probably up to *c.*1.2m wide and 0.60m deep and was filled with two deposits (Fig. 10, S. 29). The primary fill was a mid to dark grey brown clay sand and the upper was a mid grey brown clay sand. The primary fill was fairly sterile but the upper fill contained a single sherd of Early/Middle Saxon pottery.

Brook Farm fields (Trenches 2, 3 and 5) (Fig. 8)

3.2.6 Trenches 3 and 5 were situated on the south side nearest the allotments whereas Trench 2 was *c.*100m to the north (Fig. 7). In the area of these three trenches, the 1802 map recorded a large sub-rectangular field (no.69)(Fig. 6). There were two structures within this field within the pipeline route. One structure in the 1802 map was recorded located in the same position as Trench 2 and the second was a long L-shaped structure fronting Station Road (Figs. 6 and 7). The 1800 Enclosure map (HRO PM 5/2) lists J. Bygrave as owning this field.

3.2.7 Trench 3 was sub-square *c.*2.3m by 2.2m in size. There was a single shallow east to west ditch (**302**) within the trench which was up to 0.45m wide and 0.22m deep (Fig. 10, S. 32). It was filled with a mid greyish brown clay silt which contained thee sherds of Middle Saxon Maxey ware pottery and a little bone.

3.2.8 Trench 5 was sub-square *c.*2.3m² in size. There was a single east to west ditch (**504**) which ran through the centre of the trench. The ditch was 1.2m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig. 10, S. 31). It was filled with two deposits, a middle grey yellowish brown silt which was sealed by a dark grey brown clay silt. There was a moderate number of artefacts and ecofacts from the primary fill of the ditch implying that was probably domestic waste backfilled into the ditch. Pottery was obtained from both deposits with 12 sherds of Middle Saxon pottery from at least three different vessels from the primary fill and a further Middle Saxon sherd from the upper deposit. In this primary fill there was animal bone and the environmental sample from it found 61 cereal grains as well as egg shell.

3.2.9 Trench 2 was a sub-square trench *c.* 2.2m² in size (Fig. 8). This trench had been disturbed by some recent activity including a small sub-rounded modern intrusion (**202**). There were three pits or layers, intercutting and all possibly linked to gravel quarrying in the medieval period (**204**, **206** and **208**). It was noticable that all three features were shallow (up to 0.30m deep), they cut gravel natural but all stopped on a natural blue clay (Fig. 10, S. 33 and S. 34). The pits were of varying sizes from sub-rectangular 1.3m x 0.9m (**206**) to more than 2.3m by 1.8m (**208**) with edges varying from moderate *c.*50° (**204** and **208**) to very steep *c.*70°-80° (**206**). The pits were intercutting but their backfills were too similar (a light grey brown sand with a little clay) to be definite on the phasing and it is likely that they were generally contemporary. Two sherds of medieval shelly ware dating to the period 1150-1350 came from pit **204** and a presumably residual Early/Middle Saxon sherd from **206**. Artefacts from pit 208 included two nails.

Pumping Station and area to the east of it (Trenches 6 and 7)

3.2.10 Trenches 6 and 7 were originally planned to be one single trench but they were divided into two because of an existing hedge, trees and overhead cables (Fig. 7). Both trenches were within 250m of a pond with protected newts and so a fence on the 19th November 2007 was excavated around both areas before the archaeological excavation. These fence foundations were excavated to a depth of between 0.15m and 0.2m using a 3 ton kubota machine. Excavation within the trenches took place over the 20th and 21st November 2007 using a kubota machine in order to avoid damaging existing trees and small enough to enter a small entranceway into the newt fence. No archaeological features were found within the trenches and so no detailed plan or sections of the trenches have been published in this report.

3.2.11 Trench 6 was within the proposed pumping station at Tilbrook. The trench was dug on flat ground at 35.82m OD and measured 6.8m by 2.4m in size. Above natural clays and gravels there was a 0.55m alluvium soil of mid brown silty clay (601). A 0.2m thick topsoil (600) sealed this layer comprising a brown loam. Pottery and flint was recovered from the topsoil.

3.2.12 Trench 7, on the eastern trench comprised two test pits dug on flat ground at 35.63m OD. The 1802 Map of Tilbrook shows this trench was within a mill leat (Fig.6; HRO 2110/15/380). The western test pit measured 3.4m by 1.9m and was stepped down due to excessive depth (1.63m). Natural was not obtained although the water table was reached at c.1.3m below ground level. Modern finds were obtained from three levelling layers, which were all clay or partially clay derived. These layers were also found in the adjacent test pit to the east which measured 2.1m by 1m and 1.17m deep.

3.3 Archaeological work on Land between Tilbrook and Stow Longa villages

3.3.1 Fourteen archaeological trenches were excavated in an evaluation covering a *c.*2km area on land between Tilbrook and Stow Longa villages (Fig. 11). The first two Trenches (10 and 11) were within the valley bottom just to the north-east of Tilbrook while the remaining trenches were on the ridge overlooking this valley (Figs. 12A and 12b). Definite archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval period were only found within Trenches 12, 13, 14 and possibly 15 and 18. The definite features comprised a Roman settlement (probably a farmstead) which had been partly overlaid by an Early to Late Saxon settlement. In all the other trenches there was no definite Roman features although a couple of undated features found in Trench 18 may relate to the cropmark settlements directly to the north and south of this trench. This section of the report concentrates on these two settlements but also reports on the other trenches starting at the Tilbrook end of the evaluation.

Trenches 10, 11 and 34 (Fig. 11)

3.3.2 Trench 10 was situated in the proposed treatment works just to the north-east of Tilbrook village and found no archaeological features. Trench 11 was on the valley side, just before the higher land to the north-east. Three furrows **1105**, **1107** and **1109** and one undated ditch **1103** was found in the trench. The furrows were early post-medieval ploughing remains whereas ditch **1103** was probably a post-medieval boundary ditch running adjacent and roughly parallel to a stream directly to the north-east of the trench. The ditch was 1.4m wide, 0.52m deep and filled with a light brown clay sand. Trench 34 was half way up the ridge to the north-east. No features were found within

the trench which shows the Roman and Saxon settlement was entirely placed on top of the ridge and did not continue down to the stream.

Roman and Saxon settlements (Trenches 12 to 15)(Figs. 11, 13 and 14)

3.3.3 A Roman settlement was found and it probably extended over three or four trenches (12, 13, 14 and possibly also within Trench 15), and Saxon features were only found within Trench 12. This Roman and Saxon settlements were previously unknown (not on the air photographs; Atkins and Palmer 2007). Trench 12 overlooked the valley to the south with Trenches 13 to15 was north of it. Trenches 12 to 14 were *c.*400m apart on land which undulated. Heights of the trenches are between 61.17m OD at the south-western end of Trench 12 and 67.17m OD at the north-eastern end of Trench 14. These three trenches were placed on the highest part of three undulations but it is uncertain if the archaeological features were throughout this area – indeed Trench 12 had the most Roman features and Trench 14 the least. There was no evidence for Iron Age or Late Roman activity within these three trenches but the significance of this is not known.

Trench 12 (Figs. 13 and 14)

3.3.4 Within Trench 12 there was very dense stratified archaeological deposits dating to the Early/Middle Roman period (2nd to 3rd centuries AD) and Early Saxon to Late Saxon periods (6th to middle/end 9th centuries AD). There were at least 39 features within this trench (although 26 had no dating evidence). The features consisted of postholes, pits and ditches although many of the deposits were fairly sterile (Table 1; Fig. 14). There were just three features which had only Roman pottery within their backfill (**1217**, **1275** and post hole **1285**; Table 1) with four sherds (0.058kg), 23 sherds (0.491kg) and 1 sherd (0.009kg) respectively. Nearly half the Roman pottery recovered in this trench was found in Saxon features. The moderate collection of Roman artefacts (especially from ditch **1217**) does imply that Roman domestic remains were either within the trench or nearby. Long lived Roman and Saxon domestic occupation is attested by modest quantities of animal bones but also other artefacts including quern fragments, fibre-processing spikes, a bone comb (Plate 4), daub (several with wattle (**1231** and **1236**) or twig impressions **1225** and **1236**). There was evidence of iron metal working in the Early/Middle Saxon period with slag with hearth lining recovered from pit **1234**. Agricultural activity was attested by 16 charred cereal grains recovered from Middle Saxon pit **1231**.

3.3.5 The 20 postholes (up to 0.19m deep) were mostly found on the northern side and represented parts of several structures. Importantly, there were some clear linear posthole alignments within the trench showing at least some of the postholes were related (see Figs. 13 and 14; Table 1). Postholes **1247**, **1253**, **1257** and **1259** made a linear alignment running north-east to south-west and roughly perpendicular to this line was postholes **1243, 1245, 1249 and 1251** which were aligned north-west to south-east. Parallel to these latter postholes and *c.*2.5m to the north-east were a further line of three postholes **1241**, **1277** and **1279**.

3.3.6 The postholes were nearly all vertical or near vertical sided and their fills were mostly a pale greyish brown silty clay although a few were a mid to dark grey brown silty clay. The dating of the posthole structures is uncertain with only one posthole (**1285**) having any dating evidence (one pottery sherd of Roman pottery) but stratigraphically two postholes (**1277** and **1279**) cut Roman ditch **1217** (Fig. 13). It is likely that there are posthole structures from different periods.

3.3.7 There were at least 13 ditches, varying from the shallow and moderate (up to 0.46m deep) to five relatively deep ditches (between 0.58m and 0.94m deep). These ditches date to all four phases of occupation (Roman, Early/Middle/Late Saxon) but the deeper ditches seem to only occur in the Roman (**1217** and **1275**) and Late Saxon periods (**1227**) (Fig. 15, S. 9, S.5 and S. 23)**;** Table 1). The ditch alignments seemed to have stayed fairly static over the periods - ran north-east to south-west or perpendicular to this in an north-west to south-east direction.

3.3.8 The ditches varied from moderate sided to steep sided. Most of the ditches had a single backfilled deposit although ditch **1267** had two and ditch **1227** had three deposits (Fig. 15, S. 5). These deposits were fairly similar and varied from light grey brown to middle grey brown silty or sandy clays to clay sands and clay silts. There were no organic rich deposits and this may due, in part, to leaching. Early Saxon ditch **1225** was of particular interest as there were several decorated 6th century pottery sherds within its backfill – seemingly from a single vessel (Plates 1-3). Ditch **1225** cut Roman ditch **1275** and this presumably explains the moderate amount of Roman pottery also recovered from its fill. The Late Saxon sherd was intrusive from pit **1270**.

3.3.9 There were at least four pits (**1231**, **1234**, **1255**, **1270** and possibly **1213**) within the trench. Only two of these pits were dated by artefacts (**1231** and **1234**) and these were Early/Middle Saxon and Middle Saxon respectively (Table 1). Pit **1270** was stratigraphically cutting a Roman ditch (Fig. 15, S. 23). The pits were all probably sub-rounded, medium sized just under 1m in diameter (except **1236** which was *c.*2m) and between 0.25m and 0.63m deep. All the pits had steep edges ranging from *c.*65º (pit **1231**) to undercutting (pit **1234**).

3.3.10 At least two of the pits seems to have been used as rubbish pits after disuse (**1231** and **1234**). Pit **1231** was filled with a dark brown clay silt with frequent charcoal and this deposit included numerous finds and some ecofacts (Table 1). The lower fill of Pit **1234** was a pale greyish brown silty clay but included a smelt base slag, 0.583kg of bone as well as a little pottery. The upper fill of pit **1234** contained no artefacts implying that this deposit came from another source. The Pit **1270** was filled with a very dark clay sand with frequent charcoal and burnt clay flecks. Pit **1255** and possible pit **1213** were filled with sterile single deposits of mid and pale greyish brown silty clay respectively.

CUT	DIMENSIONS (width x depth)	COMMENTS/FINDS	DATE
[1205]	1m+ x 0.78m	Ditch: Bone (0.019kg)	Undated
[1207]	0.26m x 0.12m	Posthole	Undated
[1209]	0.14m x 0.08m	Posthole	Undated
[1211]	0.3m x 0.11m	Posthole	Undated
[1213]	0.76m x 0.24m	Pit / Ditch	Undated
[1215]	0.9m x 0.24m	Ditch: Bone (0.039kg)	Undated
[1217]	1.3m x 0.47m	Ditch: Pottery (4 Roman sherds) and Bone (0.139kg)	Roman
[1219]	0.6m x 0.14m	Ditch: Bone (0.014kg)	Undated
[1221]	0.7m x 0.24m	Ditch: Pottery (1 Early and 2 Middle Saxon sherds) and bone (0.347kg)	Middle Saxon
[1223]	0.3m x 0.15m	Post Hole	Undated
[1225]	1m x 0.4m	Ditch: Pottery (22 Roman and 29 Early Saxon including stamped pot and 1 Late Saxon), lava quern fragments, daub/fired clay and bone (0.292kg)	Early Saxon
[1227]	2.12 x 0.8m	Ditch: Pottery (1 Roman and 6 Middle or Late Saxon sherds),	Late Saxon

		lava quern fragments and bone (2.811kg)	
[1229]	0.74m x 0.35m	Ditch: Bone (0.33kg)	Late Saxon
[1231]	0.7m x 0.63m	Pit: Pottery (2 Middle Saxon sherds), 1 bone comb, 2 textile spikes, bone comb, lava quern fragments, daub/fired clay and wattle, bone (0.163kg) and 16 cereal wheat grains and charcoal	Middle Saxon
[1234]	1.35 x 0.5m	Pit: Pottery (2 Early/Middle Saxon sherds), slag with hearth lining and bone (0.583kg)	Early/Middle Saxon
[1236]	?2m x 0.46m	Ditch: daub/fired clay/wattle and bone (0.005kg)	Undated
[1239]	0.45m x 0.21m	Posthole / Ditch: Pottery (1 Early Middle Saxon sherd)	Early/Middle Saxon
[1241]	0.26m x 0.22m	Posthole	Undated
[1243]	0.3m x 0.15m	Posthole	Undated
[1245]	0.2m x 0.09m	Posthole	Undated
[1247]	0.34m x 0.19m	Posthole	Undated
[1249]	0.2m x 0.12m	Posthole	Undated
[1251]	0.3m x 0.15m	Posthole	Undated
[1253]	0.2m x 0.11m	Posthole	Undated
[1255]	0.9m x 0.25m	Pit	Undated
[1257]	0.26m x 0.17m	Posthole	Undated
[1259]	0.2m x 0.13m	Posthole: Bone (0.134kg)	Undated
[1261]	0.33m x 0.14m	Posthole	Undated
[1263]	0.28m x 0.17m	Posthole	Undated
[1265]	0.18m x 0.1m	Posthole	Undated
[1267]	1.24m x 0.58m	Ditch	Pre-Late Saxon
[1270]	0.3m+ x 0.34m	Pit :	Saxon?
[1274]	0.4m x 0.2m	Ditch: Pottery (1 Early/Middle Saxon sherd), 1 flint blade and bone (0.013kg)	Early/Middle Saxon
[1275]	1.5m x 0.94m	Ditch: 23 Roman sherds (0.491kg) from at least five vessels (Jars and a flagon), 1 flint blade, daub/fired clay and bone (0.254kg)	Roman
[1277]	0.45m (not ex)	Posthole	Post **1217**
[1279]	0.45m (not ex)	Posthole	Post **1217**
[1281]	0.4m x 0.22m	Posthole	Undated
[1283]	0.3m x 0.12m	Posthole	Undated
[1285]	0.24m x 0.14m	Posthole 1 Roman sherd	Roman

Table 1: *Features within Trench 12*

Trench 13

3.3.11 The trench comprised 12 features although four of these were post-medieval or modern in date. The dating of the remaining eight features are uncertain as only two Roman sherds of pottery were recovered from two ditches (**1306** and **1308**, Table 2). Unlike Trench 12 there was little in the way of structural evidence with only one possible posthole (**1326**). There were at least five ditches varying in size and depth - up to 0.77m deep (Figs. 13 and 15, S.3).

CUT	DIMENSIONS	COMMENTS / FINDS	DATE
[1304]	1.7m x 0.77m	Ditch	Undated
[1306]	1.8m x 0.27m	Ditch: 1 Roman pottery sherd	Roman
[1308]	?1m x 0.4m deep	Ditch: 1 Roman pottery sherd	Roman
[1310]	2m x 0.3m	Ditch	Undated
[1312]	2m x 0.2m	Furrow	Med/p-med
[1314]	3.6m wide	Ditch: 2 medieval pottery sherd, modern artefacts including barbed wire	modern

[1316]	4m x 0.22m	Furrow	Med/p-med
[1318]	0.8m x 0.26m	Ditch	Undated
[1320]	3.44m x 0.28m	Pit	Undated
[1322]	2.5m x 0.18m	Furrow	Med/p-med
[1324]	1.2m x 0.25m	Pit	Undated
[1326]	0.2m x 0.14m	Post Hole	Undated

Table 2: *Features within Trench 13*

Trench 14

3.3.12 Only one Roman ditch (**1411**) was recovered within this trench but its size (2.5m wide and 1.15m deep) was impressive and argues that it was either an important boundary or enclosure ditch (Figs. 13 and 15, S. 20). There were up to four deposits within its backfill and artefacts from these deposits included a significant quantity of Middle Roman pottery weighing 0.632kg (2nd to 3rd century) from at least three different jar vessels, some animal bone and a little fired clay. This is a domestic assemblage which implies that this ditch was near a settlement.

CUT	DIMENSIONS	COMMENTS / FINDS	DATE
[1402]	3.2m x 0.08m	Furrow	Med/post-med
[1404]	2.6 x 0.07	Furrow	Med/post-med
[1406]	2m x 0.09m	Furrow	Med/post-med
[1411]	2.5m x 1.15m	Ditch: Pottery (49 Roman sherds weighing 0.632kg), fired clay and bone (0.389kg)	Roman

Table 3: *Features within Trench 14*

Trench 15

3.3.13 There were probably two features and three post-medieval furrows within the trench. It is probable that the features were not Roman in date but this is not definite. Pit or treebowl **1502** was 1.8m+ by 1.5m+ and 0.24m deep. It is likely that it was a treebowl as it had very irregular edges and base. One scrappy Roman pot sherd (5g) was recovered from its fill. Possible feature **1506** was irregular/sub-rectangular in shape, 1.55m+ x 0.8 x 0.13m. It had gentle edges and flattish base. It has one severely abraded Roman sherd from its backfill and a little slag. There were three furrows (**1504**, **1508** and **1510**) up to 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep. In the three furrows only **1504** has one residual Roman sherd (18g).

Trenches 16-18 (placed between cropmark entities)

3.3.14 There were three trenches (16-18) placed between the two ?separate cropmark entities (Fig. 2, CHER 10036 and 10039). No Roman finds came from any of the three trenches. The only trench with any possible Roman features was Trench 18 and Trenches 16 and 17 proved barren. Within Trench 18 there were up to four features. This comprised an east to west ditch **1805**, 1m wide 0.21m deep. It was probably post-medieval in date as there was one piece of drain pipe at the interface of the ditch and the overlying subsoil. Unfortunately there was no other dating evidence from this feature. The second possible feature was an undated pit or treebowl **1807** which was 0.66m in diameter and 0.15m deep. Adjacent to this feature was either a posthole/stakehole or just root disturbance (**1809**). It was 0.1m diameter and 0.2m deep with no artefacts in its backfill. The improbable depth of this for such a small diameter implies it was more likely not a real feature and it may have been part of the above

treebowl (**1807**). There was an undated east to west ditch (1811) which was 1.1m wide and 0.2m deep.

Trenches 19-22 (Fig. 11)

3.3.15 Trenches 19 to 22 were situated within the former airfield and directly to the west of Stow Longa village. Within Trench 19 there were just two features comprising small pits both containing concrete, presumably features from 20th century airfield. Trench 20 only had a single patch of modern rooting. Within Trench 21 there were two post-medieval/modern ditches (**2104** and **2106**). Ditch **2104** was 3m wide 0.55m deep and was probably a field Boundary ditch as it had post-medieval tile and modern wood from its fill. Ditch **2204** was 1.05m wide and 0.25m deep and was a former modern boundary ditch which ran parallel to the existing pathway. A piece of rubber was found at the base of this feature.

3.4 Archaeological work within Stow Longa village

3.4.1 The archaeological work within Stow Longa village only comprised work within the two pumping stations (Church Lane and Spaldwick Road; Fig. 16) with directional drill pits within the existing road network which meant that no other work took place in the village. The Church Lane excavation was adjacent/partly cut a building shown on the 1591 map (Figs 4. and 17). The Spaldwick Road site was within the Manorial Farm shown on the 1839 plan of the village (Fig. 5).

Church Lane

3.4.2 The archaeological work at Church Lane initially comprised an evaluation trench (Trench 30; see Fig.18) which after archaeological deposits were encountered, was expanded to the west of the trench to comprise the complete pumping station footprint and associated access road. This consisted of an 'L' shape site – a *c*.16m by 7m sub-rectangular area parallel to Church Lane where the pumping station was to be located and a *c*.6m by 1.4m trench where the access road linked the pumping station to Church Lane (Fig. 18). The excavations found Middle Saxon to medieval archaeology comprising five phases of deposits.

3.4.3 The earliest phase (Phase 1) was probably pre-Middle Saxon in date. It consisted of a bank (3017) running along parallel and adjacent to the east of Church Lane. The bank is 1.6m higher than the present road surface at the excavation area (Fig. 19, S. 39). This bank started *c*.100m to the south of the site and continued along to the north increasing in height as the road dropped downwards to the north. The road was an old hollow way and it seems to have cut down into the natural subsoil by more than a metre and the bank itself is only *c*.0.66m high. The bank (3017) was more than 5m in width. It was a mottled grey yellow clayey silt and was very compact. There was no dating evidence from the bank. It is likely the bank was at least Middle Saxon date as it was cut by Middle Saxon ditch **3016**.

3.4.4 Phase 2 was represented by Middle Saxon ditch **3016** which cut this bank near its eastern edge (Fig. 19, S. 39). It ran north to south seemingly parallel to and respecting the road (Fig. 18). The ditch was probably at least 1.6m wide and 0.96m deep and filled with a single fill (3015), a greyish bown clay silt. There were five sherds of Middle

Saxon Maxey Ware pottery (AD 650-850) recovered from the ditch as well as a little animal bone. A soil sample produced only a single charred pip/seed.

3.4.5 Phase 3 was dated to *c*. 12th to *c*.14th centuries in date. This site was occupied by a house which presumably fronted onto Church Lane. The excavation found a medieval clay floor 3005/3010 on the southern part of the site in an area of more than 5m² (Fig. 18). Although this clay floor indicated there had been a house there was no evidence of walls or postholes. The clay floor stopped before the bank and seemed to respect it. The floor was up to 0.12m thick, was a yellow orange clay with very few stones in its matrix. A few sherds of pottery recovered with a Roman sherd, five St Neots sherds and a Lyvedon A pottery sherd (*c*. AD 1150-1250). This would seem to suggest a 12th or 13th century date for this floor. This structure went out of use in around the 13th or 14th century as it was cut by east to west ditch **3013**/**3014** (see below).

3.4.6 This structure may relate with one or two of the east to west ditches **3020** and **3004**/**3022** which may have been plot boundary ditches as they were roughly perpendicular to the road and parallel to the clay floor *c*. 3m and 9m respectively to the north. Ditch **3020** was 0.78m wide and 0.20m deep, it butt ended on the east side 2m into the excavation area (Figs. 18 and Fig. 19, S. 41). It was filled with a greyish brown silty clay and had small quantities of St Neots type pottery in its fill. Ditch **3004**/**3022** was up to 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep and filled with a mid brown clay silt (Fig. 19, S. 36 and S. 40). More than 3.5m of the ditch was hand excavated but no pottery and only a little animal bone was recovered from its fill.

3.4.7 Phase 4 was probably later medieval in date and activity may have been represented by a single ditch **3013/3014** which was up to 1m wide and 0.42m deep and it cut the clay floor (3005/3010) of the former building (Fig. 19, S. 38). It butt-ended on the northern side before reaching the bank. It is uncertain what its function was although it may have been a boundary ditch. It was filed with a mid greyish brown silty clay. A moderate amount of pottery was recovered from its backfill including 20 sherds of pottery dating to the late Saxon and high medieval period.

3.4.8 In Phase 5, the late medieval period (*c*.16th century), there was a probable post hole structure and associated yard surface within the excavation area. A single posthole (**3007**) and a postpad feature (**3009**) was seen cutting Phase 4 medieval ditch **3013.** These two features were presumably the remains of the structure with external cobble surface (3001) directly to the north of them. Posthole (**3007**) was sub-rectangular in shape, *c*.0.50m by 0.34m and 0.26m deep (Fig. 19, S. 37). It had vertical edges but was stepped on the northern side. It was filled with a yellow clay and a brown silty clay with up to 5% chalk and 5% flint pieces. A single scrap of St. Neots pottery and a little bone was also recovered. The postpad (**3009**) was undated it was directly to the south of the posthole, was sub-rectangular in shape 1.1m by 0.80m and only 0.04m deep. It comprised a single layer of stones (pebbles, chalk and flint) within a mid grey brown clay silt matrix.

3.4.9 The cobbled surface (3001) was at least 1.5m to the north of these structural features and sealed earlier ditches **3020** and **3004**/**3022**. The southern edge of the cobbles was aligned perpendicular to the road but the northern, eastern and western limits continued beyond the excavation area. The cobbles were reasonably well laid and contained pebbles, chalk, flint, other stone as well as a few roof tile fragments. These stone pieces were probably recovered from the brook/stream a few hundred metres to the north (pers comm. Steve Critchley). Clean off over these cobbles recovered a Mesolithic hand axe which presumably came from this brook. A moderate amount of artefacts were found in the cobbles or the clean off. They included late medieval roof

tile fragments (peg tiles) and a few metal objects. The cobble surface seems to have been abandoned in the early 17th century.

3.4.10 Topsoil between 0.10m (northern side) and 0.22m thick sealed this cobbled surface. There were few artefacts within the topsoil (no slip wares etc.) showing that the site has been largely left alone for the last 300+ years. There was no evidence of ploughing within the area and with the exception of trees there has been few modern disturbances to the site.

Spaldwick Road

3.4.11 Directly to the south of Spaldwick Road was a small excavation in the location of a proposed pumping station (Fig. 16). The area was sub-rectangular in size *c*.4.5m by 3.5m in size. There was at least three phases of activity on the site, two medieval with the latter probably running into the early post-medieval period and one post-medieval in date.

3.4.12 The earliest activity was a thin subsoil layer (3101; Fig. 21, S.42) which was possibly an old medieval ground surface layer. It was found in the southern part of the trench and cut by the later roadside ditch (**3103**). The layer was at least 1.5m wide and up to 0.20m thick and was a light to middle brown clay silt. Two high medieval pottery sherds dating to 1300-1400 were found within this layer.

3.4.13 Phase 2 consisted of part of the medieval to early post-medieval cobbled road (3105) and associated roadside ditch (**3103**) (Fig. 20). The cobbled area (3105) and roadside ditch ran roughly parallel (east to west) and 5m to the south of the present road. The metalled surface extended only 0.90m into the trench and was up to 0.22m thick. There was no obvious relaying/surfacing of the road. Soil which made up c.50% of the fill was a mid brown silty clay and was very hard. Cobbles consisted of c.25% of the fill and were up to 0.2m in length and 0.08m thick with an average size of *c*.0.08 x 0.06m. Small stones made up *c*.20% of the fill and there were a few flint pieces and other stones *c*.5%. Artefacts from this deposit included a knife (SF 18) which dates to at least the 16th century, a horse shoe *c*. post-medieval in date, three abraded pottery sherds consisting of two Roman sherds and a Medieval Sandy Ware sherd as well as a little animal bone.

3.4.14 The roadside ditch (**3103**) was adjacent to the south of the cobbled area (Fig. 20). The ditch was 1.7m wide and between 0.43 and 0.48m deep (Fig. 21, S. 42). It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt with seven sherds of Late Saxon and medieval pottery.

3.4.15 The ditch and road surface went out of use probably in the medieval period. There was later a thin clean layer (3106) which sealed the metal surface and ditch. Later in the 18th century there was a layer (3104) deposited over the top and seems to have been a deliberate dumping layer which may be associated with the construction of the 18th century brick wall a few metres to the north. This layer was up to 0.31m thick and extended at least 2.5m into the trench from the north. Small brick fragments as well as moderate amounts of pottery and other fragments was recovered. Topsoil (3100) later sealed this deposit.

3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 A very small flint assemblage of up to five pieces was recovered in features dating from the Roman period or later. Of particular interest was a Mesolithic flint axe from Church Lane, Stow Longa which was found in cleaning above a medieval cobbled surface.

3.5.2 The Roman pottery collection consisted of 120 sherds, weighing 1.736kg. The pottery dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, and was almost exclusively recovered from six features in Trenches 12, 13 and 14 on land 1km+ to the north-east of Tilbrook. Four residual Roman abraded pottery was found in Stow Longa and two from Tilbrook. The assemblage comprised fairly locally produced utilitarian vessels a lot were jars, some of which had been used as cooking pots but no fine wares possibly suggesting a low order Roman settlement. The only definite Roman metal object was an unprovinced spindle whorl.

3.5.3 Post-Roman pottery consisting of 168 sherds, weighing 2.325 kg. This collection was found in three locations (Tilbrook, Trench 12 (1km north-east of Tilbrook and Stow Longa). Early Saxon Pottery dating from the 6th century was only found within Trench 12 in the same location as the Roman settlement. Middle Saxon pottery was found within features in all three locations with Maxey Ware found within Trench 12 and Stow Longa and Ipswich Ware in Tilbrook and Trench 12. Late Saxon pottery was found in features in Trench 12 and Stow Longa and Tilbrook. Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery dating up to the 14th century were found within features in both Tilbrook and Stow Longa. The pottery were all locally made pottery within a *c*.40km radius of the site. A few post-medieval 18th century sherds were found within a levelling layer in Stow Longa.

3.5.4 Saxon domestic assemblages other than pottery were only recovered from Trench 12. There were two textile spikes from a Middle Saxon pit. Small quantities of Lava quern was found within features dating to the Early, Middle and Late Saxon period. Slag with hearth lining was found as a secondary deposit within an Early/Middle Saxon pit. A lead spindle whorl of Saxon or medieval date was found unstratified between Trenches 12 and 13. There was a bone comb fragment from Middle Saxon pit 1231. Small quantities daub and fired clay (some of them had twig or wattle impressions) were found mostly within four Roman and Saxon features in Trench 12.

3.5.5 Very few metal objects of pre-modern date were found including a possible Roman hobnail, the three Saxon objects mentioned above, and a handful of Medieval objects including a knife, staples and nails. A few post-medieval metal objects and roof tile only were found in the Stow Longa excavations. These post-medieval metal objects comprised a knife, a horseshoe and some nails. Ceramic roof tile dating from the 16th century comprised peg tiles and many of the above iron nails probably were originally linked to them.

3.6 Environmental Summary

3.6.1 Only 54 countable animal bone pieces and a further 74 fragments not identifiable to species were found in the archaeological work.

3.6.2 There were very few seeds recovered from the fifteen soil samples taken from features in Tilbrook, Trenches 12-14 and Stow Longa. Of interest were 16 wheat cereal grains from a Middle Saxon pit in Trench 12 and 61 cereal grain as well as egg shell from Middle Saxon ditch **504** from Tilbrook.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Tilbrook

4.1.1 The trenches directly to the west and north-west of All Saints church found two Middle Saxon (probably into Late Saxon) phases of occupation. The date of the pottery recovered means that occupation started in Tilbrook from at least the 9th century. This pre-dates the previously earliest known evidence for occupation at Tilbrook - which was the Domesday book.

4.1.2 The Middle into Late Saxon features seemed to represent at least two phases of activity and they were found over more than 100m in length and from within four Trenches (1, 3, 4 and 5). These features were moderately dense and comprised ditches and their re-cuts. These ditches ran in all directions including towards the All Saints church boundaries. This is at odds with the well planned north to south and east to west gridded plan (seen on the 1802 map). One of the Middle Saxon/Late Saxon features included a Thetford type pottery sherd. This seems to imply the later planned nature of the village is likely to have occurred in at least the 11th century and probably took place when the new Norman rulers imposed their control. It is probably not a coincidence that Tilbrook became part of the landholding of a powerful family (William de Warenne) who also controlled Kimbolton and other places. This replanning is relatively common and is similar to places such as Botolph Bridge (Huntingdonshire) where a completely new planned layout was established in the post-conquest period on the site of the former Late Saxon settlement (Atkins with Kemp forthcoming).

4.1.3 The probable medieval quarry pits within Trench 2 seem to be for the extraction of gravel in the high medieval period. A building on the 1802 was recorded where Trench 2 was located but this structure was not found in the Trench. This either implies the 1802 map was inaccurate and the building was nearby or that all trace of the building has now gone. Trench 7 found a large amount of modern make up deposits and this was within what the 1802 map seem to show as being a mill leat.

4.2 Area between Tilbrook and Stow Longa

4.2.1 The evaluation has found significant archaeological remains in good condition dating to the Early/Middle Roman period (2nd to 3rd centuries AD) within Trenches 12, 13 and 14 (over a 400m area). Early Saxon to Late Saxon period remains (6th to middle/end 9th centuries AD) were found within Trench 12 only. These archaeological remains were not known previously. The remains of postholes, some in linear alignments, implies that little truncation of the site has taken place, even by modern ploughing.

4.2.2 The Roman features possibly represent a single farmstead. It seems likely there were small settlements every few hundred metres along the ridge. This can be seen in two undated cropmark enclosure systems recorded *c.*0.5km to the north east (CHER 10036) and east (CHER 10039) of Trench 14 (Atkins and Palmer 2007, fig. 2). Trenches 16-18 located between these two enclosure systems only found a few ephemeral undated features within Trench 18, which may imply that these two systems were not related to each other.

4.2.3 There was no evidence of Roman to Saxon settlement continuation. No Late Roman features were found and Saxon remains only dated from the 6th century. It is more likely that it was a coincidence that the Saxon remains overlay the Middle Roman remains in Trench 12. It should however be noted that only a tiny percentage of the

overall settlement has been sampled in the evaluation and possible continual occupation cannot be ruled out.

4.2.4 This is the first settlement found in Cambridgeshire where evidence demonstrated it probably continued in use from the Early Saxon to the Late Saxon period and then was abandoned in *c*. the late 9th century (pers comm. Richard Mortimer and Paul Spoerry). The reason for its abandonment is uncertain and it is too early to say whether it was linked to the known problems of Danish invasions in this period or other reasons.

4.3 Stow Longa

4.3.1 The earliest remains comprised a bank running parallel adjacent to the east of Church Lane. The bank was Middle Saxon or earlier and this probably means that Church Lane was also Middle Saxon or earlier. The age of this former hollow way is attested in the fact that under hundreds of years of use the road had cut into the natural subsoil by over a metre with the bank comprising mostly natural subsoil with only the top 0.66m containing bank material. It is possible that the bank originated in the Roman period as there was a couple of abraided Roman sherds found in the excavation adjacent. This bank started *c.*100m to the south of the site and continued along to the north increasing in height as the road dropped downwards to the north.

4.3.2 This bank was cut by a Middle Saxon ditch running parallel to the road and just adjacent to the east of it and could have represented a road side ditch. Several sherds of Maxey ware shows that this ditch was constucted between *c.*650 and 850 AD. The finding of Middle Saxon features predates the first documentary evidence for Stow Longa which dates from 991AD. This excavation findings leads further credence that Stow Longa was an early foundation. Documentary evidence implies that St. Botolph's Church was a minster church and a Middle Saxon foundation is possibly implied by the saint's name (see sections 1.3.5 and 1.3.6 above).

4.3.3 Stow Longa village layout is probably Early or Middle Saxon in origin and this was not altered by later re-planning (see 1.3.14 and 1.3.15 above). The pre 1591 and the 1591 maps of the western area of Stow Longa village show there was a sub-rectangular green with streets projecting off it including St Botolph's church on the north side and is in contrast to the Tilbrook with a probable 11th/12th century church in the centre of a planned sub-rectangular gridded village.

4.3.4 In the excavation area there is no evidence that houses fronted Church Lane in this Saxon period, indeed the first buildings built here were probably early medieval in date. The excavation uncovered a clay floor dated by pottery which suggest a 12th or 13th century date. There was no evidence for post-holes and so it is uncertain what the layout of this structure was. It is possible that this structure may relate with one or two of the east to west ditches which may have been plot boundary ditches as they were roughly perpendicular to the road and parallel to the clay floor *c*. 3m and 9m respectively to the north. This structure went out of use in around the 13th or 14th century as it was cut by an east to west ditch. In the late medieval period (*c.*16th century), there was a probable post hole and post/pad structure and associated yard surface partly within the excavation area and was probably the structure recorded on the 1591 map. The dating of artefacts within the cobbled surface show that it is likely this structure was abandoned by the end of the 17th century and the area has become pasture/grassland since.

4.3.5 The Spaldwick Road site does not show any occupation before the medieval period. Here a small excavation area, *c.*4.5m by 4m in size, probably found the southern extent of the former medieval road. A cobbled surface running east to west was seen

extending partly into the excavation area while directly to the south there was an associated ditch. This road surface is *c.*5m metres to the south of the present road and seems to imply the road was much wider at this point in the medieval to early post-medieval period. The road and ditch were seemingly abandoned in the early-post medieval period. They were then sealed by a sterile layer and then by a *c.*18th century bank which seems to relate to the present brick boundary wall of the manorial farm.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 Finding a previously unknown Roman settlement is becoming common – indeed in Cambridgeshire over the last 20 or so years, the number of known Roman sites have increased several times. This means that the population in the Roman period was far greater than previously thought. The Late Iron Age people and Romans were efficient in utilising the landscape intensively although the density of occupation seems to vary depending on location etc. The settlement here was on top of the ridge and this may be significant. It has been argued in Northamptonshire that ridges in this period were even more favourable for occupation than lower lying valleys (Atkins *et al* 2000/01).

4.4.2 The new Roman site seems to have continued from Trench 12 to 14, a distance of 400m. Trench 14 was 300m to the south-west of settlement cropmarks at CHER No.10036 and 500m to the west of cropmark settlement at CHER No. 10039. It is uncertain if we are dealing with three separate contemporary farmsteads, each with an extended family or so, or a dispersed landscape. The evaluation Trenches 16-18 did not find signs of continuation between these two cropmark sites which may suggest the settlements represented by CHER Nos. 10036 and 10039 were separate.

4.4.3 The lack of development within the Stow Longa and Tilbrook area has meant our knowledge of occupation for this period is extremely limited although occupation was probably very intense. This was also true of the Ely area 20 years ago but through fieldwalking for the Fenland project (Hall 1996) and large scale modern development, Iron Age and Roman settlements are now known to occur at intervals of 500m and 1.5km across the eastern half of Ely (Evans *et al* 2007, 74).

4.4.4 The uncovering of a previously unknown long lived Saxon settlement with at least three phases of occupation (6th century to 9th century) is extremely surprising and very rare. Tilbrook and Stow Longa, both established from at least the Middle Saxon period and therefore contemporary, are 1km and 2km respectively away from this site. The Saxon settlement may have been longer lived as this evidence was found in Trench 12 only – an extremely small part of the overall site. It is entirely possible that there was continuous occupation from the Roman site into the Saxon period but without a large excavation this possibility must remain tenuous.

4.4.5 This Saxon settlement was deliberately placed for its location. It lies dramatically on the extreme south-western edge of a geographical ridge which runs north-west to south-east between the River Kym and Alconbury Brook systems, both tributaries of the River Great Ouse, with the settlement overlooking the valley to the south-west. This settlement mirrors Stow Longa 2km to the north-east which is similarly perched at the edge of the ridge overlooking land to the north-east. This implies some planning of the landscape in this Early /Middle Saxon period.

4.4.6 The results of the evaluation in uncovering a new Roman and a Saxon settlement highlights what has been suggested before that the role of this ridge was important to the establishment of early settlements - it provided a favourable position for the siting of

several villages in the post-Roman period (Spoerry and Last 1996, 1). However, the north-west/south-east alignment of this and other ridges and small valleys, which provide the most obvious choices for routeways linking settlements in the area, is at odds with the current road system, which exhibits a pronounced north-east/south-west orientation. It has been suggested that earlier trackways may have exhibited the former, more natural alignment but that they were replaced by north-east/south-west routes linking the major roads which eventually became the A14 and A45 (C. Taylor, pers. comm. quoted in Spoerry and Last 1996, 1).

4.4.7 The reason why this settlement went out of use is unknown. This may link with another anomaly - this former Saxon settlement is within present day Kimbolton parish as indeed is half of Stow Longa village. Documentary evidence implies that Stow Longa was a mother church and was part of an estate which took in Stow Longa, Spaldwick, Easton, Little Catworth, Barham and Upthorpe which had belonged to Brithnoth, Ealdorman of Essex (Taylor 1989, 72). As a major estate centre why would half of the village be within Kimbolton parish - Kimbolton is 3km to the south of this abandoned Saxon settlement and 4km from Stow Longa? It is possible that both these anomalies happened in the Late Saxon period. We know from documentary records that Brithnoth died in 991 and he left this entire estate to Ely Abbey (Hart 1966, no. 25). The Late Saxon and Norman period marked the decline of Stow Longa as well as the rise of Kimbolton with in the latter case a major landholder (William de Warenne).

4.4.8 The results of the Stow Longa to Tilbrook Anglian Pipeline work are significant and it is planned to publish an article in an appropriate journal on our findings.

Appendix A. Health and Safety Statement

A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992,* and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).

A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.

A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.

A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

Appendix B. Context List

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth
100	0	1	Topsoil				
101	0	1	Subsoil				
102	0	1	layer				0.24
103	104	1	fill	ditch			0.3
104	0	1	cut	ditch	Boundary	0.9	0.3
105	106	1	fill	ditch			
106	0	1	cut	ditch	Boundary		
107	108	1	fill	ditch			
108	0	1	cut	ditch	Boundary		
200	0	2	layer		Top Soil		0.35
201	202	2	fill	Pit			0.2
202	0	2	cut	Pit orTree Throw			0.2
203	204	1	fill	Pit or Ditch		0.4	0.35
204	0	2	cut	Pit or Ditch		0.4	0.3
205	0	2	fill	pit	Quarry	0.9	0.3
206	0	2	cut	Pit	Quarry	0.9	0.3
207	208	2	fill	pit		1	0.3
208	0	2	cut	pit	quarry	1.8	0.3
209	0	2	layer	Sub Soil			0.16
301	302	3	fill	ditch	Disuse		
302	0	3	cut	ditch			
400	0	4	layer	Top Soil			
401	0	4	layer	Sub Soil			0.25
402	0	4	fill	Pit or Ditch			0.3
403	0	4	cut	Pit or Ditch		0.5	0.3
404	405	4	fill	ditch			0.34
405	0	4	cut	ditch		0.55	0.34
406	407	4	fill	ditch			0.36
407	0	4	cut	ditch		0.9	0.58
408	407	4	fill	ditch			0.58
500	0	5	layer	Top Soil			0.31
501	0	5	layer	Sub Soil			0.15
502	504	5	fill	ditch	Disuse	1.24	0.18
503	504	5	fill	ditch		0.83	0.17
504	0	5	cut	ditch	Boundary	1.24	0.34
600	0	6	layer	Top Soil			0.2
601	0	6	layer	alluveum			0.55
700	0	7A	layer	Top Soil	filed drains/back fills		0.25
701	0	7A	layer		field drain/modern back fill		0.3
702	0	7A	layer		Back fill		0.35
703	0	7A	layer		colloveum		0.42
704	0	7B	layer		field drains/back fill		0.48

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth
705	0	7B	layer		field drains/back fill		0.24
706	0	7B	layer		field drains/back fill		0.85
1000	0	10	layer	Top Soil	field drains		0.21
1001	0	10	layer		field drains		0.16
1002	0	10	layer		field drains		0.08
1003	0	10	layer		field drains		0.03
1102	1103	11	fill	ditch			0.52
1103	0	11	cut	ditch			0.52
1104	1105	11	fill	furrow			0.2
1105	0		cut	furrow		1.7	0.2
1106	1107	11	fill	furrow			0.17
1107	0	11	cut	furrow		1.3	0.17
1108	1109	11	fill	furrow			0.15
1109	0		cut	furrow		1.25	0.15
1204	1205	12	fill	ditch	disuse		
1205	0	12	cut	ditch	boundary	4	0.78
1206	1207	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.12
1207	0	12	cut	post hole		0.26	0.12
1208	1209	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.08
1209	0	12	cut	post hole		0.14	0.08
1210	1211	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.11
1211	0	12	cut	post hole		0.3	0.11
1212	1213	12	fill	pit / ditch	disuse		0.24
1213	0	12	cut	pit / ditch		0.76	0.24
1214	1215	12	fill	ditch	disuse		0.24
1215	0	12	cut	ditch	drainage	0.9	0.24
1216	1217	12	fill	ditch	disuse		0.47
1217	0	12	cut	ditch	drainage	1.3	0.47
1218	1219	12	fill	ditch	disuse		0.14
1219	0	12	cut	ditch	boundary	0.6	0.14
1220	1221	12	fill	ditch			0.24
1221	0	12	cut	ditch		0.7	0.24
1222	0	12	fill	post hole	structure		0.15
1223	0	12	cut	post hole	structure	0.3	0.15
1224	1225	12	fill	ditch			0.4
1225	0	12	cut	ditch		1	0.4
1226	1227	12	fill	ditch	disuse	1.9	0.5
1227	0	12	cut	ditch	enclosure	2.12	0.8
1228	1229	12	fill	ditch			0.35
1229	0	12	cut	ditch		0.74	0.35
1230	1231	12	fill	pit			0.63
1231	0	12	cut	pit		0.7	0.63
1232	1234	12	fill	pit			0.25
1233	1234	12	fill	pit	disuse		0.5
1234	0	12	cut	pit		1.35	0.5
1235	0	12	fill	ditch	disuse		0.46
1236	0	12	cut	ditch		1	0.46
1237	1227	12	fill	ditch	disuse	1.38	0.9
1238	0	12	fill	post hole / ditch	disuse		0.21

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth
1239	0	12	cut	post hole / ditch		0.45	0.21
1240	1241		fill	post hole	disuse		0.22
1241	0	12	cut	post hole		0.26	0.22
1242	1243	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.15
1243	0	12	cut	post hole		0.3	0.15
1244	1245		fill	post hole	disuse		0.09
1245	0	12	cut	post hole		0.2	0.09
1246	1247	12	fill	post hole			0.19
1247	0	12	cut	post hole		0.34	0.19
1248	1249	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.12
1249	0	12	cut	post hole		0.2	0.12
1250	1251	12	fill	post hole			0.15
1251	0		cut	post hole		0.3	0.15
1252	1253	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.11
1253	0		cut	post hole		0.2	0.11
1254	0	12	fill	pit	disuse		0.25
1255	0	12	cut	pit		0.9	0.25
1256	1257	12	fill	post hole			0.17
1257	0	12	cut	post hole		0.26	0.17
1258	1259	12	fill	post hole			0.13
1259	0	12	cut	post hole		0.2	0.13
1260	1261	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.14
1261	0	12	cut	post hole		0.33	0.14
1262	1263	12	fill	post hole			0.17
1263	0	12	cut	post hole		0.28	0.17
1264	1265	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.1
1265	0	12	cut	post hole		0.18	0.1
1266	1267	12	fill	ditch			0.36
1267	0	12	cut	ditch	enclosure	1.24	0.58
1268	1275	12	fill	ditch			0.94
1269	1270	12	fill	pit			0.34
1270	0	12	cut	pit		0.3	0.34
1271	1267	12	fill	ditch		0.86	0.62
1272	1227	12	fill	ditch	disuse		0.78
1273	1274	12	fill	ditch		0.4	0.2
1274	0	12	cut	ditch		0.4	0.2
1275	0	12	cut	ditch		1.5	0.94
1280	1281	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.22
1281	0	12	cut	post hole		0.4	0.22
1282	1283	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.12
1283	0	12	cut	post hole		0.3	0.12
1284	1285	12	fill	post hole	disuse		0.14
1285	0	12	cut	post hole		0.24	0.14
1300	0	13	layer	topsoil			0.3
1301	0	13	layer	natural			
1302	1304	13	fill	ditch	disuse		0.37
1303	1304	13	fill	ditch	disuse		0.4
1304	0	13	cut	ditch		1.7	0.77
1305	1306	13	fill	ditch	disuse		0.27
1306	0	13	cut	ditch		1.8	0.27

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth
1307	0	13	fill	ditch	disuse		0.4
1308	0	13	cut	ditch			0.4
1309	1310	13	fill	ditch	disuse		0.3
1310	0	13	cut	ditch	boundary	2	0.3
1311	1312	13	fill	furrow	disuse		0.2
1312	0	13	cut	furrow		2	0.2
1313	1314	13	fill	ditch			
1314	0	13	cut	ditch		3.6	
1315	1316	13	fill	furrow	disuse		0.22
1316	0		cut	furrow		4	0.22
1317	1318	13	fill	ditch	disuse		0.26
1318	0	13	cut	ditch		0.8	0.26
1319	1320	13	fill	pit			0.28
1320	0	13	cut	pit		3.44	0.28
1321	1322	13	fill	furrow			0.18
1322	0	13	cut	furrow		2.5	0.18
1323	1324	13	fill	pit			0.25
1324	0	13	cut	pit		1.2	0.25
1325	1326	13	fill	post hole	disuse		0.14
1326	0	13	cut	post hole		0.2	0.14
1401	1402	14	fill	furrow	disuse		0.08
1402	0	14	cut	furrow		3.2	0.08
1403	1404		fill	furrow			0.07
1404	0	14	cut	furrow		2.6	0.07
1405	1406		fill	furrow			0.09
1406	0	14	cut	furrow		2	0.09
1407	1411	14	fill	ditch	disuse		0.5
1408	1411	14	fill	ditch	disuse		0.25
1409	1411	14	fill	ditch	disuse		0.3
1410	1411	14	fill	ditch	disuse		0.2
1411	0	14	cut	ditch	boundary / enclosure	2.5	1.15
1500	0	15	layer	topsoil			0.3
1501	1502	15	fill	pit / natural			0.24
1502	0	15	cut	pit / tree		1.5	0.24
1503	1504	15	fill	furrow			0.2
1504	0	15	cut	furrow		1.5	0.2
1505	1506	15	fill				0.13
1506	0	15	cut			0.8	0.13
1507	1508	15	fill	furrow			0.15
1508	0	15	cut	furrow			0.15
1509	1510	15	fill	furrow			0.18
1510	0	15	cut	furrow		1.5	0.18
1600	0	16	layer	Top Soil			
1601	0	16	layer	natural			0.02
1602	0	16	layer	natural			
1700	0	17	layer	Top Soil	field drain		
1701	0	17	layer	Sub Soil	field drain		
1702	0	17	layer	natural, colluvium	field drain		
1801	0	18	layer	topsoil			

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth
1802	0	18	layer	subsoil			
1803	0	18		natural			
1804	1805	18	fill	ditch	disuse		0.21
1805	0	18	cut	ditch	drainage	1	0.21
1806	1807		fill	pit			0.15
1807	0	18	cut	pit		0.66	0.15
1808	1809	18	fill	post hole	disuse		0.2
1809	0	18	cut	post hole		0.1	0.2
1810	1811	18	fill	ditch	disuse		0.2
1811	0	18	cut	ditch	drainage	1.1	0.2
1900	0	19	layer	Top Soil			
1901	0	19	layer	Sub Soil			
1902	0	19	layer	natural			
2002	2003	20	fill	natural			0.2
2003	0	20	cut	natural			
2020	0		cut	ditch	boundary	0.78	0.2
2103	2104	21	fill	ditch	disuse		0.55
2104	0	21			boundary	3	0.55
2105	2106	21	fill	ditch	disuse		0.15
2106	0	21	cut	ditch		0.4	0.15
2203	2204	22	fill	ditch	disuse		0.25
2204	0	22	cut	ditch	boundary	1.05	0.25
3000	0		layer	Top Soil			0.22
3001	0		fill	Cobbled Layer			0.04
3002	0		fill	layer above fill of ditch			0.2
3003	3004		fill	ditch	plot boundary	0.89	0.23
3004	0		cut	ditch	plot boundary	0.89	0.23
3005	0		layer	Clay Floor			0.12
3006	2007		fill	post hole	structure	0.34	0.26
3007	0		cut	post hole	structure	0.34	0.26
3008	3009		fill	post pad	structure	0.8	0.04
3009	0		cut	post pad	structure	0.8	0.04
3010	0		layer	clay floor			0.1
3011	3014		fill	ditch			0.22
3012	3013		fill	ditch	boundary	1	0.42
3013	0		cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.42
3014	0		cut	ditch		1.6	0.22
3015	3016		fill	ditch	boundary	0.8	0.28
3016	0		cut	ditch	boundary	0.8	0.28
3017	0		layer	bank			0.55
3018	0		layer	Sb Soil			0.22
3019	3020		fill	ditch fill	boundary	0.78	0.2
3020	0		cut	ditch	boundary	0.78	0.2
3021	3022		fill	ditch		1.29	0.4
3022	0		cut	ditch		1.2	0.4
3100	0		layer	topsoil			0.19-0.22
3101	0		layer	subsoil		1.5	0.1-0.2
3102	3103		Fill	ditch	Road boundary?		
3103	0		cut	ditch	Road boundary?	1.7	0.43-0.48
3104	0		layer	Levelling layer			0.36

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth
3105	0		layer	Road?			Up to 0.22
3401	0	34	layer	Top Soil			
3402	0	34	layer	Sub Soil			
3403	0	34	layer	natural			

APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Metal work

By Nina Crummy

4.4.9 The assemblage is small and the objects quite diverse in both date and function.

4.4.10 An iron hobnail from post-medieval furrow 1401 may be a residual Roman item (SF 6). An end-plate from a double-sided composite comb came from Middle Saxon pit 1230 (SF 5). Its narrow width and straight edge are features common to both Middle and Late Saxon double-sided combs. Two iron fibre-processing spikes came from the same context (SFs 1-2). In section and length they conform closely to wool-comb teeth from York, although there is some possibility that they derive instead from a flax heckle (Walton Rogers 1997, 1727-31).

4.4.11 An unstratified lead spindle-whorl may be Saxon or later medieval (SF 3). Part of a large knife with holes in the tang for iron rivets that would have attached an organic (wood, bone or antler) handle came from a ?12th-century pit (SF 17). Riveted tangs of this type are rare in the early medieval period, but there is a large and complete knife with three intact iron rivets from a late 11th- to 12th-century context at the manor of Goltho, Lincolnshire (Goodall 1987, 181, fig. 157, 67). A second knife has a bolster stop between the blade and tang, a feature that did not develop until the 16th century, and the form of the blade shows it to be a post-medieval table knife (SF 18). Also post-medieval to modern are a horseshoe (SF 19), a fragment of a U-shaped fitting that may be a pony shoe but is very thin and has a low flange on each edge (SF 12), and a variety of other iron objects. The only fragments of copper alloy are small amorphous unidentifiable scraps (SF 8). A fragment of folded lead sheet is probably medieval or later but has no distinctive features (SF 20).

4.4.12 The structural ironwork includes an unstratified hook with spiral shank and pierced terminal for attachment to wood (SF 4). Twisted shanks occur on Late Saxon and medieval iron objects, particularly keys and structural items such as figure-of-eight-shaped hasps. A fragmentary fitting from a context dating to the second half of the 12th century at Castle Acre Castle may be part of a similar hook (Goodall 1982, fig. 40, 109). One nail has the large head typical of medieval door nails and roves (SF 21), another has a narrow rectangular head, a form that did not appear until the later medieval period (SF 9), others are modern (SF 13). Most nails cannot be closely dated except by their contextual associations.

Catalogue

Antler

4.4.13 SF 5. (1230). Middle Saxon pit. Plain end-plate from a narrow composite antler comb, with straight edge, two teeth remaining on one side and broken across a rivet hole. Length 20 mm, width 33 mm.

Copper alloy

4.4.14 SF 8. (502). Subsoil. Six small fragments. Largest 11 by 5 mm.

Lead

4.4.15 SF 3. (9999). Metal-detected between Trenches 12 and 13. Truncated conical weight or small spindle-whorl. Height 16 mm, maximum diameter 22 mm. Saxon or Medieval.

SF 20. (3102). ?Early post-medieval layer. Piece of sheet lead with one irregular edge folded into a narrow strip, of triple thickness at one end and double at the other. Length 51 mm, width 13 mm, 8 mm thick. Undated.

Iron

4.4.16 SF 6. (1401). Post-medieval furrow. Hobnail with worn head. Length 12 mm.

SF 1. (1230). Middle Saxon pit. Round-section fibre-processing spike. Length 101 mm.

SF 2. (1230). Middle Saxon pit. Round-section fibre-processing spike as SF 1. Length 101 mm.

SF 4. (99999). Unstratified. Medieval hook with twisted shaft and flattened pierced upper. terminal. Length 152 mm.

SF 17. (3011). Medieval ditch (*c.* 12th century). a) Knife with scale tang pierced to take a rivet. Most of the blade is missing and what remains is damaged. The back is straight, the edge curves downwards from the end of the tang but is otherwise mainly missing. Length 133 mm, maximum width 41 mm. b) Fragment of sheet iron, unlikely to be from the knife. 34 by 35 mm.

SF 18. (3104). Medieval cobbled surface (road?). Table knife with bolster stop between the blade and whittle tang. Most of the blade is missing. The back is straight, the edge drops downwards from the stop but probably ran parallel to the back. Length 90 mm.

SF 19. (3102). ?Early post-medieval layer. Complete horseshoe with plain blunt terminals. Length 106 mm, maximum width 107 mm.

SF 12. (3000). Topsoil. Modern fitting fragment, with blunt terminal (?pony shoe). Length 77 mm.

SF 11. (3006). ?Medieval posthole. Wire staple. Length 36 mm.

SF 25. (3105). Late medieval layer. Large staple, one terminal missing. Length 61 mm.

SF 14. (3000). Topsoil. Loop-headed shank fragment. Length 72 mm. Modern.

SF 24. (3000). Topsoil. Curved tapering strip fragment. Length 40 mm, maximum width 13 mm.

SF 9. (207). ?Medieval quarry pit. a) Incomplete nail with narrow rectangular head. Length 23 mm. b) Clenched iron nail shank fragment. Length 41 mm.

SF 10. (201). Modern context. Complete nail with damaged ?round head. Length 67 mm.

SF 13. (3000). Topsoil. Six modern nails with round head and one shank fragment. 1) Incomplete, length 72 mm. 2) Incomplete, length 50 mm. 3) Incomplete, length 47 mm. 4) Complete, length 42 mm. 5) Incomplete, length 32 mm. 6) ?Round head, incomplete, length 23 mm. 7) Shank fragment, clenched, length 18 mm.

SF 15. (3001). Late medieval cobbled area linked to house. Six nails with round heads and one shank fragment. 1) Complete, length 51 mm. 2) Tip of shank missing, length 39 mm. 3) Complete, clenched, length 46 mm. 4) Most of head missing, shank incomplete, length 39 mm. 5) Incomplete, length 32 mm. 6) Incomplete, length 24 mm. 7) Shank fragment, length 30 mm.

SF 16. (3008). ?Medieval post pad. Incomplete nail with small round head. Length 36 mm. Undated.

SF 21. (3102). ?Early post-medieval layer. a) Incomplete nail with large square head, possibly door furniture. Length 36 mm. b) Nail shank, possibly with a small part of the head remaining. Length 55 mm.

SF 27. (3102). ?Early post-medieval layer. Complete nail with round head. Length 47 mm.

SF 22. (3104). Medieval cobbled surface (road?). Nail with damaged round head and lacking the tip of the shank. Length 103 mm.

SF 26. (3105). Late medieval layer. Incomplete nail with square head. Length 51 mm.

C.2 Metal working

By Peter Boardman

4.4.17 Small amounts of slag was recovered from four features (0.672kg). Of interest was a single piece of smelt base slag (0.397kg) from probable Early/Middle Saxon pit **1234**. Evidence for Saxon metal working is rare and it is possible it is residual Roman. The other slag fragments were a small tap slag piece from ditch **405** (Middle to Late Saxon) and small fragments from two furrows including part of a possible smelt base [**1402** and **1506**].

Catalogue

404 1 piece 55mm x46mm x21mm (0.0609kg). Tap slag. Large FE content, poor extraction technique. From a very iron-rich core.

1233 1 piece 102mm x 84mm x 47mm (0.394kg). Smelt base slag. Heated several times. Various impressions and clay inclusions indicate it was removed after several smelt uses but before it blocked the tap slag of the smelt. Although it came from an Early/Middle Saxon context it is possible it is Roman in date.

1401 *c*.5 pieces 18mm x 12mm x 88mm (average; 0.0180kg). Undiagnostic. From iron-rich ore. Possibly a thin run-off slag, slow cooled ?outside smelt.

1505 c.5 pieces 35mm x 28mm x 27mm (average; 0.1599kg). Shape indicates part of a smelt base. Product from a very iron-rich ore.

C.3 Flint

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

4.4.18 Five pieces of struck flint were recovered during investigations (Table 4). This report quantifies and describes the assemblage, assesses its significance and recommends any further work required for it to achieve its full research potential. All of the material was residually deposited and recovered from later contexts.

Context	Decortication Flake	Flake	Blade	Axe	Date	Comments
1268			1		M/N	Large unsystematic blade, some damage to edges could indicate utilization
1273			1		UD	Medial segment, probably Meso or E Neo but too fragmentary to be certain
3000	1				?	This flake has been mechanically struck but its ventral largely consists of a thermal plain. Possibly a mis-strike but its context of recovery suggests accidental production

3000		1			BA	Has wide obtuse striking platform, heavily recorticated. Post-cortication damage accidental?
3000 SF23				1	M	Worn and abraded transverse axe

Table 4: *Quantification of Lithic Material by Context*

Raw Materials

4.4.19 The three pieces from context [3000] were made from a translucent grey/brown flint with smooth-worn cortex or thermal-scar surfaces. The flint was of good knapping quality, although prone to thermal shattering, and the raw materials would have been available from alluvial gravel deposits as present in streambeds in the surrounding area. The pieces from contexts [1268] and [1273] were both made from a similar mottled grey flint. That from [1268] retained a remnant of thick and relatively unweathered cortex, indicating that this type of flint was either obtained from close to its parent chalk or, perhaps more plausibly, from superficial glacial deposits such as the boulder clays that cap the higher grounds in the area.

Technology, Typology and Dating

4.4.20 The earliest confidently attributable piece was a transverse axe recovered from context [3000], which would be characteristically Mesolithic in date. This had been made from a worn elongated alluvial cobble and was in an abraded and recorticated condition. It measured 110mm by 37mm by 25mm and weighed 118g. It was rather irregular in morphology, as is often the case with transverse axes, but generally had a plano-convex cross section with the 'upper' curved face retaining a cortical ridge, although a coarse cherty protrusion was present on its 'lower' face; this may have been deliberately retained to aid handling or hafting. Its cutting edge had been sharpened with a characteristic transverse blow across its 'upper' face and it had a rounded, slightly flattened, butt. Its abraded condition precluded the identification of edge damage from use or of any evidence for it having been hafted. It had several fresh small flake scars along its edges caused by damage that occurred long after its manufacture. These would be consistent with the suggestion that it had been collected from a nearby stream during the Medieval period alongside other cobbles, which were then used in a cobbled floor.

4.4.21 The other two flakes from context [3000] were less diagnostic. One of the flakes was likely to have been accidentally produced whilst transporting the cobbles, whilst the other consisted of a heavily recorticated thick and short flake with a wide and obtuse striking platform. It was not closely dateable but it would perhaps be most typical of later Bronze Age industries.

4.4.22 The struck pieces from contexts [1268] and [1273] were made from similar raw materials to each other and were both in a good condition, although the larger piece, from context [1268], had some damage along both edges that may have been caused either post-depositionally or from use as a heavy-duty cutting implement. Both pieces were of blade proportions but did not appear to have been systematically produced. They are, again, not closely dateable but would perhaps be most typical of Mesolithic or Neolithic industries.

Significance

4.4.23 The assemblage indicates activity along the line of the pipeline dating to the Mesolithic and probably later periods, although it is too small to illuminate the nature or significance of those activities and is therefore of limited interpretative potential. The axe is an interesting find although its importance is somewhat tempered by the possibility that it may have been inadvertently imported to the site during the historic period.

C.4 Worked Stone

By Nina Crummy and Carole Fletcher

4.4.24 Small amounts of lava quern fragments were recovered from five contexts and one from unprovinced Trench 12 (0.61kg). All were very small pieces, no diameters or even thickness could be measured with only one fragment of a lower-stone (SF 7) even having a surface where faint traces of tooling on the grinding surface were visible (47 by 36 mm, 18 mm thick). The quern fragments were found in features of all periods (Early Saxon (**1225**), Middle Saxon (**1231**), Late Saxon (**1227**), medieval/post-medieval (**1404** and **1603**).

C.5 Glass

By Alasdair Brooks

4.4.25 Three glass fragments were found from context 3000. While conclusively identifying the diagnostic features of small glass fragments is problematic, these two fragments of green and one fragment of clear glass look fully machine-made, and therefore date from no earlier than 1886.

C.6 Roman Pottery

By Alice Lyons

Introduction (Tables 5 and 6)

4.4.26 A total of 120 sherds of Romano-British pottery, weighing 1.736kg, were recovered during the archaeological evaluation of the Stow Longa to Tilbrook pipeline near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Much of the Roman pottery found during this intervention is residual (or mixed) within later deposits (Table 6) and the pottery is generally in poor condition, with an average sherd size of *c*.15g. Where the pottery is closely datable, it is of 2nd to 3rd century AD date.

4.4.27 This pottery was retrieved from a previously unknown Roman settlement although there is known nearby activity in the Roman period with Iron Age and Roman remains found at Kimbolton Airfield (CHER CB14665) and Manor Farm (CHER CB14666) in the Parish of Stow Longa. While Roman fine ware pottery was also found in the parish during the examination of a gas pipeline between Lutton to Huntingdon (Copp 1998).

4.4.28 Just 4 sherds of Romano-British pottery, weighing 0.004kg (each weighing a gramme), were recovered from two small areas within Stow Long village itself (contexts 3010,

3012 and 3105) and two sherds (weighing 9g) was recovered from Tilbrook (context 101).

4.4.29 No evidence for pottery production has so far been found in the immediate area.

Methodology

4.4.30 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a catalogue was prepared.

4.4.31 The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x20 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW). Vessel form was recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted.

Fabrics (Table 5)

4.4.32 The range of fabrics and forms recovered is limited as the assemblage consists entirely of locally produced utilitarian grey or black (reduced) and white (oxidised) vessels. A total of eight individual fabrics were recovered, some of which as single fragments only (Table 4).

4.4.33 The most common fabric identified is a gritty oxidised ware, found in the form of a jar and a flagon. This utilitarian fabric is commonly found in the western Fen basin during the Roman period (Lyons forthcoming) and is similar to (and may well be) a product of the Verulamium (St. Albans) industry (Tyers 1996, 199-201) but identical fabrics are also known to have been produced in other Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire kiln sites (Martin and Wallis, 2006, 3.7.1, iii and iv; Perrin 1996, 154; Cameron 1996, 449).

4.4.34 Also common were oxidised and reduced sandy coarse wares, also Shell tempered wares. These fabrics are typical for west Cambridgeshire and are similar to pottery produced in the Lower Nene Valley (Perrin 1996, 114-188; Cameron 1996, 440-477), although other unsourced kilns must have existed in the vicinity.

Fabric Name	Fabric Abbreviation	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
Gritty oxidised ware	OW(GRITTY)	49	692	40.16
Oxidised ware	OW	18	352	20.43
Sandy grey ware	SGW	22	335	19.44
Shell tempered ware	STW	13	160	9.29
Miscellaneous	?	3	91	5.28
Sandy grey ware with calciferous inclusions	SGW(cal)	6	62	3.60
Reduced ware with grog inclusions	RW(GROG)	1	20	1.16
Sandy grey ware with quartz inclusions	SGW(q)	1	9	0.52
Grey ware with grog inclusions	GW(GROG)	1	2	0.12
Total		**114**	**1723**	**100.00**

Table 5: *The Romano-British pottery, listed in descending order of weight (%)*

Discussion

4.4.35 The Romano-British pottery assemblage consists entirely of unsourced but probably fairly locally produced utilitarian vessels. The range of forms recovered is also limited as most of the pottery can be identified as types of jar, although a flagon and one possible cup fragment were also recorded. Several of the jars retained sooty residues where they have been used over an open flame, probably as cooking pots.

4.4.36 No fine wares, such as samian (a distinctive red fine ware imported from Gaul; Tyers 1996, 105-116) or colour coated products (domestically produced at centres such as the Nene Valley; *ibid* 173-175) were recovered, neither were specialist wares such as amphora (two-handled vessel used to import luxury goods such as wine or olive oil from Italy and Spain; *ibid* 85-105) or mortarium (Roman mixing bowls; *ibid* 116-135). The absence of these vessel types may be due to the limited nature of excavation during the evaluation or it may be a genuine absence and reflect the low status of the settlement that deposited this material.

4.4.37 Therefore, although only a restricted area was excavated during this evaluation the presence of this quantity and type of Romano-British pottery suggests a low order Roman settlement was located here during the early-to-mid Roman period

Cut	Fabric	Description	Form	No.	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Spot date	Date
101	-	-	-	2	9	-	RB	RB
1217	SGW	U	JAR	1	13	Moderate	RB	RB
1217	RW(GROG)	U	SJAR	1	20	Severe	?ERB	RB
1217	STW	U	JAR	2	25	Moderate	RB	RB
1225	SGW(cal)	RUB	MJAR	6	62	Moderate	C2-C3	C6
1225	STW	RU	MJAR	6	73	Moderate	C2	C6
1225	OW	RU	MJAR	13	216	Moderate	RB	C6
1225	SGW	U	JAR	1	4	Moderate	RB	C6
1225	?	U	JAR	2	65	Severe	RB	C6
1227	?	U	JAR	1	26	Severe	RB	LS
1275	OW	RU	MJAR	5	136	Moderate	RB	C2
1275	SGW	U	JAR	6	34	Moderate	C2	C2
1275	SGW	D	JAR	1	6	Moderate	C2-C3	C2
1275	STW	U	JAR	1	9	Moderate	C2	C2
1275	OW(GRITTY)	HUB	FLAG	10	306	Moderate	C2	C2
1285	STW	B	JAR	1	9	Moderate	?RB	RB
1306	GW(GROG)	U	JAR	1	2	Severe	?RB	RB
1308	SGW	R	JAR	1	6	Moderate	C2	C2
1402	SGW(q)	R	?CUP	1	9	Moderate	?RB	E/MS
1411	OW(GRITTY)	RUDB	MJAR	39	386	Severe	C2-C3	C2
1411	STW	D	JAR	1	20	Moderate	C2	C2
1411	SGW	RU	WJAR	9	226	Moderate	C2	C2
1502	SGW	U	JAR	1	5	Severe	RB	RB
1504	STW	U	JAR	1	18	Severe	RB	RB
1506	STW	U	JAR	1	6	Severe	RB	RB
99999	SGW	U	JAR	1	18	Moderate	C1-C4	MIXED

Spoil Trench 12	SGW	U	JAR	1	23	Moderate	RB	RB
3010	RGW	-	-	1	1	Severe	RB	MS
3012	?	-	-	1	1	Severe	RB	Med
3105	NVCC	-	-	1	1	Severe	RB	Med
3105	?	-	-	1	2	Severe	RB	Med

Table 6: *The Roman pottery catalogue*

For Fabric Abbreviations codes see Table 4.

Key: U=undiagnostic body sherd; R=rim; B=base; D=decorated body sherd; H=handle; RB= Romano-British; ERB=Early Romano-British; ES=Early Saxon; MS=Middle Saxon; LS=Late Saxon; Med= medieval; NVCC= Nene Valley Colour Coated; C=century.

C.7 Post Roman Pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn and Paul Spoerry

Introduction

4.4.38 There was 168 sherds (2, 325g total weight) of post-Roman pottery found on Stow Longa to Tilbrook excavations for Anglian Water. This post-Roman pottery report has been split up into two sections with the first part written by Paul Blinkhorn and the second by Paul Speorry. The archaeological work found three separate Saxon settlements each up to 2km apart (area between Tilbrook and Stow Longa villages, Tilbrook village and Stow Longa village). The former report was written by Paul Blinkhorn when it was thought likely the central area between the two villages would go for an excavation. In the event no further archaeological work took place here, and subsequently small trenches and excavations took place within both Tilbrook and Stow Longa villages. Pottery from these two latter areas have been reported on by Paul Spoerry but using the same fabric types and report style as Paul Blinkhorn.

Area between Tilbrook and Stow Longa

4.4.39 In the area between Tilbrook and Stow Longa the post-Roman pottery assemblage comprised 52 sherds with a total weight of 1,096g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.26. It comprised a range of early, middle and late Saxon wares which suggests that it is likely that there was continuous occupation at the site from the 6th – 9th centuries, after which the site was abandoned, other than some probable agricultural activity during the high medieval period.

Fabrics

4.4.40 (*Early/Middle Saxon Hand-built Wares* (Table 7))

F1: **Quartz**. Sparse to moderate sub-angular quartz up to 1mm, most c. 0.5mm, rare sub-rounded ironstone and calcareous material up to 2mm. 20 sherds, 443g, EVE = 0.14.

F2: **Coarse quartz**. Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz c 1mm, sparse to moderate ironstone and calcareous material up to 3mm. 7 sherds, 179g, EVE = 0.

F3: **Ironstone**. Moderate to dense sub-rounded black ironstone up to 5mm, rare quartz and calcareous material up to 1mm, sparse organic voids up to 5mm. 8 sherds, 164g, EVE = 0.03.

F4: **Granitic**. Sparse to moderate sub-angular granite up to 2mm, free flakes of biotite mica and quartz grains. 1 sherd, 10g, EVE = 0.

F5: **Calcitic**. Angular pieces of calcite up to 10mm, sparse sub-angular limestone up to 1mm. 1 sherd, 5g, EVE = 0.

F6: **Calcitic Sandstone**. Angular lumps of white, calcite-cemented sandstone up to 3mm, moderate 'free' sub-angular quartz grains up to 1mm, rare shell fragments up to 2mm. 3 sherds, 23g, EVE = 0.

4.4.41 *Middle Saxon and Later Wares* (Table 7)

Ipswich Ware, AD725-850 (Blinkhorn in prep.) Middle Saxon, slow-wheel made ware, manufactured exclusively in the eponymous Suffolk wic. The material probably had a currency of AD 725x740 - mid 9th century at sites outside East Anglia. There are two main fabric types, although individual vessels which do not conform to these groups also occur:

F95: **GROUP 1**: Hard and slightly sandy to the touch, with visible small quartz grains and some shreds of mica. Frequent fairly well-sorted angular to sub-angular grains of quartz, generally measuring below 0.3 mm in size but with some larger grains, including a number which are polycrystalline in appearance. 3 sherds, 161g, EVE = 0.09.

F96: **GROUP 2**: Like the sherds in Group 1, they are hard, sandy and mostly dark grey in colour. Their most prominent feature is a scatter of large quartz grains (up to c 2.5mm) which either bulge or protrude through the surfaces of the vessel, giving rise to the term "pimply" Ipswich ware (Hurst 1959: 14). This characteristic makes them quite rough to the touch. However, some sherds have the same groundmass but lack the larger quartz grains which are characteristic of this group, and chemical analysis suggests that they are made from the same clay. 3 sherds, 77g, EVE = 0.

F97: **Maxey-type Ware.** Exact chronology uncertain, but generally dated c. AD650-850 (eg. Hurst 1976). Wet-hand finished, reddish-orange to black surfaces. Soft to fairly hard, with abundant fossil shell platelets up to 10mm. Vessels usually straight sided bowls with upright, triangular, rim-mounted pierced lugs. 1 sherd, 9g, EVE = 0.

4.4.42 Late Saxon (Table 7)

F100: **St Neots Ware type ware**, c. AD900-1100 (Denham 1985). Fabric moderate to dense finely crushed fossil shell, with varying quantities of quartz and/or ironstone. Usually purplish-black, black or grey, with fairly fine, dense inclusions. Main forms small jars with sagging bases, although a few lamps are known. 3 sherds, 11g, EVE = 0.

4.4.43 Medieval (Table 7)

F320: **Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware** (Steane and Bryant 1975). c. AD1225-?1400. Coil-built, wheel finished. Well-sorted moderate to dense limestone ooliths c 0.5mm,

although rare examples up to 2mm. Sparse to moderate red ironstone up to 10mm, although usually smaller. Rare shelly limestone, quartz, flint up to 20mm. Production as the 'A' ware, although mainly jugs, often with yellow slip stripes and/or stamped pads, external dull olive-green glaze. A few jars bowls and aquamaniles are known. Vessels usually quite crude, with coil-joins visible on interior of body. Neck and rims are wheel finished, sometimes to a quality which suggests throwing. Large colour variation, usually grey fabric with dark grey or brown, buff or orange surfaces. 2 sherds, 14g, EVE = 0.

4.4.44 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 7. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region.

Chronology and Discussion

4.4.45 The post-Roman pottery from this evaluation indicates that there is Anglo-Saxon activity at the site, and that it was potentially extremely long-lived. The presence of a decorated Anglo-Saxon hand-built vessel from ditch [1225] shows that there was activity at the site in the early Anglo-Saxon period, with the style of the pot, which has stamps arranged in triangular groups and incised lines, suggesting that it dates to the 6th century (Plates 1-3). The presence of Ipswich and Maxey wares shows that there was also activity at the site in the middle Saxon period, between *c.* AD720 and 850, with the small number of late Saxon St. Neots ware sherds present suggesting that there could be nearly 400 years of unbroken occupation. The pottery assemblage is too small to allow the idea of continuity to be advanced with certainty, but further investigations of the site would hopefully resolve the issue.

4.4.46 There seems little doubt that there was early and middle Anglo-Saxon occupation in and around the area of the trial trenches. Most of the sherds are large and in good condition, and the group of pottery from [1225] is not only quite large, but also comprises a small number of vessels, each represented by a number of sherds, some of which join. It appears to be a primary deposit, and was almost certainly disposed of near the point of breakage. It seems likely that other fragments of these vessels lie in the unexcavated portions of the feature. The small sherd of late Saxon pottery in the context appears intrusive, or may represent the final backfill date of the feature, a ditch, in question.

4.4.47 The two sherds of medieval pottery from the site are very abraded, and appear to be the result of manuring or similar agricultural activity.

4.4.48 Overall, the assemblage appears of sufficient importance to deserve publication in its own right, although it is to be hoped that further excavation work will be carried out at the site, as such long-lived Anglo-Saxon activity is very rare in the region.

	F1		F2		F3		F4		F5		F6		F95		F96		F97		F100		F320		
Cut	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
1221	1	5													2	34							MS
1225	15	414	6	156	8	164													1	4			6thC
1227							1	10	1	5			1	38			1	9	2	7			LS
1231													2	123									MS
1234	2	8																					E/MS
1239											1	19											E/MS
1274											1	3											E/MS
1314																					2	14	13thC
1402	1	8																					E/MS
1404	1	8									1	1											E/MS
99999			1	23											1	43							U/S
Total	20	443	7	179	8	164	1	10	1	5	3	23	3	161	3	77	1	9	3	11	2	14	

Table 7: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

OAE Code	EMSAXQ		EMSAXI		EMSAXGM		EMSAXCS		EMSAXV		MAX		IPS		NEOT		THET		TORK		STAM		SHW		LYST		LLYST		HUNFSW		COLN		LMEL		OSW		MSW		PMR		SWSG		REFRW		**DATE**
Blinkhorn Code	F1		F3		F4		F6				F97		F95		F100										F320																		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
102	1	17																																										450-850
103					1	5																																					600-850
105					1	1							6	75																													725-850
201																																	1	8											1350-1500
203																							2	6																					1150-1350
205							1	38																																					450-850
300	1	11																																										450-850
301											3	9																																	650-850
404																	1	22																											850-1150
406			1	3																																								450-850
502									9	65	2	6	1	94																															725-850
503											1	38																																	650-850
3000															12	78					1	8	3	59	1	56			1	9					1	5									1150-1400
3001	1	2																																											450-850
3005															1	1																													850-1150
3006															1	1																													900-1150
3010															5	28							1	32																					1150-1250
3012															4	15	1	92	1	56	1	2	7	61					5	30															1150-1250
3015											5	55																																	650-850
3019															6	2																													900-1150
3101																							1	15	1	4																			1300-1400
3102															1	8	3	55					5	29																					1150-1250
3104																					1	1	1	1			1	4			2	39							3	10	1	17	7	60	Mid 18th
3105																																					1	1							1150-1400
TOTAL	3	30	1	3	2	6	1	38	9	65	11	108	7	169	30	133	5	169	1	56	3	11	20	203	2	60	1	4	6	39	2	39	1	8	1	5	1	1	3	10	1	17	7	60	

Table 8 *Post-Roman pottery from Stow Longa and Tilbrook*

Stow Longa and Tilbrook (post-Roman pottery)

4.4.49 A total of 116 sherds (1229g of pottery) were studied from the two areas. This comprised a total of 82 sherds of post-Roman pottery (831g) were studied from two small excavations within Stow Longa village itself and 32 sherds (398g) from Tilbrook (Table 8). The Tilbrook test pits produced a similar Saxon assemblage to pottery grouping reported on by Paul Blinkhorn in the area between Stow Longa and Tilbrook whereas the Stow Longa area produced pottery of a much wider date-range, including residual Roman material, plus many medieval and some post-medieval sherds. There were five residual Roman pottery sherds recovered, four from Stow longa and one sherd from Tilbrook .

4.4.50 The table uses both Paul Blinkhorn's codes (see above) as well as codes by Paul Spoerry. Additional key for Table 7 is Neot = St Neots type ware; Thet = Thetford type ware; Tork = Torksey ware; Stam = Stamford ware; SHW = Shelly ware (Lyveden A type); LYST = Lyveden/Stanion B ware; LLYST = Late Lyveden ware; HUNFSW = Hunts Fen sany ware; COLN = Colne ware; OSW = Orange Sandy ware; MSW = Medieval sandy wares (generic); PMR = Post-medieval red wares (generic);SWSG = Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware; REFRW = Refined red wares (generic).

Stow Longa (contexts 3000-3105)

4.4.51 Within the Stow Longa area there was only one Middle Saxon context was identified (3015), with only one other Early/Middle Saxon pot sherd recovered elsewhere the the excavations.

4.4.52 Several Stow Longa context groups appear to be 12th to 13th century in date, containing both Saxo-Norman and later sherds, with another 14th century context also present. Later medieval sherds also appear, but residual with late post-medieval material within layer deposit (3105) from Spaldwick Road.

4.4.53 The pottery assemblage is unsurprisingly dominated by types originating in South Hunts (NEOT), Northants (SHW and LYST) and Cambs (HUNFSW). Thetford type ware (THET), a regional type, is now also believed to have been produced in Huntingdon.

Tilbrook (contexts 101-503)

4.4.54 The Early-Middle Saxon assemblage is a mixture of hand-made wares, including Maxey ware and grano-dioritic pottery, plus Ipswich ware. It therefore includes examples of all eastern regional middle Saxon indicator types. The Late Saxon pottery is represented by a single Thetford ware type sherd. Three high medieval pottery sherds (Shelly and Ely ware type) were recovered from Trench 2.

C.8 Brick

By Rob Atkins

4.4.55 Two brick fragments (0.488kg) were found in the topsoil (3000) from Stow Longa. Both fragments were deep red. Only one fragment had any measurable dimensions, it was 50mm thick and was crudely made of c.17th or early 18th century date.

C.9 Tile

By Rob Atkins and Carole Fletcher

Introduction

4.4.56 Tile was recovered from the three excavation areas (Tilbrook, area between Tilbrook and Stow Longa and Stow Longa). The majority was roof tile fragments of medieval and post-medieval date although a late medieval floor tile piece was found in Stow Longa.

Tilbrook

4.4.57 There were two tile fragments (0.136kg) of late medieval or early post-medieval date from modern intrusion **202**. One on the fragments had a peg hole surviving 40mm from the corner of the tile which means the tile was either diamond or two holed. This hole had an exterior diameter of 8mm and an interior diameter of 4mm. There were small amounts of lime mortar adhering to it.

Area between Tilbrook and Stow Longa

4.4.58 Eight pieces (0.287kg) of post-medieval ceramic roof tile, probably 17th or 18th century in date, were recovered. These tile were all recovered from furrows **1109** (two pieces weighing 0.097kg), **1314** (two pieces weighing 0.139kg) and **1404** (four pieces weighing 0.051kg).

Stow Longa

4.4.59 Roof and floor tile fragments were only found in the small excavation at Trench 30 and were found in either the topsoil (3000) or a cobbled layer (3001). The topsoil collection was in the main the clean-off layer above (3001) and they are almost entirely of the same date. There was at least three tile fragments. The majority were poorly made and were in a fabric similar or variant to Bourne 'D' /Colne and should date from *c.*1450-1650 with a 15th or 16th century date more likely. There were a few fragments of a higher fired red fabric which probably early post-medieval in date (later 16th or 17th century). A single fragment of yellow (white) crudely made tile was found and probably was 17th century in date. It is likely that these tiles were made fairly locally.

4.4.60 There were 19 fragments of roof tile from context 3000 (0.503kg). Within this context there was a single tile with a peg tile hole. This hole was sub-rectangular in size 11mm by 8mm. It was near the corner (within 20mm) of the tile which means the tile was

either diamond or two holed. Three of the tile fragments had lime mortar adhering to them.

4.4.61 A single plain red fabric floor tile fragment (0.078kg) was recovered from (3000) and was 24mm thick.

4.4.62 There were 22 roof tile fragments (0.614kg) from context 3001. There was a finger print on one fragment. There were two tiles which had part of a peg tile hole surviving of which only one (the yellow tile) had a full diameter (12mm). This hole was 50mm from the corner of the tile. One one tile fragment had lime mortar adhering to it.

C.10 Daub and Fired Clay

By Rob Atkins

4.4.63 There was a small quantity of daub and fired clay from all three settlement areas (0.524kg) although the vast majority (93.7%) was recovered from the evaluation trenches between Tilbrook and Stow Longa.

4.4.64 Within Tilbrook itself there was a single undiagnostic fragment of fired clay from Middle Saxon ditch **302** weighing (0.008kg).

4.4.65 In the evaluation trenches between Tilbrook and Stow Longa daub and fired clay was recovered from seven separate features (0.491kg). The daub and fired clay was not burnt, mostly nondescript and is likely to be 'domestic' in origin (unlikely to have been from kiln/oven or hearth pers comm. Alice Lyons). Four Roman and Saxon features within Trench 12 had the vast majority (0.44kg) of the daub/fired clay. These were an Early Saxon ditch (**1225**), a Middle Saxon pit (**1231**), an undated ditch (**1236**) and a Roman ditch (**1275**). There were only small fragments in furrow (**1109**), furrow (**1404**) and Roman ditch (**1411**). Wattle impressions were found on daub from **1231** and **1236** and small twig/stick impressions on **1225** and **1236**.

4.4.66 Within the Stow Longa excavations there were up to two fragments (0.025kg) of daub/fired clay. From medieval ditch 3014 there was a possible fragment (0.005kg) and from post-medieval layer 3104 there was 1 fragment (0.020kg).

APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Faunal Remains

by Chris Faine

Introduction

4.4.1 A total of 54 "countable" bones were recovered from an evaluation along the route of the Stow Longa to Tilbrook pipeline, with a further 74 fragments not identifiable to species, (56% of the total sample). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. Residuality appears not to be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Material was recovered from trenches within Tilbrook and Stow Longa themselves and along the route of the pipeline. Contexts included pits, ditches and banks dating from the Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods.

Methodology

4.4.2 All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1994). Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see Table 9). The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant, 1982). Wear stages were recorded for lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. The states of epiphyseal fusion for all relevant bones were recorded to give a broad age range for the major domesticates (after Getty, 1975). Sheep/goat differentiation was attempted on the distal metapodials using Payne (1969). Measurements were largely carried out according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976). Measurements were either carried out using a 150mm sliding calliper or an osteometric board in the case of larger bones.

The assemblage

4.4.3 Table 9 and Figure 22 show the species distribution for the entire assemblage regardless of phase. As one would expect the assemblage is dominated by the domestic mammals, with cattle being the most prevalent along with smaller amounts of sheep/goat and horse remains. Evidence of wild fauna is limited to single fragments of roe deer and mallard. Unfortunately given the small sample size relatively few elements are present within each context. As was mentioned above trenches were placed in three areas; within Stow Longa and Tilbrook themselves and in the area in between along the pipeline route.

	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Domestic Mammals				
Cattle (*Bos*)	25	46.1	19	50.7
Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Capra*)	7	12.8	4	10.2
Pig (*Sus scrofa*)	8	14.7	7	17.9
Horse (*Equus caballus*)	11	20.2	6	15
Wild Mammals				
Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)	1	2.5	1	2.5
Birds				
Mallard (*Anas platyrynchos*)	2	3.7	2	3.7
Total:	**54**	**100**	**39**	**100**

Table 9 *Species distribution for the the entire assemblage*

Figure 22 Species distribution by phase (whole assemblage)

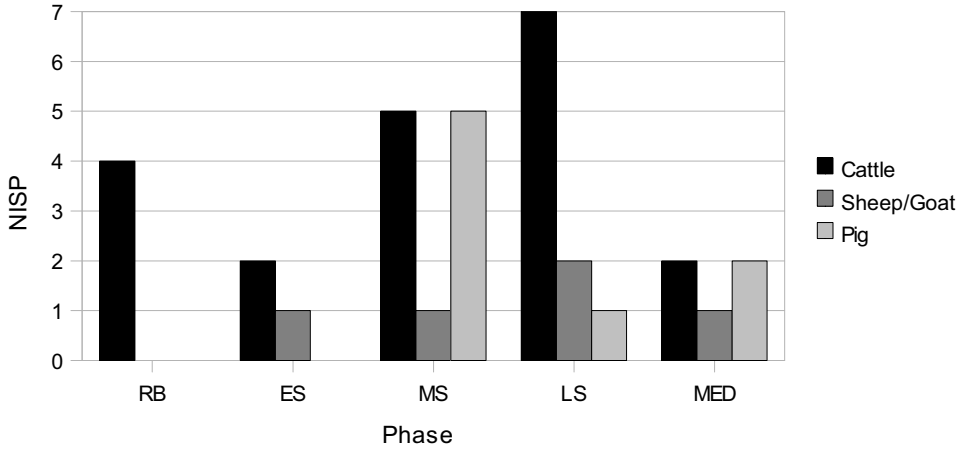
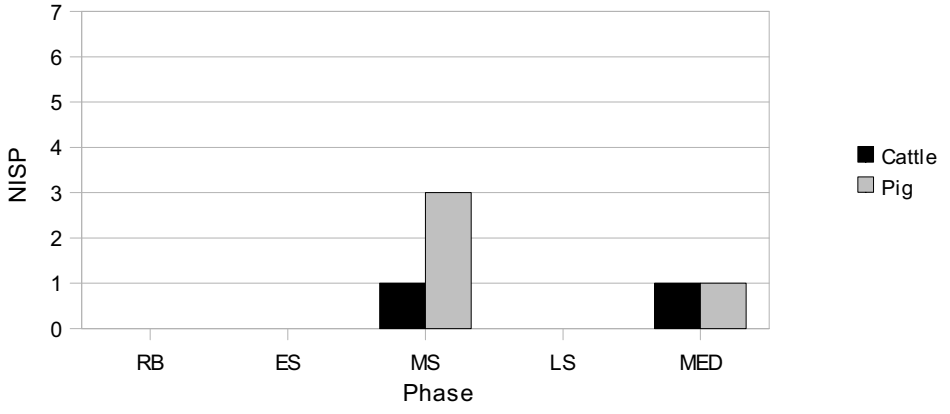


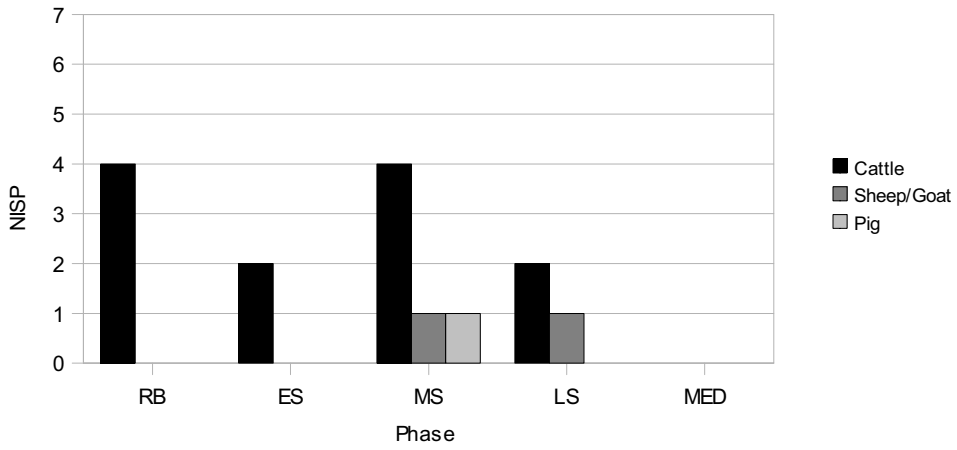
Figure 23 Domestic mammal distribution for the Tilbrook material



4.4.4 Figure 23 shows the distribution of the domestic mammals from the Tilbrook contexts. The majority of this consists of material from middle Saxon ditches. As is the case with other middle Saxon sites such as West Stowe (Crabtree, 1989) pigs predominate, with the majority of remains coming from young adult animals. This pattern is commonly seen on sites of all periods as pigs (producing few secondary products) are usually slaughtered for meat as soon as they physically mature. Cattle remains are limited to portions of metacarpal and a butchered horn core from a young adult male animal. Material from medieval contexts is limited to a mandible from a large adult male pig.

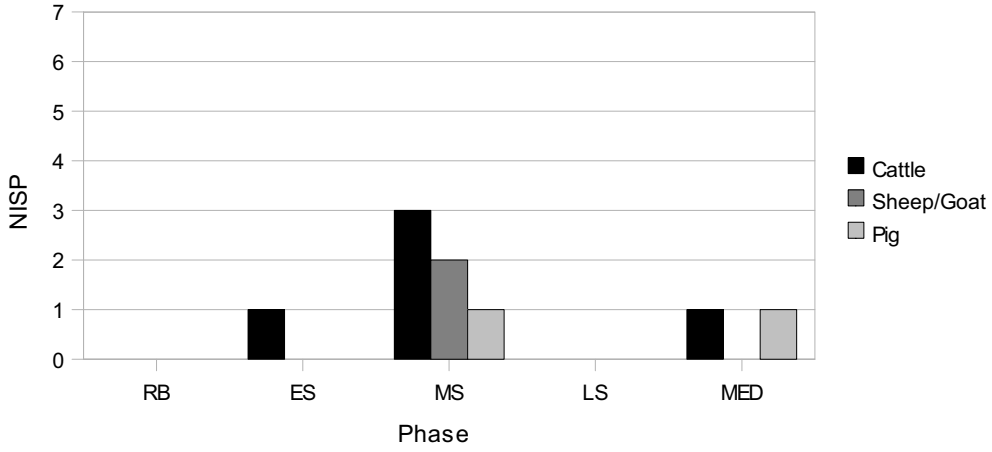
4.4.5 The majority of faunal material was recovered from Trenches 10-22 along the pipeline route. This material was recovered from early to late Saxon pits and ditches along with smaller amounts of Romano-British material. Figure 24 shows the species distribution for this material. The Roman material consists of three fragments of butchered cattle lower limbs elements and most likely represents butchery waste. This is also the case for the early Saxon material, which again consists of fragmentary cattle elements. Middle Saxon material was recovered from two pit contexts and again consisted largely of butchered cattle remains along with smaller amounts of sheep/goat and pig remains in equal numbers. This predominance of cattle is unusual in the Saxon period as a whole, where the trend is for cattle numbers to decrease in favour of pig (Crabtree, 1989). However given the very small sample size this could be the result of the greater survivability of cattle bones relative to those from smaller taxa. Cattle are also the most numerous species in the late Saxon contexts along with smaller amounts of pig and sheep remains (including a ram skull). In addition a horse mandible was recovered from an animal around 7-8 years of age. The only evidence of wild taxa was also recovered from the middle Saxon contexts in the form of a roe deer calcaneus and a duck femur.

Figure 24 Domestic mammal distribution from Trenches 10-22



4.4.6 Very little faunal material was recovered from the trenches in Stow Longa itself (Figure 25), including topsoil thought to come originally from a bank which predated the Middle Saxon ditch and may date to the Early Saxon period (or before). A single butchered cattle metatarsal was recovered from these contexts. Cattle dominate the middle Saxon contexts along with smaller amounts of sheep/goat, pig and horse. A heavily butchered pig mandible and horse 1st molar were recovered from medieval contexts.

Figure 25 Domestic mammal distribution for the Stow Longa material



Conclusion

4.4.7 As mentioned above, the small sample size means there is too little material per phase with which to draw any meaningful conclusions. The vast majority of the domestic mammal remains come from adult, or at least physically mature animals suggesting a meat based husbandry strategy for the Saxon phases at least. As mentioned above the dominance of cattle in the Saxon contexts is unusual, however given the small sample this could simply be the result of taphonomy/sampling rather than evidence of any particular husbandry strategy. With respect to all phases the assemblage most likely represents general settlement/domestic waste.

4.5 Environmental samples

by Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

4.5.1 Fifteen bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

4.5.2 Features sampled include secure archaeological contexts within pits and ditches including two deposits dated to the Saxon period.

Methodology

4.5.3 The volume of bulk soil samples collected was between 10 – 20L

The total volume of each sample were processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flots were collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residues were washed through a 1mm mesh. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried

residues were passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, fish bone, charcoal, shell, etc.) and artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. Identifications were made by the author without comparison to the OA East reference collection and should be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant classification follows Stace (1997).

Preservation

4.5.4 The plant remains were preserved by carbonisation. Preservation was variable but in the majority of the samples the grains had become severely puffed and distorted during charring and/or had abraded before deposition.

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Feature Type	Flot contents	Residue Contents
1	1302	1304	ditch	Sparse charcoal	Animal bone
2	1307	1308	ditch	Fragment of grass seed	No finds
3	1233	1234	pit	Sparse charcoal	Animal bone
4	1216	1217	ditch	Sparse charcoal	Animal bone
5	1212	1213	pit	Sparse charcoal	No finds
6	1204	1205	ditch	Sparse charcoal	Animal bone, pottery
7	1230	1231	pit	Cereal grains (16), charcoal, amphibian bones	Animal bone
8	1409		ditch	Snails only	Animal bone, snails
9	502	504	ditch	Cereal grains(61), charcoal, amphibian bones, egg shell	animal bone, small bone, pottery
10	105	106	ditch	Charcoal only	animal bone, pottery, fired clay, flint
11	3012	3013	ditch	Sparse charcoal	animal bone, small bone, daub, burnt bone
12	3015	3016	ditch	charcoal, charred pip/seed	animal bone, small bone, fired clay,
13	3019	3030	ditch	Charcoal, 2 w eed seeds	animal bone, small bone, fired clay,
14	3021	3022	ditch	Sparse charcoal	Animal bone
15	3102	3103	ditch	Sparse charcoal	animal bone, small bone ,pottery,

Table 10 S*ummarises the results obtained from environmental samples*

Ecofacts and Artefacts

4.5.5 Charred cereal grains are present in two of the samples; Sample 7 (Context 1230) and Sample 9 (Context 502). Sample 7 contains mixed cereals. Four barley (Hordeum sp.) long with six wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and four indeterminate grains. Sample 9 contained sixty-one grains that were identified as wheat or indeterminate. No chaff elements were present.

4.5.6 The majority of the samples contained fragments of animal bone and occasional sherds of pottery.

4.5.7 Modern roots were present in most of the samples.

Discussion and Conclusions

4.5.8 The plant remains in this assemblage are dominated by cereal grains. The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over

open fires prior to being deliberately deposited (as is probably the case in sample 9) or accumulating in features as general scatters of burnt refuse.

4.5.9 The two samples containing cereals are both dated to the Saxon period but they are from features located at separate areas along the length of the pipeline. This is reflected in the types of cereals in each sample. Both wheat and barley are typical crops of the Saxon period with wheat being used for bread and barley most likely being utilised in brewing activities.

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APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number			
Project Name	Roman and Medieval Settlement remains along the Stow Longa to Tilbrook Anglian Water Pipeline		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	20-11-2007	Finish	15-10-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	MULSLT 07	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	ECB 2780 and ECB 3507	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☐ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☒ Test Pit Survey
☒ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☐ Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Settlement	Roman 43 to 410	Domestic	Roman 43 to 410
3 Saxon Settlements	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	Domestic	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
2 Med Settlements	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Domestic	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Huntingdon	-	
Parish	Kimb, St Longa + Tilbrook		
HER	ECB 2780 + ECB 3507		
Study Area	4.20 Kilometers	National Grid Reference	TL 0800 6900 - 1100 7100

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Eliza Gore and Andy Thomas, CAPCA
Project Design Originator	Rob Atkins, Aileen Connor + James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Rob Atkins

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs County Store	OA East	Cambs County Store
MULSLT 07	MULSLT 07	MULSLT 07

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☒
Ceramics	☒	☒	☒
Environmental	☒	☒	☒
Glass	☒	☐	☒
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☒	☒	☒
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☒	☒
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☒	☒	☒
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☒	☒
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☒ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☒ Correspondence
☒ Images	☒ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☒ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☒ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☒ Survey

Notes:

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Natural Features

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Feature

Excavated Slot

Modern Deposit

Stone

Cobble Surface

Cut Number 118

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut-Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number 118

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

Pottery

Bone

Flint

stone

Charcoal

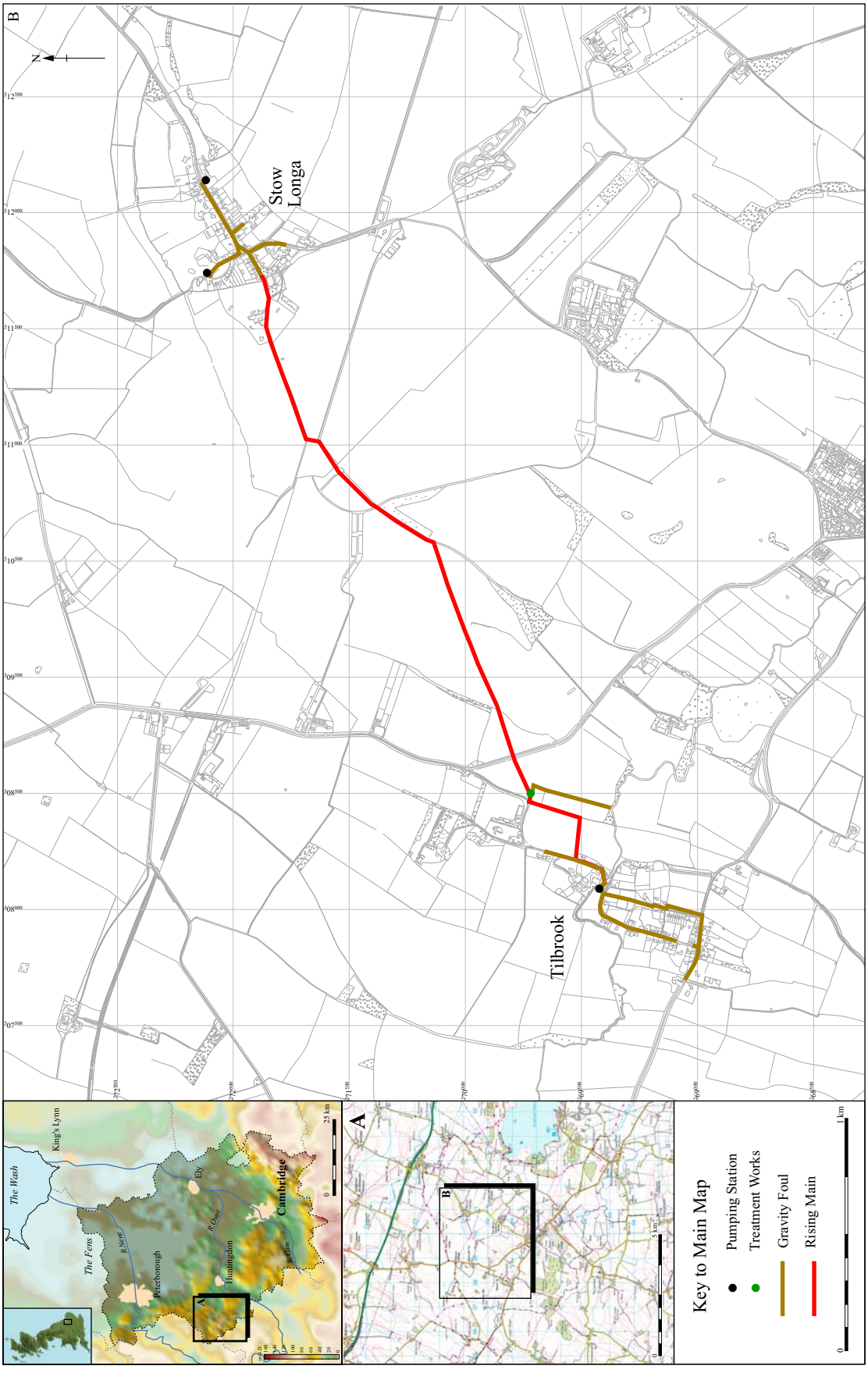

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Figure 1: Location of the Anglian Water Pipline

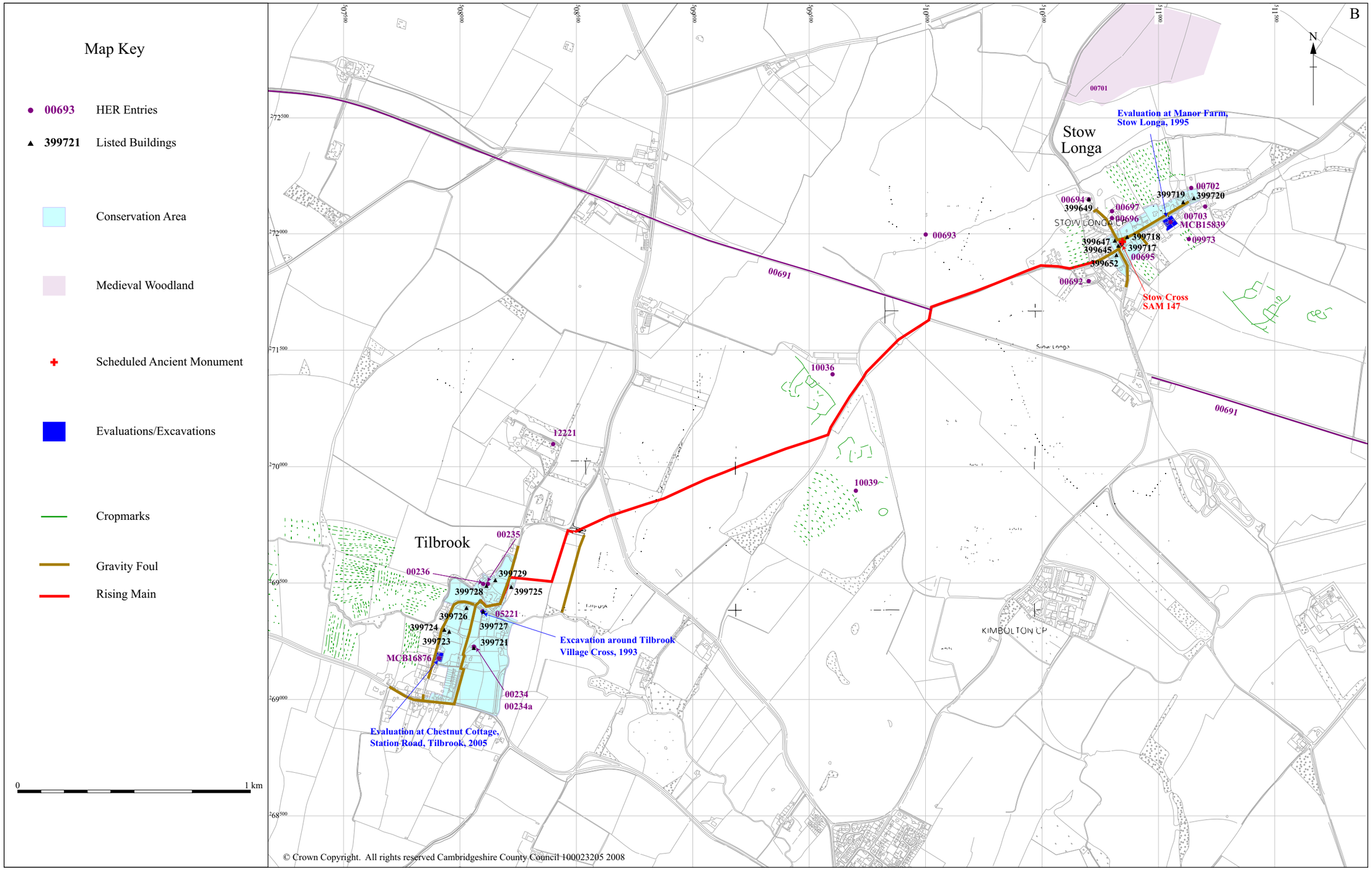

Figure 2: HER entries

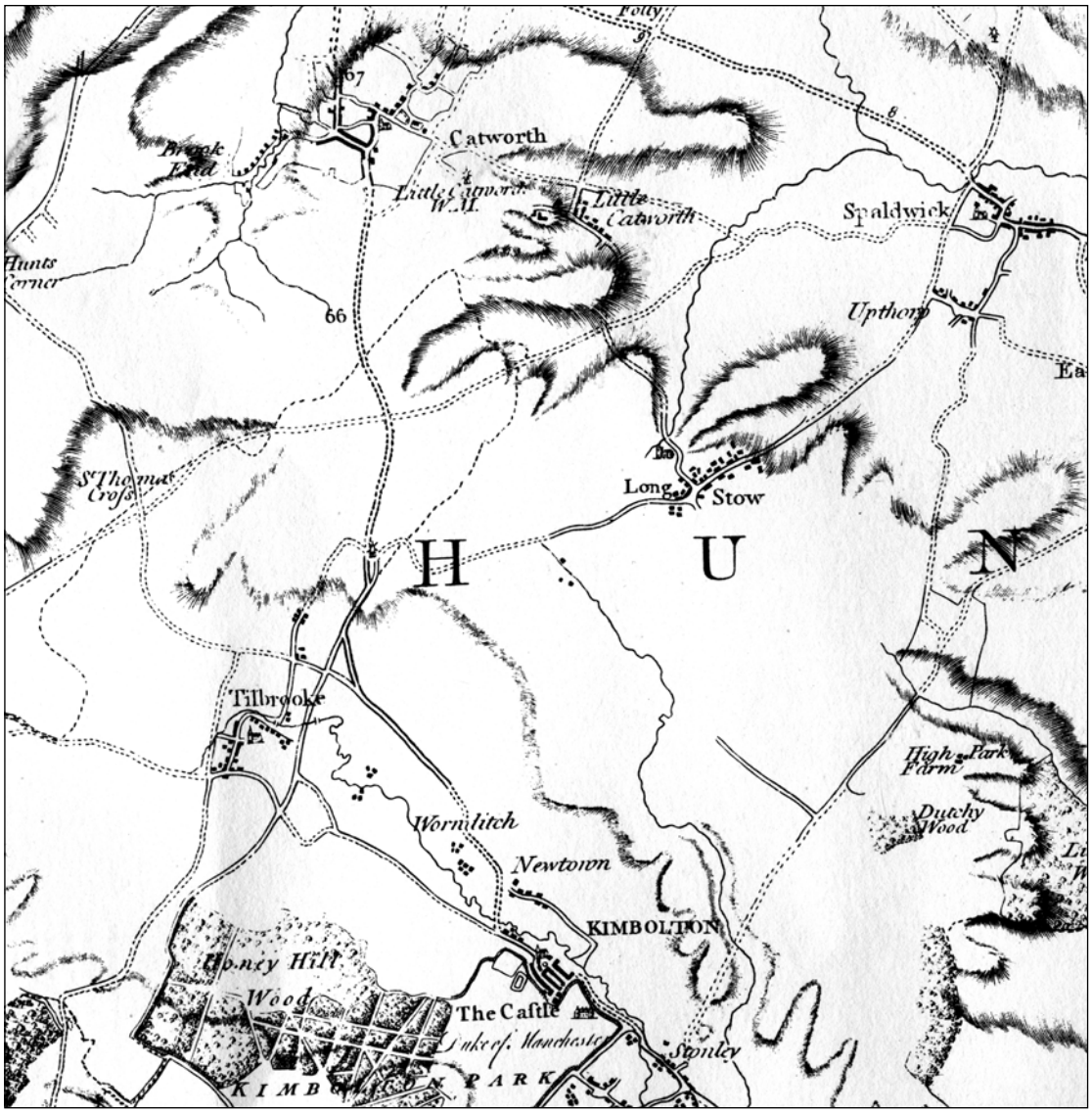

Figure 3: Extract from Jefferys' 1766 map of Huntingdon

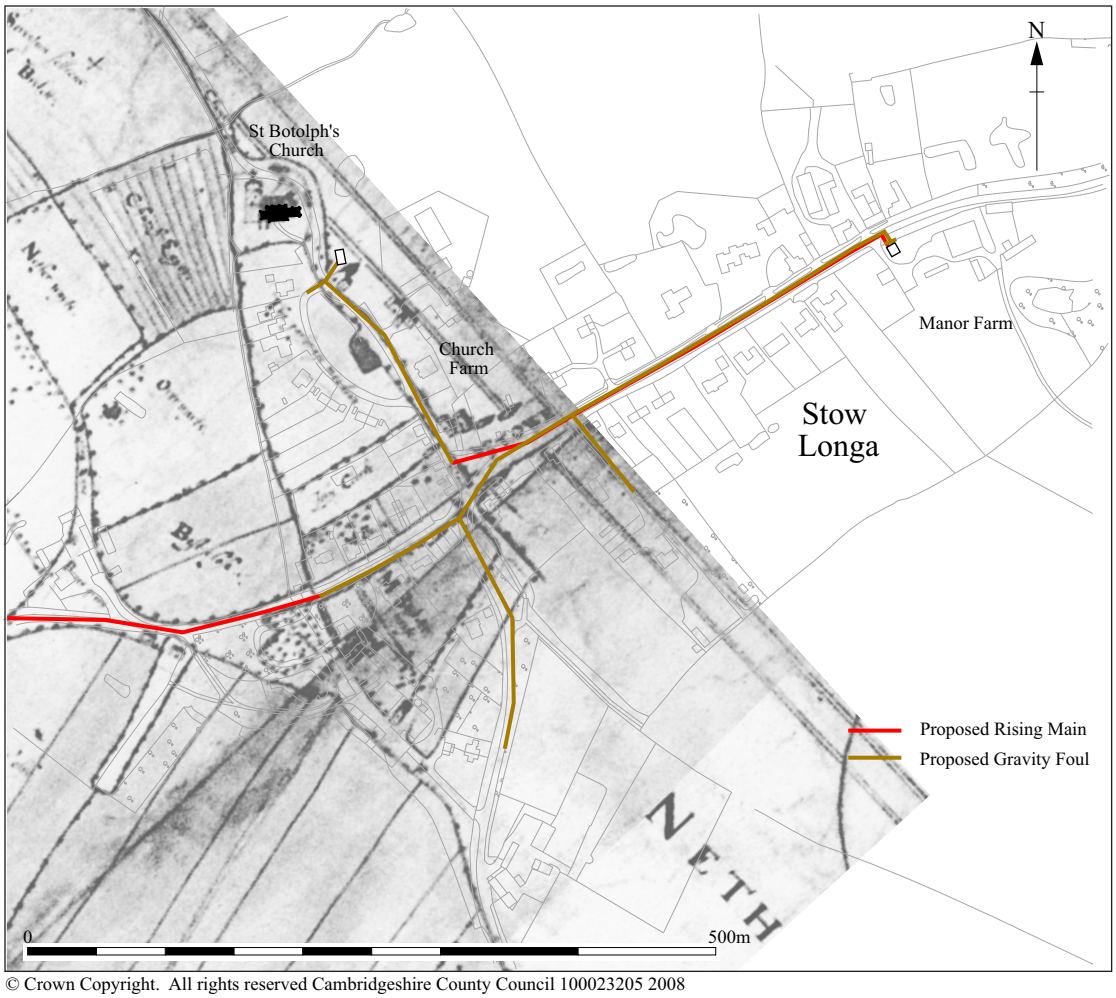

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Figure 4: 1591 Stow Longa and Kimbolton Bigrams plan (HRO PM3/6B)

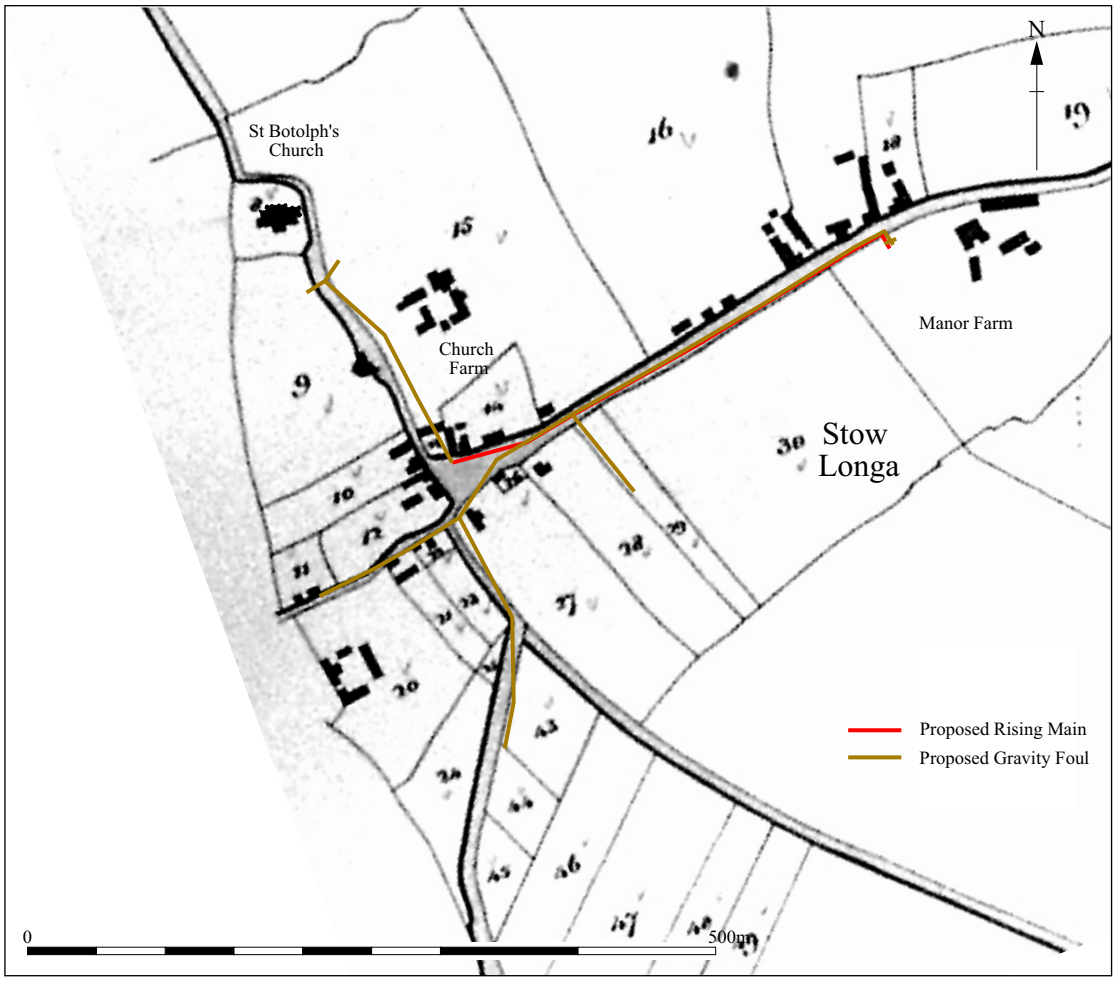

Figure 5: Stow Longa 1839 Apportionment and plan (HRO 2196/39)

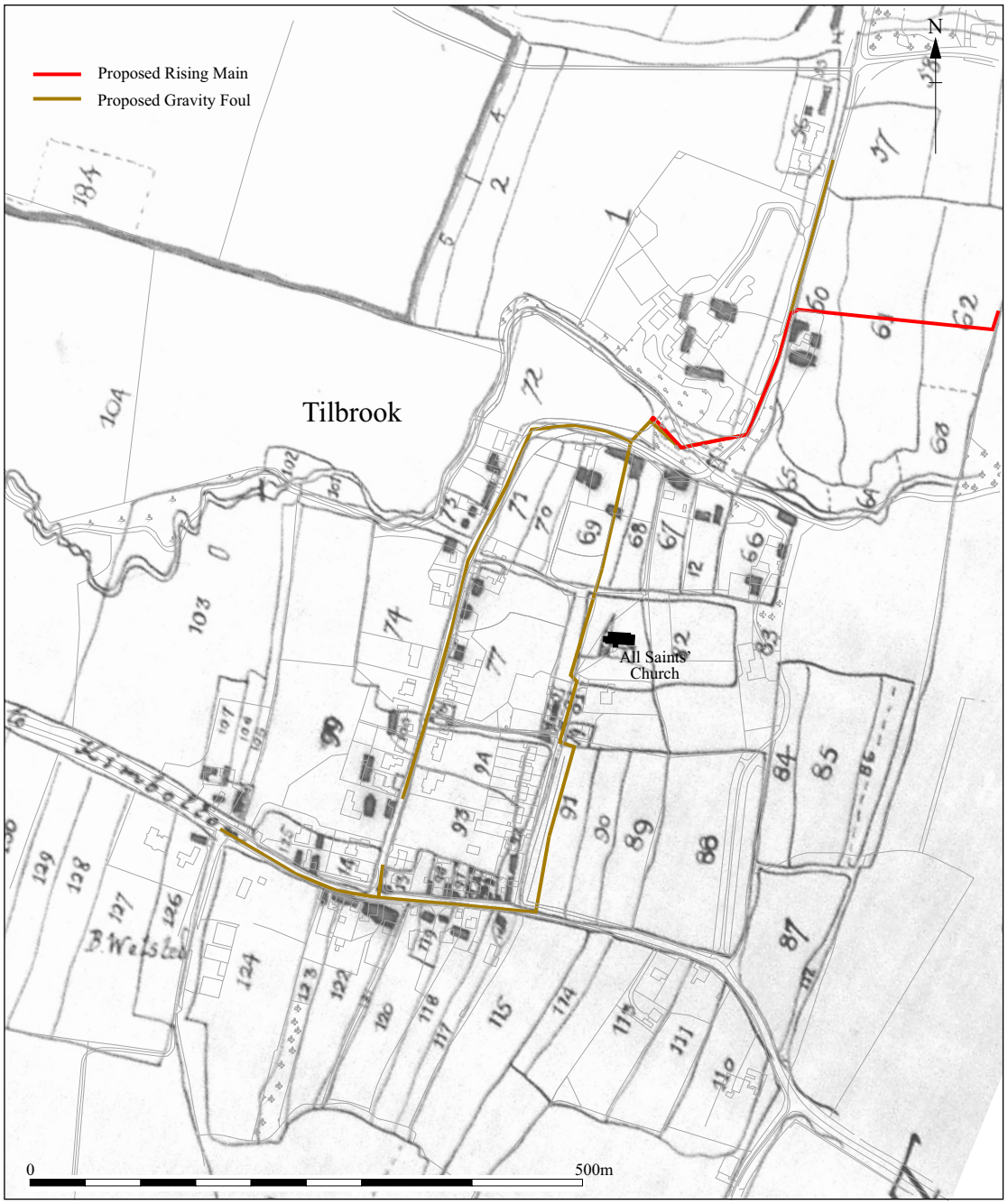

Figure 6: Tilbrook 1802 post enclosure map 1 (HRO 2110/15/38)

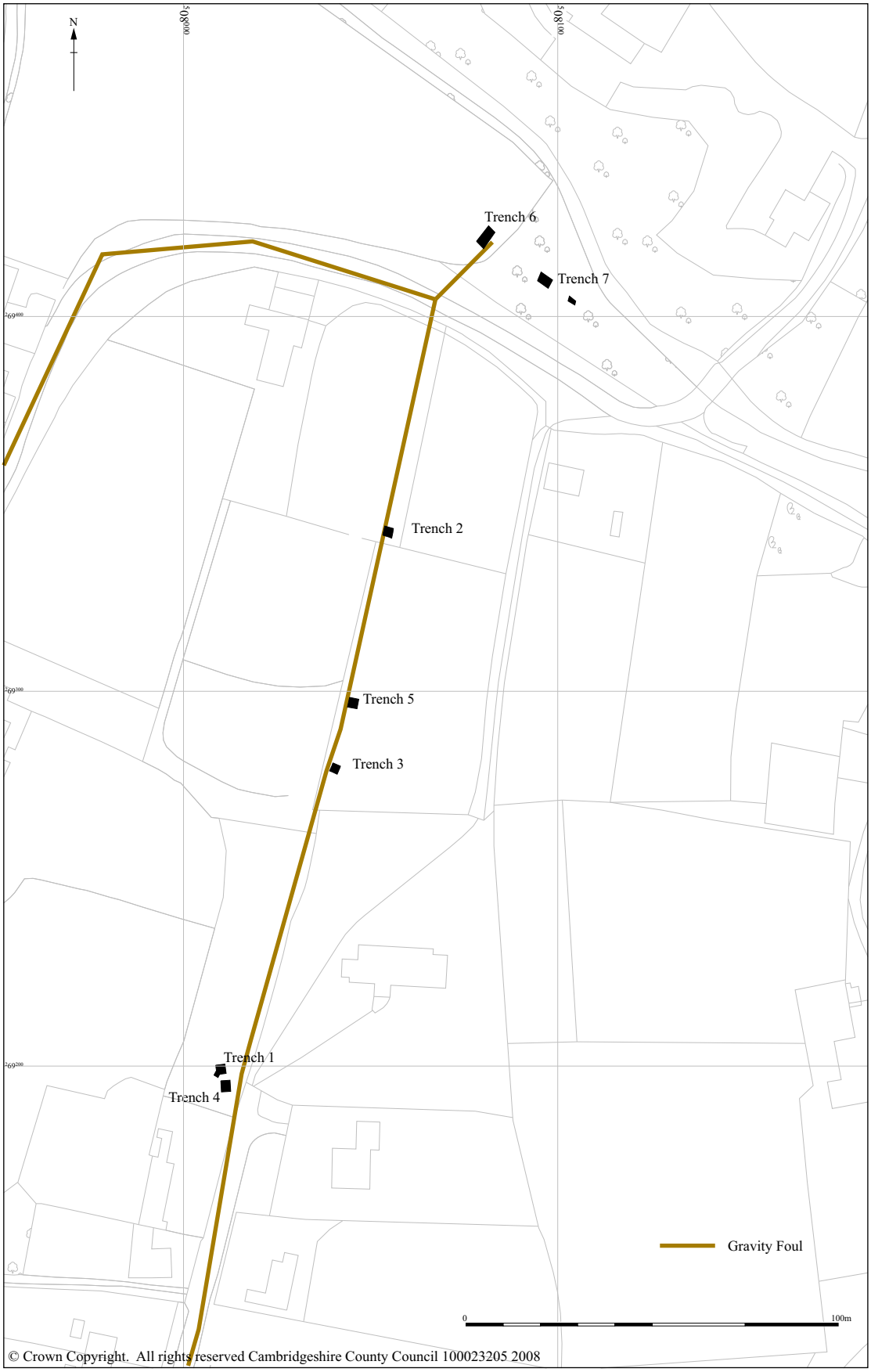

Figure 7: Evaluation trenches within Tillbrook

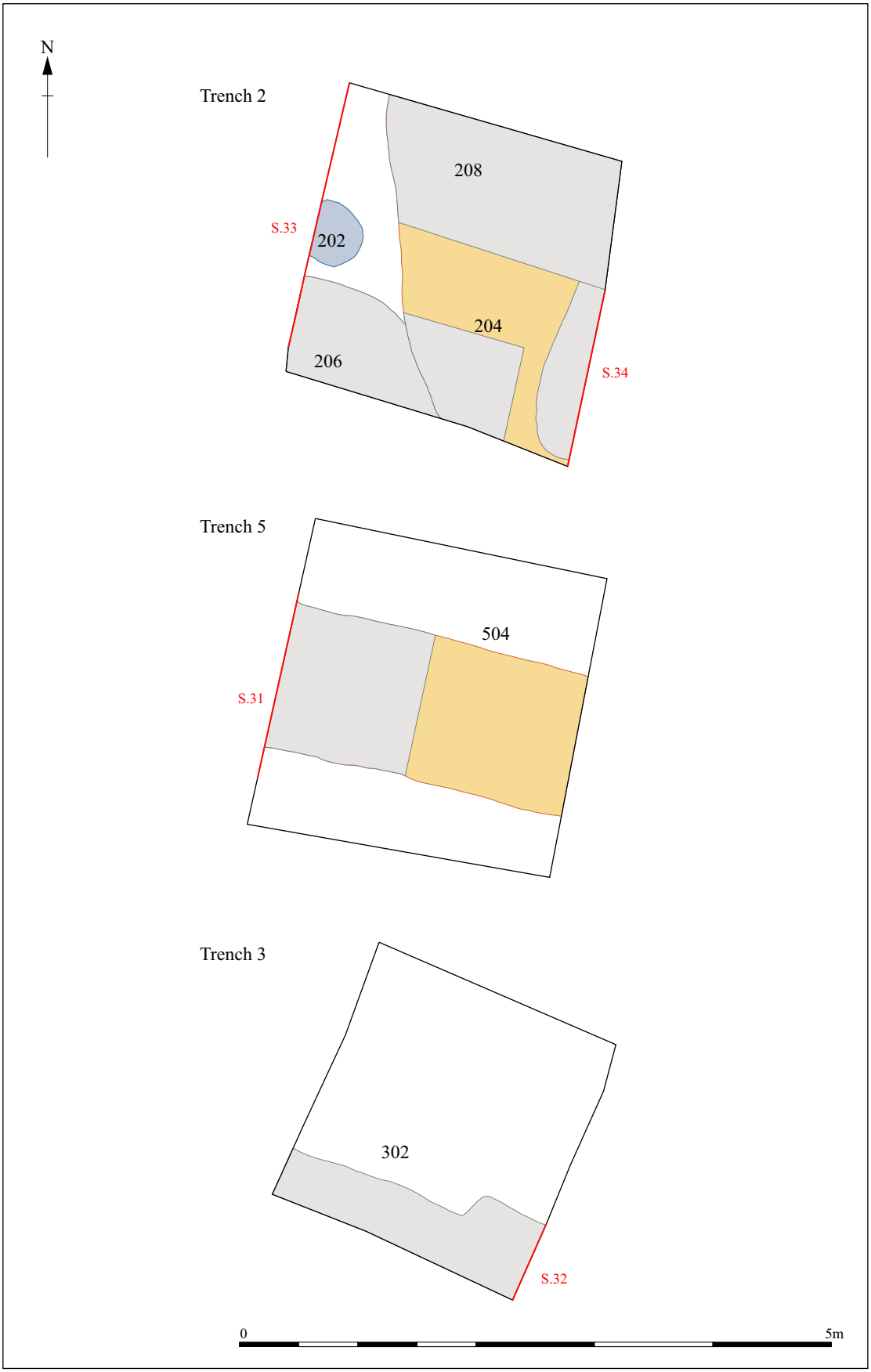

Figure 8: Plans of Test pits 2, 3, 5 within Tillbrook at 1:50

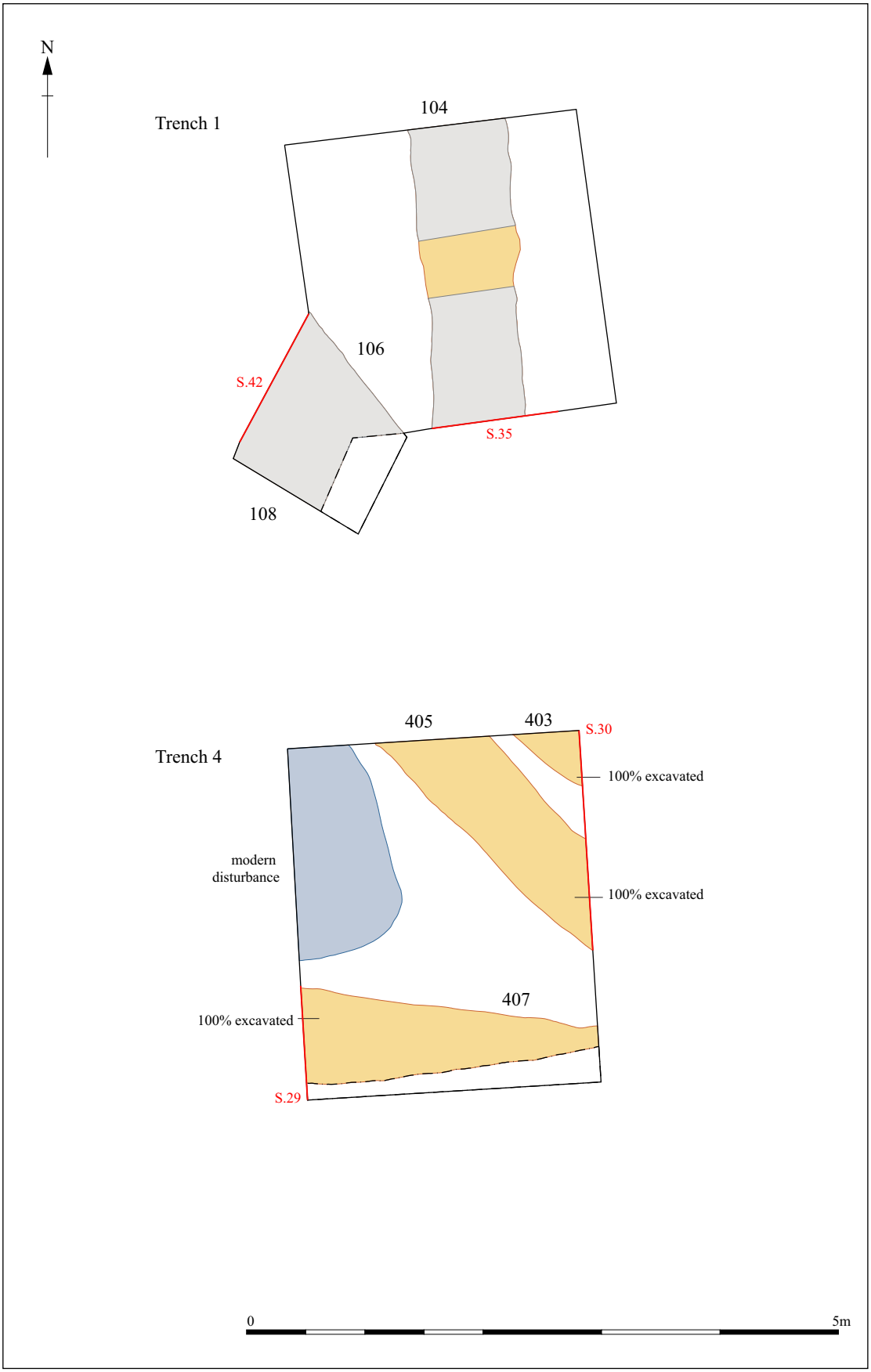

Figure 9: Plans of trenches 1 and 4 within Tillbrook at 1:50

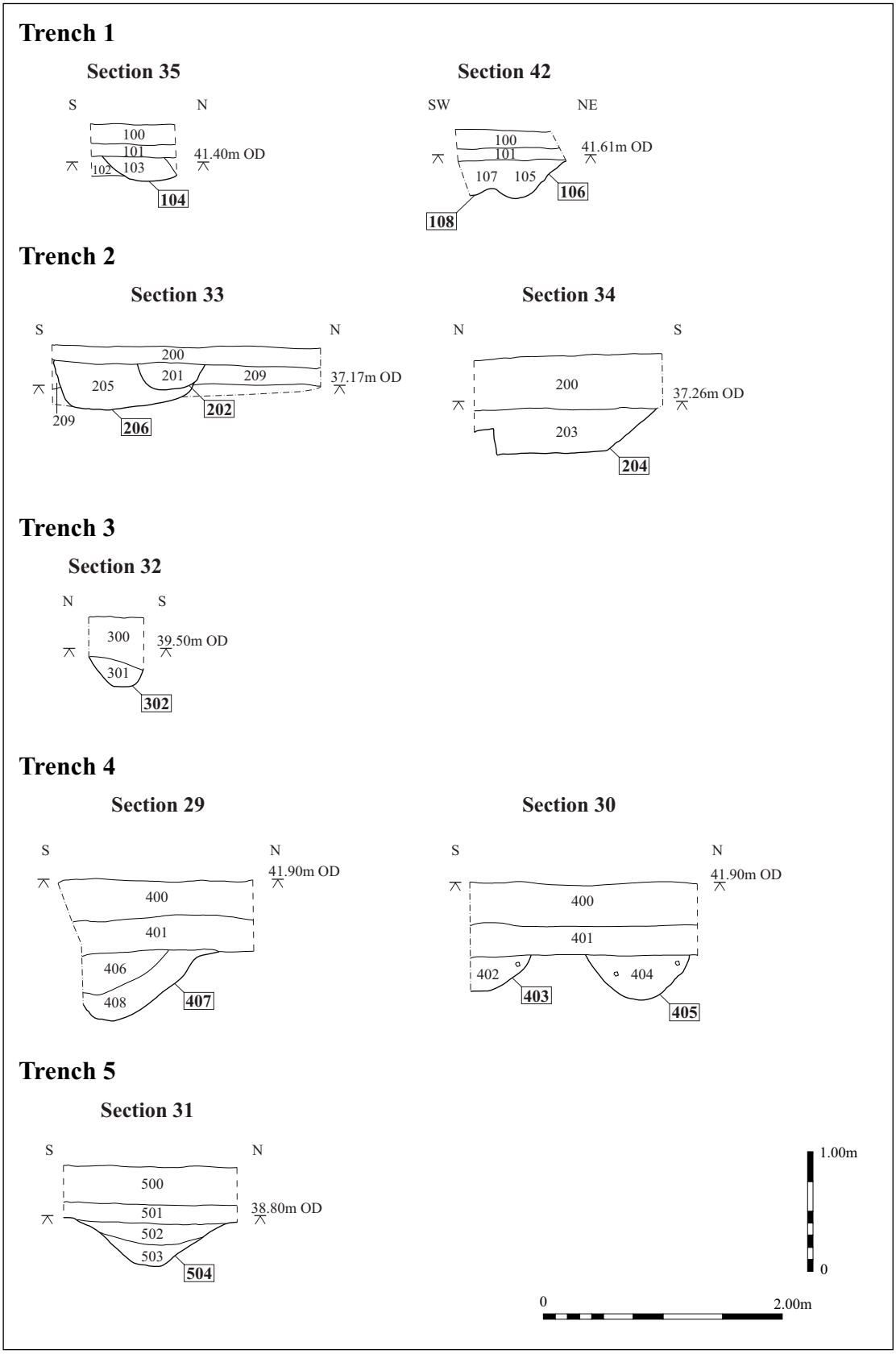

Figure 10: Sections from Trenches 1 - 5 (Tilbrook) Scale 1:50

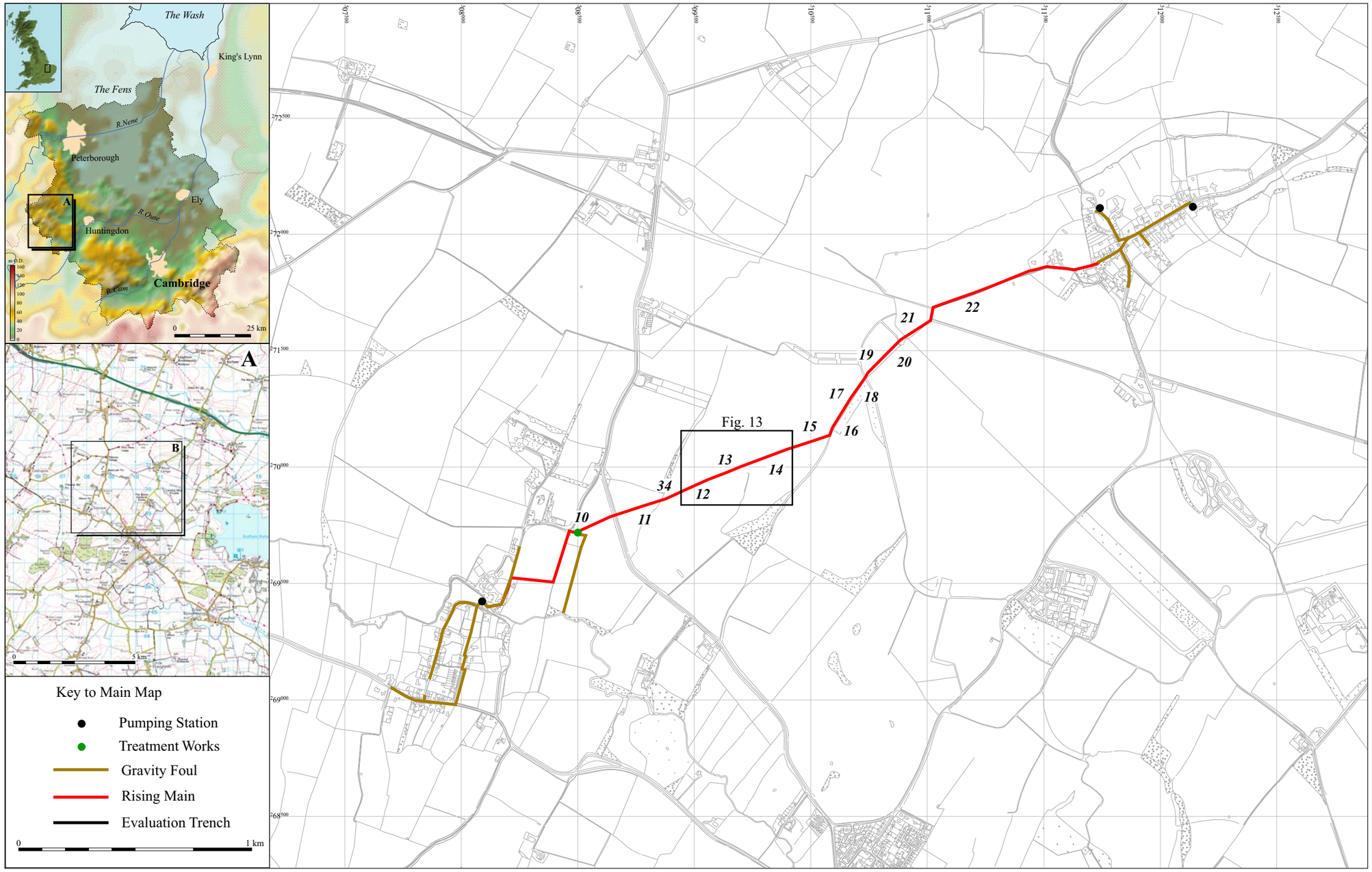

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Figure 11: Location of the Anglian Water Pipline with trenches evaluated in February highlighted (green)

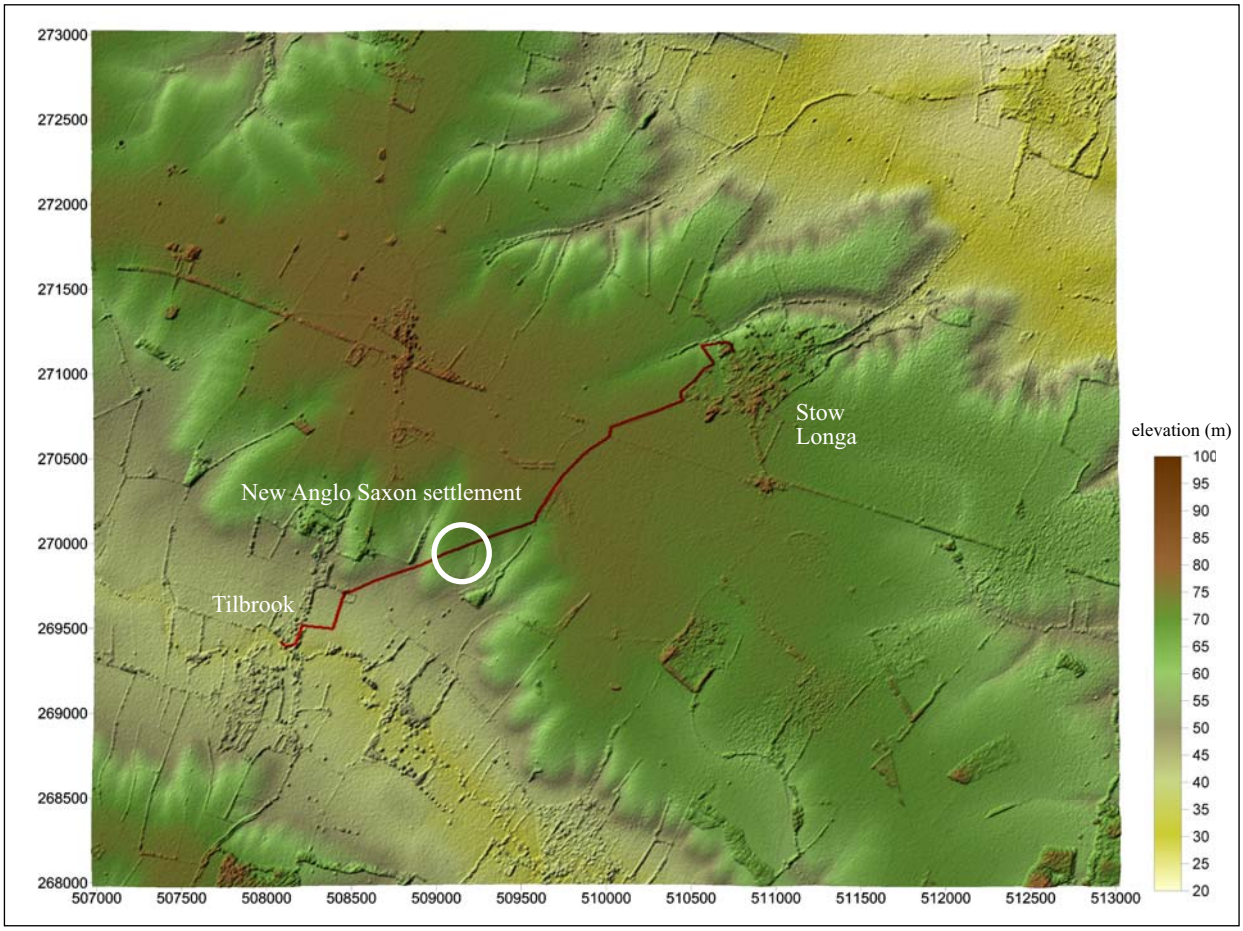

Figure 12a: Vertical view of surface model showing main route of rising main across the landscape

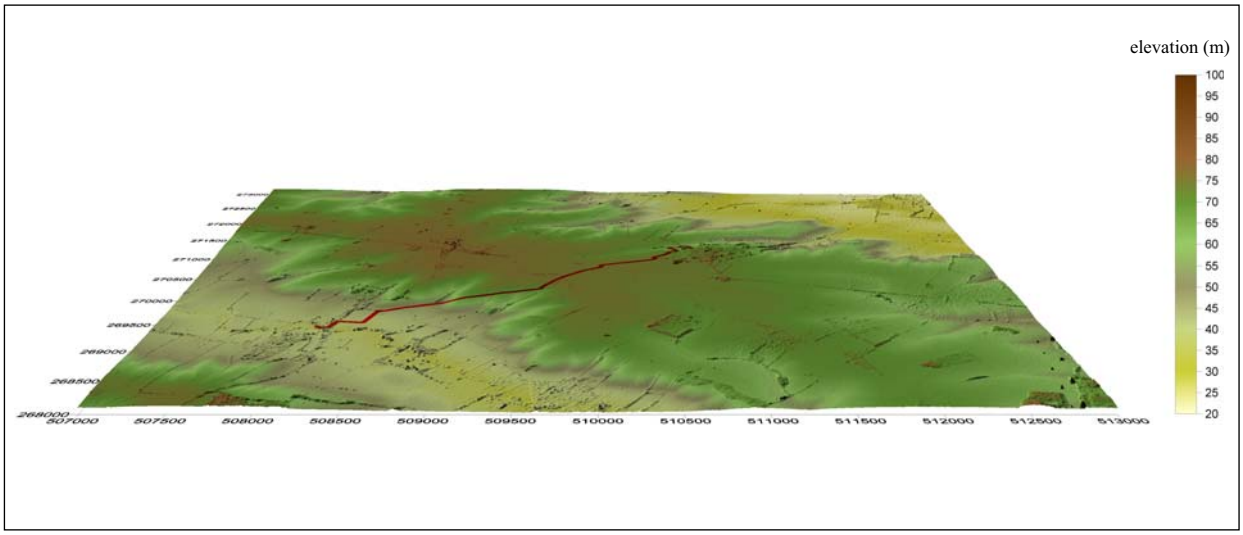

Figure 12b: Surface model viewed from the south

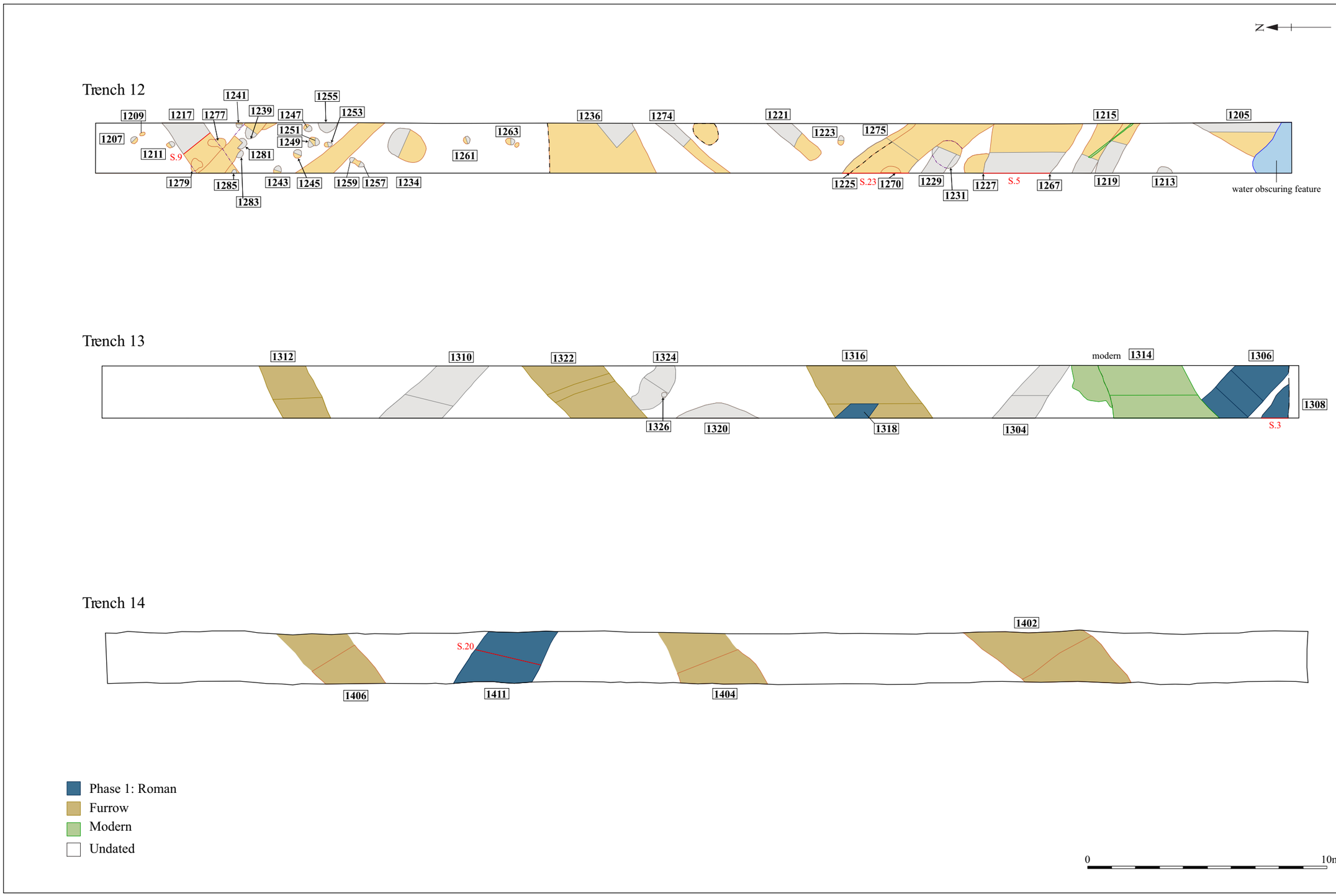

Figure 13: Plan of Trenches 12-14

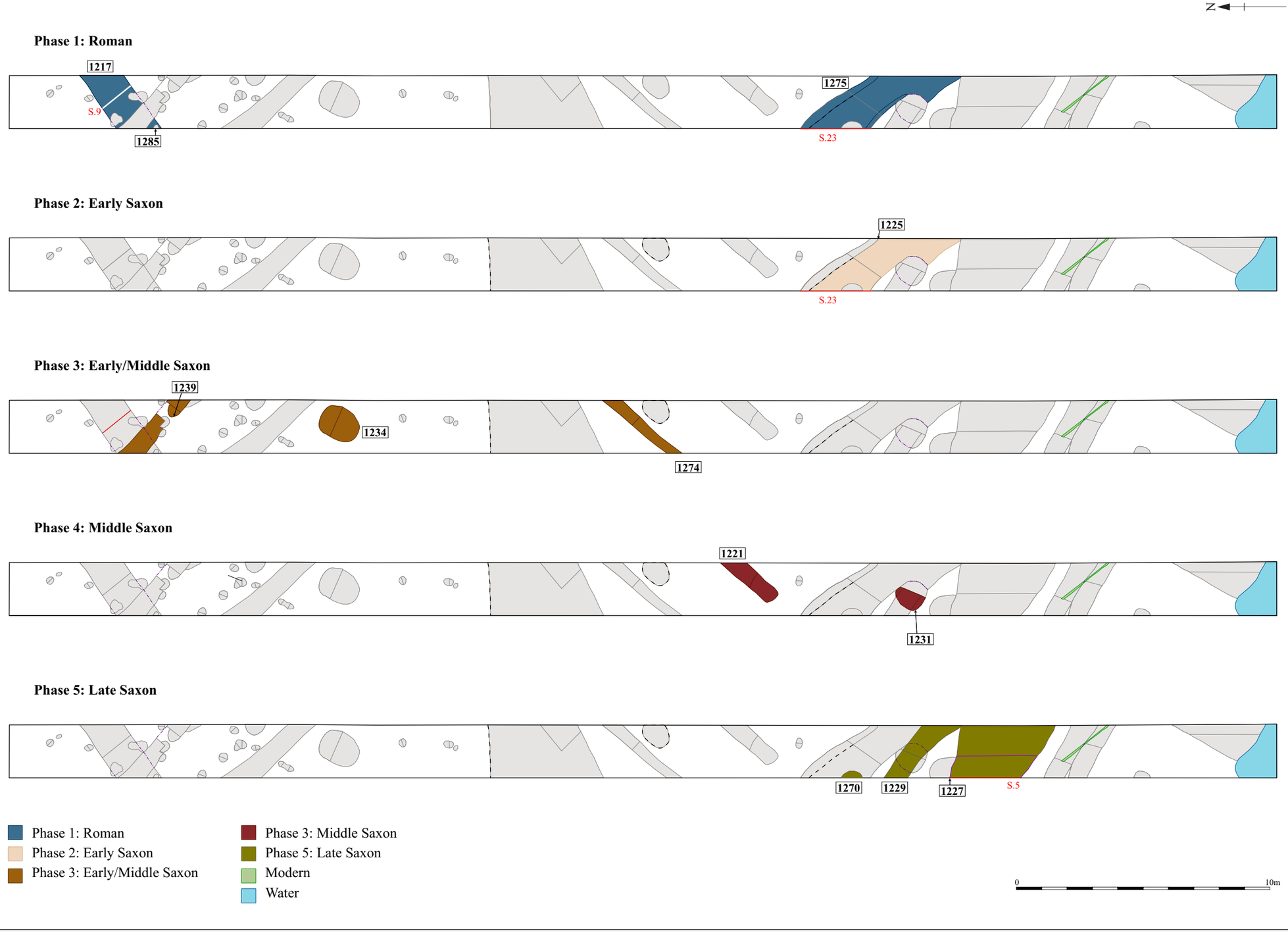

Figure 14: Phase plans of Trench 12

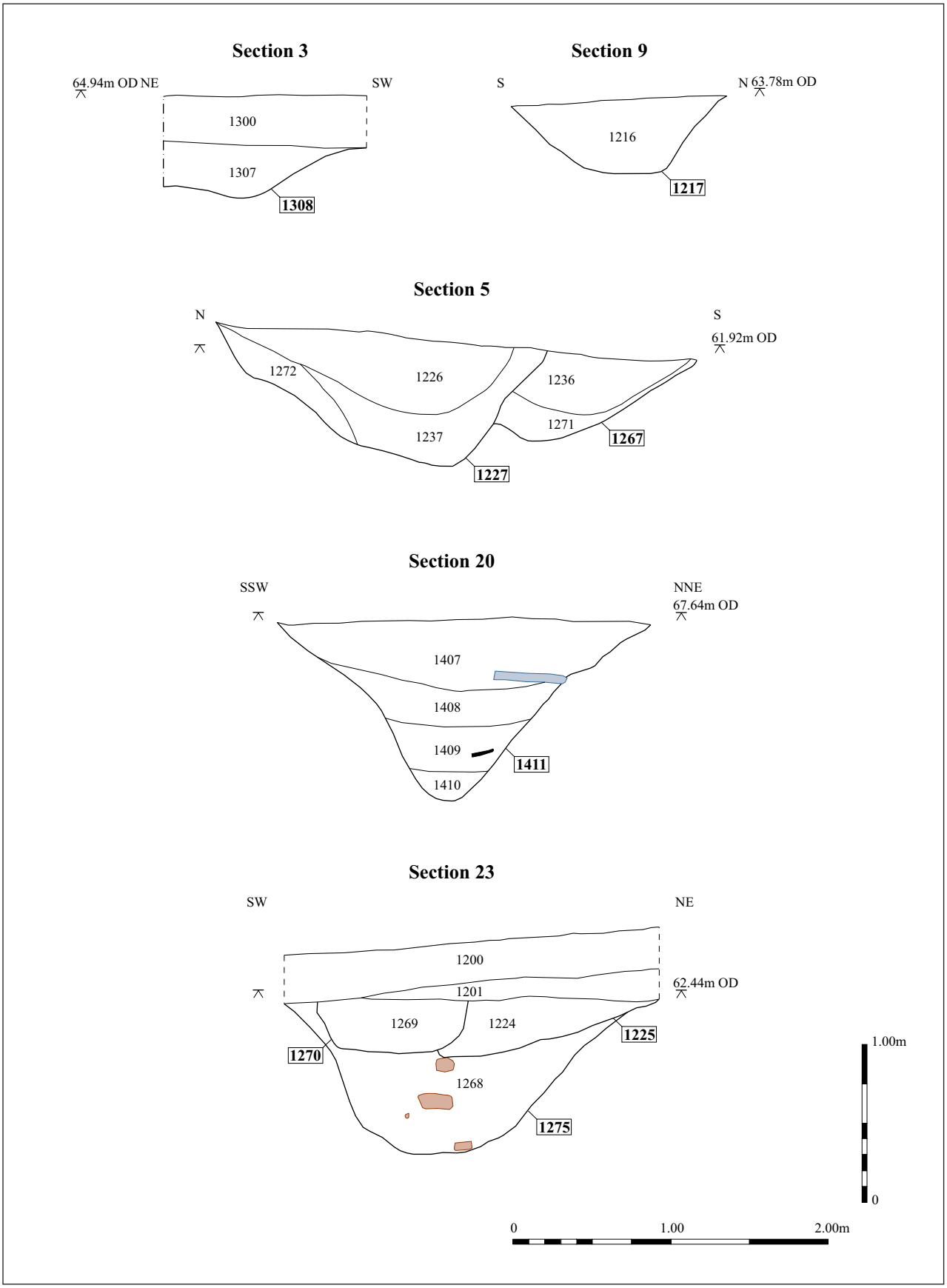

Figure 15: Sections from features in Trenches 12-14

Figure 16: Excavations in the two pumping stations, Stow Longa

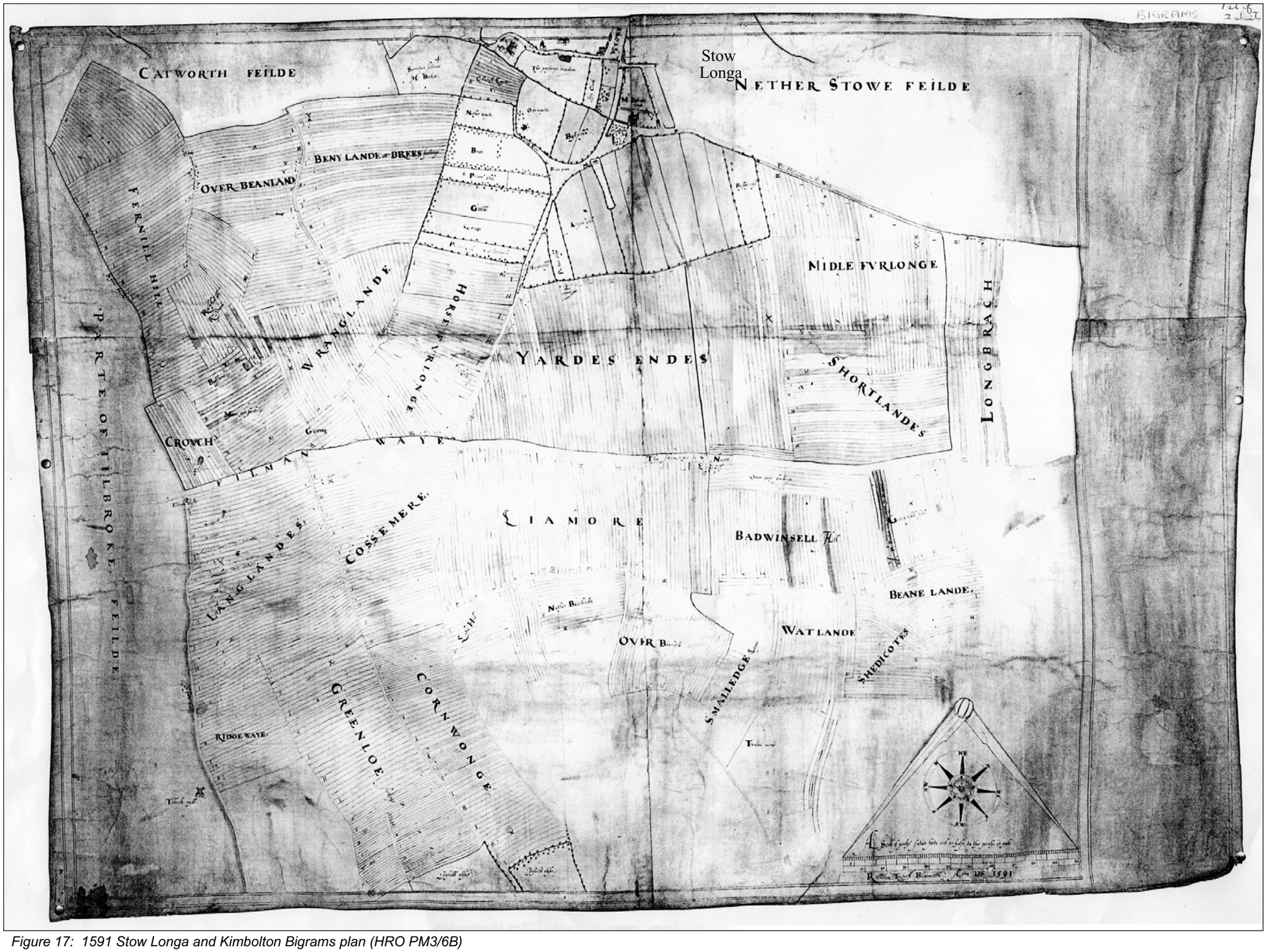

Figure 17: 1591 Stow Longa and Kimbolton Bigrams plan (HRO PM3/6B)

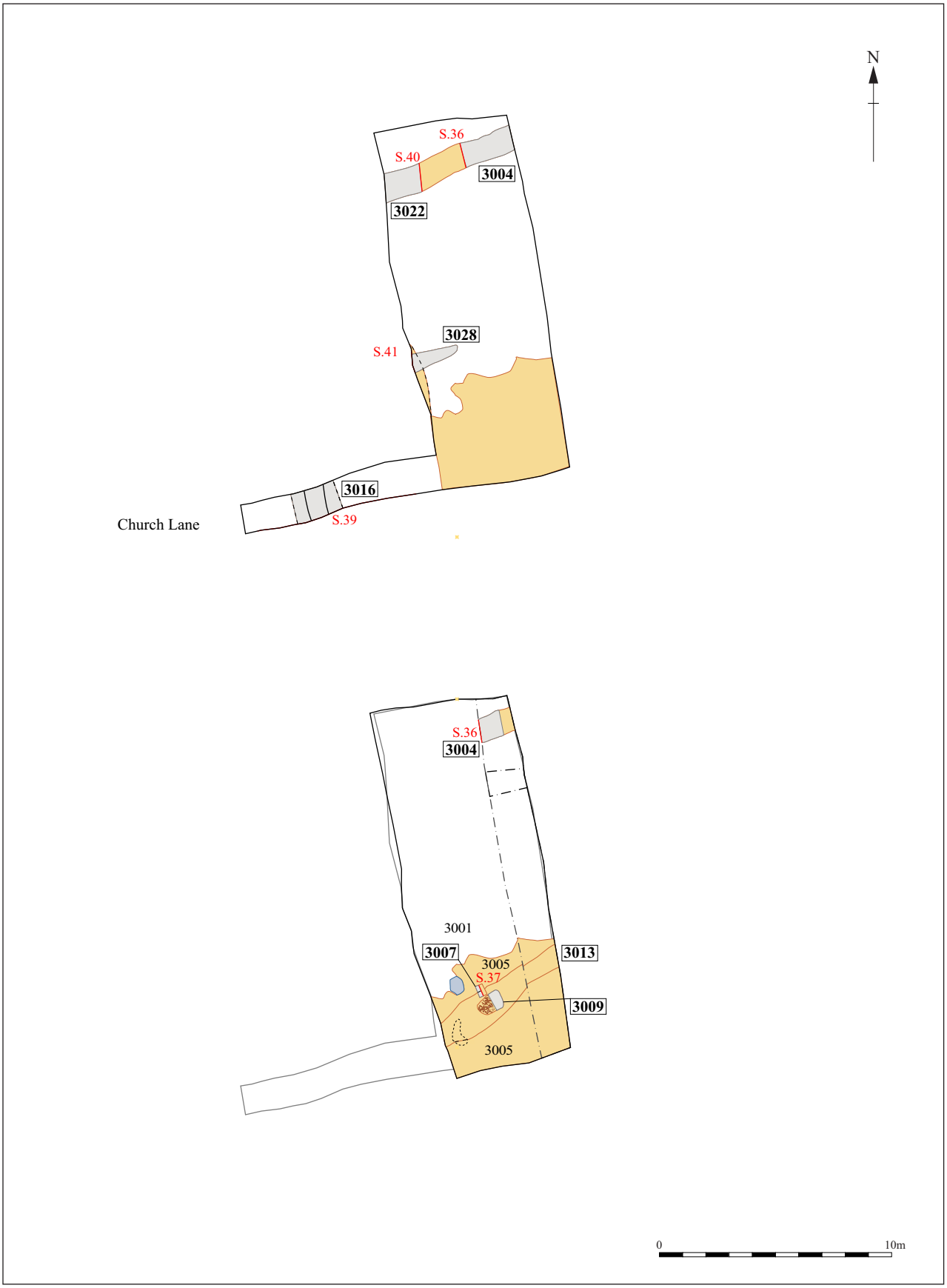

Figure 18: Plans of Church Road excavation area, Stow Longa

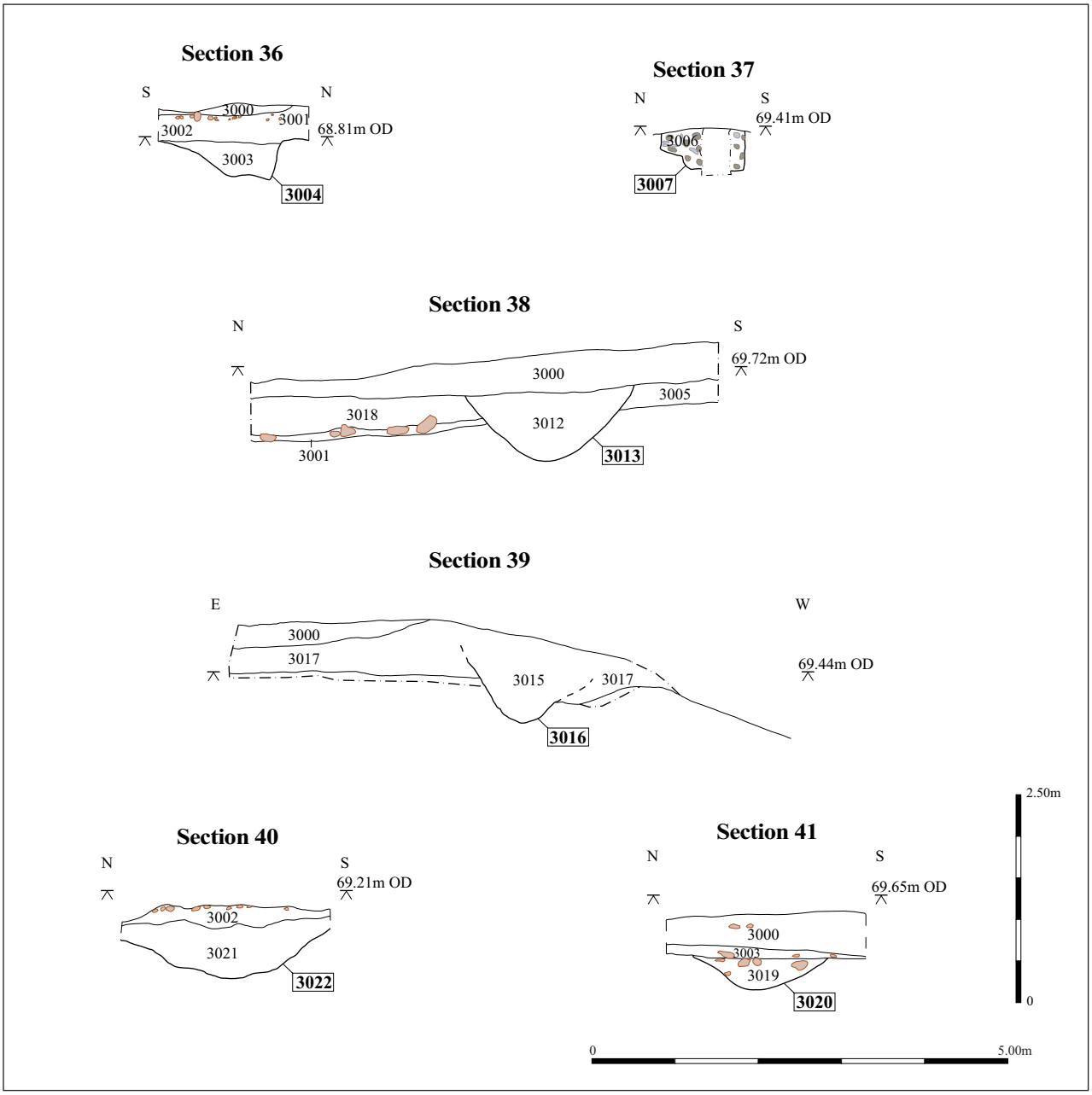

Figure 19: Sections of Church Road excavation area, Stow Longa

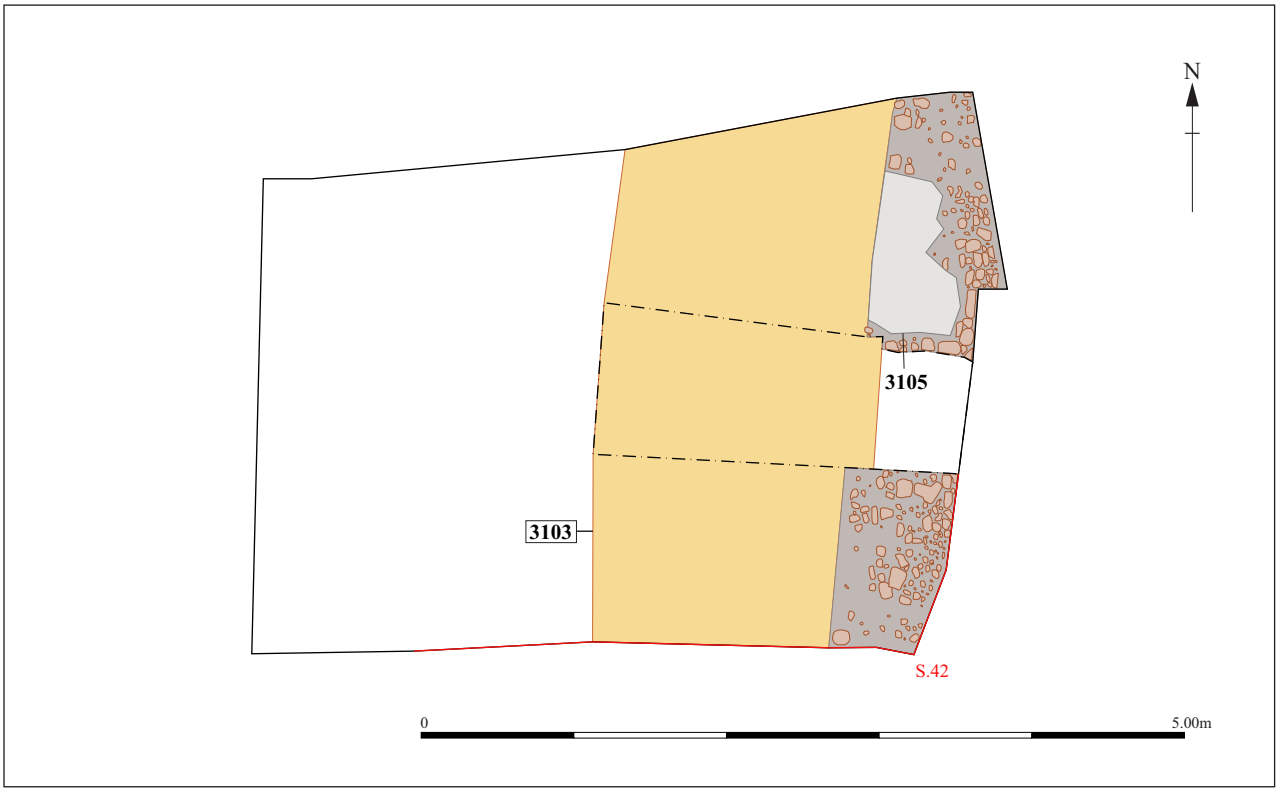

Figure 20: Plan of Spaldwick Road, Stow Longa

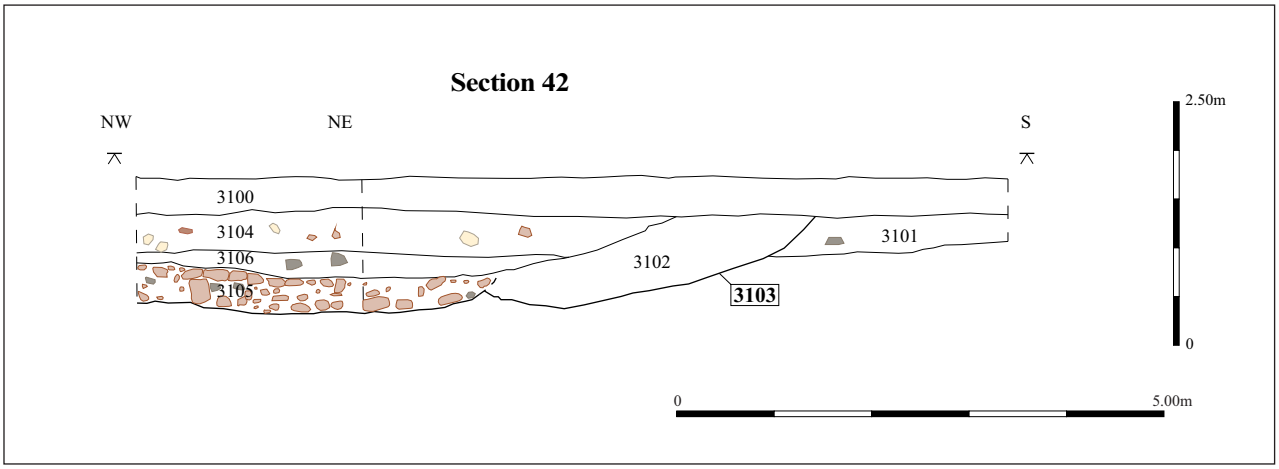

Figure 21: Section of Spaldwick Road, Stow Longa

Plate 1: Stamped Early Saxon pottery, context [1225]

Plate 2: Stamped Early Saxon pottery, context [1225]

Plate 3: Stamped Early Saxon pottery, context [1225]

Plate 4: Middle Saxon bone comb, context [1231]

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