

Test Pit Evaluation at Swavesey Priory Swavesey, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation Report



April 2015

Client: Jeremy Newsum

OA East Report No: 1760

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Test Pit Evaluation at Swavesey Priory, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

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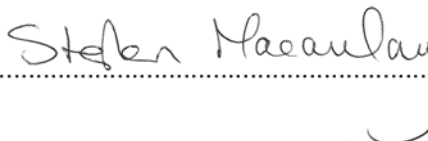
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Date of Works: March 2015
Client Name: Jeremy Newsum
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Summary

In March 2015 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) undertook a test pit evaluation, on behalf of Jeremy Newsum and English Heritage, on the earthwork remains of Swavesey Priory (SM 38; TL36262 69429) in advance of tree planting. Five test pits were excavated: two 1.5m x 1.5m dug by OA East and a further three 1m x 1m test pits were excavated with the help of students and a teacher from Perse Archaeology Group.

Test pits were excavated to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.9m and generally encountered layers of topsoil overlying subsoil or similar deposits. The test pits were excavated and backfilled by hand. The natural was not reached during excavation (except possibly in Test Pit 2), and no definite archaeological features were encountered. A few finds of mixed date (prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval) were retrieved. The thickness of some of the lower deposits and the mixed date of the finds, notably in Test Pit 5, may indicate that the test pits were located within a large feature (or features) such as a ditch or quarry. Quarrying for sand and gravel is known to have occurred in the field during the 19th century, when the Swavesey to Over Road (Station Road) was constructed immediately adjacent to the site, and more recently during the early to mid 20th century.

The results indicate that the proposed tree planting is likely to have a minimum effect on any buried archaeology in the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological test pit evaluation was conducted by OA East in March 2015 at the site of Swavesey Priory (TL 36262 69429; Fig. 1 and Plate 1), a scheduled monument comprising a complex of earthworks in a pasture field north-east of St Andrews church at the northern end of the village. Five test pits were excavated in the north-east corner of the field, adjacent to the line of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was commissioned by English Heritage (EH) and was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Lambert 2015).
- 1.1.3 Swavesey Priory is a Scheduled Monument (SM CB 38, HA 10006914). Any ground works require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), which was granted 4/3/15 (Case No. S00102983) under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.
- 1.1.4 The project arose due to the need to assess an area of the Scheduled Monument prior to tree planting and to determine the impact these trees might have on the survival of any buried archaeology within the impact zone. The investigation was designed to assess the presence of any archaeological remains to the depth of proposed tree planting. Two test pits were dug by OA East staff and an additional three were excavated by students from Perse Archaeology Group under OA East supervision. Once this was completed to the satisfaction of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and EH, the test pits were then in-filled in order to make the site safe for horses, as the grazing of the field forms part of the conservation management plan put in place to protect the earthworks.
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course, although some of the artefacts may form part of a display within the parish church of St Andrews, which lies adjacent to the site.

1.2 Geology and topography

The following is based on the Geology and Topography section in Clarke (2014).

- 1.2.1 The parish of Swavesey lies in the south-western hinterland of the fens, c.16km to the north-west of Cambridge. The two-mile long village developed on two 'islands' of terrace gravels which cap a peninsula of Ampthill clay (BGS 1975, sheet 187). These 'uplands' extend into the fen where the Great Ouse valley joins the fen basin. Extensive alluvial deposits exist on either side of the peninsular and define the former extent of the fen prior to drainage. On the eastern side the fen would have formed a wide basin between the villages of Swavesey and Over to the north-east, which occupies a similar topographical position. This basin narrows from c.900m wide to around 100m where the current Swavesey/Over road runs past the church, manor and the priory.
- 1.2.2 Swavesey Priory (and the current site) is located on the more northerly (and smaller) of the two islands in an area that would have been a prime fen-edge location for occupation from prehistoric times onwards. A number of major water management features and drains around the village and priory are testament to the effects of flooding in this area. In the medieval period, Swavesey was an inland port served by a dock with a canal that linked to the River Great Ouse to the north.
- 1.2.3 The site lies at c.7.5m AOD and is currently a pasture field, adjacent and to the north-east of the parish church of St Andrews; the site of the manor is located to the south-

east on the other side of Station Road. Within the field there are many upstanding earthworks, which are the remains of the medieval Benedictine Priory and associated features. To the north the site is now bounded by the Guided Busway, while to the east the boundary is formed by Station Road and to the south and west by the parish church and former vicarage.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Note: This background section was written by R. Clarke and formed the archaeological and historical background section in a previous report on an investigation undertaken at Swavesey Priory in 2012 (Clarke 2014). It was based on a number of published and unpublished sources, notably the Victoria County History (VCH; Salzman (ed) 1948; Wright and Lewis (eds) 1989), *Swavesey Priory (The Remains)* by M. Bousfield, the draft *Historic Towns of Cambridgeshire Extensive Urban Survey* (CCC 2001) and the Cambridgeshire Heritage Environment Record (CHER). More detailed accounts of the village, priory and manorial development can be found in these documents.

- 1.3.1 Despite its Anglo-Saxon name, derived from the prefix *Swaef* (a personal name which occurs again in Swaffham) and the suffix meaning 'landing-place' (Reaney 1943, 172), the first documented reference to Swavesey occurs in the Domesday Book.
- 1.3.2 At the Norman Conquest it appears that much of Swavesey was held by Edeva the Fair, then passing to Count Alan of Brittany:

In Papworth Hundred, the Count holds Swavesey himself. 13 hides. Land for 4 ploughs. In lordship 6 hides; 3 ploughs there; a fourth possible.

10 villagers with 19 smallholders and 8 Freemen hold 3 hides of this land. Together they have 10 ploughs.

17 cottagers; 2 slaves

1 mill at 40s; from fisheries 4,000 eels less 250;

meadow for 14 ploughs; pasture for the village livestock.

Total value £16; when acquired £8; before 1066 £18.

- 1.3.3 In addition to this central manor, two smaller holdings were recorded that were formerly the lands of Robert Gernon and a thane named Ulf; afterwards passing to Picot the Sheriff and Gilbert of Gand.
- 1.3.4 As well as being a port town, Swavesey was an administrative centre for a large estate; a weekly market was granted to the lord, Alan de la Zouche, and his heirs in 1244, which was extended to include an annual fair in 1261. It was probably at this time that the town defences and streets were laid out. A complex system of docks and a wharf stretching from Swan Pond into the middle of the village at Market Street (Town Pond/dock) was also constructed, with a canal connecting the port to the Great Ouse, which in the medieval period was a major transportation route. Although no borough charter is known to have been granted to Swavesey, burgesses are mentioned in the Hundred Rolls of 1278-9. Swavesey Castle is thought to have been built in the late 11th or early 12th century, although there are no documentary references before 1476; its site (now represented by earthworks; CHER 1772) appears to have subsequently been incorporated into the town defences.
- 1.3.5 There have been a number of archaeological investigations within and around the medieval village, notably at Black Horse Lane (MCB11949; Spoerry 1996 *etc*) where a considerable density of archaeological features, including settlement remains dating to the Late Iron Age, Late Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval periods, was revealed.

Swavesey Priory

- 1.3.6 The priory (CHER 3488), which some believe may have replaced a Saxon minster as a church was in existence on the site in 996, was founded by Alan of Brittany who gave the church at Swavesey, along with other holdings, to the Benedictine Abbey of Saints Sergius and Bacchus at Angers in France. Buildings for the priory appear to have been constructed between 1080-1086. Further documentary references to the priory, which was never a large establishment housing just four or five brothers (although see below), include grants, suits and acquisitions during the 12th and early 13th centuries. However, after 1259, when the king of England abandoned claim to sovereignty of Anjou following the Treaty of Paris, there is no evidence that a priory was ever maintained, instead just a single vicar, usually styled 'prior', appears to have been in residence.
- 1.3.7 It has been suggested (Palmer and Parsons 1903, 29-31) that it is 'by no means certain that there ever was a priory at Swavesey in the same sense as there was one at Ely', especially given the lack of specific documentary evidence. These authors suggest that it is more probable that the French mother abbey instituted a monk as Rector at Swavesey to administer the estate, and that there never was a community of monks living under the rule of a Prior here, but rather it was more a 'cell' to the French abbey.
- 1.3.8 Swavesey Priory estate is listed in 1279 and in a rental of 1467 but neither source throws any light on the site. The house, along with other alien priories, was briefly seized in the 1350s and again in 1369, when a survey was made that showed how poor the priory was at that time. In 1393 Richard II licensed the abbot of SS Sergius and Bacchus to alienate the manors of Swavesey and Dry Drayton and the advowson of the church of Swavesey to the Carthusian Priory, recently founded in Coventry. The incumbent prior of Swavesey, John Thorndon, released his rights in the priory estates to St Anne's in return for a pension of £10. By 1411 the priory or church of Swavesey was finally appropriated, with the rest of its possessions, by the Carthusians at Coventry who ran the estate as a manor until the Dissolution. In 1539 the king granted the Swavesey and Drayton estates to the Bishop of Ely in exchange for the manor of Hatfield in Hertfordshire (Palmer and Parsons 1903, 31).
- 1.3.9 By 1200, the northern island of Swavesey, where the priory, church and manor were located, was known as 'The Eye'. Although the origin of this name is unclear, it may also derive from the word meaning 'landing-place' (see 1.3.1. above). In later centuries this area, which includes the manor to the east of Station Road, is shown as Church End on 19th century maps. The church of St Andrews (CHER 3419) lies to the south of the priory earthworks (Figs 1 and 3), in what may have been a central location within the moated enclosure/precinct. It is considered to have Saxon origins, with a Saxon nave and chancel visible in the south wall, thought to date to c.1000AD. The church is built of field stones, ironstone conglomerate and coarse limestone rubble with ashlar dressings. The nave was rebuilt in 1200 and the church was repeatedly enlarged during the 13th century.
- 1.3.10 Little is known of the fate of the priory after the Dissolution. A building on the north side of the church is shown on the 1836 OS 1" map (see Clarke 2014, fig. 3), adjacent to which is the legend 'ruins'. This building may have been the Priory House, mentioned in 1401 when a complaint of theft was lodged by the Carthusians of Coventry. The VCH (1989, 384) indicates that in the 18th century a rectory may have stood to the north of the church and that in about 1800 there was still a fragment of a Gothic building surviving on the north side of the church. No buildings were present in this location in 1838. More recent research by Bousfield (1993), however, suggests that the rectory

may actually have been a building seen on the 1838 Enclosure maps, immediately adjacent to the intersection of the main road and the navigation channel to the south of the church. The rectory was mentioned in 1648 as a dwelling house with barn and outhouses attached; this was bounded along one side by a flood bank which still exists today.

- 1.3.11 A local history private publication by J. Shepperson provides a transcript of conversations with local residents recorded by Charles Wood in the early part of the 20th century, relating their memories of Swavesey (many presumably from the 19th century) and includes a couple of points of interest for the current project. A tithe barn is recorded as once standing near to the church tower: a former church warden, Harry Wells, recalled that some of its foundations were revealed when a grave was being dug on that side of the church. A rickyard stood on the other side of the barn and timber from the 'old barn' was taken for use elsewhere by one of the well known 'village worthies' at that time, Robinson Mitham (Wood 2009, 8; 18).
- 1.3.12 All that remains now (besides the church) are a series of fairly well-preserved earthworks within Priory Field, forming a large channel or moat with a northern entranceway, surrounding a central platform within which there are a number of probable building platforms and associated banks. Other more denuded earthworks exist within the garden of the Priory House (a Victorian vicarage) along with the remains of a former dock and canalised watercourse (Church Brook) leading around the priory site to the south and west, linking to the River Ouse to the north. It is worthy of note that some of the earthworks in the Priory Field may be the result of quarrying, probably undertaken during the later part of the 19th century when the Swavesey-Over road (Station Road) was constructed/improved, and possibly during World War 2. A note provided by J. Shepperson records gravel being dug out of the field next to the church in the 1920s or 30s, on the site of the vanished priory. At a depth of one foot the diggers came across a cobbled flooring, a foot below which was another floor, below which were what appeared to be cement tanks filled with ashes. A terracotta-coloured jug was found in amongst the ash; it is apparently now in one of the Cambridge museums.

Previous investigations and finds

- 1.3.13 As yet there has been no detailed survey or systematic analysis of the earthworks, (which are shown on the early editions of the Ordnance Survey and on the 1976 OS 1:2500 map), however a geophysical survey undertaken in 1999 apparently indicated the presence of at least one rectangular building on the site, although the results of this survey are unpublished. There have been very few archaeological investigations within the scheduled area or its environs, making the current project all the more significant. One of these was located close to the vicarage (Priory House) and the other in advance of the construction of the Guided Busway at the northern edge of the site. The Priory House evaluation (CB15286; Cooper and Kenney 2001) revealed a bank likely to have been associated with the priory, perhaps relating to a canal and a docking area, in addition to undated and post-medieval features; a fragment of architectural stone was also recovered. Work associated with the construction of the Guided Busway route (CB15757) revealed the undated remains of what may have been a timber building to the north of the track; no archaeological features were identified to the south of the track.
- 1.3.14 In 2012 an investigation of the effect of rabbit burrowing (ECB 3813) was conducted by OA East in the Priory field to the north of St Andrews Church, which revealed an area of

possible medieval floor/hearth, post-Dissolution evidence of ditches and dumped deposits and an 18th century brick drain. A significant number of medieval and late medieval finds associated with domestic/culinary and dairying activities was retrieved (Clarke 2014).

- 1.3.15 Related records in the CHER include analysis of aerial photographs which identified possible enclosures, tracks, ponds and moats/ditches that may have been associated with the priory (CHERs 8897 and 9128), but are outside the scheduled area. An aerial photograph taken by the Air Ministry and reproduced in Bousfield's account of the priory apparently shows the remains of a 'circular base which supported an extern Calvary cross' to the immediate north of the church (CHER 3488; Bousfield 1993, 3). Photographs of two carved stone corbels or gargoyles thought to have come from the priory which are now in private gardens in the village are also present within the Cambridgeshire Collection; if these are from a priory building it must have had buildings of some substance.
- 1.3.16 Other finds possibly associated with the priory are also documented. A bone spindlewhorl was found in the churchyard (CHER 3421), while stones known to have been taken from the priory site were re-used when the church was restored in 1867. At the time of the 1840 enclosure award the Swavesey-Over Road was made permanent, utilising the causeway from the village to the south and a track to the north of the bridge. These works formally separated the manor to the east (CHER 1289) and the church to the west, and also encroached upon the churchyard. As a result of these works, three stone coffins were uncovered; the most complete of which dates to the early 13th century. Other reported finds include pottery, tile, stone and bone found in 1993; the former includes a tubular spouted jug, probably Stamford Ware (late 12th-early 13th century), sherds of Orange Sandy ware (mid 14th-16th century), and parts of a pantheon (medieval-post medieval) (CHER 3488).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The excavation was conducted by OA East, under the supervision of English Heritage, provided as part of the management agreement with the site owners, Mr and Mrs Newsum. Thanks are due to the site owners for enabling access to the site and allowing use of an outbuilding for storage of equipment, and to Sarah Poppy (EH) for her advice and input during the test pitting. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and directed by James Fairbairn and Daria Tsybaeva, assisted by Rebecca Pridmore. Particular thanks are due to the students of Perse Archaeology Group and their teacher Adrian Roberts for their enthusiasm and help.
- 1.4.2 Various specialists warrant acknowledgement for their contributions, notably Anthony Haskins (lithics) and Carole Fletcher (pottery).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine the extent and nature of archaeological deposits in the north-eastern corner of the field (Figs 1 and 2) within the scheduled site of the priory in advance of tree planting.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Following a site meeting between EH And OA East the location of two 1.5m x 1.5m test pits to be excavated by OA East staff and three 1m x 1m test pits to be dug by Perse Archaeology Group was agreed upon. These were to target the area of proposed tree holes.

2.2.2 All test pits were excavated and backfilled by hand to a maximum depth of 0.9m. The spoil was stored on a layer of terram to protect the underlying grass. The cut turf was stored on the grass next to the test pits to prevent it drying out and was replaced after excavation and backfilling was complete.

2.2.3 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.

2.2.4 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.

2.2.5 As only topsoil and subsoil-type layers were encountered, no environmental samples were taken.

2.2.6 The test pit area was located within a pasture field covered with short grass. Weather conditions were dry and sunny, slightly windy over the two days of excavations.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented separately for each test pit below. Only layers of topsoil and subsoil-like deposits were encountered; neither the natural (apart from a possible gravel layer in Test Pit 4) or any definite archaeological features or deposits were revealed in any of the test pits (Figs 2-3; Plates 1-9). Further details of the test pits and finds recovered can be found in the Appendices.

3.2 Test Pit 1

3.2.1 Test Pit 1 (Figs 2 and 3, section 1, Plate 2), measuring 1.5m x 1.5m was excavated to a total depth of 0.6m and contained two layers. Topsoil layer 100 was a 0.3m thick dark greyish brown silty sand with very occasional small stones and contained no finds. Below, layer 101 was a mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium stones and contained two sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. Layer 101 was excavated to a depth of 0.3m.

3.3 Test Pit 2

3.3.1 Test Pit 2 (Figs 2 and 3, section 2, Plate 3), measuring 1.5m x 1.5m, was excavated to a total depth of 0.6m and contained two layers. Topsoil layer 200 was a 0.2m thick greyish brown sandy silt with very occasional small stones and contained no finds. Layer 201 below was a brown silty sand with occasional small stones and roots and contained small flints. Layer 201 was excavated to a depth of 0.4m, below which was a gravelly layer (unnumbered) revealed in one corner that may have been natural.

3.4 Test Pit 3

3.4.1 Test Pit 3 (Figs 2 and 3, section 3, Plate 4), measuring 1m x 1m, was excavated to a total depth of 0.3m and contained two layers. Topsoil layer 300 was a 0.3m thick dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate small stones, occasional flecks of charcoal and contained fragments of medieval pottery and bone. Below this a mid greyish brown silty sand layer (301) with moderate small stones was exposed but not excavated.

3.5 Test Pit 4

3.5.1 Test Pit 4 (Figs 2 and 3, section 4, Plate 5), measuring 1m x 1m was excavated to a total depth of 0.38m and contained two layers. Topsoil layer 400 was a 0.2m thick greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones that contained no finds. Below, this was layer 401, a dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small stones that contained fragments of post-medieval pottery. Layer 401 was excavated to a depth of 0.18m.

3.6 Test Pit 5

3.6.1 Test Pit 5 (Figs 2 and 3, section 5, Plate 6), measuring 1m x 1m was excavated to a total depth of 0.9m and contained two layers. Topsoil layer 500 was a 0.25m thick dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional small stones and small fragments of charcoal. This layer contained post-medieval pottery, in addition to bone, flint, slag and a fragment of a crucible. Below, layer 501 was a dark yellowish brown silty sand with very occasional small and medium stones that contained a mix of prehistoric finds alongside Roman and medieval pottery. This deposit was excavated to a depth of 0.66m.

3.7 Finds Summary

- 3.7.1 Seven struck flints were recovered that are likely to be of later prehistoric date; a probable Mesolithic blade was retrieved from layer 501 in Test Pit 5. A total of 15 sherds (0.143kg) of pottery was found, the dates of which span the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age to the 19th century. Two fragments of ceramic building material were retrieved, one being Roman in date with the other being medieval; shards of vessel glass of probable post-medieval to modern date were also found in Test Pit 4.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 A layer of topsoil sealing a subsoil-like layer was encountered in all five test pits; the natural was not definitely reached although this may have been represented by a gravelly deposit in the base of Test Pit 2. No definite archaeological features were encountered.
- 4.1.2 It should be noted that, given the small size of the test pits, it is possible that the lower layers identified as probable subsoil in some of the test pits may in fact be the fill(s) of a large feature (or features) such as a ditch or quarry. This is perhaps most likely in Test Pit 5, where layer 501 was excavated to a depth of 0.66m (too thick to be a subsoil) but its full extent was not exposed. The field containing the priory remains has been pasture for many centuries (hence the survival of the earthworks), and it is unlikely that such a distinct and thick subsoil would have formed if the area had not been ploughed. It is possible that this particular part of the priory, which lay outside the main moated enclosure, was cultivated in the past, but a more plausible explanation might be that some of the test pits (notably Test Pit 5) were located within a former quarry pit. During the later part of the 19th century the site was heavily quarried for gravel during the construction and improvement of the Swavesey to Over road (Station Road) immediately adjacent to the current site. Local knowledge also suggests that the site may have been quarried again in the 1920s or 1930s and then possibly during World War 2.
- 4.1.3 A relatively small quantity of finds was recovered, comprising flint, pottery and CBM in addition to very modern bone, glass and iron nails (those finds that were obviously modern were recorded and discarded). The pottery recovered is a somewhat surprising mix of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern sherds. There is a known Roman settlement to the north and west of the priory, however prehistoric pottery is not known from the immediate vicinity. All of the earlier pottery was abraded and clearly redeposited or reworked. This broad range of pottery and other finds (most of which came from the lower layer in Test Pit 5) might be expected if this part of the site had been quarried and subsequently infilled with material from mixed sources. The construction of the adjacent road, and more recently the Guided Busway to the north, may also have caused further disturbance to this area.
- 4.1.4 Since this is a sensitive area within the Scheduled Monument, the tree planting should still proceed with caution.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The test pitting in the north-eastern corner of the field at Swavesey Priory has indicated that the proposed planting of trees is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on archaeological deposits in this area.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by English Heritage and the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit 1						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit consists of topsoil and subsoil, no archaeology present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	1.5
					Length (m)	1.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	Pottery, flint	-
Test Pit 2						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit consists of topsoil and subsoil, no archaeology present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	1.5
					Length (m)	1.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	Flint	-
Test Pit 3						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit consists of topsoil and subsoil, no archaeology present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	1
					Length (m)	1
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Bone, pottery	-
301	Layer	-	N/A	Subsoil	N/A	-
Test Pit 4						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit consists of topsoil and subsoil, no archaeology present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	1
					Length (m)	1
Contexts						
context	type	Width	Depth	comment	finds	date

no		(m)	(m)			
400	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	Pottery, Glass	-
401	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	Pottery	-
Test Pit 5						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit consists of topsoil and subsoil, no archaeology present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.9
					Width (m)	1
					Length (m)	1
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	Pottery, bone, flint, metal, slag	-
501	Layer	-	0.66	Subsoil	Pottery, metal, flint	Probably Mesolithic flint

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A small number of struck flints was recovered from several of the test pits. Test Pit 1, (context 101) produced a single yellow brown semi-translucent secondary flake with a thin smooth cortex. Test Pit 2 (context 201) produced three small secondary flakes struck from the same material as Test Pit 1. A further patinated/recortificated and more heavily rolled secondary flake was also recovered from this deposit. Test pit 5 (context 500) produced a thermally shattered flake of dark greenish-grey opaque flint with occasional yellowish-grey inclusions and a dark brownish-grey heavily abraded cortex across the majority of the dorsal surface. The flake has damage along both lateral edges and along the distal edge, this could be crude semi-abrupt retouch to create a crude scraper or may be the result of natural rolling, if the former it is likely to be a later prehistoric tool of expedience. Context 501 also produced a single blade. The blade is struck from a reddish-brown semi-translucent flint of good quality with a yellowish-white chalky unabraded cortex. The blade is struck from an opposed platform core with both platforms present on the dorsal surface, use-damage is present down both lateral edges of the blade. The method of working and form would be indicative of a Mesolithic date.

Discussion

B.1.1 This small assemblage is probably of mixed date with a single blade of probable Mesolithic origin and a potential scraper of later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. The remainder of the flakes are small and undiagnostic but probably fit with a later prehistoric date.

B.2 Glass

by Carole Fletcher

B.2.1 The evaluation produced a single shard of bottle glass, weighing 0.010kg, from context 401, Test Pit 4. Although not closely datable, the bottle is likely to be, at its earliest, late 19th century.

Context	Test Pit	Weight (kg)	Description	Date
401	4	0.010	Body shard from a clear, greenish tinted press-moulded glass bottle.	Late 19th century or later

Table 1: *Glass*

B.3 Pottery

by Carole Fletcher, with prehistoric and Roman pottery identified by Alice Lyons

Introduction

- B.3.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of 15 sherds, weighing 0.143kg. The assemblage spans the Neolithic-Early Bronze Age to the 19th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.009kg.

Methodology

- B.3.2 Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.
- B.3.3 Topsoil in Test Pit 1 produced a single abraded sherd of Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware from a jar or bowl and a small fragment of what appears to be a crucible of unknown date. Test Pit 3 produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, while topsoil in Test Pit 4 and 5 produced post-medieval material. The lower layer in Test Pit 5 produced the widest range of material, including Neolithic-Early Bronze Age flint-tempered ware alongside Roman and medieval fabrics.
- B.3.4 The assemblage is mainly domestic in nature, and indicates pottery deposition from a broad range of periods. All sherds except for those dating to the 17th-19th centuries are abraded, indicating significant reworking of the material, perhaps through ploughing or quarry-related activities.

Context	Test pit	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range
101	1	Grog-tempered handmade reduced ware with oxidised surfaces	Jar/bowl body sherd	1	0.012	4.3.2 Late Iron Age
		(Low Iron) Oxidised Sandy ware	Crucible fragment	1	0.004	4.3.3 Not closely datable
300	3	Medieval Sandy ware	Jar body sherd	1	0.010	Mid 11th-end of 15th century
401	4	Post-medieval Black Glazed ware	Bowl body sherd	1	0.009	17th-18th century
500	5	Refined White Earthenware	Body sherd	3	0.006	19th-20th century
		?Early Everton-type ware (oxidised)	Body sherd	1	0.012	14th-15th century
501	5	?Early Everton-type ware (oxidised)	Body sherd	4	0.065	14th-15th century

Context	Test pit	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range
		Flint-tempered coarseware	Body sherd	1	0.009	Neolithic-Early Bronze Age
		Nene Valley Greyware	Dish rim sherd (type 6.19)	1	0.009	3rd-4th century
		Shell-tempered ware (shell leached)	Jar body sherd	1	0.007	1st-2nd century
Total				15	0.143	

Table 2: Pottery

B.4 Ceramic Building Material

by Carole Fletcher with identifications by Robert Atkins

- B.4.1 Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered, both from Test Pit 3. These have been identified as a single fragment from a Roman imbrex and a piece of medieval roof tile.
- B.4.2 The assemblage is abraded and the low level of material recovered is not enough to indicate buildings of any period within the area of archaeological works. The material represents a low level rubbish scatter, most likely as the result of manuring or quarrying.

Context	Test Pit	Weight (kg)	Description	Date
300	3	0.110	Fragment of Roman tile (imbrex). Hard fired oxidised surfaces and margins with mid grey core, part of sanded surface survives.	Roman
		0.018	Fragment of hard fired sandy red brick with what appear to be flint inclusions	Medieval

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material

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APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>
Project Name	<input type="text"/>
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text"/>
Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>
Future Work	<input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text"/>
Development Type	<input type="text"/>

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
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<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

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
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Project Location

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HER	<input type="text"/>	
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Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text"/>
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Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

Project Archives

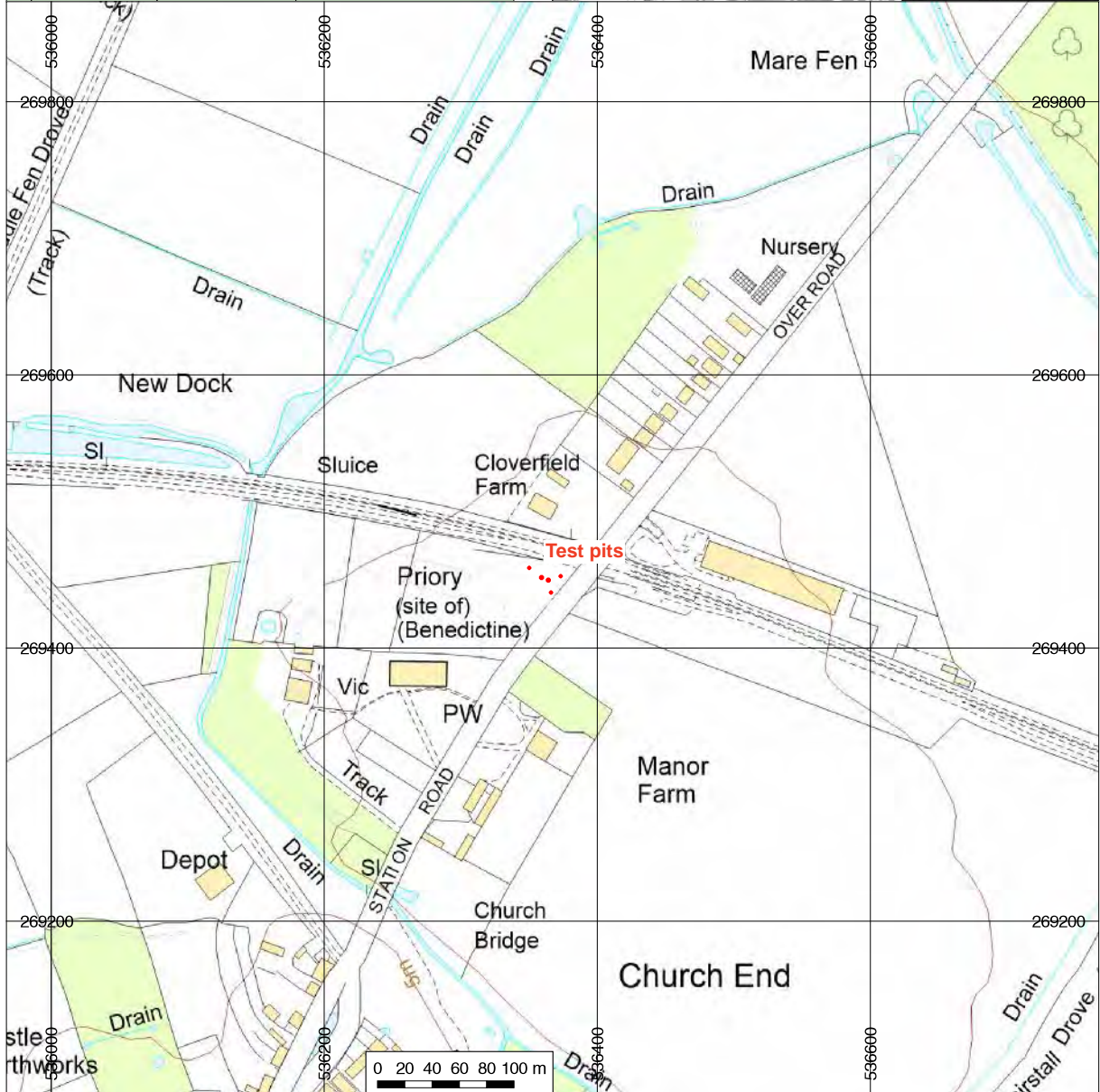
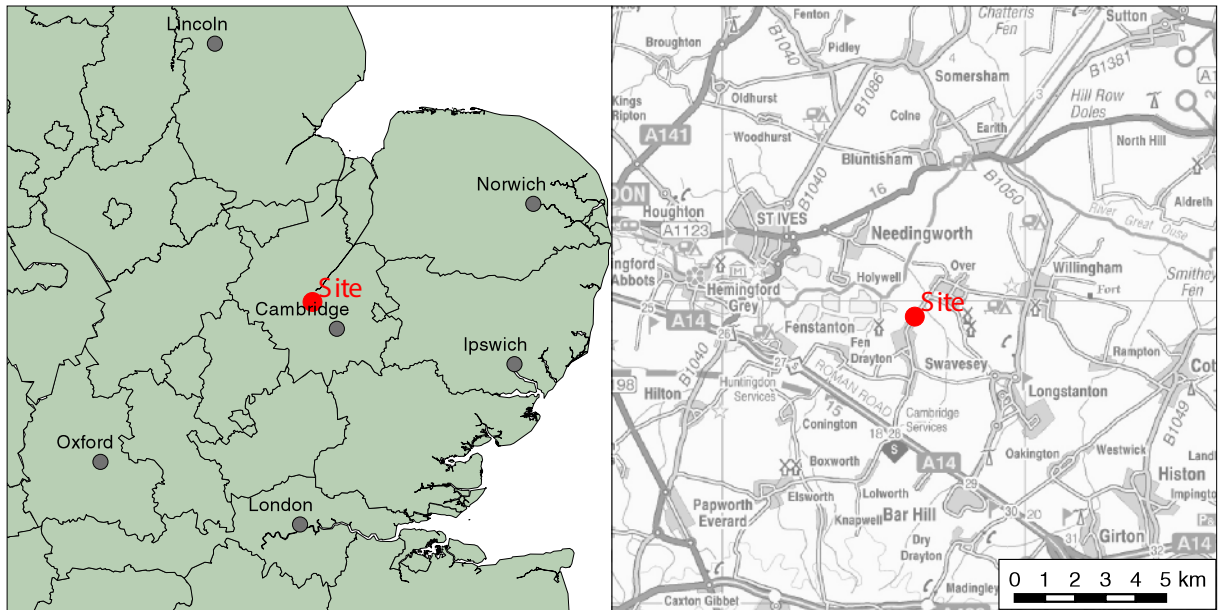
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Archive Contents/Media

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Digital Media	Paper Media
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological test pits (red)

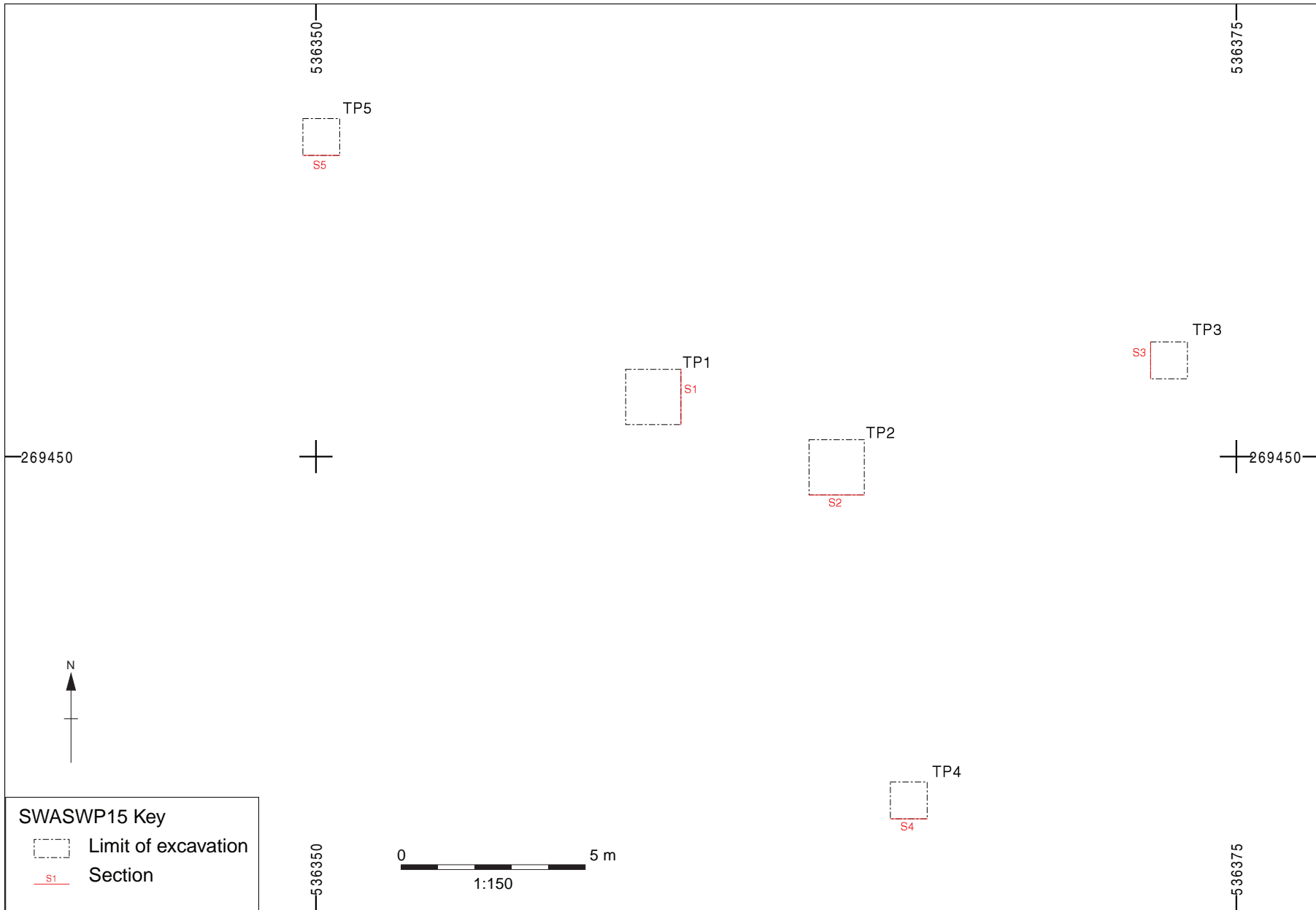


Figure 2: Plan of archaeological test pits.

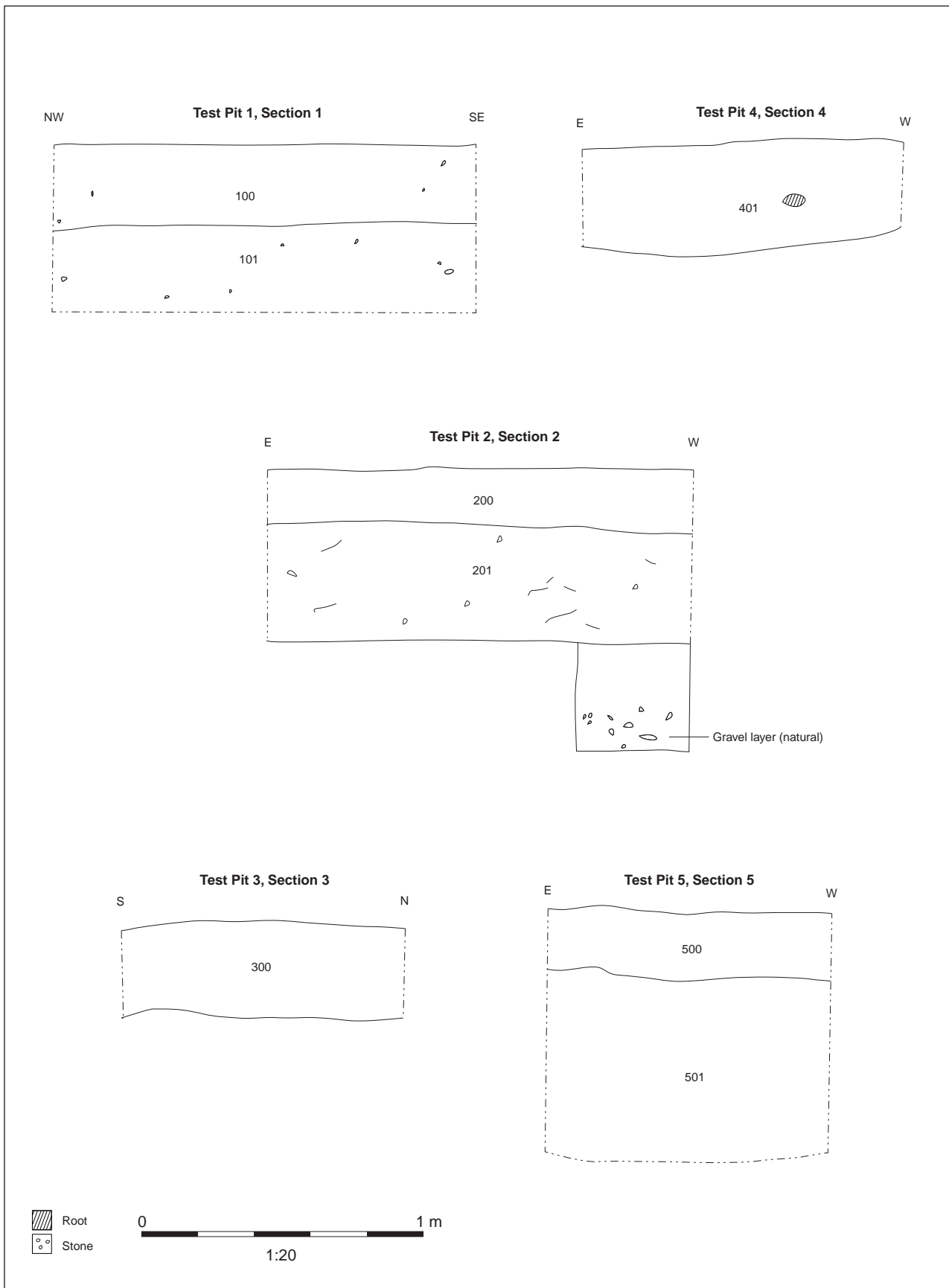


Figure 3: Test pit sections at 1:20



Plate 1. View of St Andrews Church and priory grounds, viewed from north-east



Plate 2. Test Pit 1, viewed from south



Plate 3. Test Pit 2, viewed from west



Plate 4. Test Pit 3, viewed from east



Plate 5. Test Pit 4, viewed from north



Plate 6. Test Pit 5, viewed from north



Plate 7. Perse School students excavating Test Pit 5, viewed from south



Plate 8. Perse school students, viewed from south-west



Plate 9. Perse School students excavating Test Pit 4, viewed from south-west



Plate 10. Test Pit 5 with St Andrews Church in the background, viewed from north-east



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