

Wyddial Hall Manège



Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation Report



October 2017

**Client: Andrew Josephs for Mr and
Mrs Mark Donnor**

OA East Report No: 2004

OASIS No: oxfordar3-269782

NGR: TL 3737 3186

Wyddial Hall Manège

Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation


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Report Date: October 2017

Report Number: 2004
Site Name: Wyddial Hall Manège
HER Event No:
Date of Works: October 2016
Client Name: Andrew Josephs for Mr And Mrs Mark Donnor
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: 3/16/1320/FUL
Grid Ref: TL 3737 3186
Site Code: XHTWYD16
Finance Code: XHTWYD16
Receiving Body: Hertford Museum
Accession No:
Prepared by: Andrew Greef
Position: Project Supervisor
Date: October 2016, updated October 2017
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Date: 20 October 2017
Signed: 

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Summary

From the 20th to the 25th October 2016 an archaeological excavation was carried out at Wyddial Hall, Hertfordshire in advance of the construction of a manège. This excavation revealed the presence of medieval features mostly dating from the 11th to 12th centuries consisting of ditches, a post built structure and a large pit. These features may represent a period of settlement at the site when the village of Wyddial had been larger than its present size. The development of the estate and the clearance of settlement for parkland and farmland saw the end of both this section of the village and other areas of settlement represented by cropmarks in the surrounding landscape.

Artefactually, aside from the medieval pottery and animal bone recovered from the features, of particular interest was a mid-late 14th century rowel spur recovered from the topsoil. This item suggests a higher status of use of the land in this later period and may support the idea of an earlier manor on the land now occupied by the present Hall.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief and excavation was conducted at Wyddial Hall, in advance of the development of a manège (a riding and exercise area) on grassland to the north of the building.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Specification prepared by OA East and approved by Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC; Planning Application No. 3/16/1320/FUL).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).
- 1.1.4 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

- 1.2.1 The bedrock geology of the site is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation And Seaford Chalk Formation overlain by Lowestoft Formation Diamicton.
- 1.2.2 The site is located in a grassed paddock behind (to the north of) Wyddial Hall. The land slopes gently down from south to north from c.127m to 124m AOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full Heritage and Archaeology Statement has been produced (Josephs 2016) and the below is largely taken, and précised from this. An HER search was undertaken within a radius of one kilometre of the development area.
- 1.3.2 There are nine listed buildings within the 1km search area, the closest and most relevant being Wyddial Hall, its Coach house and the Church of St Giles. All three lie to the south of the development area. There are no scheduled monuments within the area.
- 1.3.3 Wyddial Hall is a Grade II* country house of early 16th century origins, but extensively remodelled after a fire and given its present appearance in 1733. Further alterations took place in 1780 and between 1836 and 1865.
- 1.3.4 Wyddial Park is a locally important park and garden cited in the 2007 East Herts District Council Historic Parks and Gardens Supplementary Planning Document. It is stated there that in 1803 the Estate was remodelled by the landscape designer Humphry Repton.
- 1.3.5 The HER contains 23 records within 1km of the development area, dominated by four small concentrations of records. None of the entries is dated to the pre-medieval period, although some cropmarks were undated.

Beauchamps.

- 1.3.6 A group of entries at the southeastern limit of the study area comprises four records relating to a possible deserted village and later occupation by the Beauchamps (HER 994). There is no evidence on the ground but it is referenced in several publications on deserted medieval villages. A medieval double moat (HER 4044) is present, its northern arm survives as a water-filled garden feature but the remainder is overlain by agricultural buildings. The site is occupied by a large Grade II listed seventeenth century timber-framed house (HER15904). Associated with this house is a range of agricultural buildings of post medieval date (HER 15910) comprising two linear ranges.

Moles Lane

- 1.3.7 The second group of records are clustered around the southern end of Moles Lane close to the southern limit of the study area. These include the site of a World War II search light battery at Moles Farm (HER 30388), the Fountain Inn (HER 13243), the plot of which is now empty ground, and farm buildings at Moles Farm (HER 13245).

Wyddial Village

- 1.3.8 The third group of entries include the 1840 rectory, now a private house, (HER 17349) and the site of Browns Farm, a post medieval farmstead that may have had medieval origins. The site appears on the 1877 map as a small farmstead with irregular plan.
- 1.3.9 The remaining entry is for what was Home Farm (HER 31107) a post medieval farmstead shown on nineteenth century mapping and surviving into the twentieth century before being demolished - a single building remains called The Old Barn.

Wyddial Hall and environs

- 1.3.10 The fourth group of entries are related to the Hall and its immediate environs. The Hall (HER 15410) and park (HER 9601) are discussed above. To the south of the Hall is the Church of St Giles (HER 4350) and Wyddial Bury Farm (HER 240). The latter may originally have formed the Home Farm associated with the Hall.
- 1.3.11 At the western end of Wyddial Park are cropmarks of a rectilinear ditch system that may represent house plots. The alignment of the remains would suggest they were once part of a settlement: they lie about 300m to the west of the present village.

Other records

- 1.3.12 There are four isolated entries in the northern part of the study area, two undated crop marks (HER 7706 and 7707), cropmarks of pre enclosure strip fields and woodland enclosure (HER 7708) and some undated earthworks (HER 30828) in Capons Wood. A cropmark (HER 7425), close to the south-eastern limit of the study area, is described as a polygonal enclosure of unknown date.

Previous Archaeological Interventions

- 1.3.13 The rural character of the area means there has been little previous archaeological work. Two pieces of work at Beauchamps (EHT 7095 and 7701) did not reveal any archaeological levels. Two interventions were also carried out at Bury Farm, one (EHT1456) a building recording of the nineteenth century barns prior to conversion, the other the subsequent archaeological evaluation trenching (EHT5297) which identified traces of walls shown on nineteenth century maps.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The project was commissioned by Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf the client, Mr and Mrs Mark Donnor. Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council monitored the archaeological excavation. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer, while the fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Birnie, Kelly Sinclair and the author. The GPS survey was conducted by the author.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mortimer 2016)
- 2.1.2 The main aims of this excavation were
- To mitigate the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological remains. The development would have severely impacted upon these remains and as a result a full excavation was required, targeting the areas of archaeological interest highlighted by the previous phases of evaluation.
 - To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.
- 2.1.3 The Eastern Region Research Frameworks (Medleycott 2011) offers a general context within which to interpret these remains.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mortimer 2016)
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a tracked 360 type excavator using a 2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket. under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 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 Three bulk soil samples were collected to investigate the possible survival of micro and macro botanical remains (see Appendix C).
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were dry and clear with no rainfall during the period of excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results from the excavation indicate that the majority of the activity on the site took place in the 11th and 12th centuries AD, with some later activity in 14th Century and finally some drainage associated with the hall adjacent to the site. The archaeology has been divided into phases where artefactual dating and stratigraphic relationships allow and is described below, starting with the earliest activity on the site. Post hole structures and ditches with multiple interventions are referred to initially referencing all cut numbers and thereafter using only the earliest number in their sequence.

3.2 Phase 1: Saxo-Norman

3.2.1 The earliest phase of activity dated from the mid 11th to early 12th century AD and consisted of the corner of a post built structure and a cluster of small pits/postholes to the north of it.

Post hole structure 24,26,28,30,32 (Fig.2,Plate.3,Section 12)

3.2.2 In the south-west corner of the site five post holes were arranged in an L-shape forming the corner of a structure. All of these post holes were circular in plan and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Whilst fairly similar they ranged in diameter from 0.25m to 0.4m and in depth from 0.8m to 0.16m. Individual dimensions per post hole can be found tabulated in Appendix A. The post holes were filled with a dark grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions (fill numbers 25,27,29,31,33 respectively). Pottery dating from the mid 11th Century was recovered from two of the postholes (**26** and **30**), no other datable material was recovered from this structure.

3.2.3 Structure **24** seems likely to extend beyond the limit of excavation to the south and west and therefore would be truncated by ditch **22** and the 18th Century culvert which ran along the western edge of site.

Pit/posthole cluster 6,8,10,12, (Fig.2, Section 5)

3.2.4 To the north of structure **24** and with no discernible structure to them were a cluster of small pits or postholes. All of these features were sub-circular in plan and had fairly moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Whilst fairly similar they ranged in diameter from 0.39m to 0.53m and in depth from 0.11m to 0.25m. Individual dimensions per pit can be found tabulated in Appendix A. They were filled with a light grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions (fill numbers 7,9,11,13).

3.2.5 These features seem most likely to relate to this phase of activity as whilst the pottery recovered from them featured sherds dating to the Bronze Age and Roman periods (as well as the 11th century), these were small and abraded and therefore likely to be residual. Additionally the spread of these pits, featuring on either side of ditch **4/18** (see Phase 2 below), makes it less likely that they are associated with the Early Medieval phase of activity on the site.

3.3 Phase 2: Early Medieval

3.3.1 The second phase of activity on the site was dated from the mid 12th century. It consisted of a large boundary ditch running north to south with a series of smaller ditches running off it to the west. These would appear to represent the edge of a series of rectilinear house plots or small enclosures. Pottery from both the 11th and 12th Centuries was recovered from these ditches and the presence of this later material along with the truncation of structure **24** by ditch **22** affirms the slightly later date of this ditch system.

Ditch 4/18 (Fig.2, Plate.4, Section 1)

3.3.2 Ditch **4/18** ran north to south through the centre of the site and extended in each direction beyond the limit of excavation. In profile it was moderately steeply sloped and U-shaped and was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions (5/19). Its width was 1.8m to 2.16m and it had a maximum depth of 0.66m. Thirty-four sherds of early Medieval pottery and three residual Romano-British sherds were recovered from the excavated sections.

Ditch 14 (Fig.2, Section 6)

3.3.3 Ditch **14** was linear in plan and was located perpendicular to and to the west of ditch **4**. It was situated to the north of ditch **20** and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the west. In profile it was steeply sloped and U-shaped and was filled with a dark brown grey silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions (15). Its width was 1.25m and it had a maximum depth of 0.42m. Nineteen sherds of early Medieval pottery and one residual Romano-British sherd were recovered from the excavated section.

Ditch 20 (Fig.2)

3.3.4 Ditch **20** was linear in plan and was located perpendicular to and to the west of ditch **4**. It extended beyond the limit of excavation to the west and terminated 1.3m short of ditch **4**. In profile it was gently sloped and U-shaped and was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions (21). Its width was 1.18m and it had a maximum depth of 0.27m. Three early medieval sherds were recovered.

Ditch 22 (Fig.2)

3.3.5 Ditch **22** was linear in plan and was located perpendicular to and to the west of ditch **4**. It was situated to the south of ditch **20** and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the west. In profile it was gently sloped and U-shaped and was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions (23). Its width was 0.82m and it had a maximum depth of 0.27m. Ditch **22** seems to truncate the footprint of structure **24** and is therefore likely to have been constructed after the demolition of the structure. Six early medieval sherds were recovered.

3.4 Phase 3: Late Medieval

3.4.1 The final phase of Medieval activity on the site was represented by a boundary ditch and a large pit to the north of it. The ditch was on a perpendicular alignment to, and

truncated, ditch **4** and was therefore created at a time when ditch **4** had been filled and was no longer present in the landscape. Most of the pottery recovered from the features representing this phase of activity was earlier residual material. The orientation of this new boundary and the lack of domestic material evidence for this period could reflect a change in land use of the area. It is likely that by this time the settlement had been cleared to allow for the expansion of the estate and the shift to arable farmland.

Ditch 16 (Fig.2, Section 7)

- 3.4.2 Ditch **16** ran east to west across the site and extended in each direction beyond the limit of excavation. It ran perpendicular to and truncated ditch **4** and was situated just to the south of ditch **14**. In profile it was gently sloped with a flat base and was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions (17). Its width was 1.42m and it had a maximum depth of 0.26m. Only one sherd of pottery was recovered from this feature, dating to the 11th to 12th century, however it was abraded and deemed residual due to the stratigraphic evidence.

Pit 36 (Fig.2,plate.5,Section 17)

- 3.4.3 Pit **36** was circular in plan and located in the north-west corner of the site. In profile it was nearly vertically sided with a concave base. It was filled with in stratigraphic order from the base with a dark grey brown silty clay measuring 0.14m at maximum thickness (37), a dark brown grey silty clay measuring 0.55m at maximum thickness (38), a mid yellow brown silty clay measuring 0.46m at maximum thickness (39) and a mid grey brown silty clay measuring 0.27m at maximum thickness (40). All fills contained frequent chalk inclusions. The diameter of the pit was 1.92m and it had a maximum depth of 1.21m. A number of periods were represented by the relatively large pottery assemblage (37 sherds) recovered from this feature, however the majority of the sherds were small and abraded and the presence of 14th century material suggested that the majority of the assemblage was residual.

3.5 Phase 4: Post-Medieval

- 3.5.1 The last phase of activity on the site was a network of brick built drains associated with the current form of the estate. These seem likely to have been constructed either during or following the remodelling of the estate in the 18th Century. A large drain ran east to west across the site parallel to boundary ditch **16**, this was fed by two smaller drains running from the direction of the estate buildings to the south.

3.6 Undated

Post hole 34 (Fig.2)

- 3.6.1 Post hole **34** could not be phased either by artefactual evidence or by certain association with other dated features. It was located within the western area bounded by ditch **4** and therefore is likely part of the 11th to 12th Century activity on the site. In plan it was circular with a diameter of 0.56m. In profile it was moderately sloped with a concave base and was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions (35). Its maximum depth was 0.16m

3.7 Finds Summary

Pottery

- 3.7.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 113 sherds with a total weight of 1041g recovered from a total of twelve contexts.
- 3.7.2 Pottery was recovered from nearly all features excavated and the bulk of it was Saxo-Norman to Early Medieval in date. Not all of the pottery can be used to accurately date the features however as it was abraded and residual, particularly in the case of ditch **16** and pit **36**. Full details and a discussion of the assemblage can be found in Appendix B.

14th Century Rowel spur (plate 6,7)

- 3.7.3 A copper alloy rowel spur dated to the mid to late 14th century (Chris Howard-Davis pers. Comm.) was found in the topsoil. This supports the historical evidence of high status activity on the site after the settlement represented by the archaeological remains was cleared and the parkland of the estate was created.

3.8 Environmental Summary

Environmental samples

- 3.8.1 A total of three bulk samples were taken from medieval features on the site. Charcoal preservation was poor and only pit **36** produced a meaningful quantity of charred grains, likely representing a deposit of burnt culinary material. Full details can be found in Appendix C

Faunal Remains

- 3.8.2 A total weight of 0.622kg of animal bone was recovered from nine contexts during the excavation. Cattle were the most represented species but due to its small size little information could be gleaned from the assemblage. Full details can be found in Appendix C.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The excavation at Wyddial Hall gives a rare insight into the archaeological nature of the village of Wyddial in the Saxo-Norman and Early Medieval periods and the changing use of the landscape from that time up to the present day.
- 4.1.2 The earlier phases of archaeology on the site represented by the partial building and enclosures offer a glimpse of the nature of this village during the Saxo-Norman and Early Medieval periods and the extent of the settlement at this time. Whilst the only building present is structure **24** the layout of the Early Medieval ditches and the assemblages recovered from them are indicative of enclosures and plots relating to settlement.
- 4.1.3 The Late Medieval ditch **16** suggests a change in the boundaries and organisation of the landscape and could possibly relate to the land being re-purposed from settlement to agricultural. The relative scarcity of pottery and animal bone in this ditch compared to the earlier ditches supports this move away from domestic use and activity.
- 4.1.4 The nave of the Church of St Giles dates from the 14th Century and the current Hall has access to it through its churchyard. It is possible that there would have been a manor present in the same location. The change in land usage at the same time could reflect the growth of the manorial estate of a precursor to Wyddial Hall.
- 4.1.5 Of particular interest was a mid-late 14th century rowel spur recovered from the topsoil. This item potentially highlights the higher status use of the land in the period after the settlement had shrunk and supports the idea of an earlier manor existing on the land now occupied by the present Hall.
- 4.1.6 It is unclear how much of the medieval character of the area and the archaeological record has been damaged by the landscaping of the estate and park over time. Certainly prior to the stated Repton remodelling it is recorded that there were two bold avenues to the north-east and west within the grounds which are no longer present (LCA 2007).

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The results from Wyddial Hall are very significant locally due to the scarcity of archaeological work carried out previously in the area. Cropmarks depicting rectilinear enclosures thought to be house plots have been recorded in the vicinity of Wyddial village but only in the fields to the West. This excavation shows that for a time the settlement also extended further to the North and was a once far larger than its current size.

APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Feature Type	Colour	Fine component
1		layer		0.15	topsoil	dark grey brown	clay silt
2		layer		0.3	subsoil	mid brown grey	clay silt
3		layer			natural	white grey	chalk
4	4	cut	2.16	0.6	ditch		
5	4	fill		0.6	ditch	light grey brown	silty clay
6	6	cut	0.48	0.13	pit		
7	6	fill		0.13	pit	light grey brown	silty clay
8	8	cut	0.5	0.25	pit		
9	8	fill		0.25	pit	light grey brown	silty clay
10	10	cut	0.39	0.11	pit		
11	10	fill		0.11	pit	light grey brown	silty clay
12	12	cut	0.53	0.15	pit		
13	12	fill		0.15	pit	light grey brown	silty clay
14	14	cut	1.25	0.42	ditch		
15	14	fill		0.42	ditch	dark brown grey	silty clay
16	16	cut	1.42	0.26	ditch		
17	16	fill		0.26	ditch	mid grey brown	silty clay
18	18	cut	1.8	0.66	ditch		
19	18	fill		0.66	ditch	dark grey brown	silty clay
20	20	cut	1.18	0.27	ditch		
21	20	fill		0.27	ditch	dark grey brown	silty clay
22	22	cut	0.82	0.27	ditch		
23	22	fill		0.27	ditch	mid grey brown	silty clay
24	24	cut	0.25	0.9	post hole		
25	24	fill		0.9	post hole	dark grey brown	silty clay
26	26	cut	0.36	0.15	post hole		
27	26	fill		0.15	post hole	dark grey brown	silty clay
28	28	cut	0.4	0.16	post hole		
29	28	fill		0.16	post hole	dark grey brown	silty clay
30	30	cut	0.33	0.1	post hole		
31	30	fill		0.1	post hole	dark grey brown	silty clay
32	32	cut	0.32	0.9	post hole		
33	32	fill		0.9	post hole	dark grey brown	silty clay

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Feature Type	Colour	Fine component
34	34	cut	0.28	0.8	post hole		
35	34	fill		0.8	post hole	dark grey brown	silty clay
42	41	masonry			drain		
43	41	fill			drain		
36	36	cut	1.92	1.21	pit		
37	36	fill		0.14	pit	dark grey brown	silty clay
38	36	fill		0.55	pit	dark brown grey	silty clay
39	36	fill		0.46	pit	mid yellow brown	silty clay
40	36	fill		0.27	pit	mid grey brown	silty clay
41	41	cut			drain		

Table 1: Context Inventory

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

B.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 113 sherds with a total weight of 1041g. The following fabric types were noted:

F200: Developed St. Neots Ware, AD1050-1250 (Spoerry 2016) 7 sherds, 34g.

F330: Essex Shelly Ware, 11th – late 12th century (Cotter 2000). 2 sherds, 12g.

F332: Essex Micaceous Sandy Ware, AD1050-1225 (Spoerry 2016). 6 sherds, 62g.

F333: Hertfordshire Grey Ware, mid 12th–14th century (Turner-Rugg 1993). 18 sherds, 185g,

F334: Sand and Flint, 11th – 12th century? 26 sherds, 341g.

F335: Hertfordshire Glazed Ware, mid 14th – mid 15th century (Jenner and Vince 1983). 2 sherds, 12g.

F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, 11th – 12th century? 43 sherds, 240g.

PHIST: Prehistoric flint-tempered wares. Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age. 2 sherds, 4g.

RB: All Romano-British. 7 sherds, 151g.

B.1.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. Fabrics F334 and F360 are common Hertfordshire products, and similar wares occur at numerous sites in the county (eg. Pieksma 1996, 65).

B.1.3 The prehistoric and Romano-British material aside, the bulk of the pottery appears to be of Saxo-Norman to early medieval, that is, 11th – 12th century date. The only late medieval material present is two sherds for a Hertfordshire Glazed Ware jug from context (38), the fill of pit (36). The sherds are very abraded, and quite possibly residual, and much of the rest of the assemblage from the feature consists of small sherds, other than a large fragment of a residual Romano-British vessel. It is entirely possible therefore that the whole assemblage from this feature is residual.

B.1.4 In terms of vessel forms, the assemblage is typical of the Saxo-Norman/early medieval period. The Hertfordshire Glazed Ware aside, eight rims sherds were noted, with four from jars, three from bowls, and a single example from a spouted pitcher. One of the bowls, a simple “dog-dish” form, survived to a full profile (Plate 8). The spouted pitcher is a typical 11th/12th century form, with a tubular spout incorporated into a wide connecting strut attached to the rim, and an applied strip decoration (Plate 9). It is, however, quite unusual for the Hertfordshire region, with no obvious local parallels, although a very similar Thetford Ware example, dating to the 11th or 12th century, is known from Huntingdon (Spoerry 2016, Pl. 9.10).

Cntxt	Cut No	PHIST		RB		F200		F330		F332		F333		F334		F335		F360		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	4			1	1					1	9			4	34			7	17	M11thC
7	6																	1	3	11thC
9	8			1	1															RB??
13	12	1	1																	PHIST?
15	14			1	1							1	39	14	141			4	23	M12thC
17	16					1	7													M11thC
19	18	1	3	2	3	2	6	1	6	5	53			4	141			10	32	M12thC
21	20											1	22					2	6	M12thC
23	22							1	6			3	22					2	17	M12thC
27	26					4	21													M11thC
31	30													1	5					11thC
38	37			2	145							13	102	3	20	2	12	17	142	M14thC
Total		2	4	7	151	7	34	2	12	6	62	18	185	26	341	2	12	43	240	

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from medieval features within the evaluated area at Wyddial Hall Manège, Hertfordshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

- C.1.2 The total volume (up to 17 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal has been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

C.1.4 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation although charcoal is sparse and charred remains are limited to cereal grains only. Fill 37 of pit **36** contains a moderate assemblage of charred grain that is predominantly comprised of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.) along with occasional charred grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oats (*Avena* sp.) and most likely represents a deliberate deposit of burnt culinary waste. Fill 5 of ditch **4** and fill 29 of post hole **28** each contain two charred wheat grains that are likely to be accidental inclusions.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	% context sampled	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal
1	5	4	Ditch	<10	17	1	#	+
2	37	36	Pit	<10	17	10	####	+
3	29	28	Posthole	<50	8	2	#	+

Table 3: Environmental samples from XHTWYD16

C.2 Faunal Remains

By Zoe Ui Choileain

Introduction

C.2.1 A total weight of 0.622kg of animal bone was recovered from the excavation at Wydall Hall in Hertfordshire.

Methodology

C.2.2 All identifiable elements were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992). Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972) and France (2009) plus use of the OAE reference collection. Taphonomic information such as butchery, carnivore/rodent gnawing and burning was recorded. Moreover, preservation condition was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004). The potential for determining age, butchery and biometry in full analysis was recorded.

Results

Context	Element	No. of frags	Taxon	Collection method	Erosion	Butchery	Age	gnawed
5	Vertebra	1	Medium mammal	hand	3 (most surface)			
15	Indet	3	Large mammal	hand	3 (most surface)			
17	Femur	1	equid	hand	2 (more extensive & deeper)	Yes	Yes	
19	Maxilla	1	Cattle	hand	2 (more extensive & deeper)		Yes	
19	Radius	1	Cattle	hand	2 (more extensive & deeper)		Yes	Yes
19	Scapula	1	Large mammal	hand	2 (more extensive & deeper)			
23	Calcaneus	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	2 (more extensive & deeper)		Yes	
38	Loose max cheek tooth	1	Cattle	hand	1 (slight patchy erosion)		Yes	
38	Loose mand cheek tooth	1	Pig	hand	1 (slight patchy erosion)		Yes	

Table 4: Results according to collection method (i.e. hand-collection or flotation). Erosion grades (simplified version of Brickley & McKinley 2004, 14-15): 0 (surface morphology clearly visible, fresh appearance), 1 (light and patchy surface erosion), 2 (more extensive surface erosion than grade 1), 3 (most of bone surface affected by some degree of erosion), 4 (all of bone surface affected by erosive action), 5 (heavy erosion across whole surface, completely masking normal surface morphology).

C.2.3 The over all surface condition of the bone resembled Brickley and McKinley's grade 2 (Brickley & McKinley 2004, 14-15). Fragmentation was high with most bones being fragmented.

C.2.4 The most represented species present was cattle with just a single fragment of Equid, pig and Sheep/goat observed. There was a single cut mark on the Equid femur from context (17) and the cattle radius from context (19) showed signs of gnawing.

Discussion and conclusion

C.2.5 This is a small assemblage and in its present state there is little information that can be provided about diet or industrial practices. No further work is necessary.

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APPENDIX E. HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:		
Wyddial Hall		
Vicarage Road		
Buntingford		
SG9 0UH		
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Wyddial		Parish: Wyddial
Planning application reference: 2/16/1320/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Developer funded		
Nature of application:		
Construction of a manège		
Present land use: Private land/Garden		
Size of application area: 2307m2		Size of area investigated: 542m2
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 3737 3186		
Site code (if applicable): XHTWYD16		
Site director/Organization: Andy Greef/ Oxford Archaeology East		
Type of work: Excavation		
Date of work: October 2016	Start:20/10/2016	Finish:25/10/2016
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum:		
Hertford Museum		

<p>Related HER Nos:</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Periods represented:</p> <p>Late Saxon-Post medieval</p>
<p>Relevant previous summaries/reports</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The excavation revealed features mostly dating from the 11th to 12th centuries consisting of ditches, a post built structure and a large pit. These features may represent a period of settlement at the site when the village of Wyddial was larger than its present size. The development of the estate and the clearance of settlement for parkland and farmland saw the end of both this section of the village and other areas of settlement represented by cropmarks in the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Artefactually, aside from the medieval pottery and animal bone recovered from the features, of particular interest was a mid-late 14th century rowel spur recovered from the topsoil. This item suggests a higher status of use of the land in this later period and may support the idea of an earlier manor on the land now occupied by the present hall.</p>	
<p>Author of summary: Andy Greef</p>	<p>Date of summary: October 2017</p>

APPENDIX F. 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

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Parish	<input type="text"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text"/>

Project Originators

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

Project Archives

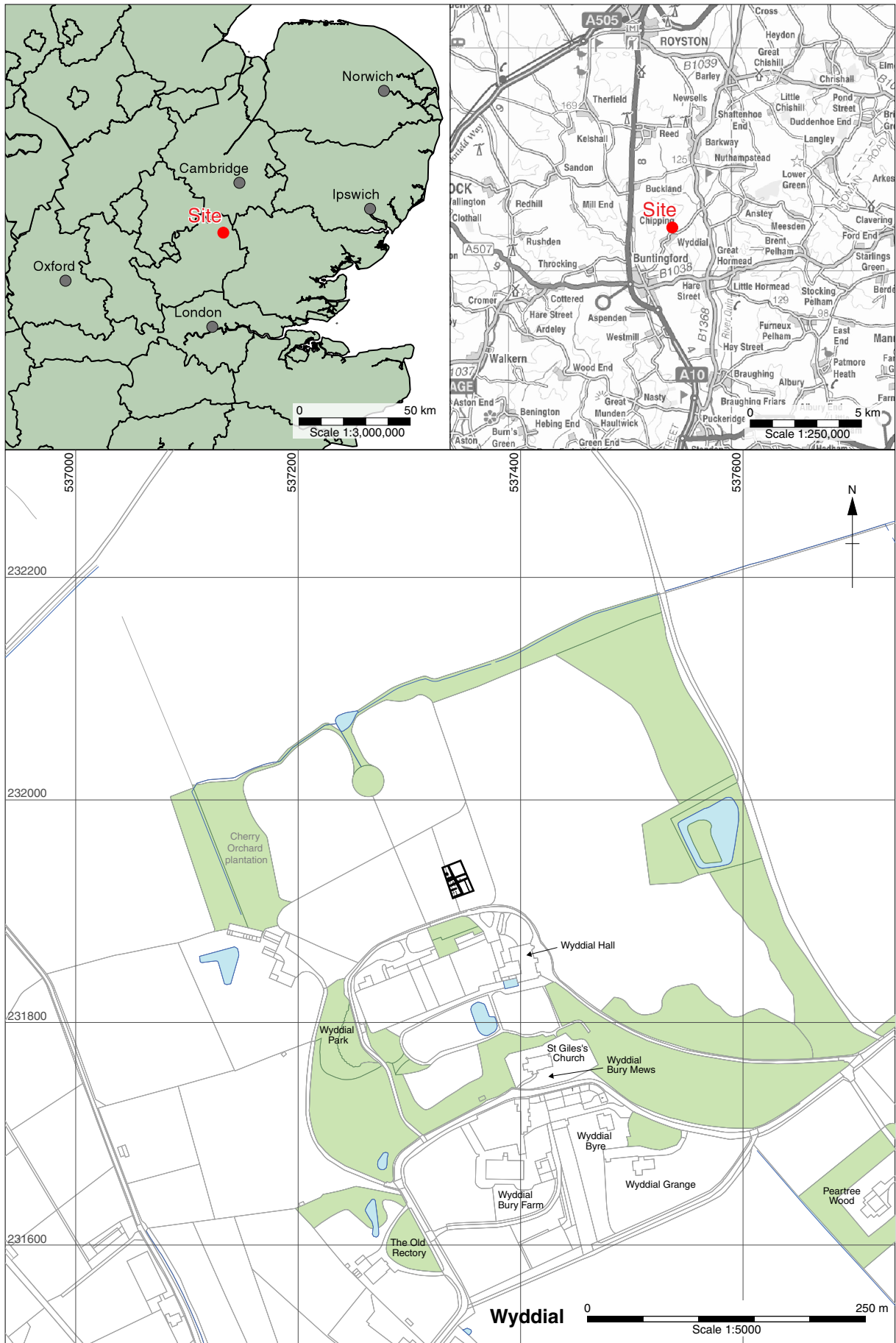
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Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location map

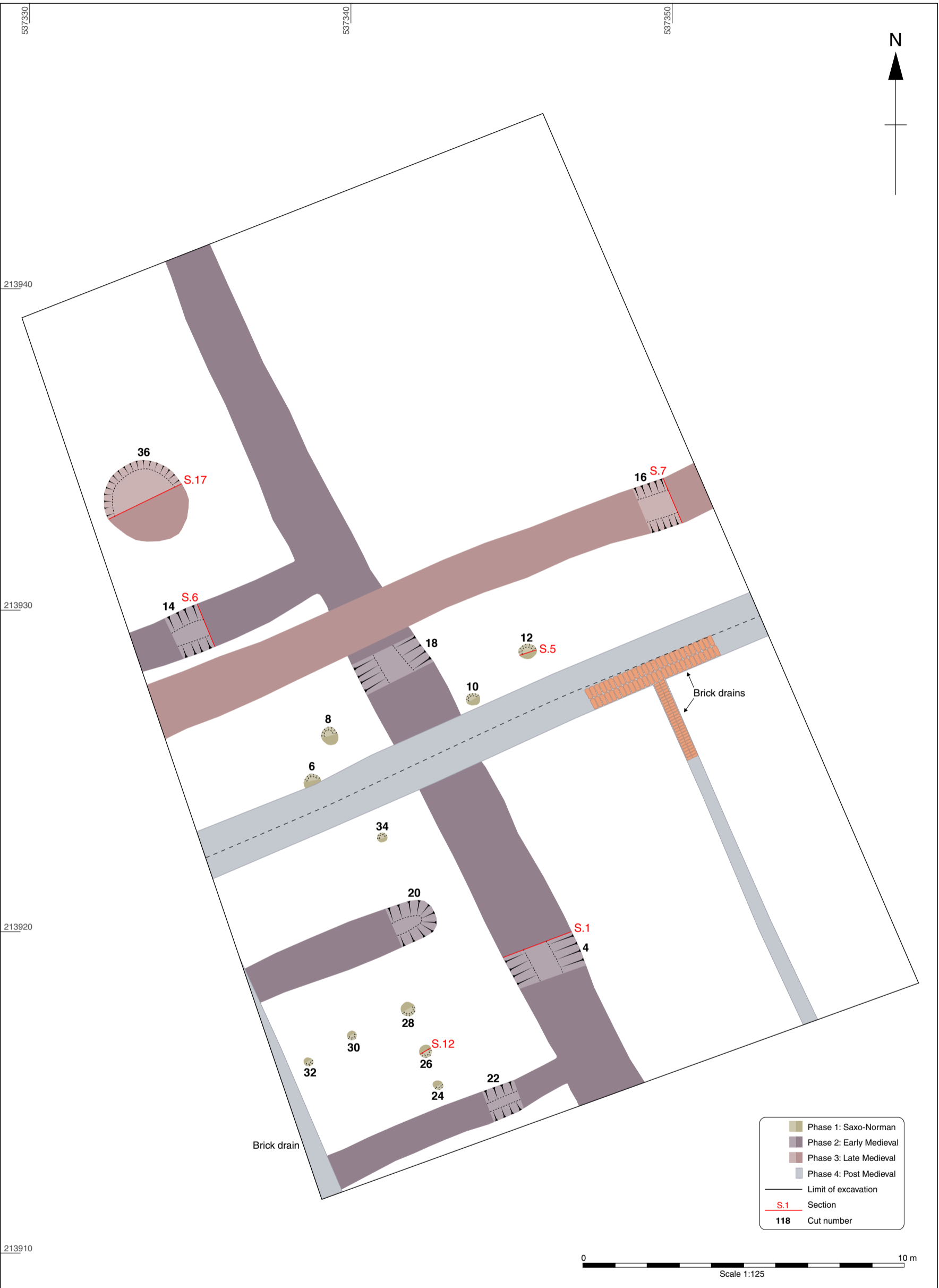


Figure 2: Phased site plan

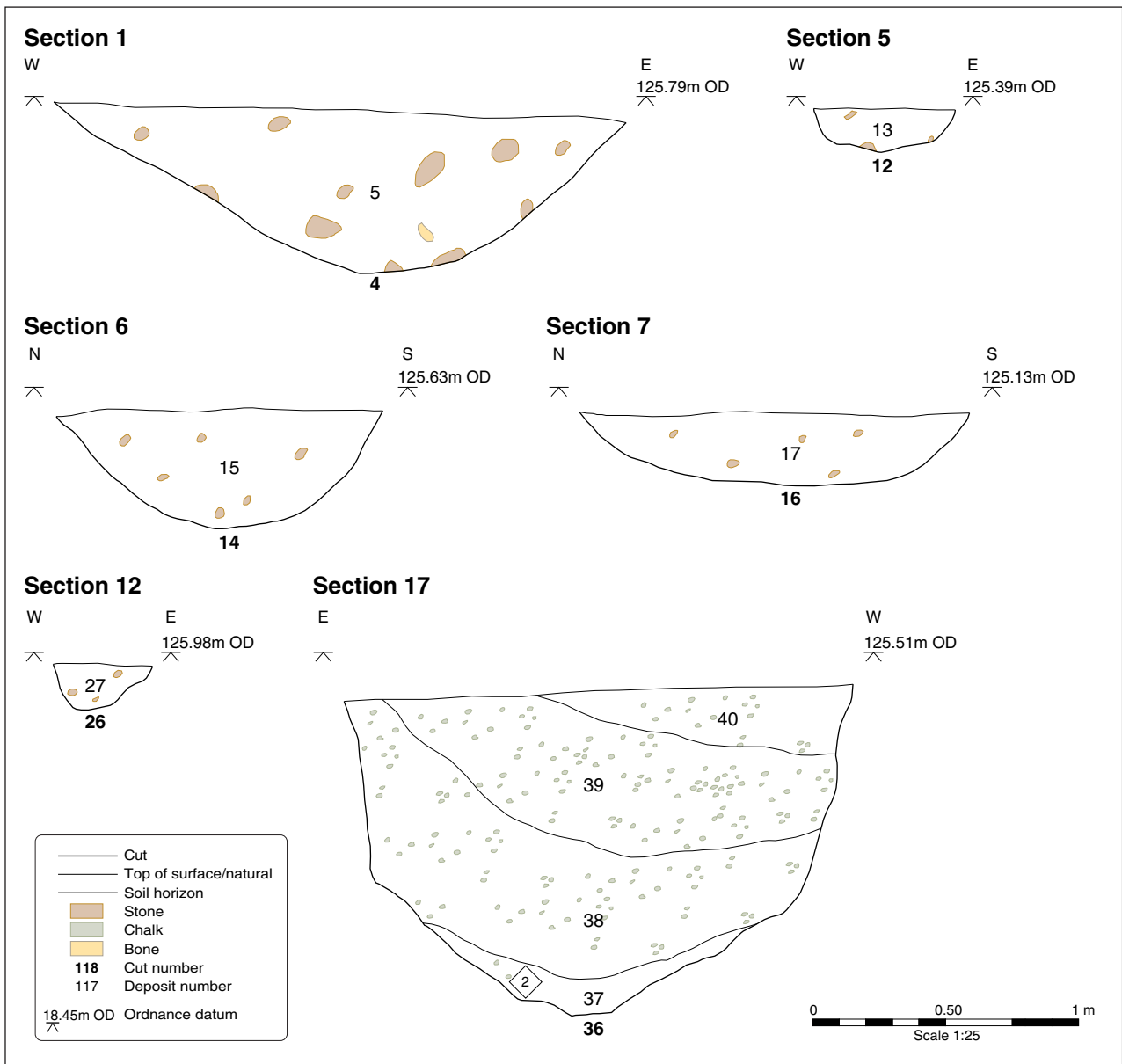


Figure 3: Selected sections



Plate 1: View of site from north-east



Plate 2: View of site from south



Plate 3: Post-built structure 24



Plate 4: Early Medieval boundary ditch 4



Plate 5: Late Medieval Pit 36



Plate 6: 14th Century rowel spur



Plate 8: 12th century "dog-dish"



Plate 9: 11th-12th century spouted pitcher



Plate 10: View of site from north-east & site tour



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