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Land South of Blackberry Lane, Soham

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Summary

Between the 22nd and 30th of May 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted an archaeological evaluation at land south of Blackberry Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire (centred TL 60614 7237). The evaluation consisted of 21 trenches opened across four fields.

The evaluation revealed archaeological remains spanning the Iron Age to early post-medieval periods. Two main concentrations of features were uncovered. The first was located in the eastern area of the site and comprised a series of ditches and postholes yielding Early Iron Age pottery and animal bone. These remains are interpreted as a focus of settlement-related activity on the chalk, with postholes indicating the likely presence of structures, and ditches suggesting enclosed or partially enclosed elements to the occupation.

The second concentration of features centred upon a possible Early-Middle Saxon Sunken Feature Building revealed in the central western area of the site. The building was associated with a group of pits, postholes and undated ditches, all located in a single trench. The absence of discrete features in surrounding trenches suggesting the core of this settlement lay beyond the site to the west towards the historic centre of Soham.

The evaluation also revealed early post-medieval clunch quarrying and post-medieval gravel extraction strip quarries. There were also undated ditches that may have been part of field systems.

The artefacts recovered from the evaluation included Iron Age, Early-Middle Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery. Animal bone, much of which was well preserved, was also recovered from several features.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed new residential development for 178 homes on land to the south of Blackberry Lane, Soham (centred TL 60614 7237).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A Brief for evaluation was issued by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET; Thomas 2017) and a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (Bush and Brudenell 2017). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements in line with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the south of Blackberry Lane (centred TL 6061 7237) on the south-east edge of the historic town of Soham, within the parish of Soham and the district of East Cambridgeshire (Fig 1).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of four fields (Fields 1-4) covering c. 6.8ha between an industrial estate and the A142. The northern field was utilized for arable agriculture with evidence of a corn crop from the previous year in the field. The remaining three fields were grassed and had previously been used for grazing.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the site is mapped as river terrace sand and gravels above West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (BGS 2017). It lies at 5.5m AOD in the central part, sloping down to 5.1m AOD in the north-west corner and 4.7m AOD in the south-east corner.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bush and Brudenell 2017) alongside data from the County Council Historic Environment Record (CHER)

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 There are a number of prehistoric findspots in Soham, including unlocated Mesolithic tranchet axes (CHER 07098), unlocated Neolithic finds (CHER 07087) and a Neolithic axe (CHER 11019). Fieldwork at the Fordham Road allotments (c.300m to the west) identified later Bronze Age to earlier Iron Age features (CB 14631), including ditches, pits, post-built structures and pottery assemblages. Further fieldwork in the adjacent allotment field identified Iron Age features along with pottery and flint assemblages (MCB 19583). Bronze Age and Iron Age findspots are recorded from around 300m to the north of the site (CHER 07605a, 07503 and 07602).

Romano-British

- 1.3.3 The surrounding area is dominated by Roman remains and findspots. The archaeological works on the two allotment sites to the west also identified Roman remains (CB 14632, MCB 19583). Fieldwork at 49 and 49A Fordham Road (c.450m to the west of the site) has also uncovered dense Roman archaeology. Findspots of Roman pottery, tile, quern stone, coins and bronze objects have also been found in the environs of the site (CHER 05668a, 07560a, 07584, 07594, 07602a, 07678, 11693, MCB 16684 and MCB 18080). A metal detecting survey c.400m to the east has collected a number of finds ranging in date from the Roman period through to the medieval period (CHER 08617A).

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.4 The modern town of Soham is Early Saxon in origin. The name is derived from the Old English *Soegan Hamm* or 'swampy' settlement, referring to its position on a peninsula in Soham Mere (Reaney 1943). Twelfth century documentary sources refer to the foundation in the 7th century AD of a monastery by St Felix, first Bishop of the East Angles, who was buried in Soham. The monastery was destroyed during the Danish invasions of East Anglia (late 9th century) along with many other religious foundations in the area, never to be re-established (Salzman 1948). The exact location of the monastery is unknown, although it is possible that the Parish church of St Andrew's (late 12th century) was founded on the site of its Saxon predecessor.
- 1.3.5 A small number of findspots of Anglo-Saxon date in the surrounding area indicate a low-level presence in the area, these include brooches and an axehead (CHER 04456d 08617 and 11690).
- 1.3.6 Anglo-Saxon inhumations have also been found to the west (NMR 375129) from which brooches, beads, a girdle hanger, pots and weapons were recovered. Further 6th and 7th century burials were located to the south-east (NMR 377653); these inhumations may have surrounded a barrow.

Medieval

- 1.3.7 The manor of Soham was given to Ely Abbey shortly after the re-foundation of the latter in the 10th century (Conybeare 1887). Archaeological fieldwork has revealed evidence for occupation during the Saxo-Norman period. At 9-13 Pratt Street an archaeological evaluation revealed shallow gullies, a posthole and a large pit containing 11th or 12th century Thetford Ware (CHER 11932).
- 1.3.8 Evaluations at Weatheralls Primary School revealed early medieval field systems containing 10th to 13th century pottery, predominantly St Neots and Thetford type ware (CHER 07099). These remains, in conjunction with those from High Street/Clay Street represent a major phase of development and prosperity that is attested by the construction of St Andrew's Church in the late 12th century. Soham is also thought to have held an unchartered market before the 12th century (Ridout 2000).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To ground truth geophysical results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered.
- iv. To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- v. To provide sufficient coverage to establish the form, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- vi. To provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- vii. To provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of 21 trenches (50x2m; Fig. 2) were excavated across the development area (representing a 3% sample), with a contingency for an additional 1% (a further 7 trenches). The trenches were positioned to address the aims in Section 2.1, and located to avoid the route of a pipe running across the middle of the northern field (Field 1). The trenches were opened over a period of three days, with additional areas stripped along the edges of Trenches 7 and 11 to further evaluate areas of complex archaeology.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360 degree tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to the depth of geological horizons, or the upper interface of archaeological features, whichever was encountered first.
- 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 digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 Bucket samples were taken from each trench to characterise the artefactual remains in the topsoil and subsoil. The results of this sampling are presented in Section 3.16.

- 2.2.6 The site was excavated in sunny and hot conditions, except on the last day when it was overcast but otherwise warm. Some rain did fall over night, but ground conditions remained dry.
- 2.2.7 A total of four environmental samples were taken in order to establish the likely preservation of seed and plant remains.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B. The trenches are described numerically by trench.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers begin at 1 and were assigned as trenches and features were excavated.
- 3.1.3 Trenches that did not contain archaeological features will not be discussed here, though their details are presented in the context inventory (Appendix A).

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology (1) of mid yellow brown sand, gravel and chalk was overlain by a soft mid yellow brown silt sand subsoil (2). This in turn was overlain by a friable dark grey brown sand silt topsoil (3).
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology, although there were a large number of glacial features.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features (Fig. 2) were present in Trenches 3-8, 10-12, 14, 20 and 21 in Fields 1, 2 and 4. In addition, Trench 2 contained a modern pit and ditch, and Trench 3 contained 20th century gravel strip quarrying.

3.4 Field 1

- 3.4.1 A total of 10 trenches were excavated in Field 1, located in the north of the site. Trenches 8, 11-12 and 20 exposed archaeological features and are described below. Trenches 9, 13 and 16-19 contained no archaeological features and are not described further.

Trench 8

- 3.4.2 Trench 8 was located the southern end of Field 1, and was aligned east to west. The trench contained three ditches (**82**, **84** and **86**) running on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring 0.8-0.9m wide and 0.22-0.26m deep. These had gently sloped sides and concave bases and were filled by a loose dark brown silt sand (83 and 85 respectively), except for ditch **86**, which had a marginally lighter loose mid brown silt sand fill (87). Animal bone (2g) was recovered from fill 83 of ditch **82** and Middle Iron Age pottery (one sherd, 25g) from fill 87 of ditch **86**. The similarities between the ditches, including their size and regular spacing, suggests that they possibly formed part of a field system.

Trench 11

- 3.4.3 Trench 11 was located towards the western side of Field 1, north of Trench 8. The trench contained the highest density of archaeological features (Fig. 4; Plate 4) including six ditches, five pits, two postholes, a gully a possible Sunken Feature Building and two strip quarries.
- 3.4.4 In the northern half of the trench four parallel, north-west to south-east aligned ditches were revealed (**14**, **16**, **18** and **22**). The northernmost feature was ditch **14**, which had steep sides and a concave base. The ditch was 1.2m wide and 0.34m deep, filled by a soft light grey brown silt sand (15) that contained animal bone. The southern edge of this ditch was truncated by another ditch (**16**) that had gentle sides and an undulating base. Ditch **16** was 1.4m wide and 0.2m deep and was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (17) containing animal bone (5g) and one sherd of Early-Middle Saxon pottery (15g). Sparse charcoal but no charred plant remains were recovered from an environmental soil sample taken from ditch **16**.
- 3.4.5 Toward the centres of the trench was ditch **18** (Fig. 4, Section 7), measuring 1.8m wide and 0.44m deep. The ditch had steep sides, a concave base, and a soft mid grey brown silt sand fill (19) that contained animal bone (141g). To the south-west was another ditch (**22**) with steep sides and a concave base, 1.24m wide and 0.34m deep. This was filled by a soft light grey brown silt sand (23) which yielded a single sherd of Early Iron Age pottery (7g) and animal bone (3g).
- 3.4.6 Located between ditches **18** and **22** was a sub-circular pit (**20**), 0.88m in diameter and 0.18m deep. Pit **20** had gentle sides, a concave base and was filled by a soft mid brown grey silt sand (21) that contained animal bone (14g). A further two discrete sub-circular pits (**60** and **67**) were located towards the south-western end of the trench. Pit **60** was 1.1m wide, 0.24m deep and had gentle sides, a flat base and was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (61). Pit **67** was 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep with had steep sides, and a slightly concave base. The pit was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (68) that contained animal bone.
- 3.4.7 Located between pits **60** and **67** was a sub-circular posthole (**66**), 0.35m in diameter and 0.22 deep. It had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (88) that contained two large sub-rounded stones near the base. This posthole was truncated by ditch **64**, which was aligned north-east to south-west, parallel with ditches **14**, **16**, **18** and **22** in the north of the trench. The ditch was 0.54m wide and 0.22m deep, displaying gentle sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (65) that contained Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery (two sherds, 26g) and animal bone (12g).
- 3.4.8 The south-western end of the trench was widened in order to clarify the form and extent of features revealed here. This revealed a pit (**24**) that was cut by a possible Early-Mid Saxon Sunken Feature Building (SFB) (**104**) (Fig. 4, Section 18; Plate 5), which had a ditch terminus (**32**) running along its southern edge.
- 3.4.9 Pit **24** was sub-circular in plan, 2m wide and 0.26m deep, with gentle sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (25). The south-western half of this pit was truncated by a large sub-rectangular feature (**104**), 6.0m long and

3.6m wide, that may have been an SFB (Fig. 4, Section 18). Feature **104** was 0.4m deep and had steeply sloped sides and a flat, slightly uneven base. Its fill sequence comprised material tipped in from the north-east (29) and the south-west (27) before a bulk deposit (105) was dumped in the middle. The tipped material comprised a soft mid grey brown silt sand (27 and 29) containing a residual Early Iron Age pottery sherd (8g), animal bone (2g) and one sherd of Early-Middle Saxon pottery (8g). The main backfill (105) was a soft dark grey brown silt sand containing animal bone (40g).

3.4.10 The southern edge of this feature **104** abutted a ditch (**32**), aligned east to west. The ditch was 0.8m wide and 0.26m deep with gentle sides, a concave base. The ditch was filled by a soft dark grey brown silt sand (33) that contained one sherd of Late Iron Age pottery (35g) and animal bone (2g). An environmental soil sample taken from ditch 32 yielded 17 charred barley grains and traces of charcoal.

3.4.11 The widened area also revealed two further pits, a possible posthole, gully and two north to south aligned gravel extraction strip quarries. These features were planned but not excavated.

Trench 12

3.4.12 Trench 12 was located to the south-east of Trench 11, and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench contained four linear ditches: two orientated north to south (**12** and **50**) and two orientated north-west to south-east (**53** and **56**).

3.4.13 At the south-west end of the trench was a ditch (**12**) with gentle sides and a flat base. Ditch **12** was 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep, and was filled by a soft dark red brown silt sand (13) containing a single sherd of medieval pottery (24g), a possible post-medieval tile fragment (6g) and eight fragments of lime mortar (36g). An environmental soil sample taken from the ditch yielded occasional charred barley grains and sparse charcoal.

3.4.14 Ditch **12** was cut on the south-western edge by a post-medieval ditch (**50**) which displayed steep sides and a concave base. The ditch was 0.5m wide, 0.3m deep and was filled by a soft dark grey brown silt sand (52) containing a single sherd of post-medieval pottery (35g). This was overlain by a soft dark red brown silt sand (51).

3.4.15 Immediately to the north-east of these ditches were a further two ditches. Ditch **53** was at least 0.7m wide and 0.11m deep, and had gentle sides, an irregular base and was filled with a soft light brown silt sand (54). The ditch was cut along its north-eastern edge by ditch **56**. This was 0.5m wide and 0.18m deep. The ditch had gentle sides, a concave base and that was filled by a soft mid brown silt sand (57). No finds were recovered from ditches **53** and **56**.

Trench 20

3.4.16 Trench 20 was located in the far north-east corner of Field 1. The trench (Plate 6) contained two ditches (**8** and **10**) close to its centre line that were aligned east to west. The parallel ditches were 0.35-0.6m wide and 0.1-0.30m deep respectively. They had gentle sides and flat bases and were both filled by single deposits of firm dark brown silt sand (9 and 10). No finds were recovered from the ditches.

3.5 Field 2

3.5.1 Field 2 was a small regular paddock to the south of Field 1. It contained Trenches 5 and 6, which revealed four ditches and a single pit.

Trench 5

3.5.2 Trench 5 was located in the western half of Field 2 and was aligned west-north-west to east south-east. The trench revealed a single ditch (**44**), 1.22m wide and 0.18m deep. The ditch was aligned east north-east to west south-west. It had gentle sides and a concave base and was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (45). No finds were recovered from the ditch.

Trench 6

3.5.3 Trench 6 was located in the eastern half of Field 2 and was aligned north-east to south-west. Pit **34** was located towards the south-western end of the trench. The pit was sub-circular in plan, 0.8m wide and 0.46m deep, with nearly vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft dark brown grey sand (35), overlain by a soft light yellow brown sand (36). This pit cut into a solution hollow and contained no artefacts.

3.5.4 Trench 6 also contained three ditches (**37**, **39** and **42**) on a roughly north to south alignment. The most south-westerly of these (**37**) was 1.35m wide and 0.26m deep, and had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft light grey brown sand (38).

3.5.5 To the north-east was a larger ditch (**39**), which appear to correspond to a faint linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 3). The ditch was 1.56m wide and 0.40 deep, and displayed steep sides and a concave base. The base of the ditch was filled by a soft mid grey brown sand (40) that contained two sherds (8g) of Early Iron Age pottery and fragments of animal bone (2g). An environmental soil sample taken from this context also yielded two charred barley grains. Fill 40 was overlain by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (41) that yielded animal bone (3g).

3.5.6 Further to the north-east was ditch **42**, which was 0.84m wide and 0.16m deep. It had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft light grey brown silt sand (43) that contained animal bone (9g).

3.6 Field 3

3.6.1 Field 3 contained Trenches 1 and 2, and formed a sub-rectangular paddock in the south-west corner of the site. Trench 1 was devoid of archaeology, whilst Trench 2 revealed a modern pit and ditch/drain, both containing fragments of early-mid 20th century glass, brick and fragments of iron. The features were not excavated. The soil profile of both trenches appeared disturbed.

3.7 Field 4

3.7.1 Six trenches (3-4, 7, 10, 14 and 21) were located in Field 4, which lay along the eastern boundary of the site. All the trenches contained archaeological features.

Trench 3

- 3.7.2 Trench 3 was located at the southern end of Field 4 in the south-east corner of the site. The trench was aligned north to south and contained a pit and eight gravel extraction strip quarries.
- 3.7.3 Pit **102** was located toward the northern end of the trench and was c 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep. The pit was sub-circular in plan and had steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a soft dark grey brown sand silt (103).
- 3.7.4 In their southern half of the trench were a series of eight gravel extraction strip quarries on a north-west to south-east alignment. One of these features was investigated (**78**). The pit was square in plan, 1.6m wide and 0.39m deep. It had vertical sides and a flat base, and was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (79).
- 3.7.5 No finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 4

- 3.7.6 Trench 4 was located to the north of Trench 3, was aligned north-west to south-east and contained four ditches on subtly different alignments.
- 3.7.7 At the south-eastern end of the trench was ditch **69**, which measured 0.66m wide but only 0.07m deep. The ditch was aligned parallel to the site boundary, displayed gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a loose light grey brown clay silt (70).
- 3.7.8 To the north-west in the centre of the trench was ditch **74**, 0.98m wide and 0.16m deep. This was also aligned north north-west to south south-east, and displayed gentle sides, a concave base and a fill of loose light grey brown sand silt (75). The ditch was cut by ditch **71** on its eastern side, which was larger and deep, measuring 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep. The ditch displayed steep sides and a concave base that was filled by a soft dark grey brown silt sand (72), overlain by a loose mid grey brown sand silt (73).
- 3.7.9 Towards the north-western end of the trench was ditch **76**, orientated north-east to south-west. The ditch was 1.2m wide and 0.27m deep and had steep sides, a concave base, and contained a firm mid grey brown sand silt fill (81).
- 3.7.10 No finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 7

- 3.7.11 Trench 7 was located to the north-west of Trench 4, and was orientated north-east to south-west (Fig. 5). The trench contained a pit and a series of six ditches on differing alignments. The trench was enlarged on the western side to expose the full profile of ditch **125**.
- 3.7.12 Ditch **125** (Fig. 5, Section 41; Plate 1) was the largest linear features in the trench, measuring 2.2m wide and 0.8m deep. The ditch was on a north to south orientation with steep stepped sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by a series of slumping deposits (126, 128 and 130) interspersed with two dumps of material (127 and 129) and then a final backfill (131) that filled the main body of the ditch. Deposit 126 comprised a soft mid brown yellow sand; 127 a soft dark grey silt sand containing one sherd of Early Iron Age pottery (30g); 128 a soft mid brown yellow sand; 129 a soft dark grey sand; 130 a firm light grey chalk, and 131 a soft mid green grey sand

containing animal bone (25g) and five sherds (94g) of Early and Middle Iron Age pottery.

- 3.7.13 To the north-east of ditch **125** were three intercutting ditches aligned north-west to south-east, and a single pit (Fig. 5, Section 40; Plate 2). The earliest feature was pit **118**, the surviving section of which was 0.6m in width and 0.54m in depth. The pit had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark grey brown silt sand (119) that contained frequent sub-angular flint.
- 3.7.14 The pit was truncated by ditch **116**, which measured at least 0.62m wide and 0.36m deep. The ditch had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid orange brown silt sand (117). It was truncated to the north-east by ditch **120**, which was 0.42m deep with a surviving width measuring 0.6m. This ditch had steep sides, a slightly concave base, and contained a soft dark grey brown silt sand fill (121). This feature was in turn cut by a ditch **122** immediately to the north-east. Ditch **122** was 1.13m wide, and 0.24m deep. It also displayed steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark grey brown silt sand (123) that was overlain by a soft dark brown silt sand (124). The upper fill contained 11 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery (47g) a single Late Iron Age sherd (15g) and animal bone (66g).
- 3.7.15 To the north-east, and also truncated by the ditch **122**, was a shallow gully (**114**) measuring 0.32m wide and 0.08m deep. Gully 114 was aligned north to south with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a soft light grey brown silt sand fill (115) from which two fragments (2g) of fired clay were recovered.

Trench 10

- 3.7.16 Trench 10 was located to the north of Trench 7, and was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig. 5). The trench contained three ditches, two postholes and a quarry pit. The ditches all ran on a roughly north-north-east to south-south-west orientation and were spread across the trench.
- 3.7.17 The easternmost was ditch **89**, which measured 1.5m wide and 0.28m deep. This had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a loose mid grey brown sand silt (90). To the north-west was a ditch **97**. The ditch was 1.5m wide, 0.25m deep and displayed steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey brown clay silt (98). The third ditch was situated at the western end of the trench. Ditch **99** was 2.3m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a loose mid grey brown sand silt (100).
- 3.7.18 Located immediately to the north-west of ditch **89** was an early post-medieval quarry pit (**91**) (Fig. 5, Section 31). The pit was 2.3m wide and 1.1m deep with steep, near vertical sides and a concave base. This was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (92) backfill that was overlain by a soft light brown grey sand silt (93) and a firm mid grey brown clay silt (94). This upper fill yielded a single fragment of glazed tile (30g), a single sherd of medieval pottery (6g) and two sherds of post-medieval pottery (70g).
- 3.7.19 Situated between the quarry pit **91** and ditch **97** were two circular postholes, both of which contained Early Iron Age pottery. Posthole **95** was located close to the quarry pit. It was 0.4m in diameter and 0.2m deep (Fig. 5, Section 31), and displayed steep

sides and a concave base. The posthole was filled by a compact light grey brown clay silt (96) that contained a single sherd of Early Iron Age pottery (14g) and animal bone. Posthole **106** was 0.4m in diameter and 0.17m deep. It was located to the north-west of posthole **95** and had steep sides and a concave base. The posthole was filled by a soft light grey brown silt sand (107) that contained three sherds of Early Iron Age pottery (13g). It is not clear whether these postholes represent part of a fence line running perpendicular to ditch **89** or a structure extending beyond the trench.

Trench 14

3.7.20 Trench 14 was located to the north of Trench 10, and was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. A single ditch and pit were revealed in the southern half of the trench. Ditch **112** was located at the far southern end of the trench and measured 0.77m wide and 0.19m deep. The ditch had gentle sides, a concave base and was filled by a soft mid grey brown sand silt (113). To the north of this was a sub-circular pit **108**, 1.3m in width and 0.25m in depth. The pit had gentle sides, a concave base and was filled by a soft mid grey brown sand silt (109). Neither of these features contained any artefacts.

Trench 21

3.7.21 Trench 21 was located at the northern end of the Field 4 in the far north-east corner of the site. The trench was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and exposed two postholes **46** and **48**. These measured 0.4-0.52m in diameter and 0.12-0.15m in depth. Both had steep sides, concave bases, and were filled by a soft mid brown grey sand (47 and 49 respectively). Posthole **46** contained a single fragment (42g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 Bucket sampling from each of the trenches revealed a small fragment of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) from the subsoil (2) and a modern golf ball from the topsoil (3) of Trench 5. The subsoil of Trench 21 also yielded a single fragment of post-medieval pottery (4g).

Pottery

- 3.8.2 The evaluation yielded 41 sherds of pottery (535g) with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 13.0g. The pottery was recovered from 18 contexts relating to ditches, postholes, a quarry pit and SFB in Trenches 6-8, 10-12 and 21 (Appendix B). The pottery includes material dating from the Iron Age (32 sherds, 365g), Early-Mid Saxon (3 sherds, 31g), medieval (1 sherd, 24g) and post-medieval periods, though the bulk of the assemblages is of Early Iron Age origin. The pottery is in fair to good condition with few thoroughly abraded sherds. Most feature assemblages are small, weighing less than 100g.

Ceramic Building Material

- 3.8.3 Two fragments of post-medieval CBM (36g) were recovered from ditches in Trenches 7 and 11. They are severely abraded and likely to be background deposits from agricultural activity.

Mortar

- 3.8.4 Eight fragments (36g) of lime mortar were recovered from ditch **12**, Trench 12.

Fired clay

- 3.8.5 Six fragments of fired clay (33g) were recovered from the evaluation and indicate the presence of domestic and/or light industrial activities in the vicinity of ditch **64** in Trench 11 and ditch **114** in Trench 7. The fragment from ditch **64** is likely to have been part of the lining of an oven, kiln or hearth.

Animal bone

- 3.8.6 A total of 2.96kg of animal bone was recovered from Trenches 6, 7 and 11 and survives in a good to fair condition. Of this, 1.07kg came from Iron Age contexts and 0.47kg from Early-Middle Saxon contexts. There was disparity between these with the Iron Age animal bone being recognisable to species, whilst none of the Early-Middle Saxon animal bone could be recognised. The species represented were mostly pig, then sheep/goat and cattle, with only a single fragment from a horse. Two of the fragments exhibited signs of butchery. The animal bone assembly is broadly typical of Iron Age sites in the area.

Environmental samples

- 3.8.7 Four bulk environmental samples were taken from ditches in Trenches 6, 11 and 12 to assess the survival of plant remains. These produced plant remains whose preservation was poor to moderate and contained rootlets that may have caused the movement of material between contexts. Of the four samples, three contained preserved plant remains, revealing barley grains in both Early and Late Iron Age ditches (**39**, Trench 6 and **32**, Trench 11) and in a medieval ditch (**12**, Trench 12). The barley

grains within the Late Iron Age ditch (**32**) may have been intrusive, based upon its proximity to the Anglo-Saxon SFB. Charcoal was also recovered from an Anglo-Saxon ditch (**16**, Trench 11) and medieval ditch (**12**, Trench 12).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Although very few features of likely archaeological origin registered in the geophysical survey (Harris 2016) and assessment of aerial photographs (Cox 2016), trial trenching has revealed a swathe of archaeological features, primarily located in the central western and central eastern areas of the site (Fig. 6). Just over half of the trenches excavated (12 out of 21) contained archaeological features. The vast majority of these comprised ditches on varying alignments, but also pits and postholes, with material dating from the Iron Age to post-medieval periods.
- 4.1.2 Most of this archaeology was relatively slight. Ditch and pit dimensions varied, but the cuts were typically under 0.5m deep; the exceptions being ditches **122** and **125** in Trench 7, and quarry pit **91**, Trench 10. Similarly, most features contained simple, single fills of grey brown silt, often devoid of charcoal. These features were clearly visible within the evaluation trenches, but the depth and character of their fills, and potentially, the variation in the geology of the site (which comprised sands, gravels and chalk), may partly account for their 'invisibility' in the geophysical survey. In fact, the only feature that registered in the survey was ditch **39**, Trench 6, which corresponded directly with a fairly faint curvilinear anomaly. The cluster of discrete anomalies interpreted as a 'ferrous spread' in and around Trench 11 (Harris 2016, Fig. 4) may relate to this area of dense archaeology, but this signal could equally relate to quarrying given that strip quarries were also revealed here.
- 4.1.3 Overall, the geophysical survey has not provided a reliable guide to the below ground archaeology. It has, however, identified areas of recent ground disturbance, such as in Field 3, where the plotted patches of 'ferrous spread' (Harris 2016, Fig. 4) correspond with modern features and disturbed soil profiles in Trenches 1 and 2.
- 4.1.4 Despite the lack of a clear correlation between the non-intrusive survey results and those of the trial trenching, the evaluation has determined the character, distribution and preservation of archaeological deposits and remains at the site. Moreover, the recovery and analysis of the artefact assemblage provides sufficient chronological information to structure a period-based discussion of the archaeology and its general distribution.

4.2 Interpretation

Iron Age

- 4.2.1 Small quantities of pottery dating from the Early, Middle and Late Iron Age was recovered from features at the site, the majority of which was Early Iron Age in origin. This was retrieved from ditches (**22**, **39**, **122** and **125**) and postholes (**46**, **95** and **106**), primarily located in Trenches 6, 7 and 10 in the eastern central area of the site. None of the feature assemblages were large, and with the exception of the those from ditch **122** and ditch **125** in Trench 7, all yielded just one to three sherds apiece. Some of this material may therefore be residual, but the general distribution of pottery suggests a focus of Early Iron Age activity in this area of the site.

- 4.2.2 Unfortunately, none of the ditches in this zone could be reliably traced across adjacent trenches. This may suggest the ditch system in and immediately around Trenches 6, 7 and 10 was broadly curvilinear in form. This is perhaps hinted at by the curvilinear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey, corresponding with ditch **39**, Trench 6. Other ditches may have formed part of small enclosures, or were perhaps just short, discontinuous lengths of ditch.
- 4.2.3 Whatever the details and exact function of these ditches, most were relatively slight except **122** and **125**, Trench 7. The former was the last in a sequence of re-cut ditches, suggesting persistent activity in this zone. By contrast, ditch **125** was the largest ditch revealed at the site. This lay at the intersection between the underlying chalk geology to the east and the sands and gravel to the west. This ditch also yielded a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery, suggesting the boundary may have been open for a considerable length of time.
- 4.2.4 Other features of note include postholes **95** and **106** in Trench 10, both of which yielded fragments of Early Iron Age pottery. The proximity of the postholes suggests they may belong to a structure, and their spacing falls within the range commonly displayed by four-post structures of the period.
- 4.2.5 Beyond Trenches 6, 7 and 10, evidence for Iron Age activity was much more limited. The two postholes in Trench 21 may indicate a further area of settlement, but only posthole **46** can be confidently dated, and the two features are too far apart to belong to the same structure. Furthermore, of the two sherds of Early Iron Age pottery recovered from Trench 11, one was residual in the Saxon Sunken Feature Building (SFB) **104**, whilst the other derived from ditch **22** and may not be contemporary with the feature. The same may be true of the small quantity of Late Iron Age pottery recovered from Trench 11, and the two sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery from ditch **86**, Trench 8. These features may be outlying field boundaries.

Saxon

- 4.2.6 Evidence for Saxon activity was confined to Trench 11, in the western central area of the site. The trench revealed a potential Early-Middle Saxon SFB (**104**) alongside pits (e.g. **24**, **60**, **67**), postholes (e.g. **66**) and ditches which were possibly contemporary, but yielded no dating evidence. The limited investigation of the SFB yielded a single sherd of Early-Middle Saxon pottery, with a further sherd recovered from ditch **16**, c. 20m to the north-east.
- 4.2.7 Whilst the dating evidence is slim, the density of features and the presence of animal bone in many of them suggests an area of Saxon settlement in Trench 11, possibly associated with a series of boundary ditches on a north-west to south-east alignment (**14**, **16**, **18**, **20**, **22** and **64**). Again, none of these ditches could be traced across to adjacent trenches, with Trench 15 to the north being entirely blank. Although it is conceivable that some of ditches in Trench 11 belong to a wider north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west aligned boundary system, including ditches **53**, **56**, **82**, **84** and **86** in Trenches 8 and 12, this could not be proved. More significantly the absence of any further pits, postholes or SFBs suggests the area of Saxon settlement is limited within the site.

Medieval and post-medieval

- 4.2.8 Most if not all of the medieval and post-medieval artefacts recovered from the site probably entered the ground as a consequence of manuring, and attest to little more than the long-term agricultural use of the plots. Quarry pit **91**, Trench 10 was possibly a clunch extraction pit, and contained both early post-medieval and medieval wares. Other sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from ditches **12** and **50**, Trench 12.
- 4.2.9 Post medieval gravel extraction strip quarries, probably dating from the 19th or early 20th century, were uncovered in Trenches 3 and 11. Quarrying at the southern end of Field 4 is probably responsible for the visible dip in field at this location.

Undated

- 4.2.10 Features in Trenches 4, 5, 14 and 20 were undated. These same is true of most ditches in Trenches 8, 12 and 11, and 6, 7 and 10; though all fall within zones of either Early Iron Age activity (Trenches 6, 7 and 10) or Saxon activity (Trench 11) discussed above.
- 4.2.11 Ditches **69**, Trench 4, **44**, Trench 5, and **8** and **10**, Trench 20 are all aligned parallel to existing field boundaries and are possibly post-medieval. However, none are recorded on historic maps of the site.

4.3 Conclusion

- 4.3.1 The evaluation revealed a swathe of archaeological features, primarily located in the central western and central eastern areas of the site. In the east, a series of ditches and postholes yielding Early Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered in Trenches 6, 7 and 10, suggesting a focus of settlement-related activity on the chalk in this zone. The presence of postholes suggests the likely presence of structures, whilst the number and alignment of ditches implies that components of the settlement were probably enclosed or partially enclosed.
- 4.3.2 In the west, the activity was focussed on Trench 11, where an Early-Middle Saxon Sunken Feature Building was exposed alongside a series of pits, postholes and ditches. This settlement-related activity appears to have been localised within the site, as no further pits, postholes, buildings or other securely dated features were revealed in the surrounding trenches. The occupation features may have been an outlier to the Saxon settlement to the west of the site, located towards the historic town of Soham, where a contemporary Saxon cemetery has previously been recorded (CHER 07027).
- 4.3.3 Trenches surrounding these two main zones of activities include a series of largely undated ditches on varying alignments. These are possibly field boundaries lying beyond the areas of occupation. Finds recovered from the ditches include the occasional fragment of Early, Middle and Late Iron Age pottery and medieval and post-medieval pottery. Post-medieval activity included gravel quarry and possibly clunch extraction at the site, with strip quarries revealed in Trenches 3 and 11.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a modern ditch and pit containing glass, iron and brick. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk, sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
78	Cut	1.6	0.38	Cut of gravel extraction pit	-	-
79	Fill	1.6	0.38	Fill of pit 78	-	-
102	Cut	-	0.3	Cut of pit	-	-
103	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of pit 102	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained four ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.29	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
69	Cut	0.66	0.07	Cut of ditch	-	-
70	Fill	0.66	0.07	Fill of ditch 69	-	-
71	Cut	1.1	0.45	Cut of ditch	-	-
72	Fill	-	0.13	Lower fill of ditch 71	-	-
73	Fill	1.1	0.32	Upper fill of ditch 71	-	-
74	Cut	0.98	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
75	Fill	0.98	0.16	Fill of ditch 74	-	-
76	Cut	1.2	0.27	Cut of ditch	-	-
81	Fill	1.2	0.27	Fill of ditch 76	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single undated ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.29	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
44	Cut	1.22	0.18	Cut of ditch	-	-
45	Fill	1.22	0.18	Fill of ditch 44	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained three undated ditches and an undated pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.58
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.31	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
34	Cut	0.8	0.46	Cut of pit	-	-
35	Fill	0.44	0.28	Lower fill of pit 34	-	-
36	Fill	0.8	0.42	Upper fill of pit 34	-	-
37	Cut	1.36	0.26	Cut of ditch	-	-
38	Fill	1.36	0.26	Fill of ditch 37	-	-
39	Cut	1.56	0.4	Cut of ditch	-	Early Iron Age
40	Fill	1.5	0.3	Lower fill of ditch 39	-	
41	Fill	1.56	0.1	Upper fill of ditch 39	Animal bone	-
42	Cut	0.84	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
43	Fill	0.84	0.16	Fill of ditch 42	Animal bone	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and chalk.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.31	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
114	Cut	0.32	0.08	Cut of ditch	-	Prehistoric
115	Fill	0.32	0.08	Fill of ditch 114	Fired clay	
116	Cut	0.62	0.36	Cut of ditch	-	
117	Fill	0.62	0.36	Fill of ditch 116	-	
118	Cut	0.6	0.18	Cut of pit	-	
119	Fill	0.6	0.18	Fill of pit 118	-	
120	Cut	0.8	0.42	Cut of ditch	-	
121	Fill	0.8	0.42	Fill of ditch 120	-	
122	Cut	1.13	0.53	Cut of ditch	-	Early Iron Age with intrusive pottery
123	Fill	0.75	0.24	Lower fill of ditch 122	-	
124	Fill	1.13	0.29	Upper fill of ditch 122	Animal bone, pottery	
125	Cut	2.2	0.8	Cut of ditch	-	Early Iron Age
126	Fill	0.4	0.24	Fill of ditch 125	-	-
127	Fill	0.4	0.29	Fill of ditch 125	Pottery	Early Iron Age

128	Fill	0.36	0.15	Fill of ditch 125	-	-
129	Fill	0.33	0.1	Fill of ditch 125	-	-
130	Fill	0.22	0.15	Fill of ditch 125	-	-
131	Fill	2.08	0.66	Fill of ditch 125	Animal bone, pottery	Early-Mid Iron Age

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained three ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk, sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.53
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
82	Cut	0.9	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
83	Fill	0.9	0.22	Fill of ditch 82	Animal bone	-
84	Cut	0.8	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
85	Fill	0.8	0.22	Fill of ditch 84	-	-
86	Cut	0.9	0.26	Cut of ditch	-	Middle Iron Age
87	Fill	0.9	0.26	Fill of ditch 86	Pottery	

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk, sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.63
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.49	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains three ditches, two postholes and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay, sand and chalk.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.66
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	-	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Topsoil	-	-
89	Cut	1.5	0.28	Cut of ditch	-	-
90	Fill	1.5	0.28	Fill of ditch 89	-	-
91	Cut	2.3	1.1	Cut of pit	-	Post- medieval
92	Fill	-	0.82	Fill of pit 91	-	

93	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of pit 91	-	
94	Fill	2.3	0.6	Fill of pit 91	CBM, pottery	
95	Cut	0.4	0.2	Cut of posthole	-	Early Iron Age
96	Fill	0.4	0.2	Fill of posthole 95	Animal bone, pottery	Early Iron Age
97	Cut	1.5	0.25	Cut of ditch	-	
98	Fill	1.5	0.25	Fill of ditch 97	-	
99	Cut	2.3	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	
100	Fill	2.3	0.3	Fill of ditch 99	-	
106	Cut	0.4	0.17	Cut of posthole	-	Early Iron Age
107	Fill	0.4	0.17	Fill of posthole 106	Pottery	Age

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained six ditches, nine pits and a posthole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk, sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
14	Cut	1.2	0.34	Cut of ditch	-	
15	Fill	1.2	0.34	Fill of ditch 14	Animal bone	
16	Cut	1.4	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	Early-mid Saxon
17	Fill	1.4	0.2	Fill of ditch 16	Animal bone, pottery	
18	Cut	1.8	0.44	Cut of ditch	-	-
19	Fill	1.8	0.44	Fill of ditch 18	Animal bone	-
20	Cut	0.88	0.18	Cut of pit	-	-
21	Fill	0.88	0.18	Fill of pit 20	Animal bone	-
22	Cut	1.24	0.34	Cut of ditch	-	Early Iron Age
23	Fill	1.24	0.34	Fill of ditch 22	Animal bone, pottery	
24	Cut	1.5	0.26	Cut of pit	-	-
25	Fill	1.5	0.26	Fill of pit 24	-	-
27	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of SFB 104	Pottery	Early-mid Saxon
29	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of SFB 104	Animal bone, pottery	
32	Cut	0.8	0.26	Cut of ditch terminus	-	Late Iron Age
33	Fill	0.8	0.26	Fill of ditch 32	Animal bone, pottery	
60	Cut	1.14	0.24	Cut of pit	-	-
61	Fill	1.14	0.24	Fill of pit 60	Pottery	-
64	Cut	0.54	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	Late Iron Age
65	Fill	0.54	0.22	Fill of ditch 64	Animal bone, pottery	Age-Early Roman

66	Cut	0.35	0.22	Cut of posthole	-	-
67	Cut	0.8	0.15	Cut of pit	-	-
68	Fill	0.8	0.15	Fill of pit 67	Animal bone	-
88	Fill	0.35	0.22	Fill of posthole 66	-	-
104	Cut	4	0.4	Cut of SFB	-	Early-mid Saxon
105	Fill	4	0.4	Fill of SFB 104	-	

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains three ditches and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk, sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
12	Cut	1.1	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
13	Fill	1.1	0.3	Fill of ditch 12	CBM, mortar, pottery	
50	Cut	0.5	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
51	Fill	0.5	0.26	Fill of ditch 50	-	-
52	Fill	0.42	0.3	Fill of ditch 50	Pottery	Post-medieval
53	Cut	0.7	0.11	Cut of pit	-	-
54	Fill	0.7	0.11	Fill of pit 54	-	-
56	Cut	0.5	0.18	Cut of ditch	-	-
57	Fill	0.5	0.18	Fill of ditch 56	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and chalk.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.31	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains a ditch and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.73
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.47	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
108	Cut	1.3	0.25	Cut of pit	-	-
109	Fill	1.3	0.25	Fill of pit 108	-	-
110	Cut	0.9	0.14	Cut of natural feature	-	-
111	Fill	0.9	0.14	Fill of natural feature 110	-	-
112	Cut	0.77	0.19	Cut of ditch	-	-
113	Fill	0.77	0.19	Fill of ditch 112	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.59
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk, gravel and sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.31	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.73
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.51	Topsoil	-	-
4	Cut	3.3	0.2	Cut of natural feature	-	-
5	Fill	3.3	0.2	Fill of natural feature 4	-	-
6	Cut	2.4	0.16	Cut of natural feature	-	-
7	Fill	2.4	0.16	Fill of natural feature 6	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.64
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contains two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-		Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Topsoil	-	-
8	Cut	0.35	0.1	Cut of ditch	-	-
9	Fill	0.35	0.1	Fill of ditch 8	-	-
10	Cut	0.6	0.13	Cut of ditch	-	-
11	Fill	0.6	0.13	Fill of ditch 10	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil	Pottery	Post-medieval
3	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
46	Cut	0.4	0.12	Cut of posthole	-	Early Iron Age
47	Fill	0.4	0.12	Fill of posthole 46	Pottery	
48	Cut	0.52	0.15	Cut of posthole	-	-
49	Fill	0.52	0.15	Fill of posthole 48	-	-

Table 1: Trench data

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Matt Brudenell with Carole Fletcher and Richard Mortimer

Introduction

- B.1.1 The evaluation yielded 41 sherds of pottery (535g) with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 13.0g. The pottery was recovered from 18 contexts relating to ditches, postholes, a quarry pit and SFB in Trenches 6-8, 10-12 and 21 (Table 1).
- B.1.2 The pottery includes material dating from the Iron Age, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods, though the bulk of the assemblages is of Early Iron Age origin.
- B.1.3 The pottery is in fair to good condition with few thoroughly abraded sherds. Most features assemblages are small weighing less than 100g.

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature type	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Spot date
2	NA	21	Subsoil	1	4	Post-medieval <i>c.</i> AD 1550-1800
13	12	12	Ditch	1	24	Medieval <i>c.</i> AD 1200-1400 (residual?)
17	16	11	Ditch	1	15	E-Middle Saxon <i>c.</i> AD 500-800
23	22	11	Ditch	1	7	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC
27	104	11	SFB	1	9	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC (residual)
29	104	11	SFB	2	16	E-Middle Saxon <i>c.</i> AD 500-800
33	32	11	Ditch	1	35	Late Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 50 BC – AD 50
40	39	6	Ditch	2	8	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC
47	46	21	Post hole	1	42	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC
52	50	12	Ditch	1	35	Post-medieval <i>c.</i> AD 1550-1800
65	64	11	Ditch	2	26	Late Iron Age to Early Roman, <i>c.</i> AD 0-100.
87	86	8	Ditch	2	25	Middle Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 350-50 BC
94	91	10	Quarry pit	3	76	Post-medieval <i>c.</i> AD 1550-1800 (plus residual Medieval <i>c.</i> AD 1200-1400)
96	95	10	Post hole	1	14	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC
107	106	10	Post hole	3	13	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC
124	122	7	Ditch	12	62	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC and (intrusive?) Late Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 50 BC – AD 50
127	125	7	Ditch	1	30	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC
131	125	7	Ditch	5	94	Early Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 800-350 BC and Middle Iron Age, <i>c.</i> 350-50 BC
				41	535	

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by context

Methodology

- B.1.4 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2011). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and

modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (wheel-made or handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim and shoulder, the vessel was also categorised by form. Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age vessels were classified using a form series devised by the author (Brudenell 2012), and the class scheme created by John Barrett (1980). All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (22 sherds); sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' (10 sherds), and sherds over 8cm in diameter will be classified as 'large' (1 sherds). The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held with the site archive.

Prehistoric pottery fabrics

- F1: Modern to common coarse burnt flint (mainly 2-4mm in size) and quartz sand
- F2: Modern to common medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm in size) and quartz sand
- F3: Modern to common fine burnt flint (mainly <1mm in size) and quartz sand
- S1: Moderate to common fine shell (mainly <1mm in size)
- Q1: Moderate to common quartz sand
- G1: Moderate to common fine to medium grog (mainly 1-2mm in size)

Fabric	Fabric group	No. sherds	Weight (g)	% fabric (by wt.)	MNV
FQ1	Flint and sand*	3	81	22.2	1
FQ2	Flint and sand*	10	64	17.5	1
FQ3	Flint and sand*	3	17	4.7	1
G1	Grog	1	8	2.2	-
Q1	Sand	13	190	52.0	1
S1	Shell	1	5	1.4	-
<i>TOTAL</i>		<i>33</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>4</i>

Table 3: Quantification of prehistoric pottery by fabric. MNV calculated as the total number of different rims and bases (nine rims, five bases). * fabrics exclusively EIA in date.

Early Iron Age pottery

- B.1.5 A total of 25 sherds (241g) from the evaluation were assigned an Early Iron Age date. The pottery derived from eight contexts relating to ditch **39** in Trench 6, 122 and **125** in Trench 7, postholes **95** and **106** in Trench 10, ditch **22** and SFB **104** in Trench 11, and posthole **46** in Trench 21 (see below).
- B.1.6 The group is dominated by sherds with flint and sand fabrics typical of the period (Brudenell 2012). By weight, these account for 70% of the Early Iron Age pottery. The remaining pottery comprises sandy wares (28% by weight), and shelly wares (2%). The

group includes three vessel rims and a base, and four decorated sherds characteristic of the period (108g).

Trench 6

B.1.7 Ditch **39** context 40 yielded two small sherds of plain flint and sand tempered pottery weighing 8g. The pottery was recovered from sample <2>.

Trench 7

B.1.8 The single largest Early Iron Age features assemblage derived from ditch **122**, context 124. This yielded 11 sherds (47g) of pottery including a rim sherd (7g), a neck sherd with fingertip decorated cordon (9g) and a fineware shoulder sherd decorated with grooved horizontal lines between the base of the neck and shoulder angle (6g). The latter is reminiscent of Darmsden-Linton bowls dated c.600-350 BC (Brudenell 2012).

B.1.9 Ditch **125** context 127 yielded a single flint tempered base sherd (30g), whilst context 131 yielded four sherds (71g) including the partial profile of a round-shoulder jar (Form F) decorated with a plain neck cordon.

Trench 10

B.1.10 Post hole **95**, context 96 yielded a single sherd (14g) belonging to an angular shouldered fineware bowl with concave neck (Form L).

B.1.11 Post hole **106**, context 107 yielded three plain flint and sand tempered body sherds (13g).

Trench 11

B.1.12 A single sherd of flint and sand tempered pottery (9g) was recovered from ditch **22**, context 23. A single plain body sherd (9g) in the same fabric was recovered from SFB **104** context 27. This sherd is considered to be residual.

Trench 21

B.1.13 Posthole **46**, context 47 yielded a single sherd (42g) with a decorated neck cordon and slashed shoulder. The cordon was decorated with herringbone pattern and the sherd was burnt.

Middle Iron Age pottery

B.1.14 Two plain body sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were identified in the assemblage (48g). These derived from ditches **125**, context 131 (23g) and **86**, context 87 (25g) from Trenches 7 and 8 respectively. Both sherds were in sandy fabrics typical of the period and region.

Late Iron Age pottery

B.1.15 Five sherds (84) of pottery were assigned a Late Iron Age date. These were recovered from four contexts relating to ditches **32**, **64** and SFB **104** in Trench 11, and ditch **122** in Trench 7.

Trench 7

B.1.16 Ditch **122**, context 124 yielded a single rilled wheel-made sherd (15g) in a dense sandy fabric. This is likely to date from AD 0-50. The sherd was found alongside the largest group of Early Iron Age pottery (see above) and may be intrusive.

Trench 11

B.1.17 Ditch **32**, context 33 yielded a single (35g) wheel-made Late Iron Age sherd, likely to date *c.*50 BC-AD 50.

B.1.18 Ditch **64**, context 65 yielded two sherds (26g) in sand fabrics. One is a wheel-made sherd in with a cordon (7g), the other is possibly handmade (19g). These are likely to date *c.*AD 0-50 BC.

B.1.19 A single abraded grog tempered sherd (8g), possibly wheel-made, was recovered from SFB **104**, context 29. The sherd is Late Iron Age in date, *c.*50 BC-AD 50, but is considered to be residual.

Saxon pottery

B.1.20 Two sherds (23g) of handmade Early-Middle Saxon pottery were recovered from the ditch **16** and SFB **104** in Trench 11.

B.1.21 A single organic tempered body sherd (15g) was recovered from ditch 16, context 15, whilst a single burnished sherd (8g) was recovered from SFB **104**, context 29. The burnished sherd is in a hard, slightly micaceous quartz sand fabrics with traces of limescale residue on the interior.

Medieval pottery

B.1.22 Two sherds (30g) of medieval pottery were recovered from pit **91** and ditch **12** in Trenches 10 and 12. Both sherds are probably residual.

Trench 10

B.1.23 Quarry pit **91** yielded a single sherd (6g) of East Anglian Redware from context 94, dated *c.*1200-1400. The pottery was found alongside post-medieval wares and may be residual (see below).

Trench 12

B.1.24 Ditch **12** context 13 yielded a single heavily abraded quartz-sand tempered sherd (24g), likely to be medieval in date. The sherd was found alongside a fragment of post-medieval tile, and may be residual.

Post Medieval pottery

B.1.25 Four sherds (109g) of glazed post-medieval pottery were recovered from three contexts relating to quarry pit **91** and ditch **50** in Trenches 10 and 12 respectively, and subsoil horizon 2 in Trench 21. The pottery dates from *c.*1550-1800.

Trench 10

B.1.26 Quarry pit **91** yielded two glazed sherds (70g) of post-medieval pottery from context 94. The first is a redware body fragment (30g) dated *c.*1550-1800, the second a redware sliptrail decorated base fragment (40g) dating *c.*1600-1800.

Trench 12

B.1.27 Ditch **50**, context 52 yielded a single glazed redware bowl fragment (35g) dated *c.*1550-1800.

Trench 21

B.1.28 A glazed redware body sherd (4g), dated *c.*1550-1800 was recovered from the subsoil (2) in Trench 2.

Discussion

B.1.29 The earliest pottery recovered from the evaluation dates to the Early Iron Age, and belongs to the decorated ware phase of the Post Deverel-Rimbury Ceramic tradition, dated *c.*800-350 BC (Brudenell 2012). This makes up the bulk of the assemblages, though most features yielded only one or two sherds.

B.1.30 A small quantity of Middle and Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered. Most of this dates to between *c.*350 BC – AD 50, though some of the wheel-made ceramics could be post-conquest.

B.1.31 Only two sherds of handmade Saxon pottery were recovered, though both were from Trench 11, and most significantly, one derived from the SFB.

B.1.32 Later material included two residual sherds of medieval pottery and a handful of glazed post-medieval ceramics dating 1550-1800.

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

By Ted Levermore

Introduction

B.2.1 Archaeological works produced two fragments (36g) of Ceramic Building Material (CBM). The assemblage is post-medieval in date and largely uninformative.

Methodology

B.2.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis of reference material for identification and dating.

B.2.3 The quantified data are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive.

Assemblage

B.2.4 The fragments recovered were collected from the ditch contexts in Trenches 10 and 12. The assemblage was made in silty or sandy fabrics with a variety of inclusions typical of CBM; the fabric descriptions can be found with the catalogue held with the site archive.

B.2.5 Trench 10

B.2.6 Pit 91 produced a small fragment of small triangular glazed tile (30g). The fragment was thin (9mm) with a smoothed basal face and a thin green-brown glaze on the upper face. It had the remnants of at least two edges that run at an angle to each other, although their apex was missing.

B.2.7 Trench 12

B.2.8 Context 13 in ditch 12 produced a single heavily abraded fragment of a flattened ceramic object. It was likely from a post-medieval tile, although it may also be a medieval to early-medieval pottery fragment.

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature	Function	Form	Descr	Date	Fabric	Frag No.	Weight (g)	Faces	Abrasion	Th (mm)	Edge Thickness (mm)	Comment
12	13		Ditch		Tile	Fragment	?Post-Med	B	1	6	2	Very	9		A small fragment of a ceramic object, probably a post-med tile. Such a small piece means any conclusion is uncertain, it made be a very abraded fragment of med-pmed pottery.
10	94	91	Pit	Disuse	Tile	Glazed	Post-Med	A	1	30	24	a little	8	9	A small fragment of glazed tile. This fragment of tile has a smoothed basal face and a thin green-brown glaze on the upper face. It has remnants of at least two edges that run at an angle to each other, angle is unclear as their apex is missing. This suggests that it is a fragment of a small triangular tile.
Total									2	36					

Table 4: CBM summary

Code	Colour	Matrix	Fine inclusions	Coarse inclusions	Moulding sand	Comments
A	Mid orange	Fine Sandy Clay	occasional rounded quartz	Rare rounded calcareous chunks and flint	Not visible	
B	Orange with grey core	Fine Silt Clay	occasional rounded quartz, calcareous and flint	Not visible	Not visible	Poorly mixed

Table 5: CBM fabric types

Discussion

B.2.9 This assemblage is severely abraded and as such is largely uninformative. The presence of late medieval to post-medieval fragments of CBM relates to the use of CBM for manuring within the modern agricultural landscape. It represents little more than background noise.

B.3 Mortar

By Ted Levermore

- B.3.1 Eight fragments (36g) of lime mortar were found in Sample <3> from context 13. The mortar has few to no inclusions, although a single fragment of flint was found with mortar accretions. This material was likely used for construction, although little more can be said about this assemblage.

B.4 Fired Clay

By Ted Levermore

Introduction

- B.4.1 Archaeological work produced 6 fragments, 33g, of fired clay. This assemblage is comprised largely of flattened fragments and amorphous pieces.

Methodology

- B.4.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present.
- B.4.3 The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive. A summary of the fired clay catalogue is in Table 6.

Fabrics

- B.4.4 The assemblage was made in a silty fabric with few to no naturally occurring inclusions; the fabric descriptions can be found with the catalogue held with the site archive.

Assemblage

- B.4.5 The fired clay was collected from two contexts in Trenches 7 and 11.

Trench 7

- B.4.6 Gully 114 produced two small fragments (2g) of amorphous fired clay.

Trench 11

- B.4.7 Ditch 64 produced four fragments (31g) of a piece of flattened fired clay. The fragments refit to form a smoothed but irregular surface, the reverse is rough and irregular. It is likely a piece of lining for an oven, hearth or kiln.

Context	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric type	Fabric group	Fragment type	Structural type	Date/Period	Abrasion	Thickness (mm)	Small <4cm	Medium 4-8cm	No. Fragments	Wt (g)	
65	64	Ditch	F1	Silt	s	fs	no date	Some	6	3	1	4	31	Fragments of flattened fired clay that refit to form a surface. One face is smoother than the other, although both are quite irregular. It is likely a piece of lining for an oven, hearth or kiln
115	114	Gully	F1	Silt	a					2		2	2	
Total												6	33	

Table 6: Fired clay summary

Fragment type: S-structural; FS-flat surface; A-amorphous

Discussion

B.4.8 These fragments of fired clay could not be attributed to any particular objects. Such assemblages are only broadly useful for identifying the presence of historic domestic and/or light industrial activities. They may have originated from ovens, hearths, kilns or any number of portable clay objects.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from ditch fills within the evaluated area at Blackberry Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 6, 11 and 12 from deposits that are thought to be Late Iron Age to medieval in date.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume (approximately 20L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment for the recovery of preserved 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.

C.1.3 The dried flots were scanned 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. 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.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25 specimens

C.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal has been scored for abundance
+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is poor to moderate; many of the flots contain rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts. Only three samples contain preserved plant remains.

Trench 6

C.1.7 A single sample (Sample 2) was taken from the lower fill (40) of undated enclosure ditch 39. Two charred barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains were recovered in addition to Early Iron Age pottery and animal bones.

Trench 11

C.1.8 Trench 11 contained several features that date to the Late Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon period. Sample 4, taken from fill 33 of Iron Age ditch terminus **32**, contains 17 charred barley grains and animal bone. This feature was part of a prehistoric field system and a Saxon SFB was later cut immediately next to the ditch, possibly resulting in a mixing of material. Sample 1, fill 17 of Saxon ditch **16** does not contain any preserved plant remains other than sparse charcoal. Amphibian bone and burnt flint were noted in the sample residue

Trench 12

C.1.9 Sample 3 was taken from fill 11 of medieval ditch **12**. This sample also contained occasional charred barley grains and sparse charcoal.

Area/trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Volume processed	Flot Volume	Charred barley	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Pottery	Large mammal	Bird/amphibian	Burnt flint
6	2	40	39	Ditch	19	2	#	+	+	#	##	0	0
11	1	17	16	Ditch	18	10	0	+	+	0	0	#	#
11	4	33	32	Ditch	19	15	##	+	0	0	#	0	0
12	3	13	12	Ditch	16	10	#	+	+	0	0	0	0

Table 7: Environmental samples from ECB 4892

Discussion

C.1.10 The recovery of charred grain indicates that there is the potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site, however, the only remains recovered are barley grains. This cereal has been commonly cultivated since the Neolithic period and was particularly favoured in the Saxon period for brewing. It is possible that the barley could be contemporary with each of the deposits sampled but it may also be the result of the burning of a cereal crop at a later date, with the grains working their way into the deposits through bioturbation as indicated by the number of rootlets present in the samples.

C.1.11 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Hayley Foster BA MA PhD

Introduction

C.2.1 The animal bone from Blackberry Lane, Soham represented faunal remains weighing 2.96kg in total, 20g of which was from environmental samples. There were 54 fragments that were identifiable, detailed in the table below. All the animal bone came from Trenches 6, 7 and 11. There was evidence of bone from the Iron Age, which was subdivided into Early, Early-Mid and Late Iron Age, based on the pottery findings. The animal bone that was recovered dating to the Anglo-Saxon period came from Trench 11. The species represented included cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*) horse (*Equus caballus*) and pig (*Sus sp.*). The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick and Murray (2007) which is modified from Albarella and Davis (1996). Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at Oxford Archaeology East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972), von den Driesch (1976) were used where necessary.

Results of Analysis

- C.2.2 The faunal assemblage was dominated by the domestic food species, with pig the most frequent, followed by sheep/goat and then cattle. Pig and cattle remains all had fused epiphyses whereas there was an unfused distal metatarsal for sheep/goat, ageing to less than 18-28 months of age at death. The dental wear data for sheep/goat included animals that were adults and one mandible that indicated a sheep/goat of 12-21 months of age at death. Sheep/goat that were kept into adulthood would have been exploited for secondary products. The pig remains were all fused indicating an animal that was over 42 months of age, which is older than would be expected for pigs as they are generally slaughtered before reaching maturity. The faunal material from Trench 11 ditch 18 dating to the Anglo-Saxon period consisted mainly of pig remains that appeared to be from the same animal. The bones were unusually large and in excellent condition. From first inspection of size and condition they would appear to be from a more modern specimen. However, there is a possibility that the specimen is in fact a wild boar (*Sus Scrofa*), which are larger. This is difficult to determine in the absence of cranial elements. Wild boar were, however, prevalent during the Anglo-Saxon period in Britain (Albarella 2010)
- C.2.3 There were two bones that exhibited evidence of butchery. One example (from context 124) occurred on the distal articulation of a cattle astragalus in the form of sharp cut marks from a knife, a common point of disarticulation of the lower leg. The other (from context 40) was on a sheep/goat metatarsal, which was partially chopped mid-shaft and then snapped through. All the butchery evidence dated to the Early Iron-Age period. An interesting pathology was observed on a sheep/goat mandible. The mandible had a large bulge on the buccal side and extra woven bone growth had built up indicating a severe dental infection and probable abscess.
- C.2.4 The volume of bone recovered from the site, and the signs of carcass processing and food waste evidence dating to the Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon periods is substantial

enough to indicate that there were signs of settlement activity discovered, in all three trenches excavated.

Conclusion

- C.2.5 The species found at Blackberry Lane are typical of the animals that would be represented in the food economy and husbandry practices on Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon sites in the area. However, sheep/goat typically dominate Iron Age assemblages (Albarella 2007). As this is such a small sample it cannot be considered representative of typical proportions of species at such sites. Overall the assemblage was in good to fair condition yet taphonomically a few elements exhibited evidence of root etching and weathering. Weathering can provide insight in to burial practices as it is often an indication of bone left on the surface for some time before deposition.
- C.2.6 The assemblage was small and fragmentation was high in some contexts, therefore the potential for further investigation is somewhat limited unless further remains are recovered.

Trench	Context	Species	Element	Date
TR6	40	Pig	Second Phalanx	Early Iron Age
		Sheep/goat	Metatarsal	
	43	Cattle	Metatarsal	Undated
TR7	124	Cattle	Astragalus	Early Iron Age
		Cattle	Cranium	
		Cattle	Tibia	
		Cattle	Calcaneus	
		Cattle	Mandible	
		Sheep/goat	Loose mandibular tooth	
	131	Cattle	Astragalus	Early-Mid Iron Age
		Sheep/goat	Scapula	
		Sheep/goat	Mandible	
		Sheep/goat	Thoracic vert	
		Horse	Pelvis	
		Large mammal	Thoracic vert	
		Cattle	Radius	
		Sheep/goat	Thoracic vert	
		Sheep/goat	Thoracic vert	
Sheep/goat	Thoracic vert			
TR11	15	Sheep/goat	Scapula	Anglo-Saxon?
		Cattle	Cranium	
	19	Pig	Thoracic vert	
		Pig	Thoracic vert	
		Pig	Femur	
		Pig	Scapula	
		Pig	Scapula	
		Pig	Tibia	
		Pig	Humerus	
		Pig	Axis	
		Pig	Cervical Vert	
		Pig	Cervical Vert	
		Pig	Cervical Vert	
		Pig	Cervical Vert	
		Pig	Cervical Vert	
		Pig	Cervical Vert	
		Pig	Thoracic vert	
		Pig	Thoracic vert	
		Pig	Thoracic vert	
		Pig	Thoracic vert	
Pig	Thoracic vert			

		Pig	Thoracic vert	
		Sheep/goat	Mandible	
		Sheep/goat	Loose mandibular tooth	
		Sheep/goat	Mandible	
		Sheep/goat	Loose mandibular tooth	
	21	Cattle	First Phalanx	
	22	Sheep/goat	Metatarsal	Early Iron Age
		Sheep/goat	Humerus	
	33	Sheep/goat	Metatarsal	Late Iron Age
	65	Cattle	Radius	
		Cattle	Ulna	
		Cattle	Pelvis	

Table 8: Total number of identifiable fragments (NISP) by species.

	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Horse	Large Mammal	Total
NISP	13	17	22	1	2	55
%NISP	23.6	30.9	40	1.8	3.6	100
MNI	2	2	1	1	1	7
%MNI	28.60	28.60	14.30	14.30	14.30	100

Table 9: MNI by species

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-287157		
Project Name	Land South of Blackberry Lane, Soham		
Start of Fieldwork	22/05/2017	End of Fieldwork	30/05/2017
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SOHBBL17	Planning App. No.	-
HER Number	ECB4892	Related Numbers	-

Prompt	Pre-planning
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	Pre-application

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input checked="" 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	Period	Object	Period
Posthole	Early Iron Age (- 800 to - 400)	Pottery	Early Iron Age (- 800 to - 400)
Ditch	Early Iron Age (- 800 to - 400)	Pottery	Middle Iron Age (- 400 to - 100)
Ditch	Middle Iron Age (- 400 to - 100)	Pottery	Late Iron Age (- 100 to 43)
Ditch	Late Iron Age (- 100-43)	Pottery	Early Medieval (410-1066)
SFB	Early Medieval (410-1066)	Pottery	Medieval c. AD 1200-1400
Ditch	Early Medieval (410-1066)	Pottery	Post-medieval (- 1550-1750)
Ditch	Post-medieval (- 1550-1750)	Animal bone	Uncertain
Pit	Post-medieval (- 1550-1750)	Fired clay	Late Iron Age

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode)
District	East Cambridgeshire	Land off Blackberry Lane

Parish	Soham	Soham CB7 5AE
HER office	Cambs Historic Environment Record	
Size of Study Area	2205 sq m	
National Grid Ref	TL 60614 72447	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project Design Originator	CgMs Consulting
Project Manager	Matt Brudenell
Project Supervisor	Robin Webb

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB 4892
Digital Archive	OA East	ECB 4892
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 4892

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media

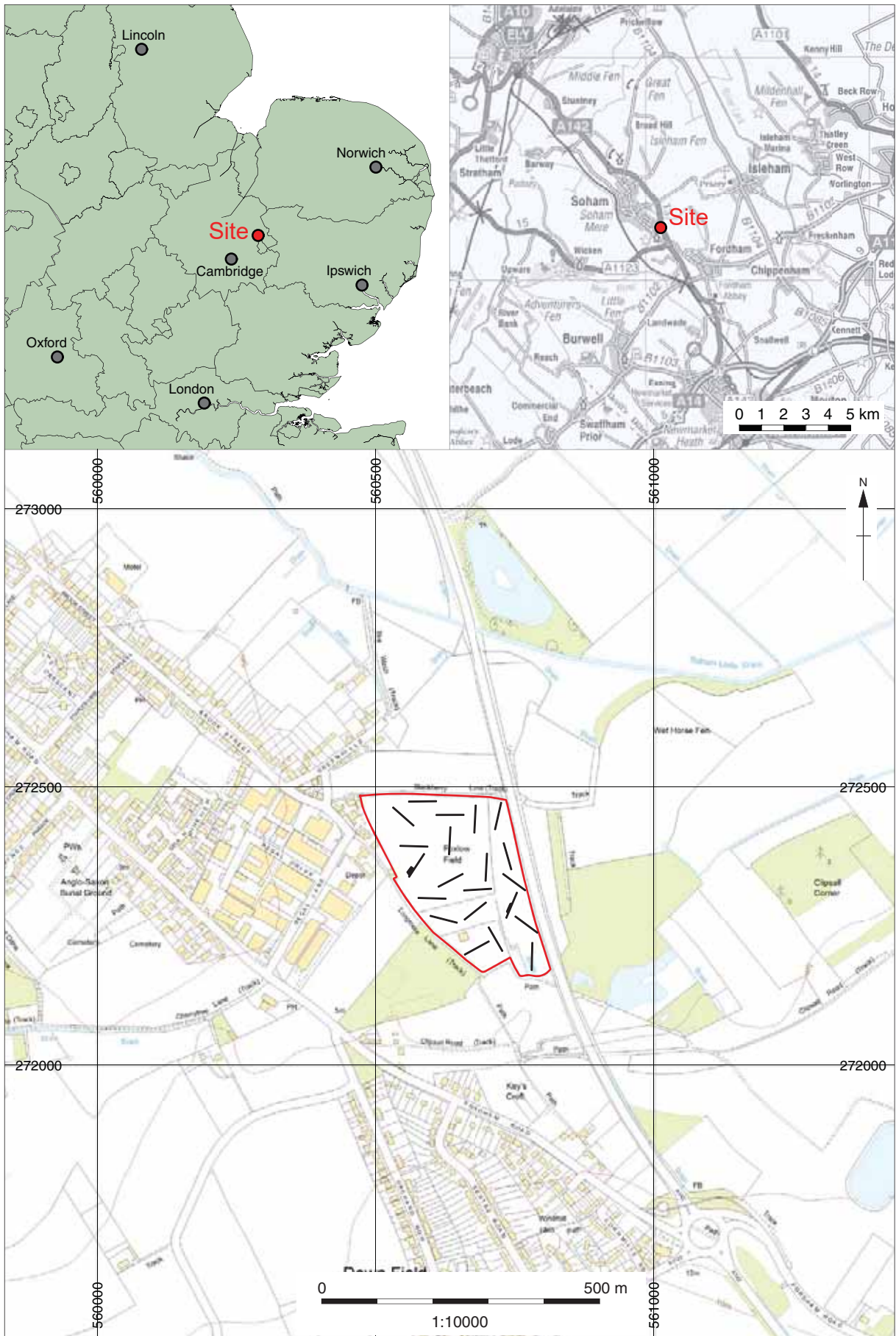
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Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>

Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Research/Notes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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		Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)



Figure 2: Site plan



Figure 3: Trench plan showing geophysics greyscale data and aerial photograph interpretation

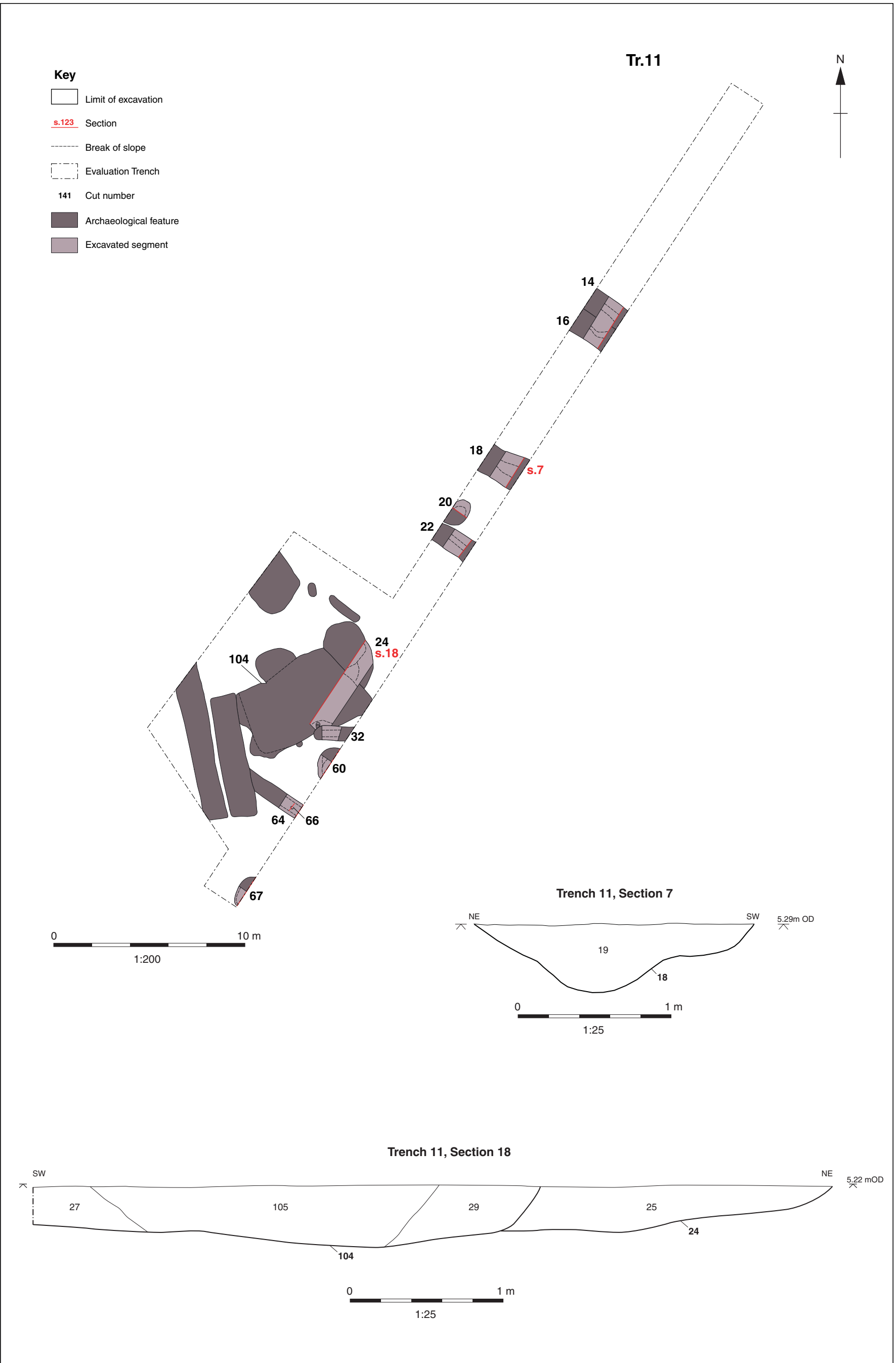


Figure 4: Detail of Trench 11

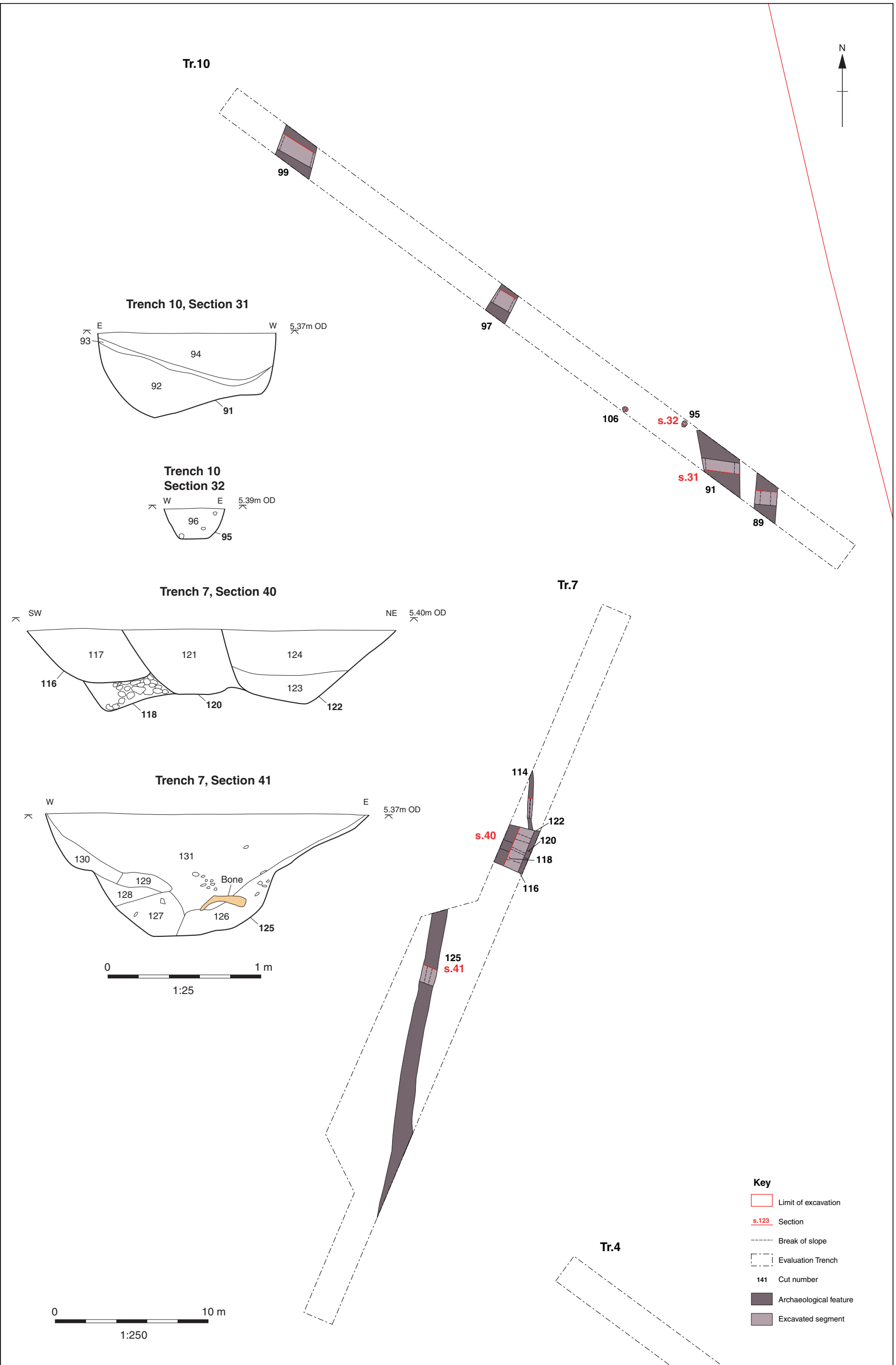


Figure 5: Detail of Trenches 7 and 10

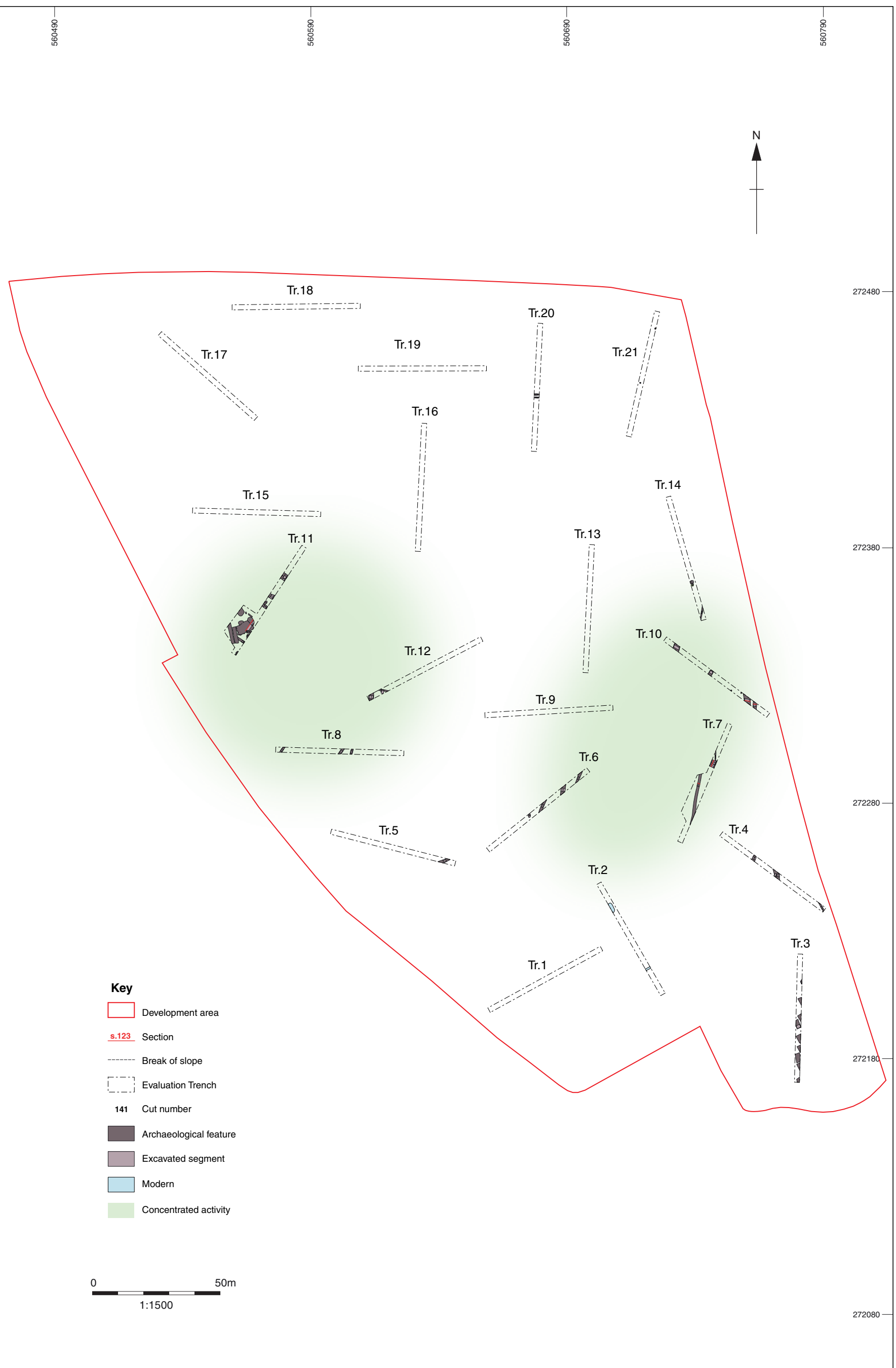


Figure 6: Site plan showing areas of concentrated activity



Plate 1: Ditch **125**, Trench 7, looking north



Plate 2: Pit **118** and ditches **116**, **120** and **122**, Trench 7, looking east



Plate 3: Posthole 106, Trench 10, looking west



Plate 4: Trench 11 showing the density of features, looking north-east



Plate 5: Sunken Feature Building **104**, Trench 11, looking north-east



Plate 6: Trench 20 showing the chalk natural and glacial scarring, looking north



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