Medieval Activity at St Felix Lodge, Soham, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Medieval Activity at St Felix Lodge, Soham

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 2nd and 5th July 2018, Oxford Archaeology East undertook a single trench evaluation at St Felix Lodge, Soham (NGR TL 5952 7323). The evaluation revealed features on the edge of the known core of medieval Soham near to the location of St Felix Abbey.

Four large pits of medieval date and three associated ditches forming a re-cut boundary were excavated. The fill of at least one of the pits was indicative of waterlogged deposits and it is suggested that these features (dated to around 1400 – 1500 AD) were located towards the eastern edge of medieval Soham. The small assemblage of medieval pottery and animal bone recovered during the evaluation is be indicative of domestic refuse and the features were probably activity within a 'back plot' off Paddock Street. A single undated post-hole was also excavated, but it is unclear whether this formed part of a structure or not.

A layer of made ground, probably associated with the demolition of the post-medieval malthouse on the corner of Brewhouse Lane and Paddock Street, was also excavated.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Nick Gilmour. The fieldwork was directed by Anthony Haskins, who was supported by Kelly Sinclair. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Gareth Rees. Thank you to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell. Martha Craven processed the environmental remains under the management of Rachel Fosberry, and Katherine Hamilton prepared the archive under the management of Natasha Dodwell.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) East was commissioned by Andy Orvis to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of St Felix Lodge, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5952 7323).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority as a condition of planning application (17/01880/OUT) in advance of a single residential dwelling. A brief was set by Gemma Stewart outlining the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (Greef 2018) detailing the methods by which OA proposed to meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The geology of the site is recorded as West Melbury Marly Chalk with no superficial deposits recorded. (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html Accessed 19/06/2018).

1.2.2 The site sits on flat ground at the intersection of Brewhouse Lane and Paddock Street and lies at an elevation of 5.4m OD.

1.2.3 The site is currently in use as a garden and appears as open land on first edition OS mapping (1887). Buildings relating to the adjacent malthouse (19th century) do not appear to project into the development area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is based on data from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER; Fig. 1).

Iron Age and Roman

1.3.2 Significant remains of Iron age and Roman settlement have been uncovered 114m to the west of the proposed development at 4 White Hart Lane (MCB18184, Bush 2017). This included structures, pits and ditches. This area of settlement is related to further Iron Age and Roman activity at 8 Market Street, Soham (MCB 19459, Phillips 2012) and to the south of White Hart Lane (MCB 18184, Leonard and Woodhouse 2012).

1.3.3 Some Roman agricultural activity was identified at 77-81 Paddock Street (Rees 2008). This was largely focussed on the manuring practices suggesting that this area was mainly under agriculture until more intense mediaeval occupation occurs.

1.3.4 Human remains of potentially Roman date were found at No. 9 White Hart Lane (CHER 06971). However, the associated pottery may be residual if the remains may form part of the known Anglo-Saxon burial ground related to St Felix's Abbey (see below).

Saxon and Medieval

1.3.5 Investigations south of White Hart Lane (114m to the west of the site) and south of Market street (105m to the north-west of the site) revealed evidence for Early Saxon to medieval occupation (MCB16868, MCB18185).

1.3.6 Human remains of Middle Saxon date were encountered 100m to the north-west of site at 11 White Hart Lane(ECB1905). Further human burials, some identified as Saxon, have been recorded within the area, either side of White Hart Lane (MCB17746, CHER 11789, MCB19457) and it is possible that these extend into the proposed development area. The burials are associated with the cemetery of St Felix's Anglo-Saxon abbey (CHER 11789).

1.3.7 Medieval ditches and retting pits have been revealed south of the site (120m) at 77-81 Paddock Street (MCB 18200, Rees 2008). No domestic material was recovered from these investigations, however, indicating that this area may be beyond the limits of the medieval settlement. The concentration of material in the northern area of the development suggested that there may be medieval settlement to the north of the Paddock Street site.

1.3.8 Investigations at No.8 Market Street produced medieval archaeology in association with earlier Iron Age and Roman remains. The medieval activity was largely focussed around several re-cut ditches on a north-north-west alignment, parallel to the medieval road system. The artefactual remains were of mainly 12th to 13th century date (MCB 19459, Phillips 2012; MCB16868, Cooper 2004). Work to the north of the proposed development at Wetheralls Primary School has also uncovered evidence for minor medieval activity represented by boundary ditches.

1.3.9 The development area is situated along the edge of the historic core of Soham, approximately 170m east of the 12th century Saint Andrews Church (CHER 07123). Further afield, Saxon and medieval activity has been identified to the west of the church at the Walter Gibney Pavilion (MCB 18618, Bush 2009; MCB21799, Haskins 2016). Excavated evidence for medieval occupation has also been found at Clay Street (CB15776, Atkins 2004a), St Andrews House (CB15776, Casa Hatton 2000) and at Ten Bell Lane (MCB16279, Atkins 2004b). As well as considerable evidence to the north at Cloverfield Drive (ECB2139, Mortimer 2006) and the recent excavations for Bovis Homes at Morris Gardens.

Modern

1.3.10 The site of a former Malthouse (19th Century, MCB21780) lies immediately to the south of the site. Ordnance Survey First Edition mapping (1885) does not show this structure extending onto the proposed development area although it is possible that activities associated with this industry might have been carried out on the proposed development area as it is situated between the site of the malthouse and Brewhouse Lane.

1.3.11 The medieval activity identified at 77-81 Paddock Street continued into the post-medieval period with several post-holes of this date.

1.3.12 Archaeological evaluation on Brewhouse Lane to the north-east of the proposed development found undated and modern archaeological features (ECB 2555; Bradley-Lovekin 2007).

1.3.13 A second evaluation off Paddock Street (Nos 82-90) again revealed modern and undated archaeological features including ditches and pits. These are, however, likely to relate to the known Iron Age to Medieval settlement of Soham (MCB21239, Failes 2016).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 This evaluation sought to establish the character, date, state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The scheme of works detailed below aims 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
- provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
- 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 single trench measuring 12m x 1.8m was excavated using a 5 tonne 360 excavator with a 900mm wide ditching bucket.

2.2.2 All archaeological features were cleaned, excavated and recorded according to the methodology in the written scheme of investigation (Greef 2018).

2.2.3 Bucket sampling was undertaken from the overburden soils and produced a small amount of animal bone and CBM from layer (17). Metal detecting of spoil and exposed surfaces was also undertaken.

2.2.4 Environmental samples were taken from pits **1**, **11** and **18** as these represented the least disturbed and truncated features.

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. Full details of with dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The natural geology of marly chalk was overlain by light brownish-yellow to brownish-red clayey sand. This was overlain by a 0.45m deep layer of dark greyish-brown sandy clay, possibly a buried soil (17). Overlying this was a disturbed 0.15m thick layer of mid greyish-brown sandy silt (16) with inclusions of fragmentary CBM (not retained) and a 0.22m deep layer of topsoil/garden soil (15).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good but significant ground water ingress was met at 1.2m below topsoil and the trench base remained wet throughout (Plates 1-5). Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

3.3.1 The archaeological features identified during the works were primarily focused at the south-west end of the trench where a re-cut boundary ditch and several pits were present. A post-hole and another pit were located towards the north-east.

3.3.2 The earliest feature within the sequence was a truncated north-north-west to south-south-east aligned ditch (**21**). Ditch **21** was at least 0.85m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 3, section 6). The ditch contained a single fill of mid dark greyish-brown sandy silt (22) that did not produce any artefacts. It was cut to the south by pits **1** and **18** and to the north by ditch **23**.

3.3.3 Ditch **23** was on the same north-north-west to south-south-east alignment with moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base (Figure 3, section 6). The ditch was 1.08m wide and 0.54m deep with a single fill of mid dark greyish-brown sandy silt (24) that again did not produce any artefacts. The feature was truncated to the north by ditch **25**.

3.3.4 Both ditches **21** and **23** were cut by a large pit (**1**). Pit **1** had a vertical side on the northern edge and was undercut to the south and a flat base (Fig. 4, section 1; Plate 4). The pit contained a single organic/waterlogged fill (2) which produced an assemblage of animal bone and medieval pottery dated to between 1200-1400AD.

3.3.5 With only the base of the feature showing due to truncation by ditch **25**, gully terminal **3** survived to 0.37m wide and 0.14m deep (Fig. 4, section 2). It had gently sloping sides and a rounded 'U' shaped profile and contained a single fill of dark greyish-brown sandy silt (4).

3.3.6 Pit **5** was located to the north of ditch **23** and was also truncated by ditch **25**. The pit, which was 0.8m wide and 0.64m deep had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 4, section

4). The single fill (6) produced a single sherd of medieval pottery dated between 1200-1400AD.

3.3.7 Located at the northern end of the trench pit **11** was a large sub-rectangular pit 1.55m wide and 0.54m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 3, section 6; Fig. 4, section 5). It contained three fills. The lower fill (12) was a 0.2m thick mid blueish-grey sandy clay which produced fragments of medieval and late medieval pottery dated to 1550 - 1700 AD, animal bone and flint. It was sealed by a 0.3m thick mottled blueish-grey and yellowish-brown sandy clay backfill (13) and this in turn was underlying a 0.54m thick dark blueish-grey sandy clay (14).

3.3.8 Pit **18** was located at the southern end of Trench 1 and could not be fully excavated. The pit was at least 1.8m wide and at least 0.96m deep with steep sides (Fig. 3, section 6). It contained two fills. The lower fill (19) was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt 0.34m thick that produced an assemblage of medieval pottery dated 1200-1400AD, animal bone, waterlogged and charred plant remains, including barley, and a single iron nail. Fill (19) was sealed by a 0.6m thick deposit of dark greyish-brown sandy silt (20).

3.3.9 Ditch **7**/**25** was generally only seen in section, it truncated all of the earlier features and was probably the final feature in the archaeological sequence identified during the evaluation works. The ditch was 1.9m wide and 0.52m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 3, section 6; Plate 3). It contained a single fill (8/26) of dark greyish-brown sandy silt.

3.3.10 A single undated post-hole (**9**) was excavated at the northern corner of the trench (Fig. 4, section 3). The post-hole was 0.36m in diameter and 0.22m deep with a single fill of dark greyish-brown silty sand (10).

3.4 Finds summary

3.4.1 A small finds assemblage was recovered from several of the features within Trench 1. Bucket sampling of the overlying soils produced a small amount of animal bone and CBM.

Flint

3.4.2 A single residual struck flint was recovered from the lower fill of pit **11**. The flint was heavily abraded and heavily recortificated so the raw material could not be identified. The characteristics of the flint would suggest a Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Pottery

3.4.3 A small-sized hand-excavated pottery assemblage of 18 sherds, weighing 0.415kg, was recovered from a number of pits and made ground (context 16). This assemblage is broadly medieval. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded, and the average sherd weight is moderate at approximately 23g.

CBM

3.4.4 Three heavily abraded fragments of post-medieval CBM were recovered from the excavation and possibly relate to the malthouse that was formerly situated on the site.

Iron

3.4.5 The evaluation produced three iron nails (including SF 1 and 2) from two pits, **1** and **18**. None of the nails closely match the description of Roman nails given by Manning (1985 133-137) and are therefore considered to be post-Roman. The condition of the nails is variable, with the incomplete nail from pit **1** having been affected by cess or waterlogged conditions.

3.5 Environmental Summary

Animal bone

3.5.1 A small assemblage of animal bone weighing 593g and totaling 29 countable fragments was recovered from the evaluation at Soham. There are high fragmentation levels, however it is possible to identify seventeen of the specimens to taxon. Species present include the normal domestic ungulates of cattle, horse, sheep/goat and pig as well as remains of birds, fish and amphibians.

Samples

3.5.2 The recovery of charred grain, legumes and charcoal indicates that there is the potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. Hammerscale is indicative of blacksmithing activities in the near vicinity although it is possible that the practice of using midden waste as fertiliser may have introduced material onto the site

Bucket Sampling and Metal Detecting

3.5.3 Bucket sampling was undertaken during the works. A small assemblage of three fragments of modern CBM was recovered as well as animal bone and a single sherd of pottery were recovered from made ground (16).

3.5.4 Metal detecting was carried out and three iron nails were recovered from features. Modern electrical wire (not retained) was also recovered from the made ground.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Ground conditions and excavation methodology meant that the sequence of archaeological features was truncated during machining and some ditches were only seen in section. However, this did not affect understanding of the extent or complexity of the archaeological sequence. One of the pits could not be fully excavated due to the health safety concerns, however, dating evidence was recovered from its fills.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation identified a mix of archaeological features, some of which appear to broadly date between 1400-1500AD. The recovered remains seem to represent a potentially long-lived re-cut plot boundary associated with Paddock Street on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, which is similar to the known medieval road system. The boundary was associated with a relatively small assemblage of animal bone, charred grains, charred legumes and pottery which suggests that the excavation area is on the periphery of medieval occupation and the recovered material represents backyard activity and domestic waste disposal.

4.2.2 Archaeological features were well preserved beneath a minimum of 0.4m of overburden. Towards the north-east of the plot the overburden was nearer 0.6m to 0.8m.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The recovered archaeological remains seem to represent an area at the back of a plot boundary associated with Paddock Street. The re-cut ditches may have formed a significant boundary, which was maintained over time. Several pits were dug into the area of the boundaries which indicates that the area was used but potentially for activities that would have been kept away from the main settlement area. The assemblage of pottery, large mammal, fish and amphibian bone and charred plant remains would suggest that the backfill of the pits contained domestic refuse. The presence of amphibian bone would suggest the pits were open for a period of time.

4.3.2 The small amount of recovered pottery, which was quite fragmentary and in some cases abraded, animal bone and charred remains would again suggest that the features were used for disposal of domestic waste on the periphery of the settlement. At least one of the pits (**18**) produced waterlogged material.

4.3.3 There is no indication that any of the recovered remains relate to St Felix Abbey. The demolition material in the layer of made ground is likely to be associated with the Maltings that stood on the corner of Brewhouse Lane and Paddock Street.

4.4 Conclusion

4.4.1 The evaluation identified well preserved medieval features buried under at least 0.4m of overburden in an area on the periphery of the known medieval core of Soham. The features, primarily a re-cut plot boundary and associated pitting, which produced a small assemblage of artefacts, suggests backyard activity away from the main areas of

occupation. This is similar to the remains identified at the Wetherall Primary School (Phillips 2013) and Paddock Lane (Rees 2008).

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a number of archaeological features including a single post-hole, four ditches and four pits. The trench consists of topsoil, a disturbed rubble layer and a possible buried soil overlying natural geology of sandy clay and marly chalk.					**Length (m)**	12
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Cut	1.6	0.72	Pit		Medieval
2	Fill	1.6	0.72	Fill of **1**	Pottery, Animal Bone, Fe nail	Medieval
3	Cut	0.37	0.14	Gully	-	Medieval
4	Fill	0.37	0.14	Fill of **3**	-	Medieval
5	Cut	1.62	0.8	Pit		Medieval
6	Fill	1.62	0.8	Fill of **5**	Pottery	Medieval
7	Cut	0.6	0.5	Ditch	-	Medieval
8	Fill	0.6	0.5	Fill of **7**	-	Medieval
9	Cut	0.36	0.22	Post-hole	-	-
10	Fill	0.6	0.22	Fill of **9**	-	-
11	Cut	1.55	0.54	Pit	-	Medieval
12	Fill	1.55	0.2	Fill of **11**	Pottery	Medieval
13	Fill	1.2	0.3	Fill of **11**	-	Medieval
14	Fill	0.7	0.54	Fill of **11**	-	Medieval
15	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	Modern
16	Layer	-	0.2	Made Ground	CBM, Animal Bone	Modern
17	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil/buried soil	-	Medieval
18	Cut	1.8	0.96	Pit	-	Medieval/post-medieval
19	Fill	-	0.34	Fill of **18**	Pottery, Animal bone, Fe Nail	Medieval/post-medieval
20	Fill	-	0.6	Fill of **18**	-	Medieval/post-medieval
21	Cut	0.85	0.4	Ditch	-	Medieval
22	Fill	0.85	0.4	Fill of **21**	-	Medieval
23	Cut	1.08	0.54	Ditch	-	Medieval
24	Fill	1.08	0.54	Fill of **22**	-	Medieval
25	Cut	1.9	0.52	Ditch	-	Medieval
26	Fill	1.9	0.52	Fill of **23**	-	Medieval

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Ironwork

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction, Methodology and Assemblage

B.1.1 The evaluation produced three iron nails (including SF 1 and 2) from two pits, **1** and **18**. The functional categories used are those defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988: Category 11 fastenings and fittings. Hand-forged nails are a long-lived form and dating is problematic, the nails will be described in general terms. None of the nails closely match the description of Roman nails given by Manning (1985 133-137) and are therefore considered to be post-Roman. The condition of the nails is variable, with the incomplete nail from pit **1** having been affected by cess or waterlogged conditions.

Discussion

B.1.2 A small number of nails recovered from only two features are not a significant find; if a wooden structure was present on the site, a larger number of nails would have been expected. The nails are not closely datable, SF 1 and 2 are very likely to be post-medieval, while the third (incomplete nail) may be medieval or later.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.1.3 If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the nails may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

Catalogue

Category 11 fastenings and fittings: SF1 iron nail, in relatively good condition with minor encrustation and blistering. Near-complete, square tapering shank (5mm-2mm) missing point, set below a sub-rounded slightly domed head, with a burr on one edge and some edge flattening, possibly due to usage, having been damaged by hammering. Length (overall) 67mmm, shank 64mm, head 15-14mm. Dating uncertain, ?post-medieval. Pit **18**, (19), Trench 1

Category 11 fastenings and fittings: SF2 iron nail, heavily encrusted, near-complete rectangular tapering shank (8mm x 9.5mm tapering to 6mm x 5mm), damaged point, sub-rounded slightly domed head. Length (overall) 70mm, shank 62mm, head 18-17mm (dimensions are approximate due to level of encrustation). Dating uncertain, ?post-medieval. Pit **1** (2), Trench 1

Category 11 fastenings and fittings: Incomplete iron nail, rectangular in section (9mm x 6mm) tapering to 5mm x 5mm, missing head (broken at an angle across the shank) and tip. Slightly encrusted, dark grey, as if having spent time in cess or waterlogged conditions. Length 65mm. Dating uncertain, medieval or later. Pit **1** (2), Trench 1

B.2 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.2.1 Archaeological works produced a small-sized hand-excavated pottery assemblage of 18 sherds, weighing 0.415kg, from a number of pits and made ground, (context 16). This assemblage is broadly medieval. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded, and the average sherd weight is moderate at approximately 23g.

Methodology

B.2.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards.

B.2.3 Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described post-medieval types, using Cambridgeshire fabric types where possible (Spoerry 2016). All sherds have been counted, classified, minimum number of vessels (MNV) established, weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the catalogue at the end of this report. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage

B.2.4 The pottery recovered is mostly medieval in date, although early medieval sherds are present (Early Medieval ware). Fabrics include East Anglian Redwares, Medieval Grimston ware, Medieval Ely ware and South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware. Jug sherds are the most commonly recovered find, representing a minimum of five vessels. Two bowl sherds were also recovered, including one from a decorated Late Medieval Ely ware vessel.

B.2.5 The largest group of sherds came from pit **1**, (eight sherds weighing 0.178kg), including a South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware jug handle, and sherds from several East Anglian Redware jugs. The remaining features, pits **5**, **11**, **18** and layer 16 produced smaller assemblages. A single small sherd of Border ware (1500-1700) from pit **11** is the latest material recovered.

Discussion

B.2.6 The assemblage is fragmentary, and although representing medieval and perhaps later occupation in the vicinity of the site excavated. The low levels of pottery recovered are present a similar range of fabrics to those produced by excavations at Cloverfield Drive, Soham (Fletcher 2006).

Retention, dispersal or display

B.2.7 If no further work is undertaken this statement acts as a full record and the pottery may be dispersed for educational use, or deselected prior to archival deposition.

Pottery catalogue

Context/ Cut	Fabric	MNV	Count	Weight	Form	Rim	Base	Other	Abrasion	Deposit External/ Internal	Rim Diameter (mm)	Rim EVES	Surface Treatment External/ Internal	Decoration	Pottery Date
2/**1**	East Anglian Redwares	1	1	0.027	Jug	rim everted, externally thickened, slight external rounded bevel			Moderate		120	21	External mottled green glaze		1200-1400
2/**1**	East Anglian Redwares		1	0.006	Jug			Body sherd	Moderate				External clear glaze	Painted white slip	1200-1400
2/**1**	East Anglian Redwares		1	0.004				Body sherd	Moderate-Abraded	External sooting					1200-1400
2/**1**	East Anglian Redwares		1	0.005			Base sherd		Moderate-Abraded	Internal sooting					1200-1400
2/**1**	Late Medieval Grimston	1	1	0.028	Jug			Body sherd	Moderate				External green glaze		1350-1500
2/**1**	Medieval Ely ware	1	1	0.059	Flared bowl	rim externally bevelled, internally thickened and bevelled to form a broad band (lip) decorated with an incised wavy line			Moderate		320	6	Internal green glaze	Incised	1150-1350
2/**1**	Medieval Sandy ware	1	1	0.010				Body sherd	Moderate						1150-1500
2/**1**	South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware	1	1	0.039	Jug			Thickened strap handle with four incised grooves vertically down handle	Moderate					Incised	1150–1450
6/**5**	South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware	1	1	0.054			Base angle obtuse		Moderate						1150–1450
12/**11**	Surrey-Hampshire border whiteware	1	1	0.001				Body sherd	Moderate-Abraded				External mottled green glaze internal clear-yellow glaze		1550-1700

Context/ Cut	Fabric	MNV	Count	Weight	Form	Rim	Base	Other	Abrasion	Deposit External/ Internal	Rim Diameter (mm)	Rim EVES	Surface Treatment External/ Internal	Decoration	Pottery Date
12/**11**	Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.003				Body sherd	Moderate-Abraded	External sooting					1050-1200
12/**11**	Medieval Ely ware	1	1	0.033	Jug			Body sherd	Moderate	? Internal limescale			External green glaze	Applied	1150-1350
12/**11**	Unidentified	1	1	0.002				Body sherd	Moderate-Abraded						1150-1500
14/**11**	Medieval Sandy ware	1	1	0.010			Base angle flat obtuse		Abraded						1150-1500
14/**11**	South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware		1	0.003				Body sherd	Moderate-Abraded						1150–1450
16	East Anglian Redwares	1	1	0.052	Rounded or flared bowl	Rim, heavily externally thickened, slightly dished upper surface and externally bevelled			Moderate		360	6	External and internal traces of glaze		1200-1400
19/**18**	Grimston ware	1	1	0.063	Jug	Rim, everted, slight internal thickening, slight internal bevel		Thickened strap rectangular with rounded edges and central curve or groove into which is cut a vertical incised wavy line	Moderate				External greenish glaze, internal glaze on rim and neck		1200-1500
19/**18**	East Anglian Redwares		1	0.016				Body sherd	Sharp-Moderate	internal limescale	90	11			1200-1400
Total		**13**	**18**	**0.415**											

Table 1: Pottery by Context and Cut
(EVE= Estimated Vessel Equivalent, MNV= Minimum number of vessels)

B.3 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction

B.3.1 A single struck flint (10g) was recovered from pit fill (12). The flint is heavily recorticated and it is not possible to identify the original raw material colour. The surviving cortex is heavily worn and abraded with staining indicative of originating in a gravel deposit. The prominent bulb of percussion is suggestive of hard hammer removal and there are no clear indications of platform preparation suggesting that the flake would be of a late Neolithic/Bronze Age date.

B.4 Ceramic Building Material

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.4.1 A fragmentary assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), consisting of brick fragments, was recovered from the topsoil. In total, two CBM fragments, weighing 0.065kg, were retrieved. No complete examples were recovered, and all are moderately abraded or abraded. The material recovered is post-medieval.

B.4.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded, where this was identifiable. Fabrics are noted and dating is necessarily broad. No complete dimensions were recorded, due to the fragmentary nature of the assemblage. Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group *Ceramic Building Material, Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication* (2002) forms the basis for recording, and Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.4.3 The small assemblage of CBM was dispersed across the topsoil. Brick fragments were the only form of CBM recovered. The fragments are not closely datable and represent a small quantity of post-medieval rubble that became incorporated into the topsoil, potentially from the demolition of the Maltings formerly located on the corner of Paddock Street and Brewhouse lane.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.4.4 The plain and fragmentary nature of the total assemblage means it is of little interest. This statement acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected prior to archival deposition. Should further work be undertaken, the CBM report should be incorporated into any later archive.

CBM catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut/Feature Type	CBM or Fired/Burnt clay description and form	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
1	15	**Topsoil**	Fragment from a brick. Part of two surfaces survive, flat and well formed. Hard fired fabric, with quartz and occasional flint, dull brick red in colour, with paler surfaces. Not closely datable beyond a broad post-medieval date.	1	0.032	Post-medieval
			Fragment from a brick. Part of two surfaces survive, flat and well formed. Soft or poorly fired fabric, quartz, voids left by organic matter, dull red-pink surfaces with pale yellowish brown and red-pink swirled interior. Very likely to be earlier in date than the other fragment recovered, however it is not closely datable beyond a broad post-medieval date.	1	0.023	
Totals:				**2**	**0.055**	

Table 2: CBM

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at St Felix Lodge, 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 Trench 1 from medieval deposits.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume (approximately 5L) 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 3. 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, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

C.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

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

Key to tables:

w=waterlogged, f=fragmented

Results

C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation with some evidence of waterlogging. There is no evidence of mineralised plant or insect remains that would have been indicative of cess. Charred plant remains in the form of cereal grains, legumes and charcoal are present in low quantities in all three samples. Pottery, mussel shell,

animal, amphibian and fish bones were recovered from the sample residues and occasional molluscs shells have been preserved. Hammerscale, in the form of flakes and spheroids, are present in low quantities in all of the samples.

C.1.7 Sample 1, fill 9 of pit **18** contains charred remains in the form of a single barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain, occasional indeterminate cereal grains and a legume (*Pisum/Lathyrus* sp.) along with ostracods (small bivalve crustaceans) and a small amount of waterlogged plant material.

C.1.8 Sample 2, fill 14 of pit **11** contains occasional charred grains of barley, wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*) and fragments of a bean (Fabaceae). Sample 3, fill 2 of pit **1** contains a single barley grain and two indeterminate grains.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Legumes	Charcoal	Pottery	Small bones	Large mammal bones
1	19	18	Pit	5	2	##	#	+	#	#	#
2	14	11	Pit	5	5	##	#	+	#	#	0
3	2	1	Pit	4	<1	#	0	+	#	#	#

Table 3: Environmental samples

Discussion

C.1.9 The recovery of charred grain, legumes and charcoal indicates that there is the potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. Future excavation has the potential to recover larger, more meaningful assemblages that would contribute to the evidence of diet and economy at this site. Hammerscale is indicative of blacksmithing activities in the near vicinity although it is possible that the practice of using midden waste as fertiliser may have introduced material onto the site.

C.1.10 The presence of ostracods and waterlogged plant material in pit **18** suggests that there may be better preservation of plant remains in the lower deposits of this feature (only excavated to 1.2m).

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 Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction and Methodology

C.2.1 A small assemblage of animal bone weighing 593g and totalling 29 countable fragments was recovered from the evaluation at Soham. The material belongs to the medieval period. All material recorded is hand collected. The fragmentation levels are high however it is possible to identify seventeen of the specimens to taxon. The remaining fragments were recorded as large or medium mammal. All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Preservation condition was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004 14-15).

Results

C.2.2 The surface condition of the bone is varied but on average represents 1-2 on the scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (ibid). Cattle and sheep/goat account for 35.25% of the assemblage with 47.04% being comprised of fish and amphibian remains. NISP (Number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) are summarised for each taxon in the tables below:

Species	NISP	NISP Pecentage	MNI	MNI percentage
cattle	3	17.64	1	14.28
Horse	1	5.88	1	14.28
Sheep/goat	3	17.64	1	14.28
Pig	1	5.88	1	14.28
Bird	1	5.88	1	14.28
Amphibian	4	23.52	1	14.28
Fish	4	23.52	1	14.28
totals	**17**	**100**	**7**	**100**

Table 4: NISP (Number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (Minimum number of individuals)

C.2.3 The MNI for all species is one. Two specimens show sign of butchery in the form of chop marks; A cattle humerus from context 16 has two chop marks on the distal epiphysis and a medium mammal humerus shows a chop mark on the distal portion of the shaft. All of the material present is adult or older juvenile suggesting that animals were not being reared on site. It was possible to narrow the sex of the horse mandible to male based on the canines.

Summary and Recommendations

C.2.4 This is a small assembly and it is a fairly typical representation of domestic waste. No further work is necessary.

context	element	species	Weight (g)	Count	Butchery	Comments
16	humerus	cattle	182	1	Chop marks	
12	metatarsal	sheep/goat	18	1		
12	humerus	medium mammal	17	1	Chop mark	
15	ph2	cattle	15	1		
19	rib	medium mammal	10	4		
19	rib	large mammal	6	1		
19	Vertebra	Medium mammal	8	1		
19	Tibia	Bird	1	1		Small bird
19	Vertebrae	Fish	1	1		
19	Metapodial	Amphibian	1	2		
2	mandible	horse	93	1		Male-canine
2	scapula	sheep/goat	17	1		
2	scapula	sheep/goat	11	1		
2	mandible	pig	81	1		
2	rib	medium mammal	15	1		
2	rib	large mammal	30	2		
2	pelvis	medium mammal	6	1		
2	calcaneus	cattle	63	1		
2	Mandible	Cattle	15	1		
2	Vertebrae	Fish	1	3		
2	Metapodial	Amphibian	1	1		
2	Metapodial	Amphibian	1	1		

Table 5: A summary of the countable fragments

C.3 Mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction, Methodology and Assemblage

C.3.1 Five bivalve shells (0.059kg) were collected by hand during the evaluation from pits **1** and **18**. The shell is moderately well-preserved and does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed, however, it has suffered post-depositional damage.

C.3.2 The shells were weighed and recorded by species, with right and left valves noted, when identification could be made, using Winder (2011) as a guide. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage. The shells are recorded in Table 6.

C.3.3 Both oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) are present in low numbers, in both pits. The oyster shell from pit **1** shows evidence of shucking, a small 'V' shaped hole on the outer edge of the shell caused by a knife during the opening or 'shucking' of the oyster prior to its consumption in a raw state. The marine shells probably became incorporated into the fills of these pits as general rubbish.

Discussion

C.3.4 This is too small an assemblage to draw any but the broadest conclusions, in that shellfish were reaching the site from the coastal regions, indicating trade with the wider area. The shells represent general discarded food waste and, although not closely datable in themselves, they may be dated by their association with pottery or other material also recovered from the features, in this case medieval pottery.

Retention, dispersal and display

C.3.5 The assemblage indicates that, should further work take place, shell would be found, with the likelihood of recovery of further complete shells, however, the evaluation suggests there will be only moderate to low levels of shell deposition. This statement acts as a full record and the shell may be dispersed or deselected prior to archive deposition.

C.3.6

Test Pit	Context	Cut	Sample No.	Common Name	Species	Habitat	No of shells or frags	No left valves or frags	No right valves or frags	Description/Comment	Total Weight (kg)
1	2	**1**		Oyster	*Ostrea edulis*	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	2	1	1	Moderate size, near-complete left valve with possible shucking damage, small complete right valve, with obvious shucking mark, the shell is discoloured mid grey	0.017
				Mussel	*Mytilus edulis*	Intertidal zone	1	1		Mussel shell, partial left valve	0.001
	19	**18**		Oyster	*Ostrea edulis*	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1		1	Small-moderate size, near-complete left valve	0.04
			1	Mussel	*Mytilus edulis*	Intertidal zone	1		1	Mussel shell, partial right valve	0.001
Total							**5**	**2**	**3**		0.059

Table 6: Shell

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-323623
Project Name	St Felix Lodge, Soham

Start of Fieldwork	2/7/18	End of Fieldwork	5/7/18
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SOHSFL18	Planning App. No.	17/01880/OUT
HER Number	ECB5456	Related Numbers	

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Small Scale (eg. Single house etc.)
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐ Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐ Grab-sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochonological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument	Period
Pit	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Ditch	Medieval (1066 to 1540)

Object	Period
Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Animal Bone	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Nail	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Flint	Late Neolithic (- 3000 to - 2200)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire
District	East Cambridgeshire
Parish	Soham
HER office	Cambridge
Size of Study Area	500 sq. m
National Grid Ref	TL 5952 7323

Address (including Postcode)

St. Felix Lodge
Brewhouse Lane
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Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart
Project Design Originator	Andy Greef
Project Manager	Nick Gilmour
Project Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC stores	ECB5456
Digital Archive	OA East	SOHSFL18
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB5456

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☐	☐
None	☐	☒	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☐	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☒
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
Survey	☐	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
		Plans	☒
		Report	☒
		Sections	☒
		Survey	☐

Further Comments

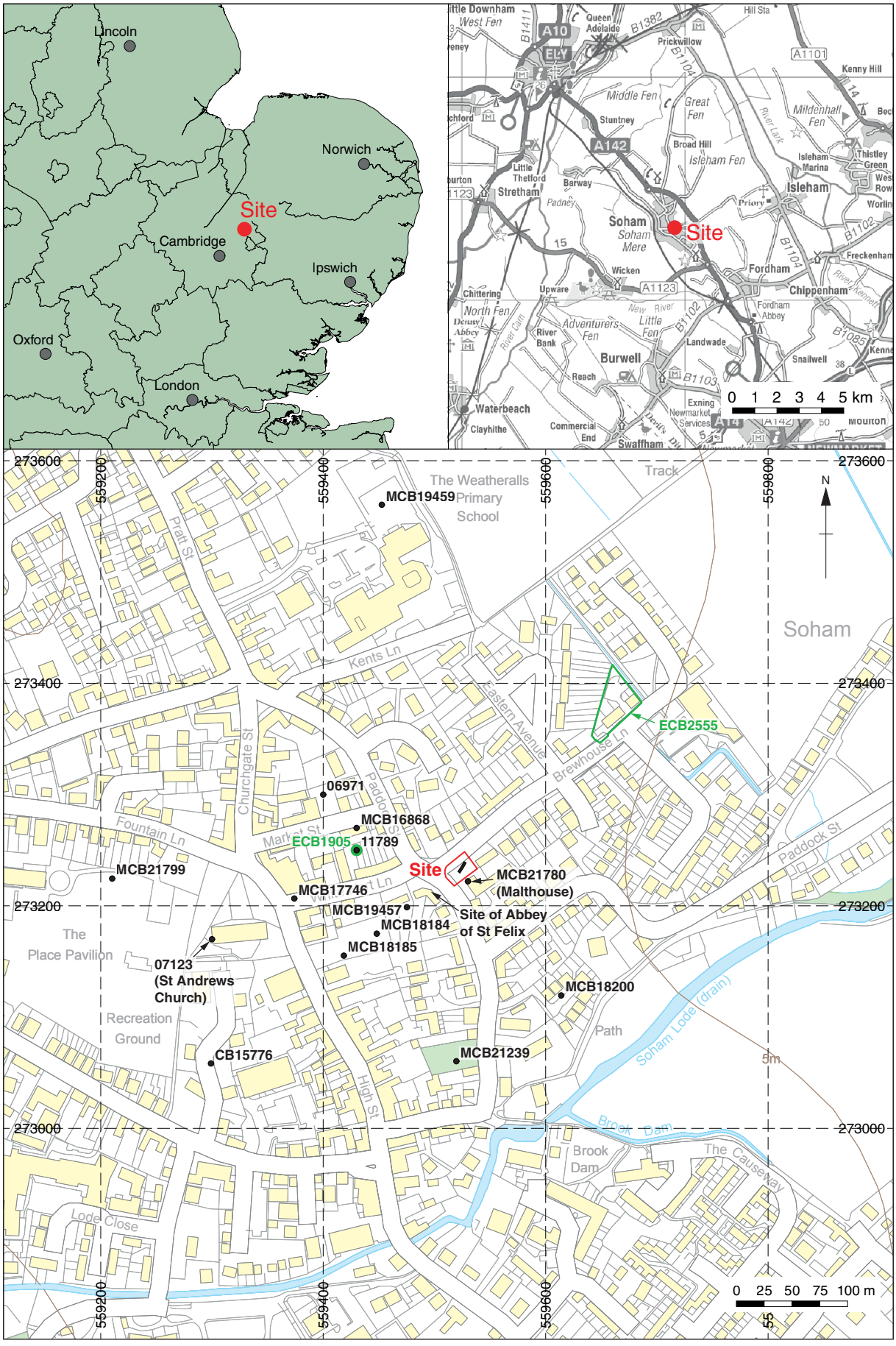

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trench (black) in development area (red), with nearby HER entries mentioned in the text

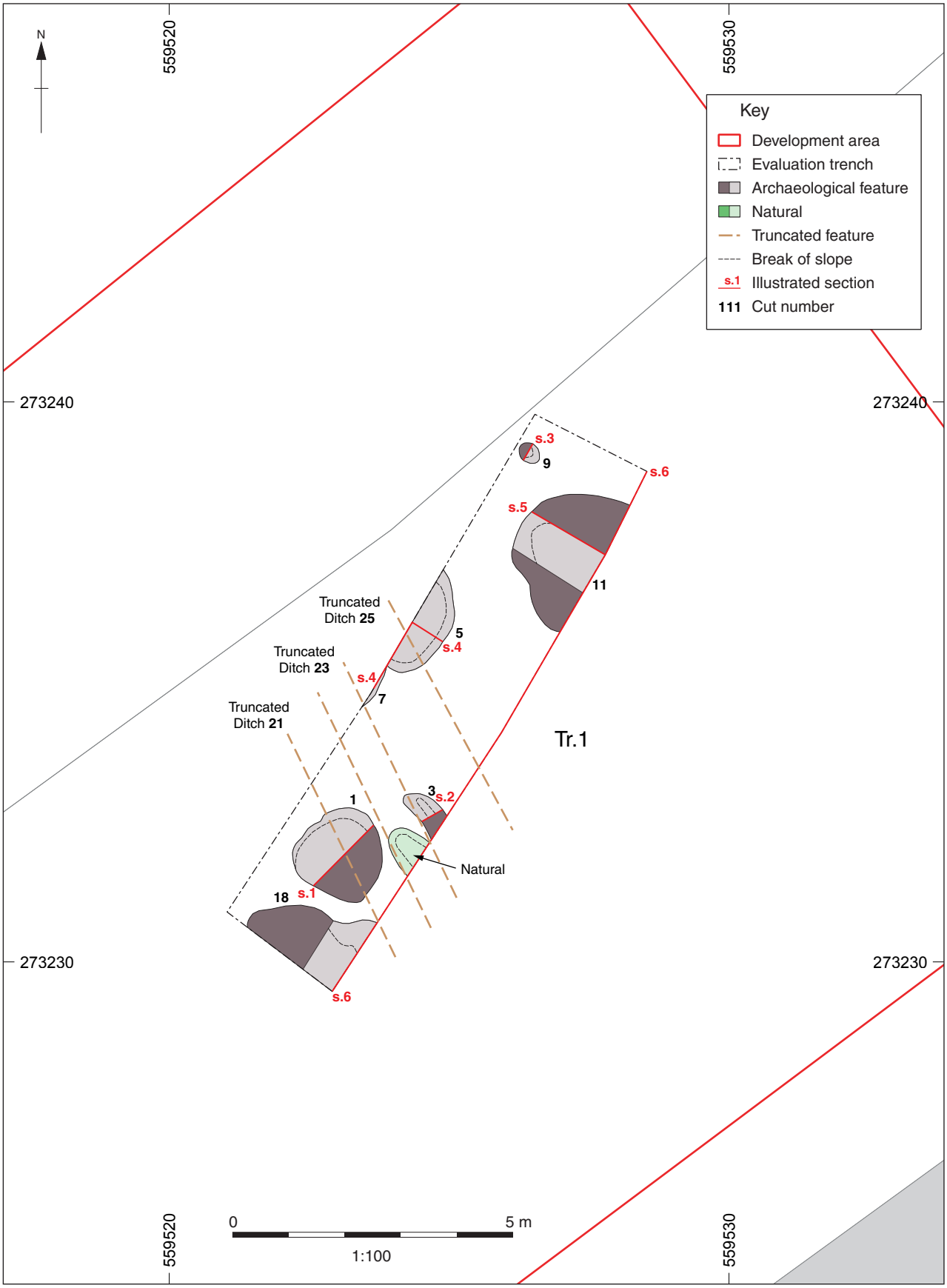

Figure 2: Detail trench plan

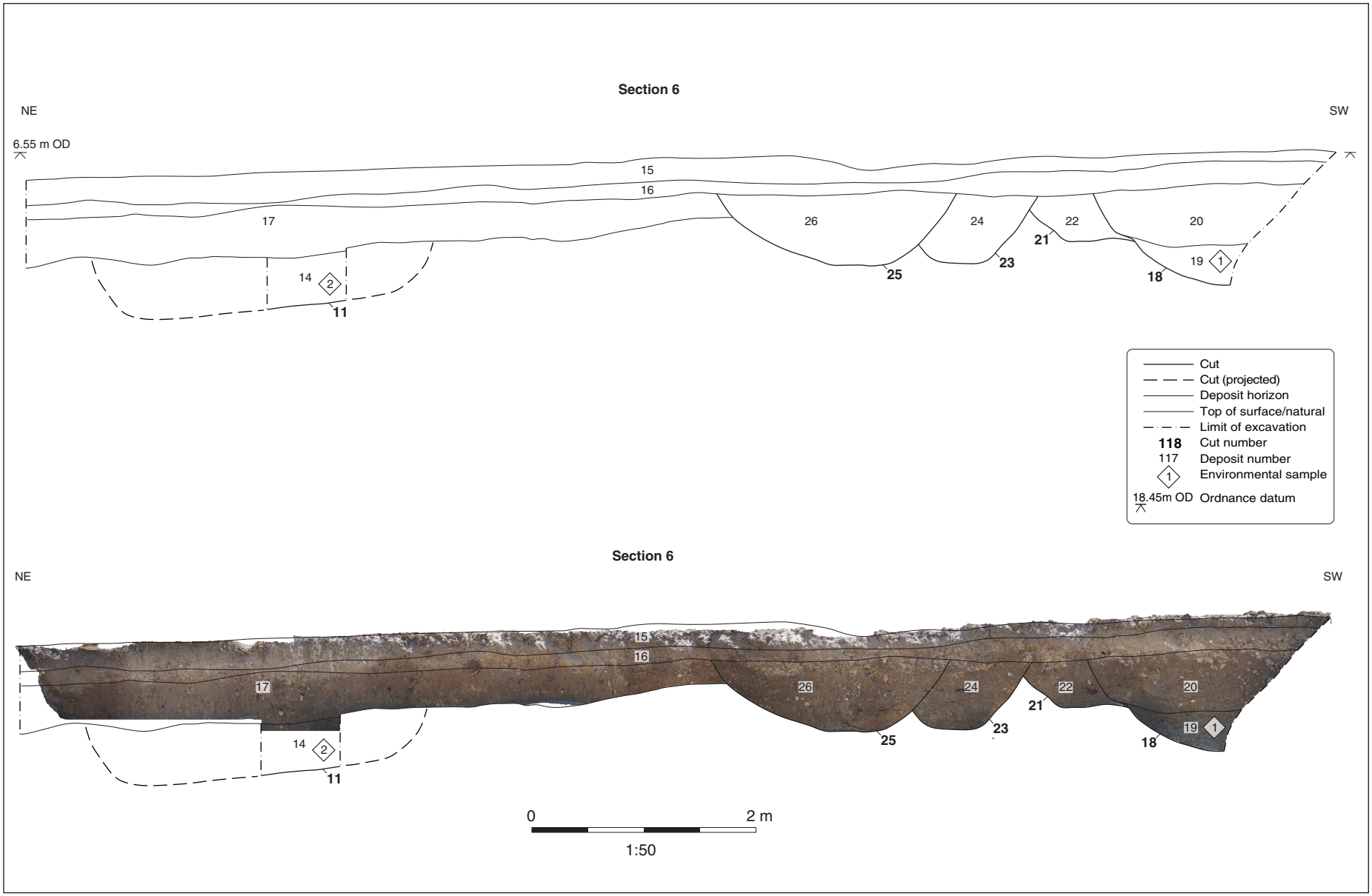

Figure 3: Trench section with photogrammetric image

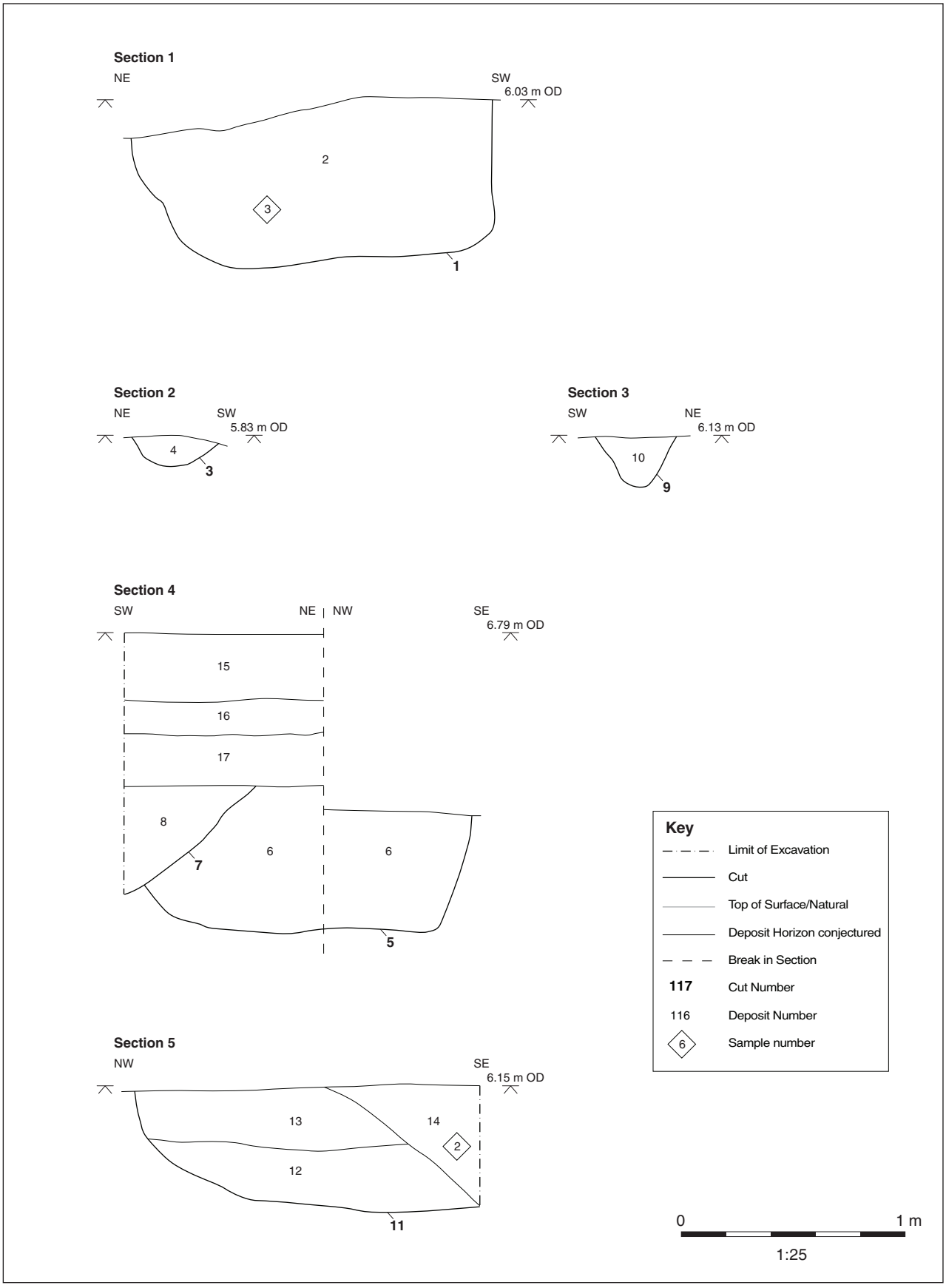

Figure 4: Selected sections

Plate 2: Trench 1, facing south-west

Plate 1: Trench 1, facing north-east

Plate 3: Ditches **25** and **23**, looking south-east

Plate 4: Pit **1**, half-sectioned, looking south-east

Plate 5: Photogrammetric image of Trench 1

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