

Fordham Primary School Isleham Road, Fordham Cambridgeshire



Excavation Report and Updated Project Design



February 2017

**Client: Coulson Building Group for
Cambridgeshire County Council**

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Fordham Primary School, Isleham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire

Excavation Report and Updated Project Design

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Summary

Between the 26th April and 13th May 2016 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an Archaeological Excavation at Fordham Primary School, Fordham Cambridgeshire. The excavation covered a total area of 740 square metres

The excavation revealed activity of Late Saxon to post medieval/modern date. Late Saxon activity was represented by boundary ditches, which had also been found during an earlier excavation (Connor 2000) and implies a planned landscape. A Sunken Featured Building and associated pits and post holes together with evidence for mixed livestock farming were key features of this period.

Evidence for similar activity continued into the early medieval period when the presence of small scale metal working together with an assemblage of knives suggests some specialist craft working was also taking place on the site. Features of medieval date included post holes and pits.

The later medieval features consisted largely of pits, but of interest was an annular ditch that may have functioned as an animal pen or hayrick. Additionally a change was noted from the mixed livestock base of earlier periods to an apparently more specialised farming regime based largely on cattle.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 This assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles identified in Historic England's guidance documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, specifically *The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (2006) and *PPN3 Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies on Chalk Formation bedrock, near its boundary with the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. This is overlain by sand and gravels of the River Terrace Deposits 4 (British Geological Survey 2014, British Geological Survey online map viewer <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

1.2.2 Fordham lies on the River Snail, 400 metres to the west of the site. The site lies at approximately 16m above OD and slopes down very gently down to the river to the north and west. The land is currently occupied by school playgrounds, although previous excavations on the site identified modern drains and sumps. There is no record of construction on the site before the school was built, and preservation of any buried archaeology is therefore likely to be good.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric and Roman

1.3.1 The area around Fordham has produced a number of worked flint objects, including a Mesolithic axe (07551, 500m west), several Neolithic axes (07556 700m north, 00390 800m north, 07552 500m west) and other Neolithic tools (07555 250m north-west, 10213, 500m west). A Late Bronze Age socketed axe was found 300m east of the school site. An Iron Age settlement has been identified 700m south of the school (11287), and three Iron Age inhumations (07549) were uncovered 300m east of the site. Cropmarks, possibly relating to a Roman villa, have been identified 800m north of the site (MCB 18677). Nearby was a midden containing Roman pottery (07739). Roman coins have been found by metal detectorists a kilometre to the east of the school (11516).

Saxon and Medieval

1.3.2 The village of Fordham is first mentioned by name in an Anglo-Saxon charter of around AD 972 (Reaney 1943). The school itself is close to the centre of the medieval village. It is only 75m north of the parish church, St Peter's and St Mary's (07574). The church dates from the 13th century, but has some Norman elements, and so probably has earlier origins. Evidence for the Saxon and medieval origins of the village has largely come from a number of investigations that have taken place to the south-west of the church (south of Church Street and east of Mill Lane). These include ditches, postholes, post-built building, and SFBs (MCB19640, CB15031, BC15561, CB14611). Little investigation has taken place to the north of Church Street, the only excavation was in the grounds of the school (ECB420) and uncovered evidence of Late Saxon occupation including a number of postholes, possibly relating to a post-built structure; two Late Saxon ditches, running in parallel, containing a large number of 9th to 11th century artefacts including three knife blades; three late Saxon postholes parallel to the

ditch, and probably part of a timber fence. This investigation showed that evidence of the origins of the village are not confined to the area to the south of the church.

Post-Medieval

- 1.3.3 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map shows the area of the primary school as a small field with Manor House Farm immediately to the north (along Isleham Road), a vicarage and rectory are located on the east side of the same road. To the south and west along Church Street, the Crown Inn, and Almshouses are shown but the area immediately to the north of the church is not built on.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Coulson Building Group who commissioned the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, in particular David Watson and Thomas Gillard. The project was managed by Aileen Connor and site survey carried out by Malgorzata Kwiatowska. The fieldwork was directed by the author, with the assistance of Malgorzata Kwiatowska, Thomas Sigsworth, Tom Brooks and Rich Kevill.

2 PROJECT SCOPE

- 2.1.1 This report pertains to the excavation carried out at by OA East at Fordham Primary School, Isleham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire. It details the results of the excavation and includes an updated Project Design with recommendations for further work and Publication.

3 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Research Frameworks

- 3.1.1 This excavation takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:
- Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24)
 - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3)
 - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8)
- 3.1.2 The research agenda and strategy (Brown and Glazebrook eds 2000) highlighted a number of topics which required further study, and the revised edition (2011) identifies several new areas of research. Synthesis is now considered to be a key tool to further research into these questions, however the gathering of data to help to contribute towards syntheses and overviews remains a primary aim of small, individual excavations such as the one proposed for Fordham Primary School.

3.2 Regional Research Objectives

- 3.2.1 The site at Fordham Primary School was thought to have the potential to contribute data towards the following regional synthetic themes:

- rural settlement, landscapes and social organisation
- economy – sampling may provide evidence for food and craft production and distribution The interchange between rural food supplies and urban industrial and craft products was essential for both town and village or hamlet.
- land-use changes
- culture and religion and the relationship between church and settlement
- morphology of settlements sites of the early to middle Anglo-Saxon period regional differences
- ethnicity and regional contacts as traced through the study of finds

3.3 Local Research Objectives

3.3.1 The site at Fordham Primary School has the potential to contribute data towards the following local synthetic themes:

- to investigate the date, character and morphology of Saxon activity in the area.
- to contribute to an understanding of the Saxon origins and development of the village, and of the character of Saxon settlement in East Cambridgeshire

3.4 Site Specific Research Objectives

3.4.1 The site at Fordham Primary School has the potential to contribute data towards the following site specific objectives:

- Phasing of individual features using artefactual and stratigraphic data

4 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The excavation contained evidence of occupation dating from the Late Saxon to post-medieval/modern periods. This activity has been divided into a number of phases, listed below. The phasing is based on the pottery dating, stratigraphic and spatial relationships.
- 4.1.2 Several groups of features were undated and could not be associated with any of the datable or phased groups of features; these are described in an undated section below.
- 4.1.3 Some of the features contained single sherds of Bronze Age and Roman pottery and a Roman coin which are thought to be residual.

Phase 1 Late Saxon- Early medieval 10th- 11th Century.

Phase 2 Medieval 12th- 13th Century.

Phase 3 Late Medieval 15th-16th Century.

Phase 4 Post Medieval-Modern 19th- 20th century.

4.2 Late Saxon-Early Medieval (Phase 1)

- 4.2.1 The site was located to the north-west of a cross-roads, with Isleham Road to the east, to the south were Carter Street and St Peter's Church. The earliest phase of activity identified dates to the late Saxon or early medieval period. Features associated with this phase comprised a series of ditches aligned approximately east to west and north to south. The ditches appeared to divide the site into three plots (1 to 3) and a possible track aligned with Carter Street and Isleham Road.
- 4.2.2 The southernmost plot (Plot 1) was defined by ditches on two sides (north; **29**, **45**, **47**, **67**, **75** and east; **27**), within the plot was a rectangular, flat based pit with evidence for posts on three sides (**65**) that had the typical characteristics of a Sunken Featured Building (SFB). The building followed the same alignment as the ditches. The pottery recovered from the SFB fills dates to the 10th to mid 12th centuries,
- 4.2.3 A small number of possible post holes within this plot may belong to the same phase.
- 4.2.4 Approximately 23 metres to the north of ditch **29** etc. was a parallel ditch (**100**), although undated, its alignment suggests that it was contemporary. The area between the two ditches provided no evidence for Phase 1 activity although several undated post holes and pits may belong to this phase.
- 4.2.5 Another 10m to the north of ditch **100** was a third ditch alignment (**173** and **175**) comprising two intercutting ditches (**173** and **175**) forming a slightly sinuous east to west alignment that continued westwards beyond the edges of the excavated area and had been recorded in an earlier investigation (Connor 2001) as ditches 5 and 11.
- 4.2.6 The area between ditches **100** and **173** etc may represent another plot within which were a number of features of uncertain date. The vestiges of shallow linear features (**80** and **139**) have been assigned to Phase 1 on the basis of their alignment, but several undated post holes could also belong with this phase.
- 4.2.7 Five metres to the north of ditch 173 etc was ditch 171, which had been recorded as ditch 2 in a previous investigation (Connor 2001). These two ditches were interpreted as possibly marking a track way leading from Isleham Road.

4.2.8 One feature (ditch 157) was located between these ditches, and must pre-date them, as although undated, it was cut by ditch **173**.

4.3 Medieval (Phase 2)

4.3.1 The excavation provided evidence that activity continued into the medieval period in the form of pits and post holes. No ditches have been assigned to this phase although it is likely that the boundaries established by the Phase 1 ditches continued into the medieval period. Features assigned to this phase appeared on the whole to be somewhat randomly positioned although an east to west line of post holes (**111**, **158**, **160**, **162** and **164**) may be evidence for a continuation of the earlier alignments. Dating evidence was only found in one of these features; a fragment of 12th century pottery.

4.3.2 The most southerly plot which had been established in Phase 1 contained several pits, some of them intercutting. Amongst these, four (**17**, **23**, **25**, and **43**) contained pottery that dated to the mid 12th century. Other features in this area were less productive but have been assigned to Phase 2 based on the similarities in character.

4.3.3 Plot 2 contained sparse features and only one that has been assigned to Phase 2, an isolated pit (**132**) that contained pottery of mid 12th century date and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe that is likely to be intrusive.

4.4 Late Medieval (Phase 3)

4.4.1 Three features were assigned to this phase, two ditches **8** and **147** and a pit feature **12**. All are described below.

4.4.2 A slightly curving ditch (**8=15**) terminated in the south part of the site. Its fills comprised a mid to dark grey brown and mid yellowish brown silty sands with pebble and flint inclusions which contained pottery dating from the mid 12th to 15th centuries.

4.4.3 A shallow pit (**12**) was recorded cutting ditch **8**. Its single fill (11) contained pottery of 15th century date and comprised a mid greyish brown silty sand.

4.4.4 Ditch **147**, located at the north-east corner of Area B, cut a Late Saxon ditch **149** and medieval pit **145** and ditch **185**. Although the fill of ditch **147** contained no dating evidence it was thought that, given the fact it cut these features, it belonged to the late medieval period. The fill 146 comprised a mid to pale grey brown sandy silt with inclusions of pebbles and flints.

4.5 Post Medieval-Modern (Phase 4)

4.5.1 A series of post medieval-modern features were recorded during the excavation and these were possibly associated with landscaping features and play areas for the school.

4.5.2 A large tree bowl **21** was filled by 18, 19 and 20. The fills comprised a very dark brownish grey, a mid brownish yellow and a mid yellowish brown silty sands respectively.

4.5.3 Tree throw **41** was filled by a mid greyish brown sandy silt (40) which contained flint and bone fragments.

4.5.4 Large pit (**109**) was a possible a quarry. This pit was filled by 72, 73 and 74 comprising a dark grey, a mid yellow brown and a mid grey brown sandy silt respectively.

4.5.5 A large pit **143** was filled by a mid grey brown and pale yellow brown sandy silt. This feature represented a levelling episode associated with the playground area of the school.

- 4.5.6 A total of six pits or modern trenches (**54, 56, 58, 97, 166** and **168**) each cut the sub soil (2) and each filled by backfill material comprising very dark grey, dark grey brown and mid reddish brown sandy silts.
- 4.5.7 Within the north end of the site, modern drains and services associated with the present school, had truncated Saxon boundary ditches.
- 4.5.8 A large area of disturbance, within the southern half of area B, represented the remains of a possible quarry **186**, two machine excavated sondages, cut into the feature had determined it to be of modern date, and recorded cutting ditch **100**, pit **94** and post hole **92**.

4.6 Undated features

- 4.6.1 Several features were recorded across the site and are described below:
- 4.6.2 Group 1 consisted of three pits (**135, 137** and **177**) which were located towards the north end of Area B. Their fills comprised mid to dark grey brown and mid reddish brown sandy silts.
- 4.6.3 The three post holes that comprised Group 2 (**33, 35**, and **37**) were located towards the south corner of Area A. These features were filled with mid to dark greyish brown sandy silts.
- 4.6.4 Group 3 was located within the southern part of Area B and comprised a shallow ditch or pit **94** and post holes **82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 96** and **102**. The fills of these features consisted of pale-dark grey, mid grey brown and mid-very dark grey brown sandy silts.
- 4.6.5 The three post holes that comprised Group 4 (**113, 115**, and **117**) formed a west to east line within the northern part of Area B and were filled with pale grey silty sands. These post holes formed a line parallel to boundary ditches located to the north and a line of post holes to the south, which ran into Area C. As these features have been dated to the Late Saxon and medieval periods, this group could belong to either periods.
- 4.6.6 Group 5 consisted of two post holes (**119** and **121**) located south-west of Group 4. These post holes were filled by 118 and 120 respectively which comprised a pale grey sandy silt.

5 FACTUAL DATA AND ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

5.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

The Excavation Record

5.1.1 *Quantity of records*

All hand written records have been collated and checked for internal consistency, and the site records have been transcribed onto an MS Access Database. Quantities of records are laid out in the table below.

Type	Quantity FORPRS16	Quantity FORPS01
Context registers	5	2
Context records	186	55
Plan registers	1	1
Section registers	2	1

Type	Quantity FORPRS16	Quantity FORPS01
Sample registers	3	1
Plans	33	5
Sections	66	14
Black and white films	3	1
Digital photographs	54	0
Colour print films	0	1
Colour slide films	0	1

Table 5.1.1: Quantity of records

Range and Variety

- 5.1.2 Pits, ditches, post holes and a SFB where uncovered on this site. These features were generally small to moderate in size.

Condition

- 5.1.3 All written records are black ink on paper, they are completed and in good condition. All drawn records are pencil on film, they are complete and in good condition. All digital records including photographs are located in project folder (FORPRS16) on OAE Server and are backed up daily onto OA Central Server and weekly onto external hard drive.

Further works and Methods Statement

- 5.1.4 The research potential of this site can be enhanced by combining it with the results of previous investigations on the site (Connor 2001) and placing the work in its wider context. It is therefore proposed to prepare an illustrated article for the local journal (PCAS) that will combine the results of both investigations and discuss the implications for the origins and development of Fordham.

5.2 Finds and Environmental Quantification

- 5.2.1 Table 5.2.1 shows the quantity of artefactual and environmental material from the site.

Type	Quantity FORPRS16	Quantity FORPS01
Pottery (kg)	1.023	0.639
Animal bone (kg)	6.634	0.402
Fired clay (kg)	0.95	0
Worked Stone	0.668	0.178
CBM (kg)	4.88	0.032
Shell (kg)	0.124	0.019
Flint (kg)	0.09	0.010
Small finds (metal) (no.)	9	3
Small finds (other) (no.)	0	1
Metalworking debris	2.971	trace

Type	Quantity FORPRS16	Quantity FORPS01
Environmental Samples (no.)	23	3

Table 5.2.1: Quantity of material

5.3 Pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

5.3.1 The pottery assemblage (FORPRS16) comprised 97 sherds with a total weight of 1023g. It comprised a mixture of prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and later wares, as follows:

ELY: Ely Ware, mid 12th -14th century (Spoerry 2008). 26 sherds, 324g

EMS: Early/middle Anglo-Saxon Organic-tempered Wares, 5th – 9th century. 1 sherd, 4g

EMW: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, 12th – 14th century (eg. Jennings 1981). 2 sherds, 15g

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century. (Brears 1969). 1 sherd, 24g

HED: Hedingham Glazed Ware, mid/late 12th – 14th century (Walker 2012). 6 sherds, 210g

HCW: Hedingham Coarse Ware, mid 12th – 14th century (ibid.). 27 sherds, 209g

LMT: Late Medieval Transitional Ware. 1400–1550 (eg. Anderson et. al 1996). 6 sherds, 28g

MOD: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares. 12 sherds, 60g

PST: Flint-tempered Ware, late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age. 8 sherds, 82g

RB: All Romano-British. 3 sherds, 30g

SCR: Scarborough ware, 12th – 14th century (Farmer and Farmer 1982). 1 sherd, 12g

SNW: St Neots Ware, AD900-1100 (Denham 1985). 3 sherds, 24g

STAM: Stamford Ware, AD900-1200 (Kilmurry 1980). 1 sherd, 1g

5.3.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 5.3.1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region.

5.3.3 The prehistoric pottery is all plain bodysherds except for that from context (39) which is from a flat base. It is in very good condition, despite being residual. Consequently, the sherds can only be broadly dated to the late Bronze Age – early Iron Age, a period when flint-based fabrics were common in the region (eg. Barclay 1999).

5.3.4 The small assemblage of Anglo-Saxon pottery is also typical of sites in the region. The single sherd of EMS is very abraded, with both surfaces missing. The sherd of St Neots Ware from (124), although fairly large, is also very degraded and could easily be residual. The sherd of Stamford Ware from (62) is an early fabric, and probably of 10th century date.

- 5.3.5 The range of medieval fabrics encompasses types which are commonly found in the area. The range of vessels forms is typical of the earlier medieval period (12th – 14th century), comprising entirely jars, bowls and jugs. The Hedingham Ware from context (2) includes a near-complete twisted handle from a glazed jug. These are closely associated with the “Stamped Strip” style of decoration, and are of 13th – early 14th century date (Cotter 2000, 81 and fig. 52). The few other sherds of glazed Hedingham Ware present are all plain, other than a single small sherd with a fragment of a painted stripe in red slip from context (61). It is not closely dateable.
- 5.3.6 The assemblage is generally in fairly good condition and, the obvious residual material aside, appears reliably stratified, although the generally fairly small context-specific assemblage and sherd sizes suggest that most of it is the product of secondary deposition.

Further works and Methods Statement

- 5.3.7 No further analysis is recommended but the pottery from the previous investigations (FORPS01) should be integrated with this assemblage and a summary prepared for inclusion in publication.



Cntxt		Phase	PST		RB		EMS		SNW		STAM		EMW		ELY		HCW		SCR		HED		LMT		GRE		MOD		Date
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	Topsoil				1	13											1	4			3	197							13thC*
3	5	2											1	40														M12thC	
4	5	2										1	8															12thC	
6	8	3																				1	2					15thC	
7	8	3											2	21														M12thC	
9	10	3											1	7	1	5												M12thC	
11	12	3														1	20					1	1					15thC	
13	15	3																				2	6					15thC	
14	15	3																				1	12					15thC	
16	17	2											9	14 7					1	12								M12thC	
22	23	2											1	18														M12thC	
26	27	1	1	6																								LBA	
30	31	2	1	6												1	3											M12thC	
39	38	2	1	35									2	25	2	5				1	8							M12thC	
42	43	2											1	9														M12thC	
46	47	1											4	26	1	3												M12thC	
53	52	2					1	4					2	14	2	8												M12thC	
54	54	4																								6	2 4	MOD	
57	56	4																								1	1	MOD	
61	60	2			1	13											11	82			1	2						M12thC	
62	65	1									1	1																10thC	
64	65	1	2	15									1	7														M12thC	
66	67	1			1	4																						RB	
72	109	4	1	1													1	3				1	7					15thC	
74	109	4											1	9											1	24		M16thC	
78	76	2															1	6										M12thC	
98	97	4																								2	3	MOD	
124	65	1							1	12																		10thC	



Cnxt		Phase	PST		RB		EMS		SNW		STAM		EMW		ELY		HCW		SCR		HED		LMT		GRE		MOD		Date		
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			
130	129	2	1	16												3	55												M12thC		
131	132	2												1	1	1	9			1	3								M12thC		
144	145	2	1	3					1	8			1	7															12thC		
159	158	2														1	6												M12thC		
167	166	4																								3	3	2	MOD		
172	173	1							1	4																			10thC		
Total			8	82	3	30	1	4	3	24	1	1	2	15	26	32	4	27	20	9	1	12	6	210	6	28	1	24	12	6	0

Table 5.3.1: Number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type

5.4 Ceramic Building Material

By Ted Levermore

Introduction

- 5.4.1 Archaeological work produced seven fragments (488g) of Ceramic Building Material (CBM). The assemblage is fragmentary and abraded and therefore not closely datable. The fragments are broadly post medieval and modern.

Methodology

- 5.4.2 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. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible.
- 5.4.3 The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive. A summary of the catalogue can be found in Table 5.4.1.

Assemblage and Discussion

- 5.4.4 This assemblage is made up of flat tile and undiagnostic brick fragments from seven contexts. Two of the contexts have been dated, by pottery, to the 15th century which is concurrent to the post-medieval dates given to the CBM.
- 5.4.5 There are two modern fragments from contexts 98 and 167.
- 5.4.6 The post-medieval CBM recovered here is related to the discard of building material and its subsequent dispersal through the landscape. The majority of the fragments come from post-medieval to modern contexts and the fragments from earlier phases are too small to contribute to research aims.

Context	Cut	Phase	Feature	Brick	Tile	Undiag.	Weight (g)	Comment
2	-		Subsoil		2		96	
6	8	3	Pit		1		44	Peg Tile
18	21	4	Pit	1	1	1	123	
72	109	4	Pit	1			65	
98	97	4	Ditch		1		137	Modern
165	164	2	Pit		1		20	
167	166	4	Pit			1	18	Modern
			Total	2	5	2	488	

Table 5.4.1: CBM Catalogue

5.5 Fired Clay

By Ted Levermore

Introduction

- 5.5.1 Archaeological work produced seven fragments (95g) of fired clay; five amorphous and two structural fragments. One of the structural fragments exhibits a withie impression and another has a flattened surface. The assemblage is fragmentary and abraded.

Methodology

- 5.5.2 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.
- 5.5.3 The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive. A summary of the catalogue can be found in Table 5.5.1.

Assemblage and Discussion

- 5.5.4 Two contexts produced fired clay. Pit **145** contained four fragments in four fabrics. One fragment exhibited a flattened surface. The pottery assemblage dates this pit to the 12th century. Context 146, which is undated, produced three fragments in two fabrics. One fragment has a linear rod impression present which is probably from a wattle or withy.
- 5.5.5 None of the fired clay in this assemblage is diagnostic and therefore no function can be discerned. Fired clay is usually related to walls, hearths, ovens or kilns.
- 5.5.6 No further work is recommended.

Context	Cut	Phase	Count	Weight (g)	Comment
144	145		2 4	48	One fragment with withy impression
146	147		3 3	47	One fragment with a flattened surface
	Total		7	95	

Table 5.5.1: Fired Clay Catalogue

5.6 Small Finds

By Chris Howard-Davis

Introduction

- 5.6.1 The excavation at Fordham Primary School produced a small assemblage of metal objects. These objects should be considered in conjunction with a small assemblage recovered from adjacent excavation on the same site in 2001

Quantification

- 5.6.2 The assemblage comprises a copper-alloy coin, a fragment of lead and seven iron objects.

Provenance

- 5.6.3 A well-preserved Roman coin (Sf 3) was recovered from pit 60 (fill 61). It is a follis of Constantine I, issued by the Trier mint between AD 313 and AD 315

(www.wildwinds.com/coins/ric/constantine/_trier_RIC_VII_040_type_2.jpg; accessed 14.9.2016). Medieval pottery from the same fill suggests strongly that the coin is residual.

Obv: IMP CONSTANTIUS AUG (laureate and cuirassed bust, right)

Rev: SOLI INVICTO COMITI (Sol standing left, with chlamys across left shoulder, holding globe, raising right hand. T and F to each side of figure. Mint mark below, PTR

FORPRS16, fill 61 (pit 60), Sf 3, Phase 2

- 5.6.4 A single fragment of lead (Sf 5) from the same context. An irregular, almost leaf-shaped, cut fragment, it is probably a lost or discarded offcut.

Elongated, leaf-shaped fragment of lead sheet, the edges cut at a shallow angle. Bent and slightly distorted, but otherwise in good condition.

L: 37mm; W: 13mm, Th: 1.5mm

FORPRS16, fill 61 (pit 60), Sf 5, Phase 2

- 5.6.5 A small group of seven iron objects was also recovered. In good condition, their forms are easily recognisable. There is little variety, however, with five of them being nails, a sixth (Sf 8), from quarry 145 (fill 144) a horseshoe nail, and the final object (Sf 2), from pit 17 (fill 16), a blade fragment. Apart from Sf 8, a fiddle-key horseshoe nail of medieval date (thirteenth to fourteenth century in London; Clark 1995), and the long narrow triangular form of blade Sf 2 suggesting a medieval date, there is nothing chronologically diagnostic within the group. Note that the dimensions, taken from corroded objects, are an approximate guide only.

Nail, incomplete, fair condition. Head and shaft fragment.

L: 45mm; Diam head: 13mm

FORPRS16, fill 66 ditch 67, Sf 7, Phase 1

Nail, incomplete. Fair condition. Head and shaft fragment.

L: 30mm; Diam head: 12mm

FORPRS16, fill 61 (pit 60), Sf 4, Phase 2

Nail, incomplete, poor condition. Head and shaft fragment. Clenched at c 35mm.

L: 41mm; Diam head: 12mm

FORPRS16, fill 11 (pit 12), Sf 1, Phase 3

Nail, complete. Fair condition.

L: 50mm; Diam head: 12mm

FORPRS16, fill 72 (quarry 109), Sf 6, Phase 4

Nail, incomplete. Fair condition. Shaft only. Bent from extraction?

L: 54mm

FORPRS16, fill 95 (pit 96), Sf 9, unphased

Fiddle-key horseshoe nail, complete? Fair condition.

L: 40mm; W head: 12mm

FORPRS16, fill 144 (quarry 145), Sf 8, Phase 2

Tip of blade with blade edge curving up slightly to meet the back in a slender point. Fair condition.

L: 53mm; W: 14mm; Th: 2mm

FORPRS16, fill 16 (pit 17), Sf 2, Phase 2

Sampling Bias

5.6.6 No sampling bias was noted.

Statement of Research Potential

5.6.7 The blade is of interest, particularly when considered with three blades found in an earlier investigation on the same site (Connor 2001).

Further Work and Methods Statement

5.6.1 This small assemblage has little potential to add to the research aims of the project, or in understanding the site and its development. No further work is required other than a short note in publication to include the three knives found in the earlier investigation on the site (Connor 2001).

5.7 Metalworking Debris

By Sarah Percival

5.7.1 A total of 2.971kg of iron metalworking debris was recovered from 12th century pit 145 in trench B (Table 5.7.1). The assemblage comprises 2.060kg of ferruginous, rusty conglomerate lumps some with highly vitrified surfaces and five pieces of vitrified clay lining with green glassy surfaces and sandy undersides. This vitrified lining forms on the hearth base during iron smelting, iron smithing or non-ferrous metal working due to a reaction between the clay lining and alkaline fuel ash or fayalitic (tapping) slag. A small, dense concave fragment with bubbly, hollowed upper surface appears to be from a small plano-convex hearth base similar to examples found in Late Saxon to early medieval contexts at Mill Lane, Thetford (Starley and Doonan 2004, 53).

Phase	Feature	Feature type	Context	Quantity	Weight in kg	Comments
2	145	Pit	144	2	0.001	Sample <21>

Phase	Feature	Feature type	Context	Quantity	Weight in kg	Comments
				36	2.060	Rusty lumps
				5	0.910	Vitrified hearth lining
Total				43	2.971	

Table 5.7.1: Metalworking debris by context

Further Work and Methods Statement

- 5.7.2 This small assemblage has little potential to add further to the research aims of the project, however it should be included in a short publication, and reference made to the presence of a disproportionate number of knives found on the site.

5.8 Worked stone

By Sarah Percival

- 5.8.1 A total of 27 pieces of worked stone weighing 668g were collected from three contexts (Table 5.8.1). A fragment of heavily burnt undiagnostic shelly limestone or clunch was collected from fill 11 of 15th century pit **12**.
- 5.8.2 Small quantities of highly abraded lava were recovered from two contexts. Four fragments weighing 10g from 10th century SFB 65 and 22 fragments, 520g, from ditch 151. Lava was widely imported into East Anglia from the Rhineland during the Roman period and again from the 8th century AS onwards (King 1986, 95) being used for the production of querns and millstones.

Phase	Cut	Feature type	Context	Lithology	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
3	12	Pit	11	Shelly limestone or clunch	1	0.138	Burnt. C15th context
1	65	SFB	62	Lava	4	0.010	C10th context
1	151	Ditch	150	Lava	22	0.520	
Total					27	0.668	

Table 5.8.1: Worked stone by context

Further Work and Methods Statement

- 5.8.3 This small assemblage has provided evidence for domestic occupation at the site, particularly in the Late Saxon to early medieval period, however, no further work is required other than to include it in a short publication article.

5.9 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction

- 5.9.1 A small assemblage of 20 struck flints was recovered from various features across the site. This report outlines the initial rapid assessment of the material.

Methodology

5.9.2 The recovered lithics were rapidly scanned and attributed to an arbitrary classification based on the size and form of the material (Table 5.9.1). This assessment took into account typological and chronological indicators but no further detailed work was undertaken. As a result this assessment is based on a rapid scan of the material and the results could change if a more detailed study was undertaken. For the purposes of this report the burnt flint was counted but no further work was carried out on this material due to the difficulty in identifying struck and burnt material.

Quantification

Type	Subtype	Totals
Core	Frag	1
Flake >50mm	Tertiary	1
Flake <50mm >25mm	Secondary	4
	Tertiary	5
Flake <25mm >10mm	Secondary	5
	Tertiary	2
Blade <10mm >5mm	Tertiary	1
Natural		1
totals		20

Table 5.9.1: Flint Quantification

Assessment

- 5.9.3 The majority of the flint is struck from a dark grey-brown semi-translucent to translucent flint with a mix of cortex forms. The thin abraded cortex, where present, is generally a light yellowish-brown to reddish-brown suggesting that the flint had been recovered from secondary sources, such as local gravels or riverine deposits.
- 5.9.4 The single small core fragment is unstructured and without evidence for platform preparation.
- 5.9.5 The range of debitage is made up of flakes, and a single blade. The majority of the flakes are relatively short and squat often with hinge or step terminations. There is little indication, as with the core fragment, of platform preparation prior to removal. The size and form of the material would suggest the majority of the assemblage is of later prehistoric date, either Bronze Age or potentially Iron Age. The blade, however, is characteristic of a Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, although it is likely that all the flint is residual in nature.

Further Work and Methods Statement

5.9.6 This small assemblage has little potential to add to the research aims of the project, or in understanding the site and its development. No further work is required.

5.10 Faunal Remains

By Zoe Ui Choileain

Introduction

- 5.10.1 A total of 6634g of bone was recovered from the excavations. The bone was retrieved from a variety of pits, ditches and post holes, the majority of which were phased and dated from the Late Saxon (Phase 1) to the post-medieval period (Phase 4). The tables below show the number of fragments found in each phase (Table 5.10.1) and the number of fragments by taxon (Table 5.10.2).

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Number of frags</i>
0	23
1	38
2	17
3	13
4	4

Table 5.10.1: No of animal bone fragments by phase

<i>Taxon</i>	<i>Number of frags</i>
	19
Cat	1
Cattle	26
equid	4
Fish	1
Large mammal	15
Medium mammal	13
Pig	5
Sheep/Goat	11

Table 5.10.2: No of animal bone fragments by taxon

Methodology

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

Results

- 5.10.3 The results are presented in the table below by context with cut number, phase and description of bones. Erosion grades are based on a simplified version of Brickley & McKinley 2004, (14-15): 0 (surface morphology clearly visible, fresh appearance), 1 (light and patchy surface erosion), 2 (more extensive surface erosion than grade 1), 3 (most of bone surface affected by some degree of erosion), 4 (all of bone surface

affected by erosive action), 5 (heavy erosion across whole surface, completely masking normal surface morphology).

Phase	Context	Cut	Element	Number of frags	Taxon	Collection method	Erosion	Butchery	Burnt	Age	Gnawed
0	2	Topsoil	Femur	1	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	No	
0	2	Topsoil	Metatarsus	2	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	Yes	
0	2	Topsoil	Tibia	2	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	No	
0	2	Topsoil	Ulna	1	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	No	
0	2	Topsoil	Indet	9	Large mammal	hand		No	No	No	
0	2	Topsoil	Metatarsus	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	2	No	No	Yes	
2	4	5	Mandible	1	Pig	bulk enviro sample	2	No	No	Yes	
3	7	8	Loose max cheek tooth	1	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	Yes	
3	7	8	Maxilla	8	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	No	
3	11	12	Rib	1	Medium mammal	hand		No	No	No	
3	13	15	Long bone	2	Medium mammal	hand		No	No	No	No
3	13	15	Rib	1	Medium mammal	hand	1	No	No	No	No
2	16	17	Metatarsus	1	equid	hand	2	No	No	Yes	No
2	16	17	Indet	1	Medium mammal	hand		No	No	No	No
4	18	21	Tibia	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	1	No	No	No	No
2	22	23	Indet	1		hand	2	No	No	No	No
1	26	27	Long bone	1	Medium mammal	hand	1	No	No	No	yes
2	30	31	Tibia	3	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	Yes	No
2	30	31	Radius	1	Pig	hand	1	No	No	Yes	No
0	40	41	Femur	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	1 erosion)	No	No	No	No
1	44	45	Mandible	1	Cat	hand	0	No	No	No	No
1	44	45	Metatarsus	1	Cattle	hand		No	No	No	No
1	44	45	Indet	1	Fish	hand	1	No	No	No	No
1	46	47	Indet	1		hand		No	Yes	No	No
1	46	47	Long bone	2	Large mammal	hand		No	No	No	No
2	61	60	Mandible	1	Equid	hand	1	Yes	No	Yes	No
2	61	60	Indet	1	Large mammal	hand	1 (No	No	No	No
2	61	60	Radius	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	1	No	No	No	No
1	62	65	Scapula	1	Cattle	hand	1)	No	No	No	No
1	62	65	Fibula	1	Pig	hand	2	No	No	No	No
1	68	65	Pelvis	1	Equid	hand	1	No	No	Yes	No
4	72	109	Rib	1	Large mammal	hand		No	No	No	No
4	72	109	Humerus	1	Pig	hand	3	No	No	No	No
4	74	109	Rib	1	Medium mammal	hand	2	No	No	No	No
2	78	76	Indet	1		bulk enviro sample		No	No	No	No
0	93	94	Metatarsus	1		hand		No	No	Yes	No
0	93	94	Rib	1	Medium mammal	hand	2)	No	No	No	No

Phase	Context	Cut	Element	Number of frags	Taxon	Collection method	Erosion	Butchery	Burnt	Age	Gnawed
1	99	100	Femur	1	Cattle	hand	2	No	No	No	No
1	99	100	Loose max cheek tooth	1	Cattle	hand		No	No	No	No
1	99	100	Maxilla	1	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	Yes	No
1	99	100	Skull	1	Large mammal	hand		No	No	No	No
1	99	100	Maxilla	1	Medium mammal	hand		No	No	No	No
1	99	100	Rib	1	Medium mammal	hand		No	No	No	No
1	99	100	Vertebra	1	Medium mammal	hand		No	No	Yes	No
1	99	100	Mandible	1	Pig	hand	1	No	No	Yes	No
1	99	100	Radius	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	1	No	No	No	No
1	103	65	Femur	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	0	No	No	No	No
1	105	65	Pelvis	1	Equid	hand	1 (Yes	No	Yes	No
1	105	65	Vertebra	1	Medium mammal	hand		No	No	Yes	No
0	118	119	Indet	1		hand	3)	No	Yes	No	No
0	118	119	Long bone	1	Medium mammal	hand	2	No	No	No	No
1	122	65	Indet	1		bulk enviro sample		No	Yes	No	No
1	124	65	Indet	1		bulk enviro sample		No	No	No	No
2	130	129	Humerus	2	Cattle	hand	2	No	No	No	No
2	130	129	Metatarsus	1	Cattle	hand	1	No	No	No	No
2	131	132	Indet	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	1	No	No	No	No
1	150	151	Tibia	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	1	No	No	No	No
1	152	152	Long bone	1	Large mammal	hand		No	No	No	No
2	159	158	Ulna	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	1	No	No	No	yes
1	172	173	Flat/cubic bone	11		hand	1	No	No	No	No
1	174	175	Indet	1		bulk enviro sample		No	No	No	No
0	176	177	Femur	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	1	No	No	Yes	Yes
0	176	177	Radius	1	Sheep/Goat	hand	2	No	No	No	No

Table 5.10.3: Faunal remains results according to collection method (i.e. hand-collection or flotation).

5.10.4 A variety of species were identified within this assemblage. The most frequently identified species was cattle which was found in all of the medieval phases (1 to 3) with the majority (9 fragments) found in Phase 3 (late medieval) deposits, by contrast no cattle bone was found in Phase 4 (post-medieval to modern) contexts. closely followed by sheep/goat. A small amount of equid and pig fragments were identified. A single fish bone and a cat mandible were identified from context 44 (Phase 1). The cat bone was

not eroded at all and may be intrusive as it appeared more modern in appearance than other bone from this site.

- 5.10.5 Phase 1 and 2 contexts (late Saxon to early medieval) produced the widest range of animal species, in addition to cattle there was horse, sheep/goat and pig. Phase 1 even produced a single fish bone and a cat bone, although the cat is likely to be intrusive.
- 5.10.6 Phase 3 context produced almost entirely cattle bone, although several bones could only be identified as medium sized mammals.
- 5.10.7 Phase 4 contexts produced only four fragments of bone, two of which are identifiable as pig and sheep/goat.
- 5.10.8 Overall the preservation was good with most of the assemblage grading a 1 or 2 on Brickley and Mckinley's scale (2004, 14-15).
- 5.10.9 The only signs of butchery observed were on the equid specimens, with chop and cut marks appearing on a horse mandible from context 61 (Phase 2) and a horse pelvis from context 105 (Phase 1). Butchery of horses in the medieval period was not uncommon and this may represent use of the animal carcass after it had outlived its usefulness as a draught animal. Context 16 (Phase 2) contained an unusually small equid metatarsus and it is possible that this may represent either a pony or donkey rather than a horse.
- 5.10.10 Degree of erosion and gnawing is very low throughout all phases which may indicate that animal remains were buried quickly and did not lie in surface middens for any length of time.
- 5.10.11 A single case of pathology was observed on a pig humerus from context 72 (Phase 4). The surface of the humerus showed periostitis or new bone growth which can often be the result of trauma to the bone.

Discussion and conclusion

- 5.10.12 Overall this is a good representation of a late Saxon to early medieval mixed domestic assemblage that shows some evidence for change to an economy based on cattle in the late medieval period. The presence of burnt bone is sparse, implying that little cooking waste was present. There are some interesting differences between assemblages present in each of the phases and the butchered horse bone indicates use of the animal carcass, however, the assemblage is too small overall to draw any firm conclusions.

Further Work and Methods Statement

- 5.10.13 The variety of species present is common for the medieval period and provides a useful dataset to add to any future excavation that may take place in the area. However, the assemblage on its own is too small to provide any more useful data and no further work is recommended.

5.11 Shell

By Lexi Scard

Introduction and Methods

- 5.11.1 A total of 0.124kg of marine shell was recovered from six contexts during excavations at Fordham Primary School, Cambridgeshire. This shell was quantified and examined

in order to assess the diversity and quantity of the ecofacts, as well as their potential to provide useful data as part of archaeological investigation.

Species	Common name	Habitat	Total weight (kg)	Total number of contexts
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	0.116	5
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Mussel	Intertidal, salt water	0.008	2

Table 5.11.1: Overview of identified, quantified shell

- 5.11.2 This assemblage is the result of shell collected by hand on site.
- 5.11.3 Only shell umbones were counted in order to obtain the minimum number of individuals (MNI) present for each species.
- 5.11.4 *Ostrea edulis* (oysters) have a defined left and right valve. To obtain the MNI for oyster shell, the number of left and right valves with umbones were counted. The largest number was then taken as the MNI.
- 5.11.5 In the case of *mytilus edulis* (mussel), it is much more difficult to identify the left and right valves and so the MNI was calculated by taking the full amount of umbones and then halving it.
- 5.11.6 In order to obtain the average size of shell per species, the length of each shell from its umbo to the ventral margin has been measured. The average measurement per context and species has then been recorded, as this can be indicative of the age of each species upon harvest.
- 5.11.7 Details of interest, for example man-made damage such as 'shucking' have also been noted.

Results

- 5.11.8 Tables of quantification for each of the two species identified can be seen below.

Cxt	Cut	Feature type	Phase	Weight (kg)	Left valve (kg and quantity)	Right valve (kg and quantity)	MNI	Average Size (cm)	Comments
16	17	Pit	2	0.069	0.042/2	0.027/1	2	6.6	Young oysters attached.
22	23	Natural	2	0.012	-	0.012/1	1	6.3	
53	52	Pit	2	0.006	-	0.006/1	1	4.7	
144	143	Pit	2	0.022	0.011/1	0.011/1	1	5.8	'Shuck' marks.
170	171	Ditch	1	0.007	0.007/1	-	1	5.4	Prominent 'shuck' mark.

Table 5.11.2. Quantified oyster shell

Cxt	Cut	Feature type	Phase	Weight (kg)	Total um-bones	MNI	Average Size (cm)	Comments
42	43	Pit	2	0.001	0	1	U/K	Fragment with no umbo.
170	171	Ditch	1	0.007	6	3	3.8	

Table 5.11.3. Quantified mussel shell

- 5.11.9 The majority of the shell assemblage was recovered from Phase 2 early medieval pits (mid 12thC).
- 5.11.10 Oyster shell predominates, accounting for 93% of the assemblage. The remaining 7% is made up by mussel.
- 5.11.11 The average size of oyster shell is 5.8 cm, with a range from 4.7cm to 6.6cm. The mussel specimens average at 3.8cm in size.
- 5.11.12 Preservation is good, with no obvious taphonomic damage nor evidence of PWI present. Shucking is prominent on some of the oyster specimens.

Discussion

- 5.11.13 Both species of the assemblage were consumed frequently during the medieval period, particularly oyster. It is therefore unsurprising to have found such shell at Fordham.
- 5.11.14 The majority of the assemblage was recovered from pits also containing artefacts such as bone, pottery sherds, flint, mortar and slag, and this is indicative of middens on site. The shells in ditch **171** as well as in natural feature **23** are most likely to be unintentional inclusions, deposited within the backfill of the features.
- 5.11.15 The fairly uniform size of both the oyster and mussel shells implies an intentional harvest and supports the notion of shellfish consumption at Fordham. The oyster specimens are of 'medium' size, making them around 3-4 years old, an age known to provide a great quantity of meat, without sacrificing its quality (Hagen 1995, 172).
- 5.11.16 'Shucking' is the process of placing a knife into the 'hinge' of an oyster or mussel, pushing it in and twisting until the valves are prised apart, exposing the meat for consumption. Such activity is known to leave a mark on bivalves, varying from a small 'u-shaped' cut along the ventral margin of the shell, to a longer, more obvious hole, usually found on the right valve of an oyster. The former type of mark was observed on the oyster shells from Fordham.
- 5.11.17 A rather equal ratio of left to right valves recovered implies that the oysters were being prepared and consumed on the same site.

Further Work and Methods Statement

- 5.11.18 The presence of marine mollusca on this site can be used as evidence of consumption at the site in the Late Saxon to early medieval periods. However, the shell assemblage is too small to provide any additional useful data and no further work is recommended.

5.12 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- 5.12.1 Twenty-three bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated area in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The features sampled were all medieval, dating from the 10th Century through to the 15th Century and include pits, ditches, post holes and a sunken feature building (SFB).

Methodology

- 5.12.2 For this assessment, a single bucket (approximately 10L) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 5.12.1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Results

- 5.12.3 Preservation is by carbonisation and is generally poor with many of the charred remains appearing abraded and/or fragmented. Plant remains are present in all but two of the samples and are predominantly charred cereal grains. All four of the common cereal types are present; free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu-lato*) predominates along with barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), rye (*Secale cereale*) and oats (*Avena* sp.). There are no chaff elements surviving so it is not possible to identify specific varieties of the cereals or whether the oats are the cultivated or wild form. Weed seeds occur occasionally and represent plants that were most probably growing amongst the cereals such as bromes (*Bromus* sp.), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.) and knotgrasses (*Polygonum* sp.). A single charred nutlet of Great Fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) hints at the use of this wetland plant that was commonly used for thatching and also as fuel.

Phase 1: Late Saxon/Early Medieval

- 5.12.4 Samples taken from ditches **47**, **137**, **171**, **173** and **178** all contain small numbers of charred cereal grains that have probably accumulated through being blown across the site. Samples were taken from six consecutive fills of SFB **65**. Charcoal volumes are low although occasional charred grains are present in each fill. It is possible that charred grains may have fallen through voids in the floorboards of the structure whilst it was still in use but the presence of grains in the subsequent fills are likely to have been included in the deliberate backfill of the feature. Post hole **125** is associated with the

SFB and also contains a similar assemblage of charred grains. Charcoal volumes are low in all of the samples from this phase. This may indicate that there were no major burning events or it could be due to lack of preservation.

Phase 2: Medieval

5.12.5 Samples taken from the medieval pits are slightly less productive than those from the earlier phase. Charred cereals are present in small quantities in pits **5, 76, 129, 145** and **160**. Pit **111** produced a moderate amount of charcoal as did pit **145**. This possibly signifies that the pit was used as a fire pit (if in-situ burning was present) or it may have been used for the disposal of hearth remains. Twelfth century ditch **5** contains only two indeterminate grains.

Phase 3: Post-medieval

5.12.6 Fifteenth century ditch **8** contains occasional charred grains.

Undated

5.12.7 Samples taken from post holes **33** and **37** (located in the south of the site) both contain charcoal that may have originated from the common practice of charring the ends of posts before they were buried. Both features also contain charred cereal grains that may have accumulated around the post whilst it was still in place. Undated pit **90** (centrally located) contains a larger volume of charcoal and this is evidence of the burning of wood.

Sample No.		1	2	23	5	6	7	8	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	3	4	17	19	20	21	22	18
Context No.		32	36	89	156	170	172	174	46	122	123	124	103	104	105	122	78	130	4	39	159	144	110	6
Feature No		33	37	90	137	171	173	178	47	65	65	65	65	65	65	125	76	129	5	38	160	145	111	8
Feature type		Post hole	Post hole	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	SFB	SFB	SFB	SFB	SFB	SFB	Post hole	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch
Phase		0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Cereals																								
<i>Avena</i> sp. Caryopsis	Oat (cultivated or wild)				1	4		1						1	1	1			2					
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. caryopsis	Barley	1					2					1			4		4							
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. caryopsis	Rye									1					1									1
<i>Triticum</i> sp. caryopsis	Free-threshing wheat	1	2		3	4		1		5	1	2	2	1	4	1	2		6			1		3
cereal indet. caryopsis	Indeterminate grain	11	5			3	2		4			3	6	1	3	2	8	5	2	2	2	1		2
Dry land herbs																								
<i>Bromus</i> sp. Caryopsis	Bromes					1																		
<i>Lamium</i> sp. Seed	Dead-nettle												2											
<i>Polygonum</i> sp. achene	Knotgrasses								1							1								
Wetland/aquatic plants																								

Sample No.		1	2	23	5	6	7	8	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	3	4	17	19	20	21	22	18
Context No.		32	36	89	156	170	172	174	46	122	123	124	103	104	105	122	78	130	4	39	159	144	110	6
Feature No		33	37	90	137	171	173	178	47	65	65	65	65	65	65	125	76	129	5	38	160	145	111	8
Feature type		Post hole	Post hole	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	SFB	SFB	SFB	SFB	SFB	SFB	Post hole	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch
Phase		0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
<i>Cladium mariscus</i> L. Pohl nut	Great Fen sedge	1																						
Other plant macrofossils																								
Charcoal volume (ml)		1	1	40	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	20	20	2
Charcoal <2mm		++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	++
Charcoal >2mm		++	+	++	+				+							+			+			++	++	++
Volume of flot (mls)		25	30	40	5	5	1	1	30	25	20	25	15	10	30	30	5	20	25	10	10	20	20	30

Table 5.12.1: Environmental samples

Discussion

5.12.8 The environmental samples taken at Fordham Primary School have produced a scatter of charred cereal grains from across the whole site and from all periods of activity. Such small quantities of preserved remains preclude further identification of the deposits sampled. Similar results were obtained from samples taken during excavation of an adjacent area (FORPS00) (Clapham 2000, 17) with small quantities of charred cereals interpreted as originating through accidental spillage during food preparation. The results from the excavation of this additional area leads to an alternative explanation that some of the charred grain may have originated from later manuring and cultivation of the site.

5.12.9 The samples have been fully quantified and it is considered that the processing of additional soil from these samples is unlikely to add to the interpretation. No further work is recommended.

6 UPDATED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6.1 Research Themes

6.1.1 The original Project Design predicted that this excavation could produce data that may contribute to a number of research themes. Whilst the evidence recovered can contribute to most of these themes in general, there is insufficient material from which to draw firm conclusions.

- *rural settlement, landscapes and social organisation*

The excavation has provided small scale evidence for localised settlement although it is not possible to discern social organisation.

- *economy*

There is some evidence for a change in economy from a mixed animal husbandry in the late Saxon to early medieval periods to a more cattle based economy in the later medieval period, however, it should be noted that this change may be more relevant to land-use than wider economy, the presence of a knife blade (added to the three from FORPS00) along with evidence for metal working suggests that there was small scale craft/industry taking place on the site

- *land-use changes*

Some evidence of localised land use change is offered, for example there seems to be a change from mixed animal to cattle (see also above), there is also evidence for a change from occupation (e.g. post built structures, SFB) to agricultural/extraction (e.g. ditches, extraction pits)

- *culture and religion and the relationship between church and settlement*

No evidence of religious significance was recovered from the excavations and this theme is therefore not relevant

- *morphology of settlements sites of the early to middle Anglo-Saxon period*

No evidence for early to Middle Saxon settlement was recovered, the SFB is of an Early Saxon type but the only finds were Late Saxon in date.

- *ethnicity and regional contacts as traced through the study of finds*

Only a limited range of finds was recovered, the range of pottery is standard for sites of this period and displays evidence for regional contacts, the presence of lava quern shows that the occupants of this site would have had access to materials that originated on the continent.

6.2 Local Research Objectives

6.2.1 The site at Fordham Primary School has the potential to contribute data towards the following local synthetic themes:

- *to investigate the date, character and morphology of Saxon activity in the area*

The excavation has been moderately successful in meeting this aim, with good evidence for Late Saxon/early medieval settlement in the form of post holes, and SFB, evidence for metalworking, a mixed animal husbandry economy and limited evidence for use of cereals and trading links.

- *to contribute to an understanding of the Saxon origins and development of the village, and of the character of Saxon settlement in East Cambridgeshire*

The excavation was very limited in scale but has demonstrated that the village origins of Soham were not confined to an area to the south of the church but continued to the north, perhaps only nucleating in the medieval period and this may have implications for study of other villages in East Cambridgeshire.

6.3 Site Specific Research Objectives

6.3.1 The site at Fordham Primary School has the potential to contribute data towards the following site specific objectives:

- *Phasing of individual features using artefactual and stratigraphic data*

This objective has been met for the majority of the features and deposits excavated. There is no potential for further phasing other than to integrate this excavation with previous work on the site (FORPS00).

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Late Saxon-Early Medieval (Phase 1)

- 7.1.1 The earliest phase of activity identified dates to the late Saxon or early medieval period. Features associated with this phase comprised a series of ditches aligned approximately east to west and north to south. These ditches were on the saem alignment as the road system that is still in use today and indicate that the modern village morphology is still rooted to its Anglo-Saxon origins. The ditches appeared to divide the site into three plots (1 to 3) and a possible track aligned with Carter Street and Isleham Road (also found in Phase 2 FORPS 00). A Sunken Featured Building lay within the southernmost plot but contained little evidence for its function or date, although it is assumed to have been open in the 10th century since pottery of that date as found in its fills. The other “plots” also showed evidence for structures but their form was unclear.
- 7.1.2 The evidence for economy and land use is variable for this phase. Plant based food stuffs in this phase are sparse, being confined to just a scatter of charred cereal grains throughout all features, although the presence of lava stone attests to the use of grinding seeds in food preparation and comparison with the better preserved assemblage of charred cereals from the FORPS00 excavation can be made. Faunal based resources are better represented, and the earliest phase produced a wide range of different fauna including fish and even cat (although it is recognised that this may be a later intrusion). An equally diverse range of faunal remains was recovered from FORPS00 Phase 2 which additionally included remains of a dog or fox. Evidence that mussels and oysters were being used during this period was also found.
- 7.1.3 A small assemblage of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the site, including a sherd of probable 10th century date that may be contemporary with the SFB in which it was found. Several pieces were found in later features including a very degraded sherd of possible early date. This contrasts considerably with the relatively large assemblage of Late Saxon pottery (43 sherds) recovered from FORPS00, the largest group (17 sherds) being recovered from a single ditch fill.

7.2 Medieval (Phase 2)

- 7.2.1 The excavation provided evidence that activity continued into the early medieval period in the form of pits and post holes. It is likely that the boundaries established in Phase 1 continued as landscape features into the medieval period and it may be that buildings simply continued in use as well.
- 7.2.2 The main evidence for activity in this phase came from pits and these displayed a similar range of consumables as those found in Phase 1, including sparse cereal remains, edible shell fish, and a range of animals, although no fish was recovered. Pottery provides further evidence for domestic consumption with jars, bowls and jugs present. Evidence for metalworking is seen for the first time in this phase and the presence of a single knife may indicate the making or at least mending and sharpening of such objects. Three knives and a whetstone from FORPS00 Phase 2 may suggest this was a moderately important activity, although the FORPS blades all came from earlier ditches.
- 7.2.3 Beyond the range of pottery types present, all typical of the area, there is little evidence for trade or contact further afield.

7.3 Late Medieval (Phase 3)

- 7.3.1 There is limited evidence for activity continuing into the late medieval phase but it is interesting to note a change in the character of the features and in the character of the finds. Evidence for structures or clear boundaries was lacking for this phase and only a single pit was present. A possibly annular or penannular ditch was observed in the southern corner of the site that may be evidence for some kind of animal pen, managed hay stack or midden, or (and perhaps less likely) remains of an early windmill. The faunal remains also suggest a fairly big change in that (of those that are identifiable) the vast majority are of cattle suggesting a move towards specialisation. Very little pottery of late medieval date was found implying that this area was no longer given over to domestic occupation.

8 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING

8.1 Publication

It is proposed that this report, together with the report on previous investigation on the site (FORPS00), will provide the basis for a short article based on the text presented in this report and in Connor 2001 to be submitted to *The Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society*. The article will be authored by Michael Webster and Aileen Connor

Publication Synopsis

- 8.1.1 This article will draw together the results of excavations that took place in 2000 and 2016 close to the church in the grounds of school at Fordham, Cambridgeshire. The excavations have together provided evidence of likely planned occupation in the late Saxon period comprising a series of ditched boundaries and possible trackway indicative of separate properties. A Sunken Featured Building and associated pits and post holes together with evidence for a mixed farming economy are key features that will be described and discussed. This activity continued into the early medieval period when the presence of small scale metal working together with an assemblage of knives suggests some specialist craft working was also taking place on the site. The article will place the excavations in context with particular reference to investigations that have taken place elsewhere in Fordham and will discuss how this excavation has changed our understanding of the morphology of the Late Saxon/early medieval village. The article is anticipated to comprise approximately two pages of text, three line drawings and two photographs.

8.2 Storage and Curation

- 8.2.1 Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Cambridgeshire County Council in appropriate county stores under the Site Code FORPRS16 and the county HER code ECB 4713. A digital archive will be deposited with OA Library. CCC requires transfer of ownership prior to deposition (see Section 10). During analysis and report preparation, OA East will hold all material and reserves the right to send material for specialist analysis.
- 8.2.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with current OA East guidelines, which are based on current national guidelines

8.3 Publication

- 8.3.1 It is proposed that the results of the project should be published in *The Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society*. A short article authored by Michael Webster and Aileen Connor with contributions by Finds Specialists.
- 8.3.2 The publication synopsis has been submitted to *The Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society*.

9 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

9.1 Project Team Structure

Name	Initials	Project Role	Establishment
Aileen Connor	AC	Project Manager/Author	OAE
Rachel Clarke	RC	Editor	OAE
Michael Webster	MW	Author	OAE
Kat Hamilton	KH	Archivist	OAE
Illustrator	Illus	Illustrations	OAE

Table 9.1.1: Project Team

9.2 Stages, Products and Tasks

Task No.	Task	Product No.*	Staff	No. hours
Project Management				
1	Project management	1	AC	2
2	Team meetings	1	AC/MW/Illus	1
3	Liaison with relevant staff and specialists, distribution of relevant information and materials	1	AC/MW	1
Stage 1: Prepare Publication Draft				
Illustration				
	Prepare publication figures	1	illus	7.5
	Paste photographs for inclusion in the publication	1	illus	4
Stage 2: Publication				
	Write text	1	AC/MW	15
	Choose report figures	1	AC/MW	1
	Collate/edit captions, bibliography, appendices etc	1	MW	1
	Produce draft report	1	MW	1
	Internal edit	1	RC	2
	Incorporate internal edits	1	AC	2
	Send to publisher for refereeing	1	RC	0.5
	Post-refereeing revisions	1	AC	2
	Copy edit queries	1	AC	1
	Proof-reading	1	RC	1
Stage 3: Archiving				

Task No.	Task	Product No.*	Staff	No. hours
	Compile paper archive	2	KH	2.5
	Archive/delete digital photographs	2	MW	2.5
	Compile/check material archive	2	KH	2.5

*Table *9.2.1 Task list*

* See Appendix B for product details and Appendix C for the project risk log.

10 OWNERSHIP

10.1.1 The Project Archive (all documents and finds) are owned by the landowner (Cambridgeshire County Council).



APPENDIX A. CONTEXT LIST

Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
1	0	0 layer		Top Soil	0		0.3	Dark grey brown	silty clay	flints and pebbles	loose to friable	
2	0	0 layer		Soil	0		0.25	mid grey	silty clay	flints pebbles sand lenses and charcoal lumps	firm to friable	contains pottery cbm and bone upper secondary fill ofv pit or linear butt end contains pottery bone and glass
3	2	5 fill		pit	0	0.56	0.17	mid brownish grey	silty sand	pebbles and flints	loose to firm	the primary fill to pit or linear butt end contains pottery and bone
4	2	5 fill		pit	0	0.42	0.29	mid yellow brown	silty sand	gravels and pebbles	loose	
5	2	5 cut		pit	0	0.56	0.29	linear	steep near vertical	sharp	concave	nw-se the fill of shallow ditch recorded in box section.
6	3	8 fill		ditch	0	0.64	0.14	dark greyish brown	silty sand	pebbles and flints sand lenses	loose	Contains pottery and cbm the primary fill to ditch recorded in box section equated to fill 14 contains pottery, bone and flint
7	3	8 fill		ditch	0	0.55	0.3	mid yellowish brown	silty sand	gravels and small pebbles and flints	loose	
8	3	8 cut		ditch	0	0.64	0.3	curvilinear	steep	moderate	concave	nw-s
9	3	10 fill		ditch	4.5	0.35	0.19	mid greyish brown	silty sand	common subrounded to angular small and med stones	soft	contains pottery
10	3	10 cut		ditch	4.5	0.35	0.19	linear	steep	sharp	concave	n-s



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
11	3	12 fill	pit		1.72	1.3	0.1	mid greyish brown	silty sand	occ small angular pebbles	soft	contains pottery, bone and stone
12	3	12 cut	pit		1.72	1.3	0.1	sub-circular	imperceptible	imperceptible	flat	
13	3	15 fill	ditch			0.56	0.22	mid brownish grey	silty sand	some subrounded to subangular pebbles to medium stones	soft	contains pottery and bone
14	3	15 fill	ditch				0.3	mid greyish brown	silty sand	some gravel	soft	contains pottery
15	3	15 cut	ditch			0.56	0.3	curvilinear	steep	sharp	concave	nw-se poss contemporary with 24 contains pottery, bone shell and flint
16	2	17 fill	pit		1.43	0.6	0.41	dark brownish grey	silty sand	common subrounded to angular small pebbles to medium stones	soft	
17	2	17 cut	pit		1.43	0.6	0.41	sub-circular	vertical	sharp	concave	
18	4	21 fill	pit		5.5	1.61	0.41	v dark brownish grey	silty sand	occ medsize subangular and angular flint pebbles randomly distributed	soft	contains pottery, cbm and bone
19	4	21 fill	pit				0.61	mid brownish yellow	sand	v freq fine gravel throughout	soft	v similar to natural
20	4	21 fill	pit				0.71	mid yellowish brown	silty sand	mod subangular to angular small pebbles, some gravel	soft	
21	4	21 cut	pit		5.5		0.78	amorphous	steep to vertical in w	sharp	concave	se-nw
22	2	23 fill	natural		1.97	1.14	0.38	mid greyish brown	silty sand	mod subangular to angular medium pebbles randomly distributed throughout	soft	med pot bone, shell, flint and coal?
23	2	23 cut	natural		1.97	1.14	0.38	amorphous	steep to e,nr vertical to n	sharp	flat	



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
24	2	25 fill	pit		1.89	1.16	0.41	mid dark brownish grey	silty sand	freq gravel, comon subangular to angular small pebble to small stones	soft	
25	2	25 cut	pit		1.89	1.16	0.41	sub-circular	steep, nr vertical	sharp	concave	
26	1	27 fill	ditch		1.9	0.42	0.11	mid greyish brown	silty sand	mod small subrounded to angular flint pebbles	soft	contains pottery and bone
27	1	27 cut	ditch		1.9	0.42	0.11	linear	mod	gradual	flat	n-s
28	1	29 fill	ditch			0.6	0.13	mid brownish grey	silty sand	freq small subrounded pebbles, freq subrounded small stones	soft	
29	1	29 cut	ditch			0.6	0.13	linear	mod	gradual	concave	e-w
30	2	31 fill	pit		0.55	1.3	0.4	mid greyish brown	silty sand	some angular medium stones and small tones	soft	pottery flint and bone
31	2	31 cut	pit			1.3	0.4	sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave	
32	0	33 fill	post hole		0.38	0.32	0.23	dark greyish brown	silty sand	occ small subangular pebbles	soft	
33	0	33 cut	post hole		0.38	0.32	0.23	sub-circular	vertical	sharp	concave	
34	0	35 fill	post hole		0.24	0.31	0.13	dark greyish brown	silty sand	rare small subangular pebble, rare fine gravel at base	soft	
35	0	35 cut	post hole		0.24	0.31	0.13	sub-circular	steep	w sharp, e gradual	concave	
36	0	37 fill	post hole		0.4	0.3	0.18	mid greyish brown	silty sand	occ small subrounded to subangular pebbles	soft	
37	0	37 cut	post hole		0.4	0.3	0.18	sub-circular	w vertical, e sharp	sharp	concave	
38	2	38 cut	pit		1.46	1.46	0.65	circular	sheer	sharp	flat	
39	2	38 fill	pit		1.46	1.46	0.65	mid reddish brown	fine sand	angular flint stones, sporadic	firm	



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
40	0	41 fill	natural		2.45	1.56	0.17	mid greyish brown	silty sand	common subrounded to subangular small and medium flint stones, pockets of gravel esp in hollows in natural	soft	contains bone and flint
41	0	41 cut	natural		2.45	1.56	0.17	amorphous	s steep, e mod, n vertical	sharp	irregular	irregular
42	2	43 fill	pit		1.57	0.47	0.14	mid brown	silty sand	some small subrounded and subangular pebbles, occ medium rounded to subangular	soft	contains pottery flint and shell
43	2	43 cut	pit		1.57	0.47	0.14	rectangular	mod	mod	flat	n-s
44	1	45 fill	ditch			0.5	0.6	light grey	silty sand	sand and gravel irregularly shaped	loose	
45	1	45 cut	ditch			0.5	0.6	linear	shallow	shallow	concave	e-w
46	1	47 fill	ditch		0	0.55	0.9	light grey	silt sand	sand and small gravel irregularly shaped, 1cm	loose	med? Pot and metal and bone
47	1	47 cut	ditch			0.55	0.9	linear	shallow	shallow	concave	e-w
48	2	48 cut	post hole			0.25	0.12	circular	vertical	sharp	concave	vertical
49	2	48 fill	post hole			0.25	0.12	dark greyish brown	clayey silt	flint <1%	loose	contains flint?
50	2	50 cut	post hole			0.23	0.1	circular	vertical	sharp	concave	
51	2	50 fill	post hole			0.23	0.1	dark greyish brown	clayey silt	flint (<1%)	loose	
52	2	52 cut	pit			3.9	0.72	amorphous	e steep, w gradual	gradual	concave	
53	2	52 fill	pit				0.38	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	flint <1%	loose	contains pottery and shell
54	4	54 cut	ditch			1	0.36	linear	steep	right angle	flat	n-s
55	4	54 fill	ditch			1	0.36	dark grey brown	fine silt	angular - flint stones, pot	loose	contains pottery



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
56	4	56 cut		ditch	3.72	1.1	0.33	linear	steep	right angle	flat	n-s
57	4	56 fill		ditch	3.72	1.1	0.33	dark grey brown	fine silt	course angular flint stones	loose	contains pottery
58	4	58 cut		natural	1.41	1.24	0.3	sub-circular	moderate	gradual	concave	
59	4	58 fill		natural	1.41	1.24	0.3	mid reddish brown	fine silt	angular flints	loose	
60	2	60 cut		pit		1.04	0.65	sub-circular	gradual	imperceptible	concave	
61	2	60 fill		pit		1.04	0.65	mid dark greyish brown	sandy silt	flint 1%	loose	contains pottery and coin, bone and glass
62	1	65 fill		SFB	3.9	2.8	0.19	dark brownish grey	fine silt	flint angular	loose	contains pottery and bone, stone and flint
63	1	65 fill		SFB	3.9	2.72	0.13	light whitish brown	fine silt	angular flint	firm	posthole 70 cut through it
64	1	65 fill		SFB	3.9	2.9	0.3	mid orangey brown	fine sand	angular flint	loose	contains pottery and bone and flint
65	1	65 cut		SFB	3.9	2.8	0.36	sub-rectangular	vertical	sharp	flat	n-s
66	1	67 fill		ditch		0.5	0.1	light grey	silty sand	sand large irregularly shaped gravel	loose	contains pottery
67	1	67 cut		ditch				linear	shallow	shallow	flat	e-w
68	1	65 fill		SFB				mid orangey brown	fine sand	angular flint	loose	contains bone
69	1	65 fill		SFB				light whitish brown	fine silt	angular flint	firm	
70	1	70 cut		post hole		0.36	0.21	circular	steep	sharp	concave	
71	1	65 fill		SFB				dark brownish grey	fine silt	flint angular	loose	
72	4	109 fill		pit			0.18	dark grey	sandy silt	flint, pebbles, mortar	loose to friable	pottery clay pipe and bone and cbm
73	4	109 fill		pit			0.3	mid yellow brown	sandy silt	gravels	loose	



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
74	4	109 fill		pit			0.2	mid greysish brown	snady silt	flint and stones <0.35m	loose to friable	contains clay pipe and bone
75	1	75 cut		ditch		0.47	0.7	linear	shallow	shallow	flat	e-w
76	2	76 cut		pit		2.05		circular	w gradual, e slight undercut	imperceptible	flat	
77	2	76 fill		pit		1.86	0.18	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	gravel, 2%, flint 1%	loose	
78	2	76 fill				1.5	0.39	dark mid greyish brown	sandy silt	flint rare	loose	pottery, and bone
79	1	80 fill		ditch		0.42	0.12	mid grey brown	sandy silt	freq pebbles / flints <0.08m sand lenses	loose	
80	1	80 cut		ditch		0.42	0.12	linear	steep 40-45	at 0.08m deep	u shape	n-s
81	0	82 fill		post hole	0.46	0.37	0.16	dark brownish grey	siltuy sand	common small subangular pebbles, occ med subangular stones, occ charcoal fleck	soft	
82	0	82 cut		post hole	0.46	0.37	0.16	sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave	
83	0	84 fill		post hole	0.43	0.32	0.16	dark brownish grey	silty sand	common small subangular to angular pebbles, some medium subrounded to subangular stones	compact	
84	0	84 cut		post hole	0.43	0.32	0.16	sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave	
85	0	86 fill		post hole	0.34	0.3	0.16	mid greyish brown	silty sand	common subangular to angular pebbles	compact	
86	0	86 cut		post hole	0.34	0.3	0.16	sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave	
87	0	88 fill		post hole	0.4	0.36	0.13	dark brownish grey	silty sand	common subangualr to angular small pebbles, occ charcoal fleck some subangular to subrounded med large stones	solid	
88	0	88 cut		post hole	0.4	0.36	0.13	sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave	



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
89	0	90 fill		pit / posthole	0.92	0.62	0.12	v dark brownish grey	silty sand	freq med subrounded to angular stones, some gravel at base common charcoal at top	solid	contains flint
90	0	90 cut		pit / posthole	0.92	0.62	0.12	circular	steep	sharp	flat	
91	0	0 fill		post hole /pit	0			mid greyish brown	silty sand	common sub rounded to sub angula stones, some charcoal flecks	compact	
92	0	92 cut		post hole / pit	0.5	0.56	0.18	circular	steep	mod	concave	
93	0	94 fill		pit / ditch?	1.5	0.96	0.26	mid greyish brown	silty sand	freq medium subrounded to suangular stones, some gravel at base, some charcoal flecks	compact at toop, then softer	bone
94	0	94 cut		pit / ditch?	1.5	0.96	0.26	linear	steep	sharp	flat	n-s
95	0	96 fill		pit		0.41	0.14	light grey	silty sand	sand and flint varying in size, small pebbles	loose	2 metal nails
96	0	96 cut		pit		0.41	0.14	circular	mod	gradual	concave	
97	4	97 cut		ditch	2.9	1.8	0.3	linear	vertical			nw-se pottery glass and metal
98	4	97 fill		ditch	2.9	1.8	0.3	dark grey brown	fine silt	angular flints, pot, glass	loose	
99	1	100 fill		ditch		1.78	0.66	mid grey brown	snady silt	freq pebbles <0.08m occ charcoal	loose	bone and flint
100	1	100 cut		ditch		1.78	0.66	linear	45-48	at 0.25 and 0.45 depth	wide concave at 0.85m wide	e-w
101	0	102 fill		post hole	0.24	0.28	0.06	dark grey	silty sand	occ gravel occ flecks	soft	
102	0	102 fill		post hole	0.24	0.28	0.06					
103	1	65 fill		SFB				dark brownly grey	fine silt	flint stones angular	loose	contains bone
104	1	65 fill		SFB				light whitish brown	fine silt	angular flint	firm	



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
105	1	65 fill		SFB				mid orangey brown	fine sand	angular flint stones	loose	contains bone and flint
106	2	52 fill		pit		3.88	0.41	mid reddish brown	sandy silt	flint c2%	loose	
107	2	52 fill				0.91	0.09	light to mid greyish brown	ssandy silt	10% gravel, 5% chalk, 5% flint	very loose	
108	1	75 fill		ditch		0.47	0.7	light grey	silty sand	sand and large irregularly shaped gravel	loose	
109	4	109 cut		pit		0.65	0.7					
110	2	111 fill		pit		0.41	0.11	light grey	silty sand	sand small gravel chunks, 0.01m charcoal	loose	
111	2	111 cut		pit		0.41	0.11	sub-circular	gentle	gentle	concave	n/a
112	0	113 fill		post hole		0.43	0.15	light grey	silty sand	sand and gravel <1cm	loose	
113	0	113 cut		post hole		0.43	0.15	circular	mod	gradual	concave	
114	0	115 fill		post hole		0.34	0.15	light grey	silty sand	sand and gravel <0.01m	loose	
115	0	115 cut		post hole		0.34	0.15	circular	mod	gradual	concave	n/a
116	0	117 fill		post hole		0.41	0.17	light grey	silty sand	sand and small gravel flakes <1cm	loose	
117	0	117 cut		post hole		0.41	0.17	circular	mod	gradual	concave	
118	0	119 fill		post hole		0.38	0.16	light grey	silty sand	sand and small gravel <1cm	loose	bone
119	0	119 cut		post hole		0.38	0.16	circular	mod	gradual	concave	
120	0	121 fill		post hole		0.48	0.18	light grey	silty sand	sand and small gravel < 0.01m	loose	
121	0	121 cut		post hole		0.48	0.18	circular	mod	gradual	concave	
122	1	65 fill		SFB				dark brownish grey	fine silt	flint stones angular	loose	contains bone
123	1	65 fill		SFB				light whitish brown	fine silt	angular flint	firm	



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
124	1	65 fill	SFB					mid orangish brown	fine sand	angular flint stones	loose	pottery and bone
125	1	125 cut	post hole			0.34	0.2	circular	steep	sharp	concave	
126	1	126 cut	post hole		0.36	0.36	0.18	circular	steep	sharp	concave	
127	1	125 fill	post hole		0							
128	1	128 cut	post hole			0.24	0.15	circular	steep	sharp	pointed	
129	2	129 cut	pit			3.05	0.7	sub-circular	gradual to west, steep to east	variable	concave	
130	2	129 fill	pit			3.05	0.7	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	gravel and flint 2% infrequent	loose	pottery and bone
131	2	132 fill	pit		1.62	1.2	0.85	dark brown	silty and gravel and yellow sand	sand, gravel	loose	pottery and clay pipe and bone
132	2	132 cut	pit		1.62	1.28		sub-circular	vertical	steep	flat	n/a
133	1	133 cut	post hole		0.2	0.2	0.11	circular	steep	sharp	concave	
134	1	134 cut	post hole		0.21	0.21	0.25	circular	steep	sharp	concave	
135	0	135 cut	pit					sub-circular	steep	imperceptible	concave	
136	0	135 fill	pit					mid reddish brown	sandy silt	gravel and flint c.5%	loose	
137	0	137 cut	pit				0.3	sub-circular	gradual	imperceptible	concave	
138	0	137 fill	pit				0.3	dark greyish brown	sandy silt	5% gravel freq	loose	
139	1	139 cut	ditch			0.21	0.08	linear	gradual	imperceptible	concave	n-s
140	1	139 fill	ditch			0.21	0.08	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	flint c5%	loose	
141	4	143 fill	pit				0.75	mid grey brown	sandy silt	clay lumps and sand lenses	friable to loose	



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
142	4	143 fill		pit			0.75	pale yellow brown	sandy silt	lenses of gravel		
143	4	143 cut		pit			0.75	unknown	steep to vertical	at 0.26 and 0.35m		
144	2	145 fill		pit			0.43	v dark grey brown	sandy silt	includes flint pebbles, sand lenses, charcoal lump	loose to friable	pottery daub, bone and slag and shell
145	2	145 cut		pit			0.43		s end nr vertical	at 0.55m base of feature	flattish	
146	3	147 fill		pit / ditch			0.42	mid to pale grey brown	sandy silt	occ pebbles / flints <0.05m charcoal lumps	loose	contains fired clay and slag
147	3	147 cut		pit / ditch			0.42	linear	45-48	at 0.38m	concave 0.45m wide	e-w?
148	1	148 fill		ditch			0.6	mid grey brown	sandy silt	occ flint <0.06m	loose to friable	
149	1	149 cut		ditch			0.6	linear	45-48 degrees	at 0.28m	rounded	e-w contains lava stone, flint and bone
150	1	151 fill		ditch		0.85	0.47	mid grey brown	sandy silt	flints, sand lenses, occ charcoal	loose to friable	
151	1	151 cut		ditch		0.85	0.47	linear	45-48 degrees	at 0.24m	flattish	e-w
152	1	152 fill		pit			0.82	mid brown	sandy silt	occ flints and pebbles <0.03m	loose and friable	contains bone cut by ditches 147 and 151
153	1	153 fill		pit			0.82					
154	1	155 fill		ditch			0.58	mid brown	silty sand	v occ flint <0.03m and lenses	loose	
155	1	155 cut		ditch			0.58		at 55-60	at base		e-w?
156	1	157 fill		ditch		0.7	0.13	mid greyish brown	silty sand	infreq flint	loose	flint
157	1	157 cut		ditch		0.7	0.13	linear	gradual	imperceptible	concave	ne-sw
158	2	158 cut		pit		0.71	0.28	circular	steep	sharp	flat	
159	2	158 fill		pit		0.71	0.28	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	1% f;int	loose	pottery and bone



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
160	2	160 cut	pit			0.6	0.36	circular	steep	sharp	flat and slightly irregular	
161	2	160 fill	pit			0.6	0.36	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	5% flint	loose	
162	2	162 cut	pit			0.41	0.12	sub-rectangular	gradual	sharp	flat	
163	2	162 fill	pit			0.41	0.12	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	loose	10% flint	
164	2	164 cut	pit			0.52	0.21	circular	steep	gradual	concave	
165	2	164 fill	pit			0.52	0.21	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	5% flint	loose	cbm
166	4	166 cut	trench			1.4		linear				n-s
167	4	166 fill	trench			1.4		very dark grey	sandy silt	flint, pebbles <0.05m, sand gravel lenses, charcoal	loose to friable	pottery and cbm
168	4	168 cut	trench			1		linear				n-s
169	4	168 fill	trench			1		very dark grey	sandy silt	flint, pebbles <0.05m, sand gravel lenses, charcoal	loose to friable	
170	1	171 fill	ditch			0.5	0.17	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	loose	gravel c.2%	contains shell
171	1	171 cut	ditch			0.5	0.17	linear	steep	imperceptible	concave	e-w
172	1	173 fill	ditch			1.01	0.41	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	flint c5%	loose	contains pottery, bone and flint
173	1	173 cut	ditch			1.01	0.41	linear	gradual	imperceptible	flat	e-w
174	1	175 fill	ditch			0.62	0.2	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	c5 % flint gravel	loose	contains bone
175	1	175 cut	ditch			0.62	0.2	linear	steep	sharp	flat	e-w
176	0	177 fill	ditch			0.82	0.56	mid dark greyish brown	sandy silt	5% flint, 2% gravel	loose	bone
177	0	177 cut	ditch			0.82	0.56	circular	gradual	imperceptible	concave	



Context	Phase	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour/ shape in plan	Fine component /Sides	Coarse component /Break of slope	Compaction /Base	Other Comments /orientation
178	2	132 fill		pit		0.62	0.72	orangey brown	sand silt	loose to friable	gravels, flints and pebbles <0.05m	
179	1	70 fill		post hole	0			similar to 103				
180	1	126 fill		post hole	0			similar to fill 122				
181	1	128 fill		post hole	0			similar to 103				
182	1	133 fill		post hole	0			similar to 103				
183	1	134 fill		post hole	0			similar to 103				
184	2	185 fill		pit	0		0.65	mid-dark brown	sandy silt	pebbles, flints and sand lenses	loose	fill of pit or n-s aligned ditch
185	2	185 cut		pit	0		0.65		45-48 degrees			
186	4	186 cut		pit	0			sub-rectangular	vertical		flattish	

APPENDIX B. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Product number: 1

Product title: Late Saxon and early medieval settlement at Fordham Primary School

Purpose of the Product: Dissemination

Composition: Text and illustrations

Derived from: Grey literature reports 186 and 1921

Format and Presentation: Publication in PCAS

Allocated to: Aileen Connor/Michael Webster

Quality criteria and method: Internal quality assurance and Peer review through journal

Person responsible for quality assurance: Elizabeth Popescu

Person responsible for approval: Paul Spoerry

Planned completion date: June 30th 2017

APPENDIX C. RISK LOG

Risk Number: 1

Description: non-delivery of full report due to field work pressures/ management pressure on Co-authors

Probability: Medium

Impact: Medium - High

Countermeasures: Liaise with OA Management team

Estimated time/cost: Variable

Owner: A. Connor

Date entry last updated: 17th February 2017

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-249092			
Project Name	Fordham Primary School. Archaeological Excavation			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	26-04-2016	Finish	13-05-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	FORPRS16	Planning App. No.	15/03012/CCA
HER No.	ECB4713	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB420

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
ditches and building	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	Coin	Roman 43 to 410
fence line and pits	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Knife blade and Nail	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Quarry pits	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Nails	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	East Cambridgeshire	Fordham Primary School 1, Isleham Road Fordham,	
Parish	Fordham		
HER	ECB4713		
Study Area	740 sq metres	National Grid Reference	TL 6337 7081

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Dr Rob Wiseman & Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Michael Webster

Project Archives

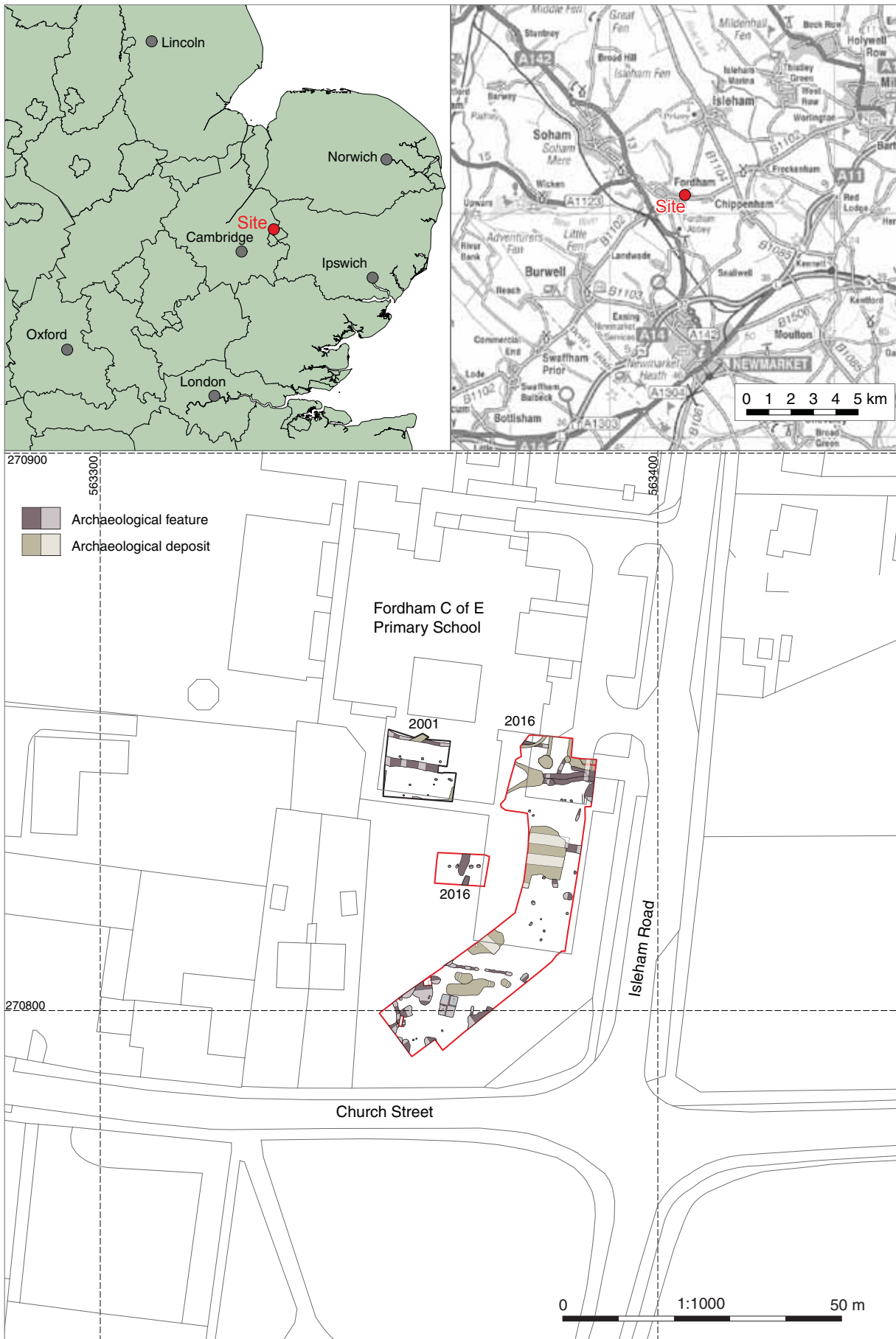
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Cambridgeshire Archaeology Archive Stor	OA East Bar Hill	Cambridgeshire Archaeological Archive S
ECB 4713	ECB 4713	ECB 4713

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing 2016 archaeological excavation areas (red). Scale 1:1000



Figure 2: All Features Phase Plan

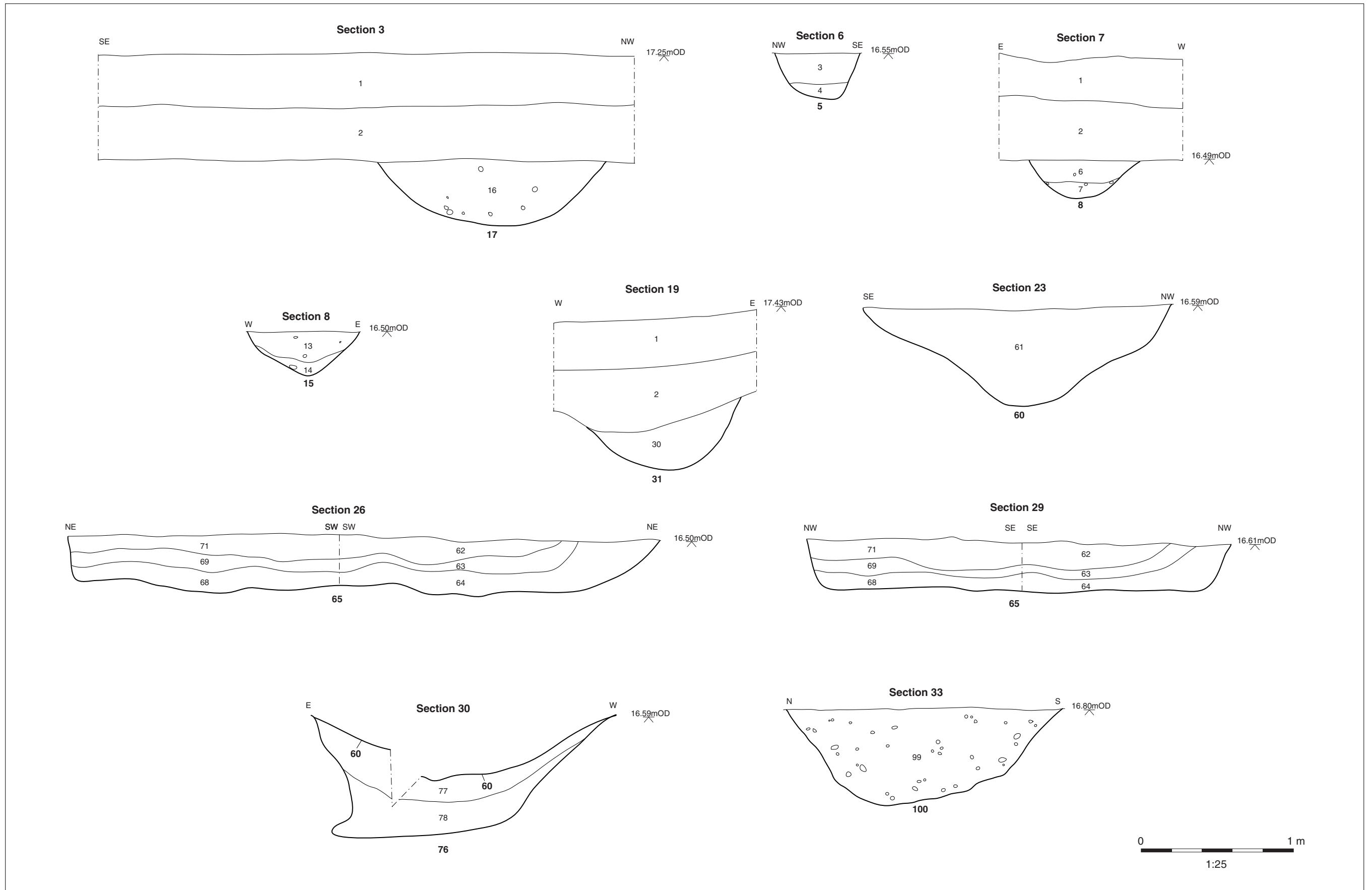


Figure 3: Selected sections

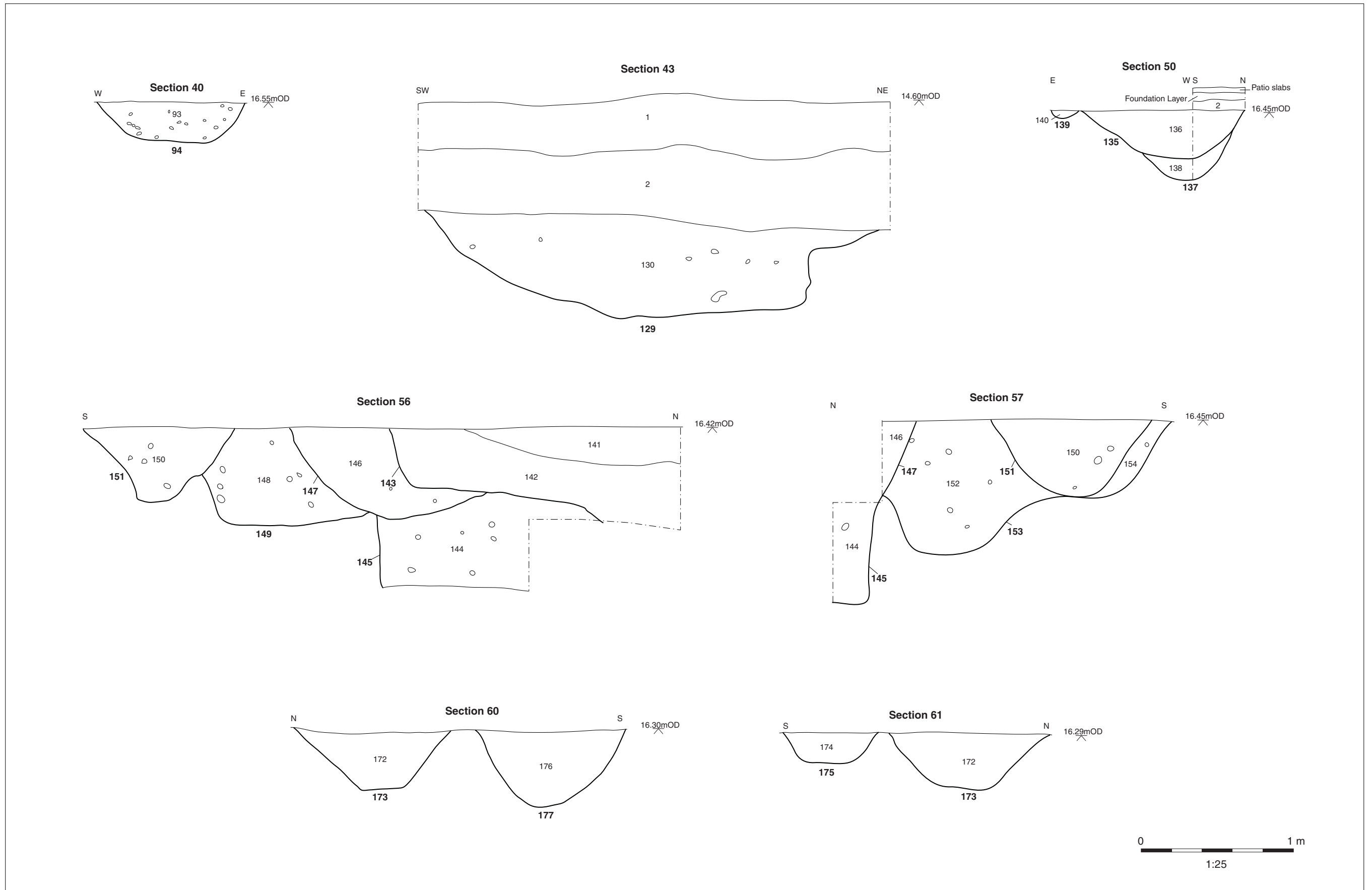


Figure 4: Selected sections



Plate 1: General view of Area A.



Plate 2: General view of Area B



Plate 3: General view of Area C



Plate 5: Excavated SFB 65 , showing internal post Holes



Plate 4: Pre-excavation shot of SFB 65



Plate 6: Working shot of SFB 65 , under excavation



Plate 7: Pre Excavation shot of Ditches 149/173 and 151/175



Plate 8: Detail of Section showing possible Ditch 185



Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

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