

4 White Hart Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire



Excavation Report



November 2018

**Client: Coastal Development Ltd
on behalf of R. Mulvany**

OA East Report No: 2123
OASIS No: oxfordar3-292583
NGR: TL 5944 7320

4 White Hart Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Excavation


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Report Date: November 2018

Report Number: 2123
Site Name: 4 White Hart Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire
HER Event No: ECB 4742
Date of Works: June 2016
Client Name: Coastal Development Ltd on behalf of R. Mulvany
Planning Ref: 15/00092/FUL
Grid Ref: TL 5944 7320
Site Code: SOHWHL16
Finance Code: SOHWHL16
Receiving Body: Cambridgeshire County Store
OASIS No: oxfordar3-292583
Prepared by: Louise Bush
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Date: November 2018
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Date: November 2018
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Summary

From the 6th to the 20th of June 2016 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) undertook an archaeological excavation on the proposed site of new housing at 4 White Hart Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire. A variety of features dating from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period were identified. Iron Age features included the remains of several post-built structures, along with a possible beam-slot building, pits and a ditch. The presence of Roman features on the site suggests a continuity of activity into this period, although on a much less intensive level.

Ditches possibly belonging to the Late Saxon period were also uncovered. These were perpendicular to that dating from the Iron Age period, suggesting a reorganisation of the local landscape potentially occurred at some point during the 1st millennium AD. Medieval and post-medieval ditches, pits and postholes were also recorded. A further reorganisation of the landscape appears to have taken place during the medieval period, with ditches respecting the current road layout in the sites immediate vicinity.

Excavations undertaken on adjacent land to the south, at the old Church Hall site, High Street (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012), identified contemporary remains, and some features could be traced between the two excavation areas. Taken together, the evidence from these two sites provides an insight into the past land-uses in this part of Soham, as well as addressing a number of research themes.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 OA East was commissioned to by Coastal Development Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation on land at 4 White Hart Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire (TL 5944 7320; Fig. 1), ahead of the construction of residential terraced houses (Planning Application 15/00092/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological investigations began with a trial trench evaluation undertaken by Archaeological Solutions (Orzechowski 2015), which identified the presence of preserved archaeological remains of Iron Age and Roman date. As a result of these findings, archaeological mitigation for the site required an open area excavation. Following fieldwork, a Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design was produced (Morgan 2015).
- 1.1.3 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Gemma Stewart of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) and supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Connor 2016).
- 1.1.4 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Soham is located on a raised “island” with low lying Fen to the east, west and north. The site is situated at the centre of the village, around 80m east of St Andrew's Church. It is bounded on its northern side by White Hart Lane and to the west, south and east by residential houses. The site sits at approximately 8.6m OD and is relatively level, although there is a “sunken garden” in the centre of the site that is probably a Victorian feature.
- 1.2.2 British Geological Survey mapping indicates that the solid geology of the site comprises chalk marl of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, with an absence of superficial geological deposits.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following summary of known archaeological and historical remains within the vicinity of the site is taken from the PXA (Morgan 2016); the location of relevant sites, finds and events are plotted on Figure 2.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 There are a number of prehistoric findspots across Soham, including Mesolithic tranchet axes (CHER 07098), Neolithic finds (CHER 07087) and a Neolithic axe (CHER 11019). Archaeological works at the Fordham Road allotments identified evidence for prehistoric settlement (ECB 455).

Iron Age and Roman

- 1.3.3 Human skeletal remains along with Roman pottery were found at 9 White Hart Lane (CHER 06971). It is possible that the pottery is residual and the remains belong to the putative Anglo-Saxon burial ground in this area, alternatively they may indicate a Roman burial ground also exists here.
- 1.3.4 Close by at 49-49A Fordham Road, a considerable number of features of Romano-British date were found (mainly 2nd century), including enclosure ditches and pits (CB 14630). Iron Age features uncovered during work at St Andrews House (CHER 15776) included two east to west orientated ditches, a number of pits and some possible post holes.
- 1.3.5 A number of ditches were found south of Paddock Street, at least one of which was securely dated as Roman (MCB 18200). More convincing Roman settlement features were found at Fordham Road including possible evidence for buildings, and finds of ceramic building material, mainly Roman tile (MCB 19583).

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.6 The modern town of Soham is Early Saxon in origin. The name is derived from the Old English Soegan Hamm or 'swampy' settlement referring to its position on a peninsula in Soham Mere (Reaney 1943). Twelfth century documentary sources refer to the foundation of a monastery in the 7th century AD by St Felix, first bishop of the East Angles, who was buried in Soham. The monastery was destroyed during the Danish invasions of East Anglia (late 9th century), along with many other religious foundations in the area, and was never re-established (Salzman 1948). The exact location of the monastery is unknown, although it is possible that the Parish church of St Andrew's (late 12th century) was founded on the site of its Saxon predecessor.
- 1.3.7 At 11 White Hart Lane (opposite the subject site) a small assemblage of human and animal bone was recovered during construction of a garden shed (CHER 11789, ECB 2768). The human bone was not all from one individual and is thought to have been displaced, possibly from the cemetery of St Felix's Anglo Saxon Abbey, dating to the 7th-9th centuries. A number of burials were also recovered along White Hart Lane in the Victorian period and are recorded on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey map. It is thought the monastery cemetery lies in this area, although some of the burials may be Roman in date.
- 1.3.8 In addition to St Felix, funerary remains from several cemeteries attest Early Saxon occupation at Soham. Burials were discovered in the church graveyard (TL 5998 7239) where grave goods and stray finds included brooches, several beads and spearheads (Fox 1923). At the Soham/Fordham Waterworks, lay another cemetery where excavations conducted in the 1930s located some 23 furnished inhumations, and 2 cremations assigned to the 6th-7th century (Lethbridge 1933).

Medieval

- 1.3.9 The manor of Soham was given to Ely Abbey shortly after the refoundation of the latter in the 10th century (Conybeare 1906). Evidence for occupation during the Saxo-Norman period has emerged through excavations. At 9-13 Pratt Street, an archaeological evaluation revealed shallow gullies, a post hole and a large pit containing 11th or 12th century Thetford Ware (CHER 11932). Evaluation trenches at the rear of 38 Station Road produced evidence of ditches dating from the 10th to 12th centuries (CHER 11985). Evaluations at Weatheralls Primary School revealed early

medieval field systems containing 10th to 13th century pottery, predominantly St Neots and Thetford type ware (CHER 07099).

- 1.3.10 The remains from Weatheralls Primary School (and from High Street/Clay Street) represent a major phase of development and prosperity that is attested by the construction of St Andrew's Church in the late 12th century. Soham is also thought to have held an unchartered market before the 12th century (Ridout 2000). Evaluations in the town centre at St Andrew's House (CHER 15776) produced medieval (12th to 16th century) pits, ditches and post hole structures. A small evaluation at Ten Bell Lane produced one late medieval quarry pit and some undated ditches (MCB 16279).

Previous Archaeological Works

- 1.3.11 An archaeological excavation undertaken on land off the High Street, at the old Church Hall site (Fig. 3), to the immediate south of the current site (ECB 3587; Leonard and Woolhouse 2012) identified residual Neolithic and Bronze Age finds. Part of a ditched enclosure of Late Iron Age date, along with rubbish pits and a possible post-built structure were revealed across the site. Overall, the excavation produced in excess of 500 sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery. The activity was predominantly 1st century AD but was re-occupied in the Late Roman period, specifically the 4th century. Evidence of Late Saxon and early medieval activity took the form of boundary ditches and rubbish pits. A medieval plot boundary, on a perpendicular alignment to the street frontage, was also uncovered; the plots contained evidence of back yard activity in the form of pits, post holes and the remains of building foundation slots.
- 1.3.12 Evaluation of the subject site showed that the Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement continues here (ECB 4538; Orzechowski 2015), with pits and a gully, along with a Late Roman ditch being identified.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks are extended to Coastal Developments on behalf of R. Mulvany for commissioning and funding the project. Thanks also go to Ms Mulvany for providing the site accommodation.
- 1.4.2 Machine excavation was carried out by Lattenbury Services. The fieldwork was supervised by Tam Webster and excavated with the assistance of Matt Brooks, Dave Browne, Ro Davies, Jack Easen, Gosia Kwiatkowska, Steve Morgan and Joanna Nastaszyc. Specialist contributors were as follows; Sarah Percival (prehistoric pottery and worked stone), Alice Lyons (Roman Pottery), Sue Anderson (medieval and post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material and fired clay), Chris Howard-Davis (small finds), Anthony Haskins (flint), Zoë Uí Choileáin (human skeletal remains), Lexi Scard (shell), Rachel Fosberry (environmental remains) and Vida Rajkovača (faunal evidence).
- 1.4.3 The project was monitored by Gemma Stewart of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) and managed by Aileen Connor.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Brief (Stewart 2016) and WSI (Connor 2016) and further refined in the PXA (Morgan 2016).

2.1.2 The main aims of this excavation were

- to mitigate the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological remains. The development would have severely impacted upon these remains and as a result a full excavation was required, targeting the areas of archaeological interest highlighted by the previous phases of evaluation
- to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

2.1.3 The research aims and objectives for the project are based on those in *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) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24).

2.2 Regional and local research objectives

2.2.1 The original research objectives set out in the Brief (Stewart 2016) and WSI (Connor 2016) were reviewed in the Post Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design (Morgan 2016), where they were highlighted as objectives which the results of the excavation had the potential to contribute to:

- *Contribute to the study of Iron Age material culture* – the excavation produced a relatively large assemblage of Iron Age pottery which, despite having often been recovered as residual element within later features, has some potential to contribute to this area of study.
- *Examine the origins and development of field systems: their change and continuity* – Ditches dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman, Late Saxon/early medieval and post-medieval periods were found on the site. The different orientations of these ditches demonstrates reorganisation of the local landscape through time and this warrants further consideration.
- *Investigate the diet and economy of the inhabitants of the Iron Age settlement through study of the artefactual and ecofactual remains* – the animal bone assemblage from the excavations has some (limited) potential to allow some investigation of this issue, at least in terms of making broad comparisons (e.g. in terms of species composition) with other contemporary sites in the local and regional area.

2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Brief (Stewart 2016) and detailed in the WSI (Connor 2016).
- 2.3.2 The site had limited access and space, and all spoil arising from the excavation had to be retained on site, as there was no access to remove it. As a result, excavation was undertaken in two stages. Due to the limited space the mechanical excavation was undertaken by a 9 tonne tracked machine fitted with flat bladed ditching bucket. All machine excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.3.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.3.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital photographs were taken of all features and deposits.
- 2.3.1 A total of 21 bulk soil samples were taken from features in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful micro- and macro-botanical data.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The archaeological works at 4 White Hart Lane, Soham, uncovered evidence of Iron Age through to post-medieval activity (Plate 1). The following fieldwork descriptions are supplemented by a context list included as Appendix A and specialist reports included as Appendix B and C. An overall phased feature plan is provided as Fig. 4 and individual phase plans in Figs Figs 5-9, supplemented by a selection of section drawings (Fig. 10) and photographs (Plates 1-6).

3.1.2 A natural geology of yellow orange clay silt was overlain by a subsoil (02) consisting of a mid grey brown clay silt, up to c.0.4m thick, containing occasional sherds of pottery (86g) dating from the Late Iron Age through to the Late Roman period; along with medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM; 1,740g). This was sealed by a topsoil (01) comprised of a dark grey brown clay silt, c.0.3m in thickness, containing low levels of modern debris.

3.1.3 The results of the archaeological works are presented below by period:

Period 1: Iron Age (c.800BC-AD43)

Period 2: Romano-British (AD43-410)

Period 3.1: Late Saxon (AD850-1066)

Period 3.2: Late medieval (AD1400-1500)

Period 4: Post-medieval and modern (c.1500+)

3.2 Period 1: Iron Age (c.800BC-AD43) (Figs 5 & 6)

3.2.1 This period was characterised by settlement remains represented by large numbers of postholes alongside pits and linear features. Features belonging to this phase are shown in Figure 5, with an additional plan (Fig. 6) highlighting postholes and gullies belonging to five groups of features representing possible structures (Structures 1-5).

Structure 1

3.2.2 Situated on the south-eastern edge of the site, Structure 1 was made up of ten postholes, broadly aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, extending for 3.5m. A total of 18g of later Iron Age pottery was recovered from four of the postholes (**97, 106, 108, 116**), along with two struck flints (**71, 108**) and 384g of animal bone (**69, 71, 108, 110**).

Generally circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and flat bases, the postholes (**08, 69, 71, 97, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116**) ranged in diameter from 0.2m to 0.55m and in depth from 0.12m to 0.24m. They were all filled with brownish grey clayey silts (07, 70, 72, 98, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115).

Structure 2

3.2.3 Structure 2 was situated around 2.5m to the south-west of Structure 1 and was made up of six postholes which formed a broadly sub-rectangular east to west aligned structure measuring 3.5m by 1.5m. A total of 8g of Early Iron Age pottery (**51**), 30g of post-medieval CBM (**12, 100**) and 4g of animal bone (**51**) was recovered from the postholes.

All the postholes (**12, 16, 49, 51, 100, 102**) were circular in plan, ranging in width from 0.28m to 0.6m and in depth from 0.1m to 0.25m with steeply sloping sides and concave

bases. They were all filled with brown grey clay silts (11, 15, 50, 52, 99, 101). An environmental sample taken from posthole **52** produced low levels of cereal grain.

Structure 3

- 3.2.4 A total of 19 postholes made up Structure 3, which was located approximately 4m to the north of Structure 2. The postholes within Structure 3 broadly form two parallel lines, extending east to west for c.8.5m. Finds from the structure comprised 11g of Early Iron Age pottery (**280**), 17g of later Iron Age pottery (**26, 280**), 4g of Early Roman pottery, 3g of post-medieval CBM (**278**), 112g of animal bone (**20, 26, 232, 278**) and an iron nail (SF10; **232**).

Generally circular in plan with steeply sloping side and concave bases, the postholes (**20, 22, 26, 37, 39, 48, 87, 89, 212, 232, 234, 268, 270, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284**) ranged in diameter from 0.2m to 0.68m and in depth from 0.06m to 0.34m. They were filled with mid to dark brown grey and grey brown clay silts (19, 21, 25, 36, 38, 47, 88, 90, 213, 233, 235, 264, 269, 271, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285).

Structure 4

- 3.2.5 Structure 4 was by far the largest of the structures, covering an area approximately 8.7m long and 5.3m wide. A total of 29 postholes were recorded across this area. The postholes broadly appeared to be forming a series of east-northeast to west south-east orientated rows. It is also possible that more than one structure is represented within this group. A large finds assemblage was recovered from the structure, consisting of six burnt flints (**198, 238**), a single struck flint (**198**), 11g of Early Iron Age pottery (**291**), 1,884g of later Iron Age pottery (**166, 183, 188, 198, 202, 223, 248, 273, 288**); most of which came from posthole **198** (Plate 2), 10g of Early Roman pottery (**202, 210, 223**), 2g of Late Roman pottery (**273**) and 332g of animal bone (**177, 183, 198, 202, 210, 223, 248, 263, 273, 288, 291**).

The postholes (**164, 166, 168, 170, 177, 179, 181, 183, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 198, 202, 210, 223, 224, 228, 231, 236, 238, 248, 263, 273, 286, 288, 291, 293**) ranged in length from 0.22m to 0.7m, in width from 0.2m to 0.64m and in depth from 0.05m to 0.38m. All the postholes had steeply sloping sides with both flat and concave bases being observed. They were filled with mid to dark grey brown silty clays (163, 165, 1637, 169, 176, 178, 180, 182, 187, 189, 191, 193, 199, 200, 201, 211, 222, 225, 229, 230, 237, 239, 247, 272, 287, 289, 290, 292). The largest single pottery assemblage came from posthole **198**, which contained 86 joining sherds (1,827g), including a substantial portion of a single jar. Environmental samples taken from the fills of **198** and **290** produced low levels of cereal grain.

Structure 5

- 3.2.6 Situated around 1m south of Structure 3 was beamslot Structure 5. It consisted of north-south aligned gully **41** and east-west aligned gully **54**.

Gully **41** was recorded for a length of 2.5m. The northern end of the gully was excavated during the evaluation phase and recorded as feature **1029**. Gully **41** was 0.34m wide and 0.06m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey clay silt (40) which yielded 2g of later Iron Age pottery. A further gully on the same alignment was also investigated during the evaluation works, recorded as feature **1027**, it contained 75g of Early Iron Age pottery. Its continuation to the north was not identifiable.

Gully **54** was cut by ditches **43** and **46** (see below) and was recorded for a length of 1.5m. It measured 0.37m wide and 0.16m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (53) which contained 14g of later Iron Age pottery and 11g of animal bone.

Pits

3.2.7 Nine scattered pits were also identified as originating from this period. All the pits bar **56**, **73** and **117** contained Iron Age pottery assemblages, the largest of which came from probable well **162/1023**.

Only partially visible within the excavation area, pit **125** was 1.78m wide and 0.3m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Its mid grey brown silty sand fill (124) produced three struck and one burnt flint, 205g of later Iron Age pottery, along with 30g of Late Iron Age pottery and 206g of animal bone. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

To the south-west, pit **62** was 1.1m in diameter and 0.26m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 3). It was filled with a mid brown grey clay silt (63) which contained 31g of Early Iron Age pottery and 55g of animal bone. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

Immediately to the north of **62**, posthole **117** measured 0.3m in diameter and was 0.05m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a light brown grey clay silt (118).

Posthole **73** was 0.5m in diameter and 0.32m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with light brown grey clay silt (75), followed by a mid brown grey clay silt (74).

Just to the east, pit **123** measured 2.4m long and was at least 0.87m wide, having been truncated on its eastern side by ditch **30** (Period 3). The pit had moderately steeply sloping sides with a concave base and was 0.45m deep. It was filled with a mid brown clay silt (122) which produced two struck flints, 157g of later Iron Age pottery, 18g of Late Iron Age pottery, 145g of Early Roman pottery, 28g of post-medieval CBM, 394g of animal bone and 1g of oyster shell. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced moderate levels of cereal grain along with chaff and dry land herbs.

Pit **64** was 0.93m long, 0.56m wide and 0.17m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. Its mid brown grey silty clay (65) fill contained 7g of later Iron Age pottery, 1g of medieval CBM and 5g of animal bone.

Posthole **104**, located in the south-eastern corner of the excavation area, had a diameter of 0.34m and was 0.18m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brown grey clay silt (103) which contained 9g of later Iron Age pottery and 2g of medieval Ely Ware (AD1150-1350).

Pit **56**, was cut by ditch **46** (see below). It had a diameter of 0.7m and was 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (55).

To the north-west were adjacent pits **162** and **29**. The more northerly of the two (**29**) was cut by pit **162** and by two features belonging to Structure 3 (**268** and **270**). It had a diameter of 1.5m and was 0.38m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The earlier of the two fills (28) was made up of a mid brown clay silt, from which 181g of animal bone was recovered. This was followed by a dark brown clay silt (27) containing a struck flint, 28g of Early Iron Age, 381g of later Iron Age pottery and 120g of animal bone. An environmental sample taken from the upper fill produced low levels of cereal grain. Pit **29** was cut on its southern side by pit **162**. This pit was excavated during the evaluation phase and recorded as pit **1023**.

The following description is a summary from the evaluation report (Orzechowski 2016, 13): pit **1023** was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.05m long, 0.64m wide and 1.6m, with near vertical sides. The base was not revealed but was augered to a depth of c.1.6m. The pit contained four fills (1024, 1035, 1025, 1026). Its basal fill (1024) was a mid blue grey sandy silt which yielded 363g of Early Iron Age pottery, 154g of animal bone, 9g of unworked burnt flint and 2g of struck flint. This was overlain by 1035, a light grey yellow

silty sand; and contained 280g sherds of Early Iron Age pottery along with 437g of animal bone. This was followed by a mid blue grey sandy silt (1025) which produced 591g of Early Iron Age pottery, 27g of animal bone and a struck flint (2g). The uppermost fill (1026) was a mid brown grey sandy silt and contained 1,444g of Early Iron Age pottery, 785g of animal bone, 18g of metalworking debris, 12g of struck flints and 76g of unworked burnt flint.

Pit **252** was located north of pit **29**. It measured 1.3m long, 1m wide and 0.35m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark green grey silty clay (251), which contained five struck flints alongside 226g of Early Iron Age pottery and 326g of later Iron Age pottery. A total of 114g of animal bone was also collected. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

Gullies and ditches

3.2.8 A total of one gully and two ditches were also identified across the excavation area.

Around 9m to the south-west was gully **95**. The gully was orientated east to west, terminating within the excavation area. It was recorded for a length of 2.5m before being truncated away to the west. The gully measured a maximum of 0.33m wide and 0.14m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid brown grey clay silt (96) which contained 10g of Early Iron Age pottery and 16g of animal bone. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

Ditch **43 (92)** was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast and was cut by ditch **46**. It ranged in width from 0.6m to 0.65m and in depth from 0.13m to 0.2m with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with mid grey clay silt (42, 91) which contained a struck flint, 65g of later Iron Age pottery and 66g of animal bone. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

Ditch **219 (250, 256)** was parallel with ditch **43**, located 9m to the north. It measured 0.8m to 0.98m wide and 0.18m to 0.45m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 4). The dark grey brown clay silt fill (218, 249, 255) produced seven struck flints, 157g of Early Iron Age, 24g of Late Iron Age and 504g of later Iron Age pottery, along with 8g of Glazed Red Earthenware (AD1600-1800), 2g of mid-late 18th century Creamware, 29g of post-medieval CBM, 1,644g of animal bone and a fragment of adult human skull. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain and dry land herds.

Ditch **46 (59, 94, 159)** crossed the site on a north-east to south-west alignment. It ranged in width from 1.17m to 1.3m and in depth from 0.2m to 0.68m, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with mid brown clay silt (45, 58), which contained three struck flints and 61g of animal bone. This was followed by a mid grey brown clay silt (44, 57, 93, 158) which contained six struck flints, 1g of Early Iron Age, 485g of later Iron Age pottery, 222g of Late Iron Age pottery, 1g of Early Roman pottery and 1,352g of animal bone. Two small fragments of copper-alloy wire (SF1) were also recovered from this fill. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

3.3 Period 2: Roman-British (AD43-410) (Fig. 7)

3.3.1 A small number of features have been assigned to the Roman period. The majority of these are clustered on the south-eastern edge of the site (Fig. 7).

Partially exposed on the north-easternmost edge of the site, elongated pit **144** measured 2.4m long, at least 0.35m wide and 0.4m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay (145) which contained 22g of Early Roman pottery and 48g of animal bone.

Approximately 7.5m to the south-west, pit **204** had a diameter of 0.5m and was 0.18m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Its dark grey clay silt fill (203) produced

one struck flint and 5g of Early Roman pottery and 6g of animal bone. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

On the south-eastern side of the site, posthole **66** measured 0.56m long, 0.41m wide and was 0.26m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay (68) which contained 25g of later Iron Age pottery and 3g of animal bone, and postpipe 67, a dark brown grey silty sand which contained 3g of Late Roman pottery.

North-northwest to south-southeast aligned ditch **76** extended across the site for 3m before terminating (Plate 5). It was 1.35m wide and 0.64m deep with slightly undercutting sides and a concave base and contained two fills. The basal fill (77) consisted of a dark yellow brown clay silt, followed by a dark brown clay silt (78). A pottery assemblage consisting of 32g of later Iron Age, 58g of Early Roman and 46g of Late Roman was recovered from the feature, as well as 687g of animal bone. Further to this, a small yellow glass bead (SF16) was recovered from the basal fill. An environmental sample taken from the basal fill produced low levels of cereal grain. On the western side of ditch **76** was ditch **79**. Whilst no finds were recovered from this feature, its morphology and fills were very similar to those of **76**, and it seems likely that they are broadly contemporary.

Ditch **79** was 1.1m wide and 0.75m deep with slightly undercutting sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark yellow brown clay silt (80), followed by a dark brown clay silt (81).

3.4 Period 3.1: Late Saxon (AD850-1066) (Fig. 8)

3.4.1 Activity attributed to Period 3.1 is encompassed by a series of parallel ditches (Fig. 8). A significant amount of residual Iron Age pottery was recovered from these features, indicating that there was originally a denser level of Iron Age remains on the site which have subsequently been lost.

Ditch Group 1

3.4.2 The earliest ditch group comprised four parallel ditches, aligned north-west to south-east, spaced between 5m and 7m apart. The continuation of these ditches was identified during fieldwork to the immediate south; at the former Church Hall site (see Fig. 3; Leonard & Woolhouse 2012, 23; fig. 8), where they were interpreted as Late Saxon land divisions.

The most westerly of the ditches (**24, 221, 254, 258, 261**) ranged in width from 0.6m to 0.92m and in depth from 0.1m to 0.2m with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with dark brown clay silt (23, 220, 253, 257, 262) which produced a mixed pottery assemblage comprising 18g of Early Iron Age, 10g of Late Iron Age, 111g of later Iron Age and 12g of Early Roman sherds. Three struck flints were also recovered, along with 403g of animal bone.

Ditch **30 (121, 173, 197, 207, 242)** measured 1.08m to 1.6m wide and 0.23m to 0.78m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base, and contained up to three fills. The basal fill (31, 120, 172, 196, 244) consisted of a light grey brown clay silt, followed by a mid grey brown clay silt (32, 119, 171, 195, 206, 243). The uppermost fill was made up of a dark brown clay silt (33). The pottery assemblage from this feature was composed of 100g of Early Iron Age, 365g of later Iron Age, 202g of Late Iron Age, 136g of Early Roman and 63g of Late Roman sherds. A fragment of rotary quern (640g) was also recovered from the feature, along with 2,234g of animal bone, one burnt flint, and 1g of mussel shell. An environmental sample taken from the basal fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

The most easterly ditch (**126, 139, 157**) measured 1.06m to 2.12m wide and 0.34m to 0.44m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. The dark grey brown clay silt

fill (127, 138, 156) contained 166g of later Iron Age pottery, 474g of Late Iron Age pottery, 10g of Early Roman pottery, 7g of Middle Roman pottery and 651g of animal bone.

Situated in the south-easternmost corner of the site was ditch **04**, which whilst slightly offset from that of ditch **126**, was still orientated with this group of ditches and therefore is probably associated. It was 0.48m wide and 0.18m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with light brown grey clay silt (03) which contained 15g of later Iron Age pottery, 1g of Late Iron Age pottery, 36g of Early Roman pottery and 22g of animal bone. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

3.5 Period 3.2: Late medieval (AD1400-1500) (Fig. 8)

3.5.1 Low levels of late medieval activity were identified across the site, with features consisting of probable roadside ditches and a small number of pits (Fig. 8).

Ditch Group 2

3.5.2 Ditch Group 2 was represented by four ditches, all aligned east-northeast to west-southwest. This orientation corresponded with the route of White Hart Road, to the immediate north; and it seems likely that these features represent roadside ditches associated with the precursor of White Hart Lane. The ditches post-dated Ditch Group 1.

Ditch **130** (**146**, **153**) ranged in width from 0.43m to 0.9m and in depth from 0.1m to 0.28m with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay (131, 147, 152) which contained two struck and seven burnt flints, 89g of later Iron Age pottery, 4g of Early Roman pottery, 1g of medieval CBM, 149g of animal bone and 1g of mussel shell. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

Ditch **245** was the probable continuation of **130**. It was 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay (246).

Around 1.4m to the south was ditch **215**, which terminated parallel with ditch **245**. The ditch was 1m wide and 0.1m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with light brown grey silty clay (214) which contained 44g of later Iron Age and 4g of early Roman pottery, along with 14g of medieval Ely Ware (AD1150-1350), 18g of medieval CBM, 5g of post-medieval CBM, 24g of animal bone, an iron nail (SF7) and an iron blade (SF6).

Extending from the eastern limit of excavation, for just 0.5m before being truncated by pit **143** (see below), was ditch **141**. It was 0.6m wide and 0.42m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (140) which produced 18g of later Iron Age pottery and 18g of animal bone.

Structure 6

3.5.3 Located at the northernmost edge of the site, Structure 6 was made up of three postholes, extending for 10.5m across the site. The posts were aligned east-northeast to west-southwest and were cut through the top of ditch **130** (Ditch Group 2). A total of 89g of later Iron Age (**155**), 74g of Late Iron Age (**148**) and 20g of Early Roman (**148**) pottery and 241g of animal bone (**148**, **155**) was recovered from the structure.

The three postholes (**148**, **155**, **240**) all had a diameter of 0.4m and were 0.32m to 0.42m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. They were all filled with a dark grey brown silty clay (149, 154, 241).

Pits and postholes

3.5.4 A total of two pits and a posthole were also identified across the site.

Cutting through the top of ditch **24** (Ditch Group 1, Period 3.1), was pit **296**. The pit had a diameter of 1.1m and was 0.52m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its basal fill (295) was made up of mid grey brown clay silt. This was followed by a dark grey brown clay silt (294) which produced 203g of Iron Age and 1072g of later Iron Age pottery, along with 69g of late medieval CBM and 90g of animal bone.

On the eastern edge of the site was substantial pit **143**, which measured 3m long, 2m wide and was 0.85m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with dark grey silty clay (142) which contained 2g of Early Medieval Ware (11th-12th century), 10g of South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy Ware (AD1050-1225), 20g of Late Grimston-type Ware (14th-15th century), 105g of late medieval East Anglian Redware (AD1400-1500) and 6g of Late Medieval Transitional pottery (AD1450-1600). Further to this, 564g of animal bone, 6g of mussel shell, 55g of oyster shell, two joining iron blade fragments (SF11), 847g of medieval CBM and 173g of late medieval/post-medieval CBM were also recovered.

Located on the southern side of the excavation area, posthole **10** had a diameter of 0.32m and was 0.24m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its dark brown grey silty sand fill (09) contained 421g of 14th-16th century CBM and 5g of animal bone.

3.6 Period 4: Post-medieval and modern (c.1500+) (Fig. 9)

- 3.6.1 Low-level post-medieval activity was represented on the site by furrows, a spread, pits and postholes (Fig. 9)

Furrows

- 3.6.2 Three furrows were recorded across the north-western portion of the site. They were all orientated north-northwest to east-southeast, perpendicular to White Hart Lane. Generally spaced between 1.2m and 1.5m apart, they extended across the site for between 3m and 8.6m

The more westerly of the group (**217**, **256**, **259**) measured 0.98m to 1.2m wide and 0.1m to 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (216, 255, 260) which contained 8g of later Iron Age pottery, 1g of Glazed Red Earthenware (AD1600-1800), 1g of oyster shell and an iron nail (SF9).

Furrow **175** (**209**) was 1.7m to 1.8m wide and 0.07m to 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its mid grey brown silty clay fill (174, 208) produced one struck flint, 31g of later Iron Age pottery and 14g of 18th century Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware, along with 8g of medieval CBM, 14g of post-medieval CBM and 30g of animal bone.

Furrow **227** was 0.85m wide and 0.05m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (226), which contained 3g of later Iron Age pottery and 363g of animal bone.

Spread

- 3.6.3 An agricultural layer (184, 205) was also recorded in the vicinity of furrow **227**. The 0.16m thick layer consisted of a mid grey brown clay silt and contained 9g of later Iron Age pottery, along with 4g of Late Medieval East Anglian Redware (AD1400-1500) and 2g 19th-20th century of Late Post-medieval Unglazed Ware.

Pits, postholes and tree throws

- 3.6.4 A total of 11 pits, postholes and tree throws were also recorded across the excavation area.

Posthole **299** was 0.65m long, 0.48m wide and 0.36m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (298), which contained 2g of later Iron Age pottery, 57g of Bourne D Ware (AD1430-1650) and 10g of animal

bone. The posthole also contained postpipe 297, a dark brown clay silt. An environmental sample taken from the basal fill produced low levels of cereal grain.

Posthole **266**, situated to the north, was 0.51m long, 0.42m wide and 0.16m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its mid grey brown clay silt fill (265) produced 117g of post-medieval CBM and 4g of animal bone.

Around 8m to the east, posthole **151** was partially excavated during the evaluation (recorded as **1003**). It was 0.42m in diameter and 0.22m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its mid grey silt clay fill (150) produced a burnt flint, 4g of 18th century Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware.

Just beyond posthole **151** was pit **128**, which was cut into the top of ditch **126** (Ditch Group 1, Period 3). It measured 1.1m long, 0.96m wide and was 0.32m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay (129), which contained 12g of Late Iron Age, 3g of Early Roman pottery and 34g of animal bone.

Extending from the eastern limit of excavation, pit **18 (137)** was 4.1m long and at least 2.6m wide and 0.8m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 6). It contained five fills. The basal fill (136) was made up of a pale cream grey clay. This was followed by a mid brown grey silty clay (135), a dark grey silty clay (134), a mid grey silty clay (133) and finally a dark brown grey silty clay (17, 132). The pottery assemblage from this feature comprised 163g of later Iron Age, 39g of Late Iron Age, 15g of Early Roman, 4g of Late Roman, 3g of Thetford type (AD840-1150), 5g of Early Medieval Ware (11th-12th century), 15g of Medieval Ely Ware (AD1150-1350), 11g of South-east Fenland Late Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware (AD1150-1450), 129g of Late Medieval East Anglian Redware (AD1400-1500) and 2g of Glazed Red Earthenware (AD1600-1800). Fired clay (220g) and an assemblage of CBM was also collected from the pit: 6g of possible Roman date, 1,356g of medieval and 138g of post-medieval. A fragment of copper-alloy sheet (SF3), an iron padlock (SF5) and four iron nails (SFs 4, 13 & 15) were also recovered, along with one struck and three burnt flints, 5,149g of animal bone, 254g of mussel shell, 32g of oyster shell, 3g of cockle shell and two fragments from an adult human femur.

Elongated pit **82** was cut into the top of ditch **79** (Period 2). It was 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.35m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark brown clay silt (83), followed by a mid brown clay silt (84).

Probably well, **06**, extended from the southern limit of excavation and therefore was only partially visible. It was cut through the subsoil and measured 0.9m wide with vertical sides, the base was not reached. It was backfilled with a dark brown clay silt (05) which contained 10g of Glazed Red Earthenware (AD1600-1800), and iron nail (SF14) and multiple brick fragments (not retained).

Three three throws (**14, 61, 85**) were identified in the south-west of the site. They were all sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.93m to 1.6m long, 0.56m to 1.38m wide and 0.17m to 0.55m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. They were all filled with a dark red brown silty sand (13, 60, 86) which produced a single struck flint, 42g of Early Iron Age pottery, 86g of later Iron Age pottery, 184g of animal bone and an iron nail (SF12).

3.7 Finds summaries

Small finds (Appendix B.1)

- 3.7.1 A total of 14 small finds, consisting of one glass bead, two pieces of copper-alloy and 11 iron items were recovered from a variety of features across the site. The majority of the ironwork is formed of nails.

Struck flint (Appendix B.2)

- 3.7.2 The small flint assemblage comprises 62 pieces, the majority of which probably postdates the Neolithic, with only two pieces probably reflecting Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity.

Prehistoric and Roman-British pottery (Appendix B.3)

- 3.7.3 The Iron Age and Roman pottery assemblage consists of 862 sherds (9,278g), which was recovered from a range of features all across the site. The sherds are mostly small and poorly preserved. The prehistoric assemblage mostly consists of later Iron Age sherds, with lesser amounts of Early and Late Iron Age also being recorded. The majority of the Roman pottery ranges from the 1st to 2nd century, with only very small amounts of later Roman. A large amount of the pottery is residual in later features. The largest assemblage came from posthole **198** (Period 1).

Post-Roman pottery (Appendix B.4)

- 3.7.4 A small assemblage of 41 sherds (427g) of post-Roman pottery was recovered from the site. The earliest pottery consists of a single sherd of Thetford-type (AD840-1150). The majority of the assemblage is Late medieval in date. Sherds of early post-medieval and modern (1800+) pottery are also present.

Worked stone (Appendix B.5)

- 3.7.5 A single fragment of rotary quern probably dating to the later Iron Age/Early Roman period was recovered from ditch **121** (Period 3).

Ceramic building material (Appendix B.6)

- 3.7.6 The assemblage comprises 5,009g of CBM, the majority of which dates from the medieval and post-medieval period. The bulk of the assemblage consists of fragments of roof tile.

Fired clay (Appendix B.7)

- 3.7.7 A single fragment of fired clay (220g) was collected from pit **132** (Period 4).

3.8 Environmental summaries

Human skeletal remains (Appendix C.1)

- 3.8.1 Two fragments of human bone were recovered from a Period 1 ditch (**250**) and Period 4 pit (**137**).

Faunal remains (Appendix C.2)

- 3.8.2 A faunal assemblage weighing 16,257g was recovered during the archaeological works, from a variety of features and periods. The largest assemblage identifiable to species comes from Period 1.

Environmental samples (Appendix C.3)

- 3.8.3 A total of 21 bulk soil samples were taken from a variety of features and periods across the site. Preservation of plant remains by carbonisation is generally poor, and all of the flots contain modern rootlets. Nonetheless, cereal grains are present in all samples.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The site in context

Iron Age and Roman

- 4.1.1 Early Iron Age settlement remains are prevalent across Soham, with two settlement foci being known of: the first, around 200m south-west of the site (CB 15776; Atkins 2004) and the other c.1km to the south-east (MCB 19583; Quinn 2012). In the more immediate vicinity, archaeological works at 8 Market Street, 70m to the north of the site, identified a preserved Iron Age soil horizon, containing Early Iron Age pottery (Phillips 2012).
- 4.1.2 The current site produced a small Early Iron Age pottery assemblage, of some 107 sherds (833g). The majority of this (678g) came from Period 1 features, with the remainder (155g) being recovered residually from Period 3 and 4 features. Further to this, 3,174g of Early Iron Age pottery was also collected during the evaluation phase of works on the site (Orzechowski 2015, 33). Whilst there is Early Iron Age pottery present in Period 1 features, it has consistently been found in association with quantities of later Iron Age pottery and in consequence it has not been possible to identify any of these features as definitively Early Iron Age. However, the well excavated in the evaluation (**1023**) did contain pottery of a wholly Early Iron Age date, including from its basal fill. It should also be noted that the archaeological excavation to the immediate south, at the former Church Hall site (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012), whilst clearly contemporary with the current site, was completely devoid of Early Iron Age remains. Whilst the combined overall investigated area at the present site, the Church Hall site and that of 8 Market Street only provide a small insight into the Iron Age settlement remains of the area, provisional observations could suggest that these three sites all form part of the same larger more long-lived settlement; with Early Iron Age occupation being focused to the north, with a drift or expansion of settlement to the south through the later Iron Age.
- 4.1.3 It is clear from the stratigraphic sequence, that more than one phase of activity is represented in Period 1, with posthole buildings being recut/reorganised and ditches reorientated. When compared with the Iron Age remains at the Church Hall site to the south, the following sequence can be proposed: the pits (and evaluation well) are believed to be the earliest features on site, supported by containing the largest Early Iron Age pottery assemblages. The beam-slot building (Structure 5) has no physical relationship with the pits, beyond being immediately adjacent to the well and pit **29**. The posthole structures are then constructed on the site, with postholes from Structure 3 being seen to cut pit **29** and postholes from Structure 4 cutting pit **252**. The north-northwest to south-southeast aligned parallel ditch terminals (**43**, **219**) are then cut, as evidenced by ditch **219** truncating the eastern side of posthole **223** (Structure 4). Finally, the large north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**46**) cut across everything.
- 4.1.4 This north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**46**) was also identified at the Church Hall site. Here, it was classified as Late Iron Age-Early Roman in date, due to the recovery of almost 1kg of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery from its fill (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012, 17). Within the subject site, the assemblage from this feature comprised 485g of later Iron Age (350-50BC) and 222g of Late Iron Age (100BC-AD100) pottery. It was postulated on the Church Hall site that this ditch formed an enclosure with two west-northwest to east-southeast aligned ditches (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012, 16). However, the identification of two north-northwest to south-southeast aligned ditches

(**43** and **219**), cut by ditch **46** on the current site, would perhaps indicate that these ditches are not associated and rather than representing part of an enclosure, the large north-east to south-west ditch is better interpreted as a boundary ditch, marking a reorganisation of the land.

- 4.1.5 The Late Iron Age/Early Roman period at the Church Hall site included evidence for some saw some evidence for the use of relatively high status goods, notably imported Gaulish finewares (Peachey 2012, 34). These were, however, completely absent from the current site. The only indication of imports were three small scraps of samian and a single abraded sherd of Spanish amphora. The 1st century BC/AD assemblage on the current site is also noted to be concentrated across the northern portion of the site, perhaps an indication of zoning activity within the settlement at different times. This is reinforced by the sparse number of Roman features on the site, compared with that of the adjacent Church Hall site.
- 4.1.6 Information about material culture gleaned from the two sites indicates that local handmade pottery dominates, and the assemblage is comparable to other local sites such as Wardy Hill and West Fen Road (Evans 2003, Mortimer 2005). The faunal assemblage for both the subject site and the Church Hall site shows a heavy reliance on cattle, with lesser amounts of pig, sheep and horse being recovered (Appendix C.2; Cussans 2012, 68). A fragment of rotary quern, residually round in a medieval ditch, also denotes crop processing on the site. Environmental sampling of Iron Age features further signifies this, with wheat, barley and spelt being recovered, along with chaff and legumes (Appendix C.3).
- 4.1.7 The recovery of a fragment of human skull from Period 1 ditch **250** can be paralleled by the recovery of occasional disarticulated human bones from ostensibly domestic contexts found at other Iron Age sites in the southern Fens (see Evans 2003, 227-232), a pattern also observed much more widely across Southern Britain (Hill 1995). Given the level of residual Iron Age material found in later features at the subject site it seems likely, if unproven, that the two human femur fragments from Period 4 pit **137** are also Iron Age in date. A single adult human tibia was also recovered from a layer cut by Saxon and later features at the Church Hall (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012, 84).
- 4.1.8 Whilst information for the later Iron Age/Early Iron Age transition is evidenced on both the current and Church Hall site, there is an apparent hiatus of activity during the Middle Roman period (2nd to 3rd centuries), with a small-scale, low status resurgence in the Late Roman period (AD300-410) at the Church Hall site (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012).

Late Saxon and medieval

- 4.1.9 Limited Early to Middle Saxon activity was identified at the Church Hall site, in the form of a single pit containing handmade pottery and residual Ipswich ware in later features (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012, 84). At the subject site, however, the earliest post-Roman activity appears to date to the Late Saxon period.
- 4.1.10 The putative Late Saxon features consist of a series of north-west to south-east aligned ditches which could indicate small land plots. The continuation of the most westerly of these ditches (**24**) was also identified at the Church Hall site, along with another to the west (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012, fig.8). The dating of these ditches to the Late Saxon period is somewhat uncertain, due to recovery of 1,456g of Iron Age pottery and a complete absence of Anglo-Saxon or medieval pottery from their fills. However, the Church Hall site ditches were phased as Late Saxon, with their pottery assemblage comprising 10th-12th and 11th-13th century sherds. The only Late Saxon pottery

recovered from the current site was a small sherd of Thetford ware in Period 4 pit **18**. The large quantities of Iron Age pottery being recovered from later features indicate a more intensive level of Iron Age occupation on the site than the Iron Age features alone might suggest, with later ditches truncating Iron Age features and/or incorporating material from surface layers/deposits.

- 4.1.11 Located at the very northern limit of the site was a possible roadside ditch (**130, 245**). Again, the lack of medieval pottery in its fills makes its exact date problematic, however its apparent alignment with that of White Hart Lane suggests it was associated with a precursor to the present road. Notably, a ditch on the Church Hall site, is parallel with this, and dates to the high medieval period (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012, fig. 9).
- 4.1.12 Overall, a very small amount of medieval pottery was recovered from the site, just 41 sherds (427g). The assemblage is widely dispersed across both the site and the various archaeological periods, with no notable clusters. This would suggest that activity from this period was low-level and probably of agricultural origin.

4.2 Research aims

- 4.2.1 A number of the original research aims (see paragraph 2.2) have been addressed on this site and incorporated into the above discussion. The PXA established that several research objectives originally laid out in the Brief and WSI could not be addressed in any detail due to a lack of evidence from the subject site. These objectives included examination of the transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age, the effects/process of Romanisation of the Iron Age communities at Soham and the development of Anglo-Saxon Soham; all deserve some brief additional comment here.
- 4.2.2 There was a complete absence of definitive Bronze Age activity on the site, beyond that of a few residual struck flints, and whilst a substantial amount of Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from features, its discovery in association with later Iron Age and Early Roman pottery means that gleaning information on the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition cannot be tackled. However, it should be noted that whilst there is no clear evidence for a Late Bronze Age precursor to the Early Iron Age occupation attested to on the subject site, the investigations at 8 Market Street recovered a small number of Late Bronze Age sherds within a larger pottery assemblage dominated by Iron Age material (Phillips 2012).
- 4.2.3 Again, the research question of the Romanisation of Soham can only be addressed in so far as saying low-level activity was present on the site; and the pottery assemblage would appear to conform to the apparent suspension of activity during the Middle Roman period. Contributing to the understanding of the development of Anglo-Saxon Soham, once more, can only be touched on at a very basic level, due to the lack of contemporary pottery but it seems clear that the subject site was located away from any focus of Anglo-Saxon occupation.

4.3 Conclusion

- 4.3.1 The archaeological works at 4 White Hart Lane, have confirmed the presence of occupation and agricultural activities in this location since the Early Iron Age. Further fieldwork to the north (Phillips 2012) and south (Leonard & Woolhouse 2012) indicate the presence of a dense and potentially relatively wealthy settlement in the immediate vicinity at this time, which persisted into the Early Roman period. Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity is evidenced, but at much lower levels. Nonetheless, the continuation of features and apparent associated features at the Church Hall site show that the features uncovered here are part of a much wider area of apparent activity.

4.3.2 Overall, considering the minor size of the excavation area, significant amount of information has been gleaned from the site and contributes to the growing corpus of data for Soham, particularly about its early establishment during the Iron Age.

4.4 Archiving and publication

4.4.1 Proposals for the deposition of the project archive follow the CCC HET's *Archaeological Archives Requirements for Post Excavation Analysis* document. The site records, artefacts and digital records produced during the excavation and post-excavation work will be deposited in accordance with the CCC HET guidelines set out in *Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire (2017, Version 2)*.

4.4.2 The physical archive consists of ten bulk archive boxes of finds and two paperwork boxes. Transfer of Title has been acquired for the material remains and these will be deposited with the CCC HET approved store. Following the specialist recommendations provided as part of the post-excavation assessment programme, all finds have been retained in the archive. The finds, including the small quantity of metalwork, are in a stable condition and no conservation work has been recommended. Digital media will be deposited with an accredited, publicly accessible, digital repository.

4.4.3 A summary account of the excavations will be published as an extended, illustrated, note in the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* (PCAS). A publication proposal has been accepted by the editor of PCAS and the publication is scheduled to appear in the 2019 issue of the journal.

APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Phase	Group
1		layer		0.30	top soil	4	
2		layer		0.38	sub soil	4	
3	4	fill	0.48	0.18	gully	3	Ditch Group 1
4	4	cut	0.48	0.18	gully	3	Ditch Group 1
5	6	fill	0.90	+1.00	well	4	
6	6	cut	0.90	+1.00	well?	4	
7	8	fill	0.35	0.10	post hole	1	Structure 1
8	8	cut	0.35	0.10	post hole	1	Structure 1
9	10	fill	0.29	0.24	post hole	3	
10	10	cut	0.29	0.24	post hole	3	
11	12	fill	0.31	0.10	post hole	1	Structure 2
12	12	cut	0.31	0.10	post hole	1	Structure 2
13	14	fill	0.72	0.19	pit	4	
14	14	cut	0.72	0.19	pit	4	
15	16	fill	0.26	0.13	post hole	1	Structure 2
16	16	cut	0.26	0.13	post hole	1	Structure 2
17	18	fill	2.60	0.60	pit	4	
18	18	cut	2.60	0.60	pit	4	
19	20	fill	0.40	0.15	pit	1	Structure 3
20	20	cut	0.40	0.15	pit	1	Structure 3
21	22	fill	0.46	0.28	post hole	1	Structure 3
22	22	cut	0.46	0.28	post hole	1	Structure 3
23	24	fill	0.72	0.08	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
24	24	cut	0.72	0.18	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
25	26	fill	0.28	0.13	post hole	1	Structure 3
26	26	cut	0.28	0.13	post hole	1	Structure 3
27	29	fill	1.25	0.32	pit	1	
28	29	fill	0.35	0.25	pit	1	
29	29	cut	1.50	0.38	pit	1	
30	30	cut	1.60	0.64	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
31	30	fill	0.90	0.16	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
32	30	fill	1.20	0.2	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
33	30	fill	1.60	0.38	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
34	35	fill	0.30	0.05	ditch	0	
35	35	cut	0.30	0.05	ditch	0	
36	37	fill	0.40	0.29	post hole	1	Structure 3
37	37	cut	0.40	0.29	pit	1	Structure 3
38	39	fill	0.60	0.06	pit	1	Structure 3
39	39	cut	0.60	0.06	pit	1	Structure 3
40	41	fill	0.34	0.06	ditch	1	Structure 5
41	41	cut	0.34	0.06	LINEAR	1	Structure 5
42	43	fill	0.65	0.13	ditch	1	
43	43	cut	0.65	0.13	ditch	1	
44	46	fill	1.17	0.25	ditch	146	
45	46	fill	0.80	0.47	ditch	146	

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Phase	Group
46	46	cut	1.30	0.5	ditch		146
47	48	fill	0.30	0.25	post hole		1 Structure 3
48	48	cut	0.30	0.25	post hole		1 Structure 3
49	49	cut	0.35	0.12	post hole		1 Structure 2
50	49	fill	0.35	0.12	post hole		1 Structure 2
51	51	cut	0.60	0.25	post hole		1 Structure 2
52	51	fill	0.60	0.25	post hole		1 Structure 2
53	54	fill	0.37	0.16	ditch		1 Structure 5
54	54	cut	0.37	0.16	ditch		1 Structure 5
55	56	fill	0.70	0.18	pit		1
56	56	cut	0.70	0.18	pit		1
57	59	fill	0.90	0.35	ditch		146
58	59	fill	1.00	0.36	ditch		146
59	59	cut	1.30	0.68	ditch		146
60	61	fill	1.38	0.55	pit fill		4
61	61	cut	1.38	0.55	natural		4
62	62	cut	1.08	0.26	pit		1
63	62	fill	1.08	0.26	pit		1
64	65	cut	0.93	0.17	pit		1
65	65	fill	0.93	0.17	pit		1
66	66	cut	0.56	0.26	post hole		2
67	66	fill	0.30	0.26	post hole		2
68	66	fill	0.30	0.18	post hole		2
69	69	cut	0.30	0.16	post hole		1 Structure 1
70	69	fill	0.30	0.16	post hole		1 Structure 1
71	71	cut	0.36	0.24	post hole		1 Structure 1
72	71	fill	0.36	0.24	post hole		1 Structure 1
73	73	cut	0.50	0.32	post hole		1
74	73	fill	0.50	0.32	post hole		1
75	73	fill	0.50	0.16	post hole		1
76	76	cut	1.35	0.64	ditch		2
77	76	fill	1.35	0.31	ditch		2
78	76	fill	1.10	0.34	ditch		2
79	79	cut	1.10	0.75	ditch		2
80	79	fill	1.10	0.26	ditch		2
81	79	fill	1.10	0.40	ditch		2
82	82	cut	0.50	0.35	pit / posthole		4
83	82	fill	0.50	0.15	pit / posthole		4
84	82	fill	0.50	0.21	pit / posthole		4
85	85	cut	1.30	0.16	pit		4
86	85	fill	1.30	0.16	pit		4
87	87	cut	0.38	0.06	post hole		1 Structure 3
88	87	fill	0.38	0.06	post hole?		1 Structure 3
89	89	cut	0.34	0.24	post hole		1 Structure 3
90	89	fill	0.34	0.24	post hole		1 Structure 3
91	92	fill	0.60	0.20	ditch		1
92	92	cut	0.60	0.20	ditch		1

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Phase	Group
93	94 fill		1.10		ditch		146
94	94 cut		1.10		ditch		146
95	95 cut		0.50	0.14	gully terminus	1	
96	95 fill		0.50	0.14	gully terminus	1	
97	97 cut		0.18	0.12	pit		1 Structure 1
98	97 fill		0.18	0.12	pit		1 Structure 1
99	100 fill		0.32	0.17	post hole		1 Structure 2
100	100 cut		0.32	0.17	post hole		1 Structure 2
101	102 fill		0.32	0.15	post hole		1 Structure 2
102	102 cut		0.32	0.15	post hole		1 Structure 2
103	104 fill		0.32	0.18	post hole		1
104	104 cut		0.32	0.18	post hole		1
105	106 fill		0.22	0.19	post hole		1 Structure 1
106	106 cut		0.22	0.19	post hole		1 Structure 1
107	108 fill		0.55	0.24	post hole		1 Structure 1
108	108 cut		0.55	0.24	post hole		1 Structure 1
109	110 fill		0.83	0.22	post hole		1 Structure 1
110	110 cut		0.83	0.22	post hole		1 Structure 1
111	112 fill		0.50	0.12	post hole		1 Structure 1
112	112 cut		0.50	0.12	post hole		1 Structure 1
113	114 fill		0.32	0.10	post hole		1 Structure 1
114	114 cut		0.32	0.10	post hole		1 Structure 1
115	116 fill		0.44	0.12	post hole		1 Structure 1
116	116 cut		0.44	0.12	post hole		1 Structure 1
117	117 cut		0.28	0.05	post hole?		1
118	117 fill		0.28	0.05	post hole		1
119	121 fill		1.00	0.48	ditch		3 Ditch Group 1
120	121 fill		0.90	0.23	ditch		3 Ditch Group 1
121	121 cut		1.10	0.78	ditch		3 Ditch Group 1
122	123 fill		0.60	0.45	pit		1
123	123 cut		0.60	0.45	pit		1
124	125 fill		0.76	0.30	pit		1
125	125 cut		0.76	0.30	pit		1
126	126 cut		1.06	0.44	ditch		3 Ditch Group 1
127	126 fill		0.90	0.46	ditch		3 Ditch Group 1
128	128 cut		0.96	0.32	pit		4
129	128 fill		0.96	0.32	pit		4
130	130 cut		0.43	0.10	gully		4 Ditch Group 2
131	130 fill		0.43	0.10	gully		4 Ditch Group 2
132	137 fill		1.90	0.30	pit		4
133	137 fill		0.60	0.10	pit		4
134	137 fill		1.00	0.40	pit		4
135	137 fill		0.70	0.50	pit		4
136	137 fill		1.30	0.30	pit		4
137	137 cut		2.60	0.80	pit		4
138	139 fill		1.12	0.45	ditch		3 Ditch Group 1
139	139 cut		2.12	0.43	ditch		3 Ditch Group 1

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Phase	Group
140	141	fill	0.60	0.42	ditch	3	Ditch Group 2
141	141	cut	0.60	0.42	ditch	3	Ditch Group 2
142	143	fill	0.94	0.85	pit	3	
143	143	cut	0.94	0.85	pit	3	
144	144	cut	0.60	0.40	pit	2	
145	144	fill	0.60	0.40	pit	2	
146	146	cut	0.90	0.18	gully	4	Ditch Group 2
147	146	fill	0.90	0.18	gully	4	Ditch Group 2
148	148	cut	0.37	0.42	post hole	3	Structure 6
149	148	fill	0.37	0.42	post hole	3	Structure 6
150	151	fill	0.37	0.22	post hole	4	
151	151	cut	0.37	0.22	post hole	4	
152	153	fill	0.55	0.28	ditch	3	Ditch Group 2
153	153	cut	0.55	0.28	ditch	3	Ditch Group 2
154	155	fill	0.37	0.02	post hole	3	Structure 6
155	155	cut	0.37	0.02	post hole	3	Structure 6
156	157	fill	1.10	0.34	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
157	157	cut	1.10	0.34	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
158	159	fill	1.30	0.20	ditch	146	
159	159	cut	1.30	0.20	ditch	146	
160	162	fill	1.30	0.40	pit	1	
161	162	fill	0.15	0.40	pit	1	
162	162	cut	1.30	0.40	pit	1	
163	164	fill	0.29	0.14	post hole	1	Structure 4
164	164	fill	0.29	0.14	post hole	1	Structure 4
165	166	fill	0.28	0.05	post hole	1	Structure 4
166	166	cut	0.28	0.05	post hole	1	Structure 4
167	168	fill	0.45	0.17	post hole	1	Structure 4
168	168	cut	0.45	0.17	post hole	1	Structure 4
169	170	fill	0.44	0.36	post hole	1	Structure 4
170	170	cut	0.44	0.36	post hole	1	Structure 4
171	173	fill	1.44	0.20	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
172	173	fill	1.44	0.10	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
173	173	cut	1.44	0.50	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
174	175	fill	1.80	0.10	furrow / spread?	4	
175	175	cut	1.80	0.10	furrow / spread	4	
176	177	fill	0.45	0.32	post hole	1	Structure 4
177	177	cut	0.45	0.32	post hole	1	Structure 4
178	179	fill	0.28	0.10	post hole	1	Structure 4
179	179	cut	0.28	0.10	post hole	1	Structure 4
180	181	fill	0.56	0.14	post hole	1	Structure 4
181	181	cut	0.56	0.14	post hole	1	Structure 4
182	183	fill	0.62	0.24	post hole	1	Structure 4
183	183	cut	0.62	0.24	post hole	1	Structure 4
184		layer		0.16	spread	4	
185	186	fill	0.35	0.14	post hole	1	

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Phase	Group
186	186	cut	0.35	0.24	post hole	1	
187	188	fill	0.35	0.26	post hole	1	Structure 4
188	188	cut	0.35	0.26	post hole	1	Structure 4
189	190	fill	0.46	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 4
190	190	cut	0.46	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 4
191	192	fill	0.29	0.16	post hole	1	Structure 4
192	192	cut	0.29	0.16	post hole	1	Structure 4
193	194	fill	0.40	0.17	post hole	1	Structure 4
194	194	cut	0.40	0.17	post hole	1	Structure 4
195	197	fill	1.08	0.28	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
196	197	fill	0.85	0.25	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
197	197	cut	1.08	0.55	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
198	198	cut	0.40	0.33	post hole / pit	1	Structure 4
199	198	fill	0.40	0.33	post hole / pit	1	Structure 4
200	198	fill	0.40	0.25	postpipe?	1	Structure 4
201	202	fill	0.41	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 4
202	202	cut	0.41	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 4
203	204	fill	0.45	0.18	pit	2	
204	204	cut	0.45	0.18	pit	2	
205		layer	1.08	0.16	spread	4	
206	207	fill	1.10	0.23	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
207	207	cut	1.10	0.23	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
208	209	fill	1.70	0.09	furrow	4	
209	209	cut	1.70	0.09	furrow	4	
210	210	cut	0.34	0.17	post hole	1	Structure 4
211	210	fill	0.34	0.17	post hole	1	Structure 4
212	212	cut	0.36	0.14	post hole	1	Structure 3
213	212	fill	0.36	0.14	post hole	1	Structure 3
214	215	fill	1.00	0.10	ditch	3	Ditch Group 2
215	215	cut	1.00	0.10	ditch	3	Ditch Group 2
216	217	fill	1.15	0.10	ditch	4	
217	217	cut	1.15	0.10	ditch	4	
218	219	fill	0.80	0.36	ditch	1	
219	219	cut	0.80	0.36	ditch	1	
220	221	fill	0.60	0.15	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
221	221	cut	0.60	0.15	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
222	223	fill	0.30	0.25	post hole	1	Structure 4
223	223	cut	0.30	0.25	post hole	1	Structure 4
224	224	cut	0.42	0.26	post hole	1	Structure 4
225	224	fill	0.42	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 4
226	227	fill	0.85	0.05	furrow?	4	
227	227	cut	0.85	0.05	furrow?	4	
228	228	cut	0.54	0.30	pit	1	
229	228	fill	0.54	0.30	pit	1	
230	231	fill	0.20	0.06	post hole?	1	Structure 4
231	231	cut	0.20	0.06	post hole	1	Structure 4
232	232	cut	0.32	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 3

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Phase	Group
233	232	fill	0.32	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 3
234	234	cut	0.29	0.16	post hole	1	Structure 3
235	234	fill	0.29	0.16	post hole	1	Structure 3
236	236	cut	0.27	0.06	post hole	1	Structure 4
237	236	fill	0.27	0.06	post hole	1	Structure 4
238	238	cut	0.40	0.12	post hole	1	Structure 4
239	238	fill	0.40	0.12	post hole	1	Structure 4
240	240	cut	0.45	0.32	pit	3	Structure 6
241	240	fill	0.45	0.32	pit	3	Structure 6
242	242	cut	1.44	0.40	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
243	242	fill	1.44	0.40	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
244	242	fill	1.10	0.10	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
245	245	cut	0.50	0.08	gully	4	Ditch Group 2
246	245	fill	0.50	0.08	gully	4	Ditch Group 2
247	248	fill	0.22	0.05	post hole	1	Structure 4
248	248	cut	0.22	0.05	post hole	1	Structure 4
249	250	fill	0.40	0.45	ditch	1	
250	250	cut	0.40	0.45	ditch	1	
251	252	fill	1.00	0.35	pit	1	
252	252	cut	1.00	0.35	pit	1	
253	254	fill	0.90	0.10	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
254	254	cut	0.90	0.10	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
255	256	fill	0.98	0.18	ditch	1	
256	256	cut	0.98	0.18	ditch	3	
257	258	fill	0.92	0.15	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
258	258	cut	0.92	0.15	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
259	259	cut	1.20	0.14	ditch	4	
260	259	fill	1.20	0.14	ditch	4	
261	261	cut	0.75	0.20	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
262	261	fill	0.75	0.20	ditch	3	Ditch Group 1
263	263	cut	0.20	0.05	stake hole	1	Structure 3
264	263	fill	0.20	0.05	stake hole	1	Structure 3
265	266	fill	0.42	0.16	post hole / pit	4	
266	266	cut	0.42	0.16	post hole / pit	4	
267	29	layer	0.80	0.10	spread?	4	
268	268	cut	0.50	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 3
269	268	fill	0.50	0.30	post hole	1	Structure 3
270	270	cut	0.42	0.34	post hole	1	Structure 3
271	270	fill	0.42	0.34	post hole	1	Structure 3
272	273	fill	0.28	0.32	post hole	1	Structure 4
273	273	cut	0.28	0.32	post hole	1	Structure 4
274	274	cut	0.48	0.45	pit	1	Structure 3
275	274	fill	0.48	0.45	pit	1	Structure 3
276	276	cut	0.14	0.40	post hole	1	Structure 3
277	276	fill	0.14	0.40	stake hole	1	Structure 3
278	278	cut	0.30	0.09	post hole	1	Structure 3
279	278	fill	0.30	0.09	post hole	1	Structure 3

Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Phase	Group
280	280	cut	0.25	0.24	pit	1	Structure 3
281	280	fill	0.25	0.24	post hole	1	Structure 3
282	282	cut	0.12	0.09	stake hole	1	Structure 3
283	282	fill	0.12	0.09	stake hole	1	Structure 3
284	284	cut	0.25	0.10	post hole	1	Structure 3
285	284	fill	0.25	0.10	post hole	1	Structure 3
286	286	cut	0.35	0.14	post hole	1	Structure 4
287	286	fill	0.35	0.14	post hole	1	Structure 4
288	288	cut	0.64	0.26	pit	1	Structure 4
289	288	fill	0.64	0.26	pit	1	Structure 4
290	291	fill	0.32	0.28	post hole	1	Structure 4
291	291	cut	0.32	0.28	post hole	1	Structure 4
292	293	fill	0.45	0.38	post hole	1	Structure 4
293	293	cut	0.45	0.38	post hole	1	Structure 4
294	296	fill	1.05	0.35	pit	3	
295	296	fill	0.94	0.18	pit	3	
296	296	cut	1.10	0.52	pit	3	
297	299	fill	0.15	0.25	pit	4	
298	299	fill	0.34	0.36	post hole	4	
299	299	cut	0.48	0.36	post hole	4	

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Small finds

By Chris Howard-Davis

Glass

- B.1.1 A single small bead came from the fill (77) of ditch 76 (SF 16). It is complete, sub-spherical and approximately pear-shaped, and appears to be an opaque yellow glass, with a patchy cream-coloured weathering layer. It does not appear to have the slight collars associated with many segmented beads as a result of their method of manufacture, but probably falls into Guido's group of small segmented beads (Guido 1978, 91). Dating for the type is uncertain, but Guido (*ibid*) suggests that they do not appear in Britain before the second century AD, and that they persist in use well into the post-Roman period.

Small glass bead. Complete. Pear-shaped bead. Opaque cream or yellow in colour.
Diam: 4mm; Ht: 3.5mm; Diam perf: 1.5mm
SOHWHL16, fill 77 (ditch 76), SF 16, Phase 2

Copper-alloy

- B.1.2 Two very small fragments of narrow diameter copper alloy wire (SF 1) came from ditch 46 (fill 44). They are most likely to derive from a very slender pin of some kind, but there is nothing to suggest a date, beyond its stratigraphic context. As it lacks a head, no more precise identification can be made. There was, in addition, a fragment of copper alloy sheet (SF 3) from pit 137 (fill 132). It is badly corroded and fragmentary, meaning that the original object cannot be determined.

Two small fragments of round-sectioned wire. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 8mm; Diam: c 1mm
SOHWHL16, fill 44 (ditch 46), SF 1, Phase 1

Small fragment of sheet. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 19mm; W: 7.5mm; Th: c 1.5mm
SOHWHL16, fill 132 (ditch 137), SF 3, Phase 4

Ironwork

- B.1.3 There was, in addition, an assemblage of ironwork, comprising 13 fragments, the majority of which (SF 4, SF 7, SF 9, SF 10, SF 12 - SF 15), can be identified as nails. Two fragments, SF 6 from Phase 3 gully 215 (fill 214), and SF 11 from Phase 4 pit 143 (fill 142), both have the distinctive triangular cross-section (seen in breaks) which allows them to be identified as blades, but does not help with dating. SF 5, from Phase 4 pit 137 (fill 134), is clearly a large padlock, but it does not appear to be of any great antiquity.

Nail, complete, fair condition. Possibly clenched at c 60mm.
L: 76mm; Diam head: 12mm
SOHWHL16, fill 214 (gully 215), SF 7, Phase 3

Two nails, complete. Poor condition.
L: 62mm; Diam head: 13mm
L: 63mm; Diam head: 15mm
SOHWHL16, fill 132 (pit 137), SF 15, Phase 4

Nail, complete, fair condition.
L: 65mm; Diam head: 18mm
SOHWHL16, fill 132 (pit 137), SF 4, Phase 4

Nail, incomplete. Poor condition. Shaft only.
L: 28mm
SOHWHL16, fill 65 (pit 64), SF 12, Phase 4

Nail, incomplete. Poor condition. Shaft only.
L: 17mm
SOHWHL16, ditch 255, SF 9, Phase 4

Nail, incomplete. Poor condition. Shaft only.
L: 72mm
SOHWHL16, fill 5 (well 6), SF 14, Phase 4

Nail, incomplete. Poor condition. Shaft only
L: 32mm
SOHWHL16, fill 132 (pit 137), SF 13, Phase 4

Nail, incomplete. Poor condition. Shaft only. Wood impressions preserved.
L: 42mm
SOHWHL16, fill 233 (posthole 232), SF 10, unphased

Blade fragment. Poor condition, shattered and laminating. Probably a triangular blade.
L: 90mm; W: 22mm; Th: 4mm
SOHWHL16, fill 214 (gully 215), SF 6, Phase 3

Two joining blade fragments. Poor condition. Probably a triangular blade.
L: 127mm; W: 21mm; Th: 4mm
SOHWHL16, fill 142 (pit 143), SF 11, Phase 4

Padlock, complete Large square-bodied padlock with robust loop. Fair condition.
L: 94mm; W: 53mm; Th: 32mm
SOHWHL16, fill 134 (pit 137), SF 5, Phase 4

B.2 Struck flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction and methodology

- B.2.1 A small assemblage of 62 flints was recovered from various features across the site (quantified by type in Table 1).
- B.2.2 The recovered lithics were rapidly scanned and attributed to an arbitrary classification based on the size and form of the material. This assessment took into account typological and chronological indicators but no further detailed work 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.

Results

- B.2.3 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.

Type	Sub-type	Total
Core	Fragment	1
Flake (>50mm)	Secondary	1
Flake (<50mm >25mm)	Primary	1
	Secondary	18
	Tertiary	5
Flake (<25mm >10mm)	Primary	1
	Secondary	7
	Tertiary	3
Blade (<20mm >10mm)	Tertiary	1
Angular Shatter		1
Burnt		22
Natural		1
Total		62

Table 1: Struck flint quantification

- B.2.4 The single small core fragment is unstructured and without evidence for platform preparation.
- B.2.5 The range of debitage is made up of flakes, only a single blade fragment was recovered. The majority of the flakes are relatively short and squat often with hinge or step terminations. The flakes exhibit signs that would suggest hard hammer removal, although this is difficult to distinguish. 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.
- B.2.6 Two of the struck flints have characteristics that are potentially Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. These include a proximal blade fragment from Period 1 posthole fill 72

(73), which is struck from an opposed platform core and a narrow blade like flake (208) recovered from a Period 4 furrow fill (209). Both of these flints had a slight patination.

B.3 Prehistoric and Roman pottery

By Sarah Percival, with Alice Lyons

Introduction

B.3.1 A multi period assemblage of pottery totalling 862 sherds, weighing 9278g, was collected which spans a broad chronological range from c. 800BC to the 4th century AD (Table 2). The pottery represents a minimum of 289 individual vessels, but is fragmentary and no complete or *in situ* examples were recovered. The sherds are severely abraded with an average sherd weight of only c. 11g.

Ceramic Period	Date range	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Early Iron Age	800-350BC	107	833	8.99
Later Iron Age	350-50BC	582	6609	71.23
Late Iron Age	100BC-AD100	84	1187	12.79
Roman	C2-C4	88	648	6.98
Not closely datable		1	1	0.01
Total		862	9278	100.00

Table 2: The pottery assemblage, listed by ceramic era

B.3.2 The pottery was recovered from range of features, most commonly from pits (37% by weight) and ditches (37% by weight). The poor condition of the assemblage reflects that a large part of the assemblage is residual, whereby, it frequently survived within later features (Table 3).

Methodology

B.3.3 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (Barclay *et al* 2016). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted.

Site Phase	Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
0: Unphased	post hole	3	20	0.21
1: Iron Age		371	4333	46.70
	ditch	196	1420	
	gully terminus	5	10	
	pit	50	887	
	post hole	34	189	
	post hole / pit	21	329	
	post pipe?	65	1498	
2: Roman		157	1035	11.16
	ditch	70	553	
	pit	74	358	
	post hole	13	124	
3: Late medieval		274	3387	36.51
	ditch	106	1444	
	gully	15	100	
	pit	152	1834	
	post hole	1	9	
4: Post medieval		57	503	5.42
	furrow	4	28	
	furrow / spread?	1	6	
	pit	41	372	
	post hole	3	2	
	spread	2	9	
	sub soil	6	86	
Total		862	9278	100.01

Table 3. The pottery assemblage, listed by site phase and feature type

Early Iron Age

- B.3.4 A total of 107 sherds, weighing 883g, of early Iron Age pottery was recovered. This material is characterised by the use of profusely flint-tempered fabrics and include rims from three ellipsoidal vessels with flattened rims, one with fingertip decoration along the shoulder. Undiagnostic sandy, also shelly, jar/bowl forms were also recovered.
- B.3.5 Early Iron Age sherds were recovered from a range of features including pits **29**, **61** and **62**, posthole **5** and ditches **59** and **121** in trench A and pit **252**, posthole **280** and **291** and ditches **219**, **221** and **256** trench B. The feature assemblages are mostly small and abraded with the exception of pits 29 and 225 which contained modest quantities of pot including all the rim sherds.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Flint tempered	59	563	67.59
Sand tempered	40	252	30.25

Shell tempered	8	18	2.16
Total	107	833	100.00

Table 4. The earlier Iron Age pottery, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Later Iron Age

B.3.6 A total of 582 sherds, weighing 6609g of later Iron Age pottery was recovered which is the largest chronological group of pottery recovered and represents 71% of the complete assemblage.

B.3.7 The assemblage includes rims from 33 vessels in a range of mostly sand-tempered fabrics. The vessels comprise handmade slack-shouldered and 'S' profile jars, bowls and storage jars with smoothed or burnished surfaces mostly undecorated though one example has fingertip impressions around the shoulder. One base sherd, from pit **296** has drilled hole through the bottom and is covered in lime scale suggesting that it has been used as a steamer similar to examples found at Wardy Hill (Evans 2003, fig.83, 1 and 2). Of particular interest is a deposit of large joining sherds from posthole **198** (fill 200) which include the full profile of an 'S' shaped jar with applied knobs forming handles at each side (Fig. 11) and a large sherd from a large sinuous bowl.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Sand tempered	485	5777	87.41
Shell tempered	52	423	6.40
Flint tempered	44	396	5.99
Grog tempered	1	13	0.20
Total	582	6609	100.00

Table 5. The later Iron Age pottery, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Late Iron Age

B.3.8 A total of 84 sherds, weighing 1187g were recovered; this material has an average sherd weight of 14g. The late Iron Age assemblage includes handmade and wheelmade vessels which are probably broadly contemporary with the earliest of the Roman pottery found and form a continuum spanning the end of the 1st century BC and into the 1st to second centuries AD. The vessels are primarily manufactured in Sand (with grog) grey wares, also shell tempered fabrics, with rims from four vessels including cordoned jars and bowls, as well as sherds decorated with combed, impressed and burnished motifs.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Sand (with grog) tempered	58	967	81.47
Shell tempered	26	220	18.53
Total	84	1187	100.00

Table 6. The late Iron Age pottery, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Roman

- B.3.9 A total of 88 sherds, weighing 648g was identified. This material is extremely abraded with an average sherd weight of only 7g. This small assemblage is largely early Roman, dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD and including local wheelmade black-slipped sandy greyware cordoned jars and rilled globular jars with slashed, lid-seated rims (Thompson 1982, C5-2) as well as jars and bowls with burnished cross-hatch and body sherds from sandy oxidised ware flagons. Three small scraps of East Gaulish samian and a small abraded sherd of Spanish amphora represent the only imports found.
- B.3.10 Also identified were a small number of diagnostically late Roman (4th century) sherds including South Midland shelly ware jars fragments, Hadham red ware body sherds, also Oxfordshire red ware jar/bowl and mortaria sherds.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Sandy grey ware (various fabrics)	65	441	68.06
Sandy oxidised ware	12	77	11.88
Oxfordshire red slipped ware (Tyers 1996, 175-178)	4	74	11.42
Shelly ware (Tyers 1996, 192- 193)	2	29	4.48
Spanish olive oil amphora (Tyers 1996, 87-89)	1	17	2.62
East Gaulish Samian (Tyers 1996, 113- 114)	3	8	1.23
Hadham red slipped ware (Tyers 1996, 168-169)	1	2	0.31
Total	88	648	100.00

Table 7. The Roman pottery, listed in descending order of weight %

Discussion

- B.3.11 The earliest material found comprises Early Iron Age utilitarian pottery that is similar to contemporary material that has been found locally in small quantities at several sites around Soham and extensively at excavations in the adjacent parishes of Fordham, also in Cambridgeshire and Exning in Suffolk (Percival

2005a; Brudenell 2012). The assemblage suggests small scale occupation accompanied by pit digging.

- B.3.12 The majority of the assemblage consists of later Iron Age fabrics and forms typical of contemporary settlement assemblages from the region which can also be paralleled in the published literature such as Wardy Hill and West Fen Road (Evans 2003, Percival 2005b). The presence of dispersed sherds from utilitarian vessels such as the cooking jars and steamers is characteristic of domestic deposition found on many occupation sites and suggest the disposal of household waste which has subsequently become incorporated into the fills of cut features. The exception may be the pots from posthole **198**, which appear to have been deposited semi-complete and soon after discard leaving them in a fresh and semi-complete condition upon excavation.
- B.3.13 Analysis of the late Iron Age sherds also finds parallel with local assemblages such as Wardy Hill which includes several comparable cordoned vessels (Evans 2003, fig.77, 9; fig.78, 3). The presence of a small amount of Roman pottery also typical of the area, indicates limited, low status activity at the site until the end of the Roman period.
- B.3.14 This assemblage, although relatively small and severely abraded, has proven to be of interest during analysis and adds to the growing corpus of ceramic data from the area.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery

Fig 11: A sand tempered (fabric Q1) hand-formed 'S' shaped jar with applied knobs forming handles at each side. Later Iron Age. (200), posthole **198**.

B.4 Post-Roman pottery

By Sue Anderson

Introduction and methodology

- B.4.1 Forty-one sherds (427g) of post-Roman pottery were collected from twelve contexts. Small quantities of post-medieval pottery were also recovered during the evaluation (Peachey 2015). A summary catalogue is included in Table 10.
- B.4.2 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. Methods follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology follows MPRG classifications (1998). The results were input directly onto an MS Access database, which forms the archive catalogue. Late Saxon to late medieval wares were identified based on Spoerry (2016); post-medieval to modern fabrics are based on the author's fabric series.

Results

- B.4.3 Table 8 provides a summary quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Date range	Quantity	Weight (g)	MNV	Eve
Thetford type wares	THET	840-1150	1	3	1	
(South Cambridgeshire) Smooth Sandy ware	SCASS	1050-1225	1	10	1	
Early medieval wares	EMS	11th-12th c.	2	7	2	
Medieval Ely ware	MEL	1150-1350	6	31	6	
South-east Fenland Late medieval Calcareous Buff ware	SEFEN	1150-1450	2	11	2	
Bourne D ware	BOND	1430-1650	1	57	1	
Late Grimston-type ware	GRIL	14th-15th c.	1	20	1	
Late medieval and Transitional (Norfolk/Suffolk)	LMT	M.14th-E.16th	1	6	1	
Late medieval East Anglian Redwares	LEAR	1400-1600	16	238	11	
Glazed Red Earthenware	GRE	1600-1800	5	21	5	0.08
Creamware	CREA	M-L. 18th c.	1	2	1	
Late post-medieval Unglazed Redwares	LPME	19th-20th c.	1	2	1	0.11
Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware	SWSW	18th c.	2	18	2	
Unidentified	UNIT	-	1	1	1	
Total			41	427	26	0.1

Table 8: Post-Roman pottery quantification by fabric

- B.4.4 One sherd of possible Late Saxon Thetford-type ware was recovered, a fragment of body in a fine sandy fabric. The early medieval period was represented by two body sherd of sandy early medieval wares and a sherd of smooth sandy ware. Coarsewares of medieval date comprised body sherds of Ely and SE Fenland wares. One Ely ware

sherd was a base angle fragment with a large spot of glaze on the ?thumbed edge. Most of these sherds were abraded and residual in later contexts.

- B.4.5 The largest group of sherds was of late medieval date. A body sherd of green-glazed late Grimston-type ware, decorated with a white slip line, was perhaps the earliest in this group. A base fragment of a possible cistern in Bourne D ware was found. The majority of sherds in this group were East Anglian redwares with thin clear glaze externally, all body and base sherds.
- B.4.6 The early post-medieval period was represented by several fragments of post-medieval redwares (GRE), including a mug rim and an ?everted rim from a large vessel.
- B.4.7 Four sherds were of 18th-century or later date. These comprised a body sherd and a ? tankard base fragment of white salt-glazed stoneware, a creamware body sherd and a rim fragment from a plantpot.
- B.4.8 One fine cream-coloured earthenware was of uncertain date and has been recorded as unidentified as it may be CBM.

Pottery by context

- B.4.9 Table 9 provides a summary list by context with spot dates. The full catalogue is available as an Access database in the archive.

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date range</i>
6	5	well	GRE	1600-1800
18	17	pit	LEAR	1400-1500
104	103	posthole	MEL	1150-1350
137	132	pit	THET, EMW, SEFEN, MEL, LEAR, GRE	?16th c.
143	142	pit	EMW, SCASS, GRIL, LEAR, LMT	15th c.
151	150	posthole	SWSW	18th c.
-	184	spread	LEAR, LPME	19th-20th c.
209	208	furrow	SWSW	18th c.
215	214	gully	MEL	1150-1350
256	255	ditch	GRE, CREA, UNID	M-L. 18th c.
259	260	pit	GRE	1600-1800
299	298	posthole	BOND	1430-1650

Table 9: Post-Roman pottery quantification by feature

- B.4.10 There is no particular concentration of medieval or post-medieval pottery on the site. The largest single quantity was recovered from pit **137** (13 sherds, 155g), with another similar group in pit **143** (12 sherds, 143g), both late medieval with residual earlier pottery.

Discussion

- B.4.11 The range of medieval and later fabrics identified in the assemblage is typical of the area, with Ely ware and SE Fenland ware being particularly common, as would be expected given their sources (SEFEN is thought to have been made in the Soham area; Spoerry 2016). Other Soham sites have also produced predominantly Ely wares and wares which appear from their description to be SEFEN (Spoerry 2016, tables 6.4–6.5; Thompson 2012). Later medieval wares were sourced from Lincolnshire, Essex, Norfolk

and Suffolk, and probably also from as-yet-unidentified production sites in Cambridgeshire itself, as is typical for fenland sites.

B.4.12 The assemblage is too widely dispersed both spatially and temporally to provide any meaningful interpretation of the site, but the small quantity in comparison with the nearby Former Church Hall site (Thompson 2012) suggests that there was little activity on the site in the Late Saxon to post-medieval periods. Much of it may have been deposited with 'night soil' during manuring of open fields.

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	Quantity	Weight (g)	Date range
5	GRE		?everter	1	10	1600-1800
17	LEAR			2	10	1400-1500
103	MEL			1	2	1150-1350
132	THET			1	3	840-1150
	EMW			1	5	11th-12th c.
	MEL			3	15	1150-1350
	SEFEN			2	11	1150-1450
	LEAR			3	34	1400-1500
	LEAR			2	85	1400-1500
	GRE	mug	upright	1	2	1600-1800
142	EMW			1	2	11th-12th c.
	SCASS			1	10	1050-1225
	GRIL			1	20	14th-15th c.
	LEAR			5	38	1400-1500
	LEAR			2	10	1400-1500
	LEAR			1	57	1400-1500
	LMT			1	6	1450-1600
150	SWSW			1	4	18th c.
184	LEAR			1	4	1400-1500
	LPME	plant pot	upright	1	2	19th-20th c.
208	SWSW	?tankard		1	14	18th c.
214	MEL			2	14	1150-1350
255	UNID			1	1	-
	GRE			1	7	1600-1800
	GRE			1	1	1600-1800
	CREA			1	2	M-L. 18th c.
260	GRE			1	1	1600-1800
298	BOND			1	57	1430-1650

Table 10: Post-Roman pottery catalogue

B.5 Worked stone

By Sarah Percival

Results

- B.5.1 A fragment of rotary quern weighing 640g was recovered from context 119, fill of ditch **121** (Period 3). The fragment has a curved outer edge and is dished on both flat faces, perhaps suggesting that it had been reused as a hone. The maximum thickness on the exterior edge is 41mm thinning to 26mm on the broken edge towards the centre. The quern is made of coarse greensand and is probably of Later Iron Age to early Roman date.

B.6 Ceramic building material

By Sue Anderson

Introduction

- B.6.1 Fifty-nine fragments (5004g) of CBM were collected from seventeen contexts. Table 11 provides a summary of the types present, and a catalogue is included in Table 8.

Type	Form	Code	Quantity	Weight (g)
Roman	?Tile	?RBT	1	6
Roofing	Plain roof tile: medieval/late-medieval	RTM	18	986
		?RTM	8	484
	Plain roof tile: post-medieval	RTP	8	147
		?RTP	3	181
Walling	Estuarine clay (early) brick	EB	1	388
		?EB	2	906
	Later brick	LB	4	1657
		?LB	12	111
Flooring	Floor brick/floor tile	FB/FT	2	138

Table 11: CBM form quantities

- B.6.2 One fragment of possible Roman tile was residual in pit fill 132 (**137**), and a very dense fragment from pit fill 122 (**123**), identified as possible later brick, could also be Roman. Both were in fine/medium sandy fabrics and were abraded.
- B.6.3 The majority of fragments were pieces of roof tile, many of which were in fine or medium sandy fabrics with sparse fine calcareous inclusions. Many of these had reduced cores and/or surfaces and were likely to be of medieval or late medieval date. The largest groups were recovered from pit fills 132 (**137**) and 142 (**143**), which also contained late medieval pottery. Some of the post-medieval tiles also had calcareous tempering, but the majority of these were in white-firing gault clay fabrics and were probably made locally.
- B.6.4 Three 'estuarine' bricks of late medieval date were identified, one of which (pit fill 134, cut **137**) had straw impressions on the base. A fragment in posthole fill 09 (**10**) had probably been re-used as it was covered in post-medieval lime mortar. A burnt fragment was found in pit fill 17 (**18**).
- B.6.5 Several later bricks were in poorly mixed orange and white clays and were probably post-medieval, but a few fragments of sand-tempered red-firing bricks in subsoil 02 and pit fill 294 (**296**) may be late medieval. Two fragments of a worn white-firing floor brick/tile were found in pit fill 134 (**137**); these paviments were commonly used in the 18th/19th centuries.

Context	Fabric	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Width	Height	Mortar	Comments	Date
2	msc	RTM	1	53					reduced core, dense matrix	medieval
	msc	RTM	1	59					reduced core, dense matrix	medieval
	wfx	RTP	1	45				thin on base		post-medieval
	fscx	RTP	2	43						post-medieval
	mscfe	LB	1	431			44	thin	orange with cream streaks, very dense	?late medieval
	fscx	LB	1	550	+	115	53		white surfaces	post-medieval
	wfx	LB	1	559			62			post-medieval
9	?est	?EB	1	432			48	msca all over		?14th-16th c.
11	wfg	RTP	1	24						post-medieval
17	?est	?EB	1	485		>110	59		burnt, slight straw impressions on base	?14th-16th c.
65	fsc	?ETM	1	1				thin		?medieval
99	wfx	RTP	2	6					flakes	post-medieval
122	ms	?LB	1	25	+				very dense, could be RBT	?post-medieval
132	fsc	?RTM	1	4	++				reduced surface	?medieval
	fs	?RBT	1	6	++				very dense	?Roman
	fsc	?RTM	2	149					1 tile	medieval/late medieval
	fsc	?RTM	2	40					1 tile	medieval/late medieval
	fsc	?RTM	2	290				thin on one	burnt or over fired	medieval/late medieval
134	wfg	FB/FT	1	138	+		25+		worn	post-medieval
	est	EB	1	388					dark red with dark grey surfaces, strawedbase	14th-15th c.
142	msc	RTM	9	640					mainly reduced surfaces, dense	medieval

Context	Fabric	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Width	Height	Mortar	Comments	Date
	msc	RTM	1	10					over fired	medieval
	fsc	RTM	2	197				1 ms	reduced core, one reduced surface	medieval
	msc	?RTP								
152	msc	RTM	1	1					small chip	medieval
174	fsc	TRM	1	8					reduced core	medieval
	wfcx	?LB	1	14					flake	post-medieval
214	wfcx	?RTP	1	5	+				flake	?post-medieval
	fs	RTM	2	18	++				reduced core	medieval
255	wfx	RTP	1	8						post-medieval
	wfc	RTP	1	21						post-medieval
265	wfs	LB	1	117			62			post-medieval
278	wfc	?RTP	1	3					flake	post-medieval
294	ms	?LB	10	69	++				?1 brick, rounded fragments, could be fired clay	?late medieval

Table 12: CBM quantification

Fabrics:

est – estuarine clays

fs/ms – fine/medium sandy

fsc/msc – fine/medium sandy with calcareous inclusions

fscx – fsc with poorly mixed clays

mscfe – medium sandy with chalk and ferrous inclusions

wfc/wfcx – white fsc/fscx

wfg – white fsg

wfs – white fs

wfx –poorly mixed wfs

B.7 Fired clay

By Sue Anderson

Results

B.7.1 A fragment of fired clay (220g) in a buff-coloured fine sandy fabric with straw impressions was recovered from pit fill 132 (**137**), in association with medieval and late medieval pottery. The fragment had two flattish surfaces at roughly right-angles to each other, and was relatively thick but had no wattle impressions. Its function is uncertain.

B.7.2

Context	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)	Colour	Surface	Impressions
132	fso	1	220	buff	1 flat surface and 1 flattish surface at right-angles	straw

Table 13: Fired clay quantification

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human skeletal remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 Three fragments of human bone were recovered from the site at White Hart Lane in Soham. The remains were recovered from contexts 132, fill of pit **137** and 249, fill of ditch **250**. All of the fragments were adult and no other human remains were found on site.

C.1.2 The remains were assessed in accordance with national guidelines set out by Mays *et al.* (2005) and with reference to standard protocols for examining human skeletal remains from archaeological sites (Brickley & McKinley, 2004; Buikstra & Ubelaker, 1994; Cox and Mays, 2000).

Results

C.1.3 The results are summarised in Table 14 below:

<i>Context</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Element</i>	<i>Number of fragments</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Pathologies</i>
132	137	femur	2	adult	-	-
249	250	skull	1	adult	-	-

Table 14: HSR quantification

C.1.4 The remains consisted of two fragments of adult femur and a fragment of skull. There is no potential for more accurate ageing, estimation of sex or identification of pathologies.

C.1.5 Context 249 was dated to the Iron Age (Period 1), whilst context 132 comes from the post-medieval period (Period 4). It is not possible to say whether these fragments represent the same individual.

C.2 Faunal remains

By Vida Rajkovača

Introduction and methodology

- C.2.1 Excavations at White Hart Lane Soham resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage from contexts ranging in date from the Early Iron Age through to the post-medieval period. Some 688 assessable specimens were recorded, 237 of which were assigned to family or species level (34.5% of the assemblage). Bone was studied based on the chronology of the pottery material, and although sub-set sizes are too small for discussions on site economy, some interesting patterns were recognised.
- C.2.2 The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Most, but not all, caprine bones are difficult to identify to species however, it was possible to identify a selective set of elements as sheep or goat from the assemblage, using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Halstead (Halstead et al. 2002). Refitting fragments were counted as one specimen. Age at death was estimated for the main species using epiphyseal fusion (Silver 1969) and mandibular tooth wear (Grant 1982, Payne 1973). Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident. Butchery marks were located by zone, position of the cut and direction of the mark, multiple occurrence, depth and the implement type, and the function of the mark was assessed. Undiagnostic fragments were assigned to a size category.
- C.2.3 A small number of bones were retrieved from sieving of the environmental bulk soil samples. Small taxa were almost absent, however, and the sieved bones did not provide a great deal of additional data on the main domestic species.

Preservation, fragmentation and taphonomy

- C.2.4 Preservation ranged from 'good' to 'quite poor', though overall the majority of bone showed minimal surface modification or weathering. A small number of bones were recorded as charred or calcined, and a small number showed signs of gnawing. Although only eleven specimens showed butchery marks, the techniques were crude and the implements were larger blades or cleavers, suggesting a relatively late date.

Results

- C.2.5 The earliest occupation produced larger quantity of bone compared to later phases. The majority of bone from this phase came from Late Iron Age contexts. In keeping with known period patterns, the heavy reliance on domestic sources of food is reflected in high numbers of ovicapra and cattle (Table 15), collectively accounting for c.85% of the identified species' count (by NISP). Pig, horse, dog and cat complete the set of domestic species, with a single vole and an amphibian find representing the background fauna. A sheep mandible (44, ditch **56**) showed the animal was killed aged 6-12 months, possibly an autumn killing, or even a natural mortality during the harsh winter months. Only one other specimen was possible to age and that was a cow mandible (119, ditch **121**), giving the age of 8-18 months and showing that cattle were raised locally or on site. Another cow mandible, coming from context 44 (**56**), had a

missing mandibular premolar P2, a trait indicative of restricted gene pools of local cattle.

C.2.6 Albeit represented only by a few features, the subsequent Romano-British phase contained a small quantity of faunal waste, made up of remains of the three main 'food species' and horse.

C.2.7 The evidence coming from the phase corresponding to the Late Saxon/medieval period shows an increase in sheep numbers, clearly reflective of the importance of wool in the economy. This is also typical for the period, as ovicapra tend to be the prevalent species during the Anglo-Saxon period (e.g. Crabtree 2013). This was closely followed by cattle and pigs, and a single metatarsus of roe deer. A bird ulna, probably of crow, or a smaller corvid, was also identified, as well as chicken tibio-tarsus—evidence that birds made some contribution to the diet. In terms of ageing data, this sub-set contained a sheep/ goat mandible aged 6-8 years, and a pig mandible giving the age at death of 7-14 months.

Taxon	Period 1			Period 2			Period 3			Period 4		
	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI
Cow	39	39.9	2	14	38.9	1	12	23.5	1	25	48.1	2
Sheep/ goat	41	41.8	4	14	38.9	1	22	43.1	2	12	23.1	1
Sheep	3	3.1	1	1	2.8	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pig	8	8.1	2	3	8.3	1	9	17.6	1	1	1.9	1
Horse	3	3.1	1	4	11.1	1	3	5.8	1	12	23.1	1
Dog	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cat	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Roe deer	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	.	.
Vole sp.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hedgehog	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	.	.
Mouse	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	.	.
Amphibian	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1.9	.
Corvid	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	.	.
Chicken	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	1	1.9	1
Sub-total to species	98	100	.	36	100	.	51	100	.	52	100	.
Cattle-sized	49	.	.	23	.	.	31	.	.	31	.	.
Sheep-sized	145	.	.	52	.	.	59	.	.	18	.	.
Rodent-sized	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	24	.	.	2	.	.	6	.	.	6	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.
Fish n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Total	318	.	.	113	.	.	149	.	.	108	.	.

Table 15: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) for all species from all contexts (the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified)

C.2.8 The final phase contained a small proportion of faunal waste, characterised by an increase in numbers of cattle, accounting for almost half of the identified species' count. The occurrence of goose and chicken is typical and shows that poultry was kept on site. Although based on small numbers, the relatively high percentage of horse remains is somewhat unusual, probably emphasising the importance of this animal for transport or even traction. Another interesting aspect of the latest component of faunal waste is the crudeness of butchery marks, evident from several specimens recovered from 132 (pit

137) and 226 (furrow 227). The use of heavy blades was noted, as well as sawing, confirming that saws were used as a multi-purpose tool during this period. Worthy of note is the deposit from 132 (137). This contained a large quantity of vertebra and limb bones, mainly of cattle and horse, though it is likely majority belonged to two individuals (NISP=76, or 70% of sub-set).

C.2.9 In addition to the hand-recovered material, a further 323 specimens came from the processing of environmental bulk soil samples, only 40 of which were identified to species (Table 16). With an exception of a small number of elements, the material was mostly made up of crumbs of unidentifiable mammalian bone. The absence of avian and fish fauna reflects the lack of these categories from the hand recovered assemblage.

Taxon	Bone from heavy residues
Cow	3
Sheep/ goat	15
Pig	4
Frog/ toad	18
Sub-total to species	40
Cattle-sized	5
Sheep-sized	129
Rodent-sized	17
Mammal n.f.i.	132
Total	323

Table 16: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) for all species from all contexts; recovered as heavy residues (the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified)

Conclusions

- C.2.10 Despite a generally accepted belief that Iron Age communities living in Britain favoured sheep to cattle (e.g. Albarella 2007; Cunliffe 2005, 416; Serjeantson 2007, 91) and findings from numerous excavations corroborate this notion (e.g. Grant 1984, Davis 1995, 2003, Serjeantson 2006), this is something of a generalisation and a misrepresentation of the reality. The Late Iron Age bone from the subject site was typically made up of heavily processed, axially split sheep or sheep-sized elements. While typical for the period, the slight prevalence of ovicapra recorded here is somewhat surprising for the low-lying Fens (e.g. Higbee 2013) and for the patterns recorded from the immediate vicinity (Cussans 2012). According to patterns recorded across the country, cattle were generally the preferred species in low-lying areas, while sheep tend to dominate the assemblages from sites on raised grounds, like Soham. It should therefore not be dismissed that the environmental factor could have been the dominant one in shaping economic strategies.
- C.2.11 The Roman occupation should have been marked by an increase in cattle, as a sign of Romanisation (King 2001). Although based on small numbers, this is not the case, however, and may indicate that the community continued Iron Age traditions in animal husbandry. The slight increase in numbers of sheep, as briefly mentioned, is probably linked to the significance of wool in the late Saxon and medieval period, while the Post-medieval again brings about the preference for beef, with cattle and horse becoming more important as working animals.
- C.2.12 It is difficult to assess the assemblage any further, given the lack of ageing or biometrical data. The results offered here do show, however, the complexities of animal use and the range of changes the economic practices have undergone over time.

C.3 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and methodology

- C.3.1 Twenty-one bulk samples were taken during excavations at the White Hart Lane, Soham, from Iron Age to medieval features.
- C.3.2 The total volume (approximately 20 litres) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment 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. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic residues prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 17. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

- C.3.3 For the purpose of this report items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

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

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

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

Results

- C.3.4 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor (Table 17). All of the flots contain modern rootlets. Cereal grains are present in all of the samples. Most of the grains are abraded and/or fragmented but barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) have been identified. The wheat grains have the general morphology of spelt wheat and the presence of the more diagnostic glume bases in a few of the samples has aided identification. Occasional legumes in the form of peas (*Pisum/Lathyrus* sp.) and a bean (Fabaceae) are present and are also abraded. Weed seeds include species that are commonly found growing amongst cereal crops such as bromes (*Bromus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.) and clover (*Trifolium* sp.).

Sample no.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Context no.		31	52	27	63	44	42	122	96	3	77	124	120	152	200	199	249	251	203	298	290	203
Feature no		30	51	29	62	46	43	123	95	4	76	125	121	153	198	198	250	252	204	299	291	204
Period		3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	2
Feature type		ditch	posthole	pit	pit	ditch	ditch	pit	ditch	ditch	pit	pit	ditch	ditch	postpipe	posthole	ditch	pit	pit	posthole	posthole	pit
Cereals																						
<i>Avena</i> sp. Caryopsis	Oats (wild or cultivated)		#											#		#						
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. caryopsis	Domesticated Barley grain	#		#	#	#	#	#	##	#	#					#			#		#	#
<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> L. caryopsis	Spelt wheat grain	#	#	#	#	##	##	##	##	##	##	#	##	##	##	##	##	#	#		#	#
Cereal indet. caryopsis	Unidentified cereal grain	#	#	#	#	##	##	####	##	##	##	#	##	#	##	##	##		##	#	#	#
Chaff																						
<i>Triticum spelta/dicocum</i> glume base	Spelt/emmer glume base							#									#					
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. glume base	Spelt glume base							##	#				###				#					
Other food plants																						
Legumes 2-4mm			#	#					#													
Legumes >4mm														#								
Dry land herbs																						
<i>Bromus</i> sp.caryopsis	Bromes				#	#		#		#			##	#		#	###		#			

Sample no.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Chenopodiaceae indet. Seed	Goosefoots															#	#						
Small Poaceae caryopsis	Small grass seed												#										
Stellaria sp. Seed	Chickweed type												#										
Rumex sp. Achene	Docks				#																		
Trifolium sp. [<1mm] seed	Clover						#																
Tree/shrub macrofossils																							
Sambucus nigra L. seed	Elderberry		###u																				
Other plant macrofossils																							
Charcoal volume (ml)		<1	2	<1	<1	1	<1	1	<1	1	<1	3	1	3	2	2	1	<1	20	1	<1	<1	
Charcoal <2mm		+	++	+	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	++	++	++	+++	++	++	+	+++	++	+	+	
Charcoal >2mm		0	++	0	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	++	++	+	++	+	++	+	+++	++	+	+	
Other remains																							
Molluscs		++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Small bones																		+++					
Modern rootlets		++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++
Volume of flot (mls)		40	35	25	35	15	120	70	20	65	130	80	60	60	10	20	40	20	10	10	15	10	

Table 17: Results from environmental samples

Discussion

- C.3.5 Charred cereal grains are predominant within the individual assemblages. Barley was used for animal fodder although they were also consumed in soups, stews and porridge. Spelt is a hulled wheat in which the grain is enclosed in a husk and, as such, requires a number of processing stages in order to release the grain (caryopsis) from the tough outer chaff. This is best described by Hillman (1981) and Wilkinson and Stevens (2003, 195) and involves stages including harvesting, fine sieving, parching and pounding, threshing, winnowing and finally course-sieving to produce clean grain suitable for grinding/milling into flour. Storing hulled cereals in the spikelets is a way of protecting the grain from insect and mould damage. Prior to use the spikelets would be parched and pounded to release the grain and the resultant chaff was commonly used as fuel as it would have made excellent kindling (Van der Veen 1989, 221). The small quantities of charred grain, chaff and associated weed seeds recovered from this site most likely represents the small-scale processing of stored grain. The inclusion of occasional legumes indicates that these were another food group that would have been an important dietary constituent.

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APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-292583			
Project Name	4 White Hart Lane, Soham			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	06-06-2016	Finish	20-06-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SOHWHL16	Planning App. No.	15/00092/FUL
HER No.	ECB 4742	Related HER/OASIS No.	archaeol7-246345_1

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
posthole	Iron Age -800 to 43	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
ditch	Iron Age -800 to 43	pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	CBM	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	East Cambridgeshire	4 White Hart Lane Soham CB7 5JQ	
Parish	Soham		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	400sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 5944 7320

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Tam Webster

Project Archives

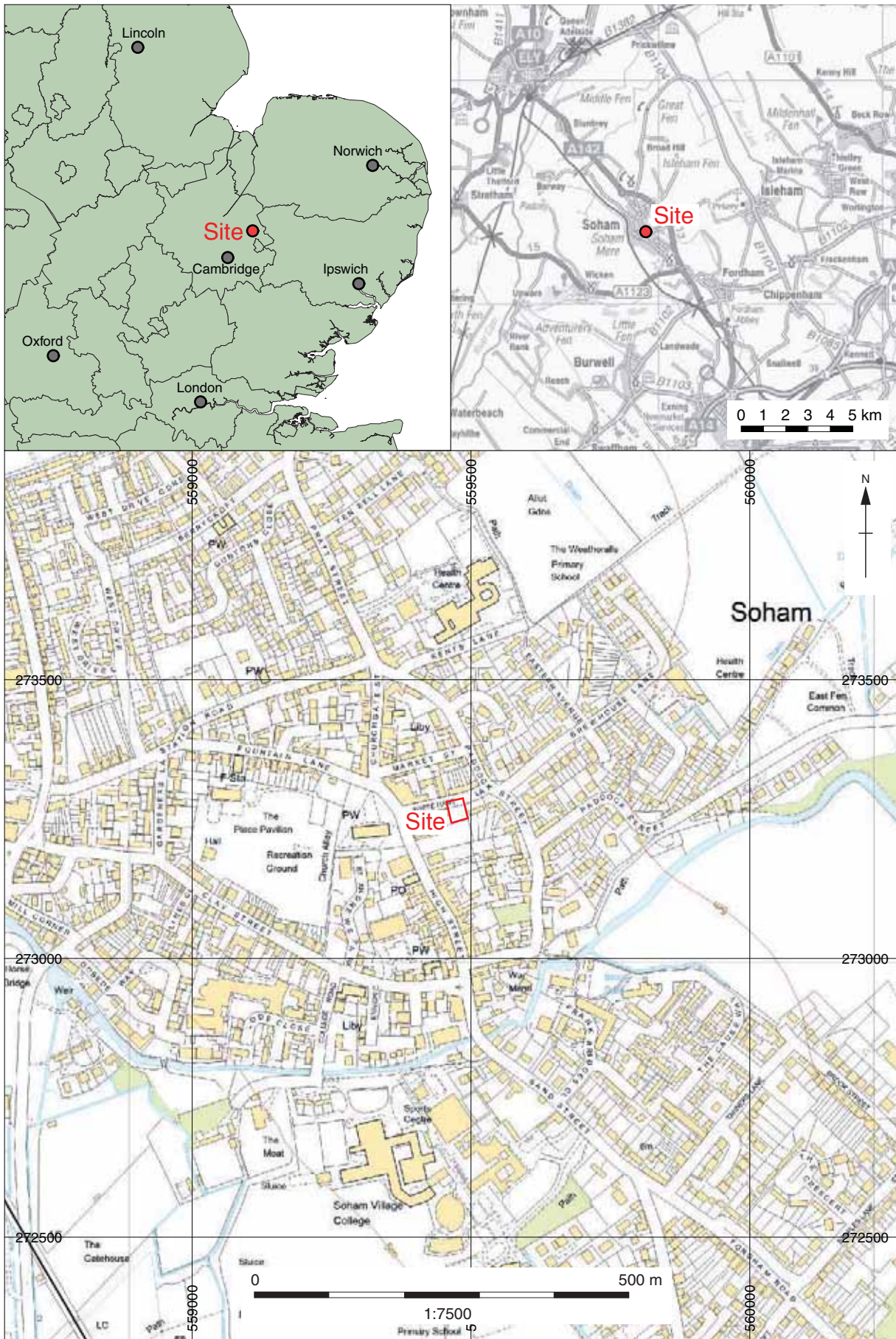
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Store	OA East	CCC Store
ECB 4742	SOHWHL16	ECB 4742

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media	Paper Media
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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 type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing development area (red)

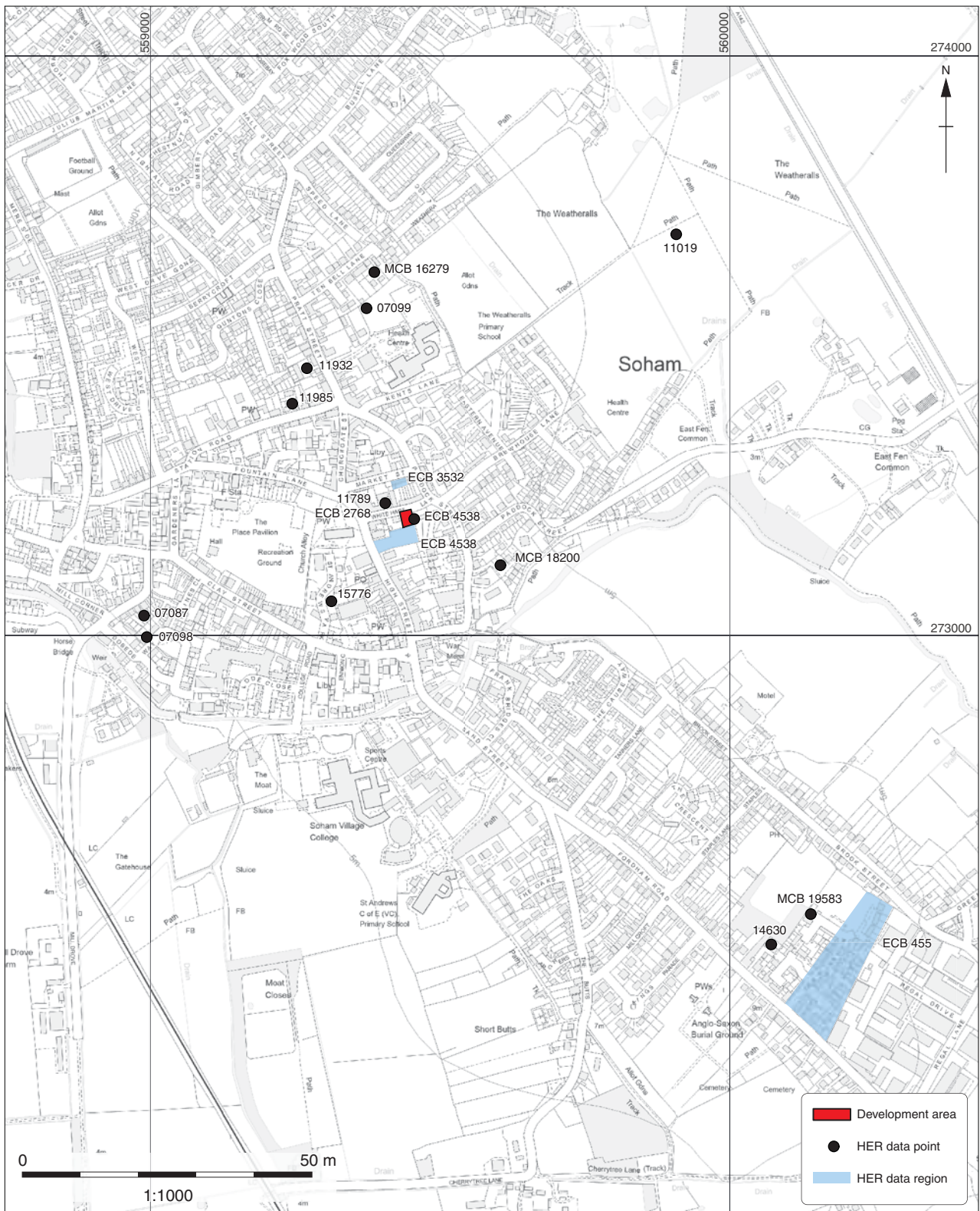


Figure 2: HER Plot



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Figure 3: All features plan with the former Church Hall excavation (Leonard and Woodhouse 2012)

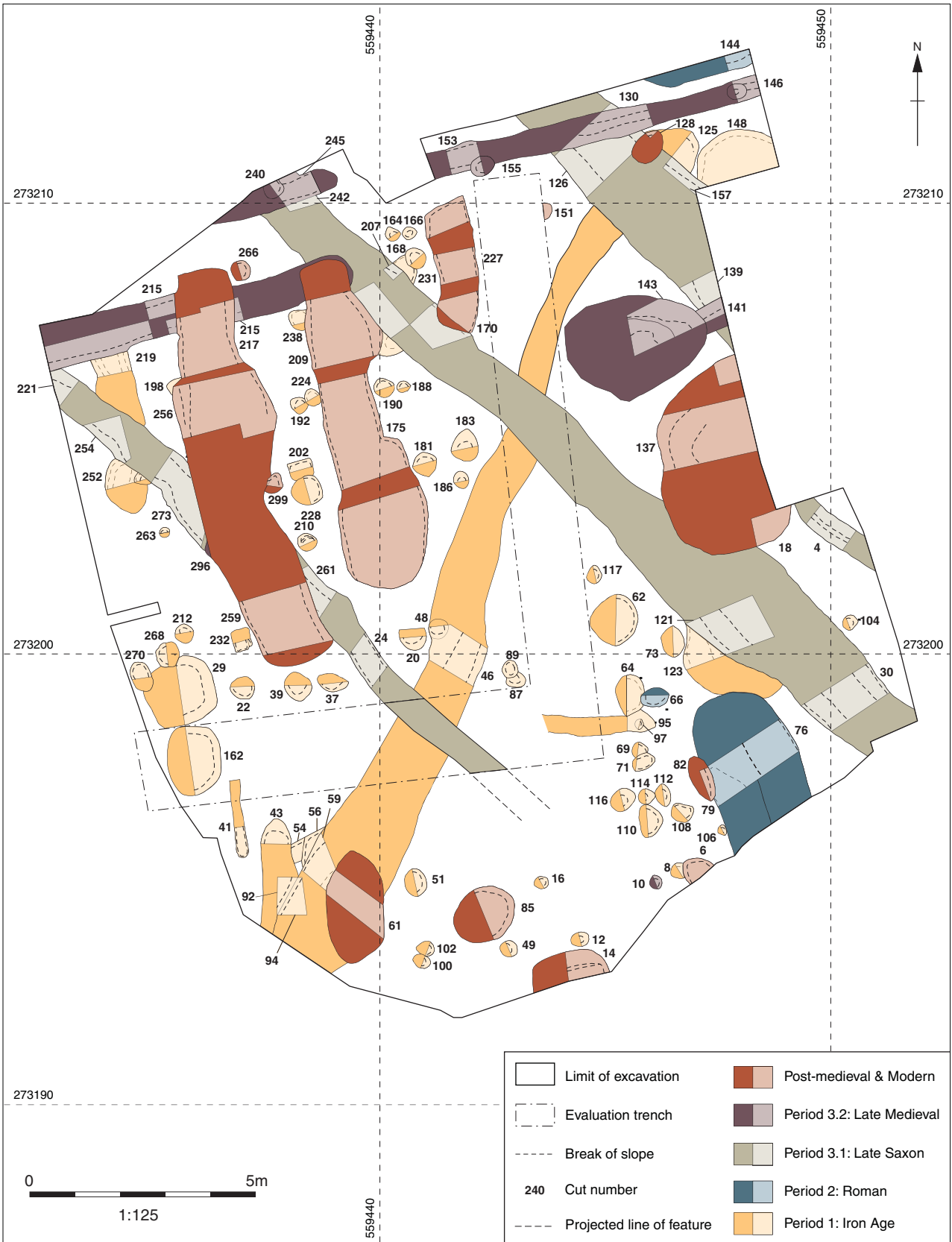


Figure 4: All features phase plan

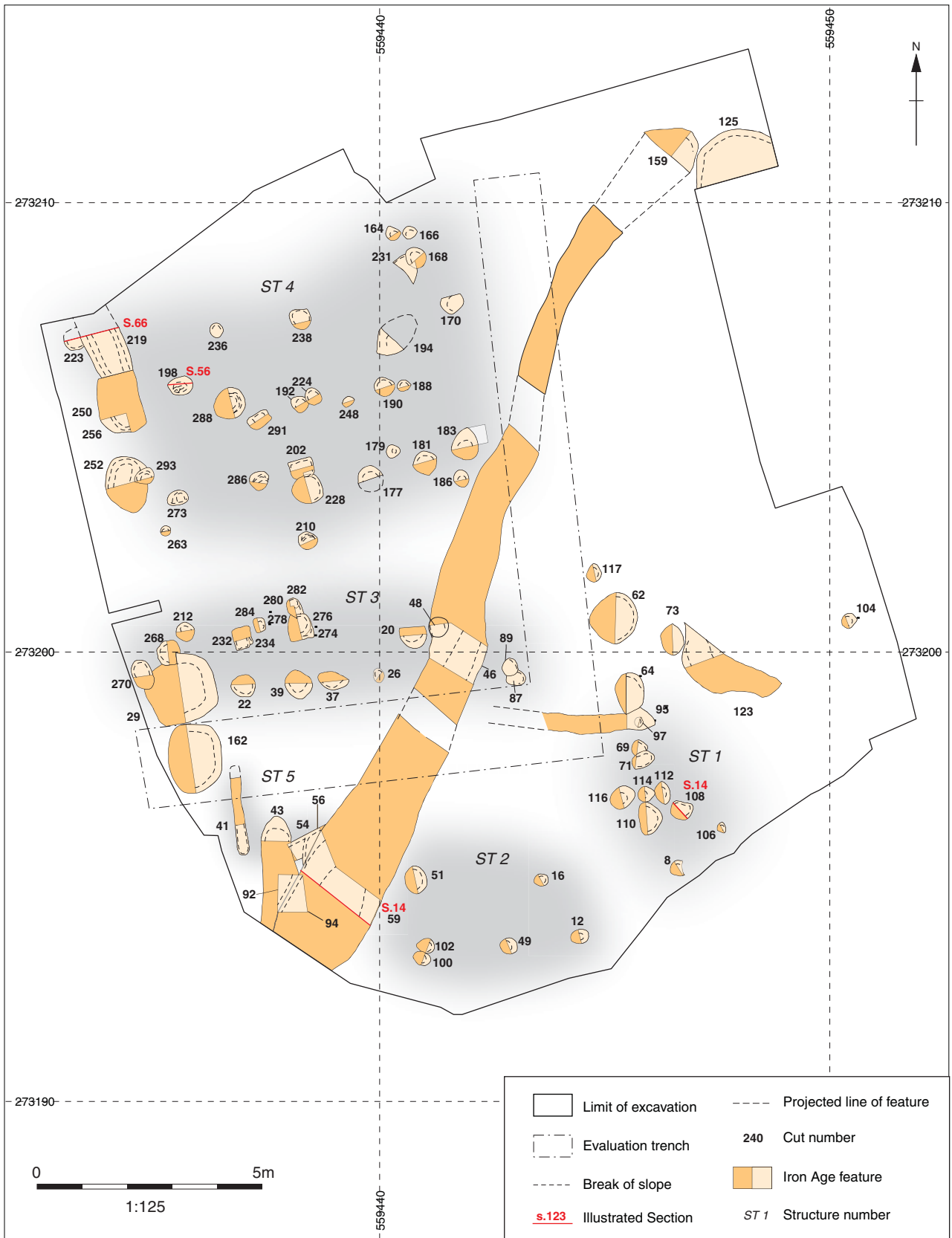


Figure 5: Period 1: Iron Age

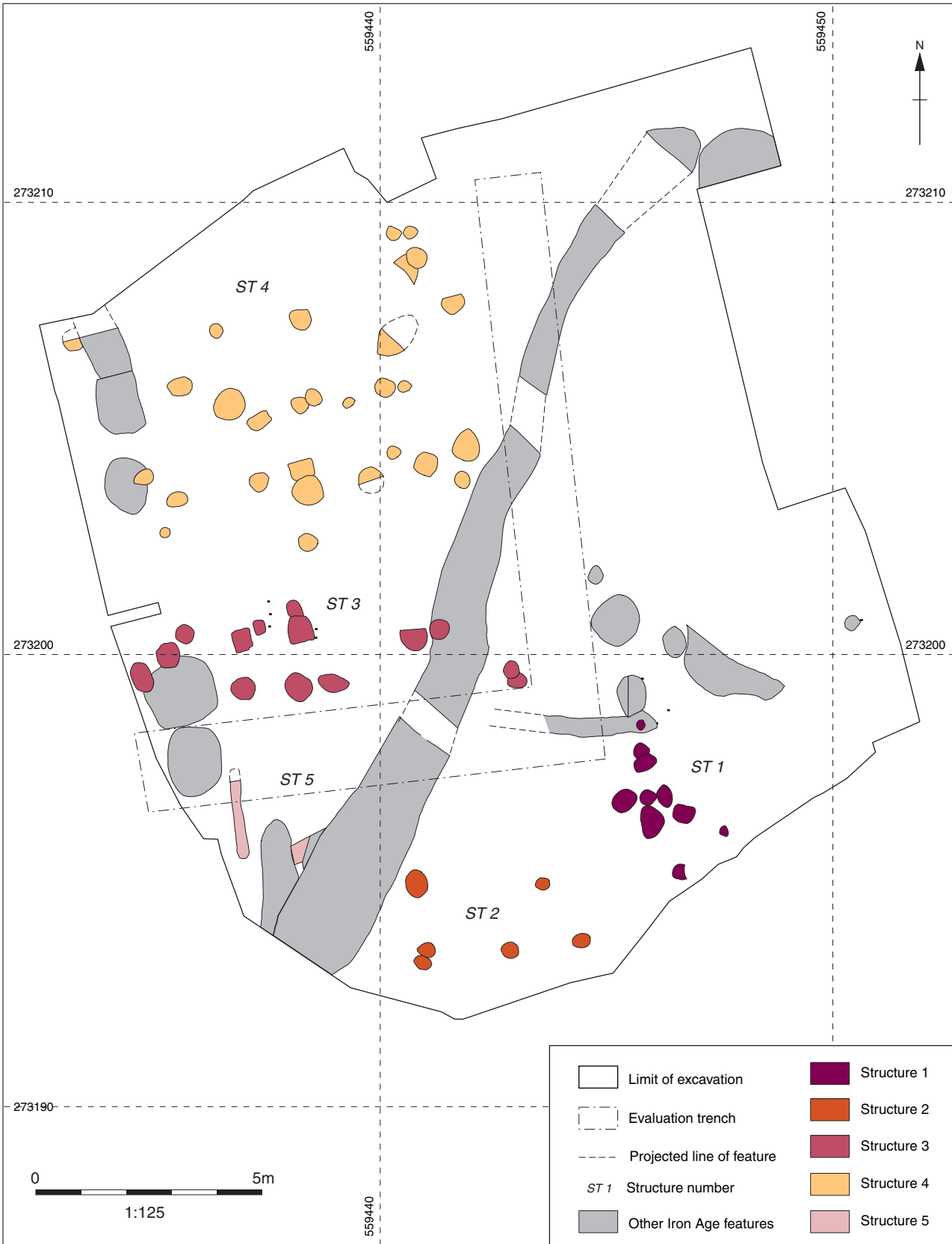


Figure 6: Period 1: Iron Age Structures

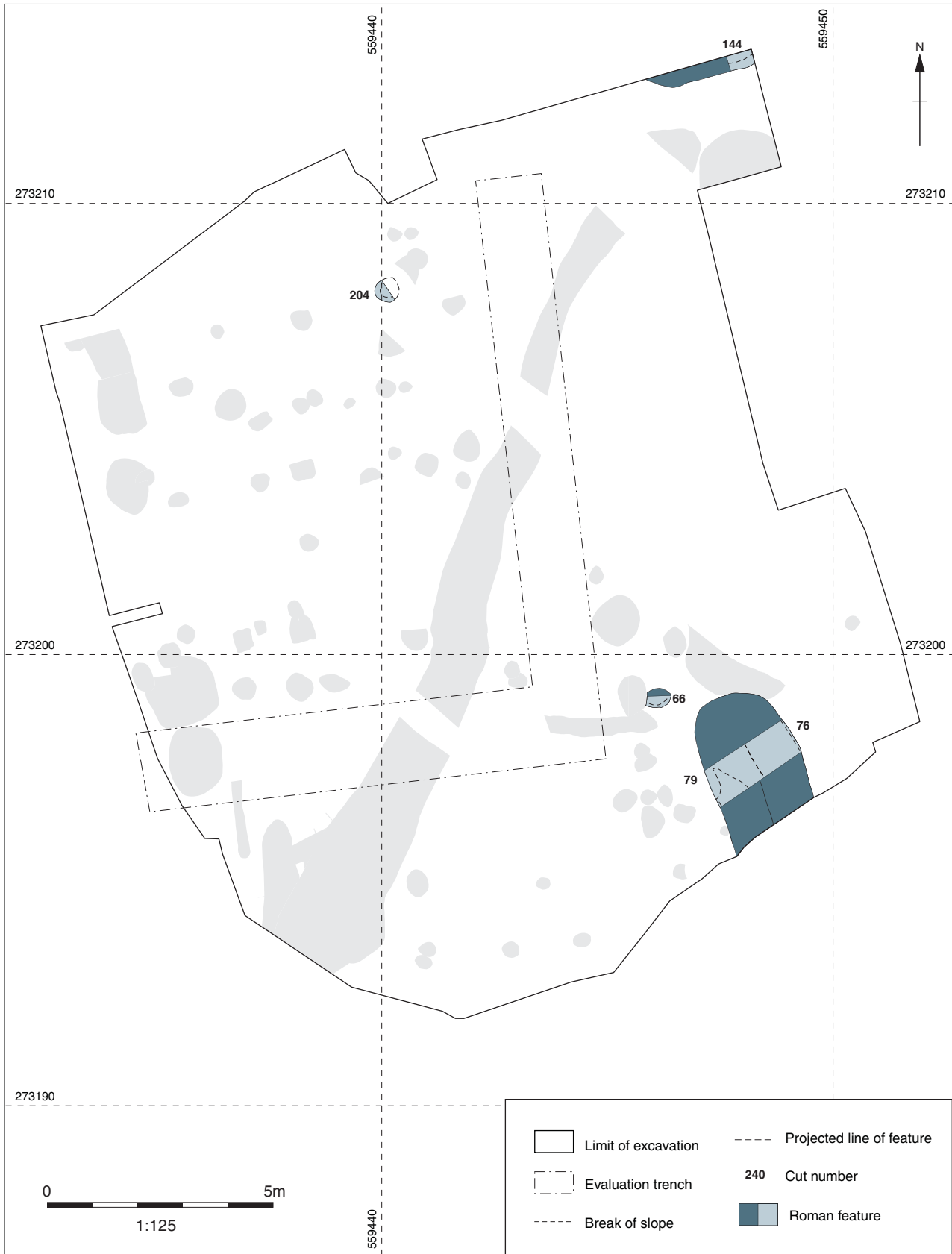


Figure 7: Period 2: Roman

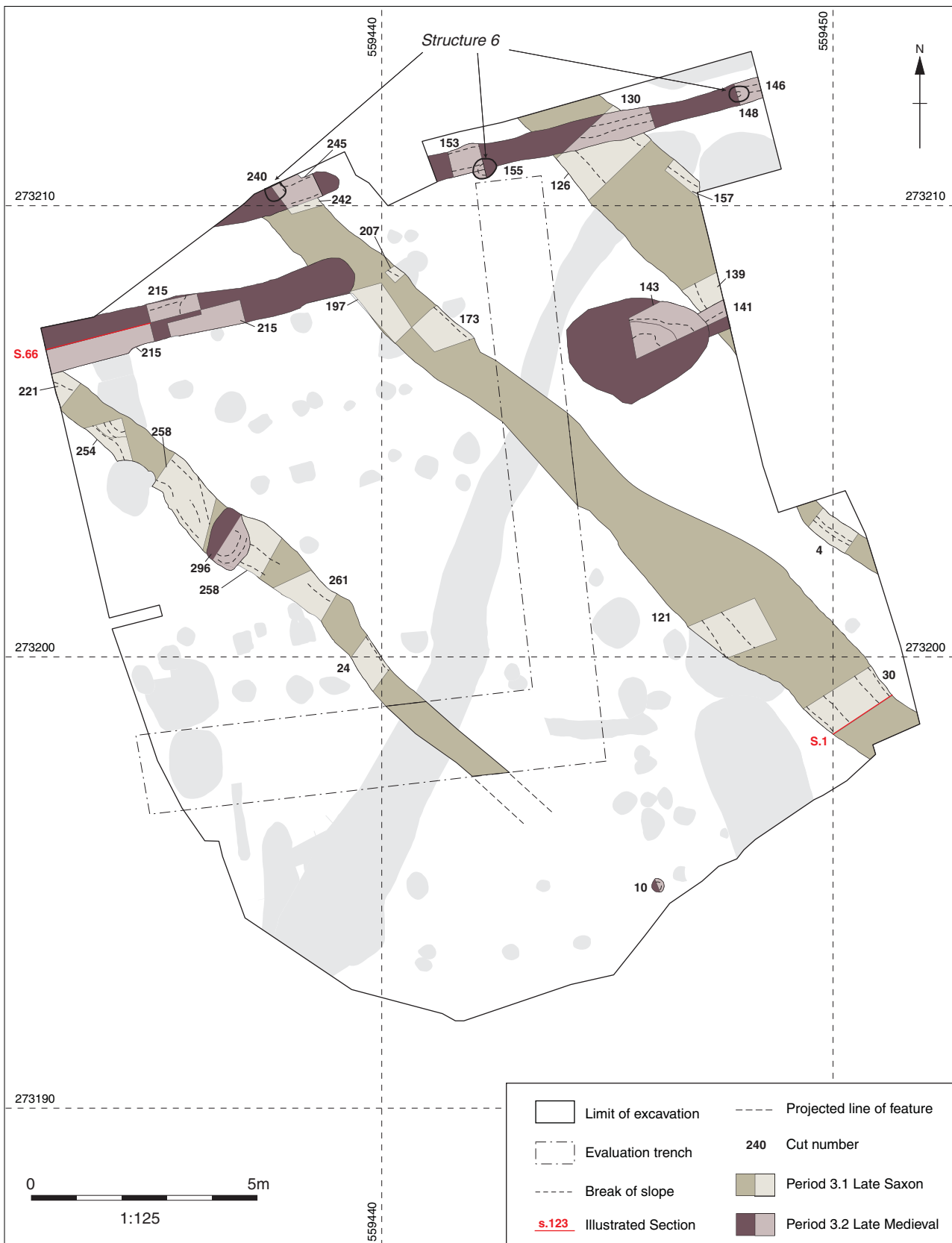


Figure 8: Period 3: Late Saxon and Medieval



Figure 9: Post-medieval and modern

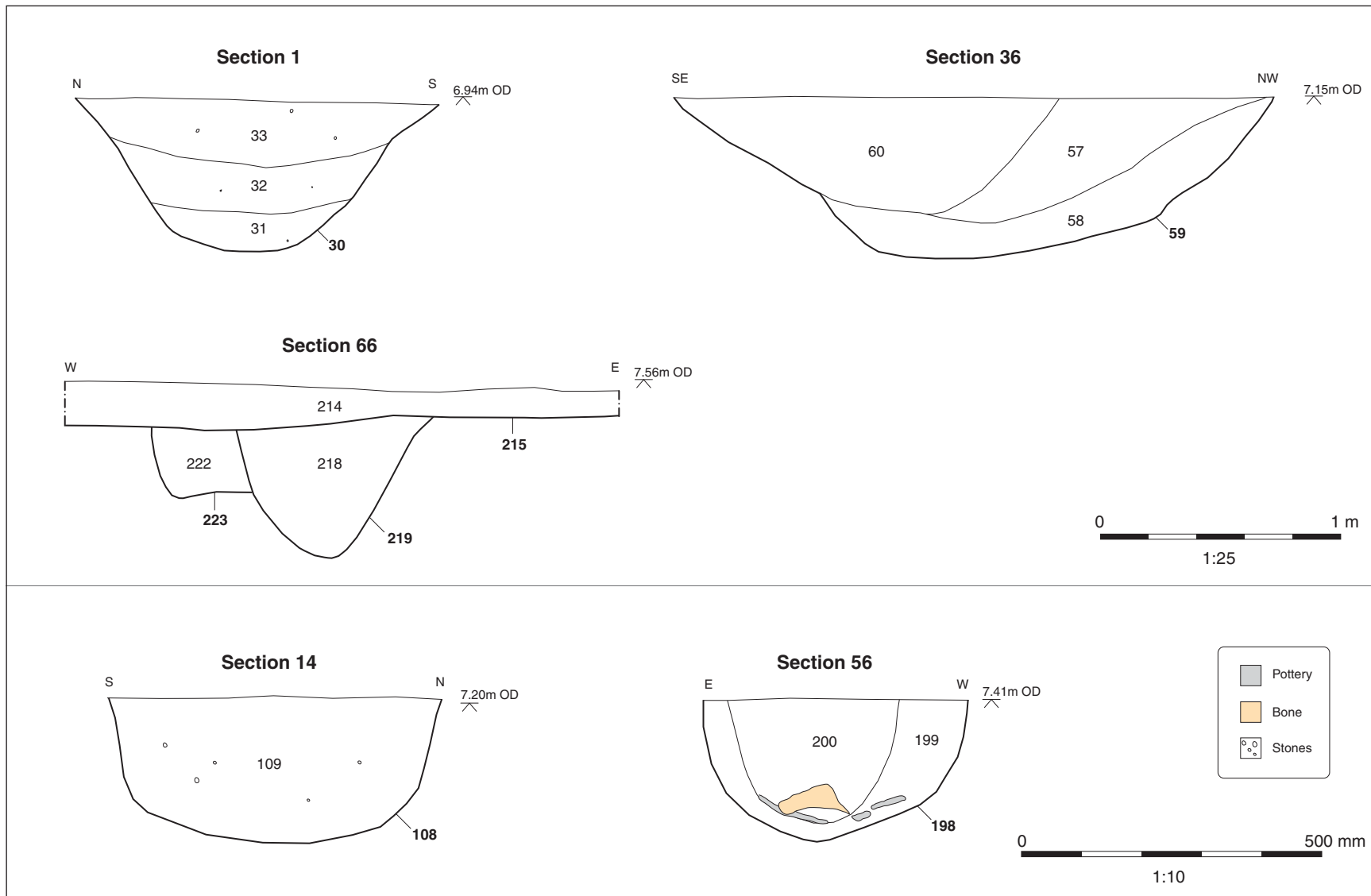


Figure 10: Selected sections

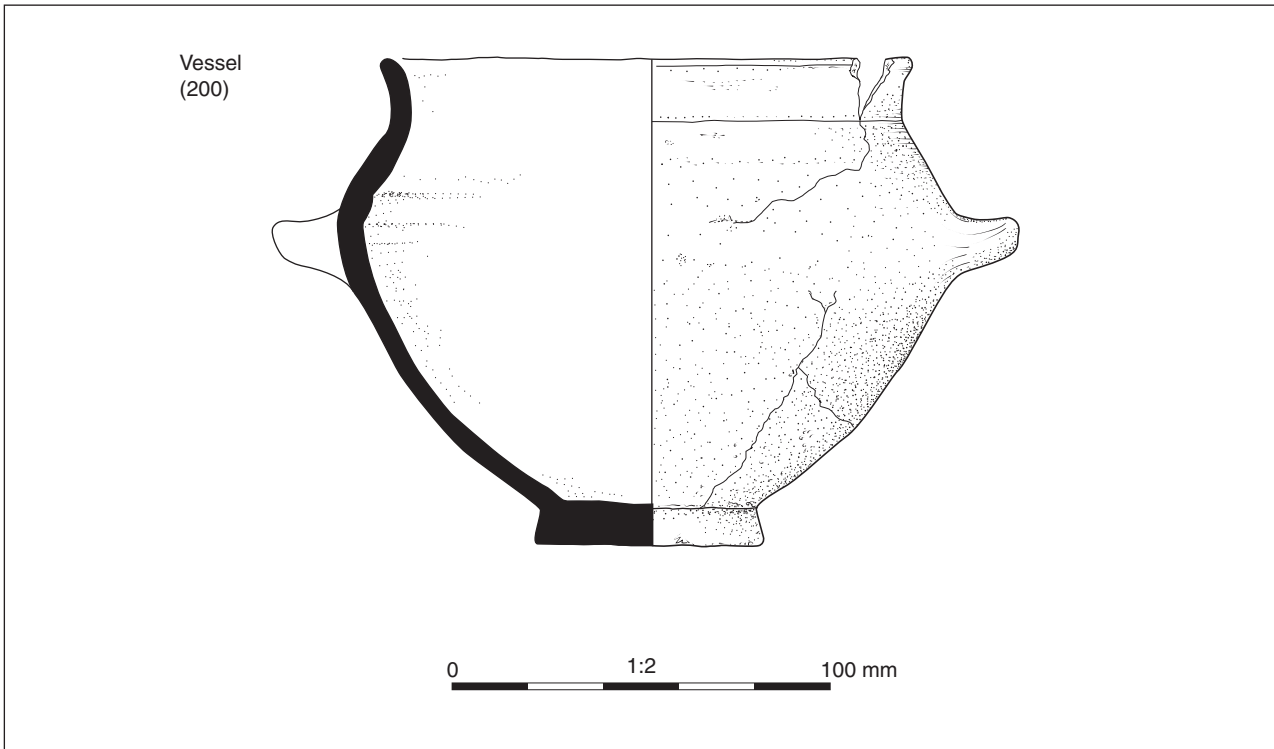


Figure 11: Later Iron Age pottery vessel from posthole **198** (200)



Plate 1: General view of the north-western corner of site (looking south)



Plate 2: Period 1: posthole 198 (looking south)



Plate 3: Period 1: pit **62** (looking west)



Plate 4: Period 1: ditch **219** (looking south)



Plate 5: Period 2: ditches **76** and **79** (looking south)



Plate 6: Period 4: pit **18** (looking south)



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