Archaeological Field Unit

Medieval Rural Settlement at Thorn Street, Cloverfield Drive, Soham, 2004: Post-Excavation Assessment

Richard Mortimer

July 2006

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 830
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SUMMARY

Part of a small hamlet spanning the medieval to post-medieval periods was excavated at Thorn Street, between Cloverfield Drive and Mereside, Soham. The area lay under pasture until it was settled in the medieval expansion of the 12th century and large field-wells of the Bronze Age, Romano-British and possibly Anglo-Saxon periods were found.

In the second half of the 12th century, house plots were set out around the junction of Thorn Street – the road from Soham – and Thorn Street Lane, an off-shoot leading to Soham Mere. Ditches, quarry pits, wells and some building remains survive from this early period.

Deep wells and pits within the house plots, dating from the 15th and 16th centuries, contained large and fresh pottery assemblages, alongside well-preserved wooden objects and leather shoes. At least one of the large pits may have been used for retting hemp.

Three houses are shown on the site on the 1656 'Palmer Map', two to the south of Thorn Street Lane and one to the north. Two fireplaces belonging to the largest of these buildings, immediately south of and encroaching upon the road, have survived. Behind this building was the largest of two medieval chalk-lined wells.

By the 19th century (at the time of both the Old Series and the First Edition OS maps), two sets of buildings remained – the large house on the south side of Thorn Street Lane having been demolished. A brick-lined well contained a large assemblage of late 19th and early 20th century kitchen ware, including beer and lemonade bottles, perfume bottles and an oil lamp.

Among the more intriguing objects recovered are a number of moulded terra cotta *bricks dating to the early 16th century. Though re-used at Thorn Street, they would originally have belonged a very high status building.*

CONTENTS

APPENDICES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF PLATES

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF GRAPHS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CCC AFU	Cambridgeshire County Council, Archaeological Field Unit
CAPCA	Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice
(C)HER	(Cambridgeshire) Historic Environment Record
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument

Drawing Conventions

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut-Conjectured

Soil Horizon

Soil Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top of Natural

Top Surface

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number 118

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD N

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Natural Features

Intrusion/Truncation

Sondages/Machine Strip

Illustrated Section S.14

Cut Number 118

Medieval Rural Settlement at Thorn Street, Cloverfield Drive, Soham, 2004: Post-excavation Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

The excavations at Soham, Cloverfield Drive were undertaken in the autumn of 2004 by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU), and were funded by Cofton Ltd. The work took place in advance of residential development on former agricultural land and in response to a brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (Thomas 2000), following an evaluation (Hatton and Macaulay 1999) and desktop study (Macaulay 1999).

Soham is a small, fen-edge town on the main road linking Newmarket and Ely. The medieval core of the town, centred on the parish church, lies approximately 1.1km southeast of the development area which is situated on the eastern shore of what was Soham Mere (now drained). The development area covers 12.5 hectares of land, which at the time of excavation was set-aside land or rough grazing. Most of the area lies between 7.50m and 6.00m OD, falling rapidly at the west to 4.50m OD on Mereside Road.

This post-excavation assessment details the 2004 excavations and is presented in order to assess the potential of the archive for further analysis of the finds and records with the objective of publication. The brief and specification outlining the aims and objectives of the project can be found in Thomas 2000 and Macaulay 2003.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric

The fen-edge around Soham and the Snail Valley have a long history of human activity. Sites and findspots in the immediate vicinity include Mesolithic and Neolithic remains recorded to the northwest of Broad Hill, where a large quantity of worked flints, including axes, knives and scrapers, were recovered (Hall 1996). Both to the northeast of the village and in the vicinity of the development area the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) records Neolithic artefacts at MCB8560, 12952, 12953 and 14568 and a Late Bronze Age brooch at MCB12953. An evaluation in the town centre at St Andrew's House, produced a single Bronze Age ditch (Casa Hatton 2000).

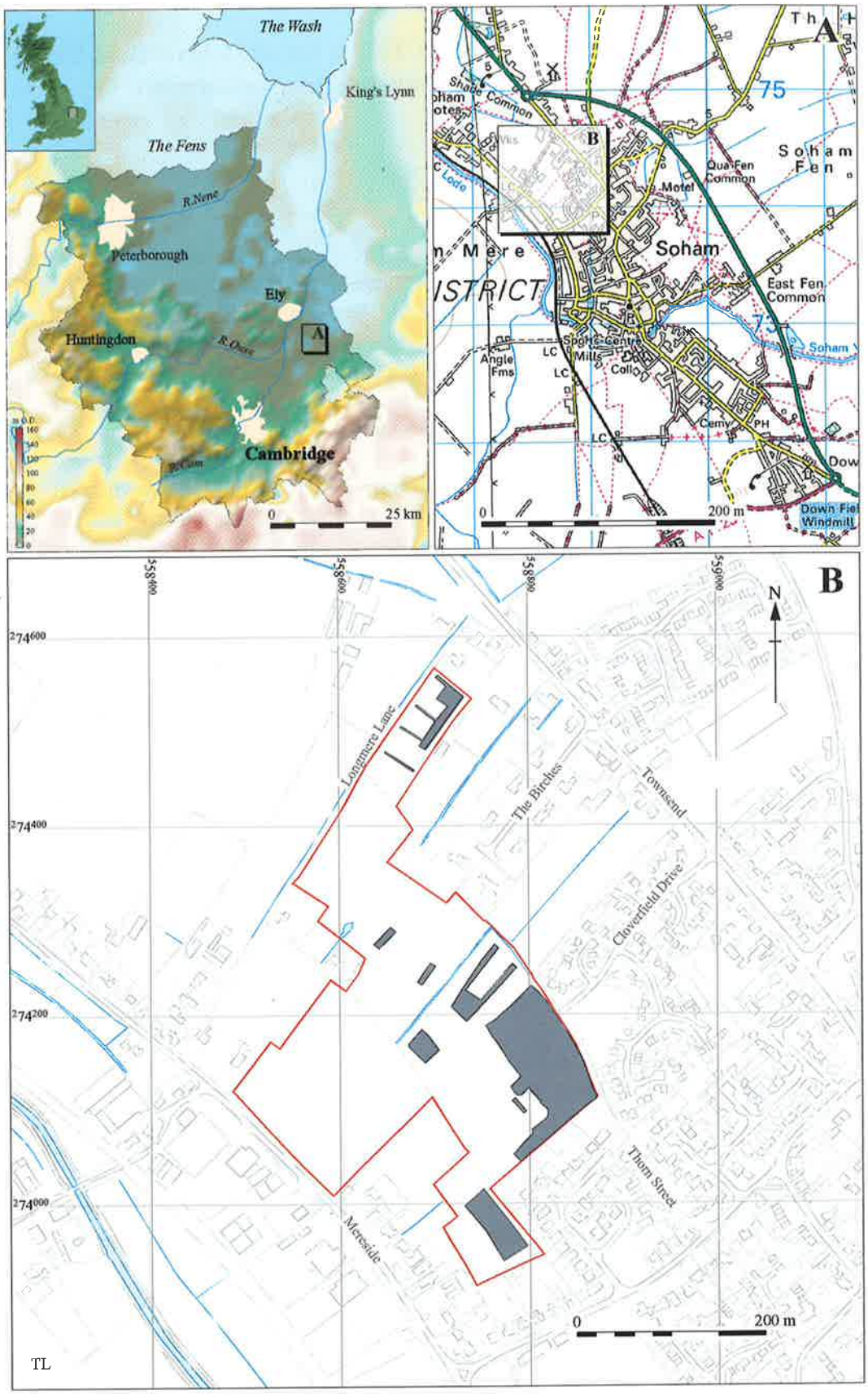


Figure 1 *Site location showing excavation (grey) and development area (red)*

Evidence of later prehistoric, Iron Age, activity in and around Soham is relatively scarce. A site was located on the hilltop at Henney, on the periphery of Stuntney (Hall 1996). Iron Age features were found to the southwest of the development area, on Clay Lane and may represent an enclosure (Nichol 2002) and a large evaluation at the Fordham Road allotments produced settlement remains dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (Connor 2001). Further remains were recorded in Soham itself at St Andrew's House (Atkins 2004).

2.2 Roman

Coins of Roman date have been found southeast of the site (MCB8554), in the vicinity of an undated ring ditch (MCB8561). Human skeletal remains of possible Roman date have been found in the area of White Hart Lane (MCB8413). Closer to the development area, 100m to the northwest, further Roman finds were noted (MCB8559). The evaluation at Fordham Road allotments also produced Romano-British settlement remains (Connor 2001).

2.3 Anglo-Saxon & Medieval

Early Saxon occupation at Soham is attested by funerary remains from three cemeteries. Burials were discovered in the church graveyard (TL 5998 7239) where gravegoods and stray finds included brooches, several beads and spearheads (Fox 1923). Another cemetery was located at the Soham/Fordham Waterworks during excavations conducted in the 1930s (Lethbridge 1933). Some 23 furnished inhumations (and 2 cremations) were identified and assigned to the 6th-7th century. Further Anglo-Saxon human skeletal remains (MCB 13882) were uncovered in the rear garden of a house located on White Hart Lane. Evidence suggested that they were not *in situ*, and may have originally belonged to the same cemetery as the burials from the church graveyard (Robinson 1995).

Present day Soham is Early Saxon in origin. According to Reaney, the place name is derived from the Old English *Soegan Hamm* or 'swampy' settlement or enclosure (Reaney 1943). Further, 12th century, documentary sources refer to the foundation in the 7th century AD of a monastery by St Felix, first bishop of the East Angles, who was buried in Soham. The monastery was destroyed during the Danish invasions of East Anglia (late 9th century) along with many other religious foundations in the area, never to be re-established (Salzman 1948). As yet there has been no definite archaeological evidence for Middle Saxon activity in Soham, though a single sherd of Ipswich ware was recovered during excavations at St Andrew's House (Atkins 2004).

The manor of Soham was given to Ely Abbey shortly after the re-foundation of the latter in the 10th century (Conybeare 1887). 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.

The sub circular pattern of roads around the centre of the village may suggest a religious precinct (Oosthuizen 2000).

Evidence for occupation during the Saxo-Norman period has emerged through recent excavations. At Nos 9-13 Pratt Street an archaeological evaluation revealed shallow gullies, a posthole and a large pit containing 11th or 12th century Thetford Ware (Hatton and Last 1994). Evaluation trenches at the rear of No. 38 Station Road produced evidence of ditches dating from the 10th to 12th centuries (Heawood 1997). An evaluation conducted at Soham County Infant's School revealed several ditches containing 10th to 13th century assemblages, predominantly St Neots and Thetford type ware (Bray 1991).

The remains from the Infant's 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 (Hatton & Last 1997). 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 (Casa Hatton 2000), Market Street (Cooper 2004a) and Clay Street (Atkins 2004) produced medieval (12th to 16th century) pits, ditches and posthole structures. A small evaluation at Ten Bell Lane produced one late medieval quarry pit and some undated ditches (Atkins 2004a) and another at Brook Dam Lane recorded a single medieval pit and a post-medieval ditch (Cooper 2004).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EXCAVATION

The aims and objectives of the excavation were outlined in the revised Specification for Archaeological Excavation of July 2003 (Macaulay 2003).

Excavation provided the CCC AFU with the opportunity to gather information about, and advance the debate on, town and rural development and abandonment in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The site offered the opportunity to contribute to local, regional and national research priorities.

The key published research priorities that this excavation can contribute towards are summarised below.

The main aim of the project is 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.

3.1 All Periods

The evaluation had identified possible Prehistoric and Roman remains but was not able to determine the nature of this activity. Ditches, pits and potential postholes were all revealed, the priority was to determine whether these remains related to agriculture, occupation or both. Medieval remains were identified which indicated the presence of both field systems and a settlement.

3.1.1 The characterisation of the form and development history of settlement

If direct settlement remains – such as occupational evidence or domestic buildings – were to survive, their form and associated artefacts would help to define their function, date and use and any subsequent modifications in form and usage. Surviving evidence for crop or food processing would assist in drawing conclusions on the agricultural regime and subsistence economy of the settlement.

3.1.2 The characterisation of the form, date of establishment and subsequent development of any field systems

Well-preserved field system remains were thought likely in this fen-edge location, with Romano-British systems, medieval open field agriculture and post-medieval enclosures.

3.1.3 The determination of the relationship of the agricultural regime and any associated settlement with the local and regional economy

Analysis of artefactual and ecofactual material may determine whether the area was a largely self-sufficient farming community or whether it was producing a surplus of either crops or livestock products for local population centres. Evidence of large-scale crop processing or butchery would be sought, as would evidence of importation of luxury or specialised items such as fineware pottery. In particular, evidence for aquatic and mereside resource exploitation was anticipated.

3.1.4 The creation of a model of land-use and organisation over time

The evidence from this project will be set within the framework of existing knowledge of the archaeology of the area and will make a valuable contribution to ongoing local research, such as the interpretation of cropmark evidence in surrounding parishes and in characterising the previously little known Prehistoric and Roman occupation of the area.

3.2 Medieval

The research priorities above all applied to the medieval remains which were predicted to form the bulk of the archaeological deposits excavated. There were additional project research aims for this period.

3.2.1 *To understand the nature of medieval settlement in the Soham area*

The known medieval development of the village of Soham is concentrated to the southeast, around the parish church. The medieval remains at Cloverfield Drive were thought to relate to northwestern linear settlement development and mereside occupation. Given the distance from the medieval core the settlement was thought likely to be distinct in its own right.

A key research aim was the investigation of a sub-village size settlement, a type of settlement not often observed, let alone studied, in this region in this period.

3.2.2 *The determination of the relationship of the agricultural regime, mereside economy and associated settlement*

The location of the medieval settlement on the edge of Soham Mere made the recovery and analysis of artefactual and ecofactual material related to the exploitation of local mereside and aquatic resources a priority. The evaluation had recovered ceramic vessels possibly linked to fish smoking and further evidence for the processing of aquatic products were to be sought through excavation and sampling. Sampling was to be undertaken to recover faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains.

3.3 English Heritage Research Priorities

There are a number of national research priorities which English Heritage (1997) identify and which provide a framework for the study of the medieval settlement remains uncovered at Cloverfield Drive:

- the transition from the Late Saxon to medieval period (c700-1300 AD)
- the transition from medieval to post-medieval traditions (c1300-1700 AD)
- the understanding of settlement hierarchies and interactions,
- the understanding of rural settlements and relict field systems
- the understanding of patterns of agriculture, craftsmanship & industry

Medieval rural settlement patterns are the key to understanding the economic, social and political structures of rural England, and in extending current knowledge of change.

3.4 Local and Regional Comparisons

Archaeological investigations (excavations, evaluations, aerial photographic studies, desk-based assessments) that can provide both local and regional comparative material will be examined. Recent published sources or developer reports detailing large- and medium-scale excavation sites should prove most useful.

3.5 Integration with Existing Local Archaeological Research

Records of previous evaluations and excavations in Soham and its immediate surrounds should be integrated to provide the fullest statement of settlement morphology and development possible.

3.6 Future Research Possibilities

The provision of a significant rural medieval ceramic assemblage provides a key element in any proposed regional medieval ceramic study.

The possible recovery and interpretation of medieval rural house plans may offer useful comparative data for a local / regional study.

4 SUMMARY OF EXCAVATION RESULTS AND PHASING

4.1 The Excavations and Site Areas

The excavations were undertaken by field staff of the CCC AFU between 19th August and 14th October 2004.

The initial trench evaluation of the development area covered 12.5 hectares of arable and pasture land between Mereside and the main Ely to Soham road. Following this evaluation three principal excavation areas had been defined by the CAPCA Brief – Areas A, B and C in, respectively, the central, southern and northern parts of the development area (Fig. 2). Four further trenches were excavated to the northwest of Area A (Area D) either to provide cleared ground for subsoil dumping (D1) or to trace the line of Roman and early medieval ditches (D2 – D4).

The excavation areas were stripped under the supervision of a member of the archaeological team. The topsoil and subsoil were moved into separate, adjacent areas and scanned by metal detector.

In total an area close to 1.5 hectares was stripped, with Area A the main focus for excavation at nearly a hectare in size.

Area A:	9,647 sq m
Area B:	2,014 sq m
Area C:	1,081 sq m
Area D:	2,135 sq m
Total:	14,877 sq m

Pre-excavation plans were prepared of all areas, all finds were collected and hand excavation proceeded using the CCC AFU's recording system. Unless otherwise stated, all features discussed in the summary text below lie within Area A. Brief discussions of Areas B and C follow at the end of the discussion of Area A.

4.2 Phasing

The archaeology of the site represents four main Periods:

PERIOD 1: LATE BRONZE AGE/EARLY IRON AGE
(c. 12th – 8th centuries BC)

PERIOD 2: ROMANO-BRITISH
(1st – 4th centuries AD)

PERIOD 3: MEDIEVAL
(12th – 15th centuries)

PERIOD 4: POST-MEDIEVAL TO MODERN
(16th – 19th centuries)

Periods 3 and 4 have been further subdivided into separate ***Phases***:

PERIOD 3:
***Phase 1**: mid 12th – mid 14th centuries*
***Phase 2**: mid 14th – 15th centuries*

PERIOD 4:
***Phase 3**: 16th – 17th centuries*
***Phase 4**: 18th century*
***Phase 5**: 19th century*

The following text provides an outline of the archaeological results of the excavation. The text is set out initially by Period, then by Phase, and each of these sections is preceded by a brief summary of the archaeology within that Period or Phase. Within each Period or Phase the features or feature groups are discussed in the following order: ditches, wells, pits, other features. Where possible, these are then presented in Plot order. For each feature or feature group there is a summary table of the number of contexts assigned and the quantity (by weight) of the principal finds assemblages recovered from that feature.

4.3 PERIOD 1: LATE BRONZE AGE/EARLY IRON AGE

A large, open field well and two small pits were the only features of Bronze Age date. There is no evidence for domestic, permanent occupation of the area. While the land is not particularly low-lying, at between 7.50 and 6.00m OD, the presence of Soham Mere immediately to the west would have kept the local water table very high. Both the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence suggest that this was relatively open, damp pasture land. All three of the Bronze Age features, however, contain what may be seen as placed or deliberately deposited materials such as an animal skeleton, flint tools, large pottery sherds and part of a loomweight.

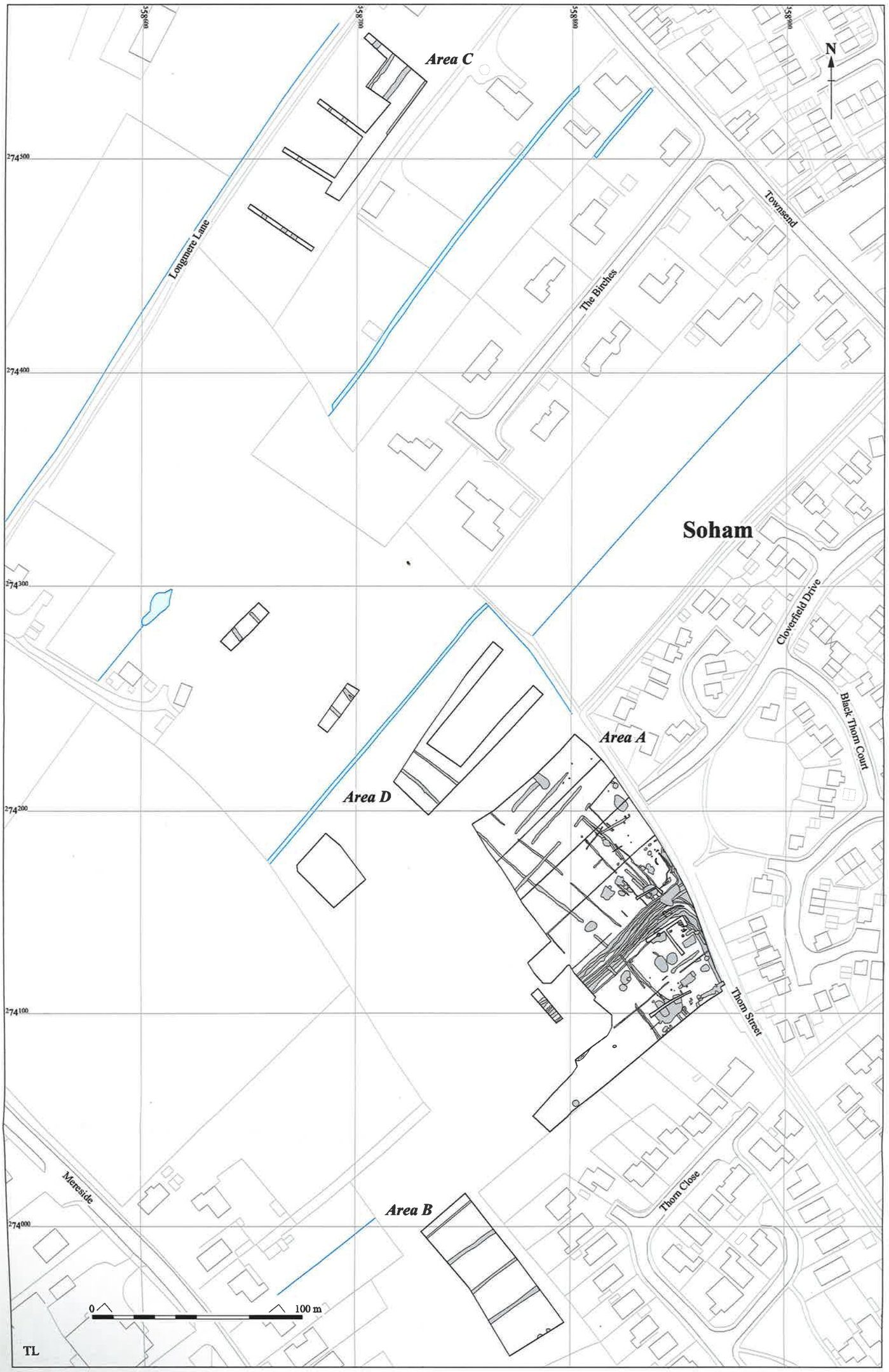


Figure 2 Site plan - Areas A to D

Figure 3 *Excavation plan (area A) - all periods*

***Figure 4** Periods 1 and 2*

Well **681**
Large field well, sub-circular, 3.00m diameter, 1.50m deep. Fired Clay assemblage includes cylindrical loomweight fragment (SF45). The fills were naturally-derived accumulations; moderately compact creamy brown/grey, mottled orange, clay sands with moderate gravel and rare charcoal inclusions.

Contexts 15	Pottery 1.39kg	B Flint 1.28kg	Bone 2.23kg	Fired Clay 0.26kg

Pit **534**
Small, truncated, shallow scoop or pit, sub-circular, 1.00m diameter, 0.10m deep.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.08kg	W Flint 0.51kg	Fired Clay 0.15kg

Pit **1035**
Oval pit, possibly a tree throw, 1.60m x 1.00m, maximum 0.30m deep. Contained a partial animal burial, as yet unidentified.

Contexts 3	Pottery 0.02kg	W Flint 0.04kg	Bone 0.55kg	Fired Clay 0.04kg

4.4 PERIOD 2: ROMANO-BRITISH

Land use throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods appears to have been comparable to that of the later Bronze Age – damp pasture land. The only difference in the palaeoenvironment may have been that the land was even more open.

Another large open field well was the only discrete feature dated to this period. A single linear ditch traversed Area A and was traced to the northwest by further trenching. This feature either marked a major field or land division within the Romano-British pasture or one side of a road, track or droveway. The line of this ditch can be traced through modern roads, field divisions and property boundaries both to the northwest and to the southeast from close to the centre of present-day Soham. The route lies along a ridge from Soham to the pasture east of the Mere. This could also form a part of the route to Stuntney and the Isle of Ely.

Ditch **614**
Ditch aligned north-northwest to south-southeast and traced for 150m across Area A with two breaks, one c. 7.50m wide to the north of the later Thorn Street Lane and the second *c.* 10.00m wide under the southern side of the lane. Centrally within the northern of the two gaps was Well **673** (see below). The ditch profile was generally a broad U–shape, maximum width 1.80m, and the fill was a moderately compact pale orange-brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions. The ditch was traced further to the northwest across Area D for a total length of 280m. Extant field boundaries along this alignment to the north suggest that the ditch may have continued considerably further.

Contexts 11	Pottery 0.08kg	Lava 0.23kg	Bone 0.02kg

Well **673**
A large oval field well, 6.00m x 4.00m and 1.50m deep. Set within a break in Ditch **614**. The fills were naturally-derived accumulations; moderately compact, pale brownish grey sandy and silty clays with rare gravel inclusions. Finds included a fragment of puddingstone quern.

Contexts 11	Pottery 0.29kg	Lava 0.37kg	Bone 0.15kg	Quern 2.72kg

4.5 PERIOD 3: MEDIEVAL

The main periods of occupation on the site were medieval and post-medieval, and represent part of a small, hamlet-sized settlement around a junction of roads or trackways. The principal feature within the main area of excavation (Area A) was the multiple-ditched Thorn Street Lane, running northeast to southwest between the hamlet core at the end of Thorn Street and Soham Mere. Both these lanes were in use by the 12th century although it is highly likely that a lane or droveway existed along the line of Thorn Street much earlier, as a route from Soham into the pasture land at the east of the Mere. It is also possible that Roman ditch **614** marks one side of such an early droveway.

The medieval layout of the area is one of building/occupation plots set out around the junction of the two roads or lanes (Fig. 5). There appeared to be four of these plots within the excavated area, and each plot contained, at some point in the history of the site, one or more domestic structures. These plots are designated Plots A, B, C & D from the south of the site – A & B to the south of Thorn Street Lane, C & D to the north (see Fig. 5). In the text below, and where relevant, the plot that the feature lies within, or marks a boundary of, is stated immediately after the introductory feature number.

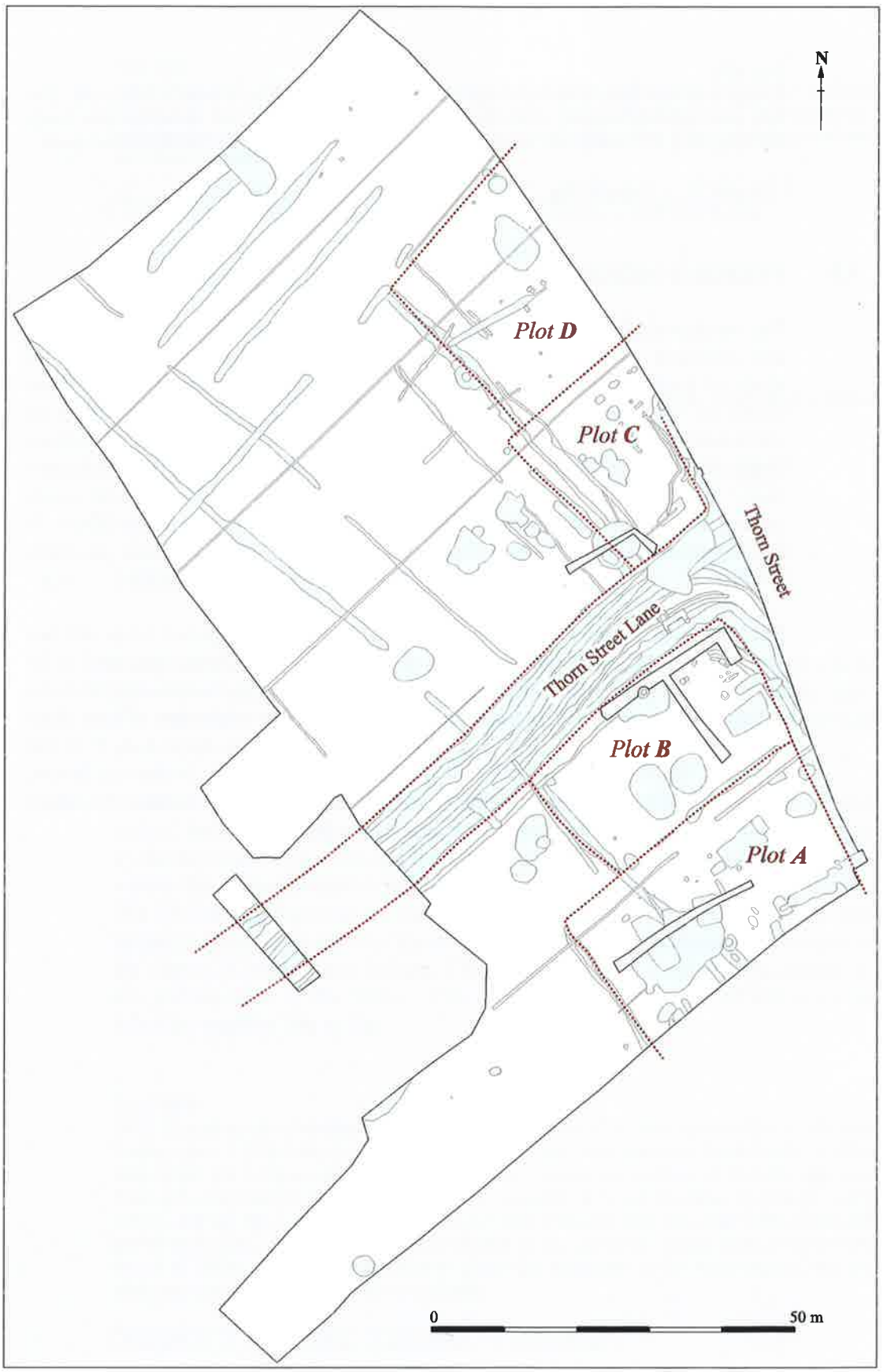


Figure 5 *Medieval building plots and roads*

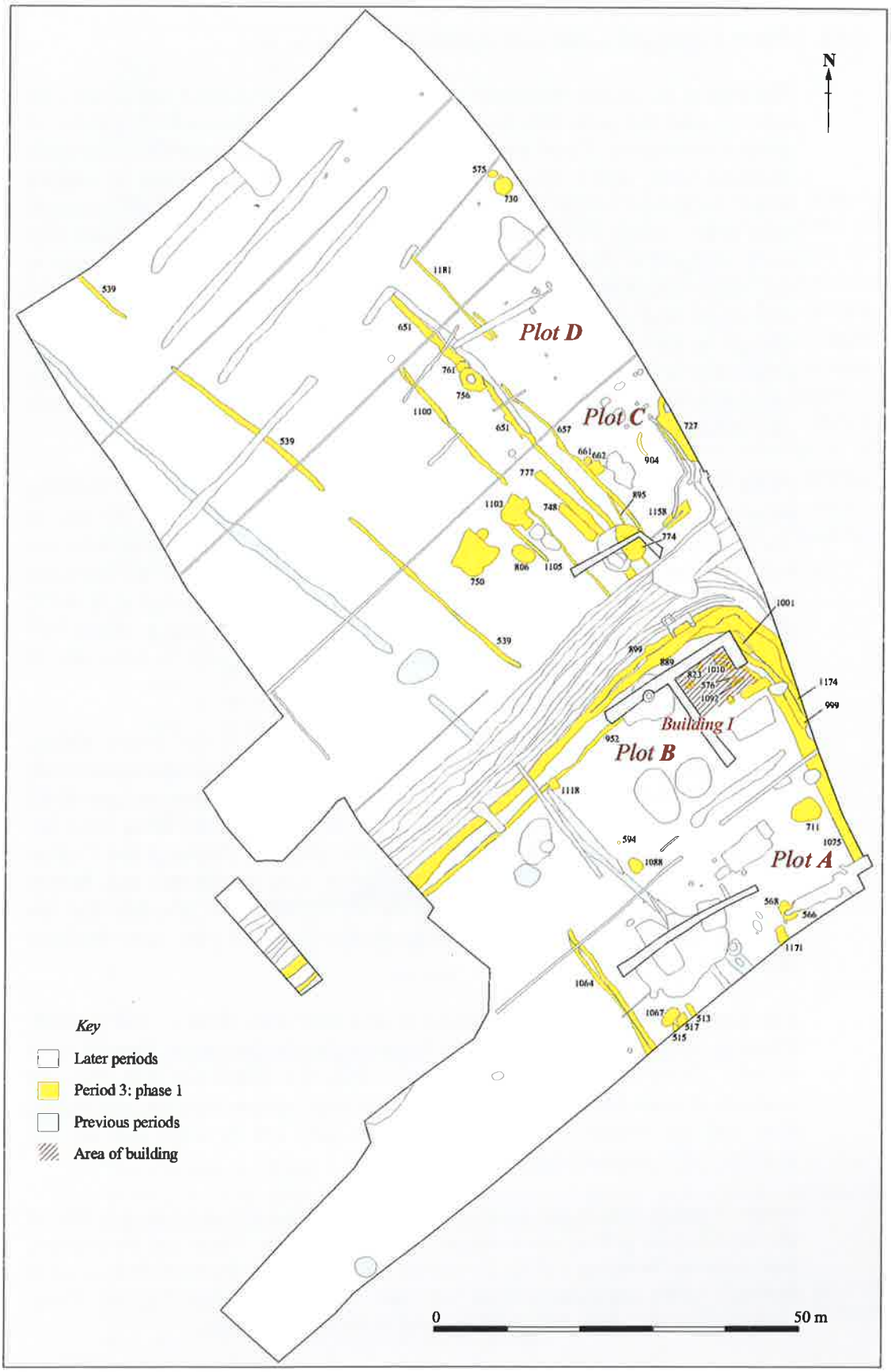


***Figure 6** Period 3, Phase 1*

4.5.1 *Phase 1: mid 12th – mid 14th centuries* (Fig 6)

The date of the initial settlement at Thorn Street is the second half of the 12th century, and the peak was reached, at least in the deposition of pottery, at around 1300-1350. There are a very few sherds of earlier material, principally Thetford ware, and a single Middle Saxon pin, but insufficient to suggest actual settlement within the immediate vicinity. It appears that the area had been under pasture for the past two thousand years – some of the undated field wells assigned to this phase may well be immediate, late Saxon, precursors to the initial settlement. The latter half of the 12th century saw large-scale expansion, and major redevelopments, within and around most towns and villages in the region. Along with this expansion of the settled area went the expansion of the area of ploughland, although it does not appear that the immediate environs of the settlement here were ploughed at this early period (see Phase 4 below).

Phase 1 saw the setting out of both the trackways and of the four building plots that fell within the site. Further plots would have lain to the east of Thorn Street, outside the area of investigation. At this initial phase only one building, that within Plot B, was recorded. It is unclear whether all four plots would have contained buildings simultaneously or whether Plots A & B and C & D in fact formed single units, with a single building, and a single well existing at any one time. Further stratigraphic analysis will be necessary to resolve this question.

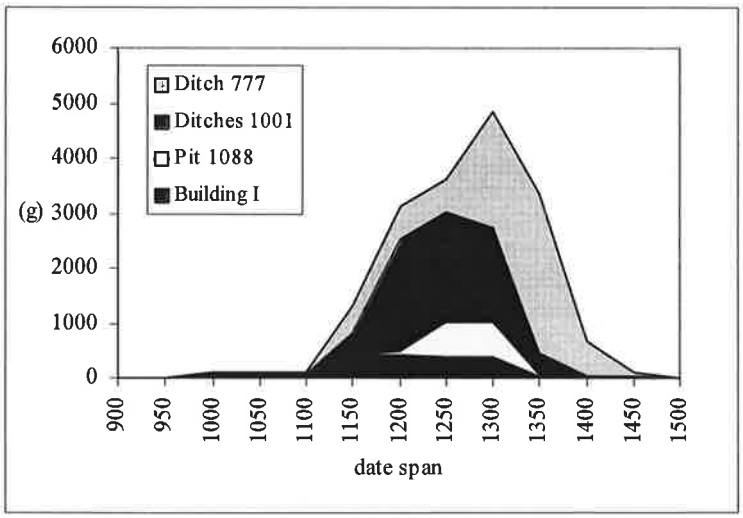
One major element of the settlement in Phases 1 & 2 is the quarry pitting, most visible in Plot C. The material being quarried is a clay/sand/gravel mix that contains too much clay for use as gravel and too much sand and gravel for use as clay. The question arises as to what the material was being used for. The paucity of building remains in these early phases – Phases 1 and 2 cover the 12th to 15th centuries – at a time when both artefactual and feature evidence are at their peak, may provide an answer; it is possible that the material was simply being used as ground raising for base-plate building platforms.

The date span for Phase 1 is currently around 200 years, from *c.*1150 to 1350. There is scope, however, within this broad phasing to date some features more closely. Many of the features currently within this phase are field, plot and roadside ditches. Such features rarely exhibit single-phase infilling, and indeed may well be re-cut/cleaned out throughout their use in ways that are not clearly visible archaeologically.

Graph 1 below details the production time-span, and approximate use-life, of the four largest pottery assemblages within the phase. These are the features that make up Building 1 (Plot B) and the ditches that enclose it (**1001**), a pit at the back of the same plot (**1088**) and ditch 777 in Plot C (see Fig. 6). These assemblages are large enough to be more accurately dateable.

	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Av. Sherd weight (g)
Ditch 777	1068	8387	7.9
Ditches 1001	588	6827	11.6
Pit 1088	41	1391	33.9
Building 1	112	1649	14.7

The graph shows the weight of pottery (in grams) on the vertical axis against the date span of the pottery type on the horizontal axis. The varied dates of the assemblages can clearly be seen, as can the different ways in which the features have become infilled. The assemblages within both Building 1 and its surrounding ditches (**1001**) span the period from 1150 to 1350, both having been in use, and re-built/re-cut, over a long period of time. The assemblages from pit **1088** and ditch **777** are progressively later, and much tighter in date. The single pit fill dates to 1250-1350 while ditch **777** contains a background of early material and a single, later dumped infill dating to 1300-1400. Thus it is possible here to see two, or possibly even three distinct sub-phases of activity. However, this may only be possible with the few large pottery assemblages and further work both on the pottery assemblage and on the stratigraphic analysis is needed before any sub-division of Phase 1 features will be undertaken.



Graph 1: Date span of the four largest pottery assemblages within Phase 1

4.5.1.1 Ditches

The ditches in Phase 1 had an average width of 0.85m and depth of 0.32m. Their fills were generally similar; moderately compact, grey-brown, brown or orange-brown sandy silts with moderate flint gravel inclusions.

513/ 515/ 517 Plot A
Series of early ditches that only just encroached on to the site from the southern limit of excavation (maximum 2.00m in length), parallel to ditch **1064**. They may represent the back ditch of part of Plot A or of a separate plot to the south.

Contexts 6	Pottery 0.09kg

1064 Plot A
Recut hedgebank ditch at the back of Plot A, extending 20m northwards from the southern edge of excavation. Maximum width 1.80m with recut.

Contexts 9	Pottery 0.01kg	Bone 0.22kg

889/ 899/ 952/ 999/ 1001/ 1075 Plots A & B
A series of at least three recuts of the western side of the north to south Thorn Street (running for 35m from the southern edge of excavation) and the southern side of the east to west Thorn Street Lane (running 55m into the western edge of excavation). The ditches are narrow and shallow along Thorn Street Lane, deeper and broader on Thorn Street. The width of Thorn Street is unknown, however, when initially set out Thorn Street Lane would have been approximately 12.00m wide. During this phase the first in a long series of recuts reduced the lane down to c. 8.00m wide. The original northern flanking ditch was not discernible, having been recut in subsequent phases. A short length of ditch (**1001**) may have been a drainage cut along the road side of Building 1 (see below).

Contexts 54	Pottery 8.14kg	Bone 0.86kg	CBM 0.45kg

651/ 657/ 895 Plots C & D
A series of ditches marking the eastern side of the principal north to south hedgebank boundary to the north of Thorn Street Lane. They extended for a maximum of 52m. Ditch **651** was the original ditch at the back of Building Plots C and D, with recut **657** to its east.

Contexts 25	Pottery 0.22kg	Bone 0.03kg

777 Plot C
A recut of the eastern side of the hedgebank boundary at the back of Plot C, extended 20m northwards from the north side of Thorn St Lane. Maximum width 1.20m. This was a major recutting of the boundary, cutting back into the hedgebank itself and extending the area within Plot C. The point at which the feature butt ended sharply at the north may mark an unseen division between Plots C and D. This ditch contained a very large domestic pottery assemblage (almost 900 sherds) from late in the Phase.

Contexts 15	Pottery 8.33kg	Bone 0.35kg	CBM 0.02kg

1100/ 1105 Plots C & D
Ditches marking the western side of the principal north to south hedgebank boundary to the north of Thorn St Lane. They extend for 42 metres but are severely truncated, particularly at the north. This hedgebank forms the back boundary of the house plot(s) of subsequent Buildings 3 and 4 (see Phases 3 and 5).

Contexts 13	Pottery 0.01kg	Bone 0.14kg

1181 Plot D
A series of ditches marking the eastern side of the principal north to south hedgebank boundary to the north of Thorn St Lane. They extended for a maximum of 17m at the back of Plot D. Two contexts, no artefactual material.

539
Parallel to Roman ditch **614** this ditch may have formed an early trackway or major hedged boundary with the extant Romano-British ditch. A less substantial feature than ditch **614**, the breaks within it may be due more to truncation than design. A large percentage of the ditch was excavated but almost no artefactual material was recovered, suggesting an early date for its construction. A single piece of abraded Medieval Ely ware pottery weighing just 2g is all that dates the feature, and this may well be intrusive. It is possible that, though different in size and fill colour, it may in fact be a second Romano-British ditch, parallel to 614, and forming a trackway approximately 10.00m wide. The ditch continues north-northwest and was traced through Areas A and D for 230m to the north of Thorn Street Lane.

Contexts 11	Pottery 0.01kg

4.5.1.2 Wells

711 Plot A
Single phase field well, 4.00m x 3.00m x 1.20m deep.
Eight contexts, no artefactual material recovered. The lack of finds from this well (as in 730; see below) strongly suggest that it belongs to a pre-settlement phase of the site. It did not, however, have the appearance of the Bronze Age and Roman wells (see above) – both of which also contained significant contemporary finds assemblages – it is possible that the well belongs to an earlier period than Phase 1, perhaps the Middle or Late Saxon. The fill was a naturally-derived accumulation, a mid-dark brown sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions. A Middle Saxon copper pin was recovered from the subsoil within this area (SF66).

774 Plot C: See also Phase 2
The first of a pair of large intercutting field wells or water holes up to 2.35m deep. It is likely that well **774** was initially opened in Phase 1, though was open and utilized, becoming silted up and being re-cut in Phase 2. The basal fills were loose orange-brown sandy silts; the central and upper fills were common to the later well **945** (see below, Phase 2).

575 Plot D
Small single phase field well, 1.30m x 1.00m x 0.80m deep. Slightly undercut by erosion, showing the level of ground water that would have existed. The single fill was a light brown sandy silt with frequent medium and occasional large flint gravel inclusions. Contained a small assemblage (9 sherds) of contemporary pottery.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.06kg

730 Plot D
Single phase field well, circular, 2.50m diameter x 1.25m deep. There was a step cut into the northeastern side of the pit, apparently to give easier access to the lower part of the well. The smaller well **575** (above) lies in close proximity and contained a small, datable finds assemblage – the complete lack of datable material recovered from this much larger feature may suggest it had become infilled prior to **575** and may represent an immediate, pre-settlement forerunner. The single fill was a light brown sandy silt with occasional medium-large flint gravel inclusions. The fill became darker, siltier and more compact with depth. The few finds recovered, single fragments of bone and tile, came from the surface of the feature.

Contexts 4	CBM 0.01kg	Bone 0.14kg

756 Plot D: See also Phase 5
Well construction cut, oval, 3.80m x 2.75m x 1.10m deep. At its centre was a 19th century brick-lined well shaft (see Phase 5 below). The well cut appears to represent the construction cut for an original stone- or wood-lined well shaft that has been subsequently re-lined. The fills of cut **756** – orange-brown silty sands with common gravel inclusions - were backfill rather than being waterlain or water-affected and contained a significant pottery assemblage clearly dating the infill to Phase 1.

Contexts 5	Pottery 0.91kg	CBM 0.43kg

4.5.1.3 Pits

The majority of pits in this phase were quarries, their fills a mix of natural accumulation (compact grey-brown clay silts with occasional gravel inclusions) and dumped infilling (moderately compact pale-mid brown silty loams and clays).

566/ 568 Plot A
Two adjacent pits. **566** was rectangular, 1.66m long, 1.60m wide and 1.00m deep. **568** was also rectangular, 2.20m long, 1.60m wide and 1.10m deep. Clearly different to the more common quarries on site, they could have served as water tanks for some domestic industrial activity. The fills were soft, dark grey-brown sandy silts with few inclusions – waterlain rather than dumped infill. Finds include an oval copper alloy buckle, SF65.

Contexts 5	Pottery 0.54kg	Bone 0.09kg

1067 Plot A
Pit, 2.90m long, 0.80m wide and 0.80m deep. Quarry pit located at the rear of the plot. Finds include part of a pewter spoon (SF98).

Contexts 4	Pottery 0.03kg	Bone 0.02kg

1171 Plot A
Unexcavated pit, possible strip quarry pit or rectangular 'tank' similar to **566/ 568**. Assigned to this phase by location, fill type and recovery of sherds of 12th or 13th century pottery from its surface.

1088 Plot B
Pit, oval, 2.00m long, 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep, located to the rear of the plot against the Roman boundary ditch 614. The earlier Romano-British ditch line is recut in two subsequent phases and seems likely to have remained an earthwork feature throughout.

Contexts 2	Pottery 1.40kg	CBM 0.01kg

1118 Plot B
Small deep, sub-rectangular pit, 1.25m long, 0.65m wide and 0.80m deep, cut through the first roadside ditch **952**. The fill was a moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy silt. Possibly a small well. Located to the rear of the plot.

Contexts 3	Pottery 0.03kg

661/ 662 Plot C
Two intercutting quarry pits. 3.00m long, 1.80m wide and 0.45m deep. Cut by ditch **657**.

Contexts 4	Pottery 0.43kg	Bone 0.02kg	CBM 0.07kg

727 [729/ 739/ 827/ 838/ 841/ 986] Plot C
A large group of intercutting quarry pits, towards the frontage of the plot. They lay at the edge of excavation and were only partially excavated and partially understood. The fill of pit **727** contained large parts of a cow skeleton.

Contexts 21	Pottery 0.13kg	Bone 5.15kg

748 Plot C
Pit 6.00m long, 1.30m wide and *c.* 0.50m deep. Strip quarry parallel to the rear boundaries of the plot and occupying the linear space between the hedgebank and contemporary ditch 777. There were further, contemporary, quarry pits behind the hedgebank to the west. The uneven base of the pit may be due to its segmented excavation.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.43kg	Bone 0.07kg

750 Plot C
A group of intercutting quarry pits, 6.75m long, 5.50m wide and to maximum 0.60m deep where excavated. Lies, with others, behind the hedgebank at the back of Plot C.

Contexts 6	Pottery 0.44kg	Bone 0.05kg

761 Plot D
Cut through ditch **651** and truncated by well construction cut **756**, both within the same phase. 1.22m wide and 0.41m deep.

Contexts 4	Pottery 0.14kg

1103 Plot C
Large irregular pit, 3.40m long, 2.00m wide and 0.71m deep, probably a series of intercutting quarry pits dug and backfilled in close succession. Part of a series of contemporary quarry pits behind the hedgebank to the rear of the plot.

Contexts 3	Pottery 0.11kg	Bone 0.02kg	CBM 0.01kg

1158 Plot C
Long, rectangular quarry pit, 4.50m long, 2.00m wide and 0.55m deep, along the southern side of the plot.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.07kg

4.5.1.4 Other Features

BUILDING 1 Plot B

Pits **1010/ 1090**
Slot **1092**
Postholes **576/ 1014/ 1016/ 1018/ 1020/ 1022/ 1024/ 1026/ 1096/ 1098**
Surfaces **823/ 956**

Possible earth-fast post-building or succession of buildings located in the northeastern corner of Plot B. Consists of several postholes and a beamslot which do not make a coherent building plan. A cobbled surface (**956**) was cut by some of the postholes and at the north was a small hearth or fire base with the base of a large pottery vessel sat upon it.

The postholes had an average diameter of 0.40m but an average depth of only 0.17m. Their fills were moderately compact mid-dark grey-brown sandy clays with occasional gravel inclusions.

Contexts 35	Pottery 1.82kg	Bone 0.02kg	CBM 0.07kg

Posthole **594** Plot B
Small posthole towards the back of the plot.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.03kg

Tree Throw **806** Plot C
At the centre of an area of Phase 1 and 2 quarry pitting behind the hedgebank at the rear of Plot C was a large contemporary tree throw – 3.40m long, 2.00m wide and up to 0.50m deep. The location of the quarry pitting, beneath the tree canopy, may be more than coincidence.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.07kg

Gully **904** Plot C
Shallow curving gully, *c.* 3.00m in length. Possibly a drip gully/drain for a small, circular structure.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.30kg

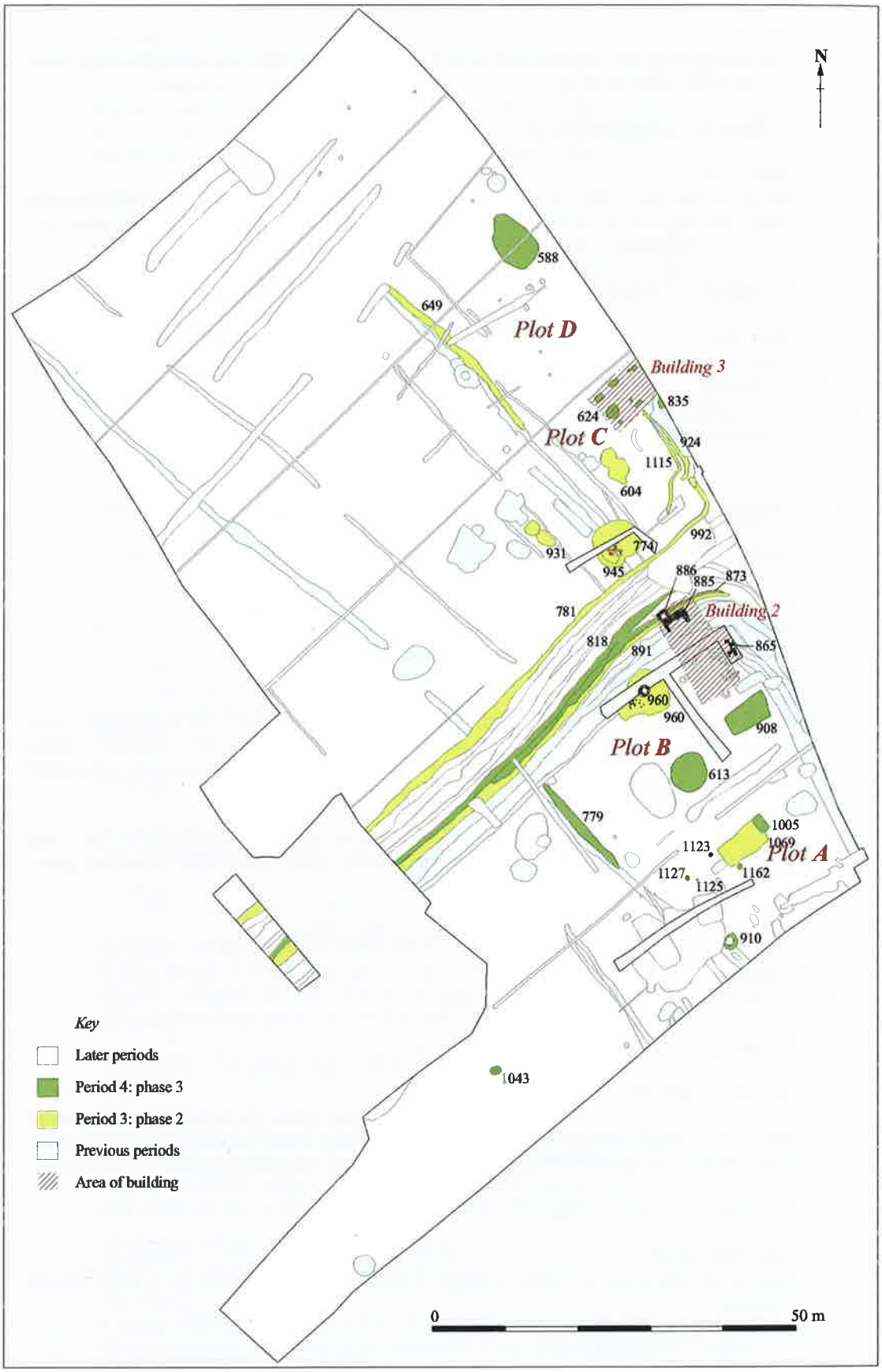


Figure 7 *Period 3, Phase 2 and Period 4, Phase 3*

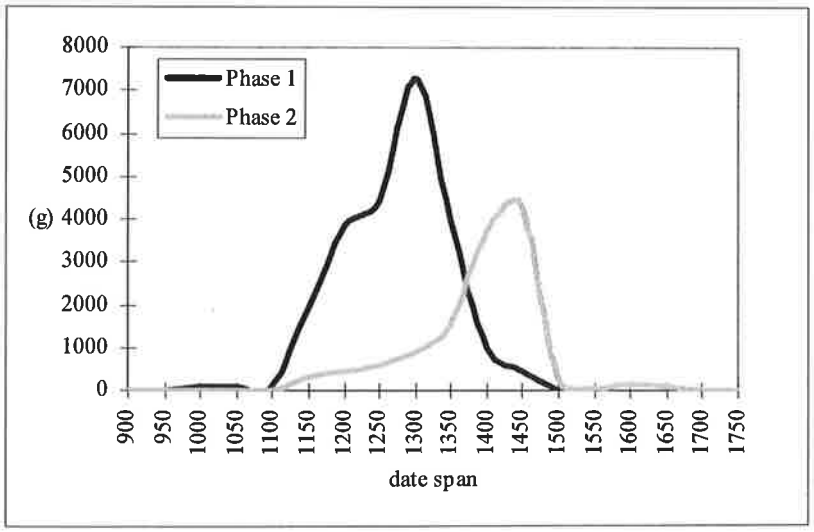
4.5.2 *Phase 2: mid 14th – 15th centuries* (Fig. 7)

There appears to be little fundamental change into Phase 2. There are no recognisable buildings attributable to the phase though wells are started or recut in two out of the four building plots. The construction cut for the stone-lined domestic well in Plot B (**960**) appears to be dug in this phase, along with one or both of the cuts of the large field well in Plot C (**774/945**).

Graph 2 below shows the date spans for the pottery assemblages attributed to Phases 1 and 2, with the peaks representing maximum periods of activity and/or deposition. The two assemblages are large enough for comparisons to be relevant.

	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Av. Sherd weight (g)
Phase 1	2119	22,000	10.4
Phase 2	491	12,600	25.7

There is a clear dip rather than a gradual progression between the two phases, centred on the period 1350-1400. This apparent dip in pottery deposition may be recording the fall-off of activity over the decades of the plagues that decimated the population over the second half of the 14th century. It may, however, be attributable more to the production dates assigned to the pottery forms of the period. Either way, there appears to be continuous deposition of pottery, and therefore direct occupation of the area, over this period.



Graph 2: Pottery date spans for the assemblages from Phases 1 & 2

The land at Thorn Street had been wet low-lying pasture, marginal land both in distance from the town and in productivity, prior to the first medieval occupation. Very many of these areas, taken into cultivation and/or settlement during the expansion of the 12th and 13th centuries, were abandoned during the 14th century. It appears that at least a part of the settlement at Thorn Street survived this period, though the level of activity is low and the bulk of the material attributable to this phase was deposited towards the end of the 15th century.

4.5.2.1 Ditches

There were few ditches assigned to Phase 2. Those along Thorn Street Lane and at the back of the plots had an average width of 0.80m and depth of 0.30m. Their fills were moderately compact, yellow- or grey-brown sandy silts with moderate flint gravel inclusions.

781/ 873 Plots B & C
Recuts along the northern and southern sides of Thorn Street Lane. The northern flanking ditch (781) probably recutting along the same line as that in Phase 1, the southern ditch cut slightly to the north, further reducing the width of the lane to *c.* 7.00m.

Contexts 6	Pottery 1.15kg	Bone 0.38kg

924/ 1115 Plot C
Two narrow slot-like ditches, possibly drains, both were aligned northwest to southeast along with all other ditches, and both kink round to the west at their southern ends. Their average width was 0.45m and depth 0.20m, their fills similar to those of the other ditches. It is possible that they are two versions of a drainage ditch or drip gully fronting a structure immediately to the west. Ditch **924** contained the skeleton of a small dog. An earlier, curvilinear drip gully also occupies this area (**904**), perhaps showing continuity of use as an area of out-buildings.

Contexts 19	Pottery 0.63kg	Bone 0.84kg

649 Plot D
A recutting of Phase 1 ditch **651**, 27.00m long, *c.* 0.90m wide and *c.* 0.32m deep. Its short length compared to ditch **651** suggests the recut may have been confined to Plot D.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.20kg

4.5.2.2 Wells

960 Plot B: See also Phases 3, 4 & 5
A substantial stone lined well contained in a large construction cut. The initial construction cut dates to Phase 2 and was 8.00m long, 6.00m wide and 1.40m deep. There was a squared and stepped entrance into the construction cut at the west and the base of the cut was covered in chalk chippings from the well-shaft construction. The well build and lining were of mortared chalk, heavily repaired at the top in Phase 3. The shaft was 0.80m wide and 2.90m deep.

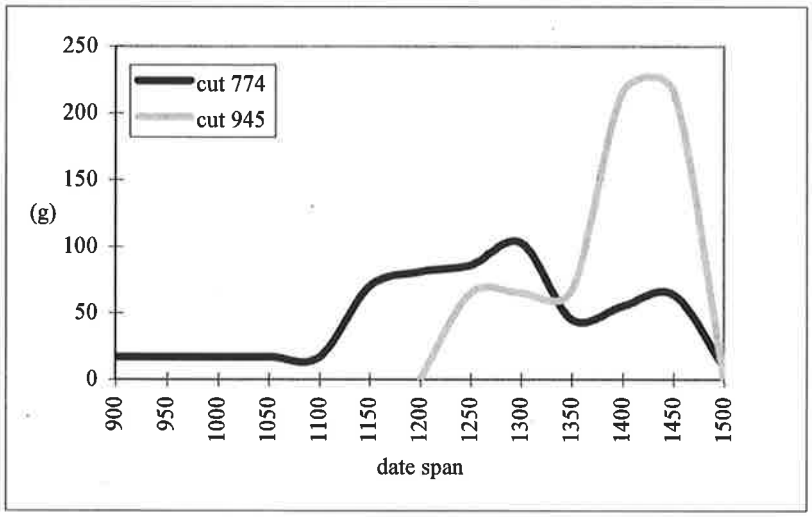
Contexts 8	Pottery 0.52kg	Bone 0.03kg	CBM 0.51kg

774/ 945 Plot C
Two large intercutting field wells or water holes up to 2.35m deep. Well **945** cut the lower fills of well **774**. It is possible, perhaps likely, that **774** was initially opened in Phase 1, becoming silted-up and being re-cut in Phase 2. The lower and central fills were naturally accumulated clay silts – grey-brown, mottled orange; the upper fills a succession of dumped infills and levelling layers. The basal fills of **945** contained a number of preserved wooden artefacts including a possible garderobe lid, part of a press and structural pieces (see Appendix 15). The lower fill also contained a near-complete Grimston ware jug.

Contexts 45	Pottery 3.69kg	Bone 4.57kg

Graph 3 below shows the date-span of the pottery assemblages for both the well cuts. Though the assemblages are small, and that of well 945 skewed by the near-complete jug, it is still clear that well 774 contained the earlier assemblage, the bulk of it belonging within Phase 1.

	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Av. Sherd weight (g)
Well 774	24	610	25.4
Well 945	11	630	57.3



Graph 3: Date of pottery assemblages within wells 774/945

4.5.2.3 Pits

The quarry pits assigned to this phase exhibited fill sequences similar to those of Phase 1.

1069 Plot A
Large rectangular pit, 7.00m long, 3.55m wide and 1.00m deep with a broad V-shaped profile. The basal fill was a compact, black clay silt with waterlogged organic remains and common gravels. The central fill was a compact, beige-brown sandy silt, again waterlain but not waterlogged. The upper fill was a dark grey/black ashy, silty loam with occasional gravel inclusions.

The fills produced a large finds assemblage including leather shoes (SF27-35) and wooden bowls (SF12-13) and environmental evidence suggesting its use as a hemp-retting pit. The final infilling of the pit, including the large pottery assemblage, comes towards the end of the phase at around 1450-1500, though the shoes in the base fill suggest that the pit was open and in use in the first half of the 15th century (see Appendix 16). Other finds include iron nails, strips and fittings (SF139, 163-67) and a carved stone post footing (SF50).

Contexts 8	Pottery 9.29kg	Bone 14.37kg	CBM 2.11kg

604 Plot C
A series of intercutting quarry pits 4.00m long, 3.00m wide and 0.85m deep, within Plot C, just inside the hedgebank.

Contexts 13	Pottery 0.60kg	Bone 0.04kg	CBM 1.87kg

931 Plot C
Two intercutting quarry pits, 5.00m long, 1.20m wide and 0.84m deep, situated at the rear of Plot C, behind the hedgebank.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.09kg	Bone 0.08kg

4.6 PERIOD 4: POST-MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

4.6.1 *Phase 3: 16th – 17th centuries* (Fig. 7)

Phase 3 saw a continuation of activity across all the plots, though with a concentration in Plot B. As far as can be ascertained, both the large domestic building in Plot B (Building 2) and the probable ancillary structure in Plot C, were constructed in this phase. There are large, shallow pits within Plots B and D that appear to be ponds.

4.6.1.1 Ditches

There were few ditches assigned to Phase 3. Those along Thorn Street Lane and at the back of the plots had an average width of 0.80m and depth of 0.35m. Their fills were moderately compact, brown or grey-brown sandy clay silts with moderate flint gravel inclusions.

779 Plot B
A recutting of the ditch line at the back of Plot B, contemporary with the construction/use of Building 2 (see below). The ditch recut only slightly to the east of the Roman ditch **614**, suggesting perhaps that the original ditch line, marked by a hedged boundary, was still extant.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.05kg

818/ 891 Plots B & C
Two further recuts of the southern flanking ditch of Thorn Street Lane. Both recuts encroached even further northwards into the lane area, the second (**818**) cutting the lane width down to perhaps only 5.00m. The first recut, 891, originally ran round the back end of Building 2 (see below). Subsequently an extension to the fireplace on the end of the building, possibly a bread oven, has built out over the infilled ditch and the second recut was forced even further out into the lane itself. This is a good example of the land-grabbing encroachment going on within Plot B.

Contexts 10	Pottery 0.91kg	Bone 1.67kg	CBM 1.14kg

4.6.1.2 Wells

910 Plot A: See also Phase 5
Small shaft well within Plot A. The construction, use, silting up and abandonment of this well all apparently date to this phase. The construction cut was 2.50m in diameter and more than 0.80m deep. The shaft was constructed out of well-made, faced chalk blocks and was 2.50m deep. The inner diameter of the faced shaft was 0.60m wide at the top, expanding to 1.10m towards the base. The basal fill was a rich, dark-brown organic silt, above which was a thick

layer of preserved but semi-rotted straw. This was sealed by a layer of orange and grey clay and sand. The final infilling of the top of the well shaft did not take place until Phase 5.

Contexts 7	Pottery 0.14kg	Bone 1.42kg	CBM 8.79kg

960 Plot B: See also Phases 2, 4 & 5
The remodelling or repair to the upper metre of the well shaft dates to this phase. The well was therefore clearly still in use, the basal silting and initial infilling dating to Phase 4.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.12kg	Bone 0.08kg	CBM 0.11kg

4.6.1.3 Pits

Some of the pits in Phase 3 were very large, up to 9m in length, though relatively shallow, and would have performed a variety of functions. Only one appears to have served as a quarry pit. Their fills appear to vary dependant upon whether the features held water but are principally mid-dark grey-brown silty clays and sands.

1005 Plot A
Small rectangular pit, 2.50m long, 1.40m wide and *c*.0.20m deep. Cut the eastern edge of infilled retting pit **1069**. Finds include a Cu-alloy vessel rim sherd (SF87).

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.94kg	Bone 0.31kg	CBM 3.34kg

1162 Plot A
A small, shallow pit 0.80m long, 0.60m wide and 0.60m deep.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.06kg	Bone 0.04kg	CBM 0.06kg

613 Plot B
Large circular pit, similar to 588 though slightly steeper at the sides, 5.25m diameter and 0.54m deep. Located at the centre of Plot B. Finds include an iron hook (SF191).

Contexts 11	Pottery 1.52kg	Bone 0.14kg	CBM 1.33kg

908 Plot B
Large subrectangular pit, 3.00m long, 1.30m wide and 0.45m deep. Located towards the front of Plot B. Finds include a Charles I farthing token (SF193).

Contexts 6	Pottery 0.93kg	Bone 1.11kg	CBM 0.44kg	Lava 0.19kg

835/ 992 Plot C
Pit, 0.90m wide and 0.35m deep. Probable quarry pit, located towards the front of Plot C within an area of earlier quarries.

Contexts 1	Bone 0.34kg

588 Plot D
A large shallow, sub-oval pit, 9.00m long, 5.00m wide and a maximum of 0.50m deep at the centre. The fill produced an assemblage of clay pipes dating to 1680-1710 that would date this feature to the very end of Phase 3. Located towards the front of Plot D. Other finds include iron blades (SF6, 177-8), a tool fragment (SF184) and many nail fragments.

Contexts 5	Pottery 7.82kg	Bone 4.23kg	CBM 4.93kg	Lava 1.97kg

1043
A small, shallow pit containing a degraded horse burial, 1.52m long, 1.06m wide and 0.05m deep. Located in the open field to the rear of Plot A. Only a single sherd of, possibly residual, pottery dates the feature to the 16th century.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.01kg	Bone 2.67kg

4.6.1.4 Other Features

Postholes **1123/ 1125/ 1127** Plot A
Three small, possibly related postholes in the area of retting pit **1069**.

Contexts 6	Pottery 0.05kg

BUILDING 2 PLOT B

Stack foundations **865/ 885/886.**

The only elements surviving from this building were the foundations of two chimney stacks, constructed of chalk blocks with occasional brick fragments. The overall size of **865** was 2.50m x 1.40m with a small fireplace measuring 1.40m x 0.70m. Stack 885 was 4.00m x 2.00m overall with a fireplace measuring2.40m x 1.10m. An addition at the back measured 1.50m x 1.20m

The two stacks were approximately 9m apart and set at right angles to one another. The large stack **885** would have heated the main room (hall) of the house. It is likely that the walls of the house were of box-frame construction supported on dwarf walls, which have subsequently been robbed or ploughed away. The main body of both stacks have also been salvaged for re-use, no collapsed rubble surrounded these foundations. The stack foundations were resting on top of layer 884, an old ploughsoil, containing datable finds of the 15th-16th century (Phase 2). To the rear of stack **885** was the foundation for a small square structure **886**, a later addition of uncertain function, possibly the base of a bread oven. It appears that this addition has extended over the back ditch behind the building, fronting onto Thorn Street Lane, and the roadside ditch has been forced yet further out into the lane.

Contexts 3	CBM 0.86kg

BUILDING 3 PLOT C

Postholes **624 (626/ 628/ 630/ 664/ 666/ 668/ 695/ 697)**
A rectangle of post pits and postholes, approximately 7.50m x 5.00m wide, representing a post structure that almost certainly extended beyond the limit of excavation to the east. The postholes averaged 0.75m in diameter and 0.17m deep. Their fills were red- and black-brown silty sands with occasional chalk and gravel inclusions.

Contexts 18	Pottery 0.03kg

Tree Throw **536**
Shallow tree throw excavated in Area D1. The single pottery sherd dating the feature to this phase may well be residual.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.01kg	Bone 0.10kg

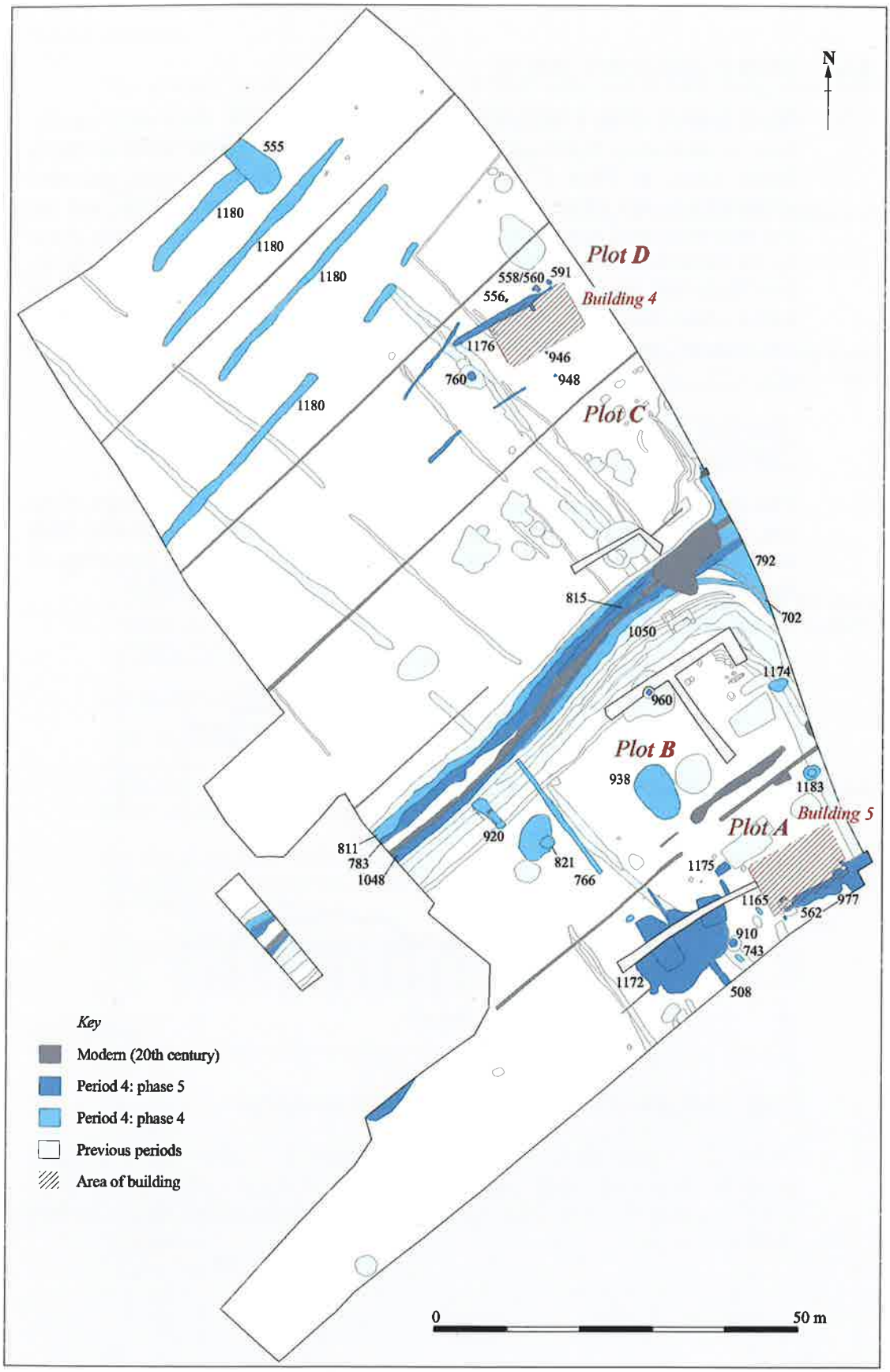


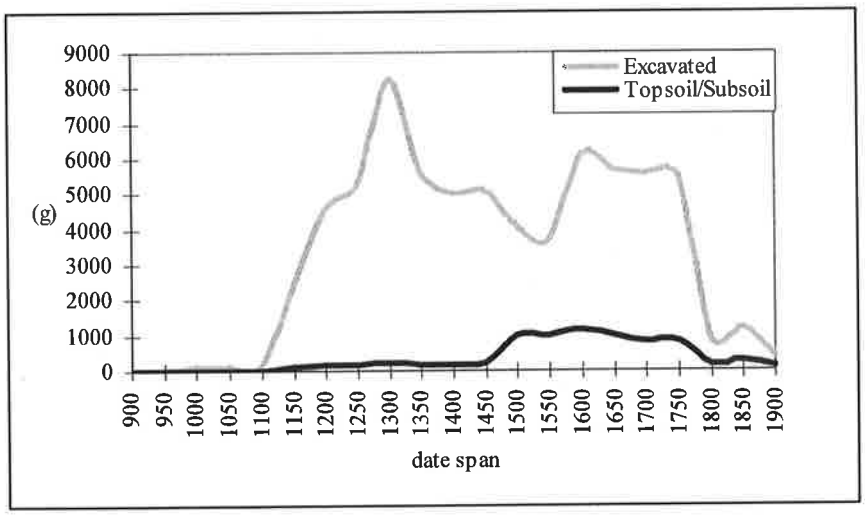
Figure 8 *Period 4, Phases 4 and 5 and modern features*

4.6.2 *Phase 4: 18th century* (Fig. 8)

There appears to be a lessening of activity into Phase 4, with what activity there is centred on Plot B around Building 2 (Fig. 7). To the north of Thorn Street Lane, in Plots C and D, no settlement features were recorded attributable to this phase. There are however, furrows. The furrows, and the machine-excavated subsoil within and below them, are assigned to this phase by the latest dates for the bulk of the pottery recovered from them. However, it is likely that the inception of the ridge and furrow system here dates to an earlier phase than this. Graph 4 below details the date-span of the excavated (i.e. featured) pottery assemblage against that from the topsoil and subsoil.

	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Av. Sherd weight (g)
Excavated	4290	71930	16.8
Topsoil/subsoil	395	7655	19.4

This shows that while the excavated material spans the entire date-range of the site, that from the soils dates almost solely to the 15th – 18th centuries. This may suggest that this is the period of intensive ploughing, and manuring, of the area, with the land under pasture both before and after this period.



Graph 4: Date-span of Featured and Top/Subsoil pottery assemblages

While no structures are assigned to this phase it is clear that Building 2 continues in use and likely that both Buildings 4 and 5 (see Phase 5 below) were constructed – their phasing as Phase 5 buildings relates mostly to their demise.

4.6.2.1 Ditches

The ditches in this phase averaged 0.95m wide and 0.25m deep, their fills were fairly loose, dark green- and grey-brown silty sands and clays with moderate gravel inclusions.

766 Plot B
A narrow recut along the line of the earlier ditch **779** at the rear of the plot (a final recutting of the original Roman ditch line).

Contexts 6	Pottery 0.05kg

811/ 1050/ 702 Plots B & C
Further recuts to the northern (**811**) and southern (**1050/ 702**) flanking ditches of Thorn Street Lane. Between them they reduced the width of the trackway to only 2.50 to 3.00m. Finds include a decorative Cu-alloy fitting and spoon fragment (SF61-62).

Contexts 15	Pottery 0.62kg	Bone 0.15kg	CBM 0.86kg

4.6.2.2 Wells

1052 Plot A: Single Phase
A small well or water hole, oval, 1.10m maximum width, 0.85m deep. The single fill was a compact, grey-brown silty clay. A brick recovered from the fill could date the feature's infilling to this or the previous phase.

Contexts 2	CBM 0.68kg

1183 Plot A: See also Phase 5
No contexts. No artefactual material recovered.
Chalk-built well shaft, probably constructed in Phase 3 or 4. Infilled and bulldozed flat late 20th C, no excavation possible.

960 Plot B: See also Phases 2, 3 & 5
The basal fill - a grey-brown, organic clay silt - and central dumped fills of large stone-lined well **960** date to this phase.

Contexts 3	Pottery 0.67kg	Bone 0.30kg	CBM 5.17kg

4.6.2.3 Pits

821 Plot B
Pit, subcircular in shape, 1.90m long, 1.60m wide and 0.45m deep. One excavated pit within an area of quarries 6.50m x 5.00m behind ditch 766 to the rear of Plot B. The fill was a mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional clunch fragments. Finds include an iron S-hook (SF146).

Contexts 5	Pottery 0.53kg	Bone 0.47kg	CBM 0.22kg

920 Plot B
Long rectangular pit, 5.00m x 2.20m x 0.25m deep, cuts into the southern flanking ditches of Thorn St Lane and is broader at the north end, almost keyhole-shaped. The pit was filled with unfaced clunch rubble and occasional brick fragments, the type of material that may have been discarded during the salvaging of reusable building materials. Located behind the hedgebank at the rear of Plot B.
2 contexts, no retained artefactual material.

938 Plot B
Large, shallow pit or pond, 8.00m long, 5.00m wide and maximum 0.45m deep. The base at the shallower west was of trampled gravel cobbles, perhaps to aid access to the deeper, water filled eastern half of the feature. The fill was a grey-brown silty clay, mottled orange, with occasional flint gravel and loose cobbles.

Contexts 5	Pottery 1.57kg	Bone 2.27kg	CBM 6.41kg

1174 Plot B
Unexcavated pit, ovoid, 2.60m long, cut into the roadside ditches at the front of the plot. Fill contained cobbles and a single, fresh pottery sherd was recovered from the surface.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.01kg

4.6.2.4 Other Features

Calf burial **743** Plot A
A pit 0.88m long, 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep containing an articulated perinatal calf skeleton. Cut into the top of Roman ditch **614** at the south of the plot.

Contexts 3	Pottery 0.01kg	Bone 1.98kg

Pig burial **1165** Plot A
The degraded remains of an articulated pig burial. No clearly datable finds but the small quantity of CBM suggests a relatively late date.

Contexts 2	CBM 0.04kg	Bone 1.85kg

Postholes **946/ 948** Plot D
Two small, square-cut postholes, each approximately 0.30m wide.

Contexts 4	Pottery 0.04kg	CBM 1.06kg

555
A wide shallow pit or ditch butt, 3.60m wide and 0.20m deep, at the northern limit of Area A.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.02kg	Bone 0.37kg

Road **792**
The gravel surface of the road survives relatively well at the junction of Thorn Street and Thorn Street Lane. The finds material on the surface and in soil layers above dates, at the earliest, to Phase 4 and to Phase 5 and includes a decorated, cast rumbler bell (SF57).

Contexts 6	Pottery 2.77kg	Bone 0.24kg	CBM 3.38kg

Furrows and subsoil **1180**
A series of parallel linear features at the northern end of Area A. They were spaced *c.*7.00 - 8.00m apart and represent the bases of furrows surviving from open field ridge and furrow agriculture. The latest finds recovered from the furrows themselves date to the eighteenth century. However, the furrows were infilled by the same subsoil that covered the whole of the site and all subsoil finds are included within this context group whether contemporary with Phase 4, residual or intrusive. The metalwork assemblage comprises 2 silver objects, 33 Cu-alloy, 2 iron and 4 lead (see Appendix 6).

Contexts 31	Pottery 3.44kg	Bone 0.09kg	CBM 1.81kg

4.6.3 *Phase 5: 19th century*

Buildings 4 and 5, while probably constructed in Phase 4, are recognisable chiefly in this phase due t the amount of material recovered that relates to their demise. With the exception of the small stack of bricks in Building 4 (Plot D) and the terra cotta threshold of Building 5 (Plot A), little or nothing remains of their construction. These two buildings are seen on both the Old Series and First Edition Ordnance Survey maps (1820's and 1880's) and both are shown set within small, hedged plots within larger fields. The sub-surface archaeological remains within these two areas are distinctly different, Plot A contains wells, surfaces, dumps, large, possibly industrial pits and some postholes, while Plot D contains nothing but shallow drainage ditches and a single well. The differing activities and density of activity may suggest different usages for the two buildings, the former perhaps a working farm, the latter a domestic cottage.

Both these buildings went out of use shortly after the turn of the century, and what remained of the trackway that was Thorn Street Lane was cut through as a drainage ditch.

4.6.3.1 Ditches

508 Plot A
Narrow, square cut, north to south ditch either at the back of Plot A or as a division within it.

Contexts 4	Pottery 0.31kg	Bone 0.06kg	CBM 0.55kg

1048 and **815/783** Plots B & C
The final phase of roadside ditches flanking Thorn Street Lane before it went out of use. The lane at this time is little over a metre wide in places and cannot have acted as much more than a drain and occasional footpath. Perhaps its chief purpose as a lane had been transport to and from the Mere to the west, and the Mere would have been completely drained by the late 18th or early 19th centuries.

Contexts 6	Pottery 0.63kg	Bone 0.94kg	CBM 4.76kg

4.6.3.2 Wells

910 Plot A: See also Phases 2 & 3
The upper, final infilling of small chalk-lined well 910 contained some preserved wooden artefacts, including a possible bucket base/lid and part of a cart.

Contexts 1	Pottery 0.35kg	Bone 0.38kg	CBM 0.02kg

1183 Plot A: See also Phase 4
No contexts. No artefactual material recovered.
Chalk-built well shaft. Infilled and bulldozed flat late 20th C, no excavation possible but modern rubble seen within the debris and local eyewitness remembers the well being flattened and infilled in the 1980's.

960 Plot B: See also Phases 2, 3 & 4
The upper, final fill of large chalk-lined well **960**. Finds include a Cu-alloy buckle (SF76).

Contexts 1	Pottery 2.44kg	Bone 0.40kg	CBM 0.71kg

760 (756) Plot D: See also Phase 1
The brick lining (circular, 1.16m external diameter) to well **756**, and its fill. Excavated to 1.50m depth, augured to 2.50m. The fill contained very large quantities of material, chiefly bottles and iron and tin objects that date the infilling to *c*. 1900-1910.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.88kg	CBM 4.80kg

4.6.3.3 Pits

1003 Plot A
Large rectangular pit cut into surface **1172** (see below), 8.00m x 3.30m x 0.40m deep. Pottery dates to *c*. 1900. The feature was underwater during sample excavation, the fill was a dense, dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent brick, clunch and cobble inclusions.

Contexts 3	Pottery 1.60kg

1173 Plot A
Large square pit, cut into surface **1172** (see below), 3.50m wide. 1 context, unexcavated, no artefactual material. Identical in appearance to pit **1003**.

1175 Plot A
A subrectangular pit 2.00m long and 1.10m wide. Unexcavated but datable pottery sherds retrieved from its upper fill.

Contexts 2	Pottery 0.09kg

4.6.3.4 Other Features

BUILDING 5 PLOT A

All that remained of this structure was threshold **562**, and an exterior cobbled pathway, **977**. The threshold was composed of highly decorated, reused terra cotta panels. The panels would have been reclaimed from a very high status building relatively nearby and date to the early 16th century (see Appendix 5). Building 5 would have lain immediately to the north of the threshold and parallel to surface **977**.

Contexts 1	CBM 79.82kg

Surface **977** Plot A
A cobbled area at the front and south of the plot. The remains of a yard and path associated with, and leading to the threshold of, Building 5.

Contexts 5	Pottery 0.12kg	Bone 0.31kg	CBM 0.06kg

Surface **1172** Plot A
This is a large and amorphous area of mixed building material and clay. It appears to represent levelling or surface preparation for a yard surface at the rear of the plot. Cut by pits **1003** and **1173** (see above).

Contexts 3	Pottery 0.06kg

BUILDING 4 PLOT D

As with the other buildings on site, little survives of Building 4. There were four postholes **556, 558, 560** and **591** and a drainage ditch **1176**. There was also part of a small brick structure immediately to the south of the ditch, six bricks formed a rightangle and survived to two bricks high.

Contexts 9	Pottery 0.09kg

Ditch **1176** Plot D
The drainage ditch, 1.00m wide, along the front, northern side of Building 4. The dark fill contained large quantities of late 19th/early 20th century material which was sampled for dating.

Contexts 2	Pottery 1.36kg

Postholes **946** and **948**, dated to Phase 4 may be part of an outbuilding or extension.

Pond **563**
A large pond (minimum length/width 10.00m) located well to the rear of Plot A, in the middle of the field to the south of Thorn Street Lane.

Contexts 1	Pottery 0.16kg	Bone 0.19kg	CBM 0.24kg

Topsoil **1179**
Finds recovered from the topsoil during machine stripping and metal detecting. The metalwork assemblage comprises 19 Cu-alloy objects, 8 iron and 8 lead.

Contexts 19	Pottery 3.74kg	Bone 0.59kg	CBM 1.55kg

4.7 UNDATED FEATURES (see Fig. 4)

Pits **942, 966** Plot D
Two shallow, circular pits, 0.90m and 0.70m diameter, towards the back of Plot D. Possibly Period 1.
4 contexts, no finds material.

Slot **1182** Plot D
Narrow, spade-dug slot at the northern limit of Plot D. Possibly represents a narrow drainage channel dug into the base of a medieval furrow. The slot lines up with a ploughed-out furrow further to the west.

Postholes **969, 979, 983, 1029, 1031, 1033**
Six small postholes, scattered across the area to the north of Plot D.
12 contexts, no finds material.

Well **1108**
To the far southwest of Area A, a large, circular field well, 2.90m diameter, 1.20m deep. It is very similar in size and fill to Bronze Age well 681 but with no datable finds material. Possibly Period 1.

Contexts 6	Bone 0.49kg

4.8 EXCAVATION AREAS B AND C

Since no significant archaeology was uncovered within Areas B and C, the stripping programme here was cut short. In Area B approximately half the original area was stripped and in Area C approximately a quarter, with trenches used to follow features uncovered in the stripped area.

In Area B three furrows, a post-medieval to modern ditch, two post-medieval tree throws and a modern pit were recorded. In Area C four furrows were recorded. These features, with the exception of the modern pit in Area B, are shown on Fig. 2. As a result of their limited intrinsic interest, no context numbers appear on plan and no context descriptions are given here.

These areas will be discussed with regards to their significance in the final report.

5 SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

This section includes summary results and statements on the research potential of archaeological materials recovered during the course of the 2004 excavations at Cloverfield Drive. The assessment documents for artefactual and environmental studies appear as a series of appendices.

5.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

5.1.1 The Excavation Record

Written record:

Cut descriptions	222
Fill descriptions	367
Masonry and structural	6
Layer descriptions	45
Surface finds	62
Total	**702**

Table 1

Drawn record:

Plans	93
Sections	135
Total	**228**

Table 2

Samples:

Flotation/wet sieve	47
Monolith/pollen	9
Total	**56**

Table 3

Photographs:

Colour slide	203
Colour print	188
Black & white	217
Digital	1094
Total	**1702**

Table 4

5.1.2 *Finds Assemblage*

		Weight in kg		
Period/Phase	**Contexts**	**Pottery**	**Bone**	**CBM**
Period 1	20	1.49	2.78	0
Period 2	24	0.37	0.17	0
Period 3: Phase 1	251	24.01	7.07	1.07
Phase 2	117	16.82	20.54	4.55
Period 4: Phase 3	96	14.93	12.11	22.8
Phase 4	70	6.72	7.78	17.82
Phase 5	69	11.68	2.85	92.51
Not phased	55	0	0.49	0
Total	702	76.02	53.79	138.75

Table 5: The principal finds assemblages (in kg) by Period: Phase

Material	**Kg or Items**	**Appendix**
Prehistoric pottery	1.55kg	1
Worked flint	1.54kg	2
Burnt Flint	1.44kg	2
Roman pottery	0.46kg	3
Med/PM pottery	73.01kg	4
CBM	138.75kg	5
Metalwork	152 items	6
Worked stone	6.79kg	7
Tobacco pipe	0.26kg	8
Glass	10.57kg	9
Fired clay	0.91kg	10
Animal bone	53.79kg	11
Shellfish	1.03kg	12
Worked wood	15 items	15
Leather	18 items	16

Table 6: Total Finds assemblage

5.1.3 *Feature Types*

Feature type	**Contexts**	**%**
ditch	237	*33*
pit	170	*24*
well	123	*18*
posthole	61	*9*
other structural	11	*2*
road/surface	22	*3*
layer	57	*8*
other	21	*3*
Total	702	*100*

Table 7: Feature types

The archaeological features recorded consisted principally of cut features such as ditches, pits, postholes, and, and wells. Upstanding features are largely composed of chalk/clunch masonry, rarely worked, usually surviving to no more than one course high, and gravel surfaces.

5.1.4 *Condition of the Excavation Area*

A study of the earliest OS map shows the site preserved under pasture and it is doubtful that the area has seen much modern deep ploughing. The area had been part of the medieval ploughland, attested to by the furrows recorded across Areas A, B and C. However, the area under plough never seems to have extended into the building plots and these were relatively well preserved. The foundations of the chimney stacks of the 17th-century Building 2 survived to two courses high, 0.30m above the level of the natural subsoil.

5.1.5 *Primary Excavation Sources and Documents*

The records for all of the excavated deposits are complete and have been checked for internal consistency. Written and drawn records have been completed on archival quality paper and are fully indexed. A provisional site matrix has been drawn up and checked with the pottery spot dates.

All primary records are retained at the CCC AFU offices in Fulbourn under the site code SOH CLD 04.

5.1.6 *Statement of Potential*

The contextual record is the main component of the excavation data and will form the foundation of the site narrative.

The 2004 record is sufficient to fulfil the majority of the aims and objectives related to the internal layout, morphological development and activity zones of the site, providing essential data to supplement artefact and environmental studies. Of particular relevance are the following research objectives:

- understanding and interpretation of the ditches and their roles as boundary features. This will be significant to understanding the early historic layout and development of the landscape. Work will also be necessary on identifying boundaries which are not marked by ditches;

- understanding the sources of deposits and fills as an indication of site function;

- understanding the temporal and spatial analysis of site function by feature type;

- understanding the local building patterns and techniques.

Dating and phasing can be achieved through further study of the ceramic assemblages.

5.2 Documentary Studies

The documentary resource has not been significantly accessed for analysis and interpretation. Most of the easily accessible historic maps for the area around the settlement of Soham will be studied and copied. A full interpretation of HER data, find spots and more detailed records, should be attempted.

5.3 Non-Organic Artefact Studies

5.3.1 Prehistoric Pottery by Sarah Percival *(see APPENDIX 1)*

A small assemblage of 63 sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 1.546kg, was recovered from eleven excavated contexts and from surface cleaning. Preservation of the assemblage varies with a number of sherds in a poor or very poor condition. Rims from three vessels survive and these along with a sherd with distinctive incised geometric decoration suggest that the pottery is of Late Bronze Age to earlier Iron Age date.

The material was recovered from three main features, a large field well and two shallow pits. The bulk of the assemblage came from the field well and, although these finds may have become incorporated within the feature through backfilling or weathering processes, an element of deliberate deposition is also possible. Part of a fired clay loomweight was recovered from the same feature.

5.3.2 Lithics by Barry Bishop *(see APPENDIX 2)*

A small assemblage of thirty-four struck flints and just over 1.5kg of burnt flint fragments were recovered from the excavations. A small part of the assemblage indicates some earlier prehistoric (Neolithic) activity which is otherwise not represented in the archaeological record. The larger part is of Bronze Age date and has the ability to contribute to the further appreciation of the poorly understood nature and chronology of late flintworking traditions from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. It is therefore recommended that the assemblage should be fully described for publication, alongside illustrations of relevant pieces, and included in any published account of the excavations.

5.3.3 Roman Pottery by Alice Lyons *(see APPENDIX 3)*

Fifty sherds, weighing 0.458kg, were identified as being of Romano-British date. The sherds are in a poor condition all being small and most being heavily abraded suggesting a high degree of post-depositional disturbance and residuality. All the pottery belongs to the early Romano-British period, the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. The lack of finewares indicates a utilitarian assemblage from a fairly low status settlement.

5.3.4 *Medieval & Post-Medieval Pottery* by Carole Fletcher *(see APPENDIX 4)*

The medieval and post-medieval pottery assemblage is the main source of dating for the site and the excavated assemblage, combined with the stratigraphic evidence, will assist in the understanding of the temporal development of this part of the medieval town. The assemblage is a relatively large one, and the majority, including unstratified material, is medieval in date with 2331 sherds (weighing 25.264kg) in the AD 1150 to 1450 bracket, (Period 3: Phases 1 & 2). In addition 902 sherds (weighing 20.322kg) of post–medieval material (Period 4: Phases 3 & 4) were identified. The remaining large group of material can be dated to the 18th and 19th centuries (Period 4: Phases 4 & 5). There is very little early medieval material (pre-1150), with only 3 sherds in total.

The character of the assemblage suggests it derives from a domestic context. The group appears to be generally indicative of rural assemblages in the period and offers potential for further study which will add to existing knowledge of the medieval and post–medieval period both locally and regionally.

In general, study of the pottery will allow an understanding of settlement morphology and any temporal variations. It will also help to reveal any changes to internal spatial patterning and activity zones over time and permit comparison with the excavated material from elsewhere in the village. In addition the pottery could aid understanding of the site's place in the communication, marketing and trade systems of the East Cambridgeshire area.

5.3.5 *Ceramic Building Materials* by Paul Drury *(see APPENDIX 5)*

Terra cotta

The terra cotta is a relict of a significant addition to a regional sub-group of a nationally rare group of courtier-level buildings using terra cotta. Terra cotta is itself a 'renaissance' material and usually associated with the introduction to England of renaissance architectural details. The material here warrants detailed description and discussion in its regional context, and a study of the HER and secondary historical sources for Soham and surrounding parishes should be undertaken, in an attempt to identify a likely primary source. This is likely to have been a major early 16th century house which was demolished in the 17th to early 19th centuries.

Brick and Tile

The apparent presence of early (innovative and experimental) material is interesting in terms of regional distribution, for whilst common in Essex it is, for example, absent from Norwich. This putative group warrants closer examination and, if the identification is sustained, description. Otherwise the aims of study should be to try to identify the phase of first introduction of each major type of ceramic building material to the site, its use in structural features, and thereby to draw conclusions about the pattern of supply to and

use of suites of ceramic building materials on the site, as a contribution to the objectives identified in Drury 2000, 61.

Study should take the form of examination of the material phase by phase, with particular attention to structural features, noting major types present, and seeking to identify and group early material regardless of context. Detailed cataloguing is not justified.

5.3.6 *Metalwork* by Nina Crummy *(see APPENDIX 6)*

A total of 152 objects was recovered and the assemblage comprises 2 silver, 64 copper-alloy, 13 lead(-alloy) and 73 iron pieces. They range in date from Middle Saxon to modern, with the majority of those that can be dated belonging to the post-medieval period. Dress accessories are well represented among the copper-alloy objects, nails and other structural fittings among the iron objects.

Functional categories represented in this assemblage are: dress accessories; textile working; household equipment; weighing; transport; buildings and services; tools; general fittings; animal husbandry; military equipment; metalworking and miscellaneous.

Coins are treated as a separate, unnumbered, group and range in date from the early 15th century to the 20th. Included with them is a jeton, usually used for accounting but sometimes illegally passed off as coinage.

The metal finds may help with addressing some of the original project objectives and also offer some potential for understanding the status of site and its occupants.

5.3.6.1 *Metalwork Conservation*

All silver, copper alloy and lead objects have been conserved.

5.3.7 *Worked Stone, Querns and Whetstones* by Tikshna Mandal *(see APPENDIX 7)*

A small assemblage of fourteen fragments (or collections of fragments) of worked stone was recovered. The fragments come from nine rotary quern stones (8 lava and 1 puddingstone) and four whetstones (sandstone and greensand). Four were recovered from Period 2 features (3 lava and 1 puddingstone), nine from Periods 3 & 4 (Phases 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). Further work on the identification of SF50 is required, as is illustration.

5.3.8 *Clay Tobacco Pipes* by Steve Hickling *(see APPENDIX 8)*

A small assemblage of 8 bowls (or part bowls) and 33 stem fragments was recovered from the site. The major part of this assemblage was recovered

from a single pit within Period 4: Phase 3. Where datable the pipe bowls are of the late 17th/early 18th century. The only bowl not from this feature was recovered from ditch **1050** (1051), and is Victorian in date. The stem fragments are undatable. No further work is required on this material.

5.3.9 Post-Medieval Glass by Carole Fletcher *(see APPENDIX 9)*

The assemblage consists of a total of 38 finds from 6 contexts. Typologically four types were identified; bottles (which form the bulk of the assemblage), jars, window glass, and lamps.

A total of 18 complete bottles were recovered from the site together with three incomplete bottles and five fragments. The bottles include containers for wine, beer, carbonated mineral water, foodstuffs, medicine, and ink. Three complete jars, and one complete and one near complete lamp fount were also recovered. The bottle and jar assemblage was principally recovered from the infilling of a brick-lined well. The majority of the finds in this context date from the late 19th or very early 20th century. No further work is required on this material.

5.3.10 Fired Clay (see APPENDIX 10)

A very small fired clay assemblage was recovered from the excavations, just over 900g from 19 contexts and from all three Periods. The only noteworthy item is a large fragment of a loomweight from the Period 1 well.

5.4 Organic Artefact and Ecofact Studies

5.4.1 Faunal Remains by Ian L. Baxter *(see APPENDIX 11)*

The total weight of the hand-collected bone is just less than 54kg. The assessment is based on the contexts stratigraphically earlier than the 19th century, i.e. all bar Period 4: Phase 5, comprising slightly less than 47kg in weight.

It may be possible to identify changes in the relative importance and size of the domestic stock in the various temporal periods. The assemblages from the house plots can be expected to provide evidence of diet and any commercial activities associated with animals occurring on the site during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The numerous full and partial skeletons should provide useful data on the domestic animals.

5.4.2 Shell (see APPENDIX 12)

A small assemblage of just over a kilogram of shell was recovered from 46 contexts, all belonging to Period 3 & 4 features. No further work is recommended on this assemblage.

5.4.3 *Archaeobotanical Material* by Val Fryer *(see APPENDIX 13)*

The assemblages recovered from the samples are, without exception, extremely small (0.1 litres in volume or less). As a result of this, the interpretation of the material is, at best, tenuous.

Although the excavations recovered features of Bronze Age to post-medieval date, evidence for either deliberate or accidental deposition of refuse is absolutely minimal, and it would appear that this area was always peripheral to any main centres of settlement or other activities. The number of 'wells' may be key to this apparent lack of domestic activity. The plant macrofossil evidence would appear to suggest that these features were situated within areas of damp grassland, and some supported a flora indicative of still, stagnant water. The pollen evidence would appear to indicate that by the later medieval period, certain of these features served an 'industrial' purpose, for example for the retting of hemp. As this is a particularly malodorous procedure, it is perhaps easy to understand why habitation evidence is so minimal. Some domestic material is recorded, largely in the form of hearth waste or possibly culinary refuse, but all would appear to be present within secondary contexts, probably indicating the disposal of rubbish in any available open feature.

None of the assemblages contain quantifiably viable assemblages (i.e. 100 + specimens), and no further analysis of this material is required.

5.4.4 *Pollen Analysis* by Steve Boreham BSc. PhD. *(see APPENDIX 14)*

Five monoliths from sediment sequences filling a variety of well and pit features were assessed. They represent 'snapshots' of the landscape and vegetation at Soham between the Bronze Age and late medieval periods. The lack of any tree pollen in the Bronze Age sequence gives a tantalising hint that woodland clearance may have been well underway in this area at that time. The Early Roman sequence shows complete tree clearance, but has no evidence for arable activity near the site. In contrast, the medieval sequences have a strong arable signal and suggest a 'patchwork' landscape of meadows, fields, and thickets of scrubby woodland. There is a strong *Cannabis* signal from Period 3 pit **1069** indicating that hemp retting was taking place. No further analysis of this material is required.

5.4.5 *Wood* by James A. Spriggs *(see APPENDIX 15)*

Fifteen wooden artefacts were recovered and assessed for species and functional identification. They include bowls, planks, and a bucket lid.

5.4.6 *Leather* by Quita Mould *(see APPENDIX 16)*

A small group of leather representing at least six turnshoes was recovered from the base of hemp retting pit **1069**. Pottery from the infilling of the pit had a date range spanning the 15th to early 16th century. The shoe construction, sole shapes and upper style suggests the leather dates to the first half of the 15th century.

6 UPDATED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6.1 All Periods

The characterisation of the form and development history of settlement.

Although the land is unlikely to have been unused throughout the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods, there is no evidence for direct settlement until the 12th century. The forthcoming report on the excavations will inform significantly on the form and development history of the peripheral settlement of Soham from the 12th century until the present day. All artefactual and ecofactual assemblages will be used to inform upon this research aim.

The characterisation of the form, date of establishment and subsequent development of any field systems.

The area lay under pasture throughout prehistory and the Roman and early medieval periods, and 'field systems' as such do not exist. However, a major Roman ditched boundary bisects the site and further evidence can be sought for the continuation of this feature and for any possible connected features. A relatively early medieval ditched boundary runs parallel to this Roman ditch, both being subsequently overlain by remnant ridge and furrow. Though the field systems themselves may be limited, there is clearly sufficient evidence from the excavation to inform upon their form, date and development. Specific assemblages will be used to inform upon this research aim: Roman pottery; Medieval and post-medieval pottery.

The determination of the relationship of the agricultural regime and any associated settlement with the local and regional economy.

The settlement at Thorn Street appears to have been principally agricultural in nature and thus settlement and surrounding agriculture are interlinked. Relatively large quantities of artefactual and ecofactual material have been recovered from the excavations. It is likely that the economy of the settlement was closely linked to that of the town of Soham, with agricultural produce being supplied to the town in return for goods and services. The Roman finds assemblage, though small, includes material from Suffolk, London, Gaul and the Rhineland. The medieval and post-medieval settlement was similarly linked into the wider regional, national and international economy with, again, materials coming from all surrounding counties (Beds., Herts., Lincs., Essex, Suffolk) as well as Yorkshire and, to a limited extent, continental Europe. All

artefactual and ecofactual assemblages will be used to inform upon this research aim.

The creation of a model of land-use and organisation over time.

Sufficient evidence has been produced by the excavations to enable the pattern of land-use to be examined and a fairly accurate model produced for the period from the later Bronze Age to the present day. All artefactual and ecofactual assemblages, alongside documentary research, will be used to inform upon this research aim.

6.2 Medieval

To understand the nature of medieval settlement in the Soham area.

Sufficient evidence has been produced by the excavations to enable the pattern and nature of medieval settlement on this peripheral part of Soham to be examined and to a large extent understood. Developing current understanding of the nature of this area of settlement will inform upon that of Soham itself and of that of the region. Specific assemblages will be used to inform upon this research aim: Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery; Ceramic Building Materials; Metalwork; Faunal Remains; Archaeobotanical Material.

The determination of the relationship of the agricultural regime, mereside economy and associated settlement.

Sufficient material has been recovered to interrogate the levels to which the economy of the settlement is linked to, or indeed is at odds with, its agricultural environs and with the large mere that lay immediately to the west. Specific assemblages will be used to inform upon this research aim: Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery; Metalwork; Faunal Remains; Archaeobotanical Material; Pollen Analysis

6.3 English Heritage Research Priorities

- *the transition from the Late Saxon to medieval period (c700-1300 AD)*
- *the transition from medieval to post-medieval traditions (c1300-1700 AD)*
- *the understanding of settlement hierarchies and interactions*
- *the understanding of rural settlements and relict field systems*
- *the understanding of patterns of agriculture, craftsmanship & industry*

The excavations at Thorn Street will enhance discussion, to some extent, on all five of the stated English Heritage Research Priorities, but in particular the medieval to post-medieval transition and the understanding of rural settlements. The hamlet at Thorn Street, unlike so many settlements that were created in the 12th and 13th century expansion, survived the decline of the 14th and 15th centuries and therefore contains a complete medieval to post-medieval settlement sequence. Perhaps more importantly, that sequence has

survived intact because the settlement did not expand, did not become part of the built-up area of the town, and finally died out only at the beginning of the 20th century, enabling, as is so rarely possible, unmitigated excavation of the settlement area. All post-Roman assemblages will be used to inform upon these research aims but specifically: Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery; Ceramic Building Materials; Metalwork; Faunal Remains; Pollen Analysis.

7 METHODS STATEMENTS

In order to realise and disseminate information on the site's full significance, to meet the original project aims and revised research aims, as well as to contribute to broader research topics, the data selected for further analysis is discussed below.

The appendices detail the requirements and the appropriateness of each of the artefactual and environmental studies to fulfil the aims of the project. The following section summarises which objectives will be met by each study and the methods required to fulfil the project objectives. Those assemblages for which no further work is required are not detailed here.

7.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data Studies

These will help meet all project aims and objectives, but particularly those related to temporal and spatial land use. The relevant tasks are noted below.

1) Matrices for complex and/or significant areas of the site will need to be completed, verified and integrated with the artefact studies to provide a secure, final date range for each of the features. (RM)

2) Full text sections for all features need to be written. They will then be placed within a hierarchical system of phases, groups and sub-groups to enable interpretation and discussion. (RM)

3) Group, phase and site narratives will then be compiled and site phase and subgroup plans drawn to illustrate the development of the site. (RM)

7.2 Documentary Studies

Further documentary work will help to meet all objectives, in particular those relating to trade. Such analysis will be of assistance in understanding land use beyond the limits of the settlement. The relevant tasks are summarised below.

1) Documentary studies of both the existing archaeological and historical resources have the potential to fill gaps within the excavated record particularly in respect of chance finds, along with unpublished excavations within the area. (RM)

2) The documentary history of key properties within the vicinity of the site that offer useful data on the later development of the settlement require investigation. (RM)

3) Comparative examples of published sites, standing structures *etc* need investigation alongside the documentary evidence. (RM)

In order to complete this work access to records held by Cambridgeshire Record Office, and the University of Cambridge may be organised in order to extract information on local economy, land organisation and ownership.

7.3 Artefact Studies

These will help meet all research objectives through implications of date, trade, economics, land use and artefact function.

7.3.1 Lithics

No further analytical work required, however, the assemblage has the ability to contribute to the further appreciation of the nature and chronology of late flintworking traditions from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. It is therefore recommended that the assemblage should be fully described for publication, alongside illustrations of relevant pieces, and included in any published account of the excavations. (BB, Ills)

7.3.2 Medieval Pottery

In order to meet the research aims, full quantification of the excavated pottery assemblage is required. This data will include information on fabric, form, decoration, technology and function. Macroscopic analysis will be used to source the production centres from which the pottery derived.

1) Definition and dating of all settlement phases on the site (primary tool pottery dating). The size of the main assemblage makes this achievable and it is possible to retrieve information on settlement function, including processing and storage. The assemblage has the potential to aid local, regional and national priorities. (CF, RM)

2) A full analysis of this assemblage on various field criteria, based on major stratigraphic units. This will clarify and support the dating of structures, cut features and other materials recovered from the excavation. (CF, RM)

3) The 200 post-Roman pottery sherds from the evaluation need to be fully integrated (CF).

4) Macroscopic inspection (based on x20 magnification) of all major fabric types (CF).

5) Illustrations of new forms and traits, especially relating to local fabric types which are otherwise unpublished to date (CF, Ills).

7.3.3 *Ceramic Building Materials*

1) The terra cotta assemblage requires detailed description and discussion in its regional context, and a study of the SMR and secondary historical sources for Soham and surrounding parishes, in an attempt to identify a likely primary source. (PD)

2) The best example of each type of terra cotta needs to be drawn as an entire object, with missing detail added from the others. An isometric diagrammatic drawing will need to be produced to show how these would have fitted into the construction of a hollow shaft. (PD, Ills)

3) For the brick and tile assemblage an attempt should be made to identify the phase of first introduction of each major type of CBM to the site, its use in structural features, and so to draw conclusions about the pattern of supply to and use of suites of CBM on the site. (PD, RM)

7.3.4 *Metalwork*

Further analysis and conservation of the registered finds will principally aim to enhance the existing catalogue descriptions and thereby facilitate other studies.

1) All the ironwork has been X-radiographed (AB).

2) A report on the coins and other metal objects should form part of the published site report, providing references to comparable items and assemblages. (NC)

3) A limited number of the items should be drawn (NC & Ills).

4) All copper alloy and lead items have been conserved. (AB).

7.3.5 *Animal Bone*

With the exception of the recent material of Phase 5 the assemblage should be fully recorded and subjected to analysis. The analysis should not take place until phasing is completed and information is available regarding residuality. (IB)

7.3.6 *Wood*

1) Five objects have been retained for conservation and species identification will be sought on a further three. (JS)
2) Illustrations will need to be produced to publication standard. (JS)

7.3.7 *Leather*

Three items will require full illustration. (QM, Ills)

8 REPORT WRITING, ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE

8.1 Report Writing

Report writing is a multi-stage process that is itemised below in the task list that forms Section 9.2.

The stratigraphic text section, group and phase reports for all excavated areas need to be completed to provide a stratigraphic archive report.

All specialist contributions will result in the production of an archive report, elements of which will be synthesised into the publication. The degree to which specialist reports are published will depend on the value of the conclusions in relation to the wider interpretation of the site as a whole.

Overall site synthesis will be conducted by RM. Internal editing will be carried out by AC and ESP.

8.1.2 Publication

It is proposed that this work should be published as part of a larger monograph in the East Anglian Archaeology (EAA) series, to include other relevant medieval and post-medieval excavations in Soham, Fordham and Ely. It is envisaged that the detail of the Bronze Age features and assemblages will be included in a separate EAA publication on the prehistoric archaeology of the south-eastern fen edge - a publication synopsis for this monograph, based on the Fordham Bypass excavations (Mortimer 2005) has already been accepted.

8.2 Archiving and Archive Deposition

1) Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record Office (CHER) under the site code SOH CLD 04.

2) CHER require transfer of ownership of all items as a pre-requisite of acceptance of an archive. During analysis and report compilation CCC AFU will hold all material and reserves the right to send any material for specialist analysis elsewhere as necessary (through use of MAP2 procedures).

9 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

In order to realise the site's full significance, to meet the original project aims and revised research aims, as well as to contribute to broader research topics, the following resources and programming are required to complete the analysis and report writing phases.

9.1 Research Team

Initials	Specialist	Establishment
BB	Barry Bishop Lithics	Freelance specialist
CF	Carole Fletcher Medieval Pottery	CCC AFU
Col Mus	Finds Conservation	Colchester Museum
Ills	Illustrator	CCC AFU
ESP	Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu Post-Excavation & Publications Manager	CCC AFU
CFa	Chris Faine Faunal Remains	CCC AFU
HF	Helen Fowler, Finds Supervisor	CCC AFU
JS	Jim Spriggs, Wooden Objects	York Archaeological Trust
NC	Nina Crummy, Metalwork	Freelance Specialist
AC	Aileen Connor, Project Manager	CCC AFU
PD	Paul Drury Ceramic Building Materials	Freelance specialist

Table 8: Research team

9.2 Task List and Required Resources

Sec. No	Task	No. days	Staff
	Project management and meetings	2	AC
	Meetings and project management implementation	2	RM
	Liase with Staff and Specialists, send and receive all finds and environmental materials, package and maintain condition.	2	HF
7.1	**Stratigraphic and structural**		
	Project contextual database and checking/verification	2	RM
	Write individual text sections, feature/deposit descriptions	8	RM
	Group and phase descriptions	3	RM
	Produce plans and sections of key groups	3	Ills
7.2	**Documentary**		
	Investigate landscape documents	1	RM
7.3.1	**Lithics**		
	Full report on worked flint assemblage	2	BB
	Illustration of 5 worked flint objects	2	Ills
	Identification and report on worked stone	1	RM
7.3.2	**Medieval Pottery**		
	Full analysis of the assemblage, to support the dating of structures, cut features and other materials recovered from the excavation. Full integration of the evaluation material	15	CF
	Textual report on the above	6	CF
	Macroscopic inspection of all major fabric types	2	CF
	Tabular statistics of fabric and vessel data	2	CF
	Illustration of 17 items	5	Ills
7.3.3	**Ceramic Building Materials**		
	Examination of material	1	PD
	Research for source of terra cotta	1	PD

	Report writing	2	PD
	Illustration of 2 items & 1 reconstruction	2	Ills
	Checking illustrations etc.	1	PD
7.3.4	**Metal Finds**		
	Small finds analysis and report	2	NC
	Illustration of 16 items	5	Ills
7.3.5	**Faunal Assemblage**		
	Bone recording	6	CFa
	Analysis	4	CFa
	Report writing	3	CFa
7.3.6	**Wood**		
	Conservation of 5 items	3	JS
	Illustration and reportage of 5 items	2.5	JS
7.3.7	**Leather**		
	Illustration of 3 items	1	Ills
8.1	**Report Background and Report**		
	Investigate comparable sites, settlements and structures	2	RM
	Write site narrative of group and phase discussions	4	RM
	Write historical and archaeological background	2	RM
	Read, review and analyse specialist reports and data	2	RM
	Collate and integrate specialist reports	2	RM
	Compile material for illustration	1	RM/Ills
	Write site narrative on settlement and context	2	RM
	Write discussion and conclusions	3	RM
	Produce phase plans showing relevant artefactual and ecofactual distributions	2	RM
	Produce final site plans, contextual maps and plans	2	RM
		3	Ills
8.1	**Report production**		
	Mount up and format report to internal AFU spec.	1	Ills
	Internal Editing	2	ESP & AC
	Complete internal textual edits	2	RM
	Complete internal illustration/format edits	1	RM
8.2	**Archiving**		
	Compile paper archive	1	RM
	Compile, check and dispatch material archive	1	HF
	Totals	40	RM
		25	CF
		22	Ills
		13	CFa
		5.5	JS
		5	PD
		3	AC
		3	HF
		2	BB
		2	NC
		1	ESP

Table 9: Task List

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: PREHISTORIC POTTERY

By Sarah Percival

1 Introduction

A small assemblage comprising 63 sherds, weighing 1.546kg, was recovered from eleven excavated contexts and from surface cleaning. Preservation of the assemblage varies with a number of sherds in a poor or very poor condition. Rims from three vessels survive and these along with a sherd with distinctive incised geometric decoration suggest that the pottery is of late Bronze Age to Earlier Iron Age date.

2 Fabrics

Four fabric groups are present. Almost all of the sherds are flint tempered though small numbers of sand, shell and grog tempered fabrics are also present (Table 10).

Fabric type	Quantity	Weight (kg)	% of total weight
Flint	38	1.399	90.49%
Grog	1	.008	0.52%
Quartz sand	22	.109	7.05%
Shell	2	.030	1.94%
Total	**63**	**1.546**	**100.00%**

Table 10: Quantity and weight of Prehistoric pottery sherds by dominant inclusion type

The flint tempered sherds are all of similar fabric (F1), containing moderate, crushed white, and grey sub-angular flint, up to 8mm with occasional rounded clear or white quartz sand. The sand tempered fabrics vary slightly in texture one (Q1) being finely made and used for thin walled vessels whilst the second is coarser and contains occasional flint pieces (Q2). Two sherds contain crushed shell, probably fossil material occurring naturally in the clay source. One highly degraded sherd of indeterminate date contains possible grog (crushed fired clay) inclusions (context 941).

The predominance of flint tempering is common in many Later Bronze Age Earlier Iron Age assemblages in East Anglia such as West Harling (Clark and Fell 1953), Fengate (Hawkes and Fell 1945) Wandlebury Hillfort (Hartley 1956) and Fordham Bypass (Mortimer 2005). Sand tempered fabrics and shelly fabrics (S1) are also used, for example at Lingwood Wells, Cottenham (Evans 1999). The grog tempered sherd (G1) is unusual but may not be early as it is found in a context with Romano British pottery.

3 Form

The assemblage contains a small number of 'fine' wares (Barrett 1980), comprising a thin walled sherd decorated with incised geometric patterns (context 2, *cf.* Evans 1999, fig.18, 2) and a plain, finely made out turned rim with flattened terminal (516). Both have burnished surfaces. Coarse wares include the incomplete profile of a vessel with a short out-turned flattened rim, 'S' shaped profile and flared base (context 682, 684, cf. Hartley 1956 fig.7, 24). The vessel has a drilled hole in one sherd just below the neck, often interpreted as evidence for a repair.

4 Discussion

This small assemblage is of late Bronze Age to Earlier Iron Age date, contemporary with the pottery from recent excavations at Fordham Bypass (Mortimer 2005) and material from Landwade Road, Fordham (Braddock and Hill forthcoming) Fengate (Hawkes and Fell 1945), Wandlebury Hillfort (Hartley 1956) and Lingwood Wells, Cottenham (Evans 1999). It is of interest that pottery sherds were recovered from the fills of a pit-well (Mortimer pers com) similar to the context of deposition at Lingwood Wells (Evans 1999), Fordham Bypass (Mortimer 2005) and several other Later Bronze Age Earlier Iron Age settlement sites (Evans 1999 26).

4.1 Indeterminate prehistoric

Six handmade sherds of indeterminate date (.013kg) were recovered from three contexts. Two contexts (615, 941) also contained Romano British pottery suggesting that the prehistoric sherds were residual. The third indeterminate sherd is associated with later Bronze Age earlier Iron Age pottery (context 682).

5 Further Work

No further work required.

Ctxt	Master No.	Period: Phase	Fabric	Handmade/ wheelmade	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Spot date	Comment	Abraded
2	1180	4: 4	F1	Handmade	Decorated body sherd	1	12	Later bronze age earlier iron age	Geometric incised	
62	673	2	Q1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	1	3	Later bronze age earlier iron age	Thin walled	
516	517	3: 1	Q2	Handmade	Rim	1	2	Later bronze age earlier iron age	Thin walled	
533	534	1	Q2	Handmade	Rim	11	80	Later bronze age earlier iron age		Very
615	614	2	Q2	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	3	3	Indeterminate prehistoric	Scraps	Very
675	673	2	F1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	1	6	Later bronze age earlier iron age		
682	681	1	Q1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	2	2	Indeterminate prehistoric		Very
682	681	1	Q2	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	1	1	Later bronze age earlier iron age		Very
682	681	1	F1	Handmade	Rim+	28	980	Later bronze age earlier iron age	Pierced repair.	Very
682	681	1	S1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	2	30	Later bronze age earlier iron age		
684	681	1	F1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	6	388	Later bronze age earlier iron age	As pp above	
807	614	2	F1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	2	13	Later bronze age earlier iron age	Thin walled	
1036	1035	2	Q1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	1	16	Later bronze age earlier iron age		
1039	539	3: 1	Q1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	2	2	Later bronze age earlier iron age		

Table 11: The Prehistoric Pottery *For prehistoric fabric codes see text.

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APPENDIX 2: WORKED FLINT
By Barry John Bishop

1 Introduction

Thirty-four struck flints and just over 1.5kg of burnt flint fragments were recovered from the excavations. This report quantifies the material by context according to a basic technological/typological scheme (see Table 12), assesses its ability to contribute to further understanding of the nature and chronology of the activities identified during the project, and recommends any further work required. No statistically based technological, typological or metrical analyses were attempted and a more detailed examination may alter or amend any of the interpretations offered here.

2 Quantification

Context	Master No.	Period: Phase	Preparation/ mass reduction Flake	Irregular Flake	Useable Flake	Narrow Flake/Fake Blade with Attributes	Blade	Concoidal Shatter	Core	Scraper	Edge-trimmed	Notch	Context Total Struck	Burnt (No.)	Burnt (Wt.:g)
003	1180	4: 4			1								1	0	0
507	508	4: 5											0	2	95
516	517	3: 1									1		1	0	0
533	534	1			2				1	1			4	2	7
573	n/a	n/a											0	1	14
612	613	4: 3		1									1	0	0
615	614	2	2		2								4	0	0
669	613	4: 3					1						1	0	0
682	681	1		1		1							2	112	1132
683	681	1											0	1	33
684	681	1											0	11	170
733	539	3: 1	1		2	1			1			1	6	0	0
735	614	2	1	1	2	1							5	0	0
741	673	2											0	1	25
776	777	3: 1	1	1	1			1					4	0	0
793	681	1											0	2	39
795	681	1											0	3	39
853	854	3: 1				1							1	0	0
940	614	2											0	2	4
941	614	2											0	1	16
976	566	3: 1	1										1	0	0
1036	1035	1	1							2			3	0	0
Totals			**7**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**34**	**138**	**1574**

Table 12: Quantification of Lithic Material by Context

3 Burnt Flint

Small quantities of burnt flint were recovered from a number of features scattered across the excavated areas, which probably represents the incidental deposition of 'background' waste. The only feature containing a more substantial quantity was well **681**, which produced just under 1.5kg. This deposit may represent the disposal of hearth waste, although as it had been very intensively and uniformly burnt, it is possible that it may have originated from systematic burning, such as from the use of hot-stones in cooking. The paucity of other similarly dated features from the vicinity indicated that

whatever processes produced the burnt flint they were conducted in relative isolation, rather than as part of general settlement or domestic-orientated activities.

4 Struck Flint

4.1 Raw Material

The raw materials used to manufacture the struck assemblage consisted of fine-grained translucent black or brown flint containing varying quantities of opaque grey or black impurities. Cortex, where present, mostly consisted of a variably thick weathered chalky kind, often with heavily recorticated thermal planes present, although a few pieces retained a rounded hard and battered cortex. The types of cortex present suggest all of the raw materials were obtained from derived sources, probably primarily from glacial/peri-glacial deposits although the rounded/battered cortical pieces indicate alluvial deposits were also exploited. Both types of raw material would have been easily available in the vicinity of the site.

4.2 Condition

Although the larger part of the struck assemblage had been residually deposited, the assemblage as a whole was in good condition with only minor edge chipping and rounding evident, and was probably recovered from close to where it had been originally discarded. A few flakes had started to recorticate suggesting that the assemblage may have been produced over a long period.

4.3 Typology and Technology

Although few typologically diagnostic pieces were present, the technological characteristics of the assemblage were variable, indicating it was probably the product of more than one industry. The bulk of the assemblage was the product of a crude and expedient reduction strategy, characteristic of industries dateable to the Middle Bronze Age or later. This primarily consisted of variably shaped, but mostly short and thick, flakes with wide, obtuse and unmodified striking platforms, thick bulbs of percussion and frequent hinged distal terminations (cf Martingell 1990). Two cores were recovered, the example from context 533 consisted of an irregularly shaped and minimally reduced thermal chunk or possibly very large flake, whilst the one from context 733 was smaller with a series of small flakes removed from along the edge of a thermally fractured chunk. This may have been intended as a chopping-, scraping- or cutting-type core-tool.

A smaller component of the assemblage consisted of narrow flakes, often with parallel dorsal scars and lateral margins, and narrow, edge-trimmed striking platforms. A single 'true' blade (*sensu* Butler 2005, 35) was also present. These pieces were the product of a more systematic reduction style, most characteristic of Mesolithic or Neolithic industries.

4.4 Retouched Implements

Five retouched implements were present. These comprised a circular scraper from context 533, a convex side-and-end scraper and a denticulated scraper from context 1036, a squat flake with a large notch cut into its ventral face from context 733, and a squat flake with fine abrupt edge-retouch from context 516.

5 Contextual Associations

The majority of the struck assemblage was recovered from later features where it had been residually introduced. These pieces were of mixed technological tradition and were probably manufactured over a long period of time, although it is suggested that, on technological grounds, most may have been manufactured during the latter periods of the Bronze Age.

Provisional phasing by the excavator has identified three features of probable Bronze Age date. The small assemblage from pit **534** (fill 533) comprised a large alluvial 'beaked' nodule weighing 380g, which could possibly have been used as a hammerstone or pounder although displayed little convincing evidence of utilization damage, an unsystematically reduced core that had produced a small quantity of squat flakes, two squat flakes and a circular scraper. These were all in a sharp condition and may have been struck from a single nodule, although none of the pieces could be refitted. They would appear to represent remnants of a short knapping episode, which would be technology consistent with a Middle Bronze Age or later date. Five of the fills of the Bronze Age well **681** produced burnt flint although only two struck pieces were present. These consisted of an undiagnostic flake fragment and a platform-trimmed blade-like flake. The latter piece would be most characteristic of Mesolithic or Neolithic industries and may have been residually introduced into the feature. Pit **1035** produced three struck pieces comprising a decortication flake and two scrapers. Scrapers are notoriously difficult to date, although the side-and-end scraper had been carefully produced and, unlike most of the material from the site, had started to recorticate, suggesting that it may belong to the earlier industries identified at the site and had become residually incorporated into the pit. The denticulated scraper was made on a thick, cortical, flake and would not have been out of place within a Middle Bronze Age or later assemblage.

6 Discussion

Most of the burnt flint was recovered from well **681**, which produced nearly 1.5kg. This may have represented the casual disposal of hearth waste into the well following its disuse. Alternatively, it has been demonstrated that during the latter parts of the Bronze Age and the Iron Age wells were frequently the receptacle for specific acts of deposition, possibly highlighting their importance within a pastoral economy (e.g. Hill 1995; Yates 2004), and it is possible that the deposition of the burnt flint may have held some form of ceremonial significance (cf Late Bronze Age Shafts at Fordham: Mortimer 2005).

The struck assemblage suggests activity at the site from at least the Neolithic period, although the majority of it was probably produced during the latter parts of the Bronze Age and may have been associated with the few prehistoric features identified. With the possible exception of pit **534**, no concentrations were present that could represent knapping activity areas, although flintworking during the later prehistoric periods is usually considered to have been opportunistic, with flint probably only knapped as needed and used for the specific purpose in mind (Edmonds 1995; Young and Humphrey 1999).

The small size of the assemblage is somewhat surprising, given the intensity of occupation that this area has witnessed throughout prehistory (e.g. Edmonds *et al.* 1999; Mortimer 2005). It would be most characteristic of transient activity rather than intensive settlement, a pattern that seems to have persisted throughout the prehistoric periods.

7 Recommendations

Due to its size and paucity of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, this report is all that is required of the material for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed.

Nevertheless, it does indicate earlier prehistoric activity which is otherwise unrepresented in the archaeological record and has the ability to contribute to the further appreciation of the poorly understood nature and chronology of late flintworking traditions from the Middle Bronze Age onwards.

It is therefore recommended that the assemblage should be fully described for publication, alongside illustrations of relevant pieces, and included in any published account of the excavations. The publication should concentrate on describing the technological/typological characteristics and contextual relationships of the later prehistoric material. The publication should also include some consideration of local geology, raw material sources and previous finds and research in the local area.

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APPENDIX 3: ROMAN POTTERY

By Alice Lyons

1 Introduction

Fifty sherds, weighing 0.458kg, were identified as being of Romano-British date. The sherds are in a poor condition all being small and most being heavily abraded suggesting a high degree of post-depositional disturbance and residuality. The majority of the sherds are unsourced (but probably locally produced) coarse wares comprising sandy grey and oxidised wares. Specialist wares are uncommon comprising a single sherd of amphorae, from a small wine container possibly from Gaul (Tyers 1996, 94-95). Finewares are also rare consisting of only a single rim of 'London-type ware' (Tyers 1996, 170-171) with an impressed stamp rosette, probably produced in West Stow (Tomber and Dore 1998, 185) or Wattisfield (Tomber and Dore 1998, 185). All the pottery belongs to the early Romano British period, the first to third centuries AD. The lack of finewares indicates a utilitarian assemblage from a fairly low status settlement.

2 Further Work

No further work required.

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Tomber, R. and Dore, J.,	1998	*The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection. A Handbook*, MoLAS Monogr. 2
Tyres, P.,	1996	*Roman Pottery in Britain*, B T Batsford, London

Ctxt	Master No.	Period: Phase	Fabric	Handmade/ wheelmade	Description	No	Weight (g)	Spot date	Comment	Abraded
564	1179	4: 5	Amphora	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	1	17	C1-c3 ad	Small wine amphorae	Very
564	1179	4: 5	Sandy oxidised ware	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	2	2	C1-c3 ad	Sandy oxidised ware	Very
615	614	2	Sandy Oxidised ware	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	2	2	C1-c3 ad		Very
619	604	3: 2	Sandy oxidised ware with flint inclusions	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	1	19	Not closely datable	Sandy greyware	Very
741	673	2	Sandy grey ware	Wheel made	Rim	1	8.	C2-c4	Straight sided dish	Very
741	673	2	Sandy grey ware	Wheel made	Rim	1	10	Not closely datable	Medium mouthed jar	Very
741	673	2	Sandy grey ware	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	3	21	Not closely datable	Med?	Very
742	673	2	Black surfaced red ware	Wheel made	Base	22	212	C1-e/mc3	Black surfaced redware misfire	Very
742	673	2	Sandy grey ware	Wheel made	Rim	1	10	C1-c3 ad		
744	673	2	London-type ware	Wheel made	Rim	1	12	Mc1-mc2	Stamp. West stow type, samian copy	
751	750	3: 1	Sandy oxidised ware	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	1	6	C1-c3 ad		Very
753	750	3: 1	Sandy grey ware with flint inclusions	Wheel made	Rim	1	32	Not closely datable	Rim perhaps lid	Very
773	774	3: 2	Sandy grey ware with flint inclusions	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	1	10	Not closely datable		Very
805	806	3: 1	Sandy grey ware	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	1	6	Not closely datable		Very
940	614	2	Sandy grey ware with flint inclusions	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	6	43	Lc1-c2		Very
941	614	2	G1	Handmade	Undecorated body sherd	1	8	Iron age	Chunky Grog tempered, possibly not pot	
941	614	2	Sandy oxidised ware	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	1	1	Not closely datable	Med?	Very
974	952	3: 1	Sandy grey ware with flint inclusions	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	1	7	Not closely datable		Very
1072	1069	3: 2	Sandy grey ware (micaceous)	Wheel made	Undecorated body sherd	1	12	C2-c4	Dog dish micaceous sandy greyware	Very

Table 13: Romano-British pottery by context

APPENDIX 4: MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

By Carole Fletcher

1 Introduction

This assessment considers the post-Roman pottery from the excavations at Cloverfield Drive, Soham.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text are:

Fabric	Abbreviation
Bourne D	BOND
Cistercian Type ware	CSTN
Colchester Type ware (Fabric 21)	COLT
Grimston ware	GRIM
Medieval Ely or Ely type wares	MEL/MELT
Mill Green Fine ware	MGF
Post–medieval Red ware	PMR
Tin Glazed Earthen ware	TGW

Table 14: Medieval fabric abbreviations

2 Methodology

The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the following documents act as a standard: Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents 'Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations' (Blake and Davey, 1983), 'A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms' (MPRG, 1998) and 'Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics' (MPRG, 2001).

Spot dating was carried out using the Archaeological Field Unit's (AFU) in-house system based on that used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types. New types have been given descriptive identifiers, but full fabric descriptions using binocular microscope and x20 magnification have yet to be carried out for these. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. Sherds warranting possible illustration have been flagged, as have possible cross-fits (See Appendix A).

All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis (see Appendix A); this information was entered directly onto a full quantification database (Access 2000), which allows for the appending of quantification data.

The pottery and archive are curated by the Archaeological Field Unit until formal deposition.

Ceramic Phase	Dates	Stratigraphic Period: Phase
1	Prehistoric	Period 1
2	Roman	Period 2
4	AD 850/900 to 1150	Period 3: Phase 1
5	AD 1150/1200 to 1350 (Medieval/High Medieval)	Period 3: Phase 1
6	AD 1350 to 1450/1500 (Late Medieval)	Period 3: Phase 2
7	AD 1450/1500 to 1650/1700 (Post–medieval)	Period 4: Phase 3
8	AD 1700 to modern	Period 4: Phase 4/5
9	AD 1900 onwards	Period 4: Phase 5

Table 15: Correlation between ceramic and stratigraphic phases

Ceramic Phase	Stratigraphic Period: Phase	Number of Sherds	Weight in kg
1	Period 1	94	1.589
1/2	Period 1/2	38	0.279
4	Period 4: Phase 1	2	0.185
4/5	Period 4: Phase 1	1	0.015
5	Period 4: Phase 1	1053	14.086
5/6	Period 4: Phase 1/2	1217	10.008
6	Period 4: Phase 2	61	1.170
6/7	Period 3/4: Phase 2/3	287	8.896
7	Period 4: Phase 3	902	20.322
7/8	Period 4: Phase 3/4	110	1.852
8	Period 4: Phase 4/5	488	10.456
8/9	Period 4: Phase 5	84	1.929
9	Period 4: Phase 5	47	2.302

Table 16: Pottery by ceramic phase from excavation

3 The Assemblage

3.1 Quantity of Material

The fieldwork generated 4384 sherds of pottery, weighing in total 73.089kg including unstratified material.

The majority of the relatively large assemblage, including unstratified material, is medieval with 2331 sherds of pottery (weighing 25.264kg) in the AD 1150 to 1450 bracket, (mid twelfth to mid fifteenth century). In addition 902 sherds (weighing 20.322kg) of post–medieval, material were identified. The remaining large group of material can be dated to the 18th and 19th centuries, ceramic phase 8. There is very little early medieval, only 3 sherds in total. By comparison a much larger number of Iron Age or Late Iron Age–Early Roman sherds were identified along with a number of Bronze Age sherds. However this early material lies outside the scope of this report and is mentioned here only to provide an informed overview of the ceramic material recovered from the site

The lack of early medieval material on the site suggests that this area of Soham was relatively unoccupied before the mid 12th century. After this date the assemblage indicates a continuity of activity on the site over the next 500

years. Pottery deposition continues until into the 20th century but levels are much reduced, with the large weight of sherds in ceramic phase 8 mainly the result of large sherds of PMR

3.2 Functional Assemblage

The normal range of vessel types is present within the assemblage; the medieval assemblage produced a very large number of MEL/MELT jugs, bowls and jars. A large number of Essex fabrics including HEDI, MGF and COLT were identified; few other non local fabrics were recognized. In the early post–medieval assemblage new vessel types appear including cups in CSTN type wares and Late COLT wares are common, and include jugs, cisterns or bunghole pitchers, bowls and a near complete skillet. Beyond the normal range of post–medieval vessels identified were fragments from a PMR Chicken Feeder and a TGW candle stick.

The character of the assemblage suggests it derives from a rural domestic context and it offers potential for further study that will add to knowledge of medieval and post–medieval Soham

3.3 Provenance and Contamination

Basic statistics relating to source area for the assemblage are given in Table 17.

General provenance	*% of assemblage by count*	*% of assemblage by weight*
Beds, Hunts (St Neots)	0.02	0.01
Cambridgeshire	58.09	40.54
Continental Europe	0.53	0.42
Essex	30.63	46.91
Lincolnshire	0.43	0.69
Midlands-industrial (Refined White Earthen wares))	3.49	3.59
Norfolk	1.69	4.11
Staffordshire	0.64	0.28
Unknown includes Roman & Prehistoric sherds	4.18	3.33
Yorkshire	0.3	0.12

Table 17: General provenance areas for post-Roman assemblage

This indicates the bulk of the assemblage in terms of sherd count originated within Cambridgeshire from the kilns in Ely and its environs. Ely lies less than 16 km north-west of Soham. However by weight it would appear that the Essex potteries were the dominant industry. The latter result is somewhat distorted by the large heavy sherds of PMR present in the post-medieval assemblage. The medieval assemblage is dominated by MEL/MELT products due to the relative proximity of the production centre at Ely. The post–medieval assemblage appears to be drawn from more distant industries as well as those of a local origin.

Contamination of this assemblage is light with some intrusive sherd in ceramic phase 5 and 6 (AD 1150 to 1450) a sherd of BOND and 2 sherds of PMR.

Residuality is also not a serious problem, there are relatively few earlier sherds found alongside the medieval material. The low level of residuality in the medieval contexts suggests that there was little activity on the site before the 12th century. Although levels of residuality and intrusiveness increase in the post-medieval period with the reworking of earlier deposits, it remains relatively low. This suggests that a large proportion of the excavated material was recovered from the features where it was primarily deposited.

3.4 Sampling bias

The excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling procedures on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery. These are however only very small amounts and serious bias is not expected to result.

3.5 Condition

This assemblage is moderate to large in size, with an average sherd size pf approximately 16.6 grams per sherd. The size of sherds from ceramic phase 7 and 8 are larger at approximately 22 grams and 21 grams respectively. These larger weights are owing to the number of large PMR sherds present in these ceramic phases. The ceramic phase 5 assemblage has an average sherd weight of approximately 13 grams, due to reworking of some deposits during the occupation of the site. No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely. This assemblage has 5 vessels that offer complete or near complete profiles for illustration a MELT bowl, COLT skillet, 2 Colt jugs, an LMEL jar and a small GRIM jug similar to one excavated at Ramsey Abbey in 1998 (reference Ramsey pottery report forthcoming). In addition the near complete PMR chafing dish and fragment of Chicken feeder (PMR) may also warrant illustration alongside a number of rim and base or decorated body sherds. It is a close grouped assemblage and the large size and date of the assemblage make full quantification and analysis of the main period groups desirable.

4 Statement of Research Potential

Definition and dating of all settlement phases on the site (primary tool pottery dating). The size of the main assemblage makes this achievable and it is possible to retrieve information on settlement function, including processing and storage. The assemblage has the potential to aid local, regional and national priorities

5 Proposals for Further Record and Analysis (method statement)

Stratified pottery from all phases of excavation described here has been quantified to a basic level. Thus the proposal should be, to identify and quantify stratified pottery from excavation areas, recording all fields associated with fabric, form, decoration, technology and use.

Proposal for further work: -

i A full analysis of this assemblage on various field criteria, based on major stratigraphic units. To support the dating of structures, cut features and other materials recovered from the excavation. *(Time required 15 days)*
The Prehistoric and Roman material identified in the assemblage should be sent to the relative specialists. Any recommendations regarding the assemblage relate to the post-Roman material only

1) A textual report on the results of the above.
(Time required 6 days)

2) Macroscopic inspection (based on x20 magnification) of all major fabric types.
(Time required 1½ days)

3) Tabular statistics of fabric and vessel data.
(Time required 2 day)

4) Illustrations of new forms and traits, especially relating to local fabric types, which are otherwise, unpublished to date.

There are seventeen vessels or fragments of vessels identified as suitable for illustration and they are listed in Table 18 below. (The SLSHCW industrial vessel sherds have been counted as representing one vessel for this exercise.

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Medieval Pottery Research Group	1998	*A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms.* Medieval Pottery Res. Group Occas. Pap. 1

Context	Master No.	Period: Phase	Fabric	Number of Sherds	Weight in Kg	Vessel Forms
51	880	3: 1	MELT	3	0.08	Bowl
54	818	4: 3	LMEL-transitional	1	0.07	Lids
509	510	4: 4	PMR	1	0.14	Miscellaneous
648	649	3: 2	LMEL	4	0.2	Jar
658	662	3: 1	MELT	2	0.09	Bowl
658	662	3: 1	MELT	1	0.1	Jug
723	922	3: 2	LMEL	9	0.38	Jar
809	774	3: 2	COLT)	1	0.06	Jug
905	908	4: 3	PMR (fabric 40)	3	0.83	chafing dish
915	945	3: 2	LMEL-redware	7	0.37	Jug
944	945	3: 2	GRIM	1	0.43	Jug
962	965	3: 1	MELT	1	0.19	Jug
1004	1005	4: 3	COLT	4	0.17	jug/Bowl
1072	1069	3: 2	MELT	1	0.14	Jug
1089	1088	3: 1	MELT	1	0.09	Bowl
1089	1088	3: 1	GRIM	26	1.05	Jug
1106	880	3: 1	MELT	1	0.05	Bowl
1106	880	3: 1	MELT	1	0.11	Jar
1106	880	3: 1	MELT	2	0.1	Jar
1106	880	3: 1	MELT	1	0.06	Bowl
1119	1069	3: 2	COLT	5	0.34	Bowl
1120	1069	3: 2	COLT	13	0.31	Jug
1120	1069	3: 2	COLT	2	0.13	Jug
1120	1069	3: 2	COLT	18	0.69	Jug
1120	1069	3: 2	COLT	4	0.39	Jug
1120	1069	3: 2	COLT	1	0.04	Bowl
1120	1069	3: 2	COLT	18	0.92	Jug/pitcher
1120	1069	3: 2	COLT	1	0.08	Jug/pitcher
1120	1069	3: 2	COLT	12	0.71	Jug/pitcher/
1121	1069	3: 2	COLT	3	0.36	skillet
1121	1069	3: 2	COLT	1	0.06	Jar
1121	1069	3: 2	COLT	3	0.22	Jug

Table 18: Sherds for illustration

APPENDIX 5: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS

by Paul Drury

1 The Terra cotta

1.1 The Material

There is about 80kg of red unglazed terra cotta, with two types of unit represented, both from hollow shafts *c.* 0.65m diameter:

A) 300mm high, with *all'antica* foliage complete on the unit and contained within vertical ribs (one rib to each unit);

B) 185mm high, with a diaper pattern of gothic quatrefoils complete on two courses.

The material makes up the entire assemblage from context **562** and had been re-used as the threshold to a domestic building.

Terra cotta is known from several great houses or their sites in East Anglia, for example Westhorpe Hall, Suffolk (almost wholly gothic: Anderson 2003) and Layer Marney, Essex (largely renaissance, closely linked to the tombs published by Baggs 1968). The combination of gothic and renaissance motifs here is closer to Great Snoring rectory and East Barsham Manor House, adjacent sites in North Norfolk, some 70km from Soham, and both of the 1520s. The shafts of which these units formed part were not chimneys, because of the absence of sooting; vent shafts to garderobes or stool closets taking the same form as chimney shafts are possible (cf chimneys at both Gt Snoring and East Barsham (Lloyd 1925, 344) formed of blocks like this). But a more likely alternative may be their use in closed round terminals to octagonal corner buttresses, a distinctive feature of East Barsham (Lloyd 1925, 149), if these were built hollow. Type A was left its natural red; type B has several layers of white limewash.

The combination of gothic and renaissance motifs, and the close links to East Barsham, clearly suggest an early 16th century date, *c* 1520-30, when terra cotta came briefly into vogue as a high status building material in southeastern England. But terra cotta does appear in East Anglia sporadically later in the 16th century: that at Great Cressingham Manor (Norfolk) is entirely gothic as late as 1545, whilst that of Hill Hall, Essex, unique in being as late as *c*1572 (Drury 1983). It is entirely renaissance, and includes *all'antica* foliage that is very close in its details to the Soham material.

These units clearly came to the site as recycled building materials, when the decoration was chiselled off some of them, probably to make them suitable for the threshold of which they formed part. The building from which they originally came is likely to have been a high status, probably courtier-level, house within about 5 miles of the site (it would be unusual for such rubble to travel much further).

1.2 Potential

The terra cotta is a relict of a significant addition to a regional sub-group of a nationally rare group of courtier-level buildings using terra cotta, itself a 'renaissance' material and usually associated with the introduction to England of renaissance architectural details. It warrants detailed description and discussion in its regional context, and a trawl of the HER and secondary historical sources for Soham and surrounding parishes, to try to identify a likely primary source (a major early C16 house being demolished in the C17-early C19, or whatever closer bracket their excavation context can offer) and thus original patron for the material. The final text is likely to be in the order of 2-3,000 words.

1.3 Illustration

The best example of each type of unit needs to be drawn as an object, with missing detail added from the others; the diameters carefully worked out; and a diagrammatic drawing, probably isometric, produced to show how they

could have fitted into the construction of a hollow shaft, based on the East Barsham examples, of which a photograph, probably from the NMR, should also be included. A distribution map of relevant sites in East Anglia (including Essex) would be highly desirable.

2 The Brick and Tile

2.1 The Material

The remaining 110kg of CBM is a heterogeneous collection that includes at least one piece of an RB tegula, but mostly spans the C13 – C18/early C19. A number of fragments of thick roof tiles and thin, hard, probably 'great' bricks suggest that the sequence begins before the mid C13, within the period of 'innovation and experiment' in the use of ceramic building materials (Drury 2000, 58-9). It continues with fragments of 'Flemish' type bricks in fine-textured, occasionally grass-marked fabrics most commonly C14- early C15, and fragments of unglazed but otherwise typically medieval floor tiles. 'Tudor' type bricks, often in rather friable fabrics including buff, probably span the period from the mid C15 – C17, followed by thicker, frogless yellow bricks from the C18- early C19. There are many pegtiles, standard from the C13 onwards but apparently in a great variety of fabrics, and a few fragments of late C19 or early C20 machine-made pantiles.

Much of this material probably arrived incidentally, as hardcore, rather than to be used for its intended purpose, and therefore, like the terra cotta, some probably arrived long after its original manufacture, although from no great distance. A collection of pegtile waste (1004, Pit 1005.) was probably deliberately bought in from a (reasonably close) kiln site as hardcore. There are a number of cut half-round coping bricks from contexts 585 (588), 905 (908) and 1055 (910), which have no obvious use on the site and could have come from the same source as the terra cotta; stylistically they span the C16 and early C17 and all these contexts are dated to Period 4: Phase 3 – the 16th-17th centuries.

2.2 Potential

The apparent presence of early ('innovation and experiment') material is interesting in terms of regional distribution, for whilst common in Essex it is, for example, absent from Norwich. This putative group warrants closer examination and, if the identification is sustained, description. Otherwise the aims of study should be to try to identify the phase of first introduction of each major type of CBM to the site, its use in structural features, and so to draw conclusions about the pattern of supply to and use of suites of CBM on the site, as a contribution to the objectives identified in Drury 2000, 61.

Study therefore needs to take the form of examination of the material phase by phase, with particular attention to structural features, noting major types present, and seeking to identify and group early material regardless of context.

Detailed cataloguing is not justified. The final text is unlikely to exceed 1000 words.

2.3 Illustration

None of this material warrants illustration.

Estimate of time involved

Task	*Days*
Examination of material at Fulbourn	1
Search for potential source of terra cotta	1
Writing text: terra cotta	1
Writing text: remainder	1
Checking illustrations, liaison with excavator, etc	1
Total	*5*

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APPENDIX 6: METALWORK

by Nina Crummy

1 Summary

A total of 152 bags of objects were examined; a few contained more than one object. They range in date from Middle Saxon to modern, with the majority of those that can be dated belonging to the post-medieval period. Dress accessories are well-represented among the copper-alloy objects, nails and other structural fittings among the iron objects.

2 Condition

The silver, copper-alloy and lead(-alloy) objects are in good condition and quite lightly corroded. The ironwork, in contrast, is heavily corroded and/or encrusted with clay, making identification of many of the objects impossible

or at best tentative. However, they will probably produce clear images when X-radiographed.

The objects are packed to a high standard of storage in either polythene bags or small crystal boxes supported by pads of foam or acid-free tissue. The bags and boxes are stored in larger crystal boxes or airtight Stewart boxes with silica gel.

3 Assemblage

The assemblage can be divided by material thus:

silver	2
copper-alloy	64
lead(-alloy)	13
iron	73
	152

Table 19

The proportion of copper-alloy to iron objects is high, and most of them derive from two contexts, layers 1179 (topsoil) and 1180 (subsoil). These layers, together with unstratified items, produced 80 per cent of the copper-alloy finds, many of which are late post-medieval to modern. In contrast only two iron object comes from layer 1180 and eight from 1179. Several features produced groups of iron objects, in particular pits **588**, **908**, **1005** and **1064**, and wells **760** and **960**.

The objects are briefly listed in Appendix 1. Each has been assigned to one of the functional categories defined in Crummy 1983 and 1988 and the results are shown in the table below. Categories represented in this assemblage are:

1	dress accessories
3	textile working
4	household equipment
6	weighing
8	transport
9	buildings and services
10	tools
11	general fittings
12	animal husbandry
13	military equipment
15	metal-working
18	miscellaneous

Table 20: Categories

Coins are treated as a separate, unnumbered, group. There are no toilet or medical instruments (Category 2), and no evidence for literacy (Category 7),

religion (Category 14), or the manufacture of bone or ceramic objects (Categories 16 and 17).

Material	Coin & jeton	1	3	4	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	18
silver	2	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
copper-alloy	5	26	1	6		-	1	-	6	1	-	2	16
lead(-alloy)	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	-	3	-	2	-	3
iron	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	9	37	-	-	-	22
Totals	**7**	**29**	**1**	**7**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**9**	**46**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**41**

Table 21: Metalwork by category

The coins range in date from the early 15th century to the 20th. Included with them is a jeton, usually used for accounting but sometimes illegally passed off as coinage. One of the silver coins is worn smooth and may on close examination prove to be part of a dress accessory or fitting.

Dress accessories (Category 1) account for 41 per cent of the copper-alloy objects and 20 per cent of the total number of objects. Most come from subsoil 1180. The majority are late medieval or early post-medieval and are generally of common forms, but there is also a Middle Saxon pin, dated from the 7th or 9th centuries, and a small ring-brooch or buckle that is probably medieval or perhaps earlier. A few items may be as late as the 19th or early 20th century. There is one lead-alloy button, an iron buckle, and a small iron ring that X-radiography may show to be a medieval or earlier finger-ring.

A thimble is the only item associated with textile working (Category 3), while four vessel sherds, fragments of two spoons (one lead-alloy), and a scale-plate that probably comes from a dinner knife represent household equipment (Category 4). One of the vessel sherds is a foot that may be late medieval rather than post-medieval. Two lead objects are probably weights (Category 6), though one may be a token. An iron harness buckle and two horseshoe fragments, all probably late post-medieval or modern, are the only items associated with transport. Buildings and services are represented by only two items, a fragment of a lead window came, and an unusual copper-alloy plaque showing a shield bearing a lion rampant and the date 1836. Similar plaques made in lead sometimes occur externally on pipework, tanks or guttering, but the source of this one, the metal of which is quite thin, is less certain.

Category 11 (general fittings) accounts for 51 per cent of the ironwork and 30 per cent of the total number of objects. As some bags of nails contain more than one item the true figures are slightly greater. Most of the items are nails, but there is also a wall-hook, pulley wheel, and possibly some key fragments, as well as a large decorative hinge. Several of these objects are modern and unstratified. Non-iron fittings include two decorative lead discs and some copper-alloy binding fragments.

A rumbler bell from either ox or horse harness represents Category 12 (animal husbandry), and two pieces of lead shot represent military equipment (Category 13), though it is possible that the latter may have derived from hunting rather than warfare. Two fragments of copper-alloy slag are from metal-working (Category 15). Miscellaneous items (Category 18) account for 27 per cent of the total number of objects, but this should be reduced after X-radiography of the iron objects. The miscellaneous copper-alloy and lead(-

alloy) objects consist principally of multi-purpose items such as rings and fragments of sheeting.

4 Recommendations

4.1 The majority of the silver, copper-alloy, and lead(-alloy) objects should be conserved (45 objects – see Appendix 1 for full list). All the ironwork should be X-radiographed (73 objects). This should facilitate dating of the non-iron objects and accurate identification of the corroded ironwork. It is recommended that the X-radiography and conservation work be carried out at Colchester Museum.

4.2 A report on the coins and other metal objects should form part of the published site report, providing references to comparable items and assemblages, in particular from London, Norwich, Colchester, Southampton, Exeter and Winchester. Such a report should concentrate on the well-stratified objects, the Middle Saxon pin, and the late medieval to early post-medieval material, but only briefly list the later post-medieval items and omit the modern pieces. A quotation for this work forms Appendix 2 of this assessment.

4.3 Sixteen items should be drawn; 8 copper-alloy, 1 lead(-alloy), and 7 iron objects, and these are indicated in Appendix 1 of this assessment.

5 Catalogue

SF	Ctxt	Master	Period: Phase	Material	Identification	Clean	Date
5	3	1180	4: 4	ag	plain disc, ?coin	done	-
26	3	1180	4: 4	ag	long cross half-groat, Canterbury mint, obverse worn, ?Henry IV	done	?1399-1413
4	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	token, ?Nuremberg rose/orb issue	yes	16th century?
78	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	James I/Charles I, farthing token	yes	early 17th
69	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	Victoria, halfpenny	no	19th century
72	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	George V/VI, penn	no	20th century
193	5	908	4: 3	cu-al	Charles I, farthing token	yes	early 17th

Table 22: Coins and jeton

SF	Ctxt	Master	Phase	Material	Identification	Clean	Illustrate	Cat	Date
57	788	792	4: 4	cu-al	rumbler bell, cast, decorated	Yes		12	post-med
58	34	1179	4: 5	cu-al	buckle, with roller on outer edge	Yes	yes	1	late med to post-med
59	33	0	n/a	cu-al	buckle, oval with decorated outer edge	Yes	yes	1	med
60	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	buckle fragment, decorated square/rectangular frame	yes		1	17th-18th century
61	67	811	4: 4	cu-al	decorative fitting	Yes		1?	post-med to modern
62	67	811	4: 4	cu-al	spoon bowl fragment	Yes		4	later med +
63	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	vessel foot	Yes	yes	4	med to early post-med
64	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	vessel rim sherd	Yes		4	med to early post-med
65	569	568	3: 1	cu-al	double oval buckle	Yes	yes	1	med to early post-med
66	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	pin, Hamwic Type Aa2	yes	yes	1	Middle Saxon
67	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	decorated catch or fitting	Yes		18	post-med to modern
68	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	buckle frame fragment	yes		1	post-med
70	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	binding fragment, probably from purse or book	Yes		11	post-med to modern
71	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	plaque fragment	No		18	post-med to modern
73	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	decorated strip	Yes		18	post-med
74	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	hinged tongue	No		18	post-med
75	709	960	4: 5	cu-al	nail	No		11	late post-med to modern
76	709	960	4: 5	cu-al	double oval buckle	Yes		1	med to early post-med
77	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	buckle frame fragment, ?decorated	Yes		1	post-med
79	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	buckle frame fragment	Yes		1	post-med
80	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	buckle frame, D-shaped, traces of tinning	Yes		1	post-med or modern
81	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	vessel rim sherd	Yes		4	med to post-med
82	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	annular buckle	Yes		1	post-med
83	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	buckle-plate	Yes		1	post-med
84	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	T-shaped handle	No		18	post-med
85	38	1179	4: 5	cu-al	flanged collar, ?decorated	Yes		11	?post-med
86	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	purse mount	Yes		1	late post-med to modern
87	1004	1005	4: 3	cu-al	vessel rim sherd	Yes		4	med to post-med
88	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	fragment of copper slag or ?cake	No		15	-
89	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	binding fragments	No		11	post-med
90	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	strap fitting	Yes		1	post-med
91	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	boss from composite button, tinned	No		1	later post-med to modern
92	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	button with inserted loop	No		1	late post-med to modern
93	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	button, with inserted loop	No		1	post-med to modern
94	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	boss from composite button	No		1	post-med
95	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	boss from composite button	No		1	post-med
96	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	button with integral loop	No		1	late post-med to modern

SF	Ctxt	Master	Phase	Material	Identification	Clean	Illustrate	Cat	Date
97	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	button, integral loop	No		1	post-med
99	589	0	n/a	cu-al	plaque, with date 1836 flanking the base of a shield bearing a lion rampant	No	yes	9	1836
104	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	ring	No		18	post-med
105	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	ring	Yes		18	-
106	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	ring (?curtain ring)	No		18	post-med
107	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	binding fragment	No		11	-
108	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	bent plaque	Yes		18	late post-med to modern
109	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	nail	No		11	post-med
110	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	thimble, flattened	Yes		3	early post-med
111	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	small ring-brooch or buckle	Yes		1	med?
112	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	folded strip fragment with integral shank for attachment	No		18	-
113	3	1180	4: 4	cu-al	buckle with belt-plate, leather preserved in belt-plate	Yes	yes	1	late med to post-med
114	99999	1179	4: 5	cu-al	strap-mount	Yes	yes	1	med
115	99999	1179	4: 5	cu-al	plaque, ?decorated	Yes		18	post-med
116	99999	1179	4: 5	cu-al	decorative fitting, ?from box	Yes		18	post-med to modern
117	99999	1179	4: 5	cu-al	one plate from the handle of a knife with scale tang	No		4	post-med
119	99999	1179	4: 5	cu-al	ring	No		18	-
120	99999	1179	4: 5	cu-al	strip fragment, broken across rivet hole; possibly part of a strap-fitting	No		18	?med
121	99999	1179	4: 5	cu-al	thin sheet disc fragment	No		18	-
122	99999	1179	4: 5	cu-al	slag	No		15	-
128	564	1179	4: 5	cu-al	buckle	Yes		1	post-med
194	759	756	4: 5	cu-al	wire, bent and with ends twisted together	No		18	-

Table 23: Copper-alloy

Lead or lead-alloy

SF	Ctxt	Master	Phase	Mat	Identification	Clean	Illustrate	Cat	Date
51	99999	1179	04:05	Pb	weight or token	Yes		6	med +
52	3	1180	04:04	Pb	decorative boss, ?button	Yes		18	post-med to modern
53	38	1179	04:05	Pb	plano-convex disc, ?weight	Yes		6?	med +
54	37	1179	04:05	Pb	shot	No		13	late med +
55	37	1179	04:05	Pb	button	No		1	late med +
56	3	1180	04:04	Pb	decorative disc, related to SF 118?	Yes		11	post-med
98	1066	1067	03:01	Pb	spoon handle with small part of bowl	Yes	yes	4	med
100	99999	1179	04:05	Pb	cap or ferrule	No		11	late post-med to modern
101	99999	1179	04:05	Pb	came	No		9	med +
102	99999	1179	04:05	Pb	shot	No		13	late med +
103	3	1180	04:04	Pb	plaque, triple thickness, one double-sized sheet folded over a single-sized one; possibly used as a weight	Yes		18	post-med?
118	99999	1179	04:05	Pb	decorative boss, related to SF 56?	Yes		11	post-med
192	3	1180	04:04	Pb	token or seal	Yes		18	med (?+)

Table 24: Lead or lead-alloy

SF	Ctxt	Master	Phase	Material	Identification	illustrate	category	Date
1	507	508	4: 5	Fe	nail		11	-
2	507	508	4: 5	Fe	key handle?		11	-
3	3	1180	4: 4	Fe	harness buckle		8	post-med to modern
6	585	588	4: 3	Fe	tanged blade fragment		10	-
7	586	588	4: 3	Fe	1) 3 nails; 2) shank fragment(s)		11	-
8	759	756	4: 5	Fe	distorted sheet fragment		18	modern
10	1164	1064	3: 1	Fe	looped fitting	yes	11	-
124	709	960	4: 5	Fe	nail shank?		11	-
125	1049	811	4: 4	Fe	strip fragment		18	-
126	1049	811	4: 4	Fe	nail		11	-
127	564	1179	4: 5	Fe	buckle	yes	1	post-med
129	1	1179	4: 5	Fe	nail		11	-
130	11	1180	4: 4	Fe	drill bit or screwdriver		10	modern?
131	1049	811	4: 4	Fe	tool?		10?	-
132	564	1179	4: 5	Fe	fitting		11	modern
133	909	910	4: 5	Fe	2 nails		11	-
134	788	792	4: 4	Fe	tapering strip, ?knife blade		10?	-
135	753	750	3: 1	Fe	nail		11	-
136	805	806	3: 1	Fe	nail		11	-
137	755	743	4: 4	Fe	finger-ring?		1	-
139	1120	1069	3: 2	Fe	2 nails		11	-
140	786	945	3: 2	Fe	nail		11	-
141	615	614	1	Fe	curved strip fragment		18	-
142	574	730	3: 1	Fe	1) 2 nails; 2) nail & shank fragment		11	-
143	564	1179	4: 5	Fe	circular fitting		11	modern
144	709	960	4: 5	Fe	spike with rolled head		18	modern
145	819	821	4: 4	Fe	1) 2 nails; 2) 1 nail & 2 shank fragments		11	-
146	819	821	4: 4	Fe	S-hook		11	-
147	819	821	4: 4	Fe	knife fragment with scale tang		10	post-med
148	565	977	4: 5	Fe	fragment		18	-
149	565	977	4: 5	Fe	fragment		18	-
150	565	977	4: 5	Fe	nail		11	-
151	565	977	4: 5	Fe	4 sheet fragments		18	-
152	669	613	4: 3	Fe	fitting		11	-
153	778	779	4: 3	Fe	knife blade?	yes	10?	-
154	709	960	4: 5	Fe	3 nails		11	-
155	709	960	4: 5	Fe	horseshoe fragment		8	med to post-med?
156	564	1179	4: 5	Fe	horseshoe fragment		8	med to post-med?
157	936	938	4: 4	Fe	1) 3 nails; 2) 2 nails		11	-
158	759	756	4: 5	Fe	2 nails		11	-
159	759	756	4: 5	Fe	wall-hook?		11	modern
160	759	756	4: 5	Fe	distorted sheet fragment, ?part of SF 8	-	18	modern
161	852	818	4: 3	Fe	nail		11	-
162	852	818	4: 3	Fe	collar		11	-
163	1119	1069	3: 2	Fe	nail?		11	-
164	1119	1069	3: 2	Fe	nail		11	-
165	1119	1069	3: 2	Fe	handle or fitting	yes	11	-
166	1119	1069	3: 2	Fe	handle or fitting	yes	11	-
167	1119	1069	3: 2	Fe	tapering strip?, tip bent over?		18	-
168	99999	1179	4: 5	Fe	lid or escutcheon		11	modern
169	99999	1179	4: 5	Fe	pulley wheel		11	modern

SF	Ctxt	Master	Phase	Material	Identification	illustrate	category	Date
170	99999	1179	4: 5	Fe	decorative hinge		11	modern?
171	905	908	4: 3	Fe	tool?		10?	-
172	905	908	4: 3	Fe	amorphous lump	yes	18	-
173	905	908	4: 3	Fe	hooked bar		18	-
174	905	908	4: 3	Fe	amorphous lump		18	-
175	905	908	4: 3	Fe	nail		11	-
176	625	624	4: 3	Fe	nail shank fragments		11	-
177	585	588	4: 3	Fe	sheet or blade fragment		18	-
178	585	588	4: 3	Fe	?tang and blade fragment?		10?	-
179	585	588	4: 3	Fe	fragment		18	-
180	585	588	4: 3	Fe	amorphous lump		18	-
181	585	588	4: 3	Fe	amorphous lump		18	-
182	585	588	4: 3	Fe	strip fragment?		18	-
183	585	588	4: 3	Fe	nail?		11	-
184	585	588	4: 3	Fe	curved tool fragment?		10?	-
185	585	588	4: 3	Fe	curved strip fragment		18	-
186	585	588	4: 3	Fe	1) nail; 2) nail/screw; 3) 3 nails; 4) 1 nail, 2 shank fragments; 5) 3 shank fragments; 6) 2 nails, 1 fragment; 7) 3 nails; 8) 3 shank fragments		11	-
187	1004	1005	4: 3	Fe	3 nails		11	-
188	1004	1005	4: 3	Fe	tapering strip		18	-
189	1004	1005	4: 3	Fe	amorphous lump		18	-
190	1004	1005	4: 3	Fe	hook?		18	-
191	671	613	4: 3	Fe	hook	yes	18	-

Table 25: Iron

Bibliography

Crummy, N. 1983 *The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeological Report **2**

Crummy, N. 1988 *The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeological Report **5**

APPENDIX 7: WORKED STONE, QUERNS AND WHETSTONES

By Tikshna Mandal

1 Introduction

A small assemblage of fourteen fragments (or collections of fragments) of worked stone was recovered, weighing 6.79kg. The fragments come from nine rotary quern stones (8 lava and 1 puddingstone), four whetstones (sandstone and greensand) and there is one architectural piece, a carved stone post-footing. Four were recovered from Period 2 features (3 lava and 1 puddingstone), ten from Periods 3 & 4 (Phases 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5).

SF No	Context	Master No.	Period :Phase	Material	Description	Weight (kg)
36	733	732	3: 1	Lava	Rotary Quern, Upper Stone	0.354
37	905	908	4: 3	Lava	Rotary Quern, Upper Stone	0.186
38	902	673	2	Lava	Rotary Quern, Upper Stone	0.223
39	585	588	4: 3	Lava	Rotary Quern, Upper Stone	1.617
40	587	588	4: 3	Lava	Rotary Quern, Upper Stone	0.086
41	587	588	4: 3	Lava	Rotary Quern, Upper Stone	0.263
42	741	673	2	Hertfordshire Puddingstone	Rotary Quern, Upper Stone	1.554
43	564	1179	4: 5	Sandstone	Whetstone	0.101
44	36	1179	4: 5	Greensand	Whetstone	0.100
46	744	673	2	Lava	Rotary Quern, Upper Stone	0.138
48	672	613	4: 3	Sandstone	Whetstone	0.150
49	819	821	4: 4	Sandstone	Whetstone	0.053
50	1120	1069	3: 2	Limestone	Carved stone, possible post footing	1.715
195	735	736	2	Lava	Rotary Quern	0.228

Table 26: Worked stone, querns and whetstones

2 The Material

2.1 Quern Stones

SF 36:
A small outer fragment of upper stone of a Rotary quern made of Rhineland Lava, depth of 30mm. Whilst heavily abraded more regular tooled grooves are visible on the flat, worn working surface. The upper surface was pecked roughly flat.

SF 37:
Upper stone of a Rotary quern made of Rhineland Lava with a depth of 20mm. The working surface was tooled flat but no specific marks are visible despite surface not being very worn – perhaps due to the fragment belonging to the outside edge. The upper surface was pecked.

SF 38:
A fragment of Upper stone of a Rotary quern made of Rhineland Lava with surviving depth of 42mm. No tool marks are visible due to the heavy abrasion but the working surface is worn smooth. The upper surface was pecked.

SF 39:
Three non-joining fragments of upper stone of a Rotary quern made of Rhineland Lava. Original diameter is 560mm and depth is 31mm. The outer edge was tooled leaving rough parallel grooves, whilst the lower surface was also roughened with long, linear grooves; the surface is not very worn. The upper surface shows grooved and pecking tool marks.

SF 40:
A small fragment of Upper stone of a Rotary quern made of Rhineland Lava with a depth of 31mm. The working surface is flat and worn smooth. A rectangular (corner at right angles) slice was removed from the lower surface to a depth of 5mm for an unknown purpose. The upper surface was tooled roughly even. An illustration of this surface may be useful.

SF 41:
Upper stone of a Rotary quern made of Rhineland Lava with a depth of 31mm. Upper and lower surfaces survive; a flat working surface, still very rough with grooved tool marks. The upper surface was left was pecked.

SF 42:
An outer fragment of Upper stone of a Puddingstone Rotary Quern, with a 440mm diameter and maximum height of 105mm. The outer edge bevels inwards towards the base for a height of 34mm, opposing the body of the Upper Stone. All surfaces have been worked and upper

and lower surfaces as well as the sides survive, tooled smooth. The feeder hole is 80mm from the surviving outer edge and has a surface diameter of about 76mm and falls towards the flat base at 20° to the vertical, the eye narrowing progressively to a surviving diameter of 20mm at a height of 27mm from the base. The feeder hole is not perfectly cylindrical due to the loss of some of the pebbly stones within this conglomerate but is still fairly smooth.

SF 46:
Six fragments of upper stone of a Rotary Quern. Working surface is smooth, whilst the upper surface was left pecked. Maximum surviving height was 28mm.

SF 195:
39 fragments of lava quern stone. Fragments are worn and no working surfaces survive.

2.2 *Whetstones*

SF 44:
Rectangular block of greensand for use as a whetstone of maximum width and thickness 14 x 17mm, and surviving length 127mm (broken at both ends). All four sides were used, and central areas all show some concaving.

SF 49:
Rectangular block of white sandstone for use as a whetstone with maximum width and thickness 23 x 25mm, and surviving length 37mm. The surviving end is rounded. All five surviving surfaces are worked, with two opposing surfaces showing some concaving.

SF 48:
Rectangular block of white sandstone for use as a whetstone, maximum width and thickness 26 x 30mm, length 91mm. All sides were used. At least two opposing surfaces are worn smooth and it tapers to the end. The squared end is badly worn so that most of the surface no longer survives. Long knife notches mar two sides, down to the squared end, whilst the tapered end shows at least five fine cut marks.

SF 43:
Sub-circular cylindrical block of red sandstone for use as a whetstone stone, maximum diameter 33mm, and surviving length 40mm. Sides used as working surface.

2.3 Other worked Stone

SF 50:
Cut from a larger, worked Barnack stone building block. Size, 150mm x 125mm x 63mm deep. Internal rectangular slot 80mm x 70mm x 40mm deep. Cone-shaped, circular drainage hole at base 30mm to 14mm diameter.

3 Recommendations for further work

SF.50 should be identified as to its original use and likely date of manufacture. Dependent upon the conclusions of this, it is possible that the object will require illustration.

APPENDIX 8: CLAY TOBACCO PIPES

By Steve Hickling

1 The assemblage and its provenance

A small assemblage of eight bowls (or part bowls) and thirty-three stem fragments were recovered from the site, total weight 0.26kg.

The major part of this assemblage was recovered from pit **588**, Period 4: Phase 3, containing contexts 585 and 587. Where datable the pipe bowls are of the late 17th/early 18th century. The only bowl not from this feature was recovered from ditch **1050** (1051), and is Victorian in date. The 33 stem fragments are undatable.

None of the bowls are stamped with makers marks. No makers are known in the Soham or Ely area in the late 17th to early 18th century, so these pipes may have originated in either Cambridge or Newmarket.

2 Recommendations

No further work is required on this material.

Context	Master No.	Period: Phase	Description	Date
001	1179	4: 5	2 stem fragments	Post medieval
003	1180	4: 4	1 stem fragment	Post medieval
068	1175	4: 5	1 stem fragment	Post medieval
585	588	4: 3	9 stem fragments, 6 bowls, 4 complete. All bowls show rouletting and have feet, not spurs (the earliest is probably an Oswald type 6, 1660-80, while the others are similar to type 8, 1680-1710)	1680-1710
587	588	4: 3	2 stem fragments and 1 complete bowl with rouletting and a pronounced foot (similar to Oswald type 8-9, 1680-1710)	1680-1710
709	960	4: 5	4 stem fragments	Post medieval
788	792	4: 4	7 stem fragments	Post medieval
789	792	4: 4	2 stem fragments	Post medieval
813	816	4: 4	1 stem fragment	Post medieval
819	821	4: 4	2 stem fragments	Post medieval
909	910	4: 5	2 stem fragments	Post medieval
1051	1050	4: 5	1 bowl, large, with spur and rouletting (similar to DUA type 33, post 1840)	1840+

Table 27: Clay tobacco pipes

Bibliography

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Groves, J. 1984 *Guide to the DUA Clay Tobacco Pipe Type Series* Museum of London Department of Urban Archaeology

Oswald, A. 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist* BAR14

APPENDIX 9: POST-MEDIEVAL GLASS

By Carole Fletcher BA

1 Methodology

The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). Dating was carried out using the Archaeological Field Unit's (AFU) in-house system. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed

All the glass has been dated on a context-by-context basis; this information was entered directly onto a full quantification database (Access 2000).

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU) curates the glass and archive until formal deposition.

2 Assemblage

The assemblage consists of a total of 38 finds from 6 contexts, weighing 10.57kg. Typologically four types were identified; bottles, which form the bulk of the assemblage, jars, window glass, and lamps. Alongside the bottles, which included a small bottle with a ground glass stopper, were three other stoppers all for internal screw threaded vessels, two were made of wood and a third of an unidentified material possibly a rubber composite.

A total of 18 complete bottles were recovered from the site together with 3 incomplete bottles and 5 fragments. The bottles include containers for wine, beer, carbonated mineral water, foodstuffs, medicine, and ink. Three complete jars, and one complete and one near complete lamp fount were also recovered. The majority of the finds in this context date from the late nineteenth or very early twentieth century and include moulded embossed bottles incorporating text indicating the supplier and in one example the contents of the bottle. The bottle and jar assemblage was principally recovered from context 759, the infilling of brick-lined well **756**.

2.1 Manufacture and Dating

With the exception of the glass bottle fragments recovered from context 1 and 585, which appear to be hand-blown and early nineteenth century in date, and the late nineteenth century milk glass lampshade, which may also have been hand-blown. The assemblage is mainly one of moulded bottles and jars, which show evidence of their manufacture in the form of mould lines and embossing. Bottles were blown into two or three part moulds and all but the lip of the bottle could be produced this way, thus the mould seam runs up the neck of the bottle but not through the lip as this was applied by a separate operation. After 1850 a clamp would be used to hold the base of the bottle while the lip

was applied and thus the pontil mark vanished from the base of the bottle. It was not until the late 1880s that a complete moulded bottle could be produced and it was not until the early 1900s that fully automated bottle production was possible. The completely moulded bottle can be identified by the mould line running up the body and neck of the bottle and finally through the lip. Therefore bottles and jars lacking mould marks on the lip can be dated to no later than the late nineteenth century and those incorporating mould marks on the lip can be dated to the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century with some certainty.

Embossing was introduced with the use of metal-hinged moulds in the manufacture of bottles, these moulds allowed the embossing of elaborate designs and text and reached its peak in the late nineteenth century. By 1895 it is suggested that three quarters of the bottles produced were embossed (Hedges 1996, 23). By the beginning of the twentieth century the fashion for embossing was declining as bottle manufacture became more automated and pre-printed labels became a more common way of marking a brand on a bottle or jar. Therefore bottles with embossing are likely to date from the late nineteenth century.

2.2 *Functional assemblage*

2.2.1 Bottles and jars

The earliest glass vessels present are three fragments of bottle recovered from contexts 1 (topsoil **1179**) and 585 (pit **588**); of these the un-moulded natural green glass wine bottle base with a polished pontil mark from context 1 is early nineteenth century. The two fragments from context 585 could be slightly later but neither shows evidence of moulding.

Of the bottles present seven have internal screw threads, this method of closure, not introduced until 1872 by Henry Barrett (Hedges 1996, 11) helps us date the bottles to the latter part of the nineteenth century or later. The bottles in both green and brown glass are all clearly embossed with the brewer or wine merchant's name. These include 2 beer bottles from Treadway & Percy of Soham. "From the 1880s Soham had a substantial brewery, opened off Paddock Street by the Cutlacks and owned and worked from the 1890s to c. 1925 by their successors, Treadway and Percy" (1).

Both a wine and a beer bottle were embossed with the legend Bailey & Tebbutt Cambridge "In 1897 Messrs. H.B. Bailey (later Mayor of Cambridge) and H.H. Tebbutt acquired the Panton Brewery, Panton Street, Cambridge, Known to one and all as B. & T."(2). By 1925 the brewery had been taken over by Greene King and Sons. A single beer bottle embossed Thos H Gould, Wine Merchants Newmarket was also recovered and a Thomas Henry Gould, is recorded as owning 'Gould's Wine and Spirit Merchants', Belvoir House, High Street, Newmarket (3). Finally, a wine bottle embossed W.G. Mothersole Mildenhall was identified, unfortunately no information on this merchant was readily available.

The three screw threaded stoppers recovered may relate to some of the bottles previously described. The two wooden stoppers, on of which has retained its rubber washer, are inscribed with the legend Cutlack & Harlock Ld ELY. The third stopper is in poorer condition however the in centre of the stopper T & P can still be seen deeply inscribed, and around the edge what appears to be Treadway & Percy Soham.

Aside from the coloured glass wine and beer bottles two complete clear glass Codd bottles were also recovered. Named after their designer Hiram Codd, who in 1875 patented a bottle that by the use of a glass marble and a rubber ring allowed the fizz to remain in a carbonised bottled drink without blowing off the cork. Though complete Codd bottles are not exceptional, they are more often found broken mainly due to the desire of children to gain access to the marble inside. This type of bottle continued to be used until the 1930s (Hedges 1996, 14). The two Codd bottles recovered from context 759 were for local mineral water companies, and are embossed with both the name of the mineral water company and that of the bottle manufacturer. Cannington Shaw & Co Ltd of St Helens manufactured the bottle for W. Guyatt Mineral Water Works Burwell Cambs. The second was manufactured by Dobson & Nall Ltd Bottle & Case Makers Barnsley for Hall Ltd Brewery, Ely. The mineral water factory that this bottle refers to was located at the Quayside Brewery, Ely.

A near complete bottle was also recovered from context 759, this bottle is clear moulded glass, the lip has sheared off so it is not clear if it is a completely moulded bottle. However the interest here is the embossing on the base, the faces of the bottle being unmarked and therefore one presumes covered by a printed label. The base is embossed Walker's Kilmarnock Whisky 1110 "It was not until 1908, ...that the brand name 'Johnnie Walker' began to be used" (4). Thus the bottle can be dated to no later than the first decade of the twentieth century.

Of the remaining assemblage the complete bottles and jars bear only small amounts of embossing mainly on the base, the exception to this is the small ribbed inkbottle with a shear rim and moulded pen rests, which bears three letters on its upper surface H C(?) S. A large amount of ink was sold in stoneware bottles but small quantities were often supplied in bottles of poor quality glass. A similar ink bottle from the archive of the Museum of London is given a production date of 1866-1900 http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ Accession number: 77.50/135)

The other bottles present are food or medicine bottles, whose contents are somewhat of a mystery due to the loss of their paper labels. It is unlikely that any would have contained poison, as it was common practice to use Blue glass and embossing or just embossing on clear glass to indicate a dangerous content. There are also three jars in the assemblage a narrow clear glass moulded, screw toped jar. A clear blue-green tinted moulded glass jar made from poor quality glass that is full of bubbles and faults/flaws, and a moulded tapered jar with an embossed pattern of vertical lines around base and rim. This jar is undoubtedly for some kind of potted meat or meat or fish paste and is early twentieth century in date.

2.2.2 Lamps

Also recovered from context 759 were the glass components of at least two paraffin lamps. The use of paraffin in lamps was introduced in the 1860s, and allowed the source of oil for the lamp to be below lamp itself, rather than above. Thus allowing lamps to become more portable amongst other improvements. The first piece is a complete pale blue glass globular fount, the neck of the fount has been ground to a metal burner and the nipple like base is also ground to fit inside a support if for a hanging lamp or a base if a table lamp. The second piece is a near complete fount for a clear glass finger lamp. The fount also acted as the base of the lamp and the sides are moulded with curved ribbing. The neck of the fount is ground to accept a metal burner and there are two small scars on one side that indicate where the handle was originally located, thus allowing the author to identify this as a finger lamp.

Finally there are several sherds from an opaque milk glass lampshade; this shade would have fitted around the clear glass chimney of a paraffin lamp, unfortunately no part of the chimney survived. The shade in combination with the lamp would have produced a more diffuse light and could have been used with a hanging or table lamp.

2.2.3 Window Glass

No window glass was recovered from the well context 759, however 6 fragments in total were recovered from contexts 585 (pit **588**), 709 (well **960**), 789 (surface **792**) and 1049 (ditch **1048**), all dating to Period 4, Phases 3, 5, 4 and 4 respectively. Of these, 5 fragments are of clear glass with a slight blue-green cast and are likely to be improved cylinder sheet glass which was used extensively until early in the 20th Century. The remaining fragment is possibly machine drawn cylinder glass, which was manufactured in the UK by Pilkington's from 1910 to the early 1930s.

3 Conclusion

The majority of the assemblage, from the well context 759, appears to represent part of the content of a single dwelling and to have been deposited in perhaps a single episode. The high level of embossing on the wine, beer and mineral water bottles would suggest a late 19th century date. The lack of embossing on the food jars, bottles and medicine bottles fits with the increased use of printed paper labels suggests perhaps an early 20th century date. The reality lies somewhere between the two. The embossed Walker's Kilmarnock Whisky bottle shows that this assemblage spans both centuries. Things did not change overnight when the century changed and earlier bottles continued to be used for sometime by smaller brewers and merchants after labelling and manufacturing techniques changed. Walkers Kilmarnock Whisky changed its name in 1908 but not all bottles of Kilmarnock Whisky would have disappeared of the shelves overnight as might happen in the supermarkets of

today. The date for the majority of the assemblage encompasses the later part of the last decade of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th.

The material from the other contexts has a slightly broader date range from the early 19th century for context 585, early 20th century for context 709, 789 and 1049. The overall picture is of an interesting group of bottles mainly from a single context that illustrates the late 19th century and the early 20th, the old and the new coexisting for at least a short time in a middle class household in Soham somewhere between 1895 and 1910.

4 Recommendations

No further work required.

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APPENDIX 10: FIRED CLAY

1 Introduction

A small assemblage of just over 900 grams of fired clay was recovered from a total of 19 different contexts.

Period: Phase	weight (g)	No of Contexts
1	447	5
2	5	1
3: 1	75	5
3: 2	6	1
4: 4	56	2
4: 5	318	5
Total	**907**	**19**

Table 28: Fired clay

2 The Assemblage

Half of the material was recovered from Period 1, Bronze Age contexts and all three features assigned to this Period contained some fired clay. A single piece of fired clay, weighing 0.245kg, was recovered from Period 1 well **681**. The piece is poorly fired and contains large gravel sized inclusions probably present in the natural clay source. One curved surface survives and the piece has a single piercing running through the corner. Exact identification of the piece is uncertain, however, it resembles the loom weights of truncated pyramidal form found associated with early to middle Iron Age pottery at Harford Farm on the Norwich Southern Bypass (Ashwin and Bates 2000, fig.95).

There are fragments within both of the other Period 1 features, **534** and **1035**, which have smoothed faces and have, therefore, possibly been part of a structure or an artefact. These are in two separate fabrics. None have any visible wattle marks.

Of the Period 2, 3 & 4 assemblage, only two fragments from Phase 4 well 960 show any facing and it is unclear as to whether they were structural or artefactual.

3 Recommendations

No further work is required on the assemblage.

Bibliography

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APPENDIX 11: ANIMAL BONE

By Ian L. Baxter BA MIFA

1 The Animal Bone Assemblage

1.1 Recovery and Context

All the bones forming the basis of this assessment were collected by hand and it is apparent from the pottery assemblage that residuality and contamination is negligible.

The animal bones derive from a series of features dating from the Bronze Age, Romano-British and, chiefly, the medieval and post-medieval periods. Features principally comprise wells, pits, ditches, gullies and post holes. The preservation of the bone surface was on average good with relatively few badly damaged specimens. There are relatively few gnawed fragments.

1.2 Storage and quantity

The animal bones are stored in 14 cardboard boxes of the following size: 52x26.5x16.5cm. The boxes are on average about 2/3 full. The bones are washed and bagged by context. The assemblage is presently stored at the CCCAFU base at Fulbourn Community Centre, Cambridge

The total weight of the hand-collected bone is just less than 54Kg. This assessment is based on the contexts stratigraphically earlier than the 19th century comprising slightly less than 47Kg in weight. Animal bones were recovered from the following periods:

Period 1: Bronze Age
Period 2: Romano-British
Period 3: Medieval
  Phase 1) 12th to 14th centuries AD
  Phase 2) 14th to 15th centuries AD
Period 4: Post-medieval to modern
  Phase 3) 16th to 17th centuries AD
  Phase 4) 18th century AD
  Phase 5) 19th century AD

2 Assessment

2.1 Methodology

The assessment is based on approximately one third (33%) by weight of the total assemblage for each period, with the exception of the tiny Romano-British assemblage and the 19th century material. Numbers of "countable" bones, ageable mandibles and measurable bones are recorded in Tables 29 and 30. The counting system was based on a modified version of the system suggested by Davis (1992) and used by Albarella and Davis (1994).

2.2 *Variety*

All of the domestic mammals and birds are represented in the assemblage. The skeleton of a cow was found in Period 3: Phase 1 pit **727** (737) and that of a horse in Period 4: Phase 3 pit **1043** (1045). A horse cranium was recovered from Period 4: Phase 3 well **910** (1057) and the skeleton of a small dog from Period 3: Phase 2 gully **924** (923). Less well dated burials of a perinatal calf and a pig were found in **743** (755) and **1165** (1166) respectively – both these are thought to date to Period 4: Phase 4.

2.3 *Quantity*

This is a medium sized assemblage. The assemblages from the various phases are likely to be small but may possibly demonstrate differences in the stock kept and increases in general size over time.

3 Potential and recommendations

3.1 *Potential*

It may be possible to identify changes in the relative importance and size of the domestic stock in the various temporal periods. The assemblages from the house plots can be expected to provide evidence of diet and any commercial activities associated with animals occurring on the site during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The numerous skeletons should provide useful data on the domestic animals.

3.2 *Recommendations*

With the exception of the recent material of Phase 5 the assemblage should be fully recorded and subjected to analysis. The analysis should not take place until phasing is completed and information is available regarding residuality.

PERIOD	**COUNTABLE BONES**						
	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Others	Bird	Total	Comments
Period 1 assessment	5	4	1	-	-	10	
estimated total	*15*	*12*	*3*	*0*	*0*	*30*	
Period 3: Phase 1 assessment	1	-	-	-	-	1	
estimated total	*3*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*3*	
Period 3: Phase 2 assessment	9	11	1	9	6	36	Includes horse, chicken, goose, duck
estimated total	*27*	*33*	*3*	*27*	*18*	*108*	
Period 4: Phase 3 assessment	13	0	10	5	1	29	Includes horse, dog, chicken
estimated total	*39*	*0*	*30*	*15*	*3*	*87*	
Period 4: Phase 4 assessment	4	-	-	1	-	5	Includes horse
estimated total	*12*	*0*	*0*	*3*	*0*	*15*	
TOTAL (assessment)	32	15	12	15	7	81	
TOTAL (estimated)	*96*	*45*	*36*	*45*	*21*	*243*	

Table 29: Number of "countable" bones (Davis 1992; Albarella and Davis 1994) used for assessment and estimates of their total. *The estimated total is calculated on the percentage of bone weight used for assessment (approximately 33%).*

PERIOD	AGEABLE MANDIBLES				MEASUREMENTS					
	Ca	Sh/Gt	Pig	Total	Ca	Sh/Gt	Pig	Others	Bird	Total
Period 1 assessment	-	2	1	3	-	2	-	-	-	2
estimated total	*0*	*6*	*3*	*9*	*0*	*6*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*6*
Period 3: Phase 1 assessment	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
estimated total	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*3*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*3*
Period 3: Phase 2 assessment	2	1	1	4	1	6	-	5	3	15
estimated total	*6*	*3*	*3*	*12*	*3*	*18*	*0*	*15*	*9*	*45*
Period 4: Phase 3 assessment	1	-	1	2	3	-	-	3	-	6
estimated total	*3*	*0*	*0*	*6*	*9*	*0*	*0*	*9*	*0*	*18*
Period 4: Phase 4 assessment	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
estimated total	*9*	*0*	*0*	*9*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
TOTAL (assessment)	6	3	3	12	5	8	-	8	3	24
TOTAL (estimated)	*18*	*9*	*9*	*36*	*15*	*24*	*0*	*24*	*9*	*72*

Table 30: Number of ageable mandibles and measurable pieces.

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APPENDIX 12: SHELLFISH

1 The Assemblage

An assemblage of just over a kilogramme of shell was recovered from a total of 44 contexts. All the material was collected from Periods 3 & 4 features. Almost exactly half the assemblage, by weight, is oyster shell and half mussel. There are no cockles or scallops.

Period: Phase	mussel (g)	oyster (g)	No of Contexts
3: 1	215	34	15
3: 2	269	286	11
4: 3	16	22	8
4: 4	3	104	4
4: 5	19	65	6
Total	**522**	**511**	**44**

Table 31: Shellfish

2 Recommendations

No further work is required on the assemblage.

APPENDIX 13: ARCHAEOBOTANICAL MATERIAL

by Val Fryer

Samples for the extraction of plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area and from features of all Periods and Phases (with the exception of 4: 5). Thirty six were submitted for assessment.

2 Methods

The samples were bulk floated by the Archaeological Field Unit, and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Tables 32 – 36. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997). Both charred and waterlogged/de-watered macrofossils were recorded, with the latter being denoted in the tables by a lower case 'w'. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and arthropods were present throughout.

3 RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT

3.1 Plant macrofossils

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds, wetland plants and tree/shrub species were present at low to moderate densities in all but nine samples. Preservation was moderate to good, although some charred seeds and grains were puffed and distorted (possibly as a result of combustion at high temperatures), and a proportion of the de-watered remains were fragile and fragmented.

3.1.1 Cereals and other food plants

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring marginally more frequently that barley. Cereal chaff was rare, but bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes were recovered from samples 2, 42 and 45 and rye (*Secale cereale*) type nodes were noted within sample 2. Other main-crop food plants included field beans (*Vicia faba*), noted within sample 33, and possibly peas (*Pisum sativum*), although the specimens recorded from sample 42 were without intact testae or hila, and were only tentatively identified by their rounded form.

3.1.2 Wild flora

With the exception of a small number of assemblages from waterlogged/de-watered well fills, weed seeds were rare. Segetal taxa were especially rare, although seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) were recorded from a limited number of contexts. Seeds of grasses and grassland herbs were marginally more common, and these included goosegrass (*Galium aparine*),

medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.), indeterminate grasses (Poaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.), silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), sow thistle (*Sonchus* sp.) and dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.). Ruderal taxa, including thistles (*Cirsium* sp.), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.) and stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*), were also represented

Wetland and aquatic plant macrofossils were rare, but a limited range of both charred and waterlogged/de-watered seeds were recorded. These included sedge (*Carex* sp.), saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), marsh pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*), rush (*Juncus* sp.), duckweed (*Lemna* sp.), water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. *Batrachium*) and celery-leaved crowfoot (*R. sceleratus*).

Bullace/damson (*Prunus domestica* ssp. *insititia*) and sloe (*P. spinosa*) fruit stones, both of which were probably derived from trees/shrubs forming part of the local flora, were common within sample 41 but otherwise, the rare seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) were the sole tree/shrub macrofossils recorded.

Charcoal fragments were present throughout. Other charred plant macrofossils were rare, but did include pieces of root/stem and indeterminate culm nodes and inflorescence fragments. Waterlogged/de-watered remains were slightly more abundant, and included pieces of root/stem and indeterminate leaf fragments, moss fronds, thorns and twigs.

3.2 Animal macrofossils and mollusc shells

Although animal macrofossils were rare within the charred assemblages, fragments of bone, eggshell, fish bone and small mammal/amphibian bones were recorded. The waterlogged/de-watered assemblages contained a higher density of animal macrofossils including Cledoceran ephippia, ostracods and arthropod remains. Small mollusc shell assemblages occurred in eight of the assemblages studied. All four of Evans (1972) ecological groups of land taxa were represented along with shells of freshwater obligate species. The assemblage from Phase 3 pit 588 (sample 2) was of particular interest as the entire assemblage of freshwater mollusc shells was burnt.

3.3 Other materials

Fragments of black porous and tarry material were recorded at varying densities from a total of seventeen samples. All are possibly derived from the combustion of organic materials (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Other material types were exceedingly rare, but did include ferrous globules, pieces of burnt or fired clay and small coal fragments.

4 Discussion

4.1 Periods 1 & 2 (Table 32)

Five samples were taken, three from Late Bronze Age pit and well fills, and two from Roman features. Although charred cereal grains, fragmentary large pulse seeds and charcoal are present or common within two of the Bronze Age contexts (samples 25 and 34), the density of material is insufficient for conclusive interpretation, and it would appear most likely that the remains are derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse. Roman well 673 contains a very small assemblage of de-watered macrofossils which appear to indicate that the local habitat may have comprised rough grassland with occasional shrubby elements. The remaining two assemblages contain insufficient material for interpretation.

Sample No.	**1**	**25**	**34**	**7**	**19**
Context No.	**533**	**682**	**1036**	**735**	**902**
Feature No.	**534**	**681**	**1035**	**614**	**673**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Well**	**Pit**	**Ditch**	**Well**
Period	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**2**
Cereals and other food plants					
Large Fabaceae indet.			xcffg		
Triticum sp. (grains)			x		
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	x		
Herbs					
Aphanes arvensis L.					xw
Mentha sp.	xw				xw
Stellaria sp.					xw
Urtica dioica L.					xw
Wetland plants					
Ranunculus subg. *Batrachium* (DC)A.Gray					xw
Tree/shrub macrofossils					
Sambucus nigra L.					xw
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm	x	xx	xxx	x	x
Charcoal >2mm		x	xxx		
Waterlogged root/stem	xx				xx
Mineral replaced root channels				x	
Indet.culm nodes			x		
Indet.leaf frags.					xw
Indet.seeds	xw				
Animal macrofossils					
Bone			x		
Cledoceran ephippia	xw				
Ostracods					x
Small mammal/amphibian bones		x			
Waterlogged arthropods					x
Molluscs					
Freshwater obligate species					
Anisus leucostoma		x			
Other materials					
Black porous 'cokey' material			x		
Black tarry material		x	x		
Ferrous concretions			xcf		
Ferrous globules			x		
Small coal frags.			x		
Sample volume (Litres)	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.2**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**50%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 32: Samples from prehistoric and Roman deposits

4.2 *Period 3: Phase 1 (Tables 33a and b)*

Of the seventeen samples taken from Phase 1 contexts, only three are of potential interest. Samples 33, 44 and 45, from fills within pit 566, ditch 862 and ditch 1107 respectively, contain small charred mixed refuse assemblages, which may include cereal processing waste, culinary detritus, and possibly burnt flooring or thatching materials. Similar assemblages, which would appear to be domestic in nature, are also present within samples 14, 15 and 16 (layers 822, 823 and 869), although in these instances a far lower density of material is present, and conclusive interpretation is not possible. Plant macrofossils, including charcoal fragments, are extremely rare within the remaining assemblages, and it is assumed that all are derived from small quantities of wind-blown detritus which accidentally became incorporated within the feature fills.

Sample No.	**5**	**8**	**10**	**11**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**
Context No.	**731**	**733**	**726**	**737**	**822**	**823**	**869**	**776**	**802**
Feature No.	**730**	**539**	**727**	**727**	**823**	**823**	**823**	**777**	**777**
Feature type	**Well**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pot**	**Hearth**	**Hearth**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**
Cereals									
Triticum sp. (grains)				x	x				
Cereal indet. (grains)					x		x		
Herbs									
Anthemis cotula L.					x				
Chenopodium album L.						x			
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.									x
Small Poaceae indet.						x			
Urtica dioica L.					x				
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.					x				
Wetland plants									
Carex sp.							x		
Cladium mariscus (L.)Pohl					x		x		
Other plant macrofossils									
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	x	xx	x	x	x	x	x
Charred root/stem							x		
Indet.seeds							x		
Animal macrofossils									
Eggshell								x	x
Other materials									
Black porous 'cokey' material								x	x
Black tarry material		x					x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	**20**	**20**	**20**	**10**	**6**	**10**	**10**	**20**	**20**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 33a: Period 3: Phase 1 samples

Sample No.	**22**	**29**	**33**	**44**	**45**	**47**	**48**	**49**
Context No.	**903**	**974**	**976**	**861**	**1106**	**1117**	**1042**	**650**
Feature No.	**904**	**952**	**566**	**862**	**880**	**1118**	**539**	**651**
Feature type	**Gully**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**
Cereals and other food plants								
Avena sp. (grains)					x			
Hordeum sp. (grains)				x	x			
Hordeum/Secale cereale type (rachis nodes)				x				
Triticum sp. (grains)	x		x	x	xx			
T. aestivum/compactum type (rachis nodes)					x			
Vicia faba L.			x					
Cereal indet. (grains)			xx	x	xx			
(basal rachis nodes)			x					
Herbs								
Atriplex sp.					x			
Chenopodiaceae indet.								x
Fabaceae indet.			x	x	x			
Galium aparine L.					x			
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.			xcf		xcf			
Rumex sp.			x		x			
Stellaria sp.								xw
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.					x			
Wetland plants								
Cladium mariscus (L.)Pohl			x	x				
Hydrocotyle vulgaris L.								xw
Lemna sp.								xw
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	xx	xx	x	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm			x	x	x			
Charred root/stem	x		x		x			
Waterlogged root/stem								xxx
Indet.culm nodes					x			
Indet.seeds	x				x	x		
Animal macrofossils								
Bone			x					
Cledoceran ephippia								xx
Fishbone	x			x	x			
Small mammal/amphibian bone				x	x			
Molluscs								
Woodland/shade loving species								
Aegopinella sp.						x		
Open country species								
Pupilla muscorum								x
Vallonia sp.					x			x
V. costata						x		
Catholic species								
Trichia hispida group								x
Marsh/freshwater slum species								
Lymnaea sp.					x			x
Freshwater obligate species								
Gyraulus albus			x					
Other materials								
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		xx	x	x	x		
Black tarry material					x			
Burnt/fired clay			x	xx		x		
Small coal frags.	x		x	x			x	
Sample volume (litres)	**20**	**10ss**	**20**	**20**	**10ss**	**20**	**20**	**20**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 33b: Period 3: Phase 1 samples

4.3 *Period 3: Phase 2* (Table 34)

Charred macrofossils are again extremely rare in all eight of the Phase 2 samples, although a small assemblage of possible domestic hearth waste, including cereals, peas and charcoal, is present within sample 42 from pit 1069. Wells 774 and 945 (samples 12 and 53 respectively) contain limited waterlogged/de-watered assemblages, both of which appear to indicate that the areas immediately surrounding the wells were overgrown by colonising weeds including hemlock, henbane, dead nettles and stinging nettles. Well 945 also appears to have sustained a small number of aquatic and marginal plants including sedge, duckweed and celery leaved crowfoot.

Sample No.	**3**	**4**	**12**	**13**	**42**	**43**	**46**	**53**
Context No.	**602**	**603**	**786**	**809**	**1120**	**1121**	**923**	**944**
Feature No.	**604**	**604**	**774**	**774**	**1069**	**1069**	**924**	**945**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Well**	**Well**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Gully**	**Well**
Cereals and other food plants								
Hordeum sp. (grains)					xcf			
Pisum sativum L.					xcf			
Triticum sp. (grains)					x		x	
T. aestivum/compactum type (rachis nodes)					x			
Cereal indet. (grains)		x			xx	x	x	
Herbs								
Anthemis cotula L.	x							
Asteraceae indet			xw					
Atriplex sp.								xw
Brassicaceae indet.			xw	xw				
Chenopodium album L.								xw
Chenopodiaceae indet.			xw					
Cirsium sp.			xw					xw
Conium maculatum L.			xw					xxw
Fabaceae indet.					x	x		
Hyoscyamus niger L.			xw					xw
Lamium sp.			xw					xw
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.					xcf			
Mentha sp.								xw
Onobyrchis viciifolia Scop.			xcfw					xcfw
Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia								xw
Polygonum aviculare L.			xcftfw		x			xw
Potentilla anserina L.			xw					
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus								xw
Raphanus raphanistrum L.			xw					
Rosa sp.	x							
Rumex sp.					x			xw
Silene sp.							x	
Solanaceae indet.								xw
Sonchus asper (L.)Hill								xw
Urtica dioica L.			xw					xxw
U. urens L.			xw					
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.						x		

Sample No.	3	4	12	13	42	43	46	53
Context No.	602	603	786	809	1120	1121	923	944
Feature No.	604	604	774	774	1069	1069	924	945
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Well	Well	Pit	Pit	Gully	Well
Wetland/aquatic plants								
Carex sp.								xw
Cladium mariscus (L.)Pohl			xw		x			xw
Lemna sp.								xxw
Ranunculus sceleratus L.								xw
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	x		xxx	xx	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm					xx	x		x
Charred root/stem	x				x		x	
Waterlogged root/stem			xx	x				xxx
Waterlogged wood			xx					xw
Indet.culm nodes/frags.						x	x	
Indet.inflorescence frags.					x			
Indet.moss								xw
Indet.seeds				xw			x	x xw
Indet.thorn *(Rubus* type)								xw
Indet.twig			xw					
Animal macrofossils								
Cledoceran ephippia			x					xxx
Eggshell	x							
Fish bone		x					x	
Ostracods			x					
Small mammal/amphibian bones								x
Waterlogged arthropods			x	x				x
Molluscs								
Open country species								
Vallonia pulchella								x
Freshwater obligate species								
Anisus leucostoma						x		
Planorbis sp.						x		
Other materials								
Black porous 'cokey' material		x			xx	xx		x
Black tarry material		x				xx		
Burnt/fired clay								x
Small coal frags.						x	x	
Sample volume (litres)	10ss	10ss	20	2	10ss	20	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 34: Phase 2 samples

4.4 *Period 4: Phase 3* (Table 35)

Three samples of Phase 3 date were taken. As mentioned above, sample 2, from a backfill layer of possible demolition debris within pit 588, is of note because of the presence of burnt aquatic mollusc shells. These may be derived from either riverine clay (a material often used for the lining of hearths, kilns, ovens or similar structures) or plant materials gathered from river banks or

wetland areas which were subsequently used as fuel. A small number of charred cereal grains, seeds and culm nodes are also recorded from the same sample, and these again may be derived from either fuel debris or domestic hearth waste. Samples 39 and 40 are both from waterlogged/de-watered fills within well 910. Plant remains are sparse, but the seed assemblage would appear to indicate that areas of grassland, wetland and possibly agricultural land were all in close proximity to the well. The well itself may have contained sufficient water to sustain a very limited aquatic flora.

Sample No.	**2**	**39**	**40**
Context No.	**585**	**1057**	**1073**
Feature No.	**588**	**910**	**910**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Well**	**Well**
Cereals			
Hordeum sp. (grains)	xcf		
Hordeum/Secale cereale type (rachis nodes)	x		
Secale cereale L. (rachis node)	x		
Triticum sp. (grains)	x		
T. aestivum/compactum type (rachis nodes)	x		
Cereal indet. (grains)	x		
(rachis node frag.)	x		
Herbs			
Atriplex sp.	x		
Brassica sp.	x		
Chenopodium album L.			xw
Fabaceae indet.			xpodfgw
Galium aparine L.	x		
Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia	xcf		
Polygonum aviculare L.	x		xw
Potentilla sp.		xcfw	
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus			xw
Rumex sp.	x		xw
Solanaceae indet.			xw
Taraxacum sp.			xw
Urtica urens L.			xw
Veronica hederifolia L.	x		
Wetland plants			
Carex sp.			xw
Cladium mariscus (L.)Pohl	x		
Eleocharis sp.	x		
Juncus sp.		xw	
Lemna sp.		xw	
Ranunculus sceleratus L.		xw	
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	x	
Charcoal >2mm	xx		
Charred root/stem	x		
Waterlogged root/stem		xx	xxx
Indet.culm nodes	xx		
Indet.inflorescence frags.	x		
Indet.seeds	x	x	xw

Sample No.	**2**	**39**	**40**
Context No.	**585**	**1057**	**1073**
Feature No.	**588**	**910**	**910**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Well**	**Well**
Animal macrofossils			
Bone	x xb		
Cledoceran ephippia		xx	
Eggshell	x		
Waterlogged arthropods		x	x
Molluscs			
Open country species			
Vallonia pulchella	x		
Catholic species			
Cochlicopa sp.	x		
Trichia hispida group	x		
Marsh/freshwater slum species			
Lymnaea sp.	x		
Vertigo sp.	x		
Freshwater obligate species			
Anisus leucostoma	xb		
Bathyomphalus contortus	xb		
Bithynia sp.	xb		
(operculi)	xb		
Gyraulus albus	xb		
Valvata cristata	xb		
Other materials			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		
Black tarry material	x		
Burnt/fired clay	xx		
Burnt concretions	x		
Sample volume (litres)	**10ss**	**10**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 35: Phase 3 samples

4.5 Period 4: Phase 4 (Table 36)

The small de-watered assemblage from the fill of well 960 (sample 41) contains a mix of seeds derived from grassland and agricultural habitats. Wetland macrofossils are rare, but the sample is of note for the number of bullace and sloe fruit stones which it contains. These, along with the elderberry 'pips' and seeds of ruderal herbs, may indicate that the site was becoming overgrown during this period. The remaining two Phase 4 samples contain very limited charred assemblages with insufficient material for interpretation.

Sample No.	**26**	**35**	**41**
Context No.	**936**	**1053**	**1074**
Feature No.	**938**	**1052**	**960**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Well**	**Well**
Cereals			
Hordeum sp.	x		
Herbs			
Atriplex sp.			xw
Chenopodiaceae indet.			xw
Cirsium sp.			xw
Hyoscyamus niger L.			xw
Lamiaceae indet.	x		xw
Sonchus oleraceus L.			xw
Stellaria media (L.)Vill			xw
Taraxacum sp.			xw
Wetland plants			
Carex sp.			xw
Tree/shrub macrofossils			
Prunus domestica ssp. *insititia* (L.)Bonnier & Layens			xxw
P. spinosa L.			xw
Sambucus nigra L.	x		xw
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm			x
Waterlogged root/stem	x		xx
Indet.moss			xw
Indet.seeds	x	x	
Animal macrofossils			
Fish bone			x
Marine mollusc shell			x
Waterlogged arthropods			xxx
Small mammal/amphibian bones			x
Molluscs			
Open country species			
Helicella itala			x
Vallonia costata			x
Catholic species			
Trichia hispida group			x
Marsh/freshwater slum species			
Lymnaea sp.			x
Other materials			
Black tarry material			x
Brick/tile			x
Small coal frags.			x
Sample volume (litres)	**20**	**10ss**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 36: Phase 4 samples

Key to Tables
x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 = 100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens
fg = fragment w = waterlogged/de-watered ss = sub-sample b = burnt

5 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages recovered from the samples are, without exception, extremely small (0.1 litres in volume or less). As a result of this, the interpretation of the material is, at best, tenuous.

Although the excavations recovered features of Bronze Age to post-medieval date, evidence for either deliberate or accidental deposition of refuse is absolutely minimal, and it would appear that this area was always peripheral to any main centres of settlement or other activities. The number of wells may be key to this apparent lack of domestic activity. The plant macrofossil evidence would appear to suggest that these features were situated within areas of damp grassland, and some supported a flora indicative of still, stagnant water. The pollen evidence would appear to indicate that by the later medieval period, certain features served an industrial purpose, for example for the retting of hemp - a particularly malodorous procedure. Some domestic material is recorded, largely in the form of hearth waste or possibly culinary refuse, but all would appear to be present within secondary contexts, probably indicating the disposal of rubbish in any available open feature.

As none of the assemblages contain quantifiably viable assemblages (i.e. 100 + specimens), no further analysis of this material is required.

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APPENDIX 14: POLLEN ANALYSIS

By Steve Boreham BSc. PhD.

1 The Samples

Five monoliths (21, 28, 32, 54 & 58) from sediment sequences filling a variety of well and pit features are considered in this report.

Monolith 21. Well **673**. *Period 2*
Comprised a basal brown silty sand unit (902: 0-11cm), and a grey/brown silty clay unit (744: 11-30cm) from which a pollen sample was taken at 14cm.

Monolith 28. Well **730**. *Period 3: Phase 1*
Comprised a light brown clay-silt unit (950: 0-30cm), from which a pollen sample was taken at 20cm.

Monolith 32. Well **681**. *Period 1*
Comprised a pale grey clay-sand unit, with a little gravel (801: 0-12cm), a dark grey/brown silty clay unit (684: 11-25cm) from which a pollen sample was taken at 19cm, and an upper light brown clay unit, with occasional gravel (797: 25-30cm).

Monolith 54. Well **945**. *Period 3: Phase 2*
Comprised a dark grey organic silty sand unit (944: 0-22cm) from which a pollen sample was taken at 11cm, and a light grey silt unit, with a little gravel (915: 22-30cm).

Monolith 58. Pit **1069**. *Period 3: Phase 2*
Comprised an orange-brown silty sand (1122: 0-15cm), a dark brown clay-sand unit, with a little gravel (1122: 15-31cm) from which a pollen sample was taken at 22cm, a thin sandy clay unit (1121: 31-33cm), and an upper grey-black silt unit (1120: 23-50cm).

The five samples of sediment were prepared using the standard hydrofluoric acid technique, and counted for pollen using a high-power stereo microscope.

2 Pollen Analyses

Monolith 21. Well **673**. *Period 2*

The sample from 14cm (744) had a relatively low pollen concentration (9,077 grains per ml). Palynomorphs were not preserved well, and in addition to the presence of corroded pollen grains, the proportion of resistant Asteraceae pollen and monolete Pteropsida (ferns spores) was unusually high. This signal is often taken to indicate the action of oxidation during the action of soil processes. In addition, the slides contained large amounts of finely divided organic debris, which diluted the pollen and further hampered counting, resulting in a low main sum. The pollen signal was dominated by grass (41.2%), with herbs including asters (17.6 %), members of the cabbage family (5.9%) and nettles (5.9%). Ferns spores accounted for 29.4% of the sample, and no arboreal or aquatic pollen was encountered.

Monolith 28. Well **730**. *Period 3: Phase 1*

The sample from 20cm (950) had an extremely low pollen concentration (<1500 grains per ml). Only extremely corroded palynomorphs of Poaceae (grass) were counted, and for the purposes of this report, this sample must be considered barren.

Monolith 32. Well **681**. *Period 1*

The sample from 19cm (684) had a relatively low pollen concentration (4984 grains per ml). Palynomorphs were not preserved well, and were dominated

by Poaceae (71.5%) with the remainder of the main sum spectrum comprising fern spores. Pollen of the emergent aquatic bur-reed was also counted. This signal suggests that all but the most resistant types have been oxidised by the action of soil processes.

Monolith 54. Well **945**. *Period 3: Phase 2*

The sample from 11cm (944) had a modest pollen concentration of 19,149 grains per ml. Palynomorphs were quite well preserved, but the presence of large amounts of finely divided organic debris diluted the pollen and made counting difficult. The pollen signal was dominated by grass (28.8%), with cereals (11.5%), herbs, privet (*Ligustrum*) (13.5%), alder buckthorn (*Frangula*) (3.8%) and ferns. The herb assemblage included members of the cabbage family (11.5%), members of the goosefoot family (9.6%), and dock (7.7%).

Monolith 58. Pit **1069**. *Period 3: Phase 2*

The sample from 22cm (1122) had a good pollen concentration of 65,142 grains per ml. The palynomorphs were well preserved, although finely divided organic debris diluted the pollen and impeded counting so that a statistically desirable main sum of 300 pollen grains was not reached. The pollen signal was dominated by grass (40.2%), with cereals (6.6%), herbs, privet (*Ligustrum*) (6.6%), willow (2.5%), juniper (0.8%) and ferns. The herb assemblage most notably included *Cannabis* pollen (18.9%), and a range of other types including members of the cabbage family (6.6%), sedges (3.3% and nettles (3.3%).

3 Discussion

It is unfortunate that so many of the well or pit in-fills investigated in this report had become oxidised, thus adversely affecting the pollen signal. Samples were carefully chosen to give the best possible chance of well-preserved pollen, but in this case it appears that many of the sediments had been exposed to soil processes above the water table.

This discussion will deal with the pollen analyses in presumed chronological order. Monolith 32 was from Bronze Age field well **681**. It appears that grass dominated the vegetation around this feature, which may have had emergent vegetation (bur-reed) growing in a pool at its base. Indeed, some or most of the grass signal may in fact represent reeds, also growing in the pit. This might explain exclusion of other pollen types, although it must be remembered that this interpretation is based on poorly preserved pollen and a low main sum.

Monolith 21 was from early Roman field well **673**. The area around the well appears to be meadowland with few trees or wetland areas. No arable activity was detected, but possible eutrophication due to human activities may be indicated by the presence of nettles. The clear affects of oxidation and

differential pollen preservation mean that this interpretation is based on a distorted and poorly preserved pollen assemblage.

Monolith 28 was from *c.* 11th Century field well **730**. Sadly, the material had been too badly oxidised to get a meaningful pollen signal.

Monolith 54 was from 14th-15th Century field well **945**. The surrounding landscape appears to have been a mosaic of meadow, arable land and privet scrub. There is no direct indication of anthropogenic nutrient enrichment or disturbance, or indeed for aquatic vegetation associated with the feature.

Monolith 58 was from 15th Century pit **1069**. The vegetation appears to be mosaic of meadowland, arable fields, privet scrub and wetland. The unmistakable *Cannabis* signal probably represents hemp retting within the standing water in this feature, rather than cultivation nearby. The presence of willow, sedges, golden saxifrage and bur-reed all hint that this site was a pool, at least for a short period of time.

4 Conclusions

Taken together, these pollen analyses represent 'snapshots' of the landscape and vegetation at Soham between the Bronze Age and late Medieval. The lack of any tree pollen in the Bronze Age sequence (monolith 32) gives a tantalising hint that woodland clearance may have been well underway in this area at that time. The early Roman sequence (monolith 21) shows complete tree clearance, but has no evidence for arable activity near the site. In contrast, the Medieval sequences (monoliths 54 & 58) have a strong arable signal and suggest a 'patchwork' landscape of meadows, fields, and thickets of scrubby woodland. The strong hemp retting signal in monolith 58, indicates that human use of pits and wells, and indeed of ponds and rivers, changed in East Anglia during the late Medieval period.

5 Recommendations

Given the poor preservation of pollen from many of these sequences, it seems unlikely that further analyses would bring to light substantial useful information. Such pollen analyses would be possible, but might not be particularly cost effective.

Context	<744>	<950>	<684>	<944>	<1122>
Monolith	Mono 21	Mono 28	Mono 32	Mono 54	Mono 58
Sample height	14cm	20cm	19cm	11cm	22cm
Feature	**673**	**730**	**681**	**945**	**1069**
Period: Phase	2	3: 1	1	3: 2	3: 2
Shrubs					
Salix	0.0		0.0	0.0	2.5
Juniperus	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.8
Ligustrum	0.0		0.0	13.5	6.6
Frangula alnus	0.0		0.0	3.8	0.0
Herbs					
Poaceae	41.2		71.5	28.8	40.2
Cereals	0.0		0.0	11.5	6.6
Cyperaceae	0.0		0.0	0.0	3.3
Asteraceae (Asteroidea/Cardueae) undif.	17.6		0.0	0.0	0.8
Artemisia	0.0		0.0	1.9	2.5
Cirsium type	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.8
Chenopodiaceae	0.0	barren	0.0	9.6	1.6
Brassicaceae	5.9		0.0	11.5	6.6
Chrysosplenium	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.8
Cannabis type	0.0		0.0	0.0	18.9
Rumex undiff.	0.0		0.0	7.7	0.8
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.8
Urtica	5.9		0.0	0.0	3.3
Lower plants					
Pteropsida (monolete) undif.	11.8		9.5	3.8	0.8
Pteropsida (trilete) undif.	17.6		19.0	7.7	2.5
Aquatics					
Sparganium Type	0.0		9.5	0.0	3.3
Summary					
Sum shrubs	0.0		0.0	17.3	9.8
Sum herbs	70.6		71.4	71.2	86.9
Sum spores	29.4		28.6	11.5	3.3
Main Sum	17	-	21	52	122
Concentration (grains per ml)	9077	<1500	4984	19149	65142

Table 37: Pollen analyses

APPENDIX 15: WOOD

By James A. Spriggs

A total of 15 wooden artefacts were recovered and assessed for species and functional identification. Five objects have been retained for conservation and species identification will be sought on a further three.

1 Conservation

Conservation will be by immersion in poly-ethylene glycol solutions, followed by freeze-drying. A wood species analysis will be provided as part of the conservation assessment. A final report will also be provided as will appropriate packaging for return transport and storage.

2 Drawings

Pencil drawings (inked in) will be provided to publication standard, and a brief description to the level of a 'catalogue entry'.

3 Timetable

The work will take approximately 9 months from the receipt of the material although the drawing and description could be provided at an earlier date, if required.

S.F. No.	Context	Master No.	Period: Phase	Description	Keep and Conserve?
11	1057	910	4: 3	Bucket lid or base	Yes
12	1122	1069	3: 2	Bowl	Yes
13	1122	1069	3: 2	Bowl	Yes
14	944	945	3: 2	Part of a press	Yes
15	944	945	3: 2	Cart back or garderobe lid	Yes
16	1122	1069	3: 2	Batton	Species ID only
21	1057	910	4: 3	Plank fragment	Species ID only
22	1057	910	4: 3	Plank fragment	Species ID only
17	1057	910	4: 3	Plank fragment	No
18	1057	910	4: 3	Plank fragment	No
19	1057	910	4: 3	Structural fragment	No
20	1057	910	4: 3	Plank fragment	No
23	1057	910	4: 3	Plank fragment	No
24	1074	960	4: 4	Structural fragment	No
	944	945	3: 2	Natural unworked wood	No

Table 38: Wooden artefacts

APPENDIX 16: LEATHER

By Quita Mould

1 Methodology

The leather was wet and washed when examined and recorded. It is currently packed in double self-sealing polythene bags from which the light has been excluded by wrapping in black plastic; the bags are stored in air-tight plastic storers 17262-4. A basic record of the leather for archive is provided in appendix 1 and a summary for publication is provided below.

The seam and stitch conventions used in the illustrations follow Goubitz (1984, 188-190, fig. 1), shoe terminology is that in common usage and summarised in Mould, Carlisle and Cameron (2003, fig 1597).

Leather species were identified by hair follicle pattern using low powered magnification. Where the grain surface of the leather was heavily worn identification was not always possible. Shoe soles and repair pieces are presumed to be of cattle hide unless stated otherwise. The distinction between

immature (calfskin) and mature cattle hides is not always easy to determine and the term bovine leather has been used when in doubt.

Shoe sizing has been calculated according to the modern English Shoe-Size scale with the sole measurement rounded up to the nearest size as necessary, continental sizing is provided in brackets.

2 Summary

A small group of leather representing at least six turnshoes was recovered from a black organic layer 1122 at the base of a hemp retting pit **1069**. Pottery in the layers above had a date range spanning the 15th to early 16th century. The shoe construction, sole shapes and upper style suggests the leather dates to the first half of the 15th century.

A nearly complete ankle shoe (SF35) is the modern equivalent of child size 12(30) likely to have been worn by a woman or adolescent. The upper, of cattle hide 3mm thick, was made principally of a single piece of leather that wrapped around the foot and joined with a butted side seam. The shoe fastened at the instep with two divided laces, each passing through a pair of lace holes on one side of the central opening and out of a pair of holes in the other and were then tied. A heel stiffener of calfskin is present at centre back. A tongue and possibly a separate insert to extend the left side of the upper up the instep are now missing. A fragment of vamp of similar leather (SF27) appears to come from a second shoe of this style. The tie-lace fastening ankle shoe is a common shoe style found throughout the country in later 14th and 15th century contexts and, indeed, throughout western Europe (Goubitz 2001, 191). The style is first recorded at the City of London waterfront sites in deposits of late 14th century date (Grew and de Neergaard 1988, 66-7 fig 100-1). The style represents practical working footwear, however, and it is uncertain how long such a style might have continued in use in a rural community after it had fallen out of popular use in a more fashion conscious urban environment.

Five separate turnshoe soles were present, four (SF28, 30, 32 fig 2, 33) of adult size and one (SF31) for a young child. The complete sole for a child (SF31 fig 3) is of modern child size 6(23), a size that would be worn by a 'toddler' today. There is a discrepancy of approximately four shoe sizes between medieval and modern foot size statistics (Grew and de Neergaard 1988, 105), however, and when this is taken in to consideration, the sole is of a size worn by a child, though not an infant. This small sole differs from the rest in showing very little sign of wear. The adult soles had been heavily worn and some had been repaired before being finally thrown away. A clump (SF29) to repair the tread area of a shoe sole was found separately. It may be that the child quickly grew out of the shoe and, perhaps being the youngest of the family, there was no one to hand it down to. It would seem that there had been no opportunity to sell the unworn shoe to a cobbler for re-sale, the usual practice at this time. The fragment of shoe vamp (SF27) found had been cut up to salvage re-usable leather before being thrown away. This, and the disproportionate number of shoe soles to uppers recovered, suggests the

leather to be cobbling waste. It is likely that the cobbling had been undertaken by the family themselves to provide leather for small repairs as a professional cobbler would have reused the small unworn sole to make another shoe for sale.

3 Catalogue of objects to be illustrated

Figure 1
lace-tie fastening shoe for right foot. Turnshoe sole, worn at tread and exterior seat, with edge/flesh seam, stitch length 5-6mm. Length 202mm. Two pieces of rand. One-piece upper, broken away on left side and top edge. Butted edge/flesh side seam, stitch length 4mm. Two pairs of lace holes on right side of central opening, one pair on left with divided lace within. Whip stitching along central opening to attach a tongue (now missing). Leather cattle hide 3mm thick. Surviving height at centre back 65mm. Heel stiffener present at centre back. Leather calfskin 2mm thick, height 50mm. (SF35 context 1122)

Figure 2
Turnshoe sole for right foot, worn at the toe and seat, with edge/flesh seam, stitch length 6mm. Length 254mm (SF32 context 1122)

Figure 3
Turnshoe sole for left foot with edge/flesh seam, stitch length 7mm. Length 148mm (SF31 context 1122)

4 Catalogue of all objects

SF27
Turnshoe parts. Fragment of right side of vamp, now torn into three pieces, with lasting margin, stitch length 6mm, and a butted edge/flesh seam along the top edge, torn away toward the toe and deliberately cut away along the right side. Iron staining present. Appears to belong with sole SF 28. Length 154mm, width 95mm. Worn cattle hide 3mm thick. Rand fragment 12mm wide.

SF28
Turnshoe sole. Near complete sole for right foot, worn through at the toe and torn away across the seat. Petal-shaped tread, medium waist and seat. Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 6mm. Worn stitching from repair at the seat. Iron staining present. Adult size. Surviving length 215mm, width 86mm

SF29
Forepart clump repair piece with tunnel stitching around the edge on the flesh side, torn along one side. Surviving length 70mm, width 96mm

SF30
Turnshoe sole. Lower tread, medium waist and upper seat of sole, other areas torn off. Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 6mm. Worn stitching on grain side from repair to forepart and seat. Adult size. Surviving length 123mm, width 60mm

SF31
Turnshoe sole. Complete sole for left foot with short pointed toe, petal-shaped tread, medium waist and straight seat. Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 7mm. Hardly worn, no repair. Iron straining present. Length 148mm, width 55mm. Modern Child size 6(23)

SF32
Turnshoe sole. Near complete sole for right foot, worn at the great toe and exterior seat. Short pointed toe, petal-shaped tread, medium waist and seat. Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 6mm. No repair. Iron staining present. Length 254mm, width 88mm. Modern Adult size 5(38)

SF33
Turnshoe sole. Lower tread and waist of sole for left foot, other areas torn off. Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 6mm. Worn stitching from repair to forepart. Adult size. Surviving length 120mm, width 85mm

SF34
Turnshoe parts. Highly fragmentary remains of shoe upper with lasting margin, stitch length 7-8mm, other edges torn, no other seams survive. Iron staining present. Cattle hide 2mm thick. Three lengths of rand with max width 9mm

SF35
Tie-lace fastening ankle shoe. Near complete turnshoe sole for the right foot, worn through at the great toe, tread and exterior seat. Short pointed toe, petal-shaped tread, medium waist and seat. Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 5-6mm. Worn stitching from repair to forepart. Flesh side has numerous oblique cuts from poorly executed de-fleshing during the tanning process. Length 202mm, width 71mm.

Two pieces of rand with max width 16mm

One-piece upper with lasting margin, stitch length 5-6mm, broken away on the left side. Single, straight butted edge/flesh seam, stitch length 4mm, on the left side. Top edge broken away. Central opening with two pairs of lace holes on the right side, a divided lace in a pair of lace holes at the junction of the central opening and butted edge/flesh seam on the left side. Whip stitching present along the left front opening and stitching to attach a strengthening cord or possibly from a lapped seam is visible on the flesh side of the right side. An insert to extend the left side up the front of the ankle is missing. Cattle hide 3mm thick. Surviving height 65mm at centre back.

Heel stiffener present at centre back attached with whip stitched lapped seam. Worn grain side outward to the foot. Worn calfskin 2mm thick. Height 50mm.
Modern Child size 12(30)

Also fragment of rand from another sole (above) and fragment broken from left side of turnshoe sole seam and rand from another sole (above).

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Plate 1 *Thorn Street Lane looking east*

Plate 2 *Building 2 stack base*

Plate 3 *Well 760 during excavation*

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