# Land Adjacent to Land adjacent to 14 Church Road, Wicken, Cambridgeshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

**July 2019**

**Client: This Land Ltd**

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# Land adjacent to 14 Church Road, Wicken, Cambridgeshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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# Summary

Between the 29th of May and the 5th of June 2019 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation at Land adjacent to 14 Church Road, Wicken (TL 57365 70531).

A total of six trenches were excavated, measuring between 11m and 30m in length. All six trenches contained archaeological features, consisting of ditches, gullies and pits dated to the Late Saxon to early medieval period (c. AD 1050-1350). These features appear to relate to a previously unknown area of settlement between the historic core of the village to the west of the site, and the isolated parish church to the east.

Ditches were recorded throughout the six trenches, representing a series of boundaries and/or enclosures, with small ditches and gullies perhaps representing internal divisions or plots within these. Ditches within Trench 1 appear to represent the northern boundary of this site and run parallel to the modern road, which may follow the route of a medieval road. Pits were also present across the northern part of the site, several of which had been backfilled with deposits containing domestic refuse including pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains.

The pottery assemblage comprised 97 sherds, weighing 750g and suggest activity at the site between the Late Saxon and early medieval period. The animal bone assemblage is dominated by cattle and sheep/goat and is typical of the period. Preservation of charred plant remains was relatively good and the presence of cereal grains alongside chaff may indicate on-site crop processing.

# Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) would like to thank This Land Ltd for commissioning this project. Thank you to Gemma Stewart, who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, for her advice and guidance.

The project was managed for OA East by Nick Gilmour. The fieldwork was directed by Adele Lord, who was supported by Jamie Hurst, Anna Rogers and Anna Lound. Survey and digitising were carried out by Katie Hutton and Emily Abrehart.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 OA East was commissioned by This Land Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Land adjacent to 14 Church Road, Wicken, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1, TL 57365 70531) ahead of a proposed residential development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 17/01945/OUT). A brief was set by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Stewart 2019) outlining the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East detailing the methods by which OA East proposed to meet the requirements of the brief (Gilmour 2019).

## 1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located at the eastern end of the village of Wicken consists an area of arable farmland covering *c.*0.53ha. It is bounded to the north by Church Road (the A1123), to the west by residential dwellings, and to the east and south by open arable farmland. A set of overhead powerlines crosses the site on an approximate north-south orientation.

1.2.2 The site is located at *c.*9m OD. The site is located on a ridge of higher ground, with the former Soham Mere to the north and the fen edge to the south. The river Cam is located *c.*3km to the west of the site.

1.2.3 The bedrock of the site is mapped as mudstone of the Gault Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton (boulder clay) belonging to the Oadby Member (British Geological Survey 2014, (British Geological Survey online map viewer http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html Accessed: 28/05/2019).

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site is situated in an area of high archaeological potential. A full search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) of a 1km radius centred on the site was commissioned from CCC HET (under licence number: 19-3916). The following is a summary based on the results of the CHER search, with selected records shown on Fig. 1.

### Prehistoric

1.3.2 The area around Wicken is rich in evidence for prehistoric activity. Much of this appears to relate to activity during the Bronze Age, although Neolithic and Mesolithic remains have also been recorded. Much of this evidence is outside of the 1km radius HER search conducted for this site, although, a general pattern of burials being located on the higher ground, with settlement activity below this and field systems close to the fen edge is well-documented in the wider area.

1.3.3 Occasional finds of prehistoric material, including struck flints (e.g. CHER 07058, CHER 07066, CHER 07067) demonstrate activity within the immediate area during the prehistoric period.

### Romano-British

1.3.4 Several Roman coins have been found in the same location as the cropmarks of a probable Romano-British building (CHER 07071), in a field *c.*450m to the north of the site.

1.3.5 Romano-British occupation has also recently been found approximately 1km to the north-east of this site (ECB 5846; Lord 2019; not plotted on Fig. 2).

### Medieval

1.3.6 Less than 300m to the east of the site is the church of St Lawrence (CHER 07126, Listed Building 1160994). This church has structural elements dating to the 13th century and later. It is probably located on the site of an earlier church.

1.3.7 Approximately 450m to the south of the site is Monks Lode (CHER 07112). This artificial water course is probably of medieval origin. Approximately 300m to the south-east are the remains of a moated site (CHER 01067). The size of the moat, and its proximity of Monks Lode, suggest that it may have been associated with Spinney Abbey Priory, an Augustinian priory founded in the early 13th century located some 2.5km to the west of the site.

1.3.8 The cropmark of a further moat and associated lane (CHER 09232), are also recorded *c.*250m to the south of the current site.

### Post-medieval and Modern

1.3.9 A derelict post-medieval windmill is located *c.*350m to the west of the current site (CHER 07057).

### Undated

1.3.10 An undated enclosure, known only from a cropmark, is located directly to the west of the current site (CHER 07070).

# 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aim of this evaluation was to establish the character, date, and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The Written Scheme of Investigation (Gilmour 2019) set out aims to:

i. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they were found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains;
ii. provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits;
iii. provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits; and
iv. provide – in the event that archaeological remains were found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

## 2.2 Research frameworks

2.2.1 This excavation took place within, and will contribute to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

i. Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24);
ii. Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3); and
iii. Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8).

## 2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 A total of six trenches were opened, providing a *c*.5% sample of the proposed development area. In consultation with the CCC HET some changes to original trench plan/layout were made to avoid excavating in the area of the overhead powerlines, and to avoid a large drain which crossed the south-eastern corner of the site (see Fig. 2).

2.3.2 All machine excavation took place under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.3.3 Trial trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first. A toothless ditching bucket with a bucket width of 2m was used

to excavate the trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.

2.3.4 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavations. Trenches were backfilled once approved by CCC HET.

2.3.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. A bucket sampling exercise was also undertaken whereby 90 litres of soil from each soil horizon was hand sorted to characterise the artefact content.

2.3.6 All archaeological features were recorded using OA East pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.3.7 A register was kept of the trenches, features and photographs. All features have been issued with unique context numbers.

2.3.8 Sections of features were drawn at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, whichever was most appropriate to the feature. All sections were tied in to Ordnance Datum and the site plan was surveyed into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

2.3.9 All site drawings include the following information: site code, scale, section number, orientation, date and initial of the archaeologist who prepared the drawing.

2.3.10 Site survey was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS (Lecia GS08) fitted with “Smartnet” technology with and accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.

# 3 RESULTS

## 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. Trench plans and selected section drawings are provided in Figs 2 to 5 and a selection of photographs of trenches and excavated features are included as Plates 1-13. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of deposits are tabulated in Appendix A, and full finds and environmental reports are presented in Appendices B and C respectively.

3.1.2 Context numbers are prefixed by the relevant trench number (unless otherwise stated), e.g. pit **102** is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch **304** is a feature within Trench 3.

## 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of light yellowy red silty sand was overlain by a dark brown grey silty clay subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil. The only exception to this was in Trench 1, where a layer of a mottled orangey grey silty sand between 0.25m and 0.4m thick was recorded below the subsoil horizon in the north-western part of the trench, infilling a large hollow left by an area of intercutting pits (see below).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout, although several features were excavated to below the level of the water table. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

## 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.2 Archaeological features were present in all trenches and are described by trench below.

## 3.4 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

3.4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Plate 1) was located in the north-west corner of the site; it measured 30m in length and was aligned north-west to south-east. The north-western part of this trench was machined to a greater depth than the other trenches, with a maximum depth of 1.4m to the natural geology, where a layer sealing a large complex of intercutting pits was removed. This trench contained two ditches, three gullies, and a series of pits.

3.4.2 An unidentifiable iron object (SF 4), a flint core, a fragment of post-medieval brick (39g), a fragment (14g) of oyster shell and 8 sherds (23g) of early medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil of this trench and a single sherd (2g) of post-medieval pottery from the topsoil.

3.4.3 At the south-eastern end of the trench an east to west aligned gully was exposed (**103**). This feature measured 0.41m wide and 0.16m deep, with sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, Section 21) and was filled by a mid greyish brown silty sand (110) from

which no artefacts were recovered. Sampling of this deposit yielded a small quantity of charred grain.

3.4.4 Ditch **111** was located to the west of, and ran parallel to, gully **103**. This ditch measured 0.88m wide and 0.3m deep with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by a single fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt (112) from which no finds were recovered.

3.4.5 Immediately to the west of ditch of **111** were two intercutting ditches, **104** and **107**, laid out on the same east to west alignment. The earliest of the two features, **104**, was 0.85m wide and 0.32m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base, and contained two fills. Its basal fill (105) consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt from which a single fragment (201g) of cattle bone and 1 fragment (4g) of fired clay was recovered. A sample of this fill produced charred cereal grain. The upper fill (106) was a mid greyish brown clayey silt from which no finds were recovered.

3.4.6 Ditch **107** cut ditch **104** along its north-western edge, and measured up to 1.15m wide and 0.68m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. This ditch contained two fills; the basal fill (108) consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt which contained an iron object (SF 3), a fragment of roof slate (141g), two sherds (19g) of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery and a fragment of cattle bone (30g). This was overlain by a mid greyish brown sandy silt (109) which contained two sherds (8g) of 12th to 15th century pottery and a fragment of cattle bone (121g).

3.4.7 To the west of ditch **107** was a group of three intercutting features; pit **199** and gullies **121**=**133** and **123**. The earliest of these was an elongated pit or short gully, **199**, which was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 2m long, 0.48m wide and 0.18m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single homogenous deposits of mid orangey brown silty clay (120) which produced no finds. This pit was truncated to the north by gully **121**.

3.4.8 Pit/gully **199** was cut on its northern side by gully **121**=**133**, which was also aligned north-west to south-east and measured up to 4m long, 0.22m wide and 0.3m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. A single fill of mid grey silty clay (122=134) was excavated, from which no finds were recovered. To the north this feature was cut by a further gully (**123**). This feature was only partly exposed against the edge of the trench, but measured over 0.14m wide and 0.26m deep and was filled by a dark greyish brown clayey silt (124).

3.4.9 To the north-west of this group of linear features was a large complex of intercutting pits, only partly exposed but covering an area over 12m long by 1.8m wide. Two interventions were excavated, which both revealed groups of densely intercutting pits. The most south-westerly intervention revealed four pits (**113**, **115**, **117**, and **135**) which were found to measure between 0.46m to 0.98m wide and 0.18m to 0.44m deep. All contained a very similar mid to dark grey brown silty clay fill (114, 116, 118 and 136) but it was possible to demonstrate that the pits were dug successively, with pit **117** cut by pits **135** and **113**, and pit **113** also cutting pit **115**.

3.4.10 The second, north-eastern, intervention also revealed a similar series of intercutting pits (**127**, **125**, **129** and **131**; Fig. 5, Section 26). These were found to measure between 0.36m to 0.66m wide and between 0.28m to 0.64m deep. All features contained a similar mid to dark greyish brown silty clay deposit (128, 126, 130 and 132) and had relatively steep sides with concave bases. The earliest pit in the sequence was **131**, which was cut by pit **129**. Both pits **129** and **125** were in turn truncated by pit **127**, which was the latest in the series and which produced a single sherd (19g) of 11th to 12th century pottery. A sample of the fill of pit **127** also produced charred cereal grains, weed seeds and chaff.

3.4.11 This area of intercutting pits was sealed by a homogenous deposit of mottled orangey brown sandy silt (137) up to 0.4m deep (see Fig. 5, Section 26 and Fig.6). It is likely that this represents colluvial material infilling a depression left by the intensive pitting in this area, perhaps deriving from the road to the north. Layer 138 was recorded underlaying deposit 137. Layer 138 was a mid to dark greyish brown silty clay deposit, which was very similar to deposits 128, 126, 130 and 132 (the fill of inter-cutting pit group **127**, **125**, **129** and **131** discussed above. Deposit 138 is likely to represent the upper part of the fill of several un-excavated features.

## 3.5 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

3.5.1 Trench 2 (Fig 3, Plate 2) measured 30m long and was aligned north to south. This trench revealed two ditches, two gullies and three intercutting pits. Two sherds (7g) of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil (200) during bucket sampling.

3.5.2 The southernmost feature in the trench was a north-west to south-east aligned gully (**226**; Plate 3). It measured 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single deposit of mid yellowish grey sandy silt (227), from which no finds were recovered.

3.5.3 To the north, three parallel north to south aligned linear features were exposed (228, **212**=**217** and **214**); all three features were cut by a single larger east to west aligned ditch (**224**) and, in the northern part of the trench, two were cut by features belonging to a cluster of intercutting pits (**204**, **206**=**219** and **209**).

3.5.4 The most southerly of these linear feature, gully **228**, measured 0.54m wide and 0.32m deep. It terminated in the southern part of the trench and ran for some 7.5m to the north before being cut by ditch **224**. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty sand (229), which did not produce any finds.

3.5.5 Ditch **214** was exposed for a length of some 9m, and was cut by both ditch **224** and gully **217**, as well as by the cluster of pits at the northern end of the trench. This feature was up to 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, Section 16). It contained a basal fill (215) of dark greyish brown sandy silt which contained two fragments (191g) of animal bone, and an upper mid greyish brown sandy silt (216).

3.5.6 Gully **212** (=**217**) (Fig. 5, Sections 15 and 16) ran broadly parallel to, and cut, ditch **214** and was also exposed for a length of around 9m. It measured 0.44m wide and 0.3m

deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (213=218) of mid greyish brown silty sand which produced five sherds (10g) of Late Saxon pottery.

3.5.7 As noted above, all three of these north to south aligned features were cut by a more substantial east to west aligned ditch, **224** (Plate 4). This ditch measured 1.9m wide and 0.86m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid brownish grey sandy silt (225) which produced an iron horse shoe (SF 2), a fragment of lava quern (123g), four sherds (26g) of early medieval pottery and four fragments (392g) of animal bone, including horse, pig and pig. An environmental sample from this fill identified charred cereal grains and legumes

3.5.8 The cluster of pits at the northern end of the trench was made up of at least three sub-circular to oval-shaped pits (**204**, **206**=**219** and **209**=**222**). The earliest pit, **209** (=**222**) measured up to 2.5m long and 0.64m wide and 0.54m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, Section 16), it contained two fills, the lower of which (210) produced four sherds (40g) of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery, a fragment of animal bone (57g), two fragments of mussel shell (2g) and a fragment of fired clay.

3.5.9 This pit was cut at its northern end by pit **204**, which measured 0.61m wide and 0.22m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (205) consisted of a dark grey clayey silt that contained a single sherd (15g) of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery. An environmental sample from this fill also produced charred cereal grains, weed seeds and legumes.

3.5.10 The latest pit in the sequence (**206** =**219**), which cut both of the other pits, measured up to 2.1m long, 0.58m wide and 0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Two fills were excavated, the basal fill 220 (=207) consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey/silty sand. An environmental sample of this fill produced charred cereal and weed seeds. This was overlain by fill 221 (=208) which measured 0.44m thick and consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey sand from which two sherds (10g) of early medieval pottery and a fragment (7g) of animal bone belonging to sheep/goat were recovered.

## 3.6 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

3.6.1 Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Plate 5) was aligned east to west and measured 11m in length. This trench was shortened and moved to the west due to a modern drain located in this area of the site (Fig. 2). Within this trench two north to south aligned ditches were identified. Three worked flint flakes and three fragments of burnt flint (27g) were recovered from the topsoil (300) during bucket sampling.

3.6.2 Ditch **305**, was exposed in the western half of the trench, on a north to south alignment. It measured 0.63m wide and was 0.11m deep with sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single fill (306) of mid brown grey silty clay, from which no finds were recovered,

3.6.3 Ditch **303** (Plate 6) was on the same north to south alignment and was located 5m east of ditch **305**, at the eastern end of the trench. This feature measured 0.97m wide and 0.31m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. In contained a single fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt from which a single worked flint flake and a flint

axe/adze-head of Mesolithic date were recovered (see App. B.2). An environmental sample taken from this ditch proved unproductive.

## 3.7 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

3.7.1 Trench 4 (Fig 3, Plate 7) measured 13m in length and was aligned east to west. This ditch was shortened due to both the overhead cables and the presence of a drain running across the site (Fig 2). This trench revealed two very shallow intercutting features, possibly representing ditches. Bucket sampling produced three fragments (23g) of burnt flint and a single sherd (8g) of post-medieval pottery from the topsoil (400), and the subsoil (401) also produced six fragments (62g) of burnt flint.

3.7.2 Possible ditch **406** (Plate 8) was cut on its eastern side by possible ditch **404** and was aligned north to south. It measured 1.7m wide and 0.12m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Its single fill (407) consisted of a mid grey brown silty sand and contained single fragments of animal bone (5g) and mussel shell (1g).

3.7.3 Possible ditch **404** (Plate 8) ran parallel to earlier ditch **406** and measured 2.05m wide and 0.17m deep with gentle sloping sides and a slightly irregular base. A single fill (405) of mid grey brown silty sand was excavated, from which four sherds (20g) of early medieval pottery were recovered. Sampling of this fill produced no preserved plant remains.

## 3.8 Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

3.8.1 Trench 5 (Fig. 4; Plate 9) was 26m long and 2m wide, located in the south-east corner of the development area. Within this trench two ditches, a gully and a post hole were uncovered. The bucket sampling produced a fragment of worked flint and four fragments of burnt flint (146g) from the topsoil (500) and two fragments (29g) of burnt flint from the subsoil (501).

3.8.2 Ditch **509** (Plate 10) was located at the southern end of the trench and was aligned broadly east to west. It measured 0.74m wide and 0.39m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a basal deposit of mid greyish orange silty sand (510), overlaid by an upper mid brown grey silty sand (511) which contained two fragments (35g) of burnt flint, a single sherd (3g) of early medieval pottery and two fragments (26g) of sheep/goat bone.

3.8.3 In the northern part of the trench ditch **507** ran on a similar east to west alignment. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sloping sides and a slight concave base (Fig. 5, Section 7) and was filled by a mid orangey brown silty sand (508) from which a single fragment (43g) of burnt flint, a single struck flint flake and two fragments (33g) of animal bone were recovered. A sample of the fill produced charred cereal grain.

3.8.4 Gully **505** was located to the north of ditch **507** and aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. It measured 0.5m wide and 0.11m deep with steep sides and a flat base. A single fill (506) of mid brownish grey silty sand was excavated, from which a single fragment (16g) of animal bone was recovered. The terminus of this gully was truncated by posthole **503.**

3.8.5 Posthole **503** measured 0.37m wide and 0.14m deep with sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (504) of mid grey brown silty sand containing frequent small to medium sub-angular flint.

## 3.9 Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

3.9.1 Trench 6 (Fig 4, Plate 11) was located in the north-east corner of the development area. It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 30m in length. Eight features were revealed within this trench: three ditches, two gullies and three pits. Bucket sampling produced two worked flints, a single fragment (3g) of burnt flint and a single sherd (6g) of early medieval pottery from the topsoil (600), as well as one worked flake, a fragment (4g) of animal bone, a fragment of glass and a fragment (1g) of CBM from the subsoil (617)

3.9.2 The southernmost feature was ditch terminus **601**. Aligned north-west to south-east, this feature measured 0.57m wide and 0.27m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of mid yellowish grey sandy silt (602) from which seven sherds (27g) of Late Saxon of early medieval pottery and a single fragment (2g) of animal bone was recovered.

3.9.3 Ditch **603** was aligned east to west and measured 0.86m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig. 5, Section 9). It was filled by mid yellowish brown sandy silt (604) from which an iron nail (SF 1) and two fragments (21g) of animal bone were recovered.

3.9.4 To the north-east, gully **605** was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and measured 0.8m wide and 0.14m deep, with gentle sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid yellowish grey sandy silt (606) from which 12 fragments (142g) of lava quern, a single fragment (178g) of cattle bone and a single sherd (9g) of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery were recovered.

3.9.5 Pit **615** was partially exposed against the north-west edge of the trench and was 1m wide and 0.27m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, Section 14). A single fill (616) was excavated from which 3 sherds (160g) of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery and fragments of cattle bone (14g) were recovered.

3.9.6 Pit **613** was located immediately adjacent to pit **615**, and was also partially exposed on the edge of the trench. This feature measured 0.91m wide and 0.4m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, Section 14). Its single fill (614) consisted of a mid greyish brown sandy silt and produced 16 sherds (160g) of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery and three fragments (15g) of animal bone. A sample of this fill contained charred cereals, legumes and weed seeds.

3.9.7 To the north-east of pit **613** was a third pit (**607**) which measured 1.25m wide and 0.28m deep, with sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (608) of dark yellowish grey sandy silt that produced two fragments (19g) of animal bone, including sheep/goat and 7 sherds (36g) of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery. This fill was sampled and found to contain frequent charred cereals, chaff, legumes and weed seeds.

3.9.8 At the north-eastern end of the trench, ditch **609** (Plate 12) was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 1.28m wide and 0.28m deep with gentle sloping sides and a concave base. A single fill (610) of dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional

charcoal fragments was excavated from which 24 sherds (305g) of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery, seven fragments (31g) of animal bone, and nine fragments (141g) of lava quern fragments were recovered. This fill was sampled and contained frequent charred cereals, legumes and weed seeds.

3.9.9 Adjacent, and running perpendicular to, ditch **609** was a north to south aligned gully (**611**; Plate 13) which measured 0.4m wide and 0.14m deep with moderately sloping sides, and a concave base. It contained a single fill (612) of mid yellowish grey sandy silt from which no finds were recovered.

## 3.10 Finds summary

### *Metalwork (App. B.1)*

3.10.1 Metal detecting did not produce any finds, although iron objects were recovered from features in Trenches 1, 2 and 6 (Appendix B.1), including a horseshoe from ditch **224**.

### *Worked and burnt flint (App. B.2)*

3.10.2 Bucket sampling produced a number of worked and burnt flints from the topsoil and subsoil layers within many of the trenches. Worked flint was also recorded in ditches **303** (Trench 3) and **508** and **511** (Trench 5), including a bifacially flaked adze which is Mesolithic in date. (Appendix B.2).

### *Pottery (App. B.4)*

3.10.3 The pottery assemblage comprises 97 sherds (750g) dating from the Late Saxon to the post-medieval period, with the majority of sherds dating to the Late Saxon and early medieval periods (Appendix B.4). Many of the fabrics identified were locally produced in St Neots, Ely and Huntingdon, although imports from Norfolk and Essex were also noted. The majority of the pottery was recovered from Trench 6, although a substantial amount was also recovered from Trench 2.

### *Other finds (Apps B.3, B.5-B.7)*

3.10.4 Lava quern was recovered from three features across two trenches alongside a single fragment of roof slate. Only two fragments of fired clay were recovered, both amorphous in nature. Bucket sampling on site also yielded post-medieval pottery, CBM and glass.

## 3.11 Environmental summary

### *Animal bone (App. C.1)*

3.11.1 The animal bone assemblage comprises 71 fragments (1603g) and included cattle, sheep/goat, horse and pig. Cattle and sheep/goat were distributed across all trenches whereas horse and pig was only recovered from features in Trench 2.

### *Environmental samples (App. C.2)*

3.11.2 Of the twelve environmental samples taken from features across site only two were devoid of charred remains. The charred cereals present included barley, free threshing wheat and oats. Weed seeds, legumes and chaff were also recorded. The highest potential for preserved remains came from Trenches 2 and 6 and the cereal varieties present are consistent with medieval settlement activity, whilst the presence of some chaff may suggest (along with the lava quern) that some processing of cereals took place at the site.

### *Shell*

3.11.3 A very small quantity (18g) of shell was recovered, including oyster and mussel.

# 4 DISCUSSION

## 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Archaeological features were clearly visible, distinguished by their mid grey or brown fills against the lighter natural geology. Both the archaeological and natural deposits were free draining, except where they extended below the water table. The results of the evaluation are therefore believed to have a good level of reliability.

## 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area as described within the Written Scheme of Investigation (see section 2.1 above; Gilmour 2019).

4.2.2 The evaluation revealed a fairly dense distribution of archaeological features across the site, attesting to activity dating to the Late Saxon to early medieval period.

## 4.3 Interpretation

### *Prehistoric*

4.3.1 A number of worked and burnt flints were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil of many of the trenches as well as three features on site. The flint largely dated to the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods and most likely represents low level activity of this date within the vicinity of the site, which may or may not have been disturbed by later activity. The most notable find was that of the Mesolithic adze-head from ditch **303**. As discussed by Billington (App. B.2), cut features of Mesolithic date are very rare in the region, strongly suggesting the adze-head is likely to represent a residual find caught up in the fill of a later ditch.

### *Late Saxon to Early Medieval*

4.3.2 The majority of features identified on site consisted of ditches, gullies and pits. The majority of linear features appeared to respect a roughly north to south or east to west alignment. The larger ditches may well represent enclosure or plot boundaries, with smaller ditches or gullies representing internal divisions within or between such plots. The most northerly series of ditches within Trench 1 (**103**, **104**, **107** and **111**) appears to run parallel to the modern day road, which seems likely to have a medieval origin, linking the isolated church to the east with the historic core of the village to the west.

4.3.3 Although not all the pits excavated have been attributed to a specific function it is possible that some of these were a result of quarrying, particularly those within Trench 1 towards the northern part of the site. This is supported by the small quantities of finds from these features, with only a single sherd recovered. However, the pits within Trenches 2 and 6 are more likely to be related to settlement-type activity and, whatever their original function, appear to have been backfilled with material incorporating domestic waste including pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains.

4.3.4 The pottery recovered from these features appears to span the Late Saxon to early medieval period (with a date range of c. AD 1050-1350), whilst the sequences of intercutting features encountered in several of the trenches suggests multiple phases of activity during this broad timeframe. Although fairly small, the character of the pottery assemblage is suggestive of domestic activity on or immediately adjacent to the site. Settlement-type activity is also strongly suggested by the recovery of charred cereals, chaff and lava quern from a number of features, and may attest to on-site processing of cereals.

## 4.4 Significance

4.4.1 This evaluation has identified an area of Late Saxon to early medieval activity, concentrated in the northern half of the development area, and probably attesting to an area of settlement laid out along the southern side of Church Road. These remains are of considerable importance in terms of understanding the origins and development of the village, and make an important contribution to the record of medieval activity in the parish (see Section 1.3). The finds and environmental assemblages suggest good preservation at the site and although a small area was investigated, the fieldwork has identified potentially prolonged use of the site from the Late Saxon to the early medieval period.

# APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | SE-NW |
| Trench 1 contained three gullies, two ditches, a large area of intercutting pits as well as a modern service trench. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.30 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 100 | Layer | - | 0.24 | Topsoil | Pottery | Post-med |
| 101 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Subsoil | Fe object (SF 4), flint, pottery, CBM, oyster shell | Medieval |
| 102 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 103 | Cut | 0.4 | 0.3 | Gully | - | - |
| 104 | Cut | 0.85 | 0.7 | Ditch | - | - |
| 105 | Fill | 0.85 | 0.32 | Ditch | Fired clay, animal bone | - |
| 106 | Fill | 0.66 | 0.4 | Ditch | - | - |
| 107 | Cut | 1.5 | 0.67 | Ditch | - | Late Sax to Med |
| 108 | Fill | 1.16 | 0.45 | Ditch | Fe object (SF 3), roof slate, pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to Early Med |
| 109 | Fill | 1.5 | 0.34 | Ditch | Pottery, animal bone | Medieval |
| 110 | Fill | 0.4 | 0.3 | Gully | - | - |
| 111 | Cut | 0.88 | 0.3 | Ditch | - | - |
| 112 | Fill | 0.88 | 0.3 | Ditch | - | - |
| 113 | Cut | 0.46 | 0.44 | Pit | - | - |
| 114 | Fill | 0.46 | 0.44 | Pit | - | - |
| 115 | Cut | 0.44 | 0.18 | Pit | - | - |
| 116 | Fill | 0.44 | 0.18 | Pit | - | - |
| 117 | Cut | 0.98 | 0.32 | Pit | - | - |
| 118 | Fill | 0.98 | 0.32 | Pit | - | - |
| 119 | Cut | 0.48 | 0.18 | Elongated pit | - | - |
| 120 | Fill | 0.48 | 0.18 | Elongated pit | - | - |
| 121 | Cut | 0.22 | 0.3 | Gully | - | - |
| 122 | Fill | 0.22 | 0.3 | Gully | - | - |
| 123 | Cut | 0.14 | 0.26 | Gully | - | - |
| 124 | Fill | 0.14 | 0.26 | Gully | - | - |
| 125 | Cut | 0.46 | 0.28 | Pit | - | - |
| 126 | Fill | 0.46 | 0.28 | Pit | - | - |
| 127 | Cut | 0.66 | 0.64 | Pit | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 128 | Fill | 0.66 | 0.64 | Pit | Pottery | Late Sax to early med |
| 129 | Cut | 0.6 | 0.44 | Pit | - | - |
| 130 | Fill | 0.6 | 0.44 | Pit | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 131 | Cut | 0.36 | 0.18 | Pit | - | - |
| 132 | Fill | 0.36 | 0.18 | Pit | - | - |
| 133 | Cut | 0.28 | 0.28 | Gully | - | - |
| 134 | Fill | 0.28 | 0.28 | Gully | - | - |
| 135 | Cut | 0.68 | 0.36 | Pit | - | - |
| 136 | Fill | 0.68 | 0.36 | Pit | - | - |
| 137 | Layer | | 0.4 | ?run off | - | - |

| **Trench 2** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | N-S |
| Trench 2 contained two gullies, two ditches and an area of intercutting pits. Features were overlain by topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.30 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 200 | Layer | - | 0.33 | Topsoil | Pottery | Late Sax to med |
| 201 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 202 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 203 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 204 | Cut | 0.61 | 0.22 | Pit | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 205 | Fill | 0.61 | 0.22 | Pit | Pottery | Late Sax to early med |
| 206 | Cut | 0.96 | 0.39 | Pit | - | - |
| 207 | Fill | 0.7 | 0.12 | Pit | - | - |
| 208 | Fill | 0.96 | 0.26 | Pit | - | - |
| 209 | Cut | 2 | 0.46 | Pit | - | Late Saxon |
| 210 | Fill | 2 | 0.18 | Pit | Pottery, fired clay, animal bone, mussel shell | Late Saxon |
| 211 | Fill | 2 | 0.28 | Pit | - | Late Saxon |
| 212 | Cut | 0.44 | 0.3 | Gully | - | - |
| 213 | Fill | 0.44 | 0.3 | Gully | - | - |
| 214 | Cut | 1.3 | 0.5 | Ditch | - | - |
| 215 | Fill | 0.34 | 0.08 | Ditch | Animal bone | - |
| 216 | Fill | 1.3 | 0.42 | Ditch | - | - |
| 217 | Cut | 0.3 | 0.16 | Gully | - | Late Saxon |
| 218 | Fill | 0.3 | 0.16 | Gully | Pottery | Late Saxon |
| 219 | Cut | 1.8 | 0.56 | Pit | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 220 | Fill | 1 | 0.12 | Pit | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 221 | Fill | 1.8 | 0.44 | Pit | Pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |
| 222 | Cut | u/n | 0.54 | Pit | - | - |
| 223 | Fill | u/n | 0.54 | Pit | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 224 | Cut | 1.9 | 0.86 | Ditch | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 225 | Fill | 1.9 | 0.86 | Ditch | Horse Shoe (SF 2), lava quern, Pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |
| 226 | Cut | 0.4 | 0.16 | Gully | - | - |
| 227 | Fill | 0.4 | 0.16 | Gully | - | - |
| 228 | Cut | 0.54 | 0.32 | Gully terminus | - | - |
| 229 | Fill | 0.54 | 0.32 | Gully terminus | - | - |

| **Trench 3** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench contained two ditches, one markedly shallower. Features were overlain by topsoil and subsoil (at the eastern end only) overlying natural geology of compact silty sand. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 11 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.40 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 300 | Layer | - | 0.4 | Topsoil | Flint | - |
| 301 | Layer | - | 0.05 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 302 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 303 | Cut | 0.97 | 0.31 | Ditch | - | - |
| 304 | Fill | 0.97 | 0.31 | Ditch | Flint | - |
| 305 | Cut | 0.63 | 0.11 | ?Ditch | - | - |
| 306 | Fill | 0.63 | 0.11 | ?Ditch | - | - |

| **Trench 4** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench contained two possible very shallow ditches, both were overlain by topsoil and subsoil in turn overlying natural geology of silty sand. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 13 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.48 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 400 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Topsoil | Flint, Pottery | Post-med |
| 401 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Subsoil | Flint | - |
| 402 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 404 | Cut | 2.05 | 0.17 | Ditch | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 405 | Fill | 2.05 | 0.17 | Ditch | Pottery | Late Sax to early med |
| 406 | Cut | 1.7 | 0.12 | Ditch | - | - |
| 407 | Fill | 1.7 | 0.12 | Ditch | Animal bone, mussel shell | - |

| **Trench 5** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **General description** | **Orientation** | N-S |
| Trench 5 contained two ditches, a single gully and a posthole. Features were overlain by topsoil and subsoil, in turn overlying natural geology of silty sand. | **Length (m)** | 26 |
| | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.5 |

| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 500 | Layer | - | 0.33 | Topsoil | Flint | - |
| 501 | Layer | - | 0.2 | Subsoil | Flint | - |
| 502 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 503 | Cut | 0.37 | 0.14 | Posthole | - | - |
| 504 | Fill | 0.37 | 0.14 | Posthole | - | - |
| 505 | Cut | 0.16 | 0.11 | Gully | - | - |
| 506 | Fill | 0.16 | 0.11 | Gully | Animal bone | - |
| 507 | Cut | 1.5 | 0.5 | Ditch | - | - |
| 508 | Fill | 1.5 | 0.5 | Ditch | Flint, animal bone | - |
| 509 | Cut | 0.74 | 0.39 | Ditch | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 510 | Fill | | 0.09 | Ditch | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 511 | Fill | 0.74 | 0.3 | Ditch | Flint, Pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |

**Trench 6**

| General description | Orientation | NE-SW |
|---|---|---|
| Trench 6 contained three ditches, two gullies and three pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. | Length (m) | 25 |
| | Width (m) | 2 |
| | Avg. depth (m) | 0.30 |

| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 600 | Layer | - | 0.35 | Topsoil | Flint, pottery, glass | Late Sax to early med |
| 601 | Cut | 0.57 | 0.27 | Ditch Terminus | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 602 | Fill | 0.57 | 0.27 | Ditch Terminus | Pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |
| 603 | Cut | 0.86 | 0.38 | Ditch | - | - |
| 604 | Fill | 0.86 | 0.38 | Ditch | Fe nail (SF 1), animal bone | - |
| 605 | Cut | 0.81 | 0.14 | Gully | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 606 | Fill | 0.81 | 0.14 | Gully | Lava quern, pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |
| 607 | Cut | 1.25 | 0.28 | Pit | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 608 | Fill | 1.25 | 0.28 | Pit | Pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |
| 609 | Cut | 1.29 | 0.28 | Pit | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 610 | Fill | 1.29 | 0.28 | Pit | Lava quern, pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |
| 611 | Cut | 0.4 | 0.14 | Gully | - | - |
| 612 | Fill | 0.4 | 0.14 | Gully | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 613 | Cut | 0.91 | 0.4 | Pit | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 614 | Fill | 0.91 | 0.4 | Pit | Pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |
| 615 | Cut | 1 | 0.27 | Pit | - | Late Sax to early med |
| 616 | Fill | 1 | 0.27 | Pit | Pottery, animal bone | Late Sax to early med |
| 617 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Subsoil | Flint, CBM, animal bone | - |
| 618 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

# APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

## B.1 Metalwork

*By Denis Sami*

### *Introduction*

B.1.1 Four iron artefacts were recovered from excavation in three trenches (Table 1). The small assemblage consists of a horse shoe and three unidentified objects and is dated based on associated pottery to the early medieval period.

| Trench | Artefact No |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 |
| **Total** | **4** |

Table 1: Quantity of metalwork by trenches.

### *Methodology*

B.1.2 The metalwork was assessed according to the Oxford Archaeology East metalwork finds standard following the guidelines of the Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS, Datasheets 104 and 108), and Historic England (*Archaeometallurgy Guidelines for Best Practice* and *Guidelines for the Storage and Display of Archaeological Metalwork*).

B.1.3 The medieval horse equipment presented here is based on those described in *The Medieval Horse and its Equipment c. 1150-c. 1450* (Clark 1995) supplemented by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data base.

B.1.4 Given their poor preservation and undiagnostic character, the chronology of the metalwork was assumed based on the associated ceramic material.

### *The Assemblage*

B.1.5 The assemblage is formed by one object from subsoil (101) and three from ditches (**107**, **224** and **603**).

B.1.6 Artefacts are noted as being incomplete and poorly preserved with thick and deep oxidation and all information is presented in a catalogue below.

### *Character and chronology*

B.1.7 The only metal artefact that can be clearly identified is a hand-forged horse shoe (from ditch **224**), type Clark 4, conventionally dated to the period spanning the 13th to 16th century (Clark 1995: 100). SF 1 (ditch **603**) is most likely a shaft from an incomplete nail. Small finds three and four are to small and poorly preserved to be identified.

### *Distribution*

B.1.8 The assemblage is too small to highlight any relevant concentration of metalwork.

### *Discussion*

B.1.9 Given its size and preservation, an assemblage like this can only offer very limited chronological information. The horse shoe found in ditch **224** is contemporary with the associated early medieval pottery while for the remaining finds the chronology and function can only be speculated.

B.1.10 Any further excavation in this part of the site is likely to produce additional metalwork.

### *The Catalogue*

| SF | Context | Cut | Trench | Feature | Artefact | Condition | Description | Length (mm) | Width (mm) | Thickness (mm) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 604 | **603** | 6 | ditch | N/A | incomplete | A possible tapering shaft of a nail with sub-square cross-section | 70 | 0 | 9.8 |
| 2 | 225 | **224** | 2 | ditch | Horse shoe | incomplete | A horse shoe with broad web and slightly tapering heels. Three holes are open on each side, however the encrustation prevent to identify their size and form. A rectangular calkin is still preserved on the right heel. Two nails are still in situ. | 122/5 | 111 | 8.2 |
| 3 | 108 | **107** | 1 | ditch | N/A | incomplete | A shapeless fragment of iron | 43.1 | 33.2 | 13.1 |
| 4 | 101 | - | 1 | subsoil | N/A | incomplete | A shapeless lump of iron | 25.3 | 20.4 | 11.5 |

Table 2: Metalwork by context

## B.2 Flint

*By Lawrence Billington*

### *Introduction*

B.2.1 A small assemblage of eleven worked flints and 368g (22 pieces) of unworked burnt flint was recovered during the evaluation. The vast majority of the both the worked and burnt flint was recovered in relatively low densities from topsoil and subsoil deposits across the site. The assemblage is quantified by type in Table 3 (below).

| Trench | Context | Cut | SF | Context type | Irregular waste | Secondary flake | Tertiary flake | Core | Flaked adze | **Total worked** | unworked burnt count | unworked burnt weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 101 | - | - | subsoil | | | | 1 | | **1** | | |
| 3 | 300 | - | - | Topsoil | | 3 | | | | **3** | 3 | 27 |

| Trench | Context | Cut | SF | Context type | Irregular waste | Secondary flake | Tertiary flake | Core | Flaked adze | **Total worked** | unworked burnt count | unworked burnt weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 304 | **303** | 2 | Ditch | | | 1 | | 1 | **2** | | |
| 4 | 400 | - | - | Topsoil | | | | | | | 3 | 23 |
| 4 | 401 | - | - | Subsoil | | | | | | | 6 | 62 |
| 5 | 500 | - | - | Topsoil | 1 | | | | | **1** | 4 | 146 |
| 5 | 501 | - | - | Subsoil | | | | | | | 2 | 29 |
| 5 | 508 | **507** | - | Ditch | | 1 | | | | **1** | 1 | 43 |
| 5 | 511 | **509** | - | Ditch | | | | | | | 2 | 35 |
| 6 | 600 | - | - | Topsoil | 1 | 1 | | | | **2** | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | 617 | - | - | Subsoil | 1 | | | | | **1** | | |
| **Total** | | | | | **3** | **5** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **11** | **22** | **368** |

Table 3: The Flint assemblage by type and context

### *Results*

B.2.2 The worked flint from the topsoil and subsoil consists entirely of unretouched debitage, simple flakes and flake fragments, which are not strongly diagnostic, but which are likely to date very broadly to the Neolithic and/or Early Bronze Age.

B.2.3 Only two flints were recovered from the fill of a cut feature – two flints from ditch **304**, Trench 3. Although one of if these is a simple, unretouched tertiary flake, the other is more unusual find, a flaked axe/adze, almost certainly of Mesolithic date. Although lacking definite evidence for a transverse ('tranchet') removal of the kind typical of Mesolithic adzes/axes, it is otherwise entirely typical of core tools of this date, with a characteristically sub-triangular cross-section and a cutting edge profile suggesting it was probably hafted as an adze rather than an axe.

SF 2, 304, fill of ditch **303**, Trench 3. Complete bifacially flaked adze with sub-triangular cross section and three small patches of relatively thick unweathered cortex remaining on one face. Recorticated, with light to heavy blue clouding/sheen. Blade end does not show clear evidence for transverse sharpening flake but the blade is heavily battered, probably through use, and this may have obscured any such 'tranchet' removal. 117mm long, 42mm wide.

### *Discussion*

B.2.4 The small assemblage of worked and burnt flint from the topsoil and subsoil demonstrates the presence of a low density flint scatter across the site, much of which probably relates to low-level activity during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. The most significant aspect of the assemblage is the recovery of a complete Mesolithic adze from the fill of ditch **303**. It is notable that this piece bears a distinctive blue recortication which no other flints in the assemblage exhibit, and that none of the other flints in the assemblage appear to derive from a blade-based Mesolithic technology.

B.2.5 Mesolithic core tools of this kind are assumed to be related to wood-working and are known in relatively large numbers from Cambridgeshire and elsewhere in eastern England (see Billington 2016, 292-97, fig. 6.25). The majority have been collected as stray finds, but others have been found in close association with Mesolithic flint scatters which appear to mark the location of episodically revisited settlements. In the regional context, the Church Lane adze is unusual in deriving from a cut feature. If the feature at Church Lane does represent a ditch then the adze is almost certainly residual – Mesolithic cut features of any sort are very rare, and ditches/linear features are virtually unprecedented. Far more typical, and relatively common, are assemblages of Mesolithic material derived from natural features such as tree throws (Billington 2016, fig 2.21, app. I).

B.2.6 The area around Wicken has a relatively rich record of findspots of Mesolithic flintwork, although the vast majority of these appear to come from locations closer to the River Cam and/or the fen edge. Within the parish itself, a scatter of Mesolithic flint is reported to have been collected in the early 20th century from a location probably close to the river, just to the north of Upware (Wymer and Bonsall 1977, 30), whilst in the wider area there are a series of major Mesolithic scatters and many poorly provenanced finds from the fens adjacent to the Cam, south west of Wicken (in Lode, the Swaffhams and Burwell; see Hall 1996). In this context, although an isolated find, the adze recovered from the Church Road excavation is of some significance in demonstrating activity of some kind on the higher ground, away from the watercourses and fen-edge where the most tangible traces of sustained Mesolithic activity/settlement are found.

## B.3 Stone

*By Simon Timberlake*

### *Introduction*

B.3.1 A total of 547g (23 pieces) of worked stone and roof slate were recovered from a series of four NE-SW aligned ditches and gullies. Most of this stone (406g) consisted of burnt and fragmentary (but in general quite undiagnostic) lava quern, although a single fragment of Collyweston Slate was recovered from Trench 1.

B.3.2 Both the lava quern and the slate could be Early Medieval in date, but equally these may consist of re-deposited Roman material. None of it was particularly diagnostic.

### *Methodology*

B.3.3 All the stone was identified visually using an illuminated x10 magnifying lens, and compared where necessary with an archaeological worked stone reference collection. This included a number of specimens of basalt collected from the lava flow beds quarried in the Roman-Medieval quern quarries at Mayen, Germany. A dropper bottle containing dilute hydrochloric acid was used to confirm the presence or absence of calcite in the rock.

### *Catalogue and Description*

B.3.4 The single broken fragment from a thin top tile of Collyweston Slate is slightly unusual in that it is fossiliferous. However, the presence of the flattened bivalve fossil *Gervillella acuta* (J. de C. Sowerby) is consistent with the biostratigraphy of this particular unit of the Lincolnshire Limestone. The slate is not obviously re-deposited, and also is not weathered or burnt.

B.3.5 All of the lava quern however appears to have been burnt, and to some degree weathered; the least weathered being the largest (but still undiagnostic) quern fragment from Trench 2 context (225). The broken-up crumb-like nature of this is fairly typical of some of the Saxon quern found, as are the worn and extensively-used pieces, though in itself this phenomenon cannot be used for dating. Nevertheless, the presence of thin and possibly re-fitting pieces of flat stone from context (610) in Trench 6 suggests a worn lower stone.

| Context | Cut | Trench no. | No. of frags | Dimensions (mm) | Wt (g) | Identity | Geology and Source | Wear |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 108 | **107** | 1 | 1 | 95x75x10-12 | 141 | roof slate | Collyweston Slate (Lincs. Lmstn)/ Collyweston, Northants. | broken fragment |
| 225 | **224** | 2 | 1 | 50x50x45 | 123 | lava quern | Mayen – Niedermendig/ Germany | burnt + undiagnost frag |
| 606 | **605** | 6 | 12 | 20-40 | 142 | lava quern | Mayen-Niedermendig/ Germany | crumb-like burnt + weathered |
| 610 | **609** | 6 | 9 | 25-55 | 141 | lava quern | Mayen-Niedermendig/ Germany | partly re-fit broken frags |

Table 4: Stone by context

### *Discussion*

B.3.6 Quern typology and dating. The change from Roman to Anglo-Saxon (and Early Medieval) forms of rotary hand quern made from Mayen and Niedermendig lavas is moderately well documented (Hörter et al. 1951; Watts 2002,33-42; Mangartz 2008); the earliest medieval querns being somewhat larger in diameter but often thinner, with larger eyes and collars in the centre of the upper stones, an absence of furrow dressing upon the grind surfaces, a distinctive pick dressing on top, and frequently also small L-shaped perforations for handles (such as for the rope attachment of the upper stone to a wooden pole suspended from the roof rafters – and used for the easy turning of the mill).

B.3.7 Although produced from the 7th-8th centuries AD, lava querns of the 'Saxon' type become more commonplace in Europe during the 9th - 10th century AD, reflecting the re-activation of the Roman quarries at Mayen (Hörter et al. ibid., 73) and also the

increase in cross-channel trade. Nevertheless, it is clear that in England we witness the continuing import of these earlier models well beyond the introduction of the pot quern which began to be produced at Mayen (and later Niedermendig) around AD 1000.

B.3.8 More important still was the continuing curation of old quern stone(s), its recycling, and sometimes even its refurbishment or complete re-fashioning of querns from broken material. We are perhaps seeing this in the use of old and worn quern to the point of destruction. Beyond the useable life of this quern we might then witness its 're-use' as hearth surround stone, or possibly as stone for floors or walls. Needless to say none of this can be confirmed in the small and possibly Early Medieval assemblage from Wicken village. However, there are numerous examples of the discovery of quern used within the ovens and hearths of medieval houses, and sometimes also its deliberate concealment to avoid confiscation at a time of the rise of the manorial mill; the privilege of the use of which would have been an important source of income for the manor or church (Watts ibid., 40)

B.3.9 The use of Collyweston Slate (actually a laminated calcareous siltstone which splits along its bedding plane) begins during the Roman period (1st-2nd century AD), but then increases in terms of its local production and use (within Northamptonshire and Rutland) in medieval – early Postmedieval times. Stylistically it can be difficult to tell Roman and medieval slates apart when these are present only as fragments, although complete (Roman) slates are usually lozenge (or diamond) shaped compared to the later use of square or rectangular hung examples. However, both types of slates might be hung using iron nails.

### *Conclusions*

B.3.10 The lava quern and roof slate recovered from this evaluation hints at the possibility of there being much larger amounts of better-preserved material surviving within intentionally placed midden deposits, rather than as re-deposited stone present within ditch fills. However, little more can be said of the age of this material, given the apparent similarity between Roman and Early Medieval lava quern and slate when in small fragmentary amounts. Wicken is a medieval village whilst nearby lies the Roman settlement at Upware.

## B.4 Saxon and medieval pottery

*By Denis Sami*

### *Introduction*

B.4.1 A total of 97 fragments (750g) of Late Saxon to late medieval pottery was recovered from trenching. The assemblage consists of the standard range of fabrics and forms for this period including rims, bases and undiagnostic sherds with moderate to high abrasion and average weight of 7.73g (Table 5).

| Vessel part | Quantity | Weight (g) | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| base | 1 | 6 | 1.1% |
| body | 73 | 445 | 75.2% |
| rim | 23 | 299 | 23.7% |
| **Total** | **97** | **750** | **100.00%** |

Table 5. Quantification of pottery by vessel parts

### *Methodology*

B.4.2 Finds were assessed according to the Oxford Archaeology East finds standard, following the 2016 document *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (SPSA) and the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) document *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998).

B.4.3 The pottery fabrics and typologies of the late Anglo-Saxon to the late medieval periods presented here are based on those described in The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire (Spoerry 2016), supplemented by the monograph dedicated to Ely Ware (Spoerry 2008).

B.4.4 All the ceramic material from both from excavated contexts and samples was quantified using an Access database. A single Excel database was used to enter details and measurements of each single sherd, this database was interrogated to compile statistics. All sherds were counted, weighed and classified on a context by context basis. The catalogue is organised by context number. Fabric, feature description and weight are reported in the catalogue together with an in-house dating system based on Spoerry's 2016 scheme.

B.4.5 A summary catalogue of the pottery is provided in Table 9.

### *The Assemblage*

#### *Character*

B.4.6 The majority of sherds (51.5%) were recovered from ditches, followed by pits (25.7%) and gullies (6.2%) with 16 fragments from indeterminate features. Overall, the assemblage appears to have a low degree of residuality.

B.4.7 The assemblage is primarily composed of globular domestic vessels such as jars and bowls for storage/cooking activities alongside other identified table wares such as jugs and bottles.

B.4.8 Predominantly west Cambridgeshire fabrics were identified. with Developed St Neots type ware (DNEOT) representing the dominant group (61.86%) while other well attested regional products are medieval Ely Ware (MEL) (7.22%) and Huntingdon Early Medieval Ware (HUNEMW) (3.09%). Imports from Essex and Norfolk were also noted in good quantity, while only two sherds of late Anglo-Saxon Stamford Ware were identified (Table 6).

| Fabric | Quantity | Weight (g) | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| ENGS | 1 | 8 | 1.03% |
| DNEOT | 60 | 550 | 61.86% |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| EMEMS | 6 | 42 | 6.19% |
| GTHET | 9 | 50 | 9.28% |
| HUNEMW | 3 | 15 | 3.09% |
| HUNFSW | 2 | 6 | 2.06% |
| MEL | 7 | 23 | 7.22% |
| SEFEN | 2 | 8 | 2.06% |
| BCHIN (Sprig) | 1 | 2 | 1.03% |
| STAM | 2 | 25 | 2.06% |
| THET | 3 | 16 | 3.09% |
| WCAMSW | 1 | 5 | 1.03% |
| **Total** | **97** | **750** | **100.00%** |

Table 6: Quantification of pottery by fabrics. ENGS: English Stone ware; DNEOT: Developed St Neots; EMEMS: Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy; GTHET: Grimston Thetford; HUNEMW: Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Ware; HUNFSW: Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware; MEL: Medieval Ely ware; SEFEN: South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware; BCHIN (Sprig): Bone China; STAM: Stamford ware; THET: Thetford type ware; WCAMSW: West Cambridgeshire Sandy Ware.

### *Chronology*

B.4.9 The large quantity of Developed St Neots ware, together with the Thetford type and medieval Ely ware, suggests the main activity of site can be dated to the period spanning *c*. 1050 to *c.* 1350, with possibly sporadic activity in the late medieval period.

### *Distribution*

B.4.10 With a total of 60.8% of the entire assemblage recovered from Trench 6, this area appears to be the focus of early medieval activity (Table 7). Excavation also documented moderate early medieval activity in Trench 2 (18.5% of the total assemblage).

B.4.11 Any further work in this part of the site is likely to produce additional late Anglo-Saxon to early medieval ceramic material.

| Trench | Quantity | Weight (g) | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 13 | 52 | 13.40% |
| 2 | 18 | 107 | 18.56% |
| 4 | 5 | 28 | 5.15% |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 1.03% |
| 6 | 59 | 541 | 60.82% |
| TBC | 1 | 19 | 1.03% |
| **Total** | **97** | **750** | **100.00%** |

Table 7: Quantity of pottery by trench

| Trench | BS | DNEOT | EMEMS | GTHET | HUNEMW | HUNFSW | MEL | SEFEN | SP | STAM | THET | WCAMSW | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | | | | | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 13 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2** | | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 18 |
| **4** | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | 5 |
| **5** | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| **6** | | 54 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 3 | | 59 |
| **TBC** | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| **Total** | **1** | **60** | **6** | **9** | **3** | **2** | **7** | **2** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **1** | **97** |

Table 8: Quantity of fabrics by trenches

### *Discussion*

B.4.12 An assemblage of this size provides only basic information about the chronology of excavated deposits and the potential use of the area in the early medieval period but highlights the potential for further work to yield a substantial and potentially more informative assemblage.

### *Catalogue*

| Context | Cut | Trench | Feature | Fabric Family | Quantity | Weight (g) | Diameter (cm) | Glaze | Pot Date (min) | Pot Date (max) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | - | 1 | Topsoil | BCHIN (Sprig) | 1 | 2 | | light blue | 1800 | 1900 |
| 101 | - | 1 | Subsoil | MEL | 6 | 17 | | | 1150 | 1350 |
| 101 | - | 1 | Subsoil | HUNFSW | 2 | 6 | | | 1175 | 1300 |
| 108 | **107** | 1 | ditch | STAM | 1 | 11 | | | 875 | 1200 |
| 108 | **107** | 1 | ditch | HUNEMW | 1 | 8 | | | 1050 | 1200 |
| 109 | **107** | 1 | ditch | SEFEN | 2 | 8 | | | 1150 | 1450 |
| 128 | **127** | 1 | pit | EMEMS | 1 | 19 | 21 | | 1050 | 1200 |
| 200 | - | 2 | Topsoil | DNEOT | 1 | 2 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 200 | - | 2 | Topsoil | WCAMSW | 1 | 5 | | pale green | 1275 | 1400 |
| 205 | **204** | 2 | pit | STAM | 1 | 15 | | | 875 | 1200 |
| 210 | **209** | 2 | pit | GTHET | 4 | 40 | | | 840 | 1150 |
| 218 | **217** | 2 | gully | GTHET | 5 | 10 | | | 840 | 1150 |
| 221 | **219** | 2 | pit | DNEOT | 1 | 5 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 221 | **219** | 2 | pit | DNEOT | 1 | 5 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 225 | **224** | 2 | ditch | DNEOT | 1 | 15 | 20 | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 225 | **224** | 2 | ditch | EMEMS | 1 | 6 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 225 | **224** | 2 | ditch | EMEMS | 1 | 2 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 225 | **224** | 2 | ditch | HUNEMW | 1 | 3 | | | 1050 | 1200 |
| 400 | - | 4 | Topsoil | ENGS | 1 | 8 | | pinkish-brown | 1775 | 1850 |
| 405 | **404** | 4 | ditch | DNEOT | 2 | 7 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 405 | **404** | 4 | ditch | MEL | 1 | 6 | | | 1150 | 1350 |

| Context | Cut | Trench | Feature | Fabric Family | Quantity | Weight (g) | Diameter (cm) | Glaze | Pot Date (min) | Pot Date (max) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 405 | **404** | 4 | ditch | EMEMS | 1 | 7 | | | 1050 | 1225 |
| 511 | **509** | 5 | ditch | EMEMS | 1 | 3 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 600 | - | 6 | Topsoil | EMEMS | 1 | 6 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 602 | **601** | 6 | ditch | DNEOT | 1 | 8 | ND | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 602 | **601** | 6 | ditch | DNEOT | 6 | 19 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 606 | **605** | 6 | gully | DNEOT | 1 | 9 | 14 | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 608 | **607** | 6 | pit | DNEOT | 6 | 30 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 608 | **607** | 6 | pit | THET | 1 | 6 | | | 840 | 1150 |
| 610 | **609** | 6 | ditch | HUNEMW | 1 | 4 | | | 1050 | 1200 |
| 610 | **609** | 6 | ditch | DNEOT | 15 | 130 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 610 | **609** | 6 | ditch | DNEOT | 1 | 4 | 16 | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 610 | **609** | 6 | ditch | DNEOT | 1 | 92 | 22 | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 610 | **609** | 6 | ditch | DNEOT | 4 | 65 | ND | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 610 | **609** | 6 | ditch | THET | 2 | 10 | | | 840 | 1150 |
| 614 | **613** | 6 | pit | DNEOT | 3 | 23 | 11 | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 614 | **613** | 6 | pit | DNEOT | 6 | 62 | 22 | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 614 | **613** | 6 | pit | DNEOT | 1 | 5 | 20 | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 614 | **613** | 6 | pit | DNEOT | 6 | 71 | | | 1050 | 1250 |
| 616 | **615** | 6 | ditch | DNEOT | 3 | 16 | 22 | | 1050 | 1250 |

Table 9: catalogue of pottery.

## B.5 Ceramic Building Material

*By Ted Levermore*

### *Introduction*

B.5.1 Two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were collected during evaluation works; both from subsoil contexts. Trench 1 produced a fragment of header from a post-medieval brick (39g). It was made in a compact but poorly mixed silty clay. Trench 6 produced an undiagnostic piece (1g) of CBM. Neither fragment is of any archaeological significance.

### *Statement of Potential*

B.5.2 This fragment is of no archaeological significance.

### *Recommendations for Further Work*

B.5.3 No further work is required.

### *Retention, Dispersal and Display*

B.5.4 The fragments should be discarded if no excavation phase is planned.

## B.6 Fired Clay

*By Ted Levermore*

### *Introduction*

B.6.1 Two fragments of fired clay were collected during evaluation works. Ditch **104**, Trench 1, and Ditch **209** each produced an amorphous fragment of fired clay. The only detail worth noting is their similar fabric, indicating a likely temporal connection. Both were made in a fine sandy clay with occasional fine to coarse limestone and ironstone inclusions.

### *Statement of Potential*

B.6.2 This fragment is of no archaeological significance.

### *Recommendations for Further Work*

B.6.3 No further work is required.

### *Retention, Dispersal and Display*

B.6.4 The fragments should be discarded if no excavation phase is planned.

## B.7 Glass

*By Carole Fletcher*

### *Introduction and Methodology*

B.7.1 A single fragment of glass was recovered from topsoil 600 in Trench 6. The glass was scanned and recorded by form, colour, count and weight, dated where possible and recorded in the text.

### *Assemblage*

B.7.2 Trench 6, Topsoil 600, produced a single irregular fragment (4g) of thin (2.1mm), flat, clear colourless glass from a window; the glass has few faults and is of uncertain date, although its condition and quality suggest 20th century or later.

### *Discussion*

B.7.3 The assemblage is small and fragmentary. The presence of window glass is not unusual topsoil contexts and is not significant.

### *Retention, dispersal or display*

B.7.4 Should further work be undertaken, additional glass may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the glass may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

# APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

## C.1 Animal Bone

*By Zoë Uí Choileáin*

### *Introduction*

C.1.1 A small assemblage of animal bone numbering seventy-one fragments (1603g), of which thirty-six fragments (1528g) were recordable, was recovered from the evaluation. The fragmentation levels are medium and four specimens can be identified to taxon. The majority of the identifiable specimens are cattle and sheep/goat bone. All material was recovered from ditches and pits and was hand collected. Sixteen fragments are recorded as large or medium mammal; these are included in Table 10.

C.1.2 All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Preservation condition was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004 14-15).

### *Results*

C.1.3 The surface condition of the bone on average is good representing 1-2 on the scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (*ibid*). This means some patchy erosion on the bone is observable. Carnivore gnawing is observable on four specimens. NISP (Number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (Minimum number of individuals) are summarised for each taxon in Table 10:

| Taxon | NISP | NISP% | MNI | MNI % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cattle (*Bos Taurus*)** | 8 | 40 | 2 | 28.57 |
| **Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Capra*)** | 9 | 45 | 3 | 42.85 |
| **Pig (*Sus*)** | 1 | 5 | 1 | 14.29 |
| **Horse (*Equus Caballa*)** | 2 | 10 | 1 | 14.29 |
| **Totals** | 20 | 100 | 7 | 100 |

Table 10: NISP (Number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (Minimum number of individuals) of animal bone

C.1.4 Four taxa are identifiable. There is an even distribution of cattle and sheep/goat with a single fragment of pig and two fragments of horse present. There is a high potential for determining age at death from fusion data and tooth wear, particularly for sheep/goat. A cattle metatarsus from ditch **104** and a metatarsus from **107** hold potential for metric analysis including sexing and estimated shoulder heights. A single fragment of burnt cattle metatarsus is recordable from pit **615**. There is no evidence of butchery.

### *Summary and Recommendations*

C.1.5 The taxa represented are fairly typical of early medieval domestic waste. The condition of the bone is good and the potential for recording aging sexing and metric data is high for such a small assemblage. As such it is recommended that the material be retained.

Should further excavations take place the material should be fully recorded and incorporated into analysis during the final report.

| Trench | Cut | Context | Feature Type | Taxon | Element | Weight (g) | Number of frags |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **104** | 105 | Ditch | Cattle | Metatarsus | 201 | 1 |
| 1 | **107** | 108 | Ditch | Cattle | Loose max cheek tooth | 30 | 1 |
| 1 | **107** | 109 | Ditch | Cattle | Metacarpus | 121 | 1 |
| 2 | **209** | 210 | Ditch | Cattle | Tibia | 57 | 1 |
| 2 | **214** | 215 | Ditch | Cattle | Radius | 91 | 1 |
| 2 | **214** | 215 | Ditch | Horse | Metacarpus | 100 | 1 |
| 2 | **219** | 221 | Pit | Sheep/Goat | Loose max cheek tooth | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | **224** | 225 | Ditch | Horse | Scapula | 289 | 1 |
| 2 | **224** | 225 | Ditch | Large mammal | Humerus | 40 | 1 |
| 2 | **224** | 225 | Ditch | Large mammal | Ulna | 16 | 1 |
| 2 | **224** | 225 | Ditch | Pig | Mandible | 47 | 1 |
| 4 | **406** | 407 | Ditch | Large mammal | Skull | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | **505** | 506 | Gully | Sheep/Goat | Mandible | | 1 |
| 5 | **507** | 508 | Ditch | Large mammal | Rib | 29 | 1 |
| 5 | **507** | 508 | Ditch | Sheep/Goat | Metacarpus | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | **509** | 511 | Ditch | Sheep/Goat | Radius | 17 | 1 |
| 5 | **509** | 511 | Ditch | Sheep/Goat | Metacarpus | 9 | 1 |
| 6 | **601** | 602 | Ditch | Medium mammal | Long bone | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | **603** | 604 | Ditch | Cattle | Tibia | 182 | 1 |
| 4 | **603** | 604 | Ditch | Sheep/Goat | Mandible | 7 | 1 |

| Trench | Cut | Context | Feature Type | Taxon | Element | Weight (g) | Number of frags |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | **603** | 604 | Ditch | Sheep/Goat | Mandible | 14 | 1 |
| 6 | **605** | 606 | Gully | Cattle | Maxilla | 177 | 1 |
| 6 | **607** | 608 | Pit | Medium mammal | Skull | 8 | 1 |
| 6 | **607** | 608 | Pit | Sheep/Goat | Mandible | 11 | 1 |
| 6 | **609** | 610 | Ditch | Large mammal | Rib | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | **609** | 610 | Ditch | Large mammal | Long bone | 17 | 4 |
| 6 | **609** | 610 | Ditch | Medium mammal | Humerus | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | **609** | 610 | Ditch | Sheep/Goat | Radius | 10 | 1 |
| 6 | **613** | 614 | Pit | Large mammal | Long bone | 10 | 1 |
| 6 | **613** | 614 | Pit | Medium mammal | Rib | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | **613** | 614 | Pit | Medium mammal | Long bone | 4 | 1 |
| 6 | **615** | 616 | Pit | Cattle | Metatarsus | 14 | 1 |
| 6 | - | 617 | Layer subsoil | Large mammal | Maxilla | 4 | 1 |
| **Totals** | | | | | | **1528** | **36** |

Table 11: Total weight count and taxa present per feature.

## C.2 Environmental Samples

*By Martha Craven*

### *Introduction*

C.2.1 Twelve bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area adjacent to 14 Church Road, Wicken, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 1-6 from deposits that are thought to be largely medieval in date.

### *Methodology*

C.2.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (up to 18L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment

for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.2.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

### *Quantification*

C.2.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

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

C.2.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Key to tables:

f=fragmented

### *Results*

C.2.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation with charred plant remains present in ten of the twelve samples. All of the flots contain rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts.

C.2.7 The cereal remains recovered from this site consist of a mixture of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* sp.) with occasional grains of oats (*Avena sp.*) and cereals that were too heavily abraded to positively identify. Cereal chaff is only present in Sample 12, fill 128 of pit **127** and represents the remains of rye (*Secale cereale*).

C.2.8 Sample 5, fill 205 of pit **204** (Trench 2), Sample 6, fill 608 of pit **607** (Trench 6), and Sample 7, fill 610 of ditch **609** (Trench 6), each contain frequent cereal grains with occasional peas (*Pisum/Lathyrus* sp.) and beans (Fabaceae) and seeds of weeds that are likely to have been growing amongst the crops such as corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), bromes (*Bromus* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.) and docks (*Rumex* sp.). Occasional seeds of spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.), Great Fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus)* and rushes (*Juncus* sp.) within the assemblages may have been growing on damp margins of cultivated soils or may indicate the utilisation of wetland resources for thatching, rush

lights and as fuel. Sample 5 also contains a charred tuber (cf. *Ficaria verna*) and a bean (*Vicia faba*) that has a small insect bore hole.

C.2.9 Charcoal volumes are generally low and represent the burning of wood, presumably as fuel. A small fragment of charred material present in Sample 7 contains an impression of straw and may represent the burning of dung, possibly as fuel.

C.2.10 Other items noted in the samples flots include fish scales (Samples 6, 7 and 10) and stoneworts (*Chara* sp.) (Samples 5 and 10). Occasional fish, eel, amphibian and small bones were recovered from sample residues

C.2.11 All the samples contain a moderate quantity of well-preserved snail shells.

| Trench /area no. | Sample No. | Context No. | Cut no. | Feature type | Volume processed (L) | Flot Volume (ml) | Cereals | Chaff | Legumes | Weed Seeds | Snails | Charcoal Volume (ml) | Pottery | Fish Scales | Large mammal bones | Mussels |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 105 | **104** | Ditch | 17 | 10 | # | 0 | 0 | 0 | +++ | <1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 11 | 110 | **103** | Gully | 17 | 30 | # | 0 | 0 | 0 | +++ | <1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 12 | 128 | **127** | Pit | 14 | 10 | # | # | 0 | # | +++ | <1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | # |
| 2 | 5 | 205 | **204** | Pit | 18 | 40 | ### | 0 | # | ## | +++ | <1 | # | # | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 9 | 225 | **224** | Ditch | 18 | 30 | # | 0 | # | 0 | +++ | <1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 10 | 220 | **219** | Pit | 2 | 1 | # | 0 | 0 | # | ++ | <1 | 0 | # | 0 | ## |
| 3 | 3 | 304 | **303** | Ditch | 15 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +++ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 2 | 405 | **404** | Ditch | 16 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +++ | 0 | # | 0 | # | 0 |
| 5 | 4 | 508 | **507** | Ditch | 18 | 20 | # | 0 | 0 | 0 | +++ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 6 | 608 | **607** | Pit | 15 | 40 | ### | # | # | ## | ++ | 1 | # | # | # | 0 |
| 6 | 7 | 610 | **609** | Ditch | 17 | 40 | ### | 0 | # | ## | ++ | 14 | # | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 8 | 614 | **613** | Pit | 18 | 20 | # | 0 | #f | # | ++ | <1 | 0 | 0 | # | 0 |

Table 12: Environmental samples

### *Discussion*

C.2.12 The recovery of charred grain, chaff, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is the potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site, particularly in the areas covered by Trenches 2 and 6. The cereal varieties present are consistent with a medieval date for this site. Wheat and rye were cultivated primarily for flour for bread whereas barley could be used as a whole grain for both human and animal consumption. Rye produces long stems that would have been used for thatching. Although chaff is sparse, its presence together with fragments of lava quern suggest that there was some processing of cereals on site. The recovery of animal and fish bones (including eel) along with marine mollusc shell suggests the disposal of midden material.

C.2.13 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

## C.3 Shell

*By Carole Fletcher*

### *Introduction and Methodology*

C.3.1 A total of 18g of shell was collected by hand during the evaluation. The shells recovered are oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine, shallow coastal waters and intertidal zones and fragments of mussel *Mytilus edulis*, from intertidal zones. The shell is relatively moderately well preserved and does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed.

C.3.2 The shell was weighed and recorded by species, with complete or near-complete right and left valves noted where identification can be made, using Winder (2011) as a guide and recorded in the text. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage. Average size, age, infestations and descriptive characteristics have not been recorded due to the size of the assemblage.

### *Assemblage*

C.3.3 The oyster shell was recovered from subsoil 101 in Trench 1 and is a near-complete small left valve (14g). The fragments of mussel shell are all diagnostic pieces of right valve from small specimens, recovered from ditch **209** in Trench 2 (two incomplete left valve fragments weighing 3g) and ditch **406** in Trench 4, which produced a single partial right valve (1g).

C.3.4 This limited quantity of shell is too small a sample to draw any but the broadest conclusions, in that shellfish were reaching the site from the coastal regions, indicating trade with the wider area.

### *Discussion*

C.3.5 The shells are incomplete and of a small size. The shell does indicate the use of food sources from beyond the immediate area and surrounding hinterland, and shellfish are known to form part of the medieval diet. The shell represents general discarded food waste and, although not closely datable, the shell may be dated by its association with pottery or other material also recovered from the features.

### *Retention, dispersal and display*

C.3.6 The assemblage indicates that, should further work take place, shell might be found, however, the evaluation results suggests there will be only low levels of shell deposition. If further work is undertaken, this assemblage should be incorporated into any later catalogue.

C.3.7 If no further work is undertaken the catalogue acts as a full record and the shell may be dispersed or deselected prior to archive deposition.

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### *Electronic Resources*

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National Library of Scotland https://www.nls.uk/digital-resources consulted: 18/04/2019

https://oystersetcetera.wordpress.com/2011/03/29/oyster-shells-from-archaeological-sites-a-brief-illustrated-guide-to-basic-processing/ consulted 21/06/201 Winder, J.M 2011 *Oyster Shells from Archaeological Sites A brief illustrated guide to basic processing*

Soilscapes online viewer http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/ consulted: 28/05/2019

# APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

## Project Details

| | |
|---|---|
| OASIS Number | Oxfordar3-352981 |
| Project Name | 14 Church Road, Wicken, Cambridgeshire |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Start of Fieldwork | 29th May 2019 | End of Fieldwork | 5th June 2019 |
| Previous Work | No | Future Work | Unknown |

## Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Site Code | WICCHR19 | Planning App. No. | 17/01945/OUT |
| HER Number | ECB 5898 | Related Numbers | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Prompt | NPPF |
| Development Type | Residential |
| Place in Planning Process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

## Techniques used (tick all that apply)

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

| Monument | Period |
|---|---|
| Ditch | Medieval (1066 to 1540) |
| Gully | Medieval (1066 to 1540) |
| Posthole | Uncertain |
| Ditch | Uncertain |
| Gully | Choose an item. |
| Pit | Medieval (1066 to 1540) |
| | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. |

| Object | Period |
|---|---|
| Pottery | Early Medieval (410 to 1066) |
| Flint | Neolithic ( - 4000 to - 2200) |
| Bone | Early Medieval (410 to 1066) |
| Burnt flint | Uncertain |
| pottery | Medieval (1066 to 1540) |
| pottery | Post Medieval (1540 to 1901) |
| | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. |

Insert more lines as appropriate.

## Project Location

| | |
|---|---|
| County | Cambridgeshire |
| District | East Cambs |

Address (including Postcode)

Land adjacent to 14 Church Road

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Parish | Wicken | Wicken<br>Cambridgeshire<br>CB7 5XT |
| HER office | Cambridge County Council | |
| Size of Study Area | 0.53ha | |
| National Grid Ref | TL 57365 70531 | |

## Project Originators

| | |
|---|---|
| Organisation | Oxford Archaeology East |
| Project Brief Originator | Gemma Stewart CCC HET |
| Project Design Originator | Nick Gilmour OA East |
| Project Manager | Nick Gilmour OA East |
| Project Supervisor | Adele Lord OA East |

## Project Archives

| | Location | ID |
|---|---|---|
| Physical Archive (Finds) | CCC Stores | ECB5898 |
| Digital Archive | OAE | WICCHR19 |
| Paper Archive | CCC Stores | ECB5898 |

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

| Digital Media | | Paper Media | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Database | ☒ | Aerial Photos | ☐ |
| GIS | ☒ | Context Sheets | ☒ |
| Geophysics | ☐ | Correspondence | ☐ |
| Images (Digital photos) | ☒ | Diary | ☐ |
| Illustrations (Figures/Plates) | ☒ | Drawing | ☐ |
| Moving Image | ☐ | Manuscript | ☐ |
| Spreadsheets | ☒ | Map | ☐ |
| Survey | ☒ | Matrices | ☐ |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Text | ☒ | Microfiche | ☐ |
| Virtual Reality | ☐ | Miscellaneous | ☐ |
| | | Research/Notes | ☐ |
| | | Photos (negatives/prints/slides) | ☐ |
| | | Plans | ☐ |
| | | Report | ☒ |
| | | Sections | ☒ |
| | | Survey | ☐ |

## Further Comments

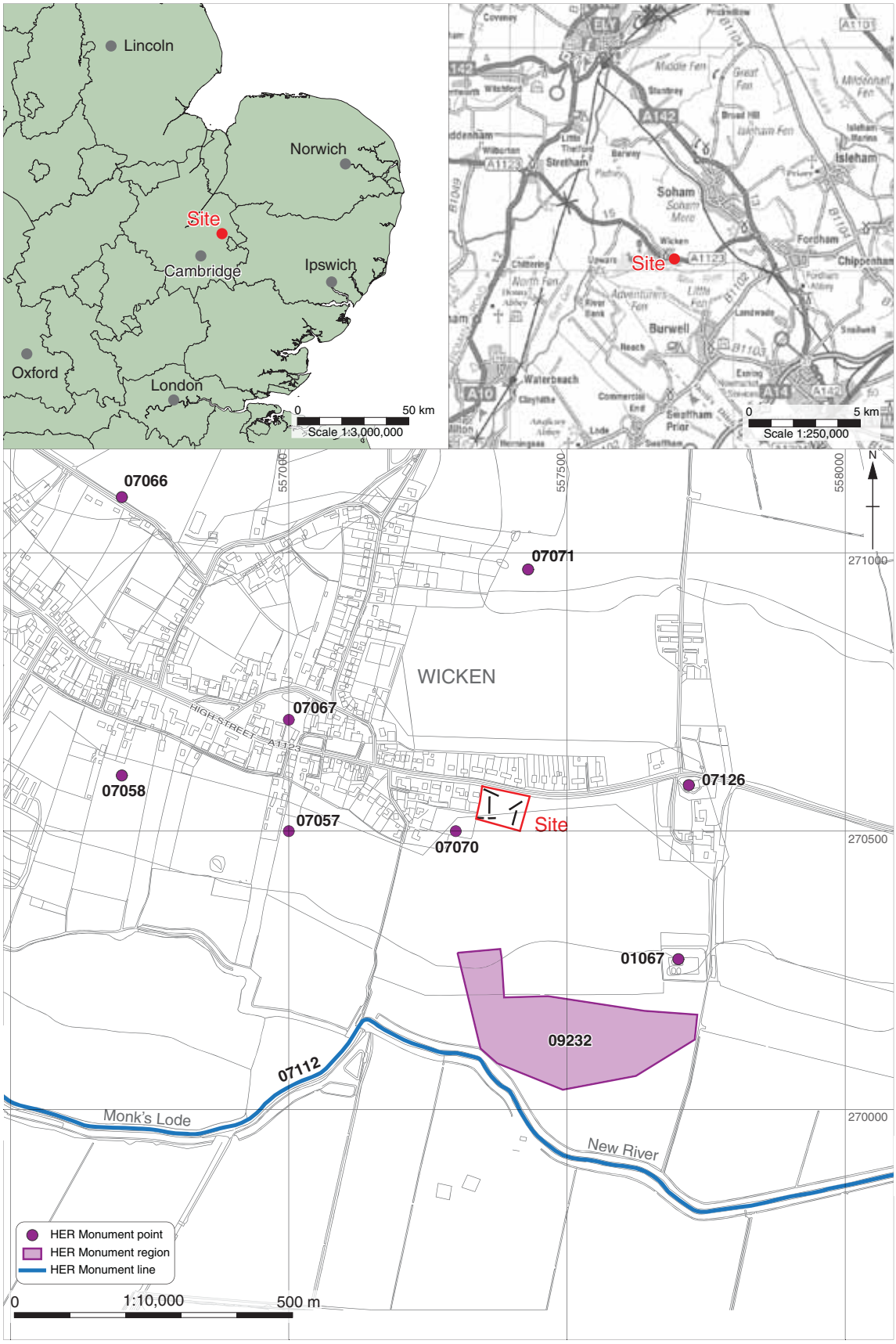




Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red), with selected HER data

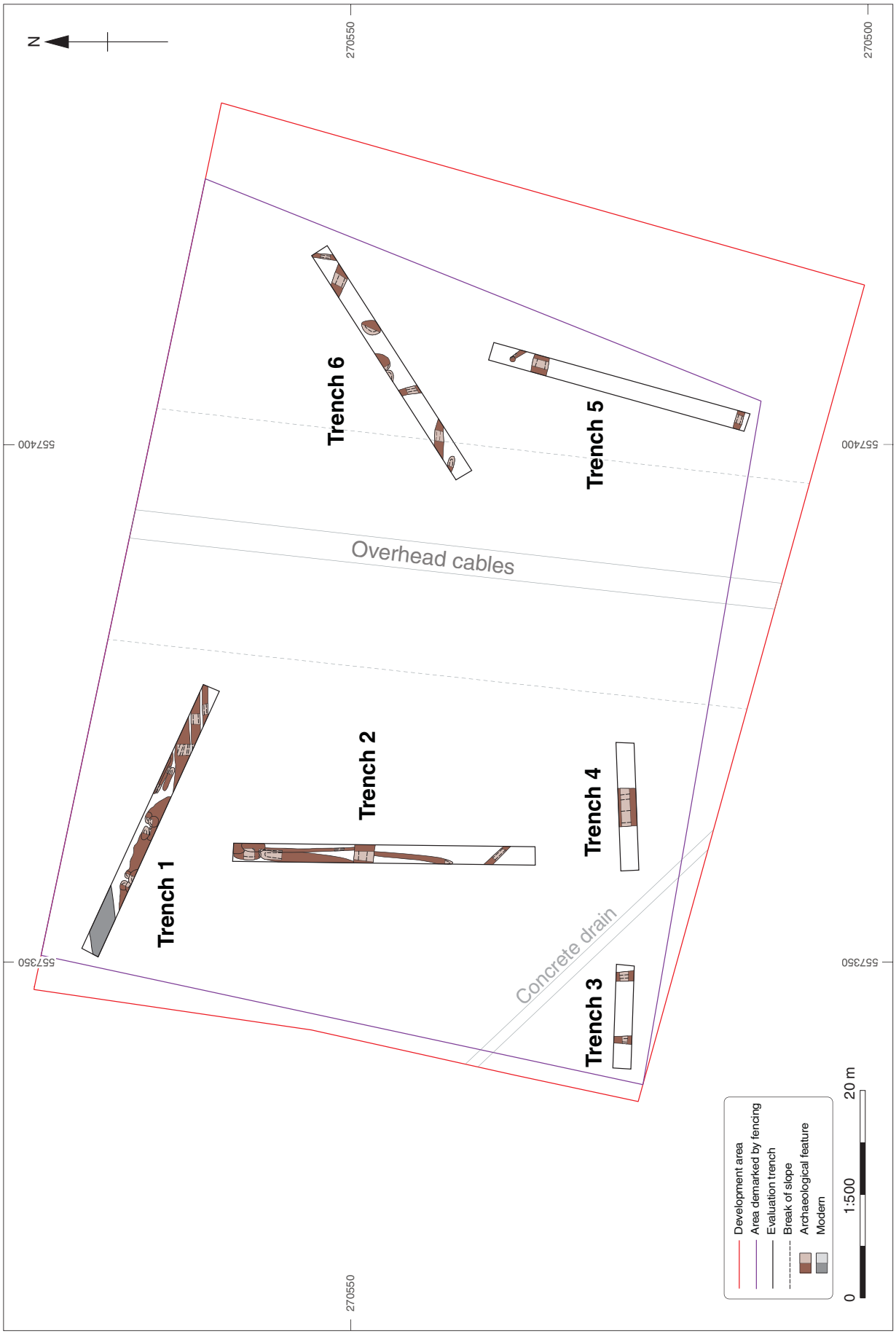


Figure 2: Trench location plan with all features

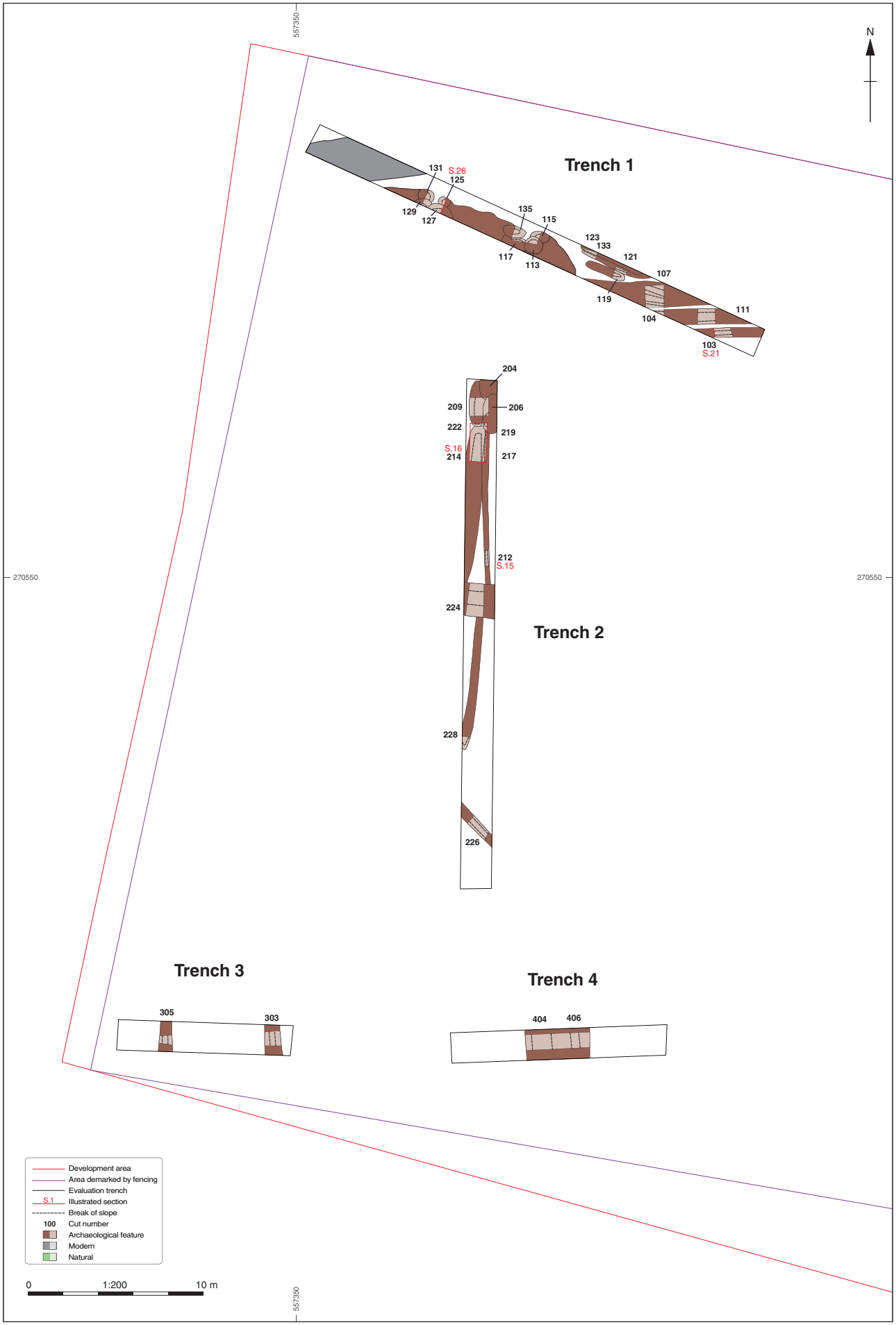


Figure 3: Trenches 1 to 4

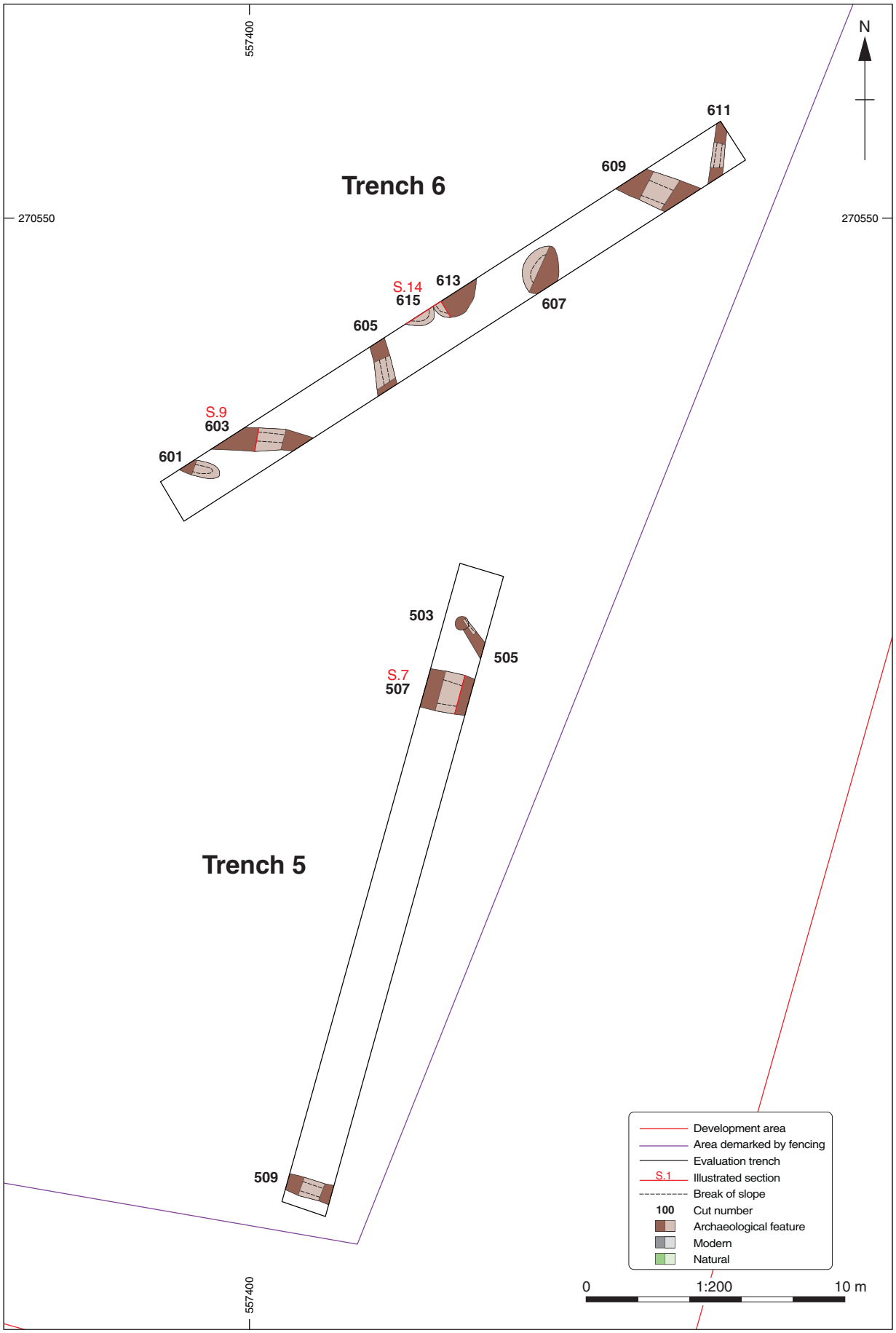


Figure 4: Trenches 5 and 6

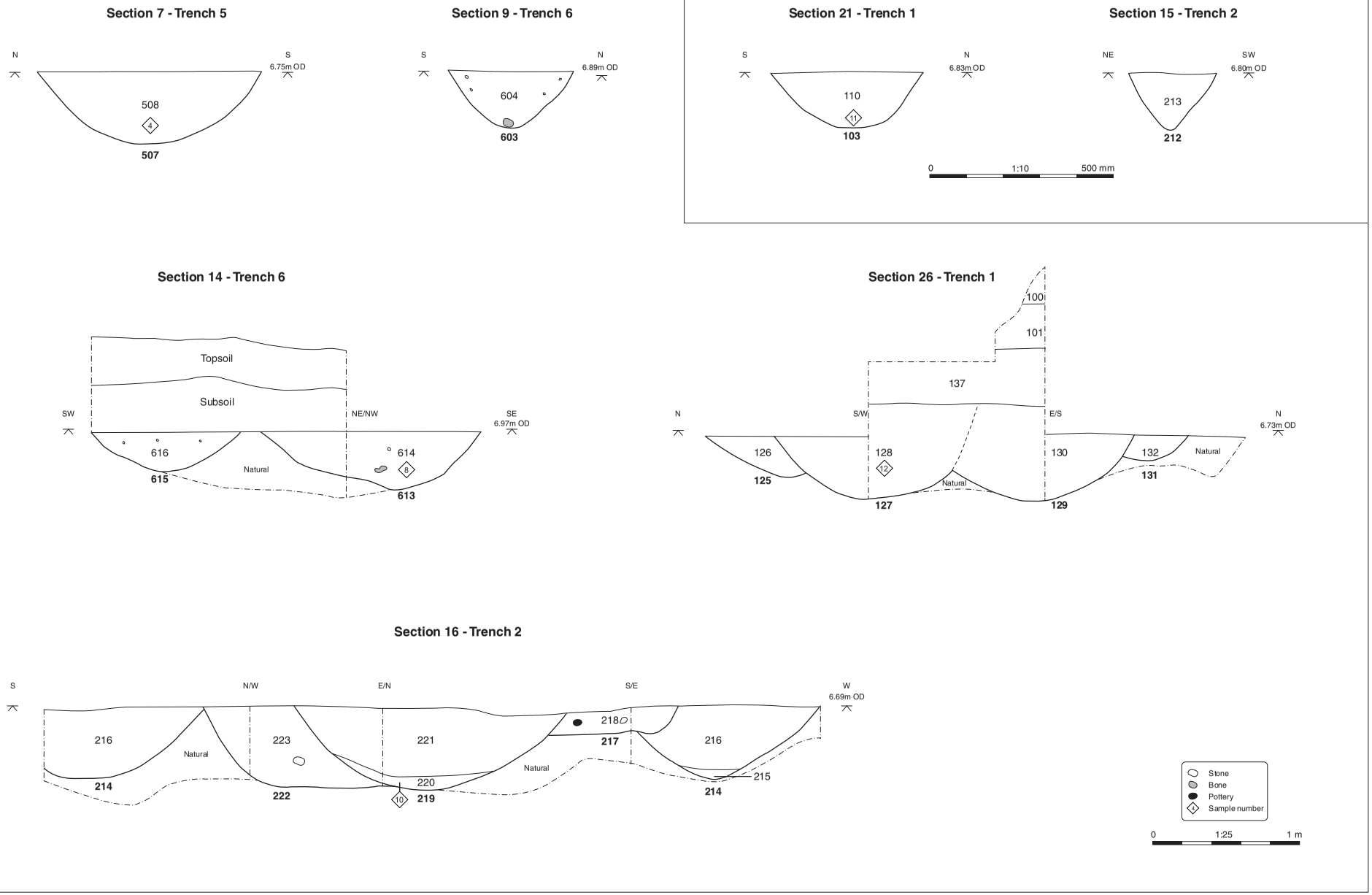


Figure 5: Selected sections

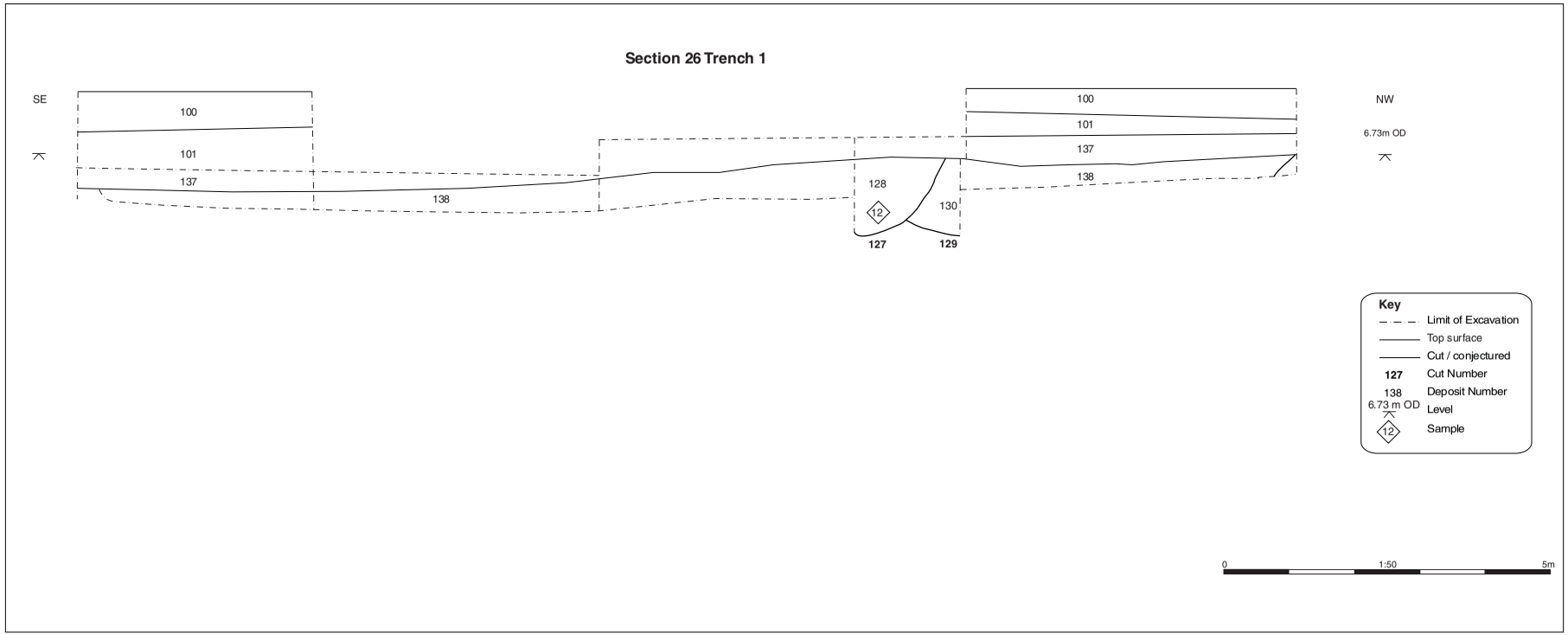


Figure 6: Selected Sections

Plate 1: Trench 1 viewed from the south-east

Plate 2: Trench 2 viewed from the south

Plate 3: Gully **226** viewed from the south-east

Plate 4: Ditch **224** viewed from the east

Plate 5: Trench 3 viewed from the east

Plate 6: Ditch **303** viewed from the north

Plate 7: Trench 4 viewed from the west

Plate 8: Possible ditches **403** and **405**, viewed from the south-east

Plate 9: Trench 5 viewed from the north-east

Plate 10: Ditch **509** viewed from the south-east

Plate 11: Trench 6 viewed from the south-west

Plate 12: Ditch **609** viewed from the south-east

Plate 13: Gully **611** viewed from the north

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