



Land to the Rear of No. 79 High Street, Meldreth, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Evaluation Report

August 2020

Client: EPGL

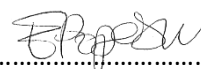
Issue No: 2
OA East Report No: 2366
Event No: ECB 5945
NGR: TL 3742 4622



Client Name: EPL
Document Title: Land to the Rear of No. 79 High Street, Meldreth, Cambridgeshire
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Report No.: 2366
Grid Reference: TL 3742 4622
Planning Reference: S/1124/17/OL
Site Code: ECB 5945
Invoice Code: MELHIS19
Receiving Body: Cambridgeshire County Council Stores
Accession No.: ECB 5945
OASIS No.: oxfordar3-364074

OA Document File Location: Y:\Cambridgeshire\MELHIS19
OA Graphics File Location: Y:\Cambridgeshire\MELHIS19\Project Data\Graphics

Issue No: 2.0
Date: August 2020
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Land to the Rear of No. 79 High Street, Meldreth, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 12th and 14th of August 2019, and the 3rd and 5th March 2020 Oxford Archaeology East conducted two phases of an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of No. 79 High Street, Meldreth, Cambridgeshire (centered on TL 3742 4622). The proposed development is for the erection of 18 dwellings, together with landscaped open space and the creation of a new access road from the High Street.

The first phase of the evaluation consisted of two trenches along the northern edge of an area of proposed residential development covering c. 1ha in the centre of the village. The second phase consisted of four trenches around the southern and eastern edges of the development area.

The first phase trenches revealed a layer of alluvium in the north-western corner of the site, adjacent to a small watercourse located beyond the site's western boundary. Archaeological features included a series of north-to-south and east to west aligned ditches and a small number of discrete features including a posthole and two large pits.

The second phase trenches revealed four pits and three small ditches on north-west to south-east and north to south alignments.

Dateable finds were scarce but included a small quantity of Roman pottery, glass and ceramic building material, all thought to be residual, and a small assemblage of Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery and an iron knife blade of the same date from two pits in Trench 2. These pits, and several of the ditches, also produced small quantities of animal bone (amphibians, cattle, fish, horse, sheep/goat, pig and bird), and, whilst environmental remains were generally poorly preserved, sampling of several features produced small quantities of charred grain, legumes and weed seeds. One ditch from the second phase produced a large sherd of Roman pottery and a fragment of flue tile, another contained fragments of post-medieval pottery. The majority of features from this phase produced small quantities of animal bone.

Although many of the features recorded remain undated, the pits in Trench 2, and at least some of the ditched boundaries, are thought to relate to Middle Saxon activity, and may be associated with settlement of this date in this part of the village.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology East would like to thank EPGL for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Gemma Stewart and Leanne Robinson Zeki who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

The project was managed for OA East by James Drummond-Murray and Stephen Macaulay. The fieldwork was directed by Robin Webb, who was supported by Daria Adamson, Rose Britton, Nicholas Cox, and James Green. Survey and digitising was carried out by Thomas Houghton. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Kat Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by EPGL to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of no. 79 High Street, Meldreth, Cambridgeshire ahead of a proposed new residential development covering approximately 1ha. The proposed development is for the erection of 18 dwellings, together with landscaped open space and the creation of a new access road from the High Street.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref. S/1124/17/OL). A brief was set by Gemma Stewart of Cambridge County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET, Stewart 2019) outlining the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2019), detailing the methods by which OA East proposed to meet the requirements specified in the brief and the requirements of the *EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). This document outlines how OA East implemented the specified requirements in relation to the evaluation, which entailed the excavation of six trial trenches in the northern and southern parts of the site.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the west of Meldreth High Street, within the centre of the village and to the rear of two properties (nos. 75 and 79 High Street). The proposed development area (centred on TL 3742 4622) covers an area of c.1ha (Figure 1). The field slopes down gently from 20.4m OD in the east to 19.1m OD near its western edge.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of an area of overgrown gardens with trees spread across it and scrub around the southern and western edges. The western boundary is formed by a small dried-up brook with gardens beyond, the northern edge by Manor Road and the Aurora Meldreth Manor School, the eastern edge by residential properties; and the southern edge by gardens. The River Mel lies c.200m to the east.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (BGS 2019).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Introduction

- 1.3.1 The following archaeological and historical background of the site is based on the background provided in the WSI (Drummond-Murray 2019). This drew on a full 1km radius search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) centred on the evaluation site and was commissioned from CCC HET (under licence number 19-3995). Pertinent nearby records are shown on Figure 2 and in **bold** in the text.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 Prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site is limited to findspots, with a number having been recorded within the search area. These include a Palaeolithic oval scraper flint tool (CHER 08764, **ECB 476**) uncovered during fieldwalking connected to work on the A10 bypass route c.1km to the east. A polished Neolithic flint axehead was also found 300m to the north (**CHER 03426**), but is also recorded as coming from a field behind the British Queen public house (**DCB 6575**), c.200m to the south-east of the site. A Late Bronze Age hoard (**CHER 03117**) was discovered near the railway station (c.775m to the south) in 1980 and contained over 60 items, including: 2 palstaves, 25 socketed axes, 1 gouge, 1 chisel, 1 knife, 9 swords, 3 socketed spearheads, 1 cauldron ring and 15 metal lumps. This is currently curated by the British Museum. Additional Bronze Age pottery and worked flint was recovered during test pit excavations across the village carried out in 2013, with the amounts recovered indicating the presence of prehistoric activity along the stream valley (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 6, 89-90). Fieldwalking along the A10 bypass route has also revealed Iron Age pottery sherds and a spindle whorl (CHER 08764A, **ECB 476**) c.1km to the east. Additional Iron Age pottery has been recovered c.950m to the west of the site (**CHER 03221**).
- 1.3.3 Aside from these findspots, some cropmarks which have been identified within 1km of the site have been suggested as relating to prehistoric activity. These include a possible Bronze Age barrow and features that have been tentatively identified as Iron Age and Roman settlement (**CHER 08909**; c.900m to the east); with further Iron Age and Roman rectilinear enclosures noted from cropmarks 1km to the south (**MCB 23526**).

Roman

- 1.3.4 Unlike with the prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, the identification of Roman activity has not been principally from findspots. A trackway (the Avenell Way) of possible Roman origin (**MCB 19147**) runs through Meldreth on its way between Odsey and Cambridge, and lay c.285m to the south of the site. Where this was investigated in 2008, it showed that wheeled vehicles used its route and that it was infilled between the 10th and 13th centuries when it went out of use (Atkins and Graham 2013, 9).
- 1.3.5 Findspots of Roman material also provide good evidence for settlement and burial in the area during the Roman period. These include a stone coffin associated with a Late Iron Age coin and Roman armet, pin and vessel found in fields 1km to the south-west of the site (**CHER 03167**). Fieldwalking along the A10 bypass route has also encountered Roman bells, nails and pottery sherds (CHER 08764B; **ECB 476**). Metal detecting in the fields to the north of Meldreth has encountered Roman brooches, coins and a seal box (CHER 08417 and 10224, not plotted on fig. 2). Roman pottery found in test pits excavated in the village in 2013 suggest that Romano-British farmsteads may have favoured the south of the village, with arable fields to the north (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 6, 90).

Saxo-Norman

- 1.3.6 Meldreth is first recorded in the Domesday book as '*Melrede*', with the *mel-* element possibly deriving from 'mill' (Ekwall 1936, 305) – with eight mills recorded in Meldreth in 1086 (Baggs *et al.* 1982) – or from the River Mel to the east of the village and the *-dreth* element from 'reed' (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 17). The original church, built c.970AD, was a minster church and one of relatively few churches mentioned in the Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2003, 540). The village's church (**CHER 03060**) dates from the late-12th century with 14th and 15th century extensions (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 17).
- 1.3.7 Saxo-Norman activity has been identified in the vicinity, with work undertaken at 104 High Street, Meldreth (**ECB 3859**), 150m to the east, identifying three north-to-south orientated ditches that were interpreted as representing a series of Saxo-Norman or later field boundaries that contained a small quantity of abraded Saxo-Norman pottery (Snee 2012, 4).
- 1.3.8 The identification of Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site is largely limited to findspots, with previous finds including Late Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds (FCB 3477) discovered in 1933 at Flambard's Manor (CHER 01275; **ECB 805**) 600m to the south-east, and from flower beds at Vesey's Manor (**MCB 19435**) 700m to the north-east. Saxo-Norman pottery was also found spread across the village in test pits excavated in 2013, with concentrations towards the manorial sites of Topcliffe and Flambards (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 6). The field-walking and metal detecting activities related to the A10 bypass work also recovered pottery sherds (CHER 02113; **ECB 476**) and a silver Saxon penny (CHER 00379; **ECB 476**). However, the Late Saxon date of the majority of the material suggests that earlier Saxon activity was of limited extent and/or duration, and it has been suggested that settlement in Meldreth did not originate until the early Norman period with the subdivision of a single 'Mel' estate that incorporated Meldreth and Melbourn (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 90-91).

Medieval and post-medieval

- 1.3.9 Until the 19th century Meldreth was composed of five separate groups of dwellings between Shepreth to the north and Melbourn to the south, with the southernmost known since the 13th century (Baggs *et al.* 1982, 83). A shrunken medieval village (**CHER 03113**) has been identified through aerial photographs c.850m to the north-east of the site consisting of a hollow-way, ditched boundaries enclosing small rectilinear areas of land, and ridge and furrow. The expansion of the village brought the creation of crofts and small fields in the late-13th century and early-14th century, with land going out of cultivation by the mid-14th century (Baggs *et al.* 1982; Lewis and Pryor 2013, 10). The gaps between these groups slowly filled over the ensuing two centuries, with the most rapid expansion following the Second World War (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 10). The group of dwellings along the High Street was the largest of these, and the regularity of its layout suggests that it was planned at some point, with the long, narrow properties likely to preserve an earlier, medieval or early modern, arrangement (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 10).

- 1.3.10 Activity relating to the medieval and later periods has been identified through earthworks, with the remains of several moated sites surviving around Meldreth – to the north-east, south-east and east of the site. These include two near the parish church: Topcliffe’s Mill (**CHER 01249**), thought to be Topcliffe’s Manor recorded since the 1290s, and Vesey’s Manor (**CHER 01252**) with a geophysical survey carried out at the latter (**ECB 4600**). Sheene Manor (**CHER 01250** and **01251**) has also been identified in the south-east of the parish, 1.4km to the south-east of the site, along with Flambard’s Manor (**CHER 01275**; **ECB 805**) in the village centre, 550m to the south of the site, the site of which is believed to have been occupied since Saxo-Norman times. A further moated site of unknown date and possibly marked on the 1820 Enclosure Map has also been identified in the south of the parish at St John’s College Farm (**CHER 01246**) 1.2km to the south. A possible medieval fishpond and undated trackway have also been identified 640m to the north-east (**MCB 20527**), a rectilinear enclosure of possible medieval date (**MCB 25641**) 1km to the north-east, and medieval to post-medieval field boundaries (**MCB 25640**) 1km to the east.
- 1.3.11 Additional medieval activity has been identified with ridge and furrow systems that survive in fields 1.7km to the south-west of the site (**CHER 08556A**), c.950m to the east of the site (**MCB 22534**), c.830m to the north of the site (**MCB 22881**) and alongside later quarrying to the south of Whaddon Road, 600m to the west (**MCB 17491**; **ECB 2415**, **2273**; Hogan *et al.* 2006). Further medieval and post-medieval field boundaries have been noted through aerial photographs (**MCB 23524**) c.800m to the south-east of the site, and possible medieval enclosures (**CHER 07517**) c.850m to the north-east.
- 1.3.12 The enclosure of the fields around Meldreth took place in 1820 by order of an 1813 Act of Parliament (Baggs *et al.* 1982, 83; map available: http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page/enclosure_in_meldreth) and Enclosure Award Book (MLHG 2014). The field in which the site sits was held by Edward Maze and extended for 4 acres, 2 roods and 39 perches.
- 1.3.13 An evaluation (**ECB 3567**), 750m to the south, identified the possible remnants of the Meldreth Tramway (**MCB 20068**) which was constructed in 1901 to link the train station with Meldreth Portland Cement and Brick Company (Cuthbert 2011, 14).

Undated remains

- 1.3.14 A single undated inhumation (**CHER 11017**) has also been identified during works 140m to the north of the site.

Previous work on the site

- 1.3.15 No intrusive archaeological work has previously been undertaken on the site, but examination of the historical mapping (1887-1993) indicates that the field has remained a single entity set back from the High Street since the late 19th century. A dovecot (**MCB 24554**) was extant near the middle of the site during the 19th century. The field has not had a direct connection to the High Street mapped since the late 19th century, and many of the surrounding fields have been marked as tree covered (maps available: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17&lat=52.0975&lon=0.0067&layers=6&b=>

[1](#)), with these trees probably relating to the plum and apple orchards that were a feature of the parish from the mid-19th century (Baggs *et al.* 1982, 83).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation aims were to seek to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. These are detailed below:

- i. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeological 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
- iv. provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.1 Research Frameworks and Excavation Standards

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

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

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation and analysis was conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines – the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (CIfA 2014b), and in accordance with the East of England's Standard for Field Archaeology (Gurney 2003), Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015), CHET's Evaluation Report Guidance (CHET 2016) and CCC deposition guidance (CCC 2017).

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of five 2.1m wide trenches, with a total length of 193m and representing a 2% sample of the c.1ha proposed development area were opened around northern, eastern and southern edges of the site (Fig. 3). These trenches were positioned so that they avoided trees and covered the open space at the northern end of the site, with

trenches placed as they could be fitted between trees and scrub in the southern half of the site (Plate 1).

- 2.2.2 Prior to machine excavation the footprints of the trenches were scanned using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate. Trial trenches were excavated by a 360-degree 10 tonne tracked 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 1.6m was used to excavate the trenches. This required the excavation of the trenches in two halves to achieve the required 2m width. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick, and all machine excavation took place under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.2.3 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation to allow for sequential backfilling of the trenches. Trenches were backfilled once approved by the CCC HET archaeologist.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features were investigated by hand excavation and recorded to provide an accurate evaluation of archaeological potential, with relationships (where present) between features established and recorded. All excavated slots in linear features were at least 1m in width and discrete features were half sectioned, except those on the edge of trenches, where they were excavated to the edge of the trench. Natural features were identified during the evaluation, and test slots put in to sufficiently establish their nature. These did not contain finds and were only planned.
- 2.2.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector set to not discriminate against iron. A bucket sampling exercise was undertaken whereby 90 litres of soil from each soil horizon was hand sorted to characterise the artefact content. The results of both of these are presented in the finds summary in Section 3.10 below.
- 2.2.6 Environmental samples (up to 40 litres) were taken from features to aid the recovery of plant remains, fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone and other small artefacts, with a summary provided in Section 3.11 below.
- 2.2.7 Records comprise survey, drawn, written and photographic data, with all archaeological features recorded using OA East pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and high-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, as well as general site shots. Photographs include a scale, north arrow, site code and feature number (where relevant) unless they are to be used in publications, with the photograph register recording these details and photograph numbers listed on the corresponding context sheets.
- 2.2.8 A register was kept of the trenches, features and photographs. All features and deposits have been issued with unique context numbers. All site drawings include the following information: site code, scale, section number, orientation, date and initials of the archaeologist who prepared the drawing.
- 2.2.9 Sections of features were drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. Site survey was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS (Lecia GS08) fitted with "Smartnet" technology

with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical. All sections were tied in to Ordnance Datum and the site plan was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

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. Trench plans and selected sections illustrating the results can be found in Figures 3-6. A selection of photographs of trenches and excavated features is provided in Plates 1-8. The full details of all trenches, with dimensions and depths of all deposits are tabulated in Appendix A. Finds data, reports and spot dates can be found in Appendix B, and environmental data and reports in Appendix C.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the order in which features were excavated and are largely (though not exclusively) grouped by trench. These begin at 1, with cut numbers rendered in **bold** type.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology (1), a firm light yellow grey sand clay, was overlain by a firm mid yellow brown clay sand subsoil (2) measuring between 0.26m and 0.34m thick. This in turn was overlain by a friable dark grey brown clay silt topsoil (3) of between 0.28m and 0.5m thickness with a turf covering. There were few natural features identified during the evaluation, with those that were having amorphous edges, irregular bases and resulting from the rooting activity of trees in the surrounding area. In addition, a gravel-filled land-drain was present in both Trenches 1 and 2.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained predominantly dry with rain only on the last day of Phase 1 resulting in some puddling of rainwater. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in five trenches and took the form of ditches, pits and a posthole. In the northwest corner of the site (Trench 1) an alluvial layer (7) was exposed, which must have been deposited by overbank flooding of the small watercourse which formed the western boundary of the site.
- 3.3.2 The trenches are described in numerical order below, with features described spatially from the western end of the trench. Where multiple features were investigated in a single intervention, they have been described in stratigraphic order.

3.4 Trench 1

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3, Plate 2) was located in the north-western corner of the proposed development area on a north-east to south-west alignment. This trench contained a layer of alluvium (7), a small pit (4) and two ditches (8 and 35). Each of the features contained finds (described below) and a sherd (120g) of a post-medieval Redware jar or bowl and a sherd (13g) of post-medieval stoneware were recovered from the topsoil during bucket sampling.

- 3.4.2 The western end of the trench sloped down, and here a firm mid brown white silt clay (7) alluvial layer that was 0.1m thick was exposed below the subsoil. This deposit extended 14m into the trench and was investigated with a 1m by 1m test pit at its eastern end. This deposit contained no finds.
- 3.4.3 Located 20m to the north-east of the edge of this alluvium was a small pit (4) that was partially exposed on the northern edge of the trench. It was 0.54m wide and 0.18m deep with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by a soft dark brown grey sand silt (5) that contained one fragment (6g) of sheep/goat bone.
- 3.4.4 Ditch 8 was a further 8m to the north-east on a north-to-south alignment and measured 0.82m wide and 0.22m deep. This ditch had gently sloping sides, a concave base and contained a lower fill of firm mid grey brown silt clay (9) which produced five fragments (86g) of medium to large mammal bone. This was overlain by a soft dark brown grey silt clay (10) that contained two fragments (8g) of large mammal and sheep/goat bone. An environmental sample (sample 4) taken from this deposit produced a moderate quantity of cereal grain, a single pea/small bean, a weed (cleaver) seed, 50ml of charcoal and frequent molluscs.
- 3.4.5 Adjacent to this was a second ditch (35; Figure 5, Section 10; Plate 3) on a north-east to south-west alignment, with stepped edges and a concave base, which measured 2.28m wide and 0.79m deep. This ditch was filled by a single deposit of very firm mid brown grey silt clay (36), which contained a heavily abraded sherd (5g) of Roman pottery and a single fragment (24g) of cattle bone.

3.5 Trench 2

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 (Figure 3, Plate 4) was located immediately to the east of Trench 1 on an east-north-east to west-south-west orientation. It contained the largest concentration of features identified within the site, comprising six ditches (13, 16, 21, 24=37, 33 and 39), three pits (18, 26 and 29) and a posthole (11). These were spread across the trench. Only five of these features contained finds (see below), whilst a sherd (43g) of modern pottery was recovered from the topsoil.
- 3.5.2 The western end of the trench contained a curvilinear ditch (13; Figure 5, Section 5), which was on a broadly east-to-west alignment with steep sides, a concave base and which measured 0.8m wide and 0.39m deep. This feature was filled by a firm mid yellow grey clay sand (14) silting deposit, overlain by a firm dark brown grey clay silt (15) which contained ten fragments (230g) of medium to large mammal, horse and pig bone. This ditch continued diagonally across the trench clearly cutting across two ditches (16 and 21) to the east of the excavated section.
- 3.5.3 The first of these ditches to the east that was cut by ditch 13 was on a north-to-south alignment, measured 0.76m wide and 0.11m deep with gentle sides and had a slightly concave base (ditch 16; Figure 5, Section 6). This ditch was filled by a firm mid yellow grey sand silt (17) that contained no finds. On the northern edge of the trench, this feature was cut by a pit (18; Figure 5, Section 6) which measured 1.13m wide, 0.31m deep and extended 0.49m into the trench. This pit had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a firm mid yellow grey clay sand (19) slumped deposit which was

- overlain by a firm dark brown grey clay silt (20). The upper deposit contained six fragments (47g) of medium to large mammal, pig and sheep/goat bone.
- 3.5.4 Located 2.5m to the east was the second ditch cut by ditch **13**, ditch **21**, which was on a similar broadly north to south alignment. This ditch had gently sloping sides, a slightly concave base and measured 1.36m wide and 0.2m deep. It was filled by a soft mid yellow brown clay sand silting deposit (22), overlain by a friable dark grey brown clay silt (23) which contained two fragments (46g) of large mammal bone. An environmental sample (sample 1) taken from this ditch revealed a small quantity of carbonised cereal, less than 1ml of charcoal and frequent snail shells.
- 3.5.5 A further 2m to the east and in the middle of the trench was the single posthole (**11**) recorded in this trench. This had steep sides, a concave base and measured 0.31m by 0.28m wide and 0.1m deep. It was filled by a firm mid yellow grey clay sand (12) which contained no finds.
- 3.5.6 Some 3m to the east, on a north-east to south-west alignment, was a shallow (0.12m deep) ditch (**24=37**) that was truncated at its western end by two pits (**26** and **29**). This ditch was up to 0.62m wide, had gently sloping sides, and a slightly concave base. It continued beyond the eastern end of the trench and must have originally terminated in the vicinity of pit **26**. It was filled by a single deposit of a friable mid brown grey sand silt (25=28) which contained more gravel where the feature cut through a patch of more gravelly natural geology. This ditch contained no finds. At its western end it was cut by pits **26** and **29**, whilst towards the eastern end of the trench it in turn cut across ditches **33** and **39**.
- 3.5.7 The westernmost of the larger pits (**26**; Figure 4, Section 8; Plate 5) cut the terminal end of ditch **24** and was a substantial feature, measuring 1.02m by 1.6m wide and 0.56m deep with vertical sides, undercut in places, and a slightly concave base. It was filled by a firm mid grey brown sand clay (27) which was overlain by a friable dark brown grey clay silt (28). The upper deposit contained the largest quantity of finds recovered from the site, comprising an incomplete hand-forged iron knife of Middle Saxon date (SF2), an incomplete whetstone (SF1, 190g), a shard of glass (11g) from a Roman prismatic bottle, a sherd (86g) of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware pottery, a single fragment (35g) of Roman *tegula*, and twenty-three fragments (353g) of medium to large mammal, cattle and sheep/goat bone. An environmental sample (sample 2) taken from the upper fill revealed a moderate quantity of carbonised cereal grains, a clover/medick seed, 25ml of charcoal and frequent snail shells.
- 3.5.8 Immediately to the east of pit **26** was a second, slightly larger (1.43m by 1.67m across and 0.88m deep), pit (pit **29**; Figure 5, Section 8; Plate 5). This pit also had vertical/undercutting sides and a concave base but was filled by a more complex sequence of deposits. These comprised a basal mid yellow grey clay silt (30) which was overlain by a friable dark brown grey clay silt (31), followed by a soft light yellow grey clay sand (41) slump deposit, and then a firm mid brown grey clay silt (42) deposit tipped from the eastern side, sealed by an upper fill of firm mid brown grey clay silt (32). Of these deposits, only the lower (30) and upper (32) contained finds, and these consisted of three sherds (30g) of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware and one sherd (47g) of hand-made Anglo-Saxon pottery as well as eight fragments (80g) of medium to large mammal,

bird, cattle and sheep/goat bone. An environmental sample (sample 3) taken from the lower deposit (30) revealed a moderate quantity of carbonised cereal grains, a single pea/small bean, 9ml of charcoal and frequent mollusc shells.

- 3.5.9 In the eastern end of the trench, two north to south aligned ditches were exposed (**39** and **33**). Ditch **39** (Figure 5, Section 12) measured 0.7m wide and 0.12m deep whilst ditch **33** was 0.76m wide and 0.09m deep; both had gently sloping sides and concave bases and were filled by single deposits of soft mid yellow brown clay sand (40 and 34 respectively). Neither feature produced any finds, and both were cut by ditch **37**.

3.6 Trench 3

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 was located in the south-western corner of the development area, on a close to north to south orientation (Figures 1 and 4).
- 3.6.2 A large pit or ditch was partially exposed at the northern end of the trench (**43**), this extended 1.7m within the trench and was 0.6m deep. It was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay, 0.1m thick (44), overlain by a dark grey brown clay silt (45), 0.4m thick, which produced 107g of animal bone, 49g of CBM and 278g of slag.
- 3.6.3 Just to the south of this pit/ditch was an irregular pit, 1.4m long and 0.6m deep (**49**). This contained a dark blue grey silty clay (50), 0.02m thick, overlain by a dark grey brown clay silt (51), 0.58m thick, which produced 496g of animal bone (including amphibian and fish bones) and 136g of CBM. Environmental sampling from fill 51 produced moderate amounts of charred cereal grains, occasional weed seeds, frequent snails and 2ml of charcoal.
- 3.6.4 A third pit (**46**) was partially exposed under the western baulk halfway along the trench. This 1.04m wide, extending into 0.6m into the trench, 0.4m deep (Figure 5, Section 14). This contained a light grey brown clay silt (47), 0.16m deep, with 15g of animal bone. Above this was a mid blue grey clay silt (48), 0.26m thick. This produced 125g of animal bone and two fragments (47g) of slag. Moderate amounts of charred cereal grains, frequent snails and 3ml of charcoal were recovered from the environmental sample.

3.7 Trench 4

- 3.7.1 Trench 4 (Figures 1 and 4; Plate 6) was located along the southern edge of the development area, on a west-south-west to east-north-east orientation.
- 3.7.2 At the western end of the trench was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**52**), 0.56m wide and 0.19m deep (Figure 6, Section 16; Plate 7). This was filled by a mid brown grey clay silt (53), containing a single large sherd (142g) of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware, a fragment of Roman flue tile (117g), 49g of animal bone, 10g of oyster shell and 12g of fired clay.
- 3.7.3 Immediately to the east was a shallow north to south aligned ditch (**54**), 0.44m wide and 0.05m deep. The sole fill was a light brown grey silty clay (55), devoid of finds.
- 3.7.4 A third ditch (**56**), also on a north to south alignment was located 0.6m to the east. This was 0.7m wide and 0.33m deep, filled with a dark brown grey clay silt (57). Two

large fragments of floor tile (1329g) and 156g of animal bone were recovered from the fill.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Trench 5 was located in the southern-eastern corner of the development area, on a south-east to north-west orientation (Figures 1 and 4).

3.8.2 A single large sub-circular pit (**58**) was exposed at the north-west end of the trench. This was 2.05m wide and 0.82m deep with vertical and near vertical sides (Figure 6, Section 19; Plate 8). At the base was a light brown grey clay silt (63), 0.22m thick, which contained 19g of animal bone. Above this was a dark brown grey clay silt (59), 0.2m thick, containing 12g of animal bone (including amphibian bones), environmental sampling produced frequent charred cereal grains and snails and 2ml of charcoal. A mid grey clay silt (60) was overlaid this, up to 0.19m thick, with 51g of animal bone. The next fill was a dark brown grey clay silt, 0.16m thick, containing 27g of animal bone. The uppermost fill (62) consisted of dark brown clay silt, 0.21m thick, which produced 70g of animal bone.

3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 Trench 6 was located along the eastern edge of the development area, on a north-east to south-west orientation (Figures 1 and 4).

3.9.2 The trench contained no archaeological features, only a modern drainage ditch.

3.10 Finds summary

3.10.1 A relatively small assemblage of finds was recovered from five trenches in the proposed development area. This included metalwork, worked stone, glass, pottery, CBM and animal bone.

3.10.2 Bucket sampling of the spoil from both trenches revealed two sherds of post-medieval pottery from the topsoil (3), two from Trench 1 (Redware and stoneware) and one from Trench 2 (ceramic material). Metal detecting before and after excavation revealed only a Copper Alloy coin or token (SF.3) from the topsoil (3) of Trench 4.

3.10.3 The metalwork assemblage (Appendix B.1) comprises a single incomplete Middle Anglo-Saxon hand-forged iron knife blade (SF2) recovered from the upper fill (28) of pit **26**.

3.10.4 A small quantity of slag (Appendix B.2) was recovered from two pits (**43** and **49** in Trench 3), totaling 317g.

3.10.5 The worked stone assemblage (Appendix B.3) comprises a single incomplete whetstone or hone (SF1; 190g) recovered from the upper fill of pit **26**, and may be of Roman or Anglo-Saxon date.

3.10.6 A single sherd (11g) of glass (Appendix B.4) was recovered from the upper fill (28) of pit **26**. This came from a Roman prismatic bottle base.

3.10.7 The pottery assemblage comprises a single heavily abraded sherd (5g) of probably Roman pottery (Appendix B.6), six sherds (275g) of Middle Saxon pottery (Appendix B.5), and three sherds (176g) of post-medieval pottery (Appendix B.6). The Roman and

Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from features in three trenches, whilst the post-medieval (Redware, stoneware and ceramic material) were recovered from the bucket sampling of the topsoil (3).

- 3.10.8 Six fragments (1.849kg) of CBM were recovered from features in Trenches 2, 3 and 4, including a single fragment (35g) from the upper fill (28) of pit **26**, which due to the presence of a finger groove has been suggested to be part of a Roman *tegula*. Also a fragment of Roman box flue tile (117g) recovered from the fill (53) of ditch **52**.

3.11 Environmental summary

- 3.11.1 The animal bone assemblage (Appendix C.1) comprises 109 fragments (1832g) of bone from a mixture of medium to large mammals, amphibians, bird, cattle, horse, pig and sheep/goat. These were recovered from a range of features across five of the trenches and were heavily eroded and highly fragmented.
- 3.11.2 A small amount of oyster shell (0.001kg) was recovered from ditch **52** (Appendix C.2).
- 3.11.3 A total of seven environmental samples (Appendix C.3) were taken from seven features across four trenches. These contained generally poorly preserved carbonised cereal, legume, and weed plant remains as well as charcoal and molluscs. However, the molluscs and rootlets identified in the flots may have caused the movement of material between contexts. Varying quantities of charcoal were recovered from all four samples, with the most (50ml) evident in the upper fill of ditch **10** and may represent the burning of wood for fuel. The cereal seeds recovered from all seven samples, the weed seeds recovered from ditch **8**, and pits **26** and **49**, and the legumes recovered from ditch **8** and pit **29** probably represent the background scatter of refuse material.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Archaeological features were clearly visible when the trenches were first opened, showing as darker patches against the natural geology. No additional features weathered out as the week of works progressed. Test slots were put into features that were considered to be natural, with the resulting irregular edges suggesting that they were the consequence of root disturbance. The overlying soil horizons were clearly visible. The generally dry conditions meant that water only formed small puddles at the base of features. The results of the evaluation trenching, therefore, are considered to have a good level of reliability.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The aims of the evaluation were to establish the character, date, and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. These were set out in the WSI (Drummond-Murray 2019) and Section 2.1 above:

- i. *establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeological and environmental remains*

Excavation of the evaluation trenches revealed the presence of archaeological features in the both the northern and southern ends of the proposed development area. A total of twenty archaeological features have been identified. For the majority of features either no finds or only animal bone were recovered, with only ditches **21**, **35**, **52** and **56** and pits **26**, **29**, **46** and **49** containing other material. Environmental sampling showed the poor preservation of carbonised seed remains, but an abundance of molluscs and rootlets that may have resulted in the movement of material between contexts.

- ii. *provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits*

The evaluation provides enough coverage to assess the full character, condition, date and purpose of archaeological deposits within northern and southern parts of the proposed development area. The ditches running across the phase 1 trenches would be expected to continue towards the southern boundary of the site, however none of ditches identified in the southern trenches obviously tie in with those in the north.

Aside from a single, probably residual, abraded sherd of Roman pottery from ditch **35** (Trench 1), the only dateable finds came from two adjacent pits in Trench 2 (**26** and **29**) and a single ditch (**52**) in Trench 4. Both pits and the ditch produced small quantities of Middle Saxon pottery, and pit **26** also produced an iron knife blade of the same date as well as a shard of vessel glass and a fragment of CBM of Roman date, the ditch also produced a fragment of box flue tile. Although the Middle Saxon pottery assemblage is small, its unweathered state and the absence of later material suggests these features are probably of Middle Saxon date. These two pits were stratigraphically later than three ditches in the

eastern end of Trench 2, which are therefore also likely to be of Middle Saxon or earlier date.

A single feature (ditch **52**) in Trench 4 produced pottery and CBM (a fragment of flue tile) of probable Roman date, with possible post-medieval floor tile fragments were recovered from ditch **58**.

- iii. *provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits*

The location of the trenches across the northern and southern parts of the site provide coverage for these area, but not within the centre of the proposed development area. The current low level of features to the west and high number of features to the east of ditch **35** suggest that this may have been a former boundary with activity focused towards the present-day High Street. An alluvial layer (7) was exposed at the western end of the site and has the potential to mask archaeological deposits. However, the sparsity of features identified in the western half of the site suggest that activity was focused to the east.

- iv. *provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.*

Archaeological remains were identified in five of the trenches. The scale of these features has been established along with the degree of preservation of artefacts and ecofacts. This means that should further work be required in the northern and southern areas of the site there is a basis for establishing timetables and costs.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The two trial trenches excavated during the first phase of the evaluation exposed a relatively dense swathe of archaeological features, particularly in the easternmost trench (Trench 2). Most of the features consist of ditches, broadly aligned north to south or east to west, and thus approximately parallel or perpendicular to the current High Street. These ditches were accompanied by a small number of discrete features, the most significant of which were the two large pits exposed in Trench 2 (**26** and **29**).
- 4.3.2 Interpretation of these remains is hindered by a relative lack of dating evidence. A small number of finds of Roman date were recovered from ditch **35** and pit **26**, but these seem likely to represent residual material, and the only other dateable finds consist of a small quantity of pottery and an iron knife blade dated to the Middle Anglo-Saxon period (c. AD 720-850) from pits **26** and **29**. In the absence of any later material from these pits (or other features), a Middle Saxon date seems most likely, and a similar, or earlier date, is likely for the three stratigraphically earlier ditches in the eastern end of Trench 2 (**33**, **37** and **39**). The recovery of moderate amounts of animal bone and charred plant remains including cereals and legumes from the pits and several of the ditches suggest these features may have been associated with nearby settlement-type activity.

- 4.3.3 The second phase of evaluation revealed further archaeological activity in the southern part of the development area, but this was sparser than in the first phase. The ditches maintain the north to south alignment of many of those in the first phase. Similar environmental remains to the first phase trenches, including charred cereal grains, were recovered from several of the features.
- 4.3.4 The only directly datable features were two ditches in Trench 4. Ditch **52** produced Middle Saxon pottery (c.AD720-850) matching the date of the material from the first phase, although its north-west to south-east alignment does not correlate with any of the ditches in the northern trenches. The majority of features produced varying amounts of animal bone. No further evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity was identified in this phase, however pit **58** (Trench 5) is similar in size and form to Middle Saxon pits in Trench 2 and may thus be contemporary.
- 4.3.5 Ditch **56** produced two large fragments of post-medieval floor tile, despite matching the general alignment of the suspected Middle Saxon ditches to the north.
- 4.3.6 Two pits in Trench 3 produced a small amount of slag including smithing hearth cake, suggesting the presence of smithing activity somewhere nearby, although no direct evidence for this was found during the evaluation and the amount of slag recovered was small.
- 4.3.7 The recovery of finds of Middle Saxon date is of some significance, especially in the context of the current lack of evidence for settlement of this period in the village (see Archaeological and historical background, Section 1.3).

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two ditches and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk marl and alluvium.					Length (m)	45
					Width (m)	2.4
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	layer	-	-	natural	-	-
2	layer	-	0.27	subsoil	-	-
3	layer	-	0.37	topsoil	pottery	-
4	cut	0.54	0.18	cut of pit	-	-
5	fill	0.54	0.18	fill of pit 4	animal bone	-
6	void	-	-	-	-	-
7	layer	-	0.1	alluvium	-	-
8	cut	0.82	0.22	cut of ditch	-	-
9	fill	0.62	0.07	fill of ditch 8	animal bone	-
10	fill	0.70	0.15	fill of ditch 8	animal bone	-
35	cut	2.28	0.79	cut of ditch	-	-
36	fill	2.28	0.79	fill of ditch 35	animal bone, pottery	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contained six ditches, three pits and a posthole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk marl.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.4
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	layer	-	-	natural	-	-
2	layer	-	0.31	subsoil	-	-
3	layer	-	0.32	topsoil	pottery	-
11	cut	0.28	0.1	cut of posthole	-	-
12	fill	0.28	0.1	fill of posthole 11	-	-
13	cut	0.8	0.39	cut of ditch	-	-
14	fill	0.4	0.16	fill of ditch 13	-	-
15	fill	0.57	0.24	fill of ditch 13	animal bone	-
16	cut	0.76	0.11	cut of ditch	-	-
17	fill	0.76	0.11	fill of ditch 16	-	-
18	cut	1.13	0.31	cut of pit	-	-
19	fill	0.13	0.1	fill of pit 18	-	-
20	fill	1.08	0.29	fill of pit 18	animal bone	-
21	cut	1.36	0.2	cut of ditch	-	-
22	fill	0.8	0.07	fill of ditch 21	-	-
23	fill	1.1	0.13	fill of ditch 21	animal bone	-
24	cut	0.6	0.12	cut of ditch	-	-

25	fill	0.6	0.12	fill of ditch 24	-	-
26	cut	1.6	0.56	cut of pit	-	medieval
27	fill	1.4	0.4	fill of pit 26	-	medieval
28	fill	1.4	0.5	fill of pit 26	animal bone, CBM, Fe SF.2, glass, pottery, worked stone SF.1	medieval
29	cut	1.67	0.88	cut of pit	-	medieval
30	fill	1.22	0.34	fill of pit 29	animal bone, pottery	medieval
31	fill	1.22	0.28	fill of pit 29	-	medieval
32	fill	1.67	0.26	fill of pit 29	animal bone	medieval
33	cut	0.76	0.09	cut of ditch	-	
34	fill	0.76	0.09	fill of ditch 33	-	
37	cut	0.62	0.11	cut of ditch	-	
38	fill	0.62	0.11	fill of ditch 37	-	
39	cut	0.7	0.12	cut of ditch	-	
40	fill	0.7	0.12	fill of ditch 39	-	
41	fill	0.44	0.3	fill of pit 29	-	medieval
42	fill	1.25	0.16	fill of pit 29	-	medieval

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained three pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk marl.					Length (m)	27
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	layer	-	-	natural	-	-
2	layer	-	0.20	subsoil	-	-
3	layer	-	0.50	topsoil	-	-
43	cut	1.70	0.60	cut of pit	-	-
44	fill	1.70	0.10	fill of pit 43	animal bone	-
45	fill	1.70	0.40	fill of pit 43	animal bone	-
46	cut	1.04	0.40	cut of pit	-	-
47	fill	1.04	0.16	fill of pit 46	-	-
48	fill	0.80	0.26	fill of pit 46	animal bone, slag	-
49	cut	1.40	0.60	cut of pit	-	-
50	fill	1.40	0.02	fill of pit 49	animal bone	-
51	fill	1.40	0.58	fill of pit 49	animal bone, slag	-

Trench 4			
General description		Orientation	E-W
Trench contained three small ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk marl.		Length (m)	26
		Width (m)	1.8

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Avg. depth (m)	Finds	Date
1	layer	-	-	natural		-	-
2	layer	-	0.26	subsoil		-	-
3	layer	-	0.30	topsoil		CuA SF.3	-
52	cut	0.56	0.19	cut of ditch		-	-
53	fill	0.56	0.19	fill of ditch 52		Pottery, tile, animal bone	medieval
54	cut	0.44	0.05	cut of ditch		-	medieval
55	fill	0.44	0.05	fill of ditch 54		animal bone	-
56	cut	0.70	0.33	cut of ditch		-	-
57	fill	0.70	0.33	fill of ditch 56		CBM, animal bone	-

Trench 5							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained a single large pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk marl.					Length (m)	25	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
1	layer	-	-	natural	-	-	
2	layer	-	0.21	subsoil	-	-	
3	layer	-	0.46	topsoil	-	-	
58	cut	2.05	0.82	cut of pit	-	-	
59	fill	1.42	0.20	fill of pit 58	-	-	
60	fill	1.83	0.19	fill of pit 58	animal bone	-	
61	fill	1.92	0.16	fill of pit 58	animal bone	-	
62	fill	2.05	0.21	fill of pit 58	animal bone	-	
63	fill	1.34	0.22	fill of pit 58	animal bone	-	

Trench 6							
General description					Orientation	N-S	
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk marl.					Length (m)	40	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
1	layer	-	-	natural	-	-	
2	layer	-	0.30	subsoil	-	-	
3	layer	-	0.40	topsoil	-	-	

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Denis Sami

Introduction

- B.1.1 A possible incomplete hand forged iron knife (SF2) dating to the Anglo-Saxon period was recovered from fill 28 of pit **29** during the evaluation.

Methodology

- B.1.2 The metalwork was assessed according to the OA East metalwork finds standard following the suggestions of the Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS, Datasheets 104 and 108), the *Archaeometallurgy Guidelines for best practice* (HE 2015) and the 2013, *Guidelines for the Storage and Display of Archaeological Metalwork by English Heritage*.

The Assemblage

- B.1.3 The iron knife is incomplete, fragmented and poorly preserved. Only part of the blade and possibly part of the tip remain, however, despite its condition it is possible to suggest the knife is a type 5 of Evison's classification. These blades are dated to the Middle Anglo-Saxon period (Evison 1987: 113-15; Lucy *et al.* 2009: 194-98). The suggested chronology is also supported by the associated pottery assemblage (see App. B.4).

Catalogue

SF	Context	Feature	Description	Date
2	28	pit	Incomplete and fragmented blade with straight back, cutting edge and angled tip	600-850

Table 1: Catalogue of metal work

B.2 Slag

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

- B.2.1 A small assemblage of slag, weighing 0.317kg, was collected by hand from Trench 3. The slag was weighed and rapidly recorded, with basic description and weight recorded in the text.

Assemblage

- B.2.2 Slag was recovered from pit **43** in Trench 3. It consists of a sub-rectangular (103 x 70 x 15-37mm) shallow, plano-convex smithing hearth cake (SHC), weighing 0.275kg. This fragment is externally dark grey to black in places, although the dominant surface appearance is rust coloured. The slag has broken into three fragments, revealing its

structure, with moderate small vesicles and occasional larger ones at its thinnest point and large vesicles and voids within the centre. The upper surface of the SHC is slightly concave, the lower surface is slightly convex; both surfaces are very irregular and rough (English Heritage 2015 36, figs 31-32).

- B.2.3 A single fragment of ?slag, weighing 0.042kg was recovered from pit **46**. The ?slag is dark grey-black and reddish purple, irregular in shape and the surface texture is similar in part to that of vitrified hearth lining, with both small and medium vesicles. The fragment is strongly magnetic, indicating a high iron content. From the same context two small fragments (0.005kg) of grey, vesicular, weakly magnetic undiagnostic slag were recovered from sample 5.

Discussion

- B.2.4 The slag assemblage is fragmentary, and its significance is uncertain, other than to possibly indicate metalworking. Pit **43** also produced a single piece of Roman ceramic building material, suggesting the slag from this pit may be Roman; pit **46** produced no datable material.

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.2.5 Should further work be undertaken, additional metalworking deposits may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the slag may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

B.3 Non-Building Stone

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

- B.3.1 An incomplete whetstone or hone (SF1) was recovered during the evaluation. The stone was identified visually using a x10 magnifying lens. The functional category used is defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988, Category 10: Tools; the classification for hones follows that of Moore (1978), as set out in Moore & Oakley (1979, 280-2), where it is associated with that established by Ellis (1969; Crummy 76-79 and microfiche). Simplified recording has been undertaken, with material type, basic description and weight recorded in the text. The whetstone and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage

- B.3.2 An incomplete miscellaneous hone (whetstone SF1) was recovered from pit **26** in Trench 2. The whetstone is fashioned from fine grained micaceous sandstone, the outer, somewhat weathered, edges and unbroken end of the stone are grey in places, while the upper face, lower surface and broken end of the stone are dull red. The artefact is trapezoidal in plan and section with tapering sides (102mm long, 47.6 x 24.3 tapering to 32.3 x 23.6mm, 190g). It is broken at the narrowest point, possibly the waist point on what was originally a larger stone; the break is rough and there may be some post-depositional damage. The unbroken end is slightly rounded and polished

through use, with some wear and pitting, which is also present on the upper surface possibly representing post-depositional damage. The main surfaces have been polished to a smooth finish, the lower surface is relatively flat, the upper is slightly uneven, curving slightly and sloping upwards. Both surfaces have some shallow longitudinal grooves, with one on the lower surface more defined, these may represent point sharpening. One side margin is flat, the opposite side margin is curved with some post-depositional damage.

Discussion

- B.3.3 Dating of whetstones is problematic as they were used from the later Iron Age onwards. However, the whetstone was recovered alongside a piece of Roman ceramic building material, possibly a fragment of *Tegula*, a shard of Roman glass from a prismatic bottle and a large sherd of Saxon pottery. The whetstone, which may have been used for sharpening both iron knives and agricultural implements, perhaps relates to settlement and agriculture in the Roman or Anglo-Saxon period.

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.3.4 Should further work be undertaken, further fragments of whetstone may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record. The whetstone/hone may be retained or dispersed for educational use prior to archive deposition.

B.4 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

- B.4.1 A single fragment of glass, weighing 11g, was recovered from pit **26** in Trench 2. The glass was scanned and recorded by form, colour, count and weight, dated where possible and recorded in the text. The glass and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage

- B.4.2 Trench 2, pit **26** produced a single, irregular fragment (11g) of thick (9.3-5.3mm), blue-green glass from the base of a Roman prismatic bottle, the short length of straight moulded line on the base suggesting a square bottle (Price and Cottam 1998, 197 fig. 89 dii). The glass is somewhat matt or weathered on both surfaces, thicker at the outer edge, rising slightly towards what would have been the centre of the base.

Discussion

- B.4.3 Price and Cottam indicate that square bottles were long-lived forms from c.AD43-end of 2nd century and that they were very common from the last quarter of the 1st century onwards (Price and Cottam 1998, 195).
- B.4.4 The assemblage is small and fragmentary. The presence of Roman vessel glass suggests Roman occupation, although the material may be the result of a manuring scatter, and

the occupation may have been some distance from Trench 2. The glass was recovered alongside a sherd of Saxon pottery, a fragment of *Tegula* and an undated whetstone.

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.4.5 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 retained or dispersed for educational use prior to archive deposition.

B.5 Anglo-Saxon Pottery

By Denis Sami

Introduction

- B.5.1 A total of 6 fragments (275g) of middle Anglo-Saxon ceramic material was recovered from trenching (Table 2). The assemblage is composed of undiagnostic sherds from undecorated vessels dating to the Middle Anglo-Saxon period (c. AD 720-850).

Fabric	No. fragments	Weight (g)
IPS	5	228
MAS(Q)	1	47
Total	6	275

Table 2: Quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery by fabrics

Methodology

- B.5.2 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.5.3 Hand-made fabrics of the Middle Anglo-Saxon period and Ipswich ware type are described in Paul Spoerry's (2016) volume *The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire*. This scheme has been applied here in the fabric description to conform to previous published schemes. Previous work on hand-made Anglo-Saxon pottery in the Eastern region includes Alan Vince petrological analysis of Anglo-Saxon ceramics from Kilverstone (AVAC 2003) and Bloodmoor Hill, Carlton Colville (AVAC 2003), while previous study of Ipswich ware type includes Paul Blinkhorn's dedicated monograph (2012).
- B.5.4 All Middle Anglo-Saxon ceramic material from excavation 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, weighted and classified on a context by context basis. The catalogue is organized 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.5.5 The pottery and archive (Excel/Access databases) are curated by OAE until formal deposition. A summary of pottery data is provided in Table 3.

The Assemblage

Character

- B.5.6 Sherds were recovered from two pits (cuts **26** and **29**) both in trench 2 (Table 1) and context 53 (ditch **52**) in Trench 4.
- B.5.7 The small assemblage is composed of globular domestic vessels such as jars for storage/cooking activity.
- B.5.8 Hand-made sherd from context 30 (pit **29**) is made of a dense, hard fired, sandy fabric with moderate scattered rounded quartz. The external surface is orange to black and the core and internal surface are black. Horizontal grooves are visible on the external surface. This surface treatment is found also in certain productions of Ipswich ware suggesting a contemporary chronology.
- B.5.9 The sherd of Ipswich ware from context 28 (pit **26**) and 53 (ditch **52**) is made in fabric group 1 (Blinkhorn 2012: 16-183), while the sherds from context 30 (pit **29**) are made in fabric group 2 (Blinkhorn 2012: 16-18).

Chronology

- B.5.10 Despite the production and use of quartz tempered hand-made ware in East Anglia was constant through the early and the middle Anglo-Saxon periods, the sherd from context 30 can be dated, given its surface treatment and fabric, to the middle Anglo-Saxon phase. After Paul Blinkhorn's study (2012) the production of Ipswich ware is today dated to between c. AD 720-850.

Distribution

- B.5.11 Middle Saxon pottery is concentrated in the area of Trench 2 suggesting the presence of a potential domestic settlement in the area.
- B.5.12 Further excavation in the area of this trench is likely to produce additional middle Anglo-Saxon ceramic material.

Discussion

- B.5.13 An assemblage of this size provides only basic information about the chronology of excavated deposits and the potential use of the area in the middle Anglo-Saxon period.

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature	Ceramic era	HM/WM	Fabric Family	Part	Quantity	Weight (g)	Residue	Pot Date (min)	Pot Date (max)
28	26	2	pit	MAS	HM	IPS	wall	1	56		720	850
30	29	2	pit	MAS	HM	IPS	wall	3	30		720	850
30	29	2	pit	MAS	HM	MAS(Q)	wall	1	47	yes	650	850
53	52	4	ditch	MAS	HM	IPS	wall	1	142		720	850

Table 3: Catalogue of Anglo-Saxon pottery

B.6 Roman and Post-Medieval Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Methodology and Assemblage

- B.6.1 A small assemblage of pottery (4 sherds, 1,821g) was recovered from Trenches 1 and 2, with the bulk of the assemblage recovered from topsoil bucket sampling.
- B.6.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), and The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards. However, a simplified method of recording has been undertaken, with fabric, basic description, weight and count recorded in the text. The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.
- B.6.3 Bucket sampling of the topsoil (3) in Trench 1 produced a moderately large sherd from a moderately abraded, thick walled post-medieval Redware (1550-1800) bowl or jar (120g). It is glazed internally with a clear green glaze with some iron mottles and occasional external spots of glaze. The sampling also produced a moderately abraded sherd of off-white stoneware (c.1800+), externally clear glazed, with a slightly curved surface and a near right-angled corner (13g). The sherd may be from a vessel or possibly from a piece of sanitary ware.
- B.6.4 The topsoil (3) in Trench 2 produced a single sherd (43g) of ceramic material, the form of which is uncertain, and which may be from a horticultural or agricultural vessel. The sherd is in a hard fired, silty fabric (colour between 5YR 7/6 and 6/6 reddish yellow). Internally it appears to be burnished/polished as if to make it more waterproof, a base angle suggests it is a flared dish form and the 'rim' is simple and rounded with slight external trimming; a raised horizontal ridge on the outer surface may be from a mould. The dating is uncertain, although it is very probably relatively modern. A dovecot stood on the site in the 19th century (section 1.3.15) and it is possible that this is part of either a 'chicken' feeder or 'chicken' waterer.
- B.6.5 Ditch **35** in Trench 1 produced a heavily abraded body sherd from an oxidised sandy ware vessel (5g) with yellowish brown surfaces, brown margins and a pale grey core where the sherd is thickest. Although not closely datable, the presence of other Roman material from pit **26** (CBM), in Trench 2, may indicate that the sherd is Roman.

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.6.6 Should further work be undertaken, the pottery should be incorporated into any later catalogue. Further work is likely to produce additional Roman and post-medieval pottery, although the sherds are likely to be sparsely distributed. The sherds may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

B.7 Ceramic Building Material

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

- B.7.1 A fragmentary assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered, consisting of a single tile fragment (0.035kg) from Trench 2 in the first phase of work, and an additional five fragments (1.814kg) from Trenches 3 and 4 during further work. Eight fragments (0.029kg) of very pale material, initially identified as fired clay, have been re-classified as chalk, possibly slightly heat-altered, and discarded.
- B.7.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded, where this was identifiable. Fabric is noted and dating is necessarily broad. Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was thickness. The results are recorded in the text. Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group *Ceramic Building Material, Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication* (2002) forms the basis for recording, and Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification. The CBM and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

- B.7.3 A single triangular fragment of CBM was recovered from pit **26** in Trench 2. The fragment is 20-17mm thick, thinning towards the edge, where traces of a finger groove survive, suggesting that the fragment is from a *tegula*, having broken close to the flange. The fragment is hard fired, and fine quartz-tempered, with common black inclusions. The upper and lower surfaces survive, the upper surface being 7.5YR 4/4 brown with margins of 5YR 4/4 reddish brown, a pale grey core and slightly darker grey, lightly sanded base.
- B.7.4 In Trench 3, two pits produced CBM. Pit **43** produced a sub-rectangular fragment of a *pedalis* or larger tile. The fragment is hard fired and fine chalk tempered, 40mm thick and weighs 0.232kg. Upper and lower surfaces survive, both being 7.5YR 5/6 strong brown, with the internal fabric 5YR 5/8 yellowish red, and a coarsely sanded base.
- B.7.5 Pit **49** contained a fragment of tile 26mm thick weighing 0.135kg. The fragment is hard fired and smooth, with no obvious inclusions. The upper and lower surfaces survive, both being 5YR 6/6 yellowish red with a mid to dark grey core. There is a flange scar on the upper surface, indicating this is a fragment of *tegula*.
- B.7.6 Two features in Trench 4 also produced CBM. Ditch **52** produced an irregular fragment of a combed box flue tile 20mm thick, weighing 0.117kg. The fragment is hard fired and coarse chalk tempered, with rare black inclusions. The entire thickness of the fabric is 5YR 6/8 reddish yellow and it has a sanded base. The straight lines of combing were made with a tool having at least six tines or teeth. Ditch **52** also contained a single unabraded sherd of Ipswich ware (see Sami, section B.5).
- B.7.7 Ditch **56** contained two fragments of Roman CBM, both 40-44mm thick, weighing 1.33kg in total. Both are probably fragments of *pedalis* or a larger tile/brick, very

similar in both colour and fabric to the piece found in pit **43**. The larger of the two fragments has a surviving length of edge, on which there is a single finger impression.

- B.7.8 The tile fragment suggests the existence of Roman structures in the vicinity of the site, although the paucity of CBM recovery suggest that they are some distance from the trenches and that the CBM may relate to manuring scatters, subsequently re-deposited. The presence of Ipswich ware in ditch **52** suggests the Roman CBM is residual in that feature.

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.7.9 The plain and fragmentary nature of the total assemblage means it is of little interest other than to indicate the presence of Roman activity. However, it does indicate that, if further work is undertaken, further CBM is likely to be produced, although only at low levels. Should further work be undertaken, the CBM report should be incorporated into any later report. If no further work is undertaken this statement acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction and Methodology

C.1.1 A small assemblage of animal bone numbering 109 fragments and weighing 1832g were recovered during the evaluation at Meldreth. The material was recovered from ditches and pits and includes both hand-collected bone and bone collected from samples. All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Surface preservation was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004, 14-15). Fifty-one fragments of bone were identifiable to taxon. Sixty-three fragments were identifiable as large or medium mammal. These have been included in Table 5 but are not discussed further within this report.

Results

C.1.2 The surface condition of the bone on average represents a 3-4 on the scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004, 14-15). Most surfaces are heavily eroded; notably by root activity. Both adult and juvenile remains are present. A minimum number of individuals (MNI) of one is recordable for all taxa bar sheep/goat where an MNI of two is observable.

C.1.3 A horse pelvis and pig pelvis, both from ditch **13** showed chop marks. No other butchery marks or pathology was observed. There is very limited potential for biometric measurements from this assemblage.

Taxon	NISP	NISP %	MNI	MNI %
Amphibian	4	7.84	1	12.5
Bird	6	11.76	1	12.5
Chicken	1	1.96	1	12.5
Cattle	12	23.53	1	12.5
Horse	2	3.92	1	12.5
Pig	7	13.73	1	12.5
Sheep/goat	19	37.25	2	25
Totals	51	100	8	100

Table 4: NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) and MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) per taxon

Summary and Recommendations

C.1.4 The combination of juvenile sheep and pig bone suggests that these animals may have been reared on site. There is however, little other information that can be gleaned from the material at this stage. The assemblage is small, highly fragmentary and poorly preserved. Should further excavations take place it may be useful to consider this material within the context of a larger assemblage. At this stage, however, no further analysis is required.

Trench	Cut	Context	Type	Date	Taxon	Element	Weight	Count
1	4	5	Pit	Undated	Sheep/Goat	Metapodial	6	1
1	8	9	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Skull	48	1
1	8	9	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Mandible	25	1
1	8	9	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Ulna	11	1
	8	9	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Rib	1	1
1	8	9	Ditch	Undated	Medium mammal	Rib	1	1
1	8	10	Ditch	Undated	Sheep/Goat	Loose max cheek tooth	2	1
1	8	10	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Rib	6	1
2	13	15	Ditch	Undated	Horse	Pelvis	132	1
2	13	15	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Skull	5	1
	13	15	Ditch	Undated	Medium mammal	Rib	6	3
2	13	15	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Rib	14	2
2	13	15	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Radius	39	1
2	13	15	Ditch	Undated	Pig	Pelvis	23	1
2	13	15	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Tibia	11	1
2	18	20	Pit	Undated	Large mammal	Rib	2	1
2	18	20	Pit	Undated	Pig	Atlas	18	1
2	18	20	Pit	Undated	Sheep/Goat	Loose max cheek tooth	14	1
2	18	20	Pit	Undated	Medium mammal	Pelvis	1	1
2	18	20	Pit	Undated	Medium mammal	Long bone	4	1
2	18	20	Pit	Undated	Large mammal	Long bone	8	1
2	21	23	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Rib	10	1
2	21	23	Ditch	Undated	Large mammal	Mandible	36	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Sheep/Goat	Mandible	24	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Cattle	Loose max cheek tooth	27	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Large mammal	Femur	21	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	15	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Cattle	Mandible	139	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Sheep/Goat	Mandible	8	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Large mammal	Rib	14	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Cattle	Loose mand cheek tooth	29	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Large mammal	Long bone	1	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Sheep/Goat	Humerus	30	1

Trench	Cut	Context	Type	Date	Taxon	Element	Weight	Count
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Sheep/Goat	Loose mand cheek tooth	1	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Sheep/Goat	Pelvis	13	1
2	26	28	Pit	Medieval	Medium mammal	Rib	31	11
2	29	30	Pit	Medieval	Sheep/Goat	Radius	3	1
2	29	30	Pit	Medieval	Large mammal	Femur	30	1
2	29	30	Pit	Medieval	Large mammal	Long bone	3	1
2	29	30	Pit	Medieval	Medium mammal	Long bone	9	1
2	29	30	Pit	Medieval	Bird	PH1	1	1
2	29	32	Pit	Medieval	Cattle	Femur	14	1
2	29	32	Pit	Medieval	Large mammal	Vertebra	17	1
2	29	32	Pit	Medieval	Medium mammal	Rib	3	1
1	35	36	Ditch	Medieval	Cattle	Mandible	24	1
3	43	45	Pit		Large mammal	Vertebra	35	1
3	43	45	Pit		Large mammal	Tarsal	9	1
3	43	45	Pit		Pig	Humerus	7	1
3	43	45	Pit		Pig	Radius	3	1
3	43	45	Pit		Sheep/Goat	Calcaneus	6	1
3	43	45	Pit		Sheep/Goat	Tibia	17	1
3	46	47	Pit		Medium mammal	Rib	10	1
3	46	48	Pit		Cattle	Loose max cheek tooth	20	1
3	46	48	Pit		Cattle	Loose mand cheek tooth	9	1
3	46	48	Pit		Sheep/Goat	Calcaneus	11	1
3	46	48	Pit		Sheep/Goat	Humerus	20	1
3	49	51	Pit		amphibian	Vertebra	1	3
3	49	51	Pit		amphibian	Metatarsus	1	1
3	49	51	Pit		bird	Long bone	6	1
3	49	51	Pit		Cattle	Mandible	109	1
3	49	51	Pit		Cattle	Scapula	158	1
3	49	51	Pit		Chicken	Carpometa carpus	2	1
3	49	51	Pit		Large mammal	Skull	104	7
3	49	51	Pit		Medium mammal	Femur	30	1
3	49	51	Pit		Pig	Humerus	57	1
3	49	51	Pit		Sheep/Goat	Humerus	17	1
3	49	51	Pit		small mammal	Long bone	1	1
4	56	57	Ditch		Cattle	PH2	11	1
4	56	57	Ditch		Cattle	Metapodial	19	1
4	56	57	Ditch		Large mammal	Vertebra	32	1
4	56	57	Ditch		Large mammal	Mandible	27	1
4	56	57	Ditch		Pig	Mandible	6	1
4	56	57	Ditch		Sheep/Goat	Pelvis	8	1
4	58	59	Pit		Horse	Loose mand cheek tooth	80	1

Trench	Cut	Context	Type	Date	Taxon	Element	Weight	Count
4	58	59	Pit		Large mammal	Mandible	4	1
4	58	59	Pit		Medium mammal	Tarsal	1	1
4	58	59	Pit		Sheep/Goat	Loose mand cheek tooth	1	1
4	58	60	Pit		Large mammal	Mandible	7	1
4	58	61	Pit		Large mammal	Rib	11	1
4	58	61	Pit		Large mammal	Mandible	40	1
4	58	61	Pit		Medium mammal	Rib	2	1
4	58	61	Pit		Medium mammal	Mandible	1	1
4	58	61	Pit		Medium mammal	Femur	1	1
4	58	61	Pit		Medium mammal	Long bone	2	1
4	58	62	Pit		Pig	Humerus	21	1
4	58	62	Pit		Sheep/Goat	Mandible	25	1
4	58	63	Pit		Medium mammal	Femur	10	1
4	58	63	Pit		Medium mammal	Skull	10	1
Totals							1832	109

Table 5: Total weight count taxon and elements present

C.2 Marine Mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 0.001kg of shell was collected by hand from ditch **52** in Trench 4. The shell recovered is oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine and shallow coastal waters. The shell is poorly preserved and has suffered post-depositional damage.

Methodology

C.2.2 The shell was weighed and recorded by species, with right and left valves noted, when identification could be made, using Winder (2011) as a guide. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage.

Assemblage

C.2.3 Ditch **52** contained a single fragment of oyster left valve (0.001kg). The oyster shell has suffered post-depositional damage.

Discussion

C.2.4 The shell assemblage is one of a damaged shell in poor condition, and represents general discarded food waste and, although not closely datable in itself, may be dated by its association with pottery or other material also recovered from the feature. Ditch

52 also produced Ipswich ware pottery, alongside residual Roman CBM. The shell may have become incorporated into the feature at any time.

- C.2.5 The shell assemblage is difficult to date and indicates transportation of a marine food source to the site. The quantity is too small to represent anything other than casual disposal of rubbish.

Retention, dispersal and display

- C.2.6 The mollusca is in poor condition and may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

C.3 Environmental Samples

By *Martha Craven*

Introduction

- C.3.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at No.79 High Street, Meldreth, 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, 2, 3 and 5.

Methodology

- C.3.2 The total volume (up to 20L) 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.3.3 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.3.4 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.3.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

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

Results

- C.3.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation; many of the flots contain rootlets and molluscs which may have caused movement of material between contexts.
- C.3.7 The samples from this site all contain small to moderate quantities of cereal grains, primarily barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and wheat (*Triticum sp.*) with occasional oat (*Avena sp.*). Sample 3, fill 30 of pit **29** (Trench 2), and Sample 4, fill 10 of ditch **8** (Trench 1), each contain a single pea/small bean (*Pisum sp./Vicia sp.*). Several samples contain small quantities of weed seeds composed of: clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago sp.*), cleaver (*Galium aparine*), goosefoot (*Chenopodium sp.*) and self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*).
- C.3.8 The seven samples contain varying quantities of charcoal with the largest quantity, 50ml, having been recovered from Sample 4.
- C.3.9 All the samples contained a moderate quantity of relatively well-preserved molluscs.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Tree/Shrub Macrofossils	Snails	Small Bones	Charcoal Volume (ml)	Small Mammal	Large Mammal	Fish Bones	Amphibian Bones
1	4	10	8	Ditch	17	60	##	#	#	0	+++	0	50	0	#	0	0
2	1	23	21	Ditch	18	40	#	0	0	0	+++	0	<1	0	#	0	0
2	2	28	26	Pit	18	30	##	0	#	0	+++	0	25	0	#	0	0
2	3	30	29	Pit	17	10	##	#	0	0	+++	0	9	0	#	0	0
3	5	48	46	Pit	16	30	##	0	0	#U	+++	+	3	#	#	0	0
3	6	51	49	Pit	16	10	##	0	#	0	+++	+	2	#	##	#	#
5	8	59	58	Pit	20	10	###	0	0	0	+++	0	2	0	#	0	#

Table 6: Environmental samples from evaluated area

Discussion

- C.3.10 The recovery of charred grain, legumes, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is the potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. However, the recovery of small to moderate quantities of food plant remains in the samples is unlikely to be significant and is likely to represent either culinary waste, typical of habitation, or possibly scatters from manuring. The cereal grains present are typical of the medieval period onwards and there is no evidence of glume wheats which are typical of prehistoric and Roman deposits. The moderate quantity of charcoal in Sample 4 may represent the burning of wood for fuel.
- C.3.11 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name: Land to the Rear of No. 79 High Street, Meldreth
Site code: ECB 5945
Grid Reference TL 3742 4622
Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 12-14 August 2019 (Phase 1), 3-5 March 2020 (Phase 2)
Area of Site 1ha
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA East (15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridgeshire, CB23 8SQ), and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Store in due course, under the following accession number: ECB 5945.
Summary of Results: The six trenches opened revealed early medieval activity, possibly related to settlement activity and smithing and Roman activity. The features yielded a small assemblage of material including ironwork, worked stone, pottery, glass, CBM and animal bone.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-364074		
Project Name	High Street, Meldreth		

Start of Fieldwork	12 August 2019	End of Fieldwork	5 March 2020
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB 5945	Planning App. No.	S/1124/17/OL
HER Number	ECB 5945	Related Numbers	-

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	After outline determination (eg. A a reserved matter)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Uncertain	Iron knife	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)
Ditch	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)	Worked stone	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)

Pit	Uncertain	Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Pit	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)	Pottery	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)
Posthole	Uncertain	Glass	Roman (43 to 410)
		CBM	Roman (43 to 410)
	Choose an item.	Animal bone	Uncertain

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Land to the rear of 79 High Street Meldreth Cambridgeshire SG8 6LA
District	South Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Meldreth	
HER office	CCC HET	
Size of Study Area	1ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 3742 4622	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	CCC HET
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray & Stephen Macaulay
Project Supervisor	Robin Webb & Nicholas Cox

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC HET	ECB 5945
Digital Archive	OA East	ECB 5945
Paper Archive	CCC HET	ECB 5945

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Other

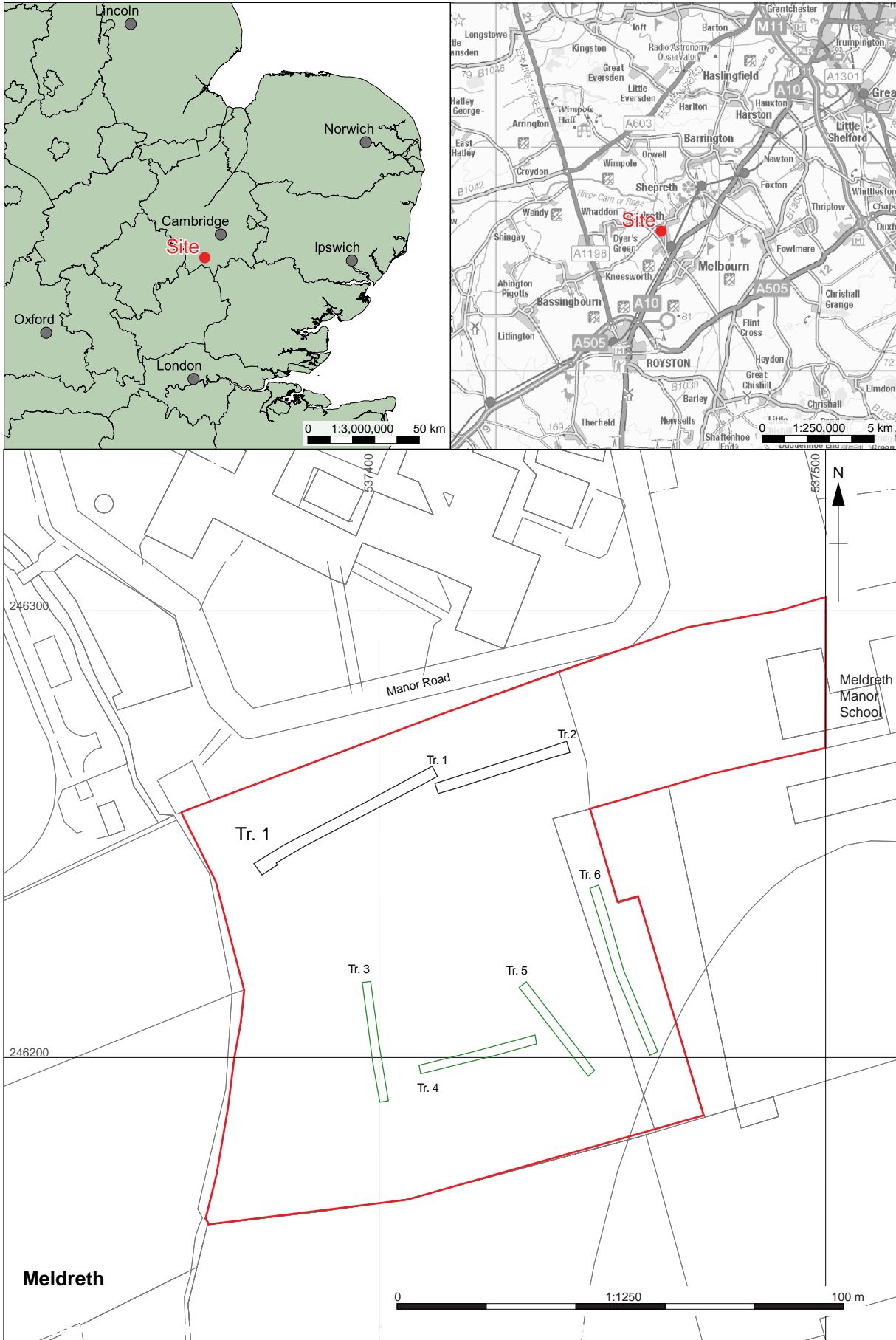
Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images (Digital photos)
- Illustrations (Figures/Plates)
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

Paper Media

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheets
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfiche
- Miscellaneous
- Research/Notes
- Photos (negatives/prints/slides)
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey

Further Comments

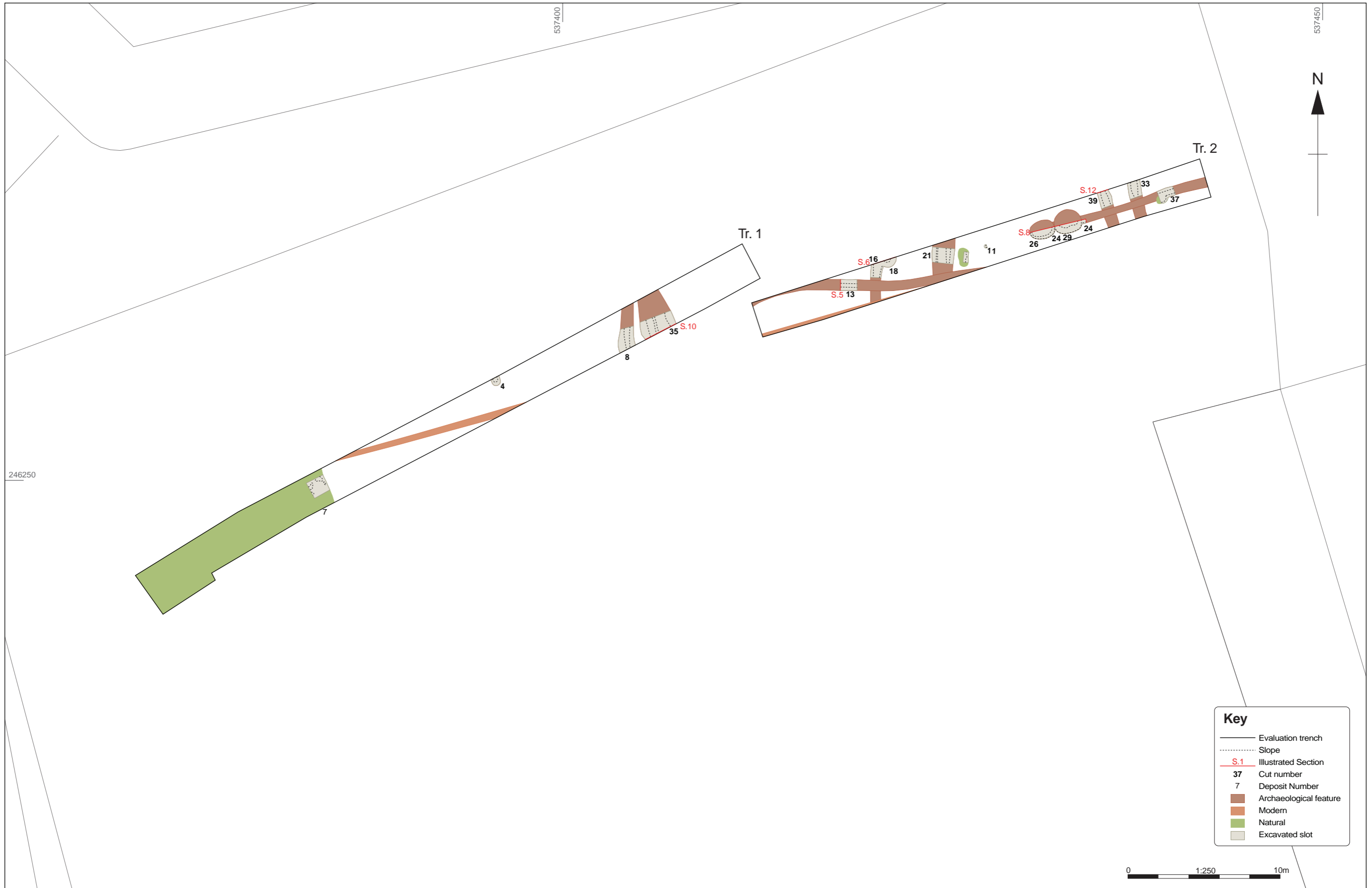


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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological Phase 1 trenches (black), Phase 2 trenches (green) in the development area (red).



Figure 2: CHER entries mentioned in the text.



Key

- Evaluation trench
- Slope
- S.1 Illustrated Section
- 37 Cut number
- 7 Deposit Number
- Archaeological feature
- Modern
- Natural
- Excavated slot

Figure 3: Detail of features in Phase 1 (Trenches 1 and 2).

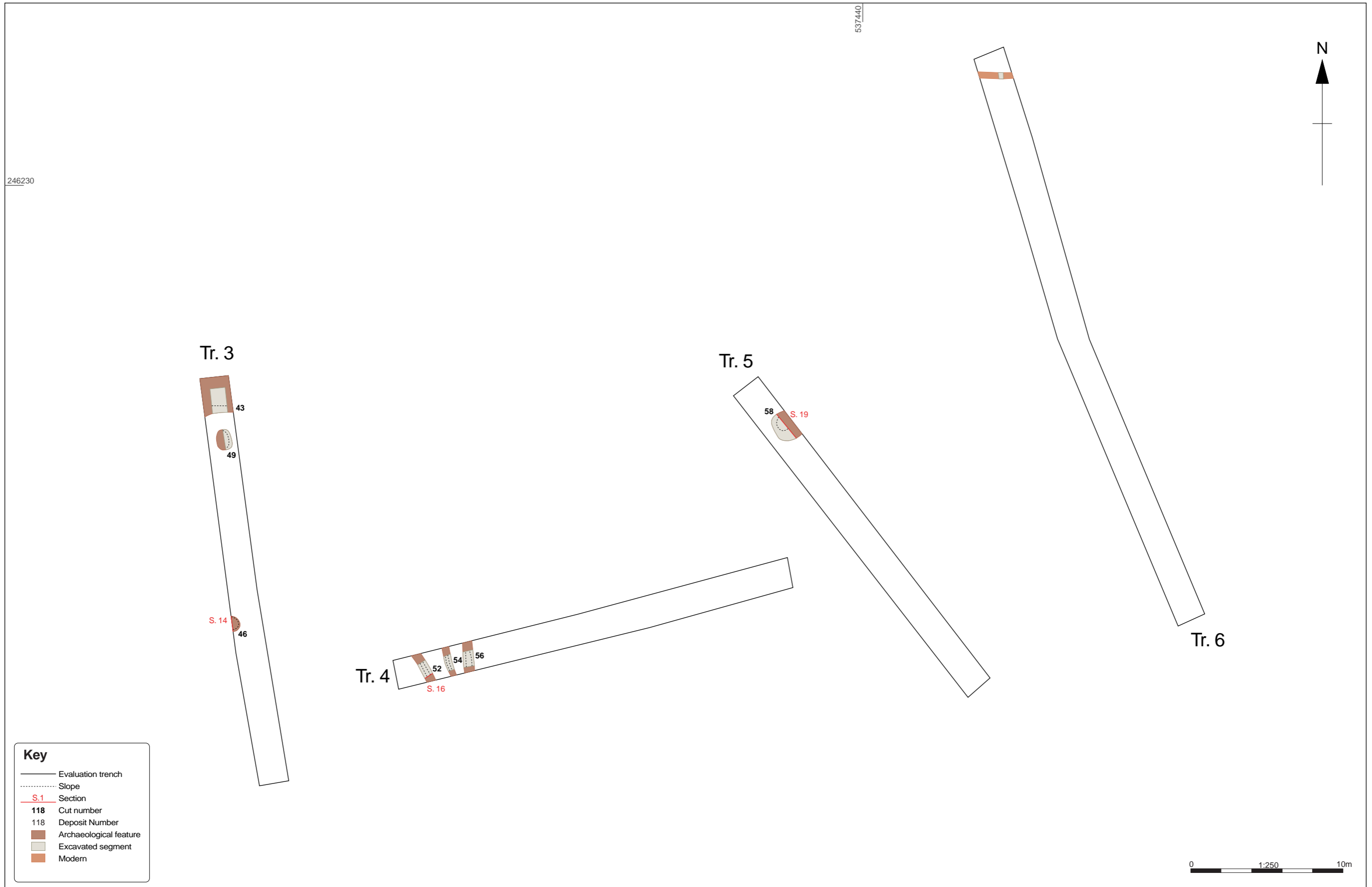


Figure 4: Detail of features in Phase 2 trenches (Trenches 3 to 6).

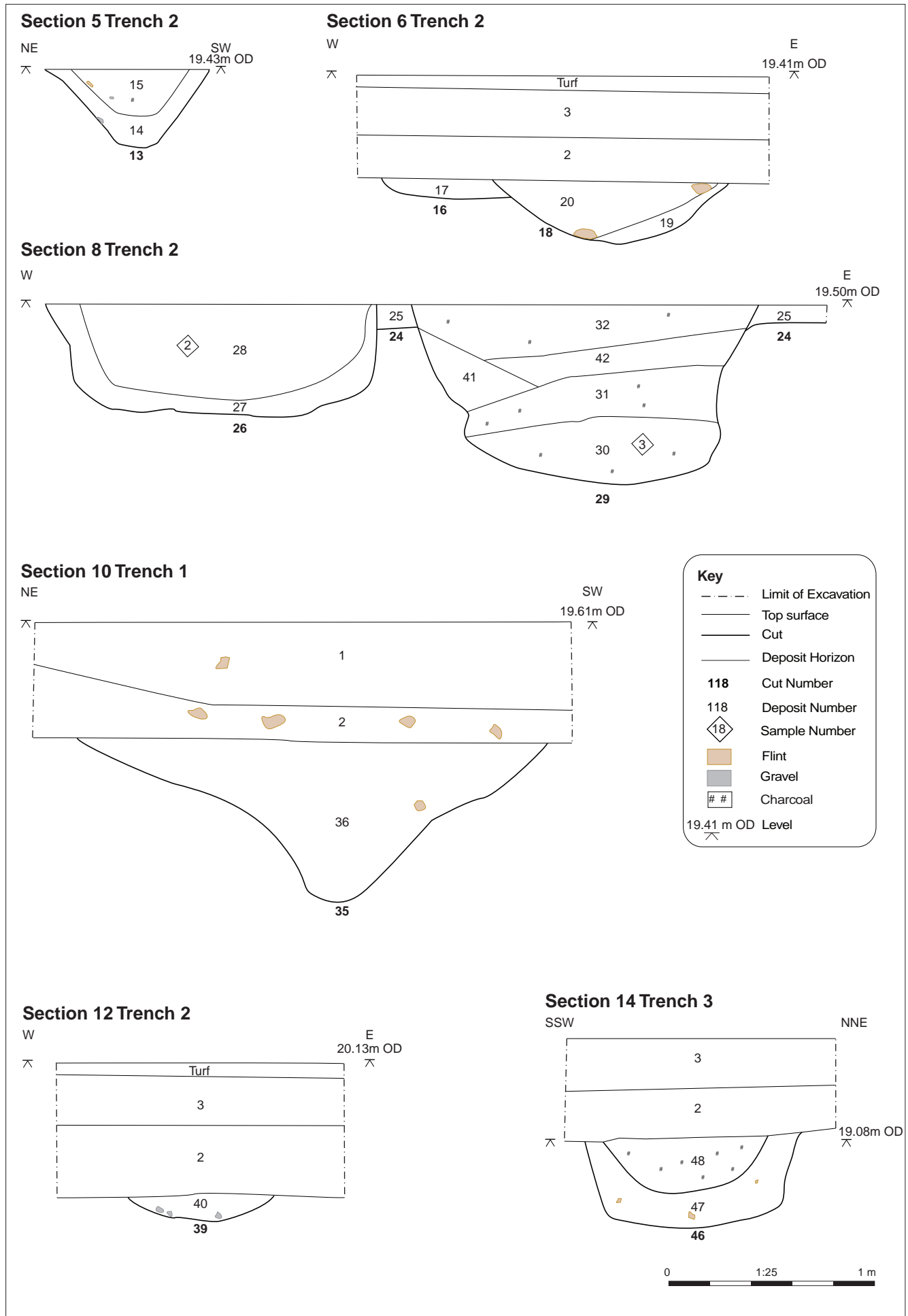


Figure 5: Selected Sections

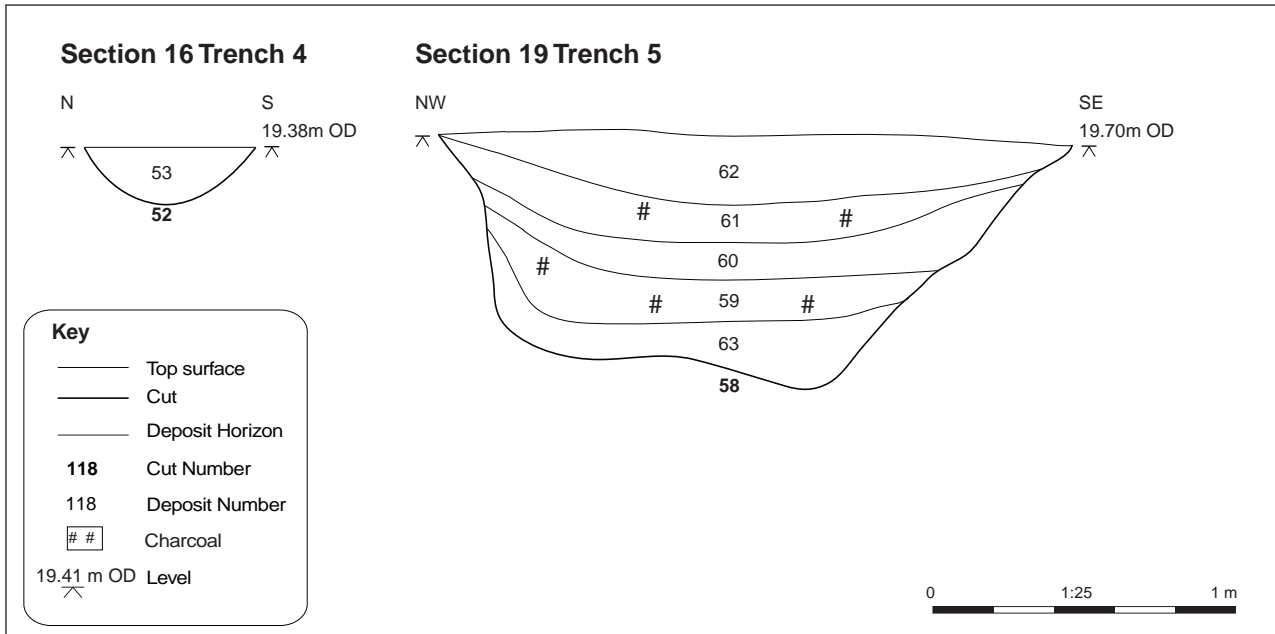


Figure 6: Selected sections



Plate 1: Northern end of the garden in which Trenches 1 and 2 sat, looking east.



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking west towards the natural slope and alluvium 7



Plate 3: North-to-south aligned ditch **35** (Trench 1), looking south



Plate 4: Trench 2, looking west



Plate 5: Pits **26** and **29**, cutting ditch **24** (Trench 2) looking north-west



Plate 6: Trench 4, looking north-east



Plate 7: Ditch **52** (Trench 4) looking south-east



Plate 8: Pit **58** (Trench 5), looking north-east



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