Archaeological Investigations

Medieval Remains at Weatheralls Primary School, Soham Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation, Excavation and Watching Brief

oxfordarchaeology east east east

January 2013

Client: Cambridgeshire County Council

OA East Report No: 1185
OASIS No: oxfordar3-77295
NGR: TL 5948 7353

Medieval Remains at Weatheralls Primary School, Soham, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Investigations

By Tom Phillips BA AIfA, John Diffey BA, Gareth Rees BA MA AIfA and Pat Moan BA

With contributions by Chris Faine MA MSc AIfA, Carole Fletcher HND BA AIfA, Rachel Fosberry HNC AIfA and Anthony Haskins BSc MSc PIfA

Editor: Stephen Macaulay BA MPhil MIfA

Illustrator: Séverine Bézie BA MA

Report Date: April 2013

Report Number:	1185
Site Name:	Weatheralls Primary School
HER Event No:	CHER 3363
Date of Works:	April 2010, March 2011, August 2012, December 2012
Client Name:	Cambridgeshire County Council
Client Ref:	n/a
Planning Ref:	E/03009/11
Grid Ref:	TL 5948 7353
Site Code:	SOH WET 10\12
Finance Code:	SOH WET 10\12
Receiving Body:	CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No:	n/a

Prepared by:	Tom Phillips	John Diffey	Gareth Rees	Pat Moan
Position:	Project Officer	Assistant Supervisor	Project Supervisor	Assistant Supervisor
Date:	May 2010	March 2011/March 2013	August 2012	December 2012

Checked by: Stephen Macaulay
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: January 2013
Signed: .....

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary

Five phases of archaeological work were carried out by Oxford Archaeology East at the Weatheralls Primary School, Soham, Cambridgeshire (TL 5948 7353) between April 2010 and March 2013 in advance of and during a phased reorganisation of the school grounds to enable a school extension, including hard and soft landscaping, supported by enlarged playing fields.

The first phase of work took place from 27th to 30th April 2010 and consisted of an evaluation of seven trenches (Trenches 1-7) totalling 133m in length located in playing fields to the north of the school buildings. Monitoring and recording of ground works to the north of the site were carried out in March 2011 (Trench 8). An excavation in the area of the proposed new building took place between the 1st and 13th August 2012 (Trench 9). Further monitoring of ground works took place between 3rd and 17th December 2012. Followed by further monitoring during construction of a pond in March 2013.

The combined archaeological works found evidence of an early medieval field system possibly associated with a settlement in the immediate vicinity. This was represented by a major ditched boundary in Trenches 2, 3, 9 and 10 which was roughly parallel with both Pratt Street to the west and the 5m contour line to the east, as well as a footpath directly to the east. Boundary features that can be seen on the 1840 Tithe Map were uncovered in Trenches 4 and 5 along with two pits, one of which may have been associated with medieval settlement. Evidence of a north to south aligned field system, in the form of ditches and furrows was uncovered in Trenches 8 and 9 along with a feature that may have been a droveway with an associated post-built structure. A change in land use in the late medieval or post medieval period was evidenced in Trenches 1 and 9 where tree-pits relating to an orchard were uncovered.

The results of these archaeological investigations should be viewed in conjunction with the results of an earlier archaeological evaluation undertaken in 1991, in the western part of the site, which encountered similar remains (Taylor and Waite 1991). The joint results present a more complete picture of a ditched rectilinear field system with settlement evidence represented by the pits and domestic debris deposited into the ditches. The ceramic assemblage from the combined works suggests a date between the 10th – mid 12th centuries for the earliest activity. These remains have the potential to add to the understanding of the medieval development of Soham.

In addition, there was a background scatter of prehistoric flints which may attest to prehistoric activity in the area.

Soil cover across the site was an average of 0.75m. The water table was encountered in trenches 2, 3 and 6 at approximately 6.7m OD. In all the trenches this was approximately 1.2m below modern ground level.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation, monitoring and excavation was conducted at the Weatheralls Primary School, Soham (TL 5948 7353; Figure 1). The site covered an area of approximately 0.72ha, divided between a school playing field, an area of grassland and an area that had previously contained trees. The investigations were commissioned by Capita Architecture (evaluation and monitoring) and Faithful+Gould (Atkins) (excavation) on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.

1.1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with Briefs issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by a Specifications prepared by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2010; Macaulay 2012).

1.1.3 The evaluation work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* recently revised in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The significance of the results of the evaluation led to further archaeological work in the development area in the form of monitoring and an excavation.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey records that the site is situated on 3rd terrace river gravels which overlie and interface between Gault Clay and West Melbury Marly Chalk bedrock (1981). Both terrace gravel and marly chalk was encountered on site.

1.2.2 The site sloped very gradually from west to east. In the west, ground level at the southern end of trench 4 was 8.3m OD. Ground level at the south-eastern end of trench 2, in the east of the site, was 6.84m OD. The site is situated on the eastern side of Soham and the land continues to drop away eastwards, towards the fen edge. A further 0.5km to the east the land is approximately 3m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2009 for land directly to the east of the current site, this has documented the archaeological and historical background for this part of Soham (Rees 2009b). Much of the following background is taken from this.

Historical Sources

1.3.2 There is very little historical evidence making direct mention of the Weatheralls. The name Weatherall appears to be a 19th century corruption of Netherhall which was the name of a manor, possibly on Paddock Street from the 13th century, although no remains exist today (Wareham and Wright 2002). By 1503 the closes adjoining Paddock Street had been renamed 'Netherhall Closes' and it may have been from this area that the land known today as the Weatheralls took its name.

1.3.3 The name *Netherhall* probably derived from a lower farm or hall or may refer to the status of the manor (http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/ins/kepn). Like *Netherhall*, the name *Soham* is derived from Old English; *Soegan Hamm* or 'swampy' settlement referring to its position on a peninsula in Soham Mere (Reaney 1943, 196).

Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER; Figure 1)

Prehistoric

1.3.4 The fen-edge around Soham and the Snail Valley has a long history of human activity. Prehistoric finds within the vicinity of the site include four Mesolithic tranchet axes recorded in the 1970s, 0.5km to the south-west of the site. No finds from earlier periods were found in the vicinity. Tools dating to the Neolithic period have been found at three spots in Soham. These are stone and flint axes, including one 0.5km to the east of the proposed development area (CHER 11019). Evidence for a continuation of activity in the same area comes from a flint scatter and a bronze razor both dating to the Bronze Age (CHER 11019A, 07101).

Roman

1.3.5 There are six find spots dating to the Roman period within the vicinity of the site. Five of these are located within residential areas of the town with only one being located on the lower ground to the east in East Fen Common. A coin (not closely dated) was found 250m to the east of the site (CHER 07097) with Roman pottery and human remains were found 250m to the north (CHER 07100). Field walking on land to the rear of 52 Station Road recovered more Roman pottery (MCB 18105) whilst more human remains were uncovered to the south at White Hart Lane (MCB 17746).

Saxon and Medieval

1.3.6 Finds from the Saxon period have tended to centre around St. Andrew's Church and may relate to the Saxon cemetery thought to lie under the current churchyard (Fox 1923; CHER 07123a & 11386). A long brooch fragment from the Early Saxon period was reportedly found to the north-east of the current site. These finds may mark the genesis of the town which is thought to date to the Early Saxon period.

1.3.7 Twelfth century documentary sources refer to the foundation in the 7th century AD of a monastery by St Felix, first bishop of the East Angles, who was buried in Soham. The monastery was destroyed during the Danish invasions of East Anglia (late 9th century) along with many other religious foundations in the area, never to be re-established (Salzman 1948). As yet there has been no definite archaeological evidence for Middle Saxon activity in Soham, though a single sherd of Ipswich ware was recovered during excavations at St Andrew's House (Atkins 2004a; CHER CB15776).

1.3.8 The manor of Soham was given to Ely Abbey shortly after the re-foundation of the latter in the 10th century (Conybeare 1897). The exact location of the monastery is unknown, although it is possible that the Parish church of St Andrew's (late 12th century) was founded on the site of its Saxon predecessor. The sub circular pattern of roads around the centre of the village may suggest a religious precinct (Oosthuizen 2000).

1.3.9 The expansion of Soham in both size and wealth appears to have continued into the early medieval period. Remains from the Infant's School (Taylor and Waite 1991) and from High Street/Clay Street illustrate this growth that is attested by the construction of

St Andrew's Church in the late 12th century (Hatton & Last 1997). St. Andrew's Church lies 460m to the southwest of the proposed development site.

Post-Medieval

1.3.10 A collection of post-medieval material was reportedly found 250m to the east of the current site (CHER 07097B). This includes a variety of material including weights, bells, thimbles and coins which, if *in-situ,* may represent some form of mercantile activity. Other significant post-medieval remains have come from evaluations in the centre of the town at St. Andrew's House (Atkins 2004a; CHER CB15776).

Archaeological Excavations and Surveys

Evaluation at Weatherall's Close, CHER MCB16872 (Hickling 2005)

1.3.11 Three trenches were excavated 250m to the north-east of the current site measuring a total of 160m. These uncovered a north-west to south-east orientated furrow and a small ditch measuring 0.5m wide and 0.13m deep. This ditch contained a single Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery sherd. These trenches were 0.55-0.7m deep and were all flooded by a high water table.

Evaluation at Ten Bell Lane, CHER MCB16279 (Atkins 2004b)

1.3.12 Located 60m to the north, this evaluation consisted of two trenches totalling 45.7m in length. Evidence for late Medieval sand quarrying and undated ditches were uncovered. Several waste flint flakes as well as residual Roman and prehistoric pottery attest to activity in this area. The ditches were orientated north-east to south-west. Overburden in these trenches was c.0.7m thick.

Assessment (evaluation) at Pratt Street, CHER 07099 (Taylor and Waite 1991)

1.3.13 The evaluation was located within the same field as trenches 4 and 5 in the current works (see 4.2 for further discussion). It consisted of 6 trenches totalling 54m in length. A single ditch 0.5m deep possibly dating to the Early Saxon period was uncovered. Three north to south orientated ditches containing Saxo-Norman pottery were also located. A further three medieval ditches dating between the 10th and 13th centuries were also uncovered. Overburden was c.0.75m thick.

Evaluation at 9-13 Pratt Street, CHER 11932 (Hatton and Last 1997)

1.3.14 Located 100m to the south-west of the current site this evaluation consisted of three trenches totalling 55m in length. Several ditches orientated north-west to south-east were uncovered as well as a large pit. These features were dated to the Late Saxon period. Modern and post-medieval features were also uncovered. Overburden varied from 0.95m to 1.4m and water logging hindered excavation. This site was located at 9m OD which perhaps accounts for the density of features and depth of over burden compared with sites further to the east.

Evaluation at Paddock Street, CHER MCB18201 (Rees 2009a)

1.3.15 An evaluation 500m to the south of the current site revealed evidence for activity dating from the late Roman to post-medieval periods. A ditch 0.9m wide and 1.2m deep orientated east to west dated to the Roman period. All other features were dated to the

12th to 14th centuries including a series of ditches, an enclosure and a possible retting pit. No direct evidence of domestic occupation was uncovered.

Cartographic evidence

1.3.16 Several historic maps are available showing Soham including the present site. The earliest available map was that of Soham and Fordham manors, dating from 1656 (Figure 2). The current eastern and southern boundaries of the site are shown on this map indicating that the line of this boundary has not changed. A field to the east of the site is notable due to its irregular shape which may indicate a landuse distinct from the linear closes that surround it.

1.3.17 By the time of the Tithe map in 1840 (Figure 3) the land of the current site was divided into a series of smaller plots running perpendicular to Pratt Street. These plots had probably retained their boundaries from before the time of Enclosure although the irregularly shaped field had been replaced by a rectilinear arrangement. All of these plots are labelled as 'orchard', in contrast to the land to the east which was in large, open fields. The 1:25" first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 shows the site is still divided into the same small plots and the orchard is marked more clearly.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The authors would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council who commissioned and funded the archaeological work and the agents on site Capita Architecture, Faithful+Gould (Atkins) and Coulsons who facilitated the works. Stephen Macaulay managed the project and edited the report. Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council wrote the briefs for archaeological works, visited and monitored the site. The site was excavated and recorded by the authors, Steve Graham, Steve Morgan, Helen Stocks, Pete Boardman, Graeme Clarke and Nicholas Pankhurst. Rachel Clarke and Gareth Rees carried out the site survey. Carole Fletcher examined the pottery, Chris Faine and Anthony Haskins assessed the animal bone and Rachel Fosberry studied the environmental remains. Severine Bezie produced the illustrations.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of these investigations was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The methodology varied for each phase of work and they are described individually below.

2.2.2 The site surveys was carried out using a Leica GPS 1200, to locate the position of the excavated trenches and record heights.

2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

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

Phase 1: Evaluation

2.2.5 The Brief required that a programme of linear trenching be carried out to adequately sample the threatened area. In total 133m of trenching were machine excavated within a total area of approximately 0.62ha. Areas of the site were not available for evaluation. Within the playing field, trenches were restricted to around the perimeter to minimise the impact on the playing fields. In the field to the west the available investigation area was reduced due to a row of trees running north-east to south-west, located between trench 4 and the adjacent footpath.

2.2.6 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.7 Twelve environmental samples were collected to investigate the possible survival of micro and macro botanical remains (see Appendix C.2).

2.2.8 Site conditions were favourable. The water table was encountered in Trenches 2, 3 and 6 at approximately 6.7m OD. In all the trenches this was approximately 1.2m below modern ground level.

Phase 2: Watching Brief

2.2.9 The Brief required the archaeological investigation (monitoring) of all ground disturbance activity across the site. This included construction of an all weather netball court and associated drainage (soak-away), construction of grass football pitch, tree/hedge removal, redirection of an unofficial footpath and the erection of a 1.8m high fence.

2.2.10 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator with a 1m wide toothless bucket

2.2.11 Site conditions were problematic with a very high water table making digging and recording of archaeological features difficult.

Phase 3: Excavation

2.2.12 In light of the findings from the previous two phases of work it was required that an excavation should take place of the entire area of the footprint of a new school building to the south of the area investigated by the evaluation. Due to logistical constraints the eastern half of the excavation area was stripped first in order to store spoil on the western half. After investigation of archaeological features this half of the the trench was then backfilled in 150mm spits, compacted by a roller, to a level 200mm below the ground level.

2.2.13 Given the low density of archaeology uncovered in the eastern half of the area it was decided, in consultation with Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council, that only the northern half of the western phase of the excavation would be stripped. The presence of a large foul water drain truncating a 2m wide corridor through the south-east corner of the site as well as the presence of paved footpaths to the west were also limiting factors during this stage of works. A total area of 0.048ha was excavated.

2.2.14 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.15 Eight environmental samples were collected from this phase of work to investigate the possible survival of micro and macro botanical remains (see Appendix C.1).

Phase 4: Watching Brief

2.2.16 Due to the findings during the previous work on site, monitoring the installation of new gas and electric services to the new school building was needed. This involved approximately 120m of trenching being excavated to a depth of 0.7m around the new school building and through the current car park. The trenches were excavated in 4m sections and backfilled immediately once the service was in place. This was due to Health and Safety concerns as the school and car park were still open during excavation.

2.2.17 The service trenches were located to the west-south-west of the new school building, mostly located within the current car park. There were numerous trenches at different alignments, connecting to various existing services (Figure 7).

2.2.18 Machine excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a 0.4m wide toothless bucket.

2.2.19 Site conditions were generally poor, with a relatively high water table, making excavation difficult.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Results of the investigations are presented by phase of work, starting with the evaluation in trench order, followed by the results from the subsequent monitoring and excavation. The trench layout is illustrated in Figure 4 and a summary of the context data can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 Evaluation (2010)

Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the south-west of the playing field. It was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 23m in length with a depth of 0.77m at the north-east end and 0.65m at the south-west end.

3.2.2 Ditch **5** was linear in plan, orientated north-west to south-east, measuring 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep with a U shaped profile (Figure 6, section 1). In the trench base it appeared to be a ditch terminus. However, the ditch was visible in the opposite north-west facing trench section and so continues to the south-east. It contained a single sterile fill with no artefactual evidence. The ditch was sealed by the subsoil.

3.2.3 Pit **9** was circular, although it was only partially visible in the trench. It measured 2.2m in diameter and 0.15m deep with a shallow U shaped profile. Its single fill contained no artefacts. The cut of the pit, as it appeared in the base of the trench, was very sharp. In section, its edges were not as clear.

3.2.4 Pit **7** truncated the top of pit 9. It measured 0.7m in diameter and 0.3m deep. In section it could clearly be seen truncating the subsoil and its single fill contained fragments of post-medieval tile.

3.2.5 Subsoil layer 2 was a mid brownish grey silty sand, measuring up to 0.5m thick in trench 1. A single sherd of Ely ware pottery (AD1150 – 1350; 6g) and a Late Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic flint blade (3g), were retrieved from the subsoil in trench 1. The subsoil was sealed by topsoil layer 1, a dark greyish brown silty sand, measuring up to 0.3m thick. A possible flint core (60g) was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 2

3.2.6 Trench 2 was located close to the eastern hedged boundary of the playing field. It was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 18m in length with a depth of 1.08m at the north-west end and 0.94m at the south-west end. However, the trench depth is misleading because the only features, ditches **59** and **61**, extended along the course of the entire trench and on the same alignment as it. These ditches had to be truncated to a depth where their edges and/or the natural geology was visible, otherwise it would not have been possible to interpret what was happening. In one location, in the centre of the trench, the ditches were left intact at the interface of the upper fill and the subsoil, to allow for a hand excavated section. This was at a depth of 0.6m, which is a more accurate depth of trench if the trench was opened beyond the limits of the ditches.

3.2.7 Ditch **61** was linear in plan, orientated north-west to south-east, measuring at least 0.6m wide and 0.56m deep with steep sides. It contained a single fill with no datable artefacts. Ecofacts within the fill contained charred wheat grains.

3.2.8 Ditch **59** truncated ditch **61** on its north-eastern side and extended on exactly the same alignment. It was linear in plan, orientated north-west to south-east, measuring at least

0.8m wide and 0.54m deep with steep sides and a U shaped profile. Ditch **59** was mostly truncated away during machining apart from a section in the centre of the trench. It contained three fills, the upper of which (56) was a very dark greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal and fired clay, along with a single sherd (10g) of medieval St Neots/ shelly ware pottery (10th-mid 12th century) and fragments of fired clay (44g). A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered (61g), including a fragment of pig inominate. This fill had the appearance of occupation debris, supported by the presence of charred wheat and barley grains and small mammal bones in an environmental sample.

3.2.9 Features were sealed by subsoil (2), measuring up to 0.42m thick, from which a single struck flint was recovered (8g). The subsoil was sealed by topsoil layer 1, measuring up to 0.2m thick.

Trench 3

3.2.10 Trench 3 was located close to the eastern hedged boundary of the playing field. It was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and measured 24m in length with a depth of 0.75m at the north-north-west end and 1.05m at the south-west end. The angle of the trench was altered slightly to try and avoid the continuation of ditches 59 and 61 in trench 2. However, the ditches unfortunately turned so that at least one of the ditches extended along the course of trench 3. This again meant the trench was excavated deeper than would normally be necessary, to identify the course of the ditch. The most accurate trench depth is from the northern end of the trench, 0.75m, where it was possible to excavate to the horizon of the natural geology, and from section 18 (figure 4), where the base of subsoil was approximately 0.6m below ground level.

3.2.11 The linear ditch that extended along the entirety of trench 3 was excavated in four sections (ditch cuts **28, 33**, **52** and **54**). It was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, measuring between 0.55 and 1.4m wide and between 0.36 and 0.66m deep with a U shaped profile. However, only ditch **52** was excavated to its full width and depth. Ditches **28** (figure 6, section 8) and **54** were not fully excavated due to the height of the water table, while ditch **33** was partially beyond the trench edge. The ditch contained between one and three fills. In patches, the upper fill showed evidence of occupation waste as it had a dark, organic appearance and contained flecks of charcoal and fired clay. Two environmental samples from the upper fill of ditch **33** produced abundant charred cereal grains, comprising wheat, barley and rye. The only pottery retrieved from the entire ditch was a single sherd of medieval Ely or Ely type ware (21g) from the upper fill (26) of ditch **28**, providing a context date of mid 12th-mid 14th century, and a less diagnostic sherd of early medieval sandy ware (2g) from an environmental sample in ditch **33**, fill 32. A small quantity of animal bone was collected from ditch **33** (81g) and ditch **52** (66g).

3.2.12 Ditch **49** appeared to be a re-cut of ditch **52** on its north-eastern edge. It was only partially visible in the trench, measuring at least 1m wide and 0.24m deep. It contained two fills, the lower of which was fairly organic. No artefactual evidence was retrieved.

3.2.13 Ditch **31** in the north of the trench appeared to truncate ditch **33** although the relationship between the two was not entirely clear. It was orientated north-west to south-east, measuring 1m wide and 0.27m deep with a shallow, U shaped profile. It contained a single fill which had an organic component. An environmental sample collected from the fill contained charred wheat and barley grains

3.2.14 Features were sealed by subsoil (2), measuring up to 0.4m thick, from which a single sherd of late medieval Ely ware was retrieved (6g) and two possible flint cores (68g). It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring up to 0.3m thick.

Trench 4

3.2.15 Trench 4 was located in the south of the grassland area. It was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 32m in length with a depth of 0.88m at the north-east end and 0.8m at the south-west end.

3.2.16 Ditch **17** and its re-cut **19** were located half in trench 4 and half in trench 5. Ditch **17** was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.19m deep with a shallow U shaped profile. It contained a single sterile fill (16) which was very pale in appearance and yielded no artefacts, although ecofacts in the form of fishscale and charred wheat were retrieved

3.2.17 Ditch **19** was a re-cut of ditch **17** on its eastern side. It followed the same orientation, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.1m deep with a shallow U shaped profile. Its single fill (18) was almost identical to the fill of ditch **17** and contained no artefactual evidence. Environmental evidence consisted of a single charred wheat grain.

3.2.18 Ditch **15** truncated ditches **17** and **19,** and ran perpendicular to them, orientated east-north-east to west-south-west. It measured 1.4m wide and 0.35m deep with a stepped profile (figure 4, section 4). Its single fill (14) had a much higher humic component than the pale fill of the earlier ditches. Two sherds of St Neots ware (14g) and two sherds of Thetford ware pottery (8g) were retrieved, providing an early medieval context date of 10th – mid 12th century. Animal bone (117g), including a cattle metacarpal, was also recovered. Environmental evidence from fill 14 was the richest on the site in terms of dietary refuse in the form of charred grain, fish and eel bones and the presence of shrew bones. Further small fragments of St Neots ware and Thetford ware (2 sherds, 2g) also came from the environmental sample.

3.2.19 Ditch **13** ran parallel to ditch **15** and was located directly to the north. It measured 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep with a shallow U shaped profile. The ditch contained two fills but no artefacts.

3.2.20 Ditch **11** was orientated north-west to south-east although part of it had been truncated by a modern feature. It measured 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep with a shallow U shaped profile. The single fill (10) was sterile and contained no artefactual evidence.

3.2.21 The north-eastern end of trench 4 contained a series of modern features including a large rubbish pit at the end containing brick debris, and a large V shaped cut (mostly in section) truncating the subsoil, with a large land drain in the base.

3.2.22 All features, except the modern ones, were sealed by subsoil (2), measuring up to 0.45m thick. One rim sherd from a post-medieval red ware jar (138g) was retrieved from the subsoil. The subsoil was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring up to 0.35m thick.

Trench 5

3.2.23 Trench 5 was located in the south of the grassland area, forming a 'T' shape with trench 4. It was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 15m in length with a depth of 0.72m at the north-west end and 0.75m at the south-east end.

3.2.24 At the south-eastern end of the trench were two intercutting features, both only partially visible and both interpreted as pits (figure 4, section 7). Pit **20** was heavily truncated by pit **22**. It measured 0.83m wide and 0.28m deep although most of its profile had been truncated. It contained a single fill (21) which had a humic component but no artefacts

were retrieved. An environmental sample produced small fragments of animal bone and charred cereal grains; wheat, barley, rye and oat.

3.2.25 Pit **22** appeared to be sub-circular in plan, measuring approximately 4m in length, 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained two fills, the upper of which (25) was particularly humic and contained a single sherd (4g) of St Neots ware pottery, dating the feature to 10th – mid 12th century. Lower fill (23) contained a moderate assemblage of animal bone (356g) including a fragmentary adult horse scapula and mandible. Environmental evidence produced further fragments of animal bone and a partial charred grain.

3.2.26 Features were sealed by subsoil (2), measuring up to 0.45m thick, from which a single large sherd of Thetford ware was retrieved (31g). However, the sherd was found in the base of the trench close to pits **20** and **22**, and therefore may have come from one of the pits. Subsoil was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring up to 0.35m thick, from which one struck flint was recovered (44g).

Trench 6

3.2.27 Trench 6 was located in the north of the grassland area. It was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 18m in length with a depth of 0.77m at the north-east end and 0.67m at the south-west end.

3.2.28 In the north-east end of the trench was a large feature, **41**, which was difficult to interpret because of its size and because it was not fully excavated due to incoming water. It measured at least 3.8m wide, and was only excavated to a depth of 0.35m. Its fill (42) contained no datable artefacts.

3.2.29 Truncating feature **41** to the north was a modern ditch, **43**, orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 1.4m wide and at least 0.42m deep. The fill (44) contained a sherd of refined earthenware (1800 or later; 18g), two sherds of transitional redware, a piece of medieval roof tile (106g) and animal bone (89g).

3.2.30 Two narrow ditches, **35** and **37**, both aligned north-east to south-west, extended through part of trench 6. Ditch **35** truncated feature **41**, measuring 0.55m wide and 0.2m deep with a stepped V shaped profile. Its single fill (34) contained a moderate assemblage of animal bone (308g). Ditch **37** measured 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with a flat based U shaped profile. Its single fill (36) contained 157g of animal bone. The animal bone from ditches 35 and 37 contained portions of adult horse femur and metacarpal.

3.2.31 Pit or ditch **39** truncated ditches **35** and **37**. It was orientated north-west to south-east, measuring 2.22m wide and 0.7m deep, although most of the depth was visible in section as the feature truncated the subsoil. The single fill (38) was very mixed, containing lumps of re-deposited natural material.

3.2.32 Subsoil (2) in trench 6 measured up to 0.55m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring up to 0.4m thick.

Trench 7

3.2.33 Trench 7 was located in the north of the grassland area, forming a 'T' shape with trench 6. It was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 3.5m in length with a depth of 0.76m at the north-west end and 0.79m at the south-east end.

3.2.34 No archaeological features were present in the trench. Subsoil (2) measured up to 0.4m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring up to 0.4m thick.

3.3 Monitoring (including Trench 8)

3.3.1 The majority of works conducted under the archaeological monitoring specification were archaeologically non-intrusive being of shallow depth only encountering the top and subsoil layers. These works included the levelling of the grass football pitch, tree/hedge removal, redirection of a footpath and erection of a fence line.

3.3.2 The only ground works that reached the depth of archaeological deposits was the excavation of a large soak-away trench to act as drainage for the all weather netball courts. Trench 8 measured 7.7m wide and 27m in length and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was situated 21m south east of the north west boundary of the existing grass football field.

3.3.3 The natural geology of terrace gravel and Marly chalk was reached at an average depth of 0.72m below existing ground level with a slight rise from 0.75m below at the north east end to 0.7m below at the south west end.

3.3.4 At the far south west end of the trench a shallow linear ditch or furrow **122** was found cutting the natural geology aligned north-west to south-east. This feature measured 7.7m in length (running out of the trench to the north-west and south-east), 1.1m in width and 0.07m in depth (Figure 6, section 106). The fill of this feature (123) consisted of a mixture of mid yellowish grey and mid yellow sandy silt containing occasional small sub-angular flint stones. There were no archaeological artefacts found to allow dating of this feature.

3.3.5 Ditch **112** also aligned north-west to south-east was situated c.2m north-east of feature **122.** This ditch measured 7.7m in length (again running out of the trench to the north-west and south-east), 0.94m in width and 0.5m in depth, making it the deepest feature found within this trench (see section 104). The ditch contained two fills (113) and (114). The basal fill (113) consisted of a mid yellowish grey sandy silt, while the later fill (114) consisted of a mixture of mid grey and mid yellow sandy silt. Both fills contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular flint stones. A large fragment of cattle femur, two residual pieces of struck flint and a single base sherd of Shelly ware dating from the mid 12th to mid 14th century were found within fill (113).

3.3.6 Where ditch **112** ran out of the trench at its north-west end its top fill (114) was cut by linear feature **115** along its south-western side. Feature **115** was a wide (1m) but shallow (0.14m) feature similar in form to **122** (see section 104). The alignment of **115** was clearly distinct from feature **112** for a length of 2.5m from the north-east section of the trench, after which **115** turned slightly to follow the same alignment as **112**. Morphologically feature **115** appears to be a furrow like **112.** However it is possible that it may instead represent a later shallower re-cut of ditch **112**. Feature **115** contained a single fill (116) comprising a mid yellowish grey sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular flint stones. Fill (116) also contained 2 residual sherds of Thetford ware and a single sherd of medieval Ely type ware dating from the mid 12th to mid 14th century.

3.3.7 At the north-eastern end of Trench 8 the regular sequence of linear ditches and furrows seen across most of this area in the previous excavations gave way to a series of curvilinear ditches and what appeared to be a number of associated post holes possibly forming some type of structure.

3.3.8 Ditch **127** situated c.11m from the north-east end of the trench (running roughly through the centre of the trench), was 0.7m wide 0.06m deep and ran for 7.7m across the trench (see section 108). The ditch had a slightly meandering alignment running north-west to south-east for 2m from the south-east section of the trench, then turning

towards the west to run for 2.5m on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment before turning back towards the east to run north-east to south-west for the final 3.2m. Ditch **127** was filled with a mid yellowish grey sandy silt containing occasional small sub-angular flint stones, no datable finds were found associated with this feature.

3.3.9 Towards the north-east end of the Trench 8 a second shallow curvilinear feature was found that has a similar curving alignment to ditch **127** (but with an even greater degree of curve). This linear feature was re-cut, the earlier episode recorded as **110** and **104** and the later, likely a re-cut of the earlier ditch line recorded as **117** and **102**. Ditch **110** was 0.56m wide and 0.07m deep (see section 103) and filled with a light brownish grey sandy silt (111) containing occasional small sub-angular flint stones. Ditch **110** ran from the north-western side of the trench c.4m from the north east section on a north-east to south-west alignment for 2.7m before turning towards the west to run for a further 1.5m on a north to south alignment. At this point where ditch **110** was recorded as **104** its fill (105) was cut by the terminus of a later re-cut **102** (see section 100). Ditch re-cut **102** filled by (103) was slightly deeper (0.12m) then the earlier ditch **104** (0.06m) but was the same width and followed the same alignment. Ditch **102** ran north-south for 4.5m before turning towards the east to run its last 0.5m run on a north-west to south-east alignment before heading out of the trench on its south east section. At this point the ditch was recorded as cut **117** and was 0.45m wide and 0.1m deep (see section 105). It was filled with a dark brownish grey clayey silt (118) containing occasional charcoal, small sub-angular flint stones and also two pieces of struck flint most likely from the later prehistoric period.

3.3.10 Ditch **127**, ditch **110**/**104** and its re-cut **117**/**102** appear morphologically to be associated and may possibly form either an enclosure or a funnelling droveway that extends further out of the trench to the north-west and south-east. If these ditches do represent such a feature then they most likely function in some form of stock management system. This possibility was further supported by a series of post and stake holes within and around the two ditch lines as described below.

3.3.11 Approximately 1m from the south-east section of the trench and running roughly parallel with it, were a line of three stake holes **135**, **137** and **139** (see sections 112, 113 and 114 respectively). This line ran across the narrowed south-east end of the enclosure / funnelling droveway. Two of the stake holes **135** and **137** were situated within the gap between ditches **117** and **227** and a third was situated in line but approximately 2.25m south west of ditch **227**. Stake holes **135** and **137** were very similar in size and shape being rectilinear in plan, 0.2m wide and 0.11m and 0.13m deep respectively. Stake hole **139** was slightly smaller at only 0.1m wide and 0.08m deep and rather then being rectilinear in plan was instead semicircular. All three stake holes contained a mid grey sandy silt fill ((136), (138) and (140) respectively) which contained occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular flint stones. The definite shapes and sharp vertical sides of these features suggest that they represent positions of stakes driven into the ground rather then post holes which have been dug prior to post placement and packing. With the location of these stake holes across the narrow gap between ditches **117** and **127** it is possible that they represent some sort of gated fence line between the two ditches. A fourth feature, post hole **119** (see section 105), may form part of the same structure or may have performed a similar function during a later phase of activity. This feature was wider (0.58m) and deeper (0.2m) then the previous stake holes described and its fills (120) and (121) varied slightly in colour and composition. However it was situated roughly in line with the previously mentioned stake holes and immediately adjacent to ditch **117** within the suggested entrance / droveway. It is suggested that because of its shape it may represent a stake hole where

the stake was later dug round and removed. Fill (121) of this post hole contained two sherds of sooted medieval Ely type ware dating from the mid 12th to mid 14th century.

3.3.12 On the north-east side of the trench, again within and immediately surrounding the possible enclosure / droveway, another series of post holes were found **133**, **129**, **131**, **124** and **108** (see sections 111, 109, 110, 107 and 102 respectively). All of these features were very clear in plan although their depths and therefore their clarity in section varied considerably. All of the post holes were circular or sub-circular in shape between 0.2m and 0.4m in diameter and approximately 0.16m deep excluding **108** which was 0.32m deep and **131** which was only 0.02m deep. Post hole **124** contained two fills (125) and (126) clearly representing the packing material from around the post (125) and the post pipe left after the post rotted away (126). All of the other post holes in this group had a mid grey sandy silt fill containing occasional charcoal and sub-rounded flint stones. Because the possible enclosure / droveway continues out of the trench to the north-west it is impossible to say if these post holes form a structure on their own or whether more of the structure continues further out of the trench although the latter is probably more likely. A sixth post hole **106** (see section 101) was found c.4m south east of the group mentioned above and may or may not represent part of the same structure. It was situated only 2m east of ditch cut **104** but had a fill that varied in colour from the other post holes and was slightly smaller in width and depth. As with the stake holes discussed earlier because of their location it is likely that this group of post holes were associated with the enclosure / droveway and would therefore represent a structure associated with animal husbandry possibly another gated fence line or some sort of animal shelter.

3.3.13 All of the above features were capped by a 0.4m thick layer of mid brownish grey sub soil consisting of a sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular flint stones. This layer in turn was overlain by a 0.3m thick layer of dark greyish brown top soil consisting of a sandy silt containing occasional charcoal and small sub-angular flint stones.

3.4 Excavation (Trench 9)

3.4.1 Features uncovered during the excavation are described below by phase, from south-west to north-east (Figure 4; Plate 8).

Undated

3.4.2 Located 2.60m from the southern edge of excavation a posthole (**220**), measuring 0.34m in diameter and 0.16m deep, was sub-circular in plan and contained a a mid brownish grey sandy-silt fill.

3.4.3 Another posthole (**221**) was located 6.3m to the north. This posthole, measuring 0.4m in diameter and 0.17m deep was sub-circular in plan contained a mid brownish-grey clay-silt fill.

3.4.4 A pit (**216**), measuring 1.30m in length, 0.69m wide and 0.23m deep, was located 7m to the west. This feature was oval in plan and was truncated by a medieval ditch (**214**). It contained a light brownish-grey clay-sand and no artefacts.

3.4.5 Located at the east of the trench a pit (**235**), measuring 0.9m in diameter and 0.1m deep was sub-circular in plan and contained a single silty-clay fill with no finds.

3.4.6 Aligned north-west to south-east, a ditch (**233**) could be seen to curve to the east, its full extent lying beyond the edge of excavation. Measuring in excess of 4m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep, it had a flat based, 'U' shaped profile and contained no

datable artefacts. This ditch may equate to undated ditch **61** in Trench 2. Both of these ditches were truncated by a medieval boundary ditch (**231**/**59**).

Medieval

3.4.7 A boundary ditch (**214**), measuring in excess of 0.59m wide and 0.65m deep, aligned north-east to south-west was located along the south-eastern limit of excavation (Figure 6, section 214). Approximately half of the width of the ditch lay under the baulk. The feature contained two fills, the uppermost of which contained pottery dating to the 12-14th century (Appendix B.1) along with animal bone and residual worked flint.

3.4.8 Three features located at the east of the excavation area are likely to have been a continuation of the medieval boundary ditch (**59**) uncovered in Trench 2. The northern segment of this ditch (**204=231**), measuring up 1.60m wide and 0.60m deep ran for 4m from north to south before it terminated (Plate 9). This ditch had moderately sloping slides and a concave base and was filled by a mid yellowish-brown silty-clay containing animal bone (Appendix C.1) but no datable artefacts (Figure 6, section 231). The line of the boundary may have continued to the south after a break of 0.6m. The southern segment (**209**), measuring 1m wide and 0.6m deep, was exposed for 1m, its southern continuation being covered by the limit of excavation. This feature had steep sides and a flat base and contained two sandy clay fills with no datable artefacts.

3.4.9 Located approximately between the two ditches terminals, a posthole (**206**) may also have been associated with this boundary. This feature, measuring 0.40m in diameter and 0.20m deep, was sub-circular in plan, with steep sides and a concave base.

Post-medieval

3.4.10 Two ditches (**241** and **246**) aligned north-west to south-east ran parallel to each other 7m apart in the western part of the excavation area. The western most ditch (**241**) was truncated by both pits **243** and **252**. Both ditches had broad shallow concave profiles, measuring up to 1.85m wide and 0.30m deep, which were cut through the subsoil (Figure 6, section 252). The eastern most ditch (**246**) contained abraded pottery dating to the 12-14th century as well as a residual sherd of pottery that may have dated from the Roman period. The profile of these features is indicative of cultivation furrows and these may have continued into Trench 8 to the north-east as features **122** and **112**.

3.4.11 Partially covered by the north-western limit of excavation, a pit (**252**) measuring 3.20m in diameter and 0.64m deep, was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a mid brown sandy-silt fill from which pottery dating from the 13-15th century was recovered.

3.4.12 Located 4.30m to the south-east, feature **243** had a similar profile, being sub-circular in plan and measuring 2.6m in diameter and 0.17m deep. It contained a dark grey sandy-silt fill from which no dateable artefacts were retrieved.

3.4.13 Six other features uncovered were all shallow pits similar to **252** and **243**. These features (**200**, **217**, **226**, **227**, **239** and **248**) were all sub-circular or circular in plan and measured up to 2.6m in diameter and 0.46m deep. Three of these pits (**226**, **227** and **239**) could be seen to have been cut through the subsoil. The features in the eastern part of the excavation area were located 3-4m apart in rows aligned with the parallel ditches and the modern field boundary. Sherds of mediaeval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from these features although all were highly abraded and none were in their primarily location of deposition (Appendix B.1).

3.4.14 Pit 226 was truncated by a posthole (**224**). This feature, measuring 0.27m wide and 0.24m deep, had moderately sloping sides and a concave base and contained a dark grey silt-sand fill with no datable artefacts.

3.4.15 A ditch (**203=237**), measuring 1.10m wide and 0.25m deep, truncated the medieval boundary ditch (**204=231** and **209**). It had steep sides and a flat base and contained a light yellowish-brown sandy-silt fill from which no datable artefacts were recovered. This feature may have been a re-cut of this boundary or a furrow associated with those to the west.

3.5 Monitoring of Services Installation

3.5.1 No archaeological features were uncovered during the excavation of the service trenches around the new build and through the car park. These trenches measured 0.7m in depth, a level at which natural deposits were rarely encountered.

3.5.2 All trenches consisted of between 0.3m to 0.5m of modern hardcore and make up layers overlying the subsoil which measured between 0.2m to 0.4m deep (Plate 10).

3.5.3 From previous excavations on site, the depth of the natural marly chalk/subsoil interface was encountered at around 0.7m. This was generally found to be the case in these service trenches, apart from directly to the west of the new building, where the marly chalk geology rose quite significantly to 0.4m below ground level, directly underneath the modern hardcore.

3.5.4 A large amount of modern disturbance was observed in a service trench running towards the existing school building. This related to the construction of the school extension in 2009 and truncated any archaeological remains that may have been seen in the trench.

3.5.5 The service trenches were excavated in an area where known archaeology was very sparse. Furthermore, subsoil in the base of certain trenches may have been masking archaeology.

3.6 Monitoring of Pond Construction

3.6.1 Construction of a pond in the North East corner of the site commenced on the 20th of march 2013. As the construction would involve stepped and sloping sides it was decided to dig a single bucket width (0.65m) trench (Tr.10) the full length (7m at top 5.4m at base) and depth (0.8m) of the proposed construction area thus allowing the best view of any features in both plan and section. A second smaller trench 0.65x1.75x0.8m (Tr.11) was excavated at the wider north-west end of the pond site (see trench 10 and 11 fig.4).

3.6.2 The natural geology had generally been recorded at 0.7m depth over most of the previous works on site so it was immediately apparent that an archaeological feature was present within tench 10 when the only natural geology was encountered in the south east corner of the trench and across the base of trench 11. Recorded as context (300) the natural geology here comprised an orange sandy gravelly clay containing small chalk inclusions.

3.6.3 The edge of a cut **301** was found at the south east end of trench 10, running east-north-east to west-south-west across the trench for 1.5m and extending out of it in both directions. As natural geology was encountered in trench 11 at the north west end of the pond site it is assumed that the opposing edge of the cut runs in a similar alignment between trenches 10 and 11. As the rest of the trench 10 at the machined level

contained the fill of this cut it was decided to put a section half the width of the trench from the edge of the cut toward the north east end of the trench. This process was hampered by a high water table which instantly filled the dug section. The 1.75m section and a small sondage at the north west end of the trench revealed the cut **301** to be 0.25m deep with a straight shallow sloping side (see section 300 fig.6 and plate11). The cut contained fill (302) which comprised a mid yellowy grey sandy clay with orange mottling and charcoal and fired clay inclusions. This fill also contained a single residual flint flake and a complete bovine metacarpal (not confirmed by chris yet). Overlying this fill and extending across both trenches was a layer recorded as context (303) which comprised a mid grey sandy silt with occasional flint stones and charcoal inclusions. This layer also contained a single small sherd of medieval coarse sandy ware. It is possible that this layer may represent an upper fill of cut **301** if the cut extends further up outside the limits of the trench. Alternatively as the upper horizon with the overlying subsoil is very diffuse, if the natural geology sloped down toward this north eastern area of the site (a trend identified in excavation of trench 8) this may represent a deeper layer of subsoil that has built up since the medieval period.

3.6.4 Overlying layer (303) was a 0.3m thick layer of subsoil recorded as context (304) which in turn was overlain by a 0.3m layer of top soil recorded as context (305).

3.6.5 When the plan of these trenches is compared with the trench plans from the previous phases of work it is possible that cot **301** represents a continuation of ditch **31** recorded in trench 3. The fills of both of these features are comparable with both containing charcoal fired clay and cow bones. If these two features represent the same ditch it is interesting that the ditch line appears to respect by turning around the possible enclosure found to the south-west in trench 8, while also respecting the turn in the existing footpath to the north west.

3.7 Finds Summary

3.7.1 The site produced a small pottery assemblage of 43 sherds weighing 0.607kg, including unstratified material (see Appendix B.1). The assemblage included Late Saxon – early medieval fabrics such as St Neots ware (5 sherds, 29g) and Thetford ware (6 sherds, 52g), medieval fabrics such as Ely or Ely type ware (6 sherds, 134g) and Shelly ware (1 sherd, 16g), and late medieval Ely ware (1 sherd, 6g), Southeast Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware, as well as post medieval and modern sherds.

3.7.2 Thirty one fragments of animal bone were recovered, with 8 fragments identifiable to species. Adult horse remains were the most prevalent, followed by cattle (see Appendix B.2).

3.7.3 A small assemblage of residual worked or struck flint was recovered from the subsoil, topsoil and residually from a number of archaeological contexts (14flints, 241g).

3.8 Environmental Summary

3.8.1 Twenty bulk samples were taken from across the site from both ditches and pits. Preservation is by charring and is generally good.

3.8.2 Charred cereal grains are common and are particularly abundant in Sample 12 (fill 32, ditch **33** in trench 3). Wheat (Triticum sp.) and barley (Hordeum sp.) predominate and rye (Secale cereale) is also present in three of the samples. Artefacts and ecofacts are rare, occurring mainly as small fragments of animal, small mammal and occasional fish, eel and shrew bones. The shrew (Sorex araneus) was identified by the characteristic deep red colouration on the tips of the teeth.

3.8.3 The charred plant assemblages from all phases of deposits from this site are dominated by crop plants in the form of cereal grains. Wheat grains are common and may have been accidentally spilled and burnt whilst grinding into flour. Barley was used as a whole grain for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in soups and stews and was also used for the brewing of beer. No germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing activities at this site. Oats and rye are less common. Rye did not become an important crop until the Saxon and medieval period (Van der Veen, 1992). The poor representation of crop processing waste such as culm nodes and rachis fragments suggests that the crops had been cleaned elsewhere, possibly in an unexcavated area of the site.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.1 The evidence of prehistoric activity was a small assemblage of residual worked or struck flint, recovered from the subsoil and topsoil (6 flints, 183g). This consisted of a Late Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic blade, three possible cores and two struck flints.

4.1.2 A small collection of struck flints were also recovered from various features during the monitoring and excavation. Although these features are not thought to be prehistoric in date and the flint is likely to be residual it does suggest early activity within the site area.

4.2 Medieval activity

4.2.1 The results of the fieldwork present evidence of a planned medieval field system, possibly associated with a settlement, with the earliest evidence dating to between the 10th – mid 12th centuries (Figure 5). The two ditches which extend through Trenches 2, 3 and 9 formed a major boundary in the eastern part of the site, orientated roughly north-west to south-east and parallel to the modern boundary. This is the same alignment as the 5m contour line, approximately 200m to the east, and Pratt Street to the west. It also suggests the footpath directly to the east may be on the line of a much older track or route way. Ditch **61** was the original boundary in Trench 2 (ditch **233** Trench 8) and probably equates to the ditch which runs through the whole of Trench 3. Ditch **59** is the re-working of the ditch in Trench 2 and only appears once in Trench 3, as ditch **49** and in Trench 9 as ditch **204=231**. This boundary appears to follow the line of the hedged boundary of the modern field to the east and the footpath beyond it. Indeed, the boundary even turns slightly in the north as the hedge line kinks slightly. In Trench 9 this ditch appeared to have been recut twice (**233**, **204=231** and then **202=237**) and may also have had a fenced or hedged phase represented by posthole **206**. This suggests a degree of continuity in this boundary over a considerable period of time darting back before the 1656 map of Soham and Fordham manors. The dating of this boundary is based on only two sherds of pottery from both the ditch and its re-cut; a sherd of medieval pottery from ditch **28** and a sherd of early medieval St Neots ware from ditch **59**. The boundary did however show signs of nearby occupation in the form of the dark upper fill visible in certain places. The charcoal and fired clay flecks within the fill suggest dumps of domestic waste.

4.2.2 To the west, in Trenches 4 and 5, were a group of features which suggested an early medieval date. Ditch **15** in Trench 4 was aligned perpendicular to the main boundary in Trenches 2 and 3 and contained several sherds of early medieval pottery. It truncated an even earlier ditch line (**17** and **19**) which was undated but correlated with the rectilinear pattern of boundaries, as did ditch **11**. Pits **20** and **22** in Trench 5 were also early medieval in date and may provide evidence for activity of a more domestic nature.

4.2.3 Key to the discussion are the results of the 1991 evaluation directly to the west, in the same open grassland that forms the western part of the current site (Taylor and Waite 1991). The trench layout, selected cut numbers and extrapolated features of the 1991 evaluation are illustrated in Figure 5 (Trenches I-VII). The previous evaluation encountered elements of a field system which correlate with the results of the current evaluation. In trench II, ditch **7** contained St Neots and Thetford ware pottery with frequent inclusions of charcoal and mortar, ditch **8** was thought to be contemporary, while ditch **9** contained a very small, abraded sherd of early Saxon pottery, hinting at

earlier occupation in the area. All three of these ditches follow a similar alignment to ditches **13** and **15** in the current works and run perpendicular to both Pratt Street to the west and the boundary in trenches 2 and 3 to the east. Trench III in the 1991 evaluation contained a series of ditches in the eastern end (ditches **4**, **10** and **11**). Ditch **11** contained a series of post holes in the base, possibly for upright timbers of a hurdle fence or wall. A spread of fired clay with twigs, possibly the remains of wattle and walling, found in the lower fill of ditch **4** could be contemporary with the stake holes. The upper fill of ditch **4** contained a post-medieval sherd, but stratigraphically earlier ditches **10** and **11** (as well as the lower fills of ditch **4**) contained Saxo-Norman pottery. Of these three ditches, ditch **10** certainly shares a similarity of alignment with ditches **11** and **17**/**19** in the current evaluation. A further feature, ditch **6**, which extended through trenches I and III, was dated as medieval.

4.2.4 The combined results of the two evaluations indicate a moderate density of medieval agricultural activity, particularly in the area of open grassland. Trenches 2 and 3 indicate this activity continues to the east with the potential of a similar density of features under the school playing field, suggested by the orientation of several ditches in Trench 4 and trench II of the 1991 evaluation, some or all of which may extend into the playing field.

4.2.5 Some of the infilling of features, such as the upper fills of the ditches in Trenches 2 and 3, and the fills of pits **20** and **22** in Trench 5, had the appearance of domestic debris which had been deposited into the features. This indicates possible settlement activity in the close vicinity and is supported by palaeoenvironmental evidence. Most of the samples contained charred cereal remains including wheat, barley and rye with ditch **33** in Trench 3 being the most productive. Wheat grains may have been accidentally spilled and burnt during the process of grinding into flour, while Barley was used as a whole grain for animal fodder but may also have been used for human consumption in soups and stews. Fill 14, ditch **15** in trench 4 was the richest sample in terms of dietary refuse. As well as charred grain, the sample also contained fish, eel and shrew bones. Similarly, the 1991 evaluation produced evidence of domestic activity, such as the charcoal and mortar rich fill in ditch **7**. Some of the pot sherds were large and unabraded and it was stated that '...domestic occupation is either present or very nearby as the charcoal, mortar and larger pot sherds have not travelled far before their deposition in the ditches', (Taylor and Waite 1991, 5).

4.2.6 The results of the phase 2 watching brief further add to the knowledge of activity on site during the medieval period. All of the archaeology recorded during this phase of work date from the later medieval period. Despite the slightly later dating of these features, compared to those found during the previous work, the ditches and furrows **112**, **115** and **122** at the south-west end of the soak-away trench maintain the same north-west to south-east alignment as was identified in the evaluation phase of work. This supports the evaluation hypothesis that suggested continuity of boundaries over long periods of time within this location. The discovery of the possible enclosure or droveway (ditches **127**, **117**/**102**, and **104**/**110**) with its associated posted structures at the north-east end of the trench, broadens the medieval agricultural activity at the site to include animal husbandry and stock management. It is interesting to note that the 1991 excavations also found a medieval ditch **11** associated with post holes as mentioned above. Despite these post holes being situated in the base of the ditch, as opposed to those found in the watching brief phase of work that were within and around the enclosure / droveway, it seems likely that there could have been a wider system of fenced droveways, enclosures and fields within the area.

4.3 Post-medieval

4.3.1 All the features in trench 6 appeared to be post-medieval in date, although feature **41** was only partially excavated and produced no dating evidence. This feature could either be a series of inter-cutting ditches or perhaps even a pond. Several features in the 1991 evaluation were interpreted as post-medieval or modern, such as ditches **1**, **5** and **27**, as well as a large pond (**2**) in trench I, which was undated but thought to be post-medieval in date. Other features, such as ditch **24** in trench I and ditches in trenches V and VI, were not referenced in the original report.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The results the archaeological works, coupled with those from the 1991 evaluation, provide evidence of medieval mixed agriculture and fen-edge settlement activity on the eastern side of the historic town of Soham. In the open grassland area (to the north of the Weatheralls School), the most significant remains from the evaluation phase of work date to between the 10th – mid 12th centuries AD. The main boundary in the east of the playing field may also date to this period, suggesting that the activity continues in the remaining part of the playing field and possibly beyond. The watching brief phase of work supported these findings with the discovery of slightly later mid 12th to mid 14th century activity within the playing field itself. While the evaluation highlighted mainly arable farming activity through the identification of a substantial field system, the watching brief works discovered evidence of pastoral activity suggesting a more mixed agricultural system. The medieval remains therefore have the potential to significantly add to the understanding of the development of Soham during this period. While the residual prehistoric finds highlight the potential for finding evidence of much earlier phases of activity in any future work within the area.

Appendix A. Context Inventory and Quantification table

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Orientation	Profile
1	0		layer	topsoil				dark greyish brown	silty sand			
2	0		layer	subsoil				mid brownish grey	silty sand			
3	0		layer	natural				mid orange	clayey sand			
4	5	1	fill	ditch	disuse	0.3	0.1	mid brownish grey	clayey sand			
5	5	1	cut	ditch	drainage?	0.3	0.1			linear	NE-SW	shallow U
6	7	1	fill	pit	disuse	0.7	0.3	dark brownish grey	silty sand			
7	7	1	cut	pit	?	0.7	0.3			circular?		wide U
8	9	1	fill	pit	disuse	2.2	0.15	mid brownish grey	sandy silt			
9	9	1	cut	pit	?	2.2	0.15			circular?		irregular
10	11	4	fill	ditch	disuse	0.3	0.1	dark greyish brown	silty sand			
11	11	4	cut	ditch	boundary	0.3	0.1			linear	NW-SE	U shaped
12	13	4	fill	ditch	disuse	0.5	0.1	mid greyish brown	silty sand			
13	13	4	cut	ditch	boundary	0.5	0.1			linear	NE-SW	U shaped
14	15	4	fill	ditch	disuse	1.4	0.35	dark greyish brown	silty sand			
15	15	4	cut	ditch	boundary	1.4	0.35			linear	NE-SW	stepped
16	17	5	fill	ditch	disuse	0.65	0.19	light greyish brown	silty clay			
17	17	5	cut	ditch	boundary	0.65	0.19			linear	N-S	wide U
18	19	5	fill	ditch	disuse	0.65	0.1	light greyish brown	clayey silt			
19	19	5	cut	ditch	boundary	0.65	0.1			linear	N-S	wide U
20	20	5	cut	pit?	?	0.83	0.28			sub-circular		unknown
21	20	5	fill	pit?	disuse	0.83	0.28	mid brown	clayey silt			
22	22	5	cut	pit?	?	0.8	0.4			circular		unknown
23	22	5	fill	pit?	disuse	0.8	0.4	mid greyish brown	clayey silt			
24	13	4	fill	ditch	disuse	0.4	0.1	dark greyish brown	silty sand			

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Orientation	Profile
25	22	5	fill	pit?	disuse	0.66	0.09	dark grey	clayey silt			
26	28	3	fill	ditch	disuse	1.06	0.14	dark brownish grey	sandy silt			
27	28	3	fill	ditch	disuse	1	0.22	dark brownish grey	sandy silt			
28	28	3	cut	ditch	boundary	1.4	0.66			linear	NNW-SSE	U shaped
29	28	3	fill	ditch	disuse	0.7	0.66	mid brownish grey	sandy silt			
30	31	3	fill	ditch	disuse	1	0.27	mid greyish brown	sandy silt			
31	31	3	cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.27			linear	NW-SE	shallow U
32	33	3	fill	ditch	disuse	0.55	0.37	dark brownish grey	sandy silt			
33	33	3	cut	ditch	boundary	0.55	0.37			linear	NNW-SSE	shallow U
34	35	6	fill	ditch	disuse	0.55	0.2	dark brownish grey	silty clay			
35	35	6	cut	ditch	drainage?	0.55	0.2			linear	NE-SW	stepped
36	37	6	fill	ditch	disuse	0.6	0.3	mid brownish grey	silty clay			
37	37	6	cut	ditch	drainage?	0.6	0.3			linear	NE-SW	flat based V
38	39	6	fill	pit	disuse	2.22	0.7	mixed yellowish brown redeposited natural	sandy silt			
39	39	6	cut	pit	?	2.22	0.7			?		?
40	31	3	fill	ditch	disuse		0.27	mid brownish grey	silty sand			
41	41	6	cut	ditch?	?	3.8	0.35			linear	NW-SE	un-excavated
42	41	6	fill	ditch?	disuse	3.8	0.35	light grey	silty clay			
43	43	6	cut	ditch	?	1.4	0.42			linear	NW-SE	un-excavated
44	43	6	fill	ditch?	disuse	1.4	0.42	mid brownish grey	silty clay			
45	45	6	cut	ditch	drainage?	0.5	0.14			linear	NW-SE	U shaped
46	45	6	fill	ditch	disuse	0.5	0.14	mid grey	silty clay			
47	49	3	fill	ditch	disuse	0.6	0.24	mid brownish grey	sandy silt			
48	49	3	fill	ditch	disuse	0.4	0.12	very dark brownish grey	sandy silt			

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Orientation	Profile
49	49	3	cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.24			linear	NNW-SSE	U shaped
50	52	3	fill	ditch	disuse			mid greyish brown	sandy silt			
51	52	3	fill	ditch	disuse			light greyish brown	sandy silt			
52	52	3	cut	ditch	boundary	1.1	0.52			linear	NNW-SSE	U shaped
53	54	3	fill	ditch	disuse	0.8	0.36	light brownish grey	sandy silt			
54	54	3	cut	ditch	boundary	0.8	0.36			linear	NNW-SSE	un-excavated
55	52	3	fill	ditch	disuse			dark greyish brown	sandy silt			
56	59	2	fill	ditch	disuse	0.8	0.2	very dark greyish brown	sandy silt			
57	59	2	fill	ditch	disuse	0.8	0.3	mid greyish brown	sandy silt			
58	59	2	fill	ditch	disuse	0.8	0.16	light greyish brown	sandy silt			
59	59	2	cut	ditch	boundary	0.8	0.54			linear	NNW-SSE	U shaped
60	61	2	fill	ditch	disuse	0.6	0.56	mid greyish brown	silty sand			
61	61	2	cut	ditch	boundary	0.6	0.56			linear	NNW-SSE	un-excavated
100	0	8	layer	topsoil				dark greyish brown	silty sand			
101	0	8	layer	subsoil				mid brownish grey	silty sand			
102	102	8	cut	ditch (re-cut of 104)	boundary	0.5	0.12			curvilinear	NNE-SSW	shallow U
103	102	8	fill	ditch	disuse	0.5	0.12	dark brownish grey	clayey silt			
104	104	8	cut	ditch	boundary	0.48	0.06			curvilinear	NNW-SSE	shallow U
105	104	8	fill	ditch	disuse	0.48	0.06	light brownish grey	sandy silt			
106	106	8	cut	post hole	possible structure	0.3	0.08			sub-circular		shallow U
107	106	8	fill	post hole	possible structure	0.3	0.08	light brownish grey	clayey silt			

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Orientation	Profile
108	108	8	cut	post hole	possible structure	0.3	0.34			circular		U shaped
109	108	8	fill	post hole	possible structure	0.3	0.34	mid grey	sandy silt			
110	110	8	cut	ditch	boundary	0.56	0.07			curvilinear	NNW-SSE	shallow U
111	110	8	fill	ditch	disuse	0.56	0.07	light brownish grey	sandy silt			
112	112	8	cut	ditch	boundary	0.94	0.5			linear	NE-SW	U shaped
113	112	8	fill	ditch	disuse	0.85	0.3	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt			
114	112	8	fill	ditch	disuse	0.94	0.2	mixed mid grey and mid yellow	sandy silt			
115	115	8	cut	ditch / furrow	Boundary / agricultural	1	0.14			linear	NE-SW	shallow wide U
116	115	8	fill	ditch	disuse	1	0.14	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt			
117	117	8	cut	ditch	boundary	0.45	0.1			curvilinear	NNE-SSW	shallow U
118	117	8	fill	ditch	disuse	0.45	0.1	mid brownish grey	clayey silt			
119	119	8	cut	post hole	possible structure	0.58	0.2			sub-circular		U shaped
120	119	8	fill	post hole	disuse	0.3	0.05	light brown	silty sand			
121	119	8	fill	post hole	disuse	0.58	0.15	light grey brown	clayey silt			
122	122	8	cut	ditch / furrow	boundary / agricultural	1.1	0.07			linear	NW-SE	shallow wide U
123	122	8	fill	ditch / furrow	disuse	1.1	0.07	mixed mid yellow and mid yellowish grey	sandy silt			
124	124	8	cut	post hole	possible structure	0.32	0.19			circular		U shaped
125	124	8	fill	post hole	post packing	0.32	0.19	mid grey	sandy silt			
126	124	8	fill	post hole	post pipe	0.19	0.19	dark grey	sandy silt			

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Orientation	Profile
127	127	8	cut	ditch	boundary	0.7	0.06			curvilinear	NW-SE	shallow U
128	127	8	fill	ditch	disuse	0.7	0.06	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt			
129	129	8	cut	post hole	possible structure	0.3	0.15			sub-circular		U shaped
130	129	8	fill	post hole	disuse	0.3	0.15	mid grey	sandy silt			
131	131	8	cut	post hole	possible structure	0.2	0.07			irregular		flat based U
132	131	8	fill	post hole	disuse	0.2	0.07	mid grey	sandy silt			
133	133	8	cut	post hole	possible structure	0.4	0.15			circular		U shaped
134	133	8	fill	post hole	disuse	0.4	0.15	mid grey	sandy silt			
135	135	8	cut	stake hole	possible structure	0.2	0.11			sub-rectangular		rectangular
136	135	8	fill	stake hole	disuse	0.2	0.11	mid grey	sandy silt			
137	137	8	cut	stake hole	possible structure	0.2	0.13			sub-rectangular		rectangular
138	137	8	fill	stake hole	disuse	0.2	0.13	mid grey	sandy silt			
139	139	8	cut	stake hole	possible structure	0.1	0.08			sub-circular		U shaped
140	139	8	fill	stake hole	disuse	0.1	0.08	mid grey	sandy silt			
200	200	9	cut	pit	horticultural	2.6	0.19			sub-circular		very wide and shallow almost flat based
201	200	9	fill	pit	secondary	2.6	0.19	mid brownish grey with yellow sandy lenses	fine sandy silt mixed with sand			
202	202	9	cut	ditch	boundary	1.1	0.25			linear	NW/ SE	flat based
203	202	9	fill	ditch	secondary	1.1	0.25	light yellowish brown	sandy silt			
204	204	9	cut	ditch	boundary	0.8	0.4			linear	NW/SE	u shape

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Orientation	Profile
205	204	9	fill	ditch	secondary	0.8	0.4	light greyish brown	sandy silt			
206	206	9	cut	post hole	unknown	0.3	0.2			sub-circular		bowl
207	206	9	fill	post hole	secondary	0.3	0.2	mid greyish brown	silty sandy clay			
208	233	9	fill	ditch	tertiary	0.9	0.18	mid yellowish brown	sandy clay			
209	209	9	cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.6			linear	NW/SE	u shape
210	209	9	fill	ditch	primary	0.5	0.1	light brownish grey	silty clay			
211	209	9	fill	ditch	secondary	1	0.5	mid yellowish grey	sandy grey			
212	214	9	fill	ditch	disuse	0.59	0.36	mid / light yellowish grey	clayey fine sand			
213	214	9	fill	ditch	disuse	0.38	0.3	mid grey	fine silty clayey sand			
214	214	9	cut	ditch	boundary	0.59	0.65			linear	NE-SW	u shaped
215	216	9	fill	tree-bole	tree-bole	0.69	0.23	light brownish greyish yellow	clayey sand			
216	216	9	cut	tree-bole	tree-bole	0.69	0.23			sub-circular		
217	217	9	cut	pit	horticultural	2.8	0.12			sub-circular		very wide and shallow
218	217	9	fill	pit	secondary	2.8	0.12	mid brownish grey	fine sandy silt			
219	220	9	fill	post hole	modern ? Structural ?	0.33	0.16	mid / dark yellowish grey (slightly mottled)	clayey sand			
220	220	9	cut	post hole	modern? Structural?	0.33	0.16			sub-circular		
221	221	9	cut	post hole	unknown	0.3	0.17			sub-circular		u shape
222	221	9	fill	post hole	secondary	0.3	0.17	mid brownish grey	clayey silt			
223	224	9	fill	post hole	disuse	0.27	0.24	mid / dark grey	silty clayey sand			
224	224	9	cut	post hole	modern	0.27	0.24			circular?		u shaped
225	226	9	fill	pit	in-fill / disuse		0.46	mottled brown grey and yellow	silty sandy clay			

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Orientation	Profile
226	226	9	cut	pit	orchard tree		0.46			sub-circular		
227	227	9	cut	pit	horticultural		0.43			unknown, probably sub-circular		very wide u shaped
228	227	9	fill	pit	secondary		0.21	mid brown	fine sandy silt			
229	227	9	fill	pit	secondary		0.25	light cream / light brown mix	fine chalk mixed with fine sandy silt			
230	227	9	fill	pit	tertiary		0.1	mid brown	fine sandy silt			
231	231	9	cut	ditch	boundary	1.6	0.6			linear	NW/SE	bowl
232	231	9	fill	ditch	secondary	1.6	0.6	mid yellowish brown	silty clay			
233	233	9	cut	ditch	boundary	0.7	0.5			linear	NW/SE	flat based u
234	233	9	fill	ditch	secondary	0.7	0.5	mid greyish brown	silty clay			
235	235	9	cut	pit	unknown	0.9	0.1			sub-circular		bowl
236	235	9	fill	pit	secondary	0.9	0.1	mid yellowish brown	silty clay			
237	237	9	cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.25			linear	NW/SE	square
238	237	9	fill	ditch	secondary	1	0.25	mid greyish brown	silty clay			
239	239	9	cut	pit		1.9	0.27			sub-circular		flat and wide bowl
240	239	9	fill	pit		1.9	0.27	dark greyish brown	silty clay			
241	241	9	cut	ditch / furrow	boundary ? , agriculture ?	1.85	0.3			linear	N-S	wide variable
242	241	9	fill	ditch / furrow	secondary	1.85	0.3	light greyish brown	fine silty sand			
243	243	9	cut	pit	horticultural ?	2.2	0.17			sub-circular	E-W	very wide and shallow

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Orientation	Profile
244	243	9	fill	pit	backfill ?	2.2	0.17	dark mid grey	fine sandy silt			
245	246	9	fill	ditch	furrow	1	0.16	light brown grey	clay silt			
246	246	9	cut	ditch	furrow ?	1	0.16			linear	N-S	wide u
247	248	9	fill	pit		2.45	0.14	dark grey brown	clay silt			
248	248	9	cut	pit	Tree pit	2.45	0.14			circular		wide u
249	252	9	fill	pit	tertiary		0.4	mid brown	fine sandy silt			
250	252	9	fill	pit	backfill		0.52	light yellowish brown	fine sandy silt			
251	252	9	fill	pit	secondary		0.2	mid brown	fine sandy silt			
252	252	9	cut	pit	horticultural ?		0.64			unknown- probably subcircular		wide, flat based
253		9	layer	subsoil	subsoil		0.4	light brown	fine sandy silt			

Table 1: Context Inventory

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature Type	Function	Material	Object Name	Weight (g)
1			topsoil		Bone	Bone	0.038
1		1	topsoil		Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.089
1		1	topsoil		Flint		0.060
1		5	topsoil		Flint		0.044
2		1	subsoil		Flint		0.006
2		2	subsoil		Flint		0.008
2		1	subsoil		Shell		0.001
2		1	subsoil		Ceramic	Vessel	0.006
2		3	subsoil		Ceramic	Vessel	0.006
2		3	subsoil		Flint		0.068
2		4	subsoil		Ceramic	Vessel	0.138
2		5	subsoil		Ceramic	Vessel	0.031
14	15	4	ditch	disuse	Bone Shell Ceramic	Bone Vessel	0.117 0.001 0.024
23	22	5	pit?	disuse	Bone	Bone	0.356
25	22	5	pit?	disuse	Ceramic	Vessel	0.004
26	28	3	ditch	disuse	Ceramic	Vessel	0.021
32	33	3	ditch	disuse	Bone Ceramic	Bone Vessel	0.081 0.002
34	35	6	ditch	disuse	Shell Bone	 Bone	0.001 0.308
36	37	6	ditch	disuse	Bone Bone	Bone Bone	0.134 0.023
44	43	6	ditch?	disuse	Bone Ceramic Ceramic	Bone Ceramic Building Material Vessel	0.089 0.106 0.084
51	52	3	ditch	disuse	Bone	Bone	0.066
56	59	2	ditch	disuse	Fired clay Bone Flint Ceramic	Fired clay Bone Vessel	0.044 0.061 0.014 0.010
201	200	9	pit		Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.00
201	200	9	pit		Ceramic	Vessel	0.01
201	200	9	pit		Flint		0.00
201	200	9	pit		Bone		0.02
203	202	9	ditch		Bone		0.04
205	204	9	ditch		Bone		0.27
212	214	9	ditch		Flint		0.00
212	214	9	ditch		Bone		0.01
212	214	9	ditch		Ceramic	Vessel	0.00
218	217	9	pit		Ceramic	Vessel	0.02
225	226	9	pit		Ceramic	Vessel	0.05

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature Type	Function	Material	Object Name	Weight (g)
228	227	9	pit		Bone		0.01
232	231	9	ditch		Bone		0.32
245	246	9	ditch		Ceramic	Vessel	0.02
247	248	9	pit		Ceramic	Vessel	0.01
251	252	9	pit		Ceramic	Vessel	0.02
253	-	9	subsoil		Flint		0.00

Table 2: Quantification table

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher with Roman sherds identified by Stephen Wadeson

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 This assessment considers the pottery from the archaeological evaluations at Weatheralls Primary School, Soham, Cambridgeshire in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The site produced a small assemblage of 43 sherds weighing 0.607kg including unstratified material. The assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded, with a low to moderate average sherd weight of 14g.

B.1.2 The recovered material is mixed with residual Roman and Late Saxon-early medieval, medieval and post-medieval fabrics recovered from the subsoil across the site. Several trenches, however, produced only Late Saxon-early medieval fabrics or medieval fabrics. The assemblage is similar to that recovered from the 1991 excavations of an adjacent site (Taylor & Waite 1991). A small number of 16th-18th and 19th century sherds were also recovered. Unstratified pottery recovered from the subsoil is recorded in the pottery catalogue.

B.1.3 Since archaeological investigations were undertaken in 2010 and 2011, new work on the medieval pottery fabrics of Cambridgeshire has identified several new fabrics including Southeast Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware (SEFEN), identified by Dr Paul Spoerry (Spoerry in prep). Fabrics in the assemblage previously identified as Medieval Ely Ware (MEL) and Medieval Ely Ware Type have been re-examined and where applicable recorded under the new fabric description. Production of Medieval Ely Wares is centred around Ely. The source site or sites for SEFEN is unknown, although occurrences in settlements of the fen edge south and east of Ely suggest production in the parishes of Soham or Wicken (Spoerry in prep).

Methodology

B.1.4 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents 'A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms' (MPRG, 1998) and 'Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics' (MPRG, 2001), act as a standard.

B.1.5 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

The Assemblage:

B.1.6 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text and the summary catalogue by context are given in Table 3

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	No. Sherds	Weight (kg)
EAR	East Anglian redware	1	0.022
LMEL	Late Medieval Ely Ware	2	0.009
MEL	Medieval Ely Ware	2	0.025

NEOT	St Neots Ware	5	0.029
PMR	Post Medieval Redware	3	0.186
RFWE	Refined White Earthenware	1	0.018
SEFEN	Southeast Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware	15	0.147
SGW	Sandy Greyware (Roman)	3	0.015
SHW	Shelly Ware	1	0.016
THET/THETT	Thetford or Thetford Type Ware	6	0.052
TRAN	Transitional Redwares	2	0.066
UNK	Unprovenanced	1	0.006

Table 3: Fabrics represented on site

B.1.1 Ditch **59** (Trench 2) produced a single sherd of NEOT (10th-mid 12th century), while a similarly aligned ditch in Trench 3 produced a sherd of SEFEN (mid 12th-mid 14th century, ditch **28**) and an abraded residual sherd of Roman SGW (fine) from ditch **33**. From ditch **15** in Trench 4 sherds of NEOT and THET were recovered, suggesting a 10th-mid 12th century date and a similar date is suggested for pit **22** in Trench 5, which produced a single sherd of NEOT.

B.1.2 In Trench 6 two sherds from a TRAN bowl and a rim sherd from a large undecorated RFWE plate or serving vessel were recovered, suggesting the features are post-medieval, with some 19th century deposition of material.

B.1.3 The watching brief produced an additional six sherds of pottery. From ditch **112** a base sherd from a mid 12th-mid 14th century SHW vessel was recovered. Ditch **115** produced two abraded, residual THETT sherds and a small fragment from a SEFEN vessel, the latter dating the feature to the mid 12th-mid 14th century. A single post hole, **119**, produced body sherds of MEL and SEFEN from two sooted vessels which are mid 12th-mid 14th century.

B.1.4 Further work in 2012 produced an additional 18 sherds (0.132kg) of pottery from a small number of features, both pits and ditches. Pit **200** produced three small sherds, one PMR, the remainder medieval SEFEN. Pit **217** produced small MEL sherds and a sooted sherd from a SEFEN jar, alongside a residual Roman proto-SGW sherd.

B.1.5 Pit **226** produced a single SEFEN sherd, alongside a late medieval LMEL sherd and a large sherd from a PMR bowl which dates the context to the post-medieval period. Pit **248** contained a small abraded sherd of SEFEN and an unprovenanced redware while pit **252** produced a single sherd from a late 13th-15th century vessel.

B.1.6 From ditch **214** two small abraded sherds of medieval SEFEN were recovered and from ditch **246** a further three abraded sherds of SEFEN were identified, alongside a single residual sherd of Roman proto-SGW.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

B.1.7 The assemblage is domestic in origin and indicates activity in the area of the site from the Roman period, Late Saxon-early medieval to the 19th century. The low levels of pottery from all periods, however, suggest its presence is most likely due to post-depositional processes rather than deliberate deposition.

B.1.8 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. The Roman and Late Saxon-early medieval material may have been disturbed by activity on the site, in the medieval period and later. None of the pottery is likely to be located in its

place of primary deposition and, unless further excavation takes place, no further work is required on this assemblage.

Context	Trench	Fabric	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (kg)	Basic Form	Context Date
2	1	SEFEN	1	0.006		16th-18th century
	3	LMEL	1	0.006	Jar	
	4	PMR	1	0.138	Bowl	
	5	THET	1	0.031	Jar	
14	4	NEOT	3	0.015	Jar	10th-mid 12th century
		THETT	3	0.009		
25	5	NEOT	1	0.004		10th-mid 12th century
26	3	SEFEN	1	0.021		Mid 12th-mid 14th century
32	3	SGW (Fine)	1	0.002		Mid 1st-4th century
44	6	RFWE	1	0.018	Bowl/Plate	19th Century
		TRAN	2	0.066	Bowl	
56	2	NEOT	1	0.010		10th-mid 12th century
113	Watching Brief	SHW	1	0.016		Mid 12th-mid 14th century
116	Watching Brief	SEFEN	1	0.011	Jar (applied strip decoration)	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
		THETT	2	0.012		
120	Watching Brief	MEL	1	0.021	Jar	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
		SEFEN	1	0.003	Jar	
201	9	PMR	1	0.003		16th-18th century
		SEFEN	2	0.004		
212	9	SEFEN	2	0.005		Mid 12th-mid 13th century
218	9	MEL	1	0.004		Mid 12th-mid 13th century
		SEFEN	1	0.010	Jar	
		SGW (Proto-)	1	0.003		
225	9	LMEL	1	0.003		16th-18th century
		PMR	1	0.045	Bowl	
		SEFEN	1	0.005		
245	9	SGW (Proto-)	1	0.010		Mid 12th-mid 13th century
		SEFEN	3	0.010		
247	9	SEFEN	1	0.002		Mid 12th-mid 13th century
		UNK	1	0.006		
251	9	EAR	1	0.022		Late 13th-15th century
Unstratified	3	SEFEN	1	0.070		Mid 12th-mid 14th century

Table 4: Pottery catalogue

B.2 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction

B.2.1 An assemblage of 4 fragments of flint was submitted for assessment from the Weatherall School, Soham excavation

Methodology

B.2.2 The material was rapidly assessed to determine technological traits and chronological indicators. For the purposes of this report the material was scanned and ascribed to nominal size categories.

Quantification

B.2.3 Of the four fragments of flint the material recovered from pit fill 201 was a flake between 10 and 25mm in its maximum dimension, whilst the two fragments recovered from subsoil layer 253 were a secondary narrow flake between 25 and 50mm in maximum dimension and a secondary blade form. The final fragment of flint from ditch fill 212 was retouched into and Awl.

Assessment

B.2.4 The material recovered was of a consistent dark reddish brown translucent flint of good quality with a fine heavily abraded off-white to yellowish-cream cortext. The cortext would suggest that the flint is derived from glacial or riverine deposits.

B.2.5 The material shows indicators of being struck with a soft hammer and using a structured core. The material is abraded and therefore is likely to be residual.

B.2.6 The form of the awl made onto a narrow flake with retouch forming the point on the left lateral side and applied from the dorsal surface is likely to be Neolithic in date.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations for Further Work

B.2.7 The paucity of material means no further work is necessary although relating the material recovered in this excavation to previously recovered flint would be of use.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Chris Faine and Anthony Haskins

Evaluation

C.1.1 Fourteen fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation at Weatheralls Primary School, Soham, with 8 fragments identifiable to species. All bones were collected by hand. Residuality appears not be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context

C.1.2 Adult horse remains are the most prevalent, with portions of femur and metacarpal being recovered from contexts 34, 36 & 56. A fragmentary scapula and mandible were also recovered from context 23. Cattle is the next most prevalent taxon, with 2 metacarpal fragments being recovered from contexts 14 & 36, along with a partial femur from 113. Context 56 contained a fragment of pig inominate. Context 1 contained no identifiable fragments.

Excavation

Introduction

C.1.3 An assemblage of 17 fragments (0.656g) of animal bone were submitted for assessment from the evaluation at Weatherall's School, Soham. The assemblage was rapidly assessed and compared to the material from the evaluation.

Methodology

C.1.1 The entire assemblage was initially scanned by context. All “countable” bones were recorded on a specifically written MS Access database. The faunal remains and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Species Present

C.1.1 The over riding taxon present within this assemblage is Cattle, with all identifiable bones attributed to this species (15 fragments). The remaining two unidentified fragments were from a large mammal, likely to be either Horse or Cattle.

Results

C.1.2 The material recovered was, as already stated, composed of cattle remains. The majority of the recovered assemblage came from the ditches, with 15 of the fragments identified within the three ditches. Fragments of Pelvis, Scapula, Mandible and a phalange recovered from ditch **231** with similar fragments of Mandible and long bone fragments were recovered from ditch **204**. Finally an un-identified fragment of large mammal bone was recovered from ditch **214**.

C.1.3 The two remaining fragments were recovered from pits **200** and **227**, identified as a Cattle phalange and an un-identified fragment of a large mammal rib respectively.

C.1.4 When incorporated with original assessment from SOHWET 10 the material present swings in favour of Cattle being the most prevalent taxon with portions of Humerus, mandible, scapula and phalanges recovered from the recent evaluation combined with

the metacarpal fragments recovered from the earlier phase of works (contexts **14** and **56**). Horse is the second most prevalent species with a fragmentary mandible and scapula recovered along from **23** and portions of femur and metacarpal from contexts 34, **36** and **56** from the 2010 phase of work. Finally a single pig inominate fragments was recovered from context **56**.

Further Work and Methods Statement

C.1.5 The lack of ageable and measurable fragments would mean that further work would currently be of little value. However, if a larger assemblage is recovered a more detailed report would potentially be of value.

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of twenty bulk samples were taken during the three phases of excavation at The Weatheralls Primary School, Soham. Features sampled dated primarily from the medieval period and include ditches and pits.

C.2.2 The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal. Waterlogged plant remains are of particular value for providing information on the surrounding environment.

Methodology

C.2.1 The total volume (up to twenty litres) of each of the selected samples were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table x. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Quantification

C.2.1 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens #### = 100+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

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

Results

The results are recorded on Table 5.

C.2.1 Plant remains are preserved by carbonization. The carbonized material is comprised of cereal grains and weed seeds in addition to charcoal and occasional charred Great Fen-sedge (Cladium mariscus) leaflets.

Sample	Context	Cut No.	Feature	Flot	Cereals	Weed	Small	Charcoal	Charcoal

No.	No.		Type	Volume (ml)		Seeds	Bones	<2mm	> 2mm
1	14	15	ditch	20	#	#	#	++	++
2	21	20	pit	10	#	#	0	++	+
3	23	22	pit	5	#	0	0	+	+
4	16	17	ditch	1	#		0	+	+
5	18	19	ditch	1	#	0	0	+	0
6	26	28	ditch	2	##	#	0	+	+
7	30	31	ditch	3	#	0	0	++	++
8	32	33	ditch	10	#	0	0	+++	++
9	56	59	ditch	5	#	0	0	++	+
10	60	61	ditch	1	#	0	0	+	0
11	42	41	ditch	2	0	0	#	0	0
12	32	33	ditch	40	###	0		+++	+++
100	213	214	ditch	45	0	0	0	0	0
101	225	226	pit	15	#	0	0	0	0
102	201	200	pit	70	#	0	0	+	0
103	228	227	pit	1	0	0	0	0	0
104	234	233	ditch	15	0	0	0	0	+
105	205	204	ditch	20	#	0	0	+	+
106	242	241	ditch	10	#	0	0	+	0
107	245	246	ditch	10	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Plant remains from SOHWET10/12

C.2.2 Charred cereal grains are common in the samples taken during the evaluation phase but were less frequent in the excavation samples. Charred grains are particularly abundant in Sample 12, fill 32 of ditch **33** and to a lesser extent in Sample 6, fill 26 of ditch **28.** Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) predominate and rye (*Secale cereale*) is also present in three of the samples. No chaff elements were recovered.

C.2.3 Charred weed seeds occur rarely within the samples and usually as single specimens Cleavers (*Gallium* sp.) and smooth hawksbeard (*Crepis capillaris*) are weeds that can be found on disturbed soils and by roadsides. Wetland plants are represented by nutlets and leaf fragments of Great fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) that most likely represents fuel.

C.2.4 Artefacts and ecofacts were recovered from the sample residues and include small fragments of animal, small mammal and occasional fish, eel and shrew bones. The shrew (*Sorex araneus*) was identified by the characteristic deep red colouration on the tips of the teeth.

Discussion

C.2.1 The charred plant assemblages from all phases of deposits from this site are dominated by crop plants in the form of cereal grains. The samples from the evaluation phase

produced more grain that those from the excavation suggesting the evaluation trenches were closer to any settlement.

C.2.2 The cereal assemblage is comprised primarily of mixed cereal grains with wheat as the predominant species. Wheat grains are difficult to identify on the basis of morphology alone and their compact, rounded morphology suggest that they are of the bread wheat variety and would most likely have been accidentally burnt whilst drying the grains prior to milling. Barley grains are enclosed in an outer sheath that would have to be removed by parching to make it palatable for human consumption in the form of bread, stews and soup but it is suitable in it's hulled form for use as animal fodder. Barley was also used for the brewing of beer although no germinated grains were recovered from these samples to suggest brewing activities. Rye did not become an important crop in this area until the Saxon and medieval period and it can be used for bread and brewing. It is possible that the cereals could have been grown as a maslin in which two types of cereal are grown together.

The poor representation of crop processing waste in the form of chaff suggests that the earlier stages of processing had taken place elsewhere, either in an unexcavated area of the site or the crops may have been brought in already cleaned and ready to be dried/parched on site. Ditches **28** and **33** (Trench 3) contained fills with the most charred grains. Burnt clay was also noted during excavation of these features and it is possible that these deposits contain the remains of a drying oven that has been cleared out and the material dumped in the ditches. Ovens would have been used for drying/parching the cereals. During this process grains are likely to become burned and would have been discarded.

C.2.3 The seed assemblage is too small to be informative. Great fen sedge was one of the major vegetation types of the Fen and was commonly used as fuel.

C.2.4 Sample 1, fill 14 of ditch **15**, is the richest sample in terms of dietary refuse in the form of charred grain, fish and eel bones and the presence of shrew bones.

Conclusion

C.2.1 The environmental samples from The Weatheralls Primary School, Soham are dominated by crop plants, namely mixed cereals, in addition to general domestic refuse. The poor preservation of plant remains could be due to the rubbish being accumulated in middens prior to disposal in pits and ditches and it is also likely to have been spread over the agricultural fields as manure.

4.4.1 It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this interpretation and additional work is not required.

Appendix D. Bibliography

Atkins, A., 2004a, *Iron Age and Saxo-Norman to Post-Medieval Remains on Land off Clay Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire.* CCC AFU Report 714.

Atkins, A., 2004b, *A Late Medieval quarry pit at Ten Bell Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation*. CCC AFU Report 726

British Geological Survey, 1981, *Cambridge sheet 188: Solid and drift edition*

Conybeare, E., 1897, *A History Of Cambridgeshire*

Drummond-Murray, J. 2010. *Specification for archaeological evaluation. The Weatheralls school, Soham*. OA East Spec. Unpub.

Fox, C. 1923. *The archaeology of the Cambridgeshire region*. Cambridge University Press

Hatton, B. and Last, J., 1997, *Late Saxon features at 9-13 Pratt Street, Soham: An archaeological evaluation*. CCC AFU Report.A107

Hickling, S., 2005, *Prehistoric remains at land off Weatheralls Close, Soham, Cambridgeshire.* CCC AFU Report 841

Macaulay, S. 2012. *Specification for archaeological excavation. The Weatheralls school, Soham*. OA East Spec. Unpub.

MPRG, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper I

MPRG, 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Oosthuizen, S., 2000, 'Anglo-Saxon Monasteries and Minsters', in Kirby, T. and Oosthuizen, S., *An Atlas of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire History*

Reaney, P.H., 1943, *The place-names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely*. Cambridge University Press

Rees, G. 2009a. *Land at the rear of 77/81 Paddock Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation and watching brief*. CAMARC Report 1011

Rees, G. 2009b. *Land at the Weatheralls, Soham, Cambridgeshire. Desk-based assessment*. OA East report no.1136

Salzman, L.F. (ed.), 1948, *Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely*. V.1 and 2.

Spoerry, P. in prep *The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire*. EAA

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Taylor, A. and Waite, G., 1991, *Medieval settlement at Pratt Street, Soham*. CCC AFU Report 28

Van der Veen, M. 1992. Crop Husbandry Regimes. An Archaeobotanical Study of Farming in northern England 1000 BC- AD 500. Sheffield Archaeological monographs 3. J. R. Collis Publications, University of Sheffield.

Wareham, A.F. and Wright, A.P.M., 2002, *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 10*: Cheveley, Flendish, Staine and Staploe Hundreds (north-eastern Cambridgeshire) Victoria County History

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-77295		
Project Name	Evaluation at Weatheralls Primary School, Soham		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	27-04-2010	Finish	20-03-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SOHWET 12	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.	3363	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Large/Medium Scale Extensions to Existing Structure

Please select all techniques used:

☐ 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
☐ Dendrochronological 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 Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
ditches	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
pits	Medieval 1066 to 1540	animal bone	Medieval 1066 to 1540
ditches	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	flint	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	East Cambs	Weatheralls Primary School, Soham, CB7 5BH	
Parish	Soham		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	0.62 hectares	National Grid Reference	TL 259480 573530

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Local authority archaeologist
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Tom Phillips & John Diffey

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
SOHWET10 SOHWET12	SOHWET10 SOHWET12	SOHWET10 SOHWET12

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☒
Ceramics	☒	☐	☒
Environmental	☒	☐	☒
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☒	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☒ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☒ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

Plans

Evaluation Trench

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Feature

Archaeological Deposit

Modern Deposit

Excavated Slot

Field Drain

Cut Number **118**

Sample Number 1

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut-Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number **118**

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

Stone

Rooting

Convention Key

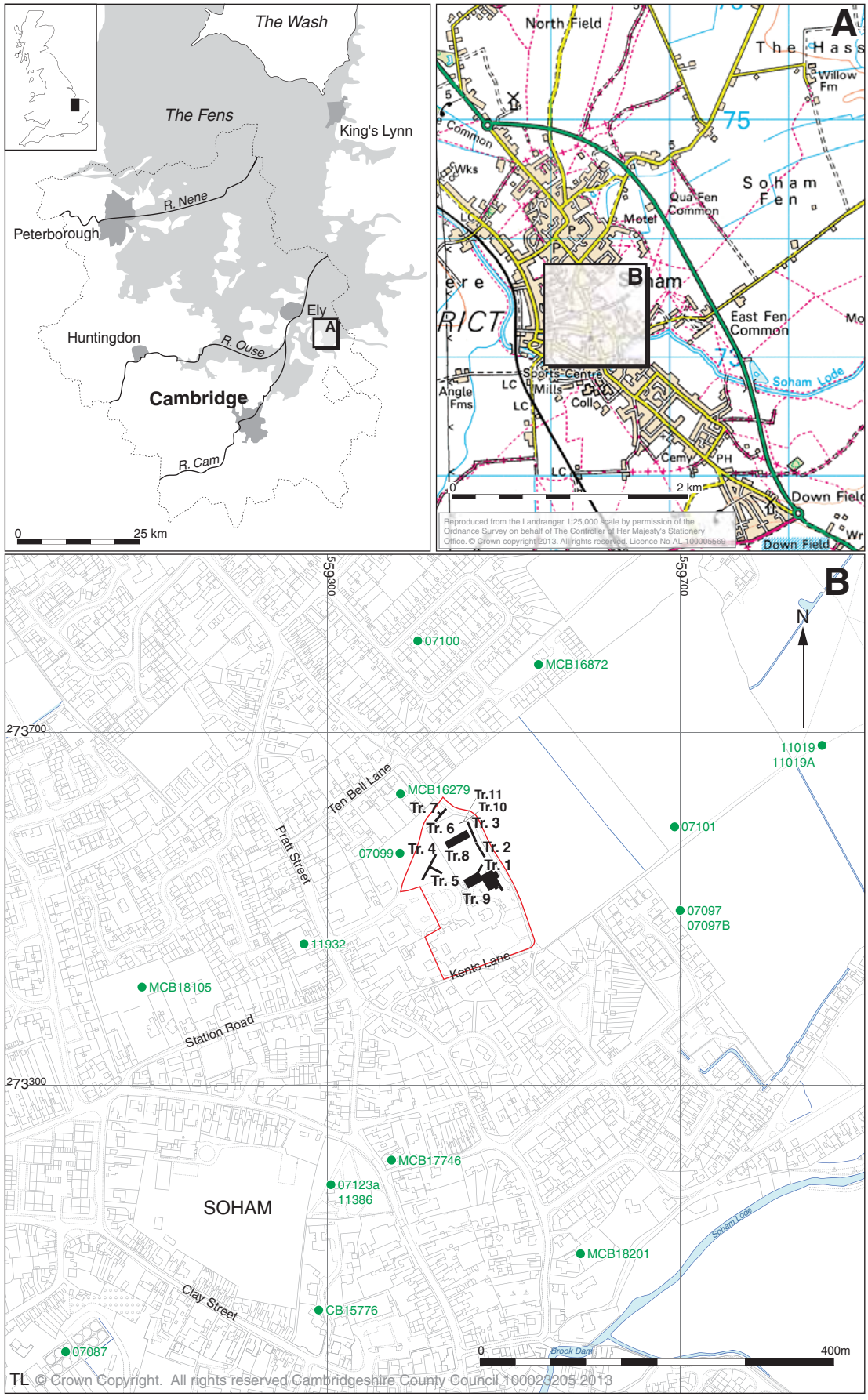

Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with the investigation area outlined (red) and HER data (green)

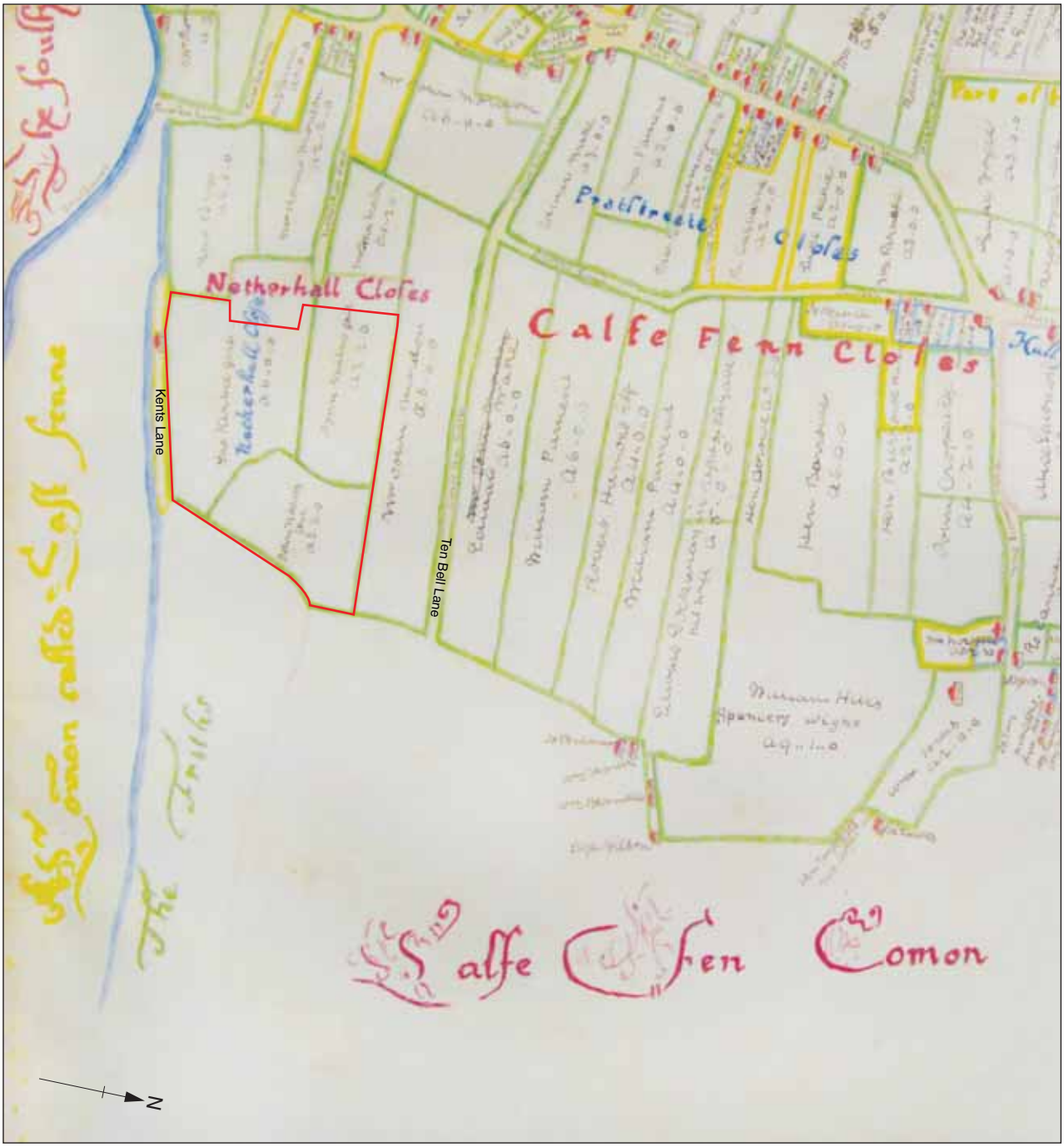

Figure 2: Extract from map of Soham and Fordham Manors (1656), showing investigation area outlined (red). Cambridgeshire archives service 107/P10(v)

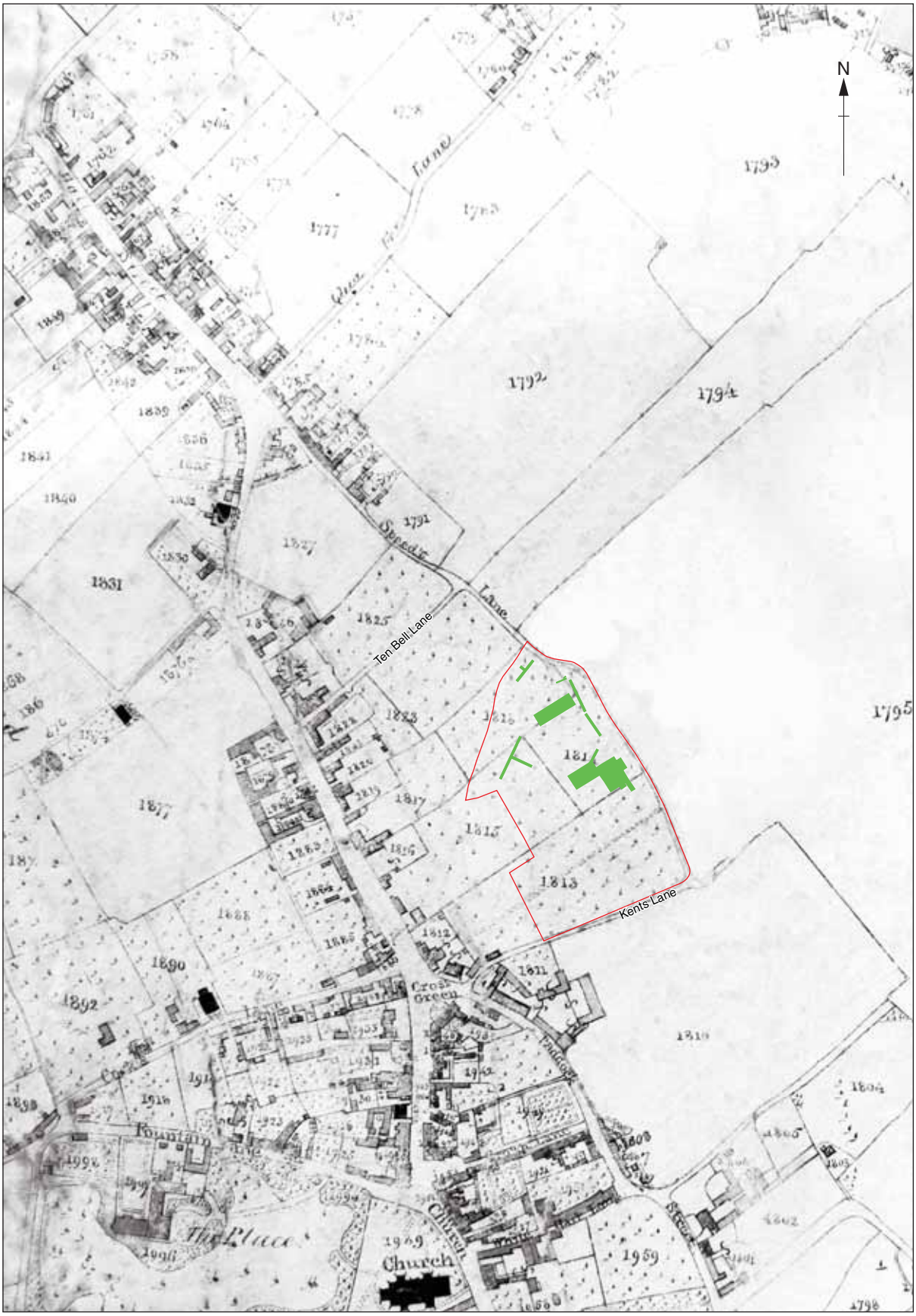

Figure 3: Extract from Tithe Map (1840), showing investigation area outlined (red) and trenches (green). Cambridgeshire archives service P142/27/2

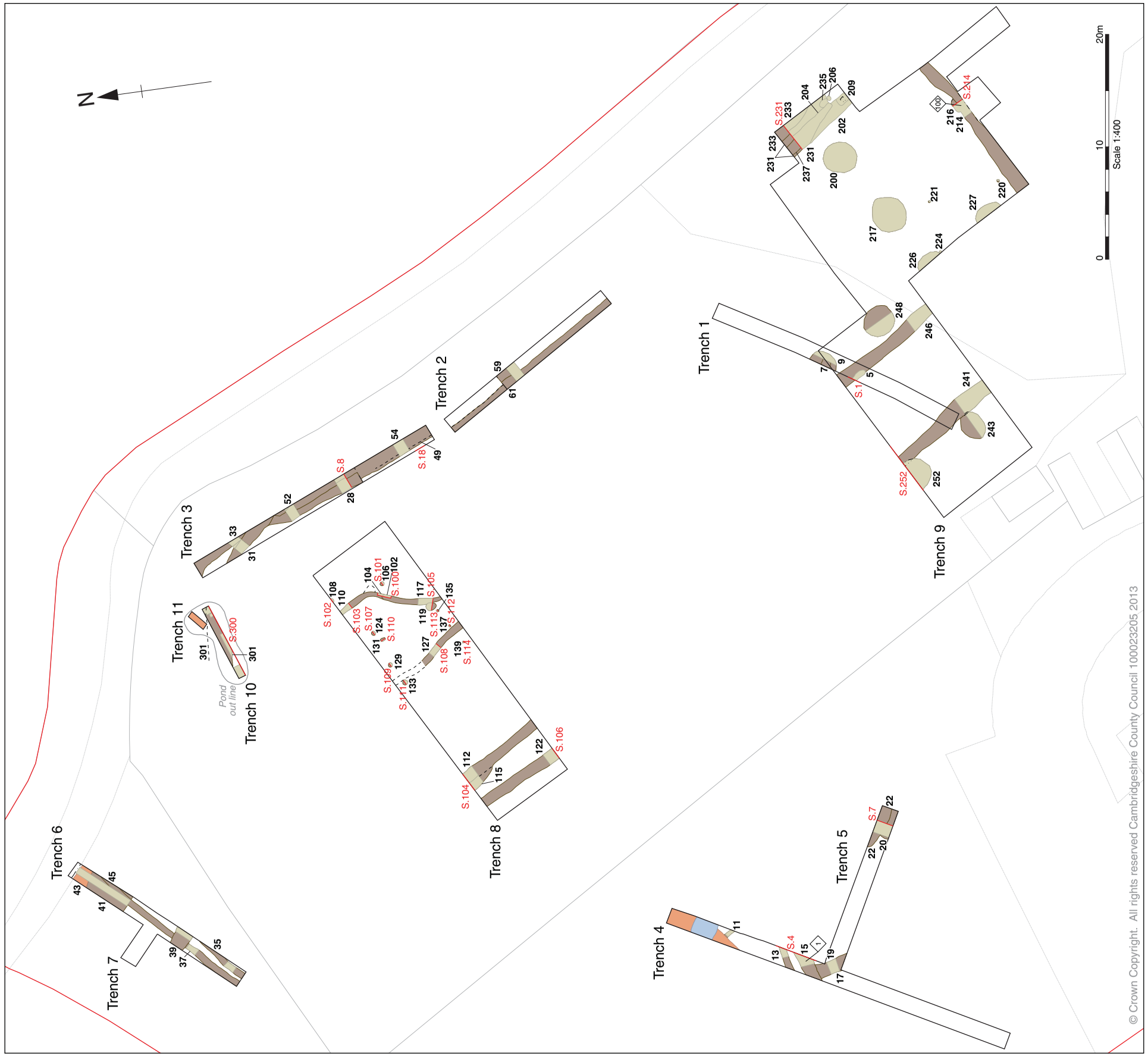

Figure 4: Trench plans

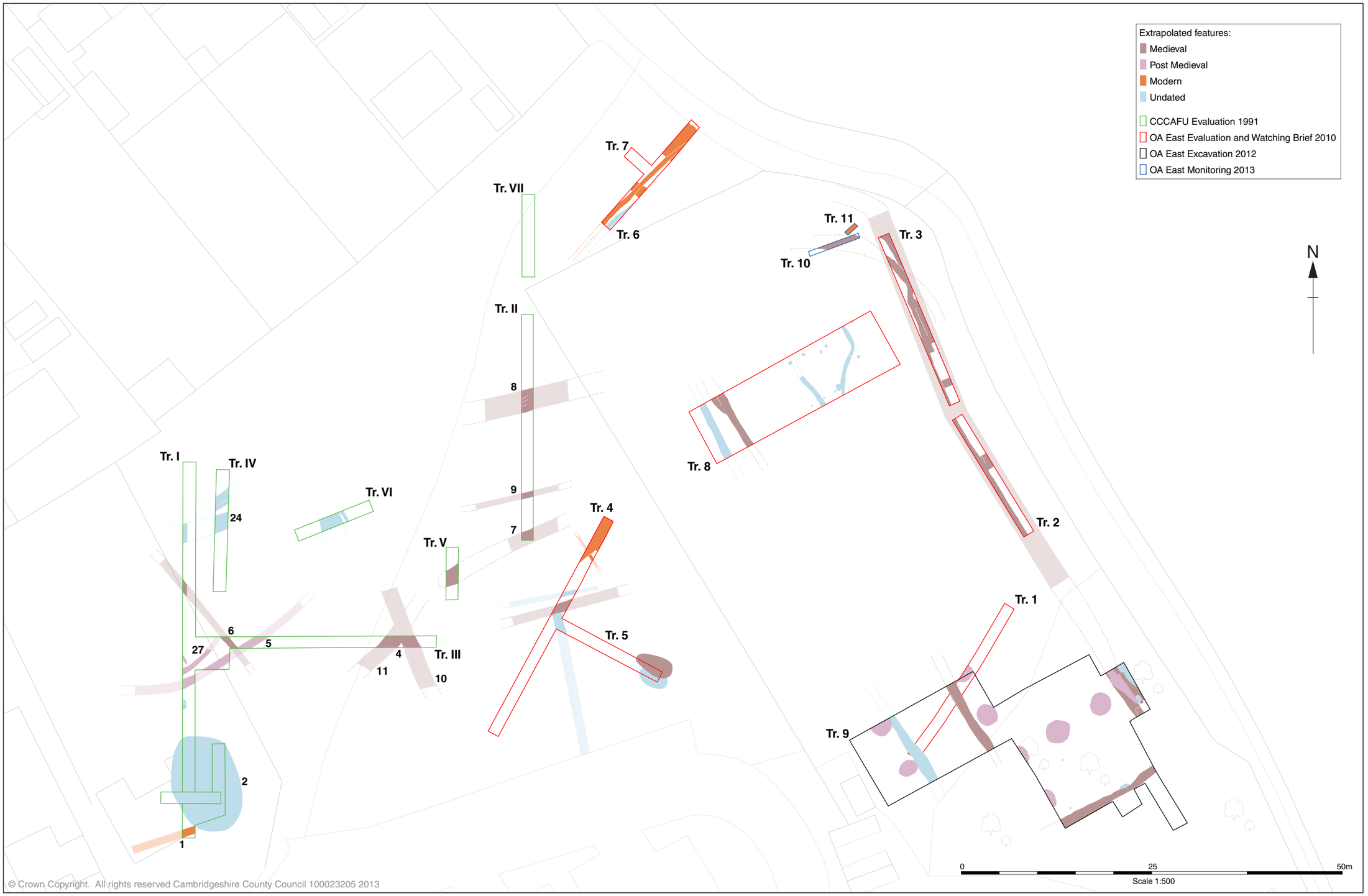

Figure 5: Trench plans from all phases of work showing extrapolated features

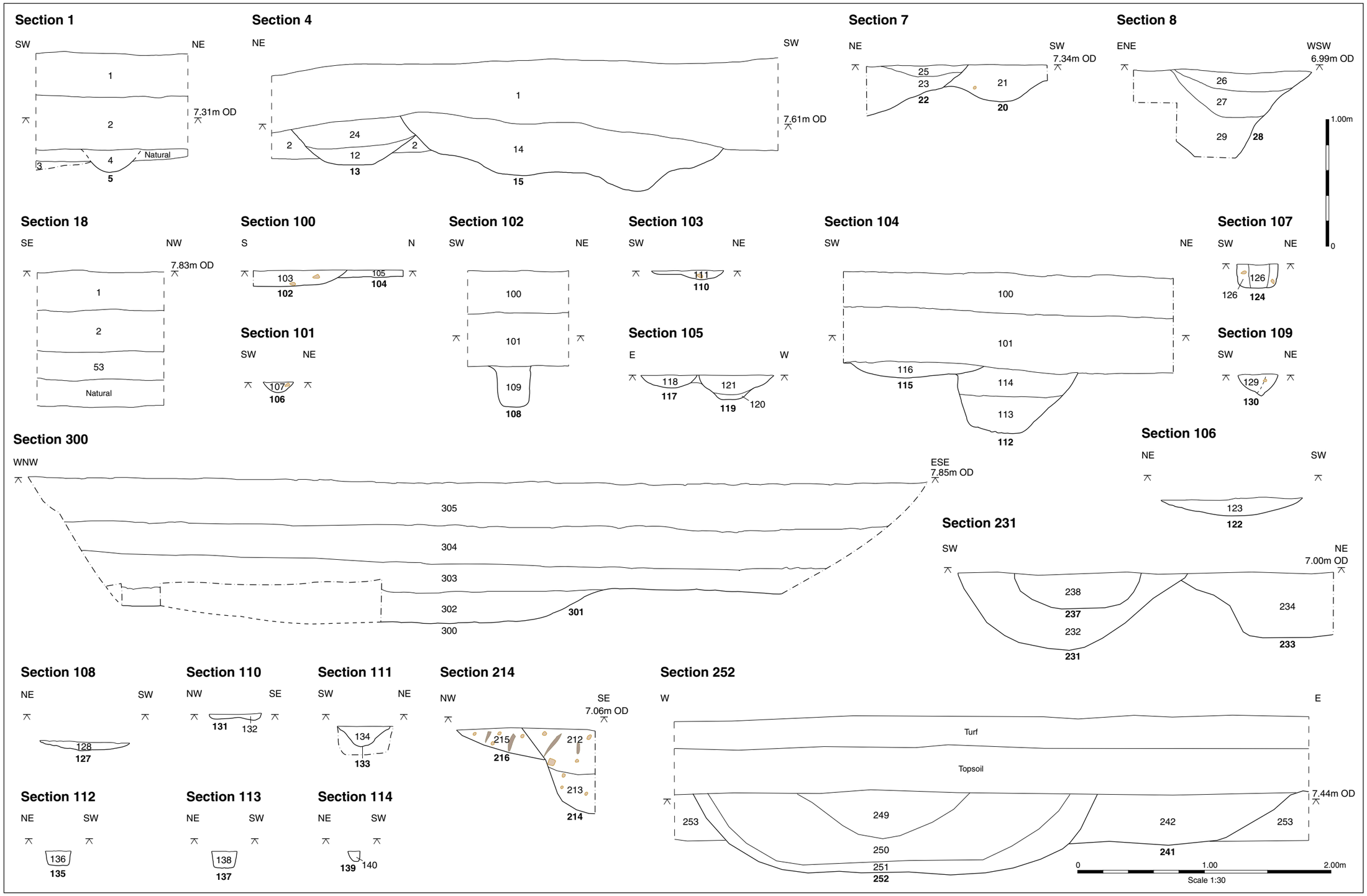

Figure 6: Section drawings

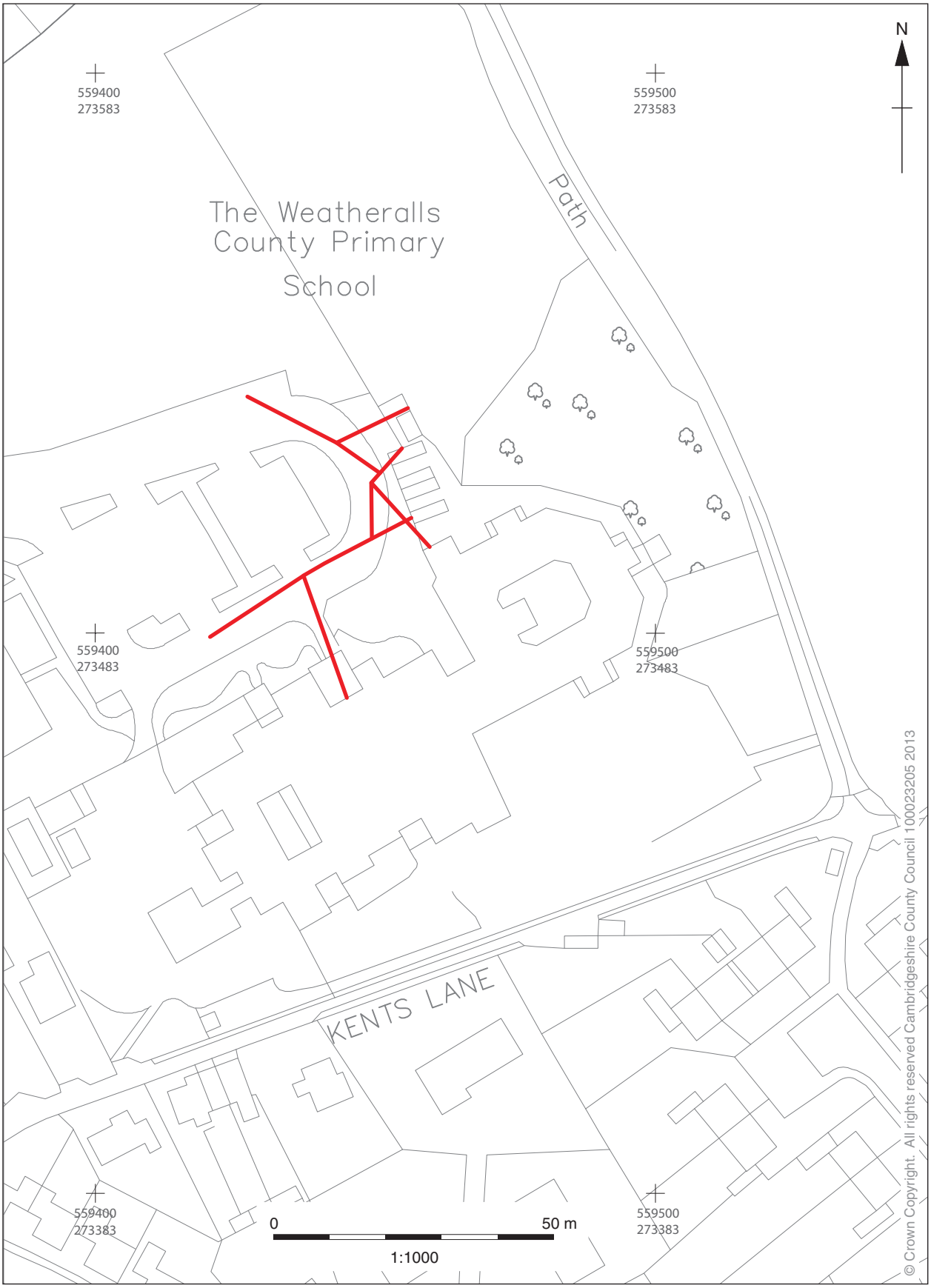

Figure 7: Approximate location of electric services that were monitored (red)

Plate 1: Ditch 28, trench 3, looking south-east. 1m scale

Plate 2: Section 18, north-east facing profile in trench 3. 2m scale

Plate 3: Trench 3, looking south-east. 1m and 2m scale

Plate 4: Ditch 15, trench 4, looking south-west. 1m scale

Plate 5: Trench 4, looking south-west. 1m and 2m scale

Plate 6: Trench 5 with pits 20 and 22 in the foreground, looking north-west. 1m and 2 m scale

Plate 7: Trench 8 from watching brief, looking from north-east. 1m scale

Plate 8: View of eastern part of excavated area facing east

Plate 9: Features **241** and **243**, facing north

Plate 10: View of service trench through car park, looking southwest

Plate 11: View of trench 10 and feature **301** looking east

Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net