# Woodgate Farm Aylsham Norfolk



Excavation Report Final



February 2014

Client: CgMs

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# An Early Neolithic Pit, an Iron Age Pit and a complete Beaker Vessel from Aylsham, Norfolk

Archaeological Excavation

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#### Summary

Between the 18th November and 20th December 2013, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological excavation on Land Adjacent to Woodgate Farm, Aylsham, Norfolk (TG 1794 2634). Two areas were excavated, totalling c.1.7ha, although only limited archaeological features were identified.

These comprised two pits, eight ditches and over 100 tree throws and possible pits. One of the pits was Early Neolithic in date and contained a significant quantity of pottery and flint, the other was Iron Age and a smaller assemblage of pottery was found within this. The ditches were Roman, medieval and post-medieval and all appear to represent field boundary ditches. In addition, a complete Beaker vessel was recovered from one of the tree throws.

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#### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at Woodgate Farm, Aylsham, Norfolk (TG 1794 2634).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA; Planning Application 20110128), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by CgMs.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to define the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area and preserve these remains by record, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).
- 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 proposed development area is located just to the west of the current market town of Aylsham. The area is centred on National Grid Reference TG 1794 2634, with Cawston Road to the south and a disused railway line forming the northern boundary.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Cretaceous chalk and deposits of Cromer Till and Norwich Brickearth. These are overlain by deposits of glacial sands and gravels.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full consideration of the archaeological potential of the site has been presented in a desk based assessment (Watkins 2010). In addition a geophysical survey (Webb 2011) and archaeological evaluation (Ames 2011) were carried out across the entire proposed development area, interoperating this site. The following background is drawn from the desk based assessment (Watkins 2010).
- 1.3.2 The proposed development contains no Listed, Scheduled or otherwise designated sites.
- 1.3.3 The wider local area reveals considerable evidence for prehistoric activity and the topographic setting of the site is one in which remains of this date are frequently encountered.
- 1.3.4 Although several locations within and around the proposed development area have produced Roman finds, suggesting remains of this date may be present, there is no direct evidence for particularly intensive activity in this area during that period.
- 1.3.5 It appears that by at least the medieval period the site fell largely within one of the town's main areas of arable land. There is no evidence to suggest that any part of the site has ever been occupied and, as such, it is relatively unlikely that medieval or later remains of any great complexity are present. The farming of this land throughout the historic periods will however have left numerous physical traces, although these will most likely be largely limited to field boundaries and the like.
- 1.3.6 Excavations close to the south-eastern corner of the site have also revealed remains associated with some form of iron-working industry. Although these remains are undated they are nevertheless significant and suggest that the level of activity during at least one period is significantly under-represented by the available evidence.

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- 1.3.7 An archaeological evaluation of the site identified several ditches and pits across the proposed development area. The following summary is drawn from the evaluation report (Ames 2011).
- 1.3.8 Based on the conclusions of the desk-based assessment and the geophysical survey, 101 trial trenches were excavated which targeted areas of known archaeological remains and geophysical features along with areas of unknown archaeological potential. Of those trenches that were excavated, seventy-three produced evidence of archaeological features and deposits.
- 1.3.9 The earliest recorded find recovered during the evaluation was a Palaeolithic ovate Acheulian hand axe. This type of implement is characteristic of Lower to Middle Palaeolithic technology that was used between 500,000-40,000 years BP. A further 50 struck flints were recovered dating from the earlier Neolithic to Bronze Age periods. Also recovered were sherds of Early Bronze Age and Late Iron Age pottery. Although no archaeological features and deposits have been attributed to the Roman period, a number of artefacts indicate that Roman activity took place in the vicinity.
- 1.3.10 The combined results of the evaluation, geophysical survey and cropmark evidence perhaps suggest that a reshaping of the landscape occurred during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The majority of archaeological features were ditches, many of which were aligned north—south and east—west and most likely associated with land and field boundaries. Some ditches were on different alignments and these are probably features of a different date. Some of the ditches can be tracked across the site. The vast majority of ditches were undatable, mainly due to the lack of artefacts.
- 1.3.11 In addition, a further geophysical survey (Schofield 2013) was carried out on fields immediately to the south of Cawston Road, adjacent to the eastern end of the current site. This shows the presence of two probable kilns, which are likely to be Roman in date based upon the material collected from the surface (P. Purdy pers. comm.).

#### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thanks CgMs, particularly Myk Flitcroft, who commissioned the work on behalf of Persimmon Homes and Youngs Farms. The project was managed by Paul Spoerry and the survey was conducted by Pat Moan. The fieldwork was directed by the author, with the assistance of Pete Boardman, Zoe Clarke, Chris Swain and Tam Webster.
- 1.4.2 Thanks also go to Peter Purdy who regularly metal detected the site and also provided geophysical survey results of fields to the south of Cawston Road. I am grateful to Paul Moore who also metal detected the site.

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#### 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Brief and Written Scheme of Investigation (Hamilton 2013, Flitcroft 2013). The main aims of this excavation were:
  - To mitigate the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological remains. The development would have severely impacted upon these remains and as a result a full excavation was required, targeting the areas of archaeological interest highlighted by the previous phases of evaluation.
  - To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.
- 2.1.2 The aims and objectives of the excavation were developed with reference to the Regional Research Agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Glazebrook and Brown 2000, Medlycott 2011).

#### 2.2 Site Specific Research Objectives

- 2.2.1 The following are taken from the written scheme of investigation (Flitcroft 2013):
  - To determine (if possible) the character and nature of past industrial activity in the vicinity of trial trenches 63 and 64 ("Strip Area A").
  - To establish the nature, character and extent of prehistoric evidence at the east end of the development site ("Strip Area B").
  - To determine the date, character, function and significance of any associated features in these areas.
  - To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Norfolk HER.
  - To undertake a programme of post-excavation analysis assessing the potential of the remains to contribute to wider research agendas and the scope for dissemination of the project results to a wider audience.

#### 2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 The methodology followed that outlined in the Brief (Hamilton 2013) and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Flitcroft 2013).
- 2.3.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a 14 ton and an 18 ton tracked 360° excavator using 2m wide, flat bladed ditching buckets, under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.3.3 The brief initially required two areas of strip, map and sample excavation. Area A was located close to the centre of the development area, adjacent to its southern limit. The western edge of this area was the boundary between land designated from housing (to the east) and for football pitches (to the west). Area A comprised a total area of c.0.3ha. Area B was at the eastern end of the proposed development area and encompassed a total area of c.1.4ha. If required, and in consultation with Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCCHES), these areas could have been extended, in order to fully define any archaeological features.

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- 2.3.4 Once each area was opened, a strategy for sample excavation and recording was to be agreed with NCCHES. This strategy involved 100% excavation of all certain prehistoric pits, 10% excavation of all medieval or older ditches and 50% excavation of approximately half of the tree throws identified.
- 2.3.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.3.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.3.7 The Neolithic pit was fully sampled for the recovery of artefacts and environmental remains. In addition, environmental samples were taken from the ditches and only other pit. Samples were also taken from natural features containing finds.
- 2.3.8 Site conditions were generally good, although it was cold. Occasional rain showers and dense fog caused minor difficulties.

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#### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results are presented below by phase, with undated features and natural features last. Each feature has been assigned a phase based on any material recovered from it and, where appropriate, its stratigraphic relationship to other features, together with its location and orientation. In addition a complete context inventory is given in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Several phases of activity were identified, these comprised:
  - 1: Early Neolithic (4000BC-3000BC)
  - 2: Beaker period (2500BC-1700BC)
  - 3: Iron Age (800BC-43AD)
  - 4: Roman (43-AD 400AD)
  - 5: medieval (1066AD-1485AD)
  - 6: post-medieval (1485AD-1800AD)
  - 7: natural and undated features

#### 3.2 Early Neolithic

- 3.2.1 A single pit (717) was recorded close to the southern limit of excavation in Area B. It was oval in plan and 0.81m in length, 0.63m wide and 0.26m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (716), which was a mid greyish brown, silty sand. A total of 111 sherds (1,198g) of Early Neolithic pottery and 50 struck flints (328g) were recovered from this fill. There was no clear pattern to the deposition of these finds within the pit.
- 3.2.2 Two excavated tree throws (**538**, **563**) also contained earlier Neolithic material, although the vast majority contained no finds (these are discussed below). Tree throw **563**, which was 5.34m in length, 1.55m in width and 0.48m deep, was located close to the north-west corner of Area A. It was crescent-shaped in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Three slots were excavated, which identified three deposits. The primary fill (562, 565), located against the eastern edge of the feature, was a mid greyish brown, silty sand. This was overlain by deposit 561, which was a mid reddish brown, sandy silt. The final fill (560, 564, 566) was a pale greyish brown, sandy silt. Five sherds of earlier Neolithic pottery (4g) were recovered from deposit 562, along with a single struck flint.
- 3.2.3 Tree throw **538** was positioned against the southern limit of Area A. It was a large, irregularly shaped feature, with a diameter of 4.08m. It also had an irregular profile, with a maximum depth of 0.60m. A series of three deposits (535, 536, 537) filled this feature. The primary fill (537) was a dark brownish grey, sandy silt. This was overlain by deposit 536, which was a pale yellow silty loam. The final fill (535) was a mid yellowish brown, silty sand. The total finds assemblage from this feature consisted of six sherds (8g) of earlier Neolithic pottery, as well as two struck flints and three burnt flints.
- 3.2.4 A further tree throw (662) contained prehistoric material that was not closely datable. Tree throw 662 was located in the south-east corner of Area B. It was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. It had a diameter of 0.98m, with a depth of 0.22m and contained two fills. The primary fill (661) was a mid greyish



brown, silty sand, which contained no finds. The upper fill (660) was a dark brownish grey, silty sand, from which six sherds (44g) of prehistoric pottery, along with 27 burnt flints (355g), including 3 burnt flakes, were recovered.

#### 3.3 Beaker period

3.3.1 The only feature datable to the Beaker period was a single tree throw (742), located c.12m from the southern limit of excavation in Area B. Tree throw 742 was sub-oval in plan, with a steep and slightly undercut western edge and a more gradually sloping eastern edge. It had a concave base and was filled by a single deposit (741), which was a pale brownish grey, silty sand. Tree throw 742 was 2.18m long, 1.44m wide and 0.91m deep. A complete, but crushed, Beaker vessel (1146g) was found within this feature. The pot was located in the centre of the feature, only 0.08m from the machined level.

#### 3.4 Iron Age

- 3.4.1 The only definitively dated Iron Age feature was pit **622**, which was located close to the north-west corner of Area B. Pit **622** was sub-circular in plan, with a length of 1.88m, a width of 1.38m and a depth of 0.55m. It had near vertical sides with a flat base and was filled by a single deposit (621). Deposit 621 was a mid reddish brown, silty sand. A total of 29 sherds (96g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature, along with nine residual stuck flints, including a scraper.
- 3.4.2 Adjacent to pit **622**, was a further small feature (**631**), which may have been a second pit. Feature **631** was sub-circular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and an almost flat base. It had a diameter of 0.65m and was 0.23m deep. A single deposit (630) containing no finds filled this feature.
- 3.4.3 A deposit of fired clay (623) was excavated c.8m to the west of pit 622. This consisted of 45 fragments (510g) of burnt clay, including fragments of possible hearth lining. A single sherd (18g) of Bronze Age pottery was also recovered. It seems most likely that deposit 623 was related to the other Iron Age features in the same area and that this sherd of pottery was residual (especially given that a second sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the sub-soil nearby).
- 3.4.4 A small ditch (614), located in Area B, has also been assigned to this phase, due to the small quantity of pottery it contained. Ditch 614 extended for at least 30m, and was aligned approximately east west. It was 0.70m wide and 0.19m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (613), which was a mid yellowish brown, silty sand. A total of two sherds (6g) of later Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature, along with 116g of burnt sandstone and 5 fragments (41g) of burnt flint.

#### 3.5 Roman

3.5.1 Two perpendicular ditches (**502**, **511**) were identified in Area A, both of which have been assigned to the Roman phase. A slot was dug to investigate the stratigraphic relationship between these ditches; none was visible and the fills were so similar that it seems most likely they were contemporary. Ditch **502** (**502**, **516**, **531**, **544**, **546**, **569**) continued on an east to west alignment across the entirety of Area A. It was up to 1.63m wide and 0.64m deep, although it shallowed towards the east, in the same direction as the downslope. Ditch **502** had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by up to two deposits in some of the excavated slots. Where present, the primary fill (530, 568) was a mid orangey brown, silty sand. The upper, or in some cases only,



fill (501, 515, 529, 543, 545, 567) was a mid greyish brown, silty sand. Two sherds (15g) of pottery were recovered, one of which (5g) was later Iron Age in date, the other was medieval. Five residual struck flints were also found within this ditch. Although a single, less abraded sherd, of medieval pottery was present in this ditch, on balance, based upon its alignment and relationship with ditch **511**, ditch **502** is likely to be Roman.

3.5.2 Ditch **511** (**511**, **534**, **556**, **571**) crossed Area A on a north to south orientation, continuing from the northern edge of excavation, before continuing beyond its western edge. It was up to 1.30m wide and 0.51m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Two fills were identified in two of the four excavated segments in the ditch, with only a single fill present in the other interventions. Where present, the basal fill (510, 533) was a mid yellowish brown, silty sand. The upper fill (509, 532, 555, 570) was a mid greyish brown, silty sand. The only finds were recovered from the upper fill and comprised three sherds (7g) of Roman pottery, along with two residual struck flints.

#### 3.6 Medieval

- 3.6.1 Two parallel ditches (**612**, **620**) have been assigned to the medieval period, based on the pottery they contained. Both crossed the north-western corner of Area B, on a north-east to south-west alignment. Ditch **620** (**620**, **627**) was the southernmost, and widest, of the two with a maximum width of 1.58m and a depth of 0.56m. It was filled by a single deposit (619, 626), which was a mid yellowish brown, silty sand. A single sherd (5g) of late 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered, along with a single sherd (3g) of Roman pottery. In addition, 3 residual struck flints and 51g of ceramic building material were found.
- 3.6.2 Ditch **612** (**612**, **637**) was up to 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. A single deposit (611, 636) filled this feature, which was a mid greyish brown, silty sand. Finds from the two excavated slots comprised a single sherd (5g) of 12th to 14th century pottery, two sherds (14g) of Roman pottery and a single fragment of burnt flint.
- 3.6.3 Tree throw **808** was located close to the middle of Area B and was sub-oval in plan, with steeply sloping sides that were undercut on the southern edge. It had an irregular base and was 1.60m long, 0.85m wide and 0.18m deep. A single deposit (807) filled this feature and it was a mid greyish brown, silty sand, which contained a single sherd (4g) of medieval pottery.

#### 3.7 Post medieval

- 3.7.1 Two slightly converging ditches (**610**, **629**), excavated in Area B, were assigned to the post-medieval phase. Ditch **610** crossed the eastern end of Area B on a north-east to south-west alignment. It was 0.62m wide and 0.29m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. A single dark brownish grey, silty sand deposit (609) filled this feature. Ditches **629** and **610** ran parallel with one another *c*.60m apart. Ditch **629** was 0.85m wide and 0.13m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The single deposit (628) which filled this feature was a dark brownish grey, silty sand. The finds recovered from it comprised two sherds (6g) of pottery, one of which was of late 18th to 19th century date, 6g of ceramic building material and 2g of clay tobacco pipe.
- 3.7.2 Ditch **721** (**721**, **731**, **740**, **744**) was attributed to the post medieval period, based on its alignment. It continued from the western edge of Area B for 17.5m on a south-west to north-east alignment, before turning a right angle towards the southern limit of excavation. Ditch **721** was up to 0.90m wide and 0.55m deep, with gently sloping sides



and a slightly concave base. A single fill was present in three of the four excavated segments, with an additional upper fill noted where ditch **721** was cut by tree throw **729** (see below). This single (or basal) fill (720, 738, 739, 743) was a mid greyish brown, silty sand. The upper fill (730) was a dark greyish brown, silty sand. No finds were recovered from either fill.

- 3.7.3 Three postholes (**604**, **606**, **608**) were located close to the north-east corner of Area B. These formed a line on a north-west to south-east orientation, matching that of the railway line immediately to the north of Area B. The postholes were all circular in plan, with diameters between 0.22m and 0.27m and depths between 0.17m and 0.21m. Each was filled by a dark brownish grey, silty sand deposit (603, 605, 607). No finds were recovered from these features, although small fragments of coal were noted in the fills.
- 3.7.4 Three other postholes (**616**, **618**, **701**), widely dispersed across Area B, are also likely to date the the post-medieval period. They were all circular, with vertical sides and flat bases, varying between 0.29m and 0.40m in diameter and 0.10m and 0.23m in depth. Each contained a dark brownish grey, silty sand deposit (615, 617, 700), from no finds were recovered.
- 3.7.5 A large pit (**540**) was identified in the north-east corner of Area A. This feature was not fully exposed within the limits of the excavation; only 6.40m of its east to west axis was uncovered, while its north to south axis was 12.70m in length. A machine dug slot was excavated across pit **540**, which showed it to be 1.20m deep and filled by a single deposit (539). Deposit 539 was a dark brownish grey, silty sand containing a moderate quantity of coal and clinker fragments. A total of 323g of post-medieval brick fragments was recovered from this feature.

#### 3.8 Undated features

- 3.8.1 Several possible pits (**542**, **664**, **668**, **758**) containing no finds were identified. The shape and profile of these features suggests they are anthropogenic, however, they may also have had a natural origin. Feature **542** was located close to the eastern edge of Area A. It was sub-circular in plan, with near vertical sides and a flat base. It was 1.58m long and 1.31m wide, with a depth of 0.70m and was filled by a series of five deposits. The primary fill of this feature (551) was a mid to pale yellowish orange, silty sand. This was overlain by deposit 550, a mid brownish orange, silty sand. Above this was deposit 549, which was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt. The next deposit up in this sequence was 548, which was a mid brownish orange, silty sand. The final fill (541) was a pale orangey yellow, silty sand. A single flint core was recovered from the tertiary fill of this feature.
- 3.8.2 Possible pits **664** and **668** were identified close to the northern limit of Area B, neither contained any finds. Both were sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides. Feature **664** had a length of 0.98m, a width of 0.90m and was 0.34m deep. A single deposit (663) filled this feature and it was a mid brownish orange, silty sand. Feature **668** had a diameter of 1.26m, with a depth of 0.54m and was also filled by a single deposit (667). Deposit 667 was a pale brownish grey, sandy silt.
- 3.8.3 Feature **758** was positioned close to the eastern end of Area B and was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping edges and a flat base. It was 1.24m long, with a width of 1.02m and a depth of 0.36m. A single mid brown, sandy silt deposit (757) filled this feature.
- 3.8.4 A small section of a possible ditch (**554**) continued from the northern edge of Area A for 2.5m on a north-west to south-east alignment, before being truncated by ditch **511** (see



Roman phase above). Feature **554** had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.55m wide and 0.75m deep and was filled by two deposits. The basal fill (553) was a mid brownish grey, sandy silt, while the upper fill (552) was a pale greyish brown, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from either fill. It is possible that feature **554** represented part of a pre-Roman ditch. However, the fact that it did not continue beyond the line of ditch **511** may suggest otherwise and it seems more likely that **554** was a natural feature.

- 3.8.5 Two tree throws (**524**, **850**) contained struck flints and no other datable finds. It is difficult to know whether these flints were residual, intrusive or actually contemporary with the features. Tree throw **524** was located close to the north-west corner of Area A. It was sub-rectangular in plan and had an irregular profile, with a length of 0.68m, a width of 0.54m and a depth of 0.45m. It was filled by a series of four silty sand deposits (519, 520, 521, 523). Two struck flints and a single piece of burnt flint were recovered from this feature.
- 3.8.6 Tree throw **850** was located close to the western edge of Area B, close to the centreline of the site. It was irregular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Tree throw **850** was 3.36m long and 1.26m wide, with a depth of 0.26m and was filled by a single deposit (849). Two struck flints were recovered from this dark brownish grey, silty sand.
- 3.8.7 In addition a total of 116 tree throws containing no finds were excavated. These were spread evenly across Areas A and B. Some of these tree throws may have been arranged in lines, suggesting the past presence of hedges. However, with no dating evidence to phase them, these lines could be coincidental. The dimensions of each are given in Appendix A.

### 3.9 Finds Summary

3.9.1 Summaries of all of artefactual evidence are given below. A full quantification of the material is presented in Appendix B and, where appropriate, full reports on this material are presented in Appendix C.

#### Metal small finds (by Helen Geake)

3.9.2 A total of 158 finds of non-ferrous metal were examined, all of these were recoded during metal detecting of the topsoil and subsoil. 53 were individually bagged and numbered; most of these were of post-medieval date, but there was also a small number of medieval objects. Nine other bags contained 105 undatable or late post-medieval to modern objects which were not separately numbered, including seven coins, 41 buttons and 19 fragments of lead.

#### Struck Flints (by Antony Dickson)

- 3.9.3 A total of 123 struck lithics were recovered from the excavation. Of these, 73 were recovered from Iron Age, Roman, medieval and undated contexts including subsoil deposits. A secure assemblage of 50 struck lithics was recovered from the fill of a pit which also contained a significant quantity of Early Neolithic pottery and charred organic remains.
- 3.9.4 The struck lithics from the Iron Age and later deposits, along with the material from the undated and natural deposits, were of mixed technological character and predominantly residual.

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#### Stone objects (by Sarah Percival)

- 3.9.5 Two whetstones were recovered, both from the subsoil in Area B. The first (small find 11) is an irregular, unfashioned, utilised piece of pale grey micaceous schist of sub rectangular shape, with surfaces smoothed from wear. The second (small find 34) is made of Norwegian Ragstone and is sub-rectangular, thinning at the centre to form a slight waist. Both examples are perhaps medieval.
- 3.9.6 Norwegian Ragstone was imported into Norfolk rough-hewn, from sources in the Telemark region of Norway and was in substantial use in Norwich and Thetford from before the Norman Conquest, becoming 'the preferred material for hones' in Norwich 'during the late medieval period' (Mills with Moore 2009, 709).
- 3.9.7 A scrappy assemblage of 10 pieces of lava, weighing 12g, was recovered from subsoil 547 in Area A. Lava was imported into Norfolk during the Roman and Late Saxon to medieval periods and is not closely datable.

#### Prehistoric pottery (by Sarah Percival)

3.9.8 A total of 181 sherds weighing 2492g were collected from ten excavated contexts. The earliest pottery within the assemblage is earlier Neolithic. Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery were also found. The assemblage is almost all small fragmented sherds in poor to moderate condition, with the exception of the earlier Neolithic Bowl pottery from pit 717 and a complete later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker from tree throw 742.

#### Roman pottery (by Alice Lyons and Sarah Percival)

3.9.9 The small abraded Roman assemblage contains 29 sherds, weighing 301g, with an average sherd weight of only *c*.10g. The assemblage is almost entirely composed of unsourced local sandy greywares (Andrews 1985, 92) with a small number of sandy coarsewares. At least some of these sherds may be from the nearby production centre at Brampton, though the fabrics are not especially typical of Brampton products (Knowles 1967 & 1977; Green 1977). No samian, amphora or other finewares were recovered (Tyers 1996). One sherd of mortarium, with slag trituration grits, is typical of production sites in the Nar Valley and was perhaps made at Pentney (Tomber and Dore 1998, 171). The majority of the vessel forms are utilitarian jars or bowls. One rim sherd from a pinch-necked flagon was also recovered.

#### Post-Roman Pottery (by Carole Fletcher)

3.9.10 The excavation produced a small pottery assemblage of 10 sherds, weighing 175g, recovered from six contexts. The majority of the sherds were recovered from subsoil contexts in Areas A and B. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded to moderately abraded. The average sherd weight from individual contexts is moderate, at 17.5g, due to the presence of a large handle sherd from a Glazed Red Earthenware vessel.

#### Ceramic Building Material (by Sarah Percival)

3.9.11 A total of 14 pieces of CBM weighing 479g were collected from six contexts, mostly ditch fills and sub-soil. The assemblage comprises ten fragments of post medieval brick weighing 364g in coarse red sandy fabric with occasional sub-rounded flint inclusions. Two pieces of pan tile in red-firing sandy fabrics and two undated roof tile fragments were also recovered.

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#### Baked Clay (by Sarah Percival)

3.9.12 A total of 47 pieces of baked clay weighing 535g was recovered from three contexts. A lump of poorly-fired baked clay weighing 21g, in fine sandy fabric with few visible inclusions, was found in the fill of pit 622, which also contained Iron Age pottery. A further 45 pieces, weighing 510g, in dense silty fabric with rare flint inclusions were found as a deposit of baked clay lumps in subsoil c.8m from pit 622. The pieces have one flattened surface suggesting that they may be hearth lining. A further lump weighing 4g in poorly mixed, sandy yellow orange fabric with possible grog inclusions came from pit 633.

#### 3.10 Environmental Summary

3.10.1 Summaries of the environmental evidence are given below and a full report of the environmental samples is presented in Appendix D.

#### Animal bone (by Chris Faine)

3.10.2 Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from the excavation, with only one identifiable fragment being recovered in the form of an adult cattle astragalus from context **601**. The total weight of bone recovered was 55g.

#### Environmental samples (by Rachel Fosberry)

3.10.3 Seven bulk samples were taken from deposits within features including an undated boundary ditch, pits of Neolithic and Iron Age date and samples from inside and around a complete Beaker vessel (SF 44). Sample 4, fill 716 of early Neolithic pit 717 contains well preserved fragments of a charred apple (*Malus* sp.) core with three pips still intact, in addition to a small amount of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments and seven poorly preserved charred cereal grains.

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#### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 4.1 Early Neolithic Pit

- 4.1.1 The single Early Neolithic pit (717) recorded on the site contained an interesting assemblage of pottery, struck flint and environmental remains. Pits of this date are known from across East Anglia, with perhaps the best known site being Hurst Fen, Norfolk, where over 200 pits were recorded (Clarke et al 1960). More recent excavations at Kilverstone, also in Norfolk, revealed similar pits containing comparable assemblages (Garrow et al 2006). These pits were densely clustered and found in structured groups which, in some cases, were shown to have been excavated over a period of time (Garrow et al 2006, 75-6).
- 4.1.2 A large number of pits were revealed at both of these well known sites, however this is not always the case. At Ormesby St. Michael, Norfolk, only two widely dispersed pits were recorded in an excavation covering *c*.2.3ha (Gilmour and Mortimer 2012, Gilmour *et al* forthcoming).
- 4.1.3 The function of such Early Neolithic pits has been much debated, but the consensus of recent opinion is that these features were frequently dug for the purpose of receiving the material placed within them. These deposits may well have been derived from middens, explaining re-fits between pottery sherds being in differing condition within a single pit (Knight 2006, 31-2). Such pits are often seen as related to the abandonment of temporary settlements (e.g. Garrow et al 2006, 11). However, with only a single, isolated, pit at Aylsham drawing conclusions about the feature's function is extremely difficult.

#### 4.2 Beaker Vessel

- 4.2.1 Tree throw **742** was unremarkable and was similar to many of the other tree throws excavated across the site, apart from the fact that a complete Beaker vessel (SF44, Fig.8) was recovered from it. It is quite unusual to recover a complete Beaker vessel from an non-funerary context, however, it is not without precedent. For example, at Foxes field, Ebly Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, four complete Beaker vessels were found in a tree throw (http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Ebley-Road1.pdf).
- 4.2.2 The fact that the vessel appears to have been complete and unbroken when deposited strongly suggests that it was deliberately placed within the tree throw. The role of tree throws as markers in the landscape during the Early Neolithic has been discussed elsewhere (Evans et al 1999) and there is no reason why the same cannot be true during the Beaker period. The size of tree throw 742, which was 2.18m in length, 1.44m in width and 0.91m in depth, suggests that the tree which fell over to form it was also quite large. Thus both the trunk and root ball of this tree would have formed a highly visible feature, which may have influenced its selection as a location for the deposition of the Beaker.

#### 4.3 Iron Age Activity

4.3.1 The single Iron Age pit (622), ditch (614) and possible pit (631), suggest only very limited activity on the site during this period. Together with the small quantity of pottery of this date recovered from the subsoil, it is suggested that this area may have been farmed in the later Iron Age.

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#### 4.4 Roman Activity

4.4.1 The two small Roman ditches (**502**, **511**) identified in Area A are almost certainly part of a field system. The small quantity of abraded Roman pottery recovered from these features and the subsoil across the site, are probably the result of manuring. The small section of a field system identified here is potentially related to the putative kilns and other Roman activity identified to the south of Cawston Road (Schofield 2013, P. Purdy pers comm). It is possible that these two ditches are actually medieval in date, if the Roman pottery in ditch **511** was residual, then the single sherd of medieval pottery from ditch **502** could date the features. However, the fact that they are on a different alignment to the medieval and post-medieval ditches identified on the site suggests they are not of this date.

#### 4.5 Medieval and Post Medieval Activity

- 4.5.1 Several ditches dating to the medieval and post-medieval period were recorded across the site (610, 612, 620, 629, 721). These are all likely to be field boundary ditches and show that the area was farmland during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The large number of metal small finds dating to this period, recovered from the subsoil, are the result of casual loss during farm activity and manuring (App. C.1). The density of these finds could be some indication of the intensity to which this area, close to the market town of Aylsham, has been farmed since the medieval period.
- 4.5.2 Several post-medieval postholes were also recorded and some of these (604, 606, 608) formed a line, parallel with the railway. It seems probable that these posts relate to the construction of the railway. In addition, the large pit (540) excavated in Area A is potential evidence for sand quarrying that may be related to the known brick kiln located to the south, just outside of the current proposed development area. This kiln was in use during the 18th and 19th centuries (P. Purdy pers. Comm).

#### 4.6 Significance

4.6.1 This excavation has shown that little archaeologically visible activity took place on this site in the past. However, the presence of small quantities of material dating from virtually every phase from the Early Neolithic to the modern period proves that people were not totally absent from this area.

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# APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
500	502	fill	ditch	502	4		1.55	0.35
501	502	fill	Ditch	502	4		0.65	0.25
502	502	cut	ditch	502	4		1.55	0.64
503	504	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.54	0.52	0.22
504	504	cut	tree throw	0	7	0.54	0.52	0.22
505	506	fill	tree throw	0	7		0.34	0.09
506	506	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	0.34	0.09
507	508	fill	tree throw	0	7	0		0.26
508	508	cut	tree throw	0	7	0		0.26
509	511	fill	ditch	511	4	0	1.3	0.26
510	511	fill	ditch	511	4	0	0.92	0.25
511	511	cut	ditch	511	4	0	1.3	0.51
512	514	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.1	0.57	0.2
513	514	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.8	0.41	0.04
514	514	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.1	0.57	0.24
515	516	fill	ditch	502	4	0	0.43	0.2
516	516	cut	ditch	502	4	0	0.43	0.2
517	518	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.54	0.79	0.36
518	518	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.54	0.79	0.36
519	522	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.9	0.08
520	524	fill	tree throw	0	7		0.9	0.07
521	524	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.85	0.08
522		VOID		0	0			
523	524	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.54	0.45
524	524	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	0.54	0.45
525	526	fill	tree throw	0	7	1	0.65	0.12
526	526	cut	tree throw	0	7	1	0.65	0.12
527	528	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.28	0.13
528	528	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	0.28	0.13
529	531	fill	ditch	502	4	1	1.14	0.42
530	531	fill	ditch	502	4	1	0.48	0.18
531	531	cut	ditch	502	4	1	1.14	0.58
532	534	fill	ditch	511	4	0	1.2	0.24
533	534	fill	ditch	511	4	0	0.85	0.21
534	534	cut	ditch	511	4	0	1.2	0.36
535	538	fill	tree throw	0	1	0	1.26	0.58
536	538	fill	tree throw	0	1	0	0.16	0.59
537	538	fill	tree throw	0	1	0	1.8	0.6



Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
538	538	cut	tree throw	0	1	0	4	0.6
539	540	fill	pit	0	6	12.7	6.4	1.2
540	540	cut	pit	0	6	12.7	6.4	1.2
541	542	fill	possible pit	0	7	0.82	0.34	0.07
542	542	cut	possible pit	0	7	1.58	1.31	0.7
543	544	fill	ditch	502	4	0	1.73	0.61
544	544	cut	ditch	502	4	0	1.73	0.61
545	546	fill	ditch	502	4	0	1.14	0.44
546	546	cut	ditch	502	4	0	1.14	0.44
548	542	fill	possible pit	0	7	1.52	1.08	0.21
549	542	fill	possible pit	0	7	0	1.32	0.26
550	542	fill	possible pit	0	7	0	1.08	0.17
551	542	fill	possible pit	0	7	1.58	1.31	0.1
552	554	fill	possible ditch	554	7		1.55	0.48
553	554	fill	possible ditch	554	7	0	0.85	0.62
554	554	cut	possible ditch	554	7	2.6	1.55	0.75
555	556	fill	ditch	511	4	0	1.5	0.6
556	556	cut	ditch	511	4		1.5	0.6
557	558	fill	tree throw	0	7	0		0.45
558	558	cut	tree throw	0	7	0		0.45
559	556	fill	ditch	511	4	0	0.6	0.32
560	563	fill	tree throw	563	1	6.25	0.56	0.52
561	563	fill	tree throw	563	1	6.25	0.18	0.55
562	563	fill	tree throw	563	1	6.25	0.72	0.62
563	563	cut	tree throw	563	1	6.25	1.45	0.62
564	563	fill	tree throw	563	1	0	1.15	0.24
565	563	fill	tree throw	563	1	0	1.15	0.24
566	563	fill	tree throw	563	1	0	0.35	0.32
567	569	fill	ditch	502	4	0		
568	569	fill	ditch	502	4	0		
569	569	cut	ditch	502	4	0		
570	571	fill	ditch	511	4	0		
571	571	cut	ditch	511	4	0		
600	0	finds unit		0	0	0		
601	0	finds unit		0	0	0		
602	0	finds unit		0	0	0		
603	604	fill	post hole	604	6	0	0.27	0.21
604	604	cut	post hole	604	6	0	0.27	0.21



Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
605	606	fill	post hole	604	6	0	0.26	0.17
606	606	cut	post hole	604	6	0	0.26	0.17
607	608	fill	post hole	604	6	0	0.22	0.17
608	608	cut	post hole	604	6	0	0.22	0.17
609	610	fill	ditch	610	6	0	0.62	0.29
610	610	cut	ditch	610	6	0	0.62	0.29
611	612	fill	ditch	612	5	0	0.6	0.25
612	612	cut	ditch	612	5	0	0.6	0.25
613	614	fill	ditch	614	3	0	0.7	0.19
614	614	cut	ditch	614	3	0	0.7	0.19
615	616	fill	post hole	0	6	0	0.4	0.23
616	616	cut	post hole	0	6	0	0.4	0.23
617	618	fill	post hole	0	6	0	0.29	0.24
618	618	cut	post hole	0	6	0	0.29	0.24
619	620	fill	ditch	620	5	0	1.58	0.4
620	620	cut	ditch	620	5	0	1.58	0.4
621	622	fill	pit	0	3	1.88	1.38	0.55
622	622	cut	pit	0	3	1.88	1.38	0.55
623	0	layer		0	3	0		
624	625	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.8	1.8	0.24
625	625	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.8	1.8	0.24
626	627	fill	ditch	620	5	0	1.33	0.56
627	627	cut	ditch	620	5	0	1.33	0.56
628	629	fill	ditch	629	6	0	0.85	0.13
629	629	cut	ditch	629	6	0	0.85	0.13
630	631	fill	pit	0	2	0.65	0.63	0.23
631	631	cut	pit	0	2	0.65	0.63	0.23
632	633	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.25	0.33
633	633	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.25	0.33
634	635	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.04	1.15	0.46
635	635	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.05	1.15	0.46
636	637	fill	ditch	612	5	0	0.65	0.22
637	637	cut	ditch	612	5	0	0.65	0.22
638	639	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.41	0.18
639	639	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	0.41	0.18
640	641	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.31	1.72	0.18
641	641	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.31	1.72	0.18
642	643	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.1	0.96	0.28
643	643	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.1	0.96	0.28
644	645	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.98	1.34	0.58



Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
645	645	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.98	1.34	0.58
646	647	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.42	0.44	0.14
647	647	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.42	0.44	0.14
648	649	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.4		0.26
649	649	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.4	1.12	0.26
650	651	fill	tree throw	0	7	2	0.9	0.35
651	651	cut	tree throw	0	7	2	0.9	0.35
652	653	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.5	1.05	0.55
653	653	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.5	1.05	0.55
654	655	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.7	0.85	0.48
655	655	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.7	0.85	0.48
656	657	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.28	1.18	0.34
657	657	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.28	1.18	0.34
658	659	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.35	0.36
659	659	cut	tree throw	0	7	3.8	1.35	0.36
660	662	fill	tree throw	0	1	0	0.48	0.05
661	662	fill	tree throw	0	1	0	0.98	0.22
662	662	cut	tree throw	0	1	0	0.98	0.22
663	664	fill	possible pit	0	7	0.98	0.9	0.34
664	664	cut	possible pit	0	7	0.98	0.9	0.34
665	666	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.5	0.75	0.3
666	666	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.5	0.75	0.3
667	668	fill	possible pit	0	7	0	1.26	0.54
668	668	cut	possible pit	0	7	0	1.26	0.54
669	670	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.84	0.42
670	670	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.78	0.84	0.42
671	672	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.16	0.62	0.14
672	672	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.16	0.62	0.14
673	674	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.2	1.35	0.6
674	674	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.2	1.35	0.6
675	676	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.9	0.46	0.18
676	676	cut	tree throw	0	7	0.9	0.46	0.18
677	678	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.08		0.28
678	678	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.08	0.9	0.28
679	680	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.34	0.48
680	680	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.68	1.34	0.48
681	683	fill	tree throw	0	7	4	1.4	0.7
682	683	fill	tree throw	0	7	4	1.6	0.7
683	683	cut	tree throw	0	7	4	2.9	0.7
684	685	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.68	0.54	0.2



Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
685	685	cut	tree throw	0	7	0.68	0.54	0.2
686	687	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.9	1.4	0.3
687	687	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.9	1.4	0.3
688	689	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.45	1.35	0.35
689	689	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.45	1.35	0.35
690	691	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.02	0.4
691	691	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.76	1.02	0.4
692	693	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.54	0.98	0.44
693	693	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.54	0.98	0.44
694	695	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.82	0.86	0.16
695	695	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.82	0.86	0.16
696	697	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.46	0.28
697	697	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.46	1.46	0.28
698	699	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.6	1.3	0.25
699	699	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.6	1.3	0.25
700	701	fill	post hole	0	6	0.35	0.35	0.1
701	701	cut	post hole	0	6	0	0.35	0.1
702	703	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.4	1.14	0.56
703	703	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.4	1.14	0.56
704	705	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.3	0.85	0.28
705	705	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.3	0.85	0.28
706	707	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.72	0.36
707	707	cut	tree throw	0	7	0.95	0.72	0.36
708	709	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.48	1.12	0.41
709	709	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.48	1.12	0.41
710	711	fill	tree throw	0	7	3.35	1.9	0.4
711	711	cut	tree throw	0	7	3.35	1.9	0.4
712	713	fill	tree throw	0	7	3.9	1.02	0.28
713	713	cut	tree throw	0	7	3.9	1.02	0.28
714	715	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.4	1.66	0.65
715	715	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.4	1.66	0.65
716	717	fill	pit	0	1	0.81	0.62	0.26
717	717	cut	pit	0	1	0.81	0.62	0.26
718	719	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.98	0.92	0.28
719	719	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.98	0.92	0.28
720	721	fill	ditch	721	6	1	2.5	0.5
721	721	cut	ditch	721	6	1	2.5	0.5
722	723	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.46	1.06	0.38
723	723	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.46	1.06	0.38
724	725	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.38	1.12	0.32



Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
725	725	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.38	1.12	0.32
726	727	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.26	0.72	0.25
727	727	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.26	0.72	0.25
728	729	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.5	2.3	0.45
729	729	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.5	2.3	0.45
730	731	fill	ditch	721	6	0.6	1.5	0.35
731	731	cut	ditch	721	6	1.4	0.55	0.55
732	733	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.96	1.2	0.48
733	733	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.96	1.2	0.48
734	735	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.66	0.74	0.13
735	735	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.66	0.74	0.13
736	737	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.18	1.06	0.48
737	737	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.18	1.06	0.48
738	731	fill	ditch	721	6	1.4	0.25	0.18
739	740	fill	ditch	721	6	0	0.9	0.2
740	740	cut	ditch	721	6	0	0.9	0.12
741	742	fill	tree throw	0	2	0	1.44	0.91
742	742	cut	tree throw	0	2	2.18	1.42	0.91
743	744	fill	ditch	721	6	0	0.35	0.1
744	744	cut	ditch	721	6	0	0.35	0.1
745	746	fill	tree throw	0	7	1	1	0.38
746	746	cut	tree throw	0	7	1	1	0.38
747	748	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.52	1.28	0.36
748	748	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.52	1.28	0.36
749	750	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.1	0.84	0.21
750	750	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.1	0.84	0.21
751	752	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.85	0.9	0.3
752	752	cut	tree throw	0	7	0.85	0.9	0.3
753	754	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.78	1.06	0.46
754	754	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.78	1.06	0.46
755	756	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.25	0.85	0.12
756	756	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.25	0.85	0.12
757	758	fill	possible pit	0	7	1.24	1.02	0.36
758	758	cut	possible pit	0	7	1.24	1.02	0.36
759	760	fill	tree throw	0	7	3.16	2.14	0.28
760	760	cut	tree throw	0	7	3.16	2.14	0.28
761	762	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.56	1.38	0.36
762	762	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.56	1.38	0.36
763	764	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.05	0.38
764	764	cut	tree throw	0	7	0		



Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
765	766	fill	tree throw	0	7	6	2.1	0.85
766	766	cut	tree throw	0	7	6	2.1	0.85
767	767	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	0.85	0.2
768	767	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.85	0.2
769	769	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.25	0.5
770	769	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.25	0.5
771	772	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.66	1.58	0.46
772	772	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.66	1.58	0.46
773	774	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.75	0.8	0.15
774	774	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.75	0.8	0.15
775	776	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.22	1.4	0.18
776	776	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.22	1.4	0.18
777	778	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.62	1.56	0.18
778	778	cut	tree throw	0	7	0		
779	779	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.35	0.35
780	779	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.35	0.35
781	781	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.05	0.27
782	781	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.05	0.27
783	783	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	2.25	0.5
784	783	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	2.25	0.5
785	786	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.4	1.2	0.12
786	786	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.4	1.2	0.12
787	788	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.96	1.54	0.43
788	788	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.96	1.54	0.43
789	790	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.05	0.75	0.15
790	790	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.05	0.75	0.15
791	792	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.52	0.88	0.38
792	792	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.52	0.88	0.38
793	794	fill	tree throw	0	7	3.44	1.22	0.4
794	794	cut	tree throw	0	7	3.44	1.22	0.4
795	796	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.55	0.65	0.2
796	796	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.55	0.65	0.2
797	797	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	0.93	0.3
798	797	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.93	0.3
799	799	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.13	0.32
800	799	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.13	0.32
801	801	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.1	0.4
802	801	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.1	0.4
803	804	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.68	0.68	0.19
804	804	cut	tree throw	0	7	0.68	0.68	0.19



Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
805	806	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.92	0.72	0.19
806	806	cut	tree throw	0	7	0.92	0.72	0.19
807	808	fill	tree throw	0	5	1.6	0.85	0.18
808	808	cut	tree throw	0	5	1.6	0.85	0.18
809	809	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.15	0.16
810	809	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.15	0.16
811	811	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	0.95	0.3
812	811	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.95	0.3
813	814	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.56	0.52	0.24
814	814	cut	tree throw	0	7	0		
815	815	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.1	0.37
816	815	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.1	0.37
817	817	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	0.6	0.23
818	817	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	0.6	0.23
819	819	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1	0.27
820	119	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1	0.27
821	822	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.2	0.95	0.2
822	822	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.2	0.95	0.2
823	824	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.4	0.94	0.27
824	824	cut	tree throw	0	7	0		
825	825	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.34	0.27
826	825	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.34	0.27
827	827	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.4	0.47
828	827	fill	tree throw	0	7	0	1.4	0.47
829	830	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.85	0.95	0.3
830	830	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.85	0.95	0.3
831	832	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.54	1.26	0.24
832	832	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.54	1.26	0.24
833	834	fill	tree throw	0	7	0.98	0.5	0.18
834	834	cut	tree throw	0	7	0.98	0.5	0.18
835	836	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.75	1.38	0.38
836	836	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.75	1.38	0.38
837	838	fill	tree throw	0	7	3.12	1.3	0.35
838	838	cut	tree throw	0	7	3.12	1.3	0.35
839	840	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.12	0.62	0.06
840	840	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.12	0.62	0.06
841	842	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.94	1.68	0.2
842	842	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.94	1.68	0.2
843	844	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.09	0.88	0.18
844	844	cut	tree throw	0	7	0		



Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Master Number	Phase	Length	Breadth	Depth
845	846	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.1	0.7	0.2
846	846	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.1	0.7	0.2
847	848	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.48	0.87	0.33
848	848	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.48	0.87	0.33
849	850	fill	tree throw	0	7	3.36	1.26	0.26
850	850	cut	tree throw	0	7	3.36	1.26	0.26
851	852	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.76	1.27	0.18
852	852	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.76	1.27	0.18
853	854	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.24	0.8	0.16
854	854	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.24	0.8	0.16
855	856	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.22	0.82	0.12
856	856	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.22	0.82	0.12
857	858	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.32	0.79	0.18
858	858	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.32	0.79	0.18
859	860	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.7	1.45	0.35
860	860	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.7	1.45	0.35
861	862	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.35	1.4	0.2
862	862	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.35	1.4	0.2
863	864	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.1	0.95	0.24
864	864	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.1	0.95	0.24
865	866	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.6	0.7	0.25
866	866	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.6	0.7	0.25
867	868	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.5	1.9	0.18
868	868	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.5	1.9	0.18
869	870	fill	tree throw	0	7	1.58	0.5	0.15
870	870	cut	tree throw	0	7	1.58	0.5	0.15
871	872	fill	tree throw	0	7	3.34	1.54	0.65
872	872	cut	tree throw	0	7	0	1.54	0.65
873	874	fill	tree throw	0	7	2.42	1.68	0.48
874	874	cut	tree throw	0	7	2.42	1.68	0.48



## APPENDIX B. FINDS QUANTIFICATION

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight (kg)Comments
509	Flint		0.004
509	Ceramic	Vessel	0.002
519	Flint		0.005
519	Flint		0.022Burnt
529	Flint		0.016inc. Burnt flint
532	Flint		0.009
535	Flint		0.045
535	Flint		0.064Burnt
535	Ceramic	Vessel	0.002
537	Ceramic	Vessel	0.007
539	Coal		0.012
539	Clinker/Cinder		0.004
539	Glass	Vessel	0.004
539	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.323
541	Flint		0.052
543	Flint		0.003
543	Ceramic	Vessel	0.010
545	Flint		0.069Burnt
547	Flint		0.007
547	Lava	Stone	0.012Fragments
547	Ceramic	Vessel	0.013
555	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.001?CBM
555	Ceramic	Vessel	0.006
562	Flint		0.010
562	Charcoal		0.002
562	Ceramic	Vessel	0.004
568	Ceramic	Vessel	0.005
601	Flint		0.117
601	Stone	Whetstone	0.078SF 34
601	Stone	Whetstone	0.049SF 11
601	Bone	Bone	0.046
601	Ceramic	Tobacco pipe	0.003Decorated Stem
601	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.111
601	Ceramic	Vessel	0.371
602	Ceramic	Vessel	0.058
611	Flint		0.002Burnt
611	Ceramic	Vessel	0.005
611	Mortar/Plaster		0.005
613	Stone		0.116Heat cracked stone



Context	Material	Object Name	Weight (kg)Comments
613	Flint		0.041Burnt
613	Ceramic	Vessel	0.006
619	Flint		0.005
619	Ceramic	Vessel	0.002
621	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.021
621	Ceramic	Vessel	0.094
621	Ceramic	Vessel	0.003Sample 3
621	Bone	Bone	0.001Sample 3
621	Flint		0.001Sample 3, ?Debitage, less than 1g in weight
621	Flint	Artefact	0.046SF 6, Flint Scraper
621	Stone		0.371
621	Flint		0.024Burnt
621	Flint		0.018
623	Ceramic	Vessel	0.018
623	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.510
626	Flint		0.013
626	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.051
626	Ceramic	Vessel	0.013
626	Flint		0.001
628	Ceramic	Tobacco pipe	0.002
628	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.006
628	Ceramic	Vessel	0.008
632	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.004
632	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.004
636	Ceramic	Vessel	0.013
660	Flint		0.081Burnt
660	Ceramic	Vessel	0.042
660	Flint		0.273Burnt
660	Ceramic	Vessel	0.001Sample 6
660	Flint		0.001Sample 6, Burnt Flint
660	Flint		0.001Sample 6
716	Ceramic	Vessel	1.094
716	Ceramic	Vessel	1.146SF 44, Almost complete Highly Decorated BA? Beaker
716	Slag		0.001Sample 4, ?Fuel Ash Slag, less than 1g in weight
716	Ceramic	Vessel	0.049Sample 4
716	Bone	Bone	0.001Sample 4, Burnt Bone, less than 1g in weight
716	Flint		0.020Sample 4
716	Flint		0.041Sample 4
716	Flint		0.026Sample 4, Burnt Flint



Context	Material	Object Name	Weight (kg)Comments	
716	Flint		0.267	
741	Ceramic	Vessel	0.001Sample 7	
807	Ceramic	Vessel	0.004	
849	Flint		0.006	

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#### APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

#### C.1 Metal Small finds

By Helen Geke

#### Summary

- C.1.1 A total of 158 finds of non-ferrous metal were examined. 53 were individually bagged and numbered; most of these were of post-medieval date, but there was also a small number of medieval objects. Nine other bags contained 105 undatable or late post-medieval to modern objects which were not separately numbered, including seven coins, 41 buttons and 19 fragments of lead.
- C.1.2 This report covers only the individually bagged and numbered items.

#### Condition

C.1.3 The condition of the metalwork is good and nothing has been identified as needing conservation. The items are packed to a high standard.

#### Materials represented

C.1.4 Most of the material is of copper alloy, with 30 objects; the other principal material is lead, with 21 objects, including 12 pieces of round shot and one pointed bullet. There is also one medieval silver coin.

#### Artefact Function

C.1.5 Each object (apart from the coins and jetton) has been assigned to one of the functional categories defined in Crummy 1983 and 1988, and these are summarised in Table 1.

Category	Function	Number		
1	dress and dress accessories	4		
2	toilet items			
3	textile manufacture and working 4			
4	household utensils and furniture 11			
5	recreation			
6	weighing and measuring			
7	literacy and written communications			
8	transport			
9	buildings and services			
10	tools	2		
11	fasteners and fittings			
12	agriculture and animal husbandry			
13	military 13			
14	religious 1			
15-17	tools and waste from working metal, skeletal materials and pottery			
18	unknown function	11		
Total of artefacts in functional categories				
	coins and jettons	6		
Total number of artefacts 52				

Table 1. Functional categories within the assemblage

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- C.1.6 The four objects in category 1, dress and dress accessories, comprise a cast ring that may have been a medieval buckle or brooch frame; a 16th-century decorative mount; part of a 17th-century head-dress pin of 'bodkin' type; and a cap badge of the Royal Artillery. The four items of textile manufacture and working (category 3) consist of three thimbles, all of different dates, and a possible spindle-whorl. The eleven items of household equipment (category 4) include two feet from cooking vessels, two rivets that may have been used to mend cooking vessels, a lead pot-mend from a ceramic vessel, and up to four post-medieval or modern furniture mounts.
- C.1.7 The two objects in category 10, tools, are both small and highly decorative handles, one late medieval and one late post-medieval or modern. The 13 military items (category 13) consist of twelve pieces of round shot and a pointed bullet. The single item assigned to category 14, religious items, is a lead fragment that is likely to have been part of a small pilgrim's ampulla of late medieval date.
- C.1.8 The 11 items of unknown function are fairly evenly divided between objects of unknown date (seven, including all four lead items) and objects of 19th- or 20th-century date (four copper-alloy items).
- C.1.9 Details of the coins and jettons are summarised in Table 2.

Material	SF no.	Object Period	Object Date	Description
Jetton	18	medieval	C15	Tournai stock jetton
Coins	4	Post-medieval	1625-34	Charles I farthing
	9	Post-medieval	1806	halfpenny
	30	Post-medieval	1335-43	Edward III halfpenny
	37	Post-medieval	1672-79 / 1730-54	Charles II or George II farthing
	40	Post-medieval	1672-75 / 1729-54	George II or Charles II halfpenny

Table 2: Coins and jetton

#### Chronology

- C.1.10 The assemblage appears to have a date range stretching from the late medieval to the modern periods. Most are broadly post-medieval, with 28 of this period, nine postmedieval or modern, and three medieval or post-medieval.
- C.1.11 There are four finds of certain medieval provenance, but none definitely earlier than this; nine finds are essentially undatable. The silver coin SF30 and the possible ampulla fragment SF22 are the earliest objects in the assemblage.

SF30 is a halfpenny of Edward III's star-marked coinage, minted in London between 1335 and 1343. These normally have beaded lines between the inscription and the central motif, but this example must have been struck from worn dies as its lines appear plain (*I am indebted to John Naylor for this observation*). It should be pointed out, however, that although it was minted in the 14th century, this coin could have remained in circulation for many years and so not have been deposited until the 15th or even the early 16th century.

SF22 is a hollow lead object with one original curved and substantially thickened edge. In the projected centre of this curve, one face has a small pellet; away from the curve, the edges are very thin, and now torn. It may represent the curved base of a small pilgrim's ampulla, a container for holy water that was sold at pilgrimage destinations as a souvenir. Lead ampullae were introduced in the late 12th century and became more diminutive and less elaborately decorated over time before being largely supplanted by badges (Spencer 1998, 205). If SF22 is indeed an ampulla, it seems likely that it is 14th-century.

C.1.12 The other objects of medieval date include the jetton SF18, the decorated handle SF46, and the small cast ring SF49.

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SF18, the jetton, and the decorated handle SF46 both date to the 15th century. The jetton has a shield on the obverse with three fleurs-de-lis (the arms of France modern) and an inscription around reading X AVE MARIA O GRACIA O. The reverse has a triple-stranded cross fleury with a quatrefoil of annulets in the centre, enclosed in a quatrefoil with a dot-annulet-dot outside each angle and a letter within each angle (A, V, E, M); there is no reverse inscription. This is a type made at Tournai, with a fairly close parallel from the River Avon at Salisbury (Mernick and Algar 2001, 236-7, no. 168; Mitchiner 1988, nos. 641 onwards).

SF46, the decorated handle, is made from gilded copper alloy and has engraved decoration on either face. It resembles a well-known type of handle normally found on a 15th-century knife, usually decorated with human figures; but this example has instead alternating panels of vertical lines (which may be intended as lettering) and crossed lozenges. There is no trace of an iron tang, but instead a copper-alloy plate protrudes from the underside, which makes its precise function uncertain.

SF49, the small hand-made cast copper-alloy ring, is, at 20mm diameter, rather small to be from horse-harness. It is perhaps more likely to have been a brooch or buckle frame with the pin now missing. To distinguish a circular brooch frame from a circular buckle frame is probably impossible; Egan and Pritchard define a brooch as having a constriction to limit the movement of a pin (1991, 65), and a buckle as consisting of a simple circle, but this is essentially a modern classificatory convenience rather than a real distinction made in the past. Egan and Pritchard (1991) no. 44, from a context of c. 1350-c. 1400, is particularly close to SF49, but annular buckles and brooch frames were in use for the whole of the medieval period.

C.1.13 The two vessel feet (SF14 and SF45) are likely to date to the 15th or 16th centuries. Both are from cast copper-alloy cooking vessels.

SF14 is small and flat, and has a slight longitudinal midrib giving a low triangular cross-section; one end appears complete (or is extremely worn) and the other is broken. SF35 is also short but very wide, again with a midrib, but this time with a thick D-shaped cross-section. Simple vessel feet such as these are not easy to date, but appear to be earlier than the more commonly preserved types which have transverse ridges separating leg and foot. The most closely dated parallel is perhaps the example found in the Mary Rose, which sank in 1545 (Weinstein 2005, 432).

C.1.14 Two objects can be dated to the 16th century (SF5 & SF47).

SF5, a thimble, is likely to have been one of the vast number of imports from Nuremberg. Only the lower part survives, and this is made of thin copper-alloy sheet squashed flat, but it can be seen that the sides are straight and the rim is unthickened. There is a short zone of stamped decoration, probably relief diagonal crosses, below the tall sub-rectangular indentations, which appear to be hand-stamped. A copper-alloy mount in the shape of a fleur-de-lis, SF47, has a pair of attachment spikes on the reverse that are bent over towards each other to retain a scrap of black substance, perhaps decayed leather. Similar mounts on the PAS database are found all over England; compare NLM-3A0280, YORYM-704075 and IOW-7F2C37.

C.1.15 One of the coins (SF4) and two other objects (SF16 & SF28) can be precisely dated to the 17th-century.

SF4 is a royal farthing token made from copper, and although now extremely worn, can be identified as one of the early issues of Charles I. It was probably issued between 1625 and 1634, and the type became known as a 'Richmond' farthing, as it was issued under licence by the Duchess of Richmond. On the obverse is a crown with two crossed sceptres, and an inscription around reading CARO'D'G'MAG.BRI. On the reverse a crowned harp can be seen interrupting the inscription, with the X of FRA ET HIB REX visible. There are no clear borders between the inscription and the central motifs on either face (Spink 2007, no. 3183).

SF16 is a fragment of copper-alloy head-dress pin, commonly known as a 'bodkin' type pin. It is a particularly small and slender example, but has the characteristic decorated terminal, long rectangular perforation, and shaft which is sub-rectangular in cross-section. The perforation has a small internal uncleaned casting flaw, but this would not have affected its use. Similar pins are well known in silver, generally decorated on both faces and often with scoop-like terminals. Sue Margeson used both pictorial and excavated evidence to argue for a 17th-century date for these (1993, 8-10). From PAS finds, 'bodkin' type pins appear to be more commonly found (or recognised) in silver, with perhaps five times as many silver as copper-alloy examples. Similar small copper-alloy versions are known, however; compare NMS-609D14, SF-11A197, IOW-5B55C5, etc.

SF28, is a cross-shaped copper-alloy backplate from a furniture handle which is decorated with groups of small engraved curves forming symmetrical flower- or leaf-like patterns, a type of decoration characteristic



of 17th-century furniture. Less closely datable, but still probably centring on the 17th century, are the two nails or rivets SF26 and SF33. SF26 is made from solid copper alloy, and is circular in cross-section. The head is flat and rounded and has hammer marks; it appears sooted, as if the rivet has come from a cooking vessel. SF33 is hollow, made from copper-alloy sheet rolled into a cone, with one end flattened into an irregular wide head and the other open with a sharp point. Rolled sheet rivets similar to SF33 were commonly used to repair copper-alloy vessels in the 16th to 18th centuries, when they would have been hammered flat (Egan 2005, 101), but similar pointed versions are relatively common metal-detector finds (e.g. BERK-498831, HAMP-6CDA51, etc).

C.1.16 Two lead objects (SF54 & SF57) are likely to be jar or box handles in use in the late 17th or 18th century. Of similar date are two coins (SF37 and SF40).

SF54 has an oval knob which is small (only 14 x 12mm) and made in the form of a central boss surrounded by eight rounded pellets. It has a narrowed waist below the knob, leading to a flared attachment end. There are several parallels recorded on the PAS database, which are generally interpreted as knob handles from tobacco containers, with the suggestion that lead containers helped to keep the tobacco moist. WAW-B04D64, WAW-3CB866, NLM-3EB3D5, LEIC-C636C1 and SWYOR-ACD378 are of similar if slightly larger dimensions, and all are generally considered to date broadly to the late 17th and 18th century.

SF57 has a similar form, but the oval 'knob' is large and flat. Below is again a narrowed shaft, ending in an oval rove which probably served to fix it to the jar or box lid.

SF37 is a very worn farthing of either George II or Charles II. The obverse shows a laureate bust facing left; the reverse shows a very worn Britannia with an oval shield. Neither inscription can be read, but there is no other candidate who looks left and issued coins of the right dimensions. George II's farthings were issued from 1730 to 1754, and Charles II's farthings from 1672 to 1679.

SF40 is a very worn halfpenny, probably of George II but possibly of Charles II. The obverse shows a bust looking left; the reverse, Britannia. Again neither inscription can be read, but no other candidate looks left and issued coins of the right dimensions. George II's halfpennies were issued from 1729 to 1754 and are much more common than Charles II's halfpennies, which were issued from 1672 to 1675.

C.1.17 The only object that can be precisely dated to the 18th century is a one-piece thimble made from fairly thick metal (SF39).

SF39 has a solid thickened rim, circular indentations on the sides and square indentations on the cap. A similar thimble can be seen in Holmes 1988 (Fig. 7c), who gives an 18th-century date. A fragment of cast spherical animal bell, SF 20, is likely to have a date-range extending from the 17th to the 19th century.

C.1.18 The twelve pieces of round lead shot are unlikely to be as early as 17th century; an 18th- or 19th-century date is more probable. Details of the lead shot can be found in Table 3.

The bullets are all small, of calibre 21 to the pound at the largest, and could be from a variety of weapons from musket to pistol, although a smaller gun is more probable. They are, individually, as likely to have had a hunting as a military use.

The two smallest pieces each have interesting features.

SF12 is flattened on one side, and may have been fired and hit its target;

SF 53 is a 'banded bullet', with a central cylindrical band on which striations are visible, apparently caused as the bullet travelled down the barrel of the firearm.

Find no.	Diameter	Weight	Calibre (no. of bullets to lb)
8	13.9mm	13.8g	28-32
12	c. 12mm	8.6g	50
13	14.1-14.1mm	16.1g	26-27
17	15.0-15.4mm	19.8g	21-22
19	13.5mm	14.1g	30-31
27	13.7mm	14.4g	30
36	14.0mm	15.9g	27



41	13.1-13.9mm	14.4g	30
43	13.3-14.0mm	14.6g	30
52	13.5-14.2mm	14.7g	30
53	8.5mm (band) 8.8mm (end to end)	3.9g	112
55	13.7mm	14.8g	29

Table 3. Round lead shot

C.1.19 The third thimble (SF42) is of a similar late 18th- or 19th-century date.

SF42 is a complete but distorted sheet thimble, with straight sides, unthickened rim and low convex cap. The rim is undecorated, apart from two transverse grooves, and the small indentations are machine-made from criss-cross ridges. It is probably a deep-drawn thimble of the late 18th or 19th century.

C.1.20 The rest of the datable finds are 19th or 20th century, and there are only two which are worth drawing attention to.

SF29 is made from copper alloy with inlaid pale blue glass beads, and although it is now crushed and twisted, appears to have been made from four openwork struts. Each of these is inlaid with a row of eight small glass domes, and each strut springs from a closed end set with a larger glass bead. It is likely to be a terminal from a small handle, and the struts rejoin at a lump of iron corrosion which probably represents the body of the handle, which may have been from a button hook or small craft tool.

SF25 is an incomplete cap badge of the Royal Artillery which has been machine-pressed from sheet copper alloy. A wheeled gun is shown, standing on a flat base with a ribbon beneath bearing the motto QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT (Where Right and Glory Lead), a motto which was granted to the Royal Artillery in 1832. The crown and motto ('Ubique') above the gun are missing, as is the ramrod to the front of the gun. There is a small loop on the flat base, just in front of the gun, which is probably one of the fixing loops. There is an enormous variety of Royal Artillery cap badges and without specialist knowledge it is difficult to identify this one precisely.

#### **Discussion**

- C.1.21 The narrow chronological range of the assemblage is typical of an area in which there is likely to be little recoverable archaeological activity. It probably results partly from accidental loss and partly from manuring or rubbish disposal. The accidental losses include the coins and the dress accessories, which (apart from the modern cap badge) date from the period before mechanisation of agriculture, when there was a substantial workforce outside, with greater potential to lose items.
- C.1.22 If the fragmentary lead object SF14 is indeed an ampulla, it may have arrived in the soil as a result of deliberate deposition as part of 'blessing the fields' ceremonies, perhaps including an element of deliberate destruction and fragmentation (Anderson 2010).
- C.1.23 The number of round bullets (twelve) seems fairly high as a proportion of the assemblage. Low densities of bullets are usually thought likely to result from game shooting and higher densities from target practice and other military activity; where the precise line is drawn between the two, however, is a matter for debate.
- C.1.24 The items which are likely to have resulted from manuring or rubbish disposal include the furniture fittings, which probably arrived on broken-up and rotten or burnt furniture. One item, SF1, was certainly burnt and seems likely to have been a backplate from a furniture handle. It is more difficult to see how the vessel feet came to the site, as they are both heavy (hard to lose) and valuable in terms of raw materials (so would have been searched for if lost); in addition, they would not rot to form valuable manure. Despite this, they are common finds in metal-detected assemblages.

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Material	SF	Functional	Object	Object	Description
	no.	category	Period	Date	
Lead	8	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	12	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot flattened on one side
Lead	13	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	15	18	Unknown	010.010	unidentified object
Lead	17	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	19	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	21	13	PM/Modern	C19-C20	pointed bullet
Lead	22	14	Medieval	C14	possible pilgrim's ampulla
Lead	27	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	32	18	Unknown		unidentified object
Lead	36	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	38	4	Unknown		pot mend
Lead	41	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	43	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	45	18	Unknown		unidentified object
Lead	50	3	Unknown		possible spindle-whorl
Lead	51	18	Unknown		unidentified object
Lead	52	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	53	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot (banded bullet)
Lead	54	4	Post-med	LC17-C18	handle, probably from tobacco jar
Lead	55	13	Post-med	C18-C19	round shot
Lead	57	4	Post-med	LC17-C18	handle, possibly from tobacco jar
Copper alloy	1	4	Post-med	C17-C19	possible furniture handle backplate
Copper alloy	2	4	PM/Modern	C19-C20	possible furniture fitting
Copper alloy	3	18	Unknown		unidentified disc
Copper alloy	4	coin	Post-med	1625-34	Charles I farthing
Copper alloy	5	3	Post-med	C16	thimble
Copper alloy	7	18	PM/Modern	C18-C20	ring
Copper alloy	9	coin	Post-med	1806	halfpenny
Copper alloy	10	18	PM/Modern	C19-C20	possible mount
Copper alloy	14	4	Med to PM	C15-C16	vessel foot
Copper alloy	16	1	Post-med	C17	head-dress pin fragment
Copper alloy	18	jetton	Medieval	C15	Tournai stock jetton
Copper alloy	20	12	Post-med	C17-C19	cast spherical bell fragment
Copper alloy	23	4	PM/Modern	C19-C20	possible mount
Copper alloy	24	18	Unknown	010.000	unidentified object
Copper alloy	25	1	PM/Modern	C19-C20	cap badge
Copper alloy	26	4	Post-med	C16-C18	rivet, probably from vessel
Copper alloy	28	4	Post-med	C17	furniture handle backplate
Copper alloy	29	10	PM/Modern	C19-C20	handle with glass inlay
Copper alloy	31	18	PM/Modern	C19-C20	6 chain links
Copper alloy	33	4	Post-med	C16-C18	rolled sheet rivet, possibly from a
0 "	0.5		NA 14 DNA	045.040	vessel
Copper alloy	35	4	Med to PM	C15-C16	vessel foot
Copper alloy	37	coin	Post-med	1672-79 / 1730-54	Charles II or George II farthing
Copper alloy	39	3	Post-med	C18	thimble
Copper alloy	40	coin	Post-med	1672-75 / 1729-54	George II or Charles II halfpenny
Copper alloy	42	3	Post-med	LC18-C19	thimble
Copper alloy	46	10	Medieval	C15	gilded handle
Copper alloy	47	8	Post-med	C16	mount, probably from harness
Copper alloy	48	18	PM/Modern	C19-C20	unidentified object
Copper alloy	49	1	Medieval	C12-C15	cast ring, probably brooch or buckle
Connor eller	F.C.	10	Linkagura		frame
Copper alloy	56	18	Unknown	4005.40	unidentified disc
Silver	30	coin	Medieval	1335-43	Edward III halfpenny

Table 4: Excavated metal finds, by material and by small-find number



#### C.2 Struck Lithics

By Antony Dickson

# Introduction

- C.2.1 A total of 123 struck lithics were submitted for analysis from the excavations at Aylsham, Norfolk, East Anglia. Of these, 73 were recovered from Iron Age, Roman, medieval and undated contexts, including subsoil deposits. A secure assemblage of 50 struck lithics was recovered from the fill of a pit which also contained a significant quantity of Early Neolithic pottery and charred organic remains.
- C.2.2 An initial scan of the struck lithics from the Iron Age and later deposits, along with the material from the undated and natural deposits, confirmed their mixed technological character and thus indicated that they were residual within their depositional contexts. In that respect, those struck lithics are discussed briefly by recourse to the typological composition of the context assemblages when relevant. The lithic assemblage from the Early Neolithic pit was subjected to a detailed typological and attribute analysis and therefore forms the main focus of this lithic report.

# Methodology

- C.2.3 The lithic material recovered from Iron Age and later deposits, the undated features and subsoil deposits were scanned and then assigned to a category within a simple lithic classification system (Table 5). No metrical analysis or detailed technological recording was undertaken during this analysis.
- C.2.4 For the lithic assemblage from the Early Neolithic pit a detailed analysis was undertaken. This included the recording of the physical characteristics of the worked stone, raw material identification, through to metrical analysis of tools and waste. In addition, the material was characterised in technological terms. This was based upon a number of criteria: the recognition of distinctive forms, such as rejuvenation flakes; an assessment of the orientation of scars on the dorsal surfaces of flakes and blades; the characterisation of platforms and the categorisation of flake and blade terminations. Although some of these criteria can be ambiguous, they can provide hints to the range of reduction strategies represented in a given assemblage.
- C.2.5 Complete flakes and blades were also characterised and quantified in terms of their position within a generalised reduction sequence. Each one was assigned to primary, secondary or tertiary stages in order to provide a basis for establishing whether or not particular assemblages contain all, or only selected stages in the reduction of particular cores and/or tools.
- C.2.6 An attempt was also made to identify the use of flakes, blades and other pieces. This was based upon macroscopic inspection of each piece and a characterisation of use wear in terms of retouch, edge wear, serration, and edge gloss when present.

#### Results

C.2.7 For the assemblage as a whole, flint is the only raw material utilised. The flint varies in colour from a general brownish grey to greyish black, to a more pure brown which is semi translucent on thinner pieces. A few pieces are steel grey in colour and it is likely that they were brought into the area as the same material appears in lithic assemblages from across the region as flakes and fragments struck from polished axes, which are believed to derive from Lincolnshire (Dickson in prep). On the whole, the different flints



are fine grained and varying in lustre from shiny to a medium dull. Inclusion type and size varies, as does cortex; the latter ranging from a thin smooth worn and rounded material to a much coarser material. Other than the material mentioned above, it is likely that the majority of the flint was procured from superficial geological deposits close by to the site.

- C.2.8 Edge damage varies from context to context but on the whole appears to be minimal across the assemblage.
- C.2.9 Beyond the burnt material, surface alteration is minimal with only a few pieces showing varying degrees of re-cortication.

COIIICAL	blade	burnt flint	combination tool	core	core rejuvenation	core trimming	flake	indeterminate chunk	miscellaneous retouched blade	miscellaneous retouched flake	scraper	small flake	total
509									1				1
519		1					1			1			3
529		1							1				2
532							1						1
535		3					1			1			5
541				1									1
543							1						1
545		1						1					2
547							2						2
562	1												1
601			1				6				1		8
611		1											1
613		5											5
619							1						1
621		1					6				1		8
626		1									1		2
660		25					2						27
716	21			2	1	1	16	6			1	2	50
849	1						1						2
Total	23	39	1	3	1	1	38	7	2	2	4	2	123

Table 5: Quantification of the struck lithics

# **Early Neolithic**

Pit fill 716 (Table 5).

C.2.10 In terms of raw material there are at least four different flint nodules represented in the assemblage. The most common type appears to be a dark brown flint which is fine grained, has a dull lustre and has small dispersed black speckling. The cortex is a relatively thin, brown, smooth covering with small pin holes. Alongside this is a greyish

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black, fine grained material with a dull lustre and large grey coarse inclusions. The cortex is similar to that described above but also has a greenish tinge in places. The other types include a brownish grey, fine grained material with a shiny lustre and no inclusions; and a mottled brown, fine grained material, also with a shiny lustre and grey linear inclusions. Given the cortex type across the range of raw materials, the original nodules were probably recovered from surface geological deposits. One blade fragment has a distinctive pebble flint cortex and could have been procured from different sources, such as riverine or beach deposits, or from the west of the Fen basin.

- C.2.11 In keeping with the rest of the assemblage, beyond the burnt material, none of the struck lithics show any evidence for geochemical surface alteration.
- C.2.12 Edge damage is also minimal which could imply that the struck lithics were not far removed from their primary depositional context and had also entered the pit fairly soon after they had been worked.

# **Primary Technology**

- C.2.13 The two cores present in the assemblage (Table 5) represent different reduction processes. One has been classified as an opposed platform core, flaked in one direction on one main flaking front, and in an opposed direction on the opposite flaking front. This indicates that the piece was worked in at least three stages and represents the turning of the core as flaking fronts became difficult to work from the relevant platform. Across all stages blade and flake production was undertaken with flake manufacture becoming more prominent at the latest stage. Dimensions of the complete blade scars on the final stage of working indicates that, at 41.50mm length and 17.20mm width, they lay outside the average blade dimensions of complete pieces contained within the assemblage (length 31.71mm x width 11.67mm x thickness 3.73mm with an average length/breadth ratio of 2.99), however at least one of the complete blades has a similar range of length and breadth measurements.
- C.2.14 The second core is sub-cylindrical in form and the latest stages of working comprise the removal of flakes from a lateral edge, working from one side of the ridge first and then the opposite side. All the removals apart from one represent flake removals and the style of flaking is reminiscent of that utilised during biface tool manufacture. In that respect the flaking could represent an attempt to manufacture a core tool, but this appears to have been abandoned after a perfunctory attempt. The early stages of reduction on the core relate to blade manufacture, however all the negative scars are truncated from the later stages of reduction. It is possible that the platform on anvil technique was applied during the earlier stages of working, demonstrated by the presence of crushing and small irregular flakes at the end of the core opposite to the platform.
- C.2.15 Core dressing is represented by a large, thick flake classified as a core trimming piece. The flake was possibly struck down the face of the core to remove an area of irregular flake and blade scars, although the thickness of the piece and the fact that it was removed using a hard hammer may indicate it is a miss hit, struck during general core reduction. The piece was also re-used after being detached for the removal of a single blade on the dorsal face. Further evidence for core maintenance includes a flake with the remnants of a platform edge at the distal end of the piece. In that respect it is highly likely that the flake was struck to rejuvenate a core platform.
- C.2.16 Of the 21 blades (Table 5), eight are complete (including one burnt example) and represent four secondary and four tertiary pieces in a generalised reduction sequence. Platforms are either indeterminate, often associated with ventral over hangs, or plain



and associated with diffuse bulbs of percussion. Furthermore, the majority show very little evidence for platform preparation prior to removal, however for the three instances when it is present the associated butts are punctiform. These attributes suggests an indirect approach to blade removal possibly using a punch or a soft hammer technology. Dorsal scar orientation indicates a preference for working unidirectionally, which goes some way to backing up the evidence from the cores, and terminations are mainly feathered, indicating a measure of control employed during reduction. The average blade dimensions (see above) and the morphology of several of the nearly complete broken blades (several are missing their distal and/or proximal tips), suggest the presence of blades that are nearly three times as long as they are wide and relatively thin in the assemblage. While there are several blades which are of quite large dimensions and are almost flake-like in morphology, the main emphasis appears to have been towards the production (or inclusion in the pit assemblage) of thin, parallel sided pieces. Furthermore, the broken blades include five burnt fragments.

- C.2.17 Of the 16 flakes (Table 5) nine are complete (including one burnt example) and they represent three secondary and six tertiary removals in a generalised reduction sequence. The average flake dimensions (length 25.59mm, width 20.64mm and thickness 2.47mm with an average length/breadth ratio of 1.18) indicates that relatively thin flakes, that are slightly longer than they are wide, dominate the flake blank component of the assemblage. Furthermore, the complete flakes, like the blades, are dominated by pieces with thin unprepared platforms, associated with diffuse bulbs of percussion, which have generally been removed from cores unidirectionally. Inspection of the surviving proximal ends of broken flakes appears to concur with these observations. Interestingly, several of the complete flakes exhibit parallel blade scars on their dorsal faces. Finally, one of the complete flakes is burnt as is one of the flake fragments.
- C.2.18 Four of the indeterminate chunks (Table 5) are burnt while the remaining examples represent large pieces of partially flaked material associated with thermal fracture planes on several faces. It is likely that the latter represent material that has fragmented along internal thermal flaws during knapping.

# Secondary Technology

- C.2.19 The only formal implement included in the assemblage is an end scraper manufactured on a broad and thick secondary blade which is missing the proximal end. The abrupt retouch has been irregularly applied and also has continuous small irregular scarring along the base, indicating that the piece has seen extensive use.
- C.2.20 Apart from the scraper, one of the broken blades has continuous scarring along a lateral edge which could relate to utilisation, but could also equally represent edge damage from post depositional processes.

## Iron Age

Pit fill 621, (Table 5).

C.2.21 A small collection of struck lithics and a burnt indeterminate chunk were recovered. Three of the flakes can be assigned to the secondary stage in a general reduction sequence, while a fifth small flake is tertiary. Two of the flakes have relatively thick, cortical platforms, indicating a hard hammer technology associated with pronounced bulbs, while the other two flakes have much thinner platforms and diffuse bulbs. The tertiary flake has an abraded, indeterminate platform suggesting indirect percussion



was used during knapping. All the flakes are characterised by feathered terminations. Two further flakes were recovered from the environmental sample. Both are small in dimensions and from the secondary stage of a general reduction sequence. Both have thin platforms and pronounced bulbs with one having a deep negative scar on the dorsal face at the platform.

C.2.22 The scraper is made on a large, short, broad tertiary flake which has a very thick and broad platform associated with a pronounced bulb and incipient cone. The piece has irregular abrupt and semi-abrupt retouch on both lateral edges and the distal end. Small irregular scarring around the base of the retouched areas indicates heavy utilisation of the piece. The piece is technologically comparable to similar forms dating to the Neolithic.

#### Roman

Context 509 (Table 5).

C.2.23 A retouched blade fragment comprising the proximal end of a broad blade with semi abrupt retouch forming a truncated shallow notch on the left lateral edge. Inverse retouch has been applied adjacent to the notch. The piece could be a failed microburin which has then been modified at a later stage. If that is the case the piece is Mesolithic in character.

Context 532 (Table 5).

C.2.24 A secondary flake with edge damage from post depositional processes.

Context 529 (Table 5).

C.2.25 A secondary broad blade with a small patch of abrupt retouch/edge use on the right lateral edge which could be Mesolithic in date. Also present is a burnt indeterminate chunk.

Context 543 (Table 5).

C.2.26 A secondary flake with a cortical platform.

Context 545 (Table 5).

C.2.27 Two burnt indeterminate chunks which could be natural flint.

Context 613 (Table 5).

C.2.28 A small assemblage including a burnt thermal flake and burnt indeterminate chunks.

#### Medieval

Context 611 (Table 5)

C.2.29 A burnt indeterminate chunk.

Context 619 (Table 5).

C.2.30 A secondary flake.



Context 626 (Table 5)

C.2.31 A burnt flake fragment and an end scraper made on a broad blade. The retouch on the scraper is heavy and irregular on the right side of the distal end and acute and semi invasive on the opposite side with a possible edge use/sediment gloss.

#### Undated

Context 519 (Table 5).

C.2.32 A burnt indeterminate chunk, one flake fragment (grey flint) and a complete secondary flake with a cortical platform and fine intermittent abrupt retouch and edge damage from utilisation on all edges. Some of the edge damage could also be from post depositional processes.

Context 535 (Table 5).

C.2.33 A large hard hammer struck secondary flake, with a thick platform and associated cone and pronounced bulb, that has irregular abrupt retouch on the left lateral edge and the distal end and could represent an unclassifiable scraper. The piece also has an unmodified abrupt edge at the distal end that has been utilised, probably as a scraping edge, as it has small irregular scarring on the base of the edge which is very similar to that exhibited on scrapers that have seen extensive use. Also present is a siret fractured flake and three burnt indeterminate chunks.

Context 541 (Table 5).

C.2.34 A platform at right angles core with blade and flake removals. The piece has been predominantly worked from one platform. The last few removals have left short, deep negative scars and one blade has snapped during reduction, leaving the distal section still on the core face. The core has also been worked off another platform, situated at right angles to the main one, which is damaged by a removal that has split along a thermal flaw. The piece still has c.25% of a slightly thick worn coarse cortex and probably represents Early Neolithic technology.

Context 547 subsoil Area A (Table 5).

C.2.35 A secondary flake with a thick platform and a deep negative scar on the platform edge on the dorsal face. The other flake is a tertiary example and has platform abrasion and extensive edge damage, probably from post depositional activity.

Context 601 subsoil Area B (Table 5).

- C.2.36 Of the flakes, one is broken, one is a tertiary removal and four are secondary removals. The majority have broad cortical platforms with pronounced bulbs representing a hard hammer technology.
- C.2.37 The retouched pieces include a large miscellaneous retouched and edge utilised piece with retouch extending along both lateral edges and the distal end. The recognisable retouch is abrupt and edge damage is reflected by small irregular scarring on both faces along the lateral edges. Also present is a combination tool comprising an end scraper and a notch made on a plunging flake. The piece has abrupt retouch on the distal end forming a scraping edge, semi abrupt retouch on the right lateral edge from the proximal end to mid way down the piece and abrupt retouch along the left lateral edge extending for the same distance forming a shallow notch at the proximal end. Also present is an end scraper made on a hard hammer struck flake with abrupt and semi



abrupt retouch at the distal end which has evidence of being extensively used. The latter two pieces are probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze in date.

Context 849 (Table 5).

C.2.38 A secondary flake and the medial section of a narrow blade.

# Tree throws with prehistoric pottery.

Context 562 (Table 5).

C.2.39 A secondary broad blade missing the distal tip.

Context 660 (Table 5).

C.2.40 A relatively large collection of burnt material comprising 19 burnt indeterminate chunks, four burnt flake fragments and one burnt non diagnostic core fragment. Recovered from the environmental sample is another burnt indeterminate chunk and two flakes, a secondary and a tertiary removal, with thin platforms and flat bulbs.

# Discussion

- C.2.41 The struck lithics from the Iron Age and later deposits and the undated features represent a mixture of debitage and tools. The majority of the debitage is non diagnostic to any specific reduction technology, however the size (Pitts and Jacobi 1979) of the material and its technological characteristics suggest that it is likely to be associated with reduction strategies dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age with some of the larger hard hammer struck flakes possibly representing later prehistoric lithic technology (Young and Humphrey 1999). In that respect the lithic material is highly likely to be residual. With the formal tools, some are of a distinctive typology, such as the possible modified microburin from context 509 and the combination tool from context 601, to place them in specific periods of stone use. Therefore the majority of the formal tools can be attributed to a date range spanning the Mesolithic through to the Early Bronze Age. The exception to this is the miscellaneous retouched flake from context 535 which could represent a later prehistoric tool form. Therefore, similar to the debitage, the formal tools are also residual.
- C.2.42 The assemblage from the Early Neolithic pit is interesting on a couple of points. The overall fresh state of the lithics and their technological character suggests that they were derived from occupation activity close by to the feature. The presence of a fairly restricted range of raw material type appears to back up this assumption. Although no refits were identified during analysis there is enough pieces showing similarities in colour, texture, lustre and cortex to suggest that they were derived from the knapping of at least two different nodules; however no one reduction sequence is present in its entirety.
- C.2.43 There also seems to be a possible predisposition for the inclusion of blades and narrow flakes within the assemblage. While this is undoubtedly a product of Early Neolithic stone working practices the selection of certain lithic types for deliberate inclusion in the pit should also be considered. This is given added emphasis when the ratio of blades to flakes is considered and one explanation for their inclusion could possibly be linked to their use but, without recourse to microwear analysis, this is difficult to confirm.
- C.2.44 Given that the lithic assemblage was also associated with burnt organic material it seems likely, by the presence of burnt flakes, blades and chunks, that the material was

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- derived from the same primary context, such as the domestic detritus left over from occupation. Whether this was from a midden or a different context is open to opinion.
- C.2.45 In summary it can be postulated that the lithic assemblage from pit fill 716 appears to represent domestic material left over from occupation, which for reasons outlined above could have been of a relative short duration. There is a possibility that there may have been some selection as to what was included in the lithic assemblage evidenced by the relative high number of blades within the assemblage and the unusual, but not exceptional, inclusion of a single formal tool. Additionally it should be considered that some of the struck lithics recovered from chronologically later contexts from the site could also relate to occupation in the Early Neolithic, such as the core from context 541 and possibly the scraper from context 621 and the combination tool from context 601.
- C.2.46 Pits containing lithic assemblages dating to the Early Neolithic are well represented in the region (Clarke et al 1960; Garrow 2010, 211; Sibbesson 2012;) and analysis of charcoal and other burnt material, pottery sherds and struck lithics recovered from the features has also highlighted the fact that this material is evocative of domestic activity. Furthermore such material is thought to have been generated during short duration and/or repeated phases of occupation (Garrow et al 2006, 81).
- C.2.47 The location of the site at Aylsham next to the River Bure is of interest as such river valleys are believed to have acted as route ways during the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (Sturt 2010). Furthermore, the fact that several other sites of an Early Neolithic date are recorded in north-east Norfolk, such as a probable causewayed enclosure at Roughton to the north, a long barrow at great Witchingham to the south-west and a more extensive pit site at Spong Hill, North Elmham indicates a substantial Early Neolithic presence in the area (Whittle et al 2011). In that respect the Early Neolithic activity at Aylsham can possibly be seen as a small scale event enmeshed in a broader pattern of social practice involving a complex pattern of movement between various domestic and ritual sites within the region.

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# **C.3 Prehistoric Pottery**

By Sarah Percival

#### Introduction

C.3.1 A total of 181 sherds weighing 2492g were collected from ten excavated contexts. The earliest pottery within the assemblage is earlier Neolithic (Table 6). Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery was also found. The assemblage is almost all small fragmented sherds in poor to moderate condition with the exception of the earlier Neolithic Bowl pottery from pit 717 and a complete later Neolithic, Early Bronze Age Beaker from tree throw 742.

Pottery Spotdate	Quantity (sherd count)	Weight (g)	% weight
earlier Neolithic	111	1198	48.07
Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	33	1146	45.99
Bronze Age	2	34	1.36
Iron Age	33	112	4.49
Not closely datable	2	2	0.08
Total	181	2492	100

Table 6: Quantity and weight of prehistoric pottery by pottery spotdate

# Methodology

C.3.2 The assemblage was analysed following the Guidelines for Analysis and Publication recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, preserved residue and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OAE.

#### Earlier Neolithic

C.3.3 The earlier Neolithic assemblage contains 111 sherds weighing 1,198g and includes rims from four vessels.

#### Fabric

C.3.4 In common with all earlier Neolithic pottery from northern East Anglia the fabrics principally contain angular crushed flint pieces (Wainwright 1972, 23; Healy 1988, 71). The size and abundance of the flint varies slightly between fabric types producing some finer and some coarser fabrics. One fabric contains small quantities of grog. No fabrics with shelly inclusions or organic voids were identified.

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Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
F1	Moderate to sparse, fine to medium, sub-angular, flint. No flint protrudes onto the surface.	9	43
F2	Abundant, medium to course, sub-angular, flint. Flint protrudes from exterior surface	96	1111
F3	Moderate to sparse, fine to medium, sub-angular, flint. Sparse sub-rounded grog.	6	44
Total		111	1198

Table 7: Quantity and weight of prehistoric pottery by fabric

#### Form

- C.3.5 Four vessels were identifiable to form, all from rim and body sherds found in pit 717. This assemblage includes the substantial remains of two large bowls of Cleal's inflected/closed, round-bodied form, both with rounded, everted rims (Cleal 2004, fig.4). One has a diameter at the rim of 230mm, is burnished on the exterior and has fluting to the interior and a perforation below the rim which was pierced prior to firing (Fig. P1). The second bowl has a diameter at the rim of 210mm (P4). Smaller quantities of a third smaller bowl and four sherds from a small cup were also found. The bowl is burnished, has a diameter at the rim of 140mm, and is of inflected form similar to the larger examples (P3). The cup is carinated with a distinct angular shoulder and out-turned rim (P2).
- C.3.6 These vessels are not classic Carinated Bowl but are more similar to plain Bowl found at Broome Heath (Wainwright 1972, figs. 15–34), which Healy notes are 'comparable with the undecorated plain component of Mildenhall Ware assemblages' being 'dominated by neutral rather than open forms, unshouldered or with ledge-like shoulders rather than true carinations, and with many quite heavy rims' (Healy 2013, 16).

## Deposition

- C.3.7 Earlier Neolithic pottery was found in four features. The largest single assemblage came from pit **717**, which contained 95 sherds weighing 1143g. Work on contemporary pit assemblages from Norfolk and elsewhere indicates that earlier Neolithic pits were often dug and then almost immediately backfilled with material incorporating curated domestic debris, often including fragmentary fresh sherds alongside burnt or degraded pottery (Healy 1988, 105; 1995, 174; 2013, 12; Garrow 2006, 53; Thomas 2012, 8).
- C.3.8 A similar practice is suggested for the infilling of pit 717. Within this assemblage at least 62% (714g) came from a single vessel (P1). The average sherd weight for these sherds is 25g. A further 22% is from a second large bowl (P4), which has an ASW of 18g. The remaining bowl and cup found in the pit fill represent less than 12% of the total weight and each have an ASW of less than 10g. This suggests that the feature was dug and infilled soon after bowl (P1) was broken, but also includes curated pieces of three further vessels, each of which had been broken up and dispersed during storage prior to eventual deposition in the pit fill.
- C.3.9 The remaining 16 sherds (55g) of the earlier Neolithic pottery came from tree throws. These sherds are small with an ASW of less than 4g. Whilst almost certainly deriving from the same infrequent occupation at the site as the material in pit **717**, it is unlikely given the small size and poor condition of the sherds that they were deliberately

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deposited in the tree throws and instead represent natural weathering from surface deposits.

#### Discussion

C.3.10 The earlier Neolithic pottery is most similar to the Plain Bowl assemblage from the pit rich site at Broome Heath, Ditchingham (Wainwright 1972). Whittle *et al.* suggest that 'plain Bowl first appeared in southern Britain in 3970-3715 cal BC (95% probability), probably in 3855-3730 cal BC (68% probability)' and ceased to be deposited in '3475-3385 cal BC (87% probability) probably in 3355-3210 cal BC (68% probability) (Whittle *et al.* 2011, 762).

# Later Neolithic early Bronze Age Beaker (Small Find 44)

- C.3.11 An almost complete Beaker in 33 fragments, weighing 1,146g, was recovered from the fill of tree throw **742** (P5). The Beaker is 160mm high and has a circumference at the rim of 150mm and at the base of 100mm. The neck is c.30mm long, representing 19% of the total vessel height. It is made of a sandy fabric with common small to medium angular flint pieces >5mm. The vessel has a short upright neck above a rounded body and concave base and is profusely decorated with filled, comb-impressed and incised bands in three broad zones on the rim/neck, girth and lower body (Fig. 8). Each decorative zone is defined by a narrow band formed of three incised lines which enclose three further bands with herring bone or crosshatch infilling. The central zone contains a wide band filled with comb-impressed obtuse triangles. A broad band of incised triangles with irregular crosshatch infilling forms the lower decorative zone down to the vessel base. The vessel has a heavily abraded patch on one side of the neck, possibly from contact with the feature edge, and there are occasional fractures along coil joins and along the join between the vessel body and base. The Beaker is otherwise well preserved and well finished.
- C.3.12 The Beaker falls broadly within Needham's 'short-necked' group suggested to have been in use in funerary contexts from *c*. 2250 to 1950 cal. BC (Needham 2005, 191). No direct parallels have been found, though the Beaker is similar in form and decoration to an example from Hexham, Northumberland (Clarke fig 315, corpus # 676)
- C.3.13 Finds of later Neolithic Early Bronze Age pottery from tree throws are rare, in Norfolk however a significant assemblage of 193 later Neolithic Early Bronze Age sherds, weighing 2,831g, came from features initially identified as being of periglacial origin at Spong Hill, North Elmham (Healy 1988, fig.28). In a recent revision of the Spong Hill analysis Healy suggests that these features were actually tree-throws, many of the assemblages they contained representing deliberate acts of deposition, possibly associated with the veneration of trees (Healy 2013, 19).
- C.3.14 Beaker is occasionally found in other natural features. A complete Beaker of East Anglian form was recovered from a solution shaft at Eton Heath, at a depth of 3.47m (Wainwright 1974, 15). This almost certainly represents an act of deliberate deposition. In contrast, the scrappy earlier Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman sherds found in the weathering cone of the same feature were probably accidental incorporations. A large Beaker sherd was also found in a solution shaft at Harford Farm, on the Norwich Southern Bypass (Ashwin and Bates 2000, fig.37, P11). This deposit was interpreted as being accidental, with the sherd becoming incorporated along with material from the ground surface as it fell into the void forming the shaft. It is possible however that this too was a deliberate deposit given the large size of the sherd and scarcity of other material within the fill.

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# **Bronze Age**

C.3.15 Two sherds weighing 34g are Bronze Age. One rim, perhaps from a small plain Collared Urn, has coarse grog-tempered fabric, wet-hand wiped surface and a simple flat-topped rim. The urn is similar to accessory vessels found in graves at Bixley on the Norwich Southern Bypass (Ashwin and Bates 2000, fig.35, P2 & P3). The sherd was found in subsoil in the north-west corner of Area B, 602. A further body sherd in similar fabric came from deposit 623. The Bixley urns were broadly dated to the earlier second millennium BC (Ashwin and Bates 2000, 42).

# Iron Age

C.3.16 A small Iron Age assemblage of 33 sherds weighing 112g was recovered, almost all from a single pit **622** with small quantities from ditches and subsoil (Table 8).

Feature Type	Master no	Feature	Quantity	Weight	No. of vessels
Ditch	511	569	1	5	
Ditch	614	614	2	6	
Pit		622	29	96	1
Subsoil north-west corner area B		602	1	5	
Total		1	33	112	1

Table 8: Quantity and weight of Iron Age pottery by feature

C.3.17 The pottery is predominantly in sandy fabrics with a small quantity of sand with flint-tempered sherds. A single rim, from pit **622**, is from a jar with a simple square rim. A base sherd from the same feature is simple and flat. The pottery is likely to be Middle Iron Age (350BC – 100/50BC) and is therefore slightly later in date than the earlier Iron Age pottery recovered from a pit scatter excavated on the line of the Aylsham Bypass in 1979 (Brudenell 2012).

Fabric code	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
Q1	Coarse sandy fabric with common medium rounded quartz	1	5
Q2	Fine sandy fabric with dense fine rounded quartz grains and occasional elongated voids	1	4
Q3	Fine sandy fabric with dense fine rounded quartz grains	12	45
QF	Fine sandy fabric with sparse angular flint	9	38
QG	Fine sandy fabric with sparse sub-rounded grog	5	7
QV	Coarse sandy fabric common elongated voids	5	13
Total		33	112

Table 9: Quantity and weight of Iron Age pottery by fabric

# Not Closely Datable

C.3.18 Two small scraps weighing 2g are probably prehistoric but are otherwise not closely datable.



# C.4 Roman Pottery

Sarah Percival and Alice Lyons

# Introduction

C.4.1 The small abraded Roman assemblage contains 29 sherds, weighing 301g, with an average sherd weight of only c.10g. The assemblage is almost entirely composed of unsourced local sandy greywares (Andrews 1985, 92) with a small number of sandy coarsewares (Table 10). At least some of these sherds may be from the nearby production centre at Brampton, though the fabrics are not especially typical of Brampton products (Knowles 1967 & 1977; Green 1977). No samian, amphora or other finewares were recovered (Tyers 1996). One sherd of mortarium, with slag trituration grits, is typical of production sites in the Nar Valley and was perhaps made at Pentney (Tomber and Dore 1998, 171). The majority of the vessel forms are utilitarian jars or bowls. One rim sherd from a pinch-necked flagon was also recovered.

Fabric	Quantity (sherd count)	Weight (g)	% weight
Sandy greyware	14	228	75.75
Sandy coarse ware	7	29	9.63
Micaceous sandy greyware	2	14	4.65
Sandy greyware quartz	4	13	4.32
Nar Valley mortarium	1	12	3.99
Micaceous sandy reduced ware	1	5	1.66
Total	29	301	100

Table 10: Quantity and weight of pottery by fabric

# Methodology

C.4.2 The Roman pottery was analysed following the guidelines for best practice recommended by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Fabrics were recorded using the national fabric series (Tomber and Dore 1998) and Tyers (2006) was used for referencing typical vessel forms. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are held by OA East.

# Discussion

C.4.3 The assemblage is almost entirely redeposited, with over 89% of the pottery being recovered from subsoil. The remainder of the sherds come from the fills of ditches 511 and 620 and from deposit 612 (Table 11). The poor condition of the sherds reflects the high level of residuality.

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Feature type	Master no.	Quantity (sherd count)	Weight (g)	% weight
Deposit	612	2	14	4.65
Ditch	511	3	7	2.33
	620	3	12	3.99
Subsoil Area A	547	3	9	2.99
Subsoil area B	601	11	221	73.42
Subsoil north west corner area B	602	7	38	12.62
Total		29	301	100

Table 11: Quantity and weight of pottery by feature type

C.4.4 Previous finds of Roman pottery from Aylsham include a similar, small domestic assemblage found during excavations on Red Lion Street (Lyons 2005). At both sites the lack of finewares and high degree of abrasion prohibit closer dating.

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# C.5 Post-Roman Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

#### Introduction

C.5.1 The excavation produced a small pottery assemblage of ten sherds, weighing 0.175kg, recovered from six contexts. The majority of the sherds were recovered from subsoil contexts in Areas A and B. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded to moderately abraded. The average sherd weight from individual contexts is moderate at 17.5g due to the presence of a large handle sherd from a Glazed Red Earthenware vessel.

# Methodology

- C.5.2 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.
- C.5.3 Dating 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 using Jennings (1981) and the Norfolk/Suffolk fabric codes (Sue Anderson, unpublished fabric list). All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis. The archives are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

## Assemblage

- C.5.4 Ditch **544** (master number **502**) is identified by the excavator as a Roman feature, the single Local Medieval Unglazed sherd recovered from the ditch fill is therefore presumed to be intrusive.
- C.5.5 Context 547, subsoil in Area A, produced a single sherd from a Glazed Red Earthenware jar, while the subsoil in Area B produce sherds of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware, Cologne/Frechen Stoneware, an abraded sherd from a Grimston-type ware jug and a fragment of a plant pot.
- C.5.6 Feature 612, described as a medieval ditch, and ditch 627 both produced single abraded sherds from Grimston-type ware jugs. Ditch 629 produced the latest pottery recoded during the excavation, a small sherd of Refined White Earthenware, recovered alongside residual abraded sherd from a Grimston-type ware jug.
- C.5.7 The assemblage produced similar fabrics to those recovered from the excavations on Red Lion Street (Goffin 2005) where Local Medieval Unglazed was the dominant fabric, whereas here Grimston-type ware is the most common fabric.
- C.5.8 The small number of sherds makes it difficult to draw conclusions about the assemblage, other than to describe it as domestic in origin, and to suggest that the glazed pottery requirements of the inhabitants of Aylsham were being met by Grimston potters. These sherds represent rubbish disposal most likely through manuring across the site.

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# Summary Pottery Catalogue

Context	Cut Number- Feature	Full name Form		Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
543	544	Local Medieval Unglazed	Jar/Jug: rim sherd	1	0.010	11th-14th century	11th-14th century
547	Subsoil Area A	Glazed Red Earthenware	Jar: body sherd	1	0.004	16th-18th century	16th-18th century
601	Subsoil Area B	Cologne/Frechen Stoneware	Jug: body sherd	1	0.016	16th-17th century	18th century
		Glazed Red Earthenware	Jug: rod handle	1	0.114	16th-18th century	
		Grimston-type ware	Jug: body sherd	1	0.005	Late12th- 14th century	
		Modern Redware	Plant pot	1	0.010	18th-20th century	
611	612	Grimston-type ware	Jug: body sherd	1	0.005	Late12th- 14th century	Late12th- 14th century
626	627	Grimston-type ware	Jug: body sherd	1	0.005	Late12th- 14th century	Late12th- 14th century
628	629	Grimston-type ware	Jug: base sherd	1	0.005	Late12th- 14th century	Late 18th century+
		Refined White Earthenware	Body sherd	1	0.001	Late 18th- end 19th century	
Totals			!	10	0.175	-	

Table 12: Post-Roman Pottery Dating Summary Catalogue

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# APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

# D.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

# Introduction

D.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken during the excavation of Woodgate Farm, Aylsham from deposits within features that include an undated boundary ditch, pits of Neolithic and Iron Age date and samples from inside and around a complete Beaker vessel (SF 44).

# Methodology

D.1.1 The total volume (up to 50 litres) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 13. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997). Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible.

### Quantification

D.1.2 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

#### Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot comments	Residue comments
1	543	544	ditch	17	Sparse charcoal only	No finds
2	532	534	ditch	18	Sparse charcoal only	No finds
3	621	622	pit	40	charcoal only	Charcoal ##, pottery #, animal bone #
4	716	717	pit	50	Charcoal, charred apple core with pips, hazelnut shell ##, charred grain #.	Burnt bone #, Worked Flint ##, Charcoal #, Fuel ash slag #, pottery ##
5	741	742	tree throw	17	Sparse charcoal only	No finds
6	660	661	tree throw	10	Charcoal, charred grain #.	Charcoal ##, pottery #
7	741	742	vessel contents	6	no preservation of plant remains	Pottery #

**Table 13: Environmental samples** 

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#### Preservation

- D.1.3 Preservation is by carbonisation as a result of burning. Sample 4, fill 716 of Early Neolithic pit 717 contains well preserved fragments of a charred apple (*Malus* sp.) core with three pips still intact in addition to a small amount of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments and seven poorly preserved charred cereal grains. The samples taken from within and around the Beaker vessel (SF 44) did not contain any preserved plant remains or finds other than a fragment of pottery.
- D.1.4 Sample 6, fill of tree throw **661**, is more productive as it contains seven charred cereal grains one of which can be identified as barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). Iron Age pit **622** did not contain any preserved plant remains other than charcoal and boundary ditches **534** and **544** contain sparse charcoal only.

#### Discussion

- D.1.5 Crab apples (Malus sylvestris) are considered to have been a dietary constituent in the Neolithic period (Tomlinson and Hall 1996, 7.2.3) along with hazelnuts and other fruits, nuts and berries that would have been collected from the wild. Apples could, and probably were, dried for storage and convenience. The find of a single core at Aylsham is more likely to have derived from an eaten apple tossed onto the fire. Charred hazelnuts shells are commonly recovered from prehistoric pits and are also likely to have derived as a by-product of consumption. The dense shells are likely to fall to the base of the fire where they are most likely to become carbonised and preserved (Jones 2000, 81). Cereal grains conversely are less likely to be preserved in a fire and are probably under-represented within the charred assemblage.
- D.1.6 The cereal grains recovered from pit **717** are too poorly preserved for identification but are likely to be either emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) or naked six-row barley, both of which were cultivated in the Neolithic period (Greig 1991, 300).

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# APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

OASIS Nur	nber	oxfordar3-16734	12				
Project Name An Early Neolithic		ic Pit, an Iron Ac	e Pit and a comple	ete Beaker Ves	ssel from Aylsham, Norfolk		
			,	'	Finish 1	• ,	
Project Dat	tes (fie	ldwork) Start	18-11-2013	18-11-2013 No		9-12-2013	
Previous W	/ork (b	y OA East)	No			Future Work No	
Project Ref	erenc	e Codes					
Site Code ENF132710			Planning App.		20110128	110128	
HER No. ENF 132710			Related HER/C		OASIS No. ENF 125810		
				1			
Type of Pro Prompt	oject/T	echniques Us					
rompt		Direction fro	m Local Planning	g Authority - PPS 5	5		
Please se	lect a	II technique:	s used:				
Field Obse	ervation	(periodic visits)		cavation		Salvage Record	
Full Excavation (100%)		Part Su	Part Survey		Systematic Field Walking		
Full Survey		Recorde	Recorded Observation		Systematic Metal Detector Survey		
Geophysical Survey			Remote	Remote Operated Vehicle Survey		Test Pit Survey	
Open-Area Excavation			Salvage	Salvage Excavation		Watching Brief	
Monument	t Type	s/Significant I	inde & Their	r Pariods			
					and significant	finds using the MDA Object ty	ре
Thesaurus	s togeth	er with their respe	ctive periods. If n	o features/finds we	ere found, plea	ase state "none".	
Monument		Period		Object	t	Period	
pit	pit Neolithic -4k to		c -4k to -2k	pottery		Neolithic -4k to -2k	
tree throw		Bronze	Age -2.5k to -70	ge -2.5k to -700 pottery		Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	)
pit Iron Age -8		. 000 ( . 40	-800 to 43 pottery		Iron Age -800 to 43		

County	Nofolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)		
District	broadland	Land Adjacent to Woodgate Farm Cawston Road Aylsham		
Parish	Aylsham	Norfolk NR11 6UH		
HER	Norfolk			
Study Area	19.58ha	National Grid Reference TG 1794 2634		



# **Project Originators**

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Ken Hamilton
Project Design Originator	Myk Flitcroft
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

# **Project Archives**

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East Office, Bar Hill	OA East Office, Bar Hill	OA East Office, Bar Hill
ENF 132710	XNFWFA13	ENF 142710

# **Archive Contents/Media**

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

Digital Media	Paper Media
□ Database	Aerial Photos
⊠ GIS	
Geophysics	
	☐ Diary
	☐ Drawing
Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
Spreadsheets	□ Мар
Survey	☐ Matrices
▼ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	Misc.
	Research/Notes
	□ Photos
	⊠ Plans
	Sections
	Survey

# Notes:

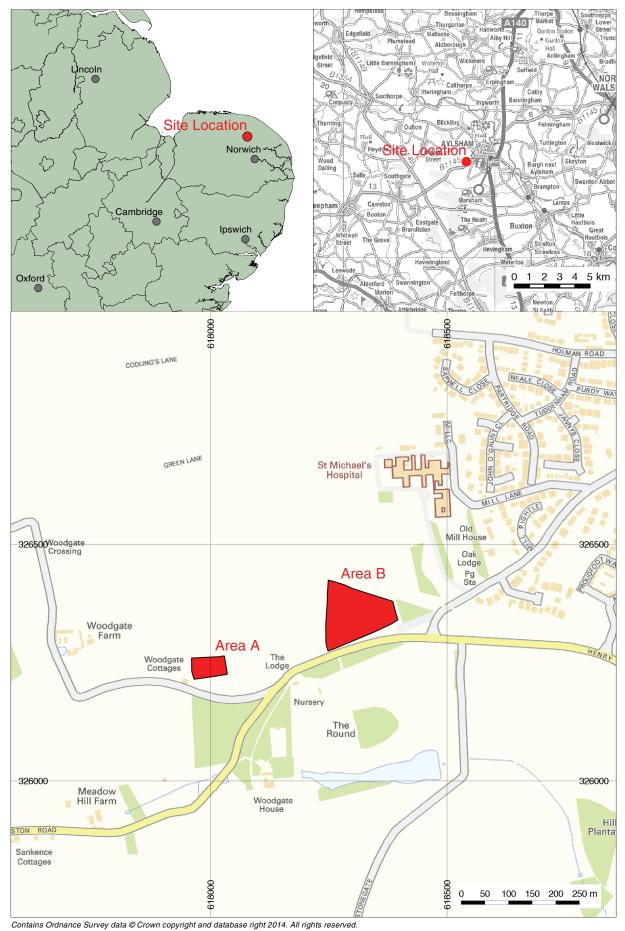


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological excavation areas (red)

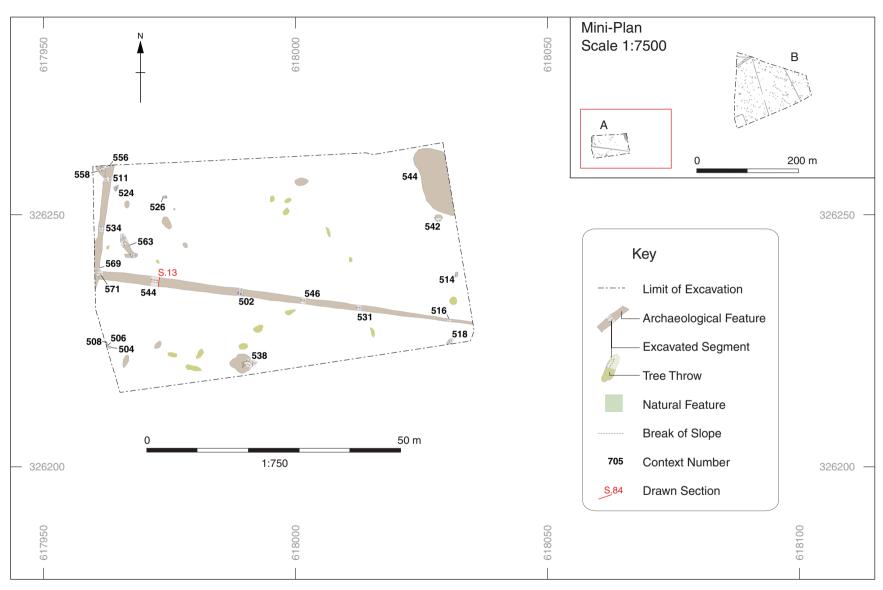


Figure 2: Plan of Excavated Features in Area A



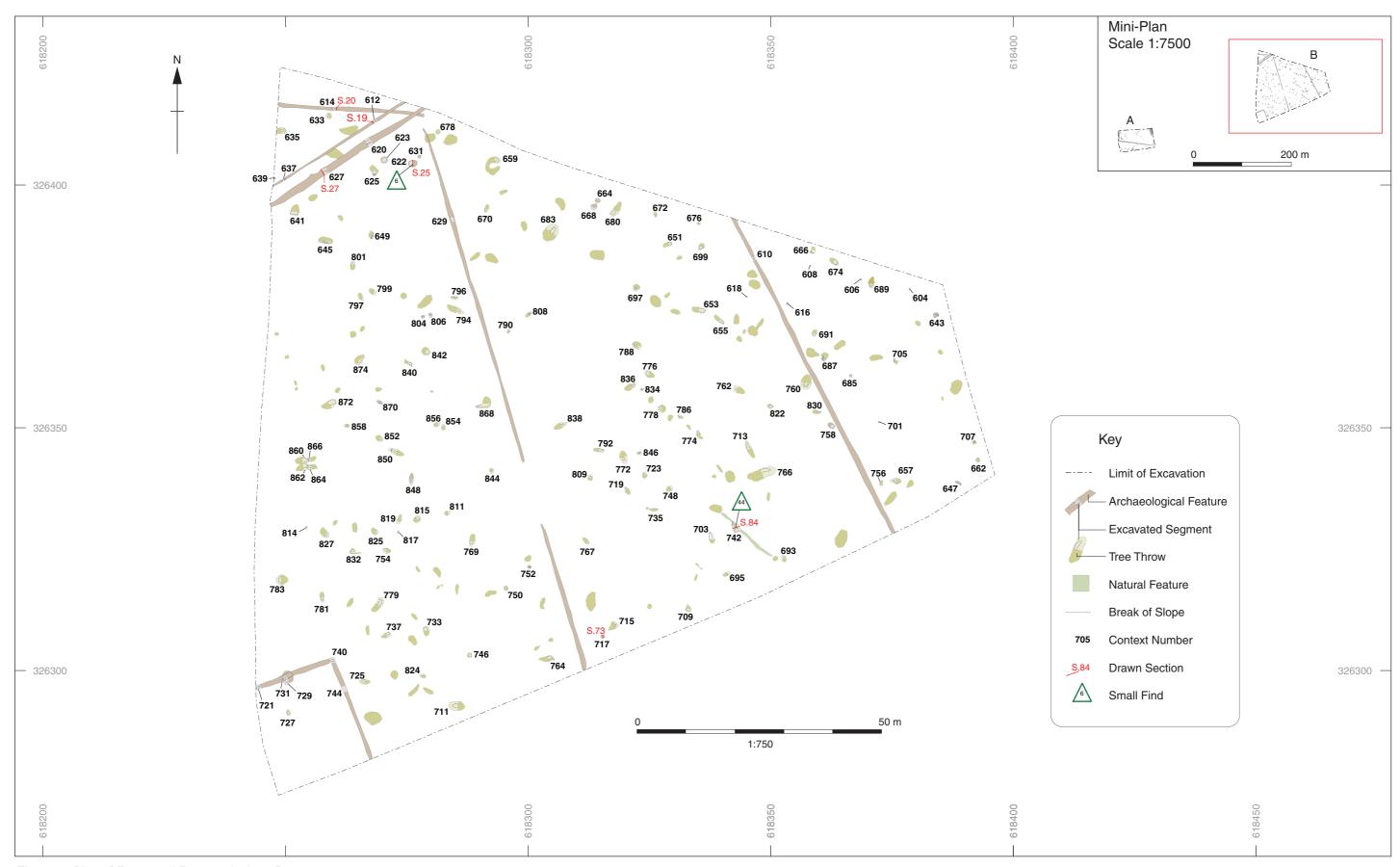


Figure 3: Plan of Excavated Features in Area B

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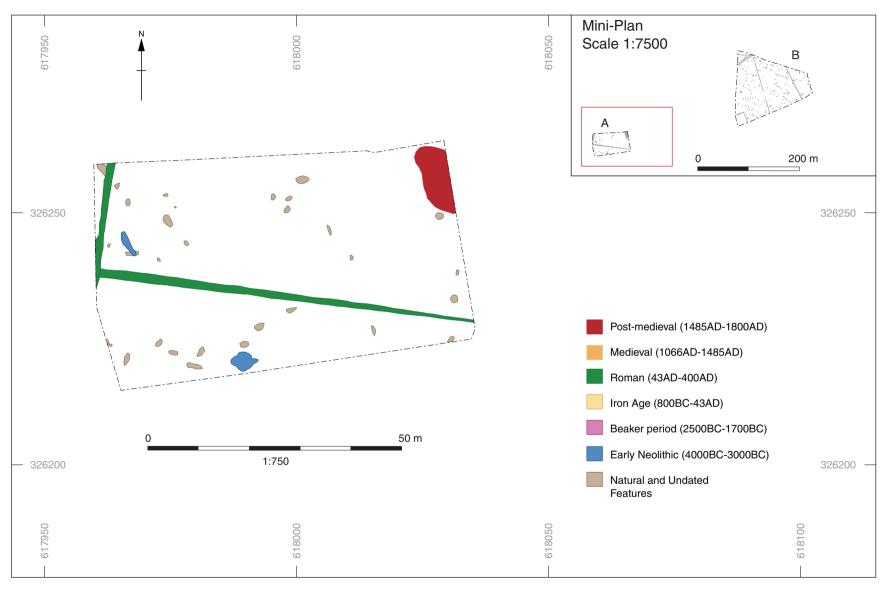


Figure 4: Phase Plan, Area A



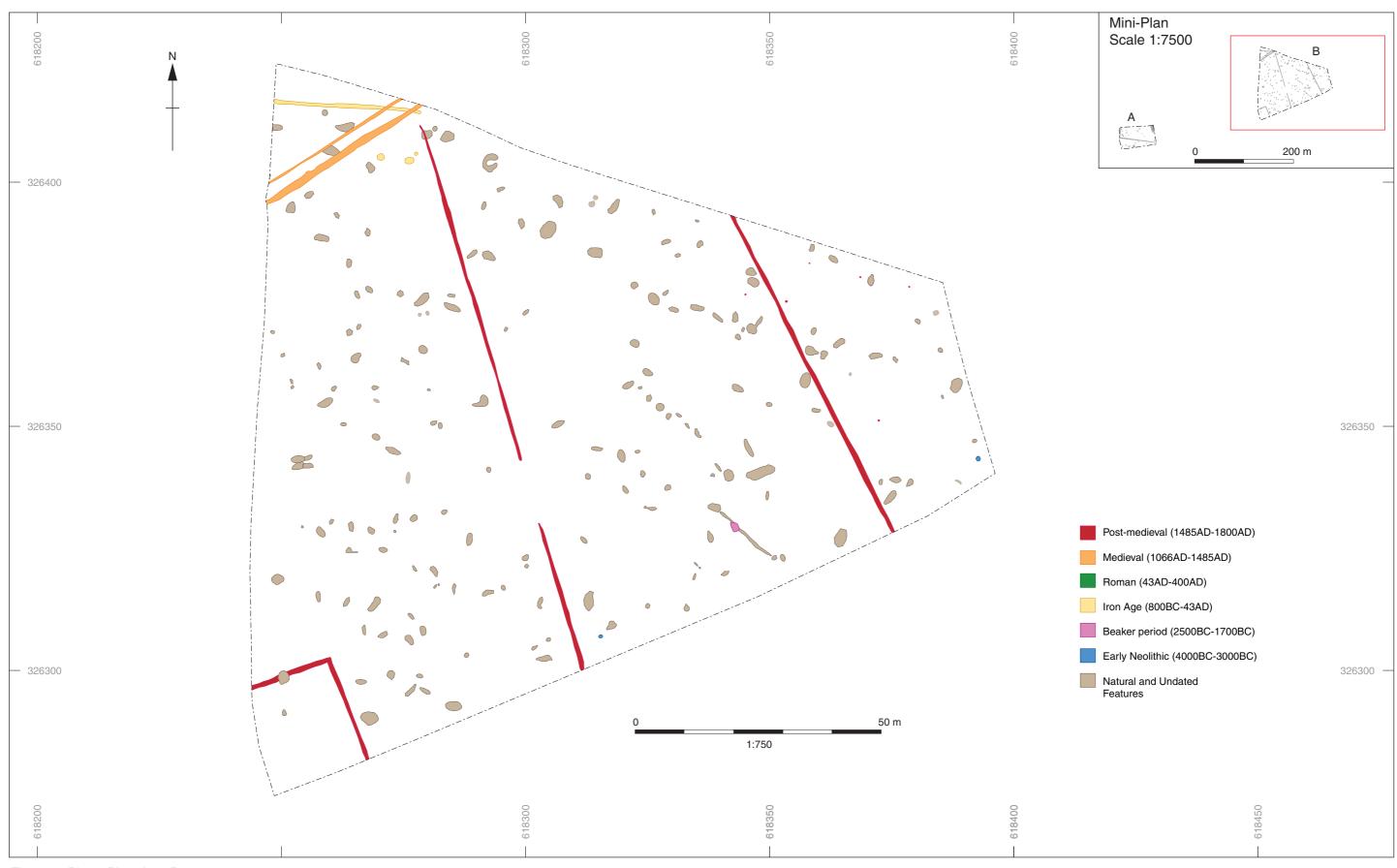


Figure 5: Phase Plan, Area B

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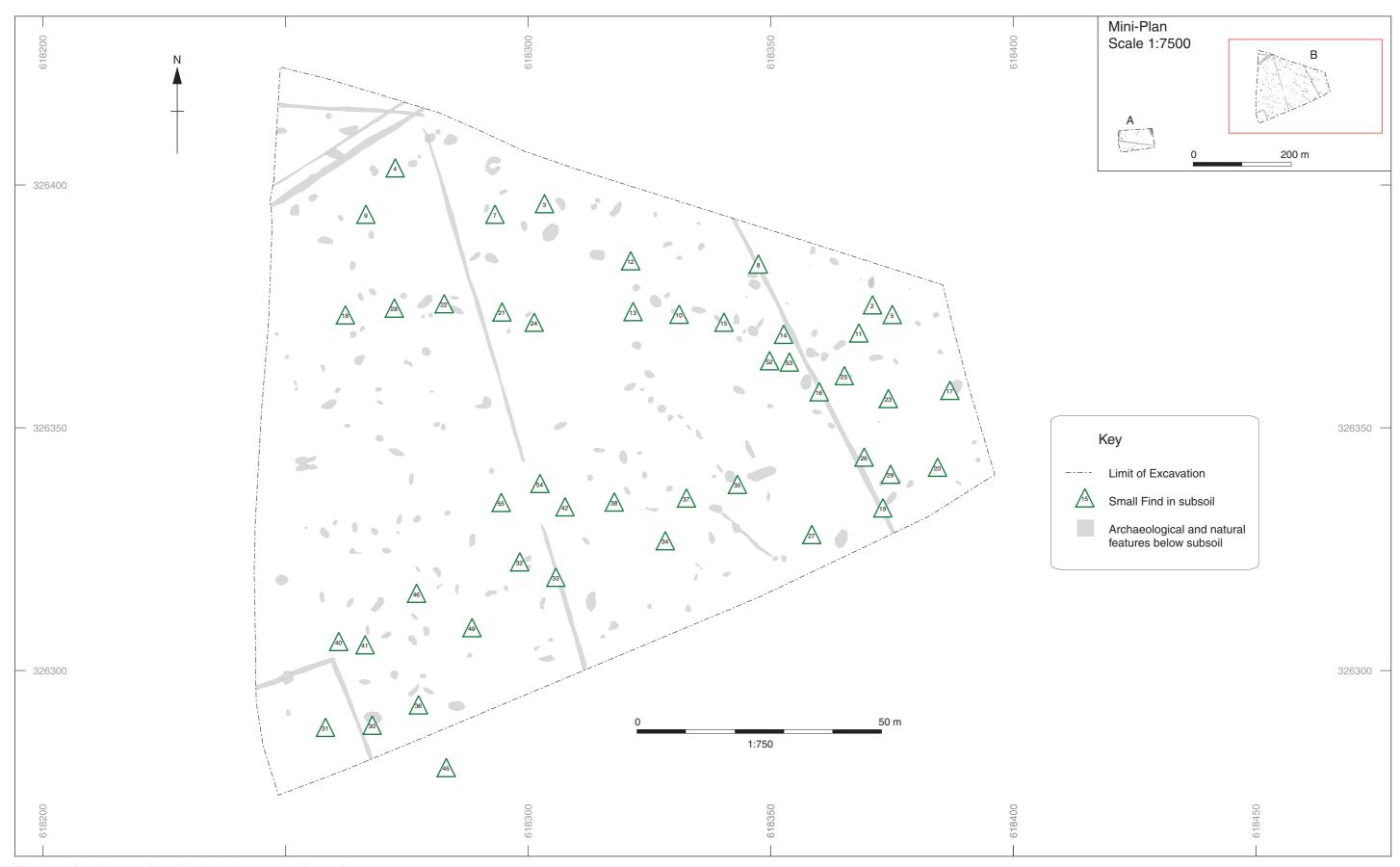


Figure 6: Distribution of small finds in the subsoil of Area B

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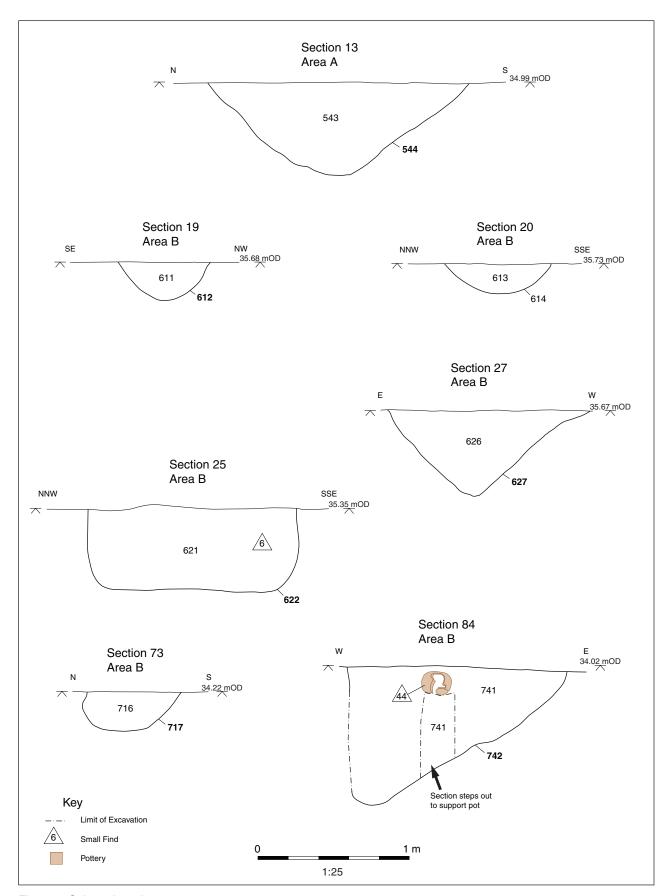


Figure 7: Selected sections

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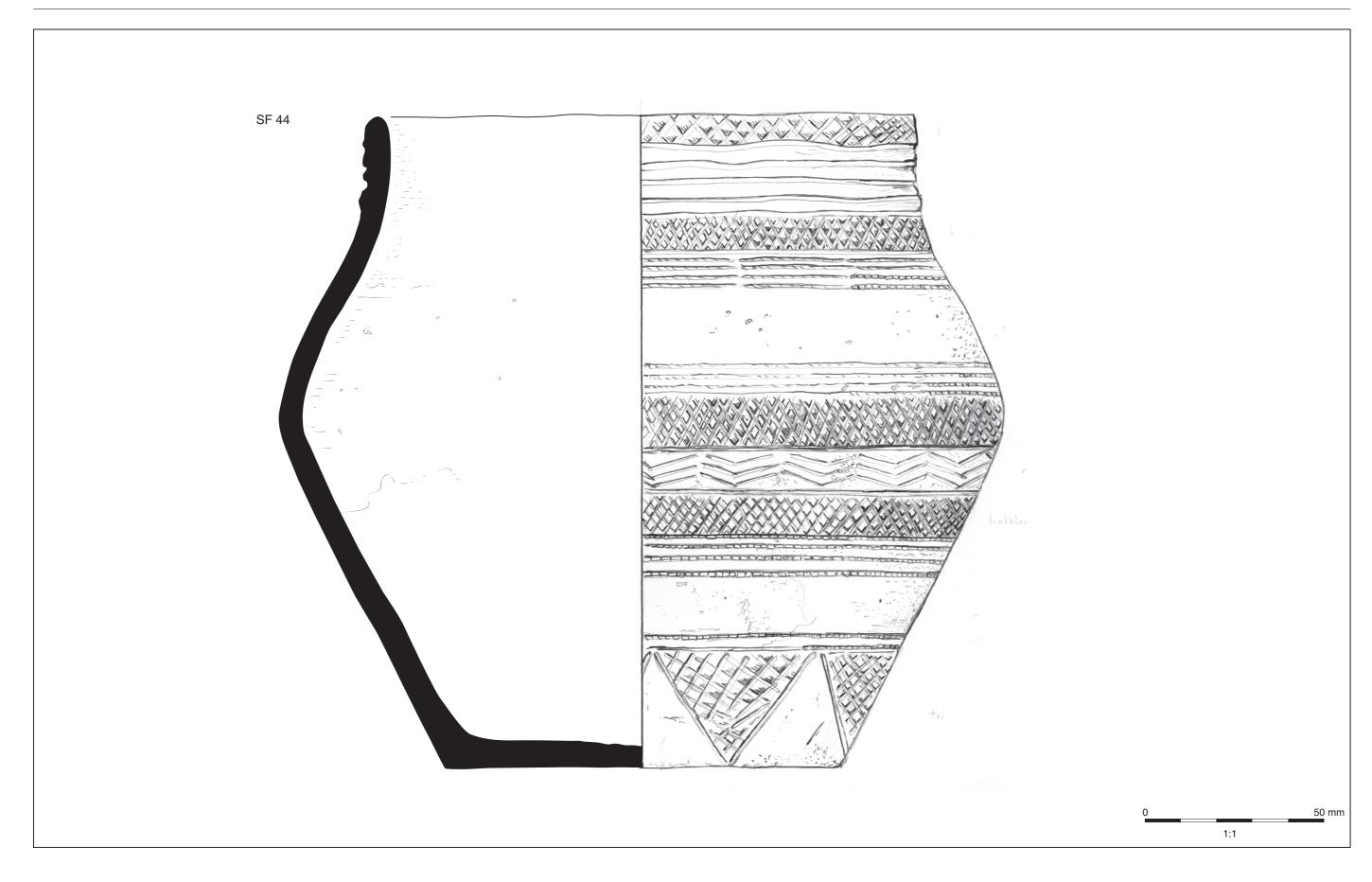






Plate 1: Area A from the south-east



Plate 2: Area B from the west





Plate 3: Complete Beaker vessel SF 44

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