Excavation Report

Land at 22 Old Lynn Road Wisbech

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Land at 22 Old Lynn Road, Wisbech

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

Following an archaeological evaluation in 2013, a 184m² area was excavated on the site of a former garage at 22 Old Lynn Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. The work took place between the 13th and 15th of January 2015. The site was formerly in the parish of Walsoken, within the county of Norfolk.

The excavation area covered the southern end of the development plot and revealed three pits, a ditch and a natural hollow. The site had been built up with modern layers so that the natural mudflats and archaeological features were not encountered until a depth of 1.3m below the surface. At this depth there was still contamination from diesel (from the former garage) that restricted the area of interest to the southern two thirds of the opened area.

The features showed intermittent occupation of the area with alternating deposits of burnt material and flood silts.

The earliest material was an Early Roman brick-like pedestal base from a pit on the western side of the excavation area. Towards the eastern side of the site, there was evidence of Late Saxon to early medieval activity within the vicinity of the site with a spindle whorl and a handle from a Stamford ware spouted pitcher being recovered. However, most of the material on the site is likely to have been deposited in the 12th to 13th centuries.

The recorded features and the material recovered from them are most likely to relate to occasional backyard activity from plots fronting onto either Old Lynn Road (to the north) or Kirkgate Street (to the east). There was also some briquetage that is likely to be redeposited rather than from in situ *salt production.*

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at No. 22 Old Lynn Road, Wisbech, NGR TF 47358 10819 (see figure 1). The work was undertaken in advance of the development of nine houses, with the excavated area centred on the southern building plots. The excavation area was focused in the southern half of the development plot following evaluation work in 2013 and due to the contamination in the northern half of the site.

1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; McConnell 2014; Planning Application F/YR12/0682/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Connor 2015).

1.1.3 The work was designed to mitigate the impacts of proposed development on archaeological remains, 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 geology of the site is Terrington Beds – comprising younger saltmarsh and tidal creek deposits (silty clay and sandy silt) which overlie Ampthill Clay (BGS 1995 sheet 159).

1.2.2 The site is located to the south-west of Old Lynn Road on tidal flat deposits. The northern end of the site lies at approximately 4.2mOD and drops away to 3.4mOD further away from the road. The silts that overlie the area are thought to be of post-Roman date (Silvester 1988, 82 and figure 61), with the site being protected by the Roman Bank (of late Saxon to early medieval construction) from post-medieval flooding. Roddons (raised, dry beds of former watercourses) are recorded to the east, meandering away from the site (Silvester 1988, figure 61).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following archaeological background is based upon the evaluation report (Ladd 2014).

1.3.2 Although the development area now lies within the eastern suburbs of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, it used to lie within the parish of Walsoken, Norfolk.

1.3.3 The parish name Walsoken is thought to derive from Old English, meaning 'the district under particular jurisdiction (soke) by the wall' (Rye 1991, 28). This is thought to refer to the proximity of the village to the Roman Bank. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) shows the route of the bank to be located about 0.5km to the west-north-west of the site, with a surviving portion following Waterlees Road 0.35km to the west (Fletcher 2014, 8). Although the bank is called “Roman”, it was probably constructed in the late Saxon period as a defence against flooding.

1.3.4 Prehistoic and Roman

1.3.5 Archaeological evidence has shown that much of the pre-Roman occupation of land at Walsoken has been submerged beneath Iron Age silts. As such, very little prehistoric archaeology has been recorded. Artefacts dating to the Bronze Age, recovered during

the 19th century, suggest that some dry land existed within the parish during that period. There is better evidence for Roman occupation, including a dispersed hoard of 300 to 400 Roman coins found by metal detecting in the 1980s (NHER 18937).

1.3.6 Medieval

1.3.7 The village of Walsoken was established before the Norman Conquest, with the population, land ownership and productive resources listed within the Domesday Book of 1086, where the village is recorded as Walsocam. Both prior to and after the conquest of 1066, the parish was held by the Benedictine Order based at Ramsey Abbey.

1.3.8 The estuary of the River Nene through Wisbech to the Wash has always been prone to flooding. As a response to water levels rising during the 8th to 10th centuries, large banks were constructed on each side of the estuary in an attempt to reduce the impact of the flooding. These were probably altered and re-landscaped after inundations during the following centuries. On several occasions, though, flooding still devastated Wisbech. The increased levels of drainage and management of watercourses of the later medieval period (16th century onwards) reduced the threat of flooding to Wisbech and its environs, and resulted in the banks no longer being relied upon.

1.3.9 The layout of the medieval fields in the Parish of Walsoken was more regular in the east than the west. This, alongside documentary evidence, suggests that the western fields of the parish – in which Old Lynn Road lies – were of an earlier medieval date. These fields would have been associated with a series of banks and dykes (Silvester 1988, 85-7, figures 63-64).

1.3.10 Post-medieval

1.3.11 The development area fell within 'Lerowe Field' on the Tithe map of 1842 (see figure 2) with an unnamed mill shown in the adjacent field to the east. This mill is not shown on Faden's 1797 Map of Norfolk, whilst two mills nearby in Wisbech are. The mill was active from 1826 (Apling 1984 cited in Neville 2009), placing its construction in the early 19th century. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows 'Walsoken Mills (corn)', and the 1927 Ordnance Survey map shows fields or orchards adjacent to a 'Fruit Preserving Works'.

1.3.12 2013 Evaluation

1.3.13 A trial trench evaluation took place on the site in 2013 (Ladd 2014). This consisted of four archaeological trenches within the footprints of the four main building plots. The trenches by Old Lynn Road showed truncation and contamination to a depth in excess of 1.5m below the modern surface and no archaeological deposits were recorded. The two southernmost trenches revealed features and pits dating from the 11th to mid 13th century. These held evidence of domestic waste and hammerscale, suggesting industrial activity. The environmental evidence was more akin to that noted in medieval towns, and suggested that the area had been densely occupied in the during this period. The evidence on the site itself suggesting backyard activity from plots that fronted onto the road – either Old Lynn Road to the north (as the modern plots do) or east onto Kirkgate Street.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The work was commissioned by Fitt Construction Ltd, who also carried out the machine excavation under the supervision of Graeme Clarke. The hand excavation was carried out by Graeme Clarke, Lukas Barnes and Robin Webb. The site was managed by

Aileen Connor and advice and monitoring was provided by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Brief (McConnell 2014) and Written Scheme of Investigation (Connor 2015).

2.1.2 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.

2.1.3 The aims and objectives of the excavation were developed with reference to the goals of the Regional Research Frameworks relevant to the area:

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3);

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8)

Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24).

Early development of medieval Wisbech

2.1.4 The CCC Brief highlighted the early development of medieval Wisbech as a research priority. The excavation will allow a rare chance to study the formation of this portion of Wisbech during the early post-conquest period and its expansion towards, and relationship with, Walsoken.

2.1.5 The 2013 evaluation of the development area revealed 11th to mid 13th century features and pits on either side of the area proposed for excavation. These were suggested as relating to backyard activity from plots that fronted onto the two nearby roads – Old Lynn Road to the north, and Kirkgate Street to the east. It is thought the site may provide more evidence of the activities taking place and an idea as to the stratigraphy of the area.

Environmental reconstruction

2.1.6 The Brief also highlighted the priority of environmental reconstruction to model the landscape and its transformation due to both the inhabitants of the area and natural events.

2.1.7 The 2013 evaluation of the site showed, through the samples that were collected, a rich collection of charred cereal remains and weed species, fish bones, egg shell and hammerscale. These suggest that a range of activities may have taken place on the site (brewing, fuel and metalworking), and provide evidence of basic food stuffs such as cereals, legumes, fish and eggs. The excavation should provide further evidence of the activities that took place and provide an indication of any landscape changes.

2.2 Site Specific Research Objectives

2.2.1 The research aims focus on the medieval development of the area and recognise the limited area available for excavation. It should be possible to attempt to define the earliest date, longevity and nature of activity at the site. The excavation will attempt to determine where the focus of activity lay, and what the industrial activity intimated in the evaluation relates to.

2.2.2 The samples taken during the evaluation showed excellent potential for furthering our knowledge of agricultural practices and the local environment during the medieval period. Further sampling could contribute to answering the question of whether malting or other agricultural processes were taking place on or near the site, and what the local environment was during the medieval period.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Brief (McConnell 2014) and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Connor 2015).

2.3.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a 360º excavator using a 2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

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

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

2.3.5 The area opened up was 8m by 23m (184m²), with a 1m step due to the depth of the upper modern deposits (see plate 1).

2.3.6 A total of ten environmental samples (190L) were taken from archaeological layers in order to contribute to the reconstruction of the landscape and to identify activity that was occurring around the site. These were taken as bulk samples of 20 litres. Contexts that had contaminated material were not sampled.

2.3.7 The site was opened during wet weather, with hand excavation during dry days. Overnight rain, however, left the site sticky and with standing water that had to be drained into a sump in the south-west corner of the site and then pumped out.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The excavation showed evidence for human activity consisting of cut features and deposits from the medieval period, with some residual artefacts within suspected flood silt deposits.

3.1.2 The site was excavated in a single area 8m on its north-west to south-east axis, and 23m south-west to north-east. The area held contaminated deposits on its north-western edge. As a result, features and deposits were identified only within the south-eastern half of the excavation area (Fig. 3). There was little complex stratigraphy and this was illustrated by the limited number of features – two discrete pits and a ditch cutting a pit identified in the evaluation (see Figs 4 and 5 for detailed plans).

3.2 Flood silts

3.2.1 The earliest deposit exposed during the excavation was a soft mid reddish brown clay-sand (42). This was interpreted as a mudflat deposit laid down during one or more inundations known to have affected the area.

3.2.2 The site was machine excavated down to a level of 1.9m OD. At this level the south-east side of the site contained a natural hollow (**32**; Fig. 6 section 13, plate 5) which was filled by a series of deposits. The hollow is likely to have been caused by the movement of the mudflats whilst the ground was inundated. This natural hollow had an irregular shape, gentle sides and an undulating base. The earliest fill of this hollow was a friable dark grey-black silty sand (33) and this was a deliberate dump of burnt material containing charcoal and charred stems/reeds (see table C1). Overlying this deposit was a series of flood silts that (34 to 36).

3.2.3 The earliest of these flood silts was a friable mid brown silty sand (34) 0.12m thick which had a 20 litre sample taken from it (number 19). Overlying this flood silt was a friable greyish brown silty sand (35). Subsequent to that was another 0.15m thick firm mid greyish brown clay-silt (36). None of these flood silts had any artefacts within them.

3.2.4 Overlying the natural hollow and its fills was a plastic mid brownish grey silt-clay (41) that represented either a dump of material over the hollow, but more likely a thick flood silt deposit.

3.2.5 The flood silts deposited in both the natural features described above and the archaeological features (see section 1.3) bore a strong resemblance to each other, suggesting that they derived from the same type of event.

3.3 Medieval

3.3.1 A total of three pits were uncovered during the excavation phase of the site. Two of these were the same as those excavated in Trench 4 during the evaluation (pits **7** and **8**).

3.3.2 The earliest of these pits (**21**; Fig. 6 section 10, Plate 2) was located 3.5m from the eastern edge of the excavation area and was equivalent to the base of pit **8** found during the evaluation. This feature had an oval shape, shallow sides and a concave base and was filled by a friable mixed dark grey and black silt-clay (20). Animal bone, daub, and a spindle whorl (Plate 7) were recovered from this fill. This pit is thought to date somewhere between the late 9th to mid 12th centuries, with the basal fill possibly

representing the deposition of mixed burnt and unburnt remains with charcoal and unburnt bone both being recovered.

3.3.3 Dating from slightly later, between the 11th and 13th centuries, and further to the west, was a second discrete pit (**28**; Fig. 6 section 11, Plate 4). This feature was sub-circular with steep sides and was not excavated to its base due to contamination. The fill of this pit consisted of banded layers that appear to represent alternating flood silts (22, 24 and 26) and deliberate dumping of burnt material containing charcoal, charred stems/reeds and burnt molluscs (23 and 25; Table C1).

3.3.4 The earliest fill of this pit (27) was a soft black sand that was heavily contaminated by diesel. This deposit may have been the earliest of the dumps of burnt material, but was only partially excavated due to the contamination.

3.3.5 Overlying this was a redeposited natural silt layer (26) which was 0.09m thick. This layer was a soft light greyish yellow sand that contained 12th to 13th century pottery and was probably deposited during flooding of the area. A sample taken from this fill contained both burnt material (charcoal and charred stems/reeds) and ostracods, the latter suggesting that flood water had deposited the burnt remains.

3.3.6 Overlying this layer was a dump of burnt material (25) which was 0.1m thick. This was a soft black silty sand that contained 12th to 13th century pottery, animal bone and burnt animal bone along with charcoal and burnt molluscs.

3.3.7 Above this deposit was a second silt layer (24), which was 0.15m thick, and again this thought to be a result of the inundations from the rising river levels. This was a friable mid brown-grey sandy silt that contained 12th to 13th century pottery. This layer contained charcoal and burnt molluscs, although it is thought that these were washed in with the flood waters.

3.3.8 Subsequent to this inundation a third dump of burnt material (23) was laid down which was 0.1m thick. This deposit consisted of a friable dark grey and black sandy silt band that contained pottery dating to the 11th to 13th centuries and shell along with charcoal, burnt stems/reeds and burnt molluscs.

3.3.9 Sealing the burnt deposits within the pit was another flood silt (22) which was 0.2m thick. This layer was a friable mid brown-grey sandy silt which contained 11th to 13th century pottery along with bone. A sample was taken from this fill and this contained some residual charcoal.

3.3.10 The third pit (**44**), dating from the 12th to 13th centuries was located between the two pits previously noted. This was identified as pit **7** in the evaluation, and was sub circular in shape with steep sides and a flat base. The majority of this pit was removed during the evaluation, but the lower fill of a friable dark greyish brown clay-silt (43) was still extant. Although it contained no artefacts, it was dated in the evaluation as 12th to mid 13th century.

3.3.11 This pit was truncated by a steep sided ditch (**30**; Fig. 6 section 12, Plate 3) which had a concave base. This ditch was aligned north to south, and was filled by a soft dark grey and red sandy silt (31) overlain by a soft olive brown sandy silt (29). The earlier fill contained 9th to 12th century pottery and animal bone. The upper fill contained 11th to 13th century pottery. The ditch may represent a fence line for a medieval plot boundary which cut an earlier rubbish pit that contained evidence of phases of inundation and dumping.

3.4 Modern

3.4.1 Sealing the medieval deposits was a firm mid brown clay-silt subsoil (38). This deposit, which was machine excavated, was heavily contaminated and contained fragments of modern glass. This was cut by a modern pit (**40**) with a gentle slope and concave base. It was filled by a firm blueish brown clay-silt (39) which contained glass and metal fragments. Covering the entire site to a depth of 0.3m was the topsoil (37), a firm dark brown mixed deposit with modern contamination.

3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 The excavation produced 21 sherds of pottery, weighing 0.239kg. These dated from between the 8th and 15th centuries, although they were most likely to have been deposited in the 12th and 13th centuries. Most of the pottery that was recovered came from a single pit. A spindle whorl of Late Saxon-early medieval date was also recovered from the basal fill of a pit that had been uncovered in the evaluation of 2013.

3.5.2 The excavation also recovered 21 pieces of briquetage, weighing 1.319kg, representing fragments of oven superstructure and an incomplete Early Roman rectangular pedestal. The small size of the assemblage suggests that it is redeposited rather than directly associated with *in situ* salt production.

3.6 Environmental Summary

3.6.1 Ten bulk samples were taken from features in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential for future archaeological investigations. Features sampled include ditches and pits dating from the medieval period in addition to an undated deposit. Environmental samples taken from the previous evaluation of the site had shown good archaeobotanical potential with abundant charred grain assemblages recovered.

3.6.2 The samples from Old Lynn Road have produced significant assemblages of charred plant remains, showing that cereals were abundant during the medieval period and that grains were used for bread, malting and fodder in the vicinity, but were mixed together in the deposits.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Old Lynn Road

4.1.1 The modern surface of Old Lynn Road (to the north of the site) sits significantly higher than the ground in the surrounding plots of land on both sides of the road. This suggests that the road may lie on a medieval bank that is raised above the level of surrounding fields, and may have had a pair of dykes either side (Silvester 1988, 86), although it has not been possible to establish this.

4.1.2 Old Lynn Road is the medieval road from Wisbech to Walpole and King's Lynn, whilst Kirkgate Street (to the east of the site) is the main street between Old Lynn Road and the village of Walsoken 300m to the south. These roads probably have origins dating back to the early medieval period.

4.2 Site

4.2.1 The upper deposits of the site had been heavily contaminated due to the presence of garage that occupied the site in recent years. The majority of this contamation was to the north of the site (towards Old Lynn Road), and as a result, the excavation area was limited as it had to avoid this.

4.2.2 The Roman Bank to the east of the site protected the area from the later medieval and post-medieval flooding which affected the centre of Wisbech (Mortimer 2008, Hinman and Popescu 2012). As a result, it is possible to see the sequence of layers sealing the medieval features that cut into the natural silts, and a succession of flood deposits (see figure 6, section 14, plate 6).

4.3 Medieval features

4.3.1 Two pits seen during the evaluation (**7** and **8**) were seen again in the excavation (**44** and **21** respectively). The former of these, which was used to dispose of domestic rubbish, dated from the 12th to mid 13th centuries and was cut by a medieval ditch that may represent a plot boundary. The latter of these pits dated from the late 9th to early 12th centuries and was a discrete pit.

4.3.2 An additional pit was recorded during the excavation (**28**), but seems to represent the same form as those from the evaluation, namely a rubbish pit for domestic waste. This pit shows a sequence of alternating rubbish dumps and flood events which washed material in, with a single water lain deposit (26) from a sustained flood. This pit also saw the deposition of most of the ceramic material within the site (17 sherds), and dates from the 11th to 13th centuries.

4.3.3 The combination of briquetage and pottery that has been recovered from the site indicate that whilst there was not salt production on the site itself, there was production in the vicinity. This is illustrated by the small size of the briquetage assemblage and the fact that the pottery shows no evidence of having been affected by salt. As a result, the likelihood is that the features represent medieval backyard activity, although it is unclear which street the plots front on to: Old Lynn Road to the north, or Kirkgate Street to the east.

4.3.4 This backyard activity is also demonstrated by the environmental remains that indicate the grain was processed and imported for sale from surrounding rural communities, with the mix of grains suggesting that there was no single focused activity taking place, rather they were used for bread, malting and fodder. Further, the mixing of the grains in

the same deposits suggests that these different activities were taking place concurrently.

4.3.5 The 1842 tithe map shows the presence of post-medieval settlement with a cluster of buildings 40m west of the site (on the opposite side of Old Lynn Road) and a small number of dispersed buildings along Kirkgate Street. Lying only 20m to the east is the site of Walsoken Mill. The distance of these buildings is too far to indicate a direct relationship to the features on the site, but some of the processed grain may have been related to the mill.

4.3.6 Instead, the discrete nature of the features, and the alternating burnt deposits and flood silts (bringing material from areas towards the River Nene in Wisbech) within them, may indicate that prior to the post-medieval settlement of the area there may have been more of a sporadic or temporary occupation. This occupation would have been on dry patches of land around Walsoken and would have been interrupted by flood events, resulting it being sporadic rather than focused and continuous.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The area in which the site lies has only had limited work carried out in it. The Fenland Project did not cover the area in detail, and the old village of Walsoken (which is now more built up) falls outside the bounds of the modern parish for the Norfolk survey (Silvester 1988, figure 59), and was only peripheral to the study of Wisbech in the Cambridgeshire Survey (Hall 1996, figure 90).

4.4.2 Although the site has been truncated by the modern development and contamination, the layers of flood silts and sporadic archaeological features that have been revealed offer an insight as to the history of the area between Wisbech and Walsoken.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

1.1 Evaluation contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Date
1	Layer	-	0.5	Buried topsoil	Post-medieval/modern
2	Layer	-	0.8	Buried subsoil	Post-medieval
3	Cut	>2	0.4	Cut of possible pond/pool	12th-mid 13th century
4	Fill	>2	0.4	Fill of possible pond/pool **3**	12th-mid 13th century
5	Cut	0.25	0.3	Cut of posthole	Undated
6	Fill	0.25	0.3	Fill of posthole **5**	Undated
7	Cut	>2	0.85	Cut of pit	12th-mid 13th century
8	Cut	2.5	0.24	Cut of pit	Late 9th-mid 12th century
9	Layer	-	0.5	Buried topsoil (=1)	Post-medieval/modern
10	Layer	-	1	Buried subsoil (=2)	Post-medieval
11	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of pit **7**	12th-mid 13th century
12	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of pit **7**	12th-mid 13th century
13	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of pit **7**	12th-mid 13th century
14	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of pit **7**	12th-mid 13th century
15	Fill	-	0.02	Fill of pit **7**	12th-mid 13th century
16	Fill	-	-	Fill of pit **8**	Late 9th-mid 12th century
17	Fill	-	-	Fill of pit **8**	Late 9th-mid 12th century

1.2 Excavation contexts

Area 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Topsoil and subsoil heavily disturbed through modern pits and contamination. North-west side of side heavily contaminated at excavated depth. South-east side of excavated area revealed two discrete pits and one pit cut by a ditch. The westernmost pit (**28**) was over 0.68m deep with contamination at the base and contained pot, bone and CBM. The eastern pit (**21**) was shallow and was the base of pit **8** from the evaluation. The middle pit (**30**) was the base of pit **7** from the evaluation and was cut by a ditch (**32**). Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of clay-sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.3
					Width (m)	8 (top) 6 (base)
					Length (m)	23 (top) 20 (base)
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
20	Fill	1	0.28	Fill of pit **21** (base of pit **8**)	SF1 (spindle whorl), bone	Late 9th-mid 12th century
21	Cut	1	0.28	Cut of pit (base of pit **8**)	-	Late 9th-mid 12th century

22	Fill	1.1	0.2	Fill of pit **28**	Pot, CBM, bone	11th-13th century
23	Fill	1.23	0.1	Fill of pit **28**	Pot, CBM, shell	11th-13th century
24	Fill	1.7	0.15	Fill of pit **28**	Pot	12th-13th century
25	Fill	1.04	0.1	Fill of pit **28**	Pot, bone	12th-13th century
26	Fill	0.96	0.09	Fill of pit **28**	Pot	12th-13th century
27	Fill	0.9	0.09	Fill of pit **28**	-	-
28	Cut	1.7	>0.68	Cut of pit	-	11th-13th century
29	Fill	0.75	0.18	Fill of ditch **30**	Pot	9th-12th century
30	Cut	0.75	0.28	Cut of ditch	-	9th-13th century
31	Fill	0.55	0.1	Fill of ditch **30**	CBM, bone	11th-13th century
32	Cut	2.6	0.28	Cut of natural feature	-	-
33	Fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of natural feature **32**	-	-
34	Fill	1.4	0.12	Fill of natural feature **32**	-	-
35	Fill	0.44	0.07	Fill of natural feature **32**	-	-
36	Fill	>1.35	0.15	Fill of natural feature **32**	-	-
37	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	Post-medieval/modern
38	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	Post-medieval
39	Fill	1.2	0.12	Fill of modern pit **40**	-	Modern
40	Cut	1.2	0.12	Cut of modern feature	-	Modern
41	Layer	0.4	0.44	Dumped layer	-	-
42	Layer	-	-	Mud flat natural	-	-
43	Fill	0.7	0.1	Fill of pit **44**	-	12th-mid 13th century
44	Cut	0.7	0.1	Cut of pit **7** from evaluation	-	12th-mid 13th century

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Spindle Whorl

by Carole Fletcher

B.1.1 A spindle whorl was recovered from context 20, which formed the basal fill of pit **8**/**21**. Pit **8** also produced a handle from a Stamford ware spouted pitcher, this association suggests a possible Late Saxon-early medieval date for the spindle whorl.

B.1.2 The spindle whorl is carved from pale grey stone most likely clunch and there are some cracks in its surface and base. It is roughly hemispherical in shape. The upper part of the spindle world conforming to hemispherical models such as that illustrated in Crummy (Crummy, 1988, pp.31-32, 1930). The lower third of the spindle whorl has been tapered or chamfered, narrowing the spindle whorl from 35 mm at its widest to 26 mm at its (slightly uneven) base. It is possible that the spindle whorl was damaged and the chamfering removed the damage and allowed it to work as designed. A bone hemispherical spindle whorl illustrated in Norwich Households shows a similar working to the lower third of the spindle whorl (Margeson with Goodall, 1993, p84-185, 1438).

Illustration Catalogue (Plate 7)

SF 1 context 20 pit 8/21 recovered with late 9th-early 12th century pottery. A hemispherical stone spindle whorl, probably clunch, well finished, although there are some cracks in the surface and the base. The lower third of the spindle whorl has been chamfered inwards therefore narrowing the spindle whorl towards the base. The base is slightly uneven.

Diameter 35 mm, height 25 mm, diameter central hole approximately 10 mm, weight 38 g.

B.2 Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.2.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of 47 sherds weighing 0.427 kg, 21 sherds, weighing 0.239 kg (including samples) from the main excavation, the remainder is from the evaluation carried out in 2013. The pottery dates for the assemblage span the early 8th to the end of the 15th century, however the most likely date for the deposition of the material is mid 12th-early-mid 13th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.009 kg. The bulk of the material from the excavation was recovered from a single feature, pit **28**, with one sherd being recovered from ditch **30**.

Methodology

B.2.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) A *guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

B.2.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types using, where appropriate, Cambridgeshire's type series (Spoerry, forthcoming). All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

B.2.4 Buried subsoil contexts 2 and 10 produced three sherds of pottery, including a body sherd from a Stamford ware jug and a rim sherd from a Developed St Neots Top hat vessel (THP).

B.2.5 Feature **3**, identified in the evaluation as a pond, produced 13 sherds of pottery including material recovered from sample 1. The fabrics present include Stamford ware and Early Medieval ware alongside sherds of Developed St Neots ware. The pottery recovered suggests a date of mid 12th century-early to mid 13th century.

B.2.6 Contexts from pit **7** produced sherds from a minimum of two Shelly ware jars including an unabraded rim sherd, and two small sherds from two Stamford ware vessels, if contemporary the overall the date of the feature is mid 12th century-mid 13th century.

B.2.7 Pit **8** produced a handle from a Stamford ware spouted pitcher. Kilmurry says that some spouted pitcher production occurred in the 12th century but that Stamford ware jugs had become the predominant form by the end of the 12th century (Kilmurry, 1980, p140), this would suggest a pre-mid 12th century date for the vessel.

B.2.8 Pit **28** produced most of the pottery recovered during the excavation and included a single sherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware, the undecorated sherd is a relatively unabraded body sherd which is externally sooted. The sherd was recovered alongside two sherds Developed St Neots ware jar sherds. The pit also produced further Developed St Neots ware sherds including three jar rim sherds from one or more THP. These vessels were manufactured in both St Neots-type and Medieval Shelly coarseware fabrics […] the THP rim profiles have fairly simple forms in the early part of their lifespan, and then developed during the 12th century (Blinkhorn, 2010, p263). The largest rim sherd was recovered from sample 13 and most closely resembles the simple rim types illustrated by Blinkhorn (Blinkhorn, 2010, pp.263-265, pp.276-282, figure 10.15 No.93). Also present were five sherds of Stamford ware including base sherds from two, relatively small, glazed vessels, one of which is sooted suggesting this may be a serving vessel. A single sherd of Thetford-type ware was also recovered from the pit. Pottery recovered from sample 14, context 26, also included a sherd from a Shelly ware vessel. Overall it would appear that the material within this pit may have been deposited shortly after the mid 12th century.

B.2.9 Ditch **30** produced a single sherd of Thetford-type ware of *c*. mid 9th-mid 12th century date, which suggests it was deposited at a similar time to the material in pit **28**.

B.2.10 The residual sherd of Ipswich ware indicates Middle Saxon activity in the area, however no other Middle Saxon material was recovered, so it is difficult to draw conclusions as to what this single sherd may represent.

B.2.11 The overall assemblage early medieval with a few later sherds, those being shelly wares. The pottery from the excavated features although domestic may relate non-domestic activity as the pit **28** and ditch **30** also contained briquetage, suggesting salt-working close to the area of excavation. The pottery shows no evidence of having been affected by salt, indicating it was not directly used in the salt production, however it may relate to the preparation or consumption of food by the workers producing the salt. There are no high medieval glazed wares present, suggesting that the use of the site changed in the early-mid 13th century.

B.2.12 Table B1 is the pottery catalogue from the site.

Context	Cut	Full Name	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Date
2		Early Medieval-type ware	Jar body sherd	1	0.004	Mid 11th-end of the 12th century
4	**3**	Early Medieval-type ware	Jar body sherd	3	0.021	12th-mid 13th century
		Stamford ware	Jug body sherd	3	0.007	
		Developed St Neots	Body sherd	3	0.007	
		Unprovenanced Medieval Coarseware	Body sherd	1	0.002	
Sample 1		Unprovenanced Medieval Coarseware	Body sherd	1	0.002	
Sample 1		Stamford ware	Jug body sherd	1	0.003	
Sample 1		Shelly ware	Body sherd	1	0.002	
10		Developed St Neots	Jar rim sherd (THP)	1	0.017	Mid 11th-mid 12th century
		Stamford ware	Jug body sherd	1	0.005	
12	**7**	Shelly ware	Body sherd	1	0.005	Mid 12th-mid 13th century
		Stamford ware	Jar body sherd and base sherd	2	0.016	
13	**7**	Shelly ware	Base sherd	1	0.016	Mid 12th-mid 13th century
		Shelly ware	Jar rim	2	0.035	
Sample 2		Stamford ware	Jug body sherd	2	0.002	
14	**7**	Shelly ware	Base sherd	1	0.012	Mid 12th-mid 13th century
16	**8**	Stamford-type ware	Jug/spouted pitcher handle	1	0.032	Late 9th-early 12th century
22	**28**	Developed St Neots	Jar body sherd	2	0.005	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
		Ipswich ware (smooth)	Jar body sherd	1	0.043	
23	**28**	Developed St Neots	Jar body sherd	2	0.009	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
Sample 11		Developed St Neots	Jar rim sherd (THP)	1	0.005	
Sample 11		Thetford-type ware	Body sherd	1	0.016	
24	**28**	?Early Medieval Shelly ware/shelly ware	Body sherd	1	0.003	Mid 12th-mid 13th century
		Developed St Neots	Jar rim sherd (THP)	1	0.011	
		Stamford ware	Base sherd	1	0.002	

Context	Cut	Full Name	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Date
		Stamford ware	Rim sherd	1	0.007	
25	**28**	Shelly ware		1	0.006	Mid 12th-mid 13th century
		Stamford ware	Base sherd	1	0.005	
		Stamford ware	Jug base sherd	1	0.025	
		Stamford ware	Jug/serving vessel	1	0.015	
Sample 13		Developed St Neots	Jar rim sherd (THP)	1	0.029	
Sample 13		Developed St Neots	Jar body sherd	1	0.004	
26 Sample 14		Developed St Neots	Jar base sherd	1	0.003	Mid 12th-mid 13th century
		Shelly ware	Body sherd	1	0.003	
29	**30**	Thetford-type ware	Body sherd	1	0.044	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
31 Sample 17		Developed St Neots	Jar body sherd	1	0.004	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
Totals				47	0.427	

Table B1: Pottery catalogue

B.3 Briquetage

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

B.3.1 A total of 21 pieces of briquetage weighing 1,319g were collected from three excavated features and from natural deposits (Table B2). The assemblage includes fragments of oven superstructure and an incomplete rectangular pedestal of Early Roman date. The small size of the assemblage suggests that it is redeposited and not directly associated with *in situ* salt production.

Feature	Context	Feature type	Quantity	Weight (g)
21	**20**	Pit	27	478
28	**22**	Pit	4	524
	23		15	25
	25		2	103
30	**31**	Ditch	12	126
32	**33**	Natural	21	63
Total			**81**	**1319**

Table B2: Quantity and weight of briquetage by feature

Methodology

B.3.2 The assemblage was analysed and recorded using the methodology devised for the briquetage recovered during the Fenland Management Project (Lane and Morris 2001).

The complete assemblage was analysed and the briquetage recorded by context, grouped by class, form and fabric, and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were identified following examination using a x10 hand lens and are classified by major inclusion present. Container wall thickness was recorded by thickness code (Lane and Morris 2001, 34). Diameter, width and height of pedestals and other supports were noted where complete measurements were available. The thickness of a sample of structural pieces was recorded. Examples of diagnostic forms within each class were selected for illustration and were sketched or scanned for the archive. The archive is held by OAE.

Fabrics

B.3.3 Three fabrics were identified (Table B3). Two fabrics in dense fine clay were used for the pedestal and undiagnostic fragments which probably represent hearth furniture. At contemporary salt winning sites such as Morton Fen portable items such as pedestals were made of similar fabrics to those found here, which were different to the fabric used for hearth structures and *ad hoc* supports such as clips suggesting that they were manufactured in advance and may have been reused (Lane and Morris 2001, 124). It is likely that fabric Q1, used here to manufacture pedestals, also represents a pre-made element to the briquetage assemblage.

B.3.4 Organic tempered fabric, V1, contains numerous elongated voids indicating the former presence of grass or other similar material. Chopped grass was added to help with forming the wet clay and subsequently burnt out during firing. This fabric was used here to form the hearth superstructure and miscellaneous pieces. Morris notes that whilst organic tempering is highly characteristic of briquetage from most Fenland sites, being widely used for containers, supports and structural elements, the coarser vegetable tempered fabrics are mostly found in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk (Lane and Morris 2001, 354).

Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
Q1	Dense fine fabric with red grog inclusions	4	568
Q2	Fine sandy clay with rare to moderate elongated voids	1	75
V1	Common elongated voids in fine to sandy clay matrix	76	676
Total		**81**	**1319**

Table B3: Quantity and weight of briquetage by fabric

Forms

B.3.5 The brick-like pedestal fragment compares well to examples found at Early Roman sites at Downham West and Nordelph and are believed to be current from c. AD100 to 200 (Lane and Morris 2001, fig.111).

Fabric	Class	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)
Q1	Miscellaneous	Undiagnostic	1	1
	Support	Pedestal	1	501
		Undiagnostic	2	66
Q2	Miscellaneous	Undiagnostic	1	75
V1	Miscellaneous	Undiagnostic	16	32
	Structure	Undiagnostic	60	644
Total			**81**	**1319**

Table B4: Quantity and weight of briquetage by fabric and form

Discussion

B.3.6 The briquetage is typical of salt-winning debris generated in the Fenland in the early Roman period. The only diagnostic object recovered, the brick-like pedestal base, suggests a date of 100 to 200AD. The small size and redeposited context of the assemblage suggests that it was not directly associated with hearths or other structures but had been moved to the site from a saltern nearby.

Appendix C. Environmental Reports

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Ten bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas at Old Lynn Road, Wisbech in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Features sampled include ditches and pits dating from the medieval period in addition to an undated deposit. Environmental samples taken from the previous evaluation of the site had shown good archaeobotanical potential with abundant charred grain assemblages recovered.

C.1.2 Pit **28** was thought to be contaminated with modern hydrocarbons. One bucket of each of the samples was treated with a solution of Decon-90 in order to decontaminate the samples prior to processing through the flotation tanks.

Methodology

C.1.3 Approximately 10L of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table C1. 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 Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. 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. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

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

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance

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

Results

C.1.5 Plant remains are preserved by carbonisation and are comprised of cereal grains and weed seeds in addition to charcoal and a moderate inclusion of charred saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) leaflets. Cereal grains are abundant within the majority of the samples. Bread/club wheat (*Triticum aestivum/compactum*) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) predominate along with significant quantities of rye (*Secale cereale*) and oats (*Avena* sp.). Chaff elements are comparatively rare and only occasional cereal culm nodes (indicating straw) and a few rachis fragments of rye and barley were observed. Other food remains preserved by carbonisation includepeas (*Pisum sativum*) and beans (Fabaceae) in addition to flax/linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*).

C.1.6 Many of the charred weed seeds in the assemblage are from plants that are commonly found growing on cultivated soils and include stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), corncockle, (*Agrostemma githago*), rye grass/darnell (*Lolium temulentum*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.).

C.1.7 Exploitation of local resources is indicated by the presence of nutlets and leaf fragments of Great Fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) which was one of the major vegetation types of the Fen and was commonly used for thatching and fuel. Other wetland plants include sedges (*Carex* spp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) which had similar uses. Burnt snail shells are mostly of wetland species and are most likely to have been burnt whilst still attached to plants brought in from wetlands for use as fuel. Ostracods (small aquatic bivalve crustaceans) indicate that either the feature was once water-filled. These crustaceans may also originate from a water-source that may have been used for cooking or dousing a fire and, therefore, been deposited in the feature along with the hearth waste.

C.1.8 Five samples were taken from pit **28**. This pit was filled by banded layers 22 (Sample 10), 24 (sample 12) and 26 (Sample 14) that appear to represent alternating flood silts along with the deliberate dumping of burnt material in layers 23 (Sample 11) and 25 (Sample 13). The samples all contain charred charred plant remains and the deposits that were described on excavation as burnt material do indeed contain larger amounts of charred material with greater species diversity. All five samples contain oats, barley, wheat and rye, and burnt molluscs were also noted. Samples 11 and 13 are similar in that they both contain charred sedge seeds, legumes, reeds and great fen sedge. Sample 11 also contains a charred flax seed and occasional crop weed seeds. Samples 12 and 13 both contain significant quantities of silicates suggesting hearth deposits. Ostracods are present in Sample 14.

C.1.9 Sample 15, fill 20 of pit **21** contains a large assemblage of charred cereals in which wheat grains predominate along with smaller quantities of oats, barley and rye. Occasional charred ear-cockles (*Anguina tritici*) are present indicating a nematode infection of the wheat crop. Charred weed seeds are relatively rare in this assemblage and are restricted to occasional seeds of corncockle and sedges.

C.1.10 Two samples were taken from ditch **30**. Sample 16, upper fill 29 contains charred oat, wheat and barley grains and seeds of plants commonly associated with pasture and meadows including buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), common meadow-rue (*Thalictrum flavum*) and clover (*Trifolium* sp.). Sample 17, lower fill 31 contains similar cereal remains along with a significant number of charred sedge seeds and great fen sedge leaf fragments possibly indicating the use of these wetland plants for fuel.

C.1.11 A series of deposits had formed in a natural hollow/sloping area **32**. Sample 18, fill 33 produced a small flot (10ml) that contains a large assemblage of charred grain. Wheat again predominates in this assemblage. The grains are rounded and compact

suggesting the bread wheat variety *T. aestivum compactum*. Rye grains are also present, some still enclosed in their outer chaff which may indicate the burning of complete ears as opposed to clean, processed grain. Charred sedge seeds are present along with charred grass seeds (Poaceae). Sample 19, upper fill 34 contained only a sparse assemblage of charred cereals.

Sample No.		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Context No.		22	23	24	25	26	20	29	31	33	34
Cut No.		28	28	28	28	28	21	30	30	32	32
Feature Type		Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Nat. feat.	Nat. feat.
Volume processed (L)		10	10	10	6	10	8	8	8	8	8
Cereals											
Avena sp. Caryopsis	Oats [wild or cultivated]	#	##	#	#	#	##	##	##	##	#
Avena sativa L. floret	cultivated Oat seed head								#	#	
Hordeum vulgare L. caryopsis	domesticated Barley grain	#	##	#	#	#	##	#	##	#	#
Hordeum vulgare L. rachis internode	domesticated Barley chaff					#					
Secale cereale L. caryopsis	Rye grain	#	#	#		#	#			##	
free-threshing *Triticum* sp. caryopsis	free-threshing Wheat grain	#	##	#	#	#	###	##	##	###	#
cereal indet. Caryopsis	unidentified cereal grain	#	###	##	#	##	###	##		###	
cf. cereal indet. culm node	Cereal stem-joint [indicates straw]	#					##		##	##	
Anguina tritici infected *Triticum*	Ear-cockle nematode										
Other food plants											
Legume 2-4mm	Pea/small bean		#		#						
Legume >4mm	Bean			#	##						
Linum usitatissimum L. seed	Flax		#								
Dry land herbs											
Anthemis cotula L. achene	Stinking mayweed	#	#			#				#	
Agrostemma githago L. seed	Corncockle						#				
Chenopodiaceae indet. seed	Goosefoot Family	#	##	#				#			
Galium aparine L seed	Cleaver		#	#							
Lapsana communis L. achene	Nipplewort		#								
Lolium cf. temulentum L. caryopsis	Darnel		#								
Persicaria lapathifolia (L.) Gray achene	Pale Persicaria		#								
medium Poaceae indet. [3-4mm]	medium-seeded Grass Family		#							##	
Ranunculus cf. acris L./*repens* L./*bulbosus* L. achene	cf. Meadow/Creeping/Bulbous Buttercup							#			
Rumex sp. achene	small-seeded Docks		#								
Thalictrum flavum L. achene	Common Meadow-rue									#	
Thalictrum flavum L. fruit	Common Meadow-rue									#	
small *Trifolium* spp. [<1mm] seed	small-seeded Clovers	#	#							#	

Tripleurospermum inodorum L. Sch. Bip. *achene*	Scentless Mayweed	#									
Wetland/aquatic plants											
Carex spp. nut	medium triangular-seeded Sedges		##		##	#	##		###	##	
elongate lenticular *Carex spp.* nut	elongate & flat-seeded Sedges	#						#			
Cladium mariscus L. Pohl fruit	Great Fen-sedge		#					#			
Cladium mariscus L. Pohl leaf	Great Fen-sedge					##		#	##	##	
Eleocharis palustris L. Roem. & Schult. Nut	Common Spike-rush					#					
Other plant macrofossils											
Charcoal <2mm		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+
Charcoal >2mm			++				++	++	++	++	+
Charred stems/reeds			+		+					+	
Other items											
Burnt molluscs			##	#	#	#		#			
Ostracods						#					
Volume of flot (ml)		15	50	10	25	20	50	10	65	10	10

Table C1: Environmental samples from WISOLR15

Discussion

C.1.12 The charred plant assemblage from excavations at Old Lynn Road, Wisbech is dominated by cereal grains. This is largely to be expected as cereal grains are the most likely material to become carbonised (and thus preserved) due to the necessity to expose the grains to fire either during parching, brewing or cooking. All four of the main cereal types are represented but it is interesting to note that the cereal assemblages within individual deposits generally include more than one cereal type which could suggest either a mixing of material prior to deposition, several depositional events within the same deposit or mixed crops. Legumes form a minor component of the charred assemblages which is probably as they are under-represented as they are less likely to be burnt than cereal grains are.

C.1.13 Wheat would have been the preferred grain for making bread although the cheaper rye bread may have been more common among the peasant class. Barley was the preferred malting grain of this period and oats were most probably a fodder crop. The scarcity of chaff elements in this assemblage may be significant as it may suggest that cleaned grain was being imported into the site having been processed elsewhere. During the early medieval period it is likely that rural communities would have been producing excess grain for sale or for taxation and the cleaned grains would have been sent to administrative towns such as Wisbech and Cambridge. Charred wheat galls have been found in medieval contexts from a number of sites including Manor Farm, Colne (Fosberry, 2014 unpublished), Wharram Percy, North Glebe Terrace (Carruthers 2010) and West Cotton, Raunds (Campbell and Robinson, 2010). Identifications have all been tentative due to the lack of modern reference material for comparison. Ear-cockle nematode infection would have been a serious cause of concern for the farmer as it results in stunted growth of the plant. The galls can survive in a desiccated state for many years resulting in infection of subsequent crops although it is sometimes possible to eliminate by crop rotation. It is likely that a farmer would have noticed the galls forming in the developing ears of the cereal during cultivation and it is possible that the diseased ears could have been picked off and burnt as a means of controlling

the disease. It is also possible to pick the galls off of the ears and they can be separated from threshed grain by flotation as the wheat grains are more dense than the galls which float to the surface. (Wendy Carruthers pers. comm).

C.1.14 Pit **28** contained five deposits that produced charred plant assemblages. The flood silts are thought to be natural inundations but the presence of charred plant remains suggests that there has either been some mixing of the deposits (possibly through bioturbation) or that charred material has been washed into the pit from elsewhere on site. Only the uppermost fill 26 contains ostracods as evidence of a water-lain deposit.

C.1.15 The charred weed seed assemblage is consistent with what one would generally expect to find growing amongst cereal crops although they occur rarely in most of the samples indicating that the charred grain has originated from quite clean, fully processed samples. This is substantiated by the relative lack of chaff which only occurs in the samples from pit **32**.

C.1.16 In summary the samples from Old Lynn Road have produced significant assemblages of charred plant remains. It is apparent that cereals were abundant at this site during the medieval period. Culinary waste would undoubtedly have been used for animal feed or spread on agricultural fields as fertiliser and animal fodder and stable waste would also have made excellent manure but, had it been burnt, it could be preserved as assemblages comprised of cereal grain and straw such as has been found on this site. Burnt material was often used as a sealing layer in cess pits but there is no evidence of mineralisation on this site. It could be that such remains have not been preserved.

C.1.17 A corn mill is known to have been located near to the site from the early 18th century and it is possible that there could have been one there even earlier. This could explain the high level of grain wastage that may have been swept up and burnt prior to disposal.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-200807		
Project Name	Land at 22 Old Lynn Road, Wisbech		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	13-01-2015	Finish	15-01-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WISOLR15	Planning App. No.	F/YR12/0682/F
HER No.	ECB 4337	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB 4069/oxfordar3-16770

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Planning condition

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☐ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Test Pit Survey
☒ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☐ Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pits	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pot	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Animal bone	Medieval 1066 to 1540
	Select period...	Spindle whorl	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Fenland	22 Old Lynn Road, Wisbech, PE13 3SB	
Parish	Wisbech Town		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	184 square metres	National Grid Reference	TF 47358 10819

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Daniel McConnell
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Graeme Clarke, Robin Webb

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores Landbeach	OA East	CCC Stores Landbeach
WISOLR15	WISOLR15	WISOLR15

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:

Figure 1: Site location showing excavated area (red)

Figure 2: Extract from Walsoken Tithe map 1842 (NRO DE/TA 33), showing the development area (in red)

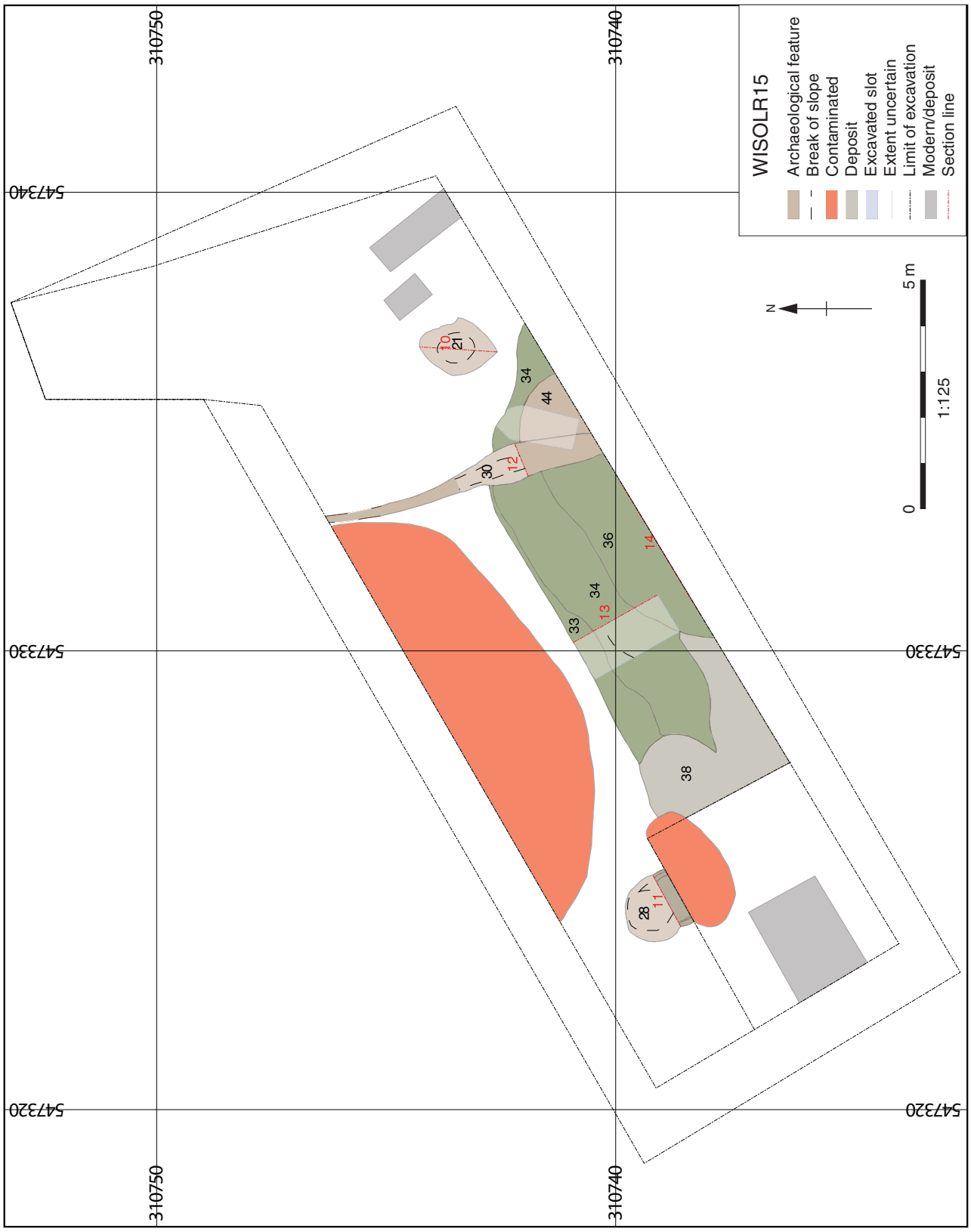

Figure 3: Plan of the excavation area.

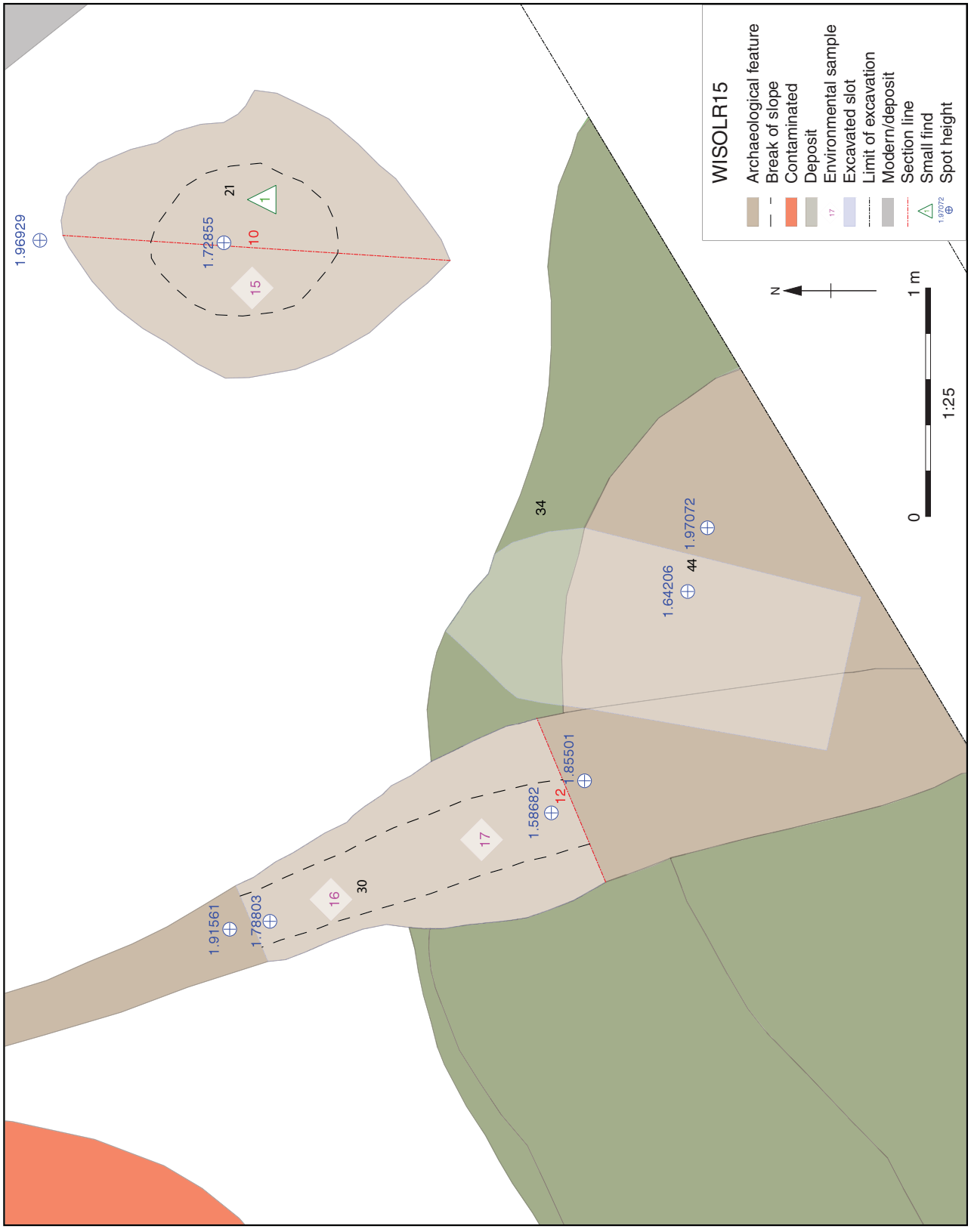

Figure 4: Plan showing detail of the features (**21**, **30** and **44**) in the eastern side of the site

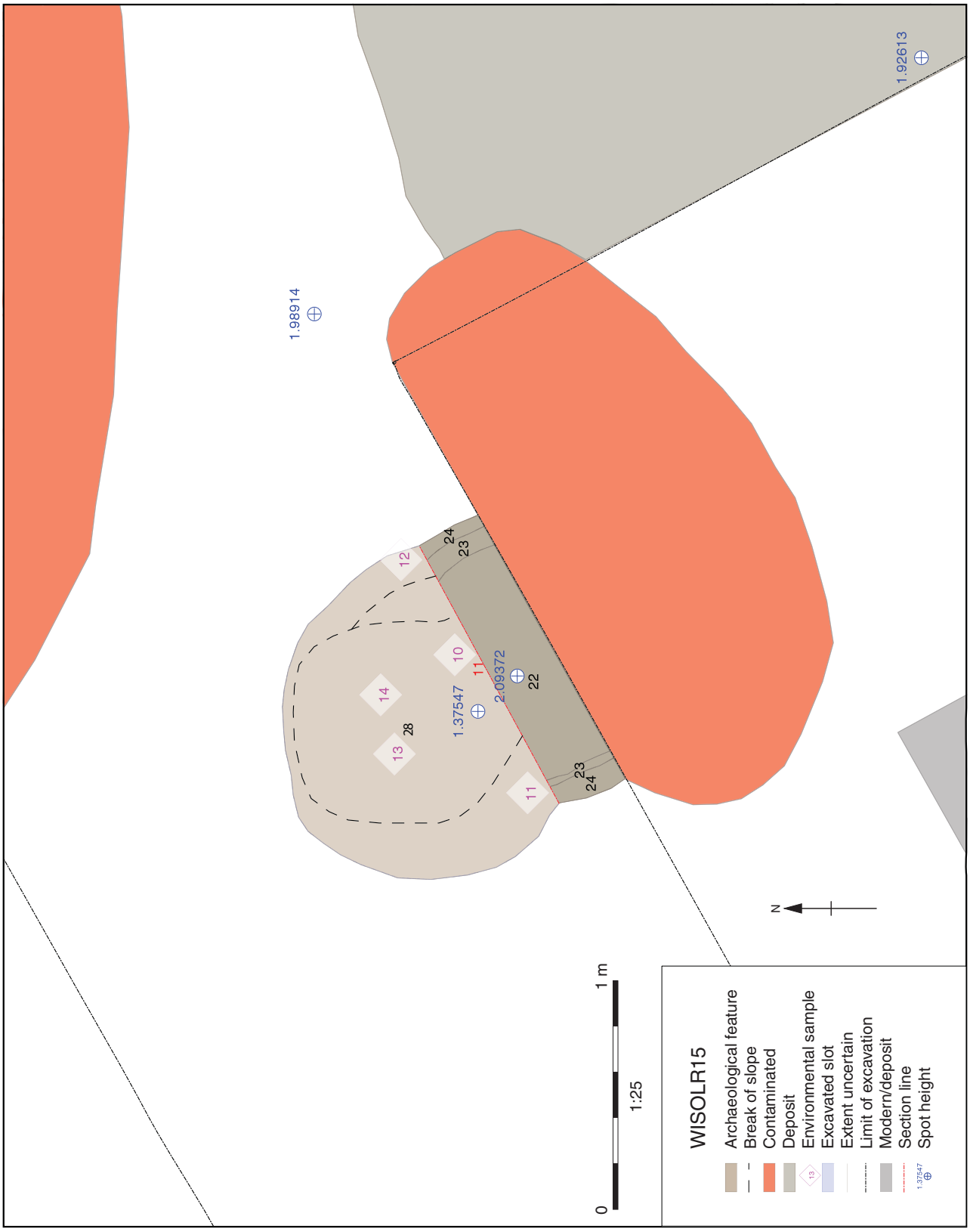

Figure 5: Plan showing detail of pit **28** in the western side of the site

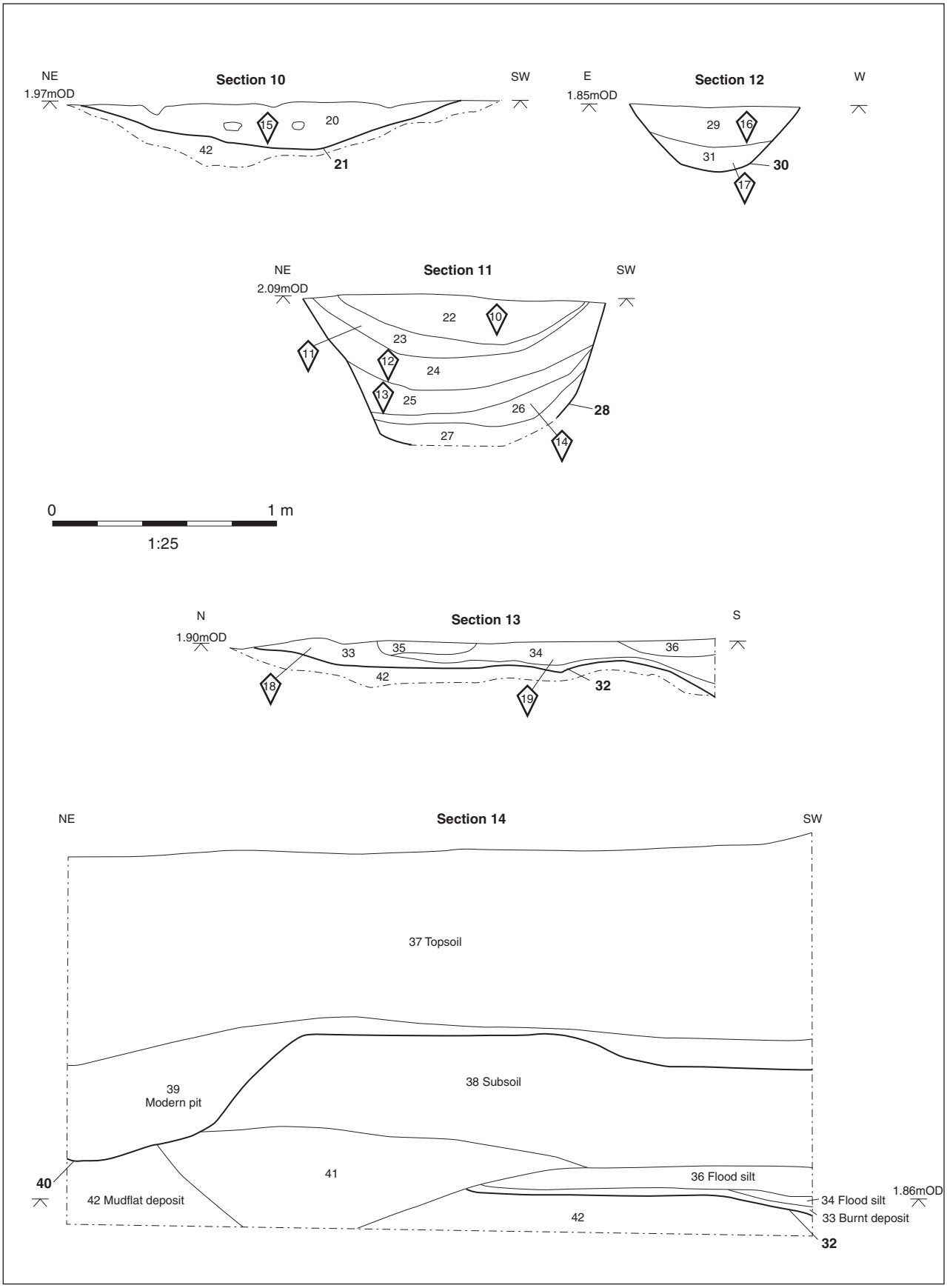

Figure 6: Sections (scale 1:25)

Plate 1: General view of the excavation area, facing south-west

Plate 2: Pit **21**, facing east

Plate 3: Ditch **30**, with pit **44** just behind, facing south

Plate 4: Pit **28**, showing alternating bands of burnt material and flood silts, facing south-east

Plate 5: Natural hollow **32**, showing the flood silts overlying a burnt deposit, facing north-east

Plate 6: Baulk section of the excavation area, showing the build up of layers, facing south-west

Plate 7: Spindle whorl

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