Witham Archaeology

A report to Seagate Homes Ltd

December 2024



LAND AT 20 GOSBERTON ROAD, SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

C. J. Moulis

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LAND AT 20 GOSBERTON ROAD, SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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Cover Photograph: View across the site, looking east towards Gosberton Road

LAND AT 20 GOSBERTON ROAD, SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: SUGR21
LCCM Accession No.: LCNCC: 2021.213
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Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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LAND AT 20 GOSBERTON ROAD, SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This document presents the results of archaeological trial trench evaluation of land south of Gosberton Road, Surfleet, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned in response to advice from the archaeological adviser to the local planning authority that the applicant submit the results of archaeological investigations in support of the application for planning permission. The site was considered to have archaeological potential partly in consideration of its proximity to the historic core of the settlement, represented by the Medieval parish church of St Laurence.

The fieldwork revealed evidence of habitation in the vicinity of the development site during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. A large pit was excavated towards the northern edge of the site during the Medieval period, sometime between AD 1150 and 1400. Dumped into the pit was a charred deposit which contained a rich assemblage of cleaned grain, probably derived from accidental burning of a domestic food store or granary. When partially filled, the pit displayed linear marks indicative of a subsequent period of cultivation, following which further deposits (possibly alluvial) accumulated to bring ground level to its present elevation. There was also evidence for an episode of Post-Medieval refuse disposal.

The nature of the archaeological remains did not provide direct structural evidence for dwellings or associated buildings within the site area. In addition, it was apparent that the condition of deposits below the car-park area in the southern part of the site had been compromised by confinement below dumped deposits which formed the modern hardstanding.

A modest collection of finds recovered during the project included 20 sherds of pottery, brick fragments, animal bone and shell fragments, 3 metal objects and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe. The pottery assemblage is typical for the area.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document was originally prepared by Witham Archaeology for G. R. Merchant Ltd on behalf of Scottpark Developments Ltd, but is to be submitted by Seagate Homes Ltd as part a new submission for planning permission. It presents the results of archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out in advance of a residential development of 9 dwellings on land at 20 Gosberton Road, Surfleet, Lincolnshire (Fig 10).

The evaluation was prompted when the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (South Holland District Council) recommended, in comments dated 21st October 2021, that the applicant submit the results of archaeological trial trench evaluation as part of the application for planning permission. The programme of trial trenching was required to assess the potential for survival of significant archaeological remains at the site in order to inform a strategy for mitigation of adverse impacts arising from the development.

Witham Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the trial trench evaluation designed to comply with the usual requirements of the local planning authority. The WSI was submitted for approval to the archaeological adviser to South Holland District Council, and the fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI from the 6th December 2021 to 10th December 2021. Wet and stormy conditions which prevailed at the time of the fieldwork were not ideal, and the excavated trenches were prone to ingress of water.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise,

arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 2.1)

The village of Surfleet, in the parish of the same name, is located in the administrative district of South Holland District Council, approximately 4km north of Spalding and 17km south-west of Boston in the county of Lincolnshire.

The site, at NGR TF 25052 28296, is situated to the west of Gosberton Road, just under 100m north-west of St Laurence's church. The development area is partly under grass and partly under hardstanding associated with the adjacent Surfleet Café. It extends over an area of around 0.42ha, with a ground surface elevation of approximately +3.3m OD in the grassed area and approximately +4.3m OD over the car-park area

The site is located just north of the River Glen on solid geology of Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed in the Jurassic Period. The superficial geology is Quaternary clay, silt and sand in a local environment previously dominated by rivers (British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer website).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Domesday Book of 1086 mentions eleven villagers and six smallholders at Surfleet. In additional to arable lands, there is reference to two salthouses. The tenant-in-chief at the time of the survey was Heppo the Bowman. At the time of the conquest the land was said to have been held by Also, son of Godram (Open Domesday website).

The placename Surfleet probably results from the joining of the Old English ūr for sour, damp or coarse (in respect of land), and flēot for an estuary, inlet from the sea, or a small stream (Key to English Place-Names website).

The site is located in the core of the medieval settlement as defined by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (MLI 120139).

St Laurence's church contains Norman and Early English features in the interior but externally is mostly Perpendicular, although the tower may be Decorated (MLI 122469).

Fieldwalking in 1963, after the ploughing of Town Field (located near the church and previously under grass), revealed two concentrated scatters of Stamford ware pottery centred on areas of higher silt at c. TF 251 283 (opposite the current site?). Some other medieval wares were recovered (MLI 120139). It is not clear if further concentrations of pottery shown immediately to the south of the current site (MLI 122647) and to the north-west at TF 249 243 (MLI 122 469) are duplicate records of the same sites.

Trial trenching to the south of the River Glen, on land off Sunnydale Close, revealed medieval salt-making waste in association with 11th to 13th century pottery (MLI 124942). A large medieval pit was recorded in a separate area (MLI 24944) and further pottery (12th to 14th century) is recorded under MLI 24949).

The ploughing in 1963 (see above) is said to have uncovered (in addition to the medieval pottery mentioned above) possible evidence of 18th century brick-making on land immediately south of the current site (MLI 22466).

A post medieval ditch and pit (MLI 189197) and an undated feature (MLI 189196) were recorded during a watching brief on land off Stockhouse Lane, south of the current site and north of the river.

Trial trenching on land off Gosberton Road (ELI 11472), immediately to the north of the current site, revealed no evidence of archaeologically significant remains

The 1904 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map shows the site corresponding to a rectangular field, with another field and the Crown Inn to the south and further agricultural land to the north and west. Ordnance Survey mapping from 1956 at 6 inches to the mile depicts a rectangular structure just south-west of the location of the existing dwelling at the northern edge of the site.

4.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Full planning permission for the construction of nine houses was granted by South Holland District Council in May 2022 (Ref. H17-1016-21). However, information from the evaluation carried out in December 2021 has yet to be submitted and will now be included in a new submission by Seagate Homes Ltd.

The programme of trial evaluation was originally recommended by the archaeological adviser to the local planning authority (South Holland District Council) in comments dated 21st October 2021. The adviser's comments included a request that the applicant submit the results of archaeological trial trench evaluation as part of the application for planning permission. The programme of trial trenching was required to assess the potential for survival of significant archaeological remains at the site in order to inform a strategy for mitigation of adverse impacts arising from the development.

5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 24th November 2021, were to:

- *provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.*
- *assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*
- *provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.*
- *provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.*
- *provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER).*

6.0 METHODOLOGY

The four trenches were located in accordance with directions laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), and approved by the curatorial archaeologist.

Due to the accumulation of dumped deposits which formed the modern car-park hardstanding, Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were expanded to allow the sides to be stepped to facilitate safe access to potential archaeological deposits.

The most recent deposits were removed mechanically, using a tracked 360° digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was discontinued when archaeological deposits were exposed, or when undisturbed natural deposits were revealed. Exposed surfaces, both vertical and horizontal, were then cleaned by hand to define the archaeological remains.

Potential archaeological features were further investigated by manual excavation in line with the sampling guidelines outlined in the WSI.

A record of the investigations was compiled through:

- Notes detailing the progress of archaeological fieldwork.
- Individual written descriptions of archaeological contexts made on pro-forma recording sheets and indexed appropriately.
- Measured section drawings showing specific archaeological contexts as well as general stratigraphic sequences, produced at scales 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.
- Measured plans of archaeological contexts (individual and/or multiple) at scale 1:20
- Sequences of colour digital photographs showing individual archaeological features and overall site circumstances.

The trenches, the features and the sample hand-excavated slots were located using survey grade GPS equipment, referenced to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

At the discretion of the site supervisor, a single palaeoenvironmental sample was taken of a deposit considered potentially suitable for further processing.

7.0 RESULTS

The results of the investigations are described below, with reference to numbers assigned in the field to the various archaeological contexts. The numbers in square brackets refer to cut features, whereas those in parentheses describe deposits. Appendix A, the Context Summary, provides full descriptions of the contexts.

7.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 5)

The trench was orientated east north-east to west south-west and was located approximately 9.5m from the northern boundary in the central area of the site. At the time of the fieldwork, ground level in this part of the site (on average from +3.2m to +3.3m OD) was approximately 1m lower than that of the elevated former carpark just to the south within which the other trenches were located (Plate 3 & Plate 4). Deeper excavations near the ends of the trench suffered from ingress of ground-water due to wet conditions at the time of the fieldwork.

Natural light brown and greyish brown alluvial silt deposits were revealed at the western end of the trench at approximately 2.7m OD, 0.6m from existing ground level. These deposits were investigated by hand-auger bore-hole (BH1) down to +0.14m OD (3.16m below modern ground level). Despite minor variations in colour and composition, there were no indications of archaeological deposits buried at depth in the area of the trench.

Natural alluvium (103) was truncated 5.45m from the western end of the trench by steep-sided north north-west to south south-east aligned cut (104) (Fig. 6, Section 1 & Section 2. Plate 5). Hand excavation at its western edge, and further investigation of its extent by hand-auger bore-hole (BH2 & BH3), suggested it to be a substantial cut, possibly linear or rectangular in plan, and at least 2m north to south by at least 16m east to west and at least 1.85m deep. Most of the area of the trench appeared to be situated within the extent of the feature, the base of which lay at around +0.66m OD, 2.64m below the modern ground surface.

Towards its western edge, the earliest fill of cut [104] was very dark grey or black organic silt (123) (identified within BH2), above which lay mid to dark grey sandy silt (105), from which mid twelfth to fourteenth century pottery was recovered (Fig. 6, Section 2). Above (105), light brown sandy silt (115) had the nature of an alluvial deposit, and above it (at around +1.95m OD - 1.3m below existing ground level) lay dark grey or black deposit (107), composed of organic material and silt (Plate 6). Analysis of a palaeoenvironmental sample of (107), taken to check for possible settlement and industrial residues,

revealed the deposit to contain a significant proportion of charred cereal grains (Appendix D), and pottery fragments of 10th to 12th century date were recovered when processing the sample. Fill (107) was sealed by deposits (106) and (116), both of which were probably alluvial deposits.

At the eastern end of the trench, fills of the large feature were examined down to +1.14m OD (2.16m below existing ground level) by hand auger bore-hole (BH3), at which level the hand auger was stopped by a hard obstruction, probably a stone. Above this obstruction, fills comprised soft and sticky dark grey or black organic silt (129), mixed grey and brown silt (128), mid to dark grey silt (127), light greyish brown silt (126), mid to dark grey silt (125), firm brown clayey silt (112) and sandy silt (111). A sherd of mid 14th to 16th century Bourne-type pottery was recovered from (111).

Three shallow and approximately parallel west north-west to east south-east aligned linear anomalies were revealed to cut the alluvial fill represented by deposits (111) and (116) in the central part of the trench (Fig. 5. Fig. 7, Section 5. Plate 7)). The northernmost, cut [133], was quite ephemeral, and was filled by blackish brown clayey silt (132), which included a high organic content. Approximately 1.29m to the south lay [118], filled with similarly organic deposit (117), and a further 1.33m south was cut [131], filled, again, with highly organic deposit (130). These features were interpreted as associated, and probably represented ruts or cultivation scars.

Deposit (114), revealed in the northern side of he trench, represented the same dark organic deposit, and indicated that it may have extended further to define a former land-surface within partially filled large feature [104] (Fig. 6, Section 1. Plate 5); thickening of (114) towards its western limit correlated with the alignment of linear cut [131], and probably indicated continuation of [131] beyond the trench to the north-west.

The group of linear scars was sealed by light brown sandy silt (113), possibly an alluvial deposit, which formed a general layer 0.35m thick. Towards the east, 3.7m from the eastern end of the trench, deposit (113) was truncated by circular pit [108], 2.08m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 7, Section 3 & Section 4. Plate 8). The pit was filled by the following sequence: greyish brown clayey silt (119), orange (possibly scorched) sandy silt (120), dark blackish brown silt with charcoal and occasional small brick or tile fragments (110) and dark blackish brown mottled silt (109). Medieval pottery and fragments of 16th to 18th century brick were recovered from (110), together with iron nails and a key of 15th to 17th century date. A sherd of mid 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered from (109).

The fills of the pit were sealed by subsoil (102), above which topsoil (101) was the most recent deposit recorded within the trench. A 17th to early 18th century clay tobacco pipe stem, recovered as an unstratified find from the trench spoil, was retained as context (100).

7.2 Trench 2

The trench was orientated north north-west to south south-east and located near the western edge of the site. Most of the trench lay within the elevated car-park area where the surface elevation was approximately 4.25m OD. Towards the north was a steep scarp down to existing ground level of approximately +3m OD at the very northern end of the trench (Plate 9).

The thickness of the car park deposits necessitated more extensive excavation to step the trench sides in order to permit safe access to potential archaeological deposits, particularly in view of the wet conditions prevalent at the time of the fieldwork (Plate 10). Deposits upon which the car park material had been dumped were discoloured and darkened, possibly through confinement below the overlying mass.

Although no certain archaeological features were identified, it was clear that the southern end of the trench represented some form of topographic hollow, with the probable land surface before modern dumping at approximately +2.2m OD - over 1m lower than ground level near Trench 1.

Natural alluvial silts were investigated down to +0.81m OD, with no indications of archaeological material buried at depth. Above these deposits near the southern end of the trench, discoloured dark grey deposit (210) represented former topsoil and subsoil (Fig. 8, Section 11. Plate 11) and contained pottery of late 18th to early 19th century date. Near the northern end of the trench, former topsoil (204) was

encountered at approximately +2.75m OD, and immediately below it deposit (205) was interpreted as the latest in the series of natural alluvial deposits (Section 10).

At the southern end of the trench material dumped immediately above the postulated former topsoil was quite mixed and included items such as corrugated iron sheeting. More stony layers had been deposited subsequently to level and consolidate the hardstanding.

7.3 Trench 3

The west south-west to east north-east aligned trench was located in the central part of the site, approximately 9m north of the southern site boundary. The whole trench was located within the raised car-park area, with a surface elevation of approximately +4.3m OD.

The thickness of the car-park deposits necessitated additional excavation to step the trench sides in order to permit safe access to potential archaeological deposits, particularly in view of the wet conditions prevalent at the time of the fieldwork. Deposits upon which the car park material had been dumped were discoloured and darkened, possibly through confinement below the overlying mass (Plate 12).

Natural alluvial silts were investigated by 3 hand-auger bore-holes in the base of the trench down to an elevation of +0.98m OD, with no indications of archaeological material buried at depth. At the eastern end of the trench discoloured bluish grey silt (307) probably indicated the upper part of the natural silt sequence (Fig 8, Section 9), whereas at the western end of the trench the natural sequence was sealed by mottled grey or black clayey silt with occasional small brick or tile fragments (306), interpreted as subsoil (Fig. 8, Section 8). mid 12th to 14th century pottery with a Bourne-type fabric was recovered from (306).

Deposits (306) and (307) were sealed by blackish grey former topsoil (305), revealed at an elevation of between +3.16m OD near the western end of the trench and 3.32m OD near the eastern end.

The former topsoil was sealed by dumped deposits (304), (303), (302) and (301), which raised ground level to that of the existing car park.

7.4 Trench 4

The trench was located near the eastern edge of the site, parallel with and approximately 8.5m west of the west side of Gosberton Road. It was located entirely within the hardstanding of the existing car-park with a surface elevation of around 3.9m at its north end to around +4.15m OD at its southern end. Deposits upon which the car park material had been dumped were discoloured and darkened, possibly through confinement below the overlying mass.

The width of the trench was extended in anticipation that the thickness of car-park deposits would necessitate additional excavation to step the trench sides. This trench proved to be particularly prone to flooding during the wet conditions prevalent at the time of the fieldwork (Plate 13 & Plate 14).

Natural alluvial silts were investigated by 4 hand auger bore-holes down an elevation of around +1.42m OD (2.73m below modern ground level), with no indications of archaeological material buried at depth.

Alluvium was sealed by dark grey silty clay subsoil (407), from which 10th to 12th century Stamford Ware pottery was recovered (Fig 9, Section 6 & Section 7. Plate 15). Above the subsoil, former topsoil (406) indicated a previous ground surface elevation of around approximately +3.2m OD.

At the northern end of the trench, the former ground surface was truncated by vertically sided linear cut [426]. The orientation of the cut was approximately perpendicular to the trench and aligned with the location of a modern sewer access chamber located within the car-park area 24m to the west. The likelihood of encountering a live modern sewer had been indicated by the client, and, consequently, the feature was not subject to further disturbance once identified as a modern service.

The old ground surface was sealed by dumped deposits (405), (404), (403), (402), and (401), which built up the surface level of the existing car park.

A modest collection of finds recovered during the project included 13 sherds of pottery, brick fragments, animal bone and shell fragments, 3 metal objects and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe. The pottery assemblage is typical for the area.

8.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Archaeological features, deposits and artefacts revealed during the fieldwork provide evidence of habitation in the vicinity of the development site during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods, although no direct remains were encountered of contemporary dwellings and associated structures. The records generated through the project have been interpreted to represent four archaeological periods at the site, as follows:

1. Medieval A
2. Medieval B
3. Post-Medieval
4. Modern

8.1. Medieval A

The earliest archaeological phase comprised the excavation of the large feature revealed in Trench 1. The full extent of the feature remains unknown, although it appears to have included all but the very western end of Trench 1. No evidence was revealed in Trench 3 to indicate that the feature continued as a channel through the site to the south; it is probably best regarded as a very large pit of unknown function, probably excavated during the period AD1150 to 1400.

Deposits which filled the pit, in the main, appeared to be alluvial in origin, with the inclusion of occasional highly organic deposits. Analysis of a sample of deposit (107) revealed a significant assemblage of charred grain, interpreted to possibly represent a sample of cleaned cereal kept as a domestic food store (Appendix D). The material had presumably been disposed of in the pit following accidental combustion.

Previous archaeological evaluation of the site immediately to the north had identified dark grey deposits in all the trenches at various levels from 0.9m to 2.3m below (then) existing ground level, interpreted as alluvial. It is of note that similar dark grey deposits were not identified at depth in trenches 2, 3 and 4 of this investigation.

8.2. Medieval B

Three parallel shallow linear features were revealed to mark the upper fills of the large pit described above. They were interpreted as cultivation scars, and probably define a former land surface. The land surface was subsequently sealed by a further accumulation of probable alluvial silt.

8.3. Post-Medieval

Pit [108], revealed at the eastern end of Trench 1, probably represented an episode of Post-Medieval refuse disposal at the site.

8.4. Modern

The site area has undergone significant modification in the modern era, mainly through creation of a raised area of hardstanding as a car park for customers of the former transport cafeteria immediately adjacent to the south. The trial trenching also revealed the location of a modern sewer trench towards the north end of Trench 4.

8.5 Conclusions

The location of the site near the core of the medieval village indicated that some evidence of contemporary occupation might be expected within the development area. It was, therefore, unsurprising that archaeological features, deposits, and artefacts were revealed during the trial trench evaluation to indicate activity locally during the medieval and post-medieval periods. There was, however, no direct structural evidence of dwellings or associated buildings within the trenches.

From observation of conditions within the excavated trenches, it was apparent that the deposits below the car-park area in the southern part of the site had been compromised, and possibly to some extent contaminated, by confinement below dumped deposits which formed the modern hardstanding.

A modest collection of finds recovered during the project included 20 sherds of pottery, brick fragments, animal bone and shell fragments, 3 metal objects and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe. The pottery assemblage is typical for the area.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Witham Archaeology would like to thank Lee Russell of Seagate Homes Ltd for assistance in facilitating completion of the report. The roles and contributions of Ian Marshman of Lincolnshire County Council, in his capacity of archaeological adviser to South Holland District Council, and his successor, Ruben Lopez are also gratefully acknowledged.

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11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: SUGR21

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: H17-1016-21 (original application)

FIELD OFFICER: C. Moulis

NGR: TF 25052 28296

CIVIL PARISH: Surfleet

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 6th December 2021 to 10th December 2021

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

COMMISSIONED BY: Originally by G. R. Merchant Ltd on behalf of Scottpark Developments Ltd, but taken over by Seagate Homes Ltd in December 2024

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: LCNCC : 2021.213

TARGET ACCESSION DATE: April 2024

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Register	6 Sheets
Context Records	98 Sheets
Section Register	1 Sheet
Drawings at Scale (var.)	7 Sheets -Drawing film
Plan Register	1 Sheet
Plan at Scale 1:250	1 Annotated Paper Sheet
Photographic Register	1 Sheet
Digital Photographs	37 Shots (37 image files)
GPS digital survey data	2 Surveys (6 data files))
Sample Register	1 Sheet
Sample Sheet	1 Sheet
Small Finds Register	1 Sheet
Digital Drawing	1 data file
Daily Record Sheets	5 Sheets

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking west



Plate 2: General view of the site, looking east



Plate 3: View of the north side of the site, looking north-east



Plate 4: View of Trench 1, looking east



Plate 5: Trench 1, Section 1. Showing cut [104], looking north



Plate 6: Trench 1. View showing deposit (107), looking north-east



Plate 7: Trench 1. Cuts [118] and [131], looking north



Plate 8: Trench 1. Pit [108], looking east



Plate 9: Trench 2. General view, looking north



Plate 10: Trench 2. General view, looking south-east



Plate 11: Trench 2. Section 11, looking east



Plate 12: Trench 3. View of the north side, looking north-west



Plate 13: Trench 4. View to show site conditions, looking south-west



Plate 14: Trench 4. View to show site conditions, looking south



Plate 15 Trench 4. Section 6, looking east

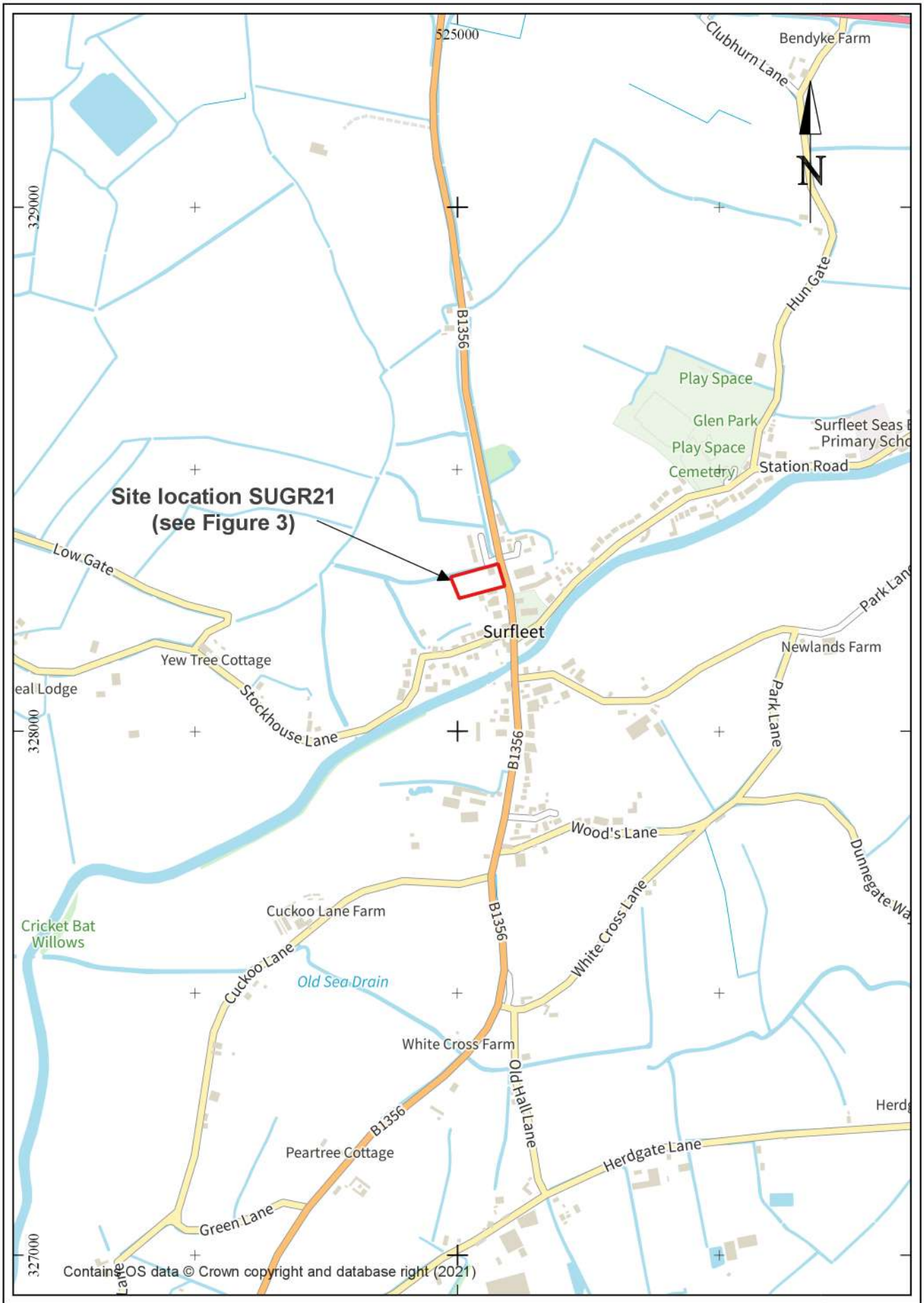


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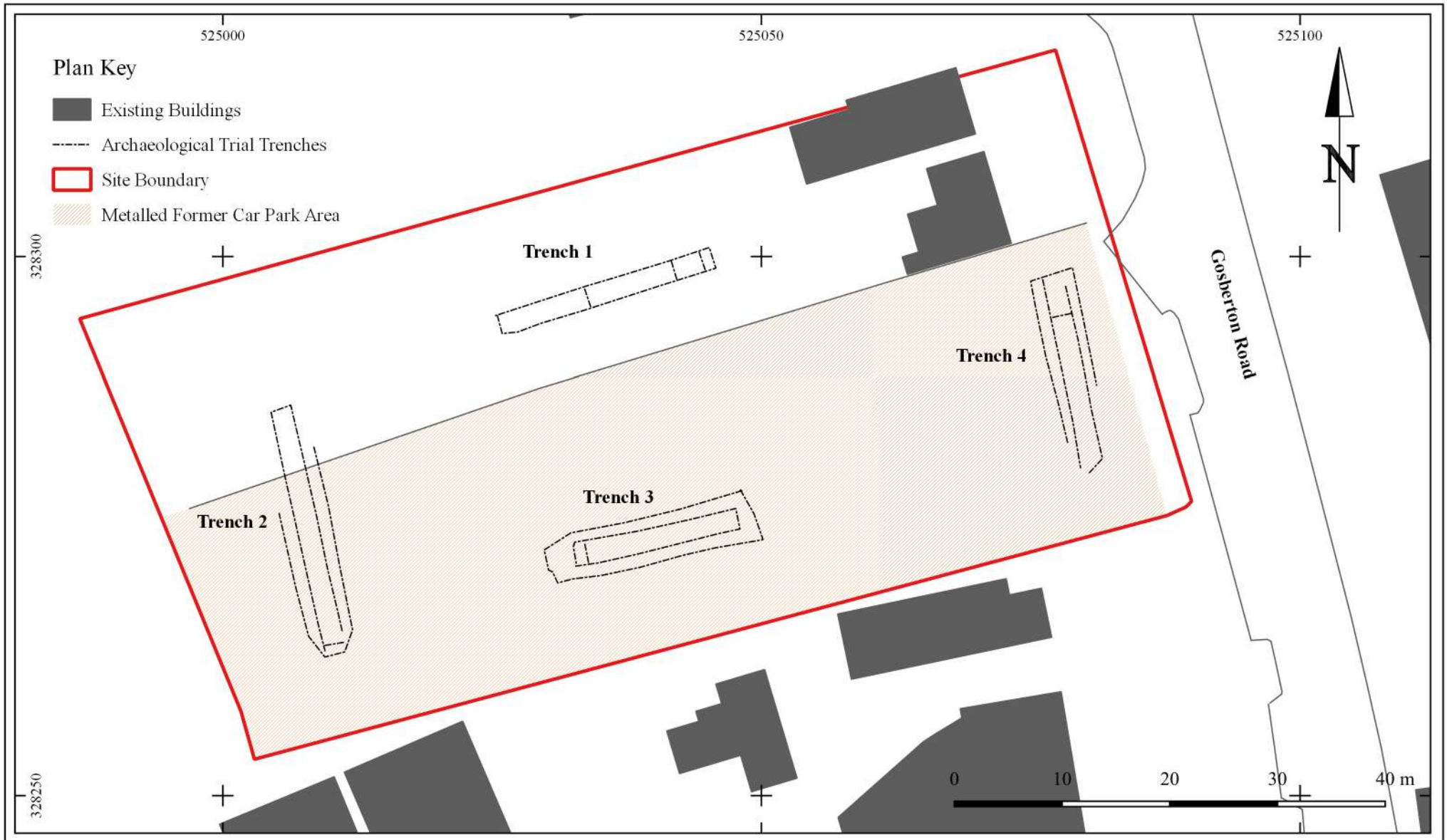
Witham Archaeology

General Location Maps

Fig. 1



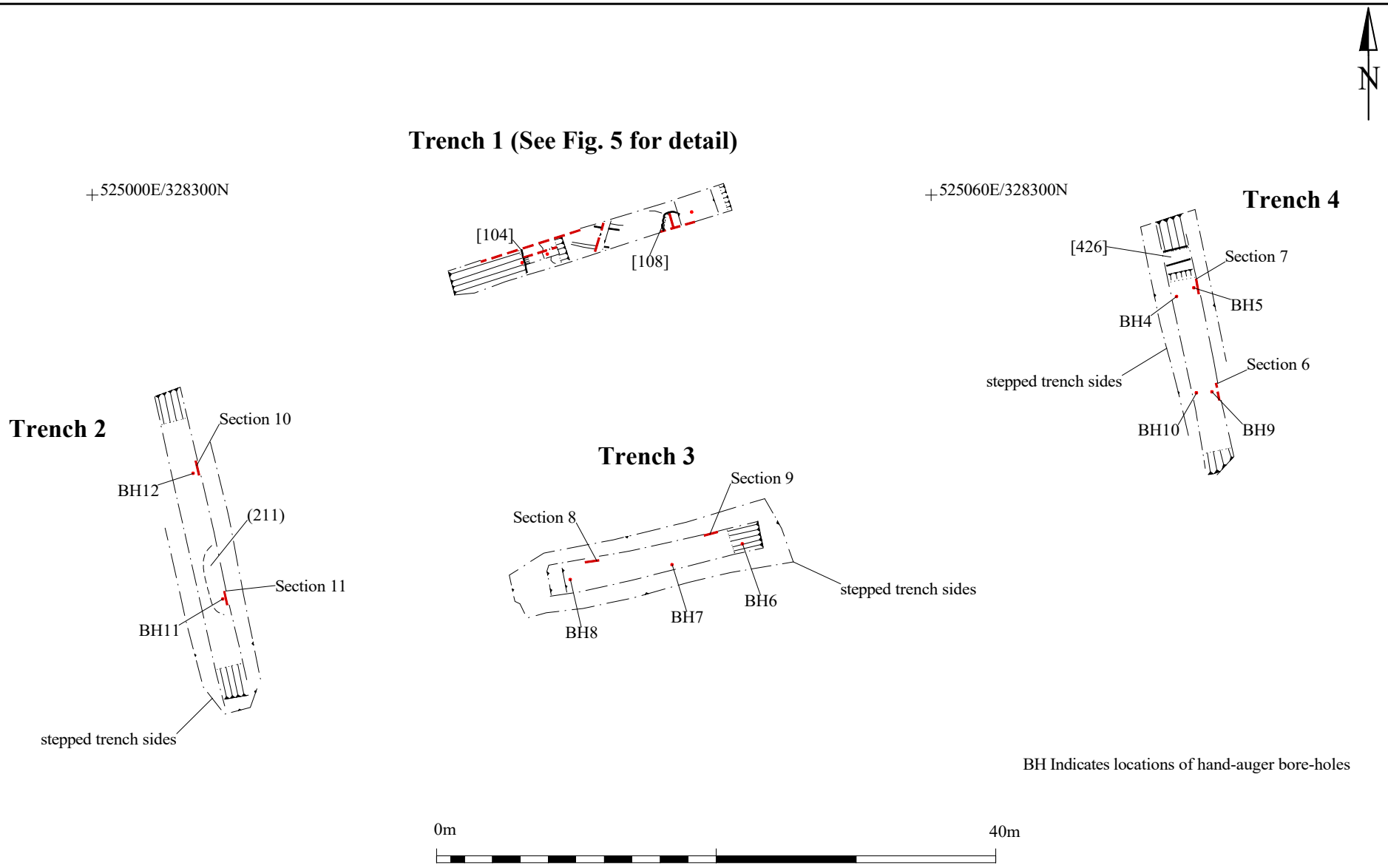
Witham Archaeology Site Location Map Scale 1:10 000 Fig. 2

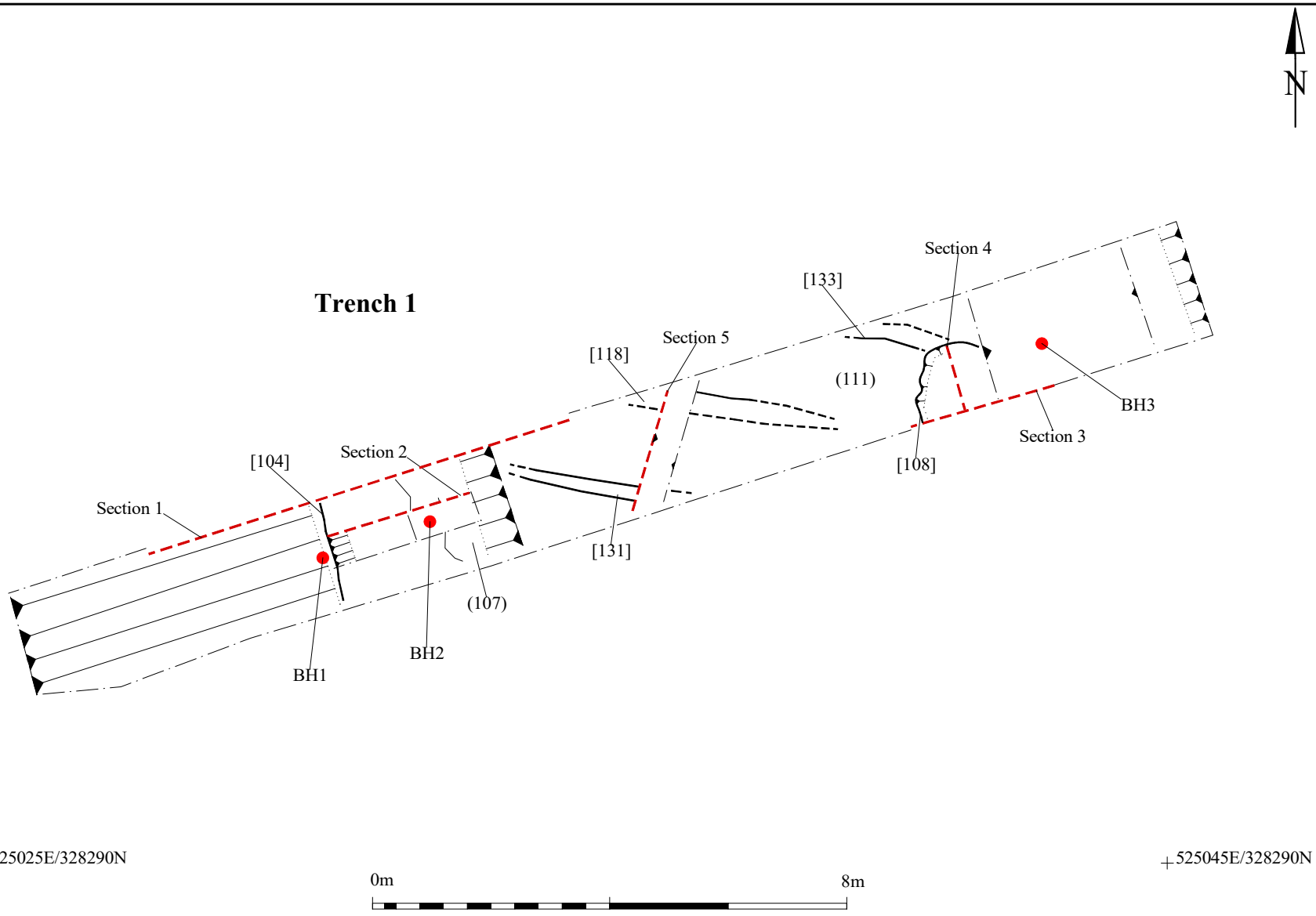


Witham Archaeology

SUGR21 Site Plan Scale 1:500

Fig. 3


N
Trench 1 (See Fig. 5 for detail)
525000E/328300N
[104]
[108]
525060E/328300N
Trench 4
[426]
Section 7
BH5
BH4
Section 6
stepped trench sides
BH10
BH9
Trench 2
Section 10
BH12
(211)
Section 11
BH11
stepped trench sides
Trench 3
Section 9
Section 8
BH6
stepped trench sides
BH7
BH8
BH Indicates locations of hand-auger bore-holes
0m
40m

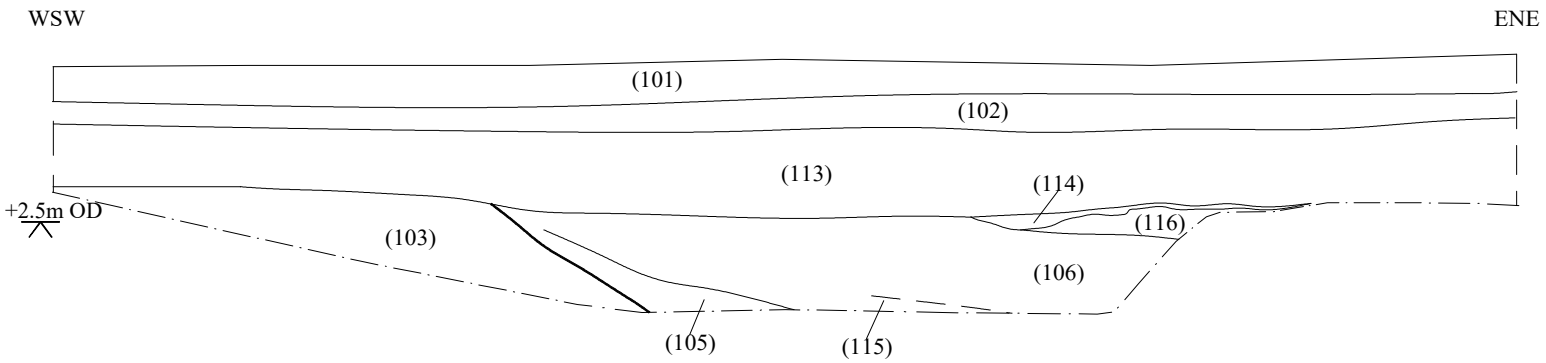


Witham Archaeology

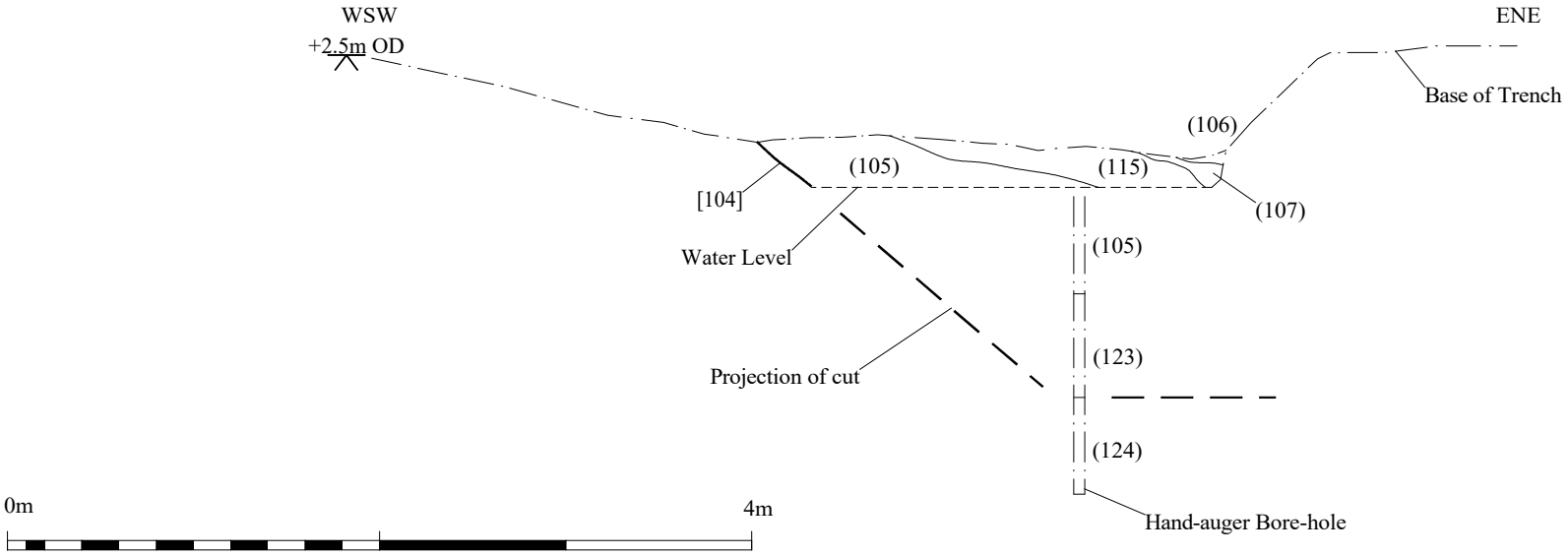
SUGR21 Trench 1 Scale 1: 100

Fig. 5

Section 1



Section 2

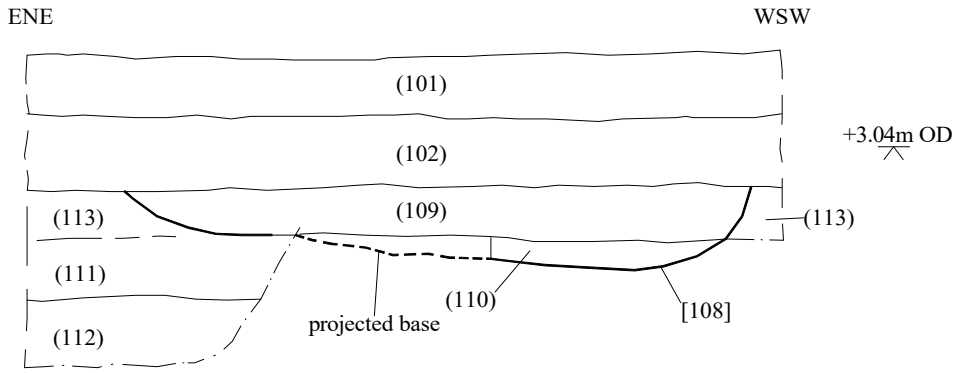


Witham Archaeology

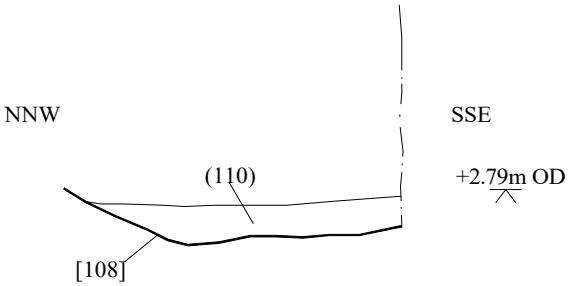
SUGR21 Trench 1 Section 1 & Section 2 Scale 1: 40

Fig. 6

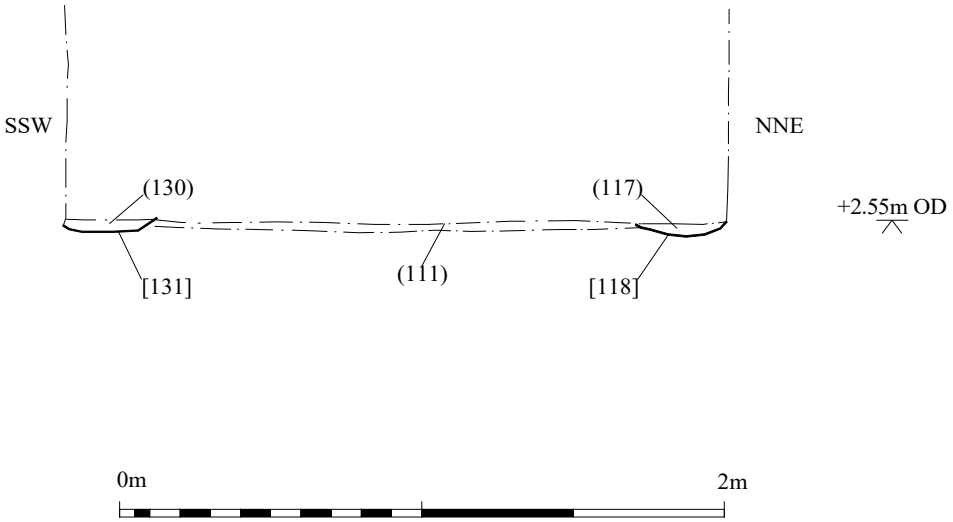
Section 3



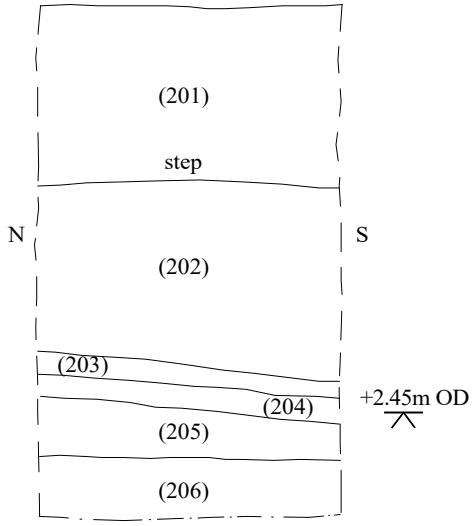
Section 4



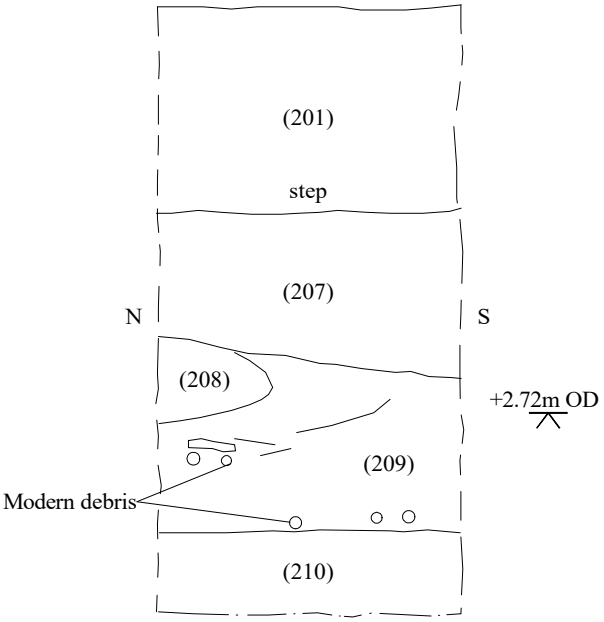
Section 4



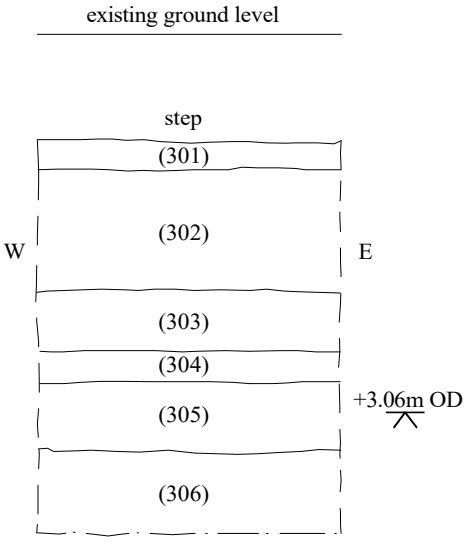
Trench 2. Section 10



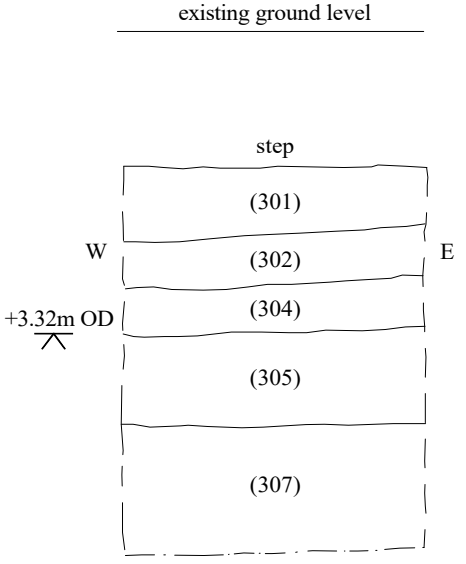
Trench 2. Section 11



Trench 3. Section 8

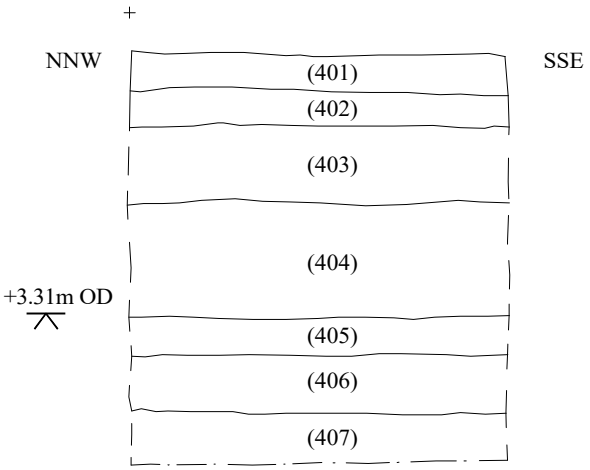


Trench 3. Section 9

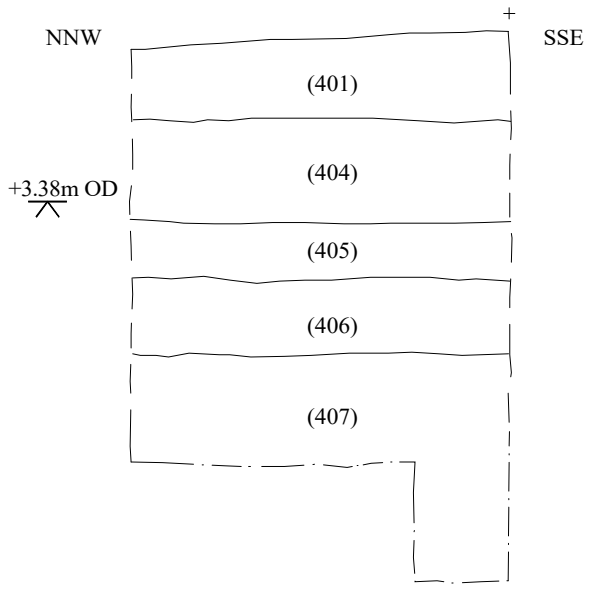




Section 6



Section 7







Witham Archaeology

SUGR21 The proposed development Scale 1:500

Fig. 10

Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Unstratified finds	Finds recovery
101	1	Moderately firm very dark grey sandy silt with occasional small brick or tile fragments and occasional coal fragments. 0.1m to 0.2m thick	Topsoil
102	1	Moderately firm mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional coal fragments and occasional brick or tile fragments. 0.25m thick	Subsoil
103	1	Moderately firm and sticky. Waterlogged and jelly-like at limit of excavation. Light orange-brown sandy silt at least 0.7m thick. A laminated deposit	Estuarine silt deposit
104	1	Substantial cut, possibly linear, in plan at least 2m north to south by at least 16m east to west and at least 1.85m deep. Steep sides	Large pit or possible channel
105	1	Moderately firm and sticky mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional sub-angular limestone fragments. At least 0.25m thick	Fill of cut [104]
106	1	Moderately firm light brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Fill of cut [104]
107	1	Soft very dark grey or black deposit. Composed of organic material and silt. 0.15m thick	Fill of cut [104]
108	1	Circular cut, 2.08m wide and 0.25m deep. Variable steep sides continuous with a very gently concave base	Pit
109	1	Loose dark blackish brown mottled silt. 0.15m thick	Fill of pit [108]
110	1	Loose dark blackish brown silt with charcoal staining. Occasional small brick or tile fragments. 0.1m thick	Fill of pit [108]
111	1	Loose to firm sandy silt. 0.25m thick	Layer
112	1	Firm grey clayey silt. 0.24m thick	Layer
113	1	Moderately firm light brown sandy silt. 0.35m thick	Layer
114	1	Soft dark grey mixed with mid to dark olive grey deposit. Sandy silt with organic material and ash and occasional small mid red flecks of burnt silt. Up to 0.08m thick	Layer. Possible former land surface
115	1	Moderately firm sticky light brown sandy silt. At least 0.25m thick	Fill of pit [104]
116	1	Soft mid to light greyish brown sandy silt. 0.1m thick	Fill of cut [104]
117	1	Loose blackish brown clayey silt with organic material. Up to 0.3m wide and 0.04m thick	Fill of cut [118]
118	1	Linear cut, 0.3m wide and 0.04m deep. Concave sides continuous with a concave base. Aligned west north-west to east south-east	Linear anomaly
119	1	Firm greyish brown clayey silt. 0.4m wide and 0.1m thick	Fill of pit [108]
120	1	Firm orange sandy silt. 0.15m thick	Deposit
121	1	Soft light brown sandy silt. 0.22m thick	Natural deposit
122	1	Soft mid to light grey sandy silt, at least 1.1m thick. A laminated deposit	Natural deposit
123	1	Soft and sticky very dark grey or black deposit. Organic silt, 0.56m thick	Fill of cut [104]
124	1	Plastic and sticky light brownish grey clayey silt. At least 0.5m thick	Natural deposit
125	1	Soft mid to dark grey silt, 0.18m thick	Possible fill of cut [104]

Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
126	1	Soft light greyish brown silt. 0.18m thick	Deposit
127	1	Soft and sticky mid to dark grey silt, 0.16m thick	Deposit
128	1	Soft and sticky mixed grey and brown silt, 0.14m thick	Possible fill of cut [104]
129	1	Soft and sticky dark grey or black organic silt, at least 0.1m thick. Includes hard (stony?) inclusions: auger stopped by hard obstruction	Fill deposit
130	1	Loose blackish brown clayey silt including dark organic material	Fill of cut [131]
131	1	Linear cut, 0.3m wide and 0.04m deep. Concave sides continuous with a concave base. Aligned west north-west to east south-east	Linear anomaly
132	1	Loose blackish brown clayey silt including dark organic material	Fill of cut [133]
133	1	Linear cut, approximately 0.3m wide and 0.04m deep. Gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a gently concave base	Linear anomaly
201	2	Firm deposit. Successive dumps of asphalt, gravel, soil and rubble. Up to 1.2m thick	Dumped levelling deposits of the existing car park
202	2	Firm orange-brown clayey silt with brick and concrete inclusions. 0.65m thick	Dumped deposit
203	2	Firm greyish white deposit of mortar and cement rubble. 0.8m thick	Dumped deposit
204	2	Firm greyish brown clayey silt, 0.1m thick.	Former topsoil
205	2	Firm orange-brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Deposit
206	2	Firm mottled orange greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m thick	Deposit
207	2	Loose orange-yellow gravel, 0.55m thick	Dumped deposit
208	2	Firm yellowish-orange clay, 0.3m thick	Dumped deposit
209	2	Firm dark greyish brown clayey silt with sheet metal, bricks and roots. 0.6m thick	Dumped deposit
210	2	Firm mottled dark greyish brown clayey silt with charcoal flecks and small brick or tile fragments. 0.25m thick	Former topsoil
211	2	Soft and sticky mid to dark grey sandy silt, 0.14m thick	Deposit
212	2	Moderately firm mid grey silt, 0.06m thick	Deposit
213	2	Soft mid brownish grey silt, 0.15m thick	Deposit
214	2	Soft mid brown deposit with moderate light grey mottles. Silt, 0.16m thick	Deposit
215	2	Soft mid brownish grey silt with occasional laminations evident. 0.22m thick	Natural deposit
216	2	Soft mid brownish grey silt with moderate rusty mottles. 0.22m thick	Natural deposit
217	2	Soft and plastic mid brownish grey silt, 0.2m thick	Natural deposit
218	2	Soft mid bluish grey sandy silt, 0.08m thick	Natural deposit
219	2	Soft and plastic light brown silt, 0.018m thick	Natural deposit
220	2	Soft and plastic light brown silt, at least 0.4m thick	Natural deposit
301	3	Firm. Black to orange successive dumps of asphalt and gravels. At least 0.5m thick	Dumped levelling deposits of the existing car park

Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
302	3	Loose orange-yellow deposit of gravel with occasional hardcore and brick. 0.15m to 0.2m thick	Dumped levelling deposits of the existing car park
303	3	Firm orange and black deposit of brick rubble and silty clay. 0.2m thick	Dumped levelling deposits of the existing car park
304	3	Loose pinkish grey fine silt with occasional small brick or tile fragments. 0.1m to 0.15m thick	Deposit
305	3	Firm blackish grey clayey silt with occasional shell fragments. 0.25m to 0.3m thick. Discoloured below dumped deposits	Former topsoil or subsoil
306	3	Firm mottled grey or black clayey silt with occasional small brick or tile fragments. 0.3m thick	Deposit
307	3	Loose bluish grey silt, 0.45m thick	Deposit
308	3	Moderately firm mid brown fine sandy silt, 0.08m thick	Deposit
309	3	Soft mid to light olive grey fine sandy silt, 0.12m thick	Deposit
310	3	Soft mid bluish grey sandy silt with occasional organic inclusions. 0.22m thick	Deposit
311	3	Soft mid brown sandy silt, 0.1m thick	Deposit
312	3	Soft and plastic light greyish brown silt with moderate black mineral or organic flecking. At least 0.1m thick	Deposit
313	3	Soft mid brown sandy silt with frequent dark grey flecking. 0.5m thick	Deposit
314	3	Soft mid to light brown sandy silt, 0.46m thick	Deposit
315	3	Soft mid to light brown sandy silt, 0.46m thick. Occasional laminations evident	Deposit
316	3	Soft and plastic light brown silt, 0.36m thick	Deposit
317	3	Soft light brown sandy silt with dark grey mottles. 0.3m thick	Deposit
318	3	Soft mid to light brown sandy silt, 0.36m thick	Deposit
319	3	Soft and plastic mid to light brown sandy silt, at least 0.3m thick. Occasional laminations evident	Deposit
401	4	Loose (broken up by digger) black and orange deposit of tarmac and gravel. 0.2m thick	Car park surface
402	4	Loose orange-yellow gravel, approximately 0.1m thick	Dumped levelling deposit of the existing car park
403	4	Solid greyish white concrete rubble, 0.2m thick	Dumped levelling deposit of the existing car park
404	4	Loose grey deposit of sand with some gravel, up to 0.4m thick	Dumped levelling deposit of the existing car park
405	4	Solid orange and black deposit of brick with some silty clay. Includes crushed concrete. Up to 0.15m thick	Dumped levelling deposit of the existing car park
406	4	Firm dark greyish brown clayey silt up to 0.2m thick	Deposit
407	4	Firm dark grey silty clay up to 0.6m thick	Deposit
408	4	Compact light brown silty fine sand, 0.5m thick	Deposit
409	4	Soft light brown sandy silt, 0.14m thick	Deposit
410	4	Soft and sticky light bluish grey silt, 0.16m thick	Deposit
411	4	Soft and sticky light brownish grey silt with occasional small organic inclusions. At least 0.4m thick	Deposit

Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
412	4	Moderately firm grey silt with occasional light brown silty concretions. 0.3m thick	Deposit
413	4	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.14m thick	Deposit
414	4	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt mottled with mid grey. 0.2m thick	Deposit
415	4	Soft light bluish grey silt, 0.04m thick	Deposit
416	4	Soft light brownish grey silt, 0.16m thick	Deposit
417	4	Moderately firm mid grey silt with occasional light brown inclusions. 0.18m thick	Deposit
418	4	Soft mid grey sandy silt, 0.08m thick	Deposit
419	4	Soft mid greyish brown silt with mid grey mottles. 0.38m thick	Deposit
420	4	Soft light brownish grey sandy silt at least 0.18m thick	Deposit
421	4	Moderately firm mid brownish grey silt with moderate very light brown inclusions. 0.48m thick	Deposit
422	4	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.18m thick	Deposit
423	4	Soft light brownish grey sandy silt, 0.18m thick	Deposit
424	4	Soft and plastic light bluish grey silt at least 0.1m thick	Deposit
425	4	Firm light grey silt, 1m wide and at least 2m long. Feature avoided and not fully revealed	Fill of [426], modern service
426	4	Linear cut, 1m wide by at least 2m long. Aligned west south-west to east north-east. Projected course aligns with the location of a known sewer access chamber	Modern service trench

APPENDIX B: THE CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

POTTERY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Barclay *et al* (2016). A total of 20 sherds from a maximum 20 vessels, weighing 321g was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the pottery is included in Table 1.

Results

Table 1, Archive of the Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
100	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics	B	Jug/ Jar	1	1	8	BS	
105	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics	B + calc	Jar/ bowl	1	1	27	Base	
105	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics	B + calc	Shallow dish	1	1	76	Profile	Pressed rim; external soot
105	ST	Stamford Ware	B	Jar/ Pitcher	1	1	1	BS	No glaze
107 <1>	ST	Stamford Ware	G	Jar/ Pitcher	1	1	1	BS	Yellow/green glaze
107 <1>	ST	Stamford Ware	B	Jar/ Pitcher	1	1	3	BS	No glaze; soot
107 <1>	ST	Stamford Ware	B	Jar/ Pitcher	1	1	1	BS	No glaze
107 <1>	SNEOT	St Neot's Ware		Jar/ Bowl	1	1	1	BS	Soot
107 <1>	MEDLOC	Medieval Local Fabrics	Light firing; reduced core; oxid surfaces	Jug/ Jar	1	1	1	BS	Possibly Stamford?
107 <1>	MISC	Miscellaneous		?	2	2	1	BS	Greyware?
109	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics	B	Jar/ bowl	1	1	18	BS	Abraded
109	DST	Developed Stamford ware	B	Jug	1	1	5	BS	Internal CU glaze; ?ID
109	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	Oxidised medium sandy	Jug/ Jar	1	1	6	BS	Splashed amber glaze; possibly odd Toynton?
109	SLST	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered ware		Jar/ bowl	1	1	8	BS	Leached; soot; ?ID
110	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics	B	Jug/ Jar	1	1	67	Base	small finger impressions on underside of base
111	BOU	Bourne D ware	Slightly sandy	Jug/ Jar	1	1	59	BS	

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
210	CREA	Creamware		Hollow	1	1	1	BS	Abraded
306	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics	B	Jug	1	1	26	Rim	
407	ST	Stamford Ware	C	Jar/ Pitcher	1	1	11	BS	Thin yellow glaze
				TOTAL	**20**	**20**	**321**		

All the pottery in the assemblage is typical for the area; medieval sherds are present along with early modern pottery.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). Eight fragments of Ceramic Building Material, weighing 929g, was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the Ceramic Building Material is included in Table 2.

Results

Table 2, Archive of the Ceramic Building Material

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
110	BRK	Brick	Oxidised	4	66	Handmade	16th to 18th
110	BRK	Brick	Vitrified	3	122	Handmade	16th to 18th
110	BRK	Brick	Oxidised	1	741	Handmade; strike marks; sand and fabric bedded?	16th to 18th
			TOTAL	**8**	**929**		

FIRED CLAY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of 38 fragments of Fired Clay, weighing 25g, was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the Fired Clay is included in Table 3.

Results

Table 3, Archive of the Fired Clay

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description
107 <01>	FIRED CLAY	Oxidised fine sandy + organic impressions	38	25	Amorphous; no form; some soot
		TOTAL	**38**	**25**	

CONTEXT DATES

The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 4, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comment
100	Mid-12th to 14th	Date on a single sherd
105	Mid-12th to 14th	
107	10th to 12th	
109	Mid-12th to 14th	
110	16th to 18th	Date on CBM
111	Mid-14th to 16th	Date on a single sherd
210	Late 18th to early 19th	Date on a single sherd
306	Mid-12th to 14th	Date on a single sherd
407	10th to 12th	Date on a single sherd

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W <g>	Weight <grams>

REFERENCES

~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm

Barclay, A., Booth, P., Brown, D. H., Evans, J., Knight, D. and I. Wood, 2016, *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* [Internet], Medieval Pottery Research Group, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman pottery. Available at <https://medievalpottery.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/A-Standard-for-Pottery-Studies-in-Archaeology.pdf>

Appendix C: OTHER FINDS (NON-CERAMIC)

By Gary Taylor

Artefacts recovered during investigations at Gosberton Road, Surfleet, Lincolnshire (SUGR21), are reported, below.

The finds were examined and reported during March 2022 in accordance with CIfA guidelines (2020) and the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2019).

The Clay Tobacco Pipe

Introduction

The clay pipe was analysed in accordance with guidelines prepared by Davey (1981). A single piece of pipe weighing 1g was recovered.

Condition

The clay pipe is in good condition.

Results

Table 1, The Clay Tobacco Pipe

Context	Bore diameters, /64"						Total	Wt(g)	Comments	Context date
	9	8	7	6	5	4				
100				1			1	1	Stem	17th-early 18th century

Provenance

The clay pipe was recovered as unstratified material (100). The clay pipe is likely to be a local product, perhaps made in nearby Spalding.

Discussion

A single pipe stem of probably 17th to early 18th century date was recovered.

Potential and Recommendations

The clay pipe is of limited potential. No further work is required, and the material can be discarded.

Metal Finds

Introduction

Three metal items weighing a total of 73g were recovered.

Results

Table 2: The Metal Finds

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
110	iron	Nail, T-headed, encrusted	1	7	15th-17th century
	iron	Nail shaft, rectangular section, encrusted	1	3	
110 Δ1	iron	Key, oval bow, square bit, encrusted, 15th-17th century	1	63	
TOTALS			**3**	**73**	

Provenance

The metal items were all recovered from the fill (110) of a pit [108].

Discussion

Two iron nails, both probably smithed examples and one with a rectangular-sectioned shaft, were recovered. One has a T-shaped head.

An iron key was also retrieved. This has an oval bow and square bit, not over-stepped by the shaft, and is similar to keys of 15th-17th century date from Norwich (Goodall 1993, fig 118, nos. 1270-1, 1284).

Potential and Recommendations

The metal items probably indicate structural activity in the area. The items are of limited potential. No further work is required and the material could be discarded.

Other Finds

Introduction

A single other find weighing 63g was recovered.

Results

Table 3: The Other Finds

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
110	stone	Burnt limestone	1	63	

Provenance

The item was recovered from the fill (110) of a pit [108].

Discussion

A single burnt stone was recovered.

Potential and Recommendations

The burnt stone is of negligible potential. No further work is required and the material can be discarded.

CONTEXT DATE SUMMARY

The dating in the following Table is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 4, Summary of context dating

Context	Date (Century AD)	Comments
100	17th-early 18th	Based on 1 clay pipe; unstratified
110	15th-17th	Based on 1 metal

References

CIfA, 2020 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Davey, P, 1981 Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations. *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* ***4***, 65-88

Goodall, I H, 1993 'Lock furniture, hasps and keys', in S Margeson, *Norwich Households: The Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-1978*, East Anglian Archaeology **58**, 155-163

Lincolnshire County Council, 2019 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook.* Available at: http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1073/lincolnshire-archaeological-handbook (rev ed)

Abbreviations

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

W(g) Weight (grams)

APPENDIX D
Environmental Assessment

During evaluation excavations conducted by Witham Archaeology at 20 Gosberton Road, Surfleet a single soil sample and a small collection of animal bone were recovered. The site lies on former tidal flat sediments of clay and silt (Geology of Britain viewer | British Geological Survey (BGS)). The bulk sample derived from a large pit [104] or possible 'channel' feature in Trench 1 (Table 1), provisionally dated to the medieval period. The sample was submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment for the potential recovery of biological materials including charred plant remains for potential information on crop-husbandry and processing and other human activities at the site. In addition a small assemblage of hand collected animal bone and marine shell was submitted for identification.

Table 1. 20 Gosberton Road, Surfleet – SUGR21. Sample collected for environmental study

sample no.	context no.	samp. vol (l).	sample wt (kg)	context type	Spot dating
1	107	18	24	Fill of large pit 104, or possible channel feature	1150-1400 AD

Methods
The soil sample was processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The sample was washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1.0mm mesh for the residue. The flot and residue were dried and the dried residue refloated for the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volumes of the flots were measured, and the volume and weight of the dried residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The flots were divided into fractions using a stack of sieves for ease of assessment and scanned using a stereo-binocular microscope, with a magnification of up to x40. The presence and abundance of charred plant remains was recorded, along with the frequency of charcoal fragments larger and smaller than 2mm, the larger pieces being potentially identifiable and thus suitable for analysis. Other biological evidence in the flots was also noted, including un-charred plant material, bones, snails and insect remains. The item frequency of the charred plant and other environmental remains was scored (see Table 3). The flots were then bagged. The flots and finds from the sorted residue constitute the material archive of the sample.

The individual components of the sample were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 and 3, with the detailed hand collected bone and shell results summarised in Table 4.

Results

The sample washed down to a residue of concreted sediment, fired earth and archaeological inclusions. Archaeological finds included pottery, fired earth, animal bone, marine shell and two flakes of hammerscale in the magnetic fraction.

The density of hammerscale is too low to confidently associate it with the deposit, it may have moved down through the soil as a result of soil processes and worm action from later activity at the site.

The animal bone in the sample includes both burnt and unburnt fragments, all of which are too small to identify to species by visual means. The one gramme of marine shell includes fragments of cockle and common mussel. A single incisor indicates the presence of mouse but it has not been identified to species. Four fragments of fish bone were present including two eel vertebrae, a burnt vertebra from an as yet unidentified small fish and a further unidentified fish bone.

The flots are large (a combined total of 0.82 litres) and were dominated by charred cereal grain, including wheat, barley, oats and rye, with possible pea present and other large, medium and small legumes, some potentially cultivated. The charred remains also include culm nodes (possible straw), occasional fragments of cereal chaff, *Chenopodium* sp., *Lithospermum arvense*, and lots of as yet unidentified small seeds. A relatively small proportion of the flot was charcoal, and although most of this was fragmented and comminuted a few fragments are of sufficient size to permit species identification. With nearly 5% of the sample by volume comprising charred cereal grain (several thousand grain) this 15cm thick dark grey/black deposit must represent a dump of burnt, largely cleaned, grain. This could have been the accidental burning of a fairly small grain assemblage during parching prior to grinding, or before use in food preparation, but it might possibly derive from a conflagration which destroyed a much larger grain store. Detailed analysis of the charred plant remains may give a clearer indication of the origin of the deposit. Unfortunately the sampled layer was only recorded in a sondage so its extent is not known, so the scale of the burnt debris cannot be assessed. Either way this assemblage appears to reflect a single event or dumping in feature [104].

A small assemblage of terrestrial snails was recovered in the sample and included shells of *Cochlicopa* sp., *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Oxychilus alliarus*. These include species of grassland, and shaded or woodland habitats, and species with more catholic habits that can occur in both. Shells of grassland species are more frequent but the sample size is small, and therefore less reliable as an indicator of the contemporary medieval environment on the site.

Hand collected animal bone

A small assemblage of 50 bone fragment and 6 marine shells was collected by hand during the excavations. The bone and shell is generally in good condition. The assemblage was recovered from contexts 105, 110 and 111 and included fragments of cattle, cattle size, sheep/goat, sheep size, pig, fish, oyster, mussel and cockle. The bones have been identified and recorded following the procedures of the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy (see Appendix) and are summarised in Table 4.

Fig. 1. Site plan with the location of the environmental sample – SUGR21

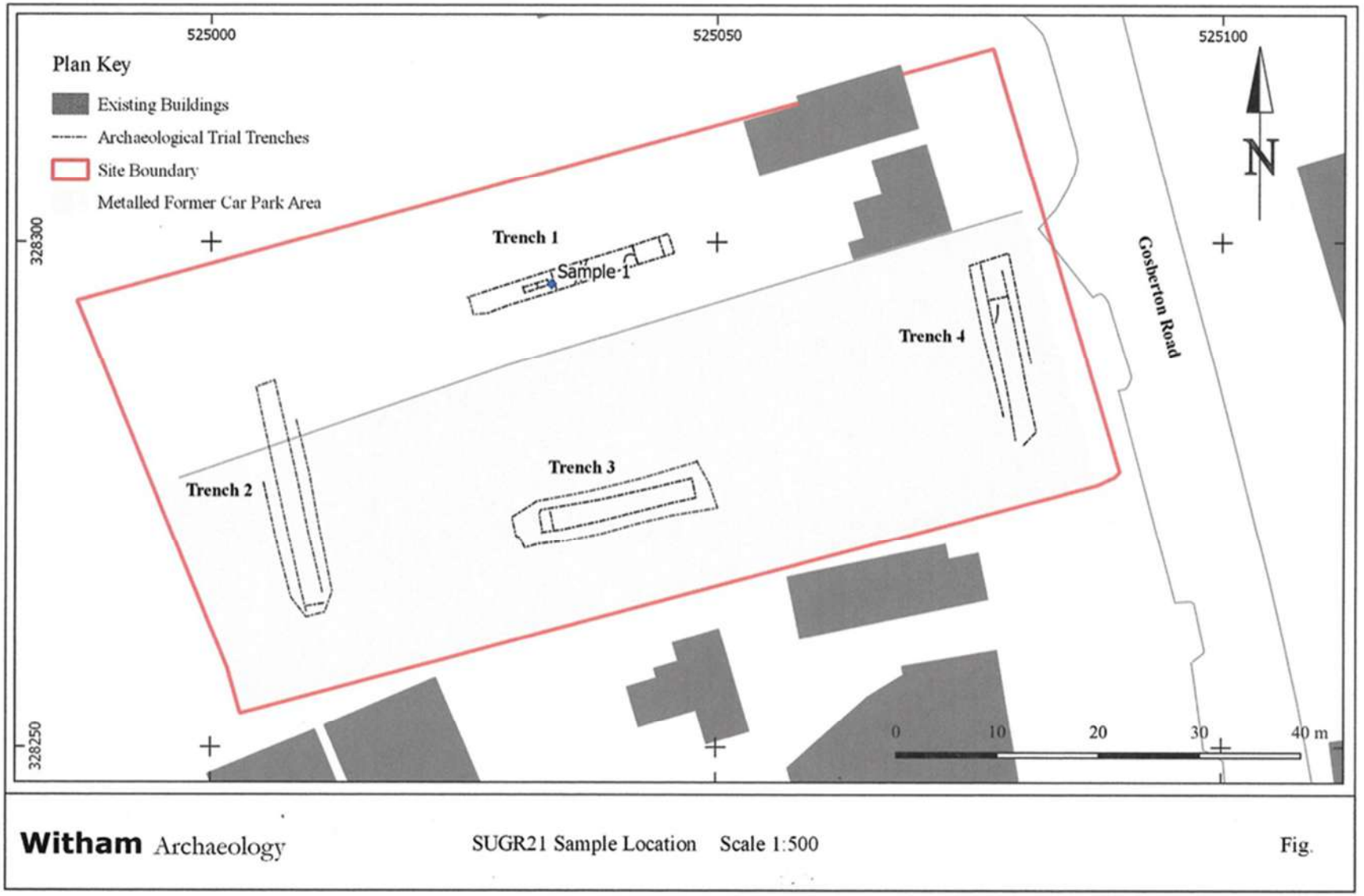


Table 2: 20 Gosberton Road, Surfleet – SUGR21**.** Archaeological finds from the sample

sample	cont	vol in l.	residue vol .in ml.	pot no/wt g	fired earth g.	slag g.	magnetic comp. g.	hammer-scale no. fl'k/sph	marine shell wt. g.	bone wt g.	other
1	107	18	1000	7/8	25		<1	2fl	1	2	Pot- incl. brown glazed-medieval; a little fuel ash slag (silicaceous) in flot;

Table 3. 20 Gosberton Road, Surfleet – SUGR21**.** Environmental finds from the two processed samples

sample	context	vol. in l.	flot vol. ml	char-coal $	char'd grain *	charr'd chaff *	char'd seed *	uncharred seeds*	comment
1	107	18	820	3/5	6+	2	4	2	Charred wheat, barley, oat, rye, pea?, small, medium and large legumes, *Chenopodium* sp., *Lithospermum*; uncharred nettle, elder seeds; charcoal mainly comminuted with a few identifiable fragments; bone - 8 fragments (5 burnt), all indeterminate med. and large animal, plus mouse, eel, other small fish; marine shell - cockle, mussel; snails – *Cochlicopa* sp., *Oxychilus alliarus*, *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo pygmaea*;

$ - frequency of >2mm/<2mm fragments of charcoal
* frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-100; 3=101-250; 4=251-500; 5=500-1000; 6+>1000
# diversity as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa

Several of the bones show evidence of butchery and burning, while one carries tooth marks suggesting dog gnawing. Both the pig bones derived from juvenile animals, while there are bones present from both immature and adult cattle and sheep. A single fish bone was recovered which has not yet been identified, and a fragment of small animal bone, possibly bird that is not identifiable.

Table 4. SUGR21. Hand collected fragments of animal bone and marine shell.

context	105	110	111
Cattle	3	13	
Cattle size	1	14	
Sheep/goat		6	
Sheep size		5	
Pig		2	
Small animal, bird?		1	
Unidentified		4	
Fish, not identified		1	
Oyster		2	1
Cockle		1	
Mussel		2	

Discussion

It is clear that fill 107 of pit 104 is associated with nearby medieval occupation. The range of debris contained within the sampled deposit (Table 2) and the large quantities of charred cereal grain testify to domestic debris and/or possibly stored food supplies nearby, while the quantity of hand collected animal bone in fill 110 of pit 108 at the east end of Trench 1 also suggests domestic waste. A range of food species have been provisionally identified including domestic animals, fishes (possibly marine and freshwater), marine shell, cereal crops and pulses (Tables 3 and 4). The charred cereal assemblage, although dominated by wheat, includes barley, oats and rye with some pulses (pea/bean) also present. Post-excavation analysis is needed to quantify these crop seeds and confidently interpret the origin of the assemblages but the quantity and density in the deposit suggest a single event, a dump, but how big a dump cannot be estimated because the layer was only exposed in the sondage and its extent is unknown. An extensive layer would imply the burning of a grain store, presumably accidental since no evidence for spoilt (germinated) grain was noted during the scan, while a small deposit could be associated with the accidental burning of a few handfuls of grain while being dried for grinding or during food preparation. The absence of large quantities of chaff and straw suggest the grain was largely cleaned, and even the numerous small seeds make a very low proportion of the whole charred seed and grain assemblage. The seeds of *Lithospermun arvense* (field gromwell) among the cereal grains are a crop weed found on arable field margins, typically on calcareous loam and clay loams (Wilson and King 2003) and the largish size of the seed means it is not removed from the crop during winnowing or sieving, but has to be cleaned from the grain at a later stage by hand sorting. The presence of possible common vetch in the assemblage may indicate cultivation of this crop for fodder (Campbell 1988), while a number of other vetches/legumes are also present. The two flakes of hammerscale might indicate contemporary iron smithing, but unfortunately these tiny flakes can move

down through the soil and at this density could be derived from much more recent activity on the site.

The River Glen runs along the top of a roddon at Surfleet and 20 Gosberton Road lies on the northern edge of this roddon about 140m from the 13-14th century church of St Laurence. It therefore lies near the northern edge of land in the village that was likely to be free from flooding and potentially suitable for building (above approx. 3m OD). Trench 1 is set back from Gosberton Road and with the sample location some 53m back from the road and pit 108 45m, this trench may lie within a tenement, with the house built closer to the road, if this road existed in the 13-14th century. The pottery dates suggest activity contemporary with the construction and early use of the church.

Should any future archaeological work be undertaken at the site or adjacent then there should be a programme of sampling to recover the economic evidence this sample indicates is present at the site. Samples collected should be at least 30 litres in size where the deposits allow and sampling should focus on deposits that are well dated, although where features are undated samples may yield evidence that allows their date to be established.

Recommendations

If no further archaeological work is undertaken on the site then the material from this exceptional sample should be identified to produce a data set for the crop and food resources utilised in the medieval village of Surfleet, and establish more clearly the origin of the charred plant assemblage. The few fish bones should be identified to establish the species and their marine or freshwater origin. The charred cereal, pulse and weed seeds should be sub-sampled, identified and quantified to establish the relative importance of the different crop species and the likely source of the deposit.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank Angela Bain of the EAC for the sample processing and sorting.

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APPENDIX - THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANCY

Key to codes used in the cataloguing of animal bones and marine shells

SPECIES:

SPECIES CODE			SPECIES CODE	
MAN	human		DOVE	Dove species
EQU	Horse		FER	Feral dove
EQSZ	Horse size		PART	Partridge
BOS	Cattle		SWAN?	Swan?
BOSL	Cattle-large		WOOD	Woodcock
CSZ	cattle size		CURL	Curlew
SUS	Pig		WADE	wader
OVCA	sheep or goat		CROK	Crow or rook
OVI	Sheep		CORV	Crow or rook
CRA	Goat		JACK	Jackdaw
SSZ	sheep size		OWL	Owl indet.
FEL	Cat		BUZZ	Buzzard
CAN	Dog		GULL	Gull sp.
AUR	Aurochs			
AUR?	Aurochs?		TURD	Turdidae
CER	red deer		BIRD	Identifiable but not id'd
DAM	Fallow deer		PASS	Passerine
CLS	roe deer		LBIRD	Large bird
LEP	Hare		UNIB	Bird indet
ORC	Rabbit			
LAG	Lagomorph		FROG	Frog
CARN	Carnivore		FRTO	Frog or toad
FOX	Fox			
POLE	Polecat/ferret			
WEA	weasel		GAD	Gadid, cod family
BADG	Badger		LING	Ling
SEAL	seal		HADD	Haddock
SQU?	Squirrel?		RAY	ray
BEAV	Beaver		FISH	Fish
ROD	Rodent		UNIF	Fish indet
RAT	Rat			
AGR	Field vole		OYS	oyster
ARV	Water vole		COK	Cockle
MUS	House mouse		MUSS	Common Mussel
SORA	Common shrew		WHELK	Common whelk
MOLE	Mole		HEL	Helix aspersa
SMA	Small mammal		HELIX	Helix sp.
UNI	Unknown		HELN	Helix nemoralis
			SNAIL	snail
CHIK	Chicken			
CHKZ	Chicken size		FOSS	Fossil bone
GOOS	Goose, dom			
GOOS?	Goose, dom.?			
GSSZ	Goose size			
GSSP	Goose species			
GOSZ	Goose, poss. Wild			
DUCK	Duck, domestic sp.			
DUCK?	Duck?			
DKSP	Duck species			
DSP	Duck species indet			
MALL	Duck, dom.			
TURK	Turkey			

BONE ELEMENT:

BONE CODE		BONE CODE	
SKEL	skeleton	SCP	scapula
SKL	skull	HUM	humerus
ANT	antler	RAD	radius
ANT?	antler?	ULN	ulna
ATT	antler tine	RUL	radius and ulna
HC	horn core	C/T	carpus/tarsus
TEMP	temporal	C23	carpus 2+3
FRNT	frontal	CAR	carpus
PET	petrous	CPA	accessory carpal
PAR	parietal	CPI	intermediate carpal
OCIP	occipital	CPR	radial carpal
ZYG	zygomatic	CPU	ulnal carpal
NAS	nasal	MTC	metacarpus
PMX	premaxilla	MC1-5	metacarpus 1-5
MAN	mandible	MTP	metapodial
MNT	mandibular tooth	MPL	lateral metapodial
DLI	deciduous lower incisor	INN	innominate
DLPM1-4	deciduous lower premolar 1-4	ILM	ilium
LI	lower incisor (and 1-3)	PUB	pubis
LC	lower canine	ISH	ischium
LPM1-LPM4	lower premolar 1-4	FEM	femur
LM1-LM3	lower molar 1 - molar 3	PAT	patella
MAX	maxilla	TIB	tibia
DUI	deciduous upper incisor	FIB	fibula
UI	upper incisor (1-3)	LML	lateral malleolus
UC	upper canine	AST	astragalus
DUPM	deciduous upper premolar	CAL	calcaneum
DUPM1-4	deciduous upper premolar 1-4	CQ	centroquartal
UPM1-UPM4	upper premolar 1-4	TAR3	tarsus 3
UM1-UM3	upper molar 1 - molar 3	T4	tarsus 4
MXT	maxillary tooth	TAR	tarsus
TTH	indeterminate tooth	MTT	metatarsus
INC	incisor	MT1-5	metatarsus 1-5
HYD	hyoid	MTL	lateral metatarsus
ATL	atlas	SES	sesamoid
AXI	axis	PH1	1st phalanx
CEV	cervical vertebra (and 3-7)	PH2	2nd phalanx
TRV	thoracic vertebra (and 1-13)	PH3	3rd phalanx
LMV	lumbar vertebra	PHL	lateral phalanx
SAC	sacrum	LBF	long bone
CDV	caudal vertebra	UNI	unidentified
VER	vertebra		
STN	sternum	CLV	clavicle
CC	costal cartilage	COR	coracoid
RIB1	first rib (2 etc)	CMP	carpo-metacarpus
RIB	rib	CMC	carpo-metacarpus
		WPH1-3	wing phalanges 1-3
URO	urostyle	WPH	wing phalanx
		LSA	lumbosacrale
DENT	dentary		
CLEI	cleithrum		
RAY	fin ray		
SHELL	shell		
UV	upper valve		
VAL	valve		

NUMBER: number of fragments in the entry

SIDE: W - whole L - left side R - right side F - fragment

FUSION: records the fused/unfused condition of the epiphyses
P - proximal; D - distal; E - acetabulum; N - unfused; F - fused; C - cranial; A - posterior

ZONES: records the part of the bone present.
The key to each zone on each bone is on page 4

BUTCHERY: records whether a bone has been chopped (CH), cut (KN), worked (W), burnt (C)

GNAWING: records if a bone has been gnawed by dogs (DG), cats (FEL) or rodents (RG)

TOOTH WEAR - Codes are those used in Grant, A. 1982 The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic animals, in B.Wilson, C.Grigson and S.Payne (eds) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from Archaeological sites*, 91-108.

Teeth are labelled as follows in the tooth wear column:

Deciduous	Permanent
f ldpm2/dupm2	F lpm2/upm2
g ldpm3/dupm3	G lpm3/upm4
h ldpm4/dupm4	H lpm4/upm4
	I lm1/um1
	J lm2/um2
	K lm3/um3

MEASUREMENTS :Any measurements are those listed in A.Von den Driesch (1976*) A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Peabody Museum, Harvard, USA
Some measurments have been taken on juveniles. Measurements marked L1 are the greatest length of long bones lacking one unfused epiphysis – the measurement being taken from the epiphyseal junction. Measurements marked L2 are the greatest length of the long bones between epiphyseal junctions when both epiphyses are unfused.

PATHOLOGICAL: A 'P' indicates that the bone fragment carries a pathology

COMMENTS: This may include a short description of the fragments, any pathologies, butchery or gnawing evidence

PRESERVATION: records the condition of the bone in the following manner

1- enamel only surviving
2- bone very severely pitted and thinned, tending to break up; teeth with surface erosion and loss of cementum and dentine
3- surface pitting and erosion of bone, some loss of cementum and dentine on teeth
4- surface of bone intact, loss of organic component, material chalky, calcined or burnt
5- bone in good condition, probably with some organic component

ZONES - codes used to define the zones on each bone

SKULL	1. paraoccipital process	METACARPUS	1. medial facet of proximal articulation, MC3
	2. occipal condyle		2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MC4
	3. intercornual protuberance		3. medial distal condyle, MC3
	4. external acoustic meatus		4. lateral distal condyle, MC4
	5. frontal sinus		5. anterior distal groove and foramen
	6. ectorbitale		6. medial or lateral distal condyle
	7. entorbitale		
	8. temporal articular facet	FIRST PHALANX	1. proximal epiphysis
	9. facial tuber		2. distal articular facet
	0. infraorbital foramen		
		INNOMINATE	1. tuber coxae
MANDIBLE	1. Symphyseal surface		2. tuber sacrale + scar
	2. diastema		3. body of illium with dorso-medial foramen
	3. lateral diastemal foramen		4. iliopubic eminence
	4. coronoid process		5. acetabular fossa
	5. condylar process		6. symphyseal branch of pubis
	6. angle		7. body of ischium
	7. anterior dorsal acsending ramus posterior M3		8. ischial tuberosity
	8. mandibular foramen		9. depression for medial tendon of rectus femoris
VERTEBRA	1. spine	FEMUR	1. head
	2. anterior central epiphysis		2. trochanter major
	3. posterior central epiphysis		3. trochanter minor
	4. centrum		4. supracondyloid fossa
	5. neural arch		5. distal medial condyle
			6. lateral distal condyle
SCAPULA	1. supraglenoid tubercle		7. distal trochlea
	2. glenoid cavity		8. trochanter tertius
	3. origin of the distal spine		
	4. tuber of spine	TIBIA	1. proximal medial condyle
	5. posterior of neck with foramen		2. proximal lateral condyle
	6. cranial angle of blade		3. intercondylar eminence
	7. caudal angle of blade		4. proximal posterior nutrient foramen
			5. medial malleolus
HUMERUS	1. head		6. lateral aspect of distal articulation
	2. greater tubercle		7. distal pre-epiphyseal portion of the diaphysis
	3. lesser tubercle		
	4. intertuberal groove	CALCANEUM	1. calcaneal tuber
	5. deltoid tuberosity		2. sustentaculum tali
	6. dorsal angle of olecranon fossa		3. processus anterior
	7. capitulum		
	8. trochlea	METATARSUS	1. medial facet of proximal artciulation, MT3.
	9. coronoid fossa		2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MT4
	0. teres tubercle		3. medial distal condyle, MT3
RADIUS	1. medial half of proximal epiphysis		4. lateral distal condyle, MT4
	2. lateral half of proximal epiphysis		5. anterior distal groove and foramen
	3. posterior proximal ulna scar and foramen		6. medial or lateral distal condyle
	4. medial half of distal epiphysis		
	5. lateral half of distal epiphysis		
	6. distal shaft immediately above distal epiphysis		
ULNA	1. olecranon tuberosity		
	2. trochlear notch- semilunaris		
	3. lateral coronoid process		
	4. distal epiphysis		

Archive catalogue of hand collected animal bone from 20 Gosberton Road, Surfleet – SUGR21

context	species	bone	no.	weight	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path.	comment	preserv-ation
105	BOS	INN	1	41	R	EF							LATERAL PART OF ACETAB-POSS CHOPPED	4
105	BOS	MTT	1	11	F								ANTERIOR MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
105	BOS	SCP	1	54	R								PART OF DISTAL BLADE WITH BASE SPINE	4
105	CSZ	RIB	1	9	F								SPLIT RIB FRAGMENT	4
110	BOS	FEM	1	131	L	PN?	3	CH					PROX SHAFT-MIDSHAFT CHOPPED-3RD TROCHANTER UNFUSD-POROUS-PROX ND CHOPPED OFF	4
110	BOS	INN	1	31	L		9						POST MEDIAL FRAG ILIUM WITH SMALL PART ACETAB	4
110	BOS	INN	1	24	R		9	C					ACETAB FRAG OF ILIUM-ACETA CHARRED	4
110	BOS	LMV	1	37	R	CN		CH					TRANS PROC AND ANT ZYGA-CHOPPED DOWN MIDLE	4
110	BOS	RIB	1	16	R			KN					PROX SHAFT-MIDSHAFT EN CUT ON MEDIAL SIDE	4
110	BOS	RIB	1	22	R			CKN					PROX THIRD SHAFT-PROX END CHARRED-SHAFT CUT	4
110	BOS	RIB	1	31	R			C					PROX THIRD SHAFT-ALL CHARRED-FROM DISTAL END	4
110	BOS	SAC	1	28	L			C					LEFT WING OF SACRUM-CHARRED- 2 PIECES	4
110	BOS	SCP	1	10	R		3	CH	DG				NECK AND DISTAL BLADE-SMALL-PRPOUS-JUV DISTAL CHEWED	4
110	BOS	TIB	1	74	L		4	CH					PROX SHAFT AT START SPINE-DISTAL END CHOPPED	4
110	BOS	TIB	1	22	R								MID SHAFT-SMALL-POROUS-JUV	4
110	BOS	TIB	1	11	R								ANT PROX SPINE FRAGMENT-POROUS-JUV/IMM	4
110	BOS	TIB	1	88	R			CCH					MIDSHAFT-BOTH ENDS CHARRED AND DISTAL CHOPPED OR SAWN?	4
110	COCK	VALVE	1	1	W								ONE VALVE	4
110	CSZ	CEV	1	14	F			C					CHARRED POSTERIOR NEURAL ARCH FRAG WITH POST ZYGA	4

context	species	bone	no.	weight	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path.	comment	preserv-ation
110	CSZ	HYD	1	2	F								HYOID FRAGMENT	4
110	CSZ	LBF	1	4	F								POSS TIB SHAFT FRAG	4
110	CSZ	LBF	1	8	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
110	CSZ	LBF	1	4	F								INDET SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
110	CSZ	RIB	1	35	F			CH					DISTAL MIDSHAFT-DISTAL END CHOPPED FROM LATERAL SIDE	4
110	CSZ	RIB	1	21	F								DISTAL SHAFT	4
110	CSZ	RIB	1	19	L			CHC					PROX SHAFT-MIDSHAFT CHOPPED-PROX END CHARRED-POROUS-IMM	4
110	CSZ	RIB	1	11	L			CH					MIDSHAFT-SL POROUS-PROX REPAEATC CHOPPED FROM MEDIAL SIDE	4
110	CSZ	RIB	1	24	R			C					PROX MIDSHAFT-CHARRED	4
110	CSZ	RIB	1	8	R			C					PROX SHAFT-DISTAL END CHARRED-SL POROUS-IMM?	4
110	CSZ	RIB	1	12	R			C					PROX SHAFT-DISTAL CHARRED-POROUS-IMM	4
110	CSZ	TRV	1	12	F		1						SPINE-SL POROUS	4
110	CSZ	UNI	1	4	F								POSS DISTAL ULNA SHAFT BOS?	4
110	FISH	UNI	1	1	F								NOT IDENTIFIED	4
110	MUSS	VALVE	1	2	F								HINGE HALF - RIGHT VALVE	4
110	MUSS	VALVE	1	2	F								HINGE HALF-LEFT VALVE	4
110	OVCA	AXI	1	3	F			CH?					ODONTOID PEG-POSS CHOPPED AXIALLY JUST POST TO PEG	4
110	OVCA	INN	1	13	R	CN	12						ANT ILIUM	4
110	OVCA	LMV	1	6	R	CNAN		CH					RIGHT HALF-CHOPPED DOWN MIDDLE	4
110	OVCA	LMV	1	4	R	CN		CH					TRANS PROC AND ANT AND POST ZYGA RIGHT SIDE-CHOPPED DOWN MIDDLE	4
110	OVCA	MAN	1	22	L					J12K9			FRAGMENT WITH M2 AND M3- 2 PIECES	4
110	OVCA	SAC	1	5	R	CF		CH?					RIGHT WING OF SACRUM AND SMALL PART CENTRUM-POSS CHOPPED DOWN MIDDLE	4
110	OYS	LV	1	11	W								2 THIRDS LOWER VALVE-CUT V-POSS TROWEL DAMAGE	4
110	OYS	UV	1	2	F								HALF SMALL UPPER VALVE	4

context	species	bone	no.	weight	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path.	comment	preserv-ation
110	SMA	LBF	1	0.5	F								MIDSHAFT-BIRD?	4
110	SSZ	LBF	1	2	F			C					CALCINED SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
110	SSZ	LBF	1	4	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT-SHOULD BE DOABLE!	4
110	SSZ	RIB	1	0.5	F								SMALL SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
110	SSZ	RIB	1	1	F								SMALL SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
110	SSZ	RIB	1	6	L			CH					2 THIRDS SHAFT-PROX END CHOPPED	4
110	SUS	RAD	1	30	L	PFDN	1236				L1-121.3 Bp-29 Dp-19.4 SD-17		PROX END AND SHAFT	4
110	SUS	TIB	1	65	L	PNDF	4567				L1-175 SD-21.2 Bd-31.1 Dd-27.7		SHAFT AND DISTAL END	4
110	UNI	RIB	1	3	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT-POROUS-JUV	4
110	UNI	RIB	2	1	F								INDET SPLIT FRAGMENTS	4
110	UNI	RIB	1	2	F			C					SHAFT FRAGMENT- 3 PIECES-POSSLARGE OVCA	4
111	OYS	UV	1	9	W								2 THIRDS UPPER VALVE	4

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