



Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Ashwell Street Ashwell, Hertfordshire

Report No. 19/120

Author: Esther Poulus
Paul Sharrock

Illustrator: Oliver Dindol



Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Ashwell Street Ashwell, Hertfordshire

Project Manager: Mo Muldowney

Site code: XHFASH19

Report No.: 19/120

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	25/11/2019	Claire Finn	Chris Chinnock	Mo Muldowney	Draft for client review
2	04/12/2019	-	-	Mo Muldowney	Revisions for HCC approval

Authors: Esther Poulus
Paul Sharrock

Illustrator: Oliver Dindol

© MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) 2020

MOLA

Kent House

30 Billing Road

Northampton

NN1 5DQ

01604 809 800

www.mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Mo Muldowney BA ACIfA

Supervisor: Esther Poulus BA MSc

Fieldwork: Luigi Piroso BA MA PCIfA
Magdalena Rybska MA
Steve Critchley BSc MSc

Text: Esther Poulus BA MSc
Paul Sharrock BA MA

Illustrations: Oliver Dindol BSc

Pottery and ceramic building
material: Paul Blinkhorn BTech

Animal bone and shell: Sander Aerts BA MSc

Small finds: Tora Hylton

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-373207	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire		
Short summary	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Manor Oak Homes to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Ashwell Street, Ashwell. Fifteen trenches were excavated. A wide Roman linear feature and Roman ditches and an Anglo-Saxon possible sunken-featured building were present in the western half of the site, while the eastern part of the site was dominated by largely undated postholes, suggesting occupation.		
Project type	Archaeological trial trench evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Crothers 2019); geophysical survey (Lockyear 2019); test pits (Burleigh 2019)		
Current land use	Arable/ Pasture		
Development type	Housing and associated infrastructure		
Future work	Yes		
Monument type/period	Roman / Medieval ditches, undated postholes, Saxon hollows/ SFB's.		
Significant finds	Pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, coins		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Hertfordshire		
Site address	Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire		
Postcode	SG7 5QU		
OS coordinates	TL 2713 3970		
Area (sq m/ha)	1ha		
Height aOD	c54.55-65.6m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project Brief originator	Simon Wood, Hertfordshire County Council		
Project Design originator	Written Scheme of Investigation (Shipley 2019)		
Project Director/Manager	Mo Muldowney (MOLA)		
Project Supervisor	Esther Poulus (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Manor Oak Homes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date (dd-mm-yy)	30/09/19		
End date (dd-mm-yy)	08/10/19		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content	
Physical	Hertfordshire Museums XHFASH19	Pottery, CBM, animal bone	
Digital		Site records, plans, sections	
Paper		Report, photographs, survey data	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph or unpublished MOLA report		
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Reports, 19/120		
Author(s)	Esther Poulus		
Page numbers	56		
Date	25/11/2019		

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
	2.1 Location, topography and geology	1
	2.2 Historical and archaeological background	3
	2.3 Previous archaeological work in target area	4
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	5
4	METHODOLOGY	5
5	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE	6
	5.1 General stratigraphy	6
	5.2 Archaeological evidence	7
6	THE FINDS	22
	6.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn	22
	6.2 Ceramic building material by Paul Blinkhorn	24
	6.3 Animal bone by Sander Aerts	24
	6.4 Shell by Sander Aerts	25
	6.5 Small finds by Tora Hylton	25
	6.6 Roman coins by Ellie Cox	26
7	DISCUSSION	27
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	29

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

APPENDIX 2: HER SUMMARY

Figures

Front cover:	Trench 8, looking north
Fig 1:	Site location and trenches
Fig 2:	Trench 4 showing topsoil, subsoil and natural, facing south
Fig 3:	Trench 1 terracing activity, looking east
Fig 4:	Trenches and features
Fig 5:	Roman ditch [2011] cutting possible Iron Age layer [2009]
Fig 6:	Ditch [6014] and [6005] looking south
Fig 7:	Section 56
Fig 8:	Trenches 1-3, features and dating
Fig 9:	Trenches 4-7 and 15, features and dating
Fig 10:	Trenches 8-11, features and dating
Fig 11:	Trenches 12-14, features and dating
Fig 12:	Feature [15008], looking west
Fig 13:	Feature [15008]
Fig 14:	Pit/terminus [3015], looking northeast
Fig 15:	Posthole [15011] showing post-pipe, looking west
Fig 16:	Posthole [9005], looking south
Fig 17:	Posthole [3009] and [3013], looking south
Fig 18:	Posthole [14013], looking south

Tables

Table 1:	Postholes
Table 2:	Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type
Table 3:	CBM occurrence by number of fragments per context by type
Table 4:	NISP of animal taxa per context

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Manor Oak Homes to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Ashwell Street, Ashwell. Fifteen trenches were excavated. A wide Roman linear feature, Roman ditches and an Anglo-Saxon possible sunken-featured building were present in the western half of the site, while the eastern part of the site was dominated by largely undated postholes, suggesting occupation.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Manor Oak Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land north of Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (TL 2713 3970; Fig 1), ahead of the proposed residential development of the land.

The evaluation requirement was outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (Shipleigh 2019) and was carried out in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019) following previous works including a Desk-based Assessment (Crothers 2019), geophysical survey (Lockyear 2019) and test pitting survey (Burleigh 2019).

All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b), and followed Historic England's management guidance (HE 2015).

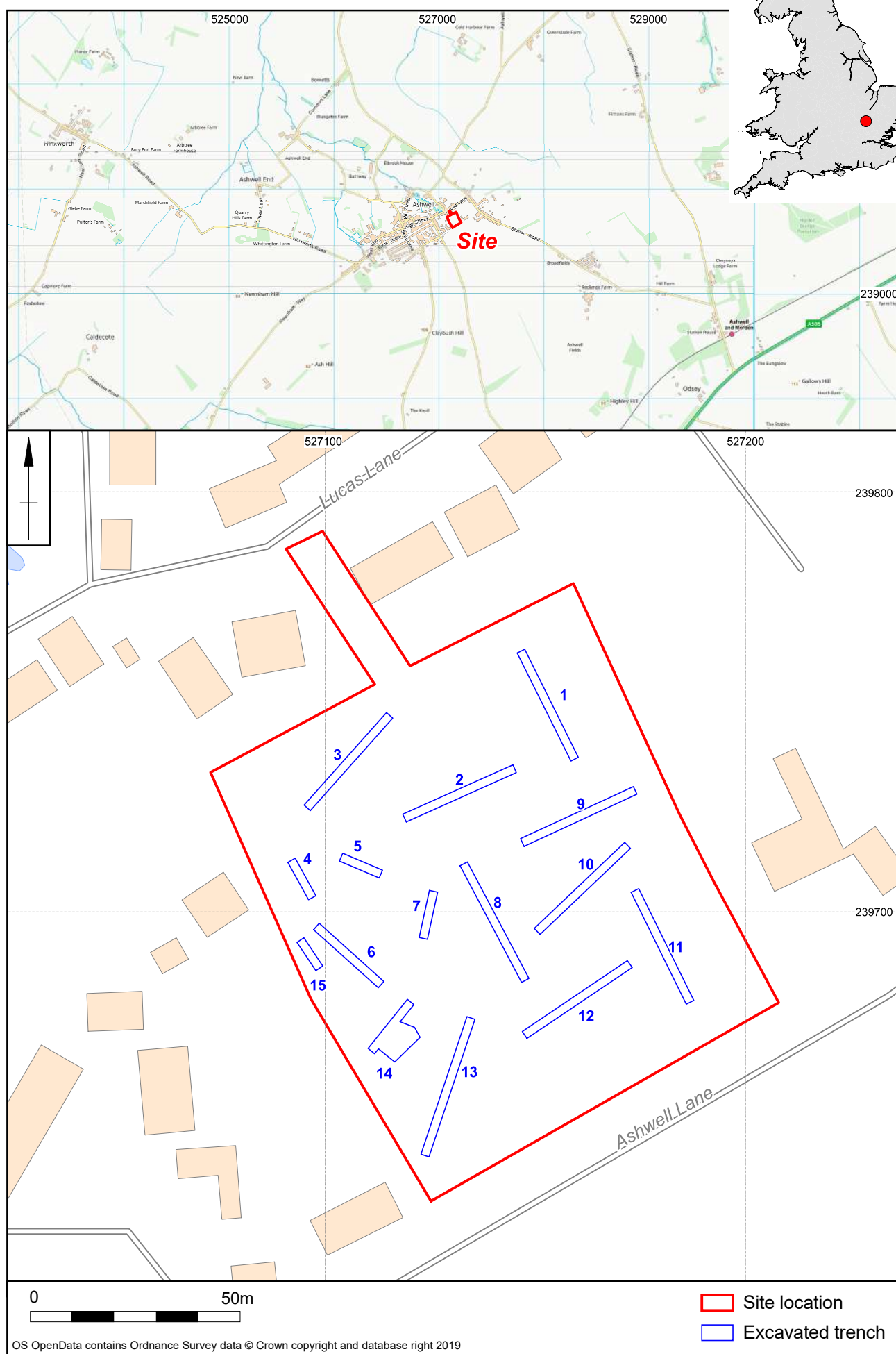
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The development area lies to the east of the centre of Ashwell. On the south it borders Ashwell Street, with residential properties to the east and west. A narrow parcel of land connects the site to Lucas Lane, with the rest of the northern part of the site bordered by residential properties.

The site lies at between c54 to 67m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), sloping down from Ashwell Street towards the north, where the springs of the river Cam are located.

The solid geology of the site has been recorded as Zig Zag Chalk Formation, (BGS 2019). The soils are shallow, freely-draining and lime-rich over chalk and limestone (LandIS 2019).



Scale 1:1250

Site location and excavated trenches Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The full archaeological background for the site can be found within the Desk-Based Assessment (Crothers 2019), a summary of which can be found below.

Iron Age

Late Iron Age pottery (MHT2973) has been found within the site near the western boundary during a metal detecting survey in 1985.

Roman

A series of test pits were excavated on the site in March, June and July 2019. An enclosure identified at the western boundary of the site during a recent geophysical survey was found to be a double-ditched enclosure. The inner enclosure ditch was recut twice and contained animal bone, Roman pottery and a complete 1st century bow brooch. The enclosure surrounded an irregular hollow which is likely to date to the Saxon period (Burleigh 2019).

A ditch containing 2nd century AD pottery with a terminus at its northern end (MHT17600) was discovered c30m to the east of the site during a trial trench evaluation at 22 Lucas Lane (EHT7012, EHT7013). It was found that the southern half of the area was severely truncated by previous terracing into the slope and the northern area was built up with the landscaped soil and the cut features were observed at the junction between the two areas.

A possible late Iron Age or Roman Road with roadside ditches, aligned north-west to south-east, was discovered during an archaeological evaluation to the c380m east of the site at Station Road (EHT8576). A possible earlier trackway aligned north-south was also found and residual pottery dating to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age was found in association with the road and ditches.

The terminals of two Roman ditches (MHT11397) were found c190m the east of the site during a trial trench evaluation on the south-west side of Station Road (EHT4956). The ditches contained flint flakes and pottery sherds dating to between the late Iron Age and the 2nd century AD. Environmental evidence collected from the ditches shows that the landscape was open grassland during the Roman period (Ashworth 2001).

A bronze coin of Galerius Maximian and two further coins (MHT2973) were discovered within the site near the western boundary during a metal detecting survey in 1985. Several further coins (MHT4848) have been found close to the north-west, east of Ashwell Springs including coins of Hadrian and Faustina II.

Pottery of the period (MHT6979) has been discovered in the garden of 'The Steppes', c83m to the north-west of the site. Small quantities of pottery and tile and a square glass bottle dating to between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD (MHT9672) were found during archaeological fieldwork to the far west of the site at Westbury Farm. A small quantity of Roman pottery (MHT2841) was also found to the far north-west of the site near Elbrook House.

The PAS holds records for numerous coins in the area, including ases, radiates, barbarous radiats, nummii, denarii and a dupondius. Other finds such as finger rings and brooches have also been recorded although their exact findspots are unknown.

Saxon

Ashwell is not mentioned in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicles* (Swanton 2000), although Saxon remains are known from within the village. A sword chape with a large 'tree of

life' design dating to the 10th century and a 9th-century copper-alloy and enamel decorative strip (MHT2549) have been found on the site during a metal detecting survey. Pottery dating to the late 6th century (MHT6979) has been found close to the north-west of the site in the garden of 'The Steppes'.

Medieval

Ashwell was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as a village with 16 villagers, nine smallholders, nine cottagers and four slaves. It was the largest vill in Odsey. However, despite its large size, it had ploughland for only half a plough and meadow for half a plough. At the time of the Norman Conquest it was held by Godiva but it passed to Germund of St Ouen and was tenanted to Geoffrey de Mandeville (Palmer 2019). The Vale of Ashwell was the most densely populated area of Hertfordshire during the medieval period (Bailey 2011) and the village was a thriving market settlement with a reliable source of water, although the market was soon superseded by one at Baldock in the 1140s.

A 15th-century purse bar loop (MHT2549) has been found on the site during a metal detecting survey. Pottery (MHT6979) has been found in the garden of 'The Steppes' close c83m to the north-west of the site.

World War II

The crash site of a German bomber (MHT30282) is purported to lie within the proposed development site and fragments of metal indicative of aircraft parts have been recovered from the site during a metal detecting and fieldwalking survey in 1985, 1986 and 1995. There is however no other evidence to corroborate this report, and the assumed crash location has been extrapolated from the locations of an unspecified quantity of shrapnel. Neither the geophysical survey (Lockyear 2019) or current work have produced evidence that could indicate that an aircraft or the bulk of the fuselage/wings/tail landed in this spot. This view is supported by local residents.

Undated

An undated but nonetheless historic trackway (MHT31086) meanders south-westwards from Ashwell Street towards Newnham and the Roman highway north of Baldock. The road was omitted from the Inclosure map of 1863 when many of the local roads were rerouted.

A north-south aligned pit alignment (MHT2415) has been identified through aerial photography to the south-east of the site. The alignment extends to around 400m and cuts a rectilinear enclosure (MHT2416). Although it is undated, the alignment is likely to be a prehistoric feature. The rectilinear enclosure has straight sides and angled corners and lies at the eastern end of the line of Bronze Age round barrows which form Scheduled Monument (SM1451703). However, there is no other evidence aside from their positioning which suggests that the alignment and enclosure relate to the barrows.

2.3 Previous archaeological works

A geophysical survey (Lockyear 2019) and subsequent test pits dug by the North Hertfordshire Archaeological Society (Burleigh 2019) found evidence of a series of ditches near the western edge of the site. These ditches were located around an unidentified hollow which seemed to extend to the west underneath the neighbouring property, and which yielded probable early medieval material (see above). As several

features were encountered during the test pitting phase that were not identified during the geophysical survey, it was suggested that more features than initially suspected might be present.

A suite of work including a geophysical survey (EHT7697) located c257m to the south of the site including a trial trench evaluation (EHT7696) and excavation (EHT7739) was undertaken which identified a late Neolithic henge. A trial trench evaluation and excavation (EHT4956) c193m east of the site on the south-western side of Station Road revealed Neolithic flints, Iron Age pottery and Roman ditches.

A trial trench evaluation (EHT7012) and subsequent monitoring (EHT7013) were undertaken on land adjacent to the east of the site, which showed that the hillslope had been truncated and landscaped for former housing plots.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the evaluation were to assess:

- the date, nature, significance and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- the level of preservation of any surviving archaeological remains;
- the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region, and to;
- the potential for palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;

Specific research objectives have been drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Glazebrook 1997; Medleycott 2011), and currently include:

This will inform the Archaeological Planning Advisor on:

- the impact of the proposed works upon any surviving archaeological remains, and;
- the requirements for any future excavation and/or preservation *in-situ* strategy.

4 METHODOLOGY

Fifteen trenches were excavated, totalling 330m in length, spaced across the development area comprising of a 5% sample. They comprise 30m, 15m and 10m long trenches, which have been located to test the geophysical survey responses and also areas of the site that appear 'blank'. Trench 14 was split into two trenches allowing for the creation of Trench 15 which could target an anomaly on the Geophysical survey results.

The location and level of the trenches and features were accurately measured in using Leica Viva Survey Grade RTK GPS using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$ to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum.

The trenches were excavated with a toothless bucket under the direction of the site supervisor to the level of the archaeological remains or undisturbed natural horizons. As no machine or hand excavation reached below a safe working depth, the trenches did not have to be stepped.

A photographic record was maintained by high resolution digital photography exceeding 12 megapixels. Overall shots of the site were taken prior to excavation and after backfilling. Overall shots of each trench were taken from both ends of the trench,

and in each trench a shot of a representative section of the trench wall was taken. All excavated features were photographed. All photographs, except general site shots or specific shots for publication included a north arrow and suitable photographic scale.

Discrete features were half-sectioned, and slots through linear features were a minimum of 1m long, and were preferably placed against the trench edge if the angle of the feature allowed.

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the evaluation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard fieldwork procedures (MOLA 2014). All archaeological features were given a separate context number.

Archaeological features were plotted on trench plans at a scale of 1:50. Sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. All levels were related to Ordnance Datum.

Finds were collected from the individual deposits and appropriately packed and stored in stable conditions, by context. All retained finds were labelled/bagged with the site code: **XHFASH19**. Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (ClfA 2014c; Walker 1990; Watkinson and Neal 2001). Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not collected.

Both the spoil heaps and the exposed features were investigated with a metal detector.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The topsoil was mostly consistent across the site with dark brown-grey silty loam measuring between 0.08m and 0.30m deep. This overlaid subsoil which was present in all trenches except the southeastern half of Trench 11, and comprised mid brown-grey silt subsoil with chalk inclusions which extended to a depth of 0.32m. The natural geology across all trenches consisted of white chalk, as anticipated (Fig 2).



Trench 4 showing topsoil, subsoil and natural, facing south Fig 2

The stratigraphy varied only within Trench 1 (Fig 3) where it appears terracing was taking place.



Trench 1 terracing activity, looking east Fig 3

5.2 Archaeological evidence

A total of 10 pits, 44 postholes, 25 ditches, a spread and two large hollows were uncovered during the trial trenching evaluation. The ditches were found in the western half of the site, and the majority of postholes were located in the eastern half of the site (Fig 4). While dating evidence for the site indicates activity from the Iron Age through to the medieval period, the evidence for the Iron Age is limited to two fragments of residual pottery which may not indicate the date of individual features. The main activity on the site relates to the presence of Roman field systems, some small scale Anglo Saxon activity and a series of undated postholes.

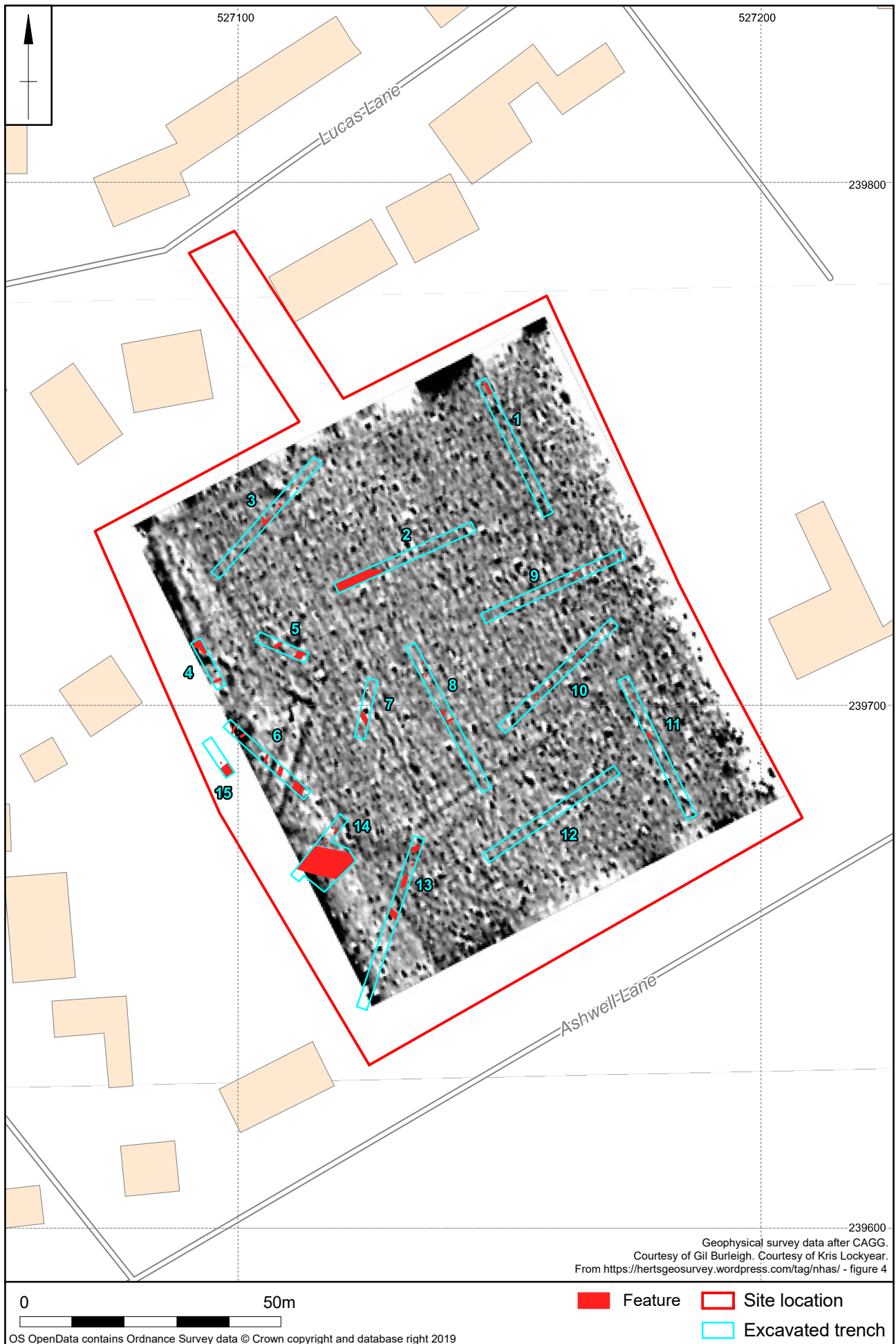
Roman

A single spread containing Iron Age material was found within Trench 2, ((2009), Fig 8) although the abraded condition of the pottery and the general lack of other Iron Age activity in the area suggests the spread may have been deposited during the Roman period. The spread was linear in plan with irregular sides and a flat base measuring >10m by >2m and 0.2m deep. This was cut by Ditch [2011] (Fig 5).

Ditches

Ditch [2011], which cut through possible Roman spread (2009) was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, and measured 1.0m wide and 0.38m deep. The fill contained bones of cattle, horse, a large mammal, a dog tooth and a single sherd of Roman pottery (Figs 5 and 8).

To the west, in Trench 4, further ditches which may have been Roman field boundaries were identified. The full width of north-west to south-east aligned ditch [4008] was not visible but must have been over 1.0m in width.

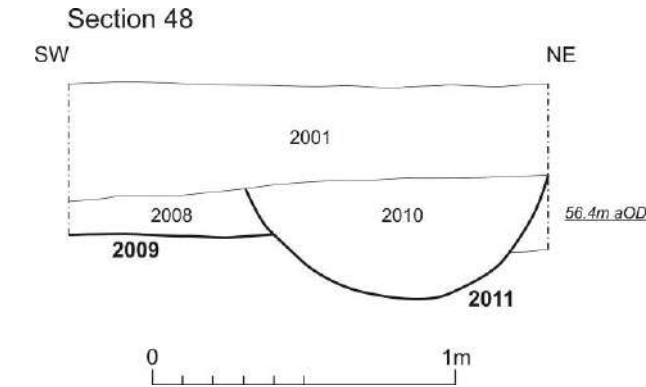


Scale 1: 1000

Excavated trenches and feature overlying geophysics

Fig 4

It extended into the trench from the northern end by c3m before terminating in a square butt-end (Fig 9). The ditch measured 0.23m deep at its deepest observed point, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. It was cut by undated ditch [4006] and contained animal bone and two fragments of pottery dated to the 1st-4th centuries AD.

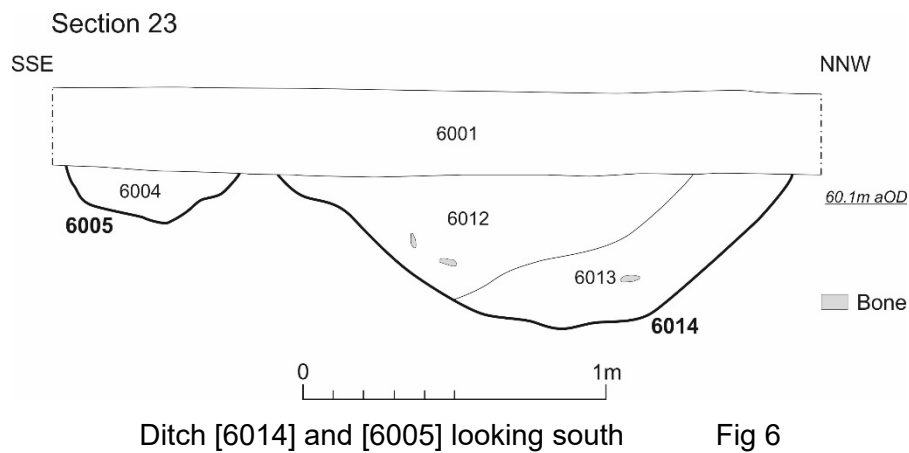


Roman ditch [2011] cutting spread (2009) Fig 5

A number of further Roman ditches were situated to the south, in Trench 6, all of which had a north-east by south-west alignment (Fig 9). Ditch [6014] measured 1.7m wide by 0.52m deep with a wide U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 6 and 9). It contained animal bone and five fragments of Roman pottery. Ditch [6016] was located 3m to the north of ditch [6014] and measured 0.9m wide by 0.29m deep with a U-shaped profile and a concave base. The fill contained one fragment of Roman pottery. Around equidistant to the north was another ditch [6018], which measured 0.48m wide by 0.16m deep with a U-shaped profile and a concave base. The final ditch visible in this trench lay at the northern end. Ditch [6020] was 0.4m wide by 0.21m deep with a U-shaped profile, steep sides and a concave base.

It is possible that some of the undated ditches identified across the site which followed similar alignment to those which contained Roman dating evidence, are part of the same period of activity. These undated ditches are discussed in more detail below.

A large east to west aligned feature [14022] was identified in Trench 14 (Figs 7 and 11). It measured 5.3m wide by 0.49m deep with shallow gradual sloping sides and a flat base and contained six fragments of Roman pottery and a coin dating to AD 260-296 (SF2). Due to its larger size than those which form part of the field system its function is unknown.



Pits

Two Roman pits were identified in Trench 14. Pit [14007] was oval and measured >0.6m long by 0.4m wide with a depth of 0.17m. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It appeared to have been cut along its north-eastern edge by pit [14009] measured 0.8m long by >0.7m wide with a depth of 0.14m, and had steep sloping sides and an uneven, concave base. It contained animal bone and a fragment of Roman pottery. Given the similarity in their fills, it is likely to pits were relatively contemporaneous.

Section 56

N

S

61.9m aOD

14001

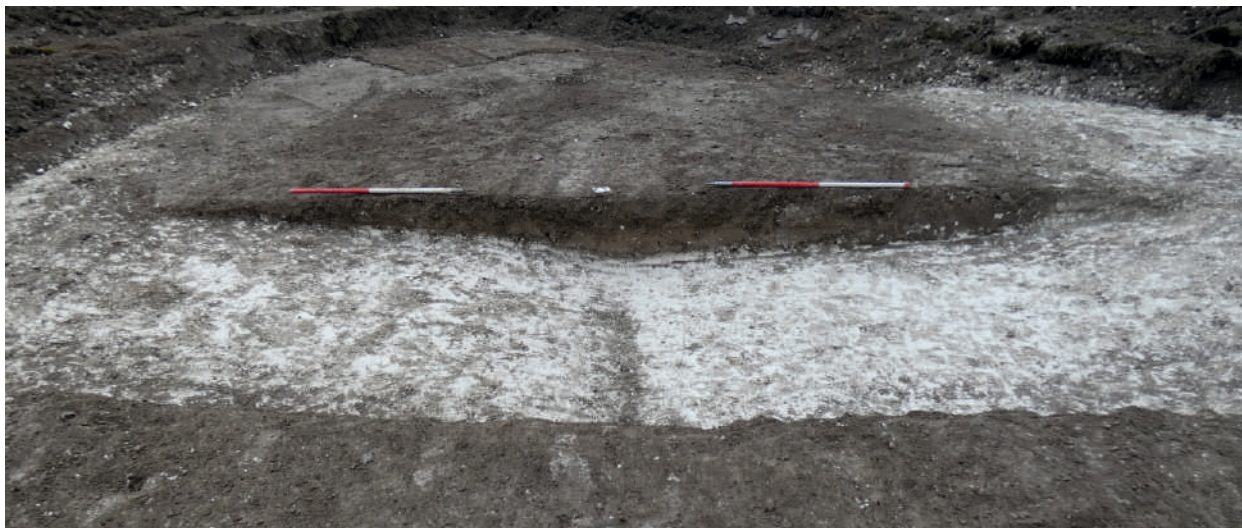
14002

14020

14021

14022

0 1m

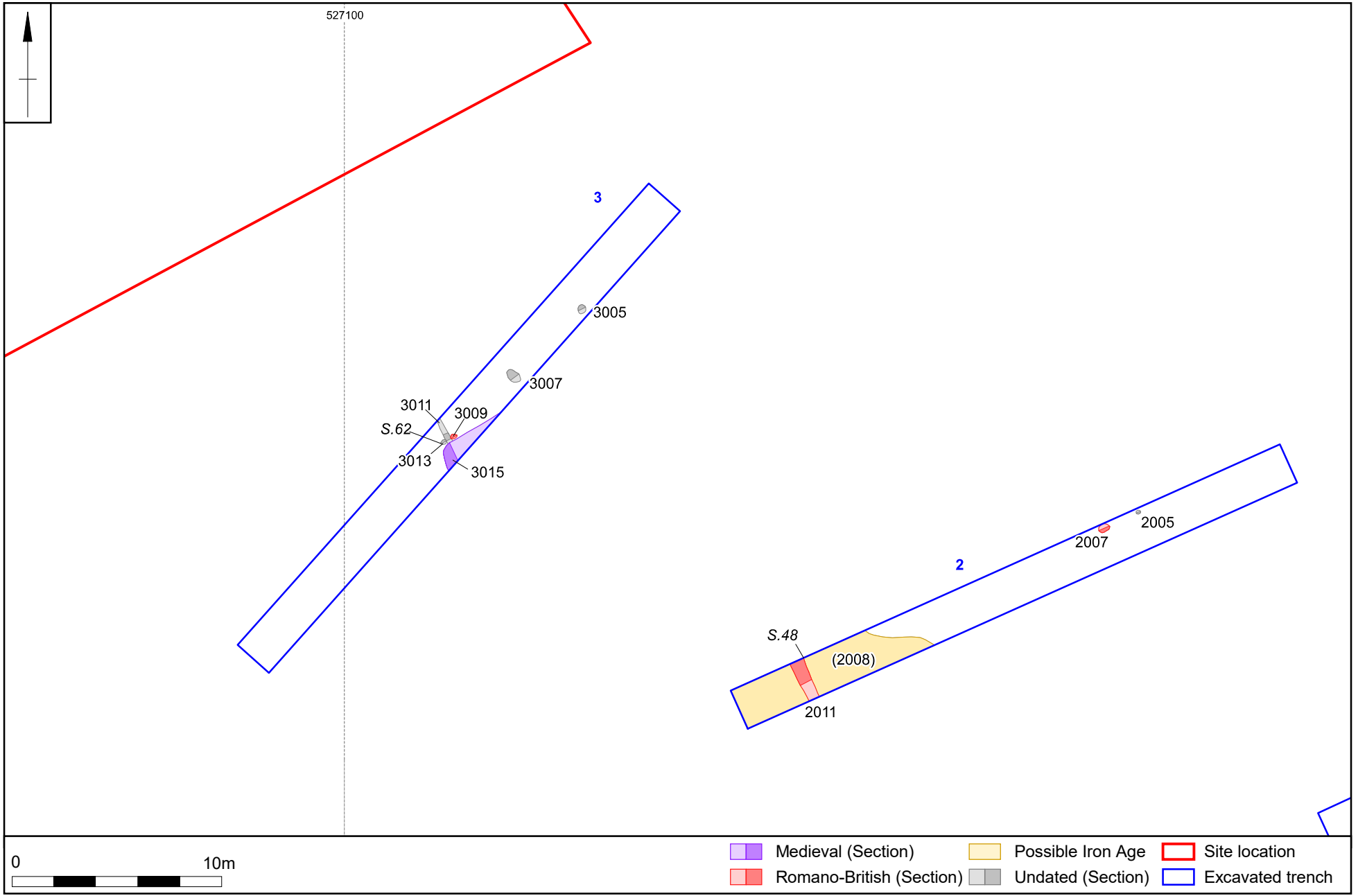


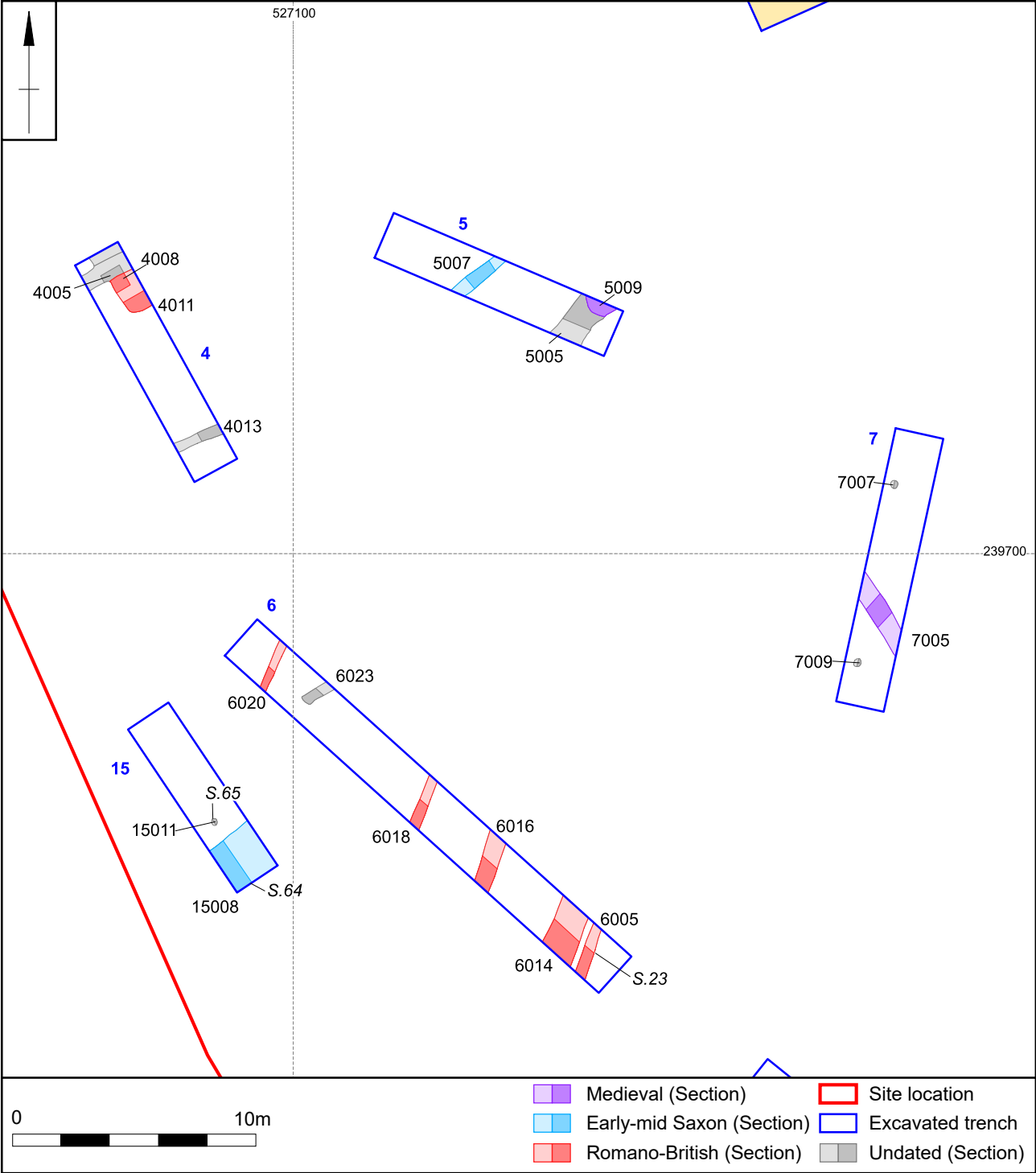
Feature 14022, looking east

Scale 1:250

Trenches 2 & 3

Fig 8





Scale 1: 250 Trenches 4-7 & 15 Fig 9

Scale 1:250

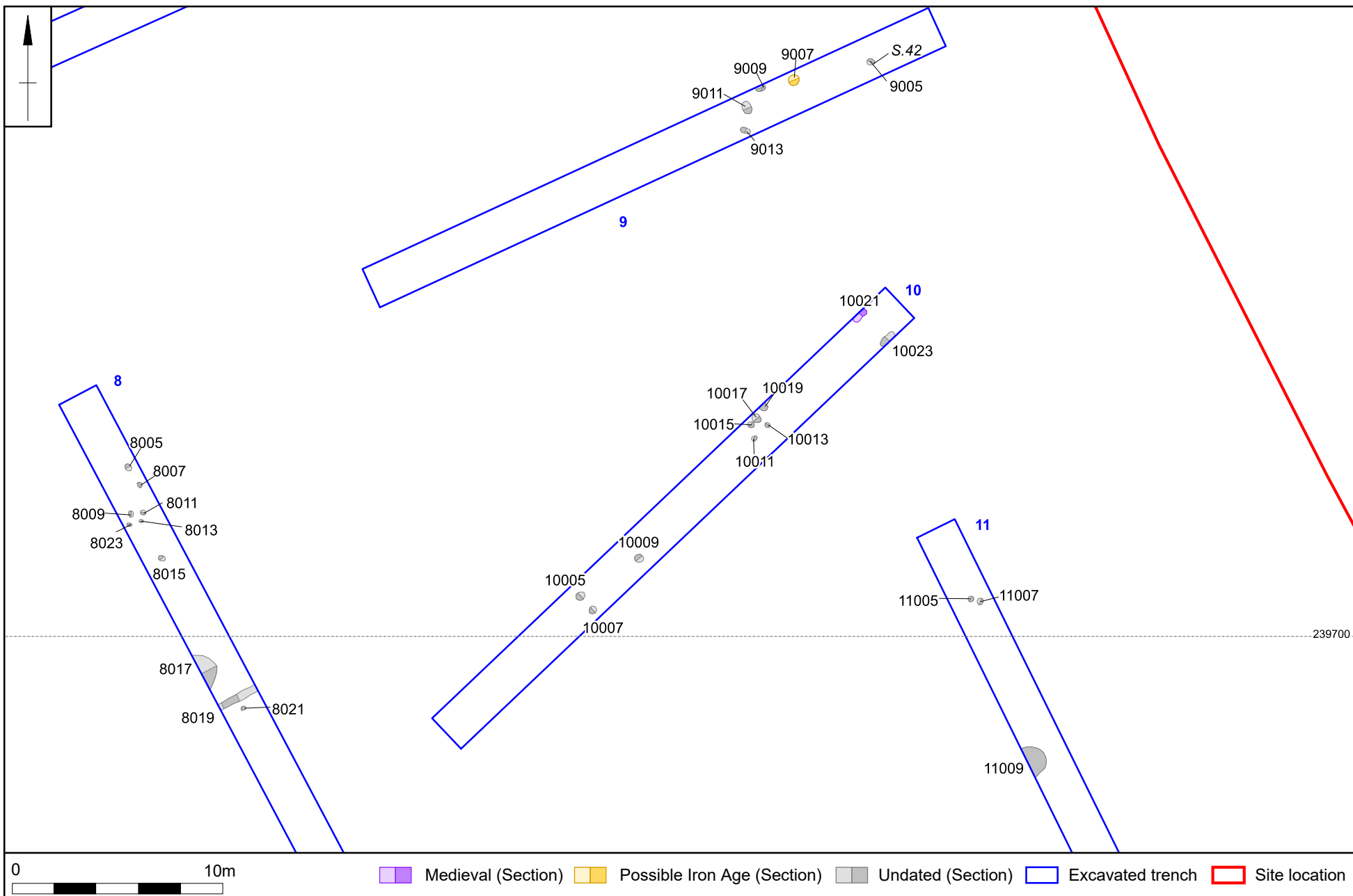


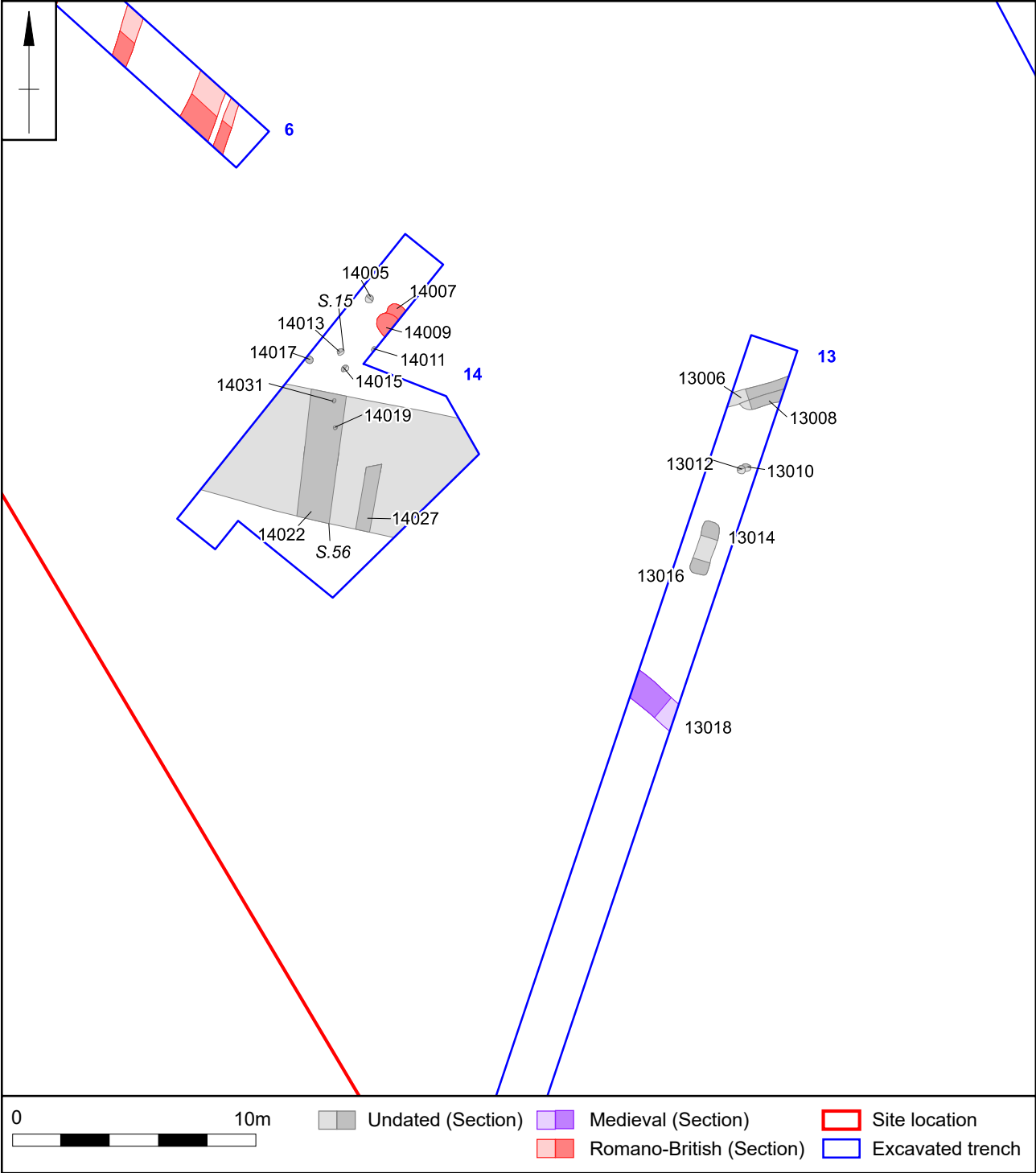
Trenches 8-11 Fig 10



Medieval (Section) Possible Iron Age (Section) Undated (Section) Excavated trench Site location

XHFASH19





Scale 1: 250 Trenches 13 & 14 Fig 11

Early-middle Saxon

Ditch

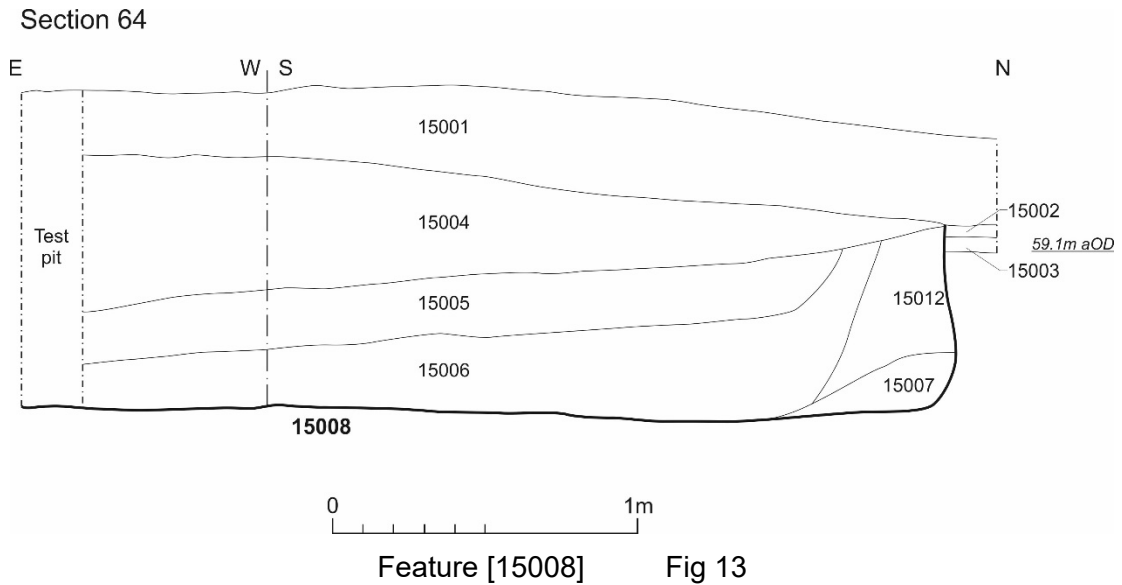
In Trench 5 was Ditch [5007], which was aligned north-east by south-west, had a width of 0.35m by a depth of 0.13m, with a U-shaped profile and a concave base (Fig 9). The ditch fill contained a fragment of Sandy Chaff-tempered Ware, which dates from the 5th-9th century in the early medieval period. Due to its location and similar alignment and dimensions, it was considered likely that ditch [4013] located c15m due west in Trench 4 may have been part of the same linear feature, although that section contained no dating evidence.

Possible sunken-feature building

In the southern 2m of Trench 15 lay the northern part of a feature [15008] of unknown dimensions, which may have been the remains of a sunken-featured building (Figs 9, 12 and 13). At the location of the excavated section, this feature was 0.84m deep with a steep, almost concave side and a flat base. It contained five fills, all except the upper fill (15004) were backfilled (Fig 11). The lower fill (15007) consisted of mid-dark brown-grey silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions. On top of fill (15007) laid (15012), a layer of extra densely packed chalk. Fill (15006) laid at the base of most the visible feature, consisting of mid brown-grey silty clay with very frequent chalk inclusions. On top of this was (15005), a dense layer of medium sized chalk chunks and rare flint which contained animal bone and two fragments of Sandstone Ware, dating from the 5th-9th centuries AD. Both of these layers were trampled and compacted. The upper layer (15004) consisted of mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate small chalk inclusions and moderate charcoal and animal bone, one fragment of Sandy Chaff-tempered Ware and three fragments of Sandstone Ware, dating to the 5th-9th century AD, and one fragment of Shelly Courseware (AD1100-1400). However, it should be kept in mind that the topsoil laid directly on top of fill (15004) and the medieval fragment might be intrusive.



Feature [15008], looking west Fig 12



Medieval

Ditches

To the north in Trench 3, a partial feature [3015], which may be the corner/terminus of a ditch or pit, contained a variety of pottery fragments dating to as late as the late 12th-14th centuries, roof tile and animal bone (Figs 8 and 14). The feature as seen within the trench measured 3m by 1m with a depth of 0.16m. Its profile demonstrated gently curving sides and a concave base. The feature also cut an earlier gully [3011], which measured 0.17m wide and 0.02m deep with gently curving sides and a flat base. While no direct dating evidence was found, the ditch can be shown to pre-date the medieval dated feature [3015].



Pit/terminus [3015], looking northeast

Fig 14

In Trench 5, part of a medieval pit or ditch terminus was visible (Fig 9). Pit/terminus [5009] measured >0.5m in width by 0.8m in length with a depth of 0.22m, gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained animal bone and one fragment of Shelly Courseware (1100-1400 AD). The pit/terminus also cut undated ditch [5005].

To the east in Trench 7, a ditch [7005], aligned north-west to south-east, measured 0.52m wide by 0.18m deep with a U-shaped profile and a concave base (Fig 9). It contained animal bone, shell, two fragments of medieval flat roof tile and two fragments of Oxidized Sandy Ware (dating 12th-14th century).

To the south of the site in Trench 13, ditch [13018] was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 11). It had a width of 1.3m by a depth of 0.08m. This shallow feature had very gently sloping sides and an irregular, concave base and contained four fragments of medieval flat roof tile.

Undated features

Ditches

North-east to south-west aligned ditch [4005] cut probable ditch terminal [4008]/[4011], which contained Roman pottery (Fig 9). However, ditch [4005] cannot be dated more accurately than by its association with these other features. It was 0.75m wide by a depth of 0.31m, with steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of friable dark grey clayey silt with moderate chalk and one fragment of animal bone.

Ditch [5005] was aligned north-east to south-west and had gently sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 1.5m wide by 0.18m deep (Fig 9). It was cut by pit [5009], which contained pottery dating to the 12th century and animal bone, and it contained a single fill of mid grey-brown clayey silt with moderate chalk inclusions.

The only feature that was on a different alignment than the five north-east to south-west Roman ditches in Trench 6 was a possible terminus of a gully [6023] extending into the trench on its eastern side before terminating c1m into the trench.

Pits

Possible pit [1006] was visible in the section of the northern end of Trench 1, where it cut through layer (1009) of possible terracing (Fig 3 and 4). It was square in plan and its unusual position with layers (1005) and (1010) suggests it may have been part of the same terracing event (see chapter section 5.1). Pit [1006] was 2.7m wide by 0.36m deep and had average-gently curving sides and a concave base. Its single fill (1004) consisted of light-mid grey-brown silt with moderate chalk inclusions.

Approximately 12m to the south, against the eastern edge of the trench, posthole/shallow pit [1008] was present. It had a diameter of 0.22m and a depth of 0.03 with steep curving sides and a flat base.

Two undated pits were located within Trench 3 (Fig 8). Pit [3005] was oval in sub-circular in shape with steep sides and a concave base. It measured 0.26m long, 0.23m wide and 0.18m. Pit [3007] was located c2m to the north of the medieval ditch [3015]. It was oval in shape with moderately sloping sides, a 'V'-shaped profile and a concave base. It measured 0.55m by 0.4m and 0.18m deep.

Postholes

A total of 42 postholes were identified on the site, most of which have remained undated. One posthole [9007] contained a single fragment of Iron Age pottery and another two postholes [2007] and [3017] each contained a single fragment of Roman pottery. Most of the postholes (around 25) were clustered towards the centre of the site within Trenches 8, 9 and 10 and the north-western end of Trench 11 (Fig 10). The remaining 19 were sparsely spread across Trenches 1, 2, 3, 7, 13, 14 and 15. No obvious structural patterns can be identified from those excavated however due to the limitations of trial trench evaluations more may exist beyond the edge of excavation, which might better define structural forms. The size and depth of the posthole varies between 0.18-0.75m in diameter and 0.03m-0.25m deep.

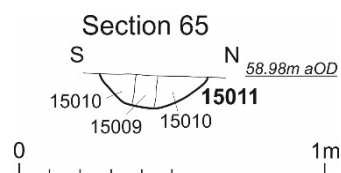
Posthole [15011], from Trench 15 differs from the others as has evidence of a possible postpipe. This had a diameter of 0.35m and a depth of 0.1m with average curving sides and a concave base (Figs 9 and 15). It contained two fills: (15009) was a mid-dark silty clay and appears to be a post pipe, and (15010) was a mixed yellow-grey to mid brown silty clay with chalk inclusions, possibly packing around the post pipe.

Individual dimensions and descriptions for the remaining postholes can be found below in Table 1.

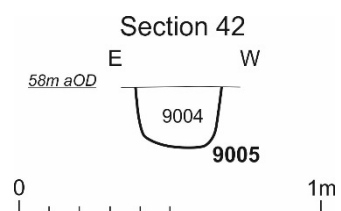
Table 1: Postholes

Trench Number	Cut Number	Profile	Finds
1	[1008]	Circular posthole or small pit, very shallow, steep curving sides, flat base	-
2	[2005]	Circular, steep-average curving sides, concave base	-
2	[2007]	Oval in plan, steep curving (SW) and vertical (NE) sides, flat base	Pottery (RB)
3	[3005]	Sub-circular, steep/vertical curving sides, concave base	-
3	[3009]	Sub-circular posthole, against linear feature [3011] but relationship not visible (Fig 17)	-
3	[3013]	Steep sloping sides, flat base. Relationship with [3011] unclear (Fig 17)	-
7	[7007]	Steep (S) and average (N) sloping sides, concave base. Circular.	-
7	[7009]	Circular, average curving sides, concave base.	-
8	[8005]	Circular in plan with average sloping sides and flat base	-
8	[8007]	Steep sloping sides, V shaped profile, concave base	-
8	[8009]	Sub-circular posthole, steep-average curving sides, concave base	-
8	[8011]	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base	-
8	[8013]	Sub-circular, gently curving sides, concave base	-
8	[8015]	Sub-circular, asymmetrical profile: gentle then steep slope on NE, steep slope on SW, flat base	-
8	[8021]	Shallow with gently curving sides and a concave base	-
8	[8023]	Asymmetrical profile, gentle slope on NW, very gentle slope on SE, concave base	-
9	[9005]	Sub-circular in plan with steep-vertical sides and a flat base (Fig 16)	-
9	[9007]	Steep sloping sides and base sloping down towards the SW	Pottery (IA?)
9	[9009]	These were most likely two postholes, one with an average curving side (SW) and concave base, and one with a vertical side and flat base (NE), but they were	Animal bone

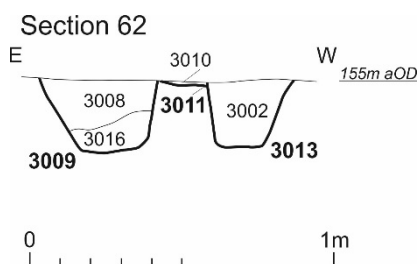
Trench Number	Cut Number	Profile	Finds
		accidentally 100% excavated as their position near the bulk disguised their true form. Their relationship is unclear	
9	[9011]	Sub-circular in plan, asymmetrical, average then vertical slope on SW, average slope on NE, concave base	-
9	[9013]	E-W aligned oval posthole, somewhat asymmetrical profile: steep slope on NE, steep then average curve on SW, concave base	-
10	[10005]	Average sloping sides, flat base	-
10	[10007]	Average sloping sides, undulating base	-
10	[10009]	Steep sloping sides, concave base	-
10	[10011]	Average curving sides, concave base	-
10	[10013]	Average sloping sides, V shaped profile, concave base	-
10	[10015]	Sub-circular, asymmetrical profile, average-steep slope on E, gentle then vertical curve on W, concave base.	-
10	[10017]	Sub-circular, average curving sides, concave base	-
10	[10019]	Most likely oval posthole, steep-vertical curving sides, concave base	-
10	[10021]	Oval in plan, steep-vertical curving sides, flat base, U shaped profile	CBM (Medieval roof tile)
10	[10023]	Oval in plan, steep curving sides, flat base, wide U shaped profile	-
11	[11005]	Circular, bowl shaped profile, steep-average curving sides and concave base	-
11	[11007]	Circular/irregular in plan, average curving sides, concave base	-
13	[13010]	Steep curving side, concave base	-
13	[13012]	Bowl shaped profile, steep-average curving sides (steeper on W), concave base	-
14	[14005]	Circular, steep curving sides, flat base	-
14	[14011]	Circular with asymmetrical, steep sloping sides and a flat base	-
14	[14013]	Circular, steep-vertical sloping sides, somewhat concave base (Fig 18)	-
14	[14015]	Sub-circular posthole, vertical-steep sloping side at east, steep curving side at west, concave base	-
14	[14017]	Steep-vertical sides, concave base	-
14	[14019]	Steep sides, concave base	-
14	[14031]	Circular, steep sloping sides, concave base. Probably cut by [14022]	-
15	[15011]	Circular, average curving sides, concave base (Fig 15)	-



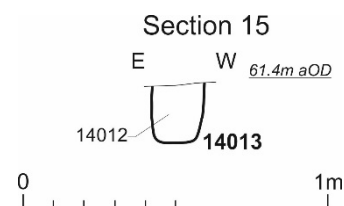
Posthole [15011] showing post-pipe, looking west Fig 15



Posthole [9005], looking south Fig 16



Posthole [3009] and [3013], looking south Fig 17



Posthole [14013], looking south Fig 18

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 37 sherds with a total weight of 301g. It comprised a mixture of Iron Age, Roman, early/ middle and late Anglo-Saxon, and medieval wares. The following fabric types were noted:

EMS1: Sandy Chaff-tempered Ware, early/middle Anglo-Saxon, 5th - 9th century. Sparse to moderate organic voids up to 5mm, and moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm. Slightly sandy texture, rare flint and calcareous material. 4 sherds, 113g.

EMS2: Sandstone Ware, early/middle Anglo-Saxon, 5th - 9th century. Sparse sandstone fragments up to 3mm, some iron-rich, moderate to dense sub-angular 'free' quartz grains up to 0.5mm. Two sherds, 11g.

HED: Hedingham Ware, late 12th – 14th century (Walker 2012). One sherd, 1g.

HGW: Hertfordshire Grey Ware, mid 12th – 14th century (Turner-Rugg 1993). One sherd, 4g,

IA: Iron Age. Fairly coarse sandy fabric, rare shell fragments up to 5mm. Two sherds, 3g

OSW: Oxidized Sandy Ware, 12th – 14th century. 2 sherds, 13g.

RB: All Roman, 1st – 4th century. 20 sherds, 122g.

SCW: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400 (McCarthy 1979). Two sherds, 20g.

SN: St Neots Ware, AD900-1100 (Denham 1985). Two sherds, 9g.

THT: Thetford Ware, 10th – 12th century (Rogerson and Dallas 1984) One sherd, 5g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types fairly typical of sites in the region. Most of the sherds are fairly small and clearly the product of secondary deposition.

The sherds identified as Iron Age are very small and abraded, and so the attributions should be regarded as tentative. All the early/middle Anglo-Saxon sherds are undecorated, and so can only be given a broad date covering the entire period.

All the medieval pottery dates to the earlier (12th – 14th century) part of the period, with fairly common late medieval wares being entirely absent. OSW has a very similar fabric to HGW, and may be a vessel of that type which was accidentally oxidized during firing.

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	IA		RB		EMS1		EMS2		SN		THT		SCW		HGW		HED		OSW		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
2006	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB
2008	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	IA?
2010	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB
3014	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	9	1	5	-	-	1	4	1	1	-	-	L12thC
3016	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB
4006	-	-	2	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB
5006	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E/MSAX
5008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
6013	-	-	5	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB
6015	-	-	1	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB
7004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	13	12thC
9006	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	IA?
14008	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB
14028	-	-	6	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB
15004	-	-	1	13	3	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
15005	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E/MSAX
Total	2	3	20	122	4	113	2	11	2	9	1	5	2	20	1	4	1	1	2	13	-

6.2 Ceramic Building Material by Paul Blinkhorn

A small assemblage of ten fragments (weight = 196g) of fired clay building material was also noted. The occurrence by number of fragments per context by type is shown in Table 3. It mainly comprised flat roof tile of medieval date, along with a single unidentified fragment of brick or tile of uncertain date. The flat roof tile is all unglazed and in a hard, red sandy fabric, and is c12mm-16mm thick. No other dimensions survived. One fragment from context (7004) had a fragment of a nail-hole remaining.

Table 3: CBM occurrence by number of fragments per context by type

Context	Unident		Flat tile	
	Number	Weight	Number	Weight
3014	-	-	2	16
7004	-	-	2	47
10020	-	-	1	1
13013	1	3	-	-
13017	-	-	4	129
Total	1	3	9	193

6.3 Animal bone by Sander Aerts

A total of 181 animal bone fragments from 16 different contexts were hand-collected and submitted for analysis. The preservation of the remains varied from very well preserved to poorly preserved. The animal bones derive from fills varying in date from Roman to 12th century AD. The remains were quantified using the NISP method (number of identified specimens per taxon), where identification was attempted on each element with diagnostic features. Due to the similarities in the skeletal morphology of sheep and goat, these taxa were grouped together as ovicaprids. Unidentifiable remains were categorised as large mammal (cattle-sized), medium mammal (sheep-sized) or unidentifiable mammal.

A total of 36 fragments (or approx. 20%) were identifiable to species. The assemblage comprised common domestic species, including cattle (N=16), horse (N=11), ovicaprid (N=7), pig (N=1) and dog (N=1). The identified elements per fill are given in Table 4. No butchering marks or other taphonomy was observed on any of the bones.

Cattle bones and ovicaprid bones are common, and are likely to have been economically important for the production of meat and secondary products. Horse remains are also abundant, which is of note as these are normally less commonly observed as they primarily used for traction only. Pig is only represented through one skull fragment from 12th-century possible sunken-featured building [15004]. One dog tooth was retrieved from Roman ditch [2011].

No further work is required on this assemblage.

Table 4: NISP of animal taxa per context

Context	Cattle	Horse	Ovicaprid	Pig	Dog	LM	MM	UM
2010	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
3008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3014	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
4004	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
4006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
5008	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
6012	4	3	-	-	-	16	-	5
6013	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	13
6019	1	1	-	-	-	4	-	-
7004	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11
9008	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
13007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
14008	6	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
14025	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	7
15004	3	5	6	1	-	9	8	22
15005	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	4

6.4 Shell by Sander Aerts

A small number of terrestrial snail shells were retrieved from 12th-century ditch fill (7004). The species identified were *Cepaea nemoralis* and *Cornu aspersum*. *Cepaea normalis* is a eurytopic species, found in a variety of habitats. *Cornu aspersum* is also known as the edible snail. Although sometimes consumed, the species is often encountered in man-made habitats, and is considered a garden pest. No further work is required on this assemblage, and retention is not considered necessary.

6.5 Small finds by Tora Hylton

The excavations at Ashwell Street, Ashwell, produced a small collection of six individually recorded small finds. With the exception of one find from a ditch in Trench 14 [14028], all the finds were recovered from topsoil and therefore unstratified. Chronologically the earliest datable finds are two Roman coins dating to the 3rd and 4th centuries. <SF2> dates to AD260-296 and was recovered from ditch [14028] and <SF5> dates to AD330-337 and is unstratified. Finds of Medieval date are represented by a copper alloy strap-loop <SF6> and a lead weight <SF3>. The strap-loop has a trapezoidal frame with pairs of internal projections and dates to c1150-1400. Mounts of this type would have been used to hold down the loose end of a strap. For similar examples see Egan and Pritchard 1991 (fig 149, 1256-1259). The lead weight is conical with a central perforation. It represents a type that spans the medieval and post-medieval periods and it may have been used for weighing down nets or hangings etc (Margeson 1993, fig 103, 938).

Post-medieval finds from topsoil include, amorphous fragments possibly representing some form of metal working debris <SF4> and an unfired bullet <SF7>.

Catalogue

- SF 1 Sphere, lead/iron. Natural occurrence of iron in chalk. Context 6004.
- SF 2 Roman coin, copper alloy. Context 14028.
- SF 3 Weight, lead. Conical weight with central perforation. Diameter: 20.5 H:5.8 Perforation – Diameter: 7.4, Weight: 13g Context 001, topsoil.
- Weights of this type would have had various uses, like weighing down nets or hangings etc. (Margeson 1993, fig 103, 938). Date: medieval/post medieval.
- SF 4 Fragments x 11, metal alloy. Amorphous fragments of indeterminate form ranging from c15x9mm to c46x33mm in size, possibly some sort of metal working debris. Weight: c73g Context 001, Topsoil.
- SF 5 Roman coin, silver. Context 001, topsoil.
- SF 6 Strap loop, copper alloy. Trapezoidal frame with a pairs of internal projections sited two thirds along the short sides of the frame, crude centrally placed moulding on outside edge. Date: Medieval (c1150-1400). Measurements: 17.4 x 15.2 (12mm) Context 001, topsoil,
- Mounts of this type would have been used to hold down the loose end of a strap. The internal measurement at the narrower end (below the projections) suggests that the strap loop would have secured a strap measuring c12mm wide. For similar examples, see Egan and Pritchard 1991, fig 149, 1256-1259.
- SF 7 Bullet, unfired. Probably WWII, associated with machine gun, possibly German. Submitted to the Police Service.

6.6 Roman coins by Ellie Cox

Two Roman coins were discovered on site. One was recovered from the wide shallow feature in Trench 14 [14022] and was dated between AD 260-296. The other was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1 and was minted between AD 330-337.

Catalogue

- SF2 (14028) Incomplete copper-alloy Radiate of unclear emperor dating to the period AD 260-296. Unclear reverse type depicting standing draped figure with transverse sceptre left and outstretched arm right. Unclear mint.
- Diameter: 20.91mm, Thickness: 1.57mm, Weight: 2.0g
- Obverse description: Radiate head right
Obverse inscription: Illegible
Reverse description: Standing draped figure with transverse sceptre left and outstretched arm right
Reverse inscription: Illegible
- Die Axis 10
- SF5 (001) Incomplete copper-alloy Nummus of the House of Constantine dating to the period AD 330-337. Reece Period 17. Reverse type GLORIA EXERCITVS, depicting two soldiers with one standard. Unclear mint.
- Diameter: 16.74mm, Thickness: 1.85mm, Weight: 1.5g
- Obverse description: Diademed, cuirassed bust right
Obverse inscription: Illegible
Reverse description: Two soldiers with one standard
Reverse inscription: [GLOR/IAEXERC/ITVS]
- Die Axis: 12

7 DISCUSSION

The features uncovered during this trial trench evaluation seem to represent extended use of the site throughout (possibly) the Iron Age, Roman, early-middle Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The activity fits within the broad picture of activity found within the surrounding area. The geophysical survey provided mixed results when compared with the results from the evaluation with some features, like the field boundaries within Trench 6 having good correlations where as others such as feature [14022] did not showing on the survey (Fig 4).

Iron Age activity on the site was limited to a spread within Trench 2 and the presence of pottery within two of the postholes found on the site. Several Roman ditches were present on the site and along with some of the undated ditches likely defined field boundaries within Roman field systems. A large feature located within Trench 14, has also been dated to the Roman period although its exact nature remains unknown; it did not continue into Trench 13, 10m to the west and did not align with the natural slope of the landscape so is unlikely to have been related to drainage.

The presence of a large number of postholes across the site suggests the possibility that post-built structures were present during at least one phase of site activity, potentially related to occupation although no distinct patterns were discernible within the trenches. With the exception of four of the postholes, the vast majority remain undated. Two contained pottery dated to the Iron Age period and two to the Roman period although these were only small single fragments, possibly residual in the fills.

Anglo-Saxon features have also been found on the site; in particular, a large hollow within Trench 15 which could be identified as a Sunken-Featured Building (SFB), although its depth of 0.84m would be much deeper than most examples it would still fall within the acceptable range of between 0.1 and 1.19m as outlined by Tipper (2004: 65). It is near vertical edges and fills of compacted chalk are reminiscent of a similar feature excavated nearby at Ashwell End and described as a 'ritual hollow' (Jackson and Burleigh 2018), although the use of that feature took place between the late Iron Age and Roman era. No artefacts recovered from the SFB support a similar interpretation.

The variation in the build-up in soils at Trench 1 at the top of the hill could provide insight in the terracing history of the site as matches with the results of the excavations carried out directly to the east of the site (Jones 2011a and 2011b).

While metal work fragments deriving from aircraft operating during WWII have been found on the site there is little evidence that this area of land formed the actual crash site, instead the evidence found is likely to be related to debris generated as a consequence of impact of two aircraft colliding in mid-air.

This site has the potential to contribute to several research objectives as proposed in the research framework for the east of England (Medlycott 2011). The following list is not exhaustive and does not constitute a recommendation for further work. Any requirement for future work remains at the discretion of the Hertfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologists.

Roman

- the form and function of Roman settlements
- the nature of the transition from the Roman to Anglo-Saxon period in Hertfordshire

Saxon

- understanding the use of Roman settlements that demonstrate continuous use into the Saxon period
- the establishment and development of settlements throughout the Saxon period, particularly those of early to mid-Saxon date, which are rare in Hertfordshire
- changes in settlement types and forms throughout the period
- archaeological representation of the adoption of Christianity

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2019, Geology of Britain Viewer, *British Geological Survey*, available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, last accessed

Burleigh, G, 2019 *Archaeological investigations at Hunt's Close, Ashwell*, North Hertfordshire Archaeological Society

ClfA 2014a *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA 2014c *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Crothers, ME, 2019, *Archaeological desk-based heritage assessment of land at Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire, September 2019*, MOLA report, **19/93**

Denham, V, 1985 The Pottery, in JH Williams, M Shaw and V Denham, 1985 *Middle Saxon Palaces at Northampton*, Northampton Development Corporation Monograph Series **4**, 46-64

Egan, G, and Pritchard, F, 1991 *Dress Accessories c. 1150-c.1450*, Medieval Finds from Excavations in London **3**, Her Majesty's Stational Office

Gathering Our Heroes Project 2019 *Gathering Our Heroes, Chatham-Kent*, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE), available online at <https://www.gatheringourheroes.ca/>, last accessed November 2019

HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Historic England

Jackson, R, and Burleigh, G, 2018 *Dea Senuna: Treasure, Cult and Ritual at Ashwell, Hertfordshire*, The British Museum

Jones, G, 2011a *22 Lucas Lane, Ashwell, Hertfordshire: archaeological evaluation*, Heritage Network report

Jones, G, 2011b *Land at 22 Lucas Lane, Ashwell, Hertfordshire: archaeological monitoring report*, Heritage Network report

LandIS 2019 *Soilscapes map*, Land Information System operated by Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute, available at <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

Lockyear, K, 2019 *Waffles in Ashwell?* Available online at www.hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com, last accessed April 2019

Margeson, S, 1993 *Norwich Households: Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-78*, East Anglia Archaeology, **58**

McCarthy, M, 1979 The Pottery, in JH Williams 1979 *St Peter's St, Northampton: Excavations 1973-76*, Northampton Development Corporation Monograph Series **2**, 151-242

Medlycott, M, 2011 *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper, **24**

MHCLG 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Museum of London Archaeology

Palmer, JJN, 2018 *Ashwell, Open Domesday*, available online at <https://opendomesday.org/place/TL2639/ashwell/>, last accessed February 2019

- Reid, A 2019 *Archaeological excavation on land west of Brampton Cambridgeshire August 2017- January 2018*, MOLA report, **19/93**
- Rogerson, A, and Dallas, C, 1984 *Excavations in Thetford 1948-59 and 1973-80*, East Anglia Archaeology 22
- Shiple, A, 2019 *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation on land north of Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire, September 2019*, MOLA Northampton
- Swanton, M, 2000 *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*, Phoenix
- Tipper, J 2004 *The Grubenhaus in Anglo-Saxon England: An analysis and interpretation of the evidence from a most distinctive building type* English Heritage
- Turner-Rugg, A, 1993 *Medieval Pottery in Hertfordshire: a gazetteer of the principle collections*, *Hertfordshire Archaeology* , **11**, 30 – 53
- Walker, H, 2012 *Heddingham Ware: A Medieval Pottery Industry in North Essex; its Production and Distribution*, East Anglian Archaeology, **148**
- Walker, K, 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation
- Watkinson, D, and Neal, V, 2001 *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition reprinted), United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

MOLA Northampton

November 2019

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & of height natural (aOD)
1	NNW-SWE 30m x 2m		55.52-57.3m	54.53-56.97m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(1001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.2-0.3m	Bullet
(1002)	Subsoil	Mid brown grey silt, rare small stones	0.2-0.32m	-
(1003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(1004)	Fill of [1006]	Light-mid grey brown silt, moderate chalk inclusions	W: 2.7m D: 0.36m	-
[1006]	Cut	Square with rounded edges in plan, average-gently curving sides, concave base	W: 2.7m D: 0.36m	-
(1007)	Fill of [1008]	Mid-dark grey brown clayey silt, rare small chalk inclusions, one lump of chalk, possibly backfilled	Ø: 0.22m D: 0.03m	-

[1008]	Cut pit/posthole	Circular posthole or small pit, very shallow, steep curving sides, flat base	Ø: 0.22m D: 0.03m	-
(1009)	Layer	Possible terracing. Yellow brown silt, mottled grey, moderate chalk inclusions, quite similar to (1005)	W: >2.7m D: >0.4m	-
(1010)	Layer	Light-mid yellow brown compact silt, moderate chalk inclusions, mostly medium sized chalk inclusions at base	W: >20m D: 0.3m	-

Trench 2



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	SW-NE 30m x 2m		56.36-56.1m	57.06-57.18m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(2001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.18-0.26m	Burnt aluminium
(2002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt,	0.08-0.2m	-

		chalk inclusions		
(2003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(2004)	Fill of [2005]	Dark brown grey clayey silt	Ø: 0.2m D: 0.06m	-
[2005]	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep-average curving sides, concave base	Ø: 0.2m D: 0.06m	-
(2006)	Fill of [2007]	Mid brown grey clayey silt, possibly silted up	L: 0.3m W: 0.38m D: 0.13m	Pottery (RB)
[2007]	Cut of posthole	Oval in plan, steep curving (SW) and vertical (NE) sides, flat base	L: 0.3m W: 0.38m D: 0.13m	-
(2008)	Fill of [2009]	Mottled brown/orange brown silt, but by [2011]	L: >10m W: >2m D: 0.2m	Pottery (IA?)
[2009]	Cut of large feature/spread	Flat base, irregular sides	L: >10m W: >2m D: 0.2m	-
(2010)	Fill of [2011]	Mid-dark grey brown clayey silt, possibly silted up	L: >2m W: 1m D: 0.38m	Pottery (RB) Animal bone
[2011]	Cut of ditch	Average curving sides, concave base. Cuts 'spread' fill (2008)	L: >2m W: 1m D: 0.38m	-

Trench 3



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	NE-SW 30m x 2m		55.04-55.92m	54.7-55.72m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(3001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.2-0.3m	-
(3002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.1-0.18m	-
(3003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(3004)	Fill of [3005]	Mid-dark brown grey clayey silt, rare charcoal, moderate chalk, probably silted up	L: 0.26m W: 0.23m D: 0.18m	-
[3005]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular, steep/vertical curving sides, concave base	L: 0.26m W: 0.23m D: 0.18m	-
(3006)	Fill of [3007]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt, moderate chalk	L: 0.55m W: 0.4m D: 0.18m	-
[3007]	Cut of pit	Average sloping sides, wide V-shaped profile, concave base	L: 0.55m W: 0.4m D: 0.18m	-
(3008)	Fill of [3009]	Mid grey clayey silt, frequent chalk	L: 0.38m W: 0.25m D: 0.17m	Animal bone
[3009]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular posthole, against linear feature [3011] but relationship not visible	L: 0.38m W: 0.25m D: 0.24m	-
(3010)	Fill of [3011]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt, rare chalk	L: >1m W: 0.17m D: 0.02m	-
[3011]	Cut of gully	Very gently curving sides, flat base, very shallow. Interacts with postholes [3009], [3013] and pit/terminus [3015], but relationship unclear due to shallow nature and similarity in fills	L: >1m W: 0.17m D: 0.02m	-
(3012)	Fill of [3012]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt, rare chalk	L: 0.29m W: 0.25m D: 0.22m	-

[3013]	Cut of posthole	Steep sloping sides, flat base. Relationship with [3011] unclear.	L: 0.29m W: 0.25m D: 0.22m	-
(3014)	Fill of [3015]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt, rare chalk	L: >3m W: >1m D: 0.16m	Animal bone Pottery (RB, 9-14th CE) CBM (Medieval roof tile)
[3015]	Cut of pit/terminus	Gently curving sides, base concave/sloping down, full feature not excavated. Relationship with [3011] unclear	L: >3m W: >1m D: 0.16m	-
(3016)	Fill of [3009]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt, rare chalk	W: 0.28m D: 0.13m	Pottery (RB)

Trench 4



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	SEE-NWW 10mx2m		57.02- 57.94m	56.75- 57.76m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(4001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.26-0.3m	-

(4002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.02-0.03	-
(4003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(4004)	Fill of [4005]	Friable dark grey clayey silt, moderate chalk	L: >2m W: 0.75m D: 0.31m	Animal bone
[4005]	Cut of ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch, steep sloping sides, concave base, cuts (4006) and (4007)	L: >2m W: 0.75m D: 0.31m	-
(4006)	Fill of [4008]	Top fill, friable mid grey clayey silt with occasional chalk, cut by [4005]	L: >3m W: >1m D: 0.15	Animal bone Pottery (RB)
(4007)	Fill of [4008]	Bottom fill, friable light grey clayey silt with frequent large and medium chalk inclusions, cut by [4005]	L: >3m D: 0.08m	-
[4008]	Cut of ditch	NW-SE aligned linear feature, moderate sloping sides and concave base	L: >3m W: >1m D: 0.23m	-
(4009)	Fill of [4011]	Same as (4006)	L: >3m W: >1m D: 0.15	-
(4010)	Fill of [4011]	Same as (4007)	L: >3m D: 0.08m	-
[4011]	Cut of ditch terminus	Same as [4008]	L: >3m W: >1m D: 0.18m	-
(4012)	Fill of [4013]	Dark grey friable clayey silt, moderate chalk inclusions	L: >2m W: 0.46m D: 0.22m	-
[4013]	Cut of ditch	E-W aligned linear feature with steep sloping sides and flat base	L: >2m W: 0.46m D: 0.22m	-

Trench 5



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	NWW-SEE 10mx2m		57.5-58.26m	57.05-57.91m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(5001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.24-0.25m	-
(5002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.07-0.09m	-
(5003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(5004)	Fill of [5005]	Mid grey brown clayey silt, moderate chalk inclusions. Cut by [5009]	L: >2m W: 1.5m D: 0.18m	-
[5005]	Cut of ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch, Gently sloping sides, flat base	L: >2m W: 1.5m D: 0.18m	-
(5006)	Fill of [5007]	Friable mid grey clayey silt with moderate chalk inclusions	L: >2m W: 0.35m D: 0.13m	Pottery (E/M Saxon)
[5007]	Cut of gully	E-W aligned linear feature, U-shaped profile, concave base	L: >2m W: 0.35m D: 0.13m	-

(5008)	Fill of [5009]	Friable dark grey clayey silt with occasional chalk	L: >0.5m W: 0.8m D: 0.22m	Animal bone Pottery (12th CE)
[5009]	Cut of pit	Gently sloping sides and concave base, cuts (5004)	L: >0.5m W: 0.8m D: 0.22m	-

Trench 6



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	SSE-NNW 15mx2m		58.63-60.77m	58.34-60.36m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(6001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.2-0.22m	-
(6002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0-0.06m	-
(6003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(6004)	Fill of [6005]	Mid grey friable sandy silt, moderate chalk flecks	L: >2m W: 0.59m D: 0.17m	SF 1 – iron object

[6005]	Cut of gully	NNE-SSW aligned linear feature, gently curving somewhat undulating sides, concave base. Possibly connected to larger ditch [6014]	L: >2m W: 0.59m D: 0.17m	-
(6012)	Fill of [6014]	Friable light white brown grey sandy silt, frequent chalk	L: >2m W: 0.85m D: 0.41m	Animal bone
(6013)	Fill of [6014]	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt with frequent chalk flecks and occasional charcoal	L: >2m W: 1.1m D: 0.46m	Animal bone Pottery (RB)
[6014]	Cut of ditch	NNE-SSW aligned linear feature, U shaped profile, concave base. Three recuts	L: >2m W: 1.7m D: 0.52m	-
(6015)	Fill of [6016]	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt with frequent chalk	L: >2m W: 0.9m D: 0.29m	Pottery (RB)
[6016]	Cut of ditch	NNE-SSW aligned linear feature, U shaped profile, concave base	L: >2m W: 0.9m D: 0.29m	-
(6017)	Fill of [6018]	Friable mid grey sandy silt with frequent chalk	L: >2m W: 0.48m D: 0.16m	-
[6018]	Cut of gully	NNE-SSW aligned linear feature, U shaped profile, concave base	L: >2m W: 0.48m D: 0.16m	-
(6019)	Fill of [6020]	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt with frequent chalk	L: >2m W: 0.4m D: 0.21m	-
[6020]	Cut of gully	NNE-SSW aligned linear feature with U shape profile, steep sides and concave base	L: >2m W: 0.4m D: 0.21m	-
(6021)	Fill of [6023]	Friable mid grey sand silt with frequent chalk	L: >1m W: 0.3m D: 0.09m	-
(6022)	Fill of [6023]	Firm, possibly natural. Light white grey with frequent chalk	L: >1m W: 0.26m D: 0.1m	-

[6023]	Cut of gully terminus	NE-SW aligned linear feature, in different alignment then other ditches in this trench. Steep sides, possible terminus, possibly natural	L: >1m W: 0.3m D: 0.19m	-
--------	-----------------------	--	-------------------------------	---

Trench 7



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
7	NNE-SSW 10mx2m		58.99-59.95m	58.74-59.84m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(7001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.12-0.21m	-
(7002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.07-0.19m	-
(7003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(7004)	Fill of [7005]	Friable mid grey clayey silt with frequent chalk and occasional small pebbles	L: >2.5m W: 0.52m D: 0.18m	Animal bone Shell Pottery (12th CE) CBM (Medieval roof tile)

[7005]	Cut of ditch	NW-SE aligned linear feature, U shaped profile, concave base	L: >2.5m W: 0.52m D: 0.18m	-
(7006)	Fill of [7007]	Friable mid brown clayey silt with moderate chalk	Ø: 0.3m D: 0.2m	-
[7007]	Cut of posthole	Steep (S) and average (N) sloping sides, concave base. Circular.	Ø: 0.3m D: 0.2m-	-
(7008)	Fill of [7009]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt	Ø: 0.22 D: 0.06m	-
[7009]	Cut of posthole	Circular, average curving sides, concave base.	Ø: 0.22 D: 0.06m	-

Trench 8



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height natural (aOD)
8	NWW-SEE 30mx2m		58.52-61.78m	58.28-61.56m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(8001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.2-0.27m	-
(8002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0-0.07m	-
(8003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-

(8004)	Fill of [8005]	Dark grey silty clay	Ø: 0.21m D: 0.07m	-
[8005]	Cut of posthole	Circular in plan with average sloping sides and flat base	Ø: 0.21m D: 0.07m	-
(8006)	Fill of [8007]	Dark grey silty clay	Ø: 0.18m D: 0.25m	-
[8007]	Cut of posthole	Steep sloping sides, V shaped profile, concave base	Ø: 0.18m D: 0.25m	-
(8008)	Fill of [8009]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.25m W: 0.2m D: 0.13m	-
[8009]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular posthole, steep-average curving sides, concave base	L: 0.25m W: 0.2m D: 0.13m	-
(8010)	Fill of [8011]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.25m W: 0.23m D: 0.06m	-
[8011]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base	L: 0.25m W: 0.23m D: 0.06m	-
(8012)	Fill of [8013]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.28m W: 0.26m D: 0.06m	-
[8013]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular, gently curving sides, concave base	L: 0.28m W: 0.26m D: 0.06m	-
(8014)	Fill of [8015]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.34m W: 0.32m D: 0.18m	-
[8015]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular, asymetrial profile: gentle then steep slope on NE, steep slope on SW, flat base	L: 0.34m W: 0.32m D: 0.18m	-
(8016)	Fill of [8017]	Dark grey silty clay	W: 1.8m D: 0.2m	-
[8017]	Cut of pit	Shallow pit with gently/average curving sides and a concave base	W: 1.8m D: 0.2m	-
(8018)	Fill of [8019]	Dark grey silty clay	L: >2m W: 0.25m D: 0.03m	-
[8019]	Cut of gully	Shallow gully with gently sloping sides and a concave base	L: >2m W: 0.25m D: 0.03m	-
(8020)	Fill of [8021]	Dark grey silty clay	Ø: 0.25m D: 0.04m	-

[8021]	Cut of posthole	Shallow with gently curving sides and a concave base	Ø: 0.25m D: 0.04m	-
(8022)	Fill of [8023]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.27m W: 0.24m D: 0.04m	-
[8023]	Cut of posthole	Asymmetrical profile, gentle slope on NW, very gentle slope on SE, concave base	L: 0.27m W: 0.24m D: 0.04m	-

Trench 9



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
9	NW-SE 50mx2m		58.29-58.34m	58.08-57.95m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(9001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.2-0.26m	-
(9002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.09-0.14m	-
(9003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(9004)	Fill of [9005]	Mid brown grey clayey silt with frequent small chalk, backfilled	L: 0.29m W: 0.26m D: 0.2m	-

[9005]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular in plan with steep-vertical sides and a flat base	L: 0.29m W: 0.26m D: 0.2m	-
(9006)	Fill of [9007]	Mid brown grey silt with moderate chalk inclusions, silted up	Ø: 0.45m D: 0.32m	Pottery (IA?)
[9007]	Cut of posthole	Steep sloping sides and base sloping down towards the SW	Ø: 0.45m D: 0.32m	-
(9008)	Fill of [9009]	Mid-dark brown clayey silt – two postholes with similar fill, see below	L: 0.52m W: 0.25m D: 0.12/0.2m	Animal bone
[9009]	Cut of postholes	These were most likely two postholes, one with an average curving side (SW) and concave base, and one with a vertical side and flat base (NE), but they were accidentally 100% excavated as their position near the bulk disguised their true form. Their relationship is unclear	L: 0.52m W: 0.25m D: 0.12/0.2m	-
(9010)	Fill of [9011]	Mid-dark brown grey clayey silt, moderate chalk inclusions	L: 0.42m W: 0.5m D: 0.29m	-
[9011]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular in plan, asymmetrical, average then vertical slope on SW, average slope on NE, concave base	L: 0.42m W: 0.5m D: 0.29m	-
(9012)	Fill of [9013]	Mid-dark brown grey clayey silt with moderate chalk inclusions	L: 0.5m W: 0.29m D: 0.2m	-
[9013]	Cut of posthole	E-W aligned oval posthole, somewhat asymmetrical profile: steep slope on NE, steep then average curve on SW, concave base	L: 0.5m W: 0.29m D: 0.2m	-

Trench 10

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth height natural (aOD) & of
10	NE-SW 30mx2m		59.63-60.74m	58.96-60.46m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(10001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.18-0.29m	-
(10002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.06-0.16m	-
(10003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(10004)	Fill of [10005]	Dark grey silty clay	Ø: 0.35m D: 0.1m	-
[10005]	Cut of posthole	Average sloping sides, flat base	Ø: 0.35m D: 0.1m	-
(10006)	Fill of [10007]	Dark grey silty clay	Ø: 0.25m D: 0.07m	-
[10007]	Cut of posthole	Average sloping sides, undulating base	Ø: 0.25m D: 0.07m	-
(10008)	Fill of [10009]	Dark grey silty clay	Ø: 0.32m D: 0.2m	-
[10009]	Cut of posthole	Steep sloping sides, concave base	Ø: 0.32m D: 0.2m	-
(10010)	Fill of [10011]	Dark grey silty clay	Ø: 0.21m D: 0.09m	-
[10011]	Cut of posthole	Average curving sides, concave base	Ø: 0.21m D: 0.09m	-

(10012)	Fill of [10013]	Dark grey silty clay	Ø: 0.2m D: 0.07m	-
[10013]	Cut of posthole	Average sloping sides, V shaped profile, concave base	Ø: 0.2m D: 0.07m	-
(10014)	Fill of [10015]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.32m W: 0.3m D: 0.21m	-
[10015]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular, asymmetrical profile, average-steep slope on E, gentle then vertical curve on W, concave base.	L: 0.32m W: 0.3m D: 0.21m	-
(10016)	Fill of [10017]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.27m W: 0.25m D: 0.1m	-
[10017]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular, average curving sides, concave base	L: 0.27m W: 0.25m D: 0.1m	-
(10018)	Fill of [10019]	Dark grey silty clay	L: >0.4m W: 0.32m D: 0.48m	-
[10019]	Cut of posthole	Most likely oval posthole, steep-vertical curving sides, concave base	L: >0.4m W: 0.32m D: 0.48m	-
(10020)	Fill of [10021]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.75m W: 0.29m D: 0.21m	CBM (Medieval roof tile)
[10021]	Cut of posthole	Oval in plan, steep-vertical curving sides, flat base, U shaped profile	L: 0.75m W: 0.29m D: 0.21m	-
(10022)	Fill of [10023]	Dark grey silty clay	L: 0.8m W: 0.34m D: 0.17m	-
[10023]	Cut of posthole	Oval in plan, steep curving sides, flat base, wide U shaped profile	L: 0.8m W: 0.34m D: 0.17m	-

Trench 11



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth height natural (aOD) & of
11	NE-SW 30mx2m		60.56-63.33m	60.19-63.26m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(11001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.2-0.28m	-
(11002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0-0.13m	-
(11003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(11004)	Fill of [11005]	Friable light grey sandy silt with moderate chalk flecks	Ø: 0.3m D: 0.15m	-
[11005]	Cut of posthole	Circular, bowl shaped profile, steep-average curving sides and concave base	Ø: 0.3m D: 0.15m	-
(11006)	Fill of [11007]	Friable light grey sandy silt with moderate chalk	Ø: 0.32m D: 0.11m	-
[11007]	Cut of posthole	Circular/irregular in plan, average curving sides, concave base	Ø: 0.32m D: 0.11m	-
(11008)	Fill of [11009]	Friable light white grey sandy silt with frequent chalk	W: 1.1m D: 0.3m	-

[11009]	Cut of pit	Average (NNW)/gently (SSE) curving sides, concave base	W: 1.1m D: 0.3m	-
---------	------------	--	--------------------	---

Trench 12



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
12	SW-NE 30mx2m		62.33-63.36m	61.81-63.13m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(12001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.18-0.27m	-
(12002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0-0.09m	-
(12003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-

Trench 13

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth height natural (aOD) & of
13	SSW-NNE 30mx2m		62.23-65.33m	61.99-65.34m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(13001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.08-0.1m	-
(13002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.14-0.22m	-
(13003)	Natural	White chalk with yellow patches	-	-
(13004)	Fill of [13006]	Mid brown silt, moderate small-medium chalk inclusions. Possibly cut by [13008]	L: >2m W: 0.59m D: 0.1m	-
(13005)	Fill of [13006]	Light brown silt, very frequent chalk inclusions. Possibly cut by [13008]	L: >2m W: 0.58m D: 0.13m	-
[13006]	Cut of gully	SSW-NEE aligned gully. Bowlshaped profile, gently curving sides, concave base	L: >2m W: 0.59m D: 0.23m	-

(13007)	Fill of [13008]	Slightly darker than (13004), brown silt, moderate small-medium chalk inclusions	L: >1m W: 0.56m D: 0.11m	Animal bone
[13008]	Cut of gully	SSW-NEE aligned gully. Peters out towards SWW. Possibly cuts (13004)	L: >1m W: 0.56m D: 0.11m	-
(13009)	Fill of [13010]	Mid brown grey clayey silt, moderate small chalk inclusions. Cut by [13012]	L: 0.28m W: >0.18m D: 0.14m	-
[13010]	Cut of posthole	Steep curving side, concave base	L: 0.28m W: >0.18m D: 0.14m	-
(13011)	Fill of [13012]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt with rare small chalk inclusions	Ø: 0.36m D: 0.12m	-
[13012]	Cut of posthole	Bowl shaped profile, steep-average curving sides (steeper on W), concave base	Ø: 0.36m D: 0.12m	-
(13013)	Fill of [13014]	Same as (13015) Mid-dark brown grey clayey silt, very frequent chalk, backfilled	L: 2.25m W: 0.6m D: 0.18m	CBM (unident)
[13014]	Cut of pit	Same as [13016] – elongated oval shaped N-S aligned pit. Bowl shaped profile, average-gently curving sides, concave base. Although a linear feature showed on a 90° angle leading from the north-east corner to the north, this seemed a very shallow spread/rooting when excavated.	L: 2.25m W: 0.6m D: 0.18m	
(13015)	Fill of [13016]	Same as (13013) Mid-dark brown grey clayey silt, very frequent chalk, backfilled	L: 2.25m W: 0.5m D: 0.14m	-
[13016]	Cut of pit	Same as [13014] - elongated oval shaped N-S aligned pit. Bowl shaped profile, average-gently curved sides, concave base.	L: 2.25m W: 0.5m D: 0.14m	-

(13017)	Fill of [13018]	Mid grey silt, frequent small chalk inclusions	L: >2m W: 1.3m D: 0.08m	CBM (Medieval roof tile)
[13018]	Cut of linear feature	Shallow NW-SE aligned linear feature, very gently sloping sides, irregular, concave base.	L: >2m W: 1.3m D: 0.08m	-

Trench 14



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth height & of natural (aOD)
14	NE-SW 15mx2m + extension of c28m2		61.38-62.18m	61.12-62.36m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(14001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.12-0.14m	-
(14002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.19-0.2m	-
(14003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(14004)	Fill of [14005]	Mid-dark brown grey clayey silt, small chalk inclusions	Ø: 0.18m D: 0.07m	-

[14005]	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep curving sides, flat base	Ø: 0.18m D: 0.07m	-
(14006)	Fill of [14007]	Mid grey clayey silt, large chalk inclusions	L: >0.6m W: 0.4m D: 0.17m	-
[14007]	Cut of pit	Average-steep curving sides, concave base, possibly cuts (14008), possibly backfilled	L: >0.6m W: 0.4m D: 0.17m	-
(14008)	Fill of [14009]	Mid grey clayey silt, moderate chalk inclusions, possibly cut by [14007], possibly backfilled	L: >0.7m W: 0.8m D: 0.14m	Animal bone Pottery (RB)
[14009]	Cut of pit	Steep sloping sides, uneven, concave base	L: >0.7m W: 0.8m D: 0.14m	-
(14010)	Fill of [14011]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt, moderate small-medium chalk inclusions, possibly silted up	W: 0.2m D: 0.1m	-
[14011]	Cut of posthole	Circular with asymmetrical, steep sloping sides and a flat base	W: 0.2m D: 0.1m	-
(14012)	Fill of [14013]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt, moderate small-medium chalk inclusions	Ø: 0.16m D: 0.2m	-
[14013]	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep-vertical sloping sides, somewhat concave base	Ø: 0.16m D: 0.2m	-
(14014)	Fill of [14015]	Mid-dark grey clayey silt, moderate small-medium chalk inclusions	L: 0.19m W: 0.17m D: 0.13m	-
[14015]	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular posthole, vertical-steep sloping side at east, steep curving side at west, concave base	L: 0.19m W: 0.17m D: 0.13m	-
(14016)	Fill of [14017]	Mid grey clayey silt, moderate small chalk inclusions, possibly silted up	L: >0.25m W: 0.19m D: 0.18m	-
[14017]	Cut of posthole	Steep-vertical sides, concave base	L: >0.25m W: 0.19m D: 0.18m	-

(14018)	Fill of [14019]	Friable, mid grey clayey silt, moderate chalk inclusions, possibly backfilled, Probably cut by [14022]	Ø: 0.2m D: 0.1m	-
[14019]	Cut of posthole	Steep sides, concave base	Ø: 0.2m D: 0.1m	-
(14020)	Fill of [14022]	Friable, dark grey clayey silt, frequent small pebbles, occasional chalk. Cut by [14024]	L: >10m W: 4.3m D: 0.34m	-
(14021)	Fill of [14022]	Firm light grey clayey silt, frequent chalk inclusions. Cut by [14024]	L: >10m W: 5m D: 0.15m	-
[14022]	Cut of ditch	Wide, shallow, E-W aligned linear feature. Gently sloping sides and flattish base.	L: >10m W: 5.3m D: 0.49m	-
(14025)	Fill of [14027]	Same as (14020) Friable, dark grey clayey silt, frequent small pebbles, occasional chalk. Cut by [14029]	L: >10m W: 4.3m D: 0.2m	Animal bone
(14026)	Fill of [14027]	Same as (14021) Firm light grey clayey silt, frequent chalk inclusions. Cut by [14029]	W: 5m D: 0.1m	-
[14027]	Cut of ditch	Same as [14022] Wide, shallow, E-W aligned linear feature. Gently sloping sides and flattish base.	L: >10m W: 5.3m D: 0.3m	-
(14028)	Fill of [14029]	Same as (14023) Friable dark grey clayey silt, moderate chalk and pebbles	W: 1.5m D: 0.28m	SF 2: Roman coin Pottery (RB)
[14029]	Cut of ditch	Same as [14024] E-W aligned linear feature, U shaped, concave base Cuts (14025) and (14026)	W: 1.5m D: 0.28m	-
(14030)	Fill of [14031]	Mid grey clayey silt, friable, moderate chalk inclusions	Ø: 0.25m D: 0.21m	-

[14031]	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep sloping sides, concave base. Probably cut by [14022]	Ø: 0.25m D: 0.21m	-
---------	-----------------	--	----------------------	---

Trench 15



Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
15	NW-SE 8mx2m		58.66-59.59m	58.46-59.3m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(15001)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam, grass cover	0.16m	-
(15002)	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silt, chalk inclusions	0.04m	-
(15003)	Natural	White chalk	-	-
(15004)	Fill of [15008]	Mid brown grey silty clay with moderate small chalk and charcoal	L: >2m W: > 2m D: 0.52m	Animal bone Pottery (RB, E/M Saxon, 1100-1400)
(15005)	Fill of [15008]	Dense medium sized chalk chunks, rare flint, tramped down?	L: >2m W: > 2m D: 0.2m	Animal bone Pottery (E/M Saxon)
(15006)	Fill of [15008]	Mid brown grey silty clay with very frequent chalk, tramped down?	L: >2m W: > 2m D: 0.35m	-

(15007)	Fill of [15008]	Mid-dark brown grey silty clay, moderate chalk inclusions	W: 0.6m D: 0.18m	-
[15008]	Cut of hollow	Hollow with very straight, almost concave side and flat base. Majority of feature extends outside of trench	L: >2m W: > 2m D: 0.84m	-
(15009)	Fill of [15011]	Mid-dark silty clay, possible postpipe	Ø: 0.07m D: 0.1m	-
(15010)	Fill of [15011]	Mixed yellow grey mid brown silty clay, chalk inclusions. Possible packing on either side of postpipe	W: 0.12 + 0.15m	-
[15011]	Cut of posthole	Circular, average curving sides, concave base	Ø: 0.35m D: 0.1m	-
(15012)	Fill of [15008]	Extra densely packed chalk	W: 0.47m D: 0.53m	-

APPENDIX II: HER SUMMARY

Site name and address: Ashwell Street SG7 5QU		
County: Hertfordshire	District: North Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Ashwell	Parish: Ashwell	
Planning application reference:		
HER Enquiry reference: 283/19		
Funding source: Manor Oak Homes		
Nature of application: Residential		
Present land use: Pasture		
Size of application area: 1ha	Size of area investigated: 1ha	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 2713 3970		
Site code (if applicable): XHFASH19		
Site director/Organization: Esther Poulus/MOLA		
Type of work: Trial trenching evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 30/9/2019	Finish: 8/10/2019
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: XHFASH19		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Iron Age, Roman, early-middle Anglo-Saxon, Medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports Desk based assessment: Crothers, ME, 2019, <i>Archaeological desk-based heritage assessment of land at Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire, September 2019</i> MOLA report 19/93 Geophysical survey: Lockyear, K, 2019 <i>Waffles in Ashwell?</i> www.hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com last accessed 4.4.19 Test pits: Burleigh, G, 2019 <i>Archaeological investigations at Hunt's Close, Ashwell</i>, North Hertfordshire Archaeological Society		
Summary of fieldwork results:		
A spread and a posthole contained material dating to the Iron Age. A wide Roman linear feature and Roman ditches cornering around an Anglo-Saxon hollow were present in the western half of the site, while the eastern part of the site was dominated by largely undated postholes, possibly suggesting occupation.		
Author of summary: Esther Poulus	Date of summary: 31/10/2019	



MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk