

STOKE QUAY GREAT WHIP STREET

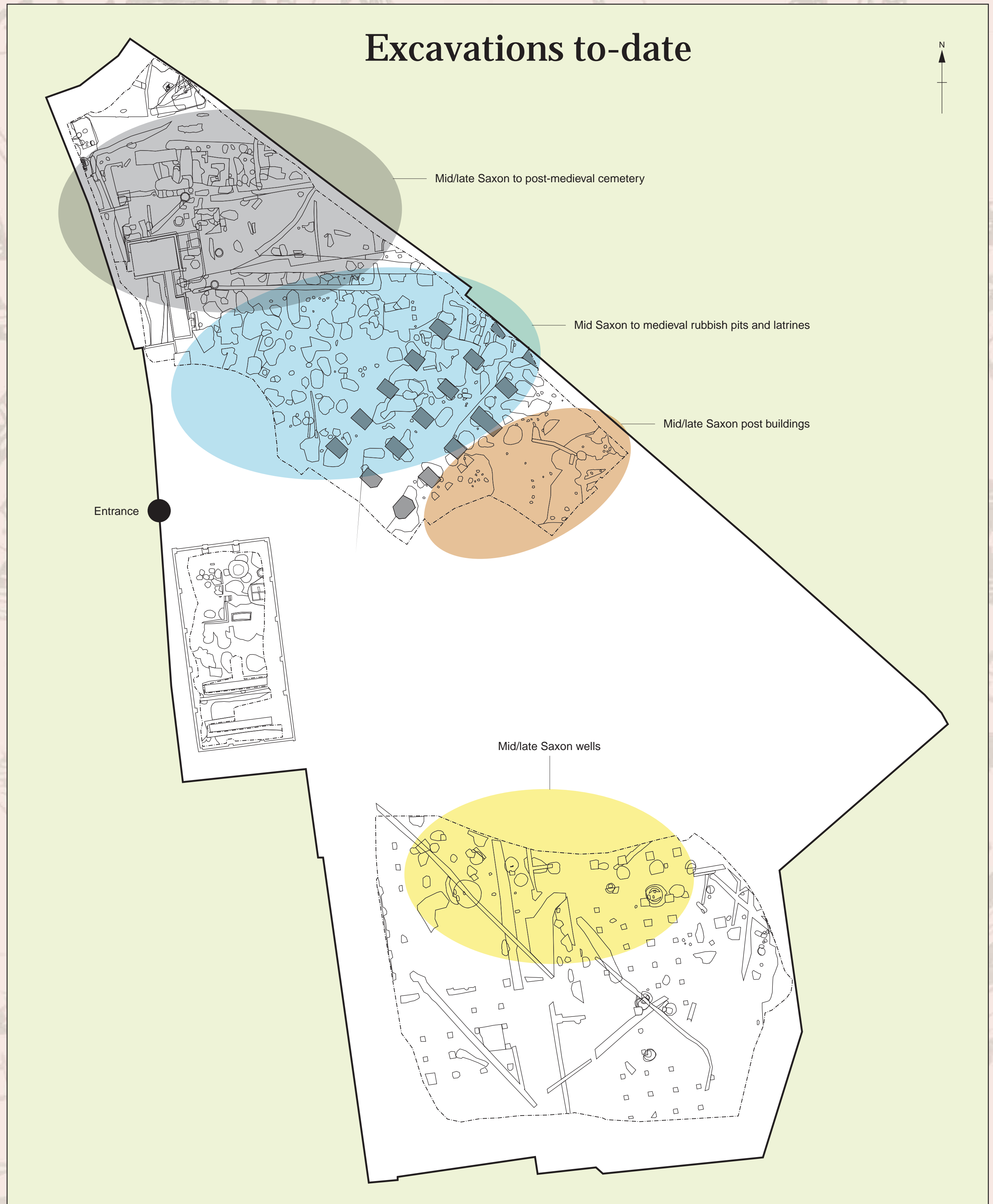
Excavation results to-date and finds

A coin of King Beonna (mid-8th century)

For a period in the mid 8th century Beonna was recognized as the main (or the only) East Anglian king; but probably within ten years of his accession East Anglia had (again) fallen under the overlordship of Offa, and Beonna's coinage in his own name was discontinued. Beonna may have survived as a subking, though he attests none of Offa's charters, and this sub-kingship may have passed on to the second Æthelberht's father Æthelred, and then on to Æthelberht himself. Later, perhaps in the early 790s, Æthelberht made a renewed bid for East Anglian independence and started to issue coin in his own name, and Offa ordered his execution in 794. This would cow the East Angles until Offa's own death, when they would make another bid for independence under Eadwald.



Above: Coin of King Beonna (mid-8th century)



Rune inscribed lead strip



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Anglo-Saxon runes are also known as futhorc and are a form of alphabet. They were used probably from the 5th century onward. They remained in use in Anglo-Saxon England throughout the 6th to 10th centuries, although runic script became increasingly confined to manuscript tradition as a topic of antiquarian interest after the 9th century, and it disappeared even as a learned curiosity soon after the Norman conquest.

From at least five centuries of use, fewer than 200 artefacts bearing futhorc inscriptions have survived. These are typically seen on casket mounts, crosses, coffins and scabbard mounts.

