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**Archaeological Evaluation at  
The Former Government Offices Site,  
Brooklands Avenue,  
Cambridge**

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**DRAFT ONLY**

**Cambridge Archaeological Unit  
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Report No 467

### *Non-Technical Summary*

*Archaeological evaluations undertaken on the previous site of the Government Offices off Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, recovered some evidence of 1st to 2nd century AD activity of probably agricultural nature, but no direct evidence of nearby settlement. The predominant character of the site was of late medieval and post-medieval land usage with probable ridge and furrow field systems re-worked during the period of enclosure in the early post-medieval period.*

## Introduction

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation on the designated office area redevelopment on the Government Offices site at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge. This took place in three phases: between 13<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1999, between 13<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2001 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2002 (Figures 1 and 2).

Whilst the desktop assessment (Dickens 1999b) of the archaeological potential of the area found there was no direct evidence from the site itself, important indications of activity, primarily from the Roman period, were reported from the immediate vicinity. Thus in accordance with the guidelines of the City Structure Plan and under approval of the Cambridgeshire County Council Development Control Office (CCDCO), a scheme of evaluation was drawn up (Dickens 1999c). The first phase of evaluation (Kenny 1999) had limited access to the site and the sample was only c. 2%. When the remainder of the area became available Cambridge County Council required that the sample be increased to 5%. This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation including a revision of the conclusions made in the earlier report (Kenny 1999).

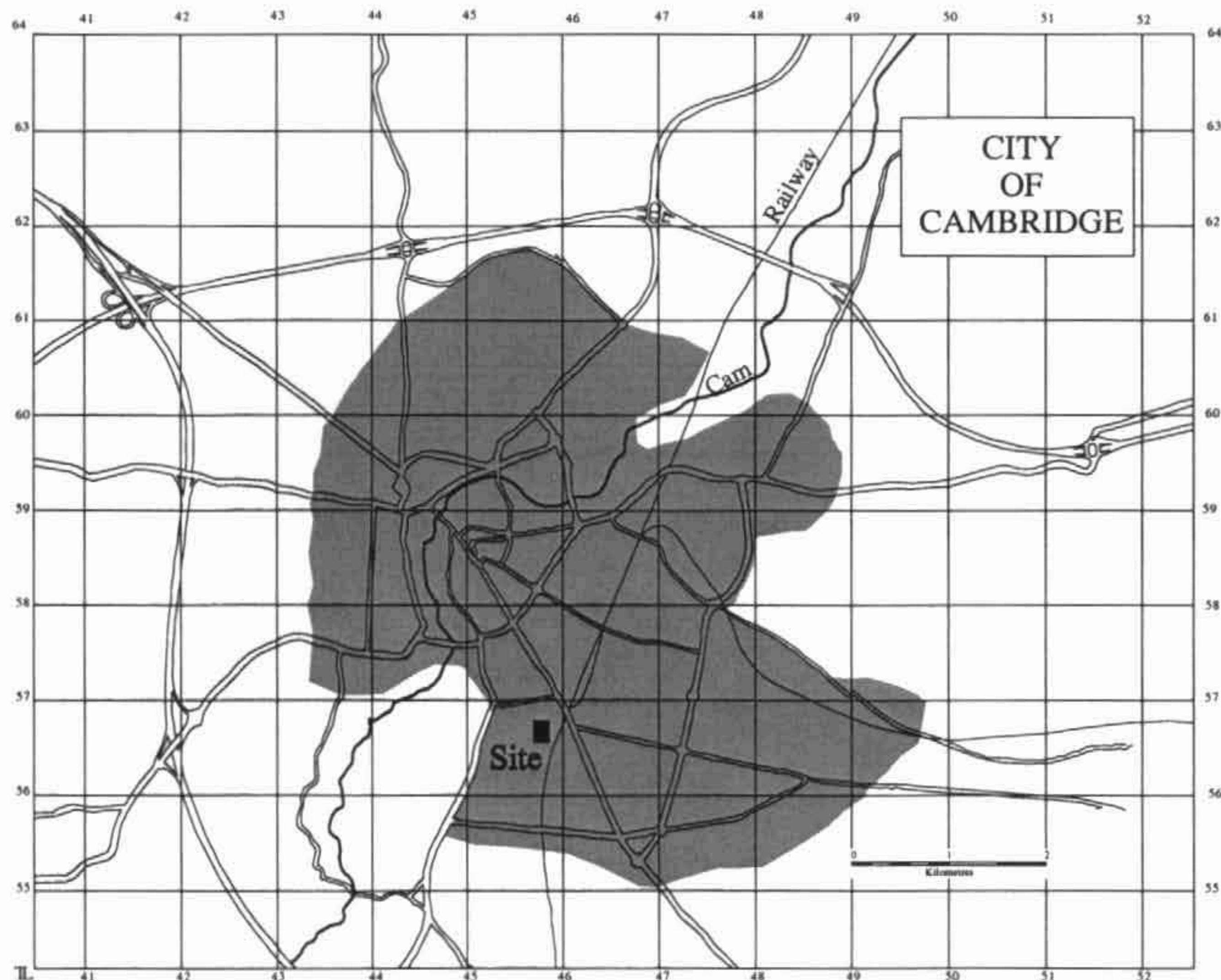


Figure 1: Location of the Site within Cambridge

### *Site Location and Topography*

The total area of proposed re-development covers some 12.1 ha, bounded to the north by Brooklands Avenue, to the east by Shaftesbury Road, to the south by the Cambridge University Press complex and to the west by Hobson's Brook and an area known as 'Empty Common'. Partly occupied by five blocks of single storey offices built in 1946 (the 'spider buildings') with associated roads and services, the area also includes a two storey reinforced bunker built during the Cold War as the Regional Seat of Government. The area of the present study is the proposed office redevelopment in the southeast corner of the larger site, extending over c. 1.8ha (Figure 2). The site lies between 11.5m and 13m AOD

### *Archaeological and Historical Background*

A detailed desktop study was produced as the first stage of the project (Dickens 1999b). The principal findings are briefly summarised here. Lying well outside the core of the medieval town no archaeological investigations or finds are recorded from within the site itself. However the development site is within 400m of Hills Road, thought to respect the line of *Via Devana*, the main Roman route into Cambridge from the south (Walker 1910). Walker's work, however, shows that the actual route of the Roman road lies slightly west of the Hills Road. In addition, Roman stray finds are recorded to the north, east and south-east by Browne (1974).

### *Geology and Soils*

The underlying geology of the site is Second Terrace river gravels producing soil with high silt and clay contents. A small area of chalk marl was uncovered in one of the trenches.

## **The Investigation**

### *Methodology*

The trenching was undertaken in three phases. The first phase consisted of a total of 130m of trench, representing a 1.4% sample by area. The second phase opened up 145 m of trenches and the third phase a further 175m making a total overall length of 450m, amounting to 5% of the evaluation area. Each trench was 2.00m in width and was opened using a mechanical excavator supervised by an experienced archaeologist.

The standard CAU excavation and recording system based upon the Museum of London single context recording system (Spence 1990) was adapted with context numbers assigned in the field and feature numbers during post-

excavation. The trenches were hand cleaned where appropriate and base-planned at a scale of 1:50. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and trench sections at a scale of 1:20.

## Results

### *Trench 1*

This T-shaped trench measured 19.3m along its north to south axis with an 8m stem offset slightly south of the centre oriented along an east - west axis. Machining revealed six features (F.10-F.15), all of which contained post-medieval/modern dating evidence. Two north to south oriented linear features (F.11 and F.12) were revealed in the stem of the 'T' near the junction, whilst a possible linear feature F.10, aligned roughly east to west, was partially revealed in the N-S stretch, its northern edge unseen lying beyond the northern limit of excavation. Investigation of this feature however suggested that it was in fact it a post medieval subsoil layer. Two circular post-holes (F.14 and F.15) and the butt-end of a northeast to southwest oriented linear feature (F.13) were also seen towards the eastern end of the stem of the 'T'. Investigation of all of these features produced post medieval/modern dating evidence.

### *Trench 2*

This trench measured 58m and was machined along a north to south axis, to the east of the southeastern 'spider' building. Machining revealed 6 linear features (F.8, F.6, F.22, F.5, F.3 and F.4) in the central and northern part of the trench aligned on a general west - northwest to east - southeast orientation (Figure 3), and one (F.9) that crossed from northeast to southwest. A single oval-shaped post-hole (F.7) was also found in this area. In the south central part of the trench an extensive complex of features was sampled by hand (F.23) and by machine (F.16). These features and their associations are described below.

Investigation of the features and analysis of the pottery from them allows a broad separation of activity into two phases, with dates clustering around the Romano-British period and the early post medieval.

The two northernmost features F.8 and F.6 appeared as narrow ditches/furrows (1.4m and 1.6m respectively) with shallow (0.30m and 0.33m), rounded bases. Two similar features, F.5 and F.4, located immediately to the south proved to be slightly narrower (1.20m and 0.90m respectively, although truncated) and shallower (0.20m and 0.25m) and shared the same alignment. F.8 produced a range of pottery from the 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and included at least one sherd of early post medieval provenance. F.5 and F.4 produced pottery dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The fill of F.6 (021), though without finds, was indistinguishable from (020), a clean buried



Figure 2 Evaluation Area in Relation to Main Site



soil or soil build-up, seen here only in section. The excavator reports a possible association between the above linear features and the single oval-shaped post-hole (F.7), on the basis of its location between F.6 and F.5 and in lieu of a similarity in fills.

The extensive complex of interrelated features (F.23, F.29) in the south central part of the trench could only be sampled during the course of the fieldwork. A hand cut section was dug through the northeast to southwest aligned linear F.23, whilst the extent and homogeneity of F.16 obliged the excavator to dig a deep machine cut to natural clay and gravel through the feature during initial machining. Well-preserved timber and modern building materials were recovered from the upper level of (031), filling F.29, and more building material was identified on the surface of F.23. Further hand investigation of F.29, however produced the foot-ring of a locally manufactured Terra Nigra bowl dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. It is possible therefore that the complex represents modern truncation of early Roman features in the area, though the possibility remains that the modern material has contaminated surviving Roman features.

F.5 had been truncated by a later deeper ditch (F.22). The fills of the two ditches were indistinguishable from one another but analysis of the pottery suggests that the later feature dates from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Similarly F.4 was truncated by F.3 that produced pottery dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Trench 3*

This trench measured 22.48m and was machined along an east to west axis, to the south of the southeast 'spider' building (Block D). Machining revealed a linear feature (F.1) running almost the total length of the trench in an east to west direction along its northern edge and part of a single, apparently, circular feature (F.2) at the western end. A series of stratigraphically related linear features (F.17, F.18 and F.19) sealed by modern ploughmarks (F.16) were discerned toward the centre of the trench.

Whilst F.1 was discernible for almost the entire length of T.3, its northern edge disappeared under the edge of excavation. In profile however, it is shallow (0.16m) and flat based. Its fill (002) produced pottery dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

Towards the east/centre of the trench F.17 was oriented in a north-northeast to south-southwest alignment and measured 1.8m wide, with sides sloping gradually to a rounded/flat base. F.17 may have truncated an earlier feature F.19, though the precise relationship was lost at this point due to further truncation by a chalk filled drain F.18. Regardless both features produced pottery dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and post medieval brick was found amongst the chalk fill of F.18. The apparently circular pit F.2 also produced material dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Trench 4*

Trench 4 measured 20m and was machine excavated along an east to west axis, 5m to the north of Trench 3. Machining revealed two linear features (F.26 & F.27) crossing the eastern and central part of the trench. Though wider (Figure 4) than the ditches/furrows in Trench 2 their relationship to plough soil deposits (037) and (040) suggests a Romano-British provenance. The pottery from F.26 has been examined by both the Roman and medieval pottery specialists. The coarse nature of the fabric indicates that, at this stage, a definitive date cannot be determined and that the material may be either 1st/2nd century Roman or a 15th century Fen ware.

#### *Trench 5*

Trench 5 measured 25m in length and was machined along a north to south alignment between the two easternmost blocks of the eastern 'spider' building. Having removed approximately 0.35m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil, natural sand and gravel was encountered at a depth of between 0.60m and 0.70m below present ground surface. Four linear features were located within the trench (F.30, F.31, F.32 and F.33). F.31 and F.32 were similar in size and shape, 0.60 and 0.70m width, 0.35m and 0.45m depth respectively, with similar north-northeast to south-southwest alignments suggesting they were contemporary. Both were interpreted as ditches. Two sherds of 18th century pottery were recovered from the fill of F.32. F.30 was also interpreted as a ditch and had late 19th century brick in the fill, suggesting a reasonably modern provenance. It was similar to F.32 and aligned at right angles to it. F.33 was narrow and linear in plan with steep straight sides and was interpreted as a field drain or drainage gully with an east to west alignment different to the other features in the trench.

#### *Trench 6*

Trench 6 was machined on the same north to south alignment as Trench 5, which was located to the south, with the pair separated by a corridor of the 'spider' block. It measured 0.20m in length with natural sand and gravel encountered at a depth of between 0.55m and 0.60m below present ground surface, of which approximately 0.25m was topsoil and 0.35m subsoil. Three features were identified (F.34, F.35 and F.36), located at the northern end of the trench. Features F.35 and F.36 were linear in plan although on slightly different alignments, F.35 southeast to northwest and F.36 east-southeast to west-northwest. Differences in size and profile suggest that the two are not contemporary, F.35 being 1.07m in width and 0.40m in depth with F. 36 being only 0.60m in width and 0.17m in depth. Feature 34 was a shallow sub-circular cut located on the south-western side of F. 35 which, given its profile, was probably caused by water erosion into the ditch. No finds were recovered from the fill.



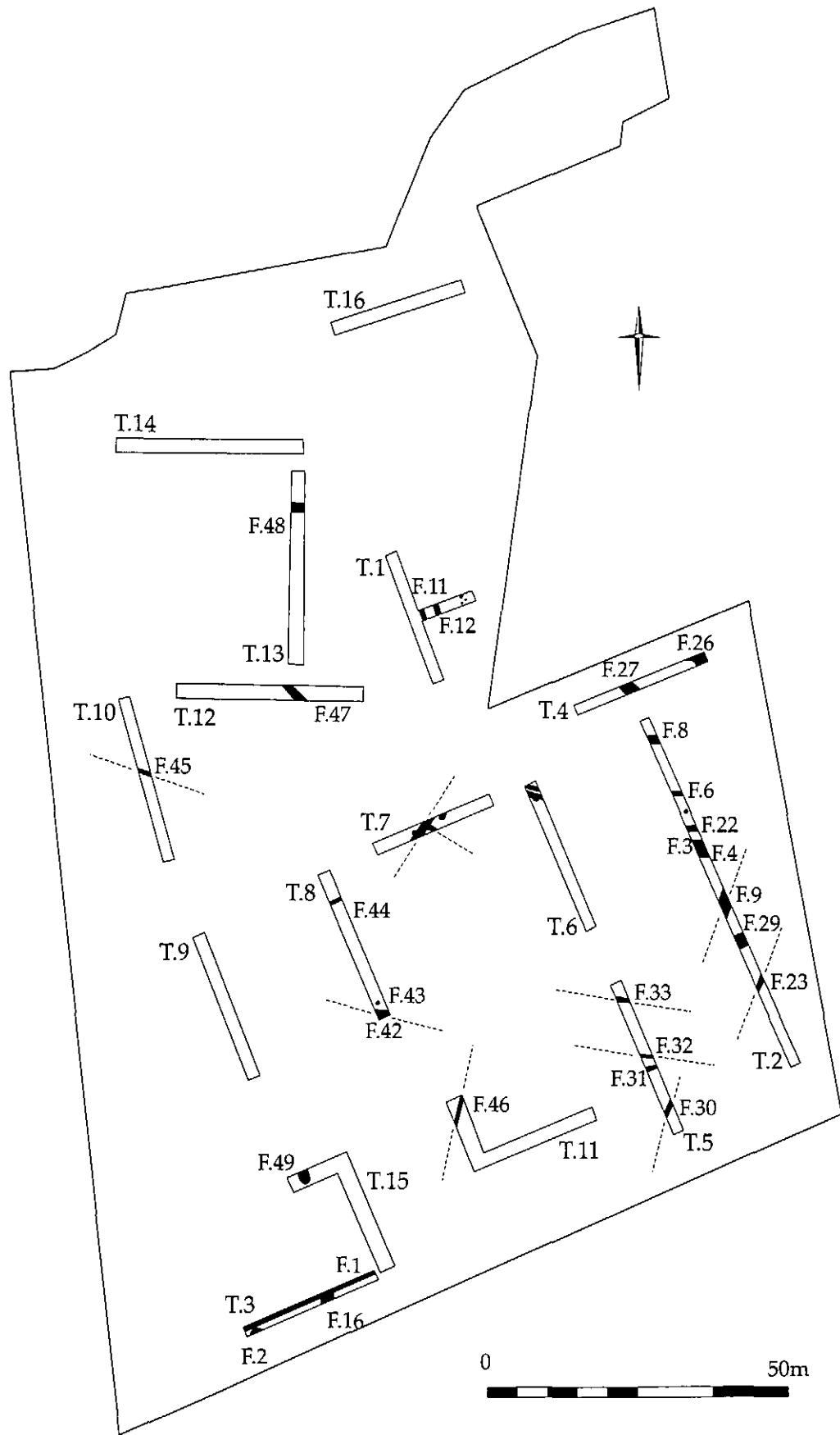


Figure 3 Simplified Feature Plan

### *Trench 7*

Trench 7 was aligned east to west and located between the northern ends of Trenches T.6 and T.8. It measured 20m in length, although the last 3m were lost due to the presence of high voltage electrical cables at the western end of the trench. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.82m of which 0.50m was modern concrete and rubble over buried topsoil of 0.10m thickness and subsoil 0.22m deep. Four features were located in the central part of the trench (F.37, F.38, F.39 and F.40). Feature F.37 was a shallow semi-circular cut measuring 0.36m in diameter and 0.15m in depth, the fill of which was nevertheless packed with the remnants of one locally made Flavian (Romano-British) period vessel. This would appear to have been deposited as a single act, examination of the adjacent subsoil revealed further sherds, probably pulled up by the action of the plough. Features F.38 and F.39 were linear in plan and probably contemporary. The larger feature, F.38, measuring 1.10m in width and 0.25m in depth, was aligned northeast to southwest with the shallower, F.39, measuring 0.37m in width and 0.15m in depth, joining with the larger from a southwestern direction. These features were interpreted as ditches that possibly marked divisions within a field system, although neither of them produced dating evidence from within the near identical fills. Feature F.40 was a shallow semi-circular cut which was truncated on the southwestern side by feature F.38 and was also undated.

### *Trench 8*

Trench 8 was 20 metres in length and aligned north to south between two of the spider block extensions. Natural sand and gravel was located at approximately 0.75m depth and this was reached through 0.35m of topsoil and 0.40m of subsoil. Three features were located within this trench, the most substantial of which was feature F.42. Linear in plan and aligned east - southeast to west - northwest it had deep concave sides and measured 1.24m in width and 0.45m in depth. Backfilled with three fills, the primary fill contained the remnants of an entire cows skull and some oyster shell but no pottery for dating. Features F.43 and F.44 were insubstantial in nature with F.43 interpreted as a natural depression in the natural and F.44 as a post-medieval field drain or drainage gully.

### *Trench 9*

Trench 9 was 25m in length and had been relocated from its original position due to the presence of live services. The new position was to the west of the 'spider' building and the trench was aligned north to south. The depth of the trench was 1.20m in the southern end sloping upwards to a 0.65m depth at the northern end. Natural, a chalk marl, was obscured by a layer of mid greyish green silty sand with occasional small rounded stones, which was 0.75m thick at the southern end but diminished further to the north. This layer was below 0.30m to 0.40m of concrete rubble that was capped by the concrete and tarmac of the car park. The interpretation of the thick deposit overlying natural was

uncertain, if it had accumulated under natural conditions it would have almost certainly indicated the remnants of a filled-in river course or perhaps a paleochannel. However there was also some evidence that it had been redeposited from elsewhere and may therefore have indicated a backfilling episode, possibly after the removal of wartime buildings from the area prior to the 1946 redevelopment. No archaeological material or features were identified.

#### *Trench 10*

Trench 10 was located directly to the north of Trench 9, aligned north to south and was 20m in length. Between 0.30m and 0.40m of rubble and tarmac overlay approximately 0.30m of redeposited greyish green silty sand which had occasional inclusions of wood and brick fragments. One feature (F.45) was identified within the trench and this was linear in plan, aligned east-southeast to west-northwest. This was interpreted as a small ditch with no dating evidence within its fill.

#### *Trench 11*

Trench 11 was located just to the west of Trench 6 and was L-shaped in plan with the longer side (20m) aligned east to west from the western end of which the shorter arm (10m) projected towards the north. The trench was 0.60m in depth where it had been cut through the recent demolition rubble and disturbed subsoil to the natural sand and gravel. One feature was recorded within the northern arm of the trench. Feature F.46 was linear in plan, aligned northeast to southwest, with shallow concave sides measuring 0.56m in width and 0.17m in depth. Interpreted as a ditch, one large sherd of pottery recovered from the fill dated the feature to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Trench 12*

Trench 12 was 30m in length, aligned east-southeast to west-northwest, and was excavated through 0.35m of tarmac and rubble overlying a further 0.60m to 0.70m of redeposited soils above natural sand and gravels. It was located in the car park to the north of the 'spider' buildings. Feature F.47 was identified within this trench, linear in plan and aligned approximately north to south; it was interpreted as a ditch of uncertain date. No finds were recovered from its fill.

#### *Trench 13*

Trench 13 was located to the north of Trench 12 and was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It measured 30m in length and was excavated to natural at a depth of 0.80m through 0.35m of tarmac and rubble onto a redeposited topsoil layer of 0.25m thickness, below which was an imported mixed greenish brown organic and silty deposit of 0.20m thickness. There was one identified feature within the trench, F.48, which was linear in plan

and aligned approximately east to west. It measured 1.25m width and 0.38m in depth and was interpreted as a ditch but remained undated as no finds were recovered from the fill.

#### *Trench 14*

Trench 14 was located in the car park to the north of Trench 13 and was aligned east-southeast to west-northwest. Measuring 30m in length it was machined through 0.40m of tarmac and rubble overlying 0.46m of mixed subsoil and topsoil above natural sand and gravels. No archaeological deposits were found within the trench.

#### *Trench 15*

Trench 15 was located just to the north of Trench 3 and was L-shaped in plan with the longer 20m side aligned north to south with the shorter 10m arm projected to the west from its northern end. The trench was 0.95m in depth where it had been cut through the recent demolition rubble and disturbed subsoil to the natural sand and gravel. The northern arm of the trench had one feature within it, F.49. This was probably linear in plan, aligned north to south, however the southern end was rounded suggesting that it might also have been a truncated pit instead of a ditch terminal end. The feature measured 1.40m in width but was shallow sided to a depth of 0.12m suggesting a high degree of truncation. The fill contained pottery dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD (Romano-British period). All the sherds appear to have come from one vessel which seems to indicate primary deposition.

#### *Trench 16*

Trench 16, measuring 20m in length, was located right at the north-eastern end of the evaluation area and was aligned east to west. Cut through the footings of a recently demolished building, natural was revealed at a depth of 0.80m below present ground surface. No archaeological deposits or features were identified.

### **Discussion**

The most archaeologically significant features were F.1, F.4, F.5, F.37 and F.49, from which most of the evidence for Romano-British activity was recovered. There were, however, no cohesive patterns to the features that would indicate local occupation or regular field systems. The most consistent factors are the pottery dates, all of which lay within the late 1st to early 2nd century AD. This time span roughly corresponds to a period of agricultural expansion in the Cambridge 'hinterlands' that seems to be largely based upon a re-organisation of the Late Iron Age settlement patterns and field systems. After

this there appears to have been a wide scale shift to a more centralised economic system that effectively emptied the earlier landscape. Thus the slim evidence of Romano-British agricultural or horticultural activity recovered may well indicate one of the earlier expansions into what had been perhaps marginal land or riverside pastures.

The only two secure pottery assemblages came from features that may have been pits (F.39 and F.49) each of which contained the unabraded remnants of a single vessel. The vessel from F.39 was unusual as it has cracking around the rim that suggests an unsuccessful firing or use within a particularly hot fire. Whichever of these two possibilities apply, it appears to have been smashed and placed into a small pit subsequently disturbed by medieval or post-medieval ploughing. Due to the coarse and abraded nature of some of the ceramic material recovered from the other features, there remains some doubt as to whether the evidence points to post-medieval features with redeposited Roman pottery or whether the features do indeed represent undisturbed late 1st/early 2nd century agricultural or horticultural activity overlain by early post-medieval agricultural action.

Dating and provenance of the other, predominantly linear, features recorded in the evaluation is also problematic. The form of these linear features, the shared general west-northwest to east-southeast orientation of those in trenches T.1, T.2, T.4, T.6, T.8 and T.10 and the relatively standard distance between them is consistent with the remains of local medieval agricultural practice i.e. ridge and furrow. Medieval fields in Cambridge were of the standard Midlands pattern consisting of individual strips or 'lands' (c. 170m x 7m) grouped together in blocks to form 'furlongs'. These in turn were grouped together into 'fields', the major organisational units, which rotated between cultivation and being kept fallow for communal grazing. Local practice differs from the standard Midlands pattern in that the individual strips were kept flat, separated only by a single 'furrow', and do not display the classic corrugated appearance seen elsewhere (Kenny and Evans 1999). There is, however, only one feature (F.3) with late medieval pottery that dates to the period of ridge and furrow agriculture, the pottery probably being introduced through manuring. However, many of the furrows will have been backfilled after the introduction of changes to the agricultural systems in the 17th century, indeed pottery of this date and later is found within several of the possible furrows.

A group of linear features upon similar alignments at the southeast of the area are evidently much more recent in date and probably represent 19th century improvements to the drainage of the fields through ceramic field drains, channels and gullies, often filled with chalk lumps. Levelling also appears to have occurred across the site at this time with layers of recent material visible in the areas that were not disturbed by later activity.

A late feature that was evident in the second and third phases of evaluation was a previously unrecognised phase of truncation and build-up which

appears to pre-date construction of the 1946 'spider buildings'. The most likely explanation for this is that it relates to activity on the site during the Second World War, for which no documentary record is immediately evident. In some parts of the area this has severely truncated the sequence, almost to natural.

To conclude, although there is evidence of early activity on the site there is also clearly a great deal of truncation of archaeological deposits. The site has seen both lowering and raising of the land surface through farming (particularly ploughing), construction and unidentified late truncation with the resultant importation and dislocation of artefactual materials from their original places of deposition. This activity has undoubtedly confused an otherwise uncomplicated archaeological picture of low intensity Romano-British agricultural activity on the fringes of a brief late 1st and early 2nd century expansion into a previously unexploited part of the Cambridge 'hinterland'.

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## Appendix 1

### Context Descriptions

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Description	Interpretation	Findings	Spot dates
1	3	F.16	F/C	Modern Plough marks sealing earlier ditch and drain	Modern Plough marks		Modern
2	3	F.1	F	Pale brown sandy silt. Includes moderate medium sized stones. Only slightly greyer, siltier and darker than surrounding natural.		Pottery	1st-E2ndC R-B
3	3	F.1	C	East-West linear running along N. side of trench for almost its entire length. Here sectioned approx. 5m from W. end of trench. Cut has moderately sloping sides, and flat base. 0.16m depth.	Poss. R-B Ditch (see F.49)		R-B
4	3	F.2	F	Pale brown sandy silt. Includes moderate medium stones. Slightly greyer than surrounding natural.			17thC Post-Med
5	3	F.2	C	Shallow pit or hollow, extending 0.80m from S. edge of T.3. Gently sloping, rather indistinct sides.	17thC Pit		Post-Med
6	3	F.17	F	Light brown clay/sand fill of [011]			17thC Post-Med
7	2	F.3	F	Mid/pale, slightly greyish brown, soft sandy silt fill of [008]. Includes occasional small and medium stones.		Gritty Fen Types	15thC
8	2	F.3	C	Linear running ESE-WNW across T.2. 1.6m wide, 0.40m deep. Moderately sloping sides and gently rounded base.			Late Med
9	2	F.4	F	Pale greyish brown sandy silt. Includes moderate small and medium stones		Greyware & R-B Coarse-ware	1st-2ndC
10	2	F.4	C	ESE-WNW linear feature running parallel with and cut by F.3. Width approx. 0.90m. Depth 0.25m. S. side of cut slopes gently to a flattish base.	Poss. R-B Ditch		R-B
11	3	F.17	C	1.8m wide shallow linear feature. Sides are gradually sloping to a rounded/flat base.	Probable Furrow		Undated
12	2	F.5/F.22	F	Mid/pale slightly greyish brown sandy silt. Includes moderate small and medium stones. Fills two intercutting linears [013] and [014]. No distinction visible between these cuts.			1st-E2ndC and 16thC
13	2	F.5	C	1.2m wide, 0.20m deep ditch cut with gently sloping sides and a flat base.	Poss. R-B Ditch		R-B?
14	2	F.22	C	0.60m wide, 0.30m deep. Moderately steep sides and deeply rounded base.	Post-Med Ditch		Post-Med?
15	3	F.19	F	Mid brown clay/sand fill of [029]			17th/19thC
16	3	F.18	F	Grey/brown silt clay fill of [017]		Brick	19th C

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Spot dates
17	3	F.18	C	Vertical sided narrow (c. 0.33m) cut for chalk filled/lined drain.	Chalk Drain		Modern
18	3	F.1	F	Pale brown sandy silt. Includes moderate medium sized stones. Only slightly greyer, siltier and darker than surrounding natural. Equivalent to (002)			/
19	3	F.1	C	East-West linear running along N. side of trench for almost its entire length. Here identified truncated by F.17 but unexcavated. Equivalent to [003].	R-B Ditch		/
20	2	F.20	Layer	Mid/pale brown sandy silt. Includes moderate small/medium stones and v. occ. charcoal. Layer is up to 0.30m thick, between the topsoil and the natural chalky gravel. Present in the N. end of T.2, becoming gradually thinner (accompanied by a rise in ground surface level) towards the south. 15m south of the northern end of T.2 it becomes imperceptibly thin and merges with the topsoil. Fills a slight dip in the natural [023]. Possibly Roman in date.	Buried soil or soil build-up of some sort, poss. R-B	Fraggs	Undated
21	2	F.6	Fill	Mid/Pale brown sandy silt. Includes moderate small/medium stones and v. occ. charcoal. Indistinguishable from (020) hence unable to tell whether F.6 is cut through (020) or sealed by it. Most likely to be contemporaneous.		None	Undated
22	2	F.6	Cut	ESE-WNW linear feature. 1.6m wide, 0.30m deep. Very gently sloping sides and gently rounded base.	Ditch/Furrow		Undated
23	2	F.20	Cut	V. shallow depression running across T.2 for 3m. Up to 0.30m deep but no more than 0.10m deeper than base of (020) which fills it and which elsewhere directly overlies natural. On initial inspection appeared to be a broad ditch but is probably too shallow. Probably some sort of argri/horticultural feature associated with (020).			Undated
24				Void Number			
25	2	F.7	Fill	Mid/Pale brown sandy silt. Includes occasional charcoal and moderate small and medium stones.			None
26	2	F.7	Cut	Oval cut 0.65m x 0.50m 0.15m deep. Sides are steep to vertical and the base is flat. Possibly a post-hole associated with Roman (?) ditches as fill is v. similar.	Posthole		Undated

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Spot dates
27	2	F.8	Fill	Mid/pale brown sandy silt similar to subsoil layer (020) which overlies natural to a depth of 0.20m on either side of cut [028]. Thus cannot determine stratigraphic relationship between F.8 and (020). Most likely to be contemporaneous (as with F.6).		Grey wares & 17thC	1st-2nd C and post-med (17th)
28	2	F.8	Cut	WNW-ESE Linear feature. 1.4m wide, 0.33m deep. Gently sloping sides and rounded base.	Ditch/Furrow		Post-Med
29	3	F.19	Cut	Linear feature in T.3. Western edge is gradual/sharp sided. The return, base and E. edge is lost due to truncation by F.18	Probable 17thC Ditch/Furrow		Modern
30	2	F.23	Fill	Mid/dark brown/purple silt/clay (60:40). Includes frequent small/medium angular and sub angular flints. Fill of [043].		Bottle Glass	17th-18thC
31	2	F.29	Fill	Mid/dark brown clay/silt. Includes frequent flint (angular and sub angular). Moderate/frequent chalk blocks.		Terra Nigra	1st C/ Modern
32	2	F.9	Fill	Upper part of feature. Mid/pale brown sandy silt. Includes occasional moderate small and medium stones. Very few finds. Co brick and tile.		Wester-velt	17thC/ Post-Med
33	2	F.9	Fill	Lower 0.30m of feature. (i.e. up to the step on NW side). Backfilled with chalk rubble, angular fragments up to 0.20m in size..			Modern
34	2	F.9	Cut	NE-SW linear, 2.00m wide, 0.80m deep below base of layer (035). NW edge is moderately sloping a top then flattens out for 0.50m before dropping more steeply to base. SE edge slopes more evenly from surface to base, moderately steep. Post medieval ditch probably for drainage as evidenced by lack of silting below (033) (indicative of immediate backfilling) and steep, unweathered nature of the sides in the lower part of the cut.	Chalk filled Field Drain 19thC		Modern
35	2	F.24	Layer	Mid brown sandy silt. Includes moderate small/medium sized stones, moderate charcoal, clay pipe, post medieval pot, brick and tile etc. Base of Post medieval ploughsoil. Layer is up to 0.10m thick, directly below topsoil, and visible along much of the section of T.2, sealing all features including post medieval ditch F.9. Not to be confused with (020), which is a similar subsoil layer but containing Roman finds.			Post-Med
36	4	F.26	Layer	Mid brown/orange clay/silt (70:30) with moderate medium sub rounded and sub angular flint pebbles. Modern root action		Staffords hire wares	16th-17thC

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Spot dates
37	4	F.26	Layer/ Fill	Light brown clay silt (80:20). Lower plough soil to E. of T.4. Clean, no major inclusions. Includes R/B pottery. May be Romano British plough soil.			R-B or 15thC
38	4	F.26	Cut	Cut/furrow filled by R/B ploughsoil (037). Undulating base and the orientation (being in line with similar features in T.2 suggest that this may be evidence of ploughing. The R/B pottery and lack of post medieval pottery suggests the ploughing may be Romano-British	Ditch/Furrow		Post-Med
39	4	F.28	Layer	Mid brown/orange silt clay (70:30). Includes burnt clay and charcoal and frequent small sub- rounded flints.		Babylon	17thC PostMed
40	4	F.27	Layer/ Fill	Light brown clay silt (80:20). Includes mixed light yellow natural clay. May be Romano British plough soil.	Or may be Medieval		None
41	1	F.10	Fill/La yer	Light brown/yellow clay/silt (70:30). Includes charcoal, ceramic building material, and clay pipes. Initially regarded as the fill of a possible feature though upon excavation considered to be simply a post medieval subsoil layer.	Post-Med ploughsoil	Brick and clay pipe	Post-Med
42				Void Number			
43	2	F.23	Cut	NW-SE running linear feature, part of a complex of features in T.2 filled with similar material (030) and (031). 0.55m wide 0.23m deep. Sides break sharply from the top, are rounded and merge imperceptibly to a rounded base.	Modern?		Modern
44	3	F.25	Layer	Mixed dark and light brown clay/silt. Post medieval plough soil sealing (016) and [017]	Ploughsoil		Post-Med
45	1	F.13	Fill	Dark brown clay/silt with frequent large/medium sub angular flints. Fill of [046]		Brick and tile	19thC
46	1	F.13	Cut	Butt end of ? linear feature, seen for only 0.70m south of edge of excavation. Rounded sides and base. 0.50m wide. 0.10m deep.	Modern Ditch?		Modern
47	4	F.27	Cut	R/B Agri/horticultural feature in western part of T.4	Ploughsoil		Undated
48	1	F.11	Fill/Cu t	Fill: Dark brown. Cut: Narrow (0.5m) N-S running ditch.	Field Drain		Modern
49	1	F.12	Fill/ Cut	Fill: Dark brown. Cut: Narrow (0.80m) N-S running ditch.	Field Drain		Modern

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Spot dates
50	1	F.14	Fill/Cut	Unplanned modern post hole. Only recorded because it was given feature numbers during fieldwork.	Modern		Modern
51	1	F.15	Fill/Cut	Unplanned modern post hole. Only recorded because it was given feature numbers during fieldwork.	Modern		Modern
1	5	F.30	F	Light pinkish brown sandy clay silt with rare grit inclusions			Post-med
2	5	F.30	C	Linear in plan along NE-SW alignment with gently sloping concave sides, slightly irregular, leading to a concave base			Undated
3	5	F.31	F	Mid grey sandy silt			Undated
4	5	F.31	C	Linear in plan, aligned E-W, narrow steep straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope			Undated
5	5	F.32	F	Mid grey sandy silt with common shattered flint fragments, rounded stones and occasional oystershell			Undated
6	5	F.32	C	Linear in plan, aligned NNE-SSW, steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope			Undated
7	5	F.33	F	Light brown silty sand and gravel			Undated
8	5	F.33	C	Linear in plan, aligned NNE-SSW, with steep straight sides leading to a concave base			Undated
9	6	F.34	F	Greyish yellow sandy silt, slightly plastic, with occasional rounded stones			Undated
10	6	F.34	C	Very shallow semi-circular scoop with almost no sides remaining			Undated
11	6	F.35	F	Mid greyish yellow sandy silt, slightly plastic, with occasional frost shattered flint and rounded stones			Undated
12	6	F.35	C	Linear in plan, aligned NW-SE, with convex sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope			Undated
13	6	F.36	F	Light greyish brown sandy silt with light orange mottling but no inclusions			Undated
14	6	F.36	C	Linear in plan, aligned NW-SE			Undated
15	6	F.37	F	Mid yellowish grey silty sand with occasional lenses of chalky clay marl		Flavian period local	1st-E2nd
16	7	F.37	C	Sub-circular in plan with steep concave sides leading to a rounded base		\	R-B
17	10	F.45	F	Light yellowish brown clayey sandy silt with rare grit inclusions		None	Undated
18	10	F.45	C	Linear in plan, aligned NW-SE, with truncated shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base		\	Undated

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Spot dates
19	7	F.38	F	Mid yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small irregular stones			Undated
20	7	F.38	C	Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW, with convex sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope			Undated
21	7	F.39	F	Mid yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small and rounded and irregular stones			Undated
22	7	F.39	C	Linear in plan, aligned NW-SE, with shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope			Undated
23	7	F.40	F	Mid yellowish grey sandy silt			Undated
24	7	F.40	C	Semi-circular in plan with concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope			Undated
25	8	F.41	F	Orange/yellowish grey sandy silt			Undated
26	8	F.42	F	Mid blue grey sandy silt with frequent small rounded stones, snail shells and common oyster shell			Undated
27	8	F.42	F	Light yellowy grey sandy silt			Undated
28	8	F.42	C	Linear in plan aligned WNW-ESE with steep sloping concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope			Undated
29	8	F.43	F	Yellowish grey sandy silt, no inclusions			Undated
30	8	F.43	C	Sub-circular scoop, very truncated			Undated
31	8	F.44	F	Yellowish grey sandy silt with shattered flint fragments			Undated
32	8	F.44	C	Narrow linear in plan with steep straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope			Undated
33	13	F.48	F	Mid to dark grey sandy silt with occasional small sub angular stones			Undated
34	13	F.48	C	Linear in plan, aligned E-W, with a convex southern			Undated
35	12	F.47	F	Light brown sandy silt, compacted, with occasional small grit and moderate angular and sub-rounded stones			Undated
36	12	F.47	C	Linear in plan, aligned SE-NW, with a steep concave southern side and steep straight northern side leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope			Undated
37	15	F.49	F	Mid to light grey sandy silt with occasional small angular and rounded stones, rare charcoal		Pottery	R-B 2nd C

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Spot dates
38	15	F.49	C	Linear in plan, aligned N-S with shallow (truncated) concave sides leading to a wide and nearly flat base through gradual breaks of slope			R-B
39	11	F.46	F	Mid brownish grey sandy silt with common small sub-angular stones and field drain.		Pottery	17thC+
40	11	F.46	C	Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW, with concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope			Modern