60/7

The Excavation of Terminal Bronze Age & Medieval Settlement Remains at Baston Quarry (No.2), Langtoft, Lincolnshire.

-Phase IV Area A-

Cassian Hall

Cambridge Archaeological Unit
University of Cambridge

35240 } Prehistoric
35241 }
35109 }

35242 Roman-early Med

35243 Late Saxon-Med

35244 - Med

The Excavation of Terminal Bronze Age & Medieval Settlement Remains at Baston Quarry (No.2), Langtoft, Lincolnshire.

-Phase IV Area A-

Cassian Hall BA Mst

With contributions by
Chantal Conneller, Mim Bower, David Hall, Lorrain Higbee, David Knight, and Gavin Lucas

2000
Cambridge Archaeological Unit
University of Cambridge
Report No. 288

Contents

Introduction

On behalf of Hanson Aggregates (then known as ARC), in advance of gravel extraction, an archaeological excavation was carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit at Baston Quarry No.2, Langtoft, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 131 130; fig.1) between 9.6.98 and 31.7.98. Field evaluation had taken place in 1992 (Heritage Lincolnshire), during which a number of features relating to Late Bronze Age and Roman occupation were in evidence. The latter mainly effected the southern part of the field (not available for excavation at this time) while prehistoric remains were expected in the present area, though their extent was poorly understood from the earlier evaluation results (*loc. cit.*). Recent work carried out around the lower reaches of the Welland at either side Northborough, Cambridgeshire (Knight 1998) and Welland Bank Quarry, Lincolnshire (Pryor 1998), revealed well preserved and extensive remains of the Bronze Age (and Iron Age), placing the results of the present investigation in a wider context.

Geology and Topography

The site lies on a wide band of First Terrace river gravels (5-6m in depth) which in turn overlie Oxford Clay. It is situated 3km east of the marine silts and Nordelph peats at the former fen edge. The 2ha site (fig. 1) represents part of an extensive scheme of gravel extraction from the terraces of the Welland and associated river systems. On current evidence, the lower Welland valley is characterised by a series of interconnected alluvial belts within which are numerous palaeochannels identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs.

Methodology

Following the removal of the ploughsoil, the B-horizon was sampled for artefact densities. This was thickest in those parts of the site sealed beneath the later headland. A hand-dug $1m^2$ test pit survey, conducted on a 20m grid yielded an artefact distribution that later matched the excavation results showing higher densities towards the centre and east of the investigated area. While occasional finds came from the southern and western test pits, many produced no finds at all and the features subsequently excavated in this zone also produced very few or no finds, suggesting the area was marginal to the main focus of occupation in all periods. A restricted metal detecting survey was also conducted over an area 40m x 40m that coincided with the headlands.

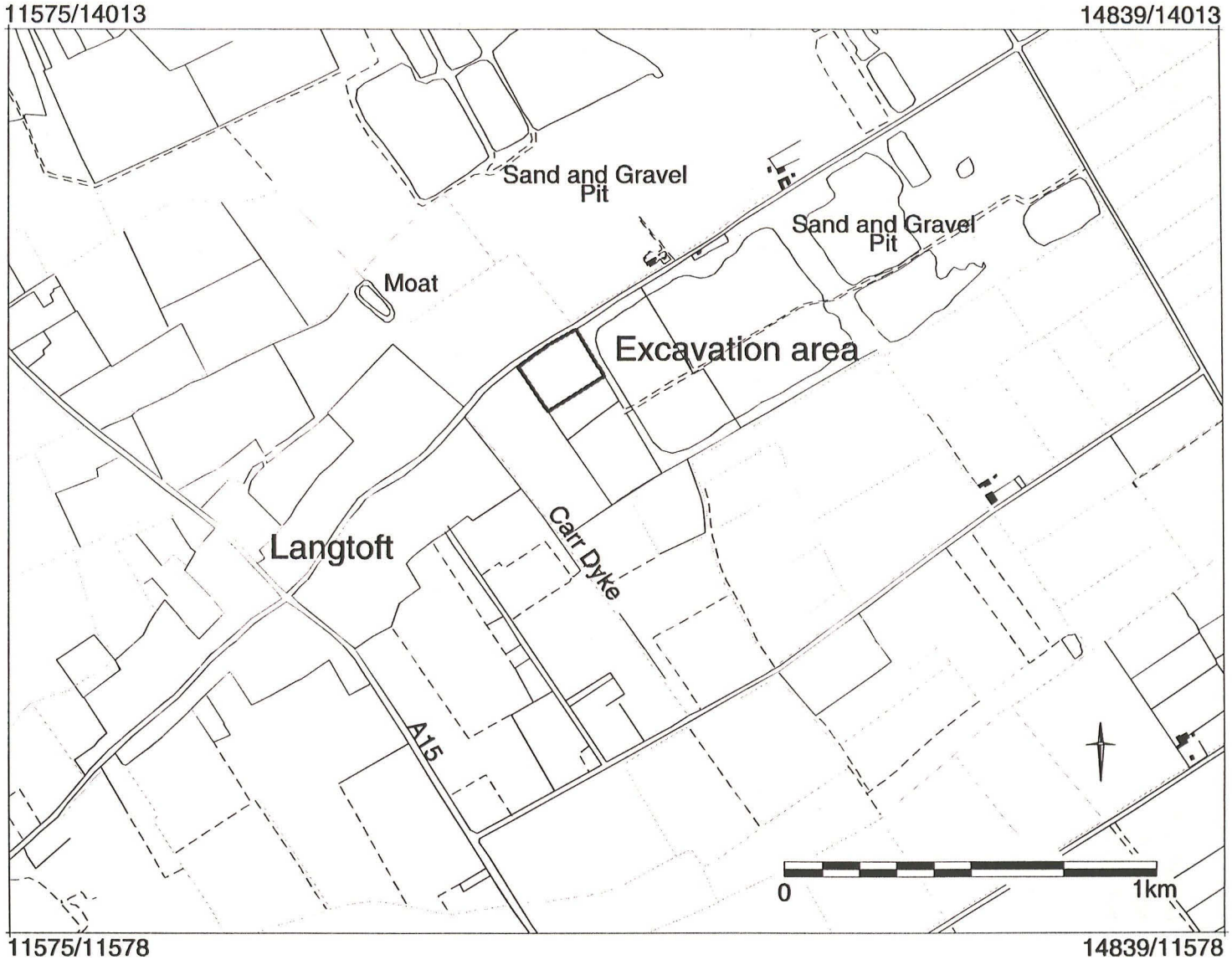


Figure 1. Location plan

In addition a phosphate survey was undertaken by the Archaeological Chemistry Group based at Peterborough Regional College, under the direction of Mr. Paul Middleton. During the excavations phosphate samples were taken from the test pits, then along selected grid lines once the site was stripped. Finally samples were taken from selected features, both horizontally across features and also vertical columns from excavated sections (Middleton 1998).

The Unit-modified version of the MoLAS recording system was employed throughout. Base plans were drawn at 1:100 and sections at 1:10. Small pits and postholes were half sectioned, while pits larger than 2.5m in diameter were quarter sectioned and planned at 1:20. Linear features were sampled in 1m slots at appropriate intervals. Excavated stratigraphic entities (e.g. a cut, a fill) were recorded as individual contexts ([001] – [226]), with interrelated stratigraphic events (e.g. a ditch cut and its fill) assigned feature numbers (**F.'s 1 – 86**; bolded upon introduction within the text).

Excavation Results

Eighty-six distinct archaeological features were identified which can, when used in combination with the Test Pit and other surface recovered material, be separated into four main groups of activity (see fig.2):

1) *Palaeolithic and Mesolithic residual/surface collected lithics*

2) *Neolithic and Early Bronze Age features*

3) *Late Bronze Age pit features/settlement*

4) *Medieval enclosure system*

Of these the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age related activity (consisting of one feature apiece) was confined to the extreme north-eastern corner of the site. The Palaeolithic evidence comprised two axe thinning flakes (Appendix 3) recovered from residual contexts (Late Bronze Age pit features) and probably derived from the surrounding 'natural' gravels. The Mesolithic material was a little more substantial and partly retrieved from the buried soil or surface as well as residual contexts. Like the Neolithic and Earlier Bronze Age material the Mesolithic was also restricted to the north and eastern areas of the excavation if somewhat less focused. The Late Bronze Age activity, dominated by large pit features but also including some post-structures, occurred right across the site without any recognisable focus within the exposed area.

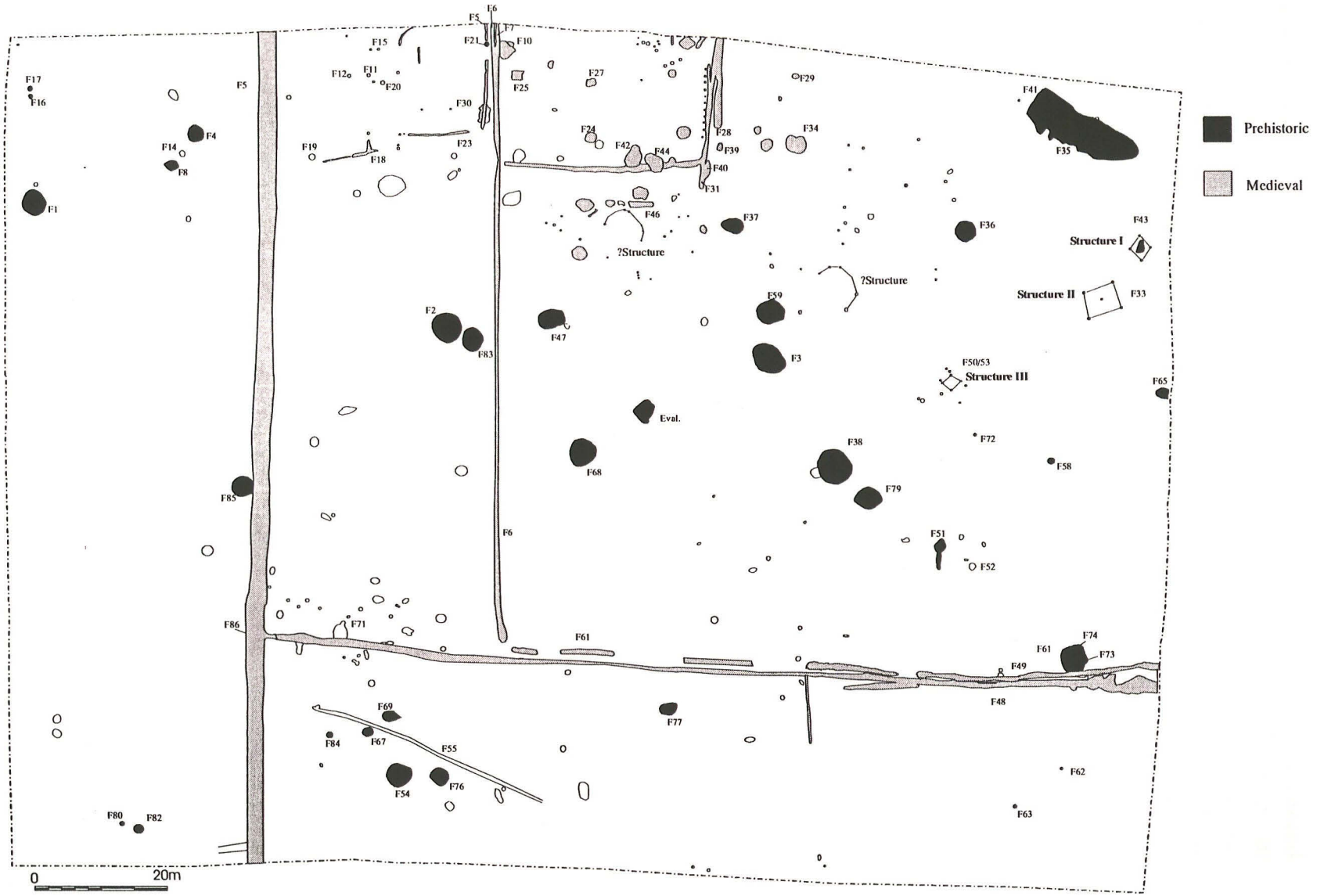


Figure 2. Plan showing all features

The Medieval was dominated by two episodes of enclosure which shared similar locations and matching alignments, attributes indicative of duplication and therefore suggesting two distinct phases of Medieval activity. The primary focus consisted of a rectangular enclosure lying on the central northern edge of the excavation around which the majority of Medieval pits were located.

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic residual/surface lithics

In addition to the feature related periods of activity described below, lithics belonging to both the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic were collected from residual and surface contexts. Two Palaeolithic axe thinning flakes were identified from within Late Bronze Age assemblages recovered from two adjacent pit features **F.'s 51** and **58**. These probably came from the surrounding 'natural' gravels exposed by the later features.

The Mesolithic flints came from five separate locations, situated around the north and eastern areas of the site. Again Late Bronze Age pit features, **F.'s 37, 41** and **58** produced residual material but Test Pit D2 also produced one piece and another was recovered from the north-eastern corner (near to Test Pit J2). Representing small scale activity, the 'scatter' demonstrates a Mesolithic presence restricted to one particular area within the site and perhaps extending both north and eastwards beyond the excavation itself. It is perhaps significant that the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age features share similar patterns of distribution as the Mesolithic surface register.

Neolithic and Early Bronze Age features

Only two features, **F. 35** and **F. 41**, contained Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery and both were situated in the extreme north-eastern corner of the excavation area (*c.* 3m apart). Of these, F. 35 was *c.*1.5m in diameter with a depth of 0.35m and contained 3 sherds from a Beaker and 1 Peterborough Ware sherd. F. 41 was a very substantial pit of 2.5m in diameter and 1.15m deep and contained both Beaker (26 sherds) and post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery (24 sherds). The latter's diverse combination of primary and terminal Bronze Age ceramics (both sharing similar amounts of abrasion) is problematic and probably represents two features not distinguished during excavation. Both pits cut **F. 66**, a periglacial hollow.

Late Bronze Age settlement

Evidence for Late Bronze Age settlement activity consisted of thirty-one large pit features or wells and at least three cohesive post structures, including two

definite four-post structures (fig.3). The structures were confined to the north-eastern corner of the site, in a linear arrangement while the pits were predominantly strung to the southwest out in quasi-linear fashion at right-angles to the line of structures.

Structure I (**F. 43**)

This was a four post structure of equal sides, 2.8m square. Truncation is fairly marked as the posthole depth ranged from 8 cm to 16cm. Given that the postholes (with the exception of the most truncated) range between 30 -35cm in diameter, it is easy to envisage that 35-45cm may have been lost from the top of the original land surface.

In the centre of this structure was a slightly irregular sub-ovoid feature with very light blue-grey sandy silt fill. It was half sectioned and had an irregular shaped base, with smaller hollows and bumps. It is unlikely that this represents a cut feature of any kind, but it could have come about as a result of the existence of the four post structure, perhaps through precipitation. It is also possible, given the level of truncation that the feature is a tree bowl and the tree itself formed part of the structure.

Structure II (**F. 33**)

Lying approximately 5m to the south of Structure I, this was a four post structure with a central cut of another possible post setting or the truncated base of a hearth. This forms an irregular rectangle of longer sides 5.2m and 5.7m, and shorter sides of 4.45m and 4.5m. The depths of the four main posts vary between 16.5cm and 18cm while the central cut is only 9.5cm. The postholes are slightly more substantial than those of Structure I, averaging about 45cm in diameter. However, in three out of the four exterior postholes, post pipes were visible as a mid-dark grey humic sandy silt, packed by a mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional pea gravel. In one of the postholes the post pipe stops short of the base and displays a very flat base, so it is likely that the post bases were sawn. The central cut remains slightly enigmatic, being more diminutive in diameter and depth, while the fill contains an ash and charcoal component. While it may suggest the remains of a hearth base, it is very deep. Two of the postholes contain pottery of Late Bronze Age date and by association it seems reasonable to assume that Structure I is of similar date if not contemporary date with Structure II.

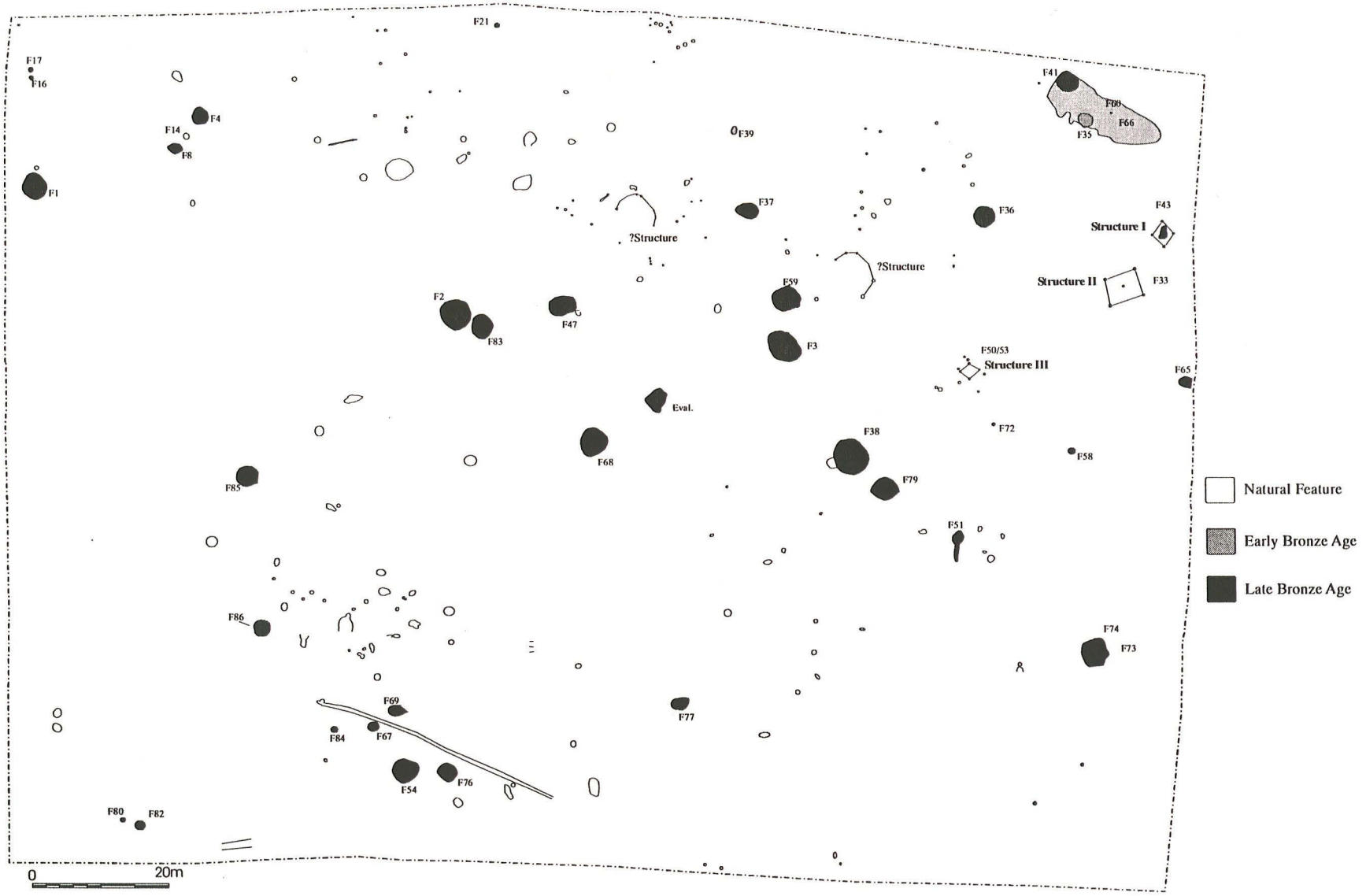


Figure 3. Prehistoric features

Structure III (**F. 50/F.53**)

This structure lies approximately 22m south west of Structure II and comprised a group of ten postholes that form a sub-rectangular or trapezoidal shape. Also included in this structure is F. 53, an arc of five postholes located at the southern corner of the structure. The longest side of the building has a length of 6.4m with an opposing length of 4.5m, the width being 2.4m. The arc spans a distance of 9m. The postholes vary in depth from 7 - 21cm and were fairly substantial, varying in diameter from 32cm to 41cm. Although it is possible that it represents a small dwelling place, it is perhaps more likely that it has some ancillary function. This could be either storage or related to some kind of processing activity. The finds are of little help in interpreting this structure as only a fragment of animal bone and a burnt stone were recovered. Given the position of F. 53, it is likely that this arc of posts was connected to the structure and served some purpose perhaps related to a processing activity. The posts could have been linked by cross members creating a sturdy frame that could have been used for the stretching out of hides or even linens. Obviously in the absence of a well preserved occupation layer, the function of the structure remains a matter of conjecture, but comparative analysis with similar structures elsewhere may provide some clues as to its function, or relationship to the four and five post-structures.

Pits

There were two pits (**F. 65** and **F. 45**) that were of different character and morphology from the main group of LBA pits and appear more directly associated with occupation.

F. 65 lies 28m to the south of Structure II, partly obscured by the eastern edge of excavation. It is sub-rectangular in plan, the visible dimension is 1.8m north-south and of the other, 1.1m could be seen. The fills can be seen to tip in from the north and are likely to be dumps. The tertiary fill contained 9 kg of burnt sandstone and midden material of pottery and bone appeared throughout. Also in the tertiary fill was a small amber bead. The direction from which the material has been tipped and the pits' location south of Structures I and II, are consistent with a settlement focus to the north east.

F. 45 lies 25m north west of F. 50 and 34m west of F. 33. It has a final deposit of midden material including a large amount of bone displaying butchery marks. Prior to this it appears to have been a clay-lined hearth. Some of the lining is still in place around the sides of the pit, although some has been worn away. This lining also laps over the northern edge to fill a shallow depression (0.4m x 0.65m x 8cm). This may have been caused through usage, crouching or kneeling next to the hearth, or through raking out the ashes of a spent fire; this has then been filled/repaired during the lining of the pit,

which may have undergone a process of relining from time to time. The basal fill is an ashy deposit with frequent charcoal flecks and 1kg of burnt stone.

Large Pit Features

Dominating the site were thirty-one very large pit features, in most of which there is no sign of purposeful single episode backfilling; all but the shallowest pits **F. 35**, **F. 80** and **F. 82** appear to have been left open and to have infilled gradually, with occasional purposeful dumping episodes. These pits can thus be demonstrated to have a consistent three-stage deposition sequence:

Primary	*open pit with water*
Secondary	*alternating periods of stand-still (silting) and dramatic edge erosion (gravel slumps)*
Tertiary	*infilling of pit within the catchment of settlement and salt production related materials*

Few finds were associated with the primary and secondary fills, most occurring in the upper tertiary layers and were probably the result of midden redeposition. By grouping the pits into zones by their proximity to the structures, the density of finds within them shows a concentration in zone 2 which lies at the edge of the structures (zone 1 pits are among the structures, zones 2, 3 and 4 successively further away; see fig.4).

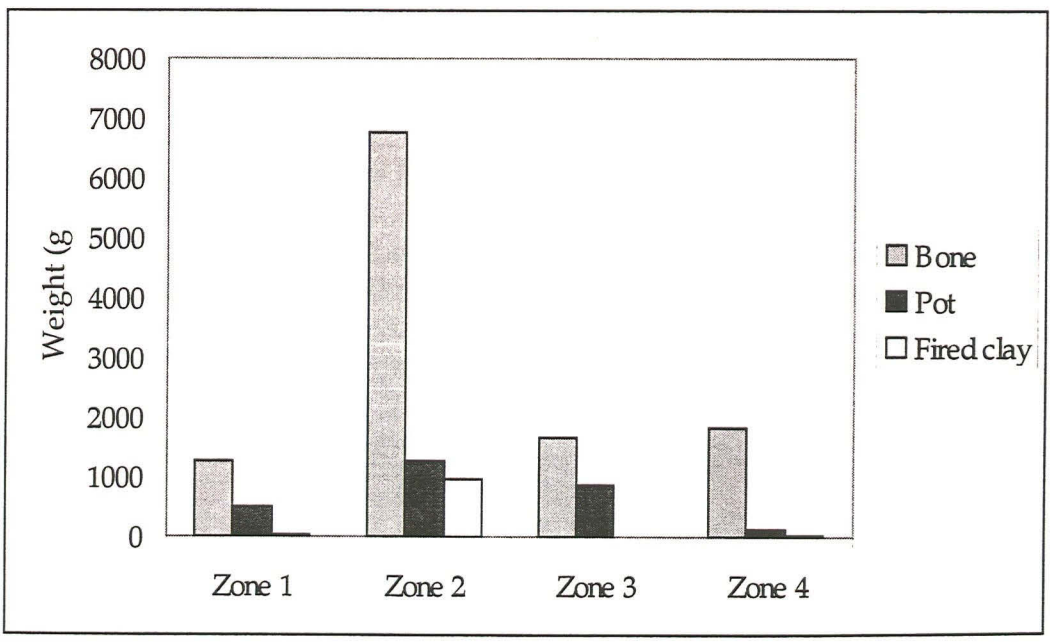


Figure 4. Quantities of finds in pits by zone

The remainder of the pits have minimal artefact assemblages and the south eastern group (**F. 54, 67, 69, 76 & 84**) is almost completely sterile. This pattern suggests that any the focus of settlement is probably to the northeast and that possibly domestic structures (e.g. roundhouses) may lie in that direction just beyond the limit of excavation - if their absence on the site is taken as real rather than taphonomic (see fig.4).

All of the pits in this category are deep enough to have cut through the upper natural silty clay into the underlying gravels. In plan all are also either circular or oval. It appears that the larger the circumference, the greater the likelihood that the pit has a flat base, the six largest pits all having flat bases. This is perhaps logical when one considers at what level the pits encounter the water table. Clearly the modern level of the water table bares little relation to that in the Late Bronze Age, but we can approximate the level of the LBA water table by observation of the preserved organic/humic layer. This though assumes that the pit will have had the opportunity to acquire organic deposits, rather than being backfilled. Of the 31 pits there are 16 that have definite primary organic accumulations. These pits appear to extend to a minimum depth of 4.1m OD - any shallower than this and no organic deposit is preserved.

There is no evidence of any attempt to consolidate the sides of any of these pits in contrast to those found in association with the LBA settlement on the Northborough-Etton pipeline (Knight 1998). There, large pits were found with clay lining *in situ*, and two with evidence for timber revetting. Had the inhabitants of LBA Langtoft been in permanent residence one might have expected this kind of consolidation. Instead there are many large pits that display consistently high levels of erosion from the soft sandy gravel sides.

Given that the evidence points to the majority of the pits being excavated to beneath the water table, it seems reasonable to assume that their primary purpose was one of water extraction. That they were all excavated through soft gravels led to inherent instability in the structure, which might have been combated by employing a clay or timber revetting. This was not the case and therefore they must either have gone through a continual process of cleaning out, or their period of usage was short. Given the number of these pits it is tempting to believe the latter. One possible explanation is that this settlement is seasonal in nature and that a single pit serves only a single season, it being abandoned after use to collect the organic materials that are observable in the primary deposits, thus dirtying the supply of water.

Early Medieval Enclosure

Post-Bronze Age Land Use

Artefacts collected from the B-horizon in the test pits showed a range of material from late Roman through to 17th century most of which was in a fairly abraded condition suggestive of manure derivation (see Appendices 6 & 7), the exception being the Saxo-Norman sherds (9th-12th century) and it is these which relate to the cut features excavated. The area does not appear to have been utilised during the Iron Age or early Roman period and only came into arable use from the late Roman period, probably as part of the Roman field system located to the south in Area B (Heritage Lincs. 1992). It may have continued as agricultural land until the construction of the enclosures in the Saxon-Norman period, whereafter it reverted to arable use until the present day.

The Saxo-Norman Enclosure System

A system of ditches on the same alignment occupy most of the site, and show at least three major phases of construction, the earliest of which dates to between the 9th and 12th century, and the latest to the 13th/14th century on the basis of associated pottery (fig.5).

Phase I

The earliest phase appears to consist of a rectilinear enclosure 112m east-west by 92m north south, both ditches continuing beyond the limit of excavation (**F. 6** & **F. 61/49**). Along the south side (F. 61 & F. 49), the ditch is interrupted while inside the northern arm (F. 6), a smaller enclosure 29m east-west by 22.5m north-south is set (**F. 7, F. 28, F. 31** & **F. 32**).

Associated with the smaller enclosure is a line of posts that run along the interior of the eastern side. They are eleven in number and evenly spaced at intervals of just less than a metre, running for *c.* 10m. Each post is approximately 25-30cm in diameter and 20-30cm in depth. Function is difficult to ascribe to this line but it could either represent a fence screen or one side of a structure which required more substantial footings, perhaps because of its proximity to the outer ditch. Also associated with and inside the small enclosure were a number of features, including pits **F. 24, F. 25, F. 26** and **F. 27**. Two were fairly substantial: F. 24 was 2m in diameter with a depth of 0.88m; F. 27 was sub-rectangular 1.55 x 1.06m and 0.9m deep. Both of these pits produced Stamford ware. F. 26 was a small pit, while F. 25 had a circular cut at its base that looked to be a posthole, while its upper portion is almost square in plan. In addition to these, there were 7 unexcavated pits, 3 of which

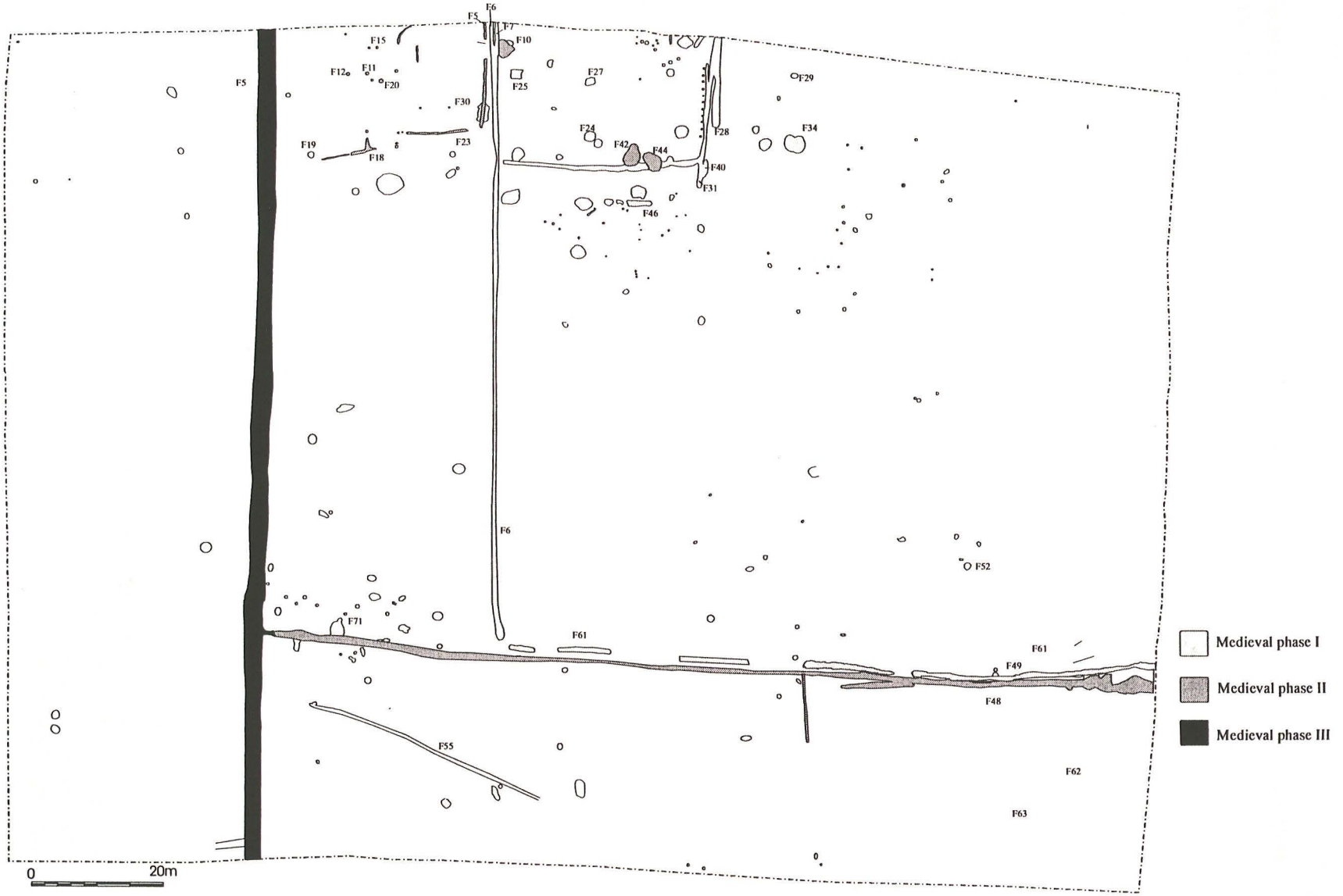


Figure 5. Medieval features

were over 1m in diameter, and the ends of two narrow linear features that extended out of the northern section and may represent beam slots.

To the east of the small enclosure there were three pits and one posthole, of which one pit (**F. 29**) was tested. It contained carbonised material and bone as well as Stamford ware and some residual Roman pot. Also on this side were many small irregular scoops that were filled with a red silty clay. Several were tested and no artefactual evidence or biota were present; given this and their irregular shape, it was considered likely that they are the product of natural processes.

To the south of the small enclosure there were a group of four pits of over 1.5m in diameter which were also not excavated, but attributed to the medieval phases by the distinctive fill. There were also scattered stakeholes/postholes and one linear slot. Only the slot, **F. 46**, was investigated. This was 4.5m in length, 0.61m wide and 0.17m deep.

Phase II

Undoubtedly this system has within it changes and additions: the smaller enclosure was re-cut at least once from the multiple ditches seen on its eastern (F. 28 & F. 31) and western (F. 6 & F. 7) sides, while a number of pits cut parts of these ditches (**F. 10, F. 42 & F. 44**). Associated with these changes is possibly an enlargement of the original large enclosure, marked by a major north-south ditch running the length of the site (**F. 9**) and a smaller dividing ditch running east-west (**F. 48**), which cut the southern limit of the earlier enclosure F. 49. A series of linear features almost mirroring the small enclosure are aligned off the other side of north-south ditch F. 6 between it and F. 9. **F. 5** was a slightly curving gully with an overall length of 9.5m, although it continued beyond the northern edge of excavation. At its southern tip and at right angles to it was another slot **F. 23**, 9.2m in length. They probably represent beam slots for F. 5 had fairly steep, straight sides, and although F. 23 was more variable, this probably relates to post-depositional disturbance. A sherd of 12th century St.Neots ware was recovered from F. 5 suggesting a later date for these structures.

A little further to the west of F.23 is the most convincing structural evidence. **F. 18** formed an L-shaped plan, with an east-west line of 2.8m and a north-south line of 1.58m. It had regular sides and postholes/stakeholes within its base. Standing alone, little sense can be made of this feature and unfortunately no further features related to it apart from a small pit **F. 19**. This had been subject to fairly intense heat, burning its sides, with associated charcoal in its fill. While no dating evidence was recovered from it, if it is assumed to be contemporary then it could have been a hearth associated with this structure. Since the post-trench F. 18 is not enclosed, the structure must

have either been open (i.e. fenced screen) or constructed differently (e.g. sill beams) on the other sides. In the same area were a group of 6 small pits/postholes of which 4 were half-sectioned, but revealed little more than a piece of bone and a mussel shell. There were also two further short sections of linear slots, much the same in character as F.23 and F.5.

Phase III

At a later date, the enclosure system seems to have been abandoned, although the major ditch F. 9 probably continued as a field boundary since it is shadowed by the upstanding headland which traversed the centre of the site and sealed most of the archaeology. Moreover F.9 showed at least one recut suggesting its continued presence. A tentative date for this change is provided by the 13th century pottery in the sealing headland. At right angles to this headland ran another, east-west along the northern edge of the site and between the two were traces of ridge and furrow which in places truncated elements of the earlier features.

Discussion

The Late Bronze Age

Apart from the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age pits in the northeast corner, the majority of the prehistoric pits are associated with post-Deverel Rimbury ceramics predominantly of the plain-ware tradition but also with a small sample of decorated pieces and date to the *c.* 1000-800 BC. Along with Structures I-III and a scatter of apparently random postholes, these constitute the evidence for the later Bronze Age settlement on this site. Usually lacking eaves gullies, it is difficult to definitely distinguish regular round building post-patterns in settlements of the period, but two such structures have been suggested on the site plan (fig.2), although they were unexcavated and must remain conjectural. Rarer longhouse plans also occur on sites of this date, although none were identified at Langtoft (e.g. Barleycroft Farm, Evans & Knight 1997; Welland Bank, south Lincolnshire, Pryor & Lane, forthcoming; Tower Works, Fengate, Lucas 1997).

The settlement is unenclosed in the sense that it has no continuous ditch defining the area of settlement activity and while this again is typical, many such settlements are set within earlier fieldsystems (e.g. Barleycroft, Fengate). The inferred recovery of hedges at Lingwood however, potentially undermines any easy distinction between enclosed and open settlements, and addresses the prominence of 2nd millennium BC land allotment in the region *vis-a-vis* a paucity of 1st millennium systems (i.e. which could have been

hedged rather than ditched). Yet it may be argued that the spatial arrangement of the pits at Langtoft (as at Barleycroft) - and the deposits found therein - point to the existence of a boundary zone surrounding the primary area of activity which lay in and to the northeast. These pits clearly form the major component of the site and will be the focus of this discussion.

Like those at Langtoft, large pit-wells are a common feature on later Bronze Age/earlier Iron Age settlements in the region (e.g. Evans & Knight 1997; Pryor 1998). Often waterlogged and holding substantial finds assemblages through backfilling and/or the catchment of occupation refuse, they are, effectively, a 'type fossil' of settlement of the period. In contrast to the more slight settlement architecture of the Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age, they tell of permanent occupation and the guarantee of water resources (Edmonds, *et al.*, 1999). The Langtoft well cluster is comparable to those excavated at The Paddocks, Barleycroft (Evans & Knight 1997), Nine Bridges, Northborough (Knight 1998), Storey's Bar Road, Fengate (B3 & W17; Pryor 1978: 26-30, 39-44) and Well 840 at Lofts Farm, Essex (Brown 1988: fig. 13). Within pit F. 85 at Langtoft was a discarded post end that had been cut to a point; large, notched stakes have been recovered from Fengate and Lofts Farm and recently from a later Bronze Age pit well at Deeping St James, Lincolnshire (Hall & Coles 1994: 94-6). The latter have been interpreted as remains of ladders and from this it can be inferred that access had evidently to be made down into the pit and that, at least at certain times of the year, the water level lay low within the features (Evans, forthcoming).

Thus, acting as wells, the water drawn from these pits are implicated in a new settlement pattern and associated modes of activity; the quantities of burnt stone (including at least 9kg from F.37) and briquetage (0.5kg from F. 59) attest to probable salt production at Langtoft (cf. Northborough, Knight 1998). While clearly on a small scale and for local consumption, the production and use of salt represents new attitudes to the consumption of foodstuffs, having implications for both storage and taste. The subsistence data from the site suggests a mixed economy based primarily on wheat cereals and beef (and to a lesser extent pork), and the role of salt in preserving and enhancing the flavour of the meat may have played a large part in the construction of the wells. Most later Bronze Age assemblages in the region are dominated by cattle (e.g. Fengate, Barleycroft, Northborough) and it is not until the Iron Age and sheep/goat overtake cattle as the main domesticate, although at Langtoft pig form an unusually high proportion being twice as common as sheep/goat.

The inclusion of a human skull fragment within the backfill of pit F.37 is another feature seen on sites of this period. Brück (1995) has argued for the existence of structured deposition within the pits and ditches of the LBA period, primarily concerned with the deposition of human skeletal material (especially skulls), but also inclusive of other categories of artefact and biota.

Higbee (Appendix 3) also notes the preponderance of skull and mandible fragments within the animal bone assemblage, and although allows for this to be the product of fragmentation, it may also be due to the symbolic significance of the skull.

The Early Medieval Period

Between the Later Bronze Age and the early Medieval period, little occurs on the site except for probable agricultural activity (e.g. manuring). While clearly not core settlement, the construction of the early Medieval enclosures sometime in the 9th-12th centuries have sufficient occupation material and activity related features to suggest settlement is nearby. At little more than 500m northeast of Langtoft village, the enclosures and other features are clearly linked to the Saxon and Saxo-Norman development of the village, albeit marginal. The village is mentioned in the Doomsday Book and also overlies in part a Saxon cemetery, while there are two moated sites, both on the northeast edge of the present village. Given their proximity, it is possibly to the latter that the abandonment of the site is due in the 13th century when the area is turned over to ridge and furrow.

Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to Mr. K. Bird of Hanson Aggregates for invaluable support during the various stages of the project; also to Kasia Gdaniec who managed the overall project and Lorraine Higbee who supervised the initial fieldwork and subsequent watching brief; to the field team – M .Berger, Lorraine Higbee, Leslie McFadyen, Duncan McKay - who carried out the work on site, to Norma Challands for processing the finds and to M. Berger for the computer-aided illustration.

Appendices

1. Feature Descriptions

Key:

c. [000] - denotes the cut context number
(•#) - denotes bulk sample taken from a particular context and the sample number.

?Neolithic

F.66 This is a relatively shallow periglacial feature, irregular in shape but roughly 17. 5m x 5m and up to 40cm in depth. Where it was excavated it has an irregular undulating base. The fill [236] is for the most part a layer of pale blue/grey clay silt with frequent rusty orange mottles and moderate rounded flint inclusions. Around the base there are also numerous silty sand lenses. 2 sherds of Neolithic pot were recovered, but they may be intrusive.

Late Bronze Age

Pits

F1. [011-020], c.[021] - Large oval pit, with angular sloping sides at 60° from the vertical, (dimensions: 4.00m x 3.40m; depth 1.02m) these [015] is a mid-grey clay with a little sand and occasional pea grit. Tipping in from the edges are [016], a light to mid orange/grey/brown sand with a little clay, frequent pea gravel; and [017], a light brown/grey clayey sand with frequent pea gravel. [018] (•1) the basal fill proper, is like [017] but darker. [019] represents weathering at the base of the feature, light brown loose sand. [011] yielded LBA pottery and animal bone, as did [018].

F2. [022-023], [110-120], [137-138], c.[139] large oval pit 2.07m x 2.40m; maximum depth 1.08m, It has steep sides curving gently in to a flat base. The upper fills [022], [023], [110], [111] represent a final sequence of backfilling, they are very similar only varying very slightly in hue, or quantity of sand; mid brown/grey sandy clay silt, c. 5% sub angular gravel inclusions, occasional charcoal flecking (TYPE I). Finds included animal bone, flint, pottery and a little burnt stone. Beneath this are a sequence of central and edge fills, of the fills tipping in from the northern edge [112] and [115] are very similar, a mid orange/brown sandy clay silt with c. 5% gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. [116] and [117] are also similar, [117] being lighter in colour; mid-light grey sandy silt clay silt, [116] has slight orange mottling and occasional charcoal flecks. [117] lies over the primary weathered edge [118], a mixture of slumped sands and gravels. Only [116] and [118] yielded finds, a fragment of animal bone from each. In the centre at a depth of about 0.4m is [113], a mid brown/grey sandy clay silt with orange mottling and light grey sandy patches, c.5-10% gravel inclusions, occasional charcoal flecks and one fragment of animal bone. [114] as [113] but greyer and [119] is darker still. Beneath this at a depth of 0.72m is [120] (•6) a very dark brown/grey, slightly peaty, fill with a very slightly spongy consistency, a small amount of surviving organic material, and occasional pockets of light grey sand, c. 10% gravel. [138] (•7) beneath it, the primary fill, is very similar but slightly more spongy and a little more organic material. This lies over a concreted layer which in this instance was left in place, but which in other pits was removed, but it appears to represent a natural transformation of the pit base due to standing water within it.

F.3 [024-033], [100-104], c.[1 OS] - large oval pit; 5.6m x 3.6m; maximum depth 1m. 1 quadrant excavated. From the top edge the side are almost vertical for the first 0.5/0.6m in depth,

before sloping in at c. 45• and curving in to a flatish base. At the western end the soft sands through which the pit has been cut, have eroded inwards creating an undercut of c. 0.20m. The weathering was generally more pronounced towards the west. Fills: [024] (•2) Firm consistency, mid-dark brown/ grey silty clay sand, with frequent charcoal inclusions, moderate sub angular gravel and 6kg of burnt stone. Finds included pottery, animal bone, flint and a bone awl. [025] firm consistency, mid grey/olive silty clay sand, occasional charcoal flecks and moderate sub angular gravel with finds of pottery, animal bone and burnt clay. It also contained 1kg of burnt stone. [026] as [024] but no charcoal. [028] firm consistency, light orange/brown clay silt sand, upper edge weathering. [029] Mid grey/brown clay silt sand with moderate sub angular gravel. Finds of pottery, animal bone, burnt clay and 1kg of burnt stone. [030] (•4) Light grey, ashy sand clay silt, with moderate sub angular gravel. Finds of pottery and animal bone. [031] light creamy sand/gravel, including flint. [032] light brown sand silt clay, moderate sub angular gravel, occasional medium (c. 5cm) stones, including bone. [033] assorted sand/gravel weathered edge. [100] as [028]. [101] light grey/brown silty clay sand, 50% gravel, occasional charcoal flecks. Finds of pottery, flint, animal bone and 1kg of burnt stone. [102] Compact consistency, mottled light grey/light brown silty clay with sand lenses. [103] (•5) Mid grey silty clay, with a dense spongy consistency, organic rich deposit, with finds of wood, animal bone, pottery and flint. [104] Mid orange/brown concreted sand/gravel, with very occasional charcoal flecks.

F.4 [043-068], c.[069] - Oval cut, dimensions, N-S 3m, W-E 2.6m, maximum depth 0.97m. It has fairly straight sides sloping at approximately 45• curving in gradually to a flat base. This feature is very similar to F.1, having been through a process of gradual and natural infilling, with variations of light greyish brown, slightly sticky, sandy clay. 0.42m down is the top of [054] (•3), a dark grey/black peaty silt with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions, it gives the impression of organics having rotted in situ. Beneath this are the primary silting fills [064] / [065], of pale brownish grey moderately firm, slightly moist silty sand/clay, with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions. The basal fills [067]/ [068] are weathered sandy gravels.

F.8 [070-084], c.[085] - Oval cut, dimensions W-E 2.4m, N-S 1.6m, maximum depth 0.72m. It has steep and slightly concave sides, with a gradual break of slope in to a flat base. The fills are very similar to F.1, in that it has a sequence of weathering fills, sandy gravels, tipping down the sides, and variations of a light brownish grey moderately compact sandy clay fill with moderate sub angular gravel and occasional charcoal flecks, in the centre. Unlike F.4 with which it also has similarities it has no peaty layer. The only find was a fragment of animal bone in the uppermost central fill.

F.21 [093-095], c. [096] - circular pit with diameter 0.7m wide, maximum depth 0.4m. The side are steep curving moderately sharply in to a concave base. The upper fill [093] is a dark brown silty sand, going down to a [094] red/brown silty sand, with a basal fill [095] of dark grey/brown sandy gravel. One LBA pot sherd found in [093].

F.36 [237-239] - Large oval cut, 3.92m x 2.80m, depth 1.12m. NW quad excavated. There is a sharp break from the surface in to quite steep sloping northern edge that breaks at a depth of 0.22m and again at 0.48m where it inclines relatively steeply before curving round in to a narrow base. The western edge is very steep from surface to base. The upper central fill [237] (•11) is a black-dark brown/grey sandy silt with burnt gravel tip lines of hearth material, including burnt stone, patches of charcoal, flecks of burnt clay, pottery and animal bone. Beneath this [238] is a sequence of quite sterile sandy silts, although tipping down from the edge at a depth of 0.43m to the centre at a depth of 0.83m is a dark grey humic silt suggestive of organic decomposition *in situ*. Then again there are sterile silts and bands of weathered gravels suggestive of a slow infilling process.

F.37 c.[243], [242], [272-273], [318], [357-358] -A large oval cut 3.4m(E-W) x 2.4m(N-S), maximum depth 1 .08m. Regular cut with almost to totally vertical upper sides, becoming more angled towards the base. Slightly rounded junction between base and sides. It is deeper on the west side than the east. The east side is slightly stepped in profile. [242] (•14), [273] (•17), [318] (•23) SECTION 94 -
MISSING

F.38 c.[251], [244-246], / c.[271], [267-270], / c.[284], [278-283] - 3 pits; the earliest being cut [284], circular pit C. 4.6m diameter, maximum depth 0.8m. 1 quarter sectioned with a 1m slot extending E-W. The sides slope fairly evenly at C. 45•, curving in to a flat base. It is uncertain whether the upper fill [244] seals the intrusive cut [251], or is cut by it, it is a very light brown sandy silt with rare small sub rounded gravel, having a thickness of between 5 and 10cm. Beneath this fill, cut [251] became apparent. It is c.1.3m in diameter, max. depth from top of [244], 0.4m. It has steep sides, becoming vertical in places, even undercutting at points before curving in to a shallow convex base. The upper fill of this intrusive cut is [245] (•12) a grey sandy silt with moderate sub-rounded gravel and carbonised plant remains. This overlies [246] (•13) a soft dark grey sandy silt with very rare small gravel inclusions, the basal fill of [251]. [278] lies beneath [244] and is cut by [251], it is mid grey/brown sand silt. This overlies [279], also cut by [251], a light brown sand. [280] is a weathered sandy gravel, with some orange staining across the base of the fill. [281] Dark brown gravel/silt with rare carbonised plant remains. [282] Sandy gravel with some orange staining/mottling. [283] Dark brown silty gravel, the basal fill. Also cutting pit [284] is pit [271]. This is a circular pit 1.8m in diameter, maximum depth 0.56m. The sides are vertical with a fairly sharp junction to a concave base. The central upper fill is [267], light grey brown sandy silt with carbonised plant inclusions and small rare burnt clay clasts. Around the sides of the pit is [270], orange/red sand silt clay with grey/black stains and rare gravel inclusions. This appears to be a lining but it is undercut by [268] (•15) which lies beneath [267], this is a carbonised black silt with common small to medium red burnt clay clasts. The basal fill [269] (•31) is a slightly greasy grey/brown silt.

F.41 C. [253], [252], [327-333], [413], [415-419] - sub-circular; c.5m in diameter; maximum depth 1.15m. 2 quadrants excavated. It has stepped sides, from the top edge there is a gradual incline which breaks into a steeper slope before curving more gradually in to a concave base, with some irregularities. The upper fill [252] / [413] (•18) was of firm consistency and comprised a mid blue/grey silty clay with occasional angular flints and frequent rusty orange mottles, with moderate charcoal flecks. Within it was a thin charcoal lens and wind blown sandy lenses. [327] / [415] (•19) Compact consistency, pale grey sandy clay silt with moderate angular flints and small sub-angular grit, occasional charcoal flecks and moderate rusty orange mottles throughout. It contained finds of animal bone, pottery and flint blades, mostly from the upper part of the fill to the north. [328] as [327] but more clayey. [329] / [416] as [327] with fewer flints and grit and no charcoal. [330] / [417] as [329] but more mottled appearance. [331] Soft consistency, mid blue/grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small angular flints, with rusty orange mottles. [332] Mid orange/brown silty clay with moderate angular flints and frequent charcoal flecks, containing preserved wood. [418] Rusty orange, silty sand/gravel, weathered edge. [333] / [419] (•27) Dark grey black organic deposit with a peaty, spongy consistency suggesting the degradation of in situ organics.

F.47 c.[286], [287-288], [344], [348-349], [356] - Large oval cut 4m x 2.80m, depth 0.72m. The break of slope from the surface is gradual, then slopes down at c. 45• to a depth of 0.35m before becoming a more gentle slope to a depth of 0.6m. It breaks again to 45• before curving sharply in to a flatish base. The upper fill [287] is a mid brown/grey silt/sand with occasional charcoal flecks, and occasional small rounded pebbles. This overlies [344], a grey/brown fine gravel with occasional medium pebbles. In turn beneath this is [288] a mid brown/orange sand/silt/clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular pebbles.

The basal fill proper is [349] a grey/brown clay sand with occasional fragments of degraded stone and charcoal flecks. Spilling in from the top edge is [356] a brown clay/silt which overlies a general build up of sand and gravel from weathered edges [348]. There were finds of pottery, animal bone, burnt clay and burnt stone.

F.54 [350-354], c.[355] - Large oval pit cut, 3.25m x 3.75m, depth 1.15m. The top 0.2m of the edges are near vertical, breaking in to a more gentle gradient for the next 30-0.35m, to the west this continues down to the base, but on the north side it breaks in to a steeper slope again before curving in to the concave base. The upper fill [350] is a mid grey/brown sandy silt clay with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. Beneath this is [352] a light brown/grey sandy silt clay with frequent gravel/marl. The edges have weathered and gravel has spilled down the sides [351] and during this process fill [353] (•22) has formed as it goes both over and under the gravel. This is a very dark grey, compact silty humic material with frequent preserved wood inclusions and occasional bone. The basal fill is a mixture of weathered gravels and light brown/grey silty lenses. The only pot sherd came from [351].

F.58 [373-375], C. [376] - Oval pit cut 1.3m x 1.2m, depth 0.7m. The sides break sharply from the surface and are quite steep for the first 0.4m before breaking in to a gentler concave slope that curves in to a concave base. The uppermost fill is a dark brown silt with rare charcoal flecks. Beneath is [374], a red/brown silt with very rare charcoal flecks. Spilling down the sides and in to the base is [375] a grey/brown gravel/sand slump. [373] (•24) contained pottery and burnt bone, [374] contained animal bone and flint.

F.59 [365-368], c.[369] - Large oval pit, dimensions 3.95m x 1.74m; maximum depth 1.13m. The sides are steep, almost vertical which curve in from c.0.65m - 0.70m to a slightly bowl shaped base. The upper fill [365] is a dark brown/grey silty sand with very frequent briquetage fragments. Beneath this [366] are several silty layers representing episodes of natural infilling, including natural weathering in from the sides mixing with silts, some bone fragments included. These overlie the distinctive dark blue/grey humic layer [367] (cf. F2 [120]) with numerous pottery sherds included, which in turn covers a primary fill [368] of disturbed natural - concreted sand gravel with silty lenses and occasional pot.

F.67 [393-396], [405-411], c.[412] - Ovoid pit 0.95m x 2.1m with a depth of 0.92m. It has an upper sequence of ills [393] - [396] of light olive/brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions lying over [410] a predominantly gravel weathered edge. It also lies over [406], a very dark brown/grey, slightly peaty, fill with a very slightly spongy consistency, a small amount of surviving organic material, and occasional pockets of light grey sand, c. 10% gravel. Beneath this on the east side is [409], which is very similar to [406]. In turn down the central portion of the pit is [408], which is a mixed sand/gravel and dark olive grey clay/silt, which on the western side extends from the top of the feature all the way down to the base, where it sits in a bowl shaped scoop. This is possibly a recut or cleaning episode, cutting through [411] a gravel slump / weathering episode.

F.68 [399-402], [441-442], [449], C. [403] - large oval pit, 4.5m x 3.5m and depth 1.1m. It has steep almost vertical side curving in from about 0.35m gradually down on to a flat base. It has an upper sequence [399]-[402] of light -mid grey/brown clay silt with orange mottling, with between 5% and 20% gravel inclusions. This overlies and sandy gravel weathered edge and [441] (•32) a very dark brown/grey, slightly peaty, fill with a very slightly spongy consistency, a small amount of surviving organic material, and occasional pockets of light grey sand, c. 10% gravel. This overlies the primary fill [442], a light brown/orange sandy gravel/silt, heavily iron panned with occasional charcoal. **FINDS?**

F.69 [397-398], [420-424], C. [425] - oval pit 1.6m x 2.1m and depth 0.6m. The side break sharply from the surface but begin to curve in quite quickly to form a bowl shaped profile. The upper sequence [397]-[423], comprise variations on a mid olive/brown clay/silt,

becoming darker towards the base, interspersed by two gravel tip lines. These overlie [424] a light olive/yellow clay.

F.76 [464-466], c.[467] - Circular pit of diameter 2.5m and a depth of 1m. The sides break sharply from the surface but quickly begin to curve in, having an undulating and weathered profile, before curving gently in to the dished base. The upper fill [464] is a light brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. This overlies a sandy gravel weathered edge and [464] (•33). This is best understood as a wet muddy deposit in to which have spilled gravels and sands creating a curious lensing pattern. It is predominantly, like the humic fills of many of the other pits: a very dark brown/grey, slightly peaty, fill with a very slightly spongy consistency, a small amount of surviving organic material, and occasional pockets of light grey sand and gravel. It contains wood and some animal bone. This then overlies a very fine grey sand gravel base, over a layer of iron pan.

F.79 [468-469], [479-481], c.[482] - Oval pit 4m x 3.75m, axis E-W, having a depth of 0.90m. The sides are steep c.60• from the horizontal for 0.5m, then breaks to a slightly steeper angle before curving in fairly gently to a flat base. The upper fills [468]-[479] are light brown sandy gravel silts with occasional charcoal flecks, becoming more sandy and less gravelly towards base. These overlie [480], a grey/brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. The primary fill is an orange sand/gravel very iron panned. [480], [481] and [468] all produced pot, all contexts produced some animal bone and [468] contained some Cu alloy.

F.80 [470-471], c.[472] - Circular small pit, of diameter 0.6m and depth 0.23m. It has gently graded concave sides curving in to a flat base. The upper fill [470] (•34) is a mid brown clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional angular burnt sandstone fragments, also contained some fired clay. Beneath this is [471] a mid brown clay silt with moderate small sub angular stones and frequent pea grit particularly towards the base, this also had some fired clay.

F.82 [474], C. [475] - Oval pit 1.60m x 1.22m, with a depth of 0.35m. It has a steeply graded eastern edge and a gently graded western edge, curving in to a slightly irregular concave base. The fill [474] is a mid grey/brown clay silt sand, with very occasional small sub-angular stones. It has a soft consistency. There was one sherd of bronze age pottery recovered from near the base.

F.83 [483], C. [484] - Oval pit cut 1.7m x 1.55m, with a depth of 1.12m. The sides are very steep and slightly concave, curving in to a moderately flat base. The upper fills are variations of a light grey/brown sandy silt, becoming more clayey towards base. These overlie [484] a gravelly weathered edge, and [483] (•37) a very dark browny-grey, slightly peaty, fill with a very slightly spongy consistency, a small amount of surviving organic material, and occasional pockets of light grey sand, c. 5% gravel.

F.84 [476-477], c.[478] - A circular pit of diameter 1m and depth 0.48m. The sides are steeply graded on the southern edge and gradually merge in to a base which slopes from south to north and is slightly concave on the northern edge. The upper fill [476] is a mid brown clay silt with occasional angular and sub-angular stones. There were finds of sheep/goat tooth and other animal bone fragments. Below this [477] is a mid grey brown clay silt with very occasional angular stones and moderate charcoal flecks. Finds include a cattle tibia shaft.

F.85 [485-487], c.[488] - This feature was hardly visible from the surface, but after excavation of a 1m slot it was thought to be approximately 4m in diameter and it has a depth of 1.28m. The sides are very steep for 0.5m and then begin to grade in more gently and slightly concave, down to a flatish base. The upper fill [485] is a light brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. Beneath this [486] is a dark grey organic silt, with a light grey organic silt with frequent gravel lapping up against it. This contained the preserved end of a large sharpened

post as well as other pieces of wood. The primary fill was a mixed sandy gravel with animal bone inclusions.

F.86 [490-491], c.[492] - This pit only partially revealed as it was totally obscured and cut by F.9. It appeared to be a roughly circular cut of c. 1.7m in diameter and a depth of 1.3m. The top fill was a mid orange brown sandy gravelly clay silt. This overlies [491] mixed bands of sand and gravel.

Other LBA /prehistoric pits and postholes

F.35 [232-234], c.[235] - Oval cut of dimensions 1.52m x 1.40m with a depth of 0.35m. There is a sharp break of slope from the surface with near vertical sides and again a sharp break of slope at the base in to a flatish base. The upper fill [232] is mid-grey clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent mottles mid-brown in colour, rare sub-angular flint inclusions, burnt flint was recovered. In the middle lies and large lens [233] of pale orange / yellow sandy silt with frequent dark rusty orange mottles. The basal fill [234] is the same as [232], however the lower boundary is mottled with iron panning.

F.39 [247], c.[248] - Oval shaped cut, 1.08 x 0.63, depth 0.25m. It has a sharp break from the surface, steep slightly concave sides that break gently in to a rounded base. The fill [247] (•16) is a mid grey/brown sandy clay silt with frequent charcoal, giving the feature a black appearance, also moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of burnt clay/daub (very friable). Some animal bone recovered.

F.51 [335-340], c. [341] - Oval pit cut with associated gully. The pit cut is 2.5m x 2m, depth 0.95m, with the gully extending off it to the south. This is 0.5m wide and 0.20-0.25m deep, it has obtuse sides in profile curving in to a concave base. The edges of the pit break sharply from the surface and are near vertical adjacent to the gully, until breaking again at 0.4m depth forming a slight step, then sloping more gently and curving in to a concave base. The rest of the sides slope continuously with a slightly concave profile. [335] A mid-grey brown sandy silt with rare sub-rounded gravel inclusions and rare charcoal flecks. This overlies [336] A Mid grey compact gravel in a silt matrix. In turn these cover [337] - a continuous fill from the gully in to the pit - with is a red/brown silt. There is some gravel weathering at the edge [338] and then the basal fill [339] (•20), which is a grey clay silt with very rare carbonised plant remains. [335] contained animal bone, [336] animal bone and flint and [339] animal bone.

F.52 [345], c.[346] - An oval pit cut, 1.10m x 1m and a maximum depth of 0.20m. On the western side the feature breaks gently from the surface and for a length of 0.45m only reaches a depth of 8cm before breaking and curving in to the concave base. From the east it curves straight down from the surface in to the concave base. The fill is a homogenous light grey/brown slightly sandy silt, with some animal bone.

F.60 [236], [371], C. [372] - Posthole, circular in plan, diameter 0.23m, depth 0.25m. It has near vertical sides tapering in and breaking in to a flatish base, diameter 0.17m. The fill [371] is very dark brown/grey sandy silt with very occasional pea grit inclusions around the edge. At the top the fill merges with layer [236] through which it has been cut (see F.66).

F.62 [382-384], C. [385] - Circular posthole, 0.65m wide, depth 0.57m. It has steep almost vertical sides breaking fairly sharply into a curving base. The upper fill [382] is a light grey/brown silt overlying [383] (•25), a dark grey silt with rare pea gravel and charcoal flecks. The sides have a light grey sand gravel [384] extending from the top to the base, but not covering the base. There were finds of pot from [382] and [383], with animal bone from [383].

F.63 [380], c.[381] - Circular posthole/pit, 0.5m in diameter, depth 0.26m. Steep, near vertical sides curving in to a bowl - shaped base. The fill [380] is a light brown silt with rare sub-rounded gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.72 [438-439], C. [440] - circular posthole/pit, diameter 0.39m and depth 0.26m. The upper fill [438] is a mid brown silt with a dense cluster of stones (4 kilos) and 1 long bone, possibly a post pad. This overlies [439] predominantly rounded gravels with some dark brown silt mixed in.

F.73 C. [443], [444-446] - Circular pit, diameter 1.4m with depth 1.03m. It has steep to near vertical sides, curving in and merging with a rounded, slightly stepped base. The upper fills are cut by F.49. Coming in at the top from the south is [444] a pale grey/brown clayey sand with 60% gravel, overlying pale grey/brown sandy clay. Then [445], a mottled grey/orange sandy clay with a little gravel. In turn this lies over [446] course sands and gravels with much animal bone. And a primary fill of a pale orange sand with <30% gravel.

F.74 C.[447], [448] - A shallow hollow, c. 3m diameter and up to 0.43m deep. It has gently sloping sides merging with a dished base. The fill [448] is a compact grey/grey-brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks becoming more gravelly and then progressively more sandy.

F.77 [457-461], c.[462] - Circular pit of diameter 1.9m and a depth of 0.82m. It has steeply graded sides with a gradual break from the surface and then a sharp break to the base which is flat. It has an upper fill [457] of pale orangey brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular stones. Beneath this is a layer [458] of pale blue/grey clay silt. In turn this overlies [459] a mid brown clay silt with orange mottling and very occasional gravel. And in turn this covers [460] a mid grey clay silt with a concentration of rounded stones towards the base. The primary fill [461] is a soft, dark black/brown silt with occasional rounded stones towards the base and occasional charcoal flecks. [457] produced some abraded pot and fired clay.

F.78 c/f[463] - circular posthole of diameter 0.35m, depth 0.30m. It has vertical sides breaking sharply in to a flat base. The fill is a brown sandy silt.

Post structures and associated features

F.33 [211-220] - This is a four post structure with a central cut that may be another post setting or may be the truncated base of a hearth, all half-sectioned. This forms an irregular rectangle of longer sides 5.2m and 5.7m, and shorter sides of 4.45m and 4.5m. c.[212] oval posthole 0.52m x 0.39m, vertical sides curving in to flat base, maximum depth 0.165m. c.[214] circular posthole, diameter c. 0.43m, vertical sides curving in to flat base, maximum depth 0.17m. c.[216] circular posthole, diameter 0.45m, sides almost vertical curving in to flat base, maximum depth 0.17m. c.[218] circular posthole, diameter 0.45m, almost vertical sides curving in to slightly concave base, maximum depth 0.18m. Three out of the four postholes displayed post pipes in section [212], [214], [216]. The fills are uniform, [211], [213], [215], the post pipes are a mid-dark grey humicy sand silt, packed with a mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional pea gravel. There were. a few small fragments of LBA pot from [213], a fragment of animal bone from [215], and a sherd of LBA pot from [218] One notable feature in [216], is that the post pipe stops short of the base of the posthole and displays a very flat base to the post. [217] is a very compact mid-light grey sandy silt clay with occasional pea gravel, it also has a very flat line of gravel running part way across the fill, 3cm thick. c.[220] a circular posthole/pit, diameter 0.35m, concave in profile with a maximum depth of 9.5cm. [219] very compact mid-light grey, mottled mid brown sandy silt, slightly ashy with occasional charcoal flecks.

F.43 [257-266] - A four post structure with central depression, all half- sectioned. This forms a regular square of sides 2.8m. C. [258] circular posthole, diameter 0.35m, almost vertical to vertical sides, very slight curve in to almost flat base, maximum depth 0.16m. C. [260] as [258], diameter 0.3m, maximum depth 0.14m. C. [262] circular, diameter 0.35m, concave in profile, maximum depth 10cm. c.[264] as [262], diameter 0.25m, maximum depth 8cm. Fills [257], [259], [261] and [263] are uniform, mid-light grey sandy clay silt with occasional pea gravel. In the centre of the feature is a depression C. [266] with an irregular rhomboid plan, the edges are uneven, but generally slope down to an uneven pitted base, maximum depth 0.16m. Rather than being a cut it is likely this is the product of natural or unintentional processes. There were no finds from this feature.

F.45 [274-276], C.[285] - A sub-circular pit having a flattened northern side creating a rough D-shaped plan. It is 0.75m N-S and 0.9m E-W with a maximum depth of 0.35m. In addition it has a shallow depression adjoining the northern edge, c. 8cm deep, 0.65m N-S and 0.4m E-W. The latest fill [274] was a light grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and a deposit of cattle bone displaying butchery marks. On the sides are the remains of a clay lining to the pit, [275] of light orangey brown clay, with occasional charcoal flecks impressed into it. It is worn from use and also fills the depression on the northern edge. The basal fill [276] is light grey, ashy sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and 1kg of burnt stone.

F.50 [298-317] -A group of ten postholes that form a rectangular arrangement, all half-sectioned. Overall they form a trapezoidal shape with sides of 6.4m and 4.5m and a width of 2.4m.

Cut:	fills	Shape:	Diam.(cm)	Max. depth (cm)	Description:
[299]	[298]	circular	41	17	concave with narrow flat base
[301]	[300]	oval	34 x 39	20	vertical sides curving sharply into curving pointed base
[303]	[302]	oval	43 x 37	7	concave with flatish base
[305]	[304]	circular	37	12	vertical sides except E. which slopes gently into flatish base
[307]	[306]	oval	30 x 34	13	concave in profile
[309]	[308]	oval	38 x 33	8	steep sides breaking sharply into narrow rounded base
[311]	[310]	oval	29 x 33	16	near vertical sides breaking sharply into flatish base
[313]	[312]	circular	38	21	steep sides breaking sharply into narrow rounded base
[315]	[314]	circular	41	19	steep to vertical sides breaking sharply in to flatish base
[317]	[316]	oval	34 x 45	15	steep to near vertical sides breaking sharply in to uneven base

The fills are fairly uniform, pale grey - mid brown sandy silt with occasional pea grit inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. [304] had a fragment of animal bone and one burnt stone, otherwise there were no finds.

F.53 [319-326], [342], c.[343] - A group of five postholes that form an arch starting from the southern corner of F.50, a straight measurement from end to end is 9m.

Cut:	fills	Shape:	Diam.(cm)	Max. depth (cm)	Description:
[320]	[319]	oval	34 x 48	10	concave profile
[322]	[321]	oval	74 x 56	14	steep sides that break sharply into flat base
[324]	[323]	oval	24 x 32	14	near vertical sides that break sharply into flatish base
[326]	[325]	circular	49	22	fairly steep sides that curve in to rounded base
[343]	[342]	oval	36 x 32	19	steep to near vertical sides breaking sharply in to flatish base

The fills are uniform pale brown/grey sandy silt with orange mottling and occasional pea grit inclusions. There were no finds.

F.65 [392], [404], [414], [434-435], C. [436] - Sub-rectangular/ovoid pit partially obscured by eastern edge of excavation. Dimensions: 1.8m N-S, 1.1m W-edge of excavation, depth 0.8m. The sides are steep, almost vertical for 0.55m then curves sharply in to a ledge which then slopes south and towards the middle. The upper fill [392], [404] (•28) is a light grey sandy silt with common charcoal flecks, and appears to tip in from the north. It has 6kilos of burnt sandstone in the northern half and 3kilos in the southern. There were also finds of pottery, bone burnt clay and an amber bead. Beneath this is [414], a light brown silt confined mainly to the northern half yielding pot and bone. In turn this overlies [434], a compact red sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks, it also yielded pot and bone. The primary fill [435] is a compact light grey sand gravel with some animal bone.

Medieval (12th-13th century)

Pits

F.10 [151-153], [169-170], C. [171] - The cut is irregular in plan, having a rough egg shape, with a protuberance on its eastern side, it is 2.65m N-S, 2.35m E-W, the protuberance extending an extra 0.5m. The sides are steep and concave, curving in to a shallow concave base. The sides are irregular, especially where they have cut through a heavily concreted gravel band. It reaches a maximum depth of 1.02m. The upper fill [151] is a brown sandy silt with common small to medium sub rounded gravel reaching a depth of c. 0.32m. Beneath this is a layer [152] of compact light brown gravel sand silt; then [153], dark brown sandy silt with common small-medium sub-rounded gravel. There is then a sharp interface between this and the lower fill [169], a firm, red/brown silty sand, which could be suggestive of a recut. The basal fill [170] is light grey/brown silty sand. [151] yielded sherds of Stamford ware and also prehistoric pottery. [153] also yielded Stamford ware, while [170] produced prehistoric pot.

F.24 [183], C. [184], [223], [256] - Sub-circular cut [184], diameter 2m, maximum depth 0.88m. Northern half excavated. It has overhanging top edges where it cuts through soft sandy silts approx. 0.15m below the surface and which have eroded. The sides slope steeply to a narrow rounded base slightly off centre to the east. The latest fill [256] is orange/brown slightly silty sand with rare sub rounded stones. Beneath this and also reaching the surface [183] is a fill of pale brown sands and gravels with occasional charcoal, pockets of redeposited natural silty sand. It has a very loose consistency becoming siltier and greyer at the base. This fill contained sherds of Stamford ware and one burnt stone. Beneath this, tipping down the edges, is [223], an orange/brown sandy silt, with large lenses of greyer sandy silt, occasional

charcoal flecks, there are voids and roots in places and very occasional pockets of gravel. One mussel shell and one possible flint flake were found.

F.29 [201-203], C. [204] - Oval cut, E-W 0.9m x N-S 0.5m, maximum depth 0.21m. It has gently curving sides with a seamless junction into a shall concave base, although there is a steeper section of the edge on the south side. The upper fill [201] is a grey/brown sandy silt. Beneath this is [202] (•9) a light grey silt with carbonised organic remains bone and plant). The basal fill [203] is a brown sandy silt with black carbonised inclusions. [202] produced Stamford ware and residual roman pot.

F.27 [108], c.[109] - sub rectangular/ovoid cut 1.55m x 1.06m. The cut is vertical at the top where it cuts through the clay natural, but when it reaches then gravel natural at 0.25m depth, it breaks at the western end into a level step, but to the south and east it becomes undercut before curving in to a very shallow concave base. To the west the step breaks in to a vertical edge before another step, then it breaks in to a vertical that undercuts very slightly before curving in to the base. The upper fill is a homogenous mid-light brown sandy silt with occasional pea gravel. This fill yielded a piece of pot, bone and flint. The lower fill (•8) is a mid-light grey sandy silt.

F.30 [205], c.[206] - Oval cut, 1.54m x 0.70m, depth 0.72m. NE quad excavated, sharp break from the surface, northern edge very steep , breaking sharply in to irregular but flattish base. The eastern edge is near vertical breaking sharply at a depth of 0.15m, in to more gently sloping edge that breaks gently in to base. The upper fill is a pale grey /brown sandy silt with very frequent small pea grit gravels. Beneath this is a mid brown/grey sandy silt with frequent orange mottling and occasional charcoal flecks and one pale brown sandy lens. The basal fill is white/orange/brown dirty silty gravels.

F.34 [224-231] - Possibly 3 inter-cutting pits, the latest being [227] which may be a recut of [229] through which it cuts, this in turn cuts [231]. [227] is a sub-circular cut C. 0.8m wide with a depth of 1.08m from the surface. The sides are near vertical with a sharp break of slope into a flatish base. It is filled [225] with a dark brown silty sand with rare carbonised plant remains, which is very similar to the uppermost fill of [229] which also caps [227], only this has occasional red/brown sandy silt pockets. [229] is a large oval cut of dimensions 1.30m x 0.90m with its long axis N-S. The side break rather gently from the surface and incline gently to a depth of C. 10cm before breaking again in to a 45• slope curving gently in at base. Beneath [224], is [228] through which [227] is cut. It is a brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded gravel inclusions. At its very base [226] is a grey silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks. [229] cuts pit [231] which is a large oval cut 1.05m x 0.70m, with its' long axis N-S and a depth of C. 0.25m. It has a sharp break from surface but then curves in more gently to a flatish base. Its fill [230] is a light brown sandy silt.

F.42 [254], C. [255] - Medieval pit, not excavated. It is roughly pear shaped in plan measuring 3.5m N-S, and 1.2m-2.5m E-W. It can be seen to cut ditch F.36. Its fill [254] is the same as [347] below.

F.44 [347] - The south east quadrant of this pit was tested, but not fully excavated. [347] is a pale brown/grey sandy silt, which is characteristic of the medieval features. It also had burnt red natural clay, and occasional small gravel and peat grit inclusions.

Probable Medieval Features

F.11 [157], C. [158] - Small ovoid cut, diameter 0.74m E-W, 0.50 N-S, maximum depth 0.33m. Northern half excavated. Steep edges, breaking at depth of 0.2m, then curving in to a concave

base. The fill is a mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional pea grit, a small abraded sherd of roman pot, 1 mussel shell and one fragment of animal bone.

F.12 [161], C. [162] - Small circular cut, diameter 0.62m, maximum depth 0.27m. Northern half excavated. Slightly concave edges that curve in to a concave base. The fill as [157] with one burnt stone.

F.13 [163], c.[164] - Circular posthole, diameter 0.42m, depth 0.27m. Northern half excavated. Sides near vertical to the north and west, that break sharply in to a narrow rounded base, on the east side is steep and breaks at a depth of 0.16m in to a small step that then curves in to the base.

F.25 [191], C. [192], [193], C. [194] - Square shaped pit [192], 1.25m x 1.10m depth 0.41m. The sides have a sharp break from the surface being near vertical, they break sharply in to a flattish base. The fill [193] is pale grey sandy silt. [194] circular cut (small pit/large posthole), slightly oval 0.38m x 0.44m with depth 0.30m. Sharp break from base of [192] and then undercuts at 5cm, then it breaks gently at a depth of 0.2m in to a narrow concave base. Same fill as [192].

F.26 [106], c.[107] - Oval cut 0.7m x 0.88m, depth 0.34m. To the east and south the edges curve in almost levelling out at 0.17m, then it breaks steeply to a narrow concave base. On the west it drops steeply to the base. The fill is a mid-light brown/grey sandy silt.

F.40 [249], C. [250] - Oval cut, 1.50m x 1.00m, depth 0.25m. Sharp break from the surface, steep sides curving in to a flat but irregular (burrowing) base. The fill is light orangey grey/brown sandy clay silt with occasional inclusions of gravel and charcoal flecks.

Linears/structural features

F.5 [036], C. [037], [038], [189], C. [190] - This is a linear feature extending from the northern edge of excavation for a length of 1.2m where it butts. Then at the end of the butt is post hole [038], then there is a gap of some 4m where the feature could not be detected, apart from occasional grey blotches, before another length of 4m, ending in a butt. Overall the feature extends 9.5m south from the edge of excavation. At the northern section C. [037] the sides are straight and steep, before a sharp junction to a narrow concave base, giving a maximum depth of 0.37m. It is c. 0.22m wide at this point. At the southern extension [190] the feature narrows to between 16 and 0.18m in width, and becomes shallower 5-7cm in depth. The fills [036] and [189] are a grey/brown sandy silt, very Compact (however it had been exposed to a good deal of sun drying), with moderate root/worm bioturbation. [036] yielded Cl2th late St. Neots ware pot. and animal bone.

F.6 [181], C. [182], [185], c.[186], c/f[427-429] - N-S ditch, stretching from the northern edge of excavation south, for c. 92m, at which point it butts. Five separate 1m slots were excavated along its length. The ditch has been truncated, even lost in parts, from the excavated sections it varied in width from 0.55m to 0.95m, and in depth from 10cm to 0.25m. It has a shallow concave base and gently curving sides, becoming steeper and narrower in width towards the northern edge of excavation. [181] yielded Stamford ware and cattle bone.

F.7 [187], C. [188] - Linear, running N-S, width 0.5m, depth 0.11m. It has vertical sides with a sharp junction to a flat base. The fill is brown sandy silt with very rare small sub rounded gravel.

F.9 [123-135], C. [136], [489] - North - South ditch extending the length of the site, between 2.8m - 3.5m in width and 0.57m in depth. It [036] has gently sloping concave edges forming a

flared u-shaped profile. The upper fills [123] / [124] / [125] are a moderately Compact light-mid greyish brown sandy clay silt, with occasional sub-angular gravel inclusions, with little variation. Beneath the fills become sandier with more gravel, having a pale yellowish brown colour [130]. Tipping in from the edges are [131] / [132] pale yellow/brown sand with infrequent gravel inclusions. At the northern end two cuts were noted within the main ditch, [127] and [136]. [127] cuts from the base levels of [125] / [124] approximately 0.15-0.25m from the surface. It has a u-shaped profile with a gradual break of slope in to a concave base. Its fill [126] is a light to mid greyish brown moderately compact clayey sand with moderate gravel content. [136] is cut by the main ditch [134], 0.6m in width and a depth of 0.33m. It has sides of 45•, curving in to a rounded concave base. Its fill [135] is a light yellow/brown sand with frequent small/medium sized sub angular gravel. Lying at the base of [130] just over [135], is a lens [133] of light brownish grey moderately compact slightly sticky clayey sand with occasional pea gravel. Roman and medieval pot was obtained from [125].

F.23 [179], C. [180] - Possible post slot 9.2m in length, oriented E-W. The cut varies in width and depth. Width 0.14-0.44m, depth 6cm-0.25m. Three 1m slots were excavated. Generally it has steep sides with a relatively sharp junction to the irregular but sometimes shallow concave base. This variability along with the assortment of gouges and holes along its length have led to its possible interpretation as a hedgeline. The fill [179] is mid grey/brown sandy clay silt, with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. A Cl3th century pot sherd was found within the fill.

F.18 [086-092], C. [087], C. [090], C. [092], [140-149] - Cut of beam slots [092] / [087] and associated postholes. In plan this forms an L-shaped feature along N-S and E-W axes, with a slight extension E beyond the corner of the L. The length of the E-W line is 2.8m, of the N-S, 1.58m. The width of the E-W slot is between 0.45m and 0.54m, with a depth of 0.36m. It has regular sides, the break of slope is sharp at the top, near vertical sides which curve in to a concave base. 4 postholes are cut in to the base [145], [147], [090] and [149] from east to west. Given that the feature was not entirely excavated there is the possibility of more postholes within the base. The N-S slot [087]is similar to [092] except that it widens from north to south 0.16-0.48m, depth 0.20-0.22m, the profile at the northern end becomes more v-shaped. The fill of [087] is [086], a mid grey/brown slightly sandy silty clay of firm consistency with moderate manganese flecks throughout, also occasional pale orange patches. Several sherds of pot were recovered. The fill of E-W slot [091] as [086]. Associated stake / postholes (from E-W):

[141] sub-circular cut, diameter 0.26m, depth 0.16m. Steeply graded sides on E and S, slightly more gentle to W and N, curving in to concave base. The fill [140] is mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional pea gravel inclusions.

[145] Circular cut, diameter 0.26m, depth 0.22m. This lies at the butt end of beam slot [092]. The edges are near vertical, except on the western edge which is more gentle, curving in to narrow concave base. The fill [144] same as [091].

[143] Semi-circular cut of posthole, length 0.80m, width 0.40m and depth 0.24m. The sides are steep at the top becoming more gradual towards the base, the base is flat but sloping towards the north. Fill [142], same as [091].

[147] Circular posthole, only half revealed, diameter 0.26m, depth 0.1m. It has near vertical edges breaking sharply into flat base. Fill [146] same as [091].

[090] Oval in upper part of the cut, 0.6m x 0.36m. The sides are vertical except for eastern edge which steps in from the vertical to form a steeply graded slope before breaking again in to the vertical and breaking sharply in to a concave base. The lower circular cut has diameter 0.36m and the depth from the base of the beam slot is 0.58m. Fill [089] mid orange/brown sandy clay with firm consistency. Moderate small gravel inclusions throughout but increasingly towards the base, also moderate manganese flecks. A cattle tibia was found in the fill.

[149] circular cut diameter 0.20m and depth 0.lm. (At western butt end of beam slot [092]). Steep sides with gentle break of slope in to concave base. Fill [148] same as [091].

F.22 [172], C. [173] , [176], [174] - Curvilinear with rounded butt ends [173]. Length 3m, width 0.30m and depth 7cm-0.17m. It has near vertical sides and a flat base. The butt end is steeply graded from top to base. The fill [172] is mid greyish brown silty clay with very occasional small sub angular flint inclusions, firm consistency. posthole [176] and linear [174] are tentatively included in this feature. [176] This posthole lies approximately 4m south of the butt end of [173]. Circular cut diameter 0.33m and depth 7cm, sides gentle gradient breaking in to a flat base. The fill [175] is mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional pea gravel. [174] Linear of length 2.60m, width 0.2m and depth 4cm. It has irregular root disturbed edges and base, obviously very shallow. The fill is mid grey brown silty clay with frequent mottles of pale orange/yellow sandy silt.

F.28 [195], c.[196], [197], C. [198], [199], c.[200] - Linear ditch with post line beside it, the posts being at just less than meter intervals. It extends 18.5m N-S and seems to form one side of an enclosure. It [196] has regular edges, it breaks sharply from the surface slopes fairly steeply before a gradual break of slope in to a curved and sometimes flat base. The fill [195] (•10) is mid grey/brown sandy clay silt with very occasional pea grit inclusions, and charcoal flecks. A cattle mandible and fired clay fragments were also recovered. Two postholes of the posthole line were excavated out of eleven observed. [198] Sub-circular posthole, diameter 0.25m, depth 0.28m. It has near vertical sides breaking fairly sharply in to a concave base. Fill [197] same as [195]. [200] Circular posthole, diameter 0.25m, depth 0.20m. It has vertical sides breaking fairly gently in to a concave base. The fill [199] same as [195].

F.31 [207], c.[208], [240], C. [241] - A possible extension of F. 28, it is a N-S linear c. 4m in length. Two 1m slots were excavated through it. [208] V-shaped linear with a slightly rounded base, width 0.63m, depth 0.45m. The fill [207] is dark-mid grey/brown sandy silt clay, with moderate grave inclusions, slightly more orange at base. [241], width 0.65m, depth 0.37m, otherwise as [208]. The fill [240] as [207]. Both [207] and [240] produced pot, and [207] one piece of animal bone. [240] also produced burnt stone.

F.32 [209], C. [210], [221], c.[222] - An E-W linear ditch forming an enclosure with **F.28**. It is C. 29m in length, with A width of between 0.52m and 0.64m. Two 1m slots were excavated, one along its length and the other at the butt end. [222] it has a sharp break from the surface with steep sloping sides which narrow in to a v-shaped profile, where it has a maximum depth of 0.32m. At the butt end [210] it becomes more bowl shaped in profile and shallower having a depth of 0.15m. The fill [209] / [221] is a mid orange/browny grey sandy clay silt with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecking.

F.48 [294], c.[295], [363], c.[364], [386], c. [387], [430], c. [431], c. [452], [453-454] - A truncated E-W ditch that runs from F.85 the N-S ditch to the edge of excavation on the eastern edge, c. 135m. Approximately 11m of it were excavated at intervals. It suffers a greater degree of truncation towards the east where it becomes c. 10cm in depth and 0.45m in width. Towards the west it is 1.00m in width and 0.3m deep. Generally the edges break at 45• from the surface and slope at that angle before curving in to a rounded base. The fill is uniform mid grey/brown sandy silt clay with moderate sub-angular gravel inclusions and very rare charcoal flecks. Towards the east it also has [454] a lower fill of orange/brown sandy clay with gravel and pea grit towards the base. No finds were recovered in any of the sections excavated.

F.49 [296], c.[297], c.[455], [456] - A discontinuous ditch line oriented E-W, that is cut by and runs parallel to F.48 and F.61. It emerges from the eastern edge of excavation and runs for 47m. Two 1m slots were excavated. It [455]/[297], The ditch is c. 1m wide and the depth varies between 0.10 to 0.25m. It breaks from the surface at an angle of c. 45•, and then breaks in a sharpish curve in to a flat base. The fill [456]/[295] is a compact pale grey/brown sandy clay with fine gravel towards the base.

F.61 [377], C. [378], [388], C. [389] - Truncated, intermittant E-W ditch. Width 0.50m - 0.76m, depth 9cm - 0.13m.The fill is a pale orange/grey/brown sandy clay. It can be traced for approximately 65m intermittently.

F.81 c/f [473] - A narrow linear feature / truncated ditch. Although only 10m were visible, there were hints that it extended over 30m to the southern edge of excavation. It has a width of 0.3m but only 7cm depth. The fill was a well compacted, fine grained light brown silty sand. Inclusions are occasional to moderate small stones.

Other

F.14 [097-098], c.[099] - Circular cut, diameter 1.03m, depth 0.51m. Edges near vertical, breaking at c. 0.15m and curving down in to a concave base. The upper fill [097] is an orange/brown silty sand, with occasional mottling and patches of dark grey silty sand, occasional small stones and mineral accretions. The lower fill is orange/brown silty sand mottled with mid grey slightly siltier sand. Occasional small sub rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. There is also a sand gravel weathered edge.

F.15 [154-155], C. [156] - Circular cut, diameter 0.57m, depth 0.19m. It has gently sloping sides curving in to a concave base. The upper fill [154] is a pale brown slightly silty sand with occasional small pebbles. Beneath this [155] is a pale brown gravel in a matrix of coarse sand.

F.16 [159], c.[160], [178] - Small circular cut, diameter 0.76m, depth 0.25m. Northern half excavated. It has gently sloping sides Curing in to a flatish base. The upper fill [159] is grey/brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium stones and rare charcoal flecks. There were several animal bones within this context. The lower fill [178] is yellowish brown silty gravels becoming more gravelly towards the base, the bones lie at the interface between the two fills.

F.17 [165], c.[166], [177] - Sub-circular cut, diameter 1.16m, depth 0.30m. Northern half excavated. Sides slope gently to a concave base, situated off centre towards the easy side of the cut. Central / upper fill [165], this is interpreted as a post pipe with width 0.48m. Grey/brown slightly sandy silt streaked vertically with slightly yellower grey/brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. One tiny pottery fragment. Surrounding this [177] are compact pale yellowish brown silts and gravels with pale cream patches of chalky sandy silts. These become dirtier pea gravels at base.

F.19 [034], C. [035] - Circular cut, diameter 0.98, max. depth 7cm. East and west edges slope gradually towards the base whilst the northern edge is vertical. The base is slightly concave but with a raised area of burnt natural in the centre. The burning on the base is dark mauve/red. The fill is mid-brown slightly sandy clay silt with frequent sandier patches and charcoal flecks throughout. Also patches of both charcoal and burnt natural around the northern upper edge of fill.

F.20 [167], c.[168] - Oval cut 0.33m x 0.44m, depth 0.21m. Near vertical edges break sharply in to uneven base. The fill is mid-brown/grey sandy silt with no inclusions, except one toad bone.

F.46 c/f [277] - Short section of a linear feature c. 4.5m in length, width 0.61m and depth 0.17m. 1.5m section through the butt end was excavated. It has a sharp break from the surface with steep sides curving in to a flat base. The fill is a light brown silty sand with moderate gravel and small sub-angular pebbles.

F.55 [359], c.[360] - Narrow linear ditch NW-SE, 37m in length. 4 x 1m slots were excavated. It has a width of 0.50m and a depth varying between 4cm and 0.2m. At the NW butt end it has a gently graded SW edge and a steeply graded NE edge both curving in to a concave base. It has a more regular u-shaped profile in the other slots. The fill is a mid-yellow/brown silty clay with occasional angular flints and some bioturbation.

F.56 [361], c.[362] - At the butt end of F.55 there is also a posthole [362] that may be related, which is sub-circular in plan. It is 0.37m x 0.50m, depth 0.11m. It is only the base as the sides are gently graded curving in to a concave base. Fill as [359].

F.71 [432], C. [433], [437] - Sub-circular pit 2.5m x 2.15m with a depth of 0.61m. It has steep sides, curving in from about 0.3m in to flatish base. The fill [432] is a pale orange/brown clay silt with frequent small angular stones (1-4cm). This overlies a thin primary fill [437] of pale blue/grey silty clay with moderate sub-angular stones (3-1)cm. No finds.

F.75 [450], c.[451] - Oval pit 1m x 0.8m, with a depth of 0.3m. It has steep near vertical sides curving in sharply to a slightly dished base. The fill [450] is a grey brown silt with occasional red mottling.

2. The Environmental Remains

M. Bower

Twenty samples were processed for the extraction of environmental material. The samples were floated using a 500 micron sieve to catch the flot with the residue passed through a 1mm sieve. The flots were scanned using a low powered binocular microscope and the extracted environmental material was identified where possible and quantified.

For wood charcoal and the presence of modern contaminants the amount of material was summarised thus:

\+ - present
++ - frequent
+++ - abundant
++++ - highly abundant

For the plant material, the nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), for the molluscs it follows Kerney & Cameron (1979).

Results and interpretation

The Bronze Age samples

Both waterlogged and carbonised plant material was recovered from the Bronze Age pits and in the main, preservation was fair to good. Some contexts, however, showed poor preservation of carbonised grains, making identification of seeds to species level challenging. Of the Bronze Age samples the pit fill F.54 [353] showed the richest deposits and the most variation in species, however, F.37 [242], located near the structures, contained the most carbonised remains. Points of interest in this sample assemblage include the preservation of twigs and bark of various tree and shrub species and a rich and varied molluscan fauna.

F. 3 [030]
The occurrence of the stones of sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) preserved by charring suggest that they were consumed on site. Sloe, otherwise known as Blackthorn is commonly found as part of

present day hedgerow communities, however, the use of hedgerows in the East Anglian Bronze Age farming landscape would be difficult to quantify from the evidence presented here. Blackthorn also grows in open woodland, at the edge of clearings and woodland edges, thus the occurrence of sloe stones on the site is probably more likely to be reflective of deliberate collecting of wild woodland resources, as is the occurrence of hazelnut shells in all contexts.

Culpepper records the use of blackthorn for a number of medicinal purposes, ranging from its diuretic and binding properties to its use as an anti-inflamatory. It is possible that the Bronze Age peoples of East Anglia were familiar with these properties and specifically collected sloes as treatment for their ailments. British and Eastern European folklore places blackthorn in a position of significance. Early Transdanubian folklore associates blackthorn with fertility; branches of blackthorn were burned in early spring and young couples would jump across the fire in a form of proto-marriage ceremony. This may be partly because in many cases it is the first shrub in woodland to flower and its striking white flowers can be seen very clearly against the dark spring woodlands, consequently, blackthorn has associations with the coming of spring, and the ritual welcoming of the new growing year. In pre-Christian Pannonia, Blackthorn was also burned throughout the year to ward off thunderstorms, however, the social and ritual significance of this species in the Bronze Age can only be guessed at based on archaeobotanical evidence.

Besides spelt wheat and chaff, the other species in F.3 [030] may also have been present on site for medicinal purposes. St John's wort is recorded as being used in the past for the treatment of fevers, haemorages, wounds and bruises and venemous bites. However, this species is also reflective of grassland and open woodland and is more likely to have been brought onto site with the crop.

The molluscan assemblage from this context is reflective of lightly grazed, short grassland, with a little scrub, though the presence of two species which favour damp conditions reflects the closeness of the fen edge and its associated wet soils.

F. 3 [103]
The presence of waterlogged seeds in this context suggests that the bottom of this pit was below the water-table at some time in the past and may have contained standing water for a part of its existence. The taphonomy of waterlogged seeds is complex, unlike carbonised seed whose taphonomy is dominated by humans. However, in this case it is safe to suggest that the waterlogged seeds in this and the following samples fell into the pits from surrounding vegetation.

Bramble, elder and nettle are represented in this context, all of which species are open scrub land or woodland edge species and might well have been growing near the pit either when it was cut or more likely have grown up after an initial land clearance as nettle can often be an indicator of disturbed ground. Although all of these species also have economic value, both bramble and elder providing seasonal fruit and nettle being used in later periods as a food resource and also a source of fibre, it is impossible to make a direct economic link with humans in the case of the seeds in this context. It would seem unlikely, however, to suggest that these resources were not used by humans, growing as they were, so close to a site of human habitation. Elder in particular is a valuable resource as the flowers and fruit are both edible and can be infused and fermented and the leaves and flowers were thought in the past to have kept flies at bay. In addition the hollow twigs can be used for making simple musical instruments such as flutes and whistles and the berries produce an surprisingly colour fast dye.

The charred seeds in this context are represented by emmer wheat, wild or cultivated oats and chaff, weed species include fat hen, knot grass, nettle, pale persicaria and wall speedwell. This assemblage most probably represents the waste from the final crop

processing phases, sieving and second winnowing which is carried out after the crop has been threshed off site and stored on site in spikelet form, being parched, pounded and sorted piecemeal each day. The weed species are characteristic of a crop weed assemblage, though the inclusion of pale persicaria may suggest that the crop was grown on slightly damp ground, though not waterlogged enough to find the inclusion of sedges.

There are no molluscs preserved in this context.

F. 37 [242]
This context contains no waterlogged seeds, although it is relatively abundant in charred remains. These are represented by emmer, oats and wild oats. Due to poor preservation some of the wheat grains could not be separated to species level and in some cases it was not even possible to identify the cereal type. Chaff and weeds were represented by finds of glume bases, rye, grass, knot grass, bindweed, cleavers, and orache (see above). Spike rush in the samples suggests that there has been an agricultural expansion onto the damper fen soils.

Mollusca are represented by six different species including an example of the twisted ramshorn snail which denotes the presence of standing water, or a flooding event. Other species, whorl snail, grass snail, moss snail, heath snail and slippery moss snail, are all reflective of short grassland which may have been lightly grazed. The presence of the twisted ramshorn snail along with the absence of waterlogged seeds suggests that there was standing water at some time in this pit, though vegetation seems to have been kept to a minimum during this time, otherwise waterlogged seeds would have been found as in other contexts. It is possible that the period representing the primary fill event of this pit included a period where the pit was used to water stock which kept the area around the pit clear of vegetation either by grazing or by the churning of hooves.

F. 37 [273]
This context contains only a single waterlogged seed of sedge, which was most probably incorporated in the context from plants which were growing either next to, or in the pit while it was open and containing standing water.

The molluscan species, grass snail and garlic snail are reflective of open stony grassland, which must have been the prevailing local ecology during the pit fill episode represented by this context.

F. 37 [318]
Only sedge and clover are present in the carbonised seed assemblage although this context is abundant in charcoal. Sedge, as stated before, reflects a damp habitat and fen soils, whereas clover is reflective of open grassland or arable ecology. Although it may be safe to assume that these components were incorporated in the pit fill as discarded crop weeds, without the presence of grain, any such conclusion would be questionable. Waterlogged seeds are represented by thistle, wild parsnip and bramble, all of which are rough, scrub land species and may be reflective of a period when the vegetation around the pit was beginning to become more dense.

No snails are preserved in this context.

F. 38 [268]
This context contains no waterlogged seeds and so it may be suggested that either it did not contain standing water for any length of time, or the primary fill event took place before preservation of plant material could occur. However, the concentration of plant material in this context is very low, numbering in single figures, suggesting that perhaps the soil environment was not ideal for the preservation of plant material.

Of the carbonised remains that were present species represented were bread wheat, including a single glume base, orache and many seeded goosefoot, which are both arable weeds. This assemblage indubitably represents a crop and crop weed assemblage, however, conclusions based on such low numbers of seeds should be treated with appropriate caution.

A single example of Vallonia, grass snail, was recovered from this context.

F. 41 [252], [327], [419]
These contexts were disappointingly low in carbonised remains, having only a single emmer wheat glume base in [327] and no weed seeds. Waterlogged remains were only present in [419], where they were abundant and species rich, as were molluscs.

Waterlogged weed species represented were; dog violet, common nettle, sorrel, everlasting pea, bramble. These species are all representative of scrub, open woodland and woodland edge. Three nerved sandwort is reflective of damp places including pond edges.

In addition to the weedy species described above there was a large quantity of waterlogged elder seeds, a significant quantity of hazel nuts, twigs and birch twigs and bark. Molluscan fauna; prickly snail, clear glass snail, long toothed herald snail, door snail, rounded snail, moss snail and hairy snail are all damp woodland and leaf litter dwelling, with the exception of the pond snail which prefers open water. Small mammal bones are also represented in this context.

The picture presented by the environmental remains from this context draws to mind a water filled pit or pond, shaded by elder, hazel and birch trees, under which woodland species of plants and water margin plants are growing. The trees may have also provided nesting places for woodland mouse/vole species and the leaf litter supported many species of snail.

F. 54 [353]
Waterlogged remains in this sample are abundant and species rich. Weedy species represented reflect short scrub for example, species of goosefoot, nettle and hemp nettle, and species of thistle. Dock is abundant suggesting damp, heavy soil. Water and wet soil loving species are represented by spike rush, gypsywort, fen pondweed, creeping buttercup, water pepper, pale persicaria. Yellow sedge is abundant suggesting that the pit was open and containing standing water for a significant period of time, *i.e.*, long enough to develop a rich species diversity.

Tree and shrub species are represented by hazel, sloe, bramble, hawthorn twigs, alder bark, birch twigs and bark. These species are reflective of an open woodland or woodland edge habitat, however, alder is a damp woodland species and often form a habitat type called Carr, which is dominated by tall alder trees infilled with low shrubs and brambles. The casual walker in carr woodland will find the ground surface rich in damp organic material, harbouring small pools of water. It is possible that this feature represents a human enlargement of a pre-existing pool, which might explain the abundance of water species seeds.

F. 65 [392], [404]
Preservation of plant material in these contexts was poor and few seeds, waterlogged or carbonised were extracted. Cereal grains numbered in single figures and could only be identified to genus level and in one case not even to that level. Only F. 65 [404] contained processing waste including a rachis fragment and a glume base. No carbonised weed species were identified. Waterlogged weed species represented were dog violet and common nettle, reflective of open grass or arable land. Because this pit is so close to the structures found on site it is disappointing that the preservation is so poor, as few conclusions can be drawn from such a paucity of material, however, the assemblage that could be identified from this pit appears to be consistent with the rest of the site.

F. 67 [406]
Only waterlogged seed of wild parsnip and bramble were extracted from this context, which was disappointing, considering its vicinity to the rich deposits in F. 54.

F. 68 [441]
Carbonised remains in this context consisted of an emmer glume base and spikelet fork. Waterlogged remains, however, were species rich and abundant. As for F. 54, the species reflected a mixture of disturbed ground, scrub species, such as fat hen, knot grass and chickweed, however, the assemblage was more species rich than that in F. 54 (see table 3). Wetland and water species were represented by yellow sedge, creeping buttercup and water crowfoot. Fen species represented were heath dog violet, marsh woundwart, persicaria, and gypsywort, suggesting that the ground bordering this pit may have been waterlogged for significant lengths of time through the year. As for F. 54, this pit may reflect a human re-digging of an already existing fen pool. Tree/shrub species, as for other assemblages, were elder, hazel, sloe and bramble, however in this case tree buds, hawthorn or blackthorn thorns and tree/shrub twigs were found, showing the exceptional preservation of the context.

F. 79 [480] and F. 85 [486]
Plant remains in these contexts were limited to two charred wheat seeds, one of which could be identified as bread wheat and a single seed of mayweed. F. 85 contained only brome grass, chick weed and sedge species (see above).

For full details of the environmental finds see Tables 2,3 and 4.

The Mediaeval samples

Although waterlogged material was recovered from the Bronze Age pits, the Mediaeval samples showed no evidence of waterlogging, containing only charred seeds and molluscan remains (see Table 1). Of the three Mediaeval samples the ditch fill F. 28 [195] showed the richest deposits and the most variation in species, though preservation in all Mediaeval samples was relatively poor.

Mediaeval Phase I

F. 27 [108] has the lowest concentration of plant material, two grains of bread wheat and seeds representing weeds of cultivation, orache and cleavers. Indubitably this is reflective of a crop and associated weeds, however, due to the extremely low concentration of charred material it would be difficult to draw any further conclusions as to where the material came from and of what economic value it was. The single snail from this context requires a habitat of short dry grassland, suggesting that the environment surrounding the pit may have been grazed or managed, however, conclusions drawn from a single occurrence should be treated with the usual caution.

F. 28 [195] is relatively abundant with charred grains of wheat. Although the majority of the grains could be identified as bread wheat, as may have been expected for this period, poor preservation limited the specific identification of many of the wheat grains. The weed species represented; goosefoot, sorrel, fat hen, knot grass and thistle, are reflective of the classic wheat crop weed assemblage. When considered together with the occurrence of charred chaff in the sample it may be suggested that semi-clean grain was brought onto the site and fine cleaned in situ, that is to say that the processing of cereals was taking place on site rather than elsewhere.

	Mediaeval			Bronze Age																
Feature	F.27	F.28	F.44	F.3	F.3	F.37	F.37	F.37	F.38	F.41	F.41	F.41	F.54	F.59	F.65	F.65	F.67	F.68	F.79	F.85
Context	108	195	347	30	103	242	273	318	268	252	327	419	353	365	392	404	406	441	480	486
Sample	8	10	21	4	5	14	17	23	15	18	19	27	22	36	28	29	26	32	35	38
Charred	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•			•	•	•		•		
Waterlogged					•		•	•				•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Snails	•		•	•		•	•		•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•		•

Table 1. Preservation of plant material at Langtoft, Lincs.

Carbonised remains				Mediaeval samples				Late Bronze Age samples																
Feature				F27	F28	F44		F3	F3	F37	F37	F37	F38	F41	F41	F41	F54	F59	F65	F65	F67	F68	F79	F85
Context				108	195	347		30	103	242	273	318	268	252	327	419	353	365	392	404	406	441	480	486
Sample number				8	10	21		4	5	14	17	23	15	18	19	27	22	36	28	29	26	32	35	38
Description				pit	ditch	pit		pit?	pit?	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit
Environmental remains		Common name	Habitat																					
Economic plants - Cereals																								
Triticum aestivum	Poaceae	free threshing wheat	cultivar	2	37	1							1					6					2	
Triticum spelta	Poaceae	spelt	cultivar					1																
Triticum dicoccum	Poaceae	emmer	cultivar						4	4														
Avena sp. Cf. L.	Poaceae	oats	cultivar		5					4								1						
Avena/Bromus sp	Poaceae	oats/wild oats	cultivar/dry open grassland, woodland hedgerow			2			3	9														
Hordeum vulgare	Poaceae	barley	cultivar		4	2																		
Triticum sp. indet.	Poaceae	wheat indet.	cultivar		16	1				7									1	1			1	
Triticum tail grain	Poaceae	wheat tail grain	cultivar			2																		
Cereal indet.	Poaceae	cereal indet.	cultivar							2										1				
Cereal embryo	Poaceae	cereal indet.	cultivar		1				1															
Chaff: Triticum																								
glume bases: spelt		spelt chaff	crop processing waste					2																
glume bases: emmer		emmer chaff	crop processing waste						2	2												1		
glume bases indet		wheat chaff	crop processing waste		3								1		1					2				
rachis fragment T. aestivum		bread wheat chaff	crop processing waste					1																
rachis fragment indet		wheat chaff	crop processing waste		3																			
spikelet fork		wheat chaff	crop processing waste		1															1				
spikelet fork T. dicoccum		emmer chaff	crop processing waste																			1		
Economic plants - Other																								
Legimunaceae	Leguminoseae	pea/bean	cultivar			1																		
Grasses																								
Bromus secalinus	Poaceae	rye brome	weed of cereals, marginal and waste ground			6				5								1						1
Bromus/Lolium sp	Poaceae	rye brome/rye grass	rough ground, woods, hedgebanks, associated with cultivars			3																		
Hordeum cf. secalinum	Poaceae	wild barley	rough ground, woods, hedgebanks, associated with cultivars			2																		

Table 2. The carbonised plant remains from Langtoft, Lincs.

Feature				F27	F28	F44		F3	F3	F37	F37	F37	F38	F41	F41	F41	F54	F59	F65	F65	F67	F68	F79	F85
Context				108	195	347		30	103	242	273	318	268	252	327	419	353	365	392	404	406	441	480	486
Large Poaceae indet.	Poaceae	grass indet.	rough ground, woods, hedgebanks, associated with cultivars							1														
Small Poaceae indet.	Poaceae		rough ground, woods, hedgebanks, associated with cultivars		1													1						
Weed species																								
Chenopodium album	Chenopodiaceae	fat hen	arable land/ grassland		1	4			2	2								4						
Polygonaceae indet.	Polygonaceae	knotgrass	arable land/ grassland															1						
Polygonum aviculare agg.	Polygonaceae	knotgrass	arable land/ grassland		1				1															
Stellaria media	Caryophyllaceae	chickweed	arable land/ grassland																					1
Veronica cf. arvensis	Scrophulariaceae	red bartsia	arable land/ grassland			8																		
Carex cf. flava group	Cyperaceae	yellow sedge	base rich fen, by lakes		1	1																		
Carex cf. muricata agg.	Cyperaceae	prickly sedge	base rich fen, by lakes																					1
Centaurea cf. Cyanis	Compositae	cornflower	cultivated and arable land, hedgerows and scrub, open ground			2																		
Fallopia convolvulus	Polygonaceae	black bindweed	cultivated and arable land, hedgerows and scrub, open ground							1														
Odontites vernus	Rubiaceae	cleavers	cultivated and arable land, hedgerows and scrub, open ground	1						1								1						
Atriplex sp.	Chenopodiaceae	orache	cultivated, waste and disturbed ground	1						3			1					2						
Chenopodium polyspermum	Chenopodiaceae	many seeded goosefoot	cultivated, waste and disturbed ground		1	1							1					1						
Hypericum cf. perforatum	Guttiferae	St John's wort	dryish grassland, open woodland, medicinal					1																
Cyperaceae	Cyperaceae	sedge	fens, moorland, wet places									1												
Chenopodiaceae trifolium type	Chenopodiaceae	clover	grassland/arable land									1												
Rumex bract	Polygonaceae	sorrel bract	grassland/arable land			1																		
Rumex sp.	Polygonaceae	sorrel	grassland/arable land		4	2																		
Rumex conglomeratus /obtusifolius/ sanguinius	Polygonaceae	dock	grassland/arable land, damp grassland																					
Moehringia trinervia	Caryophyllaceae	sandwort	fens, damp grassland																					
Cercium/Carduus type	Compositae	thistle	rough ground, woods, hedgebanks, associated with cultivars		3																			
Veronica arvensis	Scrophulariaceae	wall speedwell	walls, banks, open, cultivated ground,			1			3															1

Table 2 (cont.). The carbonised plant remains from Langtoft, Lincs.

Feature				F27	F28	F44		F3	F3	F37	F37	F37	F38	F41	F41	F41	F54	F59	F65	F65	F67	F68	F79	F85
Context				108	195	347		30	103	242	273	318	268	252	327	419	353	365	392	404	406	441	480	486
Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa	Polygonaceae	pale persicaria	waste ground, grassland, damp grassland						2															
Chenopodium cf. ficifolium	Chenopodiaceae	fig-leaved goosefoot	waste, rough and cultivated land																					
Tripleurospermum inodorum	Asteraceae	scentless mayweed	waste, rough and cultivated land			1																	1	
Eleocharis palustris	Cyperaceae	spike rush	wet places in fens, arable weed, poor grassland							1														
Cladium mariscus	Cyperaceae	great fen sedge	wet, base rich areas in fens, by streams and ponds			3																		1
Seed indet.																								
small seed indet.		seed indet.			2	1		1		1														
Fruit and nuts																								
Hazel nut shell fragments	Betulaceae	hazel	edible, hedgerow, open woodland																					
Prunus spinosa shell fragments	Rosaceae	sloe	edible, hedgrow, open woodland		1			14	1															
Parenchyma																								
parenchyma (fruit)		carbonised plant material								++	+													
parenchyma (vegetal)		carbonised plant material			++			++		++					+								+	++
parenchyma (tuber)		carbonised plant material											+											
Charcoal				+	++	++		+++	++	++++	+	+++	+++ +	++	+	+++	+	+++	++	+	++	++	++	+++
% of which is oak charcoal				+	+	+		++	+	+++	+	++	++	+	+	+		++				+		+
Misc.																								
Carbonised insect remains									+									+						
Small mammal bones						++		++						1	1									2

Table 3. The waterlogged plant remains from Langtoft, Lincs.

Waterlogged remains				Mediaeval				Bronze Age																	
Feature				F27	F28	F44		F3	F3	F37	F37	F37	F38	F41	F41	F41	F54	F59	F65	F65	F67	F68	F79	F85
Context				108	195	347		30	103	242	273	318	268	252	327	419	353	365	392	404	406	441	480	486
Sample number				8	10	21		4	5	14	17	23	15	18	19	27	22	36	28	29	26	32	35	38
Description				pit	ditch	pit		pit?	pit?	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit
Below projected water level								+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	?	?	+	++	+	++
Chenopodium album	Chenopodiaceae	fat hen	arable land/ grassland														7					15		3
Polygonum aviculare agg.	Polygonaceae	knotgrass	arable land/ grassland														9					9		
Stellaria media	Caryophyllaceae	chickweed	arable land/ grassland														8					2		16
Carex cf. flava group	Cyperaceae	yellow sedge	base rich fen, by lakes								1						13					6		1
Lamium cf. puperia/album	Labiateae	dead nettle	culivated and arable land, hedgerows and scrub, open woodland																			2		
Aethusa cynapium	Umbelliferae	fools parsley	cultivated and arable land, hedgerows and scrub, open ground																			2		
Galeopsis tetrahit	Labiateae	hempnettle	cultivated and arable land, hedgerows and scrub, open woodland, open ground														12							
Atriplex sp.	Chenopodiaceae	orache	cultivated, waste and disturbed ground														5					9		
Chenopodium polyspermum	Chenopodiaceae	many seeded goosefoot	cultivated, waste and disturbed ground														2					19		2
Ranunculus repens	Ranunculaceae	creeping buttercup	damp grassland, arable														3					4		2
Viola canina	Violaceae	heath dog violet	damp places, fens, damp grassland, hedgerows													1				2		2		4
Persicaria hydropypa agg.	Polygonaceae	water pepper	damp places, shallow water, often shaded														1							
Urtica diocca	Urticaceae	common nettle	disturbed ground, arable land, woodland edge						5							2	2			2		24		100+
Stachys palustris	Labiateae	marsh woundwart	fens, moorland, wet places																			2		
Rumex sp.	Polygonaceae	sorrel	grassland/arable land						1							3						15		22
Rumex conglomeratus/obtusifolius/sanguinius	Polygonaceae	dock	grassland/arable land, damp grassland														35							
Lamium cf. album	Labiateae	dead nettle	hedge banks, rough ground, arable															1						
Stachys sylvestris	Labiateae	hedge woundwart	hedges, woodland, waste/rough ground																					3
Sambucus nigra	Caprifoliaceae	elder	edible fruits, hedges, woodland, waste/rough ground.						2			1				200+	1					3		3

Table 3 (cont.). The waterlogged plant remains from Langtoft, Lincs.

Feature				F27	F28	F44		F3	F3	F37	F37	F37	F38	F41	F41	F41	F54	F59	F65	F65	F67	F68	F79	F85
Context				108	195	347		30	103	242	273	318	268	252	327	419	353	365	392	404	406	441	480	486
Lathyrus palustris/sylvestris	Leguminoseae	everlasting pea	open woodland, scrub, fens, damp grassland													1								
Moehringia trinervia	Caryophyllaceae	three nerved sandwort	open woodland, scrub, fens, damp grassland													5						4		6
Potamogeton coloratus	Potamogetonaceae	fen pondweed	ponds, pools, base rich peat areas														2							
Ranunculus sub genus Batrachium	Ranunculaceae	water crowfood	ponds, pools, shallow water																			34		
Cercium/Carduus type	Compositae	thistle	rough ground, woods, hedgebanks, associated with cultivars									2					1					1		
Sonchus asper	Compositae	pickly sow thistle	waste and cultivated ground														2							
Persicaria lapathifolia/ maculosa	Polygonaceae	pale persicaria	waste ground, grassland, damp grassland														19					3		
Pastinaca sativa	Umbelliferae	wild parsnip	waste ground, grassland, esp. chalky limestone									3								1	1	1		
Chenopodium cf. ficifolium	Chenopodiaceae	fig-leaved goosefoot	waste, rough and cultivated land														4							
Thlaspi cf. arvense	Crucifereae	field penny cress	waste, rough and cultivated land																			2		
Eleocharis palustris	Cyperaceae	spike rush	wet places in fens, arable weed, poor grassland														1							
Lycopus europaeus	Labiateae	gypsywort	wet places, in fens, arable weed, poor grassland														1					1		
Seed indet.																						1		
small seed indet.		seed indet.																		1				
Fruit, nuts, trees and shrubs																								
Hazel nut shell fragments	Betulaceae	hazel	edible fruits, hedgerow, open woodland													21	2					6		2
Prunus spinosa shell fragments	Rosaceae	sloe	edible fruits, hedgrow, open woodland														9					1		
Rubus sp.	Rosaceae	bramble	edible fruits, woods, hedgerows, rough ground						2			1				1	8				1	19		7
Tree/shrub bud		tree/shrub intet.	hedgerow, woodland		2																	2		2
Rosaceae thorn	Rosaceae	cf. hawthorn	edible fruits, woods, hedgerows, rough ground														1					5		
twigs indet.		tree/shrub intet.	woods, hedgerows													++	++			++		++		+
Alnus sp. bark	Betulaceae	alder	damp woodland, fen														++							++
Betula sp. twigs	Betulaceae	birch	hedgerow, open or regenerating woodland													++	++							+
Betula sp. Bark	Betulaceae	birch	hedgerow, open, regenerating woodland													++	++							+

Table 3 (cont.). The waterlogged plant remains from Langtoft, Lincs.

Molluscan remains	Common name	Habitat	Mediaeval				Bronze Age																
Feature			F27	F28	F44		F3	F3	F37	F37	F37	F38	F41	F41	F41	F54	F59	F65	F65	F67	F68	F79	F85
Context			108	195	347		30	103	242	273	318	268	252	327	419	353	365	392	404	406	441	480	486
Sample number			8	10	21		4	5	14	17	23	15	18	19	27	22	36	28	29	26	32	35	38
Description			pit	ditch	pit		pit?	pit?	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit
Acanthinula aculeata	prickly snail	woods, hedgerows, leaf litter, under fallen timber, occasionally more open ground													1								
Aegopinella pura	clear glass snail	damp places, characteristic of litter from deciduous woodlands													5								
Bathyomphalus contortus	twisted ramshorn	still waters, denoted flooding event							1														
Carychium cf. tridentatum	long toothed herald snail	woods, damp grassland, well vegetated places													45								
Clausilia pumila	door snail	damp places, characteristic of litter from deciduous woodlands													1								
Cochlicopa lubrica	slippery moss snail	damp places, marshes, grassland, woods			2		4		2										1				
Discus rotundatus	rounded snail	damp places, woods, leaf litter and under stones													6								
Helicella itala	heath snail	dry, calcareous grasslands	1				5		3							2							
Lymnaea palustris	pond snail	still water, ponds													7								
Oxychilus alliarius	garlic snail	woods, fields, rocks								1													
Pupilla muscorum	moss snail	dry calcareous grassland, short grassland							1						2				1				
Trichia hispida	hairy snail	catholic													2								
Vallonia sp.	grass snail	grassland, rocks and* rubble, walls			7		7		7	1		1	2			4		2			2		
Vertigo pygmea	whorl snail	dry calcareous grassland, occasionally marshes					2		2														
Zonitoides excavatus	glass snail	ground litter, sometimes in marshes																3		1			
Cecilioides sp.	blind snail	intrusive					++		+++	++	++	+++						++			++		

Table 4. The molluscan remains from Langtoft, Lincs.

The occurrence of sedges in the sample suggests that damp fen soils were being utilised for agricultural purposes.

Mediaeval Phase II

In the sample from F. 44 [347] Brome is grass in relatively high concentrations. Its occurrence in the sample may have been the waste from hand cleaning of grain. There is a very low occurrence of charred wheat seeds in this sample and only a couple of seeds of oats and barley. This reflects a change in the processing of grain between Mediaeval Phase I and Phase II, suggesting that clean grain is brought onto the site. The charred weed seeds are therefore the waste from a final hand sorting before consumption.

The weed seeds are all reflective of grassland situations, meadows and cultivated land, for example, thistle, cornflower, rye grass and orache. It may be that this sample is reflective of hay or animal fodder, the remains of which have been swept into a fire and deposited in the pit rather than being reflective of human consumption, however, the weed assemblage is characteristically reflective of Mediaeval period ruderal weeds. (cf. Yarnton Mediaeval phase, Oxford Archaeological Unit Site Report).

As for the previous sample, sedge is represented, suggesting the human use of the damper fen soils, however, *Cladium mariscus* was also used for fire lighting in this period and this usage may represent the presence of seeds of this species on site. For full details of the environmental finds see Tables 2 and 3.

Conclusions

Spatial patterns in the Bronze Age samples

Of the charred material, most finds occurred in F. 37, F. 3 and F. 59, which cluster in a crescent some 20m west of Structure III. This may be due to cultural processes, as the pits sampled cluster around three post hole alignments identified as structures. However it may be more reflective of taphanomic processes, rather than having any cultural significance, as F. 65, situated closest to the structures, contained very little carbonised plant material. F. 67 and F. 54 contained no carbonised seeds and very little charcoal, this may be because these pits were too far from the habitation centre to be appropriate for rubbish disposal or the accidental incorporation of charred plant remains. F. 85 which is also further from the structures than the rest of the sampled pits, however, contains charred plant remains, but these number in single seeds for four species only, two wetland species and two arable weed species.

Pit usage

The pits on this site are complexes made up of several different contexts which equate with the model of primary, secondary and tertiary deposits. Some considerable lapse of time may have separate the original cutting of the pit and its original use from its final filling. Although it is likely that many of these pits were dug primarily for water extraction, perhaps for human use, perhaps for the watering of stock. It is possible that stock watering may be the favourable interpretation in this case as the pits had unconsolidated sides, unlike the well at Flag Fen which has wickerwork sides and the Northborough well which had a clay lining and timber revetting (cf. CAU report).

It is apparent from the carbonised remains that some of the pits at least were used for other purposes, possibly once the water table had receded enough to leave them unsuitable for the

extraction of water. Unfortunately, it is difficult to know exactly what pits were used for in the past, some may have been for storage and many are used, at least secondarily for rubbish disposal. The pit sampled on this site, however, would not have been appropriate for storage as most of them appear to have been below the water table and some of them reflect the presence of standing water both in their seed and snail species. After being dug the pits acquired organic deposits rather than being back-filled immediately,

Bronze Age environment and subsistence at Langtoft

In conclusion the environmental remains from this site, if the samples were loosely contemporary, present a mixed landscape with alder carr infilled with scrub and dotted with small pools and marshy areas and light dappled hazel and birch woodland edge opening out into rough, species rich grass, nettle and dock based 'waste' land in which the structures were built.

Cereals, namely emmer, spelt and bread wheat were grown on damp fenland soils, where sedges were cut with the crop. The fields were rich with wild flowers and leafy weeds. Secondary processing of cereals was carried out on site, most probably piecemeal, as required and some of the waste from these processes became incorporated in the fire, either accidentally or deliberately and then dumped into the pits. Wild resources were utilised either as a supplement to cultivated resources or for medicinal purposes, most likely both.

The Mediaeval environment

The environment in the Mediaeval period was unclear from the samples studied as there were so few of them and they were from different phases. However if forced to draw some conclusions, one might suggest that the Phase I may have had human occupation near the pits, which were being used, at least on a secondary level as waste pits, and Phase II the area is being used for keeping animals, this may have been supported by more intense sampling for environmental material or the use of soil phosphate analysis. Certainly, the landscape appears to have been much more open and more grassland based, however, this is hard to quantify accurately as many of the tree species represented in the Bronze Age samples were preserved by waterlogging, which did not occur in the Mediaeval samples as it appears that the water table had receded below the level of the pit bases.

3. The Faunal Remains

L. Higbee

The total quantity of material recovered by hand amounts to 15,625 grams (or 1,935 fragments). The majority (87% of the total weight and 95% of the total fragment count) comes from pits dated to the Late Bronze Age. This assessment will therefore concentrate on this portion of the assemblage, the diagnostic fragments from later phases of activity/occupation (Iron Age to Medieval) have been summarised below (table. 1).

The small samples of bone from the later phases of activity were rapidly scanned, that from Late Bronze Age features were recorded in more detail and an archive of this is held at the CAU. Basic methods used for recording the information available in the archive include Grant (1982), Silver (1969) and Dobney and Rielly (1988). No measurements were taken but measurable specimens are indicated in the archive.

Phase	Species	Total no. fragments identified
Unphased/Subsoil	cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, toad	15
Medieval I	horse, red deer	2
Medieval II	cattle	5
Iron Age	cattle, sheep/goat, pig, red deer	5

Table 1 Summary information for small samples indicating species identified and number of diagnostic fragments.

The Late Bronze Age Sample

Faunal material was recovered from 29 separate features (26 pits and 3 postholes) of Late Bronze Age date. However, only 13.36% of the total number of fragments from these features retained diagnostic characteristics which allowed positive identification to be made. A high degree of fragmentation (some of which can be attributed to canid qnawing) and the masking of surface details by concretions of sediment are the main factors which have reduced the number of diagnostic specimens. The vast majority (76%) of features yielded less than 10 diagnostic fragments despite relatively high fragment counts (table. 2).

The diagnostic portion of the sample is dominated by the three common domestic species, cattle (44% by NISP), pig (36%) and sheep/goat (14%). The distribution of skeletal elements is broadly similar for all three species with all parts of the carcass represented. Skull and mandible fragments (including loose teeth) occur with the greatest frequency however, this over representation is likely to be a product of fragmentation. Long bones from the fore and hind limbs, and foot bones (i.e. metapodials and phalanges) occur in relatively equal proportions for cattle and sheep/goat but bones from the hind limb of pig are under representation in the sample (table. 3). Butchery marks were observed on a small proportion of specimens, again taphonomic factors have masked or obliterated such evidence. Further, ageable and measurable specimens of the domestic stock species are rare (table. 4) thus limiting the potential information available on husbandry.

Small quantities of horse (2%), dog (1%), roe deer (1%) and red deer (2%) have also been identified. The horse is represented by a fragmented mandible from **F79**, loose teeth (**F38** and **F41**) and a metacarpal (**F38**). The dog is represented by a skull (**F38**) and a distal tibia fragment (**F39**). The roe deer is represented by two antler fragments only (**F3** and **F68**) one of which had been shed. The red deer is also represented by antler (**F1, 68** and **86**) and two long bone fragments, a radius (**F37**) and a femur (**F73**). All three of the red deer antler fragments show evidence of working (possibly off-cuts). A bone point (or awls) was also recovered (**F37 [242]**), the object had been fashioned from the shaft of a sheep/goat tibia, the surface retains a high degree of polish, faint striations run parallel to the length of the shaft and the distal end tapers but is rounded and smooth presumably due to use. A single human skull fragment, the occipital bone of an adult (Dodwell pers comm.) was recovered from a another fill [272] of this pit, the contextual significance of these finds is uncertain since the rest of the sample from this feature is broadly similar to that from other pits on the site.

Further analysis of the assemblage is limited to the relatively large Late Bronze Age sample, however the zooarchaeologically useful proportion of this sample (i.e. that which is diagnostic, ageable and measurable) is small due largely to taphonomic factors. Future work on the assemblage might perhaps benefit from comparison with that recovered from the Northborough-Etton Watermain, Section 2 since both the site and the faunal assemblage (Knight, 1998) have certain similarities which require a regional understanding.

Feature	No. Frags	No. Identifiable	Weight (grams)
33	2	0	9
67	2	0	2
69	2	1	4
39	4	2	12
54	4	3	110
78	5	2	67
72	12	0	67
86	12	4	85
85	13	9	89
8	16	2	191
58	18	1	40
84	18	1	106
29	28	1	22
36	33	2	76
51	33	1	69
47	37	5	296
59	44	3	224
60	48	6	298
79	56	5	731
41	72	46	1137
37	77	18	1548
65	92	12	1283
68	96	12	982
52	114	3	87
2	115	3	582
3	152	26	1539
38	172	28	1898
45	222	6	944
73	340	62	750
TOTAL	1839	264	13248

Table 2 Quantity of faunal material from the Late Bronze Age sample.

	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig
Cranium	47	34	47
Forelimb	17	25	30
Hind limb	18	18	6
Foot	16	16	17

Table 3 Body part representation for the three domestic species, given as a percentage of diagnostic fragments for individual species.

	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig
Ageable	22	50	17
Measurable	7	11	7
N/A	71	39	76

Table 4 Proportion of useful specimens in domesticate sample, shown as percentage of total diagnostic sample. N/A indicates that the specimen is neither ageable or measurable

4. The Worked Flint
C. Conneller

The lithic assemblage recovered from the excavations at Langtoft is small, consisting of 48 pieces. The majority of the material is Bronze Age in date, though a significant minority was manufactured in the Late Mesolithic period. Also present are two axe thinning flakes, which are likely to be Palaeolithic in date. The assemblages dating to the Mesolithic and Bronze Age display significant differences in the technology and raw materials employed and in the tools manufactured. The artefact types recovered are displayed in table 1.

Category	No
Axe flake	2
Knife	1
Microlith	2
Scraper	1
Denticulate scraper	1
Core	1
Chunk	1
Blade	10
Flake/fragment	29
Total	48

Table 1 Artefact categories represented

The Palaeolithic material

This consists of one definite and one probable axe thinning flake. Both pieces are heavily patinated and display a staining which is not found amongst the other pieces of the assemblage. These pieces are likely to be Lower Palaeolithic in date and almost certainly derive from the underlying gravels.

The Mesolithic material

Two diagnostic Late Mesolithic microliths were recovered. One is a rod microlith, with total blunting down one side and partial blunting down the other; the second example is a fragment, also probably of a rod microlith, with one edge blunted. Both these small geometric microliths are diagnostic of Late Mesolithic (c.8700-5200BP) activities. If, as is normally assumed, these pieces were mounted in a composite weapon, these pieces could represent isolated hunting losses, or else, if associated with other material, could indicate various manufacturing or retooling activities.

Also present are a number of small, fine blades, which probably also belong to this period - though an Early Neolithic date is also possible. These pieces display evidence for core and platform preparation, the use of a soft hammer, and represent the work of a fairly skilled individual. All pieces are tertiary flakes, retaining none of the outer cortex. This suggests that they were knapped from a core which had already been reduced before it was brought to the site, and that the favoured economy of lithic reduction was extended across the landscape - the product of prevailing patterns of mobility.

Though some of the Mesolithic material was recovered as stray, surface finds, the material that can be located suggests this scatter is relatively localised, occurring entirely in the north-eastern corner of the site. Mellars (1976) demonstrated a positive correlation between

microlith dominated assemblages and a small site size. If the Langtoft material is representative of this type of site (the paucity of material recovered precludes a positive identification), a small scale occupation by a specialised task group can be envisaged.

The Bronze Age material

Diagnostic pieces of Bronze Age date included a small denticulate scraper and a poorly flaked knife fragment. Certain technological characteristics indicate that the majority of the debitage recovered is also Bronze Age. The one core recovered and negative scars on debitage indicate working took place on multi-platform cores. Flakes have characteristic broad platforms and acute platform/core face angles. Platform preparation techniques are very rare, though abrasion is occasionally present. A hard hammer was used and incipient cones (indicating unsuccessful flaking attempts) are common. In contrast to the Mesolithic material, the Bronze Age pieces are frequently cortical (table 2), indicating the early stages of preparation took place in situ. The raw material source utilized appears to have been the local gravel and material is in general much smaller than the nodules employed during the Mesolithic.

	No
Primary	1
Secondary	20
Tertiary	27
Total	48

Table 2 Cortical pieces represented

The technological and raw material indicators all point to an expedient knapping strategy involving the minimum effort required to manufacture sharp flakes and tool blanks (see also Herne 1991). The raw material was immediately available and no skilled techniques to prolong the life of a particular nodule were employed - the core was either rotated to create another platform or simply abandoned. The Bronze Age material is spread in low densities throughout the site and no specialised areas are evident. It is thus likely that knapping took place as an expedient response to an immediate task, utilizing material at hand.

Discussion

The lithic assemblage recovered from Langtoft indicates different economies of lithic manufacture and use in the Mesolithic and Bronze Age periods. The Mesolithic communities may have used a more distant source, or at least differentially utilized larger, better quality nodules. These nodules were brought to the site part-worked and knapping took place within a restricted area, suggesting both the existence of specialised areas of working and more extended chains of lithic reduction across the landscape. In contrast the Bronze age knapping is immediate - utilizing local raw materials - and unspecialised - occurring at low densities across the site, in conjunction with a range of other activities.

5. Prehistoric Pottery
D. Knight

The prehistoric pottery obtained during excavation was laid out by feature, and within each feature by context. The material was scanned to determine variations in fabric, form, surface treatment and condition, and to establish the typological affinities and date range of the pottery. Brief details of the pottery from each context were summarised on spot-dating sheets, submitted with the archive report for assistance in future post-excavation work.

The descriptive terminology employed in this assessment follows that recommended in the author's *Guidelines for the Recording of Later Prehistoric Pottery from the East Midlands* (July 1998 revision). A copy of the profile and rim classifications contained in these *Guidelines* is included in the archive report. For the purposes of this assessment, quantification by sherd number has been deemed sufficient, but details of sherd weight are required for the final report.

Quantity of Pottery and Fired Clay

643 sherds of prehistoric pottery, deriving mainly from Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) vessels, were obtained during excavation. Precise quantification by period is difficult because plain body sherds cannot always he attributed with certainty to a particular ceramic tradition, but the great bulk of the material may be ascribed with confidence to the PDR tradition. 26 small fragments of fired clay, none deriving from identifiable artefacts or structures and all undatable except by association, were recovered from prehistoric features.

Provenance of Pottery and Fired Clay

Several prehistoric sherds, none closely datable, were recovered from buried headland material ([003]: four sherds) or from medieval features (F. 10: two sherds; F. 28: one sherd). The great bulk of the pottery and fired clay, however, was stratified in pits and post-holes associated with prehistoric activity and may he dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age periods.

Residuality is a particularly acute problem for the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery, much of which, if not all, appears to have been redeposited in later features (most notably pit F. 41). The comparatively unworn condition of much of the PDR pottery, in some contexts preserving many joins along ancient breaks (e.g. F. 47, F. 65, F. 68), would support the case for deposition soon after breakage (although the comparatively unabraded condition of some of the decorated Beaker sherds from F. 41 should urge caution in interpreting the possible circumstances of deposition).

Stratified Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Pottery

An important collection of *c.*25 sherds preserving formal or decorative features inviting comparison with Beaker pottery from eastern England was recovered from the upper fill of Pit F. 41 ([252]), in association, curiously, with classic PDR pottery. These Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sherds are mainly slightly to moderately abraded, and in view of their condition may not have been exposed for long to the effects of weathering and erosion prior to deposition. The association with PDR sherds, surviving in a broadly similar condition, raises some difficult questions regarding the mechanisms of deposition. Both derive from the same layer, and it seems likely that the typologically early pottery had been

redeposited from a midden or other context which had previously protected the pottery from the effects of weathering. A small collection of moderately abraded sherds which also invite comparison with Beaker wares, deriving apparently mainly from one vessel, was obtained from a nearby pit, F. 35, together with a curious decorated rim which it is suggested below might be related to Late Neolithic Peterborough Ware. No definite PDR sherds were recovered from this feature, which might therefore date from the Late Neolithic/Early BronzeAge. The only other sherds which might derive from activity in this period were recovered from one of the post-holes forming part of a four-post structure (F. 33): a collection of seven small moderately abraded to abraded sherds which in view of their condition may have been redeposited. Interestingly, all of the features yielding sherds attributable to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period occur closely together in the north-east corner of the site, suggesting a focus of early activity at this location.

Stratified Post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) Plainwares

The great bulk of the PDR pottery derives from pit fills. Much of the pottery is in remarkably good condition (commonly only slightly abraded) and in some features preserves significant conjoins (e.g. F. 3). This suggests deposition in many features soon after breakage, or redeposition from a midden or other context which would have protected the pottery from the processes of weathering and erosion. Pits F. 3, F. 37, F. 41, F47, F. 65 and F. 68 stand out from the other features by merit of the size of the associated collections, and it is recommended that attention be focused during post-excavation upon the stratification of pottery within these features. In addition, detailed spatial analyses could reveal hitherto undetected regularities in the distributions of fabrics and/or formal and decorative elements -although no obvious spatial pattering of ceramic types was observed during this assessment. Seven sherds were also recovered from post-hole F. 62 ([382] & [383]).

Stratified Fired Clay Fragments

26 small fragments of fired clay, all undatable, were recovered. These derived from post-hole F. 33 (part of a four-post structure) and pits F. 37, F. 41, F. 65, F. 77, F. 79 and F. 80.

Range and Variety of Material

The pottery includes a small quantity of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery, comparing mainly with Beaker wares, and an important collection of Late Bronze Age Post Deverel-Rimbury 'plainwares'. There may be a slight preservation bias towards the later material, but there is no reason to suppose bias due to collection or sampling strategies.

Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Pottery

Pit F. 41 yielded *c.*25 sherds deriving from vessels which it is suggested below may be compared to Beaker wares from eastern England. The exact number of vessels is unknown but a maximum of five pots may be suggested. The sherds are mostly slightly to moderately abraded, and many are crumbly and flaking. A number of joins were noted between sherds from this context, and effort expended upon the re-assembly of these sherds may assist reconstruction of the vessel profiles and the original schemes of decoration - and hence permit a more detailed investigation of their typological affinities. The best preserved pot retains vestiges of a collar and an internally bevelled rim, and around the collar a zone of incised lattice decoration. Beneath the collar is preserved a zone of incised hatched triangles?/lozenges? infilled with horizontal incised lines. The layout of the decoration

remains unclear, but re-assembly of joining sherds during post-excavation analysis may clarify the pattern. This context also yielded sherds from as many perhaps as four ribbed vessels, some with diagonally incised lines or finger-tip impressions between the ribs. To the exteriorof one of these ribbed vessels had been applied small lumps of clay, one of which has become detached from the surface. The above vessels are characterised by soft irregularly fired fabrics incorporating variable quantities of fine to medium fossil shell (including bryozoa).

Pit F. 35 yielded 20 small sherds, many worn and flaking, most of which appear to derive from a thin-walled vessel of uncertain form in a fine quartz-gritted fabric. Three of these sherds preserve faint traces of combed? ornament inviting comparison with local Beaker wares - although precise parallels are difficult in view of the small size of the sherds. The decorated sherds are too small for the layout of the decoration to be determined, but there are indications on one sherd of two rows of possible comb impressions. Several conjoins maybe identified, and re-assembly of these sherds should aid definition of the decorative scheme. One fragmentary rim-sherd from this context stands out as unusual, having a rim which was pinched out and rounded on at least one face (probably the interior) and was embelished along the lip by a line of faintly visible incisions aligned at right angles to the circumference.

The form and decoration of the rim from pit F. 35 recall some Peterborough Ware vessels (*cf.* Gibson 1982, 257-8: West Keal; fig. WK 1: 2 & 8): a possibility which merits further scrutiny during post-excavation analysis. Extensive parallels may otherwise be drawn with late Beaker assemblages from Lincolnshire sites such as Risby Warren and Stainsby, both dated to late in the Beaker sequence (Gibson 1982, 228-9, 244, especially figs RW2,1 I-13,16-18 & STAI-3) and with Beaker assemblages elsewhere in the Fens and East Anglia (Bamford 1982); further afield, we may note parallels, with sites such as Loddington, Northants. (Clarke 1970, 403: vessel 987) and Acklam Wold, Yorks. (ibid., 403: vessel 988). It is recommended that further work be undertaken during post-excavation analysis to clarify these typological linkages, following consultation with a Beaker pottery specialist.

Post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) Plainwares

The bulk of the pottery invites comparison with classic PDR 'plainware' assemblages from eastern England, notably from Stickford (Knight forthcoming: a), Billingborough (Chowne *et al*, forthcoming) and Welland Bank (Pryor 1998), Lincs. and Flag Fen (Pryor forthcoming) and Northborough Nine Bridges, Cambs. These are currently dated to the tenth/ninth centuries BC, with origins perhaps in the late second millennium BC (*cf.* Barrett 1980; Knight forthcoming: b; Needham 1995, 164-5; 1996, 134-7).

The material is characterised by carinated and round-shouldered vessels, either of bipartite form or with high everted, upright or concave necks, neckless ellipsoid jars and, less certainly, neckless ovoid vessels. Layer [404] of pit F. 65 yielded a rim which might derive from an open bowl. Bases, where they survive, are invariably flat - although a burnished carinated vessel from Pit F. 38 could conceivably have had a rounded base (recalling therefore the exceptional rounded bases from the LBA/EIA settlement at Bancroft, Milton Keynes: Knight 1994, fig. 203.24). A wide range of rim forms is represented, including flattened and rounded direct rims (forms FD & RD), rims with flattened or rounded lips and pinched out slightly internally and/or externally (forms FPE, FPI, FPEI, RPE, RPI & RPEI) and - most characteristically - internally bevelled rims and finely tapered rims (forms IB &TD). Examples of these rim types are shown in the archive report. Many vessels, particularly the finer ware bowls, are characterised by very thin walls.

Vessels are almost invariably plain, with the exception of an internally bevelled rim with finger-tip impressions along the lip from Pit F37 and a carinated vessel with a series of

vertical incised lines along the girth from Pit F82. The coarser wares commonly preserve a distinctive lumpy surface, caused by extensive finger smearing of the outer face, while burnishing is common on some finer vessels (especially the finer sandy wares and vessels with fine shell).

The fabrics of the PDR vessels are dominated by coarse to fine fossil shell, with small proportions of quartz-gritted wares. Grog temper may be observed in some vessels, generally in association with quartz. Detailed fabric analyses, accompanied by petrological studies are required to characterise more precisely the fabrics of these vessels - and to investigate the possibility of significant fabric differences between the PDR and earlier pottery from the site.

Fired Clay

26 small fragments of fired clay were recovered, mainly amorphous and all of uncertain function. One fragment from Pit F. 65 preserves two faces, one of which bears traces of a bubbly residue which would merit further investigation. No definite fragments of briquetage were recorded.

Condition of Material

Much of the material from the pits has not been seriously affected by weathering or erosion subsequent to deposition, and is in a fairly stable condition suitable for long-term storage. A significant number of sherds from some contexts, however, is cracked or flaking and hence is liable to further fragmentation. Long-term storage of this material is more problematic, and careful attention should be accorded to its conservation and packing. The Beaker sherds are par6cularly fragile, and there is a possibility of some preservation bias towards later (PDR) material. The same applies to the fired clay fragments, which may also be underrepresented in the archaeological record.

Statement of Potential

Key Research Questions

In addition to providing crucial dating evidence for the site, the pottery adds significantly to the known corpus of Beaker and Late Bronze Age pottery from the south Lincolnshire Fens. The PDR vessels are of particular interest as further evidence for the penetration of LBA 'plainware' traditions into an area of eastern England which until recently appeared largely as a blank in distributions of LBA pottery (*cf.* Barrett 1980, fig. 1). The discovery thus provides additional important evidence for activity in this region during the LBA period ,while the range of ceramic types adds usefully to our knowledge of the fabrics, forms and styles of surface treatment which characterise this still poorly known ceramic tradition. Detailed study of the pit groups could conceivably elucidate temporal changes in the ceramic repertoire. although no obvious trends were apparent during scanning of the material.

Another key research issue which may usefully he addressed by reference to this material is that of ceramic production and distribution (see e.g. Morris 1994). This would provide a valuable complement to ceramic research accompanying the Fenland Management Project, one aim of which was to address the issue of the production and distribution of pottery and briquetage in the south Lincolnshire Fens. At the very least, representative sherds from each fabric group should be examined petrographically to establish the possible raw material

sources. This could perhaps be combined with chemical analyses (e.g. neutron activation analysis; IPCS) if such techniques should be judged appropriate.

Residues have been observed on a small number of pots (notably from Pits F. 1 and F. 79) and one fragment of fired clay. Analyses of these might shed light upon the possible functions of the ceramic containers - and by extension, the range of activities which were carried out on the site - although the small size of the sample would limit the conclusions which could be drawn from such analyses.

Integration of Studies of Material Categories

It is recommended that the Beaker and LBA pottery be analysed together, according to the current Guidleines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). This would facilitate the study of vessel fabrics and avoid the problems which may be caused by attempting at too early a stage to divide Beaker from PDR wares. The few fragments of fired clay which were retrieved from the site could usefully he integrated with this analysis. This may best be achieved by a specialist in later Bronze Age pottery, given the emphasis upon LBA plainwares, but specialist input from a pottery analyst familiar with Beaker and other Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery is advised to verify and clarify the proposed typological linkages with pottery of this period.

Storage and Curation

Much of the material is in a stable condition, but a significant proportion of the pottery is cracked or flaking and hence is liable to further fragmentation. Advice on conservation should be be sought for key pieces, such as the Beaker sherds from F. 41 or the ovoid PDR vessel from F. 68, which may suffer further deterioration during long-term storage. It is recommended that all sherds be marked, prior to further handling, as there is a serious risk of the mixing of sherds from different contexts, and that all joining sherds be re-assembled. Sherds should be packaged securely after the completion of analysis, and all pottery should be retained for study and for long-term storage in an appropriate regional museum.

Acknowledgements

1 am grateful to Carol Allen for examining the Beaker sherds and to Sheila Elsdon and Graeme Guilbert for their comments on the pottery.

6. Romano-British Pottery

G. Lucas

A very small assemblage of Romano-British pottery was identified (at most 15 sherds), all of it in very poor condition - abraded and generally small-sized. Few were diagnostic but included Nene Valley colour-coats as well as local sandy greywares and possibly some shell-tempered wares. As a whole, the assemblage is late Roman, i.e. 3rd/4th century AD. Table 1 summarises the group.

On the whole, the assemblage is clearly the product of manuring and suggests no settlement activity in the immediate area around the site.

Context	Location	Description
2	B3	CC flanged dishes (1 NV)
2	A1-B1/A4-B4	ST and GW
3	B3	NVCC beaker, CW, ST
3	D3	CW, ST
91	-	1 CC, 1 GW
3	C5	NVCC beaker
3	C6	NVCC jar/beaker
3	E3	GW
449	-	NVCC dog dish

Table 1. Summary of Romano-British pottery
Abbreviations: CC= colour-coat, NVCC= Nene Valley colour-coat, ST= shell-tempered, CW= coarseware, GW= greyware

7. Post-Roman and Medieval Pottery
D. Hall

The pottery from Langtoft contained hand-made Middle Saxon sherds in a hard gritty fabric as well as a considerable amount of Saxo-Norman wheel-made sherds and a few early medieval sherds. Most of the Saxo-Norman material was Stamford Ware, the source being nearby; the medieval sherds are likely to derive from manuring activity. Some of the Middle and Late Saxon sherds were mixed together in the same feature and a date of about the 9th century is probable.

The material and the site are important for their potential in throwing light on the change from Middle to Late Saxon and the alteration of settlement patterns that then occurred to form 'medieval' nucleated villages. The pottery is worth a more detailed analysis to establish whether and Early Saxon material is present, showing continuous presence from the Roman period. A small amount of historical work is needed to contribute to final synthesis, to establish the relation of the site to the present village and the medieval open fields. This would further refine the dating.

8. Catalogue of other Finds

Metalwork

Cat. No.	Context	Feature	Num	Wt.	Notes
256	489	9	1	4	Fe. nail
242	468	79	1	<1	Cu. alloy crumb
368	468	79	2	10	Cu. alloy - ? slag
001	002		1	2	Ag. 1/4 coin-Henry I (1100-1135)
002	002		1	2	Cu. alloy ring frag.
006	002		1	7	Cu. alloy obj. + Gilt/ ?gold
014	002		1	10	Cu. alloy coin (1760-1830)

015	002	1	5	Fe.
016	002	1	9	Pb
019	002	2	11	Fe. nails
021	002	6	49	Fe. nails + objects
022	002	1	47	Pb weight
030	003	1	6	Cu. alloy - buckle?
031	003	1	7	Pb.
051	003	1	5	Fe. nail
064	006	1	42	Pb. lump
025	002/003	25	136	Fe. ?nails

Bead

Cat. No.	Context	Feature	Num	Wt.	Notes
329	392	65	5	<1	?Amber bead frags.

Shell

Cat. No.	Context	Feature	Num	Wt.	Notes
049	003			2	From feature? Shell
116	157	11	1	5	Shell
138	224	34	1	2	Shell
141	224	35	2	2	Shell
191	336	51	1	4	Shell
208	374	58	2	<1	Shell
046	003		1	2	Shell
112	153	10	1	3	Shell-mussel
009	002		4	7	Shell-mussel
037	003		6	9	Shell-mussel
092	091		4	11	Shell-mussel
367	486	85		13	Small frags. hazelnut shells
244	468	79	1	1	Snail
226	402	68	1	2	Snail shell
212	392	65	4	8	Snail shells

Fired Clay

Cat. No.	Context	Feature	Num	Wt.	Notes
074	025	3	1	56	
077	029	3	1	54	one flat surface
113	153	10	1	4	One flat surface
120	169	10	1	4	
149	242	37	8	109	Daub?
159	246	38	1	3	
170	268	38	50	124	Daub?
269		38	1	88	Briquetage
161	247	39	8	5	
165	252	41	1	19	
303	288	47	1	<1	

206	373	58	3	3	
201	365	59	306	514	Briquetage
213	392	65	2	26	
217	392	65	5	74	
320	392	65	12	26	
327	392	65	6	20	
332	392	65	4	48	
343	404	65	5	29	
238	438	72	3	123	
355	457	77	10	12	
357	468	79	1	3	
358	470	80	4	22	& crumbs
250	471	80	2	11	
036	003		1	33	Loomweight? frag.
054	009		1	528	Several flat faces
198	348		1	5	

Other

Cat. No.	Context	Feature	Num	Wt.	Notes
041	003		1	108	slag
043	003		1	6	slag
280	003		1	26	slag
125	183		2	26	slag
306	318	37	2	95	1 ironstone, 1 burnt
164	252	41	1	56	Iron panning crust
179	287	47	4	313	Burnt stone
184	304	50	1	104	Burnt stone
319	392	65	2	57	stone
323	392	65	1	299	stone
330	392	65	1	10	stone
349	426	70	1	2	stone
249	470	80	2	174	stone; burnt?
028	003		1	63	stone; burnt?
045	003		2	8	Small frags.coarse sedimentary stone
135	223		1	421	Burnt stone
263			2	68	Burnt stone
055	010		1	41	tile
106	103	3	1	86	wood
268		38	6	4	Desiccated wood, charred
363	332	41		280	Numerous wood splinters c. 3-10 cms
364	353	54		461	wood
365	466	76		197	wood
366	486	85		4336	wood

9. The Watching Brief (NGR: TF 131 130)

Lorraine Higbee

Between the 1st and the 2nd of December 1998 a watching brief was undertaken to record archaeological remains on land adjacent to the site of the recent archaeological excavation (i.e. Area A) on Outgang Road. The two areas under observation are located on the east side of the excavation site and are to be used as an access road for quarry traffic during gravel extraction. The first area to be stripped of overburden (topsoil/subsoil [001]) extended the southeast corner of the excavation area east by 11m and south by 145m, two features were observed, a large suboval pit **F. 1** and a shallow rectangular pit **F. 2** (N.B. feature and context number series are not the same as those used in the main excavation). The second area extended the northeast corner of the excavation east by 14m for 25m south. One feature was observed in the south facing section, a pit or the butt end of a ditch **F. 3**. All features were recorded in plan (base plan scale 1:500 and feature plan 1:20) and section (scale 1:10) and detailed descriptions were made of all deposits, these are given below, and the plans and sections are held in archive at the CAU offices, Cambridgeshire.

F. 1 Large suboval pit [006] with steep sides curving into a concave base, 3.20m in length, 2.60m wide and 1m deep. The upper fill [002] is a mid-dark brown silty clay with a firm consistency, moderate charcoal flecks and occasional subangular gravel. Finds include several small sherds of Bronze Age pottery and a fragmented ?cattle humerus. Beneath this is [003] a mid grey silty clays with a firm consistency and occasional subangular gravel inclusions. The fill was visible on the machined surface on the north and northeast sides of the cut. Below this was [004] a dark blackish-brown clay silt will frequent charcoal flecks and moderate small rounded gravel and pea-grit inclusions. Occasional medium sized burnt stones were also recovered. The lower boundary of the fill is fairly diffuse but the deposit appears to fill a central depression or cut in the top of fill [005]. A wooden post or stake, 0.51m long and with a radius of 0.26m was recovered from the deposit, it rested at an angle with one end in the depression/cut and the other up against the southwest edge of the pit. The lower fill [005] was a mixed deposit of mid-dark brown clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks and fired clay in the form of a powdery residue. This feature is similar to the large pits recorded in the adjacent excavation in terms of size, morphology and the characteristics of some fills.

F. 2: Rectangular pit [008], very ?shallow/truncated so the morphology of the sides is indeterminate but the pit had a flat base, 1.10m in length, 0.66m wide and 0.12m deep. Orientated north-south and filled by [007] a mid orangey brown sandy silt with frequent subangular gravel and a compact consistency.

F. 3: Pit or butt end of ditch [011], with steeply graded sides which curve gently into a concave base, 1.60m wide and 0.72m deep, and seen only in section. Filled by [009] a dark brown silty clay with occasional subangular gravel and a firm consistency, and [010] a slightly mixed deposit of mid brown silty clay and natural (both subsoil and gravel).

References

Bamford, H. M. 1982. *Beaker Domestic Sites in the Fen Edge and East Anglia*. East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 16.

Barrett, J.C. 1980. The pottery of the later Bronze Age in Lowland England, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 46: 297-319.

Brown, N. 1988. A Late Bronze Age Enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 54: 249-302.

Brück, J. 1995, A place for the dead: the role of human remains in Late Bronze Age Britain. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 61: 245-277.

Chowne, P., Cleal, R.M.J., and Fitzpatrick, A.P. forthcoming. *Excavations at Billingborough, Lincolnshire, 1975-8*. Report for English Heritage, Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd, Salisbury.

Clarke, D.L (1970) *The Beaker Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland*. Cambridge University Press.

Dobney, K . and Reilly, K. 1988 A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones *Circaea 5 (2)* 79-96.

Evans, C. forthcoming, 'The Lingwood wells: A waterlogged first millenium BC settlement at Cottenham, Cambridgeshire'.

Gibson, A. M. 1982. *A Study of the Domestic Pottery of the Late Third and Early Second Millennia BC in the British Isles*. Oxford: BAR British Series 107.

Grant, A. 1982 The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates, in Wilson, B., Grigson, C. and Payne, S. (eds) *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*.. BAR.109 (Oxford) 91-108.

Hall, D. and Coles, J. 1994 *Fenland Survey An essay in landscape and persistence.* English Heritage Archaeological Report 1.

Heritage Lincolnshire, 1992 *Archaeological Evaluation at The Meadows, Langtoft, Lincolnshire*

Herne, A. 1991 The flint assemblage. In Longworth, I. H. et al *Excavations at Grimes Graves, Norfolk 1972-6. Fascicule 3. Shaft X: Bronze Age flint, chalk and metal working*. British Museum, London.

Knight, D. 1994 Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery. In Williams, R.J. and Zeepvat,R.J. Bancroft. *The Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlement and Roman Temple-Mausoleum.* Buckinghamshire Archaeol Soc Monograph 7, 381-98.

Knight, D. forthcoming (a) 'The Late Bronze Age pottery from Stickford'. In Knight, D. forthcoming (h) 'A regional ceramic sequence: pottery of the first millennium BCbetween the Humber and the Nene'. In Hill, J. D. and Woodward, *A. Prehistoric Britain..the Ceramic Basis.* Oxford: Oxbow Monograph.

Knight, M. 1998 'The Archaeological Investigation of the Anglia Water Northborough-Etton Watermain and Excavation of a Terminal Bronze Age Settllement at Nine Bridges. *CAU Report No. 287*

Lane, T.W. *Prehistoric Sites from the Fenland Management Project in Lincolnshire.* Lincolnshire Archaeology Heritage Report Series.

Lucas, G. 1997. *An Archaeological Evaluation at the Tower Works, Fengate, Peterborough.* CAU Report 206.

Mellars, P.A. 1976 Settlement patterns and industrial variability in the British Mesolithic. In G.de G. Sieveking, I.H. Longworth and K.E. Wilson (eds.) *Problems in Economic and Social Archaeology,* Duckworth, London, pp.357-399.

Middleton, P. 1998 *Proposal For Phosphate Sampling Programme at Baston Mo.2 Quarry, Langtoft, Lincolnshire.* Peterborough Regional College, Archaeological Research Group.

Mords, E.L. 1994. Production and distribution of pottery and salt in Iron Age Britain: a review. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric* Society 60, 371-93.

Needham, S. & Spence, T. 1997, 'Refuse and the formation of middens'. *Antiquity 71, 77-90.*

Needham, S. 1995. 'A bowl ftom Maidscross, Suffolk; burials with pottery in the PostDeverel-Rimbury period'. In Kinnes, 1. and Varndell, G., eds *Unbaked Urns of RudelyShape.* Essays on British and Iron Age Pottery for lan Longworth. Oxford; OxbowMonograph 55, 159-71.

Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group 1997. *The Study of later Prehistoric Pottery.. GeneralPolicies and Guidelines from Analysis and Publication.* PCRG Occasional Papers 1 & 2.

Pryor, F.M.M. 1998. Welland Bank Quarry, South Lincolnshire. *Current Archaeology* 160, 139-45.

Pryor, F.M.M. forthcoming. *Archaeology and Environment of the Flag Fen Basin,Peterborough*. English Heritage Archaeology Report.

Silver, I. A. 1969 'The ageing of domestic animals' in Brothwell, D. and Higgs, E. S. (eds) *Science in Archaeology* (London, Thames and Hudson) 283-302

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT BASTON No. 2 QUARRY - LANGTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE

Interim Report

Kasia Gdaniec

Introduction

Archaeological excavation work has just been completed in a *c.* two hectare field at Langtoft, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 131 130) which forms the northern third of Phase 4 of ARC's Baston No. 2 sand and gravel quarry.

Field evaluation had taken place in 1992 (Heritage Lincolnshire), during which a number of features relating to Late Bronze Age and Roman occupation were in evidence. The latter evidence mainly affected the southern part of the field (not available for excavation at this time) and while the prehistoric evidence was expected to be investigated during this excavation campaign, its extent was poorly understood from the earlier evaluation results.

Results

Within the two hectare area 86 archaeological cut features were found and investigated. They broadly divided into two principal phases of activity: one relating to a terminal Bronze Age phase of settlement (roughly dating within a bracketed range of 1100-800 BC), and the second relating to early Medieval settlement and field/enclosure systems (*c.* 12th-13th century AD). No features could definitely be ascribed to a Roman phase of activity, although abraded sherds were recovered as residual or intrusive finds in other contexts.

The last major episode evident was represented in two upstanding cross headlands which presumably formed during cultivation in the Medieval fields that once occupied this part of the terrace. Traces of the ridges and furrows accompanied these upstanding features and were seen in places to truncate elements of the early Medieval settlement - providing a useful stratigraphic sequence for at least these two phases of land use.

Further to these major elements, one large feature that occurred in the north-east corner of the site provided an intriguing assemblage of Early Bronze Age pottery and flint. Some earlier Neolithic material may also have been present although this is something that will be clarified during the post-excavation processing stage. All of this early material came from what appeared to be a relatively shallow periglacial feature (roughly 0.30-0.40m deep), slowly infilled with water borne silts. It was certainly cut

through by a large pit in the Early Bronze Age (from which large heavily decorated sherds of Beaker-type and other decorated forms came), but this pit truncated levels which incorporated what appeared to be earlier, Neolithic, material. No other contemporary features were discovered on the site - it may be assumed that any such evidence lies beneath the Outgang Road, or even further east in the quarried landscape.

A hand-dug test pit survey, conducted on a 20m grid across the site during the stripping phase, yielded a useful artefact distribution that was later confirmed by the excavation results. Artefact-bearing headland soils and the shallow B horizon generally produced a light scatter of finds across the northern third to half of the site, but evidently more 'dense' towards the centre and eastern parts of this zone. While occasional finds came from southern and western test pits many produced no finds at all. The archaeological pits and ditches investigated in this zone also produced very few to no artefacts, depicting this area as being marginal to the main area of occupation in both later prehistoric and early Medieval phases.

Late Bronze Age Occupation

Of the 86 investigated features, about one third (25) were part of a dispersed group of large diameter pits covering most of the excavation area. It is likely that this number may enlarge following further scrutiny of the data during the post-excavation stage, when the morphology and infilling sequences of other (undated) pits will be examined. While many of the pits had diameters of between 2-3m, 15 were substantially larger - between 3-5m. Such large features have been interpreted as wells. What will be more interesting to research will be whether they are all likely to have served this purpose, or whether the largest diameter features ought to be interpreted as serving another process - connected with hide processing, for example. Aspects concerning water contamination, an increase in mineralisation *etc.* may be of use in this study.

At a very crude level of analysis, the pits can be grouped into two types - those that were used and subsequently back-filled, and those that were left as open features upon disuse. The latter group displayed a distinctively different infilling sequence and were, on the whole, devoid of finds. Those pits that had been backfilled contained an artefact repertoire typical of these features, including quantities of burnt stone, pottery and animal bone fragments (or whole bones), worked bone, briquetage and other less distinctive fired clay material and charcoal-rich lenses. Pollen spot samples have so far shown that soil conditions within the pits are now too poor for adequate pollen preservation in most of them, although better preserved pollen exists in two pits - useful for the reconstruction of the former local environment.

Three post-built structures were also excavated. These occurred in the north-east quarter of the site which, incidentally, coincides with the location of pits containing the most settlement-related artefacts. While none of these structures have been interpreted as dwellings, and instead relate to structures probably used for elevated storage, it is thought that they may have existed in close proximity to houses. The absence of definite house structures poses problems for the ultimate reconstruction of the Late Bronze Age settlement layout, but may be able to be surmised from the available evidence. It is probable that dwelling structures may have had only very shallow 'foundations', indeed not penetrating the depth of the topsoil at that time, using other aspects of construction technique to provide their stability (ground beams and roof ring beams *etc.*). The presence or absence and variety of artefact evidence may provide clues regarding the relative (or at least conjectured) location of houses.

The artefact assemblage recovered from the Late Bronze Age settlement is, however, of great significance, dating, as it does, to the very terminal years surrounding the transition from Bronze to Iron Ages. During this period a number of important changes occurred in settlement layout, location and supporting economy. Patterns and the display of wealth changed, and religious expression/ritual demonstration appears to have followed suit. Pottery styles changed to accommodate differences in food preparation, consumption and storage, and metal tools/receptacles were on the increase. While no metalwork was recovered from the site, the pottery forms are distinctly those of the Post-Deverel Rimbury tradition. Accompanying the pottery is a small, but significant given its early date, assemblage of briquetage (fired clay vessels designed for the production and storage of salt).

Archaeological excavations on sites of this date are still comparatively few, and they need the support of tightly dated sequences to enable their evolution to be understood. Radiocarbon dating of material associated with the pottery and briquetage will be crucial for this study, and for this site's incorporation into Lincolnshire's prehistoric settlement history.

The Early Medieval Settlement

Centrally situated in the northern third of the site, were small enclosures and beam slots that were part of an early Medieval settlement, dating relatively to the 12th/13th centuries AD on pottery evidence. Shallow gullies - the almost ghost-like bases of once deeper gullies and slots - remained from possible building outlines partly supported by deeply bedded posts. Larger linear features seemed to enclose further areas, perhaps paddocks or garden enclosures associated with the buildings, some of which were cut through by later pits. Pottery of the Stamford Ware tradition - distinctive by its green/yellowish surface glaze - was recovered from the feature fills of this settlement, and was also incorporated into the

earthwork depressions (uppermost fills) of potentially earlier features (*i.e.* of the terminal Bronze Age pit group) truncated by the firmly dated Medieval ones. A quarter cut coin had been recovered from the investigation of the B horizon during the test pit survey which, pending specialist advice, appears to be an issue of the Henry I period (1100-1135AD; Mackay pers. comm.), neatly endorsing the relative dates from the Stamford Ware pottery.

The only stratigraphic relationship denoting land use change occurred in this area - in that, on abandonment, the possibly levelled settlement features were superceded by the headland formation, which in turn aided the better preservation of the settlement remains. Features that lay beyond the headland were notably truncated, and it assumed that any small, shallow features may not have survived the effects of Medieval and subsequent ploughing.

Many of the features extending out from the main core of occupation contained little in the way of datable cultural material, a point which needs relating back to the results of the 1992 field evaluation in which many of the investigated features produced no finds and thus could not be dated. On the grounds that a Roman site was established at the southern end of the field in 1992 (beyond the limits of this excavation), it was reasonably assumed that contemporary features may have extended further north. Given the relationships of otherwise undated ditches to the early Medieval settlement remains, and the observation of occasional abraded sherds of Roman pottery as residual elements within them, it can now be demonstrated that the narrow linears extending southwards from the present excavation area are part of the field systems surrounding the early Medieval settlement.

Conclusion

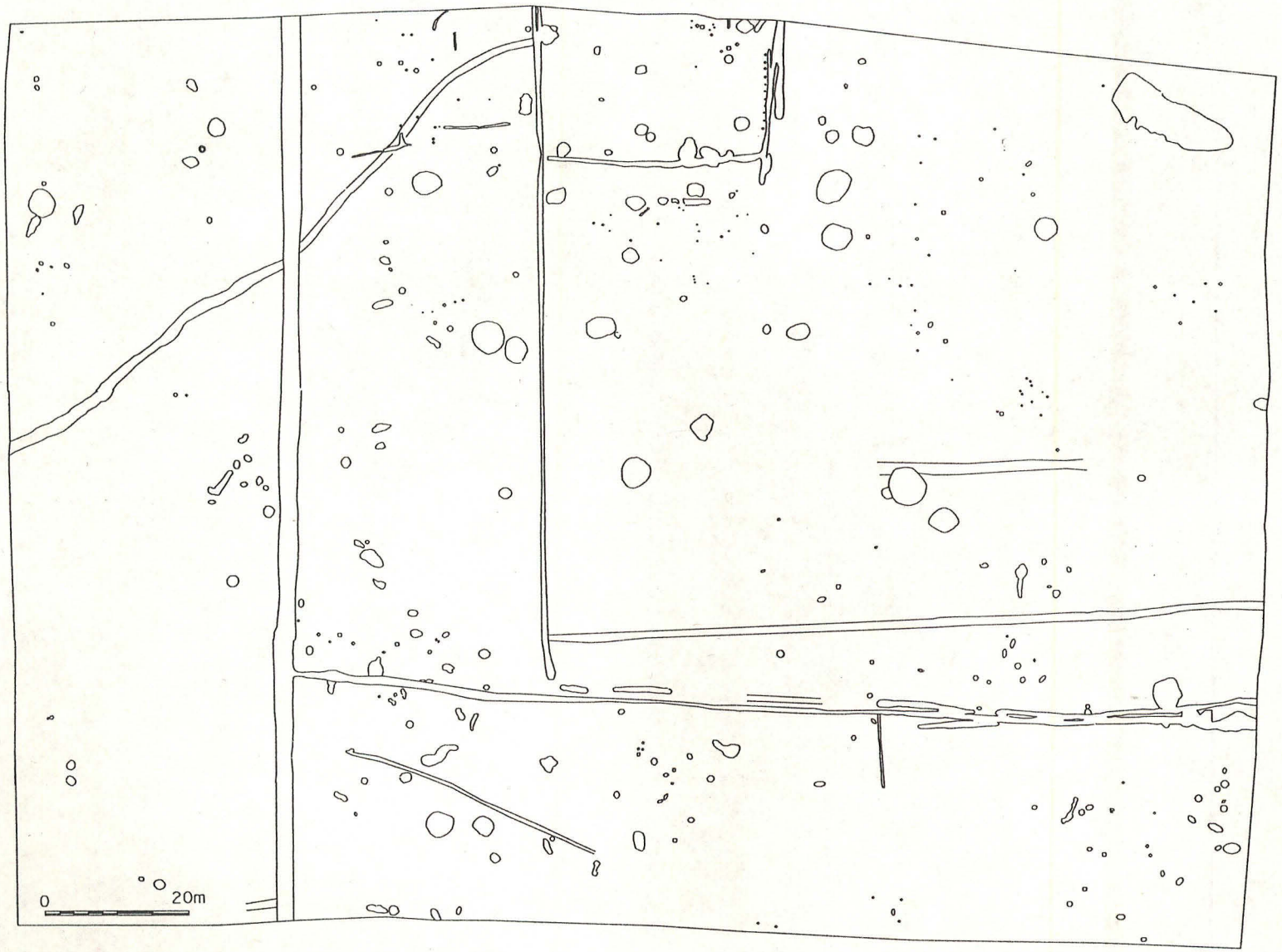
The area excavation at Langtoft has provided significant information regarding two separate episodes of settlement. Both are assumed to have been relatively short-lived since their artefact assemblages do not, in their pre-analysis state, indicate longevity of use or style.

The prehistoric settlement remains will be able to provide a significant comparative example for a number of contemporary sites which have recently been the subject of investigation in other contract-led programmes or during English Heritage's *Fenland Management Project* (*e.g.* Welland Bank Quarry, Market Deeping; the A15 Deeping By-pass; Stickford, Lincs. and Northborough, Cambs.). Of particular importance in this comparative work will be the information available from Welland Bank Quarry, since this site had well-preserved buildings, contemporary old land surface (buried soils) and pit groups which can be used as a model for Langtoft where the preservation qualities and presence of dwelling

structures are lacking. Radiocarbon dating for the important pottery and briquetage assemblages will be necessary for the chronological location of this transitional Bronze Age/Iron Age site in the regional histories.

Proximity to Roman occupation was confirmed by the presence of abraded Roman pottery sherds, but the main core of this occupation exists beyond the limits of this excavation area.

Unexpected beneath the upstanding headlands were the remains of an early Medieval settlement. These sites are important landmarks in their own right since they are frequently omitted from village plans, often drawn up later in the Medieval period when the village tithes and plots are documented. While information regarding the site's economic base is not expected to be produced from a phase of detailed analysis, a discussion of the features and their contents may provide adequate information for the settlement in terms of its local setting.



LANGTOFT 1998 BASE PLAN