

**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at West Deeping (King Street),  
Lincolnshire.  
WDP02**

**Ricky Patten**  
with contributions by Mark Knight, Gladys Monteil,  
Rachel Ballantyne, and Andy Clarke.

**Cambridge Archaeological Unit**  
University of Cambridge  
May 2002  
Report No: 478

Event 413955

Source 418566

36145 4183966 Neolithic

35803 4183500 Bronze Age

36146 4183967 Later Prehistoric

35751 4183444 Neolithic/Bronze Age

33224 4133224 Later Prehistoric

**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at West Deeping (King Street),**

**Lincolnshire.**

**WDP02**

36147 4183968 Iron Age

33472 4133472 Roman

35805 4183502 Roman

35124 4135124 Undated

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## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of a proposed quarry North of the village of West Deeping centred on T<sub>F</sub> 511175/310000. Sixteen trenches were excavated all of which contained archaeology. The evaluation aimed to answer a specific set of questions derived from the extensive desktop and geophysical survey. Prehistoric activity from the Late Neolithic through to the Iron Age was recorded. Possible Bronze Age activity was evidenced within a number of different trenches at various locations, however, it was not possible to securely date the co-axial 'droveway' to this period. The state of preservation below the headland banks seemed little better than elsewhere, and there was no evidence for the survival of upcast from any feature. The triple ditch system actually consisted of five separate ditches, with the middle ditch being significantly deeper than the others. The settlement was revealed to have probable Iron Age origins and to have been occupied throughout the Roman period flourishing in the 3rd to 4th centuries AD. Fragments of building stone from a number of ditches within the trenches suggest the possibility of there having been a Roman stone built structure.

## Introduction

### *Circumstances of the project*

An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd. on behalf of R.M.C. Aggregates Eastern Counties Ltd. The aim was to determine the extent and nature of the archaeology recorded in the extensive geophysical and desktop survey (Johnson 1998). The work was carried out between 11th February and 15th March 2002 by a team from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

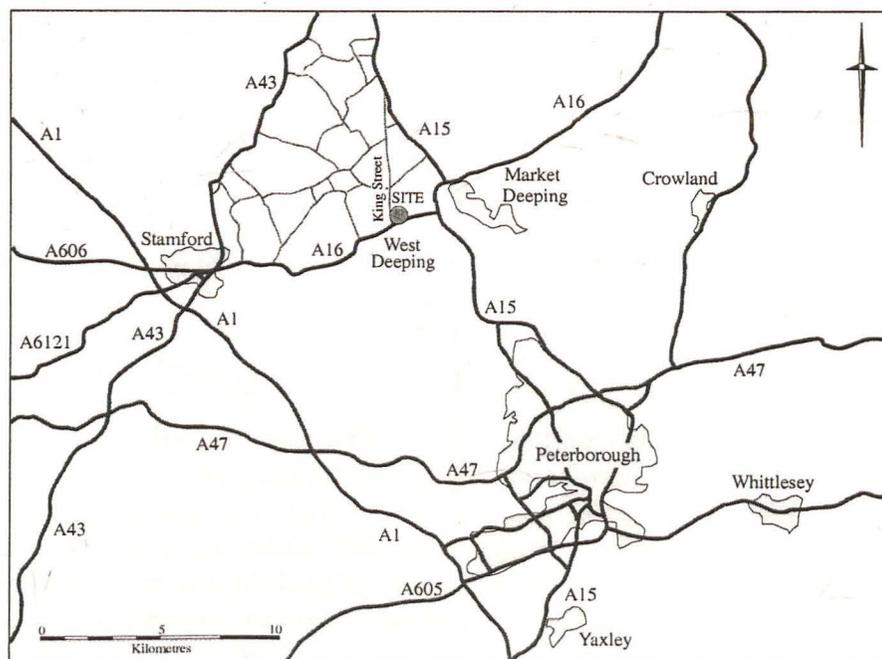


Figure 1: Site location.

### *Excavation Strategy*

Sixteen trenches were opened at predetermined places within the proposed evaluation area. Combinations of trenches were used in order to answer a series of specific questions that had arisen as a result of the desktop survey and geophysics (Johnson 1998):

- A potential blank area in the Northwest corner of the site was identified. Fieldwalking had produced worked flint material from the northern most fields but very little prehistoric pottery. Trenches 1 and 2 were opened to investigate the possibility of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity.
- Through geophysics and aerial photography three ringforms were identified. The two least convincing of which were targeted by Trenches 11 and 14 (there was a trackway still in use by farmers which ran through the centre of Trench 11, therefore it was decided to excavate two separate trenches thus creating Trench 16).
- The geophysics and aerial photographs had shown a series of double linears arcing across the landscape which were thought to be part of a Bronze Age co-axial system. Trenches 3 and 4 were opened at right angles across the 'droveway'. Trench 3 was excavated at a point where the feature was overlain by a headland bank to investigate the chances of improved preservation.
- An area of suspected Bronze Age activity coming off the co-axial droveway system was highlighted. Trench 5 was to be opened across a slight mound, however, this would place it too close to the electricity pylons and so it was moved to the North. Trench 10 was a 20m by 20m area opened to investigate a linear coming away from the 'droveway' and to investigate a concentration of pit forms.
- Areas of concentrations of pit forms were highlighted in the geophysics and aerial photographs. Three trenches 6, 7 and 9 were opened to investigate and determine the character of the pits and to compare the archaeology present at different locations on the site.
- A Northeast-Southwest triple ditch system was targeted at a point where a headland bank had formed over it. It had been excavated at different locations in the past and thought to be Iron Age in origin. Trench 15 was opened across it at right angles to assess the potential for improved preservation beneath the bank.
- The nature of the presumed Roman settlement was examined to determine its complexity in the light of excavations at Rectory Farm nearby. Trenches 12 and 13 were excavated East-West and North-South across the settlement area.
- An area of micro-topographic features were studied in the hope that ditch banks may have survived and preserved material beneath them. An area 15m by 15m (Trench 8) was opened to investigate this.

The trenches were opened using a fully supervised tracked excavator. A sample of the features exposed were all hand excavated with one metre slots through linears and the half sectioning of any pits and postholes. Each trench was planned at 1:50 and sections drawn at 1:10, while individual contexts were recorded using the unit modified version of the MoLAS system. Individual features were assigned feature numbers and all contexts excavated were given individual context numbers (e.g. [a cut], [a fill]).

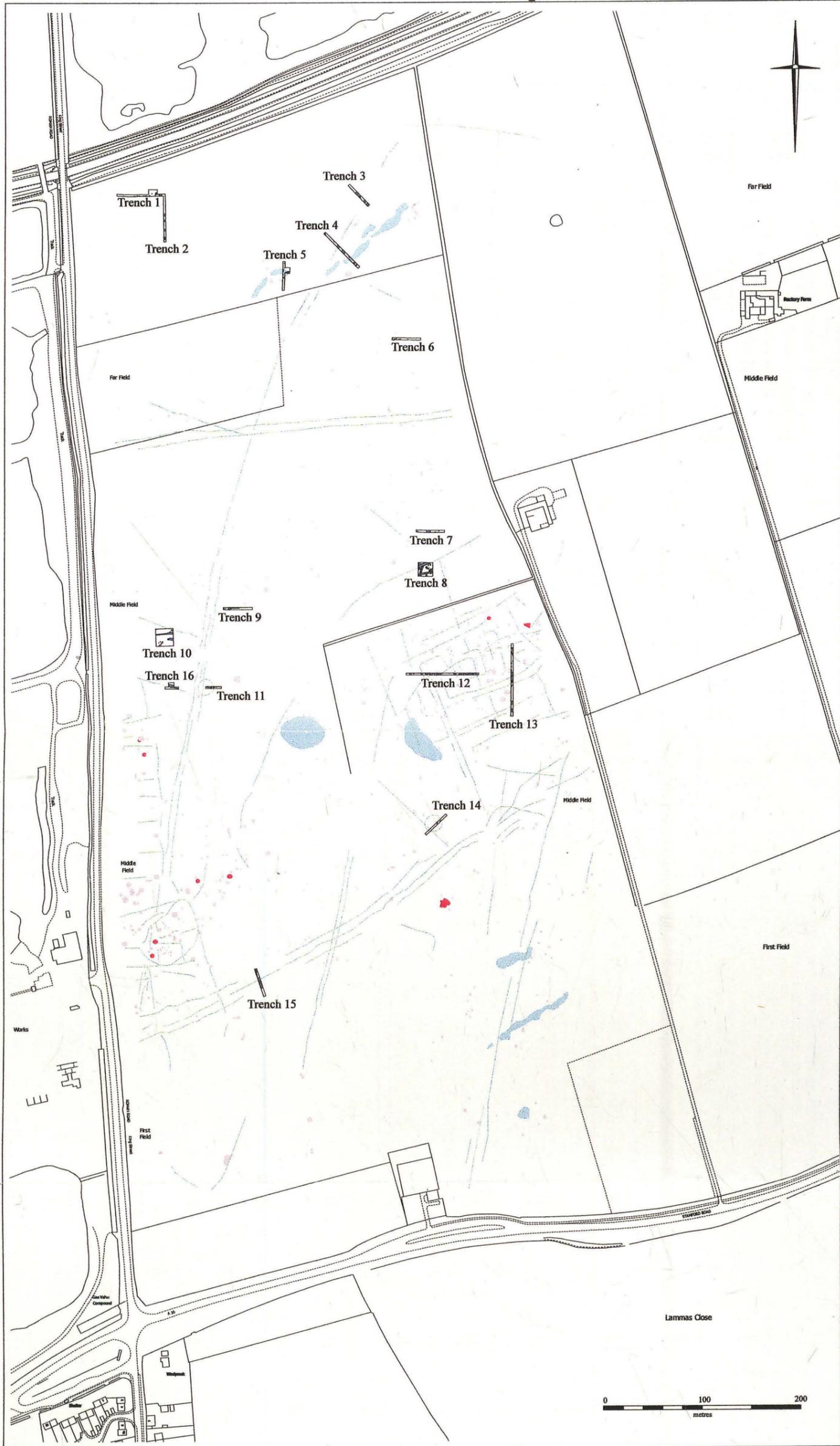


Figure 2: Trench location plan superimposed on the geophysics plot

## Excavation Results

### *Trench 1 (50m long orientated E-W)*

Sixteen features were recorded within this trench, ten of which were excavated, seven pits (F.30, 38, 51, 77, 79, and 80), two ditches (F.52 and 78) and a posthole (F.53). Six further pits were left unexcavated. The most significant of these features was F.51, a small pit 0.45m in diameter and 0.29m deep that contained a number of worked flints and chips and spalls which all seemed to have been deposited within the eastern half of the feature. To the West was the terminal end of a small gully (F.52) 0.70m wide and 0.25m deep that produced very little artefactual material with the exception of a few chips and spalls. These two features suggested the possibility of further activity within the area and a small 5m x 5m box was machined extending from the trench to the North. This area produced no similar features, many of the features that were revealed in this box turned out to be natural.

### *Trench 2 (50m long orientated N-S)*

Four East-West linears and a possible pit were exposed when the trench was opened. Three of the linears were excavated (F.37, 75, and 76). They were all very similar in character being between 2.00m and 3.00m wide and 0.12m and 0.18m deep with a mid brown silty sandy clay fill. These were interpreted as Post-Medieval furrows, they fit the known alignment for furrows previously seen within this field. There was no further evidence of any prehistoric activity within the trench apart from an unexcavated pit.

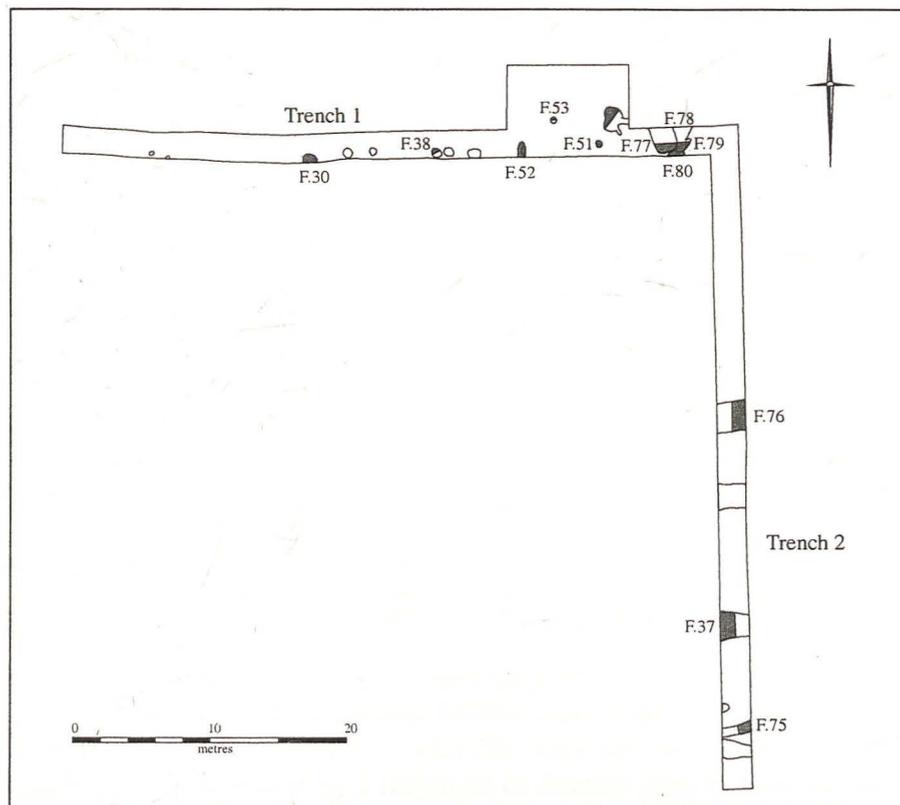
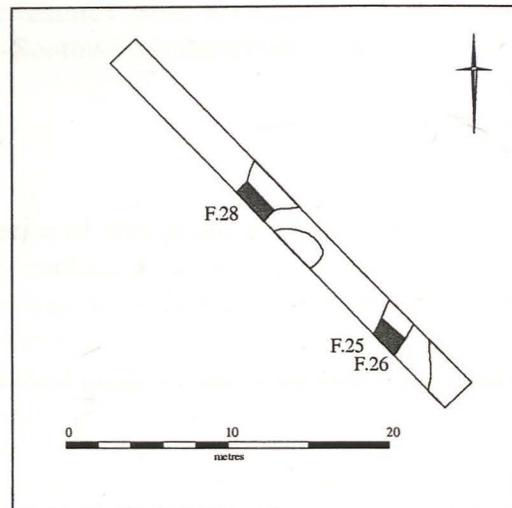


Figure 3: Trench 1 and 2 showing features and excavated slots.

### *Trench 3 (30m long orientated NW-SE)*

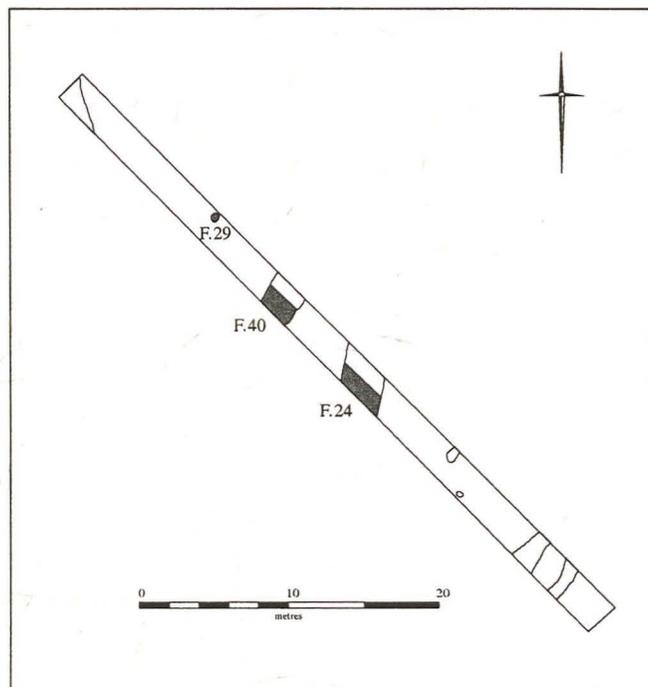
Six features were present within this trench, four of which were excavated (F.25, 26, 27, and 28). There was evidence for the survival of the headland bank at a depth of 0.25-0.37m along the length of the trench. The preservation of features beneath the headland was similar to trench 4 where there was no headland. Associated banks or a palaeosol were not preserved. Features 25 (1.26m wide and 0.40m deep) and 26 (1.90m wide and 0.52m deep) were a recut ditch (F.25 being the recut) orientated East-West through the trench. Feature 27 was a small posthole 0.32m in diameter and 0.13m deep cut into F.28. Feature 28 was a shallow linear 1.95m wide and 0.17m deep. Neither feature contained any artefactual material.



**Figure 4:** Trench 3 showing features and excavated slots.

### *Trench 4 (50m long orientated NW-SE)*

Within trench 4 five features were initially exposed, three of these were excavated (F.24, 29, and 40). Two of these were believed to represent the 'droveway' (F.24 and 40) while the third was a solitary posthole. Upon excavation it seems unlikely that the two 'droveway' ditches were contemporary. Linear F.40 was 3.10m wide by 0.85m deep while F.24 was 3.20m wide and 0.42m deep, half the depth of F.40. Feature 40 was orientated Northeast-Southwest while F.24 was orientated more North Northeast - South Southwest. Feature 40 contained three fills, a dark grey sandy silt basal fill [88], followed by a redeposited natural slump [87] and overlain by a light grey brown sandy silt [86]. Feature 24, however, contained two fills a greyish brown clayey silt [53] basal fill and a mid brown clayey silt [52]. No dateable artefacts were recovered from F.40, however, from a secure context within F.24 a fragment of Roman pottery was recovered. While this provides a Roman date for the southern ditch F.24 the morphology of F.40 could suggest that this may be of an earlier date. These two features were not contemporary



**Figure 5:** Trench 4 showing features and excavated slots

and may not represent the two linears which were detected in the geophysics and aerial survey. In an attempt to locate a contemporary for either linear, the trench was then extended to the southeast. Four further features were revealed none of which were excavated. Two of these were Northeast-Southwest linears that could potentially be contemporary with F.40.

*Trench 5 (30m long orientated N-S)*

Upon initial opening, the trench revealed a series of five postholes (F.31, 32, 33, 34, and 35) and a pit (F.36). Each of the postholes contained varying amounts of charcoal and formed a slightly curved line down the trench. A further 5m x 5m box was opened on the eastern side of the trench to determine whether the postholes formed part of a structure. Instead a large pit (F.74) 2.00m long, 1.50m wide and 1.10m deep was revealed flanked by a posthole on the eastern (F.84) and the western (F.85) side. The upper fill of the pit was rich in charcoal and within the pit several large fragments of timber had been deposited. The largest of these was a section of trunk from which the bark had been partially removed with a bronze tool. A clear relationship between the pit and the western posthole alignment was not recorded within the trench but they are probably contemporary.

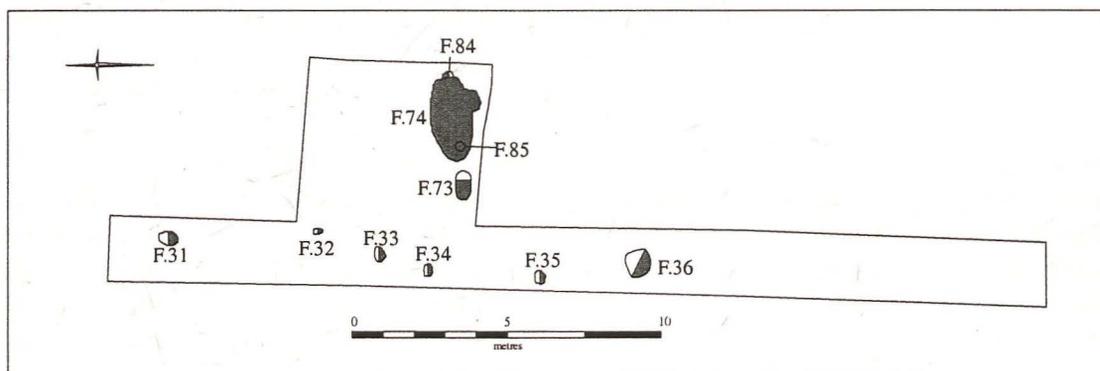


Figure 6: Trench 5 showing features and excavated slots.

*Trench 6 (30m long orientated E-W)*

Eleven possible features were exposed when the trench was opened. Five of the features were excavated of which only two were archaeological (F.39 and 72). Feature 39 was a shallow pit 0.80m in diameter and 0.14m deep, and F.72 the terminal end of a North-South orientated gully 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep. Neither feature produced artefacts. The other six features within the trench were pit forms, and of three trenches targeted upon pit clusters, this trench had the greatest density.

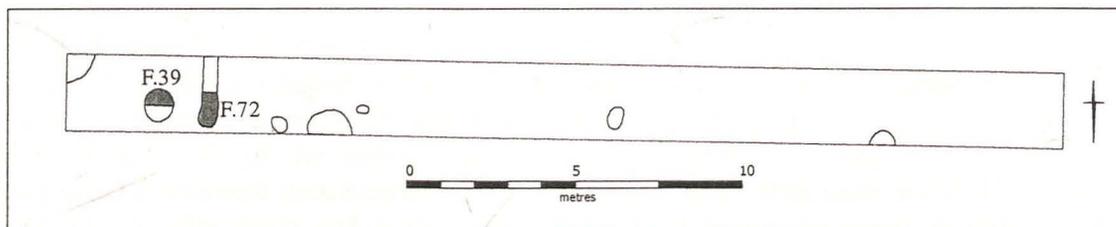
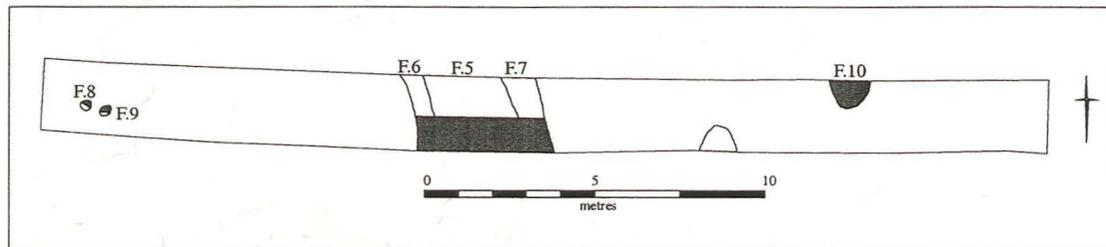


Figure 7: Trench 6 showing features and excavated slots.

### *Trench 7 (30m long orientated E-W)*

Seven possible features were exposed when the trench was opened, six of which were excavated and shown to be archaeological in nature (F.5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10). Features 8 and 9 were small postholes to the West of the trench 0.30m in diameter and 0.13m to 0.15m deep. There were no signs of other postholes within the trench and it is difficult to suggest whether these formed part of a structure. Feature 10 was a pit 1.15m wide and 0.40m deep to the East of the trench, to the West of this was another that was not excavated. Features 5, 6, and 7 were a series of recut ditches orientated North-South across the trench. Feature 5 was the most recent of the recuts (3.30m wide and 0.50m deep) and produced fragments of coal and clay pipe that suggest a Post Medieval date.



**Figure 8:** Trench 7 showing features and excavated slots.

### *Trench 8 (15m x 15m square)*

Twenty-two features were revealed when the area was opened, thirteen of which were excavated (F.11-23). Evidence of prehistoric activity was recovered in the form of a posthole (F.16), a gully (F.15), and a series of pits, five of which were excavated (F.17, 18, 19, 21, and 22) and seven which were not. The pits were of varying sizes, F.18 contained a fragment of animal bone while F.21 contained burnt clay. Two small Northwest-Southeast linears were also found in association with the pits, both terminated within the trench opposing each other. The terminal end of one, F.23, was excavated and proved to be 0.62m wide and 0.16m deep, the other was left unexcavated. Both features were truncated by later ditches (F.11 and 13). To the West of the cluster of pits and postholes was a slightly curved ditch, F.12. This contained a single fragment of bone and its relationship with the two later ditches (F.11 and 13), which cut across it, could suggest that it might be contemporary with the pits. Almost at right angles to F.12 was linear F.20 orientated East-West, 1.78m wide and 0.40m deep. This produced no artefactual material but the nature of the fill (mid grey sandy silt [41] and redeposited natural [42]) suggests a possible prehistoric date, it could be associated with F.12.

Orientated Northeast-Southwest and East-West across the area were three linears (F.11, 13 and 14). Feature 11 orientated slightly off East-West was 1.14m wide and 0.20m deep and produced material suggesting a Roman date. It truncated the two earlier features F.12 and F.23 and it is unlikely that it has any association with any other feature within the trench. The ditch identified by the geophysics orientated Northeast-Southwest was a series of recut ditches F.13 (2.40m wide and 0.43m deep) and 14 (0.65m wide and 0.43m deep) with F.14 being the more recent cut. A fragment of pottery from F.14 suggests that it is a Post-Medieval ditch and may be the same feature as F.5 in trench 7. Although this trench was opened to assess the

potential for bank survival there was no evidence of upcast material from this feature, or any other within the opened area. Although the soil was slightly deeper within this trench no differentiation could be made within the subsoil.

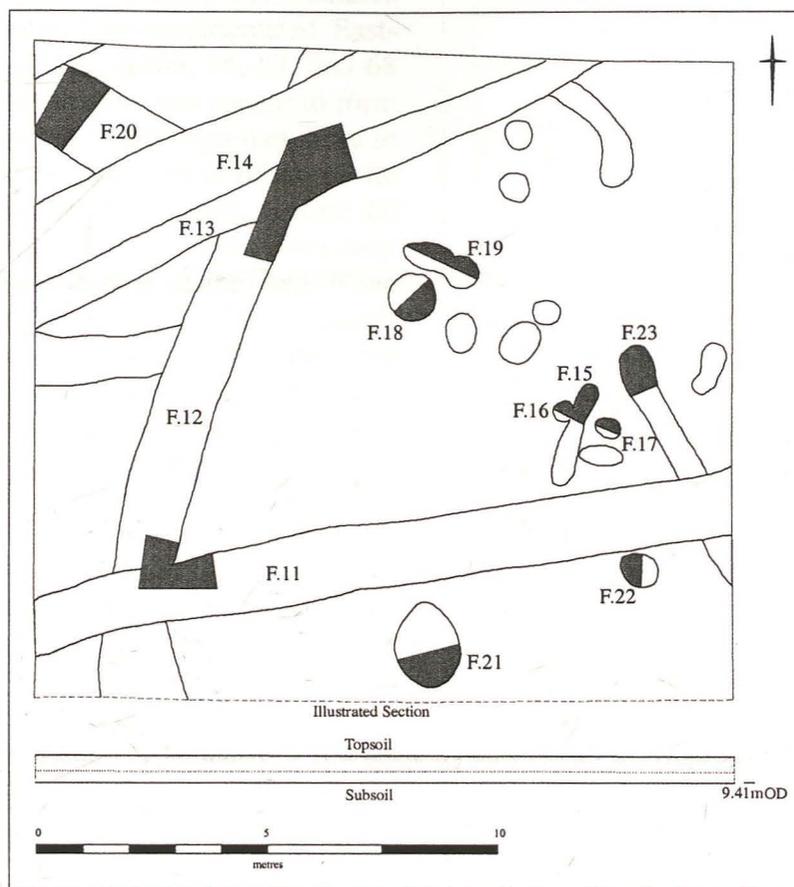


Figure 9: Trench 8 showing features, excavated slots and the topsoil and subsoil profile.

*Trench 9 (30m long orientated E-W)*

When opened, Trench 9 produced five features two of which were excavated (F.49 and 50). Feature 50 was a pit 1.76m by 1.10m and 0.40m deep containing a large assemblage of animal bone (115 fragments) and some flint. It was cut by a later feature F.49 which was the remnants of an East-West orientated furrow 0.56m wide and 0.11m deep.

With the exception of F.50 there was no suggestion of a concentration of pits, or their date. In this respect Trench 9 was very similar to Trenches 6 and 7 which produced a similar density of features. Feature 50 is significantly different from the features found in Trenches 6 and 7 due to its size and the amount of material recovered from it.

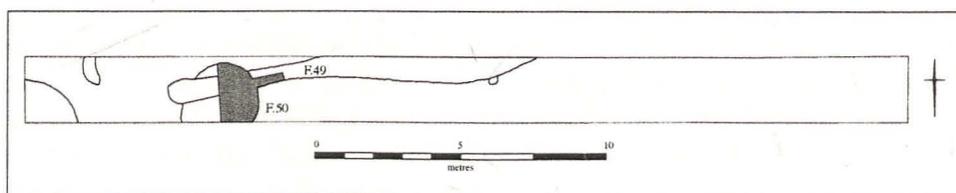
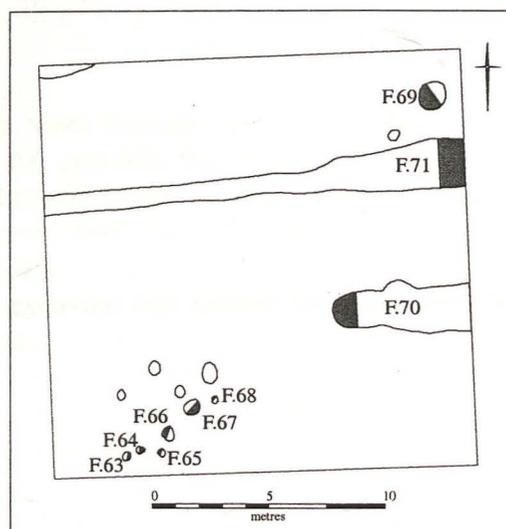


Figure 10: Trench 9 showing features and slots

### *Trench 10 (20m x 20m square)*

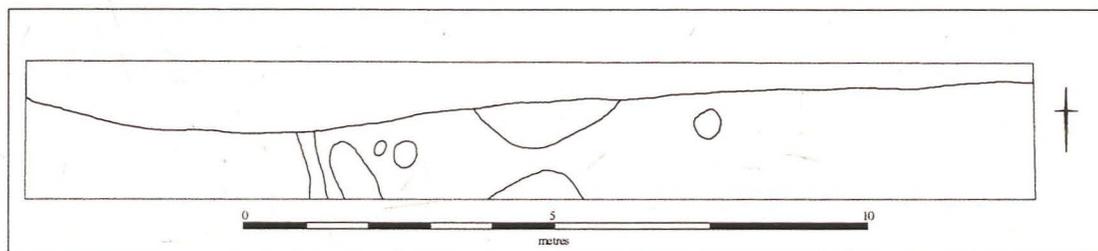
Fifteen features were revealed, nine of which were excavated (F.63-71). Features 70 and 71 were furrows orientated East-West. Features 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 68 were postholes that did not appear to form any type of structure although they were in close association with each other in the southwest corner of the area. Feature 69 was a pit 1.05m diameter and 0.44m deep in the Northeast corner of the area. None of the features produced any datable material. The linear seen on the geophysics plot and the aerial survey was not present within the opened area and it is unlikely that it was one of the furrows.



**Figure 11:** Trench 10 showing features and excavated slots.

### *Trench 11 (16m long orientated E-W)*

Trench 11 produced eight features all of which were planned. However, due to the high water table at this point and the heavy rainfall experienced, the trench became unworkable. In order to preserve the archaeology until better conditions no excavation took place. No evidence was visible in the initial machining to suggest a ring ditch and surviving mound or palaeosol although this is not conclusive proof of its absence.



**Figure 12:** Trench 11 showing features.

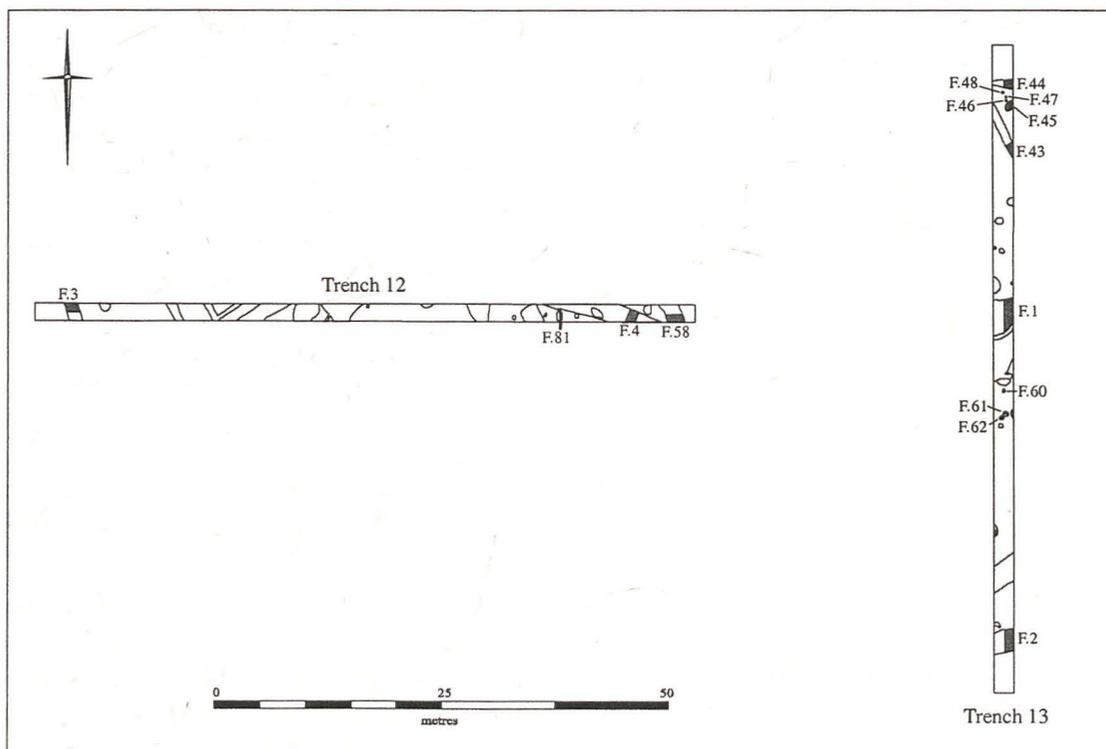
### *Trench 12 (75m long orientated E-W)*

Within trench 12 twenty-one features were revealed of which four were excavated (F.3, 4, 58, and 81). During the Rectory Farm excavations of the Roman settlement improved preservation was recorded beneath furrows and this was anticipated within trenches 12 and 13, however, there were no surviving furrows. Three ditches were excavated (F.3, 4, and 58) and a pit (F.81). Feature 4 was a Northwest-Southeast orientated ditch 1.60m wide and 0.45m deep. It contained a light grey fill as opposed to the mid to dark grey fill of many of the other features within the trench, it was truncated by a later pit. It is possible that this ditch may represent some earlier phase of settlement or enclosure, the slightly different orientation and fill could mean that the feature was part of an Iron Age precursor. Features 3 and 58 were North-South orientated ditches at either end of the trench and have been interpreted as Roman. Feature 58 was the larger of the two, 2.00m wide and 0.50m deep, and produced a significant amount of Roman pottery. Feature 81 was a Roman pit 1.20m by 0.60m

and 0.16m deep and contained Roman pottery. Many of the unexcavated features had Roman pottery on the surface that was plotted and collected.

*Trench 13 (75m long orientated N-S)*

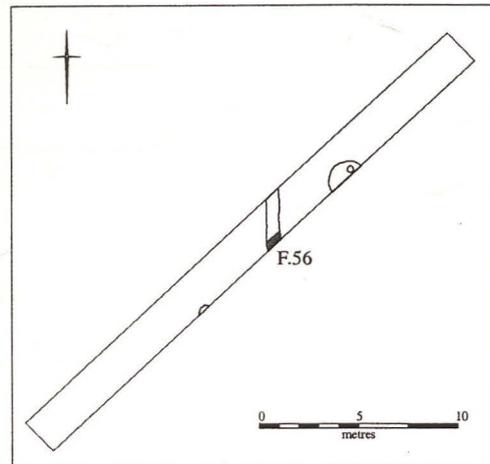
Upon opening trench 13 twenty-five features were revealed eleven of which were excavated (F.1, 2, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 60, 61, and 62). Six of these features were postholes (F.46, 47, 48, 60, 61, and 62) at either end of the trench. They produced no artefacts and within the confines of the trench there was no discernible pattern. Feature 1 was an East-West orientated ditch 3.05m wide and 1.03m deep, (due to the high water table it was not possible to fully excavate this feature so auger samples were taken from the basal fill for environmental analysis). A significant quantity of Roman pottery was discovered in the upper fills of the ditch. This consisted of both colour-coated wares and grey wares in a number of different forms along with a Roman bone pin in the shape of an axe. Large fragments of probable building stone together with iron nails were also recovered suggesting that a stone built structure was present within the vicinity. The lack of building stone within the other fields would support this hypothesis. Within the lower fills of F.1 were large fragments of Iron Age pottery unlikely to have been residual. These could represent an earlier phase of this ditch, perhaps it was part of an Iron Age precursor that was reused and recut by the Romans. Three other Roman ditches were excavated F.2, 43, and 45. Feature 44 was a possible Medieval ditch orientated East-West. Although it produced no artefactual material it was cut from a slightly higher level than the other features.



**Figure 13:** Trench 12 and 13 showing features and excavated slots.

*Trench 14 (30m long orientated NE-SW)*

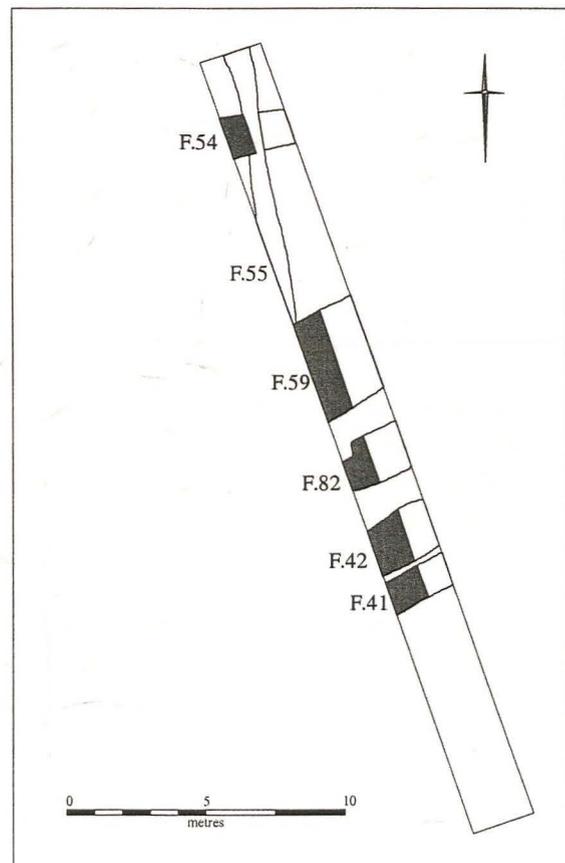
Within the trench, four features were revealed none of which appeared to be part of a ring ditch. There was no evidence of a mound or preserved palaeosol, with the topsoil coming down straight on to the gravels. The only linear within the trench (the only feature excavated) F.56 was a Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch 0.85m wide and 0.20m deep and contained no artefactual material. There was no evidence of a curve on the ditch suggesting that it was not the ring ditch. The trench was too wet to undertake the excavation of other features.



**Figure 14:** Trench 14 showing features and excavated slots.

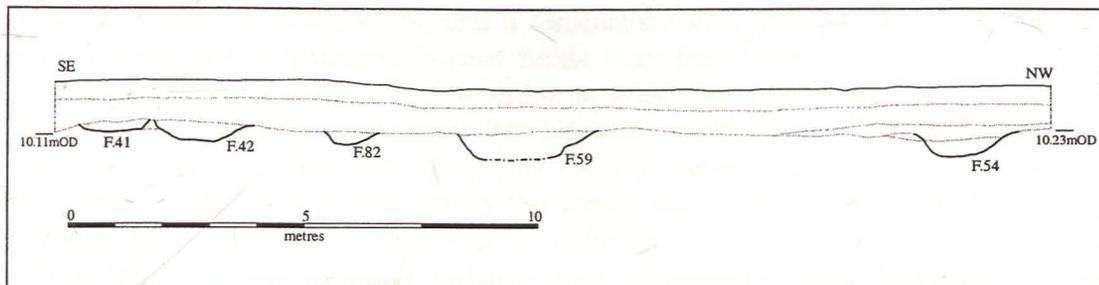
*Trench 15 (30m long orientated NW-SE)*

As a result of the headland bank this trench was significantly deeper than any of the others, 0.90m at its deepest. However, the bank was not evidently associated with any of the ditches exposed. Under the headland there was no trace of a bank associated with any of the ditches or any evidence of improved preservation. Six features (F.41, 42, 54, 55, 59, and 82) were excavated, all ditches. Feature 55 was a Northwest-Southeast orientated ditch 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep. The alignment was different to the other ditches within the trench and it cut F.54 suggesting a later Post Medieval date for the feature. Features 41, 42, 54, 59 and 82 were Northeast-Southwest orientated ditches and represent the main triple ditch system identified by the geophysics. Features 42 and 54 had similar characteristics, F.42 was 1.7m wide and 0.37m deep while F.54 was 1.45m wide and 0.40m deep, and it is likely that these represent the two outer ditches. It may be that F.41 and 82 were extensions or later recuts to one side of the triple ditch system. Feature 59 was the central ditch of the triple ditch system and was significantly different to any of the other ditches. It was 3.80m wide and 1.14m deep and showed no signs of any recuts. (As with F.1 it was not possible to fully excavate this feature and so auger samples were taken.) The



**Figure 15:** Trench 15 showing features and excavated slots.

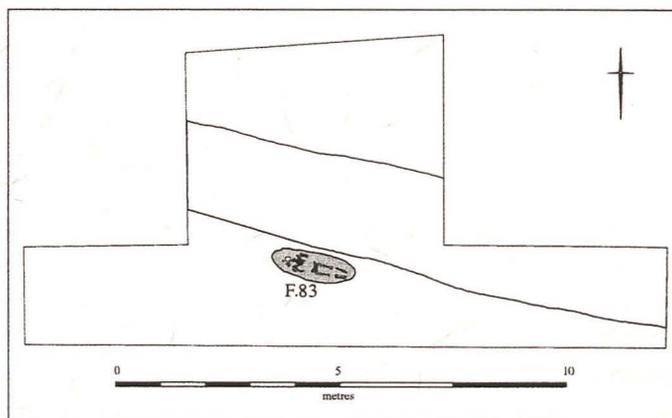
upcast from this would have produced a significant bank. The dimensions of this feature suggest that it is unlikely that the triple ditch system here was a 'droveway' or used as a stock enclosure.



**Figure 16:** Section across trench 15 showing the multiple ditch system and the headland bank.

#### *Trench 16 (14m long orientated E-W)*

The trench contained two features one of which was excavated. The trench produced evidence for a Northwest - Southeast orientated ditch that was not excavated due to the high water level within the trench. Parallel to this feature was an inhumation, 1.60m by 0.59m and 0.20m deep (F.83), although the water level was high the delicate condition of the burial prompted immediate excavation.



**Figure 17:** Trench 16 showing features and burial.

The inhumation was in the supine position with the head facing to the North and the arms flexed with the left arm lying along the left side and the forearm bent towards the head. The right arm was bent across the chest with the forearm towards the head. The skeleton was in a poor state of preservation with a series of truncations, probably caused by a plough at four separate places across the body. The feet, the knees, the pelvis, and the skull were all destroyed and there was no trace of the hands or feet. Found in association with the body, below the left elbow, and probably affected by the plough damaged, was an iron knife blade and a fragment of glass. The burial is most likely Roman from its location parallel to the ditch and its proximity to King Street a known Roman road.

#### **Discussion**

The evaluation has shown that archaeology is present throughout the development area and no trench opened was devoid of features.

### *Neolithic Activity*

Fieldwalking undertaken in the 1990s suggested the possibility of early activity having taken place within the Northern most fields, where there was slightly higher numbers of late Neolithic flints, and a Greenstone axe. The geophysics and aerial surveys suggested that these Northern fields were free from later disturbances and yield more information regarding Neolithic activity. Within trenches 1 and 2 were a number of pits including a probable late Neolithic cache pit found within Trench 1. Although alone this does not suggest any form of major settlement, it does suggest that these people were active within the locale during this period. (Although the archaeology within trench 1 showed no evidence of disturbance by later activity within trench 2, agricultural furrows may potentially have truncated earlier archaeology.)

### *Monuments*

From aerial photographs and the geophysical survey a number of round barrows have been identified within the area in and around the site. Six were identified within the Rectory Farm site three of which were 'trenched' and excavated (Johnson, 1998). Three potential barrows were recorded within the scope of this work, two of which were targeted in the course of this evaluation (trenches 11 and 14). Both trenches produced no clear evidence for a barrow or ring ditch and neither showed any signs of the preservation of a mound, bank or a palaeosol. It was not possible to excavate any of the features exposed within trench 11 due to the high water table which made it difficult to determine whether any of the linears may represent a barrow. Trench 14 produced no clear signs of a barrow with the only obvious linear unlikely to be part of a ring ditch. It is possible that the ditch may have filled with redeposited natural making it 'blend in' with the natural gravel. In both the trenches opened for this investigation, the high water table made it very difficult to confirm or deny the existence of a barrow, although there is a greater chance that the area around trench 11 may still produce one as a number of features were recorded when the trench was first opened.

### *Prehistoric Field Systems*

The aerial photographs show a number of what have been interpreted as co-axial 'droveways' throughout the West Deeping landscape. These appear to radiate in arcs from the Welland in a wheel pattern. Three cross the site at regular intervals. Their morphology, and previous work within the area, has led to the assumption that they may be of Bronze Age origin (Johnson, 1998). Two trenches (3 and 4) were opened to examine these features to help understand them. Instead, however, they raised more questions than answers. Of the excavated features within trench 4 only one had the potential of being prehistoric, the other contained Roman pottery. Upon extending trench 4 another two ditches were uncovered, these were a significant distance from the potential prehistoric ditch and therefore unlikely to be the ones visible in the aerial photographs. This leads to a disparity between what has been recorded in the surface survey and the results of the trenched evaluation. The geophysics show an apparent double ditched 'droveway' where the trench based evaluation revealed two unrelated linears. However, at the place trench 4 was opened, geophysics only picked up one ditch. It is unclear why the Roman ditch remained invisible to prospection.

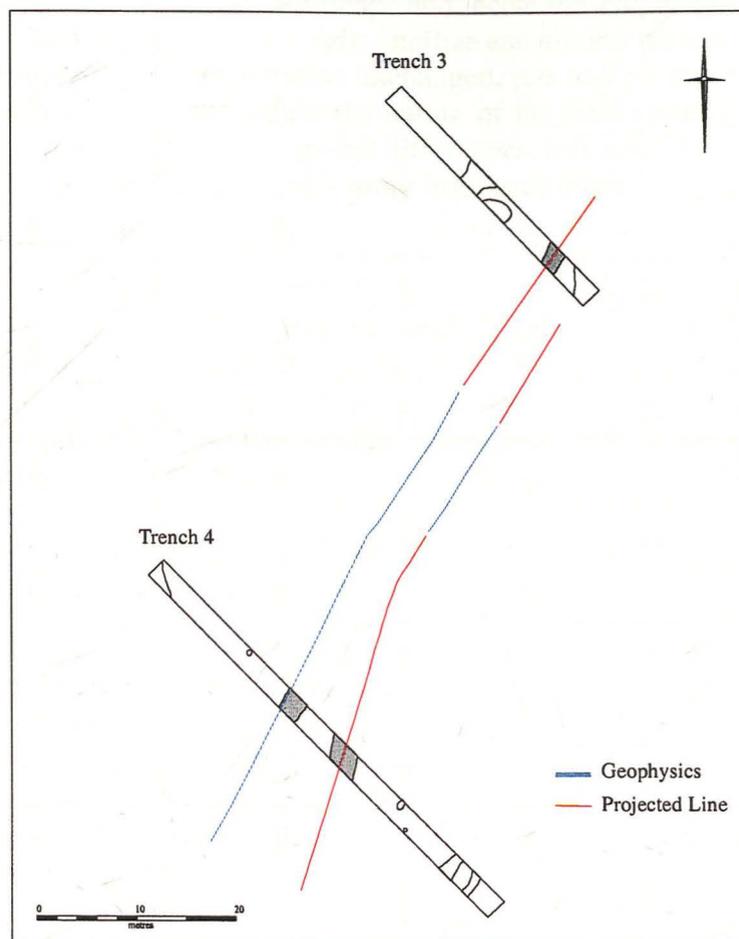


Figure 18: Trench 3 and 4 showing the geophysics plot for the 'droveway'.

### *Bronze Age Activity*

The potential for Bronze Age activity within the development area is high in almost all the prospective phases of work. Although few features have produced Bronze Age material the nature of many of the pits and postholes does suggest Bronze Age activity was occurring. The preserved timber in trench 5 not only highlights Bronze Age activity on site but also the possibility of preserved organics within protected environments. In probable association with the pit containing the timber were a number of postholes, one either side of the pit and a group to the West. It is difficult within the confines of a trench to interpret these features, but it is likely that they are all associated. The concentrations of pits which were targeted by trenches 6, 7 and 9 were not as abundant as first believed and could suggest that some of the pit forms are likely to be natural features such as tree throws. Bronze Age activity can present itself as little more than concentrations of 'empty' pits spread across the landscape with foci in certain areas. These can be complimented by field systems that seem to differ from site to site, sites at Eye, Peterborough (Patten, 2002), the new prison site at Peterborough (Knight, 2002) and Bradley Fen, Whittlesey (Knight, forthcoming) all show very different field systems but similar activity markers. Usually it is difficult to see this in an evaluation and it is only when an area is stripped that the nature of the landscape becomes obvious. The West Deeping site is fortunate due to the extensive pre-excavation work undertaken which enables the results of the trench-based

evaluation to be seen as part of a landscape and locate the 'empty' pits within it. It then becomes possible to see that here a very familiar and similar pattern is emerging. The nature of the activity evidence remains unchanged, pits and postholes, many of which are devoid of material culture, while the nature of the field systems differ. Although this could be argued to be due to regional differences, it is something that is witnessed in landscapes that are only a few miles away from each other.

### *Triple Ditch System*

During the Rectory Farm excavation the triple ditch system was excavated at two separate locations, where it was found to be made up of a different number of ditches, at one point it had four and another seven. The dating for the ditches is primarily based upon a fragment of Roman storage vessel and some preserved organics from one of the ditches which produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of 790 - 390 BC.

In the 1990 fieldwork programme, the triple ditch was exposed in one of the trenches. One of the ditches was excavated and a fragment of possible Bronze Age pottery was recovered. (Johnson, 1998). The triple ditch system in this evaluation (trench 15) was made up of five ditches, a large central ditch then one along its Northern side and three along its southern. It was hoped that the remnants of a headland bank overlying the ditches at this point would have provided better preservation of the features and potentially their associated banks. This was not the case, excavation has shown that the headland banks located at different places across the landscape have occurred at a period when all of the underlying earthworks have been destroyed and so there was nothing for them to preserve. It is interesting to note that the central ditch is significantly larger than any of the outer ditches and this may allude to the nature of the system. It is unlikely that it acted as a 'trackway', but more possible that it was related to the demarcation of the landscape. Maybe the larger ditch represents a consolidated attempt to make the demarcation more prominent, while the smaller outer ditches relate to reinforcing the division.

### *Roman Settlement*

The Roman settlement excavated at Rectory Farm was built upon an earlier Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement. Three Early Roman post-built structures were discovered along with evidence of industrial working and a Late Roman villa with bathhouse and cemetery were also excavated suggesting an area of some status.

During the current evaluation, the density of features within the area of expected Roman settlement (trenches 12 and 13) would suggest the possibility of a significant settlement existing at this point, although on a smaller scale than at Rectory Farm. Many of the larger ditches produced fragments of probable building stone and significant amounts of pottery, although no evidence of wall plaster or tile was found. It may be that this is a lower status settlement than that at Rectory Farm. The pottery assessment suggests that the settlement is probably a basic rural site that flourished in the third and fourth centuries AD. As recorded at Rectory Farm the evidence from this evaluation suggests that there is the possibility of an underlying Iron Age or Early Roman precursor to the main settlement. The pottery range spans the entire Roman period and several contexts produced Iron Age wares along with the Roman. Even those features not excavated produced artefactual material from on their surface. The

trenches produced no clear evidence for agricultural furrows, so the improved preservation below the furrows found at Rectory Farm is unlikely to occur here

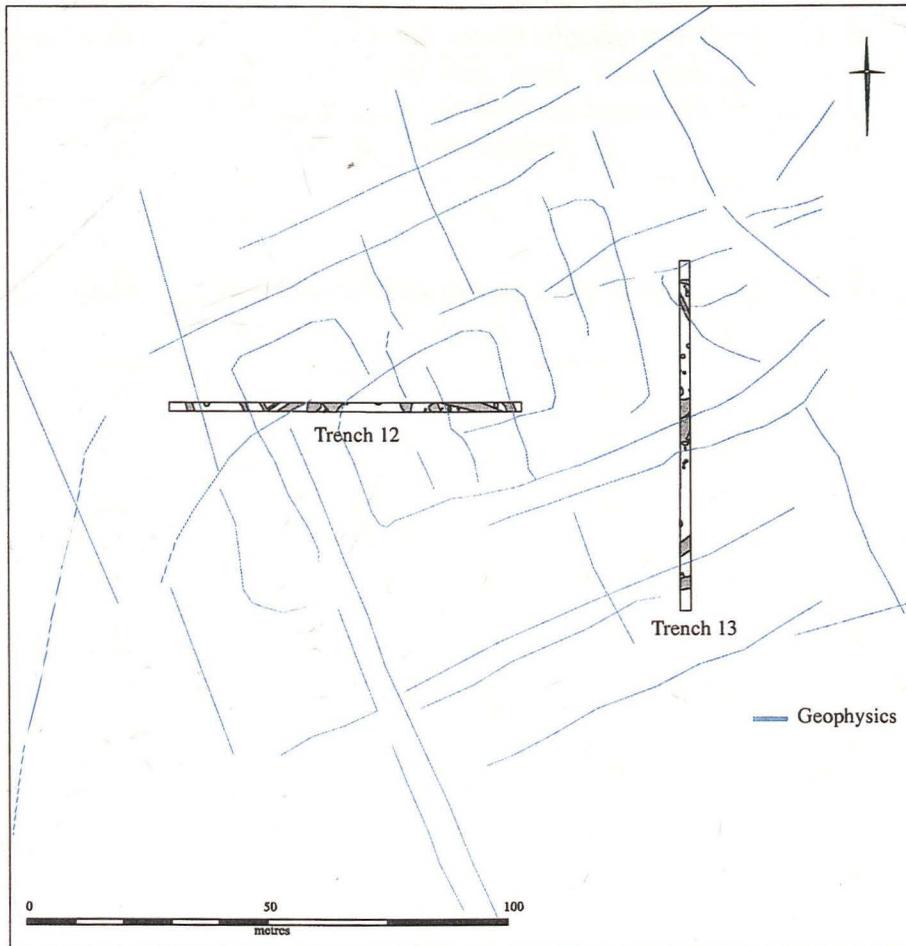


Figure 19: Trench 12 and 13 overlain on the geophysics plot of the settlement area.

The ploughed field immediately surrounding the trenches contained a recognisably larger density of limestone slabs than any other, and it was obvious that some of this had been removed from the ploughed field and placed around the edges. This supports the suggestion of a stone built structure having existed within this area.

### *Inhumation*

One inhumation was uncovered in the course of the evaluation (trench 16). It had been heavily plough damaged with the skull, pelvis, knees and feet destroyed. It lay Northwest-Southeast following the line of a ditch. Within the grave cut was a fragment of glass and a rusted Roman iron knife. It is most likely that the burial is Roman in date due to its relationship with the ditch. In Roman Britain there appears to have

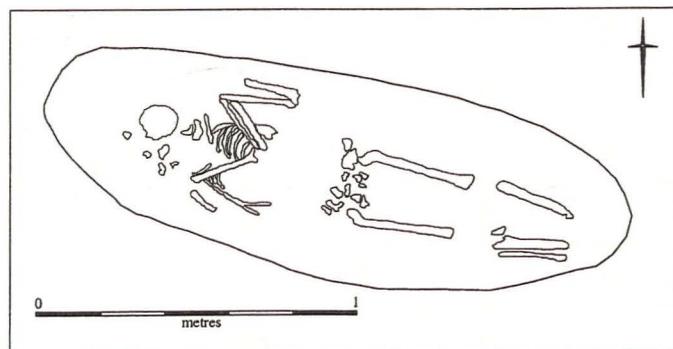


Figure 20: Plan of the inhumation F.83

been a custom of sometimes burying the dead along boundary ditches or roads, usually following the orientation of these features. Skirting the western edge of the proposed development site is King Street a known Roman road. The discovery of an inhumation alongside a boundary ditch would suggest that there is good potential for more Roman burials associated with the road. The state of preservation of the inhumation seems very similar to that at Rectory Farm, the majority of inhumations had been plough damaged (Rackham, in progress).

#### *Medieval Landscape*

The only evidence of Medieval activity on site came from an Edward I silver penny of about 1289 AD found during metal detecting. There were no archaeological features or artefacts found within any of the trenches that showed evidence of Medieval activity.

#### *Post-Medieval Landscape*

Two of the trenches revealed boundary ditches which produced Post-Medieval material, these features were wide and deep suggesting that at sometime they would have acted as prominent features upon the landscape. In a number of places rises were noticeable within the fields and two of these were targeted during the evaluation and shown to be headland banks probably of Post-Medieval origin. Within Trench 2 a number of furrows were recorded again of likely Post-Medieval date.

**Appendix 1**  
**The Prehistoric Pottery**  
M. Knight

The prehistoric pottery assemblage can be separated into two groups: Bronze Age and Iron Age. The Bronze Age assemblage consisted of a total of five sherds (18g) derived from two contexts: three sherds from F.51 (6g) and two sherds from F.86 (12g). The pottery from both contexts comprised sandy fabrics tempered to differing densities with fragments of shell. The three body pieces from F.51 consisted of an orangey brown exterior and a black interior and had a corky appearance caused by the erosion of some of the shell inclusions. The shell inclusions could be described as moderate in density whereas the pieces from F.86 had abundant small shell inclusions. The fabric of the F.86 sherds was much harder and there were no voids. In colour these sherds also differed by having a pale orangey buff exterior. The total extent of decoration was three vertical finger-tip impressions on one sherd from F.86.

The character of this small assemblage is distinctly later Bronze Age. The corky fabric, shell inclusions and the occurrence of finger-tip decoration are all attributes of Deverel-Rimbury and Post Deverel-Rimbury ceramics belonging to the later half of the 2nd Millennium BC.

Middle to Late Iron Age sherds were present within F.1 (340g). These comprised two rim sherds and five body sherds. The rim sherds were from two upright hand made jars with slightly everted rolled rims. One of the body sherds came from a large storage vessel that had faint traces of crude diagonal scoring on its external surface. In contrast with the shell tempered Bronze Age pieces described above, these fabrics were considerably harder, and with the exception of the storage sherd, their colouring (greyish black) was consistent. Single sherds from F.15 and Small Find No.6 are probably also of later Iron Age date.

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric
1	10	7	340g	3 & 4
15	33	1	9g	5
51	107	3	6g	1
58	126	2	10g	3
86		2	12g	2
Small find No. 6	-	1	16	3
<i>Total:</i>		<i>16</i>	<i>383g</i>	<i>5</i>

**Table 1:** Feature-pottery correspondence.

Fabric series:

Fabric 1: orangey brown (exterior), black (interior), sandy fabric with shell inclusions and voids

Fabric 2: pale orangey buff (exterior), black (interior), hard sandy fabric with dense shell inclusions

Fabric 3: dark grey (exterior & interior), hard sandy fabric with very small shell inclusions

Fabric 4: pale grey with orange blotches (exterior), grey black (interior), extremely hard sandy fabric with large to small fossil shell inclusions.

Fabric 5: purple brown (exterior & interior) greyish (core), hard sandy fabric with small laminated shell inclusions.

**Appendix 2**  
**The Roman Pottery**  
 G. Monteil

*Introduction*

A small amount of Roman pottery was recovered from the evaluation carried out on the site at West Deeping. For the assessment 180 sherds were examined including 156 Roman sherds. For each context, the pottery was sorted by combination of fabric and form, then counted and weighted. All the figures are based on the number of sherds. Although quite small, the assemblage seems to cover the entire Roman period with an emphasis on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*Condition and residuality*

Most of the material is in good condition with large and fresh sherds. Although some groups are mixed, especially context [126], which produced 2nd century AD pottery with residual Iron Age pottery, and context [10], which yielded seven sherds of Iron Age pottery, most of the contexts seem to be quite secure and homogenous.

*Assemblage composition*

Code	Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)
CC	Unidentified colour-coated	1	12
CGSM	Central Gaulish samian	2	20
CSBB	Coarse sandy black-slipped & burnished	4	39
CSGR	Generic Coarse Sandy Greyware	13	629
CSRE	Generic Coarse Sandy Redware	6	81
FRSW	Fine shell-tempered	1	19
FSBW	Generic fine sandy buff ware	2	8
GROG	Grog tempered	1	1
GROGWS	Grog tempered, white slipped	1	21
NVCC	Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware	16	485
NVGW	Nene Valley Grey Ware	53	1802
NVWW	Nene Valley White Ware	14	690
SMSW	South Midland Shell-tempered ware (Harrold)	42	1831
<b>Total</b>		<b>156</b>	<b>5638</b>

Fig.1 Roman fabrics present within the assemblage

Form	Sherds	Weight (g)
Bowl	6	250
Castor box	1	29
Beaker	9	145
Dishes	35	1362
Flagon	4	79
Jars	45	1547
Lid	1	19
Mortaria	7	440
Storage jars	14	1074
	34	693
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>5638</b>

Fig.2 Forms present within the assemblage

Not surprisingly, Nene Valley products have a prominent position within the small Roman assemblage with colour-coated, self-coloured and grey wares representing 53% of the Roman group. Mortaria form the majority of the NVWW vessels with three different types identified: M168 (Perrin 1996,); M113 and a flanged mortarium with a bead rim and grooving on the flange, slightly folded underneath with no close parallel found in the known literature. The remaining forms in NVWW are a possible lid and a jar.

The Nene Valley Grey Ware fabric appears with plain-rimmed dishes and wide-mouthed jars. The Nene Valley colour-coated range includes flanged bowls, one funnel-neck beaker, one roughcast decorated fragment, one castor box, one beaker fragment with underslip barbotine decoration (possibly hunt scene) and one flagon handle.

Shell-tempered ware also plays a major role in the group (27%) with a typologically poor range of forms centred on jars and storage jars with large everted rims. One jar presents an unusual rim with a deep groove on top ([Tr 12], SF 009).

One imitation of Dragendorff 36 with an internal rouletted band was present in context [001]. The fabric is fine and reduced with small quartz inclusions with a smooth black slip. One similar form dated to the mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century was found in Castor assemblage (Perrin and Webster 1990, fig. 14 n. 244).

Little samian was recorded and all of it came from Central Gaul. One possible Dragendorff 18/31 was recorded in context [009] and a decorated but very abraded Dragendorff 37 was found unstratified between Trenches 12 and 13.

The last interesting sherd consists of a possible beaker with rouletted decoration in a romanizing fine shell-tempered fabric (topsoil Trench 11).

#### *Conclusion/Recommendations*

The overall impression is that the lack of amphorae, the low quantities of imported finewares (the high quantity of late Nene Valley finewares is a regional particularity affected by the omnipresence of the Nene Valley industry in the local market and does not reflect any special site status) and the functional pattern suggest a basic rural site.

Based on the evidence, this group is very typical of the Peterborough environs Roman pottery pattern and is, in many ways, similar to the assemblage from Orton Farm (Perrin 1996). A full excavation of the site could provide a unique opportunity for comparison and valuable evidence to the understanding of vessel use (functions and origins) in this part of the Fens.

### **Appendix 3**

#### **The Environmental Samples.**

R. Ballantyne

*Good charred plant remains are limited to ditch F.1. There are overall only very poor organic remains, which in conjunction with the molluscan assemblage suggests that the sampled contexts were damp rather than wet during their formation. Although the site is clearly on the present water-table, the inundation of deep contexts appears to have been significant only as a post-settlement phenomenon.*

#### *Methodology*

Eleven samples representing eight contexts were selected for analysis. Two deep contexts were augured, producing multiple samples of c.0.5 litres - three from [179] F.1, and two from [129] F.24. Although equivalent, the samples within each context were kept separate during processing. All other samples were collected in bulk; on average 10 litres.

Samples were processed by hand using bucket flotation. The flots were collected in a 300 $\mu$ m sieve, and the heavy residues washed over 1mm mesh. One clearly waterlogged sample [190] F.74 was washed through a stack of 2mm, 1mm and 300 $\mu$ m sieves. Due to the possibility of waterlogging all flots were initially examined wet under a low-power binocular microscope. Both the flots and residues were then dried and scanned.

All nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for plants and Pflieger & Chatfield (1983) for molluscs. The results are summarised in table form at the end of this report.

#### *Preservation*

Charred plant remains are present in low to moderate quantities in most sampled contexts, but are primarily of wood charcoal and are highly fragmented. Otherwise the quality is good, with limited distortion from charring, or abrasion/pitting from the subsequent burial environment.

Only very limited waterlogged remains are present, despite the proximity of many contexts to the present water-table. The remains appear heavily biased in favour of more robust 'woody' seeds and wood itself.

Conditions have favoured the preservation of mollusc shells, which are present in many of the contexts. Archaeological shells are whitened and mineralised, and contrast clearly with the few glossy and translucent intrusive shells (mainly

*Ceciliodes* sp.). Other intrusive material is very limited; primarily fine rootlets with occasional seeds of *Chenopodium album* and *Fumaria officianalis*.

### Results

#### DITCH F.1

Context [179] is represented by three complimentary augured samples, and is the only sampled feature containing good charred plant remains. In all cases there is a high amount of hulled wheat chaff, which is commonly identifiable as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). There are also low numbers of cereal grains, primarily of a hulled wheat type, and possibly barley (*Hordeum vulgare sensu lato*). A number of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu lato*) rachis internodes are present, and represent a cereal which was increasingly cultivated in Britain only during the later Roman period.

There are very few wild seeds, which are of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), orache (*Atriplex* sp.) and docks (*Rumex conglomeratus/sanguineus/obstusifolius*). Stinking mayweed became a significant weed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries A.D., and is commonly associated with heavy clay soils.

Overall these remains are particularly characteristic of Roman settlements in southern Britain. With the provisional Iron Age date for the lower fills of this feature these results become of more interest. Although these remains are characteristic of Roman settlement they are not normally found within Iron Age contexts. The charred cereals suggest that cultivation patterns shifted towards clay soils, and included free-threshing wheat at a slightly earlier date here than is usually the case. The rich chaff indicates charring of crop-processing waste; probably at the stage between storage and preparation of grain for consumption.

Very few organic remains are present, and they are of more 'woody' seeds; a crowfoot type (*Ranunculus* subgen *BATRACHIUM*), fool's cow-parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Very little can be concluded from so limited an assemblage. The crowfoot suggests shallow standing water, fool's cow-parsley is found on disturbed soils as are nettles, which are further associated with nitrogenated soils (either from human or animal waste). A small number of mollusc shells of *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea trunculata* support the interpretation of shallow standing water, which may have been seasonal; both these taxa are resistant to periods of drying.

Despite the dark, rich and silty matrix, this deep context is not waterlogged. The ecofactual remains themselves suggest that the ditch was damp, possibly seasonally wet, during the formation of [179]. Such conditions would not support good preservation of organic remains. Some more robust plant materials appear to have survived into a later period when a raised water-table stabilised the context until the present. The darkness of the matrix is due in part to the abundant, fine charred plant remains present.

#### THE TRIPLE DITCHES; F.24, F.42, F.54

All three sampled contexts - [129] [120] [115] respectively - contain negligible amounts of fine charcoal. There is slightly greater charcoal within the southernmost

ditch F.42, but it is still extremely low. One charred seed-head has also been recovered from this southern ditch, although it is too distorted to identify.

Mollusc remains occur in abundance within F.42, and in very small numbers in ditches F.24 and F.54. The predominant taxa are all land types. *Trichia* sp. occurs in many environments whereas *Vallonia pulchella/excelsior* characterise open vegetation, particularly grassland. The other common taxon, *Lymnaea trunculata*, indicates marshy conditions; being found in shallow waters and flooded pastures. Other more poorly represented taxa are all land types and some, such as *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Pupilla muscorum*, are specific in their habitats and support the interpretation of open land. A single shell of *Anisus leucostoma*, an aquatic species which tolerates drying, further suggests damp rather than wet conditions.

The ditches were located in open land and were only occasionally damp, possibly on a seasonal basis. The very limited charred plant remains and absence of small artefactual material suggests that activities were displaced from this setting.

#### GRAVE F.83

Context [180] contains low amounts of wood charcoal, and one fragment of charred parenchyma (amorphous plant tissue i.e. roots, tubers). Individual mollusc shells of *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea trunculata* indicate damp conditions. Tiny bone fragments probably derive from the skeletal remains.

#### DROVE DITCH F.40, FLINT CACHE PIT F.51

A tiny amount of small wood charcoal, probably residual surface debris, was the only ecofactual or artefactual material recovered from these features (contexts [88] [108] respectively).

#### DAMP PIT F.74

Context [190] was targeted due to the survival of wood. However the matrix contains no further organic remains other than fibrous material (probably degraded wood) and occasional fungal thecae and sclerotia. No molluscan remains were present. It may be suggested that, similarly to ditch F.1, this context was damp rather than wet during its formation. Most plant materials would have decayed away, and it was only more robust items which were preserved when at a later date the water-table rose.

#### Conclusions

Charred plant remains appear confined to very specific contexts at the site. Despite the richness of material within F.1 no other evidence of cereal processing has been recovered from any other sampled Roman contexts. However there is good quality of preservation where these remains do occur.

Both the limited waterlogged plant remains and mollusc shells indicate that the site was damp, but not wet, during the main phase of occupation. Only limited, more robust plant remains have survived within contexts until a later phase of raised water-table. The area appears to have been open vegetation, probably grassland, during the Roman period.

## Recommendations

Any future work should consider the specificity with which remains have been recovered from contexts here. Although the aim should always be to obtain a representative coverage of identified features, bulk samples for charred plant remains should be targeted on those contexts clearly associated with occupation activities. Further samples from features associated with F.1 is of particular interest, due to the rich charred plant remains recovered, and their provisional Iron Age date. Deeper features at the site occasionally contain good mollusc remains, and should also be considered for sampling to allow environmental reconstruction.

Waterlogging has not been significant within the contexts examined here, although 'pockets' of better preservation may exist. The future recovery of organic materials may well not be significant although some contingency for isolated discoveries, particularly in deep features, should be maintained. If any such contexts are recovered in future, they should be targeted for sampling.

### Table of Results

sample number	<2>	<6>	<7>	<8>	<10>	<11>	<14>	<15>	<16>	<17>	<23>
context	[108]	[179]	[179]	[179]	[129]	[129]	[88]	[115]	[120]	[180]	[190]
feature	F.51	F.1	F.1	F.1	F.24	F.24	F.40	F.54	F.42	F.82	F.74
description	basal fill				middle	middle	drove	northern	southern		basal fill
feature type	flint pit	ditch	ditch	ditch	triple ditch	triple ditch	ditch	triple ditch	triple ditch	grave	pit
phase/date		Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman		Roman	Roman		
sample volume/ litres	10	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	10	11	12	4	4
flot fraction examined											
<i>Hordeum vulgare sensu lato</i> grain				- c.f.							
<i>Triticum c.f. spelta</i> grain				-							
<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i> grain		+		-							
<i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> sp. grain			-								
germinated cereal embryo sp.			-								
<i>Triticum spelta</i> spikelet fork		-									
<i>Triticum spelta</i> glume base		++	+	++							
<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i> glume base		+++	+++	+++							
<i>Triticum aestivum sensu lato</i> rachis internode			+								
<i>Ranunculus suboen. BATRACHIUM</i>		- w	+ w								
<i>Urtica dioica</i>				- w							
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i>			-								
<i>Rumex sanguineus/conglomeratus/obstusifolius</i>			-								
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>		- w		- w							
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>			-								
<i>Avena</i> sp.											
<i>Avena</i> sp. awn fragment			+	+							
<i>Bromus/Avena</i> sp.			+	-							
seed head indet.											
parenchyma indet. fragment											
indet. wood and bark fragments											+++ w
charcoal fragments											
small charcoal (<2mm)		-	+++	+++	+++	+	+	++	+	++	+
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+	+	+	+			-	-	+	-
large charcoal (>4mm)			-	-	-					-	-
bone fragments											
fungal sclerotia											+ w
fungal thecae											+ w
MOLLUSC REMAINS											
<i>Lymnaea trunculata</i>				-	-				+++	-	
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>								-	-	-	
<i>Carychium minimum/tridentatum</i>										+	
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica/lubricella</i>										+	
<i>Vertigo</i> c.f. <i>pyramaea</i>				- charred						+	
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>										-	
<i>Vallonia exentrica/pulchella</i>				-	-	-				+++	+
<i>Helicella itala</i>				-							
<i>Trichia</i> sp.									+++	-	

### KEY:

'-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++> >50 items  
 All plant remains are charred, unless indicated 'w' waterlogged.  
 Mollusc remains are uncharred unless otherwise indicated.  
 Clearly intrusive items have not been included within this table.

## Appendix 4 The Faunal Remains

A. Clarke

A small assemblage of animal bone numbering 275 fragments was recovered by hand from various features spread across the site, dating from the Neolithic to the Post-Medieval period. Due to its size it was possible to inspect the entire assemblage, which was carried out in order to identify the species present within the assemblage and to highlight any patterns evident in element distribution, age profiles, butchery and spatial distribution. All the bone was identified using the Cambridge Archaeological Unit reference collection. No attempt was made at this time to distinguish between the bones of sheep and goats. These bones are quoted as sheep/goat. Also, fragments clearly originating from one bone have been grouped together and counted as a single element i.e. 100 fragments from a broken skull were counted as a single bone.

Species	Neolithic	Iron Age	Roman	Post Medieval	Unphased	Total
Cattle	1		15	1	32	49
Sheep/goat			12		16	28
Pig			4		3	7
Horse		1	7		2	10
Deer					1	1
Bird Sp.				1		1
Cow size	1		14			15
Sheep size			3			3
Unidentifiable	17	9	42	2	91	161
Total	19	10	97	4	145	275

**Table 1:** Number of identifiable specimens per species (NISP)

The small amount of bone recovered severely limits the amount of useful interpretative data that can be retrieved, a situation that is unfortunately exacerbated by the fact that it has not been possible to assign a phase to 52% of the assemblage.

The remaining bone was recovered in a very good, if fragmentary state of preservation. The majority of this bone was recovered from those features originating from the Roman phase of the site which as can be seen from Table 1 above, consists entirely of the remains of the four major domesticates. Considering the small amount of bone recovered there is little more that can be implied beyond establishing the presence of these species on site. However, the majority of the bones recovered, including the unidentifiable fragments, display the cut or chop marks and spiral fractures that are wholly indicative of marrow extraction and the butchery of a carcass into prepared cuts of meat.

The patterns of domestic activity seen in the Roman period can also be observed in the other phases of the site. Even though the Neolithic, Iron Age and Post-Medieval periods produced very little bone, those fragments which were recovered display the same characteristics that indicate that they represent the waste from domestic butchery.

### Statement of Potential.

The bone, from all phases, is in a very good state of preservation and provides limited evidence for the butchery of the major domesticates on site.

### Appendix 5 The Worked Flint

Thirty-two pieces of flint weighing 176g were recovered from seven individual contexts, the surface of an unexcavated ditch, and the field (surface). Fifteen pieces were Neolithic in character, twelve of which came from F.51 a small pit. This assemblage consisted of two scrapers, three retouched blades, five chips and spalls and two unidentifiable fragments. With the exception of the chips and spalls they were all patinated. Thirteen pieces of flint were Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age in character with seven of the fragments coming from the surface topsoil, three of these pieces were blade fragments. Feature 1 contained a possible fragment of transverse arrowhead; this is, however, residual. Only three thumbnail scrapers were recovered which were characteristic of the Bronze Age and these were from the surface of Field 1.

Location	Neolithic				Late Neolithic- Early Bronze Age					Bronze Age
	Blade	Scraper	Chips & Spalls	Unknown tool	Blade	Scraper	Chips & Spalls	Arrow head	Unknown tool	Scraper
F.1								1		
F.11						1				
F.20									1	
F.24	1									
F.50				2						
F.51	3	2	5	2						
F.52					1		2			
Surface					3				4	3
Total	4	2	5	4	4	1	2	1	5	3
				15					13	3

Table 1: Number of different worked flints

It is interesting to note that the majority of the worked flint recovered was Neolithic or Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age with only three later tools found out of context. None of the material appeared to be Late Bronze Age, which is surprising in a landscape that apparently contains a Late Bronze Age field system. The chips and spalls would suggest that there is some flint production occurring on site.

### Appendix 6 The Burnt Stone

Four fragments of burnt stone weighing 377g were recovered from two contexts. Three were recovered from F.50 while the fourth was a surface find from within trench 12. Two of the fragments from F.50 were from smooth rounded pebble stones. None of the fragments appeared to have come from the same stone.

## Appendix 7 The Burnt Clay

Fourteen pieces of burnt clay weighing 155g were recovered from six different contexts. The majority, eight pieces, came from F.21 a pit in trench 8. Many were reddish brown in colour with shell inclusions. Two pieces stood out from the collection, a small fragment of possible loom weight from F.1 with stone inclusions and a brownish orange colour. The other was a rich reddish fabric with shell inclusions and reasonably flat from F.82 a southern ditch of the triple ditch system and it could be Late Iron Age or Roman.

## Appendix 8 The Clay Pipe Fragment

A small fragment of the stem of a clay pipe weighing 3g was recovered from F.5. The nature of the central hole and the narrow diameter of the stem suggest that it is most probably late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

## Appendix 9 The Iron Knife Blade and Fragment of Glass

A knife blade and a fragment of glass were discovered in association with the inhumation. The blade was recovered in two halves having been destroyed by the plough. The two fragments represent a Roman iron-tanged knife for which the handle no longer survives (Manning 1985). Associated with the blade was a fragment of green glass of Roman origin.

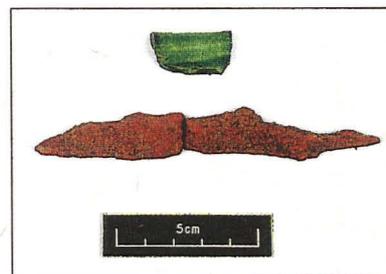


Figure 21: The fragment of glass and blade found with the burial F.83

## Appendix 10 The Axe Headed Bone Hairpin

A bone hairpin was recovered from the fill of F.1 [01] in association with late Roman pottery and building stone. The head of the pin was in the shape of an axe. Examples of this type of pin are usually found in metal.



Figure 22: The bone hairpin.

## Appendix 11 Feature Descriptions

86 separate features were excavated within 16 separate trenches. All were hand dug and fully recorded.

### *Neolithic*

**F.51** A circular pit (0.45m diameter x 0.29m deep) with vertical sides and a slightly concave base [109]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [107], and mid brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions [108]. (Trench 1)

### *Bronze Age*

**F.23** A Northwest-Southeast orientated ditch (0.62m wide x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and a flat base, the terminal end [51]. Filled with light orange grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [50]. (Trench 8)

**F.31** A sub circular posthole (0.53m x 0.42m x 0.15m) with steep sides and a concave base [69]. Filled with greyish orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [68]. (Trench 5)

**F.32** A circular posthole (0.14m diameter x 0.13m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [71]. Filled with mid grey orange sandy clay silt with occasional stone and frequent charcoal inclusions [70]. (Trench 5)

**F.33** A sub circular posthole (0.48m x 0.34m x 0.13m) with vertical sides and a concave base [73]. Filled with mid-dark grey orange sandy clay silt with occasional stone and frequent charcoal inclusions [72]. (Trench 5)

**F.34** A sub circular posthole (0.26m x 0.23m x 0.10m) with steep sides and a flat base [75]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [74]. (Trench 5)

**F.35** A sub circular posthole (0.38m x 0.30m x 0.10m) with steep sides and a flat base [77]. Filled with light-mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [76]. (Trench 5)

**F.36** A circular pit (0.76m diameter x 0.15m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [79]. Filled with mid grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal flecks [78]. (Trench 5)

**F.73** An oval posthole (0.90m x 0.50m x 0.20m) with steep sides and a concave base [161]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt (post) [159], and orange brown silty clay (packing) [160]. (Trench 5)

**F.84** A circular posthole (0.19m diameter x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [185]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and gravel inclusions [184]. (Trench 5)

**F.85** A circular posthole (0.40m diameter x 0.10m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [187]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and stone inclusions [186]. (Trench 5)

### *Iron Age*

**F.4** A Northwest-Southeast orientated ditch (1.60m wide x 0.45m deep) with steep sides with a flattish base [08]. Filled with light-mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [07]. (Trench 12)

**F.41** A Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch (1.2m wide x 0.25m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [119]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal and occasional stone inclusions [118]. (Trench 15)

**F.42** A Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch (1.7m wide x 0.37m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [121]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with frequent stone and moderate charcoal inclusions [120]. (Trench 15)

**F.54** A Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch (1.45m wide x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [115]. Filled with mid brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [114]. (Trench 15)

**F.59** A Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch (3.80m wide x 1.14m deep) with steep sides [130]. Filled with mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [128] and grey sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions [129]. (NOT FULLY EXCAVATED DUE TO WATER LEVEL). (Trench 15)

**F.82** A Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch (1.80m wide x 0.23m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [178]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and stone inclusions [177]. (Trench 15)

#### *Indeterminable Prehistoric*

**F.12** A North-South orientated ditch (1.10m wide x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [26] [28]. Filled with light grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [25] [27]. (Trench 8)

**F.15** A Northwest-Southeast orientated gully (2.20m long x 0.35m wide x 0.08m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [34]. Filled with pale-mid orange brown sandy silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [33]. (Trench 8)

**F.16** A circular posthole (0.37m diameter x 0.28m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [36]. Filled with mid brown sandy silty clay and occasional stone inclusions [35]. (Trench 8)

**F.17** A circular pit (0.50m diameter x 0.10m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [38]. Filled with pale-mid brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [37]. (Trench 8)

**F.20** An East-West orientated ditch (1.78m wide x 0.40m deep) with gradual sides and an irregular base [43]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions [41], and redeposited natural slump as primary fill [42]. (Trench 8)

**F.40** A Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch (3.10m wide x 0.85m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [89]. Filled with light grey brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [86], and redeposited gravel slump [87], and dark grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal and frequent gravel inclusions basal fill [88]. (Trench 4)

**F.52** A North-South orientated gully (0.70m wide x 0.25m deep) with steep sides and a flattish base [111]. Filled with pale grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [110], and brownish orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [183]. (Trench 1)

**F.53** A circular posthole (0.34m diameter x 0.14m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [113]. Filled with light brown sandy silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [112]. (Trench 1)

#### *Roman*

**F.1** An East-West orientated ditch (3.05m wide x 1.03m deep) with steep sides [162]. Filled with dark brown silty clay containing occasional stone inclusions [01], a black-brown silty clay with occasional gravel [09], and a mid greyish brown gravelly silty clay [10] (NOT FULLY EXCAVATED DUE TO WATER LEVEL). (Trench 13)

**F.2** An East-West orientated ditch (1.44m wide x 0.44m deep) with steep sides, a sharp break of slope and a concave base [04]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions and charcoal flecks [02], and pale yellow grey sandy silt with concentrations of gravel pockets towards the base [03]. (Trench 13)

**F.3** A North-South orientated ditch (1.00m wide x 0.52m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [06]. Filled with mid grey silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [05]. (Trench 12)

**F.11** An East-West orientated ditch (0.57m wide x 0.20m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [24]. Filled with mid grey brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [23]. (Trench 8)

**F.24** A NorthNortheast-SouthSouthwest orientated ditch (3.20m wide x 0.42m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [54]. Filled with mid brown sandy clayey silt and occasional stone inclusions [32], and greyish brown clayey silt with moderate stone inclusions [53]. (Trench 4)

**F.43** A Southeast-Northwest orientated ditch (0.90m wide x 0.46m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [90]. Filled with mid brown light grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [91]. (Trench 13)

**F.44** An East-West orientated ditch (0.85m wide x 0.43m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [93]. Filled with light-mid brown sandy silt [94]. (Trench 13)

**F.45** A Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch (0.90m wide x 0.21m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [95]. Filled with mid-light grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [96]. (Trench 13)

**F.58** A North-South orientated ditch (2.00m wide x 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [127]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and stone inclusions [126]. (Trench 12)

**F.74** An oval pit (2.00m x 1.50m x 1.10m) with vertical sides and a concave base [191]. Filled with mid brown sandy clayey silt with frequent charcoal and occasional stone inclusions [188], and mid brown sandy clayey silt with moderate stone and occasional charcoal inclusions [189], and dark brown silty clay basal fill [190]. (Trench 5)

**F.81** A sub oval pit (1.20m x 0.60m x 0.16m) with steep sides and a flat base [176]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and moderate stone inclusions [175]. (Trench 12)

**F.83** A Northwest-Southeast orientated burial (1.60m x 0.59m x 0.20m) with gradual sides and a concave base [182]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [180], and a skeleton [181]. (Trench 16)

#### *Post Medieval*

**F.5** A North-South orientated ditch (3.30m wide x 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [12]. Filled with mid brown sandy silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [11]. (Trench 7)

**F.6** A North-South orientated ditch (1.60m wide x 0.54m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [14]. Filled with pale-mid brown sandy silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [13]. (Trench 7)

**F.14** An East-West orientated ditch (0.65m wide x 0.43m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [32]. Filled with mid-dark grey sandy silt with red mottling and occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [31]. (Trench 8)

**F.25** An East-West orientated ditch (1.26m wide x 0.40m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [57]. Filled with light brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [55] and light grey brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [56]. (Trench 3)

**F.26** An East-West orientated ditch (1.90m wide x 0.52m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [59]. Filled with brown orange red sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [58]. (Trench 3)

**F.37** An East-West orientated furrow (2.10m wide x 0.12m deep) with gradual sides and an irregular base [81]. Filled with mid brown silty sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions [80]. (Trench 2)

**F.49** An East-West orientated furrow (0.56m wide x 0.11m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [104]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [103]. (Trench 9)

**F.55** A Northwest-Southeast orientated ditch (0.40m wide x 0.10m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [117]. Filled with mid-dark brown silty clay with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [116]. (Trench 15)

**F.70** An East-West orientated furrow (1.60m wide x 0.10m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [152]. Filled with mid grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [151]. (Trench 10)

**F.71** An East-West orientated furrow (2.10m wide x 0.15m deep) with gradual sides and an irregular base [154]. Filled with mid grey orange sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [153]. (Trench 10)

**F.75** An East-West orientated furrow (2.00m wide x 0.18m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [164]. Filled with mid brown silty sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions [163]. (Trench 2)

**F.76** An East-West orientated furrow (3.00m wide x 0.13m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [166]. Filled with mid brown silty sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions [165]. (Trench 2)

#### *Indeterminable*

**F.7** A North-South orientated ditch (1.30m wide x 0.20m deep) with gradual sides and a flattish base [16]. Filled with pale brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions [15]. (Trench 7)

**F.8** A circular posthole (0.30m diameter x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [18]. Filled with orange brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [17]. (Trench 7)

**F.9** A circular posthole (0.30m diameter x 0.15m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [20]. Filled with orange brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [21]. (Trench 7)

**F.10** A circular (?) pit (extends from baulk) (1.15m wide x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [22]. Filled with mid brown sandy silty clay with occasional stone inclusions and charcoal flecks [21]. (Trench 7)

**F.13** An East-West orientated ditch (2.40m wide x 0.43m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [30]. Filled with mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [29]. (Trench 8)

**F.18** An elongated pit (1.3m x 0.90m x 0.24m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [40]. Filled with light brown grey sandy silt with frequent stone and occasional charcoal inclusions [39]. (Trench 8)

**F.19** An oval pit (1.17m x 0.75m x 0.28m deep) with gradual sides and an irregular base [45]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt occasional stone and moderate charcoal inclusions [44]. (Trench 8)

**F.21** An oval pit (1.75m x 1.20m wide x 0.22m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [47]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions [46]. (Trench 8)

**F.22** A circular pit (0.90m diameter x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [49]. Filled with light grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [48]. (Trench 8)

**F.27** A circular posthole (0.32m diameter x 0.13m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [61]. Filled with mid grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks [60]. (Trench 3)

**F.28** An East-West orientated ditch (1.95m wide x 0.17m deep) with gradual sides and an irregular base [63]. Filled with light brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [62]. (Trench 3)

**F.29** A circular posthole (0.35m diameter x 0.10m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [65]. Filled with mid grey silt with occasional stone inclusions [64]. (Trench 4)

**F.30** A circular (?) pit (extends from baulk) (1.40m wide x 0.33m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [67]. Filled with light brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [66]. (Trench 1)

**F.38** A circular pit (0.57m diameter x 0.32m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [83]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [82]. (Trench 1)

- F.39** A circular pit (0.80m diameter x 0.14m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [156]. Filled with orange brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions [155]. (Trench 6)
- F.46** A circular posthole (0.26m diameter x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [97]. Filled with mid grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [98]. (Trench 13)
- F.47** A circular posthole (0.27m diameter x 0.15m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [99]. Filled with mid grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [100]. (Trench 13)
- F.48** A circular posthole (0.21m diameter x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [101]. Filled with mid grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [102]. (Trench 13)
- F.50** An ovoid pit (1.76m x 1.10m x 0.40m) with steep sides and a concave base [106]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [105]. (Trench 9)
- F.56** A Northeast-Southwest orientated ditch (0.85m wide x 0.20m deep) with gradual sides and an irregular base [123]. Filled with mid brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [122]. (Trench 14)
- F.57** A sub circular pit (1.80m diameter x 0.35m deep) with gradual sides and an irregular base [125]. Filled with mid brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions [124]. (Trench 1)
- F.60** A circular posthole (0.30m diameter x 0.22m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [132]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [131]. (Trench 13)
- F.61** A circular posthole (0.45m diameter x 0.12m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [134]. Filled with mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [133]. (Trench 13)
- F.62** A circular posthole (0.35m diameter x 0.10m deep) with gradual sides and a convex base [136]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [135]. (Trench 13)
- F.63** A circular posthole (0.30m diameter x 0.10m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [138]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [137]. (Trench 10)
- F.64** A sub circular posthole (0.35m x 0.25x x 0.06m) with steep sides and a flat base [140]. Filled with light grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [139]. (Trench 10)
- F.65** A sub circular posthole (0.35m x 0.25 x 0.14m) with steep sides and a flat base [142]. Filled with light grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [141]. (Trench 10)
- F.66** A sub circular posthole (0.60m x 0.55 x 0.11m) with gradual sides and a flat base [144]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [143]. (Trench 10)
- F.67** An oval posthole (0.60m x 0.63 x 0.15m) with vertical sides and a concave base [146]. Filled with light grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [145]. (Trench 10)
- F.68** A circular posthole (0.35m diameter x 0.13m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [148]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [147]. (Trench 10)
- F.69** A circular pit (1.05m diameter x 0.44m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [150]. Filled with light-mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [149]. (Trench 10)
- F.72** A North-South orientated gully (0.45m wide x 0.12m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [158]. Filled with orange brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [157]. (Trench 6)
- F.77** A sub circular pit (1.85m diameter x 0.30m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [168]. Filled with mid orange brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions [167]. (Trench 1)
- F.78** A North-South orientated ditch (0.60m wide x 0.27m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [170]. Filled with light brown sandy clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions [169]. (Trench 1)

**F.79** A sub circular pit (0.52m diameter x 0.18m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [172]. Filled with light brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [171]. (Trench 1)

**F.80** A circular pit (1.20m diameter x 0.43m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [174]. Filled with mid orange brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions [173]. (Trench 1)

**F.86** A Northwest-Southeast orientated ditch with an inhumation [181] running along side. UNEXCAVATED.

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