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EXCAVATIONS AT BANNOLD LODGE,  
CHITTERING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

WATERSEACH

Paula Whittaker

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Cambridge Archaeological Unit  
University of Cambridge  
August 1997

Report No 226

**EXCAVATIONS AT BANNOLD LODGE,  
CHITTERING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**Paula Whittaker**

**B.Sc.**

With contributions by N. Dodwell, L. Higbee,  
G. Lucas and C. Stevens.

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## Summary

*Excavations at Bannold Lodge, in advance of the building of a sludge lagoon by Anglia Water, revealed archaeological deposits ranging from the Early Neolithic to Post Medieval periods. The prehistoric activity was limited to a single feature, with a small lithic assemblage (early Neolithic to Bronze Age) scattering the site. A late Iron Age/early Romano British (late 1st/early 2nd century AD) roundhouse and hearth comprised an early phase of Romano British settlement. The most abundant archaeological material and features were datable to the mid - late Romano British period (2nd - 4th century AD). Enclosure ditches, a droveway and a boundary ditch adjacent to an inhumation provided evidence for the site being on the periphery of a settlement. A Medieval (c 14th century) causeway / droveway, with associated ditches and structure crosses the site. The droveway is probably the continuation of Denny Causeway, which was re-used in the Post Medieval period. Gravel pits were present on the site in great abundance, some could be dated to pre-14th century others were possibly Roman or earlier. Gravel extraction had a repeated history on the site with the central area lost to 20th century gravel extraction.*

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## Introduction

Between the 28th April and the 8th May 1997 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit at land beside Bannold Lodge, Chittering, Cambridgeshire (TL 500 690). This work was commissioned by Anglia Water in advance of the building of a sludge lagoon. The watching brief revealed archaeological deposits, ranging in date from the Early Neolithic to the Post Medieval periods which led to a full archaeological investigation between the 12th May and the 3rd June 1997. The excavation was conducted in accordance with the mitigation design brief prepared by Cambridgeshire County Councils Archaeology Section. (Austin 1997).

### *Site Geology and Topography*

The site is situated in the north-west of the parish of Waterbeach on the southern Fen edge (see Figures 1 & 2). The underlying geology consists of

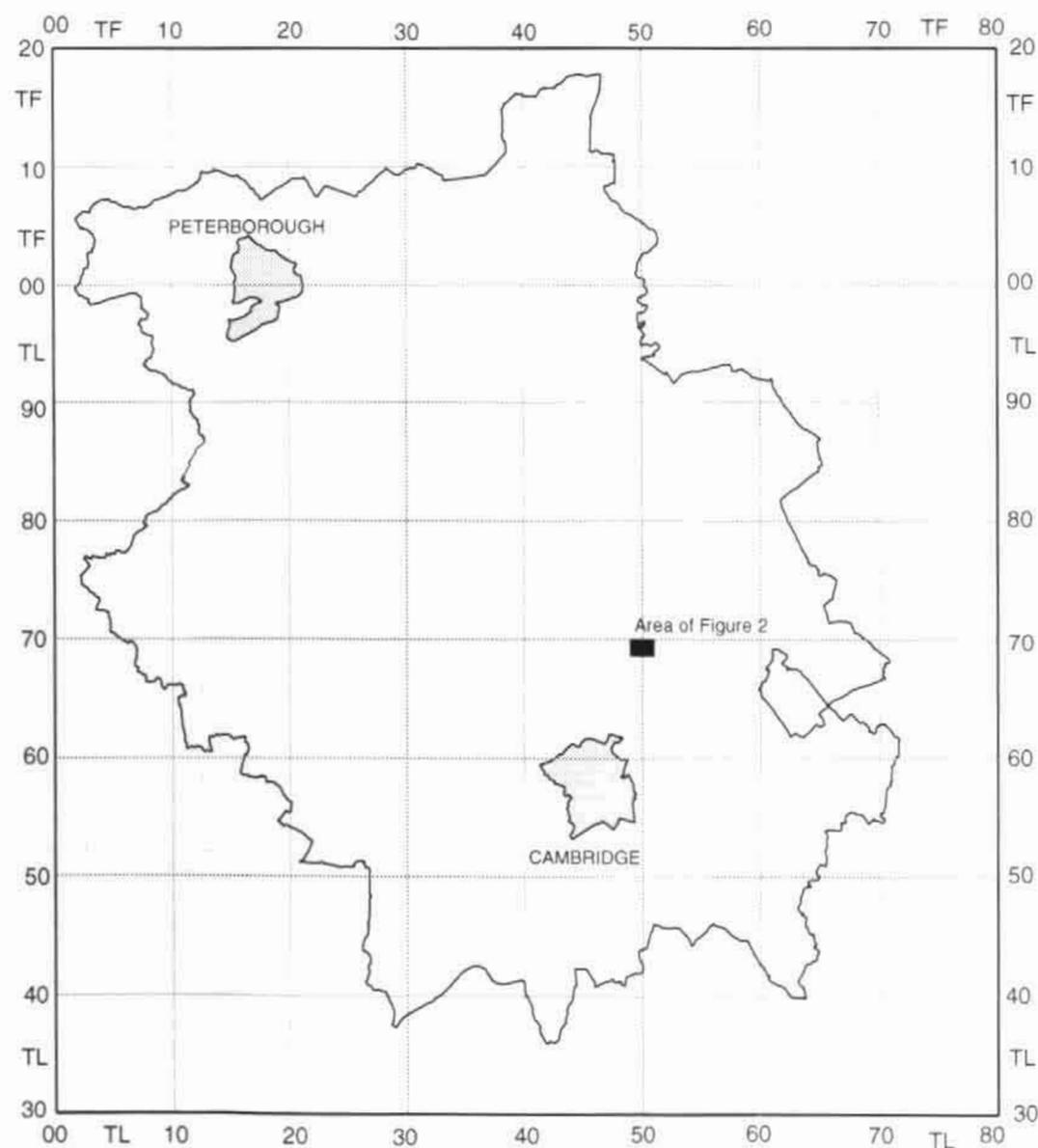
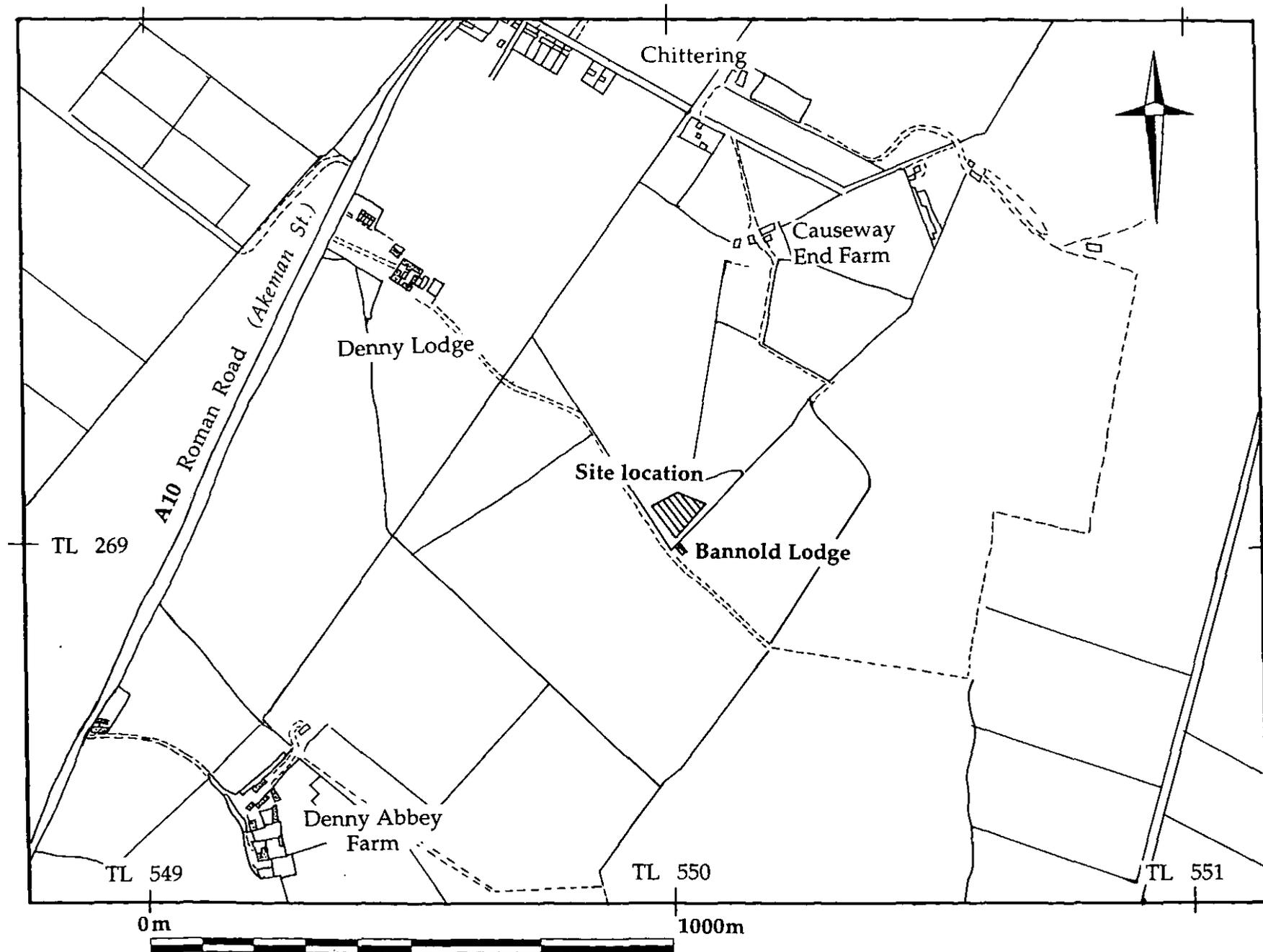


Figure 1 Location of Site in Cambridgeshire

Second Terrace Gravels of the river Cam, whose present course is 3km to the east. Over the last 100 years the site has been subjected to gravel extraction on a minor scale for agricultural purposes, the most recent episode being 18 months ago. Most of the recent quarry pits had been left open surrounded by

Figure 2: Site Location Plan



large spoil heaps. Earlier pits have infilled naturally and are now small swampy hollows filled with reeds, forming a central depression with a mound of quarry waste in the middle. This depression is depicted as an earthwork on the OS map of 1878, indicating a repeated history of gravel quarrying in this area. Other earthworks were depicted on old and recent OS maps, and once the shrubbery and trees had been cleared two ditch depressions could be seen in the far north-east of the site. This disturbance left the land unsuitable for cultivation, and so it remained a small area of scrub land set aside for future gravel extraction. The height of the undisturbed topsoil was 4.7m O. D, being truncated to a depth of 2.5 - 3m O. D by the more recent gravel pitting.

### *Archaeological Background*

The most recent archaeological work in the vicinity was carried out by Tempus Reparatum in 1990 (Hedges & Symonds 1990, SMR 09901). They investigated the surrounding area finding evidence of a Romano British settlement adjacent to the current site, in the form of pits and ditches. They also confirmed the presence of a Bronze Age round barrow approximately 400m (TL 4975 6856) to the south of the site. Lithic scatters found by the Fenland Archaeological Survey (Hall 1996) provide further evidence of prehistoric activity in the area. This major field walking project also found a 5.4 hectare concentration of Romano British occupation material located to the east and north-east of the site. Archaeological work in the 1950's by Bromwich (Philips 1970) produced high quality Roman wares and whole pudding-stone querns from the vicinity. The area has long suffered damage by ploughing that has brought Roman material to the surface. There are upstanding earthworks still in existence which are thought to be Roman in nearby Chittering, and possibly Roman and later Medieval earthworks in the vicinity of Denny Abbey. The site is situated within an area of high archaeological potential with many Roman sites in the locality as well as landmarks such as Car Dyke and Akeman Street, the Roman road presently under the A10.

### *Methodology*

An area of 60m by 80m was topsoil-stripped by a 360 tracked machine with a toothless ditching bucket. This was a fairly long process due to the undulating and disturbed nature of the site. Some areas had a metre of overburden to remove, whilst others had been truncated beyond the depth of archaeological remains. The central area of the site was partly waterlogged as the level of the land had been lowered significantly over the years. Because of this waterlogging and the fact that the central area had been heavily truncated and then backfilled, the whole of the area was not stripped. When soil stripping was completed, prior to excavation the whole site was scanned

using a metal detector. The northern (north-east) half of the site was called Area 1 and the southern (south-east) Area 2.

An EDM was used to produce an overall plan of the remaining archaeology in the designated area, showing the areas of archaeology already lost to gravel extraction (see Figure 3). The unit modified version of the Museum of London recording system was employed throughout to locate and record the archaeology found within the area (Spence 1990). Feature numbers were assigned (e.g. F1) as a descriptive aid in defining a ditch, pit etc. Fills and cuts were assigned individual context numbers, indicated in the text in square brackets (e.g. [001]). Sections were drawn at 1:10, with black and white photographic record shots taken, supplemented by colour slides. A small area of subsoil was excavated on a 1m grid square to ascertain find concentrations over particular features.

### *Field walking*

The field to the north of the site had only recently been ploughed and so casual field walking was undertaken to assess the extent of the spread of Roman material. This field was found to have dense scatters of Romano British pottery (c 100m from site) of a mixed 2nd - 3rd century date (see Appendix 2). More recent scanning (by Dave Curry) of the field directly to the south of the site (c 40m from site) has now been possible, producing further evidence of pottery and coins of a mixed 2nd - 4th century date. This evidence indicates that a large area around Bannold Lodge was fairly intensively utilised during the Romano British period.

## **Investigation Results**

For detailed descriptions of the features and contexts refer to Appendix 1.

### *The Earliest Features (F22, 24)*

Little survives of the earliest excavated features F22 and F24 (see Figure 3). They are located on the edge of the southern limit of excavation in Area 1, both heavily truncated by modern gravel pitting, and by subsequent features (F21 and F2). The provisional interpretation is that they are ditch butt ends or small pits. The only finds from F22 were a flint tool (a backed knife dated to the Neolithic period) and a small fragment of animal bone. The limited area available for excavation makes the dating of these features extremely tenuous. Stratigraphically however, these features clearly predate F21, which is datable to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD.

There is a residual lithic scatter across the site, of a mixed date, from early Neolithic to Bronze Age. The flint (32 worked pieces weighing 438g and 5 burnt pieces weighing 53g) was found in the subsoil when machining and

within some of the later features. It is worth noting that of the six flint tools found, four were from Area 1. Also a Mesolithic 'fabricator' was found in the field to the north of Area 1. It may be tentatively suggested that the presence of flint tools and flakes near the prehistoric feature indicate that an area of concentrated activity existed here.

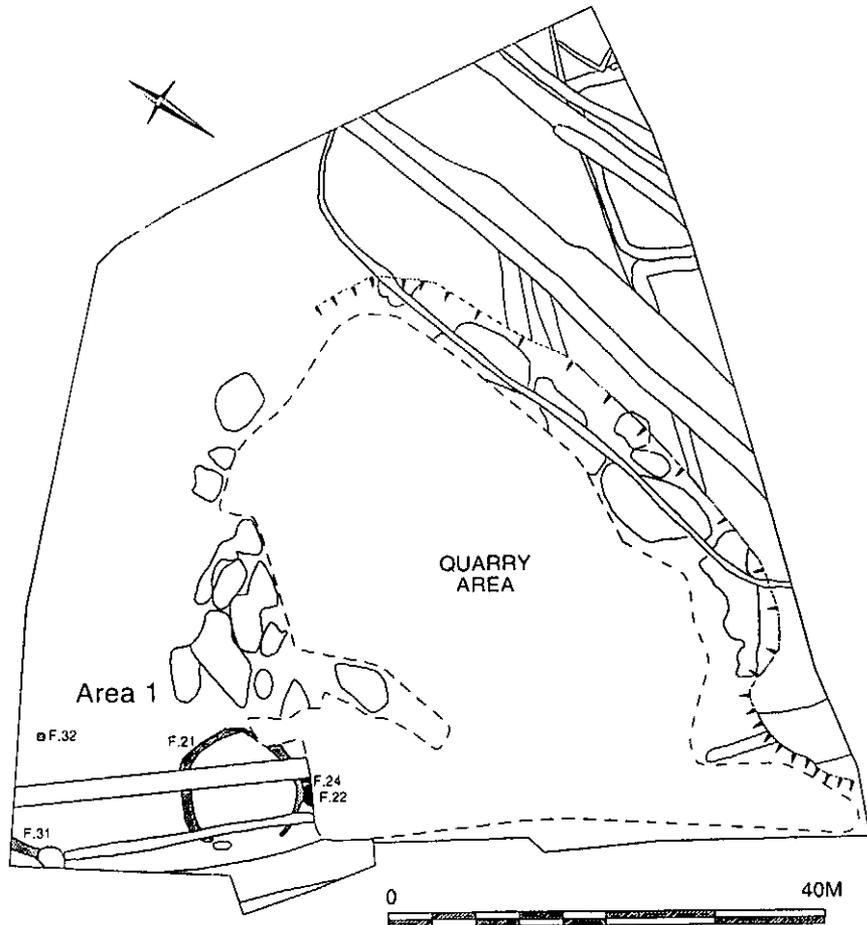


Figure 3

*The Late Iron Age / Early Romano British Roundhouse (F21)*

The earliest feature that can be dated is the ring gully F21 in Area 1 (see figure 3). The gully has a shallow (depth ranging from 0.06m - 0.25m) concave profile (see Figure 4) with a maximum diameter of 11m. The entrance, forming an interruption in the circuit of c 6m, can be clearly distinguished in the south-west side of the gully. There is no surviving structural evidence though there are possible remnants of an inside floor surface [75]. Though only tentative, the evidence of a few centimetres of well compacted clayey silt, containing occupation debris, suggests a trodden occupation area.

Dating evidence came from several pot sherds within layer [75] and the gully fill. The pot sherds mainly date from the late 1st century with two sherds being of a general Romano British type. One unabraded rim sherd stands out as being a Braughing greyware (see [053] in Appendix 2), which is a late Iron Age type jar though probably of a late 1st/early 2nd century date. This provides a date of occupation possibly starting in the late 1st century AD, the early post Roman conquest period.

A small area of subsoil [78] sealing the gully was excavated in 1m grid squares, sampled to ascertain the finds distribution. This produced only a small amount of material, mainly animal bone and burnt stone with the occasional worked flint. A small scatter of pot sherds was confined to the internal floor surface and gully fill.

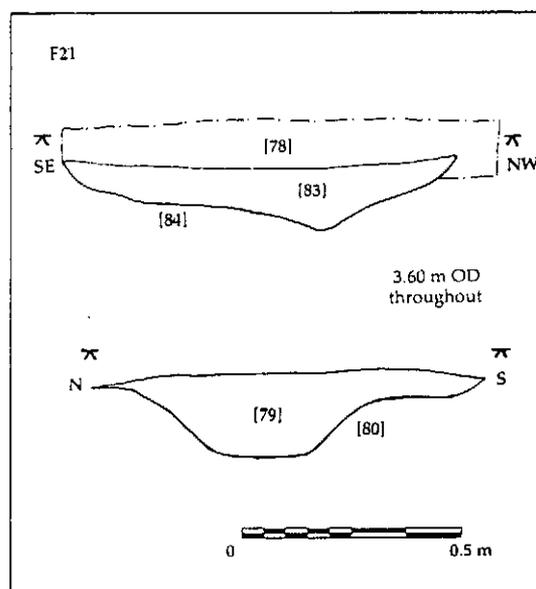


Figure 4

### *Function*

The generally accepted interpretation of such a feature is that it is an eaves drip channel commonly associated with roundhouses/structures. The lack of any surviving evidence for an internal structure is not that unusual. Although sometimes central or peripheral post holes are seen, none of the examples cited below at Wardy Hill, Little Thetford or Broom had any significant structural evidence within the internal areas defined by the ring gullies. Previously, evidence for post-holes was thought to have been lost due to truncation. However, in this instance remnants of a floor surface has survived and so post-hole evidence if there was any should also have survived. This may imply an above-ground free-standing construction, with posts set on the ground surface or on post pads in a manner that left little impression on the internal ground surface. Perhaps this was so that the structure could be easily put up or taken down and moved.

There are a number of factors and comparisons that point towards the likelihood that the structure was used for habitation rather than for industrial or storage purposes, or as an ancillary for other larger structures. The size of the structure is a good indication of use, the internal diameter of 10m compares well with other roundhouses in the locality. Parallels can be seen at

Little Thetford, just 7km to the north, where there was a phase of ring gullies averaging between 5.4m and 15.4m with the larger being interpreted as domestic dwellings (Lucas & Hinman 1996). At Wardy Hill, Coveney, of the cluster of six ring gullies the largest had a diameter of 11 - 12m, and was interpreted as being a dwelling with smaller ancillary ring gullies in association (Evans forthcoming).

Interpretations of use have also been gained from the artefact assemblage associated with these structures, at Coveney there was a higher concentration of finds associated with the larger gullies than with the smaller. In comparison the small quantity of finds related to F21 may question its usage as a dwelling. However, the lack of cultural material left behind, or deposited during occupation could be due more to the brevity of the houses occupancy. It is difficult to interpret the use of a structure by the presence or absence of finds as so many other factors need to be considered; *e.g.* the 'cleanliness' of the occupants, the amount of possessions available for loss or breakage and particularly the length of occupation. In general there will be a greater build up of material finds the longer a site has been occupied. The eaves gully shows no evidence of recutting which may indicate the clearing out of any silting up, instead it seems to just have the one fill which appears to be a steady accumulation of silt. This could support a short occupation span along with the lack of build up of floor material. However, the possibility that it could actually be an ancillary structure to others can not be ruled out. Further afield, at Broom in Bedfordshire an Iron Age ring gully 10m in diameter set on its own is a closer parallel (though earlier in date) with regard to the amount of artefact assemblage retrieved, as well as similarities in feature dimensions and lack of structural evidence (Mortimer 1997).

#### *Features associated with the Roundhouse (F32, F31)*

The presence of a nearby hearth, F32 c 12m to the north of the eaves gully could be seen as supporting evidence for the roundhouse as a dwelling (see Figure 3). This feature was roughly circular with a layer of burnt stones amongst a blackish brown silt with a fair amount of charcoal, lying above a clayey fill. There were no finds, and a date can only be ascertained from its presumed association with the roundhouse. As it is reasonably close to the house it may have been the oven or fireplace used by its occupants.

In the far north west corner of the site there is an earlier feature F31 (see Figure 3), mostly cut away by a modern feature and the later F30. It appears to be a fairly shallow gully ditch which has a slight curve in its alignment, possibly being a contemporary eaves gully to F21. This is very tentative evidence based on only part of a feature profile and the stratigraphic relationship with ditch F23.

*Romano British Ditch Enclosures (F6, 7, 13, 17, 18, 19, 14, 16)*

Within Area 2, spread across the south-east corner of the site there is a linear ditch enclosure comprised of a number of interconnecting ditches (see Figure 5). The ditch forming the northern boundary is *c* 40m in length, aligned SW - NE (F6, F19 and F17), with right angled ditches adjoining from the SE - NW (F13, F7 and F18) forming part of a smaller enclosure, possibly within the larger one. Also oriented on this northern boundary alignment were the shallow gullies F14 and F16 (which are probably the same ditch), perhaps an original fence line gully prior to deeper ditching.

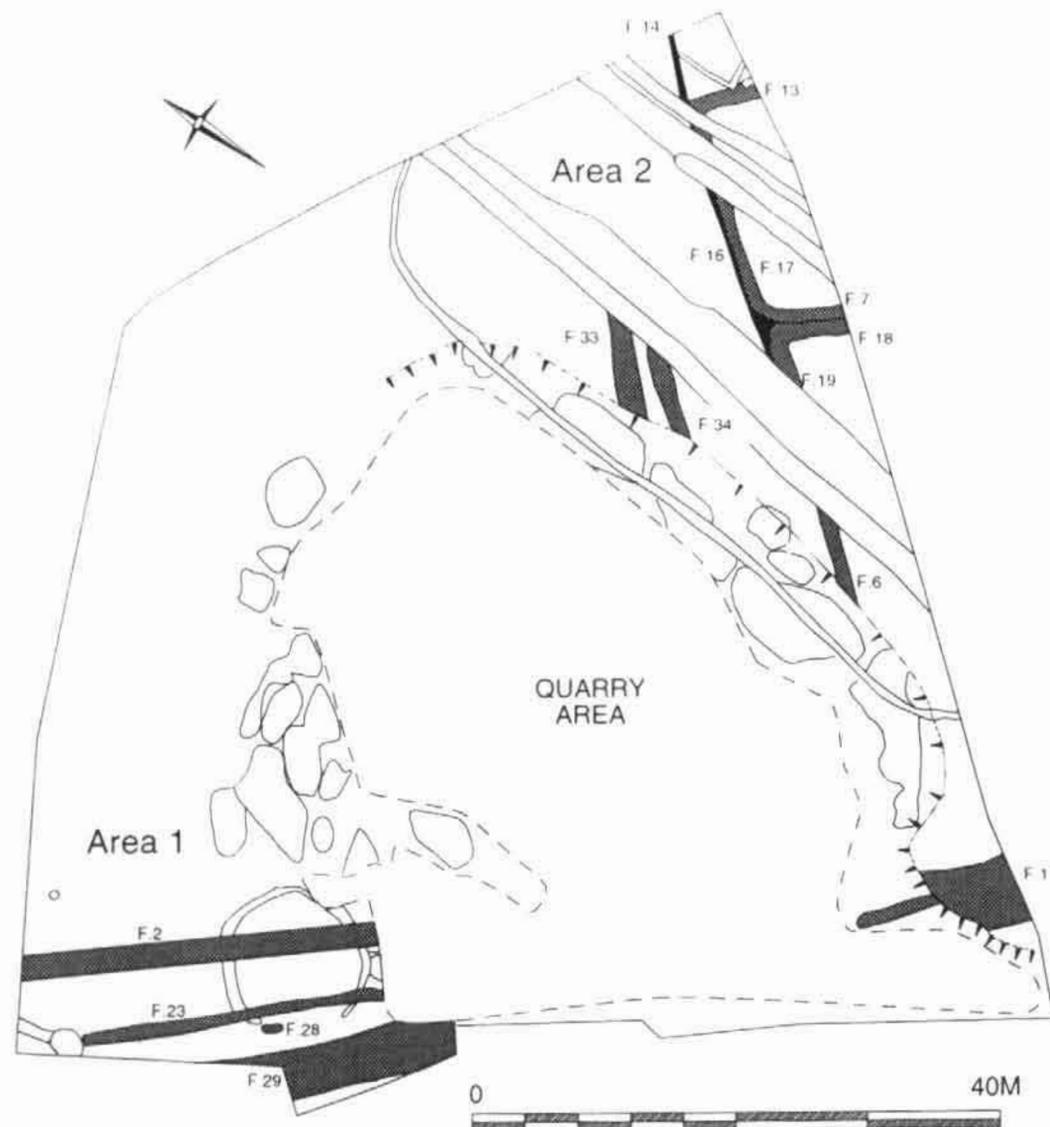


Figure 5

The pottery assemblage from these ditches (especially from around the junction of F7, 17, 18 and 19) is the largest by far from the whole site (68 sherds weighing 2660g), dating to the 2nd through to the early 4th centuries AD; a large proportion of the pottery is particularly diagnostic and datable to the early and mid 3rd century AD (see Appendix 2). The ceramic assemblage consists mainly of Horningsea wares, with large fragments of storage jars making up the bulk of the material. Pottery from the shallow ditches F14 and F16 was rare but also dates to the Romano British period.

The ditches contained a moderate amount of domestic rubbish. As well as pottery and animal bone there was oyster shell, worked stone (millstone fragment) and four pieces of slag (It is uncertain from which industrial process the slag may have derived.). This range and density of artefacts within the ditches might suggest their proximity to a settlement. The narrow gap between the ditch divisions of F13 and F18 could possibly indicate a paddock enclosure. The faunal assemblage shows evidence of the exploitation of domestic animals for food, in particular cattle. Cattle bones in F6 and F18 represent waste elements from primary carcass dismemberment as well as meaty joints from food waste; this indicates that butchery as well as consumption of meat was taking place in the vicinity of the enclosure ditches (Higbee, Appendix 3). These ditches correlate well with crop marks seen on aerial photographs (Hall 1996) and with earthworks from documentary sources of similar looking enclosures plotted to the NE of site (though further work is needed in making a comprehensive study of the aerial photographs).

#### *Romano British ditches (F33, F34)*

Only a short length of these ditches survive and they were fairly hard to define on the surface (see Figure 5). Stratigraphically they are truncated by the medieval ditch F8 and gravel pit F35. Finds of Romano British pot, including Hadham redwares point to a possible late 3rd/4th century date. Otherwise, the assemblage was similar to that from the ditch enclosures further to the south, with Horningsea storage jars again present. The ditches appear to run parallel to each other as well as to the enclosure ditches to the south and are therefore probably associated with these.

#### *Romano British droveway, double ditch (F2, F23 )*

The double ditches F2 and F23 in Area 1 follow the same alignment as the enclosure ditches in Area 2 and are probably associated with them (see Figure 5). These possible droveway ditches do not respect the eaves gully, cutting straight through the centre of this earlier feature. There is no definite dating evidence from the double ditch, only one pot sherd from its surface which was Romano British in date. The droveway could be contemporary with the enclosure ditches and used to drive some of the animals kept in the enclosures to nearby settlements and beyond. However, there are no stratigraphic links between these features due to the truncation by the recent gravel pitting. This tentative link therefore can only be made due to the presence of one pot sherd of similar date and more importantly the orientation of the ditches.

One unusual piece of ceramic found in the subsoil to the west of F2 is of particular interest given its distinctive nature. It is flat with a rimless rounded finished edge, with grass impressions imprinted on its upper and underside.

Comparisons have been seen at various sites in the region in association with kilns (Swan 1984). Their use is uncertain but they are thought to be clay plates which could have been used as spacers for separating pots within the kiln, or used as portable components in oven floors. The hard nature of the plate verifies that it has been fired numerous times, and so it probably had some function related to an oven or kiln. Further fragments were found in the field to the north of the site in the plough soil alongside some possible kiln furniture.

#### *The Grave (F28)*

The only human remains found during excavation is that of a single inhumation. The grave was cut into the natural between ditches F23 and F29, and is of the same SE-NW orientation (see Figure 5). The predominantly gravel fill within ditch F23 adjacent to the grave could be interpreted as up-cast from the grave cut. This would suggest a roughly contemporary date for the two features. The Romano British droveway may have already become redundant prior to the cutting of the grave hence, the partial backfilling of it. The grave could possibly be more closely associated with the larger defensive ditch F29. The skeleton within the grave was that of an adult male (see Appendix 4). The individual had osteoarthritis of the spine and ankles, a degenerative disease indicative of old age. No grave goods were present and the grave had been slightly disturbed, probably by ploughing. Evidence of disturbance could be seen around the feet, and the loss of the skull and most of the right arm is also likely to be attributable to plough damage rather than decapitation. Pottery fragments within the fill date to the 1st century BC/AD. These sherds are no doubt residual and related to surrounding features (F21, F23, F29), having been incorporated into the backfill of the grave when dug or being brought in by plough action. The siting of this (probably) isolated grave next to a Romano British ditch is not unusual. At Little Thetford (Lucas & Hinman 1996) three graves were grouped within and aligned alongside a probable boundary ditch oriented SE - NW. The inhumation and ditches at Bannold lodge share this same alignment. It is very difficult to assign meaning to such positioning of the dead. The possibility exists that the symbolism of burying the dead next to a ditch could reinforce or strengthen the importance of such boundaries, rather than connotations to the individual being an outcast not given the respect of being buried in a cemetery (Dodwell, Appendix 4). However, interpretations could be much more simple and practical. The small rural settlement may have had no established cemetery and so placed the dead in an area away from the main activity areas, but still within the settlement boundaries. The peripheries of a settlement would be ideal for burials being safe from too much disturbance from the nearby settlement.

### *The Defensive Boundary ditch (F11, F29)*

F11 (Area 2) and F29 (Area 1) have been shown through excavation to be the same ditch truncated by recent gravel pitting (see Figure 5). F11 has retained the original cut shape of its base extremely well, showing the typical Roman defensive style of an ankle breaking ditch (see Figure 6). The two segments of the ditches have no stratigraphic relationship with other features, but the pottery assemblage from them is similar to that from the enclosure ditches. They also follow a similar alignment, so can be grouped together with the Romano British features. The size and extent of the ditch suggests that it probably formed a large boundary enclosing the settlement from any unwelcome visitors. Later re-cuts can be seen on the west side of the ditch, giving the ditch a different, more shallow, concave shaped profile. The Romano British pottery found within the recuts could be residual, originating from the ditch below, or it could suggest a later phase within the same period. The pot sherds from the re-cut of F29 are from the later 3rd and 4th century. There was a high degree of silting prior to the re-cutting of this feature which could be seen as evidence for a period of abandonment or lack of maintenance.

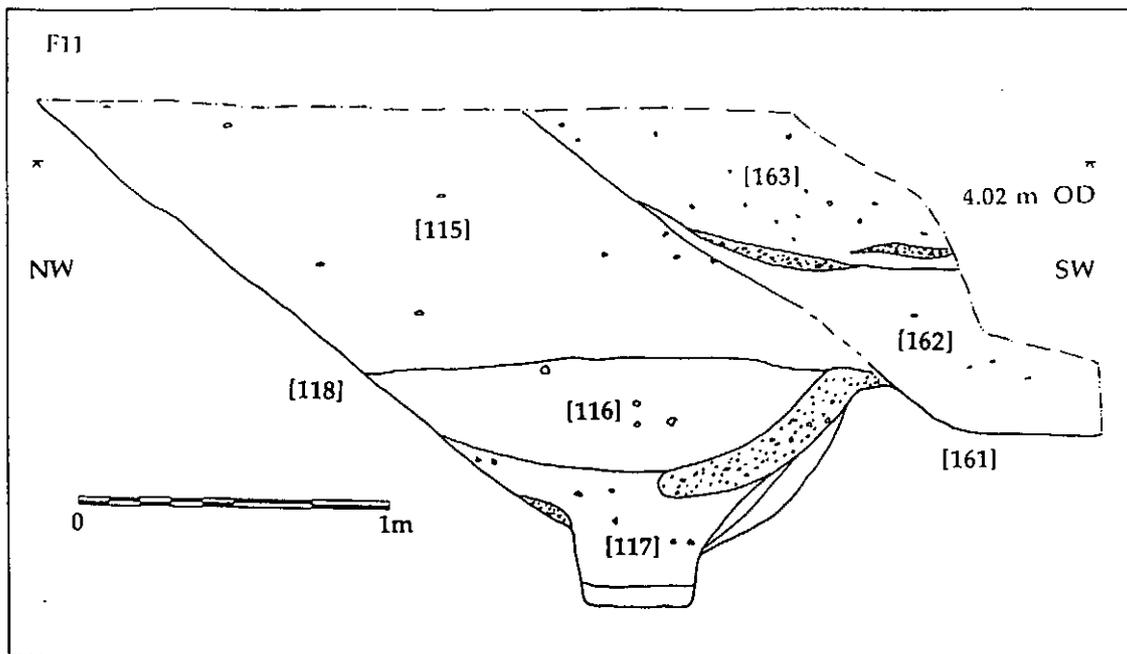


Figure 6

A ditch very similar in appearance was found by Tempus Reparatum (Hedges & Symonds 1990) c 100m to the north-west. It had the same profile and recuts but was aligned N - S , the ditch having turned to the north, possibly forming the north-western boundary, with F11 and F29 forming the south-western boundary of the settlement.

*Gravel Pits (F1, 25, 26, 27, 35)*

There were 18 gravel pits exposed after soil stripping, mainly located around the edge of the central limit of excavation (see Figure 7). A sample comprising three of these pits, was excavated. Only two pieces of pot were found in the pit fills, one from F27 in Area 1 and the other from F35 in Area 2; both were Romano British storage jar fragments. This pot could well be residual, especially that from F35 which is cutting the Romano British ditch F33. The central area of the site has been heavily truncated by 20th century gravel quarrying. The earlier gravel pits found were also truncated by the later quarrying, and so are only just surviving at a much lower level on site, compared to the other features on the higher ground. It is therefore difficult to establish a certain date for the gravel pits. Only one of the gravel pits cut through any Romano British features suggesting a post Romano British date. Most of the gravel pits on the south east of the site are cut by a later feature, F3, which has a distinctive reddish brown colour to it and contained pot sherds from the 14th century (though it also contained residual Romano British pot). The evidence of the Medieval pot allows a broad date (pre 14th century and probably post Roman) to be given to at least those pits being cut by F3.

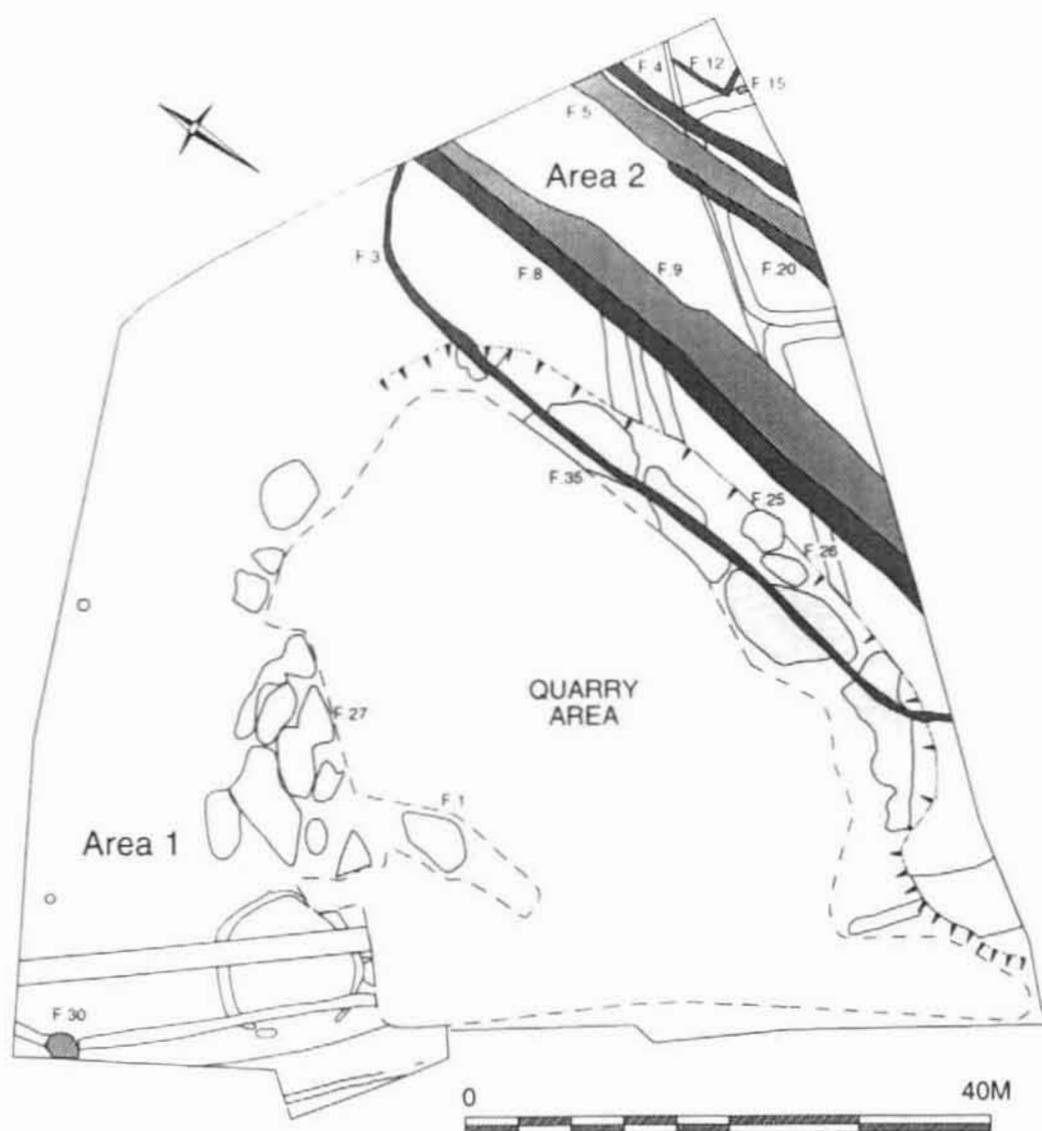


Figure 7

*The Medieval and Post Medieval Features (F3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 20, 30)*

Linear ditch F3 is narrow and shallow with a distinctive reddish brown fill not seen elsewhere on the site (see Figure 7). It wavers slightly but follows the same basic N - S alignment of ditches F4, F5, F8, F9, F20. The eastern returns of F3 may have formed the E - W element of an enclosure which utilised F8 as the eastern boundary. From N - S the ditch cuts through the southern line of gravel pits and then continues up the slope onto the higher level of the site. Animal bone and pot sherds were found in its fill; two sherds were datable to the 14th century, with the others being residual Romano British sherds. This medieval date would be feasible alongside documentary information regarding Bannold Drove and Denny Causeway (see below). It is the only feature on the site which respects the slope that was probably created by previous gravel pitting. Although it cannot be certain which phase of gravel pitting created the slope, the available evidence suggests at least a pre 14th century date.

Features 4, 5, 20, 8, and 9, are all linear ditches on the N - S alignment and along with F30, F15, F12 and F3 are stratigraphically the latest features on the site (see Figure 7). F4 and F8 had only Romano British material within their fills. As well as Romano British pot in F4, there was also a coin of Antoninianus, datable to the 3rd quarter of the 3rd century and a lead droplet which may also have been Roman. Despite this range of Romano British artefacts, the material could have been eroded from the edges of the Romano British ditches the later features have cut through, therefore being residual in nature. Due to the similarity in alignment with F3, which can be dated to the Medieval period these ditches can also be assigned to this period. The two ditches (F4 and F8) run parallel with a distance of c 16m between them forming a probable droveway/causeway. These ditches indicate the first phase of the droveway ditch.

Further phasing of the N - S aligned ditches can be discerned from their intercutting relationships. F8 and F20 are both partly cut away by F5 and F9 respectively. Therefore the clay pipe and brick fragments found in the later ditches, F9 and F5, though alongside residual Romano British pot, indicate a Post Medieval date for the latest phase of the double ditch. Judging by the oldest OS map of 1878, the Post medieval usage must have ceased at least by the latter half of the 19th century.

F12 consists of two shallow beam slots/gullies; one is N - S in orientation, and therefore in alignment with the droveway ditches, the other is adjacent on the east at right angles to the southern end of the first (see Figure 7). The two beam slots/gullies may represent a structure contemporary with the droveway. The linear ditch F20 (a probable early recut of the droveway) could be associated with F12 as it terminates at a point adjacent to the structure. Forming a possible entranceway in the droveway/causeway ditches.

The linear crop marks that run northwards to Causeway End farm are probably reflecting further portions of the droveway/causeway. Ditch earth works are also depicted on the 1878 and 1902 OS maps supporting this cropmark evidence. These earthworks must have been ploughed down as maps no longer show them. However, in the scrubland area next to Bannold Lodge similarly aligned double ditch earthworks can be seen on recent and old OS maps. These correlate with the droveway evidenced by excavation. Thus, as the name suggests Causeway End farm was indeed situated at the end of a causeway, with evidence of a portion of that causeway/droveway seen on the north-east edge of the site.

This causeway is probably the same as that noted on the old maps and documentary sources (Ravensdale 1974) as Denny Causeway which led to the north-west from Denny Abbey. The earthworks of which can still be identified in the western fields adjacent to the Abbey (OS map 1985). On the 1902 OS map the continuation of the Denny Causeway is depicted as a dotted track way, stopping at the present farm track before Bannold Lodge. The causeway would have had to have made a slight turn to the north to continue through to Causeway End farm. This farm is situated on a slight island originally called Elmeney being the site of a Benedictine monastery thought to have been first occupied at the same time as Denny Abbey monastery, around the 12th century. Accounts of its occupation in the 14th century (Darby 1974, Ravensdale 1974, VCH vol. II) and the need for a causeway in the waterlogged fens could point towards a construction date for the droveway. Documentary evidence of flooding in the mid 14th century (Darby 1974) has been verified by the environmental sampling from droveway ditch F20. This sample contained riverine mollusc species (see Appendix 5). Though there have been many accounts of flooding in the Middle Ages the descriptions of the Monks from Elmeney evacuating to the higher ground of Denny Abbey because of particularly bad flooding in the mid 14th century, could correlate to the flood debris in the ditches. Descriptions of a causeway now named Bannold Drove (still partly in use today to the south-east of the site) between Elmeney and Waterbeach can be found in historical documents but there is no mention of the Denny Causeway continuing through to Elmeney. Old maps (Ravensdale 1974) show the Denny Causeway terminating before adjoining Bannold Drove or reaching Elmeney, this is highly unlikely. There was more likely to have been some form of trackway between the two monasteries therefore connecting the two causeways/droveways. The droveway found in excavation could be positive proof that the Denny Causeway did at one point continue through to Elmeney. Pointing to a possible early Medieval date for the causeway which carried on being used through medieval and Post Medieval times.

### *Other Later Features (F15, F30)*

F30 in Area 1 was roughly oval in shape and shallow in depth. Not much information regarding date or function could be ascertained aside from it being a possible gravel pit. As there were no finds within it, only a stratigraphic date could be assigned that being of a post Romano British date. A post Romano British date is also given to F15, a possible ditch butt end truncating the Romano British enclosure in Area 2 (see Figure 7).

### **Discussion**

The high archaeological potential implied by the surrounding evidence including, earthworks, cropmarks, fieldwalking and documentary sources has been realised through excavation at Bannold Lodge. Evidence of activity from five chronological periods was revealed in the small area of investigation.

The earliest evidence recovered was in the form of a residual lithics assemblage found scattered throughout the site. The flint material ranges in date from Early Neolithic to Bronze Age. Only one prehistoric feature was excavated; though containing a Neolithic backed knife this feature cannot be confidently dated, as so little of it survived due to truncation. The presence of this prehistoric material viewed in conjunction with the SMR indicates the landscape in this area was utilised by prehistoric peoples. However, no specific area can be pinpointed as an actual 'site' or concentrated lithic scatter.

The majority of the archaeology on the site can be placed within the Romano British period which has two distinct phases. The late Iron Age /early Romano British period was characterised by a small ceramic assemblage of late 1st / early 2nd century AD material, associated with a roundhouse and hearth. The later more established period of Romano British activity revealed no associated structures, but was characterised by enclosure ditches, a droveway and boundary ditch with an associated skeleton. The ceramic assemblage from these features broadly dates to the mid - late Romano British period (2nd - 4th century AD), a large proportion being of 3rd century date associated with the enclosure ditches.

The roundhouse is evidence of an early post Roman Conquest settlement which may have been short-lived. It would appear that the settlement became more densely occupied in the 2nd - 4th centuries AD. Though there is no direct evidence for the settlement core, it is highly probable that the area was in continuous occupation throughout the Romano British period.

The range of artefacts found associated with the later Romano British period, especially the faunal evidence of food debris suggests that there was human occupation nearby. The faunal assemblage, though relatively small, indicates there was a range of domestic species of cattle, pig, sheep, goat,

horse and dog. This reinforces evidence of a fairly large organised settlement, though some of the animals may have been brought in as meat from neighbouring settlements. The ceramic assemblage in general consisted of fairly plain, utilitarian wares with a high number of storage jars. This does not suggest a high status site - or at least one with a strong emphasis on public dining /consumption often associated with villas (Lucas, Appendix 2). Instead, it is probably one of the Romano British rural settlements that have been already evidenced to exist in the local area (Philips 1970, Hall 1996, Lucas & Hinman 1996). Field walking and metal detecting in the fields directly north and south of the site provided evidence for extensive usage of the land around Bannold Lodge by the Romano Britons. The densities of the material suggest that this area was still probably within the settlement boundaries. The presence of a boundary ditch and an inhumation suggest a location peripheral to the settlement core, with activity evidenced from its south-western edge.

The gravel quarry pits cannot be dated conclusively, though at least half of them can be given a pre -14th century date. There is a possibility that some may be Roman (or earlier), as no doubt the Romano Britons would have been aware of the presence of the gravel (having dug the ditches). If so it provides a long history of gravel extraction in a concentrated area, that is probably the cause of the existing central depression.

The Medieval phase of activity consists of a 14th century enclosure ditch with associated structure and a droveway/causeway. The droveway is probably the continuation of the Denny Causeway which once led to Denny Abbey in the south and probably to Causeway End Farm in the north. It was constructed by the 14th century and shows continuation of use through to the post Medieval period. Further research of aerial photographs, cartographic and historical documents is required to date these features more precisely.

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## Appendix 1: Feature and Context Descriptions

### Soil Horizons

#### Topsoil [001]

Dark brown fine sandy silt, occasional small angular stones and gravel, odd chalk pebbles. Heavy root disturbance in some areas. Depth 0.25 - 0.30m.

#### Subsoil [078], [044]

Mid brown, slightly orange silt, occasional gravel and small pebbles, fairly well compacted. Depth 0.20 - 0.25m. Finds: Pot sherds (Romano British), animal bone, burnt stone, worked and burnt flint. These finds indicate that the area had been ploughed at some point, thereby truncating the Romano British features below.

Context descriptions - listed in feature number order.

#### F1 Cut [155] Fill [156] Not excavated.

Gravel pit cut irregularly shaped though roughly oval, maximum width 3m, maximum length 5.5m, depth where exposed in section 0.5m. Mid - pale brown sandy silt, moderate gravel with pea gravel accumulating towards the base of the fill, occasional chalk flecks.

#### F2 Cut [002, 071, 154] Fill [003, 072, 087, 153]

Linear ditch cut aligned NW - SE extending for a length of 26.1m from the northern limit of excavation to the southern edge of Area 1, cut out on SE by recent gravel pit, width 1.65m, depth 0.54m. Bowl-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides to a flattish base. The ditch cannot be seen to continue to the south into Area 2. Upper fill mid grey brown sandy silt, occasional gravel and iron mottling, with rare charcoal flecks; lower fill the same except slightly clayier. Finds: 3 worked flints, 1 pot sherd and 3 fragments of animal bone.

#### F3 Cut [106, 108, 134] Fill [105, 107, 133]

Linear ditch cut aligned N - S, slightly wavering for 50m then both ends curve in to the east before extending beyond the limits of excavation to the N and S. The ditch follows the slope of the land. Width varies between 0.88m and 1.1m, depth varies between 0.24m and 0.38m. Bowl-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Mid - dark reddish brown sandy silt fill, slightly redder towards the base, occasional gravel and small stone inclusions. Finds: 4 worked flints, 5 pot sherds and 69 fragments of bone.

#### F4 Cut [005, 015, 025, 039] Fill [004, 013, 014, 024, 038]

Linear ditch cut aligned N - S extending for 16.5m and then beyond the limits of excavation on the N and S. Fairly sharply sloping sides and a pointed base, width 1.1m, depth 0.45m. Well compacted mid grey sandy silt fill becoming

slightly lighter and orange mottled towards the base, frequent gravel inclusions. Finds: 1 pot sherd, 4 animal bone fragments, 1 iron object. Small Finds: 1 lead droplet and 1 Roman copper alloy coin, Antoninianus 3rd quarter of the 3rd century.

**F5 Cut [017, 040] Fill [016, 041]**

Linear ditch cut aligned N - S extending for 24m and then beyond the limits of excavation the N and S. Width 1.6m, depth ranging from 0.8 - 1.05m. Gradually to moderately sloping sides, becoming steeper towards the base and forming a narrow U shaped profile. Mid brown clayey silt fill becoming slightly greyer towards the base, occasional iron mottling and small stones. Finds: 2 pot sherds, 1 fragment of animal bone, 1 fragment of clay tobacco pipe.

**F6 Cut [152] Fill [151]**

Linear ditch cut aligned NE-SW extending for 6m, cut by F8 on the NE and cut out by modern gravel pitting on the SE. The ditch continues to the NE as F19 and returns to the SE as F18. Width 0.8m, depth 0.5m. Gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Well compacted mid orange brown sandy silt fill with occasional small pebbles. Finds: 1 worked flint, 1 burnt worked flint, 25 pot sherds, 42 fragments of animal bone, 1 piece of slag.

**F7 Cut [033] Fill [032]**

Linear ditch aligned NW -SE extending for 5.8m from the limits of excavation on the SE, then returning to the NE and continuing as F17. Width 1.1m, depth 0.6m. U-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Well compacted mid grey brown, orange mottled sandy silt fill with occasional small pebbles. Finds: 17 pot sherds, 6 fragments of animal bone.

**F8 Cut [129, 157] Fill [128, 158]**

Linear ditch cut aligned N - S, extending for 51.8m and then beyond the limits of excavation on the N and S, partly cut out by F9. Width of ditch 0.9m with depth ranging from 0.7 - 1m. Gradually to moderately sloping sides becoming steeper towards the base and forming a narrow U shaped profile. Well compacted mid grey sandy silt fill, frequent gravel inclusions and small stones. Finds: 6 fragments of animal bone, 6 pot sherds.

**F9 Cut [132] re-cut [127] Fill [131, 123, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126 ]**

Linear ditch cut aligned N - S, extending 47m and then beyond the limits of excavation on the N and S. Width 4m, depth 1.35m. Gradually sloping side on the west, gradually then sharply sloping side on the east with a flat wide base. Main fill on base is a compact mid - dark grey sandy clayey silt with occasional small stone inclusions. The fill becomes less compact though basically the same with a recently formed dark brown black humic silt with heavy root disturbance at the top of the ditch. Finds: 1 brick fragment, 1 pot sherd.

**F10** same as F3

**F11** Cut [118] Fill [115, 116, 117] Recut [161] Fill [162, 163]

Linear ditch cut aligned SE - NW extending 6.5m then beyond the limits of excavation in the SE and mostly quarried out in the NW, although the very base of the ditch survives beneath the quarry pit for a further 7m. The ditch then continues beyond the modern quarry pit for 13m as F29. Large deep ditch with fairly steep sides on the east, the west side has been re-cut forming a more concave profile, and then mostly quarried away. The lower 0.2m of the ditch having an almost vertical break of slope with a flat base (ankle breaker) forming a box-shape slot. Width of the ditch up to the quarried edge 3.4m, depth 1.7m. Upper fill [115], mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions; central fill [116], dark brown grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions; lower fill [117], dark grey clayey silt with occasional small stone inclusions with a grey gravelly clay silt lens lying on the base of the ditch. The lower fills have orange sandy gravel lenses and orange brown silty sand lenses. The lower fill [162] of the recut is the same as [115], the upper fill [163], a brown grey clay silt with occasional small stones and orange sandy gravel lenses. Finds: 1 worked flint, 95 fragments of animal bone, 12 pot sherds.

**F12** Cut [010, 021] Fill [009, 020]

Cut for beam slot or shallow gully aligned N - S f, extending for 6m, terminating in the N and in the S turning to the E at a right angle for 2m to the limits of excavation. Width 0.5m, depth ranging from 0.07m at the butt end to 0.2m at the east end. Shallow U-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Mid grey brown sandy clay fill, occasional gravel inclusions. Finds: 1 pot sherd.

**F13** Cut [019, 029] Fill [018, 028]

Linear ditch aligned SE - NW extending for 5.2m from the limits of excavation before being cut out by F4, however it can be seen to turn to the SW just before this and continues beyond F4 and F5 adjoining F6 and F17. Roughly bowl-shaped profile with gradual sloping sides in the SW and partly cut out by F15 in the NE. Width 1.1m, depth 0.5m. Mixed mid grey reddish brown sandy silt with occasional mottles of crushed chalk and moderate gravel inclusions. Finds: 20 fragments of animal bone, 3 pot sherds, 1 piece of burnt clay.

**F14** Cut [012, 027] Fill [011, 026]

Linear ditch cut aligned SW -NE, extending for 5.8m from the limits of excavation in the NE, cut out by F4 in the SW then continuing as F16. Width 0.5m, depth 0.1m. Shallow bowl-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Mid grey brown sandy loam fill, occasional red mottling, occasional fine gravel. Finds: 1 worked flint, 1 pot sherd.

**F15 Cut [023] Fill [022]**

Cut of possible ditch butt end, extending only 0.38m from the limits of excavation in the SE. Width 0.67m, depth 0.5m. Compacted light - mid grey silty sand fill, slight orange mottling, occasional gravel inclusions.

**F16 Cut [031] Fill [030]**

Linear ditch cut aligned NE - SW extending 14m, cut out by F9 on SW and F5 on the NE, cut on SE by F17, continuing in the NE as F14. Width 0.35m before being cut out by F17 in the SE, depth 0.11m. Shallow bowl-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Mid grey brown sandy loam fill, occasional red mottling, occasional fine gravel.

**F17 Cut [033] Fill [032]**

Linear ditch cut aligned NE - SW extending for 14m, cut by F20 and F5 on the NE before continuing as F13 returning to the SE, at SW end continuing as F7. Width 1.1m, depth ranges from 0.3 - 0.5m. U-shaped profile with fairly steep sloping sides. Well compacted mid grey brown, orange mottled sandy silt fill, occasional small pebbles. Finds: 1 worked flint, 1 burnt flint, 9 pot sherds, oyster shell fragments.

**F18 Cut [035] Fill [034]**

Linear ditch cut aligned NW-SE, extending for 5.8m from the limits of excavation in the SE then returning to the SW to become F19. Width 1.1m, depth 0.6m. U-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Well compacted dark grey brown sandy silt fill, frequent gravel and small pebbles. Finds: 156 fragments of animal bone, 25 pot sherds, 1 worked stone fragment (millstone).

**F19 Cut [036] Fill [037]**

Linear ditch cut aligned NE - SW, extending for 5m, returning to the SE as F18, on SW cut by F9 but probably continuing as F6 in the SW. Width 1.1m, depth 0.6m. U-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Well compacted dark grey brown sandy silt fill with frequent gravel and small pebbles. Finds: 13 fragments of animal bone, 1 pot sherd.

**F20 Cut [042, 074, 097] Fill [043, 073, 096]**

Linear ditch cut aligned N - S, extending for 15m from the limits of excavation in the S and butt-ending in the N, mostly cut out by F5 in the E. Width of ditch 1.5m, depth ranging from 0.8 - 1.1m. U-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides becoming steeper mid way down, the butt end has near vertical sloping sides. Mid grey brown clayey silt fill, occasional gravel inclusions, and small stones. Finds: 1 pot sherd, 1 fragment of clay tobacco pipe and oyster shell fragments.

**F21 Cut [046, 050, 054, 056, 058, 060, 068, 080, 082, 084, 086] Fill [045, 049, 053, 055, 057, 059, 067, 079, 081, 083, 085]**

Pennanular ditch cut 11m in diameter forming a shallow eaves gully for a possible round house, butting to form an entrance of c 6m facing the SW.

Width ranging from 0.4m, depth ranging from 0.6m - 0.2m - 0.9m. Shallow bowl-shaped profile, with gradually sloping sides, often with a slightly sharper slope on the inside edge, varying slightly throughout the length of the ditch. Mid grey brown clayey sandy silt fill, rare charcoal flecking, rare small rounded stones and gravel inclusions. Finds: 1 burnt flint, 2 fragments of animal bone, 3 pot sherds.

#### F21 Layer [75]

Mid brown silt patches mixed with a dirty natural of orange brown sandy clayey silt, with occasional dirty brown, orange patches of gravel. Occupation surface only seen in the central area defined by the eaves gully F21. Depth 0.01 - 0.03m . Finds: 6 worked flint, 1 burnt flint, 1 fragment of animal bone, 5 pot sherds.

#### Subsoil sample [78]

Subsoil [78] sampled from area (50 x 1m squares) over north side of eaves gully and driveway ditches F2 and F23. Finds: 2 worked flint, 41 fragments of animal bone, 4 pot sherds (re-fits from same grass imprinted clay plate, 0.19m in diameter), 2 burnt stone fragments.

#### F22 Cut [048] Fill [047, 070]

Most of feature quarried away just a slight butt end of a probable ditch remains, extends 0.5m from quarry edge in the S, cut by F21 in the N. Width 0.5m, depth 0.2m . Bowl-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Mid grey silty sand fill with moderate red clayey sand mottling, occasional gravel inclusions. Finds: 1 worked flint, 1 fragment of animal bone.

#### F23 Cut [062] Fill [061, 072, 109, 110]

Linear ditch cut aligned NW - SE extending 24m from modern gravel pit edge on SE, cut away by F30 in the NW. Not seen to continue SE into Area 2. Width 0.65m, depth 0.25m. Bowl-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides to a flatish base. Mid grey brown clayey sandy silt fill, rare small rounded stones and gravel inclusions; pockets of heavy gravel inclusions in some sections. Finds: 5 fragments of animal bone.

#### F24 Cut [052] Fill [051, 069]

Linear ditch cut aligned NW - SE extends only 0.35m from quarry edge in the SE, cut by F21 on W and F2 on NE. Width 1.1m until cut away by F2, depth 0.42m. Bowl-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides. Mid grey brown silty sand fill, occasional red clayey sand mottling, occasional gravel inclusions.

F25 Gravel pit, not excavated.

#### F26 Cut [064] Fill [063]

Gravel pit cut irregularly shaped, though roughly oval, maximum width 2.15m, maximum length 3.8m, depth 0.43m. Fairly steeply sloping sides in S,

to a very flat broad base, cut away in N by F25. Mid grey brown sandy silt fill, frequent gravel inclusions, heavy gravel lenses.

**F27** Cut [066] Fill [065]

Gravel pit cut irregularly shaped, though roughly oval, maximum width 3m, maximum length 6m, depth 0.55m. Sides descend fairly steeply, then slope more gradually to centre of pit. Mid grey brown sandy silt fill, becoming paler grey towards the base, frequent gravel inclusions, some gravel lenses. Finds: 1 pot sherd.

**F28** Cut [101] Fill [102, 113, 114]

Grave oriented SE - NW, length 1.8m, width 0.7m, depth 0.2m. Fill surrounding skeleton was mid grey brown sandy silt, well compacted, occasional gravel and small stone inclusions. Fine cobweb-like white powdery material could be seen within the fill as well as in some of the bones that were broken by plough disturbance. Finds: 1 worked flint, 3 pot sherds, 1 large block of limestone.

**F29** Cut [93] Fill [092, 098, 099, 100] Recut [164, 165] Fill [088, 089, 090, 091]

Linear ditch cut aligned NW-SE, extending 13m then beyond the limits of excavation in the NW, mostly quarried out in the SE, continuing to the SE beyond the modern quarry pit as F11. Large deep ditch with fairly steep sides on the NE, on the SE being recut twice. Width of the ditches together 3.9m, depth 1.4m on NE, 0.9m on SW. Upper fill [088] very dark brown black peaty silt, rich with organic material, lots of roots some very thick; central fill [89] of western recut [165], mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions; fill of eastern recut [164] mid - dark brown grey clayey silt with orange mottling in the lower fill [091], occasional gravel inclusions. Upper fills of earliest phase [098, 099, 092] mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small stone inclusions, with natural gravel slumps from the east; lower fill [100] dark grey organic rich clayey silts (beneath the water table), occasional stone and pebble inclusions. Finds: 2 worked flints, 8 fragments of animal bone, 4 pot sherds.

**F30** Cut [104] Fill [103]

Ovoid feature possibly a pit or small gravel pit, cutting the S of F31. Full dimensions not seen as cut out by modern pit in the NE, 2m by 1.8m, depth 0.3m. Mid brown clayey silt loam fill, occasional small stones and gravel inclusions.

**F31** Cut [112] Fill [111]

Linear ditch cut or gravel pit cut aligned N - S extending 3m from the NW limits of excavation, on S and W, cut away by a modern pit in the W corner of the site (possibly curving round to form another ring gully). Gradually sloping sides with a fairly steep step down on the east, before being cut away. Width 0.65, depth 0.3m. Mid - dark brown sandy silt fill, rare orange mottling occasional small stones and gravel inclusions.

**F32** Cut [121] Fill [119, 120]

Hearth cut roughly circular, 1m by 0.85m. Sides sloping gradually but unevenly to the central point of the pit. Depth 0.2m. Upper fill blackish brown silt, frequent charcoal flecking, occasional charcoal fragments, frequent medium (<0.05m) rounded and sub angular stones, some being burnt stones. Lower fill mid grey brown clayey silty loam with frequent mottling of orange clayey sand, rare charcoal flecks and rare medium and small stones. Finds: 37 burnt stones.

**F33** Cut [149] Fill [135, 141, 143, 144, 145]

Linear ditch cut aligned NE-SW, extending for 8m, cut out by F8 on NE, F35 and modern gravel pitting on SW. Width 0.8m, depth 0.5m below pit cut. Gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Well compacted mixed fills - mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small pebbles, mid grey brown clayey silts, and re-deposited natural gravels towards the base. Finds: 2 pot sherds.

**F34** Cut [150] Fill [135, 137, 138, 139, 140]

Linear ditch cut aligned NE-SW, extending for 7m, cut by F8, F35 and modern gravel pitting on SW. Width 1.2m, depth 1m. Gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Upper fill orange gravelly clayey silt with occasional small pebbles; central fills, light grey brown clayey silts, re-deposited natural orange gravels towards the base. Finds: 2 pot sherds.

**F35** Cut [146] Fill [136, 147, 148]

Gravel pit cut irregularly shaped though roughly oval, maximum width 4m, maximum length 9m, depth 0.5m. Sides sloping fairly steeply on E, cutting ditches F33 and F34. Upper fill light - mid grey brown clayey silt, odd pebble inclusions; lower fills mid grey brown sandy, clayey silts, frequent gravel inclusions with some gravel lenses. Finds: 2 pot sherds.

## Appendix 2: Romano-British Pottery from Bannold Lodge (Gavin Lucas)

A moderately sized assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered from fieldwalking and excavated features (6,189 Kg, 327 sherds) indicative perhaps of a settlement edge/margins. The greater proportion of the pottery broadly dates to the later Roman period (3rd/4th century) but there were no clearly diagnostic 4th century vessels, indeed the group in F. 18 appears to be fairly well defined to the early and mid 3rd century and in all likelihood this can be taken to apply to most of the assemblage. The only exceptions are sherds from Area 1 associated with the eavesgully F. 21 which include flint-tempered sherds in a Late Iron Age tradition in association with early Romano-British vessels; these would appear to date the feature to the later 1st century AD, probably early post-Conquest.

The composition of the assemblage is dominated by greywares, most of which are probably Horningsea products, although some shell-tempered vessels are present, chiefly storage jars; certainly the group is noticeable for the abundance of storage jars from Horningsea, many sherds of which have *interior* combing/lattice-work as well as the more common exterior combing. Interior combing has been said to be possibly a characteristic of 2nd century forms (Pullinger *pers. comm.*) but given the date of this assemblage, this now seems unlikely - although its absence could still be a 4th century phenomenon. The apparent abundance of such wares from Horningsea can be accounted for by the proximity of the site to the kilns (c. 6.5 km to the south), and it also lies close to both a major road (Akeman Street) and waterway (the Cam), both of which may have been used to transport the pottery north into the Fens. The high numbers of storage jars in particular is of interest and this may reflect the position of the site along trade routes into the Fens where the storage jars were heavily marketed (Hartley & Hartley 1970: 168), although presence of the shell-tempered storage jars may alternatively suggest that this pattern may have more to do with activities on or nearby the site.

Other wares present include Nene Valley colour-coats (bowls and dishes) and mortaria which dominate the fine wares while some others occur in small numbers such as Hadham redwares, some late Samian and a folded beaker from Colchester. In general however, the range of vessels consists of fairly plain, utilitarian wares - bowls, dishes and jars with very rare beakers/cups and no flagons. It does not suggest a high status site - or at least one with a strong emphasis on public dining/consumption.

Feature	Context	Description	Date
-	Field walking	Horningsea storage jar & dogdish, NV mortarium, greyware jars (various), VRW vessel, Colchester CC folded beaker with white barbotine, Samian footrings (?EG).	Mixed: 2nd-3rd century
-	(Stoney Hills)	shell-temp. vessel	RB
-	006 (machining)	Horningsea storage jar	RB
-	006 (machining)	greywares	RB
-	006 (machining)	greyware	RB
-	007 (machining)	shell-temp. tegula	3rd/4th century
-	008 (machining)	greyware bowl/dish	late 1st/early 2nd century
-	1985/2004	oxidised vessel	1st/2nd century
-	fieldwalking	Large, relatively unabraded sherds; includes Horningsea storage jars, BB2 type grooved bowl/dish, white slipped bifid rimmed jar and other greywares. One sherd from a beaded jar has a herringbone/chequed stamp known on Colchester products ( <i>cf.</i> Hull 1963, fig.58) but this is not a Colchester vessel - a similar occurrence was identified at Foxton by the author.	Mixed: 2nd-3rd century
-	fieldwalking	Horningsea storage jar, dogdish, jars; NV CC brown slipped bowl (imit. Dr.31) & Castor box lid; greyware flanged bowl, grooved bowl/dish & lid; Samian Dech. 68 beaker	Mixed: 2nd-3rd century
(nr. 23)	077	greyware	RB
(nr. 28)	machining	oxidised vessel	?RB
2	surface	greyware	RB
3	-	2 sherds	Medieval: 14th century
3	133	sherd	Medieval
3	surface	large/storage jar	RB
4	013	greyware - small sherd	RB
5	-	NVCC dark brown slipped bowl (imit. Dr.31)	AD270+
5	016	greyware bowl	1st/2nd century <sup>1</sup>
6	-	BB2 type plain rimmed bowl, shell-temp. vessel, Horningsea storage jars, greywares, Horningsea storage jar, shell-temp. storage jar,	AD180+
6	151	BB2 type cooking pot, chalk-tempered sherd	late 3rd/4th century
7	-	Horningsea storage jar (type 7), shell-temp. storage jar & other vessel, greyware	RB
8	-	NVCC dark brown slipped jar, greyware jar	AD270+
8	surface	Horningsea storage jar	RB

<sup>1</sup> Clay pipe also in feature suggests sherd is residual

8/9	123	oxidised vessel	1st/2nd century
9	-	brick	?Post-medieval
9	surface	greyware	RB
10	-	greyware	RB
11	-	greyware jar	2nd/3rd century
11	-	Horningsea storage jar	RB
11	115	Horningsea storage jar (type 7), BB2 type grooved rim bowl/dish.	AD180+
11	surface	NV reeded mortarium.	AD240+
12	009	Horningsea storage jar	RB
13	018	Horningsea storage jar, shell-temp. storage jar, daub - small sherds	RB
14	011	greyware	RB
17	032	NV reeded mortarium, greyware jar	AD240+
17	094	Horningsea storage jar, shell-temp. vessel, greyware	RB
18	034	Horningsea storage jar & miniature vase, greyware jar ( <i>cf.</i> Cam 268B) & flanged bowl, NVCC red slipped ?bowl, shell-temp. storage jar	c. AD200-270
19	036	Horningsea storage jar	RB
20	096	greyware jar/bowl	RB <sup>1</sup>
21	075	flint-tempered & quartzite-temp. vessels (LIA); greyware (RB)	Late 1st century AD
21	078	grass-tempered plate (for hearth/oven?)	
21	053	greyware Braughing/LIA type jar (Romanized)	Late 1st century AD
21	083	greyware	RB
27	065	large/storage jar	RB
28	102	flint tempered	LIA (1st century BC/AD)
28	102	white-slipped jar	1st/2nd century
29	090	Hadham redware wide-mouthed jar	late 3rd/4th century
29	091	NVCC dark brown slipped dogdish	AD270+
33	136	greyware and Hadham redware	late 3rd/4th century
33	144	greyware and Hadham redware - small sherds	3rd/4th century
35	147	Horningsea storage jar (type 5)	RB
33/34	135	greyware	RB
34	139	storage jar - small sherd	RB

Table 1. Summary of pottery

<sup>1</sup> Clay pipe also in feature suggests sherd is residual

### Appendix 3: Faunal Remains (Lorraine Higbee)

#### i) Quantity and Provenance of material

A small assemblage of animal bone (398 fragments or 9,126 Kg) was recovered by hand from excavated features. The majority of this material comes from the fills of various ditches assigned to the Romano-British period (see table. 1). Problems of residuality are likely only to affect the Romano-British and Medieval / Post-Medieval ditches on the east of the site, however, the amount of bone recovered from these features is relatively small (113g). Contamination of contexts by the introduction of later material has been recognised for F.29 which has been affected by rabbit burrowing.

Phase	Weight	Fragment count
Unstratified	792	17
Medieval	1667	34
Romano-British	6530	328
Late Iron Age	137	19
Total	9,126	398

Table. 1 Quantity of material by Weight and Fragment count

#### ii) Range and Variety

A little under 20% of the assemblage is identifiable to species. The bulk of the rest of the assemblage (mostly fragments of ribs, vertebrae, long bones, and skull) has been assigned to size categories, or is unidentifiable splinters of bone greater than 2cm. The range of species represented is relatively modest, with cattle and horse (or cattle/horse sized fragments) dominating the assemblage, particularly in the large Romano-British sample (table. 2).

*Medieval / Post-medieval:* The material from this phase comes from two separate features, F.5 and F.3. The remains of four different species have been identified cattle, sheep/goat, horse and a single mandible from a domestic cat. Ageable specimens are rare within this small sample and few bones are complete enough to be measured.

Horse bones are the most abundant and at least two individuals are represented. The first is a foal aged approximately 3-8 months and the second is a more mature individual (+3-3.5 years). Both the fore and hind legs of the latter individual are present. There is some suggestion that these limbs were severed from the rest of the carcass, since chop marks were recorded on their proximal and distal ends. Since many of these bones are either virtually complete or have modern breaks it is unlikely that the flesh was being eaten. It is however, more likely that the carcass of a knackered horse was reduced in size for easier disposal.

	U/S	Med/P.M.	Romano-B	Late I.A.	Total
Unidentifiable	12	-	111	11	134
Large *	1	20	150	3	174
Medium*	-	-	9	4	13
Cattle	1	5	37	1	44
Horse	3	6	11	-	20
Sheep/Goat	-	2	5	-	7
Pig	-	-	2	-	2
Dog	-	-	1	-	1
Leporid	-	-	2	-	2
Cat	-	1	-	-	1
Total	17	34	328	19	398

**Table. 2** (NISP) Number of identifiable specimens by category and species. \*Large = cattle/horse sized; Medium = sheep/goat sized.

The remains of the two common food animals cattle and sheep/goat present in this phase are extremely rare and uninformative. At least one individual of each is represented most by waste elements with little or no meat value.

*Romano-British:* Eleven different features from this phase contained animal bone, however, few contained significantly large numbers of identifiable material apart from F. 6 and F.18. The species represented primarily suggest the exploitation of domestic animals, particularly cattle for food. Few specimens are ageable or complete enough to be measured.

At least two individual cattle are present, both are individuals slaughtered at the most economically viable age for meat (i.e. 2-3 years). Both waste elements from primary carcass dismemberment and meaty joints from food waste are represented. Some waste elements (an ankle and foot from F.18) were found to articulate, thus suggesting that they were discarded still fleshed. The largest concentration of food waste (from all phases) comes from F.18. Butchery marks on the bones of this species are fairly consistent and relate either to dismemberment of the carcass or the reduction of meaty portions for food preparation and consumption. Of particular note is the butchery recorded on a scapula from F.6. The specimen had been trimmed with a cleaver around the shoulder joint, to disarticulate it from the humerus; on the blade a few faint knife cuts were evident, and on the posterior of the bone a regular depressed fracture was also noted. This suggests that this joint of meat was probably hung whilst it was either smoked, dried or salted before the meat was filleted off the bone.

Horse, sheep/goat and pig bones were also recovered from this phase. Unfortunately, their numbers are too small to provide any meaningful information. However, the lower forelimb (radius, astragalus, carpals,

metacarpal, metacarpal II, and phalanx prima) of a horse less than 3.5 years old, from F.18 was found to articulate.

A single fragment of a dog mandible (F.18 [034]) and two rabbit long bones (F.29 [089]) were also recovered. The rabbit bones represent contamination from later burrowing activity.

*Late Iron Age:* An eaves drip gully (F.21) represents the earliest phase of activity. Unfortunately only one bone from this feature was identifiable to species; a cattle foot bone (phalanx prima) from context [053].

### iii) Condition

Overall the assemblage is in a good state of preservation, with clean, smooth surfaces. However, a few specimens are highly calcified and this has made them quite brittle. Only one specimen (from F.2 [072]) was recorded as having been gnawed upon by dogs, suggesting that much of the material was either rapidly sealed or quickly out of the reach of scavengers (i.e. discarded within deep holes).

### iv) Methods

All of the material was rapidly scanned in order to determine species present, body part distribution, butchery and to assess the potential of the material for more detailed analysis. Age estimations were made using the established methods and data of Grant (1982), Payne (1973), and Silver (1969).

### v) General Conclusions

Due to the small size of the Post-Medieval and Late Iron Age samples no comparisons can be made with the Romano-British sample as to the importance of different species over time. Cattle is by far the most important food animal in the Romano-British sample.

The various ditches of the post-Medieval and Romano-British phases of the site seem to have been used as receptacles for the disposal of both butchery and domestic waste, as well as the noxious remains of no longer useful animals. The condition and the material and the lack of gnawing also suggest that this process was fairly rapid.

#### Appendix 4: Human Remains (Natasha Dodwell)

An apparently isolated skeleton [114], possibly of Romano-British date, was located in a shallow grave [111], parallel to and less than a metre from ditch F23 and to the immediate south-west of the eaves drip gully (F.21). The osteological analysis of this skeleton and a brief discussion of its context within the site is presented below.

General methods used in the osteological evaluation of this individual are those of Bass (1992), Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) and Steele and Bramblett (1988). Supplementary recording standards are referred to in the text. The preservation of the skeleton was generally good, although the absence of the skull and damage to the pelvis prohibited the use of several ageing and sexing techniques.

The living stature of the skeleton was calculated from the long bone lengths using the regression equation devised by Trotter and Gleser (1958). The stature estimate should be treated with some caution as surviving long bones, although complete, had suffered clean post-mortem breaks.

In noting the orientation of the body the position of the head is referred to first.

**Age: Adult**

No definite age determination possible as neither the pubic sympheses nor a complete dentition are preserved. The appearance of the auricular surface suggests an age of 42 years (Meindl and Lovejoy, 1989).

**Sex: Possibly Male**

Determination based on the narrowness of the sciatic notch and metrical data of the femora

**Stature:** 1.60m (combined length of left femur and tibia is 746mm)

**Orientation:** SE-NW

**Position of body:** The skeleton is supine and extended. The left arm is extended and lies close against the torso with the hand resting on the pelvic area. The right side of the upper body has been disturbed by ? ploughing. Both legs are fully extended.

**Preservation:** The skull and the upper 5 cervical vertebrae are missing as is the majority of the right arm and shoulder. The surviving body parts are in good condition although many of the long bones were broken during lifting.

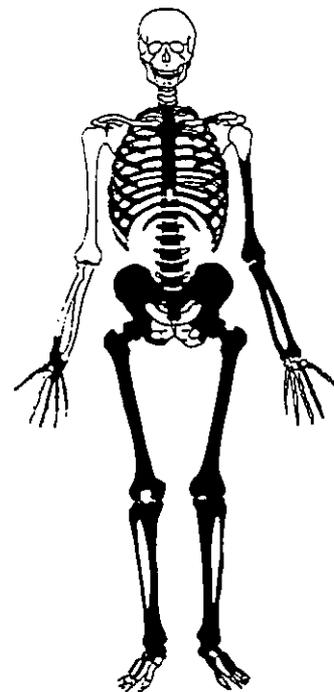


Diagram of bones present

**Grave Goods:** None. Flint and Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the grave fill. A limestone block (160x100x40mm) partially covered the right hand.

**Dentition :** None

**Pathology:**

1. Degenerative joint disease or **osteoarthritis**, a disease process characterised by changes on and around articulating joint surfaces was widespread throughout the vertebral column and at both ankle joints. The changes associated with this disease process include an increased porosity of the joint surface, outgrowths of bone around the joint margin known as osteophytes and alterations to the morphology of the joints. Such features are usually associated with abnormal stress being placed upon the joints, either through occupational factors, or simply by the normal wear and tear of the ageing process. Once protective cartilaginous material between joints is worn away, bone can rub directly on bone creating a polished or eburnated surface to a joint.

i. The majority of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae exhibit porosity and osteophytes to varying degrees of severity. The osteophyte lipping is largely confined to the vertebral bodies and ranges from marginal (1mm) to severe on the bodies of T8 and T9 (6mm) and L2-L4 (8mm), where they project both horizontally and vertically. These bony projections are more pronounced on the left side of the body. Osteophytes have also altered the morphology of the right inferior articular process of L2 and the corresponding joint, the superior articular process, of L3. Small, shallow pits (max. 5mm) and linear depressions were recorded in the superior and inferior bodies of two thoracic vertebrae (T8 and T12). The edges are smooth and the cortical bone continues into the depressions. These are known as **Schmorl's Nodes** and result from the degeneration of the inter-vertebral discs. They are a common finding amongst older individuals.

ii. Two lower, left thoracic ribs exhibit porosity, osteophytes and alteration in the contours of the joint surfaces (which articulate with the vertebrae).

iii. Both ankles exhibit arthritic changes; porosity, osteophytes (up to 14mm) and alterations of the joint morphology. The articulating surfaces of the calcanea, the tali, the cuboids and the naviculars are all affected although none of the metatarsals and phalanges (toes) exhibit pathological changes.

iv. The distal ends of both the right and left tibia and fibula exhibit pathological changes which probably relate to the arthritic condition of the ankle joints. Osteophyte lipping was recorded on both the superior and inferior aspects of the groove for the tibialis posterior muscles. The groove itself has a worn and smooth appearance with some porosity. The condition is more severe on the right foot. The posterior aspect of the fibula notch of the right tibia exhibits large osteophytes (6mm) and a small area (2mm) of eburnation, and osteophytic lipping was recorded on the margins of the articular surface of the lateral malleolus. It is possible that the degenerative disease affecting the ankles caused some pain and difficulty in walking (but see below) which in turn put an extra strain on the muscles around the lower leg

2. Both disorganised, striated and well remodelled lamellar bone were recorded on the medial aspect of the mid shaft of the right tibia. A plaque of raised new bone (15x7mm) with a porous but shiny surface was noted at the groove for muscle flexor hallucis longis. These are characteristic features of infection, in this case restricted to the periosteum (the membrane surrounding the outer bone surface). This periostitis could be the result of a **non specific infection**. The position of the new bone formation in relation to muscle and ligament

attachments could indicate that this is an inflammatory reaction resulting from trauma. It would not have been debilitating.

3. Although not strictly defined as pathological, certain changes to the skeletal morphology were noted which are indicators of old age:

- i. The distal phalanges, of both hands, have a tufted appearance, again a common finding amongst older individuals.

**Other observations:**

Two possible **cut marks** which need further investigation were noted.

- i. The first but least convincing was recorded on the highest surviving vertebra (C6) where no vertebral body survived but near vertical breaks (smooth but quite fresh looking) on both the left and right superior articular processes were recorded.

- ii. A far more convincing cut mark was recorded on the right scapula, across the spine of the acromion. The cut has a smooth almost polished appearance and could have occurred either post or peri- mortem.

**Disturbance of the Grave**

The skeleton has almost certainly been disturbed by ploughing:

- the right arm, except for a fragment of radius, is not present.
- the right hand (half resting below a limestone rock) is positioned above waist height, as if dragged by the plough whilst still articulated.
- the metatarsals and phalanges were recovered from the lower end of the grave and toe bones from around the shoulder region.
- the right scapula is not in its anatomical position (lying flat) but has been shifted to a more vertical position.
- the skull and the upper cervical vertebra are also missing (see below).

**The Missing Skull; plough damage or decapitation?**

Whilst the disturbance of the patella, hand and feet bones, and the absence of the majority of the right arm, can almost certainly be attributed to ploughing, the absence of the skull and upper cervical vertebrae (C1-C5) *may* be the result of a more deliberate act.

The resting of a complete body within the grave (the northern limit of which was, admittedly, difficult to define) would have necessitated the forcing-up of the head, the chin touching the chest. This is, of course, not uncommon and the intangibility of the grave cut could be the result of the plough dragging the head and neck out of the grave. However, *if* genuine, the cut mark noted on the 6th cervical vertebra could suggest that the head had been purposefully decapitated. Whilst severing of the head more commonly occurs at the upper part of the neck (C3 or C4) cut marks on C5 or C6 are not unusual (Harman *et al* 1981, 165-166).

The deliberate removal of the head from the body *before* burial has been recorded from over seventy Roman sites in Britain, distributed predominantly south-east of the Severn-Wash line (Philpott, 1991). The available data also indicates that the distribution of Roman decapitations is predominantly rural, often occurring in small cemeteries associated with farmsteads, or minor rural settlements.

Decapitations with the head missing are far less common than those where the head has been displaced but is still present in the grave (Philpott 1991, 78). There are examples of decapitated burials where other parts of the body have been detached or mutilated (Harman *et al* 1981, 165) which may be of relevance here if the cut through the scapula was not inflicted by the plough. Those decapitated skeletons where the head is missing have variously been interpreted as victims of judicial execution (Bartlett and Mackey 1973, 46-47) or military activity (Challands 1977). The rite of decapitation has also been interpreted as a punitive act or a mode of preventing the dead from harming the living.

### Discussion

Each of the pathological changes observed on the skeleton are associated with increasing age. There is no method of ascertaining how debilitating, if at all, the osteoarthritis of the spine and ankles/feet were. Although visually the changes to the bone are severe, there is no correlation between this and the degree of pain the individual may have suffered (Rogers and Waldron 1995).

Given the damage to the right side of the body and the uncertainty of the 'head' end of the grave cut it is probably wiser at this point to attribute the missing skull and cervical vertebrae to plough disturbance rather than deliberate decapitation. This uncertainty could be resolved by further analysis of the 'cut marks' under an electron microscope.

Isolated graves particularly those associated with ditches are a relatively common burial practice in the Roman period. Establishing how 'isolated' the burial truly is, proves difficult given the size of the area investigated. The 1903 O.S. map shows that human remains were found in 1867 in an area c. 100m to the north-west of the site. It is not known whether these 'human remains' were disarticulated bones, cemetery group, or indeed when they date from.

In many societies those who transgress social codes are often denied certain funerary rites, both as a punishment to the transgressor and as a warning to others. It is often claimed that individuals buried apart from a main burial area, in or beside a ditch, or seemingly without care, have forfeited the rite to be buried with others and that they have transgressed some social or moral code to become outsiders. But ditches can be seen as boundaries or liminal places, dividing space. They are uncertain and yet powerful, and the deliberate placing of the dead in relation to a ditch could be interpreted as an attempt to strengthen the symbolic properties of the boundary.

## Appendix 5: The environmental samples from the excavations at Bannold Lodge (Chris Stevens)

### Methods

A total of nine samples (10 litres) were floated for the extraction of carbonised plant macros; the resultant flots were then scanned under a stereo-binocular microscope and the plant remains and molluscan remains from the flots identified and quantified.

Two samples came from a possible Late Iron age hearth, F.32 [119], [120], and a further two from a Late Iron Age or Early Roman roundhouse gully F21 [079] and [083]. A further two samples were processed from Roman ditches, F.29 [100] and F.23 [119]. The remaining samples came from Medieval or post Medieval ditches; F.5 [041] and F.9 [131], dated to the Post Medieval and late Medieval/Post Medieval respectively, and F.20 [073] dated to the 14th century.

### Results

The samples in general contained very little in the way of carbonised plant remains. Several contained a few possible waterlogged seeds. Only those from F.9 occurred in sufficient quantity and are of a date recent enough to be considered contemporary with the feature, rather than having been incorporated into early features; these are shown in Table 2.

Several samples also contained remains of molluscs. Although often in low quantities, these are summarised in Table 1. Of particular interest was the sample from the 14th century Medieval ditch which contained large numbers of riverine snails.

#### *The Late Iron Age and Roman Samples*

The hearth, F.32 [119] and [120], produced almost no identifiable seeds, bar one charred possible stone of sloe, *Prunus spinosa* and one of curled dock, *Rumex cf. crispus*. Wood charcoal occurred in some abundance, especially in [119].

The sample from the gully contained both low quantities of wood charcoal and one charred seed of probably Brome grass, *Bromus sp.*.

The samples from the Roman ditches F.29 and F.23, also contained very low densities of charcoal and no seeds. The sample from F.29 did however contain some land snail shells (Table 1), which are suggestive of a fairly open environment with some woodland elements. In addition a single shell of

great ramshorn, *Planorbarius corneus* was also recovered. It is possible that the snail which is characteristic of stagnant water may represent such conditions within the ditch, however, as with the assemblage from F.20 [073] it may represent a single flooding event.

*The 14th Century Medieval Ditch F.20 [073]*

The sample contained a large number of riverine snails, including shells of *Theodoxus fluviatilis* (L.), *Bithynia tentaculata* (L.), *Lymnaea stagnalis* (L.), *Lymnaea auricularia* (L.), *Lymnaea palustris*, (Muller), *Bathyomphalus contortus* (L.), *Gyraulus albus* (Muller)/ *Hippeutis complanatus* (L.), *Planorbarius corneus* (L.), *Planorbarius planorbis* (L.), *Anisus vortex* (L.), *Oxyloma* sp.), *Sphaerium corneum* (L.)/ *lacustre* (Muller)/ *Pisidium amnicum* (Muller). Many of these species are characteristic of slow moving lowland rivers, often with lush vegetation, and muddy bottoms, although both *Bithynia* and *Theodoxus fluviatilis* are common amongst rocks within slow moving rivers.

It is highly unlikely that such an assemblage could have lived within the ditch itself and therefore must have been brought in by other events, most probably flooding (perhaps several events over a short time period given the number of shells). The number of shells of *Bithynia tentaculata*, 119 to the operculum of *Bithynia* 29, which is 1:1 in living specimens, also confirms that the assemblage was redeposited.

The sample was very similar to molluscan deposits from riverine samples taken from excavations at Trinity Hall (Stevens 1997), especially the earlier samples, which probably date to within 100 years of the sample from Bannold Lodge F.20 [073].

*The Late Medieval/Post Medieval ditch F.9 [131]*

This was the only sample to produce any great quantity of remains, which, given their abundance and the depth of the sample, are believed to have been preserved by waterlogging, rather than representative of modern contaminants.

Given that the majority of the species seeds recovered are characteristic of hedgerows, it would seem most probable that they came from a hedgerow running next to the ditch. The species exclusively associated with more open environments - chickweed, orache, goosefoot, dock, musk-thistle, could come from grassland, arable or wasteland conditions; but in the absence of species more characteristic of arable or grasslands probably represent wasteland, perhaps at field margins.

The reconstruction of the hedge environment from the plant remains is further complimented by the number of bones from small mammals, c.40 and also the molluscan remains (Table 1) which are consistent with a hedge environment.

*The Post Medieval Ditch F.5 [041]*

In spite of some potential for waterlogged remains, especially in light of the sample from F.9 above only one single seed of elder was recovered, although some very badly preserved small fragments were also recovered.

**Summary**

The samples from both the hearth and house gully, whilst obvious potential contexts for the charred remains of crops failed to produce any such evidence, perhaps indicating either low levels of such domestic activity and/or a short period of occupation. The later samples also produced little evidence for domestic activity or evidence which could be used for environmental reconstruction, with the exception of the evidence for a hedgerow environment from F.9 and flooding from F.20. No further work is therefore recommended upon the samples.

**Table 1: The Molluscan Remains**

Molluscs	Habitats	F.23	F.29	F.9
		[109]	[100]	[131]
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro 1838)	drier calcareous grassland, screes etc.	-	1	-
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Muller 1774)	moderately damp places, marshes, grasslands, woods	-	-	1
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> (Sterki 1892)	open dry calcareous habitats, grassland, screes etc. not woods	1	1	-
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linne 1758)	dry exposed habitats	-	1	-
<i>Aegopinella pura</i> (Alder 1830)	moist places, characteristic of ground litter in deciduous woods	-	-	2
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (Cinné)		1	-	1
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>	woods, grasslands	-	-	1

**Table 2:** The Plant Macros from The Late Medieval/Post Medieval ditch F.9 [131]

Species	Common name	Habitat	
Ranunculus sp. L.	buttercup	meadows, pastures, woodland	1
Silene latifolia subsp. alba L.	white campion	arable fields, field margins, hedgebanks, grasslands, waste places	7
Stellaria media L. (Vill.)	chickweed	weed of cultivated ground, waste places, pastures	3
Atriplex sp. L	orache	waste places, cultivated land	1
Chenopodium polyspermum L.	many seeded goosefoot	waste places, cultivated land	20
Rumex crispus L./obtusifolius L.	curled/broad-leaved dock.	grassy places, arable/ woods, waste ground, field margins	6
Urtica dioica L.	common nettle	hedgebanks, woods, grassy places, fens	14
Crataegus monogyna Jacq.	hawthorn	scrub, woods, hedges	c. 11
Solanum dulcamara L.	woody nightshade	hedges, woods, waste ground	2
Ballota nigra L.	black horehound	roadsides, hedgebanks	9
Lamium album L.	white dead nettle	hedgebanks, roadsides	2
Stachys cf. sylvatica L.	hedge woundwort	woods, hedgebanks, shaded waste.	23
Sambucus nigra L.	elder	scrub, hedges, wasteland	38
Succisa pratensis Moench	devil's-bit scabious	marshes, fens, damp woods	7
Carduus nutans L.	musk thistle	waysides, pastures, arable fields	8
Carex sp. (trig)	sedge	wide range of habitats	2
buds			1
Fly pupae			3