



Archaeological Field Unit

**Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlement and Field
Systems: An Archaeological Evaluation at Fordham
Road Allotments, Soham**

Aileen Connor

2001

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. A188

Commissioned by Lacy Scott and Knight

**Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlement and Field Systems: An
Archaeological Evaluation at Fordham Road Allotments, Soham
TL 6025 7250**

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation took place on a 2 hectare site of former allotments on Fordham Road, Soham (TL 6025 7250) between May 21st and June 6th 2001. The work was undertaken by staff of the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council. Eleven trenches were excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator with a flat bladed ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. The total length of trenching was 550m, all the trenches were 1.8m wide.

An archaeological desk-top study was conducted of the area around the site prior to trenching.

Every trench contained archaeological features, the largest number of features were located in the southern half of the area, but the character of the features in the northern part of the area also indicate settlement.

The evaluation has shown that the site was probably settled during prehistoric, and Roman periods. The prehistoric evidence points to a period at the end of the Bronze Age and beginning of the Iron Age.

Evidence for prehistoric settlement occurs in all the trenches, the evidence in the northern trenches was not obscured by activity dating to the Roman period and comprised at least two rectangular ditched enclosures associated with evidence for timber buildings and rubbish pits. The small quantity of pottery recovered from this area of the site may indicate an early date for the occupation, or possibly a variation in its character.

The southern area of the site showed evidence for settlement in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Roman periods. Rectangular ditched enclosures on two distinct alignments were found in the more southerly trenches, and continued to the north. This area of settlement was probably bounded on its north side (trench 5) by a metalled surface, possibly a track or Holloway. To the south of this track feature density increased dramatically towards Fordham Road. The most southerly of the trenches (trench 10) contained ditches and pits of both prehistoric and Roman date. Roman features contained large quantities of well preserved Roman pottery, roof tiles and animal bone. This coupled with evidence for timber buildings strongly suggests the presence of a Roman settlement on this site. Recent evaluation by the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust to the west of the allotments indicates that the Roman settlement continued to the west. The boundaries of the prehistoric and Roman settlements on this site were not uncovered by this evaluation and are likely to continue beyond the confines of the development area.

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**Late Bronze Age and Romano-British Settlement and Field Systems: An
Archaeological Evaluation of Fordham Road Allotments, Soham
(TL 6025 7250)**

1 INTRODUCTION

A desktop assessment (Casa Hatton 2001) was undertaken by the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council as part of the planning requirements prior to development of a plot of land (Former Allotments) to the north of Fordham Road, Soham, Cambridgeshire (TL 6025 7250). It was commissioned by Lacy Scott and Knight. Subsequent to the desktop report, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in order to identify the archaeological potential of the site in question. This document reports on the findings of that evaluation.

2 BACKGROUND

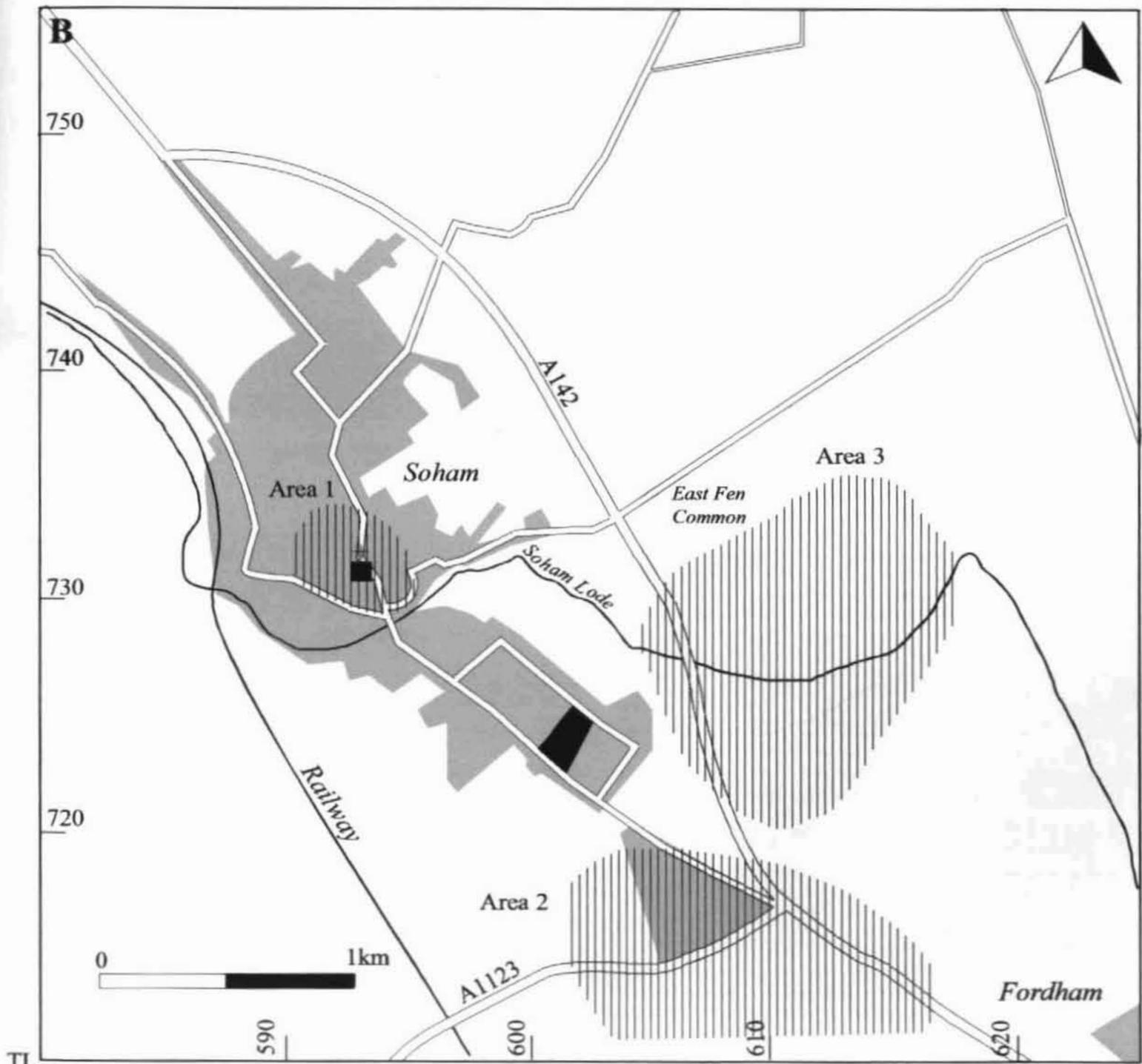
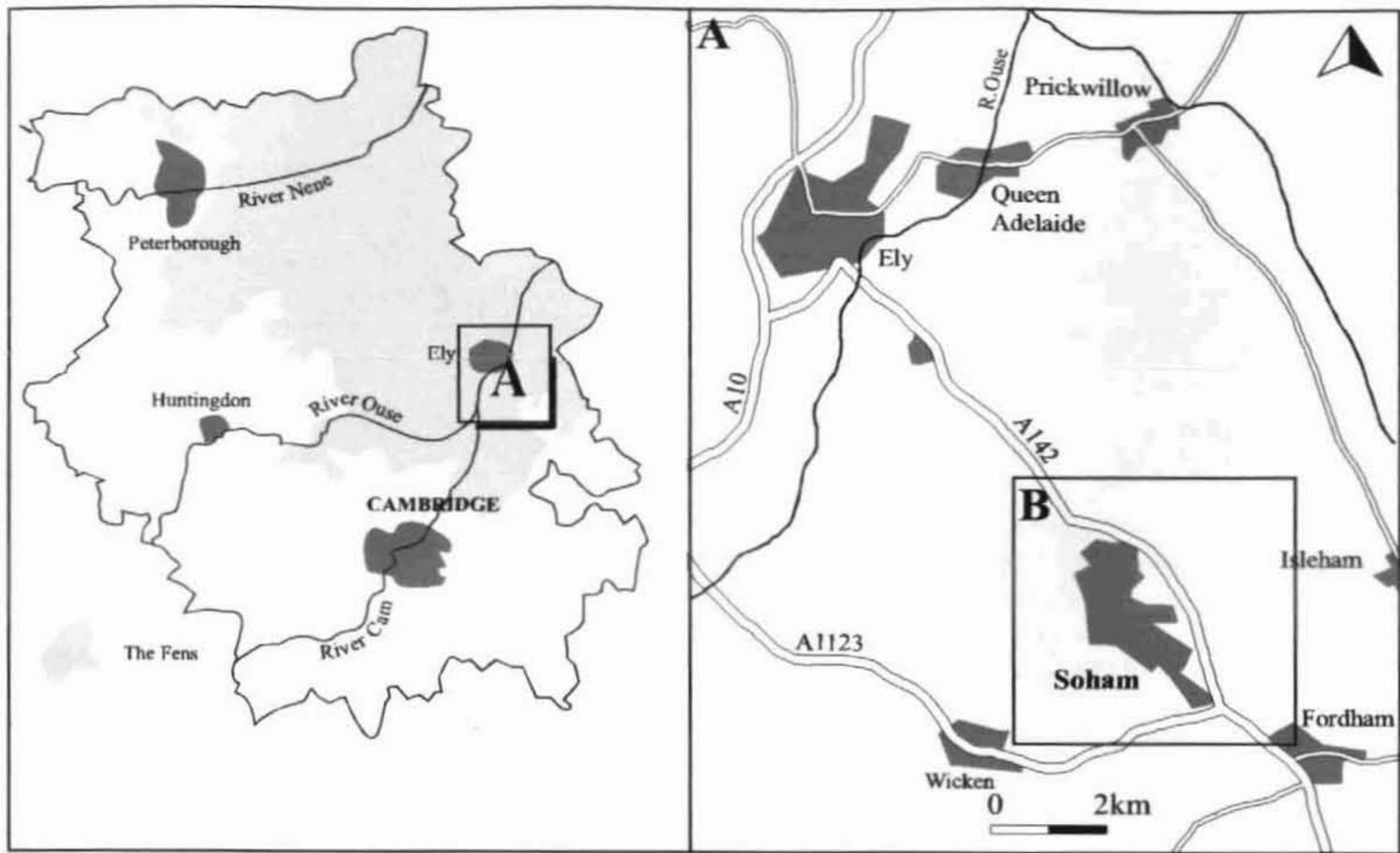
2.1 Planning Background

A Planning Application (No. E/00/0787) was submitted by Lacy Scott and Knight. The proposed development is for business use of a plot of land referred to as 'Former Allotments', Fordham Road, Soham. Given the known archaeological background of Soham (below), the possibility of there being Roman and, in particular, Saxon remains within the application area determined the requirements for an archaeological evaluation. A Design Brief was issued by Andy Thomas, Cambridgeshire County Council, County Archaeology Office (25 January, 2001). In response to it, a Specification was produced by Aileen Connor (Connor, Jan179/01).

The first stage of the evaluation required an archaeological desktop study. The results of this study have been presented as a separate report (Casa Hatton 2001) and are discussed below.

2.2 Topography and Geology

The village of Soham sits near the southern Cambridgeshire Fen-edge, some 8km south-east of Ely, on the A142 between Ely and Newmarket. In relation to Soham, the development site is located in the southern part of the village, north of Fordham Road. It is flanked by properties on Brook Street to the north and off Fordham Road to the south-west. To the east there is a developed plot.



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Figure 1 Site Location Plan showing development area (black tone) and zones of archaeological interest based on SMR references (hatched)

The site is centred on NGR TL 6025 7250, at a height of 10m OD. It comprises an area of 2 hectares formerly used for allotment gardens since 1896 (Fig. 1).

The village of Soham is located on an irregular peninsula of Bedford Lower Chalk and 3rd gravel terrace, which projects north-west from Fordham into the Fens, between the Isleham embayment and the former Soham Mere (British Geological Survey, Sheet 188).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The full archaeological and historical background for this site is reported on by Rebecca Casa-Hatton (2001). The following conclusions were drawn from that report.

3.1 Mesolithic/Neolithic/Bronze Age

The likelihood and potential of finding archaeology belonging to the early prehistoric period was considered to be low given the lack of known finds of this date in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, although several sites and stray finds are known a little further afield.

Mesolithic and Neolithic remains have been recorded to the north-west of Broad Hill (Hall 1996, 72, ff.). The SMR also records Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age stray finds to the north-east of the village and on the light sandy soils to the west of Soham Mere.

A Bronze Age settlement was located at Eye Hill Farm during field-walking (Macaulay 1999). Further evidence for Bronze Age activity was uncovered during an archaeological investigation at St Andrew's House, off Soham High Street (Casa Hatton 2000).

Bronze Age stray finds and cropmarks have been found approximately 1km to the east and south of the development site (e.g. SMR 07805a: a bronze spearhead tip).

3.2 Iron Age

The likelihood and potential of finding archaeology belonging to the later prehistoric period was also considered to be low for the same reasons.

One Iron Age site is known on the hilltop at Henney, on the periphery of Stuntney and Ely where Iron Age remains are fairly common (Hall 1996, 76).

Otherwise a few scattered Iron Age finds have been found less than 1km to the east of the development site where pottery sherds were uncovered from possible pits and Late Iron Age coins were found to the south of the proposed development site by metal detecting.

3.3 Romano-British

The likelihood and potential of finding archaeology belonging to the Romano-British period was considered to be moderate to high, due to the relatively high number of known find spots and sites belonging to this period in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

A probable Roman villa estate (Hall 1996, site 2), is located in an area of dense Roman activity approximately 1km to the east of the proposed development site.

To the south and west of the development site, finds scatters including coins, pottery and brooches, are further indication of Roman activity and mosaic *tesserae* may indicate the presence of another villa building nearby.

3.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

The likelihood and potential of finding archaeology belonging to the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods was considered to be moderate to high due to the relatively high number of known find spots and sites belonging to this period in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

Early Saxon occupation at Soham is documented by funerary remains from three cemeteries. Of particular relevance to the site under discussion here are Anglo-Saxon burials (SMR 07027) found in the modern cemetery opposite the proposed development site. Inhumations with grave goods were found in the late 19th century and are attributed to the pagan period. Other evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity along Fordham Road is represented by stray finds and scatters, including a number of metal objects.

The Soham name is derived from *Saegham* (11th century, AS Wills), probably meaning 'ham by the lake'. It is recorded as *Soeham* or *Seaham* in the Domesday Book. The name Soham first appears in 1294 (FF) and, later, in 1353 (Min Acct et passim) (Reaney 1943, 196,197).

In the 7th century AD a monastery was founded by St. Felix, first bishop of the East Angles, who was buried in Soham. Along with many other religious foundations in the area the monastery was destroyed during the Danish invasions of East Anglia (late 9th century), never to be re-established (Salzman 1948). The manor of Soham was given to Ely abbey shortly after the re-foundation of the latter in the 10th century (Conybeare 1887). The exact location of the monastery is unknown, although it is possible that the Parish

church of St Andrew's (late 12th century) was founded on the site of the Saxon predecessor.

Evidence for occupation during the late Saxon-early Norman period has emerged through a number of recent excavations and evaluations including St Andrew's House, off High Street (Casa Hatton 2000), 9-13 Pratt Street (Hatton and Last 1997), 38 Station Road (Heawood 1997) and. Soham County Infant's School, (Bray 1991).

Evidence for medieval occupation has been uncovered by excavations at Cloverfield Drive where pits and ditches contained pottery dating between 1150-1550 and mainly consisting of Ely Ware (Hatton & Macaulay 1999).

3.5 Post Medieval

The likelihood and potential of finding archaeology belonging to the post-medieval period was considered to be moderate to high due to the relatively high number of known find spots and sites belonging to this period in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

Soham was enclosed after 1793 although many fields around the village remained open and persist today as remnants of the medieval field-systems.

The proposed development site was part of Cote Piece (1845 Tithe map), off Butcher's Causeway (modern Fordham Road). It consisted of arable land and was occupied by Trustees of Lakenheath School.

At some stage, the plot was acquired by Gowards Charity from which it was hired by the Council for the purpose of allotments in 1896 (Sue Neville, Archivist, CRO, *per. comm.*). Later OS Maps (e.g. OS 1902 and OS 1926) refer to the plot as Allotments/Allotment Gardens.

4 METHODOLOGY

Eleven trenches were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator with a 1.8m wide flat bladed ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Trenches were planned by hand immediately following machining and located to the ordnance survey using a Total Station Theodolite. Hand cleaning was undertaken in those trenches that contained archaeological deposits. Hand excavation took place as necessary in order to characterise and date deposits. The results of the hand excavation are detailed below.

The results of the evaluation are presented by trench.



Figure 2 Site Location Plan showing development area and archaeological trenches

A summary discussion of each trench is followed by the detailed description of the contexts.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 50m long x 1.8m wide. It was located at the north end of the proposed development area, parallel with its north-west boundary. Topsoil 32 was between 0.28m and 0.34m thick over natural chalk with periglacial features. Six possible postholes and a pit or ditch terminal were observed in this trench. The postholes may represent two or three structures. The southernmost group of postholes, **238**, **239** and **240**, may be associated with an isolated posthole, **241**, approximately 6m away. Alternatively, this isolated posthole may represent a separate structure. Finds were infrequent from the features in this trench but the presence of prehistoric pottery and struck flint in posthole **30** and struck flint in pit **242** suggests that the features may be prehistoric in date.

Posthole cut **30**. Circular with near V shaped profile. 0.25m in diameter and 0.13m deep. Filled by 3: mid grey sandy silt, ?prehistoric pottery. Possibly associated with **243**.

Ditch cut **37**. Linear in plan, on a north-south orientation. Gentle U shaped profile. Filled by 38: mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.

Posthole cut **238**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 2: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **239**, **240** and **241**.

Posthole cut **239**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 28: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **238**, **240** and **241**.

Posthole cut **240**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 29: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **238**, **239** and **241**.

Posthole cut **241**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 35: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **237**, **238** and **239**.

Pit? cut **242**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 2m wide, depth not established. Filled by 33: mid grey sandy silt, 2 struck flints. Possible pit or ditch terminal.

Posthole cut **243**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 34: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **30**.

Pit/Ditch? cut **244**. Possibly circular in plan, profile not established. 1m wide, depth not established. Filled by 36: mid greyish brown sandy silt, fired clay and struck flint. Possibly a ditch terminal or pit.

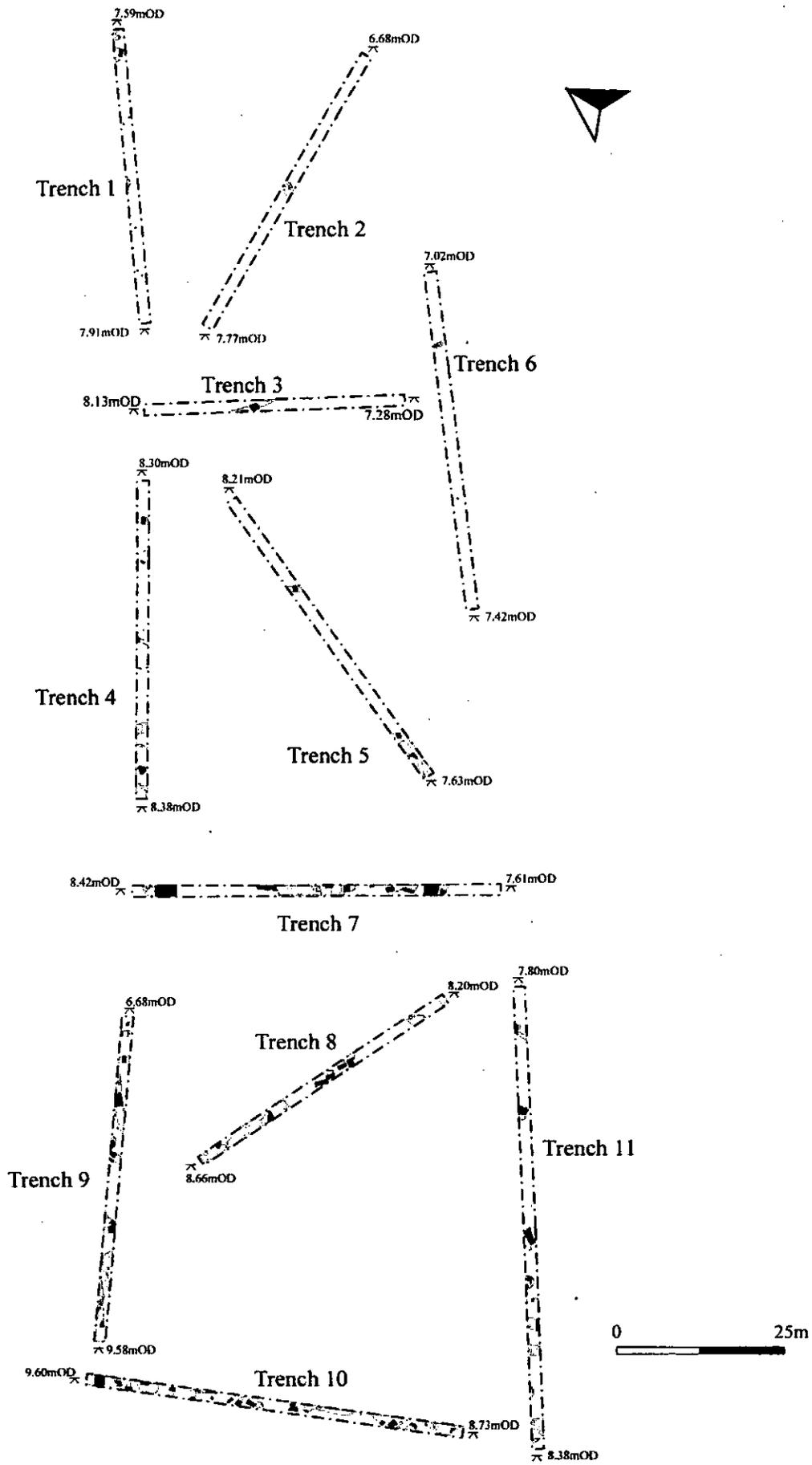


Figure 3 Trench plans. Excavated features are shown in black, unexcavated in tone

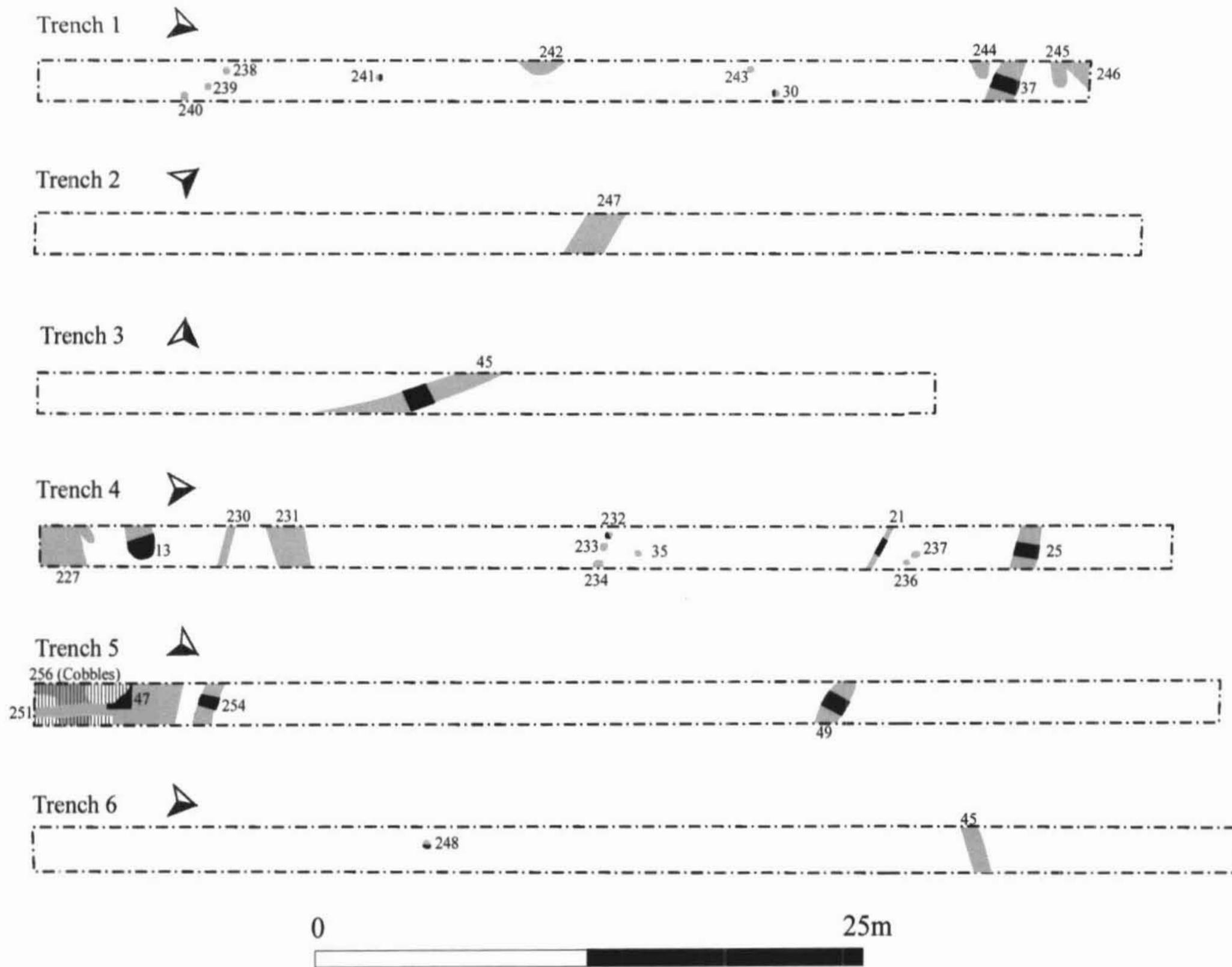


Figure 4 Trench plans 1-6. Excavated segments of features are shown in black, unexcavated segments in tone.

Ditch cut 245. Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation. 0.7m wide, depth not established. Filled by 39 Mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds. Truncated by 246, ditch terminal.

Uncertain, cut 246. Shape in plan and profile not established. Filled by 40: grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal streaks, no finds. Truncated 245.

Topsoil 32. Light grey sandy silt, remnant of topsoil.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 51m long and 1.8m wide. It was located at the north end of the proposed development area, diagonal to its north-west boundary and to the south-east of Trench 1. Topsoil was between 0.38m and 0.40m thick over natural chalk with periglacial features. One ditch, 247, was observed in the trench. It was on a north-south orientation and contained no dating evidence. It was aligned at approximate right angles to ditch 45 observed to the south in Trenches 3 and 6. The alignment may be taken to suggest that these ditches were possibly part of a prehistoric field system associated with the posthole structures observed in Trench 1.

Ditch cut 247. Linear in plan on a north-south orientation, profile not established. 1.5m wide, depth not established. Filled by 41: mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 42m long and 1.8m wide. It was located towards the north end of the proposed development area, at right angles to its north-west boundary and to the south-west of Trenches 1 and 2. Topsoil was between 0.25m and 0.30m thick over natural chalk with periglacial features. One ditch, 45, was observed in the trench. It was on an east-west orientation and contained a sherd of possibly prehistoric pottery. Its projected alignment showed that it continued into Trench 6. It was aligned at approximate right angles to ditch 247 observed to the north in Trench 2. Their alignment may be taken to suggest that these ditches were possibly part of a prehistoric field system associated with the post hole structures observed in Trench 1.

Ditch cut 45. Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.8m wide, 0.16m deep. Filled by 46 (=44 in Trench 6): mid greyish brown sandy silt, ?prehistoric pottery.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was 52m long and 1.8m wide. It was located parallel with, and midway along, the north-west boundary of the subject area. Topsoil was between 0.32m and 0.36m-thick over natural chalk with periglacial features.

Seven ditches or small gully features and six small pits or post holes were observed in this trench.

Ditches **21** and **230** may be relatively recent drainage features associated with the allotments.

Ditches **13**, **25**, **227** and **231** were all on an approximately east-west orientation, a similar alignment to ditches in Trenches 2, 3 and 6 interpreted as part of a prehistoric field-system. Ditch **13** contained Iron Age pottery and ditch **227** contained one sherd of pottery which may be prehistoric.

Ditch **229** was on a slightly different orientation but was also dissimilar to the Romano-British ditches identified to the south-west (below). The ditch was narrow and terminated within the trench. The possibility that it represents a structural feature such as a 'round-house' should not be ruled out.

The post holes identified formed two clusters, one cluster of four, **232**, **233**, **234** and **235**, and a second cluster of two **236** and **237**. The four-post cluster may be part of a square or rectangular structure with sides of at least 1.5m long. These dimensions would place the structure within the parameters of so-called four-post built structures common on Early Iron Age sites (eg Landwade Road, Fordham, Connor *in prep.*). The second cluster of two post holes are also evidence for a structure, although whether this was a house or a fence or any number of types of building is impossible to define on the present evidence. Although no dating evidence was recovered from these features, it can be inferred from their proximity to prehistoric ditches that they are of a similar date.

Ditch/pit? cut **13**. Linear? in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, wide gentle U shaped profile. At least 1.5m long, 1.2m wide and 0.18m long. Filled by 14: mid greyish brown sandy silt, 7 sherds of Iron Age pottery, a few fragments of animal bone and struck flint.

Gully cut **21**. Linear in plan on a north-south orientation, U shaped profile. 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 22: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly a land drain, similar to **230**.

Ditch cut **25**. Linear in plan on an east-west orientation, U shaped profile with gradual sides. Filled by 26: mid grey brown sandy silt, no finds.

Ditch? cut **227**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, profile not established. At least 2m wide, depth not established. Filled by 12: mid grey sandy silt, 1 sherd of ?prehistoric pottery.

Ditch? cut **229**. Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, profile not established. 0.5m wide, depth not established. Filled by 228: mid grey sandy silt, no finds, possible ditch terminal.

Ditch cut **230**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile not established. 0.4m wide, depth not established. Filled by 15: mid grey sandy silt, no finds probably a land drain, similar to **21**.

Ditch cut **231**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, profile not established. At least 1.5m wide, depth not established. Filled by 16: mid grey sandy silt, no finds.

Posthole cut **232**. Circular in plan, lazy V shaped profile. 0.3m wide, 0.2m deep. Filled by 17: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **233**, **234** and **235**.

Posthole cut **233**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 18: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **232**, **234** and **235**.

Posthole cut **234**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 19: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **232**, **233** and **235**.

Posthole cut **235**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 20: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **232**, **233** and **234**.

Posthole cut **236**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 23: mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with **237**.

Posthole cut **237**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 24: mid grey sandy silt, a few animal bones. Possibly associated with **236**.

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was 55m long and 1.8m wide. It was located to the south-east of Trench 4 and diagonal to it. Topsoil was between 0.3m and 0.38m thick. It lay over natural chalk with periglacial features over the majority of the trench but at the southernmost end a 6m layer of subsoil approximately 0.4m thick was encountered below the topsoil. Two ditches, a third ditch or large pit, a narrow gully and a cobbled surface were encountered in Trench 5. Stratigraphy was encountered in the southern end of the trench.

The earliest feature encountered was a surface composed of tightly compacted cobbles, **256**. This layer appeared to lie in the base of a hollow at the southern end of the trench. It was not clear whether the hollow was natural or man made.

One narrow ditch, **251**, was orientated north-south on a similar alignment to the prehistoric ditch system encountered elsewhere. It appeared to be very shallow and narrow, but may have been truncated by later activity. It seemed to cut through the cobbled surface, **256**, which, by inference, must also be prehistoric in date.

Ditches **49** and **254** were both aligned on an approximately east-west orientation. Although they contained no dating evidence, their alignment was more in keeping with the Romano-British ditches encountered at the south end of the site than the prehistoric alignment.

Pit/Ditch? cut **47**. Possibly linear in plan, although excavation showed some curvature and the feature may therefore be a large pit. The profile appeared to be a gentle U shape although this

was not confirmed. 2.5m wide by at least 1.8m long and at least 0.2m deep. Filled by 252: greyish brown sandy silt, no finds. Truncated 256, sealed by 48.

Ditch cut 49. Linear in plan, on a east-west orientation. Broad shallow U shaped profile with gradual sides. 0.7m wide, 0.1m deep. Filled by 49: light greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.

Ditch cut 251. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile very gentle U shape, break of slope from top to sides to base barely perceptible. 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 250: very light greyish brown silt, no finds, truncated 256.

Ditch cut 254. Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, moderately steep sides and flat base. 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 253: light greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.

Cut 255. Shape in plan not established, profile is gradual and may be a natural slope infilled by layer 48, a dark brown clayey silt with occasional small chalk fragments, large iron object and struck flint, and layer 249, a dark brown silty clay with occasional small chalk fragments. Both layers appear to have been deposited in wet conditions and overlie an artificial cobble layer 256.

Surface 256. Compacted layer of rounded flints and cobble stones. Sealed by 48, cut by 251 and possibly 47. May be the remains of a track or holloway.

5.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was 55m long and 1.8m wide. It was located parallel with the south-eastern boundary to the site and towards its northern end. Topsoil was between 0.25m and 0.38m thick. It lay over natural chalk with periglacial features. One ditch, 45, and one posthole, 248, were located in this trench. No dating evidence was recovered from either of the features. Ditch 45 continued into Trench 3 to the west and has been interpreted as part of a prehistoric ditch system. Posthole 248 was apparently isolated. However, its presence could be an indicator of a structure, given the evidence for posthole structures in Trenches 1 and 4.

Ditch cut 45. Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.8m wide, 0.16m deep. Filled by 44 (=46 in Tr. 3): mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.

Posthole cut 248. Circular in plan with steep sides and flat base. 0.25m diameter and 0.06m deep. Filled by 43: mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds. No other postholes noted nearby.

5.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was 59m long and 1.8m wide. It was located parallel with the south-western boundary to the site and near the centre. Topsoil was between 0.30m and 0.32m thick. It lay over natural chalk with periglacial features. Feature density increased dramatically over Trenches 1 to 6. Eight ditches and seven pits were identified in this trench.

Ditches **56**, **138** and **257** were both orientated on an approximately north-south alignment consistent with prehistoric features.

A group of intercutting pits, **146**, **147**, **148**, **154** and **157**, is also interpreted as prehistoric in date, based on a small number of prehistoric pot sherds and the characteristically pale fills and irregular shape of the features.

Ditches **51**, **53**, **142**, **144**, **258** and **259** were all on an alignment consistent with the ditch system interpreted as being Roman in date. In addition, **51**, **142** and **144** all contained Roman pottery and a small quantity of tile. Quarry pit **60** and pits **129** and **141** also contained Roman pottery and are therefore likely to be Roman in date and broadly contemporary with the ditch system. Quarry pit **60**, in particular, had vertical sides and a flat base consistent with the characteristics generally associated with Roman features of this type.

Ditch cut **51**. Linear in plan on south-west north-east orientation. U shaped profile with moderately steep sides and flat base, 0.64m wide and 0.05m deep. Filled by 52: light greyish brown sandy silt, ?Roman pottery and struck flint

Ditch cut **53**. Linear in plan on south-west north-east orientation. Wide U shaped profile with moderately steep sides and flat base. Filled by 54: mid greyish brown silt, no finds. Overlaid by 62, white chalk, possibly redeposited, no finds, and by 63, mid greyish brown silt, no finds. Its alignment is consistent with the Roman ditch system.

Ditch cut **56**. Linear in plan on a north-south orientation with U shaped profile, moderately steep sides and concave base, 0.64m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 64: light greyish brown sandy silt, no finds. Alignment suggests that this ditch may be part of a prehistoric ditch system.

Quarry pit cut **60**. Large ill-defined feature with flat base and vertical sides, 0.45m deep. Filled by 61: dark greyish brown silt with moderate charcoal flecks, residual LBA/EIA pottery, Roman tile and animal bones. It truncated ditch **138** which was orientated on the prehistoric ditch alignment. The residual prehistoric pottery may have derived from that feature.

Pit cut **129**. Square or circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base, 0.38m deep and 1.3m wide. Filled by 128: mid brownish grey slightly clayey silt, Roman pottery and struck flint.

Ditch cut **138**. Linear in plan on north-south orientation, profile not established. Filled by 137, mid-pale grey silt, no finds. Truncated by **60**. Residual pottery in 61 (pit **60**) may have derived from this feature.

Pit cut **141**. ?Circular with very steep, near vertical sides, base not known, at least 0.65m deep. Filled by 55: mid-dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, occasional chalk fragments, Roman pottery and tile, and animal bones. Cut by **142**.

Ditch cut **142**. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation with wide, gentle U shaped profile, 1m wide and 0.13m deep. Filled by 57: mid brown soft, moderately loose clayey sand with moderate chalk fragments, Roman pottery and tile fragments, animal bones including a small amount of burnt bone.

Ditch cut **144**. Wide flat based U shaped profile with deeper channel in centre possibly caused by water action, 1m wide and 0.15m to 0.25m deep. Filled by 143: mid yellowish brown with grey streaks, slightly clayey sand, Roman pottery and struck flint.

Pit cut **146**. Circular with steep sides and flat base, 0.6m diameter and 0.3m deep. Filled by 149: brownish yellow with bright reddish oxidised mottles firm slightly sandy clay, no finds.

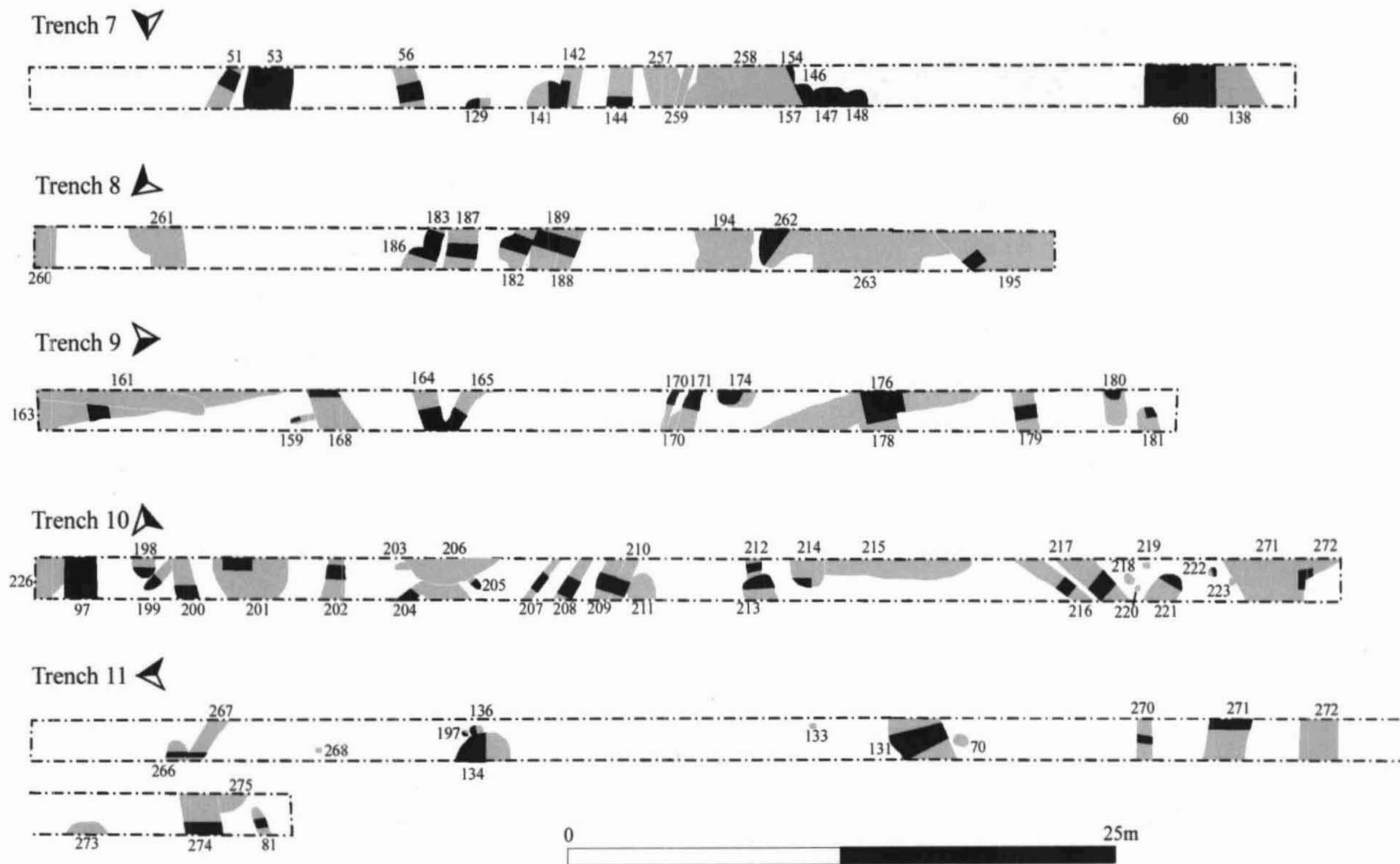


Figure 5 Trench plans 7-11. Excavated segments of features are shown in black, unexcavated segments in tone.

Pit cut 147. Circular with steep sides and flat base, 1.7m in diameter by 0.5m deep. Filled by 152, brownish yellow firm slightly sandy clay streaked with horizontal bands of redeposited chalk, no finds overlaid by 150, yellowish brown with grey mottles firm sandy clay. ?Roman pottery.

Pit cut 148. Circular with steep sides and flat base, 1.1m diameter by 0.28m deep. Filled by 151: reddish brown very firm slightly sandy clay, no pottery.

Pit cut 154. Circular in plan with gradually sloping sides to flat base. Filled by 153: brownish yellow sandy clay, no finds. Truncated by 157.

Pit cut 157. Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Filled by 158: horizontal bands of redeposited chalk, reddish sandy clay and brownish yellow sandy clay, no finds. Overlaid by 156: brownish yellow sandy clay, no finds, and by 155, grey sandy clay streaked with occasional charcoal flecks, ?LBA/EIA pottery and a small fragment of possibly intrusive ?Roman tile. Cut by 147, cuts 154.

Ditch cut 257. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile not established. Filled by 58: mid grey brown sandy silt, ?prehistoric pottery and struck flint. Truncated by 259.

Ditch cut 258. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, profile not established. 3m wide, depth not established. Filled by 59: mid-dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, Roman pottery and animal bones.

Ditch cut 259. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, profile not established. 0.5m wide, depth not established. Filled by 145: greyish brown sandy silt, fragment of slag.

5.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was 48m long and 1.8m wide. It was located to the south of Trench 7 and diagonal to it. Topsoil was between 0.34m and 0.39m thick. It lay over natural chalk with periglacial features. Feature density was similar to Trench 7. Eleven ditches and three pits were located in this trench.

Pits 182 and 186 may be prehistoric in date based on their relationship to Roman ditches (both were truncated by Roman ditches) and finds of prehistoric pottery.

Ditches 191, 192, 260, 261, 262 and 263 are likely to be prehistoric in date based on their alignment

Ditches 183, 184, 187, 193 and 194 are likely to be Roman in date based on their alignment and finds of Roman pottery and tile.

Pit 195 contained Roman pottery and tile and may be a Roman quarry pit based on its physical characteristics.

Pit cut 182. Circular in plan with bowl shaped wide U profile, 1.2m in diameter, 0.15m deep. Filled by 86, greyish brown clayey sand, no finds, and by 87, greyish brown clayey sand, ?prehistoric pottery and animal bones. Truncated by 183.

Ditch cut 183. Linear in plan on an approximately north-east/south-west orientation with wide U shaped profile. 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 88: brownish grey clayey sand with occasional chalk lumps and streaks, Roman pottery, fired clay, animal bones and struck flint. A possible posthole was also observed on its eastern edge, but was severely truncated. It also truncated pit 182.

Ditch cut 184. Linear in plan on an approximately north-east/south-west orientation with wide U shaped profile. 0.85m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 84: brown sandy clay with moderate chalk, Roman pottery and animal bones. Truncated 186.

Pit? cut 186. Sub circular in plan with steep to undercutting sides and a concave base. 0.9m wide and 0.46m deep. Filled by 185: greyish brown sandy clay with frequent chalk lumps and flecks, LBA/EIA pottery. Truncated by 184. Possibly a pit or ditch terminal.

Ditch cut 187. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation with U shaped profile. 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 85: greyish brown sandy clay with occasional chalk becoming frequent towards the base, Roman pottery, tile (including *tegula*), fired clay, struck flint, over a kilo of animal bones, and a worn copper alloy disk, possibly a coin.

Ditch cut 191. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation with U shaped profile. 0.9m wide and 0.36m deep. Filled by 89: mid brown sandy clay, animal bones. Possibly truncated by 193.

Ditch cut 192. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation with U shaped profile. 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep. Filled by 189: pale brown sandy clay with frequent chalk, no finds. Truncated by 183.

Ditch cut 193. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation with lazy V shaped profile, 0.6m wide and 0.34m deep. Filled by 188=190: mid brown sandy clay with occasional-moderate chalk, no finds. Possibly truncated 191.

Ditch cut 194. Curvilinear in plan, possibly terminating within trench, had a U shaped profile with moderately steep sides. 1.4m wide and 0.37m deep. Filled by 92: mid brown sandy clay with chalk fragments towards the base, Roman pottery and animal bones.

Pit cut 195. Shape in plan unclear. Vertical sides to flat base, dimensions in plan not known, 0.5m deep. Filled by 95: mid brown sandy clay with chalk fragments towards the base, Roman pottery and tile, a few fragments of animal bone and struck flint. Probably a quarry pit.

Ditch cut 260. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile not established. At least 1m wide, depth not established. Filled by 82: mid greyish brown clayey sand, no finds.

Ditch cut 261. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile not established. At least 2m wide, depth not established. Filled by 83: mid greyish brown clayey sand, no finds. Possibly two features.

Ditch cut 262. Possibly linear in plan, appears to be east-west aligned although orientation unclear, with steep sided U shaped profile, at least 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep. Filled by 93: greyish brown sandy clay, no finds.

Ditch? cut 263. Unclear in plan, possibly a single ditch or ditches on a north-south alignment. Filled by 94: greyish brown sandy clay, no finds. Truncated by 195.

5.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was 53m long and 1.8m wide. It was located parallel with the north-western boundary of the site and towards the southern end. Topsoil was between 0.32m and 0.39m thick. It lay over natural chalk with periglacial features. Thirteen ditches and two pits were identified in this trench. All the finds recovered from the features in this trench were Roman in date and the ditches were aligned north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east in common with other ditches identified as Roman on this site. Features in this trench also showed evidence of intercutting and slight variations in orientation, especially ditches **161** and **163**, indicating that the Roman occupation of the site was multi-phased. Only one ditch possibly dating to the prehistoric period was identified in this trench, **165**. Ditch **165** was orientated on an approximately north-south alignment, in common with the prehistoric ditch system identified elsewhere on the site and was cut by Roman ditch **164**. It contained no finds.

Two of the ditch features (**160** and **171**) were narrow with steep sides and may be indicative of structures

Pit? cut **139** of unknown shape and dimensions filled by 170: pale grey chalky silty sand, 1 sherd of ?prehistoric pottery. Cut by **171** and **172**.

Slot? cut **160**. Linear with steep sides to U shaped base. Possibly structural, at least 1m long N-S, 0.4m wide, 0.25m deep. 0.4m length excavated from southern terminal. Filled by 159: soft mid grey brown silty sand becoming mottled with orange sand (natural) towards base, ?Roman pottery.

Ditch cut **161**. Linear on north-east/south-west orientation with flat base and moderately steep sides. At least 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep, possibly terminates within Trench 9. Filled by 1: soft mid greyish brown homogeneous silty sand, copper alloy brooch, Roman pottery and animal bones. Truncates **163**.

Ditch cut **163**. Linear on north-east/south-west orientation. U shaped profile with slightly concave base and moderately steep sides. At least 0.7m wide and 0.46m deep. Filled by 162: brownish grey, moderately firm sandy silt mottled and streaked with greenish and chalky flecks, occasional flints, Roman pottery and struck flint. Truncated by **161**.

Ditch cut **164**. Linear in plan on south-east/north-west orientation. U shaped profile. 1m wide and 0.44m deep. Filled by 4: grey sandy silt, Roman pottery and animal bones. Truncates **165**.

Ditch cut **165**. Linear in plan on north-south orientation. U shaped profile. 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep. Filled by 5: grey sandy silt, no finds. Cut by **164**

Ditch cut **168**. Linear in plan on south-east/north-west orientation. Steep sided V shaped profile. 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep. Filled by 167: firm to stiff grey clayey silt flecked with chalk and occasional charcoal streaks, Roman pottery and struck flints. Overlaid by 166, soft brownish red silty sand (redeposited from periglacial feature through which ditch was cut), no finds, and by 3, grey sandy silt, Roman pottery and animal bones.

Ditch cut **171**. Linear on south-east/north-west orientation. Sharp flat based V shaped profile. 0.66m wide and 0.3m deep. Filled by 173: grey sandy silt. Overlaid by 6, grey sandy silt, Roman pottery and animal bones.

Gully cut 172. Linear on south-east/north-west orientation. U shaped profile. 0.25m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 169: pale to mid grey silty sand with rare charcoal streaks and moderate flints, ?Roman pottery.

Pit/ditch? cut 174. Sub-circular ditch terminal or pit with gentle U shaped profile. 0.95m wide, at least 0.6m long and 0.3m deep. Filled by 7: grey sandy silt, Roman pottery and animal bones.

Ditch cut 176. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation with U shaped profile. 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 8=175: dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional stones and chalk fragments, Roman pottery, animal bones and fired clay. Truncated 178.

Ditch cut 178. Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, appears to have a broad shallow profile, but this was not confirmed. 1.5m wide and 0.13m deep. Filled by 177: mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds. Truncated by 176.

Ditch cut 179. Linear on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, U shaped profile. 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep. Filled by 9: grey sandy silt, Roman pottery and animal bones.

Pit? cut 180. Circular in plan with U shaped profile. 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 10: grey sandy silt, Roman pottery. Possibly a pit or north-west/south-east orientated ditch terminal.

Ditch? cut 181. Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, steep sides and flat base deepening towards the centre. 1m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 11: grey sandy silt, Roman pottery. Possibly a pit but more likely to be a ditch terminal.

5.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was 53m long and 1.8m wide. It was located parallel with the south-western boundary of the site and at the southern end. Topsoil was between 0.38m and 0.44m thick. It lay over natural chalk with periglacial features. Archaeological features were very densely spaced in this trench with eighteen ditches, six pits and five postholes identified. The features belonged to two periods, Roman and prehistoric. The prehistoric features are likely to be Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age in date and the Roman features mid 2nd to early 4th century in date based on the pottery assemblages. A copper alloy brooch in very good condition was recovered by metal detecting over this trench. It came from a spoil heap adjacent to ditch 97 and is likely to have derived from that feature.

Seven of the ditches were orientated on the alignment identified as Romano-British, and finds from several of these features confirmed that date. The remaining ditches were orientated on the alignment identified as prehistoric and pottery from 207, 208, 209, 217 and 225 supported this date. All but two of the pits are also likely to be prehistoric in date. Of particular interest was pit 206 which was large and deep. It contained 36 sherds of pottery with a high average sherd weight of over 17grammes suggesting central occupation very close by.

The five postholes were all clustered at the south-east of the trench. They did not contain any dating evidence and although could equally be Roman or prehistoric, they certainly indicate the presence of at least one structure.

The archaeological features in the trench are evidence for settlement in both the Late Bronze to Early Iron Age and in the Roman period.

Ditch cut **97**. Linear on a south-west/north-east orientation, wide U shaped profile with steep sides and concave base. 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep. Filled by 98: dark greyish brown clayey silt, no finds, and by 99, mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.

Pit? cut **198**. ?Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and flat base, possibly a pit or ditch terminal. 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep. Filled by 100: dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt with occasional large flints and occasional small gravel, Roman pottery.

Ditch cut **199**. Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, broad, shallow U shaped profile. 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled by 101: mid greyish brown silt with no inclusions, 1 sherd of ?Roman pottery. Truncated by **200**.

Ditch cut **200**. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile, 0.95m wide and 0.21m deep. Filled by 102: dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt with no inclusions, ?Prehistoric pottery. Truncated **199**.

Pit cut **201**. Circular in plan with vertical sides, base not known (not fully excavated). 3.5m wide and at least 1.8m long. Filled by 103: very dark greyish brown sandy silt, LBA/EIA pottery and animal bones.

Ditch cut **202**. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.95m wide and 0.21m deep. Filled by 105: dark greyish brown soft silt, Roman pottery.

Ditch cut **203=206**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, U shaped profile, 0.45m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 107, dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt, and by 110, dark greyish brown soft silt, Roman pottery and a few animal bones. Terminates or shallows within the trench. Truncated **204** and **205**.

Pit cut **204**. Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, broad, gentle U shaped profile, 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled by 108: dark greyish brown soft slightly sandy silt with sandy orange mottles, Roman pottery and animal bones. Truncated by **203=206**.

Ditch cut **205**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, gentle U shaped profile, 0.26m wide and 0.06m deep. Filled by 109: mid grey silt with no inclusions, no finds. Truncated by **206**.

Ditch cut **207**. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, narrow U shaped profile, 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 11: mid brownish grey soft silt, LBA/EIA pottery.

Ditch cut **208**. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile, 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 112: mid brownish grey soft silt, mottled towards the base, LBA/EIA pottery, animal bones and struck flint.

Ditch cut **209**. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile, 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 113: dark greyish brown silty sand, ?prehistoric pottery and struck flint. Truncated by **210**.

Ditch cut **210**. Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, flat based U shaped profile, 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 74=114: mid brownish grey silt, no finds. Truncated **209**.

Pit cut **211**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 1.4m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 114: greyish brown silty sand, no finds. Truncated by **210**.

Ditch cut **212**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, gentle U shaped profile, 0.55m wide and 0.06m deep. Filled by 115: light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks, no finds. Truncated by **213**.

Pit? cut **213**. Circular in plan with flat based U shaped profile, 1.35m wide and 0.18m deep. Filled by 116: dark greyish brown soft silt, LBA/EIA pottery, animal bones and struck flint. Truncated **115**. Possibly a pit or ditch terminal, may be associated with **214**.

Pit? cut **214**. Circular in plan with gentle U shaped profile, 1.5m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 117: mid brown soft silt, occasional chalk flecks, LBA/EIA pottery. Truncated **215**. Possibly a pit or a ditch terminal, may be associated with **213**.

Ditch cut **215**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, profile not established. At least 1m wide, at least 7m long, depth not established. Filled by 118: mid brown soft silt, no finds. Truncated by **214**.

Ditch cut **216**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, gentle U shaped profile, 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep. Filled by 73: dark greyish brown silt with occasional chalk fragments, Roman pottery and animal bones.

Ditch cut **217**. Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, lazy V shaped profile, 1m wide and 0.32m deep. Filled by 119: dark greyish brown sandy silt, occasional gravel, chalk flecks, LBA/EIA pottery.

Posthole cut **218**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 120: light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks, no finds. May be associated with **219**, **220**, **222** and **223**.

Posthole? cut **219**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 121: light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks, no finds. May be associated with **218**, **220**, **222** and **223**.

Posthole? cut **220**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 122: light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks, no finds. May be associated with **218**, **219**, **222** and **223**.

Pit? cut **221**. Sub circular in plan with a gentle U shaped profile, 1.2m wide, at least 1.5m long, at least 0.1m deep. Filled by 123: mid brown silt, occasional small chalk flecks, no finds. Possibly a pit or a east-west orientated ditch terminal.

Posthole? cut **222**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 124: light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks, no finds. May be associated with **218**, **219**, **220** and **223**.

Posthole? cut **223**. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 125: light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks, no finds. May be associated with **218**, **219**, **220** and **222**.

Ditch cut **224**. Linear in plan on a north-south or south-west/north-east orientation (possibly convergence of two ditches), steep sides, base not established. 3m wide, depth not established. Filled by 126: dark greyish brown sandy silt, Roman pottery and struck flint. Truncated **225**.

Ditch? cut 225. Possibly linear in plan (only small portion visible in trench), on approximately east-west orientation, steep sides, base not established. Dimensions not established. Filled by 127: mid greyish brown sandy silt, LBA/EIA pottery. Truncated by 224.

Ditch? cut 226. Linear in plan (only small portion visible in trench), on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, profile not established. Dimensions not established. Filled by 96: greyish brown sandy silt, no finds. Truncated by 97.

5.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was 76m long and 1.8m wide. It was located parallel with the south-eastern boundary of the site and at the southern end. Topsoil was between 0.32m and 0.38m thick. It lay over natural chalk with periglacial features. Seven ditches, four postholes and four pits were identified in this trench. The features were largely aceramic except for ditch 131 which contained Roman tile, and pit or ditch terminal 134 which contained 12 sherds of prehistoric pottery, including a Late Bronze Age fine ware vessel with boss decoration. All seven ditches were aligned on the Roman ditch system identified elsewhere on the site. Only pit or ditch terminal 134 and associated postholes 136 and 197 were identified as belonging to the prehistoric phase, other postholes and pits could not be attributed a date due to lack of material evidence. It is however clear that structures were present. Slight evidence for human remains (posthole 133) may be an indicator of nearby funerary activity.

Ditch cut 131. Linear in plan on approximately east-west orientation, with moderately steep sides and flat base, 2.4m wide and 0.52m deep. Filled by 130: mid-pale orange brown silt with occasional flints, gravel and chalk fragments, Roman tile and pottery. Overlaid by 69: mid greyish brown silt with occasional flints, gravel and chalk fragments, Roman roof tile (*imbrex*), and animal bones.

Posthole cut 133. Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and concave base. 0.3m in diameter and 0.06m deep. Filled by 132: mid-pale grey silt with frequent chalk fragments and flecks, very occasional flints and small bones, including human finger bone.

Pit? cut 134. Irregular in plan, with very gentle slightly irregular sides and irregular base, 2.6m wide by at least 1.3m long and 0.12m deep. Filled by 68: mid grey silt with faint yellowish mottling containing moderate chalk fragments and occasional stones and flints, also occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional burnt stones. Pottery includes LBA fine ware vessel with boss decoration, animal bones and a fragment of possibly intrusive Roman tile.

Posthole cut 136. Oval in plan with steep sides, stepped on south side, and flat base, 0.48m by 0.4m by 0.31m deep. Filled by 135: mid grey silt with faint yellowish mottling containing moderate chalk fragments and occasional stones and flints, also occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional burnt stones. Possibly associated with 197 and 268.

Posthole cut 197. Circular in plan with vertical sides and flat base, 0.18m in diameter and 0.2m deep. Filled by 196: mid grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional burnt stones. Possibly associated with 136 and 268.

Pit? cut 266. Circular? in plan with very gentle U shaped profile, 1m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 65: pale greyish brown sandy silt, possibly a pit or ditch terminal.

Ditch cut 267. Linear in plan on a north-west/south-east orientation, with a very gentle U shaped profile. 0.9m wide and 0.12m deep. Filled by 66: pale greyish brown sandy silt.

Post hole? cut 268. Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 67: pale greyish brown sandy silt, no finds. Possibly associated with 136 and 197.

Pit cut 269. Oval in plan, very gentle u shaped profile. 0.7m long, 0.45m wide and 0.14m deep. Filled by 70: mixed mid grey silt and chalk fragments, frequent small animal bone.

Ditch? cut 270. Linear in plan, profile not established. 0.8m wide, depth not established. Filled by 75: greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments, no finds.

Ditch? cut 271. Linear in plan on a west-north-west to east-south-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 1.7m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 76: greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments, no finds.

Ditch? cut 272. Linear in plan a west-north-west to east-south-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 1.7m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 77: greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments and fired clay.

Pit? cut 273. Circular in plan with gentle U shaped profile. 1.9m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 78: greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments, no finds. Possibly a pit or a ditch terminal.

Ditch cut 274. Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 1.8m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 79: greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments, no finds.

Ditch cut 275. Circular? in plan, profile not established. At least 1.3m wide, depth not established. Filled by 80: greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments, no finds.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation trenches show clear evidence for two periods of settlement occupation on the site. There is also stratigraphic evidence (especially from Trenches 9 and 10) that both periods comprise more than one phase of activity.

6.1 Prehistoric

Evidence for prehistoric settlement occurs in all the trenches, the evidence in the northern trenches was not obscured by activity dating to the Roman period and comprised at least two rectangular ditched enclosures associated with evidence for timber buildings and rubbish pits.

A small but very significant assemblage of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery has been recovered from features, particularly in the southern area of the site. The pottery is broadly categorised into types, a fine thin walled micaceous fabric with decorative elements such as bosses (Context 68, Trench 11) and a much coarser thick walled plainware tradition. Whether these two

traditions represent a chronological or a functional variation cannot be addressed within the scope of this evaluation but is an important research issue, should the opportunity arise for excavation of this site. The pottery recovered has also been shown to vary between large unabraded sherds (Trenches 10 and 11 towards the modern road frontage) and small abraded sherds from trenches towards the north end of the site.

A pattern of ditches defining regular rectangular fields and possible droveways on a north-south alignment has emerged. Post-built structures are most in evidence associated with the fields at the north end of the site, although there is a possibility that similar structures exist elsewhere (Trench 10). Groups of pits containing well preserved pottery and animal bone are apparent at the south end of the site. An initial model for the prehistoric occupation of the site can be proposed as follows. A defined area of settlement in the south comprising post-built houses associated with pits containing occupation debris, merging into a system of fields and stock enclosures associated with temporary shelters and farm buildings but with little associated cultural material. Late Bronze Age settlements and the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition are topics which have been identified as requiring further research (Brown, N. and Murphy, P. 2000).

6.2 Roman

An assemblage of mid 2nd-early 4th century Roman pottery and ceramic building materials have been found associated with a ditched field system on a south-west/north-east orientation. A small number of metal artefacts, including copper alloy brooches and iron objects (possibly associated with agriculture) were also found. There is scant evidence for actual buildings, although undated postholes may belong to this period of occupation, and narrow slot like features in Trench 9 may be evidence for buildings. More substantial evidence comes from the fragments of ceramic building materials which include Roman roof tiles, suggesting the presence of Roman buildings very near by. The Roman evidence peters out towards the north where it appears to merge into field systems. A metallised surface in trench 5 may be evidence for a track way, possibly skirting the settlement on its northern edge.

This evidence should be viewed within the context of the surrounding Roman landscape. Two areas of dense Roman activity have been identified close to the site (Casa Hatton 2001, Areas 2 and 3, Fig.1). A probable villa site with associated enclosure-systems and tracks visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs (Hall 1996, 76) is located approximately 1km to the east of the site (Casa Hatton 2001, Fig.1, Area 3). To the south and west of the development site, finds scatters including coins, pottery and brooches are further indication of Roman activity. Mosaic *tesserae* may indicate the presence of another villa building nearby (Casa Hatton, Fig. 1, Area 2). Recent evaluation to the rear of 69 Fordham Road to the north-west of the subject site has revealed further evidence for Roman settlement and field systems (A.Thomas, *Pers. Comm*).

Rural Roman settlements have been identified as an under represented area of research (Going and Plouviez 2000). This site offers an opportunity to study this type of settlement. The presence of locally produced pottery and well-preserved animal bone assemblages would also allow detailed research into the local economy of a Fen edge Roman settlement. Much work has been done on mapping settlement of the Fens through fieldwalking and aerial photography (Hall), which would give a solid context into which the results of any excavation could be placed.

There is still much work to do to fill in the detail and to identify sites that were not available to the Fenland Survey, such as this one.

7 CONCLUSION

The site on the former allotments, Fordham Road, Soham is highly significant in terms of the development of settlements along the southern Fen edge. Much work has been carried out along the northern Fen edge and this site has the potential to contribute towards similar work on the southern Fen edge.

The evidence shows that the whole area of the proposed development site contains important archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods, and these have also been shown to include different phases of activity, stratified deposits within each period, forming a complex site.

The prehistoric remains include a potentially significant Late Bronze Age /Early Iron Age pottery assemblage, associated with settlement and field systems. Dr. Paul Sealey has identified that two discrete traditions exist and that important research questions would be served by examination of their chronological and functional variation.

The Roman remains include a good quality assemblage of animal bones associated with settlement and field systems.

The potential to address research questions concerning settlement economy and spatial organisation is high for both periods.

The prehistoric periods often leave few archaeological remains, and the discovery of such remains is therefore very significant. The Iron Age is also under-represented in the Soham area and the remains indicated by this evaluation are locally very significant. In addition relatively undisturbed sites where the evidence for the processes of continuity and change from prehistoric to Roman times are preserved are also relatively rare and consequently highly significant.

It is recommended that any development on this site should give due consideration to the preservation of the archaeological remains either in situ or by record (excavation).

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFU: Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council

SMR: Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record

CRO: Cambridgeshire County Council Records Office

EAA: East Anglian Archaeology

MAPS

Tithe Map of 1845 (CRO)

OS Map of 1886, Sheets XXX.16 and XXXV.4 1:2500 (CRO)

OS Map of 1902, Sheets XXX.16 and XXXV.4 1:2500 (CRO)

OS Map of 1926, Sheets XXX.16 and XXXV.4 1:2500 (CRO)

British Geological Survey (BGS) 158, 1:50000

Appendix A Context List

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
1	9	Ditch	Fill	161	Soft mid greyish brown homogeneous silty sand.
2	9	Natural	Fill	na	Reddish brown silt.
3	9	Ditch	Fill	168	Grey sandy silt..
4	9	Ditch	Fill	164	Grey sandy silt, RB pottery.
5	9	Ditch	Fill	165	Grey sandy silt. Cut by 164.
6	9	Ditch	Fill	171	Grey sandy silt.
7	9	Pit?	Fill	174	Grey sandy silt.
8	9	Ditch	Fill	176	Grey sandy silt, RB pottery.
9	9	Ditch	Fill	179	Grey sandy silt, RB pottery.
10	9	Pit?	Fill	180	Grey sandy silt, RB pottery.
11	9	Ditch?	Fill	181	Grey sandy silt, RB pottery.
12	4	Ditch?	Fill	227	Mid grey sandy silt, ?prehistoric pottery..
13	4	Ditch/pit?	Cut	13	Linear? On east-west orientation. Wide gentle U shaped profile. At least 1.5m long, 1.2m wide and 0.18m long. Filled by 14.
14	4	Ditch/pit?	Fill	13	Mid greyish brown sandy silt.
15	4	Ditch	Fill	230	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
16	4	Ditch	Fill	231	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
17	4	Post hole	Fill	232	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
18	4	Post hole	Fill	233	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
19	4	Post hole	Fill	234	Mid grey sandy silt.
20	4	Post hole	Fill	235	Mid grey sandy silt.
21	4	Gully	Cut	21	Linear on north-south orientation. U shaped profile. 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 22. Possibly a land drain, similar to 230.
22	4	Gully	Fill	21	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
23	4	Post hole	Fill	236	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
24	4	Post hole	Fill	237	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
25	4	Ditch	Cut	25	Linear on east-west orientation. U shaped profile with gradual sides. Filled by 26.
26	4	Ditch	Fill	25	Mid grey brown sandy silt.
27	1	Post hole	Fill	238	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
28	1	Post hole	Fill	239	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
29	1	Post hole	Fill	240	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
30	1	Post hole	Cut	30	Circular with near V shaped profile. 0.25m diameter and 0.13m deep. Filled by 31. Possibly associated with 243.
31	1	Post hole	Fill	30	Mid grey sandy silt, ?prehistoric pottery.
32	1	na	Fill	na	Light grey sandy silt, remnant of topsoil.
33	1	Pit?	Fill	242	Mid grey sandy silt, struck flint.
34	1	Post hole	Fill	243	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
35	1	Post hole	Fill	241	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds.
36	1	Pit/Ditch?	Fill	244	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, no dateable finds.
37	1	Ditch	Cut	37	Linear on north-south orientation. Gentle U shaped profile. Filled by 38.
38	1	Ditch	Fill	37	Mid greyish brown sandy silt.
39	1	Ditch	Fill	245	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds..
40	1	Not known	Fill	246	Grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal streaks, no finds.
41	2	Ditch	Fill	247	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds..

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
42	2	na	Fill	na	Remnant of topsoil.
43	6	Post hole	Fill	248	Mid greyish brown sandy silt.
44	6	Ditch	Fill	45	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.
45	3	Ditch	Cut	45	Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.8m wide, 0.16m deep. Filled by 46 (trench 3) and 44 (trench 6).
45	6	Ditch	Cut	45	Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.8m wide, 0.16m deep. Filled by 46 (trench 3) and 44 (trench 6).
46	3	Ditch	Fill	45	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, ?RB pottery.. Same as 44 in trench 6.
47	5	Pit/Ditch?	Cut	47	Possibly linear in plan, although excavation showed some curvature and the feature may therefore be a large pit, the profile appeared to be a gentle U shape although this was not confirmed. 2.5m wide by at least 1.8m long and at least 0.2m deep. Truncated 256, sealed by 48.
48	5	Layer?	Fill	255	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional small chalk fragments, large iron object and struck flint. Below 249.
49	5	Ditch	Cut	49	Linear in plan on east-west orientation. Broad shallow U shaped profile with gradual sides. 0.7m wide, 0.1m deep. Filled by 49.
50	5	Ditch	Fill	49	Light greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.
51	7	Ditch	Cut	51	Linear in plan on east-west orientation. U shaped profile with moderately steep sides and flat base, 0.64m wide and 0.05m deep. Filled by 52.
52	7	Ditch	Fill	51	Light greyish brown sandy silt, ?RB pottery.
53	7	Ditch	Cut	53	Linear in plan on south-west north-east orientation, Wide U shaped profile with moderately steep sides and flat base. Filled by 54, 62, 63.
54	7	Ditch	Fill	53	Mid greyish brown silt, no finds.
55	7	Pit	Fill	141	Mid-dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, occasional chalk fragments, RB pottery and tile.
56	7	Ditch	Cut	56	Linear in plan on north-south orientation with U shaped profile, moderately steep sides and concave base, 0.64m wide and 0.2m deep.
57	7	Ditch	Fill	142	Mid brown soft, moderately loose clayey sand with moderate chalk fragments, RB pottery and tile fragments, small amount of burnt bone.
58	7	Ditch	Fill	257	Mid grey brown sandy silt.
59	7	Pit?	Fill	258	Mid-dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, quarry pit.
60	7	Quarry pit?	Cut	60	Large ill-defined feature with flat base, 0.45m deep. Filled by 61.
61	7	Quarry pit?	Fill	60	Dark greyish brown silt with moderate charcoal flecks, residual LBA/EIA pottery and RB tile.
62	7	Ditch	Fill	53	White chalk, possibly redeposited, no finds.
63	7	Ditch	Fill	53	Mid greyish brown silt, no finds.
64	7	Ditch	Fill	56	Light greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.
65	11	Pit?	Fill	266	Pale greyish brown sandy silt.
66	11	Ditch	Fill	267	Pale greyish brown sandy silt.
67	11	Post hole?	Fill	268	Pale greyish brown sandy silt.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
68	11	Pit?	Fill	134	Mid grey silt with faint yellowish mottling containing moderate chalk fragments and occasional stones and flints, also occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional burnt stones. Pottery includes LBA fine ware vessel with boss decoration.
69	11	Ditch	Fill	131	Mid greyish brown silt with occasional flints, gravel and chalk fragments, RB tile (imbrex). Above 130.
70	11	Pit	Fill	269	Mixed mid grey silt and chalk fragments, frequent small animal bone.
71	11	Topsoil	Fill	na	Mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil remnant
72	11	Topsoil	Fill	na	Mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil remnant
73	10	Ditch	Fill	216	Dark greyish brown silt with occasional chalk fragments, RB pottery.
74	10	Ditch	Fill	210	Mid brownish grey silt, no finds.
75	11	Ditch	Fill	270	Greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments.
76	11	Ditch	Fill	271	Greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments.
77	11	Ditch	Fill	272	Greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments, fired clay.
78	11	Pit?	Fill	273	Greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments.
79	11	Ditch	Fill	274	Greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments
80	11	Pit?	Fill	275	Greyish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments.
81	11	Natural?	Fill	na	Firm reddish silt, probably filling a natural periglacial feature.
82	8	Ditch?	Fill	260	Mid greyish brown clayey sand, no finds.
83	8	Ditch?	Fill	261	Mid greyish brown clayey sand.
84	8	Ditch	Fill	184	Brown sandy clay with moderate chalk, and Roman pottery.
85	8	Ditch	Fill	187	Greyish brown sandy clay with occasional chalk becoming frequent towards the base, Roman pottery, tile (including tegula), fired clay and sf2.
86	8	Pit	Fill	182	Greyish brown clayey sand, no finds. Same as 87.
87	8	Pit	Fill	182	Greyish brown clayey sand, undiagnostic pottery. Same as 86.
88	8	Ditch	Fill	183	Brownish grey clayey sand with occasional chalk lumps and streaks, RB pottery and fired clay.
89	8	Ditch	Fill	191	Mid brown sandy clay.
90	8	Natural	Fill	na	Investigation showed feature to be remnant of topsoil
91	8	Natural	Fill	na	Investigation showed feature to be remnant of topsoil
92	8	Ditch	Fill	194	Mid brown sandy clay with chalk fragments towards the base and Roman pottery.
93	8	Ditch	Fill	262	Greyish brown sandy clay.
94	8	Ditch	Fill	263	Greyish brown sandy clay.
95	8	Pit	Fill	195	Mid brown sandy clay with chalk fragments towards the base, RB pottery and tile.
96	10	Ditch?	Fill	226	Greyish brown sandy silt.
97	10	Ditch	Cut	97	Linear on south-west north-east orientation, Wide U shaped profile with steep sides and concave base. 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep. Filled by 98, 99.
98	10	Ditch	Fill	97	Dark greyish brown clayey silt.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
99	10	Ditch	Fill	97	Mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt.
100	10	Pit?	Fill	198	Dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt with occasional large flints and occasional small gravel, RB pottery.
101	10	Ditch	Fill	199	Mid greyish brown silt with no inclusions.
102	10	Ditch	Fill	200	Dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt with no inclusions, RB pottery
103	10	Pit	Fill	201	Very dark greyish brown sandy silt, LBA/EIA pottery.
104	10	natural	Fill	na	Firm reddish clay, probably filling a natural periglacial feature.
105	10	Ditch	Fill	202	Dark greyish brown soft silt, RB pottery.
106	10	natural	Fill	na	Firm reddish clay, probably filling a natural periglacial feature.
107	10	Ditch	Fill	203	Dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt.
108	10	Ditch	Fill	204	Dark greyish brown soft slightly sandy silt with sandy orange mottles, RB pottery.
109	10	Ditch	Fill	205	Mid grey silt with no inclusions.
110	10	Ditch	Fill	206	Dark greyish brown soft silt, RB pottery.
111	10	Ditch	Fill	207	Mid brownish grey soft silt, LBA/EIA pottery.
112	10	Ditch	Fill	208	Mid brownish grey soft silt, mottled towards the base, LBA/EIA pottery.
113	10	Ditch	Fill	209	Dark greyish brown silty sand, ?prehistoric Pottery.
114	10	Pit	Fill	211	Greyish brown silty sand.
115	10	Ditch	Fill	212	Light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks.
116	10	Pit?	Fill	213	Dark greyish brown soft silt. LBA/EIA pottery.
117	10	Pit?	Fill	214	Mid brown soft silt, occasional chalk flecks, LBA/EIA pottery.
118	10	Ditch	Fill	215	Mid brown soft silt.
119	10	Ditch	Fill	217	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, occasional gravel, chalk flecks, LBA/EIA pottery.
120	10	Post hole?	Fill	218	Light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks.
121	10	Post hole?	Fill	219	Light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks..
122	10	Post hole?	Fill	220	Light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks.
123	10	Pit?	Fill	221	Mid brown silt, occasional small chalk flecks.
124	10	Post hole?	Fill	222	Light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks.
125	10	Post hole?	Fill	223	Light greyish brown soft silt, frequent chalk flecks.
126	10	Ditch	Fill	224	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, RB pottery.
127	10	Ditch?	Fill	225	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, LBA/EIA pottery.
128	7	Pit?	Fill	129	Mid brownish grey slightly clayey silt, RB pottery and struck flint..
129	7	Pit?	Cut	129	Square or circular in plan with steep sides and ?flat base, 0.38m deep, 1.3m wide. Filled by 128.
130	11	Ditch	Fill	131	Mid-pale orange brown silt with occasional flints, gravel and chalk fragments, RB tile and pottery. Below 69, above 131.
131	11	Ditch	Cut	131	Linear in plan on approximately east-west orientation, with moderately steep sides and flat base. 2.4m wide and 0.52m deep. Filled by 69 and 130. Roman pottery from 130.
132	11	Post hole	Fill	133	Mid-pale grey silt with frequent chalk fragments and flecks, very occasional flints and small bones, including human finger bone.
133	11	Post hole	Cut	133	Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and concave base. 0.3m in diameter and 0.06m deep.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
134	11	Pit?	Cut	134	Irregular in plan, with very gentle slightly irregular sides and irregular base. 2.6m wide by at least 1.3m long and 0.12m deep. Filled by 68 which contained LBA/EIA pottery
135	11	Post hole	Fill	136	Mid grey silt with faint yellowish mottling containing moderate chalk fragments and occasional stones and flints, also occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional burnt stones
136	11	Post hole	Cut	136	Oval in plan with steep sides, stepped on south side, and flat base. 0.48m by 0.4m by 0.31m deep. Filled by 135.
137	7	Ditch	Fill	138	Mid-pale grey silt, no finds.
138	7	Ditch	Cut	138	Linear in plan, profile not established. Filled by 137, truncated by 60.
139		Pit	Cut	139	Shape in plan and profile not established. Filled by 170 truncated by 171 and 172.
140					Number not used
141	7	Pit	Cut	141	?Circular with very steep, near vertical sides, base not known, at least 0.65m deep. Filled by 55, cut by 142.
142	7	Ditch	Cut	142	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation with wide, gentle U shaped profile. 1m wide and 0.13m deep. Filled by 57.
143	7	Ditch	Fill	144	Mid yellowish brown with grey streaks, slightly clayey sand, RB pottery.
144	7	Ditch	Cut	144	Wide flat based U shaped profile with deeper channel in centre, deeper channel possibly caused by water action. 1m wide and 0.15m to 0.25m deep
145	7	Ditch	Fill	259	Greyish brown sandy silt, no dateable finds.
146	7	Pit	Cut	146	Circular with steep sides and flat base, 0.6m diameter by 0.3m deep
147	7	Pit	Cut	147	Circular with steep sides and flat base, 1.7m diameter by 0.5m deep
148	7	Pit	Cut	148	Circular with steep sides and flat base, 1.1m diameter by 0.28m deep
149	7	Pit	Fill	146	Brownish yellow with bight reddish oxidised mottles firm slightly sandy clay
150	7	Pit	Fill	147	Yellowish brown with grey mottles firm sandy clay. ?prehistoric pottery.
151	7	Pit	Fill	148	Reddish brown very firm slightly sandy clay.
152	7	Pit	Fill	147	Brownish yellow firm slightly sandy clay streaked with horizontal bands of redeposited chalk.
153	7	Pit	Fill	154	Brownish yellow sandy clay.
154	7	Pit	Cut	154	Circular in plan with gradually sloping sides to flat base, cut by 157.
155	7	Pit	Fill	157	Grey sandy clay streaked with occasional charcoal flecks, ?LBA/EIA pottery. Above 156.
156	7	Pit	Fill	157	Brownish yellow sandy clay, Below 155, above 158.
157	7	Pit	Cut	157	Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Cut by 147, cuts 154.
158	7	Pit	Fill	157	Horizontal bands of redeposited chalk, reddish sandy clay and brownish yellow sandy clay,
159	9	Slot?	Fill	160	Soft mid grey brown silty sand becoming mottled with orange sand (natural) towards base.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
160	9	Slot?	Cut	160	Linear with steep sides to U shaped base. Possibly structural, at least 1m long N-S, 0.4m wide, 0.25m deep. 0.4m length excavated from southern terminal. Filled by 159.
161	9	Ditch	Cut	161	Linear on north-south orientation with flat base and moderately steep sides. At least 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep, possibly terminates within trench 9. Filled by 1, cuts 162.
162	9	Ditch	Fill	163	Brownish grey, moderately firm sandy silt mottled and streaked with greenish and chalky fleck. Occasional flints. Cut by 161.
163	9	Ditch	Cut	163	Linear on north-south orientation. U shaped profile with slightly concave base and moderately steep sides. At least 0.7m wide and 0.46m deep. Filled by 162.
164	9	Ditch	Cut	164	Linear on east-west orientation. U shaped profile. 1m wide and 0.44m deep. Filled by 4, cuts 5.
165	9	Ditch	Cut	165	Linear on east-west orientation. U shaped profile. 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep. Filled by 5.
166	9	Ditch	Fill	168	Soft brownish red silty sand (redeposited from periglacial feature through which ditch was cut). Overlaid by 3, overlies 167.
167	9	Ditch	Fill	168	Firm to stiff grey clayey silt flecked with chalk and occasional charcoal streaks. Overlaid by 166.
168	9	Ditch	Cut	168	Linear on east-west orientation. Steep sided V shaped profile. 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep. Filled by 3, 166, 167.
169	9	Gully	Fill	172	Pale to Mid grey silty sand with rare charcoal streaks and moderate flints.
170	9	Pit?	Fill	139	Pale grey chalky silty sand. Cut by 171 and 172.
171	9	Ditch	Cut	171	Linear on east-west orientation. Sharp flat based V shaped profile. 0.66m wide and 0.3m deep. Filled by 6, 173.
172	9	Gully	Cut	172	Linear on east-west orientation. U shaped profile. 0.25m wide and 0.15m deep.
173	9	Ditch	Cut	173	Grey sandy silt.
174	9	Pit/ditch?	Cut	174	Sub-circular ditch terminal or pit with gentle U shaped profile. 0.95m wide, at least 0.6m long and 0.3m deep. Filled by 7.
175	9	Ditch	Fill	176	Dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional stones and chalk fragments, RB pottery. Possibly the same as 8.
176	9	Ditch	Cut	176	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation with U shaped profile. 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 175, truncated 178.
177	9	Ditch	Fill	178	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.
178	9	Ditch	Cut	178	Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, appears to have a broad shallow profile, but this was not confirmed. 1.5m wide and 0.13m deep. Filled by 177, truncated by 176.
179	9	Ditch	Cut	179	Linear on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, U shaped profile. 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep. Filled by 9.
180	9	Pit?	Cut	180	Circular in plan with U shaped profile. 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 10. Possibly a pit or north-west/south-east orientated ditch terminal.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
181	9	Ditch?	Cut	181	Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, steep sides and flat base deepening towards the centre. 1m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 11. Possibly a pit but more likely to be a ditch terminal.
182	8	Pit	Cut	182	Circular in plan with bowl shaped wide U profile, 1.2m in diameter by 0.15m deep. Filled by 86, 87, truncated by 183.
183	8	Ditch	Cut	183	Linear in plan on approximately north-south orientation with wide U shaped profile. 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 88. A possible post hole was also observed on its eastern edge, but was severely truncated. It also truncated pit 182.
184	8	Ditch	Cut	184	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation with wide U shaped profile. 0.85m wide and 0.1m deep. Truncated 186.
185	8	Pit?	Fill	186	Greyish brown sandy clay with frequent chalk lumps and flecks, LBA/EIA pottery.
186	8	Pit?	Cut	186	Sub circular in plan with steep to undercutting sides and a concave base. 0.9m wide and 0.46m deep. Filled with single deposit 185, truncated by 184. Possibly a pit or ditch terminal.
187	8	Ditch	Cut	187	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation with U shaped profile. 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 85.
188	8	Ditch	Fill	193	Same as 190.
189	8	Ditch	Fill	192	Pale brown sandy clay with frequent chalk.
190	8	Ditch	Fill	193	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional-moderate chalk.
191	8	Ditch	Cut	191	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation with U shaped profile. 0.9m wide and 0.36m deep. Filled by 89, possibly truncated by 193.
192	8	Ditch	Cut	192	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation with U shaped profile. 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep. Filled by 89.
193	8	Ditch	Cut	193	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation with lazy V shaped profile. 0.6m wide and 0.34m deep. Possibly truncated 191.
194	8	Ditch	Cut	194	Curvilinear in plan, possibly terminating within trench, had a U shaped profile with moderately steep sides. 1.4m wide and 0.37m deep. Filled by 92.
195	8	Pit	Cut	195	Shape in plan unclear. Vertical sides to flat base, dimensions in plan not known, 0.5m deep. Filled by 95. Probably a quarry pit.
196	11	Post hole	Fill	197	Mid grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional burnt stones.
197	11	Post hole	Cut	197	Circular in plan with vertical sides and flat base, 0.18m in diameter and 0.2m deep. Filled by 196.
198	10	Pit?	Cut	198	?Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and flat base, possibly a pit or ditch terminal. 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep. Filled by 100.
199	10	Ditch	Cut	199	Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, broad, shallow U shaped profile. 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled by 101, truncated by 200.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
200	10	Ditch	Cut	200	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.95m wide and 0.21m deep. Filled by 102, truncated 199.
201	10	Pit	Cut	201	Circular in plan with vertical sides, base not known (not fully excavated). 3.5m wide and at least 1.8m long. Filled by 103.
202	10	Ditch	Cut	202	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.95m wide and 0.21m deep. Filled by 105.
203	10	Ditch	Cut	203	Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, profile not established. 0.45m wide, depth not established. Filled by 107, truncated by 206, terminates within trench.
204	10	Ditch	Cut	204	Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, broad, gentle U shaped profile. 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled by 108, truncated by 200.
205	10	Ditch	Cut	205	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.26m wide and 0.06m deep. Filled by 109, truncated by 206.
206	10	Ditch	Cut	206	Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, broad shallow U shaped profile. At least 1m long and 0.2m deep. Filled by 110, the ditch appears to terminate in the trench, but this was not confirmed. Truncated 203, 204, 205.
207	10	Ditch	Cut	207	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, narrow U shaped profile. 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 111.
208	10	Ditch	Cut	208	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 112.
209	10	Ditch	Cut	209	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 113, truncated by 210.
210	10	Ditch	Cut	210	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, flat based U shaped profile. 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 114, truncated 209.
211	10	Pit	Cut	211	Circular in plan, profile not established. 1.4m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 114, truncated by 210.
212	10	Ditch	Cut	212	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.55m wide and 0.06m deep. Filled by 115, truncated by 213.
213	10	Pit?	Cut	213	Circular in plan with flat based U shaped profile. 1.35m wide and 0.18m deep. Filled by 116, truncated 115. Possibly a pit or ditch terminal, may be associated with 214.
214	10	Pit?	Cut	214	Circular in plan with gentle U shaped profile. 1.5m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 117, truncated 215. Possibly a pit or a ditch terminal, may be associated with 213.
215	10	Ditch	Cut	215	Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, profile not established. At least 1m wide, at least 7m long, depth not established. Filled by 118, truncated by 214.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
216	10	Ditch	Cut	216	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep. Filled by 73.
217	10	Ditch	Cut	217	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, lazy V shaped profile. 1m wide and 0.32m deep. Filled by 119.
218	10	Post hole	Cut	218	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 120, may be associated with 219, 220, 222, 223.
219	10	Post hole?	Cut	219	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 121, may be associated with 218, 220, 222, 223.
220	10	Post hole?	Cut	220	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 122, may be associated with 218, 219, 222, 223.
221	10	Pit?	Cut	221	Sub circular in plan with a gentle U shaped profile. 1.2m wide, at least 1.5m long, at least 0.1m deep. Filled by 123. Possibly a pit or east-west orientated ditch terminal.
222	10	Post hole?	Cut	222	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 124, may be associated with 218, 219, 220, 223.
223	10	Post hole?	Cut	223	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 125, may be associated with 218, 219, 220, 222.
224	10	Ditch	Cut	224	Linear in plan on a north-south or south-west/north-east orientation (possibly convergence of two ditches), steep sides, base not established. 3m wide, depth not established. Filled by 126, truncated 225.
225	10	Ditch?	Cut	225	Possibly linear in plan (only small portion visible in trench), on approximately east-west orientation, steep sides, base not established. Dimensions not established. Filled by 127, truncated by 224.
226	10	Ditch?	Cut	226	Linear in plan (only small portion visible in trench), on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, profile not established. Dimensions not established. Filled by 96, truncated by 97.
227	4	Ditch?	Cut	227	Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, profile not established. At least 2m wide, depth not established. Filled by 12.
228	4	Ditch?	Fill	229	Mid grey sandy silt, no finds. Fill of 229.
229	4	Ditch?	Cut	229	Linear on an approximately east-west orientation, profile not established. 0.5m wide, depth not established. Filled by 228, possible ditch terminal.
230	4	Ditch	Cut	230	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile not established. 0.4m wide, depth not established, probably a land drain, similar to 21.
231	4	Ditch	Cut	231	Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation, profile not established. At least 1.5m wide, depth not established. Filled by 16.
232	4	Post hole	Cut	232	Circular in plan, lazy V shaped profile. 0.3m wide, 0.2m deep. Filled by 17. Possibly associated with 233, 234, 235.
233	4	Post hole	Cut	233	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 18. Possibly associated with 232, 234, 235.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
234	4	Post hole	Cut	234	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 19. Possibly associated with 232, 233, 235.
235	4	Post hole	Cut	235	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 20. Possibly associated with 232, 233, 234.
236	4	Post hole	Cut	236	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 23. Possibly associated with 237.
237	4	Post hole	Cut	237	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 24. Possibly associated with 236.
238	1	Post hole	Cut	238	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 27. Possibly associated with 239, 240, 241.
239	1	Post hole	Cut	239	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 28. Possibly associated with 238, 240, 241.
240	1	Post hole	Cut	240	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 29. Possibly associated with 238, 239, 241.
241	1	Post hole	Cut	241	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 35. Possibly associated with 237, 238, 239.
242	1	Pit?	Cut	242	Circular in plan, profile not established. 2m wide, depth not established. Filled by 33. Possible pit or ditch terminal.
243	1	Post hole	Cut	243	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m in diameter, depth not established. Filled by 34. Possibly associated with 30.
244	1	Pit/Ditch?	Cut	244	Possibly circular in plan, profile not established. 1m wide, depth not established. Filled by 36. Possibly a ditch terminal or pit.
245	1	Ditch	Cut	245	Linear in plan on an approximately north-west/south-east orientation. 0.7m wide, depth not established. Filled by 39 truncated by 246, ditch terminal.
246	1	Not known	Cut	246	Shape in plan and profile not established. Truncated 245.
247	2	Ditch	Cut	247	Linear in plan on a north-south orientation, profile not established. 1.5m wide, depth not established. Filled by 41.
248	6	Post hole	Cut	248	Circular in plan with steep sides and flat base. 0.25m diameter and 0.06m deep. Filled by 43. No other post holes noted nearby.
249	5	Layer?	Fill	255	Dark brown silty clay with occasional small chalk fragments. Above 48.
250	5	Ditch	Fill	251	Very light greyish brown silt, no finds. Fill of 251.
251	5	Ditch	Cut	251	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile very gentle U shape, break of slope from top to sides to base barely perceptible. 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 250, truncated 256.
252	5	Pit/Ditch?	Fill	47	Greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.
253	5	Ditch	Fill	254	Light greyish brown sandy silt, no finds.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
254	5	Ditch	Cut	254	Linear in plan on an approximately WNW/ESE orientation, moderately steep sides and flat base. 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 253.
255	5	Layer?	Cut	255	Shape in plan not established, profile is gradual and may be a natural slope infilled by layers 48 and 249, both layers appear to have been deposited in wet conditions and overlie an artificial cobble layer 256. The feature may be a holloway.
256	5	Surface	Layer	na	Compacted layer of rounded flints and cobble stones. Sealed by 48, cut by 251 and possibly 47. May be the remains of a track or holloway.
257	7	Ditch	Cut	257	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile not established. Filled by 58, truncated by 259.
258	7	Ditch	Cut	258	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, profile not established. 3m wide, depth not established. Filled by 59.
259	7	Ditch	Cut	259	Linear in plan on an approximately south-west/north-east orientation, profile not established. 0.5m wide, depth not established. Filled by 145.
260	8	Ditch	Cut	260	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile not established. At least 1m wide, depth not established. Filled by 82.
261	8	Ditch	Cut	261	Linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation, profile not established. At least 2m wide, depth not established. Filled by 83. Possibly two features.
262	8	Ditch	Cut	262	Possibly linear in plan, orientation unclear, with steep sided U shaped profile. At least 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep. Filled by 93.
263	8	Ditch?	Cut	263	Unclear in plan, possibly a single ditch or ditches, other features may be obscured. Filled by 94, truncated by 195.
266	11	Pit?	Cut	266	Circular? In plan with very gentle U shaped profile. 1m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 65, possibly a pit or ditch terminal.
267	11	Ditch	Cut	267	Linear in plan on a north-west/south-east orientation, with a very gentle U shaped profile. 0.9m wide and 0.12m deep. Filled by 66.
268	11	Post hole?	Cut	268	Circular in plan, profile not established. 0.3m diameter, depth not established. Filled by 67, possibly associated with 136, 197.
269	11	Pit	Cut	269	Oval in plan, very gentle u shaped profile. 0.7m long, 0.45m wide and 0.14m deep. Filled by 70, containing a small animal.
270	11	Ditch?	Cut	270	Linear in plan, profile not established. 0.8m wide, depth not established. Filled by 75.
271	11	Ditch?	Cut	271	Linear in plan on WNW-ESE orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 1.7m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 76.
272	11	Ditch?	Cut	272	Linear in plan on WNW-ESE orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 1.7m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 77.
273	11	Pit?	Cut	273	Circular in plan with gentle U shaped profile. 1.9m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 78. Possibly a pit or a ditch terminal.

Context	Trench	Feature type	Category	Cut	Description
274	11	Ditch	Cut	274	Linear in plan on an approximately east-west orientation, gentle U shaped profile. 1.8m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 79.
275	11	Ditch	Cut	275	Circular? in plan, profile not established. At least 1.3m wide, depth not established. Filled by 80.

Appendix B Pottery and Tile by Dr. Paul Sealey

A total of 5.2 kilo's (440 sherds) of pottery and 2.09 kilo's (25 fragments) of Roman tile were collected from the evaluation trenches.

Two distinct groups of pottery were present, a Romano-British group which included sherds of the local Horningsea ware, grey wares, colour coats and occasional sherds of samian associated with Roman building materials, including *tegulae* and *imbrices* roofing tiles and fragments of burnt daub. This group can be assigned a broad date of mid 2nd-early 4th century

The second group of pottery is prehistoric and appears to be Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age in date based on the presence of characteristic straight sided jars with T-shaped rims. This prehistoric assemblage is further made up from two distinct types, a fine ware and a coarse ware. The pottery is largely plain and undecorated with a few exceptions; a fine ware bowl with boss decoration (context 68, Trench 11), and sherds with finger-tipping and carinations (contexts 116 and 117, Trench 10).

List of Contexts with Pottery and Tile

Trench	Feature type	Category	Context	Cut	Pot weight	Pot count	Tile count	Tile weight	Spot date
1	Post hole	Fill	31	30	6	2			?Prehistoric
3	Ditch	Fill	46	45	10	1			?Prehistoric
4	Ditch?	Fill	12	227	25	1			Prehistoric
4	Ditch/pit?	Fill	14	13	59	7			Roman
7	Ditch	Fill	52	51	7	1			?Roman
7	Pit	Fill	55	141	171	12	6	209	Roman
7	Ditch	Fill	57	142	58	6			Roman
7	Ditch	Fill	58	257	3	2			?Prehistoric
7	Pit?	Fill	59	258	24	3			Roman
7	Quarry pit?	Fill	61	60	525	23	1*	158	Prehistoric
7	Pit?	Fill	128	129	17	3			?Roman
7	Ditch	Fill	143	144	15	3			?Roman
7	Pit	Fill	150	147	6	4			?Roman
7	Pit	Fill	155	157	88	8			Prehistoric
7	Pit	Fill	158	157			1	6	Roman
8	Ditch	Fill	84	184	15	1			Roman
8	Ditch	Fill	85	187	201	16	10	1369	Roman
8	Pit	Fill	87	182	4	2			?Prehistoric
8	Ditch	Fill	88	183	52	6			?Roman
8	Ditch	Fill	92	194	50	3			Roman
8	Pit	Fill	95	195	13	4	1	23	Roman

Trench	Feature type	Category	Context	Cut	Pot weight	Pot count	Tile count	Tile weight	Spot date
8	Pit?	Fill	185	186	49				Prehistoric
9	Ditch	Fill	1	161	55	9			Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	3	168	53	4			Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	4	164	159	10			Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	5	165	138	5			Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	6	171	129	13			Roman
9	Pit?	Fill	7	174	23	4			Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	8	176	131	7			Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	9	179	114	12			Roman
9	Pit?	Fill	10	180	111	5			Roman
9	Ditch?	Fill	11	181	164	16			Roman
9	Slot?	Fill	159	160	13	3			Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	162	163	221	2			Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	167	168	61	10			Roman
9	Gully	Fill	169	172	5	1			
9	Pit?	Fill	170	139	5	1			
9	Ditch	Fill	175	176	33	5			Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	73	216	68	4			Roman
10	Pit?	Fill	100	198	21	5			Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	101	199	2	1			Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	102	200	29	4			Prehistoric
10	Pit	Fill	103	201	627	36			Prehistoric
10	Ditch	Fill	105	202	71	14			Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	108	204	160	21			Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	110	206	91	15			Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	111	207	92	14			Prehistoric
10	Ditch	Fill	112	208	98	6			Prehistoric
10	Ditch	Fill	113	209	23	4			
10	Pit?	Fill	116	213	444	41			Prehistoric
10	Pit?	Fill	117	214	24	5			Prehistoric
10	Ditch	Fill	119	217	216	27			Prehistoric
10	Ditch	Fill	126	224	19	6			Roman
10	Ditch?	Fill	127	225	70	6			Prehistoric
11	Pit?	Fill	68	134	370	12	1	101	?prehistoric
11	Ditch	Fill	69	131	3	1	1	89	
11	Ditch	Fill	130	131	23	3	2	134	Roman
					5264	440	25	2089	

* intrusive

Appendix C Animal Bone

A total of nearly 3.7 kilo's of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation. The animal bone is in good condition. The majority of the animal bone was recovered from Roman features, however a small quantity was also recovered from prehistoric features in the southern area of the site.

List of Contexts with Animal Bone

Trench	Feature type	Category	Context	Cut	Bone weight in grams	Spot date
4	Ditch/pit?	Fill	14	13	3	Roman

Trench	Feature type	Category	Context	Cut	Bone weight in grams	Spot date
4	Post hole	Fill	24	237	38	
7	Pit	Fill	55	141	302	Roman
7	Ditch	Fill	57	142	50	Roman
7	Pit?	Fill	59	258	54	Roman
7	Quarry pit?	Fill	61	60	21	Prehistoric
8	Ditch	Fill	84	184	11	Roman
8	Ditch	Fill	85	187	1014	Roman
8	Pit	Fill	87	182	25	?Prehistoric
8	Ditch	Fill	88	183	345	?Roman
8	Ditch	Fill	89	191	50	
8	Ditch	Fill	92	194	32	Roman
8	Pit	Fill	95	195	3	Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	1	161	186	Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	3	168	32	Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	4	164	183	Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	6	171	16	Roman
9	Pit?	Fill	7	174	23	Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	8	176	53	Roman
9	Ditch	Fill	9	179	84	Roman
9	Ditch?	Fill	11	181	9	Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	73	216	63	Roman
10	Pit	Fill	103	201	146	Prehistoric
10	Ditch	Fill	108	204	395	Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	110	206	9	Roman
10	Ditch	Fill	112	208	15	Prehistoric
10	Pit?	Fill	116	213	51	Prehistoric
11	Pit?	Fill	68	134	54	?prehistoric
11	Ditch	Fill	69	131	356	
11	Pit	Fill	70	269	50	
Total Weight in grams					3673	



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