The Rhee Lakeside Investigations
An Archaeological Evaluation at Hanson Quarry, Colne Fen, Earith

Ricky Patten

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Hanson Aggregates at their Earith Quarry, Somersham (NGR 538440 277170). The evaluation was commissioned prior to the extension of the current Quarry workings and follows on from a series of desktop investigations. Thirty-six trenches were excavated totalling 2322m and were targeted on specific cropmarks and areas of negative results. Several trenches were also cut across the area of Rhee Lake to investigate the potential wetland deposits. The evaluation produced evidence for continued activity dating back to the Neolithic. The area to the north of Rhee Lake and abutting the Langdale Hale complex saw a continuation of the Romano-British activity along with an earlier Iron Age predecessor. The area to the south of Rhee Lake provided evidence of Neolithic activity in the form of a pit. The Bronze Age was evidenced by a number of large ditches and several curvilinear gullies and posthole clusters within a 'settlement' core area and field system ditches coming away from this. To the southwest the Iron Age was recorded as a large ditch associated with a cropmark plot representing a series of enclosures. The area known as Rhee Lake through the centre of the development area produced evidence for a palaeochannel, and a later system of channels or streams cutting through successive peat inundations.

Introduction

Since 1997 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) has been involved in archaeological research on behalf of Hanson Aggregates at their Colne Fen quarries. With the aim of extending the quarry into new areas an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the fields around Rhee Lake between the 5th July 2004 and the 30th July 2004.

The quarry is located approximately a kilometre southeast of Somersham and a kilometre from Colne on the fen edge. The evaluation covered an area of about 20 hectares centred on NGR 538440 277170 lying at between 1.5m and 4.5m OD. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) was bounded to the north and south by existing quarries and by a conveyor belt to the west. The PDA itself and the area to the east consisted of open fields, within the PDA itself there were eight separate fields, four of which were set-aside with one containing an area of bird cover.

The underlying geology consisted of first/second terrace river gravels with an area of deep peat and alluvium cover extending from the east across the centre of the site. This represents an area known as Rhee Lake, which was believed to have been an open water inlet until Post-Medieval drainage. The ground surface drops steeply from north and south forming a valley around 1.5m OD.

Archaeological Background

The area surrounding the PDA has a good history of archaeological investigation:

In the 1920's small scale excavations were undertaken by C.F. Tebbutt of the St. Ives Museum. He excavated a number of areas including six pits located within an area at

Figure 1. Site location map

the 'Camp Ground' site and a 9.75m diameter circular enclosure at Langdale Hale (this was still an earthwork at the time and Tebbutt states that it had a raised interior with a 1.80m wide ditch and an external bank, pottery recovered from the ditch suggested a 3rd-4th century AD date) (Regan and Evans 1997).

In 1954 M. Green recorded four kilns destroyed during quarrying. These were dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, no associated features were noted.

In 1967 D.A. White recorded three ditches, two pits and a skeleton during quarrying. The ditches were dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and one of the pits and the skeleton to the 4th century AD.

D.R. Wilson in 1975 summarises a site north of the 1954 kilns excavated by R.F. Smith. Evidence for several Romano-British features were recorded, these included a structure dating to the 1st century AD and an aisled building with corn driers and a trackway dating to the 4th century AD.

In 1976 a team from the Department of the Environment excavated 1300 square metres of trench in an area of known cropmarks; these trenches confirmed the findings of the cropmarks with a number of circular gullies and small paddocks. Two of the gullies exposed were investigated in detail and it was suggested that they were settlement structures dating from the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD (Regan and Evans 1997).

In 1977 further excavations were undertaken by H.C. Mytum around a series of known cropmarks showing a rectangular enclosure with several internal divisions and possible structures. A select number of the structures were investigated representing several different forms with two four-post structures (one with stone post pads), a structure constructed on beams and another on sills and posts, and a structure constructed of burnt daub or clay which may have been a kiln or oven, further evidence for other postholes and gullies were recorded along with two adult burials. This could suggest some form of agrarian settlement with finds material suggesting an occupation spanning the 1st to 4th century AD (Regan and Evans 1997).

Since 1997 the CAU have undertaken a number of large scale excavations on behalf of Hanson Aggregates preceding mineral extraction:

In 1997 an open area excavation was undertaken within an area referred to as Site I. Evidence for two Late Iron Age enclosures was recorded along with elements of a Romano-British field system (Regan and Evans 1998).

In 1998 an evaluation and small open area excavation was undertaken between the 'Camp Ground' and Langdale Hale (referred to as Site II). Here evidence for Iron Age settlement was recorded in the form of an eaves gully and a number of postholes and pits (Knight and McFadyen 1998).

Also in 1998 two open areas were excavated between Langdale Hale and the 'Camp Ground' (referred to as Sites III and IV), at these sites evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity was recorded. The main occupation uncovered at Site IV was of Middle to Late Iron Age date, which was recorded along with a Bronze Age ring-

ditch that was left unexcavated and preserved in situ. Romano-British agricultural practices were recorded within both areas with traces of field system ditches overlying the Iron Age features.

In 1999 an open area excavation was undertaken at Langdale Hale where evidence for a significant Romano-British settlement complex was recorded. The excavations revealed a 2nd to 4th century AD farmstead complete with field system ditches. Evidence for prehistoric activity was also encountered in the form of a group of Neolithic pits and a cluster of Bronze Age structures (Regan 2003a).

In 2001 the CAU undertook a large scale open area excavation at the 'Camp Ground' site in the northern part of the quarry area. Excavation here revealed a substantial Later Iron Age to 4th century AD settlement rising to an 'official' centre of some form in the Romano-British period (Regan forthcoming).

In 2002 a large scale excavation was undertaken ahead of extraction within the southern extension area at The Holme. The excavation revealed evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British activity. The Bronze Age was evidenced by a series of structures set within individual strips and enclosed within a large ditched system. The Iron Age was represented by a large pit and ditch, while the Romano-British by two enclosures (Evans and Patten 2003).

In late 2002 a watching brief was conducted by the CAU on behalf of Hanson Aggregates along the route of a proposed conveyor belt within the quarry. A single trench 2.2m wide and 395m long was excavated covering the entire length of the proposed route. At the northern end of the trench evidence for Romano-British activity was recorded in the form of a series of postholes and linear ditches, this was within an area of known Romano-British activity at the Langdale Hale complex. At the southern end of the trench a series of linear ditches were recorded which produced pottery of Iron Age origin. This conveyor belt route marked the western limit of the area under evaluation here (Appendix 9).

Methodology

In preparation for the trial trenching five of the fields (those not under set-aside) were field walked and metal detected along 20m transects, and more intensively over three 40m by 40m areas. The results of the survey revealed a low density of Early Neolithic to Bronze Age worked flint, a small amount of Roman pottery, and a small amount of Post-Medieval pottery, metal work and tile (See Appendix 10).

Thirty-six trenches were excavated totalling 2322m using a 360°-tracked machine with a toothless ditching bucket, which removed the topsoil and overburden down to an archaeological level. Each trench was recorded on a CAU trench sheet making notes of soil profiles at set intervals. A representative proportion of these trenches were fully excavated to characterise the nature of the features exposed without adversely affecting the integrity of the archaeology.

Figure 2. Trench location plan showing features and cropmarks

All archaeological and relevant geological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Pertinent features were photographed on digital mediums. The Unit-modified version of the MoLAS recording system was employed throughout with all excavated stratigraphic events assigned feature numbers (F.'s) and all contexts assigned individual numbers (e.g. [fill] [cut]). The site was fixed to the OS grid and a contour survey undertaken with a GPS system.

Excavation Results

Of the thirty-six trenches excavated as part of the evaluation, twenty-seven produced evidence for cut features and the remaining nine evidenced the geological nature of the landscape. These nine trenches were located within the shallow valley believed to be Rhee Lake; this depression seemed to divide the landscape not just geologically but also temporally. Within the areas to the south the concentration of activity recorded belonged to the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, while the areas to the north produced evidence for the concentration of activity occurring during the Iron Age and the Romano-British period.

Neolithic

Evidence for Neolithic activity was recorded in several trenches in the eastern part of the PDA. This activity was recorded as residual flints and pottery recovered from later field system ditches (probably Bronze Age) as well as a discrete feature. Within Trench 8 a large circular pit was recorded (originally recorded extending from the section, but the later machining of a 5m by 5m box exposed it as a pit) **F. 516.** This produced animal bone, flint and pottery all of a non-residual quality. F.516 was 2.05m in diameter and located physically close to a number of postholes (**F. 511**, **F. 512**, **F. 513**, **F. 514**, **F. 515** and **F. 522**) of depths between 0.10m and 0.23m; however, temporally the two feature sets were unrelated with Bronze Age pottery recovered from one of the postholes (F. 522). Previous excavations within the quarry environs have produced evidence of Neolithic activity within the landscape. This activity is likely to have been transient and represented by discrete features such as pits and residual artefacts.

Bronze Age

Bronze Age activity was most prevalent within the south-eastern part of the PDA where the land rose up away from the Rhee Lake embayment. This activity appeared centred around Trenches 8, 10, 11, 35, and 36 where a number of posthole clusters, curvilinear gullies and large ditches were recorded forming the probable settlement core. The clusters that were excavated produced evidence of a Bronze Age date in the form of pottery and flint recovered from within them. Within Trenches 8, 10, and 35 were recorded curvilinear gullies, one of which was excavated (**F. 518**) and a 5m by 10m box cut around it to elucidate it further. A 'horseshoe' shaped enclosure was revealed with a southwest facing entranceway. The gully was 0.40m wide and 0.33m deep enclosing an area of 7.50m; it had steep to vertical sides suggesting it may have been a post trench rather than an eaves drip gully. The gully lacked any dateable

material, however, located along the internal edge was a large pit **F. 531** (2.20m in diameter) that produced fragments of Late Bronze Age pottery suggesting such a date for the gully.

Of a similar date, and recorded within a number of the trenches within the south eastern area of the PDA, were a series of large ditches, of which **F. 517** and **F. 530** within Trench 8 were excavated. Feature 517 was 3.1m wide and had been cut to a depth of 0.90m with steep sides and a concave base, F. 530 was slightly bigger at 4.55m wide and 1.2m deep with steep sides and a concave base and it was possible to trace both these features into Trenches 35 and 36. From aerial photographs it was possible to determine that F. 517 formed part of a sub-rectangular enclosure, which was also recorded within Trench 4. Located between these lengths of ditch (F. 517 and F. 530) were two separate clusters of postholes, one formed by features **511**, **512**, **513**, **514** and **515**, and the other by features **520**, **521**, and **522**, dateable material was recovered from F. 511 in the form of two sherds of residual Neolithic pottery, and from F. 522 eighty sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. A similar arrangement was recorded within Trench 11 where two potentially large ditches flanked a series of postholes. These ditches were of similar scale and character (profiles and depositional structure) to those previously recorded at The Holme (Evans and Patten 2003), which formed a part of the large enclosure. The substantial ditches within Trenches 8 and **11** appeared to act as divisional markers with groups of postholes recorded between parallel lengths. This pattern was recorded at The Holme where, internally to the larger enclosure, a number of smaller sub-divisions or plots of land had been constructed and within each division was located a structure.

Extending away from this area of Bronze Age settlement (the core) were a number of field system ditches. The majority of the trenches within the southern half of the PDA contained potential Bronze Age field system ditches, expanding out from the core. Within the southwest end of Trench 6 three north-south ditches (**F. 532**, **F. 536**, and **F. 543**) were recorded cut parallel to each other and a short distance apart (between 4m and 5m). Orientated northwest-southeast within the same trench were two further linears **F. 533** and **F. 541**, these linears were all similar with dimensions between 0.65m and 0.80m in width and between 0.18m and 0.29m deep with broadly similar depositional sequences. It is probable that these features represented some form of ditched hedge line. This was only recorded within Trench 6 in relatively close association to the settlement core and could represent a track or route way flanked by hedges, with evidence for more open systems further out extending both up the slope to the east and down to the west.

Within Trench 12 a small spread of buried soil ([1650]) was encountered at one spot where it had been caught within a slight depression within the 'natural', this was not recorded anywhere else on site. From this spread two flints and four fragments of pottery were recovered and dated from the Early to the later Bronze Age.

Iron Age

Iron Age activity was predominantly recorded in the south-western corner of the PDA and within the northernmost trenches up slope of Rhee Lake in association with the Langdale Hale complex. At the southern end of Trench 17 a large ditch **F. 572** (5.4m

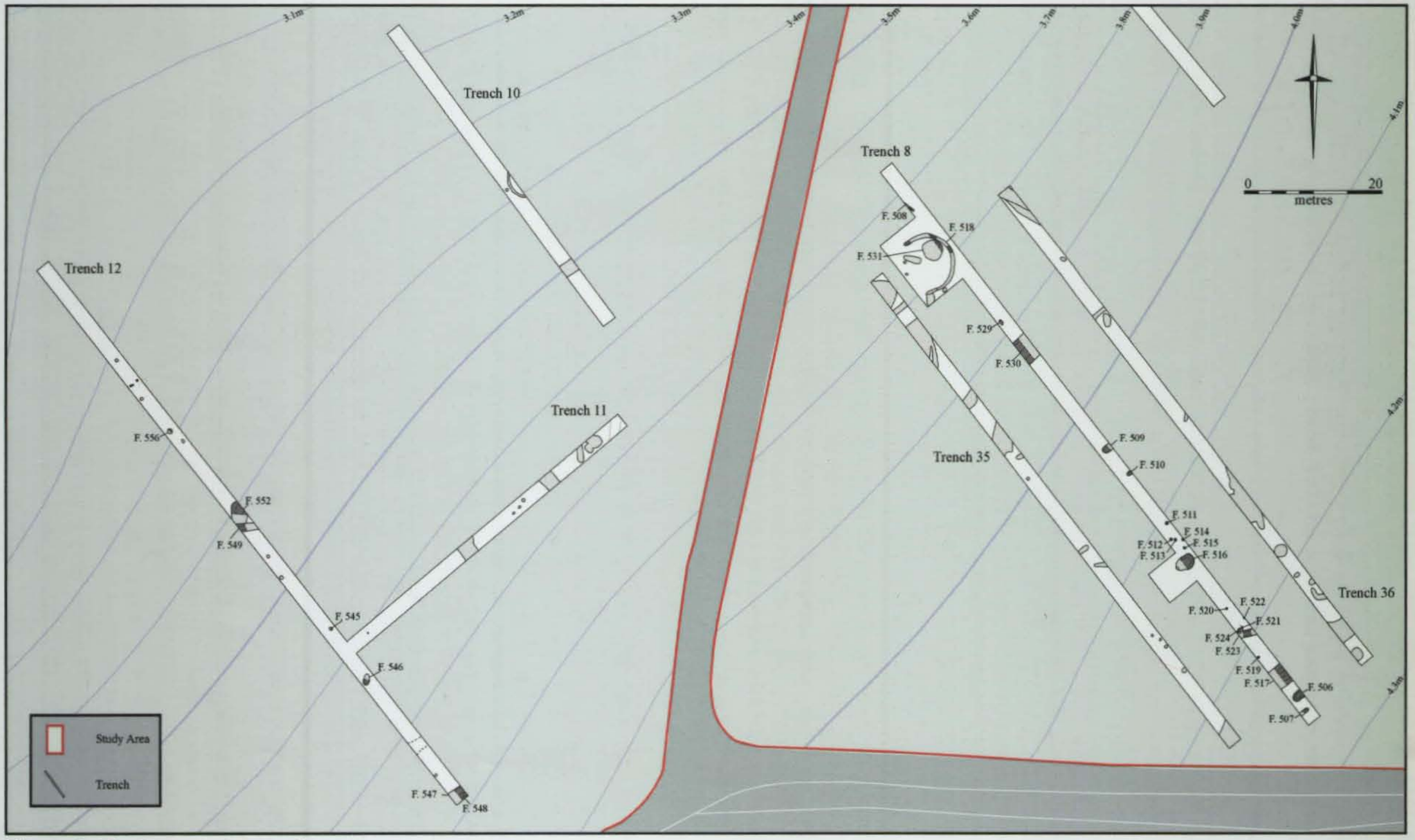


Figure 3. The Bronze Age settlement core

wide and 1.18m deep) was excavated and produced a piece of Middle/Later Iron Age pottery. This feature had been plotted as a cropmark and belonged to one of several enclosures within this area of the landscape. During the conveyor belt watching brief (Regan 2003) a series of linears (**F. 4** and **F. 5**) were recorded here and identified as being later Iron Age (after c.300BC) in date. These features were similar to F. 572 with F. 5 being 3.4m wide and 1.2m deep, and it seems probable that they were a part of the same enclosure. The scale of these features is reminiscent of the Bronze Age features excavated within the southeast part of the site, and those recorded at The Holme, which formed part of the large Late Bronze Age enclosure.

Within Trench 25 a number of features (**566**, **571**, **573** and **574**) were excavated that produced Middle/Later Iron Age material. Two of these features were either pits or the terminals of ditches, F. 566 extended c.1m from the baulk to a depth of 0.34m with steep sides and a slightly concave base, F. 571 extended 1.08m from the baulk to a depth of 0.44m with steep sides and a concave base. Feature 574 was an east-west orientated linear 1.5m wide and 0.55m deep which had been re-cut at a later date by F. 573.

Within Trench 22 and Trench 23 two linears (**F. 579** and **F. 580**) were recorded that had been identified on the aerial photographic plot for the PDA. These were further investigated with sections cut across them to determine their characters and date. The profiles (both were 2.6m wide and 0.70m deep) and depositional sequences were similar for both features with evidence of successive silt deposits being capped by a layer of alluvium. From a secure deposit within F. 580 a fragment of Iron Age pottery was recovered suggesting that this enclosure (along with the features recorded in Trench 25) represents an earlier Iron Age component to the Langdale Hale complex.

Romano-British

The greatest concentration of Romano-British activity was recorded in the northernmost fields. These trenches (21, 22, 23, 24, and 25) evidenced the continuation of the Langdale Hale complex as it extended down slope towards the Rhee Lake valley. This continuation was evidenced in very similar features to those encountered in the earlier excavation with some of the features being traced through. Within Trench 25 four features of confirmed Romano-British date were recorded; **F. 563**, **F. 567**, **F. 570** and **F. 578**. Three further features (**564**, **568**, and **569**) were also recorded; however, with the presence of Iron Age features within this trench along with the Romano-British, these were not securely dated. Feature 563 was a substantial north-south linear (1.9m wide and 0.75m deep) of which only one edge was caught within the trench, with only half the feature exposed at the most. This feature could be traced through to the Langdale Hale complex as one of the route way ditches, possibly **F. 457**. Pottery recovered from this feature (66 sherds) would suggest a 2nd to 4th century AD date for the ditch, making it contemporary with Phases 4 and 5 of the Langdale Hale site. Feature 567 was an east-west linear 1.5m wide and 0.45m deep, pottery recovered suggests a 2nd to 4th century date. Feature 578 was a substantial east-west linear 4.4m wide and 1m deep from which was recovered two Roman coins, one dated 268 to 270 AD and the other to the last quarter of the 4th century AD. This ditch is probably contemporary with F. 563 and may represent the limit of the route way as the settlement ends at the edge of the wet land.

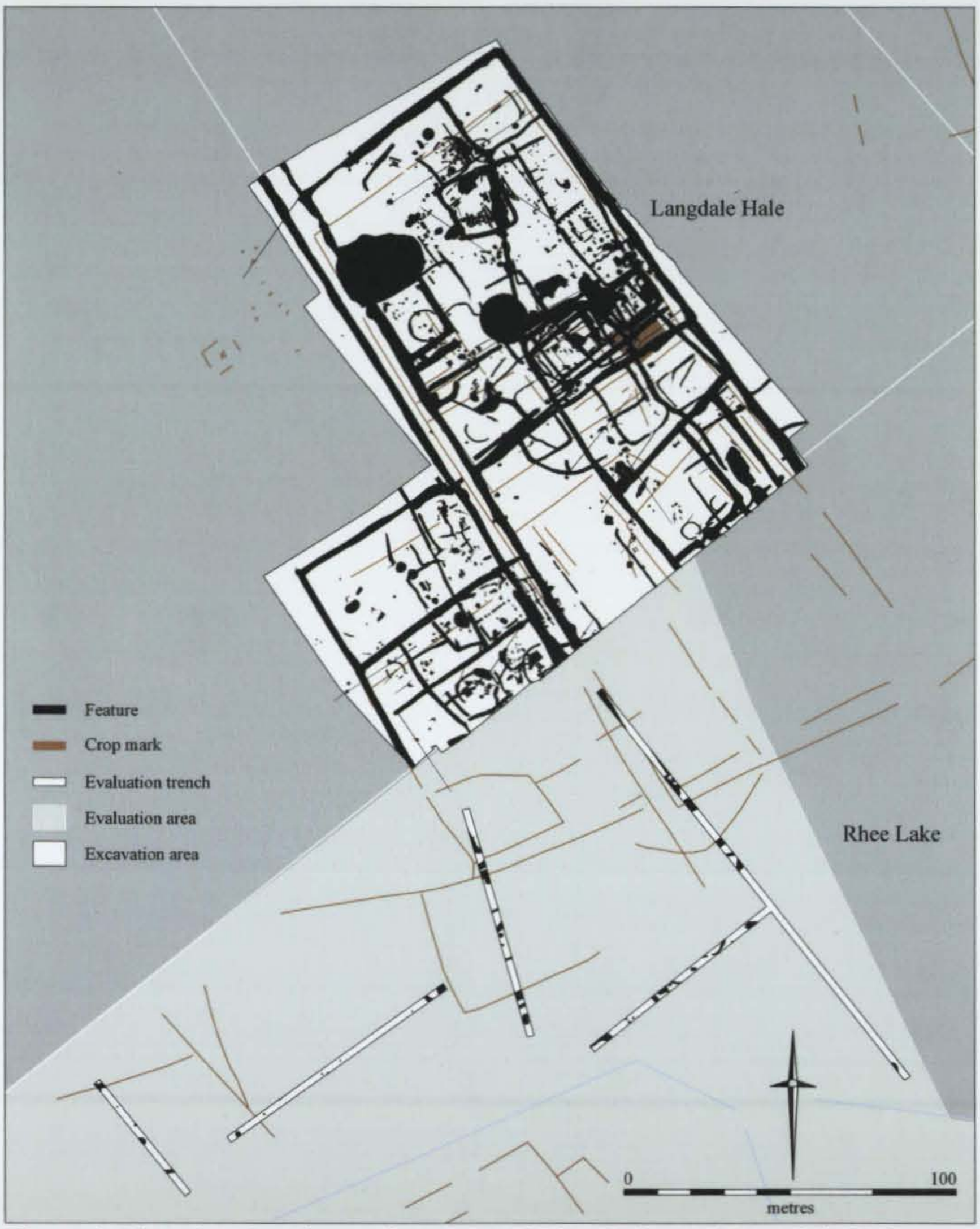


Figure 4. Plan showing the northern part of Rhee Lake and Langdale Hale

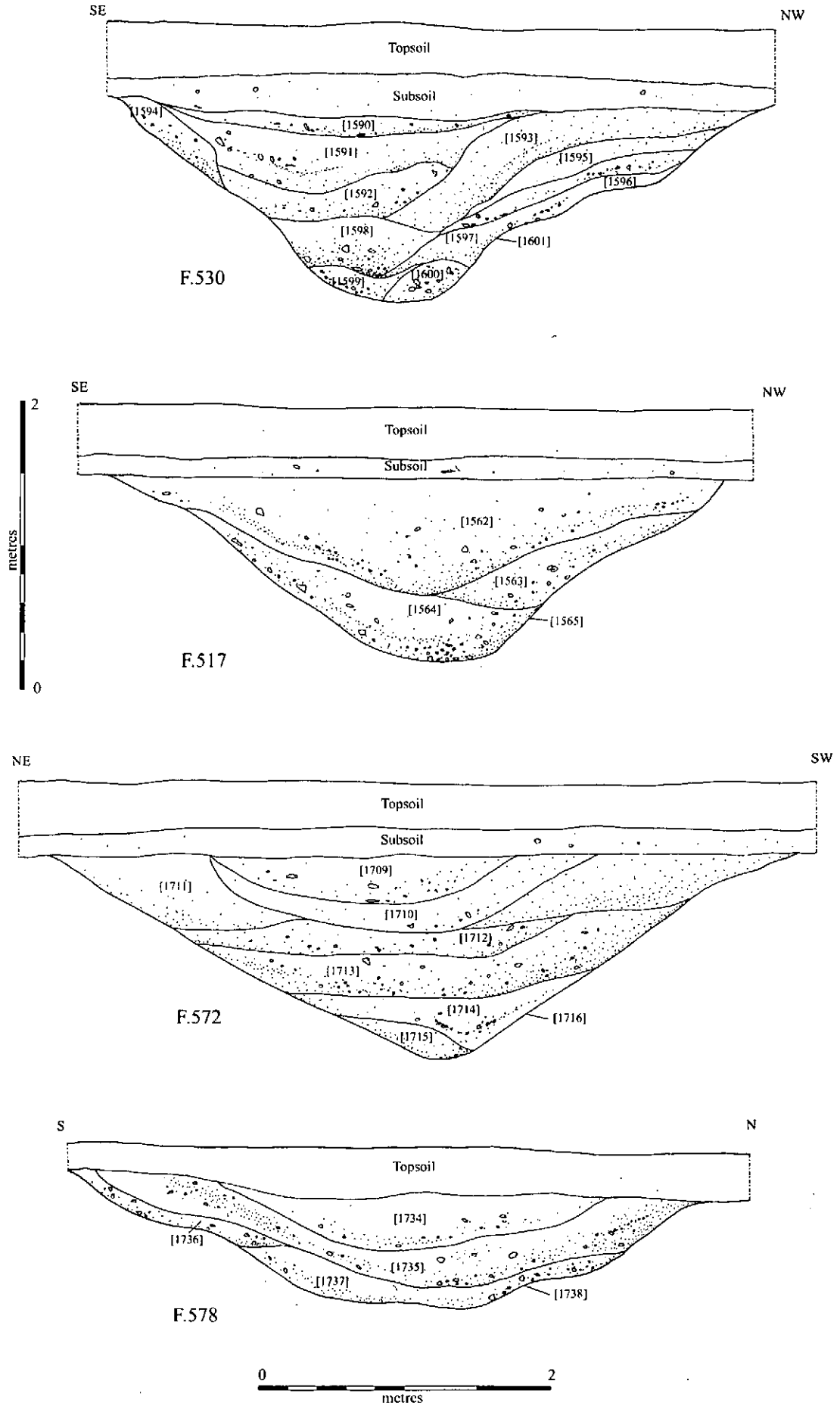


Figure 5. Ditch sections

There was no evidence for F. 563 extending across the area of Rhee Lake; it was not visible in Trench 24 or in Trench 34 on the other side of the embayment. As was previously believed the route way from the Langdale Hale complex appeared to have extended down to the edge of Rhee Lake where it most likely opened up into the fertile wetland environment surrounding this waterlogged area.

The Romano-British activity stopped at the top of the slope with no evidence of any features continuing into the shallow valley of Rhee Lake. Evidence of an earlier Iron Age predecessor was recorded in the form of pits and ditches within Trench 23, 24 and 25 confirming the earlier understanding that the Langdale Hale complex had arisen in such a manner.

The Romano-British activity was not confined to the northern area of the PDA, only concentrated there; evidence was recorded of potential field systems within the southern area. These features consisted of small boundary ditches and trackways of parallel ditches located up above the 2.5m OD contour. Four of these features were excavated during the course of the excavation. Within Trench 6 **F. 527** an east-west orientated linear was recorded. This feature was 1.05m wide and 0.26m deep and was cut by later **F. 526** which was a northwest-southeast linear 0.43m wide and 0.18m deep, probably of Post-Medieval origin. Within Trench 9 **F. 575** was an east-west orientated linear 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep; recovered from within this feature were four fragments of 2nd to 4th century AD pottery. The two other Romano-British features excavated were in Trench 14. **F. 576** and **F. 577** were two parallel linears orientated north-south, 0.51m wide and 0.14m deep, and 0.60m wide and 0.14m deep respectively. These may have formed a track or route way.

Discussion

The area of Rhee Lake has previously been envisioned as a constant wetland environment, either representing a natural water course flowing through the lowland valley, or potentially a constructed water course serving the Romano-British settlements recorded near its course. Trenching of the area of low lying ground revealed a now extinct palaeochannel that was later replaced by a series of water channels which wound their way through the valley, changing course successively over time. There was a distinct lack of any archaeological cut features within this zone. Features recorded on either side of the embayment appeared to respect this area and were cut parallel rather than towards the wet environment. The trench profiles cut through the embayment provided evidence to suggest that it was unlikely that a river or canal existed here during the Romano-British period or much earlier and that the area consisted more of a wet fenland environment.

Neolithic

Neolithic activity has been recorded in previous phases of archaeological excavation within the Quarry environs. It has always had an ephemeral nature consisting of the occasional pit (such as those excavated at Langdale Hale and The Holme) or residual artefacts from later features. There was only one feature of definite Neolithic date, a large pit F. 516, which produced significant quantities of pottery and struck flint.

Other features such as F.511 and F.500 produced abraded and residual fragments of pottery and flint, but on the whole the pattern matched that from The Holme and Langdale Hale excavations with a small background presence.

Bronze Age

Evidence for Bronze Age settlement and agricultural activity was recorded throughout the southern half of the site. An area of apparent settlement focus was recorded within Trenches 8, 10, 11, 35 and 36 in the form of curvilinear enclosures and posthole clusters (BA1; figure 6). These were located within possible enclosed tracts demarked by large ditches. This system was similar to that recorded at The Holme where an enclosed area was divided internally into 'plots of land' with an associated structure within each. The evidence appeared to suggest that the settlement activity was relatively intense. There were five clusters of postholes recorded within this area (two in Trench 8, two in Trench 11, and one in Trench 35) along with three potential circular enclosures (one in Trench 8, one in Trench 10, and one in Trench 35), along with six separate lengths of potential large enclosure ditch, dividing the settlement features. When compared to The Holme, where seven potential roundhouses and two four post structures were recorded enclosed by two lengths of large enclosure ditches and smaller internal divisions, it is possible to envision this as a more substantial settlement. The presence of such an intense settlement may be the result of its location to the Rhee Lake wet edge. On numerous sites within the Cambridgeshire Fens it has been possible to demonstrate that a fen edge environment provided the resources which made prehistoric settlement tempting. Excavations on the terrace gravels at Over, Barleycroft, Fengate, and Whittlesey have shown Bronze Age settlement activity occurring along the edge of these wetland environments. The environment of Rhee Lake would most likely have offered the same resources with the upland areas being used for agriculture.

Radiating out from this settlement core was a series of smaller ditches which appeared to continue over a large area to the east (BA2; figure 6). Little animal bone was recovered from these features, or from the settlement related features, suggesting that this system of ditches may represent an agrarian landscape of field systems extending away from the settlement. The series of closely spaced ditches within Trench 6 could represent a hedge line possibly flanking a track or route way enabling access between enclosed fields or the settlement core and the wider landscape.

Iron Age

During the conveyor belt watching brief evidence for Iron Age activity was recorded to the south of the PDA (see Appendix 9), this was further evidenced during the evaluation within Trench 17 (IA1; figure 6). Along with aerial photographic evidence it is possible to note a number of sub-rectangular enclosures within this part of the landscape, the majority of which appear to be outside the PDA. These could represent a continuation of the Later Bronze Age system of large enclosures noted both within the PDA and at The Holme site.

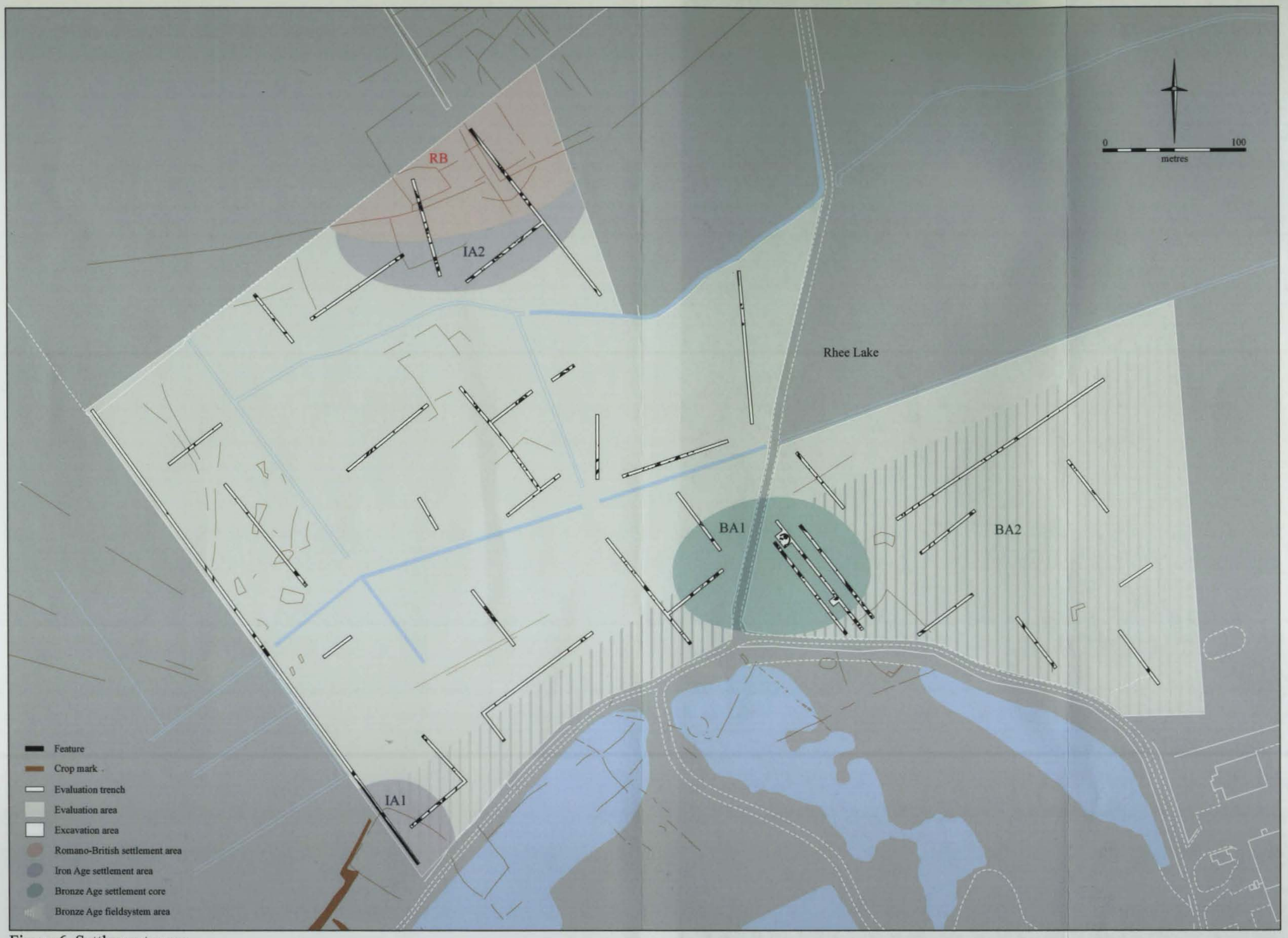


Figure 6. Settlement areas

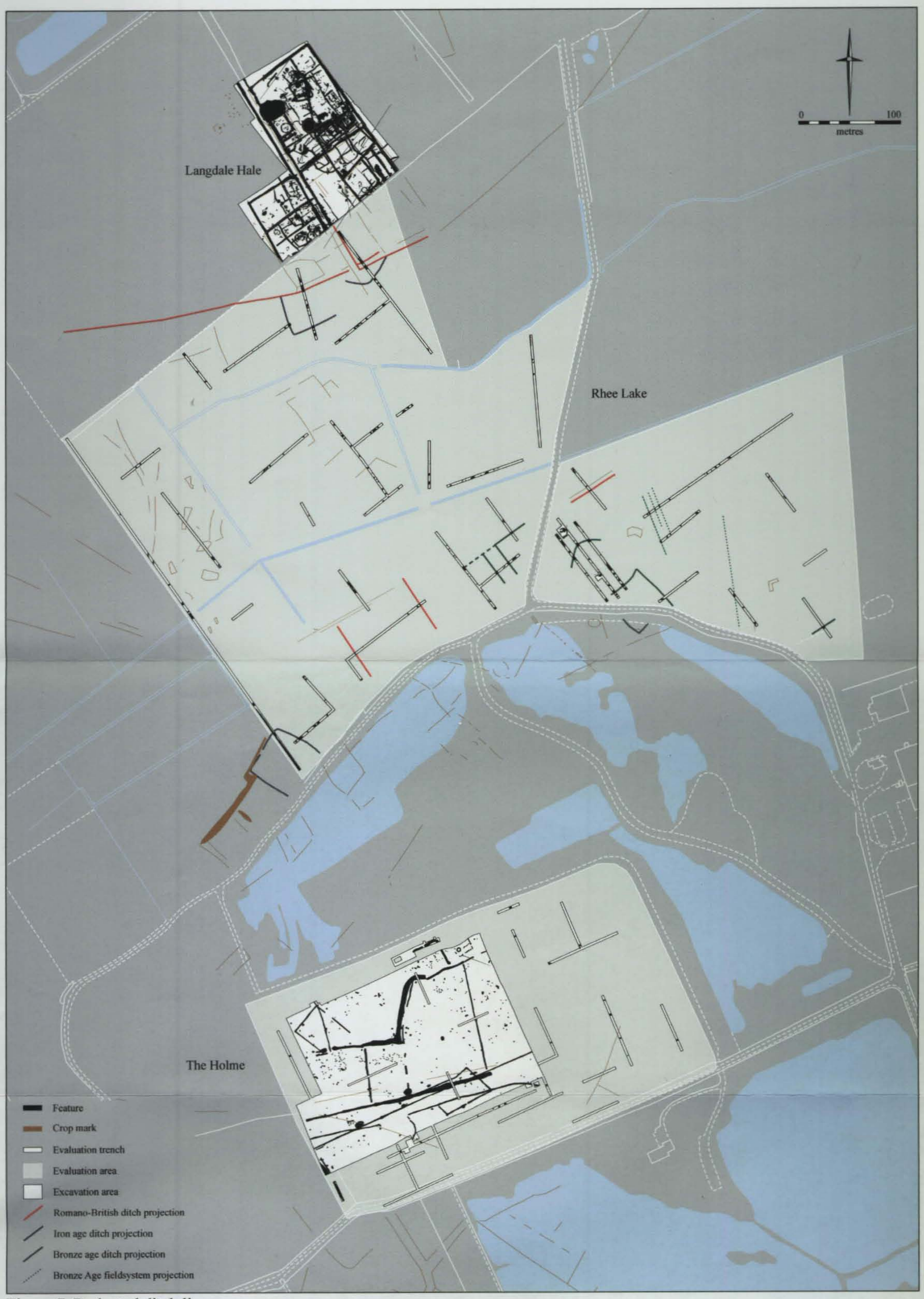


Figure 7. Projected ditch lines

Trench 22, 23 and 25 produced evidence for a probable Middle/Later Iron Age precursor (IA2; figure 6) to the Romano-British (RB; figure 6) complex recorded at Langdale Hale. Although little evidence for an Iron Age precursor was recorded within the previous excavation (Regan 2003) it was thought that one existed, it is possible that it is more visible at this point as a result of its location to the area known as Rhee Lake. The Romano-British features did not seem to extend below the 2.5m OD contour and it is possible that at this time the embayment was becoming wetter forcing the settlement to move up slope. As a result of this, while earlier features were being re-used and re-cut those closer to the wetter environment were being abandoned. Elsewhere within the Quarry excavations have shown that Late Iron Age settlement activity occurs at between 2m and 3m OD. It may have been that the water level only rose by a small amount causing a shift to occur only within close proximity to the wetter environment.

Romano-British

Romano-British activity has been well attested within the Colne Fen landscape, numerous excavations over the last century have shown that several important Romano-British centres arose on this gravel terrace. Excavations at both the 'Camp Ground' and Langdale Hale complex have produced evidence for settlements which saw continual activity throughout the Romano-British period.

The Langdale Hale complex produced evidence for an important Romano-British settlement in the form of a farmstead with associated field systems. This complex continued into the area investigated and comprised the majority of the Romano-British activity recorded (RB; figure 6). The settlement appeared to extend to the 2.5m OD contour where the Romano-British features ceased, this was evidenced in Trenches 21, 22, 23, and 25, as the land dropped into Rhee Lake. The route way recorded within the 1999 excavation extending from the settlement to Rhee Lake was evidenced within Trench 25 but not within Trench 24. It is possible that the route way was a link between the main settlement upslope and the wet land environment offered by Rhee Lake. Upon the other side of the shallow valley there was no evidence to suggest that the route way continued and it is probable that it served as a means of interacting with the wet edge environment rather than allowing passage between different settlements. Features 576 and 577 may represent a similar route way upon the southern side of the valley, leading from the wet edge to another settlement. That these features were significantly smaller than those associated with the Langdale Hale route way may be related to proximity to settlement. The evidence suggests that this side of the valley was devoted more to agricultural practices than settlement. Traces of field system enclosures were recorded in Trenches 6, 9, 13 and 14 and further afield at The Holme (Evans and Patten 2003) where two enclosures were excavated. These fields were most likely contemporary with the Langdale Hale complex but they may have been associated with another settlement site on this side of the valley.

Appendix 1: The Geological Cross-Sections

Steve Boreham

This report describes the investigation of a valley-fill sequence at the site of Rhee Lake, Colne Fen, Earith (Figures 1 & 8). The deposits investigated were exposed in a series of archaeological trenches west of Rhee Lake Drove. The trenches were cut into the floor of a shallow valley, draining towards the northeast. The valley apparently formed a small basin with a base at c.1.5m OD, flanked by terrace gravels to the north and south. The stratigraphy of key trenches was described in detail at intervals along their length to provide three geological sections across the valley and one section through the mid-line of the valley. Monolith samples were taken at two locations for further analyses. Three boreholes (BH1-3) were drilled to further investigate the nature of the deposits. A strongly cemented iron pan up to 30cm thick was observed in several trenches, although this appeared to be a post-depositional feature.

Section 1 (Trenches 18, 19, and 20)

This 175m-long section (Figures 9 & 13) runs roughly northwest-southeast across the western end of the Rhee Lake basin. Bedrock clay was not seen in any of trenches. In general the stratigraphy comprised a basal gravel and sand (unit I) with a much channelled and eroded surface, overlain by silty sand (unit II), in turn cut into by a silty clay (unit III) which in several places merged into a clayey peat (unit IV). A large peaty gravel channel-fill sequence occupied a channel cut into the underlying sediments (unit V), and this in turn had been incised multiple times by small stream channels dating from the time of peat overgrowth (unit VI) that covered much of the site. These deposits show abundant evidence of fluvial activity, but relatively little evidence of lacustrine conditions.

Section 2 (Trenches 32, 31, 25 & BH 1 & 2)

This 170m-long section (Figures 10 & 13) runs northwest-southeast, then north-south across the presumed centre of the Rhee Lake basin. Bedrock clay was encountered particularly in the northwest and centre of the valley. The stratigraphy comprised a basal gravel and sand (unit I), which had been cut away in several places, and was overlain by a silty sand (unit II), and a silty clay (unit III). In Trench 25 a cemented iron pan had formed within unit II where it directly overlaid the bedrock. A clayey peat (unit IV) containing a lens of peaty marl was well developed across the site. This unit was incised in several places by channels filled with peaty gravel (unit V) and overlain by an overgrowth of peat (unit VI). The deposits of units III & IV were certainly deposited in a low-energy environment, although not necessarily a lacustrine one, whereas the overlying unit V is clearly a product of fluvial activity.

Section 3 (Trench 33 & BH 3)

This 120m-long section (Figures 11 & 13) runs north-south, across the presumed eastern end of the Rhee Lake basin, adjacent to Rhee Lake Drove. This section only represents the southern valley side, excavations in the northern slope not being available. The stratigraphy here was relatively simple. Bedrock clay was encountered frequently in the southern part of Trench 33 in a series of circular patches reminiscent of patterned ground caused by periglacial activity during the last glacial period. There appears to be a clearly defined channel edge cut into the bedrock, which was proved underlying deposits on the mid-line of the basin (BH3). Gravel and sand (unit I) floors the channel and is overlain by organic silty clay with shells and wood fragments that are probably equivalent to units III & IV. On the southern valley side the bedrock is overlain by clayey gravel and sand (unit 1). Peat over growth (unit VI) covers the whole section. In stark contrast to Section 1, there is little evidence for fluvial activity here, but the organic silty clays are clearly lacustrine or back-channel in origin.

Section 4 (Trenches 33, 31, 30, and 19)

This 400m-long section (Figures 12 & 13) runs southwest-northeast, along the presumed mid-line of the Rhee Lake basin. The stratigraphy shows a wedge of basal gravel (unit I) overlain by silty sand (unit II). Silty clay (unit III) appears to occupy a channel cut into the underlying deposits, and is well-developed in the east of the basin. The clayey peat (unit IV) is particularly well developed in the centre of the basin. A cemented iron pan has developed within the peat where it overlies the silty clay of unit III. Channels containing peaty gravel cut into the underlying deposits occur in several places and an over growth of peat (unit VI) covers the section. This long-section through the sediments reveals their architecture. It seems clear that streams flowing from the southwest have pro-graded into a water body at the eastern end of the basin leaving a characteristic arrangement of deposits.

Interpretation

It appears that the basal sand and gravel unit in this area probably dates from the last glacial period (Devensian). Even if it is Late Glacial in age, this would give a date of c.14,000 years BP for unit I described in the sections above. The small southwest-northeast aligned valley investigated here dissects a gravel terrace of the palaeo-Great Ouse system clearly aligned south-north. The presumption is that the valley formed after the emplacement of the gravel terrace, perhaps as a result of drainage from the higher land to the west. However, it is possible that a pre-existing depression in the terrace surface encouraged drainage through this route. One cause of such a depression is an icing, or naled, a body of ground ice, which forms around a spring on the floor of a valley, and around which river gravels are deposited in cold conditions. On melting, a'hole' is formed in the terrace which becomes a natural lake.

Whatever the origin of the valley, Late Glacial incision appears to have opened a drainage route from the west. The earliest deposits preserved here are the silty sands of unit II. These occur up to 2.5m OD and are up to 50cm thick where they occupy channels cut into the underlying gravel. It is tempting to see these deposits as fluvial, but they show little sorting or bedding which could suggest current action. It is more likely that these deposits represent Late Glacial or early Holocene slope wash from the relatively un-vegetated catchment. It is clear that everywhere these deposits have been cut into, presumably by fluvial action. Overlying this, silty clays of unit III also occur up to 2.5m OD and represent low energy deposition. It is not immediately clear whether this deposition occurred within a lake or back-channel, as overbank floodplain sedimentation, or even as estuarine deposits. The silty clay could easily be an equivalent of the Barroway Drove Beds identified by the British Geological Survey as recording the early Holocene marine inundation of the Fens c.8000 years BP. However, the sequence of demonstrably freshwater silty clays at site 33-107 invites correlation with unit III elsewhere, and suggests a lacustrine origin for this unit.

Although there is a little evidence of erosion at the top of unit III, in most places it grades into the clayey peat of unit IV. This suggests a change from open water to reedswamp sedimentation, as stands of emergent marginal vegetation begin to encroach on the water body. The peaty marl lens within unit IV indicates carbonate-rich pools of water within the reedswamp area, perhaps fed by local springs. To the west of the basin very little of the reedswamp deposits survive, since they have been cut out by a river channel, presumably delivering water into the lake. In the lake centre the 'delta' of readswamp clayey peats has several small channels cut through it,

but to the east only lake sediments were deposited in deeper water. Regionally rising water tables clearly caused peat overgrowth across most of the site. However, during this time there must have still been small but active streams feeding the site from the west.

The formation of a cemented iron pan at this site was impressive and clearly occurred near the middle of the basin wherever porous sediments overlaid impermeable clays. However, the iron pan was observed equally in silty sand overlying bedrock and peat overlying silty clay. This post-depositional feature merely masked the real stratigraphy of the parent sediments and served to make their interpretation slightly more difficult.

Conclusions

The Rhee Lake valley-fill shows clear evidence of a stream-fed lake with a western fringing 'delta' of reedswamp and an eastern area of open water. What is far from clear is what age these sediments might span and how Rhee Lake was formed originally. The underlying deposits (units I & II) seems to date from the Late Glacial or early Holocene, while the peat overgrowth is usually thought to start in the Late Iron Age in this area, although it could of course be earlier or much later. One possible solution is therefore that Rhee Lake formed at the beginning of the Holocene, and that this sedimentation continued until the overgrowth of peat covered the area. However, against this is the relatively low elevation of the site and the rather thin deposits preserved here. A typical fenland sequence would not look like this at all. Another possibility is that streams drained through this conduit from the west until the valley was blocked, either by a landslide or artificially. This would have caused a lake to form against the obstruction.

The alignment of Rhee Lake Drove is curious in that usually such tracks are built at the constriction of a valley, rather than across the centre of a lake. The possibility must exist that Rhee Lake Drove was constructed on a natural narrowing of the valley (perhaps a landslip), or is itself responsible for damming the valley to create the lake. The age of the lake deposits could therefore be Roman, Iron Age, Bronze Age or even earlier. Without dating and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction it is impossible to be more precise.

Partly due to the impressive iron pan developed at the 'centre' of the basin, two 50cm monoliths were taken from trench 31, and these could be used for bulk radiocarbon dating and environmental analyses. However, it is now clear that a more complete palaeoenvironmental record is probably preserved in the organic silty clays described from Trench 33. Luckily these sediments could be easily sampled using a borehole sunk next to Rhee Lake Drove, if required. There is clearly the possibility of reconstructing the timing and changing environments of Rhee Lake from careful dating and analysis of the sediments.

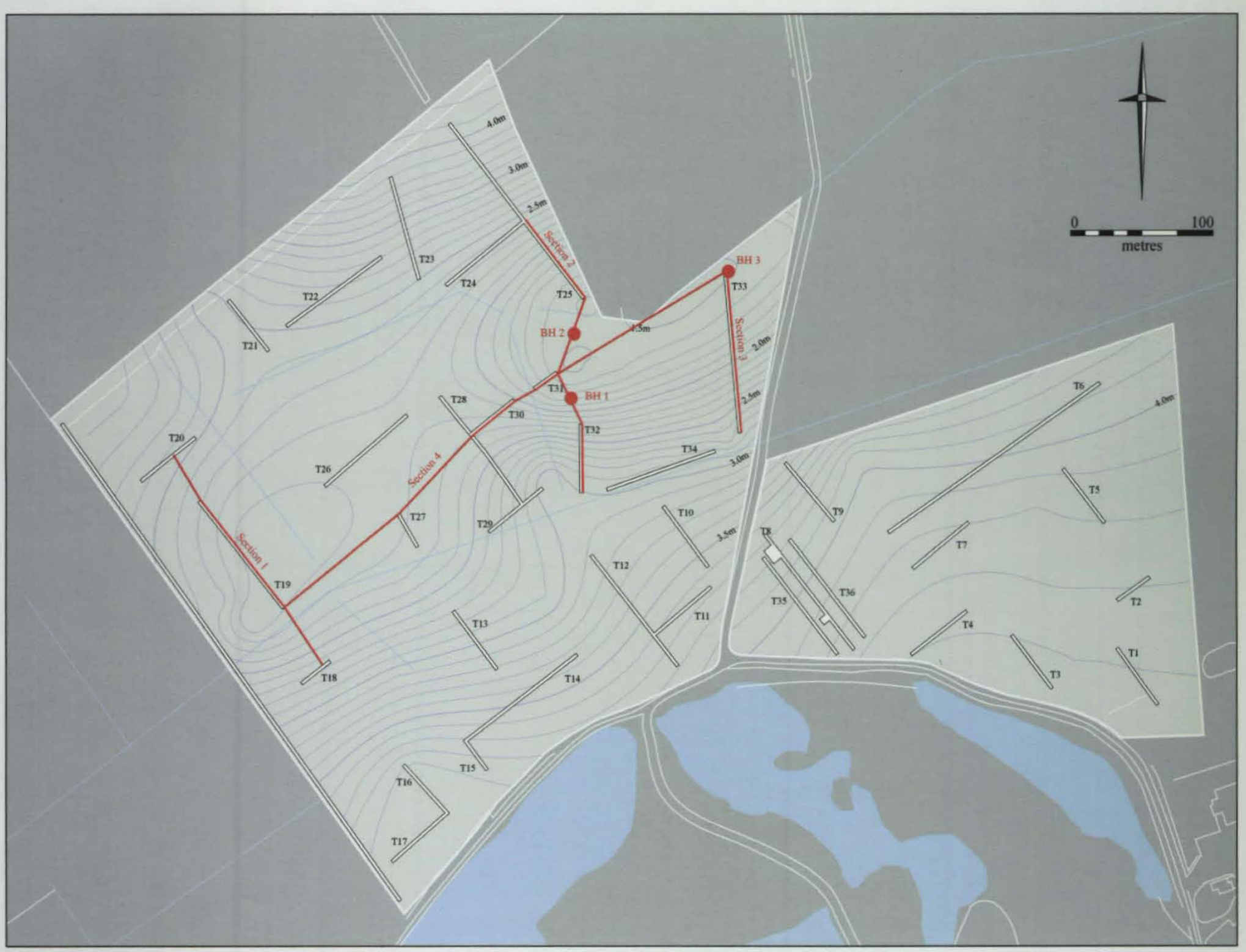


Figure 8. Elevation contour map showing location of geological sections 1-4 and bore holes 1-3

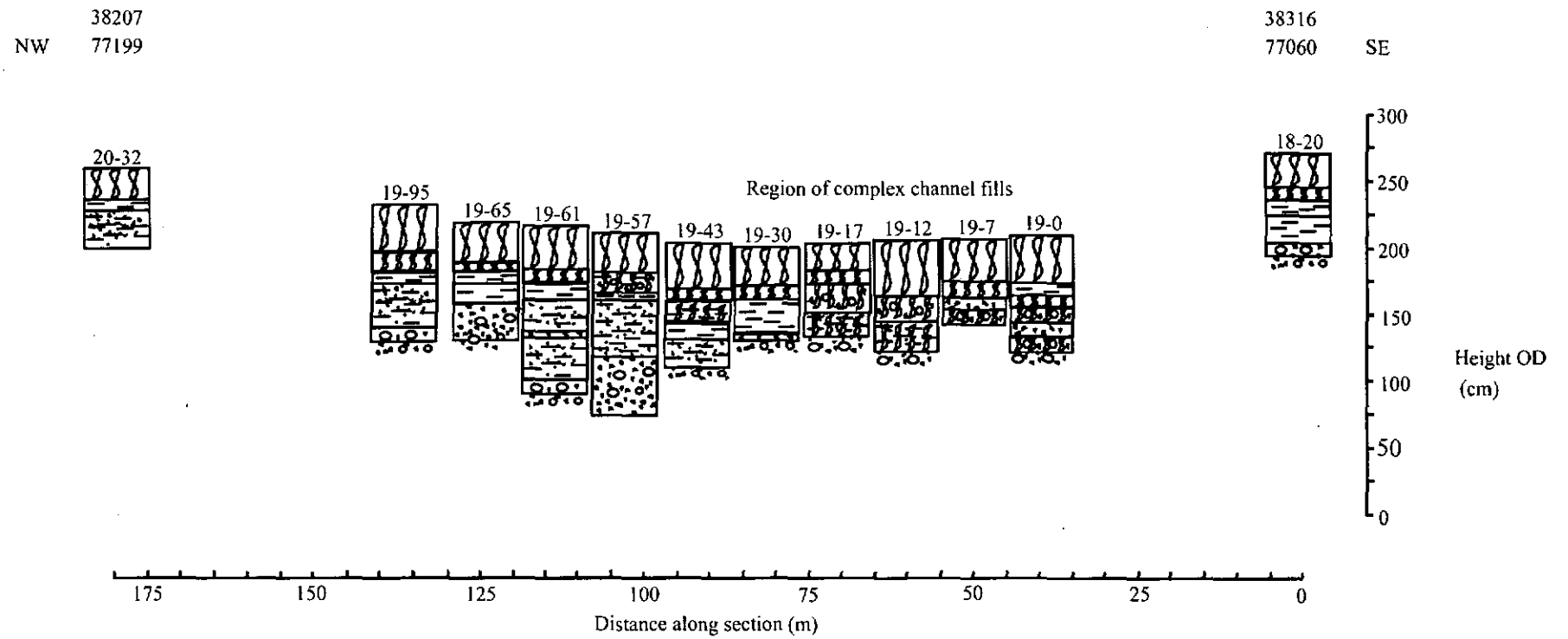
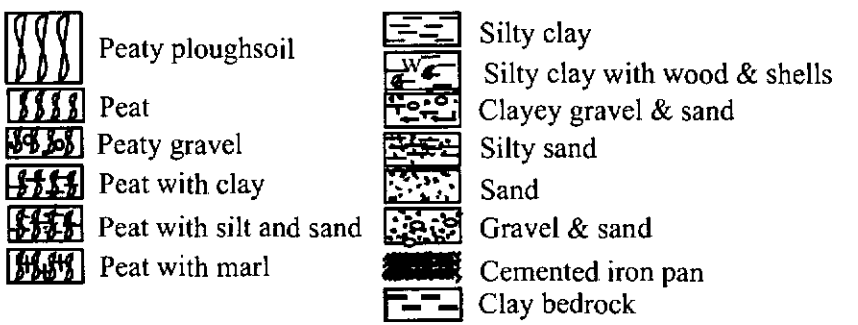


Figure 9. Geological section 1

Key for Figs 9-12



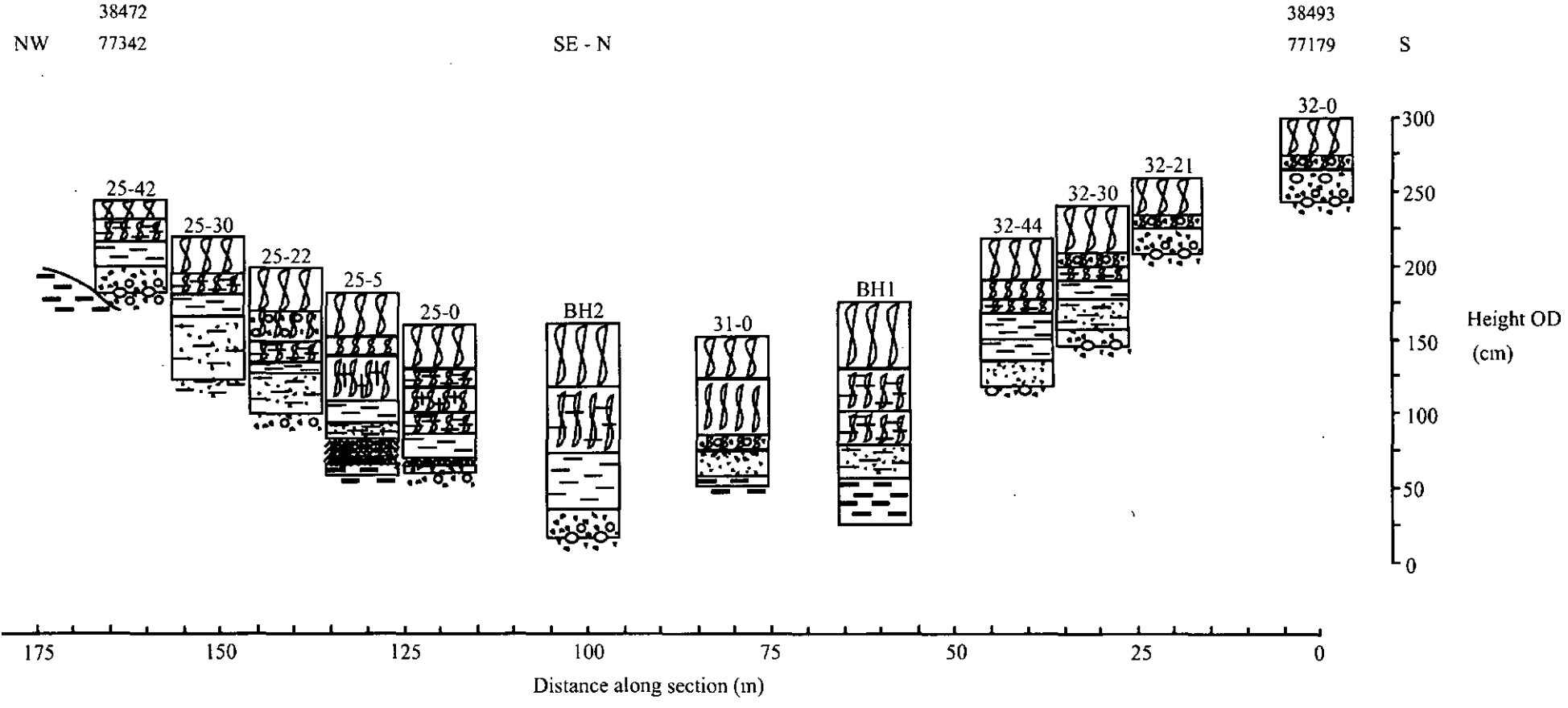


Figure 10. Geological section 2

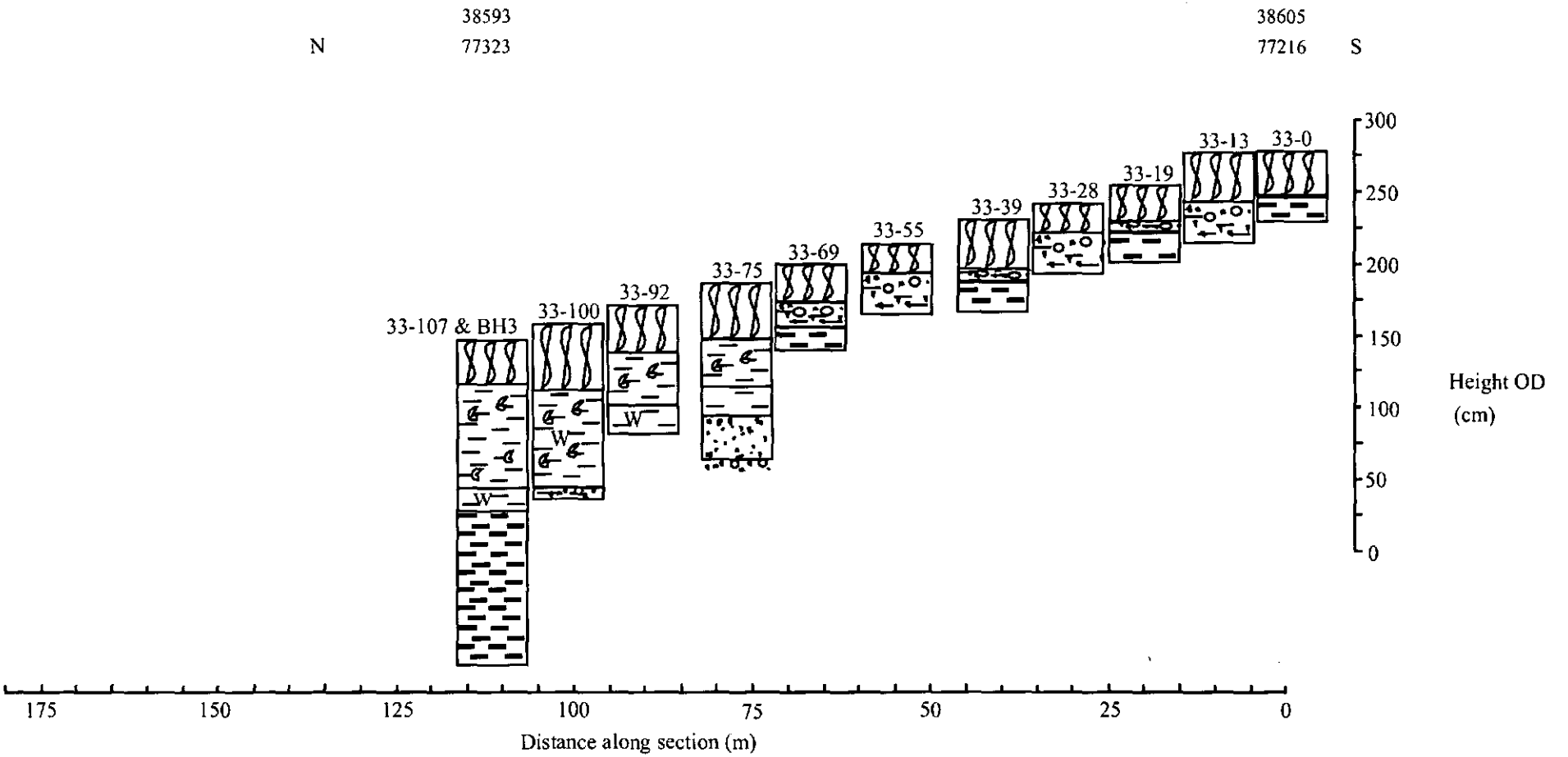


Figure 11. Geological section 3

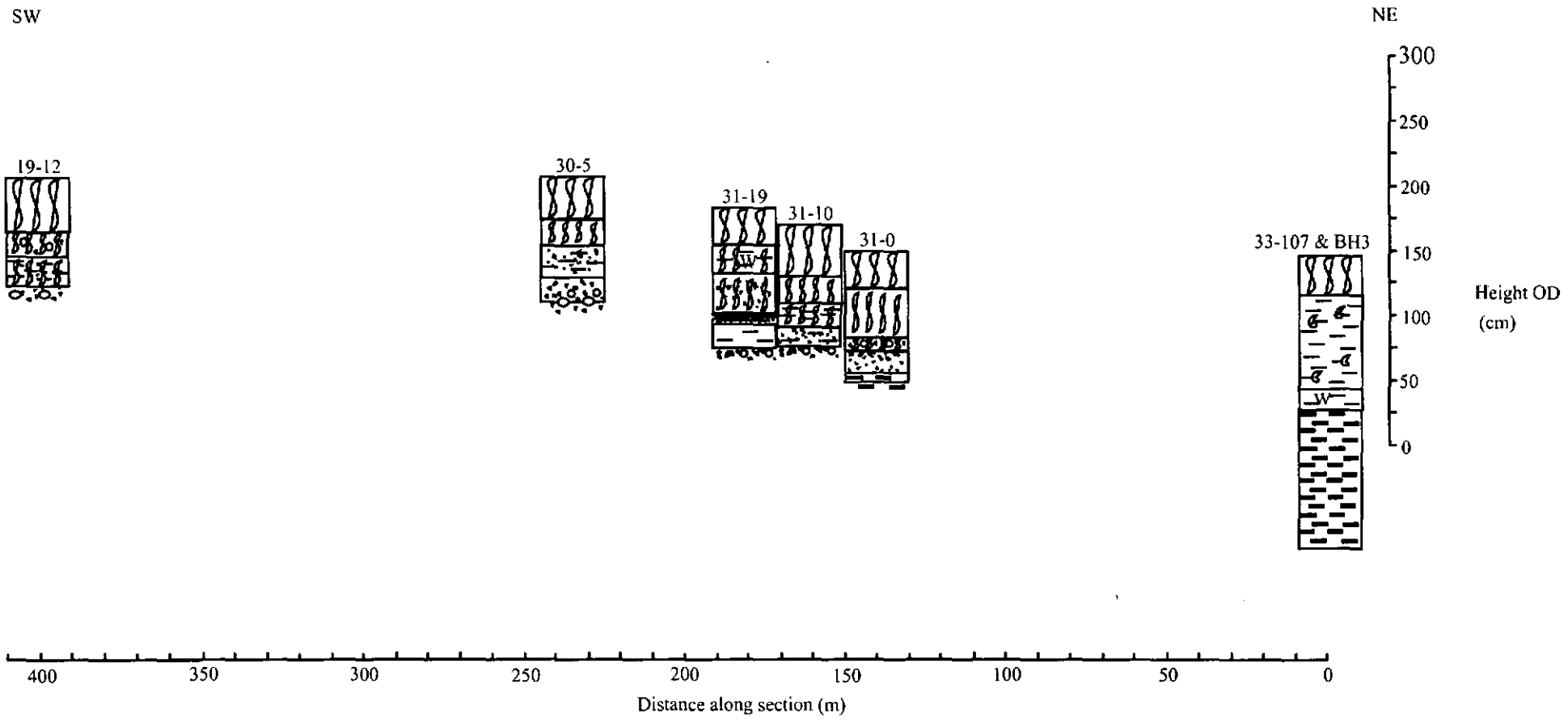


Figure 12. Geological section 4

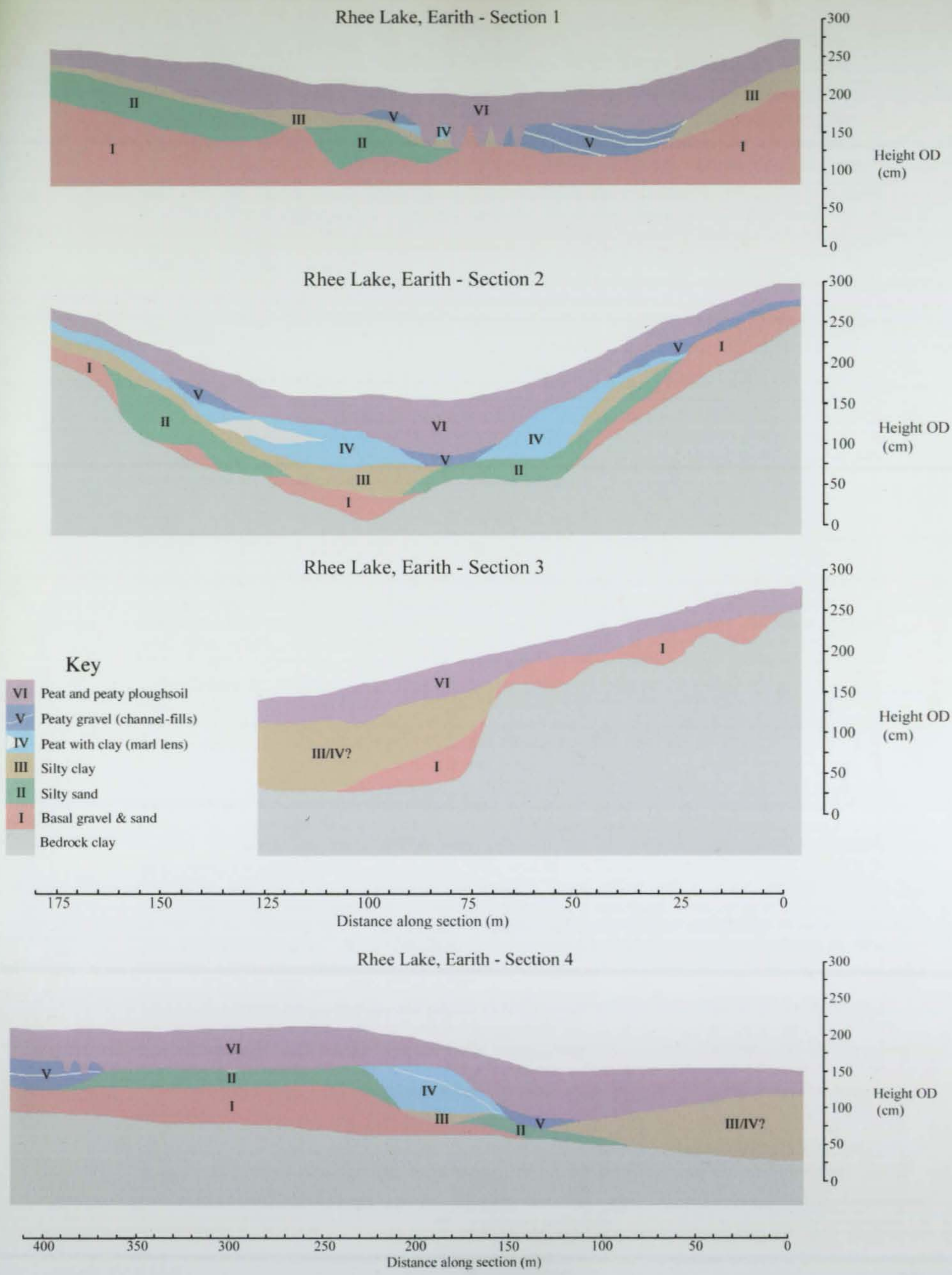


Figure 13. Geological sections

Appendix 2: The Lithics

Emma Beadsmoore

Thirty-three flints were recovered from thirteen features at the site, two flints from a layer and a further seventeen flints from the ploughsoil. Nearly all of the flint is unburnt and worked, only a few flakes (7g) and one unworked chunk (20g) are burnt. Many of the flints were residual, recovered from later contexts; only twelve flints were broadly contemporary with the pit they were recovered from. The majority of the chronologically diagnostic material is Neolithic; only a couple of flints are potentially Bronze Age.

Pit Assemblage

Pit F. 516 yielded twelve worked flints (32g), one of which was also burnt (5g). The material is comprised largely of unutilised waste flakes and a blade; the products of structured flake production/core reduction where platforms were worked down systematically to produce narrow flakes and blades. As well as flint working waste, a utilised flake and blade were also recovered from the pit, hinting at other activities. A tendency towards narrow flakes and blades struck from systematically worked cores are features of earlier Neolithic flint working.

Buried Soil Flint

Buried Soil [1650] yielded two cores (59g), one is a thoroughly and systematically worked earlier Neolithic multiple platform core. During the later stages of core reduction the majority of the flakes were struck from two opposing platforms, prepared to control the form of the removals, which although small, were usually narrow. The final flakes, struck from a third platform at right angles, stepped into the body of the core, which, too small to be rejuvenated was discarded exhausted. However, the second core is the product of considerably less systematic or controlled flake production/core reduction. Flakes were removed with a hard hammer from unprepared, occasionally cortical surfaces, with no obvious concern over the form of the removals or the economical use of the raw material. *Ad hoc* and expedient flake production/core reduction is associated with Bronze Age flint working.

Residual Flint

A total of twenty-one flints (187g) were residual; earlier material, presumably accidentally incorporated into later features. The residual flints are listed in Table 1 by type, feature and quantity. F. 500 [1512], a Bronze Age ditch, yielded three Neolithic flakes; two of which are serrated and therefore utilised before they were deposited. The third, unutilised flake was struck from the same nodule of flint as one of the serrated flakes, hinting at a close temporal and spatial relationship between flake production and utilisation. The unutilised flake has a facetted platform, suggesting it could be later Neolithic. All three are the products of systematic flint working.

Several of the remaining waste flakes, cores and a blade, likely to be earlier Neolithic, have traces of structured flake production/core reduction; occasionally struck from prepared platforms, many are narrow and again the products of systematically worked cores. The multiple platform core was worked in a comparable manner. Yet the single platform core and a few of the flakes are the products of less systematic technology, either undiagnostic Neolithic waste flakes or the result of expedient Bronze Age flake production.

Four utilised flakes were also recovered; a narrow flake retouched as an end scraper is comparable to scrapers from other earlier Neolithic assemblages. Two of the remaining retouched and used flakes are also likely to be Neolithic.

Type	Feature	Quantity
chips	552, 511	2
primary flake	557	1
secondary flakes	500, 505, 552	6
tertiary flakes	566, 579	2
tertiary blade	515	1
single platform core	578	1
multiple platform core	522	1
unworked burnt chunk	517	1
end scraper	517	1
retouched flake	552	1
edge used flake	531	1
retouched and worn flake	552	1
serrated flake	500	2

Table 1: Residual flint

The diagnostically Neolithic material was recovered from F. 517, F. 522, F. 531, F. 552, F. 566 and F. 579. The potentially Bronze Age products of expedient flint working were recovered from F. 578 and F. 505; as F. 578 is Roman, the single platform core is residual, however, the flake from F. 505, a prehistoric ditch, could be broadly contemporary with the feature.

Ploughsoil Flint

The seventeen worked flints (230g) recovered from the ploughsoil are comparable to the flint recovered from the features, listed by type and quantity in Table 2. The earlier Neolithic is again represented by the products of systematic flake production/core reduction focused on narrow flakes and blades. A core rejuvenation flake provides further support for earlier Neolithic flint working at the site; correcting errors to sustain the use life of a core and the economical use of raw material are characteristic of earlier Neolithic flint working. A rough, discoidal core, an invasively flaked fragment, possibly an arrowhead and a waste flake are more likely to be later Neolithic. Meanwhile, a small end and side scraper is comparable to Early Bronze Age scrapers.

Type	Quantity
secondary flakes	3
tertiary flakes	2
secondary blade	1
tertiary blade	1
core rejuvenation flake	2
multiple platform core	1
end and side scraper	1
arrowhead	1
retouched flake	1
edge used blade	1
retouched and worn flake	1
retouched and worn blade	1
serrated blade	1

Table 2: Ploughsoil flint

The site yielded predominantly earlier Neolithic material, although flint from only one context was broadly contemporary with the feature it was recovered from, a collection of flake blanks and utilised flakes recovered from pit F. 516. Further evidence for Neolithic activity at the site is provided by the remaining earlier Neolithic material, residual in later contexts and in the ploughsoil. A later Neolithic presence is also

indicated by several residual flints as well as material recovered from the ploughsoil. Meanwhile, Bronze Age activity is represented by a few flakes recovered from features and a scraper from the ploughsoil.

Appendix 3: The Early Prehistoric Pottery

Mark Knight

The assemblage comprised 171 sherds (weighing 715g; MSW = 4.18g) of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery retrieved from 13 different contexts. The condition of the material is generally good with many sherds maintaining their original surface treatments. Feature sherds are rare (4 rim, 1 neck, 1 shoulder, and 1 base fragment) and with the exception of a single pre-firing perforation there are no decorated pieces. A total of eight different fabric types have been identified with the dominant opening material being flint (98 sherds or 57% of total).

A few definitively diagnostic fragments enabled the identification of both earlier Neolithic and later Bronze Age pieces. These include some 'burnished' out-turned or rolled rims from both contexts situated within F. 516 that belong to a plain 'Mildenhall-type' bowl; an S-profiled neck and a perforated fragment also of Mildenhall type from F. 500; and a shoulder and base angle from an upright Post-Deverel-Rimbury type jar located within F. 522. Combined these three contexts produced 145 sherds (85%) of the total assemblage.

The remaining 25 sherds consisted mainly of fabrics comparable to the identified vessels. Features 511, 542 and 552 produced exclusively early Neolithic fragments whereas features 517, 531 and 556 contained sherds of Late Bronze Age type. The buried soil context [1650] has 3 sherds of Early Bronze Age type fabric (as characterised by the inclusion of grog and voids) as well as a single later Bronze Age sherd. The five sherds from F.501 can best be described as being Bronze Age whilst [1510] has Neolithic and possibly Early Bronze Age pieces.

Feature	Context	Number	Weight	Fabric
500	1512	4	51g	3
501	1516	5	7g	7
505	1510	3	11g	3 & 6
511	1535	2	8g	3
516	1559	23	71g	1 & 2
516	1551	38	125g	1 & 2
517	1562	3	10g	8
522	1578	80	346g	4
531	1630	6	57g	4 & 5
542	1622	1	5g	3
552	1655	1	2g	5
556	1664	1	7g	8
BS	1650	4	15g	2 & 6
Totals:	*12*	*171*	*715g*	

Table 3: Assemblage breakdown

Fabric Series

Fabric 1 – medium with abundant large, medium and small SHELL, occasional small FLINT and occasional large CHALK

Fabric 2 – hard with abundant small and medium QUARTZ

Fabric 3 – hard with abundant FLINT

Fabric 4 – very hard with frequent FLINT and common SAND

Fabric 5 – medium with frequent medium FLINT

Fabric 6 – medium with occasional GROG and occasional VOIDS

Fabric 7 – very hard with common VOIDS and SAND

Fabric 8 – medium with frequent small VOIDS

Appendix 4: The Iron Age Pottery

Leo Webley

A small assemblage of 37 sherds (234g) of Middle/later Iron Age pottery was recovered. This consisted of 3 sherds (52g) from one feature in settlement area IA 1 and 34 sherds (182g) from four features in settlement area IA 2 (cf. figure 6). The condition of the material is generally fair to good, although some has suffered from iron panning. For this report all sherds have been examined and recorded in line with PCRG guidelines.

Fabric

Five fabrics have been distinguished. Shelly fabrics account for over half of the assemblage (55.1% by weight), the remainder being tempered with quartz sand (38.0%) or chalk (6.8%).

C1 Hard with moderate medium-very coarse chalk and moderate fine-medium quartz
Q1 Hard with moderate medium quartz, sparse medium flint and sparse medium red ferrous inclusions
Q2 Hard with moderate fine quartz
S1 Hard with moderate medium-very coarse voids from dissolved shell
S2 Hard with moderate medium shell and moderate red ferrous inclusions

Settlement Area	Feature	Context	Fabric	Number	Weight (g)
IA 1	572	1713	Q2	1	29
IA 1	572	1713	S2	2	23
IA 2	566	1687	Q1	1	18
IA 2	566	1687	S1	1	17
IA 2	566	1687	Q2	2	8
IA 2	566	1704	S1	4	46
IA 2	566	1704	S1	10	21
IA 2	571	1707	S1	1	15
IA 2	573	1721	S1	1	7
IA 2	573	1721	Q2	8	19
IA 2	573	1721	C1	2	16
IA 2	580	1750	Q1	4	15

Table 4: Iron Age pottery, breakdown by fabric

Forms and Surface Treatment

All of the material is handmade. Feature sherds consist of rims from three different vessels. F.566 contained part of a slack-shouldered jar in fabric S1 with an upright, flat-topped rim; there are fingertip impressions on the rim top and rough vertical scoring on the body. F. 573 contained the rim of a further slack-shouldered vessel in fabric C1, again with fingertip impressions along the top. F.571 meanwhile contained a rounded, internally-thickened rim from an open bowl or ovoid neck-less jar in fabric S1. There are no base sherds. A total of five sherds (75g) in the assemblage are scored.

Discussion

The assemblages from settlement areas IA 1 and IA 2 both form typical Middle/Later Iron Age groups of probable domestic character. The small group from IA 1 is similar in date and character to the few sherds recovered from the adjacent Conveyor Belt watching brief (Appendix 9). Meanwhile, the larger group from IA 2 stands comparison with the material from the Middle/Later Iron Age settlements at Earith Sites I and IV, where shell-tempered fabrics also predominate and Scored Ware is strongly represented (Hill 1998; 2000). Given the conservatism of pottery traditions in the Fens, both groups could in theory date to anywhere between c. 400 BC and the late 1st century AD, even though there are no specifically Late Iron Age or 'Romanizing' traits present. However, given that none of the Roman pottery from features around the IA 2 settlement area seems to date to before the mid 2nd century AD (see Anderson below), there may well have been a hiatus between the Iron Age and Romano-British occupation of this locale.

Appendix 5: The Roman Pottery

Katie Anderson

71 sherds of Roman pottery (1368g) representing 1.42 EVEs were recovered from the excavations, from six different features. All of the pottery was examined and details of fabric, form, EVE and date (where possible) were recorded. For the purposes of this report, the pottery will be initially discussed by feature and then as an assemblage as a whole.

Assemblage Composition

Feature 563

This feature contained the largest quantity of Roman pottery from the excavations with 66 sherds (1221g), representing 92% of the total assemblage. Three different contexts within this feature contained pottery. [1680], the upper fill, contained seven sherds of pottery, weighing 38g. This included one Nene Valley colour coat sherd and one Nene Valley greyware, dating mid 2nd- 4th century AD. There were also four locally made coarseware sherds, including one black slipped shallow dish, dating *c.* AD 120-300.

Context [1681] contained 83% of the pottery from this feature, with 55 sherds, weighing 1130g and included a range of coarseware and finewares. The most common fabrics were shell-tempered wares.

There were 20 sherds from one vessel, a dark brown, sandy jar with a grey core. Another common fabric type was black slipped wares and although the source of these wares is unknown, it is likely that they were made in the local area. Different coarseware vessel forms included necked jars with beaded rims and one shallow dish, which all date 3rd-4th century AD.

Six fineware sherds were recovered from this context, consisting of five Nene Valley colour coats and one late Colchester colour coat. All of these sherds were non-diagnostic but can be dated AD mid 2nd-4th century AD.

The final context from this feature that contained pottery was [1683], which contained four sherds, weighing 53g. All of the sherds appear to have come from a single vessel, which was a sandy, medium sized necked jar and included one rim sherd and one base sherd. This vessel is likely to have been locally made and is therefore more difficult to accurately date, although the vessel form suggests a 2nd-4th century AD date.

The pottery from these contexts is very similar in date (2nd-4th century AD), which suggests that they were deposited within a relative short space of time. However, many of the sherds were heavily abraded which suggests that they may have been redeposited.

Feature 567

This feature contained one sherd of pottery (52g) from context [1689], which was a sandy greyware jar or bowl, with a flat topped rim, probably for use in conjunction with a lid. This vessel is dated 2nd-4th century AD and was probably locally made.

Feature 570

Three sherds of pottery weighing 17g were excavated from this feature, from context [1700]. This consisted of one Nene Valley colour coat sherd and two reduced sandy ware sherds. All of the sherds were non-diagnostic and therefore the Nene Valley sherd could only be dated AD 150-400 and the sandy ware could only be dated Romano-British.

Feature 575

This feature contained four sherds of pottery (58g) from [1728]. This consisted of two whiteware sherds, including one jar with a flat topped rim dated 2nd-4th century AD. There were also two unidentified colour coated sherds which were from a beaded bowl, dating 2nd-4th century AD.

Feature 577

One context [1732] from this feature contained a single oxidised sandy sherd from a necked jar and could only be dated Romano-British.

Feature 587

Two sherds of pottery from two different contexts were recovered from this feature. Context [1734] contained one oxidised sandy sherd, weighing 9g and [1737] also contained a similar oxidised sandy sherd weighing 7g. Both of the sherds were non-diagnostic and therefore could only be dated Romano-British.

Discussion

The Roman pottery excavated from the site all dates to the same period (mid 2nd-4th century AD), with very few sherds that could be more specifically dated. There were also a number of the sherds could only be dated Romano-British, however, it seems likely that these also belong to this period, since they were often found in association with the datable sherds and there is no conclusive evidence of any Roman activity before this period.

The majority of features containing Roman pottery were located in Trench 25, which was located next to the site of Langdale Hale (Regan 2003) and the features are part of the same settlement. The pottery evidence supports this as the types of pottery found in each area is very similar, for example the bulk of the pottery from Langdale Hale post-dated AD 150 and contained a very similar range of fabric types. This included Nene Valley wares and a large quantity of shell tempered wares. There were however, some differences between the two assemblages, in particular the pottery from the 2003 excavations was in a very good condition, with a large number of medium to large sized sherds (Monteil in Regan 2003). The pottery from the 2004 excavations although having a mean weight of nearly 20g were generally very abraded, suggesting that the pottery in this area of the site may have been redeposited, although it does not appear to be residual. This may however, be slightly misleading because the assemblage from Langdale Hale was considerably larger with nearly 15,000 sheds, compared to just 71 sherds from the 2004 excavation.

The vast majority of sherds consisted of locally made coarseware vessels and included a limited range of vessel forms, primarily related to domestic use. There were only a small number of finewares, consisting solely of colour coated sherds. The Nene Valley wares can be considered to be local products because they were produced within 20 miles of the site. The Colchester colour coated sherd was the only definite ware to have come from outside of the local area.

There were no imported wares in the assemblage, for example there was no Samian ware. However, the assemblage from Langdale Hale did contain significant quantities of Samian and included wares from all three main production areas and therefore the lack of this ware and other imports from the 2004 excavations becomes less significant in terms of wealth/status but perhaps more revealing of the nature of the features which were excavated.

Overall the assemblage is perhaps too small to allow for any definite conclusions other than those related to date and function. The best use of this pottery is therefore, when it is used in conjunction with the assemblage from the Langdale Hale excavations. This provides a much more detailed understanding of the site as a whole and reveals a moderately wealthy domestic settlement, spanning from the middle of the 2nd century AD to the 3rd/4th century AD.

Appendix 6: The Metalwork
Adrian Challands

Seven coins were recovered during the course of the evaluation. One coin, a Victorian halfpenny, was recovered from the topsoil. The remaining six were recovered in association with features in Trench 25, four through metal detecting and two from excavation.

A late 3rd century AD coin was recovered from F. 563 prior to excavation. This was an official issue radiate (very corroded) with illegible legends on both the obverse and reverse. Visible on the obverse were traces of a radiate crowned bust; while on the reverse were traces of a standing figure.

A mid 4th century AD coin was recovered from F.570 prior to excavation. This was of Constantinian (very corroded) the obverse of which was illegible while the reverse showed traces of two soldiers and one standard, although the legend was illegible. This coin would have been minted between 335 AD and 341 AD. From the subsoil above this feature another coin was recovered during metal detecting. This was of Constantius II (324 AD to 337 AD). The obverse had the legend [FLIVL]CONSTANTIVSNOBC with a laureate and cuirassed bust. On the reverse was the legend PROVIDEN[TIAECAESS] along with a camp gate with two towers and a star above. The mint mark on this coin was PTR Trier, minted between 324 AD and 330 AD.

Three coins were recovered from F.578, one found through metal detection and two through excavation. The coin located with the metal detector was a Follis size Roman coin minted in the last quarter of the 3rd century AD to the first quarter of the 4th century AD, broken and very corroded. Of the two recovered during excavation of the feature one was of Claudius II Gothicus, minted between 268 AD and c.270 AD, with an alter on the reverse (the legends were illegible as the coin was slightly worn and very corroded). The other coin was very corroded with traces of a 4th century AD bust on the obverse and was probably minted in the last quarter of the 4th century AD.

Appendix 7: The Faunal Remains
Chris Swaysland

A quantity of animal bone numbering 132 fragments and weighing 1955g was hand recovered from a series of evaluation trenches. The material was analysed in order to characterise the assemblage in terms of species represented, their relative importance to the cultural and economic life of the site, and any other relevant patterning. The bone was in general in a reasonable state of preservation.

The assemblage was identified with the reference collection of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and the aid of Schmid (1972) and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996). The majority of the assemblage was quantified using a modified version of Davis (1992); a small amount of Neolithic material was recorded in greater detail. The quantification system of Davis (*ibid.*) records all mandibular teeth and a predetermined restricted suite of elements (Part Of Skeleton Always Counted; POSAC). In addition one skull element, the zygomatic arch, was added to the list of

countable elements. Bones were only recorded if at least 50% of a given part was present. Any non-countable elements from less common species or elements displaying butchery marks or pathological changes were also recorded but not used in counts. With the exception of Neolithic material, no attempt has been made to distinguish between the remains of sheep and goat; these bones are recorded as sheep/goat.

Information on gnawing, butchery and pathology was recorded where present. Butchery was recorded by type (i.e. chop, knife cut, sawn), location and orientation (using standard anatomical terms and orientation). Pathological conditions were categorised where possible and detailed descriptions made as to form and location.

Tooth wear and mandible wear stages were recorded following Payne (1973) for sheep/goat, Grant (1982) and Legge (1992) for cattle and O'Connor (1989) for pigs. Measuring was only undertaken on complete longbones for the purposes of constructing withers heights. Cattle, horse and sheep withers heights are calculated using the factors of Matolsci (1970), Kiesewalter (1888) and Teichert (n.d.) respectively, all quoted in von den Dreisch and Boessneck (1974). Dog withers heights are calculated using the factors of Harcourt (1974).

The assemblage is considered by phase as defined by the excavator.

Neolithic

Animal bone was recovered from the feature dated to the Neolithic period. This consisted of a right distal tibia from a sheep recovered from [1555] F. 516.

Bronze Age

Four features of Bronze Age date produced animal bone. Sheep bones were recovered from [1630], F. 531 a large pit and also from [1628] F. 518 a 'horseshoe' shaped ditch that partially enclosed the pit. A small portion of F. 531 was excavated yielding numerous sheep bones. There were 2 right sided proximal tibiae and 2 axis bones indicating that the bones are derived from at least two different animals. In addition a left and a right radius (possibly from the same animal), a calcined 1st phalanx, a small fragment of proximal metatarsal, fragments of scapulae and 15 small fragment of sheep sized ribs were recovered. The left radius recovered from pit F. 531 was complete and measured at 13.41cm, this indicates that the withers (shoulder) height of the animal from which this bone came was 53.9cms. The 'horseshoe' shaped ditch F. 518 that partially enclosed the pit yielded a right sheep tibia.

Linear F. 517 [1564] contained the remains of both sheep and cattle. Cattle bones included a fragment of scapula, a loose lower third molar and a section of mandible that came from an animal aged at death around 6-8 years (Legge 1992 stage 8). One sheep bone was found, this was a shaft section of tibia.

A mandibular horses' tooth and a mandibular sheep/goat tooth were recovered from context [1664] F. 556, dated to the Bronze Age.

Iron Age

Six contexts yielding animal bone were identified to the Iron Age; all were located in Trench 25.

Species	POSAC	POSAC %
Cattle	4	44.4
Sheep/goat	3	33.3
Pig	1	11.1
Horse	1	11.1

Table 5: Relative species proportions Iron Age contexts

Cattle and sheep/goat are the dominant species, pig and horse are represented by one bone each. The Iron Age material contained a very high proportion of teeth and mandibles (77.8%). These are the most robust elements in the mammalian skeleton, suggesting that a large proportion of the assemblage has not survived.

Age at death of domestic animals can be estimated by the state of eruption and wear on the premolar and molar teeth. One cattle mandible was complete enough to allow an estimation of age at death of 26-36 months (Legge 1992, stage 6). One sheep/goat mandible was complete enough to allow an estimation of age at death of 2-3 years (Payne 1973, stage E). One pig mandible was classified as Sub-Adult (O'Connor 1989 SA2). Unfortunately these samples sizes are too small to make any conclusions about animal husbandry practises.

Romano-British

Species	POSAC	POSAC %
Cattle	4	40
Sheep/goat	2	20
Horse	3	30
Bird	1	10

Table 6: Relative species proportions, Romano-British contexts

Cattle are the dominant species (40%), a mixture of meat and non-meat bearing bones were present though it is an extremely small sample.

Sheep/goat is represented by two bones, both of which were mandibles. One was burnt, the other was complete enough to allow an age at death of 2-3 years (Payne 1973, stage E) to be estimated.

One bird bone was recovered from context [1735], F. 578. This was identified as a left carpometacarpus from a Mallard Duck. There is not always a clear distinction between wild and domestic forms of Mallard, it has been suggested that domestic birds may have been larger though there is likely to have been considerable interbreeding (Parker 1988).

Discussion

The results of previous fieldwork undertaken by the CAU in the Earith area are summarised below for the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Species	Colne Fen Site IV % (Higbee 2000)	Colne Fen Site I % (Higbee 2000)	ECG 01 % (Swaysland forthcoming)	ESE 04 %
Cattle	39.7	42.5	55.5	44.4
Sheep/goat	46.5	37.7	29.4	33.3
Pig	4.8	10.3	5.3	11.1
Horse	7.2	5.5	7.3	11.1
Dog	1.8	3.9	2.5	0

Table 7: Comparison of proportions of major species of Iron Age sites excavated in the Earith area by CAU

The Iron Age material summarised above (Table 7) has been analysed by different methods so is not completely comparable; however, constant trends emerge. Cattle and sheep/goat are the dominant species at all sites; cattle are slightly more prevalent at all sites except Colne Fen Site IV.

Other species (pig, horse and dog) are of much lesser importance and are broadly similar in proportion though no dog was recovered from ESE04.

Species	ESE02 NISP % Swaysland (2003)	Colne Fen sites V and VI (Clarke 2003) NISP %	ESE 04 POSAC %
Cattle	67.6	49.5	40
Sheep/goat	14.4	24.4	20
Pig	4.5	3.8	0
Horse	13.5	15.2	30
Bird	0	7.1	10

Table 8: Comparison of proportions of species of Romano-British sites excavated in the Earith area by CAU

As indicated in Table 8 at all the Romano-British sites cattle are the predominant species, sheep/goat are of lesser importance. Interestingly horse is relatively important throughout. A complete horse metacarpal was recovered from [1737] F.578. A withers (shoulder) height was calculated from this bone at 13.3 hands; a typical size for a Romano-British horse (Rackham 1995).

A very large Romano-British animal bone assemblage from Earith (ECG 01) is currently being assessed (Higbee in prep.), and any subsequent investigations should be considered in light of this data.

Almost all the material from all phases is from domestic mammals, the only exception is a single bone from a Mallard Duck which may have been wild or domestic. The economy of the site seems to be based almost entirely upon cattle and sheep/goat, production of pork was at a very low level. A decrease in the importance of sheep/goat is apparent between the Iron Age and the Roman period; this is in keeping with widely observed archaeozoological trends (eg Dobney 2001).

Appendix 8: The Environmental Bulk Samples

Ellen Simmons

Two samples were submitted for analysis and were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine. Flots were collected in a 300 µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue washed over a 1mm mesh. Flots were dried indoors and sorted for charred plant remains and molluscs. Heavy residue was dried and the greater than 4mm fraction sorted by eye. Sorting and identification of charred plant remains from flots was carried out under a low power microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection at the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for flora, and Beedham (1972) for mollusca. The contents of the samples as identified are listed in full in Table 9.

Preservation

Very few charred plant remains were found in these two samples. The presence of the small seeds of wild plants suggests this absence is not due to preservational conditions as wild plant seeds are less likely to be preserved than grain (Boardman and Jones 1990).

The presence of large amounts of untransformed rootlets and plant seeds likely to represent intrusive modern material suggests dynamic burial conditions.

Results

Sample <60> from F. 516 contained no charred plant remains despite being of a very large volume. A couple of juvenile *Planorbis leucostoma* mollusca were present. This species is characteristic of a seasonally waterlogged environment as it is an aquatic species that can resist drying. The low number of individuals in this sample, however, precludes reliable interpretation.

Sample <63> from F. 518 produced one charred seed of possible *Carex* (sedge) and one small charred grass seed. These provide a tentative indication of human activity in the vicinity and are most likely to have been charred in a fire as material collected for fuel.

Conclusions

The two samples collected for analysis from this site did not produce any significant amounts of environmental material. Two charred seeds from wild plants may represent material collected by people from the local environment and burnt as fuel.

Results Table

Trench		**8**	**8**
Sample number		**<60>**	**<63>**
Context		[1551]	[1752]
Feature		F. 516	F.518
Description			
Feature type			Gully
Phase/date		**Early NL**	**?BA**
Sample volume - litres		24	7
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1
cf. Carex sp.	sedge		1
small *Poaceae* indet (c. 2mm)	small grass family		1
Planorbis leucostoma	ditches and ponds. Resists drying	-	

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' < 10 items, '++' 10 - 50 items, '+++' > 50 items
Table 9: Environmental bulk samples

Appendix 9: The Conveyor Belt Watching Brief
Roddy Regan

In October 2002 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit conducted a watching brief on behalf of Hanson Aggregates along a proposed conveyer belt route within Hanson's Earith quarry. This falls within the ambit of the desktop survey of the southern

extension of the quarry (Garrow and Evans 2000), which discusses the archaeological background for the area. The conveyor route formed a 395m long SSW-running straight line, crossing the low-lying former fen embayment known as Rhee Lake and areas of higher ground on either side. At the northern end of the trench the land surface was 3.0m AOD, falling to 1.10m AOD before rising to 3.9m AOD at the southern end. The route crossed areas of previously plotted cropmarks discussed in the desktop survey (fig. 2). The northwest end of the route is adjacent to the area of the 1999 excavations at Site V, which uncovered later Bronze Age settlement features, along with ditches from a Romano-British field system associated with the substantial 1st-4th century settlement at Langdale Hale (Site VI) to the east (Regan 2003).

Initially it was proposed to monitor the machine while it removed topsoil and two grades of subsoil every machine pull along the 10m width of the whole strip. However, with consultation, it was decided that a 2.2m-wide trench along the whole 395m length of the proposed conveyer strip would better facilitate the recording of any archaeology.

Results (Fig. 14)

The topsoil within the northern part of the trench was 0.30m deep, this lying above an orange-brown silty gravel subsoil. The subsoil changed markedly about 36m from the north end of the trench where the field starts to drop off significantly towards the low embayment of Rhee Lake, becoming more silty and even distinctly clayey in parts. The subsoil displayed these characteristics until the ground rose again on the southern side of Rhee Lake.

The first archaeological features encountered within the northern part of the trench were two possible postholes, F.7 and F.8. These were both circular, 0.40m and 0.35m in diameter respectively, and were placed 0.25m apart. No datable finds were forthcoming. Located 45m further south were two parallel ditches, F.1 and F.2, running north-south and lying 5m apart. F.1 measured 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep while F.2 was 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep. Both were filled with dark brown peaty silt. While a piece of bone was found in F.1, there were no datable finds. These ditches had been previously recorded as cropmarks and appear to be part of a wider system of ditches and banks that skirt the low ground, probably dating to the Roman period. Similar ditches from the same system were present within the excavations at the nearby Sites V-VI, where a Roman date is clear (Regan 2003). Lying 25m south of F.2, indistinct feature [012] is probably a tree-throw.

Towards the low ground within Rhee Lake the topsoil deepens as the peat cover thickens. This thicker 'claggy' peat is the remnants of a peat deposit that would have extensively filled this low-lying embayment, most of this cover having been denuded by the effects of modern drainage and subsequent ploughing (F.3). Running through the low-lying area is the present catchwater drain, the base of which lies at approximately -1.0m OD. The deepest peat deposits were seen to lie 13m to the south of the drain and 5m to the north, indicating a channel 17-20m in width.

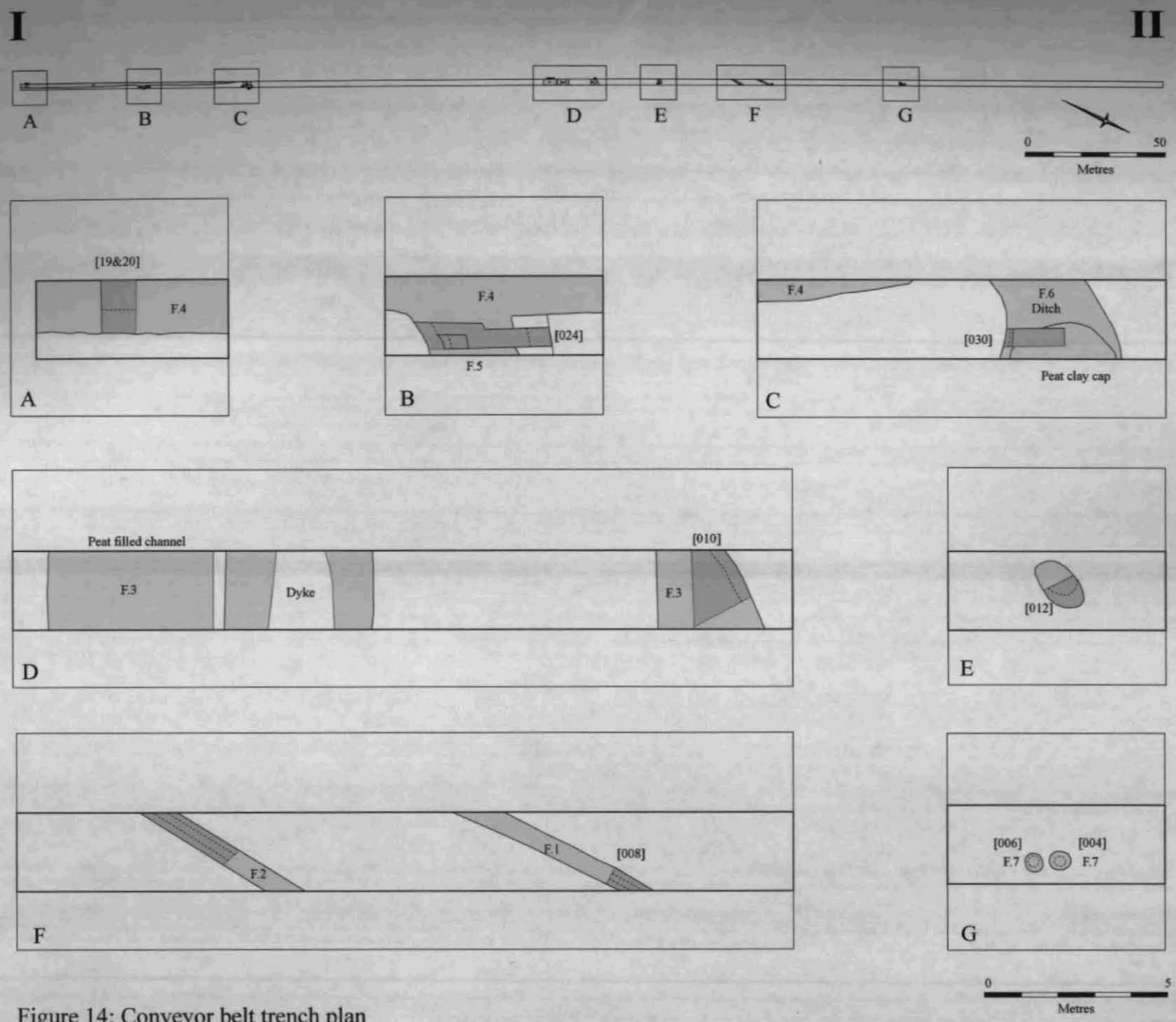


Figure 14: Conveyor belt trench plan

Three ditches were apparent within the southern area of the of the trench, on the higher ground on the south side of Rhee Lake. These ditches may be those that show up as rectilinear enclosures within the plotted cropmarks. Ditch F.4 could be traced for a length of 75m and was 0.60m deep (full width not exposed). Aligned NW-SE, this ditch closely mirrors the modern field boundary, and thus some caution is required as to its age. However, the light colour of its fills and the lack of obviously modern material may suggest a pre-modern date. Indeed the pottery recovered as surface finds from the upper fill suggests an Iron Age attribution. Four small fragments of baked clay were also recovered from the same fill.

Also putatively of Iron Age in date were two SW-NE aligned ditches, F.5 and F.6, these possibly forming two sides of an enclosure ditch. The northern ditch, F. 5, was 3.40m wide and 1.20m deep. It yielded some bone and a single sherd of later Iron Age pottery. The southern ditch, F.6, could not be fully investigated. The alluvial clay capping suggested a deep feature, however, possibly a catchwater well situated along one side of an enclosure ditch.

The Pottery
Leo Webley

Context [016] from ditch F.4 contained four sherds of handmade pottery. All are in hard reduced fabrics with moderate quartz sand. One sherd has been crudely combed or scored. The pottery from this context can be dated to the Middle/later Iron Age (after c. 400 BC).

Context [025] from ditch F.5 yielded a single sherd of handmade pottery in a very hard reduced fabric with sparse quartz sand. This is probably also of Middle/later Iron Age date.

The Faunal Remains
Chris Swaysland

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from three contexts: [016], [022] and [025]. A total of 9 fragments were recovered of which 2 were identified to species. The bulk of the material was undiagnostic fragments of rib that could only be identified to size. The condition of the material was in general reasonably good. Quantification is by Number of Identified Specimens (NISP); fragments that relate to the same specimen have only been counted once.

Species	NISP
Cattle	1
Horse	1
Medium sized mammal	6
Large sized mammal	1

Table 10: Number of Identified Specimens

The very small size of the assemblage severely limits any interpretation. The only conclusion that may be made with confidence is that cattle and horse were present on the site.

Discussion

The watching brief confirmed the previously known cropmarks as archaeological in origin, although the limited nature of the work means that understanding of the date and nature of these features remains inconclusive at this stage. In the northern part of the trench, the two ditches encountered may represent the edge of the Romano-British

field system encountered at Site V. On the opposite side of Rhee Lake on the higher ground to the south were three ditches of possible later Iron Age date. Two of these appear to represent part of an enclosure system identified previously from cropmarks, which can be tentatively identified as an Iron Age settlement.

Appendix 10: The Field Walking Report

Will Whalley

A site-specific grid was established across the investigation area using GPS. The area was walked in 20m transects, collecting artefacts at 20m intervals. The collection corridor was 2m wide, providing a 10% sample of the whole area. On the basis of this sampling strategy three 40m by 40m squares were selected for intensive surface collection and metal detecting. The condition of the ground was not ideal for field survey, having some crop growth; nevertheless the fields had been recently ploughed and a good deal of the surface was clearly visible. The light conditions were predominately overcast.

A *Laser Rapier* metal detector was used to search the entire area within the squares. Conditions for detecting varied considerably between the selected squares, although none seriously impeded the survey. Small iron objects were discriminated out together with very recent objects such as pieces of tin foil or parts of agricultural machinery.

Results

The archaeological material recovered during field walking included worked flint, three sherds of Roman pottery and fragments of post-medieval brick, tile, pottery and clay pipe. The post-medieval material was weighed and counted but not examined. The results of assessment of the Roman pottery and analysis of the flint are summarised below. Figure 15 shows the distribution of finds across the investigation area.

Pottery

in conjunction with Katie Anderson

Three sherds were recovered, all from the eastern side of the site. All were heavily abraded, presumably reflecting damage incurred in the ploughsoil. Two pieces were likely Romano-British, coarse to greyware body sherds, one with grooved line decoration. The third sherd was a rim fragment of a beaded rim jar. This last piece was the most distinctive, being a probably locally made sandy coarseware, dating from the 2nd to 4th century AD.

Worked Flint

Emma Beadsmoore

The field walking transects yielded seven unburnt worked flints (61g), comprising a chip, four flakes, a retouched flake and a core. The core was worked systematically off a prepared single platform to remove small narrow flakes and blades, characteristics associated with earlier Neolithic flint working. The retouched flake is the product of a similar technology and also likely to be earlier Neolithic. Yet three flakes, whilst still thin, are broader and struck from the unprepared platforms of multiple platform cores, characteristics of later Neolithic core reduction.

Total collection yielded eleven worked flints (56g), comprising nine flakes and two scrapers. A side scraper from square 1 is probably later Neolithic, made on an irregular primary flake with some invasive retouch. A flake from the same square is broad and struck from an unprepared platform and also likely to be later Neolithic. The three remaining flakes from square 1 are not clearly chronologically diagnostic and could either be the products of expedient later Neolithic or Bronze Age flint working. The morphology of the end scraper recovered from square 2 suggests it is earlier rather than later Neolithic, whilst the five remaining worked flints are more likely to be later Neolithic, with some potentially Bronze Age material.

Metal Detecting
Matt Brudenell

In total only three finds were collected from the squares, including a Victorian halfpenny dated 1860, a copper alloy tack, and a worn copper alloy washer. All were post-medieval and dated to within the 19th and early 20th century. The finds are of no archaeological significance, and were most likely introduced to the field through manuring or from casual loss by agricultural labourers.

Discussion

The little archaeological material found is entirely consistent with existing knowledge of the surrounding area. The worked flint indicates a prehistoric presence from the Neolithic and possibly the Bronze Age, and the pottery indicates that the area was again a locus for some activity in the Roman period.

The paucity of archaeological material recovered would normally suggest minimal activity in the area of investigation. It may be that the lowest and wettest part of the investigated zone, the Rhee Lake, did indeed see little or no occupation from later prehistory through until the post-medieval drainage of the area. However, it is surprising that more material was not recovered from the cropmark complexes around the higher margins of the Rhee Lake. These include the possible Bronze Age cropmarks at the southern margins of the investigated area, and the Romano-British complex at its western edge. The lack of finds from the latter is particularly surprising, given that significant surface scatters of material - including evidence for a stone building - have been recovered from parts of the same complex to the east and northeast (Webley and Evans 2003). Clearly, either there was a significant fall-off in activity towards the Rhee Lake, or the results of the survey do not fully reflect the archaeological potential of the study area.

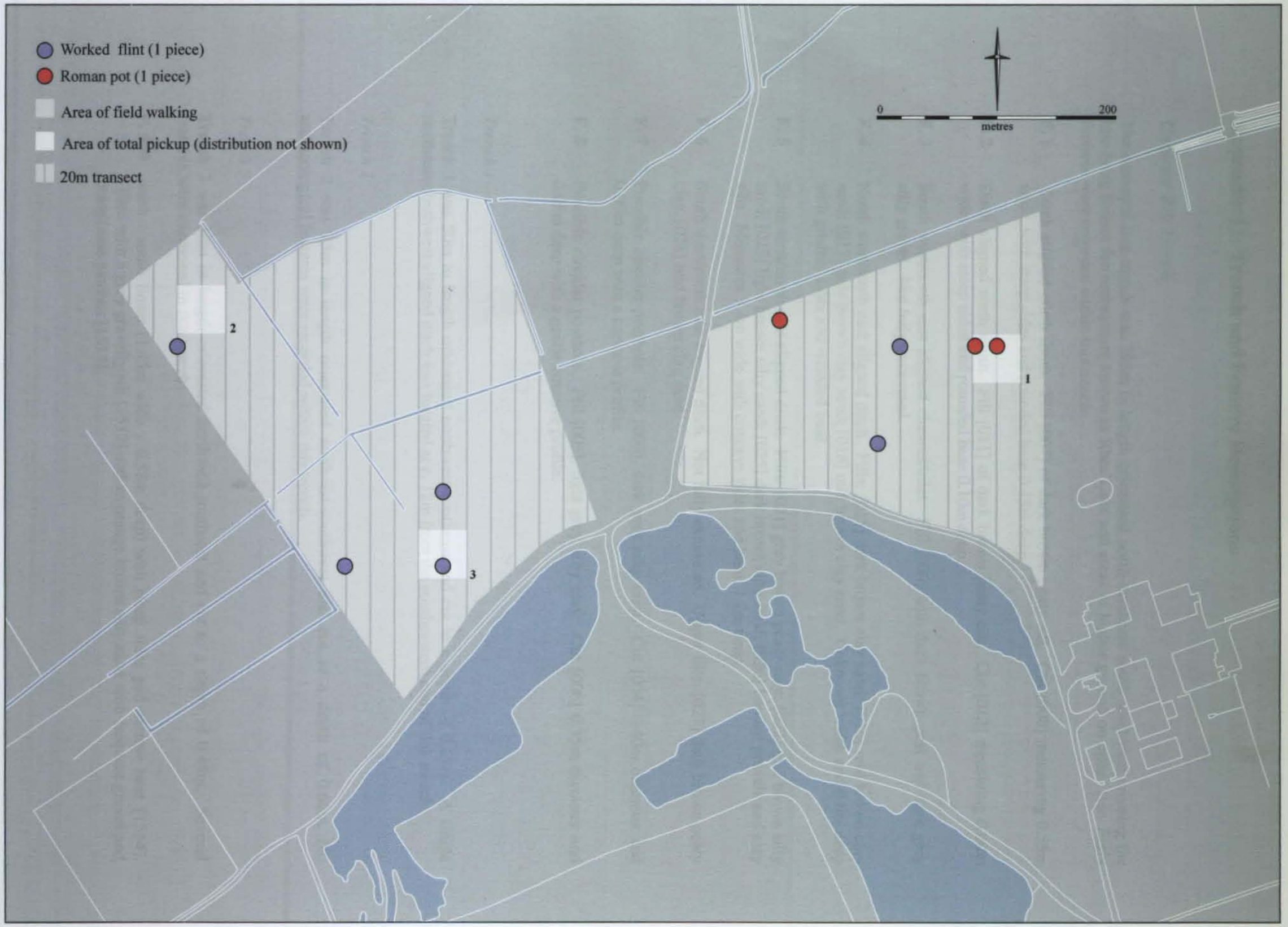


Figure 15. Finds distribution plot

Appendix 11: Trench and Feature Descriptions

Conveyor Belt Trench

The conveyor belt trench was 395m in length orientated north-northeast south-southwest crossing the low-lying former fen embayment known as Rhee Lake and areas of higher ground on either side. Eight features were recorded within this trench:

F. 1 Ditch aligned north south. Fill [007] of dark brown peaty silt. Cut [008] measuring 0.55m wide, with steep sides and rounded base 0.15m deep.

F. 2 Ditch aligned north south. Fill [011] of dark brown peaty silt. Cut [012] measuring 0.60m wide, with steep sides and rounded base 0.10m deep.

F. 3 South west/north east aligned channel/inlet. Fill [009] with dark brown peat and dark grey silty gravel. Not fully excavated.

F. 4 North west/south east aligned ditch. Fills: [015] dark brown clay sand; [016] mid brown clay sand; [017] pale brown clay sand; [018] mid brown clay sand. Unknown width and 0.6m deep with gradual sides and rounded base.

F. 5 South west/north east aligned ditch. Fills: [021] grey brown peaty clay; [022] mid brown silty sand; [023] light brown silty sand; [025] dark brown silty sand; [026] banded gravels and clay silts. Measures 3.4m wide with concave sides and base, 1.2m deep

F. 6 South west/north east aligned ditch. Not fully excavated. Upper fills: [027] dark brown peaty clay, [028] mid brown clay sand.

F. 7 Possible circular posthole. Fill [003], dark grey silty sand. Cut [004] 0.40m diameter and 0.09m deep with a concave profile.

F. 8 Possible circular posthole. Fill [005], light grey silty clay. Cut [006] 0.35m diameter and 0.05m deep with a gentle concave profile.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 50m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.65m. A single northeast-southwest aligned ditch was located at *c.* 12m from the southeastern end of this trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was 25m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.66m. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was 50m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.48m. Several features were excavated in this trench:

F. 500 north - south linear (1.45m wide x 0.58m deep) with steep sides and narrow base [1514]. Filled with a grey gravelly silt [1512] and an orange brown silty sand with frequent gravel and manganese patches [1513].

F. 501 east - west terminal of linear (0.7m wide x 0.27m deep) with moderately steep sides and concave base [1517]. Filled with mid brown grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [1516] and a mid-brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel and pea grit [1515].

F. 502 oval post hole (0.44m x 0.31m x 0.19m deep) with near vertical sides and flat base [1519]. Filled with mid grey-brown silt sand with occasional angular gravels [1518].

F. 503 circular post hole (0.3m x 0.28m x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1521]. Filled with a mid brown silt sand with occasional angular gravels [1520].

F. 504 oval pit (0.98m x 0.65m x 0.66m deep) with near vertical sides and a concave base [1524]. Filled with a dark brown-grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions [1522] and an orange brown silty sand, probably redeposited natural [1523].

F. 505 east - west linear (0.6m wide x 0.21m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1511]. Filled with sandy grey brown loam with frequent gravel [1510].

Trench 4

Trench 4 was 50m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.80m. A northwest-southeast aligned ditch was located at the southwestern end of this trench. The terminal of a northwest-southeast aligned gully was located at *c.* 30m. Just visible at the northeastern end of the trench was a westsouthwest-eastnortheast aligned ditch.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was 50m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.60m. Four postholes and two gullies were located in this trench. The southeastern-most gully was on an east-west alignment and terminated in the trench. A further gully, located at the northwestern end of the trench was on a northeast-southwest alignment.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was 182m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.55m. Seventeen features were recorded in Trench 6:

F. 525 pit (0.85 x 0.4m x 0.3m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1581]. Filled with mixed black brown, burnt looking silt [1580].

F. 526 northwest - southeast linear (0.43m wide x 0.18m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1583] filled with black brown silt with moderate gravel inclusions [1582]. Cut F.527.

F. 527 east - west linear (1.05m wide x 0.26m deep) with gradually sloping sides and a flat base [1585]. Filled with brown orange slightly clay sand [1584]. Cut by F.526.

F. 528 northwest - southeast linear (1m wide x 0.3m deep) with concave base and stepped sides [1587]. Filled with brown grey sand [1586].

F. 532 northeast - southwest linear (0.65m wide x 0.18 deep) with moderately steep sides and concave base [1603]. Filled with mid grey brown silty sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions [1602]. Parallel to F.536 and F.543.

F. 533 north - south linear (0.8m wide x 0.22m deep) with moderately steep sides and flat base [1605]. Filled with pale grey-orange silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions [1604].

F. 534 circular posthole (0.17m x 0.17m x 0.09m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1607]. Filled with grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions [1606].

F. 535 circular posthole (0.16m x 0.16m x 0.19m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1609]. Filled with mixed grey/dark grey silty sand with charcoal inclusions [1608].

F. 536 north - south linear (0.55m wide by 0.2m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1611]. Filled with pale orange brown sandy silt with moderate stony inclusions [1610]. Parallel to F. 532 and F. 543.

F. 537 northeast - southwest linear (0.35m wide x 0.15m deep) with steep, near vertical sides and slightly concave base [1613]. Filled with dark grey gravelly silt with organic inclusions [1612]. Parallel to and adjacent to a similar unexcavated feature.

F. 538 circular post hole (0.27m x 0.24m x 0.1m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1615]. Filled with mid grey brown silty sand with occasional gravel and pea grit inclusions [1614].

F. 539 north - south terminal of linear (0.68m wide x 0.27m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1617]. Filled with pale grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [1616].

F. 540 oval pit (0.54m x 0.45m x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1619]. Filled with dark brown grey silty sand with frequent grit/flint inclusions [1618].

F. 541 east - west linear (0.67m wide x 0.26m deep) with gently sloping sides and concave base [1621]. Filled with pale orange brown sandy silt with occasional flinty inclusions [1620].

F. 542 northwest - southeast terminal of linear (0.79m wide x 0.29m deep) with gently sloping sides and concave base [1623]. Filled with pale grey brown sandy silt with occasional flinty gravel inclusions [1622].

F. 543 northwest - southeast linear (0.73m wide x 0.23m deep) with gently sloping sides and concave base [1625]. Filled with pale orange brown sandy silt with occasional flinty inclusions [1624]. Parallel to F. 536 and F. 532.

F. 544 northwest - southeast terminal of linear (0.91m wide x 0.33m deep) with moderately steep sides and narrow concave base [1627]. Filled with pale grey brown sandy silt with moderate flinty gravel inclusions [1626].

Trench 7

Trench 7 was 50m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.70m. Two postholes were recorded in this trench. Part of a northwest-southeast orientated ditch was visible at the southwest end of the trench. At 8m there was the terminal of a ditch or a pit. The terminals of two northwest-southeast aligned gullies were located at *c.* 12m and 25m. An angular northwest-southeast northeast-southwest aligned gully was located at the northeastern end of the trench.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was 100m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.64m. Twenty-one features were excavated in this trench:

F. 506 northeast - southwest terminal of linear (1.1m wide x 0.6m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1526]. Filled with leached grey orange brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions [1525].

F. 507 northeast - southwest terminal of linear (0.5m wide by 0.12m deep) with moderately steep sides and flat base [1528] filled with grey-brown gravely silt [1527].

F. 508 northwest - southeast terminal of linear (0.3m wide x 0.11m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1530]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with moderate flint and stone inclusions [1529].

F. 509 northeast - southwest terminal of linear (0.94m wide x 0.23m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1532]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [1531].

F. 510 northeast - southwest terminal of linear (0.8m wide x 0.3m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1534]. Filled with pale brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [1533].

F. 511 circular posthole (0.4m x 0.4m x 0.23m deep) with steep, near vertical sides and concave base [1536]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [1535].

F. 512 circular posthole (0.35m x 0.3m x 0.21m deep) with vertical sides and concave base [1538]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [1537].

F. 513 sub-circular posthole (0.38m x 0.30m x 0.16m deep) with vertical sides and concave base [1540]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [1539].

F. 514 circular posthole (0.4m x 0.4m x 0.1m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1542]. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [1541].

F. 515 circular posthole (0.3m x 0.3m x 0.23m deep) with vertical sides and concave base [1544]. Filled with mid brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions [1543].

F. 516 Neolithic pit. (1.65m excavated, 2.05m wide x 0.91m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1561]. Filled with: mid slightly grey brown silty sand with moderate stone inclusions [1545]. Light brown slightly orange very slightly silty sand with moderate stone inclusions [1546]. Light brownish orange very slightly silty sand with moderate stone inclusions [1547]. Orange-yellow sand with occasional gravel inclusions [1548]. Reddish orange compacted sand with occasional gravel inclusions [1549]. Yellow orange sand with occasional stone inclusions [1550]. Dark blackish brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [1551]. Reddish brown orange sandy gravel, fine stone slump [1552]. Mixed orange brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions [1553]. Brownish dark red compacted gravel sand – a slump/collapse [1554]. Darker red slightly compacted gravel slump [1555]. Reddish brown slightly silty sandy gravel [1556]. Brownish red slightly silty gravel mix [1557]. Orange brown sandy slump [1558]. Reddish brown silty sandy gravel mix [1559]. Reddish brown silty sand gravel slump [1560].

F. 517 northeast - southwest linear (3.1m wide x 0.9m deep) with moderately steep sides and concave base [1565]. Filled with mixed, dirty, light grey-orange sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions [1562], brown light grey mixed silt sand possible redeposited natural slump with moderate gravel inclusion [1563], dark brown grey sand-silt with moderate gravel inclusions [1564].

F. 518 curved linear (0.38m wide x 0.33m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1567]. Filled with dark grey loam silt with occasional gravel inclusions [1566].

curved linear (0.4m wide x 0.2m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1629]. Filled with dark red brown sandy loam with occasional gravel inclusions [1628].

curved linear (0.41m wide x 0.23m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1753]. Filled with grey silt with moderate gravel inclusions [1752].

F. 519 circular post base (0.29m x 0.3m x 0.05m deep) with moderate sides and flat base [1577]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions [1576].

F. 520 circular posthole (0.3m x 0.29m x 0.33m deep) with near vertical sides and flattish base [1569]. Filled with dark brown-grey coarse silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions [1568]. Possible association with F. 521.

F. 521 circular posthole (0.31m x 0.28m x 0.32m deep) with near vertical sides and flattish base [1571]. Filled with mid brown grey silty sand with occasional small gravel inclusions [1570]. Possible association with F.520.

F. 522 circular posthole (0.33m wide x 0.23m deep), steep sides and a concave base [1579]. Filled with dark grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions [1578].

F. 523 east - west linear (0.94m wide x 0.39m deep) with moderately steep sides and broad slightly concave base [1573]. Filled with pale grey-brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions [1572]. Cut F. 524.

F. 524 circular pit (0.77m wide x 0.27m deep) with moderately steep sides and concave base [1575]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with patches of orange brown sand and occasional gravel inclusions [1574]. Cut by F. 523.

F. 529 circular posthole (0.65m x 0.19m deep) with moderately steep sides and concave base [1589]. Filled with mid grey silty sand with charcoal fragments [1588].

F. 530 northeast - southwest linear (4.55m wide x 1.2m deep) with moderately steep, rather irregular sides and concave base [1601]. Filled with light orange grey silty sandy clay with occasional gravel/flint inclusions [1590], mid orange grey, silty sandy clay with frequent gravel/flint inclusions [1591], light grey brown silty sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions [1592], light brown orange sand/gravel [1593], mid grey brown silty sandy clay [1594], dark orange brown sandy clay with iron pan and frequent gravel inclusions [1595], red-brown grey sandy gravel, large amounts of iron pan and gravel [1596], mid orange-brown sandy gravel with iron pan [1597], light orange grey silty sandy clay [1598], mid grey silty sandy clay, probably slump [1599], light orange grey silty sandy clay, again probably slump [1600].

Two boxes were added to this trench in order to further investigate features that were exposed. Box A was 5m² and contained one oval pit, F.516. Box B was 6.50m by 11m. One large round pit, F.531, and two further oval pits were revealed in this area, along with three postholes. A semicircular enclosure or eaves gully, F.518, was also exposed in box 8B.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was 50m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.47m. A pit and two postholes were recorded in this trench. Part of a pit or the terminal of a ditch was visible against the north edge of the trench. A north-south aligned ditch associated with an intercutting ditch terminal or pit was located at the northwest end of the trench:

F. 575 east - west linear (1.2m wide x 0.4m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1729]. Filled with alluvium [1727] and dark brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [1728].

Trench 10

Trench 10 was 50m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.50m. Three features were recorded in this trench. A northeast-southwest aligned ditch was located at *c.* 10m. A circular enclosure gully or eaves gully was located halfway along the trench. Immediately south this was a circular post-hole.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was 50m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.50m. At the southwest end of the trench Trench 12 was cut at right angles to form a 'T'. Four postholes were recorded in this trench along with several linears. A northwest-southeast orientated ditch was located

at *c.* 22m from the southwestern edge of the trench. A further, similarly aligned ditch was located to at *c.* 37m. The terminal of a north-south aligned gully was adjacent to a possible pit cluster.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was 100m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.44m. At the mid point of the trench Trench 11 was cut at right angles to form a 'T'. Nine unexcavated posthole were recorded in this trench along with the following excavated features:

F. 545 oval posthole/small pit (0.5m x 0.34m x 0.17m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1637]. Filled with very pale brown grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions [1636].

F. 546 oval pit (1.68m x 0.88m x 0.24m deep) with steep sides and a wide concave base [1639]. Filled with dark brown grey silt sand with frequent gravel inclusions [1638].

F. 547 east - west linear (1.1m wide x 0.37m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1642]. Filled with pale grey silt loam with frequent chalky/gravelly inclusions [1641].

F. 548 east - west linear (0.3m wide x 0.2m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1644]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with sand and moderate gravel inclusions [1643].

F. 549 east - west linear (1m wide x 0.29m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1645]. Filled with mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate stone and charcoal inclusions [1646]. Cuts F. 552.

F. 552 north - south linear (2.15m wide x 0.55m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1656]. Filled with mixed orange brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions [1651], mid brown orange slightly silty sand with moderate gravel [1652], redeposited natural [1653], mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions [1654] and mid brown orange sandy silt with occasional sand, gravel and charcoal inclusions [1655]. Cut by F. 549.

F. 556 circular pit (0.6m x 0.6m x 0.35m deep) with undercutting sides and concave base [1666]. Filled with dirty brown silty sandy clay [1664] and dirty blue clay with brown yellow sandy clay patches and moderate burnt stone/charcoal inclusions [1665].

Trench 13

Trench 13 was 50m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.38m. Sub-soil was only encountered at the northwest end of this trench. Several intercutting features were recorded in this trench. Two northwest-southeast aligned gullies were recorded, one of which curved onto a northeast-southwest alignment before terminating. A large pit or northwest-southeast aligned ditch was truncated by the former of these two gullies. A further ditch on a similar alignment was truncated by the latter gully. A northeast-southwest aligned gully was located intercutting the two gullies, however no relationship was discernible.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was 100m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.30m. Sub-soil was only encountered at the southwest end of this trench. At the southwest end of the trench Trench 15 was cut at right angles to form an 'L'. Several features were recorded in this trench. A northwest-southeast aligned gully was located at *c.* 11m. Two circular postholes were located at *c.* 21m. The terminal of a northwest-southeast aligned ditch was recorded at *c.* 70m. Two features in this trench were excavated:

F. 576 northwest - southeast linear (0.51m wide x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1731]. Filled with brown silty clay [1730]. Cuts an unexcavated pit.

F. 577 northwest - southeast linear (0.6m wide x 0.14m deep) with gradually sloping sides and concave base [1733]. Filled with brown silty clay [1732].

Trench 15

Trench 15 was 25m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.40m. At the northwest end of the trench Trench 14 was cut at right angles to form an 'L'. A single northeast-southwest aligned gully was located in this trench.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was 50m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth between 0.67m and 1.01m in depth through peaty top and sub soils. At the southeast end of the trench Trench 17 was cut at right angles to form an 'L'. Four features were recorded in this trench. A north-south aligned ditch was located at the northwest end of the ditch. Adjacent to this was an oval pit. A northeast-southwest gully was located at *c.* 32m. The remaining feature was a small oval posthole.

Trench 17

Trench 17 was 50m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth 0.93m through peaty top and sub soils. At the northeast end of the trench Trench 16 was cut at right angles to form an 'L'. Ten features were recorded in this trench:

F. 553 north - south terminal of linear (1m wide x 0.62m deep) with very steep sides and flat base [1659]. Filled with grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles and sandy inclusions [1657] and orange brown gravely grit/sand, probably redeposited natural [1658].

F. 554 kidney shaped pit (2m x 0.85m, 0.29m deep) with moderately steep sides and concave base [1661]. Filled with grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and flints [1660].

F. 555 northeast - southwest linear (0.85m wide x 0.22m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1663]. Filled with brown red gravely sand [1662].

F. 557 northwest - southeast linear (1.61m wide x 0.56m deep) with moderately steep sides and a wide flat base [1668]. Filled with dark brown silty loam with occasional gravel and pea grit inclusions [1667]. Cut F.558.

F. 558 circular pit (1.34m x 1.29m x 0.34m deep) with moderately steep sides and rounded base [1670]. Filled with pale orange brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [1669]. Cut by F.557.

F. 559 east - west linear (0.77m wide x 0.23m deep) with gradually sloping sides and rounded base [1672]. Filled with mid grey brown coarse silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions [1671]. Cut F.560.

F. 560 oval pit (1.72m x 1.72m x 0.64m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1675]. Filled with mid brown orange coarse silty sand with moderate gravel and silt inclusions [1673] and mid orange brown silt with occasional flint and gravel inclusions [1674]. Cut by F.559.

F. 561 east - west terminal of linear (0.38m wide x 0.2m deep) with steep sides and rounded base [1677]. Filled with dark brown grey silty sand with small angular gravel inclusions [1676]. Cuts F.562.

F. 562 circular pit (0.62m x 0.6m x 0.21m deep) with steep sides [1679]. Filled with pale orange brown coarse silty sand, with occasional angular gravels [1678]. Cut by F.561.

F. 572 northwest - southeast linear (5.4m wide x 1.18m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1716]. Filled with mixed grey orange sandy silt [1709], grey brown silt with orange patches [1710], dirty grey brown sandy silt [1711], dirty orange silt [1712], mixed dark brown grey loamy silt [1713], mixed orange grey gravelly sand [1714] and dark brown grey loamy sand with redeposited natural [1715].

Trench 18

Trench 18 was 50m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 1.12m through peat top soil and a peat and silt sub soil. No archaeological features were encountered within this trench.

Trench 19

Trench 19 was 44m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.60m through peat. An area of spread was recorded at the southeast end of the trench, which appeared Romano-British in character. No other archaeological features were recorded; however, a palaeochannel was noted along with evidence for successive water channels of a possible Iron Age date.

Trench 20

Trench 20 was 50m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.32m. Two parallel ditches were recorded within this trench that appeared Romano-British in character, these probably represented some form of track way and had been plotted from aerial photographs. The terminal of a further gully or a possible posthole was located towards the northeast end of the trench.

Trench 21

Trench 21 was 44m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.35m. Three features that may have been large pits or ditch terminals were recorded emerging from the baulk. Two further northeast-southwest ditches were also recorded in this trench.

Trench 22

Trench 22 was 81m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.33m. Five postholes were recorded in this trench, along with a single pit. A northwest-southeast aligned ditch that appeared to be curving towards the east was located at 75m from the southwest end:

F. 580 north - south linear (2.6m wide x 0.75m deep) with moderately steep sides and concave base [1751]. Filled with dark grey alluvium [1747], orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions [1748], mid grey silt loam with moderate gravel inclusions [1749], pale grey silt loam with moderate gravel inclusions [1750].

Trench 23

Trench 23 was 73m in length orientated north-south and cut to a depth of 0.50m. Three discreet postholes and pit were recorded amongst several linear features in this trench. The linears were largely parallel with one another and on an east-west alignment. The corner of an enclosure ditch was recorded turning from an east-west to a north-south alignment.

Trench 24

Trench 24 was 68.50m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.30m. At the northeast end of the trench Trench 25 was cut at right angles to form a 'T'. Eight pit/posthole features

were recorded along the length of this trench. There were three gullies, two of which terminated opposite one another and may form a circular enclosure. The third gully was aligned northwest-southeast. The terminal of two ditches or large pits were also visible on plan, along with one ditch that turned from a northwest-southeast to an southwest-northeast alignment.

Trench 25

Trench 25 was 152.50m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.90m where it entered Rhee Lake, and 0.30m on the higher ground. At the mid point of the trench Trench 24 was cut at right angles to form a 'T'. The terminal of a large ditch or pit was visible at the south-eastern end of this trench. The terminal and part of the length of a northwest-southeast aligned ditch were visible along the edge of the trench. Eleven features were excavated in this trench:

F. 563 north - south linear (1.9m wide x 0.75m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1684]. Filled with dark alluvial looking clay [1680], dark grey silt loam with orange patches and moderate gravel inclusions [1681], pale blue grey silt loam with moderate gravel inclusions [1682], pale grey brown silt loam with moderate gravel inclusions [1683].

F. 564 east - west linear (0.75m wide x 0.32m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1686]. Filled with grey silt with moderate stone inclusions [1685].

F. 566 lozenge shaped pit (1.8m x 0.95m, 0.31m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1706]. Filled with mixed slightly brownish orange silty sand with occasional stony inclusions [1702], mixed brown orange sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [1703], dark brown sandy silt with moderate stony inclusions [1704] and pale brown silty sand with moderate stone inclusions [1705].

lozenge shaped pit (1.4m x 0.6m x 0.34m deep) with gradually sloping sides and concave base [1688]. Filled with mixed grey orange silt [1687]. Cut by F. 567.

lozenge shaped pit (1m x 0.4m x 0.2m deep) with gradually sloping sides and concave base [1692]. Filled with mixed orange grey silt [1691]. Cut by F. 567.

F. 567 east - west linear (1.5m wide x 0.45m deep) with steep sides [1690] filled with dark grey orange silt with frequent stony inclusions [1689]. Cut F. 566.

F. 568 northeast - southwest linear (0.9m wide x 0.3m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1696]. Filled with dark grey alluvium [1699] and mid grey silt loam with flint and moderate gravel inclusions [1695]. Cut F. 569.

F. 569 pit (2.5m x 1.05m x 0.3m deep) with steep sides and flat base [1698]. Filled with mid grey loam with moderate flint/gravel inclusions and redeposited natural [1697]. Cut by F.568.

F. 570 east - west linear (0.45m wide x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1701]. Filled with dark black brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [1700].

F. 571 circular pit (1.08m x 1m x 0.44m deep) with steep sides and concave base [1708]. Filled with dark brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions [1707].

F. 573 east - west linear (1.6m wide x 0.55m deep) with moderately steep sides and concave base [1722]. Filled with alluvial dark grey silty clay [1718], mid grey silt loam with moderate gravel inclusions [1719], brown grey silt loam [1720] and dark grey silt loam with occasional gravel inclusions [1721]. Re-cut of F. 574.

F. 574 east - west linear (1.5m wide x 0.55m deep) with moderately steep sides and flat base [1726]. Filled with redeposited yellow sand [1723], pale grey silt loam with moderate gravel inclusions [1724] and gritty redeposited gravel [1725]. Cut by F. 573.

F. 578 east - west linear (4.4m wide x 1m deep) with moderately steep sides and flat base [1738]. Filled with dark brown sandy clay alluvium [1734], light orange brown sandy silt [1735], light grey brown sandy silt [1736] and dark orange brown sandy silt [1737].

Trench 26

Trench 26 was 75m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.75m through peat and silt channel deposits. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 27

Trench 27 was 25m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.85m through peat and silt channel deposits. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 28

Trench 28 was 100m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 1m through peat and silt channel deposits. At around mid point along the trench Trench 30 was cut at right angles to form a 'T', and at the southeast end of the trench Trench 29 was cut at right angles to form a 'T'. No archaeological features were encountered within this trench.

Trench 29

Trench 29 was 50m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.85m through peat and silt channel deposits. At around the mid point along the trench Trench 28 was cut at right angles to form a 'T'. A circular pit was located in this trench along with two further features just visible on the southeastern edge that may be pits or ditch terminals. A northwest-southeast aligned ditch was located towards the northeastern end of this trench.

Trench 30

Trench 30 was 37m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 0.82m through peat and silt channel deposits. At the southwest end of the trench Trench 28 was cut at right angles to form a 'T'. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench; however, at the northeast end of the trench there was a layer of iron replaced peat.

Trench 31

Trench 31 was 19.25m in length orientated northeast-southwest and cut to a depth of 1m through peat and silt channel deposits. No archaeological features were recorded; however, at the southwest end of the trench there was a layer of iron replaced peat.

Trench 32

Trench 32 was 47m in length orientated north northeast-south southwest and cut to a depth of 0.53m. Peat deposits were only recorded in the northern part of the trench where it cut down into Rhee Lake. Two parallel ditches were recorded in the southern end of the trench above the 2.5m OD contour along with a potential pit or ditch terminal.

Trench 33

Trench 33 was 111.50m in length orientated north-south and cut to a depth of 1.10m. Peat deposits were recorded within the northern portion of the trench where it cut into Rhee Lake. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 34

Trench 34 was 80m in length orientated east-west and cut to a depth of 0.45m. Nine postholes and pits were recorded along the length of this trench. A northwest-southeast aligned ditch was located at c. 25m. This was associated with intercutting features that may have been the terminals of further ditches or pits. A northeast-southwest aligned ditch truncated a north-south aligned gully approximately half way along this trench.

Trench 35

Trench 35 was 84m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.60m. Five postholes and ten linears/large pits were recorded in this trench. A large angular feature was recorded at the northwestern end of this trench that may be a large ditch terminal or a large pit. Adjacent to this was a northeast-southwest aligned gully. An intercutting north-south aligned gully and angular pit or ditch was located at *c.* 10m. A further ditch was located at 21m parallel to a ditch further to the southeast. The latter ditch appeared to be associated with a further ditch terminal or pit. Adjacent to this was the terminal of a northeast-southwest aligned gully. A further gully terminal on a similar alignment was located at *c.* 50m. Just visible at the southeastern end of this trench was a large feature that may have been a ditch or a north-south aligned ditch.

Trench 36

Trench 36 was 85m in length orientated northwest-southeast and cut to a depth of 0.54m. Three small and three large pits were recorded along the length of this trench. Further pits may be located in a large mass of features located *c.* 55m from the northwest end of the trench. At least one ditch and one gully may also make up part of this large feature. A northwest-southeast aligned ditch that appears to truncate an earlier ditch on a similar alignment was located at the northwest end of the trench. A further ditch, orientated northeast-southwest was located at the southeastern end of the trench. Three gullies were also recorded in this trench. One may form the corner of an enclosure on a north-south east-west alignment. The remaining two gullies were orientated northeast-southwest.

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