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Archaeological Excavations at Hinxtan Quarry,
Cambridgeshire

- The North Field -

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Cambridge Archaeological Unit
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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**Archaeological Excavations at Hinxton Quarry,
Cambridgeshire,
1995**

**- The North Field -
(I)**

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With contributions by M. Alexander, A. Dickens,
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(Part 1 of 2).

Abstract

Excavations carried out across a northward extension to the Hinxton Quarry borrow pit produced evidence of utilisation of the Cam-side terrace from the Early Neolithic through to Saxon times. A large assemblage of Early Neolithic flint including a polished flint axe, and pottery from at least six vessels, was recovered from a single feature. A scattering of Later Neolithic and Bronze Age pits also attests to occupation, albeit short-lived/episodic.

Romano-British enclosures were present at the south, east and north of the site. The southern complex consisted of sub-divided fields/paddocks to either side of a broad droveway, dating to the late 1st - 2nd century AD. Subsequent alterations included further divisions within the system, with areas intensively pitted and probably taken out of agricultural usage. Occupation debris was abundant within the backfill of discrete features; the associated settlement must still lie further to the south or west. The fieldsystems may represent provisioning areas for the Roman fort and town at Great Chesterford to the south.

There is evidence for continuity of use, with alterations, into the post-Roman period and perhaps into the Medieval times (the southern droveway ditch continues the line of the hedge bordering the farm track which still provides access to the field). Saxon occupation of the 5th - 7th century is directly attested to by two Grubenhäuser and a series of pits. Roman features with Saxon material present within their upper levels indicates long-term earthwork survival; there is evidence of Saxon curation of Roman artefacts.

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131	17	2	216	34	9
132		3	217	20	6
133	34	9	218	33	10
134	35	9	219	-	-
135	35	9	220	13	1
136	20	3	221	13	1
137	21	3	222	20	4
138	35	9	223	34	10
139	33	8	224	20	4
140	35	9	225	17	1
141	45	12	226	20	4
142	45	12	227	34	10
143	45	12	228	50	14
144	-	-	229	50	14
145	45	12	230	50	14
146	17	2	231	50	14
147	13	15	232	50	14
148	14	1	233	50	13
149	45	12	234	21	5
150	45	12	235	20	-
151	44	12	236	51	14
152	21	3	237	-	-
153	13	15	238	20	5
154	17	2	239	22	5
155	20	4	240	-	-
156	17	2	241	29	6
157	14	1	242	34	10
158	-	-	243	33	10
159	45	12	244	34	10
160	17	2	245	-	-
161	17	2	246	20	5
162	17	2	247	-	-
163	17	2	248	20	5
164	-	-	249	20	5
165	-	-	250	20	5
166	55	15	251	20	5
200	55	15	252	20	6
201	55	16	253	55	-
202	20	3	254	20	6
203	20	3	255	-	-
204	44	12	256	13	1
205	44	13	257	13	1
206	45	13	258	11	1
207	45	13	259	50	14
208	45	13	260	50	14
209	14	1	261	34	10
210	20	4	262	29	7
211	20	4	263	30	7
212	20	4	264	30	7

265	30	7	289	43	11
266	30	7	290	13	2
267	30	7	291	13	2
268	30	7	292	13	2
269	29	7	293	14(55)	15
270	29	7	294	14(55)	15
271	29	7	295	50	14
272	29	7	296	43	11
273	30	7	297	-	-
274	43	11	298	20	6
275	43	11	299	20	6
276	30	8	300	20	6
277	30	8	301	33	10
278	30	8	302	33	10
279	30	8	303	43	11
280	55	16	304	31	8
281	43	11	305	-	-
282	43	11	306	20	6
283	43	11	307	47	13
284	43	11	308	47	13
285	55	16	309	47	13
286	35	10	310	55	15
287	55	16	311	30	8
288	14(55)	16	312	20	6

INTRODUCTION

Prior to a major extension at Hinxton Quarry borrow pit, (TL 487466), the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) was commissioned to undertake a further programme of excavation across a field in the northern part of the extraction site (fig. 1). The area has been under investigation since 1991 when an initial evaluation was undertaken by Cambridgeshire Archaeology within the central zone (Wait 1991). Subsequent evaluation by the CAU across the surrounding fields (Evans 1993) was followed by open-area excavation of the 'Mid Field Arm' (Alexander & Hill 1996). Carried out on behalf of Mineral Resources Ltd, the North Field excavations occurred in two stages, during January and from March to April 1995 (c. 3.70ha in total).

Although constrained by relevant archaeological planning guidance, as a borrow pit this is very much an instance of developer-led archaeology. Immediate gravel need dictated its pace and extent, with the quarry limits altered to avoid 'serious' archaeology (e.g. putting under grass known settlement compounds). As a result, the North Field investigations are a case of (settlement-)'fringe archaeology'. Of course, unanticipated complications arose, nevertheless the challenge of this report is the extrapolation of (site-)'core' developments from settlement margins.

Topography

Located on the edge of low chalk downland immediately east of the river Cam, the sites lies north of Hinxton and, northwest across the river, is the village of Duxford. The investigation area is situated on the first/second gravel terrace just above the alluviated floodplain. The river lies some 100m to the west of the modern field boundary; between the two, a palaeo-course of the Cam has been plotted from aerial photographs (Wait 1991: fig. 2). Within the current area of excavation the lie of the land is from south to north, with the level of the underlying natural gravel sloping down from 25.30m to 24.10m OD. There is a gentle and regular fall-off westwards towards the river and a steeper slope to the east into a hollow occupied by a modern drainage ditch, beyond which the ground rises again relatively sharply. This ditch forms the field's (and site's) eastern boundary; to the north is a small wood, the Whittlesford Bridge Plantation.

Archaeological Background and Previous Investigations

The route of the Icknield Way crosses the Cam at Whittlesford, 200m to the north, and the site lies on the west of the Roman Cambridge - Great Chesterford road. Cropmark evidence and Sites and Monuments Record entries (S.M.R) suggests intense agricultural land-use throughout the area in Roman times. Aerial photographs from the site and its immediate environs reveal a complex

system of field boundaries, ditches and droveways (S.M.R. 09738). A Romano-British villa is located 1 km to the south (S.M.R. 04210) and a contemporary cemetery known to the northeast (S.M.R. 04169; for full discussion of the S.M.R. data see Evans 1990; Wait 1991; Damant & Mitchell 1992).

The Roman small town of Great Chesterford, situated 3km to the south, may have influenced the agricultural landscape. The area of the site probably lies within its hinterland and, perhaps, provisioned the town (Evans 1993). West of the quarry, on the far side of the Cam, trial excavations north of Duxford have provided settlement evidence from the early Neolithic through to the Medieval times (with the notable exception of the Later Bronze and Iron Ages; Evans 1991). With evidence of Roman and Saxo-Norman/Medieval occupation, particularly noteworthy is the Coldham's Lane complex immediately opposite (Evans 1991: 16-24). Saxon activity, including dense settlement sites, is known from Great Chesterford, Pampisford and Hinxton itself.

In 1991 an initial field evaluation had been undertaken upon the central 8ha of the quarry, wherein extraction was completed in 1993/4 (Wait 1991). Two main settlement foci, in the northwest and southeast, were identified which were then taken out of the proposed extraction programme and left under crop. The former lies adjacent to the southern limit of the current investigation area. Trial excavations within it confirmed the existence and alignments of the ditches forming the south and southeastern limits of the cropmark-plotted enclosure. The recovery of a probable corn drying oven led, in part, to the recommendation of the area's preservation. However, no other definite settlement-related features were recovered.

As part of the 1993 evaluation, a fieldwalking programme was implemented by the CAU in the fields to the south and north-of the 1991 investigation area. Very high densities of worked flint were recovered, with burnt flint clusters identified to the west dated to the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age (Evans 1993). Two major trial trenches were cut (NW-SE) across the width of the Roman enclosure complex in the North Field, and eleven settlement-related features were recovered within the westernmost (Trench X). Further trial work along the eastern edge of the field discovered part of another ditch system, not visible on aerial photographs; a small quantity of Romano-British pottery was recovered from one ditch.

The excavation of 5m² test stations across the northern half of the field revealed little of archaeological significance. However, an Anglo-Saxon square-headed brooch was retrieved from fieldwalking in this area and trial excavations at the find spot revealed a Saxon *Grubenhäus* (hereafter, Structure II).

The morphology of the cropmark complex to the south and west of the field suggested a Roman date. This was confirmed by the evidence of evaluation trenches dug through the enclosure conjoining the drove 'avenue' to the south (Wait 1991). The 1993 trial work demonstrated the enclosure ditches on the north side of the drove 'avenue' were also of Roman date (containing 1st/2nd century pottery) and concluded that the settlement phase, to which these

enclosures appeared to belong, was apparently short-lived; only the trackway was re-cut to prolong its existence as a boundary. The line of the northern ditch still exists as the hedge-lined access road, representing a rare example of landscape/boundary continuity within the region.

Both the 1991 and 1993 evaluations showed that there was a very close correspondence between the cropmark plots and major archaeological features. However, open-area excavations during the autumn of 1994 within the eastern 'Mid-field Arm' (Alexander & Hill 1996) uncovered the western fringe of an Iron Age cremation cemetery which was 'unannounced' by aerial photography. Subsequent inhumations placed in and around the ring-ditches suggest an element of continuity into the Romano-British period. The cemetery was first respected, and then truncated, by successive Roman fieldsystems.

One result of the 1993 evaluation programme was that the ring-ditch/barrow in the southern field was preserved. Otherwise, however, extraction was undertaken within that field without cause for further fieldwork apart from another phase of fieldwalking collection.

Aerial Photography

As part of an initial field evaluation a survey of aerial photographs was commissioned by Cambridgeshire Archaeology covering the entire application area, some 35ha (Wait 1991). From this it was known that a system of NW-SE oriented ditched fields/paddocks situated around the western end of a broad ditched droveway extending across the southern and southwestern part of the north field (S.M.R. 09738; fig. 1). Discrete cropmark 'spots' visible within the enclosure and to its east suggested the presence of large pits or natural hollows. To the west of the complex itself, cropmarks were evidently masked by the deeper alluvial soils of the Cam's floodplain, within which a wide N-S linear feature (seen as an area of darker soil) was presumed to mark a former river course. The same darker soils were visible to the east of the enclosure, along the line of the field's edge. Aerial Photographic Services were commissioned (by the CAU) to undertake second cropmark assessment on the far northern part of the area which had been omitted from the original study. It revealed the existence of another ditched enclosure, towards the limit of the current investigation area, extending north beneath the Whittlesford Bridge Plantation.

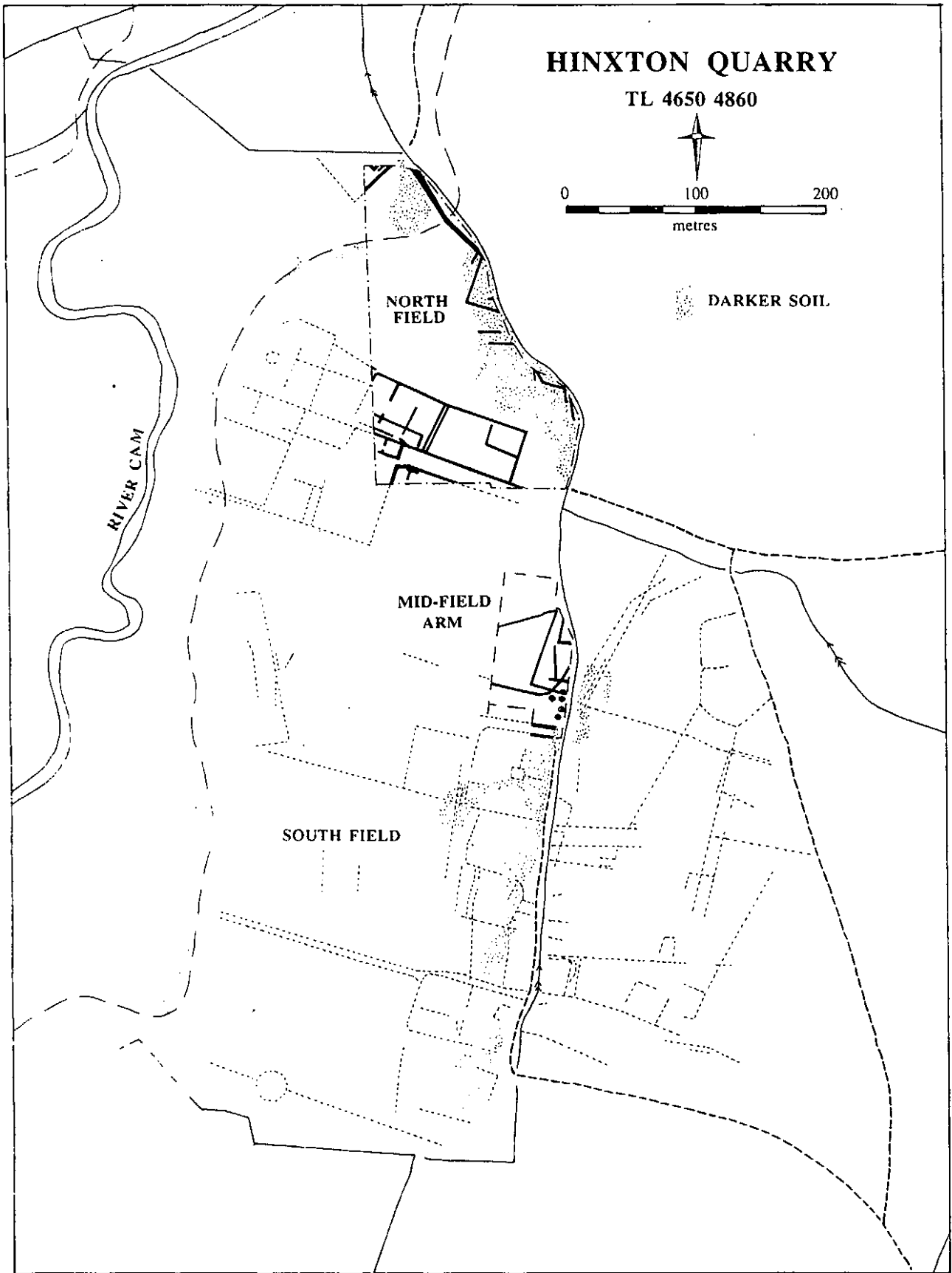
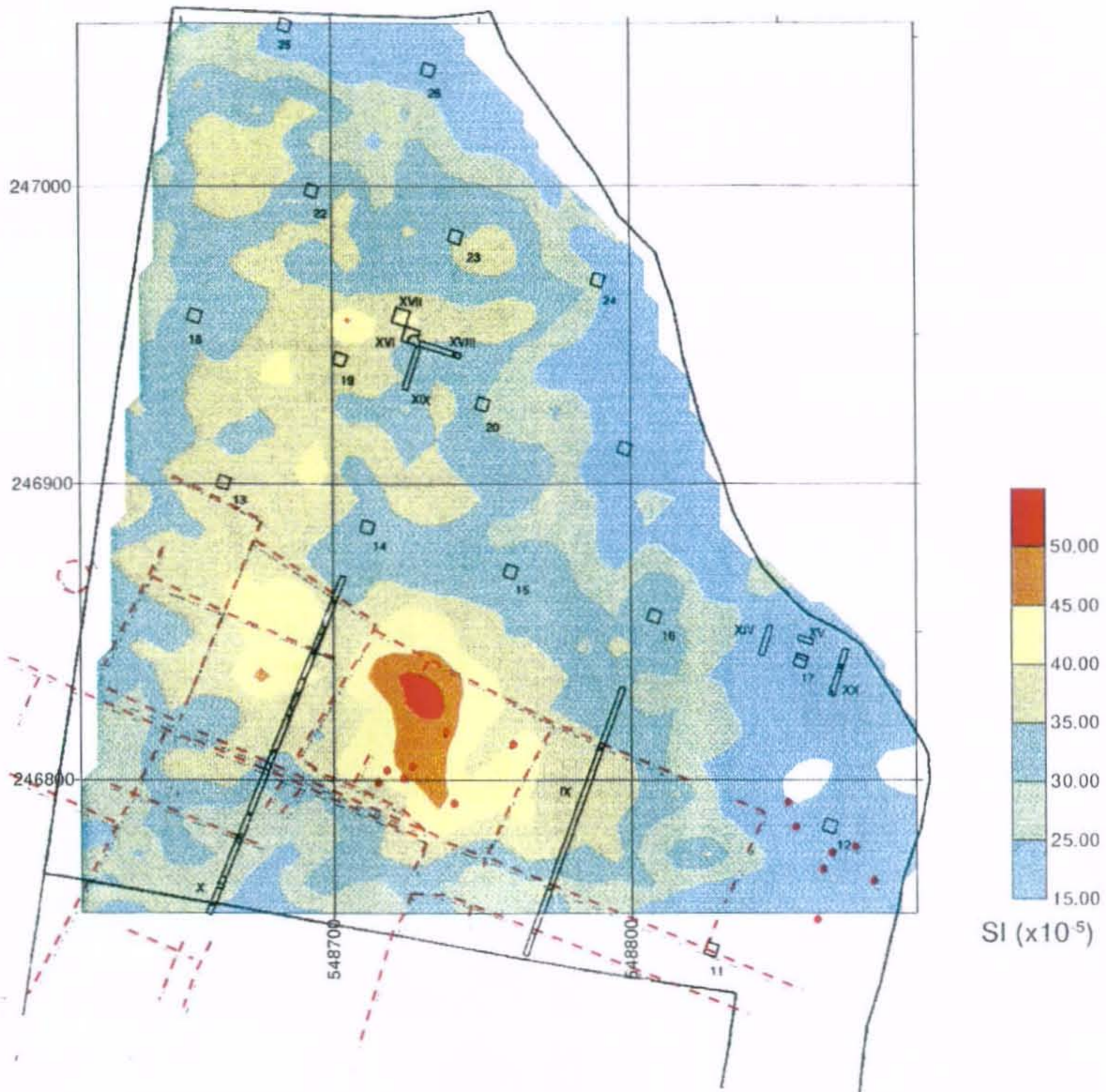


Figure 1

HINXTON QUARRY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOPSOIL MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY AND CROPMARK FEATURES, PREVIOUS EVALUATION PITS AND TRENCHES (CAU 1993) ALSO SHOWN

SCALE 1:2500



OXFORD ARCHAEO TECHNICS

Geophysical Survey

Commissioned by the CAU, a magnetic susceptibility survey was undertaken across the northern field by Oxford Archaeotechnics (1994; full report is available for inspection within site archive). Its primary aim was to locate further Saxon structures and, if possible, delineate areas of contemporary settlement. Although very localised 'highs' were recovered in the vicinity of the evaluation-discovered *Grubenhäus* (fig. 2; value range 40-5), it failed to distinguish settlement 'hot-spots'. Generally the survey demonstrated higher readings towards the western third and southern quarter of the area, with a focus at the northwestern limit of the cropmark-plotted southern enclosure complex. There was a fall-off of activity towards the east and southwest; any correlation appeared to be with the highest point of the gravel plateau, rather than with the plotted archaeological features. Increased soil cover to the east which obscured cropmarks, may also have influenced geophysical readings. Whilst the mid-southern cropmark enclosure 'high' may attest to the situation of a former midden (either lost through re-deposition or ploughing), the most telling negative indicator of the survey is the fact that the Evaluation Trench X settlement area failed to register as any kind of 'high'.

Four 30 x 30m 'boxes' were also subject to detailed gradiometer survey within the vicinity of the *Grubenhäus*. Again, the results were essentially negative and, hinting of (non-existent) linear features, arguably mis-leading.

Excavation and recording

The overburden was removed from the area by mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision. Producing negative result, previous to the main stripping trenching occurred within the immediate vicinity of the known *Grubenhäus* in order to establish whether it related to a much more extensive Anglo-Saxon settlement.

The topsoil and sub-soil cover was fairly even (slightly deepening to the northeast) at c. 0.30m and 0.20m respectively. The sub-soil, or lower ploughsoil, overlay the plough-truncated natural - a mixed orange-brown sandy gravel.

The Unit-modified version of the M.o.L. recording system was employed throughout. Excavated stratigraphic entities (e.g. a ditch cut *or* its fill) were recorded as individual *contexts* (e.g. [100]). Interrelated stratigraphic events (e.g. a ditch cut *and* its fill) were assigned feature numbers and are highlighted upon introductory description within the text (e.g. F.100). Linear features were sample excavated at 10 or 20 metre intervals in metre-wide segments, and at their junctions with other linear or discrete features. Whether discrete features were quarter-/half-sectioned or totally excavated depended upon their size, finds yield and type. All features were base-planned at a scale of 1:50; individual plans at 1:20 were made of those features requiring more detailed recording, and profiles drawn at 1:10.

The excavations were undertaken in two stages. In January 1995 a 90m wide swathe was stripped along the field's eastern margin in which Features 128 - 166 were excavated (M. Alexander, Director). For the purposes of presentation, where these extended westward into the subsequent stage of the excavation (Director, R. Mortimer) the latter's feature designation will be given first with the former following in parenthesis (e.g. F.203 (155)). When previous context descriptions differ appreciably or provide further information, they are included following the descriptions for those in the main western area.

In order to differentiate between the site's many enclosure systems these have been sub-divided into three main complexes: *The Southern Enclosure Complex*, *The Northern Enclosure* and *The Eastern Ditch System* (fig. 3). Obviously only arbitrary fragments of much more extensive landscape systems, the excavation results will not be forced to fit a rigid phasing structure. Whilst the site's stratigraphy is straight-forward, its spatial interrelationships are complex and demand extensive analysis; considerable emphasis is also given to the character of deposition across the site. To abet meaningful discussion (unless of particular relevance), feature/context descriptions will be kept to a minimum within the text itself and are rather presented in full within the appendices (1).

Acknowledgements

The work was funded by Mineral Resources Ltd. and the CAU are grateful to its Director, Martin Bradford, and Site Manager, Neville for their co-operation and interest throughout. The project was facilitated by Cambridgeshire County Council's Planning Office Archaeologists, B. Sydes and R. Butler.

C. Conneller, K. Gdaniec, D. Gibson, G. Kesteven, A. Mainland, J. Pollard, S. Poole and S. Warman variously comprised the excavation team. Project management was by C. Evans and K. Gdaniec; finds were processed by L. McFadyen and spot-dated by C. Going. Illustrations are by R. Mortimer and C. Begg.

Finally, the 'fruit' of lengthy discussions with Chris Going and Josh Pollard are hereby heartily acknowledged.

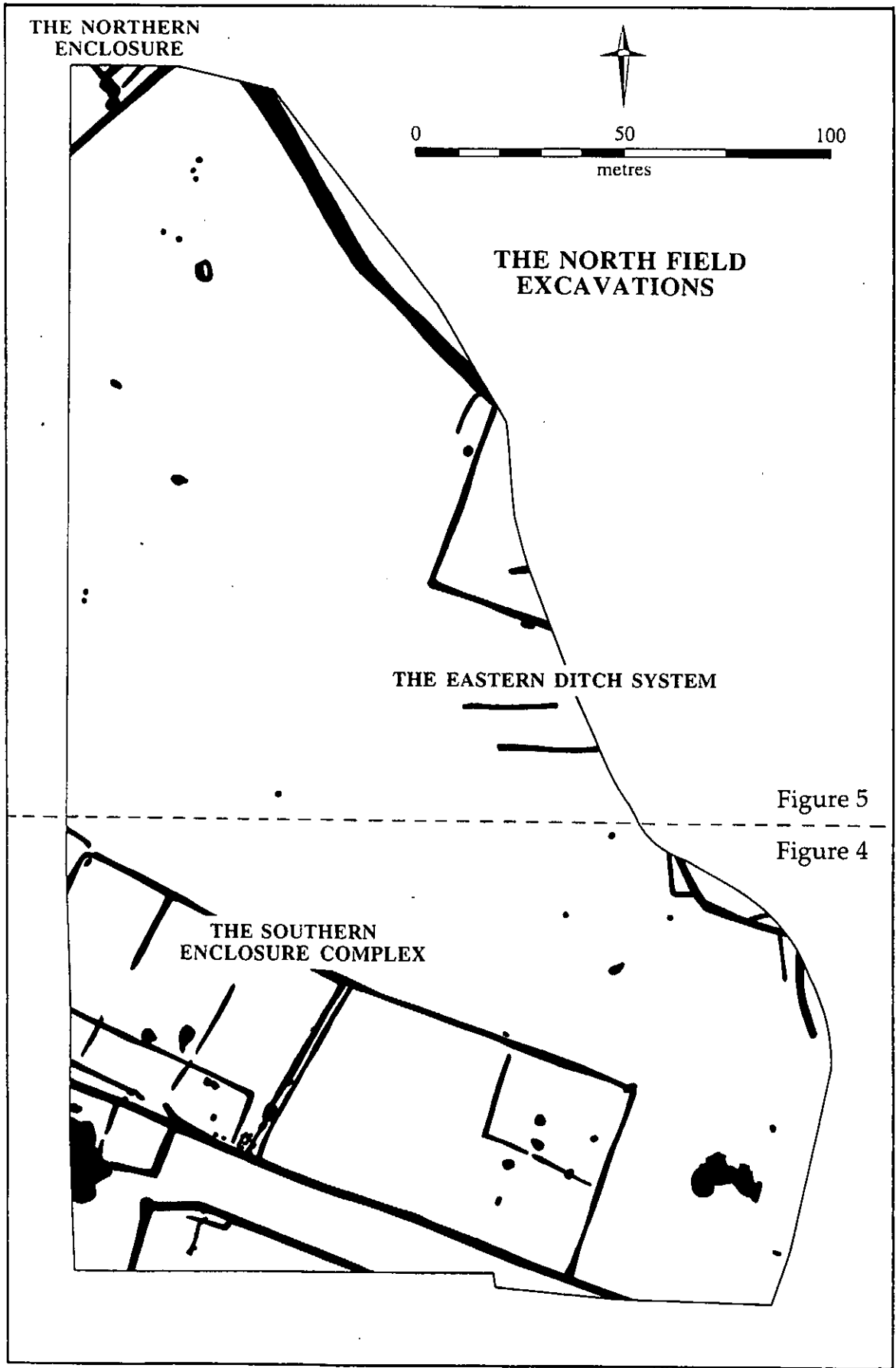


Figure 3

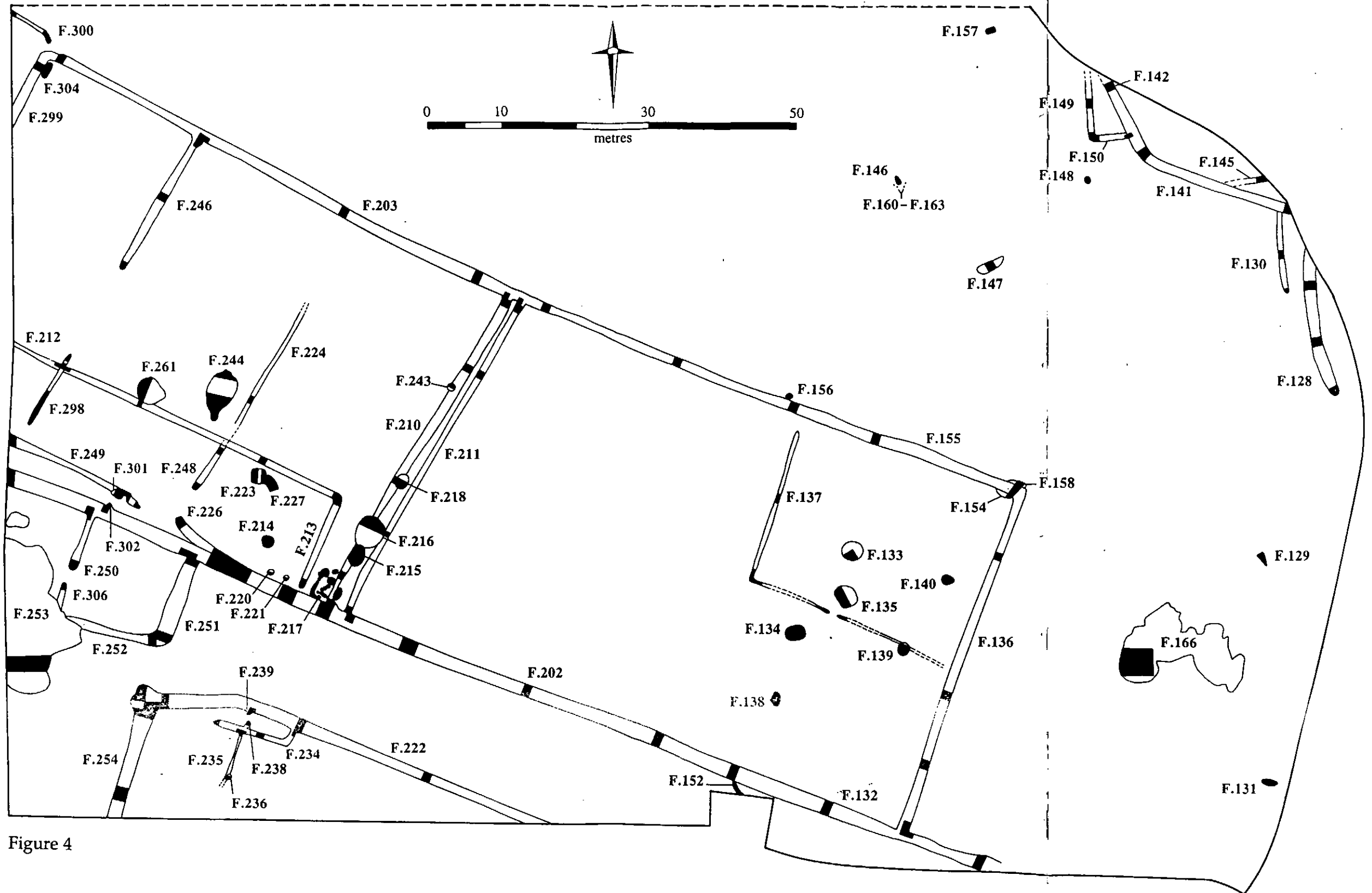


Figure 4

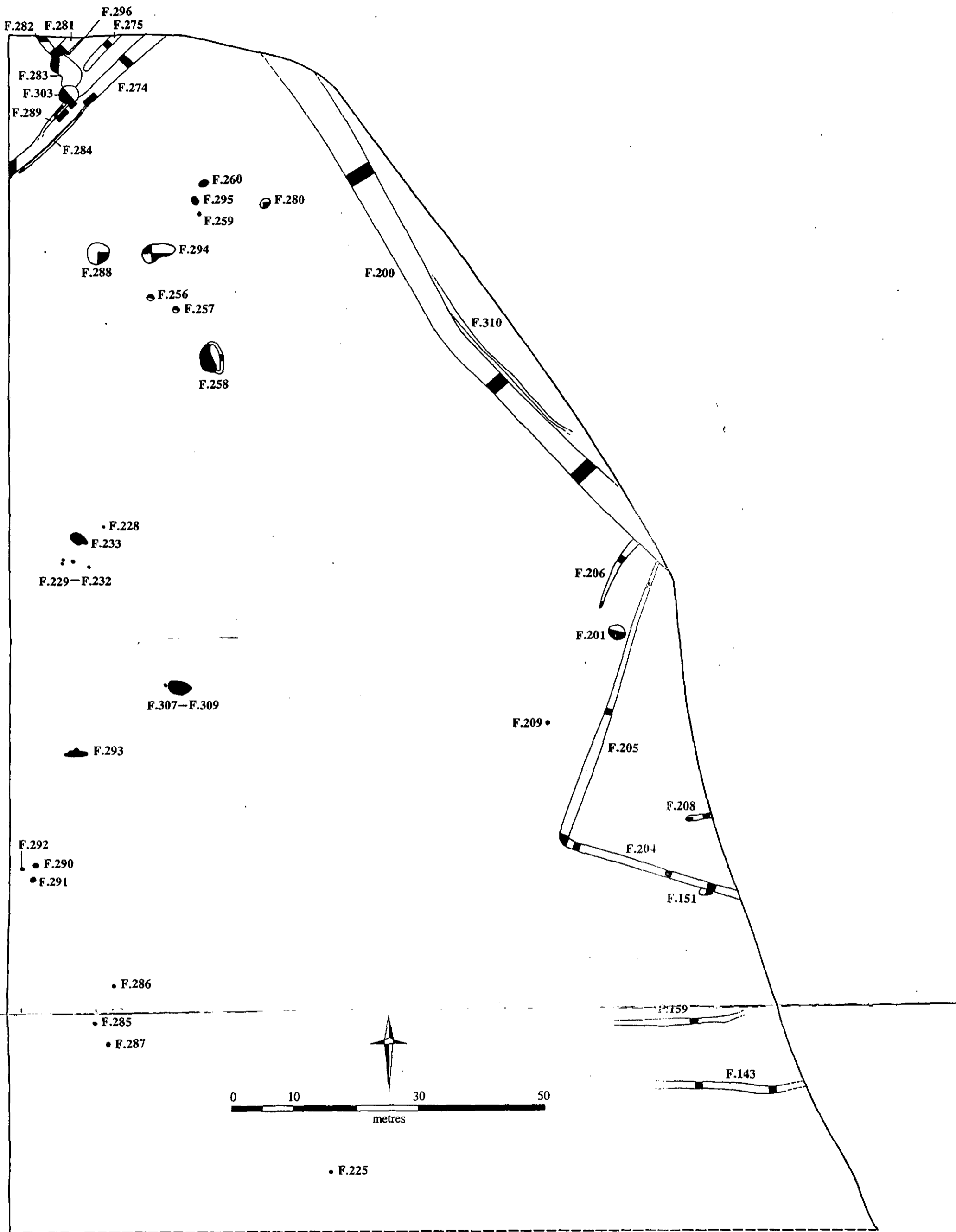


Figure 5

INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Prehistoric

Fieldwalking undertaken during the 1993 evaluation revealed very high densities of both worked and burnt flint throughout the investigation area (average of 16 pieces of worked flint per 10m²; 0-41 range). The main concentration of material lay to the south within the area of the ring-ditch/barrow (up to 112 pieces per 10m²; Evans 1993: 7-10). No particular focus of activity could be detected from the densities of worked flint within the north field, nor pre-Roman features identified in either the trial trenches or test stations during the evaluation. Unlike worked flint, which was found in all but one of the collection units, the occurrence of burnt flint was somewhat more sporadic (found in 19 of the 30 units within the field). Higher concentrations were recovered towards the western field boundary beyond the line of the 1995 excavations, in clusters on a roughly N-S alignment running parallel to a plotted palaeochannel of the Cam.

During the excavation phase, no further attempt was made to recover ploughsoil flint and thus all finds were feature-derived. The vast majority of early material recovered from prehistoric features or utilised natural hollows, (the densities of residual flint recovered from later features were relatively low). Two episodes of prehistoric activity were recognised: the Early Neolithic represented by a single feature, with later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation more widespread. Two residual sherds within Roman contexts attest to a later Bronze Age presence; the Iron Age, is represented by only an isolated pit.

Early Neolithic

Throughout the site, but concentrated in the northern and central areas, were a large number of pit-like features (fig. 7). Generally crescent-shaped, these had straight/slightly curving shallow gullies between their 'horns' which encircled areas of seemingly undisturbed natural gravel. Ranging in diameter from 2 - 5m, the wide central part of the crescent (the pit) was up to 2m across; their orientation appeared to be random. The fills were uniformly very dark brown-black fine sandy silt, varying only slightly in compaction and in the degree of their manganese staining. All were test investigated, most producing only the occasional surface flint or no finds.

The largest, F.258, produced a number of flint flakes and blades when trowel-cleaned, and was subsequently fully excavated (4.30m long, 2.00m wide and 0.35m deep; fig. 6). It contained a large quantity of Early Neolithic worked flint (831 pieces in total, including a polished flint axe) and 193 sherds of pottery from at least six separate vessels (see Pollard, Appendix 5 & 6). An homogenous flint assemblage of earlier Neolithic date (associated with plain bowl pottery of 4th millennium cal BC date), it had a typically 'domestic' character - all stages of working were present, from cortical preparation flakes and shatter fragments, to

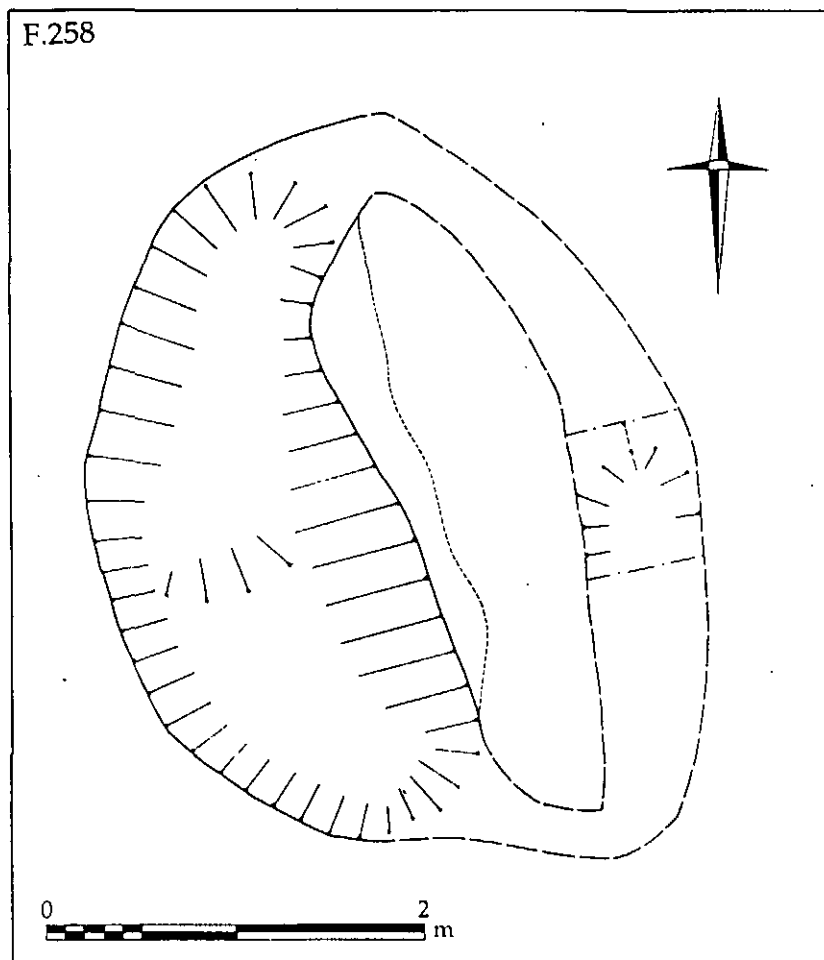


Figure 6

unretouched and rejuvenation flakes, and exhausted cores and utilised implements. Whilst chips were present in moderate numbers (accounting for 11.4% of the total), they were not sufficiently numerous to imply *in situ* working. (The present length of the axe, at 103mm, is probably half of its original size. Produced from good quality grey flint, it is one of the few pieces recovered to have been imported from outside the immediate locality.)

The 'crescent' features were undoubtedly natural in origin, probably tree-throws. The 'pit' of F.258 appeared to have been emptied, probably used as a sheltered working space and, later, a convenient dump site. The quantities of flint and pot suggest either that the pit, once created, was used over time as a midden, or that a midden heap was re-deposited within it in one deliberate act. The sequence of fills, with scattered finds of both flint and pottery across the base of the pit and into the 'horns' of the feature (with a concentration within the centre of the upper fill), would perhaps point to a combination of the two - a period of gradual accumulation/usage followed by dumped infilling. (Artefacts were recovered from throughout the pit but were concentrated in the broader central area and within the upper two thirds of the fill.)

The interior eastern edge of the pit was formed by a compact very stony silt. Left unexcavated, this 'disturbed' or re-deposited natural gravel appeared displaced by the original tree-fall. Charcoal was present, but not in sufficient quantities to suggest that the tree had been burned-out. Two similar natural features, F.147 and F.153, were excavated in the southeastern corner of the site. These also produced worked and burnt flint, though not in sufficient quantities to suggest more than a general background level of occupation debris (see below, *Natural Features*).

Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age

The only prehistoric features encountered within the southern part of the site (with the possible exception of F.242, see below) were two pits, both less than 1.00m in diameter (F.220 & F.221; 0.35 & .40m deep respectively). Circular and vertical sided, these were 'dug' features (the interfaces with the natural gravels at their sides and bases 'clear'/clean), as opposed to the many peri-glacial and tree-bole features investigated. The flint recovered was predominantly knapping debris with occasional blades and scrapers. Although indicating a later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, the quantities were not particularly great (respectively 83 and 37 pieces from the half-sections excavated; no pottery recovered). The flakes come from different cores, suggesting that the finds were 'accidentals' or within a dumped deposit rather than the result of *in situ* knapping.

This possible pairing of pits is found elsewhere: pits F.256/257 and F.290/291, located respectively within the central and northern parts of the site. Again these were circular; their sides vertical and bases 'clear', with diameters from 0.75 to 1.15m (0.20-.38m deep). Analysis of the lithic material from each group strongly supports the notion that their proximity reflects the contemporaneity of their digging and filling. Given that the site contained just six such pits within c. 3.5ha it would be surprising if this twinning was coincidental. The three pairs were of comparable depth and diameter. The smaller pits (F.220/221 & 290/291) lay 1.40m apart; the larger (F.256/257), at 3.20m distance. All contained similar flint assemblages, with F.256, F.290 and F.291 also producing pottery sherds supporting their Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age attribution.

Pits F.290/291 contained 79 and 73 pieces of worked flint; F.256/257, which were only half-sectioned, 20 and 55 respectively. Both F.290 and F.291 had (apart from the flint and pottery) degraded bone at their bases, the smaller fragments reduced to orange-brown smears. The flint from F.290/291 constitutes a typically 'domestic' assemblage, compositionally similar to that from F.220/F.221, and probably representing re-deposited midden material from a settlement source. Of the flint recovered from F.256/257, some 55% were small chips, implying knapping within the immediate vicinity.

A third, smaller pit, F.292 (lying west of F.290/291) contained smaller quantities of undiagnostic flint. Shallower and roughly-edged, the feature could be of natural origin (0.50m dia; 0.22m deep).

Towards the eastern limit of excavation were four shallow burnt flint pits. Distributed along a NW-SE alignment, from the north these were: F.209 (0.90m dia; 0.10m deep), F.157 (0.75 x 1.20m; 0.20m deep), F.148 (1.00m dia; 0.25m deep) and F.129 ('as F.148'); respectively 96m, 25m and 56m apart. (A fifth pit, identical in form and fill, recorded to the southeast in the 1994 excavations fell on roughly the same alignment; F.98, Alexander & Hill 1996. However, during Damant & Mitchell's watching brief monitoring a similar burnt feature was observed much to the west of this axis within their Area 1 - Pit 003; 1992: 4, 7, fig.3).

While there is every possibility that the pits fall on this alignment by chance, it is conceivable that they represent 'boundary activity', either peripheral to settlement or perhaps respecting a landscape feature. They lay roughly parallel to the eastern field boundary, formed by a deep drainage ditch which flows from south to north, feeding into the Cam just to the north at Whittlesford. The ditch, though obviously a modern feature, occupies a hollow as the ground level dips down from the east. Its sinuous nature suggests that it may follow a previously existing natural stream course; a glacial palaeochannel was observed during quarrying operations following this line, just to the west of the field's edge. Whilst it is unlikely that this channel would have been open and flowing during the Neolithic/Bronze Ages, the immediate area would probably have been poorly drained.

The concentrations of burnt flint recorded during the evaluation phase to the west of the site lie in an area which remains unexcavated and are, therefore, unrelated to any known features. However, they appear to roughly align with a plotted western palaeochannel of the Cam which could mirror the alignment to the east, and indicate that a series of the burnt flint scatters (and pits) lay along the edges of the 'gravel plateau'. A possibly similar pattern was recognised at the Bourn Bridge excavations on the terrace above the River Granta, a tributary of the Cam to the northeast (Pollard 1995).

The investigated burnt flint features have also been assigned a later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, the attribution being based upon their similarity to other such (dated) features excavated throughout the region (e.g. Evans & Pollard 1995; Pollard 1995). Three further features, F.288 (3.00m dia; 0.20m deep), F.293 (1.00 x 2.80m; 0.30m deep) and F.294 (3.00 x 5.00m; 0.60m deep), all apparently of natural origin, produced Neolithic or Bronze Age flint but in quantities suggesting no more than a general background level of occupation debris (12 to 24 pieces; see below, *Natural Features*). F.242, a shallow pit at the base of a Roman feature in the southern enclosure (F.227) produced a large sherd of later Bronze Age pottery. While it is possible that the feature was the base of a truncated pit, it seems more likely that the find was residual. Another residual Bronze Age sherd was recovered from the upper fill of a Roman well, F.214 (see below, *The Southern Enclosure Complex*).

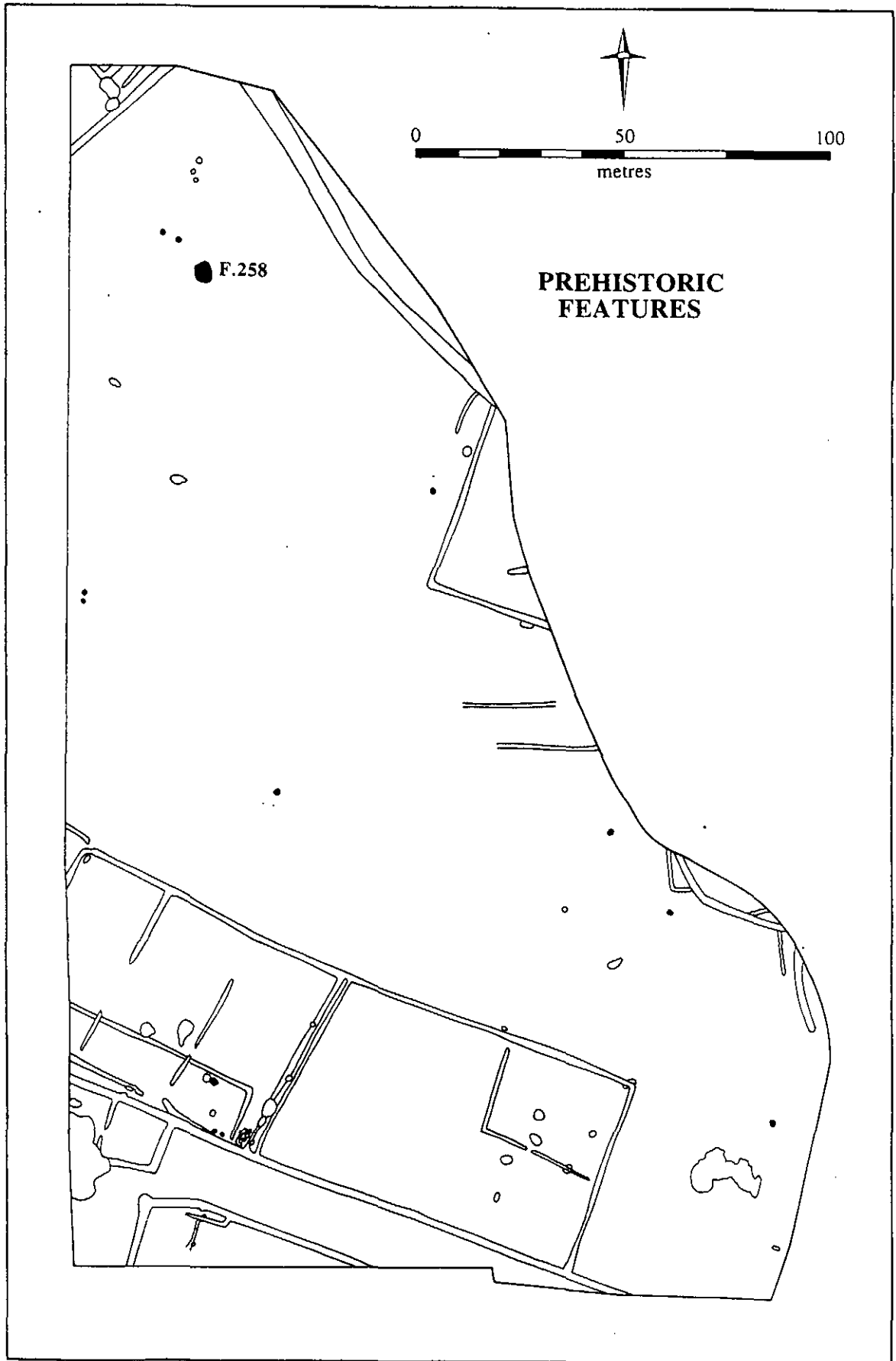


Figure 7

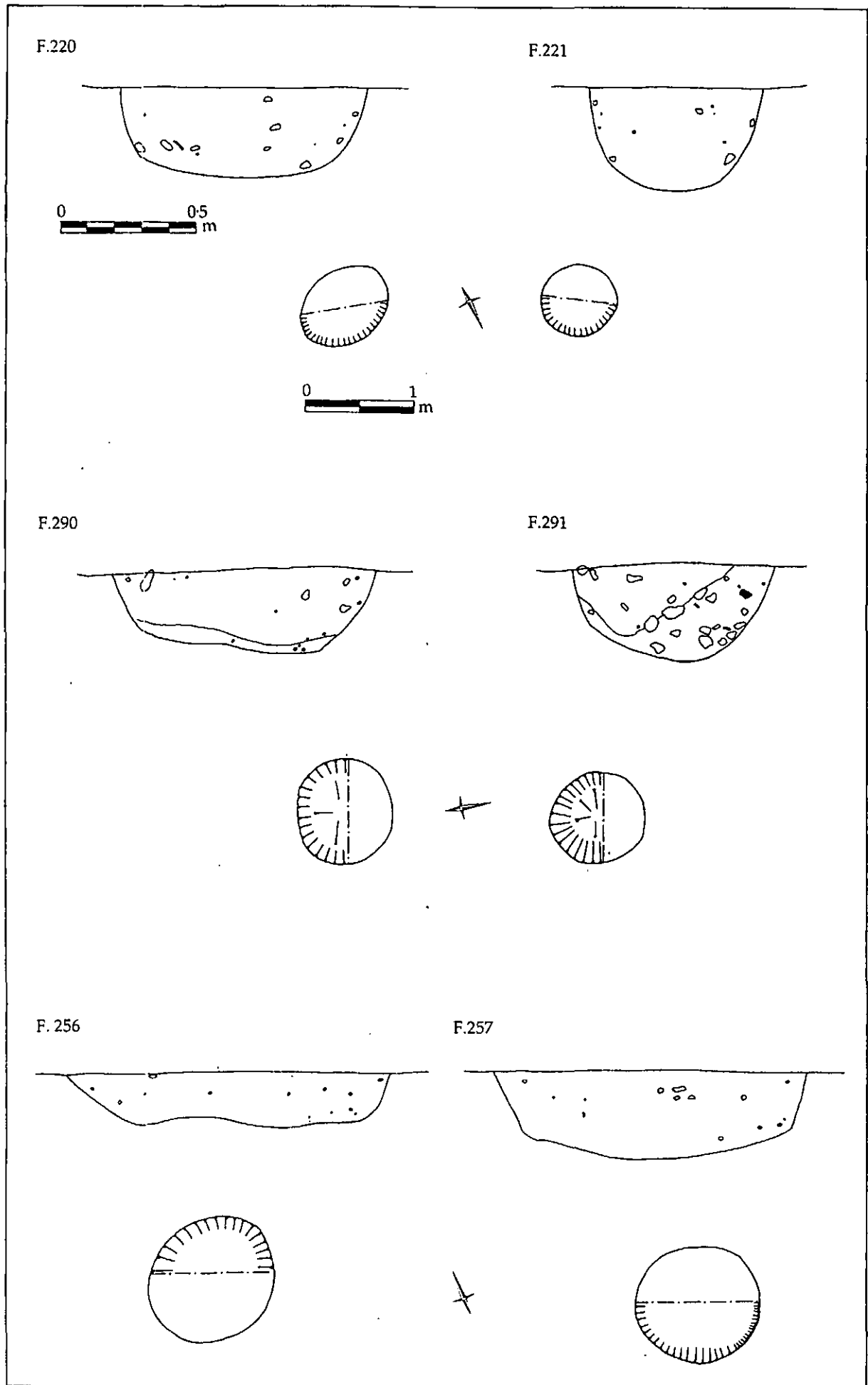


Figure 8

Iron Age

Despite proximity to the Iron Age cremation cemetery immediately to the south (Alexander & Hill 1996), the northern field produced only one possibly contemporary feature - a small pit in the central area to the north of the southern Roman enclosure (F.225 - 0.70m dia; 0.25m deep). The eight sherds of pottery recovered: three of them attributable to the pre-Roman Iron Age; the remainder, probably Collared Urn. The composition of the pit's assemblage is unusual. The Iron Age attribution of the three sherds is indisputable (includes combed ware). Yet 25 pieces of worked flint were also recovered, suggesting that the Iron Age pottery is somehow intrusive within a Bronze Age feature.

Undated features

Four features at the southeast of the site, while obviously 'dug' and not natural in origin, produced no dating evidence and cannot be phased. Their form, paucity of finds and location within the central area beyond the Roman enclosures may suggest a prehistoric origin. Truncated by a Roman enclosure ditch, only one, F.154, had any stratigraphic relationship to other dated features. A wide sub-circular pit (2.80m dia; 0.70m deep), it was filled with natural accumulations of silts and collapse/weathering of its sides, suggesting that it had stood open for some time until cut by the Roman ditch. If pre-Roman, it could perhaps be seen as a shallow well; its sides, before weathering, would have been very steep. If of Roman attribution, it may have been an isolated gravel pit dug prior to main enclosure of the area. A similar, though smaller, feature, F.131, lay to the far southeast (1.20 x 2.00; 0.50m deep).

Four narrow stakeholes (F.160-3) were found around the side of a sub-rectangular pit filled with fine sandy silt (weathered accumulation; F.146 - 0.30-.75 x 1.00m; 0.40m deep); no function can be attributed to it. A small shallow pit, F.156 (0.70 x 1.00m; 0.25m deep), lay just beyond the edge of the northernmost Southern (Roman) Enclosure Complex ditch, F.203.

Discussion

In hindsight, it is to be regretted that the pre-excavation fieldwalking within this area was limited to only a single 10m wide transect. Control of ploughsoil lithic distributions are insufficient to permit distinction of discrete scatter sites. Producing very high densities throughout, the transect results suggest that the 'plateau' was a focus for prehistoric activity and short-lived occupation episodes. However, typical of patterns of residential mobility and consistent with other recent work on lithic scatters within the region, the sub-soil traces of this activity were slight and do little to abet interpretation.

Early Neolithic - Evidence for the early Neolithic occupation of the area is limited to one excavated feature and the fieldwalking transect worked flint. While within a natural formation, the midden-type fill (i.e. vast pottery and flint assemblage) of this single feature is sufficient to indicate settlement *per se* within its immediate vicinity. Whether it represents a gradual infilling of the tree-pit - its use as a day-to-day rubbish pit - or the *en masse* re-deposition of midden material is uncertain. The type and location of the settlement is similarly unknown. Any structures associated with it may have simply been too transient to have left any mark below the level of the subsequent plough-damage. Finds from other natural, later prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman features show a relatively low background level of Neolithic flint across the site (though in small residual assemblages it can be difficult to extract Early Neolithic material from the later flintwork). The range of implements from F.258 is typical of an earlier Neolithic domestic assemblage, with a good representation of light-/heavy-duty tools for cutting, and scrapers indicating the on-site preparation of skins and hides. In character it recalls the material from contemporary sites in the wider region, such as Hurst Fen in Suffolk (Clark 1960) and Spong Hill, Norfolk (Healy 1988).

The environmental sample analysed from the pit produced one seed of cultivated flax along with seeds of oats/brome grass and the glume bases of wheat (neither emmer or spelt could be differentiated; see Stevens, Appendix 2). The flax is a rare find and may testify to the use of the plant for oil and/or fibre. However, there is no firm evidence to substantiate the cultivation of the plant early in the Neolithic (Pollard pers. comm.).

Features of near-identical form and fill to F.258 have been recorded on many sites in the region. Examples excavated on the Neolithic site at Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire (Chowne 1981) produced no finds and were thought to be possibly of peri-glacial origin (a freeze-thaw process to explain the formation of these features should perhaps not be completely ruled out). However, their interpretation as tree-throws, with the possibility of the ensuing pit utilised (perhaps with temporary shelter provided by kicked-up roots), is thought the more likely.

Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age - With no structural elements nor large midden-type deposits uncovered, evidence for later Neolithic or Bronze Age occupation does not necessarily indicate permanent settlement within the site area. The pit types identified do, however, form two distinct and homogenous groups. The isolated fire-pits at the east of the area could suggest transient camp-type settlement, each perhaps representing no more than a single episode of occupation/consumption. Their position parallel to and above the stream course/palaeochannel along the side of the site is of noteworthy. The spread of evaluation-recovered burnt flint to the west, above and parallel to a second (and probably more recent - ?contemporary) palaeochannel, indicates that a similar, and probably denser, alignment or group of pits may fall along western edge.

The series of paired pits towards the west of the site, along the plateau's crest, is more difficult to account for. As discussed above, their twinning is unlikely to have been coincidental, being seen either as individual pits attracting subsequent activity (e.g. within a clearing) or, more probably, the pair representing a single episode. The quantities of worked flint within them, with occasional pot sherds and degraded bone, suggest the deliberate burial of waste material from relatively short-lived episodes of occupation. Environmental samples taken from the pits contained fragments of charred roots and tubers, hazelnut shells and occasional glume bases, cereal grains or seeds.

Although residual material within natural, Roman and post-Roman features was scarce, a focus is evident within the features surrounding the pair at the south of the site. There, relatively large quantities of worked flint were recovered from the (later) ditch fills immediately to their south, and flint and pottery sherds from pits to their north. Compared with the pit groups to the north, the southern area has been subsequently very heavily utilised. It is probable that spreads of early surface material (here retained as residual material within the later features) could also have occurred in association with the other pit clusters. However, with no later negative features to preserve the earlier material it has been ploughed into the topsoil and subsequently removed by machining .

Iron Age - If attributable to the pre-Roman Iron Age, the single pit represents the sole activity recorded in the north field of that period. Recent excavations, at Duxford and at Bourn Bridge (Evans 1990; Evans 1994; Pollard 1995), indicate a relatively low density (paucity) of Iron Age settlement within the chalklands of Cambridgeshire. The reasons for this are as yet unclear, but the area may have been 'border' territory and hence little populated (i.e. contested). Yet, the cremation cemetery to the south attests to occupation within the vicinity, which probably lies east of the quarry site. The immediate area of the North Field would probably only have been rough pasture, thereby leaving little for the archaeological record.

Romano-British - *The Southern Enclosure Complex*

In order to facilitate presentation, the complex's constituent components have been separately entitled. Designated 'Enclosure', 'Paddock' and 'Compound', these are applied without functional prejudice, their variety simply providing a ready means of differential reference:

1) *The Droeway*

North side - Ditches F.202 /226; F.312, western extension (primary profile - F.226: 'U'-shaped, 1.00m wide with concave base 0.35-0.45m deep; F.202/312: Broad 'U'-shaped profile, c. 2.00m wide and 0.45-1.00m deep)
Southern side - Ditch F.222 (1.25-0.75m wide and 0.75m deep with stepped profile and 'squared' base)

2) *Enclosure*

North side - Ditch F.212 ('U'-shaped profile, 1.00m across; 0.30m deep)
East side - Ditch F.213 (north of Droeway; broad 'V'-shaped profile, 1.00m across and 0.45m deep); F.235 /238 (south of Droeway; 'U'-shaped profile, 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep)

3) *The Eastern Paddock*

Southern side - Ditch F.202 (north Droeway ditch, see above)
East side - Ditch F.136 (maximum width 1.50m)
North side - Ditch F.203 (155; Broad 'V'-shaped profile, 1-1.50m wide; 0.35-0.60m deep)
West side - Ditch F.211 ('V'-shaped profile, 1.00m wide and 0.30m deep)

4) *The Western Paddock*

Southern side - F.249 (and north Droeway ditch F.226; later, F.312; F.249: broad 'U'-shaped profile, 0.50-1.25m wide and 0.30m deep)
East side - Ditch F.210 (broad 'U'-shaped profile, 1.00m wide and 0.30m deep)
North side - Ditch F.203 (155; see above)
West side - Ditch F.299 ('U'-shaped profile, 1.25m wide; concave/flat base, 0.35m deep)
Internal (N-S) ditches: East - F.224/248 (0.50-1.00m wide, with a flat base 0.10m deep);
West - F.246/298 (F.246 - 'U'-shaped profile 1.40m wide, with concave base 0.30m deep; F.298 - 0.50m wide with flat base 0.05m deep).

5) *Enclosure*

West side - Ditch F.299 (Western Paddock, see above)
North side - Ditch F.300 (concave profile; 0.70m wide and 0.35m deep)
South side - Ditch F.312 (north Droeway ditch - presumed relationship - see above)

6) *The Southwestern Compound*

North side - Ditch F.202 (north Droeway ditch, see above)
East side - Ditch F.254 (up to 2.25m wide with steep sides and a narrow concave/'slotted' base, 1.00m deep)

7) *Structure I - F.217 (et al; see below)*

8) *Enclosure*

North side - Droeway Ditch F.312 (see above)
East side - Ditch F.251 ('V'-shaped profile, up to 2.25m across and 0.85m deep)
South side - Ditch F.252 ('V'-shaped profile, up to 1.25m across and 0.60m deep)
West side - Ditches F.250 /306 (north length - F.250: 0.75-1.25m wide and 0.33m deep;
south - F.306: 0.50m wide and 0.08m deep)

9) *Enclosure*

Eastern and southern sides - Ditch F.234 ('U'-shaped profile, up to 0.50m across and 0.25m deep)

10) *Enclosure*

East side - Ditch F.136 (Eastern Paddock boundary, see above)

North side - Ditch F.155 (Eastern Paddock boundary, see above)

Western and southern side - Ditch F.137 (0.45-.60m wide; 0.18m deep with a flattish base)

The Logic of Enclosure

With many of its linear components evidently long maintained or only locally altered (abandoned/backfilled), it is impossible to be certain which features were directly contemporary. It would, therefore, be inappropriate to present any kind of absolute phasing system. Focusing upon general principles of layout and land-use, 'a growth model' is instead offered (fig. 9). Whilst Roman numeral prefixes denote broad phase developments, their application should be understood as being suitably provisional.

1) *The Droveway* - Its original western end would appear to have been marked by the terminal of F.226 (later superseded/re-cut by a western extension of the northern ditch), whose splayed plan mirrors the layout of the southern ditch, F.222. Generally, 14m across, its western end fanned out to 24m. There was no difference in the level of the ground surface, and no direct evidence for banks, within or without the droveway ditches. However, possible slumped bank material (re-deposited natural gravel), entering from the exterior northern side, was apparent within excavated sections of the northern ditch along its eastern length (F.202).

The fills of both ditches produced abraded pottery of the 1st and 2nd centuries, with one sherd of Saxon from the upper fill of the deep butt end of F.222. Consistently low quantities of pottery were recovered from both F.202 (132) and F.222, with the exception of a metre section at the east of F.202 (132) in which 117 sherds were collected. (Towards the east of Ditch F.202/226 (132), just within the limit of excavation, a shallow gully, F.152, fed into, or was more probably truncated by the southern edge of the droveway ditch. No finds were recovered from its fill and the gully did not extend to the north of the ditch; a pre-Roman attribution cannot therefore be dismissed).

Enclosure 2 - The existence and western termination of the droveway across the terrace presupposes 'something' at its western end. Its only immediate ('early') destination would seem to have been this rectangular enclosure, which straddles and respects the end of the drove (F.213 butt ended 0.50m shy of its northern ditch). Although directly continuing the line of the eastern return of the enclosure north of the drove, Ditch F.235/238 in the southeast is much less regular and substantial (F.238, its presumed butt end, widened and deepened

considerably). There must be an element of doubt, therefore, whether the enclosure extended south of the droveway. Seven sherds of 2nd century date were recovered from F.235.

Just beyond the terminal of the southeastern length of ditch (F.235/238), an ovoid pit, possibly a posthole (F.239: 0.75m diameter; 0.12m deep), appeared to conjoin the southern droveway ditch. Whilst possibly marking this enclosure's interrelationship with the drove, it alternatively may have been associated with Enclosure 9 (see below).

Even if restricting discussion of the enclosure to its north-of-drove portion, it is difficult to envisage its 'independent' existence (as opposed to being an internal component within a larger enclosure). Nevertheless, it is the fact that the internal (sub-)division ditches within the Western Paddock definitely truncated its northern boundary and, albeit ambiguous, the continuation of the eastern return (F.213) south of the drove (as F.235/238) that points to it as a 'discrete' enclosure. Otherwise, the only feasible explanation for its layout would be to propose that the eastern return somehow partially enclosed the western side of Structure I. This, however, would create a very 'awkward' spatial relationship between it and the Western Paddock (previous to its internal sub-division).

II) *The Eastern and Western Paddocks* - Laid out on the northern side of the drove, these collectively extended over 50 x 146m. Obviously a contemporary 'pair', they had a common/continuous northern boundary (F.203/155) and enclosed comparable areas: Eastern (interior), 3648sqm (72-80 x 48m); Western (interior), 3264sqm (67-9 x 48m). All the main ditches produced abraded ceramics from the 1st and 2nd centuries, with the exception of F.249 which also contained later 3rd and 4th century material. Apart from the short length of F.299, from which no finds were recovered, all the ditches produced low levels of finds. However, one segment within F.203 (155) contained 64 sherds, 49 of which appeared to form a 'fieldwalked' collection of abraded Samian (almost all from separate vessels). The deliberate collection of fine ware is an occurrence more normally associated with Saxon activity. This assemblage could be seen as an example of similar 'selection' during the later Roman times, or more probably a Saxon collection dumped into a Roman earthwork feature (the finds were recovered from the machine bucket during the removal of the underlying gravel around the ditch, hence no accurate level can be given for their provenance within the fill).

The Western Paddock was sub-divided by two ditches, partitioning it into three equal-distant plots c. 22m wide (F.223/224 & F.246/298); these cut across the line of the primary enclosure (2). Of the western ditches, F.246 produced pottery of the 3rd-4th centuries and, F.298, that of the 2nd (both at relatively low densities); of the eastern, abraded 2nd and 3rd century pottery was recovered from Ditch F.248, and a small iron knife blade of Roman or possibly Saxon date was found in F.224. The eastern of these internal ditches aligned with the original northwestern terminal of the droveway (F.226), butt ending 4.00m short of it to leave entrance into the eastern 'plot'. This relationship obviously indicates that

the original form of the droveway was maintained when the 'paddocks' were laid-out and first used. There was an 'interruption' of 5.00m between the northwestern droveway terminal and the southern boundary of the Western Paddock (F.249). Providing entrance from the south, while from this it is logical to presume the existence of a *Southwestern Compound* ('6'; see below), it is impossible to determine whether its western boundary (F.254) was then laid-out south from the droveway, or if this was later (i.e. it is conceivable that the southwestern side of Enclosure 2 was maintained south of the drove).

The two paddocks did not appear to share a central divisional boundary. Their 'divide' was 'doubled' with a 0.70-1.80m gap between the east side of the western (F.210) and the western boundary of the eastern (F.211). Access to this between-ditch 'corridor' was blocked (Ditches F.202 in the south; F.203 (155), north), and it is too narrow for any kind of drove. Whilst a hedge-line may have run between the two, it is equally possible that their relationship was successive. Pitting along the line of the westernmost (F.210), into and across the width of the 'corridor', could suggest that it was replaced by the eastern (F.211). Both ditches produced low levels of abraded ceramics of the 1st and 2nd century date.

III) *The Droveway* - The northern ditch-line was extended west (F.312), cutting off direct access into the Western Paddock. It ran south of the original southern paddock boundary (F.249), making it redundant. (This re-cutting of the northern drove boundary would presumably have also eradicated any entranceway into the Eastern Paddock.)

Enclosure 5 - The extension of the northern drove ditch may well have related to developments within the larger enclosure complex to the west. The layout of Ditch F.300, clearly respecting (coming off of/post-dating) the northwestern corner of the Western Paddock, may well have been broadly contemporary. It marks the northern side of slightly trapezoidal-shaped plot (visible on aerial photographs), whose enclosure appears as an in-fill between the Western Paddock and another (cropmark) compound further to the west. Falling within the interior of this enclosure, evidence of settlement *per se* was recovered from Evaluation Trench X (e.g. F.66 roundhouse gully and Well F.71; Ditch F.300 was dug as F.72 within the evaluation trench).

The extension of the northern droveway ditch would certainly imply enclosure to the southwest and the existence, at least by then, of the *Southwestern Compound* ('6'). Reflecting its secondary status, its southeastern boundary (F.254) truncated the basal fills within the southwestern droveway terminal. A low density of abraded 1st-2nd century ceramics were recovered from F.254, with several sherds of Saxon pottery retrieved from its upper profile (at droveway junction).

Truncating the eastern ditch of the Western Paddock, *Structure I* ('7') may have regulated access into the western system (see below).

Enclosure 8 - Of sub-square plan (13 x 13m), this extended from the re-cut northern driveway ditch (F.251 truncated the basal 0.20m of fill in F.312). Whilst situated to span the former entranceway into the Western Paddock and with a 1.70m wide entrance gap on its western side, this enclosure may not have been 'discrete' inasmuch as its southern side corresponded with the line of a ditch excavated 50m to the west in Evaluation Trench X (F.60). Nevertheless, the Enclosure 8 ditches are substantially larger and it may have been inserted either extending or re-cutting the F.60 line (1.00m wide; 0.24m deep).

No interior features were recovered from within this (sub-)enclosure and deposition within its flanking ditches would not distinguish it by function (e.g. house or industrial compound; 5-50 sherds were recovered from each metre segment excavated). Whilst the insertion of this enclosure into the former 'mouth' of the driveway would have restricted E-W movement, there would still have been a 5.00m wide gap between its southeastern corner and the southwestern driveway terminal.

Enclosure 9 - Only one ditch element would not be obviously accounted for in this development model - F.234. With its eastern ditch aligned with the western boundary of the Eastern Paddock, the minor right-angle/cornered ditch extended south for 2.00m from the southern driveway ditch, returning west for 10.00m where it truncated the southwestern side of Enclosure 2 (F.235). Intensively sought, it did not continue across the width of the drove to conjoin the Eastern Paddock ditch (F.211) and, therefore, it must have been discrete ('9'). Demarcating an area of 20sqm on the southern side of the drove (west side open), it falls opposite Structure I and could perhaps have had a related function, with which posthole F.239 (Enclosure 2) may have been associated (i.e. enclosed an otherwise 'unrecovered' structure - unlikely to have been a stock pen).

Enclosure 10 - Evidence of large-scale pitting was found within the area of the two paddocks (not extending into or south of the driveway). Truncating a backfilled well (F.139, see below), a minor sub-square gully/ditch enclosure ('10'; 24 x 30m), with a 1.20m wide entranceway on its southern side, had been inserted into the northeastern corner of the Eastern Paddock. That its western boundary terminated 2.00m shy of the northern Eastern Paddock ditch (presumably in relationship to the latter's internal upcast bank), would support the enclosure's non-(Paddock-)primary status.

The pottery recovered from the ditch-truncated well dates to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries, and was very abraded material. Its fills, with silting at the base, and then deliberate backfilling followed by further accumulated silting at the upper level, suggests that it had been dis-used for some time before its truncation. The ditch's fill, a dark grey-brown silty loam, was noticeably different to the compact, paler, sandy silts within the majority of the Roman features. With a maximum depth of 0.18m in the southwest corner, but to the north and east little more than 0.05m, suggests it has been heavily truncated. The available evidence points to the ditch having been cut in the very late Roman period or, possibly even, in post-Roman times.

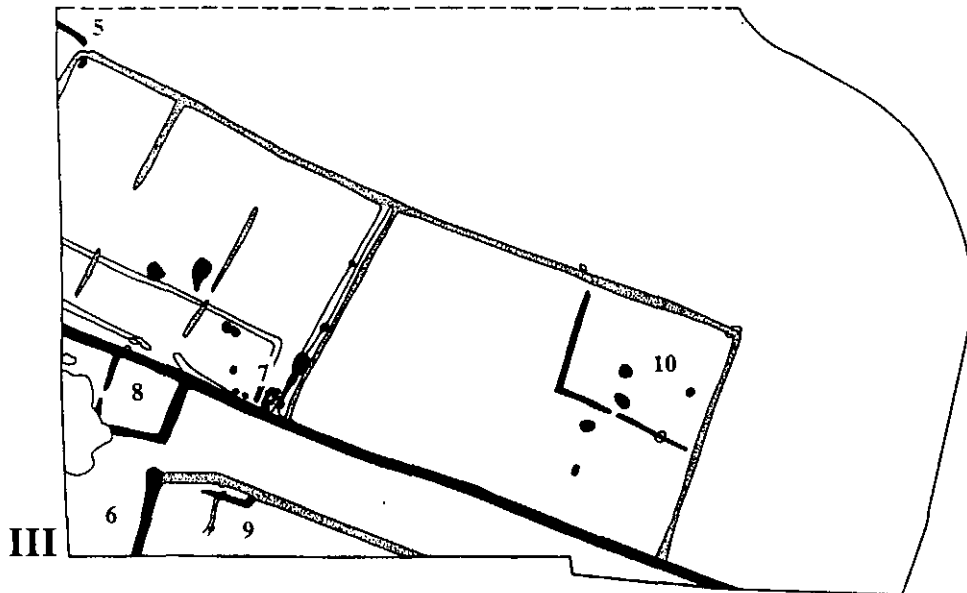
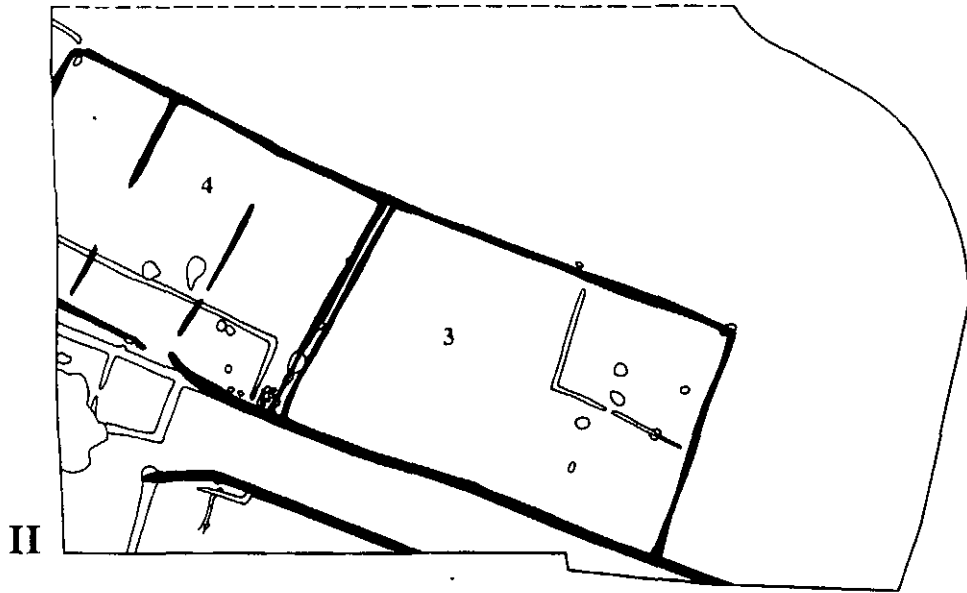
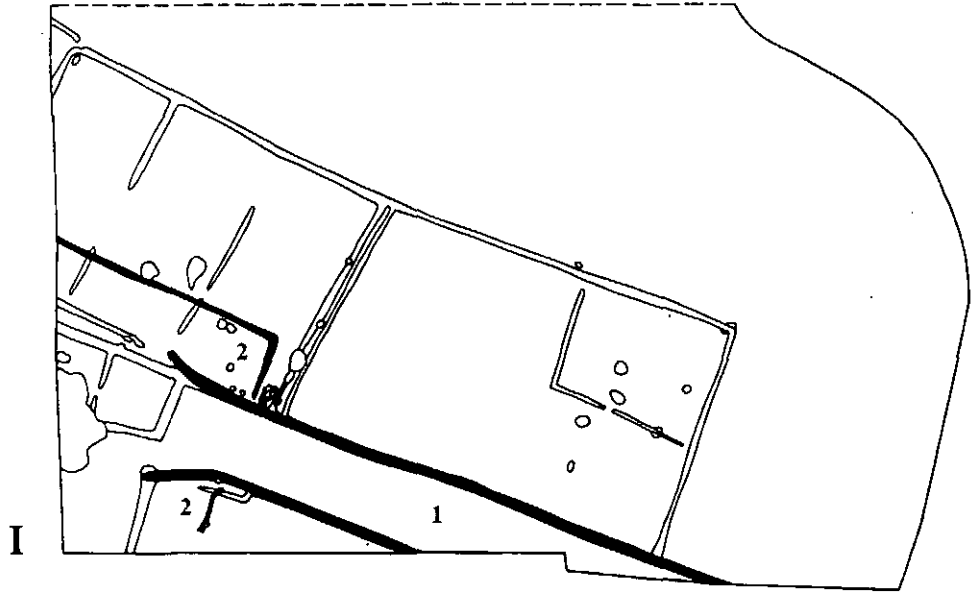


Figure 9

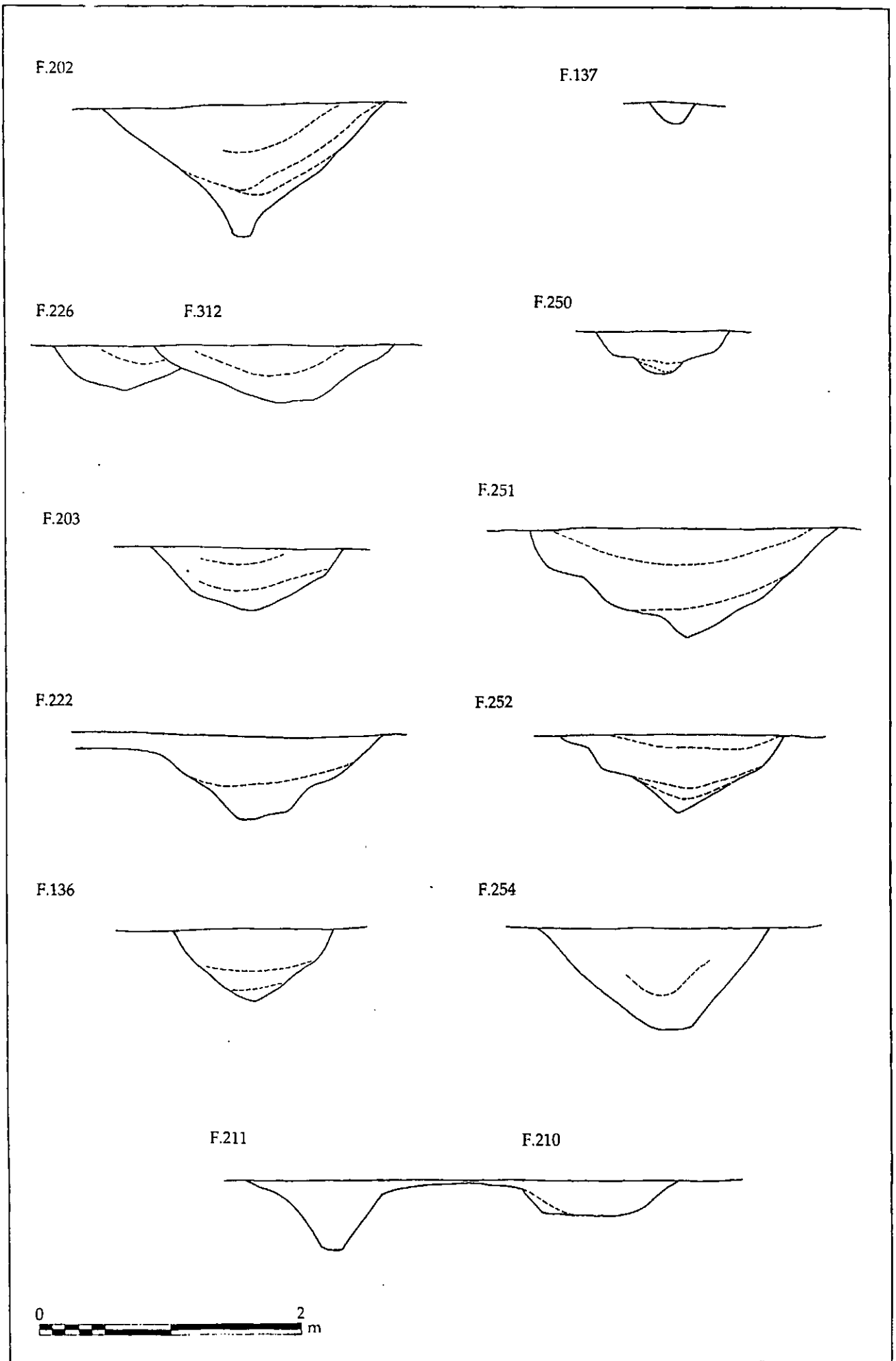
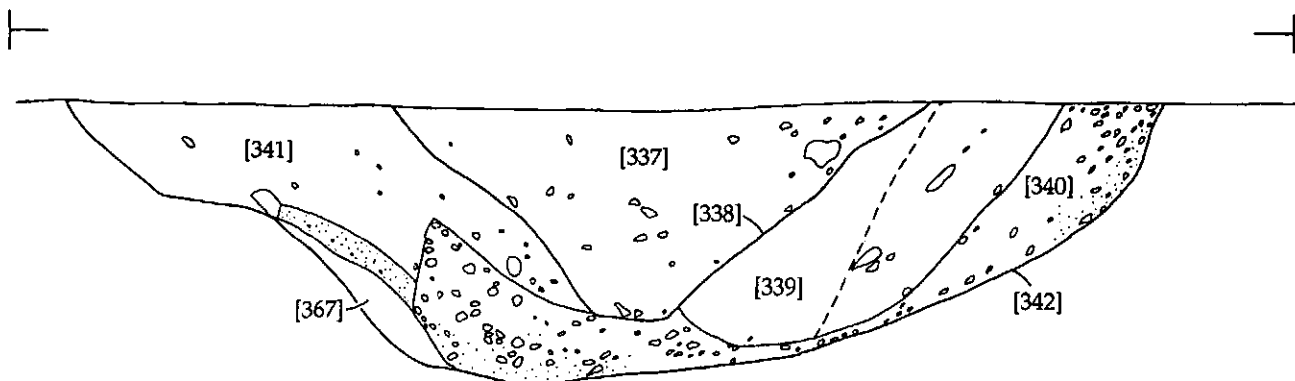
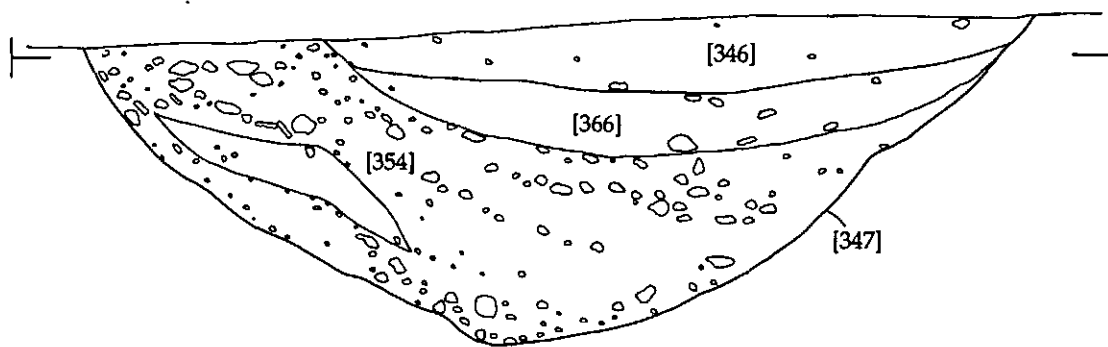


Figure 10

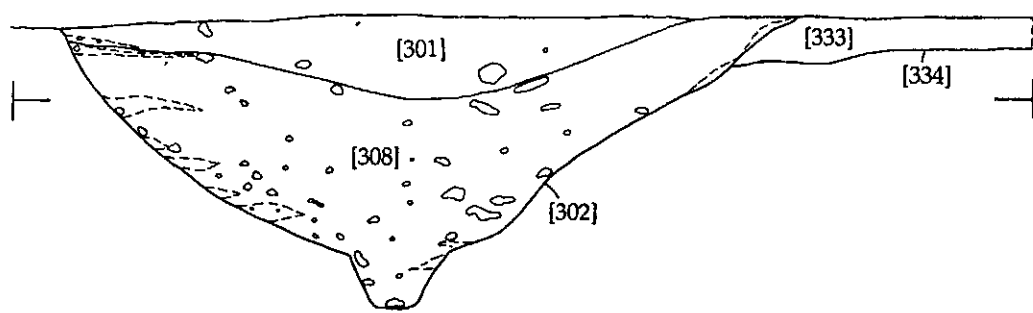
F.154: East Facing Section



F.132: West Facing Section



F.132 and 152: West Facing Section



Datum 25.00m OD. throughout



Figure 11

Discrete Features

With the exception of an isolated inhumation at its northwestern boundary, discrete features were concentrated at the southeastern quarter of the Western Paddock and the east third of the eastern. A cluster of pits, postholes and beam slots, in the corner of the Western Paddock, formed a small but relatively complex structure (I). Both 'paddocks' contained, towards their eastern sides, wells of similar size and depth (respectively F.214 and F.139). Two possible storage pits in the western were the only other features with any conceivable 'structural' component; the majority, apparently random gravel and rubbish pits.

All the larger features within the Western Paddock, and the well in the eastern, produced quantities of pottery indicating deliberate backfilling and/or rubbish dumping (all very abraded). The wells also contained large waterworn cobbles and quernstones. As with the ditches, the density of finds recovered from pit features increased markedly (as did the density of features themselves) towards the southwest.

Structure I

Within the southeastern corner of the Western Paddock, two terrace cuts *c.* 4.60m apart and approximately 3.80m in length (aligned SW - NE), created a roughly squared depression (0.15-20m deep), truncating Ditch F.210. Within it a number of pits, postholes and beam slots were excavated and the 'whole' probably represents several phases within the one minor structure (fig. 12). Neatly placed at the southern end of the 'corridor' between Ditches F.213 and F.211, the structure lies hard up against the northern edge of the driveway. Above all the internal features (within the depression created by the terrace cuts) lay [515]; none of the features were seen to cut through this layer and the large quantity of stone and pottery it contained suggests dumped infilling following destruction/disuse of the structure. Whilst the stone, in parts, was packed/dumped densely enough to have initially been thought a wall, there was no evidence of (*in situ*) mortaring. Although the bulk were irregular waterworn 'boulders', several quern/mill stone fragments were also present (see Laurie, Appendix 9.vi).

With the exception of Posthole F.268 (which cut the fills of postholes to either side), the features did not intercut and no the stratigraphic relationships occurred between them. Two laterally cut the fill of Ditch F.210 which ran parallel to, and within, the structure on its eastern side (all features were fully excavated). All the individual features from which datable finds were recovered produced abraded ceramics from the 1st and 2nd centuries, with the exception of Posthole F.269 which (with the covering layer [515]) also produced pottery of the 3rd and 4th centuries. The quantity of pottery recovered from within the features themselves was relatively low, only 39 sherds in total; sealing layer [515], some 400 sherds (see Going, Appendix 7).

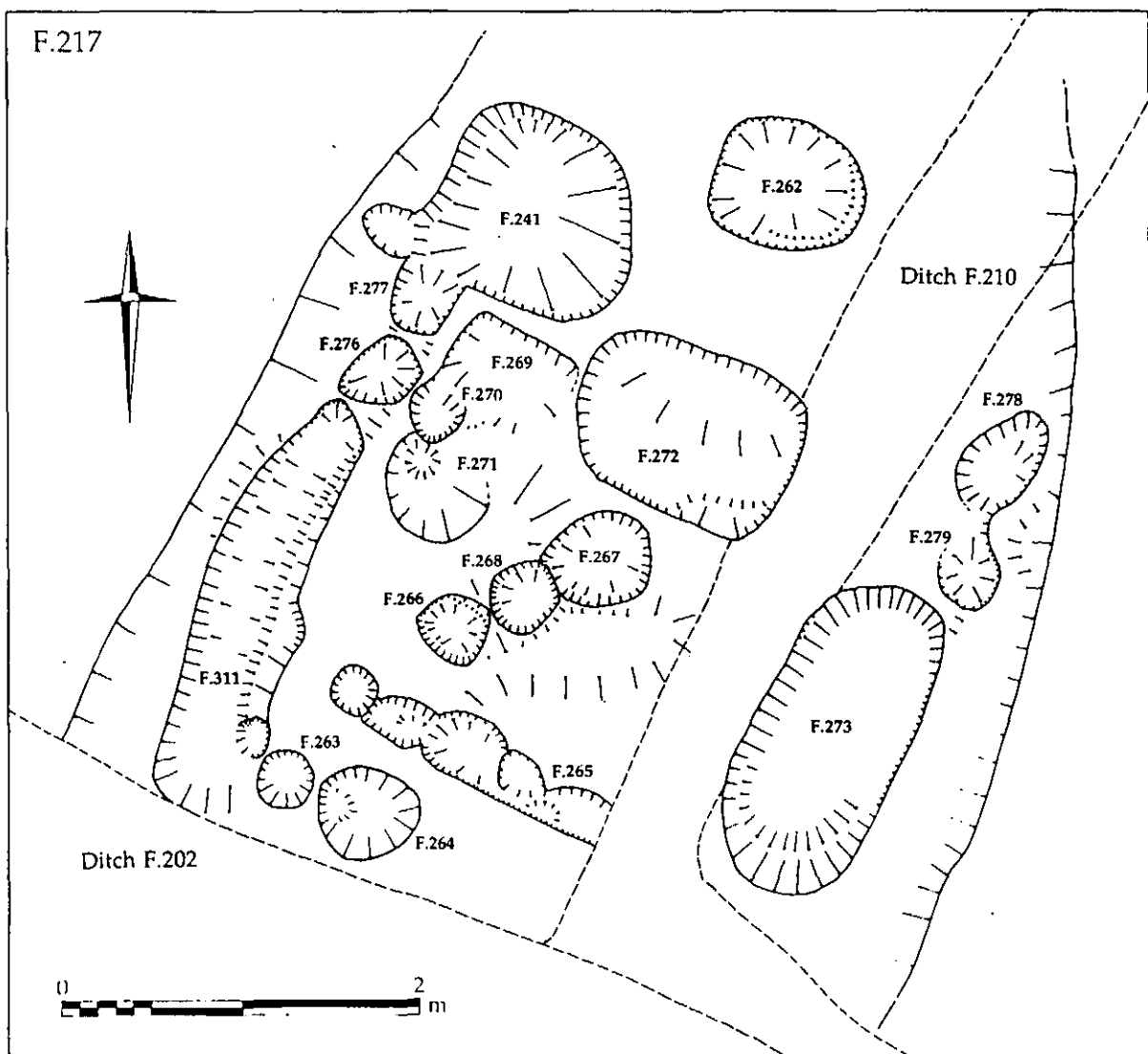


Figure 12

Three large steep-sided postholes, or pits lay in an apparently random configuration to the northern side of the area:

- F.241 - Sub-circular (1.10m diameter); 0.45m deep
- F.262 - Sub-square (0.34 x .34); 0.13m deep
- F.272 - Sub-rectangular (0.95 x 1.20m); 0.15m deep.

Between the two largest of these pits (south of F.241 and west of F.272) the truncated bases of three possible further postholes (were found cut into an area of disturbed natural:

- F.269 - Sub-square (0.45 x .45); 0.10m deep
- F.270 - Sub-circular (0.40m diameter); 0.20m deep
- F.271 - Sub-circular (c. 0.60m diameter); 0.12m deep.

Running south from the western side of Pit F.241, at the base of the western terrace cut [712], the western side of the structure was marked by a line of two postholes and a narrow beam slot:

- F.276 - Sub-square posthole (0.45 x .435m); 0.22m deep
- F.277 - Sub-square posthole (0.40 x .40m); 0.17m deep
- F.311 - 2.40m long beam slot (0.50m wide); 0.30m deep.

At the southern end of the beam slot, just inside the northern edge of Ditch F.202/226, were two circular postholes:

- F.263 - Circular (0.34m diameter); 0.13m deep
- F.264 - Circular (0.54m diameter); 0.16m deep.

To the north of these lay a line of five intercutting sub-circular postholes (collectively F.265):

- 1) Diameter 0.25m; depth 0.16m; rounded base
- 2) Diameter 0.35m; depth 0.14m; uneven flat base
- 3) Diameter 0.35m; depth 0.22m; rounded base
- 4) Diameter 0.40m; depth 0.25m; rounded base
- 5) Diameter 0.40m; depth 0.10m; uneven flat base.

At the base of the eastern terrace cut [713] a large sub-rectangular pit, F.273 (0.80 x 1.80; 0.35m deep), and two possible postholes, F.278 and F.279, marked the eastern side of the structure (F.278: ovoid, 0.38 x .60m; F.279: 0.40m diameter; respectively 0.17 & 0.22m deep). A line of three postholes ran diagonally southwest to northeast across the centre of the 'terraced' area', the middle (F.268) cutting the outer two:

- F.266 - Sub-circular (0.40m diameter); 0.25m deep
- F.267 - Circular (0.60m diameter); 0.25m deep
- F.268 - Sub-circular (0.50m diameter); 0.30m deep.

Considerable ambiguity surrounds the interpretation of this feature complex. Semi-subterranean/'terraced' and including components which truncate the main enclosure system ditch, the possibility that it dates to post-Roman times has been fully explored. Yet, whilst having affinities to Saxon sunken feature buildings, its Roman attribution seems definite.

Similarly, although including unequivocal structure elements, it makes little obvious structural 'sense' and, by default, a 'special function' must be presumed. Deriving from the sealing layer [515], there is no reason to directly associate the quantities of stone recovered with the building - there also occur in comparable densities within the other late Roman backfill deposits around the site. Given this, and the absence of *in situ* bonding, there seems no reason to envisage a masonry-footed structure - the stones appear to derive from off-site (or at least beyond the limits of excavation). Given these factors and its intra-enclosure situation, the structure probably marked and may have controlled access into the western settlement - in effect, a gatehouse (?toll booth).

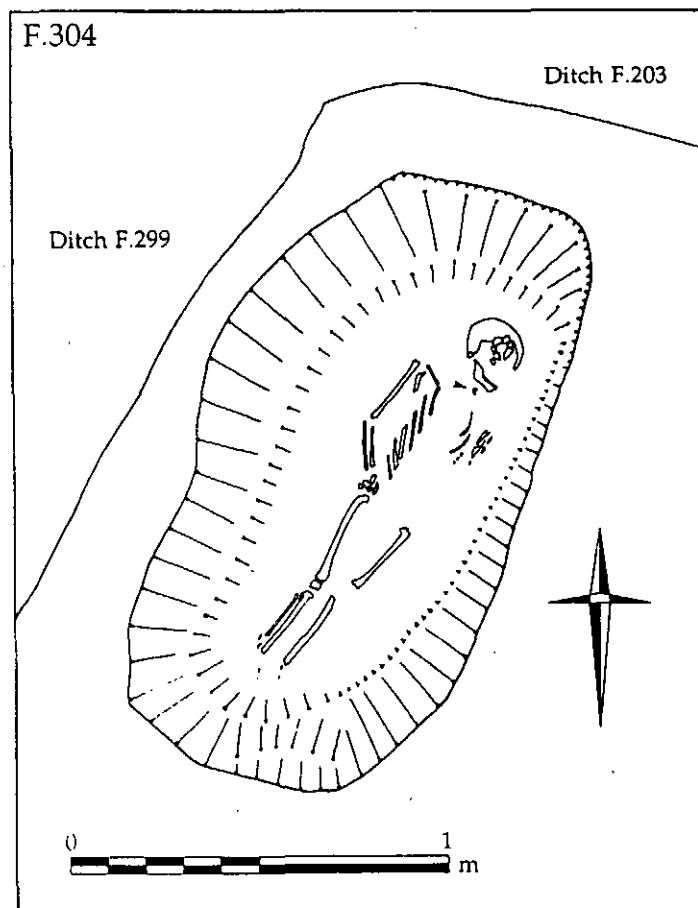
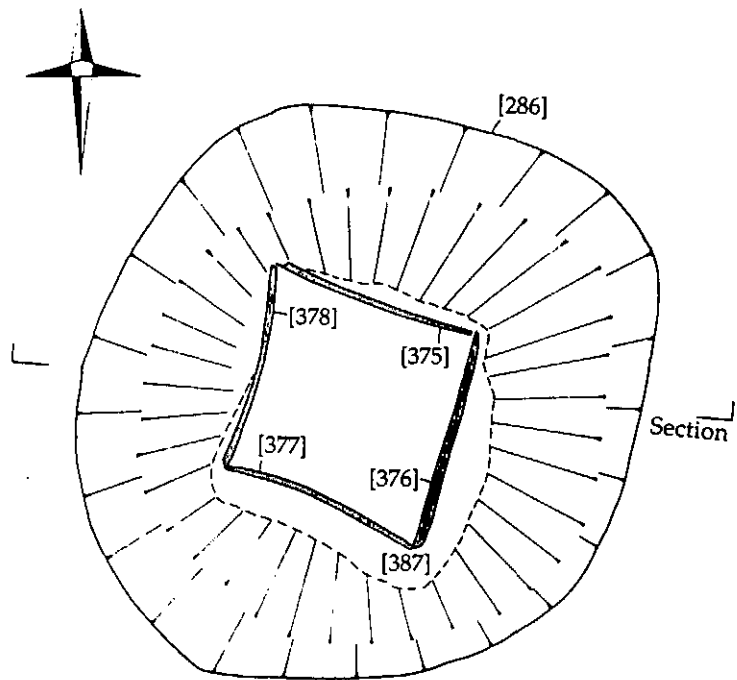


Figure 13

The Inhumation

At the northwest corner of the Western Paddock, aligned NE-SW, and tucked tight against the interior edges of Ditches F.299 and F.203, a grave cut contained the skeleton of a child approximately 1.13m in length/height (F.304, cut 0.90 x 1.70m, 0.40m deep; see Dodwell, Appendix 4). The skull lay to the north on its left side facing east. The skeleton, on its back, was relatively well-preserved, though some of the smaller bones (hands, feet and ribs) had decayed. The upper right-hand side of the skull was badly damaged. There were no grave goods associated with the body, nor evidence that it had been contained within a casket. Isolated non-cemetery related inhumations within, or to the side of, field ditches in Romano-British enclosure systems are not uncommon during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD; the practice more frequent amongst rural populations (Macaulay 1995; Philpott 1991). Placed at the outer limit of the enclosure, the burial may have had some boundary-marking element inherent within it.

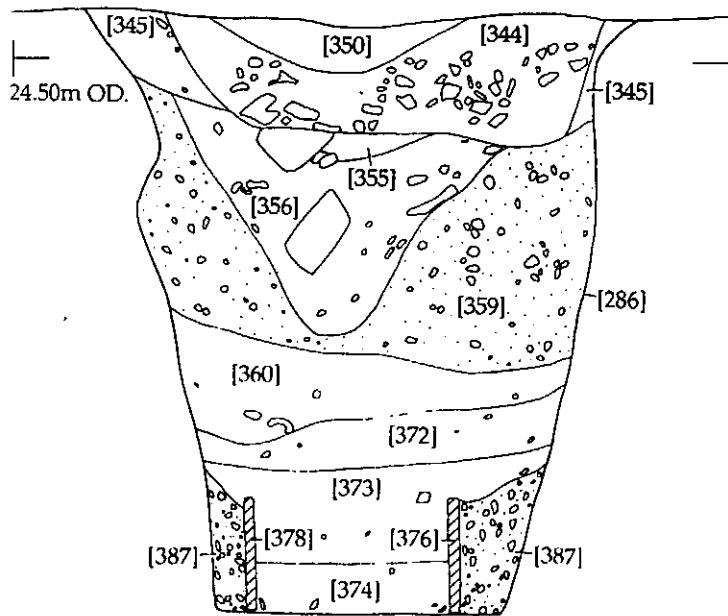
To the southeast in the area of the site excavated in 1994 ('The Mid-Field Arm'; Alexander & Hill 1996) were three more inhumations, all of adults and aligned east-northeast/west-southwest. They aligned N-S and cut either between or into the ditches of the Iron Age ring-ditch burials. It is assumed that they are of the Roman period rather than Iron Age and attest to continuity/re-use of the burial ground. One of the skeletons had an enamelled copper ring on a finger of its left hand, broadly datable to the late 1st or 2nd centuries; no other grave goods or datable pottery were present.



F.139



South Facing Section



F.139

Figure 14

Wells

A well, **F.214** (1.80m diameter), lay to the north of Ditch F.202/226 within the Western Paddock. Sunk into the gravel natural to a depth of 2.00m, its base was timber-lined with a rectangular box of (probable) oak planks approximately 0.35m wide/high ('box' 0.52 x .60m). The planks were not jointed in any way, but wedged against each other and self-supporting. Only the lower two fills ([562-3]), confined within the wooden lining, were naturally accumulated silts. The bulk of the fill ([445] & [549]) was deliberate backfilling and contained large quantities of abraded 1st-2nd century pottery (261 sherds in total), as well as quernstone fragments and large waterworn stones.

Centrally placed (N-S) within the Eastern Paddock, Well **F.139** had been sunk to a depth of some 1.60m (fig. 14). Similar in both size and construction to that in the western it was, however, slightly shallower and narrower at its base and surface level (1.50m diameter tapering to 0.75m). The base was wood-lined with four interlocking dovetail-jointed planks forming a box 0.50m across (0.30m high). The lower 0.70m of its fill consisted of 'silting' with sand and gravel weathering from the sides. The secondary fill was a deliberate gravelly infilling, almost devoid of finds; the upper fill represented a further episode of sand/silt accumulation. From the lower fills were recovered quantities of very abraded ceramics of the 2nd-3rd century date and one sherd from the 4th (276 sherds in total).

There was no evidence to suggest that the lining of either well had originally extended beyond the first (surviving) course, nor that there had been any structural elements associated with them at surface level, though both had undoubtedly been truncated. However, the level of the waterlogging of the well fills coincided with the top of the surviving wooden lining and it could be assumed that the wells had originally been lined to their upper levels; cutting through the relatively loose gravel sub-strata a revetment lining would seem expedient. Yet, ground water level may not have been higher in Roman times and the purpose of the lining could have been to ensure a (basal) clean water flow/supply.

Pits and postholes

A 0.60m deep oval pit was truncated by the southern ditch of the Western Paddock beside its entranceway (**F.301**: 1.05 x 1.65m; flat-based). This is echoed, on the northern edge of the north driveway ditch (**F.312**), by a smaller pit or posthole, **F.302** (0.90m diameter; 0.22m deep). Although no similar features were recovered on the eastern side of the entrance, together the two could be seen relating to the control of entry into the paddock. No finds were recovered from within the smaller; Pit **F.301** produced 34 sherds of pottery (1st-4th centuries).

A series of pits cut the fill of the eastern boundary of the Western Paddock (**F.210**). Two small circular pits, **F.243** and **F.218**, at the northern, and central,

part of the ditch offer no evidence as to their original purpose (F.243 - 0.90m diameter and 0.45m deep; F.218 - 1.10m diameter and 0.20m deep). Neither had been rubbish-filled and only a handful of pot sherds were recovered (2nd century date). Towards the southern end of the ditch a substantial pit, (F.215), probably dug for the purpose of small-scale gravel extraction, following natural accumulation and weathering/collapse, had been backfilled (4.00m diameter and 1.50m deep). The dumped infills produced considerable quantities of 2nd and 3rd century ceramics, all badly abraded (68 sherds). The upper fill of Pit F.215 appeared identical to (part of) the fill of Ditch F.211 where it clipped the ditch edge to the east. Immediately to the south the gravel pit was itself cut, at its very edge, by another smaller pit, deliberately backfilled and containing large quantities of 1st-2nd century pottery (72 sherds in total), as well as charcoal, bone and possible building debris (F.216: ovoid, 1.50 x 2.50m; 1.70m deep).

To the north of the well in the Western Paddock (within the area of Enclosure 2), were two intercutting pits, F.223 and F.227 (the former just cutting into the western edge of the latter). Respectively of square and rectangular plan (2.00 x 2.00m; 2.10 x 1.40m), with vertical sides and flat bases (0.55 & 0.60m deep), they had no associated internal or external features (with the possible exception of pit/Posthole F.242, see below). The two longer sides of F.227 curved slightly to the west and south, still parallel, from a notably square and vertical 'back' (southern) edge. With vertical sides and flat bases the pits had the appearance of 'Sunken Feature Buildings' though were not of sufficient size to have allowed any practical activity. Perhaps serving some storage function, in neither was there any trace of a lining (wooden or otherwise), nor evidence as to what they may have contained. The fills were a fairly uniform sandy silt containing 1st-3rd century pottery, but not necessarily in sufficient quantities to suggest a midden-type backfilling (28 and 76 sherds recovered respectively). In the south eastern corner of F.227, and contained within it, was a shallow pit, F.242 (ovoid - 0.65 x .80m; 0.30m deep). From its fill was recovered a large sherd of, presumably residual, Bronze Age pottery. However, as a pit or posthole associated with F.227 it is difficult to account for this feature and the possibility remains that it was the base of an earlier truncated pit (i.e. pre-Roman).

Two large features lay outside exterior to the northern boundary of Enclosure 2. F.261, a pit very similar to F.215, cut into the northern edge of the ditch (F.212); its primary function likely to have been small-scale gravel extraction (3.40 diameter; 1.10m deep). To the east, F.244 was a very large but shallow irregular ovoid depression, with poorly defined edges and a dark, slightly organic silt fill (3.50 x 7.00m; 0.35m deep). Difficult to account for as a dug feature, and probably natural, it could possibly have served (at times of a higher water table) as a small pond or water-hole. The fills of both produced abraded ceramics (2nd-4th century) in sufficient quantities to suggest deliberate dumping (46 sherds from the small excavated section within F.261; 117 sherds from two sections in F.244).

Of the features within the Eastern Paddock (with the exception of the Well F.139) only one, F.133, produced any datable material - two sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery. Its fills, with ashy and organic deposits along with the pottery, point to its secondary use as a rubbish pit. Its size, and similarity to other isolated

features further west (F.261 & F.215) suggest its primary function may have been small-scale gravel extraction (2.30-.60 diameter; 0.85m deep). Another possible gravel pit, **F.138**, smaller than F.133, was situated towards the south of the field (sub-rectangular, 1.40 x 2.00m; 0.42m deep).

Two shallow pits lay to either side of the southern opening of the inner-Eastern Paddock enclosure (10): **F.135**, the larger of the two (3.20m diameter; 0.12m deep), lay within its ditch (F.137); **F.134**, beyond, and to one side of the opening (ovoid, 1.80 x 2.50m; 0.23m deep). Too shallow for gravel extraction and clearly not rubbish pits, with dark clay silt and sand fills, their origin and function is unknown. They may have been no more than natural 'dips' within the field's surface, or hollows that may have served as watering places. A third, possibly natural feature, **F.140**, lay within the east side of the small (sub-)enclosure (1.90m diameter; 0.25m deep).

To the north of the enclosure's boundary Ditch F.203 (155) lay an extensive area of archaeologically 'barren' land. With further fieldsystems to its north and east, this 'empty swathe' occupied more than half the area under investigation. Although hosting prehistoric activity, the area would appear to have remained open and unused, except perhaps as pasture land, throughout the Roman period. Only one feature of possibly Roman date was identified, a small pit towards the western limit of excavation (**F.286**: 0.70m diameter; 0.25m deep). The only find within its fill was a large piece of 2nd century roofing tile, an odd artefact to find in isolation so distant from any supposed settlement area. Only two other fragments of tile were recovered from the excavations, from ditches at the south of the southern enclosure (see Gibson, Appendix 9.iv). It remains a possibility that the find from the pit was a residual 'curated' object from a Saxon or later period. Examples of 'collected' Roman material can be found in definite Saxon contexts further to the north (see below).

Discussion - Developmental History

A 'complex', the plan layout of the enclosure system is clearly complicated. Only a limited portion of it has been investigated, and that arguably marginal (fig. 15). As attested to by the evaluation results (Trench 2/3, Wait 1991; Trench X, Evans 1993), the site clearly included a settlement component (i.e. houses and associated features). Its immediate riverside location marks it out from the series of apparent settlement compounds along the eastern side of the quarry site (along the upper terrace edge) and suggests that the more westerly site was a distinct 'place'. Albeit speculative, broad change is apparent in the final phase of the system's usage. Previously whatever lay at the western end of the massive drove seems to have been openly accessible, flanked only by paddocks/fields on its northern side. However, a number of the late additions appear to relate to the restriction of access. At that time, direct entrance into the Western Paddock was eradicated (and by inference the Eastern also) and, whatever the status of Enclosure 10, the two north-of-drove paddocks/fields may have been abandoned (indicated by the large-scale pitting and subsequent dumping within them). These developments may also relate to the occurrence of settlement within the

immediately west-of-site enclosure ('5') whose delineation was secondary in relationship to the 'paddocks'. Whilst settlement may have existed elsewhere within the riverside complex previous to this development, the establishment of the Enclosure 5 occupation area and the restriction of access in Phase III attests to its existence as a distinct settlement, one with controlled entrance.

Phase I - Aside from the ubiquitous F.152 gully, the great E-W drove ('1') would seem to have been the primary feature within the layout of the immediate Roman landscape (see fig. 9). 14m across, by its scale and regularity it might almost be more appropriately considered a road. It runs westwards towards the site from the north side of a polygonal-shaped enclosure; their interrelationship will be more fully considered in the *Concluding Discussion*.

As its western destination, Enclosure 2 does not appear to have been settlement-related, but agricultural. Nor does it seem to have been discrete, but part of a much more extensive strip-type system: the line of the northern boundary of the enclosure appears to continue west as far as Evaluation Trench X (as F.63); the southern ditch of Enclosure 8 (possibly re-cutting an earlier line) as F.60. Within the trench there was evidence of 'neat' intra-enclosure planning and regularity of interval of the E-W ditches (Evans 1993: 24). In Trench X, Ditches F.60 and 63 (neither of which were visible as cropmarks) lay respectively 16 and 18m from the projecting line of the northern Drove/ditch (?itself possibly later re-cutting along an more minor early 'strip-boundary'). 22m north of Ditch F.63, another similar proportioned ditch crossed (E-W) the width of the trench (F.69) and continued west as a cropmark for some 58m.

The regularity of this interval suggests that Enclosure 2 was a part of a strip fieldsystem on which the 'great drove' originally opened. This is not to say that contemporary (primary) settlement did not occur closer to the riverside (the western 11m diameter pennannular cropmark ring-ditch could, for example, be an early house-site), just that evidence of such was neither found in the area of excavation nor the trial trench. (The eavesgully in Trench X truncated a linear feature associated with one of the strip boundaries.)

Phase II - No evidence of (primary) settlement *per se* was found in association with the north-of-drove paddocks (Structure I being of 'special' and secondary status). The great quantity of artefacts recovered from their ditches do not seem to have been generated *in situ*, but 'imported'. Therefore, an agricultural function for these paired enclosures is presumed. Whilst they may just have been fields, the proportions of their rectangular plan would vary from the earlier strip-type allotments. Alternatively, they may have served as stock paddocks, either for holding animals awaiting river transshipment or before being driven out onto unenclosed pasture (e.g. the 'empty zone' north of the enclosure complex). The latter interpretation would gain support from the well planned three-way drove/access between Ditches F.226, F.249 and F.248 in the southeastern quarter of the western paddock, and the occurrence of within-paddock wells, whose usage (*vs.* backfilling) appears contemporary. (It is to be

regretted that phosphate survey was not implemented to clarify the status of these enclosures.)

Not surprisingly, it is the alignment of the great droveway which was predominant throughout the enclosure sequence. It was followed by the western strip boundaries (Enclosure 2, *et al.*) and its dominance re-established when in Phase III it was extended westwards. The paddocks twist slightly further east-over-north across their western half off of the drove-alignment. This does not just seem to have been a local irregularity. Whereas a number of the west-of-site cropmark ditches respect the alignment of the drove, others follow that of the western paddock. This suggests that the western divergence of the paddock alignment was not haphazard, but occurred in relationship to a broader axial shift within the riverside complex.

Phase III - The major 'event' of this horizon was the western extension of the northern droveway ditch. This eradicated the entranceway into the Western Paddock (and by inference any into the Eastern) and, although subsequent access could have been bridged, arguably marks their abandonment. Apart from this, and the demarcation of the westerly (in-fill) settlement enclosure ('5'), this phase is characterised by 'piecemeal' alterations: the insertion of Enclosure 8 limiting through-droveway movement; and Structure I (and possibly Enclosure 9), regulating western access. These developments could have been interrelated - 'new' riverside occupation and control of movement west into the settlement. The midden-type backfills of the various pits, wells and locally linear features of the system, presumably derived from the riverside settlement.

Albeit of minor proportions, the status of the enclosure ('10') inserted within the northeastern corner of the Eastern Paddock is intriguing. That it was a secondary addition cannot be doubted. The northern end of its western side must have terminated at the (presumed) line of the paddock's interior upcast bank, and its southern arm cut across a well (F.139) whose backfill included 4th century ceramics. Given this dating attribution, the paddock may, to all intents and purposes, have then been abandoned and survived only as an earthwork feature. Whilst by its plan there is no necessary reason to attribute an agricultural function to the sub-square enclosure, nor was there evidence of associated settlement; it is by default tentatively interpreted as a stock enclosure. Inasmuch as no depositional activity was recovered in direct association, and its relationship with the paddock as an earthwork, the enclosure could just as readily be assigned a Saxon as a Roman date. In the light of this, it is to be regretted that excavation was not more intense within this area.

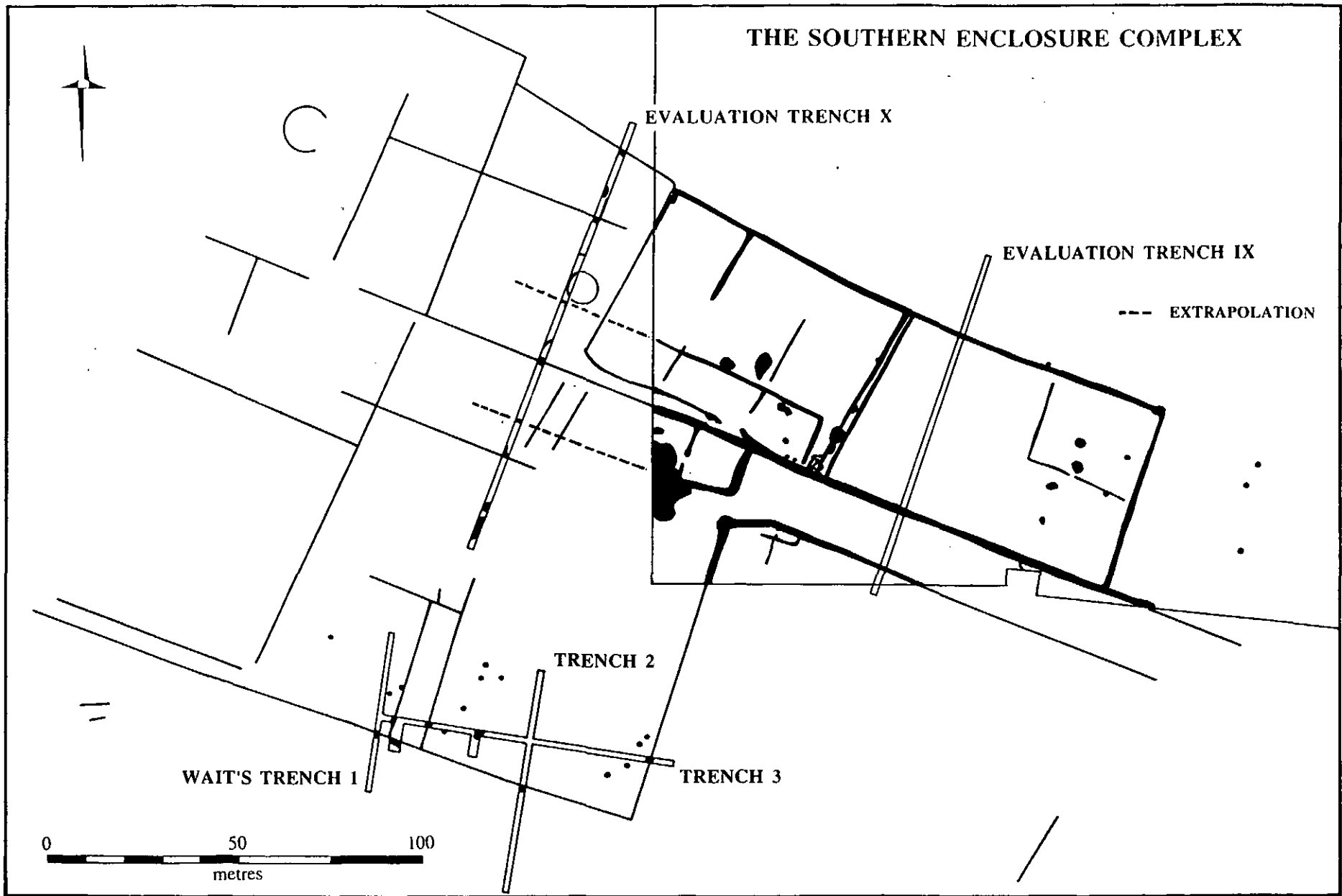


Figure 15

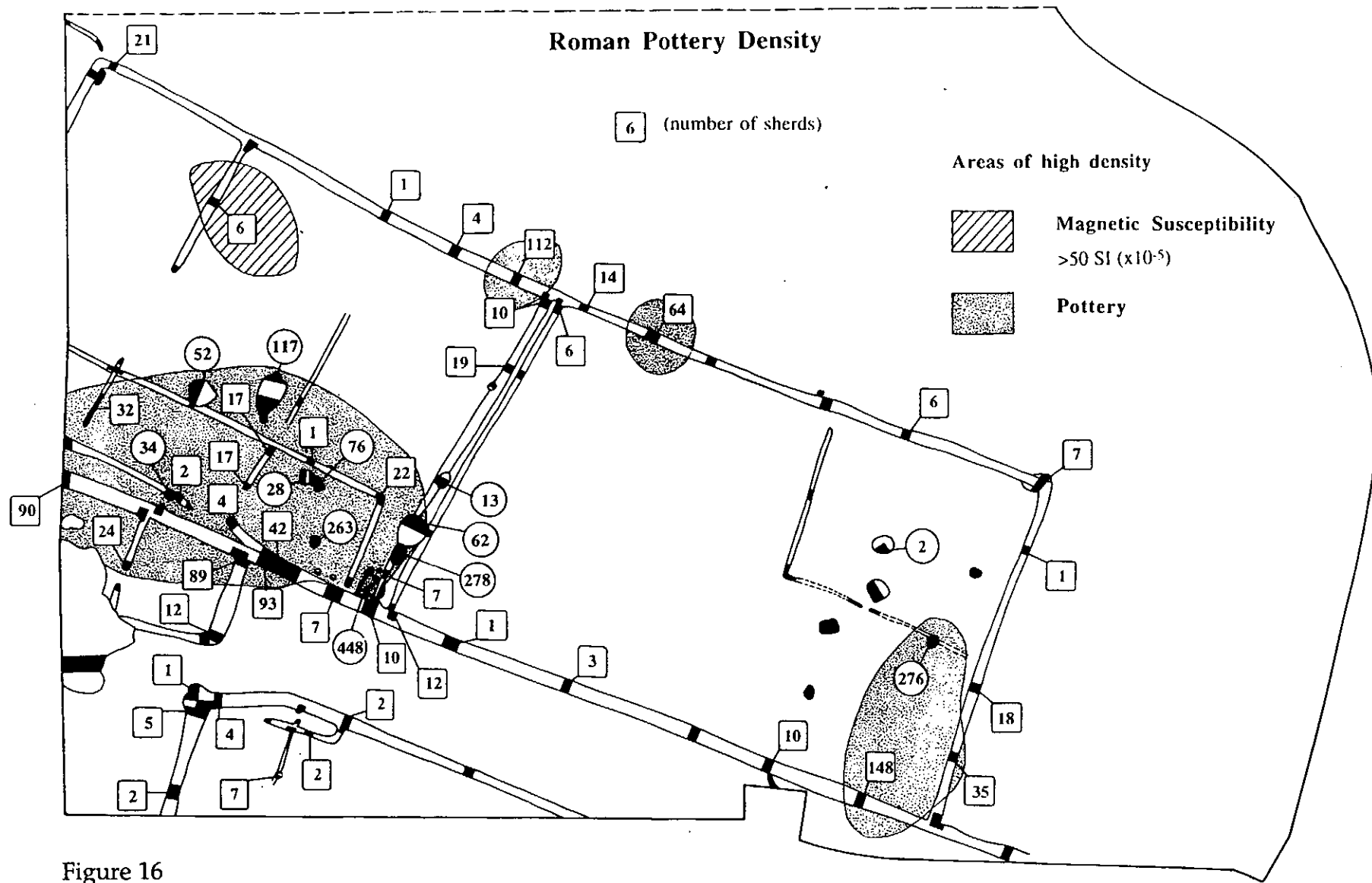


Figure 16

Dating, distribution and deposition

Generally, two areas of intense deposition can be distinguished: in the southeastern corner of the Eastern Paddock; and, along the southern side of the western and the northern driveway ditch (fig. 16; as illustrated, high densities are an 'expression' - not an absolute statistical measure). The latter may extend at least as far west as Evaluation Trench X, where 147 sherds were recovered from the driveway ditch segment (F.61; see Evans 1993: 38). Within the area of excavation the high density of pottery recovered from individual ditch segments (c. 30-148 sherds per metre length), which appears sporadic at points and occurs twice along the north paddock boundary, would suggest that the ditch system had also been locally backfilled - probably at the same time as the wells/pits. Nevertheless, the 'zonation' of distributional 'highs' indicates that the paddocks were still identifiable and that the dumping may not have been undertaken *en masse*, but in piecemeal fashion (i.e. individual paddock boundaries structured deposition). It warrants mention that there was no correlation between the area of highest magnetic susceptibility and high pottery density.

Although Phase I features might have late 1st century AD origins, the Roman pottery dates overwhelmingly from the 2nd to early 3rd centuries with a few earlier and later pieces (see Going, Appendix 7). Most are very abraded, suggesting that the pottery arrived on site as sherds rather than as vessels which were later discarded. While little of the pottery dates to after c. AD 250, later 3rd-4th century finds were recovered from ten features within the enclosure complex; without exception accompanied by far larger quantities of the earlier pottery. They were distributed widely enough and material retrieved from deep enough within features not to be discounted as intrusive. The fact that the later pottery occurs at all indicates that not only were the ditches and pits still open, but that the land was still used to some extent. The complete abandonment of such an area as early as the 3rd century would anyway appear to be unlikely.

Characteristic of rural assemblages, there are with few fine wares or imports. The range of pottery fabrics is restricted and most are grey wares. The majority almost certainly originated in the immediate locality, probably within as yet unknown kilns in the Great Chesterford area, or close to nearby Harston, where a production site probably existed prior to the 4th century AD. The fine wares comprise for the most part provincial colour coats, mainly from the Nene Valley, with rather less from further afield such as Hadham, Oxfordshire or elsewhere. There was little Samian, of which little is decorated or particularly early in date.

Given the quantity of artefacts recovered in association with the Southern (Roman) Enclosure Complex (c. 2200 sherds), the paucity of its surface-find representation is remarkable. (During evaluation fieldwalking only ten sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the area of this system and repeated 'informal' collection in subsequent seasons never produced more than one or two pieces; see Going, in Evans 1993: Appendix 3.) Could this correlate with Saxon 'collection' activities of which there is definite indication? If so, their fieldwalking of the site would have had to of been most thorough and

indiscriminate, with the material redeposited somewhere beyond the limits of the excavation. Therefore, the Saxons seem unlikely agents of Roman surface-find loss. Given the coherence of the site's lithic distributions (Evans 1993: 7-10), nor can recourse be made to post-Medieval 'mechanisms' (intensive ploughing or quarry-related topsoiling). The answer instead must lie in the character of the Roman assemblage. With only one minor structure occurring within the complex (I), most of this material cannot have deposited as primary refuse. The area of the enclosure investigated does not fall within a settlement zone *per se*, but lay just west of it (e.g. Enclosure 5, Evaluation Trench X). Given this and analysis of the Roman assemblage, much of the complex seems to have been backfilled, probably sometime in the later 3rd-4th century. This would appear to have involved only partial infilling of features. If the 'artefact-rich' (re-)deposits were largely confined within the profile of features (i.e. below surface level), they would escape introduction to the ploughzone through arable activity.

Indicating middening 'bias' or collection processes from its (off-site) parent source, the character of these backfill deposits warrants comment. The layer sealing Structure I, along with the wells and Pit F.216, contained large amounts of dumped stone along with pottery sherds and bone fragments. While the material is an obvious collection of 'rubbish', the provenance and types of stone included deserves further discussion. Slightly more than half the assemblage consisted of large waterworn 'field' or river stones varying in size up to 0.40m (stones this large were not observed within the gravel subsoil). However, a substantial percentage was made up of what appeared to be building stone (roughly squared stone blocks with occasional traces of mortaring) along with broken quern- and mill-stones. Originating from all over eastern England (from the Peaks to the Weald), the types present include millstone grit, sandstone, limestone, pudding stone, dolerite and lava; the latter from Germany (see Laurie, Appendix 9.vi). Obviously a 'collection', the stone was probably gathered from over a wide area of the enclosure system and, possibly, beyond. When compared to the density of pottery, bone frequency was generally very low, suggesting its deposition/usage elsewhere (e.g. given to dogs):

	Pottery		Bone	
	Number	Weight (gms)	Number	Weight (gms)
F.216	278	5,804	11	177
F.214	263	5,964	10	49
F.312 [684]	90	1,031	91	251
F.217 [451]/[515] Sealing layer above Structure I	410	7,526	40	372

A group of Samian recovered from the north boundary ditch of the Eastern Paddock (F.203) is particularly noteworthy. Retrieved during the course of on-going watching brief cover as extraction progressed (i.e. at the end of a contractor's bucket), its in-depth provenance is uncertain. 64 Roman sherds were thus recovered, of which 49 were Samian - more than half the Samian from the entire site. Significantly, very few vessels are represented by more than one sherd and it has the appearance of a 'fieldwalked' assemblage. 'Curio-sake' selection of this kind is frequently attributed to Saxon activities (see below). Yet in this context there is no particular reason not to associate it with Late Roman dumping/middening - perhaps an adjacent settlement enclosure was effectively fieldwalked and cleared of debris before being turned over to agriculture. This is not the only instance of probable Late Roman activities on the site evoking Saxon practices, the main example being Structure I itself. With its area reduced/terraced and backfilled with midden-type deposits, it has obvious affinities to sunken Saxon structures (*Grubenhäuser* clusters; cf. Mortimer 1996: fig. 4).

The Northern Enclosure

Aligned SW-NE (slightly askew to the Southern Enclosure Complex), at the far northwestern corner of the site lay a second ditched enclosure (fig. 3 & 5). Ditch F.274 formed its southeastern boundary (2.20m wide; 0.70m deep), which aerial photography shows extending a further 10m beyond the western limit of excavation before returning northwest. Also visible is the eastern end of the ditch turning northwest just beyond the limit of excavation, though this may represent an internal division within the enclosure and F.274 continues further eastwards. Within the enclosure interior a more minor ditch, F.275 (1.00m wide; 0.30m deep), ran parallel with F.274 for 8.00m from the northern limit of excavation and butt-ended, the interval between them being 2.00-2.50m. Only minor quantities of pottery were recovered from the excavation of the two ditches (1st-2nd centuries).

Again, lying parallel (3.00m to the north of F.275), Ditch F.281 (1.75m wide; 0.50m deep) only just extended south of the limit of excavation before returning to the northwest (as F.282; 1.10m wide; 0.60m deep). Whilst, no finds were recovered from F.281, Ditch F.282 produced a few ceramics (2nd century).

Along the western end of F.274, on both its southern and northern sides, two narrow shallow gullies, F.284 and F.289 respectively, ran parallel to the main ditch before turning to feed/merge into it: the former to the east; the latter, the west (0.40-0.45m wide; 0.20-0.25m deep). No definite relationship could be ascertained other than their apparent contemporaneity, their fills being identical to the upper fill of F.274. Both gullies produced very low numbers of abraded 2nd century ceramics.

Two large circular pits, F.283 and F.303, presumably gravel extraction pits, had been cut within the enclosure system between ditches F.274 and F.281. F.283 (6.00 x 4.50m; 0.70m+ deep) cut into the southern edge of the latter ditch and was itself truncated by F.303 (3.50m dia; 1.10m deep). The fills of F.283 suggested deliberate backfilling, whereas F.303 had evidently been left open to weather. Although no finds were recovered from F.283, F.303 produced two sherds of abraded 2nd century ceramics. A sherd of Saxon pottery recovered from its upper fill would suggest it had lain open, as an earthwork feature, into post-Roman times.

A small pit, F.296 (0.50m dia; 0.10m deep), was truncated at its north by F.281; a sherd of 1st/2nd century pottery was recovered from its fill.

Discussion

Despite the limited area available for excavation, the morphology and finds material are sufficient to attribute a probable Romano-British date to the enclosure as a whole and the subsequent pitting within it. Largely lying beneath the Whittlesford Plantation, the extent of the system is unknown. The proximity of the three parallel ditches at the east could suggest more than one phase of construction, though neither finds nor stratigraphic evidence abet their sub-division. The southernmost of the extraction pits, with Saxon pottery recovered from its upper profile, can presumably be assigned a late Roman date; all finds from the ditch fills dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries.

The relative paucity of finds material, particularly within the pits, could reflect the system's distance from settlement. However, the enclosure itself may relate to a more extensive northern complex. Yet, whilst all the available dating evidence would suggest a Roman date for this system, the densities were low enough to leave room for some doubt of this attribution. (It is only the relative deposition sequence within Pit F.303, where a Saxon sherd was found stratified in the upper profile of the feature which otherwise produced only 2nd century pottery, that seems in any way unequivocal.) The main source of ambiguity as to its date derives from its near right-angle relationship with Ditch F.200 running (approximately) along the northeastern side of the field, and argued to be of Medieval/post-Medieval date. A minor ditch-line (F.310) 'ghosted' the edge of that boundary, in much the same manner that F.284/289 paralleled either side of the southernmost ditch in the Northern Enclosure. Elsewhere in the quarry where major ditches are so bordered by minor precursors, their attribution has been found to be 'late' (Wait 1991; Damant & Mitchell 1992: Area 2, fig. 4; Alexander & Hill 1996: F.99/102/127) and Ditch F.274 could, in fact, generally equate with a boundary indicated on the 1833 Enclosure Map (see Damant & Mitchell 1992: fig. 5). Nevertheless while doubt exists, the Roman finds dating evidence will be, at least tentatively, accepted at face value.

The Eastern Ditch Systems

The series of ditches recorded along the eastern edge of the site appear to be part of a system(s) whose focus lies east of the limit of excavation (fig. 3 & 5). While not apparent from the cropmark survey, a number of these features were recovered in the course of the 1993 evaluation (Evans 1993: 25).

Aligned roughly parallel with the Southern Enclosure Complex the southwestern corner of a ditch system jutting into the area of excavation mid-way along its eastern side. Its southern boundary, F.204 (151; 1.25m wide; 0.65m deep) returned north-eastwards as F.205 to form the enclosure's western side (0.75-1.75m wide; 0.55m deep). Both ditches contained a very low density of finds: nine sherds of pottery were recovered from the latter and four from F.204 (151). All were very abraded and could not be more closely dated than broadly 'Roman'.

Four metres to the west of F.205, and roughly parallel to it, a shallow curving ditch, F.206, lay external to the enclosure (1.00m wide; 0.25m deep). Truncated at its northern end, it butt-ended 12m to the south; no finds were recovered from its fill and no certain dating can be ascribed to it. Within the enclosure, but on a different alignment, Ditch F.208 possibly represents a separate phase (linked perhaps to parallel ditches F.207 (149) and F.143 to the south; 0.75m wide; 0.35m deep). Only just extending beyond the limit of excavation, no finds were recovered from it.

F.141/142 possibly defined the southwest corner of an enclosure; though forming an angular curve rather than a right-angled corner, their plan configuration does not appear to follow the pattern of the other Roman enclosures. The ditch lay within the hollow occupied by the field's modern boundary which may suggest it served some drainage-related function. The southwest arm of this Ditch F.141 ran west for 21m from the edge of excavation before curving round to the northwest as F.142 (1.20-.70m wide with a 'V'-shaped profile, 0.42-.53m deep). The latter ran for 13.5m deepening as it reached the northern limit of excavation. Although no finds were recovered from its fills, during the evaluation four small sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from its 'equivalents' (F.67/68; *ibid*: 25).

At the eastern limit of excavation two shallow ditches, or gullies, F.130 and F.145 (c. 0.75m wide; 0.40-.50m deep), both appeared to be cut by the E-W Ditch F.141, though neither continued beyond it; no finds were recovered from either. (Ditch F.145 equates with F.76 in Evaluation Trench XX; a large pit apparently found in the end of the trench was not recovered again; *ibid*: F.75)

F.128 ran roughly parallel to F.130 approximately 2.5m to the east. The dimensions and fill of this ditch were similar to those of F.141/142 (1.90m wide; 0.50m deep), but the relationship between the eastern continuation of F.141 and the northern line of F.128 was lost beyond the limit of excavation. Two postholes were found cut into the base of the ditch. The 1993 evaluation recorded a similar posthole within Ditch F.67 (141). These postholes could represent later redefinition of a boundary as a fence-line running north along F.128 and west into F.141. A right-angled ditch, F.149/F.150 (0.60-.90m wide; 0.16-.20m deep), fed into the western side of F.142 (or was truncated by it); twelve sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from F.149.

Two parallel ditches, F.207 (159) and F.143, aligned E-W approximately 10m apart, lay northwest of the F.141/142 complex and 20m to the south of the F.151/205 enclosure (F.207/159 - 0.50-1.00m wide; 0.05-.11m deep; F.143 - 1.20m wide; 0.18m deep). Although both were severely truncated, they could define a driveway, leading from the east to pasture land between the Roman enclosures. However, only one fragment of abraded Roman pottery was recovered from their fills. Their alignment does not follow that of the Roman enclosures to the north or south and there must remain a possibility that the ditches are of later, possibly Medieval, date. Ditch F.208, to the north, repeats their alignment and could be contemporary.

Discussion

On excavation, only the F.204/205 enclosure ditches and F.149 & F.207(159) produced any dating evidence, and that only very broadly attributed 'Roman' ceramics. The ditch complex does not have anything like the appearance of the regular enclosures to the south and north, and cannot be interpreted as a similar system. The main F.141/142 Ditch, rather than having an enclosure function, could perhaps be seen as a drainage/boundary ditch occupying the palaeo-'hollow' at the eastern edge of the site. No finds were recovered from its fill and no secure dating can be put upon it nor any of the other ditches in the area. Lying so close to the limit of the site, and with little or no dating evidence, the interpretation of the features at the south of this group has to remain open. The two parallel ditches to the north, F.207 (159) and F.143, though severely truncated, may be seen as forming a track or droveway, but again, without secure finds evidence, no date can be assigned. However, the degree of their truncation and alignment may suggest a later date, possibly Medieval.

Saxon

With the exception of one small pit or posthole (F.236) within the southern Roman enclosure, all the features of undoubtedly Saxon origin lay within the northwestern end of the site and fell along a roughly N-S axis across the highest part of the gravel 'plateau' (fig. 17). Occupation evidence cannot be said to be extensive, with only two *Grubenhäuser* and a small pit grouping recorded. However, further finds were made within the upper levels of larger Roman features to both the north and south. That all the finds and features of this period lay within thirty metres of the western edge of excavation could suggest that they fall along the eastern margin of a more extensive riverside settlement.

The Grubenhäuser - Structure II

During the 1993 fieldwalking a Middle Saxon brooch was recovered from the ploughsoil, its position falling within the North Field (Evans 1993). The find spot was trial trenched, and the brooch found to derive from a Saxon *Grubenhäus* or sunken featured building (SFB). Further trenching to the east and south revealed no associated features. The upper levels of the feature (where cut through the sub-soil) were removed by machine, with the spoil intensively sorted for finds. Large quantities of bone were recovered, along with 37 sherds of Saxon pottery, burnt clay and loomweight fragments. During the evaluation the excavation of the feature did not proceed below the level of the surrounding natural gravel and the building's base, with its fill intact, was preserved. (A second find spot, a sherd of Saxon pottery to the northwest of the *Grubenhäus*, lay outside the 1995 excavation area. Subsequently, a 5m x 5m area was machine stripped, centred upon it; no features were visible.)

As seen during trial trenching, at the level of the sub-soil, the feature was of near-rectangular shape (F.78; 4.20m x 3.50m). On final excavation (at the level of the natural gravel), the base measured 3.40m x 2.00m (assigned F.307). Of near-ovoid plan, it had a maximum depth of 0.25m (fig. 18). On excavation (*per se*), the basal fill produced considerable quantities of animal bone, but only two further sherds of pottery. External to the 'häus' hollow, on its longer axis to the west and east, were two deep, straight-sided postholes:

F.308 - Circular, 0.35m diameter; vertically sided with a flat base 0.35m deep.

F.309 - Sub-rectangular (0.30 x. 40m), vertically sided with a flat base, 0.55m deep.

No internal features nor remnant floor surfaces were identified; the base seemingly, as the upper levels, deliberately backfilled with re-deposited midden material. The preservation of much of the pottery from this feature was good, although only five vessels were represented by more than one sherd. A variety bowl and cup forms were present, including the only stamp-decorated sherd recovered.

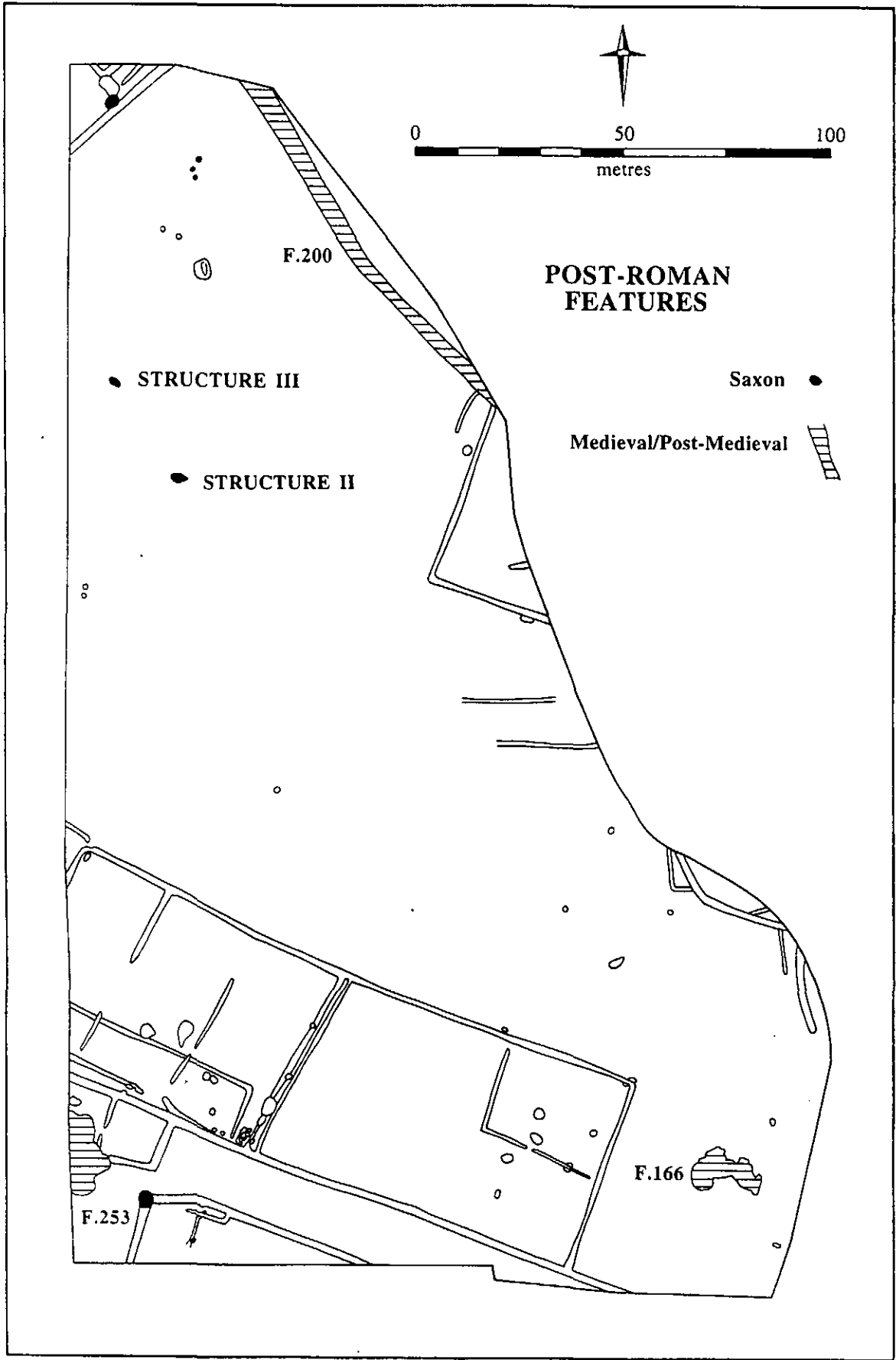


Figure 17

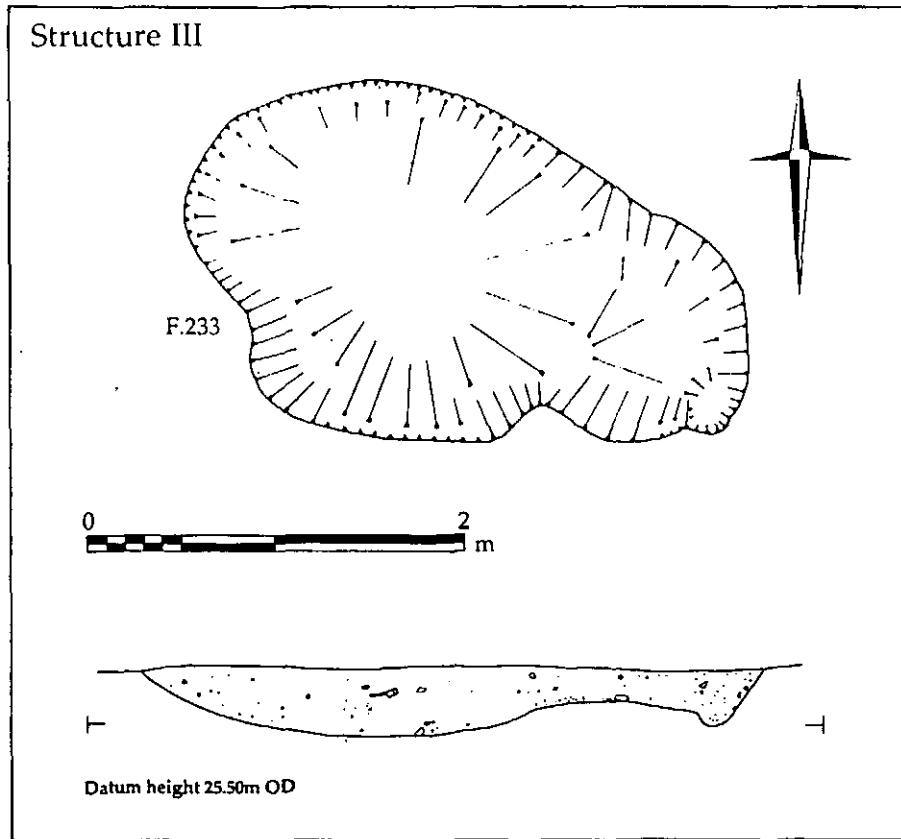
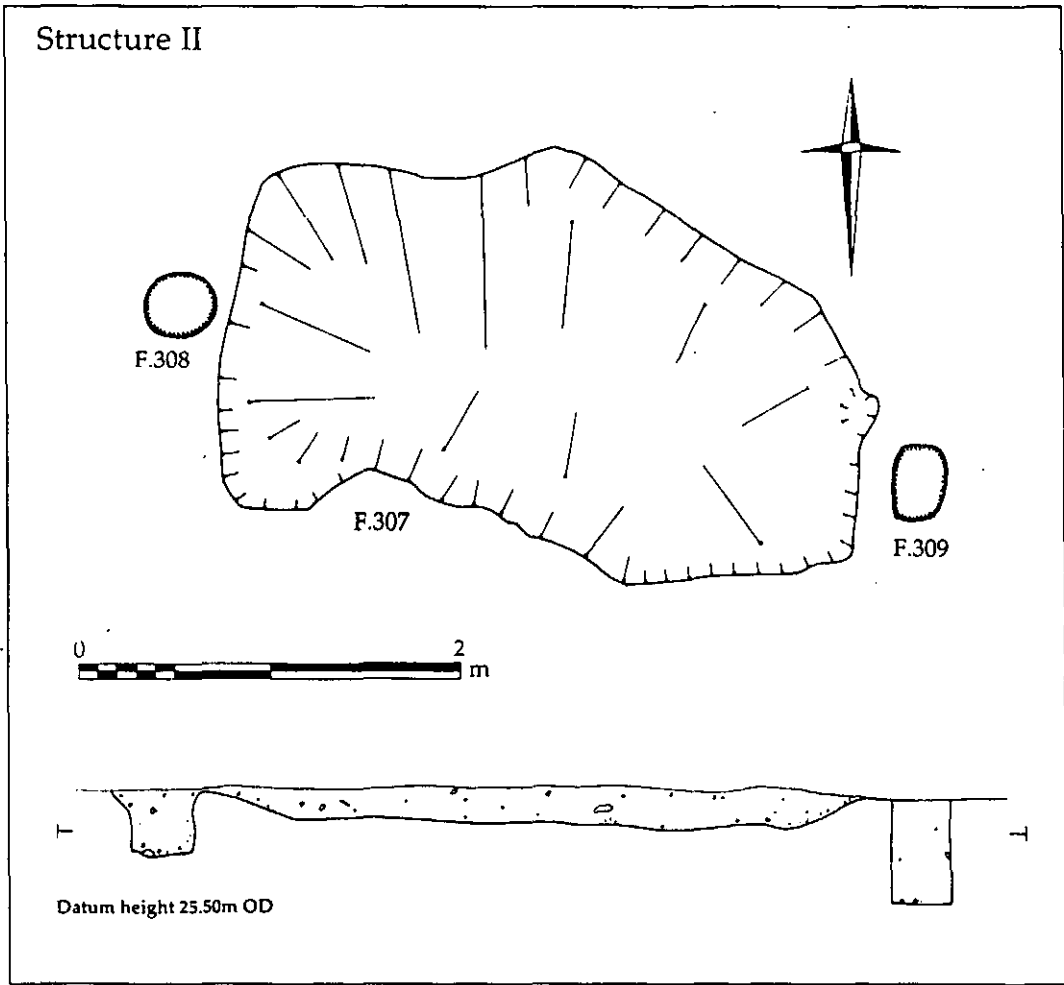


Figure 18

Structure III

A second *Grubenhäus*, F.233, lay 25m to the northwest of Structure II. It differed in form, being an irregular oval (3.10 x 1.90m), and was deeper with a bowl-shaped profile (0.40m deep; fig. 18). Within the eastern end of the feature was the base of a shallow posthole or post-impression; there were no deep-cut axial posts. With its depth and rounded form, it was at first thought that the feature as a whole represented a deliberately dug 'midden pit'. It would, however, be unusual in this period for a pit to be dug specifically for rubbish disposal; pottery in such high numbers as this feature produced was usually disposed of either within middens, a convenient hollow, or disused *Grubenhäuser*. Its concave profile may have been produced by successive cleaning out of a part of an earthen-floor base.

The fill produced large quantities of bone, pottery, burnt clay and lava quernstone fragments. In total, 70 pieces of Saxon pottery were recovered, (along with nine Roman sherds). 13 vessels were represented by more than one sherd; the majority were sooted, some on the interior surface. A few sherds were slightly worn and may represent secondary deposition. A small bowl and a globular vessel (possibly a cup) were the only 'unusual' pots (see Wilkinson & Young, Appendix 8). There was a multi-context vessel-link to (Saxon) pottery in the top of a Roman ditch at the southern end of the site (F.254). The Roman assemblage from the structure is itself of note. Not so much for the pottery as such, but because the finds are undoubtedly 'curated' items and include a trimmed-down cup base and decorated Samian. On one of the latter is a human depiction. The only such image from the site, its situation (implying collection), cannot have been accidental (Vol II, fig. 1.7)

Pits and postholes

To the south and east of Structure III, at distances of 3-4.00m, were five postholes (F.228 - 232), only one of which was substantial, F.230 (0.33m dia; 0.50m deep - otherwise, 0.15-.30m dia; 0.05-.25m deep). No pattern could be observed in their arrangement and they would not appear to have served any major structural purpose; a piece of Roman tile was recovered from the fill of F.230.

A pit grouping, 75m to the north of Structure II, consisted of three shallow pits: F.259 (0.60m dia; 0.33m deep), F.260 (1.00 x 1.50m; 0.20m deep) and F.295 (1.00 x 1.50m; 0.35m deep). Undoubtedly truncated during the removal of the subsoil, they contained few finds. Only from F.295 were pottery sherds recovered, the other two pits producing only bone and fragments of fired clay (a composite bone comb fragment was also recovered; see Yannouli, Appendix 9). The relative paucity of finds, when compared to the two structures, does not rule out their being small rubbish pits as only the bases were excavated; F.260, when first observed in the subsoil during machining, was seen to be considerably larger in area.

At the very south of the site, within the Roman enclosure, a small pit was excavated (F.236; 0.50m dia; 0.17m deep), which cut a narrow gully, F.235, of Roman date. 29 sherds of pottery were recovered from its fill representing two multi-herd Anglo-Saxon vessels. Also retrieved were 18 sherds of residual, or more likely curated, Roman pottery. Further Saxon sherds were recovered immediately to the north, within a larger Roman feature (see below, F.303).

Saxon material within Romano-British earthwork features.

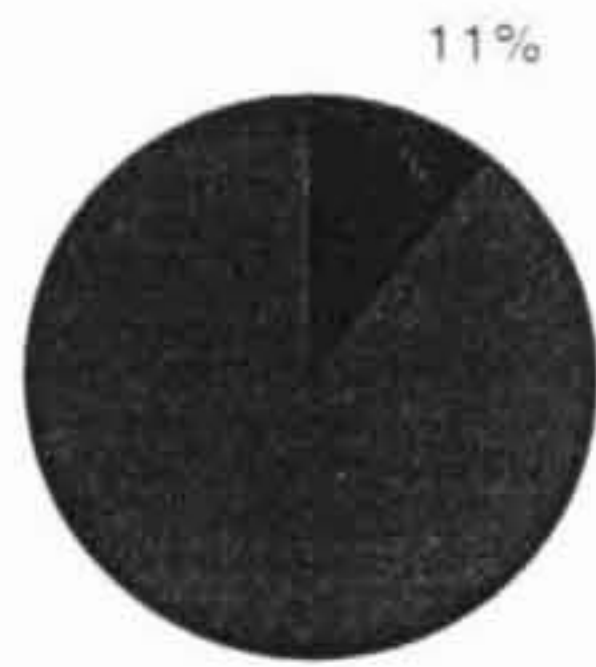
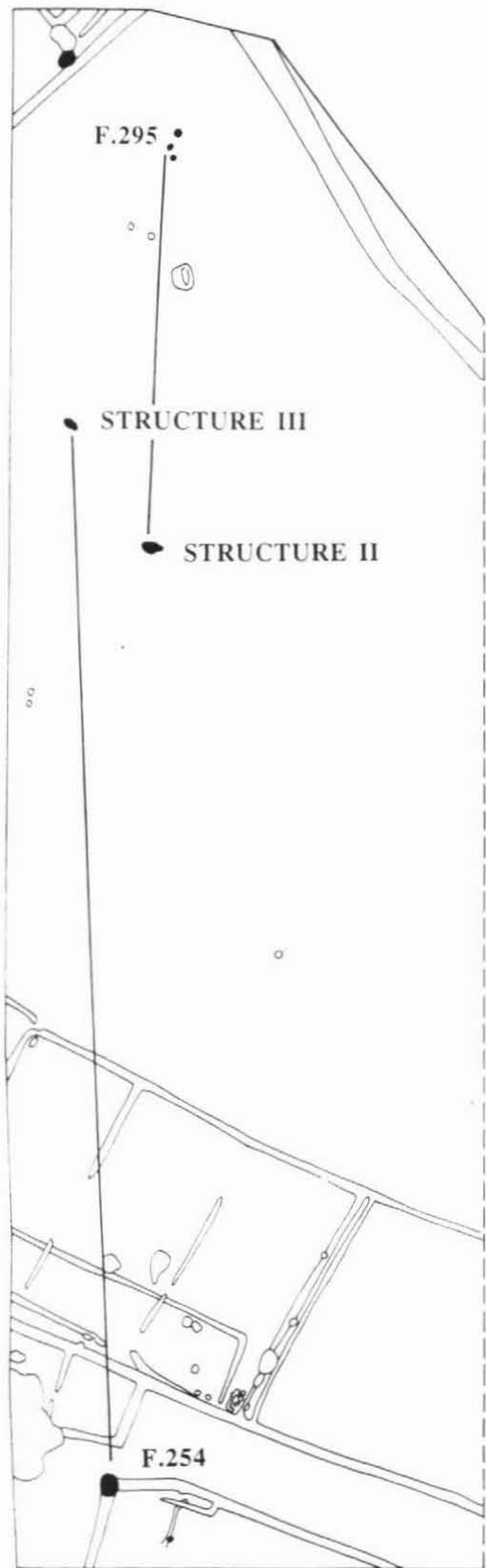
In addition to material within undoubtedly Saxon-period features, pottery of the date was also recovered from the upper fills of several Romano-British features (albeit in small quantities). 17 sherds were recovered from the upper profiles of the intercutting butt ends of ditches F.222 and F.254 at the far southern end of the site ([592], [594] & [722]). The, presumably Romano-British, gravel pit within the northern enclosure (F.303), produced one sherd from its upper fill ([644]). Both features would have existed as landscape features well into the Saxon period.

Discussion

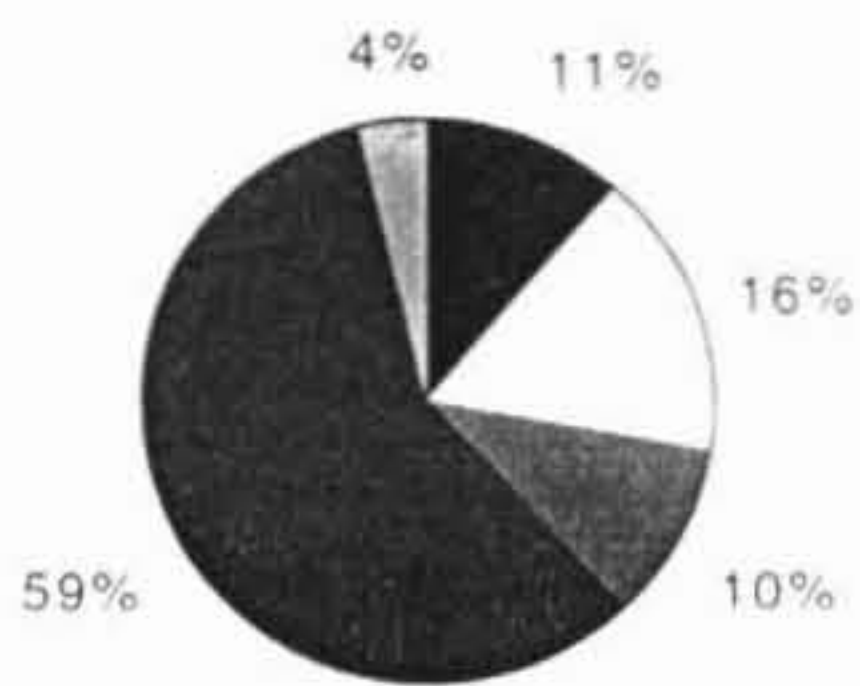
Whilst extensive, the direct evidence for the Saxon occupation of the area is relatively slight. It probably consisted of more than two lone *Grubenhäuser*, and the recovery of Saxon material only along the western margin of the site could suggest that the settlement extends further in that direction. Yet, there is no reason to suspect that it is necessarily intense. In fact, the significance of its discovery relates to its dispersed character and 'incidental' recovery. Together with the results from Bourn Bridge (Pollard 1996), these factors suggest that many such sites lie 'unannounced' within the southern Cambridgeshire river valleys, implying a high density of low intensity settlement.

The occupation of the site can be placed within the Early Saxon period, between the 5th and 7th centuries. Although traditions of local and regionally imported domestic pottery of that date survived into the beginning of Middle Saxon times, it is more likely that the identifiable Anglo-Saxon pottery from the site pre-dates the 8th century (the only stamped sherd from the site is of a type that is not datable on its own; see Wilkinson & Young, Appendix 8). The short necked vessels can best be paralleled by those from the West Stow recovered from 6th century *Grubenhäuser* (West 1985). This would broadly concur with the date of the square-headed brooch recovered in (fieldwalking) association with Structure II; Hills assigned a *terminus post quem* for its deposition of c. 600 AD (in Evans 1993: Appendix 4).

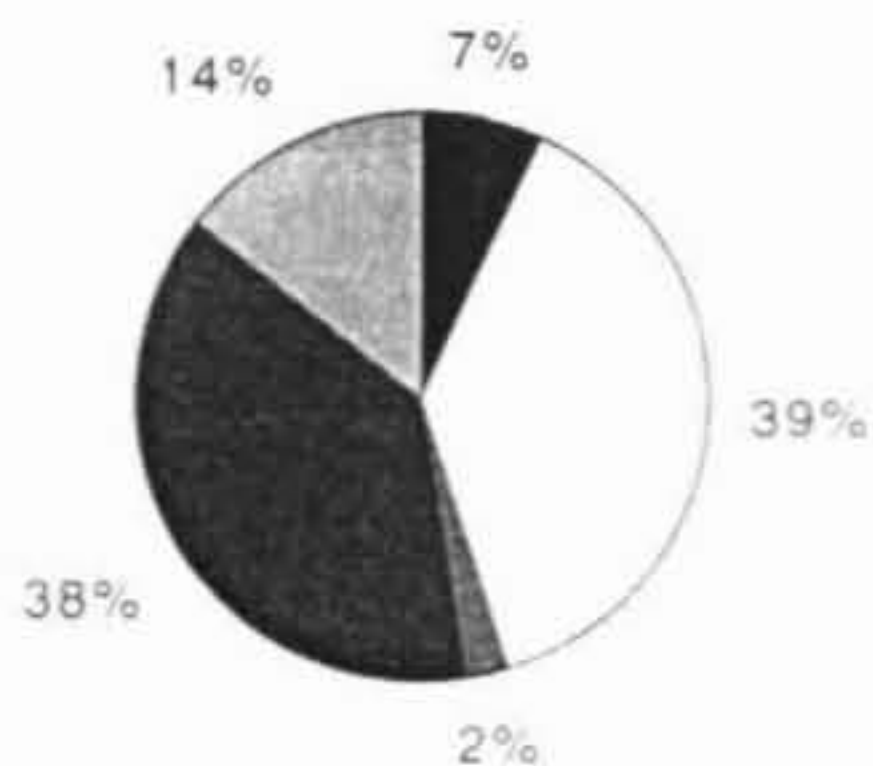
**SAXON POTTERY
MULTI-FEATURE LINKAGES**



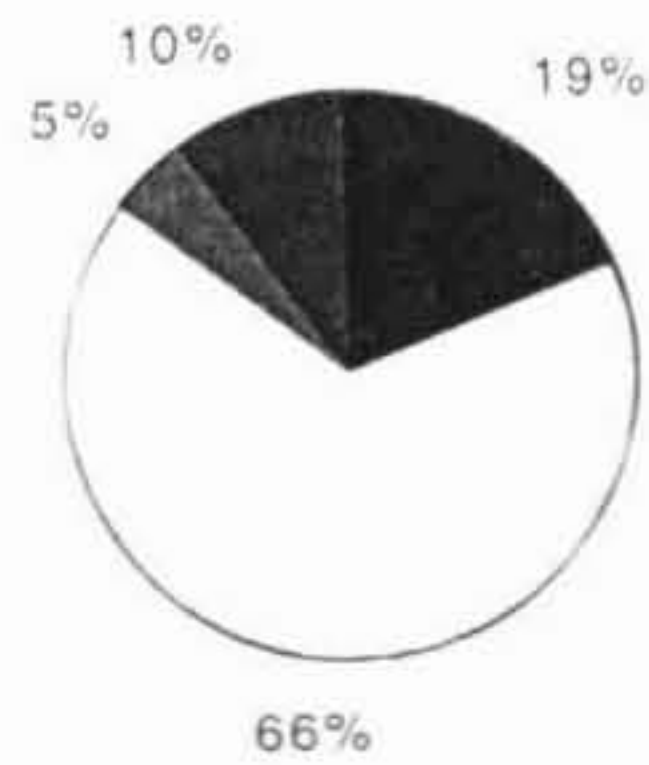
F.295



STRUCTURE III



STRUCTURE II



F.254



POTTERY
(Fabric; % by number)

Figure 19

That multi-feature vessel-linkages occur from features spread widely across the site tell of considerable cross-/along-site movement (fig. 19). They exist between Structure II and Pit F.295; and Ditch F.222/254 and Structure III. These linkages together nearly span the length of the site, and must reflect a river-parallel/along-terrace axis of movement and deposition. Although sharing generally similar assemblages, it warrants mention that no such direct associations exist between the two structures themselves. As was the case in the Bourn Bridge *Grubenhäuser* settlement, depositional linkages are not strong between 'nearest neighbour' buildings.

The evidently Saxon-period collection of Roman pottery is one of the more intriguing aspects of the site's occupation history and once this element of artefact collection/'play' is introduced it has major ramification for the potential (mis-) representation of Roman assemblages. All Saxon features included a Roman pottery component, the percentage of early ceramic to later ranging from 8.6-90%). Those Roman sherds found in Saxon contexts are largely fine wares, such as the figure-decorated Samian from Structure III (Vol. II, fig. 1.7); other collected items include the handle of a Romano-British spoon from the same building. Whilst less definite, further evidence of Saxon 'utilisation' could include a spindle whorl manufactured from a Roman pot base recovered from Evaluation Trench X (F.61; Vol. II, fig. 1.1) and the base of a colour-coat cup trimmed down smooth as a flat (?gaming) disc found in one of the internal sub-division ditches of the Western Paddock (F.246). The bulk of the Roman pottery found in Saxon contexts can probably be seen as having been as curios, collected much in the same manner as other classes of Roman artefacts such as coins and brooches. It should be noted that at the Romano-Saxon site of Mucking in Essex, where there is evidence of a diminution of activity on the site in the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD, the most common Roman fine ware in the *Grubenhäuser* was Samian (Going 1993: 72). A third of the Samian from Mucking was found in Saxon contexts and must have been collected in a similar way to that seen at Hinxton. Similar collections of Samian and colour-coated wares have been found in *Grubenhäuser* at Bourn Bridge, to the northeast of Hinxton - a site of near-identical geographic situation and archaeological history (see below; Pollard 1996).

With only two structures recovered, there is limited potential for the analysis of the Hinxton Quarry Saxon settlement. The range and frequency of artefact-types recovered from the site's two buildings would be roughly comparable with that from the Bourn Bridge *Grubenhäuser* (*Ibid.*). 42 and 79 sherds of pot were respectively recovered from Structure II and III; 371 and 254 pieces of bone, and a minimum of three loomweights from each (Structure II also produced a decorated spindle whorl; Vol. II, fig. 1.2). Against a *Grubenhäuser* 'base-line', two factors stand out. Firstly, that bird bone occurs only in and within both structures (Chicken, Mallard and Goose - 31 bones of the latter were recovered from Structure II; see Yannouli, Appendix 3). Secondly, remains the extraordinary fieldwalking recovery (above Structure II) of the zoomorphic decorated square-headed brooch, with probable silvered terminals (see Hills in Evans 1993; Appendix 4). Apparently re-used as a riveted (?box-) fitting, the rare direct

building-linkage of such a fine object belays the superficial 'poverty' of its associated structural remains.

With substantial hollow-exterior (long-) axial posts, Structure II is the more 'classic' *Grubenhäus* and is akin, for example, to Sunken Feature Buildings 4, 6, and 7 at Bourn Bridge (Pollard 1996: fig. 4). There were greater doubts concerning the building attribution of Structure II, the question finally swayed by the character of its deposition/assemblage. The 25m interval between the Hinxton *Grubenhäuser* would, again, be comparable to that at Bourn Bridge (e.g. same distance between SFB 5 & 6). The very fact that both structures had evidently been backfilled with midden-type deposits suggests that settlement continued within the vicinity and other *Grubenhäuser* may lie further to the west (i.e. someone must be there to backfill them). Although tested (negatively) with a 5m², the recovery of two sherds of Saxon pottery during informal fieldwalking northwest of Evaluation Test Station 22 probably implies the location of another contemporary building some 50m northwest of Structure III (roughly aligned with the axis of the two structures; others may lie between beyond the western limit of excavation).

Medieval/Post-Medieval

A massive ditch, **F.200**, locally up to five metres across (1.35m deep), lay just within the northeastern limit of excavation; its line parallel with the current eastern field drain (fig. 17). Machined sections were cut across the width with the spoil rapidly checked for finds. None, however, were recovered. The fills suggest rapid infilling, possibly deliberate, there being little primary silt or other accumulated fill. At its southern end the ditch cut across the line of the eastern (Roman) enclosure. It is almost certainly of post-Roman attribution, though without finds evidence precise dating is not possible. Its line, along the slight hollow occupied by the modern dyke, suggests that the ditch was intended for drainage. A narrow gully, **F.310**, ran parallel along its eastern edge before feeding into the ditch at its north (0.50m wide; not excavated).

A large depression visible in the topsoil surface at the southwest corner of the excavation (there is a second in the field further west of the site) proved to be an extensive gravel quarry, **F.253** (10 x 22m). Deep and straight-sided (1.20m deep), it was probably of modern date and possibly machine-cut. A second area of extraction, **F.166**, lay beyond the eastern edge of the Southern Enclosure Complex. The individual pit cuts constituting that cluster were smaller and shallower (up to 1.20m deep), and evidently hand-dug. The possibility remains that this latter group was of Roman origin; no datable finds were recovered.

Natural Features

Along the eastern side of the site two natural features, evidently tree-boles or peri-glacial disturbances, were partially excavated (**F.147** and **F.153**). Both has a similar fill pattern: compact re-deposited natural gravels ringing their interior edges, with dense black manganese-stained silts in the centre of the pit (see French in Evans 1993 for a discussion of features of this type). Neither produced more than the occasional fragment of burnt and/or worked flint (for a fuller discussion of the possible origins of these features see **F.258** above). Other such features were scattered across the northern and eastern portions of the site.

Two, possibly peri-glacial, features, **F.293** and **F.294**, were excavated because of their morphological differences to the majority of the 'tree-bole' features and the occurrence of worked flint upon their surfaces. Their dark silt fills were very similar, both showing evidence of subsequent root action. However, the number of worked flints recovered from their upper fills (24 pieces each) could suggest an element of 'disturbance'.

Other features were investigated on site due to their archaeological 'appearance', but on excavation appeared/proved to be of natural origin, often with naturally accumulated waterlain fills (**F.201**, **F.280**, **F.285**, **F.287** and **F.288**). Only from **F.288** were any finds recovered, 12 pieces of worked flint.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Cultural Geographies

The importance of the many staged Hinxton investigations are two-fold. On the one hand, along with recent work at Bourn Bridge (Evans 1993; Pollard 1995 & 1996), it serves as a *sample* of long-term utilisation of the southern Cambridgeshire river valleys. On the other hand, the *specific circumstances* of its cultural geography (i.e. proximity to Icknield Way and Great Chesterford) probably greatly influenced its late prehistoric-to-Saxon development, potentially adding a political dimension.

Prehistoric - It is difficult to characterise Neolithic/Bronze Age utilisation of the terrace and draw wider implications of its recovery. Usage was obviously very intense, with many minor 'camping' episodes probably attested to. As has proven common on a number of recent evaluations, there seems a discrepancy between lithics ploughzone representation and sub-surface features - a dispersed scattering of ubiquitous pits and nothing more (e.g. see Evans & Gibson 1996). This is a complicated issue, one that still requires intensive research investigation. However, some patterns do seem to be emerging from the data which the Hinxton evidence further elucidates. One, is the apparent utilisation of tree-throws as convenient shelters, their up-turned roots probably serving as a mass-wall from which tent-skins could be draped. Such usage has also recently been found at Barleycroft Farm on the Ouse (Knight & Evans forthcoming) and at the Huntingdon Racecourse Site (Last 1996). (Interestingly enough, apparently only utilised for these purposes during the *earlier* Neolithic, and attesting to similar patterns of residential mobility, such pit-utilisation would have had precursors in later Mesolithic 'dwellings'.)

Another general point which the Hinxton reflects upon is the manner in which early monuments evidently attracted later prehistoric activity. Such in the case with the South Field barrow which had great quantities of mid-later Bronze Age worked flint of distinctly 'industrial character' dumped into its surrounding ditch (fig. 20.1). There is evidence that the later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age double ring-ring-ditch at Barleycroft Farm similarly served as a focus of later (lithic) deposition (Evans & Gibson 1996); whereas the later Bronze Age embanked pond barrow/ring-ditch at Bourn Bridge seems to have more immediately drawn comparable activity (Pollard 1995).

Roman - The specific status or the potential importance of the riverside complex can not be appreciated in site-bound isolation. The larger landscape system in this area is marked by its extreme formality - the series of sub-square settlement compounds which run along the eastern edge of the quarry with droves down to the river (fig. 20.8-10). Remarkable enough in itself, it is against this background that the riverside settlement stands out. The origin of the 'great drove' appears (from cropmark evidence; fig.20.4) to be from a polygonal-shaped

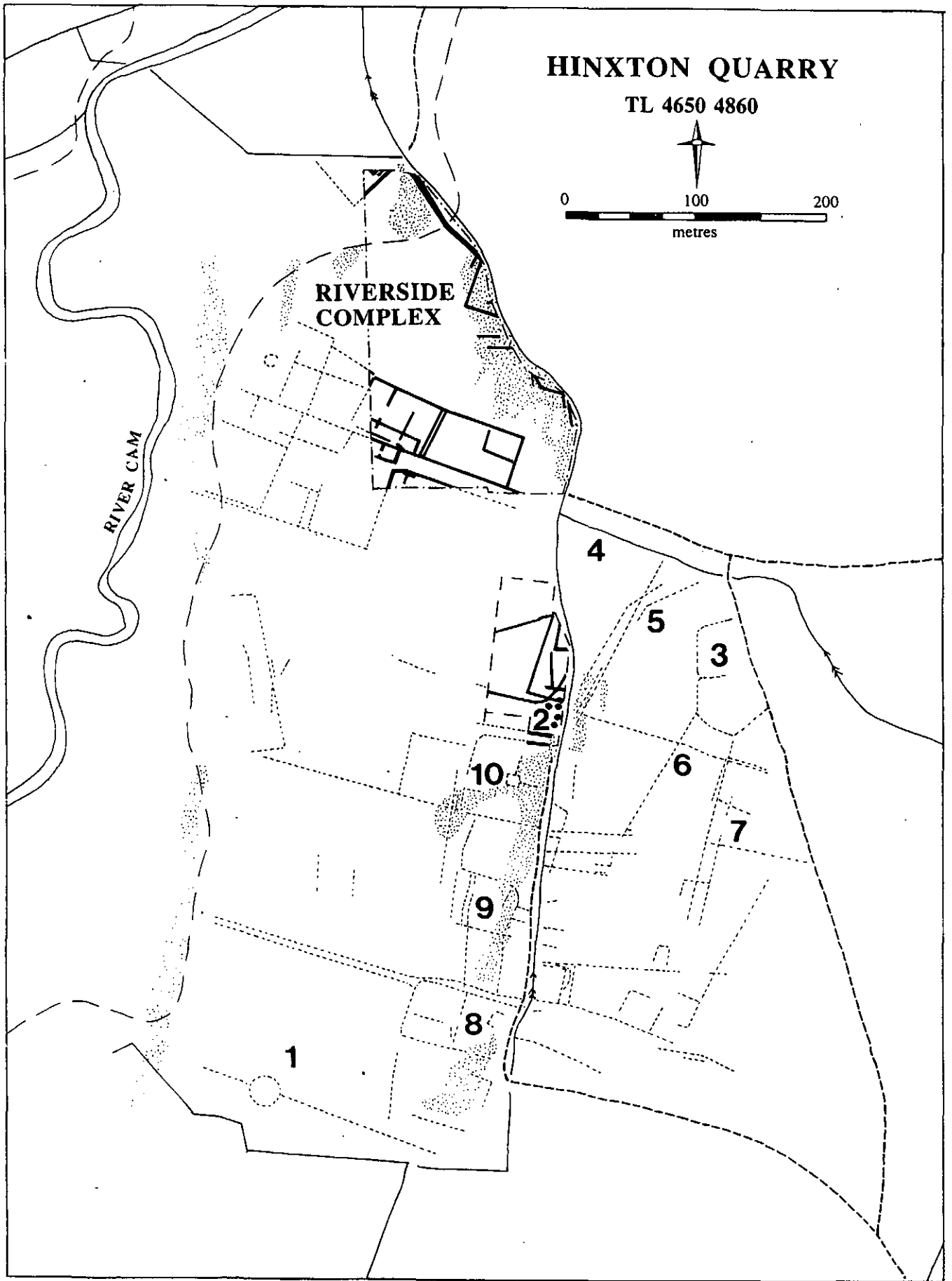


Figure 20

enclosure lying 200m east of the site (fig. 20.3). Other equally 'monumental' droves seem to radiate out from this complex (fig. 20.5-7), which appear to be cross-cut by the more 'domestic scale' grid-iron system. (Within the mid-Field Arm excavations the southern side of another 'great drove' was truncated by compound ditch systems; Alexander & Hill 1996).

This polygonal cropmark enclosure site appears quite extraordinary - certainly another 'place' and possibly a 'centre' of some description. If so, its situation could relate to the occurrence of the Late Iron Age cemetery within the quarry's Mid-Field Arm (fig. 20.2; Alexander & Hill 1996) - an Iron Age 'place' being superseded with a Roman expression of authority? (In this context, the status of the post-ring-ditch inhumations become crucial. The cemetery lies at the mouth of the drove - to drive carts over the dead must be considered the antithesis of respect - if the creation of the great drove system was a primary act in the layout of the Roman landscape, how do the inhumations fit this picture? Cut into the silted fills of the later 1st century BC ring-ditches, one with a 'Roman' ring, they could suggest the burial practices of an acculturated Iron Age population dating to the 1st century AD).

The river is, of course, another possible factor inasmuch as this may have been a fording point. The scale of the western drove (and its post-Roman 'maintenance') could reflect this, as does also the location of another early Roman settlement on the opposite bank of the Cam at Coldham's Moat (Evans 1991). Whilst certainty in any of these matters is not possible, it does suggest that the development of the riverside enclosure complex may have been influenced by factors that were not strictly 'domestic' (i.e. were political and/or geographic-specific). Relying on inference, apart from the formality of the enclosure and the scale of later Roman dumping, there is little within the confines of the excavation site itself that would directly inform of this.

Saxon - With such a limited portion of the settlement apparently investigated, little can also be said of this phase of land-use. The most salient general point being that, as found on a number of sites (in proximity to Roman settlements), its inhabitants were evidently collecting past curios. This occupation 'play' has major ramifications of the representality of earlier assemblages ('gathering' leading to under-representation of the 'fine'). Otherwise, apart from issues of intrinsic interest (e.g. the extraordinary association of the broach and Structure II), what is of primary interest concerning the Hinxton data is the sheer fact of its occurrence as an addition to the southern Cambridgeshire corpus - suggesting a 'high density of low intensity settlement' in the river valleys in the south of the County.

Bourn Bridge & Hinxtton - Recovery rates

However biased by the needs of present-day gravel extraction, if the results from these two quarry sites are taken as a random sample of occupation sequence recovery rates of southern Cambridgeshire river valleys, they show marked differences when compared to similar survey work to the north (Clay Plain, Ouse valley and Fen-edge). Low density Saxon *Grubenhäuser* settlements were found at both. Completely 'chance' finds, this suggests that the southern Cambridgeshire river valleys were extensively settled during the period, and could co-relate with the status of Great Chesterford and the system of Saxon Dykes in the area. Conversely, negative evidence from these two sites and across the river at Duxford (Evans 1990 & 1991) is also telling - where is the Early/Middle Iron Age? This is in marked contrast to north-of-Cambridge, where sites of this period would have been found as frequently as Saxon seems to be in the south. (Located at the northern margin of Aylesford/Swarling distributions, the recovery of the *Late* Iron Age cremation cemetery is a rare find and may not be typical of more general period distributions). There seems no geographic determinate for these mutually exclusive distributions - river corridor movement and contested 'political landscapes' would seem the only explanation (Evans 1992).

Future Research Directives

Any further work should be directed towards the provision of broader context. At a base-line level six issues stand out:

Neolithic/Bronze Age - Is the 'plateau'/lower terrace a unique topographic zone or does this density of utilisation extend into the floodplain proper and across the upper terrace?

Iron Age - Can the contemporary settlement/parent community be located for the cremation cemetery; it is imperative that the full extent of the cemetery be defined.

Where is the Early/Middle occupation?

Roman - Further investigation of the character of the riverside complex - was it a distinct settlement relating to river fording/transportation?

The eastern polygonal enclosure - Potentially a seat of authority, its status appears critical in understanding of early Roman land-use within the vicinity.

Saxon - The extent of the recovered settlement - does it run (albeit dispersed) strung-out along the Cam terrace or is it a discrete site relating to the ford?

Appendum to Volume II - *References*

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