
A Landscape Corridor: A14 Improvements Investigations

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This paper presents the results of the first-phase archaeological evaluation fieldwork implemented on behalf of the Highways Agency for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton project. The proposed changes consisted of a new route south around Huntingdon, provision of additional carriageways alongside the existing road between Fen Drayton and Girton, widening of the existing Cambridge Northern Bypass and a number of junction improvements. Work on the project was stopped in the Summer of 2010 due to the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The fieldwork was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) during 2009–10. Extending for 28.75km from Ellington southeastward across the valley of the River Great Ouse and the clay plain to Girton, the route involved a representative sample of the county's main north-of-Cambridge geologies (Fenland aside): some 17km crossing clays and, the remainder, upon gravel terraces (Fig. 1; Patten *et al.* 2010).

This was a very large-scale exercise, involving more than 20km-length of trenching wherein just shy of 720 features were recorded and, in total, some 11,425 artefacts were recovered. As such, it stands in marked contrast to the scale of response that was mounted in the early 1980s to the construction of the M11 (e.g. Cra'ster 1982). Indeed, the programme results should be considered in the light of other recent 'mass-scale' linear investigations within the county, primarily the fieldwork along the routes of the A428 (Abrams and Ingham 2008) and the Guided Busway (Dickens and Collins 2011). Equally relevant, particularly for the A14's southeastern claylands-length, have been the series of landscape-scale investigations in those environs and which includes the excavations at Cambourne (Wright *et al.* 2009) and the evaluation programmes at both Longstanton/Northstowe and the University's Northwest Cambridge development (see Evans *et al.* 2008, 174–81 and Evans and Newman 2010).

Due to the scale of the A14's fieldwork programme, the number of sites found and variety of prospection techniques deployed – and that the resultant multi-source imagery/data does not readily lend itself to

a standard journal format – this paper can only really serve to 'signpost' the project's rich archives. While it includes gazetteer summaries of all the designated sites, there is only the scope to case-study a few in any detail.

Baseline Procedures and Methodologies

It should be stressed from the outset that this was a limited initial-phase evaluation programme, with subsequent second-stage works planned following the scheme's planning determination. In the first instance the length of the proposed road-line was subject to aerial photographic appraisal and fieldwalking (respectively, Palmer 2003 and Anderson *et al.* 2009). Based on transect-collection (over 70km total length), the latter was conducted across approximately 66% of the total off-line portions (i.e. non-present route), the remainder being inaccessible variously due to pasture-cover, the state of crop-growth or landownership issues. In its course, aside from three minor lithic scatters, three distinct scatter sites were identified and these were selected for intense gridded pick-up (6.4ha in total) and their results are incorporated within the relevant site summaries that follow. The vast majority of the road's off-line length also saw geophysical survey. This involved narrow transects along its 'corridor' proper (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2007), which was augmented by larger swathes relating to the proposed location of balancing ponds and borrow pits, etc. (Bartlett 2009 a and b).

Based on these sources, 28 areas were then selected for full trench-evaluation procedures. It proved impossible, however, to gain landowner access to four and, in the end, only 15 of these were evaluated in 2009 (Fig. 1). It had been intended to test the remainder in the following year, but by then, anticipating that the road scheme would not progress, this work was not advanced apart from in two other areas (P and E1). The criteria according to which these areas were chosen for investigation were:

- 1) Areas with known archaeological sites or probable

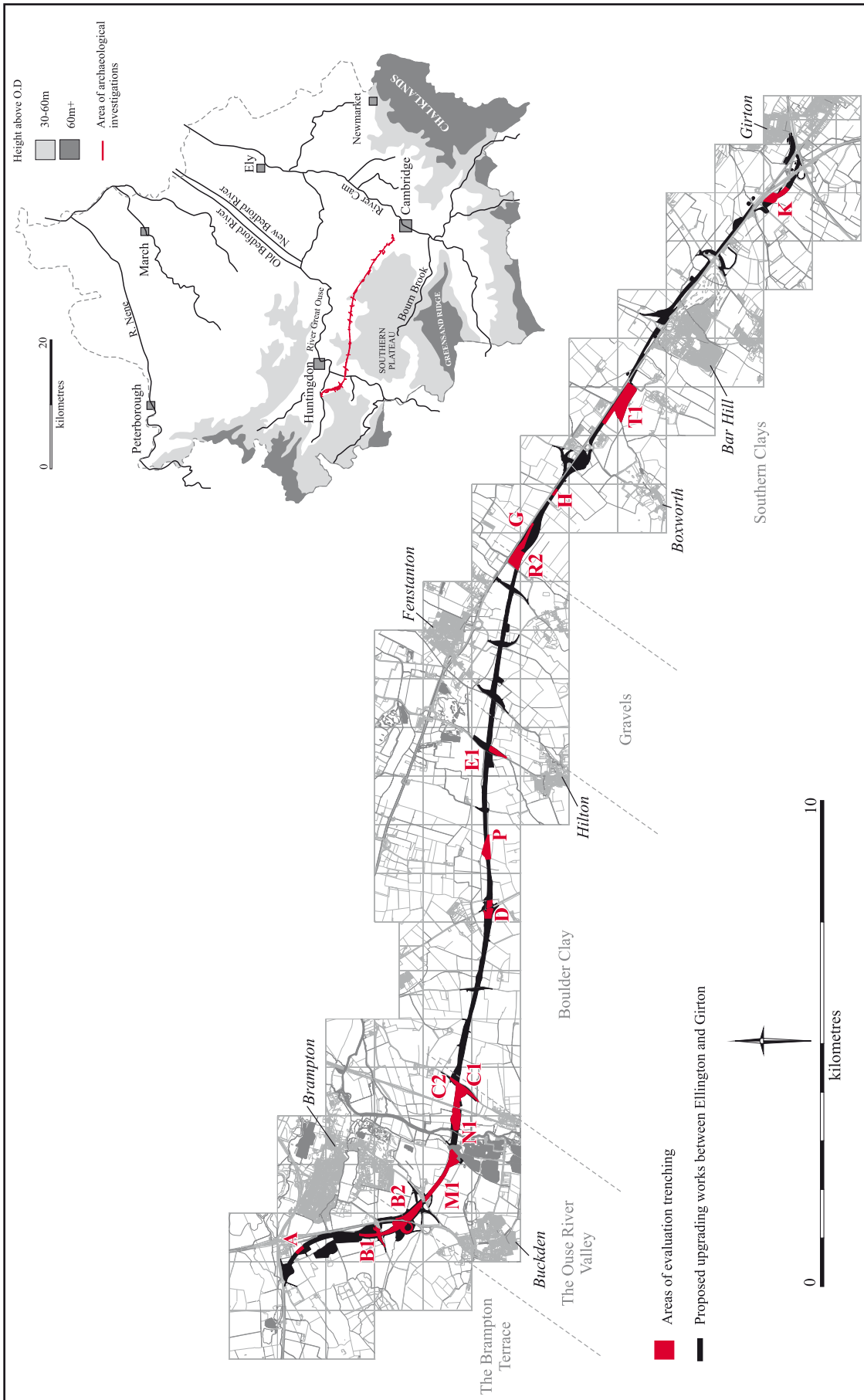


Figure 1. The A14 Improvements 'corridor' showing areas of investigation.

features as shown by previous non-intrusive investigation (Areas A, B1, B2, C1, C2, E1, G, H, K, N1, P, R2 and T1)

- 2) Areas with a high potential for archaeology based on proximity to known archaeology, geomorphological features and/or suitable topography (Areas D and M1).

The vast majority of the otherwise non-progressed 2010-scheduled investigations fell into a third criteria: areas with some archaeological potential based upon topography.

Mention should also be made that the 2.3km stretch of the route between the Oakington and Bar Hill junctions had previously been evaluated anticipating the Longstanton/Northstowe development and where three main sites were identified (these being separately designated with 'L'-prefixes; Fig. 1; see Evans *et al.* 2008, 174–81):

Site L12. A later Iron Age sub-circular double-circuit ring-work, that joins with a much larger enclosure system. This was subsequently overlain by an Early Romano-British farmstead settlement.

Site L26. A series of Late Iron Age/Roman fieldsystem enclosures/paddocks, possibly related to Site L27.

Site L27. Evidently a high status Romano-British building complex, including a bath-house, and which probably related to either a mansio, post-station or even a villa.

A 4% area-sample trenching programme was initially undertaken, supplemented by a further 1% judgemental coverage. The presence of services affected the ability to trench in certain areas and, where possible, this constraint was addressed by the use of aerial photography and geophysical data. In addition, in order to sample artefact densities within the sub-/top-soil deposits, 100 litre hand-sorted 'bucket' samples were taken. These were retrieved at 100m intervals where the proposed route bisected clay geologies and reduced to a 50m distance on gravel.

Within 15 designated areas, evaluation trial

trenching was conducted over c. 88.7ha.

As listed in Table 2 below, this resulted in the identification of 21 separate sites, which are duly summarised in the section that follows (two-thirds of these being new discoveries). Also falling within the road corridor-area proper, two other sites – Numbers 22 and 23 – are similarly described below. Due to logistical reasons, trenching could not be conducted at either; their assignment being based upon background/non-intrusive sources.

The Brampton Gravels

Area A (*Brampton West Terraces*)

Situated at the western end of the road corridor (Fig. 1), geophysical survey revealed a possible ditch and several anomalies, with six trenches and two open areas excavated to test these. Not excavated were a number of features located to the southwest of the evaluation area, beyond the road corridor, which may be part of an Iron Age enclosure. Designated Site 1, a palaeochannel was identified within two of the trenches (relating to the River Great Ouse's braided palaeosystem), with evidence for a ditch-cut along one edge that yielded Middle Iron Age finds. No artefacts were recovered during fieldwalking.

Site 1 (Middle Iron Age; Fig. 2): Evaluation identified early activity within the vicinity of a palaeochannel. Sealed by alluvium, animal bone and Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from within what appeared to be a linear feature along the channel's edge. The subsequent results from the geophysical surveys to the south highlighted the northern limit of a substantial, probable Iron Age settlement comprising enclosures and linear boundaries. Whilst the survey failed to expose the full extent of Site 1, the plotted enclosures further emphasise the marginal nature of the archaeology within the excavated area associated with the palaeochannel. Their morphology is

Table 1. Total areas and identified sites.

Area	Area Size (ha)	Number of Trenches	Trench Sample (m ²)	Sites
A	1	6	482	1
B1	11.1	69	5546	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
B2	6.3	19	1763	6 and 9
C1	8.1	35	3959	13 and 14
C2	1.2	4	401	14
D	4	21	1549	-
E1	1.5	9	921	-
G	4.3	17	1919	-
H	0.5	3	394	17
K	5.8	32	2815	19 and 20
M1	9.5	41	4175	10 and 11
N1	5.6	18	2123	12 and 15
P	4.3	18	2155	21
R2	6.8	26	3228	16
T1	18.6	71	8665	18
Total	88.7ha	389	40,095	

Site No.	Area	Fieldwalking Site No.	Period
1	A		Middle Iron Age
2	B1		Late Iron Age/Conquest Period
3	B1		Romano-British
4	B1		Neolithic
5	B1	1	Anglo-Saxon
6	B1&B2		Middle Iron Age
7	B1		Neolithic
8	B1		Anglo-Saxon
9	B2		Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British
10	M1	2	Romano-British
11	M1		Bronze-Age/Iron Age
12	N1	3 (west)	Middle Iron Age
13	C1	3 (east)	Middle Iron Age
14	C1&C2	3 (east)	Romano-British
15	N1		Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age
16	R2/G		Late Prehistoric & Romano-British
17	H		Middle Iron Age
18	T1		Middle Iron Age/?Romano-British
19	K		Middle Iron Age
20	K		Romano-British
21	P		Later Iron Age
22	E		Later Iron Age/Romano-British
23	-		Romano-British/?Anglo-Saxon

Table 2. Site number by area and period.

similar to those identified to the northwest of Site 2 (see below) and it is reasonable to assume that they were also of Middle Iron Age date.

Area B1 (Brampton West Terraces)

Surveyed ahead of the evaluation, geophysical prospecting revealed an extensive series of features and anomalies distributed over a distance of *c.* 2km (Fig. 3). Several sites attributable to different periods are discernible. These includes a large probable Middle Iron Age enclosure complex (Fig. 3, Zone 1), whose southern and western edges are denoted by a boundary ditch that follows the local topography; fieldsystem and enclosure ditches extend both downslope and along the gravel terraces, and create, on the northern side, a quasi-radial system. Located less than 200m to the south of this complex is a clearly defined series of later Iron Age and Conquest Period rectangular enclosures (Fig. 3, Zone 2), with ditches seemingly following the local topography of the gravel terraces, and with a clear distinction between smaller, possibly infield enclosures on the eastern side and possible larger paddock-like fields to the west. Less clearly defined within the central swathe of features are a series of pits and probable Roman ditches that hint at rectangular enclosures and paddocks (Fig. 3, Zone

3). Prehistoric and later activity is further evinced by the large number of pits shown on the geophysical survey plot and the cluster of flint and pottery recovered during fieldwalking; the latter dating from the Romano-British, Saxon and Medieval periods. Of note is the large barrow or a henge, some 45m in diameter, located between the A1 and the line of the road corridor (Fig. 3, Zone 4). This feature and the pitting highlights the significance of the area in prehistory, with the former preceded by what could even be a large causewayed enclosure upslope of these (Fig. 3, Zone 5). Newly identified from the geophysical survey results, this measures some 120m across and represent one of a number similar monuments within the wider Ouse River Valley/Brampton area.

Gridded fieldwalking collection was locally made across the southern portion of the route corridor, with prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon material recovered (Figs 3 and 4).

Site 2 (Later Iron Age/Conquest Period; Figs 3 and 5): The evaluation revealed Late Iron Age features comprising the southern margin of the rectilinear system described above, with a southwest-facing entrance extending north beyond the evaluated area clearly identified. A recut northeast–southwest aligned ditch, yielding some Late Iron Age pottery, appeared to respect the large cluster

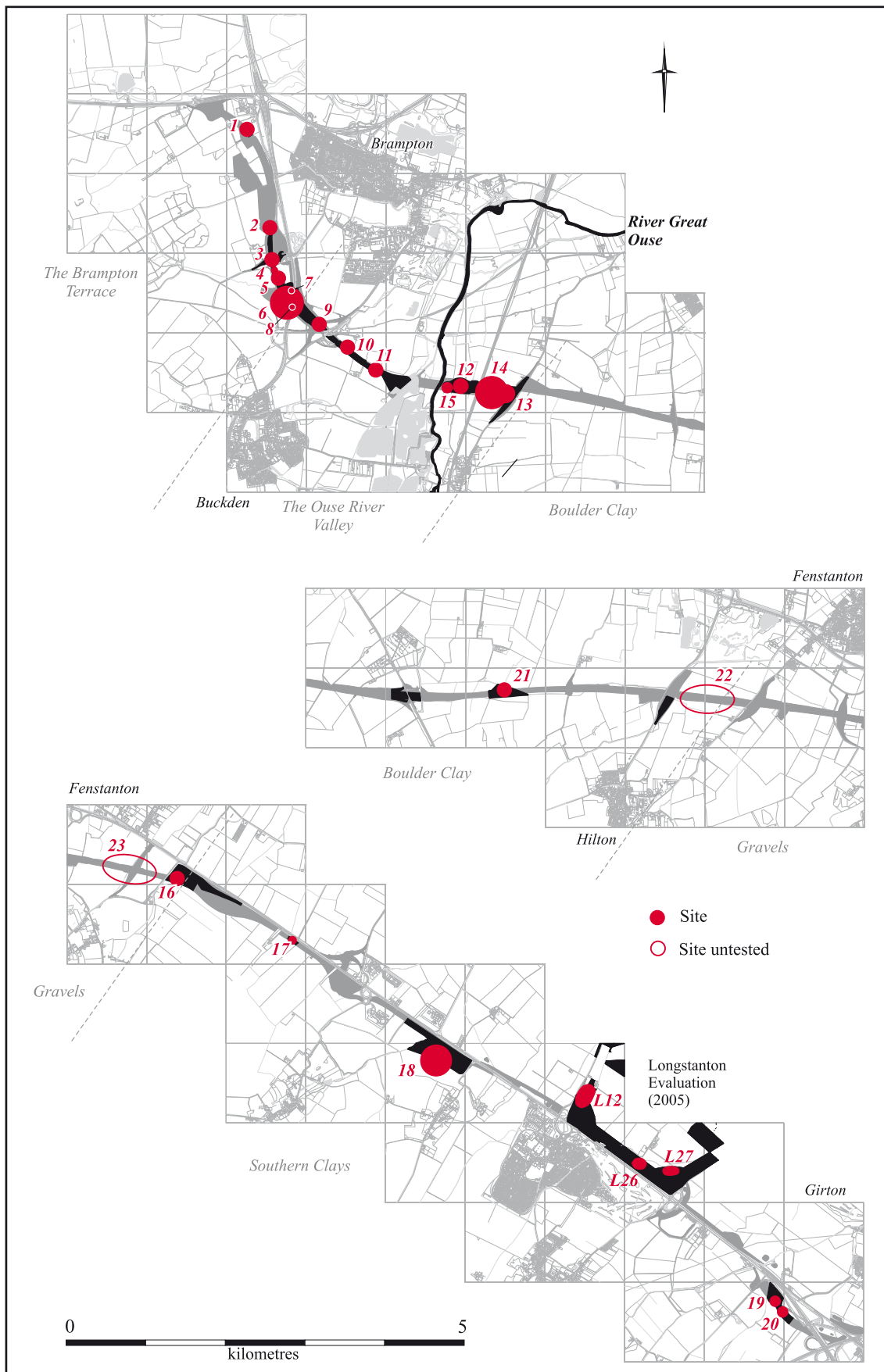


Figure 2. Area and site locations.

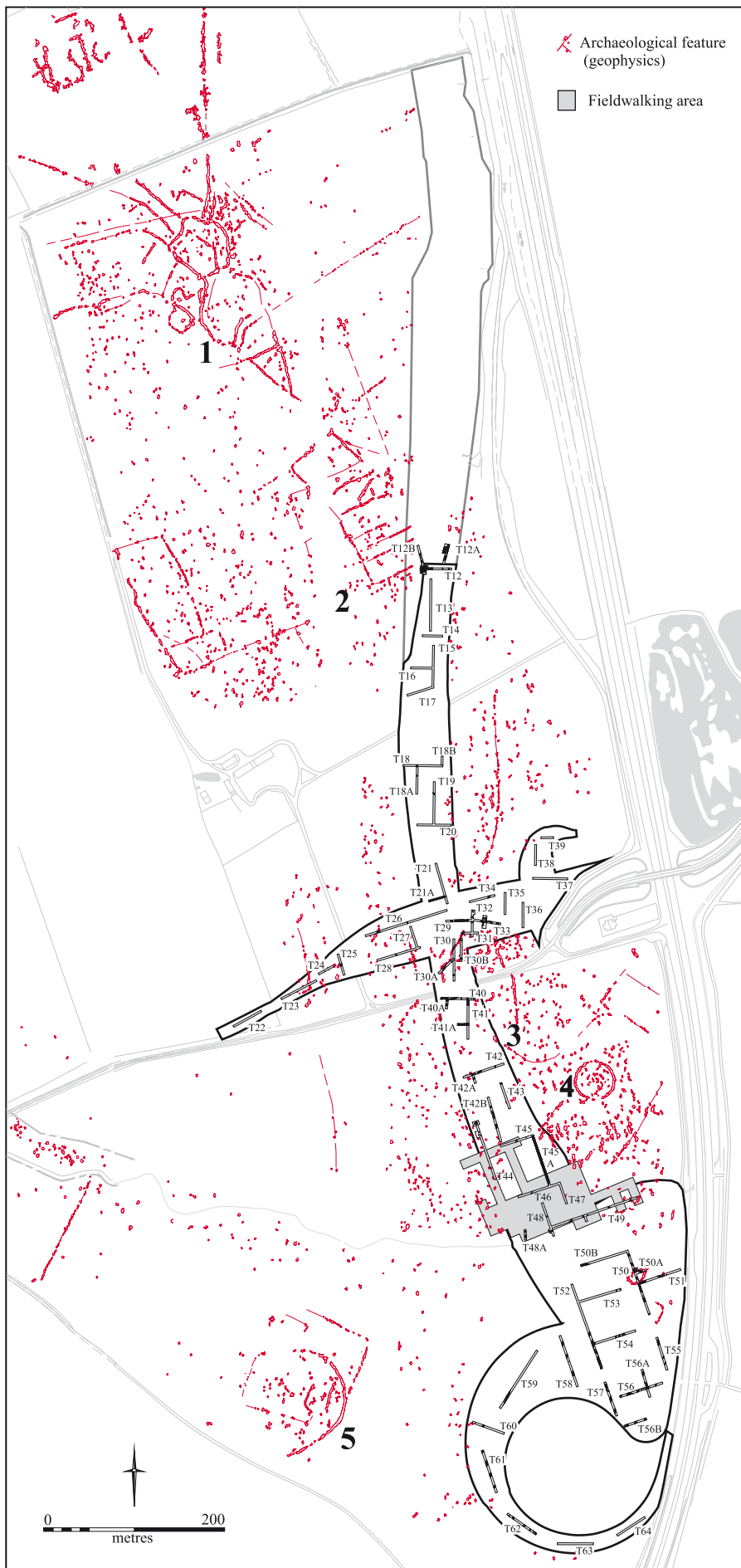


Figure 3. Area B1 (Brampton Gravels), geophysical plot and trenching plan.

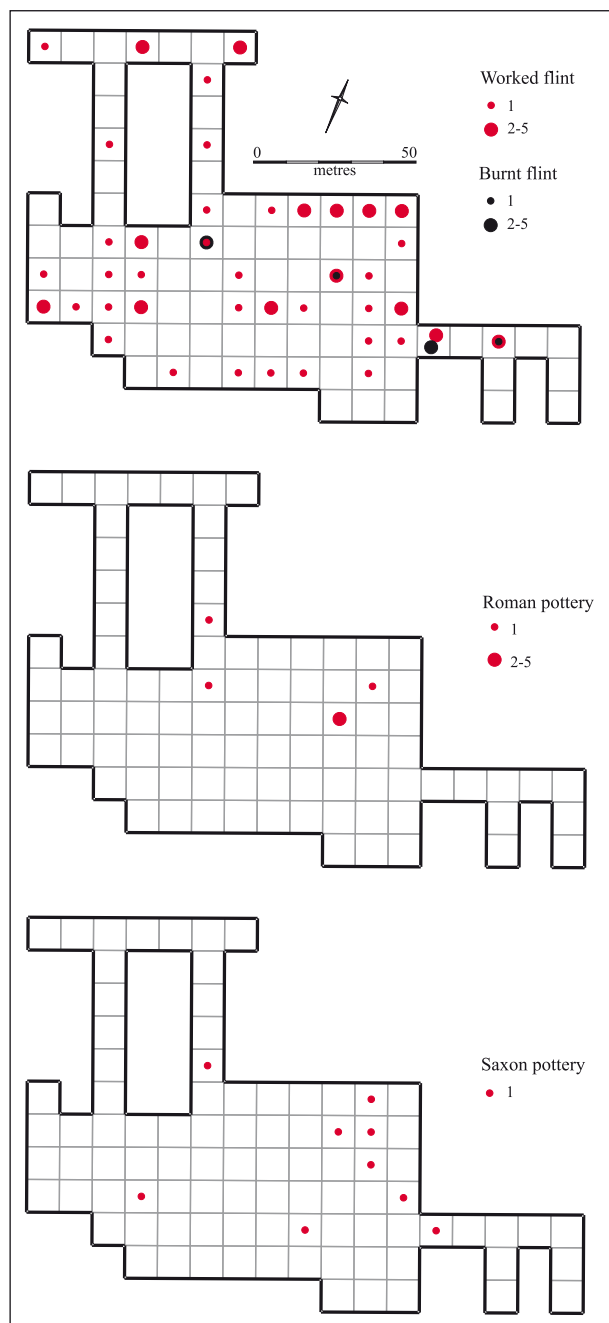


Figure 4. Area B1, fieldwalking plots (see Fig. 3 for location).

of potentially contemporary pits within the area, whilst a second northeast–southwest aligned linear (shallower and recut) was identified that also contained Late Iron Age pottery; four pits or postholes appear to be associated with the enclosure ditches. A series of five northeast to southwest aligned shallow gullies, yielding Late Iron Age pottery, appeared to respect the return alignment of the Middle to Late Iron Age ditches, that most likely represent re-definition of the boundary ditches.

The geophysical surveys indicate that these linear features correspond to the southeastern corner of a large rectangular enclosed area 350m across (Fig. 3, Zone 2). Its eastern side includes a series of smaller rectangular

enclosures, also partially visible as cropmarks, 100m in width and between 15 and 25m long; at least one possible eavesgully is also visible on the survey. These enclosures are mirrored on the west side, although without subdivisions and are also clearly represented on the aerial survey. No clear northern boundary of the larger enclosed area is evident, although the eastern boundary appears to extend a further 260m to the northwest before turning to a roughly east–west alignment. Intriguingly, the open-area contained possible ring-gullies and discrete features that may suggest domestic occupation with associated infields situated either side. Centrally located within the evaluation area was a single discrete pit with a bell-profile that contained low quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery and bone; a small cluster of undated, yet potentially contemporary, pits were located nearby. Situated approximately 180m south of the main focus of Site 2, the isolated nature of these features suggests they are not directly associated with the settlement core or the Iron Age activity within Site 3 (see below), but reflect a background landscape spread of prehistoric activity.

As outlined above, north of Site 2 a series of sub-rectangular and sub-circular enclosures, with accompanying linears, extend to the west and north beyond the limit of the geophysical survey, with smaller enclosures and or ring-gullies seemingly respecting them. It is probable that these represent Middle/late Iron Age activity and have clear similarities to the enclosures identified within the area of Site 1.

Site 3 (Romano-British; Figs 3 and 5): Aerial and geophysical surveys registered Site 3 within the evaluated areas, although the density of archaeological features within the adjacent landscape makes identification of any wider associated fieldsystems difficult to determine. Several otherwise undated linears on a generally north–south alignment to the north of Site 3 and 140m to the west may also be associated boundary ditches. Albeit somewhat peripheral in their location, they suggest a site approximately 300m across. Cropmarks forming what appears to be an enclosure on a similar alignment to the northern side of the site were also identified, potentially representing a larger settlement.

Three distinct phases of Romano-British activity were identified within Site 3. These were represented by a small number of late pre-Roman Iron Age (Gallo-Belgic) or Conquest Period rectilinear ditches, which were replaced by 1st–2nd century and, then, later 2nd–4th century features. Two shallow linear features were definitively dated to the earliest Gallo-Belgic or Romano-British phase and these appear to form two sides of an enclosure approximately 40 x 50m. A focus of deposition of pottery was identified within the northernmost side of the enclosure, with the quantity suggesting the existence of a nearby structure.

A second phase of rectilinear enclosure, dated by pottery to the early Roman period (1st–2nd century), was identified to the south of the Gallo-Belgic enclosure; north-south/east-west aligned ditches suggest a rectangular enclosure (c. 40 x 80m). A cluster of small, intercutting pits, yielding small quantities of pottery of a contemporary date, were the only internal features identified within the enclosed area. Higher status domestic wares were recovered from the ditches; platters and bowls of

both imported and locally made types suggest a domestic core within or close to the enclosure. A grave was located immediately north of this Romano-British activity; the preserved skeleton (left *in situ*) was extended, on its back with the head to the south.

A series of later 2nd–4th century Romano-British linear features appear to have overlain or extended the 1st–2nd century enclosure-phase a further 50m to the north. Although generally respecting the north–south/east–west alignment, these appeared less formally laid-out. Pits and postholes potentially associated with this later phase were identified within the northern part of the enclosure, though the quantity of pottery and animal bone recovered suggests that, like the previous phase, this was more agricultural than directly settlement-related.

Site 4 (Neolithic; Figs 3 and 5): Site 4, narrowly defined by trenching, was located on a slight plateau within the otherwise moderately steep slope of the remainder of the area. This lies west of the barrow/henge known from the aerial photographic record since the mid 1960s and which strongly registered on the geophysical plot. Three irregular pits were located within the western end of the site, with Neolithic pottery recovered from two. Only one of two linear features located south of these could be traced across more than one trench, suggesting one either terminated or changed alignment along its course; two sherds of Neolithic pottery were present within the fills of one of the ditches. The identification of these pits and the sherds recovered from the ditch lengths attests to Neolithic activity and, along with Site 7, highlights the probability of a dispersed Neolithic presence. This is further demonstrated by the irregular pits/tree-throws containing Neolithic pottery (not identified on either the geophysical or cropmark surveys). Extensive similar geophysical readings, thought to be remnant traces from the ancient ‘Brampton Woods’, appeared throughout Area B1 and it is possible that some of these could equally relate to Neolithic activity.

Site 5 (Anglo-Saxon; Figs 3 and 5): Excavation revealed sunken floored buildings, representing several *grubenhäuser*, were thus designated as Site 5. These were identified in the central-southern third of Area B1 and contained considerable quantities of Anglo-Saxon pottery and animal bone; further unexcavated examples of these features were also present. A single, seemingly rectilinear post-built structure was also distinguished, with discrete features of a comparable date identified. The confirmed *grubenhäuser* appeared as strong anomalies within the geophysical survey, with a further four similar readings located immediately west and southwest of the proposed road corridor. These suggest a settlement of at least six *grubenhäuser* spanning 200m along the southern slope of the hill here. In light of the strong Anglo-Saxon presence within Site 5, it is possible that some, if not all of the otherwise undated linear features could be associated with a later Saxon-phase settlement.

Site 6 (Later Prehistoric; Figs 3 and 5): Excavated here were a series of linear features and pits dated by relatively scant quantities of pottery dating from the Middle to Late Iron

Age. Designated Site 6, they indicate that later Iron Age activity was prominent within the flat base of the slope that formed the south of Area B1. Loosely aligned on a northeast–southwest ‘grid’, linear features consisted of several large recut ditches defining the northeast edge and forming the northwest ‘side’ of a possible enclosure; the latter contained internal features or sub-divisions and what appeared to be two sides of a smaller enclosure. The alignment of the probable enclosures was mirrored by a northwest–southeast aligned linear feature identified within the eastern part of the site, which respects the presence of a large pit or pit-well. The fills of the latter demonstrated multiple layers of silting and gravel slumping consistent with use as a well/watering-hole. The relatively high quantity of pottery recovered from the pit, as well as the presence of a worked bone implement, further suggest nearby domestic activity. The presence of a Middle Iron Age cluster of small pits or postholes may relate to this. A small rectilinear feature, 8–10m square with possible entrance to the northwest, was identified and possibly represents a square barrow; this interpretation would, though, certainly require further testing.

Outlying linear features on the same general alignment as the enclosures were identified throughout the southern extent of Area B1 and within the northwest of Area B2; although undated and on a similar alignment with the Medieval and post-Medieval furrows identified across Site 6. It is likely that wider Middle Iron Age landscape activity was present, although this is less well-defined away from the core represented by enclosures and possible settlement. Cropmarks and the geophysical survey indicates that the ‘main’ enclosed area ended immediately south of the limit of evaluation, suggesting a core of enclosures approximately 150m long utilising a linear feature that continued more than 300m southwest to the edge of the surveyed area. Similarly aligned linear features were identified within the south of the surveyed area, as well as immediately north of Site 6, close to the barrow east of Sites 4 and 5, and appear to be forming a series of ‘co-axial-like’ boundaries. The definitive dating for cropmarks not immediately associated with features investigated during the evaluation will always be tenuous. The possibility that Iron Age enclosures utilised a pre-existing fieldsystem may, in fact, suggest that the Middle Iron Age presence in Area B1 was confined to Site 6, with the more large-scale earlier, Bronze Age fieldsystem extending beyond the proposed road corridor proper.

Site 7 (Neolithic; Figs 3 and 5): This comprised a single (definite) Neolithic pit that had quantities of ‘early’ flint and showed signs of *in situ* burning, thus warranting a separate site designation. Fragments of charred hazelnut shell within the fill strongly suggest ‘occupation’ with accompanying flintworking. Contemporary flint recovered during the bucket-sampling was localised around the immediate area and is further indicative of activity from that time. Significantly, both the geophysical and aerial surveys revealed a large sub-circular enclosure, approximately 120m in diameter, within the southwest of the surveyed area (Fig. 3, Zone 5) that, given the segmented appearance of its ditch, may be a hitherto unrecognised causewayed enclosure.

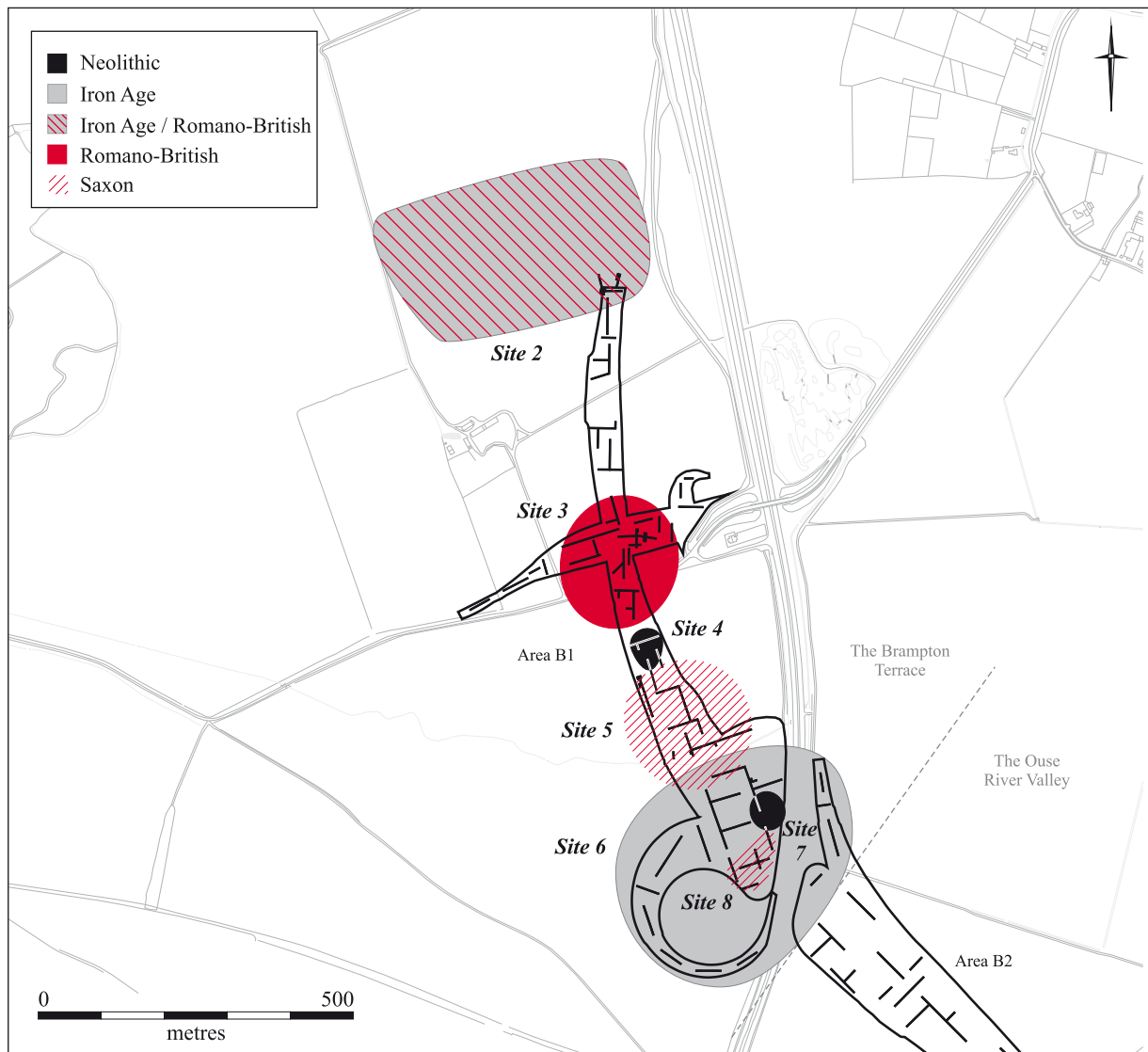


Figure 5. Area B1, site-area designations.

Site 8 (Anglo-Saxon; Figs 3 and 5): This second, smaller area of Anglo-Saxon activity was located in the far southeast corner of the evaluated area and consisted of a deep pit containing a small quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery and animal bone. Two nearby small hearth-like features were potentially part of a minor settlement. A series of curvilinear gullies and ditches also occurred within the trenches, but lacked dating evidence.

The Ouse River Valley

Area B2 (Ouse Valley West)

Evaluated through the excavation of 19 trenches, Middle to Late Iron Age pits and ditches were recorded within the western half of this area. This was considered to be a continuation of Site 6 (Area B1), although probably on the periphery of that site's core-settlement

area. Romano-British enclosures, boundary ditches, a possible trackway and quarrying were also present in the eastern half of the evaluation and consequently distinguished as a separate site (Site 9); fieldwalking within Area B2, and the small number of finds recovered, did not reveal any notable clustering.

Site 9 (Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British; Fig. 6): Features dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods formed the majority of activity recorded. Later Iron Age and Early Romano-British activity, suggestive of a settlement core, was located within the far southeast of the area, denoted by a series of linear features and pits. A series of small rectilinear enclosures, which may have been part of an infield system, were also revealed between the settlement and the more open fields to the northwest; they show a relatively high degree of concordance with features distinguished within the non-invasive surveys.

The aerial photographic and geophysical surveys suggest that Site 9 represents peripheral elements of larger

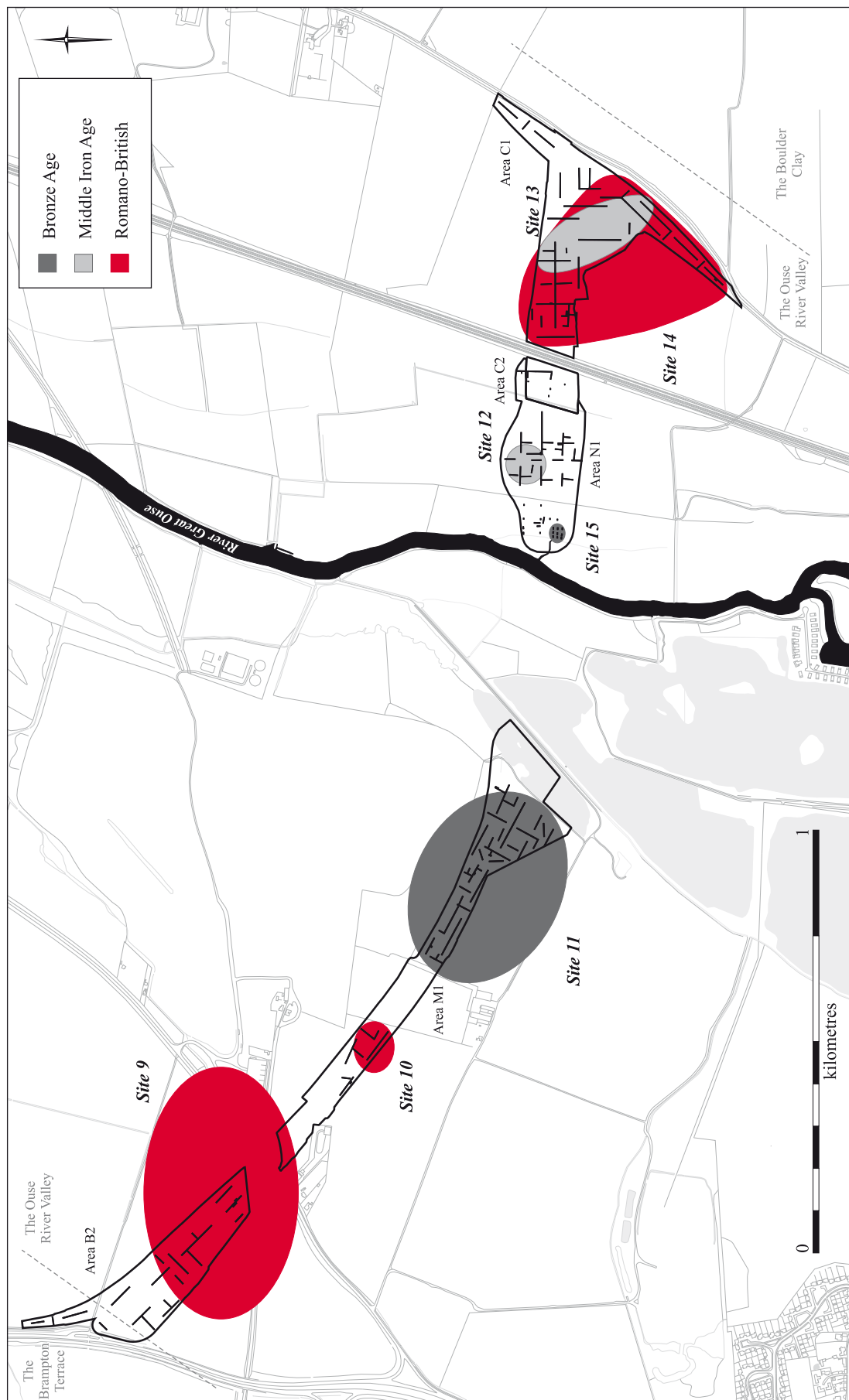


Figure 6. The Ouse River Valley (Areas B2, M1, N1 and C1 & 2), site-area designations.

system of rectilinear enclosures extending to the southwest of the evaluated area. Their results indicate a site extending more than 350m across, with a greater density of enclosures and internal features to the southwest of the road corridor. The probable Romano-British linear features within Site 10, to the southeast of Site 9, as well as the largely Romano-British site previously identified between the two (Burrow and Foard-Colby 2006), suggests the end of Site 9 should be associated with the cluster of Late Iron Age pits and linears at the far southeast of the evaluated area; the core of Site 9 would, therefore, appear to be no more than 300m in length.

Traces of Romano-British gravel quarrying were also identified in the northwest of the site-area. It is likely that their pits were utilised in the construction of nearby settlements and provided metallurgy for roads/trackways. Two possible linears radiated from these quarry pits, both of which registered on the geophysical survey plots.

Area M1 (Ouse Valley West)

Situated between areas of known higher densities of archaeological features and occupation, trenching across this area revealed an Early Bronze Age barrow, with possible later prehistoric occupation on a ridge overlooking the Ouse basin. Designated Site 11, Middle Iron Age occupation was found downslope of the monument, with possible Romano-British land-use recorded within the western part of the area (Site 10); undated fieldsystems were identified throughout. Importantly, the revelation of the barrow was not anticipated as it failed to register clearly on either the geophysical survey or the aerial photographic plots. Fieldwalking was limited to the north-westernmost portion of Area M1 (the remaining fields were pasture) and resulted in the identification of small clusters of largely Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age worked flint across the area, whilst burnt flint was concentrated to the northwest of the surveyed area. A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered corresponding with the western end of Site 10.

It warrants mention that ridge-and-furrow is preserved within this area and its survival restricted evaluation trenching at this stage.

Site 10 (Romano-British; Fig. 6): This consists of two shallow linear features, on a north-south/east-west alignment, and a low density of shallow pits and postholes, apparently representing the eastern extent of the site. The aerial photographic survey identified 'natural frost cracks' that seem to correspond with the alignment of the Romano-British linears discovered during trenching, which suggests a largely open area with a small rectilinear enclosure visible 150–200m to the northeast of the proposed road corridor. The evaluation identified what is potentially the periphery of a Romano-British settlement core exposed during previous investigations immediately to the west (Burrow and Foard-Colby 2006) and indicate a northwest-southeast settlement extent of c. 250m; a domestic 'core' located within the western end of the site should more likely be associated with features associated with Site 9.

Site 11 (Bronze Age/Iron Age; Figs 6–8): This previously unrecorded barrow is located on a low floodplain edge overlooking the Ouse. Its initial phase was represented by a shallow ring-ditch (c. 1.6m wide) with an estimated diameter of 19.6m. A possible southeastward opening was indicated by a rounded terminus. The ring-ditch enclosed and was filled by material from an eroded mound, which survived to a maximum height of 0.9m and was comprised of upcast pale sandy silts. Darker silty clay, potentially representing turf overlying the collapsed barrow material and the mound, sealed a compact buried soil horizon. The second phase was marked by a deeper and wider ring-ditch, with an estimated diameter of 49.6m; its mound material consisted of a thick gravelly matrix that overlay the primary barrow's buried turf-line. A cluster of 12 cremations (unexcavated) were identified within this second phase. Two cremations contained within Deverel-Rimbury vessels set into pits were recorded.

Further Middle Bronze Age activity within Site 11 was represented by a series of co-axial ditches, evidently fieldsystem-related. The only datable material recovered from them consisted of a comparatively large assemblage of Middle Bronze Age pottery from the trench along the eastern edge of the site nearest to the river. The site's extent beyond the evaluated area could not be assessed by geophysical survey as this was limited to the proposed road corridor-width. That said, aerial survey highlighted cropmarks on the brow of the gravel ridge 100m to the south of Site 11 that potentially represents a rectilinear enclosure of indeterminate date.

A minor Middle Iron Age presence was also revealed within the eastern end of the evaluated area: a narrow, roughly east-west aligned ditch truncating the Bronze Age cremation deposits and barrow material. This probably formed a peripheral Iron Age enclosure/field boundary. A second linear feature, on a noticeably different alignment to the Bronze Age fieldsystem, ran downslope from the end of the gravel ridge to a possible 'pond-like' feature in the northeast corner of the site, where the gravel terrace dropped into the floodplain deposits. The quantity of pottery recovered from a cluster of Middle Iron Age pits located immediately upslope of the 'pond' certainly suggested adjacent settlement.

Area N1 (Ouse Valley East)

Located between the palaeochannel identified in Area C2 and the current course of the River Ouse, a series of test pits and trenches were excavated; Sites 12 and 15 were identified from both earlier non-invasive surveys and trial-trenching.

Site 12 (Middle Iron Age; Fig. 6): Situated on the larger of the gravel ridges or 'islands' identified within Area N1, this site had dispersed features dating from the Iron Age; linear ditches across the northern half of the ridge appeared to represent part of an enclosure with a series of associated pits. A paucity of finds from these features suggests that they represent small-scale activity, possibly the utilisation of the river-edge rather than permanent occupation.

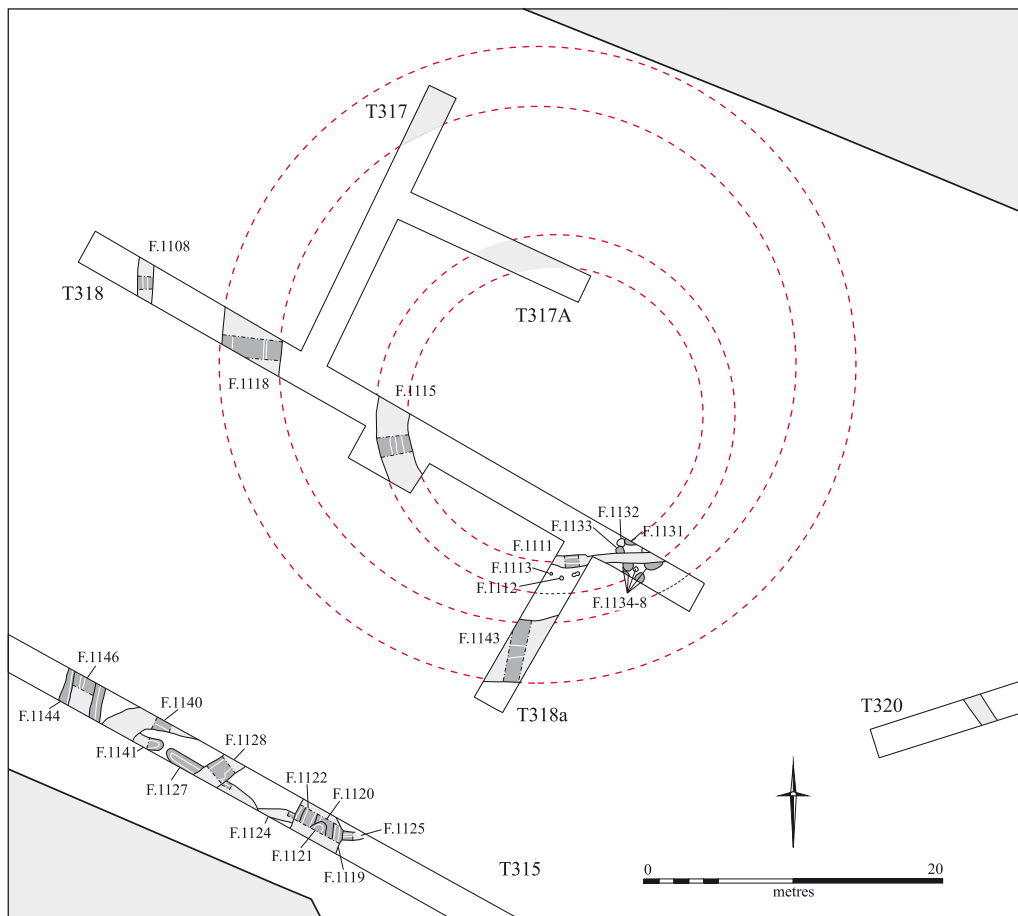
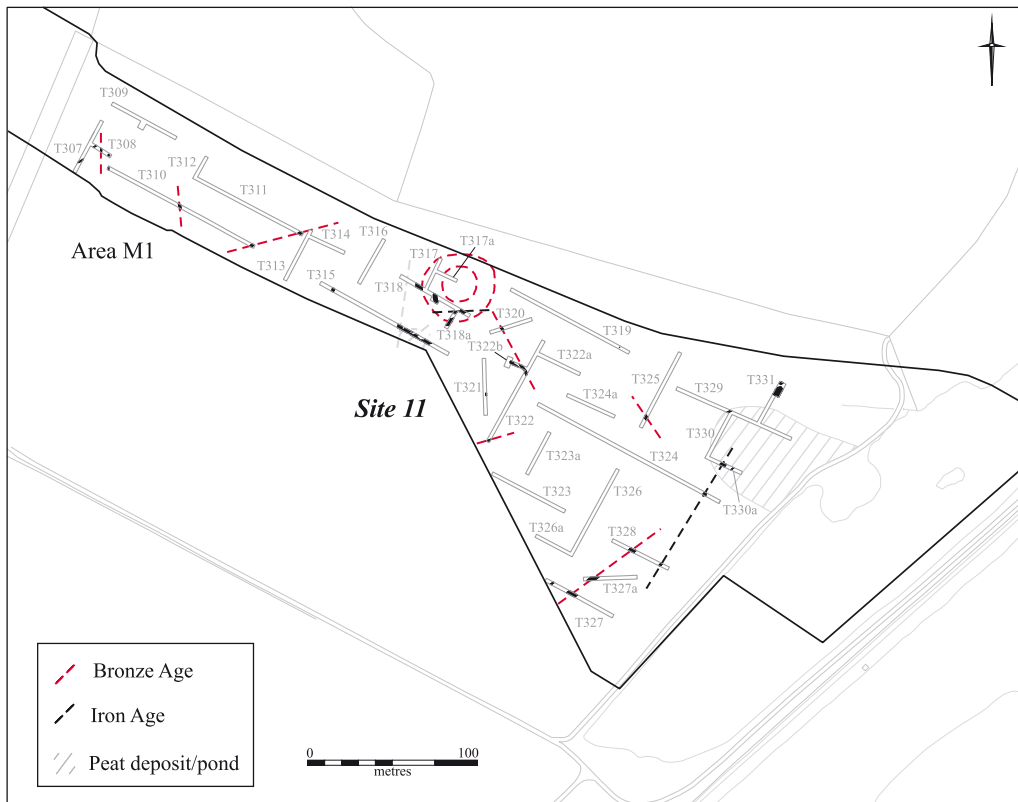


Figure 7. Site 11 (Area M1); top, trench investigations and, below, detail of barrow.



Figure 8. The Site 11 barrow mound.

Site 15 (Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age; Fig. 6): Revealed in two trenches and through test pits, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity was recorded along the river-edge. The discovery of burnt flint and a wooden post sealed by substantial alluvial deposits highlights the area's potential for the preservation of significant remains. The recovery of burnt flint may indicate the presence of a localised burnt mound, but an insufficient area was exposed to confirm this; the wooden post attests to localised water-logged conditions. Although Mesolithic and Neolithic flint was also recovered from the field within the area, no associated archaeological features were identified. Their recovery, nonetheless, indicates that earlier prehistoric activity occurred within this 'wet' zone and upon the terrace gravels to the east (the deep alluvial deposits effectively preserving this earlier landscape).

Areas C1 and C2 (Ouse Valley East)

Earlier aerial and geophysical surveys here revealed a series of circular and rectilinear features and trackways, identified as of probable Iron Age and Roman origin, the latter on a general north-south/east-west orientation. These two areas were respectively designated Sites 13 and 14.

Investigated by the excavation of 35 trenches, at Site 13 (Area C1) the presence of a Middle Iron Age settlement was confirmed by sub-circular enclosures

and boundary ditches. Romano-British settlement was identified within the western half of the area, with features comprising possible structures and industrial activity associated with a palaeochannel (Site 14). Areas C2 and N1 were located adjacent to each other, separated only by a modern field boundary. Revealed through the trenching exercise, and confirming the geophysical and aerial photographic surveys, was the continuation of the Romano-British settlement at Site 14.

The fieldwalking survey identified two notable finds spreads: Site FW3 West (correlating with Iron Age Site 12 within Area N1; see above), and Site FW3 East corresponding with Middle Iron Age Site 13 and Romano-British Site 14 within Area C1. Finds of later Neolithic and Bronze Age flint were predominant within the east, whilst a greater component of flint of a Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic date was identified within the west (Fig. 9). Romano-British pottery was recovered from throughout the fieldwalked areas, with a notable core within the eastern side that was complemented by minor quantities of Romano-British tile. Medieval pottery was found throughout both areas, likely associated with later agricultural practices.

Site 13 (Middle Iron Age; Figs 6 and 10): The site's earliest features, of Middle/Late Iron Age date, were two interre-



Figure 9. Areas N1 and C1 & 2, fieldwalking plot (with inset location plan).

lated enclosures, one 12m in diameter and the other 45m, and a series of boundary ditches extending across the evaluated area. These features displayed a remarkably high degree of concordance between projected inter-trench alignments to those plotted from the aerial and geophysical surveys. The paucity of artefactual material from them suggests they were most likely part of a more open agricultural landscape, rather than settlement-related. The smaller enclosure may have been for a small farmstead, while the larger was an associated paddock or infield arrangement. The occurrence of ditches extending away from these enclosures indicates that they are part of a larger boundary system, as was evinced from the area's aerial photographic survey.

Site 14 (Romano-British; Figs 6 and 10): Romano-British activity appeared to be focused around a roughly north-south aligned palaeochannel along the western edge of the evaluated area. Here, an intensive arrangement of ditches and gullies was identified, along with charcoal-rich features indicating industrial activity. Fragments of tile and mortar were recovered from features within this area, indicating that a substantial building may have been located close by. The quantity of material and the number of Roman coins found (14) suggests that this was a small, but intensively utilised settlement focused upon production (possibly metalwork). A 'dark earth' deposit was also present within the upper fills of a number of the features associated with the palaeochannel.

Aligned with the channel were several linear features that could all be traced between successive evaluation trenches and which matched features plotted from the non-invasive surveys. These formed a series of settlement-related Romano-British enclosures seemingly associated with the channel. To the east of the settlement core, two trenches exposed several close-spaced linear features with little material culture and there was none of the 'dark earth' deposits as in the west of the site. These may have been the remnants of a series of horticultural plots (i.e. 'lazy beds'), suggesting that this area was located on the margins of the settlement; these failed to clearly register on the aerial or geophysical surveys.

Site 14 continued into Area C2 on the western edge of the gravel terrace, with two Romano-British ditches appearing to mark the boundary between the eastern settlement and the western river channels. The western edge of the site-area was evidently determined by palaeochannels; the eastern edge, some 500m away, being demarcated by linear features. Aerial photography shows a number of features to the south of the road corridor that may represent the southern extent of the settlement; two parallel north-south linears suggest a road or trackway and indicate a settlement extent of c. 450–500m. The distribution of the features, both those investigated during trenching and plotted from the surveys, indicates that occupation was limited to the higher, gravel-capped area.

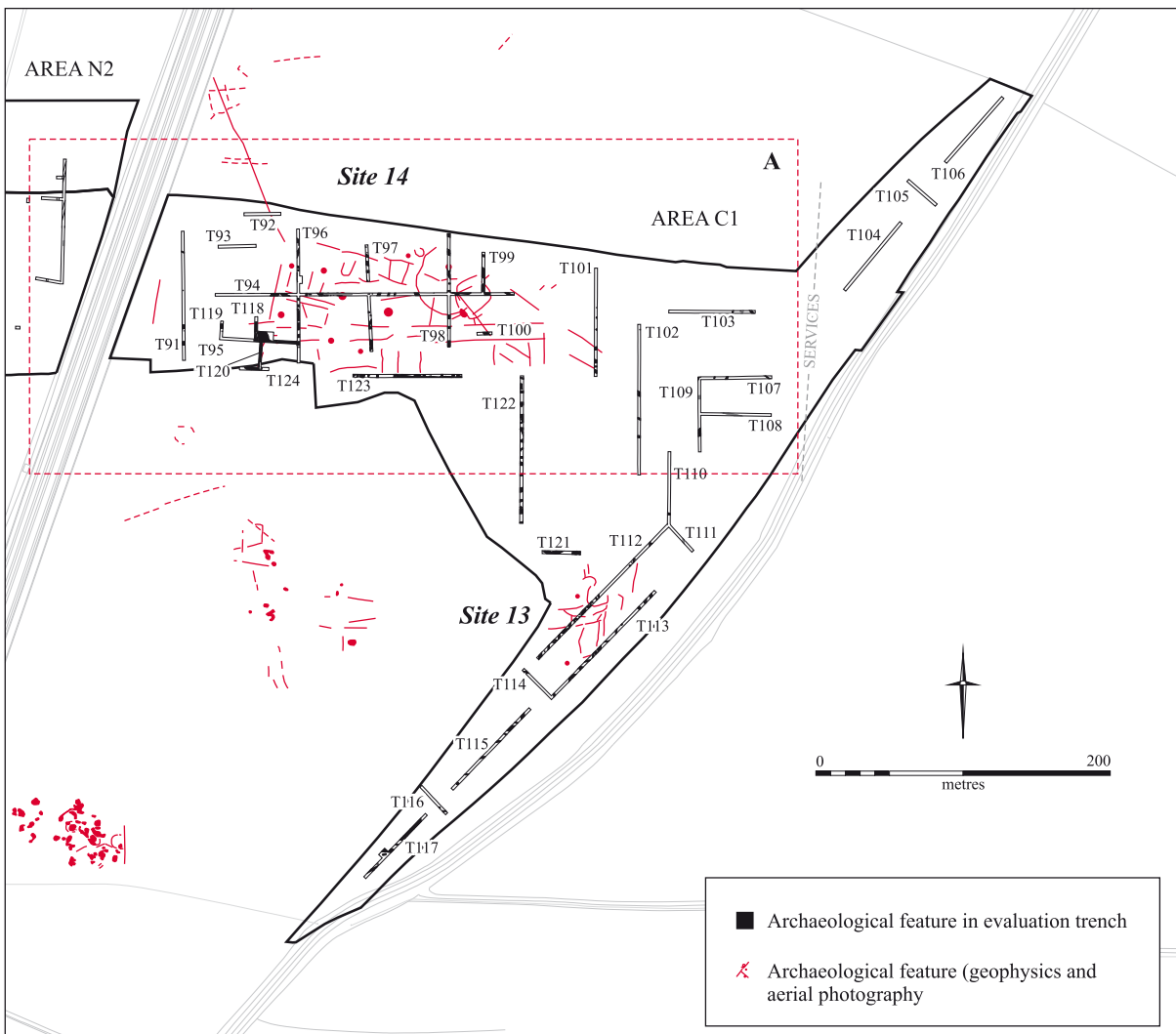
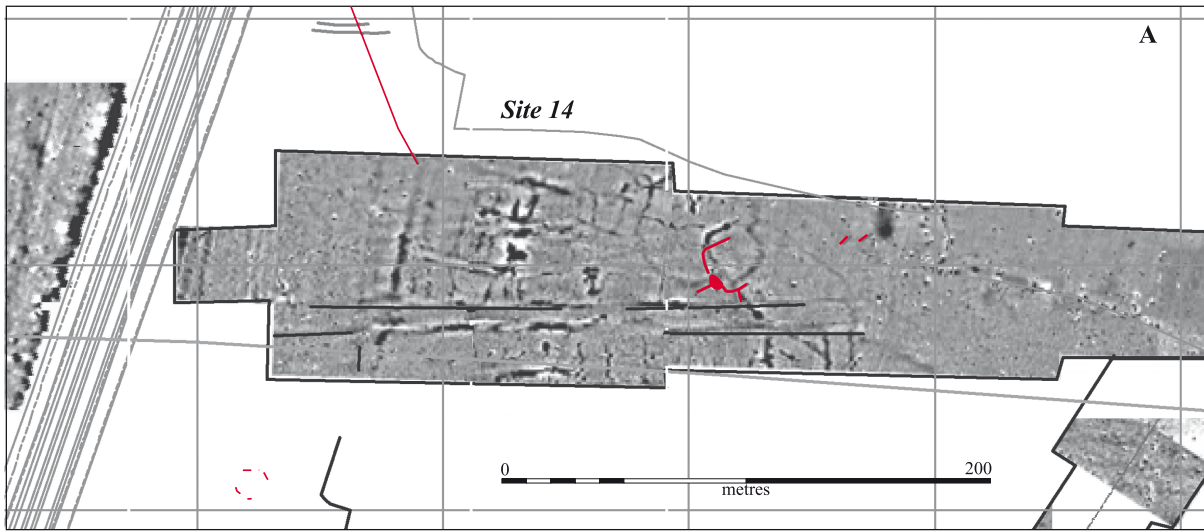


Figure 10. Site 14 (Areas C 1 & 2), trench plan, with geophysical plot above.

The Boulder Clays

Area D (*Hilton West Clays*)

Here, no evidence for Romano-British activity associated with *Ermine Street*, nor any traces of the original road were found (Fig. 1). Within the area a colluvial deposit at the base of a rise had incorporated a small quantity of prehistoric pottery suggesting that the landscape was being utilised in some manner, at least during the Middle Iron Age. A single possible feature was recorded in association; however, its location at the base of the rise and its shallow profile indicate that it was a natural depression within which pottery had been caught. The paucity of material from across this area suggests that any early activity occurred beyond the investigated area, potentially in fields to the south where cropmarks and prehistoric finds (identified in the Historic Environment Record) are associated with a localised gravel terrace rise.

Area P (*Hilton West Clays*)

Located within the central section of the road corridor and on Boulder Clay (Fig. 1), geophysical survey results for Area P showed several pit-like anomalies in the eastern end of the area, plus two northeast–southwest aligned linear features and ridge-and-furrow. Investigated through the excavation of 18 trenches, later prehistoric activity was recorded in three (Site 21). Post-Medieval agricultural activity was most apparent and was encountered within eight of the trenches; seven were completely devoid of any features.

Site 21 (Later Iron Age; Fig. 2): This was distinguished by a pit in the central-southern part of the evaluated area and ditch sections on the same northwest–southeast alignment within three eastern trenches. A few sherds of Iron Age pottery came from the 4m-wide and 0.25m-deep pit. Due to the size and condition of this material, these may have been residual; further Middle Iron Age pottery recovered from the easternmost ditch section may have been of similar status.

Area E1 (*Hilton North Clays*)

Across the area's *c.* 1.5ha the features identified during evaluation fieldwork provided a relatively high degree of concordance with anomalies oriented west-northwest/east-southeast (including traces of ridge-and-furrow) identified through the geophysical survey (Figs 1 and 11). Within lower-lying parts of the area, five trenches revealed riverine deposits and gravel-filled palaeochannels cutting the Boulder Clay. These channels were sinuous, lay on a rough south–north and southwest–northeast alignment and were between 10–20m wide.

An undated 'hollow' and probable post-Medieval pit were recorded from the northern part of the site, within the area closest to the gravel ridge. Lacking

any notable features to designate this as a site *per se*, the area is located southwest of a large swathe of enclosures and boundary ditches that are clearly visible on the aerial photographs; it is likely that the braided nature of the palaeochannels found here made it unsuitable for settlement or agricultural activity until relatively recently.

The evaluated area lay immediately southwest of the definite cropmark-/geophysical survey-distinguished settlement cluster, which is duly outlined below.

Site 22 (Iron Age/Romano-British; Figs 2 and 11): While the immediate corridor-area was subject to geophysical survey and it lies adjacent to the Area E1 investigations, trenching was not undertaken at this location. Confirmed by the geophysical results, the cropmark plots show what must be a series of Middle/late Iron Age sub-circular enclosures crossed by a network of more rectangular paddocks/compounds; the latter presumably being of Romano-British attribution. Nearby, the aerial photography registered two apparently comparable settlement clusters, both lying alongside a channel of the West Brook system (Fig. 11, Zones 1 and 3); north of Site 22 is the cropmark of what is distinctly a 'Banjo-type' enclosure (Fig. 11, Zone 2).

The Fenstanton Gravels

For reasons already outlined, no trenching whatsoever was conducted across this *c.* 3.5km-long stretch of terrace gravels. The one definite site complex that has there been distinguished is duly described below and the status of this 'inland gravels'-area is further explored within the paper's final discussion.

Site 23 (Romano-British/?Anglo-Saxon; Fig. 2): Due to problems of landowner-access, neither trenching nor geophysical survey could be undertaken at this locale. Over a distance of some 900m (east–west) the proposed road corridor crosses a network of rectilinear cropmarks, which probably involves more than one system. While surely also having prehistoric components, these must largely be of Romano-British attribution and this is confirmed by the local farmer's findings; Anglo-Saxon material is also reported.

The Southern Clays

Areas G and R2 (*Fenstanton East Clays*)

With little registering in the geophysical survey of these areas, 17 trenches were excavated within Area G and confirmed that pre-modern activity was scarce: two undated linear features and postholes within the northwest correspond with the transition from Ampthill clays to 1st/2nd Terrace gravels. A narrow gravel ridge, forming a localised 'spur', was located towards the southeast end of the evaluation area.

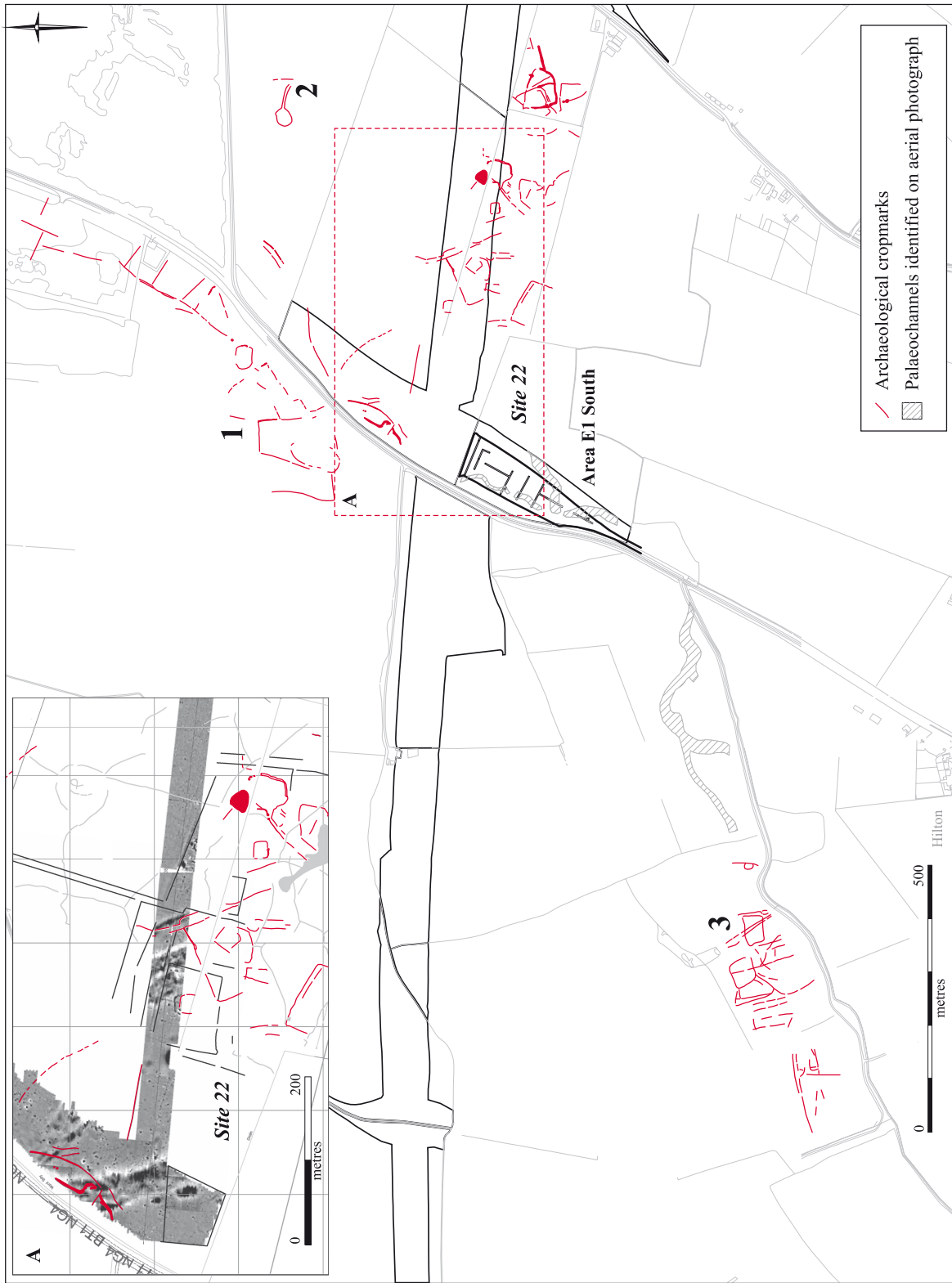


Figure 11. Site 22 (Area E1) and adjacent area cropmark plot (with road corridor's geophysical plot inset).

There, several undated tree-throws were present, but no features as such; what features were present have been incorporated with Site 16, the bulk of which lay in Area R2.

Within the latter, 26 trenches were excavated to test geophysical anomalies and potential features, which were found to comprise prehistoric boundaries and settlement-related activity, as well as evidence of Romano-British occupation, agricultural boundaries and quarrying. Numerous undated linear features were identified throughout, aligned roughly northeast–southwest. An alluvial spread, potentially associated with the stream forming the western site boundary, was distinguished within six trenches and provides scope for potentially preserved and sealed archaeological features and environmental deposits. The fieldwalking survey recovered no material culture from either area.

Site 16 (Late Prehistoric/Romano-British; Fig. 2): A limited geophysical survey was undertaken within Area R2, with further features within and beyond the evaluated area identified through aerial photography, largely to the north and west. The extent of the stream course and raised gravel – the latter seeing a very high density of enclosure/structural components – is distinct, suggesting that Site 16's archaeology was essentially restricted to a small 'island' (240 x 260m). A second, smaller gravel rise, 100m to the northeast, appears to have several linears and possible enclosures.

Site 16 saw chronologically dispersed use of the gravel terrace's edge prior to the less well-drained and generally more difficult clays forming the majority of Area G to the southeast. Two phases of potentially late prehistoric activity were identified. The earliest represented elements of an early boundary restricted to the southern area of the highest central gravels. A pit possibly associated with this 'boundary' displayed evidence of standing water. The second phase of later prehistoric activity was represented by 'double' northwest–southeast ditches; the easternmost has evidence of an associated bank.

A building eavesgully and pit cluster towards the alluvial spread and river channel lay within the enclosed area of the 'double-ditches' and southern, deeper ditches. Finds of small quantities of burnt clay and animal bone from the ditches suggest contemporaneity, although the near-sterile nature of the boundary ditches, pits and eavesgully further emphasise the peripheral nature of the evidence here. The main settlement locale is suggested by the intensity of the cropmarks adjacent to Site 16. Whilst appearing to respect the boundary of a gravel rise, features plotted from the aerial survey attest to a much more expansive site; the late prehistoric 'double-ditch' appears to be mirrored immediately to the west by a similarly pair of linears that form the eastern side of a large rectilinear setting. A second such enclosure on the same general alignment is located adjacent, with a series of partial linears and segments of smaller enclosures also recorded. Further to the west (1km) is a narrow band of cropmarks suggesting a much wider spread of archaeological features. Importantly, these linears and partially exposed rectilinear enclosures suggest a much broader expanse of archaeology, with deeper soils masking in-

tervening cropmarks.

Three features are tentatively dated to the Roman period by small fragments of pottery; two northwest–southeast and a northeast–southwest aligned linear features. The alignments correspond well with similar, otherwise undated ditches throughout the site and it is possible that these mark agricultural usage. The remnants of a possible Romano-British structure, represented by a shallow 'beam' slot and possible floor surface in the north-central part of the site, are likely to be associated. Evidence of Romano-British quarrying activity was also present within the north of the site.

Area H (Fenstanton East Clays)

Limited to three trenches to test the archaeological potential of features identified during the geophysical survey, Middle Iron Age linear features, possibly representing the southernmost periphery of an enclosed settlement, and two pits with Middle Iron Age pottery were identified. Designated as Site 17, the fieldwalking survey here recovered no artefactual material.

Site 17 (Middle Iron Age; Fig. 2): Comprising two linears, these most likely formed the sides of a rectilinear enclosure extending northward. Two pits containing Middle Iron Age pottery were located between the ditches. Only minor quantities of burnt clay and charcoal were present within the pits and ditches, which could suggest that they were only settlement-marginal. No cropmarks within or near to Site 17 were identified during the aerial photographic survey, although three irregular linear features registered on the geophysical plot within the proposed road corridor.

Area T1 (Boxworth North Clays)

A significant series of enclosures and boundary ditches were identified from the geophysical survey and suggest a pronounced 'arc' or 'ladder-like' settlement. Investigated through the excavation of 71 trenches, features were found to be located along the edge of the old floodplain of Boxworth Stream where the topography of the southwest area rose as a series of terraces. It was upon these that the archaeological remains were encountered: a probable Middle to later Iron Age site, Number 18. Fieldwalking recovered a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint within the southern end of the area. A more concentrated scatter was recovered from the far northwest of the surveyed area, within an area where no sub-surface features were present.

Site 18 (Middle Iron Age; Figs 2 and 12): No features were identified within the area during the aerial cropmark survey other than Medieval ridge-and-furrow and a headland. In contrast, the geophysical survey indicated that a 'ladder-like' arrangement of small sub-circular/-square enclosures extended along its southern side. This directly corresponded to where the majority of archaeological features were encountered, along the base of the

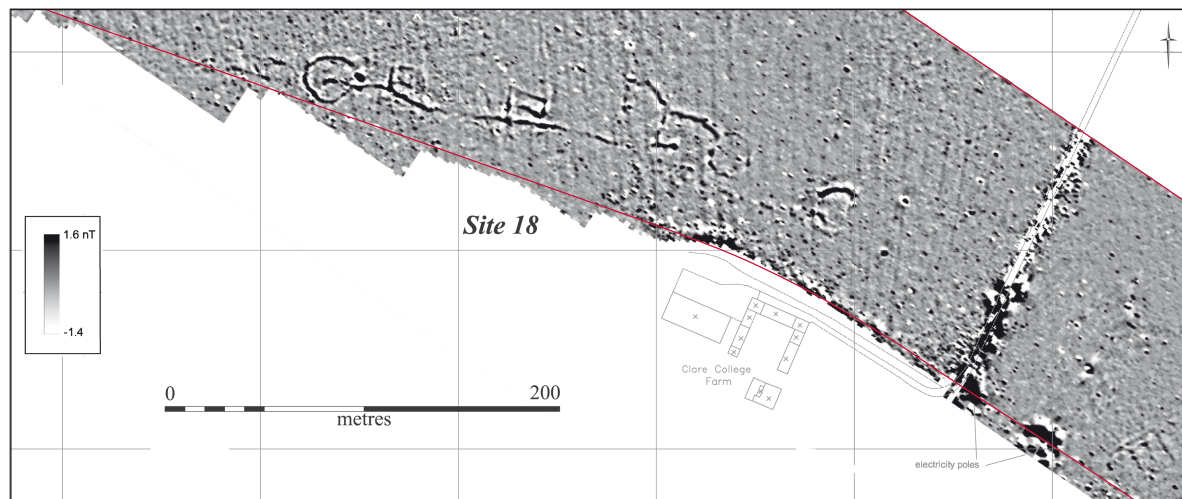
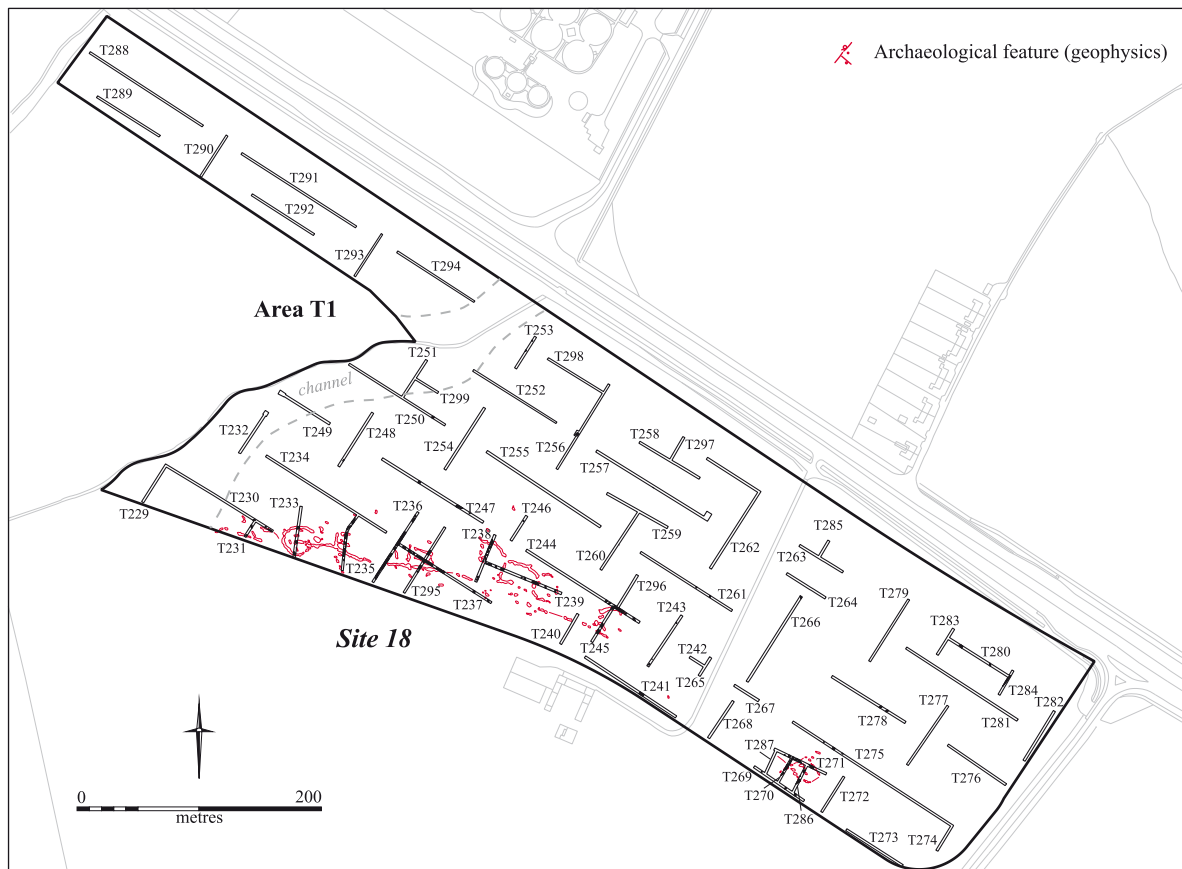


Figure 12. Site 18 (Area T1): top, trench plan and, below, geophysical plot.

terrace rise. The enclosures represent the northern edge of a Middle Iron Age settlement. Quantities of animal bone and pottery were recovered, from notably dark occupation deposits. By combining the evidence from both the evaluation and the geophysical survey, it was possible to determine that there were, at least, 11 separate enclosures and that these attest to two different phases of activity: one a series of circular compounds and, the other, rectilinear enclosures aligned along a central boundary.

The earliest series comprised four circular compounds, 12–14m across. The second, Middle Iron Age phase consisted of, at least, seven sub-rectilinear enclosures. These were arranged off of a central boundary line that seemingly followed the lower terrace contour. The enclosures appeared 'organic', with portions extending from either side of the central boundary. Intriguingly, clearly visible on the geophysical plot and located towards the southeastern limit of the evaluation area – and separated from the 'quasi-ladder-like' arrangement – is what ap-

pears to be a rectangular-shaped building c. 25m across; this, though, lacked any direct dating evidence and the excavated features would not necessarily confirm its existence.

Area K (Girton West Clays)

Despite the limited results from the geophysical and aerial photographic surveys, activity spanning the Middle Iron Age through to the Roman period was identified within the 32 trenches excavated across the area. A sub-circular Middle Iron Age enclosure (with human remains) was recorded within the central part of the evaluated area and was subsequently designated Site 19; to the south, a series of boundary ditches and artefact-rich deposits suggested a more extensive Romano-British settlement and agricultural activity, and this was separately distinguished as Site 20. No significant material culture was recovered during the area's fieldwalking.

Site 19 (Middle Iron Age; Fig. 2): A circular 'ring-ditch' (c. 15m dia.), clearly visible on the geophysical survey, was located in the site's north-central area. From a recut of it, sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery and a small quantity of human skull fragments were recovered; the latter appear to relate to an earlier grave located along the inner circumference of the ditch. A wider network of Middle Iron Age boundaries and enclosures was also exposed, with a series of linears identified within the north. Failing to register on the geophysical survey results, these did, however, show on the aerial survey plots. That being said, the Iron Age enclosure proper did appear within the area's geophysical survey; though, wider survey to the immediate east of the area indicated high levels of modern disturbance. The latter attests to the possible effects of spoil-spreading during the construction of the current A14/M11 junction, which has evidently masked underlying archaeological features.

Site 20 (Romano-British; Fig. 2): Geophysical survey highlighted the presence of the north-south/east-west alignment of linears forming the core and more peripheral components of Site 20. The wider survey to the east of the evaluated area indicated high levels of modern disturbance and a cluster of features, possibly pitting. The majority of the features within the evaluated area dated to the Roman period and most likely represent settlement enclosures with associated field systems.

The settlement *per se* was identified within trenches towards the southern third of the area. The features within these appeared to represent the southern half, or southeast corner of a settlement core. Across much of the area was an artefact-rich 'dark earth' deposit that capped many of the features. No direct evidence for structures was found within the trenches, but their presence is certainly suggested by both the 'dark earth' and the quantity of pottery recovered. It would seem likely that any associated structures were located to the west, probably just beyond the evaluated area. The cropmark evidence reveals a high number of linears, largely on a north-south/east-west orientation, 300-900m to the northeast. Whilst these may be associated with the ad-

jacent Medieval Grange Farm, they could equally be a continuation of the Site 20's Romano-British boundaries.

Discussion: Settlement/Landscape Variation

Providing what, by *de facto*, must be a rather blinkered transect-like perspective upon the north-central half of the county's archaeology, any discussion of linear-based projects such as this are invariably drawn to geographically determined modes of interpretation. That being said, the variation in site distribution-densities over the route's length across the Ouse River Valley and the Brampton Terrace gravels, when compared to the southern clayland-portion, is certainly marked. This is, of course, furthered by the much greater degree of evaluation sampling conducted along the northwestern stretch. It, nevertheless, attests to the fact that the latter clearly saw semi-continuous landscape-use and with one site merging into another; along the route's southeastern length, the sites there are far more discrete.

This discrepancy equally extends to the type and chronological range of sites within the respective areas. Along the northwestern length was recovered the full temporal gamut, with all periods represented from the Mesolithic/Neolithic to Saxon times. In contrast, the project's southern clayland sites were all basically either of Iron Age and/or Romano-British date. The paucity of the southeastern length's earlier prehistory is indeed striking, with only 11 worked flints from it as opposed to the over 200 from the gravel sites. When these figures are factored to account for their differential sampling cover, they suggest that there is nine-times the worked flint density on the gravels than the clays.

The recovery of this material at all, nonetheless, still serves to illustrate that these 'heavy' lands were utilised and visited during the preceding periods. Though probably attributable to the programme's relatively low sampling on the clays, based on recent precedent it is surprising that further evidence of later prehistoric activity was not forthcoming. Fieldwork on, for example, the Isle of Ely has demonstrated to what degree its then presumably forested clays were extensively visited during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages (see Evans 2000 and 2002). Equally, investigations at Papworth Everard, Longstanton, Northwest Cambridge and at Stansted (Gilmour *et al.* 2010, Evans and Patten 2011, Evans and Newman 2010 and Cooke *et al.* 2008) shows that there were clearly Middle/late Bronze Age in-roads into the region's claylands, with settlements of the period now recovered.

The widespread adoption – if not the 'invention' – of deep pit-wells at that time that would have greatly facilitated the use of the inland clays (see Evans and Patten 2011 for overview). Given what would have surely been some of the lands' seasonal standing-water conditions, somewhat ironically, in such off-river valley locales the realisation of daily water sources would have otherwise been problematic. Of course, their spring-lines, natural ponds and streams would

have been utilised, but their frequency would not permit 'blanket' or landscape-wide settlement distributions. The area's stream courses may, indeed, have served as communication/access 'corridors' through what would then have been heavily forest stands. In, for example, the case of Longstanton/Northstowe, the only major early scatter sites were found on the Greensands flanking Oakington Brook (both Mesolithic, Sites 1 and 28; Evans *et al.* 2008, 176, fig. 3.21). These streams would have maintained their locational attraction and this is apparent in the distribution of what appears to be the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement clusters strung-out beside early channels of the West Brook within Area E1/Site 22's environs (Fig. 11).

Despite limited evidence for earlier prehistoric activity, it would actually appear that it was during the Middle Iron Age that the region's claylands were first colonised at any scale. Presumably drawn by the availability of highly fertile land (if one's agricultural capability and settlement 'architecture' could cope with heavy soils) – whose uptake and clearance may well have resulted in accelerated lower river valley alluviation – the evidence suggests a distinct 'arrival horizon'. The picture thereafter generally seems one of continuity, with the settlement sequences at most sites seeing no obvious disjunction/displacement with the Roman Conquest, such as at Sites 16, 19/20 and L12 here.

In contrast to the 'near-void status' of the county's claylands in Fox's day (1923), given just how high their Iron Age/Roman settlement densities now appear to have been, this amounts to a sea-change in the understanding of the region's early land-use history. Whereas, until of late, much of this area (at least north of Cambridge) was usually regarded as some manner of 'fen hinterland' and thereby marginal, today we can be assured of just how intensely utilised it was. Clearly fully part of a Roman/ised countryside, this has now been brought home by the recent recovery of what were major, probably stone-footed building complexes at both Longstanton/Northstowe (Site L27 and L36; see Evans *et al.* 2008, fig. 3.23) and Northwest Cambridge (Evans and Newman 2010). The argument could, in fact, be mounted that, in the light of the area's settlement densities, during the later Iron Age/Romano-British periods its population levels may have even exceeded those of Medieval times (see e.g. Luke and Preece 2011, 168–70, figs 9.17 and .18 for general regional comparison).

The quality of these lands (i.e. enhanced carrying capacity) and its settlements is further apparent in the sites' comparative finds recovery table (Table 3), as the most substantive Middle Iron Age and Romano-British pottery assemblages were actually recovered from the clayland-area: Sites 18 and 19/20.

When undertaking such transect-type programmes as this, there is an inherent tendency to understand their distributions 'linearly'. This is certainly the case with the route's southeastern clayland stretch and the temptation to accept their seemingly 1.5–2km interval as reflective of settlements strung-

out along the Roman road supposedly running from Cambridge to Godmanchester is considerable. This would be erroneous on a number of accounts. First, of course, is that at Sites 17 and 18 there was no actual indication of Roman settlement (though, see below) and, rather, they are of Middle Iron Age date. Second is that insufficient trenching occurred along this length to provide any firm basis of any site stand-off and, accordingly, we must be wary of misreading an apparent linear interval as a source of causation. If anything, recent work has shown that across much of the region Iron Age/Roman settlements generally had a closer, c. 300–500m interval (Evans 2000; Evans *et al.* 2008, 181–6). Finally, apart possibly from Site 16's quarry pits, in neither the A14's or Longstanton/Northstowe's fieldwork has any direct evidence of the Roman road itself been found. Based on recent exposures within Cambridge proper, it has been postulated that this route might, in fact, have run south of Huntingdon Road and its A14 projection (Evans and Ten Harkel 2010). In truth, its exact alignment is currently uncertain; it need not have necessarily been straight and its route could well have kinked.

The morphology of the enclosure-types that have been recovered largely conform to expected norms; generally, organic-plan sub-circular Iron Age compounds superseded by more rectangular Roman layouts. In this regard, Site 13/14's sequence can be held to be 'typical', with its large, 45m-diameter circular compound replaced by a rectilinear Romano-British fieldsystem and enclosures. Equally, in Area B1, the formal/regular rectangular arrangement of Site 2's probable Conquest Period-system markedly contrasts with what must be the Middle/late Iron Age conjoining double-circle/'barbell-like' enclosures to the north (c. 60 and 70m dia.; Fig. 3, Zones 1 and 2)

Naturally, there are variations to this. This would include the smaller sub-circular Iron Age enclosures at Sites 18 and 19 (Fig. 12). At c. 20m across, in all likelihood these probably enclosed individual roundhouses. Also intriguing at Site 18 are its series of broadly comparable-scale, sub-rectangular ditch settings that were also assigned to the Iron Age. Particularly significant is the easternmost as, having much more tight right-angle corners and a complex multi-part plan (and lying markedly off-alignment with the rest of the 'ladder-arranged' settlement), it certainly appears building-related. If so, while Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from a boundary that one of its ditches cut, no direct dating evidence was forthcoming from its features; based on precedent, it would certainly appear to be of Romano-British attribution.

One of the most informative enclosures is that shown on the aerial photographic plots as lying c. 250m north of Site 22 (Fig. 11, Zone 2). With 'avenue-like' ditches conjoining a large quasi-circular compound, this is a 'classic' 'Banjo-type' enclosure, such as has been found at Longstanton/Northstowe (Evans *et al.* 2008, Site L38, fig. 3.23.4) and are now widely known across the region's claylands (e.g. Mills 2007, see also Kenny and Lyons 2011). With their origins probably being in Wessex and/or the west-centre

Area	Period	Site	Early Prehist Pottery (No./wt.)	Later Prehist Pottery (No./wt.)	R/B Pottery (No./wt.)	A/S Pottery (No./wt.)	Animal Bone (No.)	Flint (No.)	Metal (No.)	Other (No.)
A	Middle Iron Age	1		9/20g			8	1		
B1	Neolithic, Late Iron Age, Romano British, Anglo-Saxon	2-8	45/192g	568/6958g		53/1482g	508	60	7	
B2	Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age/Romano-British	6 and 9		75/461g			101	2		
C1	Middle Iron Age, Romano-British	13 and 14		163/3376g			294	54	43	R/B Tile: 35
C2	Romano-British	14			1/4g		3		1	
G	Late Prehistoric	16							1	
H	Middle Iron Age	17		87/770g			82			
K	Middle Iron Age, Romano-British	19 and 20		13/111g	644/8159g		128	2		R/B Tile: 7; R/B Glass: 1
M1	Bronze Age/Iron Age, Romano-British	10 and 11	54/111g	20/68g	8/31g		15	74		
N1	Middle Iron Age	12 and 15			98/785g		2	25		
P	Middle/late Iron Age	21		6/12g				1		
R2	Late Prehistoric	16					6		1	R/B Tile: 1
T1	Middle Iron Age	18		713/3499g			236	9	18	
Total:			99/303g	806/10795g 848/4480g 751/8979g		53/1482g	1383	228	71	

Table 3. Finds by Area (R/B: Romano-British; A/S: Anglo-Saxon).

of the country, their occurrence upon the north-of-Cambridge-clays might, in fact, suggest a westward source for the area's Middle Iron Age colonisation.

Of the route's northwestern river valley/terrace gravel-length, though the recovery of Site 5/8's Saxon settlement evidence is certainly significant, perhaps even more so are its pre-Iron Age findings. This would certainly have to include both the probable Bronze Age fieldsystem and the definite barrow at Site 11. The latter resonates with the large, c. 45m-diameter barrow – or possibly even a henge (the geophysical plot suggesting that its circuit might have a southern entranceway) – alongside the route at Area B1 (Fig. 3, Zone 4). Equally noteworthy, on the western side of the corridor there, is the possible causewayed en-

closure that registered on both the geophysical and cropmark plots. (Fig. 3, Zone 5). Approximately 120m across, while it is conceivable that this was some manner of Late Bronze/Iron Age ringwork, its apparently segmented circuit would rather suggest a Neolithic date. Be this as it may, the findings within this portion fully accord with known prehistoric monument complexes of the Huntingdon/Godmanchester-area (McAvoy 2000; Malim 2000) and the archaeology of the middle reaches of the Ouse Valley generally (Evans and Knight 2000 and 2001; Dawson 2000).

Finally, that the A14's programme was only partial and didn't see all of its intended phase-stages must be stressed. Should its construction proceed, it is crucial that this additional work be undertaken. Given

its focus thus far, what the fieldwork has actually achieved is to largely confirm what is rapidly becoming a caricature of the region's main geological subdivisions: river valley/gravel terrace sequences vs. claylands. With the hindsight that the results to date now afford, what is singularly imperative is the need for further work along the c. 3km-long stretch of the terrace gravels south of Fenstanton and west of Areas R2/Site 16 (e.g. Site 23). There, coinciding with the West Brook tributary-route of the River Great Ouse and effectively amounting to an 'off-mainstream' or 'inland' terrace, it may well have had quite a different early settlement/land-use (pre-) history. In this capacity, the largely undated, or at least unspecified, later prehistoric activity at Site 16 must be counted as amongst the project's most intriguing findings.

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