Longstanton, Cambridgeshire
A Village Hinterland

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Longstanton, Cambridgeshire
- *A Village Hinterland* (III) -
The 2006 Evaluation

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides a detailed account of the fieldwork undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) between August and October 2006 in fields adjacent to, and between, the villages of Oakington and Longstanton, with over 5km of trenching being dug. This work continued the huge evaluation projects undertaken in 2004 and 2005 along the infrastructure routes and on and around the former airfield (Evans & Mackay 2004; Evans *et al.* 2004, 2006) (fig. 1 & 2). Since the conclusion of the previous episode of fieldwork, the airfield has been comprehensively geophysically surveyed by Oxford Archaeotechnics, providing a rare opportunity to work with such detailed data on such a large scale (see Section One below). This work enabled trenches to be placed with great accuracy over known or suspected sites, as well as testing the extent of sites and features.

In addition to the airfield (Section Three), Fields 14, 21, 32 and 33 were also evaluated (Section Two). Work on these fields essentially filled in the gaps from previous work, effectively completing the circuit of fields evaluated along the A14 and from that corridor north to both of the villages. Finally, watching brief monitoring of geo-assessment test-pits within the former airfield's service buildings and barrack blocks is also reported (Part 7).

The area's geology/topography and historical/archaeological background are fully outlined in the earlier reports and need not be repeated here.

Methodology and Coverage

The evaluation outlined in this report covers 29.2ha of the proposed infrastructure route and, also, 36 trenches located principally across the southwestern part of the former airfield. Trenches were initially machine-excavated under archaeological supervision by a 360^0 tracked excavator with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket (within the airfield these first being scanned by an ordnance-disposal team; BACTEC). A total of 5004m of trial trench was excavated (10008m^2); 3541m within the proposed infrastructure route and 1463m within the former airfield. Trench plans were produced to locate trenches taking into account the aerial and geophysical surveys, as well as known services, and any required machine clearance. The CAU-modified version of the MoLAS recording system was employed, with excavated features assigned individual feature numbers (F#) with cuts and fills assigned individual context numbers ([###]). Trenches and base plans were recorded at 1:50 and sections at 1:10 or 1:20. Levels were surveyed a using Leica GPS system. Bulk environmental samples were taken from specifically selected features.

Maintaining the strategy adopted for the 2005 fieldwork, features were only excavated where these were positively identified, and would provide suitable information on the nature of the exposed archaeology. The governing trial trenching policy was that, variously augmented by fieldwalking, bucket-sampling, test-pitting and geophysical surveys (Fields 21 and 34 and the airfield), a 2.5% area sample would suffice, with additional features excavated only where this would elucidate the nature and phasing

of the archaeology. Trenches which did not contain any archaeology, or only rubble and surviving detritus from the airfield, were backfilled after the recording of soil profiles.

Field	Length (m)	No of Trenches	Trench Numbers	Identified Sites
14	835	11	370 – 380	-
21	1006	15	402 – 416	XXVIII
32	425	7	381 – 387	-
33	1275	14	388 – 401	-
Airfield	1463	36	417 – 454	XVI, XVIII
Total	**5004**	**83**		

Table 1: Total trenching on the proposed infrastructure route and airfield

For ease of reference and to provide continuity with the previous fieldwork, this report is sub-divided into three parts. The first outlines the geophysical survey and fieldwalking results from the airfield and Field 34, with a separate specialists report for the fieldwalking finds. The second part details the results of the trial trenching along the infrastructure route (Fields 14, 21, 32 & 33) with Section 3 concerned with trial trenching within the airfield perimeter. Fields inside the airfield perimeter were surveyed by ordnance disposal technicians prior to initial machine excavation. Helpfully, no further ordnance issues were identified during this programme of fieldwork, thus permitting completion of the trial trenching within the airfield to proceed uninterrupted. Due to the low recovery of finds, the specialist reports from the trial trenching for both the infrastructure routes and the airfield are presented together.

Acknowledgements

Albeit daunting in its scale, working in the Longstanton landscape continues to be a challenging pleasure. The CAU are grateful for the generous support and co-operation of David Hunt of Gallagher's Ltd, and also acknowledge the logistical and creative input of their archaeological consultant, Sally Randell of WSP. The area's many much-pressed farmers put up with our continued intrusions with good grace. The fieldwork programme was monitored throughout by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, and we are grateful for his continuing support and advice.

The skills and perseverance of the many CAU staff involved with the project shone throughout for what proved to be something of a marathon fieldwork season in the autumn of 2006. The project's artefacts were processed with the now customary efficiency of Gwladys Monteil and her staff. The graphics in this report well demonstrate the skills of Iain Forbes supported by Marcus Abbott. The Site Director Duncan Mackay is also to be thanked for working across multiple sites in tandem, thus enabling this programme to be rapidly and expertly completed.

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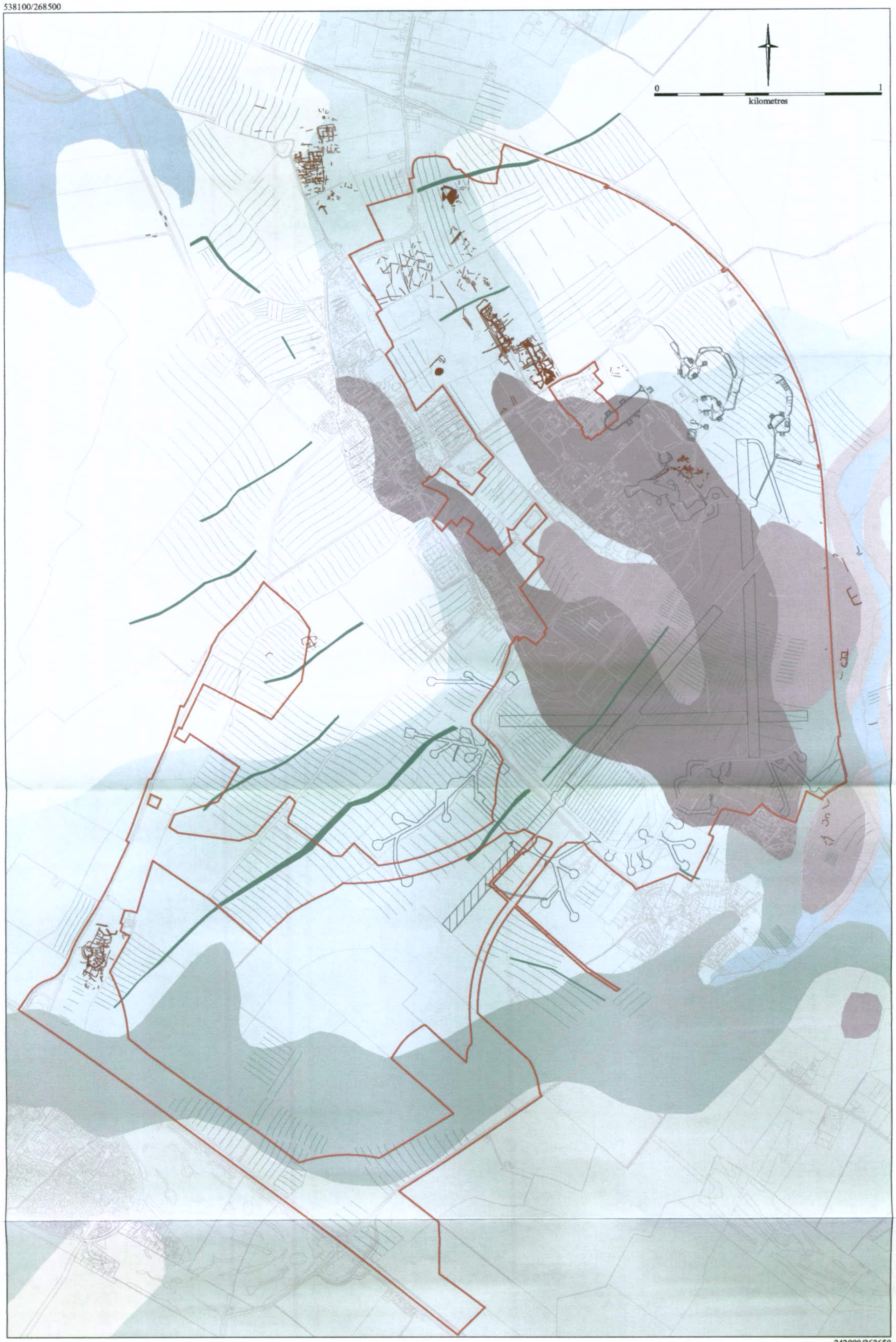


242000/262650

Alluvium
Alluvium on 2nd Terrace Gravel
2nd Terrace Gravel
3rd Terrace Gravel
4th Terrace Gravel
Greensand
Ampthill Clay
Kimmeridge Clay
Boulder Clay
Gault
Cropmark; ditch
Cropmark; 20th century airbase
Cropmark; ridge and furrow

Figure 1. The proposed new town and infrastructure routes, geology and cropmarks

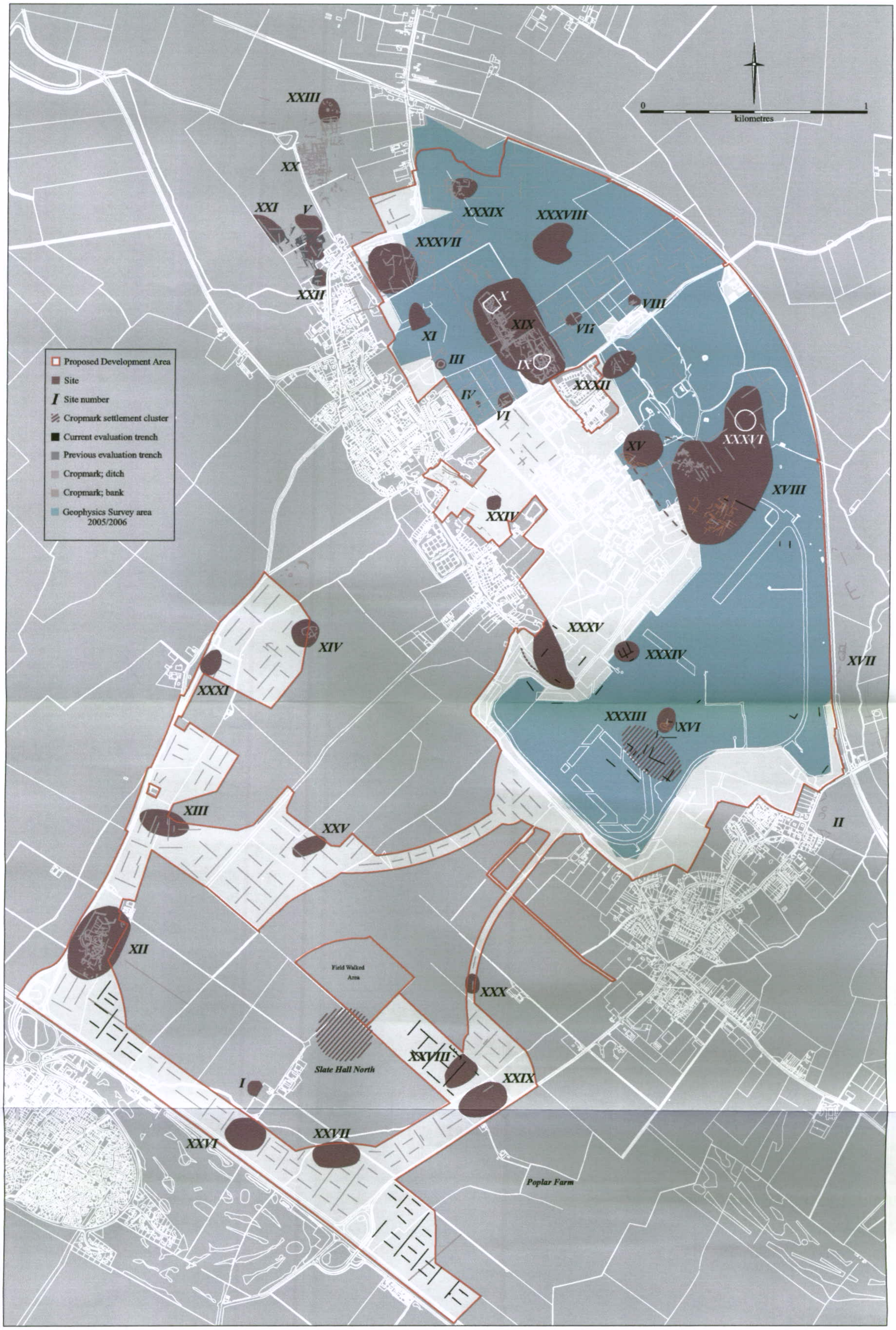


Figure 2. Area of 2004/2006 geophysics and evaluation trenching.

FIELDWORK RESULTS

Section One - Surface Surveys

This section is only concerned with 'superficial' survey results. The first part relates both the results of commissioned geophysical trials across the airfield and nearby golf course (see Section Three), and the fieldwalking exercise conducted in Field 34 ahead of trial trenching as part of the evaluation for the infrastructure route. The fieldwalked material from Field 34 was gathered as part of an overall fieldwork strategy to compliment and complete the previous year's exercise that had previously resulted in the identification of Site XXVIII.

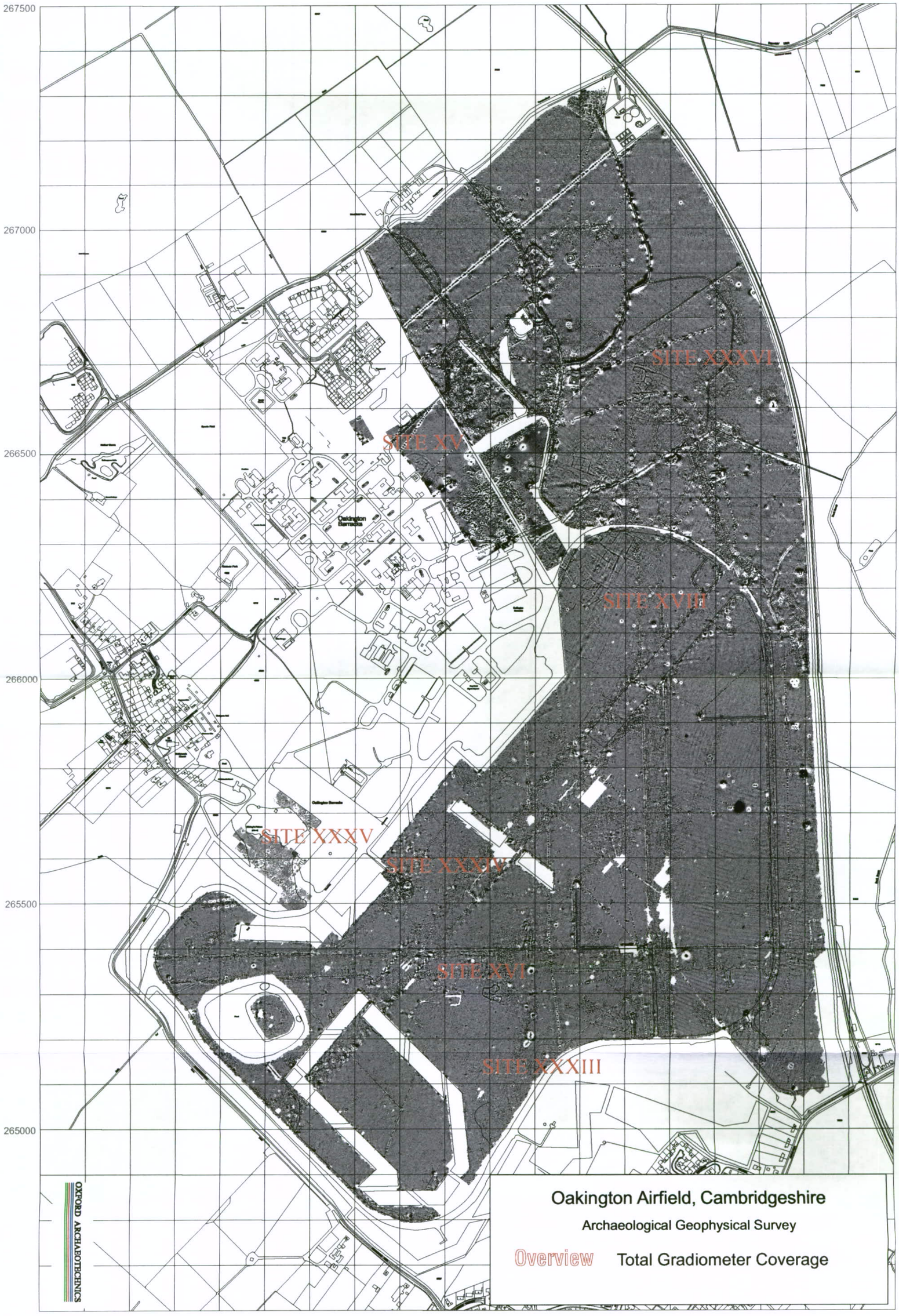
Part 1) **Geophysical Survey**

Leaving aside those areas of the north-village core that were subject to magnetic susceptibility survey in 2004 (with very limited magnetometry sample-testing; Oxford Archaeotechnics 2004a), Oxford Archaeotechnics have now undertaken magnetometry survey throughout the area of the golf course and airfield (and in the intervening fields by Rampton Road) to provide continuous cover over some 300ha (figs. 3 & 5). Not only has their work proved remarkably successful in the detection and/or detailing of sites, but is a magnificent mapping document in its own right. This is especially true of the airfield, whose plots provide a real sense of palimpsest and it gives, in effect, uniquely nuanced insights into three successive landscapes. Not only does this extend to the many enclosures of the Iron Age/Roman times and the various phases of the airfield's development - including its runways, dispersion circles and even its myriad of lighting-service trenches - but also the buried ridge-and-furrow patterns of the intervening Medieval agricultural landscape.

The Airfield Survey (2005)

As outlined within the first of the current-phase reports (Evans & Mackay 2004: 182, fig. 68), in 2004 Oxford Archaeotechnics undertook magnetometer transect-sampling throughout the main area of the airfield and expanded their grid in the case of three newly discovered site complex (Sites XV, XVI & XVIII - of the latter only its southeastern portion was then so-investigated). Due both to the success of this technique for site-detection and, more importantly, the discovery of unexploded WWII ordnance within the airfield through the evaluation trenching, thereafter they expanded their grids to provide continuous magnetometry coverage throughout the area (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a). Incorporating those 'blocks' previously undertaken, this represents a total area of 180ha. In the course of this second-phase work the following sites were discovered and/or further detailed (fig. 3):

Site XVIII - Only the southern portion of this massive site complex was surveyed in 2004 and prior to our 2005 fieldwork programme, with the result that the latter's trenches were not aligned sympathetically with the orientation of the settlement (Evans *et al.* 2006: fig. 50). Having now, as it were, obtained the overview picture by the 2005 geophysical survey (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a), the most pressing issue becomes just how many settlements are present here? This is a question that will best be considered by first outlining its main 'parts' or 'zones'.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Oakington Barracks
SITE XXXVI
SITE XV
SITE XVIII
SITE XXXV
SITE XXXIV
SITE XVI
SITE XXXIII
OXFORD ARCHAEOTECHNICS
Oakington Airfield, Cambridgeshire
Archaeological Geophysical Survey
Overview
Total Gradiometer Coverage

Figure 3.

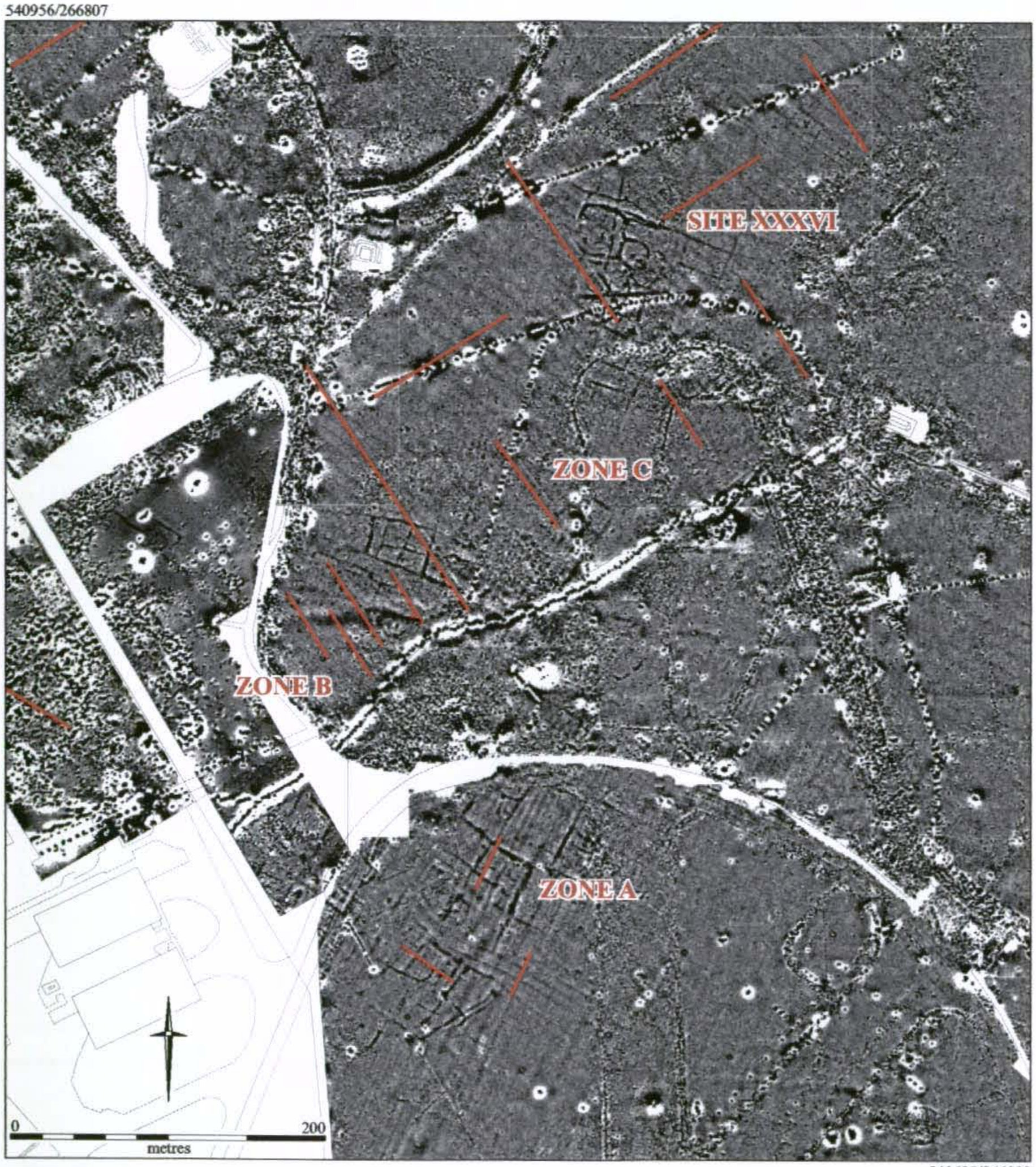

Figure 4. Site XVIII geophysical survey results

The southeastern paddock system (Zone A) (fig. 4), that was trench-investigated in 2005 (Evans *et al.* 2006: Trenches 353-4, fig. 50), appears to have a major/straight northeast-southwest oriented ditch boundary that 'frames' its western side, 20-30m inside the airfield's perimeter track. West of this there is c. 20m wide, linear 'clear zone' that may define a northeast-southwest roadway. Superficially, at least, the rectilinear paddock-system that flanks the western side of this route (and which continues across the plot beyond the perimeter track; Zone B) seems somewhat more geometrically regular and 'sharp'. This system appears to continue for some 290m northward. The rectangular paddocks which defines its northern side - and which the surveys suggest included a masonry building (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: figs 9 & 17: this correlating with the Roman building materials recovered nearby from F. 900 in Trench 332 in the 2005 evaluation; Evans *et al.* 2006: 143-44, figs 47 & 48) - seem themselves to border a *c.* 10m wide, northwest-southeast oriented road. It is important to note that the evidence of this route (i.e. ditch-flanking) stops along the western side of this enclosure system; this straight-ditched 'system-side' corresponds, both north and south of this road, and suggests a real 'end' to the enclosure complex/settlement on that side. Based on the evidence thus far presented, this settlement could be seen as having a crossroads pattern: the meeting of the northeast-southwest road separating Zones A and B crossing the northwest-southeast route progressing through the northern end of Zone B. Yet, before 'stamping' this interpretation, we first need to outline the northern component of the larger settlement, Zone C.

Based on Oxford's plots there can be no doubt that 100m north of the Zone B system there is a distinct 'ladder-like' arrangement of paddocks. Cutting though the Site XXXVI Iron Age enclosure (see below), its existence was confirmed by the 2005 evaluation trenching and, indeed, the results indicate that this (Romano-British) system extends further westward than is indicated on the geophysical plots. Given this, the crucial issue becomes whether this system is continuous with the Zone A and B paddocks and if, in fact, this represents one vast settlement. Although the geophysical plots only definitely show a curvilinear length of ditch within the intervening swathe (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 17), this area is obviously much disturbed. Close inspection of the plots does reveal what appears to be discontinuous, rectilinear ditch setting-lengths on the appropriate orientation in that area. While without further trenching this cannot be demonstrated with certainty, the evidence suggests that this does represent a single settlement complex covering more than 24ha, albeit one perhaps with distinct components/'quarters'. If this is, in fact, the case, then it would question a 'crossroads-type settlement model', as the northeast-southwest 'way' separating Zones A and B in the south would not appear to continue through its northward portion.

Site XXXIII - Lying immediately south of the Site XVI Iron Age enclosure (Evans *et al.* 2006: 157-9) and, more generally, within an area where wartime photographs suggest the occurrence of possible cropmarks (*ibid*: fig. 9), the geophysical plots revealed a large round-corner enclosure with associated linear features and possible pits (fig 21); the former appear to be of Romano-British 'type' (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 45).

Site XXXIV - A possible ring-ditch with a nearby 'linear' located along the mid-western side of the airfield (fig. 26; Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 55; note that the square-set pattern of pits shown in the bottom of that image are airfield-related concrete stanchions).

Site XXXV - The area identified as the site of the Medieval 'Bishop's Palace' (see below) was also surveyed (or at least its southwestern half and northeastern fringe where not covered by woodland scrub; Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 2). This vicinity has also seen extensive modern disturbance and, while a few 'linears' were tentatively identified (*ibid*: fig. 81), the site, as such, was not evident.

Site XXXVI - Located within the northern end of the main Site XVIII complex is a distinct series of interlinked sub-circular compounds; the largest of these being, almost of more sub-square form, 30 x 30m across (fig 4; Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: figs 19 & 20). Obviously of Middle/later Iron Age attribution, this would directly coincide with the material and features of that date recovered from Trench 328 during the 2005 evaluation (Evans *et al.* 2006: 137-9,154, fig. 50). Note that the Oxford

plot also shows a distinct/discrete sub-square enclosure (also 30 x 30m in area) lying 20m west of the main site cluster; this, too, could be of Iron Age attribution.

A series of other possible feature-configurations (of more ambiguous status) can also be distinguished:

1) *TL 541000/267000* - A *c.* 25m diameter 'ring-form' located along the northern side of Field P(2; Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 13). This area was trenched in 2005, though this feature would have just been missed by Trench 342 (in which no archaeology was recovered). (Even if they had overlapped, the speed at which the fieldwork there had to be conducted due to the discovery of buried ordnance would have precluded any 'nuanced' investigation.)

2) *TL 541010/265040* - A swathe of possible pitting east of Site XXXIII (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 43).

3) *TL 541530/266100* - A possible circular feature and pits identified in the northern end of airfield proper (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 75).

4) *TL 541700/265350* - A swathe of disturbed ground, possibly including pitting, identified in the surveys along the southeastern side of the airfield, beside the railway (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 57).

5) *TL 541710/265100* - An area of possible pits was identified in the extreme southeastern corner of the airfield (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 57).

6) *TL 541580/265340* - Just inside the perimeter track and adjacent to Areas '4' & '5', the geophysical survey suggests the existence of field boundaries and, possibly, a drove, that appear to pre-date the ridge-and-furrow (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006a: fig. 59).

The Golf Course Survey (2006)

Following on the heels of the airfield survey, in 2006 the strip of fields immediately northwest of Rampton Road and the entire area of the golf course was subject to magnetometry survey (fig. 5). Incorporating those limited sample areas that had earlier been so-surveyed within this swathe in 2004 (Site XIX, south end in Field J, and Site VII in 'O'), and also the Guided Busway survey across the extreme northern tip of the larger development zone, in total this occurred over some 121ha. Invariably, there was a degree of masking due to golf course earthwork-landscaping features, and the 'striped' traces of ridge-and-furrow agriculture again registered across much of the area. Nevertheless, the survey proved remarkably successful and detailed plan-information relating to a number of site complexes was achieved.

Field F (Sites IV & VI) - A few features were distinguished within this field and which seem to relate to the site complexes identified there (Evans & Mackay 2004: 131-48). The most striking is a pair of parallel, northwest-southeast oriented ditches associated with the Site VI Iron Age settlement along its southeastern edge; a 'linear length' and a substantial pit registered within the area of Site IV (undated; Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006b: figs. 13 & 23).

Site III - The outline of the Site III 'circle' can just be distinguished on Oxford's plots (at TL 540010/266900), though its register cannot be said to be definite (the area is, though, extensively disturbed by golf course features); the adjacent, putative 'early' cropmark fieldsystem setting at this point (see Evans & Mackay 2004: fig. 28) is probably only the by-product of ridge-and-furrow agriculture (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006b: fig. 15).

Cambridge Golf Course & Land North of Rampton Road, Longstanton

Figure 5.

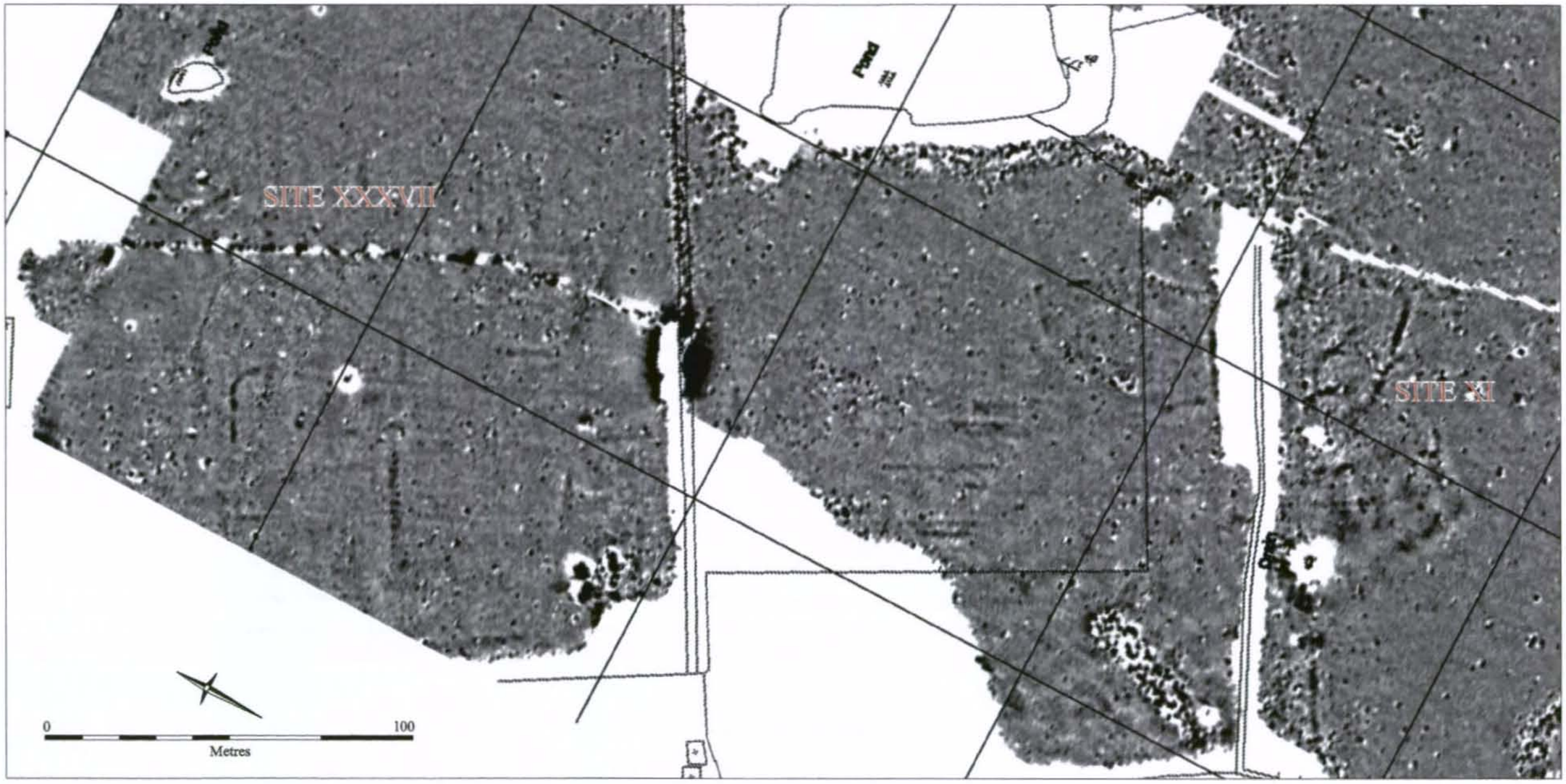

Figure 6. Site VIII and Site XXXVII 2006 Geophysical survey results

Site XI - A series of linear anomalies registered within the area of the windmill mound-sealed Iron Age settlement first identified along the western side of the development zone in 1991 (subsequently assigned as Site XI; fig. 6; Evans 1991). Originally only distinguished south of the trackway there, the geophysical surveys now also shows that it extends for upwards of 60m north of this boundary. Although certainty is not possible, the indications are that we are seeing a sub-rectangular 'enclosure', c. 35 x 100m. As attested to by the irregularity of its perimeter, this probably consists of a series of conjoining 'cells' and it is, in fact, possible that another such 'unit' conjoins with its eastern side (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006b: figs 5 & 7).

It warrants notice that the surveys also detected two sub-square/-trapezoidal settings immediately south of the main site. Thought possibly to be some manner of 'regularisation' of a 'palaeochannel-type' feature (*ibid*: fig. 5), these can only be considered of ambiguous status.

Site XIX - This massive Roman settlement complex has been distinguished through aerial photography, and was subsequently tested through limited trial trenching in the course of the original 1991 programme (Evans 1991). Subsequently, in 2004, the CAU were able to obtain a wartime, Luftwaffe aerial photograph of the area whose cropmarks detail the southern end of this site within the area of Field J, and, in the same year, a single trench was excavated along the western edge of the golf course to further test the site's archaeology (Trench 78; Evans & Mackay 2004: 115-129). Finally, in 2005, further trial trenching was undertaken across the northern margins of Field J to further test this complex (Evans *et al.* 2006: 178-87).

Apart from detailing the arrangement of the interconnecting paddocks along the settlement's western side, the main contribution of the geophysical plot is the addition of the site's eastern half. This, effectively, doubles the size of the settlement and which, thereby, extends over some 8.4ha. The fact that the main bulk of the site extended much further east than was apparent from its aerial photographic register was, indeed, evident in the original 1991 trial trenching. Nevertheless, at that time the main focus of its layout then seemed to be the very regular, straight, multiple-ditch boundary that framed its western edge (and returned eastward along its northern side). Now, however, the geophysical plot entirely recasts its arrangement. It is clear that the 'great' *c.* 20.00m wide, ditch-flanked drove - probably, better, *road* - that was evident within its Field J aerial photographic plots, actually continues northward though the settlement and that, essentially, it was symmetrically arranged on either side of this route (fig. 7).

Continuing for *c.* 100m beyond this road (and into the western side of Field O; see Evans & Mackay 2004: 101-2/Trench 39), the eastern edge of the settlement appears to quite tightly follow the edge of the clay/gravel divide and the edge of the terrace. In fact, as a result of the latter, the layout of the site is actually fan-like, with the arrangement of its paddocks only being 'straight' (*vs.* quasi-radial) across its central portion. Indeed, closer scrutiny of the settlement's main axes suggests that, in the western half, there is a central, ditch-defined, rectangular 'block' (*c.* 90 X 120m), on either side of which the boundaries appear to splay. (In the south, the main area of settlement within the western half appears to end - again, in a double-ditch boundary as in the north - *c.* 20m into Field J, though features evidently continue beyond that main boundary - as they also do to the north.) This western rectangular 'core' would seem to be mirrored in the arrangement of the eastern half, at which point the central roadway is also double-ditched on that side. No paddocks appear to extend north of this eastern 'core-zone', whereas, to the south, they continue in a more quasi-radial fashion.

This outlines only the most basic principles of the settlement's layout, which obviously was very complex. (An element of phased development/expansion is, in fact, suggested by partial paddock-respective, north-south ditch which runs through the central and northern swathe of its western half and which, possibly, indicates the settlement's original linear organisation.) Equally, while the settlement was clearly very dense and may have seen relatively high population levels (? 75-200 souls), thus far it has not produced indicators of particularly high status (e.g. evidence of stone buildings, etc.) and that, essentially it was probably a quasi-nucleated farming 'village', but which also surely included both industrial and ritual activity.

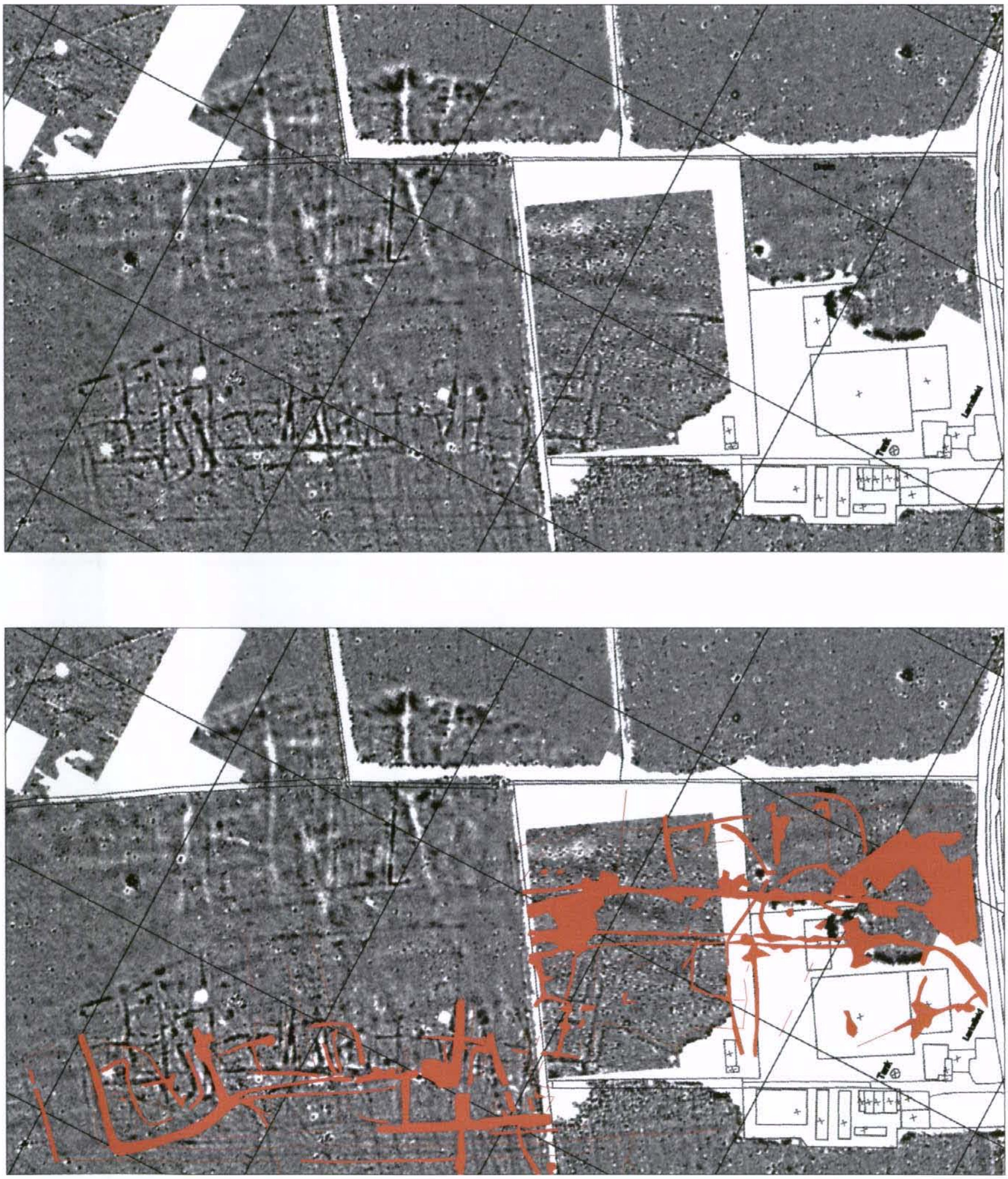

Figure 7. Site XIX, geophysical results and cropmarks

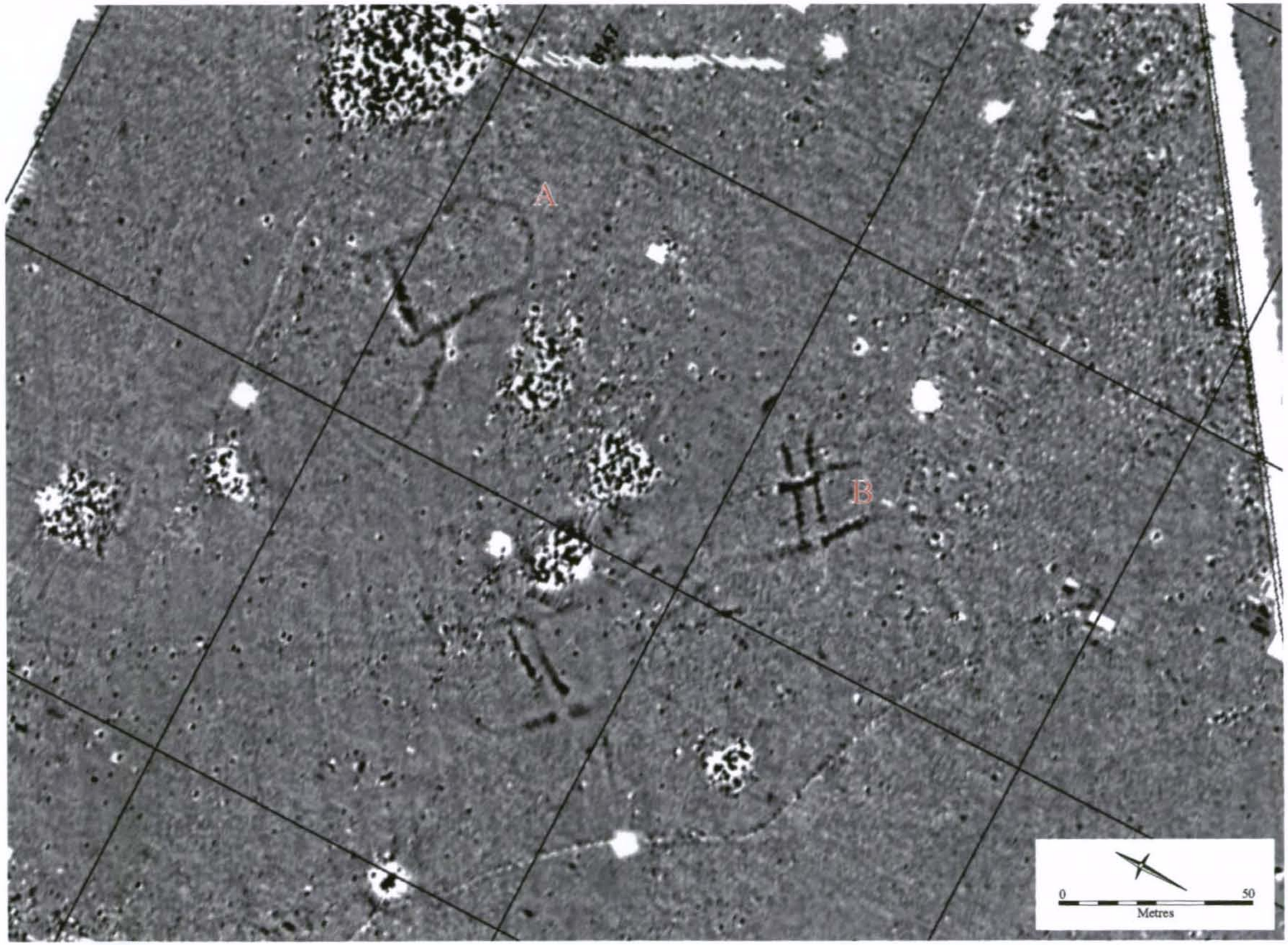

Figure 8. Site XXXVIII 2006 geophysics survey results

One further point that warrants notice is that, though the double-/triple-ditch boundary that appears to border the western side of this complex does appear to extend south into Field J, based on the geophysical survey-data, the settlement does not continue beyond its line across the western third of this field. (That being an area where, due to horticultural planting, we were unable to trench.)

Site XXXVII - Within the field/range immediately south of the clubhouse, where some limited trenching occurred in 1991 (Evans 1991; and also some watching brief monitoring during the following year), the Oxford surveys detected a relatively dense series of sub-rectangular enclosures, two of which show evidence of having distinctly round corners (fig. 6). These appear to fall on two separate orientations, which is suggestive of degree of phased-realignment. However, given their layout as a whole, and also what is known of the archaeology in this area generally, these are all probably of Romano-British attribution; the density and 'character' of this system would seem indicative of settlement *per se*. Note that features probably relating to this same settlement also occurred within the southern end of the Stripelands Farm excavations (Patten & Evans 2005).

Site XXXVIII - Located out on the Ampthill clay plain proper, some 150m northeast of the main Site XIX complex, this site configuration perhaps represents the singularly most important new discovery, as such, of the 2006 geophysical programme fig. 8). By plan morphology it seems to be of Middle/later Iron Age date, and essentially consists of two components:

A) A 'keyhole-shaped' enclosure (20-25 x 40m; with the line of a double-ditch droveway/'corridor' running off of its northeastern perimeter) that conjoins with a large and more irregular field/enclosure system on its northwestern side; the c. 12m diameter circle of what is probably a roundhouse can be distinguished within the later.

B) Lying c. 80m southwest of 'A', in the main this consists of a roughly parallel pair of boundary ditches that run sinuously, 20-30m apart. Continuing for at least 120m (and possibly a further 50m north-westward), at it eastern end this crosses over what appears to be a 'banjo-type' setting. The latter consists of a *c.* 7/8.00m wide 'corridor' linked to a *c.* 14.00m diameter 'circle'; though this may represent no more than a large, 'elaborated' (i.e. access-linked) roundhouse.

At the northwestern end of this larger setting another ditch-defined 'corridor' of comparable size also crosses through the main boundary ditches. However, at that point the main ditch line is wider and more 'squarish' in its arrangement (and might even be closing/returning on its northwestern aspect) and, there, could even represent a settlement enclosure as such.

Site XXXIX - In the extreme north of the area Oxford has distinguished an area of strong anomalies, that possibly includes substantial burnt features (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2006b: fig. 21). Unto itself, this was so localised that it would normally not warrant the appellation of a 'site' as such. However, in this case, it resonates in relationship to the recovery of a large, late Bronze Age pit, possibly a pit-well, during the course of the 2004 trenching programme in that area (F. 334/335, Trench 84; Evans & Mackay 2004: 94, fig. 31). Equally, it could also interrelate with the recovery of a very large pit cluster, also seemingly of this same attribution, during the course of the Guided Busway fieldwork and occurring immediately to the northeast ([082] in Cessford & Mackay 2004: 19, 23; Mackay *et al.* forthcoming: F. 27, 31 & 32).

The collective evidence would, therefore, suggest that what we are seeing in this area is a low density, later Bronze Age site, perhaps relating to the seasonal utilisation of these 'off-river valley in-lands' for pasture. While only having what can be considered extraordinarily low artefact densities (i.e. too low to deserve any designation as a 'settlement' *per se*), as such this site could be broadly comparable to the later Bronze Age settlement complex recently excavated nearby at Stripelands Farm, Longstanton (Patten & Evans 2005). This being said, as indicated both in the 2004 report (Evans & Mackay 2004), and as also found in the Guided Busway investigations, undated/sterile ditches - seemingly of 'pre-post-Medieval' attribution - have also been recovered from the immediate area of the site and which could relate to a minor, contemporary boundary system.

Part 2) **Fieldwalking**

A 20m grid, aligned on the National Grid, was laid out spanning Field 34; located immediately northwest of Field 21 (fig. 9). Grids were walked; north-south, in transects 20m apart, with a visual corridor of approximately 2m. Artefacts were bagged at 20m intervals at transect points. Using transects allowed large areas to be walked relatively quickly, while also providing a 10% sample.

Finds which are recent and of little or no archaeological significance were discarded after preliminary assessment. All other finds were collected and plotted to within a metre along each transect. The remaining fields were considered unsuitable due to the nature of the crop.

The field was free of crop and had recently been ploughed, with sufficient time allowed for weathering. The light conditions were good, being clear and dry. A total of 266 transect points were laid out resulting in the collection of a variety of finds dating to different periods, though all in small quantities. Due to the limited number of finds recovered, it was decided that a metal-detecting survey would be unnecessary.

Roman Pottery and Tile

There was very little evidence for Roman activity on the field. Only seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered, weighing 24g. All of the sherds were small and abraded, as would be expected from a fieldwalked assemblage. Therefore, dating of the sherds was problematic and most could only be dated 'Romano-British'. The exceptions to this were two oxidised sherds recovered from H20/A20 which could be dated 2nd-4th century AD. Due to the size and condition of the shreds, there were no diagnostic sherds, thus no vessel forms could be determined. With such a small quantity of material, identifying any credible clusters is almost impossible. However, there is a small cluster in the north of the site, although this comprises just four sherds.

The only other evidence for Roman activity was two pieces of tile, weighing 315g. However, these were located some distance apart and show no correlation to the pottery.

Flint (Emma Beadsmoore)

Fieldwalking in Field 34 yielded a total of 32 (<203g) flints; the material is listed by hectare/transect and type in Table 2. The hectares yielded between one and five flakes; much of the material is plough damaged. Only one flint recovered from the field is clearly chronologically diagnostic; a Beaker/Early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper from H7/B80. In contrast, just under a third of the material is the product of expedient flake production, with no trace of attempts to control the form of the removals or the use life of the cores. These characteristics are common to flint working from the Middle Bronze Age onwards.

A smaller group of systematically produced waste flakes and one utilised flake were also recovered, from H2/D20, H5/A20, H7/D100, H8/E40 and H10/C20. Traces of systematic flake production are a common theme in Neolithic flint working strategies, yet can also be a feature in Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flake production/core reduction. However, it is not possible to date the material with any greater accuracy as it is damaged and fragmentary.

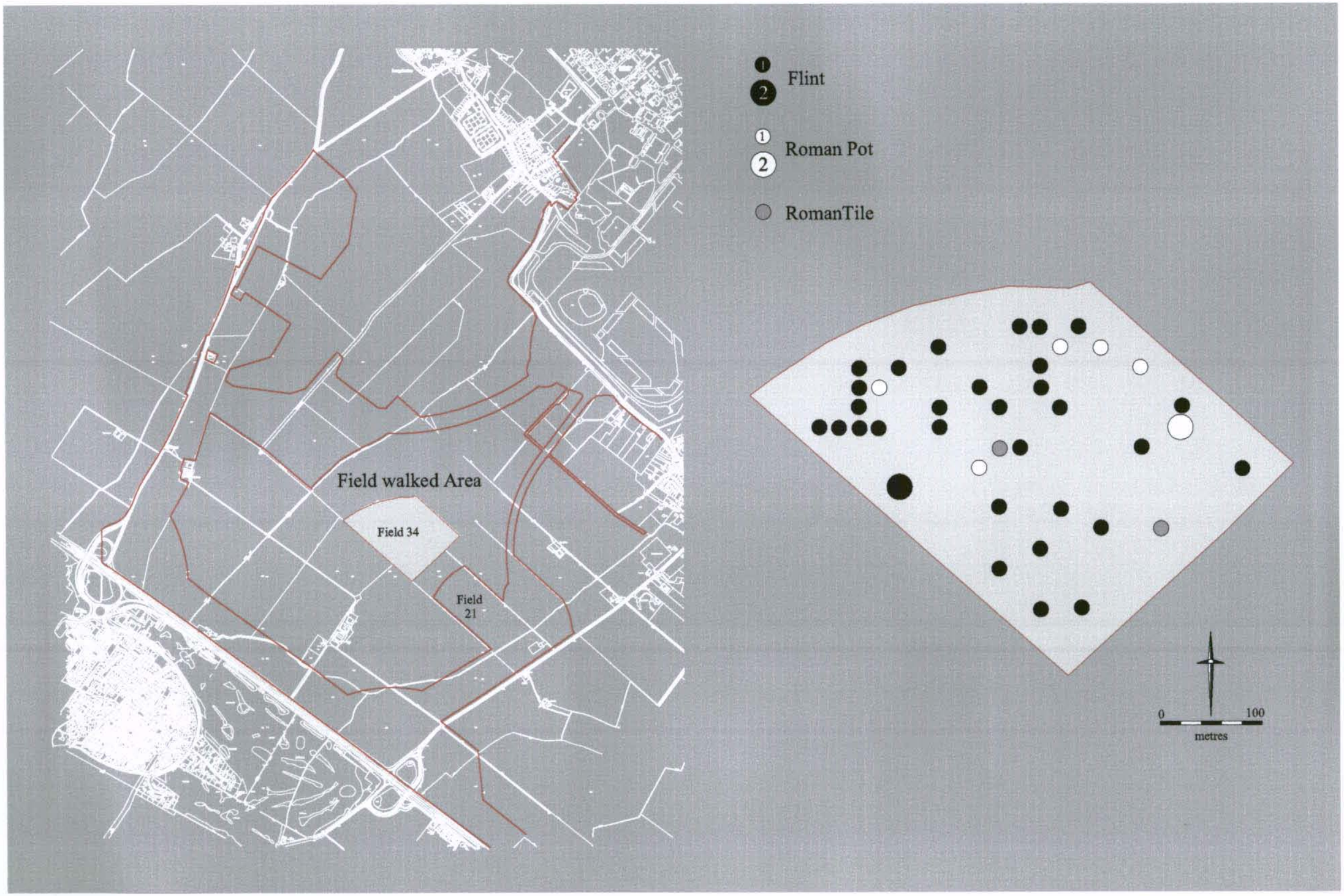

Figure 9. Field 34 fieldwalking finds density plot

Hectare/ transect	Type: chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	thumbnail scraper	miscellaneous scraper	miscellaneous retouched flake	Totals
H2/C20		1						1
H2/D20				1				1
H2/E20	1							1
H2/E40						1		1
H2/E60			1					1
H2/E80				1				1
H4/B60			2					2
H5/A20				1				1
H5/B80			1					1
H5/D100				1				1
H5/D20	1							1
H5/D40			1					1
H7/B80					1			1
H7/D100				1				1
H7/D40				1				1
H8/B40	1							1
H8/C100		1						1
H8/E40							1	1
H9/A60				1				1
H9/B40			1					1
H9/D60	1							1
H9/D80			1					1
H9/E40				1				1
H10/C20			1					1
H10/D20				1				1
H12/A40			1					1
H13/B20	1							1
H13/D100						1		1
H15/A40			1					1
H19/D80			1					1
H20/A40			1					1
Sub totals	5	2	12	9	1	2	1	32

Table 2: Field 34 fieldwalking flint

Post-Medieval Ceramics (Andrew Hall)

A total of 123 sherds of post-Medieval ceramics were recovered from the surface of 34. The assemblage as a whole comprised small, heavily abraded sherds indicative of material which has spent a considerable length of time within the plough horizon. The date range spans the 17th to 19th centuries, with the earliest material evidenced by the occasional sherd of German stoneware and the ubiquitous

glazed red earthenwares. For the 18th century, tin-glazed Fig. 9. Field walking Field 34 earthenwares, salt-glazed stonewares and slipwares are represented. 19th century ceramic types include transfer printed wares and a single sherd of black basalt ware. This is an unremarkable group incorporated within the field through manuring and general dumping. The density of finds is low and comparable to general background levels.

Glass (Megan Cuccia)

31 shards of glass (265g) were recovered from fieldwalking Field 34. The shards were scattered throughout the field, with a small cluster along hectares H4 and H5.

The glass is post-Medieval and all diagnostic pieces appear to date to the late 19th - 20th centuries, as indicated by the presence of mould made jars. With the exception of two flat fragments of glass (?window glass), all of the shards are from vessels. These vessels include bottles and jars (ranging from colourless to dark green and one orange fragment) and one colourless drinking glass.

The fieldwalking results showed only low levels of activity on the field, with much of the material collected being small and plough-damaged. Evidence from the prehistoric period was limited to a small quantity of flint. There is an area in the north of the field where there is a small cluster of flint (squares H2); however, this represented just six flints and is therefore not indicative of a prehistoric site. During an earlier magnetometry survey in Field 21, a small cluster of later Mesolithic/early Neolithic flints had been recovered (Beadsmoore in Evans *et al.* 2006). However, no comparable material was recovered from Field 34.

The evidence from the fieldwalking implies Roman activity was minimal. An archaeological evaluation in the field immediately to the southeast of Field 34 (Field 21), revealed a small number of Roman features. The quantity of material is therefore not unexpected since the main foci of Roman activity in the area is further west (Evans *et al.* 2006).

There are two probable explanations for the lack of material recovered from the fieldwalking. Firstly, that this is an area which is not dense in archaeology, therefore a significant quantity of material would not be expected. Secondly, that the that it was not easily observable on the ground. re are archaeological remains beneath this field, which could not be proven by the fieldwalking exercise. This may be a result years of intensive ploughing, resulting in much of the archaeological evidence brought to the surface being so badly abraded However, the material recovered is comparable to that recovered from several other fieldwalking exercises in and around Longstanton, which highlights that finding so little evidence, even from fields which are relatively rich in archaeology is not unusual. Field H (Beadsmoore in Evans & Mackay 2004), located some 3km north-east of Field 34, comprised 1041 transect points, nearly five times as many as Field 34, yet contained just four more flints. Many more sherds of Roman pottery were recovered (158 sherds). Yet considering the size of the field under investigation, this is still not a vast quantity. Field P, approximately 1.5km from Field 34, comprised 783 transect points. Only eight worked flints were recovered along with 11 sherds of Roman pottery. Calculating the average number of flint and Roman pottery per 10 x 10m square, shows how Field 34 compares to the two other Longstanton sites.

SITE	Flint per 10x10m	RB pot per 10x10m
Field 34	0.12	0.075
Field H	0.084	0.365
Field P	0.035	0.035

Table 3: Flint and Roman pottery density per 10x10m square

When compared in this way, the quantity of flint is noticeably higher than at the other two sites, although the amount is still low. Field H was excavated, resulting in more Roman pottery (505 sherds in total) yet less flint (four pieces). If these two fields are accepted as suitable comparisons to Field 34, then it may be assumed that a similar amount of archaeology may be expected from Field 34. Sites which have yielded a greater density of archaeology when excavated, have generally produced many more fieldwalking finds. Examples included Langwood Farm, Chatteris (Evans 2003) and Earith (Regan *et al* 2004), which had densities of 37 and 18 sherds of Roman pottery, respectively, per 10 x 10m.

Overall the fieldwalking identified no definite sites of any date, although the potential for some prehistoric and/or Roman activity should not be ruled out. The likelihood is that this field formed part of the hinterland landscape seen in and around Longstanton, with low levels of activity. However, it is only excavation that will be able to answer specific questions about the nature of occupation (if any) at the site.

Section Two - *The Infrastructure Routes*

This section details the trial trenching in the four fields that were not investigated in the 2005 fieldwork programme as they were still under crop, and thus completes the swathe of trial trenching for the infrastructure route (Evans et al. 2006). The fieldwork outlined here covers 29.2ha, divided between four fields (figs. 10 & 11). Fields 14, 21, 32 and 33 are currently agricultural land. Field 14 is located in the southwest corner of the infrastructure route, parallel to the A14, between Fields 13 and 15, and contains a narrow northeast-southwest oriented headland rising from 15m to 20m OD. Field 21 is oriented northwest-southeast and is located with the central area of the eastern infrastructure route, adjacent to Fields 20 and 23 (the former bordering Dry Drayton Road). Rising from approximately 12m at its eastern limit (Oakington Brook) to approximately 15m at its western edge, a flint scatter was identified during a preliminary survey of Field 21 ahead of the proposed trial trenching (designated Site XXVIII; ibid: 12 & 86). In addition, Field 21 is situated immediately north of a possible Iron Age site, also identified during the 2005 fieldwork programme (ibid: 14 and fig. 10). Fields 32 and 33 were bounded to the southwest by the A14, to the northeast by a concrete trackway and drainage ditch, and gently slopes in a north-easterly direction from approximately 15m to 13m OD. The underlying geology is Ampthill dark grey clays (British Geological Survey 1993).

Previously, the only known site in this area was the Mesolithic scatter, recovered earlier through fieldwalking beside Slate Hall Farm (Site I) and the Iron Age site located in Field 13 (Site XII), with the 2005 programme identifying new sites in Fields 16 & 18, 20 and 23. Site XXVII, located in Field 18, was subsequently geophysically surveyed to establish the extent of a previously unknown Roman complex and identified as a probable villa-type building (Evans et al 2006: 86-89).

Part 3) **Field 14**

The fieldwork outlined in this section covers 6.7ha the southern limit of Field 14 that is included in the proposed infrastructure route (fig. 10). Eleven trenches (370-380) were excavated across Field 14, totalling 835m in length. This field was almost entirely archaeologically sterile. Other than a minor, undated ditch and the remnants of ridge and furrow in Trench 370, and a single Medieval or later pit in Trench 375, no features of archaeological interest were observed. Numerous drains and potential disturbances to the natural were test-excavated, but none proved to be of interest.

Trench 370

Trench 370 was 100m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.32m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.42m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.71m. Two features were exposed, ditch F. 1200, and furrow F. 1218. Three other furrows and additional possible furrow bases were exposed, but these were not recorded except in plan. Ditch F. 1200 followed a similar alignment to the trench and at 90° to the line of the furrows, with which it had an uncertain stratigraphic relationship. The ditch was narrow and shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.28m. One piece of abraded Romano-British pottery was recovered. F. 1200 may represent

part of the 'outfield' field system of the dense Mid to Late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement (Site XII), located to the west of Field 14 (fig. 11).

The surviving furrows, presumably of Medieval/post-Medieval date, were intermittent and poorly preserved, the largest being 0.26m deep, and many surviving as little more than a slight disturbance to the natural.

F. 1200 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3000], cut [3001]. Fill a mid brown sandy silt. Width 0.86m, depth 0.15m with a rounded profile.

F. 1218 Furrow, NW-SE alignment. Fill [3002], cut [3003]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy clay-silt, occasional gravel. Width 2.50m, depth 0.26m with a wide, rounded profile.

Trench 371

Trench 371 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.34m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.62m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 372

Trench 372 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.29m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.53m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 373

Trench 373 was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.35m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.59m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 374

Trench 374 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.31m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.26m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.57m. Some modern disturbance was present; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 375

Trench 375 was 160m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.33m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.61m. A single feature, pit F. 1230, located at the southwestern end of the trench was exposed. This was presumably a quarry pit, containing two sherds of Medieval pottery.

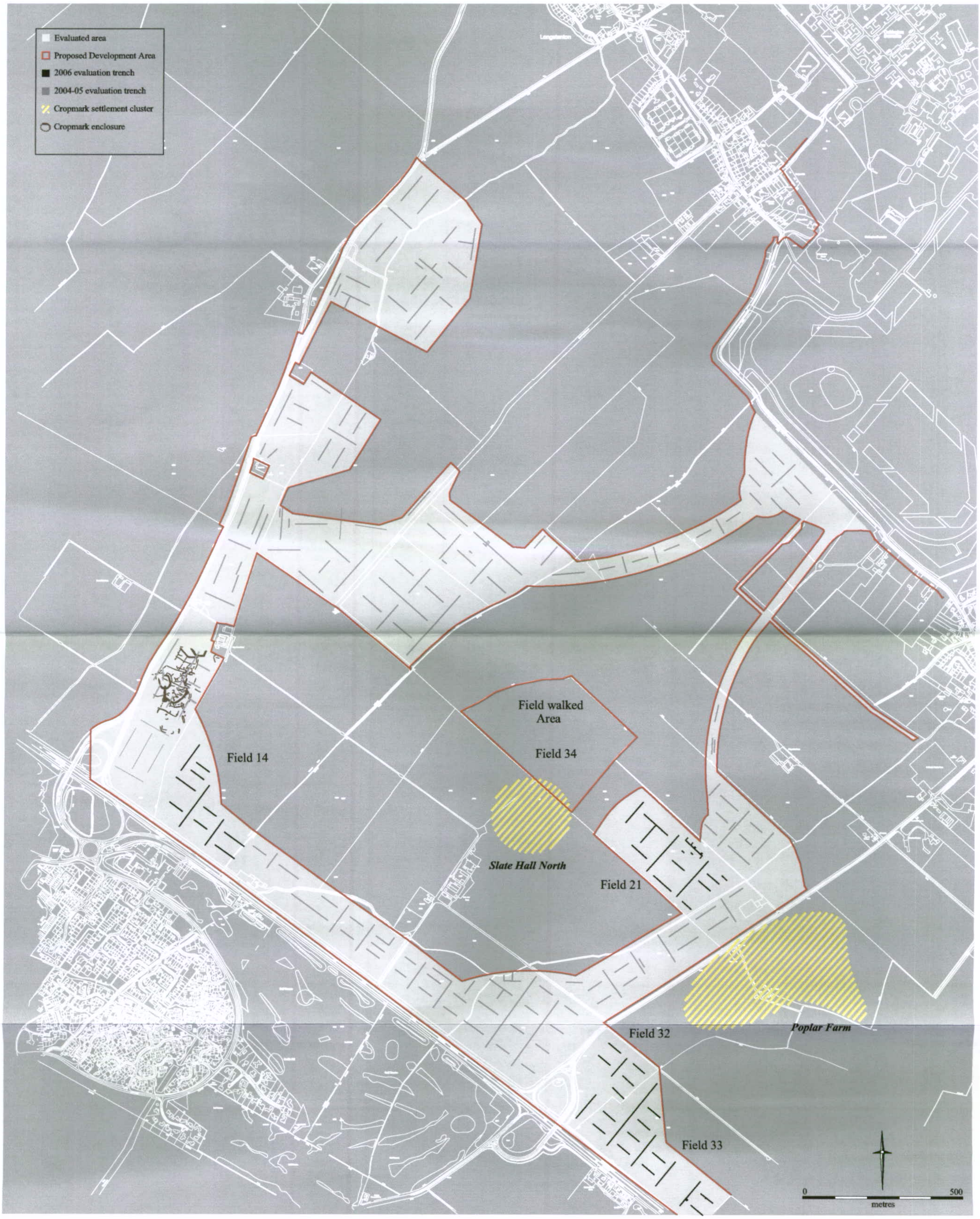

Figure 10. Infrastructure route: Field locations (14,21,32 and 33) of 2006 evaluation

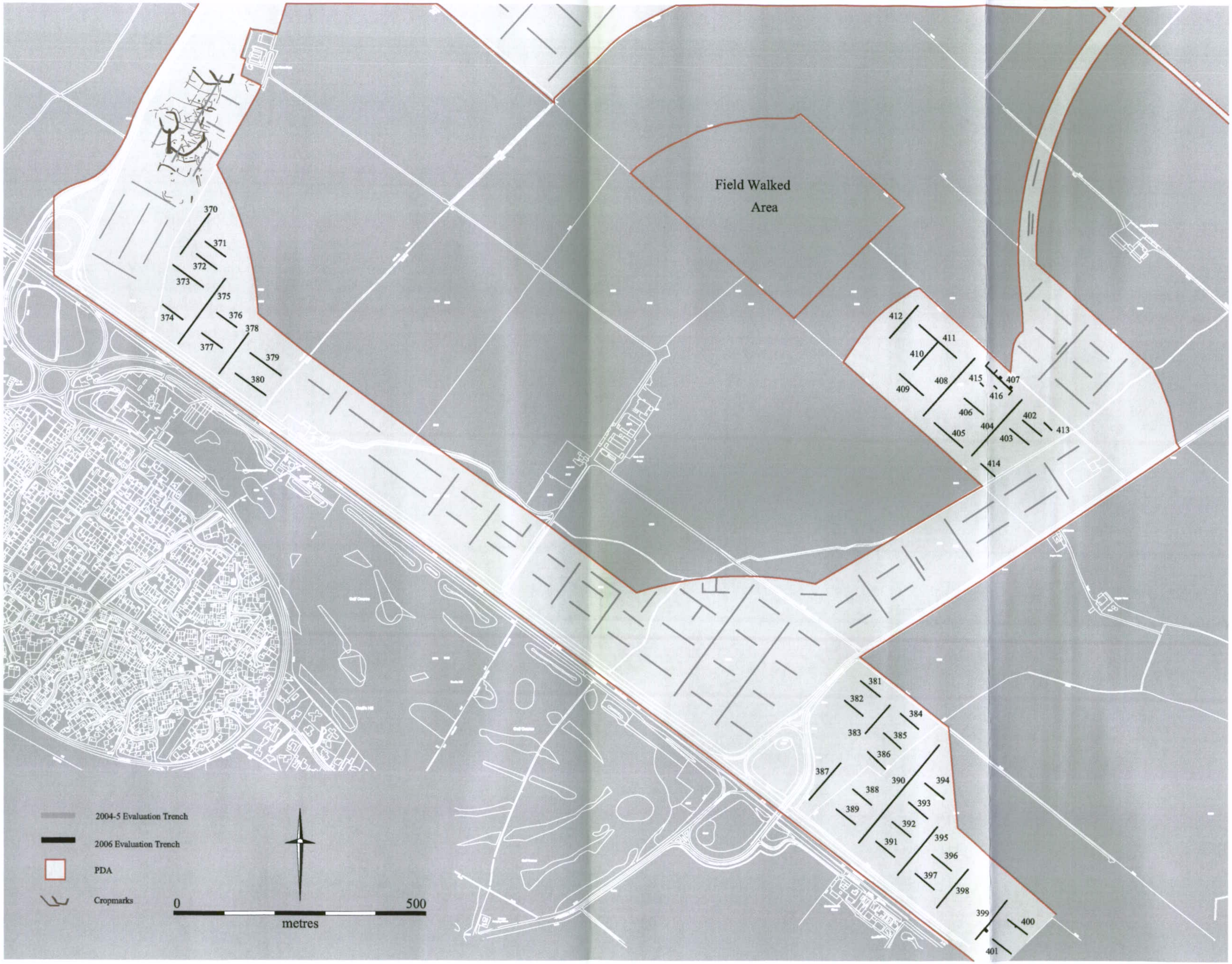

Figure 11. Infrastructure route, trenching location plan

F. 1230 Pit. Fills [3041-4], cut [3045]. Fill a mid to pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Sub circular in plan, width 3.10m, depth 1.05m with a rounded, 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 376

Trench 376 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.36m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.36m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.72m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 377

Trench 377 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.35m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.58m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 378

Trench 378 was 100m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.41m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.64m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 379

Trench 379 was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.55m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 380

Trench 380 was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.31m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.68m. Some modern disturbance was encountered; no archaeology was observed.

Discussion

The absence of archaeology within Field 14 confirms the results the 2005 programme of fieldwork where activity relating to Site XII diminished towards the eastern and southern zones of Fields 1B and 13. The presence of the north-south oriented ditch in Trench 307 is, nonetheless, intriguing as this may represent a field boundary of the outfields of Site XII (fig. 12), located in Field 13 immediately to the west. The diminution of activity across this area thus probably extends into Field 15, also devoid of any settlement evidence (albeit based on limited trenching in this field: Evans *et al.* 2006: 57).

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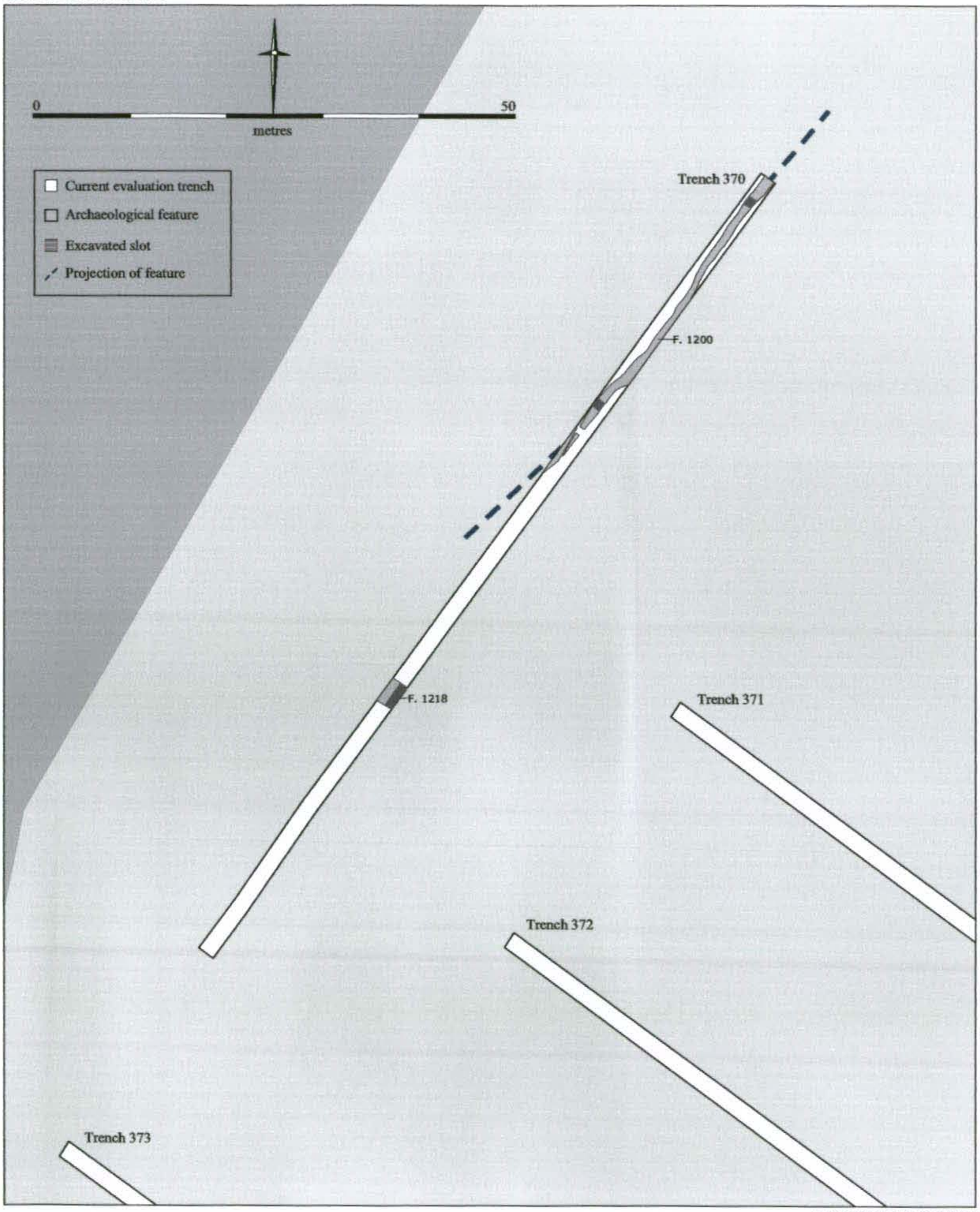


E: 538564.23 N: 264060.14

Figure 12. Field 14: Possible 'outfield' linear of Site XII

Part 4) **Site XXVIII** (Field 21)

The fieldwork outlined in this section covers the fifteen trenches (402-416) excavated across the 8.5ha of Field 21, totalling 1006m in length (fig. 11). The archaeological remains in this field fell into two distinct categories: 1) a flint scatter occurring in both the topsoil and subsoil; and (2) sub-surface features. Both categories proved to be relatively sparse.

Bucket sampling of the excavated topsoil and subsoil was conducted across the field, and targeted hand-excavation of the subsoil was also carried out (see below). These strategies, along with incidental finds, demonstrated that the numbers of worked flint were very low, and yet the assemblage contained two Mesolithic bifaces; an axe and probable pick (fig. 13). No particular concentrations of flint were identified, although the northwestern half of the field yielded more than the southeastern half. In contrast to this, all but one archaeological feature occurred in the southwestern half of the field, and the one exception may have been of post-Medieval date.

Dominant amongst these features was a large channel F. 1213 crossing the southeastern edge of the field. This was both hand- and machine-excavated, but the only finds recovered were of post-Medieval date, including leather shoe fragments found in waterlogged deposits at the base. Whether this feature lay on the course of, or parallel to, an earlier stream channel is uncertain, but no finds of pre-modern date were found.

Other than small ditches of uncertain date, only one feature of note was uncovered, F. 1212 in Trench 407, a ditch of probable Roman date.

Trench 402

Trench 402 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.32m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.72m. Four ditches were exposed in the southeastern half of the trench, F. 1201 and F. 1202 being the same small size, shallow and roughly parallel. Ditch F. 1209 was much wider, although of no great depth, and may have been associated with parallel ditch/channel F. 1213. This was a large feature, not excessively deep (only 1.00m at this point) containing waterlogged deposits, and seemingly of post-Medieval date.

F. 1201 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3046], cut [3047]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt-clay. Width 0.70m, depth 0.25m with a rounded profile.

F. 1202 Ditch, ENE-WSW alignment. Fill [3048], cut [3049]. Fill a mid brown-grey silt-clay, occasional charcoal. Width 0.70m, depth 0.15m with a shallow, rounded profile.

F. 1209 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3054], cut [3055]. Fill a mid yellow-grey sandy silt-clay. Width 3.20m, depth 0.32m with a wide, rounded, uneven profile.

F. 1213 Ditch/stream channel, NE-SW alignment. Fills [3066-9], cut [3070]. Fill a mid brown and dark grey sandy clay-silt overlying black waterlogged sandy silt. Full width not exposed, depth 1.00m with a flat-based profile.

0 100

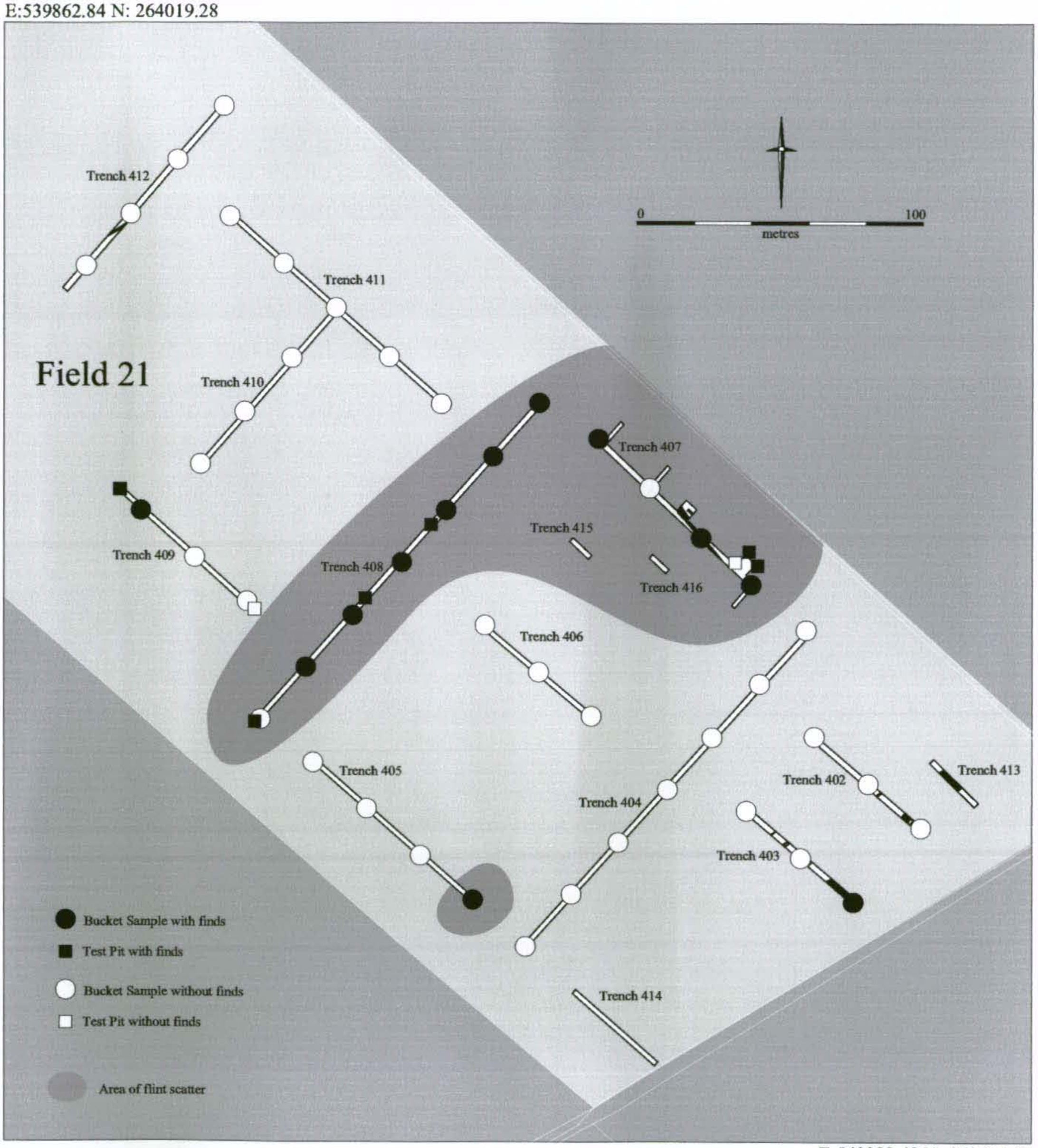
Millimetres

0 100

Millimetres

Figure 13. Mesolithic flint pick and hand-axe from field 21

E:539862.84 N: 264019.28



E:540223.43 N: 263625.17

Figure 14. Site XXVIII Mesolithic activity zone: bucket sampling and test pit results

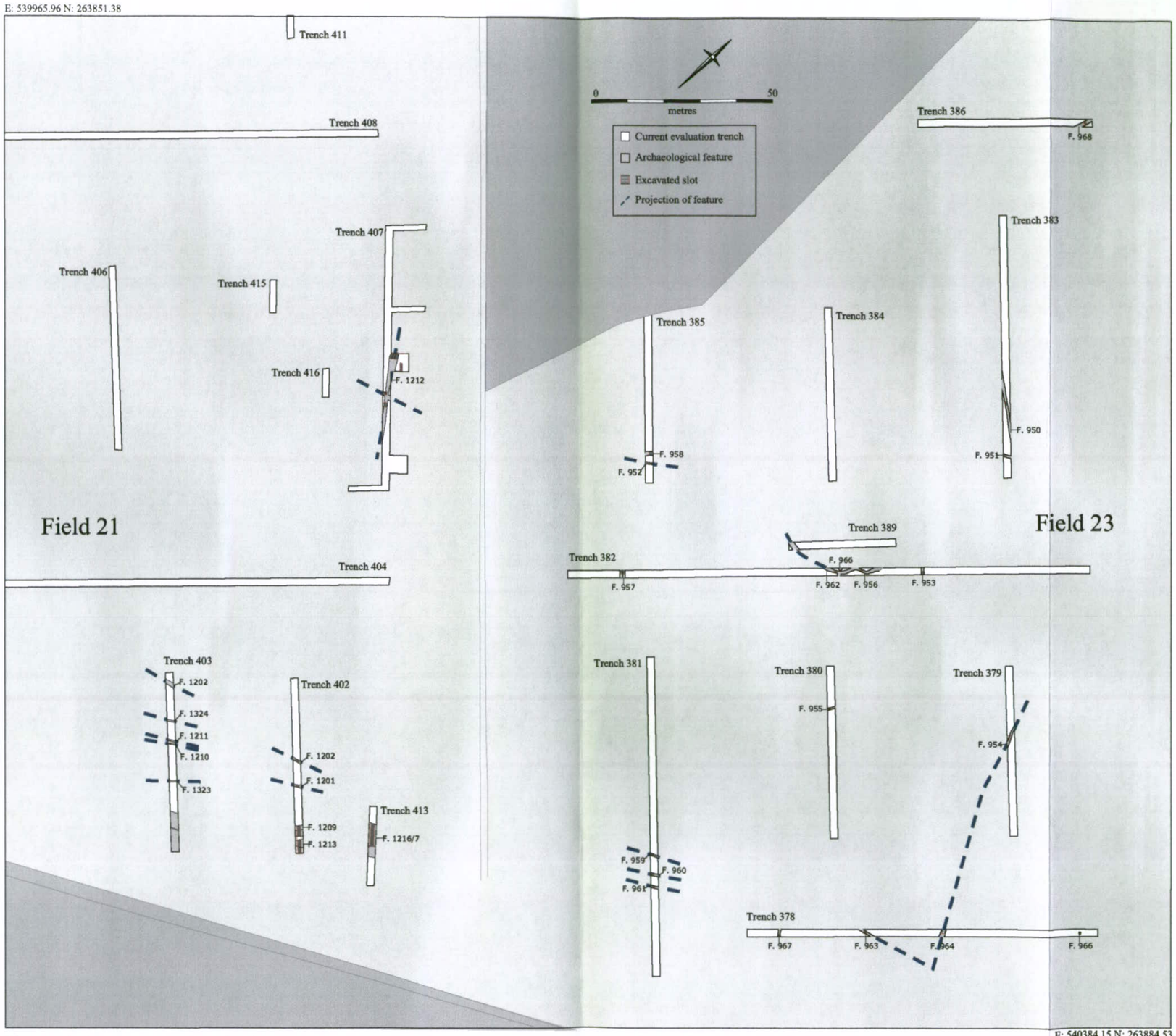


Figure 15. Fields 21 and 23: "Outfield" field system / paddocks

Trench 403

Trench 403 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.38m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.54m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.80m. Five potential small ditches were exposed, F. 1210 and F. 1211 being the same small size, shallow and roughly parallel. F. 1211 lined up with F. 1201 in Trench 402. Ditch F. 1202 (unexcavated in this trench) was also picked up in Trench 402. Narrow ditches F. 1323 and F. 1324 were not excavated. Large ditch/channel F. 1213 passed through the southern end of this trench, but was not excavated (see Trenches 402 and 413 for descriptions).

F. 1210 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3062], cut [3063]. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.52m, depth 0.20m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1211 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3064], cut [3065]. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.52m, depth 0.22m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1323 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid brown-grey clay-silt. 0.40m wide.

F. 1324 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid brown-grey clay-silt. 0.40m wide.

Trench 404

Trench 404 was 150m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.36m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.38m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.73m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 405

Trench 405 was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.32m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.21m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.53m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 406

Trench 406 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.37m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.26m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.63m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 407

Trench 407 was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment with five short extensions pulled off it at 90° (extensions A to E) with a combined additional length of 47m. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.32m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.72m. A single ditch, F. 1212 cut along the trench on a northwest-southeast alignment, but was not present in extensions C, D or E that lay across its projected line. This ditch contained residual Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint, probably Roman pottery and a piece of quernstone. The small amount

of pottery recovered was seemingly Roman in form although of unusual fabric type, and was further confused by post-breakage burning and abrasion. A smaller ditch appeared to cut across the trench on a northeast-southwest line, but excavation showed that this feature was likely to be natural in origin.

Trench 407 lay on a sand geology with a sandy subsoil and an indistinct boundary between the two. At the southeastern end of the trench, a flint adze was recovered from the surface of the natural sand during the machining. A similar tool had been found in the topsoil in the vicinity of the trench prior to excavation. Extension B was machine-excavated adjacent to this and the subsoil test excavated by hand in three 1m squares (see *Bucket Sampling and Test-Pits* below).

F. 1212 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [3056-7, 3059-60], cut [3058, 3061]. Fill a mid to pale brown silty sand. Width generally 1.10m, depth 0.36m with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile (fig. 16).

Trench 408

Trench 408 was 150m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.43m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.33m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.76m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 409

Trench 409 was 64m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.38m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.70m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 410

Trench 410 was 50m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.33m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.70m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 411

Trench 411 was 100m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.70m. Several post-Medieval agricultural features were present, two of which were excavated, but all shared the alignment of exposed field drains; no archaeology was observed.

F. 1214 Ditch; post-Medieval.

F. 1215 Ditch; post-Medieval.

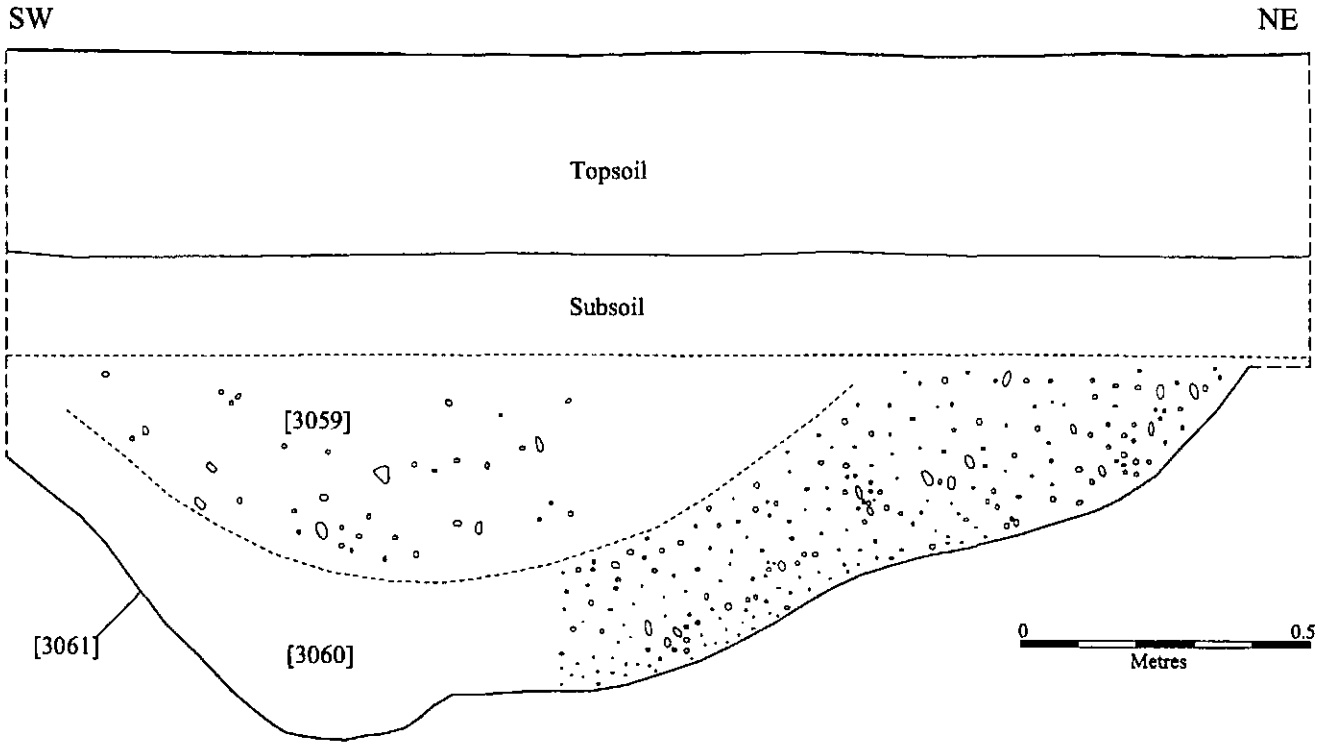


Figure 16. Ditch Section F.1212, Trench 407

Trench 412

Trench 412 was 85m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.68m. A single small ditch, F. 1208, crossed the trench on a northeast-southwest alignment. No finds were recovered.

F. 1208 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fills [3050-1], cut [3052]. Fill a mid to pale orange-grey-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.81m, depth 0.20m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 413

Trench 413 was 22m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.32m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.72m. The large ditch/channel feature, F. 1216/F. 1217 (F. 1213 in Trench 402), crossed this trench and its full extent exposed. The northern half of the feature was hand excavated and the southern half machined out and the spoil hand-sorted for finds. A post-Medieval date was established.

F. 1216/1217 Ditch, potential stream channel. NE-SW alignment. Fills [3075-83, 3085-93], cuts [3084, 3094]. Fill consisted of a succession of grey silt-clays in separate cuts getting successively younger towards the southeast. Width 9.60m, depth 1.00m with a wide, flat-based profile. Southeastern 3m were machine-excavated and the spoil hand-sorted.

Trench 414

Trench 414 was 21m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.43m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.55m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.98m. A sondage was excavated into the natural gravel by machine on the projected line of the channel exposed in Trenches 402, 403 and 413 to a depth of 1.50m, but no archaeology was observed.

Trench 415

Trench 415 was 9m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.35m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.60m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 416

Trench 416 was 8m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.34m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.60m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.94m; no archaeology was observed.

Bucket Sampling and Test-Pits

Due to the discovery of the Mesolithic flint axe in Trench 407 (fig. 13), as well as additional flint in the topsoil (including another adze in the vicinity of Trench 407), a sampling strategy was devised to include bucket sampling of the machine-excavated topsoil and subsoil, along with hand-excavation of test-pits into the subsoil. The subsoil was left upstanding as a 1.00m bulk every 25m in Trenches 408 to 412 inclusive, to be sampled according to the results of the bucket sampling.

The bucket sampling involved hand-sorting a six bucket (c.90 litre) sample of both topsoil and subsoil at 25 metre intervals along the trenches (fig. 14). The results for the bucket sampling were disappointing, generating only 20 pieces of worked flint in total. Despite these low numbers, the highest concentration showed a curving swathe running east-west through Trenches 407, 408 and 409. Trenches 408 and 409 were therefore subjected to hand-digging of the subsoil at a 50m intervals. Trench 407, having no upstanding bulks of subsoil, had Extension B machine-excavated to the top of the subsoil, adjacent to the location of the flint axe recovered from that trench. In addition to the hand-axe, 12 Mesolithic flints were recovered from the bucket samples and test-pits excavated in this trench, 10 from the test-pits alone. Combining these flints with the two recovered from the adjacent bucket sample from the northern end of Trench 404 provides a higher than expected density of Late Mesolithic activity (see Beadsmoore, below) and indicates this is a significant site of the period.

Discussion

The recovery of a relatively large quantity of flint from Fields 21 and 34 during the fieldwalking exercise and excavation reinforces the earlier interpretation that an important Mesolithic activity zone, Site XXVIII, is located here. As such, the relationship and distribution of Mesolithic activity attests to the importance of the slightly higher ground beside minor rivers and watercourse, in this area of 'heavy landscape' (Evans *et al.* 2006: 86), along the greensand geology, and links Site XXVIII to Site I, just to the north of Slate Hall Farm. Similarly, the recovery of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flints from Fields 21 and 34 during fieldwalking and excavation, possibly associated with the Bronze Age pits at Site XXX, further highlights the temporary nature of these sites, with peripatetic populations moving through the landscape making expedient use of local resources as seen in the flake production evidence. Usefully, the results of the 2005 and 2006 fieldwork exercises presents the potential use of predictive modelling for locating as yet unidentified Mesolithic/Neolithic sites in the wider landscape.

The lack of visible later archaeological features in Field 21, with the exception of F. 1212 in Trench 407, is intriguing, situated as it is between Sites XXIX and XXX. Nonetheless, F. 1212 may relate to the ditches found in Fields 20 or 23. The recovery of Roman pottery and quernstone from the ditch, however, would suggest it is probably late Iron Age or early Roman in date. This would make the attribution of the fieldsystem in Field 23 to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period more likely, rather than associated with the Bronze Age pit system identified at Site XXX. Such a date attribution would suggest that these features are most likely related to the settlement cluster identified from aerial photographic survey at Poplar Farm, located to the east

of Dry Drayton Road. Whether these represent the enclosure or infields system or outfields of the settlement remains unclear. However, a curvilinear feature (F. 754) discovered in Trench 301, Field 20, during the earlier evaluation 'hints' at the settlement core being located towards the modern-day road. As the ditches in Fields 21 and 23 are situated to the west of Oakington Brook and display a generally similar alignment (fig. 15), we should, therefore, see these as part of 'outfields' or paddock enclosures, with the abraded pottery recovered during the fieldwalking exercise deposited during manuring of these fields.

Part 5) **Fields 32 and 33**

The fieldwork outlined in this section covers 18.0ha, divided between two fields (figs. 10 & 11). Seven trenches (381-387) were excavated across Field 32, totalling 425m in length; fourteen trenches (388-401) were excavated across Field 33, totalling 1275m in length (two trenches were slated from the evaluation due to the presence of overhead power cables preventing machine access).

Field 32

This field was entirely archaeologically sterile, the only recorded feature being of post-Medieval date. Numerous drains and potential disturbances to the natural were test excavated, but none proved to be of interest.

Trench 381

Trench 381 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.27m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.35m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.62m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 382

Trench 382 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.26m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.52m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 383

Trench 383 was 75m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.65m; no archaeology was observed.

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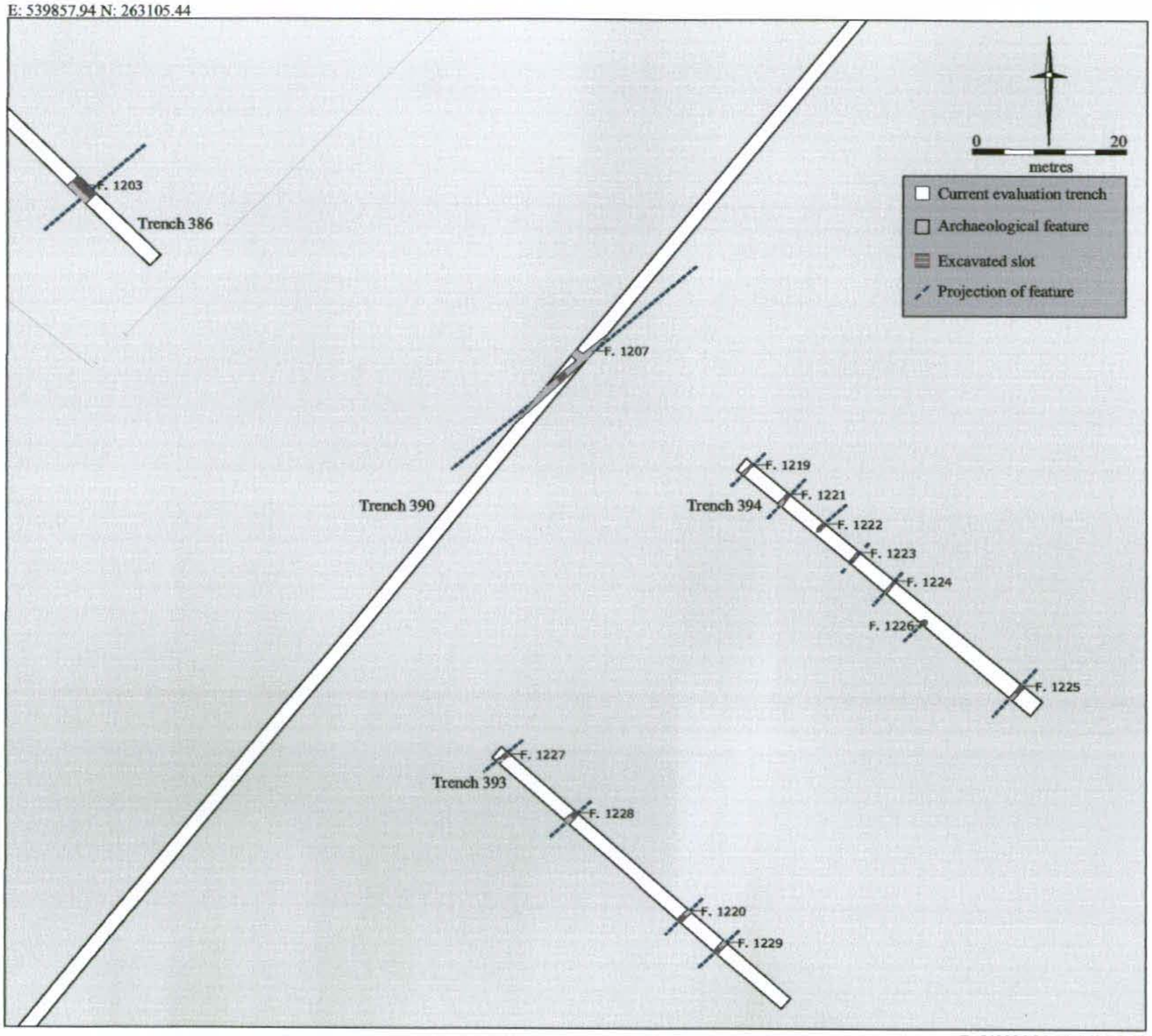

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Figure 17. Fields 32 and 33: Projection of possible post-Medieval ridge and furrow

Trench 384

Trench 384 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.45m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.69m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 385

Trench 385 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.47m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.71m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 386

Trench 386 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.34m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.57m. A single post-Medieval ditch crossed the trench.

F. 1203 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill [3008], cut [3009]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 3.66m, depth 0.19m with a flat-based profile; post-Medieval.

Trench 387

Trench 387 was 100m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.20m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.29m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.49m; no archaeology was observed.

Field 33

Very little of archaeological interest was observed in this field, although some features were worth recording. The small, sterile and parallel ditches in Trenches 393 and 394 remain undated, but similar features in the Longstanton landscape and elsewhere, for example Clay farm, Trumpington (Evans *et al.* 2004, 2006) have been tentatively ascribed a Roman date and of an agricultural nature. The features in Trench 399 were potentially of more interest, but were also sterile, and are likewise undated. Numerous drains and potential disturbances to the natural were test excavated, but none proved to be of interest.

Trench 388

Trench 388 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.15m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.55m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 389

Trench 389 was 250m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.50m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.75m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 390

Trench 390 was 250 long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.44m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.68m. The bases of furrows intermittently crossed the trench on a northwest-southeast alignment. A single ditch, F. 1207, crossed the trench obliquely on a northeast-southwest line. The feature was shallow and sterile.

F. 1207 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3029], cut [3030]. Fill a mid brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.85m, depth 0.16m with a rounded profile.

Trench 391

Trench 391 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.22m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.45m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.67m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 392

Trench 392 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.46m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.66m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 393

Trench 393 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.18m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.39m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.58m. This trench contained a series of narrow, shallow parallel ditches lying on a northeast-southwest alignment. The distance between features was approximately 6.00m, although one ditch was absent from this pattern (between F. 1228 and F. 1300), and the feature between F. 1227 and F. 1228 appeared to carry a field drain. This could have been a coincidental overlying of features, as another field drain was uncovered on this alignment and another at 90° to it, as well as on another line entirely. The ditches were entirely sterile.

F. 1220 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3007], cut [3006]. Fill an orange-grey silt-clay. Width 0.58m, depth 0.21m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1227 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3035], cut [3036]. Fill a mid pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.75m, depth 0.18m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1228 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3037], cut [3038]. Fill a mid pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.85m, depth 0.18m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1229 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3039], cut [3040]. Fill a mid pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.70m, depth 0.11m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1300 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated. Pale orange-grey silt-clay. 0.50m wide. One of numerous small, parallel ditches intermittently lying approximately 6m apart.

Trench 394

Trench 394 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.37m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.61m. This trench contained a series of narrow, shallow parallel ditches lying on a northeast-southwest alignment. The distance between features was approximately 6.00m, although one ditch was absent from this pattern (between F. 1225 and F. 1226), and F. 1222 and F. 1226 were butt-ending. A field drain lay on the same alignment, but unrelated to the spacing intervals of the ditches. The ditches were entirely sterile.

F. 1219 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3005], cut [3004]. Fill an orange-grey silt-clay. Width 0.40m, depth 0.16m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1221 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3016], cut [3017]. Fill a mid to pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.70m, depth 0.20m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1222 Ditch, NE-SW alignment, butt-ending. Fill [3018], cut [3019]. Fill a mid to pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.95m, depth 0.20m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1223 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3020], cut [3021]. Fill a mid to pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.55m, depth 0.11m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1224 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3022], cut [3023]. Fill a mid to pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.76m, depth 0.16m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1225 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3024], cut [3025]. Fill a mid to pale orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.56m, depth 0.14m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1226 Ditch, NE-SW alignment, butt-ending. Fill [3034], cut [3033]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt-clay. Width 0.62m, depth 0.13m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 395

Trench 395 was 125m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.34m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.39m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.73m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 396

Trench 396 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.31m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.57m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 397

Trench 397 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.33m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.28m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.60m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 398

Trench 398 was 100m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.62m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 399

Trench 399 was 100m long on a northeast-southwest alignment with a 5m x 5m extension opened on the southeastern side. The topsoil was up to 0.21m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.34m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.54m. One shallow ditch crossed the trench obliquely on a northeast-southwest line, butt-ending within the trench. Of the two small pits uncovered, F. 1206 appeared to be cut by the ditch. All the features were sterile of finds.

F. 1204 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3010, 3012], cut [3011, 3013]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy silt. Width 0.74m, depth 0.18m with a rounded profile.

F. 1205 Pit. Fill [3014], cut [3015]. Fill a mid brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.58m, depth 0.13m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1206 Pit. Fills [3026-7], cut [3028]. Fill a dark brown sandy clay-silt overlying silt-clay weathering. Width 0.52m, depth 0.14m with a rounded profile.

Trench 400

Trench 400 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.29m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.34m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.60m. Approximately 15m of this trench contained modern disturbance for a cable; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 401

Trench 401 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.60m; no archaeology was observed.

Discussion

The lack of datable artefacts from either fields prevents an informed interpretation of the features identified in Trenches 386, 390, 393, 394 and 399. The parallel nature and regular spacing of the ditches in Trenches 393/394 (fig. 17) and alignment of F. 1204 in Trench 399 would argue for these being remnant ridge and furrow, particularly as they are on the same alignment of the field boundary, itself taken off the alignment of the former Roman road (now the A14). The 'sterility' of these fields is, nonetheless, useful when predicting or modelling later Iron Age and Roman activity within this landscape and can be considered similar in character to the areas of little or no activity seen elsewhere, for example between Sites XII and XXVI and between XXVI and Poplar Farm. We can also tentatively make the case that these fields would have become incorporated as paddocks or large enclosures associated with the later villa-type complex established at Site XXVII.

Section Three - *Airfield Investigations*

This section details the trial trenching within the remaining southern and eastern areas of the airfield that were not investigated during the 2005 fieldwork programme, and including two trenches in the northern area to further define the extent and nature of Site XVIII. In the intervening period, the geophysical survey of the airfield and nearby golf course was completed (Johnson 2006a, 2006b). The large-scale geophysical survey has also permitted a landscape-wide interpretation of the archaeology to be made, spanning the prehistoric to modern periods.

Thirty-eight trenches (417-454) were excavated across the Airfield , totalling 1463m in length (fig. 18) This was a particularly large area, with trenches focusing on geophysical anomalies as well as being placed to test the extent of 'sites'. Three new sites were identified and numbered, continuing the numerical system from the previous phase. Site XXXIII (Trenches 417-426, 434-6 and 445-7), Site XXXIV (Trenches 429, 430, 433, 439, 440) and Site XXXV (Trenches 441-3 and 449-52). Two trenches (444 and 453) lay within previously evaluated Site XVIII in the northern portion of the airfield.

In addition, within this section of the text is reported the results of monitoring engineering trial pits dug within the area of the former airfield barrack blocks, an area where otherwise trenching was unfeasible (Part 7).

Part 6) **Sites XVIII, XXXIII, XVI/XXXIV and XXXV**

Site XVIII

Site XVIII had already been the subject of trench-based evaluation and geophysical survey, revealing an extensive settlement of predominantly 2nd – 3rd century Roman date (Evans *et al.* 2006; see also Part 1 above). The two trenches detailed below were located to test specific questions, Trench 444 providing information about the extent of the settlement in an area largely covered by one of the airfield's runways, as well as testing the impact of the runway itself, and Trench 453 testing an unusual geophysical anomaly thought to potentially represent a bath-house (figs. 19 & 20). This was supported by finds in the vicinity suggesting a masonry building, and only a short trench was needed to investigate this.

Trench 444

Trench 444 was 100m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.70m. This trench was located to assess the extent of Roman Site XVIII, and any impact the construction/destruction of the runway may have had. This was minimal, and did not consist of widespread horizontal truncation but of isolated deep features.The trench exposed a likely continuation of the Site XVIII features, but the fills were less rich and the features themselves more dispersed that in previous trenches across the site. The easternmost 20m of the trench contained no features whatsoever; no features in this trench were excavated.

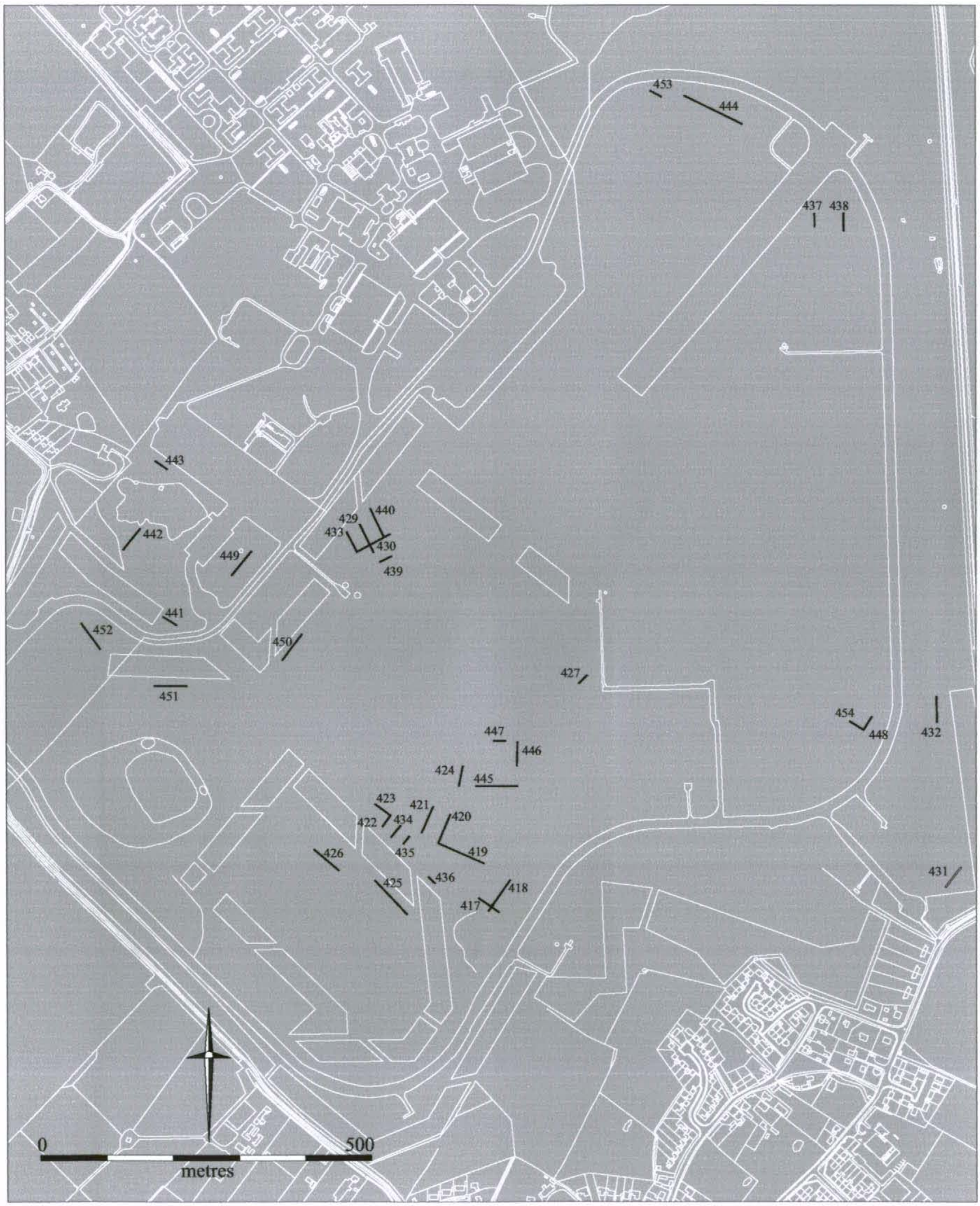

Figure 18. Airfield trenching 2006

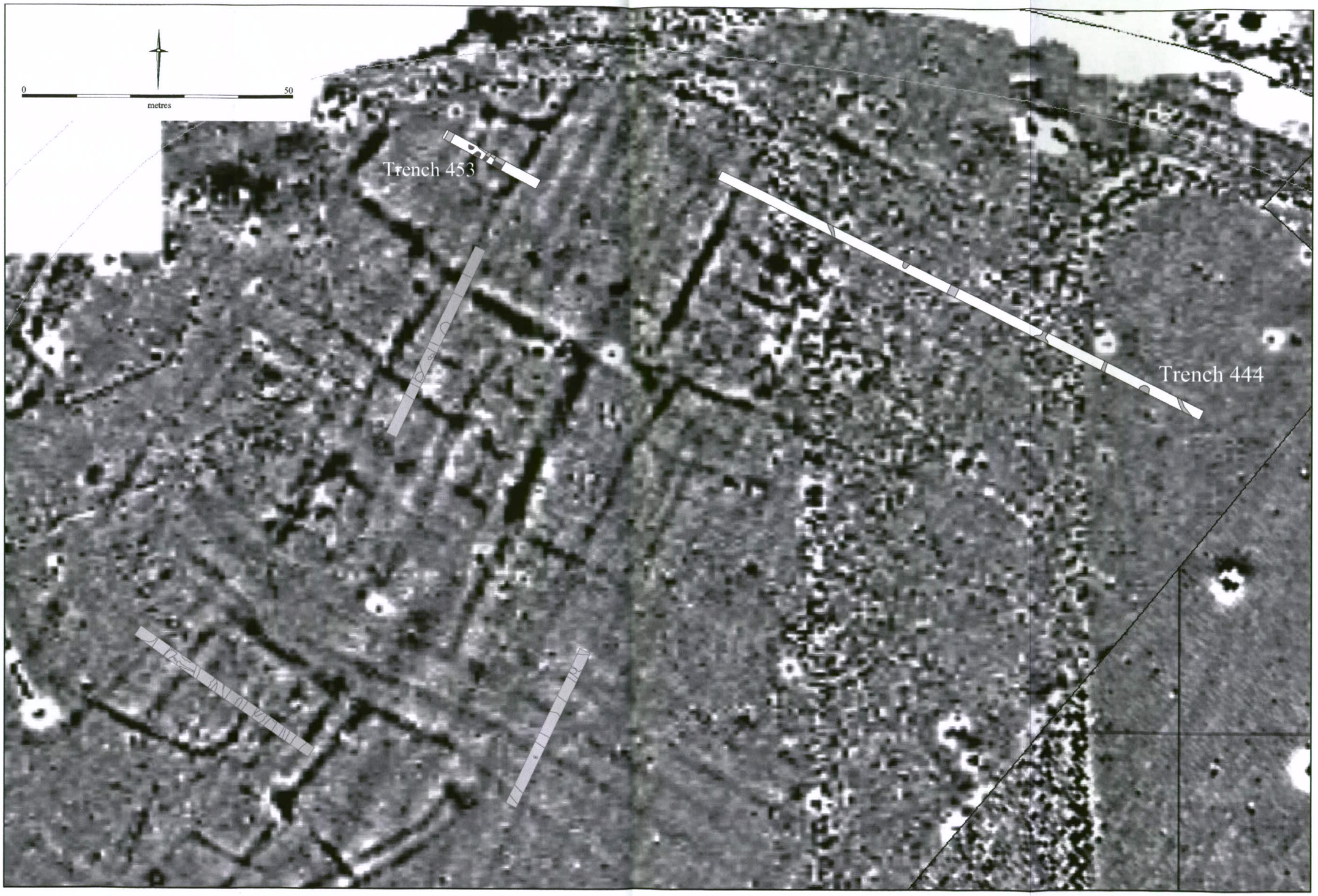

Figure 19. Airfield, Site XVIII (zone A); trenches 444 and 453

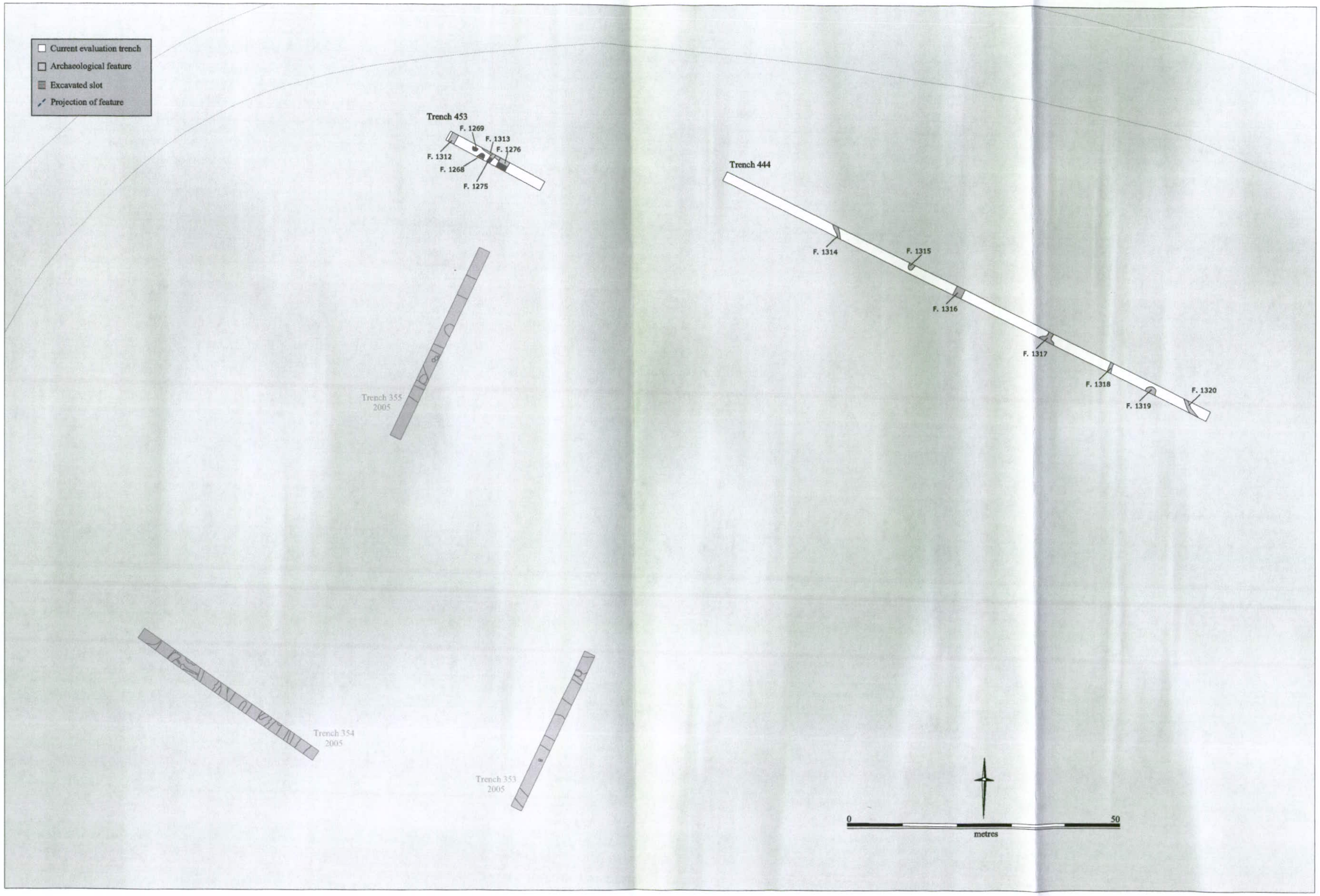

Figure 20. Airfield, Site XVIII (zone A); trenches 444 and 453

F. 1314 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid to dark brown-grey sandy clay-silt. Width 0.75m.

F. 1315 Pit. Unexcavated; fill, mid to dark brown-grey sandy clay-silt. Only partially exposed, so potentially a ditch butt-end. Width 1.10m.

F. 1316 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid to dark brown-grey sandy clay-silt. Width 1.50m.

F. 1317 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid to dark brown-grey sandy clay-silt. Irregular in plan. Potentially a ditch crossing a large pit, but unknown without further exposure. Width 1.00m to 3.00m.

F. 1318 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid to dark brown-grey sandy clay-silt. Width 0.70m.

F. 1319 Pit. Unexcavated; fill, mid to dark brown-grey sandy clay-silt. Only partially exposed, so potentially a ditch butt-end. Width 1.95m.

F. 1320 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid to dark brown-grey sandy clay-silt. Width 0.75m.

Trench 453

Trench 453 was 20m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.45m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.20m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.60m. This trench was placed cross an unusual geophysical anomaly. Excavation showed that this consisted of ditches and pits with ashy fills.

F. 1268 Pit. Fill [3201], cut [3202]. Fill a very dark brown sandy clay-silt containing charcoal and a lump of quernstone. Only partially exposed. Width 1.20m, depth 0.35m with a rounded profile.

F. 1269 Pit. Fill [3203], cut [3204]. Fill a very dark brown sandy clay-silt containing charcoal. Sub circular in plan, 1.00m x 0.90m, depth 0.30m with a rounded profile.

F. 1275 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3220], cut [3221]. Fill a very dark brown-grey clay-silt, frequent gravel. Width 0.85m, depth 0.35m with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F. 1276 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3222-6], cut [3227]. Fill a succession of clearly defined but similar layers, mid to dark grey-brown and brown-grey sandy clay-silts. Width 2.00m, depth 0.93m with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F. 1312 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated. Very dark brown sandy clay-silt. Width 1.20m.

F. 1313 Pit. Unexcavated; fill, mid to dark grey-brown clay-silt. Only partially exposed and obscured by other features; could potentially be a ditch. 3.25m width exposed.

Site XVI/XXXIII

Largely falling immediately south of the Site XVI Iron Age enclosure (see Evans *et al.* 2006), the occurrence of both military earthworks (and their associated 'scrapping') and woodland scrub-cover made trenching difficult in this area. Equally, a brown sandy clay geology/'natural' locally hindered the recognition of features (e.g. Trenches 419-21).

The main focus of the trenching was a large, round-corner ditch setting visible on the geophysical surveys south of Site XVI (and which seemed to have a 'ghosted' parallel boundary on the west of it; figs. 21 & 22). Based on its plan-morphology, it was suspected that this would be of Roman attribution. While features of that date were, indeed, recovered, this main (round-corner) ditch system and most of the discrete features tested, would actually seemed to be of later Bronze/Early Iron Age attribution. (Note that, while falling within this general area, Trenches 417 and 418 were specifically sited to investigate the swathe of possible pitting identified in that area through the geophysical survey; see Part 1. 2) above; TL 541010/265040.)

Trench 417

Trench 417 was 39m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. Landscaping had produced an unusual soil sequence of turf 0.07m deep, redeposited clay 0.19m deep, old topsoil up to 0.30m deep, and subsoil up to 0.38m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.83m. A single rectangular burnt pit was uncovered.

F. 1246 Pit. Fills [3137-9], cut [3140]. Fill a mid yellow-brown clay-silt overlying a black, ashy burnt stone layer (figs. 23 & 24). Surrounding natural scorched red from in situ burning. Sub-rectangular in plan, 2.00m x 1.15m, depth 0.35m with a flat-based profile.

Trench 418

Trench 418 was 58m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. Landscaping had produced an unusual soil sequence of turf 0.10m deep, redeposited clay 0.29m deep, old topsoil was up to 0.27m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.25m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.91m. Three small possible pits/postholes were uncovered, but all were dubious as archaeological features.

F. 1232 Possible pit/posthole. Fill [3103], cut [3104]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Elongated in plan, 0.50m x 0.24m, depth 0.10m with a rounded profile.

F. 1233 Possible pit/posthole. Fill [3105], cut [3106]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Circular in plan, 0.25m x 0.21m, depth 0.05m with a rounded profile.

F. 1234 Possible pit/posthole. Fill [3107], cut [3108]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy clay-silt. Circular in plan, 0.22m x 0.17m, depth 0.12m with a rounded profile.

Trench 419

Trench 419 was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.25m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.65m. Two ditches were uncovered. F. 1235, on an east-west alignment, appeared to be the base of a ditch, and probably not as curved as it seemed once excavated. F. 1237 was a cleanly cut 'V'-shaped northeast-southwest ditch relating to a right-angled enclosure on the geophysical plot. This ditch contained a small assemblage of Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pottery.

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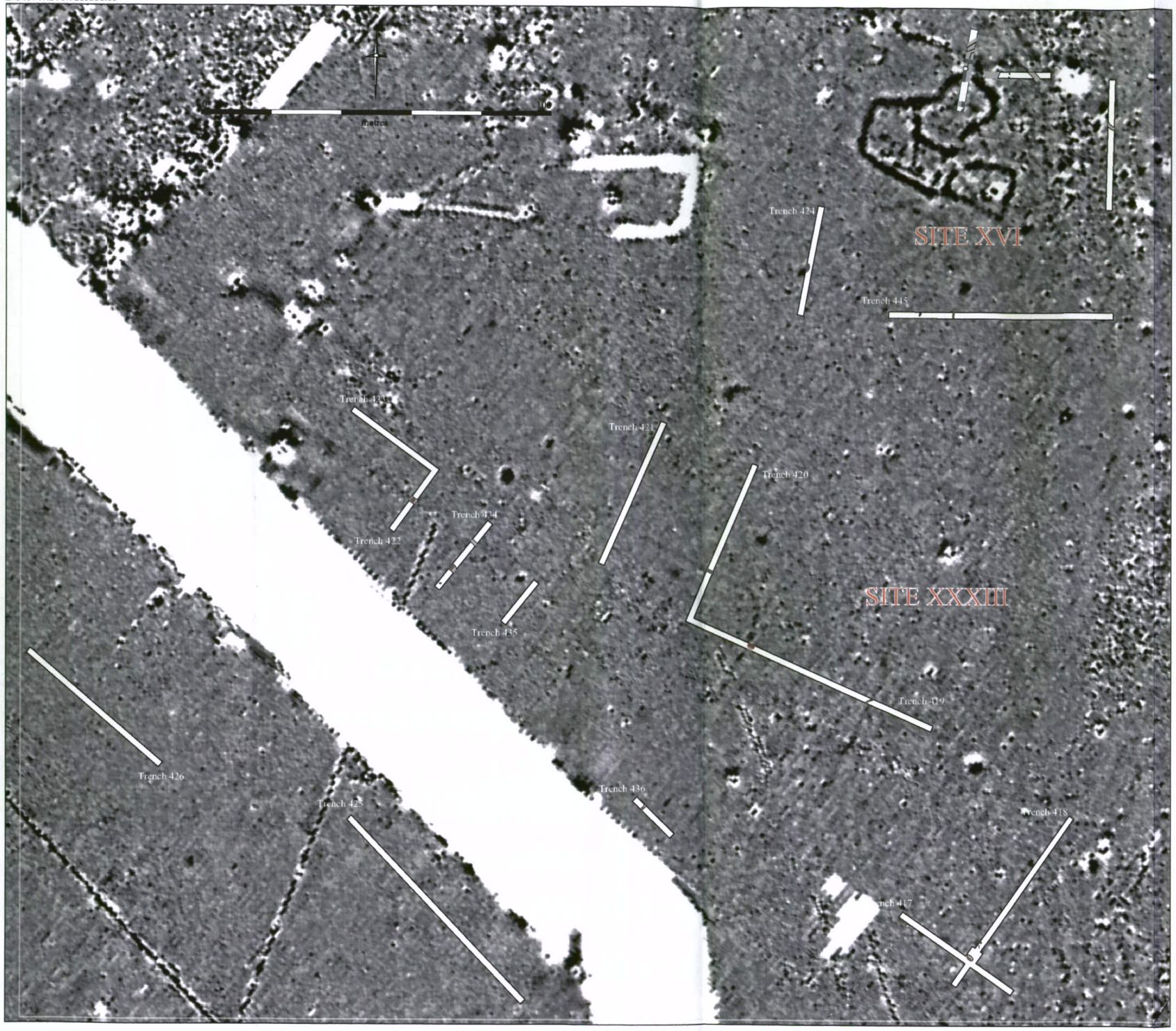

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Figure 21. Airfield, Site XXXIII with geophysics

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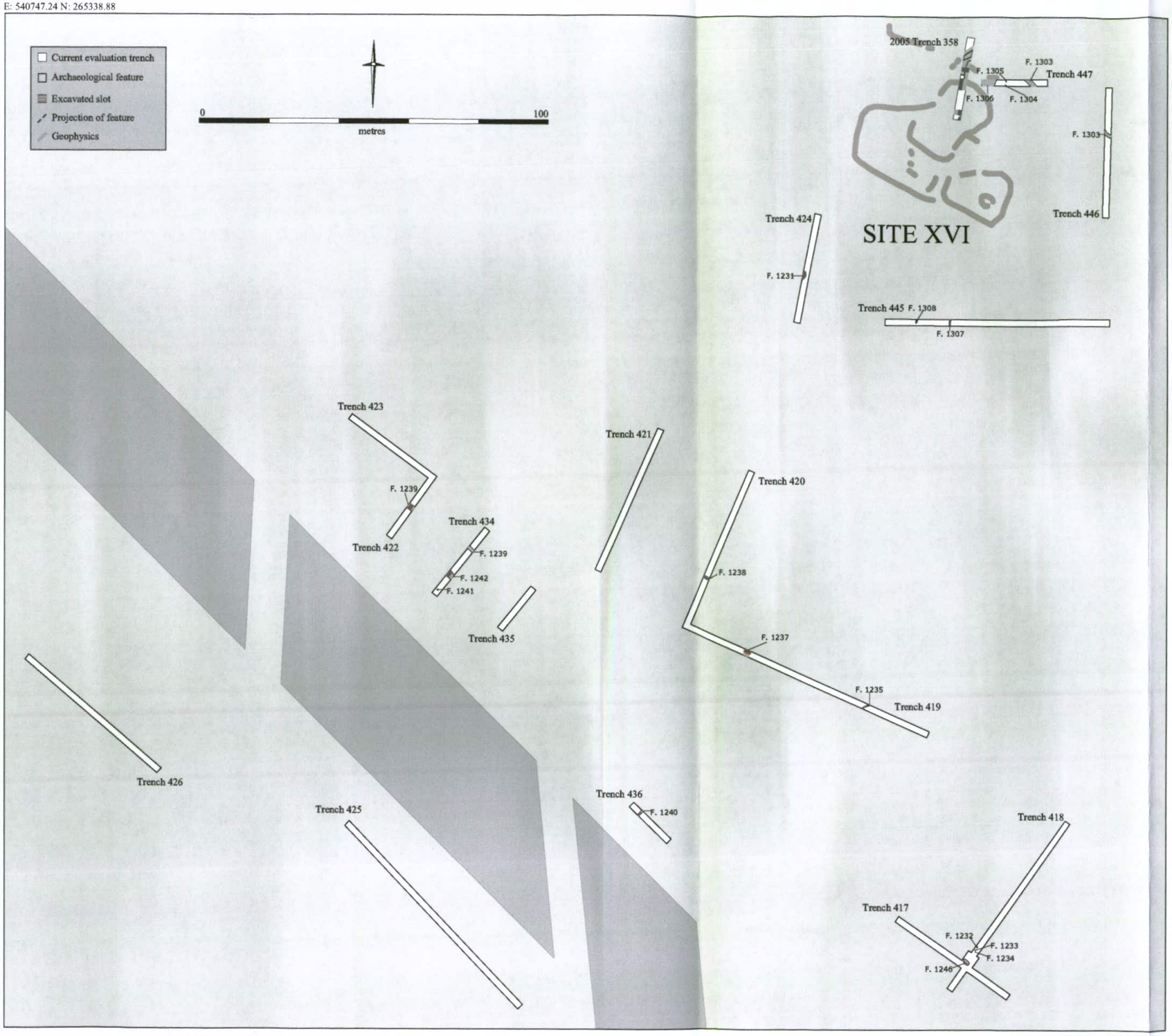

Figure 22. Airfield, Site XXXIII

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F. 1235 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill [3109], cut [3110]. Fill a mid brown-orange silty sand. Width 0.30m-1.30m, depth 0.20m-0.56m with a 'V'-shaped profile. Almost certainly over-cut due to nature of natural, and mostly no more than 0.30m wide.

F. 1237 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [3111-3], cut [3114]. Probably same ditch as F. 1238. Also includes fills [3181-2, 3184] and cuts [3183, 3185], seen in section of Trench 421 (fig. 23). Fill a mid orange-brown sandy clay-silt sealing a pale orange-brown very sandy silt and weathering, all with occasional stone and charcoal. Width 1.68m, depth 1.15m with a 'V'-shaped profile (seen as a shallow 'U'-shaped profile in section of Trench 421).

Trench 420

Trench 420 was 50m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.21m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.51m. The southwestern end of the trench was, however, machine-dug to a depth of 1.20m to confirm the presence of natural. The only feature uncovered was ditch F. 1238, an ill-defined feature forming the same enclosure as F. 1237 in Trench 419.

F. 1238 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [3115-7], cut [3118]. Probably same ditch as F. 1237. Fill a dark grey-brown silty sand sealing a mid orange-brown silty sand and weathering. Width 1.04m, depth 0.79m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 421

Trench 421 was 45m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.29m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.57m. No archaeology was observed on the trench base, although a severely truncated ditch was noticed in section, F. 1237/1238 seen in Trenches 419 and 420. This feature was only recorded in section, surviving to a depth of c. 0.50m below the topsoil and a maximum width of 0.65m.

Trench 422

Trench 422 was 20m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.15m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.40m. One ditch was uncovered, F. 1239, which contained 642g of 2nd-3rd century Roman pottery.

F. 1239 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [3119], cut [3120]. Fill a mid grey-brown silt-clay, occasional gravel and charcoal (fig. 25). Width 1.60m, depth 0.90m with a stepped, rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

Trench 423

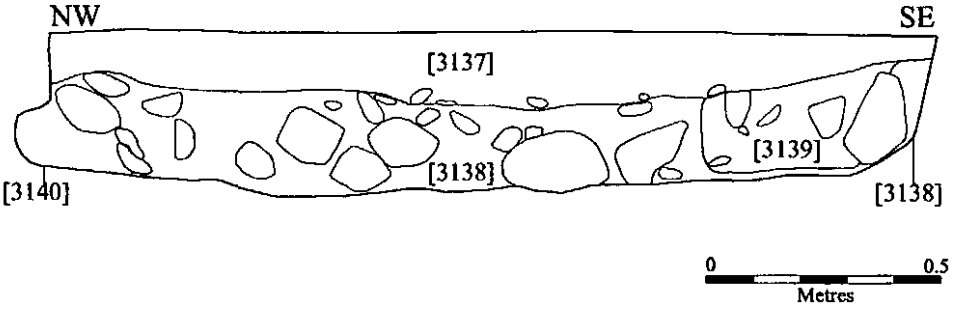
Trench 423 was 30m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.15m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.20m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.35m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 417: Pit F. 1246

Trench 419: Ditch F. 1237

Figure 23. Airfield, Site XXXIII excavated features

Trench 417 - F. 1246



Trench 419 - F. 1237

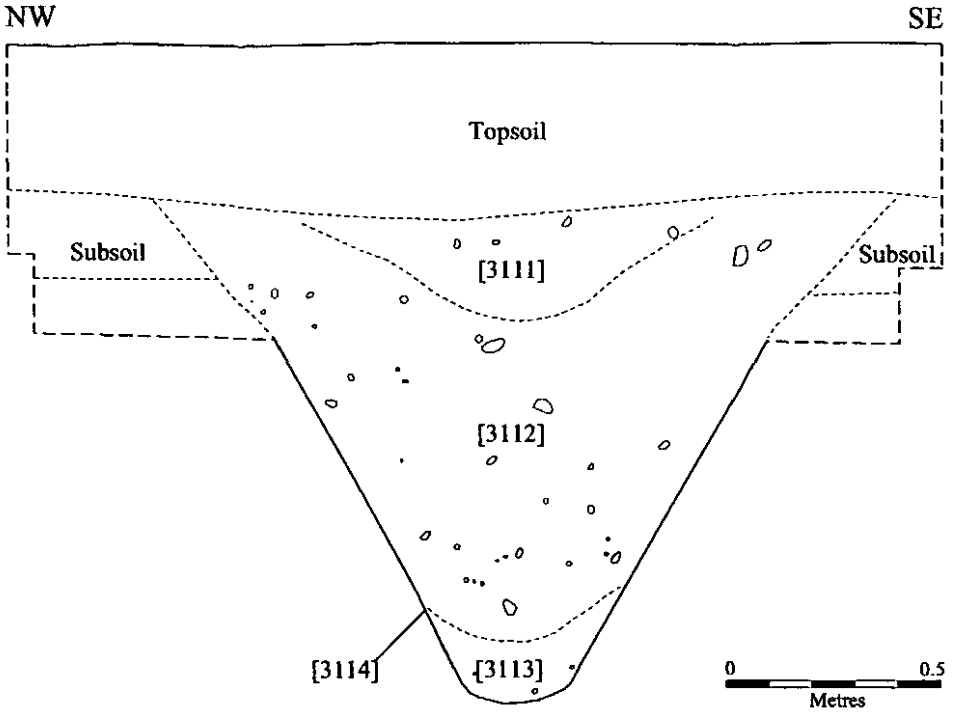


Figure 24. Feature Sections, Site XXXIII

Trench 422: Ditch F. 1239

Trench 424: Ditch F. 1231

Figure 25. Airfield, Site XXXIII excavated features

Trench 424

Trench 424 was 32m long on a north-south alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.34m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.45m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.75m. A single large pit was partially exposed, F. 1231, containing Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pottery.

F. 1231 Pit. Fills [3098-3102], cut [3097]. Fill consisted of layers of orange-brown sandy clay-silt overlying silt-clay weathering (fig. 25). Only partially exposed. Width 3.65m, depth 1.60m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 425

Trench 425 was 73m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.54m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 426

Trench 426 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.41m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.67m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 428

Trench 428 was not excavated. The proposed trench lay on a rise of made-ground. The northern end of the trench was machined, but abandoned when redeposited clay was still encountered at a depth of 2.00m.

Trench 434

Trench 434 was 25m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.18m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.48m. Ditch F. 1239 from Trench 442 was observed in this trench but not excavated. Two pits were excavated, F. 1241 a small feature containing Iron Age pottery, and F. 1242 being much larger but containing no datable finds.

F. 1241 Pit. Fills [3124-5], cut [3126]. Fill a very dark grey silt-clay. Oval in plan, 0.60m x 0.46m, depth 0.16m with a shallow 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1242 Pit. Fills [3127-8], cut [3129]. Fill a mid yellow-brown sandy clay overlying a mid brown-grey silt-clay basal layer. Large and irregular in plan, not entirely exposed. Width 1.90m, depth 0.58m with a wide, irregular profile.

Trench 435

Trench 435 was 15m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.19m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.49m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 436

Trench 436 was 15m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.23m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.27m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.50m. A single ditch crossed the trench; while possibly of 'late' attribution i.e. post-Medieval), it could well represent the southward projection of ditch F. 1237 in Trench 419.

F. 1240 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fills [3121-2], cut [3021]. Fill, a mid brown-grey clay-sand. Width 0.78m, depth 0.40m with a 'V'-shaped profile.

Trench 445

Trench 445 was 65m long on an east-west alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.20m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.60m. A single small ditch and a small pit were exposed, but neither was excavated.

F. 1307 Ditch, N-S alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid brown-grey clay-silt. 0.40m wide.

F. 1308 Pit. Unexcavated; fill, mid brown-grey clay-silt. Suspiciously rectangular in plan, but convincing fill. 0.80m x 0.45m.

Trench 446

Trench 446 was 37m long on a north-south alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.50m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.15m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.65m. The only feature to cross the trench was F. 1303, seen and described in Trench 447.

Trench 447

Trench 447 was 19m long on an east-west alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.35m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.15m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.50m. Ditch F. 1303 appeared on the geophysical plot as one of a possible pair of parallel ditches, although in both this trench and Trench 446 on this single ditch was observed. Two 'neat' postholes were found, and if part of a straight line of posts, would lie on a north-south alignment. Partially exposed F. 1306 could have been a ditch or a large pit. No features in this trench were excavated.

F. 1303 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid brown-grey clay-silt; 1.45m wide (also crosses Trench 446).

F. 1304 Posthole. Unexcavated; fill, mid brown-grey clay-silt. Diameter 0.25m.

F. 1305 Posthole. Unexcavated; fill, mid brown-grey clay-silt. Diameter 0.25m.

F. 1306 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid brown-grey clay-silt. Only partially exposed, so potentially a large pit.

Site XXXIV

Site XXXIV was identified geophysically as a very clearly defined, circular 'ring-ditch/-form' (see Part 1 above). Five trenches were placed over and around the feature, Trenches 429 and 430 crossing the ditch on its centre point, and Trench 433, 439 and 440 defining the extent of associated features, a total of 207m of trench (fig. 26). Although none of these trenches were entirely devoid of features, the 'ring' itself proved to be the focus of activity (fig. 27), with little occurring beyond its immediate vicinity. Trenching demonstrated this site to be of Middle Iron Age date.

Trench 429

Trench 429 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.28m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.56m. This trench was placed to cross through the circular gully plotted by geophysical survey. This ditch was exposed as F. 1244/5 and was Middle Iron Age in date (figs. 28 & 29). Three other ditches were exposed, F. 1255 which could have been of natural origin, F. 1247, a very shallow ditch not picked up in other trenches on its projected line, and F. 1243, a significant feature also observed in Trench 433 and possibly in Trench 440. The three postholes all lay within 'ring-ditch' F. 1244/5, and may have been associated with an internal structure.

F. 1243 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3130], cut [3131]. Fill a mid grey-orange-brown sandy clay-silt with moderate gravel, pebbles and charcoal. Width 2.45m, depth 0.78m with a wide, rounded profile (fig. 28).

F. 1244 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3132], cut [3133]. Fill a dark grey-brown sandy clay, frequent gravel, occasional charcoal. Curvilinear and part of 'ring-ditch' with F. 1245. Width 1.20m, depth 0.30m with a wide, shallow, rounded profile (fig. 29).

F. 1245 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fills [3134-5], cut [3136]. Fill a mid grey-brown silt-clay, moderate gravel and charcoal. Curvilinear and part of 'ring-ditch' with F. 1244. Width 0.90m, depth 0.46m with a wide 'V'-shaped profile (figs. 28 & 29).

F. 1247 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3141], cut [3142]. Fill a mid orange-grey-brown sandy clay-silt, frequent small pebbles and occasional charcoal. Width 0.90m, depth 0.10m with a flat, shallow profile.

F. 1251 Posthole. Fills [3150-1], cut [3152]. Fill a dark brown-grey silt-clay with occasional gravel and moderate charcoal. Oval in plan, 0.38m x 0.32m, depth 0.26m with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F. 1252 Posthole. Fill [3153], cut [3154]. Fill a mid orange-grey silt-clay with occasional charcoal. Circular in plan, 0.38m x 0.38m, depth 0.12m with a shallow rounded profile.

F. 1253 Posthole. Fill [3155], cut [3156]. Fill a dark grey silt-clay with occasional gravel and moderate charcoal. Sub circular in plan, 0.33m x 0.28m, depth 0.17m with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

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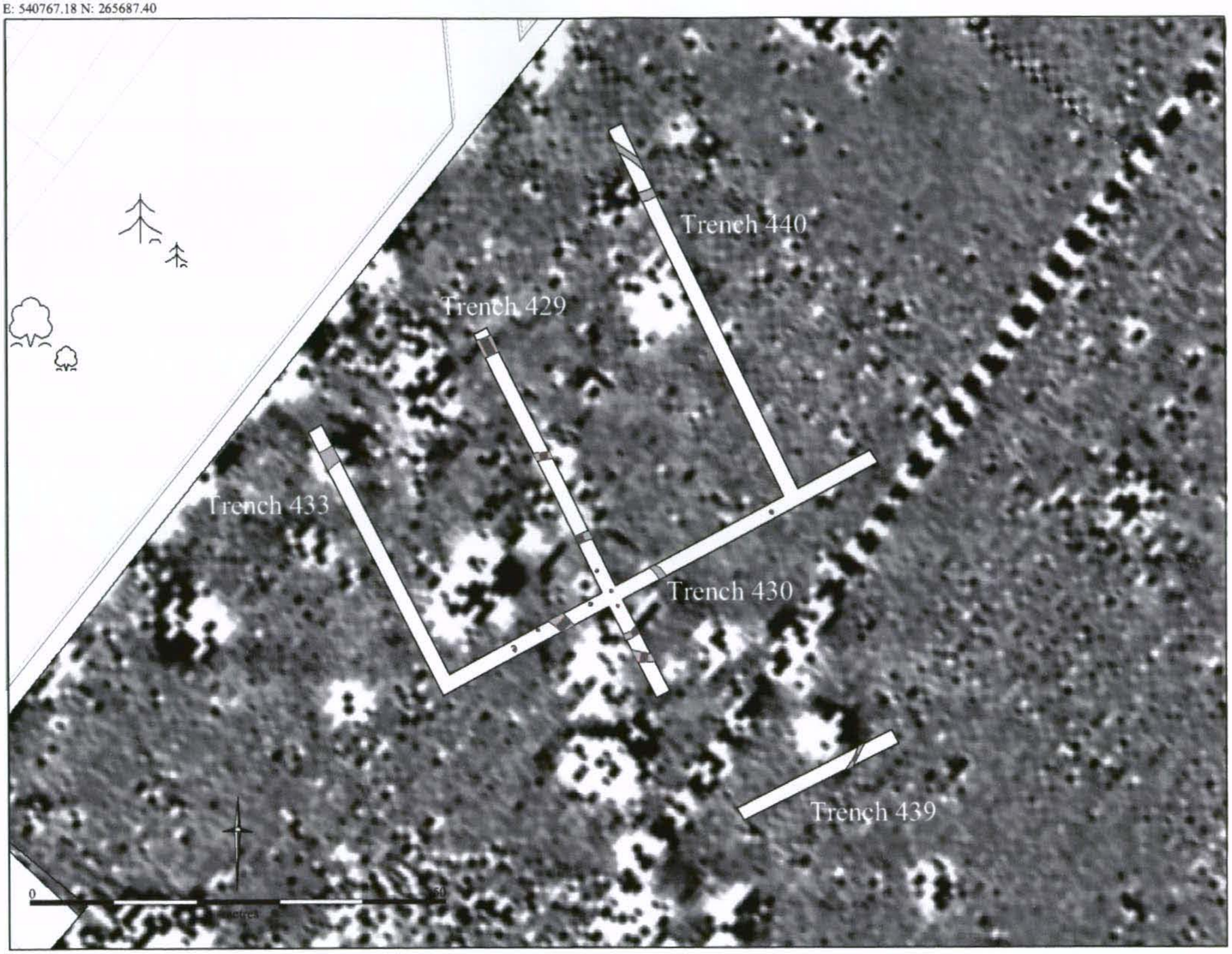

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Figure 26. Airfield, Site XXXIV geophysics

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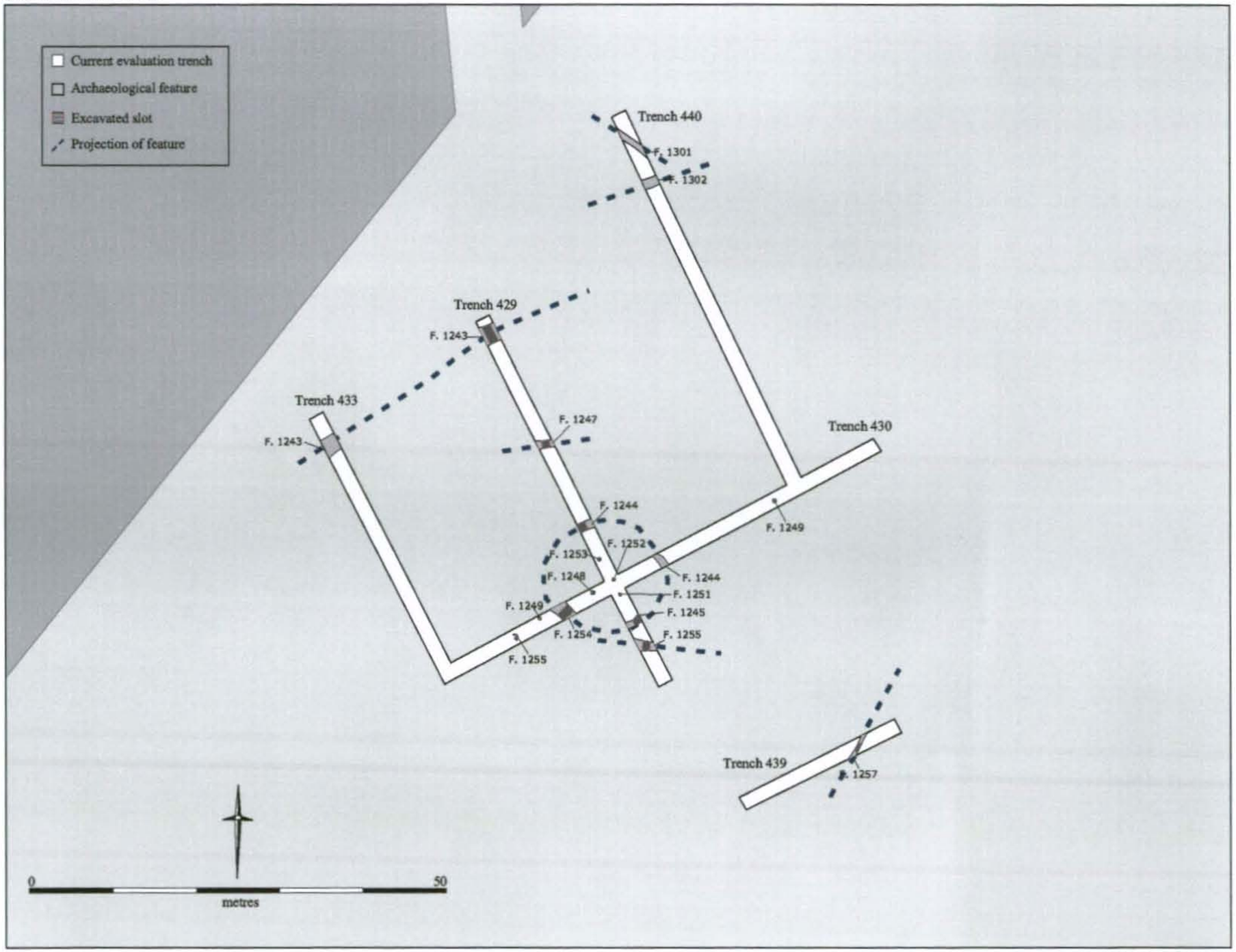

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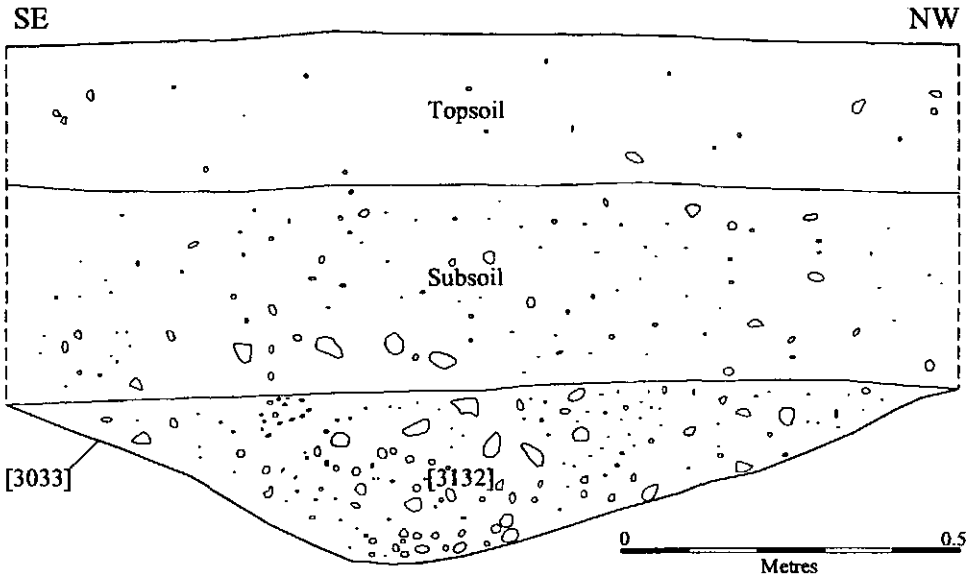
Figure 27. Airfield, Site XXXIV 'Ring-ditch' projections

Trench 429: Ditch F. 1243

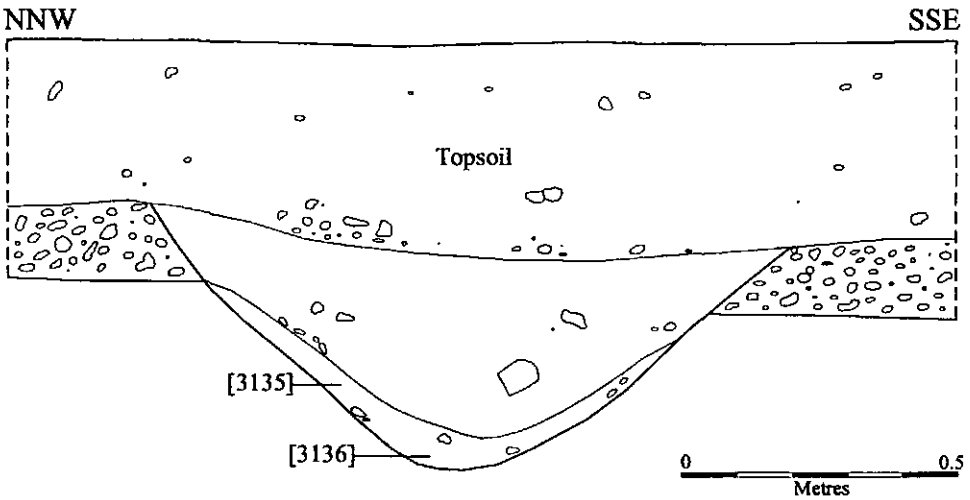
Trench 429: Ditch F. 1245

Figure 28. Airfield, Site XXXIV, 'Ring-ditch' features

Trench 429 - F. 1244



Trench 429 - F. 1245



Trench 430 - F. 1254

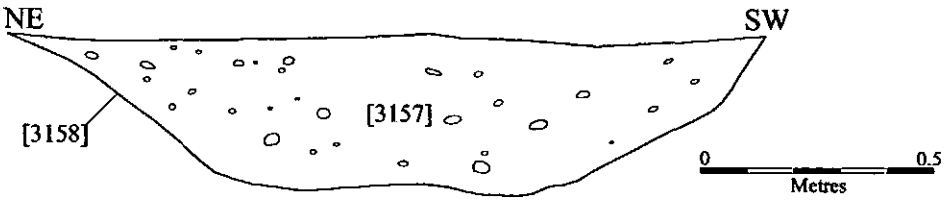


Figure 29. Site XXXIV 'Ring-ditch', section drawings

F. 1255 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill [3159], cut [3160]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional gravel. It was uncertain whether this feature was archaeological or not within the limited exposure of the trench. Width 1.25m, depth 0.16m with a wide, gently sloping profile.

Trench 430

Trench 430 was 58m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.33m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.61m. 'Ring-ditch' F. 1254 (same as F. 1244/5) was excavated in the southwestern half of the trench. This same feature also occurred in the northeastern half, but was not excavated. Several small pits and/or postholes were excavated, only F. 1248 lying within the 'ring-ditch'. Pit F. 1262 contained burnt clay, burnt flint and bone, as well as 670g of Middle Iron Age pottery, contemporary with the 'ring'.

F. 1248 Posthole. Fill [3143], cut [3144]. Fill a dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravel and frequent charcoal. Sub circular in plan, 0.42m x 0.36m, depth 0.17m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1249 Posthole. Fill [3145], cut [3146]. Fill a dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravel and frequent charcoal. Sub circular in plan, 0.38m x 0.34m, depth 0.16m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1250 Posthole. Fills [3147-8], cut [3149]. Fill a dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravel and frequent charcoal. Sub circular in plan, 0.50m x 0.32m, depth 0.25m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1254 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [3157], cut [3158]. Fill a mid brown-orange sandy clay-silt with frequent gravel and moderate charcoal. Curvilinear and part of 'ring-ditch' with F. 1244/5. Width 1.56m, depth 0.33m with a wide, flat-based profile (fig 29).

F. 1262 Pit. Fills [3186, 3188], cut [3187]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy clay overlying mid brown-yellow clay-sand. Circular in plan, 0.63m x 0.56m, depth 0.22m with a rounded profile.

Trench 433

Trench 433 was 34m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.25m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.48m. Ditch F. 1243, excavated in Trench 429, crossed the northern end on a northwest-southeast alignment.

Trench 439

Trench 439 was 20m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.44m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.66m. A single shallow ditch crossed the trench on a northeast-southwest line.

F. 1257 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3170], cut [3171]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.47m, depth 0.14m with a wide, rounded profile.

Trench 440

Trench 440 was 45m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.29m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of

0.69m. Two ditches crossed the northwestern end, F. 1301 on a northwest-southeast line, and F. 1302, which may have been a continuation of the system established by F. 1243 in Trench 429. No features were excavated in this trench.

F. 1301 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Unexcavated. 0.70m wide. Undated, but lies on post-Medieval alignment of nearby field drains.

F. 1302 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Unexcavated. 1.20m wide. Lines up well with F. 1243 in Trench 429, but narrower.

Site XXXV

Work within the plot immediately west of the airfield's perimeter track (and south of its barracks and hangers) was curtailed by dense woodland scrub-cover and the geophysical survey also indicated considerable 'disturbance' (see Part 1 above). In the first instance, the fieldwork was concerned with establishing the character of the site of the reported Bishop's Palace (Evans & Dickens 2002: 18), with Trench 442 being specifically sited for that purpose. This, indeed, did encounter an 'early', stone-footed building, but also, and entirely surprisingly, also a myriad of Early Medieval settlement features. Thereafter, the other trenches were cut (where logistically possible) to determine the scale of this settlement; it continued south into Trench 441, with Trenches 443, 449-52 essentially producing only negative results.

Trench 441

Trench 441 was 25m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.27m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.34m deep, although most of the trench was machined significantly deeper than this depth due to features. Dominating the trench was a large hollow, F. 1270, and associated features. Ditch F. 1258 was wide and shallow and remained undated. Hollow F. 1270 had a gently sloping southern edge lined with a dump of cobbles (fig. 32) to aid access to and from the hollow. F. 1271, cut into the centre of the hollow, was presumably to collect water, a function it still maintains. The feature complex produced pottery of the 14th/15th centuries.

F. 1258 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3172], cut [3173]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy clay. Width 2.30m, depth 0.32m with a wide, flat-based profile.

F. 1270 Hollow. Fills [3209-13], cut [3214]. Fill predominantly a mid to pale grey silty clay-sand. Cobble dump [3211] on gently sloping edge clearly for access in and out. Width 4.20m, depth 0.65m with a saucer-shaped profile.

F. 1271 Pit. Fills [3215-6], cut [3217]. Fill a mid brown silty sand and clay-silt sealed by iron-panned gravel. Pit located at base of hollow F. 1270 but relationship uncertain, presumably contemporary. Edges very difficult to define and rapid flooding of groundwater. Width 1.55m, depth 0.30m with an irregular profile.

F. 1272 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3205], cut [3206]. Basal fill a dark brown-grey silty clay with orange mottling and charcoal flecks. Cut from high in the section – possibly post-Medieval. Overall width 1.40m, depth 1.00m with a 'V'-shaped profile.

F. 1273 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3207], cut [3208]. Fill a mid brown-grey clay with orange mottling. Truncated base only surviving. Width 0.65m, depth 0.24m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 442

Trench 442 was 42m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.60m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.90m. This trench contained a dense spread of archaeology with several phases evident. Latest in the sequence was F. 1325, the loose rubble foundation for a stone building. This was sealed by topsoil and patchy gravel. Below this level lay a spread of settlement features, producing pottery predominantly of the 12th-13th centuries. The archaeology, composed of many inter-cutting features and relatively little natural gravel, was difficult to interpret except in the broadest terms, and this trench evidently exposed a centre of Medieval domestic activity. A spread and mix of features were excavated to gain dating evidence and an insight into the character of the features. Two large ditches, F. 1265 and F. 1282 cut across the trench, 5m apart, parallel and both seeming to cut the features around them. The remaining features were difficult to characterise, F. 1285, F. 1278, F. 1281 and F. 1266 almost certainly being linears. The only recognisably discrete features were a cluster of possible postholes in the northeastern half of the trench, F. 1310, of which the clearest, F. 1264 and F. 1279 were excavated. The features in this trench gave a general date range of the 10th to 15th centuries, with most of the pottery deriving from the 12th/13th centuries. A few very small sherds of handmade pottery were recovered from this trench (F. 1259 & F. 1264), but their origin, be it Iron Age or Saxon, was uncertain.

Note, that while there was no direct dating evidence relating to the F. 1325 wall footing (fig. 32), the indications are that it was 'late'. The 10-15th century settlement features were sealed by *c.* 0.30m+ depth of homogenous sub-soil - possibly reflective of agricultural activity - and it was into this horizon that the foundation was cut. This suggests that the building may not have had any direct relationship with the settlement (at least within this immediate area) and is probably of 16-17th century date, if not later.

F. 1259 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [3174-5], cut [3176]. Fill a mid yellow-brown sandy clay-silt with moderate gravel and charcoal sealing a mid brown clay-silt. Width 1.05m, depth 0.52m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1260 Pit. Fills [3177], cut [3178]. Fill a mid brown sandy clay-silt with occasional charcoal and gravel. Only partially exposed. Width 0.88m, depth 0.15m with a gently rounded profile.

F. 1261 Pit. Fills [3179], cut [3180]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. This pit was cut through ditch F. 1265. Circular in plan, 0.70m x 0.70m, depth 0.60m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1264 Pit. Fills [3191], cut [3192]. Fill a mid grey-brown clay-silt with occasional small pebbles and charcoal. Oval in plan, 0.62m x 0.35m, depth 0.32m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1265 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [3193-6], cut [3235]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy clay-silt overlying paler yellow-brown clay-silts, frequent charcoal in upper fill. Width 3.60m, depth 1.12m with a wide, rounded 'V'-shaped profile (fig. 33).

F. 1266 Possible ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [3197], cut [3198]. Fill a mid orange-grey-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.55m, depth 0.13m with a rounded profile. Cut away by ditch F. 1265, but appeared to run along the trench.

F. 1267 Pit. Fills [3199], cut [3200]. Fill a mid grey-brown-orange sandy silt. Only partially exposed, and cut away by ditch F. 1265. Depth 0.36m with a rounded profile.

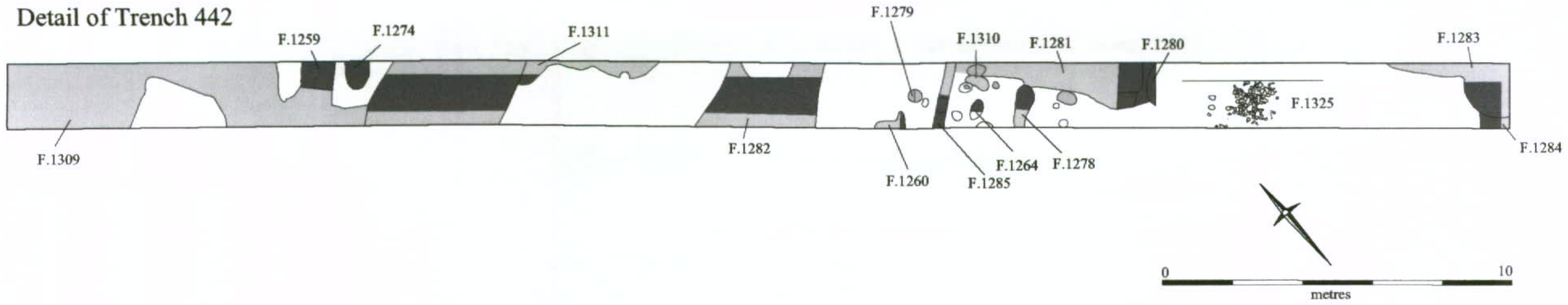


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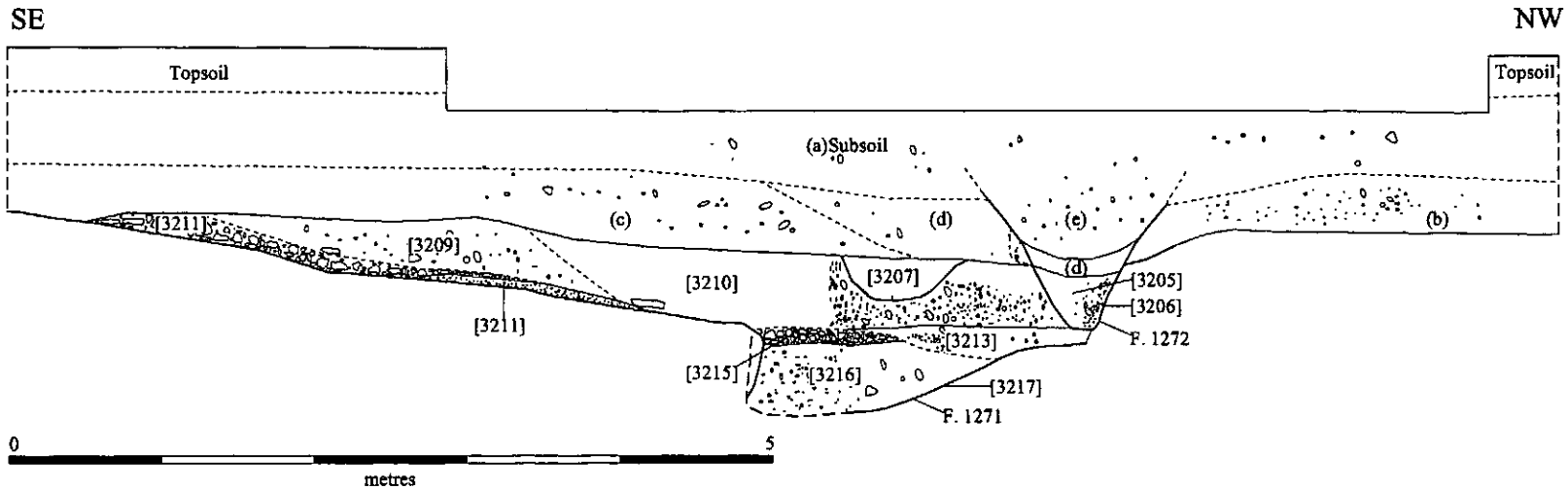
Figure 30. Airfield, Site XXXV

Trench 441 - Hollow F.1270 and pit F.1271



Trench 442 - F. 1282

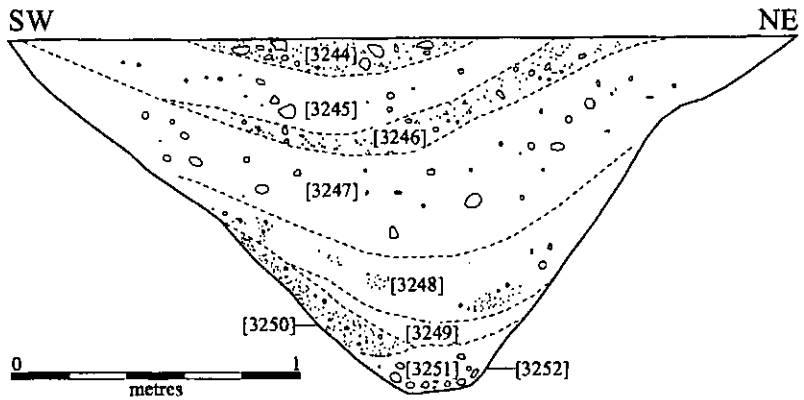


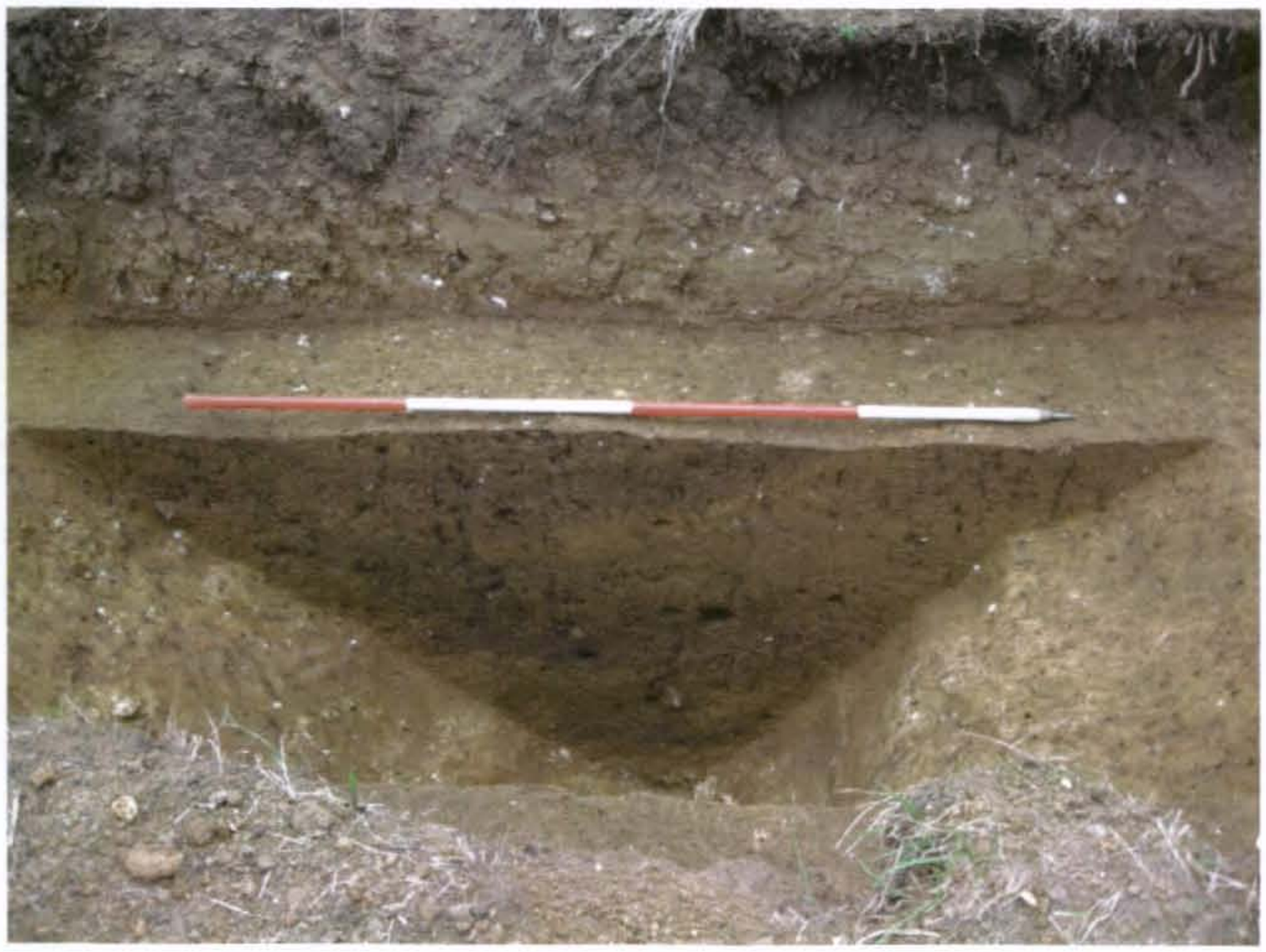
Figure 31. Site XXXV Feature sections

Trench 441: Hollow F. 1270

Trench 442: Wall foundation F. 1325

Figure 32. Airfield, Site XXXV; trenches 441 and 442 excavated features

Trench 442: Ditch F. 1265



Trench 442: Ditch F. 1282

Figure 33. Airfield, Site XXXV; trench 442, ditches F. 1265 and F. 1282

F. 1274 Pit/ditch butt. Fill [3218], cut [3219]. Fill a mid yellow-grey-brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.62m, depth 0.20m with a wide 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1278 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [3231], cut [3232]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy clay-silt. Butt ending. Width 0.35m, depth 0.19m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1279 Posthole/pit. Fill [3233], cut [3234]. Fill a mid grey-orange-brown sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel. Circular in plan, 0.40m x 0.35m, depth 0.18m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1280 Pit. Fills [3236-7], cut [3238]. Fill a mid brown clay-silt, frequent charcoal. Only partially exposed. Width 1.15m, depth 0.44m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1281 Possible butt-end of linear/pit. Fills [3239-41], cut [3242]. Fill a mid yellow-brown clay-silt, perhaps as recut, overlying mid brown sandy clay-silt. Only partially exposed. Width 1.20m, depth 0.80m with a rounded profile.

F. 1282 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [3244-51], cut [3252]. Fill a succession of layers, mostly of mid grey-brown sandy clay-silt overlying weathering (figs. 31 & 33). Width 2.70m, depth 1.22m with a 'V'-shaped profile.

F. 1283 Pit. Fills [3253-4], cut [3255]. Fill a mid grey-yellow-brown sandy clay-silt. Only partially exposed. Depth 0.62m, with a rounded profile.

F. 1284 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [3256-7], cut [3258]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy clay-silt. Only partially exposed. Depth 0.40m with a flat-based profile.

F. 1285 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [3259], cut [3261], containing posthole [3260]/[3262]. Fill a mid brown clay-silt, occasional charcoal. Width 0.30m, depth 0.30m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F. 1309 Feature cluster. Unexcavated. Spread of dark brown fills at southwestern end of trench, nature of feature(s) unknown, approximate 6m spread before end of trench and modern disturbance.

F. 1310 Feature cluster. Unexcavated. Group of poorly defined postholes or small pits. The most clearly defined of the group were excavated and recorded separately (F. 1264 and F. 1279).

F. 1311 Feature cluster. Unexcavated. Clear fills with ill-defined edges, evidently different features but uncertainty as to type, possibly ditches.

F. 1325 Wall foundation (fig. 32). Rubble dump, consisting of limestone, flint nodules and lumps of a gravely iron concretion (occurring naturally within the local geology). Width 1.4m, and slightly overlain and abutted by a patchy gravel surface.

Trench 443

Trench 443 was 23m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.80m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 449

Trench 449 was 48m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.35m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.55m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.90m when over undisturbed natural. Large hollow F. 1321 dominated the southwestern 11m of the trench. Amorphous and probably natural features alongside

the edge of F. 1231 were the only other disturbances to the natural; no archaeology was observed.

F. 1321 Hollow. Unexcavated. Two machine-dug sondages excavated into feature revealing a make-up of mid brown silt-clay overlying a dark brown-grey smooth silt-clay sealing a black waterlain clay-silt. This feature was post-Medieval in date, with the uppermost layers containing 20th century (potentially wartime) material. Depth 1.30m. Not entirely exposed, although 11m of the trench base was made up of the backfill.

Trench 450

Trench 450 was 50m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.20m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.50m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 451

Trench 451 was 50m long on an east-west alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.20m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.50m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 452

Trench 452 was 50m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.25m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.50m. One small possible pit or posthole of dubious origin was uncovered.

F. 1286 Pit/posthole. Fills [3263], cut [3264]. Fill a mid pale brown-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal. Oval in plan, 0.34m x 0.21m, depth 0.23m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Miscellaneous Trenches

These trenches were specially sited to target geophysical 'hot-spots' or 'queries': Trenches 437 and 438, the possible circular features and pit cluster at the northern end of the airfield (see Part 1.'3'; TL 541530/266100); Trenches 431 and 432, two areas of possible pitting in its extreme southeastern corner (Part 1.'5' & '4' respectively: TL 541710/265100 & TL 541700/265350); and, Trenches 448 and 454, the possible pre-ridge-and-furrow system (Part 1.'6'; TL 541580/265340).

Located 125m north of Site XVI/XXXIII (on the other side of upstanding earthwork bunds), Trench 427 was sited simply to check whether early settlement features continued in that direction.

Trench 427

Trench 427 was 20m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.31m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.36m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.66m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 431

Trench 431 was 40m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.54m. This trench exposed numerous backfilled quarry pits separated by seams of very clean gravel. A machine-dug sondage into the gravel failed to demonstrate if the gravel "natural" itself had been redeposited, although there were no obvious tip lines visible in section; no archaeology was observed.

F. 1256 Quarry pit. Fills [3161-8], cut [3169]. Fill a sequence of grey-brown silty sands with a high gravel content. Only partially exposed. Width 3.70m, depth 0.90m with a wide, irregular profile.

Trench 432

Trench 432 was 40m long on a north-south alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.20m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.50m deep (although much of this was probably quarry backfill), with a maximum trench depth of 0.70m. This trench exposed numerous backfilled quarry pits separated by seams of very clean gravel. Most of the gravel in this trench appeared to be undisturbed by larger scale quarrying; no archaeology was observed.

F. 1236 Quarry pit. Fill [3095], cut [3096]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy silt containing frequent gravel. 2.70m x 1.45m+, depth 1.00m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 437

Trench 437 was 21m long on a north-south alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.55m. The 2.4m wide concrete base of a wartime feature, possibly a runway light, was present in the trench base; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 438

Trench 438 was 29m long on a north-south alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.25m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.50m; no archaeology was observed.

Trench 448

Trench 448 was 25m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.35m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.75m. Two small ditches on unrelated alignments were uncovered, and neither

alignment was consistent with the visible drains and plough-strikes. F. 1277 contained a tiny fragment of unidentifiable pot.

F. 1263 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill [3189], cut [3190]. Fill a mid dark brown silt-clay with occasional charcoal and moderate pebbles. Width 0.50m, depth 0.10m with a wide, rounded profile.

F. 1277 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [3228], cut [3229]. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal and gravel over a mid grey sandy clay. Width 1.15m, depth 0.35m with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 454

Trench 454 was 25m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.35m deep, with a maximum trench depth of 0.75m. A single ditch crossed the trench on a north-south alignment but was not excavated.

F. 1322 Ditch, N-S alignment. Unexcavated; fill, mid grey-brown clay-silt. 0.85m wide.

Discussion

While as a general 'site-configuration/-designation' Site XXXIII seems extensive, it is both diffuse and of multi-period usage. Although including a distinctly Roman component (whose 'core' and extent has yet to be established), in the main it is of later Bronze/Early Iron Age attribution. As such, it may be broadly comparable to Site XXXIX or the recently excavated Stripelands Farm complex (Patten & Evans 2005; Mackay *et al.* forthcoming); in this immediate location, it raises the issue of whether its occupation was directly ancestral to the Site XVI Iron Age enclosure (Evans *et al.* 2006).

Site XXXIV was identified geophysically and shown to consist of a c. 12m diameter 'ring-ditch'/eavesgully and associated features, some potentially structural, all of Middle/later Iron Age date. The trenches suggested that this 'site' was small and defined within the area trenched (fig. 27). What is particularly noteworthy, given the date of this settlement is, that in contrast to those other identified in the course of the larger project, this was apparently 'open' and not ditch-enclosed.

Site XXXV was somewhat unexpected, the geophysical survey of the area having shown much disturbed ground and potentially large amounts of metal scrap – not an ideal situation for unexploded ordnance scanning, upon which the digging of the trenches was reliant. However, settlement features, predominantly of the 12th-13th centuries, occurred densely in Trench 442, with activity still very much present in Trench 441. In addition to this, the footing of a stone building was found just below the surface of the topsoil in Trench 442, coincidentally or otherwise appearing within a few metres of where the Ordnance Survey have plotted the site of a *Bishop's Palace*. Trenches 443 and 449-452, surrounding the site from the southwest, south, east and northeast, yielded almost no archaeology.

Aside from dismissing the identification of a potential bath-house building (Trench 453), the importance of this season's Site XVIII fieldwork lies in the fact that Trench

444 demonstrated features continue east beyond that settlement's geophysical register (see Part 1 above) and, also, that they survived runway-related disturbance/truncation.

Of the non-site specific, 'miscellaneous' trenches, while 437/438 showed no evidence of 'early' activity, the 'pitting' in Trenches 431 and 432 was surely quarrying and probably related to railway construction. Equally, Trenches 448 and 454 did produce evidence of a seemingly 'early' ditch system (i.e. 'pre-ridge-and-furrow'). Albeit undated, this may well warrant further investigation.

Part 7) **Test-pit Watching Brief**

During the evaluation, the opportunity arose to undertake a watching brief of the test-pits excavated as part of the geo-environmental assessment. These test-pits were located at the centre of the airfield within the former service and facilities area. Fifty test-pits were observed, none containing identifiable archaeological remains. Seventeen variously attested to truncation, levelling, made-up ground and building debris or remains, and disturbed top- and subsoil (fig. 34), varying between 0.1m and 0.9m in depth; only three test-pits recorded total loss of top- and sub-soils. Where soil profiles were undisturbed and survived, topsoil was observed with depths varying between 0.15m and 0.85m deep, with an average depth of 0.26m. Subsoil depth varied between 0.15m and 0.9m, and averaged 0.25m deep. Natural was encountered at a depth between 0.25 and 1.7m (ave. 0.63m) and consisted primarily of a pale brown to orange silty sand and with gravels, with occasional sealing by blue clay deposits. The general lack of disturbance of the top- and subsoil suggests that preservation of the former agricultural landscape, soil profiles and potential archaeology is likely to be good.

Figure 34. Test pit location (red indicates truncation)

Specialist Studies

Flint (Emma Beadsmoore)

A total of 400 (<3887g) flints and hundreds of tiny unworked burnt flint fragments were recovered from the site; 104 (<1430g) were worked, 4 (<41g) were burnt and worked and 292 (<2416g) were just burnt.

Field 21 (Site XXVIII)

The earliest phase of archaeological activity identifiable from the flint is Mesolithic. Two Mesolithic bifaces were recovered from the site; an axe from Trench 407 and a probable pick from Trench 406/407. Further potential evidence for Mesolithic activity was provided by several flakes, blades and a core recovered from Trench 407, a retouched flake and bifacially flaked implement from Trench 406, a flake from Trench 409 and a microlith fragment from F. 1212. Several blades, flakes and core rejuvenation flakes that are also potentially Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic were residual in Roman ditch F. 1212. Further evidence for Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity was also recovered during earlier fieldwork in Field 21 (Evans *et al.* 2006). A Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic core, a core rejuvenation flake from a systematically worked opposed platform blade core and a blade fragment were recovered as surface finds.

Evidence for Neolithic activity was provided by material recovered from [3053], Trench 407, Test Pit 3 in Trench 408, and was also residual in later ditches F. 1238, F. 1212. Whereas a fragment of a later Neolithic flake knife was recovered from Trench 408. Pit F. 1246 yielded over 287 (2396g) pieces and fragments of unworked burnt flint and just one unburnt Beaker/Early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper. Potentially Early Bronze Age cores were also recovered from Trench 405.

Airfield

Site XXXIII

Flint was also utilised in later prehistory at the site. Pit F. 1231 yielded six expediently manufactured waste flakes and a core that are potentially broadly contemporary with the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age feature. Ditch F. 1237/1238 yielded five expediently manufactured flake blanks.

Site XXXIV

An Iron Age gully F. 1254 also yielded four expediently manufactured flake blanks and a chip that are potentially broadly contemporary with the feature, comparable to material recovered from ditch F. 1237/1238, Site XXXIII.

The flint recovered from the site provided evidence for Mesolithic and potentially Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity in the topsoil, subsoil and residual in later features. Further material datable broadly to the Neolithic was also recovered from several of the trenches and residual in later features. However, a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age scraper from pit F. 1246 and flint recovered from Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit F. 1231 and Iron Age gully F. 1254 are more likely to be broadly contemporary with the features.

Later Prehistoric Pottery (Matt Brudenell)

An assemblage comprising 166 sherds weighing 912g was recovered from three separate 'sites' identified through field evaluation (Table 4). In general, the condition of the material was moderate-poor, the majority of the assemblage comprising small abraded sherds (<4cm in size), mixed amongst the occasional larger vessels fragment. Based on the total number of different rims and bases present, the assemblage represents a minimum of six vessels. By count, 3.0% of the assemblage was scored, and 0.1% was burnished. The mean sherd weight was low at 5.5g.

The assemblage comprised entirely of handmade sherds dating from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (c. 1100 - 400 BC) to the Later Iron Age (c. 400/300 BC - 50 AD). The earlier pottery was recovered from Site XXXIII. Pottery characterising the LBA/EIA is typified by range of coarse and finewares, which can be divided into five basic vessel classes (Barrett 1980). Closer dating of the pottery is problematic (Brudenell forthcoming), though vessel angularity and frequency of decoration can be used to refine the time brackets. LBA/EIA vessels were commonly made in coarse burnt-flint fabrics. Pottery of the Later Iron Age is typified by a narrow range of mainly open, ovoid and globular profiled vessels, with weakly defined 'slack-shoulders'. Vessels of this date were found at Site XXXIV, and are made in dense sand or shell fabrics, and have occasional finger-tip/finger-nail impressions along the rim-top. The Longstanton area lies close to boundary between two different traditions of handmade Later Iron Age pottery, with shelly Scored Wares dominating the region to the north and northwest, as at Over, Earith and Haddenham, while sandy plainware characterises southern Cambridgeshire (Hill & Horne 2003). No Late Iron Age wheel-turned pottery was recovered.

Site	No. sherds	Weight (g)	No. burnished	No. scored	Date
XXXIII	18	118	1	-	LBA/EIA
XXXIV	142	773	-	5	Later Iron Age
XXXV	5	21	-	-	Later Iron Age (all residual)
Test Pit 1	1	1	-	-	Later Iron Age

Table 4: Site assemblages

Sherds were assigned to one of five broad fabrics groups based on the principle inclusions present. Sherds under 1g (crumbs) were not analysed. For the purposes of this report assemblages are discussed on a site by sites basis.

Site XXXIII

A total of 18 sherds (118g) were recovered from four Site XXXIII features in Trenches 419, 420, 424 and 434. The pit F. 1231 in Trench 424 may be unconnected to the main Site XXXIII focus, but is included here for ease of analysis. The pottery was all characteristic of the LBA/EIA. By weight, the assemblage was dominated by burnt-flint tempered fabrics (90.7%), but also included material with quartz-sand (5.1%), and shell (4.2%).

In Trench 424, pit F. 1231 yielded six sherds (45g) of LBA/EIA pottery, including a rim rounded externally. Similar dated pottery was recovered from enclosure ditch F. 1237 in Trench 419 (seven sherds, 63g), including two rim sherds with finger-tip impressions on the exterior rim-edge. The other ditch associated with the enclosure, F. 1238 in Trench 420, yielded a single sherd of pottery (5g). The only other feature in Site XXXIII producing pottery was F. 1241 in Trench 434. Three shreds (5g) were recovered from the pit, including a rounded-direct rim.

Site XXXIV

A total of 142 sherds (772g) were recovered from four Site XXXIV features in Trenches 419 and 430. The pottery was all characteristic of the Later Iron Age. By weight, the assemblage was dominated by quartz-sand tempered fabrics (83.2%), but also included material with shell (11.1%) and vegetal matter (5.7%).

The largest assemblage came from pit F. 1262 in Trench 430. The pit yielded 113 sherds (620g) of Later Iron Age pottery, most appearing to be from the same vessel. The assemblage included a single flat-direct rim from a slack-shouldered Type A jar (Hill & Horn 2003) and a base sherd, 8cm in diameter. Ring-gully F. 1244/1245/1254 - occurring across both trenches - yielded 27 (150g) sherds of Later Iron Age pottery, including five refitting scored sherds (69g), and a single rim with rim-top finger-tip impressions. Posthole F.3134 in Trench 430 yielded two sherds (1g) of pottery, whilst ditch F. 1243 in Trench 429 yielded a single fragment (1g).

Site XXXV

A total of five sherds (21g) were recovered from two Site XXXV features in Trenches 441 and 442. The sherds are all residual, with those from F. 1270 occurring alongside a single Roman or later sherd. The Iron Age pottery from the site was all shell-tempered, and is likely to be of Later Iron Age date. F. 1270 in Trench 441 yielded three (19g) residual Iron Age sherds, whist F. 1264 in Trench 442 yielded 2 sherds (2g) of pottery.

The Later Prehistoric pottery from this phase of evaluation dates from the LBA/EIA (*c.* 1100 - 400 BC) though to the Middle/ Later Iron Age (*c.* 400/300 BC - 50 AD). The earlier and later material divided neatly between Sites XXXIII and XXXIV, the former dating to the LBA/EIA, the latter to the Later Iron Age. Unfortunately, the quantities of material recovered from both sites are too small to allow any meaningful discussion of individual assemblages. The low level of scoring on ceramics from Site XXXIV may suggest this is a Plain rather than a Scored Ware assemblage, though a larger sample is needed to confirm this. More broadly, the LBA/EIA assemblage from Site XXII compares well to the small quantities of material recovered at Sites VII, XIV, XII, XXVI, XXIX, XXX, XVIII, IX, and XVI. For the most part these sites yielded only residual sherds or the occasional features containing pottery, and were clearly not a focus of activity, unlike Site XXXIII. The handmade Later Iron Age pottery at Site XXXIV is best paralleled by assemblages from Sites VII, VIII, XIII, XIV and XXIX (assemblages without wheel-turned pottery).

Roman Pottery (Katie Anderson)

A total of 248 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 2378g and representing 2.61 EVEs were recovered from the evaluation. All of the material was examined and details of fabric, form, date and EVE were recorded, along with any other information deemed important.

Field 21

One shell-tempered sherd, weighing 38g was recovered from Feature 1212 (Trench 407). The jar, a necked, beaded rim jar is typically Roman; however, the fabric is slightly unusual, with a much smaller quantity of shell than is normally seen, with the sherd can be dated 2nd-4th century AD.

Airfield

Site XVIII

F. 1268 - Four sherds weighing 98g were collected from this feature. This included one Hadham oxidised ware, dating 3rd-4th century AD, as well as one sandy greyware jar and one sandy greyware beaded bowl, both dating 2nd-4th century AD.

F. 1269 - This feature yielded 16 sherds, weighing 204g. This consisted entirely of non-diagnostic sherds, and included one grog-tempered sherd, one shell-tempered sherd and two black-slipped wares. The pottery from this feature is therefore dated 2nd-4th century AD.

F. 1275 - A total of 39 sherds, weighing 742g were collected from this feature. This included five Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, all of which were non-diagnostic. There were also three sherds making up a complete Horningsea greyware jar base, dating 2nd-4th century AD. Two Oxfordshire red-slipped wares were recovered, comprising one imitation Dragendorff 37 (not decorated) and one base sherd which had been badly burnt. Both of these sherds date 3rd-4th century AD.

F. 1276 - Two sherds weighing 35g were recovered from this feature. This consisted on one black-slipped dish dating 2nd-3rd century AD. The second sherd was a sandy greyware body sherd, dating 2nd-4th century AD; exact form could not be identified.

Trench 432

F. 1236 - Five sherds were recovered, weighing 25g, although only three of these were Romano-British, while the remaining two were post-Medieval, thus implying the Roman sherds are residual.

Trench 422

F. 1239 - 141 sherds (641g) from a single vessel were recovered from this feature. The vessel was a black-slipped jar with stabbed decoration on the neck and dates 2nd-3rd century AD.

Trench 453

37 sherds were recovered from Trench 453, weighing 587g. This included one Nene Valley colour-coated sherd and two sherds from a Horningsea greyware storage jar, both of which date 2nd-4th century AD. 24 sherds came from a single vessel, a micaceous sandy black-slipped jar, although there were no rim or base sherds.

The small quantity of Roman pottery recovered from these evaluations ties in with the material recovered from previous evaluations at Longstanton (Mackay *et al* 2006). All of the pottery is later Roman (2nd-4th century AD), with locally made coarsewares dominating. Finewares were represented by Nene Valley ware, Oxfordshire wares and Hadham red-slipped wares. The assemblage is typical of a small scale domestic activity.

Medieval and Later Pottery (Craig Cessford and David Hall)

A small assemblage of Medieval and later pottery was recovered from the Site XXXV trenches, totalling 98 sherds and weighing 886g.

There was one possible Middle Saxon Sherd. Apart from this single piece the earliest material was 10th to 12th century consisting of St. Neots type ware (40 sherds) and Thetford type ware (14 sherds). There

were a variety of 13th to 15th century wares (574 sherds) including coarsewares, Lyveden ware, possible Grimston ware and Essex Redware. Additionally there was a small amount of Post-Medieval pottery (9 sherds, 53g).

No individual features produced large assemblages so the spot dating can only be regarded as tentative. Some features have a mixture of 10th to 12th and 13th to 15th century, with no definitely 14th or 15th century material. It appears that the majority of the features date to the 12th and 13th centuries with a few later features. This is significant as the site appears to date to the period of transition between the different pottery types which is not well understood locally.

F. 1216 17th or 18th centuries.
F. 1259 10th to 12th centuries.
F. 1261 13th centuries.
F. 1265 13th century.
F. 1270 14th or 15th centuries (but could be later as very weathered).
F. 1271 14th century (but uncertain identification).
F. 1280 10th to 12th centuries.
F. 1281 13th century.
F. 1282 13th century.

Burnt Clay (Matt Brudenell)

26 fragments of burnt clay (176g) were recovered from the evaluation, all from trenches within the former airfield (Table 5). The fragments were recovered from a range of features dating from the LBA/EIA through to the Medieval period. None of the pieces were identifiable, though most are likely to be oven fragments or structural daub.

Three fabrics were identified:

1) Mid reddish-brown sandy fabric, with occasion very coarse sub-rounded quartz grits, charcoal, grog and shell inclusions. Very friable.

2) Pale yellow powdery fabric with sparse quartz-sand, and moderate crushed stone and grit inclusions.

3) Mid orangey brown medium-very hard fabric, with rare quartz-sand and sparse very-coarse grits.

Site	Trench	Feature	No. fragments	Weight (g)	Fabric	Date
-	424	1231	3	45	2	LBA/EIA
XVIII	453	1268	4	6	3	Roman
XVIII	453	1276	1	3	3	Roman
XXXIV	429	1244	1	1	2	IA
XXXIV	429	1245	2	11	3	IA
XXXIV	430	1262	10	48	1	IA
XXXV	442	1265	4	13	1	Medieval?
XXXV	442	1284	1	49	3	Medieval?

Table 5: Burnt clay assemblage breakdown

Worked Stone (Simon Timberlake)

Field 21

<278> Trench 407 F.1212 [3056] Two fragments of a weathered and probably heat-fractured quern stone – probably part of a saddle quern fabricated from a rock (possibly a glacial erratic?) of rather unusual lithology. On visual inspection, the latter seems to be composed of fine grained dolerite or basalt - a compact and extremely dense basic igneous rock. Examples of such boulders are present but usually rare within the Anglian (glacial) Drift. The quern has been used on both sides, and both concave grind surfaces are now worn smooth. The quern had been crudely fashioned. Perhaps originally this would have been between 300-400 mm long and up to 200-250 mm wide (and 60 mm+ thick). Presumably this is an example of local utilitarian manufacture (Romano-British) quite unlike the manufactured and imported Roman querns.

<286> Trench 413 F.1216 [3075-3077] A fragment of a small rectangular 'brick' of cut free-stone, possibly part of an ornamental façade or floor of a building, or else a free-standing wall. Made of a fine oolitic limestone, most probably non-local, quite possibly Bath Stone (a Jurassic limestone). Post-medieval?

Airfield

Site XVIII

<348> Trench 453 F.1268 [3202] Half of a probable basal stone for a 'beehive-shaped' rotary quern of Hertfordshire Puddingstone conglomerate recovered from a Roman pit. The grinding surface is flat and fairly well worn, slightly concave, but raised a little in the centre around the 30 mm deep (20 mm wide) axle pivot hole. The original stone would have been about 300 mm in diameter and 90 mm deep in the centre. Part of the outer rim is damaged, and there are traces of what appears to be the effect of calcination of the flint and matrix/cement of the conglomerate on the convex surface. It seems likely that the stone was broken up after extensive use, and perhaps then used as rubble fill. The lithology of the quern stone is fairly typical of the Hertfordshire pudding stone sources exploited during the Roman period, such as from the Lower Eocene conglomerates of Abbington Piggots. The latter show continuity of production from the Late Iron Age to Roman times (Wilkes & Elrington 1978). Such quern stones are reasonably common within the Cambridgeshire area; a significant number have recently been recovered from the Romano-British farmstead settlement at Babraham (Armour *et al* 2006).

<352> Trench 453 F.1269 [3204] A fragment of the outer edge of the upper stone of a large flat rotary quern of Millstone Grit. Traces of the narrow axle hole are visible, suggesting an original diameter of approx. 300 – 320 mm (and a depth of 60 mm). Both the outer rim and upper surface of the stone are worn, whilst traces of the original picking (shaping or dressing of the stone) can be seen in the form of pitting on the underside. The lithology of the arkosic and felspathic grit is fairly typical of Roman and medieval quern stone sources – thus a mid-Pennine (Derbyshire) origin for the Millstone Grit seems most likely. Wilkes & Elrington (*ibid.*) suggested that examples of Millstone Grit querns found within Roman contexts in Cambridgeshire may have come from local glacial erratic sources. However, both the profusion and quality of the lithologies witnessed within the querns recovered from Babraham suggests otherwise, suggesting the exploitation, fabrication and consequently export of these from non-local primary sources.

A fragment of fossilised woody plant stem is visible within one of the fractured surfaces of the gritstone (Upper Carboniferous and approx. 300 million yrs old).

Site XXXV

<380> Trench 442 F.1282 [3247] A small fragment off of the rim of a flat circular rotary quern stone made of vesicular andesitic or basaltic lava – almost certainly an imported quern from the Eifel or Maar region of the Rhineland. Traces of grind ridging can be seen on the underside, although the grind

surface itself is well worn. The original stone may well have been up to 500 mm in diameter (and between 30-60 mm thick). Invariably these querns represent quality utilitarian imports which can be dated to the Roman period, although the context of this particular find appears to be medieval (F.1282 a medieval ditch). It seems most likely that this quern fragment is redeposited.

It is difficult to draw much in the way of a conclusion about the use of stone at this site based on such a small assemblage recovered from features spread out over such a large area. However, the deposition of broken quern stones, including those of imported 'local' pudding-stone, non-local Millstone Grit, perhaps even of exotic lava within pits of Roman date is paralleled at other rural Cambridgeshire sites, and is suggestive of low-intensity agrarian landscapes with cereal production and scattered settlement.

Faunal remains (Chris Swaysland)

An assemblage numbering 753 fragments and weighing 5677 grams was recovered from a series of evaluation trenches. The condition of the assemblage was in general fair.

The animal bones were identified using the reference collection of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The assemblage was quantified using a modified version of the methodology of Davis (1992). In brief, all mandibular and maxillary teeth and a predetermined restricted suite of elements, predominantly the distal articulations, are counted (countable elements). Results are presented by NISP (Number of Identified Specimens). It can be difficult to distinguish between the bones of sheep and goat; certain elements however can be identified (Boessneck 1969; Halstead *et al.* 2002). All caprine bones that could be confidently identified were sheep, therefore it will be assumed that all caprine bones are from sheep. Information on gnawing, butchery and pathology was recorded where present. Butchery was recorded by type (i.e. chop, knife cut, sawn), location and orientation. Pathological conditions were categorised where possible. The age at death of the major domestic animals was analysed using Halstead (1985) for cattle, Payne (1973) for sheep and Hambleton (1999) for pigs. Measurements were taken following von den Driesch (1976) and withers heights were calculated using the recommendations of von den Driesch and Boessneck (1974).

The assemblage was analysed by phase and/or site as defined by the excavator:

Field 21

Trench 402 revealed a deposit of well preserved sheep bones from F. 402, a post-Medieval stream channel/large ditch. The bones were large and probably represent a comparatively recent deposit. The remains of at least two sheep were present. One fragmentary skull from an animal aged 4-6 years (Payne 1973) was recovered.

Airfield

Site XXXIII (Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age)

Trench 417 contained a burnt stone pit (F. 1246) dated to the prehistoric period. This feature yielded four countable elements, all teeth. Three of the teeth are from sheep and one is from cattle.

Trench 424 contained a large pit (F. 1231), dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. This feature contained five countable elements. Four cattle elements were recovered: left and right scapulae fragments; the right navicular cuboid and an unerupted mandibular third molar. One sheep tooth was recovered, a maxillary third molar.

Site XXXIV (Iron Age)

Trenches 429 and 430 located a small site dated to the Iron Age. Eight countable elements were recovered from 3 features: F. 1234 a ditch, F. 1244 a 'ring-ditch' and F. 1262 a pit. One cattle element was recovered, a mandibular tooth. Seven sheep elements were recovered, all of which were teeth.

Site XVIII (Romano-British)

Trenches 1268, 1269, 1275 and 1276 located a site dated to the Romano-British period; a total of nine countable elements were recovered from the site (Table 6).

Species	NISP
Cattle	4
Sheep	4
Horse	1

Table 6: Site XVIII species distribution

An equal number of cattle and sheep elements were recovered. A mixture of meat and non-meat bearing elements were present amongst the cattle remains, but only teeth were present amongst the sheep remains.

The horse bone was a complete metacarpal and measured 19.9cm (LL), this relates to an animal that stood 127.6m (12.6 hands) at the shoulder. This is within the lower end of the normal range of heights for a Romano-British horse (Rackham 2004).

Site XXXV (10^{th}-13^{th} century settlement)

Trench 442 located the remains of a small Medieval settlement dated from the 10^{th}-13^{th} centuries. Countable animal bones were recovered from Features 1259, F. 1265, F. 1280, F. 1281, F. 1282 and F. 1283.

Species	NISP
Cattle	8
Sheep	2
Pig	3
Horse	3
Dog	1
Chicken	1
Pike	1

Table 7: Site XXXV species proportions

The range of species seen on Site XXXV is much greater than in the earlier sites: pig, dog, chicken and pike are all represented for the first time.

The overwhelming majority of the bones from the sites are from domestic animals. The only evidence of the exploitation of wild resources is one pike jaw from Site XXXV. No other fish remains were present in the hand-collected sample viewed by the author. Birds are represented by one bone from a chicken, also from Site XXXV. When considered by individual site the assemblages are extremely small; therefore, any conclusions must be very general. At Site XXXIV (Iron Age) there is a dominance of sheep remains, this is typical of the period. At Site XVIII (Romano-British) there is an equal number of cattle and sheep. A different part of Site XVIII was encountered in a previous phase of work (Swaysland 2006), of which the

Romano-British component of the faunal assemblage showed similar levels of cattle and sheep, though with slightly higher levels of cattle. Site XXXV (10^{th}-12^{th} century) showed a high level of cattle in relation to sheep. Analysis of the animal bones from a similarly dated site at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, showed a higher level of sheep (46.4%) than cattle (28.9%) (Swaysland 2005). Site XXXV showed a much greater diversity of species than seen at sites from preceding periods.

Assessment of Bulk Environmental Samples (Anne de Vareilles)

Ten samples were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The flots were collected in a 300μm mesh and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors and scanned for the presence of charred plant remains, molluscs and charcoal.

Sorting and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for plants and Beedham (1972) for molluscs. All environmental remains are listed in Table 8

All plant remains were preserved through carbonisation. All samples contained modern rootlets and at least four also had modern seeds, indicative of bioturbation through which macro remains may have been lost and/or displaced. Few molluscs were detected; their habitats are listed in Table 9.

Airfield

The meagre quantities of archaeobotanical remains in all except F. 1282 support the archaeological interpretation of no associated settlements until the 12^{th} century AD.

12^{th}-13^{th} Century Ditch, F. 1282 [3247]

This sampled contained over 243 cereal grains (including oat), and at least 17 varieties of wild plant seeds. Together with the grass seed fragments (also including small cereal fragments) there is a higher count of grains than charcoal. Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu lato*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare sl.*) make up the bulk of the cereal assemblage. A little oat (*Avena* sp.) and two rye grains (*Secale cereale*) were also identified. The only chaff found was a barley rachis internode and a grass stem node.

Other than the hazel-nut shell (*Corylus avellana*), elder seeds (*Sambucus nigra*) and the spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), the wild seeds may all have been crop weeds. Elderberries were probably collected and processed for jam or other products, though such activities cannot be reached at from only two seeds. Elder branches may also have been collected as tinder, along with other species from open woodland or scrub. It seems this assemblage was created from the processing of various crops, probably grown on different soils as is attested by the damp, heavy soil loving stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and Lamb's lettuce (*Valerianella dentata*) that prefers dry, rough ground.

Table 8: Plant Macro Remains

Sample number		**<162>**	**<159>**	**<163>**	**<170>**	**<168>**	**<157>**	**<156>**	**<153>**	**<161>**	**<152>**
Context		[3130]	[3098]	[3134]	[3247]	3186/8	[3119]	[3138]	[3060]	[3112]	[3010]
Feature		1243	1231	1245	1282	1262	1239	1246	1212	1237	1204
Feature type		Ditch	Pit	Ring-Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		I.A?	I.A?	I.A?	12th-13th C.	I.A.	R.B.	Pre-hist.	R.B?	I.A.	?
Sample volume - Litres		17	8	17	7. 5	17	5	15	15	5	8
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Hordeum vulgare s. lato	Hulled Barley grain				54						
Triticum dicoccum / spelta	Emmer or Spelt grain			1							
Triticum aestivum s.l..	Free-threshing wheat				38						
Triticum sp.	Unspecific wheat grain				25	1					
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat or Barley grain				110						
Secale cereale	Rye grain				2						
Avena sp.	Oat grains				14						
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment				1	61	1					
Triticum sp. Glume base	Wheat glume base						1				
H. vulgare sl. rachis internode	Hulled Barley rachis internode				1						
Wild Plant Seeds											
Corylus avellana	Hazel-nut shell frag.				1						
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots		1	7	- M			- M	++ M		
Atriplex patula / prostrata	Oraches				3						
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass				1						
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrasses (flat type)				1						
Rumex cf. *acetosella*	Sheep's Sorrel				1						
Rumex sp.	Docks				2			1			
Vicia / Lathyrus	Vetches / Wild Pea				1						
Vicia sativa / Pisum sativum	Common Vetch or undeveloped Pea				6 and 6 halves						
Trifolium / Medicago	Clovers / Medics				2						
Veronica hederifolia	Ivy-leaved Speedwell								+ M		
Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia				4						
Sambucus nigra	Elder				2						
cf. *Valerianella dentata*	Possible Lamb's lettuce				1						
Cardus / Cirsium	Thistles				- M					- M	
Anthemis cotula	Stinking Chamomile				8						
Eleocharis sp.	Spike rushes				1						
Poaceae fragments	Grass seed fragments			1	+++						
Large Poaceae	Large wild grass seed				5						
Medium Poaceae	Med. wild grass seed				6						
Small Poaceae	Small wild grass seed				2						
Indet. wild plant seed			1		3	1					
Parenchyma - Undifferentiated plant storage tissue					+++	-	-				
Modern rootlets		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items; M – modern

Table 9: Plant Macro Remains and Mollusca

Sample number		**<162>**	**<159>**	**<163>**	**<170>**	**<168>**	**<157>**	**<156>**	**<153>**	**<161>**	**<152>**
Context		[3130]	[3098]	[3134]	[3247]	3186/8	[3119]	[3138]	[3060]	[3112]	[3010]
Feature		1243	1231	1245	1282	1262	1239	1246	1212	1237	1204
Feature type		Ditch	Pit	Ring-Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		I.A?	I.A?	I.A?	12th-13th C.	I.A.	R.B.	Pre-hist.	R.B?	I.A.	?
Sample volume - Litres		17	8	17	7. 5	17	5	15	15	5	8
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Charcoal											
>4mm			++		-	+		++			-
2-4mm			+++	-	++	++		+++	-	-	
<2mm		-	+++	++	+++	+++	-	+++	+	+	+++
Vitrified					-	-					
Culm node	Grass stem node				1						
Mollusca	Habitat										
Anisus leucostama	Ponds, ditches - resists drying						+++				
Vallonia costata	Dry areas						+				
Trichia sp.	Various						++				

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items

DISCUSSION

The 2006 fieldwork was on a much more limited scale than the previous two seasons. Essentially a matter of infilling the area of the proposed roadway corridors, the four 'infrastructure' fields evaluated (14, 21, 32 and 33) yielded no new 'sites' as such; although Site XXVIII in Field 21, originally issued to an uninvestigated, ploughsoil flint scatter, remains as designated and its composition has been significantly detailed. While the airfield itself covers a enormous area, the trenches therein were sited with specific objectives in mind rather than provide blanket-area coverage. It was the extraordinary results of the geophysical survey that permitted this high degree of 'targeting'. Two of the three newly designated airfield Sites were clearly visible, at least in part, from its plots (Site XXXIII & XXXIV; see Part 1 above); only Site XXXV being an entirely new discovery.

Though the flint scatter recovered in Field 21 is clearly the same as was distinguished in 2005 (Site XXVIII; Evans *et al.* 2006: 86), this year's fieldwork more fully detailed its character. Based on its diagnostic types (e.g. the axe and pick), it would essentially seem to be of Mesolithic date. As such, it is comparable to the Site I scatter earlier found by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust adjacent to Slate Hall Farm. Also situated on the Greensand near Oakington Brook, the location of these two early scatters (the only such sites identified within the overall area) does, indeed, suggest that a precursor of this watercourse must have served as a landscape 'access-corridor'. This being said, some later, Late Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age flintwork was also recovered from that area and the neighbouring Field 34 fieldwalking. Again, its occurrence is in contrast to what can only be held to be the very low levels of such material otherwise recovered during such a large project.

No Iron Age pottery was recovered in Fields 14, 21, 32 or 33, and very little Roman material. The only feature of any note, F. 1212 in Field 407, contained a small amount of presumably Roman pottery - of Roman form but unusual fabric. This feature also contained a lump of quernstone. Though hardly a rich domestic deposit, this was not as sterile as might be expected of a typical field ditch. This type of activity continued into Field 23 immediately northeast, and which were found similar ditches with minor quantities of Roman material, and on more than one alignment. Yet, some ambiguity must still surround the attribution of this ditch system, as Roman fieldsystems as such (as opposed infield paddocks) are generally not common. While the density of archaeology in Fields 21/23 is not considered sufficient to warrant a 'Site-designation' *per se*, the findings there are, nevertheless, intriguing and may require a degree of further investigation.

Site XXXIV was the most clearly defined of the new airfield-area sites. Clearly plotted by the geophysics, and showing no tendency to 'sprawl', this neatly contained site consisted of little more than a ring gully, postholes and an outer ditch. All of the pottery recovered was of Middle/later Iron Age date. In contrast to the other settlement of this date found in the course of this project (and most of the period generally within the region), is the fact that this settlement was 'open' and not ditch-enclosed. This raises issues of whether this simply relates to some other mode of the social definition, or otherwise, of settlement (i.e. the apparent lack of any physical demarcation thereof and what this might imply) or, potentially, some manner of economic specialisation.

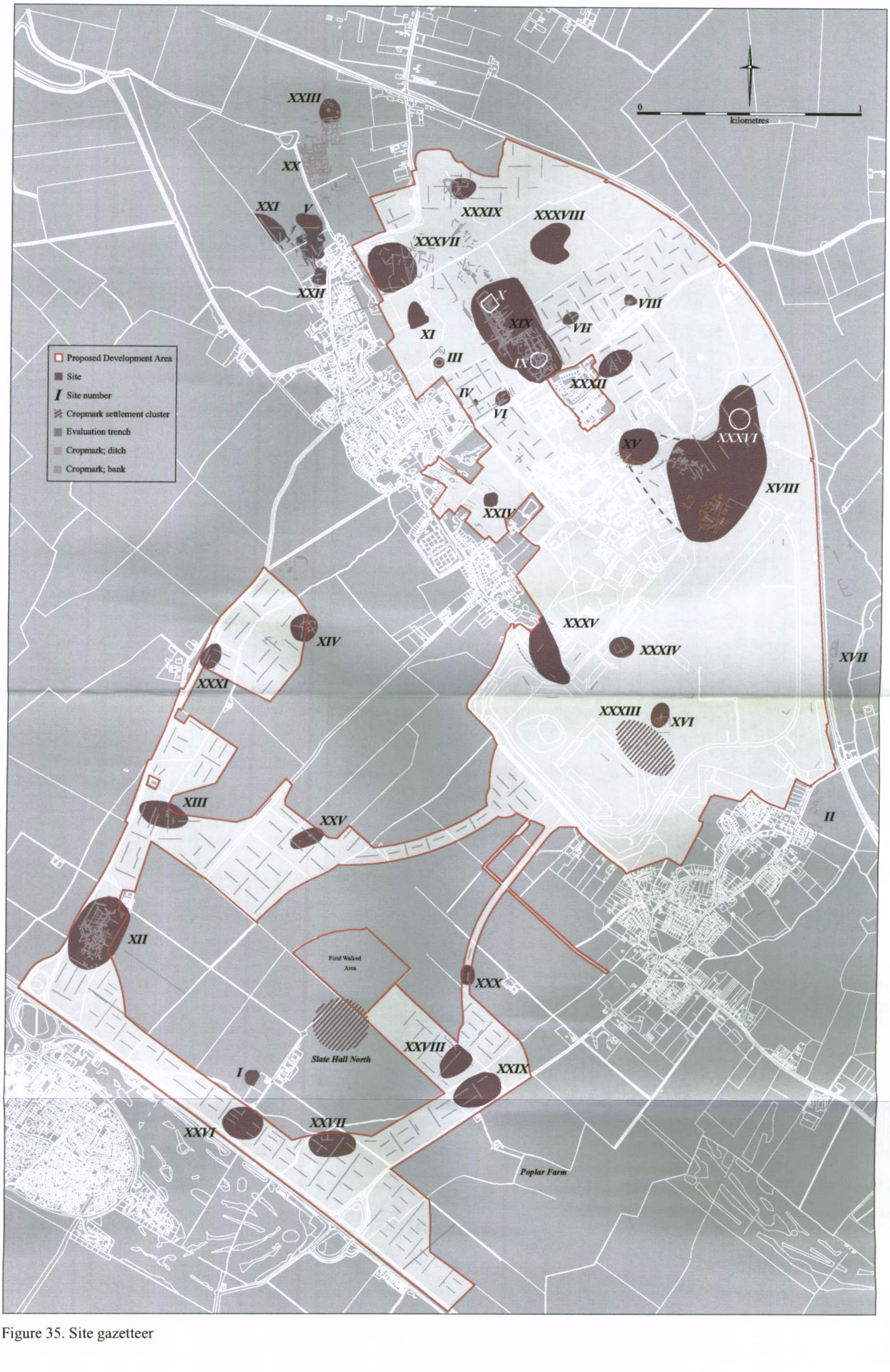


Figure 35. Site gazetteer

Site XXXIII can only be considered a diffuse, multi-period agglomeration. While including a distinct Romano-British component, whose finds densities were sufficient to suggest adjacent settlement *per se* (its core or extent not being established due to immediate logistical factors), the bulk of its features - including its rounded-corner ditch system - were, surprisingly, of later Bronze/earlier Iron Age attribution. As such, they resonate with the identification of 'activity' of that date in the Site XXXIX area. The latter could, perhaps, itself be broadly compared to the Stripelands Farm later Bronze Age settlement complex (Pattern & Evans 2005), with the Site XXXIII occupation/usage also perhaps being similar to Site XXV (Evans *et al.* 2006: 30-1, 34, figs 16 & 17). This raises issues concerning the probable colonisation of this off-river 'inland-scape' during the latter half of the second millennium BC. Whereas the extraordinarily low density of material associated with Site XXXIX could be enlisted to support arguments concerning seasonal usage at that time, the Stripelands' finds densities would rather point to year-round occupation. Equally, if the Site XXXIII boundary system dated to that time, then it would also suggest more permanent settlement.

The other issue raised by the occurrence of these sites is whether their occupation was directly ancestral to the area's much evident, Middle/later Iron Age enclosures, or if the latter attest to a new wave of colonisation. This is a moot point, for no 'classic' Early Iron Age pottery has been recovered from the project. Yet, their paucity is common in the region and, though suggestive of a hiatus in the settlement record, this could potentially relate to a misunderstanding of the coarse/fine ware components of the pottery of that time (Brudenell forthcoming). Be that as it may, this is a question that will only be resolved when the area's (Middle/later Iron Age) settlements are investigated in sufficient detail to determine whether these were, in fact, proceed by later Bronze/earlier Iron Age phases.

In many respects, perhaps the most significant results of the last year have been forthcoming through Oxford's geophysical surveys. Aside from greatly detailing the Site XI, XVIII and XIX complexes, this has included the newly discovered Sites XXXIV & XXXVII and, perhaps most importantly, the multi-focal, Site XXXVIII Iron Age enclosures on the northeastern side of the golf course (fig. 35). The recovery of the latter - in a directly comparable clay-/terrace-edge situation as Site VII - infills what, in hindsight, was clearly a 'gap' in the distribution of the area's Iron Age enclosures. In the case of Site XXXVIII, the ditch-linkage of two, if not three, distinct enclosures from that time being particularly interesting concerning issues of inter-connected community/familial grouping.

As has been discussed (Evans *et al.* 2006), by their shared 'character'/form and interval-setting, the area's Iron Age enclosures convey a real sense of 'landscape fabric'. The same, however, is not true of its Romano-British settlements. While Sites XX & XXXVII, and the Roman phase of Site XII, seem to be of comparable size and could represent 'standard' farms of the period (albeit, no doubt, probably involving a variety of other functions), their interval within the landscape is not as regular as during the proceeding period. Rather, the Roman distribution suggest the 'packing' of

settlements onto the gravel terraces, presumably with the surrounding heavier lands being used for agriculture.

Against this, Sites XVIII & XIX do not seem to be 'typical' (nor for that matter is Site XVII; see Evans *et al.* 2006). Now known to extend over some 8.4ha, Site XIX is two to three times the size of the 'standard farms'. It probably represents some manner of nucleated, more 'village-like' settlement and, in this capacity, its western, multiple ditch system raises questions concerning demarcation and 'bound-ness'. Covering more than 24ha, if anything, Site XVIII is all the more extraordinary and of a 'town-like' scale. Admittedly, and as discussed above, it may well have included distinct 'quarters' (including possibly even Site XV). Nevertheless, as demonstrated by the geophysics, it includes at least one masonry building. Given the sheer size of Sites XVIII & XIX, their apparent contemporanity and what must have been their population levels (perhaps, in total, 300-500) and their proximity (400-650m depending whether or not Site XV is included as part of XVIII), their interrelationship can only have been 'special'. Pending further investigation, this cannot be detailed, but it could be imagined that Site XIX might essentially have been agricultural, while the larger complex (XVIII) could, in part, have involved an area-administrative function.

Anther point concerning the distribution of the Roman sites also deserves mention at this time, and that relates to the period's roads. As was previously discussed in the context of Site XII *(ibid.)*, the area's 'ways' do not seem to transverse their expected routes and really only seem apparent (i.e. ditched) where they passed through settlements. In this regard, while there must be some doubt of the existence of the northeast-southwest route thought possibly to run through at least the southern half of Site XVIII (between its Zones A & B; see Part 1 above), the northwest-southeast oriented 'way' crossing through the northern part of the settlement's 'Zone B' does seem more definite. In fact, if projected westward, its route would appear to continue to meet with the southward 'down-turn' in the line of the 'great drove'/road along which Site XIX was organised, almost as if they formed a 'Y'-junction. Apart from attesting to both along- and cross-terrace traverse, at this time the area's Roman roadways do not make obvious sense; certainly they do not seem to have been laid-out according to any 'predictable' pattern.

Finally, in the light of the broad 'village hinterland-directive' of this project, there is a certain irony that, aside from the ghosted traces of ridge-and-furrow agricultural patterning on the geophysical surveys, otherwise there has been a marked paucity of Medieval remains; the ditch system/paddocks excavated at Stripelands Farms (Patten & Evans 2005) being the only significant finding of that period in the course of the CAU's fieldwork. This has now changed with the discovery of dense, Early Medieval settlement remains at Site XXXV, which must relate to the original 'core' of the village proper and continue northward. In fact, given a poly-focal model of the village's development, this is exactly where the early core of Longstanton St Michaels was predicted to extend into within the project's desktop study (Evans & Dickens 2002: 29, figs 14 & 16).

Given that the stone-footing located within Trench 442 almost exactly coincided with the 'B' of the indication of the site of the *Bishops Palace* on the Ordnance Survey map, the recovery of building remains at that point was not unexpected. However, by

no means does this finding confirm that attribution of them. The evidence relating to what was probably the mistaken identity of the palace site is thoroughly rehearsed within the desktop study (*ibid*: 18-9). As outlined above, given what dating evidence there is for the footing, it probably rather relates to a moated enclosure (with a fishpond) that Taylor notes was recorded as standing there during the 19th century (1998).

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