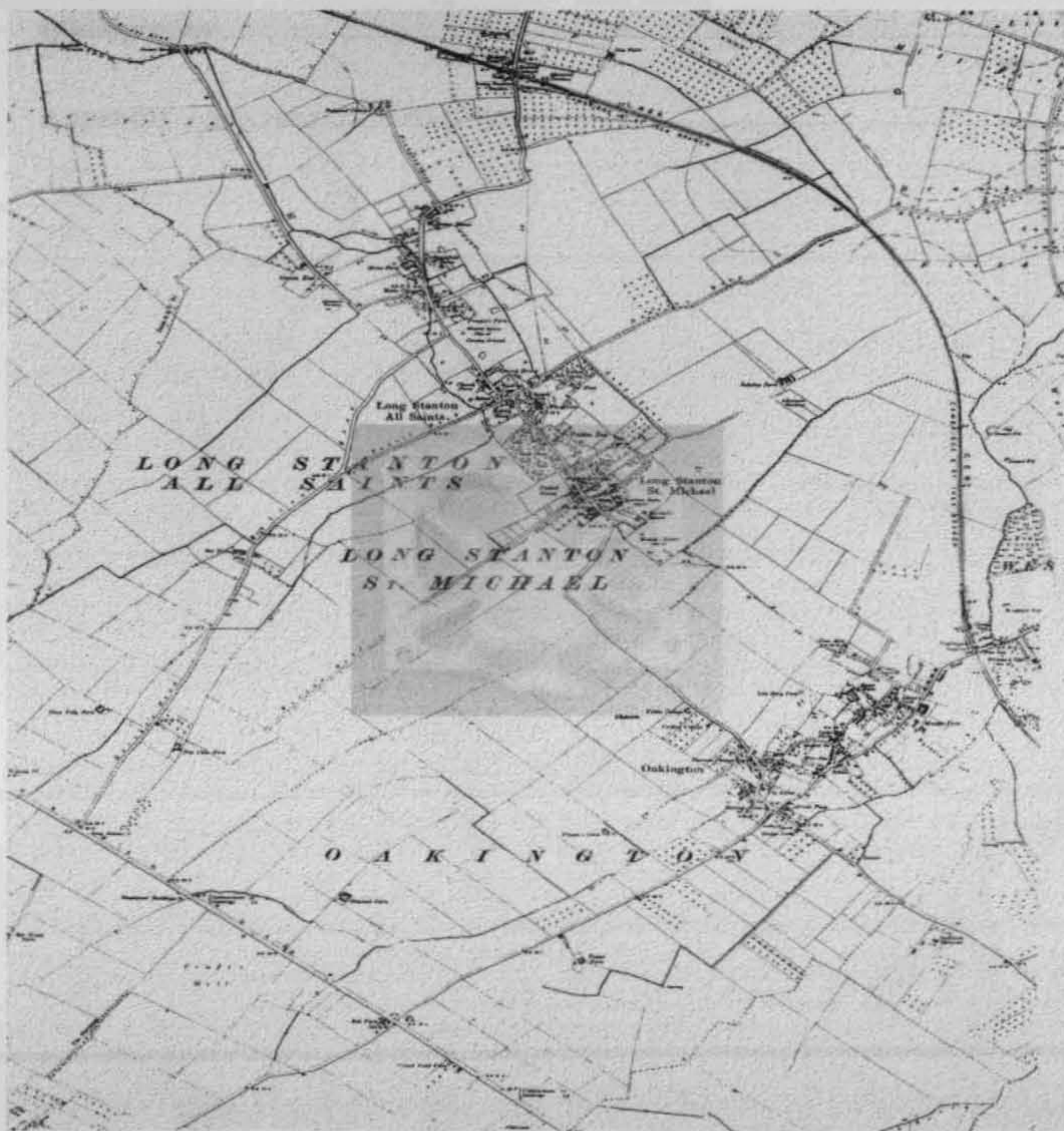


# Longstanton/Northstowe

## Interim Report of the 2005 Evaluation



CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
Archaeological Context .....	1
Methodology and Coverage .....	3
<b>FIELDWORK RESULTS</b> .....	5
Part 1) Sites XIV, XIII, XXV and XXXI .....	5
Part 2) Site XII .....	10
Part 3) Sites XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX and XXX .....	12
Part 4) Sites XVI, XVIII, XXXII (Fields P1 – P3), and IX (Field J).....	18
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	20
<b>Appendix – Specialist Reports (Interim)</b> .....	21

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides an interim summary of the fieldwork undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) between late August and October 2005, within the environs of the villages of Longstanton and Oakington between Hatton's Road, Dry Drayton Road and Longstanton Road, and the former World War II airfield at Oakington, Cambs, as part of the evaluation exercise ahead of the proposed new town of Northstowe. Thirty evaluation areas were investigated, divided between fields inside the former airfield perimeter, and fields within the proposed infrastructure routes (fig 1). The archaeological, geological, geographical and historical background of the area has been the subject of a comprehensive desktop study in 2002 (Evans & Dickens 2002) and is thus not repeated in detail here. The 2005 fieldwork directly follows and builds upon the earlier phase of fieldwork completed in 2004 (Evans & Mackay 2004), which enabled an informed assessment of the density and distribution of archaeology within the boundaries of the proposed new town and its infrastructure requirements to be made. In addition, further geophysical survey and analysis of the 1940 Luftwaffe aerial photographs has identified previously unknown archaeological features within the south-eastern area of the proposed infrastructure route, adjacent to or near to the Dry Drayton Road.

Because the current fieldwork programme had to occur to a tight schedule, and the required scanning of trench locations within the airfield perimeter for uncleared ordnance prior to initial machine excavation, fields were surveyed and excavated as a series of discreet field blocks. The use of this approach minimised the number machine excavator movements, thus reducing disruption to the agricultural scheduling of landowners, and also permitted a high degree of flexibility within the programme. Fields within the airfield were distinguished alpha-numerically during fieldwork (P1-P3), with fields within the roadway corridor enumerated (1B-31). Field numbering and new sites identified during the current fieldwork programme continue the numbering system established during the 2004 fieldwork programme (*ibid.*). This nomenclature is retained throughout this report.

### *Archaeological Context*

The current evaluation has already been the subject of a desktop assessment (Evans & Dickens 2002), including CAU commissioned aerial photographic and geophysical surveys (Palmer in *ibid.*; Johnson 2004), earlier evaluation phases, for example the RTS Guided Bus Route (Cessford & Mackay 2004), Striplands Farm (Patten 2004), and the extensive report on fieldwork conducted in 2004 (Evans & Mackay 2004), and are thus not repeated in detail here. Nonetheless, aerial and geophysical surveys have revealed extensive crop marks in the south-west area of the proposed development area, adjacent to New Close Farm (Site XII), the north-west of the roadway (Site XIV), and within the airfield perimeter (Sites XV, XVI, XVIII), have been essential to interpreting the prehistoric and historic nature of the Longstanton landscape (Evans & Dickens 2002; Evans & Mackay 2004), to which the reader is directed for the broader archaeological and landscape context of the area. The



Figure 1. Plan of field and trench locations and identified sites

presence of crop-marks in Fields 1B, 13, 7 and Field P and the results of aerial photographic and geophysical survey and field walking conducted by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust (Gerrard 1989) suggested a high potential for surviving archaeology would be encountered within evaluation areas.

Prehistoric activity is attested across the broader landscape, notably at Site XII and Sites XV, XVI and XVIII on the airfield and Site IX (Field J), where the extensive crop marks noted on aerial photographs have been interpreted as Iron Age and Romano-British field boundaries, settlement related activity and at least one enclosure. The crop-mark observed at Site XIV, was identified as an Iron Age enclosure ditch, and was thus selected for further investigation to establish if this area was similarly occupied during the Iron Age, and the extent of prehistoric settlement activity.

Roman archaeology is known within the zones of the proposed roadway in Field 18, located to the southeast, and from in and around the villages of Longstanton and Oakington, themselves (Evans & Dickens 2002). Following the Roman conquest in 43AD a road was constructed connecting Colchester to Lincoln, via Cambridge, Godmanchester and Longthorpe (Peterborough). The present A14 is considered to follow this alignment. One possible consequence of the construction of the road was a reconfiguration of the field systems, with these being orientated to the road. The Roman period also saw a major 'reconfiguration and regularisation' (*ibid*: 16) of later Iron settlements, most notably those located to the immediate northeast of Longstanton itself, and Site XII. However, the presence of crop marks on the north-eastern edge of the evaluation area in Field 7 (Site XIV), and to the south-west in Fields 1B and 13 (Site XII) (*ibid*: Fig. 3), needs to be highlighted as this attests to significant human activity within the Longstanton environs, dating from the Iron Age to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Evidence of Saxon settlement activity within the proposed development area is limited, but this is a distinct possibility following the evaluation at Striplands Farm (Patten 2004), situated immediately to the northwest of the Northstowe development area, although unlikely in the fields subject to this evaluation. The early Medieval origins of Longstanton and Oakington are sufficiently attested and which provide a comprehensive history of the area, the use of the open-field system, and of the manorial estates. Fields within the proposed infrastructure route are recorded in Medieval and later documents. Aerial photographs of fields falling within the scope of this evaluation show ridge and furrow, adding to the understanding of the development and changing land use of the area.

Post-Medieval and modern development of the area is characterised by the ribbon development of Longstanton during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the construction of the World War II airfield at Oakington. The airfield straddles the parish boundaries of Longstanton and Oakington, but following operational downgrading the southern end of the runway, dispersals and outworks were demolished or removed, with these areas reverting to agricultural use. The north and east of the area is characterised by the village of Longstanton and the former RAF airfield at Oakington (Evans & Dickens 2002: 8). The underlying geology is Amphill dark grey clays (British Geological Survey 1993).

*Methodology and Coverage*

The evaluation outlined in this report covers 98.86ha of the proposed infrastructure route, 3.1ha of Site IX (Field J), 36.4ha within the former airfield (Fields P1 to P3), and 243m<sup>2</sup> of trenching inside the runway at Sites XVI and XVIII. Trenches were initially machined excavated under archaeological supervision by a 360<sup>0</sup> tracked excavator with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. A total of 13,229.15m of trial trench was excavated (23,812.47m<sup>2</sup>). 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 features at 1:10 or 1:20. Levels were surveyed using a Leica GPS system. Bulk environmental samples were taken from a specifically selected features.

Due to the tight schedule for completion of the evaluation, a sampling strategy was adopted with features only excavated where these were positively identified, and would provide suitable information on the nature of the exposed archaeology. Generally, the governing trial trenching policy was that, augmented by fieldwalking and geophysical survey (Airfield, Fields 18, 22 and 23), a 2.5% area sample would suffice, with additional features excavated only where this would elucidate the nature and phasing of the archaeology. Under this strategy trenches which contained archaeology, but were not excavated further, were planned, soil profiles recorded and backfilled. Trenches which did not contain any archaeology, or only rubble and surviving detritus from the airfield, were backfilled after the recording of soil profiles. Table 1 provides details of the total trench lengths excavated for the proposed infrastructure route, and Table 2 the figures for the airfield. A further proposed 3895m of evaluation trenches in fields that are yet to be released or cropped remain to be excavated. In addition, 14 trenches within the airfield could not be initially machine excavated or further investigated due to the discovery of unexploded ordnance on site.

Field	Length	Field	Length
1B	414.05	12	525
3	299.47	13	525.74
4A	70	15	180
4B	344.75	16	675.64
6B	435.19	17	550.13
6C	66.21	18	1283.54
6D	350.53	19	710.06
7	851.98	20	281.95
8	816.91	23	648.35
9	100	24	136.72
10	100	31	950
11	250		<b>Total</b>
			10565.29m

**Table 1** Total trenching on proposed infrastructure route

Field	Length
Site IX	225.27
P1	1206.96
P2	543.07
P3	467.56
Compound	86
Site XVIII	110
Site XVI	25
	<b>Total</b>
	2663.86m

**Table 2** Total trenching on the airfield and Site IX

Fields inside the airfield perimeter (P1 – P3), and high risk areas (Fields 8 to 12, and Field 31) were surveyed by explosive ordnance disposal technicians prior to initial machine excavation. These surveys resulted in the discovery of four unexploded air-delivered bombs (weighing between 500 and 1000 lbs) on the perimeter of the former airfield, at its northern limit. The consequence of the presence of unexploded ordnance was the evacuation of local residents, technicians and CAU staff whilst the bombs were made safe and prepared for on-site detonation. The presence of these bombs, and potentially further unexploded ordnance, in this area required a modification to the proposed trial trenching strategy as this part of the airfield was declared off-limits by the Royal Air Force bomb disposal squadron until they had completed their clearance exercise. Consequently, additional trenches were located beside the runway to investigate the cropmarks identified from aerial photography and geophysical survey (Site XVIII).

Interim specialist reports for prehistoric and Roman pottery are included in the Appendix in addition to a report on the flint scatter recovered from Field 21 during a geophysical survey of the area. The information in these reports is provisional and will be elaborated upon during full analysis of the artefacts recovered during this programme of excavations. Faunal and environmental analyses and the results of the metal detecting survey are in preparation.

## FIELDWORK RESULTS

### Part 1) Sites XIV, XIII, XXV and XXXI

*The fieldwork outlined in this section covers 40.11ha, divided between twelve fields. Fields 3, 4A-4B, 6B to 6D, 7 to 12 and 31 are currently agricultural land, and lie between 10m and 15m OD. Fields 3, 4A and 4B are bounded on the west by Hatton Road. Fields 6B to 6D and 7 are located further to the east, with Fields 6B and 6C adjacent to Wilson's Road. Fields 8 to 12, and 31 are centrally located in the zone of the proposed infrastructure access, adjacent to Wilson's Road, and traverse the landscape in a narrow swathe, with a curving north-easterly trajectory towards Longstanton Road. The landscape gently slopes away from Wilson's Road at approximately 20m OD, with a headland in Fields 8 and 31, oriented NE-SW. The north and east of the area is characterised by the village of Longstanton and the former RAF airfield at Oakington (Evans & Dickens 2002: 8). The underlying geology is Ampthill dark grey clays (British Geological Survey 1993).*

### Field 3 Trenching

Five trenches (No 295-299) were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, divided into two zones and separated by a small dyke, totalling approximately 299.47m in length. In the more southerly zone was located a 11Kw electricity sub-station, and was also bisected by overhead transmission lines. The location of these lines required the re-orientation of the two trenches machine excavated here (Trenches 295 and 296). Top-soil in this zone was between 0.30m and 0.25m thick, and the sub-soil was between 0.70m and 0.10m deep. One archaeological feature was identified in Trench 295. The alignment and surface nature of this feature was similar to three features found in Trench 297 and was thus unexcavated. Both trenches were backfilled following recording of soil profiles. Three trenches, Trenches 297 to 299, were located in the northerly zone of Field 3. Top-soil was 0.30m in depth, with sub-soil varying between 0.70m and 0.10m deep. Three features in Trench 297 were investigated. All three features were on the same NW-SE alignment, with similar fill characteristics and widths. The orientation, nature of the fills and paucity of artefacts suggest these features are either Medieval or post-Medieval field boundaries, possibly relating to earlier 'open-fields' recorded in the area. In addition, extensive quarrying was identified in Field 3, running in a northeast-southwest direction, affecting the eastern half of both zones. The presence of quarrying on the eastern edge of Field 3 would account for the significant differences observed in sub-soil depths in Trenches 296, 298 and 299. Extensive traces of ridge and furrow were also observed in Field 6D.

### Fields 4A Trenching

One trench (No 179) was machine excavated under archaeological supervision, approximately 70m in length. Top-soil was between 0.28m thick to 0.26m deep, with



sub-soil varying between 0.33m and 0.25m deep. No archaeological features were observed in this trench. Following recording of soil depths the trench was backfilled.

#### ***Site XXXI Field 4B Trenching***

Five trenches (No 176-178, 191 and 193) were machine excavated in this field, totalling 344.75m, and revealed seven archaeological features in Trenches 178 and 191. None of the features contained datable artefacts. The nature of the fills and orientation of the ditches suggest these are prehistoric in date, probably dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

#### **Field 6B, Field 6C, and Field 6D Trenching**

Eleven trenches were initially machine excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling approximately 851.93m in length. Top-soil was between 0.35m thick to 0.22m deep, with sub-soil varying between 0.33m and 0.12m deep. No archaeological features were observed Fields 6B and 6D, although remnants of ridge and furrow were observed in trenches machine excavated in Field 6D. These features were on a similar alignment and of similar nature to the ridge and furrow investigated in Field 3 and thus recorded in plan only. Following recording of soil depths trenches in these three fields were backfilled.

#### ***Site XIV Field 7 Trenching***

Ten trenches (Nos 166-175) were initially machine excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling 851.98m in length. Top-soil was between 0.36m deep and 0.23m deep. Sub-soil depth varied from 0.25m deep to 0.08m deep. Five trenches, Trenches 166, 167, 169, 170 and Trench 190, contained between them eight features, with a headland clearly traceable in Trench 170. With Trenches 168, 171-175 containing no archaeological features, these were backfilled following recording of top- and sub-soil depths. Notable in Field 7 was the absence of archaeological features to the east of the headland, which bisected the site on a northeast to southwest alignment, and marked a clear transition between the gravels to the west and heavier clay soils immediately to the east.

#### ***Site XXV Field 8 Trenching***

Twelve trenches (Nos 260-267, 270, 288-290) were machine excavated, totalling 816.91m, revealing seven features; confined to Trenches 265, 269, 270, 288 and 289. One large segmented boundary or enclosure ditch was identified in these trenches, in addition to three post-holes (two unexcavated), an elongated charcoal spread, a pit (cut by the ditch), and a small portion of a pit, in Trench 288, planned but unexcavated. Due to the scheduling and sampling strategy adopted for the evaluation, only selected elements of the segmented ditch, a post-hole and one pit were investigated further. Interpreting these features is problematic due to the very small number of finds; two flint flakes from Trench 265-269, and an isolated flake from the surface of Trench 269. Nonetheless, these flakes and the dense spread of burnt stones

and charcoal from the fill of the ditch attest to settlement activity in the general locale, dating from the Late Bronze Age. Significantly, the spread of burnt stones consists of differing size pebbles and clearly represent a deliberate depositional event towards the terminal of the ditch segment. It is of note that apart from the ditch and portion of a pit no other archaeological features were found in Field 8.

### **Field 9 Trenching**

Located immediately to the northwest of Field 8, one 100m trench was machined excavated under archaeological supervision in this field and oriented on a similar alignment to Trench 265 in Field 8. Top-soil was between 0.30m and 0.25m thick, and the sub-soil between 0.20m and 0.15m deep. No archaeological features were found in this trench, and following recording of soil depths was backfilled.

### **Field 10, Field 11, and Field 12 Trenching**

Fields 10 to 12 traversed the landscape in a curving band from the eastern edge of Field 8 to a widening funnel-shaped area adjacent to Longstanton Road. Seventeen trenches were initially machined excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling 875m, after initial surveying for ordnance due to the close proximity of former airfield installations (dispersal points and main runway). Top-soil was between 0.35m thick to 0.18m deep, with sub-soil varying between 0.48m deep and 0.14m thick, or totally absent (two trenches in Field 12). No archaeological features were observed in any of the trenches in these three fields, although lumps of concreted, presumably from the World War II airfield runway, were found in Field 12. Following recording of soil depths these trenches were backfilled.

### **Field 31 Trenching**

Field 31 is the most centrally located of the fields within the proposed infrastructure route, bounded on its western and southern edge by Wilson's Road, and to the north by Field 8, and is bisected by a very distinct ridge or headland, orientated NE-SW, which continues into Field 8. With a slightly northern off-set from the centre of the field a small brick building is located that was formerly an out-building (radio-control) of RAF Oakington, used to aid aircraft landing and taking-off. On the eastern edge of the field is a small electricity sub-station, which presumably provided power to the small building. Initial ordnance scanning of the field revealed an underground defunct electricity cable, but no unexploded ordnance, or trace of an allegedly crashed Wellington aircraft located in this field. Eight trenches (Nos 370-377), totalling 950m, were machined excavated. No archaeological features were revealed in these trenches, despite the clear NE-SW direction and continuation of the segmented boundary ditch identified in Field 8. After recording the soil profiles these trenches were backfilled.

## Discussion

The distribution of archaeological features observed on the aerial photographs in and around Longstanton village revealed a palimpsest of activity dating from prehistory to the modern era. Notable, is the concentration of Iron Age and Romano-British activity recorded along Hatton's Road, opposite Bar Farm, and adjacent to and inside the airfield perimeter to the north of Longstanton itself. Geophysical survey of several fields within the proposed development area have greatly enhanced our knowledge of the extent and density of this activity, as has archaeological evaluations and excavations in the village environs conducted by the CAU and other archaeological units, for example the RTS Guide Busway (Cessford & Mackay 2004) and Striplands Farm (Patten 2004). The latter of these evaluations has provided evidence for settlement activity from the Iron Age to late Saxon to early Norman period (c.1066).

The absence of archaeology in Fields 6B to 6D, 9 to 12, and 31 is surprising in view of the quantity of features observed in Field 7, and the results of the previous evaluation programme in Fields 2, 6A and 5 (Evans & Mackay 2004). Explaining this absence is challenging, although significant disturbance due to the construction of the airfield was noted in Field 12 and Field 31. Nonetheless, providing a temporal and spatial framework of human activity within the Longstanton landscape is possible as a result of the current programme of fieldwork.

Prehistoric activity in this area of the proposed roadway route is confined to Field 4B (Site XXXI), Field 7 (Site XIV) and Field 8 (Site XXV). The nature of the evidence at Site XXV is ephemeral, consisting of a segmented field boundary and three post-holes that are probably Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age in origin. Significantly, this boundary is on the same alignment as the headland that bisects both Field 8 and Field 31 in a northeast – southwest direction. The excavation of the boundary ditch may denote a re-organisation and division of the landscape, but the absence of clear settlement evidence or activity suggest areas of higher ground, dominated by clay soils, were principally used for pasture, with possible seasonal occupation attested by the deliberate deposition of burnt stones in the ditch. Attempts to locate a continuation of this or similar features in Field 31 were ultimately unsuccessful, possibly due to the truncation of features when ancillary buildings and facilities associated with the airfield located immediately to the north-east of this area were constructed.

Trenches in Fields 4B and 7 revealed the presence of a probable Iron Age field system and pits in addition to the Iron Age enclosure identified in Trench 166 and from aerial photography at Site XIV. Although the recovery of Middle Iron Age (c.400-100 BC) pottery from the post-hole, F.650, and small pit, F.653, strongly suggest these features are Iron Age in date, a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date cannot be entirely excluded, particularly the ditches identified in Field 4B. The presence of dispersed single or small clusters of pits of unknown function or purpose, such as F.653 or F.654 in Trench 166 and 190 respectively, is a recognised feature of Iron Age sites in the Cambridge region, for example those identified at Granta Park (Brudunell 2004), Wandlebury (Webley 2005) and Clay Farm (Evans & Mackay forthcoming), but attest to exploitation of these areas and provide insight into the distribution of settlement activity during this period. The location of the features in Field 4B and 7 also highlights a bias in distribution of archaeology towards the gravels, as opposed to the heavier clay soils. This distribution was further demarcated by a headland, with the

implication that settlement activity was located along the transitional zone between the gravel and clay soils. This may suggest clay soils were initially of secondary importance during the Early to Middle Iron Ages, probably due their poor drainage and level of energy and input required to provide a reasonable agricultural yield. Nonetheless, during the latter Iron Age heavier clay soils were brought into cultivation, and may reflect technological innovations in agriculture and population increase.

There is a lack of evidence for Roman and early Medieval activity in this part of the proposed development zone, further emphasising the suggestion that the northern and central elements of the study area may have principally remained as pasture or outfields of neighbouring settlements. Alternatively, these may have become unsustainable for cereal production from the later Roman period onwards as climatic and environmental conditions deteriorated.

Later Medieval evidence is limited to the presence of traces of ridge and furrow in Field 3, Field 4B and Field 7. The evidence from Trench 297 in Field 3, Site XIII, is more equivocal, possibly representing field boundaries of Medieval manorial estates or farms and their associated outfields. The construction of Hatton's Road as a private access to the manor house situated in Longstanton during the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Wright 1989: 221) and enclosure of open fields resulted in these boundaries becoming redundant or obsolete as the field system was remodelled, with the quarrying evidenced on the eastern edge of Field 3 truncating these features.

The modern landscape is dominated by the 20<sup>th</sup> century developments in Longstanton and Oakington, and the A14 dual carriage-way to the south. At the start of World War II the airfield at RAF Oakington was a fully operational airfield used initially by Wellington bombers and operational conversion units. In 1941 a concrete runway and dispersal points were constructed for the heavier Short Stirling and later Lancaster bombers based at the station. Concrete rubble and remnants of the runway, dispersal points and ancillary buildings were encountered in Fields 12 and 31, highlighting the disturbed nature of the landscape, and the detrimental impact the construction and removal of these installations may have had on any archaeology present.

### *Summary*

The evidence from Sites XXXI, XIV and XXV is elusive, but demonstrates occupation and use of these areas from the later Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age. The absence of later occupation evidence argues strongly for a shift in settlement focus, particularly away from the enclosure at Site XIV, to neighbouring more suitable soils (Site XII), and the use of this part of the landscape for low intensity agricultural activity, such as pasture and stock management. Although the lack of Roman and early-Medieval activity is not in itself conclusive, the Medieval field boundaries found in Field 3 support a continuing pastoral use of the heavy clay soils encountered here.

## Part 2) Site XII

*The fieldwork outlined in this section covers 8.56ha, divided between two fields. Fields 1B and 13 are currently agricultural land, lie between 15m and 10m OD, and bounded to the west by Hatton's Road and on the east by a large drainage dyke. Field 13 was also bounded on its southern edge by the A14. A small business park, New Close Farm, was located in the northeast corner of Field 1B. The landscape gently slopes away from Hatton's Road toward the drainage dyke, in west to east direction, from approximately 20m OD to 15m OD. The underlying geology is Ampthill dark grey clays (British Geological Survey 1993).*

### **Site XII Fields 1B and 13 Trenching**

Fields 1B and 13 traversed the landscape parallel to Hatton's Road in a northeast – southwest direction. Ten trenches, oriented at right-angles or parallel to the road, were initially machined excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling approximately 939.79m in length. Top-soil in Field 1B was between 0.33m thick to 0.18m deep, with sub-soil varying between 0.25m deep and 0.20m thick. The top-soil in Field 13 was between 0.36m and 0.21m thick, with the sub-soil between 0.24m and 0.08m in depth. Twenty seven features were observed in the three trenches in Field 1B and eight features in three of the six trenches excavated in Field 13. Of these features, four were small or medium sized pits, all from Trench 200 in Field 1B. The remainder of the features consisted of a number of boundary and enclosure ditches dating from the Iron Age to late Romano-British periods. The latter of these features were oriented northeast – southwest and overlaying the earlier Iron Age enclosures. At least two phases of settlement activity were identifiable.

### **Discussion**

This area of the Longstanton landscape has long been recognised as a settlement foci during prehistory from aerial photographic analysis. This current programme has shed further light on the nature of this activity, revealing a palimpsest of activity spanning the Middle Iron Age and continuing into the mid to later 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The evidence from Field 1B was predominantly early to middle Iron Age (c.700 – 100 BC), with some Romano-British activity, dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, although some pottery recovered during excavation provides a *terminus anti-quem* in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. This later evidence from Field 1B suggests there was a shift towards the east, in the direction of the present drainage dyke, away from the Iron Age settlement focus. Importantly, the two brooches recovered during a metal detecting survey in Field 13 from Trench 204 are highly indicative of Iron Age activity situated to the south of the main settlement area. It is unclear at this stage in the excavation programme whether these brooches represent either a contemporaneous or different settlement phase at Site XII.

Further to the south at Site XII, a more concentrated and substantial pattern of features were discovered, many of which can be related to the cropmark evidence (Evans & Dickens 2002: Fig 8 Site 30). The first phase consisted of an extensive

enclosure system dating to the later Iron Age. Trench 143 sampled a sub-circular, double-ditched enclosure measuring approximately 0.25 hectares in extent, with a possible entranceway situated to the northwest. Its inner ditch was substantial, measuring approximately 5.30m in width and 1.70m in depth, producing pottery from the Middle to Late Iron Age as well as some 1<sup>st</sup> century AD Roman sherds from its uppermost fill, suggesting it was still open at the time of the Conquest. First interpretations of this enclosure through cropmark analysis tentatively suggested it could be of 'Banjo-type' although this was later rejected. Its size can also be compared to similar enclosures of a comparable date such as Wardy Hill (Evans 2003) and Mingies Ditches (Lambrick 1978), although it does not seem to have the same complex sequence of outer works as associated with the former.

Cropmark evidence shows that the double-ditched enclosure forms part of a much larger enclosure system, the western margins of which were sampled in Trench 142, producing later Iron Age pottery. The enclosure system seems to be more complex than the other Middle-Late Iron Age settlements encountered in the Longstanton investigations. Interpreting its plan is difficult, but a second sub-circular enclosure may be present just to the east of the double-ditched enclosure, raising the possibility of a bi- or poly-focal settlement.

This enclosure system was subsequently overlain by an Early Romano-British system of ditches. These may take the form of rectilinear enclosures and fields on an approximately NW-SE alignment. The small quantities of pottery recovered from the sampled ditches suggest that any settlement in the immediate vicinity was modest in scale. Nonetheless, it can be noted that Site XII is unusual within the wider Longstanton excavations in that it apparently attests direct continuity from the Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British periods. There was little evidence for activity after the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, although two parallel ditches at the southern end of Trench 142, on a slightly different alignment to the nearby Early Roman ditches, may date to the Mid-Late Roman period.

### *Summary*

The evidence obtained from these two fields demonstrates that the different phases of settlement activity is confined to a discreet area and confined within the area defined by both the geophysical and aerial photographic survey data and suggests the settlement has a 'hard edge' as there was deliberate avoidance of the heavier clay soils. However, the palimpsest of ditches, their respective phases and relationships will remain unclear until fully excavated. Nonetheless, during this evaluation three phases of settlement activity were identified; firstly, Iron Age, followed by early conquest period Romano-British and a final mid to late Romano-British settlement. The Iron Age settlement appears to have an 'organic' curving appearance to the enclosures subsequently overlain by the later Romano-British regular grid of boundary and enclosure ditches, on a northeast – southwest alignment.

### **Part 3) Sites XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX and XXX**

*The fieldwork outlined in this section covers 37.44ha, divided between eight fields. Fields 15 to 20 and Fields 23 and 24 are currently agricultural land, and lie between 10m and 15m OD. Fields 15, 16, and 17 were bounded to the south-west by the A14, with Fields 16 and 17 bounded to the northeast by Oakington Brook. Field 18 was bounded to the south-west by the A14, and divided from Field 17 on the west by an innominate brook. To the northeast, the farm track to Slate Hall Farm divided Fields 18 and 19. Fields 19 and 20 were bordered on the southeast by the Dry Drayton Road, and on their western edges by Oakington Brook. Fields 23 and 24 are located to the north of Oakington Brook and Field 20. The landscape gently slopes upward towards the northwest in the direction of Wilson's Road, at approximately 20m OD. The underlying geology is Ampthill dark grey clays (British Geological Survey 1993).*

#### **Field 15 Trenching**

Two trenches were initially machined excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling 180m in length. Top-soil was between 0.26m thick to 0.24m deep, with no sub-soil. No archaeological features were observed in either trenches, which were subsequently backfilled following recording of soil depths.

#### **Site XXVI Field 16 Trenching**

Ten trenches (No 245-253, and 258) were machined excavated in this field, totalling 675.64m, and revealed twelve archaeological features in Trenches 245, 246, 249, 251, 258 and 259. Top-soil varied in depth between 0.27m and 0.22m deep, with sub-soil depths between 0.32m and 0.20m deep. None of the archaeological features contained datable artefacts. The nature of the fills and orientation of the ditches suggest these are prehistoric in date, probably dating to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period.

#### **Site XXVI Field 17 Trenching**

Ten trenches were initially machined excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling approximately 550.13m in length, revealing nine features in Trenches 237, 238, 240, 242 and 257. Top-soil was between 0.26m thick to 0.23m deep, with sub-soil varying between 0.30m and 0.20m deep. The nature of the fills, orientation of ditches and pottery dates these features date to the Late Iron Age and Roman period, although a ditch feature in Trench 237 is identified as Medieval or post-Medieval ridge and furrow.

#### **Site XXVII Field 18 Trenching**

Sixteen trenches (Nos 211-226 and 291) were initially machined excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling 1283.54m in length. A sideways extension to Trench 211 measuring 27m was machined excavated to identify the course of a

presumed palaeochannel found in Trench 226. Although the palaeochannel was not seen in the extension (designated Trench 291 during post-excavation), the trench was recorded in plan as five potential archaeological features were identified, but not investigated further following the sampling strategy adopted for the current programme. Top-soil in Field 18 varied between 0.33m deep and 0.19m deep, and the sub-soil depth between 0.30m deep to 0.15m deep. Seven trenches, Trenches 211, 212, 214, 217, 224, 225 and 226 contained archaeological features. The majority of archaeology was concentrated in Trenches, 211, 212, 214, 217 and 225, revealing a high density of Romano-British occupation that was unexpected. No archaeology was found in Trenches 213, and 218 to 223. These trenches were backfilled following recording of soil depth. Examination of the aerial photographic record of Field 18 showed a complete absence of definitive cropmarks that would have alerted us to the presence of such as high density of features, although disturbance could be seen in the north-western half of the field. Following initial machine excavation significant quantities of pottery and bone were observed both *in situ* and on the spoil heaps. The nature of the archaeological evidence clearly suggested settlement or similarly related activity, thus requiring a sampling strategy to ensure sufficient features were excavated in the time available. Consequently, all features in Trenches 211 and 217 were excavated, only one feature in Trench 214 and no features in Trenches 212 and 225 were investigated. In view of the significance and density of archaeology revealed in Field 18 all of the trenches and spoil heaps were surveyed by metal-detector. This survey produced numerous coins (largely 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century in date), two brooches, bronze vessel fragments, a steelyard weight and a decorative mount and *hipposandale*. A geophysical survey was subsequently carried out across Field 18, revealing a series of possible small enclosures contained within a larger enclosure. Casual observation of the field surface further revealed numerous sherds of abraded Roman pottery, quern fragments and prehistoric flint flakes and cores.

### **Field 19 Trenching**

Twelve trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling approximately 710.06 in length. Top-soil was between 0.36m thick to 0.19m deep, with sub-soil varying between 0.30m and 0.17m deep. Two features were revealed in Field 19, in Trenches 232 and 305, respectively. No other archaeological features were found in the other trenches in Field 19, which were subsequently backfilled after recording the soil profiles. Of note, was the recovery of a Saxon period bone comb. Along with the comb, the nature of the fills in the features suggests these are related, and probably of early Saxon date. Due to the presence of three high-pressure water-mains bisecting the field, it was not possible to further establish the nature of the relationship between the excavated features, or the extent of the archaeology.

### **Site XXIX Field 20 Trenching**

Four trenches were initially machine excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling approximately 281.95m in length. Top-soil was between 0.26m thick to 0.19m deep, with sub-soil between 0.35m and 0.25m deep. With the exception of Trench 303, archaeology was observed in all of the trenches, consisting of a minimum of nine boundary or enclosure ditches. Under the excavation strategy adopted for the



evaluation only selected features were investigated to determine the nature of the archaeological evidence, and to recover potential datable artefacts. Six enclosure ditches were thus excavated. The nature of the fills from these features, pottery and orientation provide evidence of a substantial Middle Iron Age settlement, with a focus of activity most probably towards the modern barn, and a possibly earlier or initial phase delineated by the curved boundary ditch in Trench 301. The discovery of this settlement was unexpected due to the lack of previous evidence of Iron Age activity in this or the adjacent fields, attesting to a higher density of prehistoric activity in the wider environs that exploited the heavier soils.

### ***Site XXX Field 23 Trenching***

Ten trenches (No 378 – 386 and No 389) were initially machine excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling 648.35m in length. Top-soil was between 0.45m thick to 0.15m deep, with sub-soil between 0.83m and 0.25m deep. Twenty one features were revealed in Trenches 378 to 386. The majority of these features consisted primarily of boundary or small enclosure ditches, although two were curvilinear in nature. Two small pits were also revealed in Trenches 382 and 378, respectively. The number of datable finds from these features was limited, confined to two flint blades recovered from two ditches in Trench 385, and abraded sherds of Roman pottery from a ditch in Trench 382, and a ditch in Trench 378. The recovery of a sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery from a ditch in Trench 378 is likely to be residual in origin. The paucity of finds, orientation and nature of the fills of the field boundaries or enclosure ditches suggest these are probably of latter Iron Age origin, which subsequently silted up during the Romano-British period, although a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date cannot be entirely excluded for ditches with a NE-SW orientation.

### ***Site XXX Field 24 Trenching***

Three trenches (No 387, 388 and 390) were initially machine excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling 136.72m in length. Top-soil was between 0.34m and 0.20m thick and the sub-soil between 0.30m and 0.25m in depth. Two small pit-like features were found and hand-excavated in Trench 387. Although these did not contain any finds, the nature and characteristic of the fills suggest these may be contemporaneous with the features excavated in Field 23 and may thus represent the northern limit of settlement activity at Site XXX.

### **Discussion**

This southern area of the proposed roadway revealed a hitherto unexpected density of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement activity and a tantalising glimpse of a probable Saxon settlement adjacent to Dry Drayton Road. The results of geophysical survey in the area, and a flint scatter in Field 21, suggest a pattern of shifting settlement or activity foci that can be placed in a chronological and temporal sequence. The absence of any archaeology in Field 15 is informative as this possibly indicates open space between the co-axial field system in Field 16 and the Iron Age to

early Roman period settlement evidence from Site XII to the west. Combined with evidence for the variable soil quality the evidence from this part of the proposed roadway route the archaeology is indicative of the variable exploitation of poorer heavier clay soils, either due to population pressure, climatic amelioration, improving agricultural technology, or a combination of these factors. The presence of Oakington Brook, and the large innominate stream entering the brook at the corner of Fields 17 and 18, and lighter less clayey soils would also suggest that higher poorer quality areas were used primarily for less intense agricultural activity from the later Iron Age onwards.

Although a Mesolithic flint scatter was known from Site I, further evidence of prehistoric activity was revealed at Site XXVI (Fields 16 and 17), Site XXVII (Field 19), and Site XXX (Fields 23 and 24). A flint scatter was also observed at Site XXVIII (Field 21) during a geophysical survey. Datable material from these sites is limited, but it is clear that a Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement pattern can be discerned from the field boundary and limited pottery evidence, suggesting a shift in settlement focus from higher contours, with heavier clay soils, to the lower ground near Oakington Brook. This is reflected at Site XXVI, where evidence of a co-axial field system is concentrated, dating from Iron Age, and probably continuing in use until the early Roman period, after which the field boundaries underwent realignment. The recovery of burnt organic material from F.739 in Trench 245 and bone and pottery from Trench 246 (both Field 16) provides good evidence of food processing, storage and cooking, although no settlement structures were positively identified at this site, despite the recovery of an almost complete, albeit broken, Iron Age vessel from a pit in Trench 237 (Field 17), and immediately adjacent to Trenches 245 and 246. Although there is a lack of good structural evidence, the co-axial field system is replicated across the two fields of Site XXVI, indicating a discreet zone of settlement activity.

A similar interpretation of the limited field boundary evidence from Sites XXIX and XXX is also possible, although the latter may have its origin in the Late Bronze or Early Iron Age, with a shift in settlement foci to Site XXIX during the Middle Iron Age. Unfortunately, determining the precise density and extent of this activity was hindered by the presence of a modern farm building and a newly planted crop in Field 20, thus preventing trial trenching here (in this field geophysical survey revealed a possible series of enclosure ditches and a flint scatter). The evidence from these sites, and those in the wider landscape, suggest two possible scenarios; movement of settlements within the landscape over time, or regular spacing of settlement foci, with little movement of these until the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The first of these scenarios has been outlined above, and offers a reasonable interpretive framework for the ephemeral nature of some of the evidence. The second scenario is attractive only in that it helps to explain the absence of prehistoric archaeology between identified sites within the wider landscape. However, it is possible that the density of Romano-British archaeology at Site XXVII has masked any underlying Iron Age or earlier settlement evidence in Field 18, especially as the recovery of a Late Iron Age brooch from the Oakington Brook palaeochannel hints at this possibility.

The discovery of dense large boundary and enclosure ditches with sherds of Roman pottery, bone and metalwork exposed after initial machine excavation revealed the

presence of a previously unknown Romano-British settlement or building. The lack of earlier evidence for this settlement may be due to a change in soil type and the channel of Oakington Brook, thus reducing any potential contrast in cropmarks that would have been observable on aerial photographs, such as the concentration at Site XII. The large quantity of features required a selective sampling strategy. All features in Trench 211 and Trench 217 were hand excavated, and a single boundary ditch, F.781, in Trench 224. Features in Trench 212 and Trench 225 were planned. In addition to the excavation in Trenches 211 and 217, the palaeochannel situated in the northern end of Trench 226 was investigated as both metal objects and pottery had been recovered from its surface. A full metal-detector survey of all features and trenches was also undertaken, resulting in the recovery of several coins, a bracelet, a *hipposandal* (un-nailed horseshoe), and a probable casket mount.

Discerning the characteristic and nature of the Romano-British archaeology in Field 18 is in many respects hindered by the large number of boundary ditches, oriented predominately northeast – southwest, identified in trenches limited to the width of the machine bucket, and the recovery of substantial quantities of pottery, bone, shell and building material. The majority of this pottery dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, and includes Nene Valley Ware, sherds of Samian, *Mortaria*, and food vessels. Significantly, the building material consisted of *tegulae* (roof-tile), *tubulae* (box-flue), floor-tile, and *pedilis* (pier-tile). This argues for the presence of a building that incorporated a furnace for heating; a hypocaust. Usefully, a geophysical survey of Site XXVII has enabled the boundary ditches to be extrapolated, which suggest a series of enclosures were located in the northern corner of Field 18, possibly facing or respecting the alignment of the small brook. Combined with the lack of further archaeological evidence from trenches in the rest of Field 18, the geophysical survey and excavated features demonstrate that there was possibly two phases of occupation in the northern corner of Site XXVII, surrounded by large enclosure ditches and outer smaller boundary ditches. At some stage after the later 1<sup>st</sup> century AD a small, but important, building was constructed adjacent to and exploiting Oakington Brook. Coins recovered from the site narrow the date of possible construction to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, although this may be an introduced bias into the interpretation due to their recovery from high in the stratigraphic sequence.

Establishing the status of this building was not possible due to the limited area of exposed underlying archaeology. Nonetheless, the artefacts recovered from Site XXVII reveal it was connected to and incorporated into the wider Roman world, with access to items of value and use, for example, imported Samian and lava-querns (recovered from the plough surface as a stray find), and was sufficiently wealthy or important to merit the construction of a hypocaust. The recovery of the *hipposandal* from Trench 217 is tantalising as this suggests the stabling (temporary or otherwise) of horse within the enclosure, pointing to this being a farmstead or, more remotely, an official building such as a posting station (the mount recovered from Trench 211 may be of military origin). The quantity of artefacts and density and type of Romano-British archaeology recovered from this evaluation at Site XXVII reveal the presence of an important building or structure warranting further detailed investigation.

In terms of the Medieval and post-Medieval periods the presence of ridge and furrow in Fields 16, 17 and 19 is not unexpected as these have been observed both archaeologically and on aerial photographs in the wider landscape. The lack of

securely datable material from these fields for Medieval and post-Medieval activity further underpins the known history of the area as predominantly agricultural in nature with a mixture of open-field systems and pasture. This landscape remained largely unaltered until the inclosures of the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, when many of the extant field boundaries and road layout seen today were created. Interestingly, the current orientation of several fields along the A14 may preserve not only more recent landscape re-organisation, but may also preserve more ancient division and thus merit further investigation.

### *Summary*

The discovery of a three settlement foci potentially spanning the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and mid Romano-British periods reflects a dense occupation of the Longstanton – Oakington landscape through prehistory into the Roman phase of occupation. The exploitation of heavier soils in these areas may also reflect periods of climatic amelioration and higher population densities and it will be useful to relate this settlement activity to exploitation of the area during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, as witnessed by the flint scatter found during geophysical surveying at Site XXVIII and the known Mesolithic site at Site I. The presence of the Romano-British complex at Site XXVII is of particular significance due to the dense and complex nature of the archaeology found here and will provide invaluable information on settlement patterns and land use in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD in an area dominated by clay soils and located on a potentially marginal zone. The potential presence of a Saxon settlement in the immediate vicinity of Site XXVII and XXIX also cannot be entirely excluded. Although Saxon activity is attested in Longstanton, the possible presence of a further settlement in this area warrants further evaluation.

#### **Part 4) Sites XVI, XVIII, XXXII (Fields P1 – P3), and IX (Field J)**

*The fieldwork outlined in this section covers approximately 39.5ha, divided between five fields and two areas within the runway taxi-riiad. Fields P1 to P3 are currently agricultural land and lie at approximately 9m OD, sloping gently away towards the northeast and the 5m OD contour. Field J lies to the west of Rampton Road and is currently used for horticultural purposes and market gardening. The area within the runway taxi-road is generally level, although a slight rise in ground level is observable from the south to the north. The immediate area is characterised by the former RAF airfield at Oakington and its ancillary buildings, surviving hangers, storage facilities, outworks and defensive structures (Evans & Dickens 2002: Fig 9). The underlying geology is Amptill dark grey clays (British Geological Survey 1993)*

The Airfield (designated Field P) contained 34 trenches totalling 2438m in length. A further 14 trenches could not be excavated due to the presence of unexploded ordnance. Five trenches were also opened on Field J, immediately east of the airfield.

#### **Site XVI**

Site XVI, in the southern portion of the airfield, was plotted geophysically as several adjoining enclosures, assumed to be Iron Age. Trench 358 crossed this site, and produced mid to late Iron Age pottery. Site XV, lying on the eastern edge of the Reception Centre, also revealed by geophysics to consist of a rounded enclosure, produced predominantly 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman pottery with a small amount of 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman, and three sherds of Middle Iron Age pot.

#### **Site XVIII and Site XXXII – Fields P1, P2 and P3 Trenching**

Site XVIII, predominantly lying within Field P1, proved to be a large site, partially defined by both geophysics and aerial plots, but also extending north-eastwards as far as Trenches 324, 326 and 327. Given that archaeology is present in Trenches 333 and 353, it is clear that a substantial settlement site exists, with pottery predominantly dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D., although isolated features, producing mid to late Iron Age pottery were encountered in Trench 328, and the entire site had a scattering of similarly dated sherds, most probably residual. A small quantity of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherds were recovered from Trench 333.

Faint cropmarks were trenched in Field P3, but most of the features exposed were unimpressive or demonstrably post Medieval, although one small ditch produced Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery. The remaining trenches in Fields P3 and P2 contained a relatively low density of mostly sterile features. Nonetheless, those in the northwest corner of P2, Site XXXII, suggest a possible co-axial field system is present, possibly connecting the settlement at Site XVIII and Site IX (Field J).

### ***Site IX – Field J Trenching***

Trenches 359 to 363 in Field J lay over the well-plotted cropmarks of Site IX. Although features corresponding to the cropmarks were exposed, little actual settlement activity was uncovered, and artefact density was low. Only 25 sherds of Roman pottery were collected in total, and 21 of those were from a single vessel. One small pit in Trench 359 contained Middle Bronze Age material.

## Bibliography

- Brudenell, M. 2004. *Archaeological Investigations at Rickett Field, Granta Park, Cambridgeshire*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 639
- Cessford, C. & Mackay, D. 2004 *Cambridgeshire Guided Busway: A Series of Archaeological Evaluations*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 591
- Evans, C. 2003. *Power and Island Communities: Excavations at the Wardy Hill Ringwork, Coveney, Ely*. East Anglian Archaeology Series 103
- Evans, C., Dickens, A. 2002. *Longstanton New Settlement, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Desktop Assessment*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 489
- Evans, C., Mackay, D. 2004. *Longstanton, Cambridgeshire: A Village Hinterland. Archaeological Investigations 2004*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 609
- Evans, C., Mackay, D., Webley, L. 2004. *Excavations at Addenbrooke's Hospital: the Hutchinson Site*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 609
- Gdaniec, G. 1992. *Archaeological Investigations at Hatton's Farm, Longstanton: Part II Watching Brief Monitoring*. Cambridge Archaeological Report 57
- Johnson, A.E. 2004. *Longstanton, Cambridgeshire.: Topsoil Magnetic Susceptibility & Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey*. Oxford Archaeotechnics Surevy Ref 2900404/LOC/CAU
- Lambrick, G. 1978. Iron Age settlements in the Upper Thames Valley. In B. Cunliffe and T. Rowley (eds.) *Lowland Iron Age Communities in Europe*. British Archaeological Reports International Series (Supplementary) 48
- Patten, R. 2004. *Archaeological Investigations at Striplands Farm West*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 648
- Webley, L. 2005. Evaluation Survey and Excavation at Wandlebury Ringwork, Cambridgeshire, 1994-97: Part II, The Iron Age Pottery. In *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 94: 39-45.
- Wright, A.P.M., Lewis, C.P. 1989. Northstowe Hundred. In A.P.M. Wright and C.P. Lewis (eds.) *Victoria County History of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely*. Vol IX. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 113-266

## **Appendix – Specialist Reports (Interim)**

### ***Lithics*** – Emma Beadsmoore

#### ***Field 21***

Six flints were recovered from the surface of Field 21; a core, a core rejuvenation flake, a waste blade and three waste flakes. The core was systematically worked off a series of platforms until it was exhausted, producing predominantly small and narrow flakes towards the end of its use life. It was then burnt. The core rejuvenation flake provides further evidence for systematic and controlled flake production/core reduction; a section of an opposed platform blade core was removed in order to extend the use life of the core. This type of systematic flake production is a common feature of Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic assemblages. Further evidence for Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flake production/core reduction strategies is provided by a waste blade and potentially also a flake fragment and a small narrow flake. The final flake is the product of slightly different technology, and is morphologically more compatible with later Neolithic material.

### ***Prehistoric Pottery*** – Matt Brudunell

583 sherds of Later Prehistoric pottery, weighing 7164g were recovered from the Longstanton evaluation.

#### ***Site XIV***

147 sherds weighing 668g were recovered from the site. All are handmade sherds in the Middle/Later Iron Age tradition and are dated (c.350BC-c.50AD).

#### ***Site XII***

Features from Site XII yielded 136 sherds weighing 1307g. 86% of the pottery belonged to the handmade Middle/Later Iron Age tradition. The remaining pottery was either wheel turned Late Iron Age pottery, or handmade pottery imitating Late Iron Age forms. This pottery can be dated c.50BC-c.50AD. As pottery conventionally termed Middle/Later Iron Age continued to be made alongside Late Iron Age forms, it is possible that the whole assemblage post-dates c.50BC.

#### ***Site XXVI***

55 sherds weighing 232g were recovered from Site XXVII. With the exception of a single sherd from a Late Iron Age wheel turned vessel, all the pottery is handmade and dated to the Middle/Late Iron Age.

#### ***Site XXIX***

76 sherds of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery, weighing 1238g, were recovered from a single ditch at Site XXIX. The pottery derived from two vessels, one partially complete.



### *Site XXX*

A single flint-tempered sherd weighing 3g was recovered from the site. Based on the fabric the sherd is assigned to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (c.1100-400BC).

### *Site XVI*

Site XVI yielded 16 sherds weighing 169g. The bulk of the assemblage comprises handmade sandy wares typifying the Middle/Later Iron Age, though six sherds belonging to handmade Late Iron Age forms were also present. A date after c.50BC is suggested for the assemblage.

### *Site XVIII*

146 sherds weighing 3534g were recovered from Site XVII. The assemblage contains material from the Late Bronze Age though to the Roman Conquest. The bulk of the Later Prehistoric pottery (74%) belongs to the Middle/Later Iron Age. 5% of the assemblage comprises sherds in flint tempered fabrics typical of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron, and 21% comprises sherds characteristic of the Late Iron Age.

### *Site IX*

4 sherds weighing 1g were recovered from the site. The sherd is handmade but undiagnostic. The fabric suggests a Later Prehistoric date (c.1100BC-c.50AD).

### *Site XV*

3 sherds weighing 28g were recovered from the site. All are dated to the Middle/Later Iron Age.

### ***Roman Pottery*** – Kati Anderson

A total of 2182 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 25462g, were recovered from the Longstanton evaluations.

<b>Field</b>	<b>No. of sherds</b>	<b>Wt(g)</b>	<b>Mean Wt(g)</b>
1B	167	1793	10.7
8	3	4	1.3
9	1	3	3
13	63	366	5.8
15	1	14	14
16	18	250	13.9
17	269	553	2.1
18	903	9763	10.8
19	1	7	7
23	3	45	15
J	25	424	17
P	728	12240	16.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2182</b>	<b>25462</b>	<b>X</b>

Table 3: Showing the quantities of Roman pottery by field.

### *Site XII*

Features around Site XII contained a total of 230 sherds weighing 2159g. The majority of the sherds date 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD, although those which could be more specifically dated tended to be 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. A number of features within this site contained residual Iron Age pottery.

### *Site XXV*

Four sherds of Roman pottery weighing 7g were recovered from trenches around this site, all of which were non-diagnostic sandy greywares which could only be dated Romano-British.

### *Site XXVII*

A total of 1172 sherds of Roman pottery (10316g) were recovered from features around this site. The vast majority were from features within Field 18, consisting of 903 sherds weighing 9763g (c.77%). The bulk of the pottery from this field was mid 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD in date and included Nene Valley wares and several Central Gaulish Samian sherds.

The pottery from Field 17 (269, weighing 553g) was earlier with a mid 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, although the evidence from this field may be slightly misleading since 264 of the sherds were from a single vessel.

### *Field P – The former airfield*

Field P yielded 730 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 12259g. Most of the sherds date 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD, although a small number of features contained early Roman pottery (mid-late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD). For example, Feature 867 ten early Roman sherds. There were also several features within this field which contained residual Iron Age pottery.

### *Field J – The former airfield*

25 sherds of Roman pottery (424g) were collected from features within Field J, 21 of which were from a single vessel. All of the pottery was mid 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD