MAYTON WOOD, BUXTON WITH LAMMAS, NORFOLK

A 'Strip, Map and Record' Excavation

Emma Beadsmoore

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MAYTON WOOD, BUXTON WITH LAMMAS, NORFOLK

A 'Strip, Map and Record' Excavation

Emma Beadsmoore

With contributions from Craig Cessford, David Hall,
Chris Swaysland and Anne de Vareilles

Cambridge Archaeological Unit
University of Cambridge
2007
Report No.765

Contents

Cambridge Archaeological Unit carried out a 'strip, map and record' excavation at Mayton Wood, Buxton with Lammas (NGR: 624170 321440) in late summer 2006. The excavation exposed two potentially Roman ditches which had been identified in, and extended from, the 2005 excavation area. A total of 22 shallow pits with considerable evidence of burning were also revealed distributed across the site. Two comparable pits exposed during the 2004 excavation yielded a Middle Saxon radiocarbon date. Finally, evidence for previously unidentified medieval activity was provided by a number of substantial pits enclosed by a corner of a ditch.

Introduction

A 'strip, map and record' excavation was carried out by a team of archaeologists from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit between 22nd August and 14th September 2006 at Mayton Wood, Buxton with Lammas, Norfolk. Frimstone Ltd commissioned the excavation in response to a brief set out by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Gurney 2003). The excavation followed an archaeological specification, produced by the CAU (Gibson 2004) and agreed by David Gurney, Principal Archaeologist, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

Location, topography and geology

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) was to the south east of Buxton with Lammas; 11.1 km north of the centre of Norwich at NGR 624170 321440 (Figure 1). The PDA, the area of proposed mineral extraction, totalled 9.3 ha; the 2006 0.8 ha phase of field work was in the south-western section of the PDA, immediately to the north of the 2005 and 2004 excavation areas. The 2006 area dropped in height from 15.5 m OD at the northern edge, to 14.9 m OD at the southern edge, and had underlying glacial sand and gravels (Institute of Geological Sciences 1977).

Archaeological background

The PDA's archaeological background was presented in the field survey report (Beadsmoore & Hall 2003). Consequently in this report archaeological evidence within and around the development area is summarised, briefly outlined and combined with the results of the field survey and 2004 and 2005 phases of excavation.

A series of ring ditches, a rectilinear enclosure and a linear feature identified from crop marks outside the PDA (HER No. 12786) provide evidence for prehistoric activity nearby; whilst more ephemeral evidence within the PDA is supplied by the earlier Neolithic and later prehistoric flint recovered during the field survey (Beadsmoore and Hall 2003). A single sherd of Roman pottery, one bronze 3rd century AD Roman coin and a piece of potentially Roman metalwork recovered during the field survey provided limited evidence for Romano-British activity in the PDA (Beadsmoore and Hall 2003). Evidence that was enhanced by the identification of six probable Romano-British ditches exposed during the 2004 and 2005 excavations (Patten 2004, Bishop 2005).

The preceding excavation phases also exposed previously unidentified evidence for Anglo Saxon activity in the PDA (Patten 2004, Bishop 2005). A series of burnt pits, comparable in form, dimension and fill types were exposed; 27 were revealed during the 2004 excavation (Patten 2004) and 11 during the 2005 excavation (Bishop 2005). Radiocarbon analysis of charcoal from two of the pits yielded calibrated dates of 690 to 900 AD (Patten 2004).

Traces of medieval activity in the nearby area were comparatively abundant prior to the survey and excavation, and took the form of a deserted medieval village and a 15th

century house on a moated site (HER No. 7649), a nearby market and several wells (HER No. 25747). However the field survey (Beadsmoore and Hall 2003) yielded only one medieval artefact and no evidence for medieval activity was exposed in the 2004 and 2005 excavations (Patten 2004, Bishop 2005).

Methodology

An area of 8228 square meters (0.8 ha) was machined with a toothless ditching bucket on a 360° tracked machine. Topsoil and deposits overlying the archaeology were removed under archaeological supervision; the site was metal detected whilst machining was underway. All of the archaeological features in the machined area were planned immediately and subsequently sampled. A minimum of 50% of each discrete feature and 10% of each linear was excavated.

Excavation was carried out by hand and all finds were retained. The recording followed a CAU modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990); assigning context numbers (e.g. [fill], [cut]) to stratigraphic units and feature numbers, F., to interrelated stratigraphic units (e.g. a ditch's cut and fills). Base plans were drawn at 1:50, sections at 1:10. The photographic archive comprises colour and black and white slides as well as digital images. A representative range of features were bulk sampled. The site was fixed to the OS grid and a contour survey undertaken with an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) and a Global Positioning System (GPS). All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation and with the recommendations of SCAUM (Allen and Holt 2002). The Norfolk Historic Environment Record assigned County Number 39833 BVX to the project.

The archive

112 contexts were excavated and recorded and the site yielded 514 artefacts. The documentary records and accompanying artefacts have been assembled into a catalogued archive in line with Appendix 6 of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991), and are being stored under site code 39833 BVX at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit offices.

Report structure

The report comprises one main section; the results, which are presented chronologically. The specialist reports are in the appendices.

Figure 1. Location map

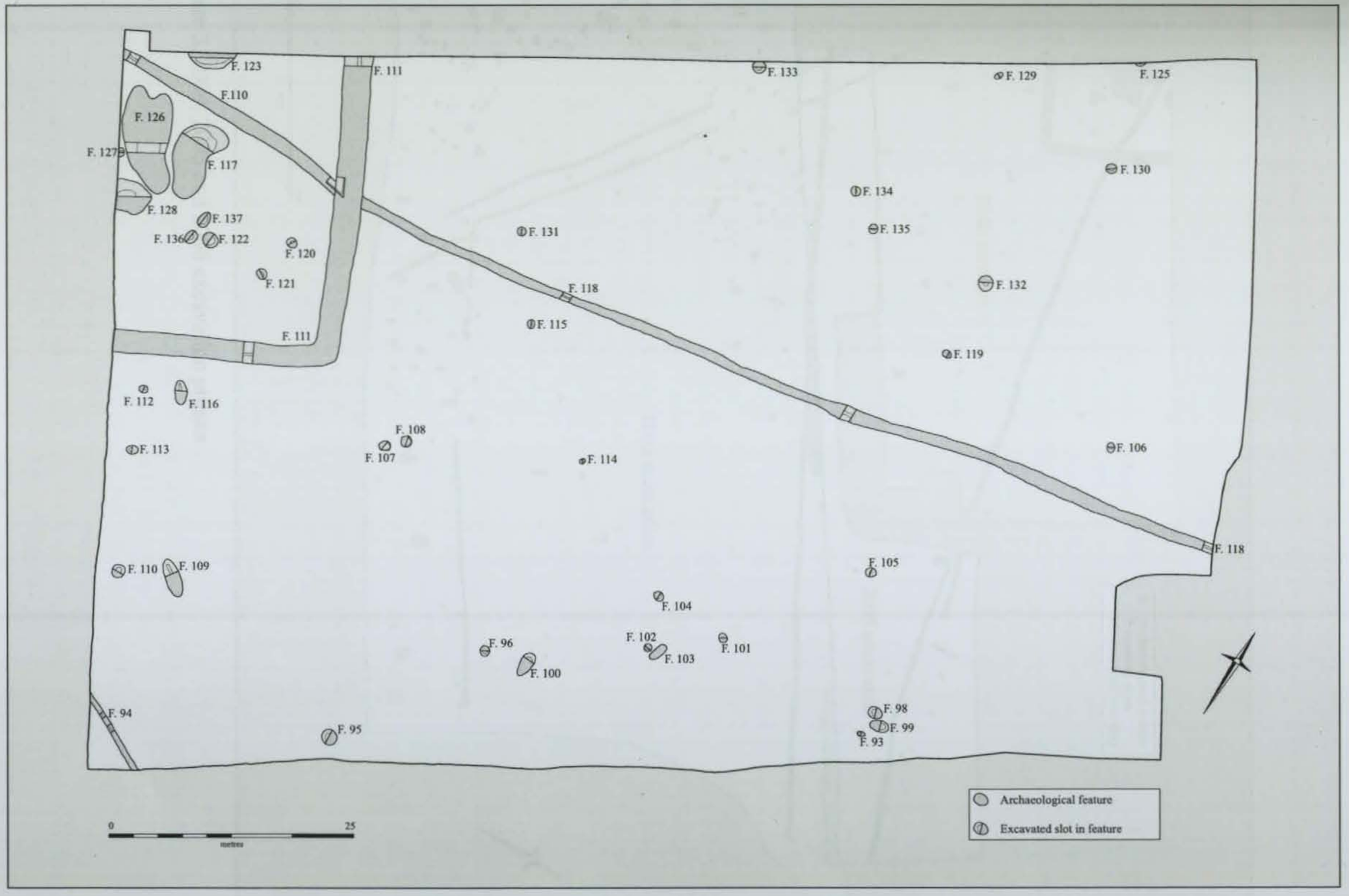

Figure 2. Site plan

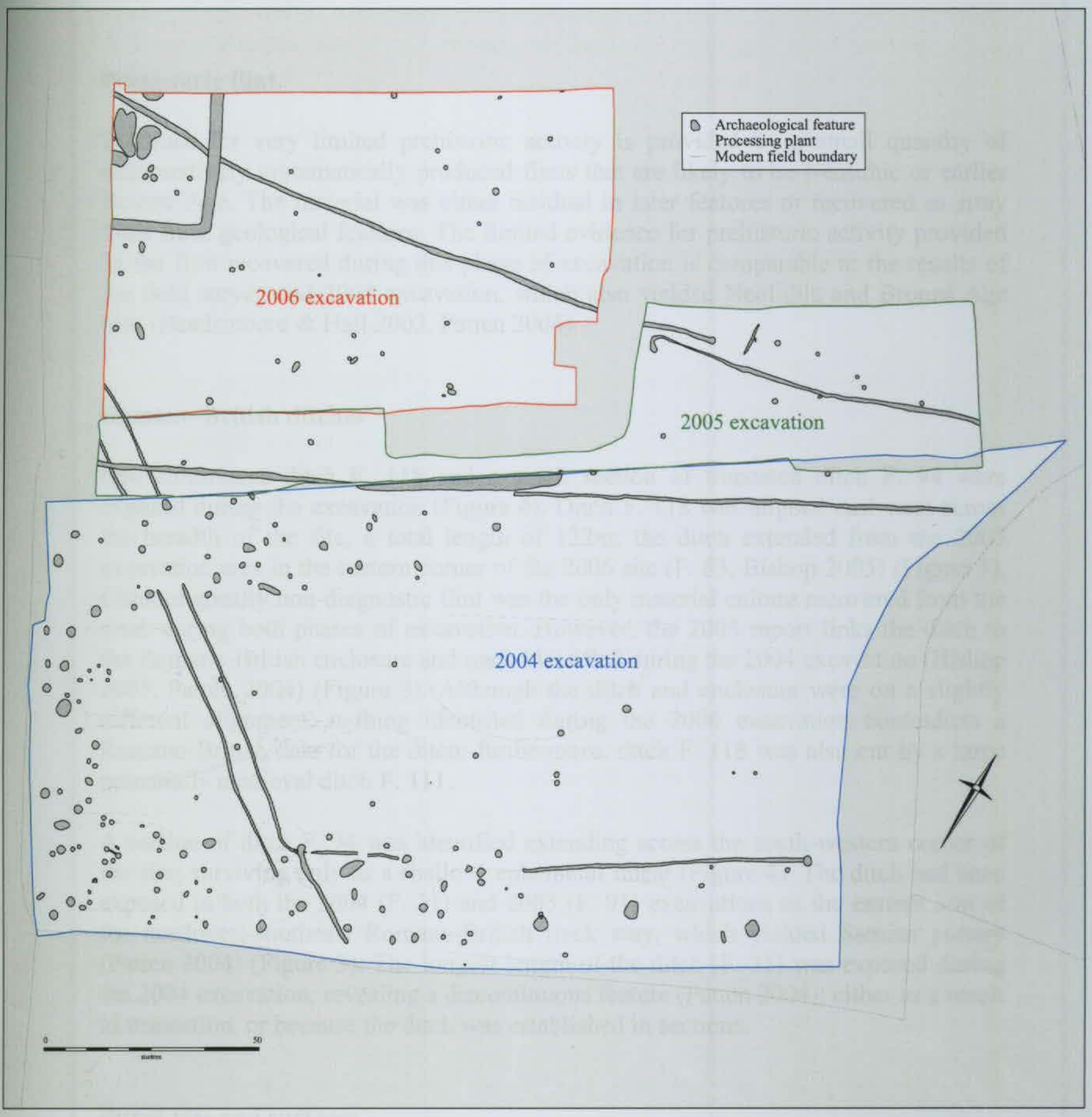

Figure 3. 2004, 2005 and 2006 excavation phases

Results

All of the features exposed during the excavation are shown with the contours on the site plan (Figure 2).

Prehistoric flint

Evidence for very limited prehistoric activity is provided by a small quantity of comparatively systematically produced flints that are likely to be Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age. The material was either residual in later features or recovered as stray finds from geological features. The limited evidence for prehistoric activity provided by the flint recovered during this phase of excavation is comparable to the results of the field survey and 2004 excavation, which also yielded Neolithic and Bronze Age flint (Beadsmoore & Hall 2003, Patten 2004).

Romano-British ditches

One continuous ditch **F. 118** and a small section of truncated ditch **F. 94** were exposed during the excavation (Figure 4). Ditch F. 118 was aligned east-west across the breadth of the site, a total length of 122m; the ditch extended from the 2005 excavation area in the eastern corner of the 2006 site (F. 83, Bishop 2005) (Figure 3). Chronologically non-diagnostic flint was the only material culture recovered from the ditch during both phases of excavation. However, the 2005 report links the ditch to the Romano-British enclosure and track identified during the 2004 excavation (Bishop 2005, Patten 2004) (Figure 3). Although the ditch and enclosure were on a slightly different alignment, nothing identified during the 2006 excavation contradicts a Romano-British date for the ditch; furthermore, ditch F. 118 was also cut by a large potentially medieval ditch **F. 111**.

A section of ditch F. 94 was identified extending across the south-western corner of the site; surviving only as a shallow, ephemeral linear (Figure 4). The ditch had been exposed in both the 2004 (F. 31) and 2005 (F. 91) excavations as the eastern arm of the northwest-southeast Romano-British track way, which yielded Samian pottery (Patten 2004) (Figure 3). The longest length of the ditch (F. 31) was exposed during the 2004 excavation, revealing a discontinuous feature (Patten 2004); either as a result of truncation, or because the ditch was established in sections.

Burnt pits and surfaces

The excavation revealed twenty-two burnt pits (**F. 98**, **F. 101**, **F. 102**, **F. 104**, **F. 105**, **F. 106**, **F. 107**, **F. 108**, **F. 112**, **F. 113**, **F. 115**, **F. 119**, **F. 120**, **F. 121**, **F. 122**, **F. 125**, **F. 129**, **F. 130**, **F. 131**, **F. 132**, **F. 133** and **F. 134**) (Figure 5). A common thread connecting all of the pits was a charcoal rich fill contained within a bowl shaped cut. The dimensions varied between 0.8m and 1.65m long, 0.58m and 1.5m wide and 0.09m and 0.42m deep.

However, the pits were not completely uniform; in addition to the charcoal rich main fill, eight of the pits had an underlying burnt natural layer (F. 102, F. 106, F. 108, F. 113, F. 125, F. 130, F. 132 and F. 133) suggesting that material was sometimes burnt within the features themselves. Several other pits contained patches and lumps of burnt natural within the charcoal rich main fills, suggesting that the fills were sometimes either disturbed post-burning, or deposited in the pits after the burning had taken place.

One of the pits (F. 129) contained an incomplete layer of burnt natural overlying the main charcoal rich fill. The natural may have been used to put out the fire within the pit or the contents of the pit may have been turned over post burning, bringing the burnt natural nearer to the top of the feature. Whilst another pit (F. 131) had a charcoal tip line down one side, suggesting either that the fill was disturbed post burning, or potentially deposited in the feature once the burnt material had already been generated.

The large fragments, quantity and quality of the charcoal in a sample taken from one of the pits F. 132, suggests either that the charcoal was generated in the pit, or that it was deposited straight from a fire into the pit (see de Vareilles - Appendix 4). The majority, and potentially all of the charcoal is oak (A. Clapham pers. comm.).

One of the pits (F. 102) had an adjacent and presumably associated burnt surface **F. 103** (Figure 5). The compacted burnt natural patch could have been scorched when burning material was retrieved from the main pit. However, a second comparable, but isolated burnt surface **F. 135** was exposed that lacked a close spatial relationship with any of the burnt pits. Two adjacent burnt surfaces **F. 136** and **F. 137** were also exposed, which had an underlying, discontinuous layer of large nodules of flint, several of which were understandably scorched. Surface F. 136 yielded a small fragment of Roman pottery that is likely to be residual, inadvertently incorporated into the surface when it was established. Although these two surfaces differ slightly in character to the other burnt patches, they all have evidence of intense or sustained burning and are therefore potentially linked.

Several of the pits yielded flint and burnt flint, although none of the worked flint is chronologically diagnostic (see flint report – Appendix 1). Charcoal from two of the pits exposed during the 2004 excavation provided calibrated radiocarbon dates of AD 690 to 900, dating the pits to the Middle Saxon period (Patten 2004). No contemporary settlement evidence or material culture was exposed or collected; suggesting that the pits are potentially industrial in character. The features are the possible truncated remains of charcoal burning pits; an interpretation put forward in the 2004 excavation report (Patten 2004). Charcoal would have been a useful product, allowing the temperature during smelting/manufacturing to be more readily controlled. The variability between the pit fills could be explained as a consequence of the underlying burnt natural mixing with the charcoal rich fills when the charcoal was cleared out of the pits. On other occasions, the charcoal was potentially accessed without disturbing the underlying burnt natural lens. Equally, the thin lens of charcoal down one side of one of the pits may be the only remaining trace of the charcoal that was produced in the pit; the majority was cleared away, leaving the pit to gradually silt up.

Figure 4. Romano-British features

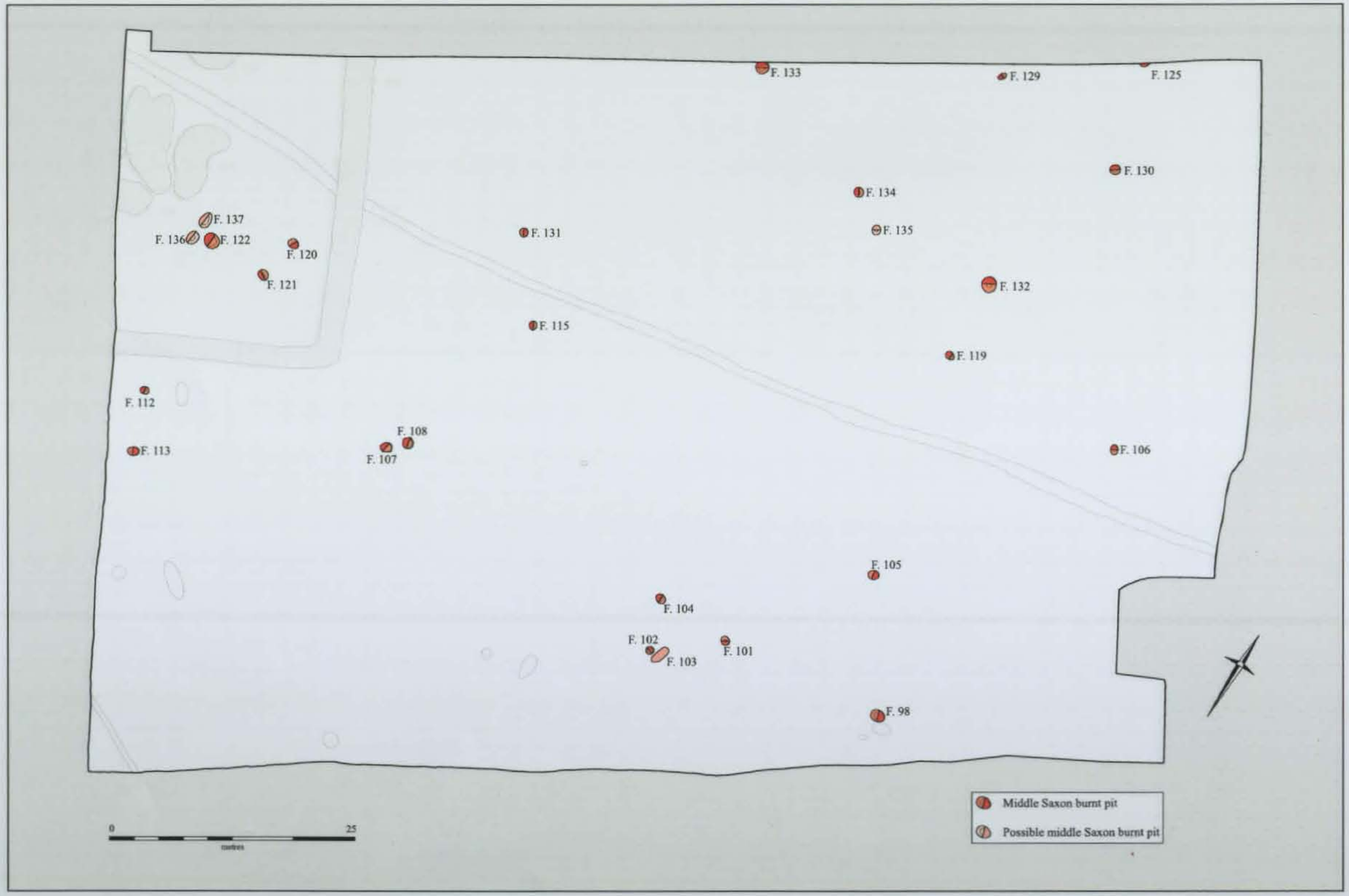

Figure 5. Middle Saxon features

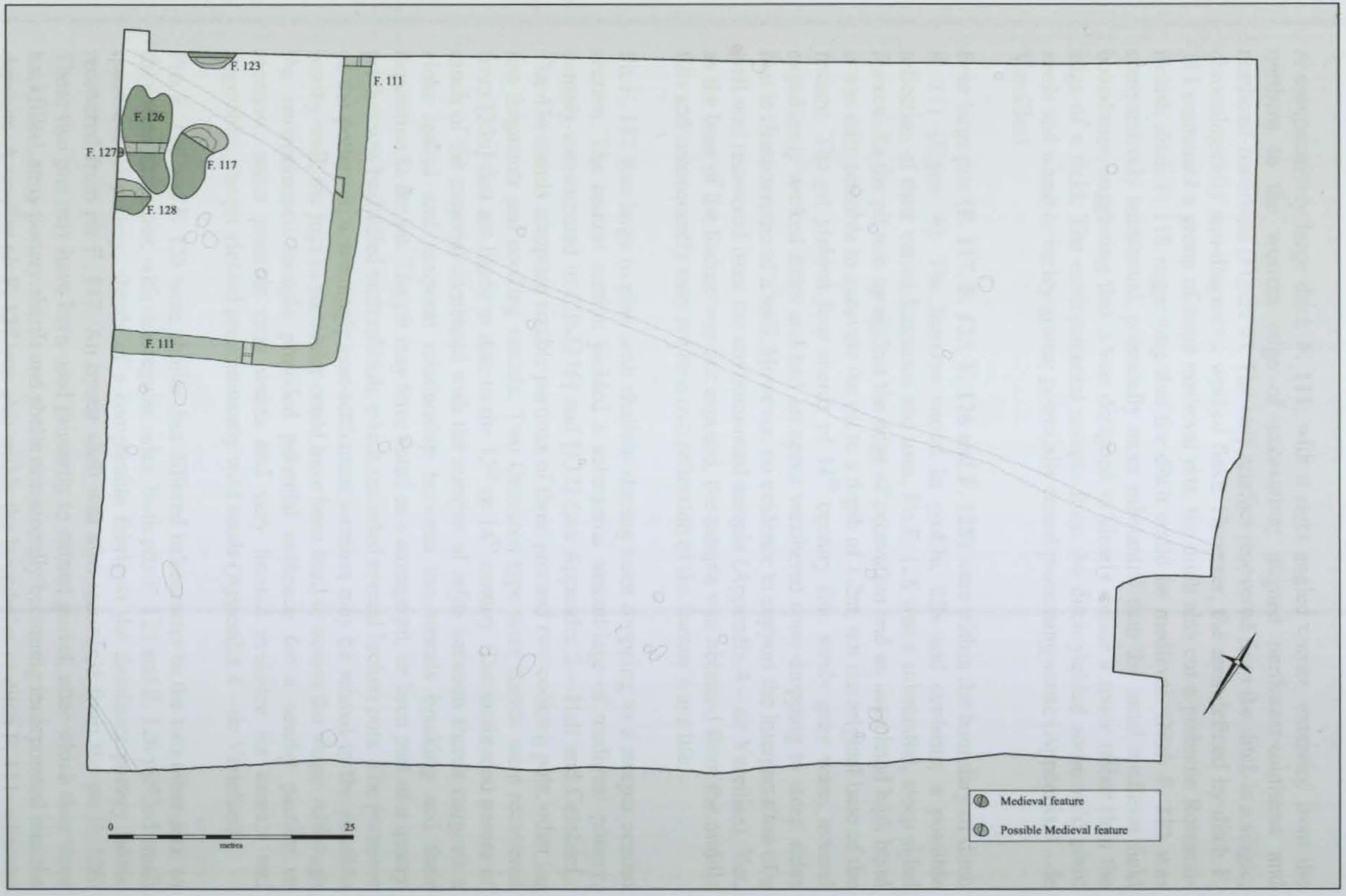

Figure 6. Medieval features

Medieval features

A comparatively large ditch **F. 111**, with a right angled corner, extended from the northern to the western edge of excavation; aligned northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest (Figure 6). The only artefact recovered from the ditch is a single, chronologically non-diagnostic worked flake. However, the area defined by ditch F. 111 contained a group of large medieval pits, the ditch also cut a probable Romano-British ditch F. 118 suggesting that the ditch could be medieval. Ditch F. 111 was comparatively substantial, potentially more substantial than the usual medieval field boundaries, suggesting that it was designed to clearly define a space rather than the edge of a field. The environmental sample from the ditch yielded some wild plant seeds and wheat or barley grains; potentially cereal processing waste (Appendix 4 - de Vareilles).

Four large pits (**F. 117**, **F. 123**, **F. 126** and **F. 128**) were within the boundary of ditch F. 111 (Figure 6). The features varied in profile, fills and contents; a possible reflection of their varied functions and uses. Pit F. 128 was a substantial, steep sided feature. As the pit was up against the edge of excavation and an associated high bund it was only possible to excavate the pit to a depth of 1.2m, not the original base of the feature. The pit yielded four sherds of 14th century fine sandy grey ware, several expediently worked flints and had an upper weathered cone dropping to steep sides that is characteristic of a well. However, no evidence to support the interpretation of a well was recovered from the environmental sample (Appendix 4 – de Vareilles). Yet, as the base of the feature was not exposed, the sample was obtained from the middle fills and consequently may not be a true reflection of the feature's use life.

Pit F. 117 was large in plan with shallow sloping sides dropping to a steeper central section. The central section yielded a substantial assemblage of medieval pottery, densely concentrated in fills [336] and [337] (see Appendix 2 – Hall and Gessford). The 434 sherds comprise sizable portions of three jars and two cooking pots, other jar rim fragments and cooking vessels. Two Grimston type ware sherds were recovered from [336] that are likely to date to the 13th or 14th century. The unabraded nature of much of the material combined with the number of refits between sherds suggests a close spatial and temporal relationship between the vessels breaking and their deposition in the pit. The pit may have acted as a storage pit, or been part of a quarry pit that was backfilled with rubbish, which included several broken pots. The presence of the pottery in a seemingly non-settlement location may be related to the possible nearby well; the jugs in particular could have been used to access the water. Although the environmental sample provided potential evidence for a nearby pasture or meadow, some possible crop weeds and very limited evidence for cereals and vegetables, the pit yielded predominantly wild seeds (Appendix 4 – de Varielles).

Pits F. 126 and F. 123 were similar, but differed in character to the two other pits; as they were shallower, with less regular sides. Both pits F. 123 and F. 126 yielded small quantities of pottery; sherds of a comparable fabric to the dominant pottery fabric recovered from pit F. 117. An oyster shell was also recovered from the pit F. 126. These two pits may have been used primarily to extract gravel, after which they were backfilled, stray pottery sherds and shells occasionally becoming incorporated into the deposits. A smaller pit **F. 127** was also within the boundaries of ditch F. 111; adjacent

to the possible well F. 128 and one of the quarry pits F. 126. The pit yielded a sherd of pottery similar in character to the material recovered from the nearby pits.

Undated features

Nine remaining features were exposed at the site; one tree throw **F. 99**, and eight pits **F. 93**, **F. 95**, **F. 96**, **F. 100**, **F. 109**, **F. 110**, **F. 114** and **F. 116**, none of which contained any clearly chronologically diagnostic material (Figure 2). Pits F. 93, F. 95, F. 96 and F. 100 and tree throw F. 99 all yielded worked flint. The material was expediently manufactured and betrayed no concern with, or control over the form of the removals, which is characteristic of flint working from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. The pits varied in dimension, form and fill type. Two of the pits F. 114 and F. 116, contained evidence for burning, which potentially links them to the Middle Saxon burnt pits. Yet the Saxon pits were comparatively uniform in dimension and form, whilst pit F. 114 was noticeably smaller and pit F. 116 was oval and larger.

Discussion

The only evidence for prehistoric activity recovered from the excavation was in the form of an occasional residual worked flint. The Romano-British ditch was the earliest subsurface, more substantial archaeology exposed at the site. The ditch extended across the length of the site, from the eastern edge of excavation where it was identified during the 2005 phase (Bishop 2005), across to the western corner of the 2006 excavation area. The ditch potentially formed part of the enclosure and field system identified during the 2004 and 2005 excavations (Patten 2004 & Bishop 2005) (Figure 3). As in the earlier phases of excavation, the lack of contemporary discrete features or material culture suggests that the ditches articulated agricultural rather than settlement spaces.

The most abundant features exposed at the site comprised 22 burnt pits and 4 burnt surfaces. The uniformity amongst the pits suggests they were broadly contemporary and served a common function; with evidence for burning as the underlying theme present in all of the features. The fills suggest that wood was the fuel, burnt in the pits themselves, but the fills were then disturbed post burning, potentially to remove material that had been processed. The burnt surfaces yielded no firm dating evidence, but were probably related to the activities that produced the pits. Charcoal from comparable pits exposed during the 2004 excavation was radiocarbon dated, and yielded a Middle Saxon date (Patten 2004). No material culture or stratigraphic relationship was exposed during this excavation to contradict that date. Again, as with the Romano-British field system, no discrete features or material culture associated with the pits was recovered from the site, suggesting that their function was more likely to be industrial rather than settlement related. The pits may potentially be the result of small scale activities carried out repeatedly by small groups, either concurrently or episodically, focused on burning wood, potentially to produce charcoal. The pits' charcoal rich fills also suggest that wood was readily available in the landscape, whereas the Romano-British field system is more compatible with a comparatively open landscape.

The medieval activity exposed during the excavation was confined to the western corner of the site, contained within a substantial ditch that is likely to be broadly contemporary. A group of large pits within the ditch include a potential well and several quarry pits; types of features that do not necessarily have to be associated with settlement. Although, one of the pits yielded a large pottery assemblage, which suggests that the location was well used, there should have been more medieval material in the plough soil if the pits and ditch were part of a medieval settlement; the field survey yielded just one medieval artefact. The area may have been used to source gravel and access water; the jugs and cooking pots potentially utilised to obtain water, some were dropped, broken and then discarded in one of the redundant quarry pits.

Conclusion

The 2006 'strip, map and record' excavation added to and enhanced the previous phases of excavation and field survey carried out at the site. The probable Romano-British ditches identified during the 2004 and 2005 excavations were exposed continuing into the 2006 area. Additional probable Middle Saxon burnt pits were revealed spread across the excavation area. The distribution and quantity of the pits exposed so far within the PDA, suggests that the activities that produced the pits were carried out across the area, with no clear evidence for clusters or foci. A distribution that is suggestive of small groups of people either repeatedly returning to carry out specific tasks, or undertaking those tasks at the same time but in different areas, potentially in woodland clearings. The strong theme of burning and the quality of the charcoal suggests not only that wood was readily available, but also that the pits may have been used to produce charcoal. Several potentially contemporary and related burnt surfaces were also exposed; a type of feature that was not encountered during the 2004 and 2005 excavations. The 2006 excavation also exposed evidence for previously unidentified medieval activity clustered in the western corner of the site. The series of large pits, contained within a potentially contemporary ditch, included a possible well and several probable quarry pits and yielded a comparatively large assemblage of $13^{th}/14^{th}$ century pottery, potentially utilised and broken whilst accessing the water from the possible well.

Appendix 1

Flint – Emma Beadsmoore

A total of 67 (<3007g) flints were recovered from 14 features at the site. One flint was recovered from the Romano-British ditch; the Anglo-Saxon burnt pits and the burnt surface yielded 37; whilst 13 were recovered from the medieval ditch and pits, the remaining 16 flints were stray finds from geological features across the site.

The Romano-British ditch yielded one chronologically non-diagnostic chunk. Several of the flints recovered from the medieval ditch and pits were also chronologically non-diagnostic (Table 1). However, F. 128 yielded a worn flake with evidence for systematic flake production/core reduction, suggesting that it potentially dates from the Neolithic through to the Early Bronze Age. In contrast, several other flakes and an irregular core were the products of expedient flake production/core reduction with no concern over, or investment in the form of the removals or the use life of the core. This type of expedient flint working was prevalent from the Middle Bronze Age onwards.

	Type				
Feature/ context	chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	irregular core	**Totals**
118 [358]	1				1
111 [344]			1		1
117 [336]			1		1
128 [373]	2	1	7	1	11
Sub totals	3	1	9	1	14

Table 1 – Flint from the Romano-British ditch and medieval features

The flint recovered from the burnt pits comprises predominantly, and predictably, unworked burnt chunks (Table 2). The few flints that were worked, were chronologically non-diagnostic and included several chunks that seem to have either just been tested or used to remove a couple of flakes.

The remaining 16 flints were recovered from undated features and as stray finds from geological features (Table 3). Many of the flints are chronologically non-diagnostic. A couple of the stray finds and a flake from F. 96 are the products of comparatively systematic flake production/core reduction, suggesting that they are potentially Neolithic through to Early Bronze Age, although the link is very tentative. Several other flakes, irregular cores and an end scraper are the products of expedient flint working, and potentially date from the Middle Bronze Age onwards.

Feature/ context	Type: chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	unworked chunk	Totals
104 [310]					3	3
108 [318]	1	1		1	2	5
130 [376]					5	5
132 [384]			1		20	21
137 [396]	2				1	3
Sub totals	3	1	1	1	31	37

Table 2 – Flint from the burnt pits and surface

Feature/ context	Type: chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	end scraper	irregular core	Totals
93 [282]			2	1			3
95 [289]	1		1				2
96 [290]			1				1
99 [299]						1	1
100 [300]			1		1		2
stray		1	3	2		1	7
Sub totals	1	1	8	3	1	2	16

Table 3 – Flints from undated features and stray finds

The limited amount of flint recovered from the site comprises predominantly unburnt worked chunks and chronologically non-diagnostic flint working waste and tested nodules. In amongst this material, a couple of the flints have tentative traces of systematic flake production/core reduction suggesting that they could be earlier prehistoric. Another small group of flints are the product of a more expedient flake production/core reduction strategy and potentially date from the Middle Bronze Age onwards; flint continued to be utilised from later prehistory, through to the post medieval period. These flints could potentially be broadly contemporary with the archaeological features that they were recovered from; although if they were utilising flint in the Romano-British, Anglo Saxon and Medieval periods at the site, it was in very limited quantities.

Appendix 2

Medieval pottery - Craig Cessford and David Hall

Introduction

The site of Mayton Wood produced a small but significant assemblage of pottery, the majority of which is Medieval. With the exception of one probable Roman sherd <076> [397] F. 136 weighing 10g, the assemblage is 13th or 14th century and consists of 445 sherds weighing 6473g. The Medieval material comes from five features, but the vast majority comes from F. 117.

F.117

In total F. 117 produced 433 sherds of pottery weighing 6376g, this came from two fills [336] (332 sherds, 4660g) and [337] (101 sherds, 1716g). The pottery was quite densely concentrated in these two fills and there was no material in the other fills of F. 117, indicating that this was effectively a single specific dump of material. The majority of the material was a fineware with a grey sandy fabric (372 sherds, weighing 5198g); there was also some coarseware with a red fabric and a small amount of Grimston type ware.

The fineware has a sandy grey fabric; some is oxidised on both sides, some is reduced on both sides and some is mixed. Based on refitting sherds and rim forms there appear to be substantial portions of five vessels present, three jars and two cooking pots. The mean sherd weight is 14.0g, however, this includes some very small fragments that probably broke during or after excavation and a more realistic figure would be c.40g.

Vessel 1: jug with 9cm diameter rim, attached handle with simple thumbed decoration. c.50% of rim present.

Vessel 2: jug with 10cm diameter rim, with spout present. Although not directly refitting, probably associated with a simple handle based on rim form. c.70% of rim present.

Vessel 3: jug with 9cm diameter rim, with spout present. c.55% of rim present.

Vessel 4: cooking pot with 22cm rim diameter. c.35% of rim present.

Vessel 5: cooking pot with 20cm rim diameter. c.75% of rim present.

In addition to these five vessels there are a number of other rim fragments from both jugs and cooking bowls, indicative of perhaps as many as another 14 vessels all represented by less than 10% of the rim. Although less complete many of these rim sherds are relatively large and unabraded indicating that they are unlikely to be residual. The fabric and forms of these vessels parallels that of 13th and 14th century cooking pots and jugs from Norwich (Jennings 1981, 41-50). Possible sources include Woodbastwick and Potter Heigham located north-east of Norwich (Jennings 1981, 41; McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 266).

Parts of probably a single coarseware vessel (59 sherds, weighing 1157g) with a red fabric was found in both [336] (26 sherds weighing 513g) and [337] (33 sherds, weighing 644g), with cross-fits between the two contexts. The base was c.26cm in diameter and over half was present, the rim was of similar diameter but only around 20% was present. Mean sherd weight was 19.6g, although again a value of c.40g would perhaps be more realistic. There was distinct 'pocking' of the vessel particularly around the outside of the rim. Although classified as coarseware the material is in fact only slightly poorer quality than the fineware.

In addition there were two sherds of glazed Grimston type ware in [336] weighing 21g. Grimston ware from west Norfolk dates to between the 12th and 15th centuries (Jennings 1981, 50-60; Leah 1994), but is most commonly of 13th or 14th century date. Nearly all the medieval glazed jugs from Norwich are of Grimston type ware, although it is uncertain if it derives from Grimston itself or a more local source (Jennings 1981, 50).

Other Features

The four other features produced very small quantities of pottery, mainly similar to the dominant fabric from F. 117. In total, including the Grimston type ware from F. 117, there were 13 sherds weighing 118g, giving a mean sherd weight of 9.0g, this is lower than for the semi-complete vessels.

F. 123 [354]
One sherd from a fineware vessel with a grey sandy fabric weighing 6g.

F. 126 [364]
Three sherds from a fineware vessel with a grey sandy fabric weighing 25g.
One sherd of glazed Grimston type ware weighing 4g.
One sherd from a coarseware vessel with a pink fabric weighing 21g.

F. 127 [367]
One sherd from a fineware vessel with a grey sandy fabric weighing 4g,

F. 128 [373]
Four sherds from a fineware vessel with a grey sandy fabric weighing 37g.

Conclusion

The assemblage from F. 117 representing six semi-complete vessels from a single pit is of some interest and warrants publication. It is recommended that further work is made to identify cross-fits and all semi-complete vessels are reconstructed and illustrated. Other rim forms should also be illustrated. Additionally, a search could be made for local parallels to the vessels fabrics and forms. How these vessels came to be deposited in F. 117 is unclear, given the distance from contemporary building and the most likely explanation is that these jugs were brought into this area as complete

vessels and then broken in the immediate vicinity. Semi-complete vessels are occasionally found some distance away from buildings, perhaps indicating that they were used for drinking by agricultural workers who brought them with them from the nearby settlement and accidentally broke them. Although jugs were mainly used in a domestic context there are depictions of thirsty harvesters drinking straight from jugs (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 110). Given the proximity of a possible well F. 128 it is perhaps most likely that the vessels were used as containers for water from the well and were broken as a group as a result of an accident.

Appendix 3

Faunal Remains - Chris Swaysland

Just one specimen of animal bone, broken into 3 refitting fragments, was recovered from the site. The specimen was recovered from F.128 a pit dated to the medieval period. The condition of the specimen is good. The bone has been identified as a fragment of a sacrum from a large mammal most probably *Bos. Taurus*.

Appendix 4

Assessment of Bulk Environmental Samples - Anne de Vareilles

Methodology

Four 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 4.

Preservation

All plant remains were preserved through carbonisation. All samples contained modern rootlets and at least two or more modern seed types, indicative of bioturbation through which macro remains may have been lost and/or displaced. All except F.132 had blind burrowing snail shells (*Ceciloides acicula*), also a sign of context disturbance. Few other molluscs were detected; their habitats are listed in Table 4.

Anglo-Saxon Pit, F.132 [384]
This sample contained no seeds but a large quantity of charcoal. The size, quality and quantity of the charcoal suggest it either formed *in situ* or was dumped into the pit

straight from the fire. The assemblage seems to be mostly, if not entirely, composed of oak (A. Clapham pers. comm.).

Medieval Quarry Pit, F.117 [336]
A single cereal grain and a possible garden pea were found in this sample, along with six wild plant seeds. The buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus / repens / acris)* may have grown on a meadow or pasture. The other plants could have been crop weeds. No chaff other than a piece of straw was found.

Medieval Ditch, F.111 [323]
A little charcoal, three wheat or barley grains (*Triticum / Hordeum*), a grass stem node and two wild plant seeds were extracted. This assemblage is probably cereal processing waste.

Possible Medieval Well, F.128 [382]
There is no indication from the macro remains that this feature was a well. Very little charcoal, an emmer or spelt wheat grain (*T. dicoccum / spelta*) and the fragment of a grass seed were found.

Conclusion

None of the samples examined contained much grain or seeds. The residual cereals suggest crop processing and/or consumption occurred in the vicinity. Oak appears to have been burnt in the Anglo-Saxon pit F.132, as well as in several other pits across the site.

Sample number		<27>	<24>	<25>	<29>
Context		[384]	[336]	[323]	[382]
Feature		132	117	111	128
Feature type		Pit	Quarry pit	Ditch	Possible Well
Phase/Date		Anglo Saxon	Medieval	Medieval	Medieval
Sample volume in litres		13	15	16	12
Flot fraction examined		1/4	1/1	1/1	1/1
Cereals					
Triticum dicoccum / spelta.	Emmer or Spelt wheat grain				1
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat / Barley grain		1	3	
Pulses					
cf. *Pisum sativum*	Possible Garden Pea		1		
Wild Plant Seeds					
Ranunculus bulbosus / repens / acris	Meadow / Creeping / Bulbous Buttercup		1		
Rumex conglomeratus / sanguineus / obtusifolius	Small seeded Dock			1	
Veronica hederifolia	Ivy-leaved Speedwell		1	1	
Indeterminate Poaceae frag.	Indet. grass seed fragment				1
Medium Poaceae	Medium grass seed		1		
Small Poaceae	Small grass seed		2		
Indeterminate cotyledon			1		
Modern seed varieties		+	+	+	-
Modern rootlets		+	+++	++	+
Charcoal					
>4mm		+++	-		
2-4mm		+++	+	+	
<2mm		+++	+++	++	++
Vitrified			-		
Parenchyma fragments	Undifferentiated plant storage tissue			-	-
Culm node	Grass stem node		1	1	
Mollusca	Habitat				
Cochlicopa lubrica/lubricella	Damp areas, moss, etc.			-	
Vallonia sp.				+	-
Ceciloides acicula	Blind burrowing snail		+++	+	++
Trichia sp.	Various habitats		++	+	-
Helicella itala	Dry, grassy, calcareous ground				-

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

Table 4 - Archaeobotanical Remains from 39833 BVX

Appendix 5

Feature descriptions

Romano-British ditches

F. 94 SE-NW ditch; truncated with a surviving length of 3m. Two slots, [285] and [287] were excavated. Width varied between 0.55m to 0.75m; depth between 0.11m to 0.17m, both had sides sloping moderately to a concave bases. The fills [284] and [286] were uniform mid brownish silty sands and no finds.

F. 118 NW-SE ditch with a visible length of 120m. Five slots, [339], [343], [353], [357] and [360] were excavated. Width varied between 0.85m and 1.36m; depth between 0.31m and 0.51m. The sides sloped moderately to a concave base. Four of the slots had single fills; [338], [342], [352], [356], which varied between light to dark brownish silty sand with no finds. The fifth slot had two fills; [359] dark brown silty sand with no finds; [358] medium brown silty sand, contained worked flint. The ditch was cut by ditch F. 111.

Burnt pits and surfaces

F. 98 Burnt pit; [297] length 1.1m; width 1m; depth 0.2m; circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. Fill: [296] dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal; no finds.

F. 101 Burnt pit; [303] length 0.95m; width 0.9m; depth 0.3m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a flat base. Fill: [302] dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches; [308] mid brownish grey silty sand with rare gravel and occasional charcoal; no finds.

F. 102 Burnt pit; [305] length 0.8m; width 0.8m; depth 0.15m; circular in plan with sides sloping moderately to a concave base. Fill: [304] dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches; [307] lens of fired reddish sand; no finds.

F. 103 Burnt surface; [306] length 1.8m; width 0.8m, oval in plan, comprising a mid pinkish red fired sand; no finds.

F. 104 Burnt pit; [310] length 1m; width 0.95m; depth 0.23m; circular in plan with sides sloping moderately to a flat base. Fill: [309] dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches; contained burnt flint.

F. 105 Burnt pit; [312] length 1.1m; width 0.95m; depth 0.22m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a flat base. Fill: [311] dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches but no finds.

F. 106 Burnt pit; [314] length 1m; width 0.85m; depth 0.18m; circular in plan with sides sloping moderately to a concave base. Fill: [313] dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches but no finds.

F. 107 Burnt pit; [316] length 1.15m; width 1m; depth 0.2m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a flat base. Fill: [315] dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches but no finds.

F. 108 Burnt pit; [318] length 1.2m; width 1.1m; depth 0.22m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a concave base. Fill: [317] dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches; contained burnt stone.

F. 112 Burnt pit; [326] length 0.9m; width 0.8m; depth 0.42m, circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a concave base. Fill: [325] dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches, containing worked flint.

F. 113 Burnt pit; [328] length 1.2m; width 0.9m; depth 0.17m; circular in plan with sides sloping moderately to a concave base. Fill: [327] mid greyish brown silty sand with common charcoal patches; contained burnt stone.

F. 115 Burnt pit; [332] length 0.9m; width 0.75m; depth 0.25m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a concave base. Fill: [331] dark greyish black silty sand with frequent charcoal patches, but no finds.

F. 119 Burnt pit; [341] length 0.9m; width 0.75m; depth 0.2m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a flat base. Fill: [340] dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches but no finds.

F. 120 Burnt pit; [347] length 1.08m; width 1m; depth 0.32m; circular in plan with sides sloping quite steeply to a concave base. Fill: [346] dark greyish brown silty sand with very frequent charcoal patches but no finds.

F. 121 Burnt pit; [349] length 1.15m; width 0.95m; depth 0.32m; circular in plan with sides sloping quite steeply to a concave base. Fill: [348] dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches but no finds.

F. 122 Burnt pit; [351] length 1.65m; width 1.50m; depth 0.2m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a flat base. Fill: [350] dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal patches; contained worked flint.

F. 125 Burnt pit; [363] length /; width 0.99m, depth 0.16m; partially visible but probably circular in plan with sides sloping gently to a rounded base. Fill: [361] dark brownish black silty sand with frequent charcoal; [362] lens of reddish orange burnt natural; contained burnt flint.

F. 129 Burnt pit; [375] length 0.81m; width 0.58m; depth 0.27m; sub-circular in plan with sides sloping moderately to a rounded base. Fill: [374] mid brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks; contained flint.

F. 130 Burnt pit; [378] length 1.16m; width 0.92m; depth 0.09m; sub-circular in plan with sides sloping gently to a flat base. Fill: [376] dark brownish black sandy silt with

frequent charcoal flecks, contained burnt flint and stone; [377] lens of burnt reddish orange sand, contained burnt flint and stone.

F. 131 Burnt pit; [380] length 1.0m; width 0.9m; depth 0.27m; circular in plan with sides sloping moderately to a concave base. Fill: [379] dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks, but no finds.

F. 132 Burnt pit; [386] length 1.5m; width 1.38m; depth 0.27m; sub-circular in plan with sides sloping gently to a rounded base. Fill: [384] dark brownish black silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks, contained burnt flint and stone; [385] lens of burnt reddish orange sand.

F. 133 Burnt pit; [389] length 1.36m; width 1.28m; depth 0.14m; sub-circular in plan with sides sloping moderately to a flat base. Fill: [387] dark brownish black silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks; [388] lens of burnt reddish orange sand.

F. 134 Burnt pit; [391] length 1m; width 0.85m; depth 0.18m; circular in plan with sides sloping moderately to a concave base. Fill: [390] dark brownish grey silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks, but no finds.

F. 135 Burnt surface; [393] length 1m; width 0.80m; depth 0.20m; circular in plan with sides sloping quite steeply to a concave base. Fill: [392] reddish brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks, but no finds.

F. 136 Burnt surface; [395] length 1.44m; width 1.3m; diameter 1.44m; depth 0.17m; sub-circular in plan with irregular sides sloping to a flat base. Fill: [394] reddish orange clay sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks; contained flint and Roman pottery.

F. 137 Burnt surface; [397] length 1.77m; width 1.15m; depth 0.24m; sub-circular in plan with irregular sides sloping to a flat base. Fill: [396] reddish orange clay sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and a layer of flint nodules, but no finds.

Medieval features

F. 111 E-W to N-S enclosure ditch, with a visible length of 52m; Three slots, [324], [345] and [371], were excavated. Width varied between 2.70m and 2.90m; depth between 0.70m and 0.95m. The E-W section had sides sloping moderately to a broad, flat base; whilst the N-S section had steep sides and a narrow, concave base. Two slots had single fills [323] and [344], which were dark greyish brown silty sand, occasionally containing worked flint. The third slot had two fills; [370] a light greyish brown silty sand with no finds, and [369] a medium brown silty sand with no finds.

F. 117 Pit; [337] length 8.15m; width 2.9m; depth 0.94m, irregular in plan with sides sloping quite steeply to a concave base. Fill: [336] mid greyish brown silty sand; contained medieval pottery; [372] light greyish brown silty sand with no finds.

F. 123 Pit; [355] length /; width 4.5m; depth 0.17m; only partially visible in plan, the sides sloped gradually to a flat base. Fill: [354] dark greyish brown clay sandy silt; contained medieval pottery.

F. 126 Pit; [366] length 11.05m; width 3.80m; depth 0.37m; irregular in plan with varying sides and a flat base. Fill: [364] light greyish brown silty sand; [365] mid greyish brown silty sand; contained medieval pottery and worked flint.

F. 127 Pit; [368] length 0.95m; width /; depth 0.25m; circular in plan with sides sloping quite steeply to a concave base. Fill: [367] mid greyish brown silty sand; contained medieval pottery.

F. 128 Pit; [373] length 3.70m; width /; depth >1.20m; irregular in plan with steep sides. Fill: [381] light brown silty sand, contained worked flint; [382] dark brown silty sand, contained medieval pottery.

Undated features

F. 93 Pit; [283] length 0.82m; width 0.5m; depth 0.63m; oval in plan with sides sloping steeply to a concave base. Fill: [282] light brown silty sand; contained worked flint.

F. 95 Pit; [289] length 1.8m; width 1.68m; depth 1.1m; oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Fill: [288] light brown silty sand; contained worked flint.

F. 96 Pit; [291] length 1.1m; width 0.96m; depth 0.46m; circular in plan with steepish sides sloping to a concave base. Fill: [290] mid brown silty sand, containing worked flint; [292] mid brown silt with frequent patches of pale greyish white sand, with rare gravel inclusions and no finds.

F. 99 Tree throw; [299] length 1.95m; width 1.2m; depth 0.3m; irregular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base. Fill: [298] dark brown silty sand; contained worked flint.

F. 100 Pit; [301] length 2.5m; width 1.5m; depth 0.48m; oval in plan with sides sloping steeply to a flat base. Fill: [300] dark brown silty sand with rare fine gravel inclusions; contained worked flint.

F. 109 Pit; [320] length 4m; width 1.5m; depth 0.75m; oval in plan with sides sloping steeply to a concave base. Fill: [319] dark brown silty sand; no finds

F. 110 Pit; [322] length 1.4m; width 1.35m; depth 0.55m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to a flat base. Fill: [321] dark brown silty sand; no finds.

F. 114 Pit; [330] length 0.65m; width 0.6m; depth 0.2m; circular in plan with sides sloping quite steeply to a concave base. Fill: [329] dark grey silty sand with frequent charcoal patches but no finds.

F. 116 Pit; [335] length 2.5m; width 1.25m; depth 0.62m; circular in plan with sides sloping steeply to an irregular base. Fill: [333] dark brown silty sand; [334] lens of burnt red sand; no finds.

Acknowledgements

Frimstone Ltd commissioned the work, whilst David Gurney (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) oversaw the Development Control. The team who excavated, recorded and interpreted the site is listed below. The assistance and cooperation of Budd, Jim and Neil on behalf of Frimstone was greatly appreciated. Particular thanks to Chris for his careful machining of the site. Donald Horne surveyed the site and Bryan Crosnan and Vicky Herring provided the computer and digital illustrations. Gwladys Monteil and the finds team washed, sorted and catalogued the material culture.

List of contributors

Excavation Team

Matthew Collins
TonkoRajkovaca

Project Management

David Gibson

Post-excavation

Emma Beadsmoore (flint)
Craig Cessford (medieval pottery)
Chris Swaysland (faunal remains)
Anne de Varielles (archaeobotany)

Contract Specialists:

David Hall

References

Allen, J.L. & Holt, A. 2002. *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology*, SCAUM.

Beadsmoore, E. and Hall, A. 2003 *Mayton Wood, Buxton With Lammas, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation by Field Survey 39833BVX* CAU Report No. 586

Beedham, G.E. 1972. *Identification of the British Mollusca.* Bath: Pitman Press

Bishop. B. 2005. Mayton Wood, Buxton with Lammas, Norfolk: A 'Strip, map and sample' excavation. *Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No.*

Gibson, D. 2004 *Mayton Wood, Buxton With Lammas, Norfolk Planning ref: C/5/ 2002/5007 Project specification for 'Strip Map and Sample' excavation* CAU

Gurney, D. 2003. *Brief for 'Strip, Map and Sample' Archaeological Excavation at Mayton Wood, Buxton With Lammas, Norfolk.* Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Institute of Geological Sciences 1977 *Geological Survey Ten Mile Map South Sheet First Edition (Quaternary)* Scale 1:625000

Jennings, S. 1981. Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich, *East Anglian Archaeology No. 13*

Leah, M. 1994. The Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery Industry of Grimston, Norfolk: Excavations 1962–92, *East Anglian Archaeology No. 64.*

McCarthy, M. R. & Brooks, C. M. 1988. *Medieval Pottery in Britain AD 900-1600.* Leicester University Press.

Patten, R. 2004. Mayton Wood, Buxton with Lammas: A 'Strip, map and sample' excavation. *Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No.* 649.

Spence, C. 1990. *Archaeological site manual.* MOL.

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: cambridg3-25735

Project details

Project name	Mayton Wood 2006
Short description of the project	Cambridge Archaeological Unit carried out a 'strip, map and record' excavation at Mayton Wood, Buxton with Lammas (NGR: 624170 321440) in late summer 2006. The excavation exposed two potentially Roman ditches which had been identified in, and extended from, the 2005 excavation area. A total of 22 shallow pits with considerable evidence of burning were also revealed distributed across the site. Two comparable pits exposed during the 2004 excavation yielded a Middle Saxon radiocarbon date. Finally, evidence for previously unidentified medieval activity was provided by a number of substantial pits enclosed by a corner of a ditch.
Project dates	Start: 22-08-2006 End: 14-09-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 5 - Mineral extraction
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Early Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	ECOFACT Uncertain
Investigation type	'Open-area excavation'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BROADLAND BUXTON WITH LAMMAS Mayton Wood, Buxton with Lammas 2006
Study area	0.80 Hectares

Site coordinates	TG 24125 21407 52.7432516334 1.320816326770 52 44 35 N 001 19 14 E Point
Height OD	Min: 14.00m Max: 15.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	David Gibson
Project director/manager	David Gibson
Project supervisor	Emma Beadsmoore
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	39833BVX
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	39833BVX
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Database','GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	39833BVX
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Mayton Wood, Buxton with Lammas; a 'Strip, Map and Record' Excavation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Emma Beadsmoore
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 765
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Place of issue or publication	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Entered by	Emma Beadsmoore (elb43@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	30 March 2007

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice