
Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

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Contents

Mary Desborough Cra'ster, 1928–2008 John Pickles, Peter Gathercole, and Alison Taylor	7
A fen island in the Neolithic and Bronze Age: excavations at North Fen, Sutton, Cambridgeshire Leo Webley and Jonathan Hiller	11
A fen island burial: excavation of an Early Bronze Age round barrow at North Fen, Sutton Aileen Connor	37
The Bartlow Hills in context Hella Eckardt with Amanda Clarke, Sophie Hay, Stephen Macaulay, Pat Ryan, David Thornley and Jane Timby	47
Senuna, goddess of the river Rhee or Henney Stephen Yeates	65
A reappraisal of the evidence for the 'northern arm' of the Fleam Dyke at Fen Ditton Scott Kenney	69
An excavation at Station Quarry, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire Laura Piper and Andrew Norton	73
Excavations at Scotland Road/Union Lane, Chesterton Duncan Mackay	77
A curious object from Firs Farm, Caxton Aileen Connor	89
A morphological analysis of Ickleton, Cambridgeshire: an admission of defeat Christopher Taylor	91
Funerals, the final consumer choice? Ken Sneath	105
The 'Age of the Windmill' in the Haddenham Level N James	113
Upware and Bottisham sluices K S G Hinde	121
Changes in the landscape of west Cambridge, Part V: 1945 to 2000 Philomena Guillebaud	127
The CAS Collection of Cambridgeshire 'Sketches' John Pickles	143
Fieldwork in Cambridgeshire 2008 Tom Lyons, Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu and Sarah Poppy	147
Reviews Christopher Taylor, Christopher Brookes, Evelyn Lord and Sam Lucy	163
<i>Index</i>	167
<i>Abbreviations</i>	173
Recent Accessions to the Cambridgeshire Collection Chris Jakes	175

Excavations at Scotland Road/Union Lane, Chesterton

Duncan Mackay

with contributions by Matt Brudenell, Craig Cressford, David Hall,
Chris Swaysland and Anne de Vareilles

The development of new housing on the corner of Scotland Road and Union Lane, Chesterton, provided the opportunity for an open-area excavation. Non-continuous activity dating from the Early Iron Age through to the sixteenth century was revealed, with probable domestic occupation of the site in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. In comparison to adjacent sites, and perhaps because it was on the periphery of medieval settlement, the site was relatively late to develop in the twelfth century, and quick to be abandoned in the fourteenth century.

Introduction

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) carried out an open-area excavation ahead of building work at the junction of Union Lane and Scotland Road, Chesterton, in July 2005 (TL 4621 5996; Mackay 2006; Figs 1 & 2). Previous evaluation fieldwork had produced ambiguous results (Grant & Wilkins 2002), but adjacent sites showed medieval properties lining the street front (Hall 1999; Armour 2001b). Work to the west, on the Chesterton Workhouse/Hospital Site, revealed limited medieval activity further along the line of Union Lane (Armour 2001a; Hatherley 2001; Mackay 2000), and investigations at Oban Court immediately north-west revealed no medieval activity, although modern disturbance may have accounted for this (Fell 1999). In addition, a study on the origins of Chesterton based on recent archaeological work has been published in this journal (Cressford & Dickens 2004) and the reader is referred to this in the first instance. Cartographically, the excavation area has always been portrayed as vacant, although nineteenth century maps show buildings running right up to the edge of the excavation area. The site lies at an approximate height of 8m OD, on a geology of Second Terrace gravels, c. 0.5km north of the River Cam.

Excavation Results

Iron Age

Prehistoric material dating to the Early Iron Age was recovered from both primary and residual contexts. The residual material occurred in the greatest quantity, almost all from the same feature, and representing an impressive assemblage.

The single securely dated early Iron Age feature was pit F44. This was a small pit that yielded twelve pieces of early Iron Age pot, eleven of them from the same burnished 'Darmsden-Linton' style bowl (see Brudenell below, and Fig. 5.3). The only other feature likely to be of Iron Age date was F23, the butt-end of a partially surviving gully or elongated pit. A single small sherd of flint-tempered pottery was recovered from F23, as well as a single residual Iron Age sherd from F14, a medieval pit.

The largest quantity of early Iron Age pottery, all of it residual, was recovered from multiple-ditch system F48, most from a single context. A contemporary fired clay spindle whorl was found with the pottery, as well as four pieces of worked flint. Of probable Saxon attribution, F48 was largely devoid of finds except at the western end, where the Iron Age material was concentrated. Perhaps the result of a deliberate backfilling of the ditch, it is assumed that these finds derived from a truncated adjacent feature or from just beyond the northwestern edge of excavation.

The early Iron Age phase of this site was a chance encounter, the only other confirmed prehistoric feature recently exposed in Chesterton being on the former Yorkshire Grey Public House Site on the High Street (Mackay 2001).

Saxon Trackway

Dominating the northeastern half of the site was a west-north-west by east-south-east oriented multiple-ditch boundary, consisting of F48 and F49 (Fig. 3). This system had previously been uncovered on the Wheatsheaf Site on a similar alignment, and its presence was anticipated (Armour 2001b). Nearly all of the

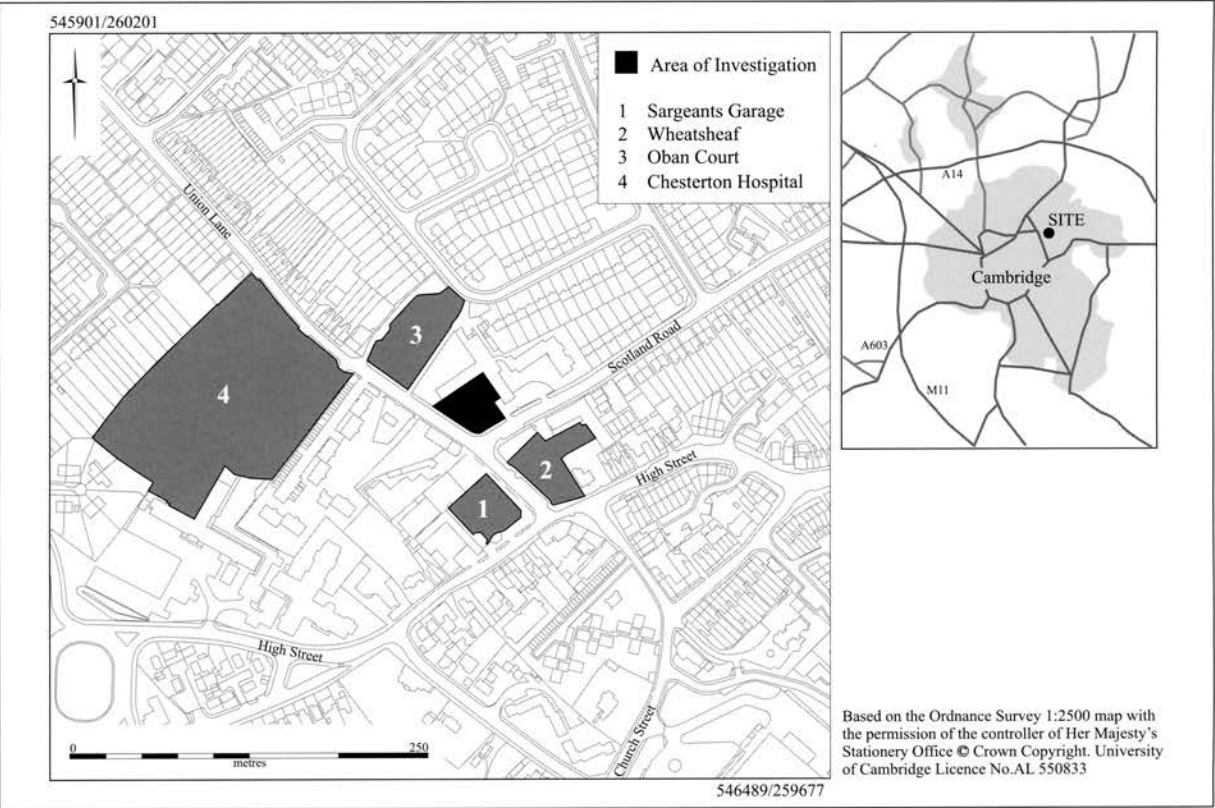


Figure 1. Location map.

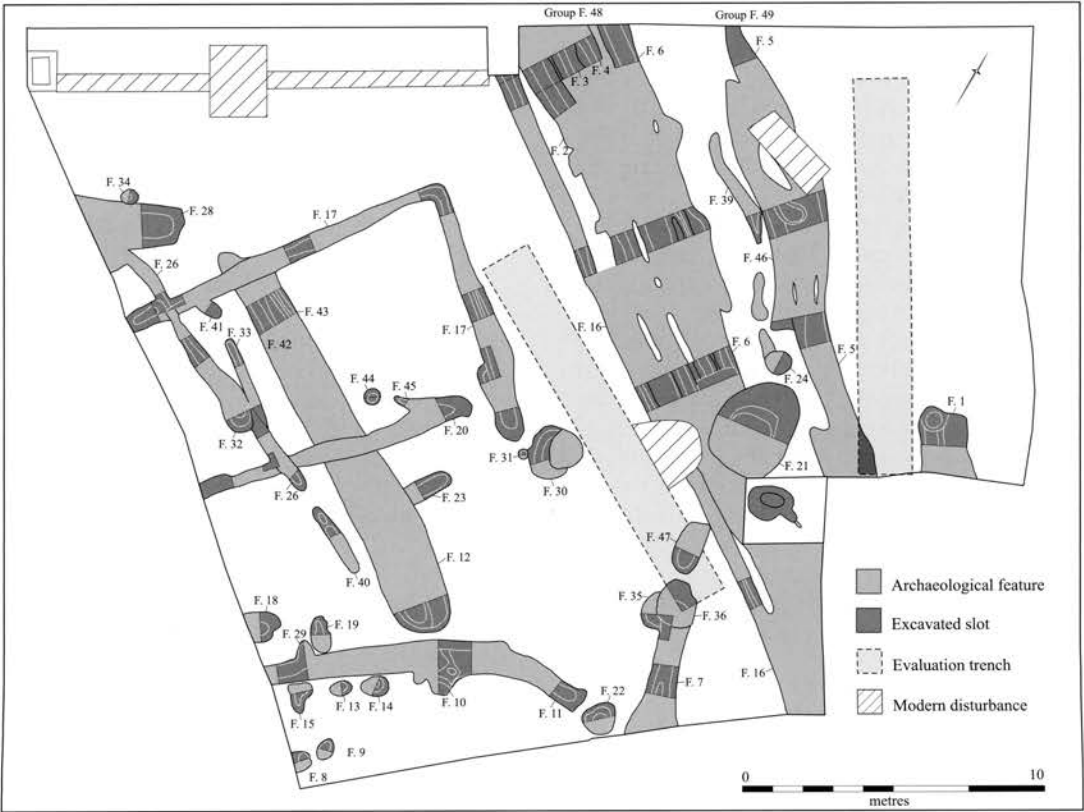


Figure 2. Site base-plan.

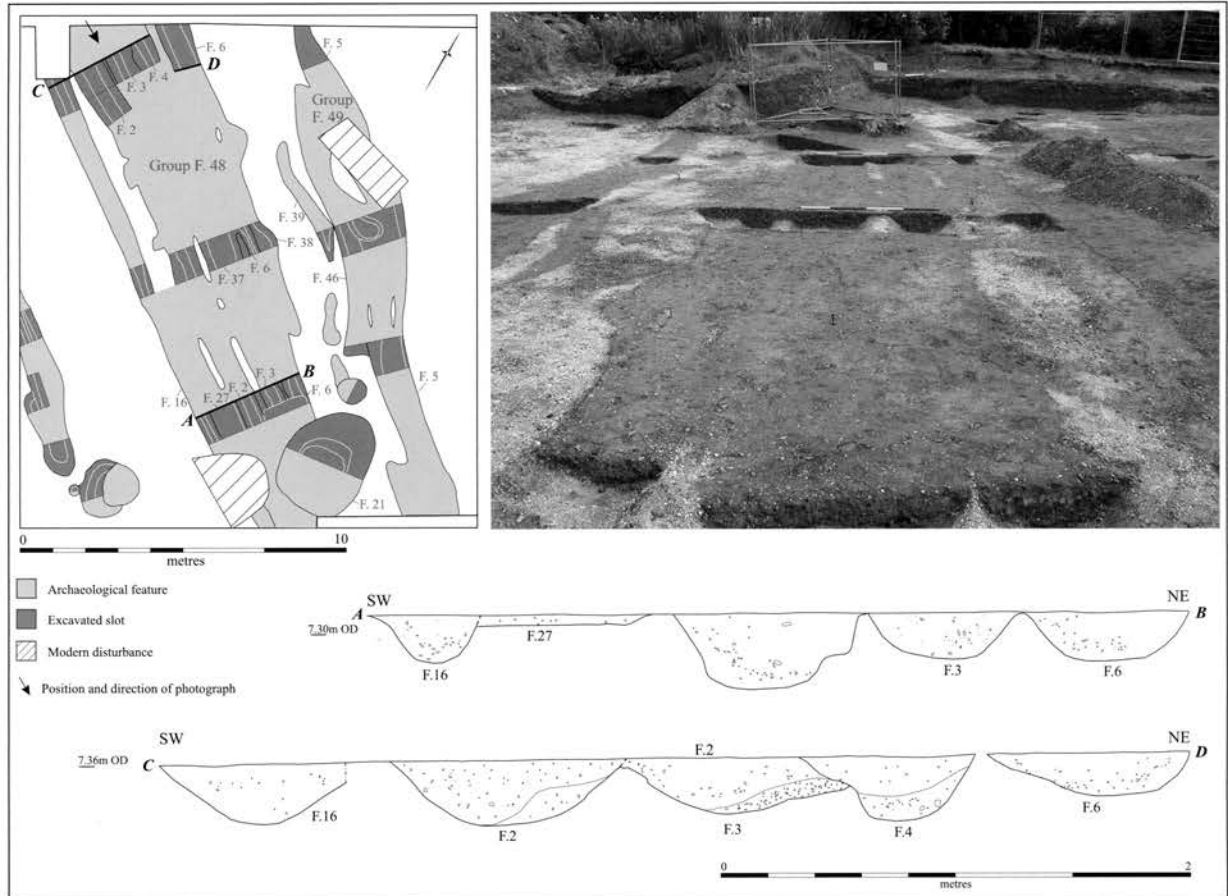


Figure 3. The trackway: base-plan (left), with photograph (looking southeast) right; below, sections.

finds (and all of the pottery) came from the north-western end, and were largely residual.

The boundary consisted of multiple intercutting and parallel ditches, all of small size, mostly less than 1m wide and 0.30m in depth. Visible relationships between the cuts were dubious, although at the Wheatsheaf Site it was suggested that they cut sequentially from northeast to southwest. Despite this, it seems that more than one ditch was open at a time, with a darker layer in F.48 spilling over into more than one cut. The greater part of the boundary was made up of F.48, with F.49 lying slightly apart, c. 2m to the northeast, with some suggestion of shallower truncated ditches between the two. Despite a soft, sandy natural, the edges were cleanly cut and well-defined. Also of note was the more fluid line of F.49, in contrast to the straightness of the southwestern edge of F.48; itself suggesting a spatially defining role, and perhaps the establishment (or re-establishment) of a line that subsequently meandered.

Although the boundary grouping was sterile of contemporary finds, comparison with the other features, including the adjacent Wheatsheaf Site, both point towards a Saxon date. This feature yielded no artefacts on the Wheatsheaf Site but it was clear that it pre-dated the main phases of medieval activity, whilst environmental evidence (the presence of rye

and free-threshing wheat) tentatively suggested a date no earlier than late Roman.

The presence of the trackway ditch system, if that is what it really represents, was fully anticipated, the line already having been observed on the Wheatsheaf Site. The simple fact of its presence on the Union Lane Site, giving the current end-to-end exposure now of c. 100m, supports the trackway theory, and a second chance to investigate this enigmatic feature was welcome, given the elusiveness of Saxon archaeology in Chesterton. An earlier date for this feature cannot be absolutely ruled out; certainly, features of similar character have been found locally of Roman date, most notably at Addenbrooke's (Evans *et al.* 2008), but the balance of evidence points towards a date at least later than the abraded early Roman pottery recovered. Whatever the ditches represent, they suggest the early establishment of an alignment which was followed long after their own existence, and is seemingly still echoed by the line of modern Union Lane, even down to the identical kink in alignment that both follow from northwest by southeast near the High Street, to west-northwest by east-southeast at this site.

Medieval Occupation

The first recognisable activity associated with this section of the Union Lane street frontage occurred in the twelfth century, consisting of a short recut ditch (F.12/42/43) on the west-northwest by east-southeast line already established by the Saxon trackway, and a north-east—south-west system, lying roughly parallel to the present line of Scotland Road. Although this could suggest the early establishment of the Scotland Road line, with plots running parallel to it, there was an erratic character to these features which were irregularly dug, and one, F.11, was curvilinear. This area, on the periphery of the settlement zone, was less regularly laid-out than the areas to the south exposed in other excavations. These ditches may have been more agricultural than domestic, being subsequently left open, and leaving hollows into which the relatively large number of finds could accumulate. Most of the pits or post-holes associated with this phase clustered around F.10, and although potentially forming the rear of a structure, ditch F.10 itself appeared to be the focus of at least some of the pits.

These ditches were neatly superseded by a rectangular property boundary along the Union Lane edge of excavation. Composed of F.17 and F.20, the enclosure was up to 6.5m across, and an unknown length, although 10.5m was exposed within the excavation

(Fig. 4). The longitudinal axis lay on a north-north-east by south-southwest line, and would presumably have fronted onto Union Lane. Assuming that the line of the lane has not shifted significantly, the plot could measure up to 18m in length. The southeastern face visibly slighted the already infilled F.12/42/43. Internally, only one related feature was found, F.33, a shallow gully. The remaining features of this date were two small pits.

This activity represents a clear change of use upon the site, with the creation of a property plot and putative associated structure, which clearly ignored the earlier plots. The general dating is based on the pottery recovered from F.17/20, as well as the obvious cut relationships. Although the small quantity of pot coupled with the relatively long time-span attached to it precludes a narrowing of the date range, similar features on adjacent sites have been dated to the eleventh and twelfth centuries (Armour 2001b); however, given the probable date of the stratigraphically earlier F.12, it would be difficult to account for F.17/20 being founded prior to the mid-thirteenth century.

Whether or not the enclosure ever contained a building is open to question. Similar enclosures in Chesterton have shown no definite structural evidence, but the numerous building traditions of the period need not have left structural evidence below

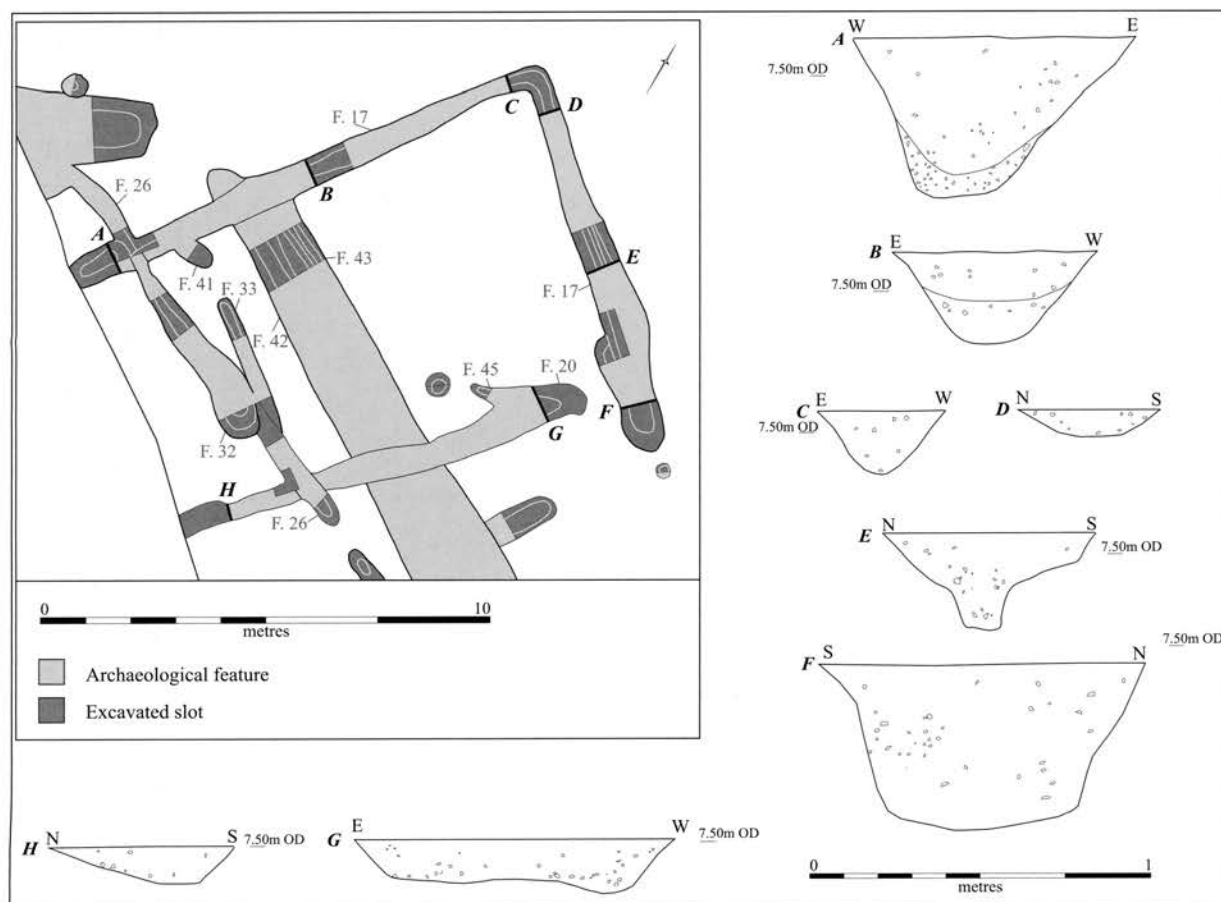


Figure 4. The medieval property plot.

ground level. What must raise a question over plot F.17/20 is the lack of associated pitting, backyard activity and material culture, as well as the apparent isolation of the plot.

Later Medieval activity on the site was limited to a few dispersed features, the most prominent being a probable well, F.21. This was cut into soft sandy gravel and no evidence of lining, revetting or recutting could be seen, suggesting that the feature would have been short-lived. Also, at 1.25m deep, this was a relatively shallow feature compared to wells on adjacent sites, although ground water was encountered at the base. All of the finds, including pottery spanning the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, derived from the upper half of the feature. The environmental sample taken from near the base was poor in botanical remains, but did contain Cotton-thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), thought to have been introduced into Britain around the sixteenth century (Stace 1997; see de Vareilles below). The only ditch occurring in this phase, F.26/32/40, was very shallow, narrow and segmented, containing pottery from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. The alignment was the same west-northwest by east-southeast line established in antiquity, and ran parallel with and close to Union Lane. This diminutive type of ditch is not untypical of the Middle Ages, particularly at the rear of properties, and may have been intended to define a boundary without greatly impeding the movement of humans or animals. The remaining features were a small number of dispersed pits. There was no significant post-medieval activity

Specialist Studies

Iron Age Pottery

Matt Brudenell

Sixty-two sherds (301g) of early Iron Age pottery were recovered from six features. With the exception of a single large sherd from pit F.44, the pottery is highly fragmented and moderately abraded, with a mean sherd weight of just 4.9g. Few diagnostic sherds are present in the assemblage, though judging by the limited number of rim forms and the decorated pieces, the assemblage is assigned to the early Iron Age (c. 800-400/350BC). With the exception of pottery from pit F.44, most sherds are likely to be residual.

Fabric Group F1: Moderate fine-coarse crushed flint inclusions, with moderate fine quartz sand. This is a hard coarseware fabric, abrasive to the touch. F1 is similar to the calcined flint-tempered sherds which characterise much of the late Bronze Age pottery in the region; however, this flint is not burnt. The size of the inclusion varies, the thinner, finer wares having smaller crushed pieces. By weight, F1 accounts for 45% of the assemblage (29 sherds). No sherds in F1 are burnished.

Fabric Group Q1: Sparse-moderate fine quartz sand, with rare medium grits. This is a hard fabric group, which is occasionally abrasive. By weight, Q1 accounts for 38%

of the assemblage (23 sherds). 11 sherds in Q1 are burnished, all belonging to the Darmsden-Linton Bowl in F.44.

Fabric Group S1: Moderate medium-coarse fossil shell, with moderate fine quartz sand. This is a moderate to hard fabric. The size of the fossil shell inclusion varies, the thinner, finer wares having smaller crushed pieces. By weight, S1 accounts for 17% of the assemblage (10 sherds). Two sherds in fabric S1 are burnished, probably from the same vessel.

The largest assemblage of pottery derived from ditch F.2, which yielded 43 sherds (201g). Sherds in all fabrics were represented, probably from numerous different vessels. All but two of the fragments were body sherds, the remaining pieces comprising a shoulder sherd and rim sherd. The former is a coarseware sherd in F1, displaying slashed decoration on the shoulder (Fig. 5.1). The flattened rim is in fabric S1, and is burnished. Two small diagonal-tooled impressions are visible on the interior rim edge.

Three small sherds, weighing 5g, were recovered from ditch F.16, with a further single sherd from F.23 (8g). All were in flint-tempered fabrics F1. Two more flint-tempered sherds were recovered from ditch F.3 (12g), one a 'T'-shaped rim characteristic of the early Iron Age (Fig. 5.2). These sherds, along with the single flint-tempered sherd in pit F.14 (2g), are residual, occurring alongside later material.

Pit F.44 yielded 12 sherds, weighing 73g. Eleven of the sherds belonged to a burnished 'Darmsden-Linton' style bowl (Cunliffe 1978, 42), c. 22cm in diameter (Fig. 5.3). The vessel is black, and produced in a dense sandy fabric Q1. Three incised grooves are present immediately above the shoulder. None of the 11 sherds refit, and only c. 8% of the rim remains intact. This is a classic early Iron Age fineware vessel. The remaining body sherd in the pit is a small coarseware fragment in F1 (2g).

Together the assemblage forms a small but intriguing collection of early Iron Age pottery. In the absence of fineware decorated bowls or angular vessels, distinguishing between/close dating of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age ceramics can be problematic. It is now recognised that pottery of the period in Eastern England forms a continuous sequence with that of the late Bronze Age, with only subtle changes to the angularity of vessel and the incidence of decoration over time. On a regional level, the details of ceramic development in the first half of the first millennium are not fully understood, in particular the transition around 800 BC from late Bronze Age 'plainware' Post-Deverel Rimbury (PDR) pottery to 'decorated' early Iron Age PDR pottery (Knight 2002; Brudenell 2008). Consequently, most assemblages are usually lumped as late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

To date, few 'secure' large and well-dated early Iron Age assemblages have been published from the region. In fact, across East Anglia and Cambridgeshire our understanding of pottery of the period continues to rest on a relatively small number of old published type-sites (e.g. West Harling, Wandlebury, Fengate, Linton), and is identified, primarily, by the presence

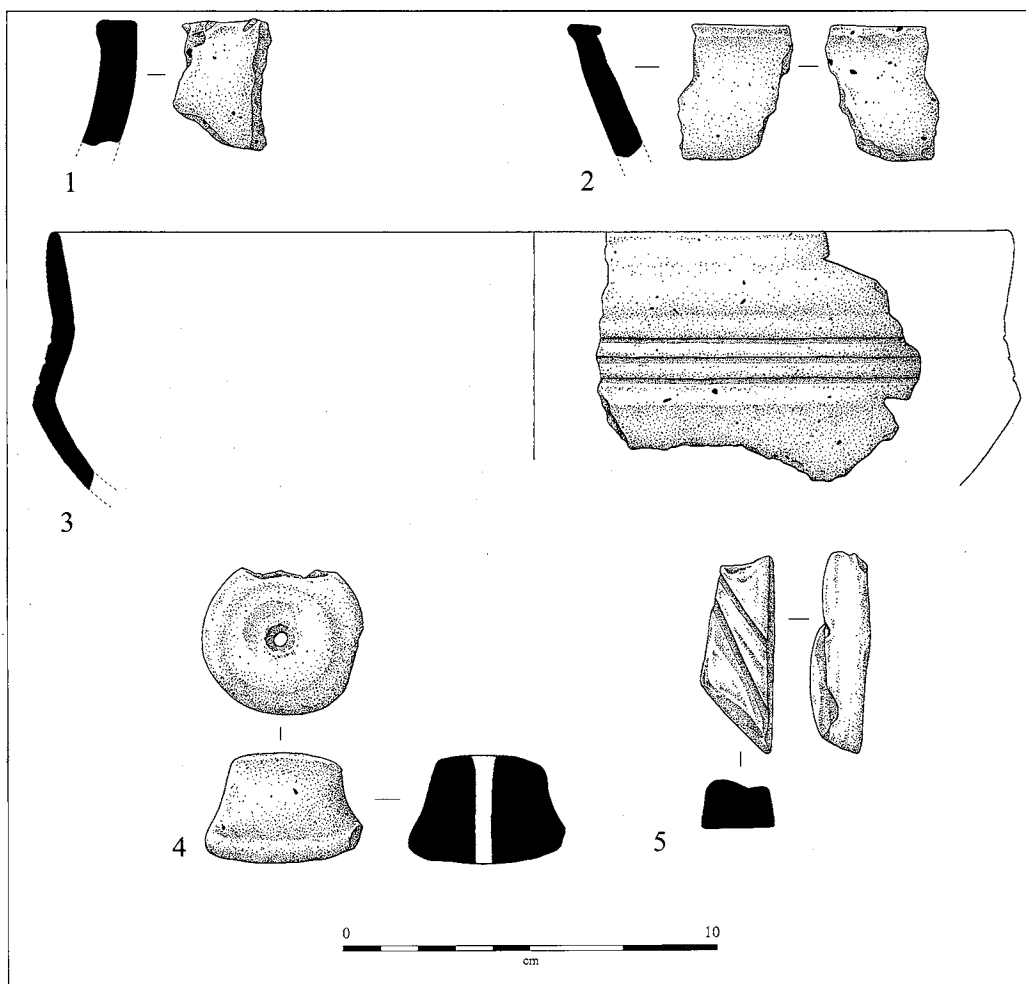


Figure 5. Select Finds: 1) Iron Age coarseware sherd (F.2); Early Iron Age rim (F.3); 3) 'Darmsden-Linton' style bowl (F.44); 4) Clay spindle whorl (F.2); 5) Hone stone (F.11).

of one particular class of vessel: namely the fineware decorated bowl. As such, the recovery of even a small fragmented assemblage of early Iron Age pottery is significant, for they are rarely encountered.

Stylistically, the fineware bowl from F.44 belongs to the early Iron Age 'Darmsden-Linton' group defined by Cunliffe (1968, 1974). This type of pottery has a widespread distribution across much of East Anglia, stretching from the Thames to the Wash. Recently, 'Darmsden' style pottery has been recovered from features at Clay Farm, Cambridge (Brudenell in Evans *et al.* 2008), Rook Hall (Adkins *et al.* 1985), Loft's Farm (Brown 1988), Beacon Green (Brown 1992), and Stansted (Brown 2004) in Essex, and Little Bealings and Barham in Suffolk (Martin 1993). These vessel forms, characterised by their sharp narrow shoulders and short upright or slightly flared rims, possibly appear sometime around the early eighth century BC, with a currency spanning the entire early Iron Age (Martin 1999, 80).

Medieval Pottery

Craig Cessford and David Hall

Excavations produced a small assemblage of 137 sherds (0.9kg) of tenth to sixteenth century pottery. It parallels the pottery found at other sites in Chesterton (Hall in Cessford & Dickens 2004). The low quantities of material indicate that the site is probably located some distance away from the main focus of domestic occupation.

Tenth to Twelfth Century Wares

The earliest material consisted of the three typical Saxo-Norman (tenth to twelfth centuries) fabrics found in southern Cambridgeshire. St Neots-type ware is the most common (25 definite plus one probable sherds), while Thetford-type ware (three sherds) and Stamford ware (two sherds) are minor elements. St Neots-type ware is generally dated c. 900 to 1100, although it probably begins in the ninth century and continues into the twelfth century. This is a wheel thrown shelly ware, often coloured dark purple and with a soapy feel. Thetford-type ware is also typically dated c. 900–1100, although it again probably begins

in the ninth century and continues into the twelfth century. It is wheel-thrown and manufactured at numerous kiln sites in Thetford, with similar wares from other sources within East Anglia. Although the kilns at Thetford itself probably operated between the tenth and twelfth centuries, the ware was probably being made at Ipswich by the mid to late ninth century. The fabric is usually reduced hard grey and tempered with sparse to dense sub-angular or sub-rounded quartzite. Stamford ware is dated c. 900–1200 and is slightly superior in quality to Thetford-type and St Neots-type ware. It is wheel thrown with white, pink, buff or grey fabric, usually with sparse to dense quartz and occasional black or red ironstone inclusions. It is often glazed with yellow, pale or sage green glaze. This was the most widely distributed pottery of the period and Cambridge appears to lie at the southeastern limit of one part of its distribution network down the Fenland rivers.

There is no identifiably early Pre-Conquest material present in the assemblage and the relatively low presence of Thetford-type ware also indicates a relatively late date within the Saxo-Norman period. Taken together this suggests that there is no reason that any of the Medieval activity at the site need be earlier than the twelfth century.

Thirteenth to Sixteenth Century Wares

The majority of the Medieval pottery of the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries (70 sherds) consists of a range of coarsewares with a variety of grey (24 sherds), brown (23 sherds), red (20 sherds) and buff (three sherds) fabrics. Unfortunately, the various fabrics are not particularly distinctive and merge into one another and only the forms are usually distinctive. These coarsewares do not occur further north in Cambridgeshire at sites such as Ely and are likely to be of local origin. It is possible that some of them were produced in Cambridge and others probably come from a variety of sources in southern Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Essex and Suffolk.

The most common coarseware that can be attributed to a specific production centre is Medieval Ely ware (22 sherds), which was made at Potters Lane in Ely. Ely ware is generally dated to between the twelfth to fifteenth centuries, based primarily on the other pottery it has been found associated with (Sporrey 2008); however, the majority of the Medieval Ely ware in and around Cambridge probably dates to the fourteenth century. Some of the material from this site displays features characteristic of the fifteenth century. The significance of Medieval Ely ware in the assemblage is probably less than it appears, as two groups of ten and eight sherds respectively appear to represent parts of single vessels.

Other material only occurs in small quantities. There are six sherds of thirteenth or fourteenth century Lyveden/Stanton ware which has a pink shelly fabric and was produced in Northamptonshire; one sherd of thirteenth century Northamptonshire shelly ware; one sherd of thirteenth or fourteenth century devel-

oped St. Neots ware; three sherds of fifteenth century Essex redware and two sherds of fourteenth or fifteenth century Essex greyware.

Faunal Remains

Chris Swaysland

A small assemblage of 112 fragments (1.3kg) of animal bones was recovered. The condition of the material was variable but was, in general, fair. The vast majority of it has been dated to the medieval period. Although a small number of bones were dated to other periods, due to their limited potential they have not been considered in this study. Otherwise, identifiable animal bone was recovered from 12 features dated to the twelfth to sixteenth centuries. The assemblage was recovered from a mixture of ditches and pits, with no discernable differences in character between these respective feature-types. Cattle and sheep are the major species represented on the site; they are present in similar amounts (Table 1). Pig, horse and dog are only present in small quantities.

Table 1. Species proportion: medieval features by NISP (number of individual specimens present).

Species	NISP
Cattle	9
Sheep/goat	8
Pig	1
Horse	3
Dog	2
Large mammal	1

Other Finds

Although a wide variety of other artefact types occurred, these occurred in only very low numbers. Reported in detail elsewhere (Mackay 2006), these include six pieces of variously worked and/or burnt flints, three sherds of Roman pottery (residual; mid-second century AD Samian, a first to third century greyware jar rim and a undiagnostic greyware sherd), a fragment of Roman box-flue tile, an Iron Age fired clay spindle whorl (F.2; Fig. 5.4), fragments of lava quernstone (834g from F.11 & 21) and a hone stone. The latter, from F.11 and made of a red, fine micaceous sandstone (17g), was evidently part of a larger whole and has two deep grooves worn into it (Fig. 5.5). It could have had a variety of uses, although its form and deep grooves might suggest pin- or needle-sharpening; comparable examples are known from Coppergate (Gaunt 2000).

A small number of metal artefacts were also recovered, consisting of a broken iron nail (8g) from F.2, a small piece of iron strap or small blade (8g) from F.11, and a copper alloy coin (4g) from F.43. While ironwork is entirely undiagnostic, the coin (occurring intrusively in the top of ditch F.43, of twelfth/thirteenth century attribution), is a combined bust farthing of William and Mary dated 1694.

Environmental Samples

Anne de Vareilles

Eleven bulk soil samples were examined and the environmental remains are listed in full in Table 2 (see de Vareilles in Mackay 2006 for methodology and nomenclature). Although many wheat, barley and oat grains have survived, most of them are badly puffed and distorted. All except for Sample <1> contained pieces of vitrified charcoal, which indicate high firing temperatures and/or long burning fires. Both of these are conditions unfavourable to the preservation of botanical remains (Boardman & Jones, 1990). Various molluscs were present in all samples, but their environmental significance is not discussed here as they do not occur in meaningful quantities.

Saxon Ditches (F.2, 6 and 16)

The archaeobotanical samples from these features are very similar and not distinctive of any particular period: they could even date to the Iron Age (F.2 and F.16 had residual early Iron Age artefacts); however, each ditch contained a minimum of one free-threshing wheat grain (*Triticum aestivum* sl.), suggesting that some material is of at least late Roman date. A few oats (*Avena* sp.) were identified, though without any chaff one cannot say whether they were a cereal or a crop weed. The lack of chaff and the clear dominance of cereal grains over wild plant seeds suggests the assemblages are waste from cooking and eating activities. The hazel-nut shell in F.2 supports this interpretation.

Medieval

The eight medieval samples contained similar plant remains to the possible Saxon contexts: a mix of wheat, barley and oat with practically no cereal chaff and very few wild plant seeds. The composition of these assemblages points to cooking or eating waste/loss. Although free-threshing wheat appears to dominate, spelt or emmer (*T. spelta/dicoccum*) is also present—albeit in very small quantities—and may represent a continuing trend of spelt cultivation within Cambridgeshire from the Romano-British period.

F.17 and F.12 contained some grass stems and higher quantities of crop weeds, suggesting that they contain waste from the final sieving and hand-sorting of crops. These two features also yielded two or three vetches or wild peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus*). Although these may simply have been a crop contaminant, celtic beans were intentionally grown at other British Medieval sites (cf. Greig 1991).

Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), found in F.17, is evidence for heavy clay-rich soils. It indicates that agricultural crops were no longer restricted to the dryer gravel terraces, a trend that started in the Romano-British period (cf. Jones 1978).

Apart from a little charcoal, no charred plant remains were found within well F.21. There are, however, a few waterlogged seeds which attest to the drying-up of a once waterlogged environment. The most common surviving seeds are of ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), which often grows on heavy

clay-rich soils and complements the stinking chamomile found in the samples from F.17. Cotton-thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), also quite common in this sample, is thought to have been introduced into Britain around the sixteenth century (Stace 1997). The few surviving seeds suggest F.21 was dug into heavy soils in a marginal area. This interpretation, however, can only be tentative as many seeds have obviously been lost.

The samples from the medieval period attest to, at least, five of the known food plants: a minimum of two wheat varieties, barley, oats and celtic bean. F.17 and F.12 suggest that the final stages of crop processing occurred at an individual household level for at least some of the cereals. No evidence was found to suggest whether this area was a producer or consumer site.

Discussion

The Union Lane Site was exceptional within Chesterton in containing significant Iron Age and Saxon archaeology in addition to the more widely spread medieval features (Fig. 6). By themselves, neither phase could be considered extraordinary, but both attest to a definite presence in the locale that has otherwise been consistently elusive.

There are obvious parallels in the archaeology on either side of Scotland Road, although activity dating to the eleventh and earlier twelfth centuries, prolific on the Wheatsheaf Site, is all but absent on this site. This could be coincidental, but the line of Scotland Road, potentially a division of some sort in the Middle Ages, separates the two sites. It is only in the twelfth, thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, when the population of Chesterton would have been steadily increasing, that activity really picks up on the northern side of Scotland Road. It is uncertain what the first post-Norman Conquest (twelfth century) phase actually represents; presumably small enclosures running off Union lane in a rather piecemeal fashion, being superseded by a neatly planned property plot fronting onto the street. Probably in the fourteenth century, and certainly by the fifteenth, the plot seems to be largely uninhabited, with a relatively short-lived well, and a small boundary running roughly parallel to the road. Remarkably, not a single feature showed evidence of having continued in use between phases, which suggests a rather dynamic history, in which the use of the plot changed completely on numerous occasions. Only the west-northwest by east-southeast alignment of Union Lane remains constant, although it is uncertain for how long Union Lane itself (or a corresponding track) was the inspiration for this. Common to all of these phases, however, and in contrast to the Wheatsheaf and Sargeant's Garage Sites, was the relative paucity of artefacts—less than a kilogramme of medieval pottery was recovered in total from all features.

This phased sequence of events is slightly out of sync with the development of the Wheatsheaf and

Sample number		<2>	<3>	<4>	<6>	<7>	<5>	<10>	<9>	<11>	<8>	<1>
Context		[166]	[138]	[84]	[40]	[110]	[37]	[131]	[94]	[46]	[160]	[63]
Feature		2	16	6	14	11	12	34	17	17	26	21
Feature type		Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Well
Phase/Date		Possibly Saxon			12th–14th Century AD			13th–14th Century AD			14th–15th Century AD	
Sample volume litres		11	5	7	5	6	7	5	7	5	6	4
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Cereals												
<i>Hordeum vulgare sensu lato</i>	Barley grain				1		2					
cf. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> sl.	Possible Barley grain		1		1		7		1	3		
<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i>	Spelt/Emmer wheat grain		1	1			1	1	7	2		
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> sl.	Free-threshing wheat	1	1	1	3		3		8	12	3	
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Wheat grain	2	10	3	15	1	20	1	21	23	5	
<i>Triticum/Hordeum</i>	Wheat/Barley	1	7	10	19	3	64	3	19	36	6	
Indet Cereal grain fragment		6		3	5			2	5	11	1	
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Oat grain				1		2	1	1	6		
cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.	Possible oat grain	3					9			5	1	
Cereal/ <i>Avena</i> /large Poaceae	Cereal/oat/large grass	3	1	6	18	5	30		12	63	9	
<i>T. spelta</i> spikelet fork	Spelt spikelet fork						1					
Legumes												
<i>Vicia faba</i> var. <i>minor</i>	Horse or Celtic bean									3		
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	Vetches/Wild Pea						2					
Wild Plant Seeds												
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel-nut shell frag	1										
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i>	Common/Spear-leaved Orache											++ WL
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel									1		
<i>R. conglomeratus/sanguineus/obtusifolius</i>	Small-seeded Dock					1						
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	Brambles											- WL
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane											++ WL
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy											+++WL
cf. <i>Galium</i> sp.	possibly Bedstraw									1		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder											++ WL
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Cotton-Thistle											+ WL
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed									1		
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Chamomile								1	2		
Large Poaceae	Large grass seed						6					
Medium Poaceae	Medium grass seed			1		1	1		3	1		
Indet wild plant seed		1					1			2		
Poaceae internodes	Grass stem internodes						1			3		
Parenchyma tissue fragments	Undifferentiated storage plant tissue	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+++	++	
Charcoal pieces >4mm		+					-	+	-	-		-
Charcoal pieces 2–4mm		-		-	-		+	+	+	+		-
Charcoal pieces <2mm		++	+	+	++	++	++	+++	+++	++	++	++
Vitrified		-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	

Table 2. ‘-’ 1 or 2 items; ‘+’ <10 items; ‘++’ 10–50 items; ‘+++’ >50 items. WL – waterlogged. Note: the cereal/oat/large grass column shows badly preserved fragments that could be of wheat, barley, oat or large grass seeds. The cereal category includes wheat, barley and rye. The large grass seeds are as long as the cereal grains and about half as wide.

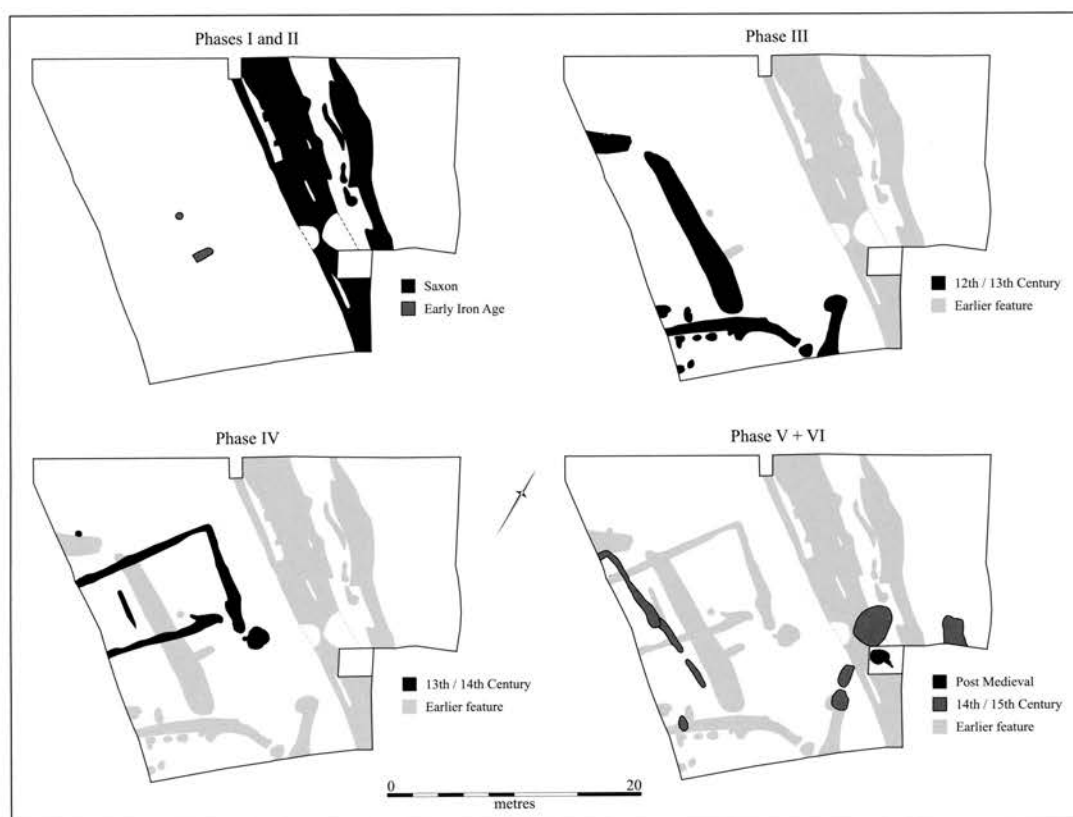
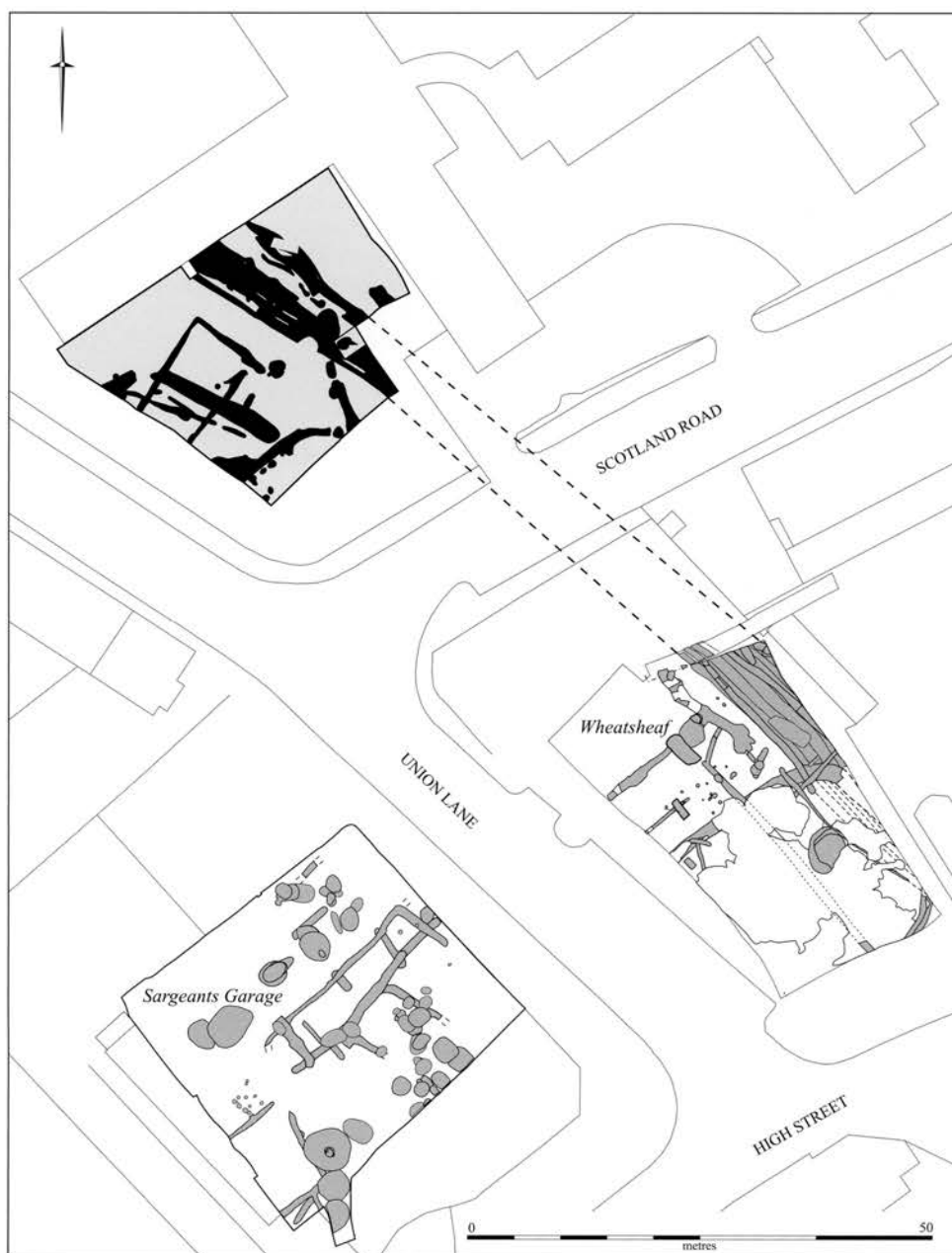


Figure 6. Site phase-plans.

Sargeant's Garage Sites, where the small-ditched rectangular plots fronting onto the street, comparable to F.17/20, began to occur in the late eleventh or early twelfth centuries (Fig. 7). This is a chronological phase entirely absent on the 2005 site, with not even a single residual sherd of medieval pottery pre-dating the twelfth century. Furthermore, the date of this plot coincides with periods of different types of activity on the other sites, particularly pit digging associated with properties already in existence. This does not represent a period of decline on the other sites, rather a continuation in use of established plots and a change in the method of demarcating property boundaries (Cessford & Dickens 2004). While this was happening, a steady increase in population was causing the focus of settlement to expand, encompassing the current site. It was, however, a shift that was to be short-lived. The limited recognisable activity thereafter attests to no more than fairly typical 'back yard' usage, possibly of a property fronting Scotland Road. The well and sparse pitting would fit well with this interpretation, and undoubtedly the later finds were deposited during allotment activity, possibly relating to the same property.

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Figure 7. 2005 Site features in relationship to other environs excavations (note continuation of trackway south to the Wheatsheaf Site).

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Plate 1. Richard Relhan, view of the Bartlow Hills from the northwest. By kind permission of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Photograph copyright Kim Osborne 2006.



Left: Plate 2. Gold plaque (no. 14) embossed with the image of Minerva, with dedication to Dea Senuna by Memorianus inscribed on the basal tab. Photo Trevor Springett, copyright British Museum.

Below: Plate 3. Detail of silver plaque (no. 17) showing elegantly-incised dedication to Dea Senuna by Herbonianus. Photo Trevor Springett, copyright British Museum.





Plate 4. Catledge or Kirtling Hall (1760). Watercolour by 'Matthews' (ref. SB1 mounted, 180 x 106mm).



Above, Plate 5. Layton's Stone, Ely (1807). Pen & ink drawing by H. Burgess (ref. SB 2 mounted 332x 242mm, border included). Ink stamp of 'Cambridge Photographic Record' on reverse.

Below, Plate 6. Vicar's Buildings, St Tibbs Row, Cambridge Watercolour, anonymous (1855) (ref. SB13 mounted 381 x 316mm).

