
Early to Middle Iron Age settlement and re-used Middle Bronze Age field systems at Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire

Rob Wiseman

With contributions by Matt Brudenell, Mark Knight, Benjamin Neil, Vida Rajkovača, Val Fryer, Anne de Vareilles, and Rachel Ballantyne.

Illustrations by Andy Hall, Brian Crossan, Charlotte Walton and Vicki Herring

Excavations by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit at Knobb's Farm quarry, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, uncovered a large area of rectilinear field systems, probably dating to the Middle Bronze Age, along with later Early and Middle Iron Age settlements in the form of roundhouses, pit clusters, four-post structures, wells and a single inhumation burial. Unusually, some of the relict Middle Bronze Age field boundaries appear to have been recut in the Iron Age. The entire settlement and land divisions appears to have gone out of use around the end of the fourth century BC, and there was no continuity with later settlements established in the Late Iron Age.

Introduction

Archaeological investigations at Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, were carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) between 2000 and 2010, in advance of quarrying (Fig. 1). The gravels along the lower River Great Ouse are dense in prehistoric and Roman archaeology (Evans *et al.* 2009, Evans *et al.* 2013). Here, Early and Middle Iron Age settlement is described. Roman settlement and cemeteries also unearthed on the site are discussed separately (Evans *et al.* 2013: 464–471; Wiseman and Neil forthcoming).

The CAU's field investigations at Knobb's Farm included fieldwalking (Masser 2000, Conneller 2000, Wills 2004a), trenched evaluation and test pits (Masser 2000, Hatherley 2001, Wills 2003, Wills 2004b, Slater 2006) and open area excavation (Wills 2004c, Armour 2008, Armour & Morley 2009, Collins 2010, Collins 2011). In total, the CAU excavated two areas over four seasons: 3.46 ha. in the Southern Area (Fig. 2) and 4.21 ha. in the Northern Area (Fig. 3). The two areas lay c. 400m apart. Before the CAU's work, aerial photographs were reviewed (Palmer & Cox 1996) and rescue excavations undertaken before quarrying in the 1920s, 1970s and 1980s (Tebbutt 1929; Salway *et al.* 1970; French & Wait 1988).

Background

Geology and landscape

The site lies on First and Second Terrace River Gravels built up around the former course of the River Great Ouse. The quarry site itself slopes gently from c. 7.5m OD along Parkhall Road west of the site to 0.5m OD on the quarry's eastern edge.

The excavation site lies c. 1km northeast of the Somersham River (also known as the Old West River). The River once flowed north, but in Roman times a canal was dug joining it to the Old Bedford River to the southeast, now the River's course. To the north and east lie fenland. The fens first developed during the third millennium BC. Their early development was arrested by a major marine incursion in the Early and Middle Bronze Age, after which the freshwater fen expanded again through the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. The area remained fen throughout Roman and medieval periods, until the region was drained in the 17th and 18th centuries (Waller 1994: 156–183). At its highest level, the fen edge would have lain c. 700m east of the site – although even moderate winter flooding would have seen the waters come several hundred metres closer to the site than that.

Archaeological background

Palaeolithic artefacts have been found in the gravel terraces (Evans, Brudenell *et al.* 2013: 37–38), and a large Mesolithic flint scatter was discovered two kilometres northwest of Knobb's Farm (Hall 1992).

Low-level Neolithic activity has been found across the area: most of it flint scatters lying between the 2 and 3m OD contours. Several Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ground stone axes have been found around the Quarry, and a Beaker-period Handled Food Vessel was found at Somersham (Clark 1970: 417, no. 1086). Fieldwalking south of the excavation areas recovered worked and burnt flint, interpreted as Beaker occupation (Conneller 2000), although trenching found no cut features (Hatherley 2001; Wills 2003).

Cropmarks of at least four ring ditches lie just east

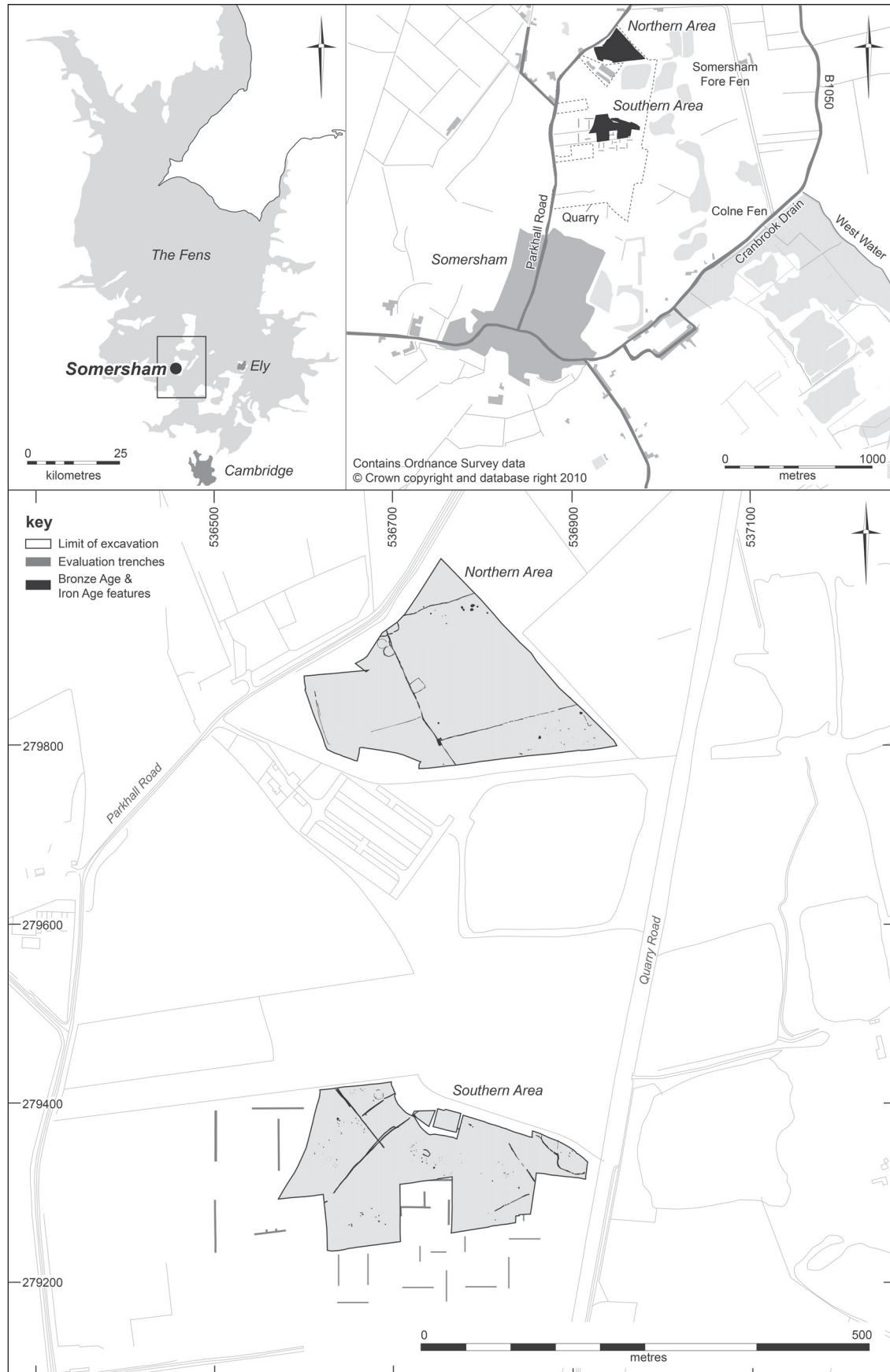


Figure 1. Location of the excavations at Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire.

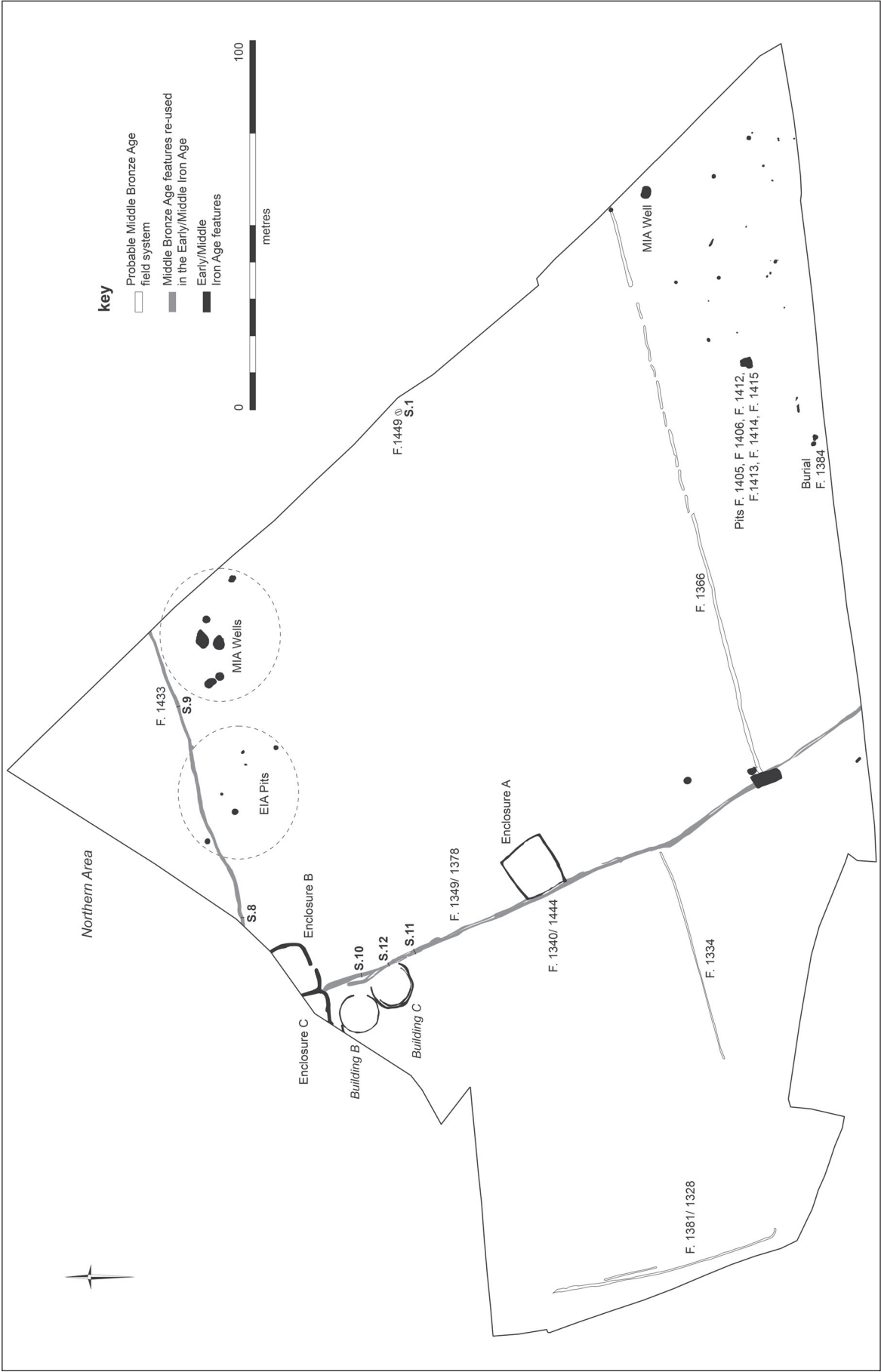


Figure 2. The Northern Area, showing prehistoric features down to the Middle Iron Age.

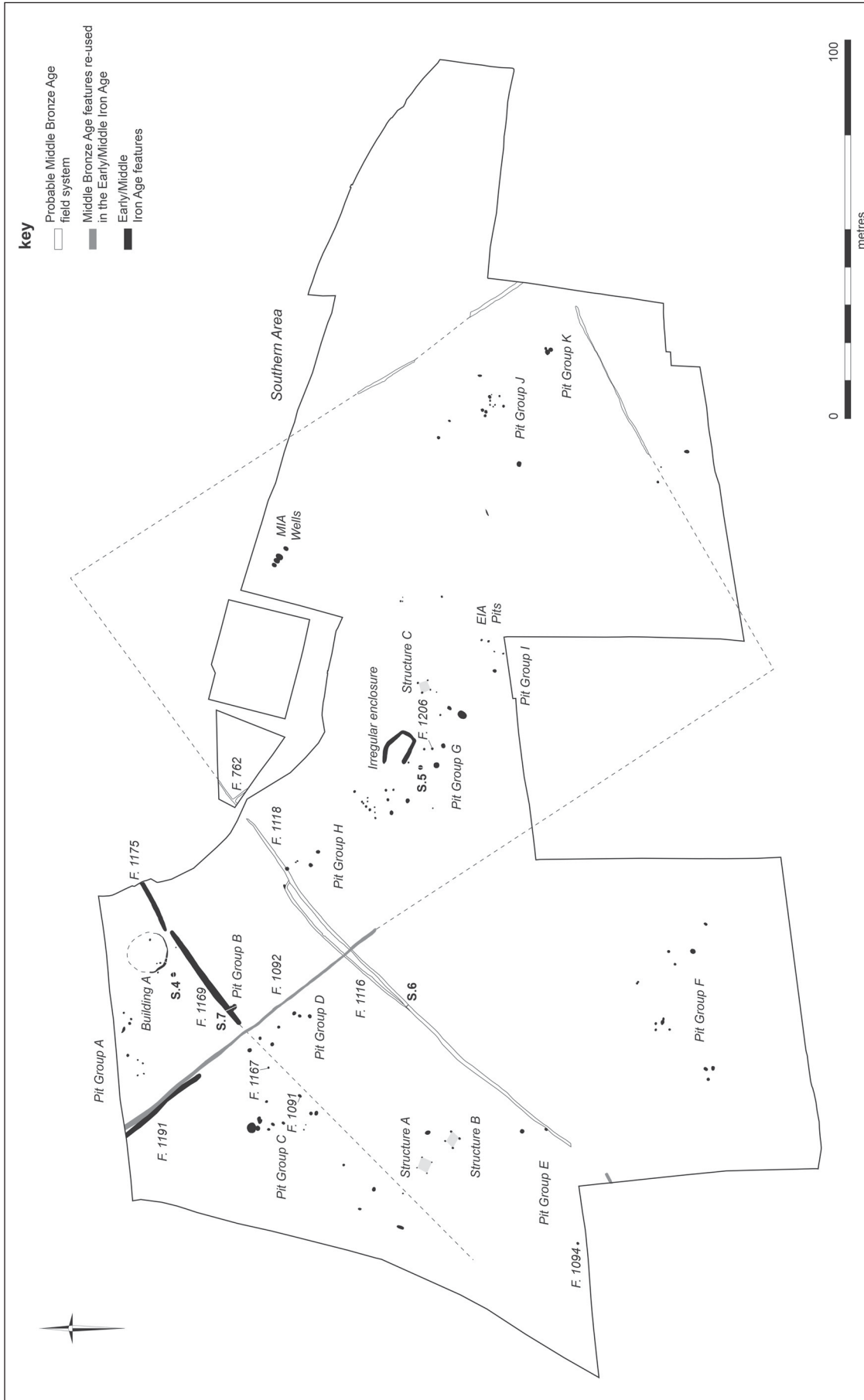


Figure 3. The Southern Area, showing prehistoric features down to the Middle Iron Age.

of the quarry (Palmer and Cox 1996), and excavations to the south recorded several Early and Middle Bronze Age barrows (Evans, Brudenell *et al.* 2013: 89–92, 115–128). A succession of settlements dating from the Late Bronze Age to the Middle Iron Age were excavated on Parkhall Road in Somersham, 1.7 km southwest of the excavation (Roberts 2002). Late Bronze Age settlements and associated field systems were excavated three kilometres to the south at The Holme and Rhee Lakeside South (Evans *et al.* 2013: 59–153).

Iron Age settlement has been extensively investigated at the Camp Ground and Sites I and IV at Colne Fen, just over a kilometre southeast of the site (Evans, Brudenell *et al.* 2013: 153–247), and to the East at Haddenham (Evans and Hodder 2006b: 97–266; 281–324). Finds at each included roundhouses, compounds, and other settlement activity. Crucially, these sites capture the transition from open to closed settlement in the immediate context of Knobb's Farm.

Excavations at Knobb's Farm also uncovered the edge of two large Late Iron Age enclosures, although the limited material recovered suggested they were at some distance from any settlement (Wiseman *et al.* in review).

Aerial photographs show a large Romano-British field system covering c. 100 hectares around the site (Palmer and Cox 1996). The settlement core lay immediately east of the excavation area, but was quarried away after limited archaeological excavation in the 1960s (French & Wait 1988). Several Roman cemeteries located at the edge of the field system were excavated in the Southern Area (Wiseman & Neil, in prep.). Finds in the 1920s of pottery, Barnack building stone, a hypocaust and roof tile at Turkington Hill, one kilometre southeast of the site, suggest a substantial Romano-British building (Tebbutt 1929: 312). Directly to the south of Turkington Hill, across the Somersham River, was the large Roman settlement at the Camp Ground, Colne (Evans *et al.* 2013: 179–294).

After the Roman period, the site and the wider area appear to have been abandoned. It was used solely for agriculture throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Ridge and furrow is apparent in aerial photographs to the south and west of the site, towards Somersham.

Neolithic and Early Bronze Age

In marked contrast to the gravel terraces to the south, there is a dearth of evidence for prehistoric activity on either Northern or Southern excavation areas before the Iron Age. In the Southern Area, a possible Upper Palaeolithic flint scraper was found on the soil surface. Several flint tools which could be attributed to the Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic were recovered from Iron Age features, along with Early Bronze Age pottery and flints.

The only excavated feature definitively dated to the Beaker period was a small pit, F.1449, found at the eastern edge of the Northern Area. It contained thirty refitting sherds of a handled Beaker (Fig. 4). The pit's

base contained several slumping and silting layers suggesting it was open for some time before being purposely backfilled. One other pit in the Southern Area produced undiagnostic pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age period.

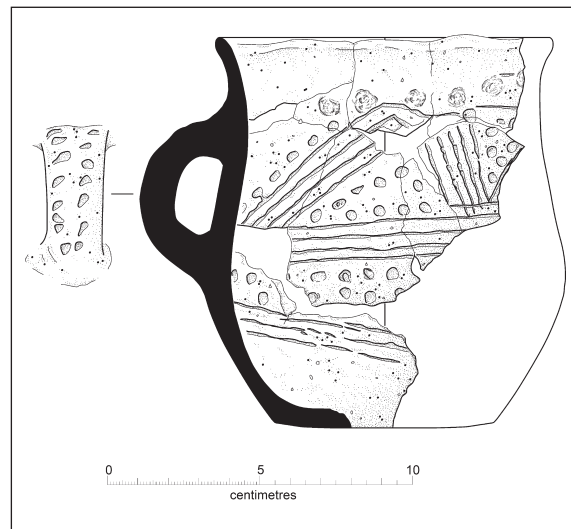


Figure 4. A Handled Beaker found in pit F.1449 in the Northern area.

Middle Bronze Age

Features which could be securely dated to the Middle Bronze Age (MBA) were limited to four isolated pits in the Southern Area, which contained Deverel-Rimbury pottery: F.1091, F.1094, F.1167, and F.1206. It is, however, probable that the ditched field boundaries excavated in both Northern and Southern areas also dated to this period, although no finds dating to the Middle Bronze Age were recovered from the ditches.

Rectilinear field systems were excavated in both the Northern and Southern Areas. Each was marked by ditches up to one hundred metres long, laid out on a rectangular grid. In the Southern Area, they formed narrow 'strip fields', while in the Northern Area they formed larger paddocks. The ditches were orientated either northeast–southwest or northwest–southeast, intersecting at more-or-less ninety degrees. Most had pale sandy-silty fills and produced few finds. Unfortunately, none of the ditches excavated match cropmarks identified in aerial photographs (Palmer and Cox 1996), so it is not possible to estimate the overall size of fields created by these boundaries or the total area that was enclosed.

All of the dateable material from these ditches belonged to the Early or Middle Iron Ages. Almost all of it, however, came from the upper fills of ditches, in the few cases where stratigraphy was apparent within the fills. As rectilinear field systems of this date are virtually unknown in the east of England, the origins of this field system most probably lie in the Middle Bronze Age, even though very little mate-

rial from this period was on either the Northern or Southern area.

In support of this interpretation is the characteristic V-shaped profile of many ditches (Fig. 5), common in Middle Bronze Age ditches locally, along with the confirmed presence of Bronze Age field systems at several sites 1–3 kilometres to the south at Colne Fen (Evans *et al.* 2013: 83–88, 96–103, 128–131).

The Southern field system

Ditch F.1092 ran southeast for c. 85m from the north-west corner of the excavation area. Its northwest end measured c. 1.0m wide and 0.8m deep, and had a

V-shaped profile, but it grew steadily shallower to the southeast, until it was lost to ploughing. The degree of slumping and weathering in its fills suggests it was open for some time.

To the south, two long, slightly-curved ditches, F.1116 and F.1118/F.761, crossed ditch F.1092 at right angles, to run parallel to F.1169 and F.1179. Like the south-eastern end of F.1092, these ditches were heavily truncated by ploughing, measuring just 0.3–0.35m wide and 0.05–0.15m deep. There appears to have been a break in this boundary in the south of the excavation area, as the butt end of another ditch, F.917, was found on the same alignment right on the excava-

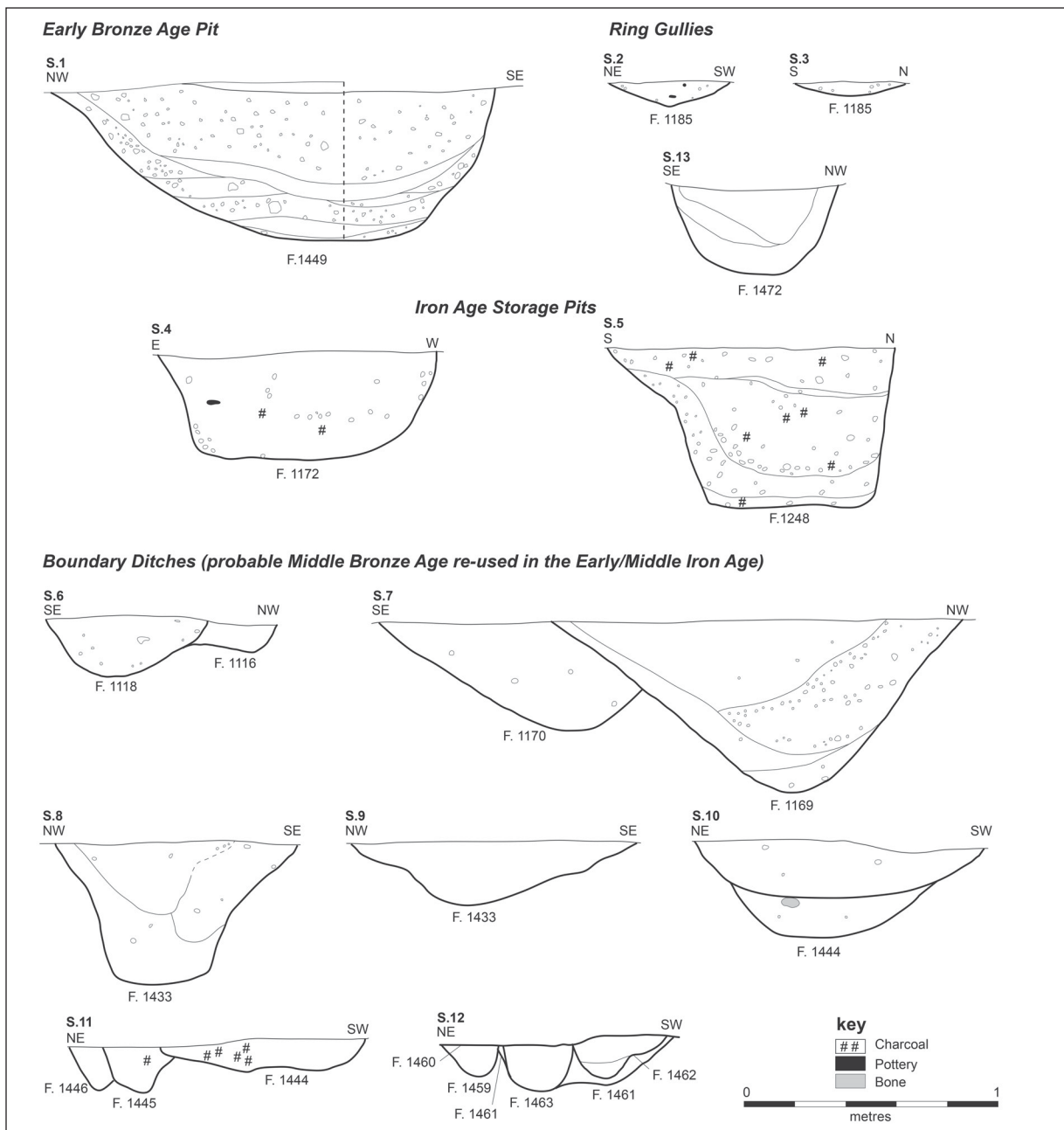


Figure 5. Sections of Early Bronze Age pit F.1449; Middle Bronze Age ditches, some reused in the Early and Middle Iron Ages; Middle Iron Age storage pits F.1172 and F.1248; and Middle Iron Age ring gullies from Building A.

tion's southern edge. None of these ditches produced any finds. On the northern edge of the excavation area, a very short ditch segment, F.762, branched off F.1118, heading southeast, parallel to F.1092. It too had been truncated by ploughing, measuring only 0.25m wide and 0.02m deep.

At the eastern end of the Southern Area was the corner of a field formed by F.701/F.905 running north-west-southeast, and F.998 at close to ninety degrees to it. The upper parts of each had been ploughed away: F.988 petered out toward the site's eastern edge. Neither ditch produced any finds, but they had the same orientation and pale fills as the rest of the field system in the Southern Area.

The Northern field system

The northern field system was organised around a major spine of intercutting ditches F.1349 and F.1373, aligned northwest-southeast. These were modest-sized features: the excavated sections measuring c. 0.5–0.8m wide and 0.2–0.4m deep.

Branching off the main spine were three boundary ditches of similar size – one severely plough-damaged running to the west (F.1334) apparently joining F.1308, and two to the east (F.1433 and F.1366/F.1367). All three ditches were more-or-less parallel, running east-northeast to west-southwest. The southern ditch is notable because, after running east from the main spine for c. 95m, it was succeeded by a sequence of short segments, all on the same alignment. All these short segments were well-defined and had clear terminals. They were clearly not a single truncated ditch but, rather, definite individual segments. They all had similar profiles with very steep sides and slightly rounded bases, and the fill in all of them was similar and produced almost no finds. While hundreds of segmented land divisions are known in Britain (e.g. Halstead 2011: 198–205), these are unlike Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pit alignments (e.g. Willis 2006: 122–123) – of which the closest example to Knobb's Farm is at St Ives, 8.5 kilometres to the southeast (Pollard 1996). The ditch segments in the Northern area are much longer than other prehistoric examples, measuring 3–10 metres in length.

Running almost parallel to the main spine, 100–115m to the west, was a small ditch, F. 1308. Parts of it had been heavily truncated by ploughing in the shallow soils and only a small amount of undiagnostic Iron Age pottery was found in its fills. However, its orientation and likely connection with F.1334 suggest it was part of the same field system.

Late Bronze Age and earliest Iron Age

Evidence for the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition consisted of a small amount of pottery and other material found in just six isolated pits: F.919, F.926, F.997, F.1146, F. 1147, and F.1158.

Two small pit clusters – one in the Northern Area, the other in the South – produced pottery dating to the Early Iron Age. In the Northern Area, pit F.1841, appeared to have been left open for some time and

contained 64 sherds from at least six different vessels.

There is no evidence for any use of the MBA field system in this phase.

Early Iron Age to Middle Iron Age

Activity increased markedly in the Early and Middle Iron Ages, with enclosures, a dozen pit/posthole clusters, roundhouses, four-post structures, and wells. Elements of the MBA field system near the roundhouses appear to have been recut in this phase. One of the pits in the Northern Area also contained a crouched inhumation burial. Activity in the Southern Area appears to have been slightly earlier, with the pottery assemblage dating to the Early/Middle Iron Age (E/MIA) transition, around the mid-fourth century BC, whereas activity in the Northern Area belongs the start of the third century BC, in the earliest phase of the Middle Iron Age (MIA).

Re-use of MBA field boundaries

In the Southern area, ditch F.1092 was recut by a shorter second ditch on almost the same alignment, F.1191. This was wider but shallower than the original MBA ditch (1.25m wide and 0.5m deep). It produced 56 sherds of E/MIA pottery, and its fills were noticeably darker than the original ditch, with more charcoal, suggesting it was used as a domestic dump while the adjacent roundhouse was occupied.

At ninety degrees to this ditch were two shorter V-shaped ditch segments by the roundhouse, F.1169 and F.1175, with a combined length of 45m. Both were c. 1.1m wide and 0.5m deep. Both dated to the Early Iron Age – F.1169 cut pit 1170 which contained EIA pottery. There was a small gap of about 2m between these two segments, which may have created an entranceway from the roundhouse into the field to the southeast.

In the Northern Area the main spine of the MBA field system – ditches F.1349 and F.1373 – was re-cut in the Middle Iron Age by F.1340 and F.1444. Ditch F.1433, which ran eastwards from the roundhouses, also appears to have been open at this time, as one slot produced a dump of 88 sherds. Most of this appeared to be from a single Scored Ware jar, suggesting it had been deliberately discarded in the ditch. In the Northern Area, radiocarbon dates (discussed below) suggest the field system was in use around 300 cal. BC: the earlier part of the Middle Iron Age.

Enclosures

In the Northern Area, three small ditched enclosures were dug off the main spine of the field system. All the material recovered from them dated to the Middle Iron Age. Near the centre of the excavation, Enclosure A, F.1358, was nearly square, measuring 14m x 12m, with an internal area of 168m². The enclosure ditch was fairly regular, averaging 0.65m wide and 0.35m

deep, with very steep sides and a slightly rounded base. The low density of finds and the lack of many internal features suggests its primary function was to manage stock.

On the northern edge of the excavation area were a number of short ditches, which may have demarcated two more small enclosures. Immediately to the east of the main spine were two short curving ditches, F.1435 and F.1455, with a gap between them (unfortunately obscured by a later LIA/Romano-British trackway). This gap may have formed a gateway or entrance into a small enclosure to the north, Enclosure B. Both ditches contained a moderate amount of pot, animal bone and burnt stone, suggesting they were used to dispose of domestic rubbish from the nearby roundhouses close by.

To the west of it, ditch F.1437 lay on the northern edge of the excavation, but it could potentially have formed the south-eastern corner of a third enclosure, Enclosure C. It branched off the main spine, F.1444, and appeared to be contemporary with it.

Ring gullies and roundhouses

Three buildings were represented by ring gullies and associated postholes: a heavily-truncated one dating to the E/MIA transition in the Southern excavation area (F.1185), and two dating to the MIA in the Northern area (F.1482 and F.1472/F.1476). Figs. 6 and 7 show these in detail.

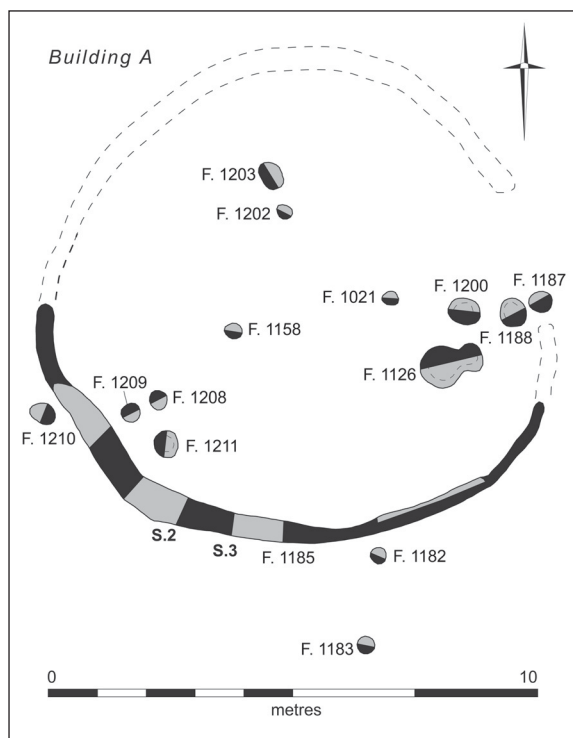


Figure 6. Middle Iron Age Building A

In the Southern Area, Building A (F.1185) consisted of a ring gully 9.5m in diameter, along with a dozen postholes. The gully was ploughed out on its northern side; the remaining portion was very shallow. Postholes F.1187 or F.1188 might have formed an entranceway on the northeastern side. If so, then Postholes F.1209 and F.1208 would then have been directly opposite the entrance. The remaining nine small pits or postholes either inside or immediately outside the gully form no obvious pattern – possibly a function of plough damage (there were notably fewer postholes in the northern half of the roundhouse than the southern). Pottery sherds dating to the late E/MIA transition were recovered from the gully and postholes, along with a small quantity of animal bone and two residual flint flakes.

In the Northern Area, Building B comprised a ring gully, a central pit, and two large postholes possibly to support a door. Ring-gully F.1482 had a diameter of 10m, and the entranceway measured 3.5m wide. It produced small quantities of animal bone and pottery. Two large postholes lay either side of the entranceway, F.1471 and F.1477. There was also a central pit, F.1478, although despite its position, it proved not to be a hearth, as it contained almost no charcoal and only a single piece of burnt clay.

Building C was slightly larger than B, and consisted of two concentric ring-gullies, F.1472 and F.1476. The outer gully, F.1472 was the more substantial and appeared to have been recut at least once. Its southern terminal contained burnt stone and burnt clay together with a comparatively large amount of pot (54 sherds, 791g) and the highest quantity of animal bone – mostly cattle – recovered from any prehistoric feature in the Northern Area (27 pieces). The pottery included a large dump of freshly-broken Scored Ware sherds. Bulk environmental samples produced small quantities of barley together with larger quantities of charcoal. A single small pit, F.1480, was located within this structure and contained small quantities of pot, animal bone, burnt clay, burnt stone and a fragment of clay loom-weight.

Because of the proximity of the ring gullies of Building B and C, there could only have been one roundhouse standing on this part of the site at any one time. Unfortunately, because the buildings stood right at the edge of Northern Area, it is not possible to know whether they were part of a larger settlement or stood alone.

In the area immediately east of the ring gullies, the field system's spinal ditch was recut or supplemented with nine smaller gullies. They contained relatively high densities of finds, suggesting they were in use at the same time as the ring-gullies.

Further possible evidence of settlement activity was excavated from a cluster of inter-cutting pits (F.1405, F.1406, F.1412, F.1413, F.1414 and F.1415) in the south-eastern corner of the Northern Area. These pits were all steep-sided and up to 1.8m wide and 0.75m deep. They produced small quantities of undiagnostic Iron Age pottery, animal bone, worked flint and burnt stone. Nearby, pit F.1383 produced pot, animal

of the excavation boundary. There were a number of other pits and postholes dispersed across this part of the Northern Area with similar fills, but none produced any finds.

Pit and posthole clusters

There were eleven clusters of pits and postholes across the Southern Area which produced pottery dating to the E/MIA transition. The features are summarised in Table 1 and their positions shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The bulk of the pits had steep or vertical sides: bowl-shaped or shallow scoops were in the minority. Two of the largest are illustrated in Fig. 5 (F.1172 and F.1248). These are comparable in form and size to grain storage pits (Hill, Lacey & Reynolds 1983). Most of the remaining pits, however, appear too small and shallow to have been effective grain stores so their function is unclear.

A number of these clusters appeared to respect the placement of the ditches, suggesting that they were contemporary. In particular, Pit Group C lay north-west of a line projected from ditch F.1169 and parallel to F. 1118. This elongated distribution suggests that the field might have been subdivided by some archaeologically invisible barrier like a hedge.

While there were no pit clusters in the Northern area, there were nonetheless a few pits (Table 1). In one of these, F.1384, was the skeleton of an old-mid-dle adult, aged 36–45 years, possibly male.

Irregular enclosure

In the Southern Excavation Area, some 80m southeast of the roundhouse lay Feature F.1273: an irregular horseshoe-shaped enclosure. It was approximately 8m long and 5m wide with an internal area of *c.* 40m². The ditch was deepest and widest along the northern arm, with overall width varying between 0.7m to 1.2m and depth between 0.17m and 0.38m. Although seven slots were excavated in this feature, only two

small abraded undiagnostic pot sherds were recovered from it. The function and purpose of this feature is unclear. It was, however, surrounded by pits in Pit Cluster G. These dated to the E/MIA transition, and as there were no other similar features nearby, the enclosure presumably belongs to the same period.

Four-post structures

Three four-post structures were excavated. The first two, Structures A and B, were located *c.* 80m south-west of Building A, while Structure C was *c.* 12m east of the irregular enclosure.

Structure A (F.1114) consisted of four circular postholes arranged in a square *c.* 3.5m wide with an internal area of 12.25m². No finds were recovered from the postholes' fills. Structure B (F.1115) was located *c.* 6m to the southeast. It had the same dimensions as Structure A, although its postholes were slightly larger and deeper. Small quantities of transitional E/MIA pottery were recovered from two of its postholes (4 sherds, 14g). Also of note close by was pit F.1108, around six metres from Structures A and B. As well as producing contemporary E/MIA pottery (16 sherds, 28g), an environmental sample produced the richest prehistoric assemblage on the site. It contained 3 or 4 cereal grains, along with 25 wild plant seeds (chiefly medics or clover). The preponderance of wild plants and the lack of chaff suggests that crops were being cleaned of wild seeds in this location, ready for storage in the four-post structures, but that final crop processing was carried out elsewhere. One of the postholes in Structure B also produced a single grain of spelt or emmer wheat (*Triticum speltal dicoccum*) along with a little charcoal. (Granaries typically do not produce plant remains unless they catch fire and the crop is burnt.)

Structure C, to the east of the Irregular Enclosure, comprised four postholes which formed a sub-square structure, 3m on each side with an internal area of 9m². Posthole F.1058 produced two small sherds (8g)

Table 1. Early to Middle Iron Age pit clusters.

Group	No.	Features
A	8	F.1132, F.1133**, F.1134, F.1193, F.1194, F.1195, F.1196**, F.1197**
B	4	F.1172*, F.1173, F.1174, F.1183
C	21	F.1049, F.1052, F.1053, F.1066, F.1067, F.1071, F.1083*, F.1084, F.1113**, F.1122, F.1123, F.1148, F.1151**, F.1152, F.1154, F.1155, F.1156**, F.1157, F.1158**, F.1159*, F.1166**
D	7	F.1160, F.1161, F.1162, F.1163, F.1164, F.1181, F.1182
E	3	F.1109, F.1093, F.1104
F	13	F.907, F.909, F.910, F.911**, F.912**, F.913, F.914, F.915**, F.916, F.918**, F.920, F.921, F.922***
G	35	F.1058**, F.1060**, F.1073, F.1172**, F.1187, F.1190**, F.1192**, F.1205**, F.1219, F.1220**, F.1223**, F.1227**, F.1229**, F.1230, F.1231, F.1234, F.1237, F.1238, F.1248**, F.1249, F.1250, F.1251**, F.1252, F.1253, F.1255, F.1260, F.1261, F.1262, F.1263, F.1264, F.1265, F.1266, F.1267, F.1268, F.1272.
H	6	F.1077, F.1085**, F.1090**, F.1119, F.1120, F.1236
I	5	F.1040**, F.1041**, F.1042**, F.1043*, F.1044*
J	5	F.980**, F.983**, F.989**, F.990**, F.988**
K	3	F.1000, F.1001**, F.1002

* Early Iron Age pottery, ** Early/Middle Iron Age pottery, *** undiagnostic Iron Age pottery

of E/MIA pottery.

A fourth possible structure was located around 80 metres east of Structure C. It consisted of a crescent of five postholes in Pit Cluster J. Although only one of them produced any finds (one animal bone), finds and environmental samples from the five pits immediately around them point to crop storage and domestic activities close by. As well as yielding fair numbers of potsherds dating to the E/MIA transition, they yielded cereal grains, animal bones, and burnt clay – although no chaff was found, suggesting that any crop processing took place elsewhere.

Wells

In the Northern area, several moderate-sized pits (F.1451, F.1464, F.1470 F.1473, F.1474) with broadly similar characteristics were probably watering holes. They measured 2.35–3.4m wide and 0.52–0.68m deep, and had very steep sides with slightly rounded bases. Small quantities of Middle Iron Age pot, animal bone and burnt stone were recovered from most of them, although not in sufficient quantities to suggest deliberate deposition. The fills suggest they silted up naturally. Feature F.1420, 160m to the southeast, was probably also a watering hole or well. It measured 2.9m across and 0.96m deep, and had moderately steep sides with a rounded base. It had been re-cut at least twice.

These wells in the Northern Area lay at the lowest part of the site, at around 1.2m OD. This part of the site was potentially wet or boggy before the fens were drained. Placing the wells in these locations would have given ready access to water without needing to dig deep shafts.

These contrast with the series of wells excavated in the Southern area, sixty metres northeast of the irregular enclosure (Fig. 8). In total, seven intercutting wells were dug in a row. They formed a clear stratigraphic sequence from simple pits (F.811 and F.812) to more elaborate well structures (F.806, F.808,

F.809, F.810). The latter were presumably required as the water table would have been situated rather lower down than in the Northern wells, and support was required to prevent the walls collapsing. F.808 had a step-cut profile, indicating it had been revetted. F.806 had a series of interleaved fills which suggested water-lain accumulation of deposits. This feature also truncated three layers which appeared to have been deposited in water.

Dating these wells is difficult. Only one in the middle of the sequence (F.810) produced any datable material: three Middle Iron Age sherds, along with sixty pieces of animal bone and one worked flint. The wells were succeeded by a Roman well (F.732), which produced a large amount of material dating to the mid-to-late 1st century AD, but it was only dug after redeposited gravel natural layers [1152] and [1153]/[1154] had been laid down over the original wells in order to stabilise the ground. Overall, nearly two metres of silting and redeposition occurred before the Roman well was dug. This substantial refilling, combined with the long period of use implied by six prehistoric recuttings, suggests these wells originated long before the Roman Conquest. Consequently, their origins have been assigned to the Middle Iron Age, although they may have been used through the Late Iron Age as well.

After the Middle Iron Age

Activity in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods is described separately (Wiseman *et al.* in review). In brief, however, there appears to be no connection between activity in the Middle and Late Iron Ages. The settlement and field boundaries appear to have gone out of use. The only Late Iron Age activity of substance consisted of the edge of a ditched enclosure on the eastern edge of the Southern Area, and a large rectangular enclosure and pits on the western edge of the Northern enclosure.

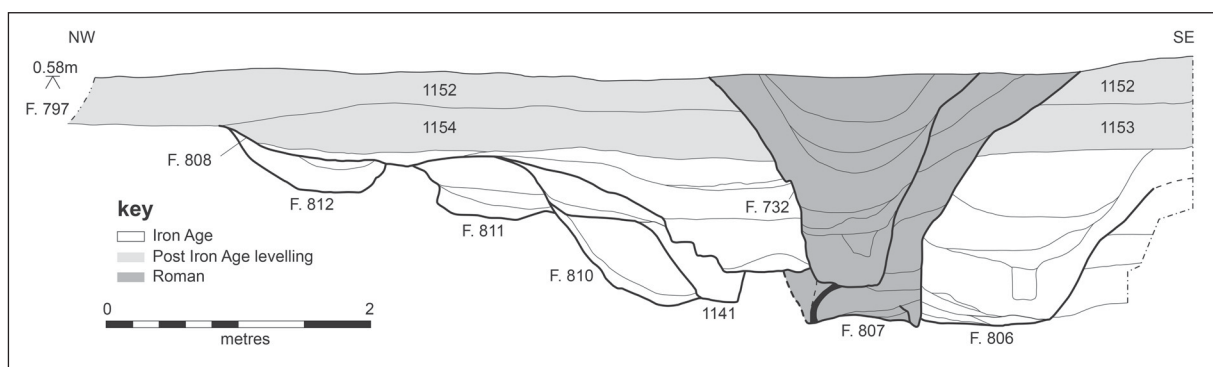


Figure 8. Middle Iron Age and Roman wells in the Southern area.

Specialist Reports

Prehistoric Pottery

Matt Brudenell and Mark Knight

Excavations at Knobb's Farm yielded 1,420 sherds of prehistoric pottery (11,332g), with a mean sherd weight of 8.0g. Most of the material falls into two groups. The larger was predominantly recovered from pits in the Southern Area and mainly belongs to the Early–Middle Iron Age transition, dating to *c.* 400/350 BC. The other group belongs to a slightly later Middle Iron Age Scored Ware tradition, and was all found in the Northern Area. The assemblage also contains a small number of Early Iron Age sherds from two pit clusters, and a handful of earlier material, most notably a Handled Beaker.

The pottery derived from a total of 139 different features, including pits, postholes, ditches, ring gullies and tree throws. Table 2 summarises the number and weight of sherds assigned to each period.

Table 2. Prehistoric pottery

	no. of features	total number	total weight	MSW (g)
Neolithic	7	42	198	4.7
EBA	1	14	67	4.8
MBA	4	102	328	3.2
LBA/EIA	1	5	37	7.4
EIA	13	240	2,608	10.9
EIA/MIA	63	610	3,568	5.8
MIA	25	304	3,905	12.8
LIA	2	8	216	27.0
IA	23	95	405	4.3
Total	139	1,420	11,332	8.0

The handful of flint-gritted Neolithic sherds were all residual in seven later features, apart from one small collection in a tree throw (F.925).

Beaker pottery was found in two contexts. Posthole F.1188 in the Southern Area yielded 14 thick body sherds in a grog-tempered fabric. Pit F.1449 in the Northern Area produced 30 refitting sherds (209g) belonging to an S-profiled Handled Beaker, the body of which is decorated with irregular filled triangles above a band of impressed dots and horizontal lines, with the handle adorned with two parallel rows of V-shaped stab marks (Fig. 4). The fragments represent around one half of the original vessel, which would have stood *c.* 13cm tall, with a basal diameter of 7cm and a rim diameter of *c.* 11cm. Abraded rounded breaks suggest the Beaker was already broken and partial when deposited in the pit.

Middle Bronze Age pottery was found in four small pits or postholes in the Southern Area: F.1091, F.1094, F.1167, and F.1206 and. All 102 sherds (328g) belong to the Deverel-Rimbury tradition. Most of the pieces are small (under 4cm) with only three medium-sized (4–8cm) sherds. One of the larger fragments

from F.1091 has fingertip decoration.

Early Iron Age pottery comprises 239 sherds (2,573g) with a mean sherd weight of 15g. All of the material was recovered from pits, apart from one tree throw. The largest assemblage derived from pit F.1481. It produced 64 sherds (602g) from six separate vessels, including nine sherds (275g) belonging to a large round-shouldered shelly ware jar or deep coarseware bowl with a constricted mouth and 16 burnt flint tempered sherds (119g) from a shouldered jar. Another notable assemblage came from pit F.1450, which produced 13 shell-tempered sherds (253g), all but three of which belonged to a large coarseware jar with a pronounced shoulder, concave neck, and flattened rim lipped both internally and externally.

By far the largest assemblage dates to the Early/Middle Iron Age transition, with 610 (3,568g) sherds recovered from 63 contexts, all confined to the Southern Area. The material was recovered from a variety of features, including ring gullies and ditches, although two-thirds were from pits and postholes. Most are shell-tempered or grog-tempered wares, although diagnostic sherds are scarce. The largest assemblage came from pit F.1038, which yielded 79 sherds (359g) including four different vessel rims and three bases, with both coarseware and burnished finewares represented. Pit F.915 produced 38 sherds (745g), including a complete vessel profile, as well as one rim and two bases, whilst Pit F.990 produced roughly half of a weakly-shouldered bowl with a hollowed neck, tapered rim and beaded base. The bowl has a diameter of *c.* 17 cm and was *c.* 13cm high. The same pit also yielded a flat-rim from a large-mouthed barrel-shaped jar, and bases of two other vessels. The assemblage is comparable in size and composition to that excavated at Rhee Lakeside South (Evans 2013: 223–226), three kilometres to the south. This assemblage is associated with two radiocarbon dates of 400–200 cal. BC (Beta-229352; 2260 ± 40 BP) and 400–210 cal. BC (Beta-229353; 2250 ± 40BP).

The Middle Iron Age assemblage derived entirely from the Northern Area. In total 304 sherds (3,905g) were recovered from 25 contexts, mostly from around the two ring gullies, Buildings B and C. The fabrics are dominated by shelly wares, with the partial or complete profiles of ten pots recovered from eight features. These include six slack-shouldered jars with upright necks with rim diameters of 12–20cm, and four round-shouldered jars with upright necks with rim diameters of 12–24cm. Both forms are typical of the Middle/Later Iron Age in Cambridgeshire, with three examples of each bearing scored surfaces. Scored Ware sherds were recovered from a total of 15 features. Most of the features in this phase produced only small assemblages with less than 25 sherds. Two groups of note came from the northern boundary ditch F.1433 and ring gully F.1472, each of which contained over 500g of pottery. Ditch F.1433 contained 90 sherds (1,368g), most belonging to a round-shouldered Scored Ware jar with an upright neck, 24cm in diameter, decorated with fingertip impressions on the rim-top. More varied was the assemblage from

ring gully F.1472, consisting of 54 sherds (791g). This contained fragments of at least six different vessels, with refitting parts of two jar profiles and two other bases. This may constitute a selective dump of freshly-broken pottery. As noted above, the combination of radiocarbon samples and distribution of Scored Ware pottery in the field system suggests a date around 300 BC (F.1472: SUERC-85782 2240 ± 33 BP; F.1433: SUERC-85783 ± 30 BP). This lies towards the beginning of the known currency of Scored Ware in Cambridgeshire, with the site itself located along the south-eastern periphery of the main Scored Ware zone in the East Midlands (see Knight 2002: 133, fig. 12.4).

In addition to the closely-datable pottery, there were also 95 sherds which could only be assigned a broad Iron Age date.

Human Bone

Benjamin Neil

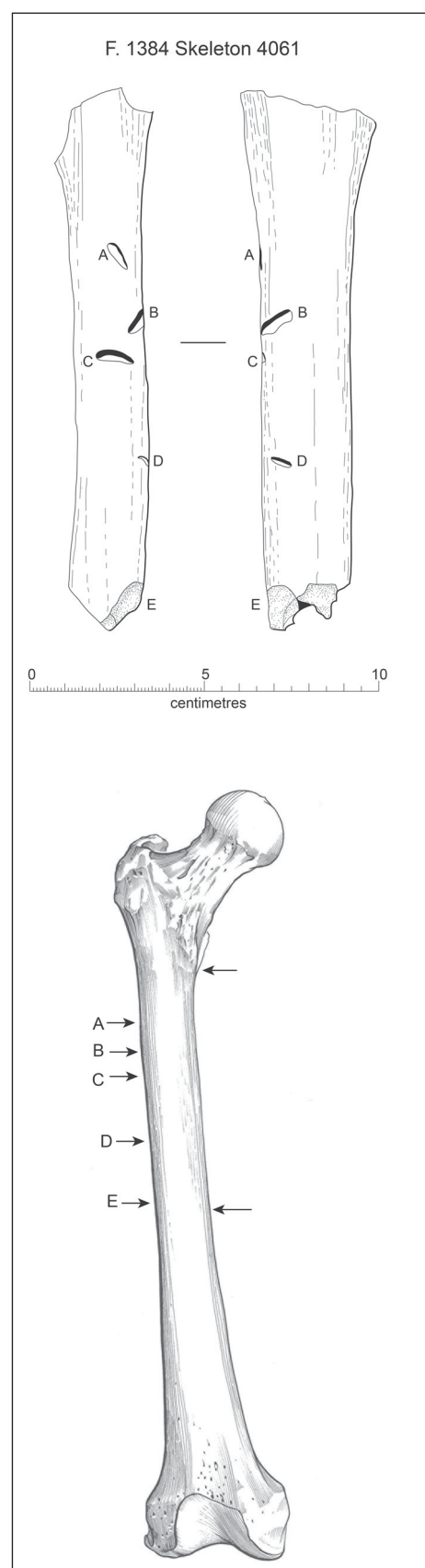
A single inhumation burial was found in pit F.1384, on the south-eastern boundary of the Northern Area. It lay c. 220m southeast of Buildings B and C, and would have been buried in an open field. There are a number of intercutting pits nearby which produced pottery, worked flint, animal bones and quernstone fragments, although no cereals. The burial pit itself was not dug especially for the body: the pit appears to have been left open for some time, and had begun to silt up, when the body was inserted, relatively high

in the fill sequence. No dateable finds were recovered with the skeleton, although the form of inhumation was common in the Middle Iron Age.



Above: **Figure 9.** The skeleton of an adult, probably male, dating to the Middle Iron Age, buried in Pit F.1384 in the Northern Area. Isotopic analysis suggests the individual is likely to be from the east of England, and was born locally.

Right: **Figure 10.** Chop marks and their location on the right femur of Skeleton 4061.



The skeleton is of an old–middle adult, aged 36–45 years, possibly male. This person was laid in the pit in a flexed position on their left side, facing east (Fig. 9). The skeleton was fully articulated and 40% complete. The individual had osteoarthritic changes in their lower back, with slight degeneration of joint articulations affecting several of the lumbar vertebrae. The person was probably also anaemic, judging by the appearance of mild porotic hyperostosis over the parietal bones. Dental calculus (not unusual in Iron Age skeletons) was found on the lower right premolar, and bone disease in the socket of the lower left first molar indicates this individual had a persistent infection of the tooth – a condition which would have led to pain and sensitivity under pressure.

Particularly striking were five oblique cut marks on the upper right femur (Fig. 10). While not definitive, all five appear to be the result of sharp force trauma. These cut marks vary somewhat in form, but all appear to be the product of short chopping blows, probably by a sword, through the *Vastus Lateralis* muscle (one of the large thigh muscles which runs from the knee around the outside of the thigh). The cut marks show no sign of healing. These blows would have disabled the individual, and the use of a sword implies a violent death.

This skeleton adds to the corpus of local Early and Middle Iron Age skeletons bearing the marks of bladed weapons. At Trumpington Meadows, 25 kilometres to the south, a male aged *c.* 35–45 years' old was found in a pit with a major blade trauma *c.* 6cm long to the front of the skull (Dodwell & Neil in Evans, Lucy & Patten 2018: 165–170). At nearby Glebe Farm, another male aged *c.* 45 years and dating to the EIA had a single blade cut *c.* 3cm to the back of the head (Dodwell in Evans, Lucy & Patten 2018: 94–96). Like the body at Knobb's Farm, both had been buried in circular pits – probably former storage pits. But unlike the individual at Knobb's Farm, both appear to have survived for a greater period of time, after the events of their wounds (Dodwell & Neil in Evans,

Lucy & Patten 2018: 168).

The Knobb's Farm skeleton was buried *c.* 200m from the roundhouses in the Northern area and, with only limited evidence of domestic activity close by, it difficult to draw strong connections between it and other features on the site.

Animal bone

Vida Rajkovača

The animal bone assemblage is small (Table 3), and indicates low-level domestic activity on the site. The generally low volume of bone waste limits detailed comparison with other sites. Although sheep are in general more common than cattle on Iron Age sites (Albarella 2007), cattle tend to dominate the East Anglian Fens, as they are less susceptible to foot rot and liver fluke in this low-lying wet environment. The ratio of main species at Knobb's Farm is comparable to the small Iron Age faunal assemblages from Parkhall Road, Somersham (Roberts 2002: 33), and the Holme and Rhee Lakeside North sites, three kilometres to the south (Evans *et al.* 2013: 216, 234)

Environmental samples

Val Fryer, Rachel Ballantyne, Anne de Vareilles

Southern Area

Preservation in the Southern area was generally good, although the density of finds was very low. All the plant macrofossils were preserved by charring. Unfortunately, many of the cereal grains were puffed and distorted, preventing close identification. The largest assemblages were in a large pit, F.1108, beside the two four-post structures (from which another sample was also taken). The pit contained four cereal grains: one of wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum* sp.) and the rest indeterminate. There were also 25 seeds from wild species. The most common were medics or clover (*Medicago/Trifolium*). As these do not grow

Table 3. Prehistoric animal bone

Taxon	Early Iron Age			Early/ Middle Iron Age		
	<i>NISP</i>	% <i>NISP</i>	<i>MNI</i>	<i>NISP</i>	% <i>NISP</i>	<i>MNI</i>
Cow	10	47.6	1	95	51.6	6
Sheep/ goat	7	33.3	1	58	31.6	4
Pig	1	4.8	1	12	6.5	1
Horse	2	9.5	1	12	6.5	1
Dog	.	.	.	2	1.1	1
Red deer	1	4.8	1	3	1.6	1
Pike	.	.	.	2	1.1	1
Sub-total to species	21	100	.	184	100	.
Cattle-sized	11	.	.	66	.	.
Sheep-sized	10	.	.	45	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	46	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Total	42	.	.	342	.	.

tall, this suggests that straw was being harvested along with the ears. As the common Iron Age crops of hulled barley and glume wheats (Greig 1991) are better stored hulled (cf. Jones 1981), the absence of chaff in the pit suggests that the dehussing of grains took place elsewhere. It is possible that the cereals stored in the adjacent four-poster granaries were cleaned of weeds prior to storage, but stored hulled and fully processed elsewhere. The sample from one of the granary postholes, F.1115, produced one spelt or emmer wheat grain (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*), and only a little charcoal. The lack of charred plant remains is a good sign, as it could indicate that crops were not lost in conflagrations.

All three samples taken from around the settlement area – the ring gully F.1185, ditch F.1191, and pit F.11084 – were not rich. They contained a scatter of residual grains (barley, emmer or spelt), chaff, wild plant seeds (mostly grass seeds) and charcoal from the overall use of crops and other plants across the site.

Pit cluster J at the eastern end of the Southern Area contained very low densities of charred plant remains accompanied by variable amounts of pottery, small animal bones fragments and worked flint. Pit F.983 produced two wheat/barley grains, and two more indeterminate grains; Pit F.980 included one grain of possible spelt wheat, while Pit F.990 contained a single indeterminate cereal grain. Wild species were notably absent, other than a single vetch/wild pea seed (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) in Pit F.911.

Northern Area

Preservation in the Middle Iron Age contexts in the Northern Area was poor, and the density of finds in all of the sampled features was very low. A small number of charred barley grains and other unidentified cereal seeds were found in a dump of material at the southern terminal of ring gully F.1472. Much of the charcoal in this sample was noticeably abraded, possibly suggesting that it was exposed for some time before burial. A handful of weed seeds were also recovered from this feature, as well as the adjoining ring gully F.1482. Most were grass seeds (Poaceae).

In the pits at the southern end of the Northern Area, plant macrofossils and other remains were generally very scarce, possibly indicating that these features were peripheral to either domestic or agricultural activity during the Middle Iron Age. There

were no cereal grains recovered, and only small quantities of wild species.

Stone and clay

Two saddle querns were found in pits in the south-west corner of the Northern area. Fragments of two other possible quernstones were found in Enclosures B and C. (Timberlake in Collins 2011: 43–44)

Burnt stone and burnt clay was found in the Northern Area, mostly around the two roundhouses (Timberlake in Collins 2011: 44, 46)

A triangular loomweight was found in a pit in Building B (Timberlake in Collins 2011: 45).

Scientific dating

The sand and gravel soils of the site proved hostile to bone preservation, and most samples submitted for radiocarbon dating lacked sufficient collagen to process. However, samples from the Northern Area did return dates. They were taken from:

The dump of pottery and animal bone in the terminal of ring gully F.1472 (GU51208);

The upper fill of the re-cut spine ditch, F.1444, c. 25m away (GU51210);

The single fill of the boundary ditch, F.1433, which produced sherds of a Scored Ware vessel, c. 95m northeast of the ring gully (GU51209).

All three produced consistent Middle Iron Age dates, although the calibration curve for this period means the calibrated dates are spread over most of the third and fourth centuries BC with a small chance of the second quarter of the fourth century BC (Table 4).

It is possible to refine these dates by employing two observations. First, the samples from F.1433 and F.1472 came from fills containing Scored Ware pottery: a style which did not appear in Cambridgeshire much before 350 BC. This means that the earlier dates for F.1472 and F.1444 are unlikely. Second, the re-use of relict field boundaries is unusual. This occurred in both the Northern and Southern Area, which suggests that activity on both areas took place fairly close in time. The pottery from the Southern area all dates to the Early/Middle Iron Age transition, while pottery in the Northern area includes Middle Iron Age Scored Ware pottery which post-dates c. 350 BC. If these two periods of activity have to be close in time, then a

Table 4. Radiocarbon dates for Middle Iron Age features

Feature	Sample	C14 reference	δ13C	Uncalibrated date	Calibrated date (IntCal 13) (95.4%)
F.1472	Horse ulna	SUERC-85782 (GU51208)	-22.9‰	2240 ± 33 BP	392–342 cal. BC (25.6%) 326–204 cal. BC (69.8%)
F.1433	Cow metatarsal	SUERC-85783 (GU51209)	-21.8‰	2204 ± 30 BP	370–195 cal. BC (95.4%)
F.1444	Sheep/ goat molar	SUERC-85784 (GU51210)	-22.2‰	2235 ± 33 BP	388–340 cal. BC (23.3%) 328–204 cal. BC (72.1%)

third century date for the Northern area becomes unlikely. Together, these two observations suggest that the animal bone sampled went into ring gully terminal F.1472 and ditch F.1444 sometime around 300 BC. The features in the Southern Area would have been slightly earlier by maybe 50–100 years – which would date them to immediately before the local appearance of Scored Ware pottery.

Discussion

The re-use of relict MBA field boundaries in the MIA was quite unexpected. All of the other elements of the settlement – ring gullies, storage pits, four-post granaries, pottery, animal bone and the types of cereal grains – are comparable to other Early and Middle Iron Age settlements locally (e.g. *houses*: Evans *et al.* 2013; Patten 2012: 138, fig. 10; Evans, Knight & Webley 2007; *cereals*: Parks 2013; *faunal remains*: Huisman 2018). EIA settlements are almost invariably open, surrounded by scattered pits – occasionally including large, deep grain storage pits, or else four-post granaries (for examples close by, see Evans and Hodder 2006b: 281–324; Evans, Brudenell *et al.* 2013: 153–249). The Middle Iron Age sees some roundhouses or settlements situated in ditched enclosures (e.g. Hinman & Zant 2018; Patten 2012; Wright *et al.* 2009), although this is hardly universal, and the forms of settlements varies considerably in size, layout and complexity.

It is the re-use of ditches from the MBA field system which marks the Knobb's Farm site as unusual in the East of England. As noted earlier, the bulk of rectilinear field systems in the east of England date to the Middle Bronze Age (Yates 2007; Evans *et al.* 2009: 42–60 for local examples). The survival and reuse of the fields at Knobb's Farm is in marked contrast to other Bronze Age field systems nearby – such as those at Colne Fen (Evans *et al.* 2013), on the lower Great Ouse (Evans *et al.* 2009), around Peterborough to the north (e.g. Pryor 2001; Evans *et al.* 2009) and Cambridge to the south (e.g. Evans, Mackay & Webley 2008). All of these went out of use in the Late Bronze Age. At Knobb's Farm, however, there is certainly evidence that a number of the ditches were recut E/MIA and MIA: notably the main spine in the Northern Area, and the short ditches immediately around Building A in the Southern Area (F. 1191, F.1169 and F.1175). Several hundred years of silting would have reduced them to maybe half a metre's depth (Fig. 5), and reduced their effectiveness for managing stock. That they were even considered worth re-establishing in the E/MIA and MIA suggests there must have been more to them than just the ditches – presumably hedges – which both marked the boundaries and made them effective.

The re-use of some of these ditches may simply be opportunistic. However, there are some similarities to the development of Iron Age settlements nearby at Colne Fen and the Upper Delphs, Haddenham, which may suggest why the Iron Age inhabitants of Knobb's Farm decided to re-use some specific ditches.

Those other settlements appear to have started on the boundary between wetter fen and drier terraces: indeed, most are just c. 100–200m from the fen edge (Evans and Hodder 2006a: 355; 2006b: 7; Evans, Brudenell *et al.* 2013: 153–249). At the Upper Delphs, where the site sequence is uncomplicated, this boundary was marked with a ditch. Rectangular enclosures were subsequently dug off it, creating house compounds and stock byres (Evans and Hodder. 2006b: 315–325). In later phases at Colne Fen, the enclosure ditches became quite substantial, and many contained numerous roundhouses.

The first parts of this sequence may have guided the development of settlement at Knobb's Farm – but constrained by the existing ditches and hedges. The Iron Age recut of the main spine ditch in both the Northern and Southern areas would have run parallel to the fen edge – albeit at a distance of c. 700m. In the Northern Area, the rectangular enclosures (A, B and C), were dug off this spine, as they were at the Upper Delphs, although at Knobb's Farm all three appear to have been to manage stock rather than create house compounds. In the Southern area, the Iron Age ditches around Building A (F.1169, F.1175 and F.1191) might have been an early form of rectangular enclosure – although much larger in area than other excavated examples at either Colne Farm or the Upper Delphs.

The settlement at Knobb's Farm was abandoned before substantial rectangular enclosures began to be constructed at Colne Fen. Exactly why the site was abandoned cannot be ascertained, but the answer might lie in its distance from the fen edge. Compared with the settlements to the south, it was rather further from the boundary between wet and dry environments. While the excavations showed that the settlement had access to dry land for cultivating grain, its position may have limited access to water for human and animal use, as well as access to fenland grazing in the summer months. Although the settlements at Knobb's Farm had wells some 100m distance from the roundhouses – a comparable distance to the fen edge for sites at Colne Fen and the Upper Delphs – these may have provided rather less reliable sources of water in dry years.

Whatever the reasons for its abandonment, there was no continuity in use of the site between the settlement's abandonment at the end of the fourth century BC, and new settlements being established in the Late Iron Age (Wiseman and Neil in press).

Acknowledgements

Excavations at the Somersham Quarry at Knobb's Farm took place over many years, and the Cambridge Archaeological Unit wishes to thank the many people who were involved. In particular, we wish to thank Dr Isabel Lisboa from Archaeologica, who commissioned this project, and Lafarge Aggregates which financed it. Archaeological monitoring of the site was done by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County

Council's Historic Environment Team.

Many of the CAU's field team were involved in the project, including Lawrence Billington, Ben Bishop, Tony Blowers, Selina Brierly, Marcus Brittain, Dan Britton, Matthew Collins, Mike Court, Bryan Crossan, Shannon Hogan, Donald Horne, Katie Hutton, Nadia Khalaf, Toby Knight, Duncan Mackay, Katherine Newman, Martin Oakes, Nick Overton, Illanith Pongolini, Steven Porter, Will Punchard, Catherine Ranson, Sam Riley, Hayley Roberts, James Walker, Jim Webster, Andy Whelen and Alasdair Wright. The site was surveyed by Donald Horne. Site plans and graphics were prepared by Ian Forbes, Jane Matthews, Brian Cossan and Vicki Herring. Photography was done by David Webb. The project managers were David Gibson and Robin Standring.

References

- Albarella, U, 2007, The end of the Sheep Age: people and animals in the Late Iron Age, in Haselgrove, C and Moore, T H (ed.) *The Later Iron Age in Britain and Beyond*. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 393–406.
- Armour, N, 2008, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham: Phase 5b Investigations*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit [CAU] Report No. 815.
- Armour, N and Morley, I, 2009, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Phase 5A Investigations*. CAU Report No. 961.
- Clark, D L, 1970, *Beaker Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland*. Volumes 1 & 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Collins, M, 2010, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham: Phase 5B(2) Investigations*. CAU Report No. 923.
- Collins, M, 2011, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Phase 7A and 7B Investigations*. CAU Report No. 986.
- Conneller, C, 2000, *Fieldwalking at Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire: Lafarge-Redland Quarry Development Phases 2–4*. CAU Report No. 405.
- Evans, C and Hodder, I, 2006a, *A Woodland Archaeology: Neolithic Sites at Haddenham*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
- Evans, C and Hodder, I, 2006b, *Marshland Communities and Cultural Landscapes from the Bronze Age to the Present Day*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
- Evans, C, Appleby, G, Lucy, S and Regan, R, 2013, *Process and History: Romano-British Communities at Colne Fen, Earith*. CAU Landscape Archives: The Archaeology of the Lower Ouse Valley (2). Cambridge: CAU.
- Evans, C, Beadsmore, E, Brudenell, M & Lucas, G, 2009, *Fengate Revisited: Further Fen-Edge Excavations, Bronze Age Fieldsystems & Settlement and the Wyman Abbott/Leeds Archives*. CAU Landscape Archives: Historiography and Fieldwork (1). CAU.
- Evans, C, Brudenell, M, Patten, R and Regan, R, 2013, *Process and History: Prehistoric Communities at Colne Fen, Earith*. CAU Landscape Archives: The Archaeology of the Lower Ouse Valley, Volume 1. CAU.
- Evans, C, Knight, M and Webley, L, 2007, *Iron Age Settlement and Romanisation on the Isle of Ely: The Hurst Lane Reservoir site*. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society [PCAS]* 96: 41–78.
- Evans, C, Lucy, S and Patten, R, 2018, *Riversides: Neolithic Barrows, a Beaker Grave, Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon Burials and Settlement at Trumpington, Cambridge*. CAU Landscape Archives: New Archaeologies of the Cambridge Region (2). Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
- Evans, C, Mackay, D and Webley, L, 2008, *Borderlands: The Archaeology of the Addenbrooke's Environs, South Cambridgeshire*. CAU Landscape Archives: New Archaeologies of the Cambridge Region Series, Volume 1. Oxford: Cambridge Archaeological Unit & Oxbow Books.
- French, C A and Wait, G, 1988, *An archaeological survey of the Cambridgeshire river gravels*. Unpublished Cambridgeshire County Council report.
- Greig, J R, 1991, The British Isles. In Van Zest, W, Wasylikowa, K and K-E Behre (ed.), *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany*. Brookfield and Rotterdam: A.A. Balkema, 299–334.
- Hall, D, 1992, *The Fenland Project No 6: The South-Western Cambridgeshire Fenslands*. East Anglian Archaeology Report 56. Cambridge: Cambridgeshire Archaeological Committee.
- Halstead, J C, 2011, *Settlement patterns from the Late Neolithic to late Bronze Age: the central Welsh border region in context*. University of Birmingham: unpublished PhD dissertation.
- Hatherley, C, 2001, *An Archaeological Evaluation at Knobb's Farm, Somersham: Lafarge-Redland Quarry Development, Phases 2 & 3*. CAU Report No. 445.
- Hill, R A, Lacey, J and Reynolds, P, 1983, Storage of barley in Iron Age type underground pits. *Journal of Stored Products Research* 19(4): 163–171.
- Hinman, M and Zant, J, 2018, *Conquering the Claylands: Excavations at Love's Farm, St Neots, Cambridgeshire*. East Anglian Archaeology Monograph 165. Cambridge: Oxford Archaeology East.
- Huisman, F, 2018, *Wild Wetlands and domestic drylands? Prehistoric communities of the East Anglian Fens in the broader regional context (c.4000 BC – 100 AD)*. Durham University: Unpublished PhD dissertation.
- Jones, M, 1981, The development of crop husbandry, In Jones M, and Dimbleby G W (ed.) *The Environment of Man: The Iron Age to the Anglo-Saxon period*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, British Series 87, 95–127.
- Knight, D, 2002, A regional ceramic sequence: pottery of the first millennium BC between the Humber and Nene, in Woodward, A and Hill, J D (ed.) *Prehistoric Britain: The Ceramic Basis*. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 119–142.
- Masser, P, 2000, *An Archaeological Evaluation at Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire*. CAU Report No. 384.
- Palmer, R and Cox, C, 1996, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, Aerial Photographic Assessment*. Air Photo Services report.
- Parks, K E, 2013, *Iron Age and Roman arable practice in the east of England*. University of Leicester: Unpublished PhD dissertation.
- Patten, R, 2012, *An Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Summersfield, Papworth Everard*. *PCAS* 101: 115–142.
- Pollard, J, 1996, Iron Age riverside pit alignments at St Ives, Cambridgeshire. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 62: 93–115.
- Pryor, F, 2001, *The Flag Fen Basin: Archaeology and environment of a Fenland landscape*. Swindon: English Heritage.
- Roberts, J, 2002, *Iron Age Occupation at 14 Parkhall Road, Somersham*. Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit Report No. 182.
- Salway, P, Hallam, S J, I'Anson Bromwich, J and Phillips, C W, 1971 (ed.), *The Fenland in Roman Times: Studies*

- of a major area of peasant colonisation with a gazetteer covering all known sites and finds.* London: The Royal Geographical Society.
- Slater, A, 2006, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire: Phase 5: An Archaeological Evaluation.* CAU Report No. 756.
- Tebbutt, C F, 1929, Romano-British village sites in Colne and Somersham, Huntingdonshire. *Transactions of the Cambridge and Huntingdon Archaeological Society* 4: 305–312.
- Waller, R, 1994, *Flandrian Environmental Change in Fenland.* The Fenland Project Number 9; East Anglian Archaeology 70. Cambridge: Cambridgeshire County Council.
- Willis, S, 2006, The Later Bronze Age and Iron Age, in Cooper, NJ (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands. An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda.* Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13. Leicester: University of Leicester Archaeological Services, 89–136.
- Wills, J, 2003, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, Phase 4: An Archaeological Evaluation.* CAU Report No. 491.
- Wills, J, 2004a, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, Phase 5: An Archaeological Evaluation by Field Survey.* CAU Report No. 616.
- Wills, J, 2004b, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, Phase 5: An Archaeological Evaluation.* CAU Report No. 651.
- Wills, J, 2004c, *Knobb's Farm, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, Phase 4: An Archaeological Excavation.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No. 632.
- Wiseman, R, Neil, B, and Mazzilli, F (in review). *Knobb's Farm, Cambridgeshire: Three Late Roman cemeteries and a fen-edge settlement.*
- Wright, J, Leivers, M, Seager Smith, R and Stevens, C J, 2009, *Cambourne New Settlement.* Wessex Archaeology Report No. 23. Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology.
- Yates, D, 2007, *Land, Power and Prestige: Bronze Age Field Systems in Southern England.* Oxford: Oxbow.