

**Little Paxton Quarry,
Cambridgeshire
Excavations 1992-1998**

**Neolithic-Bronze Age Activity
(Areas B, D and E/F)
Post-Excavation Assessment**

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EXCAVATIONS 1992-1998
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(Areas B, D, E/F and fieldwalking material)
POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT**

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Excavations 1992-8: Neolithic-Bronze Age Activity (Areas B, D, E/F and fieldwalking material)

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

1.0: SUMMARY

This report describes the features and finds of Neolithic-Bronze Age date recovered during an on-going programme of archaeological investigations in advance of quarrying at Little Paxton, Diddington, Cambridgeshire, and provides proposals to bring the fieldwork results to full publication. The assessment also includes consideration of the very few flint finds of possible Mesolithic date, which are the earliest artifacts collected during the present programme of fieldwork at Little Paxton quarry.

This report forms the second stage in the post-excavation assessment of the fieldwork results within the Phase 1-2 areas of the quarry (excavated 1992-8). The first stage of post-excavation assessment was concerned with the Romano-British period (Jones 1999). It is intended that a subsequent assessment will summarise the results of fieldwork within the Iron Age settlement areas investigated during the fieldwork programme, leading to an integrated publication of the prehistoric (archaeological Phases 1-3, as presently defined) and Romano-British settlement evidence (archaeological Phases 4-6, as presently defined) within a single monograph. It is intended that the results of fieldwork within the Phase 3 area of the quarry (excavated from 1998 onwards) will be the subject of a later post-excavation assessment, and a subsequent full publication.

Neolithic-Bronze Age activity was most widely represented by ploughsoil scatters of flint artifacts, recorded particularly in Fields 1 and 2 in the east of the quarry concession (Fig. 1A-C). Three concentrations of Neolithic-Bronze Age features were recorded. The largest cluster of early prehistoric features was located in Area B. This comprised a concentration of Neolithic pits, some possibly forming pit-circles. Three pits containing Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age flint artifacts were found in Area E/F, and a single pit containing pottery of Neolithic date was excavated in Area D.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

2.1: Background to the project

This report presents an integrated summary of the finds (including redeposited, unstratified, and fieldwalking material) and of the features of Neolithic-Bronze Age date excavated during an on-going programme of archaeological excavations which began in 1992 at Little Paxton Quarry, Diddington, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1A-B; centred on TL 202651). The report provides a post-excavation assessment of the early prehistoric data, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Management of

Archaeology Projects (MAP 2 - English Heritage). The excavations have also involved the examination of mainly Iron Age and Romano-British settlement complexes, which are the subject of separate post-excavation assessments (Jones 1999, Jones in preparation). The fieldwork was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Aggregate Industries UK Limited (formerly FCC Quarries and later CAMAS Aggregates Limited).

Evaluation of the Phase 1-2 areas (Fields 1-4) within the quarry was undertaken in two stages. The first stage involved air photograph analysis, geophysical survey and trial-trenching, undertaken in 1992 (Air Photo Services 1992, Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992, Leach 1992, Jones 1992). The second stage in the evaluation of Fields 1-4 involved fieldwalking and test-pitting in Fields 1 and 2 (Bevan 1996, Bevan and Dingwall 1997), which was undertaken immediately prior to topsoil stripping and area excavation.

Since the evaluations confirmed that the principal settlement complexes within the quarry corresponded with the main concentrations of crop-marked features, subsequent area excavations have been targeted to examine the main concentrations of crop-marked features. The Neolithic-Bronze Age features have been identified during the excavation of crop-marked settlement complexes of Iron Age and Romano-British date.

A total of five area excavations (Areas A-E/F, Fig. 1C) has been undertaken in the Phase 1-2 area of the quarry between 1993 and 1998, and the results of work in each area have been summarised in four interim reports (Jones and Ferris 1994, Jones 1995, Jones 1998, and Jones forthcoming). The archaeological mitigation strategy within the remainder of the Phase 1-2 areas of the quarry has involved the maintenance of an archaeological watching brief during overburden stripping, supplemented where appropriate by salvage recording.

Excavation in 1993 initially involved the examination of a Romano-British 'ladder' and other associated enclosures (Area A, Jones and Ferris 1994, and below), and of a complex of Neolithic pits, including possible pit-circles. Later features included a complex of Iron Age farmstead enclosures including two hut circles (Area B, Jones 1995). A discrete Iron Age square barrow and other Iron Age features were dug in 1996 (Jones 1996, Areas C and D). The most recent investigations, undertaken over two seasons (1997-8), involved the examination of a complex of ditched enclosures and animal pens of Middle-Late Iron Age and early Romano-British date, extending over an area of 5ha. (Jones 1999, Area E/F), which also included a small cluster of pits of Neolithic date.

The post-excavation assessment concerned with features and finds of Romano-British date has been completed (Jones 1999). It is intended that the Iron Age settlement areas (Areas B-E/F), and the residual Iron Age material from later features will be assessed subsequently (Jones in preparation), as a preliminary to full publication of the results of the 1992-1998 excavations in an integrated, multi-phase monograph. The present assessment also includes unstratified and residual Neolithic-Bronze Age material from other areas within the Phase 1-2 quarry concession.

Further, on-going evaluation and excavation is currently in progress in the Phase 3 area of the quarry, located to the north of the Phase 1-2 area (outside the scope of this assessment and the associated programme of post-excavation). This most recent fieldwork has involved the examination of Neolithic-Bronze Age pits, and Iron Age and Romano-British enclosures and field systems, which will be reported upon subsequently in a post-excavation assessment, to be followed by a full programme of post-excavation analysis and detailed reporting of the evidence.

2.2: Aims

The overall aims of the excavations were to define and date changes in settlement forms and economy from the Neolithic to the end of the Romano-British period, and to relate these changes to the development of the river valley environment, providing an integrated model of settlement and economic change which can be compared with evidence from other river valley environments.

The detailed aims of excavation appropriate for the study of the Neolithic-Bronze Age were as follows:

- 1) To consider the evidence for the earliest activity and settlement on site.
- 2) To define the chronology of site activity.
- 3) To characterise the flint and pottery dating, their sources, and their distributions within the settlement areas (including the distributions of fieldwalking material), and to consider how this evidence may contribute to an understanding of the possible structured deposition of artifacts, within a ritual context.
- 4) To compare the evidence of change in settlement and economy from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age with the Mid/Late Iron Age.
- 5) To examine the evidence for the land use and the surrounding environment.
- 6) To compare the model of changes in settlement location, form and economy proposed for the settlement with data for other contemporary landscapes within the Ouse Valley, in particular focusing upon the evidence for the use of the surrounding landscape for ritual and/or funerary practices, and to attempt a wider comparison with similar evidence recorded within other river valley environments.

2.4: Methodology (Fig. 1C)

Excavation in Field 4 (Area B) was undertaken in two stages, in June and October-December 1993. Two contiguous areas measuring 60m and 80m square were investigated, both areas being positioned to examine the majority of the crop-marked features. Excavations in Area D (Field 1) centred around a crop-marked enclosure, and investigated an area measuring 26m by 50m. Excavation in the northern settlement (Area E/F, Field 2), undertaken in two contiguous areas in 1997-8, examined an area of approximately 5 ha., which also contained Mid-late Iron Age enclosures, in addition to the small number of Neolithic-Bronze Age features described and assessed below.

Within all area investigations, the excavation and sampling procedures were similar (as elsewhere within the quarry), to permit inter-comparison of the results. Within the excavated areas, the ploughsoil was removed by motor-scaper working under archaeological supervision, to expose the upper gravel horizon, which was later cleaned by JCB excavator or by hand, to define the archaeological features cut into the gravels. Sampling of the ditches was targeted at the feature intersections to elucidate the sequence of activity, with discrete lengths of linear features also being additionally hand-excavated. Pits and post-holes were examined in half-section. Within Area B many of the Neolithic pits were totally excavated, with total wet or dry sieving of their entire fills, to maximise finds recovery. Samples for environmental analysis within each of the areas investigated were taken from sealed, well-dated feature fills, and were processed on-site to enable rapid 'feedback' which contributed to the evolving strategy for excavation and further environmental sampling.

Recording employed separate running numerical sequences for contexts (four digit numbers) and features (three digit numbers, prefixed by an 'F'). Features were defined to include negative features such as ditches, pits and post-holes, but also positive features such as floors and banks. Where several hand-excavated cuttings were dug through the same feature, the segments were distinguished by the addition of a decimal suffix to the feature number, and additionally the feature fills were separately numbered, to facilitate the analysis of spatial patterning within artifact distribution. For simplicity, the enclosures in Area E/F have been numbered in a chronological sequence (commencing with the Middle Iron Age enclosures) prefixed by an 'E'.

3.0: RESULTS

3.1: Phasing

The Neolithic-Bronze Age activity forms the first of six phases of activity identified at Little Paxton, as follows:

- Phase 1: Neolithic and Bronze-Age**
- Phase 2: Middle Iron Age
- Phase 3: Late Iron Age
- Phase 4: Late 1st early 2nd century (Area E/F and Area A)
- Phase 5: Late 2nd-3rd century (Area A only)
- Phase 6: 4th-century activity (Area A only)

This assessment and the programme of analysis and reporting proposed in this report is only concerned with Phase 1 features, with finds of this date recovered from fieldwalking, and with residual Neolithic-Bronze Age material recovered from later feature-fills.

AREA B Late Neolithic (Fig. 2)

The earliest activity comprised three irregular clusters of features, cut into the gravel subsoil, located in the southeastern sector of the excavated area.

The southern group of features comprised three small flat-based pits (F342-3, F346), with near-vertical sides and measuring between 0.2-0.7m in diameter and between 0.1-0.3m in depth. The western group comprised two gullies (F380-1), a pit (F389), measuring 0.8m in depth, and two small pits or post holes (F387-8). A further small pit or post-hole (F361), located 20m to the south of pit F389, may be associated with this feature group. The northern group of features comprised a cluster of small pits or post-holes (F325, F331, F350-3, F357), which appeared to be similar in fill and form to the southern group, except that this northern group appeared to be more severely plough-truncated; the maximum surviving depth of the latter group was 0.1m.

The southern group of features was backfilled with charcoal-rich dark grey sand-silt. The pits contained pottery of Middle Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. Features F346 and F342 contained Peterborough Ware sherds of Middle Neolithic date. Features F346, F342 and F343 contained Beaker pottery, of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. No artifacts were recovered from the northern group of features, despite the extensive sieving of their backfills; accordingly this group is attributed to this phase on the basis of the recorded similarity in form and backfill material between the northern and southern feature groups, as well as by the absence of later artifacts. The western group of features was backfilled with silty dark grey-brown sand, and contained flint artifacts but no pottery.

AREA D Late Neolithic (for location see Fig. 1C)

The only feature belonging to this period was an elongated pit (F561, not illustrated), cut into the gravel subsoil. It was sub-oval in plan, measured 2.5m in length, and was backfilled with brown silt-sand (2137). Its fill contained four flint flakes and four sherds of pottery of Middle Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date.

AREA E/F Neolithic-Bronze Age (Fig. 3)

The earliest features investigated were of Neolithic-Bronze Age date. The only datable features of this period were three pits (F958, F991 and F806), measuring up to 0.3m in depth, each containing flint artifacts. No pottery was found in these features.

OTHER DATA

More extensive evidence of Neolithic-Bronze Age activity was represented by ploughsoil scatters of flint artifacts, recovered by fieldwalking and test-pitting. Other Neolithic-Bronze Age flint finds were represented by residual material recovered during excavation at a Romano-British settlement complex (Area A, Fig. 1C), and an Iron Age complex (Area B, Fig. 1C).

4.0: ASSESSMENTS

4.1: Introduction

This section of the report provides assessments of the finds and environmental data belonging principally to the Neolithic-Bronze Age periods (Phase 1), which comprises the earliest activity identified at Little Paxton quarry, together with a very small quantity of Mesolithic flint. The dataset comprises both Phase 1 features and associated finds and artifactual evidence, but also unstratified and ploughsoil finds (principally flint) from fieldwalking. A quantity of residual Neolithic-Bronze Age finds, recovered from Phase 2-6 contexts is also assessed in this report.

Each individual assessment concludes with a statement of the predicted research potential, based on the main excavation research aims. The potential of each material category to contribute to the updated, post-excavation research aims is considered in Section 5.0 below. Material from the evaluations (Leach 1992 and Jones 1992) is also assessed.

4.2: Factual data and statement of potential

4.2.1: Stratigraphic/structural data

The survival of Phase 1 archaeological features and deposits was confined to 'negative' features cut into the natural sands and gravels. Ploughing from the medieval period onwards has caused severe truncation of the cut features such as pits and gullies. The size and morphology of some of the cropmarked features identified suggested that some could be of Phase 1 date (e.g. ring ditches). However, none of these ring-ditches could be identified during fieldwork, presumably because of plough truncation. An alternative explanation is that the cropmarked features merely represented differences in the composition of the topsoil, although this is a less likely alternative.

4.2.2: Digital data

The fieldwalking finds have been entered upon a database, which has been used to produce distributional diagrams in autocad. A stratigraphic and finds database has also been prepared, including all information from the prehistoric and Romano-British settlement complexes. As a preliminary to full post-excavation analysis the manually-planned Area B and Area D excavations will be digitised, to ensure compatibility with data for the other excavations, held in Penmap format.

Statement of potential

- Landscape and settlement/ritual

The addition of contour data to the digital map base, in conjunction with the height co-ordinates available (recorded during excavation) will enable a digital terrain model

to be established. In combination with the digital terrain model, digital mapping of the extent and depth of the alluvium will enhance our understanding of the relationship between the Phase 1 activity (as represented by Phase 1 features and clusters of other finds) and the natural landform.

- Relationship between settlement and economy and landscape change

The digital terrain model will enable comparison between the natural landform, the recorded changes in the settlement pattern, and the economic evidence relating to the early prehistoric periods. This information can usefully be compared with the later prehistoric (Phase 2-3) landuse.

4.2.2: Quantifications

TABLE 1: Quantification of the paper archive

<i>Record</i>	<i>Area A</i>	<i>Area B</i>	<i>Areas C-D</i>	<i>Area E/F</i>
Contexts	-	15	2	5
Features	-	13	1	3
Colour slide	-	20	3	5
B and W prints	-	20	3	5
Admin. files	-	1	1	1

4.3: Finds and environmental data

TABLE 2: Quantification of the finds archive
(Excludes fieldwalking material)

<i>Material</i>	<i>Area A</i>	<i>Area B</i>	<i>Areas C-D</i>	<i>Areas E-F</i>
Flint	65	75	66	765
Pottery	-	80 (4 residual)	4	-

The single Phase 1 copper alloy object was a fieldwalking find. No Phase 1 bone was collected.

4.3.1: Copper alloy object by Lynne Bevan

A socketed axe of probable Bronze Age date was recovered during fieldwalking in Field 2. This important find will require full publication, including illustration and a search for published parallels on a regional and national level.

4.3.2: Flint (excavations and fieldwalking) by Lynne Bevan

Quantity (see Fig. 1C for locations)

The total assemblage comprises 1394 items of humanly-struck flint, including chronologically-diagnostic material from the later Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age. Flint-working techniques evident in the usage of barely-modified pebble cores for the production of broad flakes and a low proportion of blades and blade-like flakes, suggest a later prehistoric (Neolithic to Bronze Age) focus of activity. Closer chronological resolution is possible, however, in Areas B and C-D where small groups

of flint, flakes and blades were derived from primary contexts - pits and post-holes from which pottery of Middle Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date was also recovered.

The artifactual composition of the assemblages from Areas A to D appear in Table 3 and the artifactual composition of the larger assemblage from Area E/F in Table 4.

TABLE 3: Flint from Areas A-D

<i>Flint types</i>	<i>Area A</i>	<i>Area B</i>	<i>Areas C & D</i>	<i>Field 1 test-pitting</i>	<i>Field 1 field walking</i>	<i>Areas C & D & Field 1 totals</i>
Scrapers	14	1	5	1	14	20
Serrated	5		1			1
Sickle		1				
Borer					1	1
Axe butt		1				
Arrowheads			1		7	8
Denticulated			1			1
Fabricators	1				2	2
Blades		4			2	2
Knives			1		1	2
Other retouched	9	5	8	1	29	38
Cores	3	3	3	2	19	24
Flakes	33	60	46	2	174	222
Totals	65	75	66	6	249	321

TABLE 4: All flint from Area E/F

<i>Flint types</i>	<i>Area E/F</i>	<i>Field 2</i>	<i>Field 2 Test-pitting</i>	<i>Field 2 & Area E/F Totals</i>
Scrapers	16	9		25
Serrated	1			1
Arrowheads	1			1
Pressure-flaked tip		1		1
Blades	1	3		4
Other retouched	9	16	1	26
Cores	13	20		33
Flakes	724	103	15	842
Totals	765	152	16	933

Assessment methodology

For the purposes of assessment the flint collections from fieldwalking, evaluation and excavation were scanned, quantified, tabulated, and briefly described. For simplicity the primary, residual and topsoil material is discussed together, and the collections are described by area/field.

Range and variety

Raw material

The raw material used is generally of high quality, translucent beige and opaque light to dark grey in colour and was probably obtained from on-site gravel deposits, since some items retained traces of pebble cortex characteristic of a river gravel origin. The flint assemblage from Field 1 is of a generally high quality, ranging from translucent beige and opaque light to dark grey in colour with some pieces of a coarser, yellowish-grey flint. The Field 2 flint collection suggested that although large pebble nodules were available, the flint was of unpredictable quality, with a high incidence of cortical inclusions. It varied in colour from light grey and brown to dark grey. The darker flint was apparently of a better quality than the light flint and was favoured for tool manufacture, especially for scrapers.

Area A

Sixty-five items of humanly-worked flint were recovered, all derived from Phase 4-6 contexts or the topsoil. Flint tools included 14 scrapers, a fabricator, nine retouched flakes, five serrated blades and three cores.

Area B

The flint assemblage comprises a total of 15 artifacts and 60 flakes, the majority of which came either singly, or in very small groups, from stratified contexts or

ploughsoil, the raw material used probably originated from on site gravel deposits, since some items retained traces of pebble cortex.

With the exception of a later Mesolithic opposed platform core, and a possibly contemporary end scraper, the majority of the chronologically-diagnostic tools date to the Neolithic period, including a sickle fragment, an axe butt fragment (both unfinished), and four blades. Three of the blades were recovered from a post-hole (F346) which also contained Middle Neolithic - Early Bronze Age pottery, together with ten flakes, a water-rolled core and a notched flake. Another post-hole (F342) contained pottery of similar date range and five flint flakes, one of the latter being a large, irregularly shaped flake with traces of retouching. A fourth blade was the sole find from a post-hole (F361) where it had been placed at the base of the cut. The blade was also patinated and iron-stained, and may have had a Neolithic origin.

Areas C and D

The small assemblage from Areas C and D consisted of one barbed and tanged arrowhead, five scrapers, a knife, three cores, one denticulate piece and 46 flakes, including eight retouched flakes and one serrated flake.

The stratified material came from pit F561 and comprised four flakes, including a serrated flake of opaque light grey flint with iron staining on the surface and a long flake of high quality dark grey flint from a very large pebble nodule. There were only two chronologically-diagnostic pieces of flint. Firstly, a (residual) Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead from a Phase 2-3 ditch (F550), found with an ovoid, shallow-flaked scraper and a retouched flake; the second a 'denticulate', possibly a scraper (also from ditch F550), of a form which has been dated to the Mid-Late Bronze Age (Saville 1981, 21; Harding 1991, fig. 45.84-85).

The remaining flints are considered to be Neolithic to Bronze Age in date, and were residual material within features of Phase 2-3 date and from the topsoil. Their size indicates that very small pebble nodules were being utilised.

Field 1 fieldwalking and test-pitting (Fig. 4)

The assemblage comprised 75 artefacts and 174 struck flakes and chunks. There is a high incidence of white re-cortication among the collection. Despite the difficulties in identifying contemporaneity among fieldwalking assemblages, a generally Neolithic date is supported by the presence of certain chronologically-diagnostic tools, such as blade cores, two fabricators, several arrowheads, five of which were leaf-shaped and one of which was transverse, and a borer, the latter dating to the later Neolithic (Edmunds 1995, 95, fig. 65). That the arrowheads were unfinished links them with a home base, where they would have been manufactured along with other retouched implements, rather than with hunting, an off-site activity.

Other tools associated with settlement are scrapers, awls and burins (Schotfield 1987, 280), and the presence of 14 scrapers in the assemblage is strongly suggestive of some degree of settlement in the vicinity. Although not generally chronologically-

diagnostic tools, discoidal-shaped scrapers with shallow flaking around the circumference, a type prevalent in Area C/D, are a form usually associated with the later Neolithic period (Edmonds 1995, 96, Fig. 66). Other retouched tools included 29 retouched flakes, a small flake knife, and two blades.

Area E/F

The assemblage consisted of 765 items of humanly-worked flint, comprising a small barbed and tanged arrowhead, 13 cores, 16 scrapers, one blade fragment, 10 retouched flakes, one of which was serrated, and 724 un-retouched flakes. Core preparation was minimal and cores tended to be rough and multi-platformed, worked from different directions, presumably for the production of broad flakes, suggesting a Bronze Age date for the majority of the collection. This general date is supported by the barbed and tanged arrowhead and a high incidence of discoidal scrapers, both of which are typically Early Bronze Age forms. While arrowheads are usually associated with off-site activities, scrapers are one of a limited range of tools to be found in settlement areas with any degree of frequency (Schofield 1987, 280), suggesting that the area was a focus of domestic activity.

The collection suggests a low density, episodic, usage of the landscape with some evidence for tool manufacture. Two Phase 1 features produced large quantities of struck flint. The largest concentration, a total of three scrapers and 204 flakes including micro-debitage, came from pit F991(4050), and 160 flakes were recovered from adjoining pit F958 (3415). However, no chronologically- diagnostic material could be related to known prehistoric features. The remainder of the flint collection derived from features of Phase 2-6 date, or the topsoil.

While separate chronological phases of tool manufacture and use cannot be identified in the collection, the evidence (a complete absence of diagnostically-earlier material, unskilled knapping resulting in multi-platformed flake cores and broad, squat flakes) suggests a generally later prehistoric date for the collection, in accordance with the results of previous work in Field 2 (Bevan 1997, Bevan and Dingwall 1997).. Closer chronological definition beyond the Beaker period/Early-to-Later Bronze Age is not possible.

Field 2 fieldwalking and test-pitting (Fig. 5)

A total of 152 items of humanly-struck flint was collected during fieldwalking. The assemblage comprised one pressure-flaked implement tip, nine scrapers, three blades, 16 retouched flakes, 20 cores/core fragments and 103 flakes.

Despite the difficulties in recognising struck flint in an area where natural, non-worked flint is present in the soil, a few items were recovered from most grid squares. The high incidence of cores and core fragments in the collection is indicative of flint-knapping activities, mainly concentrated towards the northern edge of the field. The collection appears biased in favour of cores and larger implements which are easier to recognise than small flakes in soil containing large quantities of natural flint. Therefore the number of cores suggests a more intensive use of the area than is

supported by the fairly low flake count. Two squares in the extreme northeastern corner of the field yielded both cores and the largest amounts of flint flakes.

A high number of scrapers and retouched implements attests to settlement in the immediate area (Schofield 1987: 280), the scale and duration of which cannot be ascertained on the basis of the fieldwalking collection alone. Flint implement distribution is more generalised than core distribution, although there is a paucity of retouched pieces in the southeastern quarter of the field. A lack of any chronologically-diagnostic tools precludes dating of the collection. However, scraper morphology and the presence of a large, bifacially pressure-flaked implement tip is suggestive of a generally Neolithic date, although it is possible that certain elements of the collection are later. Waste flakes tend to be short or squat, rather than blade-like, supporting a later Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

Statement of potential

By recording and studying the total flint assemblage it will be possible to gain an understanding of prehistoric activities in the area through time, comparing and contrasting flint collections recovered by differing archaeological techniques. While the flint from primary contexts in Areas B, D and E/F offers more potential for chronological and, perhaps, cultural investigation, fieldwalking (Fields 1-2) and, to a lesser extent, test-pitting within other areas has revealed a much larger flint assemblage than that derived from excavation.

The archaeological potential of studying material derived from fieldwalking, is well-established (e.g. Haselgrove, Millett and Smith 1985, Gaffney and Tingle 1989, and Schofield 1991). The value of this method to Little Paxton is that the fieldwalking assemblages contain a high proportion of complete flakes, the measurements of which can be plotted on scattergrams, in order to determine whether the assemblages from each area are dominated by blade-like flakes or broad flakes characteristic of earlier or later prehistoric periods (Pitts and Jacobi 1979). Resulting data from each area (or field) can then be compared, and pre-existing spatial plots enlarged and adapted to show the occurrence of the 60 scrapers and over 100 other retouched tools recovered. A high number of retouched implements, particularly scrapers, is regarded as evidence for habitation foci (Schofield 1987: 280). The scraper-dominated assemblage from Field 1 which also includes a high proportion of other retouched implements, is of particular interest in this respect.

The occurrence of the 63 cores and any primary flakes identified, waste material indicative of flint-working activities, can also be spatially plotted. The resulting data will form the basis of a report, integrating the assemblages from excavation and test-pitting with the pre-existing spatial plotting for the fieldwalking assemblages and identifying activity areas within the landscape, including settlement foci and potential tool-making areas.

Flint is well-represented in the region (i.e. the eastern counties as defined in Glazebrook 1997) where it was utilised up until the Late Bronze Age (Saville 1995). Lithic scatters revealed by survey work, most notably in the Fen and Fen-edge¹, have

been the subject of archaeological research, proving useful in the reconstruction of 'settlement density and land use strategies' (Hall and Coles 1994, Brown and Murphy 1997, 14). That the majority of the Little Paston assemblage appears to have been generated during later prehistory is potentially useful in the reconstruction of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age settlement. Other aspects of the assemblage, for example, the small Mesolithic component of the assemblage and the presence of Phase 1 features (closer dating of which should be achieved from associated pottery), suggest the re-occupation of the same lowland locations during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic, a general tendency observed within the eastern counties (Brown and Murphy 1997). Thus, the preliminary dating of this varied assemblage should serve to elucidate prehistoric activity in the area from the Mesolithic to the Late Bronze Age.

Full analysis, including weighing of all flint and the measuring of all tools and complete flakes, is recommended. Comparison of the main tool types from the separate phases of archaeological investigation is also recommended, together with comparison with published material from other contemporary sites, including Fengate (Pryor 1978, 1980), Middle Harling (Healy 1995) and Broome Heath, Norfolk (Wainwright 1972), and Hurst Fen, Suffolk (Clark, Higgs and Longworth 1960). The selective illustration of up to 30 items representative of the total assemblage, principally key tool types and blades from primary contexts, is recommended for inclusion in the report.

4.3.3: Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery by Ann Woodward

A total of 84 sherds of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery was recovered from Phases 1 and 2 of the project.

Range and variety

Pit group

A total of 74 sherds was found in the fills of a group of pits located in Area B (Fig. 1C). Much of the material was decorated and can be assigned to the Peterborough Ware and Beaker traditions. Peterborough Ware is dated, according to the available radiocarbon determinations, to the Middle Neolithic period (Gibson and Kinnes 1997) and Beakers date from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age periods. The Peterborough sherds are in a distinctive hard fabric, containing ill-sorted, medium to large inclusions of angular flint, with a few sherds containing grog and no flint. The Beaker fabrics are more variable, but generally are sandy, with a few small flint, or occasionally shell, inclusions. Red to dark red surfaces are common.

Pit F3 16, Layer 1999

Eight sherds, of an average weight of 8g, include a shoulder sherd from a Mortlake style bowl (Peterborough tradition), decorated with rows of impressions made with a blunt instrument, a very worn wall sherd decorated with possible birdbone impressions from another similar bowl, and a small worn Beaker sherd with probable cord impressions. There are also five plain sherds of Peterborough Ware.

Pit F346, layer 1930

A total of 46 sherds, average weight 2g, included 26 fragments of Peterborough Ware from at least three vessels. A single rim sherd is decorated with a twisted cord chevron, and there are two sherds decorated with a blunt instrument, probably from the same vessel as that represented in context 1929. Six further sherds are from the wall of a vessel decorated with whipped cord lines, apparently in Peterborough Ware fabric, and there are a further 17 plain fragments. There are five small and abraded decorated Beaker sherds, from more than one vessel, bearing traces of twisted cord and impressed decoration, and 15 undecorated sherds in Beaker type fabrics.

Pit F342, layer 1725

Nineteen sherds, of average weight 2g, include 16 of Peterborough Ware. Amongst these are a very worn rim sherd decorated with diagonal lines, possibly executed in cord technique, and wall sherds decorated with whipped cord or other impressions. The whipped cord decorated piece appears to be from the same vessel as that in feature F346 (above). Some sherds are fresh and some extremely abraded. There were also a wall sherd of Beaker decorated with incised chevron motifs and a plain base angle probably from a different Beaker vessel.

Pit F343, layer 1726

There is a single fragment of plain pottery, weighing less than 1g, probably from a Beaker.

Pit F561

The filling of this isolated pit contained four sherds, average weight 3g, of Middle Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. One decorated rim sherd in a sandy fabric is from a small bowl in the Peterborough tradition. The expanded rim was decorated with an incised herringbone pattern and there are traces of further decoration on the inside of the rim. This piece appears to have been refired. Three further sherds were plain and in a grogged fabric. On the basis of variable wall thickness it is likely that more than one vessel is represented. The fabric type is typical of pottery dating from the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age periods.

Iron Age Structures 1 and 2

Structure 1

Amongst an assemblage which is predominantly of Iron Age date there are two sherds from Phase 2-3 caves-drip gully F399 which are potentially of Early Bronze Age date. These are both wall sherds, one decorated with very worn impressions, which may have been executed in cord technique, and the other decorated with a deeply-incised lattice motif. Both are in a hard but laminated fabric which is not typical of Early Bronze Age urns in the region or in the country as a whole. However, such hard

fabrics do occasionally occur, as at Sharkestone, Derbyshire (ApSimon 1960, 37, no. 44)

Structure 2

Again, the ceramic assemblage is mainly of Iron Age date, but there are two worn sherds from context 1924 (F401.5), one decorated with a groove, which are in a soft laminated fabric of Early Bronze Age type.

Statement of potential

The small pit groups include a large proportion of identifiable decorated material datable to the Middle Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age periods. These assemblages are of regional importance.

The pottery should be recorded and analysed according to the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Guidelines, and discussed in relation to the relevant national corpora and assemblages within the region such as Fengate, Pode Hole Farm, Barnack, Barnack/Bainton, Maxey, Etton and Godmanchester. Petrographic analysis of a small selection of samples is also recommended. Detailed study of morphology, fabrics, abrasion and fragmentation, in association with contextual considerations, will contribute to the site themes of relative chronology, feature function and ceramic production, and the assemblages will be interpreted in relation to other contemporary assemblages within the region and to similar pit groups across the country as a whole.

4.3.4: Charred plant remains by Wendy Smith

Introduction

Archaeobotanical samples collected from Phase 1 features were assessed for charred plant remains in order to determine:

- If plant remains are present.
- If the plant remains recovered can provide information on human activity at the site, in particular cultivation or other agricultural activities.
- If the plant remains can provide information on the surrounding environment.

Assessment methodology

Samples were taken from sealed deposits at the excavator's discretion. In total, seven samples from pits were assessed for charred plant remains

The samples were processed by the BUFAU environmental officer, using water flotation. The flots (the material which floats on the water's surface) were sieved to 500µm for the Area C/D material and 600µm for the Area E/F material. The heavy residues (the material which does not float) were wet sieved to 1mm. Both were air dried at room temperature and bagged when fully dry. The heavy residues have not

been examined for this assessment and, therefore, the results presented here are solely based on the flots

The flots were scanned by the author using a low-powered binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 and x25. The assessment was done through rapid scanning of samples and, therefore, the results presented below are provisional. Preliminary identifications were made without consulting a reference collection and the speed of assessment may mean that some seeds, especially smaller sized seeds, may have been overlooked. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997) for indigenous species, and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for the cultivated species.

Range and variety

TABLE 5: The charred plant remains

Area	Feature Number	Context	Sample Number	Sample Volume (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Comment
C	F561	2137	-	n/a	20 ml	Modern root. Charcoal -. No charred seeds observed. Assessed as POOR.
C	F561	2137	-	n/a	7 ml	Modern root. Charcoal +. No charred seeds observed. Assessed as POOR.
F	F991	4049	119	n/a	43 ml	Flot sieved to 600µm. Small amount of modern root. Charcoal ++. Charred hazelnut shell (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) present. Assessed as POOR.
F	F991	4050	120	n/a	70 ml	Flot sieved to 600µm. Small amount of modern root. Charcoal ++. Charred hazelnut shell (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) present. Assessed as POOR.
F	F806	2976	126 (+ 37)	n/a	45 ml	Flot sieved to 600µm. Modern root. Charcoal ++. Charred hazelnut shell (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) observed. Assessed as POOR.
F	F958	3415	109	n/a	37 ml	Flot sieved to 600µm. Modern root. Charcoal +. Small fragments of bone cortex present - most likely not identifiable. Charred hazelnut shell (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) observed. Assessed as POOR.
F	F958	3415	102	n/a	150 ml	Flot sieved to 600µm. Charcoal ++++. Small fragments of bone cortex present - most likely not identifiable. Charred hazelnut shell (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) and one wheat grain (<i>Triticum</i> sp. - ? free-threshing) observed. Assessed as POOR.

Key: +- < 10ml, ++ = >10 ml but <100ml, +++ = ~ 100 ml

Although the early period of these deposits was taken into consideration, none of the samples assessed contained enough charred plant remains to merit further analysis in this instance. In general only small amounts of hazelnut shells (never accounting for more than perhaps three complete nutshells) were recovered in these samples. Sample 102 (F958 3415) did contain one charred wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) which appears to be free-threshing, rather than a glume wheat (i.e. einkorn, emmer or spelt).

Statement of potential

The assessment results do not justify further analysis of the samples for charred plant remains. The sample from feature F958 (3415) contained over 100 ml of charcoal and it is recommended that the charcoal from this sample should be analysed by the appropriate specialist. This should provide information about woodland management

in the period and, in particular, if hazel brushwood was also in use as a fuel (thus partially explaining the presence of hazelnut shells in some of these samples).

5.0: UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

5.1: General

The river gravels along the west bank of the River Great Ouse between Buckden to the north and St. Neots to the south have been significantly affected by gravel extraction. An overview of the archaeological resource of the Cambridgeshire river gravels (French and Wait 1988, figs. 26-7: from the early prehistoric to the medieval periods) included a survey of the evidence from Little Paxton and the surrounding area. The report identified enclosures, field systems and a temple of 3rd-4th century date both within and immediately surrounding the Phase 1-2 areas of the quarry, and highlighted their broader archaeological value.

Although a little Mesolithic material has been recovered from the present investigations, finds of Palaeolithic date (Austin 1997) have not been made within the Phase 1-2 area of the quarry. However, gravel extraction in the St. Neots- Little Paxton area has produced a number of finds of Palaeolithic date ((Tebbutt 1968, 55, Reynolds 1999).

A number of surveys of the early prehistoric period in the River Great Ouse valley has been published (e.g. Field 1974, Green 1974, and Knight 1984). Most recently, a resource assessment of the Neolithic-Bronze Age has been prepared (Brown and Murphy 1997) as part of an overall review of East Anglian archaeology (Glazebrook 1997). Inevitably both Field's and Green's work rely heavily upon the air photograph evidence. The identification of circular crop-marked features as ring-ditches has been questioned as a result of fieldwork in the area (e.g. *Tempus Reparatum* 1992, Jones in press).

Field's Survey (1974) identifies a group of crop-marked ring-ditches located to the east of Diddington village, and on the west bank of the river. One of these concentrations adjoins the site of a ring-ditch, measuring a maximum of 45m in diameter, constructed between 1800-1600 BC. This feature, which was excavated under salvage conditions in 1986-7, is interpreted as a ring-monument forming a mortuary enclosure (Evans 1997, 20), which respected the position of an earlier cremation pyre.

Given the extensive distributions of crop-marked ring-ditches within the immediately surrounding area, it is somewhat ironic that none of the crop-marked ring-ditches recorded within the Phase 1-2 area of the quarry has been identified by either evaluation or area excavation. It may be assumed that such features have been scoured-out by intensive ploughing within the recent past. The scatters of Neolithic-Bronze Age features identified by fieldwork within the quarry may be assumed to be deeper features, which have escaped total destruction by the plough. Thus, with the exception of the few pits of Neolithic-Bronze Age date identified, the bulk of the

evidence for this earliest period of activity derives from fieldwalking finds and residual finds, mostly flint.

5.2: Key research themes

This section of the assessment concentrates upon highlighting the academic potential of the Neolithic-Bronze Age data, based on the broad research themes already noted for the Romano-British period (Jones 1999). It should be noted that the final report will integrate this evidence into a single, themed, landscape-based, multi phase interpretation of the excavated evidence. Some degree of 'overlap' is inevitable between the themes, and some of the research themes are not appropriate for the study of early prehistory at Little Paxton.

1) Settlement and society

- Chronology

Identifying the chronology of the Neolithic-Bronze Age features and of the unprovenanced flint assemblages is a priority, in order to isolate the different chronological groupings of the material, and, more importantly, to place them within their contemporary context. Analysis of the flint assemblage, in particular the blades, will enable differentiation of the Neolithic and Bronze Age material, based upon the blade morphology. The Peterborough Ware and Braker pottery is chronologically diagnostic.

A proper appreciation of the Neolithic-Bronze Age evidence is a pre-requisite for the detailed understanding of the settlement types and their distributions in the Iron Age, providing a sound basis for inter-comparison of the evidence from early and late prehistory.

- The Neolithic-Bronze Age evidence

The Neolithic-Bronze Age are represented most widely by ploughsoil scatters of flint artifacts, together with residual Phase 1 finds in Iron Age and later contexts. Additionally, a few features of Phase 1 date have been excavated, most notably the pit groups, including possible pit-circles in Area B.

- Settlement and contemporary context

The identified features of Phase 1 date are more likely to belong in a ritual, rather than a purely settlement context. The possible pit circles at Little Paxton are paralleled by similar features at Maxey (Simpson 1985). Study of the flint assemblages, including large numbers of retouched implements and scrapers, regarded as evidence of settlement (Schofield 1987, 280), may be used to pinpoint possible settlement locations, and perhaps also to assess their extent.

2) Economy

The main sources of information concerning the Neolithic-Bronze Age economy comprise the pottery, and the large, and extensive flint distributions. The pottery includes sherds in Beaker Fabrics and Peterborough Ware. Study of the pottery petrography will elucidate the sources of raw material utilised. The pottery can also be studied in relation to the type of vessels represented, and the regional parallels. The Phase 1 pottery includes sherds in a hard, unlaminated fabric, atypical of Bronze Age urns in the region or more widely in Britain.

3) Relationship with natural environment

Because of the limited number of Neolithic-Bronze Age features surviving, only limited associated environmental data was recovered. Some information on the contemporary environment, and on woodland management in particular, may be provided by identification of the wood charcoal fragments. More broadly, data concerning settlement activity, and its extent, may be provided by analysis of the assemblages of flint from fieldwalking. This spatial data may be used to compare and contrast changes in settlement activity between the Neolithic-Bronze Age and the Iron Age. The distribution of Phase 1 activity within the quarry may usefully be compared with the detailed, computer-based terrain model, including mapping of the stream courses and associated alluvial zones.

4) Ritual and religion

Features associated with ritual and religion are likely to have been important elements in the surrounding Neolithic-Bronze Age landscape. The surviving crop-marked remains from the quarry and its immediate setting include a number of such monuments. Most notable is the excavated ring-monument dated to 1800-1600 BC, respecting the site of an earlier pyre cremation burial (Evans 1997), located to the east of the Phase 1-2 area. This monument will have provided an important focus for ritual activity, which continued to be respected into the Romano-British period (Jones forthcoming a). Recent excavation and research in the region has identified evidence for the clustering of such monuments (e.g. Godmanchester, McAvoy forthcoming; and at Eynesbury, to the south of St. Neots).

Although none of the crop-marked ring-ditches identified within the quarry by aerial photography has survived recent ploughing, the associated mounds would have formed impressive above-ground landscape features during the early prehistoric period. The site of one crop-marked ring-ditch (in Area I/F) continued to be respected into the Iron Age when it probably formed a boundary marker, later respected by field boundaries (Jones forthcoming b). A number of ring-ditches has been excavated in the region, notably in Norfolk (Lawson *et al.* 1981).

Evidence of ritual and religion may also be detected through the study of the spatial patterning of finds within individual features, in particular in the pit groups, including possible pit-circles in Area B (Jones 1995). Richards and Thomas (1984) have noted that 'the performance of ritual involves formalised repetitive actions

which may be detected archaeologically through a highly structured mode of deposition'. Similar patterning is also recorded at Hunstanton, Norfolk (Healy 1993), at Barholm, Lincolnshire (Simpson 1993) and elsewhere.

One possible theme for further research comprises the potential for comparison of the spatial distribution of the settlement evidence (represented by ploughsoil flint scatters) and the groups of possibly ritual features. Thus it may be possible to identify the broader pattern of the closer integration of ritual monuments with domestic settlement evidence in the Late Bronze Age represented regionally (Brown and Murphy 1997, 18).

The theme of the ritual use of the landscape, including the evidence for continuity, will be pursued both in relation to the Iron Age (Jones 1998) and the Romano-British periods at Little Paxton (Jones 1999, Jones forthcoming b).

5) Comparison with evidence from elsewhere in the River Great Ouse valley

Pryor (1984, 231) considers as the evidence for the evidence for the Neolithic-Bronze Age within the region as 'abundant'. A number of extensive and highly-informative excavations have been undertaken within the River Great Ouse valley and its environs, most notably including work at Fengate (Pryor 1974, 1978, 1980, 1984). Further work has been undertaken at Maxey (Simpson 1985), at Godmanchester (Woodward forthcoming a), Etton, and at Podes Hole Farm (Woodward forthcoming b), and Fulbourn (Brown and Score 1999). Data from ritual sites elsewhere at Little Paxton (Evans 1997), and at Godmanchester (McAvoy forthcoming) should be compared.

More widely, useful comparisons could be made with flint distributions from the Fen, and Fen-edge areas (e.g. Hall and Coles 1994). The evidence from Little Paxton should be interpreted in the light of regionally-based studies of environmental change within river valleys (e.g. Needham and Macklin 1992).

5.3: Aims

In the final report all aspects of the Neolithic-Bronze Age landscape will be considered in relation to the comparative evidence provided by Iron Age and later activity, as appropriate, to highlight changes from the Neolithic to the late Romano-British period, and to suggest a relationship with the development of the river valley environment.

In addition, since the field programme is currently on-going, and is not due to be completed until 2002, a further opportunity exists at the culmination of the entire Little Paxton fieldwork programme to provide a further landscape-based overview of the evidence.

The overall research aims for the Neolithic-Bronze Age periods can be re-focused, as follows:

1.0: Settlement and society

- 1.1: Chronology, evidence for establishment and abandonment.
- 1.2: Settlement in its contemporary context.

2.0: Economy

- 2.1: Trading contacts.

3.0: Relationship with natural environment

- 3.1: The natural environment - micro-geography of area/ alluviation/ water level/ soil fertility.
- 3.2: Surrounding flora and faunas.

4.0: Ritual and religion

- 4.1: Possible spatial relationship between ritual activity and evidence of settlement.
- 4.2: Evidence for spatial patterning in finds distribution.

5.0: Comparison with evidence from other river valley environments.

6.0: Critical appraisal of project methodology

6.0: PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS

It is proposed to publish the report describing the evidence for Neolithic-Bronze Age activity at Little Paxton as part of a volume also including description and interpretation of the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement evidence, followed by an overall synthesis of the prehistoric and Romano-British settlement evidence. The report will be published in the British Archaeological Reports Series, British Series. British Archaeological Reports have agreed to publish the report in principle.

PREHISTORIC AND ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENTS IN THE RIVER GREAT OUSE VALLEY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT LITTLE PAXTON QUARRY, DIDDINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE IN 1992-1998.

The suggested lay out of the volume (including contributions concerning the Iron Age and Romano-British periods) is given below:

Part 1: Introduction to the excavations

Part 2: Early prehistoric period (Neolithic Bronze Age)

Part 3: Later prehistoric settlement (Iron Age)

Part 4: Romano-British settlements

Part 5: Landscape overview: general discussion and conclusion

The provisional layout of **Part 2** is listed below:

Text

Summary of the stratigraphic and finds evidence (2000 words#)

Introduction (5000 words#, 1 table)

Results and interpretation (2000 words, 2 tables)

Finds

Copper alloy object (500 words)

Flint (5000 words, 6)

Pottery (2000 words, 1 table)

Charcoal identification (1000 words)

Discussion and conclusion (15000#)

TOTAL 10000 words, excluding elements marked # (Phase 2-6 settlements)

10 Tables.

In addition, there will be a review of the Neolithic-Bronze Age settlement evidence in the overall landscape overview (Part 5).

Figures

- 1 Site location
- 2 Drift and solid geology
- 3 Areas investigated
- 4 Areas investigated: the archaeological strategy

(Figures 1-5 will be in Part 1)

- 5 Area B, general plan
- 6 Area B, detailed plan and sections
- 7 Area F, general plan
- 8 Area F, detailed plan and sections
- 9 Copper alloy object
- 10 Flint
- 11-15 Flint distributions
- 16 Pottery
- 17 The Neolithic-Bronze Age landscape

7.0: TASK LIST AND PROGRAMME

A summary of the proposed programme is provided by Table 6.

TABLE 6: TASK LIST AND PROGRAMME

(Assumes project commissioned no later than March 2000)

<i>Task</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>No. of days</i>
STAGE A, PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS. Performance indicator, completion May 2000			
-	Project management	AEJ	0.5
1	Site archive; update phasing/ matrix	AEJ	0.5
2	Data entry: database	EM	5
3	Preparation detailed site plans: drafts	AEJ	0.5
4	Analysis of copper alloy object	LB	1
5	Analysis of flint	LB	9
6	Pottery analysis	AW	2
7	Charcoal identification	RG	1
8	Petrography	RI	1
STAGE B: REPORTING AND ILLUSTRATION. Performance indicator, completion October 2000			
-	Project management	AEJ	1
9	Library research	AEJ	2
10	Library research	LB	3.5
11	Copper alloy object, reporting	LB	0.5
12	Update database	EM	1
13	Flint reporting	LB	6
14	Pottery reporting	AW	2
15	Preparation of illustrations	ND	3.5
		MB	10
16	Preparation of site description and interpretation	AEJ	1
17	Other site illustration/ spatial distribution data	LD	1.5
18	Preparation of discussion	AEJ	1
STAGE C, COMPLETION OF FIRST DRAFT/DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE. Performance indicator November 2000			
-	Project management	AEJ	1
19	General edit	AEJ	1
20	Internal edit of first draft	IF	1
21	Corrections to text	AEJ	0.5
22	Corrections to flint text	LB	0.5
23	Corrections to illustrations	ND	0.5
		MB	1
24	Corrections to computer data	LD	0.5
25	Submission for external refereeing	AEJ	0.5
26	Final revisions to text	IF	1

Note: Archive will be ordered/deposited on completion of subsequent Iron Age and Romano-British post-excavation programmes.

KEY:

AEJ = A. Jones, Project Manager/Author; IF = I. Ferris, Editor; LB = L. Bevan, Lithics specialist; EM = E. Macey, Finds database; AW = A. Woodward, prehistoric pottery specialist; RG = R. Gale, charcoal identification; RI = R. Ixer, Petrography; LD = L. Dingwall, Computer Officer; ND = N. Dodds, illustrator; MB = M. Breedon, illustrator.

8.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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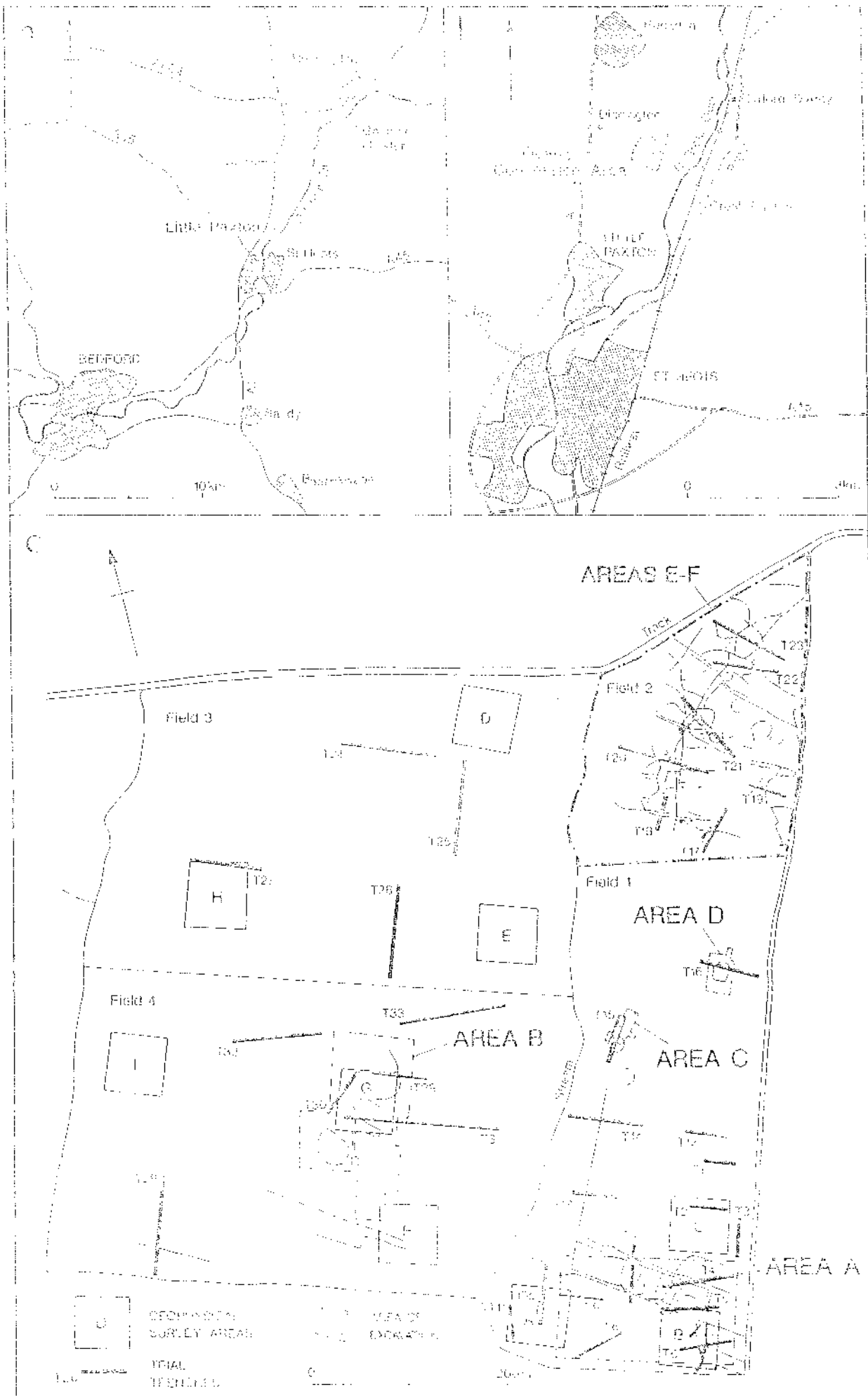


Fig. 1

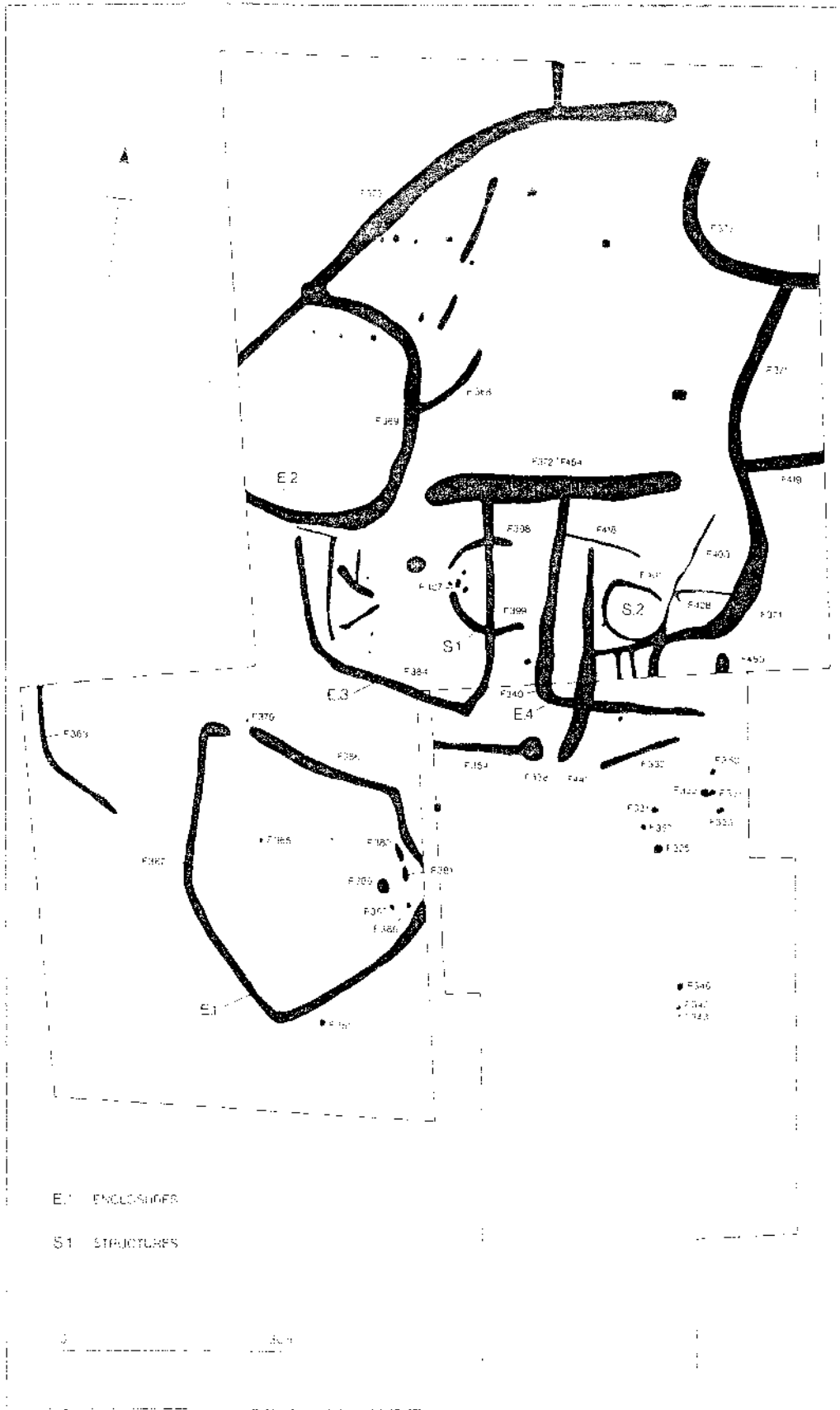


Fig. 2

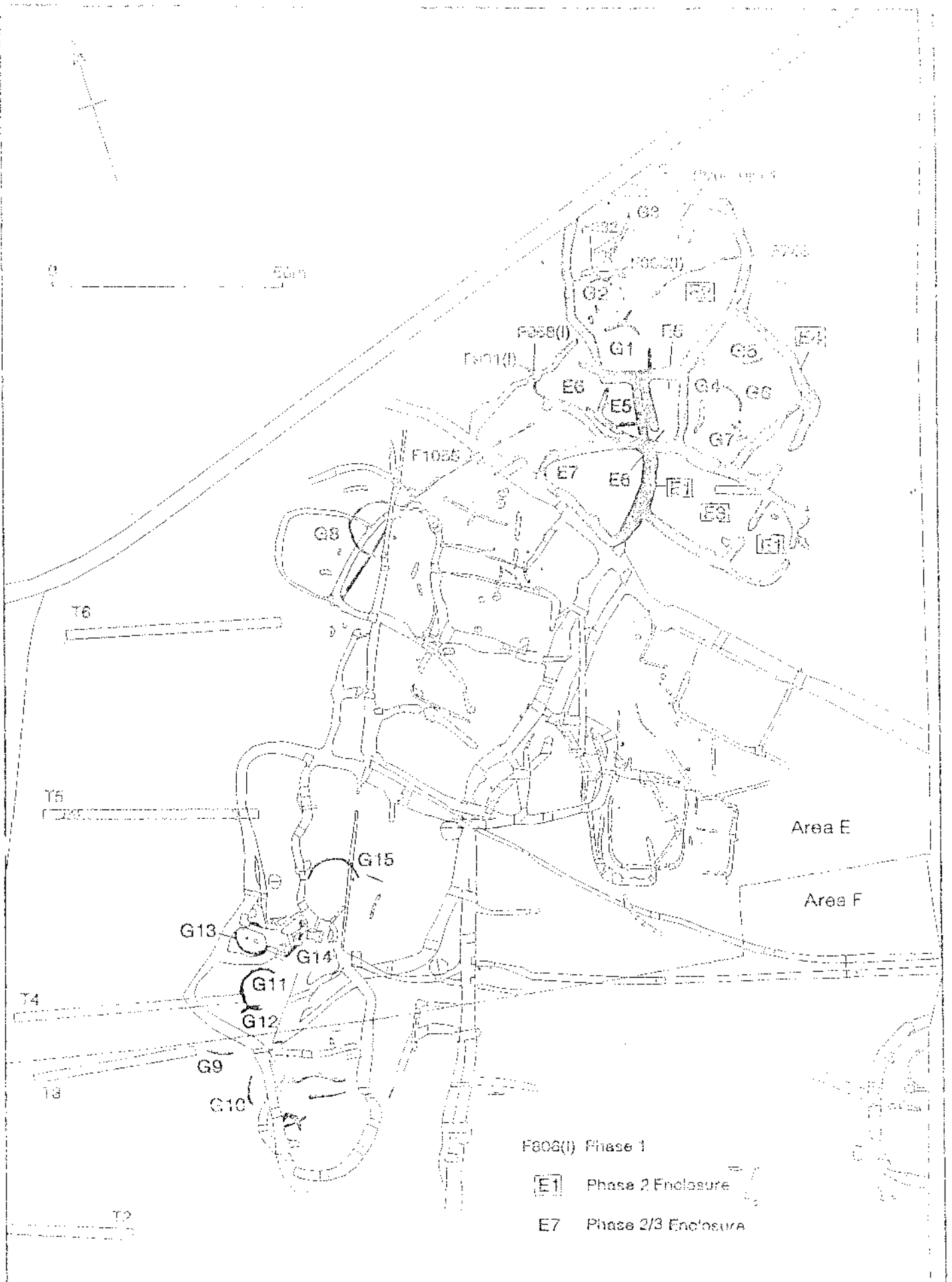


Fig. 3

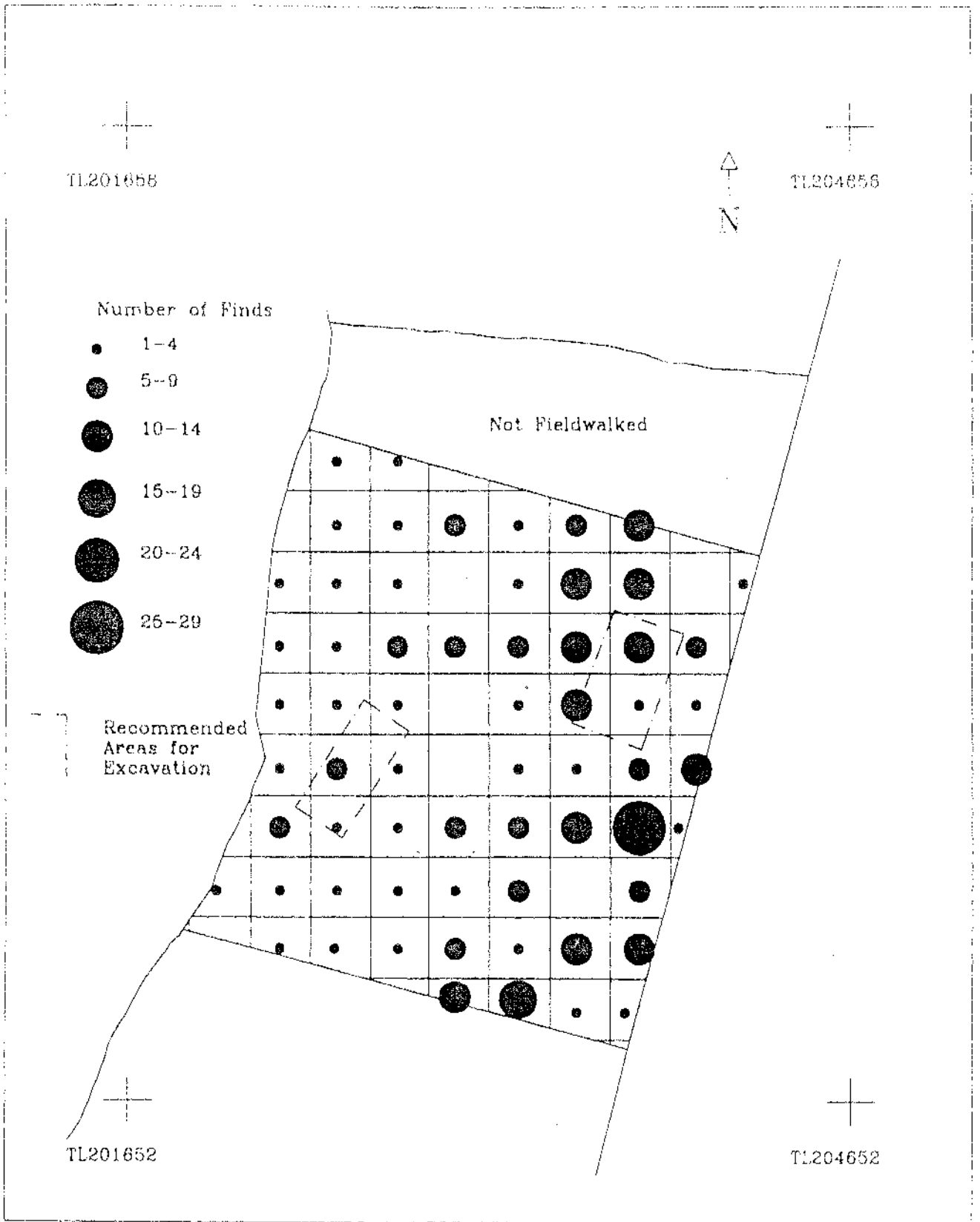


Fig. 4

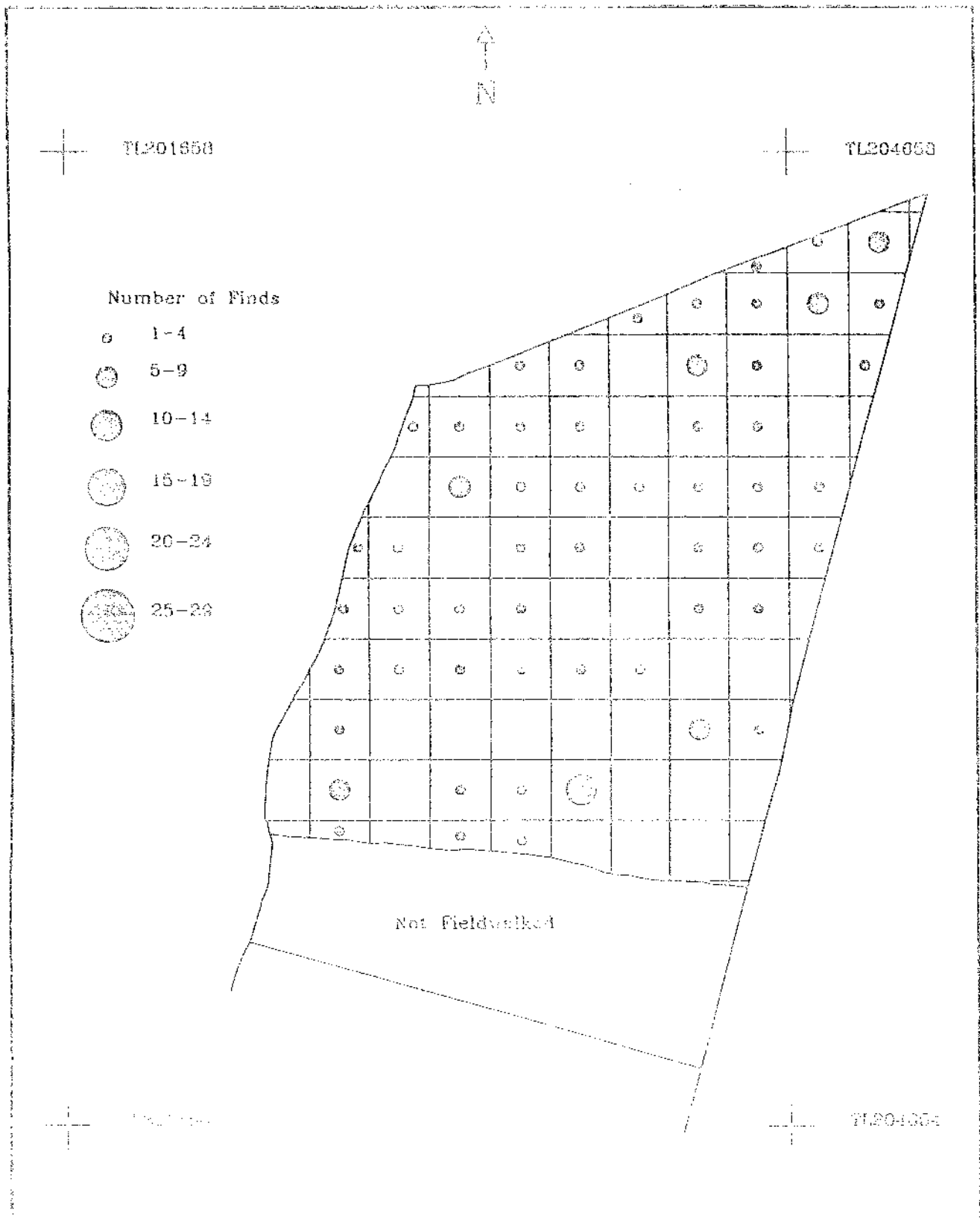


Fig. 5