Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2011–2015

Interim Project Report

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Council for
British Archaeology

ENGLISH HERITAGE

FEAG report number:	1/TPP
Site:	Fairway, Twenty Pence Road, Cottenham, Cambridge
HER event numbers:	ECB 3627, ECB 3814, ECB 3869, ECB 3996, ECB 3997, ECB 4282
Date of works:	2011–2015
Grid reference:	TL 4692 6985
Site codes:	TPP11, TPP12, TPP13, TPP14
Receiving Body:	Cambridgeshire County Council
Prepared by:	M K Williams J K Stanford D C Gordon R D Scarle D W Calkin

Fen Edge Archaeology Group contact: feaginfo@gmail.com

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Summary

The Fen Edge Archaeology Group has been working for almost five years at the Twenty Pence Project site near the scheduled site of Bullocks Haste just outside Cottenham, with the kind permission of the landowners, the generous support of various local specialists, and the hard work of its members and guests.

This report is an interim draft of the project report. Work on the project is ongoing.

This work commenced with discussions with local experts and documentary studies. It moved on to non-intrusive in-field investigations, including metal detecting and mole-hill surveys, and geophysical investigation (resistivity and magnetometry) conducted by Archaeology RheeSearch Group.

This was followed by four seasons of archaeological excavations. In the first season, a number of small trenches were dug over an extensive area to confirm the geophysics results. During the next two seasons, two evaluation trenches 40m long by 2m wide were opened up to investigate a possible enclosure unit and associated trackway. In the fourth season an 8m × 8m area was opened up to investigate some specific features within the open area of the enclosure.

In 2014 an auger transect across the Car Dyke was undertaken to investigate its profile.

Post excavation analyses were conducted by professional archaeological specialists and FEAG members, in between the periods of fieldwork. Analyses are continuing.

In summary, based on the work to date, the Twenty Pence Project site seems to have been a fairly modest, localised, small-scale agricultural site based on arable farming and animal husbandry exploiting animals for both meat and secondary products. There is little evidence for structures, trade or industrial activities, though it is possible that local pottery production occurred not far away. The site was probably in use throughout the Roman period, though the features excavated to date suggest a possible focus in the second to third centuries. Despite the immediate presence of the Car Dyke, there is little evidence that it had much effect on local life.

The archaeological features exposed mainly relate to agricultural activities: large ditches which served to delineate property boundaries, drain the low-lying land, and contain livestock. A number of circular / ovoid ditches (‘fen circles’) may have been used to contain, dry and protect agricultural produce. Recutting, intercutting and replacement of features suggests the site was used in this way for a reasonable period of time, though a change of use or focus was indicated by later small ditches and pits cutting across the circular features.

So far, locally-made coarseware pottery dominates the pottery assemblage, including a distinctive and unusual decorative form which is probably very local. This and a

quantity of burnt clay is suggestive of a possible kiln nearby. Spelt wheat and hulled barley were probably processed somewhere close by and sheep / goat and cattle are most represented in the animal remains.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 This is an interim report of an archaeological investigation by the Fen Edge Archaeology Group (FEAG), undertaken as a research project ('The Twenty Pence Project'). The land owners had found Roman artefacts on their property and were interested in knowing more about the site. The project was to examine the nature and condition of the archaeology, to learn about the settlement and to provide fieldwork opportunities for members of FEAG and others.

1.1.2 The primary area under investigation is a triangular field on a farm on the northwest side of the Twenty Pence Road, 2km in a direct line northwest of All Saints Church, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire. The Ordnance Survey National Grid reference for the approximate centre of the field is TL 4692 6985 and the latitude and longitude co-ordinates are 52° 18' 28" N and 0° 09' 13" E.

1.1.3 The field abuts the Cottenham Lode and the features identified form part of the same settlement as that scheduled as a Romano-British settlement on Bullocks Haste Common with Historic England's list entry number 1006897. This part of the settlement is not scheduled. Upstanding earthworks were levelled in the early 1960s for farming. The remaining earthwork visible on the surface of the field is a depression along part of the line of the Roman canal, the Car Dyke, along the northeastern boundary of the field.

1.1.4 The intrusive fieldwork undertaken by the Fen Edge Archaeology Group between 2011 and 2015 comprised eight test pits, two evaluation trenches and a small open area, as well as augering across the line of the Car Dyke, to determine its profile.

1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by FEAG and will at the conclusion of the project be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County stores.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 Initial ground levels in the areas excavated vary from +3.6mOD to +3.9mOD. The site falls away to the northeast field boundary which follows the edge of the Car Dyke at +3.2mOD.

1.2.2 British Geological Survey (BGS) Sheet 188 (BGS, 1981) shows the site geology as second Terrace Deposits overlying Kimmeridge Clay. Logs of boreholes in the surrounding area (450m to 950m from the site) and made available by the BGS (1977) give background information on the lithology, strata levels and particle size gradings of River Terrace Deposits and Kimmeridge Clay.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Twenty Pence Project is sited in the triangular field to the south east of the Bullocks Haste Romano-British site, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CB66 and now Historic England's List Entry Number 1006897). The two sites are now separated by the later Cottenham Lode waterway but may be regarded as a single complex displaying a rectilinear arrangement of fields and trackways. The remains appear to have undergone little disturbance since abandonment at the end of the fourth century, with the majority of visible earthworks occurring in the Scheduled area, in two adjacent fields which comprise an area of 7.38 hectares between Setchel Drove and Cottenham Lode (figure 1).The Twenty Pence site lies to the southwest of the Car Dyke, which has been interpreted both as a Roman waterway that links the River Cam (Granta) to the fenland river systems, and ultimately Lincoln and the Midlands via the Fosse Dyke, and as a drainage system (RCHME 1996; Macaulay and Reynolds 1994). Bullock's Haste and its relationship with the Twenty Pence Site have been reviewed by Scarle (2013).

1.3.2 The surrounding area is rich in archaeological finds. Flints and axes of the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods have been found to the southeast at Chittering, Bottisham Fen and Stow-cum-Quy Fen (Appleby *et al* 2007) and at Milton (Diez 2005). A Neolithic worked flint scatter was identified alongside a palaeochannel at Gravel Diggers Farm, 1.5km to the east, associated with subsurface features – waterlogged pits containing worked wood, bone and burnt flint (Oswald 1992). A small later Bronze Age Settlement has been excavated on the fen edge along the Old West River (Masser 2000). Barrows with a potential ring ditch have been identified along the western edge of Stow-Cum-Quy Fen (Hall 1996) as well as to the south of Bannold Lodge, Chittering (Whittaker 1997) and at Denny where a low mound is located (Taylor 1998). There is much evidence from the Iron Age, with evidence of activity continuing into the Roman period: crop marks and field systems with Iron Age origins were excavated at the Histon to Waterbeach cable site (Dickens *et al* 2003), the Cottenham to Landbeach pipeline (Hall 1999) and along the River Great Ouse gravel terrace (Masser 2000). Further activity has been demonstrated to the north of Denny (Taylor 1998).

1.3.3 Extensive evidence of Romano-British and Roman agricultural activity has been located, although with less evidence of settlements, no identified villas (the nearest known example is at Arbury in Cambridge) and few signs of personal wealth, leading to the suggestion that development in the area may have been instigated by direct government action rather than private initiative (see RCHME 1996, 6, for a summary of the discussion). A Romano-British temple was identified on aerial photographs approximately 1.5km to the southeast close to the Car Dyke and the presumed route of Akeman Street (now the A10) at Denny, but this was destroyed by quarrying in

1980. More than one hundred fourth century AD coins and a votive axe have been recovered from that site. Ditches and waterlogged pits contained pottery, metal working debris and a leather shoe (Taylor 1980). A potentially late Roman cremation cemetery was excavated adjacent to the site of the destroyed temple (Cooper & Whittaker 2004) together with boundary ditches and quarry pits, and more recent excavation uncovered evidence of a large aisled building adjacent to the temple enclosure. Both it and an associated (but later) midden, which is domestic in character, are dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries (Tabor 2010). A rural Romano-British settlement with one associated skeleton was identified at Bannold Lodge (Whittaker 1997), and Romano-British activity from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD is found throughout the area bordering the Car Dyke, for example at the Waterbeach Waste Management Site (Ranson 2008).

1.3.4 Anglo-Saxon activity seems to have been confined to the fen edge areas such as Cottenham and Waterbeach. It is likely that following the end of the Roman occupation the fen sites remained largely waterlogged and unsuitable for anything other than grazing. Later Medieval settlements were again centred on the fen edge area, as well as low-lying islands such as Denny and Ely. Agricultural field systems are known from the medieval period around the Waterbeach area but a lot of the land would have been marshland (Diez 2005). The fens were not comprehensively drained until the eighteenth century, after which agricultural use has been the norm. Disturbance is largely limited to recent ploughing and the insertion of drainage ditches such as the Cottenham Lode (also known as the New Cut) which borders the site.

1.3.5 Relatively little archaeological work has been conducted at the Bullocks Haste/Twenty Pence location. Although the Romano-British context of the Car Dyke was understood by early antiquaries (Stukeley 1757; Babington 1883, 83, 108ff; Evelyn-White 1904) the excavations in 1947 under JGD Clark were the first to investigate the construction, dimensions and history of the Dyke at this point (Clark 1949). In the fenland review of 1970 (Phillips 1970) considerations about the nature of the site and dating of the dyke are drawn essentially from Clark's work. The development of the landscape is further analysed in the RCHME Bullocks Haste survey (RCHME 1996). Aerial photography has added to the overall picture and the RCHME report lists seven aerial photographs and reproduces four of them. It is clear from the way that the Dyke cuts through the system of fields and trackways that it postdates these. Some sherds of native Belgic pottery dating up to the middle of the first century AD were found on the old ground surface below the banks, providing supporting evidence. Clark concluded that the dyke had been constructed in the late first century.

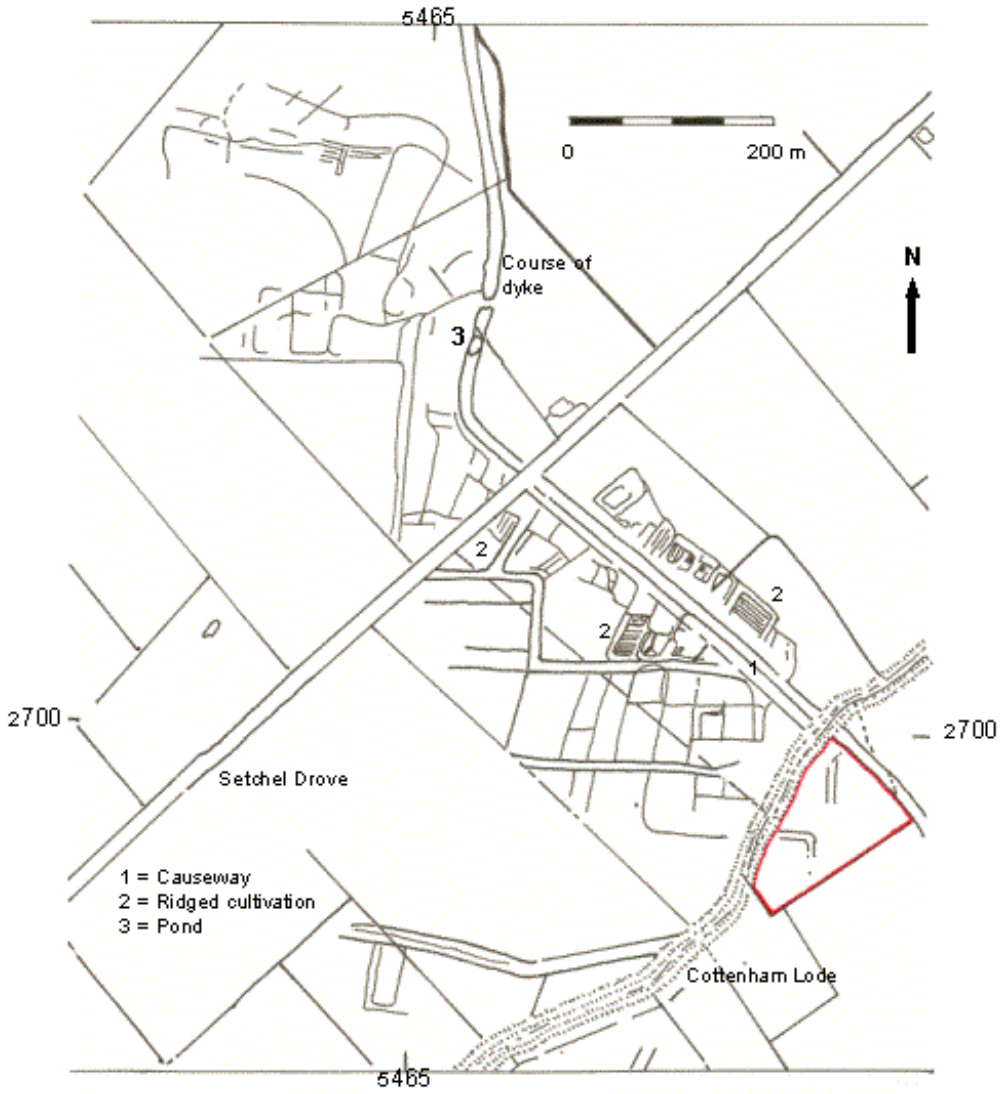
1.3.6 Although opinions differ, it seems likely that the Dyke functioned originally as both a drainage channel and a water transport route, but

that its transport function declined after the second century, when it was increasingly filled with rubbish (ibid, 6f). A section across the Dyke at Bullocks Haste is shown in figure 2, and an investigation at Waterbeach revealed a similar profile (Macaulay and Reynolds 1994). A late causeway across the Dyke examined by Clark (Clark 1949, 150) appears to support the idea of abandonment as a waterway, although the causeway may have taken the form of a ford, allowing shallow-draught boats to pass. A lack of pottery finds from the mid-Roman period has been interpreted as being the result of abandonment of the fen area following flooding in the mid-third century, with re-colonisation only occurring in the fourth century (Bromwich 1970, 122) – a phenomenon which could account for the apparent change of use of the Dyke.

1.3.7 The Bullocks Haste site was surveyed by RCHME in 1996. The survey draws on the work of Clark and is guided by earthworks and cropmarks identified in aerial photographs. Several trackways and trackway junctions are recorded, and the rectilinear pattern of the fields is discussed. The survey highlights at least two fields of ridged cultivation (Clark describes these as lazy beds), with evidence for more appearing in aerial photographs of the surrounding ploughed-out fields. The fields towards the southeast of the site 'make no sense as working entities, their current triangular form produced by the dyke which has clearly truncated them' (RCHME 1996, 12). In part the chronological development of field boundaries can be discerned: for example in one case a track is blocked by a field boundary. Although the survey is extended to cover crop marks in fields to the northwest of Setchel Drove, coverage does not extend to the area of the Twenty Pence Project to the southeast of the Cottenham Lode channel. The only reference to previous work in this latter area is found in Phillips' gazetteer: (GR) 469699.

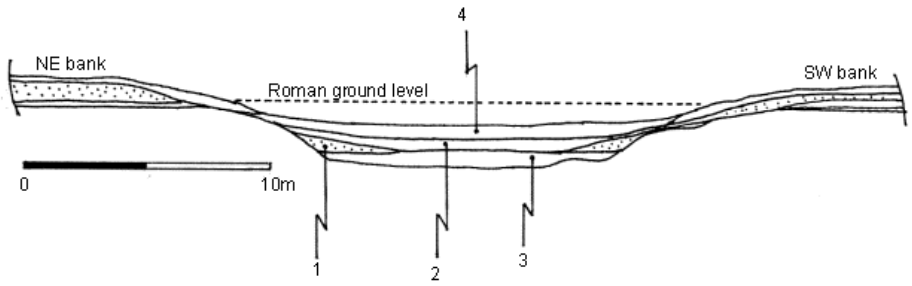
> COTTENHAM, Church End: Dark areas and ditches on same grid as in adjacent Bullock's Haste fields across the New Cut. First bulldozed in 1962 when a skull was found in the narrowest SW part of field. Pottery divided into 2nd and 4th century collections; 2nd C group included very little samian, not starting before AD150; 4th C group included mortaria from Oxfordshire, Hartshill and the Nene Valley; colour-coated ware late rather than early in 4th C. (ed. Phillips 1970, 201).

An aerial photograph of the area by J K S St Joseph is reproduced in Phillips (ibid, Pl XVII).



The Twenty Pence site is outlined in red.

Figure 1. Plan of Bullocks Haste and surrounds (re-drawn from ed. Phillips 1970, 124). R D Scarle.



1 = Gravel, 2 = Organic clay, 3 = Water-laid silt, 4 = Peat

Figure 2. Section of Car Dyke (after Clark, 1949 Pl XVI). R D Scarle.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 FEAG would like to thank Sue and Gerald Walker, the landowners, for their constant interest and practical support; Carenza Lewis and Alison Dickens as representatives of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society for initial guidance; Richard Mortimer and Stephen Macaulay for ongoing advice and support; Mark Hinman of Pre-Construct Archaeology for his role as our overall Archaeology Adviser and for practical support; Cambridge Archaeological Unit for arranging for one of their archaeologists to work with us on site during one season; Oxford Archaeology East for arranging for one of their archaeologists to work with us on site during one season, for the loan of equipment and for the use of their premises for finds processing workshops; the Mosley family for using their digging equipment to strip topsoil and to backfill for us; Jigsaw for the loan of items of equipment and for providing a training event on our site (ECB 3997) ; specialists who provided reports or expert advice for us, Kat Manning (UCL), Katie Anderson (ABCeramics), Adrian Popescu (Fitzwilliam Museum), Rachel Ballantyne (University of Cambridge) and Daniel Sharman (CAU); Archaeology RheeSearch Group for the initial geophysical survey of the site.

1.4.2 FEAG is grateful to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and the Council for British Archaeology (Mick Aston Memorial Fund) for grants for the purchase of equipment and towards the cost of commissioning specialists for reports on the finds.

2. Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the project are to investigate the archaeology of the site and provide experience of fieldwork to the members of FEAG.

2.1.2 The specific objectives are to:

- Develop further our understanding of the nature, development, chronology and current condition of the Bullocks Haste settlement of which our field is part
- Investigate evidence for specific activities (agricultural, industrial, domestic, ritual, etc)
- Consider the relationship between the site and the Car Dyke
- Add to the understanding of the archaeology and development of the Fen Edge area
- Build up further archaeological skills within the FEAG membership
- Provide opportunities for interested local people to become involved in practical archaeology.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 FEAG is an amateur group with some members who have professional experience. The excavation seasons have been two-week periods in July 2011 (ECB 3814), 2012 (ECB 3869), 2013 (ECB 3996) and 2014 (ECB 4282). The site is part of a working farm and is used for grazing cattle. Although non-intrusive work and augering have taken place on the site at other times of the year, the July excavations have had to be backfilled at the end of each two-week season. The programmes of work have developed within those constraints.

2.2.2 Initial gathering of information about the site in 2011 included interviewing the current owners and relatives of former owners. There had been upstanding earthworks until the early 1960s when they were levelled for farming. The field was then ploughed until it was acquired by the current owners. They ploughed it just once in the early 1980s, seeded it and have kept it as pasture since then. Their collection of artefacts from walking the freshly ploughed field and planting hedgerows illustrated the range of pottery and coins that might be found during fieldwork.

2.2.3 Preliminary desk-based research included recovering information about the Bullocks Haste Common site and other settlements on the southern edge of the Cambridgeshire fen and examination of aerial photos. The working hypothesis drawn from the preliminary work was that, despite the existence of the Cottenham Lode between the project site and the scheduled Romano-British settlement on Bullocks Haste Common, it was likely that that settlement extended into the project site.

2.2.4 In 2011, geophysical survey was undertaken for FEAG by Archaeology RheeSearch Group (ECB number 3627; Archaeology RheeSearch Group 2011). Magnetometry of nearly the whole field and resistivity of part of it produced some clear evidence of structured linear features, including possible enclosures.

2.2.5 A survey of molehills on the project site was conducted on one day in March 2011. All identifiable molehills were sieved and small unglazed pottery sherds were found in 13 of them from across the site.

2.2.6 Metal detecting for non-ferrous material was conducted across the whole of the project site in March 2011. The site was sampled for ferrous material.

2.2.7 Eight test pits were dug by hand in the first summer season (site code TPP11). They were positioned across a sample of linear features seen in the geophysical survey reports. All features identified were ditches.

2.2.8 In 2012 (site code TPP12), an evaluation trench of 40m × 2m was dug across one of the possible enclosure units in order to understand it more thoroughly and to investigate the 'empty' interior area. The trench was placed to overlap Test Pit no 7 of 2011 in which a substantial assemblage of greyware pottery sherds had been located.

2.2.9 In 2013 (site code TPP13) a further evaluation trench of the same dimensions was put at 90° to the earlier trench in order to provide a perpendicular profile across the enclosure and to further investigate the interior. An additional adjacent area was exposed in an attempt to understand more of a curved ditch seen in 2012 running into the baulk. The opportunity did not arise in 2013 to make that further exploration.

2.2.10 The 2014 season was used to expose again the area with the curved ditch and other features seen in 2013. An area of 8m × 8m was opened up next to the crossing of the evaluation trenches. A number of the exposed features, including up to five circular or oval ditches were investigated.

2.2.11 Environmental samples were taken in each season.

2.2.12 Augering across the line of the Car Dyke was attempted in 2013 but not continued because of the dry conditions. It was resumed in 2014 and 2015 and produced a profile of the Dyke.

3. Current Interpretations and Preliminary Conclusions

Trackway, enclosures, ditches

3.1 Evidence from aerial photography highlighted by the work of the Fenland Survey indicates a focus of activity close to the Bullocks Haste scheduled site. The Car Dyke runs through the site and several probable trackways can be seen approaching the site. Excavation of this area in 1947 showed the canal and several cambered and metalled droveways, as well as a probable gravelled ford for crossing the Dyke (Clark 1949, p 147–150).

3.2 Aerial photography shows another possible trackway approaching the site from the south across the Twenty Pence Project field. The 2011 geophysical survey gives further credence to this trackway, with a pair of parallel linear features running a distance of almost 100m. Also visible are a series of linears running perpendicular to the long parallel features, with some clear spaces in between some of them, which look likely to be ditched enclosures running off the trackway.

3.3 Excavations of a number of small testpits in 2011 confirmed that the geophysics did indeed represent negative features – ditches – surviving beneath the topsoil cut into the sandy gravel natural. Subsequently, in 2012 and 2013 two 40m-long evaluation trenches, Testpit 9 and Testpit 10, were positioned across the hypothesised ditches and enclosure.

3.4 The excavations in Testpit 10 revealed circumstantial evidence to support the existence of the north–south trackway. No cambered profile or gravel metalled surface were found – most probably recent ploughing in the field has removed any evidence of the original prepared surface. However, a 5m open space flanked by two 2-m wide large ditches represents an almost identical configuration to the droveway exposure recorded in the 1947 excavations (cutting A in Clark 1949, figure 3).

3.5 Also revealed in Testpit 9 were a series of wide, deep ditches running east–west perpendicular to the trackway, ranging in size from 1.5 to over 2m wide and up to almost 1m deep. They presumably delineate property boundaries and permit drainage of the low-lying ground to facilitate agricultural activities, both arable and pastoral as indicated by plant and faunal remains recovered from the ditch fills.

3.6 Each series of ditches comprised several recut, overlapping or nearby ditches. While it was not possible to establish any robust dating sequence for these ditches, they clearly represent different phases of the enclosures during the Roman period. The limited dating evidence suggests most of these were used and filled in during the second to third centuries, but the long-lived nature of the typical pottery types means that this activity might have continued on into fourth century.

3.7 Between the series of ditches in Testpit 9 is a fairly wide open space, about 13m across, representing the working space for the enclosure unit. From the geophysics, the corresponding length of this enclosure can be estimated at

about 27m. However, while the geophysics did not show any clear features in this area, excavation in Testpits 9, 10, and 11 revealed a fairly busy space.

Fen circles

3.8 Up to five oval / circular ring ditches were revealed in the excavated areas. While only one was fully exposed, the projected external dimensions vary from about 8m by 6.5m to 2.5m by 2m. The ditch sections were typically fairly straight-sided and flat-based, around 50cm wide and 35cm deep. Most seemed to be associated with one or several postholes, sometimes within the enclosed area, sometimes in the curved ditches.

3.9 The single ring ditch which was fully revealed was slightly ovoid in shape, measuring 5.5m by 4.5m externally, giving it an internal area of 4.5m by 3.5m, within which there were a couple of possible postholes.

3.10 These ring ditches are probably all examples of what are known as 'fen circles'. Typically they vary in size from 7 to 17m and have been observed and discussed for a number of years (e.g. Riley 1945; Riley 1946; Wilson 1978; Hall and Coles 1994; Coles and Hall 1997; Albone and Massey 2008), but only a few have been investigated closely or excavated (e.g. Atkins 2013).

3.11 Most probably these were the ditches around hay ricks or cereal stacks, used for drainage to aid drying and for protection from vermin. The associated postholes, probably formed part of the central support or frame for the hay or crops. None of the ditches intersected, suggesting they may have all been in use within a fairly short period of time, perhaps even simultaneously.

3.12 Their construction and function is discussed by Gardiner (2013). The smallest example he provides is of an oat stack which was 3.5m in diameter, suggesting an interior platform which would probably need to be at least 4m in diameter. All of the five 'fen circles' identified so far in the Twenty Pence excavations are on the smaller side.

Other ditches and pits

3.13 A small number of other ditches were exposed in the Testpits 9, 10 and 11 which were clearly not part of the main enclosure ditches. Three probable smaller ditches were identified running east–west across the open area of the enclosure unit. These cut across the ring ditches and may post-date them.

3.14 Furthermore, there are also some later pits, mainly fairly small and shallow which post-date the east–west linears.

3.15 This suggests that the ring ditches went out of use later in the Roman period perhaps representing a change in the use of this area.

Lifestyle and activities

3.16 While not all the environmental samples have yet been analysed, several excavated deposits have been shown to contain appreciable quantities of charred domesticated cereal grains and chaff, from mainly spelt wheat and hulled barley, as well as large quantities of wild plant seeds which may have been separated from cereal grains during threshing and winnowing. This obviously is consistent with the probable use of the ring ditches as hay ricks or cereal drying stacks.

3.17 Almost all of the animal bone remains have been analysed. Sheep-goat and cattle dominate the identified species, and they are of a wide range of ages. There is some evidence for butchery (cutting and splitting) and burning. The overall impression is of small-scale animal husbandry activities for local meat consumption and some secondary products exploitation (e.g. traction, wool and hide). There are lesser quantities of pig, perhaps also for meat consumption, and horse, probably for traction.

3.18 A number of bird bones were also recovered, suggesting some opportunistic exploitation of local wildlife. There is some evidence of domesticated dog and deer on site. Given its location so close to the Car Dyke, it is perhaps surprising that there have been few remains of fish or other aquatic species recovered.

3.19 The pottery assemblage has not yet been fully sorted and assessed, but so far it is unsurprisingly dominated by locally-made pottery (93%). There is a lower proportion of non-local wares (Hadham, Nene Valley, Wattisfield, etc) and a very small quantity of imported material (from Gaul and Germany). Coarsewares make up 96% of the assemblage, with cooking and storage jars accounting for 88% of diagnostic sherds, with finewares such as dishes, bowls, beakers, etc. making up the remainder.

3.20 Recovered material was typically fairly fragmented and abraded, suggesting that it has been moving around for a while before ending up in final archaeological contexts, i.e. secondary disposal events, or that it has been significantly disturbed by subsequent ploughing. However, there are a few contexts containing notably larger and less abraded fragments (e.g. robust Horningsea storage jars), which have most likely come from primary, i.e. direct, disposal.

3.21 A number of sherds were recovered with a distinct decorative pattern consisting of fingernail marking made on the shoulders of medium-sized jars; this is a form of decoration more commonly seen on prehistoric pottery. These may well be a very locally-made pottery form, either on the site or very nearby.

3.22 One of the large enclosure ditches contained a considerable quantity of burnt clay / daub fragments with straw impressions, some of which were fairly large. These are most probably from a fairly discrete single backfilling episode. It has been suggested that the straw-impressed burnt clay could be oven / kiln lining material from nearby industrial activities, perhaps further supporting evidence for the nearby presence of a pottery kiln. Conversely few wasters or spalled sherds have so far been recovered.

3.23 There is an almost complete lack of evidence for any structures (e.g. CBM or daub) in any of the trenches excavated so far, suggesting a distinct absence of significant durable structures in the immediate vicinity.

Dating

3.24 Pottery analysis is currently still in progress, but so far the vast predominance of pottery is of a broad Roman date making precise dating very difficult, and it seems very likely that the site was in use throughout the Roman period. However, if the broad-dated material is disregarded, it seems likely that most of the features excavated in Testpit 9 date to the middle part of the Roman period, i.e. second and third centuries. Conversely material from Testpit 8 is suggestive of a later third to fourth century date.

3.25 A very small quantity of prehistoric sherds was recovered, indicating some limited Iron Age activity in the area.

3.26 A number of coins (48) were recovered from the topsoil through metal detecting activities. Plotting their date distribution shows a low level of activity in the early Roman period, then a distinct peak in the third to fourth centuries.

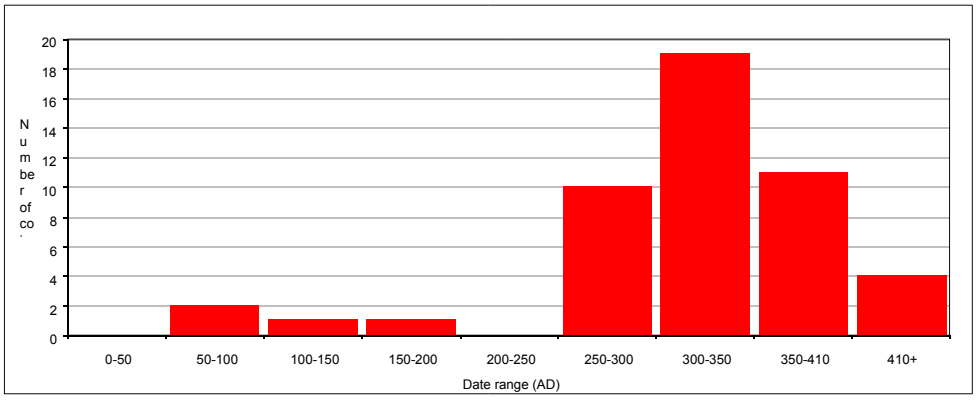


Figure 3. Distribution of dates of coins.

The Car Dyke

3.27 Overall, to date there seems very little to closely associate the site with the Car Dyke, though it was clearly a significant feature in the local landscape. The archaeological features do not respect the line of the Dyke. Most evidence points towards small-scale arable and pastoral activities dominating regular life and there is little to suggest trading activities or significant quantities of material brought in from non-local sources or from further abroad. So far there is no evidence for expedient exploitation of the water channel as a source of fish.

3.28 Augering across the Car Dyke as it crosses the Twenty Pence Project field has revealed a rough profile, showing it to be about 6m wide and about 1.5m deep. This profile is very different to that revealed 150m away which was almost twice the width (Clark 1949, plate XVI) – perhaps the increased width was to

reduce the depth to facilitate fording – but conversely is very similar to that excavated at Waterbeach almost 6 km away (Macaulay and Reynolds 1994).

4. Main Plans

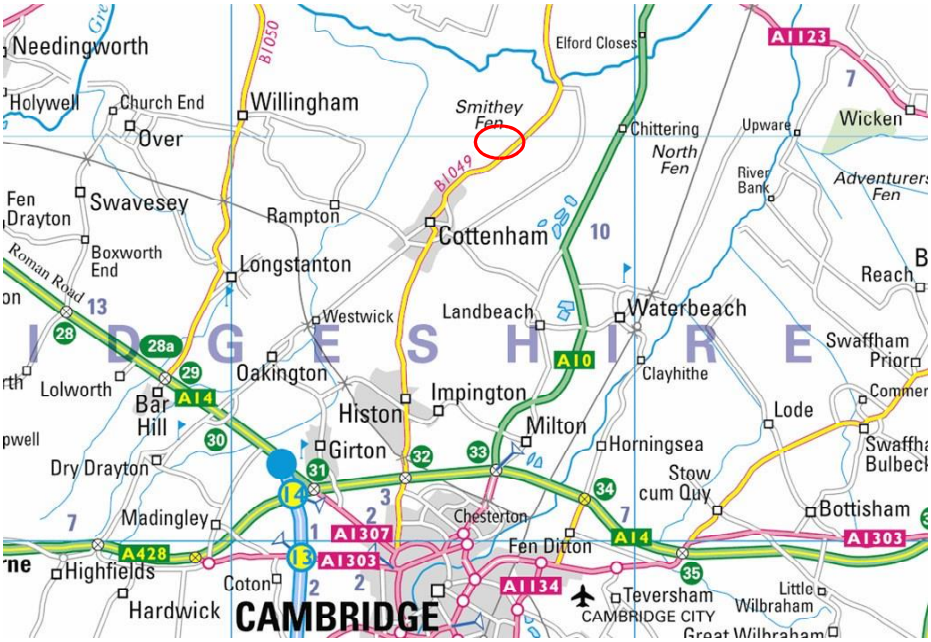


Figure 4. Location of Twenty Pence Project site in relation to Cambridge and Cottenham (red circle)
(Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved.).

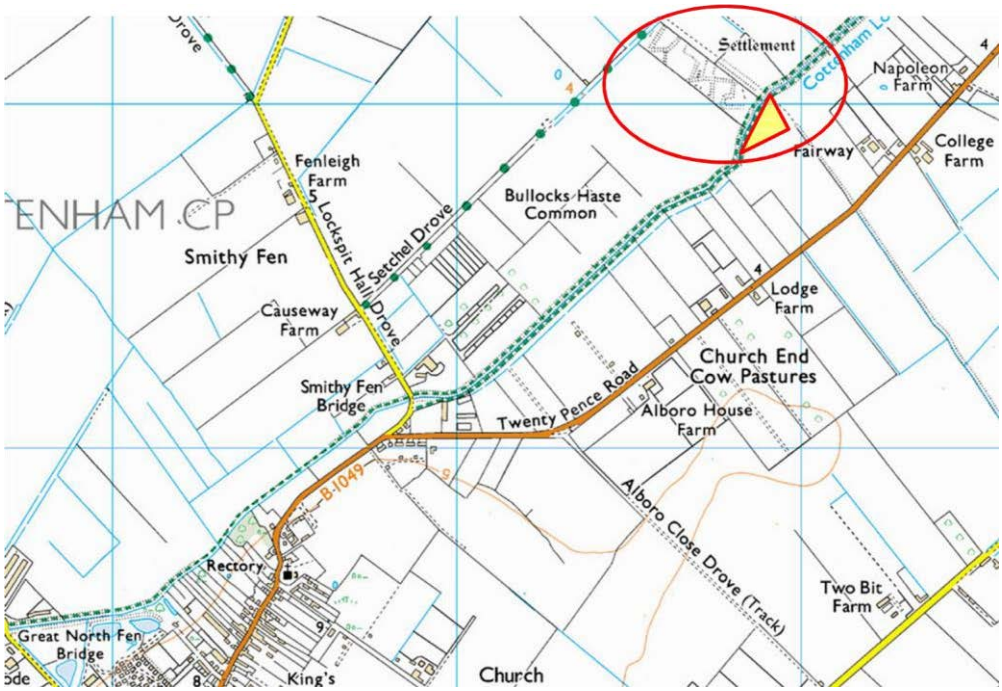


Figure 5. Location of Twenty Pence Project site in relation to Twenty Pence Road (yellow area)
(Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved.).

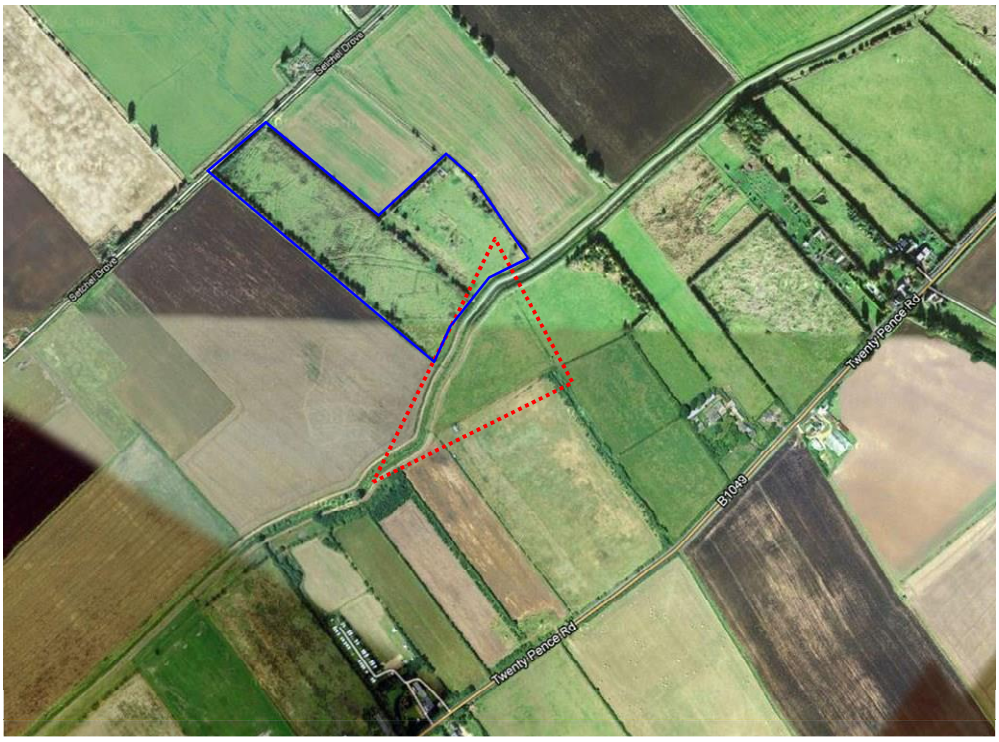


Figure 6. Recent aerial photo of Twenty Pence Project site (red) and Bullocks Haste site (blue) (Google Earth).

Cropmark features (Fenland Survey)
Figure 7.
EAA Report No.79 with kind permission from Ordnance Survey and Cambridgeshire County Council

Aerial photo of Twentypence and Bullocks Haste site
Figure 8.
J K St Joseph (Crown copyright reserved): Phillips C W (Ed.) 1970

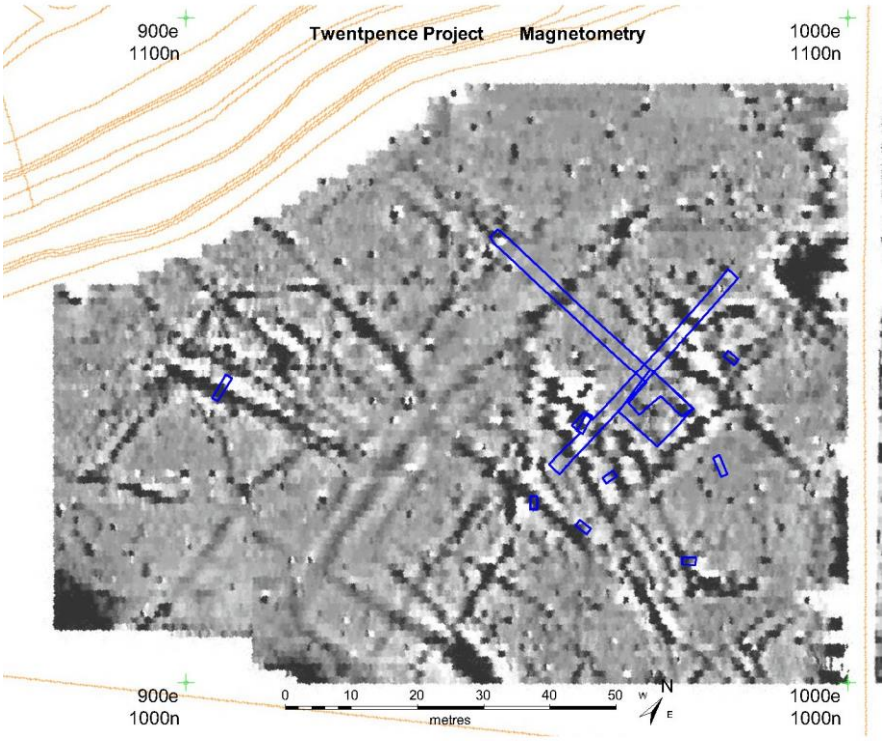


Figure 9. Magnetometry results (testpits in blue).

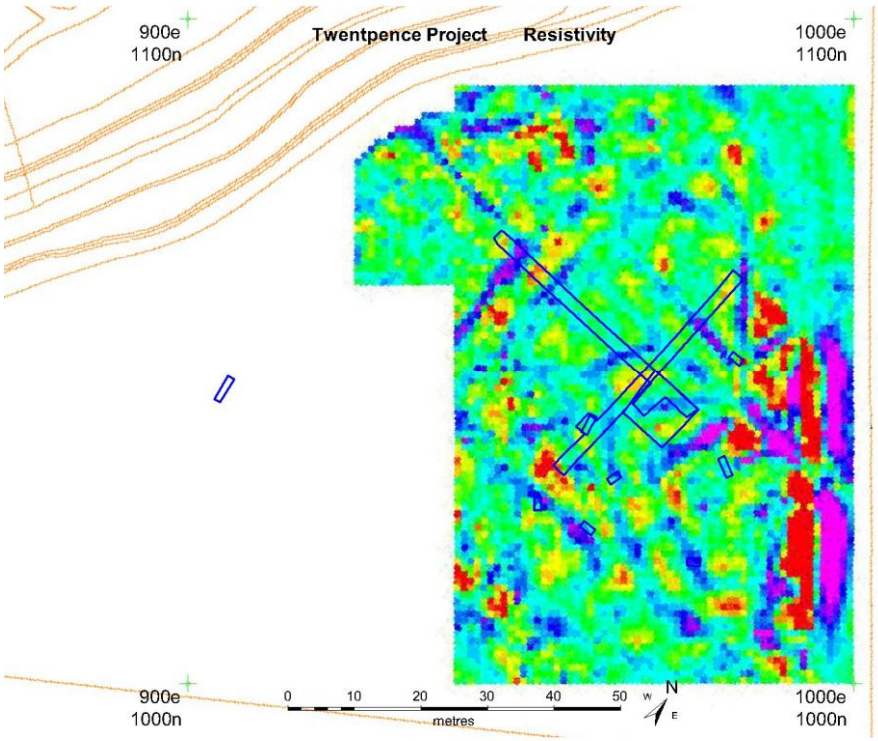


Figure 10. Resistivity results (testpits in blue).

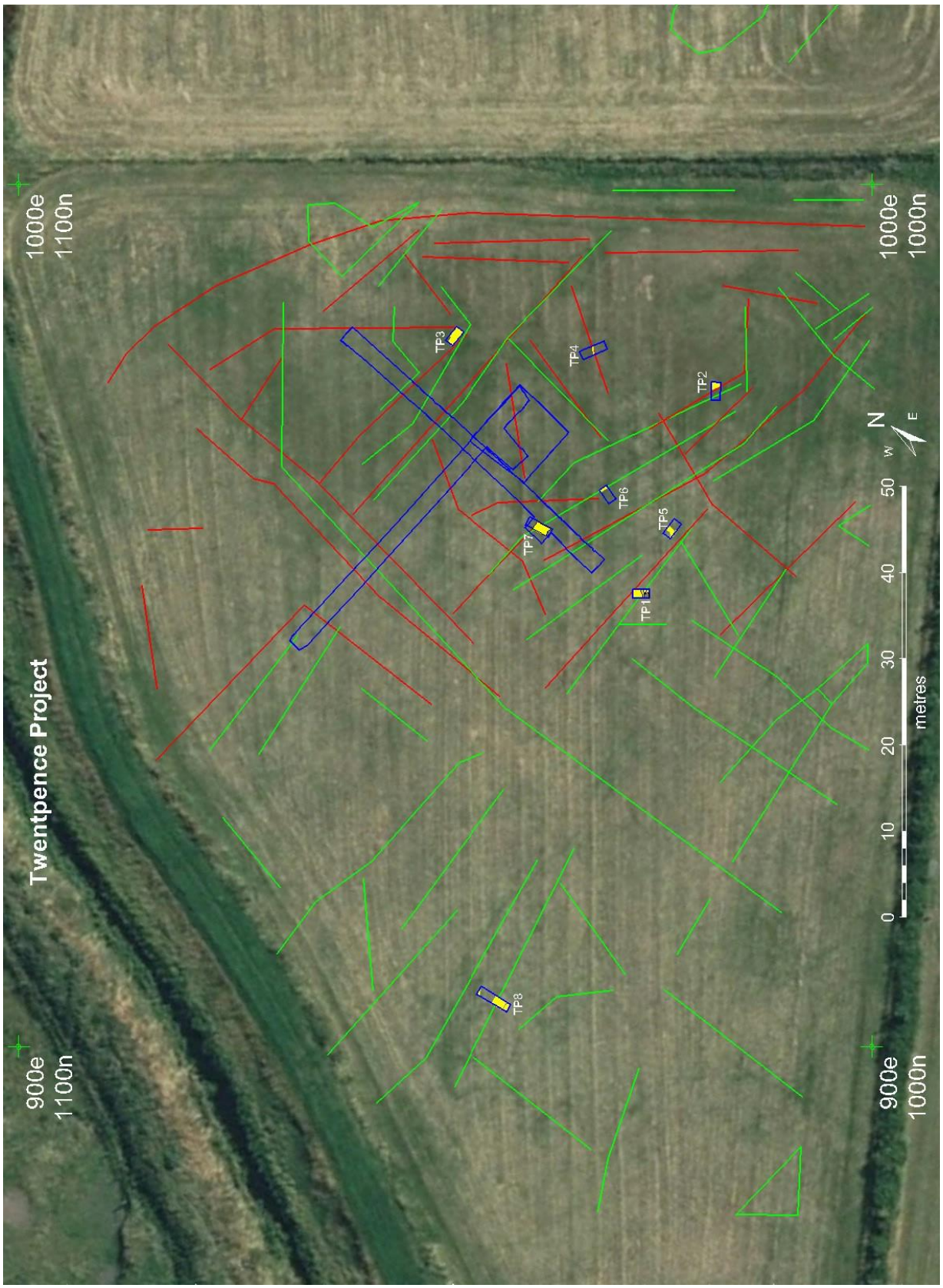


Figure 11. Small testpits (blue) and features indicated by resistivity (red) and magnetometry (green).

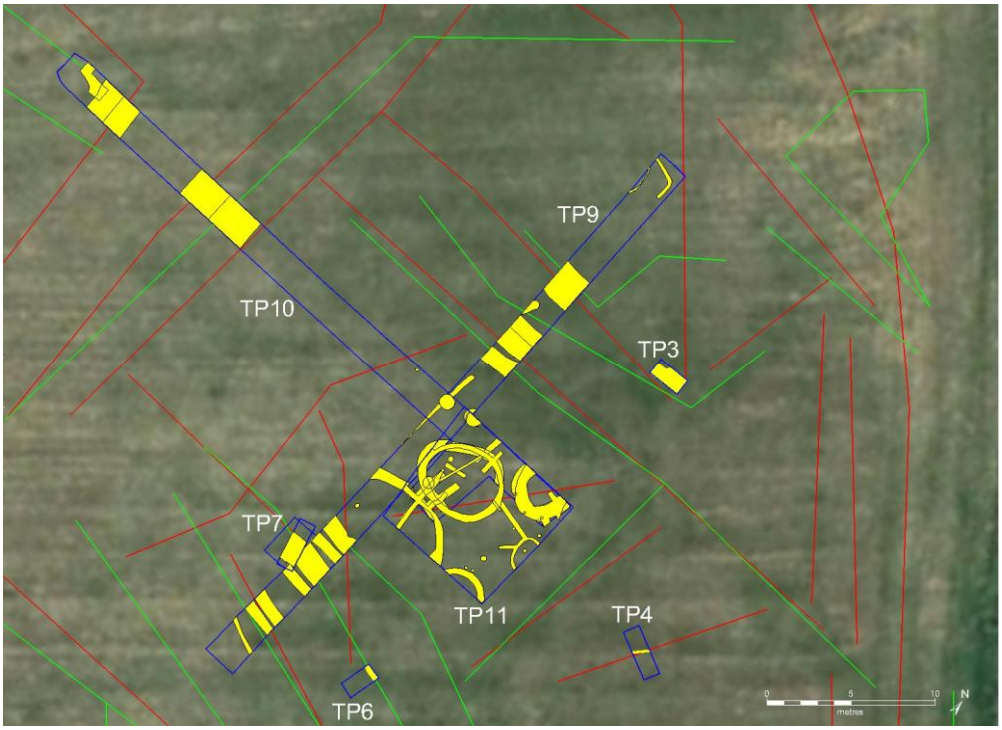


Figure 12. Testpits 9, 10 and 11 and excavated archaeological features (yellow).

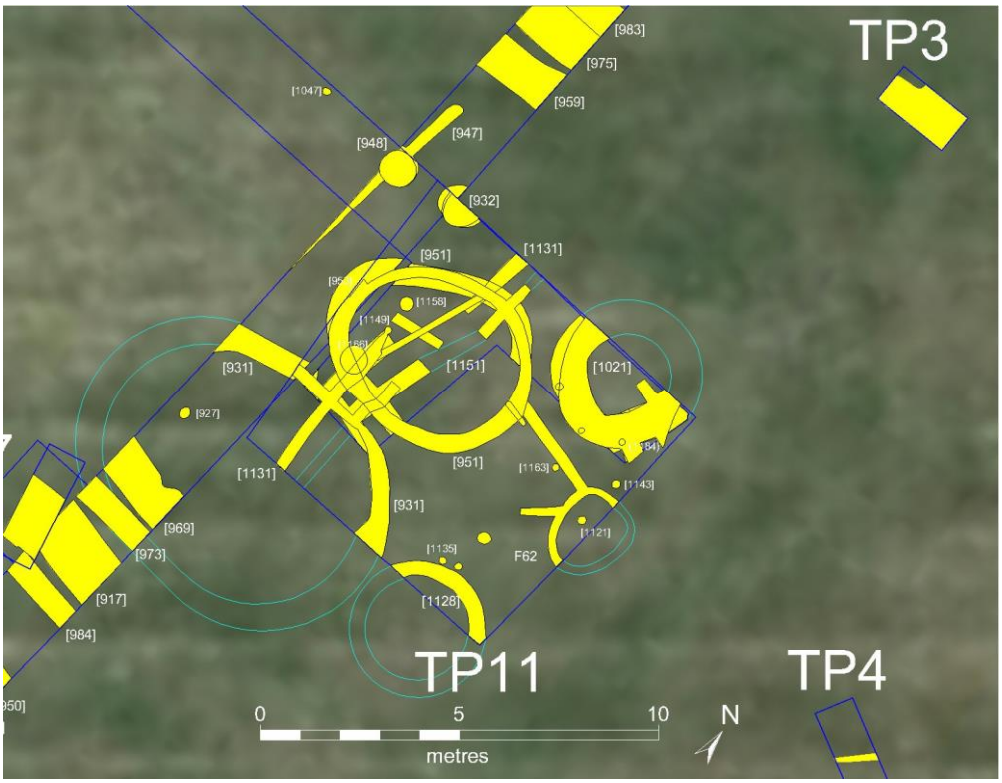


Figure 13. Testpits 9, 10 and 11: excavated (yellow) and projected (light blue) features.

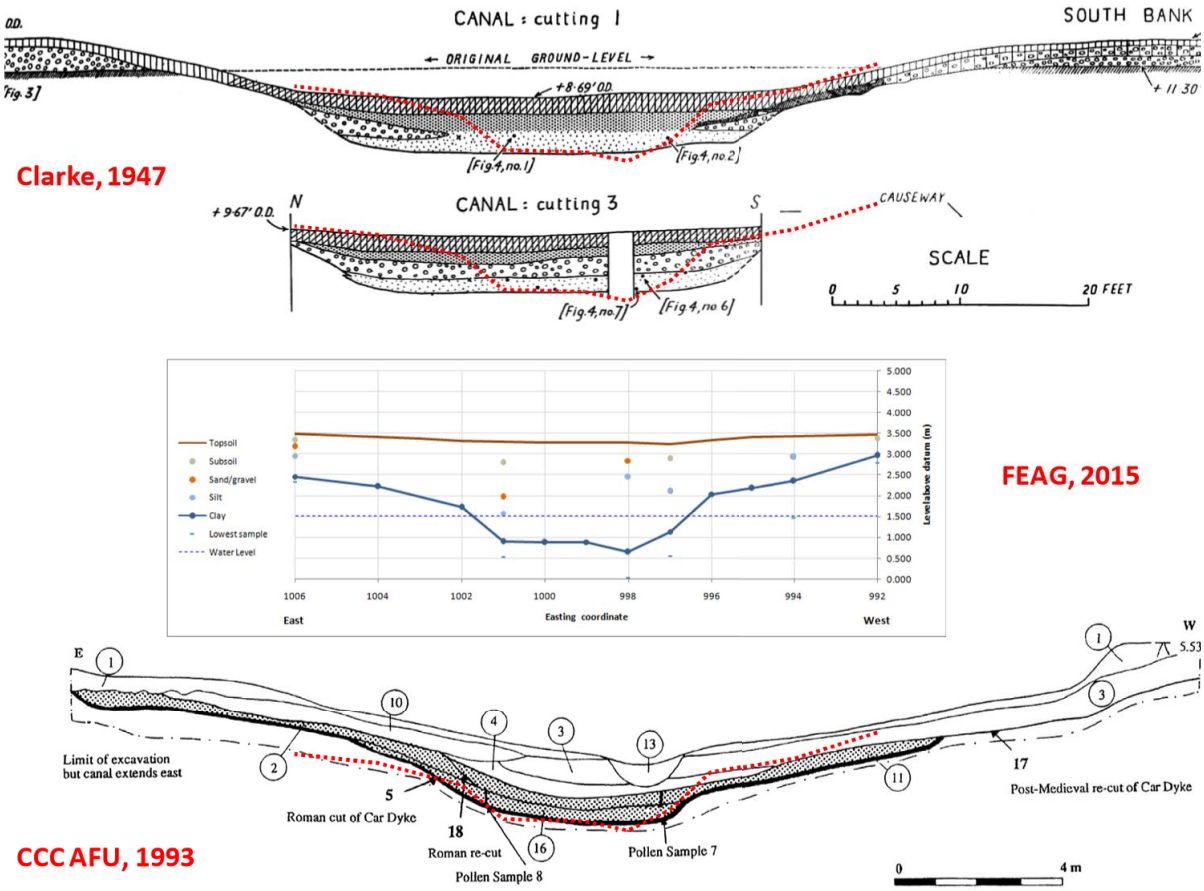


Figure 14. Profiles across the Car Dyke: Bullocks Haste top two (Clark 1949), Twenty Pence Project middle, Waterbeach bottom (Macaulay and Reynolds 1994).

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Q/RDC 66: Inclosure Map of Cottenham, 1847

515/P: Tithe Map of Cottenham, 1848

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St Joseph JK; Air photograph of Twenty Pence site (Phillips 1970, Pl XVII).

Bullock's Haste site: National Monuments Record Centre:

TL 4670/74 23 March 1956
TL 4670/75 23 March 1956
TL 4670/48 22 May 1952
TL 4670/13 20 July 1950
TL 4670/18 23 July 1953
TL 4670/88 19 July 1990
TL 4670/94 20 Sept 1991

Annex I

Trench descriptions and context inventory

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2011 Testpit 1 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 1 Summary

Testpit 1 was dug as a somewhat experimental exercise, firstly to test the TPP recording procedure and secondly to ascertain the likely character and depth of the deposits in the project area. It was also functioned as an initial calibration of the geophysical surveys.

The overlying topsoil was about 30 cm deep, revealing one (or perhaps two) shallow possible east–west running plough scars, presumably fairly late features. Beneath that a very substantial ditch (more than 1.5 m wide) ran northwest–southeast across the area, which was apparent on both the magnetometry and resistivity surveys. The earliest feature revealed was another large north–south ditch (more than 0.9 m wide) cut into the sandy, gravelly natural. Finds recovered included pot, animal bone and occasional building material.

1. Introduction

Testpit 1 was located approximately 30m north and 50m west of the access gate at the southeast corner of the field *(see Testpit plan)*. It measured 2m × 1m, with the long axis oriented north–south.

Its location was selected on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey conducted by Archaeology RheeSearch Group *(see resistivity and magnetometry plots)*. It was set over a prominent linear feature running from northwest to southeast, clearly visible on both the magnetometry and resistivity plots.

Excavation of Testpit 1 commenced on Monday 2 May with turf and topsoil removal. The trench was excavated by single context (as much as possible) using mattock, shovel and trowel, and all spoil was sieved using a 1cm sieve to maximise finds recovery. The weather conditions through the excavation period were dry, sunny and breezy.

The Testpit was bottomed out to natural across the southern part of the trench, but time limitations prevented the northern part of the trench from being completed. Fill **(0002)** of ditch cut **[0007]** was excavated to a depth about 0.7m below the turf level. All four sections and the final plan were drawn and final photographs taken before backfilling and returfing on Tuesday 3 May.

2. Stratigraphic sequence

The earliest archaeological feature was linear cut **[0008]**, running just off north–south and cut into the orange natural sand and gravel **(0003)**. This ditch was over 0.3m deep and continued down into the east section, hence it can be deduced that it was more than 0.9m wide. It was filled by a silty deposit (0006), but there was no evidence of a gradual build-up. It is noteworthy that this feature was not at all apparent on either of the geophysical survey plots, though there is a possible parallel linear feature just to the northwest.

This deposit was intersected by linear cut **[0007]**, a very substantial ditch running approximately northwest–southeast. The ditch was not excavated to full depth nor was the far side revealed, but it was certainly in excess of 1.5m in width, and over 0.4m deep (possibly more than 0.8m deep if the sides continue down). The ditch was filled by a silty material **(0002)**, seemingly in a single episode, with recovered finds being fairly unabraded. This fill was somewhat difficult to differentiate from fill **(0006)**.

Next in the sequence came cut **[0005]**, a small linear feature running just off of east–west. It was approximately 25cm wide and 10cm deep, cutting across the natural and the earlier ditch fill. Its own fill **(0004)** was again difficult to separate from **(0002).** It is possible that there was another similar feature about 75cm to the south of **[0005]** and running along the same orientation, but it was so shallow (<5cm) that it was impossible to be sure; a context number was not allocated. It seems likely that these features are late plough scars crossing the site.

Finally, overlying these archaeological features was about 30–35cm of topsoil.

3. Finds

Pot sherds and animal bone were recovered from all the various fills. Some CBM was noted in the topsoil and in fill **(0002)**, which also contained some burnt clay / daub. A piece of glassy slag was found in fill **(0004)**. The finds in each context are summarised in TPI Appendix A. Detailed reporting of the finds awaits specialist analyses.

4. Harris Matrix for Testpit 1

CONTEXT	CHRONOLOGICAL EVENT
(0001)	Topsoil
(0004)	Fill of possible plough scar [0005]
[0005]	**Possible E-W plough scar**
(0002)	Fill of large NW-SE ditch [0007]
[0007]	**Large NW-SE ditch**
(0006)	Fill of earlier ditch [0008]
[0008]	**Earlier N-S ditch**
(0003)	Natural (probably)

5. Interpretations

Testpit 1 started out with a fairly sizable ditch (probably over 1m wide) running north–south, cut into the natural. This became filled in and was subsequently cut by a substantial ditch (at least 1.5m wide) running northwest–southeast. These were perhaps drainage ditches or more likely boundary features. Finally, a small shallow linear feature ran east–west across the Testpit, possibly a plough scar, and there was a hint of another similar feature running in parallel just to the south.

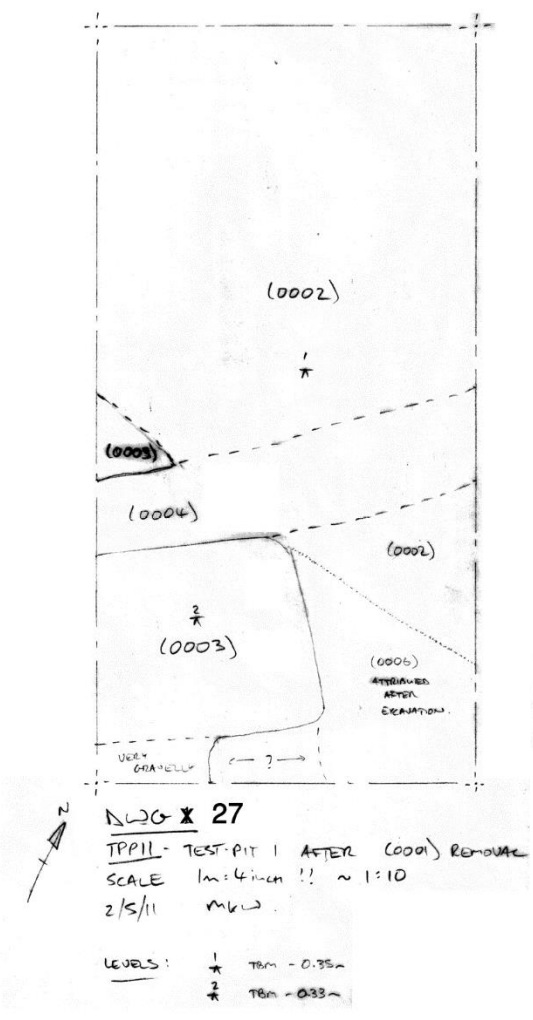
Hopefully dating of the recovered pottery assemblage will suggest dates for each of the features.

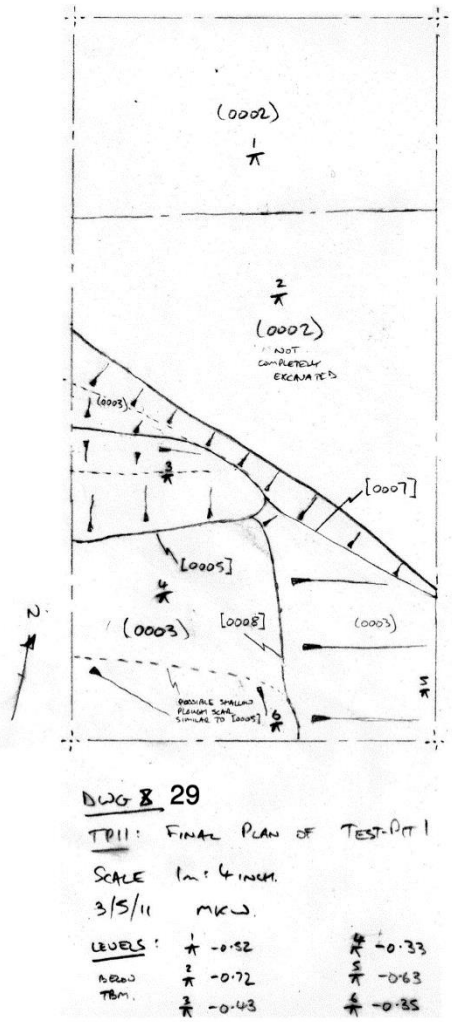
TP1 Appendices:

A. Context list

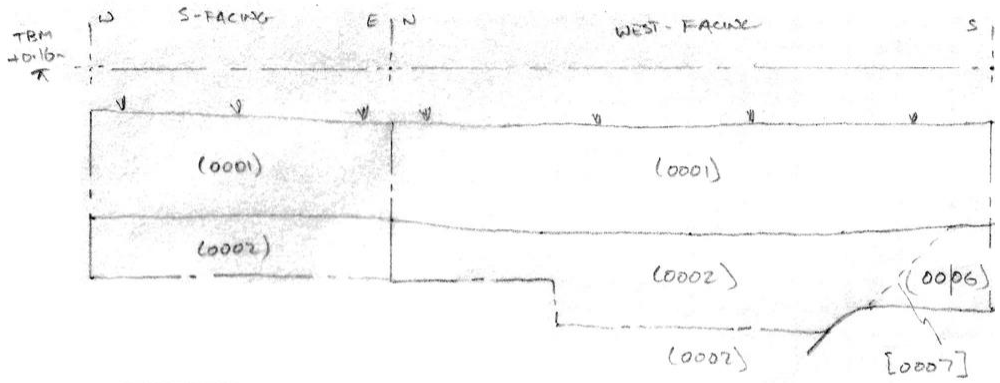
Context number	Type	Material	Description
(0001)	Fill	Pot, bone, CBM, lithics	Topsoil
(0002)	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, burnt clay / daub, CBM?	Fill of large NW–SE ditch **[0007]**
(0003)	Fill	-	Natural (probably)
(0004)	Fill	Pot, glassy slag	Fill of possible plough scar **[0005]**
[0005]	Cut	-	Possible E–W plough scar
(0006)	Fill	Pot, bone	Fill of earlier ditch **[0008]**
[0007]	Cut	-	Large NW–SE ditch
[0008]	Cut	-	Earlier N–S ditch

B. Plans


(0002)
1
(0005)
(0004)
(0002)
2
(0003)
(0006)
ATTRIBUTED AFTER EXCAVATION.
VERY GRAVELLY
N
DWG # 27
TPP11 - TEST-PIT 1 AFTER (0001) REMOVAL
SCALE 1m = 4 inch !! ~ 1:10
2/5/11 MKW.
LEVELS: 1 TBM - 0.35m
2 TBM - 0.33m


(0002)
1
2
(0002)
NOT COMPLETELY EXCAVATED
(0003)
3
[0007]
[0005]
4
(0003)
[0008]
(0003)
POSSIBLE SHALLOW PLOUGH SCAR, SIMILAR TO [0005]
6
5
N
DWG # 29
TP11: FINAL PLAN OF TEST-PIT 1
SCALE 1m = 4 INCH.
3/5/11 MKW.
LEVELS: 1 -0.52
2 -0.72
3 -0.43
4 -0.33
5 -0.63
6 -0.35
RELOW TBM.

C. Section drawings

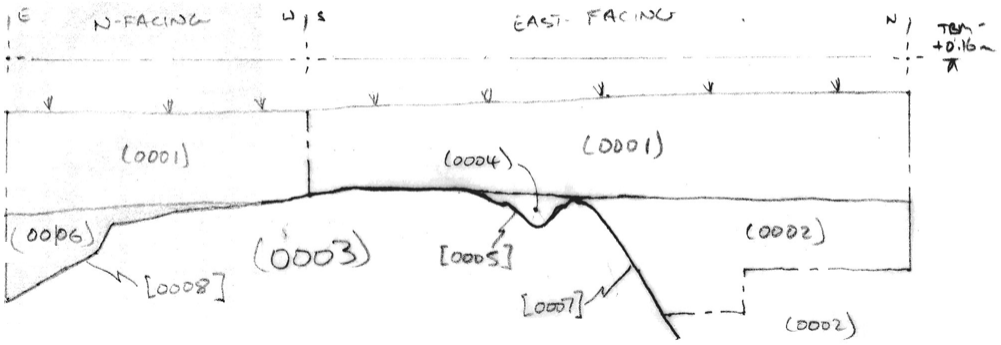


DWG X 28

TP11 : TEST PIT TP1 SECTIONS

SCALE 1m : 2 inches

3/5/11 mkw.



D. Photos

View facing north

View facing south

View facing south, close-up on southwest corner

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2011 Testpit 2 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 2 Summary

Testpit 2 was excavated during the first week of the TPP 2011 season. The main feature apparent in this Testpit was an east–west running linear ditch, 70cm deep and perhaps twice as wide, presumably a boundary or drainage ditch. It had been filled up in a number of separate episodes, including several charcoal-rich deposits. A limited sample of pottery suggested a possible early first century date for the features. This ditch had been cut into a deep deposit sitting over the natural.

1. Introduction

Testpit 2 was located about 30m west of the site grid origin at the gate into the field *(see testpit plan)*. It measured 2m × 1m, with the long axis oriented northeast–southwest.

Its location was selected on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey conducted by Archaeology RheeSearch Group *(see resistivity and magnetometry plots)*. It was positioned across an apparent linear feature running east-west, visible on both the resistivity and magnetometry plots.

Excavation of Testpit 2 commenced on Saturday 9 July with turf and topsoil removal.

The Testpit was excavated by single context using mattock, spade and trowel, and all spoil was sieved using a 1cm sieve to maximise finds recovery. The Testpit was bottomed out down to natural all around and final plan and sections were drawn before backfilling and returfing on or after Thursday 14 July.

2. Stratigraphic sequence

Apart from the main ditch cut **[207]**, there is some minor topography visible in the central part of the natural, in particular what might be the terminus of a narrow linear cut (30cm wide, 20cm deep) running east–west, but no context number was allocated.

Overlying the natural are two sandy silt layers, first **(206)** and then **(205)**; initially these probably covered the whole of the Testpit to a depth of about 50cm together.

Later, a linear ditch **[207]**, running approximately east–west, was cut through **(205)**, **(206)** and down into the natural. The records are not clear, but this ditch was probably about 70cm deep and between 1.2 and 1.5m wide. At the base of this ditch, lying on the natural is a sandy, gravelly fill **(208)** only about 5cm deep, containing three small Late Iron Age / Early Roman pot sherds. Above this lies about 60cm of fill **(202)**.

However, the cut **[204]** and its fill **(203)** (about 15cm deep) appear to sit within context **(202)**. Furthermore, in the 'N-facing' section drawing and also the corresponding photograph, lying within **(202)** there are a couple of clear charcoal layers (one of which must represent **[204]** and **(203)**) and also a sandy lens. Hence it seems likely that the filling up of ditch **[207]** was made up of numerous separate deposits. For stratigraphic consistency, therefore, deposit **(202)** needs to be separated into **(202a)** below **[204]** and **(203)**, and **(202b)** above them.

Lastly, on top of **(202b)**, lies the topsoil **(201)**, about 30cm deep.

3. Finds and samples

Small finds *SF199* (a pot sherd), *SF222* (stone, probably natural) and *SF230* (a charcoal fragment) were recovered from deposit **(202)**.

Pottery, animal bone, CBM and some charcoal were recovered from various fills. Fill **(208)** contained a few Late Iron Age / Early Roman pot sherds, while **(201)** had a few first / second century and a number of broad Romano-British period sherds. The finds in each context are summarised in TP2 Appendix A.

An environmental sample, **<100>**, consisting of a piece of charcoal, was taken from **(203)**.

4. Harris Matrix for Testpit 2

C O N T E X T	C H R O N O L O G I C A L E V E N T
(201)	Topsoil
(202b)	Upper part of fill of ditch [207]
(203)	Fill of pit cut [204]
[204]	**Small pit cut**
(202a)	Lower part of fill of ditch [207]
(208)	Base fill of ditch [207]
[207]	**E-W ditch cut**
(205)	Upper layer
(206)	Lower layer
(Nat)	Natural

5. Interpretations

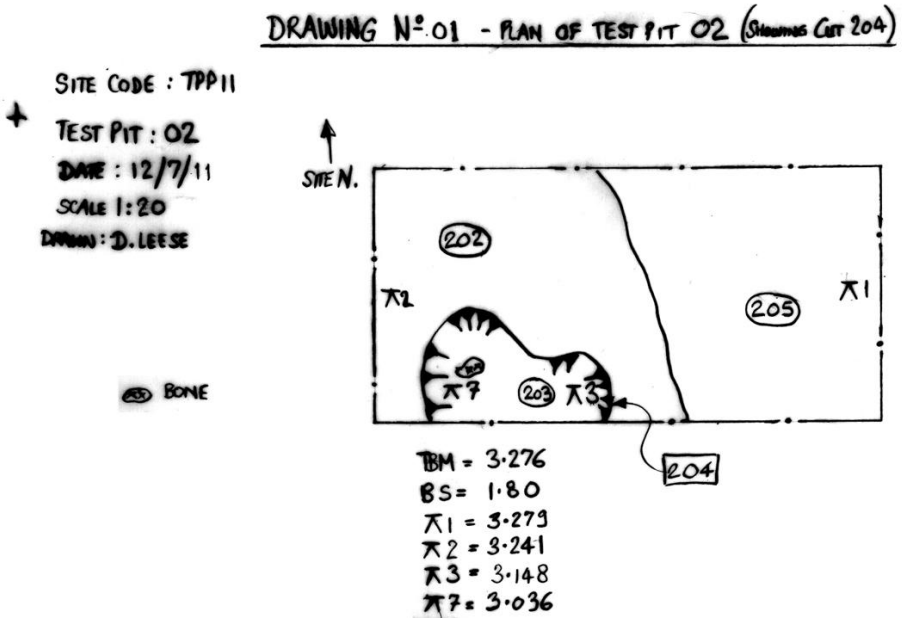
In Testpit 2 there may have been some early features cut into the natural, perhaps including a small east–west gulley, but this remains unclear given the limited size of the exposure. Over these conjectured features a deep (about 60cm) layer, was laid down separated into two contexts. Cut into this layer and down into the natural was a linear ditch running east–west, 70cm deep and perhaps 1.2–1.5m wide. This feature seems likely to have been a boundary or drainage ditch; it had been suggested by the resistivity and magnetometry surveys. It had been filled up in numerous episodes, including several deposits notably rich in charcoal, e.g. **(203)**. Topsoil lay over the top of these ditch-fills.

TP2 Appendices:

A. Context list

Context number	Type	Material	Description
(201)	Fill	Pot, bone	Topsoil
(202a) **(202b)**	Fill	Pot, bone, CBM, *SF199*, *SF222*, *SF230*	Upper fill of ditch **[207]**, separated into upper and lower parts
(203)	Fill	Bone, charcoal	Fill of pit cut **[204]**
[204]	Cut		Pit cut into **(202)** filled by **(203)**
(205)	Fill	Bone	Upper layer
(206)	Fill		Lower layer
[207]	Cut		Linear cut running E-W
(208)	Fill	Pot, bone	Base fill of ditch **[207]**

B. Plans



DRAWING N° 03 - PLAN OF TEST PIT 02 (DOWN TO NATURAL)

SITE CODE : TPP11

TEST PIT 02

DATE 14/7/11

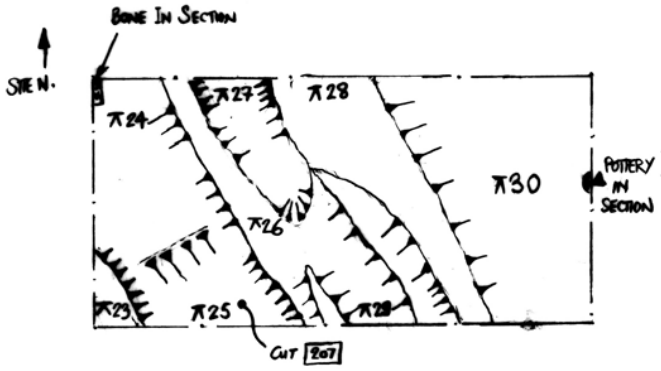
SCALE 1:20

DRAWN : D.LEESE

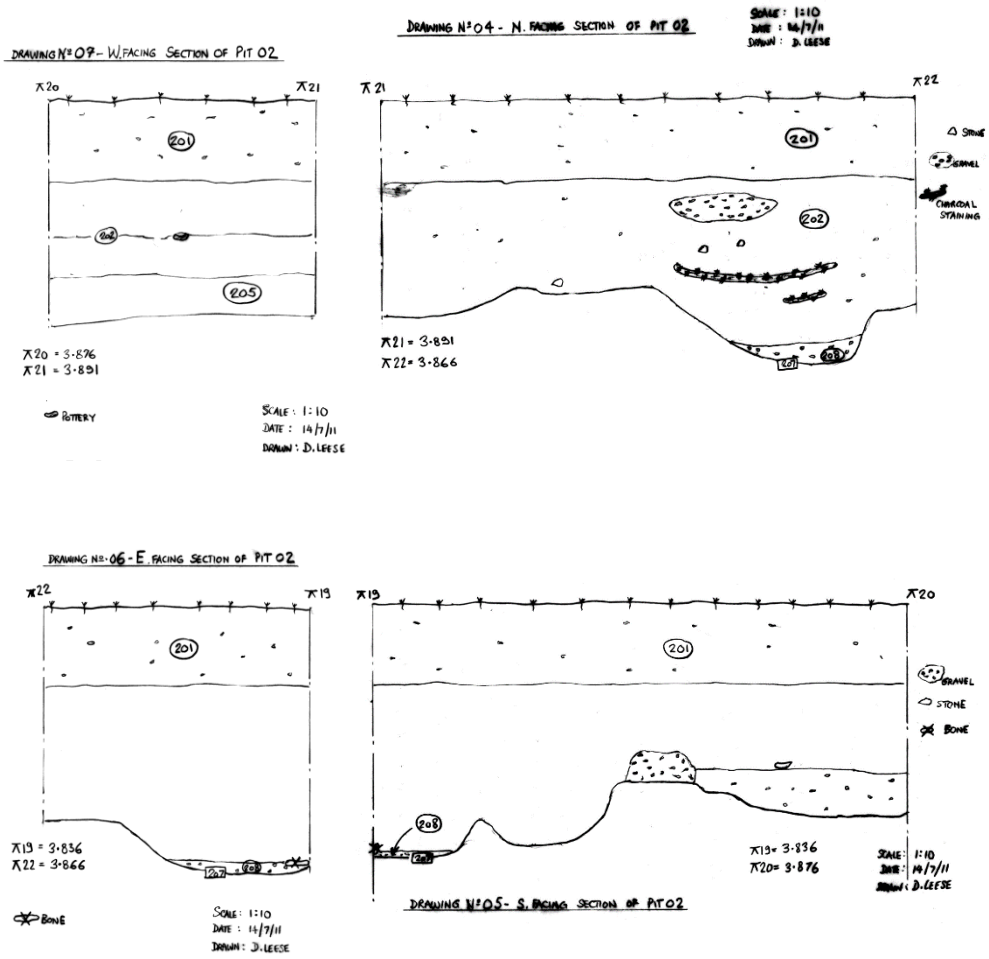
TBM = 3·275

BS = 1·64

⊼23 = 3.076
⊼24 = 2·906
⊼25 = 2·876
⊼26 = 3·076
⊼27 = 2·956
⊼28 = 3·186
⊼29 = 3·136
⊼30 = 3·076



C. Section drawings



D. Photos


TWENTY PENCE PROJECT
TPP 11
TP2
201


TWENTY PENCE PROJECT
TPP 11
TP2
201

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2011 Testpit 3 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 3 Summary

Testpit 3 was dug throughout the TPP 2011 season. Under about 30cm of topsoil was revealed a large north–south ditch (probably larger than 2.5m wide and 1m deep – its full extent was not revealed) and a smaller gulley (probably around 60cm wide and 30cm deep) running into it. This essentially confirmed the geophysics in the area.

Both features had been recut up to four times, broadly in the same location, and after a period of gradual silting up, they had been suddenly infilled; the last north–south ditch cut was deliberately backfilled with a natural deposit.

Bulk finds included pottery, bone, lithics, shell and charcoal; small finds include several links of a Cu alloy chain. Pottery evidence from the fills of the main ditch suggests a first to second century date for these features in this Testpit.

1. Introduction

Testpit 3 was located approximately halfway along the fence-line which forms the northeast boundary of the area, set about 20m in (to the southwest) from the fence-line *(see testpit plan)*. It measured 2m ×1m, with the long axis oriented east–west.

Its location was selected on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey

conducted by Archaeology RheeSearch Group *(see resistivity and magnetometry plots)*. It was close to the meeting point of several features: a north–south linear visible on both the magnetometry and the resistivity plots, an east–west linear also visible on both plots, and a northwest–southeast linear visible only on the resistivity plot. In addition the resistivity data indicates a particularly high resistance spot in the approximate location of Testpit 3.

Excavation of Testpit 3 commenced on Saturday 9 July with turf and topsoil removal.

The Testpit was excavated by single context (as much as possible) using mattock, shovel and trowel, and all spoil was sieved using a 1cm sieve to maximise finds recovery. Some excavation and recording discontinuity and interpretation issues were caused by the numerous changes in personnel throughout the excavation. The Testpit was bottomed out down to natural all around. All four sections and a final plan were drawn before the backfilling and returfing on Saturday 23 July.

2. Stratigraphic sequence

Starting from the earliest period, it seems that a pair of cuts was made into the sandy / gravelly natural: a (presumably) large north–south cut in excess of 80cm in depth, **[314]**, and running into it, a smaller east–west cut, **[310]**. A fairly heavy clayey silt, **(311)**, filled the very base of **[310]**, perhaps representing a period of minimal flow, though it was not found to continue into **[314]**, which was presumably still open during this period. It is not particularly clear, but context **(306)**, a mixed, light-coloured clayey deposit, might be natural or a very early deposit overlying natural.

Layer **(311)** was cut by a linear **[312]**, again running east–west but this time slightly to the south of **[310]**, presumably a recutting of this silted-up gulley. **[312]** was filled by a silty material mixed in with some patches of sand **(307)**, which also ran into **[314]**. This bulk fill looks like a relatively sudden, rapid infilling event. Deposit **(307)** was subsequently cut by another large north-south oriented linear, **[313]**, over 1.1m deep, which in turn was filled by large deposit of silty material **(308)**. This deposit contained a number of potsherds dating to the first / second centuries.

Mirroring the first cutting event, fill **(308)** was cut by a new pair of linear cuts: **[315]** oriented east–west, running into a larger north–south oriented cut **[316]** over 80cm in depth. Again, a period of low flow seems to have followed, indicated by a heavy clayey silt band, context **(309)**, which lies at the base of **[315]** and runs down into **[316]**, probably filling it to some depth. Overlying **(309)**, silty fill **(302)** seems to be another sudden major filling event, again dated by pottery to the first / second centuries. Higher up, cut

[316] was fairly indistinct and **(308)** difficult to differentiate from **(302)**, but at lower a level, the edge between **(308)** and **(309)** was much clearer; hence to some extent **[316]** was retrospectively projected upwards, its exact position is somewhat speculative.

Next, a final north–south running linear, **[304]**, more than 70cm deep, was cut into **(302)**. It seems to have been backfilled in a single deliberate event by **(303)**, a very sandy / gravelly material, most probably redeposited natural from somewhere nearby. A minor clayey deposit, **(305)**, sits just over **(303)**.

Finally, the mixed topsoil, context **(301)**, about 25–30cm deep, overlay the archaeological deposits and was topped by turf.

Extracting the exact sequence of cuts and fills was not especially easy, in particular it is not clear whether **[310]** or **[312]** was the earliest cut into natural, nor what was the exact profile of **[316]**. These problems were in part due to similarity of the silty fills and partly due to the small exposure of Testpit 3, if a larger area had been opened up it might have been possible to position sections in more strategic positions.

3. Finds

Small finds *SF123* (a potsherd) and *SF159* (a piece of fine iron wire) came from topsoil deposit **(301)**; *SF201* (a Cu alloy chain of 6–7 links) and *SF202* (a number of iron lumps, probably natural) were recovered from ditch fill **(302)**.

Pottery, animal bone, shell and lithics were recovered from various fills, and charcoal was occasionally noted. Apart from a range of pottery datable only to the wider Romano-British period, deposits **(302)** and **(308)** contained material datable to the first / second centuries. Snail shells and fossils were occasionally found. The finds in each context are summarised in TP3 Appendix A.

4. Harris Matrix for Testpit 3

CONTEXT	CHRONOLOGICAL EVENT
(301)	Topsoil
(305)	Clayey deposit
(303)	Deliberate backfilling of ditch with redeposited natural
[304]	**Final recut of N/S ditch**
(302)	Third major infilling of ditch and gulley
(309)	Gradual silting up layer
[316] **[315]**	**Recutting of large N/S ditch and smaller E/W gulley**
(308)	Second major infilling of N/S ditch
[313]	**Recutting of N/S ditch**
(307)	Major infilling event of ditch and gulley
[312]	**Recutting of E/W gulley**
(311)	Gradual silting up at base of gulley
[314] **[310]**	**Initial large N/S ditch and smaller E/W gulley**
(306)	Possible natural / early layer
(Nat)	Natural

5. Interpretations

Testpit 3 seems to exhibit a repeated cycle of cutting steep-sided ditches, followed by gradual silting up or sudden infilling, then a recutting of the ditches. There is a strong sense of continuity in the arrangement. There is always a large ditch oriented north-south, presumably over 2.5m in width and over 1m in depth (i.e. **[314]**, **[313]**, **[316]**, and **[304]**); and there is usually a smaller gulley running into it from the west, perhaps upwards of 60cm wide and 30cm deep (i.e. **[310]**, **[312]**, and **[315]**).

With such a small exposure, it is difficult to ascertain the function of these features (the terms ‘ditch’ and ‘gulley’ are not meant to imply any specific

function). Drainage seems an obvious possibility, though the larger ditch would seem excessively wide. They may also be boundary ditches, though again this raises further questions. Pottery evidence suggests a first to second century date for these features.

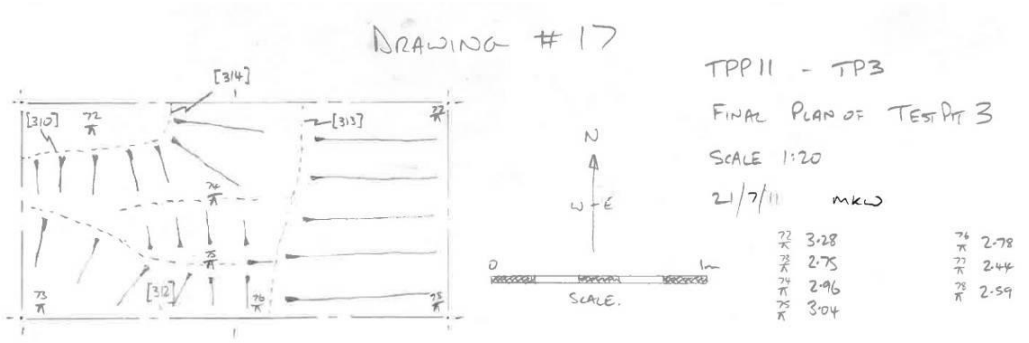
TP3 Appendices:

A. Context list

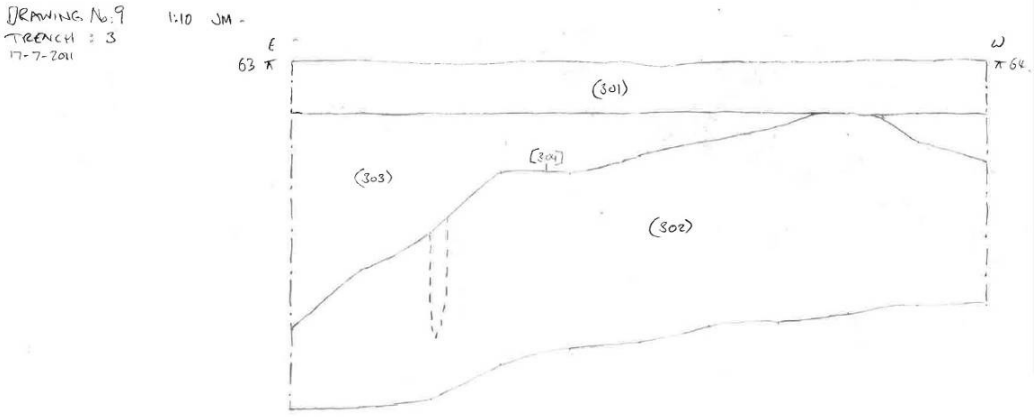
Context number	Type	Material	Description
(301)	Fill	Pot, bone, lithics, fossils, *SF123*, *SF159*	Topsoil
(302)	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, shell *SF201, SF202*	Third major infilling of ditch and gulley
(303)	Fill	Shell, fossils	Deliberate backfilling of ditch with redeposited natural
[304]	Cut	-	Last N/S ditch cut
(305)	Fill	None	Clayey fill
(306)	Fill	None	Possible natural /early mixed deposit
(307)	Fill	Bone, shell, snails, fossil	First major infilling event of ditch and gulley
(308)	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, snails	Second major infilling of N/S ditch
(309)	Fill	Pot, bone, shell, snails	Gradual silting up at base of ditch **[316]** and gulley **[315]**
[310]	Cut	-	Earliest small E/W gulley associated with **[310]**
(311)	Fill	Bone	Gradual silting up at base of gulley **[310]**
[312]	Cut	-	Second cutting of E/W gulley
[313]	Cut	-	Second cutting of large N/S ditch

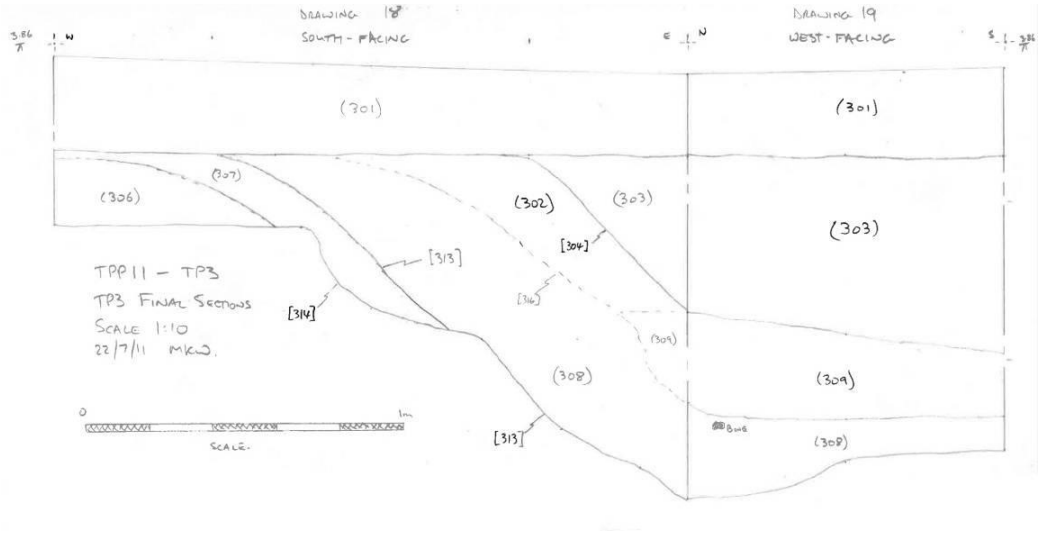
[314]	Cut	-	Earliest N/S ditch cut
[315]	Cut	-	Third cutting of small E/W gulley associated with N/S ditch **[316]**
[316]	Cut	-	Third cutting of large N/S ditch

B. Plans

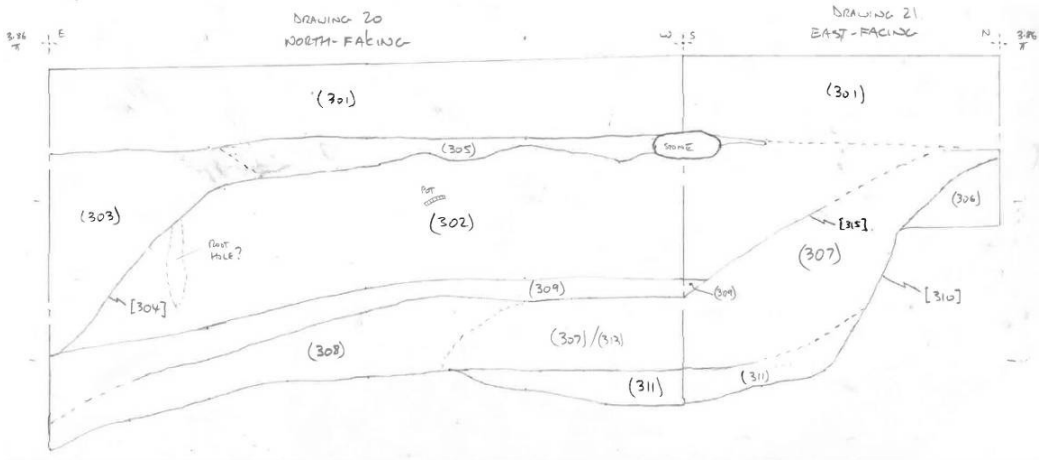


C. Section drawings




DRAWING 18
SOUTH - FACING
DRAWING 19
WEST - FACING
(301)
(306)
(307)
(302)
(303)
[313]
[304]
[314]
[316]
(309)
(308)
TPP11 – TP3
TP3 FINAL SECTIONS
SCALE 1:10
22/7/11 MKW.
0
1m
SCALE.
[313]
BANK
(308)


0
1m
SCALE.


DRAWING 20
NORTH - FACING
DRAWING 21
EAST - FACING
(301)
(305)
STONE
POST HOLE?
(303)
(302)
(306)
[315]
(307)
[304]
(309)
[310]
(308)
(307)/(312)
(311)

D. Photos

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2011 Testpit 4 Excavation Report

Compiled by Dan Colton

Testpit 4 Summary

Testpit 4 was sited over a linear feature observed in the resistivity plots; there was no indication of any anomalies in the magnetometry results.

The topsoil was 26cm to 30cm deep, and overlay sandy/silt to gravelly deposits. These deposits varied slightly in composition, and more noticeably in texture, across the trench. It is possible the more compacted of the two contexts represented archaeologically redeposited natural material, but this is difficult to verify in this trench.

A relatively shallow linear V-shaped cut bisected the trench approximately perpendicular to the long axis of the trench. This might be an archaeological or natural drainage feature.

The trench was extended to determine if any other corresponding features were present that would indicate an archaeological origin for the feature, and to confirm whether this might be the feature identified in the resistivity plots.

A sondage was cut the length of the extended trench to determine whether there were any deposits below the contexts recorded below the topsoil. The sondage revealed that the deposits were natural as structures in the sand and gravels indicated they were deposited in a fluvial environment.

Pottery recovered from this trench was of broad Romano-British date.

1. Introduction

The testpit's longitudinal axis was orientated approximately east–west, initially this was a 2m × 1m trench, which was later extended to 3m. The trench was excavated down to the natural deposits, which were relatively shallow compared to the other test pits. A sondage was cut into them to confirm whether the material was geologically deposited, as opposed to archaeologically redeposited natural material.

2. Stratigraphic sequence

Below the topsoil **(401)**, the underlying deposits varied in texture, from hard compacted material in the north of the trench **(403)** to friable easily excavated material in the south **(402)** – two contexts were recorded.

Two small gullies were recorded crossing the trench west to east. The first was a V-shaped cut 20cm deep containing sand, gravel and loam, as well as some charcoal; this cut and fill **(405)** and **[406]** were situated between the two contexts noted below the topsoil.

Another feature, which might have been a post hole was designated **(408)** and **[409]**; however on excavation this proved to be a minor indent on the surface of context **(407)** – interpreted as natural.

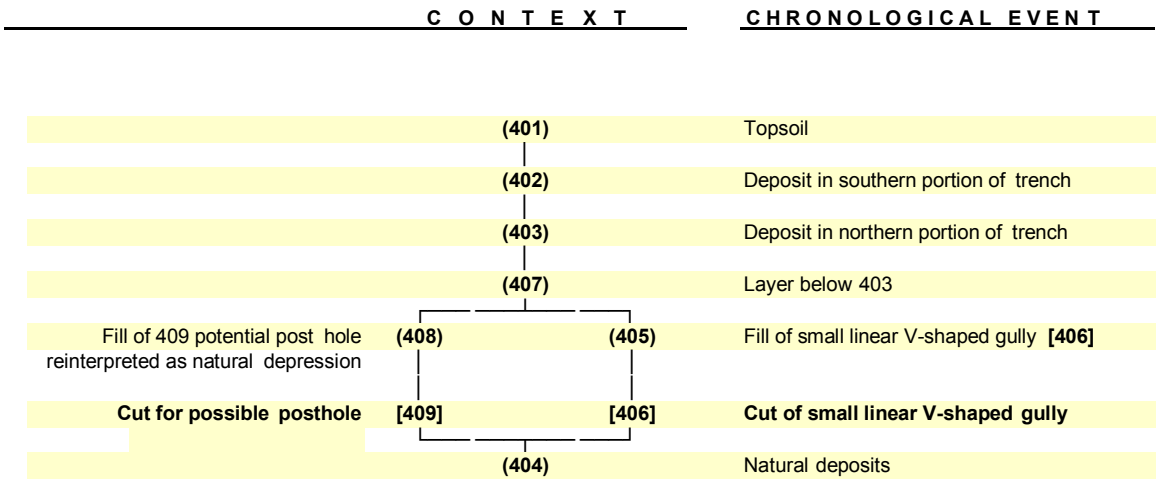
A sondage was cut the length of the trench to a total depth of 95cm to determine whether sandy to gravel deposits were archaeological or natural. It is likely that deposit **(402)** and the deposits below **(403)** are natural. Context **(403)** might be redeposited natural and may represent a compacted floor. It is difficult to determine whether the cut and fill of **(408)** and **[409]** represent an archaeological feature, plough scar or natural drainage.

3. Finds

Finds were limited to some charcoal from cut **[406]** and fill **(405)**, some bone from context **(408)** and a lithic on the surface of **(403)** below the topsoil. This was a flaked piece of flint.

Pottery was recovered from topsoil deposit **(401)** and ditch fill **(405)**; however, it was mainly of broad Romano-British date and unhelpful for more precise dating. The finds in each context are summarised in TP4 Appendix A.

4. Harris Matrix for Testpit 4



5. Interpretations

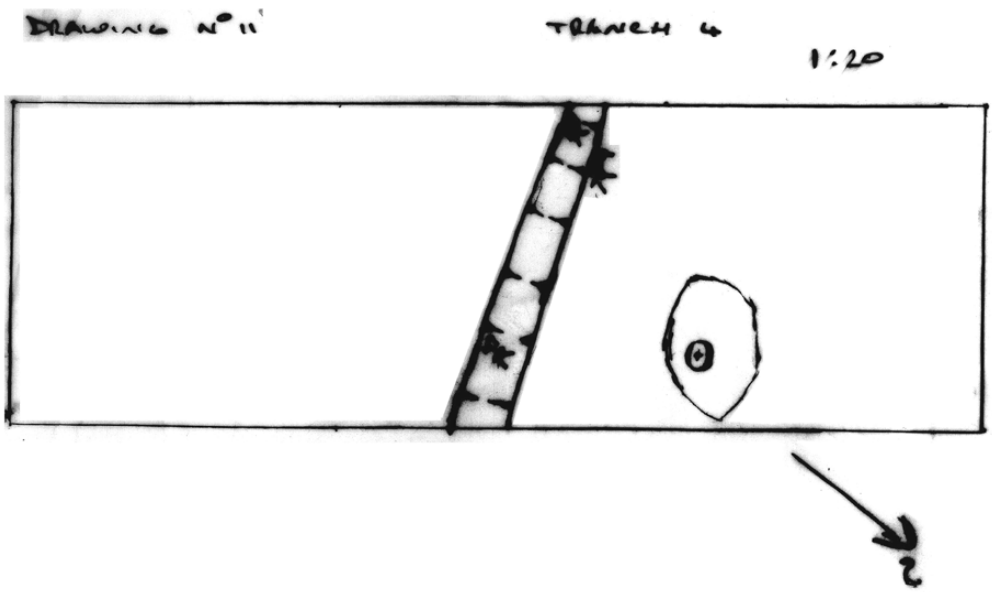
Overall there is little of certain archaeological affiliation in this trench. The small amount of archaeological material in the fill **(405)** of the V-shaped cut **[406]** might have been deposited by natural processes reworking archaeological material on the ground surface, assuming the depression was a small natural or man-made drainage channel. It is possible that this could have been a beam slot for a house, but this must remain conjectural until determined if further excavations are carried out.

TP4 Appendices

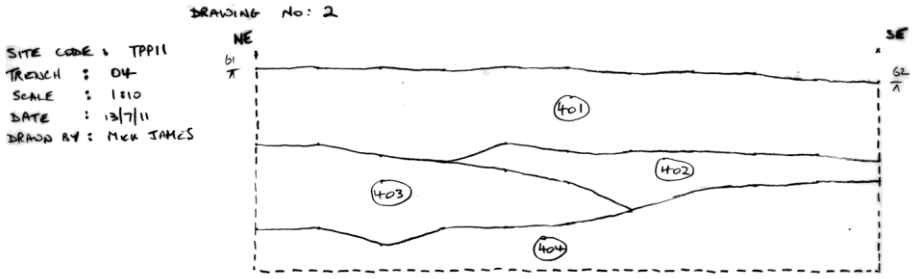
A. Context list

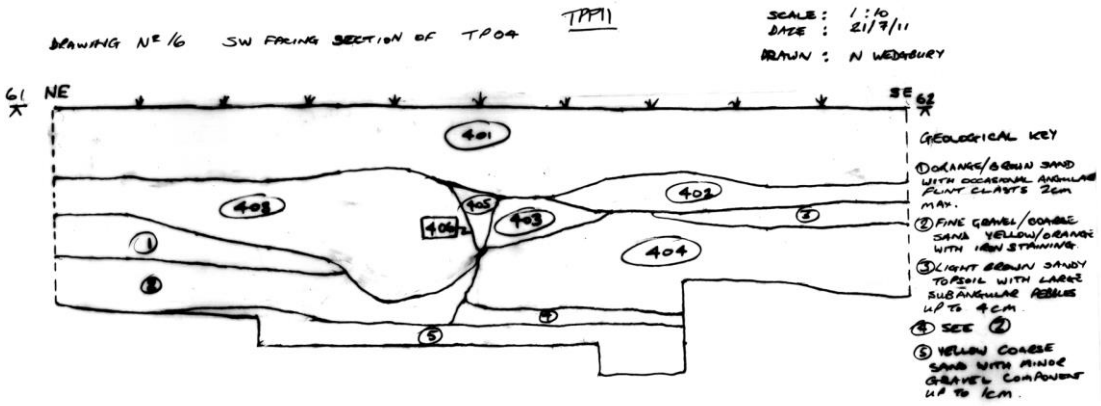
Context number	Type	Material	Description
(401)	Fill	Pot, Bone. (lithic found at base of topsoil on interface with 403)	Topsoil
(402)	Fill	None	Natural (friable uncompacted sandy silt)
(403)	Fill	Lithic (×1 technology?) blade	Possibly redeposited natural material. Lithic found on interface between topsoil and **(403)**
(404)	Fill	None	Natural (hard compacted gravel)
(405)	Fill	charcoal	Fill of **[406]**
[406]	Cut	[Charcoal?]	Cut of V-shaped gully
(407)	Fill	None	Context below **(403)**
(408)	Fill	Bone	Fill for possible post hole **[409]**
[409]	Cut	-	Cut for possible post hole – believed natural undulation in natural.

B. Plans



C. Section drawings





D. Photos

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2011 Testpit 5 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 5 Summary

Testpit 5 was excavated during the TPP 2011 season. In it was exposed a small boundary / drainage ditch running north–south which was subsequently cut by a sequence of pits, the first deep and the second wider and shallower. Subsequently the small ditch seems to have been opened up again but allowed to broaden out over the top of the earlier pits. Pottery evidence dates these features to first century BC to second century AD, the Late Iron Age to earlier Roman period

An overlying gravelly fill below the topsoil suggests later ploughing of the area.

1. Introduction

Testpit 5 was located about 45m west of the site grid origin at the gate into the field *(see testpit plan)*. It measured 2m × 1m, with the long axis oriented east–west (note there seems some confusion in the drawings, notes and context sheets over orientation).

Its location was selected on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey conducted by the Archaeology RheeSearch Group *(see resistivity and magnetometry plots)*. It was positioned across a possible linear feature running north–south visible on the magnetometry plot; it was located just to the north of a strong east–west linear feature indicated on both the

magnetometry and resistivity plots. The magnetometry plot further showed a possible pit just at the south of the Testpit.

Excavation of Testpit 5 commenced on Monday / Tuesday 11 / 12 July with turf and topsoil removal.

The Testpit was excavated by single context using mattock, shovel and trowel, and all spoil was sieved using a 1cm sieve to maximise finds recovery. The Testpit was bottomed out down to natural all around and a final plan was drawn on Monday 18 July. It was subsequently backfilled and returfed.

2. Stratigraphic sequence

It seems that the natural hard sandy-gravel **(510)** was initially cut by a narrow linear **[504]**, running north–south, but possibly curving slightly to the west through the Testpit. It was about 0.5m wide and about 35cm deep overall.

At the base, **[504]** was filled with a silty fill **(506)**, possibly a natural silting up of the cut which contained a few Late Iron Age / Early Roman period potsherds. Above this, a second gravelly fill **(509)** sloped steeply up only on the east side of the cut.

Cut **[507]** seems to have been a circular / oval pit exposed across the southwest part of the Testpit, cutting into the natural **(510)** and linear **[504]** and its fills. It measured at least 90cm (east–west) by 35cm (north–south) and about 50cm maximum depth; it seems to have had a fairly rounded base, though it may not have been completely emptied during excavation. Its main (base) fill was **(508)**, a soft dark silty deposit.

Contrary to the section plans and records, the photograph of the north-facing section suggests that **(508)** was subsequently cut across by a wider (over 1.2m) and shallower (about 20cm) pit, **[unnumbered cut]**. This was then filled by **(505)**, which totally covers fill **(508)**. The initial interpretation was that **(505)** was the collapsed sides of **[507]**.

Next, overlying **(505)** is context **(503)**, which also fills what must be a recut **[unnumbered**] of **[504]**, which helps to explain the steep sides of **(509)**. It is somewhat surprising that the sharp, narrow profile of this recut does not extend into the southern baulk, but opens into a wide profile. Fill **(503)** contains a small number of potsherds dating to the first and second centuries of the Late Iron Age / Roman period.

Overlying all these features was **(502)**, a gravelly subsoil covering the whole Testpit, possibly raked up by ploughing as is also fill **(503)**; it was about 10cm in depth. Above this was the topsoil **(501)**, to a depth of about 35cm.

3. Finds

Small finds *SF197* (iron nail head) and *SF198* (George V 1d coin dated 1914) were recovered from topsoil context **(501)** of Testpit 5.

Pottery, animal bone, burnt flint and charcoal were recovered from various fills. Of the limited quantity of pottery recovered which was datable better than to just the wider Romano-British period, some material from fills **(503)** and **(506)** was from the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods, the first century BC to the second century AD.

The finds in each context are summarised in TP5 Appendix A.

4. Harris Matrix for Testpit 5

CONTEXT	CHRONOLOGICAL EVENT
(501)	Topsoil
(502)	Subsoil
(503)	Fill of recut of [504] and overlying top of [505]
[???]	Probable un-numbered recut of [504]
(505)	Fill of wide, shallow pit
[???]	Cut for wider, shallow pit
(508)	Main fill of [507]
[507]	Cut for deep pit
(509)	Upper fill of linear [504]
(506)	Base fill of linear [504]
[504]	Cut for N/S linear
(510)	Natural

5. Interpretations

The earliest feature in Testpit 5 is the small north–south running ditch **[504]**, probably for boundary delineation or perhaps drainage and visible on the geophysical results. It probably eventually silted up and was subsequently cut by **[507]**, a large pit almost a metre across and in excess of 0.5m deep; it is difficult to be certain because of its limited exposure. This pit was eventually filled up and then a wider, shallower pit cut across it **[unnumbered]** which also filled up.

Ditch **[504]** seems to have then been recut **[unnumbered]**, starting off narrow and sharp but opening up more widely over the top of the earlier pit; in turn this recut also filled up.

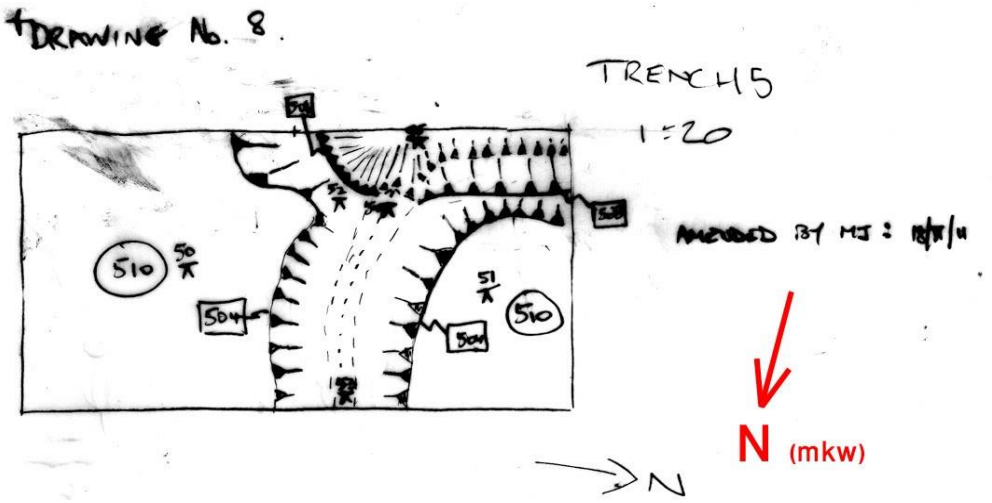
A gravelly fill overlying these features and underneath the topsoil may suggest some degree of ploughing across the field.

TP5 Appendices:

A. Context list

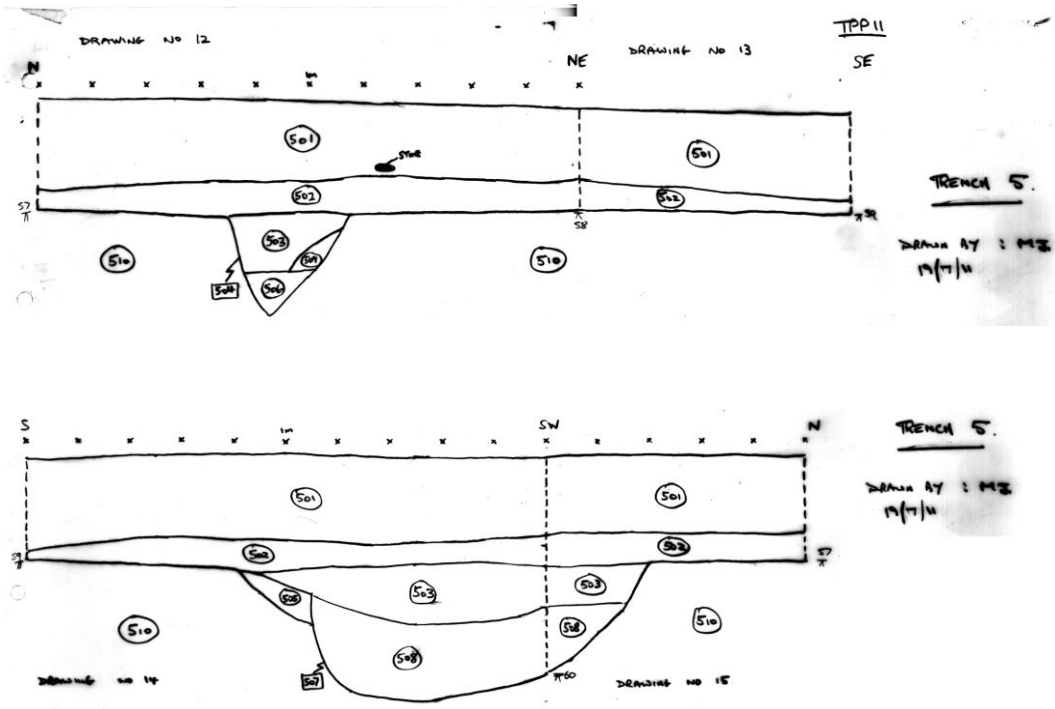
Context number	Type	Material	Description
(501)	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal; *SF197* (Fe nail head), *SF198* (modern coin), *SF269* (reclassified as enviro sample *101*)	Topsoil
(502)	Fill	Pot, bone, coal, burnt flint	Gravelly subsoil, possibly plough-scrape
(503)	Fill	Pot, bone, burnt flint	Upper fill of **[507]** and overlying top of
[504]	Cut	-	Cut for N-S linear
(505)	Fill	Pot, bone	Fill of missing cut? Possibly collapsed sides of **[507]**?
(506)	Fill	Pot	Base fill of linear **[504]**
[507]	Cut	[Pot?]	Cut for large pit
(508)	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal flecks	Main fill of **[507]**
(509)	Fill		Upper fill of linear **[504]**
(510)	Fill	-	Natural

B. Plans



The indicated North is incorrect, the red arrow shows the probable direction.

C. Section drawings



D. Photos

North should probably be oriented more towards the bottom of the image.

North-facing section

East-facing section

South-facing section

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2011 Testpit 6 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 6 Summary

Testpit 6 was excavated during the TPP 2011 season. A small part of a probable ditch, cut into the natural and running east–west, was exposed in the north part of the Testpit, with the overlying topsoil dipping down towards it. Also cut into the natural were a series of three narrow linear cuts, which may be natural features or perhaps plough scars.

1. Introduction

Testpit 6 was located about 45m west of the site grid origin at the gate into the field *(see testpit plan)*. It measured 2m × 1m, with the long axis oriented north–south.

Its location was selected on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey conducted by Archaeology RheeSearch Group *(see resistivity and magnetometry plots)*. It was positioned close to the apparent end of a linear feature running northwest–southeast visible on the resistivity plot; additionally an east–west linear feature was indicated around the north part of the testpit by the magnetometry plot.

Excavation of Testpit 6 commenced on Thursday 14 July with turf and topsoil removal.

The Testpit was excavated by single context using mattock, shovel and trowel, and all spoil was sieved using a 1cm sieve to maximise finds recovery. The Testpit was bottomed out down to natural all around and a final plan was drawn before backfilling and returfing on Monday 18 July.

2. Stratigraphic sequence

No context sheets were found for a series of narrow linear features running east–west across the width of the Testpit. There seemed to be at least three of these, measuring about 15–20cm wide and about 10cm deep, cut into the hard yellow gravelly / clayey natural **(605)** which seemed to dip down towards the north. It is not clear what these small linear cuts represent; they may be plough-scars or just irregularities in the natural.

There seems to be a fourth parallel cut **[604]** at the extreme north which may be a larger ditch (suggested by the magnetometry?) just clipped by the Testpit. This was exposed to a width of 40cm and a depth of about 30cm. It did not receive its own fill number.

Overlying the natural and filling the narrow linear cuts and ditch **[604]** were deposits **(603)** and **(602)**. The context sheet for **(603)** does not give sufficient information to interpret its location or character. **(602)** seems to have filled the northern part of the Testpit and was darker towards its northern extent, perhaps reinforcing the idea of a ditch in this part of the Testpit.

Lying over **(602)** was about 25–40cm of topsoil **(601)**, shallower at the south end, deeper at the north end.

3. Finds

Small finds *SF261* (an iron nail fragment), *SF262* (a belemnite fossil, recorded as a bone needle) and *SF263* (a possible whetstone fragment) were recovered from deposit **(602)**.

Pottery, animal bone and some charcoal were recovered from various fills. The majority of the pottery was of a very wide Romano-British date, but a few sherds from fill **(602)** suggest a first to second century date.

The finds in each context are summarised in TP6 Appendix A.

4. Harris Matrix for Testpit 6

CONTEXT			CHRONOLOGICAL EVENT
	(601)		Topsoil
	(602)	?	"Hard compact layer"
	(603)	?	"Loose brown soil"
Larger ditch at north	**[604]**	**[???]**	**Three narrow east-west linear cuts**
	(605)		Natural

5. Interpretations

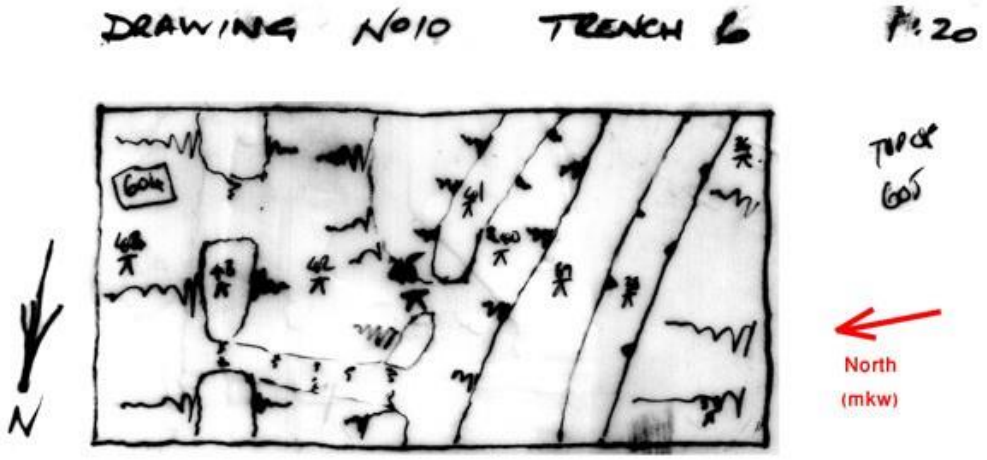
An interpretation of Testpit 6 is limited by missing context sheets and section drawings. However, it seems likely that there is a ditch running roughly east–west across the north part of the Testpit, of which just a small part was exposed, making it impossible to estimate its extent. Three shallow narrow cuts into the natural, running parallel to the ditch, may have been plough scars. These features were cut into the natural, and were overlain by (subsoil?) fills. Over these was topsoil, which seemed to dip down to the north into the supposed ditch.

TP6 Appendices:

A. Context list

Context number	Type	Material	Description
(601)	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal	Topsoil
(602)	Fill	Pot, bone, lithic, *SF261, SF262, SF263*	Subsoil?
(603)	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, stone	?
[604]	Cut		Fragmentary exposure of possible east–west running ditch?
(605)	Fill		Natural

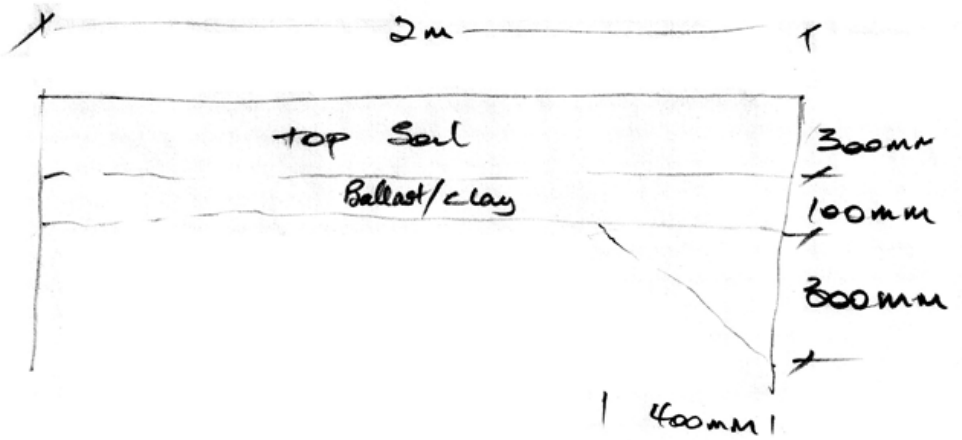
B. Plans



N.B. The North arrow should probably be oriented towards the left of the drawing.

C. Section drawings

There were no formal section drawings prepared for this Testpit; however, the following sketch section (probably facing east) was found in the notes:



D. Photos


TWENTY PENCE PROJECT
TPP 11
TP6
602

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2011 Testpit 7 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 7 Summary

Testpit 7 was excavated during the TPP 2011 season. It revealed a large probable drainage ditch, 1.7m across and 75cm deep. This ditch contained a possible first century Cu alloy Roman brooch in its base fill and a very rich deposit of pottery (almost 1700 sherds in all), burnt straw-impressed clay (potentially from an oven / kiln), animal bone and burnt material in its upper fill, seemingly put down in a single large dumping event to backfill the ditch.

This feature was covered by about 35cm of topsoil also containing much pottery, suggesting later plough disturbance.

1. Introduction

Testpit 7 was located about 55m west of the site grid origin at the gate into the field *(see testpit plan)*. It measured 3m × 1m, with the long axis oriented north–south.

Its location was selected on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey conducted by Archaeology RheeSearch Group *(see resistivity and magnetometry plots)*. It was positioned across a linear feature running east–west visible strongly on the magnetometry plot and just apparent on the resistivity plot.

Excavation of Testpit 7 commenced on Sunday 17 July with turf and topsoil removal.

The Testpit was excavated by single context using mattock, shovel and trowel, and all spoil was sieved using a 1cm sieve to maximise finds recovery. The Testpit was not fully bottomed out due to lack of time; final plans and the main section were drawn on Saturday 24 July. It was backfilled and returfed on Sunday 25 July.

2. Stratigraphic sequence

Into the sandy-gravel natural **(705)**, was cut a large linear feature **[706]**, 1.7m wide and about 75cm deep. The bottom 15cm of the cut was filled with a gravelly deposit **(707)**. The remaining 55cm of the cut was filled with **(702)**, a sandy silt containing a considerable density of pottery and burnt clay / daub with straw impressions, much charcoal and ash, and degraded bone. Cut **[704]** and fill **(703)** at the top of the south edge of **[706]**, both very small, probably just represent some erosion of the natural at the top of the ditch cut.

About 35cm of topsoil **(701)** overlay these deeper features, also containing a considerable quantity of pottery and burnt clay.

Due to time constraints, only the east side of the Testpit was bottomed out down to natural. On the west side, all the topsoil was removed, but on the east side, some of **(703)** and most of **(702)** remained unexcavated.

3. Finds

SF274 a Cu alloy brooch, missing its pin and probably of the first century AD (awaiting confirmation) was recovered from the base of context **(707)**.

Pottery, animal bone, stone and charcoal were recovered from various fills. The finds in each context are summarised in TP7 Appendix A. In particular contexts **(701)** and **(702)** contained a considerable amount of pottery (over 500 and 1100 sherds respectively), mainly coarsewares of a range of types. However, the vast majority of this pottery is of a very general Romano-British date.

4. Harris Matrix for Testpit 7

CONTEXT	CHRONOLOGICAL EVENT
(701)	Topsoil
(702)	Upper fill of ditch [706]
(703)	Probably eroded natural
[704]	Slight erosion (retrimming?) of top edge of ditch [706]
(707)	Base fill of ditch [706]
[706]	Main cut of E-W ditch
(705)	Natural

5. Interpretations

Testpit 7 contained cut **[706]**, a 1.7m wide, 75cm deep ditch, probably for drainage, running in an east–west direction. The lower fill was fairly gravelly and revealed a probable first century Cu alloy Roman bow brooch.

The upper fill contained a considerable quantity of broken pottery, burnt clay / daub with straw impressions, animal bone, and ash and charcoal. This rich deposit seemed fairly homogenous as if it had been dumped in a fairly discrete single episode of rubbish disposal to backfill the ditch **[706]**. The straw-impressed burnt clay could be oven / kiln lining material from nearby industrial or domestic activities.

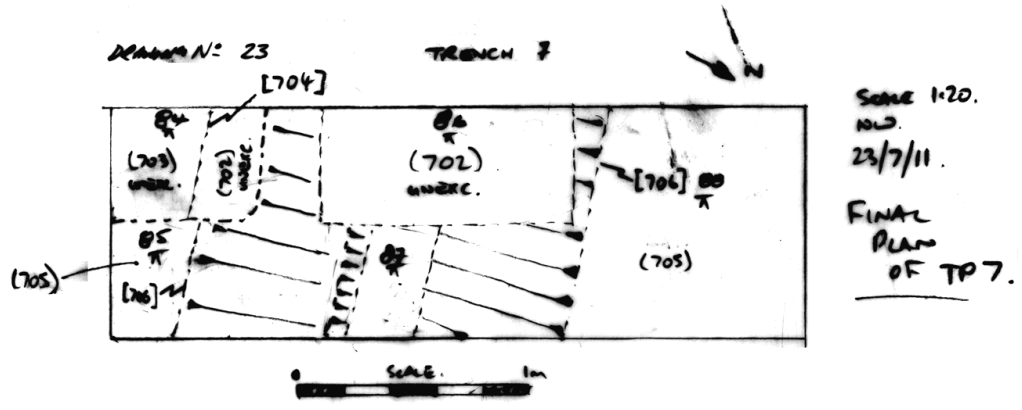
The 35cm of topsoil above the cut feature also contained much pottery, indicating later deep disturbance, most probably from ploughing.

TP7 Appendices:

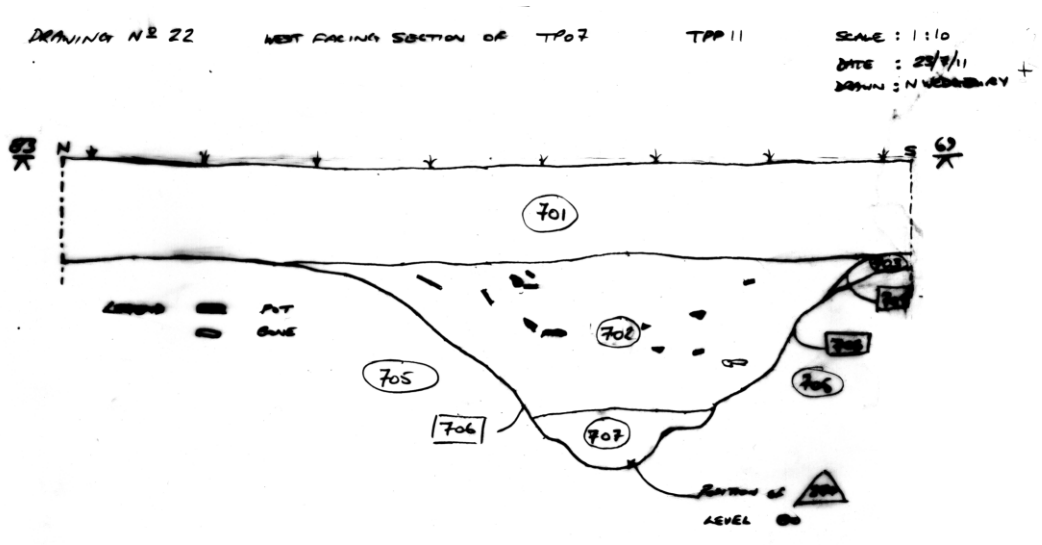
A. Context list

Context number	Type	Material	Description
(701)	Fill	Pot, bone, stone	Topsoil
(702)	Fill	Pot, bone, CBM, charcoal, *SF271* (Charcoal fragment, reclassified as enviro sample *101*)	Upper fill of ditch **[706]**
(703)	Fill	-	Probably eroded natural at top corner of ditch, filling **[706]**
[704]	Cut	-	Slight erosion (or possible retrimming) at top edge of ditch **[706]**
(705)	Fill	-	Natural
[706]	Cut	-	Main cut of large east-west ditch
(707)	Fill	*SF274* (Cu alloy brooch)	Base fill of ditch **[706]**

B. Plans



C. Section drawings



D. Photos

West-facing section


TPP 11
TP7

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations 2011

Testpit 8 Excavation Report

Compiled by Dan Colton

Testpit 8 Summary

Testpit 8 was a 4m × 1m trench orientated north–south (NE/SW on the site grid), the aim was to sample a linear feature identified in the resistivity survey, which appeared to be broadly parallel to another feature approximately 2m north of the northern end of the trench.

The topsoil was 19cm deep, and in the northern 2m of the trench overlay natural deposits. To the northwest corner of the trench the natural deposits dipped slightly toward the north. The key features were two parallel ditches in the southern portion of the trench that bisected it approximately east to west. The north ditch was U/V shaped and deeper than the southern ditch. The southern ditch was flat bottomed, but its full extent and geometry is unknown as it extended out of the trench. It was not obvious during excavation which ditch was the older as there is a ridge of natural sediment separating the ditches, and the overlying context uniformly covered both ditches and did not yield any contextual data.

The key finds were a large amount of pottery, particularly in the north ditch. While most was of indeterminate Roman date, a notable quantity was suggestive of a third to fourth century date for the Testpit 8 features. There was also some animal bone, and a carved bone handle that retained the remnant of an iron fixing in the handle (a small amount of rusty iron).

1. Introduction

The trench was orientated north–south over a roughly east–west linear feature

identified in the geophysical results (resistivity only, as the magnetometry results did not indicate any specific feature at this location). Excavation was undertaken from the 19th July to 23rd July 2011 in single contexts, using mattock, shovel and trowel where necessary. All deposits were sieved using a 1cm sieve. Sections were drawn and photographed in the last two days of the excavation season before the trench was backfilled.

2. Stratigraphic sequence

The earliest features of the trench were two parallel ditches orientated east–west along the southern margin of the trench (this is likely to be the feature identified in the resistivity survey). It is not obvious which ditch is older. The northern ditch, situated almost centrally in the trench is deeper and V/U shaped. The southern ditch is steep sided with a sharp contact **[812]** with the natural and is flat bottomed and shallow at 35cm from the surface (82cm below site datum).

The cut **[806]** for the deeper central ditch is 112cm deep from the ground surface. A number of contexts were identified during the excavation of the feature, as there appeared to be subtle texture and colour changes; however, these were difficult to track as the boundaries often became diffuse with the rest of the fill and were not visible in section. The finds were still kept separate in case the differences in texture represented episodic fills over the course of time. Context **(805)** was retained as the key context for the ditch, which due to time constraints was excavated to its full depth over only half the width of the trench. The other contexts that comprise the fill are **(811)**, **(810)**, **(803)** and **(809)**.

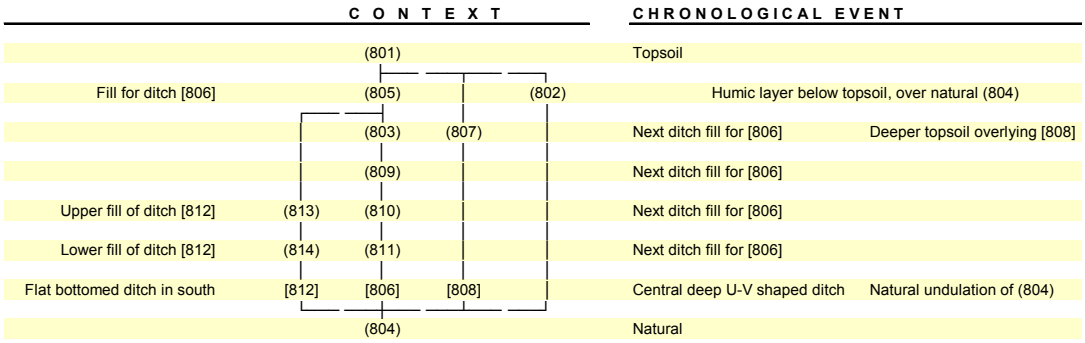
The base of the southern-most cut extends 54–56 cm from the southern end of the trench towards the north of the trench – it also underlies context **(805)**, as initially the feature appeared to be one large ditch, and the ridge of natural separating the two ditches was not visible. The fill **(813)** and basal fill **(814)** differed slightly in composition, so are given different contexts. **(813)** is sandy/silt with rare gravel-sized inclusions (<10mm) and mid yellowish brown in colour. **(814)** was a clayey silt, with an even rarer gravel component and dark brownish grey.

The topsoil **(801)** was ~19cm deep across the trench. In the north part of the trench the topsoil bottomed out onto hard sand and gravel, which is interpreted as the natural archaeologically sterile layer **(804)**. On top of the natural, there was a thin layer of fine dark humic soil <1cm thick, this was given its own context **(802)** as it was initially considered that this may be decomposed floor material. In the northwest corner of the trench the natural surface dipped down, and this was initially considered to be a possible cut and fill **(807)** and **[808]**; however, on excavation the soil **(807)** appeared identical to the topsoil, and cut **[808]** is interpreted as undulations of the natural surface.

3. Finds

Pot sherds and animal bone were found in the majority of contexts. The densest concentrations were found in context **(803)** and its underlying contexts (the larger of the two parallel ditches). Fewer artefacts were discovered in contexts **(813)** and **(814)**. Contexts **(804)** and **(807)** (natural deposits) were not excavated to any depth and few artefacts were recovered. In addition to pottery sherds and bone fragments, the base of context **(803)** contained a carved bone handle, this retained a small piece of rusty metal, presumably from the fitting. The finds in each context are summarised in TP8 Appendix A.

4. Harris Matrix for Testpit 8



5. Interpretations

The comparative age of the two ditches that bisect the trench at right angles cannot be easily determined. The larger ditch is approximately 1.6m wide, and 1.1m deep, the smaller flat-bottomed ditch extends approximately 55cm into the trench, but its full width is unknown. It is likely that the features were boundary and/or drainage ditches. The variable texture of the larger ditch led excavators to believe that there were different contexts, although they were difficult to trace.

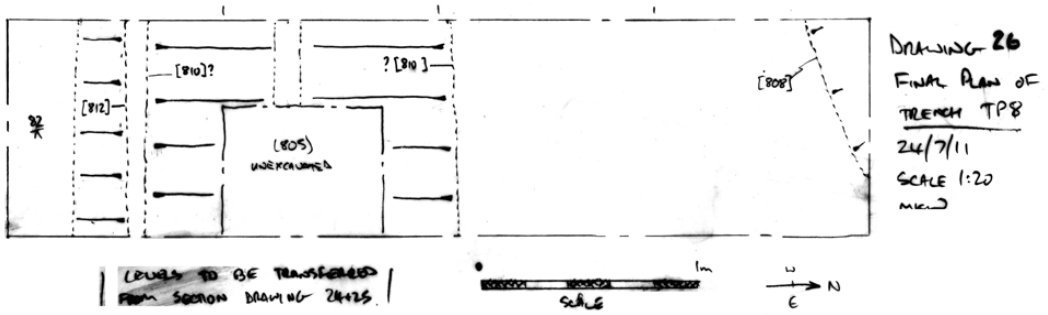
Most of the pottery from Testpit 8 was of indeterminate Romano-British date, but a significant proportion was suggestive of a later Roman period date, perhaps third and fourth centuries.

TP8 Appendices

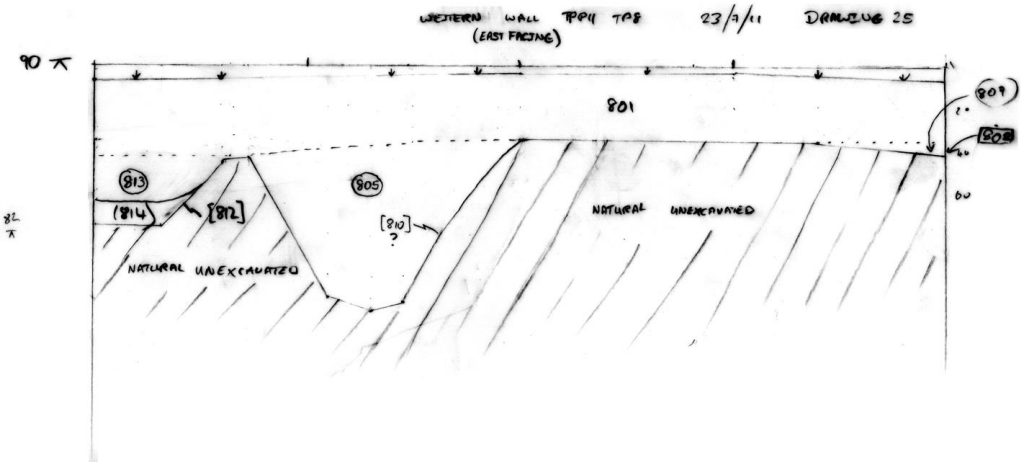
A. Context list

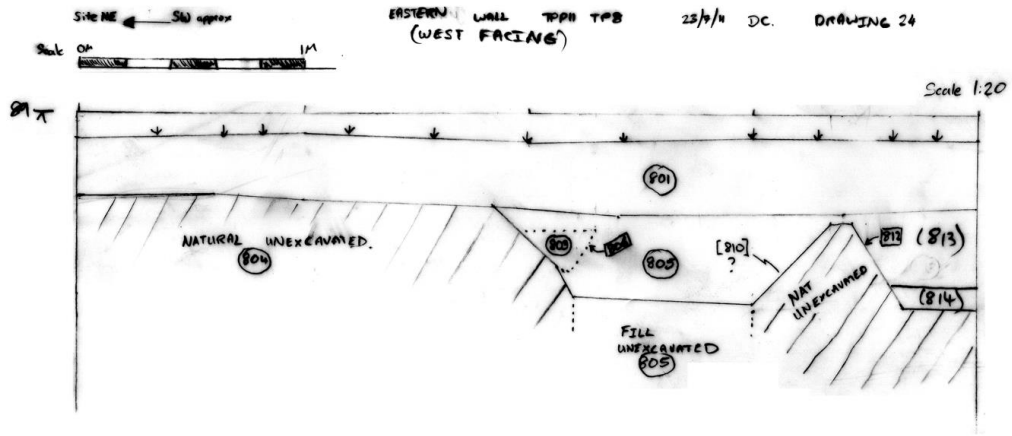
Context number	Type	Material	Description
(801)	fill	Pot, possible slag	Topsoil
(802)	fill	Pot	Thin humic layer, decomposed plant material overlying natural
(803)	fill	Pot, bone, charcoal	fill of larger U/V shaped ditch **[806]**
(804)	fill	[Pot?!]	Natural (archaeologically sterile)
(805)	fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, *SF281* (bone handle), *SF279* (coin), *SF280* (charcoal).	Key fill of **[806]** – also overlies southern shallower ditch
[806]	cut	-	Cut of large central U/V shaped ditch east-west trending.
(807)	fill	-	Fill (natural) of undulation **[808]**
[808]	cut	[Pot?]	Natural undulation in natural deposit in north part of trench
(809)	fill	Pot, bone, charcoal	One of the fills of **[806]**
[810]	cut	-	Reinterpreted as part of **[806]** as the southern margin was indistinct
(811)	fill	Pot – others??	Initially fill of cut **[810]** – reinterpreted as part of fill for **[806]**
[812]	cut	-	Sharp flat bottomed east–west trending ditch (southern extent unknown)
(813)	fill	Pot, bone, charcoal	Top fill of **[812]**
(814)	fill	Pot, horn core, slag	Basal fill of **[812]**

B. Plans



C. Section drawings





D. Photos


TPP 11
TP8
FINAL PLAN
PHOTO 131

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2012 Testpit 9 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 9 Summary

Testpit 9 was excavated during the TPP 2012 season. It measured 40m north–south × 2m east–west and was located to investigate a typical enclosure unit identified by geophysics.

It revealed a complex sequence of east–west running ditches on either side of the enclosure, probably for drainage, delineating property boundaries, or containing livestock. Partly exposed in the centre of the enclosure was a probable circular ditch, 3m in diameter with a 2m diameter central platform. This was probably the drainage ditch around a hay rick or cereal crop stack.

Two shallow pits were identified, as well as two possible postholes, one isolated, the other possibly associated with the hay rick. There was some likely animal disturbance at the north end of the trench.

Finds from the archaeological features confirm a broad Romano-British date, perhaps with a peak in the second to third centuries. Locally made coarsewares, mainly cooking and storage vessels, dominate the pottery assemblage. Some unusually decorated, possibly locally made pottery was found. Burnt plant remains recovered indicate wheat and barley processing was occurring nearby. Animal remains suggest the practice of small-scale local husbandry based mainly on cattle and sheep / goat for meat production; horse was perhaps used for traction.

The lack of structural features or materials (e.g. CBM, daub) recovered makes it unlikely there were any significant structures nearby.

1. Introduction

Testpit 9 was situated towards the north–east edge of the main area of the Twenty Pence Project, about 50m west of the site origin. It ran approximately north–south and measured 40m long × 2m wide *(see testpit plan)*.

Its location was selected on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey conducted by Archaeology RheeSearch Group (*see resistivity and magnetometry plots)*. The trench was positioned across what seemed from the geophysics to be a single enclosure unit: a series of ditches at the south end, a blank area in the middle, and another series of ditches at the north end of the trench. In particular, its location was selected to evaluate whether the blank middle area was indeed devoid of features or whether they just had not been picked up by the geophysics.

Following the removal of turf and topsoil by machine the previous week, excavation of Testpit 9 commenced on Saturday 7 July. During the following two weeks the excavation and recording of the features within the trench were conducted by various FEAG members.

The Testpit was excavated by single context using mattock, shovel and trowel, and the archaeology revealed was recorded by drawings, context sheets and photographs. For the most part, features within the trench were sampled: pits and postholes were half-sectioned; linear features had slots (typically 1m) excavated across them. Final plans and the main section were drawn on Sunday 22 July. The trench was backfilled and returfed the following week.

2. Archaeological features

The natural deposits at the base of the trench consisted of an orangish-brown sandy gravel, with occasional patches of greyish-brown sandy-silt, which sometimes made it difficult to identify the cut features. These features consisted mainly of east-west running ditches, together with a couple of north–south ditches, a few pits and postholes, and a curvilinear ditch. A few features intersected allowing a sequence to be suggested, but in only a few cases was it possible to reasonably securely date features using pottery evidence. There were also a couple of features which were interpreted as animal burrows. Each of these features will be described, working south to north.

Cut **[919]** was a shallow, narrow linear running east-west; it was gently rounded and its dimensions were about 0.25m wide by 0.2m deep. It was filled with greyish silty deposit **(920)**.

Next were a pair of rounded, east–west running ditches which just intercut. Ditch cuts **[950]** (earlier) and **[965]** (later), were both of very similar dimensions: 85cm wide and 40cm deep. Greyish silty deposit **(925)** filled the earlier ditch and contained a range of burnt plant material, both domesticated and wild. The first fill of the later ditch, **(923)**, was similar, but it also had a second more gravelly fill, **(924)** suggesting a deliberate infilling of a possible recut. Pottery evidence in the earlier fills suggests a second century date for both ditches.

Cut **[984]** was another east–west running ditch with a prominent, steep V-shaped profile, about 60cm wide and 40cm deep. It was filled with greyish silty deposits **(987)** and **(985)** with pottery evidence giving a first to second century date.

Reopened and extended from cut **[706]** in 2011 Testpit 7, east–west running cut **[917]** was a large flat-bottomed ditch 1.4m wide by 90cm deep. There was possibly some eroded material **(972)** on the north side of the cut, but it was mainly filled with a brownish sandy fill **(926)** which contained a massive quantity of pottery giving a second to third century date, and occasional burnt material (including a notable quantity of chaff).

Cuts **[969]** and **[973]** were another pair of flat-bottomed east–west running ditches. **[969]** was over 1.3m wide and about 40cm deep; it was filled with grey silty deposit **(971)**. It was truncated by **[973]**, which was much narrower at about 85cm wide and 50cm deep, and filled with a darker silty material **(970)**. There is considerable confusion and mixing up of these contexts in the records.

A possible posthole **[927]** is about 25cm across and 10cm deep and was filled with a greyish clayey fill **(928)** which contained some charcoal flecks. There are no other obvious associated features nearby, so posthole seems isolated.

Cut **[931]** is another ditch, running slightly anti-clockwise from the normal east–west orientation. It was 50cm wide by 20cm deep and contained grey silty fill **(930)** in which was found a horse mandible.

One of the more noteworthy features in Testpit 9 was cut **[951]**, a curved ditch running into the east baulk, possibly part of a circular feature with a diameter of 3m and a fairly square-ish profile 50cm across and 30cm deep. Unfortunately no dating evidence came from its fill **(952)**. However, after filling up, it was later cut by possible posthole **[953]** which was about 15cm across and 10cm deep, and filled with clayey deposit **(954)**.

One of the few north–south oriented features was shallow ditch **[947]** which runs into the trench at an oblique angle from the west section and terminates after about 6m. It was about 30cm wide and 10cm deep with a flat bottom,

and filled with brown silt **(946)**. Given its orientation and shallowness, it may have been a plough scar.
Ditch **[947]** was cut through by, flat-based circular pit **[948]**, about 90cm in diameter and again only 10cm deep. It was filled with deposit **(949)** dated by pottery evidence to the first / second century. This was in turn cut by **[955]**, a small pit or possible posthole about 30cm across by 15cm deep and filled with charcoal-rich clay **(954)**.

3. Chronological sequence

Due to the broad date range applicable to most of the recovered pottery, dating features to anything more specific than the entire Romano-British period is difficult. Clearly there were multiple phases of activity within this period as illustrated by the recut and intercutting features.

About half of the features provide material which allows possible closer dating, for the most part suggesting a second and third century date for these features. Ditch **[959]** is an exception, which seems to be datable to the third to fourth century. However, some of the remaining features will almost certainly encompass the whole first to fourth century period.

4. Pottery

The pottery assemblage is dominated by locally made sandy coarsewares, in particular cooking and storage jars. There is a lower proportion of non-local wares and finewares (dishes, bowls, beakers, etc.), and a very small quantity of imported material. They are typically fairly abraded, but there are a few notably larger fragments, particularly of robust Horningsea storage jars.

A number of sherds were recovered with a distinct decorative pattern consisting of fingernail marking. These may well be a very locally made pottery form.

5. Animal bone

The animal bone assemblage contained a combination of cattle, sheep / goat, and pig, of all ages, with some signs of butchery and burning. There was also a small representation of horse, bird, and dog.

6. Botanical remains

The analysis from the environmental samples from Testpit 9 is incomplete, but it already shows some specific deposits containing significant quantities of

burnt plant material.

The burnt layer **(941)** / **(942)** / **(943)**, high up in ditch **[945]** was rich in wild plant seeds, as well as cereal grains and chaff from wheat and barley. Ditch fills **(925)**, **(926)** and **(958)** and deposit **(921)** also contained a notable number of both domestic and wild plant remains.

7. Special finds

None of the small finds have yet been considered by specialists and the descriptions and interpretations are for that reason provisional.

In the fill **(925)** of ditch **[950]** was a piece of worked bone **[291]**. It was pierced laterally by a drilled hole at one end and showed indications of being smoothed along its length as if frequently rubbed in use.

A fragment of worked flint **SF301** was also in fill **(925)**. Worked flint *SF311* was also found in the fill **(946)** of shallow ditch **[947]** and *SF310* in the fill **(924)** of ditch **[965]**. Oyster shell **SF304** was found in the main fill **(923)** of ditch **[965]**.

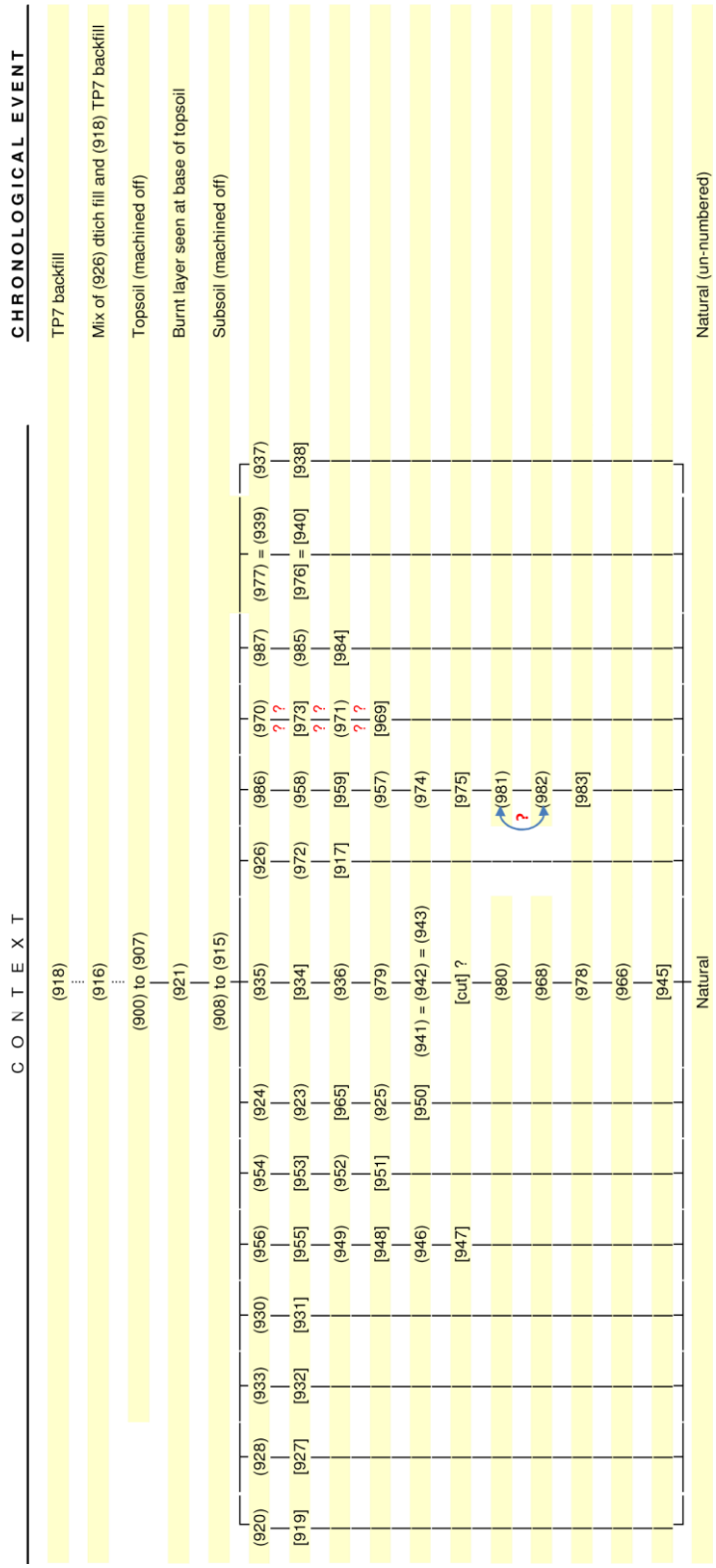
In the fill **(926)** of ditch **[917]** were pieces of what appeared to be worked pot *SF290* and *SF300* and a piece of pot with possible oven/kiln lining adhering to it *SF298***.** The latter supports the suggestion made as a result of the finds in Test Pit 7 that there may be an oven or kiln in the vicinity. Ditch **[917]** is the same ditch in which the large quantity of finds were found in the adjacent Test Pit 7. A small stone sphere also found in fill **(926)** was seen as possibly a gaming piece or a sling shot.

Small fragments of copper alloy were retrieved from fills of two ditches. Two pieces were found in ditch **[959]**, *SF296***,** a semi-circular fragment, was in the upper fill **(957)** and *SF307*, described as a small perforated plaque, was in fill **(958)**. In ditch **[945]** in fill **(936)** there was a third small fragment *SF295*, thought potentially to have been a part of a harness.

One piece of burnt stone *SF308* was in fill **(942)** of ditch **[945]** and a piece of worked stone *SF305* was in fill **(958)** of ditch **[959]**.

The finds in each context are summarised in TP9 Appendix A.

8. Harris Matrix for Testpit 9



9. Interpretations

Testpit 9 contained a number of east–west running ditches and a single clear north–south ditch; they varied in size from 0.25 to 2.25m across and were cut into the underlying sandy gravel natural. Given the way they are grouped and the open spaces between, they would seem to be enclosure ditches for delineating boundaries, for drainage and possibly for containing livestock.

A number of ditches had been cut, filled up and then recut or replaced by new ditches nearby. While there were some fills which were clearly deliberately dumped with primary or secondary midden material, it seems likely that during certain periods the enclosures were out of use or not well maintained. Perhaps there were also occasions when they were inundated by flooding, given the low-lying nature of the area and the proximity of the Car Dyke.

It seems probable that the area was in use throughout the Romano-British period, and while it was not possible to date the ditches very closely and in only a few cases can a clear sequence be discerned, the dating evidence seems to tentatively suggest a possible peak of activity in the second and third centuries.

A couple of possible postholes were excavated, but they were relatively isolated and uncertain and so cannot be taken to suggest nearby structures. There were also a couple of shallow pits situated in close proximity to each other.

Approximately in the centre of the enclosure, feature **[951]**, only partly exposed, was probably a circular ditch about 3m across, at least 50cm across and 30cm deep, leaving a raised platform about 2m across in the centre. This would be too small for a useful-sized enclosure, and for lack of any other explanation, this would seem to be a particularly small example of the 'fen circles' as discussed by various authors (e.g. Riley 1945; Riley 1946; Wilson 1978; Hall and Coles 1994; Coles and Hall 1997; Albone and Massey 2008).

Gardiner (2013) outlines a case in most detail for their construction and function as drainage gulleys encircling hay ricks / cereal stacks. The smallest example he provides is of an oat stack which was 3.5m in diameter, suggesting an interior platform which would probably need to be at least 4m in diameter. A possible posthole **[953]** in the ditch fill may or may not have been associated.

Fenced hay stacks in Montenegro (Gardiner 2013, figure 2.4)

No specific dating evidence was recovered for the feature, but it seems certain to be of Roman date.

Another rather unusual feature was **(921)**: a lens of clay, burnt material and relatively large potsherds. While it was probably from a primary deposition, it is difficult to explain its location between subsoil and topsoil and how it had escaped significant plough disturbance, particularly given its first / second century date.

The almost total lack of structural material recovered from the area (e.g. CBM, daub) indicates that it was unlikely there were any structures nearby.

TP9 Appendices:

A. Context list

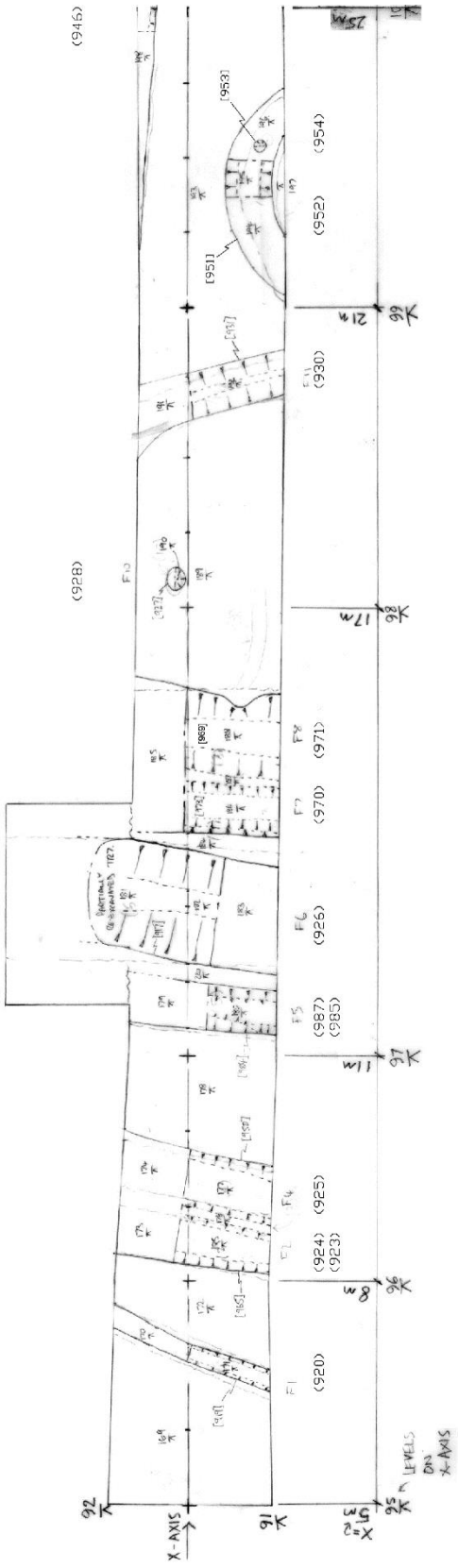
Context number	Type	Material	Description
900 - 907	Fills	Pot, *SF312 and SF313* (lithics)	Topsoil, machined off
908 - 915	Fills	Pot, *SF292 and SF303* (clay marble and oyster shell) in **(909)**, *SF301, SF309* (lithics) in **(904)**, *SF297* (clay pipe stem) in **(912)**	Subsoil, machined off
916	Fill	Pot	Mix of ditch fill **(926)** and backfill **(918)**
917	Cut		Cut for large E-W ditch
918	Fill		Backfill of Testpit 7 from 2011
919	Cut		Cut of narrow gully
920	Fill	Pot	Fill of E-W gully **[919]**
921	Fill	Pot, sample <1>	Burnt layer between topsoil and subsoil
922	-		Void
923	Fill	Pot, sample <8>, *SF304* (Oyster shell)	First fill of ditch **[965]**
924	Fill	Pot, *SF310 (*lithic)	Second fill of ditch **[965]**
925	Fill	Pot, sample <9>, *SF291* (worked bone), *SF301* (lithic)	Fill of ditch **[950]**
926	Fill	Pot, sample **<13>**, *SF290* and *SF300* (worked ceramic), *SF293* (possible gaming piece), *SF298* (pot with attached possible oven/kiln lining)	Fill of ditch **[917]**
927	Cut		Cut for isolated posthole
928	Fill		Fill of posthole **[927]**
929	Fill		Unknown cleaning layer

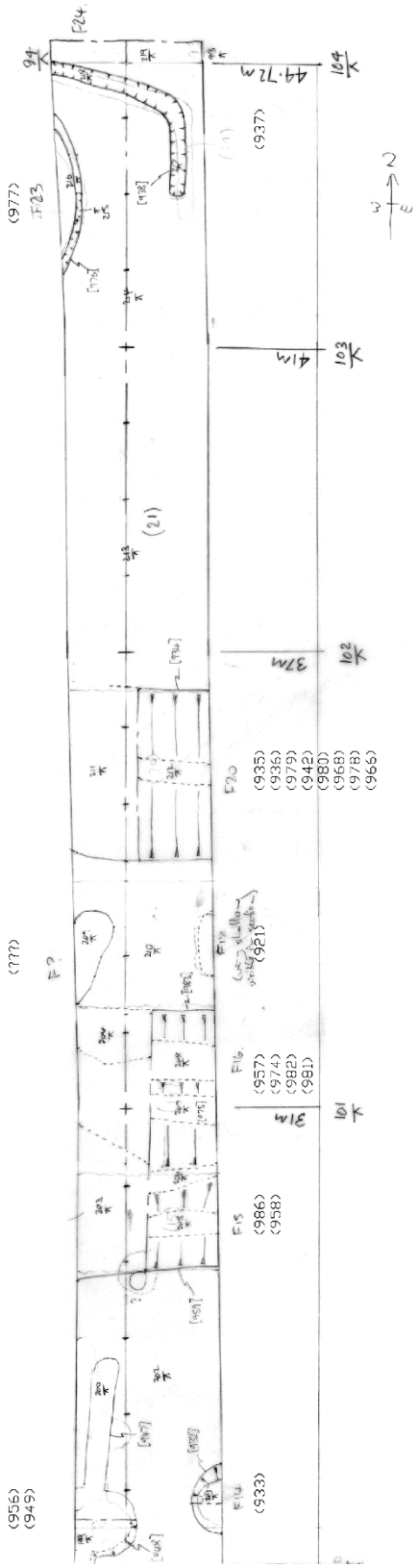
930	Fill		Fill of ditch **[930]**
931	Cut		Cut of E-W ditch
932	Cut		Cut for circular pit
933	Fill	Pot	Fill of pit **[932]**
934	Cut		Shallow pit cut into fill **(936)** of pit **[945]**
935	Fill	Pot	Fill of shallow pit **[934]**
936	Fill	Pot, sample <2>, *SF295* (Cu alloy fragment)	Sixth fill of pit **[945]**
937	Fill	Pot, sample <7>	Fill of animal burrow **[938]**
938	Cut		Cut for curved animal burrow
939 = 977	Fills	Pot	Fill of animal burrow **[940]**
940 = 976	Cuts		Cut for semicircular animal burrow
941 = 942 = 943	Fills	Pot, samples **<3> <10> <11>**, *SF308* (burnt stone)	Fourth fill of pit **[945]**
944	-		Void
945	Cut		Cut of wide E-W ditch
946	Fill	*SF311* (lithic)	Fill of possible plough scar **[947]**
947	Cut		Cut of N-S running possible plough scar
948	Cut		Cut for circular pit through possible plough scar
949	Fill	Pot	Fill of pit **[949]**
950	Cut		Cut of E-W ditch
951	Cut		Cut of curved ditch
952	Fill		Fill of curved ditch **[951]**
953	Cut		Cut for posthole through fill **(952)** of circular ditch **[951]**
954	Fill	Sample <6>	Fill of posthole **[927]**
955	Cut		Cut for posthole through fill **(949)** of pit **[948]**
956	Fill		Fill of posthole **[955]**
957	Fill	Pot, *SF957* (Cu alloy fragment)	Second fill of ditch recut **[975]**

958	Fill	Pot, samples <4> <5> **<12>**, *SF307* (Cu alloy fragment), *SF305* (worked stone)	First fill of ditch **[959]**
959	Cut		Cut of E-W ditch truncating ditch **[975]** / **[983]**
960	Cut		unknown cut
961	Fill	Pot	fill of unknown cut **[960]**
962	Cut		unknown cut
963	Fill	Pot	fill of unknown cut **[962]**
964	Fill	Pot	unknown layer
965	Cut		Cut of E-W ditch truncating ditch **[950]**
966	Fill	Pot	Slumped (natural?) material on side of ditch **[945]**
967	-		Void
968	Fill	Pot	Second fill of pit **[945]**
969	Fill		Cut of E-W ditch ?
970	Fill	Pot	Fill of ditch **[973]** ?
971	Fill	Pot	Fill of ditch **[969]** ?
972	Fill	Pot	(Natural?) material at base of ditch **[917]**
973	Fill		Cut of E-W ditch truncating ditch **[969]** ?
974	Fill		First fill of ditch recut **[975]**
975	Cut		Recut of E-W ditch **[983]**
976 = 940	Cuts		See **[940]**
977 = 939	Fills		See **[939]**
978	Fill		First fill of ditch **[945]**
979	Fill		Fifth fill of pit **[945]**
980	Fill		Continuation of fill **(968)** in ditch **[945]**
981	Fill		First / second fill of ditch **[983]**
982	Fill		First / second fill of ditch **[983]**
983	Cut		Cut of E-W ditch

984	Cut		Cut of E-W ditch
985	Fill	Pot	First fill of ditch **[984]**
986	Fill		Second fill of ditch **[959]**
987	Fill	Pot	Second fill of ditch **[984]**

B. Plans


(946)
(928)
(953)
(954)
(952)
(951)
(930)
(971)
(970)
(926)
(987)
(985)
(925)
(924)
(923)
(920)
X-AXIS
LEVELS ON X-AXIS


(977)
(937)
(935)
(936)
(979)
(942)
(980)
(968)
(978)
(966)
(957)
(974)
(982)
(981)
(986)
(958)
(933)
(956)
(949)

C. Photos

Testpit 9 from the north end

Testpit 9 from the south end

*Ditches **[969]**, **[973]**, **[917]***

*East-facing section of ditch **[984]***

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2013 Testpit 10 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 10 Summary

Testpit 10 was excavated over two weeks during the TPP 2013 season. It measured 40m north–south × 2m east–west and was located to investigate a typical enclosure unit identified by geophysics and a possible trackway. It was oriented perpendicular to and bisected 2012's Testpit 9.

The trench revealed a number of north–south ditches, probably for drainage, delineating property boundaries, or containing livestock. One small east–west ditch joined one of the north–south ditches. There was also some recutting, overlying or nearby ditches indicating continuity of boundaries.

Within the enclosure was a pair of narrow curved ditches: one oval-shaped approximately 5m × 3.5m (first exposed in 2012), the other about 4m in diameter. These were probably the drainage ditches around hay ricks or stacks of cereal crops, although they were not investigated.

Two shallow pits were reopened from 2012 where Testpit 10 intersected Testpit 9. One possible posthole was also identified.

Several complex features exposed in a small extension at the south corner of the trench were identified without detailed investigation – they may be associated with other recorded features.

By comparison with earlier work on the site, the open space between the two large ditches at the west end of the trench seems likely to be a trackway,

though any prepared surface is likely to have been removed by ploughing.

Specialist pottery analysis has not yet been completed, but by association with previous investigated features suggests a broad Romano-British date for the archaeological features. Few small finds were recovered. The faunal assemblage indicates small-scale local animal husbandry based mainly on cattle and sheep / goat for meat production; there were also some bird, pig and horse remains.

The lack of obvious structural features or materials recovered (e.g. CBM, daub) makes it unlikely there were any significant structures nearby.

1. Introduction

Testpit 10 was located in the north half of the triangular shaped field which forms the main area of the Twenty Pence Project, running almost perpendicular to the west boundary of the site formed by the Cottenham Lode. It was oriented approximately east-west and measured 40m long × 2m wide *(seetestpit plan)*.

Its location was selected on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey conducted by Archaeology RheeSearch Group in January and February 2011 *(see resistivity and magnetometry plots)* and to complement previous seasons' excavations. Testpit 10 was oriented perpendicular to Testpit 9, again to investigate what seemed from the geophysics to be a single enclosure unit: a nominally blank area across the east part of the trench, followed by a series of ditches towards the middle, and then at the west end a possible trackway running north–south towards the Car Dyke. A major aim was to evaluate whether the blank east area was indeed devoid of features or whether they just had not been picked up by the geophysics.

A small extension about 4m × 2.5m projecting south from near the east end of the trench was also opened up to follow some exposed features.

Following the removal of turf and topsoil by machine during the previous week, excavation of Testpit 10 commenced on Saturday 6 July. During the following two weeks the excavation and recording of the features within the trench were conducted by various FEAG members.

The trench was excavated by single context using mattock, shovel and trowel, and the archaeology revealed was recorded by drawings, context sheets and photographs. Features within the trench were sampled: pits and postholes were half-sectioned; linear features had slots (typically 1m) excavated across them. Limited time and resources prevented all exposed features from being investigated. Final plans and the main section were drawn on Sunday 21 July. The trench was backfilled and returfed the following week.

2. Archaeological features

As in previous seasons, the natural deposits at the base of the trench consisted of an orangish-brown sandy gravel. Archaeological features cut into the natural were usually, but not always, fairly easy to identify. There were several north–south running ditches exposed across the trench, a couple of curved ditches and a possible east–west ditch, in additional to a couple of pits and a possible posthole. Each of these features will be described, working east to west.

Cut **[1021]** was a north–south running ditch at the far east of the trench, about 85cm wide and 55cm deep. It was filled with silty sand **(1025)** and then clayey material **(1022).**

Next was a curved ditch, labelled Feature 43, which was not excavated nor its contexts numbered. It was probably about 4m in diameter and about 80cm wide with a brownish grey silty sand fill. It was cut by ditch **[1021]**

Another unexcavated curved feature, labelled Feature 42, was almost certainly the same feature as curved ditch **[951]** from Testpit 9, of which a small part was exposed in 2012. It was not excavated in 2013, but its form was further exposed as possibly oval in plan approximately 5.2m long and at least 3.5m wide; its ditch was about 0.5m wide.

Several further features were also exposed in the next part of Testpit 10 and its 4m × 2.5m southern extension. Feature 47 is a possible short length of a 40cm wide north-south running linear extending about 2m from the north edge of the trench. Feature 46 is a 1.4m length of an east–west running linear about 25cm wide. Neither of these features was investigated in detail, further cleaning would most likely have revealed that they either continued beyond their observed length or that they were shallow ephemeral features.

Also within the small extension and labelled Feature 44, was a small 'grid' of intersecting linear features, some of which might have been related to nearby Feature 42 / curved ditch **[951]**, Feature 46, Feature 47 and / or linear ditch cut **[931]** from Testpit 9 exposed in 2012. However, they were not investigated and their forms, characters and relationships remain unclear for the moment.

Pit **[1029]**, emerging from the north edge of the trench, was about 1m in diameter and 15cm deep. It probably contained a single silty sand fill, which received two context numbers: **(1030)** and **(1035)**. It was clearly the same feature as pit **[932]** in Testpit 9 from 2012, which was filled by **(933)**.

Shallow pit **[1033]** and its fill **(1034)** was a re-excavated feature from Testpit 9 in 2012, when it was numbered **[948]** and **(949)**. Since the material labelled (1034) is a mix of **(949)** and backfill from 2012, it should be disregarded.

Similarly, intersecting linear feature **[1031]** and its fill **(1032)** was another re-excavated feature from Testpit 9: probable plough scar **[947]** and **(946)**. Again, material from fill **(946)** is contaminated with backfill from 2012 and should be disregarded.

[1047] was a small cut about 20cm in diameter and only 5cm deep, containing fill **(1048)**. It was interpreted as a posthole, but it was very shallow and isolated so was most likely just a shallow depression in the natural.

Cut **[1037]** was a fairly large north–south running ditch about 2.7m wide and just over 1m deep. Its east side sloped down fairly consistently at about 45° to a flat base, but the west side was less even and somewhat stepped, suggesting the ditch might have been recut. The first fill was **(1059),** a clayey silt at the very base, followed by deep sandy silt deposit **(1058)** containing a few large pot sherds and a possible bone point. Then it seems quite likely there was another recut (unnumbered) about 95cm deep with an irregular stepped profile. This cut was filled with deposits **(1054)**, a clayey silt containing a number of larger potsherds; a thin layer of orangish silty clay **(1051)**; greyish sandy silt **(1049)** containing pot and bone; and finally **(1039)**, a firm and compact, whitish-orange material which contained occasional stone, pot and bone.

Another large north–south running ditch **[1036]** was only just separated from **[1037]**, hence it was not possible to establish a relationship between them. **[1036]** was about 2.2m wide and 1.0m deep with straight sides. It contained clayey basal fill **(1060)**; deep sandy fill **(1052)**; and finally in a possible recut, sandy silt deposit **(1043)** containing some pot and bone.

Lastly at the far west of the trench was a rather confused series of features which were incompletely documented and may also have been disturbed by animal activity.

A north–south running ditch cut **[1055]**, probably about 1.5m wide and 70cm deep, was filled with deposits **(1053)** followed by **(1056)**. This feature was cut by a later ditch **[1019]**, about 2.1m wide and 1.1m deep, which was in turn filled with a series of sandy silt deposits **(1050)**, **(1057)**, **(1028)** and **(1020)** with occasional pieces of pot.

It seems likely that cut **[1040]** and fill **(1041)** are continuations of **[1055]** and (1056), continuing out the north side of the trench. Cut **[1023]** seems to have been a smaller gully (at least 70cm wide and about 25cm deep) connecting and perhaps feeding into **[1055]** / **[1040]** at some point. It was filled with sandy silt **(1024)**. Also recorded in this exposure was context **(1042)**, probably a deposit which is a mixed combination of (1041) and **(1024)** – which themselves may be the same fill if indeed ditches **[1040]** and **[1023]** were connected. Regardless, there is no clear way of sequencing the contexts in this area.

Finally, both the topsoil and subsoil were machined off in rough sections: contexts **(1000)** to **(1008)** and contexts **(1009)** to **(1018)** respectively.

3. Chronological sequence

At the time of writing, the results of the pottery analysis were not available, so it is not possible to date features using recovered pottery.

Otherwise there are only two relationships which can be established stratigraphically: ditch **[1055]** predates ditch **[1019]**; and curved Feature 42 predates ditch **[1021]**. However, the features **[1040]** and **[1023]** are clearly associated and there must be some relationship between Features 42 / **[951]** and 47; and also Feature 44, exposed in the small extension of the main trench.

4. Pottery

The pottery recovered during the 2013 excavations remains to be sorted and analysed.

5. Animal bone

The identifiable species within the animal bone assemblage were dominated by cattle and sheep / goat, of all ages and with some signs of butchery and burning. Also present were a small number of bird, horse and pig bones. There was also a small representation of horse, bird and dog.

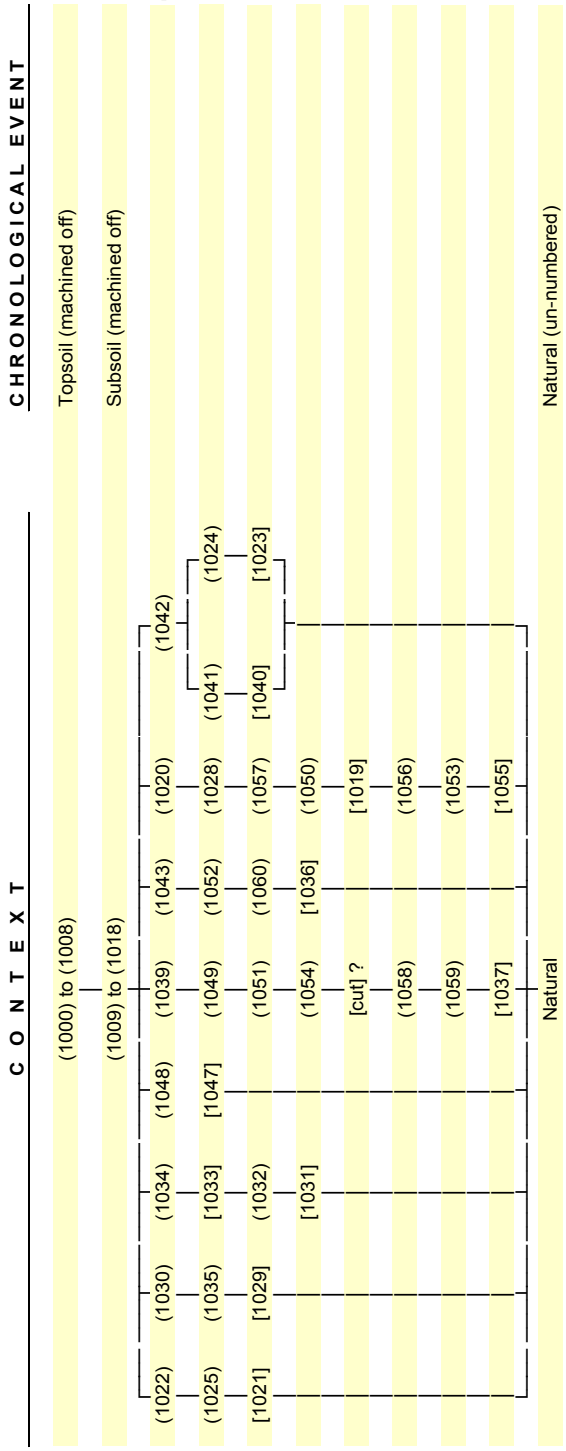
6. Botanical remains

A number of environmental samples were taken during the 2013 excavations. At the time of writing these remain to be sorted and analysed.

7. Special finds

The only small find recovered was a possible bone point from fill **(1058)** in ditch **[1037]**. This will likely not provide any dating evidence but is a possible suggestion of textile working, possibly as a secondary product from the animal husbandry activities known to have been taking place.

8. Harris Matrix for Testpit 10



9. Interpretations

Testpit 10 contained several north–south running ditches and a possible east–west ditch following into one of the north–south ditches at the far east of the trench. They were all reasonably large, ranging from about 70cm to over 2.5m wide and up to over a metre deep. They were all cut into the underlying sandy gravel natural, although at the west end of the trench ditches were recut, intercut or new ditches were cut very close to older ones with the same north–south orientation, suggesting continuity of boundaries over the period the area was in use. As observed with Testpit 9, they are probably enclosure ditches for delineating boundaries, for draining the low-lying land, and possibly for containing livestock.

While some of the ditch fills clearly contained deliberately dumped primary or secondary midden material (e.g. where large or unabraded pot sherds were recovered), it seems likely that during certain periods the enclosures were out of use or not well maintained. Perhaps there were also occasions when they were inundated by flooding, given the low-lying nature of the area and the proximity of the Car Dyke.

Two shallow pits were excavated, both of which had been exposed in Testpit 9 during the 2012 excavations. One possible posthole was excavated, but its isolation and shallow depth make it uncertain and impossible to associate with other features.

A pair of curved ditches were exposed, but not excavated. One, Feature 42, almost certainly connects to curved ditch **[951]** from 2012, making for a slightly irregular, oval feature perhaps 5m long and over 3.5m wide. The second curved ditch was only partly uncovered: Feature 43 was about 4m in diameter and about 80cm wide.

As discussed in the Testpit 9 excavation report, these curved features are probably too small for enclosures, one having an interior space of 4m by 2m and the other about 2m in diameter. Again, they are tentatively identified as small examples of the ‘fen circles’ described by various authors (e.g. Riley 1945; Riley 1946; Wilson 1978; Hall and Coles 1994; Coles and Hall 1997; Albone and Massey 2008; Gardiner 2013). These were probably used as drainage gullies around hay ricks or stacks of cereal sheaves in order to keep them dry before later use or further processing.

Two small linear Features 46 and 47 were exposed, but probably not completely, without being further investigated. With more cleaning, their full extent might be resolved and their relationships with other features might be established.

'Grid' Feature 44 is most probably a series of separate features which are all intersecting within the small Trench 10 extension. They may be associated with Features 46 and 47, curved ditch Feature 42 / **[951]** and ditch **[931]** from 2012. However, this area would need to be reopened and cleaned up thoroughly, to clarify these features and their relationships.

Until the remaining specialist analyses have been completed, in particular the pottery, there is no evidence to date any of the features to anything other than the broad Romano-British period, by association with other dated features excavated in previous seasons.

As in previous seasons, the complete lack of structural material recovered (e.g. CBM, daub) indicates it is unlikely that there were any significant structures located nearby

No explicit evidence was found for the possible trackway at the west end of the trench, hypothesised from aerial photography and geophysics. Clark had reported remains of a rough gravel metalling on the droveway north of the Cottenham Lode (Clark 1949, p147), which was not observed in Testpit 10, though might have been ploughed out. However, it is worth noting the wide 5m open space in the trench between the two large ditches **[1036]** and **[1019]**, both just over 2m wide. This is almost identical to the configuration shown in Clark's 1947 excavation through the droveway (Cutting A, figure 3, Clark 1949).

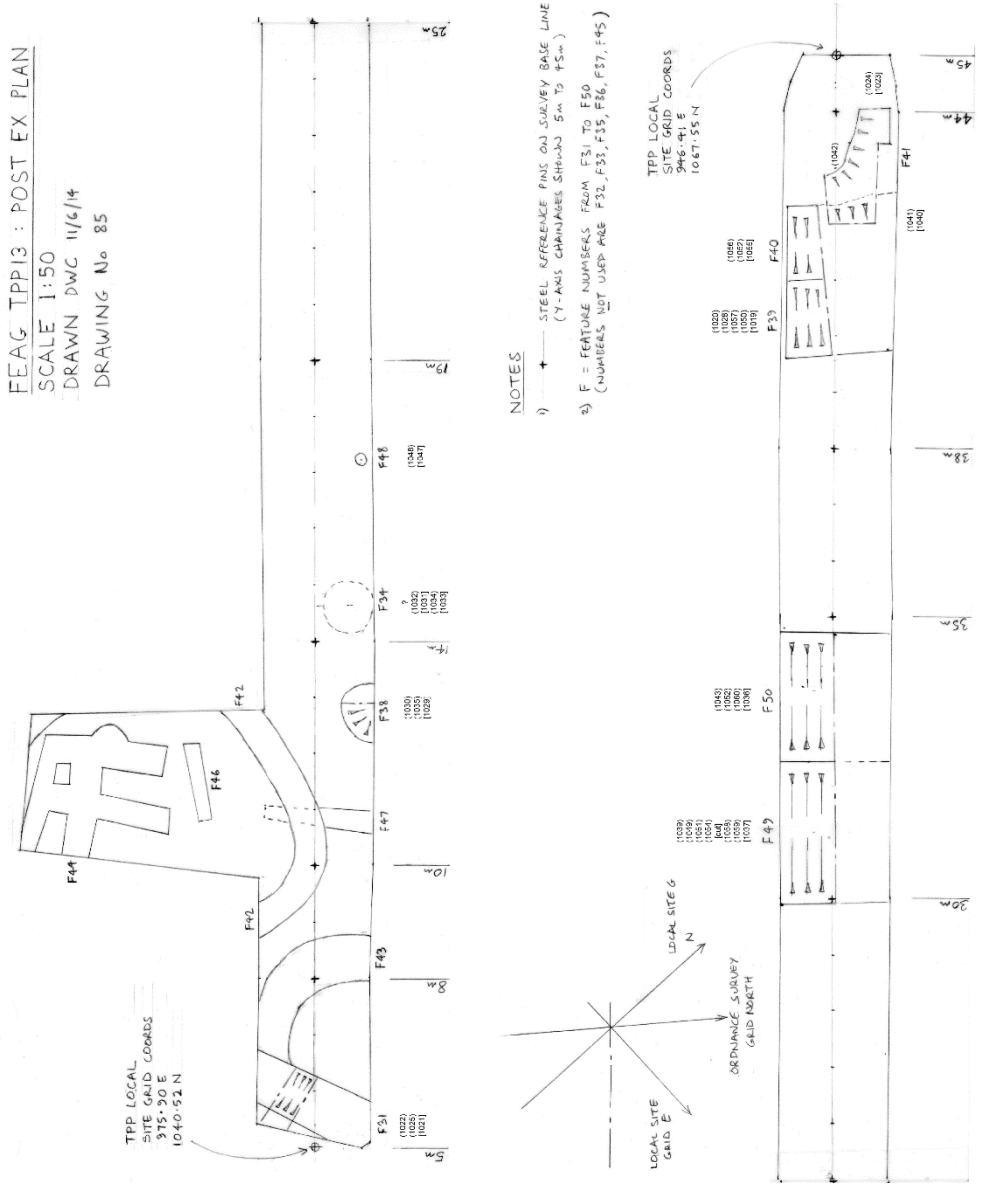
TP10 Appendices:

A. Context list

Context number	Type	Material	Description
1000-1008	Fills	Pot	Topsoil, machined off
1009-1018	Fills	Pot	Subsoil, machined off
1019	Cut		Cut for large N-S ditch, truncating ditch **[1055]**
1020	Fill	Pot	Fourth fill of ditch **[1019]**
1021	Cut		Cut for N-S ditch
1022	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<20>**?	Second fill of ditch **[1021]**
1023	Cut		Cut for small E-W ditch joining N-S ditch **[1040]**
1024	Fill	Pot, bone	Fill of ditch **[1023]**
1025	Fill	Sample **<49>**?	First fill of ditch **[1021]**
1026	-		Void
1027	-		Void
1028	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<28>**	Third fill of ditch **[1019]**
1029	Cut		Cut for shallow pit, same as **[932]** TP9
1030	Fill	Pot, bone	Fill of pit **[1029]**, same as **[1035]**
1031	Cut		Cut for possible plough scar, same as **[947]** TP9
1032	Fill		Fill of plough scar **[1031]**, same as **(946)**
1033	Cut		Cut for shallow pit, same as **[948]** TP9
1034	Fill	Pot, sample **<21>**	Fill of pit **[1033]**, same as **(949)** TP9
1035	Fill		Fill of pit **[1029]**, same as **(933)** TP9
1036	Cut		Cut for large N-S ditch
1037	Cut		Cut for large N-S ditch

1038	-		Void
1039	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<29>**	Fourth fill of unnumbered recut of ditch **[1037]**
1040	Cut		Cut for N-S ditch, probably part of **[1055]**
1041	Fill		Fill of ditch **[1040]**
1042	Fill		Combined fill of ditches **[1040]** / **[1023]**, mix of **(1041)**, **(1024)**
1043	Fill	Pot, bone, samples **<22>** **<24>**	Third fill of ditch **[1036]**
1044	-		Void
1045	-		Void
1046	-		Void
1047	Cut		Cut for small isolated posthole
1048	Fill		Fill of posthole **[1047]**
1049	Fill	Pot, sample **<25>**	Third fill of unnumbered recut of ditch **[1037]**
1050	Fill	Pot, bone	First fill of ditch **[1019]**
1051	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<26>**, Fe obj?	Second fill of unnumbered recut of ditch **[1037]**
1052	Fill		Second fill of ditch **[1036]**
1053	Fill		First fill of ditch **[1055]**
1054	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<27>**	First fill of unnumbered recut of ditch **[1037]**
1055	Cut		Cut for large N-S ditch, see **[1040]**
1056	Fill		Second fill of ditch **[1055]**
1057	Fill		Second fill of ditch **[1019]**
1058	Fill	Pot, sample **<28>**, *SF412* bone point	Second fill of ditch **[1037]**
1059	Fill	Pot, sample **<30>**	First fill of ditch **[1037]**
1060	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<31>**	First fill of ditch **[1036]**

B. Plans


FEAG TPP13 : POST EX PLAN
SCALE 1:50
DRAWN DWC 11/6/14
DRAWING No 85
NOTES
1) + STEEL REFERENCE PINS ON SURVEY BASE LINE (Y-AXIS CHAINAGES SHOWN 5m TO 45m)
2) F = FEATURE NUMBERS FROM F31 TO F50 (NUMBERS NOT USED ARE F32, F33, F35, F36, F37, F45)
TPP LOCAL SITE GRID COORDS 975.90 E 1040.52 N
TPP LOCAL SITE GRID COORDS 946.41 E 1067.55 N
LOCAL SITE G N
ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID NORTH
LOCAL SITE GRID E
F31
F34
F38
F40
F41
F42
F43
F44
F46
F47
F48
F49
F50

C. Photos

*Testpit 10 east end, showing curved ditch **[1021]**, Features 42 & 47, pit **[1029]***

Southeast extension of Testpit 10, showing Features 44 and 46

*South-facing section of wide ditch **[1037]***

*Testpit 10 west end, showing **[1019]**, **[1055]**, **[1040]**, **[1023]***

Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Twenty Pence Project Excavations

2014 Testpit 11 Excavation Report

Compiled by Matt Williams

Testpit 11 Summary

Testpit 11 was located within the interior of the ditched enclosure identified in previous seasons' work. Geophysics did not show any features in the area, but targeted excavation in Testpits 9 and 10 had revealed curved ditches and shallow pits.

Testpit 11 measured about 8.5m east–west by 8m north–south (incorporating some reopened areas) and revealed five curved features, only one of which was fully exposed, but which were probably the ditches around hay ricks or cereal stacks, used for drying and protection from vermin. None of them intersected, suggesting they may have all been in use within a fairly short period of time, perhaps even simultaneously.

The fully exposed example measured 5.5m × 4.5m, it had an internal area 4.5m × 3.5m where there were a couple of possible postholes. Projecting the revealed extent, the external dimensions of the others varied in size from about 8m × 6.5m down to 2.5m × 2m. There were also several associated postholes, some in the interiors, others in the ditches, which perhaps formed part of the central support or frame for the hay or crops.

A couple of possible north–south running small linear ditches were also identified running across the trench, probably later than the circular features; one contained a Cu alloy brooch. Some other less certain linear features were also tentatively identified. Several later small pits were also excavated, probably later than the circular ditches or linears.

Specialists' analyses have not yet been completed for this trench; however, the evidence is consistent with a small-scale agricultural activity incorporating both arable and pastoral activities. More precise dating awaits pottery analysis, but accumulated evidence points to a broad Roman period occupation.

1. Introduction

Testpit 11 was located in the northeast part of the field in which forms the focus of the Twenty Pence Project, *(see testpit plan)*. It was situated directly southeast of the intersection of the two evaluation Testpits 9 and 10 excavated in 2012 and 2013 respectively. It was positioned to investigate several curved features which were identified continuing out of Testpit 9 and 10. This area was very much within the 'empty' area inside the enclosure identified by geophysics.

Following the removal of turf and topsoil by machine the previous weekend, the exposed surface was scraped clean and visible features were identified. Excavation of Testpit 11 commenced on Saturday 5 July. During the following two weeks the excavation and recording of the features within the trench were conducted by various FEAG members.

The trench was excavated by single context using mattock, shovel and trowel as appropriate, and the archaeology revealed was recorded by drawings, context sheets and photographs. Features within the trench were sampled: pits and postholes were half-sectioned; linear features had slots excavated across them. Limited time and resources prevented all exposed features from being investigated. Final plans and the main section were drawn on Sunday July 20. The trench was backfilled and returfed the following week.

2. Archaeological features

As in previous seasons, the natural deposits at the base of the trench consisted of an orangish-brown sandy gravel. Archaeological features cut into the natural were usually, but not always, fairly easy to identify. After cleaning back, five curved features were apparent, together with some linear features: at least a couple running north–south and one running east–west. In addition, there were a number of pits / postholes. Each of these features will be described, though not all were investigated. Further, it seems probable that further surface cleaning would have clarified more of the archaeological features: connecting some and perhaps eliminating others.

The main circular feature in Testpit 11 was previously exposed in Testpit 9 in 2012 as **[951]**, and in Testpit 10 in 2013 as Feature 42. It can now be seen clearly that this was an ovoid-shaped feature, with a long axis of 5.5m and a short axis of about 4.5m. In cross section it was up to 50m wide and 35cm deep. This gave it a central area about 4.5m × 3.5m.

A number of separate exposures of this feature were opened up in Testpit 11 in 2014. These cuts were numbered **[1112]**, which was filled **(1113)**, **(1115)**

and **(1111)** – this was a re-excavation of **[951]** / **(952)** from 2012 and should be disregarded; **[1168]** filled with **(1169)**; **[1139]** filled with **(1140)**; **[1133]** filled with **(1134)**; **[1141]** filled with **(1142)**; and **[1174]** filled with **(1175)**. All these deposits were recorded as greyish silty clays.

Another large curved feature was initially exposed in Testpit 9 as **[931]**, where it was described as a linear feature about 50cm wide by × 20cm deep. In Testpit 11, it was investigated as cuts **[1124]** and **[1145]** which were up to about 50cm wide and 35cm deep and contained brownish silty fills **(1125)** and **(1146)** respectively. It seems likely to be another oval feature, possibly about 8m long and 6.5m wide, and perhaps returning through Testpit 9 as ditch **[973]**, though this will need a greater exposure to confirm.

A third smaller curved ditch was partially uncovered at the southeast corner of the trench, passing out of the south section. It had an outer diameter of 3.5m, and in section was up to 45cm wide and 35cm deep. Two interventions were excavated, numbered **[1128]** filled with **(1129)**, and **[1147]** containing loose fill **(1181)**, a possible animal burrow, then (1148).

Another small curved ditch was tentatively identified on the east side of the trench, passing east out of the trench. It was not excavated, but seems to be oval in shape, about 2.5m long and 2.0m wide, with a section width of 25cm. It was labelled only as Feature 62.

Curved Feature 43 from Testpit 10 was also re-exposed and re-evaluated, though the numbers of cuts and fills allocated make interpretation fairly unclear. Several slots were excavated, showing it was about 70cm wide × 50cm deep. Cut **[1137]** was filled with **(1138)**; however, its relationship with neighbouring cut **[1151]** and its fills **(1179)**, **(1180)**, **(1178)**, **(1177)**, **(1176)**, **(1153)**, **(1183)**, **(1152)** and **(1182)** is very confusing.

Another slot, cut **[1119]** and its fill **(1120)** was a re-excavation of the 2013 backfill from slot **[1021]** with its fills **(1025)** and **(1022)** and should be disregarded. It was about 85cm wide and 55cm deep. With the extra 2014 exposure, it does look more likely that **[1021]** was in fact part of Feature 43 rather than a separate straight ditch feature as was suggested in 2013. However, photographs clearly show a narrow, very dark line crossing southeast out of **[1021]** which must be a separate unrecorded feature.

There is also some indication in the records that there were as many as four later postholes post-dating this feature;, however, only fill **(1184)** is partially recorded.

Shallow pit **[1108]** with its fill **(1109)** was a re-excavated feature which had previously been investigated in both 2012 and 2013, as **[932]** / **(933)** and **[1029]** / **(1035)** / **(1030)**. It should also be disregarded.

Cut **[1166]** was an oval pit, 73cm × 50cm in plan and 28cm deep, located at the southwest edge of oval ditch **[951]** and filled with deposit **(1167)**. This pit cut through both **[951]** and linear cut **[1164]** but its finds might have ended up collected with fill **(1165)**.

Cut **[1105]** / **[1158]** was a small oval pit / posthole with a ring of bright orange soil, measuring 35cm × 14 (or 30?) cm and 12cm deep, and with a mixed fill **(1159)**. It was located inside oval ditch **[951]**.

Cut **[1121]** was a small clear posthole, situated inside and quite probably associated with curved Feature 62. It was about 25cm in diameter by 13cm deep. At its base it contained gravelly fill **(1127)** followed by silty deposits **(1126)** and **(1122)**.

Shallow posthole **[1135]** was located very near to and possibly truncated curved ditch **[1147]**. It was as much as 30cm in diameter but only 10cm deep; it contained fill **(1136)**. Another posthole was noted as being 0.25m away, but it was not recorded.

Cut **[1143]** was another posthole located just north of curved Feature 62, measuring 20cm in diameter by 10cm deep. It had a number of ~5cm stones packed at the base and was filled **(1144)**.

Oval posthole **[1163]** was located at the south edge of linear ditch **[1160]**. It measured about 30cm by 22cm but was only 5cm deep. It contained fill **(1162)** and while it was reported as truncating ditch **[1160]**, it may have just been part of the ditch.

One further last pit / posthole was referred to, perhaps about 0.3m in diameter and about 0.75m north of posthole **[1135]**, but it was not excavated or recorded.

An ephemeral straight feature was recorded running east–west from Feature 62 to oval ditch **[951]**. It was excavated as **[1160]** with fill **(1161)** but was 30~40cm wide and only 5~10 cm deep. It was cut by possible posthole **[1163]**. Another slot was also cut where it connected to oval ditch **[951]**, the linear was labelled **[1172]** / **(1173)** and the oval ditch was **[1174]** / **(1175)**, but there were no records for this slot and so any possible relationship remains uncertain. Since it is so wide and shallow and it seems to start and stop at curved Feature 62 and ditch **[951]**, it is not at all certain that this is a real feature, rather perhaps a topsoil / natural interface layer which should have been cleaned away.

Cut **[1155]** / **[1106]** is another feature which is incompletely recorded. On the main post-ex plan it is shown as being about 1.5m long, running north from curved ditch **[931]**, crossing oval ditch **[951]** and ending after about

another 60cm, but the excavated section at this north end clearly indicates it must continue. Relationships with these other features were not investigated. However, a 0.5m slot was cut through it, showing it to be about 30cm across and 15cm deep with steep sides. It had two fills, first orangish material **(1157)** followed by grey soft ash **(1156)** / **(1107)** containing some charcoal. It may be associated with the unnumbered and uninvestigated short ditch shown on the final post-ex plan extending a short distance both north and south from the north side of oval ditch **[951]**.

Another long linear feature seems quite probable from the records, though again the records seem somewhat unlikely. It likely runs from the south baulk of the trench, across curved ditch **[931]** and both sides of oval ditch **[951]** and out the north baulk shown as Feature 47 from 2013. However, the 2014 plans do not show its final segment and illustrate an abrupt deviation in the middle oval ditch **[951]**. Two slots were excavated across this feature.

First was **[1131]**, revealing a V-shaped ditch, 25~45cm in width and 15~20cm in depth. Its fill, greyish silt **(1132)**, contained much pot and also a Cu alloy brooch (*SF504*). The second slot, **[1164]**, showed that the linear feature apparently cut curved ditch **[931]** / **[1168]** but was cut in turn by pit **[1166]**. It was about 35cm wide and 20cm deep and contained firm, mixed fill **(1165)**.

It seems possible that feature **[1149]**, shown on the final trench plan as a short stubby branch off linear **[1131]**, is in fact another small pit / posthole which only just truncated / was truncated by the ditch. If so, it was about 30cm across and 20cm deep. Fills **(1150)** and **(1154)** would therefore likely be contaminated. If **[1149]** is indeed a posthole, as is tentatively suggested in the records, it forms a straight line with pits **[1166]** and **[1158]**.

One last unrecorded linear feature is also referenced on the final post-ex trench plan. A short ditch extends almost 1m southwest from the west side of curved Feature 62; it is not certain and it was not further investigated.

Just overlying the east side of oval feature **[951]** was an irregular deposit of dark brown clay with ironstone lumps. It measured about 70cm × 15cm, but it seems likely it was a natural deposit.

Finally, both the topsoil and subsoil were machined off as **(1101)** and **(1102)** respectively.

3. Chronological sequence

At the time of writing, the results of the pottery analysis were not available, so it is not possible to date features using recovered pottery; however, some stratigraphic relationships are apparent.

A number of features exposed in Testpit 11 were clearly intercutting and interrelated, but only in some cases was it possible to establish relationships between them. It was not possible to determine any order between the several curved / oval / circular features in the trench: completely exposed oval ditch **[951]**, partially exposed large curved ditch **[931]** in the southwest corner of the trench, wide curved ditch **[1021]** in the northeast corner, curved ditch **[1128]** in the southeast corner, and possible narrow curved ditch along the east edge.

With the exception of north–south running ditch **[1131]**, which post-dates oval ditch **[931]**, it was not possible to sequence any of the other linear features.

Of the numerous pits and postholes, pit **[1166]** post-dates oval ditch **[931]** and linear **[1131]**. Posthole **[1135]** is recorded as cutting curved ditch **[1128]**. No relationship could be established between possible posthole **[1149]** and north–south linear **[1131]**. As many as four postholes, including **(1184)**, may have cut the wide curved ditch **[1021]**.Broadly generalising, it seems that the circular ditches may be the earliest features, with the postholes and linear ditches next in the sequence, and perhaps the pits the latest features.

4. Pottery

The pottery recovered during the 2013 excavations remains to be sorted and analysed.

5. Animal bone

The identifiable species within the animal bone assemblage were dominated by sheep / goat and cattle of older ages. There was also a small representation of pig bones. This continues to confirm previous indications that sheep / goat and cattle animal husbandry was taking place near the site.

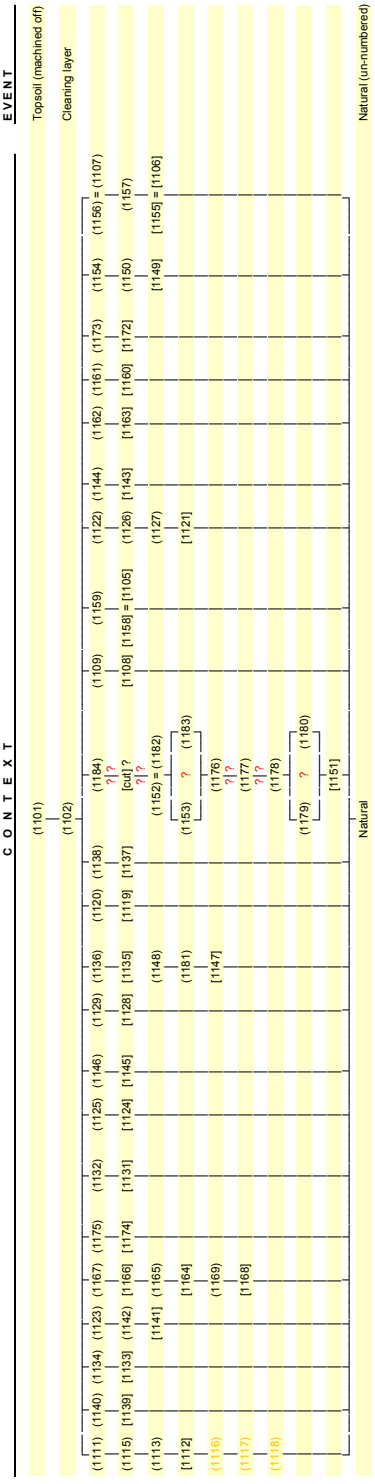
6. Botanical remains

A number of environmental samples were taken during the 2013 excavations. At the time of writing these remain to be sorted and analysed.

7. Special finds

The only small find recovered was a probable Roman period Cu alloy brooch *SF504*, found in fill **(1132)** of north-south running ditch **[1131]**. Following a specialist assessment it may be possible to put a date on the object.

8. Harris Matrix for Testpit 11



9. Interpretations

Testpit 11 was located entirely within the enclosure revealed by geophysics and confirmed by excavation in TP9 and TP10. The archaeology revealed was dominated by curved, square-sectioned ditches, only one of which was fully exposed, but most probably all of them will turn out to be circular / oval features. Several seem to have been cut through with possible associated postholes, some of which are through the ditch, some in the interior space.

Fully exposed, feature **[951]** is an elongated ovoid-shaped feature, with a long east–west axis of 5.5m and a short north–south axis of 4.5m. It was sampled in six places (**[951]** / **[1112]**, **[1168]**, **[1139]**, **[1133]**, **[1141]**, **[1174]**), revealing across section up to 50m wide and 35cm deep, typically with fairly straight, steep sides and a flattish base. This gave it a central area around 4.5m × 3.5m. It might also have been associated with several possible potholes in the interior (**[953]**, **[1149]**, **[1105]** / **[1158]**).

To the south, feature **[931]** is only partly exposed, enough to suggest it might also form an oval shape, though it may just be a curved ditch. If so, it might be as large as about 8m long × 6.5m wide, also incorporating another ditch in exposed in Testpit 9, previously thought to be linear, though this will need a greater exposure to confirm. It was sampled in three places (**[931]**, **[1145]**, **[1124]**), and its cross-section was up to about 55cm wide and up to 35cm deep, giving a probable interior space of 7m × 5.5m. Its sides were typically less well pronounced than feature **[951]**, but this could be caused by erosion. Possible posthole **[927]** might have been associated with the feature.

At the southeast corner, feature **[1128]** was also only partly exposed and sampled twice (**[1128]**, **[1147]**). Projecting its shape gives an outer diameter of 3.5m and an interior diameter of 2.5m. In section it was up to 45cm wide and 35cm deep, again with steep, straight sides and a flattish base. Two possibly associated postholes were identified, **[1135]** and the other unnumbered.

At the northeast corner, feature **[1021]** was about half revealed, sampled three times (**[1021]** / **[1119]**, **[1137]**, **[1151]**), with an external diameter just less than 4m and an internal diameter of about 2m. Again, its section varied somewhat but was typically straight-sided and flat-based, with a section width up to 85cm and depth 50cm. There seems to have been up to five possible postholes in the ditch, of which only **(1184)** was investigated or recorded.

Lastly, Feature 62 appeared to be slightly ovoid about 2.5m long × 2m wide and a section width of 25cm, therefore its internal area was about 1.5m × 1m. It was not sampled, and so it cannot be confirmed. It had a posthole **[1121]** in the middle.

While these features were certainly Roman in date, before analysis from pottery evidence is completed, no close dates can be suggested. As referenced in previous seasons, these seem likely to be examples of so-called fen circles (Riley 1945; Riley 1946; Wilson 1978; Hall and Coles 1994; Coles and Hall 1997; Albone and Massey 2008; Gardiner 2013). The circular / oval ditches probably drained a central raised area where hayricks of cereal stacks were placed to facilitate drying and keep vermin away. The postholes may have been part of the associated poles or support frame. It remains to be seem from the environmental analysis whether there is any evidence for botanical remains of cereal crops.

Hay stacks in Poland with support posts (Gardiner 2013, figure 2.3)

There were a couple of possible linear features which were identified but not thoroughly investigated. **[1131]** / **[1164]** ran north–south across the trench through (and post-dating) oval feature **[951]** and curved feature [931; it was 45cm wide and 20cm deep with a V-shaped profile. Another possible linear **[1155]** runs about 0.75m to the east parallel to **[1131]**. These linear ditches seem to post-date the circular ditches.

Much less certain was ditch **[1160]** / **[1172]**, recorded running east–west between curved ditches **[951]** and Feature 62; it was not investigated and remains uncertain. Another possible short feature (unnumbered) was also noted running southeast from Feature 62.

A couple of possible later pits were uncovered: **[932]** / **[1029]** / **[1108]**, and **[1166]**. There were also a few floating postholes (**[1143]**, **[1160]**, one more unnumbered), which may have been associated with previously mentioned postholes, though it is not clear.

TP11 Appendices:

A. Context list

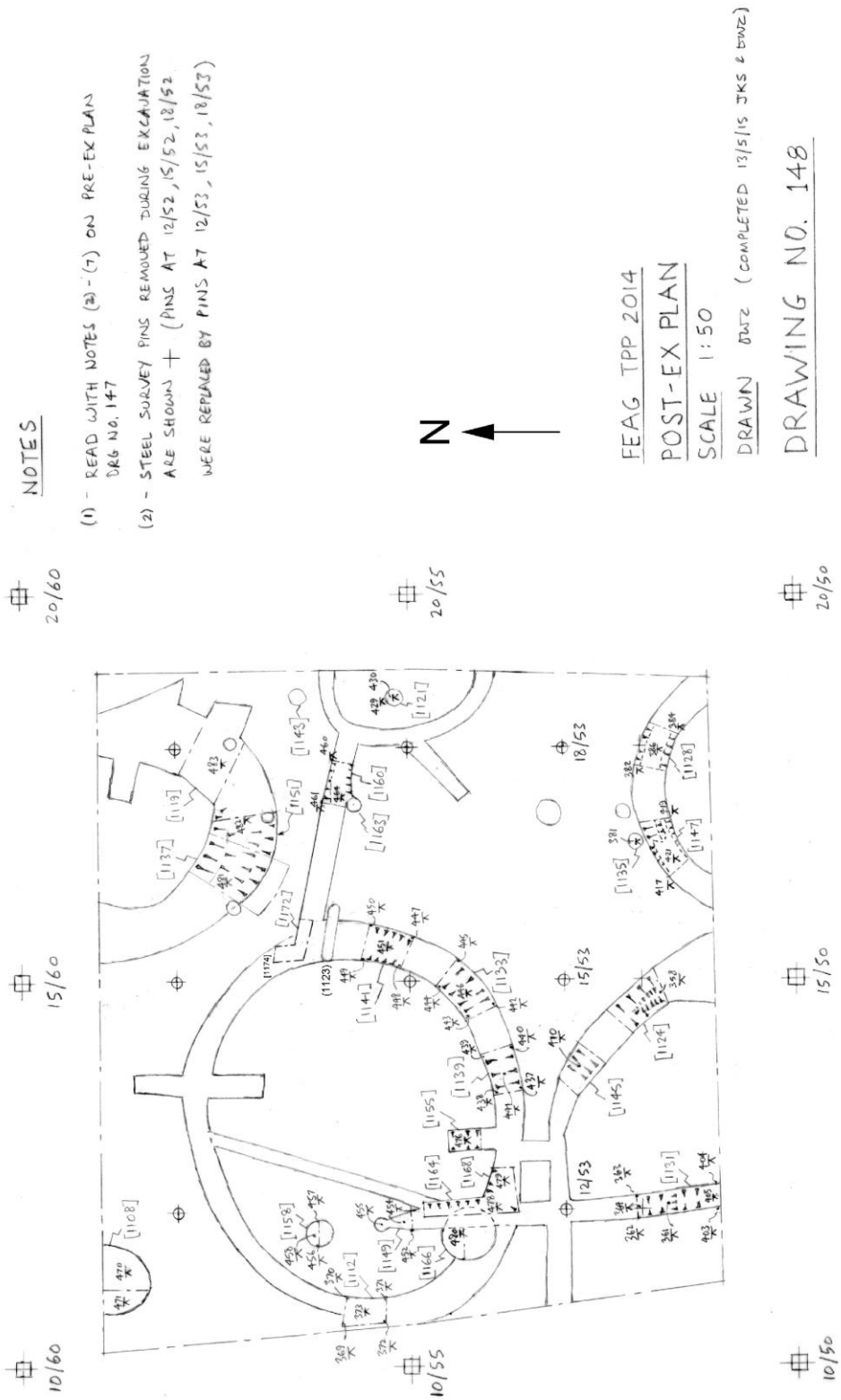
Context number	Type	Material	Description
1101	Fill	Pot	Topsoil, machined off
1102	Fill	Pot	Subsoil, machined off
1103	Fill	-	Fill of unknown cut **[1104]**
1104	Cut	-	Unknown cut
1105	Cut	-	Circular pit; same as **[1158]**
1106	Cut	-	Cut for undefined north-south linear; same as **[1155]**
1107	Fill	-	Second fill of linear **[1106]**; same as **(1156)**
1108	Cut	-	Shallow pit; same as **[932]** TP9, **[1029]** TP10
1109	Fill	Nutshell	Fill of pit **[1108]**; same as **(1030)** / **(1035)** TP10, **(933)** TP9
1110	-	-	Void
1111	Fill	-	Third fill of oval ditch cut **[1112]**; backfill from 2012
1112	Cut	-	Cut for oval ditch; same as **[951]** TP9
1113	Fill	-	First fill of oval ditch cut **[1112]**; backfill from 2012
1114	-	-	Void
1115	Fill	-	Second fill of oval ditch cut **[1112]**; backfill from 2012
1116	Fill	-	Probably natural, cut by **[1112]**
1117	Fill	-	Probably natural, cut by **[1112]**
1118	Fill	-	Probably natural, cut by **[1112]**
1119	Cut	-	Cut of wide, curved ditch; same as **[1021]** TP10
1120	Fill	-	Fill of curved ditch **[1119]**; same as **(1025)** / **(1022)** TP10
1121	Cut	-	Cut for posthole inside curved ditch Feature 62
1122	Fill	-	Third fill of posthole **[1121]**

1123	Fill	-	Irregular deposit of clay and ironstone, probably natural
1124	Cut	-	Cut for curved ditch; same as **[931]** TP9
1125	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, flint, sample **<41> <56>**	Fill of curved ditch **[1124]**; same as **(930)** TP9
1126	Fill	-	Second fill of posthole **[1121]**
1127	Fill	-	First gravelly fill of posthole **[1121]**
1128	Cut	-	Cut for small curved ditch
1129	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<42> <58>**	Fill of curved ditch **[1129]**
1130	-	-	Void
1131	Cut	-	Cut for north-south running linear
1132	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, ***SF504*** (Cu Al brooch), sample **<55> <64>**	Fill of linear **[1132]**
1133	Cut	-	Cut for oval ditch; same as **[1112]**
1134	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, sample **<43>**	Fill of oval ditch **[1133]**; same as **(952)** TP9
1135	Cut	-	Cut for posthole, truncating curved ditch **[1128]**
1136	Fill	-	Fill of posthole **[1135]**
1137	Cut	-	Cut of wide, curved ditch; same as **[1021]** TP10
1138	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, sample **<44>**	Fill of curved ditch **[1137]**; same as **(1120)**
1139	Cut	-	Cut for oval ditch; same as **[1112]**
1140	Fill	Sample **<48> <59>**	Fill of oval ditch **[1139]**; same as **(952)** TP9
1141	Cut	-	Cut for oval ditch; same as **[1112]**
1142	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<45> <60> <65>**	Fill of oval ditch **[1141]**; same as **(952)** TP9
1143	Cut	Sample **<66>** ?!	Cut for posthole north of Feature 62
1144	Fill	-	Fill of posthole **[1143]**

1145	Cut	-	Cut for curved ditch; same as **[1124]**
1146	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<47>**	Fill of curved ditch **[1145]**; same as **(1125)**
1147	Cut	-	Cut for small curved ditch; same as **[1128]**
1148	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, flint, sample **<46> <63>**	Second, main fill of curved ditch **[1147]**; same as **(1129)**
1149	Cut	-	Cut for posthole near linear **[1131]**
1150	Fill	Pot, bone, sample **<49>**	First fill of posthole **[1149]**
1151	Cut	-	Cut of wide, curved ditch; same as **[1021]** TP10
1152	Fill	Sample **<50>**	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1183)**
1153	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal, flint, sample **<52> <54>**	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1120)**
1154	Fill	-	Second fill of posthole **[1149]** ??
1155	Cut	-	Cut for undefined north-south linear; same as **[1106]**
1156	Fill	Charcoal, sample **<51>**	Second fill of linear **[1155]**; same as **(1107)**
1157	Fill	-	First fill of linear **[1155]**
1158	Cut	-	Circular pit; same as **[1105]**
1159	Fill	Sample **<53> <57>**	Fill of pit **[1158]**
1160	Cut	-	East-west running ditch
1161	Fill	Pot	Fill of ditch **[1160]**
1162	Fill	-	Fill of posthole **[1163]**
1163	Cut	-	Cut of shallow posthole
1164	Cut	-	Cut for north-south running linear; same as **[1131]**
1165	Fill	Pot, bone, charcoal	Fill of linear **[1164]**; same as **(1132)**
1166	Cut	-	Cut for pit, truncating curved ditch **[931]** & linear **[1164]**]
1167	Fill	Pot	Fill of pit **[1166]**
1168	Cut	-	Cut for oval ditch; same as **[1112]**
1169	Fill	-	Fill of oval ditch **[1168]**; same as **(952)** TP9

1170	-	-	Void
1171	-	-	Void
1172	Cut	-	Cut for east-west linear where meets curved ditch **[931]** TP9; same as **[1160]**
1173	Fill	-	Fill of ditch **[1172]**
1174	Cut	-	Cut for oval ditch where meets linear **[1172]**; same as **[931]** TP9
1175	Fill	-	Fill of oval ditch **[1174]**; same as **(952)** TP9
1176	Fill	Sample **<61>**	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1120)**
1177	Fill	-	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1120)**
1178	Fill	-	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1120)**
1179	Fill	-	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1120)**
1180	Fill	-	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1120)**
1181	Fill	Sample **<62>**	First, loose fill of curved ditch **[1147]**; possible animal
1182	Fill	-	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1152)**
1183	Fill	-	Fill of curved ditch **[1151]**; same as **(1120)**
1184	Fill	-	Fill of un-numbered pothole through **(1152)=(1182)**

B. Plans


NOTES
(1) - READ WITH NOTES (2) - (7) ON PRE-EX PLAN DRG NO. 147
(2) - STEEL SURVEY PINS REMOVED DURING EXCAVATION ARE SHOWN + (PINS AT 12/52, 15/52, 18/52 WERE REPLACED BY PINS AT 12/53, 15/53, 18/53)
N
FEAG TPP 2014
POST-EX PLAN
SCALE 1:50
DRAWN DMS (COMPLETED 13/5/15 JKS & DMS)
DRAWING NO. 148
20/60
20/55
20/50
15/60
15/55
15/50
10/60
10/55
10/50
18/53
15/53
12/53

C. Photos

Testpit 11 from the south

Testpit 11 from the north

Annex II

Pottery report

TPP11/12 Roman Pottery

Introduction

A total assemblage of 4572 sherds, weighing over 44kg was recovered. The 2011 season produced a slightly larger quantity of pottery totalling 2665 sherds, weighing just over 22.5kg. The 2012 excavations produced an assemblage of 1906 sherds, weighing approximately 21.5kg. For the purposes of this report, all of the pottery is considered as a single assemblage. All of the pottery was recorded in accordance to the guidelines set out by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP, Darling 1994).

Assemblage Composition

A relatively large quantity of pottery was recovered from the excavations. That said, the pottery had a relatively low mean weight of 9.6g which suggests a fairly fragmented and abraded assemblage in general. This could be due to several different reasons. Firstly, that the pottery was not deposited straight after breakage/uselife, as if this were the case then the mean sherd weight and size would be expected to be higher. This therefore suggests that the material may have been left on the surface for a period of time before eventually being deposited within the feature. It is also possible that the small overall sherd size is due to events that took place after the material had been deposited. In particular, ploughing of a site can have a very negative effect on the archaeology and any associated material.

However, despite the low mean weight of the assemblage the relatively large quantity of Roman pottery recovered from the site allows for some insightful interpretations.

The assemblage was dominated by non-diagnostic, unsourced coarseware body sherds, which can often only be dated generically as ‘Romano-British’. This is fairly typical of Roman

rural sites, and can leads to a bias view of the assemblage when looked at by date. This is to say that those sherds which can only be broadly dated as Roman are given the date range of AD43 or AD50 if fully Romanised, as an Earliest Date, to AD400 as a Latest Date.
A small quantity of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the site, totalling nine sherds weighing 171g. It is recommended that this material is assessed by a prehistoric pottery specialist, to allow for more precise dating and analysis.

The presence of prehistoric material therefore suggests that there was activity at the site prior to the Roman period, although the small number of pre-Roman sherds implies that activity was limited. Although it should be considered that the subsequent Roman settlement may have disturbed and displaced evidence of earlier occupation. The Roman pottery spans the entire Roman period and includes 14 sherds which date to the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period, suggesting the possibility of immediate pre/post-conquest activity.

Chart 1 shows the quantity of pottery by number of sherds based on the individual sherds/group of sherds earliest date. The pottery shows a peak in activity in the early 2nd century AD, with a sharp decline afterwards. There is also a smaller peak at AD50. The large number of sherds with an earliest date of either AD100 or AD50, is however, somewhat misleading, as the AD50 peak within this assemblage is a reflection of the generic nature of much of the assemblage, and the same can be said of the AD100 peak.

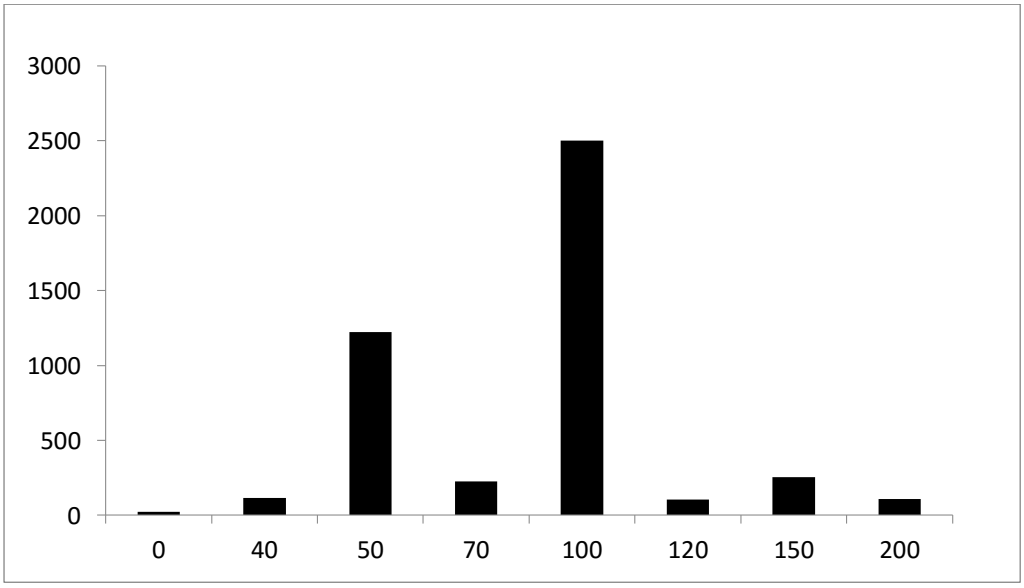


Chart 1: All pottery by Earliest Date

Chart 2 shows quantities of pottery in broad group dating brackets. For the purposes of this assemblage I have given five groups; LIA/ER, mid 1st-mid/later 2nd century AD, 2nd century AD, 2nd-3rd century AD and 3rd-4th century AD. It is worth noting that for the purposes of this graph, sherds which could only be dated as Romano-British have been excluded. The graph shows a steady increase from the Late Iron Age to the Roman period with a similar peak to Chart 1, between the mid 1st-mid/late 2nd century AD. There is then an apparent decline between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, before a rise between the 3rd-4th centuries AD. As with the previous graph though, there are certain biases still present, in particular the problems associated with trying to distinguish early-mid 2nd century AD products when we do not have the fabrics or forms which we know date exclusively to this period. It is therefore likely that a quantity of the removed 'Romano-British' pottery will fill in the gap in the 2nd-3rd century AD category, thus making it less of a steep decline, if there is a decline at all, from the previous period.

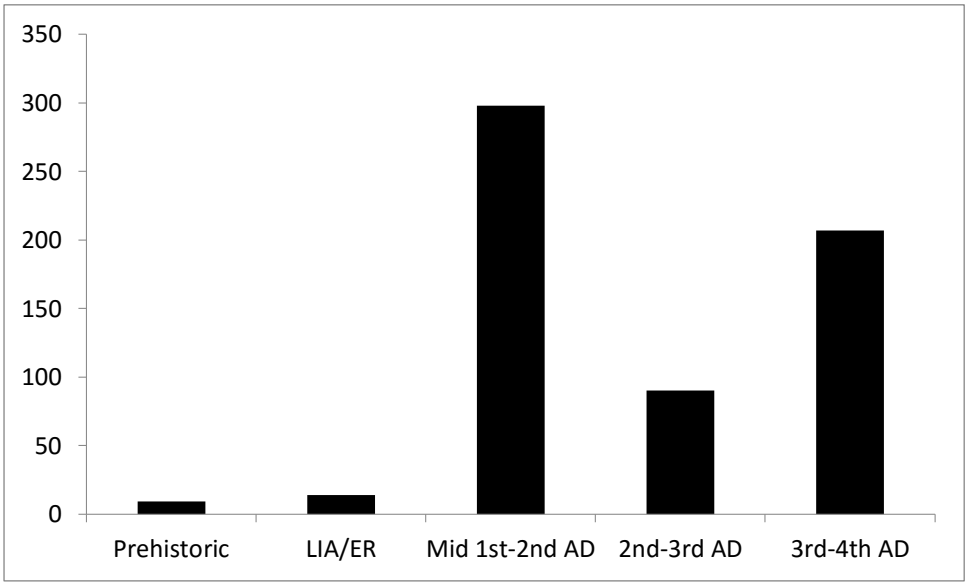


Chart 2: All Pottery by phase group (excluding all 'RB' dating sherds)

Overall, the Roman pottery suggests that the site was occupation throughout the Roman period, and it is likely that this was continuous, although further work on site is needed to clarify this.

Fabrics

A total of 44 different fabrics were identified (see Table 1). The greyware fabrics represent the largest groups, with the fineware, coarseware and sourced variants accounting for 84% of the entire assemblage. The dominance of greyware fabrics is not uncommon in rural sites.

Fabric	No.	Wt(g)
Black-slipped (BLKSL)	133	1143
Buff sandy (BUFF)	12	42
Colour-coat unsourced (CC)	9	48
Central Gaulish Black-slipped ware (CGBLK)	3	7
Colchester colour-coat (COLCC)	1	2
Coarse Sandy greyware (CSGW)	3668	32612
Coarse sandy micaceous greyware (CSMGW)	4	42
Coarse sandy oxidised ware (CSOX)	1	12
Flint Tempered - prehistoric (FLINT)	2	7
Fine sandy black-slipped (FSBLK)	1	8
Fine sandy greywares (FSGW)	52	208
Fine sandy micaceous greyware (FSMGW)	9	66
Fine sandy oxidised ware (FSOX)	13	29
Grey slipped ware (GREYSLIP)	9	158
Grog-tempered ware (GROG)	5	96
Hadham black-burnished ware (HADBB)	1	20
Hadham oxidised ware (HADOX)	23	83
Hadham reduced ware (HADRDU)	4	29
Hadham red-slipped ware (HADRS)	1	3
Horningsea black-burnished ware (HORNBB)	2	36
Horningsea greyware (HORNGW)	87	3400
Imitation black-burnished - unsourced (IMITBB)	28	422

Mancetter-Hartshill	1	20
Moselkermic black-slipped - Trier (MOSLK)	2	2
Nene Valley colour-coated ware (NVCC)	96	802
Nene Valley greyware (NVGW)	7	53
Nene Valley self-coloured ware (NVSC)	3	109
Nene Valley whiteware (NVWW)	2	51
Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (OXFRS)	1	4
Oxfordshire whiteware (OXFWW)	1	12
Oxidised sandy (OXIS)	167	2341
Pakenham colour-coated wares (PAKCC)	1	10
Prehistoric sandy ware 1 (Q1)	7	154
Prehistoric sandy ware 2 (Q2)	1	49
Reduced sandy ware (RDUS)	81	982
Red-slipped ware, unsourced (RS)	2	6
Samian, unsourced (SAM)	7	7
Central Gaulish Samian (SAMCG)	4	19
East Gaulish Samian (SAMEG)	2	23
South Gaulish Samian (SAMSG)	2	12
Shell-tempered ware (SHELL)	81	587
Wattisfield reduced ware (WATT)	3	17
White-slipped ware, unsourced (WS)	16	218
Whiteware, unsourced (WW)	17	146
TOTAL	**4572**	**44097**

Table 1: All pottery by fabric

With so many different fabric types represented, it is difficult to analyse them without grouping them further. In order to do this the 44 fabrics were divided into three groups. The first group comprises local wares, which are sherds and vessels that have come from within

the local area. There is obviously some debate over what constitutes 'local' in the Roman period. In the prehistoric period a distance of up to 10km is considered local in terms of clay/raw material procurement, based partly on ethnographic comparisons. However, this is not necessarily appropriate as trade networks were generally wider in the Roman period, largely due to improvements in the road networks.

For the purpose of this site, sources within 25km to the site as local. It is also worth noting at this point that the majority of ceramic assemblages from rural sites contain a significant proportion of sherds which cannot be sourced. However, although trade networks were vast, it is still likely that given the nature of pottery procurement, much of a sites pottery would have come from within the local area. Therefore the unsourced wares are included within this category. Overall therefore this group represented 93% of the total assemblage, thus making it the largest of the three groups.

The second group are non-local wares, referring to Romano-British wares which come from outside of the local area defined above. This group represented 6.8% of the overall assemblage and included vessels from sources including Hadham in Hertfordshire, the Nene Valley in Peterborough, Wattisfield and Pakenham in Suffolk and Oxfordshire. Both coarsewares and finewares were traded in from outside of the immediate local area.

The final group comprised the imported wares. These are those vessels which come from outside of Britain. Sherds within this category were fairly limited, comprising solely of sherds from Gaul, with the Central Gaulish production centres the best represented. Imported wares consisted of 15 Samian sherds, two Central Gaulish Black-slipped sherds and two Trier black-slipped wares. Overall the imported wares account for the remaining 0.2% of the assemblage. Although this figure is low, it is not unexpected from a rural site within this part of the country, with imported wares typically accounting for fewer than 5% of all sherds from rural domestic sites. Figures tend to only be higher when dealing with either urban or villa sites. This is therefore another method of determining the relative status, wealth and function of a site. The limited number of imported sherds within this assemblage suggests that either the site did not have easy access to these more exotic goods, that they could not afford them, or simply that they did not have the desire or need to purchase them in any meaningful quantities.

Vessel Forms

Based on the number of different rims present, a minimum of 395 different vessels were recovered from the assemblage. Obviously since this figure is only based on rim sherds, the actual number of vessels represented is likely to be much higher.

A range of different vessel forms were identified (Chart 3), although the majority of sherds were non-diagnostic body sherds. Within the diagnostic category jars were the most commonly occurring form, accounting for 88% of all diagnostic sherds. The dominance of jars is expected from a rural site, as their high frequency is due to the fact that they served a range of functions, which is highlighted by the range of sizes of jars identified within the assemblage. Rim diameters ranged from 10cm to 30cm, with vessels at the smaller end of the spectrum most likely used for functions such as cooking, while the larger vessels are likely to have been used for storage, given that these large vessels would have been too heavy to have moved around on a regular basis.

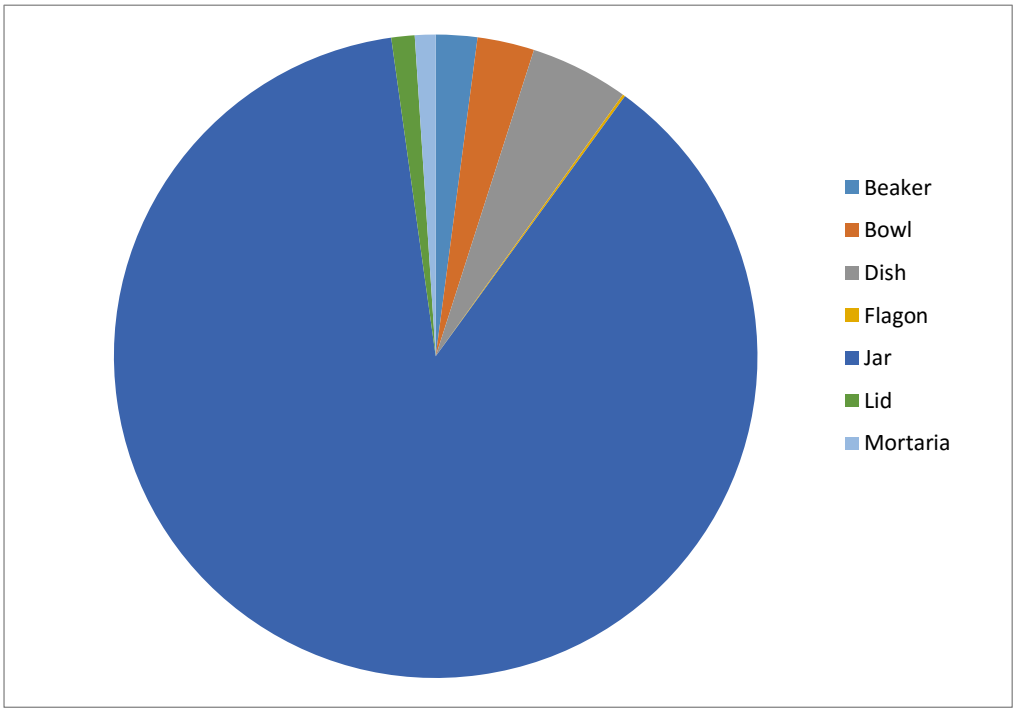


Chart 3: All diagnostic pottery by basic form type

Other vessel forms present in the assemblage included dishes which accounted for 5% of the assemblage, followed by bowls at 3%, beakers at 2% and lids and mortaria each representing

1% of the assemblage. Therefore although the assemblage is dominated by jars, there are other vessels which are representative of serving of foodstuffs.

The function of the vessels can be divided into two basic groups, as seen with the fabrics. The first are coarsewares; a term which refers not only to the composition of the fabric, but also to the function of the vessels. Coarsewares therefore refer to vessels used for the storage and preparation of foodstuffs, for example jars for storing grain, and cooking pots.

The second group are the 'Finewares'. Again the term refers to the fabric, but also the function. Finewares are therefore considered to be those vessels used for the serving and presentation of food and drink, eg beakers for drinking wine.
The use of the terms Coarsewares and Finewares in this way therefore informs us about the way in which the pots were used within an assemblage. When the assemblage is divided into these two categories, it is unsurprising that coarsewares dominate, totalling 96% while finewares make up the remaining 4%.

Decoration and Usewear

A total of 385 sherds were decorated, with the most common techniques being burnishing and combing. The former occurred in a number of different ways on a pot, including the total surface burnishing (as seen on the imitation black-burnished ware vessels discussed above). However, there are also sherds which have more precise burnished decoration including burning lines and burnished lattice decoration. Likewise combing occurred either over the whole exterior, or on certain sections of a vessel, with a combed shoulder being a common position. In the case of a small number of Horningsea greyware vessels, the combing occurred on the inside as well as the outside of the vessel. One explanation for this is that the thick combing on the inside aided in carrying the vessels, if a hand was placed inside.

More unusual decoration included a Hadham oxidised ware vessel with embossed dimple decoration. This type of decoration has often been described as 'Romano-Saxon' as the embossing is a more common technique used in Saxon pottery. Therefore vessels with this were often seen as a hybrid between the Roman and Saxon worlds. However more recent work suggests that this is not the case, and while these types of vessels are likely to be later Roman in date, they are unlikely to date to the Roman-Saxon transition.

Perhaps the most interesting sherds in terms of decoration are a group of 55 sherds which had a distinctive and unusual type of decoration for Roman pottery, comprising a repetitive fingernail impression on the shoulder of medium sized jars (Figure 1). Due to the lack of associated rims, it is difficult to say how many vessels these sherds may represent. However, the unusual decorational style (fingernail decoration being much more common on prehistoric pottery) as well as the number of sherds it occurred on suggests that these may be a very local product-possible made at the site itself. Obviously this cannot be determined without further work. That said there is some possible evidence from the 2011 phase of work of kiln lining, and certainly this is an aspect of the pottery assemblage that will be worth further consideration.

Figure 1: Possible locally made products with distinctive 'fingernail' decoration

Only 16 vessels had evidence of usewear other than abrasion. This is very small number of sherds, which is likely to be related to the general condition of the assemblage, with its low

mean weight indicative of a high level of abrasion. Nine sherds had evidence of sooting/burnt residues, occurring on either the interior and/or exterior of vessels. Three vessels were spalled – which is when the clay is not properly processed and thus air-bubbles occur in the fabric during firing. Evidence of spalling is sometimes thought to be evidence of kilns as they could be seen as wasters. However, vessels can often spall during firing yet remain intact, thus in these cases should be considered as 'seconds' rather than wasters.

Contextual Analysis

Pottery was recovered from a total of 72 contexts including unstratified material from the 2011 and 2012 excavations. 45 contexts contained small assemblages of 30 sherds or fewer, with a further 21 containing medium sized assemblages of between 31-99 sherds, and six contexts containing large assemblages comprising more than 100 sherds. Contexts 701, 702 and 926 stand out as having particularly large quantities of material.

Once the excavations have been completed, there will be a greater opportunity to analyse and interpret the pottery in terms of its context, which will in turn allow use to understand more about the functions of different areas of the site, as well as providing important information about the ways in which pots were discarded and deposited.

Conclusion

In conclusion the pottery has allowed us to begin to understand the Roman settlement in much greater detail. There is evidence from activity from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period until the later Roman period. There is also some evidence of earlier prehistoric activity.

The quantity of material recovered suggests a fairly sizable settlement, especially when it is remembered that the material has to been recovered from only a very small area and a limited number of contexts, which suggests that there is a great deal more pottery on the site, as yet unrecovered. Only once all of the phases of excavation have been completed can we say anything meaningful about the size of the settlement.

The functional analysis of the site shows a rural site with a range of vessels for the storage, preparation and serving of foodstuffs. This view of the function of the assemblage is supported in part by the presence of usewear, which was evident on a number of sherds.

Recommendations

All of the pottery has been analysed in full, therefore the assemblages from the 201 and 2012 excavations do not require any additional recording. The material provides a useable fabric and form series which will enable future assemblages to be assessed and recorded by members of the group.

It is recommended that the prehistoric pottery is analysed by a prehistoric pottery specialist, although given that such a small quantity of material has been recovered, this is perhaps best waiting until all phases of excavation have been completed.

The unusually fingernail decorated sherds should be considered as possible local kiln products and sherds with this type of decoration should be flagged up during future excavations and analysis.

The pottery has yet to be contextually analysed in full, however, due to the ongoing nature of the project, this is perhaps more appropriate when the excavations have ceased.

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Annex III

Faunal reports

Twenty Pence Project

Faunal report 2011 and 2012

Dr Katie Manning

Method

Over 350 animal bones were recovered during the 2011 and 2012 season of excavation. The animal bone is generally in a good state of preservation, with a number of complete elements, although no apparent articulation was observed. In general, elements were considered diagnostic where preservation and bone completeness were sufficient, i.e. providing at least 50% of the 'diagnostic zone'. For long bones, these 'zones' are provided by the articular surface, although particular traits such as specific foramen or muscular attachment zones may also be applicable. Whilst the cattle, horse and sheep/goat could be identified securely as domestic, it is possible the pig remains may include some wild boar. This is unlikely due to the context and age of the site, but as morphological distinction between domestic and wild pig is difficult, all remains have been recorded here as *Sus* sp.

Species distribution

Approximately one third of the animal remains were identifiable to species level. The total Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and the relative proportion of identified taxa is given in table 1.

Table 1. Total NISP for identified taxa

	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 9	TOTAL
Bos taurus	3	2	3	8
Equus caballus	1	3	1	5
Ovis aries	1	1	3	5
Sus sp.	1	2	2	5

Canis familiaris			1	1
cf. *Cervus elaphus*		1		1

Age

General notes were made on the age of animals identified, indicating a primarily adult assemblage. All of the horse remains appear to have been from adult individuals, suggesting they may have been used as working animals and were only later brought into the site for consumption. Immature or juvenile individuals of cattle, sheep/goat and pig are present, although only in small numbers. The prevalence of adult domesticates suggests this was a primarily meat-oriented economy, rather than a milk one.

Taphonomy

As noted above, four of the identified bones exhibited signs of gnawing. The identification of a single dog mandible demonstrates the presence of dog on the site, and it seems likely that these bones were being scavenged locally. Several bones were also burnt, and exhibited different stages of charring, whilst a number exhibited cut marks indicative of butchery. The combination of these factors suggests the remains come from either primary or secondary midden deposits.

Discussion

Combined, cattle and sheep/goat make up the majority of the animal bone (75%). Many have cut marks indicating butchery for consumption, and a number are burnt, suggesting this is primary midden waste. The predominance of adult individuals suggests milking did not occur on site, and that meat was the primary exploitation product. Wild taxa are also very rare with only 3 bird bones and 1 possible red deer bone, signifying an economy, which was entirely reliant on domesticated products.

In regards to the spatial distribution of animal remains, the 4 key taxa are spread evenly across the site revealing highly standardised subsistence. When there are household divisions or specialised activity areas within a habitation, it is typical to see variation in the concentrations of animal taxa across space. The absence of such variation may therefore be indicative of a specialised “non-habitation” use for the site, perhaps as a military camp or trading station. Further interpretation of these results will of course depend on the other lines of archaeological evidence…

TPP13 Faunal Report

Daniel Sharman

Method

A total of 202 fragments were recovered. These were in generally poor to moderate condition with some complete elements present. Specimens were considered diagnostic if they could be identified to element and species or at least to a size category i.e. large mammal or medium mammal. It was attempted to assign a species to the bird bones however this was not always possible and so they were kept as Aves. Zoning was done to according to Dobney and Reilly (1988). The majority of the assemblage can be identified to domestic species it is possible some wild boar maybe present but due to the distinction being difficult they have been recorded a *Sus sp.*

Species distribution

79% of the assemblage was able to be identified to species of at least a size category. The total Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and the relative proportion of identified species can be seen in table1.

		NISP	%
Bird	Aves	8	5
Cattle	*Bos taurus*	47	29
Horse	*Equus caballus*	6	4
Sheep/goat	*Ovis/Capra*	41	26
Pig	*Sus* sp.	3	2
Large mammal		20	12
Medium mammal		35	22
	TOTALS	160	100

Table 1 NISP COUNT

From identified species 29% was identified as cattle followed by sheep/goat at 26%. Horse and pig are noted in small amounts. This would suggest that a good mix of cattle and sheep farming. Of note is a relatively high presence of bird bones at least one can be suggested to be crow.

Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) is calculated by counting non repeating elements of the body, by doing this we can begin to see the proportions of flock and herd sizes being utilized. From table 2 the even spread of cattle and sheep/goat can be seen again, this helps emphasise what was seen with the NISP count.

	MNI
Aves	1
Bos taurus	4
Equus caballus	1
Ovis/Capra	4
Sus sp.	1
total	11

Table 2 MNI

Age

Both fusion rates and mandible wear stages (MWS) were used to age the assemblage. When looking at the fusion rates it shows a varied picture of both young and adult specimens with a few old adults too, if MWS is added to these the distribution of ages does not change. It would seem that a mixed husbandry practice of meat and secondary products is likely due to the mix of ages displayed.

Taphonomy

This assemblage displays little in the way of burning or butchery the majority of which appears to be that of processing waste for marrow extraction, as it tends to be destructive technique.

Discussion

It would seem that the assemblage indicates a fairly equal mix of cattle herding and sheep flocks being exploited by the population most likely for meat and some secondary products. Over all it is most likely small scale local production taking place and the assemblage is derived from primary middening deposits. The results would benefit from further archaeological evidence.

Tpp14 Faunal Report

Daniel Sharman

Method

A total of 139 fragments were recovered from excavations the majority of which were in a poor state of preservation however there are some complete specimens. Specimens were considered diagnostic if they could be identified to element and species or at least to a size category i.e. large mammal or medium mammal. It was attempted to assign a species to the bird bones however this was not always possible and so they were kept as Aves. Zoning was done to according to Dobney and Reilly (1988). The majority of the assemblage can be identified to domestic species it is possible some wild boar maybe present but due to the distinction being difficult they have been recorded a *Sus sp.*

Species distribution

68% of the total assemblage was able to be identified to species or at least size category. The total Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and the relative proportion of identified species can be seen in table1.

		NISP	%
Cattle	*Bos taurus*	9	10
Sheep/goat	*Ovis/Capra*	21	22
Pig	*Sus* sp.	1	1
Large mammal		26	28
Medium mammal		37	39
	TOTALS	94	100

Table 3 NISP COUNT

The most numerous species noted was sheep/goat with 21 specimens recovered. This is followed by cattle with a low count of 9 and a single specimen of pig. Of note is the lack of dog, horse and bird noted in previous seasons, this may be indicative of a change in practice or the area excavated was used just for these domesticates.

Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) is calculated by counting non repeating elements of the body, by doing this we can begin to see the proportions of flock and herd sizes being utilized. From table 2 we can see that the material equates to a small number of individuals however the sheep/goat are still more frequent than cattle.

	MNI
Bos taurus	1
Ovis/Capra	2
Sus sp.	1

total	4

Table 4 MNI count

Age

From looking at Mandible Wear Stages it seems that it is a mix of adult and old adult individuals this is further reinforced when looking ate epiphyseal fusion data, what seems apparent is the lack of juvenile animals present where an equal mix had been seen in previous seasons. It is likely that a meat based husbandry practice was in place.

Taphonomy

No signs of Gnawing or burning were present within the assemblage and very little butchery was present only one fragment showed evidence of the one being split by a chop mark most likely for marrow processing.

Discussion

It is clear that a focus on sheep farming is taking place and that there is a preference for adult individuals. This would seem to suggest a husbandry practice for sheep geared towards wool production. It could also suggest that they are also using cattle for both traction and mainly meat with this being supplemented with meat from the sheep flocks. Further archaeological evidence such as phasing could help to create a better picture of what is taking place and a larger assemblage would help to link this in to its wider intra-site context.

Annex IV

Environmental Report

Interim report on the charred plant remains at the Twenty Pence Project, Cottenham

Rachel Ballantyne, 18th November 2014

Introduction

The Twenty Pence Project, Cottenham, is a research excavation run since 2011 by the Fen-Edge Archaeology Group (FEAG). The site is currently understood to represent part of a Late Iron Age to Roman rural settlement alongside the Car Dyke, an early Roman canal across the southern fen-edge that was probably constructed during the 1st century AD (Clark 1949; Macaulay and Reynolds 1994). The site is an unscheduled part of Bullocks Haste (Scheduled Monument No. 372111) where preserved surface features include trackways, field boundaries and a 'lazy bed' cultivation system with up to seven parallel ridges varying between 8m and 43m long, 3.0m to 3.8m wide and up to 0.5m high (RCHME 1996).

The main research aim is to verify the date and character of the settlement by using a series of evaluation trenches and auger transects. The excavated area is currently pasture but was ploughed briefly during the 1960s; all the excavated and sampled archaeological remains are thus negative features (e.g. ditches, postholes, pits) surviving underneath the ploughsoil.

Charred plant remains offer the potential to identify past crops (particularly cereals) and their husbandry from the ecology of associated weed flora (Jones 1988). The distribution of charred plants and their patterning in relation to other artefacts also offers the potential to identify activities and refuse discard patterns within the excavation areas (Ballantyne 2013), and to consider the wider economy, including surplus production and regional infrastructure. These aspects of the site are of particular interest, given the main research aim of the project and the proximity of both the Car Dyke and the field systems at Bullocks Haste.

Methods

One bulk sample was collected in 2011, alongside several hand-collected charcoal fragments. In 2012, the author was invited to provide advice and mentoring to the project regarding sampling strategy and archaeobotany. Ten bulk samples were

collected from a wide range of sample types at TPP12, with a further eleven at TPP13 and fifteen at TPP14. Eleven small sediment samples were also collected at TPP14 for possible phytolith analysis.

All bulk samples have been flotation sieved on-site using bucket flotation (after Kenward et al. 1980) by members of the excavation team lead by Vicki Harley. Flots were collected and dried in 300µm nylon mesh and the heavy residues washed over 1mm mesh before drying in newspaper-lined boxes.

At the date of reporting, all the flots from TPP12 have been fully sorted and analysed. The flots from TPP13 have been scanned, and the flots from TPP14 are yet to be assessed. The microscopic analysis and reporting is anticipated to be concluded in December 2014. Members of the excavation team have sorted by eye the heavy residues greater than 4mm for artefacts and ecofacts. The 1–4mm residues from TPP12 have been discarded, whilst later fine residue fractions are in storage until the flots have been analysed.

The sorted flots have been analysed under a low-power stereo microscope (Leica MZ8, x6.3–x50 magnification) with incident light. Identification have been made using seed atlases (Berggren 1969; 1981; Cappers et al. 2006) and the reference collections of the Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge). All quantified items represent 'minimum numbers of individuals'; for example, three pulse halves (cotyledons) would be recorded as two pulses. The term 'seed' is used throughout the text to refer to items known botanically as achenes, nutlets and caryopses. All taxonomy follows Stace (1997), except for cereals which follow the morphological classification in Zohary and Hopf (2000). The current raw data is presented in full in Table 1 at the end of this report.

Results

TPP12

Charred plant remains are well preserved and sometimes extremely abundant. The highest numbers of items are from ditches: fills **(926)**, **(958)** and a single slot containing burnt layer **(941)** with fills **(942)** and **(943)**. These all likely to be deposits of discarded ash with varying concentrations and degrees of integrity linked to the rapidity of their burial. Only the richest layers are described for this interim report.

(941), **(942)**, **(943)** and **(958)** are all dominated by small, heavy seeds that would be removed by fine sieving during crop processing (Jones 1984). Grain and chaff of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) are also present, but in much lower quantities. The barley appears to be a lax-eared type of hulled six-rowed barley. A single flax seed (*Linum usitatissimum*) occurs in **(941)**, and may represent its cultivation for linen and/or linseed.

The wild seeds are almost entirely of likely weeds, the most abundant types being orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrata*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), clover (*Trifolium* sp.), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and meadow grass (*Poa* sp.). The presence of a wide range of Dock Family (Polygonaceae) and Sedge Family (Cyperaceae) types suggests that the fields were ard-tilled, which is consistent with an Iron Age/early Roman date, rather than ploughed, which usually kills any overwintering biennial and perennial plants (Jones 1988).

Two of the charred seed types are very unlikely to have been arable weeds:

Cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) is thought to have been introduced during the Roman period (Godwin 1984) and the two charred seeds in **(941)** are of uncertain significance. This plant has similar food properties to globe artichoke (flower bracts), cardoon (fleshy stems) and sunflower (oil-rich seeds that may be pressed for use as a fuel or for cooking). Sonnante et al. (2007) highlight that the many references to 'globe artichokes' in Latin texts could include other types less well-known today, such as cotton thistle. This plant is now widely naturalised in Britain, particularly on warm, nutrient-rich disturbed soils on the margins of settlements. It is unclear how rapidly naturalisation occurred, or whether there were multiple introductions, and so whether Roman finds provide evidence for the exploitation of this plant rather than a pattern of colonisation.

Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) is a large, extensively rhizomatous native plant that is usually found on wet ground in fens and at the margins of water bodies. A charred seed in **(943)** could represent the use of a gathered fen resource for kindling, thatching or strewing (after Rowell 1986) or peat fuel ash (after Murphy 2002). However one charred fragment of great fen-sedge leaf in **(943)** is identifiable due to the distinctive, robustly serrated leaf margin, which suggests that fresh leafy material was charred not peat fuel. Waterlogged leaf fragments in peat would be too fragile to then survive as charred leaf fragments in peat ash.

Numerous other fragments of charred vegetative material in **(941)** and **(943)** suggest that kindling ash from an oven or kiln is present. The main items are silica-rich skeletons (phytoliths) of cereal awns and charred fragments of grass/sedge/rush stems (Monocotyledon culms). Many of the common spikerush seeds survive only due to their silica-rich nut walls, which suggests that other fragile components of kindling may have been lost in the fire. Whilst spikerush may tolerate wet, ard-tilled arable, its association with other true sedge (*Carex* sp.) seeds and great fen-sedge in **(943)** suggests traces of a fen 'litter' (Friday and Harvey 1997), rather than simply contaminants of cereal straw and chaff.

Ditch fill **(926)** is quite different to the above, since it is heavily dominated by spelt wheat chaff (glume bases) with low quantities of grain and wild seeds. This appears to be a 'standard' example of waste from late-stage parching and deshusking of spelt wheat, which is a common find upon Roman rural settlements in southern Britain (Grieg 1991).

TPP13

The eleven flots appear to overall contain fewer charred plants than the TPP12 assemblage. Charcoal is again highly fragmented (mostly 2–4mm) and generally in low quantities. Sporadic cereal remains include barley and spelt/emmer wheat grains and straw fragments (culm nodes).

Of note are fragments of light grey ashy concretion in **(1054)**, which may be the result of a high temperature reaction between silica-rich plant ash and soft greyish-white clay. The concretions are irregular and vesicular, with occasional blackened mollusc shell fragments that suggest an alluvial (riverine) origin for the clay. Several large fragments of the concretion are currently with Simon Timberlake (Cambridge Archaeological Unit) for assessment.

Interim interpretation

These initial results from the Twenty Pence Project suggest a charred plant assemblage dominated by cereal processing by-products and possibly a gathered fen resource. The main crops are characteristic for both the local area and region (Ballantyne 2013): a lax-eared form of hulled six-rowed barley and spelt wheat. Occasional chaff items of emmer wheat are equivocal as to whether this prehistoric cereal was also cultivated or simply persisted as a weed. A single seed of flax hints at its cultivation for linen and or linseed.

Whilst the two charred seeds of cotton thistle are of uncertain significance, recent finds of very numerous waterlogged seeds and occasional charred seeds in Roman settlement features at North West Cambridge hint at its cultivation (Ballantyne 2014a; 2014b). These latter site(s) are also associated with 'lazy bed' cultivation systems, and so further consideration is required of whether these Cambridge sites illustrate a shared farming strategy with Bullocks Haste. Current plant macrofossil and pollen evidence for North West Cambridge suggests that summer irrigation systems are represented, rather than winter drainage as occurred further south in East Anglia on damp, clayey land (e.g. Roberts 2007).

The consistently low quantities of highly fragmented charcoal are intriguing since they occur alongside well preserved, charred remains of delicate plant structures such as leaf fragments. This disparity suggests that the poor charcoal may not be taphonomic (e.g. due to charring, burial or recovery conditions) but instead reflect the actual fuels used – for example, twiggy, brushwood types. Charcoal analysis would clarify this pattern further.

Interim conclusions

The charred plant remains at the Twenty Pence Project are abundant, diverse and intriguing. As noted above, whilst spelt wheat processing is clearly represented – as is common on rural Roman settlements in the region – the accompanying leaf/culm ash may represent a specific oven or kiln fuel. This latter observation appears to link with the light grey concretions from TPP13, which also likely derive from a hot, ashy oven or kiln environment. Similarities to recent finds from excavations at North West Cambridge, both in terms of the presence of cotton thistle and summer-irrigated 'lazy beds' further raises questions regarding Roman agricultural innovation, economy and infrastructure across the region.

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Site code		TPP12	TPP12	TPP12	TPP12	TPP12	TPP12	TPP12	TPP12	TPP12	TPP12
Context		**(921)**	**(923)**	**(925)**	**(926)**	**(937)**	**(941)**	**(942)**	**(943)**	**(954)**	**(958)**
Sample Number		<1>	<8>	<9>	<13>	<7>	<3>	<10>	<11>	<6>	<12>
Feature type		Burnt layer	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Gully	Burnt layer	Ditch	Ditch	Posthole	Ditch
Sample volume/ litres		1	3	2	7	15	2.5	5	7	0.25	7
TOTAL CHARRED PLANT COUNT		**19**	**11**	**62**	**332**	**56**	**347**	**317**	**1297**	**0**	**235**
Latin Name	**English Name/ Mollusc habitat**										
CEREAL GRAIN											
straight, hulled *Hordeum vulgare* L. grain	Hulled domesticated Barley grain						1				
hulled *Hordeum vulgare* L. grain	Hulled domesticated Barley grain			1		1	2		3		4
Hordeum vulgare L. grain	Domesticated Barley grain			4	6	5	1	4	13		18
Triticum cf. *spelta* L. grain	Spelt Wheat grain		1		6				14		10
Triticum dicoccum Schübl./ *spelta* L. grain	Emmer/Spelt Wheat grain	4	4	3	6	8	27	15	51		4
compact *Triticum* sp. grain	Free-threshing Wheat grain							5	8		
Triticum sp. grain	Wheat grain	4	1		5	3	10	9	46		11
Hordeum vulgare L./ *Triticum* sp. grain	Barley or Wheat grain			2		1					
Secale/Triticum sp. grain									2		
cereal indet. grain		5		10	9	7	16	19	25		22
cereal indet. embryo			1				1		2		
cereal indet. germinated embryo				1	2		3	2	14		
TOTAL GRAIN [excluding embryos]					32			52	162		69
CEREAL CHAFF											
Hordeum vulgare ssp. *vulgare* rachis internode	6-rowed Barley chaff				3 lax		1 lax				
Hordeum vulgare L. rachis internode	Domesticated Barley chaff						2 basal		1		2
Triticum dicoccum Schübl. glume base	Emmer Wheat chaff			1		1					1
Triticum spelta L. spikelet fork	Spelt Wheat chaff				2						
Triticum spelta L. glume base	Spelt Wheat chaff			7	87		11	9	12		4
Triticum dicoccum Schübl./ *spelta* L. spikelet fork	Emmer or Spelt Wheat chaff	1			8						1
Triticum dicoccum Schübl./ *spelta* L. glume base	Emmer or Spelt Wheat chaff	1		8	168	4	26	24	46		18
Triticum dicoccum Schübl./ *spelta* L. rachis internode	Emmer or Spelt Wheat chaff			3	8	1	2	2	8		
Triticum aestivum sensu lato rachis internode	Free-threshing hexaploid Wheat chaff			1 cf,							
free-threshing *Triticum* sp. rachis internode	Free-threshing Wheat chaff				2						
Triticum sp. rachis internode	Wheat chaff								1		2
TOTAL CHAFF ITEMS					278			35	68		28
OTHER ECONOMIC PLANT SEEDS											
Linum usitatissimum L.	Flax						1				

Table 1: Raw data from environmental bulk samples at the Twenty Pence Project (TPP12)

KEY: ‘s’ silicified rather than charred; ‘u’ untransformed, probably modern; ‘ch’ charred, when not a plant remain

For fragmentary or unquantified elements: * 1 or 2 items, + less than 10 items, ++ 10 to 50 items, +++ more than 50 items

Context		(921)	(923)	(925)	(926)	(937)	(941)	(942)	(943)	(954)	(958)
Sample Number		<1>	<8>	<9>	<13>	<7>	<3>	<10>	<11>	<6>	<12>
Feature type		Burnt layer	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Gully	Burnt layer	Ditch	Ditch	Posthole	Ditch
WILD PLANT SEEDS											
Ranunculus cf. *acris* L./*repens* L./*bulbosus* L.	*cf*. Meadow/Creeping/Bulbous Buttercup								1		
small *Ranunculus* sp. [<3mm]	small-seeded Buttercup						1		2		
Urtica dioica L.	Common Nettle								1		
Chenopodium album L.	Fat-hen										17
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots			2							
Atriplex prostrata Boucher ex DC./ *patula* L.	Spear-leaved/Common Orache				1	1	9	14	49		
Montia fontana ssp. *chondrosperma* (Fenzl) Walters	Blinks						1	3	2		
Stellaria media (L.) Vill.	Common Chickweed						1	2	5		2
Stellaria palustris Retz./ *graminea* L.	Marsh/Lesser Stitchwort						7	9	14		1
Stellaria uliginosa Murray	Bog Stichwort	1									
small *Stellaria* sp. [<1mm]	small-seeded Stitchworts							5			
small Caryophyllaceae indet. [<1mm]	small-seeded Pink Family								13		4
Persicaria maculosa Gray	Redshank					3			1		2
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass				2		11	6	10		1
Polygonum sp. kernel	Knotgrasses kernel							6	67		
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) Á. Löve	Black-bindweed								1		2
Rumex acetosella L.	Sheep's Sorrel						2		4		
Rumex sp.	Docks			1		2	9	7	20		
Rumex sp. kernel	Docks kernel							1			
Raphanus raphanistrum ssp. *raphanistrum* L. mericarp	Wild Radish seed-case segment				1	1					1
large Rosaceae indet. [>3mm]	large-seeded Rose Family						1				
large *Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp. [>4mm]	large-seeded Vetches/Peas/Garden Peas							1			
medium *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp. [3-4mm]	medium-seeded Vetches/Peas/Garden Peas			1	1	1	8	4	19		4
small *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp. [<3mm]	small-seeded Vetches/Peas/Garden Peas		1	3	2	5	14	13	54		13
large*Trifolium/Medicago* spp. [2-3mm]	large-seeded Clovers/Medicks							8	6		1
small *Trifolium* spp. [<1mm]	small-seeded Clovers						15	16	34		1
small Apiaceae indet. kernel [<3mm]	small-kernelled Carrot Family						5	1	3		
Lithospermum arvense L.	Field Gromwell						2s	1	5		
Prunella sp.	Selfheals								1		
Plantago lanceolata L.	Ribwort Plantain						2	1			
Odontites vernus (Bellardi) Dumort.	Red Bartsia			1		1	10	7	14		
Sherardia arvensis L.	Field Madder					1					1
Galium aparine L.	Cleavers			2			1	1	4		1
small *Galium* sp. [<2mm]	small-seeded Goosegrasses										2
Onopordum acanthium L.	Cotton Thistle						2				
Lapsana communis L.	Nipplewort							1			

Table 1 continued (second page)

Context		**(921)**	**(923)**	**(925)**	**(926)**	**(937)**	**(941)**	**(942)**	**(943)**	**(954)**	**(958)**
Sample Number		<1>	<8>	<9>	<13>	<7>	<3>	<10>	<11>	<6>	<12>
Feature type		Burnt layer	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Gully	Burnt layer	Ditch	Ditch	Posthole	Ditch
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Sch. Bip. seed-head	Scentless Mayweed seed-head								1 (5s)		3 (13s)
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Sch. Bip.	Scentless Mayweed	1	1			1	48	20	183		2
small Asteraceae indet. [<2mm]	small-seeded Daisy Family			2							2
Juncus sp.	Rushes						2		10		2
Eriophorum sp.	Cottongrasses										1
Eleocharis cf. *palustris* (L.) Roem. & Schult.	*cf*. Common Spike-rush			1	1	1	9 + 9s	13 + 2s	40 + 40s		21 + 2s
Cladium mariscus (L.) Pohl	Great Fen-sedge								1		
Carex paniculata L. [incl. whole fruit]	Greater Tussock-sedge								1		
small lenticular *Carex* spp. [<2mm]	small flat-seeded Sedges			1					2		
small trigonous *Carex* spp. [<2mm]	small triangular-seeded Sedges							1	5		1
Festuca spp.	Fescues						1				
Festuca/ Lolium sp.	Fescues/Rye-grasses							2	2		2
Poa spp.	Meadow-grasses						12	10	57		3
Avena sp.	Oats [wild or cultivated]				1		1	1	2		1
Phleum sp.	Cat's tails						11	3	15		4
Bromus hordeaceus L./ *secalinus* L.	Soft-brome/ Rye Brome			1	5		36	14	77		5
large Poaceae indet. [>4mm]	large-seeded Grass Family				6	3		21	127		8
medium Poaceae indet. [3-4mm]	medium-seeded Grass Family					1	6	6	9		2
small Poaceae indet. [< 2mm]	small-seeded Grass Family			1			1				
small seed indet. [<3mm]		2	2	5		3	26	28	149		16
TOTAL SEEDS					959			1180	2009		1108
OTHER QUANTIFIED PLANT PARTS											
cf. *Phragmites* sp. culm node	Reeds stem-joint								1		
cf. cereal indet. culm node	Cereal stem-joint [indicates straw]			1	2	1	1	2			
large Poaceae indet. culm node [>3 mm diam.]	Grass Family large stem-joint								3		
Poaceae indet. culm base with roots	Grass Family stem-base with roots								2		
small Poaceae indet. culm node [<3 mm diam.]	Grass Family small stem-joint						2		6		
TOTAL OTHER PLANT PARTS					2			2	12		0
CHARCOAL											
estimated volume charcoal/ millilitres		**< 1**	**< 1**	**1 ml.**	**2 ml.**	**3 ml.**	**< 1**	**1 ml.**	**< 1**	**< 1**	**1 ml.**
large charcoal [>4mm]				*		*	*	*			*
small charcoal [<4mm]		+	+	+++	+++	+++	+	++	+	*	++
- *Quercus* sp. charcoal [> 10cm]	Oak wood						*				*
charred concretion					*	*	*	*			
ashy silliceous material [grey]											*
concreted white ash with silica and mollusc shell inclusions											

Table 1 continued (third page)

Context		(921)	(923)	(925)	(926)	(937)	(941)	(942)	(943)	(954)	(958)
Sample Number		<1>	<8>	<9>	<13>	<7>	<3>	<10>	<11>	<6>	<12>
Feature type		Burnt layer	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Gully	Burnt layer	Ditch	Ditch	Posthole	Ditch
UNQUANTIFIED PLANT PARTS											
Cladium mariscus (L.) Pohl leaf fragments	Great Fen-sedge leaves								*		
Cyperaceae culm frag.	Sedge Family leaf fragment							*			
cereal indet. silicified awns	Cereal chaff 'hairs'								+++		
Monocot. culm fragment	Monocotyledonous stem fragment						++	+	++		
MOLLUSCS											
Lymnaea truncatula (Müller)	shallow waters & flooded pastures						+ ch	+ ch	++ ch		
Bithynia leachi (Sheppard)	quiet rivers & still but large waters								*		
Planorbis planorbis (L.)	ponds and ditches	*									
Anisus leucostoma Millet	seasonal ponds and ditches					*			+ ch		
Valvata cristata (Müller)	slow, muddy water with vegetation						* *ch				
Vertigo cf. *pygmaea* (Draparnaud)	dry, grassy places; occ. marshes			*					+ ch		
Pupilla muscorum (L.)	dry, exposed places	*	*					*	*		
Vallonia exentrica Sterki/ *pulchella* (Müller)	open, damp and/or dry habitats							+	+		
Vallonia costata (Müller)	open, dry habitats especially grassland								*		*
Helicella itala (L.)	open, dry habitats such as grassland				*						
Trichia hispida (L.) / *striolata*	catholic	*	*	+	++	*					
Aegopinella/ Oxychilus sp.	moist & shady places			*					*		
Vitrea sp.	moist & shady places							*	*		
OTHER BIOTA											
burnt bone fragments						*					
bone fragments					*	*					
small bone				*				*	* ch		
amphibian bone				+	*						
fish scale						+			*		
ostracod valve									*		
UNTRANSFORMED ITEMS, PROBABLY MODERN											
Urtica dioica L.	Common Nettle								* u		
Fumaria officinalis L.	Common Fumitory				* u						
Chenopodium album L.	Fat-hen		* u	* u				* u			
small *Trifolium* spp. [<1mm]	small-seeded Clovers								* u		
Sambucus nigra L.	Elder							* u			
roots		+++ u	++ u	++ u	+ u	+++ u	++ u	++ u	+ u	+ u	+ u

Table 1 continued (fourth and final page)

Annex V

Twenty Pence Project (TPP) 2011 - 2015

An overview of the small finds

Rodney Scarle

Small Finds

The numbers of entries made in the register of small finds were:-

Year	Number	
2011	156	(by metal detecting survey)
	32	(by excavation)
2012	23	(by excavation)
2013	12	(by excavation)
2014	4	(by excavation and metal detecting)

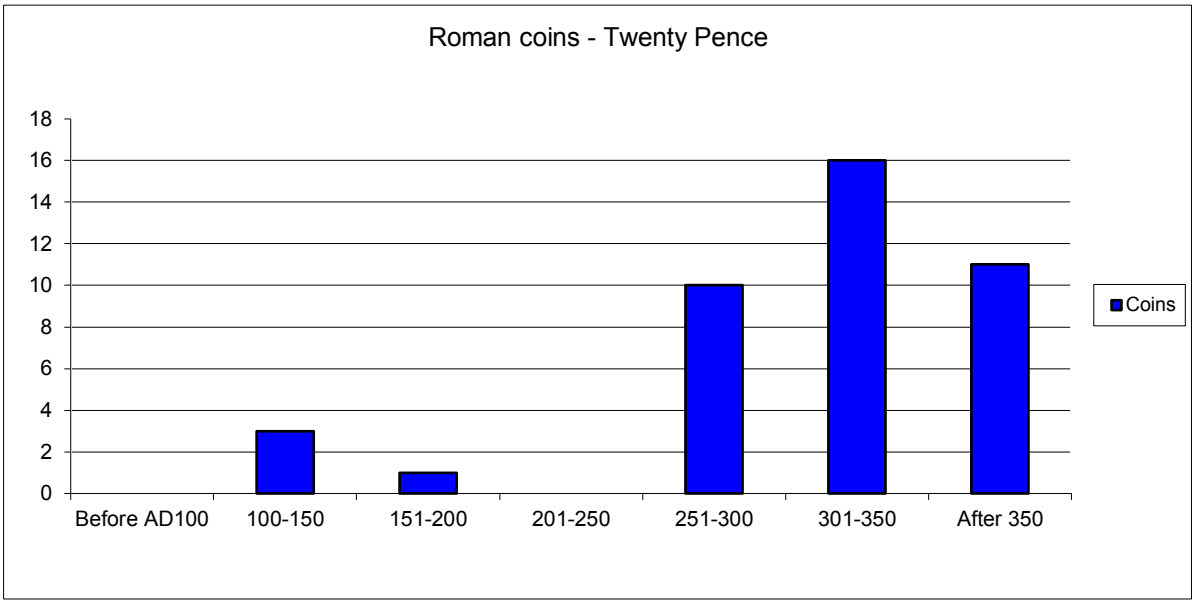
Note – a few items such as lumps of coal/charcoal and pottery sherds were initially recorded in the register but subsequently deemed not to warrant ‘small find’ status. These were not included in the above list.

Metal Items

Coins and tokens

Forty-six Roman coins, three jetons (all 16th-17th century rose/orb issues from Nuremberg) and a George III cartwheel penny were recovered by metal detection. A single coin (a George V penny, 1914) was found during excavations. The Roman coins were submitted to the Fitzwilliam museum for identification. The bronze or brass (copper alloy) coins were in a generally poor and corroded condition. There was a single silver coin, a denarius of Hadrian, AD 117-138 (obverse IMP.CAESAR.TRAIAN.HADRIANVS.AVG; reverse P.M.TR.P.COS.III.) in a better condition, although rather tarnished (see image 1). The date range distribution of these coins is given in figure 1. Coins from the late Roman period (late 3rd century and through the 4th century) predominated, with issues of the House of Constantine and House of Valentinian well represented. During the 4th century there was a flood of low value bronze coinage into the country. With a succession of economic crises in the Roman empire this coinage became virtually worthless with the result that large quantities of coins were just discarded on settlement sites like Twenty Pence. Indeed, one of the 4th century coins was pierced, suggesting reuse as a pendant. A period of flooding during the first half of the 3rd century may account for the absence of coins in this period, with possibly an interruption of settlement at this fen-edge location. However, this must be a tentative conclusion because the coin sample is small. Coins were found in detection survey areas A1 to A6, B1 to B6 and C1 to C3. Areas that yielded the greatest number were A6 – 9 coins, C1 – 5 coins, B1 – 4 coins and B2 – 4 coins.

The three post-medieval jetons are of the commonest type. Two are issues of guild master Hans Krauwinckel II and one an issue of guild master Wolff Lauffer II. It is generally considered that jetons were mainly used as counters on chequer boards.



2nd century: Hadrian – 1 coin, Faustina II – 1 coin, illegible – 2 coins
3rd century: radiates – 10 coins (of Gallienus, Carausius, Tetricus II and Claudius II)
4th century: House of Constantine – 15 coins, House of Valentinian – 7 coins, Magnentius – 2 coins

Plus other illegible coins whose period was deduced from size alone

Figure 1 Date range distribution of Roman coins

Brooches (fibulae)

Three copper alloy brooches dating to the second half of the first century were recovered. One was found during the 2011 test pit excavation and two were found during the 2014 area excavation. Dolphin-style brooch, small find SF 274, was intact with remains of the coiled hinge, but with no tail of the pin and some corrosion on the head. It has crosshatched incised decoration along the spine, three concentric grooves around each side of the head and a perforated catchplate with groove for the pin (see image 2). Brooch SF 504 is of Colchester-derivative style; the hinge and pin are missing. Brooch SF501 was badly corroded but also of dolphin or Colchester-derivative style.

Implements

Two copper alloy items of particular note were found by metal detection. SF 131 (82 mm long and 3 mm square-section with a forked head, one side rounded and one side more pointed) appears to be either a Roman stylus or nail cleaner (see image 3). SF 232 is a cast item, and bent. Length overall is 230 mm. The round-section handle (length 60 mm, diameter 6 mm) has a decorative moulding of three rings between it and the square-section shaft (3 – 4 mm). The end of the shaft is missing. It would probably have developed into a spoon or probe, providing a toilet, cosmetic or medical instrument of some kind (see image 4). Dating of this item within the Roman period is uncertain, but possibly may be 2nd century. Nina Crummy has reported similar items from excavations in Colchester (reference 1).

Miscellaneous

- 7 entries in the register for post-medieval copper alloy buttons
- 1 entry for copper alloy chain links (one section with 4 links, one section with 3 links and 2 broken links);
- 1 entry for a copper alloy item (SF 109) that is possibly half of a Roman bracelet (50 mm diameter and 5 mm thick)
- 1 entry for a copper alloy ring (SF 140 and 20 mm diameter), possibly a bridle ring of unknown period
- 1 entry for a copper alloy wheel (SF 118 and 23 mm diameter), which appears to be from a modern toy
- 1 entry for a diamond-shaped fragment of copper alloy (SF 295), possibly part of a harness decoration of unknown period
- 10 entries for cylindrical lead weights (diameter range 10.3 to 13 mm) that were identified as piano key weights and presumably of 19th to 20th century date
- 6 entries for lead musket balls (diameter range 11 to 15 mm)
- 1 entry for an iron ball bearing (10 mm diameter)
- 19 entries for iron nails or fragments thereof
- 6 entries for iron horseshoes or fragments thereof
- 1 entry for a key
- 2 entries for possible handle fragments, probably post-medieval
- 3 entries for lead waste
- Various corroded iron objects, probably from 19th to 20th century agricultural activity (including nut, washer and wire lengths).

Non-metallic Items

Thirty-eight entries in the register were made for non-metallic items, ignoring, variously, oyster shell, charcoal lumps, natural stone/flint and some pottery sherds with no particular features. These can be categorised as follows:-

- 8 entries for worked flint, taken to be residual in the plough soil and excavated contexts
- 11 entries for stone, as either worked stone fragments or spherical stones that may possibly have been used as slingshot. One Item could be a counter
- 3 entries for possible quern stone fragments
- 3 entries for whetstone/hone fragments
- 5 entries for worked bone
- 2 entries for clay pipe stem fragments, 17th to 19th century
- 1 entry for a perforated pottery sherd in a coarse, grey ware fabric (length 36 mm maximum, with seven perforations); part of a Roman straining vessel
- 1 entry for a Roman pot sherd reworked into a possible lid
- 2 entries for lumps of slag or metal working debris
- 1 entry for a ceramic gaming marble, possibly Victorian
- 1 entry for a fragment of Roman mortar, which was smooth on one surface.

Of particular note is part of a one-piece bone handle with an incised band of trellis decoration near the end (see image 5). Maximum length is 50 mm, width 16 mm and maximum thickness 10 mm. Corroded fragments of the tang of an iron knife blade survive in the handle. Such handles are generally of 3rd or 4th century date (reference 1).

Regarding the other entries for worked bone, there are two polished fragments with man-made holes. These may have been parts of burnishing tools, with the holes used for suspension. The other two fragments appear to be from pointed tools, possibly used for net mending, for example.

Of the whetstone/hone fragments, one piece, of a dark grey igneous material, has a groove, 4 mm deep and 6 mm wide, on one side. The purpose of the groove is unknown.

One of the shaped stone items (SF 407) appears to be a counter (ca. 15 mm square with plain, rough surfaces and the edges ground smooth). While most Roman counters were made from bone, broken pottery or glass, counters fashioned from stone are known (see reference 1 and image 6).

Finds Summary

The preponderance of 4th century coins is quite typical of Roman rural settlement sites in this region.

Generally, the assemblage gives no suggestion of any high status Roman lifestyle or clues about what particular activities and crafts were predominant on this site.

References

1. Colchester Archaeological Report 2: The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester, 1971 to 1979, Nina Crummy, 1983, ISBN 0 9503727 3 0.

Obverse

Reverse

Obv. – IMP. CAESAR. TRIAN. HADRIANVS. AVG
Rev. – P.M. TR. P. COS III

Image 1 Silver denarius of Hadrian

(a) front view (b) back view

Image 2 Dolphin-style brooch with its pin missing

Image 3 Roman stylus or nail cleaner

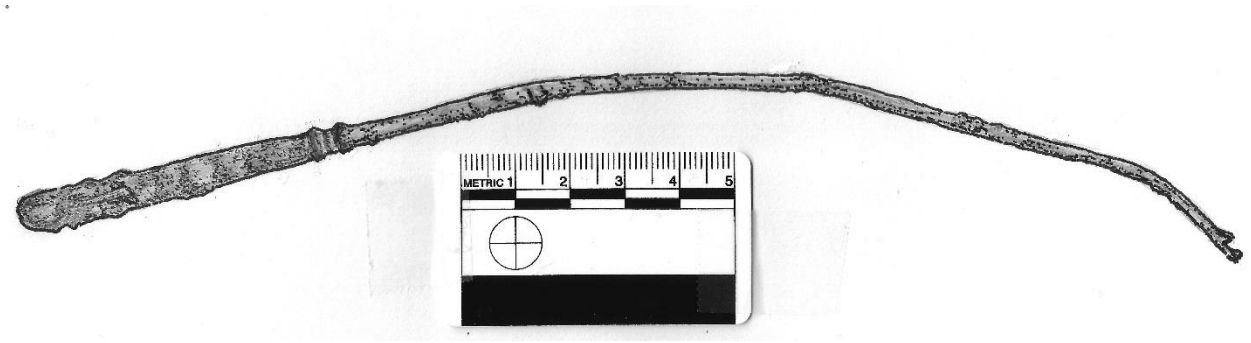
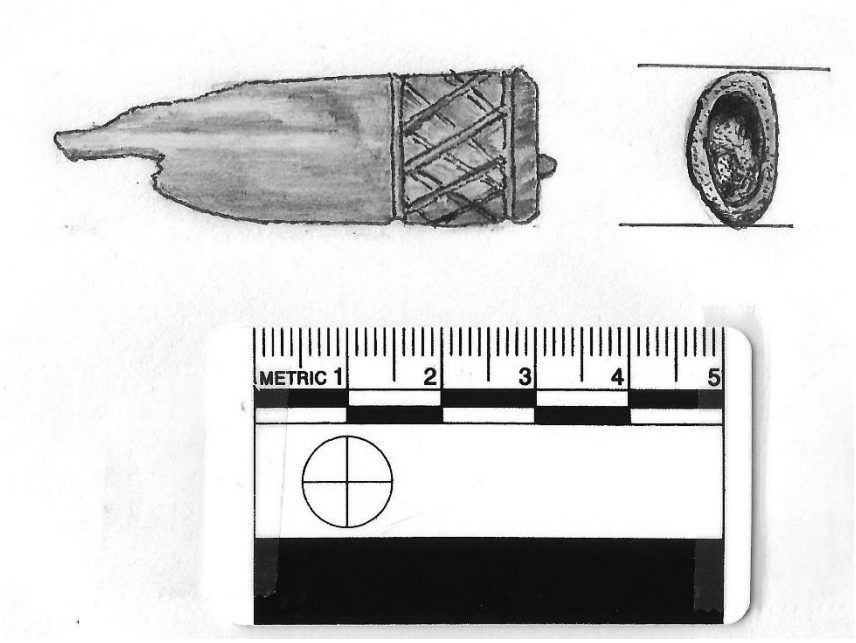


Image 4 Roman period cast bronze probe or ligula



The remains of the tang of the iron blade are visible in the section and the tip just protrudes from the end of the handle.

Image 5 Fragment of a Roman period decorated bone handle

Image 6 Small, shaped stone possibly used as a counter

Annex VI

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: fenedgea2-244831

Project details
Project name Twenty Pence Project Excavations 2011-15 Interim Report

Short description of the project The Twenty Pence Project site is adjacent to the scheduled site of Bullocks Haste Common near Cottenham, Cambridgeshire. This seems to have been a fairly modest, localised, small-scale agricultural site based on arable farming and animal husbandry exploiting animals for both meat and secondary products. There is little evidence for structures, trade, or industrial activities, though it is possible that local pottery production occurred not far away. The site was probably in use throughout the Roman period, though the features excavated to date suggest a possible focus in the second to third centuries. Despite the immediate presence of the Car Dyke, there is little evidence that it had much effect on local life. Post-excavation work is ongoing. The archaeological features exposed mainly relate to agricultural activities: large ditches which served to delineate property boundaries, drain the low-lying land, and contain livestock.

Project dates Start: 15-02-2011 End: 31-07-2014

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes ECB4282 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes TPP12 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes TPP13 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes TPP14 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes ECB3627 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes TPP11 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes ECB3814 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes ECB3869 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes ECB3996 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes ECB3997 - HER event no.

Type of project Research project

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed

Monument type SETTLEMENT Roman

Monument type DITCH Roman

Significant Finds BROOCH Roman

Significant Finds SHERD Roman

Significant Finds BEAD Roman

Significant Finds COIN Roman

Significant Finds BUTCHERED ANIMAL REMAINS Roman

Significant Finds CEREAL GRAIN Roman

Significant Finds SEEDS Roman

Investigation type "Aerial Photography - interpretation","Geophysical Survey","Open-area excavation","Part Excavation","Systematic Metal Detector Survey","Test-Pit Survey"

Prompt Research

Solid geology KIMMERIDGE CLAY

Drift geology RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS

Techniques Magnetometry

Techniques Resistivity - area

Project location
Country England
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE COTTENHAM Twenty Pence Project, Fairway

Postcode CB24 8PP

Study area 1 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 4692 6985 52.306667722228 0.155207141576 52 18 24 N 000 09 18 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 3.6m Max: 3.9m

Project creators
Name of Organisation Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Project brief originator Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Project design originator FEAG

Project director/manager Matt K Williams

Project supervisor John Stanford

Type of sponsor/funding body Local Arch. Society/Amateur Archaeologist

Name of sponsor/funding body CBA Mick Aston Memorial Fund, Cambridge Antiquarian Society

Project archives
Physical Archive recipient Cambs HER

Physical Contents "Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Animal Bones"

Physical Archive notes Temporarily retained in Fen Edge Archaeology Group storage facility

Digital Archive recipient Cambs HER

Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Survey"

Digital Media available "Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey"

Digital Archive notes Temporarily retained by Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Paper Archive recipient Cambs HER

Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Paper Archive notes Temporarily retained by Fen Edge Archaeology Group

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Twenty Pence Project Excavations 2011-2015 Interim Project Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Williams, MK; Stanford, JK; Gordon, DC; Scarle, RD; Calkin, DW

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