



CAM ARC Report Number 996

Prehistoric Activity at Hinchingsbrooke Sports Ground, Huntingdonshire Regional College, (Land Adjacent to Hinchingsbrooke Constabulary)

An Archaeological Evaluation

Daniel Wheeler

February 2008

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Hinchingsbrooke Sports Ground,
Huntingdonshire Regional
College, (Land Adjacent to
Hinchingsbrooke Constabulary)**

An Archaeological Evaluation

Daniel Wheeler BA

With contributions by Matt Brundell BA and
Rachel Fosberry

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Author	Daniel Wheeler		
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Editor: Mark Hinman BA (Hons), MIFA
Illustrator: Séverine Bézie BA MA

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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Evaluation at Hinchingsbrooke Sports Ground, Huntingdonshire Regional College, (Land Adjacent to Hinchingsbrooke Constabulary), Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire			
Short description	Evaluation revealed a small assemblage of Neolithic flint work, Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery and a range of features dateable to the Iron Age and Roman periods. These pits, postholes and boundary ditches suggest this area perhaps on the edge of a larger focus of settlement			
Project dates	Start	3/12/07	End	13/12/07
Previous work	no		Future work	unknown
Associated project reference codes	CAM ARC site code: STU CON 07 HER Event number: ECB2798			
Type of project	Evaluation: Sample trenches, School, PPG16, pre planning			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Playing fields			
Planned development	College sports facilities			
Monument types / period (list all that apply and use thesaurus of monument types)				
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply and use MDA object thesaurus)	Prehistoric ceramic and lithics			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	The Stukeleys	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Hinchingsbrooke Sports Ground, Huntingdonshire Regional College, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 6NP			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	28615sq m			
National grid reference	TL 22735 71795			
Height OD	Max OD	24.24m	Min OD	22.65m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	Cambridgeshire County Council, CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec			
Project design originator	Mark Hinman			
Director/supervisor	Dan Hounsell			
Project manager	Mark Hinman			
Sponsor or funding body	DH Barford & Co, Agent			
ARCHIVES	Location and accession number	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)		
Physical	CAM ARC STORES	Pottery, animal bone, flint, 1 coin		
Paper	CAM ARC STORES	Context sheets, site plans, section drawings		
Digital	CAM ARC STORES	Network files, pdf report		
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Summary

Between the 3rd and 13th December 2007 CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Hinchbrook Constabulary in advance of the proposed development of sports facilities for Huntingdonshire Regional College.

Fourteen trenches of 50m long and one of 25m were excavated. Evaluation revealed a small assemblage of Neolithic flint work, Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery and a range of features dateable to the Iron Age. These pits, postholes and boundary ditches suggest this area perhaps on the edge of a larger focus of settlement to the west and the results accord well with the results of the Bob's Wood excavations to the north.

Later activity is indicated by finds from the Roman and Medieval periods, but these are likely evidence of occupation in the wider environment. Truncation in the modern period has removed significant archaeological remains from those trenches within the western portion of the development area.

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1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application Aug 20,2007) supplemented by a Specification prepared by Mark Hinman of CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire county stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

This site is located approximately 2km to the northwest of the Huntingdon / Godmanchester crossing of the River Great Ouse, at the eastern end of a Boulder Clay-capped land ridge to the north of the braded river system of the Great Ouse. The land rises here to approximately 20m OD.

The site has been significantly landscaped in modern times leaving a consistently mid brown, friable, silty layer of re-laid topsoil across each trench and a thick clay layer of remade ground sporadically across the site. Such reworking is likely a result of the construction of the hospital to the west and results in much disturbance of the original topsoil, subsoil and other buried horizons

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric and Roman

The site lies immediately southeast of an area of substantial archaeological activity, which has been subjected to excavations by the Archaeological Field Unit (now CAM ARC) of Cambridgeshire County Council between 1997 and 2007. These investigations are known collectively as the Bob's Wood excavations (CHER ECB219, Hinman, M. 1997, 2000 and 2004). Additional investigations undertaken within the remit of the Bob's Wood Project include excavations at

Hinchingbrooke Parkway, (Fletcher, 2004) and Christie Drive (Howe, 2007). These projects identified the presence of significant archaeological remains dating to the later prehistoric and Roman periods in the area.

An additional minor investigation conducted to the north of the proposed development area failed to reveal remains similar or relating to the Bob's Wood settlement and activity (Kay, E. 2007). However, excavations at this Business Park site were limited and may not be indicative of a true break in the archaeological activity. A Roman burial was found immediately south of the development area (CHER 02586).

3.2 Medieval

The site was situated very close to Hinchingbrooke House, which dates to the 16th century and occupies the site of the former Hinchingbrooke Priory, Haigh, 1988, (CHER 02707). The development area thus lies within an area of high archaeological potential

4 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

Machine excavation was undertaken with a 360° tracked mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision, using a toothless ditching bucket. The trial trenching comprised 15 trenches totalling 725m, 14 of which were 50m in length, with an additional 25m trench (Trench 15).

The trenches were cleaned and excavated by hand. All features were mapped onto a base plan (at 1:50) and then tied in to the ordnance survey grid using a GPS Total Station. The survey data will be made available in digital format for transfer to the Heritage Environment Record (HER) GIS system.

Exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CAM ARC's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Environmental samples were processed by CAMARC and analysed by the environmental supervisor Rachel Fosberry.

In the trenches in the south-western extent of the site, particularly trenches 2,3 and 4, the water table was reached approximately 0.2m below the natural geology, making excavation conditions difficult

5 Results

Archaeological features were present in all but four of the trenches (1, 8,9,15) and of low density / uncertain significance in trenches 2, 10 and 11.

5.1 Deposit model

This area has been drastically landscaped in recent years leaving much of the original subsoil disturbed or removed entirely. The impact of landscaping on underlying archaeological deposits was most apparent on the north-western portion of the development area. The whole site was covered with a garden-like topsoil consisting of a mid brown, friable, silt. In trenches 4, 13 and 14 this is underlain by a similar modern subsoil. A thick layer of clay make-up was found sporadically across the site (Trenches 2,3,10 and 13) and was often squashed into the top of features, presumably by heavy plant activity during the construction of the nearby hospital. A post-Medieval colluvial subsoil was present in trenches 1 and 2 and the western ends of 8 and 9. A dark orangish-brown silty clay subsoil was present in trenches 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 15. Trenches 5 and 6 had been re-landscaped so heavily that the re-laid topsoil lay directly atop the natural.

The natural geology varied across the site. Along the western extent it was a heavy blue clay which turned more gravelly towards the east. In the east it was almost entirely gravel. The centre and southern part of the site comprised a more silty, glacially modified clay.

See Appendix 1 for a summary of these deposits.

5.2 Trench 1

This trench contained no archaeological features or finds.

5.3 Trench 2

A medieval furrow (**206**) was noted. This demonstrated a wide U-shaped profile, shallow concave sides and concave base. The furrow was 0.55m wide and 0.03m deep and ran along the length of the trench. It was filled by 207, a soft, mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional large stone inclusions. This furrow ran on the same alignment as a preserved fragment of a ridge and furrow system which were still partially visible to the north of the site.

At the south-western end of the trench the furrow cut through a sub-circular tree-bowl (**204**).

5.4 Trench 3

Archaeological features were spread across the trench, with a high concentration toward the south-eastern end. Finds recovered from the base of the sub soil 304 at this location included a sherd of prehistoric pottery and Roman material. See sections 48, 49, 78, 79 and 80 (Fig 4) in conjunction with plan of trench 3 (Fig 2).

In the south-eastern end of the trench, emerging from the north-eastern side was a curvilinear ditch (**318**, **352**) with steep, sharply-breaking sides and a flat base. This feature was typically 0.96m wide, 0.38m deep and was filled with 317 (basal), 316 and 315 (upper). This ditch ran for approximately 3m, curving to the north and then terminated. Fill 317 contained Early Roman pottery and 316 yielded Post-Medieval pot and tile as well as animal bone. The ditch terminus (**352**) contained a single fill (351) which produced ceramic building material, flint and Roman pottery.

Ditch **352** was truncated on its western side by another linear ditch (**350**) which ran roughly east-west for 3.3m and had concave and moderately steep sides, a rounded base and a wide U-shaped profile. It was 0.84m wide and 0.24m deep and contained fills 348 and 349. Found in 348 were ceramic building material, animal bone and residual early Neolithic flint. The end of ditch **350** was truncated on its south-western side by pit **355**, sub circular in plan with concave moderately-steep sides, a rounded base and a wide U-shaped profile. This pit was 1.16m in diameter and 0.32m deep and had a single fill (356) containing ceramic building material, fired clay and animal bone of uncertain date. Pit **355** was truncated on its southern extent by ditch segment **357** also recognised as **314**) which ran north-west to south-east for 4.25m along the south-western trench edge. This ditch had concave and steep sides, a rounded base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.26m wide and 0.18m deep and contained a single fill (358), which included residual Medieval pottery. Because of the position of this ditch against the trench baulk, it was difficult to determine its full extent and dimensions and therefore its definition as a ditch segment is questionable. The far end of ditch segment **314** was excavated and contained a single fill (313)

In the far south-eastern end of the trench was located an irregularly-shaped pit (**325**) with gentle, gradual-breaking sides and an irregular base. It was 1.05m wide, 1.8m long and 0.35m deep and was filled by 324. 324 contained Medieval pottery, window glass, ceramic tile and iron slag. Pit (**325**) was truncated on its south-western side by another pit (**323**) of sub-circular shape and gentle, gradual-breaking sides. The pit extended beyond the south-western baulk and therefore the shape

of its profile and base were unable to be completely determined. It was 0.47m wide and 0.21m deep and was filled with 322 and 321. Pit **323** also truncated ditch **350** on its southern extent.

Pit **320** was located in the centre of these features, truncated by pit **323** and ditch **350** to its south-east, but truncated pit **325** on its eastern side. Pit **320** had an uncertain shape and profile with steep sharply-breaking sides and a flat base. It was 1.05m wide (as seen) and 0.35m deep and contained a single fill 319 which included Medieval ceramic building material and pottery as well as animal bone.

A small pit or posthole (**354**) was located against the north-eastern baulk in the south-eastern end of the trench. It was sub-circular in shape with concave and shallow sides, a flat base and a shallow U-shaped profile. It was 0.32m wide against the baulk and 0.10m deep and contained a single fill (353). Approximately 1.5m to the north-east was located a post hole (**360**), circular in shape with concave moderately steep sides, a rounded base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.40m in diameter and 0.14m deep and contained a single fill (362). Pit **359** was immediately to the west of **360** and was sub-circular in shape with steep sharply-breaking concave sides, a flat base and had a square U-shaped profile. It was typically 0.69m in diameter and 0.18m deep and had a single fill 361 which contained flint and animal bone.

The centre of trench 3 contained a series of ephemeral features. There was a small cluster of irregular-shaped features towards the south-eastern end of the trench, including pit **306**. This was of semi-circular shape and lay against the trench edge, had gentle concave sides, a flat base and a U-shaped profile. It measured 0.77m wide and 0.09m deep and had a single fill (305). Pit **308** was nearby to the south and was circular in shape with gentle concave sides and an irregular base. It was 0.52m in diameter and 0.08m deep and contained a single fill (307). Truncating **308** was an irregular-shaped curvilinear feature (**310**) which had concave moderately-steep sides, a concave base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.40m wide, 1.9m long and 0.08m deep and contained a single fill (309). Running east-west to the south of this cluster was a curvilinear ditch (**312**) with steep concave sides and a flat base. It was 0.56m wide, 3m long and 0.18m deep. Fill 311 contained a single piece of undiagnostic pottery.

Feature **329** appeared in plan to be a broad, east – west aligned ditch although excavation revealed fill 328, containing later Roman ceramics, to be part of an old land surface preserved within a naturally formed hollow.

Another small cluster of features were located in the centre of the trench including **327**, a possible linear ditch emerging from the south-western trench edge and running south-west to north-east for approximately 1.25m before terminating. This ditch had gentle gradually-breaking sides with a rounded base and a wide U-shaped

profile. It was 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep and had a single fill (326) which contained a Roman coin of C1st-2nd date. Post hole **331** was approximately 2m to the north-west and was sub-circular in shape with near-vertical sides, a step on the south-west edge a flat base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.4m in diameter and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (330). Nearby to the north-west was located pit **333** which was sub-circular in shape with gentle gradually-breaking sides, a rounded base and a bowl-shaped profile. It was typically 0.45m in diameter and 0.1m deep and contained a single fill (332). A similar example (**339**) was found approximately 3m to the north with a sub-circular shape, gentle gradually-breaking sides, an irregular base and an irregular profile. It was 0.48m in diameter and 0.1m deep with a single fill (338). Immediately to the south-west were intercutting pits **335** and **337**. Pit **337** was the earliest and was sub-circular in shape with steep sharp-breaking sides, a flat base and wide U-shaped profile. It was 0.4m in diameter and 0.15m deep and had a single fill (336). Truncating it on its west side was pit **335** which was circular in shape with gentle sharp-breaking sides, a flat base and a wide U-shaped profile. It was 0.8m across and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (334). 334 included possibly Roman ceramic building material, animal bone and Post-Medieval pottery.

Towards the western limit of the trench the natural geology had been disturbed by a combination of root action and previous machine disturbance. Despite this some later Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from a remnant sub soil layer 340, and middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch fill 343 (or possible roundhouse gully) terminal **344**. Small pit **342**, filled by mid grey sandy clay 341 was also present at this end of the trench.

5.5 Trench 4

This trench contained four undated ditches.

Linear ditch **403** (also noted as **406**) was located in the north-western end of the trench oriented north-east to south-west and had moderately-steep sides of irregular shape with a rounded base (Section 27, Fig 4). It was 0.96m wide, 2m long and 0.38m deep and contained fill 404, a firm, mid-orange, sandy clay with occasional inclusions of gravel and manganese, suggesting a water-borne deposition. Above this was fill 405, a firm, mid-grey, sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions resulting from the breakdown of the sides during disuse. As this ditch moved south-westwards across the trench it began to widen or possibly split into two and was recorded as **406** in the opposite trench edge (Section 38, Fig 4). Here it has shallow concave sides and a rounded base and measures 1.70m wide and 0.56m deep. It has two fills 407 and 408, which were the same as 404 and 405 respectively. 408 contained a single fragment of large mammal bone.

Ditch **403/406** was truncated by ditch **409**, aligned east-west. It had concave moderately-steep sides with a rounded base and a U-shaped profile. It was 1.32m wide, 3m long and 0.40m deep and contained a single fill 410 which was a firm, mid-grey, sandy clay with frequent large flint and small gravel inclusions. 410 included a possibly Iron Age flint flake.

In the centre of the trench ran linear ditch **411** on a north-south alignment. It had moderately-steep straight sides with a rounded V-shaped base and a general V-shaped profile. It measured 1.40m wide, 2.3m long and 0.50m deep and had a single fill 412 which was a firm, mid-grey, sandy clay with occasional large flint inclusions. 412 contained a large piece of ceramic building material.

At the south-eastern end of the trench was located linear ditch **413** which had slightly concave and shallow sides, a rounded base and a wide U-shaped profile. It was 1.00m wide, 2m long and 0.26m deep and contained a single fill 414 which was a firm, mid-grey, sandy clay with occasional rounded gravel inclusions.

5.6 Trench 5

This trench contained two undated pits and a posthole of possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date.

Pit **503** was located against the south-east trench edge and was sub-circular in shape with moderately-steep concave sides and a flat base. It was 0.94m in diameter (as seen) and 0.44m deep and contained two fills. Fill 508 in the base of **503** was a moderately-compact, purplish red sand with occasional rounded stone and manganese inclusions. Overlying this was 502, a cemented white sandy clay with frequent angular stone inclusions.

Pit **505** was also against the south-east trench baulk and was sub-circular in shape with moderately-steep convex sides and a flat base. It was 0.77m in diameter (as seen) and 0.16m deep and contained fill 504 which was a very compact, mid-brown sandy clay with frequent angular stone inclusions.

Posthole **507** was located towards the south-west end of the trench and was circular in shape with steeply sloping sides, an uneven base and a V-shaped profile. It was 0.49m in diameter and 0.34m deep and contained a single fill 506 which was a moderately-loose, mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones. 506 contained pottery of possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date.

5.7 Trench 6

Trench 6 contained a significant series of Neolithic and late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pits and post holes, mainly concentrated around the northern end of the trench.

A small posthole **603** was located in the far north of the trench. Ovular in shape, it had moderately-steep concave sides, a concave base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.25m in diameter, 0.08m deep and contained fill 602, a moderately-loose, dark greyish brown clay silt.

Approximately 10m to the south was a cluster of four small pits (**605**), (**608**), (**610**) and (**612**). **605** was sub-circular in shape with gentle concave sides, a concave base and a shallow U-shaped profile. It was 0.70m in diameter and 0.13m deep and contained fill 604; a moderately-compact, mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

Pit **608** was sub circular in plan with moderately-steep concave sides, a flattish base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.70m wide, 2.05m long and 0.27m deep and contained two fills. Base fill 607 was a hard, mid-reddish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions, which also included worked flint and Neolithic pottery. Upper fill 606 was a moderately-compact, mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions and intrusive material including Roman pottery, modern cinder and coal. Pit **610** was circular in shape with moderately-steep concave sides, a flat sloping base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.65m in diameter and 0.23m deep and contained fill 609; a compact, mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. Pit **612** was ovular in shape with gentle straight sides, moderately-steep concave sides, a flat sloping base and an irregular U-shaped profile. It was 0.70m in diameter and 0.13m deep and contained fill 611; a moderately-compact, mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and charcoal inclusions.

Pit **614** was located in the south end of the trench against the western side. It was circular in shape with moderately-steep, slightly-convex sides and an irregular base. The pit measured 1.40m across, 0.36m deep and contained fill 613; a compact, mid-brownish grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. 613 also included two degraded pottery sherds of possible Neolithic or late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, flint and fired clay.

5.8 Trench 7

Feature **705** was located against the south-western edge of the trench and was therefore its shape and function were difficult to determine. It appeared to be linear in shape on a north-west to south-east alignment with gradual concave sides and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.90m wide as seen and 0.41m deep with two fills 704 and 703. Base fill 704 was a

moderately-compact, light brownish grey silty clay which contained four small sherds of pottery ranging from Early Bronze age to Later Iron age dates. Overlying this was 703; a moderately-compact, mid-greyish brown silty clay. 703 contained some degraded pot sherds of Mid/Later Iron Age date.

Next to **705** were three postholes; **707** (0.20m in diameter, 0.19m deep), **709** (0.32m in diameter, 0.08m deep) and **711** (0.27m in diameter, 0.09m deep). Each was circular in shape with concave sides and a rounded base and contained the fills 706, 708 and 710 respectively. These fills were moderately-compact, mid-greyish brown silty clays.

Postholes **713**, 0.32m in diameter, 0.1m deep and **715**, 0.21m in diameter, 0.16m were located within the northern half of the trench. Both were circular in shape with concave sides and a rounded base and contained the fills 712 and 714 respectively. These fills were moderately-compact, mid-greyish brown silty clays

5.9 Trench 8

This trench contained no archaeological features or finds.

5.10 Trench 9

This trench contained no archaeological features or finds.

5.11 Trench 10

Ditch **1004** aligned north-west to south-east was present in the centre of the trench. It had near vertical straight sides, a flat base and a square profile and was 0.20m wide and 0.10m deep. There were no finds in the fill of this feature (1005) and it is likely to be modern.

5.12 Trench 11

Ditch **1109** truncated pit **1111** at the southern end of the trench. The ditch was 0.25m wide, 3.2m long and 0.05m deep but the fill of the ditch (1110), lacking in finds, appeared modern. The pit was circular with shallow concave sides and a wide U-shaped profile. It was 0.57m in diameter and 0.12m deep and contained 1112, a compact, dark orangish brown silty clay with frequent manganese and charcoal inclusions.

Further to the north there was a cluster of three pits; **1103** which was 0.22m in diameter and 0.05m deep, **1105** which was 0.40m in diameter and 0.08m deep and **1107** which was 0.55m in diameter and 0.07m deep. Each was typically sub-circular and shallow and contained fills 1104, 1106 and 1108 which were also compact, dark orangish brown silty clays with frequent manganese and charcoal inclusions. Fill 1104

contained 3 sherds of pottery ranging in date from possible Neolithic to early Iron Age.

5.13 Trench 12

Trench 12 contained a number of features including a ditch dateable to the later Iron Age and one containing Roman pottery.

At the western end, linear ditch **1227**, aligned north-east to south-west. It had steep concave sides and a flat base. It was 1.10m wide, 2.6m long and 0.23m deep and contained fills 1226 and 1225. 1225 included Iron Age worked flint and Middle/late Iron Age pottery

Ditch **1229**, parallel to **1227** on its eastern side extended for 2.05m and then terminated. It was 0.75m wide and 0.26m deep with a similar profile to **1227**. Fill 1228 contained Medieval pottery

Further east, **1231** was a circular pit with steep concave sides and a rounded base. It was 0.60m in diameter and 0.25m deep and contained fill 1230.

Towards the centre of the trench ditch terminus **1222** cut a small pit (**1224**). The ditch had straight steep sides and a concave base. It was 0.75m wide, 0.9m long and 0.25m deep and contained fill 1221. Pit **1224** was circular with concave sides and base and measured 0.30m in diameter and 0.17m deep. It contained fill 1221.

Two larger pits were located in the centre of the trench. Pit **1217** was kidney-shaped with straight, steep sides and a concave base. It was 0.70m wide, 2.05m long and 0.42m deep and contained fill 1218. Pit **1220** was circular with shallow straight sides and a flat base. It was 1.45m in diameter and 0.08m deep and contained fill 1219.

In the east end of the trench was a small group of features clustered around two inter-cutting ditch termini. Linear ditch **1208**, the earlier and was aligned roughly north-south into the trench. It had straight, moderately-steep sides with a concave base. It measured 1.10m wide and 0.30m deep and contained fills 1213 and 1207. Ditch **1208** was truncated on the northern edge of its terminus by ditch **1206** which seemed to run southwards into the trench on the same alignment. It was either linear or curvilinear in shape and had concave, moderately-steep sides, a concave base and was 0.70m wide and 0.14m deep. It contained fill 1205 which included Roman pottery

Surrounding these two ditch terminuses are four small pits, all of which have similar elliptical shapes and shallow U-shaped profiles. Pit **1212** was typically 0.56m in diameter and 0.25m deep, contained 1211 and appeared to be truncated slightly by ditch **1208**, although this was difficult to determine absolutely. Pit **1210** was 0.42m wide, 0.60m long and 0.13m deep and contained fill 1209. Pit **1215** was 0.55m wide,

0.65m long and 0.12m deep and contained fill 1214. The size and proximity of these three pits makes them appear contemporary. On the other side of ditches **1208** and **1206** there was another pit (**1204**). It was 0.65m wide and 0.09m deep and contained fill 1203

5.14 Trench 13

Trench 13 contained a single linear ditch (**1303**) running north to south through the centre of the trench. It had straight, sharp sides with a flat base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.76m wide, 2m wide and 0.35m deep and contained fills 1304 and 1305, both of which had a modern disturbed appearance.

5.15 Trench 14

In the southern of the trench was pit **1402**, sub circular in plan with irregular shallow sides and an irregular base. It was 0.75m wide, 2.48m long and 0.34m deep and had a friable, light grey, sand fill (1403). It's shape and irregular base and sides perhaps suggest this may have been a tree-throw.

Pit **1414** located at the northern end of the trench was sub circular in plan with concave shallow sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.83m wide, 1.60m long and 0.20m deep and contained a firm, mid-orange yellow, clay sand fill (1415).

Three 2.5m long linear ditches aligned north-west to south-east in the centre of the trench were; **1404** which had then been re-cut as **1408** which itself was later reworked as **1412** (Section 38, Fig 4).

Ditch **1404** had straight, moderately-steep sides, a rounded base and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.82m wide and 0.44m deep and contained three fills. The lowermost fill (1405) was a firm, mid-blue/orangish sandy clay which underlay 1406; a friable, dark orange clay sand with occasional manganese inclusions. Atop this was a firm, mid-orange sandy clay with frequent inclusions of gravel (1407).

Ditch **1408** was clearly re-cut along the same alignment as 1404 on its north-eastern edge (fig 1). It had the same profile as **1404** but with more concave sides and its three fills (1409), (1410) and (1411) were identical to the fills of **1404** and presumably formed in the same way.

Ditch **1412** is then later reworked into the north-eastern edge of **1408** although, at 0.86m wide and 0.22m with a shallow rounded profile, it represent a reduction in the significance of the boundary. The lack of finds within these ditches suggests that they represent field system boundaries away from the domestic core of the settlement.

5.16 Trench 15

This trench contained no archaeological features or finds.

6 Discussion

An earlier prehistoric presence is poorly represented on the clay uplands in this locale despite the presence of significant concentrations of activity on the gravel terraces of the River Ouse. Within the immediate vicinity of the site evidence for utilisation of the uplands currently consists one single pit of earlier Neolithic date and a varied assemblage of residual worked flint recovered from later contexts during the Bobs Wood excavations (Hinman, 2005). The sporadic evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity revealed as a result of evaluation on land adjacent to Hinchingsbrooke Constabulary may therefore prove highly significant.

Dating of all features was hampered by the small assemblage and pottery sherd size combined with the absence of readily diagnostic forms (*c.f.* Brundell, Appendix 2).

The earliest activity on the site was a cluster of small, heavily truncated pits at the northern end of Trench 6 (including pit **608**) which appear to be of earlier Neolithic date. The presence of residual flint and pottery within buried soil layers 304 and 340 within Trench 3 may indicate domestic occupation. Pits **1105** (Trench 11) and **614** (Trench 6) containing pottery dateable exclusively to the late Neolithic / early Bronze Age period may invite parallels with four similar pits found during the excavation at Bob's Wood to the west (Fletcher, 2004).

The evaluation has identified the presence of Iron Age activity in this area. Much of this evidence takes the form of small sporadic clusters of features, mostly pits and postholes. Ceramics spanning the period appear present with material from the late Bronze Age / earlier Iron Age recovered from pit **507** (Trench 5) and feature **705** (Trench 7), middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from layer 340 and ditch **344** in Trench 3 and later Iron Age pottery was recovered from the southernmost end of Trench 3 and from ditch **1227** in Trench 12.

The presence of earlier Iron Age material is interesting and has not been recovered from other sites in the vicinity. The range of features present may indicate the presence of habitation nearby but the evaluation results are not conclusive. The boundary ditches in the south of the site may represent the edge of field systems or enclosures for farming. The repeated abandonment and reuse of ditch **1404** (undated) may be indicative of the general movement and refocusing of habitation in and around this area.

The presence of highly abraded Roman and Medieval pottery and CBM in small quantities are likely to indicate a low level of (presumably agricultural) activity in this area during either period. A combination of Medieval ploughing, evident from the furrow found in Trench 2 and the extant ridge and furrow that survive to the north of the site, and the high amount of modern disturbance has meant that some cross-period contamination was unavoidable. Ground works which are assumed to relate to the construction of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital have clearly had an adverse effect on the survival of archaeological deposits on that part of the proposed development area adjacent to the boundary with that site.

7 Conclusions

The evaluation has identified evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval activity in this vicinity.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No.	Context type	Description	Finds	Samples
101	Layer	Topsoil		
102	Layer	Subsoil		
103	Layer	Natural		
200	Layer	Topsoil		
201	Layer	Redeposited clay		
202	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Med. Pot and tile Oyster shell	
203	Layer	Natural		
204	Cut	Tree throw. Sub-circular. Irregular sides. Irregular base		
205	Fill	Mid brownish-yellow. Firm. Silty clay. Occasional charcoal and manganese		
206	Cut	Furrow. Linear. Shallow sides. Rounded base		
207	Fill	Mid yellowish-brown. Soft. Silty clay. Large stone inclusions		
300	Layer	Topsoil		
301	Layer	Subsoil		
302	Layer	Remade clay		
303	Layer	Natural		
304	Layer	Subsoil/Buried soil	1 Neo. or LBA/EIA flint-tempered pot sherd. 3 Roman 2nd-4th AD pot sherd 1 Flint flake 1 Bone fragment 1 Fe fragment	
305	Fill	Yellowish brown. Moderately Loose. Silty clay. Frequent stones		
306	Cut	Pit. Circular. Concave sides. Flat base		
307	Fill	Yellowish grey. Mod. Loose. Clay sand. Frequent stones		
308	Cut	Pit. Irregular linear shape. Concave sides. Concave base		
309	Fill	Yellowish brown. Mod. Compact. Clay sand. Frequent stones		
310	Cut	Pit. Circular. Concave sides. Round base		
311	Fill	Mid brown. Mod. Tough. Silty clay. Moderately frequent stones	1 IA pot sherd	
312	Cut	Ditch. Linear/curvilinear shape. Steep, concave sides. Flat base		
313	Fill	Mid yellowish brown. Mod. Loose. Sandy clay. Mod. Frequent stones		
314	Cut	Ditch/gully. Irregular linear shape. Concave sides. Flat base		

315	Fill	Mid brownish grey. Soft. Silty sand. Rare gravel		
316	Fill	Pale yellowish brown. Compact. Clay. Rare chalk and gravel	1 Post-Med Tile 1 Post-Med pot sherd 1 Bone fragment	
317	Fill	Mid grey brown. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Occasional gravel	1 Roman 1st-2nd AD pot sherd	
318	Cut	Curvilinear ditch. Uncertain shape. Steep sides, Flat base		
319	Fill	mid-dark brownish grey. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Occasional gravel	1 Medieval pot sherd Post-Med brick and tile 1 bone fragment	
320	Cut	Pit. Uncertain shape. Steep sides. Flat base		
321	Fill	Dark brownish grey. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Occasional gravel		
322	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Rare gravel		
323	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular. Gentle sides. Uncertain base		
324	Fill	Mid-dark brownish grey. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Frequent gravel	1 Medieval tile	
325	Cut	Pit. Irregular shape. Gentle sides. Irregular base		
326	Fill	Dark-mid brownish grey. Compact. Silty sand. Occasional gravel	1 Roman coin C1-2	
327	Cut	Ditch. Linear shape. Gentle sides		
328	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Occasional gravel	1 Roman 2nd-4th AD tile 2 Bone fragments	
331	Cut	Posthole. Sub-circular. Vertical sides. Flat base		
332	Fill	Dark-mid brownish grey. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Rare gravel		
333	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular, gentle sides. Rounded base		
334	Fill	Mid brownish grey. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Rare gravel, rare charcoal	1 Post-Med tile 1 Possible Roman tile	
335	Cut	Pit. Circular. Gentle sides. Flat base.		
336	Fill	Mid brownish grey. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Rare flint		
337	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular. Steep sides. Flat base		
338	Fill	Mid-dark brownish grey. Mod. Compact. Silty sand. Rare gravel		
339	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular. Gentle sides. Irregular base		
348	Fill	Dark grey. Firm. Sandy clay. Very occasional gravel	1 Early Neo flint flake	

			1 Bone fragment 1 sheep tooth	
349	Fill	Mid grey. Firm Sandy clay. Occasional gravel		
350	Cut	Ditch. Linear in shape. Concave, moderate sides. Rounded base		
351	Fill	Mid grey. Compact. Clay. Very occasional gravel	1 Roman pot sherd 1 Med tile 1 Flint flake	
352	Cut	Ditch. Curvilinear in shape. Shallow concave sides. Rounded base		
353	Fill	Dark grey. Firm. Sandy clay. None		
354	Cut	Pit/posthole. Circular in shape. Shallow and concave sides. Flat base		
355	Cut	Pit. Oval in shape. Concave and moderate sides. Rounded base.		
356	Fill	Dark brown. Firm. Sandy clay. Very occasional gravel		
357	Cut	Gully. Linear in shape. Concave and steep sides. Rounded base		
358	Fill	Dark grey. Firm. Clay sand. Very occasional gravel	1 Early Roman pot sherd	
359	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular in shape. Concave and steep sides. Flat base		
360	Fill	Dark greyish brown. Firm. Clay sand. Very occasional gravel and charcoal	1 Flint flake	
361	Cut	Posthole. Circular in shape. Concave and moderate sides. Rounded base		
362	Fill	Dark brown. Firm. Clay sand. None		
400	Layer	Topsoil		
401	Layer	Subsoil		
402	Layer	Subsoil		
403	Cut	Ditch. Linear in shape. Moderate sides. Rounded base		
404	Fill	Mid orange. Firm. Sandy clay. Occasional gravel and manganese		
405	Fill	Mid grey. Firm. Sandy clay. Frequent gravel		
406	Cut	Ditch. Linear in shape. Concave and shallow sides. Rounded base		
407	Fill	Mid orange. Firm. Sandy clay. Occasional gravel and manganese		
408	Fill	Mid grey. Firm. Sandy clay. Frequent gravel	Split/worked cattle bone?	
409	Cut	Ditch. Linear in shape. Concave and moderate sides. Rounded base.		
410	Fill	Mid grey. Firm. Sandy Clay. Freq large flint and gravel	1 IA flint flake	
411	Cut	Ditch. Linear in shape. Straight moderate sides. Rounded base		
412	Fill	Mid grey. Firm. Sandy clay. Occasional large flints	Neo/BA ceramic fragment Cattle bone fragment	
413	Cut	Ditch. Linear in shape. Straight and		

		concave sides. Rounded base		
414	Fill	Mid grey. Firm. Sandy clay. 10% rounded gravel		
415	Layer	Natural		
500	Layer	Topsoil		
501	Layer	Natural		
502	Fill	White. Cemented. Sandy clay. Frequent stones		
503	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular. Steep and concave sides		
504	Fill	Mid brown. Compact. Sandy clay. Frequent stones		
505	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular. Moderate and convex sides.		
506	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Loose. Sandy silt. Common stones	LBA/EIA (c.1100-400 BC) flint-tempered pot fragment	
507	Cut	Pit or stakehole. Circular. Vertical sides. V-shaped base		
508	Fill	Purplish red. Moderately compacted. Sand. Frequent stones and manganese		
600	Layer	Topsoil		
601	Layer	Natural	1 Flint fragment	
602	Fill	Dark greyish brown. Loose. Clay silt.		1
603	Cut	Posthole. Ovular in shape. Moderate and concave sides. Concave base		
604	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod compact. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel	1 IA abraded pot fragment	2
605	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular in shape. Gentle concave sides. Concave base		
606	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod compact. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel	Roman or later sandy grey ware	3
607	Fill	Mid reddish brown. Hard. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel	2 Neo pot sherds 1 LIA pot sherd 1 Neo flint flake	4
608	Cut	Pit. Ovular. Steep concave sides. Flat base		
609	Fill	Mid greyish-brown. Mod compact. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel		5
610	Cut	Pit. Circular. Mod steep and concave sides. Flat sloping base		
611	Fill	Mid greyish-brown. Mod compact. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel		6
612	Cut	Pit. Ovular. Gentle-moderate straight sides. Flat sloping base		
613	Fill	Mid brown grey. Compact. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel	2 Neo. or LBA/EIA pot sherds	7
614	Cut	Pit. Circular in shape. Mod steep and convex side. Irregular base		
700	Layer	Topsoil		
701	Layer	Subsoil		

702	Layer	Natural		
703	Fill	Mid greyish-brown. Mod compact. Silty clay.	4 Middle/Later Iron Age pot sherds	
704	Fill	Light brownish grey. Mod compact. Silty clay	1 LBA/EIA pot sherd 1 Early Bronze Age pot sherd 1 Middle/Later Iron Age pot sherd	
705	Cut	Pit or ditch. Possibly linear in shape. Gradual sides. U-shaped base		
706	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod compact. Silty clay		
707	Cut	Posthole. Circular in shape. Near vertical sides. Flat base		
708	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod compact. Silty clay		
709	Cut	Posthole. Circular. Gradual sides. Flat base		
710	Fill	Mid greyish-brown. Mod compact. Silty clay		
711	Cut	Posthole. Circular. Gradual sides. U-shaped base		
712	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod compact. Silty clay		
713	Cut	Posthole. Circular. Gradual sides. U-shaped base		
714	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod compact. Silty clay. Rare gravel		
715	Cut	Posthole. Circular. Near-vertical sides. Flat base		
800	Layer	Topsoil		
801	Layer	Colluvium		
802	Layer	Subsoil		
803	Layer	Natural		
804	Layer	Natural		
900	Layer	Topsoil		
901	Layer	Subsoil		
902	Layer	Natural		
1000	Layer	Topsoil		
1001	Layer	Subsoil		
1002	Layer	Subsoil		
1003	Layer	Natural		
1100	Layer	Topsoil		
1101	Layer	Subsoil		
1102	Layer	Natural		
1103	Cut	Pit. Elongated oval. Irregular concave sides. Concave base		
1104	Fill	Dark orangish brown. Firm. Silty clay. Charcoal flecks		
1105	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular. Irregular concave sides. Flattish base		
1106	Fill	Dark orangish brown. Firm. Silty clay. Charcoal flecks	1 Neo. or LBA/EIA pot sherd	

			2 Early Bronze Age pot sherds	
1107	Cut	Pit or ditch terminus. Semi-circular in shape. Shallow concave sides. Concave base		
1108	Fill	Dark orangish brown. Firm. Silty clay. Charcoal flecks		8
1109	Cut	Gully. Linear in shape. Shallow irregular sides. Concave base		
1110	Fill	Dark brown. Soft. Clay silt		
1111	Cut	Pit. Circular in shape. Shallow and concave sides. Concave base		
1112	Fill	Dark orangish brown. Firm. Silty clay. Charcoal flecks		
1200	Layer	Topsoil		
1201	Layer	Subsoil		
1202	Layer	Natural		
1203	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod compact. Clay silt. Occasional charcoal		
1204	Cut	Pit. Ovular. Straight sides. Concave base		
1205	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Compact. Sandy silt. Frequent small stones	1 Roman pot sherd	
1206	Cut	Ditch. Linear. Concave and moderate sides. Concave base.		
1207	Fill	Mid brownish grey. Compact. Sandy clay. Occasional small stones		
1208	Cut	Ditch. Linear. Straight and moderate sides. Concave base.		
1209	Fill	Mid brownish grey. Compact. Sandy clay. Frequent small stones		
1210	Cut	Pit. Ovular shaped. Straight and moderate sides. Concave base		
1211	Fill	Mid brownish grey. Compact. Sandy clay. Frequent small stones		
1212	Cut	Pit. Circular in shape. Straight and moderate sides. U-shaped base		
1213	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Compact. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel		
1214	Fill	Mid brownish grey. Compact. Sandy clay. Rare small stones		
1215	Cut	Pit. Ovular in shape. Concave and gentle sides. Flat base		
1216	Fill	Mid orangish brown. Hard. Sandy clay. Rare small stones		
1217	Cut	Pit. Kidney shaped, Straight steep sides. Concave base		
1218	Fill	Mid reddish brown. Mod loose. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel		
1219	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Mod loose. Sandy silt. Frequent gravel		
1220	Cut	Pit. Circular. Straight sides. Flat base		
1221	Fill	Mid brownish grey. Compact. Sandy silt. Frequent small stones		
1222	Cut	Ditch. Linear in shape. Straight steep sides. Concave base		
1223	Fill	Dark brownish grey. Compact. Clay silt. Occasional small stones		

1224	Cut	Pit. Circular. Concave and moderate sides. Concave base		
1225	Fill	Dark greyish brown. Compact. Sandy silt. Rare small stones	1 Middle/Later Iron Age pot sherd	
1226	Fill	Mid reddish brown. Compact. Silty sand. Rare fine stones		
1227	Cut	Ditch. Linear. Steep and concave sides. Flat base		
1228	Fill	Mid greyish brown. Compact. Sandy silt. Occasional small stones	1 Medieval pot sherd	
1229	Cut	Ditch. Linear. Steep and concave sides. Concave base		
1230	Fill	Mid yellowish brown. Compact. Sandy silt. Occasional small stones		
1231	Cut	Pit. Circular. Steep and concave sides. Concave base		
1300	Layer	Topsoil		
1301	Layer	Relaid clay		
1302	Layer	Relaid subsoil		
1303	Cut	Ditch. Linear. Straight and steep sides. Flat base		
1304	Fill	Dark brown. Firm. Clay silt. Occasional gravel		
1305	Fill	Mid brown. Firm. Clay sand. Very occasional gravel		
1306	Layer	Natural		
1307	Layer	Relaid clay		
1400	Layer	Topsoil		
1401	Layer	Subsoil		
1402	Cut	Pit or possible tree throw. Oval in shape. Shallow and irregular sides. Irregular base		
1403	Fill	Light grey. Friable. Sand. Very occasional gravel		
1404	Cut	Ditch. Linear. Straight and moderate sides. Rounded base		
1405	Fill	Mid blue/orange grey. Firm. Sandy clay		
1406	Fill	Dark orange. Friable. Clay sand. Very occasional manganese		
1407	Fill	Mid orange. Firm. Sandy clay. Frequent gravel		
1408	Cut	Ditch recut. Linear. Concave and moderate sides. Rounded base.		
1409	Fill	Light bluish grey. Firm. Clay. Very occasional sandy gravel		
1410	Fill	Dark orangish brown. Friable. Clay sand. Very occasional manganese		
1411	Fill	Mid orange. Firm. Sandy clay. Occasional gravel		
1412	Cut	Ditch reworking. Linear. Concave and shallow sides. Rounded base		
1413	Fill	Mid grey. Firm. Sandy clay		
1414	Cut	Pit. Elliptical in shape. Concave and shallow sides. Rounded base		
1415	Fill	Mid orangish Yellow Firm. Clay sand. Very occasional gravel		

1416	Layer	Natural		
1500	Layer	Topsoil		
1501	Layer	Subsoil		
1502	Layer	Natural		

Appendix 2: Prehistoric and Roman-British Pottery

Matt Brudenell

33 sherds (226g) of Prehistoric and Roman-British pottery were recovered from 15 contexts in Trenches 3, 6, 7, 11 and 12. The pottery dates from the Early Neolithic through to the 2nd-4th century AD (Table 1). Almost all the sherds were small and abraded, and the assemblage displayed a very low mean sherd weight of 6.8g. No rims or other diagnostic feature sherds were recovered. In such circumstance, dating and period ascription is based primarily on the nature of the fabrics.

Context	Cut	Feature	Fabric	No/Wt	Suggested Date
304		Subsoil	F2	1,15	Neo. or LBA/EIA
			Shell	3,40	Roman 2nd-4th AD
317	318	Ditch	Shell	1,32	Roman 1st-2nd AD
328	329	Ditch	Sand & Grog	1,16	Roman 2nd-4th AD
340		layer	Q4	1,1	Middle/Later Iron Age (c.300 BC-50 AD)
			Sand	3,4	Roman
			Shell	1,1	Roman
343	344	Ditch	QS3	1,2	Middle/Later Iron Age (c.300 BC-50 AD)
351	352	Ditch	Shell	1,8	Roman
506	507	Stakehole	F2	1,2	LBA/EIA (c.1100-400 BC)
606	608	Pit	Sand	1,3	Roman? (or later)
607			Q2	2,32	Neolithic
613	614	Pit	F1	1,5	Neo. or LBA/EIA
			S3	2,4	Neo. or LBA/EIA
703	705	Ditch?	Q4	3,6	Middle/Later Iron Age (c.300 BC-50 AD)
			V3	1,6	Middle/Later Iron Age (c.300 BC-50 AD)
704			F4	1,14	LBA/EIA (c.1100-400 BC)
			G5	1,5	Early Bronze Age
			Q2	2,18	Middle/Later Iron Age (c.300 BC-50 AD)
1106	1105	Pit	F3	1,1	Neo. or LBA/EIA
			G3	1,7	Early Bronze Age
			G4	1,1	Early Bronze Age
1205	1206	Ditch	Sand	1,1	Roman
1225	1227	Ditch	S2	1,2	Middle/Later Iron Age (c.300 BC-50 AD)

Table 1: The quantified prehistoric and Romano-British pottery assemblage.

Fabric Groups

13 different fabrics were identified for the Prehistoric pottery, and three for the Romano-British pottery. Where possible, the Bobs Wood fabric series was used for the classification of Prehistoric pottery (Hill 1997; Percival 2007). It was, however, necessary to supplement the series with seven new types, including four flint-tempered fabrics and three grog-tempered fabrics. The full list of Prehistoric fabrics present in the assemblage is given below, with the new types marked with an asterisk.

The Roman-British fabrics were divided into three basic groups: sand, sand and grog, shell.

*F1 Moderate medium-coarse partially burnt flint (up to 2mm), with rare very-coarse burnt-flint (up to 6mm)

*F2 Moderate, coarse-very coarse, partially burnt flint (up to 4mm), with common sub-angular quartz sand

*F3 Common coarse-very coarse burnt flint (up to 4mm)

*F4 Moderate, medium, partially burnt flint (up to 1mm), with rare very coarse flint (up to 5mm) and common sub-angular quartz sand

*G3 Abundant medium grog (up to 2mm), moderate very coarse grog (up to 7mm), rare coarse burnt flint (3mm)

*G4 Moderate-common medium grog (up to 2mm), rare coarse burnt flint (3mm)

*G5 Moderate coarse-very coarse grog (up to 7mm)

Q2 QUAC Coarse sandy fabric. Abundant quartz (3mm), sparse flint pebble (4mm), sparse red iron oxide (4mm)

Q4 QUCM Fine sandy fabric with sparse clay pellets. Common quartz (0.75mm), sparse clay pellets (0.75mm), moderate mica

QS3 QUCM Sandy fabric with occasional shell, common quartz (0.75mm), sparse shell (1mm), some mica

S2 SHCC Shelly fabric with some sand. Common shell (2mm), moderate quartz (1mm).

S3 SHMC Shelly fabric with some sand and natural clay pellets. Moderate-common shell (2mm), rare-sparse quartz (0.25mm), rare clay pellets (1mm)

V3 VGCV Dense sandy fabric with much vegetable tempering. Moderate plant voids (6mm), moderate quartz (2mm), rare shell (9mm), moderate-common black and red iron oxide (0.25-5mm)

Prehistoric pottery

A total of 21 sherds (121g) of Prehistoric pottery were recovered from the excavations. The pottery included five flint-tempered sherds (37g, 31% of the assemblage by weight), three grog sherds (13g, 11%), eight sandy sherds (57g, 47%), a single sand and shell-tempered sherd (2g, 2%), three shelly sherds (6g, 5%) and a single organic tempered sherd (6g, 5%).

The earliest pottery from the site derived from the lower fill of pit 608, and is Neolithic in date. Fill 607 contained two abraded but refitting shoulder-sherds from a vessel in fabric Q2. The vessel was probably a

bowl, and retains traces of diagonal and horizontal rows of finger-nails marks below the carination. The upper fill contained a single abraded fragment of Romano-British pottery. Other pottery which may be of Neolithic date included a small collection of burnt-flint tempered body sherds from pit 614, pit 1105 and subsoil 304. Flint tempering is frequently found within earlier Neolithic assemblages from southern England. However, such fabrics are sometimes indistinguishable from those characterising the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Post-Deverel Rimbury pottery from the region. Differentiation can therefore be problematic, particularly when dealing with small, abraded and undiagnostic body sherds.

Unfortunately, the other pottery accompanying these flint-gritted sherds is of no help in resolving the dating difficulties. The two additional shell-tempered sherds from pit 614 offer no further guidance, whilst the three remaining sherds from subsoil 304 are Roman-British in date (K. Anderson pers. comm.). The single flint-gritted sherd from pit 1105 was accompanied by two grog-tempered body sherds in fabric G3 and G4. These are characteristic of the Early Bronze Age. Another grog-tempered Early Bronze Age sherd was recovered from ditch 705. This, however, was found amongst a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherd and two Middle/Later Iron Age body sherds.

Two of the five flint-tempered sherds in the assemblage can be assigned to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The first is a fragment of a pinched-out base in fabric 2 recovered from stakehole 506. The second derived from ditch 705 and has a mixture of partially burnt flint and common quartz sand; a fabric typical of the period (fabric F4). Nevertheless, this too must be considered residual, as it was found with two Middle/Later Iron Age sherds.

Nine sherds (35g) are dated to the Middle/Later Iron Age. The pottery comprised plain body sherds and was characterised by sand, shell and organic tempered fabrics (Q2, Q4, QS3, S2, S3, V3). The sherds were recovered from ditches 505 and 1227, and contexts 340 and 343. Ditch 505 contained 6 sherds (30g), with fragments recovered from both the lower and upper fills. The remaining features and contexts contained only single sherds. The sherd from context 340 was found with Romano-British pottery.

Romano-British pottery

The excavation yielded a total of 12 sherds (105g) of Romano-British pottery, recovered from seven different contexts (spot dated by K. Anderson). The assemblage comprised six shell-tempered sherds (81g, 77%), including three different base fragments; five sandy sherds (8g, 8%) and one shell and grog-tempered sherd (16g, 15%).

The earliest pottery dates from the 1st-2nd century AD, and was recovered from context 328. The sherd was shell and grog-tempered. The single shell-tempered base sherd from ditch 318 was dated to the 2nd-4th century AD, as were the three shell-tempered sherds from subsoil 304 in Trench 3. The remaining pottery cannot be assigned to a specific date within the Romano-British period. This pottery derived from ditches 1206 and 352, pit 608, and context 340. Ditch 1206 and context 340 also contained medieval/post-medieval sherds.

Discussion

This small assemblage of abraded pottery dates from the Neolithic through to the Romano-British period. In the absence of diagnostic sherds, such as rims, decorated sherds or partial vessel profiles, the only guide to dating is the fabric. Unfortunately, fabrics offer a less than perfect guide to chronology as different tempers and clay mixtures tended to have long currencies during prehistory; particularly the shell and flint-gritted fabrics. The broad dates assigned to the pottery in Table 1 are a reflection, therefore, of the poor resolution offered by this dating method. Nevertheless, a number of observations can still be made.

Firstly, most of the earlier Prehistoric pottery was found alongside later material. The only two features potentially of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date are pits 1105 and 614; though both which could still turn out to be Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. Secondly, most feature and contexts yielded only one or two very small sherds, some or all of which may be residual. The extent to which the pottery spot dating reflects the age of the features is therefore highly questionable. The only feature which can be dated with any certainty is ditch 705, which contained a number of Middle/Later Iron Age sherds in both its fills. The condition of the pottery from the other features makes confident phasing extremely difficult.

Overall, a far larger sample of pottery is required to give a more detailed understanding of the site phasing/sequence. The possibility of recovering larger Bronze Age and Early Iron Age assemblages is particularly significant, given the paucity of such pottery in the other Bobs Wood excavations.

Appendix 3: Deposit Summary

Tr.	Orientation	Re-laid Topsoil		Re-laid Subsoil	
1	NE-SW	0.36m (SW)	0.32m (NE)		
2	NE-SW	0.45m (SW)	0.42m (NE)		
3	NW-SE	0.35m (NW)	0.30m (SE)		
4	NW-SE	0.16m (NW)	0.22m (SE)	0.24m (NW)	0.24m (SE)
5	NE-SW	0.42m (NE)	0.44m (SW)		
6	N-S	0.36m (N)	0.50m (S)		
7	NW-SE	0.18m (NW)	0.36m (SE)		
8	NW-SE	0.30m (NW)	0.50m (SE)		
9	E-W	0.33m (E)	0.24m (W)		
10	N-S	0.45m (N)	0.35m (S)		
11	N-S	0.28m (N)	0.37m (S)		
12	E-W	0.35m (E)	0.35m (W)		
13	E-W	0.30m (E)	0.32m (W)	0.30m (E)	-
14	N-S	0.25m (N)	0.22m (S)	0.17m (N)	0.22m (S)
15	NE-SW	0.38m (NE)	0.31m (SW)		

Tr.	Made ground		Original Subsoil/Colluvium		Total depth to Natural	
1	-	-	0.44m (SW)	0.37m (NE)	0.8m (SW)	0.69m (NE)
2	0.22m (SW)	0.48m (NE)	0.38m (NE)	0.28m (SW)	1.28m (NE)	0.95m (SE)
3	0.42m (NW)	0.34m (SE)	-	0.08m (SE)	0.71m (NW)	0.72m (SE)
4	-	-	0.10m (NW)	0.12m (SE)	0.58m (NW)	0.50m (SE)
5	-	-	-	-	0.42m (NE)	0.44m (SW)
6	-	-	-	-	0.36m (N)	0.50m (S)
7	-	-	0.1m (NW)	0.2m (SE)	0.28m (NW)	0.56m (SE)
8	-	-	0.4m (NW)	0.3m (SE)	0.7m (NW)	0.7m (SE)
9	-	-	0.45m (E)	0.27m (W)	0.57m (E)	0.73m (W)
10	0.10m (N)	0.12m (S)	0.2m (N)	0.31m (S)	0.75m (N)	0.78m (S)
11	-	-	0.10m (N)	0.14m (S)	0.38m (N)	0.51m (S)
12	-	-	0.3m (E)	0.55m (W)	0.65m (E)	0.85m (W)
13	0.20m (E)	0.48m (W)	-	-	0.78m (E)	0.79m (W)
14	-	-	-	-	0.42m (N)	0.44m (S)
15			0.31m (NE)	0.22m (SW)	0.69m (NE)	0.53m (SW)

APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF SAMPLES FROM STU CON 07

by Rachel Fosberry

1 INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

Eight bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table x.

2 RESULTS

The results are recorded on Table 1.

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Context Type	Flot contents	Residue contents
1	602	603	Post hole	No plant remains	No finds
2	604	605	Pit	No plant remains	No finds
3	606	608	Pit	No plant remains	Flint debitage
4	607	608	Pit	No plant remains	Pottery
5	609	610	Pit	No plant remains	No finds
6	611	612	Pit	No plant remains	Flint debitage
7	613	614	Pit	No plant remains	No finds
8	1108	1107	Ditch	Sparse charcoal	Pottery, burnt flint

Table 1: Environmental Samples from STU CON 07

Plant macrofossils

The samples were devoid of plant remains except for Sample 8, context 1108, which contains sparse charcoal fragments. Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets are present in most of the samples.







3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The lack of plant remains suggests that either the conditions at the site do not favour preservation or that there was no evident occupation. No further work on these samples is required.


If further excavations are planned for this site, a detailed sampling strategy would be required and would include large volume bulk sampling of targeted features.

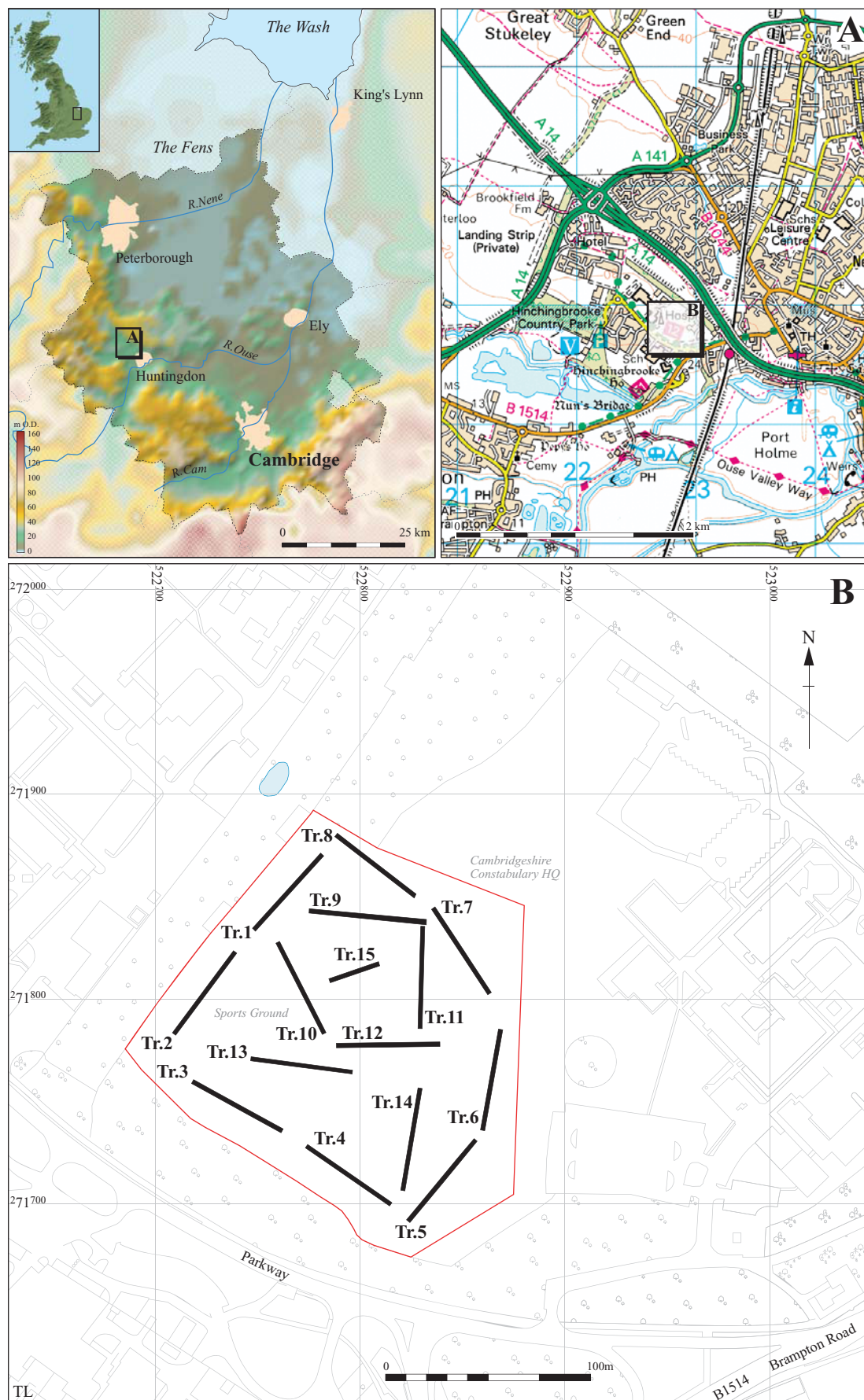
Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	----
Evaluation Trench	_____
Deposit - Conjectured	-----
Natural Feature
Sondages/Machine Strip	----
Test Pit	----
Intrusion/Truncation	----
Illustrated Section	S.14 _____
Archaeological Feature	
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Field Drain	
Plough Scar	
Root	
Cut Number	118

Sections

Limit of Excavation	----
Cut	_____
Cut-Conjectured	-----
Deposit Horizon	_____
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	----
Top Surface/Top of Natural	_____
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	-----
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD X
Inclusions	



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Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

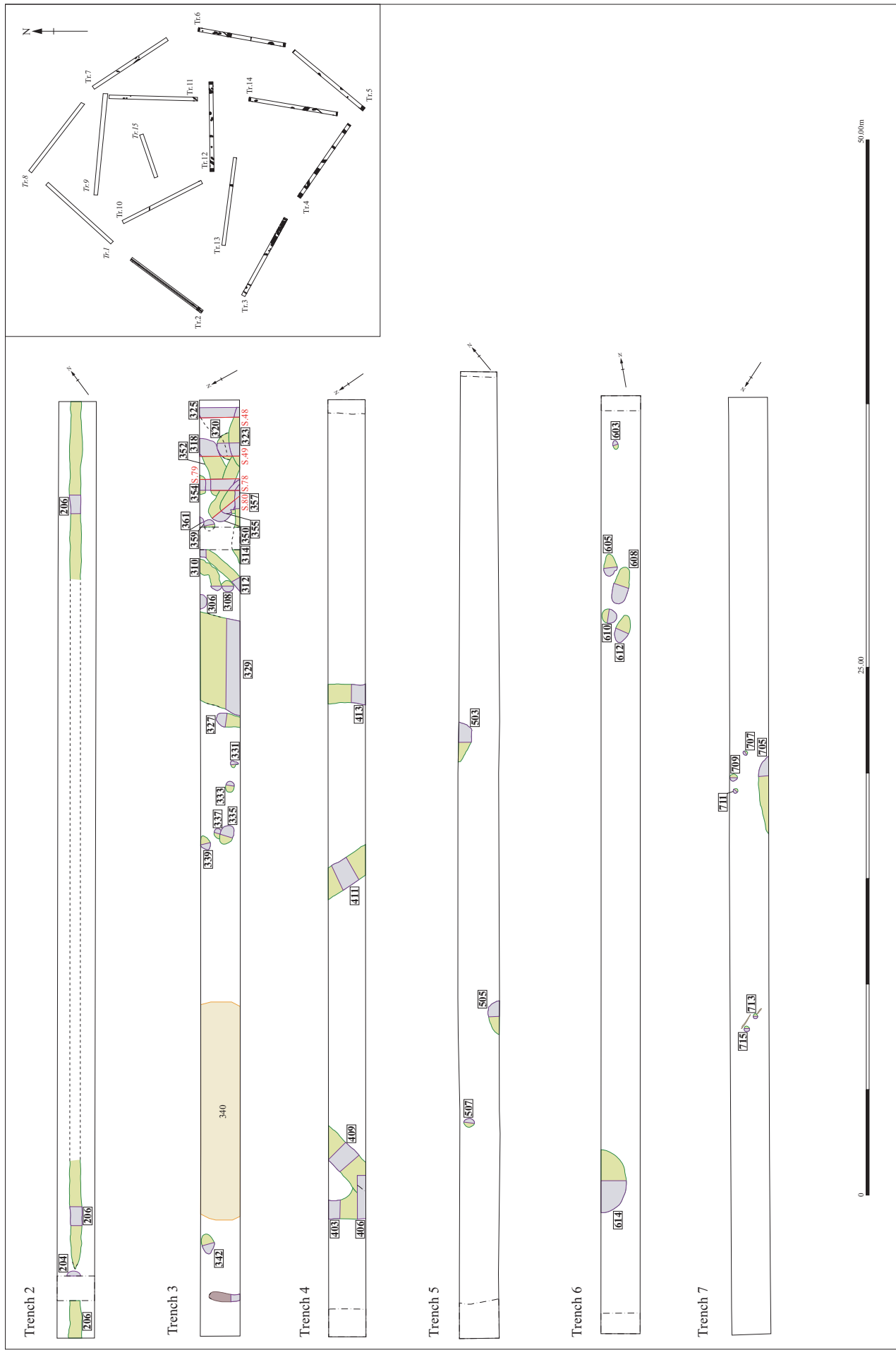


Figure 2: Trench plans

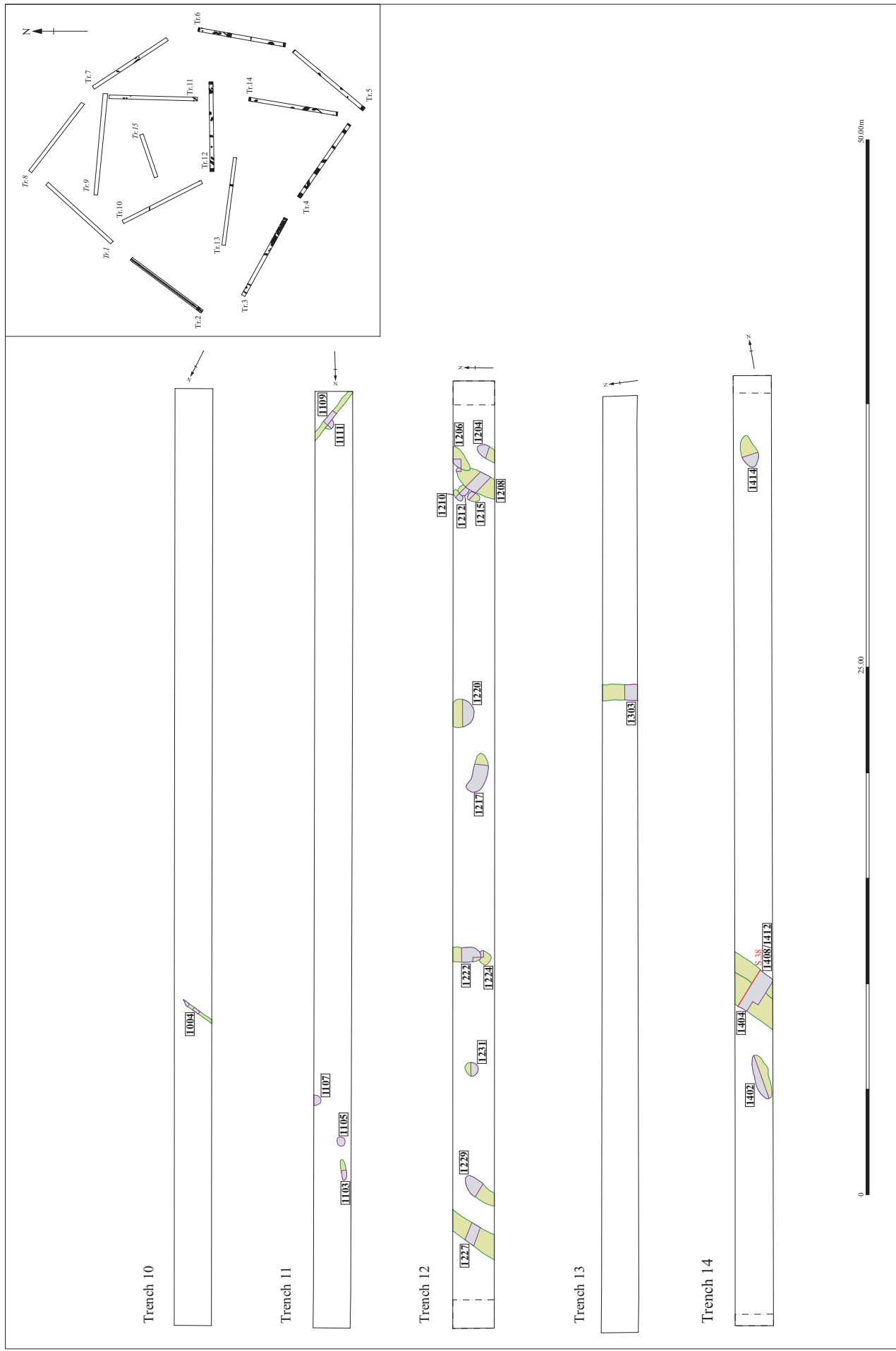


Figure 3: Trench plans

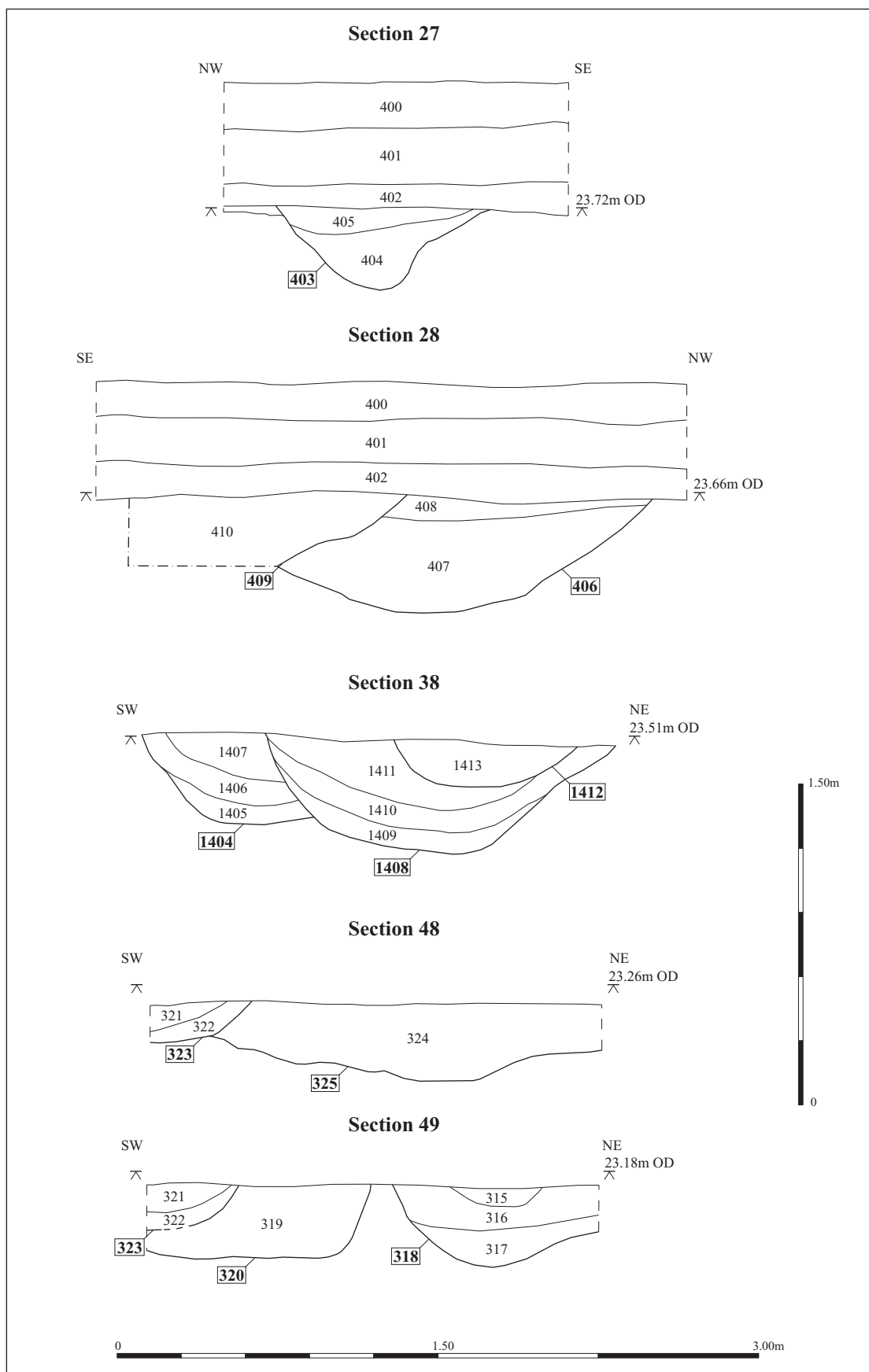


Figure 4: Section drawings

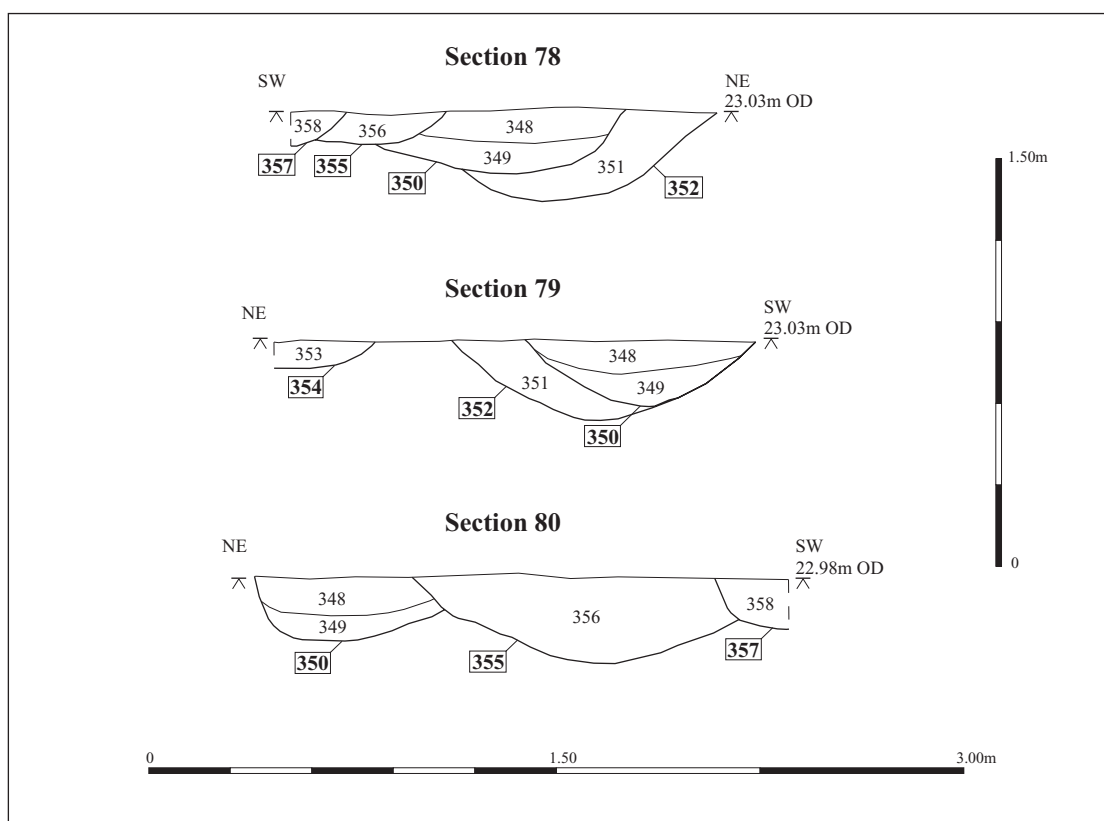
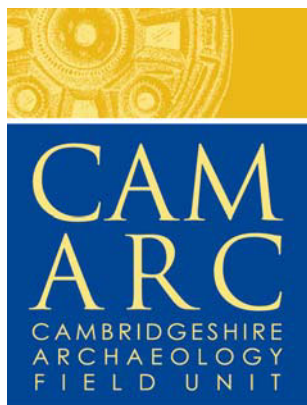


Figure 5: Section drawings



CAM ARC,
Cambridgeshire County Council,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridgeshire,
CB3 8SQ

General Enquiries: 01954-204191
Fax: 01954-273376

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology>