Archaeological Evaluation Report For Land

SOUTH OF CAMBRIDGE ROAD LINTON

For Enertrag UK Ltd.

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Abstract

The site is situated to the south of the A1307 between Cambridge and Linton. The site is a mixture of arable farmland, with some wooded areas. It covers an area of approximately 200 hectares, broken up into a number of different fields. The investigation comprised of thirty trial trenches corresponding to the areas of most disturbance (road ways, service trenches and turbine bases). Evidence gained from these trial trenches show a very low level of archaeology within the development area. Artefacts recovered did show evidence of Iron age and Roman presence and could be associated with the settlement at Linton village.

1. Introduction and Scope of Study

1.1. This document has been prepared by Matthew Jones on behalf of Enertrag UK Ltd.

1.2. The report considers land south of Cambridge Road, Linton. The whole site occupies an area of approximately 200 hectares and is centred at National Grid Reference 554315, 246530 .

1.3. The local planning authority is South Cambridgeshire District Council who take archaeological advice from Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice Office. A planning application for the erection of 8 wind turbines and construction of associated roadway and cable trench is currently being prepared.

1.4. A desk based assessment of the site (EVE 2007) has shown that the site has a fairly high potential for archaeological remains from most periods. It was agreed that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be carried out on site prior to submission of the planning application in order to aid the decision making process.

1.5. A brief for this programme of works has been prepared by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice Office.

1.6. Archaeological fieldwork was carried out by appropriately qualified members of L – P : Archaeology's field staff.

1.7. The assessment addressed the following issues:

- To assess the potential archaeology on this site
- To assess the survival of potential archaeology

2. Planning Background

2.1. In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued PPG 16, "Archaeology and Planning". This document provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

2.2. In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority, South Cambridgeshire District Council, is bound by the policy frameworks provided by the government in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16), and the policies within the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2004). This document is soon to be superseded by the Local Development Framework (LDF) however currently the relevant adopted policies are as follows:

> POLICY EN15: The Council will protect, preserve and enhance known and suspected sites and features of archaeological importance, and their settings, by:
> (a) requiring, in all cases involving proposed works at sites of known or potential archaeological interest, that an appropriate level of assessment and/or evaluation is carried out by a suitably qualified person so that the archaeological implications of any proposed development can be established; and
> (b) refusing planning permission for development which would result in damage to sites and features of national archaeological importance, and their settings, including the Scheduled Ancient Monuments identified on the Proposals Map.
> Where planning permission is granted for development on sites of archaeological interest, in-situ preservation of remains will be preferred. In all cases where this is not merited or is not feasible the Council will require that satisfactory provision is made for a programme of excavation and recording of remains by a suitable person or body prior to the commencement of any approved development.
>
> POLICY EN16: Where planning permission is granted for any development which affects any aspect of the archaeological heritage which is considered to be important in terms of the above policies, the District Council will encourage, and in appropriate cases require by condition or planning obligation, developers to make provision for the deposit of records arising from excavations, for public access and education on site and/or in the form of publications.

2.3. This report addresses policy EN15 (a), and seeks to provide an appropriate level of evaluation of the potential archaeological resource.

3. Geology and Topography

3.1. GEOLOGY

3.1.1. The British Geological Survey shows that the site spans a ridge comprised of Upper, Middle and Lower Chalk, with Lowestoft chalky boulder clay to the south and an area of sands and gravels to the north.

3.1.2. Observation of the soil profile seen though the of trial trenching process showed a thin layer of silty clay topsoil with a pale brown 'transitional' layer (sub soil) of silty clay above the natural. The natural was represented by either compact white chalk or a compact pale brown clay. This soil profile was represented throughout the site with the only changes being differences in depth and the visibility of of the 'transitional' layer. The depths of the topsoil and the subsoil layers in the descent of the slope was greatly expanded.

3.2. TOPOGRAPHY

3.2.1. The site is a mixture of arable farmland, with some wooded areas. It covers an area of approximately 200 hectares, broken up into a number of different fields.

3.2.2. Cambridge Road forms the northern boundary of the site, the site is bounded to the east by a public bridleway and the western boundary is mostly made up of hedgerows.

3.2.3. The southern area of the site is formed of part of the old Catley Estate. The majority of this area is arable, with wooded areas around the buildings.

3.2.4. The area is undulating, with an overall west-east slope leading toward the Granta in Linton. Each of the fields is demarcated with hedgerows or small watercourses/drainage runs.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

TIMESCALES USED IN THIS REPORT:

PERIOD	FROM	TO
PREHISTORIC		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	1,800 BC
BRONZE AGE	1,800	600 BC
IRON AGE	600	43 AD
HISTORIC		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	PRESENT

4.1..An archaeological deskbased assessment (DBA) has been produced by L – P : Archaeology for the whole site area, this should be referred to directly for any detailed information on the archaeological and historical background of the site (EVE 2008). Both the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) were consulted.

4.2.**PREHISTORIC**

4.2.1. There is limited evidence from the area surrounding the study site from the early prehistoric periods. The site itself is a little distance (c. 1km) from the gravels of the River Granta, and is mostly on the chalky uplands.

PALAEOLITHIC

4.2.2. The CHER records 'evidence for some of the earliest human activity in the county of Cambridgeshire' in the form of a number of worked Palaeolithic flints found in a chalk pit (CHER 06200). A rough estimation of the location of the find places it within the southern boundary of the study site. There is some controversy as to whether the lithics actually show evidence of human working.

4.2.3. Undated burnt prehistoric flints approximately 400m to the northeast of the site were also found, along with sandstone and charcoal (CHER 06084A)

MESOLITHIC

4.2.4. There is little evidence from the Mesolithic in either of the HERs, with the exception of CHER 06021. This is not to say that there was no Mesolithic activity in the area, just that little evidence of it has been found.

NEOLITHIC

4.2.5. A number of Neolithic finds have been uncovered in the general Linton area. In particular, during the fieldwalking exercise undertaken for the Little Linton Farm pipeline (c. 750m from the study site) a substantial flint scatter was recovered (CHER 10186B).

4.2.6. During the site visit undertaken for the compilation of this report a single Neolithic struck flint was observed from the edge of one of the ploughed fields in the northern part of the site.

4.2.7. The majority of the Neolithic finds in the general area have been recovered to the north and east of the site, implying that the activity may be centred around that area.

BRONZE AGE

4.2.8. The flint scatter found during the fieldwalking and watching brief at Little Linton Farm as discussed above (CHER 10186B AND CHER ECB1346) also contained a number of Early Bronze Age flints.

IRON AGE

4.2.9. There are a number of references in the CHER and EHER to Iron Age remains in the study area, including two possible Iron Age settlements.

4.2.10. The first of these was discovered during an early rescue excavation in 1948 (FELL 1953, CHER 06069). Along with a large collection of pottery and other assorted finds (mostly animal bone), traces of a dwelling site along with a number of pits were excavated. The site is approximately 700m to the east of the study site.

4.2.11. A combination of aerial photograph assessment, geophysical assessment and field evaluation revealed a linear group of postholes of probable Iron Age date approximately 600m to the east of the study site (CHER MCB16932).

4.2.12. The archaeological fieldwork at Little Linton Farm pipeline also revealed possible Middle Iron Age occupation. There are also a number of isolated Iron Age remains recovered from the general area (TAYLOR 1998:55).

4.2.13. The Icknield Way runs north-south approx. 700m to the east of the study site. The Icknield Way was an important route during the Iron Age period (and into the Roman period). It is likely that the settlements at Linton was placed in order to be easily accessible from this routeway.

4.2.14. There is clear evidence for Iron Age activity in the immediate area of the study site, including settlement evidence. Any finds are likely to take the form of unstratified remains or possible evidence of field systems.

4.3.ROMAN

4.3.1. There is a large amount of evidence from the Roman period surrounding the study area. Along with various scattered finds (CHER MCB16250) a Roman Villa was excavated in 1846-50 and 1990 to the south of Linton village itself. Associated with this villa was a small cemetery of up to 4 burials (TAYLOR 1998:56).

4.3.2. The watching brief at the Little Linton Farm pipeline revealed further evidence of Roman buildings and a ditch and pit (CHER 10186C). Mortar and painted wall plaster were also found, suggesting that a building of high status was in the area.

4.3.3. Cropmarks in the field to the north-east of the study site seem to show the location of a further Roman building (CHER 10171). Excavations at Linton Village College (CHER 06165 approximately 700m to the NE of the study site) revealed a small inhumation cemetery, which was interpreted as a family burial ground. The cemetery consisted of 5 burials along with a number of associated grave goods. Further Roman finds at the Village College include a collection of 2nd century pottery (CHER 06100).

4.3.4. Building material, human remains and pottery were uncovered in Little Linton (CHER 06084B). The study site itself sits between the Icknield Way and a major Roman road to the east, which suggests that it was ideally placed to take advantage of both of these routeways.

4.3.5. As can be seen there is a large amount of Roman activity in the area – some of the finds indicate one or more high status buildings or a Roman settlement. It is unclear if this possible settlement was based around the Granta, but due to the majority of the finds being uncovered toward the village of Linton this is the most likely situation. However, there has been little archaeological intervention in the area of the study site itself, so this interpretation may be coloured by a lack of evidence rather than a reflection of the real situation.

4.4.SAXON

4.4.1. There is a large amount of Saxon activity in the general area including a Bronze Age barrow that was reused during the Saxon period as a burial mound containing 104 burials along with a number of re-used Roman artefacts as grave goods (TAYLOR 1998:56).

4.4.2. Whilst there is activity within and around the village of Linton and in the wider parish – there is limited evidence for Saxon activity in the immediate area surrounding the study site.

4.4.3. The most significant evidence in the immediate area comes from excavation and watching brief at Little Linton Farm in the form of a collection of late Saxon pottery from the site of the Deserted Medieval Village(DMV) approximately 750m north of the study site (SEE BELOW SECTION 4.7). This pottery (found in 1991) suggested that the earliest occupation of the DMV was Late Saxon, however in the following year excavation revealed early Saxon ditches just to the north of the DMV which may suggest an earlier date for the settlement.

4.4.4. The proximity of the Saxon settlement to the study area certainly suggests that the area would have been utilised throughout the Saxon period. It is unclear if the area was wooded or was cleared and used for agricultural purposes, however, it is likely that some evidence for Saxon exploitation will be evident.

Elrington suggests "the heavy clay at the south-western end of the parish was well-wooded in Early Medieval times" (1978:81).

4.5. MEDIEVAL

4.5.1. In the Domesday Survey 4 settlements are recorded in Linton parish, Great Linton, Little Linton, Barham and Barham Hall (DARBY 2007 AND TAYLOR 1998). The focus of settlement near to the study site during the Medieval period was in two areas, Great Linton (the main village of Linton as it is today) and Little Linton. Both of these settlements had manor houses, Great Linton's stood within the village and Little Linton to the west of the main village of Linton. Little Linton manor house can be observed today as a moated house to the north of the Cambridge Road.

4.5.2. A summary of Linton's Medieval history can be found in Taylor 1998:57-60. The history will not be repeated here, except where it is relevant to the archaeological potential for the study site itself.

4.5.3. The former settlement (now a DMV) at Little Linton can still be observed through a number of earthworks just to the south of Little Linton manor house (CHER MCB16007 AND CHER 10110). It is unclear exactly why this settlement was deserted, but it is likely that when Great Linton and Barham both became market towns (late 13th century) the economic pull was sufficient to make living in Little Linton unattractive. During this period, it is likely that the study site was a combination of agricultural land and wooded area. It would certainly have been exploited throughout the Medieval period, although due to the focus of settlement in Little Linton and Great Linton it is unlikely that there were any substantial Medieval settlements. A Medieval flint arrowhead was recovered from the northernmost field, which although a chance find, could be attributed to hunting although J Hedges suggests that it is of a form more commensurate with the arrows used in battle (CHER 06085).

4.5.4. Both Little Linton and Great Linton manor houses were owned by the Parys family during the Medieval period, who also constructed a mansion at Catley Park (in the southern part of the study site) in 1600, which suggests that they were the landowners of all of the land from Little Linton to Catley Park. During

the Post Medieval period there is evidence from the town for a number of tanneries and saw-pits suggesting that livestock and forest management were some of the main activities of the inhabitants of Linton. It is likely that this was also true in the Medieval period and the land on the study site was utilised to supply the local market with the raw materials for this work.

4.6. POST MEDIEVAL

4.6.1. The study area presumably continued to be exploited during the early Post Medieval period, and as shown on the Plan of Catley Estate surveyed in 1779 was almost all agricultural land (not reproduced).

4.6.2. Catley Park itself is recorded as being created in 1732, with the house being built slightly earlier. The Park is atypical in that the park itself does not extend around the back of the house, this is presumably something to do with the fact that the house sits on the parish/county boundary (WAY 1997). Elrington explains that Catley means 'clearing' implying that the surroundings were forested (1978:81).

4.6.3. The mansion and associated buildings were demolished in 1772 (due to family debt), leaving just one wing of the house still standing. This has now fallen into extreme disrepair (SEE PLATE 4). The remains of the house and associated outbuildings can still be observed, along with the bridge and water features. The area is now very overgrown and the former parkland is either high brush or arable fields.

4.6.4. The Inclosure map of 1838 shows the majority of the study site as open fields. The remaining buildings of Catley Park are clearly visible.

4.6.5. The earliest Ordnance Survey map of 1886 shows the entire study area as open fields. The Eastern Counties Railway (opened in 1865 and now disused) can be seen running across the northern area of the site.

4.6.6. The situation is almost exactly the same in 1904 and 1946. By 1967 the railway has become disused.

4.6.7. It is clear that by the later Post Medieval period the whole of the study site is being used for agricultural purposes, and this is evidenced by the construction

of a large grain store at the northeastern corner of the site.

4.7. UNDATED

4.7.1. There are a number of undated soil and cropmarks in the area. No cropmarks are recorded on the study site, with the exception of what is thought to be a modern enclosure (CHER 09357).

5. Methodology

5.1. All work was carried out between 28th April to 9th May in accordance with the specification of works (EVE 2008) and is a continuation of earlier desk-based investigative work carried out by L - P : Archaeology (EVE 2007). The area of groundworks was visually inspected prior to the commencement of work.

5.2. One trench measuring 10m x 1.8m was excavated within the footprint of each of the proposed turbine bases (**FIGURE 2**). A further twenty two 30m x 1.8m trenches were excavated along the line of the cable trench and access roadway.

5.3. The trench locations were surveyed prior to excavation and related to the National Grid.

5.4. The ploughsoil from the first 1m on either end of the trench was hand-excavated and sieved to characterise the artefact contents prior to any mechanical excavation.

5.5. The trenches were opened by a 360 degree tracked excavator with a 2m wide toothless bucket.

5.6. All machine excavated material was thoroughly examined for finds and artefacts.

5.7. All archaeological features encountered were hand excavated by context.

5.8. Linear features were sectioned as appropriate, with all investigative slots being at least 1m in width.

5.9. Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

5.10. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits were examined and recorded both in plan and section. The objective will be to define remains rather than totally remove them.

6. Results

6.1. A total of 30 trenches were excavated numbered 1 to 22 for the 30 metre trenches and 101 to 108 for the 20 metre trenches (FIGURE 3). The 30 metres trenches represent areas to be used as road ways or cable trenches with the 20 metres trenches for the turbine bases. All maximum depth given are below ground level (BGL). Context numbers are shown within parentheses, rounded parentheses for fills (101), and square parentheses for cuts [101].

6.2. The ploughsoil at the end of each trench was sieved prior to the mechanical excavation of the trenches. This revealed a number of artefacts (the weights of the artefacts and types are displayed in TABLE 1). As can be seen the sieving of the ploughsoil resulted in the recovery of majority of the CBM, which is not surprising as CBM is often dispersed across sites by means of continual ploughing. The majority of the ceramic vessel material was recovered from within contexts, which is a little surprising, but as a lot of the pottery was Iron Age or Roman, it may suggest that those deposits haven't been too disturbed by the plough throughout antiquity.

Type	**Ploughsoil**	**Sealed Context**	**Total**
Flint	0.056kg	0.055kg	*0.111kg*
Bone	0.008kg	0.182kg	*0.190kg*
CBM	0.267kg	0.032kg	*0.299kg*
Fired Clay	0.008kg	0.006kg	*0.014kg*
Vessel	0.006kg	0.312kg	*0.318kg*
	0.345kg	*0.587kg*	**0.721kg**

Table 1 - Showing weights of finds by method of recovery

6.3. Trench 1 was on a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.47m(BGL). 1(01)consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.22m. 1(02) was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of0.14m .1(03) was a white chalk natural depth 0.11m.

6.4. Trench 2 was on a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.92m(BGL). 2(01)consisted of a mid brown silty clay with

moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.42m. 2(02) was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.14m. 2(03)was a pale brown sandy chalk subsoil of silty sand pale brown with rare small angular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.20m. Below this was a white chalk natural deposit excavated to a depth of 0.15m.

6.5. Trench 3 was on a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.68m(BGL). 3(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.25m. 3(02) was a pale brown clay silty natural excavated to a depth of 0.43m.

6.6. Trench 4 was on a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.65m(BGL). 4(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.23m 4(02)was a pale brown clay silt excavated to a depth of 0.28m. 4(03)was a light brown chalky clay natural excavated to a depth of 0.14m.

6.7. Trench 5 was on was a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.71m(BGL). 5(01)consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.34m. 5(02) was a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.22m. 5(03) was a pale brown compact clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.15m.

6.8. Trench 6 was on a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.85m(BGL). 6(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.35m. 6(02) was a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.50m.

6.9. Trench 7 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.64m(BGL). 7(01) consisted of mid a brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.40m. 7(02) was a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.24m.

6.10. Trench 8 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a

maximum depth of 0.67m(BGL). 8(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.40m. 8(02) was a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.27m.

6.11. Trench 9 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 1.98m(BGL). 9(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.60m. 9(02)was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.70m.9(03) was a white chalk natural excavated to a depth of 0.68m.

6.12. Trench 10 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.49m(BGL). 10(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.24m. 10(02) was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.10m.10(03) was a white chalk natural excavated to a depth of 0.15m.

6.13. Trench 11 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.62m(BGL). 11(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.30m. 11(03)was a white chalk natural excavated to a depth of 0.32m.

6.14. Trench 12 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 1m(BGL). 12(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.40m. 12(02)was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.10m.12(03)was a white chalk natural 0.50m.

6.15. Trench 13 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.15m(BGL) (**FIGURE 4**). 13(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.15m. Cut into this was a large shallow linear feature 13[04]1 metre by 3.2 metres with a depth of 0.15m NE to SW across the trench, with a compact mid brown clay silt fill, this feature was cut by a later '1900's field drain. The trench was not fully excavated due to the field drain which ran the length of the trench just below the top soil, with discussion with the landowner it was considered best to leave it in situ.

Plate 1 - Trench 13 Linear Feature 13[03] From the N, Scale 1m

6.16. Trench 14 was on a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.57m(BGL) (**FIGURE 5**). 14(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.30m. 14(02)was a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.27m. Cut into 14(02) was a large ditch 14[03] with a charcoal rich fill 14(04) no artefactual dating evidence was recovered.

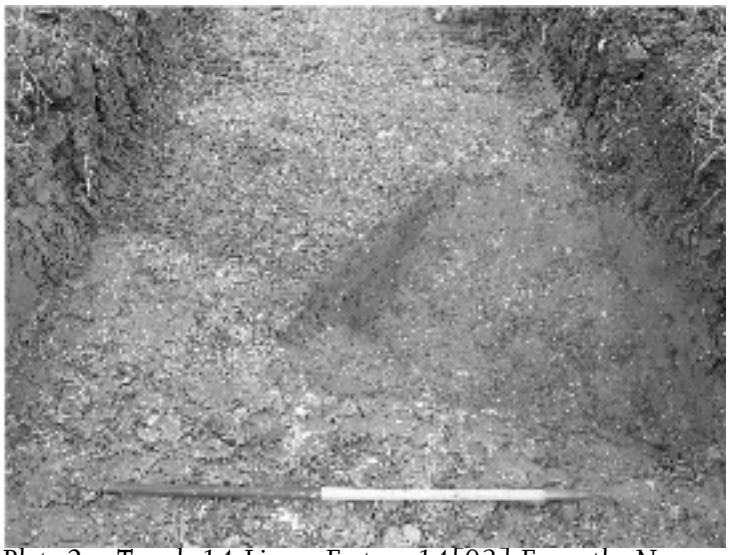


Plate 2 - Trench 14,Linear Feature 14[03] From the N, Scale 1m

6.17. Trench 15 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.78m(BGL). 15(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.36m. 15(02) was a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.42m.

6.18. Trench 16 was on a southeast northwest axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.65m(BGL) (**FIGURE 6**). 16(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.38m. 16(02) a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.27m. A charcoal rich layer 16(03) overlaying the fill of a ditch cut into 16(02). Ditch 16[04] was a roughly straight sided linear with concave sides descending to a rounded bottom. Its fill 16(05) was a soft mid brown grey silt with occasional charcoal flakes and a large amount of Iron Age pottery, this feature was also cut by a later straight sided field drain running roughly though the centre of this feature.

Plate 3 - Trench 16, Linear Feature 16[11] From the NW, Scale 1m

6.19. Trench 17 was on a southeast northwest axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.49m(BGL). 16(01)consisted of a mid brown silty clay

with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.24m. 16(02)was a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.25m.17[03] a linear field drain with straight edges seen only in plan with a fill of small irregular rounded stone and flint. 17(04), this feature gradates in depth into the topsoil 17(01). Interpreted as a modern field drain only the topsoil was removed for the last 10m so not to cause further disturbance.

6.20. Trench 18 was on a southeast northwest axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.62m(BGL) (**FIGURE 7**). 18(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.40m. 16(02) a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint and stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.22m. In the northwestern end of the tench there was a single straight sided linear 18[03] with sharp sides and flattish bottom. 2.8m by 0.70m with a depth of approximately 0.60m, it had a dark gray clayey silt fill, 18(04), which contained flakes of charcoal and fragments of Iron Age pottery.

Plate 4 - Trench 18, Linear Feature 18[03], From the SE Scale 1m

6.21. Trench 19 was on a southeast northwest axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.46m(BGL). 19(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.25m. 19(02)was a pale brown clay silt with rare small irregular flint stone inclusions excavated to a depth of 0.21m.

6.22. Trench 20 on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.65m. 20(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.28m. 20(02)was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.32m. 20(03)was a white chalk natural excavated to a depth of 0.10m.

6.23. Trench 21 was on a east west axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.60m(BGL). 21(01) was a light brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.30m. 21(02)was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.20m. 21(03) was the white chalk natural excavated to a depth of 0.10m.

6.24. Trench 22 was on a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.59m(BGL) (**FIGURE 8**). 22(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.30m. 22(02) was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.29m. 22(03) was the white chalk natural. 22[06] was a linear feature running east west 10m south from the northern end of the trench 2.8m by 0.35m with a light brown clayey silt fill 22(07) there were no visible inclusions apart from a heavily abraded 'Roman' style pottery. To the north of this feature 22[04] there was a small end of linear feature with a dark charcoal rich fill 22(05). Inclusions for 22(05) include one medium squarish stone with rounded edges two iron nails, and one disarticulated animal bone.

Plate 5 - Trench 22, Linear Feature 22[06] From the NE,Scale 1m

Plate 6 -Trench 22, Small Feature 22[04] From the SW,Scale 1m

6.25. Trench 101 was on a north south axis measuring 30 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.50m(BGL). 101(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.22m. 101(02)was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.14m.101(03)was a white chalk natural excavated to a depth of depth 0.14m.

6.26. Trench 102 was on a east west axis, measuring 20 metres by 2.8 metres with a

maximum depth of 0.55m(BGL). 102(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.30m. 102(02) was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.10m.102(03)was a white chalk natural 0.15m.

6.27. Trench 103 was on a east west axis, measuring 20 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.81m(BGL). 103(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.58m. 103(02)was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.23m.

6.28. Trench 104 was on a east west axis, measuring 20 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.43m(BGL). 104(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.32m.104(02)was a white chalk excavated to a depth natural 0.11m.

6.29. Trench 105 was on a east west axis, measuring20 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.55m(BGL). 105(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.25m. 105(02)was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.25m.105(03)was a white chalk natural excavated to a depth of 0.5m.

6.30. Trench 106 was on a east west axis, measuring 20 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.55m(BGL). 102(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.35m.102(02)was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.21m.

6.31. Trench 107 was on a east west axis, measuring 20 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.71m(BGL). 107(01)consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.30m. 107(02) was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.41m.

6.32. Trench 108 was on a east west axis, measuring 20 metres by 2.8 metres with a maximum depth of 0.76m(BGL). 108(01) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with moderate small irregular flint stone inclusions with a depth of 0.32m. 108(02) was a pale brown clay silt natural excavated to a depth of 0.23m.108(03)was a white chalk natural excavated to a depth of 0.22m.

7. Summary and Conclusions

7.1. The trial trenches showed that the level of archaeology within the areas of disturbance is low with only trenches 16,18 and 22 displaying any archaeological evidence pre-dating the post-medieval period. Trenches 13 and 14 revealed possible archaeological features, however, these were undated. All the trenches that displayed earlier archaeological deposits were on the elevated areas of the site.

7.2. The two features seen within Trench 22 were slight and seemed to be associated with possibly agricultural activity or stray finds. They are not suggestive of large scale settlement, however, could be associated with the Roman settlement in Linton.

7.3. The features observed in Trenches 16 and 18 could be seen as evidence of field boundaries of an Iron Age date, however, due to the presence of animal bone and pottery they maybe indicative of some form of settlement.

7.4. Ditch systems have been suggested to be one of the most 'ubiquitous features of Iron Age Romano British rural settlement in England' (CHADWICK 1999, 155), and can be seen to be associated with settlement or larger enclosures (CUNLIFFE 1975,153-179).

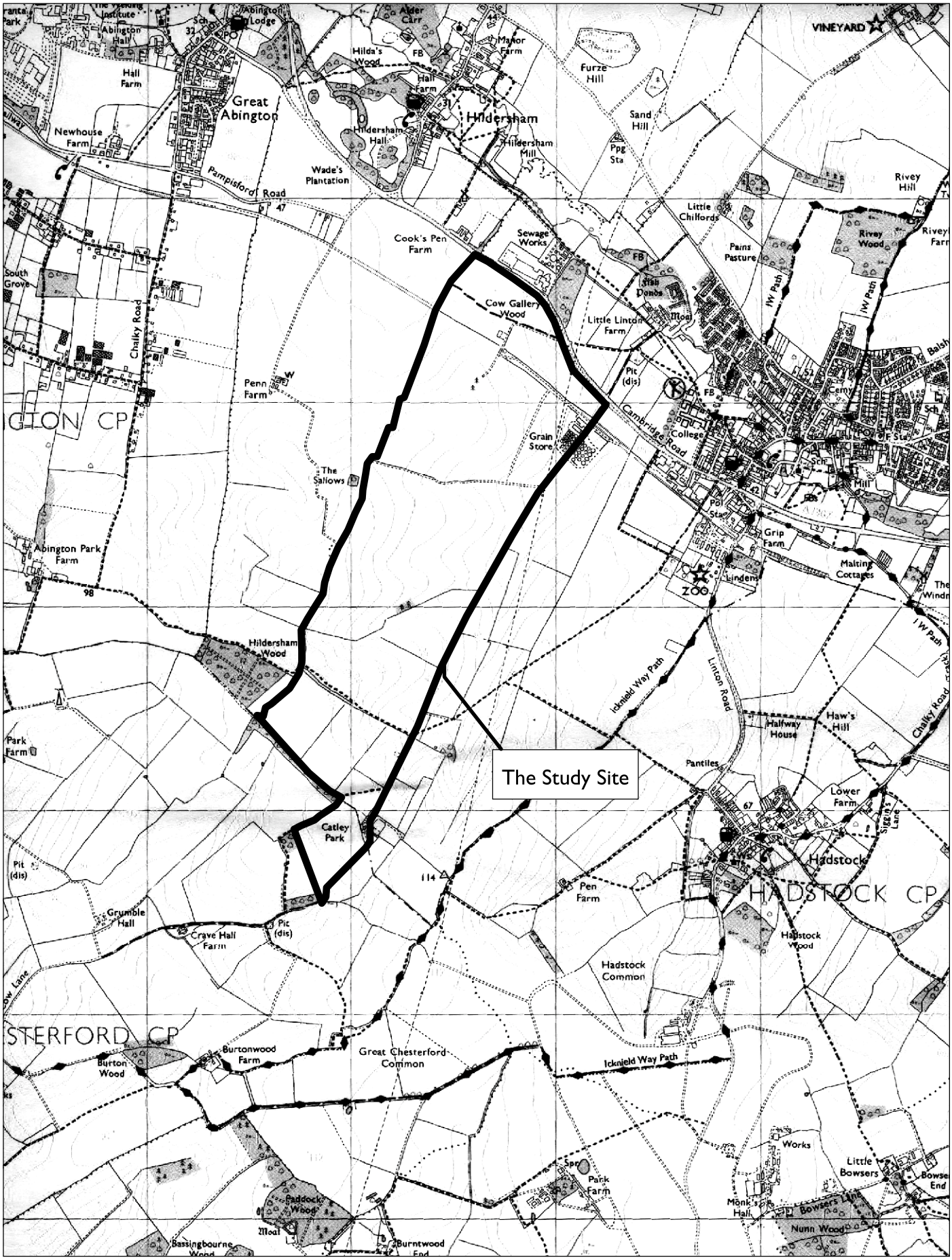
7.5. The ditches are probably of an agricultural nature and are suggestive of a wider Iron Age/Roman landscape, with settlement somewhere in the vicinity (probably at Linton itself). This interpretation is supported by the pottery and CBM analysis (APPENDIX 1) which are also indicative of some form of settlement in the general area. The scale of the available evidence from trial trenches is not enough to identify the features in their full extent. Although both ditch features contained dating evidence from pottery it doesn't point to the land use or the nature of settlement that could be associated with these features (CHADWICK A 1995). Further investigation could help identify the function or extent of the features.

7.6. It is worth commenting on the flintwork recovered during the evaluation. A total of 12 struck flints were recovered which ranged in date from the Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age. The small number of flints recovered is of note, especially in relation to the considerable amount of flint that has previously been recovered in the vicinity. The flints suggest that there was prehistoric activity on site, but the extent and nature of this activity is very difficult to ascertain from such a small assemblage (APPENDIX 1).

7.7. Due to the possibility of further remains in the vicinity of trenches 16, 18 and 22 it is suggested that a suitable mitigation strategy would be to maintain a watching brief during the excavation and construction works in these areas. The lack of features in the other trenches suggests that this approach will not be necessary on any other part of the site. The methodology for this work can be agreed in a separate document.

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location



N

0 1,600 m

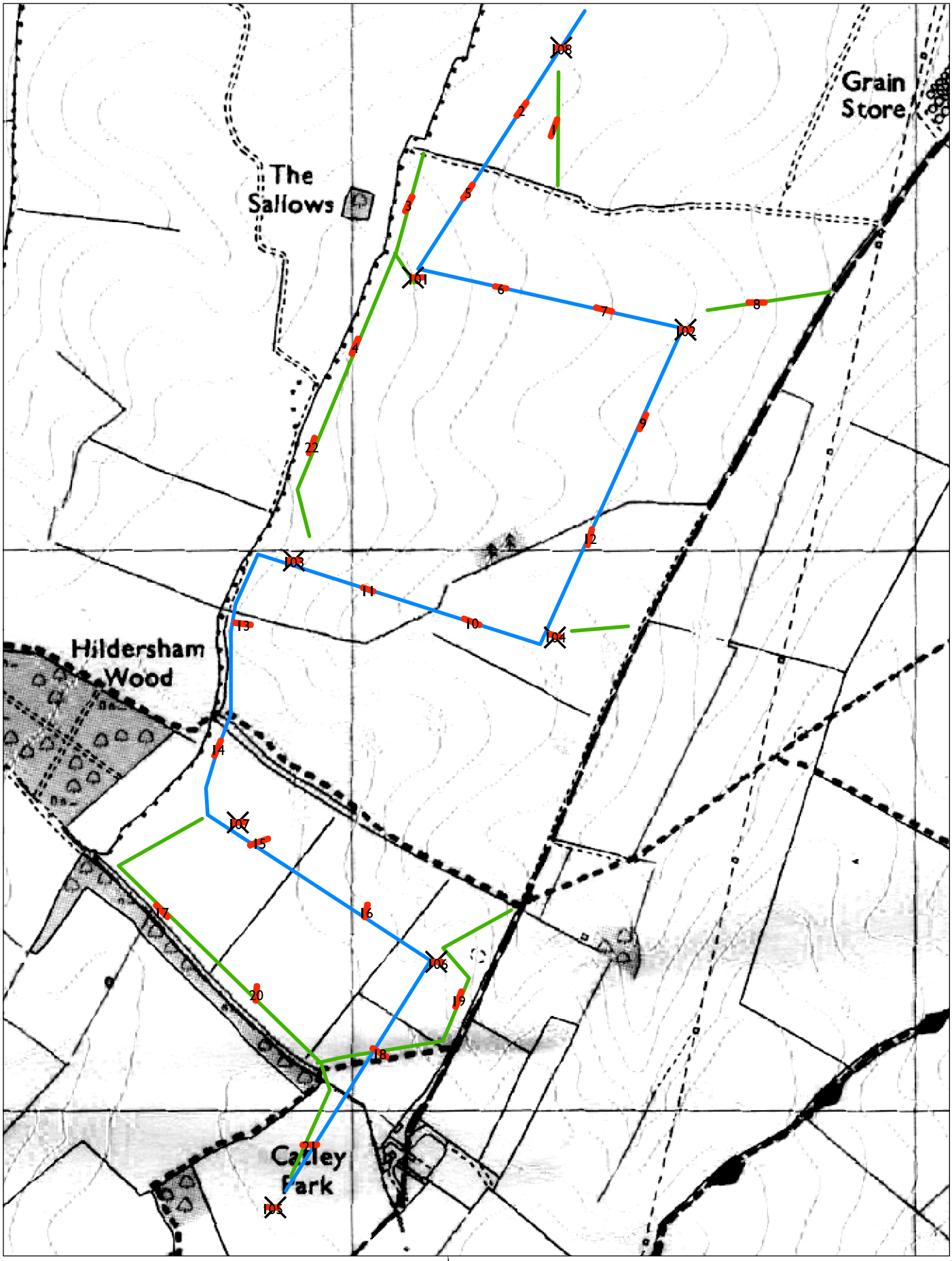
PROJECT // 0622E- Linton Wind Farm

DESCRIPTION // Site Location - General

DOC REF: LP0622E-AERv1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Trench Location Plan



Trenches

Turbines

Cable Trench

Road

N

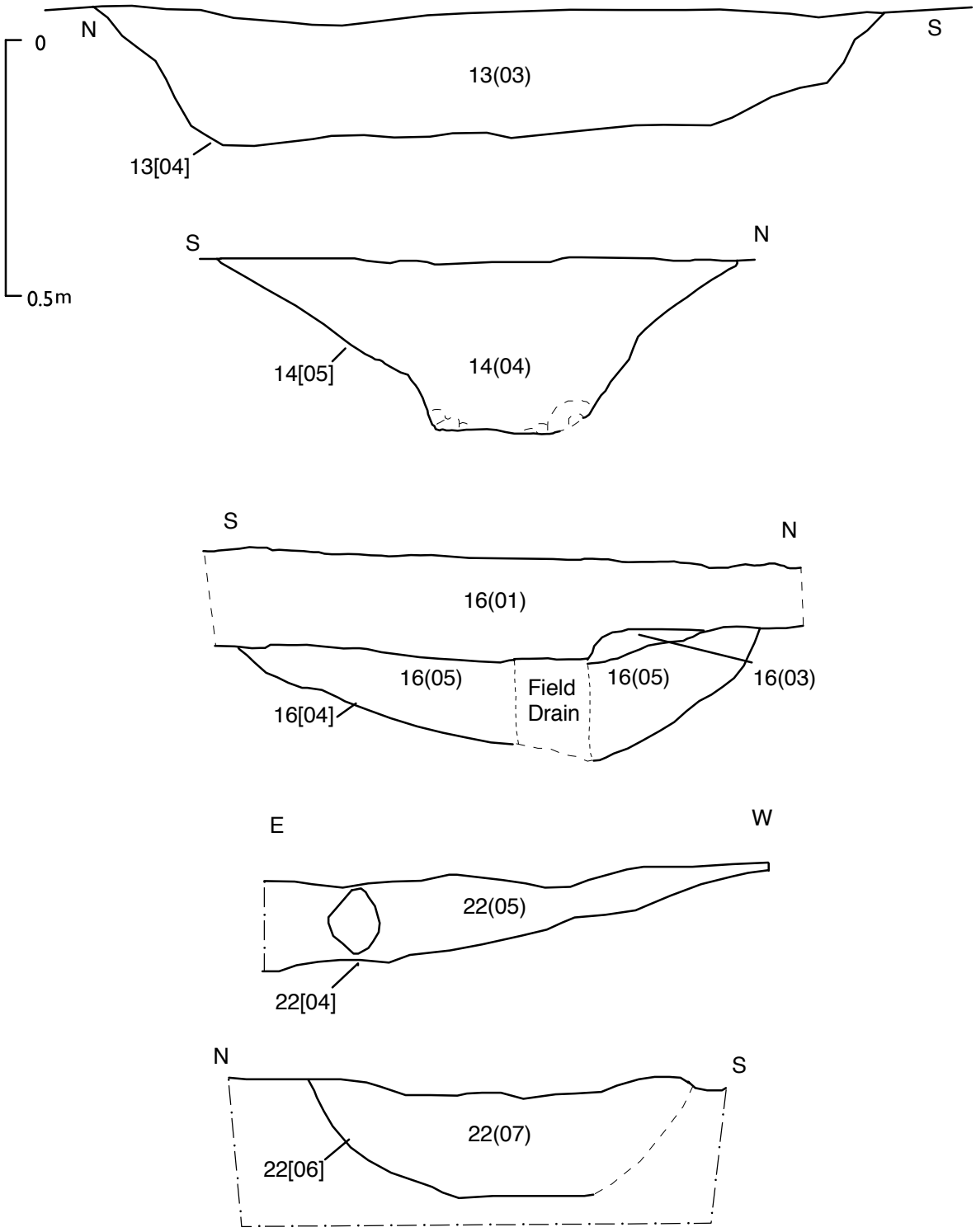
0 250 m

PROJECT // 0622E- Linton Wind Farm

DESCRIPTION // Trench Locations

DOC REF: LP0622E-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

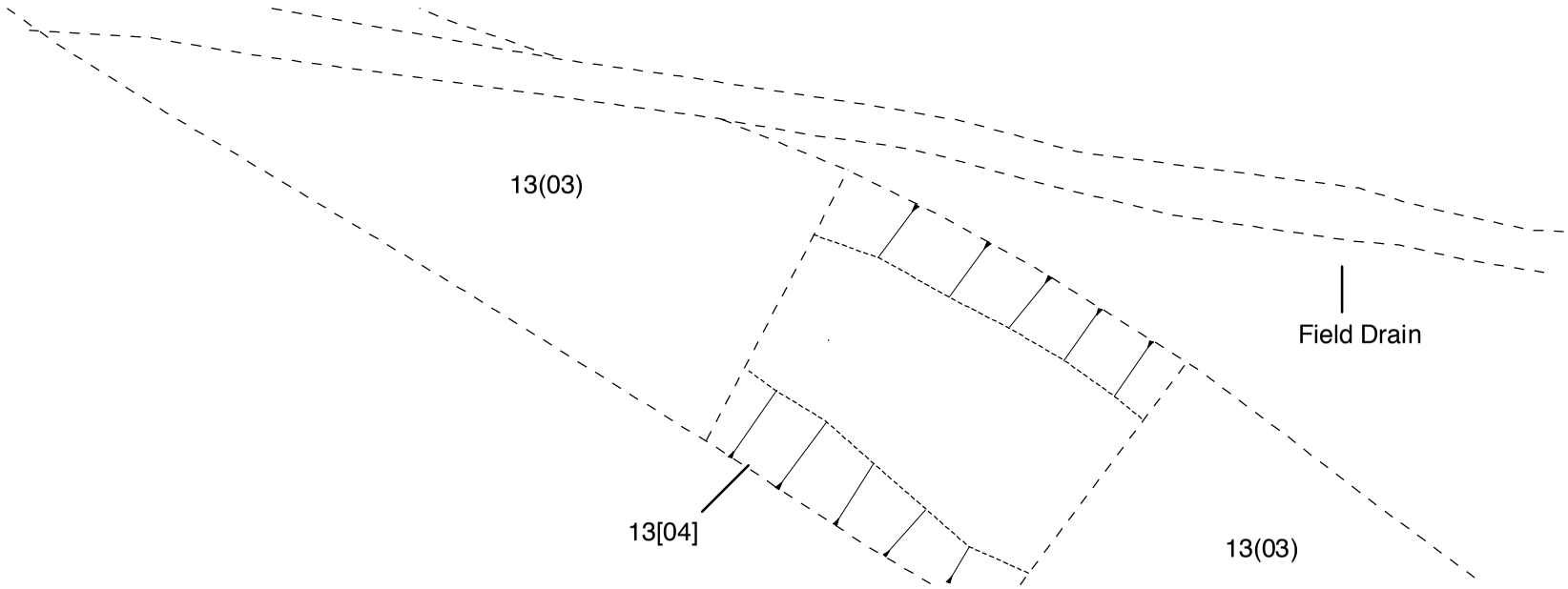


Sections of Linear features from trenches, 13,14,16,22

PROJECT // 0622E - Linton Wind Farm

DESCRIPTION // Linear Ditch Sections

FIGURE 4 // Trench13



0 3 m

PROJECT // LP0622 Linton Wind Farm

DESCRIPTION // Trench 13, Linear Feature , Feild Drain

DOC REF: LPEC-AER-v1.0

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 5 // Trench 14

0 5 m

PROJECT // LP0622 Linton Wind Farm

DESCRIPTION // Trench 14, Linear Feature

DOC REF: LPEC-AER-v1.0

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 7 // Trench18

0 5 m

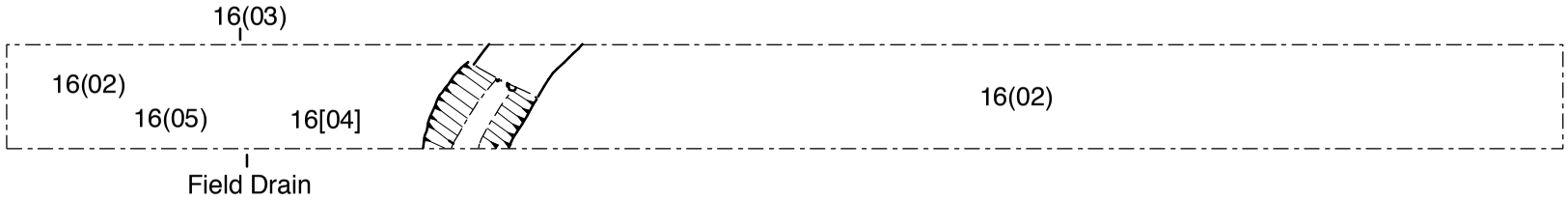
PROJECT // LP0622 Linton Wind Farm

DESCRIPTION // Trench 18, Linear Feature

DOC REF: LPEC-AER-v1.0

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 6 // Trench 16



0 5 m

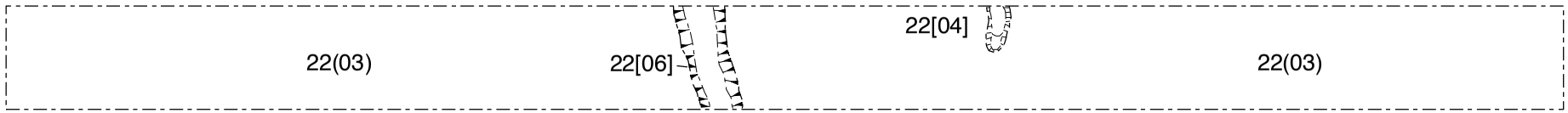
PROJECT // LP0622 Linton Wind Farm

DESCRIPTION // Trench 16, Linear Feature , Feild Drain

DOC REF: LPEC-AER-v1.0

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 8// Trench 22



0 5 m

PROJECT // LP0622 Linton Wind Farm

DESCRIPTION // Trench 22, Linear Features

DOC REF: LPEC-AER-v1.0

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FINDS REPORT

APPENDIX 1

Finds Quantification Table (evaluation)

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight kg	Comments
4(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.002	Trench 4 north, sieved
5(01)	Flint		0.009	Trench 5 south west, sieved
5(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.039	Trench 5 south west, sieved
5(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.036	Trench 5 north east, sieved
6(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.004	Trench 6 west, sieved
6(01)	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.002	Trench 6 east, sieved
7(01)	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.001	Trench 7 east, sieved
7(01)	Ceramic	Vessel	0.001	Trench 7 west, sieved
8(01)	Flint		0.001	Trench 8 west, sieved
16(01)	Organic	Bone	0.008	Trench 16 north west, sieved
16(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.001	Trench 16 north west, sieved
20(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.080	Trench 20 south east, sieved
22(01)	Ceramic	Vessel	0.003	Trench 22 north, sieved
22(01)	Flint		0.004	Trench 22 north, sieved
25(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.002	Trench 25 east, sieved
45(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.003	Trench 45, sieved
101(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.033	Trench 101 east, sieved
101(01)	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.001	Trench 101 west, sieved
102(01)	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.003	Trench 102 west, sieved
102(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.020	Trench 102 west, sieved
102(01)	Flint		0.001	Trench 102 west, sieved
102(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.004	Trench 102 east, sieved
103(01)	Flint		0.038	Trench 103 east, sieved
106(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building	0.011	Trench 106 east, sieved

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight kg	Comments
		Material		
108(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.028	Trench 108 west, sieved
108(01)	Flint		0.003	Trench 108 east, sieved
108(01)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.004	Trench 108 east, sieved
13(10)	Flint		0.007	Trench 13
14(04)	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.003	Trench 14
14(04)	Flint		0.001	Trench 14
16(10)	Ceramic	Vessel	0.050	Trench 16
16(05)	Flint		0.047	Trench 16
16(05)	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.006	Trench 16
16(05)	Organic	Bone	0.068	Trench 16
18(04)	Ceramic	Vessel	0.122	Trench 18
22(05)	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.032	Trench 22
22(05)	Organic	Bone	0.114	Trench 22
22(05)	Ceramic	Vessel	0.001	Trench 22
22(05)	Ceramic	Vessel	0.002	Trench 22, sieved
22(05)	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.001	Trench 22, sieved
22(07)	Ceramic	Vessel	0.261	Trench 22

Animal Bone, by Chris Faine

Introduction

A total of 14 pieces of animal bone were recovered from the excavation with only two pieces identifiable to species. The total weight of hand-collected bone was 192g.

Assemblage

A butchered distal cattle metacarpal was recovered from context 16(04) and a portion of proximal femur (also butchered), was recovered from contexts labelled Trench 22, context 22(05)

Recommendations

No further work is required on this assemblage.

Bibliography

Davis, S.	1992	A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites. AML rep. 81/91 London.

Iron Age and Romano - British Pottery, by Stephen Wadeson

Summary

A total of twenty-nine sherds, weighing 0.443kg, of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were recovered during an archaeological evaluation of land south of Cambridge Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire 2008. A single sherd of Post Medieval pottery (1g) was also identified within the assemblage.

Just over half of the assemblage, seventeen sherds, is made up of coarse ware pottery dated to the mid to Late Iron Age, with a further twelve sherds dating to the Romano-British period. This includes a complete Grey ware flanged bowl recovered from Trench 22, context 22(07).

The pottery is a mix of abraded and moderately abraded sherds with an average weight of c.15g. The poor condition of some of the pottery is an indication of post-depositional disturbance, such as manuring and/or middening.

Period	Quantity (sherd count)	Weight (kg)	EVE	Weight (%)
Iron Age	17	180	0.00	40.5
Roman	12	263	1.00	59.2
Post-Medieval	1	1	0.00	0.3
Total	30	0.444	1.00	100.00

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by period (in chronological order)

Methodology

The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW) vessel form was also recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and decoration and abrasion were also noted.

The site archive is held by L-P Archaeology and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

Assemblage

Iron Age

Excavations produced a total of seventeen sherds (40.5% by weight) of Iron Age pottery of which thirteen are undiagnostic fragments of crushed, burnt flint and sand tempered ware. Eleven of these sherds (27.7% by weight) were recovered from linear 18[03] of which two are decorated with fingertip impressions while another is decorated with shallow incised lines. The remaining four sherds, (10.6% by weight) were recovered from feature 16[04] and are all of a sandy reduced fabric.

Although it is difficult to draw conclusions from so few sherds this may represent an earlier phase of occupation on, or close to, the area of excavation.

Romano-British

Of the remaining assemblage twelve sherds, (59.2% by weight) are of Romano-British date and were all recovered from Trench 22. The majority of these, nine sherds 58.5% (by weight) are typical of locally produced (but unsourced) domestic coarse wares. Eight of the sherds are from a single, complete sandy grey ware flanged bowl, recovered from linear 22[06]. Heavily abraded the bowl was broken in antiquity and can be dated from the late 2nd to 4th centuries.

The remaining three sherds, 0.7% (by weight) are small fragments of fine ware, recovered from linear 22[04]. These small heavily abraded sherds of Hadham oxidised ware (Tomber and Dore 1998,151) although undiagnostic, can be dated from the mid 3rd to 4th centuries.

Post-Medieval

Trench 7 produced the only remains of post-medieval pottery recovered from site, a small, single abraded sherd of glazed red ware dating from the 16th to 19th centuries. Unfortunately the sherd is too small and fragmentary to date more closely.

Discussion

This is a small assemblage spanning a wide chronological period from the Iron Age to the late 4th century suggesting continuous activity in the area over a long period of time. The small number of sherds recovered during excavation is common on many sites, suggesting there is an as yet unlocated Iron Age, Romano-British settlement or farmstead nearby.

Recommendations

Due to the small size of the assemblage no further analysis is required at this stage unless further work is undertaken.

Bibliography

Darling, M. J.,	2004	'Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery'. Journal of Roman Pottery Studies Vol 11
Tomber, R and Dore, J.,	1998	The National Roman Fabric reference collection, A Handbook. MoLAS Monograph 2
Webster, G., (Ed)	1976	Romano-British coarse pottery: a student's guide. CBA Research Report No. 6
Willis, S.,	2004	The Study Group For Roman Pottery Research Framework Document for the Study of Roman Pottery in Britain, 2003. Journal of Roman Pottery Studies Vol 11

The Pottery Catalogue

Key: C=Century, E=Early, M=Mid, L=Late.

R=Rim, U=Undecorated body sherd, D=Decorated body sherd, B=Base.

Context	Fabric	Des.	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Decoration	Spot date	Context date	Comments
16(05) Trench 16	IA SRW (Sandy Reduced Wares)	U		4	47		M-LIA	M-LIA	Crushed Burnt Flint temp.
16(05) Trench 16	Flint Tempered Sandy Coarse Wares	U		1	4		M-LIA		
18(04) Trench 18	Flint Tempered Sandy Coarse Wares	UB		11	123	Finger Tip Impressions	M-LIA	M-LIA	Crushed Burnt Flint temp.
7(01) Trench 7 West	Post Medieval Red Ware	U		1	1	Glazed	C16-C19	C16-C19	Sieved, Very Abraded
22(05) Trench 22	Hadham Oxidised Ware	U		2	2		C3-EC5	C3-EC5	Sieved, Very Abraded
22(05) Trench 22	Hadham Oxidised Ware	U		1	1		C3-EC5	C3-EC5	Very abraded
22(07) Trench 22	Flint Tempered Sandy Coarse Wares	U		1	6		M-LIA	M-LIA	
22(07)	SGW	UBR	Flange	8	257		LC2-	LC2-C4	Complete

Trench 22	(Sandy Grey Wares)		d Bowl				C4		vessel, very abraded
22(01) Trench 22 North	SGW (Sandy Grey Wares)	U		1	3		MC1-C4	MC1-C4	Sieved, Very Abraded

Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay, by Stephen Wadeson

Summary

Fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 0.308kg of ceramic building material (CBM) including unclassified material and 0.017kg of fired clay. The majority of the CBM and fired clay were recovered by sieving with only 0.032kg of CBM recovered from the excavation of features. The bulk of the material is post medieval in date, with a small amount of Roman CBM recovered from linear 22[04].

The condition of the overall assemblage is heavily abraded with an average weight of CBM fragments of 7g and fired clay of 1.7g an indication of post-depositional disturbance, such as ploughing, manuring and/or middening rather than the deliberate deposition after they were broken or the buildings to which the CBM relates went out of use.

Methodology

For this assessment the CBM and fired clay was counted, weighed and levels of abrasion recorded following the guidelines laid down by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2002).

Assemblage

Ceramic Building Material

A total of 44 fragments of CBM were recovered during excavation; however the majority of the material, recovered from topment of peg tile recognised by the presence of a partial nail holesoil could only be assigned to broad categories. This includes a frag. Linear 22[04] produced the only fragments of CBM recovered from a feature and also is the only CBM recovered from Roman deposits.

Type	Fragment Count	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
Tile	19	0.226	73.4
Peg Tile	1	0.015	4.8
Roman Tile/Brick	3	0.032	10.4
Unclassified	21	0.035	11.4
Totals	44	0.308	100.00

Table 1: CBM types by count, weight and % weight

Fired Clay

Excavations produced only ten small, heavily abraded fragments of fired clay weighing 17g. Six of the fragments were recovered from three ditch fills 14(04), 16(05) and 22(05) while a further four pieces were found during the sieving of topsoil from another four separate trenches.

Discussion

Due its small size it is difficult to assess the assemblage beyond providing basic information. Although no structural evidence was found during excavation the CBM recovered suggests either the presence of a building(s) in the vicinity or possibly represents material brought to site from elsewhere.

Recommendations

Due to the small size of the assemblage no further analysis is required unless further work is undertaken.

Bibliography

ACBMG	2002	Ceramic Building Material Minimum Standards for recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication. http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm

Lithics, by Barry Bishop

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of twelve struck flints. This report quantifies and describes the material, discusses its significance and recommends any further work required for it to achieve its full research potential.

Quantification

Context	Decortication	Trimming	Flake	Flake	Retouched	Condition

	Flake	Flake		Fragment		
13(10)	1					Slightly abraded
14(10)		1				Good
16(05)	2	1	1	1		Good
102(01)				1		Sharp
108(01)			1			Slightly abraded
22(01)				1		Slightly abraded
5(01)					1	Slightly abraded
8(01)		1				Sharp
Total	3	3	2	3	1	

Description

Most of the struck pieces were made from a fine-grained translucent black flint with a few pieces of opaque grey flint also present. Cortex was thick but slightly weathered and some ancient thermal scars were visible. The raw materials were most likely obtained from superficial deposits found close to the parent chalk, such as deposits of mass-weathering, and would be easily available in the vicinity of the site.

The condition of the pieces varied from good to slightly chipped and abraded. Although potentially residual or recovered from unstratified contexts, it was likely that they were recovered from close to where they were originally discarded. Recortication also varied, even on individual pieces, and ranged from being absent to blue-white.

The assemblage consisted of struck flakes; no blades or cores were present and only one retouched piece was present. The decortication and trimming flakes indicate flint reduction was occurring whilst the retouch piece indicates some tool use. This came from Trench 5 and consisted of a narrow cortical flake with semi-invasive retouch along the median parts of both lateral margins. It resembles an informally and somewhat crudely made plano-convex knife, these implements typically being Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date. The only context to produce more than a single piece was (1605). This produced five pieces, three of which, the flake and the two decortication flakes, probably came from the same nodule and indicates flintworking in the vicinity of the feature.

Other than the retouched piece, no other diagnostic pieces were present and confident dating of the assemblage is problematic. The lack of any obvious attempts at blade production, combined with the apparent competent and careful approach to the manufacture of most of the flakes, may tentatively suggest a date after the Early Neolithic but before the Middle

Bronze Age for the these, and this at least would be compatible with the possible dating suggested by the retouched piece. The three flakes that appeared to be from the same nodule from context (1605) were all thick and squat and had wide obtuse striking platforms and visible points of percussion. These characteristics are most commonly represented in later industries and, although this sub-assemblage is too small for confident attribution, it is possible that these indicate later second or first millennium flintworking.

Significance

The struck flint assemblage indicates prehistoric activity at the site but the size of the assemblage and the paucity of diagnostic pieces limits its interpretive potential for understanding the chronology or nature of this activity. Nevertheless, the apparent low-density of occupation, or at least of struck flint use, at the site may be contrasted with the wealth of information for multi-period prehistoric activity recorded in the vicinity, such as recently identified at Linton Village College (ref?). If these patterns were to be confirmed, they would suggest a complex and variable use of this landscape.

Recommendations

This report is sufficient for the archive and no further analytical work is proposed. The material is of some significance in that it contributes to an understanding of the prehistoric use of the wider landscape and therefore should be recorded in the local Historic Environment Record and a brief description included in any published account of the fieldwork.

Metalwork, by Stephen Wadeson

Summary

Excavations produced three iron (Fe) finds, deriving from two separate contexts. A single Fe Hobnail of probable Roman date was recovered from ditch 16[04] while an Fe nail and Fe artefact, as yet unidentified; and also of possible Roman origin were retrieved from the fill of linear 22[05].

Recommendations

All three artefacts have been stabilised however all metalwork should be x-rayed to confirm identifications and further decisions on conservation should be made at this time.

ENVIROMENTAL REPORT

APPENDIX 2

Palaeoenvironmental Assessment Report

LAND SOUTH OF CAMBRIDGE ROAD LINTON

For Enertrag UK Ltd.

Edited by Steven Campion BSc (Hons)

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Palaeoenvironmental Assessment Report

LAND SOUTH OF CAMBRIDGE ROAD LINTON

Client:	Enertrag UK Ltd.
Local Authority:	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Editor(s):	Steven Campion
Doc Ref:	LP0622E-EAR-v1.3
Date:	June 08

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1. Introduction

1.1. This document aims to assess the potential of environmental bulk samples recovered during an evaluation at land south of Cambridge Road, Linton. In terms of the potential of the material to provide further information regarding the function, date, use and environmental conditions of the site.

1.2. The material was processed, the heavy fraction assessed and the report edited by Steven Campion. The light fraction (flot) was assessed by Lisa Gray.

2. Provenance

2.1. A total of six bulk samples were taken during the evaluation of the land south of Cambridge Road, Linton between the 28th of April and the 9th of May by L – P : Archaeology.

2.2. In accordance with the project specification for the site (EVE 2008A), namely section 7.3.2, only the bulk samples that were recovered from dated or dateable contexts were processed to assessment level. These were <2>(2207), <3>(1605) and <4>(1804), where <> is the sample number, () is the context number for a fill and [] is the context number for a cut.

2.3. The 10 litre bulk sample <2> was recovered from context (2207), trench 22. Context (2207) is the light brown, clay silt fill of [2206], a linear feature running east to west, 10m south from the northern end of the trench. The only visible inclusions being pieces of a heavily abraded 'Roman' style pot (JONES 2008).

2.4. The 30 litre bulk sample <3> was recovered from context (1605), trench 16. Context (1605) is the soft mid brown, grey silt fill of [1604], a linear feature with roughly straight sides that contained flakes of charcoal and a large amount of, as yet, undated pottery (JONES 2008)

2.5. The 30 litre bulk sample <4> was recovered from context (1804), trench 18. Context (1804) is the dark grey, clay silt fill of [1803], a straight sided linear that contained flakes of charcoal and, as yet, undated pottery (JONES 2008).

3. Methodology

3.1. The environmental bulk samples were processed by flotation sieving, as outlined in L – P : Archaeology Guideline 2, page 4 (ALLEN 2008B). Flot was retained on a 500 micron mesh sieve and the heavy fraction on a 1mm mesh.

3.2. The heavy fraction was further fractionated using 4mm and 1mm sieves to aid analysis. As the samples were not particularly large, the >4 mm fraction and 1-4mm fraction were assessed fully with relevant ecofacts being extracted from the separate fractions and their abundance recorded. The <1mm fraction was retained for any potential further study, if deemed necessary.

3.3. Scanning of the heavy fraction recovered a limited quantity of finds that are mentioned briefly here and are discussed alongside the rest of the hand collected finds assemblage.

3.4. The volume of the flot was measured in millilitres. It was next sieved through a stack of geological sieves and scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10x to 40x. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of ecofacts and artefacts in the sample were recorded onto a paper record sheet for tabulation. This is kept with the L – P : Archaeology archive and is available on request.

3.5. Preliminary identifications were made of the plant remains. These do not form a full species list. For the purposes of assessment most identifications are made to genus. Where identifications are made here those for seeds are made from modern reference material and manuals (BEIJERINCK 1947; CAPPERS, *ET AL.* 2006) and those for cereals are from modern reference material and reference guides and manuals (CHARLES 1984; HILLMAN ET AL 1996; JACOMET 2006). Nomenclature and habitat information is taken from STACE (1997) and scientific names will be given once in brackets and the common name given thereafter and in the table.

4. Range and Variation

4.1. SAMPLE <2>

4.1.1. The >4mm fraction is dominated by large pieces of chalk and flint, none of which are worked. No ecofacts are present in the fraction.

4.1.2. The 1-4mm fraction is dominated by chalk. No ecofacts are present in the sample. However two small pieces of CBM are present which will be added to the hand collected finds to be assessed by the relevant specialist.

4.1.3. The flot is dominated by uncharred root/rhizome fragments and flecks of microscopic charcoal. Also present is a moderately abundant and diverse assemblage of uncharred seeds. These are mainly ruderals and include celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus* L.), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.).

4.2. SAMPLE <3>

4.2.1. The >4mm fraction is dominated by chalk and unworked flint. Mammal bone was recovered from the context by hand and is also found within the >4mm fraction, see TABLE 1.

Element	Species	Total
Teeth	Cow, *Bos taurus*	5
Mandible/maxilla	Cow, *Bos taurus*	4
Tooth	Sheep, *Ovis aries*	1
Unfused distal radius epiphysis	Cow, *Bos taurus*	1
Skull	Large mammal	5
Undeterminate	Large mammal	11
	Total fragments	27

4.2.2. Table 1 – *Mammal bone recovered from sample 3*

4.2.3. There are 30 fragments of charcoal in the 1-4mm fraction, ranging in size from 5 x 3 x 2 mm to 14 x 12 x 4 mm. Also present are 3 small fragments of CBM and 5 pieces of pottery which will again be added to the hand collected finds.

4.2.4. The 1-4mm fraction is again dominated by chalk. Charcoal and mammal bone fragments are both present in the 1-4mm fraction, however no items will be extracted due to the lack of information that could be derived from such small fragments. Only one small fragment of CBM is present which will be extracted and added to the hand collected finds.

4.2.5. Over half of the flot consists of charcoal fragments, many of which are large enough to be identified (>4mm^3). There is also an abundance of uncharred root/rhizome fragments.

4.3.SAMPLE <4>

4.3.1. As with the other samples, the >4mm fraction is dominated by chalk and unworked flint. Mammal bone is present within the >4mm fraction but is heavily fragmented and mostly unidentifiable, see TABLE 2.

Element	Species	Total
Tooth	Pig, *Sus scrofa domesticus*	1
Rib	Sheep, *Ovis aries*	2
Skull	Large mammal	3
Long bone	Large mammal	5
Undeterminate	Large mammal	40
	Total fragments	51

4.3.2. Table 2 – *Mammal bone recovered from sample 4*

4.3.3. There are 112 charcoal fragments, ranging in size from 180 x 120 x 50 mm to 5 x 3 x 1 mm though most fragments are to the smaller end of this scale. Also present are 6 pieces of CBM and 34 fragments of pottery. Again these will be added to the hand collected finds.

4.3.4. The 1-4mm contains large amounts of chalk. Again, mammal bone and charcoal will be left unextracted. There are no other ecofacts within the fraction and the only artefacts present are 8 pieces of CBM which will be extracted and added to the rest of the hand collected finds.

4.3.5. The flot is dominated by uncharred root/rhizome fragments and flecks of

microscopic charcoal. Also present is a very distorted charred cereal grain.

5. Condition of Material

5.1. The only ecofacts that are present in the heavy fraction are charcoal and large mammal bone. The charcoal is preserved well enough to allow speciation. The large mammal bone is heavily fractionated but is in good condition.

5.2. On the basis of the archaeological background (JONES 2008) the potential for plant remains, particularly charred, to be present at this site was deemed to be good. On assessing these samples it seem that the conditions for the preservation or survival of plant macrofossils has been poor. Where present, the quality of preservation of plant macrofossils was moderate to good for the uncharred seeds. The charred grain in sample <4> was so distorted it was barely recognisable.

6. Statement of potential

6.1. As stated on page 8 in the L – P: Intelligent Environmental Sampling Policy (IESP), Iron Age bulk samples are given high priority (ALLEN 2008A). This must be factored in to any decision regarding further work on these samples.

6.2. A large majority of the charcoal in sample <3> is large enough and well-preserved enough to identify.

6.3. Some of the undeterminate mammal bone fragments may be identifiable if more time is spent analysing the fragments.

7. New Research Questions and Potential for Data

7.1. There are currently no research questions being undertaken by L – P that these samples could aid.

7.2. As there is good amount of evidence from the Iron Age and Roman Period surrounding the site (EVE 2008B), there is the potential that this data could be used in a study for the wider area. Copies of this report will be sent to the CHER and the Essex HER and the finds sent to the County Store (EVE 2008A).

8. Recommendations

8.1. The heavy fraction contained very few ecofacts. The charcoal is in some cases large enough to be speciated but doing so at this stage would not aid interpretation of these possible Iron Age/Roman agriculture or field boundries (JONES 2008). Likewise, the mammal bone is all unworked and so heavily fragmented that a full analysis would yield little in the way of new data.

8.2. The uncharred seeds in sample <2> are likely to be modern, as the possibility of these seeds entering the context via bioturbation is high. The maximum depth of the trench this sample was recovered from (trench 22) was 0.59m (JONES 2008) and root/rhizome fragments dominated the samples so bioturbation by root action is likely. In isolation this sample has very little potential to give any useful information. If dating becomes possible for the contexts from which the remaining sample were taken (samples <1>, <5> and <6>) it will be interesting to process them and compare the flots to see if the paucity of plant macrofossils continues.

8.3. Although Iron Age bulk samples are assigned a high priority (see 6.1.), further analysis on these three samples is unlikely to reveal any useful information about the site other than that preservation conditions in the trenches were poor. It is recommended that no further work is carried out on them.

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CATALOGUE

APPENDIX 2

RAW LIGHT FRACTION DATA

Date	Feature	Context	Sample	Bulk sample volume (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Seeds			Grains			Wood		Roots		Grain			Chaff			Charcoal flecks		Identifiable charcoal		Main taxa
						Ab.	Div.	Pres.	Ab.	Div.	Pres.	Ab.	Pres.	Ab.	Pres.	Ab.	Div.	Pres.	Ab.	Div.	Pres.	Ab.	Pres.	Ab.	Pres.	
? Roman	mid brown compact clay	22(07)	2	10	5	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	Mostly root/rhizome fragments, moderately rich and diverse uncharred seed assemblage (ruderals - including RANSC, URTDI, LAM, SAMNI)
?Iron Age	charcoal rich silt clay	16(03)	3	30	200	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	3	Mostly root/rhizome fragments and charcoal
?Iron Age/ Roman	compact dark grey clay	18(04)	4	30	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	Mostly root/rhizome fragments and charcoal flecks, 1 very distorted charred grain

Key: Ab. =abundance (1= low/occasional 1-10, 2=moderate 11-1000, 3 =abundant/high >100)
Div. = diversity (1= low 1-4, 2=intermediate/moderate 5-10, 3=high >11)
Pres. = preservation (1 = poor, 2=moderate, 3=good)
RANSC = *Ranunculus sceleratus* L. URTDI = *Urtica dioica* L. LAM = *Lamium* sp. SAMNI = *Sambucus nigra* L.

ORDNANCE SURVEY 1904. 2nd Edition, 25in and 6in

ORDNANCE SURVEY PROVISIONAL EDITION (surveyed in 1904 with additions 1946) 6in

VARIOUS 1806-1857 Various small sale plans for Linton Area (CRO ref: R55/28/11/1-23)

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VARIOUS 1806-1857 Various small sale plans for Linton Area (CRO ref: R55/28/11/1-23)

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX 4