



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT
GAUL ROAD,
MARCH,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
(MAGR08)**

Work Undertaken For
Cannon Kirk Homes

November 2011

Report Compiled by
Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

With contributions from
Carol Allen, Barry Bishop, Anne Boyle, Val Fryer, Matilda
Holmes, James Rackham, Gary Taylor & Jane Wheeler

National Grid Reference: TL 4065 9685
Planning Application: F/YR05/0944/F
OASIS ID: archaeo11-108505
CCC HER Event No: ECB2958


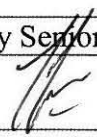
A.P.S. Report No. **06/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



**Quality Control
Excavations at Gaul Road,
March,
Cambridgeshire
MAGR08**

Project Coordinator	Dale Trimble
Project Officers	Vicky Mellor, Neil Parker
Site Staff	Maria Gale, Ellen Kendall, Ross Kendall, Jon Smith
Machine Supervision	Ross Kendall, Vicky Mellor, Neil Parker
Electronic Surveying	Mary Nugent
Manual Surveying	Vicky Mellor
Survey Processing	Mark Dymond
Digital Illustration	Vicky Mellor, Sue Unsworth
Finds Illustration	Dave Hopkins
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Photographic Reproduction	Vicky Mellor
Post-excavation Analysis	Vicky Mellor

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Dale Trimble 	 Tom Lane
Date: 24 th August 2011	Date: 14 th November 2011

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1	SUMMARY	1
2	INTRODUCTION	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION.....	1
2.2	PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	2
2.3	SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	2
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
3	AIMS	4
4	METHODS	5
5	RESULTS	6
5.1	STRATIGRAPHY AND STRUCTURE.....	6
5.2	LITHIC REPORT <i>BY BARRY BISHOP</i>	21
5.3	PREHISTORIC POTTERY REPORT <i>BY CAROL ALLEN</i>	29
5.4	REPORT ON CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS <i>BY VAL FRYER</i>	34
5.5	ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT <i>BY MATILDA HOLMES</i>	35
5.6	REPORT ON THE OTHER FINDS <i>BY ANNE BOYLE AND GARY TAYLOR</i>	36
5.7	PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT <i>BY DR JANE WHEELER AND JAMES RACKHAM</i>	40
6	DISCUSSION	59
7	CONCLUSIONS	74
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	75
9	PERSONNEL	75
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	75
11	ABBREVIATIONS	81

Appendices

1	Specification for Archaeological Excavation
2	Context Summary
3	Lithic Catalogue <i>By Barry Bishop</i>
4	Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains, Tabulated Results <i>By Val Fryer</i>
5	Borehole 13 log, Transect B Borehole logs and Radiocarbon Calibration curves <i>By Dr Jane Wheeler and James Rackham</i>
6	Glossary
7	The Archive
8	Oasis form

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location map
- Figure 2 Site location map
- Figure 3 Detailed site location map
- Figure 4 Extent of island, buried soil, roddon and alluvial deposits established in trial trenching, location of excavation areas and borehole transects
- Figure 5 Plan of excavation areas
- Figure 6 Area 1 plan
- Figure 7 Area 1 plan (north)
- Figure 8 Area 1 plan (south)
- Figure 9 Area 2 plan
- Figure 10 Area 2 plan (west)
- Figure 11 Area 2 plan (east)
- Figure 12 Area 3 plan
- Figure 13 Area 1 sections (1/2)
- Figure 14 Area 1 sections (2/2)
- Figure 15 Areas 2 & 3 sections
- Figure 16 Excavation Area 1, buried soil, alluvium and test pit locations and distribution of flint retrieved
- Figure 17 Excavation Area 1, test pit sections through buried soil and alluvium
- Figure 18 Prehistoric and Roman landscape (after Hall 1987 and Hall & Coles 1994)
- Figure 19 Location of Mesolithic and Neolithic sites and finds within c.5km of March recorded on CCC HER

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of Area 1, looking south, southwest and west
- Plate 2 Area 1, probable pit [50007] and possible post hole [50012], Section 53, looking north
- Plate 3 Area 1, possible pit [50019], Section 58, looking north
- Plate 4 Area 1, pit or pits [50021] and [50042=50031], Section 59, looking northeast
- Plate 5 Area 1, pit or pits [50039] and [50031=50042], Section 63, looking southwest
- Plate 6 Area 1, probable tree throw [50046] partially excavated, Section 64, looking north
- Plate 7 Area 1, probable tree throw [50046] further excavated, Section (profile) 65, looking north
- Plate 8 Area 1, possibly naturally-formed hollow [50022], Section 60, looking north
- Plate 9 Area 1, probable post hole [50070], Section 73, looking east

- Plate 10 Area 1, possible post hole [50074], Section 74, looking north
- Plate 11 Area 1, possible post hole [50085], Section 80, looking northwest
- Plate 12 Area 1, possible post hole [50087], Section 81, looking southeast
- Plate 13 Area 1, pit [50067], Section 72, looking northwest
- Plate 14 Area 1 probable tree throw [50093], Section 82, looking south
- Plate 15 Area 1, probable tree throw [50093] part-excavated, prior to excavation of fill 50096, looking south
- Plate 16 Area 1, probable tree throw [50093] further excavated, looking south
- Plate 17 Area 1, possible pit [50065], Section 71, looking east
- Plate 18 Area 1, probable pit [50106], Section 86, looking west
- Plate 19 Area 1, probable post hole [50113], Section 89, looking south
- Plate 20 Area 1, possible post hole [50126], Section 92, looking north
- Plate 21 Area 1, possible post hole [50452], Section 93, looking north
- Plate 22 Area 1, probable post hole [50223], Section 101, looking northeast
- Plate 23 Area 1, channel [50225], Section 102, looking southwest
- Plate 24 Area 1, channel [50366] truncating buried soil and alluvial layers and probable root-formed feature [50369], Section 108, looking north
- Plate 25 Area 1, pre-excavation view of pit, possible hearth or cooking pit, [50406], looking southwest
- Plate 26 Area 1, hearth or cooking pit [50406] half-sectioned, Section 114, looking northeast
- Plate 27 Area 1, hearth or cooking pit [50406] further excavated, looking northeast
- Plate 28 Area 1, marling pit [50061], Section 69, looking north
- Plate 29 Area 1, marling pit [50063], Section 70, looking north
- Plate 30 General view of Area 1, showing test-pitting of buried soil deposits, marling pit visible in foreground, looking west, south and east
- Plate 31 Area 1, test pit in grid square 1110/2120 showing buried soil layers 50270 and 50269 and alluvium 50268, looking north
- Plate 32 Area 1, test pit in grid square 1120/2100 showing light grey buried soil 50277, looking north
- Plate 33 Area 1, test pit in grid square 1150/2120 showing light grey buried soil 50360 and dark brown buried soil 50359, looking north

- Plate 34 Area 1 test pit in grid square 1130/2120 showing buried soil deposits and possibly naturally-formed features [50312] and [50314], Section 104, looking east
- Plate 35 Area 1, probable tree throw [50395] partially excavated, Section 111, looking northeast
- Plate 36 General view of Area 2, linear [50433] visible in foreground, looking north, east and southeast
- Plate 37 Area 2, probable post hole [50413], Section 115, looking south
- Plate 38 Area 2, pit or post hole [50419], Section 118, looking south
- Plate 39 Area 2, elongated pit [50415], Section 116, looking south
- Plate 40 Area 2, pit [50417], Section 117, looking northwest
- Plate 41 Area 2, probable pit [50425], Section 119, looking northwest
- Plate 42 Area 2, elongated pit [50427], Section 120, looking southeast
- Plate 43 Area 2, pit [50429], Section 121, looking east
- Plate 44 Area 2, linear terminus [50433], Section 124, looking southwest
- Plate 45 Area 2, linear terminus [50433], Section 125, looking northeast
- Plate 46 Area 2, probable post hole [50431], Section 122, looking south
- Plate 47 Area 2, pit [50446], Section 128, looking northeast
- Plate 48 General view of Area 3 showing alluvial and buried soil layers, looking west and north
- Plate 49 Area 3, representative Section 110 showing modern topsoil over alluvial and buried soil deposits, looking south
- Plate 50 Area 3, pit [50391], Section 112, looking north

1. SUMMARY

Excavations were required in advance of development at Gaul Road March. The site had been the subject of a previous desk-based assessment. Fieldwalking and trial trenching had confirmed the presence of two flint scatters on the site.

Three excavation areas were targeted on the flint scatters which were located on two areas of higher ground, one on either side of a small former stream valley, a prehistoric watercourse draining west into the fen. A prehistoric buried soil layer which contained numerous worked flints had been identified during the trial trenching was also targeted in the excavation.

A palaeoenvironmental borehole survey was carried out which traversed the palaeochannel at the centre of the site and adjacent higher ground, and this revealed a deposit sequence spanning much of the Neolithic, which reflected the rising sea levels and changing environmental conditions at this time. Several phases of probable anthropogenic activity were recorded in the borehole survey, in the form of burnt flints and charcoal, along with possible indicators of cultivation and tree clearance. These were probably contemporary with the Neolithic archaeology of the site.

The investigations retrieved a substantial collection of worked flint, primarily of later Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic date, including diagnostic implements dating to both periods. Middle Neolithic pottery was also retrieved, and it may be that at least some of the flintwork is broadly contemporary with this. The lithic assemblage appeared to represent a palimpsest of activity spanning the later Mesolithic to at least the earlier Neolithic, perhaps suggesting repeated but intermittent use of the site. At least three probable in situ knapping assemblages were identified. Diagnostic implements within this assemblage attested to a wide range of activities on the site, perhaps indicating longer term occupation.

Although few animal bones survived, these included those of domestic species. Along with

indicators within the palaeoenvironmental record of cereal cultivation and pasture, these suggested at least small scale Neolithic farming at the site. Fragments of polished axes retrieved in earlier work on the site may suggest at least small scale clearance of trees, but evidence for clearance from the excavation and palaeoenvironmental study was inconclusive.

Middle Neolithic pottery and a range of features including post holes, pits and a hearth were recorded, and were highly suggestive of settlement. These may have formed shelters, cooking areas and storage pits, although no clear evidence for Neolithic 'houses' was identified. A possible linear boundary, formed by a ditch and elongated pits was of possible middle Neolithic date, and may enclose a settlement area at the west of the site. A pit of possible middle Neolithic date, close to this possible ditch and pit boundary, contained a range of finds including prehistoric pottery, lithics and dog bones, which may suggest structured deposition.

Activity seems to have ceased at some time in the middle to later Neolithic, probably at least partly as a result of less favourable environmental conditions resulting from rising sea levels, and tidal inundation of the lower parts of the site.

A few sherds of Iron Age pottery and post-medieval marling pits for soil improvement were also recorded.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of Archaeological Excavation

An archaeological excavation is defined as, "a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during the fieldwork are studied and

the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design” (IfA 2008).

2.2 Project Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Hall 2007) formed the first stage of assessment for a proposed residential development on agricultural land at Gaul Road, March (Planning Application F/YR05/0944/F). Fieldwalking in 2007 and trial trenching evaluation in 2008 formed the final stages of archaeological assessment of the site (Peachey 2009). As this assessment revealed the presence of buried prehistoric remains, excavation of targeted areas of the site was required in advance of disturbance by the development. The archaeological excavation of the site was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1), responding to a brief for the archaeological programme prepared by the Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council who approved the specification on behalf of the local planning authority of Fenland District Council. The excavation was undertaken between the 10th June and 11th July 2008.

2.3 Site Location, Topography and Geology

March is located approximately 38km north of Cambridge and 23km east of Peterborough in the Fenland Administrative District of Cambridgeshire (Figure 1). The proposed development site lies on the western edge of the town, bounded by the present course of the River Nene to the north, allotments and new housing to the east, the A141 bypass to the west and Gaul Road to the south. This forms a roughly trapezoidal parcel of land covering an area of approximately 16.2 hectares (measuring c.635m east-west and c.250m north-south), centred on National Grid Reference TL 4065 9685 (Figure 2). Three excavation areas were located at the west of the site, with a combined area of approximately 7000 square metres (Figure 4).

March occupies a former island within the fenland, lying on the northern tip of a large

peninsula between two major southern embayments of the fen. The pre-Flandrian bedrock of the area is Kimmeridge Clay, overlain by interglacial gravels (Hoxnian Phase) known as ‘March Gravels’ (flinty gravels with shelly fauna) and Boulder Clay till (Hall 1987, 38). The proposed development is situated on the western edge of the low-lying island, which rises to c4m OD. The proposed development site lies between 0m and 1.2m AOD. Hall describes an inlet into this island at Gaul Road site as forming a ‘narrow waist that almost divides March Island into two’ (*ibid*) (Figures 18 & 19).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

Overview

The Fenland has long been recognised as an important archaeological landscape, containing superimposed evidence of settlement, ritual and agricultural sites dating from the prehistoric period onwards. March occupies a former island within the fenland, lying on the northern tip of a large peninsula. The surrounding fen landscape underwent a series of complex changes during the prehistoric, Roman and later periods, influenced by the peninsula and the constantly changing courses of the major rivers on either side of it (Hall 1987) (Figure 18).

The earliest evidence for occupation at March lies within the proposed development site and takes the form of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters (Her refs 08455, 08455A, 05210, 05210A, 10913, 10913A, Figure 19). In the wider area Bronze Age lithics have been identified during excavations at Westry (1.5km north of the Investigation Area), 600m to the south of the site at Cherry Holt (Figure 19) and at Flaggrass (2.5km to the northeast), all in residual contexts.

A Bronze Age fine handled beaker (HER 5924) was discovered during the construction of March Railway Station in the 1860s. Such vessels are usually associated with burial contexts (Hall 1987).

Excavations at Estover, to the northeast,

identified a group of Bronze Age Beaker pottery from a pit, while an adjacent pit contained Bronze Age flints (James and Potter 1996).

Excavations undertaken at Whitemoor sidings, 4km to the northeast of the proposed development site, identified two areas of significant prehistoric remains. One was of early Bronze Age date, characterised by shallow ditches, pits and postholes. The second, of late Bronze Age date, featured a series of large pits, together with postholes and gullies, containing artefactual and faunal remains and indicating the likelihood of settlement nearby (Hall 2004).

Iron Age sites lie to the north of Grandford and at Flaggrass, where occupation continued throughout the Iron Age period. Located at the eastern edge of the island, near the river, the Flaggrass sites would have had a link to Stonea island where more extensive Iron Age settlement is known (Hall 1987).

There is evidence for the extensive exploitation of the fenlands during the Romano-British period. Cropmarks of Romano-British field systems have been identified to the northeast of the present town. Possible saltern sites have been noted in the vicinity (HER CB10122 and CB10123) and excavations in the 1950s at Norwood, 2.5km to the north of the proposed development area, identified evidence of occupation and salt production between the late first century and fourth centuries AD (HER CB7317). Near to the course of the Nene on the east of the island, at Cedar Close, a Romano-British saltmaking site was excavated (Lane *et al* 2008).

The Fen Causeway, a Roman routeway that follows a course from Peterborough, through March and into Norfolk (HER CB15033), is thought to cross the March Island east to west 2km to the north of the proposed development area, although its precise course in this area is unknown. Part of the Fen Causeway is thought to have originally been a canal, which was later metalled and/or gravelled over when the silts dried out. Excavations of the Causeway at Stonea identified earlier prehistoric features beneath the road.

However, excavations over the projected course of the Fen Causeway, at Dagless Way (HER CB408) and Whitemoor, did not reveal any archaeological features (Last 2001).

Excavations at Estover, 2km northeast of the site, during the 1980s investigated the Fen Causeway where it was visible as an earthwork. The excavated sections identified a metalled surface, flanked by substantial ditches, which ran parallel to the causeway. The excavations also identified a number of Roman features including a ditched droveway approaching the causeway at an angle from the east and several small rectilinear enclosures (James and Potter 1996).

Realignment of the River Nene to its present course, which now bounds the northern edge of the proposed development area, occurred during the late Saxon period (Hall 1987, 46). The realignment is believed to have been part of a local scheme of drainage of the Fens during the 10th century, allowing March to develop as an inland port.

March is first referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it was known as Merc, meaning boundary. It was later known as Marchford, a reflection of the role March played in the transport routes through the Fens.

By the 16th century March was recorded as a minor port, with eight barges transporting coal and grain. The town continued to expand throughout the post-medieval period.

Excavation site

Prehistoric finds have been recorded within the proposed development site. The flint scatters were first observed by Mr. F.M. Walker who donated the flints to Wisbech Museum where they were subsequently recorded by Wymer (1977) in his gazetteer of lithics and were later analysed by Middleton (1990) as part of his work on the Walker Lithic collection from March/Manea.

A Mesolithic flint scatter (Figure 19, HER ref 05210) is recorded towards the southwestern corner of the site. The scatter of worked flints comprises 68 cores, 336 blades and retouched

flakes, 3 scrapers, 3 axes, graters, 2 microliths, 1 micro-burin and 18 others. A further Mesolithic scatter (HER ref 109913) contained cores, but fewer blades or microliths. Identified at the same location were Neolithic Transverse arrowheads (HER ref 05210A and 10913A)

To the north of the former scatter, in the northwestern corner of the proposed development site, a second concentration of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flints was recorded (Figure 19, HER ref 08455 and 08445A).

Fieldwalking and trial trench evaluation of the site confirmed the presence of two areas of Mesolithic activity located on the island either side of the low valley of a small stream. A prehistoric buried soil containing further Mesolithic and Neolithic flint survived on the sides of this valley. A few features of probable later prehistoric date containing residual flint were revealed. A radiocarbon date indicates peat began forming above the buried soil in the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age as the water table rose. This was then sealed by alluvium. Post-medieval ditches and marling pits were the only other archaeological features revealed. Finds retrieved during evaluation of the site comprised Mesolithic and early Neolithic flint and post-medieval artefacts with some residual medieval material (Peachey 2009).

Topographically the location of the proposed development site is of significance. The two flint scatters lie either side of the inlet described by Hall during the Fenland survey (Hall 1987, 39) (Figures 18 & 19). Hall also identified a roddon (raised silt banks of a former tidal creek) within the inlet and speculates that the watercourse may have been active towards the end of the Mesolithic period and that waterlogged contemporary environmental remains under the fen deposits. Figure 18 shows the roddons of the creek systems as plotted by the Fenland Survey to the west side of March Island and the proposed application area. These creeks were active during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods

The evidence collated during the Fenland

Survey (Hall 1987) defined the junctions of the Flandrian and pre-Flandrian deposits in and around the development site. An aerial photographic assessment of the proposed application area undertaken as part of a desk based assessment has added further detail to Hall's work and identified a roddon entering the site from the west (Palmer 2007) (Figure 4). This mapping of the prehistoric landscape suggests that the proposed development site was positioned at the edge of an island of pre-Flandrian clays and gravels set within various wetland environments from the Neolithic period onwards. These wetlands protruded into the proposed development site in an embayment which changed position through time (Hall 1987).

There is the possibility that alluvium may be present either from the Nene or from the prehistoric marine events which created the roddons. This may mask archaeological deposits in low-lying areas of the site, particularly the western end and adjacent to the River Nene.

Cartographic evidence suggests the site has largely been farmland/pasture since at least 1680, with very little change or development taking place in the area until recent times. It is likely that post medieval field boundaries, as defined in earlier mapping of the area, survive below the present topsoil (Hall 2007).

3. AIMS

The primary aim of the project was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

The excavation was directed at the excavation and recording of prehistoric deposits likely to be recovered at the southwest and northeast corners of the area of excavation. Fieldwalking and trial trenching in these areas had previously retrieved worked flints of later Mesolithic date, thought most likely to represent 'home base' occupation rather than casual exploitation of flint or fenland resources.

These remains had potential to provide data to address the following areas of research or 'gaps in knowledge' as defined in Glazebrook (1997) and Brown and Glazebrook (2000).

Despite the known potential of the fenland region to contain well preserved sites of Mesolithic date 'there is a scarcity of known occupation sites, in particular recent well excavated examples where there is associated environmental data in good condition' (Austin 2000).

Although preservation of buried soils and archaeological remains is likely to be very poor on the highest, unprotected areas of the March gravel 'island', there is a possibility that organic remains of the period are preserved in the lower areas adjacent to the 'islands' at the northwest and southeast corners of the application area.

Assessment of these organic remains during the trial trenching phase recovered pollen in a reasonable state of preservation and a pit recorded in one of the trenches contained hazelnut shells and charred material. Investigation of the preserved organic deposits in low areas adjacent to the 'islands' and environmental and ecofactual material from cut features had the potential to provide important information on the Mesolithic environment and economy.

The narrower objectives of the work were to:

Determine the date of the archaeological remains present on the site.

Determine the extent and spatial arrangement of archaeological remains present within the site.

Establish the character of archaeological remains present within the site.

Determine the extent to which surrounding archaeological remains extend into the site.

Identify the way in which the archaeological remains identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Three areas were investigated, all of which fell within the footprint of the new roundabout, access road and new ditch (Figure 4). These areas were each stripped, under archaeological supervision, using a 360° mechanical excavator, along with dumper trucks to remove spoil. Following stripping selected areas were cleaned by hand and a pre-excitation survey of the area compiled using a survey grade GPS system. All discrete features were investigated, usually by half-sectioning and recording of each feature, the remaining halves subsequently also being excavated and recorded. In the case of possible hearths and similar features, each was emptied and recorded one fill at a time. In excess of 30 percent of each linear feature was sampled and subsequently fully excavated for the retrieval of artefacts, except where it became apparent that these were of post medieval or modern date. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets using the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn. Plans of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. The extent of buried soils and alluvial deposits in Area 3 were planned using a GPS, whilst in those in Area 1 were planned by hand at a scale of 1:100. Hand-drawn plans of isolated features were at a scale of 1:20 and were located through surveying at least two planning points per feature. A 5m grid was laid out at the northern part of Area 1, by both GPS survey and by hand using tapes. A photographic record was compiled in both black and white print and colour digital formats, and recorded all stages of site operations and individual features. Samples for the retrieval of environmental remains were taken from the majority of excavated deposits, although only a sub sample of these were selected for processing.

Following stripping, numerous flints were visible within buried soil deposits across the northern part of Area 1, and the planning archaeologist requested that this area be

fieldwalked. Collected artefacts were bagged and labelled according to 5m grid square. Following fieldwalking, test pitting was carried out across this area, a 1m square at the southwest corner of each 5m grid square being excavated. A bulk soil sample was retained from each test pit for artefact retrieval. Finds were not removed from these samples, but any further artefacts found during the test-pitting bagged separately. Following the completion of the test pitting, the remaining buried soil was removed using a mechanical excavator in order to reveal any sealed archaeological remains.

During the course of the excavations a borehole survey was carried out by the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy. This transect was located along the route of a proposed new ditch cut, and examined sediments infilling the stream valley floor. The methodology of this part of the works is detailed elsewhere in this report (5.7).

5. RESULTS

5.1 Stratigraphy and structure

AREA 1

Area 1 was located in the area of a proposed new roundabout, associated roads, and a large new drainage ditch. Area 1 extended across the southern part of the western field, between the A141 and a large existing drainage ditch (Figure 4), and covered an area of approximately 5800m². The area of a modern building and associated hardstanding adjacent to this drainage ditch was excluded from the excavation area due to anticipated modern disturbance. Most of Area 1 was located on the former island of higher ground on the south side of palaeochannel, the ground level dropping down to the north. At the northern edge of the area a buried soil overlain by alluvium was exposed which had been identified in trial trenching (Peachey 2009) (Figure 5, Plates 1 & 30).

Natural deposits

A mixed deposit of firm mid reddish, yellowish and greyish brown silt and clay,

with occasional pebbles and silty, clayey and gravelly patches, extended across Area 1. This naturally-formed layer was the earliest deposit encountered in this area and, largely due to test-pitting across part of Area 1, was allocated a large number of separate context numbers: (50056, 50059, 50089, 50090, 50091, 50092, 50105, 50110, 50119, 50125, 50135, 50229, 50230, 50231, 50237, 50238, 50239, 50243, 50244, 50246, 50247, 50251, 50254, 50255, 50260, 50261, 50264, 50267, 50271, 50272, 50275, 50278, 50279, 50281, 50285, 50287, 50288, 50290, 50292, 50293, 50297, 50299, 50300, 50301, 50305, 50306, 50311, 50317, 50318, 50319, 50322, 50329, 50333, 50334, 50338, 50339, 50342, 50347, 50349, 50350, 50353, 50356, 50357, 50361, 50371, 50372, 50375, 50377, 50380, 50384 & 50409). This layer represents the interglacial 'March Gravels'.

An approximately 14m wide northnorthwest-southsoutheast clay band extended across the centre of Area 1 (Figures 5 & 6, Plate 1). This probably represented an ancient channel, perhaps formed by run-off of meltwater associated with the formation of the interglacial gravels, or in the post-glacial period.

Buried soil deposits

Buried soil layers were exposed at the north of Area 1, overlying both the natural gravel and the clays of the palaeochannel (Figure 6). These were increasingly patchy towards their southern edge, but were spread over the full width of the excavation area, a distance of up to c.82m east-west. The exposed distance across the buried soil from north to south varied between c.6 to c.30m. At the north of the area, the buried soil layers were sealed by alluvium (Figure 7, Plates 1 & 30).

Again largely due to the test pitting across the area, numerous separate context numbers were allocated to the buried soil layers: (50002, 50053, 50054, 50103, 50104, 50112, 50234, 50235, 50236, 50240, 50241, 50242, 50245, 50248, 50249, 50250, 50252, 50253, 50256, 50257, 50258, 50259, 50262, 50263, 50265, 50266, 50269, 50270, 50273, 50276, 50277, 50280, 50282, 50283, 50284, 50286, 50289, 50291, 50294, 50295, 50296, 50298,

50302, 50304, 50307, 50308, 50309, 50310, 50316, 50320, 50321, 50323, 50324, 50330, 50331, 50332, 50335, 50336, 50337, 50340, 50341, 50343, 50344, 50345, 50346, 50348, 50351, 50352, 50354, 50355, 50358, 50359, 50360, 50362, 50363, 50364, 50373, 50376, 50378, 50379, 50381, 50385, 50410 & 50450) In reality, these could be broadly divided into two deposits, a lower light coloured layer, and a darker soil above. The lower of these layers was the most extensive, having been better protected from truncation, and therefore the majority of the contexts listed above refer to this layer. The darker upper buried soil layer was preserved only at the northern edge of Area 1, and at the far north of the area was sealed by alluvium (Figures 16 & 17 Plates 30, 31 & 33).

Where moist, these soils were soft, and where dry they were firm. The lower layer was generally light to mid grey, often with a yellowish or pinkish hue. The upper deposit was generally a dark or mid to dark greyish-brown. Overall, the buried soil layers comprised silt or clayey silt, the upper, darker layer being peaty in places. Both layers contained occasional pebbles throughout. The boundary between the lower, lighter, buried soil and the underlying silt and clay gravel natural was difficult to discern in places, especially at the southern extent of the deposit, where only a thin trace of the buried soil had survived. The lower buried soil layer seemed to be something of a transitional layer between the underlying natural and overlying peaty soil (Figure 17, Plates 30, 32 & 33).

A potential feature was excavated in the eastern part of Area 1, to the south of the buried soil, but its amorphous and shallow form indicated that it was most likely a natural depression, containing an isolated patch of buried soil (50112) (Figure 7). Close to the western edge of the excavation area were three further potential features which also proved to be natural depressions containing buried soil (Figure 7). Worked flints were retrieved from each of these patches of buried soil (50112), (50121), (50129) and (50137/50138), and these deposits represented continuations of the more extensive buried soil layers which survived a few metres to the north.

A test pit was excavated at the southwest corner of every 5m grid square across the buried soil area, wherever buried soil deposits were visible at the machined surface. Thus, in grid squares where the buried soils were absent or totally sealed by alluvium no test pits were opened (Figure 16). The combined thickness of the buried soil layers generally increased to the north, although thickness varied rather randomly across the area (Figure 17). Overall, the soils were better preserved towards the north, where they had been protected to some degree by the sealing layer of alluvium. In the fifty-one excavated test pits, the combined depth of buried soil deposits ranged from just 20mm to 0.34m. The lower, lighter soil layer was a maximum of 0.34m thick, whilst the darker upper layer was up to 0.21m thick (Figures 16 & 17, Plates 31-33).

Numerous worked flints were retrieved from these buried soil layers. Although not assigned to specific deposits, the finds retrieved during 'fieldwalking' of the exposed buried soil area predominantly derived from the buried soils themselves and if these are included approximately 1851 worked flints were retrieved from the buried soil deposits in Area 1 during the excavation (Figure 16). This represents 68% of the total worked flint assemblage retrieved during the excavation, fieldwalking, test-pitting and trial trenching. It should be noted however, that the buried soils were specifically targeted during the excavation, with the aim of retrieving worked flints, through test pitting and bulk sampling. Of the c.1851 flints retrieved from Area 1 buried soils, c.718 or 38% were retrieved through sieving of bulk samples.

The distribution of flint retrieved from the buried soils is discussed in detail later in this report by Bishop (5.2). Figure 16 shows two areas of increased quantities of flintwork, in the southwest and northeast of the area, and *in situ* evidence of knapping may be represented here. Although the thickness of preserved soils varied across the area, comparison of the quantity of flints retrieved from each test pit and thickness of soil examined indicates that this variation in thickness does not seem to be directly related to the quantities retrieved

(Figures 16 & 17). Additionally, bulk sampling was undertaken through collection of a similar volume of soil from each test pit, providing a degree of standardisation across the area.

Prehistoric pottery was also retrieved from the buried soil in Area 1, including 48 sherds from a single vessel, identified as Ebbsfleet Ware, of middle Neolithic date (5.3) (50381) (Figure 7). This pottery was apparently within the buried soil itself, and there was no evidence for it being within a cut feature, although the possibility remains that it was preserved within the very base of an almost entirely truncated feature. The survival and only slight abrasion of this pottery indicates that there was little post-depositional disturbance, and indicates that the buried soil layers were little-disturbed after the middle Neolithic.

This pottery, along with pottery elsewhere on the site, is described as being of probable middle Neolithic date, whilst much of the flintwork is referred to as Mesolithic to early Neolithic (5.2 & 5.3). As there is no distinctive middle Neolithic lithic industry, flints assigned early Neolithic or Mesolithic to early Neolithic date ranges might easily be contemporary with the middle Neolithic Ebbsfleet Ware pottery (Bishop *pers. comm.*). However it is also possible that a continuation of activity is represented spanning all or part of the fourth millennium BC. Certainly some flintwork identifiable as being Mesolithic and some distinctive early Neolithic material was included in the assemblage. The longevity and dating of activity at the site is examined in more detail later in this report. In the current description of the excavation results the potentially confusing terms ‘Mesolithic to early Neolithic’, for much of the flintwork, and ‘mid Neolithic’, for much of the pottery, are retained in the interests of consistency with the terminology used in each specialist artefact report (5.2 & 5.3).

A borehole survey across a palaeochannel immediately to the north of the buried soil identified peats, indicating that by the middle Neolithic reedmarsh and fen were developing within the valley (5.7). Rising sea levels from the late Mesolithic would have given rise to wetter conditions which would have affected

the valley from the early Neolithic and persisted into the late Neolithic. The peaty nature of the upper and darker of the two buried soil layers in excavation Area 1 may suggest that this is broadly contemporary with the better preserved peats within the valley, identified in the borehole survey. This could indicate that the Ebbsfleet pottery and Mesolithic to Neolithic flints in Area 1 were deposited in peat fen soils at the edge of the gravel island. These soil conditions may help to explain both the mechanism by which the pottery was incorporated into this soil horizon and its good preservation, both of which are perhaps more likely in a moist peat-forming environment. The changing palaeoenvironment and its relationship with the archaeology recorded on the site is discussed in greater detail later in this report.

Alluvium

Probably in the latter part of the Neolithic (5.7), the buried soils and the material within them were afforded protection by the deposition of a sealing layer of alluvium, the result of rising sea levels and increased tidal influence (Figure 17).

This alluvium (50001, 50102, 50268 & 50365) comprised a firm mid to dark bluish-grey, greyish-green and reddish-grey slightly silty clay, which was up to 0.24m thick. No artefacts were observed within or retrieved from this deposit.

Prehistoric, undated and naturally-formed features

Area 1 south – Figure 8

[50003] & [50005]

An irregularly-shaped feature [50003] was investigated close to the southern edge of Area 1 (Figure 8, Figure 13: Section 51). This was 0.67m long by 0.39m wide and 70mm deep with an irregular concave profile, containing (50004), a firm dark black to grey clay with occasional pebbles. This feature was almost certainly naturally-formed, perhaps being an animal burrow, but a single worked flint was retrieved from its fill. A slight depression [50005], at the southern edge of

[50003] was probably a continuation of the same feature. A further flint was retrieved from its fill (50006). The worked flint probably represents residual material in the topsoil accidentally incorporated into these fills.

[50007], [50012] & [50010]

Just over 4m to the northwest was an irregular oval probable pit [50007], which was 2.00m long by 1.30m wide and 0.14m deep with moderately steep concave sides and flattish to gently concave base. Its fill, (50009) was a firm mid brownish-grey clayey silt which contained occasional pebbles (Figures 8 & 13, Plate 2). A deeper area towards the centre of feature [50007] was recorded as [50012], this perhaps being a post hole truncated by probable pit [50007]. This roughly circular feature [50012] was 0.19m in diameter and 0.14m deep with steep sides and concave base. Its fill (50008) was a firm mid to light reddish-grey clayey silt which had occasional black flecks and from which three worked flints were retrieved. What was possibly a separate feature [50010] was recorded at the western edge of probable pit [50007], and this extended beyond the limit of excavation. This possible feature [50010] was over 0.65m by 0.32m wide and 0.12m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base. It contained a single fill (50011), a firm mid to light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, but no artefacts (Figure 14, Section 54). It was not possible to establish whether the flints retrieved from the fill of possible post hole [50012] provide dating evidence, or whether they represent residual material incorporated into a later feature, although there is nothing in the character of features [50012], [50007] or [50010] to argue against a prehistoric date.

[50019]

Possible pit [50019] was located near the southern edge of Area 1 (Figure 8). This was an oval feature, 1.48m long by 0.93m wide and 0.25m deep which had very steep sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill (50020), a firm mid greyish-brown clay, from which a single worked flint which was probably of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date, was retrieved (Figure 13: Section 58, Plate 3).

[50022]

A short distance to the northeast, what appeared to be a naturally-formed hollow [50022] was investigated (Figure 8), but excavation did not provide clear evidence to confirm this interpretation. This feature was irregular to oval in plan, 2.78m long by 1.44m wide and 0.24m deep, with irregular steep sides and a flattish base. The lower fill (50023) was a 0.11m thick firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. Over this was a further fill (50024), a 0.13m thick friable mid brown silt (Figure 13, Section 60, Plate 8).

[50042=50031], [50039] & [50021]

Three features [50042=50031], [50039] & [50021] were recorded close to the western edge of the area (Figure 8). However, the boundaries between each were indistinct, and it is perhaps more likely that they form a single irregularly-shaped pit, and are discussed as here a single feature [50042=50031=50021=50039]. Overall, this was a westnorthwest-eastsoutheast aligned roughly oval feature, with a smaller oval projection at its eastern end. The main part of this feature was approximately 2.50m long by 0.90m wide and a maximum of 0.56m deep, and the smaller projecting area at the east c.0.60m by 0.50m across and 0.33m deep. Initially, two slots were excavated across it, one half section along its length and a smaller slot to establish the possible relationship between the main part of the feature and eastern projection (Figure 8, Figure 13: Sections 59 & 63, Plates 4 & 5). The larger part of the feature had a steep, stepped side at its northwestern end, and a concave base, whilst the northern side was near-vertical, and the southern edge was steep. The eastern part of the feature was very irregular, with highly irregular sides and two sumps in the otherwise gently concave base. The easterly projecting portion of the feature had steep sides, sometimes being vertical and which were undercut at north, and a concave to flattish base.

The earliest fill in the western part of the feature was a 0.14m layer of soft mid reddish-

brown silty clay (50025) with occasional pebbles, from which three flints were retrieved (Figure 13: Section 59), one of which was of Mesolithic to early Neolithic type. This fill also contained small quantities of hazelnut and charcoal (5.4). The earliest fill in the base of the deeper of two sumps to the east of this (50030) was a 0.10m thick soft mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and black flecks, and eight sherds of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery were retrieved from this deposit (5.3). Layer (50026) sealed each of these fills, and extended through much of the feature. This was a 0.14m thick firm mid brownish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. Charcoal and two worked flints were retrieved from this layer, in addition to eight further fragments of prehistoric pottery. Whilst these sherds were undiagnostic, they were similar to middle Neolithic pottery retrieved elsewhere on the site, and may also be of this date (5.3). Overlying the northern part of layer (50026) was (50027), a 0.10m thick firm mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, in turn sealed by (50028), a 0.10m thick firm mid to dark brown and peat-like clayey silt. Above this was layer (50029), a firm 0.10m thick mid grey clay with occasional pebbles, from which seven flints were retrieved, including one of Mesolithic or early Neolithic type (5.2). Overlying fill (50026) at the eastern end of the feature, was layer (50035), a 0.10m thick firm mid to dark reddish-brown silt with occasional pebbles, from which three worked flints were retrieved, two of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date and one of Mesolithic to early Bronze Age date (5.2). Small quantities of charcoal and hazelnut were retrieved from environmental sampling of fill (50035) (5.4). Above this was (50032=50043), a 0.17m thick firm mid reddish-brown to dark brownish-black silty clay with occasional pebbles, from which a single Mesolithic to early Neolithic worked flint was retrieved. Over this was (50033=50044), a 0.25m thick firm mid to dark brown to brownish-black silty clay. Small quantities of charcoal and fired clay were retrieved from environmental sampling of layer (50033) (5.4). The uppermost fill in this part of the feature was (50034=50045), a 0.10m thick firm grey to brownish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. Although allocated separate context numbers, fills

(50032=50043), (50033=50044) and (50034=50045) may be continuations of fills (50027), (50028) and (50029) respectively.

Two fills were recorded within the easterly projection of the feature, the earliest of which (50040) was a 0.15m thick firm mid reddish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles from which a fragment of a Mesolithic or early Neolithic long-end scraper was retrieved. Overlying this was layer (50041), a 0.23m thick firm mid to dark grey silty clay with black flecks.

Charcoal was retrieved in environmental sampling of fills (50028), (50029) and (50030), whilst charcoal and fired clay were retrieved in sampling of fill (50032) (5.4).

Pit [50021 etc] was highlighted in the report on the lithics from the site as possibly containing an *in situ* knapping assemblage (5.2). Dating of these flints was in the Mesolithic to early Neolithic range. Undiagnostic prehistoric pottery also retrieved from this pit or pit cluster, which may have been of middle Neolithic date (5.3). As has already been noted, the apparent discrepancy between referring to flint as 'Mesolithic to early Neolithic' and pottery as 'Middle Neolithic' is largely due to the lack of diagnostic early Neolithic lithics, so these artefacts may well be contemporary, and these pits of middle Neolithic date. The function of this group of pits was unclear, but the inclusion of a possible *in situ* knapping assemblage, pottery, hazelnut and charcoal might indicate a range of contemporary activities in the immediate vicinity.

[50055=50058]

A possible pit or naturally-formed feature [50055=50058] extended beyond the western edge of the excavation area (Figure 8). It was 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep with concave sides and base (Figure 13: Sections 67 & 68) and contained a single fill (50057=50060), a firm mid to dark reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and black flecks. Nine worked flints were retrieved from this fill, including some Mesolithic to early Neolithic and Mesolithic to early Bronze Age types. A further twelve worked flints of

Mesolithic to early Neolithic date were retrieved from deposit (50059), immediately below possible cut [50055=50058]. Deposit (50059) was indistinguishable from the surrounding natural (50056), and the worked flints may be intrusive from (50057=50060) above.

[50046]

An irregularly-shaped elongated feature [50046] was located towards the centre of the excavated area, at the junction of natural clay and gravel (Figure 8, Plates 6 & 7). This feature [50046] was 2.20m long by 0.75m wide and 0.40m deep with irregular sides which were steep to near-vertical at the east and steep to undercut at the west (Figure 13: Sections 64 & 65, Plates 6 & 7). The lowest fill was (50047), a firm 50mm thick mid greyish-red silty clay, which contained two sherds of slightly abraded prehistoric pottery (5.3), possibly of middle Neolithic date. Fill (50048) was a 0.40m thick firm mid grey silty clay, from which twenty-nine slightly abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery were retrieved. Although undiagnostic, these were similar to middle Neolithic pottery identified elsewhere on the site, and might be of similar date. Seven worked flints were also retrieved from this layer, these being of Mesolithic to early Neolithic type. Hazelnut and charcoal were retrieved in environmental sampling (5.4). The uppermost fill of [50046] was (50049), a 0.15m thick rim dark grey clayey silt. A single burnt stone was retrieved from this layer (5.6), along with thirteen worked flints and five sherds of prehistoric pottery of possible Neolithic date (5.3). Five further sherds of prehistoric pottery from this deposit (50049) were of possible later Iron Age date. Sampling of this deposit revealed small quantities of charcoal (5.4).

This feature [50046] was identified on site as a possible pit or tree-formed feature, but post-excavation analysis has indicated that its form is typical of features interpreted on other excavated sites as tree-throws. These typically comprise a circular feature, which may or may not be visible, at one edge of which is a more prominent crescent-shaped deposit. These are formed when a tree falls, creating a bowl-shaped void where the root ball and attached

soil have been lifted. The typical crescent at one edge seems to represent the soil of the former ground surface held together by roots and transposed through 90 degrees by the fall, the direction of the fall of the tree therefore being indicated by the position of the crescent (Robinson 1992, 50-51). No larger circular feature was visible in this case, and so was not excavated, but if this interpretation is correct, the excavated portion of [50046] represented only part of the whole feature. The fills of [50046] would therefore seem to represent a buried part of the land surface at the time the tree fell. The possibly middle Neolithic ceramics retrieved from this probable buried soil within [50046] indicates that this pottery existed within the soil of the land surface at the time the tree fell, although this may have been preserved within this soil for a considerable time before this event. The occurrence of possibly later Iron Age pottery within the upper fill of [50046] might be an indication that the tree fell at or after this time.

The fills of this feature might represent the isolated preservation of prehistoric soils which are now truncated elsewhere in the immediate vicinity, where they were not incorporated into a protective hollow. When considered along with the artefact-rich buried soil preserved by alluvium at the north of the area, this suggests a wider area of prehistoric activity, now largely disturbed by later activity, but preserved in these isolated spots of favourable burial conditions. The fills of [50046] might therefore be essentially the same deposit as the buried soils at the north of the area.

Tree-throws may be formed naturally when a tree falls, but on some sites evidence of burning has been interpreted as a demonstration of deliberate clearance (Robinson 1992, 50-51). In this instance no evidence of burning was noted, save for very small quantities of charcoal, and so there is no indication of deliberate tree clearance, although this remains a possibility.

***Area 1 north – Figure 7
Cluster of features at northeast of area***

[50093]

Approximately 19m to the northeast of [50046] was an amorphous feature [50093] which was initially interpreted as a pit (Figure 7, Plates 14-16). The southern side was steep and concave, and its northern edge was steep, irregular and occasionally undercut. The extent of this feature was extremely difficult to define during excavation due to the similarity of several fills to the underlying natural. The western part of [50093] was sub-oval and 1.87m long by 1.00m wide and 0.46m deep. What may be a continuation of the same feature was excavated and recorded adjoining it to the east (Figure 14: Section 82). If this possible part of the feature is included, the overall length was *c.* 2.8m, and the total width *c.* 1.3m. Initially, [50093] was half-sectioned along its length, and after recording at this stage, the remainder of each fill was individually excavated and recorded.

The earliest fill in the western part of [50093] was (50227), which was identified during the total excavation of the feature, did not extend into the part of the feature originally half-sectioned, and so does not appear on Section 82 (Figure 14). This soft mid grey silty clay (50227), was 0.20m thick, and contained probable wild boar bones along with a single worked flint and two fragments of fired clay (5.2, 5.5 & 5.6). Small quantities of charcoal and hazelnut were retrieved from this deposit in environmental sampling (5.4). Sealing this was (50094), a 60mm thick soft black silty clay. A small quantity of worked flint was retrieved from this fill, in addition to further probable wild boar bones and environmental sampling of this fill retrieved small quantities of charcoal and bone (5.3, 5.5 & 5.6). Above this was layer (50095), a 0.20m thick firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. A single sherd of pottery from this layer was the only fragment retrieved from feature [50093]. This was of possible Neolithic date, and faint decoration may indicate this is Peterborough Ware (5.3). Two worked flints of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date were also retrieved from layer (50095), and charcoal was retrieved in environmental sampling (5.4). Sealing this was layer (50096), a 50mm thick soft black silty clay. The cause of the colouration of this deposit was not clear, and could represent burnt material, a high organic content or mineral

inclusion. This layer was in turn sealed by (50097), a, 0.10m thick firm mid grey clay. The uppermost fill of the western part of the feature was (50098), a 0.14m thick firm dark grey clay, which contained fragments of probable wild boar bone. An environmental sample of layer (50098) contained small amounts of charcoal (5.4).

At the far eastern edge of [50093] was layer (50089), a firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, although it was not clear whether this represented a further fill or was part of the underlying natural geology. Also in the eastern half of the feature was deposit (50090), a 0.10m thick soft mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, and which may have been a continuation of deposit (50227) to the west. Overlying both layers (50090) and (50089) was (50091), a 0.20m thick soft mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (Figure 14: Section 82). Above this was (50092), a 0.10m thick firm, mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, from which probable wild boar bones were retrieved. This layer was sealed by (50094), which extended into the western area of [50093], and has already been described.

The remains of what was perhaps a single mature wild boar were recovered from various fills of [50093], (50098, 50227, 50094 & 50092), along with part of a sheep or goat tibia (5.5).

Feature [50093] was originally identified as an irregularly-shaped pit, and possible Neolithic pottery retrieved from one of its fills may date it. However, post-excavation analysis has indicated some similarities in form when compared with feature [50046], which has been interpreted as possibly being part of a tree throw (see earlier discussion). In the case of [50093] the northern edge is irregular and partly undercut, and several fills (eg (50096) and (50097)) were found to slope down towards the south, and this could be an indication of the rotation of deposits attached to a root-ball associated with a falling tree. If this interpretation is correct in the case of [50093], the artefacts retrieved from its fills would probably have been incorporated as the result of partial burial of a ground surface.

If [50093] was a tree throw, the excavated part would represent the crescent of buried soil associated with a tree falling to the south. The dark colouration of fill (50096) might perhaps be a result of burning, and this could be an indication that the tree roots were burnt out after the tree had fallen. However, the cause of this colouration was not clear, and this might equally be the result of mineral or organic inclusions, and might perhaps represent the accumulation of organic matter in the hollow formed after the tree had fallen. Two small fragments of fired clay retrieved from fill (50227) might however provide limited evidence for burning. No trace was visible of the larger circular feature which would be expected immediately to the north if this were a tree-throw crescent, although these are commonly difficult or impossible to discern. The interpretation of this feature remains unclear, and it may well be that the original interpretation of it as an irregularly-shaped pit is correct.

[50113]

Approximately 8m to the northeast was an isolated probable post hole [50113] (Figure 7). This sub-circular feature was 0.30m in diameter and 0.31m deep with steep sides and concave base (Figure 14: Section 89, Plate 19). The earliest fill (50114) was a 0.30m thick softish mid yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional black flecks. Sealing this was layer (50115), a 0.15m soft dark greyish-brown clayey silt. No artefacts were retrieved from either fill of [50113].

[50065]

Approximately 12m to the northeast was oval feature [50065] (Figure 7), which was 0.60m by 0.42m wide and 0.20m deep and had moderately steep sides and concave base (Figure 13: Section 71, Plate 17). This could have been a pit, but might equally have been naturally-formed. Its single fill (50066) was a firmish dark blackish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, from which no artefacts were retrieved.

[50070]

Just over a metre to the north was [50070] a sub-circular probable post hole (Figure 7). This feature measured 0.20m in diameter and was 80mm deep with steep sides and concave base (Figure 13: Section 73, Plate 9). The single fill of this feature (50071) was a firmish light greyish-brown clayey sand with occasional pebbles. Two worked flints were retrieved from this fill, one of Mesolithic to early Neolithic type.

[50108]

A possible post hole [50108] was located just over 2m to the northwest (Figure 7). This circular feature was 0.16m wide and 50mm deep with moderately steep sides and concave base (Figure 14: Section 87). Its fill (50109) was a softish mid brownish-grey clayey silt, from which a single worked flint was retrieved.

[50106]

Approximately 0.20m to the northwest was feature [50106], probably a pit (Figure 7). This was oval, 0.70m long by 0.43m wide and 0.10m deep with moderately steep sides and flattish base (Figure 14: Section 86, Plate 18). Its single fill (50107) was a firmish light greyish-brown clayey silt from which a single worked flint was retrieved.

[50087] & [50085]

A little over 3m to the northeast, two possible post holes [50087] & [50085] were excavated (Figure 7). Although their interpretation was uncertain, these were both more characteristic of naturally-formed features.

Sub-circular feature [50087] was 0.34m wide and 0.10m deep with a concave profile (Figure 13: Section 81, Plate 12). A softish light brownish-grey clayey silt (50088) filled this feature, and three worked flints were retrieved from this deposit.

Feature [50085] was sub-circular, 0.27m wide and 0.14m deep and had steep sides and a flat base (Figure 13: Section 80, Plate 11). A single worked flint was retrieved from its fill (50086), a firmish mid brownish-grey clayey silt.

[50067]

To the east of this was oval pit [50067] (Figure 7) which was 1.40m long by 0.80m wide and 0.40m deep with steep to moderately steep sides and a concave base (Figure 13: Section 72, Plate 13). The earliest fill of this pit was (50068), a 0.20m thick Firm light reddish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, from which three worked flints were retrieved, one of these being Mesolithic and one being Mesolithic to early Neolithic, and environmental sampling of this layer identified small quantities of charcoal and hazelnut (5.4). Overlying this was (50069), a 0.16m thick soft dark blackish-brown silt with occasional pebbles, from which a small quantity of charcoal was retrieved (5.4) Above this was (50073=50072), a 0.14m thick firm mid to light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles.

[50074]

Adjacent to the northeast end of this pit was a possible post hole [50074], which was sub-circular, 0.26m in diameter and 80mm deep with concave profile (Figure 7, Figure 13: Section 74, Plate 10). It contained a single fill (50075), a firm mid brownish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. This possible post hole may well be associated with pit [50074] although their function is not clear.

[50406]

A feature [50406] of amorphous shape in plan was located close to the northeast corner of the area (Figure 7). This was 1.30m long by 0.80m wide and 80mm deep with a flattish base (Figure 14: Section 114). The earliest fill of [50406] was (50405), a 50mm thick soft to friable black silt with frequent charcoal fragments and occasional pebbles. Occasional burnt hazelnut shells and burnt small mammal or amphibian bones were noted in this layer. Over this was (50407), a 60mm thick softish to friable mid red clayey silt with occasional burnt stones. The uppermost fill (50408) was a 30mm thick soft to friable mid grey clayey silt with reddish patches and occasional pebbles (Figure 14: Section 114, Plate 25).

The black and red colouration of the various fills of [50406] were the result of burning, and the appearance of the fills in section may indicate *in situ* burning. Although amorphous in plan, the edges were clearly defined, and this feature appears to be a deliberately dug pit. The hazelnuts and bones within the feature may have been accidentally incorporated and burnt, but may indicate an association with food preparation. As no pottery or worked flints were retrieved from this pit there is no indication as to its dating, but it seems to be consistent with a prehistoric hearth or cooking pit. Environmental sampling of fills (50405), (50407) and (50408) retrieved fragments of charcoal and hazelnut from each of these layers (5.4), consistent with this feature being related to food preparation.

[50369]

Approximately 11m northwest of this was a sub-oval to amorphous feature [50369] (Figure 7). This feature was 1.10m long by 0.80m wide and 0.12m deep with a gently concave to irregular profile (Figure 14: Section 108, Plate 24). It contained a single fill (50370), a soft to friable dark brown to blackish-brown silt with mid yellowish-reddish-brown patches and occasional pebbles. This feature had probably been naturally-formed.

Summary: Area 1, cluster of features at northeast of area

The general cluster of features in the northeast corner of Area 1 comprised one probable tree throw [50093], up to five post holes [50113, 50070, 50108, 50087 & 50085], up to three pits [50065, 50106 & 50067] and a probable hearth [50406] (Figure 7). Tree throw [50093] contained a range of artefacts, including some of Mesolithic to Neolithic date. These may well have been incorporated into this feature long after their original discard, but even so demonstrate the presence of cultural material and a range of human activities in this area.

Up to three pits in this area [50065, 50106 & 50067] contained little such cultural material, only producing 4 pieces of worked flint and a little charcoal and hazelnut between them.

One flint from pit [50067] was Mesolithic, and a second was of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date, and it is unclear whether some or all of these items were redeposited. Possible interpretations of the various excavated pits on the site are discussed later in this report (6).

Probable post hole [50113] was rather isolated, but probable and possible post holes [50070, 50108, 50087 & 50085] were within c.5.3m of one another, also close to possible and probable pits [50106 & 50065] (Figure 7). It may be that together these formed a structure, although this is far from certain. Of these, only two contained worked flints, and of a total of three lithics one was dateable to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic. As for the nearby pits it is uncertain whether the material within the post holes was redeposited.

A single hearth [50406] was located c.9m to the north of these pits and post holes. This contained charcoal, hazelnuts and burnt stones but no pottery or lithics.

Overall then the dating of features in this area remains uncertain, but their nature is consistent with a prehistoric date, and the only dateable artefacts retrieved from them were Mesolithic to middle Neolithic.

***Area 1 north – Figure 7
Cluster of features at northwest of area***

[50452]

A sub-oval probable post hole [50452] was recorded at the northwest of the area. This was 0.25m by 0.18m wide and 0.18m deep with steep to vertical sides and a gently concave base (Figure 7, Figure 14: Section 93, Plate 21). It contained (50128), a softish to malleable mid brownish-grey clayey silt.

[50126]

Approximately 20m to the southeast was a sub-circular feature [50126] which was 0.40m by 0.30m and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Figure 7, Figure 14: Section 92). It contained a single fill (50451), a firmish dark greyish-brown silt (Plate 20).

[50223]

What was almost certainly a post hole [50223] was excavated near the western edge of the gridded area at the north of Area 1 (Figure 7). This appeared to be cut through the lower lighter coloured buried soil, at its junction with the underlying natural. However, this buried soil was thin and patchy here and the stratigraphy was not sufficiently clear to state that this feature post-dated the soil horizon. This post hole [50223] was sub-circular, 0.21m wide and 0.11m deep with steep sides and a sloping base (Figure 14: Section 101, Plate 22). Its single fill (50224) was a firmish dark grey clayey silt.

[50312] & [50314]

The upper dark layer of buried soil (50309) was excavated during test pitting in grid square 1130E 2120N, and two possible features [50312] and [50314] were found to underlie it (Figure 7, Plate 34). These appeared to truncate lower buried soil layer (50310). Feature [50312] was apparently an elongated oval feature, but was not fully exposed in plan. It was over 0.40m long by 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep with a gently sloping side at its western edge, and a moderately steep side to the north and steep sides at the south. A deeper sump in base at the east may have marked the location of a post (Figure 14: Sections 104 & 105, Plate 34). The single fill of [50312] was (50313), a soft mid grey silt with frequent black mottles, from which a single worked flint of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date was retrieved. Feature [50314] was possibly sub-circular but again was not fully exposed in plan. This was over 0.17m by 0.50m across and 0.12m deep and had steep sides at the north, gently sloping sides at west and a gently concave base (Figure 14: Sections 104 & 106). It contained fill (50315) a soft mid grey silt with frequent black mottles (Figure 14: Sections 104 & 106, Plate 34). Each of features [50312] and [50314] may well have been naturally-formed as a result of burrowing or the former presence of tree roots, and their interpretation remains uncertain.

[50325=50395]

In the test pit immediately to the south of this, a further feature [50325] was identified, this feature apparently truncating the dark upper buried soil layer (Figure 7, Plate 35). The portion of this feature [50325] within test pit 1130E 2115N was excavated, and the southwestern end of the feature, outside the test pit, was also investigated [50395]. This oval feature [50325=50395] was 3.40m long by 1.30m wide and 0.64m deep with steep to moderately steep irregular sides, which were undercut at the northwest (Figure 14: Section s 107 & 111). Within the test pit, the lowest fill was (50326), a 0.10m thick soft dark brown clayey silt. Above this was (50327), a 0.27m thick firm dark brown clayey silt, from which a single worked flint was retrieved. Layers (50326) and (50327) were both similar in composition and appearance to the upper buried soil layer (50324 etc). Over this was (50328), a 0.15m thick firm mid bluish-grey clay (Figure 14: Section 107). A similar sequence of fills was recorded in the western end of the feature [50395]. Here, the lowest fill (50396) was a 0.20m thick soft black clayey silt, again similar to dark upper buried soil layer (50324 etc). Over this was (50397), a 0.20m thick soft mid grey silty clay, the colour and composition of which was reminiscent of the lower light buried soil layer (50323 etc). Fill (50401) was recorded as overlying (50397), but might be a continuation of fill (50396). This soft dark brown clayey silt (50401) was 0.15m thick. Fills (50398) and (50400) were recorded at the machined surface of the area, and each comprised a 0.15m thick firm mid grey clay (Figure 14: Section 111).

Several fills (50326, 50327, 50396 & 50401) of this feature were indistinguishable from dark buried soil (50324 etc), and appeared to be continuous with this layer. The elongated shape of feature [50325=50395] and the undercut northwestern edge are characteristics which could suggest this is a further tree throw, formed by a tree falling to the southeast. This could explain the apparent continuation of the surrounding buried soil layers within this feature. Fills (50328), (50398) and (50400) were each recorded as mid grey to bluish-grey clays. The composition of these deposits is similar to the alluvium layer which sealed the buried soil

just to the north, but is also similar to the underlying clayey natural in this part of the excavation area. If feature [50325=50395] is a tree throw, these clayey fills might represent later alluvium in filling the hollow of the tree throw, but are perhaps more likely to represent part of the underlying natural clay, upcast by the lifting of the rootball when the tree fell. Whilst the remainder of the presumed bowl of the tree to the northwest was not clear, this could correspond to patches of apparent natural and alluvial deposits recorded in plan immediately to the north of the feature (Figure 7).

[50436]

The final stage of work in this area involved machining off the remaining buried soil deposits in order to identify any features sealed by these layers. A single possible post hole [50436] was identified in this way, towards the centre of the buried soil area. The similarities of between the fills of this feature and buried soil layers meant it was not possible to confidently demonstrate whether this feature was sealed by the buried soils. This sub-circular feature [50436] was 0.22m by 0.19m wide and 80mm deep and had a flat base (Figure 14: Section 126). The earliest fill (50437) was a 20mm thick soft mid greyish-brown clayey silt, which formed a 'halo' within the cut visible in plan. Above this, and within the 'halo' was (50438), a 50mm soft light grey clayey silt. An iron object was retrieved from fill (50438) which might perhaps be a nail (5.6) (Figure 14: Section 126).

The occurrence of this possible iron nail is curious, and it is not clear if this might be intrusive or whether this feature is of late date. This possible post hole was located c.8m directly north of a marling pit (Figure 7). It is possible that rather than a post hole, this might be a small exploratory hole dug to test the underlying soil for suitability for marling. It might be that the silty buried soils in this area were unsuitable as they lacked the required clay fraction, although some of the other marling pits on the site do seem to truncate these buried soils, so this interpretation is far from certain.

Creeks

During the evaluation of the site, possible gullies were identified in Trench 30, at the northeast corner of excavation Area 1, although these were interpreted as being of possible natural origin. The stripping of a wider area in the excavation allowed the sinuous, irregular shape of these features to be clearly seen in plan, and the excavation of several sections across them confirmed the interpretation of these as naturally-formed watercourses.

These channels were interconnected, and cut through the alluvium and buried soils at the north of Area 1 (Figure 7).

At the far northern edge of the area was curvilinear and roughly north-south aligned channel [50366], which was 0.97m wide and 0.35m deep with steep to moderately steep gently concave sides and gently concave base. The earliest fill (50367) was a 20mm thick firmish mid reddish-yellowish-brown (apparently iron-rich) silt with occasional pebbles at its base. Overlying this was fill (50368), a 0.36m thick softish mid reddish-brown to greyish slightly clayey silt (Figure 14: Section 108, Plate 24).

A few metres to the south, the channel forked, the fork to the east being recorded as [50402]. This curvilinear feature was 0.39m wide and 60mm deep with a gently concave base. Fill (50403) was a 20mm thick firm to cemented, mid reddish-brown very slightly clayey pebbly silt. This was sealed by (50404), a 40mm thick soft mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with rusty mottles and streaks and occasional pebbles (Figure 7, Figure 14: Section 113).

The western fork [50099] was 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep with a gently concave base. The east side was gently concave at the top and gently convex near its base, and the west side was rather steeper (Figure 7, Figure 14: Sections 83, 84 & 85). The earliest fill (50100) was a 50mm thick firm mid reddish-brown, apparently iron-rich, silty clay and gravel cementation. Above this was (50101), a 0.14m thick soft silt comprising mid greyish-brown with grey and light yellow thin

laminations extending along the length of feature, with occasional clay lenses. Flints were retrieved from this fill, and these had almost certainly been washed into the channel from the buried soil layers through which it had cut.

A further slot was excavated in this channel approximately 3m to the south, where it was 0.60m wide and 0.11m deep with steep to moderately steep sides and gently concave base. Recorded here as feature [50082], the earliest fill (50083) was a 100mm thick firm to cemented mid reddish-brown and probably iron-rich gravelly silty clay, from which Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints were retrieved. Upper fill (50084) was firm at its upper surface where it had been sun-baked during the course of the excavation and soft below. It comprised a 0.12m thick mid greyish-brown with reddish mottles iron-rich silty clay, from which flints were retrieved (Figure 13: Sections 78 & 79).

The channel continued for a few metres to the southeast (Figure 7), before forking again and curving to the southwest, where it was further investigated as feature [50225]. Here, it was 1.36m wide and 0.27m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 14: Section 102, Plate 23), with a single fill (50226), a firmish to malleable mid brownish-grey silty clay with light reddish-yellow patches with occasional pebbles and ironstone, from which further flints including Mesolithic to early Neolithic types were retrieved. Again, the flints within the channel were almost certainly washed in from the earlier buried soil horizons.

A final excavated slot was located *c.*13m to the west (Figure 7, Figure 14: Section 109), where channel [50232] was 0.88m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and gently concave to flattish base. A single fill was recorded (50233), a firmish mid greyish-brown silty clay with light reddish patches and occasional pebbles.

A linear feature [50382] near the northeast corner of Area 1 was roughly northwest-southeast aligned and over 3.50m long, 0.80m wide and 0.13m deep with moderately steep concave sides and flattish to gently concave base (Figure 7, Figure 14: Section 109). This

was very similar to the palaeochannels investigated a few metres to the west, and is probably a further example. Fill (50383) was a softish to malleable mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles.

These channels are late in the deposit sequence at the northern edge of Area 1, truncating buried soil layers and the later alluvium (Figure 7). The worked flints within these creeks are all apparently redeposited, largely having originated from the earlier buried soil layers.

These sinuous features are probably small creeks branching off from the east-west roddon to the north (Figure 4), within a small valley at the edge of March Island (Figure 18). The dating of the deposits within this valley, including the roddon silts near the top of the deposit sequence, is discussed in section 5.7 of this report, but may reflect post-Roman inundation of the area.

Marling pits

Sections were excavated across four linear features at the west of the area [50036], [50013=50015=50017], [50061] and [50063=50122] (Figures 6, 7 & 8, Figure 13: Sections 61, 55, 56, 57, 69 & 70, Figure 14: Section 91, Plates 28-30). Four further similar features at the north of the area were not excavated, and were only recorded in plan. Seven of these eight features were north-south aligned and one was east-west aligned. They varied in length from just 1.50m to over 22m, and in width between 0.68m and 1.20m. The maximum recorded depth of the excavated portions was 0.29m. Each had variable to steep sides and a flat to irregular base. The fills of each were generally dark brown or blackish-brown clayey silts, peaty in places. 18th to 19th century pottery was retrieved from the fill of [50013=50015=50017], and [50061] contained a piece of 19th to 20th century glass.

The form and fills of these features are characteristic of marling pits, agricultural features which represent the retrieval of underlying clays to mix with topsoil and improve soil conditions (K. Gdaniec *pers. comm.*)

AREA 2

Area 2 was roughly triangular, and covered approximately 2750m² and targeted a previously recorded flint scatter, which had been confirmed by recent fieldwalking (Peachey 2009). The area was located on the higher ground of a former island, the extent of which had been established by trial trenching (*ibid*). The area was positioned in the location of a proposed site access road (Figures 4 & 9, Plate 34).

Natural and topsoil deposits

The earliest identified deposit in Area 2 was a naturally-formed layer of firm mid yellowish-brown to reddish-brown and reddish-grey clayey silt which extended across the stripped area, and contained occasional pebbles, frequent in places, and light bluish-grey clay patches (50442=50445).

No buried soil horizons were present in Area 2, and all identified features and possible features in this area were cut directly into this natural silty clay.

All features and deposits in Area 2 were sealed by a 0.35m thick topsoil layer (50443) of soft black silt with occasional pebbles.

Prehistoric and undated features and deposits

[50429]

A pit [50429] of possible oval shape extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north and east, and was located at the far eastern edge of Area 2 (Figure 11). This feature was at least 1.65m by over 0.75m and at least 0.12m deep with gently sloping sides and flattish to gently concave base (Figure 15: Section 121, Plate 43). This contained a single fill (50430), a firmish mid grey clayey silt with reddish patches and occasional pebbles, from which no artefacts were retrieved, but from which small quantities of charcoal and hazelnut were identified in environmental sampling (5.4).

[50417]

Also extending beyond the limit of

excavation, at the north of Area 2, was a possibly sub-circular feature [50417] (Figure 10). This pit was 1.76m by over 1.10m wide and over 0.29m deep with gently concave gradually sloping sides and gently concave base (Figure 15: Section 117, Plate 40). The single fill of pit [50417] was a soft to friable, mid reddish-grey clayey silt (50418) which contained occasional pebbles, and from which flint (3.2) was retrieved.

(50440) & (50441)

Excavation of a possible pit in Area 2 indicated that this was probably a naturally-formed hollow (Figure 10). The earliest deposit within this (50440) was a firm mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, which was 80mm thick and from which Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint was retrieved (3.2). Overlying this deposit was a 50mm thick layer of soft black silt (50441) (Figure 15: Section 127).

[50425]

An amorphous elongated feature [50425], near the north of the area, was 1.10m by 0.56m and 0.11m deep with gently sloping sides and flattish base (Figure 10, Figure 15: Section 119, Plate 41). This probable pit contained a single fill (50426), a soft to malleable mid brownish-grey clayey silt, which was devoid of finds.

[50431]

Approximately 7m to the southeast was an isolated probable post hole [50431] (Figure 10). This was sub-circular in plan, 0.32m by 0.29m wide and 0.21m deep with very steep sides and concave base (Figure 15: Section 122, Plate 46). Within it was a firmish light greyish-brown clayey silt (50432), which contained no dating evidence.

[50427]

Elongated pit [50427] lay c.3.5m to the southeast, and was roughly eastnortheast-west southwest aligned (Figure 10). It had rounded ends and was 2.10m long by 0.70m wide and 0.32m deep (Figure 15: Section 120, Plate 42). The gently concave sides of this

feature were very steep along its length and moderately steep to steep at either end, with a slight step at the northeastern end. The base was concave across the width of the pit and flattish along its length. Firm mid grey silt (50428) filled the pit and contained a single small sherd of very abraded, but possibly middle Neolithic, prehistoric pottery (5.3) and flints (5.2). These flints included some burnt examples and many were of Mesolithic to early Neolithic types. An environmental sample from this deposit was found to contain hazelnut and charcoal in small quantities (5.4).

[50419]

Feature [50419], a short distance to the northwest (Figure 10), was sub-oval in plan, 0.80m by 0.57m wide and 0.22m deep with gently sloping concave sides and concave base (Figure 15: Section 118, Plate 38), and may have been either a pit or post hole. The earliest fill within it was (50420), a 0.22m thick firmish mid greyish-brown clayey silt. Fill (50422) was a 90mm thick firmish dark greyish-brown clayey silt, and fill (50424) was a 70mm thick firm light whitish-grey clayey silt. No artefacts were retrieved from any of the fills of this feature.

[50413]

Approximately 9m to the southwest lay sub-circular feature [50413], which was 0.40m by 0.36m wide and 0.11m deep (Figure 10, Figure 15: Section 115, Plate 37). This probable post hole had steep sides to east and gently concave base. A single fill (50414) comprised a firmish mid greyish-brown silty clay, from which Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint was retrieved (5.2).

[50446]

To the east of this was a sub-oval pit [50446] (Figure 10), which was 1.56m long by 0.96m wide and 0.41m deep with moderately steep sides, stepped at northwest, and a gently concave base (Figure 15: Section 128, Plate 47). Fill (50447) was a 0.37m thick firmish to malleable light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles, which contained 15 sherds of prehistoric pottery of

possible middle Neolithic date (5.3). Animal bones were retrieved from this deposit, including three fragments of dog bones, and a further sherd of prehistoric pottery was retrieved from an environmental sample of this fill (5.3 & 5.5). Flints of Mesolithic to early Neolithic type were also retrieved from deposit (50447), some of which were burnt (5.2). The upper fill of pit [50446] was (50448), a 0.16m thick firmish to friable mid grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles. Further Mesolithic to early Neolithic flints, some of which were burnt (5.2), were retrieved from this fill, in addition to a single sherd of prehistoric pottery, which may be of middle Neolithic date (5.3).

[50415]

Approximately 8.5m to the southwest was an elongated pit [50415], which was 2.12m long by 0.58m wide and 0.31m deep with rounded ends (Figure 10). The pit was roughly orientated east-west. Its sides were very steep along its length, and moderately steep to steep at each end, with a slight step near the west end (Figure 15: Section 116, Plate 39). The base was concave across width of the pit, and flattish along its length. A single fill (50416) was recorded within this pit, a firm light to mid grey silt, from which no artefacts were retrieved. Environmental sampling of this fill retrieved hazelnut and charcoal (5.4). It was noted that this feature [50415] was very similar in size, shape, orientation and form to [50427], c. 18.5m to the northwest (Figure 10).

[50433]

An eastnortheast-westsouthwest aligned linear feature [50433] was over 6.40m long, 0.77m wide and 0.35m deep (Figure 10). It had steep and regular sides and flat base (Figure 15: Section 123) and terminated at northeastern end, the profile at this end being moderately steep. The earliest fill of this feature was a 20mm thick firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt (50434) (Figure 15: Section 125) which contained occasional pebbles. Above this was a 0.33m thick deposit of soft to firmish mid to light grey silt (50435) with occasional rusty and black flecks and occasional pebbles, and

from which a Mesolithic or early Neolithic blade core was retrieved (5.2). Small quantities of charcoal and hazelnut were identified in environmental sampling of fill (50435) (5.4) (Sections 123, 124, 125, shots 656, 657).

Post-medieval to modern features and deposits

Several post-medieval to modern features were recorded in Area 2. Where these were clearly modern, these were not excavated, and where dating was uncertain they were investigated further. Where such features were proven to be of recent date, these were not recorded, except on an overall plan of the area (Figures 10 & 11).

The southern boundary of the area was marked by a ditch, following the present course of Gaul Road (Figures 9 & 4). This contained much modern debris, including building materials, domestic waste and agricultural waste materials. A north-south aligned ditch towards the centre of the area contained modern debris, and is probably a continuation of a modern ditch identified during the evaluation of the site, in Trenches 25, 16, 12 and 9, and which is evident on an Ordnance Survey map of 1925 (Peachey 2009). A second north-south aligned ditch c.40m to the east also contained modern material, and was probably also a continuation of a modern ditch identified during trial trenching, in this case in Trenches 22 & 26 (*ibid.*). A further small, modern north-south aligned linear was located close to the eastern edge of Area 2 (Figure 9).

Numerous small modern features, the majority of which were likely to be post-holes, were recorded, most of these being located adjacent to the infilled southern boundary ditch or close to the westernmost of the modern north-south aligned ditches (Figure 9). Many of these small features contained modern artefacts, and all were of a distinct character, with dark loose fills, quite different to the pale, firm fills of the prehistoric and undated features in the area. Whilst some of these features might be the result of animal burrowing, it seems likely that some represent the remains of fencing along the southern

boundary. A slight concentration of these was evident near the centre of Area 2, and this may indicate the former presence of a structure here (Figure 9). No such structure was evident on old Ordnance Survey maps of the area, although this does not preclude the existence of perhaps a short-lived agricultural structure.

AREA 3

Area 3 followed the alignment of a proposed new drainage ditch (Figure 4), across an area of a previously recorded flint scatter, which had been confirmed by test pitting (Peachey 2009). The area was approximately 950m², and extended from the edge of alluvium and buried soil deposits at its southern edge rising up onto the higher ground of a former island to the north (Figures 4, 5 & 12, Plate 48).

Natural, buried soil, alluvium and topsoil deposits

The earliest deposit in Area 3 was a layer of softish to malleable light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles (50387), which was naturally-formed and extended across the area. At the southern edge of the area, this was sealed by an 80mm thick layer of buried soil (50388), a soft light whitish-grey silt with occasional pebbles (Figure 15: Section 110, Plates 48 & 49). This was in turn sealed by alluvial deposit (50389), a 0.13m firm dark grey clay with yellow patches. A further buried soil (50390) overlay this, and comprised a 50mm thick soft to friable dark brown peaty silt layer. Deposits (50388), (50389) and (50390) extended across no more than the southernmost c.9m of Area 3 (Figure 12, Plate 48). A firm dark brown clayey silt topsoil with occasional pebbles (50000) sealed peaty layer (50390), and extended across the field.

Undated features and prehistoric finds

[50391]

A single cut feature was identified in Area 3, an oval pit [50391], which was 0.72m by 0.52m wide and 0.24m deep with concave and moderately steep sides and concave base (Figure 12, Figure 15: Section 112, Plate 50).

The earliest fill of this pit (50392) was a 60mm thick softish mid brownish-grey clayey silt, which was sealed by (50393), an 80mm thick layer of soft dark greyish-black clayey silt. The third fill (50394) of this pit was a 0.12m thick firmish mid brownish-grey clayey silt. No artefacts were retrieved from any of the fills of this pit. Environmental sampling of fills (50393) and (50394) retrieved small quantities of charcoal (5.4).

Unstratified finds from this area (50399) comprised lithics.

5.2 Lithic report by Barry Bishop

Introduction

The various archaeological investigations at the site resulted in the recovery of a combined total of 2721 struck flints. These were present in most of the areas investigated, predominantly from remnant soil horizons. This suggests that most of the struck flint that was made and used at the site was discarded on to the surface or within subsequently ploughed-out shallow features. A few features were recorded at the site that also contained struck flint although this was probably mostly residually deposited.

The bulk of the struck flint was recovered during the excavation phases of the project but this report also includes the material that was recovered during an earlier programme of fieldwalking, testpitting and evaluation trenching. This had been assessed prior to the excavation (Bishop 2008) and subsequently re-examined in preparation for compiling this report.

Raw Materials

The raw materials used comprised flint from a mix of small rounded alluvial pebbles and cobbles and larger thermally fractured angular nodule fragments. It was mostly a 'glassy' translucent black, grey or brown in colour although a small but significant component consisted of 'stony' opaque grey flint, some of it quite porcelain-like in texture. Many thermal faults and ancient heavily recorticated thermal scars were evident on the struck pieces, resulting in the abandonment and

disintegration of many of the cores, although generally the flint was of good knapping quality. The principal limitation appeared to be the relatively small size of the raw materials, nearly all the cores weighed under 100g and this was reflected in the size of the struck pieces; none exceeded 70mm in maximum dimension and few even approached this figure, most pieces being under 50mm.

The mix of different types of flint indicates that it was obtained from secondary sources, particularly the river terrace deposits and glacial tills that are present in the March area (cf Middleton 1992).

Condition

The condition of the material, although locally variable, was predominantly sharp or only slightly edge damaged or rubbed, indicating that the assemblage overall had experienced only limited post-depositional disturbance. There was, however, a high proportion of broken pieces, which comprised nearly one half of the blades, but the observed damage would be consistent with ‘trampling’, general weathering and reworking of the burial matrix. Although some pieces did show a higher degree of abrasion, there was little evidence that the assemblage as a whole had experienced any extensive post-depositional displacement, such as through alluvial reworking.

Recortication varied in its extent, ranging from being completely absent to quite heavy. This may possibly have a chronological implication and is discussed below.

Assemblage Characterisation

A total of 2721 pieces of struck flint were recovered from the excavation and preceding evaluation, of which 992 pieces, or nearly 37% of the total assemblage, consisted of pieces measuring less than 15mm maximum dimension (see Table 5.2.1). These smaller pieces have been termed micro-debitage, with those pieces measuring over 15mm referred to as macro-debitage.

The assemblage may be regarded as

moderately large given the size of the areas investigated. It contained pieces representing all stages in the reduction sequence, from rejected ‘tested’ pieces and decortication flakes, to used and discarded tools. The presence of obvious knapping waste, such as decortication flakes, shattered or exhausted cores and the large quantity of micro-debitage clearly indicate on-site reduction and tool manufacture.

% Excl. <15mm	% All	Total	
10.5	6.7	181	Decortication Flake
1.2	0.7	20	Core Tablet
2.1	1.4	37	Other Rejuvenation Flakes
20.4	12.9	352	Flake
9.7	6.2	168	Flake Fragment
7.6	4.8	132	Cortical Blade
12.4	7.9	214	Systematic Blade
7.9	5.0	137	Unsystematic Blades
4.7	3.0	82	Blade-like Flake
6.9	4.4	119	Core
11.6	7.4	200	Chunk
4.6	2.9	80	Retouched
0.4	0.3	7	Micro-burin
	17.5	476	Micro-shatter
	19.0	516	Chips
100	100	2721	Total

Table 5.2.1: Composition of Struck Flint from Gaul Road

Micro-debitage

The quantities of micro-debitage recovered were high, reflecting the intensive sieving of samples that was conducted. The micro-debitage consisted of small flakes, flake fragments and conchoidal shatter of less than 15mm and frequently only 2-3mm in maximum dimension.

The arbitrary figure of 15mm was chosen as a dividing point for the micro- and macro-debitage as it was thought that the larger and more technologically distinctive pieces were most likely to reflect on the way that lithic materials were perceived and used at the site (cf Brown 1991). The micro-debitage would have originated from two agencies: during knapping and from post-depositional processes. Knapping generates large quantities of small waste products, often termed ‘shatter’, generated through core trimming, flake retouching and core disintegration. Post-depositional factors include cultural

influences, such as trampling of the discarded waste, natural processes such as the reworking of the burial environment, and post-excavation processing, including the initial excavation of the material and sieving

The micro-debitage was predominantly recovered from sieving of the material from the test-pits. It is largely produced as incidental waste from core reduction and, as it is unlikely to be deliberately removed from where produced, its presence in quantity is indicative of core working having occurred in the vicinity. Although much of the micro-debitage could not be assigned to any particular modes of core working, a relatively high number consisted of small platform-edge trimming flakes, originating from careful platform preparation and likely to be associated with blade production.

Macro-debitage

Blades and Flakes

Despite precise chronological attribution being only occasionally possible, the majority of the assemblage was clearly the product of a blade-based reduction strategy, which would be characteristic of Mesolithic and early Neolithic industries. The flakes and blades were generally small, reflecting the size of the raw materials used. A very few did attain lengths of over 70mm but the vast majority were less than 40mm in maximum dimension.

The bulk of the assemblage appeared to be the product of a single broad technological tradition, characterised by the manufacture of narrow flakes and blades. Blades form nearly 18% of the entire assemblage, which rises to nearly 30% if the micro-debitage is excluded from the totals. To these figures may be added the blade-like flakes, which contribute a further 3%, or nearly 5% with the exclusion of the micro-debitage.

The flakes vary in shape and size, although most are relatively narrow and thin, often have finely trimmed or abraded striking platforms and had been competently produced. Although precise attribution is difficult, it is likely that the majority were associated with the production of blades. Some of the broader and less systematically

produced flakes may have been produced later than the bulk of the assemblage, during the later Neolithic or Bronze Age, although these are not numerous and, even if of later date, do not indicate any intensive flint-use during those periods.

Retouched Implements

Retouched implements account for 3% of the total assemblage, rising to nearly 5% if the micro-debitage is excluded, and a wide range of types is present (Table 5.2.2). They are described in more detail in Appendix 1.

TYPE	No	%
Arrowhead	2	2.5
Backed Blade	1	1.3
Burin	5	6.3
Denticulate	1	1.3
Edge Retouched	17	21.3
Fabricator	1	1.3
Microlith	17	21.3
Miscellaneous	2	2.5
Notch	2	2.5
Piercer	9	11.3
Scraper	13	16.3
Serrate	5	6.3
Truncated Blades	5	6.3

Table 5.2.2: Retouched Implements

Of the 17 microliths recovered, the commonest types are the simple obliquely truncated implements (Jacobi 1976a types 1a and 1ac) of which nine examples were identified. There are also four trapezoidal types (*ibid.*, type 3a and 3d), a single scalene triangle (*ibid.*, type 7a2) with the remaining three pieces being unclassifiable fragments. The precise dating and affinities of the microliths remains somewhat problematic. Trapezoidal and obliquely truncated pieces are often regarded as being characteristic of early Mesolithic industries, and the basal working of some of the trapezoidal types is reminiscent of Middle Mesolithic types (Jacobi 1976b; 1984). Most of these, however, fall within the size and shape ranges found within later Mesolithic assemblages, as established by Pitts and Jacobi (1979, 169-170: fig 5). The scalene triangle would also be characteristic of later Mesolithic industries but it is clear that a wide range of shapes and sizes were present and it may be that they were produced over an appreciable length of time, certainly during the later Mesolithic but perhaps also

earlier.

The presence of at least seven micro-burins attest that microliths were being manufactured at the site. These are not normally considered as true implements in their own right (although see Donahue 2002) but are usually regarded as a waste product, characterized by a retouched notch and an oblique fracture facet (Finlay 2000a, 26) in microlith manufacture. All were notched on their right sides near the bulbar end. This dominance seems a long-noted and very widespread phenomenon (eg Hooper 1933; Clark 1934; Lacaille 1942). Pieces potentially associated with the microliths include the backed and the truncated blades, these often being found in quantity alongside microliths. They are likely to have fulfilled cutting and piercing functions and it has been suggested that they may have been used in the manufacture of arrowshafts (R. Jacobi pers comm.). Five burins were present. These are usually regarded as Mesolithic (or earlier) implements although they are occasionally found amongst early Neolithic assemblages.

Two leaf-shaped arrowheads were recovered; both finely made and of Green's type 3B (Green 1980, table II.18). These are cultural markers for the early Neolithic period and indicate a continuation of concerns with the use of projectile points at the site as represented by the Mesolithic microliths. No axes were identified but two flakes struck from polished implements are present. These were both made of opaque grey flint although there are some differences, which suggest that they were struck from two different implements.

Microliths are usually associated with hunting equipment although a number of other uses have been forwarded (Clarke 1976; Finlay 2000a; 2000b). Although it is likely that they may have fulfilled several roles, it still remains probable that many did serve as projectile points, a function that leaf-shaped arrowheads undoubtedly performed. In this context, it seems likely that one of the activities conducted at the site during the Mesolithic was hunting, an activity which appeared to continue into the early Neolithic. The presence of the river and the mosaic of

wetlands within which the site would have been situated would have provided a wealth of resources for hunter-gather communities, including ample hunting opportunities.

The remainder of the retouched pieces were not closely dateable although they all would be typical components of Mesolithic and early Neolithic industries. The simple edge-retouched pieces consist of flakes or blades of a variety of shapes and sizes, all with short stretches of edge blunting executed along parts of their margins. Scrapers are also well represented with 13 examples being recovered. They again vary considerably in shape and size, some long-end varieties are present but most were simply made with the scraping edge located on the distal end or on the sides of the flake blank. Five serrated pieces, all made using blades, were found. These all have only one margin serrated and although most showed some evidence of wear, no traces of 'sickle gloss' were observed. Edge retouched implements, scrapers and serrates frequently form the largest retouched category at early settlement sites. Serrates and scrapers dominated the retouched pieces at Hurst Fen (Clark *et al.* 1960, 214) and they formed 68% of all implements at the Neolithic Broome Heath (Wainwright 1972, 68). At Kilverstone, simple edge-retouched pieces formed the largest category of implement with scrapers being the most common formally retouched type (Beadsmoore 2006). Nine piercers are also present, five of these had been made using blades and the remainder on flakes. Most had been made by minimally modifying convergent distal ends of flakes and blades with one example consisting of a flake with a spur formed on its side. The two notches were both made on blades. One had two opposed notches cut in to its side whilst the other may represent a failed micro-burin. The single denticulate recovered consisted of a thick flake with crude denticulations cut along one edge and with some semi-invasive inverse retouching along the other. The remaining retouched piece was a fabricator. This was very carefully made using bifacial flaking and had highly polished ends and with traces of polishing extending over much of its surface. These tools are traditionally associated with either flint working (as a percussor) or as 'strike-a-lights', but the

fineness with which this was made and the high polishing evident at ends and along parts of its body indicate that it was not used for either of these purposes. Its polishing suggests instead that it was used for working soft materials, perhaps for burnishing or smoothing.

Cores

One hundred and nineteen cores were recovered, representing 4.4% of the overall assemblage or 6.9% of the macro-debitage and confirming that core reduction was a principal activity occurring at the site. This figure is likely to under represent the true proportions of cores present at the site as a large proportion of the conchoidally fractured chunks, of which 200 pieces were identified, appeared to represent cores that had disintegrated either during reduction or on being 'tested' for their suitability to produce flakes or blades. The complete cores are all small, reflecting both the size of the raw materials and the extent of their reduction. Of the complete examples, the largest weighed 133g with the average weight being 37g and over half weighed only 30g or less.

Over two-thirds of the cores had clearly produced blades or narrow flakes. The others were flake cores and some of these may have produced blades earlier on in their productive life.

A wide range of type are present, reflecting the use of a number of approaches to reduction, but the majority consist of either single platform types (35%: Clark *et al.* 1960, type A2) or those with two striking platforms (26%: *ibid.*, type B), the latter particularly dominated by opposed platform types. Cores with three or more platforms, centripetally worked cores and those with keeled platforms contribute a further 29% with the remainder consisting of irregularly or minimally worked pieces, some of which may represent rejected 'tested' raw materials.

True prismatic or elaborately prepared cores are rare and there is little evidence for attempts to fashion an 'ideal' core shape that would permit a greater degree of subsequent manipulation. Cresting, used to facilitate the

removal of blades, was undertaken but only rarely. In most cases either a simple platform was created by removing a single flake or a suitable thermal facet was employed. This surface was then used to remove a series of flakes or blades from around the edges of the core, often leaving parts of the sides and the back of the core intact and unmodified. When the initial platform failed, new ones were often created, either from the base of the core or by using the old core face as the new platform. Several cores exhibit basal crushing suggesting that they were supported on an 'anvil' during reduction, a possibility strengthened by the fact that many were of such a small size that holding them only by hand during reduction may have proved difficult and potentially hazardous.

Platform edges were regularly trimmed and sometimes rejuvenated, either by removal of the platform, as evidenced by true 'core tablets', or removal of parts of the core face to remove hinge and step fractures or remnants of cortex. This was not routinely practiced, however, and obvious rejuvenation flakes account for only 2% of the total assemblage.

Some of the types with three or more platforms appear to represent a continuation of the process described above whereby new platforms were sequentially created after the failure of the old one. Others, however, may represent a different means of producing flakes and working the cores. These appear to have had flakes removed randomly from wherever a suitable surface was identified with flake production continuing until no further platforms were present. Many of the keeled cores probably also followed the pattern of creating sequential platforms but a few of these cores had been bifacially and centripetally worked, a process reminiscent of the 'Levallois' technique whereby cores were shaped in order to produce pre-determined shaped flakes. Of the minimally worked cores, many probably represented 'testing' pieces or cores that failed early in their life, either due to flaws in the flint or because suitable platforms could not be secured.

There is a noticeable variability in the extent to which the cores had been reduced and often there was good evidence of reasons for

abandonment. Thermal shattering was perhaps the most common reason, and this probably also accounts for a large proportion of the conchoidal chunks recovered. Severe and persistent hinge fractures are also present on a number of cores, and others were probably abandoned due to constraining factors such as unfavourable platform angles.

Dating and Affinities

Diagnostic implements that were recovered indicate that both Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity is represented. This range is supported by the high proportions of blades and blade cores that were recovered although it difficult to relate the majority of these specifically to either of those periods. The retouched pieces include both microliths, cultural markers for the Mesolithic, and leaf-shaped arrowheads, thought to perform similar roles as projectile points but firmly dated to the early Neolithic. The backed blades and truncated blades are also associated with Mesolithic industries, as are burins, although these also occasional appear within early Neolithic assemblages, such as at Hurst Fen (Clark *et al.* 1960). The presence of micro-burins indicates that microliths were manufacture at the site. The polished implements from which two of the flakes were struck can be dated to the early Neolithic period. The remainder of the retouched pieces are less chronologically diagnostic although a high proportion of these were made on blades and would be consistent with Mesolithic or early Neolithic industries.

For the bulk of the assemblage, however, there was little to distinguish between these two periods. There are some indications that Earlier Neolithic blade production was less systematic than that seen earlier. Although both consist of a blade-based approach to flintworking which produce metrically similar assemblages, the blades from Mesolithic assemblages tend to show greater evidence of standardised production, such as very narrow and highly trimmed striking platforms, parallel sides and multiple parallel dorsal scars (eg Bishop forthcoming a; b; c). Over 60% of the blades from Gaul Road were clearly systematically produced, having been made with great skill and evidently

manufactured as part of a process that enabled the repeated production of similar sized blades. Furthermore, a significant proportion of the blades could be termed micro-blades, being 12mm or less wide. Although these can be incidentally produced as part of routine blade production, their deliberate and repeated manufacture may indicate a concern with the manufacture of microlithic equipment. In general, blade-based industries can only be broadly assigned to the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods but the mix of systematic and more casually produced blades here suggests that both periods are well-represented amongst this material.

There may have been a chronological factor in the degree of recortication amongst the assemblage. Recortication varied from being absent to being fully developed to a blue-white colour; amongst the overall assemblage, 41% of had fully recorticated, 36% showed no evidence and 23% showed traces of incipient recortication. Using degrees of recortication as chronological indicators is usually problematic, as it has been shown that the factors responsible can be very variable, even within limited areas (Smaltz 1960) although occasionally it has been productive, particularly in differentiating Mesolithic material (eg Reynier 2000). At a few sites in the region where both Mesolithic and early Neolithic material has been recovered it has been shown that the Mesolithic material is much more likely to be recorticated than the early Neolithic pieces (Middleton 1992; Bishop forthcoming a; b). This was possibly also occurring at Gaul Road. It was noticed that all of the microliths had fully recorticated whilst the leaf-shaped arrowheads had not. The blade cores were also twice as likely to have become recorticated than the flake cores, although analysis of the degrees of recortication present on different types of blades was unproductive, with similar proportions of systematic and unsystematic blades showing the same degrees of recortication. This may indicate that either the types of blade or the degrees of recortication are not chronologically sensitive.

There were also some indications that flint-use continued at the site after the early Neolithic, although the evidence for this was

sparse. Amongst the generally blade-based industries that dominated the assemblage were a number of thick flakes with wide striking platforms exhibiting obvious points of percussion. More compellingly were a number of cores, including those with multiple, randomly utilised platforms and some centripetally worked discoidal cores. The former types are perhaps most characteristic of later Neolithic industries whilst the latter types were reminiscent of the 'Levallois' types of the later Neolithic.

Distribution

Considerations of the spatial distribution of the assemblage shows it to be present in fairly high densities along both banks of the palaeochannel that ran roughly east-west through the site. Much higher quantities were recovered from along the southern sides of the channel although due to different intensities of fieldwork and collection methods it is not possible to say whether this reflects a genuine preference for lithic-using activities to be concentrated here. The material from both sides was technologically comparable and contained a similar range of pieces, indicating that the assemblages from both sides were broadly Mesolithic and early Neolithic in date and that a similar range of activities were being conducted.

Along the southern side of the channel the bulk of the lithic assemblage was recovered from relict soils that abutted the channel, with some pieces recovered from features that cut through the soil horizon. The lithic material was spread throughout all of the areas investigated but the Evaluation demonstrated that it concentrated towards the southwest of the investigation site with the Excavation confirming that it was particularly dense along the southern edges of the palaeochannel, an area that was subsequently gridded to enable a more detailed examination. Again, lithic material was present across all of the gridded squares that were examined although its density varied markedly, from a few 5m² squares that contained single pieces to square 1100/2100 that produced 121 pieces. The material was thus unevenly distributed and a number of concentrations were discernable. The most notable of these were the

concentrations present within a few contiguous squares in the southwest and just northeast of centre of the gridded area (Figure 16).

Considerations of the spatial distribution of the micro-debitage show a similar pattern to that of the total assemblage. Given that micro-debitage is less likely to have moved around, either intentionally or through natural processes, it therefore gives a good estimation of the locations of knapping events. However, examination of the material from each of the squares has failed to find conclusive evidence of individual knapping episodes. The assemblages from both the 5m² squares and the 1m² testpits located within these mostly proved to be of mixed raw materials and in variable conditions and degrees of recortication. Although refitting was not systematically attempted, no obviously refittable pieces were found from any of the squares, however, some squares contained pieces with such similar cortex types that it was likely that they came from the same nodules. This was particularly evident in squares 1100/2105, 1100/2100 and 1140/2110, these being within the highest concentrations present within the gridded area. Taken together, this suggests that at least more-or-less *in situ* scatters representing individual acts of flintworking were present across the site but the assemblages as recovered had been formed by numerous such events and that the overall distribution of struck flint reflects a palimpsest of such activities. The highest concentrations possibly reflect areas where knapping episodes were concentrated but it seems likely that knapping had occurred across the gridded area (as well as more widely across the site).

Possibly due to the accumulation of the debris from numerous knapping events, no zoning, where different types of activities were conducted, could be discerned. Cores were present across the gridded area with concentrations respecting those of the assemblage as a whole. Microliths and other retouched pieces were perhaps more evenly spread across the gridded area and they do not appear to reflect any preferential tool using areas, but just form part of the overall spread of knapping debris.

Across the areas investigated were a number of features that contained worked flint. Most of these contained only a few pieces and even with those that contained larger assemblages there was little to indicate that they contained *in situ* contemporary assemblages. One possible exception to this was pit [50021] located to the west of Area 1. This produced 12 pieces of struck flint, all comprising knapping waste in good condition and all of which was unrecorticated. Two of the flakes refitted and several others appeared to come from the same core as the refitting flakes. None of the pieces were particularly diagnostic although the presence of a classic core tablet suggests that this assemblage was contemporary with the overall assemblage from the site and could be dated to the Mesolithic or early Neolithic period, the absence of any systematically produced blades perhaps suggesting the latter period may be most likely.

Discussion

Gaul Road has long been recognised as a source of Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork, attracting the attention of flint collectors since the 1920s with material having been previously collected from the southwest corner of the site itself (Hall 1987, 39, figure 20). Both Mesolithic and early Neolithic material has previously been recovered from the area and the possible differential recortication between Mesolithic and early Neolithic material has also been noted (Hall 1987, 39; Middleton 1992, 15). The current investigations have confirmed earlier accounts of the site and the findings from previous examinations of material recovered by collectors from Gaul Road (Wymer 1977; Middleton 1992), but also provide for a much more detailed account of both the lithic material and the circumstances of its deposition. It is clear that there was a considerable quantity of lithic material present within the soils at the site, much may have been gathered by earlier collectors and the investigations here, although extensive, would have only recovered a small percentage of that still present.

The lithic material suggests that Gaul Road

may have been occupied over a considerable period of time, certainly during the later Mesolithic and early Neolithic with occupation possibly extending into earlier parts of the Mesolithic. There may also be some later activity represented, although if this is the case it only indicates low-key and limited activity at the site. The paucity of later material may indicate that environmental conditions at the site had changed by this time. Riverine locations were still important and favoured during the later Neolithic and Bronze Age but it is possible that by this time changing conditions had led to the site being less suitable for flint-using activities.

The overall assemblage indicates that both lithic reduction and the manufacture and use of projectile points as represented by microliths were important activities and this appears to have continued into the early Neolithic period, as represented by the leaf-shaped arrowheads. There was also a wide range of other retouched implements present, which indicate that a number of different activities were being pursued. The assemblage therefore may be regarded as essentially 'domestic' in character, and indicate that the site was used as more than just a hunting camp. These other retouched implements included both recorticated and unrecorticated examples that may indicate that such activities were important throughout the periods of occupation at the site.

The Fenland survey has identified this material as coming from sandy gravels situated alongside tributaries that in the prehistoric period would have emptied into the River Ouse/Nene. The distribution of the material suggests that it represents a series of overlapping flint scatters that have built up to represent a dense spread across the sites, particularly alongside the palaeochannel. The individual scatters need not have been large in themselves but taken together they do indicate a continued, if not continuous, interest in this particular location. Such patterns have been noted at many sites in the Fens and elsewhere in Britain. At Soham, for example, fieldwalking and testpitting revealed a dense spread of mixed Mesolithic and early Neolithic material clustering along the edge of the fen islands that was thought to represent

occupations of relatively limited scale but where a wide range of activities were conducted (Edmonds *et al.* 1999, 62-3, 74). The practical advantages of such places are unmistakable but it is also true that these traditions of occupation are not evident at all comparable locations. Instead it seems that some places were favoured, seen as suitable places to routinely return to and where a variety of activities could be appropriately undertaken, a 'persistent' place within the broader network of locations that would have formed a mobile community's conceptions of the landscape (Barton *et al.* 1995; Conneller 2000; Pollard 2000). The extent to which this could happen may be demonstrated at the site of Edward's Farm in Somersham. This is located next to an inlet on the edge of the Fens and contains a dense spread of both Mesolithic and early Neolithic material that covered nearly 5 hectares (Hall 1999; Reynolds and Kaner 2000).

The juxtaposition of Mesolithic and early Neolithic material seen here and at many other places is of interest considering the debates and uncertainties surrounding the nature of the transition between the two periods. Clay (2006, 73) notes that, throughout the East Midlands, early Neolithic lithic scatters are often found in the same location as later Mesolithic ones. A similar situation has been noted in East Anglia, particularly for the lower-lying areas including the Fens and Fen-edge (Brown and Murphy 1997, 12). As demonstrated by the extensive work of the Fenland Survey, numerous lithic scatters of later Mesolithic and early Neolithic date often appear superimposed. Reynolds and Kaner (2000) argue that the fifth millennium BC may be marked by a transitional industry and that the frequent close association of lithic types from the Mesolithic and Neolithic, such as microliths, arrowheads and polished implements, may not merely represent the incidental mix of different industries, but possibly constitute a real phenomenon. Although in no way contradicting such a view, the evidence from here may temper it by suggesting that the lithic assemblage were formed over a considerable time through multiple occupations and although it indicates a great continuity in the places chosen for occupation and possibly the persistence of

traditions associated with the area, the close proximity of Mesolithic and early Neolithic material does not necessarily indicate close temporal or unbroken cultural associations.

5.3 Prehistoric pottery report by Carol Allen

Quantifications and Catalogue

A total of 130 sherds and fragments of pottery were found on this site weighing 768g. The pottery sherds represent 16 separate vessels of prehistoric date. Many of the sherds cannot be identified to a type with any certainty and no complete profiles were apparent. All the sherds are detailed in the attached catalogue (Table 5.3.1).

Of the 130 sherds, 4 were retrieved during trial trench evaluation, and the remaining 126 sherds were retrieved during the excavations.

None of the vessels seen was complete and from these sherds only one partial vessel can be securely identified to a specific type of Neolithic Peterborough Ware and this pot is illustrated (5.3a).

Methodology

The pottery was recorded and is described according to the guidelines of the PCRG (1997). In addition, this report conforms to the standards and guidance of the IfA (2001). All the sherds were counted, weighed and recorded and are detailed on the catalogues attached. The wall thickness, fabric type and the abrasion level of the sherds was also given and the part of the pot remaining, rim, body or base was recorded.

All the sherds were examined by use of a x20 binocular microscope in order to allow the fabric types to be summarised.

Fabrics

Three fabric types were recognised by examination of all the sherds by eye and with a x20 binocular microscope. The division of the fabric types was made based upon the apparent tempering materials visible by eye and the appearance, colour and firing of the

sherds. This assumes that the potters were aiming to produce pots with a distinctive appearance and tempering.

The three fabric types were: fabric 1, QUMC: tempered with a moderate amount (M=10-19%) of coarse (C=1.00-3.00mm) white angular quartz (QU); the exterior is dark brown and dark grey; fabric 2, SHMC/QUSM: tempered with a moderate amount of coarse shell (SH) or elongated voids indicative of leached-out shelly material, together with a sparse amount (S=3-9%) of medium-sized quartz (M=0.25-1.00mm); the exterior is mid-brown; fabric 3, QUCM/SHSC: containing a common quantity (C=20-30%) of medium (M=0.25-1.00mm) quartz, which was both white and angular and clear and angular, together with a sparse amount (S=3-9%) of coarse-sized shell and voids; the exterior is pale orange and buff in colour.

This site lies on the pre-Flandrian Kimmeridge Clay which is shell rich. The site is also on the March Island which has a bed of boulder clay overlain with interglacial gravels, known as the March gravels. Each of these could have provided a source for the inclusions described above. The shell could have originated in the Kimmeridge Clay, the clear quartz within the boulder clay, and the white angular quartz is very likely to have come from the gravel. There is nothing to suggest therefore that the origin of the tempering in the sherds is anything other than fairly local. However, shell contained in early pottery has not always been found to be local or of fossil type and thin section analysis would be required to ensure that this interpretation is correct (Cleal 1995).

Type of Pottery

General

In total there were probably 16 separate prehistoric vessels identified on this site, and all are of prehistoric date and type. However, as many were undecorated body sherds with no form or decoration it was very difficult to date most of the assemblage. However, one vessel from context (50381) is clearly identified as a middle Neolithic impressed ware pot commonly called Peterborough

Ware.

Other sherds made from a very similar fabric from contexts (50048) and (50428) may also be of Neolithic date, but without any form or decoration these are less certain. The sherds of the Peterborough ware vessel have a coarse appearance with angular quartz tempering visible on the surface and sherds from contexts (504470), (50026) and (50047) have a similar appearance. However, without any form or decoration or associated dating evidence it is not possible to be certain that any of these sherds are also of Neolithic date, although they are certainly prehistoric.

Neolithic Ebbsfleet Ware

Sherds from one pot from context (50381) were found and this vessel has a flat rim, a concave neck and a shoulder. This is a middle Neolithic pot of the Ebbsfleet type of Peterborough Ware (5.3a). On the upper body are whipped cord impressions in a horizontal chevron pattern, and the remainder of the sherds are undecorated. The pot had a round bottom and some of the sherds probably came from this base. Whipped cord is also known on Peterborough Ware Mortlake vessels but is seen on Ebbsfleet shouldered round bottomed bowls like this one in eastern England (Manby *et al* 2003, 51). Peterborough vessels with similar rims, concave necks and whipped cord decoration were also found at Risby Warren in North Lincolnshire (Riley 1957, 45).

Dating

Dating of material associated with middle Neolithic Peterborough Wares confirms that all types were in use by 3000BC. Dates for Ebbsfleet types suggest they were common between 3500 and 2900 BC (Gibson and Kinnes 1997; Gibson 2002, 80).

Context

Four small sherds came from the evaluation of trenches 16 and 21, and the remainder were from the excavated area. The sherds of the middle Neolithic Ebbsfleet pot were only slightly abraded and were found in the excavation in a preserved horizon of buried soil (50381) beneath alluvium which had

sealed these earlier deposits. Other slightly abraded sherds of possible early date were found in tree throw hole [50046] which also contained some sherds of possibly later, Iron Age, date. This may have been material from the surface which was incorporated into the hole when a tree was pulled over during clearance of the land (Evans *et al* 1999; Allen 2006). Other possibly Neolithic material which was more abraded was found in (50095) the fill of pit [50093] and in context (50428) the fill of pit [50427]. These identifications are less certain as the sherds have no clear form or decoration.

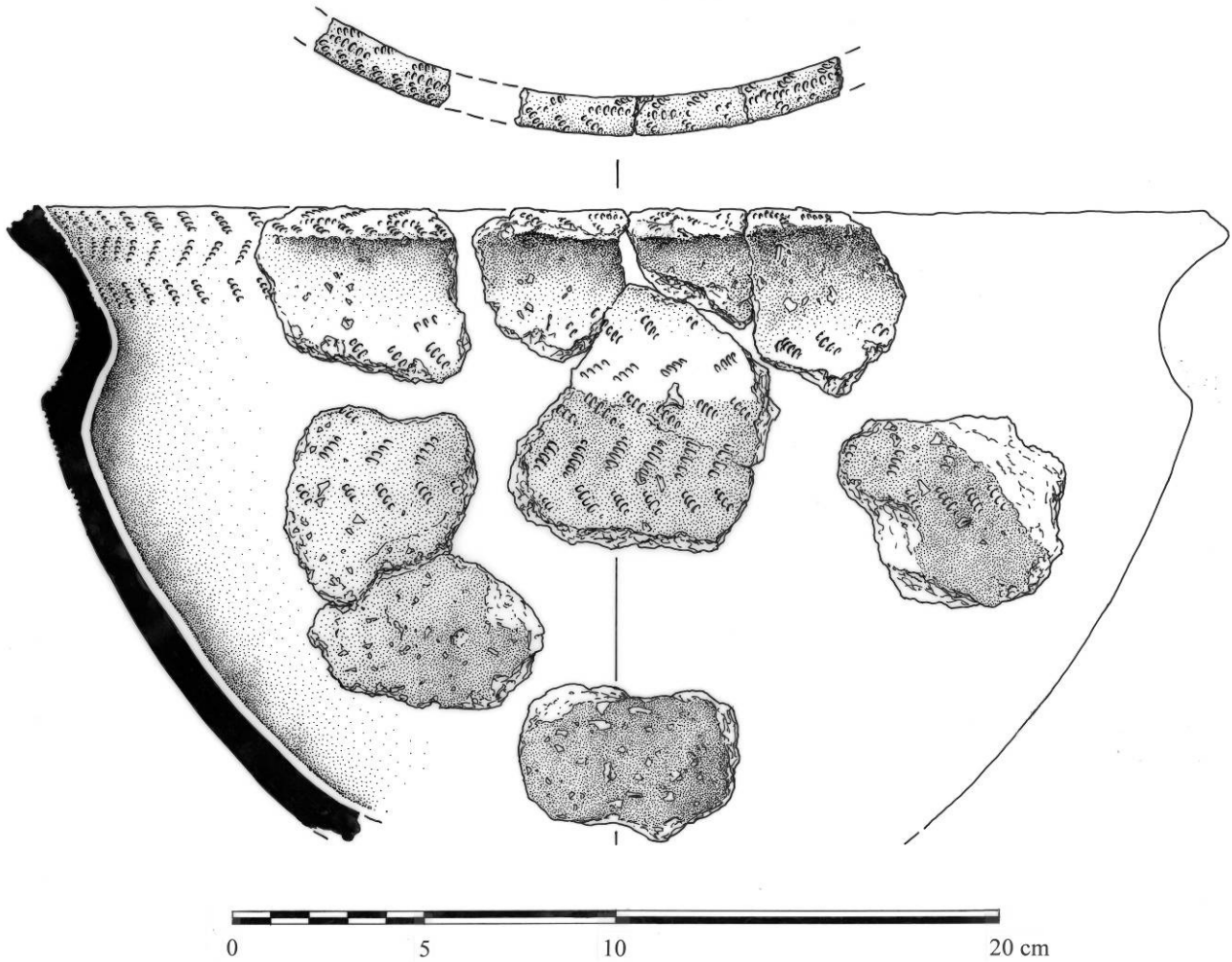
One very small body sherd was found in a sealed context (16011) in ditch [16010] trench 16 and three similar small body sherds came from sealed context (21006) in a feature [21005] in trench 21. All four sherds could be earlier prehistoric but were abraded and without form or decoration this identification is uncertain.

Summary

About 16 vessels of prehistoric date were found on this site. Of these one could be certainly identified as being of middle Neolithic Ebbsfleet type of Peterborough Ware. This vessel is dated to around 3000 BC. This is a rare find as fragile material of this type is around 5000 years old and is only found in protected contexts such as pits or preserved soils, as on this site. This find indicates that there was some occupation of this area in the middle Neolithic.

Other sherds found in pits and a tree throw hole on other areas of the site could also be of early date as the fabrics are similar, but this identification is less certain as these have no form or decoration. All the tempering materials in the pottery assemblage could have been found locally.

5.3a



Rim, neck and body sherds of middle Neolithic Ebbsfleet Peterborough Ware pot, with flat rim and concave neck, upper body decorated with whipped cord impressions in horizontal chevron design, slightly abraded, fabric QUCM/SHSC, context 50381 preserved buried soil.

Context	Description	Pot no	Sherds no	Weight g	Wall mm	Fabric	Abrasion level	Pot Type	Drawing No	Pot Part	Description
16011	Trench 16	1	1	1	5	1	V	Preh		B	fragment
21006	Trench 21	2	3	2	5	2	A	Preh		B	fragments
50026	fill pit	3	8	12	6	2	M	Preh		B	undecorated sherds & frags
50021	50021										
50030	fill pit	4	8	12	7	2	M	Preh		B	undecorated sherds & frags
50021	50021										
50047	tree throw	5	2	62	7	2	S	Preh		B	undecorated sherds
50046	50046										
50048/1	tree throw	6	12	108	7	1	S	Preh		B	undecorated sherds
50046	50046										
50048/2	tree throw	7	17	35	4	3	S	Preh		B	undecorated sherds
50046	50046										
50049/1	tree throw	8	5	32	8	2	S	Preh		B	undecorated sherds
50046	50046										
50049/2	tree throw	9	6	29	6	1	U	Preh		B	possibly Iron Age
50046	50046										
50053	buried soil	10	1	4	6	1	M	Preh		B	slight neck but unidentified
50095	pit fill	11	1	5	6	2	M	Preh		B	vague dec poss PB Ware
50093	50093										
50386	U/S finds	12	1	1	5	1	V	Preh		B	fragment
50428	fill pit	13	1	1	6	3	V	Preh		B	small sherd
50427	50427										
50447	pit fill	14	15	33	7	1	U	Preh		B	undecorated body sherds
50446	50446										
50448	pit fill	15	1	6	7	1	S	Preh		B	undecorated sherd
50446	50446										
50381	buried soil	16	48	425	8	3	S	Neo	1	B, N, R	flat undec rim, deep neck
+pot											
Totals			130	768							

Table 5.3.1

Pot type	Pot Part	Abrasion	Fabric	Code	Description
Preh	Prehistoric	Code	Abrasion Level	1	Tempered with quartz, moderate quantity of coarse white and angular
Neo	Neolithic	U	unabraded	QUMC	
PB	Peterborough Ware	S	slightly abraded -	2	voids/shell elongated moderate amount of coarse
			(5-25% of surface affected)	SHMC/	
				QUSM	sparse amount of medium quartz
R	Rim	M	moderately abraded	3	white angular quartz & clear common medium size
B	Body		(25-50% of surface affected)	SHSC	shell/voids spare amount of coarse
N	Neck	A	abraded		
		V	(50-75%)		
			very abraded (>75%)		

Table 5.3.2

5.4 Report on charred plant macrofossils and other remains by Val Fryer BA MIFA

Summary

Twenty seven samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within pits, tree-throws and a linear feature of prehistoric, later Mesolithic or later date. The recovered assemblages were mostly small, and although charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, other plant macrofossils were exceedingly scarce. The composition of the assemblages and the generally abraded condition of the material within them suggested that all were probably derived from scattered refuse, including some possible charred food remains.

Introduction and method statement

In accordance with the research objectives for the site and the excavation specification, and as a result of observations made during the evaluation phase of work, samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within a number of pits across the excavated area. Two samples were also taken from fills within tree-throw [50046] (samples 62 and 93), and a single small sample (210) was taken from the primary fill of linear [50433].

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 4: Tables 1 – 3. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997) and identifications were made by comparison with modern reference specimens. Most plant remains were charred, although a small number of indeterminate mineral replaced root/stem fragments were also recorded. As plant macrofossils other than charcoal fragments were so scarce, quantification of the assemblages was not undertaken; the density of material present is recorded within the tables as follows: x = 1 – 10 specimens, xx = 11 – 50 specimens, xxx = 51 – 100 specimens and xxxx = 100+

specimens. Other abbreviations are explained at the end of the text section. Modern contaminants including fibrous and woody roots, seeds, chaff, arthropods and fungal sclerotia were common or abundant within most of the assemblages studied.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Sample composition

Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout at varying densities. Within a number of the assemblages, the fragments were so comminuted that little remained other than a coarse black 'dust'. In other instances, larger fragments in excess of 5mm were preserved, although these were rare. Much of the recorded material was very rounded and abraded. Other identifiable plant macrofossils were exceedingly scarce. Minute hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments were noted, mostly as single specimens, within twelve assemblages, and individual goosegrass (*Galium aparine*) seeds were also noted along with a dock (*Rumex* sp.) fruit. Small pieces of indeterminate charred root/stem were recorded within fourteen assemblages.

The matrix of fourteen of the samples studied was largely composed of small agglomerates of dark brown to black mineral rich soil. Orange to mid-brown mineral concretions were also noted within a number of the assemblages, principally those in which mineralised root channels were also recorded. Other remains were scarce. The few fragments of black porous and tarry material, noted within thirteen samples, were possible residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Acutely abraded pieces of bone were recovered from samples 79 (pit [50093]) and 62 (tree throw [50046]) and minute pellets of burnt or fired clay were noted within the fills of pits [50031] (samples 60 and 110) and [50415] (sample 197). The small coal fragments, noted within four pit fills, were almost certainly intrusive within the contexts.

Discussion

The small size of the assemblages and the abraded nature of the plant remains may indicate that a proportion of the material studied is derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse, some of which possibly remained un-buried until such time as it was accidentally included within the fills of various open features across the 'inhabited' area of the site. Evidence for the primary deposition of material within the excavated contexts is not apparent and there is, therefore, little or nothing within the plant macrofossil assemblages to indicate why many of the pits were originally dug during the later Mesolithic period. It is, however, assumed that much of the material recovered is derived from nearby anthropogenic activity i.e. midden deposits, the residue from 'domestic' fires or the remains of deliberate episodes of woodland clearance. Similar assemblages have been noted at other contemporary sites within eastern England (for example at Spong Hill, Norfolk (Healy 1988) and Caistor St. Edmunds and Bixley near Norwich (Murphy 2000), although comparative sites are very rare.

Although the current site represents a near unique opportunity to interpret a preserved late Mesolithic landscape, the results are open to interpretation. The density of charred plant material is so low that it appears very unlikely that any permanent settlement activity is represented. However, analysis of the lithic assemblages has concluded that semi-permanent occupation of the area is indicated rather than the casual, short-term exploitation of the local flint deposits or other fenland resources. It is, perhaps, most likely that this interpretative dichotomy has arisen because of the fragility of the charred plant remains, many of which may have been completely abraded and destroyed before they became incorporated within the archaeological horizon. This is certainly indicated within the assemblages where the plant remains are so fragmented that clear identification is no longer possible.

5.5 Animal Bone Assessment by Matilda Holmes

Introduction

Animal bones were recovered from pits, a tree throw and a buried soil layer. At the time of writing there is little contextual dating but an early prehistoric date (?Neolithic) is likely.

Methodology

The bones were scanned and basic information recorded for bones that could be identified to species or anatomy in order to give an idea of the size of workable data likely to be retrieved from a full catalogue. Data recorded included species, anatomy, condition (based on a score of 1-5, where 1 is excellent condition and 5 unrecognisable, after Lyman, 1994), gnawing and burning which can be used to assess the taphonomic factors likely to have affected the assemblage. The potential of the material for fusion, toothwear, butchery, pathology and bone working data was also noted.

Environmental samples were available, but not recorded at this stage.

Taphonomy and Condition

The bones were in very poor condition, friable and highly fragmentary. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded including burnt, gnawed, butchered and recently broken bones. Of which two fragments had been burnt, and several showed signs of fresh breaks. Poor preservation of the surface of the bones has meant that evidence for gnawing and butchery has been destroyed.

Basic description of findings

This is a very small assemblage of 117 fragments, of which only 29 could be identified to species (Table 5.5.1). The remains of possibly a single mature wild boar (skull, femur, tibia, phalanges, metapodia, sternum, tarsals, vertebra and an atlas) were recovered from various contexts in pit 50093 (contexts 50098, 50227, 50092 and 50094). A fragment of sheep / goat tibia was recovered from pit 50093, and a dog radius, phalanx and

mandible from pit 50446 (50447). There was very little potential for the recovery metrical or ageing data, largely due to the poor condition of the assemblage.

Potential of Material

The preservation and friability of the bones, along with the small assemblage size means that there is little further work of value that could be undertaken on these bones. It may be possible to confirm the pig skeleton is from wild boar with metrical analysis of the better

preserved bones.

Further Work

If the site goes to publication, it would be worthwhile confirming the presence of wild boar, as pigs become increasingly common in the later neolithic (compared with the early period), and it is likely that it is at this time in Britain that domestication occurred (Grigson, 1982). No other further work is recommended.

Table 5.5.1: Species representation by feature

Species	Pit 50093	Pit 50446	Pit 50021	Natural	Buried Soil	Tree throw 50046	Total
Cattle				1			1
Sheep / Goat	1						1
Pig	23			1			24
Dog		3					3
Total Identified	24	3	0	2	0	0	29
Unidentified Mammal	37	2	2	6	2	2	
Large Mammal	1			4	2	23	
Medium Mammal				7			
Total	62	5	2	19	4	25	117

5.6 Report on the other finds by Anne Boyle and Gary Taylor

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of two sherds from two vessels, weighing 15 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 5.6.1. The pottery dates to the prehistoric and early modern periods.

Condition

The Prehistoric sherd is abraded, whereas the early modern piece is in fairly fresh condition.

Results

Table 5.6.1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
50018	CREA	Creamware	Flat	1	1	10	Base		Mid 18th to mid 19th
50447; <211>	PREH	Prehistoric	?	1	1	5	BS	Internally reduced, dark flint tempered; abraded	Early prehistoric

Provenance

An early modern sherd came from marling pit [50013=50016=50018], with (50447) fill of Pit [50446] containing a single sherd of Prehistoric pottery.

Range

The flint tempered Prehistoric sherd appears similar to others from the site (see 5.3)

Potential

The pottery poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required.

Summary

Two sherds of mixed date were recovered from two separate features.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 61 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 5.6.2.

Condition

The fragment is abraded.

Results

Table 5.6.2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
50000	RTMISC	Roman or post-Roman tile	1	61	Abraded	18th to 20th?

Provenance

A single tile fragments came from topsoil (50000).

Potential

The ceramic building material poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required.

Summary

An abraded tile fragment was recovered from a single context.

FIRED CLAY

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001).

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and

weighed within each context. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in Table 5.6.3.

Condition

All of the fragments are very abraded.

Results

Table 5.6.3, Fired Clay Archive

Cxt	Fabric	Fragments	Weight	Comment
50000	Oxidised	1	1	Very abraded
50062	Oxidised	1	10	Very abraded; heat affected
50227	Reduced	2	7	Very abraded; soot

Provenance

Small pieces of fired clay came from topsoil (50000), marling pit [50061] and possible pit [50093].

Potential

The fired clay poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required.

Summary

A small amount of undiagnostic fired clay was recovered from the site.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Three pieces of glass weighing a total of 11g were recovered.

Condition

All of the glass is in good condition, but is naturally fragile.

Results

Table 5.6.4, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
50062	Colourless window	1	1	19th-20th century

Provenance

The glass was recovered from the fill of a marling pit (50062).

Range

The glass is early modern, dating to the 19th-20th centuries, and comprises a fragment of window glass.

Potential

As a single piece of early modern material the glass is of very limited potential, other than providing some dating evidence.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A total of 10 other items weighing 305g were recovered.

Condition

All of the other finds are in good condition, though the charcoal is naturally fragile and the iron is rusted.

Results

Table 5.6.5, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
50000	stone	Hammerstone, cobble with localised impact abrasion	1	280	
50000	charcoal	charcoal	1	1	
50026	charcoal	charcoal	1	1	
50033	charcoal	charcoal	1	1	
50049	stone	Burnt stone	1	11	
50053 -218-	charcoal	charcoal	2	1	
50054 -62-	stone	Welsh roofing slate	1	3	Late post-medieval
50130	Industrial residue	Iron smithing slag	1	4	
50438	iron	Nail?	1	13	
			10	305	

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from topsoil (50000), pit fills (50026, 50033), the fill of a possible tree throw (50049), buried soils (50053 & 50054), the fill of a possible posthole (50438), and as unstratified finds (50130).

Range

Materials associated with fire, including charcoal, coal and burnt stone, provide the bulk of the small assemblage of other finds. There is also other stone, including a probable pounder and at least one piece of roofing slate. A couple of metal items were also retrieved.

Potential

The other finds are of limited potential. Although the bulk of the collection is associated with fire, these items occur disparately and while they may indicate hearths or similar at the site, they do not strongly suggest localised burning.

5.7 Palaeo-environmental report by Dr Jane Wheeler and James Rackham

Introduction

An initial evaluation (Rackham and Wheeler 2008) of the deposits infilling the small stream valley and embayment immediately south of the old course of the River Nene, north of Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (Figures 4 & 5, Transect A), identified a build up of peat in the base of the valley beginning probably just before the early Bronze Age and a palaeosol beneath these deposits that might be contemporary with the archaeological finds that the evaluation excavations recovered on the higher ground on both sides of the mouth of the embayment. As part of the programme of further archaeological work and as a mitigation against the construction of a large new drainage channel on the west side of the site (Figures 4 & 5), an auger transect (Transect B) was laid across the valley floor between the two flint scatters identified during the evaluation and subsequent excavation programmes. This transect was used to select a location from which a core could be extracted for a detailed palaeoenvironmental study of the sequence.

The transects have been used to describe the sediments infilling the stream valley floor and a core collected from the western transect has been used for the palaeoenvironmental study and the radiocarbon dating of the sequence.

Methods

The initial auger transect (Transect A) was conducted by hand and is reported elsewhere (*op cit*). The transect, undertaken across the western end of the site (Transect B) approximately along the line of the proposed new drainage cut, was undertaken using a small mechanical Dando Terrier 2000 caterpillar tracked rig. A series of eleven borehole locations were laid across the valley floor (Figures 4 & 5 – Transect B) at 10m intervals, from the edge of the excavation area in the south to the edge of the excavation area in the north. The boreholes were cored using a 110mm diameter window sampler, reducing in diameter with each one metre depth of core. The deposits were described and logged on

site and levels taken for the ground surface at each location. Each borehole was cored until pre-holocene deposits were recorded, except for BH8 which was unfortunately terminated at 400cm still probably a little above the underlying boulder clay (5.7a). The logs from the eleven boreholes were used to choose a location from which to recover an intact sequence. BH6 was deemed to be the most promising palaeoenvironmental sequence so a core (BH12) was undertaken one metre north of BH6, using a sampler tube, and three 1m cores 102mm in diameter recovered. The base of the sequence in BH12 at 3m was recorded as boulder clay. On the basis of the results from the original evaluation a second core (BH13) was undertaken along the line of Transect A near BH3. This was obtained from the western side of the site to a depth of 3m, between Trenches 10 and 18 and adjacent to the auger sample point (BH3) of the original survey (see Rackham and Wheeler 2008), to provide a comparative core to BH12. This has been described and logged (see below – Appendix 1) but was deemed less suitable for palaeoenvironmental study than core BH12 so no further work was undertaken on it.

The core from BH12 was sub-sampled for pollen analysis and radiocarbon dating, and four samples were taken from the organic section of the core (Table 5.7.1) and washed for organic macrofossil remains. The basal organic silt at 250-260cm, lower peaty silts at 232-242, the upper peaty silts at 212-220cm and the organic laminated silts at 183-190cm.

Auger Transects

The two auger transects undertaken across the valley were approximately 230m apart. Transect A towards the eastern end of the site (Figures 4 & 5) as the valley narrows, and Transect B across the mouth of the valley just before it opens out onto the fen to the west. Between the two transects the ground surface drops east to west some 0.42m on the valley floor, while the underlying early Holocene valley floor drops from a low of -2.38m OD beneath Transect A to a low of probably just below -4.25m OD in Transect B, a fall of nearly 2m.

A buried soil was recognised in several of the

boreholes in both transects (5.7b & 5.7c) although it has probably been removed from the lowest areas by a stream.

The following sequence is indicated by the auger results. A palaeosol was recorded in several of the cores lying above sands and gravels or glacial till. On the north side of the valley in Transect A the bedrock is chalky boulder clay with sands and gravels on the south side. In Transect B most of the transect is flooded by clays. Possible evidence of a stream channel is suggested by the deposits at the base of BH4 in Transect A (Rackham and Wheeler 2008), and BH8 in Transect B which was not bottomed, produced none of the organic sediments recorded in the boreholes either side and may also have been over a channel on the valley floor. In Transect A peats overlay the palaeosol, while in Transect B there was a short period of silty clay deposition, with organics (see 5.7c), prior to the deposition of the organic and peaty silts in the Neolithic (see below). The core in BH12 indicates abundant reed stem material and occasional small roundwood (5.7d) suggesting a wet marginal waterside environment. In the deeper boreholes (except BH8) peaty silts and silty peats overlie the dark grey slightly organic silty clays. This is banded with varying levels of peaty organic and silty horizons suggesting variations in the water table and episodes in which the peats are more inundated and wetter than at other times (5.7c). These fluctuations are not apparent in Transect A, but the peats recorded in Transect A lie above all those noted in Transect B and probably post-date them (see below). The peats have frequent small roundwood and twigs and the occurrence of oak acorns and acorn cups and alder catkins and seeds (see below) in the core sediments suggest local oak and alder woodland. The deposits between 228 and 188cm in BH12 (5.7d) change from a woody slightly silty peat to a progressively more silty deposit, but still with abundant small twigs and roundwood, suggesting a progressively wetter environment. In BH8 the absence of any organic sediments suggests that this core is located over the main stream channel that kept the centre of the valley floor scoured and clear of organic silts and peats or was cut by a later stream or tidal creek eroding any organic sediments that were

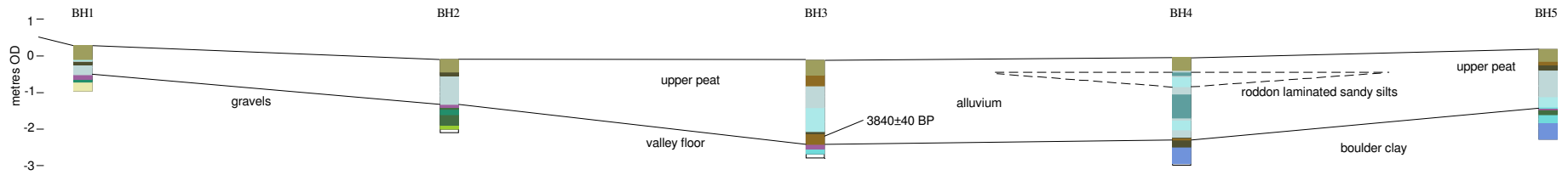
present.

The sequence above the peaty silts is best seen in the BH12 core. The peaty deposits become progressively siltier and become laminated, with coarse silts and finally very fine sands, and a reduction in the organic component (5.7a).

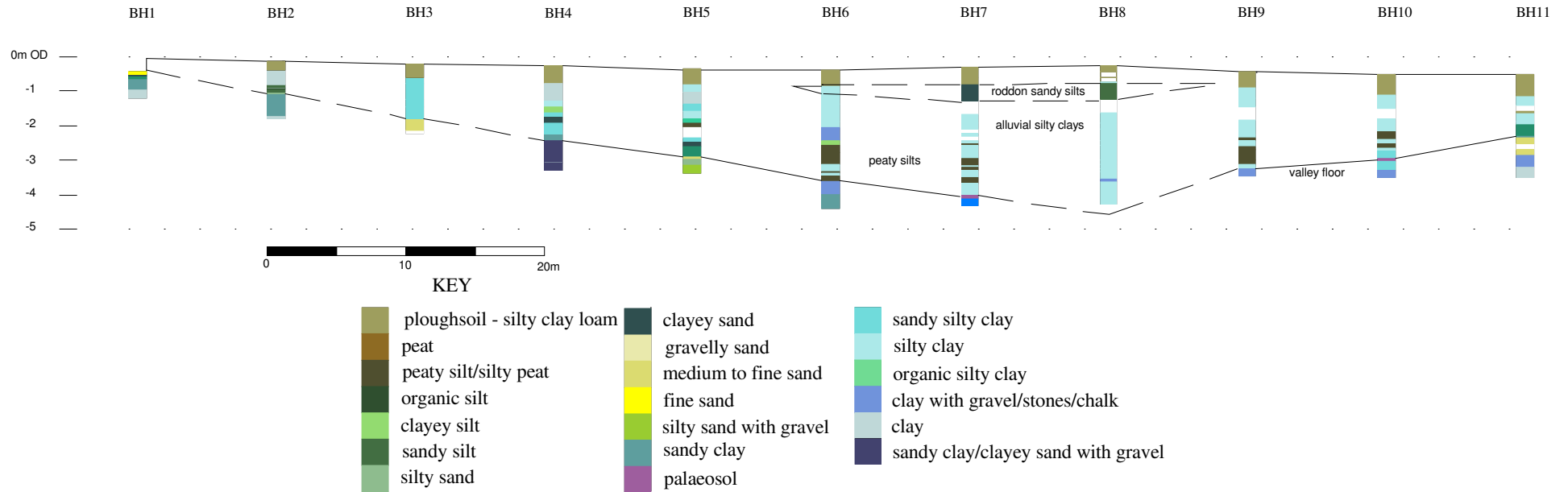


5.7a Detail of laminated sediments overlying the peaty silts. The laminations become more silty upwards with visible coarse silt and fine sand partings. This is evidence for the initial impact of tidal waters in the valley.

5.7b Reconstructed section through Transect A
Gaul Road, March - Transect A



5.7c Reconstructed section through Transect B
Gaul Road, March Transect B



5.7d Photograph and descriptions of cores from Borehole 12 – BH12
MAGR08 – BH12 Core 1 (0cm-100cm)



0cm-3cm missing

3cm-16cm 7.5YR 4/3 brown loose dry silty loam with penetrating roots and rootlets - ploughsoil

16cm-35cm 7.5YR 4/3 brown stiff dry silty loam with penetrating roots and rootlets - ploughsoil

35cm-53cm 7.5YR 4/4 brown stiff dry silty clay with penetrating roots and rootlets, and with ochreous staining along root-runs

53cm-69cm 7.5YR 3/3 dark brown soft moist laminated silts and sands with fine and occasional broader sand laminae, with penetrating rootlets, ochreous mottling and ochreous staining along root runs

69cm-89cm 7.5YR 3/4 dark brown soft moist silty clay with penetrating rootlets and ochreous staining along root-runs, occasional possible traces of laminae

89cm-100cm 7.5YR 4/4 brown loose soft and moist silts with visible fine sand laminae, with ochreous patches, and occasional sub-angular chalk gravel $\leq 4\text{mm} \times 4\text{mm}$

MAGR08 – BH12 Core 2 (100cm-200cm)



100cm-107cm missing

107cm- 118cm 7.5YR 4/2 brown laminated silts and fine sands, with significant fine sand laminae

118-130cm 7.5YR 4/2 brown soft moist very slightly sandy (fine-grained) silty clay with occasional angular gravel and chalk $\leq 3\text{mm} \times 2\text{mm}$

130cm-138cm 7.5YR 4/3 brown laminated silts with sand partings-fineing downwards with less sand

138cm-144cm 7.5YR 4/3 brown soft moist slightly sandy silty clay with penetrating rootlets and ochreous staining along root-runs, and occasional angular grit and chalk $\leq 3\text{mm} \times 2.5\text{mm}$, and degraded reed roots

144cm-168cm 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey soft moist sticky silty clay with blackened reed stem matter present, and penetrating rootlets with ochreous staining along root-runs, and degraded reed roots

168cm-181cm 10YR 3/1 very dark grey soft moist silty clay with reed stem matter present and laminations becoming more pronounced with depth

181cm-188cm 10YR 2/1 black soft moist slightly organic laminated clayey silt with reed stem matter present- initial marine event!

188cm – 3830±40 BP (Beta – 252382 – peat)

188cm-200cm 7.5YR 2.5/2 very dark brown loose soft and moist clayey peaty silt with dense reed stem matter present

MAGR08 – BH12 Core 3 (200cm-300cm)



200cm – 4110±40 BP (Beta – 252383 – wood)

200cm-206cm same as 188cm-200cm above

208-210 – 4080±40 BP (Beta 252384 – wood)

206cm-243cm 7.5YR 3/2 dark brown soft moist silty peat with reed stem matter and wood/rootwood present

228cm – 4230±40 BP (Beta 252385 – wood)

246cm – 4770±40 BP (Beta 252386 – wood)

243cm-255cm 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey soft sticky and moist silty clay with reed stem matter present

255cm-265cm 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey soft sticky and moist silty clay with angular grit inclusions $\leq 2.5\text{mm} \times 2.5\text{mm}$, and patches of fine- to medium-grained sand (Gley N/3 very dark grey) and frequent small angular flints – sharp boundary below

265cm-273cm 10YR 4/1 dark grey soft moist slightly sandy (fine-grained) silty clay with penetrating rootlets

273cm-278cm 2.5Y 3/1 very dark grey soft sticky and moist clay with angular and sub-angular chalk grit $\leq 4\text{mm} \times 4\text{mm}$, and penetrating rootlets

278cm-300cm 2.5Y 5/1 grey soft moist clay with chalk inclusions $\leq 80\text{mm} \times 60\text{mm}$, with smaller angular and sub-angular chalk gravel inclusions $\leq 2\text{mm} \times 2\text{mm}$ and fossil shell (till)

This sequence above the silty peats clearly represents the first direct impact of the tides on sedimentation in the embayment associated with a rising sea level. Prior to this the rising sea level may have caused a backing up of freshwater and the development of poor drainage but it was not causing tidal flooding of the valley floor. An increase in *Juncus* sp. and the occurrence of a few foraminifera in the macrofossil record (see below) indicates the increasing wetness and at least some slight inflow of estuarine waters, with their burden of foraminifera, into the embayment.

The laminated sediments are overlain by fairly uniform silty clays with traces of degraded organics, probably reed stems and rhizome fragments, which fail to survive higher in the sequence. These deposits are equated with Shennan's zone 7 (Shennan 1994), an environment transitional between coastal reedswamp and mean high water (neap tides) or upper saltmarsh. These sediments are more closely described in BH12 than from the window samples so this sequence is used for primary description. The uniform silty clays are overlain by laminated silts with sand partings. These sediments equate to sandy silty clays and sandy clays described in the other boreholes (Figure 5.7c) and indicate a change in the tidal range. This sediment type equates with Shennan's zone 9 and indicates the embayment was probably subject to more frequent and extensive tidal inundations. Laminations are observable in the sediment for 0.6m, although only as traces in the upper 0.2m. This appears to reflect a continuing rise in sea level with a possible period of return to an upper saltmarsh environment at the top. The sequence is topped by much sandier silts with broader sand bands and laminae localised in three of the boreholes in Transect B and only one in Transect A. This deposit appears

to be a localised roddon deposit that could be seen and mapped on the ground (Figure 4) and indicates a tidal creek across the saltmarsh in the upper part of the sequence. The upper part of the roddon feature has been incorporated into the modern ploughsoil.

Dating

The sequences have been dated using radiocarbon analysis, although the buried soil upslope from the valley floor has produced flints of Mesolithic and early Neolithic date, and pottery of middle Neolithic date (5.2, 5.3).

The earliest date was obtained on wood near the base (246cm) of the post-glacial sequence in BH12 (5.7d). This has produced a date of 3640-3510 and 3420-3380 cal BC indicating that the build up of silty clays and organic sediments on the valley floor at this location commenced sometime in the early Neolithic.

The dated horizon lies at - 2.835m OD (Table 5.7.2) and over the succeeding 1200 years organic silts and peats built up on the floor of the valley to a present day thickness of 0.67m, the most recent dates from BH3 and BH12 being at -2.255 and -2.16m OD. As the valley falls westwards towards the fen the basal sediments are lower and earlier, such that the lowest deposits in Transect A post-date the Neolithic archaeology on the site, while the lowest deposits in Transect B are contemporary with the middle Neolithic, but post-date the early Neolithic and Mesolithic archaeology. To find deposits contemporary with the earlier archaeology one would need to travel further west beyond the bypass road where the floor of the valley probably drops to below -3m OD and the lowest sediments there will predate the base of the sequence in Transect B.

Transect A, BH3

BETA	Sample	Service	Material Pretreatment	Measured Age	13C/12C	Conventional Age	2 Sigma Calibration
244195	MAGR08-BH3-208cm	AMS-Standard delivery	(hazel nutshell): acid/alkali/acid	3900 +/- 40 BP	-28.4 o/oo	3840 +/- 40 BP	Cal BC 2460 to 2190 (Cal BP 4410 to 4140), Cal BC 2170 to 2150 (Cal BP 4120 to 4100)

Table 5.7.1. Radiocarbon dates from Borehole 3 Transect A and Borehole 12, Transect B

Transect B, BH12

Sample Data	Measured Radiocarbon Age	13C/12C Ratio	Conventional Radiocarbon Age(*)
Beta - 252382 SAMPLE : MAGR08-BH12-188cm ANALYSIS : AMS-Standard delivery MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT : (peat): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION : Cal BC 2460 to 2190 (Cal BP 4410 to 4140) AND Cal BC 2180 to 2140 (Cal BP 4120 to 4100)	3830 +/- 40 BP	-25.3 o/oo	3830 +/- 40 BP
Beta - 252383 SAMPLE : MAGR08-BH12-200cm ANALYSIS : AMS-Standard delivery MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT : (wood): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION : Cal BC 2870 to 2570 (Cal BP 4820 to 4520) AND Cal BC 2510 to 2500 (Cal BP 4460 to 4450)	4180 +/- 40 BP	-29.1 o/oo	4110 +/- 40 BP
Beta - 252384 SAMPLE : MAGR08-BH12-208-210 ANALYSIS : AMS-Standard delivery MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT : (wood): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION : Cal BC 2860 to 2800 (Cal BP 4810 to 4760) AND Cal BC 2750 to 2710 (Cal BP 4700 to 4660) Cal BC 2710 to 2550 (Cal BP 4660 to 4500) AND Cal BC 2540 to 2490 (Cal BP 4490 to 4440)	4140 +/- 40 BP	-28.9 o/oo	4080 +/- 40 BP
Beta - 252385 SAMPLE : MAGR08-BH12-228cm ANALYSIS : AMS-Standard delivery MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT : (wood): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION : Cal BC 2910 to 2850 (Cal BP 4860 to 4800) AND Cal BC 2810 to 2750 (Cal BP 4760 to 4700) Cal BC 2720 to 2700 (Cal BP 4670 to 4650)	4280 +/- 40 BP	-28.2 o/oo	4230 +/- 40 BP
Beta - 252386 SAMPLE : MAGR08-BH12-246 ANALYSIS : AMS-Standard delivery MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT : (wood): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION : Cal BC 3640 to 3510 (Cal BP 5590 to 5460) AND Cal BC 3420 to 3380 (Cal BP 5380 to 5330)	4810 +/- 40 BP	-27.2 o/oo	4770 +/- 40 BP

The organic build-up in BH12 continues through to the later Neolithic. The samples at 208-210cm and 200cm are reversed in date (Tables 5.7.1 & 5.7.2) but well within the error range so this reversal is not significant over a depth of 8-10 centimetres. With Ebbsfleet ware occurring on the site and generally dated to the period 3500-2900BC (cal. – Allen this report, 5.3), the basal 20cm of the pollen diagram (5.7e) may be contemporary with the archaeology on the

site. The upper organic deposits in BH12 are contemporary with the organic sediments in BH3 (Transect A) and those organic sediments recovered from BH13 (see Appendix) at a location nearby BH3 (Transect A). The organic sequence in BH13 should extend the palaeoenvironmental sequence into the early to middle Bronze Age but this post-dates the archaeology on the adjacent sites and the post-excavation study has been limited to BH12.

Table 5.7.2. Calibrated radiocarbon dates and OD heights of samples

OD height	borehole	material	depth	calibrated date	Arch date
-2.16m	BH3 TrA	hazelnut	208cm	Cal BC 2460-2190 and 2170-2150	Late Neo
-2.255m	BH12 TrB	peat	188	Cal BC 2460-2190 and 2180-2140	Late Neo
-2.375m	BH12 TrB	wood	200	Cal BC 2870-2570 and 2510-2500	Mid-late Neo
-2.465m	BH12 TrB	wood	208-10	Cal BC 2860-2800, 2750-2710, 2710-2550, and 2540-2490	Mid-late Neo
-2.655m	BH12 TrB	wood	228	Cal BC 2910-2850, 2810-2750 and 2720-2700	Mid-late Neo
-2.835m	BH12 TrB	wood	246	Cal BC 3640-3510 and 3420-3380	Mid Neo

The grey silty clays and clays above the organic horizons include preserved reed stem matter that becomes progressively rarer and more degraded up the sequence. This series of alluvial silty clays can be correlated with the period of maximum marine transgression in the West central fens between 3000 and 4000 BP (see Waller 1994, Figs 5.17-5.20). The upper organic horizon recorded in Transect A (5.7b) is absent in Transect B (5.7c) either due to its loss at this location through ploughing or its absence from the western sequence. Given that the roddon deposits have been recognized in both transects, the latter may be more likely. The roddon deposits are visible as a slight ridge in the field (Figure 4) on the floor of the valley (5.7c) and have been recognised in both transects. This feature suggests an episode of marine influence late in the sedimentary sequence which can probably be equated with the post-Roman marine transgressive episode. At Hobs Lot (Waller 1994) north of March some five miles north of Gaul Road, a similar sequence was recorded with a lower organic horizon contemporary with the basal organic sediments at Gaul Road and an upper humified organic deposit between -0.76 and 0.03m OD which has been dated to the middle and late Iron Age. The humified peaty layer in Transect A lies between -0.21 and -0.35 in BH5, and -0.48 and -0.78m OD in BH3 suggesting that it is probably contemporary with the organic horizon at Hobs Lot. The absence of the organic deposit in BH4 (Transect A) where the roddon deposits are recorded suggests that this channel probably removed the peats, supporting an inference that the roddon post-dates the inferred late Iron Age organic sediments and would therefore be consistent

with a post-Roman transgressive episode. Interestingly the Hobs Lot sequence has an upper sand deposit in three boreholes (Waller 1994, Fig. 10.9), between approximately -0.4 and 0.35m OD, which may also equate to a roddon feature of some size that post-dates the upper middle and late Iron Age organic deposits.

Macrofossil remains

Four samples were processed from the lower part of the core sequence in BH12. These were washed in a bowl and sieved on a 250 micron mesh sieve. The four samples comprised units 250-260, 232-242, 212-220 and 183-190cms. The samples are limited by size and preservation. Sample size is constrained by the size of the core which at 102mm diameter gives 0.785 litres of sample per 10cm length, which after cutting down and sampling gave approximately 0.6 litres. Wood and twigs survive, a few insect fragments and several seed taxa and other remains, but densities are not high for most categories of material and the degraded character of much of the wood and vegetative material, including leaves, herbaceous stems and seeds suggests that there has been some loss of macrofossil remains from the sediments.

The samples were sieved through mesh sizes of 6.7mm and 2mm. The whole of the 6.7mm fraction was checked and sorted, 25-50% of the 2mm fraction, but only a small proportion of the fine fraction – 0.25-2mm (<10%). Taxa and identifiable remains were identified and where abundant noted (Table 5.7.3).

Table 5.7.3. Taxa and categories identified among the macrofossil remains from the samples from BH12 core

Core depth	250-260	232-242	212-220	183-190
<i>Ranunculus</i> subg <i>Batrachium</i> sp.	+++	+++	+++	++
cf <i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	+	+		+
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	+		+	
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp(p)				+
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp.				+
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	++			
<i>Juncus</i> spp.	+++++			++++
Alisamataceae	++			+
cf <i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	+			
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	+			
<i>Stellaria</i> spp.	+			
Cyperaceae	+			
<i>Torilis</i> sp.	+			
<i>Quercus</i> sp. acorns and cups		+	+	
cf <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> - seed			+	
<i>Alnus</i> sp. catkin			+	
<i>Sambucus</i> sp.		+		
Solonaceae			+	
<i>Carex</i> spp. – trigonous			+	
Indet seeds, not further identified			+	+
Herbaceous stem fragments	+			+
Stem fragments			+	+
Buds and bud scales		++	++	+
Leaf fragments	+	+	+	+
Moss fragments	+	+	+	
Culm nodes				+
Rosaceae thorn				+
Twigs	+	+++	++++	++
Small roundwood	+	++	++	+
Reed fragments				+
Rootlets	++	+	+	
<i>Daphnia</i>	+		+	+
Foraminifera				+
Mites	++	+	+	+
Insects	+++	++	++	+
Charcoal	+++			
Burnt flint	+			

Despite the low densities of most remains the macrofossil results show some patterns. Seeds of aquatic and sub-aquatic crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg *Batrachium* sp.) are present in all samples and resting stages of water fleas (*Daphnia* sp.) are present in three, suggesting standing water environments at times throughout the depositional history. The lowest sample, 250-260, deriving from the organic silty clays beneath the peats include macroscopic charcoal and burnt flint fragments suggesting some input from human activity in the area. Otherwise the limited assemblage from this sample is herbaceous material with a few twigs and small roundwood fragments, and a small suite of seeds suggesting fen, marsh or wet grassland

habitats with abundant rushes (*Juncus* spp.), plus gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Cyperaceae, Alisimatcaee (water plantains) and occasional seeds of other taxa less specific such as stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), a stitchwort (*Stellaria* sp.), bramble (*Rubus* sp.) and hedge-parsley (*Torilis* sp.). In contrast to this sample the two samples from the silty peats above (232-242 and 212-220cm) are dominated by woody material. Twigs are abundant with frequent small roundwood fragments. Acorns, acorn cups, alder (*Alnus* sp.) catkins and seeds, elder (*Sambucus* sp.), numerous buds and bud scales, and several strong veined leaf fragments all point to a wooded environment on the valley floor. Rush seeds were not

recorded from these samples. The upper sample (183-190cm) was taken from the laminated sediments, interpreted above as the first evidence of direct tidal influence in the bay. Twigs and small roundwood are still present, but much less dense. The organic fraction is again dominated by herbaceous material and rush seeds (*Juncus* spp.) are again abundant, but preservation appears poorer than the samples below. A single recorded shell of foraminifera in these sediments suggests some saltwater intrusion. A centimetre thick sample taken from the core at 182-183 was washed down to check for foraminifera which occurred in reasonable frequency, testifying to a marine/brackish water environment associated with the silty clays above the laminated sediments.

With the sedimentary evidence these data suggest a loss of the woodland from the valley floor, with an opening up of the landscape, expansion of rushes and the onset of tidal flooding of the valley at the top of the organic sequence, followed by an upper saltmarsh environment.

Pollen analysis

Jane Wheeler

The objective of the palaeoenvironmental analysis of sediment from BH12 was to produce a data-set in the form of a local pollen diagram for the site which would complement the Mesolithic and early-middle Neolithic archaeology (flint scatters) to the immediate north and south of the core site, and provide a window into the vegetational history and anthropogenic impact on the immediate landscape (see 5.7e).

Methodology

Sample preparation at 4cm intervals followed Hunt (1985) and Wheeler (2007). A tablet containing *Lycopodium* spores (c. 10000 spores per tablet) was added to each sample during processing to provide a marker by which archaeological pollen could be quantified and preservation levels assessed in relation to depth and sediment type. A pollen sum of 500 total land pollen grains (TLP) was used, excluding spores, to assess the representation of sub-fossil pollen at the site

which was considered adequate to present a realistic assessment of the local vegetation. Rare pollen types are quantified at $\leq 2\%$. Spores (including the *Lycopodium* 'spike') and microscopic charcoal ($>5\mu\text{m}$) were counted in addition to TLP but are not included in the total pollen sum.

All data-sets are expressed as percentages, i.e. of 500. Pollen percentage values were calculated using Microsoft Excel (2003) and transposed using WinTran 1.5 (Juggins 2002) into a Tilia file and converted into a pollen diagram (see 5.7e) using TGView 2.0.2 (Grimm 2004). The pollen diagram has been zoned using the computer programme CONISS (Grimm 1987) to enable the statistical delineation of assemblage zones based on the identification of grouping patterns within pollen data, i.e. stratigraphically constrained cluster analysis (mean within-cluster sum of squares). The dendrogram scale is presented to the right of pollen diagram (see 5.7e).

Pollen was counted and identified using a Leica Galen III microscope at magnification x400. Equal traverses were made across the width of each microscope slide with all identifiable pollen, spores (including the marker *Lycopodium* spores) being counted. Pollen was identified in accordance with the keys in Moore *et al.* (1991), Beug (2004), supported by Reille (1999, 1998, 1991) and a modern pollen type-slide reference collection. Nomenclature follows Stace (2001).

Microscopic charcoal ($\geq 5\mu\text{m}$) data was collated to assess the presence of palaeopollutants in the sedimentary sequence sampled from BH12 which reflect episodes of local and/or regional burning. Fungal spores (after van Geel *et al.* 2003) were also identified and recorded to provide additional proxy markers reflective of anthropogenic and/or natural impacts at the site, i.e. eutrophication resulting from the presence of animal dung, and depositional and/or erosional phases (see Table 5.7.6).

The stratigraphic sequence of sediments from BH12, which subsumes the 80cm sequence of organic-rich deposits analysed, is presented in Table 5.7.4. Whilst analysis was conducted

on all samples from this organic sequence (180cm-260cm), the three basal samples at 252cm, 256cm and 260cm proved quantitatively and qualitatively negative for archaeological pollen and spores, including fungal spores. The pollen that was found in these samples was degraded and corroded, most probably as a result of periodic aeration

and subsequent oxidation (Moore *et al.* 1999) prior to the deposition of the overlying organic-rich silts, and also as a likely response to the alkalinity of the chalk geology. Therefore the pollen diagram for the Gaul Road site presented in 5.7e has a maximum extent of 68cm of sediment, i.e. 180cm-248cm.

Table 5.7.4. Stratigraphic sequence of deposits from BH12.

Depth (cm)	Sediment description
0-3	Missing
3-16	Loose brown dry silty loam with penetrating rootlets - topsoil
16-35	Stiff dry brown silty loam with penetrating rootlets - topsoil
35-53	Stiff dry brown silty clay with penetrating rootlets, and ochreous staining along the rootlet runs
53-69	Soft moist dark brown laminated sandy silty clay with penetrating rootlets, ochreous mottling and staining along rootlet runs
69-89	Soft moist dark brown silty clay with penetrating rootlets and ochreous staining along rootlet runs, with possible traces of laminae
89-100	Loose, moist and soft brown sandy silty clay, with fine sand laminae, ochreous patches and occasional sub-angular chalk gravel $\leq 4\text{mm}^2$
100-107	Missing
107-118	Soft moist brown laminated silts and fine sands, with significant sand laminae
118-130	Soft brown very slightly sandy silty clay with occasional angular gravel and chalk $\leq 3 \times 2\text{mm}$
130-138	Brown laminated silts with sand partings, fineing downwards with less sand
138-144	Soft moist brown slightly sandy silty clay with penetrating rootlets and ochreous staining along rootlet runs, occasional angular grit and chalk $\leq 3\text{mm} \times 2.5\text{mm}$
144-168	Soft moist sticky grey silty clay with reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets, with ochreous staining
168-181	Soft moist very dark grey silty clay with reed stem matter present
181-188	Soft moist black slightly organic laminated clayey silt with reed stem matter present
188-206	Loose soft moist very dark brown clayey peaty silt with dense reed stem matter present
206-243	Soft moist dark brown silty peat with reed stem matter and wood/rootwood present
243-255	Soft moist sticky dark grey silty clay with reed stem matter present
255-265	Soft moist sticky very dark grey silty clay with angular grit inclusions $\leq 2.5\text{mm} \times 2.5\text{mm}$, and patches of fine- to medium-grained very dark grey sand
265-273	Soft moist dark grey slightly sandy silty clay with penetrating rootlets
273-278	Soft moist sticky very dark grey clay with angular and sub-angular chalk $\leq 4\text{mm} \times 4\text{mm}$, and penetrating rootlets
278-300	Soft moist grey clay with chalk inclusions $\leq 80\text{mm} \times 60\text{mm}$, smaller angular and sub-angular chalk $\leq 2\text{mm} \times 2\text{mm}$

Descriptions of supernatant hues observed during the extraction process and details of the macrofossil presence are presented in Table 5.7.5.

Table 5.7.5. Supernatant hues and macrofossil presence recorded in all samples processed for analysis from Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire.

Depth (cm)	Hue of supernatant	Description of macrofossil component
180	Brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, and charcoal particulates present
184	Brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, small nematode capsules, and charcoal particulates present
188	Brown	Rootlets, small twig fragments $\leq 8\text{mm} \times 3.5\text{mm}$, reed stem matter, heavy charcoal particulate presence
192	Brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, small nematode capsules, and heavy charcoal particulate presence
196	Dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, small nematode capsules, and charcoal particulates present
200	Very dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, and charcoal particulates present
204	Very dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, bark fragments $\leq 5\text{mm} \times 4.5\text{mm}$, and charcoal particulates present
208	Very dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, and charcoal particulates present
212	Dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, and charcoal particulates present
216	Very dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, and charcoal particulates present
220	Very dark brown	Rootlets, small twig and root fragments $\leq 1\text{mm} \times 1\text{mm}$, reed stem matter, light charcoal particulate presence, and fine-grained sand
224	Very dark brown	Rootlets, larger reed stem matter $\leq 4\text{mm} \times 1.5\text{mm}$, and charcoal particulates present
228	Dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, small nematode capsules, and charcoal particulates present
232	Dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, and charcoal particulates present
236	Very dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, and charcoal particulates present
240	Very dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, small nematode capsules, and charcoal particulates present
244	Very dark brown	Rootlets, reed stem matter, small nematode capsules, and charcoal particulates present
248	Grey	Rootlets, reed stem matter, light charcoal particulate presence, and fine-grained sand
252	Brown	Reed stem matter, heavy charcoal particulate presence, and fine-grained sand
256	Grey	Rootlets, reed stem matter, light charcoal particulate presence, and fine-grained sand
260	Grey	Rootlets, reed stem matter, charcoal particulates present, and fine-grained sand

Interpretation

The pollen diagram (5.7e) has been divided into three zones (A to C) statistically using the computer program CONISS (Grimm 1987). Delineation as a result of the short timescale represented by the 68cm of sediment analysed (1200 years) is difficult because of the deficiency of relative pollen fluctuations which can be attributed to specific periods, such as the elm decline, or a clearance phase indicated, for example, by the decline of tree and shrub species and the influx of grasses (Poaceae). With the exception of the rise in *Alnus* (alder) at 210cm and its subsequent fall at 202cm, which has been identified by CONISS and is also obvious by eye, the pollen diagram shows a relatively consistent and stable pollen spectrum in terms of the representation of dominant taxa throughout the sequence.

The sedimentary sequence of the studied deposits (illustrated in the lithology to the left of the pollen diagram and above, 5.7d) also appears to be chronologically continuous, having no obvious hiatus or disturbance to the stratigraphy. The deposition of silty peat at 243cm, overlying the basal 5cm of silty clay, appears consistent with water-logging or

ponding at the site which could be attributed to a local response to the changing water-table and a rising sea level, and/or soil erosion which triggered the formation of peat (Greig 2003). The horizon at 206cm and the deposition of clayey peaty silt indicates that conditions became wetter, with the influx of the clay component in the sediment suggesting that the site was subjected to flooding with the water probably backing-up or pooling, thus enabling the expansion of alder carr. The whole of the sequence falls within the Neolithic (see Table 5.7.2). The horizon at 188cm suggests there may have been an exacerbated erosional event at this point and the overlying laminated sediments clearly indicate the onset of tidal influence indicating a rising sea level directly influencing the site from the later Neolithic period. The reduced alder curve contained within zone C also correlates with this expansion of marine influence which must have led to the loss of significant areas of alder carr fringing the fens.

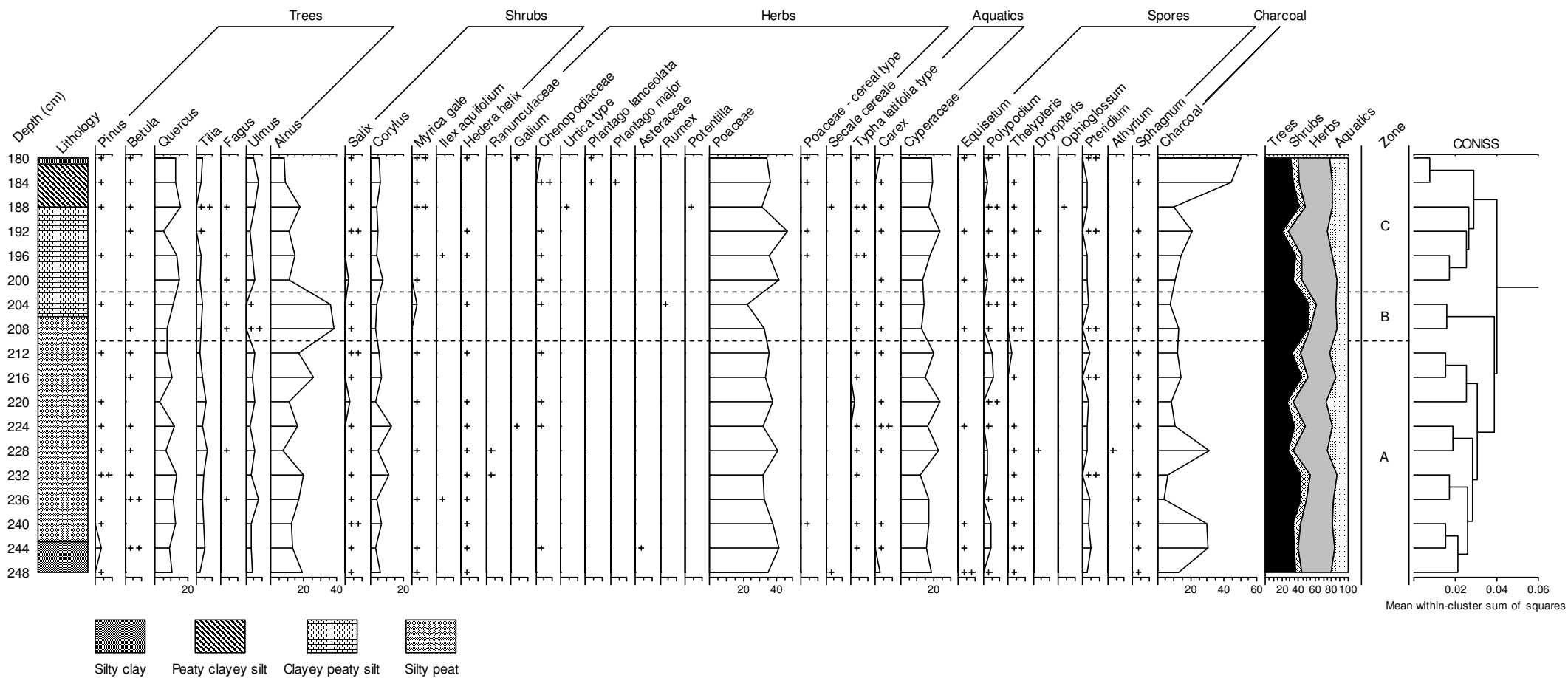
Zone A (248cm-210cm)

The formation and rapid development of silty peat from 243cm in the basal sector of zone A

is radiometrically dated to the early-middle Neolithic (Table 5.7.2). The whole of this zone can be broadly allocated to the middle Neolithic. Mean summary data for arboreal (36%) and shrub (8.5%) pollen in comparison to the ratio of grasses (Poaceae) including herbaceous taxa (36.3%), and aquatic species (19%) shows herbaceous taxa and trees to be equally represented in the pollen spectra throughout the zone. Whilst the dominant herbaceous taxon quantitatively is Poaceae, this 'family' classification will include wetland species such as *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) (common reed) which, in association with aquatic taxa such as *Typha latifolia* type (bulrush) and *Carex* (sedges), are species consistent with a reed-marsh and fen environment. The representation of tree and shrub pollen, particularly the *Quercus* (oak), *Tilia* (lime/linden), *Ulmus* (elm), and *Corylus* (hazel) mix, is consistent with mixed deciduous woodland in the vicinity of the site on higher and drier ground, whilst the wetter lower ground supported alder carr with some willow (*Salix*) and bog myrtle (*Myrica gale*). The representation of spores, particularly *Polypodium* (most probably *Polypodium vulgare* L. (common polypody), *Thelypteris* (possibly *Thelypteris dryopteris* (L.)/oak fern), and *Pteridium* (*Pteridium aquilinum* (L.)/bracken - which also thrives in woods, heathland, and grassland), but also the less frequent taxon *Athyrium* (most probably *Athyrium filix-femina* (L.)/lady fern), indicate that damp woodland framed an open marshy site. The presence of *Equisetum* (*Equisetum fluviatile* L./water horsetail or *Equisetum palustre* L./marsh horsetail - the latter taxon also being common in bogs, wet heaths, woods and meadows), *Dryopteris* (probably *Dryopteris cristata* (L.)/crested buckler fern), and *Sphagnum* moss, indicates the immediate local landscape also comprised reed-marsh. The picture provided by the pollen and spore data-sets indicates the local landscape was a mosaic of reed-marsh and alder carr, surrounded by open grassland and framed by woodland.

Interestingly, the presence of segetal taxa (weeds of cultivation) such as Asteraceae (daisy family) at 244cm and Chenopodiaceae (goosefoots) at 244cm, and the representation of *Secale cereale* (rye) and cereal type

Poaceae at 248cm and 240cm respectively, albeit as rare types ($\leq 2\%$), along with the dominance of Poaceae (41.8%), is consistent with both anthropogenic disturbance, most probably the utilisation of the surrounding drier ground for pasture with some cereal cultivation. The peak in particulate charcoal at 244cm-240cm (29.6% and 30.8% respectively) in the basal sector of the zone correlates closely with the middle neolithic activity at the site, and may be indicative of a phase of settlement or clearance at the site in association with cereal cultivation and pastoral land use. The macrofossil charcoal and burnt flint from the basal core sample studied also supports this inference. The presence of the chlamydospore *Glomus* cf. *fasciculatum* at 248cm (5%) and 240cm (10%) (Table 5.7.6) has been interpreted as being a marker, in this context, for soil erosion (van Geel *et al.* 2003). This may have begun with neolithic clearances on the higher ground where the site lies and could in part have been responsible for the formation of peat defined by the horizon at 243cm.



5.7e Pollen, spore, and palaeopollutant spectra for Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (MAGR08). $\leq 2\%$ TLP are indicated by +.

Fungal spore type	Indicator value (after van Geel <i>et al.</i> 2003)	Depth (cm)																	
		180	184	188	192	196	200	204	208	212	216	220	224	228	232	236	240	244	248
	Local Pollen assemblage zone	Zone C						Zone B			Zone A								
55A: <i>Sordaria</i> -type ascospores	Coprophilous	-	5	-	-	10	-	10	-	15	10	5	90	-	-	5	5	-	-
112: <i>Cercophora</i> -type ascospores	Coprophilous - also occurring on decaying wood, herbaceous stems and leaves	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
113: <i>Sporormiella</i> -type separate cells of ascospores	Coprophilous – can be used as indicators of increased population densities of herbivores	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
143: <i>Diporotheca rhizophila</i> Ascospores	Local nitrogen rich environments	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	5	10	-	5	15	15	-	-	-	-	-
169: <i>Tripterospora</i> -type Ascospores	Coprophilous	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
207: <i>Glomus cf. fasciculatum</i> chlamydospores	Representative of old soil surfaces and of soil erosion – generally found in lake catchments	20	55	30	20	20	5	20	25	60	35	60	20	15	10	40	-	10	5
261: <i>Arnium</i> -type ascospores	Coprophilous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	15
386: <i>Podospora</i> -type ascospores	Coprophilous – regular occurrence in samples from archaeological sites	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5.7.6. Fungal spore types (after van Geel *et al.* 2003) identified in samples from BH12, Gaul Road, March (%).

The presence of *Arnium*-type coprophilous ascospores at 248cm and 240cm (see Table 5.7.6) suggests herbivores grazed at the site, most probably using the reed-marsh or the nearby stream as a waterhole. The increase in frequency of *Sordaria*-type ascospores in the upper part of zone A at 224cm and the samples above (Table 5.7.6) suggests grazing animals. The disappearance of cereal type pollen from the upper part of zone A, and also from the overlying zone B, is most probably reflective of wetter ground conditions which curtailed or prevented cultivation, and/or the abandonment of the site in the middle Neolithic.

The relative stability of arboreal and shrub taxa, grasses and Cyperaceae throughout zone A suggest a continuity of vegetation throughout the middle Neolithic. Minor fluctuations in *Corylus* pollen between 248cm and 220cm may be representative of cyclical cutting such as coppicing, a trend also reflected in the fluctuations of *Alnus* between 228cm and 212cm. The charcoal peak at 228cm is more difficult to explain, although the influx of these palaeopollutants (31.2%) corresponds with the appearance of *Galium* (bedstraws) and the reappearance of Chenopodiaceae, both potentially segetal taxa indicative of human activity. However bedstraws (*Galium* spp.) are common in fen and marsh and Chenopodiaceae are abundant in coastal areas. With an archaeological site of contemporary age no more than a 100m from the core site some of this particulate charcoal could derive from the domestic cooking and heating fires being used on the site. There is the possibility that the peaks and troughs in respect of *Corylus* are reflective of the taxon's ability to resist fire and self-coppice, and if deliberate would ensure the provision of fresh leaf and stem growth for livestock fodder and hazelnuts for human and/or animal consumption. The presence of *Glomus* cf. *fasciculatum* chlamydospores throughout zone A, and particularly fluctuations in this data-set between 248cm-236cm, 232cm-224cm, and 220cm-212cm (see Table 5.7.6), suggest phases of soil erosion. These would correlate respectively with an initial phase of clearance and intensification (40% at 236cm) and the presence of cereal-type pollen in the basal

sector of the zone. Subsequently followed by a downturn in the erosional indicator which may reflect a return to pasture or expansion of alder carr and marsh creating a barrier to the influx of sediments from the higher ground. Finally, in respect of this zone, a further escalation in erosional activity may be attributable to a climatic downturn as opposed to further land clearance exacerbating erosion as both tree and shrub pollen remains relatively stable.

Zone B (210cm-202cm)

Zone B is fairly closely dated to the middle to early part of the later Neolithic (Table 5.7.2). This zone is dominated by the raised presence of *Alnus* at 208cm (38%) and 204cm (36%), and also *Myrica gale* at 204cm which rises to 3.4%. The fall in Poaceae at this point corresponds with the influx of *Alnus*, which is consistent with the expansion of alder carr, possibly at the expense of *Phragmites* reed beds and fringing pasture, and due to the continuing rise in water levels. The decline of *Ulmus* to 2% (208cm) and 1.4% (204cm) is likely to be representative of an overall percentage decline as a result of the local expansion of *Alnus*, as the former species can withstand wet conditions. Although there is the possibility, as all other tree and shrub varieties appear quantitatively stable throughout the zone, that elm succumbed to disease or was targeted specifically because of the durability of this taxon's wood in wet conditions. The continued representation of Chenopodiaceae and the appearance of *Rumex* (docks) at 204cm may indicate disturbance, most probably the result of livestock grazing as suggested by the presence of coprophilous ascospores (see Table 5.7.6), specifically the *Sporormiella*-type which can be used as a marker for increased population densities of herbivores (van Geel *et al.* 2003). Interestingly the erosional marker *Glomus* cf. *fasciculatum* decreases to 25% and 20% respectively in this zone, suggesting a stabilisation of on-going soil erosion at the site, which may have been the result of an improvement in weather conditions and/or the maintenance of pasture and the reduction of downwash, perhaps through the barrier effect of the expanded alder carr.

Zone C (202cm-180cm)

Zone C covers the latter part of the Neolithic period. The top three samples (180, 184 and 188) in this zone correspond with the laminated sediments and the onset of tidal influence on the valley floor. The decline of *Alnus* at 200cm to 11.4% dominates the arboreal spectrum, and is most probably reflective of this rising sea level drowning out the alder carr fringing the fens, whilst the second noticeable decline occurs at 192cm with the reduction in *Quercus* (5.6%), *Tilia* (0.8%), *Ulmus* (2.6%), and *Alnus* (11%). This overall reduction in arboreal representation corresponds with the influx of segetal species, i.e. *Urtica* type (most probably *Urtica dioica* L./common stinging nettle), *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort plantain), *Plantago major* (Greater plantain), and *Potentilla* (cinquefoils), and also correlates with a rise in the chlamydozoospores *Glomus* cf. *fasciculatum* (see Table 5.7.6). This might be consistent with a further phase of disturbance and subsequent episode of soil erosion which may be attributable to the expansion of pasture or reflect the tidal erosion and redeposition of soils on the valley floor and sides.

The presence of cereal types and *Secale cereale* from 196cm, associated with the reduction in *Alnus*, *Salix*, and *Myrica gale* pollen might suggest the reintroduction and expansion of cereal cultivation in the locale, but with sediments being brought in on the tide pollen sources for heavier pollen such as cereals may be much further afield or derive from erosion of the soils being inundated by the rising sea levels. Of particular note is the rise in charcoal particles to 20.6% at 192cm and 44.5% at 184cm. This, although it corresponds with the influx of segetal species, and also correlates with the rise in *Glomus* cf. *fasciculatum* chlamydozoospores indicative of exacerbated soil erosion at this point (see Table 5.7.6), may reflect the concentrating characteristic of tidal waters leading to higher concentrations of charcoal being deposited around the margins of the tidal area. Its coincidence with the laminated sediments is clear. The rise in grasses, which includes *Phragmites*, which begins at 200cm can probably be attributed to the expansion of *Phragmites* reed swamp around the margins

of the fen in response to the rising sea levels. Increasing *Chenopodiaceae* at the top of the sequence (184 and 180cm) almost certainly reflects the coastal and marine influences resulting from the tidal incursion into the valley.

Overall discussion

The radiocarbon dating has established that the sedimentary sequence covers the whole of the middle and late Neolithic and is therefore contemporary with the middle Neolithic phase of activity on the valley sides. The presence of macroscopic charcoal, burnt flint and cereal type pollen at the base of the sequence indicates human occupation already present in the valley as the basal sediments were accumulating, and can probably be related to the middle Neolithic phase of activity testified by the pottery. A rising sea level during the late Mesolithic led to changes in the hydrology of the fenland area and the development of fen peats across large areas of the fen edge by the Neolithic (Waller 1994). The wetter conditions that lead to the development of organic silts and then woody silty peats and peaty silts at Gaul Road must have been related to these changes which first impacted on this small valley in the early Neolithic. Although we have no deposits earlier than this the valley must have been basically dry with a small stream running across its floor on the edge of an area of fen in the late Mesolithic. Both the sites on the north and south sides of the valley would have had a view for several miles across a large area of fen to the west, with dry ground and probably woodland behind to the east and south on the slightly higher ground.

By the middle Neolithic reed marsh and fen was developing on the floor of the valley with woodland and grasslands on the higher ground behind. Wet rough pastures on the valley floor is suggested by the abundant remains of *Juncus* spp. seeds in the macrofossil sample from the base of the sequence. Some woodland clearance seems evident from the peaks in particulate charcoal and the macrofossil charcoal at the base of the sequence, and the presence of burnt flint and cereal type pollen suggests occupation nearby, consistent with the data from the

archaeological excavations, and some cereal cultivation. A mixed deciduous woodland of oak, lime and elm, with a hazel understorey is suggested for the drier ground with alder carr fringing the wetter fen edge to the west. The development of local woodland within the valley is suggested by the woody silty peats and the macrofossil remains of oak and alder in the bulk core samples, with an abundance of buds, small twigs and roundwood. A single sample producing a higher particulate charcoal count at 228, dated to the middle Neolithic, may afford a time line for the end of the middle Neolithic activity in the valley. A slight drop in oak, alder and hazel, and an increase in grasses may also be associated with this activity. This might support an interpretation of two distinct phases of activity on the adjacent sites, rather than continuous occupation through the middle Neolithic. Closer interval pollen analysis would be required to resolve this more clearly.

By the end of local pollen zone A the sediments date to the end of the middle or later Neolithic. Elm, lime and hazel drops, as do Poaceae and particulate charcoal. These changes are accompanied by a significant increase in alder (5.7e). This picture is similar to the results from Hobs Lot Farm (Waller 1994) just north of March, and appears to reflect an expansion of fen carr into the valley as a result of the continuing sea level rise in the fens. This phase appears fairly shortlived, perhaps two to three hundred years, and is followed by a sharp drop in alder following in pollen zone C, accompanied by an increase in Poaceae, Cyperaceae and Chenopodiaceae. No macrofossil samples were studied from this level but dense reed matter described from the core sample, and the increased Cyperaceae suggests expansion of reed marsh/swamp at the expense of alder carr. The presence of cereal type pollen at 196cm (5.7e) suggests a third phase of anthropogenic activity, although this has not been recognized among the archaeological debris from the excavated sites just to the north and south of the core site. The sedimentary evidence shows the continued rise in sea level with tidal sediments first appearing at 188cm and dating to the later Neolithic (3830 BP). This is consistent with earlier work in the fens (Waller 1994) which shows the continued

expansion of marine silts up until 3300 BP, with the northern side of the March 'island' at Hobs Lot Farm being first affected around 3855 BP. Alder pollen drops further but dry ground deciduous woodland is as significant as it has been throughout the Neolithic sequence. From 190cm upwards the sediments are deposited in a tidal environment, becoming generally more saline. A macrofossil assemblage dominated by *Juncus* spp. seeds suggests expansion of wet pasture, while increasing Chenopodiaceae pollen suggests deposition in a brackish water environment. The survival of the laminate sediment structure (5.7a) clearly indicates little or no longer term terrestrial exposure of these deposits prior to burial by further marine sediments. The pollen continues to suggest fringing reed swamp and sedge fen with Cyperaceae, sedges and reeds still occurring in the sediments. The occurrence of cereal type pollen and rye (*Secale secale*) accompanied by a final peak in particulate charcoal at the top of the sequence might imply a final phase of anthropogenic activity in the late Neolithic, but since these sediments are tidal in origin, and tidal flows can sort and concentrate particles this may be attributable to this taphonomy rather than reflective of changes in the immediate environment. The first appearance of foraminifera in this deposit and those above it indicates the influx of estuarine and marine elements into the sediments.

The organic component of the sediments falls off rapidly above this level and is degraded so no further pollen or macrofossil work was undertaken. However an upper saltmarsh environment is interpreted for the sediments above with transition to saltmarsh in which there is clear evidence of tidal sedimentation. Fluctuations in the sand/silt/clay content and the visible occurrence of silt laminae with sand partings and sand laminae illustrates the variations in location on the inter-tidal zone that the core site occupied. Throughout the next three thousand years the core site lay within the influence of tidal events. An upper organic horizon is recorded in Transect A which may be equated with the dated upper peat at Hob Lots Farm of the early to middle Iron Age (Waller 1994). There is no trace of this horizon in the core from BH12 or from

the borehole Transect B, which suggests that it has either been removed by later erosional events such as ploughing or was never present. It is not possible to determine which, but if the interpretation of the upper sandy silts with sand and silt laminae in Transect B as of post-Roman date (see above) is correct, then it would suggest that the upper peats never developed at Transect B and the area was not reclaimed until the post-Roman period. This is at odds with the model presented by Waller (1994) which shows peats developing across the whole of the southern fen in the late Bronze and early to middle Iron Age. It therefore seems more likely that the peats have been eroded away, and the post-Roman transgression and the creek reflected by the roddon feature removed them. The latter feature still survives as a visible surface ridge despite the ploughing.

The palaeoenvironmental evidence perhaps suggests that the human activity recorded in the excavations at the site was intermittent through the middle Neolithic. This may in part have been due to the changes in the landscape and vegetation. The late Mesolithic and early Neolithic settlement occupied a small dry fen edge valley with a stream running across its floor. They had access to woodland, fen, fen edge, wet and dry pasture and freshwater. From the early Neolithic onwards progressively wetter conditions in the valley lead to the development of marsh, alder carr, marsh and finally saltmarsh and intertidal saltmarsh. In these circumstances fresh water, at least during the later period, may not have been available in the valley. An expansion of alder carr may have inhibited access to several resource areas and a potentially significant reduction in the available pasture and arable lands as a result of the rising water table and expansion of marsh over previously dry land may have made the site much less desirable. Occupation on the valley sides may therefore have ended towards the end of the middle Neolithic. The limited evidence for anthropogenic activity at the top of the sequence is interpreted here as resulting from the depositional environment and not necessarily indicative of local human occupation, although it could reflect a late Neolithic occupation in the area that has not been identified from the excavation.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Gemma Martin for identifying the plant macrofossil remains from the bulk core samples. The site plans were kindly supplied by Dale Trimble of Archaeological Project Services. The work was carried out as a sub-contract from APS, Heckington as part of the mitigation of the housing development on the site. Radiocarbon dates were undertaken by Beta Analytic Inc, Florida.

6. DISCUSSION

Landscape Context: Palaeo-environmental evidence and landscape change

Mesolithic and Neolithic rising sea level

In the Mesolithic the Fenland was changing under the influence of rising sea levels. Marine inundation drowned the lowest reaches of rivers in the Fenland basin and caused the backing-up of upstream freshwater leading to overflowing watercourses, still water conditions and the formation of peat (Hall and Coles 1994, 36) (Figure 18). By c.4500 BC (the late Mesolithic) a series of tidally-affected environments had been established along the Wash margins of the Fenland (*ibid.* 38). A range of landscape zones would have existed between the sea and the higher ground further inland, described by Hall and Coles (1994, 38) as: seawater and mudflats; saltmarsh; reedswamp and sedge fen; fen carr; woodland and upslope dryland (Figure 18). With rising sea levels the boundaries of each of these zones would gradually be pushed inland as conditions became wetter. In this way, the periphery of upland woodland would become fen carr, areas of carr would turn to fen and reed swamp, fen would turn to saltmarsh and saltmarsh would become mudflats and open sea.

March Island and surrounding fen

An elevated region in the central southern Fenland was made up of a triangle of land between what are now March, Manea and Chatteris (*ibid.* 33), and the elevated March

Island formed a peninsula of higher dry ground. The present investigation site is located near the western edge of March Island, on either side of a narrow waist of lower ground that almost divides the island in two (Hall 1987, 39, Figure 18). The present ground surface within the investigation area is between c.0m and 1.2m OD, the higher points lying to the north and south of the waist of lower ground. These high points would have been high enough to remain dry throughout the Mesolithic and Neolithic, but the low valley near the centre of the site would have been strongly affected by changes in sea level.

The fen deposits around March are complex, due to being near the tip of a central fen peninsula and the constantly changing courses of the major rivers on either side of it (*ibid.* 38). To the west, the fen is dominated by a huge roddon marking the Neolithic course of the combined Nene and Ouse, which appears to occupy a pre-Flandrian channel. Later the course of this was forced east, closer to the western edge of March Island (Figure 18). Smaller roddons are also mapped to the east of the island.

Evidence for Mesolithic to Neolithic landscape change and palaeoenvironmental data from Gaul Road

The deposits within the dip at the centre of the Gaul Road site was subject to two borehole surveys (Wheeler and Rackham, this report, 5.7). As the valley falls westwards towards the fen the basal sediments become lower and earlier, so that the lowest deposits in westerly borehole Transect B were found to be earlier than those in easterly Transect A (Figure 4). Evaluation of the deposits in Transect A identified a build-up of peat of probable early Bronze Age date which sealed an earlier palaeosol. A core was extracted from Transect B for detailed palaeoenvironmental study.

A radiocarbon date obtained on wood near the base of the deposit sequence in Transect B was 3640-3510 and 3420-3380 cal BC, indicating the built up of silty clays and organic sediments in the valley floor from some time in the early Neolithic.

Neither transect identified any deposits earlier than the early Neolithic, and in order to find Mesolithic deposits, one would need to travel further west, where the valley floor is lower, and the lowest sediments are probably earlier.

Despite the lack of direct evidence for the Mesolithic environment, in the late Mesolithic the valley must have been basically dry with a small stream running across its floor on the edge of an area of fen. The sites would have been on dry ground with a view across the fen to the west and there was probably woodland on the slightly higher ground to the east and south. In the late Mesolithic and early Neolithic the site would have provided access to woodland, fen and fen edge resources, wet and dry pasture and fresh water.

The basal silty peat in the borehole study has been dated to the early to middle Neolithic, and is consistent with waterlogging or ponding at the site, perhaps a response to the changing water-table and rising sea level, and also perhaps soil erosion. Pollen from the middle Neolithic deposits in the sequence indicate a mixed deciduous woodland in the vicinity of the site on high and drier ground, whilst the wetter lower ground supported alder carr. Overall conditions at this time are likely to have been damp woodland framing an open marshy site, and there seems to have been little change in the vegetation throughout the middle Neolithic. By this time reed marsh and fen was developing on the floor of the valley with woodland and grasslands on the higher ground behind. The macrofossil assemblage from the base of the sequence suggests wet rough pasture on the valley floor and mixed deciduous woodland of oak, lime and elm, with a hazel understorey on the drier ground, with alder carr fringing the wetter fen edge to the west.

During the excavations, buried soil deposits were investigated flanking the valley at the centre of the site, just at the edge of the higher ground. The peaty nature of the upper and darker of these soils in Area 1, along with lithics and pottery retrieved from it, may suggest that it is broadly contemporary with the better preserved peaty deposits within the valley, identified in the borehole survey. In any case, the peaty nature of the excavated

upper buried soil also seems to reflect the increasingly wet conditions in the middle Neolithic.

By the end of the middle or the later Neolithic, reductions in elm, lime and hazel are accompanied by a significant increase in alder, indicating the expansion of alder carr. This picture is similar to the results from Hobs Lot Farm just north of March and appears to reflect an expansion of fen carr into the valley as a result of the continuing sea level rise. This appears to be a relatively short-lived phase of perhaps two or three hundred years, followed by a sharp drop in alder, suggesting that there was an expansion of reed marsh/swamp at the expense of alder carr.

The sedimentary evidence shows the continued rise in sea level with tidal sediments first appearing dating to the later Neolithic (3830 BP). This is consistent with earlier work in the fens (Waller 1994) which shows the continued expansion of marine silts up until 3300 BP with the northern side of the March Island at Hobs Lot Farm being first affected around 3855 BP. The macrofossil assemblages within the later Neolithic deposits at Gaul Road indicate increasingly saline conditions and the deposition of marine sediments. A reduction in alder in these sediments indicates the drowning out of alder carr fringing the fens. Although few organic remains survived above this level, an upper saltmarsh environment is interpreted with fluctuations in sand, silt and clay content and visible laminae indicating tidal sedimentation.

The peaty buried soil excavated at the southern side of the site (in Area 1) was sealed by a layer of alluvium, probably reflecting the increased tidal influence from the later Neolithic. The area appears to have remained within the influence of tidal events for the next three thousand years.

Evidence for post-Neolithic landscape at Gaul Road

An upper organic horizon identified in Transect A, to the east of the excavation areas, may equate to the dated upper peat at Hobs Lot Farm of the early to middle Iron Age (Waller 1994). This horizon was not identified

in the Transect B, and may have been removed by later erosion. It may be that this part of the site, the low lying area near the western edge of the island, never saw the formation of this upper peat, and that the area was not reclaimed until the post-Roman period. However it is more likely that peat was eroded from this area by a post-Roman creek, the uppermost feature in the sequence now marked by a roddon (Figure 4).

In excavation Area 3, a light coloured buried soil was recorded, which was similar to that in Area 1, and which was also sealed by a layer of alluvium. However, unlike Area 1, this alluvium was in turn sealed by a peaty layer. It is possible that this represents an intermediate phase, at the advance of tidal sediments, with fluctuating water levels, but it seems more likely that this peat represents the Iron Age peat, which was assumed to have been eroded by the post-Roman creek.

A number of small curvilinear features investigated at the north of Excavation Area 1 proved to be naturally-formed watercourses (Figure 7). These were interconnected and truncated the late Neolithic and later alluvial layers. These channels were late in the deposit sequence and probably represent small creeks branching off from the roddon to the north, and are presumably also of post-Roman date.

Archaeological context: Distribution of known Mesolithic-Neolithic activity on the fen edge and on March Island

The earliest human exploitation of the Fenland is likely to have begun in the seventh or sixth millenium BC, and the landscape must have been attractive to hunter-gatherers following the cool conditions in post-glacial times (Hall and Coles 1994, 28). The changing environment in the fenland due to rising sea levels would have led to improvements in the quality of the environment for hunter-gatherers in the opening up of the landscape and encouraging a greater variety of plants and animals, and the effects of this were beginning to be felt in c. 6850 BC (*ibid.* 36). The range of environments close to the fen edge which have already been described provided a wealth of valuable resources. The sea and

mudflats would have provided fish, wildfowl and shellfish; saltmarsh would have provided wildfowl, salt, pasture and plant foods; reedswamp and sedge fen provided wildfowl, reeds, animals and peat; fen carr provided alder, willow and animals; whilst the woodland and upslope dryland areas provided oak, elm and lime timber and hazel coppice, plant foods including fruit and nuts, animals and high water would have been subject to clearances and the creation of cultivated areas (Hall and Coles 1994, 38). All of these zones could be easily exploited from positions on the dry fen edge, with the resources of the wet ground being within reach.

Mesolithic sites in the region which lay below the present day sea level (0m OD) will have been sealed by later silt, and so are seldom identified. This concealing of potential earlier sites by later deposits causes a bias in the distribution of recorded sites, the majority of known sites lying at or near the present day sea level, on or near the edge of the Fenland basin (Figure 18). However, fen edge locations are likely to have been favoured for at least some activities as a result of the range of resources available here.

Other sites in the region include Pymore, Little Downham and Primrose Hill, and in this area the evidence suggests intermittent but persistent exploitation of the low lying areas, and at the southern edge of the Fenland a few Mesolithic sites are located on raised pockets of sand or gravel adjacent to water (*ibid.*). A small series of Mesolithic sites have been identified along the eastern edge of the elevated region today made up of the March-Manea-Chatteris triangle (*ibid.* 33, Figure 18). The slight elevations here were probably significant in attracting groups who could exploit the woodland and the streams of the Fenland floor. Sites at March, including the Gaul Road site, lie near the ancient course of the Rivers Nene and Ouse, and known Mesolithic sites around March are distributed across the higher ground of the island (Figure 19).

In looking at the distribution of known Mesolithic sites it should be remembered that these span a period of dramatic environmental change in the area. The Mesolithic groups

represented by these sites will not have existed as one contemporaneous population or in a uniform landscape (*ibid.* 36). Some will have operated in dry woodland with adjacent streams and ponds on the fen edge whilst later others may have lived in fully wetland conditions. This means that, in addition to the bias of distribution of sites caused by later silt inundation, the known sites cover a large time span, and different sets of activities are probably represented. Local populations may have ranged over a wide area seasonally or used a place once or occasionally, or used more permanent settlement bases. Some sites may represent specific activity areas, perhaps close to one of a varied range of resources.

Often, sites where there is evidence of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers also provide evidence of Neolithic activity (*ibid.* 37). Many of the known Neolithic sites in the area are distributed around the fen edge, and have a similar distribution to that of known Mesolithic sites (Figure 18). Sea water levels were continuing to rise during the Neolithic, and many activities would be restricted to the higher regions at the fen edge. With the expansion of farming during the Neolithic, the transitional areas at the boundary between upslope woodland and low lying wet ground would be the most suitable for pasture and arable land. Settlement areas would be likely to be sited close to this zone, on the dry upland, adjacent to farmed land and a range of natural resources including running water.

Neolithic sites and finds are recorded across the higher ground of March Island. In addition to the two scatters of Neolithic lithics at Gaul Road, isolated finds elsewhere on the island include arrowheads, pot-boilers and axes. A Neolithic pit and cropmarks of what may potentially be a Neolithic ditched monument are recorded at sites to the north of March town (Figure 19).

Dating and longevity of prehistoric activity at Gaul Road

Dating of the lithic assemblage

The total flint assemblage retrieved during the recent investigations at the site comprised over 2700 struck flints (Bishop, this report,

5.2). Although only a few of the struck flints were attributable to a particular chronological period, the majority of the assemblage was the product of a blade-based reduction strategy, which would be characteristic of Mesolithic and early Neolithic industries.

Diagnostic implements were recovered that indicate both Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity is represented. The retouched pieces include both microliths, cultural markers for the Mesolithic, and leaf-shaped arrowheads, firmly dated to the early Neolithic. The backed blades and truncated blades are also associated with Mesolithic industries as are burins, although these also occasionally appear within early Neolithic assemblages. Flakes of two polished implements can be dated to the early Neolithic. The remainder of the retouched pieces are less chronologically diagnostic but would be consistent with Mesolithic or early Neolithic industries. A mixture of systematic and casually produced blades amongst the less diagnostic pieces in the assemblage suggests that both the Mesolithic and early Neolithic periods are well represented.

Some of the microliths recovered were of types often regarded as being characteristic of early Mesolithic industries, and some are reminiscent of middle Mesolithic types. Most however were within the size and shape ranges found within later Mesolithic assemblages. Some sparse evidence was identified for flint use on site after the early Neolithic, with some cores being more characteristically later Neolithic. Some of the broader and less systematically produced flakes may also have been produced later, during the later Neolithic or Bronze Age, although these are not numerous and even if of later date do not indicate any intensive flint use during those periods.

The lithic material suggests that the Gaul Road sites may have been occupied over a considerable period of time, certainly during the later Mesolithic and early Neolithic, with occupation possibly extending into earlier parts of the Mesolithic. There may also be some later activity represented although if so this is low-key and limited. The paucity of later material may reflect the changed

environmental conditions at the site by this time. The alluvium layer indicating tidal inundation in the area of probable later Neolithic date, recorded during the excavation and borehole survey, was devoid of cultural material.

The common occurrence of Mesolithic and early Neolithic lithics in the same locations has been noted throughout the East Midlands and in East Anglia, where it is particularly marked in low-lying areas including the fens and fen edge. The lithic assemblage at Gaul Road was formed over a considerable time through multiple occupations, and indicates continuity in the places chosen for occupation or specialised activities, and this may represent a real transition of traditions rather than superimposed industries.

Dating of the prehistoric pottery

Of the 16 vessels represented by the 130 sherds of prehistoric pottery retrieved from the site, only one vessel, retrieved from buried soil in Area 1, was clearly dateable. This was middle Neolithic Ebbsfleet type of Peterborough Ware, and dating of material associated with middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware elsewhere confirms that all types were in use by 3000 BC. Dates for Ebbsfleet types suggest they were common between 3500 and 2900 BC (Gibson and Kinnes 1997, Gibson 2002, 80). Although other prehistoric pottery from the site was not closely dateable, sherds from several contexts were also of possibly Neolithic date (Allen, this report, 5.3). As has already been noted, the lithic assemblage from Gaul Road is, on the whole, described as being later Mesolithic and early Neolithic, with very little possibly later material. This is in part due to the lack of a distinctive middle Neolithic lithic industry, meaning that some of the flints assigned an early Neolithic date range might easily be contemporary with the middle Neolithic pottery from the site (Bishop *pers. comm.*).

A small quantity of Iron Age pottery, possibly later Iron Age, was retrieved from a single feature during the excavation. Although this does indicate activity in the area during this period, this seems to be a relatively isolated find, and does not seem to indicate intensive

activity in the period. In general the evidence of both the lithics and pottery indicates very little activity at the site after the middle Neolithic.

Dating of evidence for anthropogenic activities revealed in borehole survey

The borehole survey of the valley at the centre of the site provided an opportunity for radiocarbon dating of several deposits, which dated the sedimentary sequence to the middle to late Neolithic. Macroscopic charcoal, burnt flint and cereal-type pollen at the base of this sequence indicate human activity in the valley during the middle Neolithic. This seems to concur with the evidence provided by the artefact assemblage for relatively intensive activity at the site in this period, and these sediments may well be contemporary with the middle Neolithic pottery and early Neolithic lithic assemblages retrieved during the excavation.

Charcoal tended to drop off in sediments dating to the end of the middle or later Neolithic, and this seems to correlate to the apparent dearth of later Neolithic material retrieved during the excavations and the advance of tidal sediments.

Cereal type-pollen later in the sequence suggests a further phase of anthropogenic activity prior to the formation of tidal sediments. Cereal type pollen and rye along with charcoal appearing at the top of the sequence perhaps imply a final phase of anthropogenic activity in the late Neolithic, but since these sediments are tidal these may not reflect the immediate environment (Wheeler and Rackham, this report, 5.7).

Summary

The range of activities on the site indicates that the site was probably at least temporarily occupied.

The sizeable assemblage of lithics from the site is largely of later Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic date, with diagnostic items from both periods. This indicates activity in both the later Mesolithic and middle Neolithic, and possibly spanning these periods. The lithic assemblage at Gaul Road was formed over a

considerable time through multiple occupations, and indicates continuity in the places chosen for occupation or specialised activities, which may represent a genuine continuity of use of the site.

Middle Neolithic pottery was retrieved from the site, and similar undiagnostic pottery from a number of features may indicate widespread activity of this date across the site. This material may well be contemporary with the 'earlier' Neolithic lithics from the site.

By the later Neolithic the site had become increasingly wet, and the deposition of tidal sediments at the site appears to correlate to the end of activity in the area. A very small quantity of possibly later Neolithic lithics, may indicate some continued limited use of the site after this time, and similarly small quantities of possible earlier Mesolithic material suggest some limited earlier activity.

Evidence for human impact on the Mesolithic to Neolithic landscape

In addition to the effects of sea level change on the environment surrounding the fen edge, the activities of Mesolithic and Neolithic populations also caused landscape change. Many activities such as hunting, fishing and foraging would barely affect the landscape, but other activities would have a greater impact, and trees would be chopped down for wood even in the earlier period. Later, in the Neolithic, areas would be cleared as farming was developed, and would be replaced by livestock and crops.

The borehole survey of the valley deposits within the site provides some indications as to such changes (Wheeler and Rackham, this report, 5.7). The pollen analysis revealed that in the early to middle Neolithic, weeds of cultivation were present, in addition to rare cereal pollen. This may indicate the utilisation of the surrounding drier ground for pasture with some cereal cultivation. Particulate charcoal in these deposits may relate to nearby activity, possibly clearance associated with cereal cultivation and pastoral land use. Species associated in this context with soil erosion were also recorded, and erosion may have begun with Neolithic clearances on the

higher ground within the site, perhaps in turn being partly responsible for the formation of peaty soils. The presence of faeces-loving fungal spores suggests herbivores grazed at the site, perhaps using the reedmarsh as a waterhole. Cereal-type pollen disappears from the deposits in the middle Neolithic, probably reflecting wetter conditions which curtailed cultivation or the abandonment of the site. The deposits dating from the middle to earlier part of the late Neolithic contain further indicators of livestock grazing. Erosion may have stabilised at this time, and one explanation for this might be the maintenance of pasture and the resultant reduction of downwash. Cereal pollen reappears in the later Neolithic tidal sediments, which suggests the expansion of cereal cultivation in the locale, but perhaps not in the immediately adjacent area.

Although this evidence is somewhat limited, the occurrence of low levels of cereal pollen in the earlier to middle Neolithic does suggest cereal may have been cultivated on the site. If this is the case, this would probably have required some clearance of trees from the area. Some indications have also been noted of the use of parts of the site as grazing pasture.

No clear evidence was identified in the excavation areas for Neolithic farming of the area. Small quantities of charcoal retrieved from many environmental samples might derive from midden deposits or residues of domestic fires, but may potentially reflect tree clearance (Fryer, this report, 5.4). Small quantities of animal bone retrieved during the excavations included cattle, sheep or goat, pig or wild boar and dog (Holmes, this report, 5.5). At least some of these are likely to derive from early to middle Neolithic activity in the area, and indicate the presence of at least some domestic species on or near the site. Their presence could provide tentative support to the notion of pasture within the valley, as suggested by the pollen data.

Evidence for human impact on vegetation has been obtained from other sites in the region, including the River Ouse near Haddenham, where there is strong evidence for early Neolithic clearance phase accompanied by at

least some arable farming (Hall and Coles 1994, 23).

There is no evidence that Mesolithic people had any real impact on vegetation, but finds such as a Mesolithic axe from Bedlam Hill might suggest some minor clearance activity, if only to collect supplies of wood for various purposes (Hall and Coles 1994, 33). There is some evidence that Mesolithic groups deliberately opened up the woodland by fire or felling, and data from elsewhere suggest that the practice may have been widespread in the Fenland (*ibid.* 36). No evidence for or against Mesolithic clearance was identified during the present investigation, not least due to the lack of sealed Mesolithic sediments from which palaeoenvironmental evidence might have been retrieved.

Axes have been highlighted as providing possible evidence of tree clearance (*ibid.* 45), being perhaps the evidence most likely to survive. No axes were identified in the recently-collected assemblage from Gaul Road, but fragments of two Neolithic polished implements were present, perhaps being parts of two axes. F.M. Walker's original assemblage from the site included axes (Hall and Coles 1994, 33), and material subsequently collected from Gaul Road during the Fenland Project included a fragment of a Neolithic polished axe (Hall 1987, 39).

Probable tree-throws were identified during the excavations, each formed when a tree fell, creating a bowl shaped void where the root ball and attached soil had been lifted, and a characteristic dark crescent of material rotated and pushed down by the tree fall. The presence of these features confirms the presence of trees on the site attested by the pollen and other palaeoenvironmental evidence. Tree-throws may be formed naturally when a tree falls, but on some sites evidence of burning has been interpreted as a demonstration of deliberate clearance (Robinson 1992, 50-51).

Only small quantities of charcoal were noted in the fills of tree-throw [50046], and this feature contained mixed material including prehistoric (possibly Neolithic) pottery alongside Iron Age pottery, possibly of later

Iron Age date. The inclusion of the Iron Age pottery seems to firmly discount this feature as providing evidence of Neolithic tree clearance. This material is likely to have been residual material within the topsoil, which the movement and disturbance associated with the tree fall caused to become more deeply buried.

One of the fills of possible tree-throw [50093] was very dark in colour, possibly as a result of burning. This could be an indication that the roots were burnt out after the tree had fallen. However, the cause of this colouration was unclear, and may have been the result of mineral organic inclusions, although two small fragments of fired clay and small quantities of charcoal within the fill of this possible tree throw do indicate some burning in the vicinity. Feature [50093] did contain small quantities of possible Neolithic pottery, and so could potentially represent Neolithic clearance, but the occurrence of similar pottery in Iron Age or later tree throw [50046] suggests a high probability that residual material may have been incorporated into other similar features. Additionally, the interpretation of this feature was uncertain, and it is a possibility that this may have been an irregularly-shaped pit.

A further possible tree-throw [50395] was investigated at the north of Area 1, in the area of Neolithic buried soil and later Neolithic alluvium. Several of the fills of this feature were similar to these buried soil and alluvial layers. Although the relationship between these deposits and [50395] were unclear, these similarities suggested that this feature might post-date these layers, a tree fall having perhaps caused these pre-existing deposits to be disturbed and incorporated as fills. This again probably discounts this feature from having an association with postulated Neolithic tree clearances.

Summary

No clear evidence for tree clearance was identified in the investigations, although small quantities of charcoal in both Neolithic channel sediments and in many of the excavated features might possibly reflect clearance at this time. At least one of the tree

throws investigated on the site probably dated to the later Iron Age or later, and the dating of the others remained uncertain. Several fragments of polished implements and axes retrieved during the present and earlier surveys are an indicator of Neolithic tree clearance in the vicinity.

The palaeoenvironmental study provided indications of cereal crops and grazing pasture in the vicinity, both of which would have required some clearance activity in the Neolithic. Little animal bone survived on the site, but some poorly preserved fragments were retrieved. Of these, few were identifiable to species, but did include cattle, sheep or goat, pig or wild boar and dog. The small quantities of cattle and sheep or goat bones provide further possible evidence of the presence of grazing animals at the site in the Neolithic, possibly kept in pasture as identified in the palaeoenvironmental study. The pig or boar may have been either domestic or wild, and in either case is more likely to have foraged in the adjacent woodland than in open pasture, and attests to the range of environments within the immediate vicinity of the site. In the earlier to middle Neolithic the immediate area is likely to have included woodland, cultivated land and increasingly wet areas to the west of the island.

Prehistoric features and deposits: Nature and scale of Mesolithic to Neolithic activities on the site

Extent and foci of activity

Activity is represented on the higher ground to either side of the valley at the centre of the site, as highlighted by previous finds from both of these areas. At these high points there was no protective layer of alluvium, and artefacts were either within the modern plough zone or sealed within buried features. As the majority of lithics at these high points will have been contained within topsoil, any fragile materials such as prehistoric pottery and bone are very unlikely to have survived in these conditions. Any shallow features associated with activity of this date around these high points are also likely to have been adversely affected by later ploughing. This

probable differential preservation makes the extent and foci of Mesolithic to middle Neolithic activity on the site rather difficult to ascertain.

A variety of features were investigated across each of the three excavation areas, and included pits, post holes and a linear. Some of these were undated, and others contained prehistoric material. The dating and function of these features are discussed in detail later, but many of these are likely to be contemporary with the activity on the site evidenced by the Mesolithic to middle Neolithic lithic and pottery assemblage.

Buried soil layers and artefact assemblage

Deposits of buried soil were exposed at the north of Area 1, which had been sealed by later, possibly late Neolithic, alluvium (Figures 4, 16 & 17). These were subject to test-pitting for the retrieval of lithic material, and surface finds were also collected. Numerous worked flints were retrieved using these methods, and approximately 1851 pieces of worked flint were retrieved from these buried soil layers. The flint assemblage was broadly of Mesolithic and early Neolithic date, with diagnostic pieces from each of these periods, and this material was retrieved across the gridded area of buried soils (Bishop this report, 5.2). Some gridded squares produced only a single fragment, whilst the largest collection from a single 5m grid square was 121 pieces. It should be noted that despite methodical test pitting and surface collection, the retained lithics represent only a relatively small sample of the total assemblage across this part of the excavation area. Of each 5m by 5m grid square, only a 1m by 1m square of buried soil was excavated, this being only 4% of the total area of each grid square. Only a sub-sample of the buried soils from each of the test pits was retained for sieving for small lithics, further reducing the quantities collected compared to the total assemblage.

Two concentrations of lithics were evident, one at the northeast and one at the southwest of this area (Figure 16). Micro-debitage was similarly distributed, and as this is less likely to have moved around this provides a good estimation of the location of knapping events.

Although two possible general *in situ* knapping areas are indicated, analysis of the lithics failed to find conclusive proof of individual knapping episodes. On the whole, the material was of mixed raw materials and had different degrees of recortication, and no obvious refitting pieces were identified. Some squares had pieces with similar cortex types, particularly within the two general areas of higher concentrations of lithics already identified. Taken together this indicates that more or less *in situ* scatters, representing individual acts of flintworking were present across the site, but the assemblages as recovered had been formed by numerous such events and that the overall distribution of struck flint reflects a palimpsest of such activities. Due to the accumulation of debris with numerous knapping events no zoning of different activities could be discerned. Cores were distributed across the buried soils in similar concentrations as the overall assemblage, although microliths and other retouched pieces were more evenly spread across the gridded area.

The difference between the composition of the lower light and silty buried soil and the upper peaty soil layer was marked, and reflected the increasingly wet conditions in this part of the site in the Mesolithic to Neolithic. Given the clear distinction between these two deposits, the distribution of lithics was analysed in order to establish whether the earlier of the two soil layers contained a demonstrably earlier lithic assemblage. However, diagnostic material of each period seems to be mixed throughout the two layers. Additionally, the concentration of lithics at the southwest of the area is evident in both the upper and lower soil layers (Figure 16). Although less pronounced, the northeastern concentration of lithics in the lower layer is similarly mirrored in a slight concentration in the upper peaty deposits. This suggests material may have become mixed between the two layers, and that they do not represent two clearly distinct periods of activity. Generally, far more lithic material was retrieved from the lower of the two layers than the upper peaty deposit (Figure 16). However, the surviving soil deposits, particularly the peat, were patchy, and the peaty layer was generally thinner, with a maximum thickness of 0.21m

compared to the maximum thickness of the lower soil of 0.34m. This indicates that the reduced quantity of lithics from the upper layer may at least partly result from the bias caused by this uneven distribution.

Several fragments of a single middle Neolithic pottery vessel were retrieved from the buried soil in the gridded area (Allen this report, 5.3), from grid square 1125/2110, close to the northeasterly of the two concentrations of flintwork (Figures 7 & 16). The survival of this pottery indicates little reworking of the buried soils in this area, as this pottery would have otherwise been more fragmented and abraded. This provides further evidence for *in situ* material in this area of the site.

Nature of activities based on artefact assemblage

The lithic assemblage from the site as a whole indicates that Gaul Road may have been occupied over a considerable period of time, certainly during the later Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic. Both lithic reduction and the manufacture and use of projectile points were important activities. The use of projectile points is represented by Mesolithic microliths, and this appears to have continued into the early Neolithic period, as evidenced by the leaf-shaped arrowheads.

The wide range of retouched implements indicates that a number of different activities were being pursued throughout these periods. The assemblage is essentially 'domestic' in character, and indicates that the site was used as more than just a hunting camp. The wide range of resources available in this fen edge location has already been highlighted in this report, and the lithic assemblage seems to confirm that several of these were exploited and that a variety of activities took place at the site. These include the on-site production of flint tools, hunting was represented by equipment including projectile points which may have then been used in hunting close to the site, and other activities were evidenced by tools which would have fulfilled cutting and piercing functions, and perhaps also arrowshaft manufacture. Scrapers were also recovered, many with evidence of wear, and a fabricator was retrieved which are often

thought to have been used in either flint working or as 'strike-a-lights', but in this case polishing suggested it was used for working soft materials, perhaps for burnishing or smoothing. This evidence paints a picture of a variety of activities on the site, including perhaps hunting and the subsequent processing of meat and skins. Axe fragments found in earlier work on the site indicate the use of wood taken from the higher ground and woodland fringes.

Although the assemblage, particularly the pottery and large collection of lithics from the buried soil layers, is informative about a range of activities at the site, as with most sites of comparable age, the lack of waterlogged conditions means that organic remains have not survived. This leaves a biased and incomplete record as no evidence would survive for many activities on the site. Perishable items used or produced at the site may have included rope, nets, baskets, fish and animal traps, thatch, skins, wooden tools including bows and arrows, digging sticks and paddles, clubs and spears (Hall and Coles 1994, 37).

The sealing layer of alluvium is responsible for the good preservation of the buried soil layers, including the well-preserved middle Neolithic pottery. This is a rare find as fragile material of this type is around 5000 years old and is only found in protected contexts such as this. This pottery was not apparently associated with a cut feature, and it may be that it was included in this layer by virtue of the damp peaty conditions in the middle Neolithic, when it might have easily become trodden into the soft ground. It is possible that it was deliberately placed as a complete vessel in what would have been soft damp, shady ground, perhaps providing cool storage of perishable foods, or for more esoteric reasons.

In addition to the range of activities demonstrated by the lithics and pottery, the palaeoenvironmental study has provided indications of possible Neolithic farming on the valley sides, with the presence of both grazing animals and cereal crops. This also provided evidence for some of the wide variety of natural resources which would have been available.

The majority of material on the site, including the lithic scatter within buried soil and modern topsoil deposits, represents a general spread of material across the areas of higher ground. This means that should later features have been dug at the site, some earlier material is likely to have become incorporated into their fills. This is perhaps best demonstrated by the probable tree throw [50046], which, as already discussed, contained both possibly Neolithic pottery and Iron Age pottery. This mixing suggests that even delicate material such as the earlier pottery may have persisted in the topsoil well into the Iron Age. The mixed assemblage from this Iron Age or later tree throw indicates that earlier material within other excavated features on the site might also be residual. Having said this, the vast majority of the dated artefact assemblage collected during the investigations was of Mesolithic to Neolithic date, with very little later material, and this, together with the nature of many of the excavated features, suggests that they may well be of this date range.

Because of the potential for redeposition, materials such as animal bone and charred plant macrofossils are not discussed in this overview of activities on the site during this period, and are instead dealt with in the following discussion of the individual cut features on the site.

Function and dating of cut features

The range of lithics and other finds from the site, which have already been discussed, indicate a wide variety of activities were carried out on the site in the later Mesolithic to middle Neolithic. Many of these activities might be expected to have been associated with the use of temporary shelters or perhaps more permanent structures. In Area 1, features of possible prehistoric date comprised pits, post holes, possible naturally-formed tree-throws and a single probable hearth or cooking pit (Figures 7 & 8). Some of these pits and post holes may have been associated with structures, whilst the hearth provides further evidence of domestic activities on the site.

Area 1 pits and post holes

A shallow pit [50007] near the southeast of the area may have been associated with a post hole [50012], and a small number of worked flints were retrieved from these features. It was unclear whether these were residual, but the overall character of these features indicated that they may well be of prehistoric date. Similarly, possible pit [50019] contained a single worked Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint, which may have dated this feature. Little can be said regarding their possible function, but the possible association of a post hole with feature [50010] could potentially indicate this pit was associated with a small shelter.

A small group of pits was excavated near the western edge of Area 1 [50042, 50031, 50021 and 50039]. The boundaries between these were indistinct, and they may have represented a single, irregularly-shaped pit. The overall shape of this group included several sumps and irregularities, which might potentially indicate the position of further features such as post holes. It was within this group of features that the only noted potentially *in situ* flint knapping assemblage within a cut feature was recorded. The assemblage from this group of features included two flakes which refitted and another apparently from the same core. These were fairly undiagnostic but of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date range, with the lack of systematically-produced blades perhaps suggesting the latter period was more likely. This was perhaps of early Neolithic date, and pottery perhaps of middle Neolithic date, also from this group, may be contemporary with the flintwork, and date this feature. The lithics included a fragment of a Mesolithic or early Neolithic long-end scraper. Whilst the function of these features remains uncertain, these finds, along with small quantities of hazelnut, charcoal and fired clay, may indicate a range of contemporary activities in the vicinity. These activities may reflect domestic occupation, or at least an area where a focus and mixture of activities perhaps including cooking locally gathered foods such as hazelnuts and processing skins, were carried out, possibly in the middle Neolithic. The form of this group of features suggests it may include post holes, which may indicate a

shelter associated with this small cluster of pits.

An oval pit [50067], near the northern end of Area 1 produced worked flints of Mesolithic and Mesolithic to early Neolithic date, along with charcoal and hazelnut. The occurrence of lithics of Mesolithic and Mesolithic to early Neolithic date indicates that this feature was either Mesolithic or contained at least some redeposited material, although it is uncertain which interpretation is correct. The retrieval of small quantities of charcoal and hazelnut seems to be common to many of the prehistoric features on the site, and the association in several cases of similar charred macrofossil assemblages with pottery of possible Neolithic date hints towards the majority of identified features belonging to the later period, although this is far from certain. Pit [50067] was of uncertain function, but may have been contemporary with an adjacent possible post hole, and together these may again signify a pit associated with a shelter of some sort.

A small number of isolated possible post holes were recorded across the northern part of Area 1, but aside from providing further possible evidence for structures of some type, little can be said of most of these regarding their significance. Possible exceptions are [50436], a possible post hole close to one of the two concentrations of flintwork in the buried soil at the north of the area (Figures 7 & 16). However, this contained a possible iron nail, and was of very uncertain interpretation and association. Post hole [50223] however, was much more clearly defined and was located within the concentrated flint scatter at the southwestern side of the buried soils. Although the relationship between this feature and the soils was uncertain, it is quite possible that this post hole may have been directly associated with one phase of flint working in this area, but whether this might be associated with Mesolithic or Neolithic activity is uncertain.

Many of the post holes identified in Area 1 at Gaul Road might be associated with buildings, especially as further post holes may well have been destroyed by later ploughing, but these isolated and poorly dated features do not

provide firm evidence for clearly defined buildings on the site. Generally post holes were located in the northern half of Area 1, and whilst this may reflect a genuine distribution, it is likely that this is to some extent due to the greater truncation by ploughing at the south of the site, as opposed to the protection afforded by the thicker buried soil and alluvium at the north of the area.

To the south of the buried soil, near the eastern edge of Area 1, was a cluster of post holes and possible pits ([50087] etc, Figure 7). Small quantities of worked flints, some of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date, were retrieved from some of these features. Again these may indicate the position of temporary or more permanent structures, but the remains are too scant to provide clear evidence as to their possible functions.

At Hurst Fen at Mildenhall, a Neolithic occupation site was characterised by lithics and pottery, although little had survived of the associated structures presumed by the excavators to have existed (Hall and Coles 1994, 57). Stake holes, post holes and hollows or pits were identified, including clusters of pits which contained some hazelnut shells and charcoal, and which were thought to represent storage pits for individual dwellings, which may have been associated with year-round dwellings or temporary 'squats'. A similar interpretation might easily apply to several of the excavated pits in Area 1 at Gaul Road. Whilst there was no clear evidence for buildings at Gaul Road, the quantity of artefacts retrieved suggests that at least some of the various prehistoric and undated pits and post holes across the site may relate to houses, or at least temporary shelters.

Early and middle Neolithic buildings are sometimes found within enclosures, whilst others are single. They are often located in positions such as on gravel terraces beside rivers, on hillslopes or hilltops and are usually in sight of a watercourse or directly overlook one (Darvill and Thomas 1996, 83-85). The location of the Gaul Road site would certainly be consistent with such favoured locations, being on the higher sloping ground, overlooking both the minor watercourse

which crossed the site and the more substantial rivers to the west of March Island.

Area 1 hearth

A hearth or cooking pit [50406] was excavated at the north of Area 1, in the area of the buried soil layers (Figure 7). As with the post holes at the north of Area 1, it seems likely that this hearth was preserved due to the protection afforded by buried soil and alluvium. This contained much charcoal, with black and red fills, apparently but not certainly denoting *in situ* burning, and burnt hazelnut shells were found within it. No dating evidence was retrieved from the fills of this feature, but its general form is consistent with a prehistoric date, and may tentatively be suggested that it might be a contemporary with the Mesolithic to early Neolithic activity in the vicinity. It was not clear whether this might have been used just once or twice, during temporary use of the site, or whether it might have been used many times and be associated with more permanent settlement activity.

Area 1 tree throws

Naturally-formed tree throws often appear to have been significant, with Mesolithic and Neolithic material being deposited within them, whilst fallen trunks may have been used as places of occupation, settlement foci and landscape markers (Evans, Pollard & Knight, 1999). The open hollow formed by a fallen tree may be utilised in a variety of ways, with material being deposited within them. Post holes are sometimes associated with such features, and on some sites items appear to have been deliberately deposited within them (*ibid.*).

The classic crescent on the side where the tree falls however represents material formerly at the ground surface, which has been rotated and driven downwards by the movement of the root ball. A number of tree throws identified in Area 1 have already been discussed, and in all cases it was this crescent of redeposited material which was excavated. Although some of these contained Mesolithic to Neolithic material, at least one also contained pottery of possible late Iron Age

date. It may be that the earlier material within these features is redeposited, and that these are all rather later than the Mesolithic to Neolithic activity on the site.

One further significance of tree throws is their potential to provide evidence for prehistoric tree clearance, and the location of burnt out roots might suggest such clearance. However, although small quantities of charcoal and burnt silt were recorded within the tree throw crescents, this was not in sufficient quantities to suggest deliberate burning out of the tree stumps, and may have resulted from other activities.

Area 2 ditch and elongated pits

Various prehistoric features and undated features which were also probably prehistoric were investigated in Area 2 (Figures 10 & 11). These comprised one linear feature [50433], two elongated pits [50415 & 50427], three to four further pits [50446, 50429, 50417 & 50425], one pit or post hole [50419] and two probable post holes [50413 & 5.431].

Linear [50433], which terminated at its northeast end, contained a single Mesolithic or early Neolithic blade core, along with charcoal and hazelnut. This feature extended beyond the limit of excavation, so its overall form and length were not established. One of two distinctive elongated pits in this area was located a close to the terminus of this linear. This pit [50415] also produced hazelnut and charcoal, but no further artefacts. A second, very similar, pit [50427] in this area again contained hazelnut and charcoal, in addition to pottery of possible middle Neolithic date and flints, some of which were burnt, and including Mesolithic to early Neolithic types.

This linear and two elongated pits were approximately aligned on one another, and may be contemporary parts of a single boundary, and it seems likely that these were of middle Neolithic date. Elongated pits or ditches of one form or another are a feature of several types of Neolithic site, and are often rather enigmatic features (eg McDonald 1993, 135-136). These elongated features are reminiscent, albeit on a much smaller scale, of causewayed enclosures, such as that at Etton

in Cambridgeshire (Pryor 1998, 99). On a smaller scale, groups of rather less regular elongated features at sites including Tattershall Thorpe in Lincolnshire, Redgate Hill in Norfolk and Flag Fen in Cambridgeshire, have been interpreted as earlier Neolithic buildings or houses (Pryor 1991, 47, Darvill & Thomas 1996, 86-87, Bradley *et al* 1993, 87 & 15). As it was not possible to establish the full extent of ditch [50433], it is difficult to suggest what function these features may have served. However, the two elongated pits appear to be too far apart to be likely to represent parts of a single building, and the dimensions of earlier Neolithic houses identified in Darvill and Thomas' study (1996, 86-87) appear to be rather smaller. The ditched feature with its apparent alignment with the two elongated pits seems more likely to be a boundary, and this may be supported by the distribution of possible prehistoric features in Area 2, which are almost all located to the northwest side of this alignment (Figure 10).

If this is a significant boundary, this might also potentially enclose the features in Area 1, to the northwest, and the marking of such a boundary could be an indication of a more permanent early to middle Neolithic settlement on the site. Whilst this possible boundary could form a stock enclosure or surround an area of pasture, the association with a range of artefacts including lithics and pottery suggests at least some domestic association may be likely. The watercourse within the valley to the north of Areas 1 & 3 would have formed something of a natural boundary, perhaps another edge of this possible enclosed area.

Evidence from Hurst Fen Neolithic occupation site attested to a range of activities, and included leaf-shaped arrow heads, large laurel-leaf points, awls, knives, fabricators and polished axes (Hall and Coles 1994, 57). Bone had not survived well, but included cattle, horse, sheep or goat and pig. Hurst Fen may have represented a fen edge community who at c.3000 BC engaged in opening and maintaining clearances for cultivation and pasture for animals, hunting and gathering, and this mixed economy in this fen edge environment may have allowed the

establishment of a substantial settlement, possibly on a year-round basis, or perhaps seeing more intermittent use (*ibid.*). There are clear similarities between the Hurst Fen and Gaul Road sites, and both may reflect similar mixed economies at the fen edge, which saw at least temporary occupation of both sites in the earlier to middle Neolithic.

Area 2 pits and post holes

Pit [50429] at the east of the area was undated but contained charcoal and hazelnut. This was the only pit of potential Mesolithic to Neolithic date which was located to the east of the possible boundary of pits and ditch already described. The location of this pit may make it something of an outlier, but it is far from clear that the excavated features on the site are closely contemporary, and the very narrow strip of Area 2 here means that further similar features might easily be present in the immediate vicinity of this pit.

Pit [50446] was located almost equidistantly between elongated pits [50415] and [50427], and produced fifteen sherds of prehistoric pottery of possible mid Neolithic date, along with animal bones including dog, and Mesolithic to early Neolithic flints. Again some of these flints were burnt, and charcoal was retrieved from its fill. Generally, the function of and associations between pits and post holes in this area were not obvious, and this is true for pit [50415]. Unlike the pits in Area 1, no indications of post holes were identified in the immediate vicinity of this pit, although it is quite possible this may have been associated with a now truncated structure. The position of this feature, which may be just within the 'enclosure', and between the two elongated pits may be significant, and pit [50446] might form part of the same general boundary feature. The quantities and range of materials retrieved from this pit may also be significant, and at least some of these may represent structured deposition, rather than the accidental incorporation of this material into the fills of this pit. If this material was deliberately deposited within this pit, then its location close to the possible contemporary boundary of ditch and elongated pits may be significant, perhaps being close to an 'entrance' to an

enclosed area.

Also in Area 2, was undated probable pit [50425] and pit [50417] which contained worked flint. Probable post hole [50431] and pit or post hole [50419] were devoid of finds, whilst Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint was retrieved from the fill of probable post hole [50413].

All of these features had broadly similar pale fills, and their forms are consistent with a prehistoric date range. The retrieval from several of the features in this area of Mesolithic to early Neolithic lithics along with pottery of possible middle Neolithic date, indicates they are most likely to date to the middle Neolithic, and there is little to suggest that the undated features should be of a significantly different date range. Several of the dated and undated features in this area contained charcoal and hazelnut, in common with several features in Area 1. The frequent occurrence of charcoal and hazelnuts within fills on the site is of significance, particularly given the occurrence of hazel and charcoal within Neolithic deposits identified in the palaeo-environmental study of deposits to the north of Areas 1 & 2 (5.7). The combination of this evidence seems to demonstrate that food resources were being collected in the immediate vicinity of the site, and were being processed (or at least accidentally burnt) and eaten close at hand.

Although features [50413, 50419, 50425 and 50417] were of varied character, being a mix of small and large pits and a post hole, these form something of a line, almost parallel to the possible boundary represented by [50433, 50415 and 50427] (Figure 10). This may be of significance, and suggest that these features may all be broadly contemporary, although exactly what function these features may have served remains unclear, and the alignment may be coincidental.

Area 3 pit

A single undated pit was encountered in Area 3, and whilst this may be prehistoric this is uncertain.

Synthesis

Some of the difficulties in identifying whether earlier Neolithic sites in the region represent permanent versus seasonal or temporary settlement are discussed by Edmonds *et al* (1999, 71-75). Many groups may have undertaken small-scale cultivation and used wild resources, which would have meant that some places were used continually, whilst other areas would be visited seasonally or occasionally to make use of specific wild resources, or for social interactions. The March site may sit somewhere between these extremes, and certainly the lithic assemblage does appear to represent a palimpsest of activity spanning the later Mesolithic to at least the earlier Neolithic, which may suggest repeated but intermittent use of the site. However, the diagnostic implements within this assemblage attest to a wide range of activities on the site, perhaps an indication of longer term occupation. The occurrence of animal bones, including those of domestic species, and indicators within the palaeoenvironmental record of cereal cultivation and pasture attest to at least small scale probable Neolithic farming at the site, which would probably require more constant occupation in the vicinity. Fragments of polished axes retrieved in earlier work on the site may suggest at least small scale clearance of trees, which would have been required in advance of cultivation or to create pasture, but other evidence for clearance from the excavation and palaeoenvironmental study was inconclusive. Middle Neolithic pottery and a range of features including post holes, pits and a hearth are all highly suggestive of settlement, probably including shelters, cooking areas and storage pits. A possible linear boundary, formed by a ditch and elongated pits in Area 3, was of possible middle Neolithic date, and may enclose a settlement area to the west, around Area 1. It is also possible that the northern boundary of this postulated enclosed area might have been formed by the natural boundary of the stream valley which once bisected the site, although this is far from certain. A pit of possible middle Neolithic date, close to this possible ditch and pit boundary, contained a range of finds, which may suggest structured deposition, possibly referencing the

significance of this boundary. No clear evidence for Neolithic 'houses' was identified at the site, although much of the site is likely to have suffered significant truncation by later ploughing, and such remains may have been lost. Various post holes across the site are however suggestive of shelters of some sort, although these may have been of a rather more temporary nature. Activity on the site seems to have ceased at some time in the middle to later Neolithic, probably at least partly as a result of less favourable environmental conditions resulting from rising sea levels, and tidal inundation of the lower parts of the site.

Evidence for later activity at Gaul Road

Little evidence was identified for activity on the site after the middle Neolithic, although a very few of the retrieved lithics were potentially of later Neolithic date, suggesting some limited continuity of use into this period.

Iron Age remains are evidenced by just six sherds of pottery, perhaps of this date, all retrieved from the fill of a single tree throw, and do not imply any intensive activity in this period.

Marling pits were recorded across Area 1, reflecting post-medieval soil improvement.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological excavations were required in advance of development at Gaul Road March. The site had been the subject of a previous desk-based assessment, and fieldwalking and trial trenching had confirmed the presence of two flint scatters on the site.

The flint scatters were located on two areas of higher ground, one on either side of a former valley, a prehistoric watercourse draining to the fen to the west.

Three excavation areas were targeted on these areas of higher ground, to investigate any associated features in these areas, along with a prehistoric buried soil layer identified during the evaluation, which contained numerous

worked flints.

A palaeoenvironmental borehole survey was carried out across the prehistoric valley at the centre of the site, as it was thought this might contain important environmental evidence contemporary with the archaeology of the site.

The investigations retrieved a substantial collection of worked flint, primarily of later Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic date, including diagnostic implements dating to both periods. Middle Neolithic pottery was also retrieved, and it may be that much of the flintwork is broadly contemporary with this.

The lithic assemblage appeared to represent a palimpsest of activity spanning the later Mesolithic to at least the earlier Neolithic, perhaps suggesting repeated but intermittent use of the site. At least three probable *in situ* knapping assemblages were identified. Diagnostic implements within this assemblage attested to a wide range of activities on the site, perhaps indicating longer term occupation.

Although few animal bones survived, these included those of domestic species. Along with indicators within the palaeoenvironmental record of cereal cultivation and pasture, these suggested at least small scale Neolithic farming at the site, which would probably require more constant occupation in the vicinity. Fragments of polished axes retrieved in earlier work on the site may suggest at least small scale clearance of trees, which would have been required in advance of cultivation or to create pasture, but other evidence for clearance from the excavation and palaeoenvironmental study was inconclusive.

Middle Neolithic pottery and a range of features including post holes, pits and a hearth were all highly suggestive of settlement, and probably included shelters, cooking areas and storage pits. A possible linear boundary, formed by a ditch and elongated pits was of possible middle Neolithic date, and may enclose a settlement area at the west of the site. It is also possible that the northern boundary of this postulated enclosed area might have been formed by the natural

boundary of the stream valley which once bisected the site, although this was far from certain. A pit of possible middle Neolithic date, close to this possible ditch and pit boundary, contained a range of finds, which may suggest structured deposition, possibly referencing the significance of this boundary.

No clear evidence for Neolithic 'houses' was identified, but various post holes across the site were suggestive of shelters of some sort, although these may have been of a rather more temporary nature.

The palaeoenvironmental survey revealed a deposit sequence spanning much of the Neolithic, which reflected the rising sea levels and changing environmental conditions at this time. Several phases of probable anthropogenic activity were recorded in the borehole survey, in the form of burnt flints and charcoal, along with possible indicators of cultivation and tree clearance. These are probably contemporary with the Neolithic archaeology of the site.

Activity seems to have ceased at some time in the middle to later Neolithic, probably at least partly as a result of less favourable environmental conditions resulting from rising sea levels, and tidal inundation of the lower parts of the site.

A few sherds of Iron Age pottery and post-medieval marling pits for soil improvement were also recorded.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Martin Lott of Canon Kirk Homes who commissioned this investigation. The work was co-ordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report with Tom Lane

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Project Officers: Vicky Mellor, Neil Parker
Site Staff: Maria Gale, Ellen Kendall, Ross Kendall, Jon Smith

Machine Supervision: Ross Kendall, Vicky Mellor, Neil Parker,

Electronic surveying: Mary Nugent

Manual surveying: Vicky Mellor

Survey processing: Mark Dymond

Illustration: Vicky Mellor, Sue Unsworth

Finds illustration: Dave Hopkins

Finds Processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic Reproduction: Vicky Mellor

Post-excavation Analyst: Vicky Mellor

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

All of the following references were consulted, though not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

General references

Austin, L 2000 'Palaeolithic and Mesolithic' in Brown and Glazebrook (eds), 5-8

Bradley, R., P. Chowne, R.M.J. Cleal, F. Healy and I. Kinnes, 1993, *Excavations at Redgate Hill, Hunstanton, Norfolk, and at Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire* **EAA 57**

Brown, N and Glazebrook, J (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, EAA Occasional Paper 8

Brown, N and Murphy, P 2000 'Neolithic and Bronze Age' in Brown and Glazebrook (eds), 12-22

Chapman, J., 2000, Pit-digging and structured deposition in the Neolithic and Copper Age of central and eastern Europe, pp 61-87, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **Vol. 66**

Darvill, T., and J. Thomas (Eds), 1996, *Neolithic houses in northwest Europe and beyond*, Neolithic Studies Group Seminar Papers 1, Oxbow Monograph **57**

Edmonds, M., C. Evans and D Gibson, 1999, Assembly and collection – Lithic complexes in the Cambridgeshire Fenlands, pp 47-82 *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **Vol. 65**

- English Heritage, 2002, *Environmental Archaeology*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines
- Evans, C., J., Pollard and M. Knight, 1999, Life in woods: Tree-throws, 'Settlement' and forest cognition, pp 241-254, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* **18** (3)
- Evans, C., with E. Beadsmoore, M. Brudenell and G. Lucas, 2009, *Fengate Revisted: Further fen-edge excavations, Bronze Age fieldsystems and settlement and the Wyman Abbott/Leeds Archives* CAU Landscape Archives: Historiography and Fieldwork (1)
- Gardiner, J. (Ed), 1993, *Flatlands and wetlands: Current themes in East Anglian Archaeology* **EAA 50**
- Gdaniec, K., M. Edmonds and P Wiltshire, 2007, *A line across land: Fieldwork on the Isleham-Ely pipeline, 1993-4*, **EAA 121**
- Glazebrook, J (ed.) 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1 Resource Assessment*. **EAA Occasional Paper 3**
- Gurney, D 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, ALGAO (EER)
- Hall, D., 1987 *The Fenland Project, Number 2: Cambridgeshire Survey, Peterborough to March* **EAA 35**
- Hall, D., 1996, *The Fenland Project, Number 10: Cambridgeshire Survey, The Isle of Ely and Wisbech* **EAA 79**
- Hall, D., and J Coles, 1994, *Fenland Survey: An essay in landscape and persistence*, English Heritage Archaeological Report **1**
- Hall, R., 2004, Archaeological Investigations at Whitemoor Sidings, March, Cambridgeshire (MWS03), Unpublished Archaeological Project Services Report **No. 34/04**
- Hall, R., 2007 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment on land north of Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (MAGR07)* APS unpublished report **146/07**
- Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**
- IfA 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*
- James, S.T. and Potter, T.W., 1996, *Excavations at Estover, March* in Jackson, R. and Potter T.W., *Excavations at Stonea, Cambridgeshire 1980-85* (London, British Museum)
- Lane, T., and D. Trimble, 2010, *Fluid landscapes and human adaptation: Excavations on prehistoric sits on the Lincolnshire fen edge 1991-1994* Lincolnshire Archaeology and Heritage Report Series No. **9**
- Lane, T., Morris, E. L., Peachey, M., 2008 *Excavations on a Roman Saltmaking Site at Cedar Close, March, Cambridgeshire* Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society **XCVII** 189-109
- Last, J., 2001, Land to the south of Dagless Way, Elm Road, March, Cambridgeshire: an archaeological desk-based assessment, unpublished HAT report
- McDonald, T., 1993, The A41 Excavations, pp 133-137, *Current Archaeology* **No. 136 Vol. XII No. 4**
- Middleton, R., 1990, The Walker Collection: a quantative analysis of lithic material from the March/Manea area of the Cambridgeshire Fens in *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 13-38 no 64
- Palmer, R., 2007, Gaul Road Area, Centred TL 406969, March, Cambridgeshire, Aerial Photographic Assessment in R. Hall, *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment on land north of Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (MAGR07)* APS unpublished report **146/07**

Peachey, M., 2009, *Archaeological Evaluation on land at Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (MAGR08)*, unpublished APS report **85/08**

Pollard, J., 1999, 'These places have their moments': thoughts on settlement practices in the British Neolithic, in Brück, J. and M. Goodman (Eds), *Making places in the prehistoric world: Themes in settlement archaeology*

Pryor, F., 1991, *Flag Fen: Prehistoric Fenland Centre*, English Heritage

Pryor, F., 1998, *Etton: Excavations at a Neolithic causewayed enclosure near Maxey, Cambridgeshire 1982-7*, English Heritage Archaeological Report **18**

Robinson, M., 1992, Environmental Archaeology of the River Gravels: Past Achievements and Future Directions, pp 47-62, in *Developing Landscapes of Lowland Britain. The Archaeology of the British Gravels: A Review*, M. Fulford and E. Nichols (eds), Society of Antiquaries Occasional Papers, **Vol 14**

Wymer, J. J., 1977, *Gazetteer of Mesolithic Sites in England and Wales* (CBA London)

Prehistoric pottery references

Allen, C., 2006, *Report on Neolithic pottery from Holbeck Park, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria*, for Oxford Archaeology North

Cleal, R. M. J., 1995, Pottery fabrics in Wessex in the fourth to second millennia BC, in I. Kinnes and G. Varndell (eds) '*Unbaked Urns of Rudely Shape*', *Oxbow Monograph* **55**

Evans, C., Pollard, J. and Knight, M., 1999, Life in Woods: Tree-throws, 'Settlement' and Forest Cognition, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* **18(3)**, 241-54

van Geel, B., Buurman, J., Brinkkemper, O., Schelvis, J. Aptroot, A., van Reenen, G. & Hakbijl, T. 2003. *Environmental reconstruction of a Roman period settlement site in Uitgeest (The Netherlands), with special reference to coprophilous fungi*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*: **30**, 873-883

Gibson, A., 2002, *Prehistoric Pottery in Britain and Ireland*

Gibson, A. and Kinnes, I., 1997, On the urns of a Dilemma; Radiocarbon and the Peterborough Problem, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* **16(1)**, 65-72

IfA, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Manby, T. G., King A. and Vyner B. E., 2003, The Neolithic and Bronze Ages: a Time of Early Agriculture, in T. G. Manby, S Moorhouse and P. Ottoway (eds), *The Archaeology of Yorkshire: An Assessment at the Beginning of the 21st Century*, 35-116

PCRG, 1997, The study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication, *Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occasional Papers* **1 and 2**

Riley, D. N., 1957, Neolithic and Bronze Age Pottery from Risby Warren and other Occupation Sites in North Lincolnshire, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **23**, 40-56

Rowley-Conwy, P., M. Zvelebil and H.P.Blankholm, 1987, *Mesolithic Northwest Europe: Recent trends*

Lithics references

Barton, R.N.E., Berridge, P.J., Walker, M.J.C. and Bevins, R.E., 1995 Persistent Places in the Mesolithic Landscape: an example from the Black Mountain Uplands of South Wales. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **61**, 81-116.

- Beadsmoore, E., 2006, Earlier Neolithic Flint. In: D. Garrow, S. Lucy and D. Gibson, Excavations at Kilverstone, Norfolk: an episodic landscape history, 53-70, *East Anglian Archaeology* **113**.
- Bishop B.J., 2008, Archaeological Investigations at Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire, Lithic Assessment. Unpublished Report for APS.
- Bishop, B.J., (forthcoming a), The Lithic Material. In: R. Mortimer and A. Connor, Prehistoric and Romano-British occupation along Fordham Bypass, Fordham, Cambridgeshire, *East Anglian Archaeology*.
- Bishop, B.J., (forthcoming b), The Lithic Material. In: J. Drummond-Murray, *Excavations at Main Street, Stow-cum-Quy, Cambridgeshire*.
- Bishop, B.J., (forthcoming c), The Lithic Material. In: S. Kenny, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire: Part 1 – prehistoric to Romano-British, *East Anglian Archaeology*
- Brown, A., 1991, Structured Deposition and Technological Change among the Flaked Stone Artefacts from Cranbourne Chase. In: J. Barrett, R. Bradley & M. Hall (Eds.), *Papers on the Prehistoric Archaeology of Cranbourne Chase*, Oxbow Monograph **11**, 101-133
- Brown, N., and Murphy, P. 1997, Neolithic and Bronze Age In: J. Glazebrook (Ed.) *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties: resource assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **3**, 12–18.
- Clark, J.G.D., 1934, The Classification of a Microlithic Culture: the Tardenoisian of Horsham, *Archaeological Journal* **90**, 52-77
- Clark, J.G.D., Higgs, E.S. and Longworth, I.H., 1960, Excavations at the Neolithic Site at Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, Suffolk (1954, 1957 and 1958), *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **26**, 202 - 245.
- Clarke, D.L. 1976, Mesolithic Europe: the economic basis. In: G. Sieveking, I.H. Longworth & K.E. Wilson (Eds.), *Problems in Economic and Social Archaeology*, 449-482.
- Clay, P., 2006, The Neolithic and Early to Middle Bronze Age. In: N.J. Cooper, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, 69-88. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**.
- Conneller, C., 2000, Fragmented Space? Hunter-Gather Landscapes of the Vale of Pickering, *Archaeological Review Cambridge* **17** (1), 139-150
- Donahue, R., 2002, Microwear Analysis. In: J. Sidell, J. Cotton, L. Rayner And L. Wheeler, *The Prehistory of Southwark and Lambeth*, 81-88. Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph **14**. Museum of London/English Heritage.
- Edmonds, M., Evans, C. and Gibson, D., 1999, Assemblage and Collection – Lithic Complexes in the Cambridgeshire Fenlands, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **65**, 47 – 82.
- Finlay, N., 2000a, Microliths in the Making. In: R. Young (Ed.) *Mesolithic Lifeways: current research from Britain and Ireland*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **7**, 23-31
- Finlay, N. 2000b, Deer Prudence, *Cambridge Archaeological Review* **17** (1), 67-79
- Green, H.S., 1980, *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles*, British Archaeological Reports (British Series) **75**.
- Hall, D., 1987, *The Fenland Project, Number 2: Fenland Landscapes and Settlement between Peterborough and March*, East Anglian Archaeology **35**.
- Hall, D., 1992, *The Fenland Project, Number 6: The South-Western Cambridgeshire Fens*, East Anglian Archaeology **56**.

Hooper, W. 1933, *The Pygmy Flint Industries of Surrey*, Surrey Archaeological Collections **41**, 50-78.

Jacobi, R., 1976a, The Mesolithic of Sussex. In: P.L. Drewett (Ed.) *Archaeology in Sussex to AD 1500*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report **29**, 15-22.

Jacobi, R., 1976b, Britain Inside and Outside Mesolithic Europe, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **42**, 67-84.

Jacobi, R., 1984, The Mesolithic of Northern East Anglia and Contemporary Territories. In: C. Barringer (Ed.), *Aspects of East Anglian Pre-History: 20 Years after Rainbird Clarke*, 43-76, Geo Books, Norwich.

Lacaille, A.D., 1942, Scottish Micro-Burins. *Proceeding of the Antiquarian Society of Scotland*, **76**, 103-119.

Middleton, R., 1992, The Walker Collection: a quantitative analysis of lithic material from the March/Manea area of the Cambridgeshire Fens, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* **79**, 13-38.

Pitts, M.W. & Jacobi, R.M., 1979, Some Aspects of Change in Flakes Stone Industries of the Mesolithic and Neolithic in Southern Britain, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, **6**, 163-177

Pollard, J., 2000, Ancestral Places in the Mesolithic Landscape, *Cambridge Archaeological Review* **17** (1), 123-138

Reynier, M.J., 2000, Thatcham Revisited: spatial and stratigraphic analyses of two sub-assemblages from Site III and its implications for Early Mesolithic typo-chronology in Britain. In: R. Young (Ed.), *Mesolithic Lifeways: current research from Britain and Ireland*, 33-46. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **7**.

Reynolds, T. and Kaner, S., 2000, The Mesolithic of Southern Fenland: a review of the data and some suggestions for the future. In: R. Young (Ed.), *Mesolithic Lifeways: current research from Britain and Ireland*, 191 – 197. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **7**.

Schmaltz, R.F., 1960, Flint and the Patination of Flint Artefacts, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **26**, 44-49.

Wainwright, G.J., 1972, The Excavation of a Neolithic Settlement on Broome Heath, Ditchingham, Norfolk, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **38**, 1 – 97.

Wymer, J.J., 1977, *Gazetteer of Mesolithic Sites in England and Wales*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report **8**.

Charred plan macrofossils references

Healy, F., 1988, *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Part VI: Occupation during the seventh to second millennia BC*, East Anglian Archaeology **39**

Murphy, P., 2000, 'Environmental and botanical evidence' in Ashwin, T. and Bates, S., *Excavations on the Norwich Southern Bypass, 1989-91 Part I: Excavations at Bixley, Caister St Edmund, Trowse, Cringleford and Little Melton*, East Anglian Archaeology **91**, 217 – 227

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles. Second edition*, Cambridge University Press

The other finds references

~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <<http://www.geocities.com/acbmgl/CBMGD E3.htm>>

Darling, M. J., 2004, 'Guidelines for the Archiving of Roman Pottery', *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* **11**, 67-74

Davey, P. J., 1981, Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations, *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* **4**, 65-88

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper **2**

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Animal bone references

Grigson, C., 1982, Porridge and Pannage: Pig husbandry in Neolithic England. In Limbrey, S. and Bell, M. (eds.) *Archaeological Aspects of Woodland Ecology*, London: BAR International Series, **146** pp. 297-314.

Lyman, R.L., 1994, *Vertebrate Taphonomy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Palaeo-environmental references

Beug, H.J., 2004, *Leitfaden der pollenbestimmung für Mitteleuropa und angrenzende gebiete*, München: Verlag Dr. Freidrich Pfeil.

Chambers, F.M., Barber, K.E., Maddy, D. & Brew, J., 1997, A 5500-year proxy-climate and vegetation record from blanket mire at Talla Moss, Borders, Scotland, *The Holocene*, **7** (4), 391-399

Greig, J., 2003, The environmental setting of the causeway, in N. Field and M. Parker Pearson (eds.), *Fiskerton: An Iron Age timber causeway with Iron Age and Roman votive offerings*, 19-23. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

Grimm, E.. 1987, CONISS: A Fortran 77 program for stratigraphically constrained cluster analysis by the method of incremental sum of squares, *Computers and Geosciences*, **13** (1), 13-35

Grimm, E.C., 2004, TGVView 2.0.2. Illinois State Museum, IL 62703, USA.

Hall, R., 2007. *Archaeological desk-based assessment on land south of Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (MAGR07)*, Unpublished report, Archaeological Project Services

Hunt, C.O., 1985, Recent advances in pollen extraction techniques: A brief review, in N.R.J. Fieller, D.D. Gilbertson and N.G.A. Ralph (eds.), *Palaeobiological investigations: Research design, methods and data analysis*: 181-188, Oxford, BAR International Series **266**.

Juggins, S., 2002, WinTran 1.5. Department of Geography, University of Newcastle. Microsoft Corporation. 2003, Excel. Microsoft: USA.

Moore, P.D., Webb, J.A. & Collinson, M.E. 1991, *Pollen analysis* (2nd. edn.), Oxford:Blackwell Science

Rackham, D.J. and Wheeler, J., 2008. *Report on a site visit, auger transect and preliminary pollen assessment at Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (MAGR08)*, Unpublished report, Environmental Archaeology Consultancy, South Rauceby, Lincolnshire for APS, Heckington

Reille, M., 1991, *Pollen et spores d'Europe et d'Afrique du nord: Supplement 1*. Marseille, Laboratoire de Botanique Historique et Palynologie.

Reille, M., 1998, *Pollen et spores d'Europe et d'Afrique du nord: Supplement 2*, Marseille, Laboratoire de Botanique Historique et Palynologie

Reille, M., 1999, *Pollen et spores d'Europe et d'Afrique du nord* (2nd. edn.), Marseille, Laboratoire de Botanique Historique et Palynologie

Scaife, R., 2000, The prehistoric vegetation and environment of the River Ouse valley, in M. Dawson (ed.), *Prehistoric, Roman, and Post-Roman landscapes of the Great Ouse valley*: 17-26, York: Council for British Archaeology/CBA Research Report **119**.

Shennan, I., 1994, Clastic sedimentary environments, In Waller 1994, Chapter 4. Depositional environments, 35-38.

Stace, C. 2001. *New flora of the British Isles* (2nd. edn.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. van Geel, B., Buurman, J., Brinkkemper, O.,

Schelvis, J. Aptroot, A., van Reenen, G. & Hakbijl, T. 2003. Environmental reconstruction of a Roman period settlement site in Uitgeest (The Netherlands), with special reference to coprophilous fungi, *Journal of Archaeological Science*: 30, 873-883

Waller, M., 1994, *The Fenland Project, Number 9: Flandrian Environmental Change in Fenland*, East Anglian Archaeology 70, Fenland Project Committee and Cambridge County Council

Wheeler, J., 2007, *The implications of iron-working on the woodlands of Rievaulx and Bilsdale, North Yorkshire, UK: Historical, palaeoecological and palaeoenvironmental perspectives circa 1068-2000*, Unpublished PhD thesis, Department of Archaeological Sciences, The University of Bradford.

11. ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
APS	Archaeological Project Services
BP	Before Present [denotes age subtracted from 1950 AD]
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
CXT	Context
GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute of Field Archaeologists, (since renamed Institute for Archaeologists)
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
OD	Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)
OS	Ordnance Survey
W (g)	Weight (grams)



Figure 1 General location map



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: March Gaul Road MAGR08

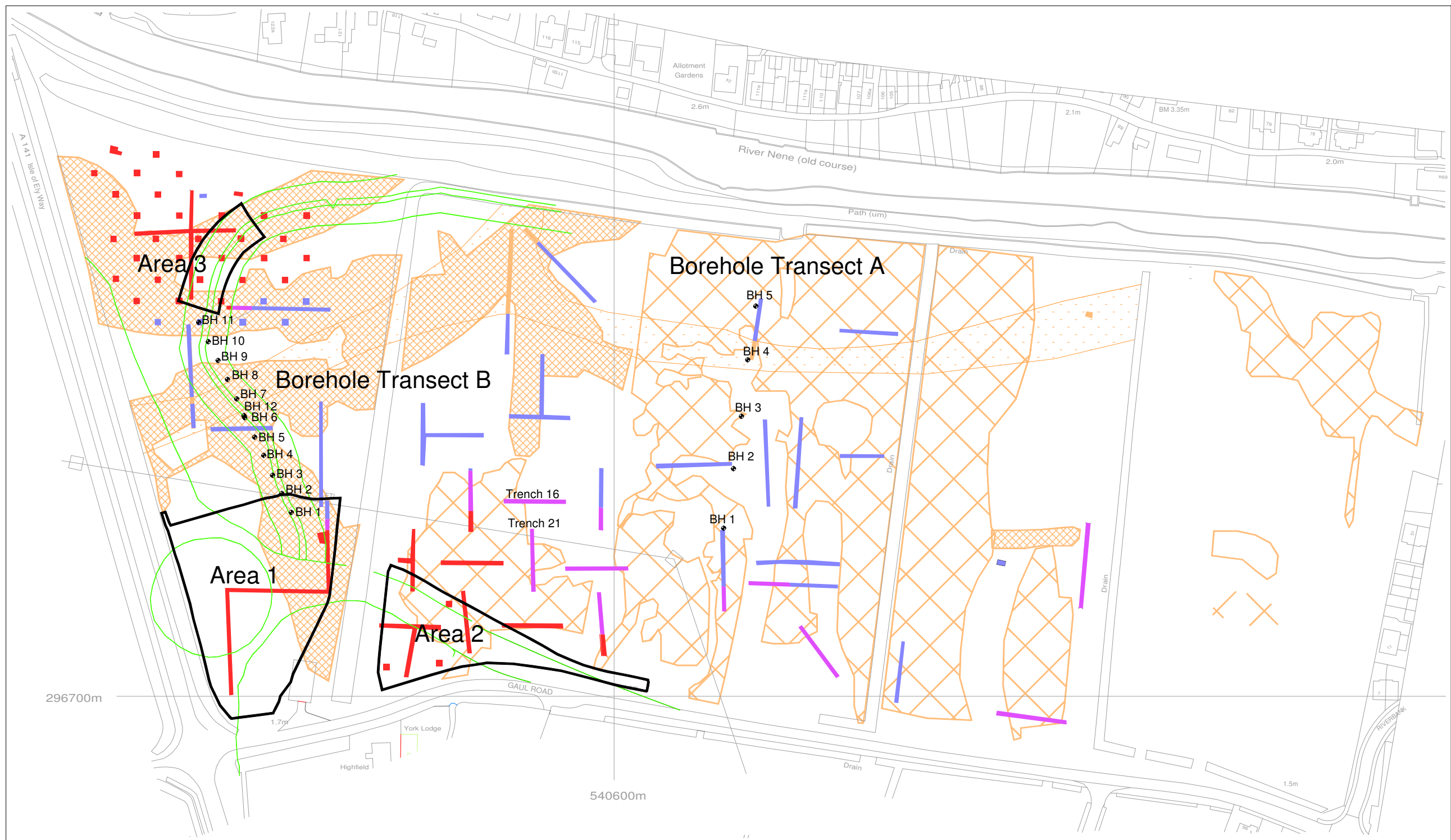
Scale 1:50000

Drawn by: VM

Report No: 06/11

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

Figure 2 Site location map



Key

Results of trial trenching evaluation: Material at 0.5m depth

- █ Island
- █ Buried soil
- █ Alluvium
- █ Roddon

Results of Aerial photographic assessment:

- Roddon
- Silt 'smear'

- Excavation areas
- Proposed roundabout and landscaping



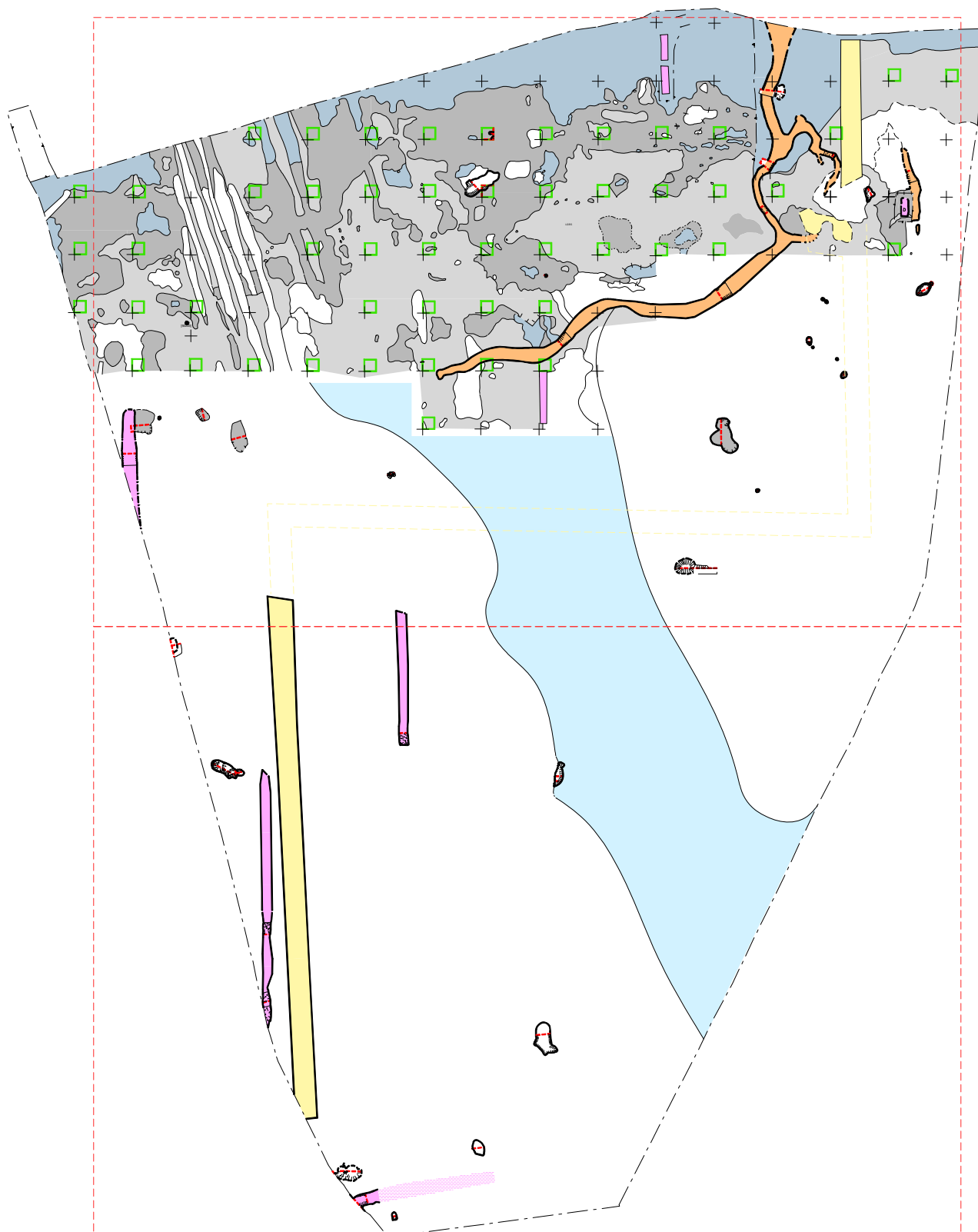
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. ALS041A0001

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: March Gaul Road MAGR08		
Scale: 1:2000	Drawn by: MJP/VM	Report No: 06/11

Figure 4 Extent of island, buried soil, roddon and alluvial deposits established in trial trenching, location of excavation areas and borehole transects








Figure 5 Plan of excavation areas



Area of Figure 7

Area of Figure 8

-  Light grey to pinkish-grey buried soil
-  Dark brown buried soil
-  Alluvium
-  Clay of ancient palaeochannel
-  Marling pits
-  Evaluation trench
-  Palaeochannel associated with roddon
-  Test pit

0 25m




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: March Gaul Road MAGR08		
Scale 1:500	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 06/11

Figure 6 Area 1 plan

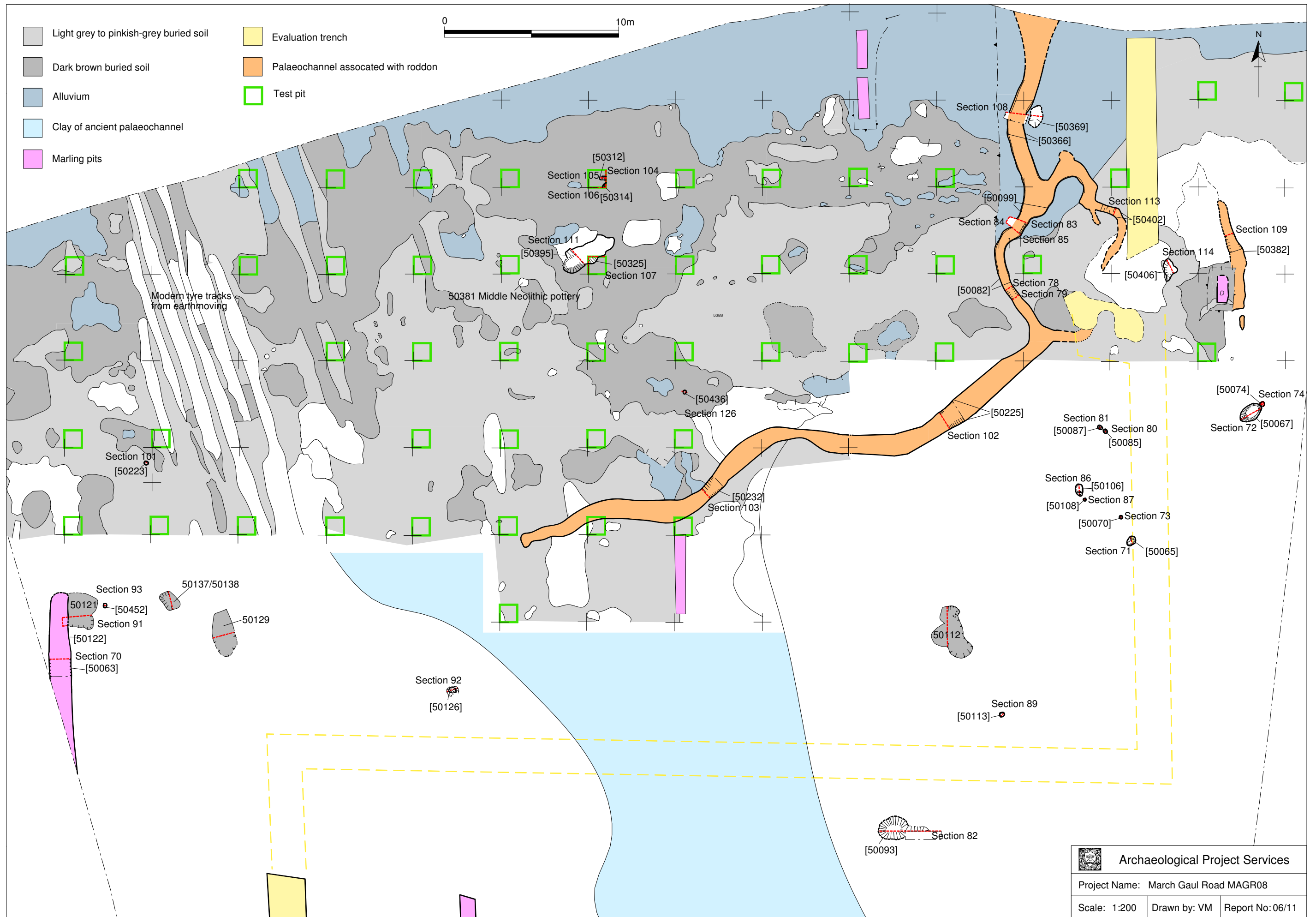
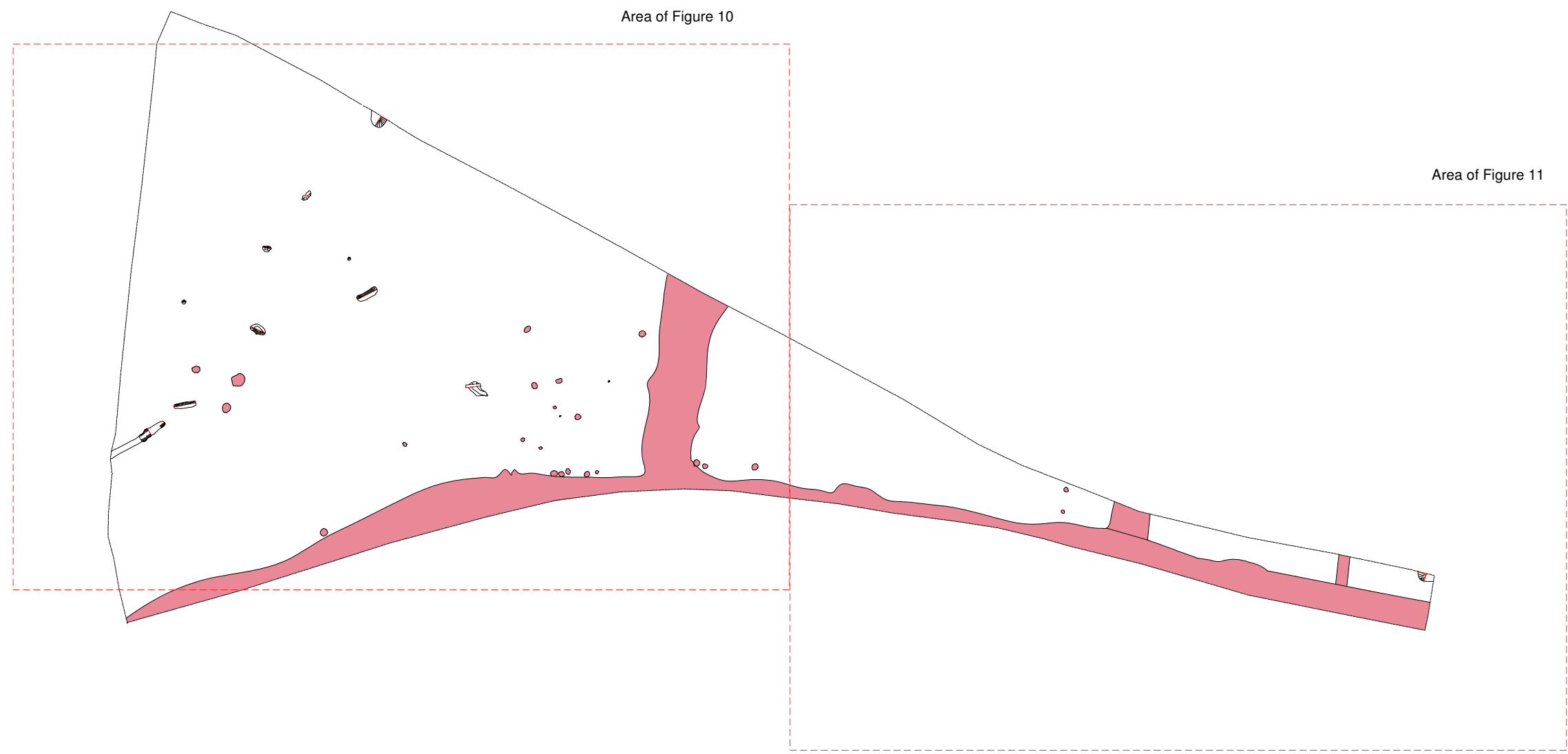


Figure 7 Area 1 plan (north)



Figure 8 Area 1 plan (south)



Modern features


	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: March Gaul Road MAGR08		
Scale: 1:500	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 06/11

Figure 9 Area 2 plan

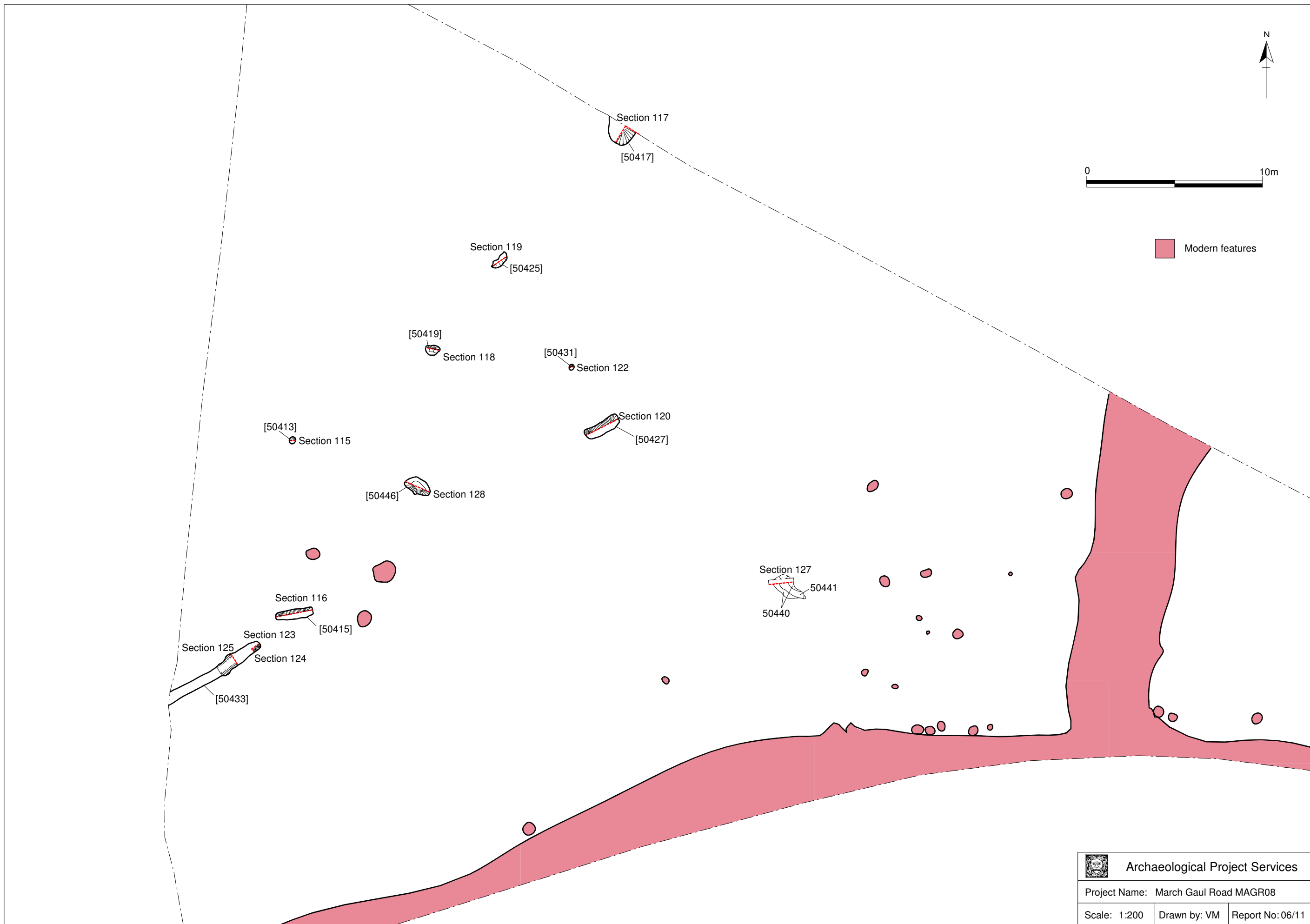


Figure 10 Area 2 plan (west)

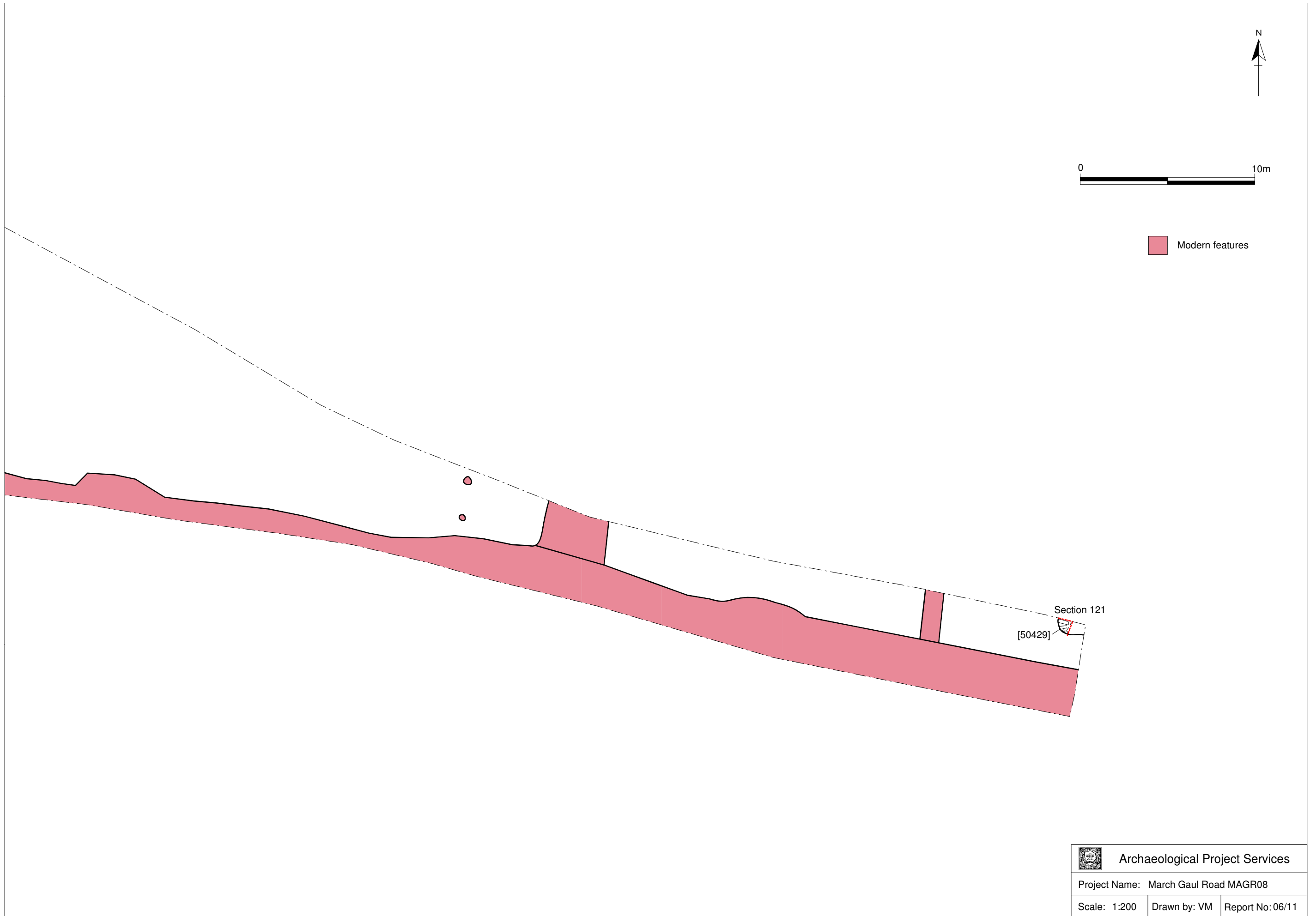


Figure 11 Area 2 plan (east)

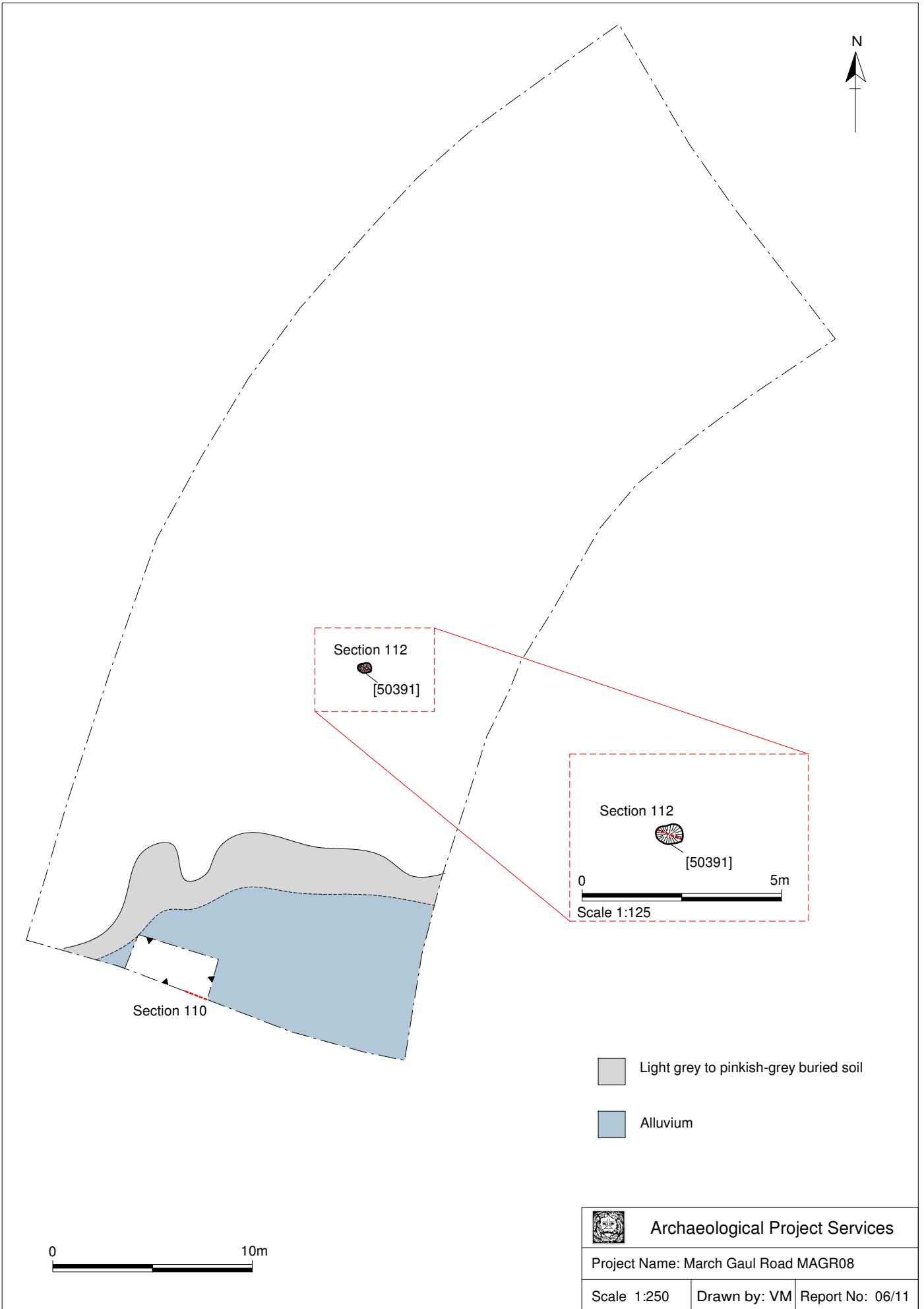


Figure 12 Area 3 plan

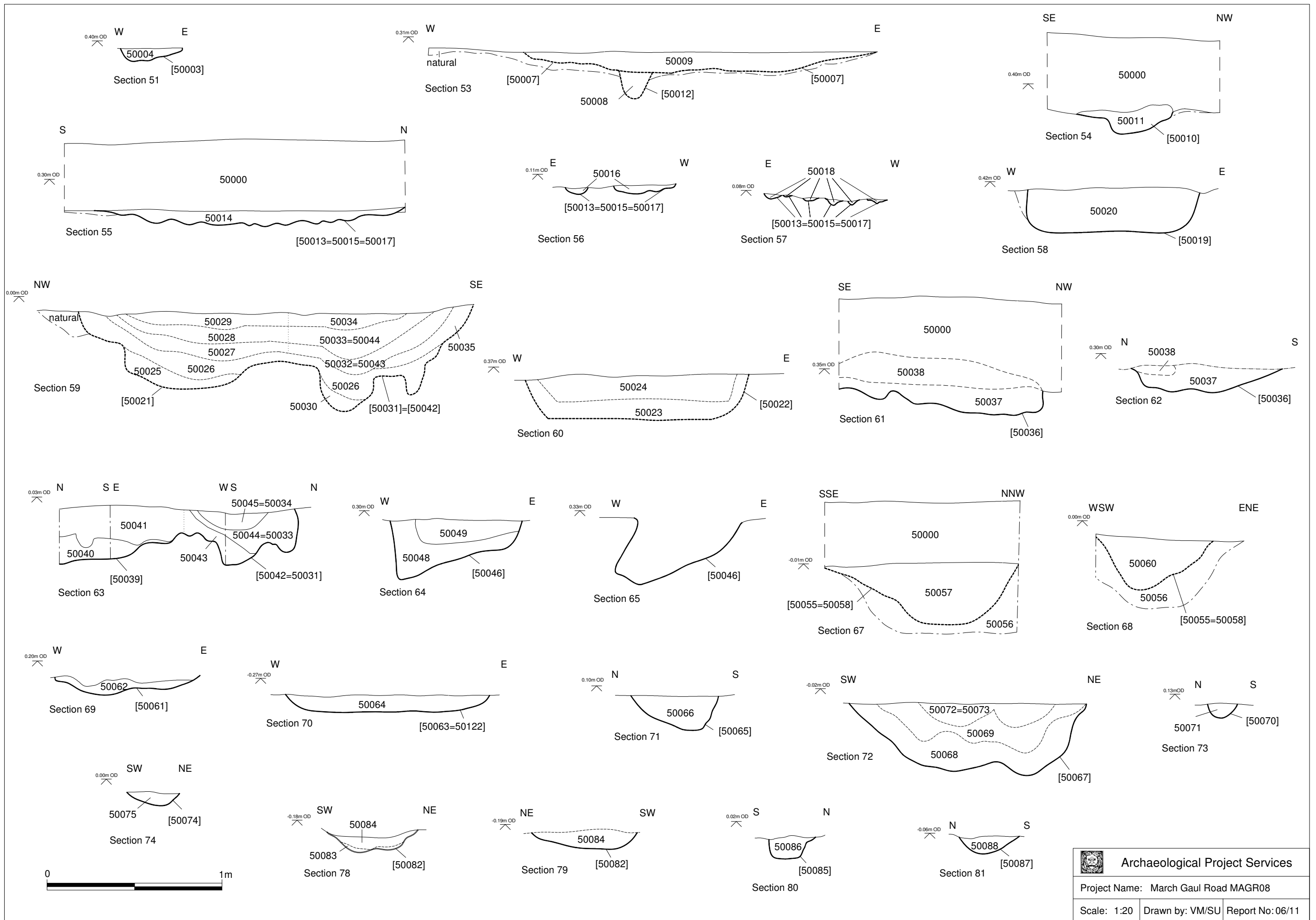


Figure 13 Area 1 Sections (1/2)

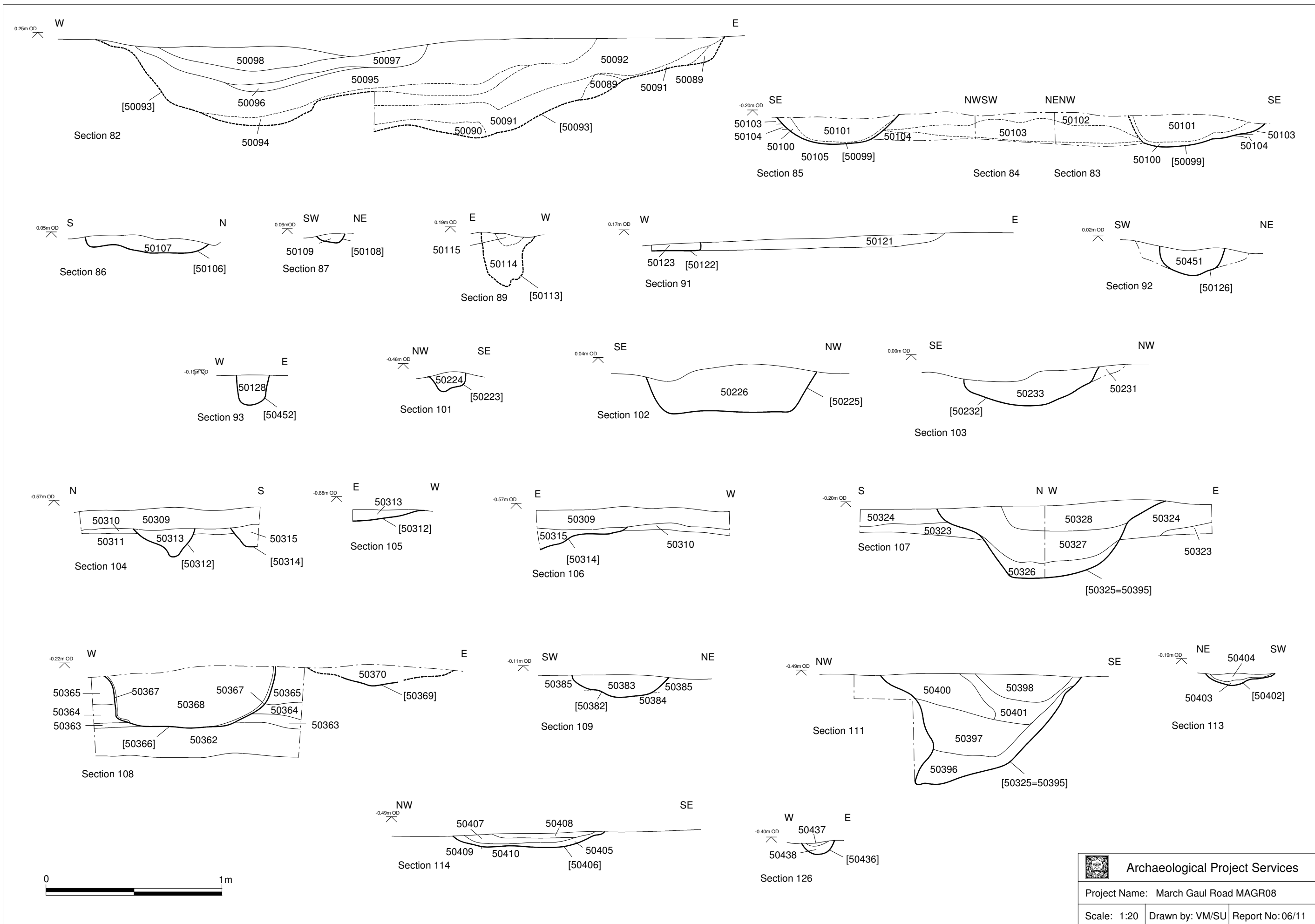
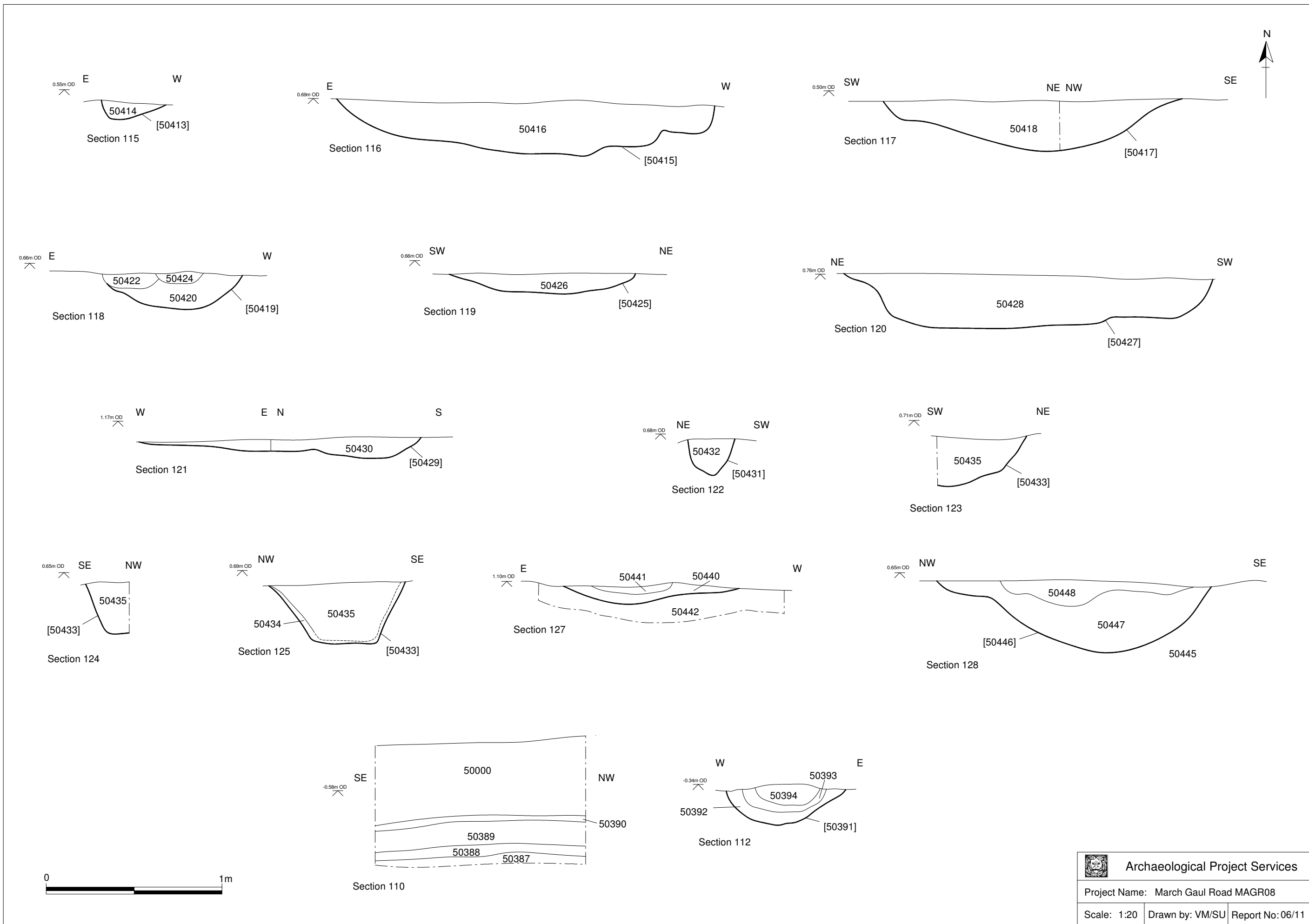


Figure 14 Area 1 sections (2/2)




	Archaeological Project Services
Project Name: March Gaul Road MAGR08	
Scale: 1:20	Drawn by: VM/SU Report No:06/11

Figure 15 Areas 2 & 3 sections



Figure 16 Excavation Area 1, buried soil, alluvium and test pit locations and distribution of flint retrieved

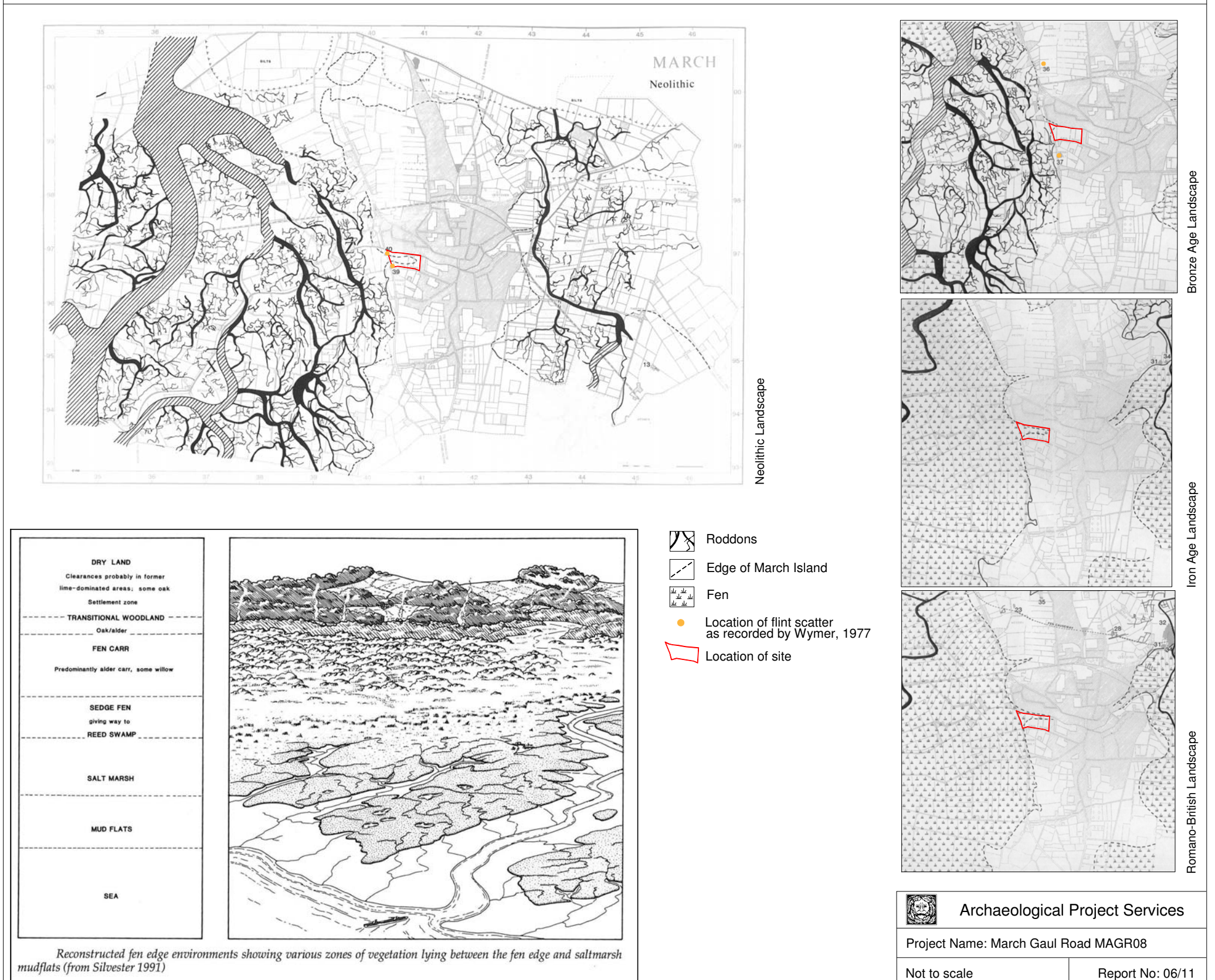
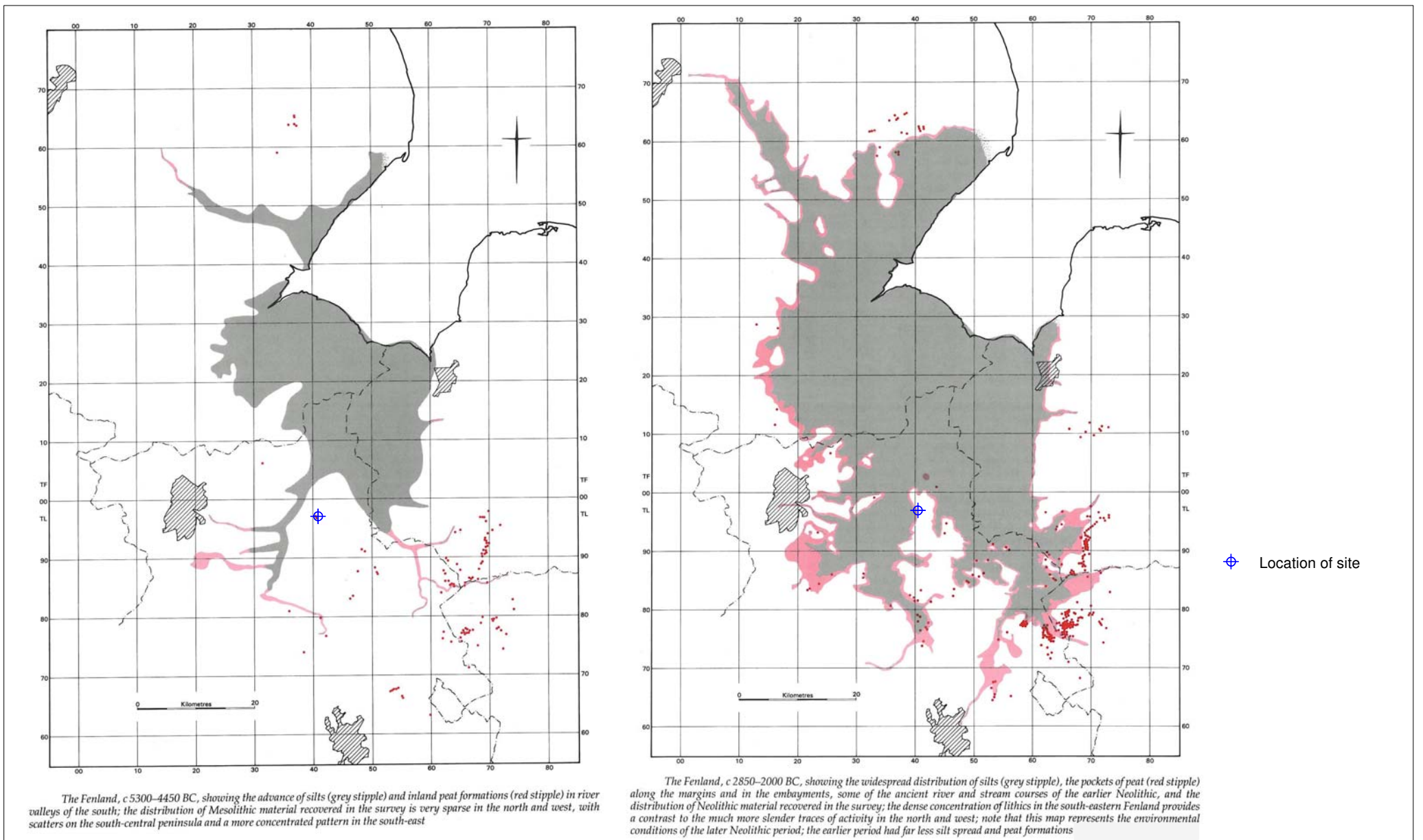


Figure 18 Prehistoric and Roman landscape (after Hall 1987 and Hall & Coles 1994)

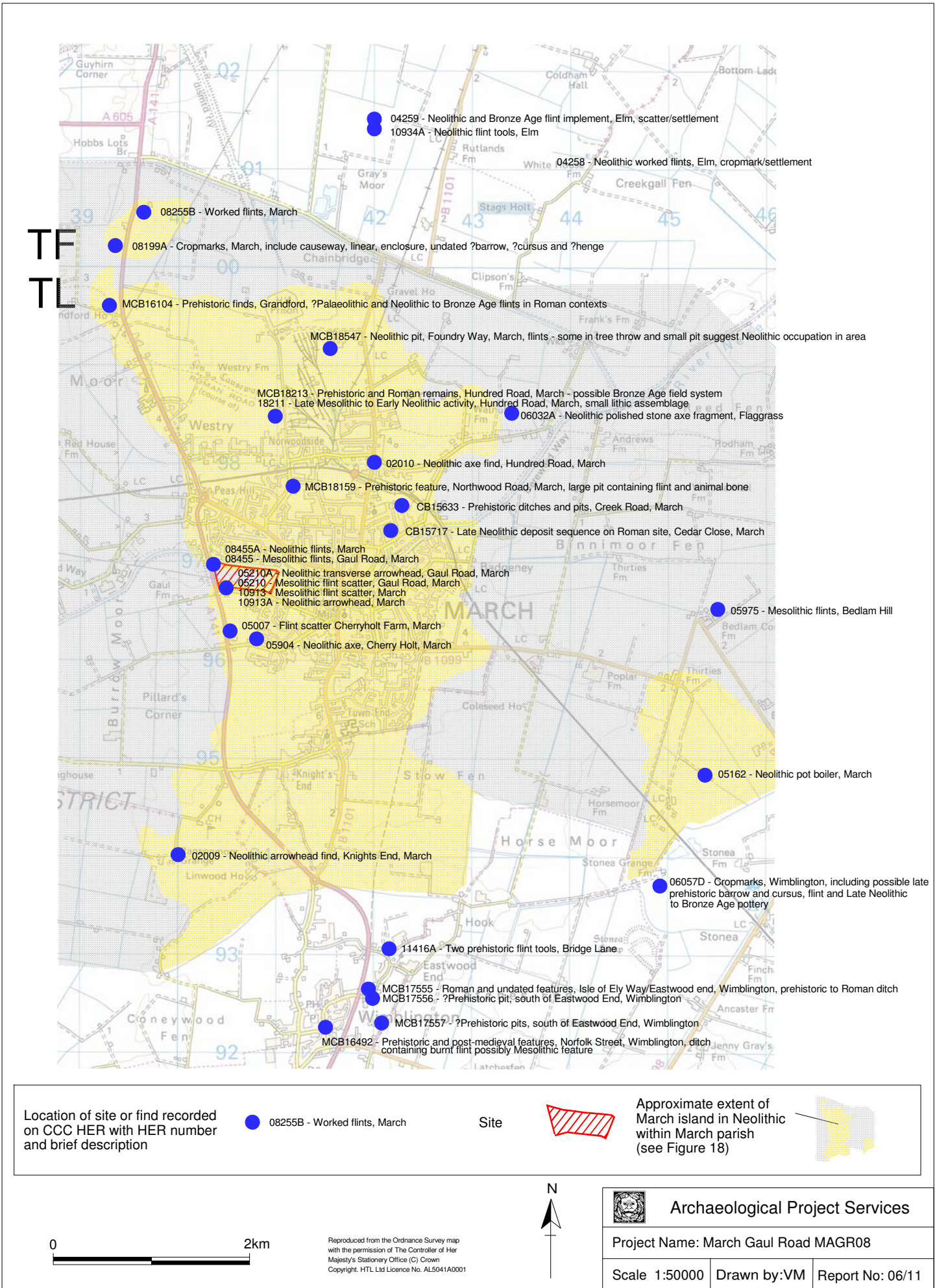


Figure 19 Location of Mesolithic and Neolithic sites and finds within c.5km of March recorded on CCC HER

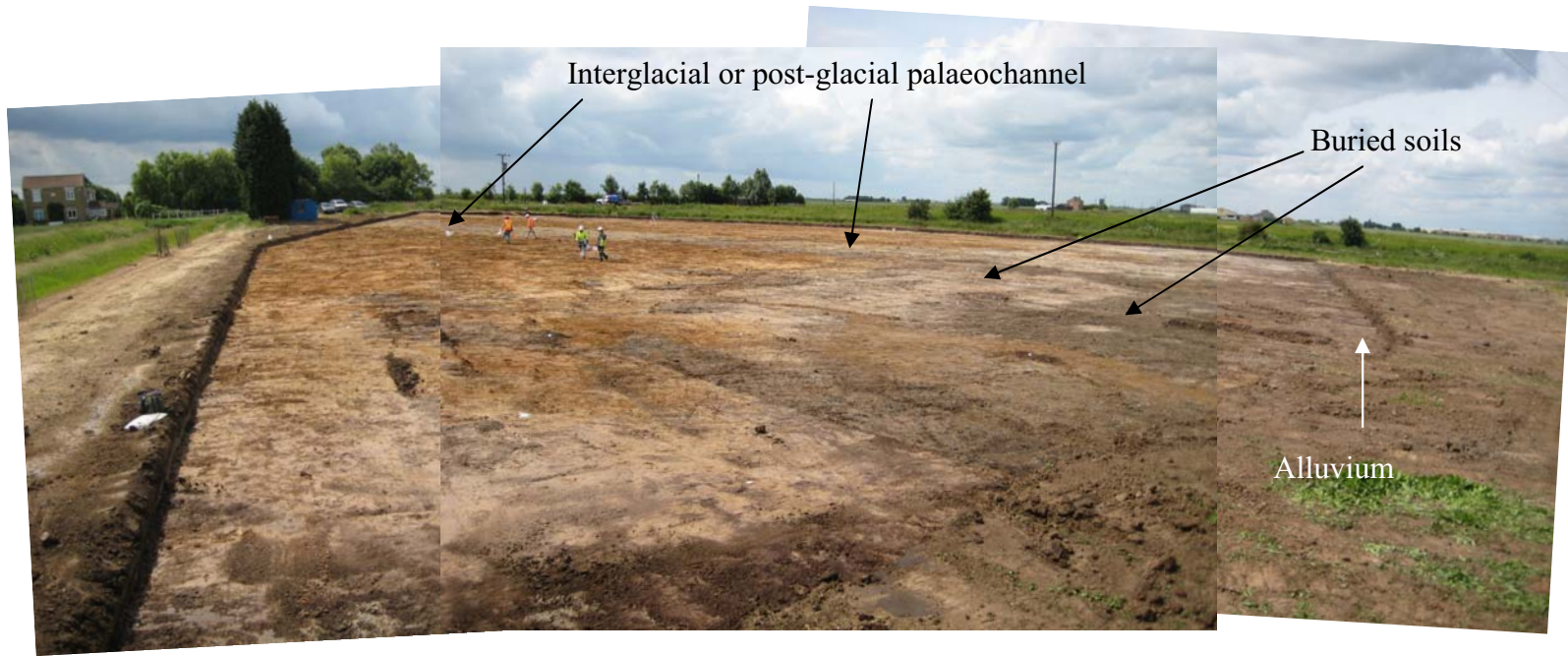


Plate 1 General view of Area 1, looking south, southwest and west



Plate 2 Area 1, probable pit [50007] and possible post hole [50012], Section 53, looking north



Plate 3 Area 1, possible pit [50019], Section 58, looking north



Plate 4 Area 1, pit or pits [50021] and [50042=50031], Section 59, looking northeast



Plate 6 Area 1, probable tree throw [50046] partially excavated, Section 64, looking north

Plate 5 Area 1, pit or pits [50039] and [50031=50042], Section 63, looking southwest



Plate 7 Area 1, probable tree throw [50046] further excavated, Section (profile) 65, looking north





Plate 8 Area 1, possibly naturally-formed hollow [50022], Section 60, looking north



Plate 11 Area 1, possible post hole [50085], Section 80, looking northwest



Plate 9 Area 1, probable post hole [50070], Section 73, looking east

Plate 12 Area 1, possible post hole [50087], Section 81, looking southeast



Plate 10 Area 1, possible post hole [50074], Section 74, looking north

Plate 13 Area 1, pit [50067], Section 72, looking northwest





Plate 14 Area 1
probable tree
throw [50093],
Section 82,
looking south



Plate 16 Area 1, probable tree throw [50093] further excavated, looking south



Plate 15 Area 1,
probable tree
throw [50093]
part-excavated,
prior to
excavation of fill
50096, looking
south



Plate 17 Area 1,
possible pit
[50065], Section
71, looking east



Plate 18 Area 1,
probable pit
[50106], Section
86, looking west



Plate 21 Area 1,
possible post hole
[50452], Section
93, looking north



Plate 19 Area 1, probable
post hole [50113], Section
89, looking south



Plate 20 Area 1, possible post hole [50126], Section 92,
looking north



Plate 22
Area 1,
probable post
hole [50223],
Section 101,
looking
northeast



Plate 23 Area 1,
channel
[50225],
Section 102,
looking
southwest



Plate 24 Area 1,
channel [50366]
truncating buried
soil and alluvial
layers and prob-
able root-formed
feature [50369],
Section 108, look-
ing north

Plate 25 Area 1, pre-excavation view of pit,
possible hearth or cooking pit, [50406], looking
southwest



Plate 26 Area 1, hearth or cooking pit [50406]
half-sectioned, Section 114, looking northeast



Plate 27 Area 1, hearth or cooking pit [50406] fur-
ther excavated, looking northeast





Plate 28 Area 1, marling pit [50061], Section 69, looking north



Plate 29 Area 1, marling pit [50063], Section 70, looking north



Plate 30 General view of Area 1, showing test-pitting of buried soil deposits, marling pit visible in foreground, looking west, south and east



Plate 31 Area 1, test pit in grid square 1110/2120 showing buried soil layers 50270 and 50269 and alluvium 50268, looking north



Plate 32 Area 1, test pit in grid square 1120/2100 showing light grey buried soil 50277, looking north



Plate 33 Area 1, test pit in grid square 1150/2120 showing light grey buried soil 50360 and dark brown buried soil 50359, looking north



Plate 34 Area 1 test pit in grid square 1130/2120 showing buried soil deposits and possibly naturally-formed features [50312] and [50314], Section 104, looking east



Plate 35 Area 1, probable tree throw [50395] partially excavated, Section 111, looking north-east



Plate 36 General view of Area 2, linear [50433] visible in foreground, looking north, east and southeast



Plate 37 Area 2, probable post hole [50413], Section 115, looking south



Plate 38 Area 2, pit or post hole [50419], Section 118, looking south



Plate 39 Area 2, elongated pit [50415], Section 116, looking south

Plate 42 Area 2, elongated pit [50427], Section 120, looking southeast



Plate 40 Area 2, pit [50417], Section 117, looking northwest



Plate 41 Area 2, probable pit [50425], Section 119, looking northwest



Plate 43 Area 2, pit [50429], Section 121, looking east



Plate 44 Area 2, linear terminus [50433],
Section 124, looking southwest



Plate 45 Area 2,
linear terminus
[50433],
Section 125,
looking north-
east



Plate 46 Area 2, probable
post hole [50431], Section
122, looking south



Plate 47 Area 2, pit
[50446], Section 128,
looking northeast



Plate 48 General view of Area 3 showing alluvial and buried soil layers, looking west and north



Plate 49 Area 3, representative Section 110 showing modern topsoil over alluvial and buried soil deposits, looking south

Plate 50 Area 3, pit [50391], Section 112, looking north



Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT GAUL ROAD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

**PREPARED BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
MAY 2008**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for archaeological excavation of land at Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire.*
- 1.2 *The site is archaeologically significant and previous archaeological investigations at the site comprise a Desk Based Assessment, fieldwalking and a programme of trial trenching. Two lithic scatters on the highest areas of the site containing worked material of later Mesolithic. Lower areas of the application area contain preserved organic deposits sealed beneath alluvium.*
- 1.3 *In advance of proposed development at the site Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice have asked that archaeologically sensitive areas of the site are subject to an open area archaeological excavation and that deeply buried peat deposits are subject to a programme of environmental study.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork post excavation analyses and reporting will be undertaken in accordance with MAPII procedures, including the submission of a post excavation assessment report.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for a programme of archaeological work at Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 March is located approximately 38km north of Cambridge and 23km east of Peterborough in the Fenland Administrative District of Cambridgeshire. The Proposed development site lays on the western edge of the town, bounded by the present course of the River Nene to the north, allotments and a depot to the east, the A141 to the west and Gaul Road to the south (Figure 1). This forms a roughly trapezoidal parcel of land covering an area of approximately 16.2 hectares (measuring c635m north-south and c250m east-west), centred on National Grid Reference TL 4065 9685.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Archaeological desk-top assessment (Hall, 2007) on land north of Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire formed the first stage of assessment for the proposed residential development of the area (Planning Application F/YR05/0944/F). A previous desk-top assessment was undertaken of the site in 2004 (Grant 2004). A programme of trial trenching was undertaken at the site during March of 2008.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The pre-Flandrian bedrock of the area is Kimmeridge Clay, overlain by interglacial gravels (Hoxnian Phase) known as 'March Gravels' (flinty gravels with shelly fauna). The Investigation Area lies on the western edge of the low-lying island, which rises to c4m OD. The proposed development site lies at 1.1m and 2.2m AOD.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Fenland has long been recognised as an important archaeological landscape, containing superimposed evidence of settlement, ritual and agricultural sites dating from the prehistoric period onwards. March occupies a former island within the fenland, lying on the northern tip of a large peninsula. The surrounding fen landscape underwent a series of complex changes during the prehistoric, Roman and later periods, influenced by the peninsular and the constantly changing courses of the major rivers on either side of it (Hall 1987)
- 6.2 The earliest evidence for occupation at March is within the bounds of the proposed development site where Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters have been identified (Her refs 08455, 08455A, 05210, 05210A, 10913, 10913A;). Bronze Age lithics have also been identified during excavations at Westry (1.5km north of the Investigation Area), 600m to the south of the site at Cherry Holt and Flaggrass (2.5km to the northeast) in residual contexts. A group of four barrows is known on Stonea island, approximately 6km to the southeast.
- 6.3 Fieldwalking of part of the site undertaken in December 2007 confirmed the presence of a flint scatter on the south side of the site adjacent to Gaul Road. The presence of scrub on the west side of the area of investigation precluded examination of a known scatter at the northwest corner of the site.
- 6.4 Plotting of aerial photographs undertaken as part of the Desk-Based Assessment in December 2007 (Palmer 2007) did not identify any features thought to be of archaeological origin. However, a number of roddons (extinct palaeochannels) were recorded and these extent into the west side of the application area. The levee of one of these was recorded during the 2008 evaluation of the site (Figure 2)
- 6.5 A programme of trial trenching undertaken at the site during March and April 2008 recorded deeply buried and well preserved organic deposits sealed beneath alluvium and silts over much of the proposed area of development (Peachey forthcoming). These sediments shelved onto two elevated areas of March gravels located at the southwest and northeast corners of the application area. Scatters of worked flint recovered from over both of these areas indicate that the site was a focus for human occupation during the later Mesolithic period, probably as a 'home base' rather than for casual exploitation of lithic or fenland resources (Bishop, forthcoming).
- 6.6 A Bronze Age fine handled beaker (HER 5924) was discovered during the construction of March Railway Station in the 1860's. Such vessels are usually associated with burial contexts (Hall, 1987).
- 6.7 Excavations at Estover, to the northeast of the Investigation Area, identified a large group of Bronze Age Beaker pottery from a pit, whilst an adjacent pit contained Bronze Age flints (James and Potter, 1996).

- 6.8 Iron Age sites lie to the north of Grandford and at Flaggrass, where occupation continued throughout the Iron Age period. Located at the eastern edge of the island, near the river, the Flaggrass sites would have had a link to Stonea island where more extensive Iron Age settlement is known (Hall, 1987).
- 6.9 There is extensive evidence for the exploitation of the fenlands during the Romano-British period. Cropmarks of Romano-British fieldsystems have been identified to the northeast of the present town. Possible saltern sites have been noted in the vicinity (HER CB10122 and CB10123) and excavations at Norwood, 2.5km to the north of the proposed development area, in the 1950s identified evidence of occupation and salt production between the late first century and fourth century (HER CB7317).
- 6.10 The Fen Causeway, a Roman routeway that follows a course from Peterborough, through March and into Norfolk, is thought to cross the southern part of the Investigation Area (HER CB15033), although its precise course in this area is unknown. Part of the Fen Causeway is thought to have originally been a canal, which was later metalled and/or gravelled over when the silts dried out. Excavations of the Causeway at Stonea identified earlier prehistoric features beneath the road. However, excavations over the projected course of the Fen Causeway, at Dagless Way (HER CB408) and Whitemoor did not reveal any archaeological features (Last, 2001).
- 6.11 Excavations at Estover, 2km northeast of the site, during the 1980s investigated the Fen Causeway where it was visible as an earthwork. The excavated sections identified a metalled surface, flanked by substantial ditches, which ran parallel to the causeway. The excavations also identified a number of Roman features including a ditched driveway approaching the causeway at an angle from the east and several small rectilinear enclosures (James and Potter, 1996).
- 6.12 Realignment of the River Nene to its present course which now bounds the northern edge of the proposed development area occurred during the Saxon period. The realignment is believed to have been part of a local scheme of drainage of the Fens during the 10th century, allowing March to develop as an inland port.
- 6.13 March is first referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it was known as Merc, meaning boundary. It was later known as Marchford, a reflection of the role March played in the transport routes through the Fens.
- 6.14 By the 16th century March was recorded as a minor port, with eight barges transporting coal and grain. The town continued to expand throughout the post-medieval period.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The primary aim of the project is to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site **by record** and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.
- 7.2 The excavation is directed at the excavation and recording of prehistoric deposits likely to be recovered at the southwest and northeast corners of the area of excavation. Fieldwalking and trial trenching in these areas retrieved worked flints of later Mesolithic date, thought most likely to represent 'home base' occupation rather than casual exploitation of flint or fenland resources.
- 7.3 These remains have potential to provide data to address the following areas of research or 'gaps in knowledge' as defined in Glazebrook, J. (ed.) 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1 Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper 3 and Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8.:

Later Mesolithic

Despite the known potential of the fenland region to contain well preserved sites of Mesolithic date 'there is a scarcity of known occupation sites, in particular recent well

excavated examples where there is associated environmental data in good condition' (Austin, 2000).

Although preservation of buried soils and archaeological remains is likely to be very poor on the highest, unprotected areas of the March gravel 'island', there is a possibility that organic remains of the period are preserved in the lower areas adjacent to the 'islands' at the northwest and southeast corners of the application area.

Assessment of these organic remains during the trial trenching phase recovered pollen in a reasonable state of preservation and a pit recorded in one of the trenches contained hazelnut shells and charred material. Investigation of the preserved organic deposits in low areas adjacent to the 'islands' and environmental and ecofactual material from cut features has the potential to provide important information on the Mesolithic environment and economy.

7.4 The narrower objectives of the work will be to:

- 7.4.1 Determine the date of the archaeological remains present on the site.
- 7.4.2 Determine the extent and spatial arrangement of archaeological remains present within the site.
- 7.4.3 Establish the character of archaeological remains present within the site.
- 7.4.4 Determine the extent to which surrounding archaeological remains extend into the site.
- 7.4.5 Identify the way in which the archaeological remains identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General Considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation. A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the investigation, and updated throughout its duration.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA registered archaeological organisation (no. 21) managed by a Member (MIFA) of the institute.
- 8.1.3 All work will be carried out in accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, 2003*.
- 8.1.4 Any artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and the discovery promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 Within the 'high' area at the southwest corner of the application area all parts of the site falling within the footprint of the new roundabout, access road and new ditch will be investigated (Figure 2). Within the northeast corner the area falling within the line of the realigned ditch will be excavated where it crosses the higher ground.

- 8.2.2 Following the site stripping, areas will be cleaned if necessary and a pre-excavation plan of the entire area of investigation will be compiled using a survey grade GPS system. A plan will then be available for the first monitoring meeting with the CAPCA archaeological curator, the client and APS.
- 8.2.3 Where safe to do so, all discrete features should, in normal circumstances, be fully excavated but should in any case not be less than 50% of the whole.
- 8.2.4 Linear features not directly associated with settlement will be sampled at 10m intervals in 1m wide sections to allow an informed interpretation of their date and function. Junctions of linears and other features will also be excavated to determine stratigraphic relationships.
- 8.2.5 The excavation of linear features associated with settlement must be a minimum of 25%; this may increase depending on the nature of the physical evidence. Structural remains such as eaves drip gullies, beam slots and post-holes demonstrated to be part of a buildings construction will require total excavation.
- 8.2.6 All industrial features including "domestic" ovens and hearths should be 100% excavated and sampled for analysis.
- 8.2.7 Archaeological features will be recorded on APS pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.2.8 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at more appropriate scales.
- 8.2.5 Throughout the duration of the investigation a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. Colour digital images will also be taken to augment the photographic record and may be used in subsequent site reports. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations
 - the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
 - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important.
 - the site on completion of fieldwork
- 8.2.9 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later washing and analysis. All finds work will be carried out to accepted professional standards and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work* (1992).
- 8.2.10 Conservation of artefacts will be carried out by Lincoln City and County Museum. The resources available for conservation is dependent on the quantity and type of artefacts recovered from the site.
- 8.2.11 The location of the site recording grid will be established by a GPS or EDM survey and

accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features.

- 8.2.12 During the investigations, all exposed surfaces, excavation horizons, and spoil, will be regularly and repeatedly metal-detected to ensure optimum recovery of artefacts. Any identified artefacts will be excavated from its parent context in normal stratigraphic sequence.
- 8.2.13 Samples will be taken from a representative range of feature types of medieval date, and any post-medieval features of especial significance, for subsequent environmental analysis.
- 8.2.14 Prior to commencement of site operations, Archaeological Project Services will liaise with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Office to acquire an event code.

8.3 Environmental, ecofactual and scientific sampling strategy

- 8.3.1 Investigation of the deeply buried organic deposits within the line of the new ditch to be excavated on the west side of the site will comprise a borehole survey to reconstruct a section and profile between the two high areas. A whole, intact core will be retrieved from the deepest point and used for palaeoenvironmental analysis. Initial assessment will include a C14 date from the base of the core and determination of the suitability of preserved pollen and macro-fossils for further analysis. The results of the transect can be used to determine the extent to which the ditch excavation may impact on the palaeosol horizon and any associated archaeological remains. The core for detailed analysis should be taken in a 90-100mm diameter sampling tube probably using a small terrier mechanical rig or if excavation is practicable, from an exposed section of the deposits, perhaps excavated in advance of the ditch
- 8.3.2 Evaluation of the site identified prehistoric features containing small quantities of charred material including charred hazelnut shells.
- 8.3.3 In line with the research objectives of the project the environmental sampling strategy will emphasise the recovery of charred plant remains and other residues which may provide information relating to the nature of the later Mesolithic economy.
- 8.3.4 Samples should ideally be recovered from dated and well sealed contexts. Particular attention should be paid to prehistoric pits as these are more likely to contain dietary and food residues and perhaps other material relating to the storage and processing of agricultural produce.
- 8.3.5 Retrieval of samples will be undertaken with a view to obtaining and understanding of the distribution of intra site activities relating to, for example, food production and consumption, food processing, preparation and consumption or the definition of living spaces. Therefore samples will be recovered from linear features such as ditches and gullies at intervals of no less than five metres where associated with settlement. Smaller discrete features directly related to settlement structures should be sampled at least 1m intervals.
- 8.3.6 Evaluation of the site has indicated the survival of a prehistoric subsoil through which several features are cut. Advice of a soil micromorphologist or qualified environmental archaeologist will be sought on the potential of this deposit for provide information past land use and settlement.
- 8.3.7 Samples should be recovered from contexts which contain domestic detritus for the recovery of information on economy, diet and site activities.
- 8.3.8 Potential for scientific dating are most likely to derive from charred organic material.

Any samples for C14 dating should ideally be taken from 'primary' undisturbed contexts such as dumped waste in pits, or less likely, ditches. Of most potential are material relating directly to activities such as food processing, preparation or disposal where short lived, contemporary items such as carbonised cereals are present.

- 8.3.9 Processing of bulk samples taken from test pits during the evaluation for artefact retrieval will be undertaken. Retrieval of sieved material from these samples will complement the assemblage retrieved so far through fieldwalking and hand excavation.

8.4 Publicity and presentations

- 8.4.1 As construction on the site is likely to run in conjunction with the excavation, presentations and 'open days' are not thought to be viable during the excavation due to Health and Safety considerations. However, if appropriate publicity may be possible through the local press if consented to by the client.

9 POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND REPORT

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 The site will be subject to a full Archaeological Assessment as set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects II*. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the excavation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a Level II archive. A preliminary stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared, along with a site narrative. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides/prints will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers, with the original stored digitally on CD ROM. The black and white contact prints will be labelled. In both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Finds will be sent to external specialists for identification, dating and Assessment. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 A full Assessment Report will be prepared and will consist of statements setting out the following:-
- 9.2.2 *Factual Data* ie quantity of material and records; the provenance of the material; the range and variety of material; the condition of the material and the existence of primary sources or relevant documentation which may enhance the study of the site data.
- 9.2.3 Statement of Potential for each material category including a review of the research questions posed in the Project Design which the data has the potential to answer, new research questions resulting from the data gathering and the potential for the data to enhance local, regional and national research
- 9.2.4 *Storage and Curation* – recommendations on the discard of material and long-term storage requirements.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of Stage 2, an Updated Project Design will be prepared (as set out in

MAP II Appendix 5). This will include site background, summary statement of potential, revised aims and objectives, methods statement and a detailed update that sets out a revised programme to complete the project.

9.4 Stage 4

9.4.1 Full analysis will be undertaken on the stratigraphic/structural elements of the site and the artefacts and ecofacts identified in the assessment report as being worthy of full analysis. Following analysis a full report will be produced. This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- A description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- A description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text fully describing the findings of the investigation.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site
- Appropriate illustrations of location, sections, plans, artefacts, reconstructions
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- Integration of all the data and a full discussion of the site including consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.
- Full Bibliography

10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with guidelines issued by Cambridgeshire County Council for deposition of archives. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum as soon as possible after completion of the project, and within 12 months of completion.
- 10.2 If required, microfilming of the archive will be carried out, with the silver master transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record.
- 10.3 Event Number ECB2103 has been obtained from the HER and the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store has agreed receipt of the project archive which will be ordered to their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.
- 10.4 The landowner has agreed in principle to legal transfer of title of the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

11 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 11.1 An unbound draft copy of the report will be supplied initially to the County Archaeological Office for comment. Copies of the final report will be sent to: the client; the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office (2 copies and a digital copy); and the Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Post-medieval Archaeology*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.
- 12.2 The post-excavation assessment may establish that fuller reporting and publication is required. If such is the case, the format, nature and extent of such publication will be determined by review of the assessment in consultation with the archaeological curator.
- 12.3 Details of the investigation will also be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

13 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office. As much notice as possible will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.
- 13.2 It is envisaged that there will be a site meeting with the curator immediately upon completion of the stripping/cleaning to discuss the extent of investigation by archaeological excavation required.

14 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 14.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptability from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

15 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 15.1 The work will be directed by Tom Lane MIFA, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological investigations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 15.2 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr C Allen, independent specialist; or Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit Roman: M Darling, independent specialist Anglo-Saxon and later: J Young, independent specialist/A Boyle, APS
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	J Kitch, APS
Animal Remains Analysis	J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	V Fryer, independent specialist
Soil Assessment	Dr C French, independent specialist
Pollen Assessment	Environmental Archaeological Consultancy
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

16 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

16.1 The duration for the excavated is estimated at 15 days using a team of 3 site assistants and one project officer. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered, and the involvement of specialist analysts.

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning

Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.

- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8**

Brown and Murphy, 2000 in Brown N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8**

Bryant, 2000 in Brown N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8**

Glazebrook, J (ed), 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **3**

Gurney, D, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, ALGAOEE

Specification: Version 1, 20th May 2008

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50000	1 & 3	-	Firm dark brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.40m thick	Topsoil
50001	1	-	Firm mid to dark reddish-grey clay, 0.24m thick	Alluvium
50002	1	-	Soft mid to dark brown to grey silt, 0.22m thick	Buried soil
50003	1	-	Irregularly-shaped feature, 0.67m by 0.39m and 70mm deep with irregular concave profile	Naturally-formed feature?
50004	1	-	Firm dark black to grey clay with occasional pebbles, 70mm thick	Fill of probable naturally-formed feature [50003]
50005	1	-	Same as [50003]	Naturally- formed feature?
50006	1	-	Same as 50004	Fill of probable naturally-formed feature [50005]
50007	1	-	Irregular oval feature, 2.00m by 1.30m and 0.14m deep with moderately steep concave sides and flattish to gently concave base	Probable pit
50008	1	-	Firm mid to light reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional black flecks, 0.15m thick	Fill of possible post hole [50012]
50009	1	-	Firm mid brownish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.11m thick	Fill of probable pit [50007]
50010	1	-	Possible feature, extending beyond limit of excavation, >0.65m by 0.32m and 0.12m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Possible feature
50011	1	-	Firm mid to light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.12m thick	Fill of possible feature [50010]
50012	1	-	Roughly circular feature, 0.19m in diameter and 0.14m deep with steep sides and concave base	Possible post hole
50013 = 50015 = 50017	1	-	North-south aligned linear feature, >22m long, 0.68m wide and 90mm deep with irregular undulating base	Marling pit
50014 = 50016 = 50018	1	-	Firm dark brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 90mm thick	Fill of Marling pit [50014 = 50016 = 50018]
50019	1	-	Oval feature, 1.48m by 0.93m and 0.25m deep with very steep sides and flattish base	Possible pit
50020	1	-	Firm mid greyish-brown clay, 0.25m thick	Fill of possible pit [50019]
50021	1	-	Oval feature, 2.08m by 0.95m and 0.46m deep with moderately steep to steep concave sides and concave base with 'sumps', possibly representing further indistinguishable features	Pit, possibly same as [50031=50042] and [50039]
50022	1	-	Irregular to oval feature 2.78m by 1.44m and 0.24m deep with irregular steep sides and flattish base	Possibly naturally-formed hollow
50023	1	-	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.11m thick	Fill of possibly naturally-formed feature [50022]
50024	1	-	Friable mid brown silt, 0.13m thick	Fill of possibly naturally-formed feature [50022]
50025	1	-	Soft mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.14m thick	Fill of pit [50021]
50026	1	-	Firm mid brownish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.14m thick	Fill of pit [50021]
50027	1	-	Firm mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of pit [50021], possibly same as (50032=50043)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50028	1	-	Firm mid to dark brown clayey silt, 0.10m thick. And peat-like	Fill of pit [50021], possibly same as (50033=50044)
50029	1	-	Firm mid grey clay with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of pit [50021], possibly same as (50034=50045)
50030	1	-	Soft mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and black flecks, 0.10m thick	Fill of pit [50021]
50031 = 50042	1	-	Oval feature, 1.46m by 0.75m and 0.35m deep with moderately steep concave sides and concave base	Pit, possibly same as [50039] and [50021]
50032	1	-	Firm mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.12m thick	Fill of pit [50031], same as (50043), possibly same as (50027)
50033	1	-	Firm dark brownish-black silty clay, 0.17m thick	Fill of pit [50031], same as (50044), possibly same as (50028)
50034	1	-	Firm grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of pit [50031], same as (50045), possibly same as (50029)
50035	1	-	Firm mid to dark reddish-brown silt with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of pit [50031]
50036	1	-	East-west aligned linear feature, >0.12m long by 0.84m wide and 0.29m deep with gently sloping side to south, vertical side at top at north over gently sloping and intermittently undercut side below with flattish to gently concave base	Probable marling pit
50037	1	-	Firm dark blackish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.15m thick	Fill of probable marling pit [50036]
50038	1	-	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.16m thick	Fill of probable marling pit [50036]
50039	1	-	Oval feature, 0.60m by 0.50m and 0.33m deep with steep sides, sometimes vertical and undercut at north with concave to flattish base	Pit, possibly same as [50031=50042] and [50021]
50040	1	-	Firm mid reddish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.15m thick	Fill of pit or posthole [50039]
50041	1	-	Firm mid to dark grey silty clay with black flecks, 0.23m thick	Fill of pit or posthole [50039]
50042	1	-	[See 50031]	
50043	1	-	Firm mid to dark brownish-black silty clay, 0.17m thick	Fill of pit [50042], same as (50032)
50044	1	-	Firm mid brown silty clay, 0.25m thick	Fill of pit [50042], same as (50033), possibly same as (50028)
50045	1	-	Firm light brownish-grey silty clay, 0.10m thick	Fill of pit [50042], same as (50034), possibly same as (50029)
50046	1	-	Irregular elongated feature, 2.20m by 0.75m and 0.40m deep with irregular sides, steep to near-vertical at east and steep to undercut at west	Probable tree throw
50047	1	-	Firm mid greyish-red silty clay, 50mm thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50046]
50048	1	-	Firm mid grey silty clay 0.40m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50046]
50049	1	-	Firm dark grey clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50046]
50050	1	-	Oval feature 0.54m by 0.47 and 0.17m deep with steep concave sides and concave base	Probable naturally-formed feature
50051	1	-	Firm mid brownish-grey sandy clay with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of probable naturally-formed feature [50050]
50052	1	-	Firm mid reddish-brown clayey sand with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of probable natural feature [50050]

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50053	1	-	Light grey clayey silt	Buried soil
50054	1	-	Dark brown clayey silt	Buried soil
50055	1	-	Feature extending beyond limit of excavation to west, 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep with concave sides and base	Possible pit or naturally-formed feature, same as [50058]
50056	1	-	Firm mid to dark reddish-grey with occasional pebbles, 0.20m thick	Natural
50057	1	-	Firm mid to dark reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and black flecks, 0.40m thick	Fill of possible pit or naturally-formed feature [50055], same as (50060)
50058	1	-	Feature extending beyond limit of excavation to west, 0.68m wide and 0.30m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Possible pit or naturally-formed feature, same as [50055]
50059	1	-	Firm mid to light reddish-brown clay with occasional black flecks, 0.15m thick	Probable natural. Any flints retrieved from this deposit probably intrusive from [50055=50058] above
50060	1	-	Firm mid to dark reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and black flecks, 0.30m thick	Fill of possible pit or naturally-formed feature [50060], same as (50057)
50061	1	-	North-south aligned linear feature, 12m by 0.79m and 90mm deep with irregular, undulating base	Marling pit
50062	1	-	Friable dark brown peaty silt with occasional pebbles, 90mm thick	Fill of marling pit [50061]
50063	1	-	North-south aligned linear feature >10m long, 1.20m wide and 0.10m deep with moderately steep sides and flat base	Marling pit Same as [50122]
50064	1	-	Firm mid to dark brown peaty clay, 0.10m thick	Fill of marling pit [50063]
50065	1	-	Oval feature, 0.60m by 0.42m and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Possible pit or naturally-formed feature
50066	1	-	Firmish dark blackish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.20m thick	Fill of possible pit or naturally-formed feature [50065]
50067	1	-	Oval feature, 1.40m by 0.80m and 0.40m deep with moderately steep to steep sides and concave base	Pit
50068	1	-	Firm light reddish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.20m thick	Fill of pit [50067]
50069	1	-	Soft dark blackish-brown silt with occasional pebbles, 0.16m thick	Fill of pit [50067]
50070	1	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.20m in diameter and 80mm deep with steep sides and concave base	Probable post hole
50071	1	-	Firmish light greyish-brown clayey sand with occasional pebbles, 80mm thick	Fill of probable post hole [50070]
50072	1	-	Firm mid to light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.12m thick	Fill of pit [50067]
50073	1	-	Firm mid to light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.14m thick	Fill of pit [50067]
50074	1	-	Sub-circular feature 0.26m in diameter and 80mm deep with concave profile	Possible post hole
50075	1	-	Firm mid brownish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 80mm thick	Fill of possible post hole [50074]
50076	1	-	Oval feature, 0.46m by 0.17m and 0.11m deep with steep sides and concave base	Probable naturally-formed feature
50077	1	-	Softish mid greyish-brown sandy silt, 0.11m thick	Fill of probable naturally-formed feature [50076]
50078	1	-	Oval feature, 0.36m by 0.20m and 90mm deep with steep sides and irregular base	Probable naturally-formed feature
50079	1	-	Softish mid greyish-brown sandy silt, 90mm thick	Fill of probable naturally-formed feature [50078]
50080	1	-	Void	
50081	1	-	Void	

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50082	1	-	Curvi-linear feature, 0.60m wide and 0.11m deep with steep to moderately steep sides and gently concave base, northwest-southeast aligned where excavated	Natural channel
50083	1	-	Firm to cemented mid reddish-brown iron-rich gravelly silty clay, 100mm thick	Fill of natural channel [50082]
50084	1	-	Firm where baked at surface, soft below, mid greyish-brown with reddish mottles iron-rich silty clay, 0.12m thick	Fill of natural channel [50082]
50085	1	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.27m wide and 0.14m deep with steep sides and flat base	Possible post hole
50086	1	-	Firmish mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of possible post hole [50085]
50087	1	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.34m wide and 0.10m deep with concave profile	Possible post hole
50088	1	-	Softish light brownish-grey clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Fill of possible post hole [50087]
50089	1	-	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent pebbles	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50090	1	-	Soft mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50091	1	-	Soft mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.20m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50092	1	-	Firm, mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50093	1	-	Sub-oval feature, 1.87m by 1.00m and 0.46m deep with steep concave sides and concave base	Feature, probable tree throw
50094	1	-	Soft black silty clay, 60mm thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50095	1	-	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.20m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50096	1	-	Soft black silty clay, 50mm thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50097	1	-	Firm mid grey clay, 0.10m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50098	1	-	Firm dark grey clay, 0.14m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50099	1	-	Curvi-linear feature, 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep. East side gently concave at top, gently convex near base, west side apparently steeper. Gently concave base. Northeast-southwest aligned where excavated.	Natural channel
50100	1	-	Firm mid reddish-brown iron rich silty clay and gravel cementation, 50mm thick	Fill of natural channel [50099]
50101	1	-	Soft mid greyish-brown with grey and light yellow thin laminations extending vertically along length of feature, silt with occasional clay lenses, 0.14m thick	Fill of natural channel [50099]
50102	1	-	Firm mid bluish-grey and reddish-brown mottled slightly silty clay, 80mm thick	Alluvium
50103	1	-	Soft dark greyish-brown with light yellow irregular linear banding/mottling and occasional reddish- yellowish-brown iron-rich mottles slightly clayey silt with occasional small pebbles, 0.15m thick	Buried soil
50104	1	-	Soft light grey with small mid yellowish-brown, mid grey and light yellow mottles silt, 40mm thick	Buried soil
50105	1	-	Soft light to mid pinkish-grey with mid yellowish-red iron-rich mottles silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50106	1	-	Oval feature 0.70m by 0.43m and 0.10m deep with moderately steep sides and flattish base	Probable pit
50107	1	-	Firmish light greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Fill of probable pit [50106]
50108	1	-	Circular feature, 0.16m wide and 50mm deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Possible post hole
50109	1	-	Softish mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 50mm thick	Fill of possible post hole [50108]

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50110	1	-	Firm to malleable mid reddish-yellow clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50111	1	-	Irregularly-shaped feature, 3.10m by 1.80m and 0.15m deep with irregular to flat base	Natural hollow
50112	1	-	Softish to malleable mid grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.15m thick	Buried soil within hollow [50111]
50113	1	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.30m in diameter and 0.31m deep with steep sides and concave base	Probable post hole
50114	1	-	Softish mid yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional black flecks, 0.31m thick	Fill of probable post hole [50113]
50115	1	-	Soft dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Fill of probable post hole [50113]
50116	1	-	Sub-oval feature, 0.65m by 0.30m and 0.14m deep with steep sides and concave base	Probable natural feature
50117	1	-	Firm light greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of probable natural feature [50116]
50118	1	-	Firm dark grey clayey silt, 70mm thick	Fill of probable natural feature [50116]
50119	1	-	Firm to malleable mid reddish-yellow clayey silt with frequent pebbles	Natural
50120	1	-	Irregularly-shaped feature, >1.40m by 2.00m and 70mm deep with irregular to flattish base	Natural hollow
50121	1	-	Firmish mid grey clayey silt with occasional black flecks and pebbles, 70mm thick	Fill of natural hollow [50120]
50122	1	-	North-south aligned linear feature, 1.20m wide and 0.10m deep with flat base	Marling pit Same as [50063]
50123	1	-	Friable mid greyish-brown peaty clay, 0.10m thick	Fill of marling pit [50122]
50124	1	-	Void	
50125	1	-	Firm light yellowish-brown clayey silt, >0.20m thick	Natural
50126	1	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.40m by 0.30m and 0.14m deep with steep sides and concave base	Possible post hole
50127	1	-	Void	
50128	1	-	Softish to malleable mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 0.18m thick	Fill of probable post hole [50452]
50129	1	-	Firm mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 70mm thick	Buried soil
50130	1	-	Unstratified finds from spoil heap/across site	Finds
50131	1	-	Void – natural feature	
50132	1	-	Firmish dark reddish-black clayey silt, 0.11m thick	Fill of natural feature [50131]
50133	1	-	Void – natural feature	
50134	1	-	Firmish dark reddish-black silty clay, 60mm thick	Fill of natural feature [50131]
50135	1	-	Firmish mid reddish-yellow clayey silt with frequent pebbles	natural
50136	1	-	Irregular to oval feature, 1.10m by 0.80m and 0.19m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Natural hollow
50137	1	-	Softish mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles and black flecks, 0.13m thick	Fill of natural hollow [50136]
50138	1	-	Firmish mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 60mm thick	Fill of natural hollow [50136], probably buried soil
50139	1	-	Oval feature, 0.21m by 0.19m and 70mm deep with concave profile	Void, probable natural feature
50140	1	-	Firm mid brownish-grey silty clay, 70mm thick	Void, fill of probable natural feature [50139]
50141	1	1100E 2100N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50142	1	1105E 2100N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50143	1	1110E 2100N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50175	1	1160E 2110N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50176	1	1165E 2110N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50177	1	1110E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50178	1	1115E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50179	1	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.34m wide and 0.30m deep with steep sides and 'V'-shaped profile	Void, probable natural feature
50180	1	-	Firmish dark brownish-grey clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Void fill of probable natural feature [50179]
50181	1	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.20m wide and 0.13m deep with steep sides and flattish base	Void, probable natural feature
50182	1	-	Softish mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.13m thick	Void, fill of probable natural feature [50181]
50183	1	1120E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50184	1	1125E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50185	1	1130E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50186	1	1135E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50187	1	1140E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50188	1	1145E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50189	1	1150E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50190	1	1155E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50191	1	1160E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50192	1	1165E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50193	1	1125E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50194	1	1130E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50195	1	1135E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50196	1	1140E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50197	1	1145E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50198	1	1150E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50199	1	1155E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50200	1	1160E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50201	1	1165E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50202	1	1130E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50203	1	1135E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50204	1	1140E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50205	1	1145E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50206	1	1150E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50207	1	1155E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50208	1	1160E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50209	1	1165E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50210	1	1170E 2125N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50211	1	1170E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50212	1	1170E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50213	1	1170E 2110N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50214	1	1095E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50215	1	1100E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50216	1	1105E 2115N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50217	1	1105E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50218	1	1110E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50219	1	1115E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50220	1	1120E 2120N	Fieldwalking finds from grid square, after machining, prior to test pitting	Finds
50221	1	-	Void	
50222	1	-	Void	
50223	1	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.21m wide and 0.1m deep with steep sides and sloping base	Probable post hole
50224	1	-	Firmish dark grey clayey silt, 0.11m thick	Fill of probable post hole [50223]
50225	1	-	Curvi-linear feature 1.36m wide and 0.27m deep with steep sides and flat base, southwest-northeast aligned where excavated	Channel
50226	1	-	Firmish to malleable mid brownish-grey with light reddish-yellow patches silty clay with occasional pebbles and ironstone, 0.27m thick	Fill of channel [50225]
50227	1	-	Soft mid grey silty clay, 0.20m thick	Fill of probable tree throw [50093]
50228	1	1105E 2100N	Firm to indurated (baked) light pinkish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 10mm thick	Buried soil
50229	1	1105E 2100N	Firm to indurated (baked) mid yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50230	1	-	Soft to friable mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50231	1	-	Firmish to malleable mid brownish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50232	1	-	Curvi-linear feature, 0.88m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and gently concave to flattish base	Channel
50233	1	-	Firmish mid greyish-brown with light reddish patches silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.20m thick	Fill of channel [50233]
50234	1	1100E 2105N	Firm (baked) light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50235	1	1100E 2100N	Firmish light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.12m thick	Buried soil
50236	1	1100E 2100N	Softish dark grey silt with occasional pebbles, 60mm thick	Buried soil

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50237	1	1100E 2100N	Softish mid brownish-red to yellow clayey silt with occasional clay patches, >80mm thick	Natural
50238	1	1100E 2105N	Firm (baked) mid yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50239	1	1100E 2110N	Firm mid reddish-grey with light yellow patches silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles	Natural
50240	1	1100E 2110N	Firmish to malleable mid grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50241	1	1100E 2110N	Softish to friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Buried soil
50242	1	1105E 2105N	Firm to indurated (baked) light to mid grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 70mm thick	Buried soil
50243	1	1105E 2105N	Firm to indurated (baked) mid yellowish- reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50244	1	1095E 2105N	Firm mid reddish-grey silty clay silty clay, >30mm thick	Natural
50245	1	1095E 2105N	Firm to baked light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50246	1	1095E 2110N	Firm mid reddish- yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50247	1	1095E 2110N	Firm dark grey clay	Natural
50248	1	1095E 2110N	Firm light grey silt with occasional pebbles, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50249	1	1095E 2110N	Firm dark brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 90mm thick	Buried soil
50250	1	1110E 2100N	Firm to indurate (baked) light to mid pinkish- yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Buried soil
50251	1	1110E 2100N	Firm to indurated (baked) mid yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50252	1	1100E 2115N	Softish dark brown silt, 0.12m thick	Buried soil
50253	1	1100E 2115N	Firmish light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 80mm thick	Buried soil
50254	1	1100E 2115N	Firm light brownish-red to yellow with yellowish mottles slightly silty clay >0.30m thick	Natural
50255	1	1110E 2115N	Firm mid reddish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, c.0.10m thick	Natural
50256	1	1110E 2115N	Firmish light pinkish-grey clayey silt, c.0.15m thick	Buried soil
50257	1	1110E 2115N	Softish to friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, c.50mm thick	Buried soil
50258	1	1115E 2120N	Firm at top (baked) Firm to soft beneath mid to dark brown with yellow mottles marking location of former roots silt with occasional pebbles, 0.13m thick	Buried soil
50259	1	1115E 2120N	Firmish to soft mid to light grey silt, 60mm thick	Buried soil
50260	1	1115E 2120N	Firm mid yellowish-reddish-brown with small yellow and brown mottles marking roots etc silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50261	1	1095E 2115N	Soft mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50262	1	1095E 2115N	Soft light grey silt, 70mm thick	Buried soil
50263	1	1095E 2115N	Soft dark brown clayey silt, 0.19m thick	Buried soil
50264	1	1115E 2110N	Firmish to malleable mid reddish-grey silty clay with moderately frequent pebbles, >50mm thick	Natural
50265	1	1115E 2110N	Firm to indurated (baked) light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50266	1	1115E 2115N	Firm to indurated (baked) light grey slightly clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 20mm thick	Buried soil

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50267	1	1115E 2115N	Firm mid yellowish-reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50268	1	1110E 2120N	Firm mid greyish-green clay, c.0.15m thick	Alluvium
50269	1	1110E 2120N	Soft dark brown silt, c.20mm thick	Buried soil
50270	1	1110E 2120N	Softish light grey clayey silt, c.50mm thick	Buried soil
50271	1	1110E 2120N	Softish mid brownish-red to yellow silty clay	Natural
50272	1	1115E 2100N	Firm mid reddish- yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50273	1	1115E 2100N	Firm mid greyish-brown silty clay, 90mm thick	Buried soil
50274			Void	
50275	1	1120E 2110N	Firmish to malleable mid reddish-grey with dark grey clay patches silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50276	1	1120E 2110N	Firmish light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.14m thick	Buried soil
50277	1	1120E 2100N	Firmish light grey silt, 30mm thick	Buried soil
50278	1	1120E 2100N	Firm mid brownish-red to yellow clayey silt	Natural
50279	1	1120E 2105N	Firm mid reddish-yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50280	1	1120E 2105N	Firm light grey silt, 60mm thick	Buried soil
50281	1	1125E 2110N	Firm to sticky mid reddish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50282	1	1125E 2110N	Firmish light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.26m thick	Buried soil
50283	1	1120E 2115N	Firm to indurated at surface (baked) soft to firm below, light grey with reddish, yellowish and brown flecks, silt with occasional pebbles, 0.16m thick	Buried soil
50284	1	1120E 2115N	Firmish to soft mid grey with reddish, bluish, yellowish and brown mottles patchy silt and clay with occasional pebbles, 0.24m thick	Buried soil
50285	1	1120E 2115N	Firm mid slightly yellowish, reddish-brown with bluish-grey mottles patchy silty clay with occasional pebbles and sand and gravel, >50mm thick	Natural - possibly fill of palaeochannel
50286	1	1125E 2115N	Firmish light grey clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Buried soil
50287	1	1125E 2115N	Softish mid brownish-red to yellow silty clay	Natural
50288	1	1125E 2095N	Firm mid reddish- yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50289	1	1125E 2095N	Firm light grey silt, 60mm thick	Buried soil
50290	1	1125E 2105N	Firmish to malleable mid reddish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50291	1	1125E 2105N	Firmish light reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.25m thick	Buried soil
50292	1	1125E 2105N	Firm to sticky mid grey with yellow veining clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50293	1	1125E 2100N	Firm to malleable mid reddish-grey with reddish- yellow patches silty clay with bluish-grey clay patches and occasional pebbles	Natural
50294	1	1125E 2100N	Firmish light pinkish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.24m thick	Buried soil
50295	1	1125E 2120N	Softish dark greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, c.0.12m thick	Buried soil

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50296	1	1125E 2120N	Firmish light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, c.50mm thick	Buried soil
50297	1	1125E 2120N	Firmish mid brownish-red to yellow silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50298	1	1120E 2120N	Firm (baked) light to mid grey with dark brown patches silt with occasional pebbles, with wood or root fragment at surface, probable associated roots being marked by change in colour, 0.36m thick.	Buried soil
50299	1	1120E 2120N	Firm (baked) mid yellowish- reddish-brown gravelly clay with occasional pebbles, >0.29m thick	Natural
50300	1	1120E 2120N	Firm (baked) mid bluish-grey with light yellow and mid brown mottles clay	Natural - possibly fill of palaeochannel
50301	1	1130E 2100N	Soft mid grey clay, >50mm thick	Natural
50302	1	1130E 2100N	Firm light grey clayey silt, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50303	1	1130E 2100N	Firm mid brown clayey silt >50mm thick	Fill of channel, same as (50233)
50304	1	1130E 2110N	Softish to sticky (wet) light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.14m thick	Buried soil
50305	1	1130E 2110N	Softish to malleable mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50306	1	1135E 2110N	Softish to malleable mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50307	1	1135E 2110N	Softish light whitish-grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles, 70mm thick	Buried soil
50308	1	1135E 2110N	Soft to friable dark greyish-brown peaty silt, 70mm thick	Buried soil
50309	1	1130E 2120N	Soft (wet) dark brown silt with occasional pebbles, 0.11m thick	Buried soil
50310	1	1130E 2120N	Soft (wet) mid to light grey silt with occasional pebbles, 40mm thick	Buried soil
50311	1	1130E 2120N	Soft (wet) mid reddish-brown and grey mottled with light yellow flecks silt and gravel with occasional pebbles	Natural
50312	1	1130E 2120N	Possibly elongated oval feature, not fully exposed in plan, >0.40m by 0.35m and 0.15m deep with gently sloping side at western edge, moderately steep to north and steep to south. Deeper sump in base to east possibly marking location of post.	Possibly naturally-formed feature
50313	1	1130E 2120N	Soft mid grey silt with frequent black mottles, 0.15m thick	Fill of possibly naturally-formed feature [50312]
50314	1	1130E 2120N	Possibly sub-circular feature, not fully exposed in plan, >0.17m by >0.50m and 0.12m deep with steep sides at north, gently sloping at west and gently concave base	Possibly naturally-formed feature
50315	1	1130E 2120N	Soft mid grey silt with frequent black mottles, 0.12m thick	Fill of possibly naturally-formed feature [50314]
50316	1	1130E 2105N	Firmish light brownish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.19m thick	Buried soil
50317	1	1130E 2105N	Firm light whitish-red to yellow sandy gravel with occasional greyish-blue clay patches	Natural
50318	1	1135E 2115N	Softish to malleable mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50319	1	1135E 2115N	Firmish to sticky mid bluish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50320	1	1135E 2115N	Soft light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles, c.0.20m thick	Buried soil
50321	1	1135E 2115N	Soft to friable dark greyish-brown peaty silt, 0.20m thick	Buried soil
50322	1	1130E 2115N	Firm, light pinkish-brown clayey silt	Natural
50323	1	1130E 2115N	Firm light grey clayey silt, 70mm thick	Buried soil

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50324	1	1130E 2115N	Firm dark brown clayey silt, 0.18m thick	Buried soil
50325	1	1130E 2115N	See [50395]	Possible tree throw, same as [50395]
50326	1	1130E 2115N	Soft dark brown clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Fill of possible tree throw [50325]
50327	1	1130E 2115N	Firm dark brown clayey silt, 0.27m thick	Fill of possible tree throw [50325]
50328	1	1130E 2115N	Firm mid bluish-grey clay, 0.15m thick	Fill of possible tree throw [50325]
50329	1	1135E 2120N	Firmish mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50330	1	1135E 2120N	Firmish light whitish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 60mm thick	Buried soil
50331	1	1135E 2120N	Soft to friable mid greyish-brown peaty silt, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50332	1	1135E 2105N	Softish mid brownish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.12m thick	Buried soil
50333	1	1135E 2105N	Firmish mid yellowish-reddish-brown silty clay with moderately frequent pebbles	Natural
50334	1	1135E 2100N	Firmish to malleable mid reddish-grey silty clay	Natural
50335	1	1135E 2100N	Firmish to malleable mid grey with reddish patches silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.20m thick	Buried soil
50336	1	1140E 2110N	Soft mid to dark brown silt with occasional pebbles, 70mm thick	Buried soil
50337	1	1140E 2110N	Soft light grey silt with occasional pebbles, 20mm thick	Buried soil
50338	1	1140E 2110N	Soft mid to light yellowish-brown silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50339	1	1140E 2120N	Firmish mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50340	1	1140E 2120N	Soft to malleable light whitish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.12m thick	Buried soil
50341	1	1140E 2120N	Soft to friable dark greyish-brown peaty silt, 30mm thick	Buried soil
50342	1	1145E 2110N	Firm light pinkish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50343	1	1145E 2110N	Firm light grey silt, 70mm thick	Buried soil
50344	1	1145E 2110N	Firm dark brown clayey silt, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50345	1	1145E 2115N	Soft (wet) dark blackish-brown silt with occasional pebbles, 70mm thick	Buried soil
50346	1	1145E 2115N	Soft (wet) light to mid grey (slightly pinkish) silt with occasional pebbles, 60mm thick	Buried soil
50347	1	1145E 2115N	Firm mid reddish- yellowish-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles	Natural
50348	1	1140E 2115N	Softish light brownish-grey clayey silt, 0.16m thick	Buried soil
50349	1	1140E 2115N	Firmish light brownish-red to yellow clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50350	1	1145E 2120N	Firmish to malleable light reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50351	1	1145E 2120N	Softish to malleable light whitish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.17m thick	Buried soil
50352	1	1145E 2120N	Soft to friable dark greyish-brown peaty silt, 10mm thick	Buried soil
50353	1	1150E 2110N	Firm light pinkish-brown silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50354	1	1150E 2110N	Firm light grey silt, 30mm thick	Buried soil

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50355	1	1150E 2115N	Soft (wet) light to mid slightly pinkish-grey silt with occasional pebbles and black bands marking location of former tree roots, 0.27m thick	Buried soil
50356	1	1150E 2115N	Firm mid reddish- yellowish-brown silty clay and some sand and gravel	Natural
50357	1	1155E 2115N	Firmish to malleable light reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
50358	1	1155E 2115N	Softish to malleable mid yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.14m thick	Buried soil
50359	1	1150E 2120N	Soft dark brown silt, c.0.10m thick	Buried soil
50360	1	1150E 2120N	Softish light grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, c.0.12m thick	Buried soil
50361	1	1150E 2120N	Firmish light brownish-red to yellow clayey silt with occasional pea gravel	Natural
50362	1	-	Soft mid to light pinkish-grey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.19m thick	Buried soil
50363	1	-	Soft, light grey silt with occasional pebbles, 60mm thick	Buried soil
50364	1	-	Soft dark greyish-brown silt with occasional pebbles and yellow mottles marking former location of wood/organics, 0.10m thick	Buried soil
50365	1	-	Firm mid bluish-grey with red (iron-rich) banding and mottles clay, >0.21m thick	Alluvium
50366	1	-	Curvi-linear feature 0.97m wide and 0.35m deep with steep to moderately steep gently concave sides and gently concave base, north-south aligned where excavated	Channel
50367	1	-	Firmish mid reddish-yellowish-brown (iron-rich) silt with occasional pebbles at base, 20mm thick	Fill of channel [50366]
50368	1	-	Softish mid reddish-brown to greyish slightly clayey silt, 0.36m thick	Fill of channel [50366]
50369	1	-	Sub-oval to amorphous feature, 1.10m by 0.80m and 0.12m deep with gently concave to irregular profile	Probable root-formed feature
50370	1	-	Soft to friable dark blackish-brown to brown with mid yellowish-reddish-brown patches silt with occasional pebbles, 0.12m thick	Fill of probable root-formed feature [50369]
50371	1	-	Firm mid reddish-yellowish-brown clayey silt with frequent gravel >0.10m thick	Natural
50372	1	1165E 2110N	Firm mid reddish- yellowish-brown clayey silt with frequent pebbles, >0.10m thick	Natural
50373	1	1165E 2110N	Firm light greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Buried soil
50374	1	1165E 2110N	Soft dark brown clayey silt, 60mm thick	Buried soil
50375	1	1165E 2125N	Firmish mid reddish-grey clayey silt with frequent pebbles	Natural
50376	1	1165E 2125N	Softish to malleable light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.21m thick	Buried soil
50377	1	1160E 2120N	Firm light brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, >0.13m thick	Natural
50378	1	1160E 2120N	Firm light grey silt, 10mm thick	Buried soil
50379	1	1170E 2125N	Softish light brownish-grey silt, c.0.22m thick	Buried soil
50380	1	1170E 2125N	Firmish mid reddish- yellow gravelly clay with occasional pebbles	Natural
50381	1	1126.4E 2114.5N	Softish light brownish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Buried soil containing pottery fragments
50382	1	-	Possible linear feature, northwest-southeast aligned, >3.50m long, 0.80m wide and 0.13m deep with moderately steep concave sides and flattish to gently concave base	Probable channel
50383	1	-	Softish to malleable mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.13m thick	Fill of channel [50382]

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50384	1	-	Firmish light reddish grey clayey silt with frequent pebbles	Natural
50385	1	-	Firmish mid yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.10m thick	Buried soil
50386	1	-	Unstratified finds from buried soil deposits collected after fieldwalking of area and test pitting, prior to re-machining	Finds
50387	3	-	Softish to malleable light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, >70mm thick	Natural
50388	3	-	Soft light whitish-grey silt with occasional pebbles, 80mm thick	Buried soil
50389	3	-	Firm dark grey with yellow patches clay, 0.13m thick	Alluvium
50390	3	-	Soft to friable dark brown peaty silt, 50mm thick	Buried soil
50391	3	-	Oval feature, 0.72m by 0.52m and 0.24m deep with moderately steep concave sides and concave base	Pit
50392	3	-	Softish mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 60mm thick	Fill of pit [50391]
50393	3	-	Soft dark greyish-black clayey silt, 80mm thick	Fill of pit [50391]
50394	3	-	Firmish mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Fill of pit [50391]
50395	1	1130E 2115N	Oval feature, 3.40m by 1.30m and 0.64m deep with moderately steep to steep irregular sides, undercut to northwest	Possible tree throw, same as [50325]
50396	1	1130E 2115N	Soft black clayey silt, 0.20m thick	Fill of possible tree throw [50395]
50397	1	1130E 2115N	Soft mid grey silty clay, 0.20m thick	Fill of possible tree throw [50395]
50398	1	1130E 2115N	Firm mid grey clay, 0.15m thick	Fill of possible tree throw [50395]
50399	3		Unstratified finds retrieved during machining	Finds
50400	1	1130E 2115N	Firm mid grey clay, 0.15m thick	Fill of possible tree throw [50395]
50401	1	1130E 2115N	Soft dark brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Fill of possible tree throw [50395]
50402	1	-	Curvi-linear feature, 0.39m wide and 60mm deep with gently concave base, northwest-southeast aligned where excavated	Channel
50403	1	-	Firm, cemented, mid reddish-brown very slightly clayey pebbly silt, 20mm thick	Fill of channel [50402]
50404	1	-	Soft mid greyish-brown with rusty mottles/streaks slightly clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 40mm thick	Fill of channel [50402]
50405	1	-	Soft to friable black silt with frequent charcoal fragments and occasional pebbles with occasional burnt nut shells, 50mm thick	Fill of pit [50406]
50406	1	-	Amorphous feature, 1.30m by 0.80m and 80mm deep with flattish base	Pit, possible hearth or cooking pit
50407	1	-	Softish to friable mid red clayey silt with occasional burnt stones, 60mm thick	Fill of pit [50406]
50408	1	-	Soft to friable mid grey with reddish patches clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 30mm thick	Fill of pit [50406]
50409	1	-	Firmish light yellowish-brown clayey silt with moderately frequent pebbles	Natural
50410	1	-	Soft mid yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 80mm thick	Buried soil
50411	-	-	Void	
50412	-	-	Void	
50413	2	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.40m by 0.36m and 0.11m deep with steep sides to east and gently concave base	Probable post hole
50414	2	-	Firmish mid greyish-brown silty clay, 0.11m thick	Fill of probable post hole [50413]
50415	2	-	Elongated feature, 2.12m by 0.58m and 0.31m deep with rounded ends, sides very steep along long sides, moderately steep to steep at ends, with concave base across width, flattish along length	Pit
50416	2	-	Firm light to mid grey silt, 0.31m thick	Fill of pit [50415]

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50417	2	-	Possibly sub-circular feature, extending beyond edge of excavation, 1.76m by >1.10m and >0.29m deep with gently concave gradually sloping sides and gently concave base	Pit
50418	2	-	Soft to friable, mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles >0.29m thick	Fill of pit [50417]
50419	2	-	Sub-oval feature, 0.80m by 0.57m and 0.22m deep with gently sloping concave sides and concave base	Pit or post hole
50420	2	-	Firmish mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.22m tick	Fill of pit or post hole [50419]
50421	2	-	Void	
50422	2	-	Firmish dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 90mm thick	Fill of pit or post hole [50419]
50423	2	-	Void	
50424	2	-	Firm light whitish-grey clayey silt, 70mm thick	Fill of pit or post hole [50419]
50425	2	-	Amorphous elongated feature, 1.10m by 0.56m and 0.11m deep with gently sloping sides and flattish base	Probable pit
50426	2	-	Soft to malleable mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 0.11m thick	Fill of probable pit [50425]
50427	2	-	Elongated feature with rounded ends, 2.10m by 0.70m and 0.32m deep with gently concave sides, very steep sides along length and moderately steep to steep at ends, base concave across width and flattish along length	Pit
50428	2	-	Firm, mid grey silt, 0.32m thick	Fill of pit [50427]
50429	2	-	Possibly oval feature, extending beyond edge of excavation, >1.65m by >0.75m and >0.12m deep with gently sloping sides and flattish to gently concave base	Pit
50430	2	-	Firmish mid grey with reddish patches clayey silt with occasional pebbles, >0.12m thick	Fill of pit [50429]
50431	2	-	Sub-circular feature, 0.32m by 0.29m and 0.21m deep with very steep sides and concave base	Probable post hole
50432	2	-	Firmish light greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.21m thick	Fill of probable post hole [50431]
50433	2	-	Northeast-southwest aligned linear feature, >6.40m long, 0.77m wide and 0.35m deep with steep and regular sides and flat base, terminating at northeast end, moderately steep slope at terminus	Linear
50434	2	-	Firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 20mm thick	Fill of linear [50433]
50435	2	-	Soft to firmish mid to light grey silt with occasional rusty and black flecks and occasional pebbles, 0.33m thick	Fill of linear [50433]
50436	1	-	Sub-circular feature 0.22m by 0.19m and 80mm deep with flat base	Possible post hole
50437	1	-	Soft mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 20mm thick	Fill of possible post hole [50436]
50438	1	-	Soft light grey clayey silt, 50mm thick	Fill of possible post hole [50436]
50439	1	-	Unstratified from machine removal of buried soil layers	Finds
50440	2	-	Firm mid reddish-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 80mm thick	Fill of natural hollow
50441	2	-	Soft black silt, 50mm thick	Fill of natural hollow
50442	2	-	Firm mid yellowish- reddish-brown clayey silt with frequent pebbles	Natural
50443	2	-	Soft black silt with occasional pebbles, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
50444	2	-	Unstratified finds from area	Finds
50445	2	-	Firmish mid reddish-grey clayey silt with light bluish-grey clay patches and occasional pebbles	Natural
50446	2	-	Sub-oval feature, 1.56m by 0.96m and 0.41m deep with moderately steep sides, stepped at northwest, and gently concave base	Pit
50447	2	-	Firmish to malleable light yellowish-grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles, 0.37m thick	Fill of pit [50446]

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Test pit grid square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
50448	2	-	Firmish to friable mid grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles, 0.16m thick	Fill of pit [50446]
50449	1	-	Unstratified finds from area	Finds
50450	1	1130E 2110N	Soft dark brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, c.20mm thick	Buried soil
50451	1	-	Firmish dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of possible post hole [50126]
50452	1	-	Sub-oval feature, 0.25m by 0.18m and 0.18m deep with steep to vertical sides and gently concave base	Possible post hole, same as [50126]

Appendix 3

LITHIC CATALOGUE

By Barry Bishop

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <>SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsyst Blades	Broken Unsyst Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50000	1	off-grid		17.1	Unstrat	Topsoil															1				
50000	1	off-grid		17.2	Unstrat	Topsoil					1														
50000	1	off-grid		17.3	Unstrat	Topsoil																1			
50000	1	off-grid		19	Unstrat	Topsoil									1										
50000	1	off-grid		20	Unstrat	Topsoil																1			
50000	1	off-grid		21	Unstrat	Topsoil															1				
50000	1	off-grid		22	Unstrat	Topsoil							1												
50000	1	off-grid		23.1	Unstrat	Topsoil					1														
50000	1	off-grid		23.2	Unstrat	Topsoil																			1
50000	1	off-grid		23.3	Unstrat	Topsoil														1					
50000	1	off-grid		24	Unstrat	Topsoil					1														
50000	1	off-grid		25	Unstrat	Topsoil											2								
50000	1	off-grid		26	Unstrat	Topsoil																1			
50000	1	off-grid		26	Unstrat	Topsoil															1				
50000	1	off-grid		27	Unstrat	Topsoil					1														
50000	1	off-grid		28	Unstrat	Topsoil	1																		
50000	1	off-grid		30	Unstrat	Topsoil																1			
50000	1	off-grid		31	Unstrat	Topsoil					1														
50000	1	off-grid		32	Unstrat	Topsoil				1															
50000	1	off-grid		35.1	Unstrat	Topsoil										1									
50000	1	off-grid		35.2	Unstrat	Topsoil	1																		
50000	1	off-grid		36	Unstrat	Topsoil																	1		
50000	1	off-grid		37	Unstrat	Topsoil								1											
50000	1	off-grid		38	Unstrat	Topsoil																1			
50000	1	off-grid		38	Unstrat	Topsoil	1																		
50000	1	off-grid		40	Unstrat	Topsoil																1			
50000	1	off-grid		41	Unstrat	Topsoil																	1		
50000	1	off-grid		43	Unstrat	Topsoil									1										
50000	1	off-grid		45.1	Unstrat	Topsoil											1								
50000	1	off-grid		45.2	Unstrat	Topsoil														1					
50000	1	off-grid		46	Unstrat	Topsoil					1														
50000	1	off-grid		47	Unstrat	Topsoil										1									
50000	1	off-grid		49	Unstrat	Topsoil							1												
50000	1	off-grid		50	Unstrat	Topsoil															1				
50000	1	off-grid		50	Unstrat	Topsoil															1				

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsyst Blades	Broken Unsyst Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50053	1	1140/2115		98		Lower Buried Soil								1											
50053	1	1125/2095		100		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1125/2095		101		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	1125/2095		102		Lower Buried Soil																			
50053	1	1125/2095		103		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	Can't find		104		Lower Buried Soil								1											
50053	1	Can't find		106		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	Can't find		108		Lower Buried Soil													1						
50053	1	Can't find		109		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	1125/2095		110		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	Can't find		111		Lower Buried Soil													1						
50053	1	Can't find		112		Lower Buried Soil								1											
50053	1	Can't find		113		Lower Buried Soil	1															1			
50053	1	Can't find		114		Lower Buried Soil																	1		
50053	1	Can't find		116		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	Can't find		117		Lower Buried Soil					1														
50053	1	Can't find		118		Lower Buried Soil											1								
50053	1	1125/1095		120		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	Can't find		121		Lower Buried Soil																	2		
50053	1	1125/2100		122		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	1125/2100		123		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	1130/2100		124		Lower Buried Soil													1						
50053	1	1125/2100		125		Lower Buried Soil						1													
50053	1	1125/2100		126		Lower Buried Soil										1									
50053	1	Can't find		127		Lower Buried Soil																	1		
50053	1	1125/2100		129		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	1125/2105		130		Lower Buried Soil																	1		
50053	1	1125/2105		131		Lower Buried Soil					1								1			1			
50053	1	1125/2105		132.1		Lower Buried Soil					1														
50053	1	1125/2105		132.2		Lower Buried Soil										1									
50053	1	1125/2105		132.3		Lower Buried Soil																	1		
50053	1	1120/2105		134		Lower Buried Soil					1														
50053	1	1125/2110		135		Lower Buried Soil																	1		
50053	1	1125/2115		136		Lower Buried Soil					1														
50053	1	Can't find		139		Lower Buried Soil														1					

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsyst Blades	Broken Unsyst Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50053	1	1135/2105		140		Lower Buried Soil											1		1						
50053	1	1135/2105		141		Lower Buried Soil							1												
50053	1	1135/2105		142		Lower Buried Soil											1								
50053	1	1135/2110		143		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1135/2110		144		Lower Buried Soil					1														
50053	1	Can't find		146		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	Can't find		147		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	Can't find		148		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	Can't find		148		Lower Buried Soil																			
50053	1	Can't find		149		Lower Buried Soil						1													
50053	1	1115/2110		150		Lower Buried Soil																			1
50053	1	1115/2110		151		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	1115/2110		152		Lower Buried Soil											1								
50053	1	1120/2110		153.1		Lower Buried Soil									1										
50053	1	1120/2110		153.2		Lower Buried Soil						1													
50053	1	1115/2105		154		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	1115/2105		154		Lower Buried Soil																		1	
50053	1	1115/2105		155		Lower Buried Soil										1									
50053	1	1115/2105		156		Lower Buried Soil					1														
50053	1	1115/2100		157		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	1120/2100		158		Lower Buried Soil											1								
50053	1	1120/2100		159		Lower Buried Soil				1															
50053	1	1120/2100		160.1		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	1120/2100		160.2		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	1120/2100		161		Lower Buried Soil										1									
50053	1	1120/2100		162		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	1120/2100		163		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1120/2100		164		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	1120/2100		166		Lower Buried Soil											1								
50053	1	1120/2110		167		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	1120/2110		168		Lower Buried Soil																1			
50053	1	Can't find		170		Lower Buried Soil	1				1														
50053	1	1135/2095		171		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	Can't find		172		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	1150/2110		173		Lower Buried Soil																1			

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsyst Blades	Broken Unsyst Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50053	1	1150/2110		174		Lower Buried Soil						1													
50053	1	1150/2110		175.1		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1150/2110		175.2		Lower Buried Soil																			1
50053	1	1150/2110		176		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1145/2110		177		Lower Buried Soil					1														
50053	1	1145/2110		177		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	1150/2110		178.1		Lower Buried Soil					1														
50053	1	1150/2110		178.2		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	1145/2110		179		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	Can't find		180		Lower Buried Soil																			1
50053	1	Can't find		182		Lower Buried Soil								1											
50053	1	Can't find		183.1		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	Can't find		183.2		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1145/2110		184		Lower Buried Soil						1													
50053	1	Can't find		185		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	1145/2110		186		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	1145/2110		187		Lower Buried Soil	1																		
50053	1	1145/2110		187		Lower Buried Soil																		1	
50053	1	1145/2110		188		Lower Buried Soil								1											
50053	1	1145/2110		189		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1120/2110		193		Lower Buried Soil									1										
50053	1	1140/2110		200		Lower Buried Soil											1								
50053	1	1140/2110		201		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1140/2110		202.1		Lower Buried Soil														1					
50053	1	1140/2110		202.2		Lower Buried Soil								1											
50053	1	1140/2110		204		Lower Buried Soil											1								
50053	1	1140/2110		205		Lower Buried Soil										1									
50053	1	1140/2110		206		Lower Buried Soil			1																
50053	1	1145/2110		207		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	1145/2110		208		Lower Buried Soil								1											
50053	1	1145/2110		209		Lower Buried Soil															1				
50053	1	Can't find		210		Lower Buried Soil			1																
50053	1	1140/2115		211		Lower Buried Soil							1												
50053	1	1145/2115		213		Lower Buried Soil										1									
50053	1	1115/2110		217		Lower Buried Soil													1						

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsys Blades	Broken Unsys Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50146	1	1125/2100				FW Finds					1														
50146	1	1125/2100				FW Finds	1																		
50146	1	1125/2100				FW Finds					1														
50146	1	1125/2100				FW Finds	1																		
50146	1	1125/2100				FW Finds					1														
50147	1	1130/2100				FW Finds																			1
50147	1	1130/2100				FW Finds								1											
50147	1	1130/2100				FW Finds					1														
50147	1	1130/2100				FW Finds																1			
50147	1	1130/2100				FW Finds					1														
50147	1	1130/2100				FW Finds									1										
50147	1	1130/2100				FW Finds						1													
50147	1	1130/2100				FW Finds							1												
50148	1	1135/2100				FW Finds	1																		
50149	1	1125/2095				FW Finds																1			
50149	1	1125/2095				FW Finds	1																		
50149	1	1125/2095				FW Finds								1											
50150	1	1130/2095				FW Finds													1						
50150	1	1130/2095				FW Finds																			1
50150	1	1130/2095				FW Finds					1								1						
50150	1	1130/2095				FW Finds													1						
50150	1	1130/2095				FW Finds						1													
50151	1	1135/2095				FW Finds												1							
50151	1	1135/2095				FW Finds												1							
50151	1	1135/2095				FW Finds					1														
50151	1	1135/2095				FW Finds						1													
50151	1	1135/2095				FW Finds	1																		
50151	1	1135/2095				FW Finds						1													
50151	1	1135/2095				FW Finds					1														
50152	1	1095/2105				FW Finds			1																
50152	1	1095/2105				FW Finds					3	3			2	1	2		1	1	2				
50153	1	1100/2105				FW Finds														1					
50153	1	1100/2105				FW Finds												1							

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsyst Blades	Broken Unsyst Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds														1					
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds					1														
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds					1														
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds					1														
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds											1								
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds								1											
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds							1												
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds					1														
50161	1	1140/2105				FW Finds																			
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds					1														
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds																			1
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds										1									
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds	1																		
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds												1							
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds					1								1						
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds					1														
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds					1													1	
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds																		1	
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds					1														
50162	1	1095/2110				FW Finds												1							
50163	1	1100/2110				FW Finds																			
50163	1	1100/2110				FW Finds									1										
50164	1	1105/2110				FW Finds																			1
50164	1	1105/2110				FW Finds										1									
50164	1	1105/2110				FW Finds	1																		
50165	1	1110/2110				FW Finds					1	1		2	1							1			1
50166	1	1115/2110				FW Finds															1				
50166	1	1115/2110				FW Finds				1															
50166	1	1115/2110				FW Finds										1									
50166	1	1115/2110				FW Finds																			
50166	1	1115/2110				FW Finds							1												
50166	1	1115/2110				FW Finds									1										
50166	1	1115/2110				FW Finds																			
50166	1	1115/2110				FW Finds											1								
50167	1	1120/2110				FW Finds															1				
50167	1	1120/2110				FW Finds															1				

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsys Blades	Broken Unsys Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds											1								
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds					1														
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds					1														
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds					1														
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds	1																		
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds					1														
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds											1								
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds										1									
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds					1														
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds	1																		
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds						1													
50173	1	1150/2110				FW Finds								1											
50174	1	1155/2110				FW Finds										1									
50174	1	1155/2110				FW Finds							1												
50174	1	1155/2110				FW Finds					1														
50174	1	1155/2110				FW Finds						1													
50174	1	1155/2110				FW Finds					1														
50175	1	1160/2110				FW Finds											1								
50175	1	1160/2110				FW Finds									1										
50176	1	1165/2110				FW Finds									1										
50177	1	1110/2115				FW Finds										1									
50177	1	1110/2115				FW Finds						1													
50178	1	1115/2115				FW Finds										1									
50178	1	1115/2115				FW Finds	1																		
50183	1	1120/2115				FW Finds															1				
50183	1	1120/2115				FW Finds													1						
50183	1	1120/2115				FW Finds								1											
50183	1	1120/2115				FW Finds					1														
50183	1	1120/2115				FW Finds	1																		
50183	1	1120/2115				FW Finds								1											
50184	1	1125/2115				FW Finds																	1		
50184	1	1125/2115				FW Finds																	1		
50184	1	1125/2115				FW Finds																	1		
50184	1	1125/2115				FW Finds							1												
50184	1	1125/2115				FW Finds													1						

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsyst Blades	Broken Unsyst Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds													1						
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds					1														
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds						1													
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds					1														
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds					1														
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds																		1	
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds																		1	
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds											1								
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds								1											1
50187	1	1140/2115				FW Finds	1																		
50188	1	1145/2115				FW Finds																1			
50188	1	1145/2115				FW Finds				1	2	2		1			1								1
50189	1	1150/2115				FW Finds		1			6	3		1	1	1	1	1							3
50190	1	1155/2115				FW Finds					1														
50190	1	1155/2115				FW Finds									1										
50191	1	1160/2115				FW Finds																			1
50192	1	1165/2115				FW Finds																			1
50192	1	1165/2115				FW Finds																			
50192	1	1165/2115				FW Finds											1								
50193	1	1125/2120				FW Finds	1																		
50194	1	1130/2120				FW Finds					1														
50194	1	1130/2120				FW Finds												1							
50195	1	1135/2120				FW Finds																			1
50195	1	1135/2120				FW Finds					1														
50195	1	1135/2120				FW Finds											1								
50195	1	1135/2120				FW Finds																			
50195	1	1135/2120				FW Finds	1																		
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds					1														
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			3
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds								1											
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			
50196	1	1140/2120				FW Finds																			

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsys Blades	Broken Unsys Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50242	1	1105/2105				Buried soil											1								
50242	1	1105/2105				Buried soil										1									
50242	1	1105/2105				Buried soil	1																		
50242	1	1105/2105				Buried soil	1																		
50245	1	1095/2105		<120>		Buried soil													1					18	13
50245	1	1095/2105				Buried soil													1						
50245	1	1095/2105				Buried soil									1										
50248	1	1095/2110		<121>		Buried soil	1				1	1									1			17	11
50248	1	1095/2110				Buried soil																1			
50248	1	1095/2110				Buried soil	1																		
50249	1	1095/2110		<122>		Buried soil																	1		
50249	1	1095/2110		<122>		Buried soil																1			
50249	1	1095/2110		<122>		Buried soil																		6	6
50249	1	1095/2110		<122>		Buried soil						1													
50249	1	1095/2110				Buried soil					1					1						1			
50250	1	1110/2100		<123>		Buried soil																		16	11
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil				1															
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil		1																	
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			1
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil								1											
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil											1								
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			
50250	1	1110/2100				Buried soil																			

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsynt Blades	Broken Unsynt Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50336	1	1140/2110				Buried soil	1					1		1	2	1	1				3				
50337	1	1140/2110		<168>		Buried soil								1											
50337	1	1140/2110		<168>		Buried soil																	4	9	
50337	1	1140/2110		<168>		Buried soil	1																		
50337	1	1140/2110		<168>		Buried soil	1																		
50337	1	1140/2110		<168>		Buried soil															1				
50337	1	1140/2110		<168>		Buried soil											1								
50337	1	1140/2110		<168>		Buried soil						1													
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil														1					
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil	1																		
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																1			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil											1								1
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			1
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil					1														1
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil																			
50337	1	1140/2110				Buried soil	1																		
50340	1	1140/2120				Buried soil										1									
50340	1	1140/2120				Buried soil																			
50340	1	1140/2120				Buried soil	1																		
50340	1	1140/2120				Buried soil														1					
50340	1	1140/2120				Buried soil						1													
50341	1	1140/2120		<170>		Buried soil																	1	2	
50343	1	1145/2110		<007>		Buried soil																	5	8	
50344	1	1145/2110		<172>		Buried soil																	3	2	

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsyst Blades	Broken Unsyst Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
50345	1	1145/2115		<173>		Buried soil																		3	4
50345	1	1145/2115		<173>		Buried soil										1									
50345	1	1145/2115				Buried soil															1				
50346	1	1145/2115		<174>		Buried soil										1									
50346	1	1145/2115		<174>		Buried soil																		18	18
50346	1	1145/2115		<174>		Buried soil						1													
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil	1																		
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil			1																
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil																1			
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil																1			
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil																1			
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil																			1
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil											1								
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil	1																		
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil					1														
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil	1																		
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil					1														
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil					1														
50346	1	1145/2115				Buried soil						1													
50348	1	1140/2115				Buried soil	4				4	1		1	1	1			1	1	1	2	1		
50349	1	1140/2115				Buried soil					1														
50351	1	1145/2120		<176>		Buried soil																1			
50351	1	1145/2120		<176>		Buried soil	1					1										2		6	8
50351	1	1145/2120				Buried soil					1														
50351	1	1145/2120				Buried soil											1								
50351	1	1145/2120				Buried soil								1											
50351	1	1145/2120				Buried soil					1														
50351	1	1145/2120				Buried soil					1														
50354	1	1150/2110		<177>		Buried soil	2						1				2					1		3	4
50355	1	1150/2115		<178>		Buried soil																		4	5
50355	1	1150/2115		<178>		Buried soil						1													
50355	1	1150/2115		<178>		Buried soil					1														
50355	1	1150/2115				Buried soil																1			
50355	1	1150/2115				Buried soil																1			
50355	1	1150/2115				Buried soil																1			

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsystr Blades	Broken Unsystr Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips	
50355	1	1150/2115				Buried soil													1							
50355	1	1150/2115				Buried soil	1																			
50359	1	1150/2120		<180>		Buried soil																			2	
50360	1	1150/2120		<181>		Buried soil																		3	5	
50360	1	1150/2120		<181>		Buried soil									1											
50364	1	-				Buried soil	1																			
50373	1	1165/2110		<183>		Buried soil	1																			
50373	1	1165/2110		<183>		Buried soil																		1		
50374	1	1165/2110		<184>		Buried soil					1															
50374	1	1165/2110		<184>		Buried soil																		2		
50376	1	1165/2125		<185>		Buried soil												1								
50376	1	1165/2125		<185>		Buried soil																		4	4	
50376	1	1165/2125		<185>		Buried soil					1															
50376	1	1165/2125				Buried soil																	1			
50376	1	1165/2125				Buried soil																1				
50376	1	1165/2125				Buried soil											1									
50376	1	1165/2125				Buried soil					1															
50376	1	1165/2125				Buried soil						1														
50378	1	1160/2120		<186>		Buried soil																		2	1	
50379	1	1170/2125		<187>		Buried soil									1									4	8	
50381	1	1126/2114				Buried soil											1									
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil				1																
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil	1																			
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil		1																		
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil																	1			
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil																				
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil																	1			
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil																	1			
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil	3	2	1		14	6		4	2	3	4	2		8	27					
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil	1																			
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil				1																
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil																	1			
50386	1	-			Unstrat	Finds -Buried soil	8		1		8	3		2	6			1	2	13	23				3	

Context	Area	Grid square	Trench	Ref <=>/SF	Phase	Feature	Decort Flake	Core Tablet	CRF long	CRF trans	Flake	Flake Fragment	Broken Cort Blade	Cort blade	Broken Syst Blade	Syst blade	Unsynt Blades	Broken Unsynt Blades	Blade-like Flake	Core	Chunk	Retouched	Micro-burin	Microshatter	Chips
00360	Eval		TP36			Eval test pit		1			1	1													
00360	Eval		TP36			Eval test pit																	5	3	
00370	Eval		TP37			Eval test pit	1															1			
00370	Eval		TP37			Eval test pit																	3	2	
00380	Eval		TP38			Eval test pit																			2
00380	Eval		TP38			Eval test pit					2	1				2									
00390	Eval		TP39			Eval test pit																	3	2	
00390	Eval		TP39			Eval test pit					1														
00400	Eval		TP40			Eval test pit						1													
00400	Eval		TP40			Eval test pit																	5	2	
00410	Eval		TP41			Eval test pit																	2	3	
00410	Eval		TP41			Eval test pit	1																		
00420	Eval		TP42			Eval test pit																	4	7	
00420	Eval		TP42			Eval test pit					1														
00430	Eval		TP43			Eval test pit																	1		
00440	Eval		TP44			Eval test pit																			1
00450	Eval		TP45			Eval test pit								1	1										
00450	Eval		TP45			Eval test pit																	8	5	
00450	Eval		TP45			Eval test pit					1														
00460	Eval		TP46			Eval test pit																	1	2	
00470	Eval		TP47			Eval test pit																	1	1	
00470	Eval		TP47			Eval test pit										1									
00480	Eval		TP48			Eval test pit																	1	2	
00480	Eval		TP48			Eval test pit										1									
00490	Eval		TP49			Eval test pit																	2	1	
00500	Eval		TP50			Eval test pit																	2	3	
00510	Eval		TP51			Eval test pit																	2		
00520	Eval		TP52			Eval test pit																	1		
00540	Eval		TP54			Eval test pit																	1	2	
00550	Eval		TP55			Eval test pit																	2	1	
00560	Eval		TP56			Eval test pit																	1		
00570	Eval		TP57			Eval test pit																			1
02005	Eval		Tr2			Bu2004																			
08001	Eval		Tr8			D8002					2														
50053	1	Can't find		105		Lower Buried Soil														1					

Appendix 3.2: Retouched implements

Context	Ref	Location	Feature	Type	Form	Dimensions	Description
16008	Eval	Tr16		Arrowhead	Leaf	>33X20X4	Finely made, tip missing, Green's type 3B
21006	Eval	Tr21	P21005	Scraper	Short end	27X27X8	Recorticated core tablet with moderate, steep scalar convex, slightly 'nosed' retouch
39004	Eval	Tr39	Bu39003	Serrate	Blade		Thickish blade with a possible small stretch of serrations but either unfinished or accidental
50000	17.3	off-grid		Edge retouched	Flake	26X24x10	Thick flake with short stretch of light retouch along left dorsal
50000	20	off-grid		Scraper	end and side	>44X34X18	Large thick flake with extensive steep convex scalar retouch around distal dorsal and right dorsal
50000	26	off-grid		Miscellaneous	Blade	40X13X10	Thick blade with steep scalar retouch on left lateral margin and from arête down left side, also similar on right side - odd
50000	36	off-grid		Edge retouched	Blade	48X21X5	blade with very fine retouch and use wear along its left margin and some cortex and natural 'backing' on right margin
50000	41	off-grid		Notch	Blade	22X9X2	small blade with possible double opposed notches half way along ventral margins - could be accidental damage
50000		off-grid		Edge retouched	Blade	30X14X5	Irregular fine retouch/edge damage along right dorsal margin
50004		off-grid	Nat50003	Piercer	double ended	57X26X12	Thick predominantly cortical blade that had removed part of a keeled SP on its distal, forming a sturdy point. Its bulbar end has also been modified to form a small, sharp spurred point
50006		off-grid	nat50005	Scraper	long end	40X27X10	Sturdy but small blade-like flake with minor modifications to distal, unfinished/minimally worked long-en scraper
50040		off-grid	P50039	Scraper	Fragment	>25X26X14	thick narrow flake, possibly a blade, with extensive, steep convex scalar retouch on distal, also appears to have been unsuccessfully resharpened
50043		off-grid	P50042	Edge retouched	Blade	>23X11X5	Burnt but appears to have very fine retouch / use wear along right margin and 'cortical backing'
50053	93	1135/2115		Microlith	3d	33X10X3	partially cortical
50053	96	1140/2115		Denticulate	Flake	>25X33X15	Thick flake with step fracture/distal broken off and denticulation along right dorsal and semi-invasive straight scalar retouch along right ventral
50053	101	1125/2095		Scraper	Irregular	40X32X20	What appears to be a thermally shattered core fragment with one edge blunted with moderate, steep straight scalar retouch
50053	114	cant find		Serrate	Blade	>57X14X7	blade with bulbar end missing and fine serrations along right margin. Slight wear no gloss
50053	127	cant find		Arrowhead	leaf	39X18X4	Green's type 3B, the most common type in East Anglia, with invasive retouch but partial and limited to margins
50053	135	1125/2110		Burin	Dihedral	51X20X5	blade with fine dihedral burin made on distal. Bulbar end also either modified or snapped, perhaps for handling/hafting
50053	151	1115/2110		Edge retouched	Blade	107X30X12	Very nice large blade of spotted opaque grey stony flint and with medium, steep straight scalar retouch along both lateral margins and distal
50053	154	1115/2105		Microlith	7a2	16X3X2	fine example
50053	160.2	1120/2100		Scraper	Fragment	>35X>34X8	Mostly cortical flake fragment with extensive shallow convex retouch around distal
50054	88	1135/2120		Edge retouched	Blade	>23X10X2	bulbar end of blade with very fine retouch along both margins. Cutting implement, some wear
50059		cant find		Scraper	side'	45X21X12	Thermal chunk used as a blade core then one side retouch with straight steep scalar flaking
50068	<101>	off-grid	P50067	Truncated blade	Oblique	>12X17X2	Distal fragment of an obliquely truncated blade
50101		1150/2115	PC50099	Burin	on retouched edge	27X16X4	blade with fine retouch near right distal and a series of burin spall removals struck from this, moderate wear

Context	Ref	Location	Feature	Type	Form	Dimensions	Description
50130		unstrat	finds	Fabricator		97X20X13	Bifacially flaked, highly polished ends and traces of polish extending all over, certainly not a strike-a-light or a knapping tool
50137		off-grid	Hol50136	Truncated blade	transverse	25X16X7	Burnt probable blade with medium steep straight scalar retouch transversely truncating distal and extending from here up both margins
50143		1110/2100	FW	Edge retouched	Flake	>35X27X4	bulbar end of flake with fine edge trimming along right dorsal margin
50143		1110/2100	FW	Microlith	Fragment	>21X5x2	medial backed blade fragment - could be rod or scalene triangle
50144		1115/2100	FW	Piercer		24X20X4	Small cortical flake with fine steep retouch along left dorsal and distal that converges to form a sharp point
50144		1115/2100	FW	Truncated blade	concave	n/a	Small fragment of what appears to be a hollow truncation on the distal of a blade
50146		1125/2100	FW	Microlith	1b	28X6X3	lanceolate like obliquely truncated microlith with extensive retouch along right margin and lighter working along left
50158		1125/2105	FW	Serrate	Blade	>23X12X4	bulbar end of blade with very fine serrations along left lateral margin. Some wear but no gloss
50165		1110/2110	FW	Piercer	minimal	33X11X2	small blade with sturdy distal that has been modified with evidence for piercing
50168		1125/2110	FW	Microlith	1ac	25X5X2	distal end of blade with acute oblique truncation along most of its length
50170		1135/2110	FW	Edge retouched	Flake	26X30X5	Small narrow flake with a lightly retouched/abraded distal - cutting
50171		1140/2110	FW	Microlith	3a	24X8X3	acute oblique truncation on distal and more obtuse oblique truncation at bulbar end
50184		1125/2115	FW	backed blade	Fragment	>13X9X2	bulbar end of blade with fine retouch along right dorsal margin
50184		1125/2115	FW	Microlith	3d	>36X10X4	large, distal tip missing
50184		1125/2115	FW	Piercer	Blade	40X17X5	unsystematic blade with faceted SP and fine retouch forming an acute point on distal
50185		1130/2115	FW	Truncated blade	Oblique	>13X>8X2	Fragment of a distally truncated blade
50186		1135/2115	FW	Microlith	1ac	>20X9X2	obliquely truncated distal end of blade with tip missing
50188		1145/2115	FW	Microlith	3a	30X10X2	partly cortical blade with acute oblique retouch on bulbar end and obtuse on distal
50234		1100/2105	buried soil	Edge retouched	Blade		Fragment of a blade with some evidence on edge blunting - possible microlith but too fragmentary to be positive
50235		1100/2100	buried soil	Microlith	1ac	24X6X3	distally obliquely truncated, some wear to tip
50236	<116>	1100/2100	buried soil	Edge retouched	Blade	18X10X2	blade with very light concave retouch by snapped distal, possibly snapped notch
50242	<119>	1105/2105	buried soil	Edge retouched	Fragment	n/a	small fragment of a lightly edge trimmed thin flake/blade
50249	<122>	1095/2110	buried soil	Microlith	Fragment	>5X2X1	small fragment of a blade with bilateral blunting
50256	<126>	1110/2115	buried soil	Microlith	1ac	>17X5X3	Obliquely truncated blade with base and tip missing
50262	<130>	1095/2115	buried soil	Serrate	Blade	>21X11X3	burnt medial blade fragment with serrations on right ventral
50282		1095/2115	buried soil	Microlith	1a	27X6X2	Simple obliquely truncated narrow blade microlith, retains some cortex
50283		1120/2115	buried soil	Piercer	Blade	47X14X7	partially cortical blade with fine steep retouch near distal forming an acute sturdy point, very tip missing
50337		1140/2110	buried soil	Notch	Blade	>27X13X4	Snapped blade with deep elongated notch cut into right margin near SP - possible failed M-B?
50348		1140/2115	buried soil	Piercer	minimal	28X36X13	Thermally fractured thick flake with minimal modification accentuating burin-like point
50348		1140/2115	buried soil	Scraper	thermal	38X26X16	Thermal spall, probably a shattered core fragment, with fine to medium convex scalar retouch along one side
50351	<176>	1145/2120	buried	Microlith	1ac	>18X5X3	Obliquely truncated blade with base and tip missing

Context	Ref	Location	Feature	Type	Form	Dimensions	Description
			soil				
50376		1165/2125	buried soil	Piercer	spurred	48X27X15	Thick narrow flake with multiple incipient cones of percussion and a small area of fine steep retouch on left dorsal near distal forming small spur
50386		unstrat	finds	Burin	on break	52X16X5	Unsystematic partially cortical blade with bulbar end snapped off and a burin spall removed longitudinally - no wear - accidental?
50386		unstrat	finds	Edge retouched	Blade	43X20X10	Blade with fine retouch/blunting along left lateral margin and to lesser extent the right. Has sharp converging distal but does not appear worn
50386		unstrat	finds	Edge retouched	Flake	17X32X8	Core tablet with distal finely edge trimmed
50386		unstrat	finds	Edge retouched	Flake	>26X27X7	Flake or blade segment with medium, steep concave scalar retouch on right ventral - possibly a wide notch?
50386		unstrat	finds	Scraper	long end	37X15X7	Systematic blade with fine steep convex retouch on distal - minimally worked but sturdy scraper
50399	Area3	unstrat	finds	Scraper	Irregular	69X36X12	Thermal spall, probably a mis-struck flake with extensive steep convex scalar retouch along one edge -BA?
50399		unstrat	finds	Miscellaneous	edge damaged	50X50X18	Large cortical flake with battering along right margin - used as a chopper/hammerstone?
50449	area1	unstrat	finds	Piercer		28X16X4	Leaf shaped flake with fine steep retouch long left dorsal and part of right, accentuating the distal
50449		unstrat	finds	Edge retouched	Flake	21X17X3	flake with oblique retouch at distal, possibly a piercer?
50449		unstrat	finds	Scraper	concave	44X30X6	relatively large blade-like flake with medium, moderately steep concave scalar retouch on distal
00040	Eval	TP4		Scraper	On thermal		Thermal potlid spall with moderate, steep, scalar retouch along one edge
00060	Eval	TP6		Piercer	Minimal		Sturdy blade with inverse retouch around distal forming a fine chisel-like edge – possibly used as a graver
00150	Eval	TP15		Edge retouched	Blade	>22X16X5	Bulbar end of blade with fine steep straight retouch along left dorsal margin. Snap may have been instigated by notching of micro-burin but not characteristic oblique snap
00220	Eval	TP22		Burin	Dihedral		Blade-like flake with spalls removed longitudinally from distal and with a rounded edge- nice
00270	Eval	TP27		Microlith	Fragment	>7X>3X2	tip of obliquely truncated or rod type microlith. Retouch on right margin and lighter retouch on left converging to form point
00370	Eval	TP37		Microlith	1ac	>25X9X3	Broken simple obliquely blunted
21006	Eval	Tr21	P21005	Truncated blade	concave	25X12X4	Recorticated distal blade segment with sinuous truncation forming a point
50346		1145/2115	buried soil	Microlith	1a	28X8X3	distal end of an obliquely truncated blade. Possible impact scar
P0035	Eval		FW	Serrate	Blade		Relatively large distal blade segment with blunting along break and part of left margin, cortex continuing the backing and a concave right margin with clear evidence of heavy use – closest to a very worn serrated blade
P0053	Eval		FW	Edge retouched	Flake		Relatively large cortical flake with inverse flaking – attempt at making core?
P0061	Eval		FW	Scraper	?long end		Unrecorticated flake fragment, possibly a LES, with slightly denticulated convex moderate steep scalar retouch
P0091	Eval		FW	Burin	on retouched edge		Large, partly cortical blade-like flake with an unusual faceted on its striking platform after flake removed and then longitudinal blades removed – uncertain

Appendix 3.3: Cores

Context	Ref	Grid ref	Feature	Form	Type	Weight	Recort	Description
16007	Eval	Tr16		Blade	B1	22	None	Systematic, opposed platformed blade, abandoned due to sever hinge fractures
16009	Eval	Tr16		Flake	A2	26	Blue-white	Flake, poss earlier blade, on quartered nodule, fragmented by thermal flaw, some incipient PoPs from failed removals
21006	Eval	Tr21		Blade	B1	17	Incipient	'front' type A2 but with a large flake removed from base – attempt at rejuve
30002	Eval	Tr30		Blade	A2	71	Incipient	Angular chunk with a few blades removed from one side, probably thermally disintegrated
39004	Eval	Tr39		Blade	A2	38	None	Core failed attempt at blades failed due to thermal disintegration
50000	7	unstrat	topsoil	Narrow flake	A2	17	None	Small rounded pebble, possibly thermally shattered
50000	8	unstrat	topsoil	Flake	A2	17	None	Front type on rounded pebble, may have produced small blades earlier on
50000	10	unstrat	topsoil	testing	minimal	35	None	rounded pebble with 2 flakes removed
50000	14.3	unstrat	topsoil	Blade	B2	39	Blue-white	front type on thermal spall with opposed oblique SPs
50000	23.3	unstrat	topsoil	Flake	C	51	None	Angular pebble with flakes removed from various angular surfaces
50000	45.2	unstrat	topsoil	Flake	A2	43	None	Angular chunk with a few short flakes removed. Possibly a thermally shattered fragment form a larger core
50000	50	unstrat	topsoil	Blade	B1	41	None	extensively worked pebble with many blades removed from front
50000	50	unstrat	topsoil	Flake	D	33	Blue-white	thermal spall with many small flakes removed from around perimeter, possible denticulated tool
50000	52	unstrat	topsoil	Blade	C	40	Incipient	extensively reduced using all available surfaces
50053	64	1095/2105	buried soil	Blade	A2	28	None	On heavily recorticated angular thermal chunk, full of thermal flaws, used cortex as SP
50053	67	1105/2100	buried soil	Narrow flake	minimal	18	Incipient	Thermal spall with a number of flakes, some narrow removed
50053	72	cant find	buried soil	Narrow flake	A2	30	None	Reduced most of the way around, producing some narrow flakes. Thermally flawed
50053	80	1125/2110	buried soil	Blade	A2	133	Incipient	large cortical flake (53X67X28) that has been blunted and partially crested on its left ventral and a number of blades removed from its distal end. Abandoned early due to thermal flaws
50053	96	1140/2115	buried soil	Flake	C	39	None	Short flakes removed from several SPs of an angular chunk
50053	105	cant find	buried soil	Flake	A2	29	Blue-white	A few flakes removed form front of an angular chunk, possibly using a disintegrated larger core
50053	106	cant find	buried soil	Blade	A2	32	Blue-white	Angular chunk, may have thermally fractured or experienced attempts a6t rejuvenation
50053	109	cant find	buried soil	Flake	Irregular	41	None	Irregular, angular chunk with a few flakes and area of abrasion on one side - more of a 'bashed' lump/chopper
50053	122	1125/2100	buried soil	Flake	minimal	22	None	Thermal spall with a number of flakes, some narrow removed
50053	139	cant find	buried soil	Flake	C	82	Incipient	Angular chunk with a number of short flakes removed opportunistically from numerous SPs
50053	148	cant find	buried soil	Flake	D	105	None	large cobble 'spall' with a series of broad flakes removed from perimeter
50053	160.1	1120/2100	buried soil	Blade	A2	37	Blue-white	'Front' type on rounded pebble extensively reduced some damage to base - used anvil?
50053	162	1120/2100	buried soil	Narrow flake	C	63	None	Rounded pebble with a few narrow flakes removed from one platform and attempts at removing other from different angles, abandoned early due to thermal flaws
50053	172	cant find	buried soil	Blade	A2	27	Blue-white	Front type, back possibly missing due to thermal disintegration, appears to have been rejuvenated by removing a core tablet but not subsequently worked
50053	179	1145/2110	buried soil	Blade	B1	28	Blue-white	Front type, abandoned due to severe hinge fractures
50053	186	1145/2110	buried soil	Blade	B1	27	Blue-white	extensively reduced prismatic oppose platformed blade core
50053	202.2	1140/2110	buried soil	Blade	B3	55	None	Extensively reduced, starting to disintegrate rapidly along thermal flaws
50054	56.3	1090/2105	buried soil	Blade	C	21	Blue-white	Extensively reduced on thermally fractured pebble possible reused as a scraper
50054	86.2	1130/2110	buried soil	Narrow	C	37	Blue-white	extensively reduced rounded pebble. Very thermally flawed

Context	Ref	Grid ref	Feature	Form	Type	Weight	Recort	Description
				flake				
50054	216	cant find	buried soil	Blade	B1	29	Blue-white	Front type angular pebble
50057		cant find	Nat50056	Flake	C	62	Incipient	Extensively reduced globular flake core
50121		off grid	Hol50120	Blade	A2	16	Blue-white	front type extensively reduced
50130		unstrat	finds	Flake	A2	13	Blue-white	Irregularly reduced on small angular chunk
50130		unstrat	finds	Flake	C	52	None	rounded pebble with numerous variably shaped flakes removed randomly
50130		unstrat	finds	Flake	D	37	None	Extensively worked discoidal core
50145		1120/2100	FW finds	Blade	A2	33	Incipient	Front and side type on small rounded pebble with numerous small blades removed
50146		1125/2100	FW finds	Narrow flake	C	14	Blue-white	irregularly shaped extensively reduced
50152		1095/2105	FW finds	Blade	C	14	Blue-white	Extensively reduced, latterly producing very small blades
50153		1100/2105	FW finds	Blade	A2	29	Incipient	lots of blades produced from a prepared platform, possible using a large flake or 'quartered' nodule. Abandoned due to hinge/step fractures. Good example
50154		1105/2105	FW finds	Blade	A2	26	Blue-white	A few long but broad flakes removed from a thermal spall
50154		1105/2105	FW finds	Flake	C	24	Blue-white	Extensively reduced, mostly small flakes but some indications that narrow flakes/blades removed earlier
50154		1105/2105	FW finds	Narrow flake	D	29	Incipient	Narrow flakes/blades removed then core face used to remove similar narrow flakes. Abandoned due to thermal flaws
50160		1135/2105	FW finds	Blade	B3	46	Incipient	blades removed from prepared platform and face of this used to continue production, abandoned due to step fractures. nice example
50161		1140/2105	FW finds	Blade	B1	14	Blue-white	extensively reduced front type opposed platformed blade core
50166		1115/2110	FW finds	Flake	C	55	Blue-white	extensively reduced rounded pebble, a=abandoned due to step fractures
50167		1120/2110	FW finds	Blade	B1	40	Incipient	Front type opposed platform, abandoned due to thermal flaws
50167		1120/2110	FW finds	Blade	C	42	Incipient	has opposed platforms and a further platform at right angles to this. Abandoned due to step fractures
50170		1135/2110	FW finds	Blade	B1	84	None	Large thermal fractured cobble with blades removed from either end including a microblade core
50172		1145/2110	FW finds	Narrow flake	A2	32	Blue-white	Angular chunk using thermal plain as platform
50183		1120/2115	FW finds	Blade	A2	18	Incipient	Front and side type on small rounded pebble with numerous small blades removed
50186		1135/2115	FW finds	Blade	A2	31	Blue-white	front type on pebble producing small narrow blades
50186		1135/2115	FW finds	Blade	minimal	22	Blue-white	a few blades removed from the ventral of a large flake
50200		1160/2120	FW finds	Flake	A2	39	None	Angular pebble worked 'Front type' with flakes removed from flaked SP and some side working - perhaps to aid handling. Abandoned due to severe hinge/step fractures
50226		off grid	PC50224	Blade	A2	13	None	front type angular pebble with many narrow blades removed
50226		off grid	PC50224	Narrow flake	C	44	None	angular chunk with broad blades/narrow flakes removed from one platform and a series of flakes removed from others
50250		1110/2100	buried soil	Flake	minimal	46	None	A platform created and two large flakes removed from a thermal chunk
50258		1115/2120	buried soil	Blade	C	23	Blue-white	extensively reduced
50276		1120/2110	buried soil	Blade	B3	15	None	Small rounded pebble with very narrow blades removed
50280		1120/2105	buried soil	Narrow flake	B3	68	Incipient	rounded pebble with a series of flakes and blades removed
50283		1120/2115	buried soil	Flake	minimal	36	Blue-white	Rounded pebble with a few flakes removed 'keel style' from one end, resulting in a chisel-ended implement, possibly a tool but likely to be fortuitous

Context	Ref	Grid ref	Feature	Form	Type	Weight	Recort	Description
50298		1120/2120	buried soil	Blade	B3	54	Blue-white	Extensively flaked along one face then reversed and turned 90 degrees for a new SP. Abandoned due to severe step fractures. base of second SP battered - use of anvil?
50323		1130/2115	buried soil	Narrow flake	A2	14	Blue-white	Extensively reduced rounded pebble. Very stepped SP
50337		1140/2110	buried soil	Narrow flake	A2	30	Blue-white	Thermal spall with a number of flakes, some narrow removed
50340		1140/2120	buried soil	Narrow flake	C	50	None	Rounded cobble with flakes removed from Front SP, then one created on side using the core face, then further flakes removed from 'back'. Very thermally flawed then
50348		1140/2115	buried soil	Narrow flake	B2	21	Incipient	Front type on rounded pebble with narrow flakes removed from two consecutive SPs, the last abandoned due to step fracturing
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	A2	9	Blue-white	Front type on small thermal spall with a few blades removed
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	A2	19	Blue-white	Front type on angular pebble
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	A2	58	None	Angular fragment with flaked SP and a few of blades removed of pseudo-burin
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	B3	21	Blue-white	Blades removed from angular pebble which appears to have shattered and then a new SP created
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	B3	28	Blue-white	A few blades and flakes removed from an angular cobble
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	B2	24	Blue-white	front type with further SP on back at oblique angle. Initial SP heavily edge trimmed - possible reuse as scraper?
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	B1	32	Blue-white	Front type on rounded cobble, much of core face thermally shattered and missing
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	B1	28	Incipient	Front type with opposed SPs, possibly on large flake
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	C	31	Incipient	front and back type with opposed SPs
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Blade	minimal	28	None	Small rounded pebble with a few flakes removed keel style from one end
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Flake	A2	43	None	Front type on rounded pebble
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Flake	A2	49	None	Thermal spall with a number of flakes, some narrow removed
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Flake	B1	30	Blue-white	Front type on rounded pebble, extensively reduced, may have produced blades earlier in its productive life
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Flake	C	17	Blue-white	Extensively reduced
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Flake	C	36	Blue-white	Extensively reduced, may have produced blades earlier in its productive life
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Flake	C	18	None	Extensively reduced, partially bifacial/centripetal, not unlike a small Levallois type
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Flake	D	53	None	Flakes removed keel style from one end of a rounded cobble
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Narrow flake	C	47	Blue-white	Extensively reduced thermal spall with narrow flakes removed from front and then smaller flakes removed from around its base of a crude long-end scraper
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Narrow flake	C	97	None	large irregular angular chunk with some flakes including narrow flakes removed from various directions
50386		unstrat	buried soil	Narrow flake	E	22	Blue-white	Small flakes including some narrow flakes removed keel style and from 2 other SPs
50386		unstrat	buried soil	testing	minimal	32	Blue-white	A few small flakes removed from an angular chunk - testing piece?
50399	Area 3	unstrat	Area3	Blade	A2	8	Blue-white	Recort using two sides, possible thermally shattered
50399	Area 3	unstrat	Area3	Blade	A2	29	Blue-white	Front type on rounded pebble, possibly made on large decort flake, few removals due to development of severe hinge fractures
50399	Area 3	unstrat	Area3	Blade	A2	34	None	Front type on angular chunk, few blades removed due to development of hinge fractures
50399	Area 3	unstrat	Area3	Blade	B1	42	Blue-white	Front type on rounded pebble, earlier removals from base, base place on anvil?. problems with hinge and step fractures

Context	Ref	Grid ref	Feature	Form	Type	Weight	Recort	Description
50399	Area 3	unstrat	Area3	Flake	B2	55	None	Irregular, possibly thermally shattered, possibly chopping type core-tool
50399	Area 3	unstrat	Area3	Narrow flake	A2	31	None	Front type on rounded pebble, unsuccessful attempts at making new SP on base?
50428	Area 2		P50427	Blade	B3	21	Incipient	Extensively reduced producing small microblades
50428	Area 2		P50427	Flake	B2	18	unknown	Burnt extensively reduced, latterly produced small flakes
50435	Area 2		D50433	Blade	A2	15	Blue-white	Front type on thermal spall, abandoned due to step/hinge fractures
50439		unstrat	finds	Blade	A2	75	Blue-white	Angular chunk with a series of blades removed along one edge cf pseudo-burin
50439		unstrat	finds	Blade	A2	23	None	Front type abandoned due to size
50439		unstrat	finds	Blade	B1	24	None	Extensively reduced virtually all-round, front, side and back type
50439		unstrat	finds	Blade	C	34	Blue-white	Extensively reduced resulting in globular core, extensive edge trimming of SPs
50439		unstrat	finds	Blade	E	24	Blue-white	Extensively reduced using keeled and a side SPs
50439		unstrat	finds	Flake	A2	37	None	Front type on rounded cobble plus incipient Hertzian cones
50439		unstrat	finds	Flake	B-	113	None	Rounded cobble with short flakes removed from two locations
50439		unstrat	finds	Flake	C	27	None	Rounded pebble with flakes, some narrow, removed from several randomly aligned SPs
50439		unstrat	finds	Flake	D	21	Blue-white	Rounded pebble with flakes removed centripetally from a cf front type SP
50447	Area 2		P50446	Narrow flake	A2	17	Incipient	Front type. Thermal spall with a number of flakes, some narrow removed
P0002	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	Blade	A2	19	Blue-white	Pebble, systematic blade, had produced microblades but split along thermal flaw, nicely faceted SP
P0020	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	Blade	A2	25	Blue-white	rounded pebble with many microblades removed from finely edge trimmed platform, abandoned due to step fracture
P0030	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	Blade	C	20	None	A few good flakes and blades removed but appears more like an attempt to create a core that failed due to thermal flaws
P0059	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	testing	minimal	132	None	Poss testing nodule, probably just plough damage natural
P0065	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	Blade	B1	19	Blue-white	Microblade on thermal chunk
P0070	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	testing	minimal	55	None	Angular pebble with a few heavily hit flake scars, could be plough damage or a tested pebble
P0088	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	Blade	B3	25	None	A2 type blade core that split along thermal flaw and then a new SP created removing flakes from across the old SP
P0090	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	Blade	B1	19	None	Exhausted, systematic, mostly narrow flakes but probably originally narrow blades
P0134	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	testing	minimal	113	None	Quartered or testing nodule
P0206	Eval	unstrat	Fieldwalked	Blade	A2	65	Incipient	Pebble with finely faceted SP and many blades and flakes removed , abandoned due to development of hinge and step fractures

Appendix 4

CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS, TABULATED RESULTS

By Val Fryer

Key to Tables

x = 1 – 10 specimens

xx = 11 – 50 specimens

xxx = 51 – 100 specimens

xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare

ss = sub-sample

b = burnt

fg = fragment

Sample No.		59	60	69	101	79	96	112	99
Context No.		50035	50033	50069	50068	50094	50098	50227	50095
Feature No.		50031	50031	50067	50067	50093	50093	50093	50093
Plant macrofossils	Common name								
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel	xcf			x			x	
Charcoal <2mm		xx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm		x	xx	x	xx	x	xxx	x	xx
Charcoal >5mm		x				x	x		
Charred root/stem		x		x			x		
Indet.seeds								x	
Mineralised root channels						x	x		
Other remains									
Black porous 'cokey' material		x					x		
Black tarry material					x		x		
Bone						xcf			
Burnt/fired clay			x						
Orange/brown mineralised concretions								xxx	
Mineralised soil concretions		xxxx	xxx		xxx	xxxx			xx
Sample volume (litres)		20	30	20	40ss	30	40	20	30
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 1a. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from the pit fills, Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire.

Sample No.		110	189	190	193	194	195	197	203	204	206	211
Context No.		50032	50393	50394	50405	50407	50408	50416	50428	50430	50435	50447
Feature No.		50031	50391	50391	50406	50406	50406	50415	50427	50429	50433	50446
Plant macrofossils	Common name											
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel				xcf	x	x	x	x	x	x	
<i>Galium</i> sp.												
<i>G. aparine</i> L.	Goosegrass	x			x							
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock											x
Charcoal <2mm		xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm		x	xx	x		xxx	xxxx	xx		xx	xx	
Charcoal >5mm												
Charred root/stem		x				x	x	x	x		x	x
Mineral replaced root/stem												x
Indet.culm node								x				
Indet.seeds			x		x							
Mineralised root channels		x	x	x	x	x	x		x			
Other remains												
Black porous 'cokey' material		x		x	xx						x	
Black tarry material		x			x				x		x	x
Bone												
Burnt/fired clay		x						x				
Orange/brown mineralised concretions						xxx						
Mineralised soil concretions		xxxx	xxxx		xxx				x		xx	xxxx
Small coal frags.								x	x		x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones					xb							
Sample volume (litres)		10	20	20	30	10	10	30	20	10	30	20
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted		100%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 1b. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from the pit fills, Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire.

Sample No.		104	105	106	107	108
Context No.		50025	50037	50028	50029	50030
Feature No.		50021				
Plant macrofossils	Common name					
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel	xcf				
Charcoal <2mm		xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm		xx	x	x	x	x
Charred root/stem					x	
Mineral replaced root/stem						x
Mineralised root channels		x				
Other remains						
Black porous 'cokey' material			x		x	
Black tarry material			x	x	x	
Mineralised soil concretions		xxxx		xxxx	xxxx	
Sample volume (litres)		40	20	10	20	40
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from pit 50021, Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire.

Sample No.		62	93	210
Context No.		50049	50048	50434
Feature No.		50046	50046	50433
Feature type		T.throw	T.throw	Linear
Plant macrofossils	Common name			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel		xcf	
<i>Galium</i> sp.		xcfg		
Charcoal <2mm		xxxx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm		xx	x	x
Charred root/stem		x	x	x
Mineralised root channels			x	
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material		x		
Bone		x		
Mineralised soil concretions				xxx
Sample volume (litres)		30	30	10
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted		100%	100%	100%

Table 3. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from tree throw 50046 and linear 50433, Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire.

Appendix 5

BOREHOLE 13 LOG, TRANSECT B BOREHOLE LOGS AND RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION CURVES

By Dr Jane Wheeler and James Rackham

Appendix 5.1 – Borehole 13 Log
MAGR08 – BH13 Core 1 (0cm-100cm)



0cm-10cm 7.5YR 3/2 dark brown dry loose silty loam with penetrating grass roots and rootlets - topsoil

10cm-23cm 7.5YR 4/2 brown dry loose silty loam with penetrating rootlets - topsoil

23cm-42cm 7.5YR 2.5/2 very dark brown stiff dry clayey silt with angular gravel $\leq 3\text{mm} \times 3\text{mm}$ and angular chalk fragments $\leq 2.5\text{mm} \times 2.5\text{mm}$, and penetrating rootlets

42cm-60cm 7.5YR 4/2 brown stiff dry sandy (fine-grained) clayey silt, with penetrating rootlets and ochreous mottling along root-runs

60cm-100cm 7.5YR 4/3 brown stiff moist silty clay with penetrating rootlets and ochreous mottling along root-runs

MAGR08 – BH13 Core 2 (100cm-200cm)



100cm-134cm 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey soft moist sandy (fine-grained) silty clay with penetrating rootlets and ochreous staining along root-runs

134cm-172cm 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey soft sticky and moist silty clay with penetrating roots and rootlets, and occasional shell fragments $\leq 1.5\text{mm} \times 1.5\text{mm}$

172cm-182cm Gley N/4 grey soft moist silty clay

182cm-200cm 10YR 3/1 very dark grey soft moist silty peat with wood/rootwood fragments $\leq 10\text{mm} \times 6.5\text{mm}$, and reed stem matter

MAGR08 – BH13 Core 3 (200cm-300cm)



200cm-204cm missing

204cm-215cm 10YR 2/1 black loose moist peaty silt with reed stem matter present

215cm-225cm 10YR 3/1 very dark grey soft moist peaty silt with wood/rootwood fragments $\leq 10\text{mm} \times 10\text{mm}$, reed stem matter, and penetrating rootlets

225cm-240cm 10YR 3/1 very dark grey soft moist silty clay with angular gravel inclusions $\leq 2.5\text{mm} \times 2.5\text{mm}$

240cm-245cm 10YR 4/1 dark grey soft sticky and moist sandy (fine-grained) silty clay with angular gravel inclusions $\leq 2.5\text{mm} \times 2.5\text{mm}$

245cm-250cm Gley 58 5/1 bluish grey soft sticky and moist silty clay with angular and sub-angular chalk inclusions $\leq 10\text{mm} \times 10\text{mm}$

250cm-270cm 7.5YR 5/1 grey soft moist silty clay with angular and sub-angular chalk gravel $\leq 3\text{mm} \times 3\text{mm}$

270cm-300cm 2.5YR 4/2 dark greyish brown stiff moist clay with angular chalk inclusions $\leq 4.5\text{mm} \times 4.5\text{mm}$ and chalk pebbles $\leq 6\text{mm} \times 5\text{mm}$

Appendix 5.2 – Transect B borehole logs

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 1
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 78cm	Date: 3.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	10	Pale brown (10YR 6/3) slightly gritty fine sand	
10	13	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clayey brown sand	
13	21	Pale brown (10YR 6/3) silty sand	
21	53	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay with occasional stones	
53	70	Brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) clay with concreted lump	
70	78	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) very stiff clay	
Remarks:		Logged by: JR	
1. South end of transect 2. Surface OD = -0.42m approx.		Sampled by:	

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 2
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 167 cm	Date: 3.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	28	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay loam – ploughsoil	
28	42	Brown (10YR 4/3) alluvial clay	
42	68	Dark grey (5Y 4/1) alluvial clay	
68	76	Grayish brown (10YR 5/2) soft damp silty fine sand/sandy silt	
76	79	Dark grey (5Y 4/1) soft clay with calcareous concretions	
79	82	Very dark mgreyish brown (10YR 3/2) humified organic silt	
82	89	Grey (10YR 5/1) slightly sticky sandy silt	
89	95	Grey (10YR 5/1) soft damp silty sand	
95	160	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) soft slightly sticky silty fine sand with grits and small stones	
160	165	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) stiff clay	
165	167	Light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) wet sands	
Remarks:		Logged by: JR	
1. Surface OD = -0.12m		Sampled by:	

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 3
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 190 cm	Date: 3.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	20	Missing – compression	
20	39	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) stiff very slightly moist silty loam – topsoil	
39	53	Brown (7.5YR 5/3) stiff very slightly moist sandy silty clay, with occasional twig	
53	100	Brown (7.5YR 5/3) stiff sandy silty clay, very slightly moist with angular gravel inclusions (6x3.5mm)	
100	110	Missing – compression	
110	125	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) soft slightly moist silty sandu clay, with ochreous (10YR 6/8) mottling and decayed sandstone fragments (< & = 6x6mm)	
125	155	Brown (7.5YR 5/4) soft moist silty sandy clay with decaying sandstone inclusions (< & = 5x4 mm), with ochreous mottling	
155	190	Brown (7.5YR 5/4) medium to fine grained moist sand, with pebble inclusions (< & = 6x6 mm)	
190	200	Missing – fell out?	
Remarks:		Logged by: JW	
1. Surface OD = -0.22m		Sampled by:	

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 4
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 300 cm	Date: 3.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	20	Missing – compression	
20	47	Dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) stiff very slightly moist, silty clay loam, with inclusions of small brick fragments (< & = 3x3 mm)	
47	100	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) stiff, slightly moist clay with inclusions of strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) decaying sandstone	
100	103	Missing – compression	
103	117	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) soft wet slightly silty clay with small gravel inclusions (< & = 4mm) and occasional reed stem fibres	
117	124	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) soft, moist clayey silt with inclusions of wood (< & = 60x11 mm) and penetrating rootlets	
124	132	Very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) slightly sandy clayey silt with reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets	
132	146	Grey (7.5YR 5/1) soft moist slightly sandy silty clay	
146	165	Strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) soft slightly moist clayey sand with inclusions of angular gravel (< & = 3x2.5 mm) and ochreous mottling	
165	200	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) stiff slightly moist slightly sandy silty clay with grey (10YR 5/1) mudstone fragments (leached) compacted in the clay, also weak red (2.5YR 4/2) fragments of compacted mudstone	
200	203	Missing – compression. Water hit at 203	
203	215	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) soft wet slightly silty, sandy clay (fine gained sand)	
215	220	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) stiff moist sandy clay with angular gravel inclusions (< & = 8mm)	
220	278	Brown (10YR 5/3) soft moist clayey sand with angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions (< & = 5mm)	
278	280	Pale brown (10YR 6/3) stiff slightly moist clay	
280	300	Brown (10YR 5/3) soft moist clayey sand with angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions (< & = 5mm)	
Remarks: 1. Surface OD = - 0.28m			Logged by: JW

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire		Borehole No.: 5	
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler			Final Depth: 300 cm		Date: 3.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services			
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description			
0	14	Missing – compression			
14	45	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) stiff dry silty loam with penetrating roots - topsoil			
45	66	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) stiff slightly moist, slightly silty clay			
66	100	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) stiff, slightly moist clay, with ochreous mottling in small patches			
100	115	Missing – compression			
115	120	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) loose, moist, silty sandy clay			
120	143	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) stiff, slightly moist silty clay			
143	155	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) soft, moist, silty clay with occasional twig/root wood and brown (10YR 4/3) mottling			
155	170	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) stiff, slightly moist, slightly sandy (fine grained) silty peat, with horizontal lain organics			
170	188	Missing – fell out during extraction or slipped down?			
188	200	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) silty sandy (fine grained) clay with inclusions of reed stem matter			
200	204	Missing – compression			
204	212	Brown (7.5YR 5/2) wet, soft, loose clayey fine grained sand			
212	225	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) soft, moist silty fine grained sand			
225	254	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft, moist, silty fine grained sand			
254	258	Light brownish grey (10YR 6/2) medium to fine grained sand			
258	274	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clayey silty sand			
274	300	Brown (10YR 5/3) slightly silty fine grained sand with angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions (< & = 15x10 mm)			
Remarks: 1. Surface OD = - 0.36m					Logged by: JW

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No. 6
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 400 cm	Date: 3.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	15	Missing – compression	
15	27	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) stiff dry silty loam with penetrating root fibres and rootlets – topsoil; fracture at base	
27	47	Dark brown (7.5YR 3/3) stiff, slightly moist silty loam with penetrating rootlets	
47	64	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) stiff, slightly moist, silty clay with penetrating rootlets	
64	100	Brown (7.5YR 4/3) stiff, slightly moist, silty clay	
100	110	Missing – compression	
110	150	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft, wet, sticky silty clay	
150	167	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft moist silty clay	
167	200	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) soft, moist clay with gravel inclusions (< & = 10mm)	
200	204	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) soft, moist clay with gravel inclusions, and some reed stem matter	
204	206	Missing	
206	211	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft wet clayey silt with inclusions of organic/ reed stem matter	
211	220	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) sticky, wet silty clay with inclusions of occasional reed stem matter and calcareous specks (< & = 1.5 mm)	
220	238	Very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) soft, moist, clayey peaty silt, with inclusions of wood/rootwood fragments (< & = 4mm) and pebbles (< & = 5mm)	
238	274	Dark reddish brown (5YR 3/2) soft, moist peaty silt	
274	280	Dark grey (5YR 4/1) soft, moist, sticky silty clay with pebble inclusions (< & = 10 mm)	
280	295	Grey (Gley 1 5/N) softy, moist, sticky silty clay	
295	300	Very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) soft, moist, clayey peaty silt, with inclusions of wood/rootwood fragments (< & = 4mm) and pebbles (< & = 5mm)	
300	308	Grey (Gley 1 5/N) softy, moist, sticky silty clay	
308	321	Dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) soft, moist peaty silt with reed stem matter and wood/rootwood fragments (< & = 8 mm)	
321	332	Grayish brown (10YR 5/2) stiff, moist, silty clay with gravel (calcareous) inclusions (< & = 3mm)	
332	360	Grey (Gley 1 5/N) soft, moist, sticky silty clay with occasional sub-angular gravel inclusions (< & = 10 mm)	
360	400	Grey (Gley 1 5/N) stiff slightly moist sandy clay (sand-medium grained)	
Remarks: 1. Surface OD = - 0.37m			Logged by: JW

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 7
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 400 cm	Date: 3.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	19	Missing – compression	
19	30	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) dry firm silty loam with penetrating grass roots and rootlets – topsoil	
30	52	Dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) firm, dry silty loam with sub-angular pebble inclusions (< & = 5mm)	
52	100	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) soft, slightly moist, clayey sandy (fine grained) silt	
100	135	Missing – compression	
135	161	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) soft, moist silty clay with ochreous mottling and penetrating rootlets, and oxidation along rootlines – ochreous staining)	
161	180	Grey (7.5YR 5/1) soft, moist silty clay with penetrating rootlets and occasional reed stem matter, ochreous staining along rootlets	
180	192	Missing – slipped?	
192	200	Grey (7.5YR 5/1) soft, moist silty clay with penetrating rootlets and occasional reed stem matter, ochreous staining along rootlets	
200	214	Missing – compression	
214	222	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) soft, moist sticky silty clay	
222	224	Very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) soft moist peaty silt	
224	265	Grey (Gley 1 6N) soft, moist silty clay with reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets, oxidation dark grey along root runs	
265	285	Very dark grey (5YR 3/1) soft, moist silty peat, with wood/rootwood inclusions (< & = 17mm) and reed stem matter	
285	290	Grey (Gley 1 6N) soft, moist silty clay with reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets, oxidation dark grey along root runs	
290	300	Very dark grey (5YR 3/1) soft, moist silty peat, with wood/rootwood inclusions (< & = 17mm) and reed stem matter	
300	320	Grey (2.5Y 5/1) soft, wet sticky silty clay with reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets, and wood/rootwood fragments (< & = 6mm)	
320	336	Very dark grey (2.5Y 3/1) soft, moist peaty silt with reed stem matter	
336	359	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft, moist silty clay with reed stem matter	
359	372	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay with reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets, ochreous oxidation along root runs	
372	379	Dark grey (2.5Y 4/1) soft, moist silty clay with rootlet penetration	
379	400	Light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) firm, moist compacted sandy clay with angular compacted crushed stone inclusions (< & = 15mm)	
Remarks: 1. Surface OD = -0.3m			Logged by: JW

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 8
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 400 cm	Date: 30.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	15	Missing – compression	
15	19	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) dry, loose silty loam with penetrating grass roots and rootlets – topsoil	
19	35	Grey (10YR 5/1) dry compacted (but loose when disturbed) silty loam with penetrating roots – topsoil	
35	46	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) dry, loose, silty loam with penetrating roots – topsoil	
46	53	Dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) stiff, dry silty clay	
53	100	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft, moist fine grained sandy silt with fine sand laminations	
100	135	Missing – compression?	
135	165	Dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) soft, moist silty clay with penetrating rootlets, ochreous staining along root runs	
165	185	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) soft, moist silty clay with ochreous staining along penetrating root runs	
185	220	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft, moist sticky silty clay with ochreous staining along root runs	
220	232	Dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) soft, moist sticky silty clay with ochreous mottling and staining along penetrating rootlets	
232	272	Grey (Gley 1 5N) soft, moist sticky silty clay with occasional reed stem matter	
272	287	Dark grey (Gley 1 4N) soft, moist silty clay with oxidizing reed stem matter and small angular calcareous flecks (< & = 2mm; ?bivalve shells), wood/rootwood fragments (< & = 5x4mm)	
287	300	Grey (Gley 1 5N) soft, moist sticky silty clay with occasional reed stem matter	
300	308	Dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) soft, moist sticky silty clay, with oxidizing reed stem fibres	
308	328	Grey (10YR 5/1) soft, moist sticky silty clay with reed stem matter	
328	335	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) soft, moist sticky silty clay with angular gravel inclusions (< & = 8mm)	
335	400	Dark grey (Gley 1 4N) soft, moist silty clay with occasional organic inclusions (ie twigwood), but oxidised black/dark grey in colour	
Remarks: 1. Surface OD = -0.25m			Logged by: JW

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 9
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 300 cm	Date: 30.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	15	Missing – compression	
15	29	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) loose (but compacted), dry silty loam with penetrating rootlets and grass roots – topsoil	
29	46	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) firm, dry, compacted silty loam with penetrating rootlets – topsoil	
46	77	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) stiff, moist silty clay with ochreous mottling	
77	100	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft, moist silty clay with ochreous mottling and penetrating rootlets	
100	140	Missing – compression?	
140	180	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft, moist silty clay with ochreous mottling, reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets	
180	190	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) soft, moist silty clay with occasional gritty/sandstone looking inclusions (< & = 3mm) and penetrating rootlets	
190	200	Very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) loose, moist peaty silt	
200	205	Missing – compression	
205	217	Dark grey (Gley 1 4N) soft, moist silty clay with reed stem matter	
217	224	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft, moist clayey peaty silt with twigwood/rootwood inclusions (3x7mm) and occasional reed stem matter	
224	254	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft, moist silty peat with reed stem matter, rootwood fragments (< & = 6mm)	
254	256	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) soft, moist silty clay	
256	269	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft, moist silty peat with reed stem matter, rootwood fragments (< & = 6mm)	
269	274	Dark grey (5YR 4/1) soft, moist silty clay with fine black charcoal particles (< & = 1mm)	
274	280	Grey (Gley 1 5N) soft, moist silty clay with black charcoal particles (< & = 1mm)	
280	300	Dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft, moist sticky silty clay with calcareous (gravel) angular inclusions (< & = 5mm), penetrating rootlets and sub-angular pebbles (< & = 6.5mm)	
Remarks: 1. Surface OD = -0.44m			Logged by: JW

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 10
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 300cm	Date: 30.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	24	Missing – compression	
24	30	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) compacted, dry silty loam with penetrating grass roots and rootlets – topsoil	
30	60	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) stiff, moist silty clay with penetrating rootlets – topsoil	
60	82	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft, moist silty clay with ochreous mottling and staining along the root runs	
82	100	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) soft, moist silty clay with ochreous staining and along root runs, plus black oxidized reed stem matter	
100	128	Missing – compression?	
128	140	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) soft, moist silty clay	
140	169	Grey (10YR 5/1) soft, moist silty clay with reed stem matter (some oxidised) and penetrating rootlets and ochreous staining along root runs	
169	188	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft, moist peaty silt with reed stem matter	
188	200	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) soft, moist silty clay	
200	203	Missing – compression	
203	215	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) soft, wet peaty silt with reed stem matter and rootlets	
215	221	Dark grey (Gley 1 4N) soft, moist silty clay	
221	226	Greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) soft, moist sandy (fine grained) silty clay	
226	246	Greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) soft, moist sticky sandy (fine grained) silty clay, with penetrating rootlets and black 'charcoal' particles (< & = 1mm)	
246	254	Light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) soft, moist sandy (fine grained) silty clay with penetrating rootlets	
254	276	Brown (10YR 5/3) soft, moist sandy (fine grained) silty clay with penetrating rootlets and inclusions of small angular and sub-angular calcareous fragments (< & = 1.5mm)	
276	300	Dark grey (Gley 1 4N) clay with angular stone inclusions (< 20x15 mm)	
Remarks: 1. Surface OD = - 0.5m			Logged by: JW

Site Code: MAGR08		Location: Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire	Borehole No.: 11
Equipment & Methods: Window sampler		Final Depth: 300cm	Date: 30.07.2008
Samples		Client: Archaeological Project Services	
From (cm)	To (cm)	Description	
0	20	Missing – compression	
20	27	Turf- grass layer	
27	55	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) compact, dry silty loam with penetrating rootlets and grass roots – topsoil	
55	65	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) stiff, compacted dry silty loam with penetrating rootlets - topsoil	
65	90	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft, moist silty clay with ochreous patches and mottling and penetrating rootlets	
90	100	Missing – fell out?	
100	106	Missing – compression?	
106	113	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft moist silty loam – possible slip from above?	
113	136	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) soft, moist silty clay with penetrating rootlets and ochreous staining along root runs	
136	145	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft, moist silty clay, oxidised reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets	
145	180	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) soft, moist silty fine grained sand, with patches of grey (10YR 5/1) clay and oxidised reed stem matter and penetrating rootlets (also appear oxidised)	
180	186	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) stiff, moist sandy (fine grained) clay	
186	200	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) soft, loose wet fine-medium sand	
200	220	Missing – compression	
220	236	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) soft, loose wet fine-medium sand	
236	269	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft, moist silty clay with inclusions of angular grit and gravel (< & = 3mm), oxidised reed stem matter and oxidised rootlets penetrating vertically	
269	300	Grey (10YR 5/1) stiff, moist clay	
Remarks: 1. Surface OD = -0.5m			Logged by: JW

Appendix 5.3. Radiocarbon calibration curves

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-28.4;lab. mult=1)

Laboratory number: Beta-244195

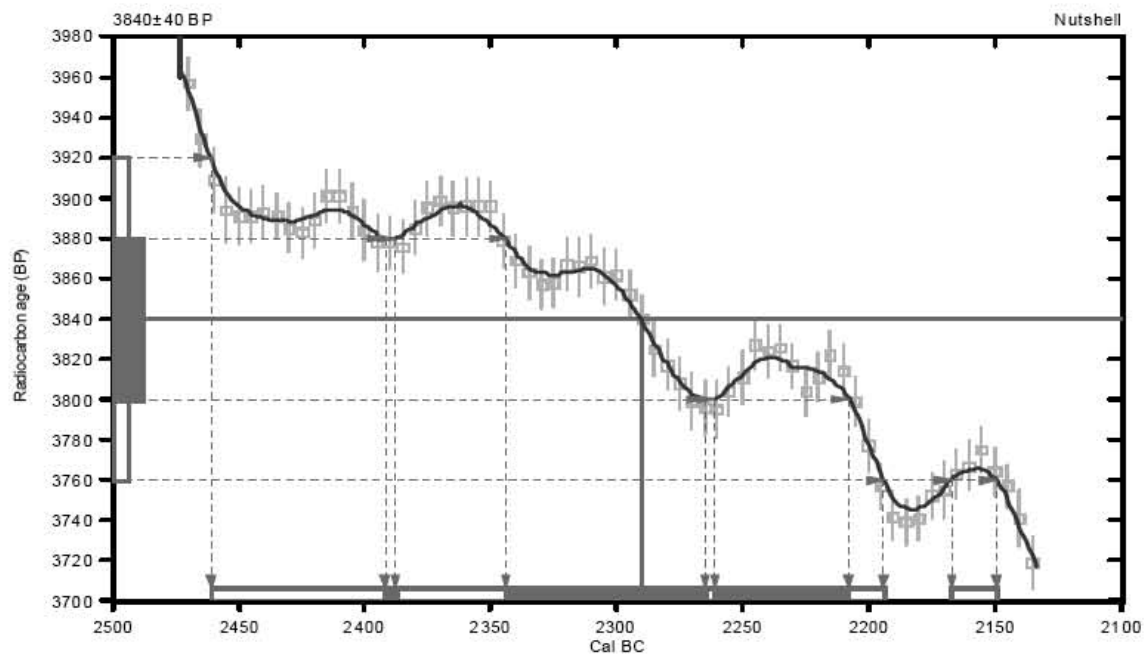
Conventional radiocarbon age: 3840±40 BP

2 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 2460 to 2190 (Cal BP 4410 to 4140) and
(95% probability) Cal BC 2170 to 2150 (Cal BP 4120 to 4100)

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age
with calibration curve: Cal BC 2290 (Cal BP 4240)

1 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 2390 to 2390 (Cal BP 4340 to 4340) and
(68% probability) Cal BC 2340 to 2260 (Cal BP 4290 to 4220) and
Cal BC 2260 to 2210 (Cal BP 4210 to 4160)



References:

Database used

INTCAL04

Calibration Database

INTCAL04 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

IntCal04: Calibration Issue of Radiocarbon (Volume 46, nr 3, 2004).

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • E-Mail: beta@radiocarbon.com

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-25.3:lab. mult=1)

Laboratory number: **Beta-252382**

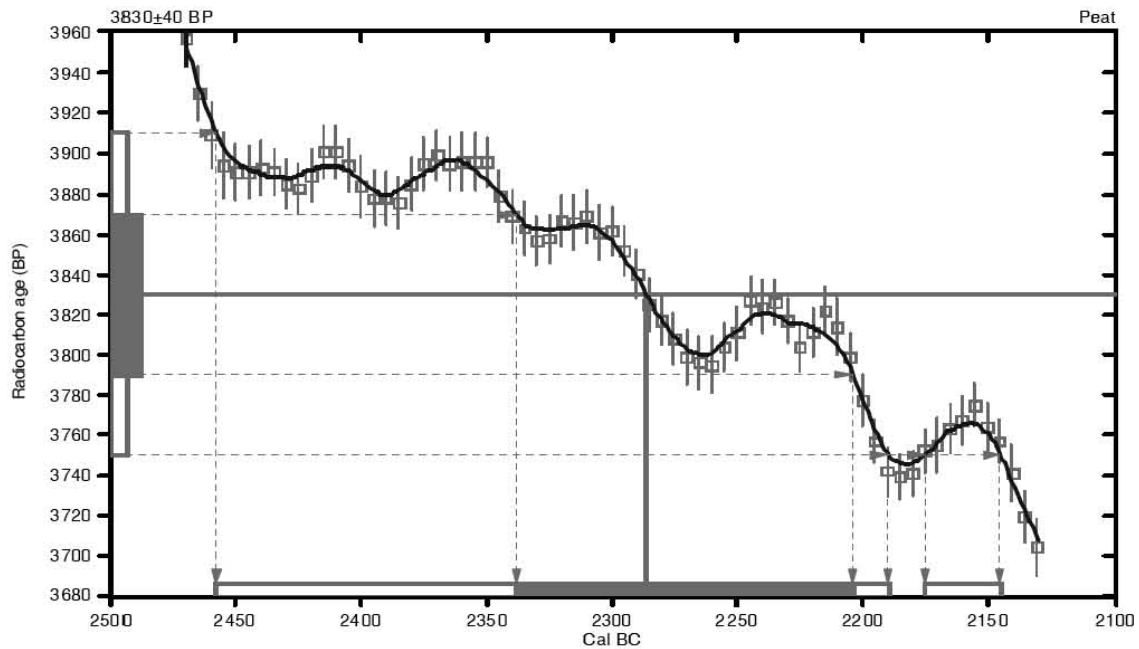
Conventional radiocarbon age: **3830±40 BP**

2 Sigma calibrated results: **Cal BC 2460 to 2190 (Cal BP 4410 to 4140) and
(95% probability) Cal BC 2180 to 2140 (Cal BP 4120 to 4100)**

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age
with calibration curve: **Cal BC 2290 (Cal BP 4240)**

1 Sigma calibrated result: **Cal BC 2340 to 2200 (Cal BP 4290 to 4150)
(68% probability)**



References:

Database used

INTCAL04

Calibration Database

INTCAL04 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

IntCal04: Calibration Issue of Radiocarbon (Volume 46, nr 3, 2004).

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • E-Mail: beta@radiocarbon.com

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-29.1:lab.mult=1)

Laboratory number: **Beta-252383**

Conventional radiocarbon age: **4110±40 BP**

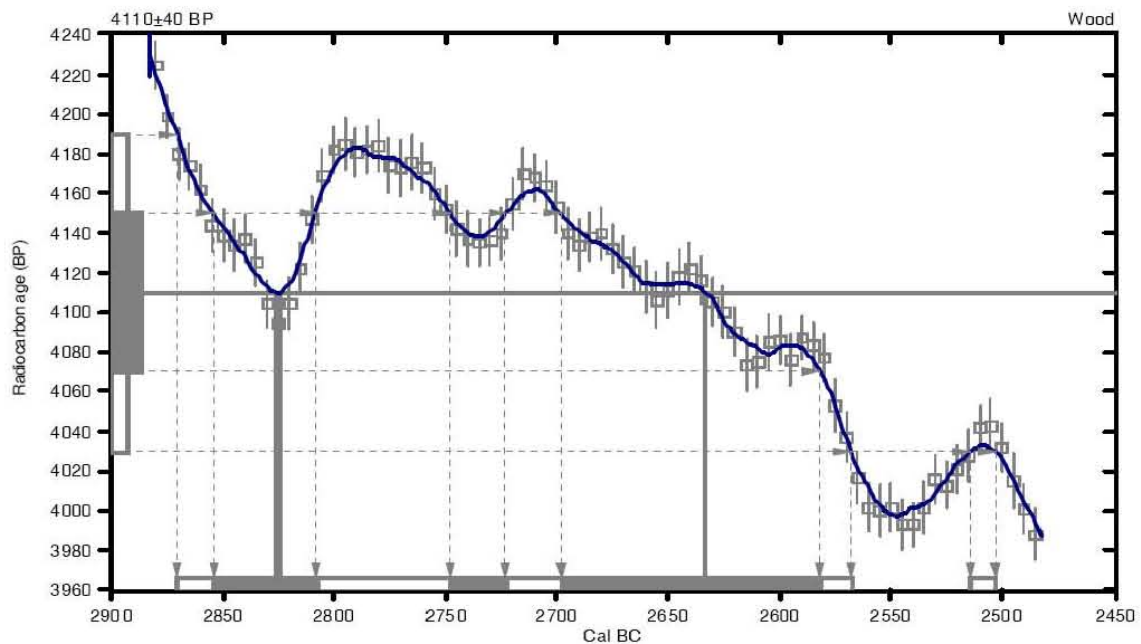
2 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 2870 to 2570 (Cal BP 4820 to 4520) and
(95% probability) Cal BC 2510 to 2500 (Cal BP 4460 to 4450)

Intercept data

Intercepts of radiocarbon age
with calibration curve:

Cal BC 2830 (Cal BP 4780) and
Cal BC 2820 (Cal BP 4770) and
Cal BC 2630 (Cal BP 4580)

1 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 2850 to 2810 (Cal BP 4800 to 4760) and
(68% probability) Cal BC 2750 to 2720 (Cal BP 4700 to 4670) and
Cal BC 2700 to 2580 (Cal BP 4650 to 4530)



References:

Database used

INTCAL04

Calibration Database

INTCAL04 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

IntCal04: Calibration Issue of Radiocarbon (Volume 46, nr 3, 2004).

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • E-Mail: beta@radiocarbon.com

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-28.9:lab.mult=1)

Laboratory number: **Beta-252384**

Conventional radiocarbon age: **4080±40 BP**

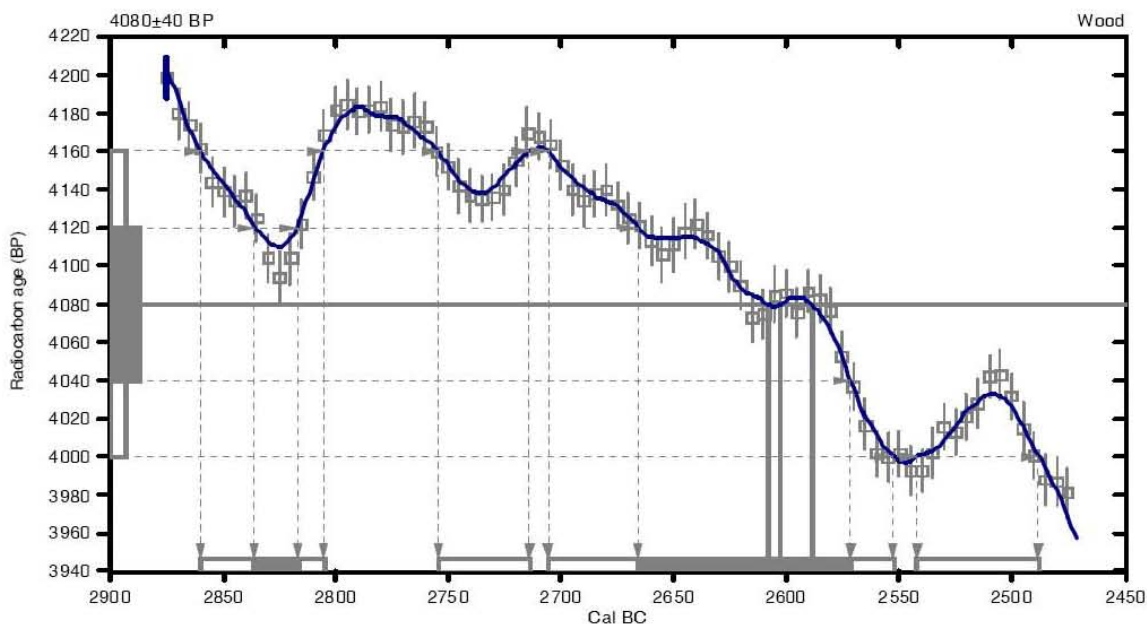
2 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 2860 to 2800 (Cal BP 4810 to 4760) and
(95% probability) Cal BC 2750 to 2710 (Cal BP 4700 to 4660) and
Cal BC 2710 to 2550 (Cal BP 4660 to 4500) and
Cal BC 2540 to 2490 (Cal BP 4490 to 4440)

Intercept data

Intercepts of radiocarbon age
with calibration curve:

Cal BC 2610 (Cal BP 4560) and
Cal BC 2600 (Cal BP 4550) and
Cal BC 2590 (Cal BP 4540)

1 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 2840 to 2820 (Cal BP 4790 to 4770) and
(68% probability) Cal BC 2670 to 2570 (Cal BP 4620 to 4520)



References:

Database used

INTCAL04

Calibration Database

INTCAL04 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

IntCal04: Calibration Issue of Radiocarbon (Volume 46, nr 3, 2004).

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • E-Mail: beta@radiocarbon.com

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-28.2:lab. mult=1)

Laboratory number: **Beta-252385**

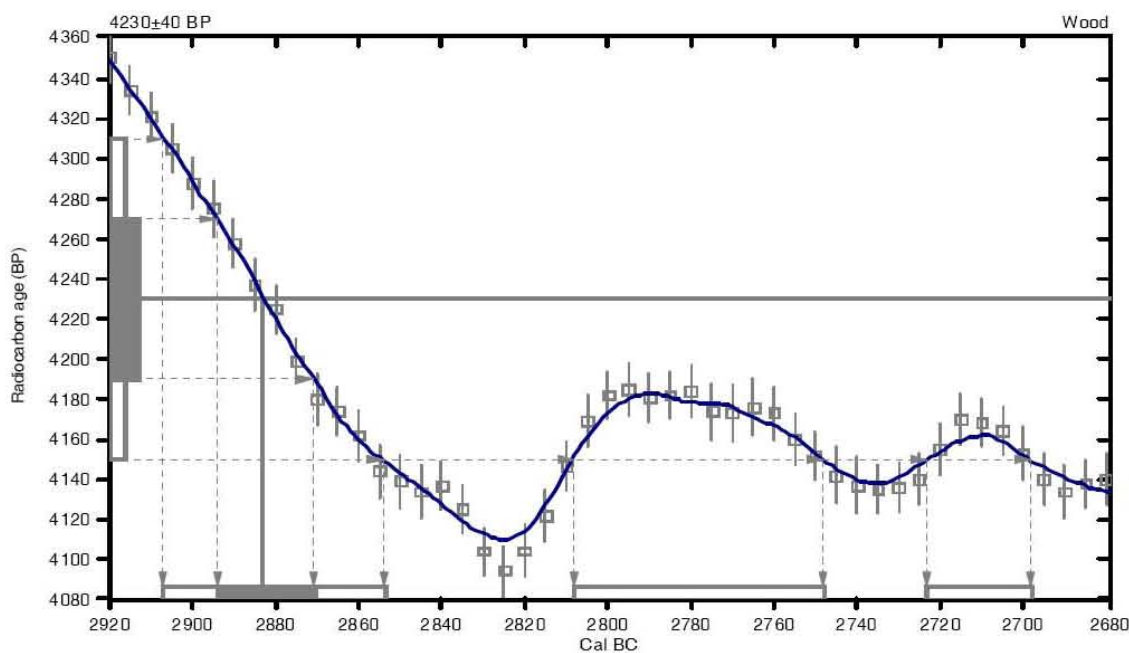
Conventional radiocarbon age: **4230±40 BP**

2 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 2910 to 2850 (Cal BP 4860 to 4800) and
(95% probability) Cal BC 2810 to 2750 (Cal BP 4760 to 4700) and
Cal BC 2720 to 2700 (Cal BP 4670 to 4650)

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age
with calibration curve: Cal BC 2880 (Cal BP 4830)

1 Sigma calibrated result: Cal BC 2890 to 2870 (Cal BP 4840 to 4820)
(68% probability)



References:

Database used

INTCAL04

Calibration Database

INTCAL04 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

IntCal04: Calibration Issue of Radiocarbon (Volume 46, nr 3, 2004).

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • E-Mail: beta@radiocarbon.com

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-27.2;lab.mult=1)

Laboratory number: **Beta-252386**

Conventional radiocarbon age: **4770±40 BP**

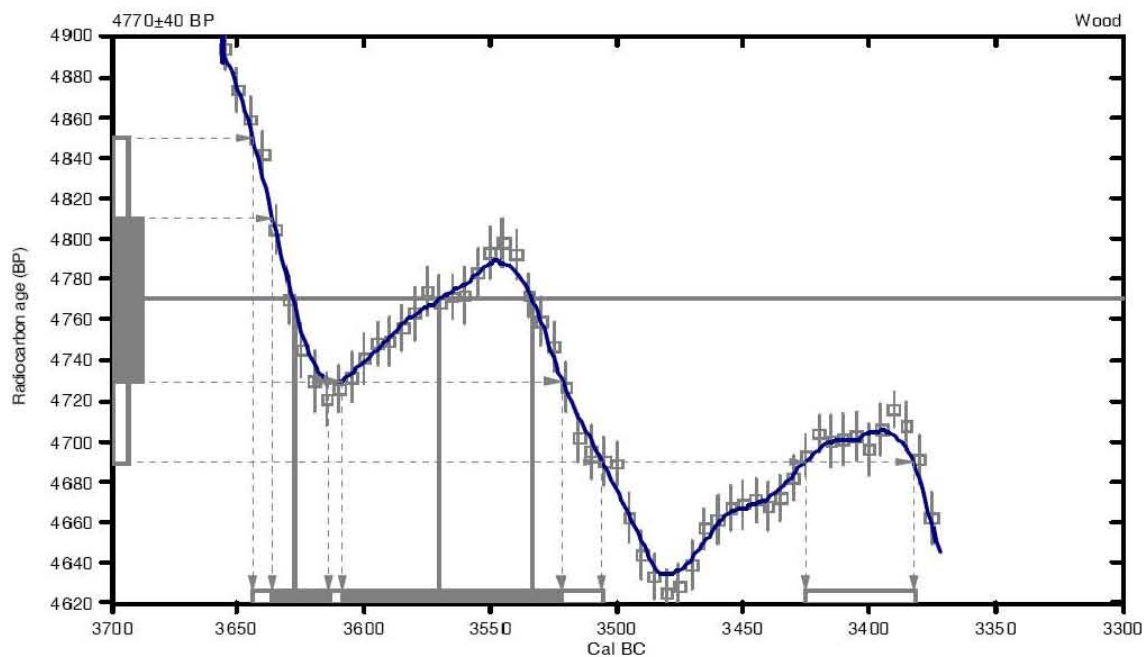
2 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 3640 to 3510 (Cal BP 5590 to 5460) and
(95% probability) Cal BC 3420 to 3380 (Cal BP 5380 to 5330)

Intercept data

Intercepts of radiocarbon age

with calibration curve: Cal BC 3630 (Cal BP 5580) and
Cal BC 3570 (Cal BP 5520) and
Cal BC 3530 (Cal BP 5480)

1 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 3640 to 3610 (Cal BP 5590 to 5560) and
(68% probability) Cal BC 3610 to 3520 (Cal BP 5560 to 5470)



References:

Database used

INTCAL04

Calibration Database

INTCAL04 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

IntCal04: Calibration Issue of Radiocarbon (Volume 46, nr 3, 2004).

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • E-Mail: beta@radiocarbon.com

Appendix 6

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Manuring Scatter	A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Roddon	Raised banks of clay or silt representing sinuous channels which formed dendritic patterns and which later became silted up. Roddons stand proud of the fen surface due to tidal levees and also due to post depositional compression and wastage of the surrounding peat.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 7

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

237	Context records
21	Context register sheets
51	Test pit record sheets (trench sheets)
5	3D finds record sheets
9	Photographic record sheet
3	Section register sheets
3	Plan register sheets
1	Levels record sheet
24	Daily record sheets
76	Sheets of scale drawings
9	Environmental sample register sheets
157	Environmental sample record sheets
10	Boxes of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Cambridgeshire County Council
Castle Court
Shire Hall
Cambridgeshire
CB3 0AP

Accession Number: ECB 2958

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MAGR08 (Excavation)

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

Appendix 8

OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol1-108505

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Excavations at Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (MAGR08)
Short description of the project	Results of archaeological excavation of the site of a Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatter investigating buried soil layers along with a small number of possibly contemporary features, perhaps associated with settlement. A palaeoenvironmental borehole survey was also carried out across an adjacent palaeochannel of Neolithic and later date.
Project dates	Start: 10-06-2008 End: 11-07-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MAGR08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB2958 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	F/YR05/0944/F - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	BURIED SOIL Middle Neolithic
Monument type	PITS Middle Neolithic
Monument type	HEARTH Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	POST HOLES Uncertain
Significant Finds	LITHICS Mesolithic
Significant Finds	LITHICS Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Investigation type	'Open-area excavation','Test-Pit Survey'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND MARCH March, Gaul Road
Postcode	PE15 9RF
Study area	7000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4065 9685 52.5509140720 0.07466142399440 52 33 03 N 000 04 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: -4.00m Max: 0.35m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Vicky Mellor and Neil Parker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cannon Kirk Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB2958
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Industrial','Metal','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB2958
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB2958
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Excavations at Gaul Road, March, Cambridgeshire (MAGR08)
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Mellor, V.
Other bibliographic details	APS Report Number: 06/11
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
Description	A4 comb-bound report containing descriptive and discursive text, reports from specialist artefact and environmental analysis, colour photographs and drawings, some at A3 size and archive appendices.
Entered by	Vicky Mellor (vicky.mellor@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	24 August 2011

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2006 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Friday 3 February 2006

Cite only: /d1/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page