An Archaeological Investigation on Land off Eastrea Road, Whittlesey

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Summary

From September to December 2011 a series of archaeological investigations were undertaken on land off Eastrea Road, Whittlesey (centred on TL 288 968) extending over c.32.2ha. The work was commissioned by Savills Ltd. for Whitacre Management Ltd. in response to a request from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team. The investigations comprised an aerial photographic survey (Palmer 2011), a field walking survey, a geophysical survey (Bartlett 2011), and a trench evaluation. Later prehistoric activity situated on the eastern edge of Whittlesey was recorded. An Early Bronze Age ring ditch with central cremation was identified first on aerial photographs and then through trenched evaluation, whilst two small broadly contemporary pits were revealed in other trenches within the landscape. Towards the 'islands' edge were a series of Middle Iron Age enclosures and pits, which suggested two separate phases of human occupation. One part of the development site is designated a 'Country Park', and this was sited within an area of low-lying farmland between the 'islands' of Whittlesey and Eastrea. Although there was no evidence for ancient societies using or occupying this space, it was possible to record a series of marine and freshwater inundations, which spanned the Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological investigation was undertaken on behalf of Savills Ltd for Whitacre Management Ltd. The investigation was commissioned to define the scope of any archaeological activity on land off Eastrea Road, Whittlesey (centred on TL 288 968) extending over an area of *c.* 32.2ha. (Figure 1). This work was a response to a request from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) to provide information on any potential heritage assets of archaeological interest on the site through a trenched evaluation supported by aerial, geophysical, and field surveys. The non-intrusive surveys were undertaken prior to the trench evaluation with the aerial photographic survey undertaken by Air Photo Services (Palmer 2011) and the geophysical survey by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy (Bartlett 2011). The project followed a specification set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Beadsmoore 2011).

The site is located south of Eastrea Road, on the eastern side of Whittlesey in Cambridgeshire. The geology comprises Oxford clay overlain by river terrace drift (March Gravels) which forms two 'islands', Whittlesey and Eastrea, with a marine alluvium and fen peat filled channel between them (Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1983). The Proposed Development Area (PDA) was situated within agricultural land which comprised seven separate blocks, Fields 1 to 7 (Figure 1), three of which were under pasture (Fields 2, 3 and 7), whilst one was being used as a paintball site (Field 3). At the time of the investigation the remaining fields of the PDA had recently been harvested and ploughed.

Archaeological Background

The PDA is situated on the edge of an island that has seen intense archaeological investigations. Prehistoric activity has been recorded in the wider landscape, on the western edge of Whittlesey and within the area between Whittlesey and Stanground in particular. Excavations at Stonalds Field and Bradley Fen have shown that humans were occupying the Fen margins from the Bronze Age and into the Roman period in a landscape comparable to the PDA (Knight forthcoming). Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman settlements were recorded with associated fieldsystems, and were shown to interact and respond to the increasingly wetter landscape, with metalled pathways and 'raised' route ways identified along with animal hoof prints. More recent ongoing excavations at Must Farm have shown that even the low lying areas of the Fens, which were once thought of as being devoid of activity, were once dry and utilised by past societies.

During the Roman period, Whittlesey and Eastrea were part of the route of the Fen Causeway a Roman road that went from Peterborough to Denver, Norfolk joining the Fen islands. The road crosses the Fen from Northey and bisects Whittlesey island, where it is thought to continue to Eastrea just north of the PDA (CHER 11049). As a main Roman route way through the Fens, the Fen Causeway became the focus for activity with numerous settlements situated along it.

Closer to the PDA the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) has a number of records for the surrounding area, some of which are associated with the Fenland Survey (Hall 1987). In 1979 to the southwest of the PDA a portion of a prehistoric log boat was recovered after drainage works near to the railway line (the remainder of it is thought to be under the railway line (CHER 03736). To the east of Eastrea, on land adjacent to 80 Coates Road, an undated ring ditch and later prehistoric linear features have been recorded along with evidence for possible Roman settlement (CHER 04205 and 10593). To the northeast of the PDA, aerial photographs have revealed the possible presence of Anglo-Saxon activity as a number of roughly rectangular features, interpreted as possible grubenhäuser, have been identified (CHER 02834a; SAM 109). At the same site aerial photographs have also revealed the presence of an undated ring ditch and possible enclosures (CHER 02834). Further Anglo-Saxon activity has been recorded to the south of Field 1 within the area currently occupied by the Gildenburgh Dive-In centre where in 1838 eight burials were found, aligned east-west, with a pot placed near the head of each burial (CHER 02921).

During the Fenland Survey the fields that form the PDA were field walked on 30m transects by David Hall (Hall 1987). During this survey he noted that, for the area between the two 'islands' the 'Barroway Drove clay is clearly exposed in the northern bay between Whittlesey and Eastrea islands. Although not visible on the ground, it occurs as a narrow belt between the two main islands,' (ibid pp.55). At what is now Partridge Farm, towards the southern limit of the PDA, a Romano-British settlement was identified, Site 15. This covered an area of approximately 0.3ha and 23 artefacts (325g) were retrieved during the fieldwalking of the

site, comprising colour-coated and grey wares, bone, tile and quern, from an area which appeared slightly darker than the surrounding ground (ibid).

To the west of and abutting the PDA, an evaluation of Burdett Nurseries has identified evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement which relate to a series of cropmarks identified through aerial photography (Williams 2004). The Iron Age activity comprised a series of linear and curvilinear features representative of enclosures situated along the southeast edge of the nursery site and thought to continue towards the fen edge into the current PDA. The Romano-British period was represented by a series of linear features, an enclosure ditch, a pit and a midden deposit. The midden contained building material, worked stone and glass, suggesting the presence of a Roman building somewhere within the vicinity. The majority of the features identified during the evaluation corresponded with features recorded from aerial photographs of the site, which suggest the activity was confined to the nursery site with no indication that it extended into the PDA.

The aerial photographic assessment undertaken by Air Photo Services identified five types of archaeological features situated within the northwest part of the PDA (Palmer 2011). These comprised a single ring ditch of possible Bronze Age date; double ditches forming a track of unknown date which may have been related to areas of post-Medieval quarrying; the suggestions of two other circular features of unknown date; and a series of 'possible ditches' which could be natural fissures rather than archaeological. Within the area of the proposed 'Country Park' two phases of Fen edge were recorded, which are thought to represent the course of a channel of marine alluvium in the prehistoric and Roman/Medieval periods between Whittlesey and Eastrea (ibid).

Methodology

The Field Survey

Prior to the excavation of any trenches a field walking and geophysical survey was undertaken (Figure 2). The field walking portion of the survey occurred between the 26th and 30th September 2011 with the geophysical survey following between the 5th and 10th October 2011. For the field walking a grid was overlain onto the PDA and divided into hectares (H1 to H43), then further sub-divided into 20m transects (A to E, 20 to 100) using a Global Positioning System (GPS) to create transect points. Transects were orientated to the Ordnance Survey grid (and as a result were not aligned with the field boundaries) and walked along a north-south orientation covering a 2m wide sweep. Artefacts were collected at 20m intervals and labelled by transect point. The 2m wide collection corridor along transects supplied a 10% sample of the field to be developed.

A metal detecting survey was carried out to complement the field walking. As well as helping to locate sites and finds, assessing the topsoil assemblage can also pinpoint activities that may not be apparent from subsurface archaeological features. The survey utilised the same grid

and north-south 20m transects as the field walking. The survey was undertaken using a XP 150 detector at a slow pace covering a 1.5 to 2.0m wide sweep. If artefacts of interest or groups of significant artefacts were encountered then a more intensive survey could be carried out. Small iron objects were discriminated out along with very recent objects such as ring pulls, bottle tops, shotgun cartridges, drink cans, and machine parts. All other metal finds were collected and plotted to within a meter along each transect.

The majority of the fields had recently been harvested of potatoes and wheat and the conditions for the field walking survey in these fields were good. A portion of Field 6 still contained a sugar beet crop and so was not surveyed, neither were the three fields (2, 3 and 7) under pasture.

The Trench Based Survey

Due to the topographical location of the investigation, its position on the edge of Whittlesey, and the potential for deep fen deposits it was determined that Fields 1, 2 and 3 would be evaluated by machine excavated trenches as these were situated on the perceived higher ground, while Fields 4, 5, 6 and 7, which were within the proposed 'Country Park' area where deeper deposits were envisioned, would be evaluated by two test pit transects in the first instance. Subsequent to this it was decided that a series of trenches would be excavated in the proposed 'Country Park' in an attempt to better characterise the land between the two islands, and to provide more information about this area (Figure 2).

The trench based survey was undertaken between the 24th October and 4th November 2011 with the trenches and test pits being excavated in tandem, unfortunately, at this time it was not possible to trench within the paint ball area and this was evaluated within the second phase of trenched evaluation along with the 'Country Park'. This second phase of evaluation was undertaken between 29th November and the 9th December 2011. A total of 47 trenches were excavated across both phases of evaluation (27 in the first phase, and 20 in the second) totalling 2,102.35m (1,191.6m in the first phase and 910.75m in the second) along with 16 test pits comprising two transects of eight. These were all excavated using a 360° tracked machine with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised by an experienced archaeologist. The trenches were excavated down to a level where archaeological features were visible, these were planned and hand excavated by a team of skilled archaeologists. The test pits were excavated down to natural gravel or clay, recorded and then, for safety reasons, back filled.

Test pit record sheets were completed for all the test pits, with depositional depths recorded along with a description. Trench sheets were completed for all of the trenches to record section profiles and geological variances and were accompanied by scale plans of all archaeological features (at 1:50) and the recording of excavated features with sections drawn at a scale of 1:10, complimented by digital photographs. The Unit-modified version of the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS) recording system was employed throughout with all excavated stratigraphic events assigned feature numbers (F.#) and all

contexts assigned individual numbers ([context #]). The PDA was fixed to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and a contour survey undertaken with a Global Positioning System (GPS). The Site was identified as EAW11.

RESULTS

The Field Survey

A total of 372 items were collected during the field survey with the majority coming from Fields 1 and 5 (Figure 3). These fields were situated either along Eastrea Road (Field 1) or Half Acre Drove (Field 5) and the artefacts recovered from these fields were predominantly located close to these route ways. The majority of material recovered was Post-Medieval and later in date with a high percentage of the material comprising fragments of clay field drains, which were discarded, with a total of 155 items being kept.

Eight fragments of pottery predating the Post-Medieval period were collected, of which the majority were abraded and un-diagnostic with a few possibly dating to the Romano-British period. All of this material was recovered from Fields 1 and 5 and was dispersed throughout the fields with the only concentration comprising of two fragments at H34/C60 in Field 5 (Figure 3.1).

Five flints were recovered, three from Field 1, one from Field 4, and one from Field 5. These comprised three secondary flakes, a secondary blade and a tertiary flake. The flakes are chronologically non-diagnostic, whilst the blade recovered from H16/D80 is characteristic of Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic core reduction/blade production strategies. None of these pieces were clustered and, although three were recovered from Field 1, they were scattered throughout (Figure 3.2).

A total of 61 pieces of burnt or fired clay were recovered from across the surveyed area. Over 50% of this material was fragments of old field drains which were collected in Field 1. Only 14 of the pieces recovered potentially predated the Post-Medieval period, however, because there were no diagnostic pieces within this reduced collection any date would be pure conjecture (Figure 3.1).

The metal detector survey, which was undertaken at the same time, yielded similar results. A total of 82 artefacts were recovered, with 67 being found in Field 1. Only two of the finds predated the post-Medieval period, a small bronze coin of probable 3rd to 4th century date, and a double loop buckle attributed to the Medieval period. Both of these objects were found in Field 1 and match the findings from the field walking (Figure 4).

In conjunction with the field survey a preliminary auger survey was undertaken at four locations across the palaeo-channel to obtain an ‘initial look’ at the character of this feature.

The auger holes were set along one of the field walking transects at 100m intervals. These have since been superseded by the test pit transects done via tracked excavator.

The low densities of finds from Fields 4, 5, and 6 are partially a result of the deep deposits present within the 'Country Park' area.

The Trench Based Survey

Evidence for Early Bronze Age activity was encountered within Field 1. In Trench 17 **F.13** was a small pit (1m x 0.7m x 0.16m) which contained a rim fragment from a possible Collared Urn vessel. In Trench 2 **F.2** was another small pit or posthole which contained fragments of Rusticated Beaker. These features appear to sit within a landscape dominated by a ring ditch. Trench 4 was excavated to investigate the circular ditch feature identified on the aerial photographic survey (Palmer 2011). Upon excavation the potential ring ditch **F.1** contained a very pale silty fill, which proved to be relatively sterile. Trench 4a was subsequently excavated, perpendicular to Trench 4, to confirm the presence of the ring ditch following the ambiguous results of Trench 4. The ring ditch became more clearly articulated and a cremation within an urn was found at the centre of the ring (Figure 5 and Plate 1). The cremation appeared to be within a large vessel c.40cm in diameter, which had been badly damaged by ploughing (a plough scar containing cremation material was visible near the cremation), this feature was left unexcavated, preserved for future excavation. The ring itself appeared to comprise two ditches, a potential inner and outer ring; a section of both was excavated. The inner ring F.1 was 1.75m wide and 0.85m deep with steep sloping sides and a redeposited natural primary fill, within the tertiary fill (pale silt) were rim fragments of a Collared Urn vessel. The potential outer ring **F.34** was less conclusive and, if a real feature, survived only to a depth of 0.15m. Due to the nature of the feature it was decided to excavate enough to establish the character of the 'monument' whilst not compromising any future excavation strategy.

Within Field 2 a series of linear features were recorded in all of the trenches, which corresponded with those identified on the geophysics survey (Figure 6). The linear features appear to represent three possible enclosures with features in Trenches 20, 21, 22, and 23 defining one enclosure, with at least two more suggested by linear features in Trenches 25 and 26. Although it is not necessarily conclusive in an evaluation trench, there did appear to be two different sets of enclosures on differing alignments. The northernmost enclosure in Trenches 20-22 was aligned northeast-southwest while the southernmost enclosures were orientated closer to north-south. A few fragments of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from the enclosure ditches, predominantly those associated with the southern enclosures. A series of intercutting pits were identified within Trench 24, which spanned a 25m stretch of the trench. A sample of these was excavated and they are interpreted as successive episodes of quarrying. All of the features within this field contained a clay, or alluvial fill, which was partly derived from the underlying clay which outcropping in the field, but may also have

derived from the Late Iron Age/early Roman alluvial deposit identified in the test pits and trenches to the east.

Due to underground and overhead services the northern portion of Field 2 was not trenched, however, the extent of the archaeology in Trench 20 suggests that the activity did not continue much further to the north. To the south, in Field 3, the archaeology identified within the trenches suggests that the activity was focused within the southern half of Field 2. A few pits and possible postholes were identified in the trenches within Field 3 but these appeared to represent marginal activity. To the east, the trenches in the 'Country Park' suggested much the same with only Trench 32 in Field 4 revealing convincing evidence of late prehistoric activity. Towards the northern end of this trench a segmented gully (**F.59** and **F.60**) and a series of pits (**F.56** and **F.57**) indicates that the activity in Field 3 may continue through into Field 4, which then marks the edge of the settlement.

Later activity was recorded within Field 1 with a set of parallel ditches, identified on the aerial photographs (Palmer 2011). Upon excavation these yielded Post-Medieval material, which provided evidence that the features represent a continuation of Half Acre Drove along its current route at the corner of Field 1 and 2 to Eastrea Road. Within Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 there was evidence for Post-Medieval strip quarries, which probably targeted the gravel deposits. Within a number of the trenches in the 'Country Park' area shallow, straight cut ditches were recorded, some of which appeared segmented. These were identified in Trenches 28, 33, 37, and 40 and were most likely present throughout the rest of the 'Country Park'. These features were Post-Medieval in date with fragments of coke and clay pipe found within some of them. It is thought that they may have been dug to 'clay the land' whereby heavier clay or marl deposits are dug up and spread across the peat (Atkin, 1840).

The test pit transects in Fields 4, 5, and 6 confirmed the presence of a comparatively shallow palaeochannel or 'creek' identified from aerial photographs cutting through the middle of the low lying proposed 'Country Park' area. In Test Pits 2, 3, 4, 5, 12 and 13 a sequence of peat and alluvial deposits which overlay the natural gravels were identified and indicated the presence of the 'creek', with Test Pits 2 and 3 the deepest at 2m from surface level, while the deposits in Test Pit 13 were suggestive of the edge of the channel. Test Pits 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 13 revealed traces of a buried soil, whilst buried soil and an overlying alluvium deposit was in Test Pit 1. Test Pits 9, 14, 15, and 16 revealed the plough soil was lying directly on the natural, whilst a large bog oak was recorded in Test Pit 3, but no other features or artefacts were encountered.

Following the test pit survey a series of 16 trenches were excavated in Fields 4, 5, and 6 and although only very limited evidence for prehistoric activity was identified in the 'Country Park', these trenches did help to clarify the deposits recorded in the test pits. The trenches revealed a series of successive 'wetland' inundations, which are thought to have begun in the Bronze Age (Steve Boreham *per comm*) and it was possible to map the extent of the deposits that represented these inundations (Figure 7).

The proposed 'Country Park' is situated within an area of the landscape nestled between the 'islands' of Whittlesey and Eastrea which was formed by a depression in the underlying gravel. The earliest deposits in the trenches revealed what is thought to be the presence of a freshwater flooding caused as sea-levels rose throughout the late Neolithic, which affected only the lower contours up to -0.5m OD (Figure 7.2). This deposit or 'mud' had survived in Trenches 29 to 31, 34 to 41, and 46 as a brown or grey silt that contained organic rootlets, and was better preserved along the Whittlesey edge of the 'Country Park' where it had not been scoured away by later inundations. This 'mud' was overlain by a sandy peat deposit that was similar to the 'mud' but appeared to show signs of post-depositional oxidation, and may represent a change from reedswamp to wet woodland (Boreham below). A partially formed buried soil overlay these deposits, and was visible in Trenches 29 to 31, 40, 41, and 47 (Figure 7.3). A fresh water inundation followed gradually forming a peat layer that was evident within Trenches 29 to 31, 34, 36, and 38 to 40. During the Late Iron Age/early Roman period a second incursion occurred and a small 'creek' cut through the peat. The 'creek' was evident within Trenches 30, 34, 36, and 39, entering the site from the south where it was *c.*1.01m deep and meandering to the north where it was present in Trench 30 at 0.42m deep (Figure 8), but it had stopped before Trench 29. These results were consistent with the location of the palaeo-channel identified on the aerial photographic survey (Palmer 2011). As the environment in the Late Iron Age got wetter the 'creek' overflowed depositing a grey/orange alluvium across much of the 'Country Park' area (Figure 7.5), the same deposit was also recorded within some of the Iron Age ditches within Field 2 to the west. Not unsurprisingly the alluvium deposit was thickest close to the 'creek' at *c.*0.35m, getting thinner as it spread out. Above this alluvium was a peat and plough soil deposit as identified throughout the fens.

The trenches in the 'Country Park' revealed some features; a pit (**F.52**) in Trench 28, another (**F.66**) in Trench 35, a pit (**F.55**) and linear feature (**F.65**) in Trench 37, and a pit (**F.62**) and two linear features (**F.63** and **F.64**) in Trench 40. All of these features, with the exception of F.52, were cut through the buried soil or Bronze Age 'mud' deposits, and contained either the poorly formed buried soil or primary peat deposit. None of the features were convincing as ditches or pits but had an element of ambiguity (within the confines of a trench), which suggests that they were most likely of natural origin and had formed as water channels and scoured routes through the saturated ground.

DISCUSSION

The archaeology in Fields 1 and 2 represents two separate and distinct phases of prehistoric activity, with a much later utilisation in the Post-Medieval period. Early Bronze Age activity was focused on the ring ditch, a confirmed burial monument with a central cremation in a large urn. Two small broadly contemporary pits were revealed which produced a small assemblage of pottery (Figure 9). Unfortunately the evaluation has identified the absence of any real cover over these features and consequently, they are all heavily truncated. There was

no sign of any buried soil throughout the field, the ring ditch survived only as the ditch, the cremation has been heavily truncated, and F.2 in Trench 2 has been almost completely lost.

In Field 2 and 3 the activity appeared to be predominantly Middle Iron Age, and the features were better preserved, with buried soil evident within patches in some of the trenches (Figure 9). As with the Early Bronze Age material, few artefacts were recovered suggesting that it is away from the core settlement area. At Burdett Nurseries to the west of the PDA, Middle to Late Iron Age settlement activity was recorded as a series of enclosures which produced an assemblage of 117 sherds of pottery (Williams 2004), and it seems likely that this activity was contemporary with the enclosures in Field 2. The evaluation within the 'Country Park' has shown that during this period the landscape was becoming saturated.

The trenching in the 'Country Park' revealed that the area between Whittlesey and Eastrea was little settled with activity occurring on the higher grounds to the east on Eastrea and the west on Whittlesey. The channel identified on the aerial photographs appears to represent a Late Iron Age 'creek' or water course which cut through the earlier peat from the south, however, the 'creek' did not continue through to the Flag Fen embayment to the north. Alluvium from the 'creek' was identified throughout much of the 'Country Park' area and into the earthworks of some of the features in Field 2.

APPENDIX

Metal Detecting Survey

Andrew Hall

Within Field 1 the conditions for metal detecting were good, with the crop of potatoes having been recently lifted, however, a proportion of the field was not detected due the presence of standing set-aside. Fields 2, 3 and 7 were under pasture and so these fields were not surveyed. The conditions in Fields 4, 5 and 6 were similar to those within Field 1 with a crop having recently been harvested. It is important to note that Field 1 has been subject to repeated detecting by amateur detectorists over the years.

Field 1 yielded the majority of the finds, a total of 67 objects. Of these, one is silver, 53 copper alloy, 11 lead or lead alloy and two iron. Overall the condition of the non-ferrous artefacts recovered was good. The complete assemblage is catalogued within the table below.

No.	Cat No.	Description	Date
1	<101>	Iron rivet head of irregular shape, 25 x 30mm, weight 13g	Post Med
2	<044>	Undecorated button, loop broken, 21mm diameter, weight 5g	18th/19th
3	<112>	A cut length of circular cross section lead bar, with an iron rod running through the centre. 28mm in length by 10mm diameter, 22g	20th
4	<045>	A plain cast copper alloy domed headed stud, with incomplete shank. 22mm in diameter. Weight 5g	Post Med
5	<113>	A fragment of 2mm thick lead sheet of rectangular shape, 25 x 30mm. Weight 14g	undated
6	<114>	A fragment of a large lead disc or ring shaped plaque with a single incised cross on the upper surface and traces of a foot rim or lip on the reverse. 80 x 55mm. Weight 190g	undated
7	<046>	A cast brass latch handle, possibly from a window. 50mm in length. Weight 19g	20th
8	<047>	A crescent shaped fragment of cast copper alloy (bronze) of triangular cross section of 4mm thickness in the interior diameter tapering to 1mm thickness on the exterior. Weight 19g	undated
9	<048>	A fragment of cast copper alloy vessel rim. The vessel is upright in shape with a rim diameter of around 26cm and wall thickness of 2mm. Appears finely made. Measuring 50 x 35mm and weighs 27g (see Egan 2005 p.99)	16th-17th
10	<115>	A circular lead washer with square off-centre aperture. 35mm in diameter and weighing 15g	Post Med
11	<049>	A copper alloy General Service Military button of three piece construction with separate wire loop. The upper surface decorated in relief with the royal coat of arms. 24mm in diameter and 4g in weight	Late 19th-20th
12	<102>	A fragment of iron ploughshare 110 x 90mm.	19th/20th
13	<050>	A heavily worn copper halfpenny, probably of William III. 21mm diameter, weight 6g	17th/18th
14	<116>	A rectangular shaped piece of sheet lead with a nail hole to one end measuring 50 x 25 x 2mm. Weight 23g	Post Med
15	<051>	An irregular shaped copper alloy casting spill. Weight 7g	undated
16	<052>	A fragment of copper alloy buckle frame (oval). Measuring 30 x 10mm and weighing 3g	18th
17	<053>	A worn copper alloy coin or jetton of 24mm diameter. Weight 2g	16th-17th
18	<117>	A lead rod of circular cross section, tapering to a point at one end. 5mm diameter and 55mm in length. Possibly a writing implement. Weight 11g	Post Med

19	<054>	A machine made copper alloy hook or clasp. Weight 2g	19th/20th
20	<055>	Lead alloy rivet with domed head. Shaft and buck-tail (shop head) intact. Head 25mm in diameter. Weight 17g	Post Med
21	<056>	Copper alloy washer of 15mm diameter. Weight 2g	19th/20th
22	<043>	Silver sixpence of George V (1914)	20th
23	<118>	Irregular shaped lead casting spill. Weight 20g	undated
24	<057>	A worn 18th century halfpenny, 28mm diameter, weight 8g	18th
25	<058>	A furniture drawer knob-handle of 22mm diameter and 26mm in length. Weight 27g	18th/19th
26	<059>	A finely made copper alloy book clasp or furniture mount with a protruding tag at either end. The upper surface is decorated with an incised design, reverse plain. 30 x 14mm, weight 2g (see Margeson 1993 p.74)	16th/17th
27	<060>	A worn copper alloy halfpenny of the 17th or 18th century. 26mm in diameter, 7g in weight	17th/18th
28	<061>	A cast copper alloy ring of 34mm diameter with the frame 3mm thick.	undated
29	<103>	Copper alloy buckle with rectangular frame and traces of iron pin. Measuring 30 x 30mm and 11g in weight	18th/19th
30	<062>	A small cast copper alloy rectangular buckle or strap guide. Measuring 22 x 14mm and weighing 4g	19th/20th
31	<063>	A small undecorated copper alloy button with loop intact. Diameter 14mm. Weight 2g	18th/19th
32	<064>	An irregular lump of copper alloy casting spill. Weight 19g	undated
33	<065>	A small triangular fragment of sharp edged copper alloy, possibly shrapnel. Measuring 15 x 12mm and 2g	20th
34	<066>	An ornate shield shaped mount formed from sheet copper alloy with pressed floral decoration surrounding a central cartouche with a single tulip stem. High Victorian in style and possible a furniture mount. Heavily damaged but originally would have measured 50 x 40mm. Weight 6g	19th
35	<067>	A sheer copper alloy disc of 90mm diameter punctuated with numerous punched circular holes. The outer edge is folded over. This is most likely a rose from a watering can. Weight 35g	19th/20th
36	<068>	A small (13mm diameter) plain copper alloy button. Weight 1g	18th/19th
37	<069>	A copper alloy Victorian halfpenny dating to 1865, 25mm diameter and 6g in weight	19th
38	<070>	A copper alloy double oval loop buckle. 28 x 24mm and 3g in weight. Similar to examples from London (Egan and Pritchard 2002 p.83)	14th/15th
39	<071>	An EPNS tea spoon handle stamped with a set of marks including “Dixon”. Weight 5g	19th
40	<072>	A cast copper alloy ring fixing which would attach to a flat surface and take a horizontal pole or rod of approximately 18mm diameter. Weight 22g	19th/20th
41	<073>	A cast copper alloy drawer handle of arched form. Late Victorian / Edwardian. 70 x 35mm and 18g in weight	19th/20th
42	<074>	A cast copper alloy central bar from a buckle frame measuring 35 x 7mm. Weight 3g	17th/18th
43	<075>	A copper alloy book clasp of rectangular shape with hooked tag at one end and expanded “splayed” terminal at opposing end. Traces of decoration including pellets, a cross and concentric circles at the splayed terminal. Very similar to published examples from Norwich (Margeson 1992 p.74)	16th/17th
44	<076>	Small sheet copper alloy hollow button with flower design. 12mm in diameter. Weight 2g	19th
45	<119>	Bun shaped lead weight. Pierced for suspension. Possibly net or line weight. 11x 16mm and 18g	Post Med

46	<077>	Cast copper alloy foot from a small vessel with screw thread lined hole for attachment. Angular in design. Measuring 15mm in length by 16mm in height and 10g	19th/20th
47	<078>	Copper alloy strip 70mm in length by 10mm. Weight 5g	undated
48	<079>	Copper halfpenny of George III (forth issue 1806-7) 28mm in diameter. Weight 10g	19th
49	<080>	A domed copper alloy button with floral decoration. Loop intact. 26mm in diameter. 7g in weight	18th/19th
50	<081>	Heavily worn copper 17th/18th century halfpenny. Diameter 25mm. Weight 7g	17th/18th
51	<082>	Fragment of copper alloy sheet. 27 x 27mm. Weight 2g	undated
52	<120>	Fragment of lead alloy conical shaped object. Possibly part of a candlestick stem. Traces of raised decoration. 50mm in height by max 40mm diameter	18th/19th
53	<083>	Copper alloy rectangular plate with rectangular aperture. Two holes for attachment. Probably a furniture fitting measuring 100x 30mm, 20g	20th
54	<084>	An irregular shaped block of copper alloy casting spill. Two flat exterior surfaces. Measuring 22 x 30 x 8mm, weight 33g	undated
55	<085>	A block of cast copper alloy. 25 x 10 x 13mm, 17g	Post Med
56	<086>	Small fragment of sheet copper alloy measuring 20 x 15 x 1mm, weight 1g	undated
57	<087>	A small copper alloy button, undecorated. Loop intact. 15mm diameter. Weight 2g	18th/19th
58	<088>	A pressed copper alloy four hole button of 16mm diameter. Weight 2g	20th
59	<089>	Worn copper halfpenny of George III. Diameter 28mm, weight 8g	18th/19th
60	<090>	A Hessian or *tombak* button, plain of 19mm diameter. Weight 5g	18th/19th
61	<091>	An oval shaped copper alloy military? Badge with an openwork crown surrounded by a blue enamel filled border with text. "Cambridge…" Measuring 28 x 23mm. Weight 5g	19th/20th
62	<092>	A damaged copper alloy thimble of base diameter 19mm. Weight 2g	18th/19th
63	<121>	A fragment of lead rod measuring 38 x 8 x 5mm. Weight 10g	undated
64	<093>	A heavily worn 17th/18th century halfpenny of 28mm diameter. Weight 8g	17th/18th
65	<094>	A small (max 12mm diameter) copper alloy disc. Bent and with surface detail indistinct. Most likely a Roman coin (*nummus*), or possibly a late Iron Age coin. Weight 4g	Roman
66	<095>	A copper alloy button with traces of gilding on both sides. 19mm diameter. Weight 5g	19th
67	<096>	A pressed copper alloy disc pierced with two circular holes for attachment. "1 CWT" pressed into the disc from the reverse. 32 mm diameter. Weight 6g	19th/20th

Table 1: Metal detector finds from Field 1

Field 1 produced a typical assemblage of metalwork with the majority dating to the 17th to 20th centuries. The earliest artefact appears to be a small bronze coin (**65**), probably 3rd to 4th century in date. The condition is, however, poor and this attribution is not certain. The Medieval period is represented by a single find (**38**) a double loop buckle. For the Post Medieval period, the range of material and density reflects that from other surveys, with furniture fittings, buttons, buckles and low denomination coinage all common finds. Of particular note are the two 16th or 17th century book clasps (**26** and **43**) and the fine bronze vessel fragment (**9**).

The following finds were retrieved from Fields 4, 5 and 6

No.	Cat No.	Description	Date
68	<104>	Iron oval block. Measuring 77 x 35 x 10mm	undated
69	<097>	Copper alloy halfpenny of Edward VII, 25mm diameter, weight 6g	20th
70	<105>	Iron rod of circular cross section 115mm in length	undated
71	<122>	Lead sheet triangular offcut 45 x 30 x 3mm, 10g in weight	undated
72	<106>	Iron handle 78 mm in length by 15mm cross section	Post Med
73	<107>	Iron key 90mm in length	Post Med
74	<098>	Copper alloy button cover. 22mm diameter. 2g	18th/19th
75	<108>	Iron rod of 75mm length and 5mm diameter	undated
76	<109>	Fragment of iron ploughshare 75 x 35mm	Post Med
77	<099>	Copper alloy sheet fragment 48 x 30mm	undated
78	<110>	Iron nail 47mm in length	Post Med
79	<123>	Small irregular shaped fragment of lead or lead alloy. Weight 4g	undated
80	<100>	Pressed copper alloy circular backing plate from a drawer handle with floral embossed design. Rectangular central hole. 23mm diameter. Weight 4g	19th/20th
81	<111>	Iron rod of rectangular cross section 225mm in length. Farm machinery	Post Med
82	<124>	Lead sheet offcut.	undated

Table 2: Metal detector finds from Fields 4, 5, and 6

The density of recovered material from these fields is very low in comparison with Field 1, with no finds dating from before the Post Medieval period.

Later Prehistoric Pottery

with *Mark Knight*

Ten sherds (85g) of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from five contexts in Trenches 2, 4a, 17, 23 and 26. The assemblage had a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 8.5g with three decorated fragments from F.2 (Rusticated Beaker) and four rim sherds, two from F.1 (Collared Urn), one from F.2, and one from F.13 (Collared Urn?). As Table 3 shows, the assemblage breaks down into large sherds which are dated to the Early Bronze Age with similarities to Kings Dyke West and Bradley Fen, and small sherds dated to the Later Bronze Age.

Feature Number	Number of Sherds	Weight (g)	Description
1	2	30	Collared Urn Rim
2	3	50	Rusticated Beaker
10	3	2	Generic Bronze Age/Iron Age
13	1	2	Collared Urn?
39	1	1	Generic Bronze Age/Iron Age

Table 3: Bronze Age pottery

The Iron Age Pottery

M*att Brudenell*

Ten sherds (99g) of handmade Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from contexts in Trenches 25 and 44. The sherds were all in shell rich fabrics, and included diagnostic fragments of Scored ware from F.42 [135], and F.12 [30] (see below). The Scored ware

tradition has a long currency, emerging during mid to late fourth century BC and continuing in use up until the mid first century AD. However, most can be dated c. 350-50 BC, which is the range most appropriate for this small assemblage.

Trench 44, F.42 [135]: Single body sherd (45g) of Middle Iron Age Scored ware pottery. The sherd is tempered with moderate, coarse, poorly sorted fossil shell (1-4mm in size), and displays shallow scoring of the exterior surface.

Trench 25, F.12 [30]: Three small body sherds of Middle Iron Age-type shell tempered pottery (4g), including one fragment of Scored ware. The sherds have moderate to common coarse fossil shell (1-3mm in size).

Trench 25, F.12 [29]: Five plain Middle Iron Age base and body sherds (44g), all belonging to the same vessel. The sherds are in a dense fabric with common fine to coarse fossil shell (1-3mm).

Trench 25, F.26 [57]: Single rim sherd (6g) belonging to a plain Middle Iron Age vessel with moderate to common, coarse fossil shell (1-3mm in size).

The Worked Flint
Lawrence Billington

A total of 15 worked flints were recovered during field work. Five struck flints were collected during field walking; a single tertiary blade of earlier Neolithic/Mesolithic date was accompanied by four hard hammer struck flakes probably of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The excavation yielded a further ten flints. Blade based pieces of Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic date were absent and the waste products are dominated by hard hammer struck waste, again most probably reflecting later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity. The retouched pieces also reflect activity in this broad period, comprising a fragment of invasively retouched flake (SF 1) and an almost complete barbed and tanged arrowhead from F. 46. The latter has been manufactured on a deeply patinated blade based blank probably of Mesolithic date, scavenged for tool manufacture in the Early Bronze Age.

Field walking transect	Feature No.	Small find no.	chip	irregular waste	flake	blade	irregular flake core	barbed and tanged arrowhead	retouched flake	totals
H16/D80						1				1
H2/D20					1					1
H42/B80					1					1
H8/D40					1					1
H9/B60					1					1
	10				1					1
	19			2						2
	20						1			1
	39		1		1					2
	46				1			1		2
	55				1					1
		1							1	1
		totals	1	2	8	1	1	1	1	15

Table 6: Flint totals by type.

Faunal Remains

Vida Rajkovača

The evaluation at Eastrea Road resulted in the recovery of a small faunal assemblage totalling 31 assessable specimens and weighing 442g. The assemblage was quantified and considered based on the chronology of the material (Table 5). Preservation was varied between different phases and features; however, in general, material showed moderate to quite poor preservation. Fragmentation was high, with no complete specimens being recovered. Given the poor preservation, it is no surprise that gnawing and butchery marks were not observed.

	Bronze Age ring ditch			**Middle Iron Age**			**Post-Medieval**		
Taxon	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI
Cow	.	.	.	5	*55.6*	1	1	*100*	1
Sheep/ goat	.	.	.	3	*33.3*	1	.	.	.
Pig	.	.	.	1	*11.1*	1	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	**.**	**.**	**.**	**9**	*100*	**.**	**1**	*100*	**.**
Cattle-sized	2	.	.	5	.	.	4	.	.
Sheep-sized	.	.	.	8	.	.	1	.	.
Mammal n. f. i.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Total	**2 (24 g)**	**.**	**.**	**23 (371 g)**	**.**	**.**	**6 (47 g)**	**.**	**.**

Table 5: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) for all species from all features by phase; the abbreviation n. f. i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Bronze Age ring ditch F.1 contained a cattle-sized mandible and limb bone fragments and none could be identified to species due to the high degree of fragmentation, surface erosion and weathering. The Iron Age sub-set amounted to 23 specimens with a combined weight of 371g. Cow, sheep/ goat and pig were recorded, and a number of unidentifiable cattle and sheep-sized elements. Post-medieval material from F.54 was calcined. Track way F.3 contained a cow first phalanx, a cattle-sized limb bone fragment and a sheep-sized rib, all showing good preservation.

The overall small assemblage size and absence of biometrical and ageing data are making any discussions on site economy practices practically impossible. Apart from describing the assemblage as typically domestic in character, it is hard to draw any other conclusions on animal management and use.

Pollen Analysis of Sediments
Steve Boreham BSc. PhD.

This report presents the results of assessment pollen analyses from four sub-samples of sediment taken from a single monolith <12> sampled from Trench 29.

A bottom-up description of the monolith sequence is as follows;

0-5cm	Grey silt with organic material and rootlets
5-8cm	Grey silt with organic and pockets of orange-buff sand
8-14cm	Black-brown sandy organic material (peat) with rootlets
14-16cm	Black-brown organic material (peat) with rootlets
16-20cm	Grey silt with organic material
20-30cm	Buff-grey silty clay

The basal grey silt unit (0-5cm) was sampled for pollen at 3cm. The grey silt with pockets of orange-buff sand (5-8cm) was not sampled for pollen as it appeared oxidised. The black-brown sandy organic material (8-14cm) was sampled for pollen at 11cm. The thin peat horizon (14-16cm) was not sampled for pollen, but the overlying grey silt with organic material (a possible buried soil) (16-20cm) was sampled for pollen at 18cm. The upper buff-grey alluvial silty clay (20-30cm) was sampled for pollen at 27cm.

The four sub-samples were prepared using the standard hydrofluoric acid technique, and counted for pollen using a high-power stereo microscope at x400 magnification. The percentage pollen data from these 4 samples is presented in Table 5.

	<12> Tr29			
	basal silt	sandy peat	grey silt	alluvium
	3cm	11cm	18cm	27cm
Trees & Shrubs				
Pinus	3.2	3.7	1.2	1.4
Quercus	3.2	3.7	2.4	2.9
Tilia	1.6	3.7	8.5	8.6
Alnus	6.4	16.7	2.4	4.3
Corylus	30.4	20.4	12.2	12.9
Herbs				
Poaceae	26.4	22.2	23.2	17.1
Cyperaceae	8.0	3.7	2.4	5.7
Centaurea nigra _type	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Caryophyllaceae	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chenopodiaceae	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Filipendula	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Helianthemum	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Plantago lanceolata	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ranunculus _type	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Urtica	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0
Lower plants				
Polypodium	0.8	3.7	0.0	0.0
Pteropsida (monolete) undif.	4.8	16.7	40.2	38.6
Pteropsida (trilete) undif.	1.6	5.6	6.1	8.6
Aquatics				
Sparganium _type	0.8	0.0	1.2	0.0
Sum trees	15.2	27.8	14.6	17.1
Sum shrubs	30.4	20.4	12.2	12.9
Sum herbs	47.2	25.9	26.8	22.9
Sum spores	7.2	25.9	46.3	47.1
Main Sum	125	54	82	70
Concentration (grains per ml)	119511	51629	78399	56630

Table 6: Percentage Pollen Data

Pollen Analyses

The pollen concentrations of the four sub-samples ranged between 51,629 and 119,511 grains per ml. Poor preservation of fossil pollen grains (palynomorphs) hampered pollen counting to some degree, particularly in the upper samples. Assessment pollen counts were made from a single slide for these sub-samples. The pollen sums achieved for three slides were above 50 grains, and one exceeded 100 grains, but none exceed the statistically desirable total of 300

pollen grains main sum. As a consequence caution must be employed during the interpretation of these results.

3cm (<12> Trench 29)

This sub-sample produced a pollen spectrum dominated by hazel (*Corylus*) (30.4%) and grass (Poaceae) (26.4%), with a limited assemblage of herbs including sedges (Cyperaceae) (8.0%) and the fat-hen family (Chenopodiaceae) (6.4%). Arboreal taxa comprised alder (*Alnus*) (6.4%), oak (*Quercus*) (3.2%), pine (*Pinus*) (3.2%), lime (*Tilia*) (1.6%) and ash (*Fraxinus*) (0.8%). Spores of the polypody fern (*Polypodium*) were present at 0.8%, and other fern spores together accounted for 6.4%. Obligate aquatics were represented by the bur-reed (*Sparganium*), which was present at 0.8%.

11cm (<12> Trench 29)

This sub-sample was dominated by fern spores (together 22.3%), grass (Poaceae) (22.2%) and hazel (*Corylus*) (20.4%). The only other herb taxa represented were sedges (Cyperaceae) (3.7%). Arboreal taxa comprised alder (*Alnus*) (16.7%), oak (*Quercus*), pine (*Pinus*) and lime (*Tilia*) (all 3.7%). Polypody fern spores (*Polypodium*) were present at 3.7%. The poor preservation quality of the pollen grains counted, the grass-rich yet herb-poor assemblage and elevated proportion of fern spores all suggest that post-depositional oxidation has modified this pollen signal to some degree.

18cm (<12> Trench 29)

This sub-sample was dominated by fern spores (together 46.3%) and grass (Poaceae) (23.2%). The only other herb taxa represented were sedges (Cyperaceae) (2.4%) and nettle (*Urtica*) (1.2%). Arboreal taxa comprised hazel (*Corylus*) (12.2%), lime (*Tilia*) (8.5%), alder (*Alnus*) (2.4%), oak (*Quercus*) (2.4%) and pine (*Pinus*) (1.2%). Obligate aquatics were represented by the bur-reed (*Sparganium*), which was present at 1.2%. The presence of badly preserved pollen grains, lack of herb taxa and an elevated proportion of fern spores all suggest that this pollen spectrum has been altered by microbial action over time.

27cm (<12> Trench 29)

This sub-sample was dominated by fern spores (together 47.2%) and grass (Poaceae) (17.1%). The only other herb taxa represented were sedges (Cyperaceae) (5.7%). Arboreal taxa comprised hazel (*Corylus*) (12.9%), lime (*Tilia*) (8.6%), alder (*Alnus*) (4.3%), oak (*Quercus*) (2.9%) and pine (*Pinus*) (1.4%). Poorly preserved pollen grains, lack of herb taxa and an elevated proportion of fern spores all suggest that this pollen spectrum has suffered oxidation and microbial attack.

Discussion and Conclusions

The basal pollen sub-sample from this sequence (3cm) appears to be the best preserved, producing the highest pollen concentration and the largest number of taxa, without elevated fern spores or other indicators of post-depositional degradation. It has a pollen spectrum dominated by hazel and grass, with alder, oak and lime, but also with sedges and a range of herbs including tall-herbs and weeds. Woodlands dominated by hazel, but with a mixed-oak forest component are typical of the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic in southern England. However, it is entirely possible that local conditions, including coppicing, could lead to a pollen signature dominated by hazel within a patchwork landscape of mixed-oak woodland and grassland. Such diverse pollen spectra are associated with Bronze Age landscapes. In this situation, the level of the basal silt at or below 0m OD would have been the first to flood as Holocene sea-levels rose, backing-up freshwater, throughout the late Neolithic. The presence of alder, suggests at least some wet woodland in the vicinity, whilst polypody fern spores confirm the presence of mature tree boles. The presence of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) suggests disturbance of the soil, but in the absence of cereal pollen, this could easily be through the poaching of ground by livestock. It should be remembered that the grass pollen could represent reed-swamp, and this idea is somewhat supported by the abundance of sedges and the presence of bur-reed. In some circumstance the presence of high proportions of fat-hen family (Chenopodiaceae) pollen is taken to represent saltmarsh vegetation, although many members of this family are also common weeds in agricultural situations.

The sample from the sandy peat at 11cm has a similar aspect to the underlying sample, except that the amount of alder pollen is higher and that there are signs that the sample has suffered some degree of post-depositional oxidation. There is still a significant amount of hazel pollen and a signal of mixed-oak woodland with lime. Polypody fern spores continue to indicate that there were mature trees nearby. Grass and sedge are still present but there are no other herb taxa and the proportion of fern spores is suspiciously high. It is tempting to suggest that this sample represents a change from reedswamp to wet woodland in response to rising water levels in the early Bronze Age.

The samples from 18cm (grey silt – buried soil?) and 27cm (alluvial silty clay) from the top of the sequence are very alike in that they have both suffered a noticeable amount of post-depositional oxidation, probably due to the drainage and desiccation of the surrounding farmland. Both samples have a suspiciously large amount of fern spores, but both also have grass, sedges, hazel and mixed-oak woodland indicators with lime. Despite the degraded pollen signal, these spectra are not greatly dissimilar to the underlying samples (3cm and 11cm), and do not look like typical Iron Age post-clearance assemblages. Therefore, instead of seeing the sequence as late Neolithic/Bronze Age sediments overlain by Iron Age alluvium, a typical pattern in nearby parts of Fenland, a more robust conclusion would seems to be that the entire sequence could be Bronze Age, or perhaps a little earlier. The absence of cereal pollen grains is curious and suggests that either these types have been destroyed by oxidation, or more plausibly that arable activity did not happen close to this site and that this sequence is in fact quite early.

The post-depositional modification of the pollen signal has dulled, but not completely destroyed the acuity of the pollen analysis technique at this site. However, it is always important not to over-interpret the pollen signal. Taken together, these pollen analyses represent a 'snapshot' of the Bronze Age (or earlier) environment of Eastrea Road, Whittlesey.

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TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1		
General Description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.31
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.10
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	15.50

Trench 2							
General Description						**Orientation**	E-W
A single pit was recorded towards the centre of the trench and a 7m x 5m box was extended but no further features were identified. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.19
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	88.80
Contexts							
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
2	Pit	4	Fill			Pottery	Beaker - 'rusticated' fine ware
		5	Cut	0.35	0.05		

Trench 3		
General Description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	49.20

Trench 4							
General Description						**Orientation**	E-W
Two sides of a ring ditch were recorded although only one was excavated. Other possible features were identified within the ring but not excavated. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.36
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.12
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	60.30
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
1	Ring ditch	1	Fill				
		2	Fill				
		3	Cut	1.70	0.54		
35	Linear terminal	105	Fill				Possible feature
		106	Cut	0.80	0.23		

Trench 4a							
General Description						**Orientation**	N-S
Cut across Trench 4 to clarify the ring ditch. Along with the other two sides of the ring a cremation with an urn was recorded at the juncture of the two trenches, this was left unexcavated. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.10
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	39.30
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
1	Ring ditch	98	Fill				Early Bronze Age Urn fragment
		99	Fill				
		100	Fill				
		101	Fill				
		134	Fill				
		102	Cut	1.75	0.85	Pottery	
34	Linear	103	Fill				Possible feature
		104	Cut	2.00	0.15		

Trench 5		
General Description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.36
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.12
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	25.40

Trench 6							
General Description						**Orientation**	N-S
Post-Medieval strip quarries were situated at the southern end of the trench and were the only archaeological features. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.38
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.14
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	41.50
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
6	Strip quarry	17	Fill				Post-Medieval
		18	Cut	0.48	0.41		

Trench 7		
General Description	**Orientation**	E-W
A single linear cut across the length of the trench, this was a post-Medieval track ditch excavated in Trench 18 and so was not excavated. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.40
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.00
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	13.00

Trench 8		
General Description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained only post-Medieval quarrying. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.40
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.00
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	33.00

Trench 9							
General Description						**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained post-Medieval strip quarries at the west end of the trench. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.38
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.13
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	87.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
7	Quarry pit	19	Fill				Post-Medieval
		20	Cut	>2.35	0.46		
8	Ditch	21	Fill				Post-Medieval
		22	Cut	1.30	0.10		
15	Quarry pit	38	Fill				Post-Medieval
		39	Cut	12.50	0.75		

Trench 10		
General Description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained post-Medieval strip quarries at the north end. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.33
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	29.40

Trench 11		
General Description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.03
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	32.00

Trench 12		
General Description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.34
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.08
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	84.50

Trench 13		
General Description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was gravel clay mix.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.33
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.08
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	35.00

Trench 14		
General Description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was clay.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.33
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.00
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	18.00

Trench 15							
General Description						**Orientation**	E-W
A single linear was recorded within this trench. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.02
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	67.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
9	N-S Linear	23	Fill				Undated
		24	Cut	0.60	0.20		

Trench 16							
General Description						**Orientation**	N-S
The terminal of a post-Medieval ditch was the only feature in this trench. The natural was a gravel clay mix.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	36.50
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
14	Linear	34	Fill				Post-Medieval
		35	Cut	0.70	0.05	Pottery	

Trench 17							
General Description						**Orientation**	E-W
A single small pit was recorded in this trench, a small box was excavated around the pit but no other features were recorded. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	60.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
13	Small pit	32	Fill				Collared Urn (?)
		33	Cut	0.8	0.16	Pottery	

Trench 18							
General Description						**Orientation**	N-S
Two post-Medieval parallel ditches were excavated and were part of a track recorded in other trenches. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.37
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.00
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	40.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
3	Track ditch	12	Fill				Post-Medieval
		13	Fill				
		14	Fill				
		15	Fill				
		16	Cut	1.37	1.50		
4	Drainage ditch	10	Fill				Post-Medieval
		11	Cut	0.61	0.31		
5	Re-cut	6	Fill				Post-Medieval
		7	Fill				
		8	Fill				
		9	Cut	2.45	0.20		

Trench 19		
General Description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.38
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	88.50

Trench 20							
General Description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench was associated with Trench 21. A single linear was recorded at the southwest end of the trench. The natural was a gravel and clay mix.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.40
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	44.10
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
21	E-W Linear	42	Fill				
		43	Fill				
		44	Fill				
		45	Cut	2.10	0.60		

Trench 21							
General Description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
This trench was associated with Trench 20. A single linear was recorded at the northwest end of the trench. The natural was a gravel and clay mix.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.44
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.22
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	26.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
22	N-S Linear	46	Fill				
		47	Fill				
		48	Cut	1.80	0.54		

Trench 22							
General Description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
A single linear was recorded through the centre of the trench. The natural was a gravel and clay mix.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.34
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	23.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
23	N-S Linear	49	Fill				
		50	Cut	1.00	0.36		

Trench 23							
General Description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
A series of pits and linear features were recorded within this trench of Middle Iron Age date. The natural was a gravel and clay mix.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.38
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.21
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	35.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
16	N-S Linear	40	Fill				
		41	Cut	0.82	0.23		
24	N-S Linear	51	Cut	0.55	0.28		
		52	Fill				
		53	Fill				
25	Small pit	54	Cut	0.48	0.19		
		55	Fill				
		56	Fill				
27	Small pit	60	Cut	0.51	0.13		
		61	Fill				
28	NE-SW Linear	62	Fill				
		63	Cut	0.92	0.27		
39	Quarry pit	117	Fill				
		118	Fill				
		119	Fill				
		120	Fill				
		121	Fill				
		122	Fill				
		123	Fill				
		124	Cut	1.65	0.48		
40	Linear	125	Fill				
		126	Fill				
		127	Cut	0.76	0.20		
		128	Cut	0.75	0.20		
		129	Fill				
41	Pit	130	Cut	1.00	0.62		Possible quarry pit
		131	Fill				
		132	Fill				
		133	Fill				

Trench 24							
General Description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench was dominated by a large number of intercutting quarry pits of probable Middle Iron Age date. The natural was a clay with gravel pockets.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.40
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	35.60
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
17	Pit	71	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		72	Fill				
		73	Cut	0.70	0.35		
18	Pit	67	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		68	Cut	2.20	0.59		
19	Pit	64	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		65	Fill				
		66	Cut	>1.10	0.64		
20	Pit	69	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		70	Cut	0.69	0.11		
29	Pit	80	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		81	Cut	0.60	0.07		
30	Pit	82	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		83	Cut	0.95	0.37		
31	Pit	84	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		85	Fill				
		86	Cut	>0.90	0.35		
32	Pit	74	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		75	Fill				
		76	Cut	>0.58	0.18		
33	Pit	77	Fill				Intercutting quarry pit
		78	Fill				
		79	Cut	0.50	0.32		
36	Pit	95	Cut	>1.60	0.58		Intercutting quarry pit
		107	Fill				
		108	Fill				
		109	Fill				
		110	Fill				
37	Pit	96	Cut	>1.00	0.62		Intercutting quarry pit
		111	Fill				
		112	Fill				
		113	Fill				
		114	Fill				
38	Pit	97	Cut	0.90	0.34		Intercutting quarry pit
		115	Fill				
		116	Fill				

Trench 25							
General Description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Two linear features and a probable pit were excavated in the trench, all of probable Iron Age date. The natural was clay with pockets of gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.40
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.11
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	35.30
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
11	N-S Linear	27	Fill				
		28	Cut	0.62	0.15		
12	NE-SW Linear	29	Fill				Middle Iron Age with residual Collared Urn and calcined bone
		30	Fill				
		31	Cut	0.91	0.40	Pottery; Burnt Bone, Stone and Clay	
26	Pit/ ditch terminal	57	Fill				
		58	Fill				
		59	Cut	1.37	0.45	Pottery; Burnt Stone	

Trench 26							
General Description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
A single linear of Middle Iron Age date was excavated. The natural was clay with gravel pockets.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.40
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	12.20
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
10	E-W Linear	25	Fill				Beaker?
		26	Cut	0.58	0.23	Pot	

Trench 27			
General Description		**Orientation**	
Trench 27 was to be situated in the proposed entrance to the Country Park; however, this was a working farm yard and so it was not excavated.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	
		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	
		Width (m)	
		Length (m)	

Trench 28							
General Description						**Orientation**	N-S
Post-Medieval 'marling' ditches were the only features in this trench. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.33
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.00
						Width (m)	2.20
						Length (m)	48.25
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
51	E-W Linear	157	Fill				Post-Medieval
		158	Cut	0.92	0.28		
52	Small pit	159	Fill				Natural
		160	Cut	1.60	0.26		
53	E-W Linear	161	Fill				Post-Medieval
		162	Cut	0.92	0.26		
54	E-W Linear	163	Fill				Post-Medieval
		164	Cut	0.90	0.24		

Trench 29			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The Bronze Age 'mud' was present throughout this trench. There was no Iron Age 'creek'. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	0.86
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	46.00
Deposit Description	**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.22	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium	
Peat	0.12		
Mid grey peaty silt	0.20	Poorly formed buried soil	
Light yellowish grey clay silt with organic rootlets	0.32	Bronze Age 'mud'	

Trench 30			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The Bronze Age 'mud' was only present at the west end of the trench. The Iron Age 'creek' was present. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	1.17
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	45.00
Deposit Description	**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.16	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.42	Late Iron Age 'creek'	
Peat	0.25		
Mid grey peaty silt	0.09	Poorly formed buried soil	
Grey orange mottled clay silt with organic rootlets	0.50	Bronze Age 'mud'	

Trench 31			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The Bronze Age 'mud' was only present at the east end of the trench. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.30
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	0.59
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	48.00
Deposit Description	**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.10	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium	
Peat	0.19		
Mid grey peaty silt	0.15	Poorly formed buried soil	
Grey orange mottled clay silt with organic rootlets	0.15	Bronze Age 'mud'	

Trench 32							
General Description						**Orientation**	N-S
A segmented linear and two pits were present in this trench, they contained no datable material but may have been Bronze Age in date. There was no Bronze Age 'mud' or Iron Age/ Roman alluvium. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.08
						Width (m)	2.20
						Length (m)	110.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
56	Pit	165	Fill				Very small
		166	Cut	0.30	0.08		
57	Pit	167	Fill				Small
		168	Cut	0.41	0.14		
58	E-W Linear	169	Fill				
		170	Cut	0.27	0.24		
59	NE-SW Linear	171	Fill				Segmented
		172	Cut	0.41	0.22		
60	NE-SW Linear	173	Fill				Segmented
		174	Cut	0.42	0.22		
		177	Fill				
		178	Cut	0.42	0.19		
61	E-W Linear	175	Fill				Large
		176	Cut	2.40	0.28		

Trench 33							
General Description						**Orientation**	N-S
Post-Medieval 'marl' trenches were the only features within this trench. There was no Bronze Age 'mud' or Iron Age/ Roman alluvium. The natural was gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.30
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.12
						Width (m)	2.20
						Length (m)	53.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
50	NE-SW Linear	155	Fill				Post-Medieval
		156	Cut	0.74	0.19		

Trench 34			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The Iron Age 'creek' was located towards the west end of the trench. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.38
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	1.09
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	45.00
Deposit Description	**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.23	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.63	Late Iron Age 'creek'	
Peat	0.15		
Mid grey sandy (clay) silt with organic rootlets	0.18	Bronze Age 'mud'	

Trench 35							
General Description					**Orientation**	N-S	
A post-Medieval 'marling' trench was recorded along with a possible pit. A thin layer of the Bronze Age 'mud' was recorded. The natural was gravel.					**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32	
					Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.08	
					Width (m)	2.20	
					Length (m)	50.00	
Deposit Description				**Depth (m)**	**Comments**		
Grey orange mottled sandy silt with organic rootlets				0.05	Bronze Age 'mud'		
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
66	Pit	198	Fill				Possible natural feature
		199	Cut	0.50	0.35		

Trench 36			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The Iron Age 'creek' was situated in the middle of the trench. The Bronze Age 'mud' was present as a thin deposit in the east half of the trench. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.41
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	1.30
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	46.00
Deposit Description	**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.21	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.80	Late Iron Age 'creek'	
Peat	0.20		
Grey orange clay silt with organic rootlets	0.18	Bronze Age 'mud'	

Trench 37							
General Description						**Orientation**	E-W
A series of peat filled tree throws were present and post-Medieval 'marling' trenches. A thin deposit of the Iron Age/ Roman alluvium extended across the trench and this overlay the Bronze Age 'mud' which was thickest at the west end where it dived down to 0.61m. There was no lower peat present.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.34
						Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	0.20
						Width (m)	2.20
						Length (m)	49.00
Deposit Description					**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Dark grey/orange silty clay					0.11	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium	
Light grey clay silt with organic rootlets					0.10	Bronze Age 'mud', at the very western end of the trench this went to 0.61m thick.	
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
55	Pit/ tree throw	190	Fill				
		191	Fill				
		192	Fill				
		193	Fill				
		194	Fill				
		195	Cut	3.80	0.42		
	Tree throw	202	Fill				Tree throw cut by F.55
		203	Fill				
		204	Fill				
		205	Fill				
		206	Cut	1.16	0.42		
65	Linear	196	Fill				Post-Medieval
		197	Cut	1.25	0.20		

Trench 38			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The Iron Age 'creek' was not present and the Bronze Age 'mud' survived only as a thin deposit. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	1.15
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	48.00
Deposit Description	**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.35	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium	
Peat	0.30		
Light grey clay silt with organic rootlets	0.07	Bronze Age 'mud'	

Trench 39			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The Bronze Age 'mud' was shallower at the east end when the natural rose up. The Iron Age/Roman alluvium was present with the edge of the Iron Age 'creek' visible at the west end of the trench. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	0.82
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	44.00

Deposit Description	Depth (m)	Comments
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.30	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium
Dark grey/orange silty clay	1.01	Late Iron Age 'creek'
Peat	0.16	
Light grey silty clay with organic rootlets	0.11	Bronze Age 'mud'

Trench 40			
General Description		**Orientation**	N-S
		Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.33
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	0.78
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	46.00

Deposit Description	Depth (m)	Comments
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.13	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium
Peat	0.10	
Mid grey peat silt	0.11	Poorly formed buried soil
Light grey silty clay with organic rootlets	0.34	Bronze Age 'mud'

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
62	Pit	179	Fill				Very small
		180	Fill				
		181	Cut	1.15	0.45		
63	NE-SW Linear	182	Fill				Possibly natural channel
		183	Fill				
		184	Fill				
		185	Cut	>2.50	0.26		
64	NW-SE Linear	186	Fill				Possibly natural channel
		187	Fill				
		188	Fill				
		189	Cut	>0.50	0.26		
67	Linear	200	Fill				Post-Medieval
		201	Cut	1.15	0.25		

Trench 41			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. The Iron Age/ Roman alluvium spread across the trench with a thin layer of poorly formed buried soil and the Bronze Age 'mud' beneath it. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.30
		Avg. Total Lower Deposits Depth (m)	0.85
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	46.00

Deposit Description	Depth (m)	Comments
Dark grey/orange silty clay	0.25	Late Iron Age/Roman Alluvium
Mid grey peat silt	0.12	Poorly formed buried soil
Grey sandy silt with orange mottling and organic rootlets	0.48	Bronze Age 'mud'

Trench 42							
General Description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
A single ditch cut across an earlier pit. The natural was a gravel and clay mix.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.38
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.10
						Width (m)	2.20
						Length (m)	35.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
46	E-W Linear	143	Fill				Cuts F.47 and flints may have come from this
		144	Cut	0.84	0.12	Flint	
47	Pit	145	Fill				Sub-square
		146	Fill				
		147	Cut	1.25	0.23		

Trench 43							
General Description						**Orientation**	E-W
Two parallel linear features were recorded. The natural was a gravel clay mix.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.40
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.14
						Width (m)	2.20
						Length (m)	30.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
48	NE-SW Linear	148	Fill				
		149	Cut	0.95	0.23		
49	NE-SW Linear	150	Fill				Possibly Post-Medieval
		151	Fill				
		152	Fill				
		153	Cut	1.12	0.41		

Trench 44							
General Description						**Orientation**	N-S
Four small pits within close proximity to each other at the northern end of the trench. The natural was a gravel and clay mix.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.33
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
						Width (m)	2.20
						Length (m)	25.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
42	Pit	135	Fill				
		136	Cut	0.60	0.19		
43	Pit	137	Fill				
		138	Cut	0.40	0.05		
44	Pit	139	Fill				
		140	Cut	0.56	0.19		
45	Pit	141	Fill				
		142	Cut	0.53	0.07		

Trench 45		
General Description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained no archaeological features. The natural was gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.38
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	20.00

Trench 46			
General Description		**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained no archaeological features. There was no subsoil in this trench but the Bronze Age 'mud' was present. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.20
		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.00
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	38.00
Deposit Description	**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Mottled light grey brown sandy silt with organic rootlets	0.55	Bronze Age 'mud'	

Trench 47			
General Description		**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained no archaeological features. There was no subsoil in this trench but there was a buried soil. The natural was gravel.		**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.24
		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.00
		Width (m)	2.20
		Length (m)	38.00
Deposit Description	**Depth (m)**	**Comments**	
Mottled light grey brown silt	0.11	Buried soil	

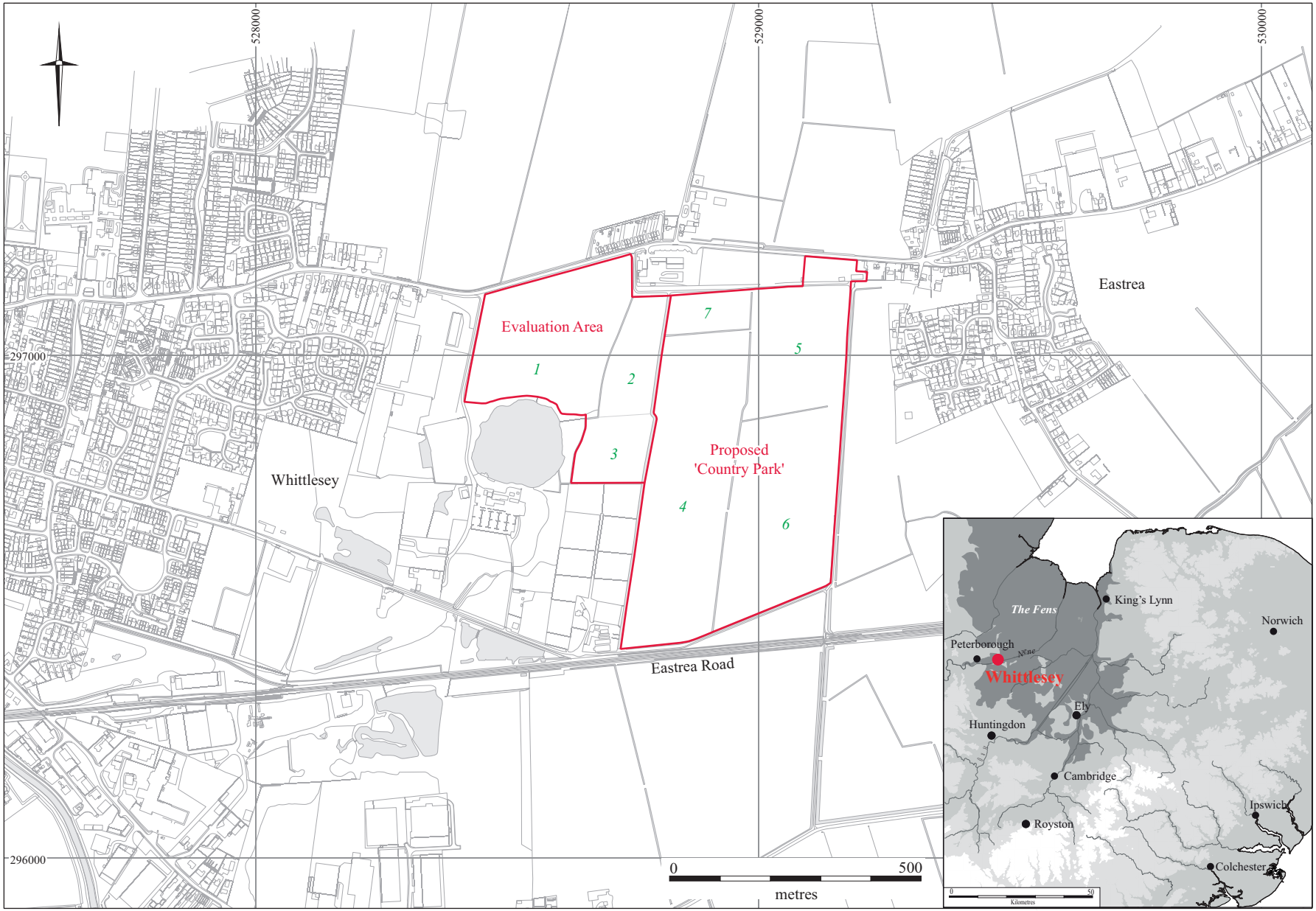


Figure 1. Location map, showing field numbers (green)

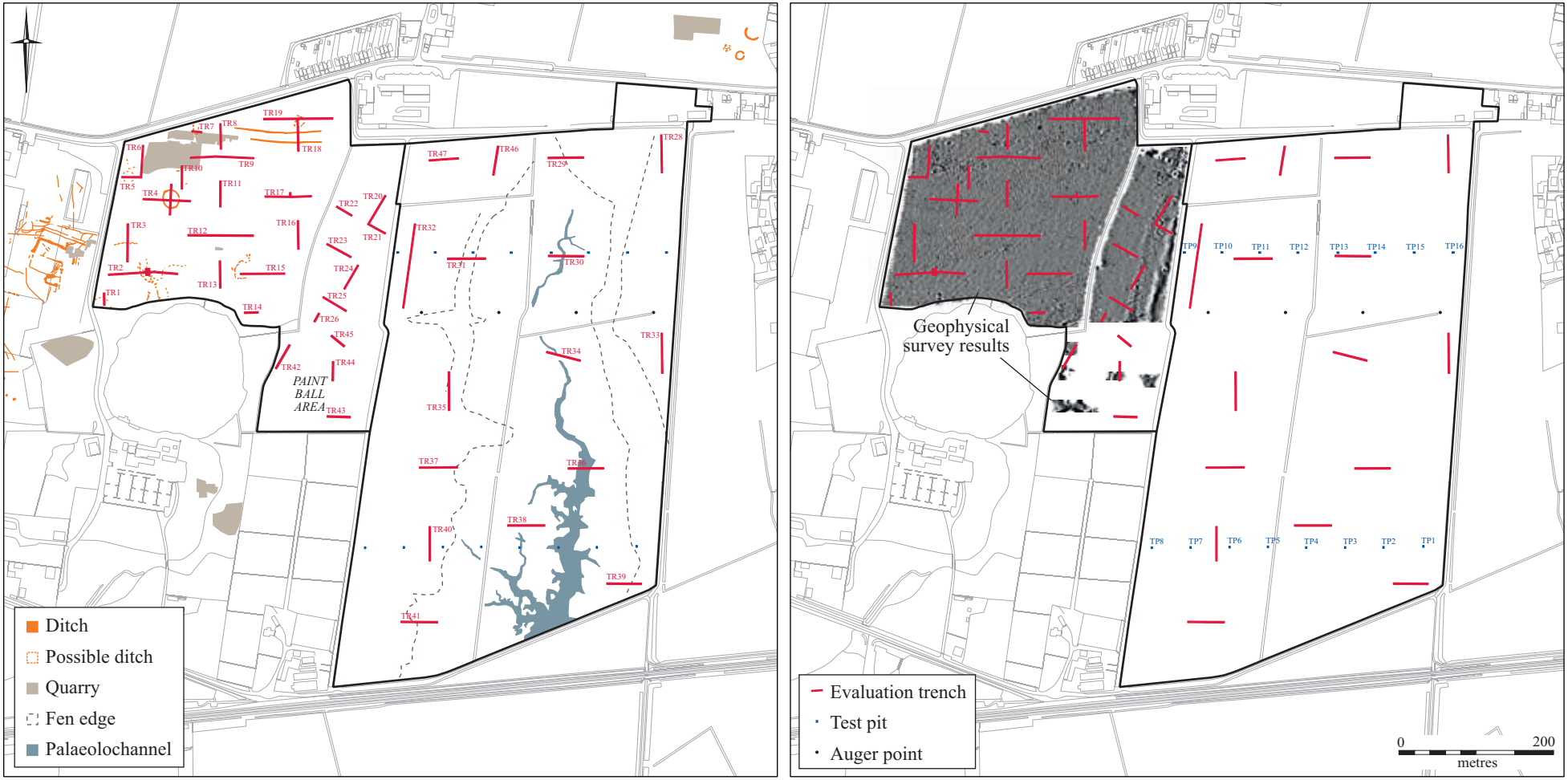


Figure 2. Trench and test pit locations with aerial photographic (left) and geophysical survey (right) results

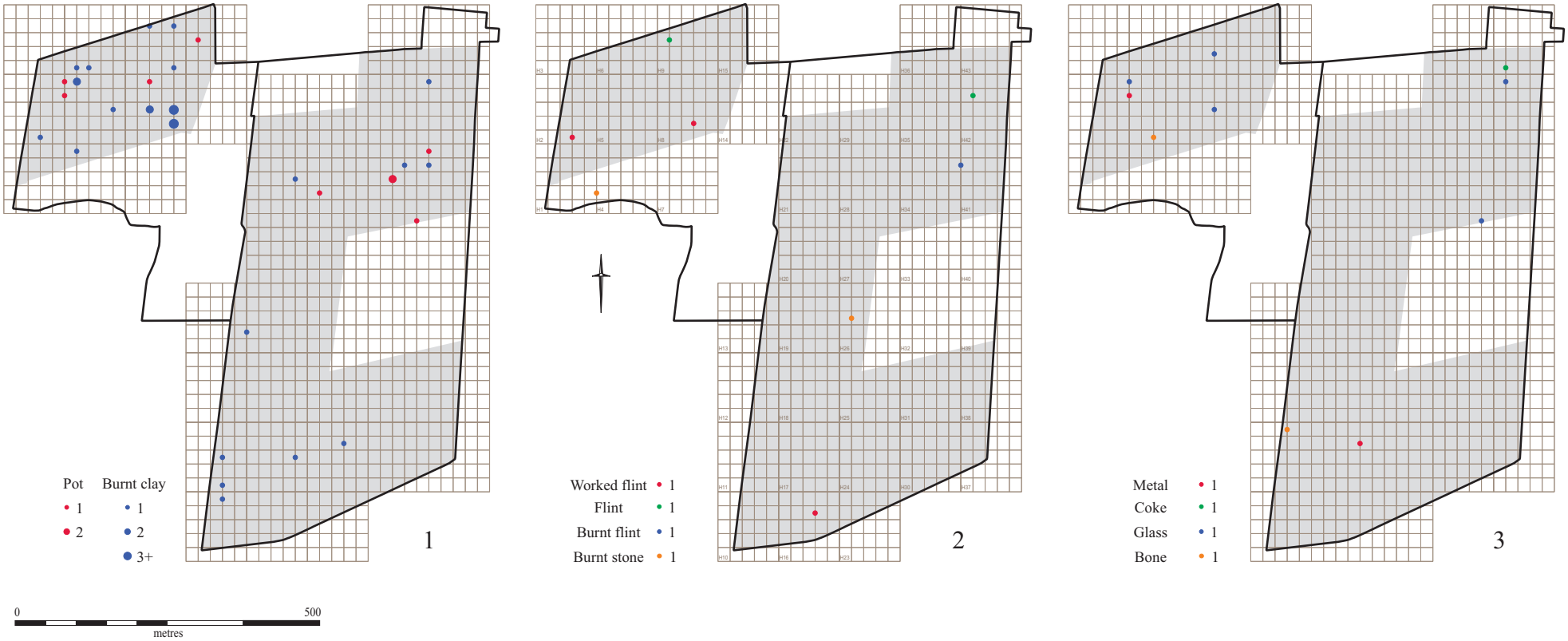


Figure 3. Fieldwalking results

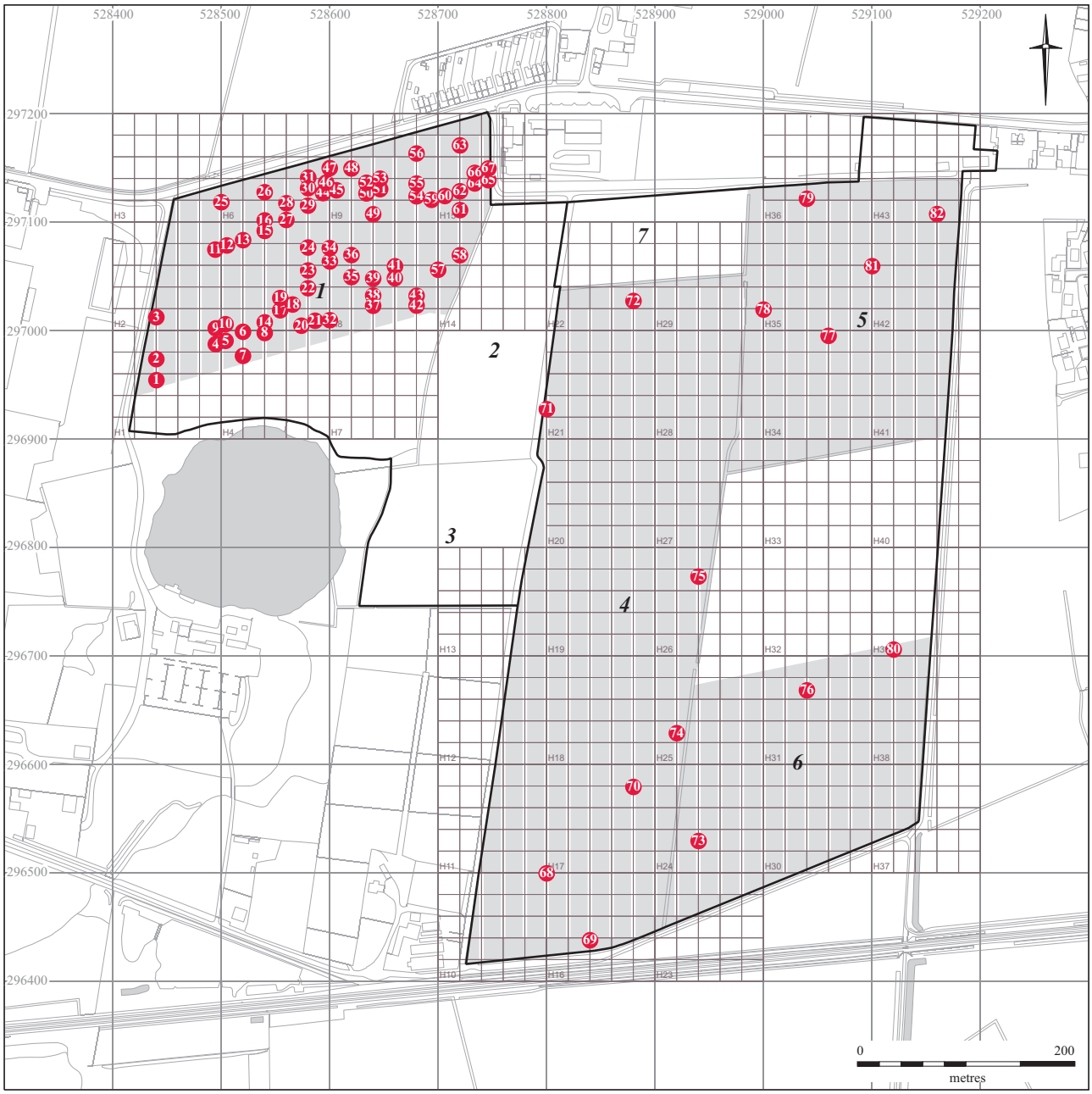


Figure 4. Metal detecting results with catalogue numbers

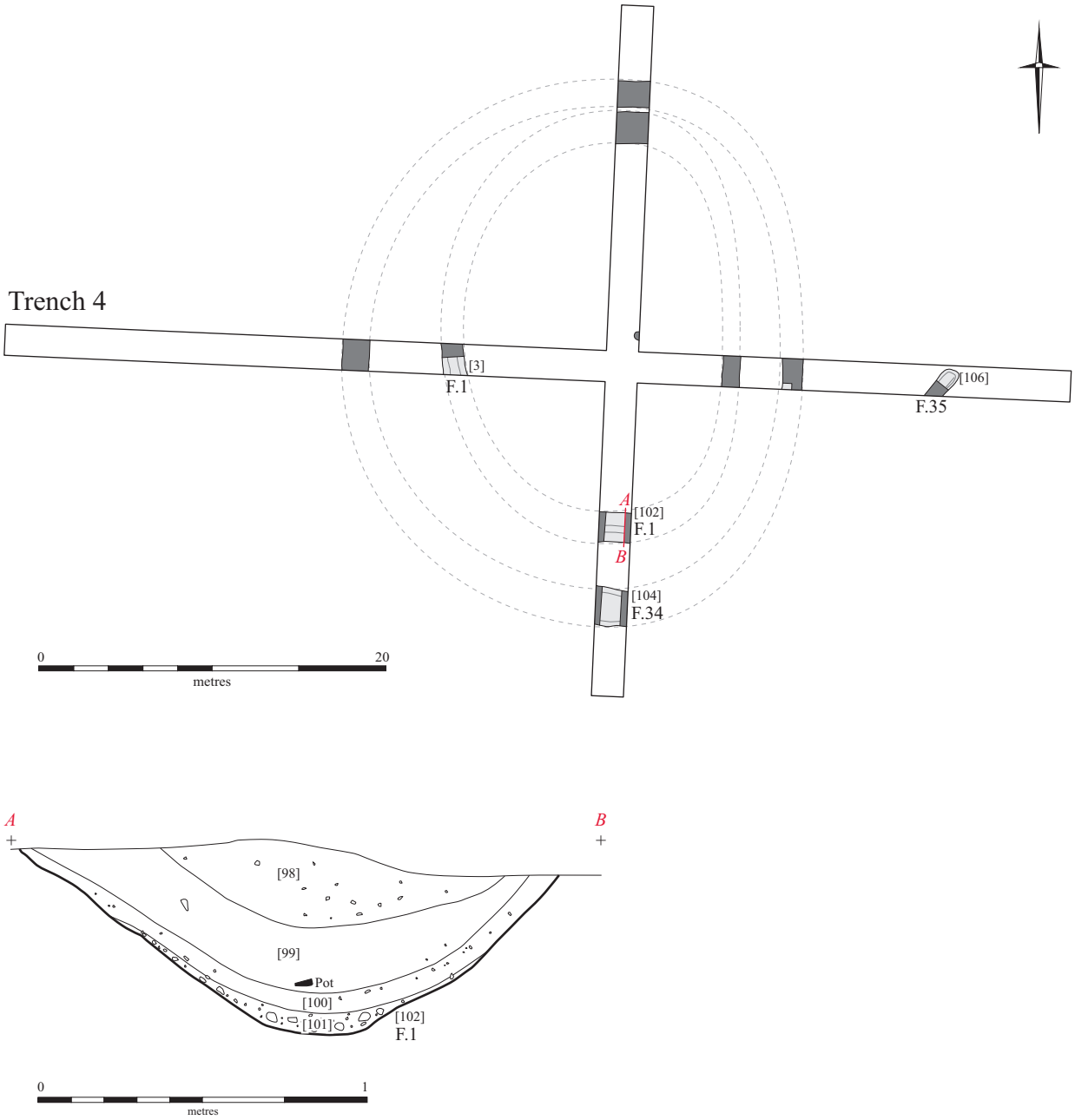


Figure 5. Ring Ditch plan and section

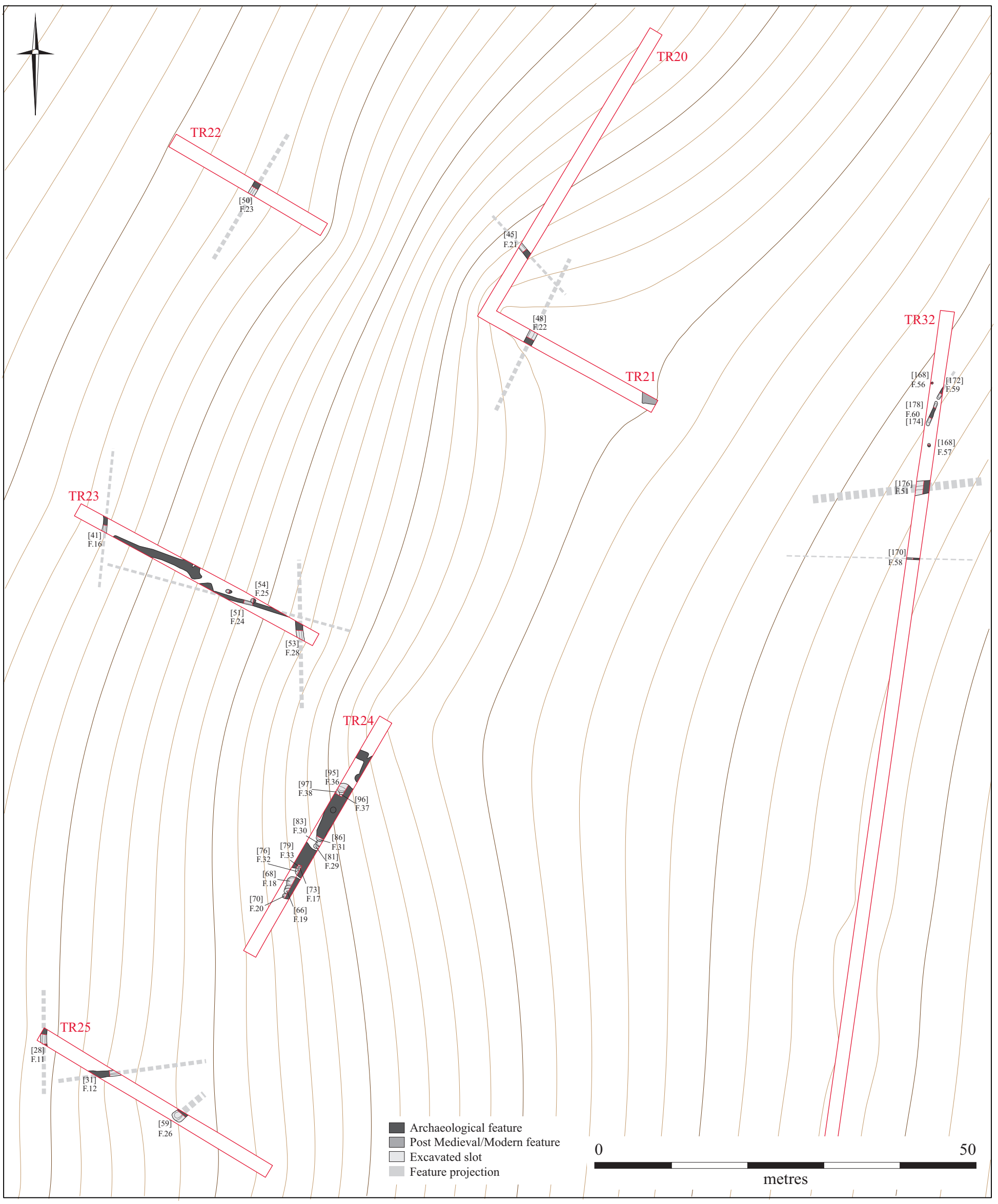
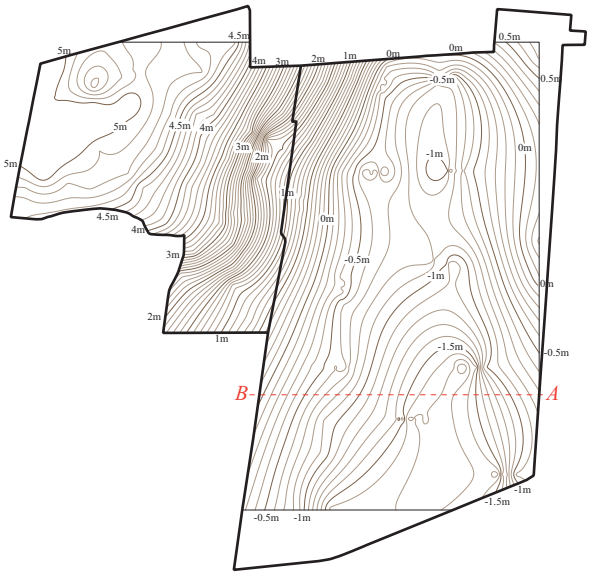
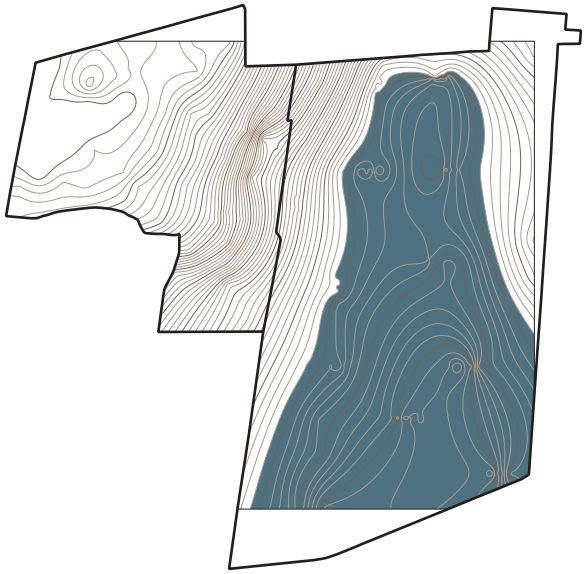


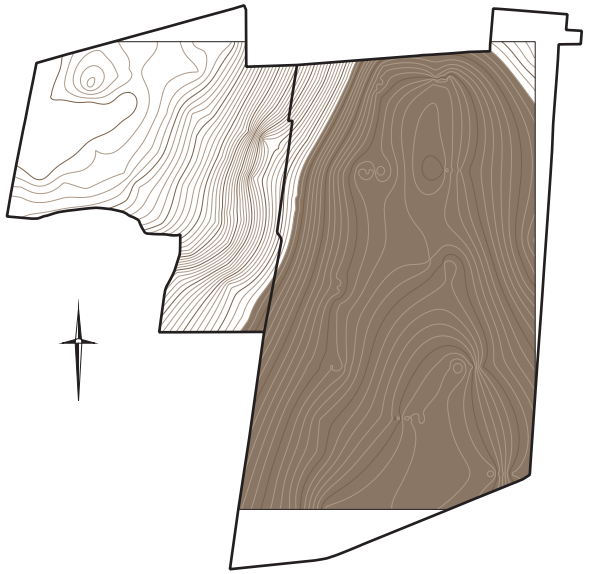
Figure 6. Plan of Area of Middle Iron Age enclosures



Natural Contours

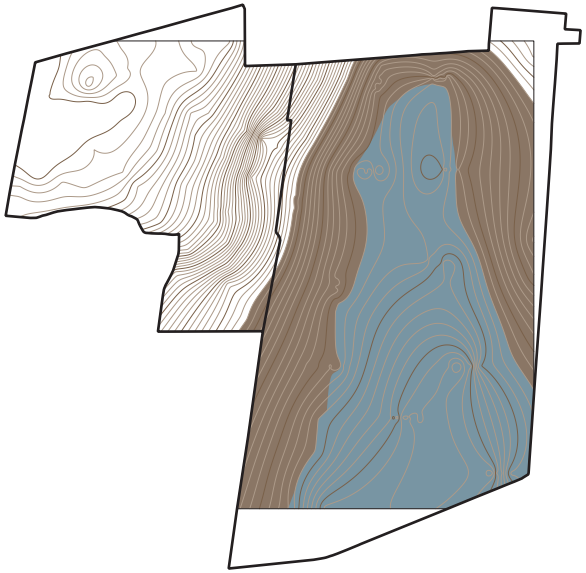


Bronze Age Alluvial Mud Extents



Buried Soil and Initial Peat Extents

Buried Soil and Reed Peat affected Buried Soil Extents



Buried Soil and Iron Age Alluvial Extents

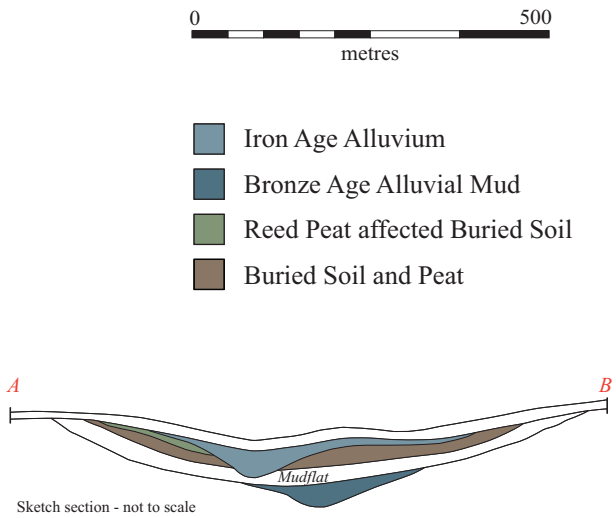


Figure 7. Environmental sequence

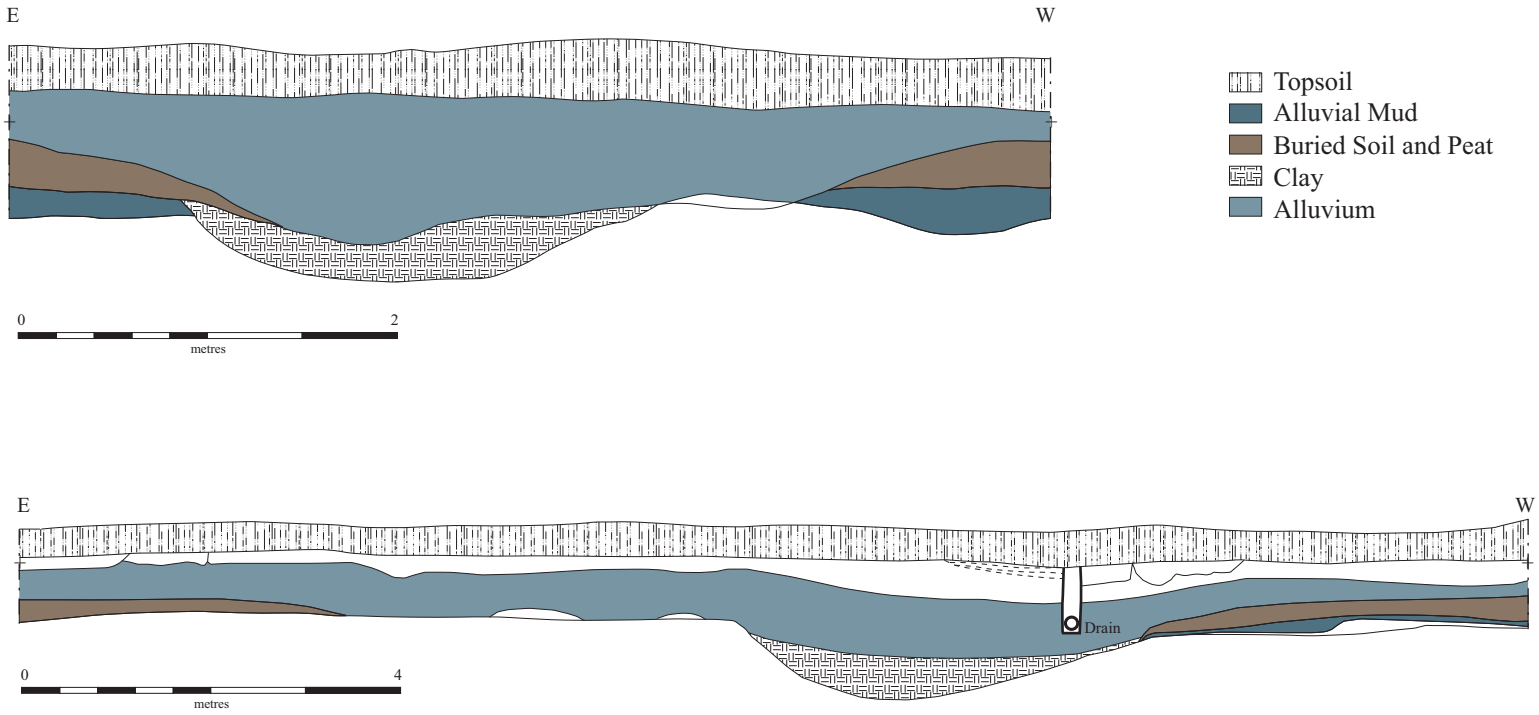


Figure 8. Sections of the 'Creek' and Alluvium it deposited in Trenches 30 and 34

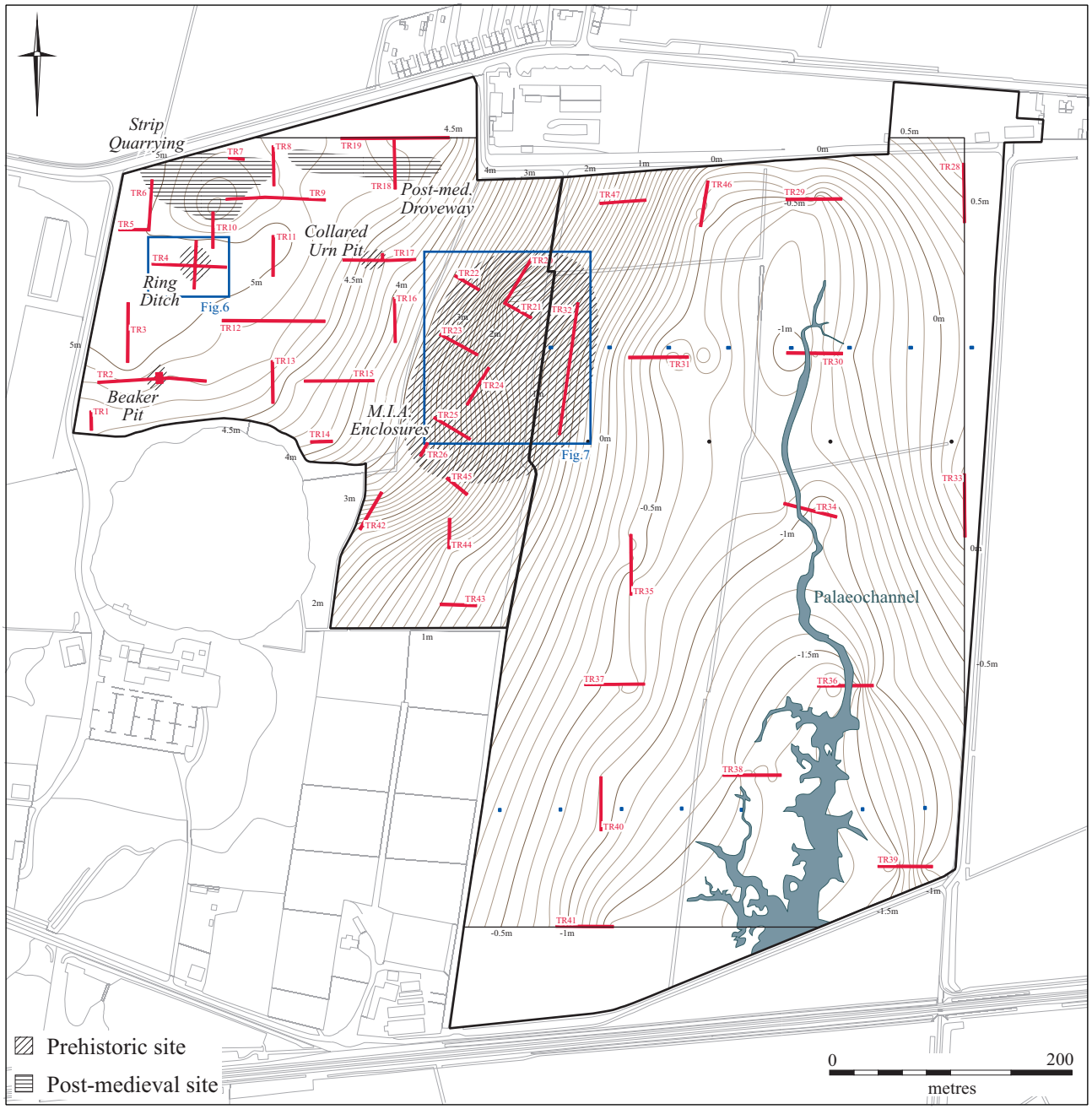


Figure 9. Sites identified in evaluation trenches

Plate 1. Trench 4A Left) Ring Ditch F.1 and possible 2nd ring. Top right) Cremation and Urn in centre of Ring Dicth. Bottom right) Section of Ring Ditch F.1.

Plate 2. Top left) Quarry pits in Trench 24. Top right) Segmented linear F.60 in Trench 32. Bottom left) Collared Urn pit F.13 in Trench 17. Bottom right) Peat and Charcoal filled feature in 'Country Park' area.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: cambridg3-117979

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Investigation on Land off Eastrea Road, Whittlesey
Short description of the project	From September to December 2011 a series of archaeological investigations were undertaken on land off Eastrea Road, Whittlesey (centred on TL 288 968) extending over c.32.2ha. The work was commissioned by Savills Ltd. for Whitacre Management Ltd. in response to a request from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team. The investigations comprised an aerial photographic survey (Palmer 2011), a field walking survey, a geophysical survey (Bartlett 2011), and a trench evaluation. Later prehistoric activity situated on the eastern edge of Whittlesey was recorded. An Early Bronze Age ring ditch with central cremation was identified first on aerial photographs and then through trenched evaluation, whilst two small broadly contemporary pits were revealed in other trenches within the landscape. Towards the 'islands' edge were a series of Middle Iron Age enclosures and pits, which suggested two separate phases of human occupation. One part of the development site is designated a 'Country Park', and this was sited within an area of low-lying farmland between the 'islands' of Whittlesey and Eastrea. Although there was no evidence for ancient societies using or occupying this space, it was possible to record a series of marine and freshwater inundations, which spanned the Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.
Project dates	Start: 26-09-2011 End: 09-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EAW11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3671 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m

Monument type	BARROW Early Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCHES Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PITS Early Bronze Age
Monument type	PITS Middle Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	METALWORK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Environmental Sampling','Fieldwalking','Metal Detectors','Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND WHITTLESEY Eastrea Road
Study area	32.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 288 968 52.5534047228 -0.100042514711 52 33 12 N 000 06 00 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: -1.50m Max: 5.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Emma Beadsmoore
Project director/manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Ricky Patten
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Contents	'none'

Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Investigation on Land off Eastrea Road, Whittlesey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Patten, R.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 1070
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge

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